



Mr. Epineri Seibouma, Peace Keeping & Security Officer, MSG Secretariat

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(Pre-Duty Travel Press Release)

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat is currently providing on-going technical assistance and capacity support to enhance the efficiency and capability of FLNKS, through the Customary Policing (CP) concept, as it prepares for the referendum later this year.

Upon receiving the request from the FLNKS in February, the Secretariat was able to deploy its first mission support- through policing advice and guidance- for the setting up of the FLNKS Customary Policing.

Mr. Epineri Seibouma, former Senior Superintendent of Police from Fiji, now a staff at the MSG Secretariat under the Political and Security Affairs Programme, have been providing these technical assistance and the necessary level details of support to the FLNKS. Considering his wealth of experience and knowledge in community policing in Fiji, Epi's deployment to assist the FLNKS to better prepare and equip themselves on policing matters before the referendum in early November is a timely one.

A principle outcome of the CP concept is the implementation of the customary policing that aims at empowering local indigenous Kanaks to have the respect for New Caledonia's national law and at the same time maintain and uphold FLNKS customs and cultural integrity.

The four days consultation being a follow-up meeting with the New Caledonia Congress and the FLNKS on the implementation of the Customary Policing concept is to commence from the 28 March till 1 April 2018.

The financial support from the New Caledonia Congress in Noumea supporting this TA is duly acknowledged and appreciated.

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