

**SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT**



**GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION UNIT**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**PNG PM TO VISIT SOLOMON ISLANDS**

The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Hon. James Marape will visit Solomon Islands from 27th -29th February 2020. This will be the first State Visit by Prime Minister Marape to Solomon Islands since taking office in May 2019.

The official program for Prime Minister Marape's visit which will include a courtesy call to the Governor General, a meeting with Prime Minister Sogavare, a formal bilateral meeting between the two governments and a possible investor dialogue is still being finalized with our PNG counterparts.

The State Visit is important for both countries. It will further strengthen the bilateral relations and cooperation between Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. The two countries have a shared history based on blood ties and cultural connections.

"We share a common border. Our relationship has strengthened over the years. Both countries work together in several areas including on biosecurity, customs cooperation, education, police cooperation and aviation," a Statement from the Government Communication said today.

The State Visit by Prime Minister Marape signals his intention to step up his country's engagement with Solomon Islands on areas of mutual interest.

This is a priority that is shared and reciprocated by Prime Minister Sogavare. Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare is looking forward to welcoming Prime Minister Marape and his delegation during the State Visit.

Prime Minister Marape will be accompanied by his spouse, Madame Rachael Marape, several Cabinet Ministers, senior government officials and group of PNG Investors. The Prime Minister and delegation will arrive on Thursday 27th and will depart on Saturday 29th February.

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