

HONIARA

GET READY FOR NOVEMBER 19

Honiara, the national capital and the proud hosts of the next year's Pacific Games is set to come alive come November, with plans now in motion to hold a One-Year-To-Go before the Games event here in Honiara, Solomon Islands. *Continue page 3*





VENUE USE AGREEMENT SIGNED: From left: NHA Executive Director Christian Nieng, GOC Chief Executive Officer Peter Stewart, SINU Acting Vice Chancellor Dr Jack Maebuta and SINU Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate Shadrack Fanega.

GOC, NHA, SINU sign Venue Use Agreement

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC), the National Hosting Authority (NHA) and the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) this month, signed a Venue Use Agreement that would allow for the use of SINU facilities before and during the 2023 Pacific Games.

As part of the agreement, SINU had granted the rights for the use of its three campuses namely; SINU Kukum Campus, SINU Ranadi Campus and SINU Panatina Campus to be used as venues to conduct Games events come next year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

Speaking at the signing, SINU Acting Vice Chancellor Dr Jack Maebuta said that SINU is committed to supporting the Solomon Islands Government deliver a successful 2023 Pacific Games.

"The willingness and participation of the Venue Use Agreement is a testament and demonstration of our support to the Solomon Islands Government to successfully host and deliver a memorable legacy and the best Pacific Games ever."

Dr Maebuta said that through the agreement, SINU has provided to the Pacific Games around 40 to 50% (percent) of its usable land to construct additional and related facilities for the delivery of the Games.

He added that SINU is proud to be partnering with GOC and NHA through the signing of the agreement with the aim of helping Solomon Islands host the best Pacific Games ever to be held in the region.

NHA Executive Director, Christian Nieng said that the signing marked yet another key milestone that the GOC

has achieved in its journey towards hosting next year's Pacific Games.

"NHA acknowledges the amount of time SINU and GOC staff had spent in going through the conditions stipulated in the agreement for Sol2023 to access SINU venues to be used as the Games village for the 2023 Pacific Games.



Mr Nieng added that SINU provides the largest athlete accommodation space needed for the Sol2023 Pacific Games, whilst also acknowledging the progress of all Committees under NHA – labeling preparations as being on track.

GOC Board Member, Mr Robert Iroga thanked SINU for its commitment in partnering with GOC and NHA – labeling the partnership as timely and critical. "GOC sees this partnership with SINU as timely and critical towards delivering a successful Games next year," he said.

Mr Iroga meanwhile, also revealed that GOC is expecting all venues to be completed by June, 2023

GOC brief's PS's on Pacific Games 2023 progress

Permanent Secretaries from various Government Ministries were briefed on the Pacific Games 2023 at a meeting held at the Mendana Hotel last month.

The meeting organized by the Government Services Integration Committee (GSIC), of the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet was purposely to update Permanent Secretaries from all 24 Government Ministries on the status of Games preparations this year – leading up to next year's Pacific Games.

A statement from the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet says, the meeting provided an opportunity for Permanent Secretaries to be updated and keep abreast of the Games and the preparatory arrangements.

In his welcome address, Chair of the National Hosting Authority and Secretary to Prime Minister, Dr Jimmy Rodgers, thanked Permanent Secretaries for their attendance and highlighted the importance of the Games for Solomon Islands, and the crucial role played respective Ministries in supporting the Games Organization Committee (GOC) in delivering the 2023 Pacific Games.

Speaking on the Sol2023 Pacific Games theme, "Challenge, Celebrate and Unite", Dr Rodgers said that the Pacific Games 2023 will be the single largest event held in the history of Solomon Islands, and will seek to unite the country.

Chief Executive Officer of the Games Organizing Committee, Peter Stewart, updated the meeting on the Games preparations and the work done to date for the Games. He added that with less than 14 months away, from the Games, the country is well ready and prepared for the Games.

The meeting also discussed the Ministerial Budgets needed to support the Games as well as relevant events during the Games, such as the Secondment of Government employers to the Games, as well as, the Safe and Green Games Strategic Action plan.

The Safe and Green Games Strategic Action plan, is the one single plan, that will draw all Government Ministries together, with all stakeholders, in supporting the successful delivery of the Pacific Games 2023.

The 17th Pacific Games will be held in Honiara, Solomon, Islands, from 19 November 2023 to 2 December 2023.

HONIARA Get Ready for November 19

The Sol2023 Pacific Games will be held November 19th to 2nd December, 2023.

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) have began dialogues with the Government, the Solomon Islands National Institute of Sports (SINIS) and other key stakeholders in planning the event set for 19th November, 2022.

GOC's Marketing and Communications Manager, Laurel Tasa said that aim of the proposed event is to engage and interact with the public, provide awareness and share information about the Games.

She added that the significance of the event is to celebrate the milestones Solomon Islands has achieved since winning the bid to host the 2023 Pacific Games.

"We are proposing a parade from White River (west Honiara) to SINIS (on the morning of November 19, and then have the official program there in the afternoon.

"We are also planning to engage school students, former and current national athletes to represent the 24 sporting events that will be played and the 24 countries that will be competing in the parade on the day," she said.

Meanwhile the One-year-to-go event will also coincide with the Chef de Missions (CDM) visit to Solomon Islands and the launch of the Safe and Green Games Strategic Action plan also set for November.



Gov't, HCC discuss Safe & Green Games

The Government Services Integration Committee (GSIC), of the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, held fruitful discussions with key Government officials from Government Ministries and the Honiara City Council on the Safe and Green Games Strategic Action Plan.

Discussions focused on the Safe and Green Games Strategic Action Plan as a whole of Government Approach encompassing all government ministries, HCC and stakeholders to support the Pacific Games 2023.

The discussions included key activities in the Safe and Green Games including the critical role of HCC as the Host City.

Honiara City Clerk Justus Denni said HCC is fully aware of the prominent role to play in preparations in the lead up and during the Pacific Games 2023.

Denni said HCC will continue to focus on its normal service delivery but will need further support from the National Government and other stakeholders to double its efforts during the Games.

He added there are plans and constraints but he is hopeful and looked forward for support to prepare and host the Pacific Games in 2023.

Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries from other Government ministries also contributed to the discussions on the specific and respective roles each ministry will play to support the preparations and hosting the Pacific Games 2023.

Chair and Coordinator GSIC-PG2023, Benard Bata'anisia urged all the ministries, HCC and stakeholders to work and partner together in preparations which is key to

Solomon Islands hosting a successful 2023 Pacific Games.

The discussions also included Ministerial Budgets needed to support the Games as well as relevant events during the Games, such as the Secondment of Government employees to the Games, as well as, the Safe and Green Games Strategic Action plan.



Contributions to discussions during the meeting were from key officials from the Government ministries including Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Police, National Security and Prison Services, Ministry of National Development Planning and Aid Coordination, Ministry of Women, Youth & Children's Affairs and HCC.

Follow up meetings will be held with other key stakeholders on the Safe and Green Games Strategic Action plan before launching in November 2022 – a year before the Games.

The 17th Pacific Games will be held in Honiara, Solomon, Islands, from 19 November 2023 to 2 December 2023.

GOC meets with local broadcasters

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) held a brief meeting with local freelance film makers, photographers and other key stakeholders in Honiara to discuss broadcast operations and coverage plans for the 2023 Pacific Games.

Chaired by GOC Broadcast Technical Leader Paul Vunituranga, discussions were based around high level broadcast models, broadcast right holders and multilateral and unilateral broadcasting coverage that will happen during the next year's Games.

Speaking to around 20 plus local freelancers in attendance, Mr Vunituranga said that the aim of the meeting was to give local broadcasters, film makers and photographers a broad picture of how broadcast operations would be like during the Games which will happen in Honiara from 19th November to 2nd December 2023.

"We would like to reach out to freelancers, independent

contractors to be part of GOC's delivery of the Games in terms of broadcast. Also, that there will be opportunities for local freelancers to be involved in broadcast."

Mr Vunituranga said that the priority will be to engage locals during the Games, adding that the purpose of the meeting is to see the status of broadcast infrastructure available in country, and what is needed from abroad. "The broadcasting area is a huge undertaking and it needs assistance from outside to support the Games organizing committee and the host broadcast.

"There will be opportunities to work full time going forward mid next year and GOC will be working on Expression of interests (EOI) in broadcasting areas as well as in terms of tender for Camera kits, etc," he said. Meanwhile GOC has clarified that at this stage, no broadcast companies or individuals in Solomon Islands or abroad has been given the broadcast rights to next year's Pacific Games.



CONGRATULATIONS SINIS

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) wishes to congratulate the Solomon Islands National Institute of Sports (SINIS) on becoming an officially recognized member of the International Council for Coaching Excellence (ICCE).

The ICCE is a not-for-profit, international organization with the mission of leading and supporting the development of sport coaching globally.

SINIS is one of only two Pacific Islands nations to become a member of ICCE's 41 nation international members that include; Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden,

Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Zimbabwe

GOC wishes SINIS and its staff the best as it continues to create a high-performance environment in preparing Solomon Islands athletes for the 2023 Pacific Games.

Media Officials Enhance Understanding on PG2023 Responsibilities



The Government's pool of media officials recruited to support the Pacific Games 2023 delivery have established greater understanding on their specific roles and responsibilities during a meeting at the Games Organising Committee (GOC) head office in Honiara this month (October).

Organised by the Government Services Integrated Committee (GSIC) in collaboration with the GOC and the Solomon Islands Institute of Sports (SINIS) media branches, the meeting noted the significance of proper coordination between the media branches to prevent duplication of roles and responsibilities in supporting the Games.

Chief Executive Officer of GOC Peter Stewart outlined the various roles and responsibilities of the GOC media branch which is ongoing during the preparation stages leading up to the actual Games event.

These included awareness on the Games preparations through various media platforms, community engagement programmes, updates on venues and facility progresses while messaging on the actual Games and general information for visiting athletes, the media, the public and international audiences are in progress.

Mr. Stewart also informed the meeting of plans towards accreditation of visiting overseas media and the development of the Games manual reporting guidelines for journalists.

Other issues on the media and communication budget, which, is funded by the Government and others were also discussed and clarified with greater understanding. Chair of the GSIC, Bernard Bata'anisia of the Prime Minister's Office who facilitated the meeting also discussed and clarified the Government's support services toward the Games and, specifically,

highlighted the Safe and Green Games Initiative, which, has a special committee to administer.

Director of the Government Communication Unit (GCU), George Herming commended the meeting, noting, that his Office will pool together resources and media personnel from the Government to provide support services to the GOC and SINIS media branches to advocate for the Games.

"We are excited about current communication plans established by GSIC, GOC and SINIS media branches and we look forward for more coordination and collaboration to advocate and to raise awareness to the public for the successful delivery of the Games," Mr Herming said.

The meeting acknowledged that the various PG23 media and communication branches play vital roles in providing relevant and appropriate information to the mainstream media, stakeholders, the general public and also supporting the promotion of Solomon Islands as the host country and a potential investment destination. personnel from the Government to provide support services to the GOC and SINIS media branches to advocate for the Games.





GOC-TNC Partnership, a natural fit

- GOC CEO, Peter Stewart

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC)'s partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Solomon Islands is a natural fit.

GOC Chief Executive Officer Peter Stewart highlighted this at a brief meeting held to formalize and strengthen the partnership between GOC and TNCSI = describing it a natural fit.

The GOC-TNC Solomon Islands partnership began in August this year following the 'Mascot' naming competition in which TNC was the major sponsor.

"The 2023 Pacific Games is so pleased to be entering into a partnership with The Nature Conservancy.

"The fact that Solomon Islands represents the largest turtle hatchery in the Pacific and the fact that the Games Mascot is a sea turtle itself – makes the link between the Games and TNCSI a natural fit."

Mr Stewart said that through the partnership, GOC is hopeful that the messages Solo can help spread throughout all of Solomon Islands and the rest of the Pacific will help protect all sea turtles for many years to come.

TNC Solomon Islands Country Director Willie Atu said that as soon as a sea turtle was chosen to be the Games Mascot, TNCSI came forward straight away to sponsor its naming.

"We've been working with sea turtles in Solomon Islands for the last 30 or so years. All turtles are

endangered species and here in Solomon Islands, we have the largest rookeries for the Hawksbill turtle in the South Pacific.

"Studies we have done show that turtles are being harvested indiscriminately in our communities at an alarming consumption rate of 11,000 per year. "This means that a lot of the turtles that are harvested are juveniles and this will most certainly affect the population of turtles going forward into the future.

"That is why we see this partnership with the 2023 Pacific Games as a big opportunity for us – as a massive way forward to help enhance our work in protecting all sea turtles from extinction here in Solomon Islands and throughout the Pacific Region," Mr Atu said.





Solo releases turtle back into the sea

Choiseul province has been the highlight of Solo the Mascot's nationwide tour around Solomon Islands by far – with Solo given the honor of releasing a live turtle back into the sea.

It was on October 1st, 2022, at Boe Boe village—that as part of celebrating Solo's arrival, the villagers gave Solo the honor of releasing a live turtle back into a Marine Protected Area (MPA) between Boe Boe and Tagu Beach Resort, Choiseul province.

"The program here (Boe Boe Village) was indeed a highlight as it involved the release of a live turtle by Solo, the 2023 Pacific Games Mascot.

"We are all happy having to witness Solo, the Mascot releasing a turtle back into the sea.

"That is historical, that is special as it signifies our commitment to conserving sea turtles. It signifies the work done at ACMP (Arnavon Community Marine Park). "Seeing Solo, a sea turtle being the Games Official Mascot gives us even more joy." Boe Boe village Elder, Derald Daza Daniel said.

Mr Daniel echoed similar sentiments echoed by other provinces Solo has visited, that Solo's nationwide tour is already making people feel part of the Pacific Games. The National Hosting Authority (NHA)'s Gino Oti, who had been documenting all of Solo's tours since its public debut in August this year said that to capture such a special and historical moment where Solo knelt down, carried the turtle and released it back into the sea was indeed magical.

"It was just magical – I am lost for words to describe that sight," he said.

Statistics from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Solomon Islands Office revealed that more than 11,000 sea turtles are harvested indiscriminately each year through spear



fishing in Solomon Islands waters.

TNCSI studies revealed that Green and Hawksbill turtles were the dominant harvest – a vast majority of these turtles being juveniles.

Earlier this month, the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) and TNCSI strengthened their partnership – committing to advocate and provide awareness on preserving sea turtles throughout Solomon Islands and the region.

HAWKSBILL TURTLES

the most consumed in Solomon Islands



Hawksbill turtles are the most consumed turtle species in the Solomon Islands.

A report by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) revealed that out of all turtle species, Hawksbill turtles were the dominant catches – harvested for subsistence purposes domestically.

It states that up to 11,000 turtles are harvested each year by spear fishers in the Solomon Islands, with Green and Hawksbill turtles' catches being the dominant.

"Studies we have done show that turtles are being harvested in communities indiscriminately – meaning that many of the turtles harvested in Solomon Islands are juveniles.

"The turtle consumption rate in Solomon Islands is around 11,000 per year. If we continue to kill it, it will be extinct," TNC Solomon Islands Country Director, Willie Atu said.

The report stated that in Solomon Islands turtles are harvested for subsistence purposes through free diving and spear fishing methods in shallow reefs all around the country.

"In Solomon Islands turtles are typically hooked, held or speared by free diving spear fishers. Often this occurs at night, when spear fishers use an underwater flashlight to search shallow reef slopes

for resting reef fish, crayfish and turtles.

Mr Atu added that surveys TNC has conducted showed that a lot of adult turtles are mostly harvested near or on turtle nesting grounds across the country.

Mr Atu said that all five species of marine turtles in the Solomon Islands have been assessed at risk of extinction in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List as Vulnerable to Critically Endangered.

"Turtles are all endangered species.

"In the Solomon Islands we have the largest rookeries for the Hawksbill turtle in the South Pacific and the important message we would like to stress is that every 1000 hatch links of baby turtles that go out into the sea – only one will survive. And the unique thing about turtles is that this baby turtle will always come back and nest at that very same beach.

"It is also important to note that a baby turtle who goes out from our beaches will always come back and nest on that very same spot," Mr Atu said.

Meanwhile TNC is the official sponsors of 'Solo' the Sol2023 Pacific Games Mascot.

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



SOLO FEVER

hits Solomon Islands

Within the span of three months, Solo the 2023 Pacific Games Mascot is already the most popular personality in Solomon Islands.

Since its public debut on August 1st, 2022, Solo has captivated and won the hearts of many audiences in the various rural communities, schools, provinces it had visited, whilst also generating a big following on social media.

With every tour, people are starting to know more about Solo, the Pacific Games and how to be involved with the Games.

School children were seen waving around sketches and drawings of Solo, follow Solo around in huge numbers and even excited to wear Solo facemasks and t-shirts. Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare had previously stated that Solo, the Games Mascot is the unifying factor for Solomon Islands and next year's Pacific Games.



As part of the Games Community Engagement program, Solo will continue its nationwide tour until early next year, when it completes all provinces in Solomon Islands. Solo has thus far visited six provinces namely; Guadalcanal, Isabel, Central Islands, Shortland Islands, Rennell and Bellona and Choiseul provinces.

Solo's next tour will be to the Western province.



Solo Visits National Referral Hospital



If there is one that that can make you smile – Solo the Mascot surely fits the bill.

Amidst its tight schedules travelling throughout the Solomon Islands, Solo still had time to stop by and make a surprise visit to the National Referral Hospital's (NRH) Children's ward.

This came about following a request by NRH wanting Solo to visit the sick children there – bringing the Games fever to their sick beds.

Solo in turn brought with it smiles, joy, laughter – whilst also sharing hugs, gifts and immense positive vibes.

"None of the patients knew Solo was visiting today – they were all shocked as soon as Solo was seen along the corridors headed to our ward.

"There were smiles, giggles and laughter all around. There was a sense of positiveness. It was indeed a sweet sight for sore eyes," Anna Lofea, Nurse in charge of the Pediatric ward said.

She said that they (NRH's Pediatric staff) were indeed grateful for the visit by Solo and the team from GOC (Games Organizing Committee).

"We are very happy with Solo's visit. Not only did it cheer up the sick and brighten up our day as nurses and patients here, but it also gave us more clarity as to the 2023 Pacific Games.

"The information shared regarding next year's Games has enlightened us even more," Ms. Lofea said. Nurse Lofea thanked GOC and its Community Engagement team for the visit – labeling it one that will prove important towards their patients' recovery.

GOC Media Officer, Ezmie Oge said that the response and applause Solo received was indeed overwhelming. "There were happy faces, there were a few scared ones

– but overall, everyone was excited to see and meet Solo the mascot.

"Solo's name can be heard almost everywhere it went. People now know about Solo and to have Solo visit the patients here at the Pediatric ward is truly very touching and inspirational," she said.



On its way out, Solo made a quick stop at the NRH's Outpatient meeting, greeting and hugging NRH staff, patients – simply everyone that got in its way.





GOC update PINA on Games Media Opportunities

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) this month updated Pacific Islands Media Delegates on Media Opportunities to be provided them at next year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

GOC Senior Operations Manager, Jack Smith provided a brief presentation on Games preparations, Games services, operations and media opportunities to be provided at Games time – during one of the plenary sessions at the recently held Pacific Islands Media Summit here in Honiara this month.

Updates were provided on Games Village, Games Venues and the Games Community Engagement program involving Solo the Games Mascot.

Mr Smith's presentation also covered; Media Accreditation for all working journalists, the Games Tribune (workstation for all accredited media personnel to file stories from), the Games News Service (which will provide ongoing press releases for the duration of the Games) and the Games Information Portal (which will provide updated scores and information from all venues at Games time).

Following Mr Smith's presentation, a good number of PINA members pledged their willingness to support GOC's media strategy before and during the 2023 Pacific Games.

Meanwhile MASI President, Georgina Kekea thanked GOC for their partnership in hosting a successful 2022 Pacific Islands Media Summit.



PACIFIC GAMES
SOLOMON ISLANDS



Year
to go!

Celebrations
November 19th 2022



Solo, the **Symbol of Unity** for Sol2023 Pacific Games:

Solo the Mascot, is the unifying factor of Solomon Islands and a symbol of unity for the 2023 Pacific Games.

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC)'s Board Member Robert Iroga highlighted this at a gala hosted for Pacific Islands media delegates in Honiara last month (September).

The event, co-hosted by the GOC and MASI (Media Association of Solomon Islands) was aimed at updating the Pacific Media about Solomon Islands preparations for next year's Games.

It was also the opportunity for GOC to introduce Solo (the 2023 Pacific Games Mascot) to the regional media delegates.

"Mascots are a notable icon of any Games and for the 2023 Pacific Games, Solo will surely be a prominent feat. "Solo elevates the value of the Pacific Games by promoting friendship, unity and building sportsmanship. "Solo is the uniting factor of Solomon Islands."

"Solo will surely be the heartbeat of our celebrations as it visits valleys, lagoons, mountains, terrains, sandy-beaches, blue oceans, crossing rivers and lakes – travelling the widths and the breath of our country. "Solo the Mascot captures the spirit of the 2023 Pacific Games with a character that is representative of all regions and people of Solomon Islands."

Mr Iroga said Solo is a symbol of unity for the Pacific region come Sol2023 Pacific Games.

"Solo is and will be a symbol of unity at Games time as it advocates and reflects the Sol2023 Pacific Games theme to Challenge – Celebrate and Unite." Solo then made a surprise appearance at the gala, sharing hugs, smiles, gifts and blowing kisses all around to the visiting regional media delegates.

GOC's Community Engagement and Special Events

Coordinator Jacquelyn Maeli gave a quick update on Solo's nationwide tour.

"Solo is indeed happy to meet and be amongst you all today despite its tight schedule visiting provinces throughout Solomon Islands.

"Solo has for the past two months been heavily involved in the Games Community Engagement Program (CEP) – touring provinces and meeting people throughout Solomon Islands."



The CEP involves Solo's nationwide Mascot tour (which will end early next year, 2023), followed by the Games Ambassadors tour and the Games Relay – which will launch 100 days away from Games time.

"This Community Engagement Program is aimed at getting the Games message out to as many people as possible, share information, raise awareness about the Games and its benefits throughout Solomon Islands.

"It is also aimed at involving, engaging and encouraging our citizens to take pride of the Games and of Honiara City – our national capital – the proud hosts of the 2023 Pacific Games, which we will host next year from November 19th to December 2nd, 2023," Jacquelyn said.

Meanwhile Solo's nationwide tour has so far covered six provinces namely; Guadalcanal, Isabel, Central Islands, Shortland Islands, Rennell and Bellona and Choiseul provinces.

Staff feature



McCleen Sarukiki | Administration & Human Resource Manager

One of the longest serving staffs of the Games Organizing Committee has got to be Mr McCleen Sarukiki – the GOC's Administration and Human Resource Manager.

The softly spoken, highly qualified and experienced McCleen hails from Panarui village in North Choiseul, Choiseul province.

What is your role here at GOC?

I am currently the GOC's Administrative and Human Resource Manager. My role as Admin and HR Manager involves a variety of responsibilities – the most important being the oversight of the entire Office Administration and Human Resources Management.

My duties and tasks ensure that the entire Admin and HR functions are running smoothly in the organization. I have to ensure all the organizations administrative and HR tasks are performed correctly and on time. A majority part of my roles encompasses all aspects of HR, including recruitment, payroll, compensation and benefits, and training. My role also encompasses administrative areas such as office management, facilities management, and policy development. In a nutshell, my role as an Admin and HR Manager is to ensure that the engine room of the organization is running smoothly and efficiently since all other functional areas within the organization are dependent on it.

What does being part of Team GOC 2023 mean to you?

Being part of the GOC team is indeed an honor and privilege for me. I started in 2021 – when there was only three of us here. A year on – I am even more excited to witness the exponential growth and dramatic development of GOC within this short period of time. Not only that but the wealth of knowledge and experience that I have gained from working alongside a wide pool of talent – both local and expatriates since I began is a significant advantage for my career path. There is richness in diversity here at GOC. I have never worked on a project of this magnitude before in my career, so being part of it is something I'll never forget. Furthermore, I am not only contributing to the project but I am also learning and gaining a great deal of experience from these group of experts and professionals that I work with here at GOC. This is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I may never have again – that is why being part of the GOC team today will be something I remember for a long time.

What do you look forward to, come next year's Sol2023 Pacific Games?

The Sol2023 Pacific Games will be by far the largest event that our country will host since Independence. Participating and being part of an event of this magnitude would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I am looking forward to that day in November 2023 when our country will witness and welcome the arrival of our neighboring 24 Pacific Islands countries coming together in large numbers to challenge, celebrate and unite as one big happy Pacific Islands family.



Reenah Numaralai | Human Resource Coordinator

Meet Ms Reenah Numaralai, one of the key persons behind the Games Organizing Committee's staff recruitment program and currently the GOC's Human Resource Coordinator. Reenah hails from Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, but has made Solomon Islands her second home after being happily married here. This is what Reenah has to say about working here at GOC.

What is your role here at GOC?

I am designated to manage and coordinate the recruitment as well as assist with staff services on an ad hoc basis. This includes the initial search, selection and onboarding of people to fill in vacancies that exist within the GOC Staffing Structure for 2022 and 2023 (up to Games time). This would involve the use of fair and a second judgement to recruit people with the right skill set that can work well in a team as well as provide the calibre that fits in with the GOC recruitment plan and its goals. It would require the best possible analysis and understanding of Human Resource compliance with regards to fulfilling the due and diligent recruitment processes to ensure that HR compliance is practised.

I started out with initial recruitment and later worked through support services. Recently I have also been given the task to organize staff training now and onwards towards the PG Games come 2023. The field where I have been placed in is a fast-paced learning environment in which you give and take and collaborate a pathway for challenge and growth – something which I am adamant will enhance my career goal and challenges my capacity to excel.

What does being part of Team GOC 2023 mean to you?

It's an exciting feeling to be part of the preparations towards the Games as I've been a spectator since at a younger age when Papua New Guinea hosted the Games in 1999. Just being able to watch at that age was something else! It was memorable! Now being part of the actual team GOC for the 2023 is therefore awesome! The Legacy the Games leaves is impactful and that's what stands out for me. Being part of GOC 2023 is indeed an awesome experience – something worth looking forward to big time!

What do you look forward to, come next year's Sol2023 Pacific Games?

Well there is more to it than just the Games. The lasting relationship that we as countries and nations have between the land and sea borders is an important aspect of why we are "One Pacific/Wan Solwara." The Games held every 4 years significantly brings together people national (patriotism) and regionally to strengthen the relations through sport. Challenge – Unite – Celebrate. The Games, showcases SI's culture, heritage and strength, that's something to uphold to the rest of the region and deserves the celebration of its people. The Games also brings forth enormous business opportunities for SI and its people by creating more exposure and channel for local businesses to showcase their products and services right at the doorstep. So economically beneficial to the people. Such an event to look forward to!



Donald Tome | Driver

His name is probably the first mentioned or called out each morning after meetings and his face the most common amongst the GOC staff. The very first person to arrive and the last person to leave. He is Donald Tome, the Games Organizing Committee's designated driver.

What is your role here at GOC?

I am GOC's official driver and handyman. My role involves driving GOC staff to official assignments and appointments, making office runs. I also ensure that all GOC vehicles are clean and in the best possible condition each day before everyone gets to use them. I also ensure that our vehicles are safe, regularly serviced and fault free before use.

What does being part of Team GOC 2023 mean to you?

Being part of Team GOC 2023 is indeed exciting. I am proud to be part of this very important organization – this very big project that look set to form part of our nations history for many years to come. The good thing about being part of Team GOC is that all the staff here are treated fairly and as equals. Everyone is treated the same and with respect, creating a conducive working environment that everyone is happy with. That is something I am so proud to be part of.

What do you look forward to, come next year's Sol2023 Pacific Games?

The Sol2023 will be the biggest event that I will every be part of. It will be awesome to meet first hand the athletes, the delegates from our neighbouring Pacific Island countries. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that doesn't swing by you every day – and therefore I am thrilled to already be part of it, working here at GOC. It will be an experience I will never forget – such a tremendous opportunity.



Maxsweeney Lexy Kekevera | Administration Supervisor

Meet Mr Maxsweeney Lexy Kekevera, the person responsible for overlooking and handling all office operations here at the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) Office. Maxsweeney hails from Hainaku village, Avuavu, East Guadalcanal province. He is currently the Administration Supervisor (Administration and Human Resource Department) here at GOC's Head Office in Honiara.

What is your role here at GOC?

My role basically is to look oversee all GOC properties, handle administration matters and most importantly deal with Staff in house trainings. I ensure that all these things are in full function and operation.

What does being part of Team GOC 2023 mean to you?

Being part of GOC is truly a once in a lifetime experience for me. Having been only here a few months ago, I am more than confident that we have the people with the expertise and skillset to plan and deliver a successful 2023 Pacific Games here in Honiara. All we need now is to win people's favour. I am also confident that being in this role, this project will help build my capacity as an Admin and HR Supervisor.

What do you look forward to, come next year's Sol2023 Pacific Games?

I look forward to being part of this memorable event that will form part of our nation's history – our legacy. The important aspect here is to understand that the Games will bring more than just sports competitions to Solomon Islands. It will also bring sporting facilities that we may not have seem before, it builds bilateral relationships between pacific islands countries. It will improve our country's economy – it will encourage more youths to get involved in sports

meet the team

PG23 staff undergo Basic Fire Training

Staff from the Games Organizing Committee (GOC), the National Hosting Authority (NHA) and the Games Facilities Committee all underwent a three-day intensive basic fire and emergency training conducted by the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF)'s Fire and Rescue Services. Organized by the GOC and facilitated by the Royal Solomon Islands Police Forces' (RSIPF) Fire and Rescue Services, the training focused covered various topics which include;

- Basic Fire Fighting (Fire Chemistry)
- Classification of Fire
- Fire Extinguishers
- Fire Extinguisher Operations Procedures
- Practical Firefighting
- and Evacuation Procedures (Roles and Responsibility of Floor).

"Fire trainings are very important.

"We the Fire and Rescue Services are fully committed to provide awareness and training to offices, communities and to people – especially staff who will be heavily involved in next year's Pacific Games.

"Our number one priority is to spread the message of fire safety to all Solomon Islanders," training facilitator, Inspector Philip Luqara said.

He said that the aim is to educate and equip GOC, NHA and GFC staff to prepared for any emergency situation. GOC's Human Resource Manager, McCleen Sarukiki said that such training is necessary and crucial for their staff. "The aim of getting our staff into this training was to equip and alert them about fire hazards in the work place, how to act safely in the event of any fire emergency situation and using the right equipment and procedures in any fire emergency situation.

"By undergoing this training, they (staff) will acquire the knowledge and skills to deal with fire situations and also help educate their families, their communities on basic fire safety," Mr Sarukiki said.

He added that the basic fire safety training was just the start of many more trainings to come for all Games Staff. All participants were given Certificates upon completing the training.

Meanwhile also this month, the GOC staff underwent a weeklong First Aid training facilitated by the Red Cross Solomon Islands.





GOC take part in International Day of Peace

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) took part in this year's International Day of Peace (IDP) program held at the Justice Ground in Honiara last month (September). Declared by the United Nations General Assembly, the 21st of September each year is to be observed as the International Day of Peace – devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

This year's IDP celebrations under the theme 'End Racism, Build Peace' was organized for by the Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs – aimed at helping Solomon Islands build a culture of peace for the betterment of its future.

During the event, GOC conducted Games awareness, Games updates and quizzes – also providing information on how the Games can be leveraged in promoting peace and unity.

Speaking on the Pacific Games contribution to peace in Solomon Islands, GOC Communications Coordinator Jeremy Inifiri said that next year's Games itself is a unifying factor that promotes peace and unity.

He said that the Pacific Games promotes understanding and tolerance across the Pacific.

"From 19th November to 2nd December 2023, Solomon Islands will host 24 Pacific Island nations, around 5000 plus athletes and officials all united by a single event – the Pacific Games.

"During this event new friendships will be built, ideas shared, cultures promoted amongst athletes and team officials residing together at the Games village."

Mr. Inifiri added that the Games Community Engagement Program (CEP) is already proving to unite Solomon Islands through Solo the Mascot.

"As part of the Games CEP, Solo will travel all nine provinces in Solomon Islands the next four months with the aim of informing, advocating, educating and engaging all Solomon Islanders to feel connected to and with the Games.



"This strategy is aimed at getting the message out to as many people as possible, share information, raise awareness and encourage all Solomon Islanders to take pride of the Games and of Honiara (the host City).

"Solo is expected to complete touring all provinces by early next year. This will be followed by the Ambassadors tour and then Games Relay which will take place 100 days before the start of next year's Games," Mr. Inifiri said. The 2022 IDP also coincided with 20th Anniversary of the UN Resolution on the program of action on a culture of peace throughout the world.

