



## MSG Eminent Persons Group Successfully Complete Consultations in Vanuatu

The MSG Eminent Persons Group led by Mr Tavola successfully completed their consultations in Vanuatu today Friday 19th April. The Group is consulting members and stakeholders of the MSG on a new vision for the Group aimed at consolidating, strengthening the cooperation and integration amongst the MSG members. The Group comprises Mr Kaliopate Tavola as Leader representing Fiji, Hon. Manassesh Sogavare, MP representing Solomon Islands, Hon. Joe Natuman, MP representing Vanuatu, Mr Roch Wamytan representing the FLNKS and Mr Leonard Louma representing Papua New Guinea. The work of the EPG was launched on Monday 15th April by the Hon. Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Moana Kalosil. The Group consulted Government representatives including the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Government Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, Chiefs, Church Representatives, Women Representatives, NSA Representatives, Chamber of Commerce and other interest groups.

" We had very good consultations here in Vanuatu and we have been impressed with the level of interest in the work of the MSG. We received many good ideas and all this we will be considered when putting together our report' said the MSG EPG Leader Mr Tavola. He added that "Vanuatu hosts the MSG Secretariat and we have gathered that the interest is as much on the work of the MSG as it is on what stakeholders in Vanuatu want to see the MSG do to help with addressing some of their national challenges." He further added that "some of the issues are huge and would require thorough thinking as to how they can be addressed as part of the new vision for the MSG." Mr Tavola said that they are taking their responsibilities very seriously and he is confident that the collective experience of the EPG will enable them to do their best to come up with a vision that is inclusive and relevant.

The MSG EPG will be travelling over the weekend to New Caledonia for consultations there next week and then proceed for consultations in Fiji the week after. The Group will break for two weeks and reconvene in Solomon Islands for consultations there before finally concluding their consultations in Papua New Guinea during 27 – 31 May, 2013.

The establishment of the MSG EPG was approved by MSG Leaders in August 2012 and members were appointed in late March 2013.

**MSG Secretariat**  
**19 April 2013**  
**Port Vila**