



Director General of MSG, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli (centre) with delegates of the 5th MSG Sports Committee Meeting

After consultations with Papua New Guinea (as MSG Chair), the two day, MSG Sports Committee Meeting kicked off yesterday, Wednesday 16th May 2018 at the MSG Secretariat in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Recalling the Leaders decision at their Summit in Suva, Fiji on 31st of March 2011, the meeting would reflect on the desired sports cooperation amongst MSG members as a platform to operationalize the vision of the 2038 Prosperity Plan for All, as approved by Leaders in 2015, for

a strong, integrated, enlightened, happy, prosperous, secure and caring Melanesia.

Following the agreement reached through the last Sports Committee Meeting of March 2015 (4th Sports Committee Meeting), and as endorsed by the Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) during the Leaders' Summit in Honiara in June 2015, the 5th meeting will focus on two critically important matters that remain outstanding since 2015 that are crucial for the implementation of the Melanesian Sub-regional sports initiatives to begin.

These are the draft guiding documents of the "MSG MoU on Sports Cooperation" and the "Melanesia Games Charter". The objective is to facilitate discussions, exchange views and innovations on key elements towards the finalization of these drafts for appropriate decisions of MSG Leaders at the next summit.

An additional item to be discussed during the meeting is to receive the bid by the West New Britain Provincial Government of PNG, in their desire to host the Inaugural Melanesian Youth Games in Kimbe in 2020.

In welcoming the delegations to the meeting, Director General Ambassador Amena Yauvoli stressed the importance of the meeting as an important leverage towards the role of sports in unifying communities, and as a potential to offer income generating opportunities for sporting personnel in MSG countries.

The Members of the Melanesian Spearhead Group attending the meeting comprise the Republic of the Fiji Islands, The Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and The Republic of Vanuatu.

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