

Police Commissioners of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) have been urged to construct a law enforcement MSG legion resolute to the demand of their people and to resolve issues the Melanesian way and without outside interference. This call was made by Fiji's Acting Minister for Defence, National Security and Immigration, Colonel Samuela Saumatua at the official opening of the 2nd Police Commissioner's Conference at the Fiji Police Headquarters, Laucala, Fiji on Thursday 15 March 2012.



In his opening remarks Colonel Saumatua welcomed Police Commissioners and their delegates from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji who will participate in the two-day meeting from 15 to 16 March this week. Colonel Saumatua said Police Commissioners of Melanesia have a huge responsibility to their respective governments and their citizens not only in maintaining law and order situation but to contribute immensely in promoting an environment that are conducive for growth and national development and at the same time embracing sustainable socio economic prosperity.

Fiji's Acting Minister of Defence, National Security and Immigration said the 2nd Special Police Commissioners Conference this week entails imperative issues which require MSG countries to readjust their focus in taking steps to nurture meaningful partnerships amongst member countries. "I must stress the importance of promoting and maintaining mutual understanding in sharing strategies and policies for nation building in maintaining peace and stability in our respective sovereignties," said Colonel Saumatua. Colonel Saumatua stood firm in saying Melanesians are capable of resolving their own problems despite the limitations and constraints that they may face.

He urged Police Commissioners to find remedial solutions to the major uncertainties evolving within the region especially within each member countries internal security especially with the increase of travel, trade, rapid money movements, advanced telecommunications and other modernized programs that are "catalyst" to intertwined illicit activities in the region of Melanesia. In supporting the call made by Fiji's Acting Minister of Defence, National Security and Immigration, the Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Mr Peter Forau said this sharing of

ideas and experiences in this meeting is consistent with the purpose of the PCC which is to promote cooperation among police forces in MSG member countries.

DG Forau said all the issues in the agenda for the week seek to contribute to the promotion of more cooperation in MSG countries. "This process has been ongoing since 2008 and I'm so happy to say that so much has been achieved so far but especially under the leadership of the current Chair of the PCC who continues to do his very best to achieve the implementation of the issues that PCC has agreed to carry forward.

DG Forau said as the Chair of PCC, Brigadier Ioane Naivalarua has said "let us discuss frankly, openly and in our Melanesian way so that decisions arrived at are the collective decisions of the PCC and not of one country".