

2023 PACIFIC GAMES YEAR



© GOC Media Team | Sol2023 Pacific Games

COUNTDOWN STRIKE 10 MONTHS TO GO:

The 2023 Pacific Games (Sol2023) will soon reach our shores in less than 10 months. The Games which will be held between November 19 to December 2nd, will be the biggest international event Solomon Islands will have hosted. A total of 5000 plus athletes from 24 competing Pacific Island countries and territories are expected in Honiara come Games time.



2023 PACIFIC GAMES YEAR

February is merely 9 months out before Honiara play host to the 2023 XVII Pacific Games (Sol2023).

The Count Down to November 19th continues for Solomon Islands.

The Games Organizing Committee's (GOC) preparations kicked off blissfully, with the official announcement of two silver partner sponsorships from leading Government SOE (State-Owned-Enterprises); Solomon Post and Solomon Water this month.

Solomon Post committed SBD \$2 million dollars whilst Solomon Water, SBD \$4 million dollars in support of the 2023 Pacific Games. This came weeks after Solomon Breweries was announced the Games first sponsor, December last year.

This now brings the number of Games Sponsors to three – with more sponsorship announcements expected to be made in the coming weeks.

This month also saw the arrival of two Games Technical Delegates (TD); Amanda Jenkins (TD, Basketball) and Graeme Ireland (TD, Table Tennis).

Technical delegates are critical to the planning, preparation and delivery of this year's Pacific Games. Their key roles include; assessing and granting approvals on sports venues and facilities, sports equipment, sports officials (to name a few), ensuring that everything is up to Pacific Games Standards.

Throughout the past five months, a total four TDs have now visited the host City. The others being the TDs for Taekwondo and Weightlifting respectively.

Meanwhile, after a quiet festive season, Solo, the fun loving Official Games Mascot resumed its community engagement nationwide tour (2023) to the southern regions of Malaita province.

During the tour, Solo visited a total 26 communities and schools in West Are'Are, East Are'Are and Small Malaita.

"This is January – the year of sports in our country. "The historical, biggest sporting event that we all await, anticipate and working hard towards is now at our shores, and yes we are ready to deliver as promised," GOC Board Deputy Chair, Jasper Anisi said.

Mr Anisi thanked all stakeholders, partners and sponsors for their support towards GOC in its preparation toward delivering a successful 2023 Pacific Games on behalf of the Solomon Islands Government.

"I acknowledge and applaud you for willingly partnering with the GOC in ensuring that Solomon Islands delivers a memorable Pacific Games event this year," Mr Anisi said.

The 2023 Pacific Games will see a total 5000 athletes from 24 Pacific island countries and territories come to Solomon Islands to compete in 24 sports competitions from 19th November to 2nd December, 2023.



GOC, Solomon Water announce Pacific Games Sponsorship

■ Ezmie Oge | GOC Media Officer

The 2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) and the Solomon Islands Water Authority (Solomon Water) officially announced their partnership through the Games Silver Partner Sponsorship in January this year.

Solomon Water's sponsorship valued at SBD \$4 million caters for infrastructural design and development, as well as the provision of free water services to Games facilities at this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

Solomon Water Chief Executive Officer, Ian Gooden said, "The sponsorship is largely 'in-kind' in terms of infrastructure design, construction and supervision as well as a provision of free water and wastewater services for the various facilities during Games period."

He said that Solomon Water has had to move quickly to provide water and wastewater infrastructure for Games facilities before the start of the Games in November this year.

"In a very short period of time, we have designed and tendered for construction worth over SBD \$160 million of mainly sewerage infrastructure needed to service the Games facilities and also for the construction of the Kukum Highway road project."

Mr Gooden said that the construction cost of the infrastructure is funded for by the Solomon Islands Government, Solomon Water and donors ADB (Asian Development Bank) and World Bank.

Solomon Water Board Chairman Donald Marahare expressed their delight in partnering with the Games.

"We are thrilled to be able to support the Pacific Games in this way. The Pacific Games are a celebration of athleticism, culture and community, and we are honored to be part of it," Mr Marahare said.

In recognition of the support, GOC Board Chairman, Martin Rara and CEO, Peter Stewart presented Solomon Water with a sponsorship certificate.

Solomon Water will also receive branding rights and numerous benefits associated to the Games Silver Partner Sponsorship Level.

"This sponsorship is indeed timely and a very significant one for us, as to how GOC will deliver the Sol2023 Pacific Games. "Water is an essential aspect of the Games – no Games can run without water.

"This sponsorship guarantee that water will be sufficient for all come Games time," Mr Rara said.

GOC Chief Executive, Peter Stewart shared similar sentiments, "We welcome Solomon Water's support and partnership as it reflects the corporate spirit, support and commitment that is needed to deliver a successful Sol2023 Pacific Games.

"We are grateful for your support and that of other companies alike. Your support and commitment show that you understand the importance and recognize the value of the Games to Solomon Islands and its people. This generous support will have a significant impact on the success of the Sol2023 Pacific Games."

Solomon Water is the third official sponsorship of the Games, the others being Solomon Post and Solomon Breweries. The Sol2023 Pacific Games will be held between 19 November to 2nd December this year.



Solomon Post announce SBD 2million Games sponsorship

■ Ezmie Oge | GOC Media Officer

Solomon Islands Postal Corporation (SIPC), trading as Solomon Post is now an official sponsor and partner of the 2023 XVII Pacific Games.

The official announcement of the sponsorship valued at SBD 2million dollars was made at a Press Conference in Honiara, Friday 20th January, 2023.

Solomon Post, a State-Owned-Enterprise (SOE) and the leading provider of postal and delivery services in Solomon Islands is the Games second sponsor (the first this year).

Solomon Post's Chief Executive Officer, Alfred Ghemu Kituru said they are proud to sponsor the 2023 Pacific Games through the Games Organizing Committee (GOC), adding that his team is committed to supporting GOC in its preparations and delivery of the Sol2023 Pacific Games this year.

"We are indeed very happy to partner with the Games Organizing Committee and various other committees to ensure that the 2023 Pacific Games is a success for all of us.

"We assure you (GOC) of our support and that we are ready to participate whatever and where-ever we can," Mr Kituru said.

Acting Board Chairman, James Apaniai uttered similar sentiments, "The Sol2023 Pacific Games will be the biggest sporting event in Solomon Islands and we are



indeed proud to be one of the sponsors." Mr Apaniai said that the decision to support the Sol2023 Pacific Games was driven by the desire to see the Games successfully delivered through the support and assistance of all Solomon Island citizens and businesses.

"We (Solomon Post) believe that it is our duty and responsibility, that of all individual and corporate citizens to come in and assist GOC to deliver what the nation wants, and that is a successful 2023 Pacific Games."

Meanwhile, GOC Deputy Chair Jasper Anisi acknowledged Solomon Post for partnering with the Sol2023 Pacific Games.

"We welcome such partnership as it reflects the corporate spirit, support and commitment. Such financial support and commitment will provide the financial security to GOC on behalf of the Solomon Islands Government to deliver a memorable Pacific Games this year."

Mr Anisi reaffirmed that in recognition of Solomon Post's financial contribution towards the Pacific Games – they (Solomon Post) will receive numerous benefits and rights associated with the Silver Partner Sponsorship including, the rights to being the Games Postal Service Provider.

The 2023 Pacific Games (Sol2023) will be for two weeks, beginning November 19th to December 2nd, 2023.

GOC to recruit **2500+** volunteers this year

■ Ezmie Oge | GOC Media Officer



The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) will recruit over 2500 volunteers to join the Games Collective Workforce before the start of the Sol2023 Pacific Games this year.

GOC Volunteer Supervisor, Donisan Kelly confirmed they are looking to recruit and train 2500 plus volunteers to be involved in the delivery of the Games in Honiara from 19th November to 2nd December, 2023.

Volunteer recruitment will start April this year, with application forms made available at GOC offices and that of other Games Stakeholders.

"Games Volunteer applications will be open and available come April. We will have application forms available to collect at the; GOC Workforce Centre (AJ City Mall, Lunga), GOC Headquarters (Sea King Building, HCC), offices of Games Official Sponsors and through Games Volunteer awareness programs. Forms will also be available online through various Sol2023 social media platforms

"We are also planning to conduct Games Volunteers awareness talks in communities, churches and business houses – there we will have application forms also available," he said.

Volunteer recruitment will be for a variety of Games times roles to support the operation and delivery of the Games.

Applications will be open to the general public including all sectors of employment; public and private sectors, National Federations, NGOs, local community groups and school students.

"We encourage everyone to apply regardless of age, gender, ability, nationality or any other category to apply and be part of the Games Family," Mr Kelly said.

Meanwhile GOC will open its Workforce Centre at the AJ

City Mall (Lunga), in Honiara next month (February). This came following the signing of a lease agreement between GOC and AJ Mall on the 13th of January.

The agreement will enable the GOC's Workforce team to occupy one of the biggest spaces at the mall's fourth floor.

"The location of the Workforce Centre was strategically planned to be around the east side of Honiara – closer to our major games venues and games village for operating pre-games and during games time.



"The location is a bonus for us," GOC's Workforce and Volunteer Manager, Reenah Numaralai confirmed.

Ms Numaralai said the Workforce Centre should commence operations soon before volunteer recruitment begins. She added that the Centre will be turned into a Uniform and Distribution Centre that will also serve as the Accreditation Centre come Games time.

Games TDs visit Honiara

Two Pacific Games Technical Delegates have so far visited Honiara this month (January).

Amanda Jenkins, the Technical Delegate (TD) for Basketball visited the country mid-January, whilst Graeme Ireland, the TD for Table Tennis landed in the country late this month.

Both TDs are important to the preparations and successful delivery of their respective sporting events at this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

Their roles include assessing and granting approvals on sports venues and facilities, sports equipment, field of play, sports officials – ensuring everything is up to Pacific Games standards.

A big part of technical delegates visits include meeting with all functional areas of the GOC (Games Organizing Committee), Government Ministries, Sport Institutes and Sports Federations in Solomon Islands.

Over the last year, GOC has received and hosted the technical delegates for Taekwondo and Weightlifting. Ms Jenkins, who is also the Executive Director for FIBA said that the visit was basically oversee the current state of preparations for the Games.

"The aim of the visit is really to get a better understanding about preparations and how the events will take place at the Games and to ensure that our athletes are being looked after and that we deliver the best event possible," she said.

Whilst in Honiara, Jenkins briefly visited the proposed venues for all basketball and 3x3 competitions which include; Friendship Hall Multi-Purpose Sports Complex, HCC Sports Precincts and the SIFF Academy at KGVI.



Impressed with the preparations, Jenkins said that she is indeed excited about this year's Pacific Games basketball competitions adding that she is expecting very high-level basketball from all 16 qualifying teams for both men and women.

The men's qualifying teams include; Guam, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Samoa, the women's qualifying teams include; Guam, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and Tahiti.

Meanwhile Table Tennis TD, Mr Ireland said that his visit was to ensure that the proposed venue and facilities for the sport were up to international requirements and standards for both table tennis athletes and para-athletes.



"Accessibility is one of the main requirements for Table Tennis – we want to ensure that the venue is wheelchair accessible for our para-athlete. We are expecting a big number of para-athletes for table tennis," he said.

Asked his take on the proposed venue? Mr Ireland replied, "We won't have as many tables as we would have liked but we can make it work on the spaces we have there."

Ireland said that he looks forward to very good table tennis competitions at this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.



GOC Media launch “Are You Ready! awareness campaign

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) has launched its ‘Are You Ready? Sol2023 Pacific Games Awareness Campaign’ this month (February).

“Are You Ready? is a social media awareness strategy specifically designed and dedicated to promoting, advocating and educating the general public about the Sol2023 Pacific Games set to kick off in Honiara from 19 November to 2nd, December.

This approach incorporates awareness, advocacy and entertainment as its key means of raising Games awareness – through a wide range of social media formats (contents) publishable and disseminated on all available Games social media platforms.

These include the following;

- **Are You Ready! (Public Informational & Entertainment)** – a series of pre-recorded social media videos that features unstructured interviews conducted with people on the streets of Honiara about the 2023 Pacific Games
- **GOC Q&A Podcast (Public Informational)** – a series of pre-recorded social media videos that look into the most frequently asked questions about Games, and whereby a panel made up of GOC staff from different functional areas discuss and answer these questions.
- **The Games Diary (Public Informational)** – a series of pre-recorded videos that features talk back shows, one-on-one interviews, important information, promotional and announcements from the different functional areas involved in the delivery of the Sol2023 Pacific Games.

GOC Communications Coordinator, Jeremy Inifiri explained that the objective of this campaign is to share public information and raise awareness on all aspects of the Games.

“As part of GOC’s Communication Strategy, this campaign’s objective is to share important public information, raise awareness, educate and improve people’s understanding of the Games and the opportunities that come with it.



“It focuses on informing, interacting and engaging with Solomon Islanders both in urban and rural areas through the use of popular social media hubs as Facebook, YouTube and the Sol2023 Pacific Games Official website.”

He said that their target audiences will be audiences living abroad, those residing in Honiara and audiences in the provinces – with the aim being to get all Solomon Islanders onboard and involved with the Games.

“The core gist of this approach is to be informative, interactive and entertaining – all at the same time.

“It informs, it entertains and at the same time provides the avenue whereby valuable constructive public feedback can be obtained and used as part of the GOC’s planning, preparations and successful delivery of the Sol2023 Pacific Games,” he said.

Mr Inifiri added that this awareness campaign also provides news opportunities for both local and international media news agencies.

'SOLO' winds up nationwide tour this month

Solo the official 2023 Pacific Games (Sol2023) Mascot will complete its nationwide tour of Solomon Islands this month (February).

Since debuting in August last year (2022), the fuzzy yellow, fun loving turtle mascot had been on a nationwide journey that reached far down as the Shortland Islands in the west, to Makira/Ulawa provinces, the furthest to the east Solo has by far reached.

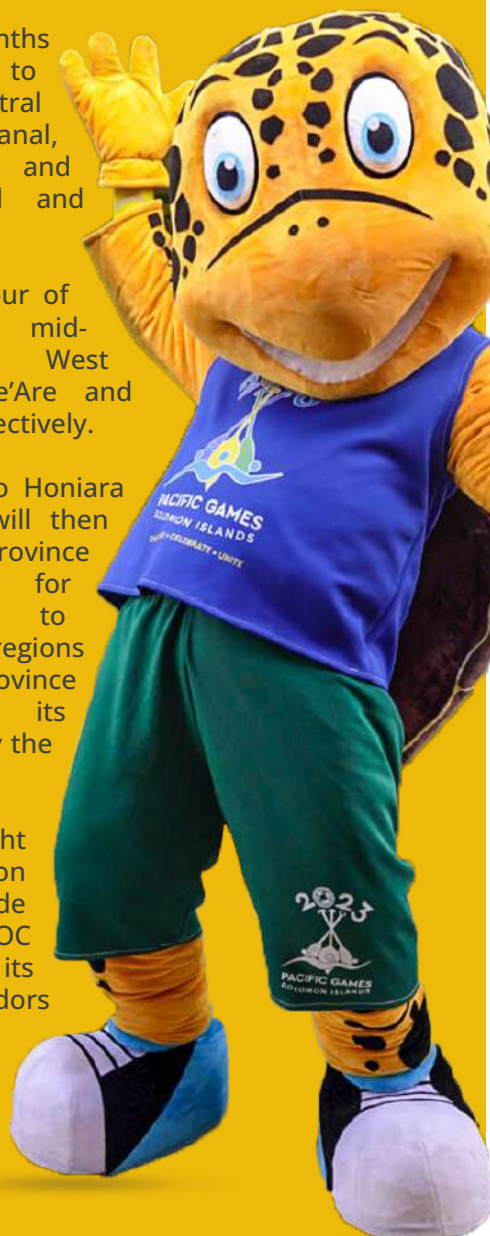
The nationwide tour Solo had been on the past five months (August to January) is part of the Sol2023 Pacific Games Community Engagement program aimed at generating public awareness – getting people to know about and get people excited about this year's Games.

The past five months has taken Solo to Makira/Ulawa, Central Islands, Guadalcanal, Isabel, Rennell and Bellona, Choiseul and Western provinces.

Solo started its tour of Malaita province mid-January, visiting West Are'Are, East Are'Are and Small Malaita respectively.

Upon its return to Honiara this week, Solo will then travel to Temotu province before returning for a second tour to the northern regions of Malaita province – wrapping up its nationwide tour by the end of February.

Meanwhile, straight after the completion of the nationwide Mascot tour, GOC will then launch its Games Ambassadors tour in March



SOLO the leatherback arrives in Vanuatu

Solo, the leatherback turtle has arrived in Vanuatu. Satellite tracking updates received from TNC (The Nature Conservancy) revealed Solo arrived in Luganville, Vanuatu on Tuesday 24th January, 2023.

After nesting five times at Haevo nesting grounds (Isabel province) in the Solomon Islands between November (2022) and early January this year, Solo left Haevo beach on the 8th of January and migrated eastward off Solomon Islands waters through Malaita, Makira and Temotu provinces.



TNC Melanesian Program Director, Richard Hamilton said after more than two weeks (16 days later), Solo the leatherback arrived safely in Luganville, Vanuatu.

"Solo has swum over 1000km since departing Haevo beach – its nesting grounds in January.

"Solo is swimming at a pace of 60 – 70km per day is now in Vanuatu," Mr Hamilton said.

The Pacific Games Organizing Committee's CEO, Peter Stewart said, "The opportunity that modern technology provides to allow us to track the movements of Solo is a wonderful innovation."

"These creatures are so important to the culture and biodiversity of Solomon Islands and the Pacific region, that the greater understanding of how they live can only assist us all in doing our best to help these turtles to survive in these challenging times," he said.

Solo is a 167cm long female leatherback turtle named after the 2023 Pacific Games Official Mascot. »

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Part of a bale of leatherbacks that migrated to Solomon Islands waters to nest in October last year, she was named and fitted with a satellite tag as part of the TNC's partnership with the Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) – TNC being the official sponsors of Games Mascot naming competition mid-last year.

Satellite tags are used to track migratory movement of leatherback turtles from their feeding to their breeding grounds. It is aimed at collecting information of the

leatherbacks through tracking and analysing turtle movements during their nesting and post nesting season.

Female leatherback turtles are known to nest in intervals of two to three years.

TNC will continue to provide tracking updates of Solo until Games time, November this year.

The 2023 Pacific Games (Sol2023) will be held from 19 November to the 2nd of December this year.



SWEET SIGHT FOR SORE EYES



ONCE IN A LIFETIME MEET:

Santa and Solo the 2023 Pacific Games Mascot joined forces to meet, greet and share Christmas tidings and joy to kids in Honiara during last year's festive season. By this time next year, Solo would now have been part of the lasting Games Legacy of the Sol2023 Pacific Games that will be talked about in Solomon Islands and the region for many years.

SINIS successfully hold Open Day

SINIS successfully held its first every Open Day event this month.

The event was the opportunity for sports fanatics to come out and learn about the institution, the programs and services SINIS offer, participate in Sport tryout activities and learn about National Sports Federations in the country.

It also saw SINIS athletes share their experiences and give motivational talks about their sports careers and the various sports discipline programs provided at SINIS.

"As an athlete, I am indeed grateful for the Open Day initiative. It has given me the opportunity to showcase and promote not only the sport I am involved in, but all sports disciplines, opportunities and services provided here at SINIS," Junior Taebiru, who recently joined SINIS's Hockey program said.

Similar sentiments were echoed by other SINIS athletes talked to on the day.

SINIS meanwhile thanked the general public and other stakeholders who have helped made the 2023 SINIS Open Day event a successful one.

FIBA holds workshop for local Basketball coaches

FIBA, the International Basketball Federation this month held a two-day workshop for local basketball coaches at the SINIS High Performance Centre in Honiara.

The workshop conducted by FIBA Development Manager and Sydney 2000 Olympic Champion, Annie La Fleur was aimed at introducing new ideas on teaching basketball both on and off the court, and to upskill and revisit areas of the sport.

Ms La Fleur emphasized to participants the importance of utilizing resources like SINIS and continually learning, listening and asking questions as crucial to preparing teams for competitions.

She added, "It will give players the best chance on upcoming competitions."

More than twenty local coaches took part in the workshop.

SINIS conduct testing for Beach Volleyballers

SINIS conducted sport specific talent identification testing for its female beach volleyball athletes this month.

A total 15 female athletes, aged between 14 to 18 years, who were identified from general TID testing last year successfully undertook the tests.

Beach Volleyball Coach, Suzie Leong has thus identified potential in all 15 participants with training set to begin in two weeks.

SINIS look set to hold similar testing for male beach volleyballers this month.



SINIS host Tennis Training Camp

SINIS held its first Tennis Training camp from the 16th to 28th of this month (January).

The training camp attracted a total 12 participants.

The training camp started with an endurance run, a player code of conduct briefing and strength testing for all participants. It also included motivational educational talks and zoom sessions from tennis veterans and coaches (both local and internationals), technical and tactical player assessments and performance testing.

The training camp also included sessions on Cyber Safety Awareness facilitated by the RSIPF (Royal Solomon Islands Police Force).



SPORTS CITY

Picture Update

as of January 2023



Aerial view of inside the Pacific Games main Stadium at KGV.



Inside the main stadium



An aerial view of the Games Aquatic Centre and the Pacific Games main stadium inside the Games City



The newly constructed Games Aquatic Centre, situated inside the Games City

SI Gov't reps discuss Pacific Games Disaster Response Plan

Senior Officials from various Government Ministries and SOEs (State Owned Enterprise) have begun dialogues on a disaster response plan as part of the preparations for this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

Organized and facilitated by the Government Services Integration Committee (GSIC), a total of five Government Ministries and two SOEs were represented at the meeting.

They include; the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services/RSIPF (Royal Solomon Islands Police Force), Ministry of Health and Medical Services and Ministry of Finance and Treasury (ICT) whilst Solomon Water and Solomon Power made up the SOEs present.

Chair of GSIC, overseeing Government preparations for the Games, Mr Bernard Bata'anisia stressed the importance of all stakeholders coming together as part of the Governments internal preparations in dealing with major disasters should it occur during Games time.

The meeting was called for following the heavy downpour and flooding Honiara has had to deal with all throughout the 2022 festive season.

"As November is usually our wet and rainy season, it is important that we plan and have arrangements in place

should disaster or bad weather occurs that may have impact on the Games," Mr Bata'anisia said.

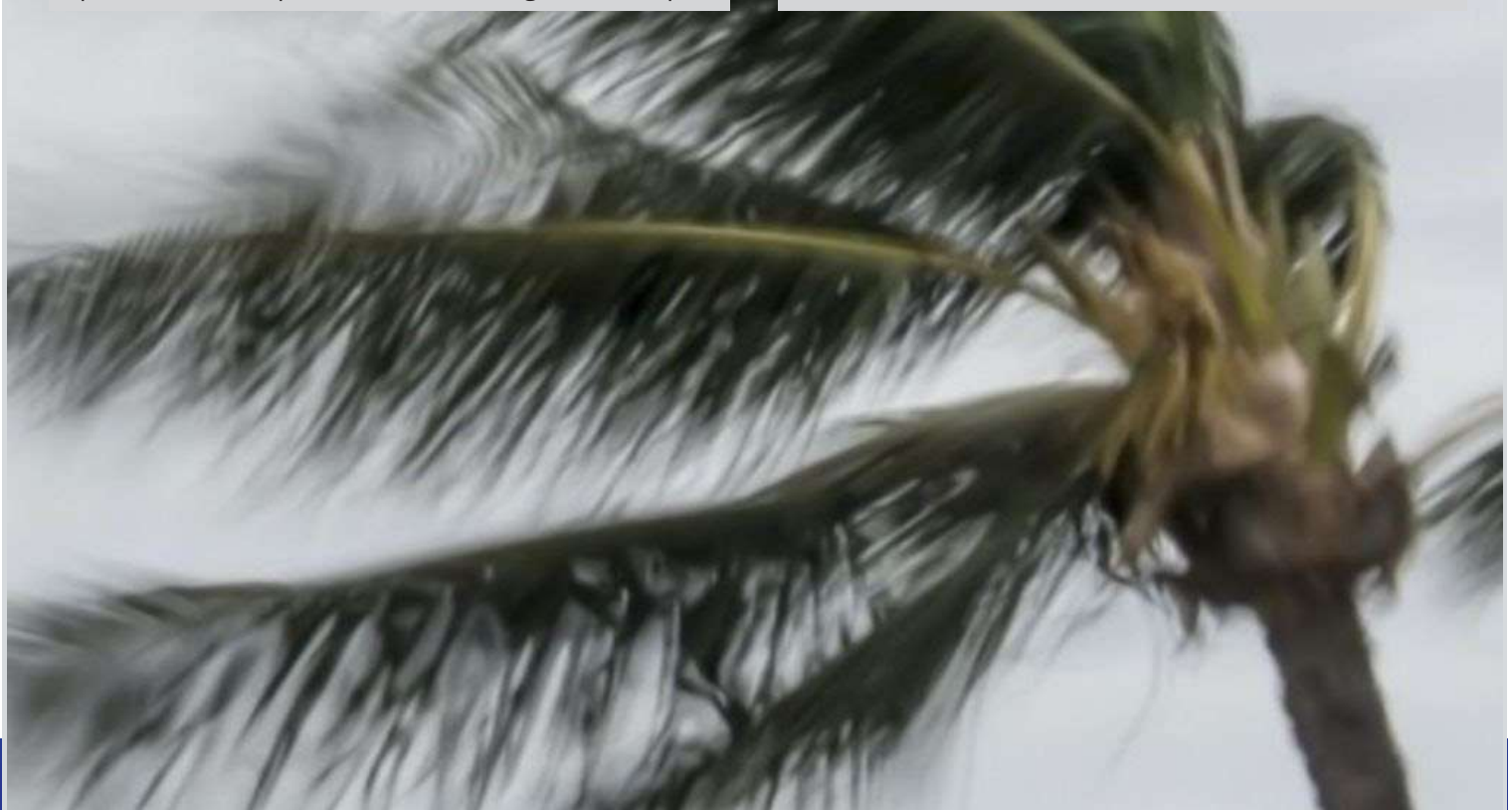
He further said, "Under the Safe and Green Games, Disaster and Risk Strategy is under the Games critical services of the Government, and such needs a coordinated approach and response support to the GOC (Games Organizing Committee)."

Director of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Mr Loti Yates also briefed officials on a proposed PG2023 Games Plan specific to be implemented if disaster occurs during the Games.

"In order for this plan to be effective, it will need the support of other Government Ministries and Agencies," he said.

GSIC Chair, Mr Bata'anisia said that the immediate task now is for the different Government Ministries and Agencies to develop specific Work Plans and their budgets aligned with the 2023 Pacific Games.

"It is also important to ensure an effective coordination role among the different Government Agencies during natural disasters, which also includes various stakeholders including the RSIPF, ICT and SOEs," Mr Bata'anisia said.





RSIPF, Chinese delegation visit Games Stadium and Games Village

A 13-man-delegation from the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) and the Chinese Embassy briefly visited the Pacific Games Stadium and the Games Village at SINU (Solomon Islands National University) in Honiara, last month (December).

The purpose of the visit was to see the progress of the 2023 Pacific Games Stadium Project and the SINU Dormitory Buildings Project (both funded for by the People's Republic of China), 12 months before the start of the 2023 Pacific Games.

The Embassy's Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Gong Rui described the immense progress these two projects had achieved the past year as 'very positive.'

"It is an honor indeed to be able to witness the progress and developments made the past year on the construction and renovation phases of these two projects. From its inception and implementation, to what we now see today."

Ms Gong said that Solomon Islands will benefit greatly from have these important infrastructure ready and available at the Games and pos-Games time.

She added "these are just two of the many ongoing projects China has and will provide Solomon Islands. They are among several ongoing projects funded for by China."

RSIPF Assistant Commissioner, Simpson Pogeava shared similar sentiments, "it is encouraging to see us (Solomon Islands) strive towards delivering a successful Pacific Games this year. With these venues and facilities – we surely will deliver."

Meanwhile, the RSIPF have been mandated coordinate Games Security throughout the two-week Pacific Games set to take place between November 19th to December 2nd.



GSIC update SINU on Safe & Green Games Campaign

The Government Services Integration Committee (GSIC) held a brief meeting with the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) to update the latter on the Safe and Green Games Campaign that will be launched later this month.

GSIC Chairman, Bernard Bata'anisia gave a brief rundown of the Safe and Green Games Strategic Plan and the proposed date for the launch set for Friday 24th February, 2023.

Mr Bata'anisia highlighted that the launch event will include float parades, live entertainments, speeches and a special appearance by 'Solo' the 2023 Pacific Games Official Mascot.

"In ensuring the timely and sufficient deliver of the Safe and Green Games Campaign, the Government has allocated resources through respective government Ministries who will support GOC (2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee) in the successful delivery of the Games this year. All 24 Government Ministries, SOEs, NGOs, Business Houses, Diplomatic Corps, schools and churches will be involved in the parade and launch event," he said.

GOC Chief Executive Officer, Peter Stewart who was also part of the meeting gave brief updates on the state of preparations and what is to be expected during the Games.

"In terms of preparations I can safely say we are on track. During the two weeks of Games in Honiara City, we will be operating some of the largest facilities in the region, including a catering centre, accommodation, waste management, and more."

Mr Stewart also updated the SINU Executive on the Games Volunteer Programme.

"We are ready to launch our Volunteer Programme which we will need up to 3000 volunteers to support our officers."

Speaking on behalf of the University, Vice Chancellor Dr Transform Aqorau acknowledged the initiative by GSIC and affirmed SINU's support to the Safe and Green Games Campaign.

"SINU is a learning institution that facilitates the development of our Human resources, who in average are young people. Most athletes who will be taking part in the Pacific Games are also young people and we hope that some of our students do take part in this event."



The SINU Vice Chancellor called on the GSIC team to consider utilizing SINU's existing Human resources to enable a pathway for innovation and ingenuity whilst preserving the Games Legacy.

"The Games is truly a catalyst for development, not only physically but also an opportune time and space to develop our human resources. The idea of beautifying the city before our Pacific Neighbors visit our shores is a timely call," says Dr. Aqorau said.

Meanwhile GSIC Chairman Mr Bata'anisia thanked SINU for its commitment to supporting the Safe and Green Games Campaign.



GSIC discuss Safe and Green Games Action plan with key Ministries

The Government Services Integration Committee (GSIC) in the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, overseeing Government preparations, towards the Pacific Games 2023, have successfully held discussions with Permanent Secretaries and Senior Government Officials, who will be involved in the implementation of the Safe and Green Games campaign towards the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara. The meeting was held at SINIS on 24 January 2023.

The GSIC a sub-committee established by the National Hosting Authority (NHA) and the OPMC is an extension of the Sol2023 Games Organising Committee to strategically coordinate closely with the Games Organising Committee and oversee government services integration, which have been the driving force in identifying, planning and coordination of government responsibilities towards the delivery of the games.

Government's support to the Games Organising Committee is critical and reflected in the establishment of GOC by NOCSI in having GSIC represented within the Games Organising Committee. GSIC Chairman Mr. Bernard Bata'anisia acknowledged the representation of Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries and officials at the meeting.

At the meeting GOC Chief Executive Officer, Peter Stewart, provided an update on his team's extensive preparations, achievements and expectations.

"I can safely say that we have reached the final straw in our 18 months of preparations so far. We are well on track in terms of our preparations with regards to Games Infrastructure and Games Operations," the CEO said.

Some of these achievements that the CEO highlighted included: over \$150 million SBD worth of key procurements either contracted or in the market; the finalization of a volunteer programme which will see the recruitment of around 3000 volunteers; The signing of 7 village Use Agreements signed and 17 Sport Venue Use Agreements, to name a few. The GOC have so far finalized the 26th version of their 30 Sports programme.

In terms of the government's financial commitment towards the Games, the Deputy Secretary to the Ministry of Finance

and Treasury Mr. Coswal Nelson, informed the meeting that the total funding towards 2023 Pacific Games in the 2023 Budget is \$455.3 Million, in which \$367 million is for NHA and \$88.3 million is for other Ministries.

The Deputy Secretary MoFT called on all accountable officers to finalize Ministerial work plans and projected expenditures aligned to the safe green games campaign and submit them for review and disbursement of funds for implementation.

In addition Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning and Program Quality of the Ministry of National Planning and Development Cooperation Travis Ziku, also reiterated the call to Permanent Secretaries and responsible officers to prepare and submit their workplans and expenditure projection before February 17.

Mr. Ziku said submissions are expected earlier than the deadline to give enough time for proper review, which is usually within five working days. Each Ministry is expected to provide monthly projections on what programs and activities will be carried out.

Meanwhile the Chairman of GSIC Mr. Bata'anisia informed the meeting that the Safe and Green Games campaign is expected to be launched in late February 2023 at date to be confirmed by the Government.

"After this meeting with your inputs, comments and recommendations, we will prepare a paper for Cabinet approval before a formal announcement on the launching date and activities for the launching of the safe and green games campaign will be made," Mr. Bata'anisia said.

The campaign will be led by HCC and Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and will include government ministries, the private sector, NGOs Churches, Government Agencies, State Owned Enterprises and the general public.

The safe and green games campaign is the first of its kind to be held in Honiara and is expected to become a trailblazing campaign which will eventually lead to a much bigger discussion on improving the physical standard of Honiara.

Staff >>> Feature

Meet the Team



Donisiano Kelly
Volunteer Supervisor

Meet Mr Donisiano Kelly, the man responsible for looking after the Games Volunteer program this year. "Doni" as most commonly known around the GOC office is GOC's Volunteer Supervisor. He hails from Tiaro village, West Guadalcanal.

What is your role here at GOC?

I am responsible for the Games Volunteer Program. This include developing of awareness packages and carrying out awareness talks in communities in Honiara and Guadalcanal, business houses, government ministries, faith-based organizations, youth organizations and women groups. I am also responsible for the recruitment of 2500+ volunteers. The recruitment process will begin in April, followed by selection and interviews. The other major part of the process is training of volunteers, which will begin in August and sign in for volunteering work in November and December.

How do you feel being part of Team GOC 2023?

I am very proud to be part of the GOC Team. I look forward to this year's Games and hope to do my best to make Sol2023 Pacific Games a success – a truly unique Solomon Islands Games and experience.

Why do you think people should participate & look forward to Sol2023 Pacific Games?

Solomon Islands is the host country and everyone should support the Games in whatever way possible. It is the biggest sport – event that will ever happen in Solomon Islands. I believe that is a big enough value to make people want to be part of this historical, significant event.



Smilly Muna
GOC Legal Counsel

He is one of GOC's latest inclusions, the sole person who provides legal advice and guidance to the organization. The chap with probably the coolest name around.

Smiley Baemoana Muna comes from the beautiful Rennell and Bellona province. He is GOC's Legal Counsel.

What do you do at GOC? / What does it involve?

My role as GOC's Legal Counsel involves reviewing contracts and agreements, offer legal opinions on issues relating to contracts.

How do you feel being part of Team GOC 2023?

I feel very fortunate and blessed to be part of GOC. By being here, I get to know people from different backgrounds, professions and cultures (cultural diversity). Also, being part of GOC, I get to meet new people, learn new things, develop new ideas from my GOC colleagues and most importantly, establish new relations and connections.

Why do you think people should participate & look forward to Sol2023 Pacific Games?

My reasons include:

- > Sense of pride
- > Enhance sense of patriotism
- > Once in a lifetime opportunity to host and see the Games
- > Give new impression and ideas to motivate Solomon Islands local athletes
- > Embrace sports, its significance and importance to society/country

SIFF host international Futsal Cup

Solomon Islands Football Federation (SIFF) held its first ever International Junior Futsal Cup 2022 in Honiara.

The National Hosting Authority (NHA) welcomed SIFF to host its sanctioned inaugural international Junior Futsal Cup completed in Honiara from the 17th December to 20th December 2022 at its state-of-the-art Friendship Multi-Purpose Futsal Stadium Sports complex.

Solomon Islands Football Federation (SIFF) Super Futsal League in conjunction with Bulkshop Futsal League and Just Play Futsal Australia have successfully hosted the 4-day Futsal Competition in Honiara.

It is the first International Futsal Competition of its kind to be held in Solomon Islands and was attended by four (4) futsal teams representing Futsal Academies in Australia and 200 young futsal players from local futsal clubs in Honiara under age categories; under 12, under 14, under 16 and under 20.

The NHA had kindly permitted SIFF to use the Friendship Hall for the competition on hire basis in response to a request by the SIFF Super Futsal League Chairman.

The availability of such state-of-the-art facilities and venues like Friendship Multi-Purpose Futsal Sports Complex Hall enabled SIFF to host such International Sport event in Country and invite players from outside to take part. The Friendship Hall was constructed for the Pacific Games in from 19th November to 2nd December 2023, by the National Hosting Authority through the Games Facilities Committee, as owner and operator until

it is officially handed over to the National Sports Council after hosting the 2023 Pacific Games.

Friendship hall has three open courts making it possible to host 3 pool matches simultaneously, as was the case for the under 16s during the tournament. The facility also has two sets of retractable seating which can hold the maximum capacity of 1500 spectators and has the perfect orientation to host indoor sports events such as futsal leagues, basketball leagues, volley ball leagues, netball, badminton, table tennis combat sports, etc.

The Chairman of the SIFF Super Futsal League, Pastor Seru said "Solomon Islands Kurukuru Futsal National team had participated in 3 FIFA world cup futsal competitions over 16 years as 5 times champions of Futsal in the Oceania region without such international Futsal Courts to train on in our country. It has been our dream to have such facility train on and host international futsal matches and so the successful completion of the four (4) day inaugural international futsal event fulfils our dream.

Pastor Seru said the local organizers are already uttering the possibility of making the futsal event an annual event for other close neighbouring countries to be invited to attend.

NHA understands that many of the participating youths from Australia were accompanied by their parents who fortunately spent a day after the competition traveling outside of Honiara by boats hired from local transport service providers.

"This is a sign that the Sports City has the potential to attract sports tourist in the future and a direct spin off economic benefits for our country," the statement from NHA said. The Friendship Hall is now open for use on hire basis primarily by Federations that prepare their Team Solomons for the 2023 Pacific Games and also for other community events depending on availability of the venue.





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THE FIRST PACIFIC GAMES IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

»» 19TH NOVEMBER - 2ND DECEMBER 2023

STAGGERING FACTS



5,000

ATHLETES



15,000

MEALS PER DAY



3,000

VOLUNTEERS



250

BUS FLEET



1,000

CONTRACTORS



3,500

BED HOTEL



60

TONNES OF WASTE
PER DAY



50

CAR FLEET

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 archipelago countries around the Pacific Ocean. It was renamed the Pacific Games in 2015 following the inclusion of Australia & New Zealand. It is held every four years and began in 1963.



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