

HEADLINES

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SIPA TURNS 65



SIPA's Deputy Chairman, Mike Wate, CEO Mr. Eranda Kotelawala, and long serving staff cutting the 65th anniversary cake.



SIPA staff looking through historical photograph on display



Staff during the event.

Solomon Ports staff celebrated the 65th Anniversary at Honiara Port on the 4th of June, Point Cruz, Honiara.

Staff, Management, Executive and Board of Directors took part in an event, where speeches, cutting of the anniversary cake and staff testimonies were conducted to mark the event.

The Port was established in June 1956 as the 'British Solomon Islands Protectorate Ports Authority', and was initially established to export Logs and Copra, two of the country's major commodities at that time.

Over the years the Port has established itself as one of the top SOE's in the country, and a leading port in the Pacific Region.

As part of the event, longest serving staff also took time to share their stories on their journey oin the Port, their experiences and future aspirations for the Port.

Chief Executive Officer Mr. Eranda Kotelawala gave the keynote address, encouraging all staff to reflect on the journey SIPA had over the last 65 years, successes and future aspirations.

As part of commemorating the anniversary, a photo exhibition was also organized for the public to learn about the role of SIPA, history and functions, its contributions to the development of the country over the last 65 years.

SIPA THROUGH THE YEARS



DOMESTIC TERMINAL UPGRADE TAKES STRIDE



SIPA Chairman Johnny Sy poses in front of the design concept board with Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Maelanga.

Solomon Ports this year on July commissioned the new 'Domestic Terminal Exit Gatehouse and officially unveiled the design concept of the proposed new 'Domestic Terminal Building'.

Officially commissioned on July 6th, the new Exit Gatehouse now adds to the ongoing efforts of SIPA to modernize the domestic terminal and improve shipping services for port users.

Adding to that, Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Maelanga, who was the chief guest during the commissioning event, was also given the honor of unveiling the concept design for the new proposed domestic terminal.

The proposed three storied building will host several services that port users can use while waiting to board domestic vessels.

The first floor will host cafés, and shops, while the second will host a public viewing gallery, and ticketing offices, and the third-floor feature offices.

The building will cost over SBD\$30 million and is fully funded by SIPA, also designed by a local Architectural

firm, Raoto'o Architectural Services.

Speaking during the event, Deputy PM Maelanga expressed the government's acknowledgement and appreciation on the steps SIPA is taking to improve the Port of Honiara.

Mr. Maelanga said the new domestic terminal exit gatehouse and ongoing developments at the domestic terminal will surely ease the movement of people using the Port to travel in and out of the capital city.

Meanwhile SIPA Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Eranda Kotelawala said these new developments will improve the standard of Honiara Port, and will make Honiara Port a model Port in the Pacific Region.

Mr. Kotelawala said for the last 50 years, the port has been without a proper domestic terminal facility.

He said the new facilities were aimed at improving efficiency and service delivery to port users.

Work on the proposed new domestic terminal building is expected to commence soon.



The concept design of the proposed new Domestic Terminal building.



SIPA Staff pose in front of the newly opened domestic terminal exit gatehouse.



Guests visiting inside the new domestic terminal exit gatehouse.



Aerial view of the new Exit gatehouse.



SIPA Chairman Johnny Sy, cuts the ribbon with Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Maelanga to open the new exit gatehouse.



SIPA HOSTS SCHOOL SPEECH AND ARTS CONTEST



CEO Eranda Kotelawala hands over a certificate to a student.



A student presenting her speech during the event.

Solomon Ports in July held an Arts and Speech Contest to mark this year's World Environment Day.

Six schools who are part of SIPA's Green Port initiative and 3 Rs Campaign took part in the contest.

Students took time to deliver inspiring and informative speeches about saving the environment and displayed artworks depicting the plight of Climate Change in the Solomon Islands.

Awards were also given out to the winning students, with parents, fellow students, and teachers in attendance.

This was the first ever for SIPA to conduct such school competition.

Over two hundred of paintings and speeches were submitted by the students of

mainly, St. John, St. Nicholas, Woodford International school, Tamalan, Coronation and Florence Young Christian School.

Staff from the Ministry of Environment, BJS, and Solomon Islands Climate Action Network also gave information sessions during the event to the students on how they can play their part at their level to save the environment.

SIPA Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Eranda Kotelawala as the guest of honor for the event, took time to thank schools and students for responding to the port's request to take part in the contest and to spread the message of protecting the environment.

He said SIPA as a port is championing the green port initiative in the region and country, is also pleased to extend this

initiative to schools, and to ensure children take part in protecting the environment.

"The Message we want to send to all our kids and schools is about how we can play our part and role in saving the environment," he said.

"It is encouraging to see young kids and students already have good ideas on what is Climate Change and what activities are harming the environment, and I would also encourage all of you to start practicing good waste management techniques at home and in your schools."

Mr. Kotelawala said SIPA is currently working on spreading the message of saving the environment and proper waste management in Honiara and will be extending this to schools in the provinces next.



SIPA staff Ashley Vasula ,answering questions from members of the public.



SIPA staff , Lowen Sei, talking with members of the public who visited the stall.



Kids watching SIPA promotional videos on display.



PM Sogavare during his visit to the SIPA stall

SIPA ATTENDS GUADALCANAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Solomon Ports recently attended the annual 42nd Second appointed Day of Guadalcanal Province at Marau Sound, East Guadalcanal, in August.

A three-man team went behalf of the port to attend the four-day celebrations, where a mini festival was also held to commemorate the Guadalcanal day celebrations.

This is the first ever for SIPA to take part in such big provincial day celebrations and at such rural settings, which was made possible after the Guadalcanal provincial government sent an invitation to SIPA to attend the event.

The SIPA team comprises of Events Coordinator and Public Relations Officer Ethel Suinao, Energy and Utility Management officer Ashley Vasula, and Web media officer Lowen Sei.

The team took time to utilize the opportunity to carry

awareness talks on the roles and functions of SIPA to rural villagers, carry out awareness on current initiatives and future for the port.

The celebration's guest of honour, the Prime Minister Hon,Manasseh Sogavare also made a brief visit to the SIPA stall, and took time to have a chat with the SIPA staff.

Scores of villagers and people of Marau Sound, East Guadalcanal really took interest in the ports stall, where people took time to visit the SIPA stall and ask questions to waiting SIPA staff.

The event organizers also gave SIPA a time slot during the official program to give a talk about SIPA on stage.

Events Coordinator and Public Relations officer Ethel Suinao, said the event was a successful one, since the turnout of people to the SIPA stall was overwhelming.

NEW ADMIN STAFF



CLIFTON MARK
Finance Manager



DAVID OLI
Senior Property Officer



GEORGE FIURAMO
Human Resources Officer



MOFFAT GAGAHE
IT Support Officer (Noro)



MELVINA SIKAPU
Human Resources Officer

New Staff updates

Since June to August, a total of 13 new staff joined SIPA. This consists of 12 males, and only one female staff. A total of eight are in the Engineering department, two new Human Resources Officers , three Security Officers, one new Finance , and one New IT staff.



INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING UPDATE

Despite the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, international maritime trade and shipping services continues as usual at the Honiara Port, and Noro Port in the Western province.

From the months of June to August, a total of 63 international vessels called into Honiara Port and Noro Port.

23 of these vessels were container carriers, 9 fuel tankers, 3 Gas Tankers, 3 Oil Palm Tankers, 16 General Cargo /log ships, 2 landing crafts, 1 warship, and 6 fishing vessels.

Our harbor and operations team continues to ensure schedules are handled efficiently.

With the ongoing Covid-19 situation, our harbors team are

taking all precautionary measures to ensure service continues as usual but work in accordance with Covid prevention procedures.

Staff boarding the international vessels follow strict procedures before boarding, such as temperature checks, and ensuring all are equipped with PPE.

Solomon Ports will continue to work with authorities to ensure international vessels visiting the port mas adhere to health regulations to ensure maritime trading carries unabated, while preventing Covid-19 from entering the country through the port.



Workers working on the jetties.

JETTIES UNDERGO REPAIRS

Work is now in progress over the past months to repair old jetties at the Domestic Terminal.

The Jetty under repair is the 'Wate Jetty', next to the unity Square flagpole and entrance gatehouse.

According to SIPA's Chief Port Engineer, Ronald Ivupitu , said the repairs are mainly on replacement of Bollards and Fenders.

He said there will also be some minor structural changes , but the main aim was to ensure the jetties are repaired and maintained to ensure ships can berth safely and also safe for passengers to use as well.



NEW JETTIES CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Solomon Ports is continuing its ongoing improvement of the Domestic Terminal at the Honiara Port, Point Cruz.

Earlier in August, a ground-breaking ceremony was held to mark the commencement of construction of four new jetties, which is just next to the Kwalemanu jetty, right behind the Hyundai Mall.

Work on the first Jetty has now commenced, with our engineering team now currently doing sheet piling and land reclamation works on site. The new jetties will be 50 meters in length and 12 meters in width, which is larger than the existing jetties.

This is to better facilitate the number of vessels using the domestic terminal.

SIPA Chief Engineer Ronald Ivupitu said the sizes of domestic ships using the domestic jetties are getting larger every year, with the current one measuring 63 meters.

He said the idea of increasing the size of the jetties was to allow more maneuverability for both vessels, and port users during ship operations.

“The existing jetties are a bit narrow, but the new jetties will be wider, which can allow two vehicles to enter at the same time”, he said.

“This will allow faster loading and unloading so that ships can leave quickly, which will save time as well.” The proposed new domestic jetties’ access will include paved roads with proper sufficient car parks as well as resting areas for passengers, as well as specialized parking areas for individuals with disabilities.

Other road furnitures will also be included such as road cross-ings, resting benches, streetlights, and plants.

The jetty under construction is self-funded by SIPA, and will cost SBD\$28 million, which includes the onshore developments.

Other works and repairs on existing jetties are also underway, these are mainly to replace the fenders and bollards. Construction on the first jetty and onshore features will last eight to ten months, meaning the new jetty is expected be completed and commissioned in mid-2022.

SIPA is continuing with the domestic terminal upgrades with the aim of improving port facilities and services to port users traveling out to the islands.

Last month, the domestic terminal exit’s two storied gate-house was also completed, and saw the unveiling of the proposed plan of the new Domestic Terminal Building.

SIPA Media Unit

**For more details on this edition please
contact SIPA WebMedia officer, Lowen Sei.**

**Phone: 42336 Mobile: 7845619
Email: lsei@sipa.com.sb**