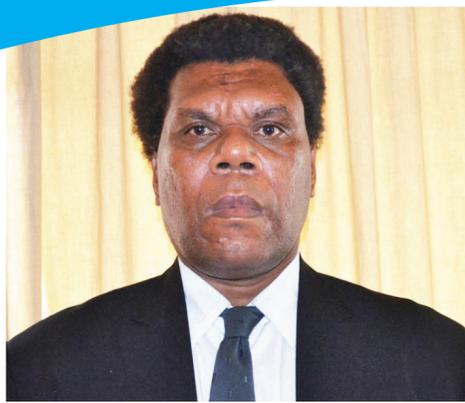




MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT 44TH INDEPENDENCE GREETINGS 2022



Hon. Minister Duddley Kopu.



Permanent Secretary Dr. Samson Viulu.

- FROM:**
- The Honourable Minister, Duddley Kopu;
 - Permanent Secretary, Dr. Samson Viulu;
 - Senior Management Team, and
 - Staff of the Ministry of Rural Development and their families;

- TO:**
- The Governor General, His Excellency Sir David Vunagi and Lady Mary Vunagi;
 - Honourable Prime Minister, Manasseh Sogavare and Madam Sogavare;
 - Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Manasseh Maelanga and all Cabinet Ministers;
 - Leader of the Opposition Group;
 - Leader of the Independent Group;
 - Honourable Members of Parliament;
 - Speaker of the National Parliament;
 - Chief Justice Sir Albert Palmer and Madam (Lady) Palmer;
 - Heads of various Diplomatic Corps;
 - Honiara City Mayor and Executive;
 - All Provincial Premiers and Members of Provincial Assemblies;
 - Our Development Partners and Stakeholders;
 - Private Sector and Non-Government Organizations;
 - Churches
 - All public servants;
 - Our hard-working officers from all 50 constituency offices with their constituents, and the people of our beloved country, Solomon Islands.

It is with joy, that we send you, our sincere greetings as we celebrate our beloved country's 44th Independence Anniversary.

Though diverse in culture and separated by the vast ocean, we are united under one national flag and today we stand as one people of our many beautiful islands to remember the birth of our nation 44 years ago. On this day of 7th July 1978, 44 years ago we were vested with political freedom to govern our own national affairs as a sovereign nation to determine our own destiny.

As we remember this day, let us take time to reflect on the sacrifices of our founding fathers that guaranteed Solomon Islands, a country that is richly endowed with freedom, peace and harmony and ample natural resources. May we be reminded to embrace the Patriotism of our forefathers who handed us independence and let us keep this freedom closer to our hearts as we stand united together in building our nation, Solomon Islands.

Despite, the challenges that this year has brought, especially with the impacts from the pandemic on our economy and our livelihoods, still our trust and confidence is in God. Therefore, let us rejoice and be courageous, lifting up our eyes to the hill from whence our help cometh from the LORD, the maker of the heavens and the earth.

Let us take time to acknowledge our failures, embrace our successes and learn from our past with prayer, honouring God for His Grace, love, mercy and faithfulness in past years, throughout the year and into the future.

The Ministry of Rural Development is committed to deliver and support development in our rural areas to improve social and economic livelihood of all rural Solomon Islanders. It is therefore our commitment to create job opportunities, establish small businesses, grow the rural economy and construct basic infrastructure in our rural communities through our development programmes to alleviate poverty and improve livelihood. As such, fellow Solomon Islanders, as you celebrate this day, remember to reflect and celebrate with pride the countless gift of our independence, our freedom, and continue to thank God for the gift of life we have every day.

Let us strive to respect and prayer for our leaders and our fellow brothers as Christians. Congratulations and Happy 44th Independence Anniversary Celebrations, Solomon Islands. May the future bring Joy, Peace, Progress and Success.

God bless Solomon Islands from shore to shore.