



MSG Secretariat **Secretariat du GFLM**

Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

Welcome Remarks by Mr Peni Sikivou, Acting Deputy Director General 3RD Ministers of Culture & Arts Meeting (MCAM)

Grand Papua Hotel, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG)
11 October 2013

Chairman of the MSG MCAM, Mr Yvon Fua,
The Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture of PNG, Hon. Boka Kondra,
The Minister of Tourism and Culture of Solomon Islands, Hon. Samuel Manetoali,
His Excellency, Mr Romanu Tikotikoca, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji to Papua
New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste,
Observers,
Senior Officials and delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bula and welcome to the 3rd MCAM,

On behalf of the Director General and staff of the MSG Secretariat based in Port Vila, Vanuatu,
we are honored to be present at this 3rd MSG Ministers of Culture & Arts (MCAM) being hosted

by the Government of Papua New Guinea.

Although this esteemed body last met two (2) years ago, it is with great pride that we acknowledge the excellent work done by your respective countries and the FLNKS in achieving some milestones have been achieved by this esteemed body. We at the Secretariat are indeed grateful for the level of commitment and support by Member towards these initiatives.

I wish to also encourage members to pursue the vision of our MSG Leaders in making CULTURE a cornerstone and a strong foundation on which to develop our organization to spearhead the protection and promotion of arts and culture in the region and beyond. Our culture is what makes us unique from other groupings and we should never lose sight of this uniqueness.

Chairman, Ministers and Excellencies, please allow me to extend our most profound gratitude to the Government and people of PNG for hosting this 3rd MCAM in this beautiful city of Port Moresby and for the warm hospitalities extend since our arrival. It is always exciting to be in the land of the unexpected.

With these few remarks, we thank you for attending this meeting and wish you well during the meeting.

Vinaka and and tenkiu tumas!