

Melanesian Spearhead Group Chair makes first visit to headquarters in Vanuatu and receives tribal name “Worwor”

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Chairman and Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama along with Fiji’s Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ratu Inoke Kubuabola visited the MSG Secretariat on Saturday 10 March 2012 in Port Vila, Vanuatu.



Prime Minister Bainimarama and his delegation were welcomed to the MSG Secretariat by the Director General of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, Mr Peter Forau and the staff of the MSG Secretariat.

To mark his visit to the MSG Secretariat under the guidance of Malvatumaurii National Council of Chiefs, the Chiefs of Ambrym presented Prime Minister Bainimarama with a pig which he performed the traditional pig killing ceremony of Vanuatu and was given the tribal name “Worwor”. This custom ceremony formalized the traditional Melanesian adoption of Fiji and its people by the Chiefs and people of Ambrym on behalf of the people of Vanuatu. “Worwor” in Ambrym language is the nasara or commonly known as the custom ceremonial area. Chief Issac Worwor of Ambrym explained to Prime Minister of Fiji that he receives this tribal name as he now chairs the nasara of Melanesia.

In his official remarks to the MSG Director General, staff of the Secretariat and the Chiefs of Ambrym, the Prime Minister of Fiji extended his sincere appreciation and gratitude of the welcome accorded to him and his delegation on Saturday morning.

He said the ceremony highlights one of the cornerstones, by which the MSG was established, and that is the promotion of our common interest in our Melanesian Heritage-its cultures, art, languages, traditions and values.

“It links us to our land, our history, and our lifestyle-a fact which still baffles some who not really understand its importance to our identity as Melanesians and as Pacific people,” said PM

Written by Administrator

Monday, 19 March 2012 17:29 - Last Updated Friday, 03 May 2013 10:59

Bainimarama.

Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked the Government and people of the Republic of Vanuatu for being great hosts to the executive and administrative arm of the MSG.

He said over the years, the MSG has not only grown in size and stature but more importantly, it has put in place effective policies that allow our countries to share best practices in order to forge better bilateral and multilateral agreements in trade and commerce.

Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked DG Forau and the staff of the Secretariat for holding the fort in Port Vila saying he is sure the Secretariat’s work have not gone unnoticed in the international arena and urged the staff to keep up the good work.

As an encouragement to DG and his staff, Prime Minister Bainimarama quoted the inspiring words of the late Pacific poet, Epeli Hau’ofa who said: “We should not be defined by the smallness of our islands but in the greatness of our oceans...it is time to create things for ourselves, to create established standards of excellence that match those of our ancestors,”

In response to the MSG Chair’s remarks, Director General for MSG, Mr. Peter Forau extended the Secretariat’s profound gratitude to the MSG Chair for visiting the headquarters in Port Vila.

He said the visit by the MSG Chair is significant in that he is the first MSG Chairman to make an official visit to the Secretariat since the formal opening of the MSG Secretariat building in May 2008 in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Mr Forau extended the Secretariat’s appreciation to the MSG Chair, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji and also to Fiji Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Fiji delegation for the time taken to visit the MSG headquarters in Port Vila, Vanuatu and wished the MSG Chair best wishes to his other visits to the MSG member country capitals.

The MSG Chairman four-day trip to Vanuatu also included the official courtesy call to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu. Hon. Sato Kilman Meltek Livtunvanu this morning Monday 12 and also a visit to the Vanuatu Police Headquarters in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Prime Minister of Fiji and his delegation will depart Vanuatu tomorrow 13 March for Fiji.



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Authorized by Fiji Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
MSG Secretariat
Port Vila, Republic of Vanuatu
12 March 2012