



H.E Mr. Dominic Meiklejohn British High Commission to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (middle) being met by Mr Peni Sikivou, Acting Director General and Ms Barbara Age, Director, Governance & Sustainable Development Division of the MSG Secretariat

Today, the MSG Secretariat was privileged to receive H.E Mr Dominic Meiklejohn, British High Commissioner to Solomon Islands who is also accredited to the Republic of Vanuatu. High Commissioner Meiklejohn was welcomed by Mr Peni Sikivou, Acting Director General of the MSG Secretariat at the Secretariat headquarters.

In welcoming High Commissioner Meiklejohn, Mr Sikivou extended the warm greetings of Director General Forau and staff of the Secretariat and also congratulated the High Commissioner on the presentation of his credentials to the head of state of the Republic of Vanuatu, His Excellency, Iolu Abbil.

During their meeting, Mr Sikivou briefed the High Commissioner on the work of MSG in the region and its contribution to the changing dynamics in the region which is mainly complimentary to the work done by other regional organizations and in the case of New Caledonia, the work of the UN Special Committee on Decolonization (C24) in the decolonization process. He also highlighted the MSG's role as an organization which has existed for 25 years and the organization's intention to review its performance and develop a new Vision and Plan for the grouping, through an Eminent Persons Group that will be shortly be visiting MSG capitals.

Mr Sikivou added, 'the political emancipation of our Kanak brothers and sisters remains the focal priority of our organization and we also envisage the MSG Trade Agreement and the future architecture of the Agreement to be the catalyst for deepening economic cooperation amongst our membership', said Mr Sikivou.

High Commissioner Meiklejohn was grateful for the briefing and proposed some areas of collaboration that could be pursued with the MSG in the areas of judicial cooperation and Parliamentary processes. He also informed Mr Sikivou of the visit to Vanuatu in April by the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office during which they can hold further discussions on issues of mutual interest.

Mr Sikivou expressed his appreciation to the High Commissioner for visiting the Secretariat and further welcomed the announcement of the proposed visit to Vanuatu by the British Foreign Secretary.

This is the first visit to the MSG Secretariat by a British Envoy.

Authorised for release by Acting Director General

20 March 2013

MSG Secretariat

Port Vila, Vanuatu