



## **Official opening of MSG Library**

The Chairman of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and Spokesperson of the Front de Liberation National Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS), Monsieur Victor Tutugoro and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs & External Trade, Hon. Edward Natapei officially opened the MSG Library on Friday 30 August, 2013 at the MSG Secretariat headquarters in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The Official Opening of the MSG Library was witnessed by the MSG Ministers of Finance, Governors of Central Banks, Director Generals and Permanent Secretaries of Departments of Finances in respective MSG countries, Government Officials, FLNKS Representatives, MSG Representatives in Vanuatu, the Dean and members of the Diplomatic Corp, the Director General and staff of the MSG Secretariat.

The MSG library initial collection was catalogued by Ms. Julie Reynolds from the University of the South Pacific (Emalus Campus) and has a humble but growing collection of 556 books and publications. They vary from books to brochures, periodicals and annual reports. The oldest book in the collection dates back to 1986 and is titled: "Fiji: Pacific Paradise" by Eckert Fred J and the newest collection is "The Black Islands: Spirit and War in Melanesia" by Ben Bohane. Other publications come from the World Bank, Oxford University, UNESCAP, USP, SPREP, SPC, SSGM, UNICEF, APEC Singapore and UNESCO – Apia, to name a few.

In his welcome remarks, the Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Mr. Peter Forau welcomed the Opening of the MSG Library, a long awaited and much needed facility which will allow the Secretariat's professional staff to carry out the necessary research to provide policy advice to the membership. He added that 'in addition to the Secretariat's website, the library is another medium through which our citizens can learn more about the organization as well as the membership'. He informed the dignitaries and guests that the MSG Library is also open to the public including students who are interested in conducting research on the region.

Mr Forau extended the Secretariat's deepest gratitude to the SPC, USP and Dr Robie Robertson as well as the Acting Deputy Director General (ADDG), Mr. Peni Sikivou; the former Director of the Trade and Economic Development Division, Mrs. Mere Falemaka as well as the Director of the Governance and Sustainable Development Division, Ms. Barbara Age for populating the library with their contributions towards the MSG Library. He also urged other members of the Staff as well as members of the MSG to contribute some of their work to the Library, which he described as 'educational and a valuable source for ideas and information'.

In response, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs & External Trade of the Republic of Vanuatu, Hon. Edward Natapei Nipake congratulated the Secretariat for this initiative which should serve as an inspiration to writers, academics and citizens of Melanesia to contribute their publications/works to the Library. As a source for information, he stated that the MSG Library materials will not only be used by staff but also by future Leaders and other scholars and researchers from regional/international universities and organizations in their quest for knowledge about the uniqueness of Melanesia and its people. He also expressed his appreciation to Members and organizations that have contributed to the Library.

The MSG Library is located at the headquarters of the MSG Secretariat at Independence Park, Port Vila and is open to all for use. Donations and contributions to the population of the MSG Library are also welcomed.

Authorized by the Director General

MSG Secretariat  
02 September 2013  
Port Vila, Vanuatu