

# HEADLINES

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## SOLOMON PORTS COMMISSIONS UNITY SQUARE

Solomon Ports has commissioned the tallest flagpole in the Pacific at Point Cruz, Honiara. Hundreds of Honiara residents turned out to witness the historic event on 6th July, where the Honorable Prime Minister was the guest of honor and featured the premiers from all the provinces of Solomon Islands. The site is called the "Unity Square", where it features the 50 meters national flag at the center and flanked by all provincial flags. Prime Minister Hon. Manaseh Sogavare was given the honor of cutting the ribbons to officially open the site, was joined by all the provincial premiers. Guadalcanal Premier Hon. Francis Sade was given the honor of speaking on behalf of all the provincial premiers, where he delivered

a powerful speech reflecting the theme "Unity Under One Banner".

Meanwhile, Guest of honor Hon. Prime Minister Sogavare in his speech urged Solomon Islands to be proud of their country.

He stated that Unity Square is a symbol of unity in diversity. It is an embodiment of our common destiny as a people and country.

"It also demonstrates the civil responsibility of SIPA towards nation building. I see this civic responsibility as one that supports and defends our Constitution," he said.

"This is a patriotic gesture on SIPA's part. It is the subtle yet important tool that is essential in nation building. I have no doubt that this Unity Square will enhance the

integration of our citizens and reinforce and magnify the strong emotional attachment and love that each Solomon Islander has for this country."



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## UNITY SQUARE COMMISSIONING PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS





# SOLOMON PORTS COMMISSIONS NEW HARBOUR PATROL UNIT

Solomon Ports has finally established its first ever Harbour Patrol Division, along with commissioning of new patrol boat at the Point Cruz Harbor Patrol Base on 6th July.

The ceremony coincided with the commissioning of the Unity Square flagpole, with the Prime Minister officially commissioning the new boat.

Solomon Ports is the first port in the entire region to have such maritime patrol unit dedicated to maintaining control and safety security of its ports area.

The new boat and division will be tasked to patrol and secure the ports jurisdiction area, which covers the coastal ports area to make sure ships and passengers are safe when using the port terminals.

This new unit will be in charge of patrolling and monitoring illegal and unwanted activities within the Point Cruz harbor.

Harbor Patrol Division officer in charge, Mr. Duddley Suimae, said the new boats and unit would enhance maritime security surveillance within Point Cruz harbor.'

ISPS Officer-in-Charge Mr. Andrew Kilimani said this would also Strengthen ISPS requirement to meet ISPS code, to monitor illegal activities, and unwanted practice within the harbour.

He said currently there were 4 officers who are



Enforcement officers testing the newly commissioned harbour patrol boat

dedicated to this unit, who will be working 24/7, and that the fleet will be increased and expanded in the future and more officers will be recruited.

"Seaside security was an issue that we lacked in the past years, but with this new patrol boat we can give the assurance that we will keep the harbor safe and

secure, he said.

"Also, it is an achievement for SIPA maritime security to maintain control and make sure port meets international standards."

# NEW KALMAR CONTAINER HANDLER COMMISSIONED

Solomon Ports commissioned its brand-new Kalmar Container handler at the International Port Terminal, Point Cruz, Honiara.

The new Model DRU 450-6255 Reach Stacker Fully Laden Container Handler now adds to the impressive fleet of container handling equipments at the Port. Its lifting capacity is 45 tonnes and can handle Maximum Stack of 5 Containers.

The new machine costs SBD\$3.6 million and was imported from Australia in three parts and was fully assembled by Solomon Ports staff.

A similar Kalmar machine was also commissioned In Noro Port in the Western Province, boosting operational capabilities.

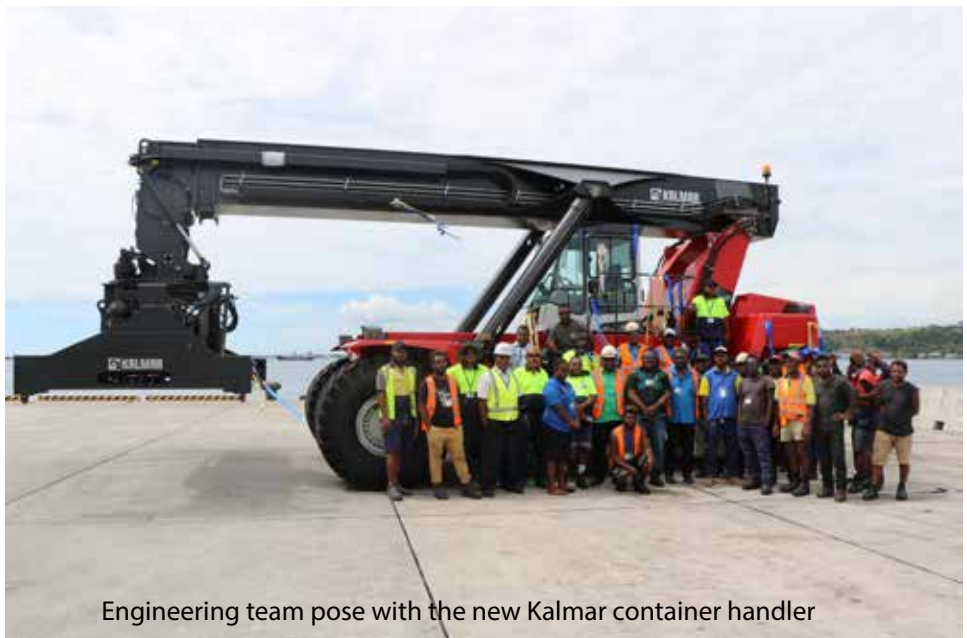
The Newly Commissioned Kalmar brings the total Machine Fleet Size at Honiara Port to 10 Kalmars, 6 Omegas, 5 Terminal Tractors & Trailers ( for both fully laden and empty container handling), which now brings the total fleet to 21 machines, the largest amongst Pacific Ports.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, Chief Engineer Mr. Ronald Ivupitu said the arrival of the new machines truly signifies the ongoing growth and development of Solomon Ports.

He said before 2016, Honiara Port only had 5 container handling machines, and only one international wharf, which slowed down Port operations.

"From 2016 to 2020, total of 16 new machines were purchased, this has resulted in the improved efficiency and productivity operations, we have seen increased ships turn around is now less than 24 hours – whereas ships used to queue up," he said.

"For the first time, our new Kalmars were fully



Engineering team pose with the new Kalmar container handler

assembled by our own mechanics, operators, and riggers, which was previously done with the supervision of Kalmar experts – Congratulations to the Ports Team."

SIPA is implementing more developments in 2020 and

has earmarked further infrastructure and other capital developments beyond 2020.

# NEW RECRUITS COMPLETES ISPS TRAINING

Solomon Ports' new staff recruits are now 'International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code' certified after a successful 3-week training from 31st August to the 2nd September.

The training was conducted purposely for port Personals to enhance their knowledge on the function of the ISPS Code, company rules and regulations.

Also, to coordinate duties and responsibilities in a more systematic approach.

Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO) Mr. Andrew Kilimani conducted the training, with 32 participants, with 16 personals from the operations, and 16 Maritime Security Guards (MSGs).

The importance of the ISPS training was for the Ports staff to implement their duties with professionalism efficiency, and consistency in accordance to the ISPS codes.

It is also to ensure Solomon Ports is safe and secured for all port interface, but ultimately to remain compliant to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions (SOLAS) ISPS Code Part A & Part B.

Speaking after the training, PFSO Kilimani said he was satisfied with the training's outcome and urged the participants to implement what they had learnt when they are out on duty.

He said the training was a success, was properly conducted and received positive feedbacks from the participants.

"Tabletop exercises were conducted, they were divided into four groups and interacted with each other's, the four group were being given times to display their drills and exercise it helps them to



New staff recruits displaying their ISPS certificates

understand the main purpose of the training for execution at the port facility," he said

"It was an eye opener, to some extent, some of participant openly gave testimonies on being recruited to Solomon Ports and to attend such training, I expect

all participant to gradually but consistently improving in their assigned postings."

## SOLOMON PORTS LIGHTS UP NORO MARKET



Noro market beside Noro Port. Western Province

Solomon Ports has recently commissioned new solar lighting poles for Noro Market in the Western Province.

The opening ceremony was held on 31st July, which was graced by the Premier of Western Province, Hon. David Gina, and SIPA CEO Mr. Eranda Kotelawala and Noro town officials.

A total of nine solar light poles were constructed at the market to assist vendors and boost security at the market.

Speaking during the ceremony, Noro Port Manager, Captain Chris Sade said the new lights is a kind gesture from Solomon Ports to the citizens of Noro town.

He said the lights will not only benefit the public but also Noro Ports workers who are also regular users of the market.

Meanwhile, Hon. Premier David Gina was impressed with the solar lights gift, thanked Solomon Ports for the important contribution to the improvement of Noro township.

He said his government is deeply encouraged by this gesture of community responsibility.

"These are the sort of investments we need from our important stakeholders," he said.

"The western provincial government therefore will always be grateful for your assistance in ensuring Noro lives up to its reputation as the second international shipping port in Solomon Islands."



# Solomon Ports 45th PMTA Conference Postponed

This year's proposed 45th Pacific Maritime Transport Alliance Conference has officially been postponed to July next year 2021.

Solomon Ports was selected to be the host of this year's edition in Honiara.

Due to the current global pandemic caused by the COVID 19, the 45th PMTA conference cannot continue as scheduled for July 2020.

The restrictions on travel bans and the quarantine measures does not allow the event to proceed as normal.

Therefore, the 45th PMTA conference for the year 2020 has been cancelled, Solomon Ports 45th Hosting Committee will monitor the situation to confirm the likely date for the conference to happen.

After a brief discussion with the Pacific Maritime Transport Alliance executive committee, it was agreed that the 45th PMTA conference be schedule for the next 12 months, that means it will be on July 2021.

Solomon Ports hopes the current situation will change, and we will proceed with the conference on July 2021.



## NEW FUMIGATION VEHICLE

The Fumigation Department has recently welcomed its brand-new vehicle on August, adding to the growing number of Solomon Port's vehicle fleet.

The new vehicle was handed over by Chief Executive Officer Mr. Eranda Kotelawala to Assistant manager operation Mr. Wilfred Maefiri and witnessed by fumigation officers.

Fumigation Department now currently has 4 staff, which comprises of 1 supervisor and 3 fumigators, it is also the newest department within Solomon Ports.

Handing over the new vehicle, CEO Kotelawala urged Fumigation staff to take care and use the vehicle for the development of the Port.

He said the purpose of acquiring the vehicle was to improve fumigation services that the Port provides.

"We understand there are businesses doing this service and the competition is there, which the purpose of this vehicle is to venture into mobile fumigation as well."

Meanwhile, Assistant manager operation Mr Wilfred Maefiri thanked SIPA Management for recognizing his department's need.

Mr. Maefiri said the vehicle will improve the department in terms of helping the team to venture outside of the port control area to do fumigation should customers request them to fumigate their cargos in their yard areas before coming to port for export.

"Makes fumigations much easier for new customers with less containers for fumigations as we will be providing mobile services to their doorsteps based on their request," he said.

"We are trying to work together with Biosecurity Solomon's by providing better services up to the required



Assistant manager operation Mr. Wilfred Maefiri and staff pose in front of the new vehicle.

standard needed by AFAS as one of the only Certified and License AFAS provider in the Solomons. with that we can improve our services through mobile services using the new vehicle provided and to gain more revenue through

fumigation once all customers for fumigation comes to us for fumigation services both import and export."

# Solomon Ports signs MoU to assist small & medium exporters

Solomon Ports signed a MoU partnership for an innovative export initiative. The signing was made between the CEO Solomon Ports, Mr. Eranda Kotelawala, Branch Manager Express Freight Management; Mr. Ronaldo Isip, and Ueniusu'unu Agribusiness Group Mr. James Kana on the 5th of August.

The partnership paves the way for the collaboration to roll out the first of its kind pilot initiative; Less Than Container Load (LCL) Access to Export Markets Project, using innovative digital technology to address a significant bottleneck and barrier to export for small to medium farmers and growers across the Solomon Islands by enabling less than container load freight shipping from the Solomon Islands. The pilot project seeks to unlock shared container exports and connecting small-scale aggregators, exporters, and intermediaries to aggregate freight for the specialty overseas market.

The pilot will initially focus on improving the shipment of high value commodities, starting with cocoa. Key boutique exporters and their farmer networks in Guadalcanal have been identified to trial the sharing of container to premium cocoa markets.

The prototype LCL e-platform was developed in late 2019 and will be tested in the next 10 months.

This digital online platform offers an innovative tool for the market actors to trial a means of sharing information which will allow the process from farmer to export market timelier and more efficient.

This would revitalize the current intermediary model and supplement the lower end of the supply chain, targeting the reduction of constraints on information and coordination, costs and capacity, as well as opportunities and doable actions to improve freight and logistics for the agricultural sector in Solomon Islands.



CEO Solomon Ports, Mr. Eranda Kotelawala (right) Branch Manager Express Freight Management; Mr. Ronaldo Isip (left), and Ueniusu'unu Agribusiness Group Mr. James Kan (center).

Overall, this aims to create a digital platform that transforms the current process within the sea freight and logistics market, creating greater efficiency and transparency that will benefit all stakeholders.

Solomon Ports CEO, Eranda Kotelawala, thanked the partners and highlighted the importance of undertaking this initiative to support small and medium level exporters.

For every 5 containers that were imported into Solomon Islands full, only 1 will be exported out full. 4 containers are empty and remain at ports depot. This ratio is going to get worse given the current pandemic situation if major exports get further affected.

"The project hopes to address especially the challenges faced by Solomon Islands small

medium businesses and growers to export markets," he said.

"Currently it is only possible to ship full container load on sea freight and this is not commercially viable for them."

The LCL Project Manager, James Kana, acknowledged the support given by Solomon Ports and Express Freight Management for partnering with the Project in this pilot.

He said this was potentially a game-changer in the logistics and agribusiness sector in Solomon Islands as no one has ever trialed such initiative. "80% of Solomon Islanders live in rural areas; more than three quarters are households or smallholder farmer units engaged in various forms of agriculture as primary economic activity," Mr. Kana said.

## INDEPENDENCE GAMES A SUCCESS

Solomon Ports staff have successfully hosted the 2020 Independence Games at the SIPA Kukum Sports field.

A total of six teams comprising of staff from various departments started competitions from 29th June and ended on Independence Day 7th of July. The teams competed in three sports, which are dart, volleyball, and soccer (Football).

For soccer, team white claimed the first prize and were awarded a cash prize of \$2500, Grey claimed second spot with a cash prize of \$2000, and team Blue settled on third place with \$1500.

For volleyball, team yellow came out as champions, walking away with \$2000, team Red came in second place with \$1500, and team Blue again settled for third place with \$1000.

For Dart, team Green were the champions, and were awarded \$2000, team White came in second place with \$1500, and team Blue and Yellow shared third place and were each given \$1100.

Teams who missed out on the top spots all received consolation prizes of \$1000.

Ronald Fugui from the organizing committee thanked staff members who made it to the games and hopes next year's games will see more staff coming out to join.

"This year's independence games were well organized. We have majority of staffs that involved in the games," he said.

"The version of this year's games was better than the past year's games."



Team Green and Team Grey in action during their volleyball match.



# SOLOMON PORTS RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM RED CROSS



Solomon Ports has received a 'Certificate of Appreciation' from the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society in recognition of valuable contribution in support of their fundraising initiative.

The award was handed over to SIPA's chief executive officer Mr. Eranda Kotelawala by the SI Red Cross General Secretary Clement Manuri at SIPA headquarters in Honiara on Wednesday 19th August. The certificate was purposely to thank Solomon Ports for selecting Red Cross in providing lunch catering service for its staff since the start of this year.

Red Cross now provides lunch boxes to SIPA workers for every working days.

This ongoing support by Solomon Ports to continue to allocate this catering service to Red Cross also comes at a right time, especially with the current financial constraints faced by non-profitable Organisation, instilled by the global Covid-19 Pandemic.

Speaking during the brief handover ceremony, SI Red Cross Secretary General Mr. Clement Manuri thanked Solomon Ports for continuing to trust the catering services they provide, which will assist their finances in ensuring they continue their essential work around the country.

Mr. Manuri said apart from many of their agreements, this agreement with Solomon Ports was one of the important ones they have. He said in the past they mostly depend on public and external

donations, but with the emergence of Covid-19, this has become a challenge.

"What we get from this support is that it will help us continue our programs, especially with blood donations, which we know Solomon Ports is one of our good donors as well," he said.

"We also have our volunteers out in the provinces doing Covid-19 awareness as well, which we thank Solomon Ports for trusting our service which will help us with our work."

Meanwhile Solomon Ports CEO, Mr. Kotelawala said he was very pleased with the feedback from his staff on the satisfactory service provided by Red Cross.

Mr. Kotelawala said he was pleased that this catering service will not only improve their cash flow but will largely maintain the good work they are doing around the country.

He said both SIPA and Red Cross will benefit from this service, as the catering service Red Cross has seen the introduction of much healthier diet for SIPA staff, which will promote a healthier lifestyle.

"What I request of Red Cross is to continue the good service you providing and continue to improve as well," he said.

"In future we need your assistance and recommendations on the types of food or diets that our staff should eat in order to maintain a healthy life."



# New Look, New Colours

