



MSG Sport Officials and Secretariat Officials at the Hotel Genesis in Kimbe, West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea 12 – 13 September 2018.

Sitting L-R. George Francis (Fiji), Thomas Kahai (PNG), Ambassador Amena Yauvoli (MSG Director General), John Susuve (SCM Chair - PNG), Henry Bill (Vanuatu), John Fotaliwale (S I), Standing L-R – Buri Gari (PNG), P Dulekana (SI), Chris Waiwori (MSG Secretariat), Stanley Wapot (MSG Secretariat), Fred Jones (SI)

13/09/2018

The 6th Sports Committee Meeting (SCM) successfully concluded in Kimbe, West New Britain Province on the 13th of September 2018. The two-day meeting brought together senior sports officials from the MSG member states to finalize some principle documents namely the MOU on Sports Cooperation, the MSG Games Charter, and the finalization of the Host Agreement between PNG Government through the West New Britain Provincial Government and the MSG Secretariat.

This meeting in Kimbe is subsequent to the 5th MSG Sports Committee meeting convened in Port Vila, Vanuatu in May 2018, which adopted some important sports development initiatives for MSG.

The (5th SCM) in Port Vila received the principle documents for the Melanesian Games for further consideration, namely the MOU for Sports Cooperation and the MSG Sports Charter and most importantly agreed in principle to the proposal and offer by the West New Britain Government to host the Melanesian Games in Kimbe in 2020 predominantly targeting youth participation. Hence, the meeting in Kimbe, is essentially to finalize and adopt the resolutions passed during the 5th SCM in Port Vila.

Speaking during the Official Opening, the MSG Director General, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli acknowledged the Government of Papua New Guinea and the people and government of West New Britain Province through the leadership of the Governor and his Administration in hosting the 6th MSG SCM in Kimbe. He further acknowledged the able leadership of Mr John Susuve (Chair of SCM and Director of Events, Marketing and Sponsorship with the Papua New Guinea Sports Foundation), in leading the SCM deliberations on the 6th MSG's Sports Committee Meeting agenda.

He further emphasized the importance of the role of sports in Melanesia both as a human development tool and an avenue for strengthening cultural exchanges amongst the people of Melanesia. Mr Yauvoli also strongly emphasized sport as an important agent to combat the prevalent of non-communicable diseases (NCD's) faced by the Melanesian youths. "The idea of sports and physical education needs to be brought down to the provinces so that they become active in sports and be healthy and productive future citizens", Ambassador Yauvoli said.

The Director General further stressed the importance of the 6th SCM and the need to consider the principle documents (MOU for Sports Cooperation, MSG Games Charter and the Host Agreement for 2020 Melanesia Games) in order to reinforce and fulfil the good offer of the government of West New Britain to stage the MSG Games in 2020.

The 6th SCM reconfirmed the Inaugural MSG Games to be hosted in Kimbe, West New Britain Province of Papua New Guinea in 2020, the adoption of the Melanesian Football Cup Challenge for men and women, and the concept for the Melanesian Netball Challenge.

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