



# MSG Secretariat Secretariat du GFLM

Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

## Press Release



## MSG Senior Officials Meeting

The Chair of the Melanesian Spearhead Group Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), Mr Mickael Forrest of the FLNKS (Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste) welcomed Senior Officials from member countries of the MSG (MSG) Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu who have gathered this week to discuss key issues concerning the Secretariat's Proposed 2014 Work Program and Budget. The meeting is currently being held at the MSG Secretariat in Port Vila, Republic of Vanuatu from 11th to 12th December 2013.

Mr Forrest in his opening remarks paid a special tribute and requested all members to pay respect to one of MSG's most senior official and colleagues, the late Jean Sese of the Republic of Vanuatu who served as a senior official for many years and recently in November last month had passed away. Mr Forrest acknowledged and paid tribute to late Sese's contribution, dedication and commitment to the development of the Melanesian Spearhead Group. Mr Forrest also took time to pay respect to Madam Nicole Waia from Kanaky New Caledonia who contributed also to the MSG meetings for many years and had also passed away. The SOM Chair during this time also took the opportunity on behalf of members of the MSG to pay respects to world leader late Nelson Mandela who also passed away last week in South Africa.

The SOM Chair thanked all the members for taking their time to attend the important meeting, as a meeting where members are given the opportunity to collectively discuss the budget and work program of the MSG Secretariat for 2014.

Mr Forrest said among key items listed for this week's meeting, members also look forward to receiving the achievements of the Secretariat through the Secretariat's Progressive Report to be delivered by the Director General of the MSG and also the plan to implement to recently endorsed MSG Eminent Persons Group (EPG) Report.

The SOM Chair said the meeting will also discuss key governance issues that are aimed to assist the work of the Secretariat. Among these issues are the Secretariat's Administrative Texts, Review of the Staff Remuneration Policy, Revised Staff Regulations, the Establishment of and MSG Reference Group and an Independent Review of the Secretariat.

Mr Forrest informed members that the meeting will also discuss some core organizational issues such as the update on the implementation of the Corporate Plan and the Calendar of Events for 2014 which will highlight the MSG Day every 14 March to be celebrated by the member countries. He said the meeting will also discuss some core resourcing issues such as the Revised Budget for 2013 and the Financial Report 2013. Also to be discussed at the meeting is the up-date on MSG Resourcing, Institutional Strengthening and Expansion (RISE) Project and the Formula for Determining Assessed Contributions.

Mr Forrest concluded that the Outcomes of the Senior Officials Meeting will be presented to the Foreign Ministers' Meeting scheduled to be held on Friday 13th December at the MSG Secretariat in Port Vila, Republic of Vanuatu.

Authorized by SOM Chair

***MSG Secretariat  
Port Vila  
11 December 2013***