

SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT



GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION UNIT

MEDIA RELEASE

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SOLOMON ISLANDERS URGED TO OBEY MEASURES IMPOSED BY FIJI AUTHORITIES

Solomon Islanders residing in Fiji have been urged to respect and take heed of measures imposed by the Government of Fiji in view of the growing risks of COVID-19.

Solomon Islands High Commissioner to Fiji, HE William Soaki issued his first COVID-19 advisory to all Solomon Islanders working and studying in Fiji on Friday as the Government confirmed the first five positive cases of COVID-19.

COVID-19 or the coronavirus was declared as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on 11 March 2020. Over the past two weeks many countries have been experiencing increased confirmed cases and deaths due to COVID-19. Fiji has since announced its fifth case on 25th March 2020.

The Solomon Islands High Commission is working closely with the Foreign Affairs Ministries of Solomon Islands and Fiji to ensure accurate information and advice is disseminated appropriately to relevant authorities in the two countries.

The Solomon Islands High Commission appeals to its nationals living in Fiji, either residents or students studying in Fiji to take heed to the advisory issued by the Government of Fiji, through its Ministry of Health and Medical Services and other relevant authorities.

These advisories are for safety measures as well as good hygiene practice.

“Please take seriously these advises to wash your hands, stay at home, avoid socializing in groups or gatherings, and practice social distancing. As of Monday 30 March, there will be a national curfew in Fiji from 10.00pm-5.00am daily,” Mr Soaki said.

Due to the first confirmed patient of coronavirus, the greater Lautoka is currently under lock-down and Solomon Islands nationals residing within the area must comply with the restrictions.

The High Commission appeals to both residents and students to remain vigilant and take safe precautionary measures and health practices.

The Solomon Islands High Commission understands the uncertainty and fears that Solomon Islands nationals in Fiji are faced with, in particular the students studying in the various universities, campuses and various towns.

The High Commission gives the assurance that daily communications with relevant ministries and authorities in Honiara will ensure appropriate actions to be taken in light of the border restrictions, lock-downs and safety of our people.

“The Solomon Islands High Commission will continue to issue appropriate advice from Solomon Islands Government on actions to conduct travel requirements, immigration and quarantine requirements, and further information for tertiary students’ updates and other related matters,” Mr Soaki said

Nationals and students are encouraged to contact individual airline agents for further travel advice or query can also be directed to the High Commission office on email: infodesk@solomons.com.fj or telephone (+679) 3100 355.

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High Commissioner William Soaki meets Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama

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