



# HEADLINES

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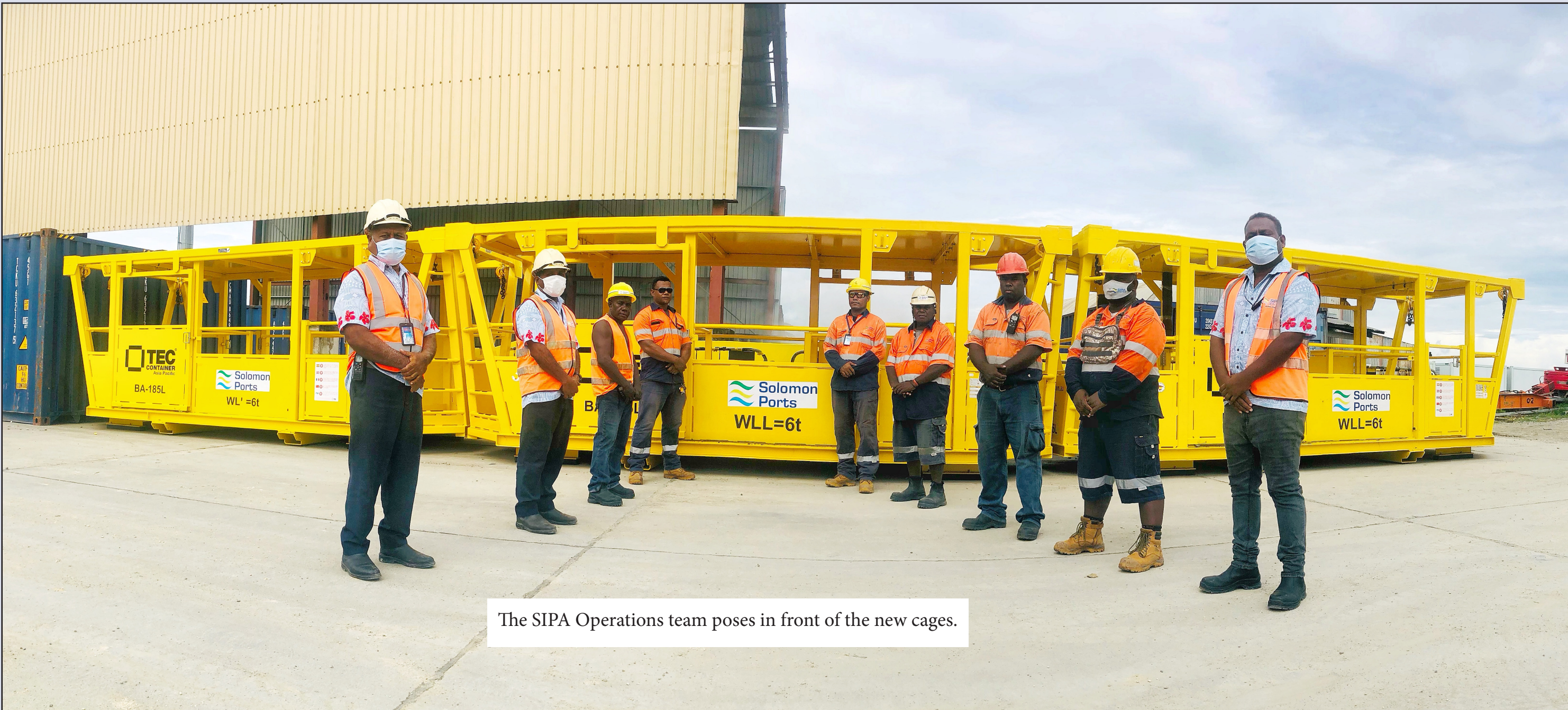
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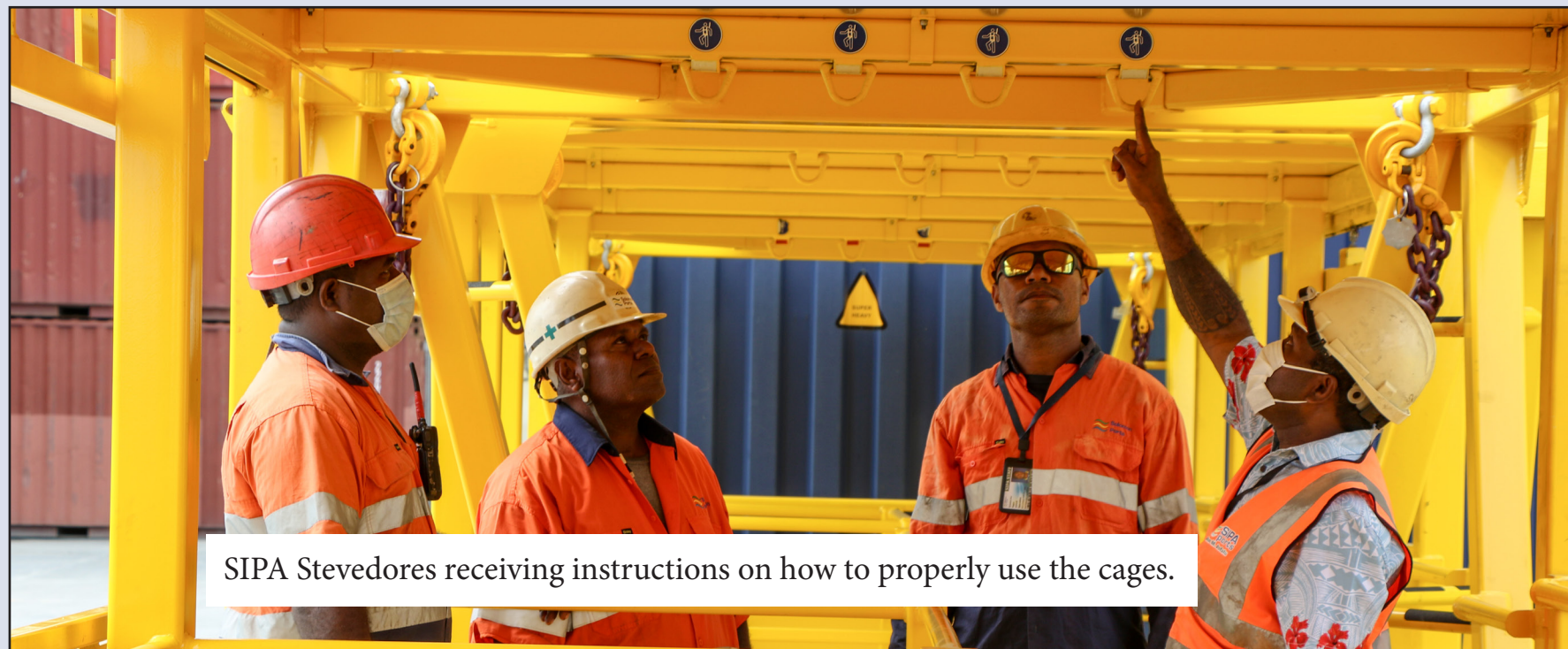
# New modern 'Lashing cages' for Stevedores



The SIPA Operations team poses in front of the new cages.



Operations Managers pose in front of the new cages.



SIPA Stevedores receiving instructions on how to properly use the cages.

Solomon Ports has recently welcomed the arrival of three new modern 'Lashing Cages' at Honiara International Port.

This is the first time for SIPA to use such equipment, and the second Port in the Pacific Region to have such equipment in its operation.

These lifting cages are designed and will be used to improve the safety of the stevedores and facilitate access to container twist locks, further optimizing the process of cargo operations.

It will be used during shipping operations to lift stevedores onto vessels when unlocking containers for unloading and lowering stevedores into cargo holds safely.

The cages were acquired from 'TEC Container' in Spain, and, it has a Capacity of 4 persons with complete working equipment. It has Anti-slip floors, and a Double safety system, can be used 'Automatically' by using the twist locks of the spreader, and 'Manually' by using chains with hooks from inside the cage.

Last week the stevedore staff were introduced to the lifting cages and were given a tour /inspection of the cages.

A presentation was also carried out to allow the stevedores to

familiarize themselves with the cages and were shown a video instruction from the cage's manufacturer on instruction on how to use the cages properly.

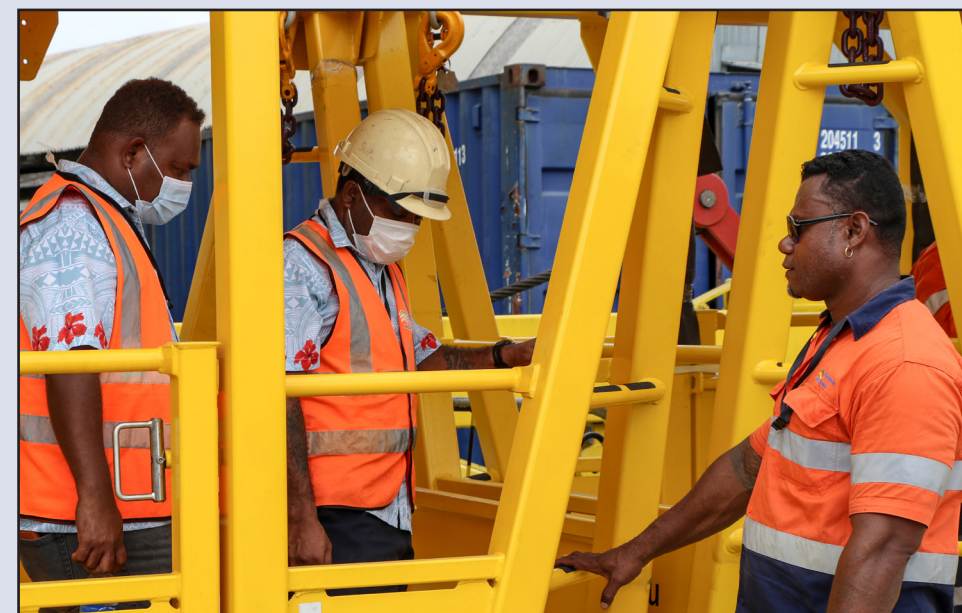
Chief Executive Officer Mr. Eranda Kotelawala was also present during the presentation, alongside SIPA's Operation managers, where he encouraged the stevedoring staff to take pride on the new equipment and must continue to exercise safety procedures when working on board vessels.

The SIPA Stevedore staff will be further trained on how to use the equipment before the cages will go into operation. Meanwhile, the Manager Operations Stevedoring, Mr. John Irofa'alu said the addition of the new equipment will further improve the working condition of his staff.

He said the new cages will also ensure safety during ship operations and will enhance the efficiency of stevedores when unloading and loading of cargoes to container vessels.

"These new cages are indeed a boost for our team, we will continue to ensure our staff carry out their duties onboarded vessels with safety and efficiency," he said.

"I believe it will offer a safer working environment for the stevedores and will allow them to be comfortable when carrying out their duties."





# SIPA finalist again in top Global Awards



Solomon Ports’ ‘Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Community project’ has been nominated as a finalist for the 2022 International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) Sustainability Awards, under the “Community Building” category.

This was announced by the IAPH last week after a successful evaluation by their Jury of experts, which now catalogues 237 port projects applying UN Sustainable Development Goals in practice.

Solomon Port’s now joins only three (3) other major global ports as finalists in the ‘Community Building Category’, which includes Riga Port of Latvia, and Johor Port of Malaysia.

SIPA’s submission for the awards was based on its ‘Green Port initiative’s extension to rural communities around the country, through the provision of solar power projects to 6 communities around the country, mainly in Western Province, Isabel

Province, Central province, and Honiara. This was also SIPA’s second time to be named finalist in the awards, making it the only Port in the Pacific to be selected twice as finalist in such prestigious global maritime transportation awards.

A total of 53 port and collaborative projects entered the awards this year, raising the total port projects entry to 237, with the winners to be announced at the upcoming IAPH World Ports Conference on 17 May in Vancouver, Canada.

In a recent statement by the IAPH Technical Director Antonis Michail in March, said that the IAPH was grateful to all the member ports that submitted projects for this year’s competition and wished good luck to all participants.

“Once again, the high quality of entries poses a difficult, yet inspiring challenge to the members of our experts’ jury who will be evaluating and scoring the projects up until March 18,

,”he said.

“After we will submit top three projects for public voting in each of the six categories of the Awards, namely Climate and Energy, Environmental Care, Community Building, Infrastructure, Digitalization, and Health, Safety and Security.”

The outcome of the jury evaluation (70%) and that of the public vote (30%), will co-determine the six final winners per category, as there are six categories in the awards this year.

This year the IAPH expert jury tasked with assessing the IAPH Sustainability Awards for 2022 has increased in both numbers and diversity.

With the addition of port experts from China and Venezuela, representation for Asia and Latin America has been added to the eclectic mix. Academia, non-governmental organizations, research institutes, media, shipping, and former port executive management are all represented.

As for the work behind SIPA’s submission for the awards, the port embarked on this initiative to support rural communities by providing sustainable energy for those who previously could not access any form of energy.


Solomon Ports has already reached out to communities across Solomon Islands, with 5 communities already being the first recipients of our initiative, providing lights to over a hundred families. These major community lighting projects include Tulagi Town streetlight, Madili School lighting, Noro Market, Sepi Village community hall, and Common streetlights.

More Communities have already been identified across all the 9 provinces, which our team will be implementing this year.


With the aim of becoming a Zero Emission Port by 2030, Solomon Ports has endeavored to promote and build a social cohesion towards establishing renewable energy for rural communities in the Solomon Islands.

Solomon Ports also takes pride in investing in its communities to achieve this goal by assisting them with solar outfits, installation and maintenance and creating awareness on the importance of using renewable energy for a sustainable community.

## MEET OUR NEW STAFF



**NAME: AUGUSTINE WALEKA.**  
**TITLE: PROPERTY OFFICER.**  
**HONIARA PORT**



**NAME: FRED BOAZ**  
**TITLE: SENIOR MECHANIC .**  
**NORO PORT**



# SIPA MAINTAINING RESILIENCE IN COVID TIMES



SIPA Nurses working alongside Ministry of Health Nurses in carrying out testing at SIPA compound.

With the community transmission of Covid-19 early this year on January, SIPA management ensured their response plans were implemented to ensure the port remained operational during the pandemic.

On January 23 after the announcement of the first ever Covid-19 related Lockdown, staff were placed on work rotations, and some were tasked to work from home.

These were steps to ensure the port maintains its operations during the community transmission. Staff were able to return to normal duties in February after the government announced the scale down of regulations.

Staff were also tested during these time periods, where staff who were positive were isolated, and staff who were tested negative were required to practice covid-19 safety protocols when going or at work.

In April, after working together with the Ministry of Health in carrying out tests on Staff, SIPA acquired its own “Rapid Antigen Testing kits”, over 500 in total.

Where tests were able to be carried out at the SIPA Clinic on a daily basis, where staff were rapidly tested, and quick actions were taken to isolate staff who are positive and those who tested negative continued work as usual but were required to follow strict Covid-19 prevention when entering the offices and all SIPA facilities.

As part of assisting the national government to tackle the impacts of the pandemic in Honiara, SIPA also stepped in to provide 15 tons of Rice to national government, which was distributed Honiara residents by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.



A SIPA Staff gets tested for Covid-19.



A SIPA Staff wearing face Mask while on duty.



Handover of Rice to be distributed in Honiara during lockdown.



# SIPA FAREWELLS LONG SERVING STAFF



SIPA CFO cuts the farewell cake alongside the retirees



Sam Ratu receives his Certificate of Recognition



Martin Heti receives his Certificate of Recognition



Stanley Nabe receives his Certificate of Recognition

Solomon Islands Ports Authority (SIPA) have farewelled three long serving staff who have reached retirement age, at the SIPA headquarters in Dowling Street, Honiara.

Despite the surging threat of Covid-19, a simple but touching ceremony was held at the SIPA Auditorium, to recognize and acknowledge the staff for their long service and dedication to the Port over the years.

The retirees are Martin Heti, who is the Warehouse supervisor who has served the Port for 40 years, Sam Ratu who is the Senior Cashier who served the port for 30 years, and Stanley Nabe who is an Ancillary staff who served the Port for the last 8 years.

They retirees were presented with certificates of recognition by the Human Resources Department and SIPA management representatives. A small refreshment and cutting of a farewell cake was also done to mark the occasion.

The three retirees were also took the time and opportunity to share a few words on their experience with SIPA over the years, and thanking the Port for its support to them and their families over the years.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a limited number of staff were only present to witness the occasion, where the retirees were given the honor of delivering speeches, reflecting on their journey with the port for the last 40 years.

SIPA's Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Georgia Rausi was given the

honour of giving the official acknowledgement on behalf of the Port to the retirees for their long service.

He said although the event was small, it was very meaningful in recognizing the retirees' contribution to SIPA.

He said the three retirees have displayed 'distinction, loyalty, and dedication' to the port for the past decades, which has seen them rise above their ranks over the years.

"You can't last in any company if you don't perform, or follow the work culture, or what the company expects of you, but I'm very happy to say that these three retirees have served the port faithfully which has seen them stay that long until today," he said.

"You have seen the Port's transformation, and development over the years and decades, and you are part of these changes, so you are able to leave the port today with your heads held high, because you have served SIPA faithfully through your work ethic," he said.

Mr. Rausi then acknowledged the retirees on behalf of the board management and staff of SIPA, for their dedication and contribution to the port.

SIPA's Human Resources Manager Rolland Delemani also gave his acknowledgment on behalf of the SIPA's HR Department to the retirees, thanking them for their service and good record with the Port. The retirees are set to retire this month (April).



Speeches during the farewell Ceremony



Staff pose for a group photo with the Retirees.



# GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR RETIREES



## **Sam Ratu** **Senior Cashier**

I joined SIPA in 1992, and was first employed as a driver , where I served in that role for a couple of years. Around 2000 during the Ethnic Tension, the Financial Controller during that time, moved me to the assist our Cashiers where I served under my supervisors. Despite my education background, I was hungry to learn more about my new role, and learn from the experiences of my supervisors, which eventually I was promoted to the senior Cashier role in 2014. I'm so thankful to be part of SIPA for the last 30 years, and I believe it is God's plan to put me here at SIPA. SIPA has over the years been very grateful to me and my family, in terms of its support and giving me the opportunity. As I leave, SIPA will always be a legacy that I will forever treasure in my heart.



## **Stanley Nabe** **Ancillary Staff**

I joined SIPA in 2006 when I came from East Malaita to Honiara to search for better job opportunities, initially I was first employed as a casual worker back then, I worked in that role up until 2014 when I became a permanent. My first job here was with 'Container Washing', where I served for 5 years and then moved on to Ancillary. SIPA has helped me in so many ways, especially in terms of providing for my family. I've made so many friends here who come from different language groups and islands, and have many good memories with my colleagues, I really enjoyed all those times here at SIPA, which will stay with me for the rest of my life. Even though I will retire, I will still be around to visit the Port and visit my friends who will still be working with SIPA for the years to come.



## **Martin Heti** **Warehouse Supervisor**

I joined SIPA in March 1982 and have been with the Port for 40 years. I joined when I was still a teenager straight out of High School , and first worked in the Warehouse sheds, after a couple of years I then was transferred to another operations role as a Timekeeper, which was mainly collecting data for ship operations, after that I was then shifted to as a Stevedoring Supervisor, then shifted again to 'Container Hygiene as a supervisor, and then years later I went back to being in charge of the sheds and warehouse. SIPA is my home because I spent most of my time here at work. As the longest serving staff at SIPA, I've seen how the Port has greatly transformed and developed over the years. Being at SIPA for that long, I've learnt that having the right attitude is the key to success, even though if you're educated or highly qualified and you don't have the right attitude, your career will not last long. I thank you for the good memories at this Port, the lessons and experiences , the friendships that I have created over the years here will stay with me forever.



# SIPA Lights up Tulaghi



Central Province Premier Hon. Stanley Manetiva poses in front of one of the unveiled new street lights, flanked by SIPA CFO, Mr. George Rausi (2nd right), SIPA Harbour Master Captain. Percy Biliki (far right).



The handover and commissioning Ceremony Venue under one of the new street lights.



Premier Manetiva handing over traditional gifts to the visiting SIPA team.



SIPA CFO, Mr George Rausi giving his keynote address.

Solomon Islands Ports Authority on April 15 officially handed over newly constructed state-of-the-art modern Street Solar light poles to the Central Provincial Government, and the people of Tulaghi Township, Central Province.

The official handover and unveiling of the new streetlights was held at the Tulaghi Market, where it was attended by members of the Central Islands Provincial Assembly, SIPA Delegation, and the Tulaghi public.

Central Province Premier, Hon. Stanley Manetiva was the guest of honor during the ceremony, where he was given the honor of unveiling the new streetlights, along with SIPA Chief Financial Officer, Mr. George Rausi, and Harbour Master, Captain Percy Biliki.

A total of six poles, standing at 7 meters each, outfitted with double arm LED lights, and powered by a double 150 watts solar panels each were erected along the main Tulaghi street.

The streetlights donation is part of SIPA's Green Port Initiative, where the Port is continuously reaching out to communities around the country in providing light and energy from solar-powered lighting systems.

Prior to the construction of these new streetlights, residents

in Tulaghi say their street was always dark at night, but now they say they can enjoy the benefits of the lights, especially in terms of the continuation of socioeconomical activities at night, and the safety for people to walk around the town at night.

The lights were constructed and completed in November last year, but the recent December riots and the recent community transmission of Covid-19, forced SIPA to move the commissioning program to this month.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, Central Province Premier Hon. Stanley Manetiva thanked SIPA for the partnership in introducing new high-tech streetlights in Tulaghi.

He said direct beneficiaries of this project will not only be the people of Tulaghi alone, but visitors and other people of the province who regularly visit the township for various purposes.

"I stand here on behalf of my people to thank Solomon Ports for the partnership in leading the way in promoting renewable energy through its corporate vision," he said. "Not only these new lights are a facelift for the town, but we wish to commend the seriousness and commitment of SIPA in reaching out to people in the provinces."

Meanwhile, speaking on behalf of SIPA, Chief Financial Officer Mr. George Rausi acknowledged the provincial government for working together with SIPA to ensure the completion of this solar project on time.

He said since 2019 SIPA has been reaching out to communities around the country, to promote the use of Green clean renewable energy harnessed from the sun, bringing light to hundreds of families and households in Western, Isabel, and now Central Province.

"This initiative was carried out to reduce the Port's reliance on diesel fuel and manage energy costs, since the initiative was adopted by SIPA in 2017, the Port has been efficient in reducing carbon emissions and managing energy costs," he said.

"We are glad to include Central Province and Tulaghi in this initiative and we hope these solar streetlights will be used and fully utilized by the good people of Tulaghi."

In acknowledging the donation of the new streetlights, the Central provincial government also presented traditional gifts to the visiting SIPA delegation in recognizing their initiative in fully funding this street solar lights project.



# SIPA SHARES EASTER SPIRIT WITH HOSPITAL SICK PATIENTS



SIPA staff who were part of the visit pose for a group photo.

Solomon Ports Management, and staff on Easter Sunday visited patients at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara as part of this year’s Easter Celebrations.

Due to strict Covid-19 regulations, only 15 staff were present for the visit, where they shared prayers and Easter songs with patients.

As part of the celebrations, SIPA provided special Lunch and Dinner for all NRH patients, which is around 300 beds in total.

During the visit, staff took time to also prepare special treats for the patients, which ranges from all ages, who are currently admitted at the hospital.

SIPA staff also took the opportunity to share a few moments with the patients, sharing few words of prayers and encouragement, also sharing awareness on the role

of SIPA in the country, how important the port is for the country’s economy and other key areas not properly understood by most people in the public.

SIPA Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Eranda Kotelawala was also present to speak on behalf of the visiting SIPA team, which also consists of some members of the SIPA management staff as well.

Speaking during the visit, Mr. Kotelawala thanked the NRH for giving SIPA the opportunity in reaching out to sick patients and providing these meals for them during this Easter season.

He said it was a blessing for SIPA staff to be part of visit and to get in touch with sick patients during these tough times.

In return, the NRH Nutrition Team also acknowledged

SIPA’s initiative to provide meals during such occasions, for thinking of the patients, and being there with them in person.

Over the past year’s SIPA has been continuously active during important events in the country’s calendar, in carrying out visits to the Hospital and giving gifts and donations to sick patients, especially during Christmas and Easter.

All staff who were part of the visit were all tested negative for Covid-19 earlier yesterday, before they were allowed in the Hospital, and were only allowed in one ward due to the Covid-19 regulations at the hospital.

See Photo highlights of the visit below.

