#### Solomon **SOLOMON PORTS 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW** Ports

Solomon Islands Ports Authority, trading as Solomon Ports, is the oldest State-Owned Entity in the country, and one of the best Ports in the Pacific region. With our progressive and innovative solutions to improving the maritime trading and transportation sector in Solomon Islands, we have seen continuous growth and development in our service delivery this year. Despite the ongoing onslaught of the global Covid-19 pandemic this year, that has brought drastic impacts to the global maritime trading sector, our services remained resilient, and we continue to deliver as per our mandated duty to this country. This year has seen great success and progress for the Port, flanked by numerous completed infrastructure projects and initiatives, this year was a success. We take a look back at some of the key highlights and areas of success SIPA has done for this year 2021.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY**



## **65 YEARS OF SERVICE**

2021 also marked the 65th Anniversary of SIPA as a port and as the nation's longest serving State owned Enterprise (SOE). From what that started as a Copra loading harbor to the country's major trading gateway to the world, Solomon Ports has surely come a long way. From what was then known as the 'British Solomon Islands Protectorate Ports Authority', to now as one of the leading and most vibrant ports in the South Pacific. The Solomon Islands Ports Authority, now trading as Solomon Ports was first established on June 4th, 1956, during the British Colonial era in the Solomon Islands.On its first year, there were only 5 office staff and about 120 local laborers, now the port employs over 500 staff, and an all-local executive team, and we are proud to be locally owned and operated. One of the main reasons for the

annum. Throughout the years, the Ports' transformation and development has also contributed to the economic drive of the country, through facilitating international and domestic trade. Over the recent years, through our partnerships with global maritime trading partners and other regional ports, SIPA is on its way to leading the maritime trading environment in the pacific region, and as the Pacific's gateway to the world.Our modern initiatives to ensure the Port remains sustainable, and operated efficiently has been recognized globally, especially on our efforts to ensure the port consistently meets international standards. The 65th Annivessary celebration this year was commemorated on the 4th of June at the Unity Square, and was attended by all SIPA staff, and board of directors. The event featured speeches from long serving SIPA staff, who took the



# **RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF SUCCESS**



and private sector. This was SIPA's first time to enter the Business Excellence Awards since its inception and was selected as a winner amongst 54 other submissions.



This year Solomon Ports continues to gain positive lighting system for Noro Port in the western province, strides in the rollout of its Green Port Initiative. Noro Port becomes the second Port after Honiara We began the year with the donation of over 10 Port, in the region to be equipped with this state-ofused heavy machineries to the Solomon Islands the-art lighting systems, which will improve services National University's Automotive Engineering at Noro Port dramatically, allowing operations Department in January, this is part of our corporate to continue 24/7, and promoting efficiency in responsibility and reusing strategy, which instead of selling, were donated to SINU students and to offer them firsthand experience with such sophisticated Adding to this year's success for SIPA, was winning the despite the ongoing global pandemic instilled by Covid-19 machines. Also, In January also saw the launch of 2021 Business Excellence Awards' 'Large Business of SIPA has continued to be resilient this year as one of the our '3 Rs' campaign, when SIPA engaged 7 schools in the year award' in November this year. The award was most profitable SOE's in the country and is proud to be awarded to SIPA by the Solomon Islands Chamber of local, with 99.9% of it's staff being locals. SIPA prides itself Honiara to take part in, this campaign involves the Commerce in recognition of SIPA's ongoing success as a catalyst in facilitating growth in the country's private development of waste collection sites in school by and outstanding contribution to the country's public sector. Since the Covid-19 Pandemic emerged in early 2020, SIPA, and awareness on how to practice Reducing, SIPA prioritized giving local businesses a shot at success, Reusing, and Recycling of wastes at school and at through increasing the number of contracts to locals. This home, which the campaign is still active and will vear SIPA has injected more than \$150 Million back to the Flanked by numerous successful developments in local economy in the form's wages for its workers and to further extend to the provinces soon. In May, SIPA improving infrastructure, and overall service delivery service providers who are essential to the ports operations also completed and commissioned the mega LED

#### **COVID-19 RESILIENCE**

This year the Global Pandemic instilled by Covid-19 has hit hard on economies around the world, fortunately Maritime trading continued despite the many challenges brought in by Covid-19 inspired lockdowns. Since the pandemic emerged in 2019, Solomon Ports has developed strategies and solutions to ensure no transmission comes through the port of Honiara and Noro. These strategies include the development and completion of an 'Emergency Response Compound', which can house over 80 staff during the event of a lockdown, the facility is already in use throughout this year and will be used to ensure the Port remains operational during or if a lockdown is ordered by authorities. This year all our front-line staff have been equipped with PPEs, and strict Covid-19 protocols were also practiced by our staff when boarding foreign cargo vessels. We have also acquired cabin sanitizers to used by our stevedores when working aboard foreign vessels, we also continue to work closely with the Government, especially the Ministry of Health to ensure Covid-19 is not transmitted through the port, which so far, the results have been in our favor. Our strategic response to the pandemic has ensured the local economy continues, and we have remained resilient in the midst of the pandemic, ensuring Solomon Islands remains connected with the outside world.

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Port operations. SIPA also extended the Green Port Initiative to the provinces, already SIPA had donated and brought electricity to Madili Primary school in Western province, Sepi Village in Isabel province, Street Lights for Tulagi township, and has already identified communities in need of Solar power in other provinces, which SIPA will continue to roll out next year. SIPA continues to engage communities around our islands to understand the importance of using green sustainable energy to mitigate the impacts of climate change.