



**MSG Secretariat**  
**Secretariat du GFLM**  
Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

Regional Workshops on Extradition Arrangements, Reciprocal Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in MSG Member Countries, Custody & Maintenance of Children Between MSG members

MSG Secretariat Conference Room

Port Vila, Vanuatu

4-6 July 2011

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Regional Workshops on Extradition Arrangements, Reciprocal Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in MSG Member Countries, and Custody & Maintenance of Children between MSG members officially opened on Monday 4 July by the MSG Director General, Mr Rima Ravusiro. The purpose of the first workshop on Extradition Arrangements was to enable experts to discuss ways to develop a framework for extradition arrangements between MSG member countries.

Mr Rima Ravusiro Director General of the Melanesian Spearhead Group welcomed participants from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu to the three different workshops held at the MSG Secretariat in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr Ravusiro said participants at the three workshops are being tasked to deliberate further on existing extradition arrangements amongst our member countries and also on how members can develop reciprocal measures to assist each other in enforcing foreign judgments as well as in addressing the never ending issue of custody and maintenance orders.

“We need to thoroughly address these issues so that aggrieved parties in our member countries will not have difficulties in conducting their business activities in our respective countries and families can also have easy access to authorities in our respective countries,” said Mr Ravusiro.

He said the formalized processes and legislative framework arrangements that participants will agree to will go a long way in advancing the needs of the people of Melanesian people,” said Mr Ravusiro.

Mr Ravusiro said he is optimistic that with the legal expertise present at the meetings, the recommendations that will come out of the workshops will contribute towards stronger foundation of MSG as an organization that can provide a clear focus on the way forward.

Authorized by Director General