

MSG Secretariat in Vanuatu to celebrate MSG Day 14 March

The MSG Secretariat in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu will mark the MSG Day on Friday 14th March 2014. This will be the first year to formally mark the day as agreed and endorsed by the MSG Leaders at the 19th MSG Leaders' Summit held in Noumea in June 2013.

Beginning this year, 14th March will be a public holiday for the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat and it is hoped that Members will equally observe this day as an important event in their respective calendars.

14 March marks the historical occasion when the MSG forefathers signed the six (6) point "Agreed Principles of Cooperation Among the Independent States in Melanesia" on 14 March 1988 in Port Vila, Vanuatu by former Prime Ministers Paias Wingti of Papua New Guinea (PNG), Ezekiel Alebua of Solomon Islands, and late Father Walter Hayde Lini from the Republic of Vanuatu.

The MSG Secretariat has formally requested all its members FLNKS, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to recognize this day at all respective capitals next week.

At the MSG Secretariat in Port Vila, the secretariat plans to honour this day and run a programme of visit and activities targeting school children and students. The Director General of the MSG Secretariat Mr Peter Forau said: "For that we will open the doors of the MSG headquarters to the general public and especially school students to visit, learn and debate on topics relating to history, programs and activities of our organization and the work we undertake in our rich region."

He also added that there will be an official opening program for the MSG Day at the original venue of the signing of the principles of cooperation by Leaders back in 1988 in front of the Government Buildings in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu, Hon. Moana Carcasses Katokai Kalosil is invited as the Guest of Honour for the officially

opening ceremony, while Members of Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu; Government Ministers; senior officials of the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu are also invited to witness the MSG Day.

Mr Forau also confirmed that one of the highlights to mark the MSG Day next will be the participation of the MSG Chair, Mr Victor Tutugoro in officially launching the MSG Take-Off Year Prosperity Plan for All on Friday 14th March 2014 in Port Vila.

The general public are invited and encouraged to visit and explore the MSG and the work of the Secretariat next week in Port Vila.

For more information on the program for the MSG Day, please contact the MSG Secretariat on +678 27791.

**MSG Secretariat
Port Vila
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