



25 February 2011

PRESS RELEASE

The Director General of the Melanesian Spearhead Group said it is now up to the Leaders of the MSG to decide on whether or not they will grant observership to the Republic of Timor Leste and the Republic of Indonesia.

Mr Rima Ravusiro confirmed that the Special Foreign Ministers Meeting that was held recently in Nadi Fiji welcomed and considered applications by the Republic of Indonesia and Republic of Timor Leste for Observership to the MSG.

Mr. Ravusiro explained that all applications are assessed by the Secretariat and forwarded to the Senior Officials Meeting and Foreign Ministers Meeting for their consideration and recommendations to the MSG Leaders.

He said the MSG Leaders is the final authority to grant Observership to applicants.

“The Secretariat is not involved in the decision making process. It is the recommendations of SOM and FMM that will guide the Leaders in making a decision,” Mr. Ravusiro added.

He said this is the process in which applications are considered.

Mr. Ravusiro said that in the case of applications by the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Timor Leste, the MSG Leaders will make a “out of session” decision.

“The Leaders decision will be then formally transmitted to the applicants,” Mr Ravusiro concluded.

Authorized by the Director General