



# Melanesian Jok



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MSG SECRETARIAT  
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## MSG SECRETARIAT'S NEW TEMPORARY OFFICE OPENED



*The new MSG Secretariat temporary office space was opened at Melcoffee, Kumul Highway.*

A stronger sub-region is a building corner stone for stronger Pacific regionalism, says the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Noah Kouback.

He made the comment while delivering his keynote address, marking the official opening of the new MSG Secretariat temporary office building at Melcoffee.

He stated that being the only sub-regional organisation with a function

ning Secretariat the MSG has been transformed into an important and strategic grouping in the Pacific region, and its strategic importance must continue to be leveraged.

In his remarks, Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe thanked the host Government of Vanuatu and MSG Members for their unwavering support towards the MSG. He also thanked the partners and heads of regional organisations based in

Vanuatu who responded positively to the invitation and attended the opening ceremony.

The new MSG Building will incorporate a 'Melanesian look', in design, feel of a community, and "be in harmony with and complement natural surroundings while incorporating Melanesian principles of fengshui".

Leaders agreed that the new building will have a concept, of "Haos Blong Melanesia".



Greetings from your Secretariat!

As the year quickly envelopes us, we continue on with sheer determination to deliver the mandates of our Leaders albeit the challenges of our office relocation, caused by the December 2024 earthquake.

The major highlight of the last quarter of was the climate justice victory for our people, following the historic ruling by the ICJ, outlining states' responsibilities under international law.

Following Leaders' endorsement of the Secretariat's participation in the ICJ process, our submission was aligned to add value to Members' national statements, representing the collective interests of the Melanesian sub-region.

Surely the wisdom of MSG Leaders in tasking the MSG Secretariat to participate in the ICJAO proceedings was not made in vain, yet yielded positive results that continue to make the MSG a relevant and influential player in regional and global affairs.

Last month we attended the 54th PIFLM and were honoured to witness the signing of the Ocean of Peace Declaration, a firm commitment to protect and safeguard our oceans and our future.

While recently in Honiara and in our efforts to collaborate with civil society and NGOs, we convened a

dialogue with CSOs and people living with disabilities, a first step towards engaging in that space and appreciated the diverse roles played by CSOs.

We also attended the Vanuatu National Arts and Culture Festival on Tanna, in solidarity with Vanuatu and in the lead up to preparations for the 2026 MACFEST to be hosted by Fiji.

Our work on progressing the MSG Business Travel Card continues while we also celebrated our Member, PNG's 50th Golden Jubilee independence on September 16.

Another interesting development was the convening of the 7th MSG Fisheries Technical Advisory Committee Meeting after a lapse of seven years.

Finally, we are relieved to have a new temporary office space which was officially opened by the Director General of the Vanuatu Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Noah Kouback.

I would like to put on record here our sincere acknowledgement to our Members and in particular our Host Government in ensuring that operations continue without any hurdles.

We hope you will enjoy these stories and more in this edition.

**Vinaka Vakalevu, Tankiu Tumas, Tagio Tumas, Oleti.**



**ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL  
ILAN KILOE**

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## COURTESY CALL TO SOLOMON ISLANDS PM

Our team led by the Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe paid a courtesy visit to the Chairman of the Pacific Islands Forum Prime Minister, Hon. Jeremiah Manele last month.

ADG Kiloe congratulated the Chair for a successful 54th PIFLM. It was also an opportunity to brief the Prime Minister on some of the developments of the Secretariat including the relocation of the building following damages sustained during the December 2024 earthquake.

PM Manele acknowledged the



*The MSG Secretariat team with Hon. Jeremiah Manele, PM of Solomon Islands and Chair of the PIF.*

work done so far under the leadership of ADG Kiloe and assured the support of the Solomon Islands Government to deliver on Leaders' mandates.

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## MSG LAUDS LANDMARK CASE RULING



*ADG Ilan Kiloe (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) with Team Vanuatu at the ICJ. Seated next to him is Vanuatu's Attorney General, Arnold Kiel Loughman and Minister for Climate Change, Ralph Regenvanu.*

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat has welcomed the historic ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that countries have legal obligations to protect the climate, saying it is a climate justice victory for Melanesia, the Pacific and planet Earth.

Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe, speaking to world media soon after the delivery of the Advisory Opinion, said the wisdom of MSG Leaders in tasking the MSG Secretariat to

participate in the ICJAO proceedings was not in vain, "yet yielded positive results that continue to make MSG a relevant and influential player in regional and global affairs".

He said it is also a huge win for the power of our youth to make an impact, referring to the Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC)'s initial move that initially led to Vanuatu's ICJ initiative.

The ICJ has ruled that climate change treaties and customary international law have binding obligations for States to ensure the protection of the climate system and other parts of the environment from greenhouse gases. ADG Kiloe acknowledged the 27 USP students whose idea became a fully-fledged ICJ Advisory Opinion, a significant push and providing more ammunition in our fight to be heard at international climate change talks".

## FIJI MILITARY ASSURES MSG OF SUPPORT



*Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe receives a gift from the Head of the Fiji Military Forces, Commander Jone Kalouniwai during a recent courtesy visit.*

A courtesy call by the work of the RFMF and Fiji in Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat's Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe to the Head of the Fiji Military Forces, Commander Jone Kalouniwai, could signal the start of a strengthened relationship that would augur well with the Leaders' vision of a peaceful and prosperous Melanesia.

Commander Kalouniwai welcomed ADG and his team saying the RFMF stood ready and willing to support the MSG's aspirations in advancing security initiatives for the MSG sub region. ADG Kiloe commended the work of the RFMF and Fiji in advancing peace and security cooperation within the MSG, the Pacific and at international level.

"Fiji has done a lot in the area of peace and security cooperation, particularly peacekeeping operations and your leadership, as Chair of the MSG will be most beneficial to the region," he said.

The ADG briefed the Commander on the role of the MSG and the Secretariat, adding that the MSG has been branded, the arc of instability, which calls for a specifically-designed security strategy that addresses its unique challenges and threats, in addition to climate change. These threats, he said include tribal wars, ethnic conflicts and the disruption to law and order which is quite prevalent in Melanesia.

"The Security Strategy aims to add value to Members' Security Strategies and the Police Minister's Meeting will consider it and have it endorsed," ADG Kiloe said.

Initiatives under the Strategy include the formation of the Regional Police Academy Unit for capacity building, upskilling and training of police officers and the Formed Police Unit.

## MSG, "THE POWERHOUSE OF THE SUB-REGION"



*SOM Chair and Fiji MOFA PS, Dr Rajieli Taga, and her team along with representatives of the MSG Secretariat.*

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) could be the powerhouse of the region as a platform to advance issues of national interest for Melanesia. This was agreed at a recent discussion between the MSG Secretariat led by the Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe, and Fiji's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by SOM Chair Permanent Secretary, Dr Rajieli Taga.

PS Dr Taga said the MSG, being resource-rich in terms of population, land mass and natural resources can be very effective "if all of MSG's constituent body meetings in arts & culture, trade, security, and sports among others, are

coordinated well.

"It (MSG) is already a powerhouse but we need to better plan and coordinate properly if we are to see issues from these meetings advanced into the PIFS system and elevated to a level where instructions can be made and actions taken," she said.

Dr Taga stated, "there is a lot of responsibility on us to advance these initiatives further and use MSG to our advantage".

"In doing so we can provide the opportunities for the other groups in the region and we must proceed to implement some of the outcomes by the Leaders.

"Fiji's intent is not to go with the flow but to grow the MSG," she added.

Acting Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Ilan Kiloe, firstly congratulated Fiji's chairmanship, adding that he fully concurred with the directions which the Chair is ready to take.

"MSG is a strength in the Pacific and we must ensure that what we are doing fits into the ambitions of the wider Pacific," ADG Kiloe said.

He suggested that the MSG look at areas which it is able to influence like climate change, since the MSG participated at the ICJ, amplifying the Pacific's call for climate justice.

## MSGOG REPORT HANDED TO SIG



*SIEC Chief Electoral Officer, Jasper Anisi and his staff following the handover of the MSGOG Report by the MSG.*

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat officially handed over the MSG Observer Group (MSGOG) Report of the 2024 Solomon Islands National General Elections (SINGE) to the Solomon Islands Government through the Chief Electoral Officer, Jasper Highwood Anisi and staff of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission.

ADG Kiloë said the successful conclusion of the Observer Mission is yet another milestone achievement for the MSG.

He expressed his appreciation to the Solomon Islands Government, through the SIEC for the confidence given to the MSG Secretariat to observe the SINGE which was held on 17 April 2024.

The MSGOG Report, among other things, mainly observed that the outcomes of the 2024 Solomon Islands National General Elections was embraced by the citizens of the Solomon Islands and that the atmosphere during the elections was peaceful.

The MSGOG was led by Vanuatu as the Chair of the MSG at the time of the Mission.

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## MSG FACILITATES WASTE TO WONDER TRAINING



*Participants show off their certificates following the Waste to Wonder Hybrid Training in Port Vila, Vanuatu.*

A number of youths in Vanuatu learnt about waste management training through the MSG Secretariat and the Archipelagic Island States (AIS).

Participants left as crusaders for responsible waste management, empowered with the knowledge to be meaningfully engaged in the Circular Economy.

The training is testament to MSG's joint commitment to nurture opportunities for collaboration in addressing the scourge of plastic waste.

# MSG's PCMU HOLDS SUCCESSFUL MEMBER CONSULTATIONS IN VANUATU & SOLOMONS



*Participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> PCMU consultation in Honiara, Solomon Islands.*

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat's Project Coordination Management Unit (PCMU) has held successful stakeholder engagements in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu over the last two months. This follows concerns by Leaders earlier this year on a number of emerging issues and challenges facing our sub-region and Pacific Islands, particularly on the need to address challenges relating to climate risks and women and youth empowerment. Stakeholder consultations are being taken through the lenses of climate change and women and youth empowerment which will inform development of new project concept notes.

The MSG Secretariat will then use these documents as a bases to meaningfully have further dialogue with DFAT, development partners and donors on addressing these issues, challenges and concerns through programmes and projects across Member countries. In Vanuatu issues identified include a lack of youth empowerment, lack of access to training institutions, lack of access to finance and technology, the high rate of youth unemployment and non-communicable diseases, and a lack of access to road and health infrastructure are quite prevalent. Some of the solutions identified include investment in infra -

structure, youth entrepreneurship start-up programmes, promoting climate resilient agriculture and strengthening local food systems, among others. Almost similar issues have been identified in Solomon Islands where 59 per cent of the participants were females. The intense discussions and outcomes will require commitment from our governments, working in collaboration with donors and development partners in ensuring that we are resilient to climate risks and challenges, and collectively addressing women and youth empowerment challenges. The next round of consultations will be in Fiji.

# MSG FISHERIES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS INSHORE FISHERIES CONCERNS



*Members of the MSG Fisheries Technical Committee at their meeting in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in July.*

The 7th Fisheries Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC) Meeting was successfully convened on 16 July 2025, after a lapse of seven years at the Stanley Hotel in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

The committee was revived to bring Members up to speed on their updated and approved Terms of Reference, deliberate on the MSG Inshore Fisheries Road Map and further preside over important issues affecting the Melanesian group within the inshore fisheries space.

Director of Fisheries from the Ministry of Fisheries, Fiji, Nanise Kuridrani, chaired the FTAC, with government officials from the Ministry of Fisheries in Fiji,

Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, attending the FTAC meeting.

This year's FTAC was co-hosted by the MSG Secretariat and PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA).

During the opening remarks by the NFA Deputy Managing Director, Mr Gisa Komangin, he said the FTAC is a vital platform for MSG Member states to work collectively toward shared goals.

"It offers a space for harmonizing policies, strengthening national and regional capacity and exchanging best practices tailored to our Melanesian ways.

Programme Manager, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, Diana Salili, encouraged the committee to ensure that the "MSG remains relevant and grounded in Melanesian values of respect and compatriotism.

Two important issues raised by Members during this meeting were the coastal fisheries Bech-Der-Mer trade and South Pacific Albacore Tuna. Members agreed on having a strong MSG block to control BDM fisheries and to ensure a mechanism for sharing best science and management practices.

## MSG PAYS COURTESY CALL TO SOLOMON ISLANDS MINISTER FOR POLICE



*Solomon Islands Minister of Police, National Security and Correctional Services, Hon. Jimson Tanagada (3rd from left) next to ADG, Ilan Kiloe, with the Secretariat team. Standing next to him is Permanent Secretary, Karen Galokale.*

A team from the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat led by the Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe, paid a courtesy call to the Solomon Islands Minister of Police, National Security and Correctional Services, Hon. Jimson Tanagada.

ADG Kiloe took the opportunity to brief the Minister on some of the major initiatives of the MSG relating to security, including the MSG Security Strategy, proposed establishment of a Regional Police Academy, a Formed Police Unit and Police Cooperation.

He explained that these initiatives serve to complement what already exists in the

wider Pacific region.

“Given the geopolitical interest in the Pacific it is important that we respond to our own unique challenges through tailor-made approaches,” he said, further emphasizing the importance of the subregion to work together on a common ground to address these challenges.

At this year’s MSG Leader’s Summit in Suva, Leaders’ made a decision to have the MSG SS finalized this year. Indonesia hosted the Police Commissioner’s and Police Minister’s Meeting from 14-18 October in Jakarta.

In the lead up to those meetings, the Working Group on the MSG Security Strategy chaired by Fiji was convened

in September in Suva.

Hon. Tanagada acknowledged MSG’s efforts and reassured Solomon Islands’ support and that of his Ministry to its important work of advancing regional interests in the said areas.

“We would like to see that these initiatives are quickly developed and implemented in the interest of the MSG and the wider Pacific region given our increasing challenges,” he said.

The Minister also highlighted the importance of collaboration amongst Members to contribute to regional security and the need to ensure that these developments are in line with the wider regional strategies.

## ADG ON A COURTESY VISIT TO HEAD OF SPC



*ADG Ilan Kiloe and Pacific Community Director General, Dr Stuart Minchin.*

The Acting Director General, extended to attend the 42nd and Arts & Culture, Bill Henry, Ilan Kiloe, paid a courtesy visit Council of Pacific Arts & also took the opportunity to to Pacific Community Director Culture Meeting. discuss ways to further General, Dr Stuart Minchin, ADG Kiloe, who was strengthen cooperation while in Noumea, to personally accompanied by Programme between the two thank him for the invitation Manager, Youth and Sports organisations.

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## MSG TEAM AT VANUATU NATIONAL CULTURE FESTIVAL



The MSG Secretariat was represented at the Vanuatu National Arts & Culture Festival 2025 last month.

The team thanked Chief Wily Lop for the invitation saying the welcome ceremony is a demonstration of our respect for our own Melanesian customs and traditions.

MSG's participation is in solidarity with Vanuatu leading up to preparations for the Melanesian Arts & Culture Festival to be hosted by Fiji next year.

## MSG CONVENES DIALOGUE WITH CSOs & PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES



*The MSG Secretariat team with CSO representatives following a successful dialogue in Honiara, Solomon Islands within the margins of the 54<sup>th</sup> PIFLM.*

A team from the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat successfully convened a dialogue with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and people living with disabilities in Honiara, Solomon Islands last week.

Acting Director General, Ilan Kiloe, acknowledged the space for engagement saying he deeply appreciated the diverse roles played by CSOs.

He further acknowledged the representation at the dialogue saying he valued contributions made, in line with the 54th PIFLM theme of “lumi Tugeda: Act Now for an Integrated Blue Pacific Continent”.

He stressed the importance of integrating the voices of CSOs in the MSG if we are to integrate our Blue Pacific, in line with the Ocean of Peace declaration that Leaders endorsed at the meeting.

The MSG Secretariat has embarked on engaging with CSOs through initial collaboration with the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (PIANGO), to address critical issues significant for advancing regional development.

“This is the first time we are engaging in this space and I welcome the interest shown

which will enable us to go back to the drawing board and develop a tailor-made mechanism, in line with the MSG 2038 Prosperity for All Plan, if we are to strengthen implementation and accountability,” he said.

Some of the concerns raised at the dialogue included the need to set up a Melanesian Association of Disabled People; the need for more females to be included at decision-making level within the MSG for the purpose of good governance; and the importance of capturing indigenous knowledge within the Melanesian school system.

# LAST QUARTER AT A GLANCE



The MSG team was delighted to cross paths with former DG Peter Forau and his wife while in Honiara.



Solomon Islands PM Hon. Jeremiah Manele hands over a gift to ADG, Ilan Kilo.



Programme Manager for Trade & Economic Development, Joshua Kaile, Chief Immigration Officer of the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority, Wellington Navasivu and members of the Technical Working Group.



ADG Ilan Kilo with Oceans Commissioner Dr. Filmon Manoni at the 54<sup>th</sup> PIFLM.



Delegates of the 2025 Pacific Regional & National Security Conference in Suva, Fiji of which the MSG Secretariat was a part.

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