

MSG Chairman successfully completes his Capital visit to Vanuatu, the home of the MSG Secretariat

The Chairman of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), Mr. Victor Tutugoro has completed his official visit to the MSG Secretariat and his first Capital visit to the Republic of Vanuatu from 26-30 August 2013.

The Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Mr. Peter Forau confirmed that following the Chairman's official welcome to the MSG Secretariat on 26 August, MSG Chairman Mr Tutugoro attended to a number of official MSG duties including the Opening of the inaugural MSG Finance Ministers and Governors of Central Banks High Level Consultation and the Opening of the MSG Library at the MSG Secretariat Headquarters in Port Vila.

Throughout the week, Mr Tutugoro also paid courtesy calls to the Head of State, H.E Iolu Johnson Abbil, the Prime Minister, Hon. Moana Carcasses Kalosil, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs & External Trade, Hon. Edward Natapei Nipake and the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Hon. Philip Boedoro. Mr Forau said that the highlight of Chairman's Capital visit to Port Vila is definitely the Chairman's official address to the Parliament of Vanuatu. Mr Forau added that 'this is a historic moment for the MSG to have one our Leaders address Parliament as it demonstrates our desire to promote and strengthen the relations between the members through our decision making institutions. By keeping our people informed through Leaders, we will also be able to address increasing global challenges the people of Melanesia are facing today.'

In his Statement to Parliament, the MSG Chairman, Mr Tutugoro reaffirmed the five pillars that will guide his tenure for the next two years and called on members of Parliament and the Government of Vanuatu to continue to take the lead on issues such as Decolonisation in Melanesia; an issue which Vanuatu has always championed in the past, the quest for Political emancipation for the people of West Papua and Kanaky.

He further invited Vanuatu and members of the MSG to support the ongoing political processes of self-determination in the region to enhance and promote political stability and in this regard, reaffirmed the MSG Leaders decision for a Ministerial Mission to visit Indonesia later this year and the MSG Electoral Observer Mission to Fiji in 2014.

In his Statement to Members of the Parliament of Vanuatu, Mr Tutugoro alluded to the concept of Parliament of Melanesia, which was adopted by MSG Leaders last June. MSG Parliamentarians could be involved in discussing broader cooperation arrangements within the MSG and would be a catalyst for strengthening intra MSG cooperation. The Secretariat has been tasked to begin scoping the concept, ramifications and applicability.

Finally, the MSG Chairman reaffirmed the need for MSG members and the Secretariat to

develop a roadmap for the implementation of the MSG Eminent Persons Group (EPG) Report adopted by MSG Leaders at the 19th Summit in Noumea last June. The MSG Chair qualified the EPG Report as “a Report which will give MSG a new direction and a new vision for the next 25 years, and which will define MSG new relationships with other regional organizations and the international community as well as to determine the new geopolitical and geostrategic contours in the Pacific region.”

The Chairman’s visit also included meetings with members of the Diplomatic Corp based in Vanuatu as part of the Organization’s ongoing efforts to engage with countries and organizations in the region.

Chairman Tutugoro will be undertaking capital visits to MSG capitals in the coming months.

Authorized by the Director General

MSG Secretariat
30th August 2013
Port Vila, Vanuatu