

PRESS RELEASE

"MSG is the most dynamic group," MSG Chair Bainimarama

Leaders of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) at their first plenary this morning were able to endorse the Director General's Report presented by MSG DG, Mr Forau and the Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) outcomes that were presented by FMM Chair and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr Ratu Inoke Kubuabola to the Leader's Summit.

The Chairman of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Commodore Josai Voreqe Bainimarama welcomed the members of the MSG- the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Hon. Gordon Darcy Lilo; the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Sato Kilman Livtunvanu; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of PNG, Hon. Ano Pala representing the Prime Minister of PNG; and Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak Socialiste (FLNKS) Spokesperson, Mr. Victor Tutugoro; Observers from the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the Republic of Indonesia; Special Guests from China, Luxembourg, Morocco and Russia, Government Ministers from member countries, MSG High Commissioners based in MSG capitals, the Director General and staff of the MSG Secretariat and Senior Officials to the Special Leaders Summit held at the Great Council of Chiefs Complex at Vale Ni Bose, Suva, Fiji 29 March 2012. In his welcome statement, the Chairman said the MSG as an organization has proved and continued to impress its' keen partners. He said MSG is determined to deal with global issues with wisdom and precision. The MSG Chair said MSG knows how to think globally but act locally with much more efficiency. He said although MSG is small it is the most dynamic group. "Our joint actions are a reflection of our common belief that together as a region we can realize and advance the development needs and aspirations of our 9 million people of the MSG countries.

He extended the organization's gratitude to the commitment of the observers, special guests and development partners of the MSG and said that the presence of these partners at this Special Leaders' Summit clearly reflects their good recognition of MSG's development needs and efforts through the various activities of the MSG Secretariat.

During the first session of the Special Summit, the Leaders were able to endorse the Director General's report that covers the operation and activities carried out by the Director General and staff of the MSG Secretariat from March 2011 to March 2012 this year.

The five member countries of the Melanesian Spearhead Group also approved the outcomes of the Foreign Minister's Meeting (FMM) that was presented to the Leaders by the FMM Chair, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, the Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Fiji. . The FMM outcomes included the endorsements and recommendations of Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), Trade & Economic Officials Meeting (TEOM), Police Commissioners' Conference (PCC) and various sub-committee meetings in the area of Security, Legal and Institutional issues, Trade in Services and Sports that were held over the course of the three weeks leading up to the Leader's Summit today.

Another highlight of the Leader's meeting today included the official handing over lease titles for the land that was allocated by the Fiji Government to PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu located at the junction of Queen Elizabeth Drive and Muanikau Road in Suva, Fiji. The Leaders of the member countries thanked the MSG Chairman for the kind gesture and also confirmed their future building of MSG member country Chanceries at the allocated sites.

The Leaders' Meeting will continue tomorrow 30 March 2012 at Vale Ni Bose Complex in Suva, Fiji