

# 2023 PACIFIC GAMES

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Games Organizing Committee!

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2022

## WORK ON FOOTBALL ACADEMY STARTS



**GROUND BREAKING...** Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare on 6th January 2022 commissioned the ground breaking of the Pacific Games 2023- SIFF Football Academy.

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More local  
workers  
engaged in  
construction



# Welcome

This is the official Newsletter of the 2023 Pacific Games, published and distributed on a monthly basis.

It contains updates and news from the Games Organizing Committee, Facilities Committee and the SINIS High Performance Centre.

This publication is produced by the Media & Communication Department of 2023 Games Organizing

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## GOC CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE!!



Dear Pacific Colleagues,

May I wish you all a belated Happy New Year and extend the warmest of greetings from Solomon Islands.

Our Prayers and warmest wishes go out to our brothers and sisters in Tonga who are dealing with one of the greatest natural disasters in recent Pacific history. We are a close family of island nations and can only imagine the anguish and health concerns being experienced in Tonga at this time.

COVID too is affecting us all, as it is throughout the world. It has recently entered Solomon Islands and we are learning to cope with this disease just as many of you have also already had to deal with the pressure it places on health services, business and daily life, including sport.

However, despite these challenges we are looking to the future with optimism, particularly in the sporting world. The Tokyo Olympics showed that major multi-sport events can still be run, albeit with appropriate processes and modifications to protect our athletes and officials, and we are all looking forward to the Mini Games in Saipan and, for some of us, the Birmingham Commonwealth Games later this year.

Here in the Solomon Islands we are progressing steadily with planning for the 2023 Pacific Games. The various venues are beginning to rise from the ground as construction continues and we are certain the athletes of the Pacific will have wonderful world-class fields of play on which to showcase their talents. The Organising Committee is growing steadily with experienced Games CEO Peter Stewart and Operations Manager Jack Smith joining our ever-increasing team of enthusiastic local staff. Planning in all areas is now well advanced and we will be providing you all with a detailed update in Saipan.

After over two years of conceptual planning, budgeting and appointment of the GOC Board members, it is pleasing to see the on-ground fruits of this preliminary work starting to take a physical form. We are confident that a wonderful experience awaits all PGAs when we welcome you to Honiara in November 2023.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Mini Games.

Yours in Sport

Martin Rara  
Chairman

Sol2023 Pacific Games Organising Committee

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SOLOMON ISLANDS  
GAMES ORGANISING COMMITTEE

## MISE À JOUR DU PRÉSIDENT DU GOC

Chers collègues du Pacifique

Puis-je vous souhaiter à tous une bonne année tardive et vous transmettre les salutations les plus chaleureuses des Îles Salomon.

Nos prières et nos vœux les plus chaleureux vont à nos frères et sœurs des Tonga qui font face à l'une des plus grandes catastrophes naturelles de l'histoire récente du Pacifique. Nous sommes une famille proche de nations insulaires et ne pouvons qu'imaginer l'angoisse et les problèmes de santé vécus aux Tonga en ce moment.

Le COVID aussi nous affecte tous, comme c'est le cas dans le monde entier. Il est récemment entré aux Îles Salomon et nous apprenons à faire face à cette maladie, tout comme beaucoup d'entre vous ont déjà dû faire face à la pression qu'elle exerce sur les services de santé, les affaires et la vie quotidienne, y compris le sport.

Cependant, malgré ces défis, nous envisageons l'avenir avec optimisme, en particulier dans le monde du sport. Les Jeux olympiques de Tokyo ont montré que des événements multisports majeurs peuvent encore être organisés, mais avec des processus et des modifications appropriés pour protéger nos athlètes et nos officiels, et nous attendons tous avec impatience les mini-jeux de Saipan et, pour certains d'entre nous, le Commonwealth de Birmingham. Jeux plus tard cette année.

Ici, aux Îles Salomon, nous progressons régulièrement dans la planification des Jeux du Pacifique de 2023. Les différents sites commencent à sortir de terre au fur et à mesure que la construction se poursuit et nous sommes certains que les athlètes du Pacifique auront de merveilleux terrains de jeu de classe mondiale sur lesquels mettre en valeur leurs talents. Le comité d'organisation s'agrandit régulièrement avec le PDG expérimenté des Jeux, Peter Stewart, et le directeur des opérations, Jack Smith, qui se joignent à notre équipe toujours croissante d'employés locaux enthousiastes. La planification dans tous les domaines est maintenant bien avancée et nous vous fournirons une mise à jour détaillée à Saipan.

Après plus de deux ans de planification conceptuelle, de budgétisation et de nomination des membres du conseil d'administration du GOC, il est agréable de voir les fruits sur le terrain de ce travail préliminaire commencer à prendre une forme physique. Nous sommes convaincus qu'une merveilleuse expérience attend tous les PGA lorsque nous vous accueillerons à Honiara en novembre 2023.

J'ai hâte de vous voir nombreux aux Mini Games.

Sportivement vôtre,



Martin Rara  
Président

Comité d'organisation des Jeux du Pacifique Sol2023

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# GOC funding support geared towards enhancing Sport Federations



**Solomon Islands Tennis Federation (SITF) President, John Prasad (left) and GOC Senior Sports Delivery Manager, Adrian Tuhanuku.**

**T**he Games Organising Committee (GOC) for the 2023 Pacific Games in Solomon Islands on Thursday 16 December 2021 launched a funding programme to support National Sports Federations (NSFs) in Solomon Islands.

This aims to support the functionality and enhancement of NSFs ahead and beyond 2023 as part of the Federations' commitment to engage with the GOC in delivering their respective sport competitions at the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

The SBD50,000 funding programme is one of the support initiatives for

NSFs purposely to ensure they are functioning and are prepared to support the GOC in the delivery of the 2023 Games.

GOC's Senior Sports Delivery Manager, Mr. Adrian Tuhanuku highlighted that in order for Federations to qualify to access this funding support, they must have an existing bank account, a finance officer responsible for auditing, they must have a full executive according to their respective constitutions, be in good standing with their respective International Federations (IFs), NSC and NOCSI and must be a properly

registered sports body.

So far, the Weightlifting, Golf, Volleyball and Tennis Federations have signed their funding agreement with the GOC.

Meanwhile, monitoring systems will be in place to assess whether or not the funds granted to Federations are properly utilized as intended and to ensure the effectiveness of the funds provided to the Federations.

The amounts for the fund can be reviewed and amended periodically, taking into account the increase in operational costs and requirements, when it is deemed necessary which also follows in line with GOC's planned legacy of well governed and functioning NSFs post 2023.

While the recently completed Solomon Islands National Institute of Sport (SINIS) High – Performance is responsible for developing Team Solomons, GOC's sole focus is in ensuring a successful Games for all participating nations from the region including Australia and New Zealand.

This means GOC is tasked with delivering the sports program for the 2023 Games, as well as the opening and closing ceremonies, marketing, broadcasting, security, transport and logistics, and the meals and accommodation for an estimated 5,000 athletes and officials.

*While the focus has been on preparation for the 2023 Pacific Games, not much attention has been given to the governance and administration of National Federations. The Games emphasises the importance of having functioning Federations capable of supporting its mission to deliver in 2023.*

**- Peter Stewart, GOC Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**

# PM commissions SIFF Football Academy Ground Breaking



*Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Hon Manasseh Sogavare, PNG High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, HE Moses Kaul and SIFF President, William Lai joined by other VIP guests at the ground breaking ceremony.*

**P**rime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare on 6th January 2022 commissioned the ground breaking of the Pacific Games 2023-SIFF Football Academy.

He stated, the facility will cost about seventy-three million dollars.

The Football Academy will comprise two FIFA compliant football pitches, a beach court, a futsal court, one 2 – storey administration building, and one 2-storey dormitory accommodation building together with associated services to ensure SIFF's long-term legacy after the 2023 Pacific Games.

"Once completed it will be one of the best football academies in the Pacific Islands region," the Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Sogavare paid gratitude to the Government and People of Papua New Guinea and

the Government and People of Japan for providing the funds to the National Hosting Authority to build the Football Academy.

Prime Minister Sogavare also acknowledged the high level of cooperation the government and the National Hosting Authority had received from the Solomon Islands Football Federation.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock was also applauded for allowing the National Hosting Authority to access the site to develop the PG2023-SIFF Football Academy.

The facility will be built by a local joint venture construction company comprising of JED Enterprises and JQY on behalf of the National Hosting Authority for the 2023 Pacific Games and the ultimate ownership by Solomon Islands Football Federation.

A critical component of the contractual obligation is to produce two football pitches that fully comply with FIFA's international standards for football pitches.

The National Hosting Authority and JED/JQY have consulted with SIFF to ensure that the facility meets the FIFA standards.

"I have been informed that the two pitches would be completed and ready for handover by August to September this year, and the full project will be handed over by the first quarter of 2023," the Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Sogavare also call on all surrounding communities including Burn's Creek to help protect and look after the facility.



# DC Park to host Marine Sports Centre

The National Hosting Authority (NHA), the National Sports Council (NSC) and DC Park owners in January 2022 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for DC Park to be used as a Marine Sports Centre and athlete training facility leading up to, during and after the Pacific Games 2023.

DC Park is situated east of Honiara after the Henderson International Airport.

The MOU was signed by NHA Vice Chairman, Martin Rara; NSC Chairman,



*(From left to right) PMU Executive Director, Eldon Tepa; NSC Chairman, Joe Sika; DC Park Owner, Drake Chow; NHA Vice Chairman, Martin Rara; PMU representative, Soleana Gagahe and NHA Executive Director, Christian Nieng.*

Joe Sika and DC Park Owner, Drake Chow.

Present to witness this signing was Project Management Unit (PMU), Executive Director, Eldon Tepa and NHA Executive Director, Christian Nieng.

Under the MOU, NHA will design, develop and fund a Marine Sports Centre facility inside the DC Park venue. NHA will also assist to upgrade the current beach sports facilities and surrounding fields and facilities for athletes.

## MoU signed to improve Honiara Golf Course

The National Hosting Authority (NHA) and The Honiara Golf Club in January 2022 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Honiara Golf Course in east Honiara to be used as a sporting venue to host the Golf tournament during the 2023 Pacific Games.



*(From left to right) Joe Sika; GOC Chairman, Martin Rara, Golf Club representative; Mr. Wayne Morris and NOCSI rep, Mr. Aldrine Bekala.*

The MoU was signed by GOC Chairman and NHA Vice Chairman; Mr. Martin Rara and Honiara Golf Club Board member; Mr. Wayne Morris.

Present to witness this signing were representative of the National Sports Council (NSC), Mr Joe Sika and

representative of the National Olympic Committee of Solomon Islands (NOCSI), Mr Aldrine Bekala.

Under the MOU, NHA will improve the Honiara Golf Club's supporting sports facilities for the 2023 Pacific Games.

# 2023 GAMES INFORMATION SHEET!!

*The first Pacific Games in Solomon Islands*

*From 19 November, 2023 Honiara will welcome 24 countries from around the Pacific region including Australia and New Zealand to compete across 24 sports.... all in just 14 days of action.*

## DATE

19th November to 2nd  
December, 2023

## WHAT ARE THE GAMES AND HISTORY?

The Pacific Games (formerly known as the South Pacific Games) is a continental multi-sport event competing Olympic sports, with participation exclusively from archipelagic countries around the Pacific Ocean. It was renamed the Pacific Games in 2015 the inclusion of Australia & New Zealand. It is held every four years and began in 1963.

## SOME STAGGERING FACTS!!



**5,000 Athletes**



**15,000 meals per day**



**3,000 Volunteers**



**Bus Fleet (250 vehicles)**



**1,000 Contractors**



**Car Fleet (50 vehicles)**



**3500 Bed Hotel**



**60 Tonnes of waste  
per day**



## 2023 GAMES INFORMATION SHEET!!

## 24 Countries, 24 Sports

## SPORTS



## PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES







**S**tarting from December 28, 2021 to January 10, 2022, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) has expanded their local team from 139 to 370 laborers.

The Chinese based company is building seven major projects, including the main stadium, being funded by the Chinese Government for the 2023 Pacific Games.

The project will maintain at least 300 active workers on site every day so overall 400 to 450 workers will be registered and hired to ensure progress is on bullet track. At the moment, they have engaged local workers hired from all 9 provinces in Solomon Islands from Central, Western, Malaita, Makira, Temotu, Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Isabel and Renbel, among which the Malaita, Makira and Guadalcanal take majority of the positions.

Projects include a new \$53 million (£38 million/€45 million) 10,000-capacity National Stadium, with 1,000 VIP seats, which will be the centrepiece of the first Pacific Games to be staged in the



Solomon Islands.

Other venues include an Olympic-standard aquatics centre, a six-court

tennis centre, a full-sized athletics training facility, a multi-purpose sports hall, new offices and a food court.



Work has started at upgrading playing fields in and around Honiara which will serve as training venues for teams participating at the 2023 Pacific Games.



**Solomon Islands National University (SINU) near the Fishing Village in Honiara.**



**Kukum Field in east Honiara.**



# Work on schedule despite new COVID-19 measures

The National Hosting Authority (NHA) and all Sol2023 Pacific Games supporting committees hold the safety of all their staff and subcontractors/contractors as its highest priority, during this COVID-19 outbreak in Honiara.

Furthermore, we abide by the advice of the National Government to ensure that the relevant authorities and health professionals can complete their required tasks to mitigate the current outbreak.

All works are on schedule to be delivered in time for the 2023 Pacific Games. The lock down and curfew that followed will have minimal impact on the project delivery overall. The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) and NHA has implemented a work from home strategy that allows planning and meetings with both internal and external stakeholders to continue.

We are constantly reviewing strategies

and monitoring the situation as more information is received from the Solomon Islands Government, to allow vital planning for the Games to continue while also ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our staff in these challenging times.

NHA and the Sol2023 Pacific Games supporting committees' encouragers all sports men and women in Solomon Islands to get vaccinated now that COVID 19 is spreading in our community.

Let's adhere and follow the health advise and protocols for controlling and containing the virus and let's hope that our country can reach up to 90% of our population vaccinated in-order for authorities to allow services to be returned, our borders opened, our economy is sustained and 2023 Pacific Games Facilities can be completed so the Games will take place in 2023.



**Peter Stewart**  
CEO,  
2023 Games Organizing  
Committee (GOC)

“

*The Games Organising Committee has implemented a work from home strategy that allows planning and meetings with both internal and external stakeholders to continue.*

*We are constantly reviewing arrangements to allow vital planning for the Games to continue while also ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our staff in these challenging times.*

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**Construction site of the main Stadium at KG VI east of Honiara.**



# Republic of Korea donate 5 vehicles to support preparation for Games



**Honorary Consul Mr. Durk Kee Kim handing over the keys of the vehicles to SPM/NHA Chairman, Dr Jimmie Rodgers, in the presence of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade, Mr. Colin Beck.**

**T**he Government of the Republic of Korea handed over to the Solomon Islands Government five vehicles to support the National Hosting Authority's logistic in preparation to host the 2023 Pacific Games.

The Hyundai Tucson SUVs are received on behalf of the Government by the National Hosting Authority Chair and Secretary to Prime Minister, Dr Jimmie Rodgers.

The National Hosting Authority Chair, while receiving the vehicles, stated, as part of preparations towards the Pacific Games 2023, the Government has made an outreach to our development partners including the Republic of Korea.

He said, the Republic of Korea is providing an integral component of the Games in terms of logistical support.

"These 5 vehicles initiate the first part of the support from ROK. We anticipate additional vehicles including buses in the

lead up to the games," said the NHA Chair.

The NHA Chair states, the 4th Korea – Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers Meeting, called for deepened cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international level due to the devastating health and socio-economic impacts of the global pandemic.

"Today's occasion enunciates the consensus and commitment by ROK. Nationally, ROK continues to support Solomon Islands in the education, health, forestry and renewable energy sectors of the country," Dr. Rodgers underlined.

The NHA chair has asked the Resident Honorary Consul of the Republic of Korea, Mr Durk Kee Kim to convey to the government of the Republic of Korea our sincere appreciation for the donation of the 5 Hyundai Tucson SUVs.

Handing over the Vehicles, Resident Consular; Mr. Durk Kee Kim (delivering the remarks on behalf of Ambassador of the

Republic of Korea, H.E. Ho-jueng Kang) said, the donation from his government aims to supporting Solomon Islands host the 2023 Pacific Games.

"Our two countries have enjoyed over 40 years of amicable relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1978. I hope that this token of friendship will help deepen and strengthen our bond further in the future," adds consular Kee.

The donation is a timely boost for the National Hosting Authority and the Solomon Islands Government as the country enters the final 21 months of preparation to host the region's biggest sporting event next year.

The vehicles initiate the starting of NHAs fleet of vehicles to support the PG2023 games.

The Sol2023 Pacific Games in Honiara will be from November 19th to December 2nd 2023.



**S**olomon Islands National Institute of Sport (SINIS) High Performance programme has begun the initial phase of rolling out its Talent Identification (TID) program to secondary schools starting Term one, Monday 31st January 2022.

The High Performance TID team in January held a meeting with School Principals and Physical Education Teachers from Schools in and around Honiara.

"All High School principals, sports coordinators and physical education teachers are invited to join and learn more about the TID program and how to sign up," High Performance TID statement reads. SINIS High Performance TID program's goal is to identify talented athletes across all sports in preparation for the 2023 Pacific Games.

"Each school is invited to send groups of 50 students (25 girls & 25 boys) to SINIS



## SINIS High Performance to roll out Talent ID Programme to Schools

to be tested on their physical ability. After Term 1, the top 100 performing students will be invited to attend 10-week Emerging Talent Scholarship (ETS) Trial during Term 2."

"After the 10-week ETS Trial during Term 2, the top 30 performing students from the trial will be invited to join a full one (1) year ETS starting from Term 3. The students will undertake a strength and conditioning and wellbeing program during the one year to ensure that they are both physically and mentally prepared. The goal after the one (1) year ETS is for

the students to gain selection in a national team where they will go on an Elite Athlete Scholarship (EAS).

The purpose of the Talent ID schools programme is to create a pool of talented teenage athletes for National Federations to choose from for national selection. It also strives to prepare students physically and mentally and teach them about dual career, growth mindset and leadership.

Invitations to provincial schools and students with disability will be carried out during Term 2.

## High Performance program looks to form Athlete Advisory Group

**T**he SINIS High Performance program is establishing an Athlete Advisory Group. The initiative is an engagement opportunity providing athletes with a voice towards aspects of the country's HP system delivery.

This is a collective effort to truly understand the diverse opinions, building trust, and how best the High-Performance program can support, involve athletes' views and everyone to contribute to the best outcome for all athletes.

The Athlete Advisory Group will inform specific areas of SINIS High

Performance's strategic direction and policy development related to the program to directly meet the needs of athletes and be effective and sustainable now and in the future.

SINIS High Performance Executive Director Aaron Alsop stated that it's another great step forward in the empowerment of our athletes, establishing a means of seeking athletes' opinions on issues of major importance dealing with sports through a select group that accurately represent all sportsmen and women

"We are excited to be offering this opportunity for athletes to have a

meaningful and important role providing a strategic edge to our HP programs and services. Too often, the athlete's voice is not taken into consideration on how sport programs are developed and delivered. We have often found that they can present very useful insight to the challenges facing athletes today which is critical to ensure we understand how best to serve their needs as we all prepare for the Sol2023 Pacific Games. We look forward to working with them in this process and encourage anyone who meets the criteria to apply."



# Federations sign MoU with SINIS



**S**ome National Sporting Federations (NSFs) will soon have access to high performance services provided by the Solomon Islands National Institute of Sports (SINIS) after signing their respective MoU with the Institute.

The SINIS High Performance Governance & Policy Department has indicated currently only fourteen (14) out of the twenty-four (24) Federations have been complaint and will be eligible to sign an MoU at this stage, with more finalising the compliance requirements set by the National Hosting Authority (NHA).

The MoU outlines all of the support services and programs, along with assistance in areas of training facility and equipment access, coach and athlete scholarships and a range of capacity building programs which will be offered by SINIS.

To sign this MoU with SINIS, NSFs must ensure they are in compliance with their governing International Federations, National Sports Council (NSC) and the National Olympic Committee (NOC SI).

The Sports that have already signed up with SINIS are Bodybuilding, Taekwondo, Karate, Hockey, Paralympic and Volleyball.



*Representatives of the Hockey Federation with SINIS Executive Director, Aaron Alsop.*



*SINIS Executive Director, Aaron Alsop and representatives of the Bodybuilding Federation.*



*SINIS Executive Director, Aaron Alsop, Performance Manager, Moses Aunama and representatives of the Taekwondo Federation.*





2023

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