

26 April 2018

(Pre-Duty Travel Press Release)

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Police Commissioners and the Ministers responsible for the Police will be convening in Kokopo, in the West New Britain Province, in Papua New Guinea for two days from 30 April - 02 May.

The PCC and PMM are important constituent Bodies of the MSG that are designated for security issues confronting Members and provide appropriate advice to MSG Leaders' for related decisions. Previous PCC and PMM meetings were able to discuss and advance a number of important security issues such as border and enhanced police cooperation.

One of the critical issue in the agenda of the PCC and PMM will be the mobilization of the MSG Security Assistance to PNG during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings later this year. This is undertaken pursuant to the decision of the inaugural PMM that was held in Nadi, Fiji on 16th December 2016, wherein MSG Police Ministers approved the proposal after receiving specific and detailed requests from PNG seeking for the deployment of security assistance in the form of a Formed Police Unit (FPU) during the PNG hosted APEC Meeting in late 2018.

Consultations were subsequently undertaken with Members during the last year and Members have expressed their firm willingness to deploy security assistance to PNG for the APEC Meetings. "The Fijian Commissioner of Police Brig-General Qiliho made it clear during the recent consultation early this month that Fiji is ready to assist PNG providing security assistance during the APEC meeting. "We are ready to deploy a platoon", says COMPOL Qiliho.- The specific details of the deployment will be elaborated upon in the upcoming meeting of the Commissioners of Police for the endorsement of MSG Ministers of Police,

Additionally, a key endeavour of the meetings is the formulation of a Regional Security Strategy (RSS) that is a central tenet in effectively addressing the main gist of security issues and risks in the MSG region and moreover boosting the attainment of related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by MSG Members come 2030. This is a strategy that aims at harmonizing protocols and procedures and promote cooperation and collaboration in ensuring that regional security is complemented with the best information center, networking and resource sharing amongst members. The RSS Working Group (RSS WG) members are inclusive of the traditional MSG member countries and the Republic of Indonesia as Associate Member

Other key issues in the PCC agenda will include a Progress Report on the Regional Police Academy (RPA) and Police Cooperation (PC).

The PMM will also benefit from a presentation by the PIFS on their proposed work on the Biketawa Plus.

For further information, please contact Mr Ilan Kiloë- Programme Manager Political and Security Affairs via email [i.kiloe@msg.int](mailto:i.kiloe@msg.int) ; and Mr. Epineri Seibouma, Peace and Security Officer via email: [e.seibouma@msg.int](mailto:e.seibouma@msg.int)