



Stakeholder Representatives Department of Tourism, Pacific Horticultural & Agricultural Market Access (PHAMA) Program, Mamas Market, Vanuatu National Women's Handicraft and the MSG Secretariat during the Workshop held at the Department of Cooperative Conference Room on Friday 10th August 2018.

17 August 2018

The MSG Secretariat during the week took part in a Working Group organized by the Vanuatu

Department of Tourism to discuss ways to assist the visiting Wantok from Milne Bay and East New Britain provinces in their 3 days visit to Port Vila from 28-30 August 2018.

MSG's Program Manager for Economic Development Mr. David Hopa, said that MSG's involvement was primarily an opportunity to integrate provincial tourism activities with the sub-regional's Multi-destination Tourism Program (MDTP) initiative and Tourism Marketing Brand for Melanesia.

Mr David Hopa representing the MSG Secretariat alluded that whilst the main role for the Working Group was to plan, organise and develop an itinerary of activities to assist visiting participants from Papua New Guinea, the visitors will receive presentation by the MSG's Economic Development Unit on the Multi-Destination Tourism Program and its long-term development plan and links to the MSG 2038: "Prosperity for All Plan".

Mr Hopa said the MSG Secretariat has convened policy focused and technical meetings for the tourism and aviation officials in the past 4 years. He said, Tourism continues to play not only an important but an increasing role towards respective Members' gross domestic product.

It is understood that a tentative program for the visit was produced and it include visits and presentations to be organized by the Vanuatu

PHAMA

, the Tourism Ambassador's Program, and the Port Vila Land Transport Association.

Participants will have the chance to visit the cruise ship, women handicraft sale, tour around Efate Island and visit cultural and adventure touristic sites and one or two heritage sites enlisted by the UNESCO.

The working group include stakeholder representatives from the Department of Tourism, Pacific Horticultural & Agricultural Market Access (PHAMA) Program, Handicraft Industry and the Land Transport Association and the MSG Secretariat.

Meanwhile, the Director General of MSG Ambassador Amena Yauvoli welcomed the tourism initiative and applauded the Vanuatu Government through the Department of Tourism and all involved stakeholders for their continuous support to the MSG Secretariat in its effort to streamline tourism activities across all MSG member countries.

Ambassador Yauvoli assured that MSG will continue to promote and engage with all stakeholders and to encourage MSG member countries develop their tourism related activities in line with MSG's

Mutli

-Destination Tourism Program Initiative.

For more information, please contact David Hopa, Program Manager for Economic Development on email

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