



Members of the MSG Culture & Arts Council meet in Honiara on 28 June 2018

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“I would like to extend on behalf of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), our deepest gratitude to the Government and People of Solomon Islands for taking the MSG Arts and Culture Program to new heights as Chair in the last two years”, said Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, Director General of the MSG, (DG) while delivering his Opening Statement at the 7th Council of Arts & Culture Meeting (CACM) at Mendana Hotel in Honiara.

“On behalf of the MSG and the MSG Secretariat, let me join our host, the Solomon Islands Government in welcoming the Members of the CACM to Honiara. I trust you will enjoy the natural beauty of the “happy isles” as well as the warmth and hospitality of our Solomon Islands brothers and sisters over the next two weeks during the 6th Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival (6th MACFEST)”, said Ambassador Yauvoli.

The DG also commended the able leadership of Honourable Minister Bartholomew Parapolo and Permanent Secretary Mr. Andrew Nihopara and Staff of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism for the successful planning and preparations for the upcoming 6th MACFEST.

The Solomon Islands have generously hosted the Culture and Arts Council and Ministers meetings in 2017 and 2018 consecutively producing excellent Outcomes, including the planning and preparations for the hosting of the 6th MACFEST. This a great achievement to progress the work on MSG Arts & Culture from 2017 to the present time in 2018.

The natural and cultural wealth of Melanesia signifies the crucial role of Arts and Culture in the development of our people, region and individual countries, and our founding fathers had the foresight to embed Cultural Cooperation in the MSG Agreement signed 29 years ago. Arts and Culture remains a core sub-program of the Secretariat’s “Sustainable Development” Program, and under my watch the Secretariat will continue to serve you the Members diligently in implementing these sub-regional initiatives on Arts and Culture, said Ambassador Yauvoli.

The CACM is underway at the Solomon Kitanao Mendana Hotel in Honiara, Solomon Islands. The Council meeting will be followed by the MSG Ministers of Arts and Culture meeting which will be held on Friday June 29, 2018. The Council and Ministers meeting are being held prior to the 6th Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival (6th MACFEST) which will be held from July 1-10, 2018.

The 6th MACFEST coincides with the Solomon Islands 40th Independence Anniversary on July 07.

A key strategy for the MSG Group is to enhance the collaboration on arts and culture to share experiences and learn from each other to contribute to the social and economic development of the members and the Melanesian region as a whole.