



Melanesian Tok



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FIJI ASSUMES CHAIRMANSHIP OF MSG



Chairman of the MSG and Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, receives the symbolic spearhead of the MSG from outgoing Chair & Vanuatu Prime Minister, Hon. Jotham Napat.

Fiji has assumed chairmanship of the Melanesian Spearhead Group following the handover by Vanuatu in a traditional ceremony at the Bose Levu Vakaturaga Grounds in Suva, Fiji on Monday 23 June 2025.

Outgoing Chairman and Vanuatu's Prime Minister, Hon. Jotham Napat relinquished the position amidst Fiji's Government Ministers, senior Government

officials and the diplomatic corp, full of gratitude and a spirit emboldened by the region's shared accomplishments.

In his keynote address he said, it is both symbolic and historic that Fiji, under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, assumes the Chairmanship.

"It was under your stewardship in 1997, Sir, that Fiji joined the MSG — a decision that has since enriched

our collective strength. And now, like a seasoned captain returning to the helm, you take the wheel once more," he noted.

In a show of gratitude, the new Chair, Hon. Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka deeply acknowledged Prime Minister Napat and the Government of Vanuatu for their able leadership of the sub-regional group since 2022, and the achievements reached during their tenure at the helm.



Greetings from your Secretariat! We have descended onto the second half of the year and a lot has transpired including the ceremony of the much-anticipated handover of Chairmanship of the MSG from Vanuatu to Fiji. It was truly a showcase of rich traditional Melanesian cultures blending together, one that was befitting of Leaders on the sacred rara belonging to none other than Fiji's Great Council of Chiefs.

As rightfully mentioned by the outgoing Chair and Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Jotham Napat, the handover should not be seen as an end, "but a renewal, a reaffirmation of our solemn duty to our peoples, our cultures, and our future".

Such a powerful statement that will resonate across time and generations, sound words of wisdom that cannot go unheeded, if we are to survive and remain united in a dynamic global environment, fraught with ever-increasing challenges.

Also noting that the new Chairman and Fiji's Prime Minister, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka's return to the esteemed role was significant, marking a "profound full circle in the regional diplomacy narrative", after leading Fiji into the MSG nearly three decades ago.

The new MSG Chair resolved to build on the momentum from the successes thus far, as he assumed

the role at the helm of the MSG. On the Secretariat front, our work has already been cut out for us particularly the Leaders' approval of our bid to seek donor funding for the reconstruction of the Secretariat Building, which suffered immense damage during the December 2024 earthquake.

Our ongoing participation in the ICJ process has been endorsed particularly in the implementation of the Advisory Opinion.

Furthermore, the reaffirmation of MSG solidarity with the People of Kanak - New Caledonia, and support for FLNKS through various multilateral platforms, including the UN-established processes such as C-24, only serves to strengthen the foundation of why the MSG was formed.

As we continue to serve our Members, there are some immediate tasks that we must work on including the review of the Climate Finance Strategy and the MSG Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries; and preparation with PNG to host the 4th PM's Cup, among others. In this issue, we bring you a snapshot of the activities of the Secretariat in the last quarter and I hope that you will enjoy reading.

Vinaka vakalevu, Tankiu Tumas, Tagio Tumas, Oleti.



**ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL
ILAN KILOÉ**

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CHAIRMANSHIP HANDOVER, “THE PASSING OF A SACRED FLAME...”

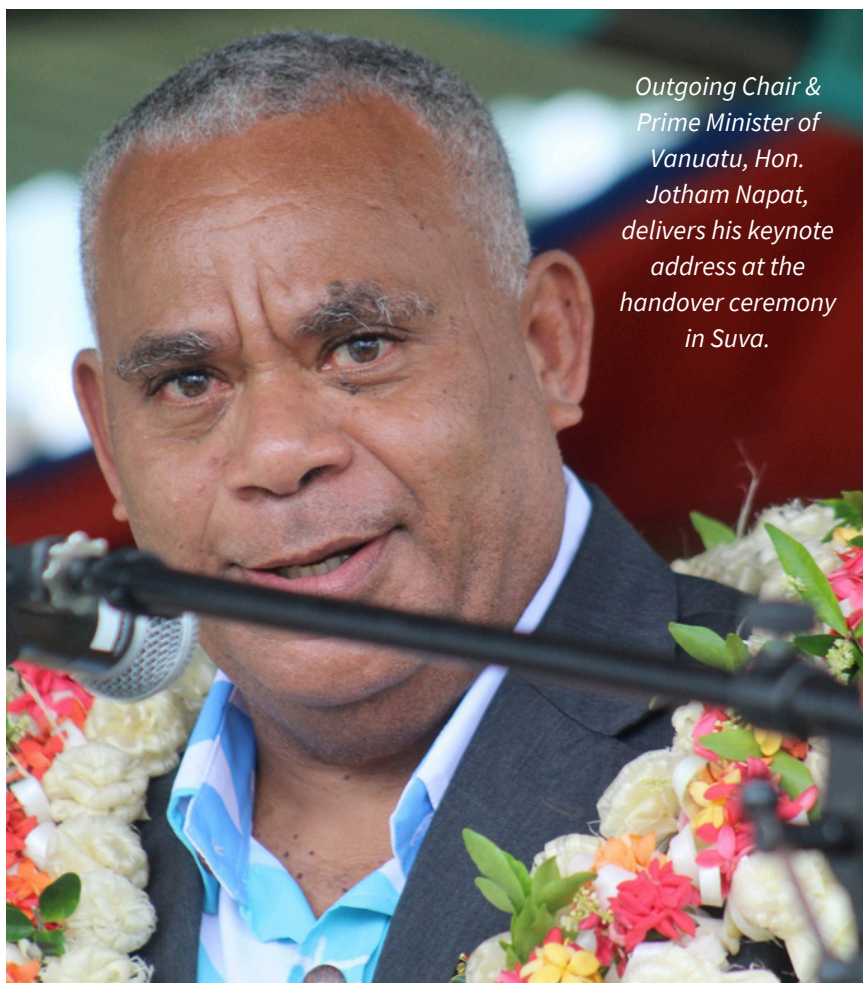
The handover of the chairmanship of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) is the passing of a sacred flame, lit by our forebears, carried by our leaders, and fuelled by the enduring hopes of our people.

These were the remarks by the outgoing Chairman of the MSG and Vanuatu’s Prime Minister, Hon. Jotham Napat while delivering his keynote address, at the handover ceremony in Suva, Fiji on June 23, 2025.

He noted that it is with profound humility and immense pride that he stood at this pivotal juncture “in our collective Melanesian journey”.

“As Vanuatu prepares to ceremonially pass the mantle of MSG Chairmanship to our esteemed brother, the Hon. Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, Prime Minister of Fiji, I am compelled to reflect upon the enduring legacy, the transformative power, and the indomitable spirit of our Melanesian Spearhead Group,” he stated.

Hon. Napat said that since its inception in 1986 and formal establishment in 1988, the MSG has stood as a bastion of Melanesian solidarity, sovereignty, and shared destiny. It was born, he said, not merely



Outgoing Chair & Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Jotham Napat, delivers his keynote address at the handover ceremony in Suva.

as a political construct, but as a manifestation of our ancestral kinship, our cultural tapestry, and our collective aspiration for self-determination, peace, and prosperity.

“Our founding ideals — mutual respect, non-interference, consensus-building, and the promotion of Melanesian values — remain the bedrock of our cooperation.

“The MSG is not just a regional bloc; it is a moral

compass and a strategic fulcrum in the evolving architecture of the Pacific,” he added.

Hon. Napat said that Fiji’s assumption of the Chair is both symbolic and historic under the leadership of his colleague, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka as it was under his stewardship in 1997 that Fiji joined the MSG, “a decision that has since enriched our collective strength”.

“And now, like a seasoned captain returning to the helm, you take the wheel once more.”

PM RABUKA ACKNOWLEDGES VANUATU'S LEADERSHIP OF THE MSG



Chairman of the MSG and Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka delivers his remarks at the handover ceremony.

The Chairman of the MSG and Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka looks forward to working closely with all MSG Leaders towards advancing Melanesia, as the region of opportunity.

He made the comment while delivering his keynote address during the traditional handover of chairmanship from Vanuatu to Fiji on 23 June 2025.

“It is indeed an honour and a privilege to be able to host the 23rd MSG Leaders’ Summit.

Hon. Rabuka acknowledged Prime Minister Napat and the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu for their able leadership of the sub-regional group since 2022 and the achievements reached during their tenure as Chair.

“I especially acknowledge their leadership despite challenges faced; the most recent being the 7.3 magnitude earthquake late last year,” he stated.

Hon. Rabuka was encoura -

ged that in the face of such adversity; the true Melanesian spirit of resilience and perseverance was demonstrated as our sub-region came together to assist and support Vanuatu.

“We continue to stand by the people and government of Vanuatu in their recovery.”

Hon. Rabuka added that as Fiji takes on the mantle of leadership, “we build on the hard work and success that has been laid before us,” and that it is not a responsibility that Fiji will take lightly.

LEADERS ACKNOWLEDGE NEW CHAIR FOR HOSTING 23rd SUMMIT



Leaders sharing a light moment following the retreat session at the 23rd MSG Leaders' Summit.

Leaders from the Melanesian Spearhead Group extended deep appreciation to the Government and people of Fiji for successfully hosting the 23rd MSG Leaders' Summit 2025, and related meetings during its conclusion at the Bose Levu Vakaturaga in Suva on 23 June.

They further expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to all the Leaders and delegates. Among other decisions, the Leaders have endorsed the Secretariat's ongoing participation in the

ICJ process, particularly in the implementation of the Advisory Opinion, acknowledging that the pathway is not immediate, nor is it a one-size fits all, and will be implemented in a nationally determined way.

This is in recognition of the fact that all MSG states are still dependent on fossil fuels, are highly vulnerable to the worsening impacts of climate change, are not responsible for the climate crisis, and have limited financial, technical and human capacity.

Leaders also reaffirmed their

commitment to the "Friends to All, Enemy to None" Foreign Policy as it will guide the MSG Members' relationship with countries and Development Partners.

Leaders also agreed to maintain dialogue with Indonesia at the MSG Leaders Level and reiterated the MSG Leaders' decision during the 22nd MSG Leaders' Summit in 2023, to request the MSG Chair to write to the PIF Chair to ensure that the visit of the UN Human Rights Commissioner to the Papuan Provinces of Indonesia is undertaken.

FOREIGN MINISTERS UPHOLD REGIONAL SOLIDARITY



Members of the MSG Pre-Summit Foreign Ministers Meeting in Suva, Fiji.

The 23rd Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Leaders Pre-Summit Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) concluded in Suva, Fiji on 20 June 2025, reaffirming steadfast commitment to regional solidarity. This, against the backdrop of an unstable international geopolitical situation, and critical threats such as Climate Change, IUU fishing, economic crisis, increasing incidences of NCD and armed conflicts. Members agreed to strengthen and uphold the Melanesian Spirit of Cooperation and mutual respect, including deep

acknowledgement for Vanuatu as outgoing MSG Chair, and unwavering support for Fiji as it prepares to take up its role as Chair of the MSG. FMM Chair and Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade of Vanuatu, Hon. Marc Arti, MP, in welcoming delegates and acknowledging Fiji's hospitality, said their gathering demonstrated yet again "our shared visions and values for Melanesian Solidarity and the recognition of our collective efforts to strengthen the fabric that binds us together".

Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe advised Members to proceed with the agenda with a renewed sense of urgency. He encouraged Members to reaffirm commitment to regional cooperation, institutional strengthening, and delivering tangible outcomes for our communities. He added that above all, we must be guided by the enduring Melanesian values of respect, dialogue, and collective responsibility. "These values are the foundation of our cooperation and the compass by which we chart our course forward."

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR MSG CHANCERIES IN SUVA



The site for the new Solomon Islands High Commission in Suva.

A historic occasion was witnessed on Tuesday, 24 June at the soft launch & ground breaking ceremony for the Chanceries of the Governments of Vanuatu & Solomon Islands on Wantok Drive along Muanikau Road in

Suva, Fiji. The piece of land was gifted by the Fiji Government to Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea some 10 years ago. Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Hon. Jeremiah Manele & Prime Minister of Vanuatu,

Hon. Jotham Napat both acknowledged with deep appreciation the Fiji Government's generosity, saying it was a display of the true Melanesian spirit. Fiji was represented by Ratu Inoke Kubuabola.



The site for the new Vanuatu High Commission in Suva.

23rd MSG LEADERS' SUMMIT



Leaders at the Retreat Session of the 23rd MSG Leaders' Summit.



Vanuatu Prime Minister,
Hon. Jotham Napat.



Papua New Guinea Prime Minister,
Hon. James Marape.



Solomon Islands Prime Minister,
Hon. Jeremiah Manele.



FLNKS Representative, Mr. Roch Wamytan.



Members of the Diplomatic Corp (top) along with senior MSG Officials.

2025 PICTORIAL - SUVA, FIJI



An array of cultures were displayed by Vanuatu (top) and Fiji during the traditional handover of the MSG chairmanship.



Members of the Fiji delegation.

Members of the Vanuatu delegation.

PIFS SG Baron Waqa & DSG Esala Nayasi.



ADG Kiloë guiding the MSG Chair.



Hon. Napat delivering his address.



Leaders signing the Communique.

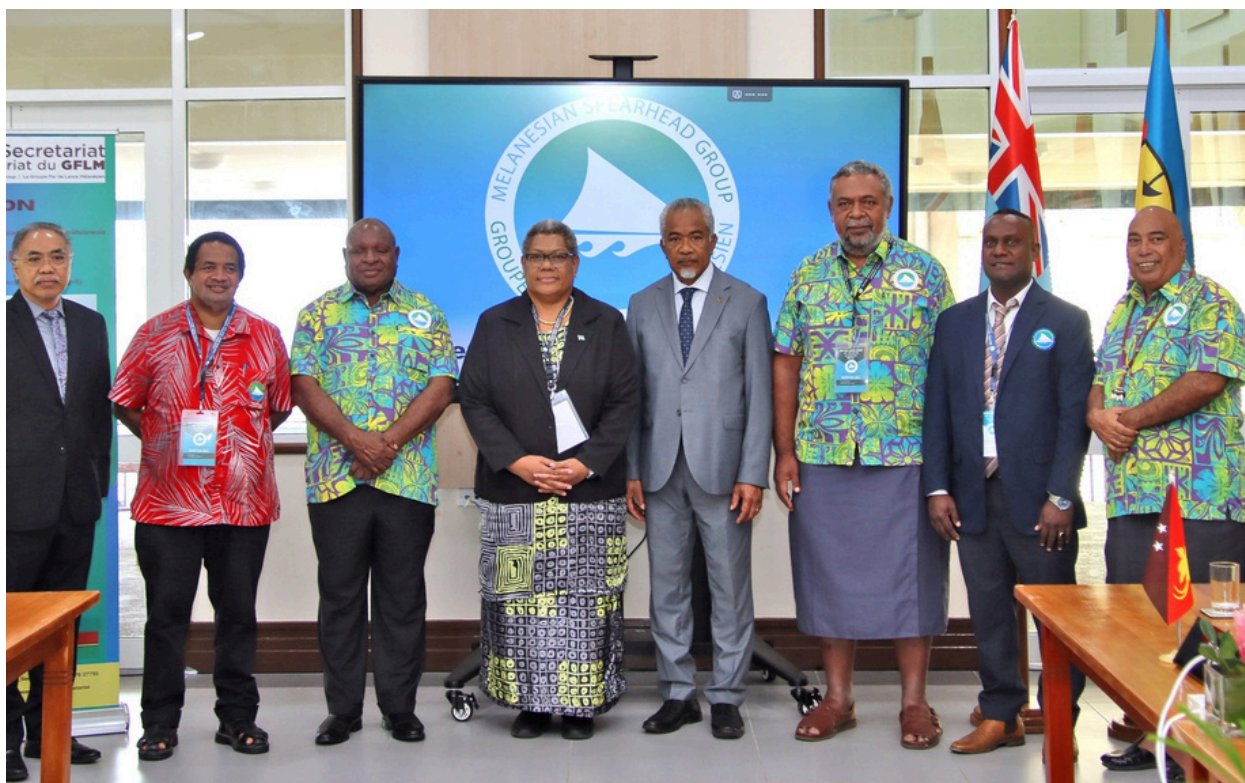


The Papua New Guinea delegation.



Leaders share a light moment at morning tea.

MSG PRE-SUMMIT SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING CONCLUDES IN SUVA, FIJI



Members of the MSG Pre-Summit Senior Officials Meeting in Suva, Fiji.

The Pre-Summit Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) concluded in Suva, Fiji on Thursday 19 June 2025, chaired by Vanuatu's George Maniuri, Director General of the Ministry of the Office of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu.

In his welcome remarks, the MSG Secretariat's Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe, said the presence of the full SOM demonstrated their strong commitment, and determination to working together as a united MSG.

SOM Chair, Mr Maniuri, in his opening remarks, acknowledged

the traditional owners of the land and the Government and People of Fiji, for the hospitality and courtesies extended to Members and also expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for the meeting preparations.

Fiji's Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr Raijeli Taga, stated that the ongoing review of the Regional Architecture is an opportunity for the MSG to consider Melanesia's place in the region.

Permanent Secretary for External Relations of the FLNKS, Mickael Forrest, acknowledged the former

Director General, Leonard Louma and the Secretariat, for the technical and political support rendered to the FLNKS during critical times in 2024.

PNG's Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Elias Wohengu, underscored the importance of continued progress on the MSG Regional Security Strategy, to ensure the collective safety and resilience of Member states.

Solomon Islands Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Collin Beck, called for MSG to remain united.

MSG's PCMU HOLDS 1st SUCCESSFUL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat's Project Coordination Management Unit (PCMU) held its first successful stakeholder engagement on the Youth4Melanesia Project in Port Vila in May.

In his opening remarks on behalf of the Acting Director General, Ilan Kilo, Senior Executive Adviser, Chris Waiwori, said the MSG Secretariat is pleased with the opportunity to engage stakeholders within the Youth and Environment sectors, to inform the process of finalizing

the Youth4Melanesia Project. The project is supported by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade.

This project is in alignment with the MSG 2038 Prosperity for All Plan's strategic objective of Social Equality and Inclusivity.

Enshrined in the Prosperity Plan are improved social development indicators; achievement of higher living standards; a promising future for all citizens; integral human development; enlightened community (educated); active youth and women

participation; rise above mediocrity; initiate change to eradicate obstacles that stifle development and frustrate good governance; aim for the best; and teach children the Melanesian values of humility, respect, caring, the fear of God and to dream with hope for a better future.

PCMU Manager, Johnston Riven said the MSG has the mandate to improve prospects for MSG Members and PCMU will provide an opportunity for MSG to benefit Member states' high rates of unemployment.



Participants at the 1st PCMU Stakeholder Engagement in Port Vila.

MSG SECRETARIAT ACKNOWLEDGES SUPPORT BY FIJI POLICE



Mr Joeli Tamani on behalf of the MSG Secretariat doing the traditional Fijian “vakavinavinaka” to Fiji’s Commissioner of Police and members of his Command Group in Nasova.

In a traditional presentation accorded to the Commissioner of Police, Rusiate Tudravu and his senior officers, the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat acknowledged the support by the Fiji Police, during the series of meetings of the 23rd MSG Leaders Summit in Suva. Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe expressed profound gratitude to the Fiji Police for all the support rendered in the days leading up to the Summit. This included the provision of an office space to store materials and meeting papers and the Fiji Police Officer’s Mess, the venue for the

welcome cocktail following the MSG Senior Officials Meeting. “Thank you very much for opening your doors which allowed us a space to conduct our meetings that were crucial to the success of the Leader’s Summit,” ADG Kiloe said. “I wish to also acknowledge the courtesies provided to my senior staff and for providing for us a home away from home,” he added. He added that the “talanoa” & traditional presentation by the MSG Secretariat which included gifts of mats and bales of cloth was an honour and in accordance with our Melanesian culture and

traditions. Commissioner of Police, Rusiate Tudravu said he did not expect such a ceremony but acknowledged the MSG Secretariat and the leadership by ADG Kiloe. “If you need anything in the future we will always be here. This is your home, this is your office, this is your police force, this is your country. Commissioner Tudravu reassured his support for the office of the Director General of the MSG. “We wish you all the best on your travel back and congratulate you for your successful meetings,” he added.

MSG & PACIFIC COMMUNITY TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION



Acting Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Ilan Kiloe and Regional Director Melanesia, Ms. Sarah Mecartney (centre) with the MSG & Pacific Community teams.

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat and the Pacific Community Regional Office for Melanesia continue to work together to strengthen collaboration in areas of shared interest for Melanesia and the Blue Pacific Continent.

In a recent meeting, the Acting Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Ilan Kiloe and Regional Director Melanesia, Ms. Sarah Mecartney, discussed among other issues, operational and programming updates and explored opportunities for areas of collaboration in service to Melanesia.

Ms Mecartney acknowledged

the MSG Secretariat for the post-earthquake support and efforts to hold space for the regional office.

The team was advised of a space at the current temporary MSG Office, designated for SPC with the use of SPC Avocar and Starlink, in support of video-conferencing services.

With the lapse of the contract of the Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Leonard Louma, OBE and the imminent end of contract of the Director General of the Pacific Community, Dr Stuart Minchin, the two organisations have agreed to maintain regular communications and exchange across their respective

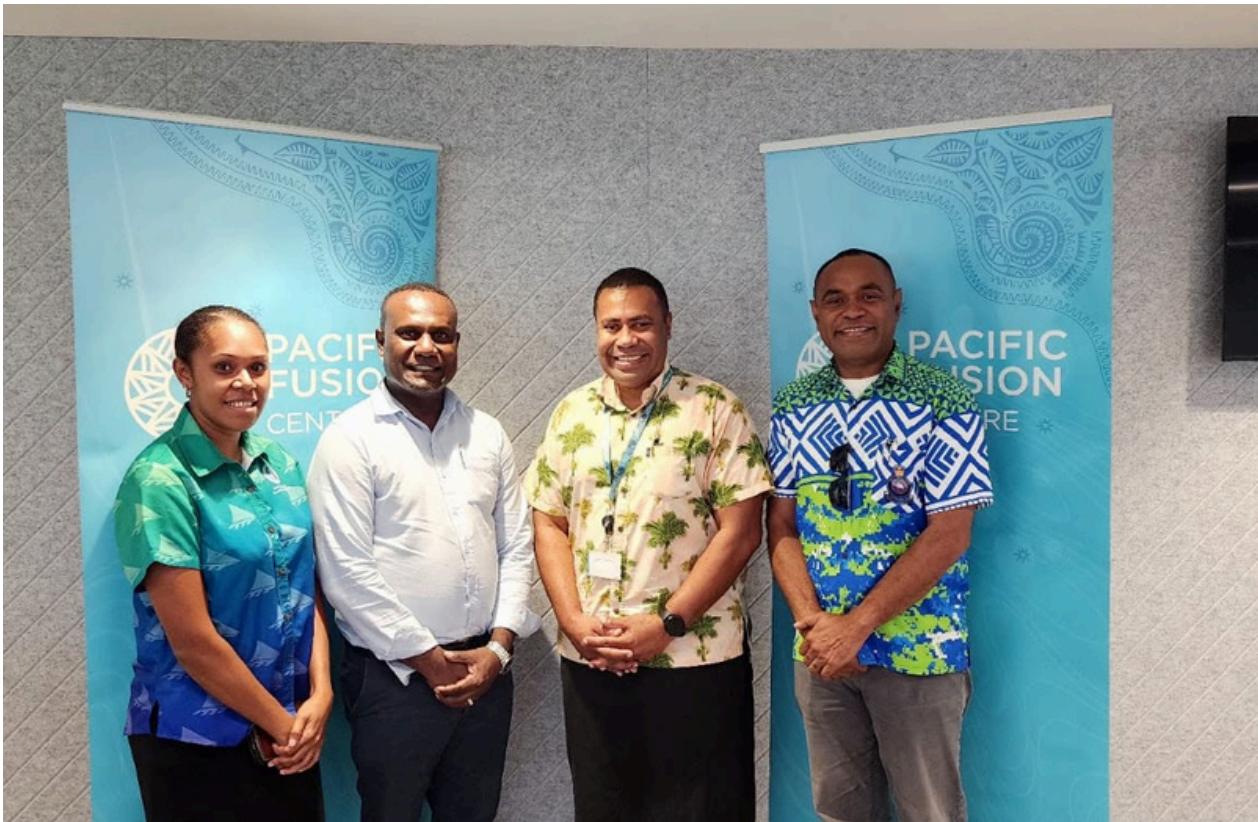
leadership transitions.

Additionally, they will track progress of the PIFS-led Review of the Regional Architecture and the value proposition for subregional approaches as a reinforcement of Blue Pacific regionalism.

Discussions also covered gender, oceans and youth programmes of work with a view to align these to the SPC strategic plan, the MSG Prosperity for All Plan, national development strategies and the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.

Areas of collaboration are framed by the MoU and 2025 exchange of letters and increased connectivity to sectoral discussions.

MSG & PACIFIC FUSION CENTRE TO BUILD ON STRENGTHENED COLLABORATION



Acting Director of the Pacific Fusion Centre, Vili Bovoro (2nd from right) with ADG Kiloe and his team.

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat and the Pacific Fusion Centre agreed to progress a step further to find ways to strengthen collaboration through a proposed MOU.

While the specifics of the agreement are being finalized, both parties are committed to work together to address common security challenges in the region.

Acting Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Ilan Kiloe, mentioned that a formal arrangement on continued collaboration will allow for more

structured engagements.

Acting Director for the Pacific Fusion Centre, Vili Bovoro expressed his delight at the idea of cooperation with the MSG, saying the two organisations shared the same Members.

He noted that one of the main benefits from this formal partnership would be the fact that the MSG Secretariat will have access to its products, particularly regular briefs on security concerns and threats in the region.

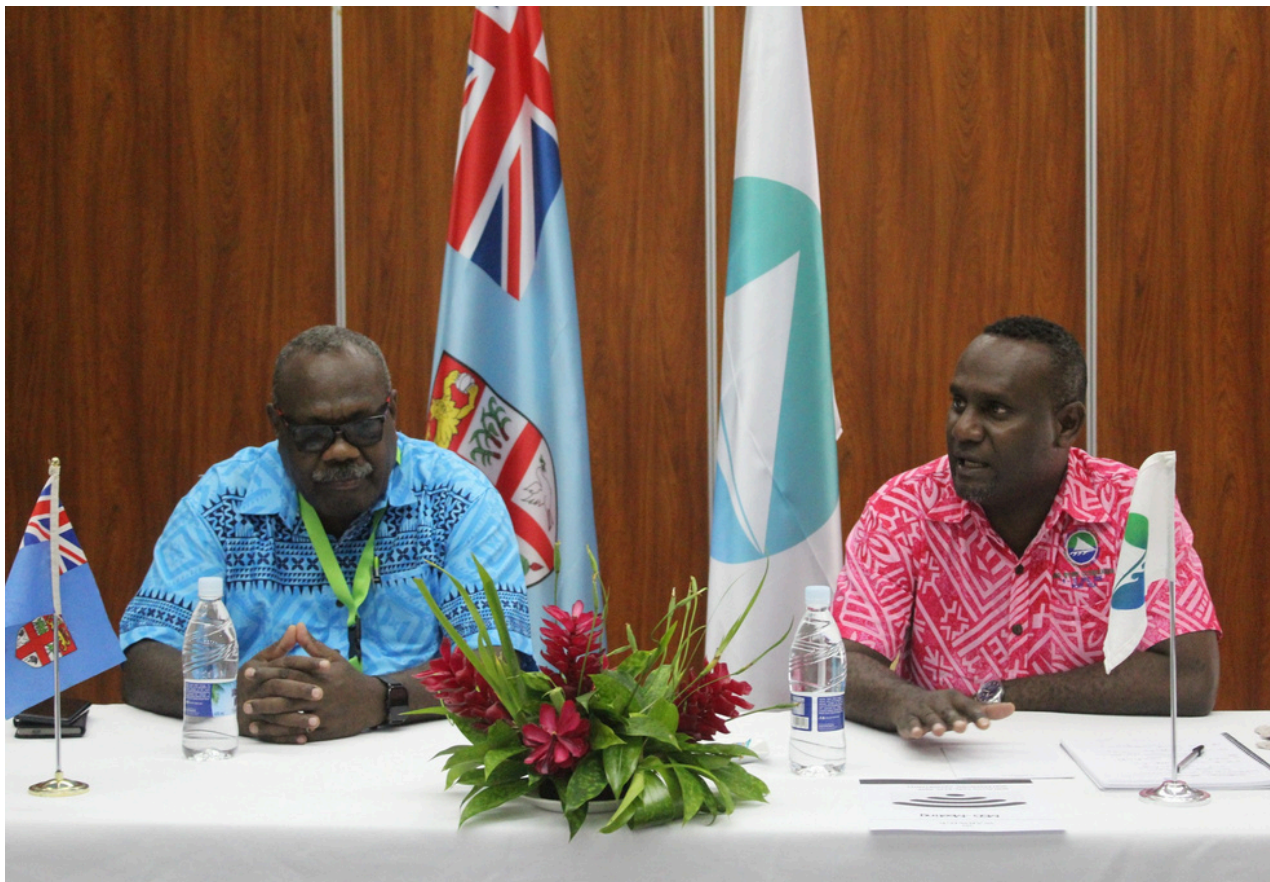
ADG Kiloe also updated Mr Bovoro on the MSG Security

Strategy which is currently being finalized by the Working Group.

He stated that the MSG security strategy is a home-grown policy document that was designed to address the peculiar security challenges of the MSG Members and in doing so adds value and compliments the wider Pacific efforts.

He added that the MSG Security Strategy marks the collective efforts in ensuring a safe, peaceful and prosperous Melanesian subregion and the broader Pacific region.

FIJI'S POLICE COMMISSIONER ASSURES MSG OF SUPPORT



Fiji's Police Commissioner, Rusiate Tudravu (L) and the Acting Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Ilan Kiloe, during a courtesy visit by Commissioner Tudravu in Port Vila.

Fiji's Police Commissioner, He acknowledged Fiji's support and hoped that during Rusiate Tudravu has assured leadership in assisting in the his term in leadership, the MSG the support of the Fiji Police area of security cooperation and would be able to see the Force for the work of the initiatives including the drafting successful implementation of the Melanesian Spearhead Group of the MSG Security Strategy. the security initiatives. Secretariat (MSG), particularly ADG Kiloe confirmed that the Commissioner Tudravu in the area of security, during a MSG Police Commissioner's expressed his appreciation to the Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe in Conference and the MSG Police the MSG in enabling the early May. Minister's Meeting will be held continuation of the Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe in later this year. recruitment of a Police Liaison Officer. He also noted that both organisations need to reflect on how the relationship can be strengthened further particularly in the area of police cooperation.

Acting DG Kiloe thanked the The chairmanship of the PCC and PMM will be assumed by Fiji, following the rotation of the MSG Chair. Furthermore, he assured Commissioner Tudravu of MSG's

MSG Sports Ministers Meeting: Sports Promotes Unity



Members of the 4th MSG Sports Ministers Meeting in Suva, Fiji.

The need to develop sports in the MSG region to provide a strong platform where MSG's sporting athletes can compete to exchange skills and talents was emphasized at the recent 4th Sports Ministers Meeting (SMM) in Suva, Fiji.

Outgoing Chair and Minister for Justice, Youth and Community Services of Vanuatu, Hon. Job Andy MP, in his opening remarks said, that Sports is an important component of the Arts, Culture, Youth and Sports programme of the MSG Secretariat.

Acting Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Ilan Kiloe, while delivering his remarks, welcomed the Ministers, reaffirming that sports can be a powerful tool for fostering peace.

Director General Faerua of Vanuatu thanked the Chair and the MSG Secretariat for the preparatory work that enabled the 4th SMM to be convened in Suva.

Papua New Guinea's Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Sports, Hon. Sam Basil MP, conveyed his appreciation to the Membership for granting

permission for PNG to host the 4th Edition of the MSG Prime Ministers' Cup. Fiji's PS for Youth and Sports of Fiji, Meli Nacuva, said Fiji is working to strengthen its systems and processes to increase the level of professionalism in the sporting space. Solomon Islands PS Secretary for Home Affairs, Jeffery Deve, emphasised the potential of sports as a market with economic dimensions offering products, services and ideas with value for money related to fitness, health and leisure for consumers.

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