



Special MSG Police Commissioners Conference

The Special MSG Police Commissioners Conference (PCC) was officially opened by the MSG Director General Mr. Peter Forau at the MSG Secretariat in Port Villa, Vanuatu this week.

Mr. Forau welcomed the Commissioners of Police from Fiji, Solomon Island, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu who have gathered for a one day meeting to discuss and finalize issues on Police Cooperation for the MSG. In his opening remarks, the Director General highlighted the importance of advancing issues on Police Cooperation, Formed Police Unit (FPU) and the Regional Police Academy (RPA) for consideration by the 19th MSG Leaders Summit when they meet next month in New Caledonia. He emphasized that a stronger society is an indication of stronger police organizations which contributes to the socio-economic social well being of a

society. He added that in order for the region to be successful it has to have a conducive environment to prosper and grow. The Director General urged the delegates to finalise the initiatives with clearer objectives which should generate information sharing for the benefit of the membership.

In response, the Chairman of the PCC, Brigadier General. Ioane Naivalurua who is also the Commissioner of Police of Fiji, acknowledged the presence of his colleague Commissioners, in particular the newly appointed Commissioner of Police of the Vanuatu Police Force, Mr. Author Caulton Edmanley for his promotion as Commissioner. He welcomed Commissioner Edmanley to the meeting in his capacity as the new Commissioner and expressed the PCC's support and cooperation as they endeavour to collectively address security issues in the region.

Mr. Naivalurua also acknowledged the work of the MSG Director General and the Secretariat staff and their continuous commitment towards the initiatives that have been realized through the Secretariat.

Commissioner Naivalurua emphasized the importance of the Special PCC which would be considering a number of legal texts including the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Police Cooperation which will serve as the overarching framework for cooperation. Other issues include the draft legal texts on the Establishment of the Regional Police Academy (RPA) and the Formed Police Unit (FPU) which are fundamental to the establishment of the Academy and essential to the formal engagement by MSG officers in international and regional Peacekeeping Missions.

He added that the formalization of these arrangements would be historical for the region, considering the contributions the organization will make towards the maintenance of regional and international peace and security.

The Outcome of the meeting will be presented to the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to be held this week in Port Vila Vanuatu from 16 to 17 May.

***Authorized for release by the Director General
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