



LEADING THE WAY AND BY EXAMPLE

2023 Miss Solomon Islands, Tiare Haro leading the parade into Lawson Tama, followed by staff and students of King George the Sixth School, at the 'Safe and Green Games' launch in Honiara, March 3rd, 2023. More than two thousand Honiara residents took part in the three parades. one from SINU Kukum Campus to Lawson Tama , another one from Honiara City Council (HCC) to Lawson Tama whilst the other led by Solo the Official Games Mascot started at Town Ground and ended also at Lawson Tama.

[Safe & Green launch parade pictures](#) ►►





“THANK YOU HONIARA”

NHA laud public support on ‘Keep Honiara Clean’ Campaign

The National Hosting Authority (NHA) has applauded Honiara residents for the support shown and rendered towards the Government in the drive to clean-up and beautify the host City for this year’s Sol2023 Pacific Games.

Since the launch of the ‘Safe & Green Games’ Strategy on Friday March 3rd, residents representing different sectors of and within the City have actively taken part in the Keep Honiara Clean Campaign.

The Safe and Green Games Strategy is ‘a whole of society,’ plan that provides a platform for the National Government, the Honiara City Council, the Guadalcanal Provincial Government, the Private Sector, Churches, Schools, Civil Society Organizations, Community Groups and Individual households to unite as one team for one common purpose – to clean, beautify and keep Honiara City Safe and Clean for the Games.

NHA Board Chair, Dr Jimmie Rodgers thanked the nation, particularly Honiara residents for supporting and getting on board with the Games through this campaign.

“I would like to convey our thanks to the nation, to the government, to the public particularly the public here in Honiara – they have come on board with the ‘Keep Honiara Clean’ campaign.

“To all those public servants and private sectors we would like to thank you all.

“Thank you, Honiara City Council, for ensuring and making sure that our drive to make and keep our City clean is achieved.”

Dr Rodgers said that it is encouraging to see Solomon Islanders take pride and ownership of the City by helping keep it clean in the lead up to the games.

He added that it is equally important to maintain this during and after the Games.

“When people come to this country, they will not only be focusing on the Games, they will not just be focusing on medals, they’ll be reporting either how dirty or how clean this City is. This will also determine how we promote our tourism industry.

“Therefore it is very important that we the public of Honiara, the public of Solomon Islands continue to take pride and have ownership over our City, because the only way we can have others enjoy and be proud of it as we do is to make sure that it is clean, beautiful and safe for when our athletes come in,” Dr Rodgers said.

Meanwhile the Keep Honiara Clean campaign continues in Honiara, with all sectors assigned various clean up zones that they tend to every Friday. This will continue until Games time.



Honiara launch 'Safe & Green Games' Strategy

Honiara, the host City for the 2023 Pacific Games this month official launched its "Safe and Green Games" Strategy, an initiative aimed at cleaning up and beautifying the national capital of Solomon Islands in preparation for the Games, come November and December this year.

More than 2000 residents representing all sectors within the host City took part in the launch event early this month. They include; staff from all 24 government ministries, private sector, churches, civil society groups, Honiara City wards, schools and the general public.

The Safe and Green Games strategy is 'a whole of society,' plan that provides a platform for the national government, the Honiara City Council, the Guadalcanal Provincial government, the private sector, churches, schools, civil society organizations, community groups and individual households to 'unite as one team' for one common purpose, to clean and keep Honiara city safe, and clean' for the Games.

Giving the keynote address at the launch, Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare outlined the key objectives of the Safe and Green Games Strategy. They include:

- Providing a safe and secure environment in Honiara City and to support the Government in successfully hosting the Sol2023 Pacific Games.
- To beautify Honiara City and achieve a long-lasting legacy that will live on beyond the Sol2023 Pacific Games for the benefit of Solomon Islands' future generations.

Commending the fine turn-out for the launch event, the Prime Minister said that it is encouraging to see Honiara residents take pride and ownership in starting to clean up and beautifying the city.

"I am incredibly happy and excited to witness the turn-out from students, youths and fellow citizens, residents and

partners here at this important event. It shows that we care for our City – our country. Let us work together. Let us share responsibilities. This is our city. This is our country. It is our collective responsibility to beautify our city," Sogavare said.

Prime Minister Sogavare said that Honiara will receive its largest number of international arrival during the Games in November and December this year.

"From the 12th of November to 3rd December this year, Honiara will receive the largest-ever number of overseas visitors of more than 8,000 people to our shores in three short weeks. Almost 5,000 will be athletes and officials from all participating countries and the rest will be relatives, supporters and tourists.

"These eight thousand plus people will broadcast to the world their impressions and perceptions of the country, especially their impression of Honiara city. Already Honiara is regarded as one of the 'dirtiest cities in our region' with rubbish and betelnut stains everywhere."

The Prime Minister said that it is the sole responsibility of all Honiara residents to ensure that the city is clean and safe in the lead up, during and after the Games this year. He added that everyone should work together towards ensuring this.

"I am sure you will agree with me, that this is not the image of our country we wish our visitors to take back with them when they depart from our shores after the 2023 Pacific Games. We want each of our visitors to have a pleasant and memorable experience of our country and our capital city from the moment they step off their flights on arrival until the moment they board their flights to take them home. To achieve this, we must work together in the next 262 days to ensure our city is safe, green, and clean."

The launching programme was followed by a general clean-up around the city from White River zone in the West to Henderson zone in the East on Saturday 4 March and concluded on Sunday 5 March with inter-denominational church service on Sunday 5 March.



GAMES PREPARATIONS ON TRACK, EIGHT MONTHS OUT

The end of March brings Solomon Islands and the entire Pacific region eight months closer to the much anticipated, historical Sol2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

From November 19th to December 2nd, the City of Honiara will play host to 5000 plus athletes and officials here for the Games.

Speaking at a press conference hosted for the visiting Pacific Games Council (PGC) President, Vidya Lakhan and CEO, Andrew Minogue, NHA Board Chairman Dr Jimmie Rodgers assured Solomon Islands and the region that all Games preparations are on track and will be ready before the start of the Games.

"From our own assessment, we believe we are on track with facilities and all other areas of preparation. Everything will be completed before the Games. We have assurance from the Government that their contributions toward the Games will be paid in by August in instalments – that in itself is a big positive for us. Our preparations are in good shape and we will be ready in time for the Opening Ceremony of the Sol2023 Pacific Games," Dr Rodgers said.

The visiting PGC President, Mr Lakhan said that he is satisfied with the preparations and is confident Solomon Islands and the GOC will deliver a great Games as promised. Following a site visit of all the venues, Mr Lakhan said, "We were quite impressed with the amount of work that has gone on from November last year to date.



"We left here November last year, knowing fully well that all the facilities will be handed over to the GOC well ahead of time, and I am happy to say that we are still on schedule on getting all of the facilities up and running before the Opening Ceremony on November 19th."

Mr Lakhan added, "We are quite satisfied and we will be leaving your shores in the knowledge that we are in good hands and good space and when we do come back in August, things will have improved considerably."

During their brief stay in the country, President Lakhan and CEO Minogue held brief meetings with Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, the Honiara City Mayor, the Chinese Ambassador, NHA Board and the GOC regarding means of ensuring Honiara is clean for the Sol2023 Pacific Games.



CHINA ASSURES SI GOV'T OF TIMELY DELIVERY OF GAMES INFRASTRUCTURE

The People's Republic of China (PRC) has assured Solomon Islands that all China funded Games Infrastructure will be completed and ready in time for the Sol2023 Pacific Games this year.

The Chinese Ambassador to Solomon Islands Li Ming, reassured Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Manasseh Sogavare of this during a brief meeting this month in Honiara.

"All the Games infrastructure facilities that China is financing will be completed and handed over to NHA (National Hosting Authority) in August 2023, in time for inspection and testing.

"This gives sufficient time for the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) to take exclusive possession of the venues around October 2023 to prepare the venues to run the 24 sports programs at Games time."

Ambassador Li said, "The Chinese contractors CCECC construction, the PG2023 Stadium projects and JPC

constructing the PG2023 Games Village, SINU Dormitory project have reaffirmed their commitment to complete the two projects by August this year."

He added that the projects are the perfect gift from the Chinese Government to the Government and People of Solomon Islands.

"This is the perfect gift from China to Solomon Islands, as a symbol of our friendship and support towards Solomon Islands' hosting the Sol2023 Pacific Games."

Prime Minister Sogavare in his response said that he is satisfied with the progress made, stressing on the importance of the project to the government and its significance to the people of Solomon Islands.

"It is important to note the benefit local Solomon Islanders get from the projects from local international events using the facilities after the 2023 Pacific Games."

Meanwhile, President of the Pacific Games Council Vidhya Lakhan said he was satisfied with the progress of the projects, thanking the Government and people of China for the generous support on behalf of the 22 members of the Games Council.

"I am pleasantly surprised and amazed by the amount of work the contractors have done over the last four months. We are quite happy and confident Solomon Islands will be ready for Sol2023," he said.



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‘Our Telekom,’ the leading telecommunications provider in Solomon Islands was officially announced a Presenting Sponsor of the Sol2023 Pacific Game to be held in Honiara from November 19th to December 2nd, this year.

The partnership between Our Telekom and the 2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) was signed, announced and celebrated with a vehicle float parade through the streets of Honiara, from Our Telekom’s Ranandi branch to its Point Cruz branch, 19th March, 2023.

Our Telekom’s \$10.7million dollars (SBD) sponsorship will see it provide all infrastructural telecommunication services across Games venues and villages before and during the Games this year.

“This sponsorship will support the Games Organizing Committee to deliver a world-class event for the 5000 plus athletes and officials who will be here for the Games.

“Our Telekom’s support will ensure that the GOC Headquarter, competition venues, non-competition venues and Games villages have access to reliable and fast internet connectivity, enabling real-time communication and data transfer between venues and GOC staff.”

As a Games Presenting Sponsor, Our Telekom will have access to exploit benefits allocated under the Games Presenting Sponsor Tier. It also gives exclusive rights to Our Telekom as the Official Sponsors of the Sol2023 Pacific Games Official Opening Ceremony.

Our Telekom Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Christina Lasaga said that the company is happy and proud to be the Official Telecommunications Sponsors for Sol2023 Pacific Games.

“As a proud supporter of sports in Solomon Islands, we

‘Our Telekom’ officially a Games Presenting Sponsor

believe this sponsorship aligns with our core values of teamwork, excellence, and innovation. Our Telekom sets an example of what can be achieved when businesses invest in the power of sports to unite, uplift, and transform lives.”

Ms Lasaga added, the partnership between GOC and Our Telekom will leave a long-lasting legacy after the Games.

“With this partnership Our Telekom company creates a legacy of impact that extends far beyond the Games, and cements its position as a leader in driving positive change in the Pacific region.”

Chairman of Solomon Telekom Company Limited Board, Baoro Laxton Koraua shared similar sentiments.

“Our Telekom has invested significantly in telecommunication infrastructure across the Solomon





Islands over the years and Honiara is the hub of our customers using our services. With the influx of both international and domestic visitors into the country for the Pacific Games, the demand for Telekom services will increase. Thus, the \$10.7 million telecommunication infrastructure investment to the Sporting venues, accommodation venues, athlete's games villages, and all

other GOC sites is essential to be able to deliver the games successfully.

The sponsorship agreement was signed by Christina Lasaga, CEO of Our Telekom, and Mr. Peter Stewart, CEO of the 2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee.



MERCY to return for Games

US Navy Hospital Ship 'Mercy' will return to our shores come November 19, thanks to the United States' positive response to Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare's request made in August last year at the inaugural visit of the ship.

The US Navy Hospital Ship will provide health services to the 24 countries that will converge into Honiara to participate in the 2023 Pacific Games.

Prime Minister Sogavare acknowledged US for confirming the availability of Mercy for the games from November 19 to December 2, 2023.

The positive response to the Prime Minister's request for the availability of US Navy Hospital Ship 'Mercy' during the Pacific Games constituted one of the number of important areas covered during the meeting between Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare and United States' National Security Council Coordinator for the Indo- Pacific and Deputy Secretary to President Biden, Dr. Kurt Campbell.

PM Press Secretary

GOC host buffet for Games Sponsors

The 2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) this month hosted an afternoon buffet for the six Official Sponsors this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

According to the Games Sponsorship Tiers; Solomon Airlines and Our Telekom have come onboard as Presenting Partner Sponsors, with their sponsorships combined totalling to \$15.7 million (sbd) dollars. Solomon Post and Solomon Water have signed up as Silver Partner Sponsors. The sponsorships combined totalling to \$6.8 million (sbd) dollars, whilst Solomon Breweries Limited and No1 Currency are the Official Games Bronze Partner Sponsors with an estimated combined Sponsorship totalling to \$1.5 million (sbd) dollars.

GOC Chief Executive Peter Stewart also gave a brief update on the state and progress of preparations, assuring the sponsors that everything is on track and on schedule for the Sol2023 Pacific Games in November and December this year.

Here are briefs of the current Sol2023 Pacific Games Official Sponsors.

Our Telekom

SPONSORSHIP TIER: Presenting Partner Sponsor

SPONSORSHIP VALUE: \$10,790,798.79 (SBD)

EXCLUSIVITY: Opening Ceremony Partner Sponsor of the Sol2023 Pacific Games



Solomon Telekom Company Limited (Our Telekom) was officially announced a Presenting Partner Sponsor of the Sol2023 Pacific Games on Friday 17th, March 2023. The sponsorship valued at \$10.7 million (sbd) dollars will see the country's leading telecommunication company provide all infrastructural telecommunication services across Games Venues and Villages before, during and post Games this year.

"This sponsorship will support the Games Organizing Committee to deliver a world-class event for the

5000 plus athletes and officials attending the Games this year. As a proud supporter of sports in Solomon Islands, we believe this sponsorship aligns with our core values of teamwork, excellence and innovation. This partnership between GOC and Our Telekom will leave a long-lasting legacy after the Games," Our Telekom CEO, Christina Lasaga said.

Solomon Airlines

SPONSORSHIP TIER: Presenting Partner Sponsor

SPONSORSHIP VALUE: \$5,000,000 (SBD)

EXCLUSIVITY: Games Relay Partner of the Sol2023 Pacific Games



Solomon Airlines was officially announced a Presenting Partner Sponsor of the Sol2023 Pacific Games on Wednesday 15th February, 2023. The sponsorship valued at \$5 million (sbd) dollars, will see Solomon Airline provide air travel, air freight and promotional content for the Games. Solomon Airline will also be the exclusive provider of domestic flight services throughout Solomon Islands for the Games Relay, to be launched exactly 100 days out from the Games Opening Ceremony.

"We are proud to make this commitment and to play our part in ensuring the success of the 2023 Pacific Games, from the all-important lead-up phase through to the exciting staging of the Games in Honiara," Solomon Airlines CEO, Gus Kraus said.

Solomon Water

SPONSORSHIP TIER: Silver Partner Sponsor

SPONSORSHIP VALUE: \$4,850,000 (SBD)

EXCLUSIVITY: Games Safe Water Provider



Solomon Islands Water Authority (Solomon Water) was officially announced a Silver Partner Sponsor of the Sol2023 Pacific Games on Friday 27th, January 2023. The sponsorship valued at \$4.8 million (sbd) dollars will see Solomon Water provide infrastructural design and development as well as the provision of free water services to all Games Facilities at this year's 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. 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," Solomon Water CEO, Ian Gooden said.

Solomon Post

SPONSORSHIP TIER: Silver Partner Sponsor
SPONSORSHIP VALUE: \$2,000,000 (SBD)
EXCLUSIVITY: Games Postal Service Provider



Solomon Islands Postal Corporation (Solomon Post) was officially announced a Silver Partner Sponsor of the Sol2023 Pacific Games on Friday 20th January, 2023. The sponsorship is valued at \$2 million (sbd) dollars. Solomon Post will officially be the Games Postal Service Provider during the Games this year.

"Solomon Post is very happy to partner with the Games Organizing Committee and various committees to ensure that the 2023 Pacific Games is a success. We believe 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 – that is a successful 2023 Pacific Games.

Solomon Breweries Ltd

SPONSORSHIP TIER: Bronze and Official Supplier Sponsor
SPONSORSHIP VALUE: \$1,000,000 (SBD)
EXCLUSIVITY: Beer Partner of Sol2023 Pacific Games Limited

Solomon Breweries Limited was officially announced a Bronze Partner Sponsor and Official Supplier for the



Sol2023 Pacific Games on Friday 9th December, 2022. The sponsorship is valued at \$1 million (sbd) dollars. As part of the sponsorship, Solomon Breweries will be the official supplier of Solbrew products for the Games.

"Solbrew Company Limited is indeed happy to be a Sponsor and Official Supplier towards the 2023 Pacific Games next year. Despite our challenges, the Pacific Games is essentially an opportunity to celebrate other parts and aspects of Solomon Islands that we have not been able to look at in the last three years – that is our sportsmen and women and the next generation of Sports. It is an honour to support the Pacific Games because when visitors come to Solomon Islands, they might not remember individual companies and what each does, but they will remember as collective is, government, citizens and businesses. What we do together to provide them the experience of the Pacific Games from the Solomon Islands context is vital," Solbrew's Corporate Affairs Manager, Qila Tuhanuku said.

No1 Currency

SPONSORSHIP TIER: Bronze Partner Sponsor
SPONSORSHIP VALUE: \$500,000 (SBD)
EXCLUSIVITY: Foreign Currency Exchange Provider



"No1 Currency is thrilled to partner with GOC under the Sponsorship Agreement to deliver a successful Games this year. Hosting an event of this magnitude is a huge undertaking and requires many helping hands to make it a success. We are happy to support the Government's effort through the GOC by provision of this humble sponsorship, which we believe will help GOC organize and promote the event," No1 Currency Business Development Manager, Rolland Hulanga said.

Call it the 'PACIFIC GAMES'



Solomon Islands will host the region's biggest ever sporting event, the 17th edition of the Pacific Games in Honiara come November and December this year (2023).

The Pacific Games (formerly known as the South Pacific Games or SPG) was established in the 1960s by the then South Pacific Games Council (now the Pacific Games Council) with the vision to promote a unique, friendly world-class competition and Games to develop sport for the benefit of the people, the nations and the territories of the Pacific Community.

"The South Pacific Games was established with the view to creating bonds of kindred friendship and brotherhood amongst people of the countries of the Pacific region through sporting exchange without any distinctions as to race, religion or politics. The South Pacific Games was to ensure the efficient promotion and development of sports amongst the South Pacific Nations and their peoples," as stated in the event's historical brief.

In 2006, a new Charter and name was agreed upon at the General Assembly in Apia, Samoa; the Pacific Games Council (in place of the South Pacific Games Council) and the Pacific Games (in place of the South Pacific Games). The name South Pacific Games was officially changed to the Pacific Games after the 2007 Games in Apia, Samoa. Since its change of names, the Games Charter also had to be revised and modernized in light of changes in the region and the change place of Sport in our society.

A statement from the PGC website stated; "the Pacific Games as it is now known, proceed into the future as the physical representation of the Pacific Communities as they move forward from the first South Pacific Games in Fiji in 1963. The Pacific Games maintain a high

standing within the Regional Sporting Calendar and a growing reputation for sporting excellence.

Laurel Tasa, the 2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee's (GOC) Senior Manager of Marketing and Communications said that everyone needs to start getting used to calling it the Pacific Games – and not South Pacific Games or SP Games.

"It is important that our people who will be the host of these Games are able to familiarize and understand the significance of this name change. Since the Apia General Assembly in 2006, it (the Games) is no longer the South Pacific Games (SPG) as many refer to, but officially the Pacific Games," she said.

Meanwhile the GOC's Community Engagement team have continued to raise awareness throughout the country through the Games Mascot nationwide tour and the recently launched Games Ambassadors tour.

"We are continuously raising awareness throughout our communities in the provinces and here in Honiara on the Pacific Games. We do hope that it will help improve people's understanding about the region's biggest sporting event – the Pacific Games," Ms Tasa said.

This year's Pacific Games will be held from November 19th to December 2nd, 2023. It will feature a total 24 countries, competing in 24 sports and expected to draw in more than 8,000 plus visitors and athletes during Games time.





GOC launches Sol2023 Games Ambassadors Programme

The 2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) officially launched the Sol2023 Games Ambassadors Programme this month.

Part of GOC's Community Engagement Strategy, the Games Ambassadors programme is aimed at informing communities around the country about Sol2023, and inspiring young Solomon Islanders to participate and be part of sports.

The programme also provides sports awareness and advocacy of the pathway from local villages and competitions to the grandest stages such as the Pacific Games that young local athletes can dream and aspire to achieve in their careers.

This month GOC officially announced nine retired and current local prominent sportsmen and women who will be implementing the programme throughout the country as Games Ambassadors.

They include; Athletics Icons: Jim Marau, Chris Votu and Primo Higa, former national Footballers turned Coaches: Batram Suri and Timothy Inifiri, Paralympian: Hellen Saohanga, Weightlifting Queen: Jenly Wini, Boxing Icon: Joseph Saimei and national Tennis Player and Coach: Junior Benjamin.

"The Ambassadors are representatives of every one of our provinces. They are elite level athletes who not only aspire to participate at the highest level, but have fulfilled and achieved their potentials in reaching the pinnacle of their sporting careers.

"They are a full representation of Solomon Islands and of what Solomon Islands can do and achieve in sports." Mr Stewart explained that through the programme, the Games Ambassadors will be touring all provinces

in country, sharing their sporting experiences and expertise to inspire the next generation of elite athletes in the country.

"We are looking to inspire particularly the young children of Solomon Islands. The next generation of elite athletes to continue aspiring to reach the highest sporting levels they can potentially reach and achieve.

"Our Ambassadors embody that aspiration. They are people who can stand up in front of their families, friends, the people of their communities and share their experiences, be a living testament of how one can aspire, reach and achieve the highest levels and accolades in sport they can achieve through hard work, dedication and sacrifice.

"That is what we are looking to do with our Ambassadors through this programme," he said.

GOC Board Chairman, Martin Rara commended the nine Ambassadors for partnering with the Sol2023 Pacific Games and its preparations, adding that they will be the face of the Games and that their involvement will connect people throughout Solomon Islands to the Games.

"As Games Ambassadors, you are the voice, the face, the legs of Sol2023 into the communities.

"You will be going out there as sporting icons of this country. Whenever people see you, they will see Sol2023 Pacific Games. The messages that you will pass and relay to our communities will inspire others to aspire and achieve greatness as you all have achieved.

"I believe that as you tell our communities about Sol2023 and of your success stories, our people will understand,



accept and get the message directly from you as someone who has been to the Games, experienced the Games and had been part of the Games.

"This I believe will get Solomon Islands behind the Sol2023 Pacific Games," Mr Rara said.

Meanwhile the first Ambassador tour to Central, East and North East Guadalcanal was completed this month by Solomon Islands first and only 100m SPG (Pacific Games) gold medallist and Sol2023 Games Ambassador, Jim Marau. (More on our next issue).



Photo of the Month



A RARE MOMENT ON THE TARMAC

Solo, the Games Official Mascot standing on the tarmac in front of a Solomon Airlines aircraft some minutes before takeoff, at the Honiara International Airport. Solo was there as a guest in the official signing and announcement of Solomon Airlines as a Presenting Sponsor of the Sol2023 Pacific Games which will take place in Honiara from November 19th to December 2nd, this year.



Solo completes PG2023 Mascot nationwide tour

Solo, the 2023 Pacific Games (Sol2023) Official Mascot has finally completed its nationwide tour of Solomon Islands this month (March).

Solo's six-month long nationwide Games voyage had taken the fuzzy yellow, fan-loving Games Mascot as far west as the Shortland Islands to Temotu in the eastern Solomons. Solo toured all nine provinces; Choiseul, Western, Makira Ulawa, Rennell and Bellona, Isabel, Central Islands, Guadalcanal, Malaita and Temotu provinces. Solo also visited schools in Honiara.

Set out as phase one of the Games Organizing Committee's (GOC) Community Engagement Strategy, its aim was to engage, educate, advocate and raise awareness about the Sol2023 Pacific Games which will kick off in Honiara from 19th November, to 2nd December this year.

"Getting the Games message out to as many people throughout the country as possible was indeed the prime objective of this strategy. Providing and sharing vital Games information, raise awareness and help improve people's understanding about the Games and the legacy benefits that come with hosting the Games.

"These were the key aims of this strategy that I believe Solo and the team has achieved since debuting at the Guadalcanal Day celebrations at Tenaru, August 1st, last year. Since then Solo has been the most popular national figure throughout the country," Laurel Tasa, GOC Senior Manager, Marketing and Communication said.

Tasa added that since its first public outing, Solo has generated thousands of followers on social media and requests for Solo special appearances received in Honiara. A brief analysis of the Sol2023 XVII Pacific Games Facebook Page had seen a hike in its reach since Solo's public debut seven months ago.

GOC Media Officer, Ezmie Oge shared similar sentiments. "We have had a lot of likes, following and public interaction on the Games Facebook page since our team



first provided coverage on Solo's tours on social media. Many have been following Solo throughout the whole nationwide tour. Solo has helped us raise awareness about the Games throughout the whole country." GOC Community Engagement Coordinator, Jacquelyn Maeli said the Mascot nationwide tour was an eye opener and a success at all fronts.

"Taking Solo out for the first time was something new, something different, a whole new experience that we were hyped about, and didn't know what to expect from. The tour was an eye-opener for many of us and for all of Solomon Islands. We have had nothing like this on our shores, our doorsteps as far as I can remember. It was a learning curve for many of us, taught us a lot about planning, organizing and implementing this program.

"All in all, the nationwide mascot tour was truly a success. Everyone knows Solo, everyone loves meeting Solo and most importantly, everyone knows Solo is a representation of the Sol2023 Pacific Games," Jacquelyn said.

Meanwhile, GOC this month officially launched its Games Ambassadors Program whereby a total 10 former and current athletes have been engaged to provide awareness and advocate for sport throughout Solomon Islands. The Ambassadors tour started on Guadalcanal before moving on to shortland islands and other provinces in the country.



Achieving High Quality, Embracing Games Legacy

■ NHA Communications

The Construction of a natural turf field for the 2023 Pacific Games presents our country with the challenges of keeping the turf to meet Football and Rugby International standards.

This means our country must have trained local personnel to manage the turf by having the right type of grass and fertilizer to grow the turf and the right equipment to maintain the fields in preparation for PG2023 and beyond the Pacific Games.

As part of ensuring the maximum impact on the Sol2023 Games legacy the National Hosting Authority engaged Regional Turf expert Mr. Laurie Stubbing as a consultant to advise and guide the NHA and Games Facilities Committee on the development of natural turf to meet rugby and football fields international standards in time for the 2023 Pacific Games from the 19th November to 2nd December 2023.

The NHA contracted the New Zealander given his vast knowledge, experience and his distinguished track

record of successful turf works within many countries across the region.

Since his engagement, Mr. Stubbing, has been training a local Turf Assistant Mr. Dickson Ramota Riikwao who has been working closely with him and together are working closely with the contractors to ensure the natural grass fields that are prepared for the 2023 Pacific Games meet the required international standards.

NHA has is preparing the country to manage the fields post games by ensuring that turf works is enhanced with the support of proper machinery are procured including: Seed spreader, Chemical Sprayer, a Tractor with specialized attachment's, A specialized Baroness Mowing machine used for turfs and other smaller support tools for occasionally maintaining the turf.

The venues are still under the responsibility of the contractor until they are handed over to NHA after completion at around end of July 2023. NHA is therefore pleased that the contractor is willing to share information as part of building local capacity.



High Commissioner Hilton visit Tenaru and DC Park

■ NHA Communications



The Australian High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands, Mr. Rob Hilton, witnessed progress on renovations at Tenaru School and also the construction of the Water Sports Park at DC Marine Park, during a site visit on Thursday this week.

Chair of the National Hosting Authority and Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. Jimmy Rodgers led the visit, which also included Member for Central Guadalcanal Hon Peter Shanel and Attorney General John Muria Jr.

PMU's Executive Director Mr. Eldon Tepa accompanied and assisted the visiting group during the tour of the sites.

NHA to support HCC on clean-up campaign.

The National Hosting Authority (NHA) with the support from the National Government will enter into a partnership agreement with HCC to support clean-up programs within respective wards within Honiara City from now till the games.

This is part of the Safe and Green Games which was launched Friday March 3, 2023.

As part of this partnership NHA will also support HCC in efforts to manage the Ranadi Rubbish dumpsite.

A similar partnership is also being considered for Guadalcanal Province for the area between KGV school and Honiara International Airport.

Meanwhile, NHA and GSIC (Government Services Integrated Committee) are in discussion with private sector organizations to support the Keep Honiara Clean Campaign.

The Safe and Green Games campaign also provides a platform for the National Government, the HCC, Guadalcanal Province, Private Sector, Churches, schools, CSO, Community groups and individual households to unite as one team for one common purpose and that is to make Honiara safe and clean.

The clean-up campaign will run from now until November 2023.



Sol2023 Football Facilities to be completed by August

Football facilities to be used at the Sol2023 Pacific Games this year will be completed by August, 2023.

The National Hosting Authority confirmed that construction work done on the football training grounds at the new SIFF (Solomon Islands Football Federation) Academy is on schedule and will be completed in time for the Games, come November and December this year. "NHA through its facilities committee is on track to deliver the PG2023 Football training field and other sports facilities at the new SIFF Academy at KGV," a statement from NHA Communications read.

This is part of a multi-donor project co-funded for by the Government and People of Papua New Guinea and the Government and People of Japan, with support from the Solomon Islands Government.

The project consists of a Multi-Purpose Futsal Court, an Office and Administration Building, a Dormitory, two Soccer Playing and Training Fields, a changing Room and a Beach Soccer Field.

"This is the largest SIG Project to be given to a local contractor, providing jobs for locals as well as building capacity of the local engineers and construction workers. It is constructed by JED Enterprise, a locally owned Construction Company.

"We are confident everything will be completed by August 2023, before the Opening Ceremony in November," the statement said.

The Solomon Islands Government through NHA acknowledged its partners for their tremendous support towards the development of the Sol2023 Football Training Field and the new SIFF Academy.

'SOLO' the Leatherback visits 14 Pacific Islands Countries

'SOLO' the leatherback turtle has over the past month visited 14 of the 24 Pacific Islands countries that will take part at this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

Satellite tracking updates provided by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) showed that since departing Solomon Islands waters early this year, Solo the leatherback has thus far visited; American Samoa, Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

Peter Waldin, acting Director for TNC Solomon Islands for leatherback satellite tagging said, "Solo and her nine sister-cousins are fantastic ambassadors for the Pacific Games.

"The ten turtles have now visited the waters of 14 of the 24 participating countries – Solomon Islands, American Samoa, Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna."

TNC Solomon Islands is the official sponsors of the Mascot Naming Competition last year. This partnership aims to advocate against the illegal harvesting of all turtles throughout the Pacific Region. (Check out our next edition for more updates).



AFP, RSIPF launch Policing Partnership for PG2023

■ RSIPF Media Unit

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) Officers this month joined their counterparts from the Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIPF) to launch a Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP) for the 2023 Pacific Games.

The programme is to help with “operational readiness and security planning” before the Games in November. Officers were joined by members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) for a clean-up of woodland areas around the police headquarters at Rove, Honiara, as part of a programme of activities to set the RAPPP in motion. “The AFP has a long-standing and well-established partnership with the RSIPF and we look forward to continuing this in the planning, testing and operation for the Pacific Games,” AFP Commander Solomon Islands Heath Davies said.

“The AFP continues to support capacity building within the RSIPF and is ready to provide specialist capabilities and support throughout the operation, in partnership with the RSIPF.”

The official launch of the Pacific Games initiative included a parade towards the Lawson Tama Stadium, which is set to stage football during the Games.

Participants included Australian and Solomon Islands police officers. Later this month, officers from the Solomon Islands are set to travel to Canberra to take part in an observer programme with Australian police.

The visit is designed to enable them to “focus on the planning and operational running of major events in a real time environment.”

The 2023 Pacific Games is scheduled to open on November 19 and is expected to feature 5,000 participants from 24 Pacific Island countries and territories including Australia and New Zealand.

RSIPF, CPLT complete PG2023 Security Planning Workshop

Officers from the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) 2023 Pacific Games Planning Team, have completed a Security Planning Workshop conducted for by China Police Liaison Team (CPLT) this month.

The workshop provides frameworks for security planning and security risk management aimed at ensuring Police and its partners provide top notch security services at the Games this year.

CPLT Deputy Team Leader, Ji Yong said that the workshop provides the basis for planning of security operations for the Games.

“This workshop focuses mainly on Beijing Olympic experiences and to learn from them. Also, briefing of the RSIPF PG2023 Security planning and security risk analysis where security partners share ideas and experiences of security service provided at the Beijing come too.

Lead Planner of the Pacific Games Security Planning Team, Superintendent Fred Suhara said RSIPF is working closely with its security partners on the planning process, whilst also commending CPLT for the initiative in conducting the workshop for RSIP and its partners.

“The RSIPF PG23 Planning team, including RSIPF Security partners are working together, contributing towards the development of a comprehensive PG23 Security Plan.” Superintendent Suhara commended CPLT for organizing and facilitating the workshop.

“I appreciate the training offered by the CPLT with Beijing Summer and Winter Olympics experiences. This workshop is in line with the current planning process we already have in place.

“This workshop is a good chance for related sides to exchange experiences and ideas that would ensure we enjoy a safe PG2023,” Mr Suhara said.

RSIPF, CSSI take part in Honiara Clean-up

Members of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) and the Correctional Services of Solomon Islands (CSSI) took part in the major Honiara City clean-up to mark the launch and implementation of the Safe and Green Games Strategy, early this month.

Officers and their families from both agencies turned out in numbers to clean up their assigned areas which include; the RSIPF Police Headquarters, Rove market, Rove residential area feeder roads, Rove main road up to Ngossi and Tinge.

Similar clean-ups were conducted by officers and their families at Police Stations (Naha, Central, Henderson and White River) and Police residential areas. Also assisting in the clean-up was the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and its Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP).

"It is indeed amazing to see the children, the families of our police officers help us in the clean-up program and at the same time enjoy doing so.



"This is the kind of spirit we need from all of us who reside in Honiara City need, to prepare us for the Pacific Games less than eight months away," Director, National Traffic Department, Superintendent William Foufaka said.

He stressed the importance of taking ownership of the national capital, as the way forward to achieving a safe, green and clean Honiara City.

"We all need to take ownership of our City. Have pride in our City. Be responsible when talking about waste management in our City. We should be proud of our city and help clean it up," Director Foufaka said. He added it is high time all Solomon Islanders start throwing their support and take part in the Safe and Green Games Clean-up Campaign.



RSIPF & SIAF begin Games Venue Inspections

The Royal Solomon Island Police Force (RSIPF) and Solomons' International Assistance Force (SIAF) Officers from the joint PG23 Security Planning Team commenced venue inspections ahead of the Games set to take place in November this year (2023).

The Pacific Games will include 24 Nations with 24 sporting events held across multiple venues with multiple villages to accommodate athletes.

The team toured some of the main facilities where, in less than nine months' time, athletes and officials from across the Pacific will be travelling to commence the 2023 Pacific Games.

The ongoing collaboration between the RSIPF PG23 Planning Team, Games Organising Committee (GOC) and external stakeholders on the security aspect of the games is essential to the vision of the RSIPF in creating a safe and secure environment.

This is the first major event the RSIPF will be planning with the assistance of the SIAF planning team of such a scale. The team will be working hard between now and November to ensure that the 2023 Pacific Games are safe, secure and successful.

Games staff take part in International Women's Day celebration



More than twenty women staff from the Games Organizing Committee (GOC), the National Hosting Authority (NHA) and the Games Facilities Committee (GFC) took time out of office to commemorate the International Women's Day celebrations in Honiara this month.

The celebrations on the 8th of March, saw hundreds of women turn up for the early morning parade from Honiara City Council Headquarters to the Justice Ground (Town Ground) kick starting the two-day celebrations in the national capital.

The theme for this year's IWD celebrations is: "Digital, Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality" and here is what celebrating IWD means to some of the GOC women talked to.

1. Laurel Tasa (Senior Manager, Marketing & Communications)

"The IWD theme is: "Embracing Equity" and the Solomon Islands IWD theme is: "Protection of women through the use of information technology. I embrace both and would like to see that my fellow female colleagues are able to use information freely and safely."

2. Wendy Idu (Human Resources Coordinator)

"Celebrating IWD is important and of great significance as it advocates, promotes, ensures and embraces gender equality."

3. Duta Kauhiona (Medical & Anti-Doping Supervisor)

"This year's IWD theme is about innovation and technology.

These are phases, changes in the way we should be celebrating ourselves as women, how we empower ourselves and how we learn. Innovation and technology should be a platform which should make us women more advanced in the way we address gender equality.

4. Valerie Hilly (Project Officer)

"International Women's Day is a day to celebrate achievements of women in all works of life. This year's theme is: "Embrace Equity." When we embrace equity, we embrace diversity and we embrace inclusion."

5. Ezmie Oge (Media Officer)

"International Women's Day for me means empowerment, recognition and hope for our women."

6. Kerrie Jionisi (Culture & Ceremonies Coordinator)

"This day is very important. It represents women in all works of life. It is a time whereby our women come out to voice out all issues that concerns us all as women. It is a time we come out to show everyone who we are and what we have and can achieve.

Meanwhile to commemorate the important day, GOC's Chief Executive Officer, Peter Stewart hosted a lunch gala for the staff who took part in the program.

"This is an important day where we recognize our women staff for their contribution towards our different functional areas. Thank you to you all for being part of the Sol2023 Pacific Games team," Mr Stewart said.



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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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