

# MELANESIAN TOK



**MSG Secretariat**  
Secretariat du **GFLM**  
Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Perle Lanké Mélanésien

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Achieving **Economic Prosperity**, a core of the **MSG 2038: Prosperity for ALL Plan**  
A quarterly newsletter to inform our readers about key work activities undertaken at the MSG Secretariat

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S DESK



MSG Secretariat Director General, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli

Welcome to our new look newsletter the MSG Melanesian Tok. It is my sincere hope that the newsletter we have put together provides our Members, stakeholders and the general public that read it an inside to what we do and aim on achieving at the MSG Secretariat, giving you a better grasp of the information and work we do for our Members as a sub-regional organisation.

It has been three years since our last publication and a lot of work has been done since as we have continued to strive and fulfill the vision and mission of the MSG.

When I took over the position of Director General in 2016, the Secretariat was at the most troublesome point during its short

history.

I was faced with many important challenges that had to be dealt with in a timely manner in order to keep the organisation afloat so it wouldn't slip into a position where these challenges would compromise the integrity of the MSG as a whole.

The immediate task of restructuring the Secretariat began following the approval of recommendations put forward by the organisational Change Management Consultant in 2016. A workable strategy was put in place providing the short-term platform for long term gains in order to save a sinking ship so to speak. The strategy had two bold objectives. First, to improve the financial status of the Secretariat, the second being to reform the organisational structure with the reigning focus of the strategy to ensure the Secretariat remains relevant to the needs of our Members at all times.

Since then we have continued to climb and grow and it is clear the Secretariat cannot function fully without our Members support. It has not been easy but with our determination to stay focused on the task at hand we continue to move forward.

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and continue to support us.

May God continue to bless the MSG Group.



## ABBREVIATIONS

**DG** - Director General  
**CEO** - Chief Executive Officer  
**PNG** - Papua New Guinea  
**SIGPTF** - Solomon Islands Government Parliamentary Task Force  
**MoFA** - Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**UNFCCC** - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
**FLNKS** - Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste  
**RRRT** - Regional Rights Resource Team  
**PMM** - Police Ministers Meeting

**DDG** - Deputy Director General  
**CFS** - Climate Finance Strategy  
**APTCT** - Australia Pacific Training Coalition  
**ADB** - Asian Development Bank  
**RSSWG** - Regional Security Strategy Working Group  
**ICC** - International Coconut Community  
**C24** - Special Committee on Decolonisation  
**RSS** - Regional Security Strategy  
**PCC** - Police Commissioners Conference

### MSG INAUGURAL REGIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY DRAFT TAKES SHAPE

The outcome of the recently held 3rd Regional Security Strategy Working Group Meeting (RSSWG) in Nadi, Fiji proved fruitful with participants present making good progress on development of the first ever MSG Regional Security Strategy draft. Discussions during the week long meeting were constructive and lively with representatives from all Members of the RSS Working Group present contributing towards the formulation of a strategy framework.

During the meeting, the MSG Director General Ambassador Amena Yauvoli honoured the Members of the RSSWG for their commitment and unwavering support towards the work of the RSSWG. Continuing, he placed emphasis on the importance of the RSS as a strategic Stability Pillar addressing the common security threats (both traditional and non-traditional) and its subsequent challenges in the MSG region, recognizing its future sustainable development and prosperity, as stipulated in the 2038 Prosperity for ALL Plan, and more recently under the UN 2030 SDGs "No One Left Behind".

Ambassador Yauvoli stated how pleased he was to see the combined progress being made on the development of the RSS, urging all Members of the Working Group to make important contributions to discussions on the strategy framework expressing his appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Fiji, through the



Director General, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli speaks to participants at the 3rd Regional Security Strategy Working Group Meeting in Nadi.

Ministry of Defence and National Security, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and the Republic of Fiji Police Force for their combined efforts in organizing and hosting the RSSWG.

He added that in the face of the constant emerging and increasing threats to the MSG region's peace and security, it was incumbent on Members of the RSSWG to devise appropriate, strong and relevant strategies to address common security challenges to safeguard the region.

At the closing of the week long meeting the production of the inaugural MSG Regional Security Strategy Draft had commenced with 5 key priorities identified for the region and action plans were set into play working around the vision of a safe

and prosperous region, that protects its people, culture, relationships, resources, both land, air, sea and below the sea.

The five main core security threats identified as having common background in the region and with targeted action plans for are safe and secure borders both on land and sea, a well-managed cyber infrastructure within the MSG region to tackle cyber-crime, a strong need to build institutions to combat all manners of transnational crime and human trafficking in the region, actions plans to be put in place for natural and man-made disasters ensuring effective and quick responses to unpredictable emergencies and a combined proactive strategies for managing climate risks within the region.

The Working Group's role is to assess national security strategies within the MSG region, assessing their strengths and weaknesses in dealing with challenges in each Member States and develop the Regional Security Strategy (RSS) to complement existing security documents in the region. Although the MSG Member States face common and similar security threats, it has not developed an official position outlining a security strategy for the MSG region as a whole making the MSG Regional Security Strategy the first of its kind.



Members of the Regional Security Strategy Working Group during the week long meeting in Nadi, Fiji





### DIRECTOR GENERAL AND PNG PRIME MINISTER TALKS FRUITFUL



MSG Secretariat Director General, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli and Honorable James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea after their meeting in Port Moresby

Director General, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli and his staff met with The Honorable James Marape, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and Chair of the MSG, in July to update the new Prime Minister on the strategic priorities and status of the Secretariat since Hon. James Marape took up office.

The meeting with the Prime Minister, as Chair of MSG, was to seek the Chair's advice on certain undertakings for the Secretariat including the date for the Special Leader's Summit, for Leaders to deliberate on key strategic priorities of the

Group including the MSG Climate Finance Strategy, Regional Security Strategy, MSG Trade Free Agreement and possible extension to allow for Labour Mobility, MSG Political issues, Governance issues including ratification of MSG treaties and strategic partnerships. Also discussed was the MSG Arts and Culture Program and MSG Sports Program which includes the revival of the Melanesian Football Cup.

The Secretariat will work closely with the Office of the Chair of MSG to undertake preparations for the Special Summit and its Governing Body meetings.

The Secretariat will also be working closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Papua New Guinea with the possibility of the MSG Special Leaders Summit being held soon.

Leading up to the meeting with the MSG Chair, MSG Secretariat officials had earlier met with the Secretary to PNG Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and her senior Officials, as well as officials in the Prime Minister's Office & National Executive Council to hammer out issues for consideration by the Chair.

Additional meetings and consultations were held with the Minister for Justice and Deputy Prime Minister, Attorney General, Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture, Minister for Environment, conservation and Climate Change and the Minister for Police, and its senior officials to further reinforce support in moving some of the MSG agendas forward.



Ambassador Yauvoli and Honorable Marape

### CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS IN PNG

Talks continued for MSG Secretariat Officials as they met in the first week of July with Honorable Geoffrey Kama, Papua New Guinea's Minister for Environment Conservation and Climate Change. The meeting saw the Secretariat team of Deputy Director General, Mr. Peter Eafeare, Mr. Christopher Waiwori, Senior Executive Officer and Mr. Romulo Nayacalevu, Program Manager Governance & Legal Affairs discuss with the Minister the operationalization of the MSG Needs-Based Climate Finance Strategy.

The meeting ended with the Minister's firm assurance that PNG through his Department will collaborate with the Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat in



Discussions take place between Honorable Geoffrey Kama, Minister for Climate Change (centre of photo) and Mr. Peter Eafeare, Deputy Director General MSG Secretariat

the implementation of the MSG Needs-Based Climate Finance Strategy. Technical staff from the Department of Environ

ment Conservation and Climate Change were also present during the meeting.



### MSG CLIMATE FINANCE STRATEGY MAKES PROGRESS



Mr. Stanley Wapot with Ms. Irina Scheffmann, GIZ Country Director for Philippines and Pacific Islands, Mr. Ledua Vakaloloma, PIFS Finance Advisor and Mr. Corey Fortin, Green Climate Fund Advisor at the UNFCCC-ADB Climate Finance meeting at ADB Headquarters.

Participants at the Experts meeting on Assessing and Determining the Needs of Developing Countries for Climate Finance at the ADB headquarters in Manila, Philippines were presented the MSG Climate Finance Strategy 2019 - 2021 by Mr Stanley Wapot, Program Manager Sustainable Development for the MSG Secretariat on 11 July 2019.

Mr Wapot also updated the participants on the current status of the Climate Finance Strategy's 6 Strategic Areas and Activities for implementation. On Strategic Area 3 Building on Existing Financing Mechanisms, the UNFCCC Miti-

gation and Carbon Finance Team are already working with the Secretariat to support the MSG country projects targeted at the carbon markets and geared towards the new Paris Agreement direction in article 6.2 on Cooperative Approaches that involve the use of Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes towards Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and article 6.4 on Mitigation and Sustainable development under the Sustainable Development Mechanism (SDM) which replaces the Kyoto Protocol CDM after 2020.

In addition, Mr. Wapot stated that Cap-

acity Building and Institutional Strengthening in Strategic Areas 5 and 6, the focus is on strengthening the capacity of the MSG Secretariat for sub-regional coordination and technical back stopping to support the Members and for the countries to integrate climate risks, and related finances into their national fiscal structures for long term low-carbon and green growth development planning and implementation closely linked to their Public Finance Management Systems (PFMS). The MSG Secretariat will collaborate with various international partners with the know-how to support the members in implementation.

Other innovative financial options such as debt and de-risking instruments are being considered to mobilise public and private finances within and outside of the MSG apart from the financial mechanisms of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund and bilaterals & multilaterals for MSG projects and programmes.



### APTC AND SECRETARIAT DISCUSS LABOUR ISSUES

On 18 July, Australian Pacific Training Coalition's (APTC) Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Labour Mobility Advisor and Ms. Anna Naupa, Country Director for Vanuatu and Nauru paid a courtesy call to the Secretariat and were met by the Deputy Director General, Mr. Peter Eafeare in the absence of the Director General Ambassador Amena Yauvoli.

In welcoming the APTC staff, Mr. Eafeare stated that MSG Secretariat keeps a watching brief on bilateral labour mobility schemes administered by Australia and NZ governments as it contributes to upskilling of semi-skilled workers in MSG countries. He noted the change in APTC's focus to securing strategic partnerships



Ms. Andie Fong Toy and Ms Anna Naupa of APTC in talks with Mrs Sovaia Marawa and DDG Peter Eafeare

and co-investments in technical training.

There were also general discussions on skills gaps and strategies to upskill workers to enhance capacity, strengthen

industry development and employment opportunities within the MSG countries. Mrs. Sovaia Marawa, Trade and Investment Advisor, MSG Secretariat briefed everyone present on developments relating to the MSG Labour Mobility Scheme and Melanesian Travel Card.

The meeting noted the forthcoming APTC Pacific Labour Market Analysis (PLMA) Study to be conducted in MSG countries. There was consensus that further collaboration and strategic partnerships is necessary to mutually benefit APTC, MSG Secretariat and MSG members.





### HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION SCOPING STUDY CONDUCTED

The Ministry of Justice and Community Services Director General, Dorosday Kenneth invited and welcomed the MSG Secretariat, SPC RRRT and the Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institution (APF) to conduct a scoping study in July on the feasibility, desirability and options for establishing a Paris Principle compliant national human rights institution.

The Scoping Team comprised of Dr Jayshree Mangubhai and Ms. Donna Pune-Narai, SPC's Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), Ms. Rosslyn Noonan, former Chief Commissioner of the New Zealand Human Rights Commission and consultant with the Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institution and Mr. Romulo Nayacalevu, Program Manager Governance and Legal Affairs of the Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat.

In welcoming the participation and involvement of the MSG Secretariat, the Director General Ambassador Amena Yauvoli said that the MSG was delighted to be part of this undertaking. "The steps taken by the Vanuatu Government to consider the options and benefits of establishing its own home-grown institution on human rights is a commendable and progressive achievement of which the Secretariat is pleased to support through our participation in the Scoping Team."

"Human Rights is a pillar of good governance as encapsulated in our Leaders vision in the MSG 2038 Prosperity for All Plan. Strengthening good governance through stronger structures and institut-



Members of the Scoping Team, Mr. Romulo Nayacalevu, Ms. Rosslyn Noonan and Dr Jayshree Mangubhai with DG Kenneth (2nd from Left) earlier this week.

ions including on human rights contributes to solidary and unity within the sub-region" Ambassador Yauvoli adds.

MSG Secretariat's Romulo Nayacalevu said the consultation is about speaking to a range of stakeholders including government ministers, departments, civil society groups, the Malvatumauri and the Council of Churches among others on their views of whether the government should establish a human rights institution. "It is important to note that the Study is not for us to tell the government on what it should do as it concerns a National Human Rights Institution. That decision rests solely and is a prerogative of the Government. Our study is merely to inform the Government on feasibilities, options and desirability of such an institution. The Scoping report will be presented back to the Ministry of Justice and Community Services of which will then be guided by Government's internal processes."

"Subject to being compliant with international standards in the Paris Principles, there are various kinds of human rights institutions. This includes stand-alone commissions as in Fiji and hybrid models which includes the Ombudsman's offices being given a dual and broader mandate to deal with both maladministration and human rights as in the case of Samoa and Tuvalu. Each country decides their own institutional structure depending on resources, expertise and other practicalities." Romulo adds.

In the Pacific, Fiji, Samoa and Tuvalu now have national human rights institutions while similar scoping studies have been requested by Governments and carried out in Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Cook Islands and Tuvalu. The Scoping Study concluded on Friday 19 July 2019.



The Scoping Team meeting with various organisations including civil society groups during the Scoping Study.

### SECRETARIAT HOSTS SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT TASK FORCE

Members of the Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat met with a team of officials from the Solomon Islands Government Parliamentary Task Force on 27 June as the delegation made a courtesy call while passing through Vanuatu.

The Parliamentary Task Force that was set up by the new Solomon Islands Government to look at the Taiwan/PRC issue were visiting selected Forum member countries, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and Papua New Guinea learning more about their one China Policy and its implementation.

Deputy Director General of the Melanesian Spearhead Group Mr. Peter Eafeare, spoke to the delegation comprising of six members of the Solomon Islands Parliament, five being new Members and two Government Officials on the important role and functions of the Melanesian Spearhead Group in the Pacific region.

Members of the SIGPTF delegation asked if there was a possibility members of the MSG Secretariat could make the same presentation to the newly elected Solomon Islands Government to which they were told the opportunity was there and the MSG Secretariat are available to assist Solomon Islands wherever necessary.



DDG MSG Secretariat (front row in Blue jacket) and leader of the Solomon Islands Government Parliamentary Task Force (front row in Black) with staff of the Secretariat and Honourable Members of the Parliament of Solomon Islands Government.

Solomon Islands Member of Parliament, Honorable John Moffat Fugui expressed his gratitude on behalf of the delegation after the presentation, thanking the Deputy Director General of the MSG Secretariat and MSG Secretariat members for their time and hospitality.

The delegation were in Vanuatu from 25-28 June 2019 where also met with Vanuatu Government Officials before leaving for the other Forum countries.

The visiting Solomon Islands Parliamentary Task Force is made up of the Honor -

able John Moffat Fugui (Chairman) 3rd term Parliament Member and Member for Central Honiara – Former Minister for Education and Climate Change; Honorable Jamie Vokia; Honorable Rex Ramofafia; Honorable Chachabula Amoi; Honorable Silas Fika; Honorable Roland Seleso. The team were also accompanied by two Government Officials, Mr Bernard Batanaasia and Mr Macfretch Arounsaka.

### MoFA JOINS MSG SECRETARIAT FAMILY



DG Kalfau Kaloris and DDG Peter Eafeare signing the lease contract

In the absence of the Director General Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, Deputy Director General Mr. Peter Eafeare welcomed Director General Foreign Affairs Kalfau Kaloris and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Oceans Program staff to the MSG

Secretariat after the signing of a hosting lease agreement enabling MoFA Oceans Program to open their office within the MSG Secretariat building on 18 July 2019.

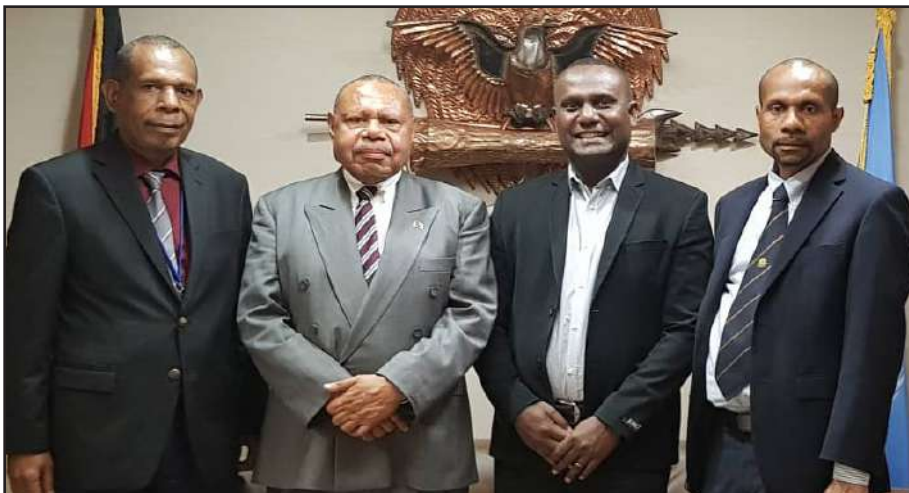
DDG Eafeare mentioned how the building was a gift from the Vanuatu

Government and having the MoFA Oceans Program office set up in the building was another milestone for the Secretariat. "Today marks an important day for the Secretariat. Having you (MoFA Oceans Program) being housed here is indeed a wonderful thing as we can learn more from you regarding our Oceans. We are open to remarks to how we can improve in this important area." DDG Eafeare said.

He thanked DG Kaloris and his staff for the ongoing cordial relationship between the two offices and reassured them the MSG Secretariat is always here to assist as much as we can to help its MSG members achieve common goals with success.



### SECRETARIAT UPDATES CHAIR OF UN BASED MSG AMBASSADORS ON FLNKS



Chairman of UN based Ambassadors H.E Ambassador Max Rai (2nd from left) and Mr. Ilan Kiloe MSG Secretariat Program Manager Political and Security Development (2nd from right) with staff of Papua New Guinea Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

Mr. Ilan Kiloe our Program Manager Political & Security Affairs undertook consultations with Ambassador Max Rai, Chair of the UN based MSG Ambassadors and Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea (PNG) ahead of the annual session of the Special Committee on Decolonisation (C24) that was held on 27 June 2019 to consider the question of New Caledonia.

The consultations were part of the Secretariat's ongoing efforts to provide necessary technical support and assistance to the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) as they undergo political processes for the Referendum on Self-Determination in New Caledonia. The MSG Secretariat had stepped up its approach in forging closer relations with UN based MSG Ambassadors under the "Action Plan/Roadmap on the FLNKS process for self-determination" adopted by MSG Leaders during their 21st Leaders' Summit in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Mr Kiloe provided updates on the strategic approaches adopted by the MSG Secretariat in the provision of support to FLNKS under the leadership of the Director General Ambassador Amana Yauvoli to emphasis more firmly on the commitments espoused under the 2013 Noumea Declaration, the 2018 Ac-

tion plan/Road map and the 21st Leaders' Summit Communique.

H.E Ambassador Max Rai commended Ambassador Yauvoli for adopting a strategic approach in supporting FLNKS to also give prominence to a range of activities for economic empowerment and supporting the aspirations of the people towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Non-Self-Governing Territories in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Dev-

### SECRETARIAT MEETS PRESIDENT OF NEW CALEDONIA CONGRESS

The UN based MSG Ambassadors met with Honorable Roch Wamytan, the newly elected President of the New Caledonia Congress and Mr. Mickael Forrest, Permanent Secretary of FLNKS on 26 June prior to the annual session of the Special Committee on Decolonisation (C24) to consider updates on the political developments in New Caledonia following the 2018 Referendum on Self-Determination.

The meeting considered a number of important issues including the Electoral List and the need to improve the registration and proxy voting processes to ensure greater transparency and fairness in the conduct of future referendums. The meeting agreed to collectively raise this issue during the C24 session for consideration by Committee members when

development in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions with regard to leaving no one behind.

In considering the results of 2018 Referendum and the useful lessons learned, the meeting agreed on a number of important issues that need to be brought to the attention of the committee, as of the MSG Statement to the UN C24 Session. These issues include the need to review and update the 'Electoral List', the urgent need to review the processes and criteria for the registration of Kanaky people to vote in the referendum and the need to improve the proxy voting processes to ensure greater transparency, free and fair Referendum process.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat and urged them to continue the ongoing close collaboration with the UN based MSG Ambassadors to ensure MSG's sustained support towards the decolonization process in New Caledonia.



Ilan Kiloe and UN based MSG Ambassadors with Honorable Roch Wamytan President of the New Caledonia Congress (3rd from left)

adopting the UN Resolution on the Question of New Caledonia. Mr. Ilan Kiloe, Program Manager Political & Security Development represented the Secretariat in the meeting.

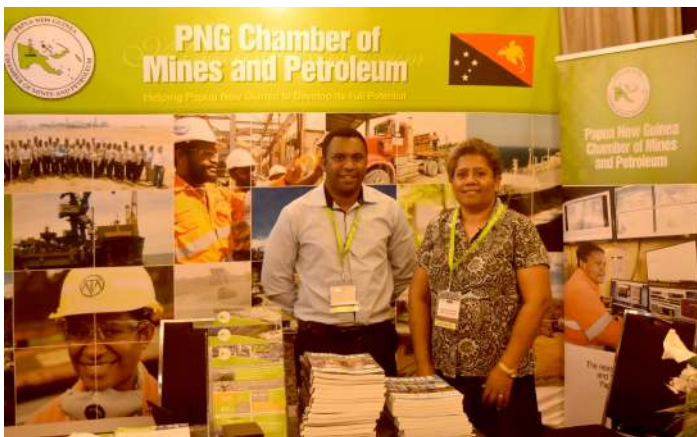


### SECRETARIAT ATTENDS SUCCESSFUL PNG INVESTMENT WEEK 2019

Mrs. Sovaia Marawa, Trade and Investment Advisor of the MSG Secretariat recently attended the 35th Australia - PNG Business Forum and PNG Speakers Investment Summit held from 17 to 21 June, 2019 at Stanley Hotel & Suites, Port Moresby, PNG.

2019 is a PNG platform with a global perspective promoting partnerships, growth and innovation opportunities for serious investors in the international community. The week long event showcased Papua New Guinea's rich cultural diversity and heritage while playing host to hundreds of executives and leaders.

The events throughout the week, brought together key speakers from the Government, Private Sector and Business communities in PNG and Australia including PNG's PM Honourable James Marape. The event featured a speaker program, a trade expo and networking events.





### SECRETARIAT STAFF MOVEMENTS

The Secretariat bid farewell to three staff members and have welcomed four into the family since the last publication of the MSG Melanesian Tok Newsletter in 2016.



Henry Sanday

Mr Henry Sanday ended his contract with the Secretariat after serving for four years firstly as Private Sector Development Advisor under the Trade & Investment Division with the EU funded PITAP Project. Henry went on to become the Trade & Investment Advisor before leaving to work for the World Bank in Fiji.



Mansen Ahelmalahlah

Last year saw Mr Mansen Ahelmalahlah leave the Secretariat after serving four years firstly as a Research Assistant under the Economic Development Division before holding the Manager Research & Marketing role for a year before becoming the Economics Affairs Officer until he left in June 2018.



David Hopa

Mr David Hopa served the Secretariat for six years firstly as the Economic Advisor

under the Economic & Social Development Division and then as Program Manager Economic Development for three years before leaving the Secretariat.



Romulo Nayacalevu

Mr Romulo Nayacalevu of Fiji joined the Secretariat in July 2017 as Program Manager Governance & Legal Affairs after doing extensive work with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team (SPC RRRT) as a senior trainer and later senior human rights adviser. As a human rights lawyer, Romulo has served the region for over 15 years. He initially started work as a private practitioner before being appointed as the first National Human Rights Officer for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Regional Office for the Pacific. Romulo holds qualifications in law, governance, international affairs (relations) and diplomacy.



Sovaia Marawa

Mrs Sovaia Marawa of Fiji joined the Secretariat family on 4 May 2018 as Trade Policy & Investment Adviser. Sovaia brings with her twenty one years of work experience in the Fiji Government focusing on development of economic policies to encourage growth of the private sector, managing Government projects including negotiations on the Melanesian Free Trade Agreement. Sovaia served as the

Deputy Secretary Trade and Investment at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Fiji until 2016. She then conducted consultancy work and volunteered at CMF Schools before joining the Secretariat.



Christopher Waiwori

Mr Christopher Waiwori from the Solomon Islands commenced work at the Secretariat on 9 July 2018 as the new Senior Executive Officer, a role that encompasses that of the Secretariat's Chief of Staff. Christopher joined the Secretariat with twelve years of experience in governance, public policy and political administration having worked in several designations in the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Parliamentary Opposition Office and the Office of the Leader of Parliamentary Independent of the Solomon Islands including numerous appointments to National Committees by the government of Solomon Islands.



Marcel Tommy

Mr Marcel Tommy of Vanuatu joined the Maintenance team at the Secretariat on 5 November 2018 under the Corporate Services Division.



### SECRETARIAT OPENS MSG MELANESIAN NASARA

An idea from Mr. John Palmer, Manager Corporate Services MSG Secretariat for a casual sit down area outside of the Secretariat building for informal meetings and talks turned into a reality on the 18th July 2019 as staff of the Secretariat and those housed within the building cheered as Mr. Peter Eafeare, Deputy Director General MSG Secretariat and Mr. Kalfau Kaloris Director General Foreign Affairs cut a ribbon signifying the opening of the Secretariat's newly built Fare appropriately called MSG Melanesian Nasara.

Representatives of each organization housed within the Secretariat building as per kustom gathered together to drink a shell of kava to complete the afternoon's formalities. Those present were then treated to kava and food for the rest of the afternoon.

A Nasara is a traditional meeting place and is used for gatherings, ceremonies and kava drinking.

The MSG Melanesian Nasara was built from scratch by staff of the Secretariat and a handful of youth from Mataso and took a month to complete.



DDG Peter Eafeare (Left) and DG Kalfau Kaloris cut the ribbon marking the opening of the MSG Melanesian Nasara



Representatives of housed organisations and Senior staff of the Secretariat partake in the kustom ritual of drinking the first shell of kava

### SECRETARIAT HOST SIGPTF AT FAREWELL BBQ



The Secretariat's Manager Corporate Services Mr John Palmer (2nd from right) explains the process of the first kustom shell of kava at an event to members of the SIGPTF

Members of the new Solomon Islands Government Parliamentary Task Force (SIGPTF) were treated to a BBQ by the Secretariat staff on 27 June 2019 to

farewell the Solomon Islands Parliamentary delegation after a four day visit to Vanuatu to meet the staff of the MSG Secretariat and find out more about the role

and functions of the MSG in the Pacific region. The delegation also came to meet with Vanuatu Government Officials.

The visit a first time for majority of the delegation made up of six members of the Solomon Islands Parliament, five being new Members and two Government Officials were thanked by Deputy Director General Mr. Peter Eafeare for their visit acknowledging their interest and support of the MSG Secretariat.

The group closed formalities by sharing a shell of kava in the normal kustom fashion before enjoying more kava and food prior to their departure.



### SECRETARIAT REVIVE SOCIAL CLUB WITH FITNESS PROGRAM



Secretariat staff and family members participating in the Fun Walk Program at Mele Beach

The MSG Secretariat staff recently revived their Social Club in a bid for staff to not only get a little healthier and fitter but to enjoy each other's company in an environment different from the normal behind desks in offices.

MSG Secretariat Staff came to a successful resolution after the discussion of reviving the MSG Secretariat Staff Social Club on 23rd July 2019. The staff elected a working committee, chaired by the Sports Development Officer Mr. Bill Henry, Treasurer Lilian Lange, Secretary Jeanne Rarua and member Monica Abau-Sepulai.

The Club is financially supported through staff members' voluntary contributions.

Prior to the start of the program, staff of the Secretariat had their height, weight, sugar and blood pressure checked by healthcare organization, Phoenix Life Sciences International Limited on the 25th July. Staff were also given tips on what food they should be eating to either gain or lose weight.

To begin the activities, a "Fun Walk program" was endorsed by the committee and successfully implemented on 7

August 2019, which saw The Secretariat family embarking on their first Fun Walk on Mele Beach. Staff gathered on the beach for a group prayer before walking a total of just over 4km down Mele Beach and back.

Afterwards staff and family members that participated were treated to refreshments, shared much laughter and congratulations towards each other for completing the walk before staff dispersed.

Staff are now looking forward to upcoming walks and other events the Social Club will put together as all in the name of health, fitness, team building and a means to relax from the busy day to day normality of each of the workloads.



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates and venues of meetings listed below may change

#### AUGUST

|         |   |                       |
|---------|---|-----------------------|
| 2 – 7   | Conference of European Independence Movements: 2020 Referendum in New Caledonia | Corsica, France       |
| 12 - 14 | International debate/Seminar on Decolonization: Consolidation & Solidarity      | Corsica, France       |
| 13 - 14 | Sports, Arts and Culture Consultations  | Noumea, New Caledonia |
| 19 - 23 | GCF Global Programming Conference   | Songdo, South Korea   |
| 19 – 30 | Congress of New Caledonia tour to MSG Capitals                                  | MSG Capitals          |
| 20 - 21 | Sports, Arts and Culture Consultations  | Suva, Fiji            |
| 20 - 21 | Validation Workshop on MSG Remittances Policy Framework                         | Port Vila, Vanuatu    |
| 26 – 30 | 55th International Coconut Community (ICC) Session & Ministerial Meeting        | Manilla, Philippines  |
| 28 – 29 | Sports & Arts and Culture Consultations   | PNG                   |

#### SEPTEMBER

|         |  |                          |
|---------|--|--------------------------|
| 2 - 6   | Asia-Pacific Climate Week  | Bangkok, Thailand        |
| 4 – 5   | Sports & Arts Consultations  | Honiara, Solomon Islands |
| 16      | PAPUA NEW GUINEA 44th INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY                     |                          |
| 16 - 17 | MSG/IDEA Meeting   | Honiara, Solomon Islands |
| 23 - 30 | 74th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 74) - Climate Summit | New York, USA            |
| 23 - 30 | Regional Security Strategy (RSS) Working Group Meeting             | Port Vila, Vanuatu       |

#### OCTOBER

|         |   |                     |
|---------|---|---------------------|
| 1 - 4   | 4th Regional Security Strategy (RSS), Police Commissioner Conference (PCC),<br>Police Ministers Meeting (PMM) | Jayapura, Indonesia |
| 8-11    | UN Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)  | New York, USA       |
| 10      | REPUBLIC OF FIJI 49th INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY  |                     |
| 14 - 15 | Senior Officials Meeting  |                     |
| 16      | Foreign Minister's Meeting  |                     |
| 17      | Special Leaders Summit  |                     |
| 21 - 26 | MSG Climate Finance Strategy Discussions with DFAT  | Canberra, Australia |




#### NOVEMBER

|         |   |                  |
|---------|---|------------------|
| 11 - 15 | Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) | Baku, Azerbaijan |
| 15 - 19 | Referendum on Bougainville                            |                  |

#### DECEMBER

|        |  |                 |
|--------|--|-----------------|
| 2 - 13 | UNFCCC COP25 / CMP15 / CMA2                            | Santiago, Chile |
| 5 - 6  | 12th Bali Democracy Forum                              | Bali, Indonesia |
| 25     | Christmas Day  |                 |
| 26     | Family Day / Boxing Day / National Day of Thanksgiving |                 |

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**MELANESIA, ONE PEOPLE  
ONE SOLWARA, ONE REGION  
WORKING TOGETHER TO  
ACHIEVE PROSPERITY FOR ALL**

**THE SECRETARIAT  
MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP (MSG)**



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