



# HEADLINES

VOLUME 10 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SOLOMON PORTS

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## NEW LANDMARK PROJECTS FOR HONIARA PORT

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# New landmark projects for Honiara port



Solomon Ports marked another major achievement, with the opening a New 'International Terminal Entry overhead Gatehouse', New Harbors and Enforcement building, Groundbreaking of the new Domestic Terminal Building, and Unveiling of proposed SIPA 'Kukum Plaza' on 11 November.

This was yet another major step in the development of the Port, and the improvement of service delivery to Port users and the people of Solomon Islands.

The Guest of honor for the event was the Honorable Prime Minister, Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, joined by Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Maelanga, Honiara City Lord Mayor Eddie Siapu, heads of the diplomatic missions, Paramount Chief of the Tandai House of Chiefs, Chief Peter Saghelivera, Shipping operators and agents, and the SIPA staff.

The day started with the groundbreaking ceremony of the new Domestic terminal site, where the Prime Minister was joined by SIPA CEO Mr. Eranda Kotelawala, and SIPA Board Chairman, Mr. Johnny Sy, in officially commencing the construction of the new domestic terminal building.

The new Domestic Terminal will be

a three storied building, where it will contain ticketing offices, office space, cafeterias, shopping areas, and other new features to reduce inconvenience for people travelling via vessels out into the islands and provinces.

Prime Minister Sogavare was then invited and proceeded to also commission the new modern 'Overhead Entry Gatehouse' to the international terminal, where he was also given a tour inside the new facility to witness its new features and meet staff who will be manning the entry of container trucks accessing the international terminal daily.

The new 'Overhead Entry Gatehouse' Costs SBD\$4 million to complete and was completely self-funded by Solomon Ports. Its Main Purpose is to reduce the congestion of container trucks accessing the International Port Container terminal daily, where now two vehicles can enter at once, thus Reducing delays, further streamline and enhance port operations.

Prime Minister then concluded his tour around the port by also commissioning the new 'Harbors and Enforcement' Building, a new state of the art three storied building complex to house the Port's Harbours team, and Enforcement officers. The building also contains a

modern clinic which will be used to facilitate the medical needs of SIPA staff and their families. The building costs SBD\$ 9 million and was fully funded by SIPA. He then proceeded to Unity Square to also unveil the plan and design of the proposed SIPA 'Kukum Plaza', which will be a 5 storied commercial building complex that will be built at SIPA's Kukum area.

Speaking during his keynote speech, Prime Minister Sogavare said it was good to see State Owned Entities investing in projects for the betterment of the people, and that SIPA was leading the way in this regard.

"Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the board, management, and staff of Solomon Ports for your efforts, sacrifices and commitment in bringing SIPA to where it is today," he said.

"What you have done is an admirable demonstration of teamwork, and this is the spirit that we need in our institutions, and country."

Prime Minister Sogavare also took the time to commend SIPA's Enforcement team in ensuring the ports bylaws are followed and in keeping the port clean and safe.





SIPA CEO and Hon. Prime Minister cut the ribbon to open the new entry gatehouse to the international terminal.



Aerial view of the new Overhead entry gatehouse to the international terminal.



Aerial view of the new Harbours and Enforcement building.



SIPA CEO Eranda Kotelawala briefs Prime Minister Sogavare inside the new international terminal entry gatehouse.



SIPA CEO and Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare inside the new Harbours building mini boardroom.



SIPA Harbour Master Captain Percy Biliki briefs Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare inside the new Harbour Masters office.



Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare cuts the ribbon to open the new Harbours and Enforcement building.



Ground breaking ceremony of the proposed new Honiara Port Domestic Terminal.



# International Cruise vessels back after covid



International Cruise Vessel, the 'MS Reggata' berthing at Honiara International Port.

In October saw the arrival of the first cruise vessel back at Honiara Port since the Covid-19 Pandemic halted cruise vessel visits to the country in 2020.

On October 21 saw the 'Le Soleal' , berthing at Honiara Port , where hundreds of Tourist were welcomed back at the capital city. The ship, carrying 114 passengers

and 146 crew, has so far visited Gizo, Fanalei Island in Malaita and Roderick Bay in the Sandfly Passage where the ship's contingent was welcomed with a traditional, fierce welcome from the local people.

The last cruise vessel to visit Honiara Port before the pandemic was the 'Ocean Dream', in late 2019.

Since October this year, a total of 6 cruise vessels visited Honiara Port, with more expected to arrive early next year.

Prior to the pandemic, Solomon Islands recorded well over 4,400 visitors in 2020, a lot less than the 28,900 visitor numbers recorded in 2019. The return of cruise vessels brings more hope for the local economy.

## New outfits for SIPA Pilots



In November , SIPA Pilots welcomed the arrival of their new uniforms. SIPA Harbour Master and Pilots will now have three (3) sets of uniforms , which are in Blue, Brown , and white. The new uniforms will certainly add to the professional look of the pilots , while they continue to deliver professional service in providing pilotage services to oncoming vessels at Honiara Port.



# New spreaders to boost operation

SIPA Operations team assembling the new spreaders.



Solomon Ports this month welcomed additional container lifting equipment's for its operations.

Three new spreaders were assembled at the port, which were the '1-unit telescopic over-height spreader, and 3 units 40ft Autotwist spreader dual functions'.

The arrival of the new lifting equipment will certainly boost ship operations and cargo efficiency.

The equipment was procured from Stinis Singapore Pte Ltd, an engineer from Stinis was with the operations team, doing the assembling and training SIPA operations personnel on user/ maintenance guide of the new equipment.

The operations team also underwent a training session at the SIPA Auditorium with the STINIS Engineer on how to operate the new spreaders.

## New Kalmar Reachstacker for Honiara Port

Solomon Ports on December 7 welcomed a new addition to its container handling vehicles fleet. A new Kalmar DRU450-62S5 model Reachstacker was entirely assembled by SIPA workshop staff and entered operation. The new vehicle adds to SIPA's large fleet of reachstackers, which is the largest fleet in the region, it will surely improve container handling operations within Honiara Port and will also improve fast ship turnaround.





# SIPA STAFF JOINS 2022 PEACE MARATHON



SIPA Staff pose for a group photo after the marathon.

Solomon Ports staff in October took part in the Annual Peace Marathon in Honiara.

Solomon Ports was also the Marathon's Gold sponsor, and a total of thirty (30) staff members from various departments in the port took part.

The port joins a good number of other SOE's and business houses in the country, who were sponsors and took part in the event.

This was the second time that SIPA was a major sponsor of the event and participated as well.

SIPA staff all took part in the 5km category, where there were four categories in total, which were 2km, 5km, 10km and half Marathon.

Speaking during the event, SIPA's public relations officer, Ms. Ethel Suinao said it was a good turnout for the SIPA team.

She said not only was SIPA a major sponsor, but encouraged staff to take part in the event to promote exercising for staff.

"Not only do we sponsor the event, but we encourage our staff to come and take part as well," she said.

"This is also a good team bonding exercise for us as well, after a hard working week, it's good to come together as a team and take part in such events.

## NEW STAFF NOTICE

**NAME: CLIFFTON WAPIRA**

**POSITION: RISK AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

**DEPARTMENT : FINANCE**

**DATE JOINED: NOVEMBER 7**





# NEW SIPA CLINIC OPENED



SIPA Nurse Evans Tiri inside the Clinic's pharmacy



Inside the new clinic



Bed inside the new clinic.

Solomon Ports staff now have a brand-new modern clinic facility.

The clinic replaces the aging SIPA clinic which was demolished in 2020 to make way for the construction of the new Harbors and Enforcement building, which is where the new clinic is situated now.

The new clinic facility is facilitated with new modern looks features, and more space for the SIPA Nurses to assist staff.

It features two beds that are outfitted with equipment that will help

staff who are sick and need to rest, a waiting area, three spacious rooms, a mini pharmacy room, refrigerators and storage area.

The clinic is situated in a more convenient location where staff can easily access when they need medical attention.

According to the SIPA Nurses, the clinic was officially in operation as of Monday 19th December.

This year the clinic was moved to a temporary location within the port to make way for the construction of the

new building and clinic.

SIPA nurse Mr. Evans Tiri said he was happy with the new facility, stating that it was the right time for the port to have such new facility.

“The features of this new clinic definitely reflects the transformation of the port, as this new clinic is indeed an upgrade from the old clinic which was in service for a very long time,”

“Staff who have visited us for medical attention were impressed with the new look and features.”



# SIPA SHARES CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WITH COMMUNITY



SIPA Staff pose for the group photo with San Isidro students.



Solomon Ports staff took time off work on 14th December to share the festive season and Christmas fever spirit with children at the Children's ward at the National Referral Hospital and special needs students at San Isidro care center at Aruligho , North West Guadalcanal.

This was the ports' continuous initiative over the past three years in visiting the children's ward and members of the community to share the spirit of Christmas.

Solomon Ports Staff first visited the

Children's ward at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, and gave Christmas gifts to all the kids who are patients at the ward, which were 40 in total.

Staff took time to meet with the kids and their parents and met with doctors and nurses who are also tirelessly working around the clock to make sure the kids recover and back to their good health. The gifts were separated into different packages for both boys and girls.

Ports staff also travelled all the way down to the western side of Guadalcanal, to

the San Isidro care center at Aruligho to meet with the special needs students at the school to present Christmas gifts.

Each ports staff presented gifts to each of the students, and sang songs, then meeting the students and staff as well. Staff took time to tour the school compound, meet with students and staff to get to know about their experiences in the school and about their plans for Christmas.



# SIPA MEETS SI PG2023 ATHLETES

Solomon Ports on the 9th of November attended the 'Pasifiki HR Athlete Career & Education Expo', held at the Solomon Islands National Institute of Sports (SINIS) building.

Solomon Ports staff took time to meet with the athletes, and had informative sessions on the roles and functions of the Port, and more importantly how the athletes can pursue a career at the Port.

Solomon Ports also won the award for the "Most Attended stall" during the expo today. Solomon Ports is pleased to be part of the event and wishes all the athletes all the best in their preparations for the upcoming Pacific Games in Honiara next year.

Solomon Ports continues to be a strong supporter sports in the country, with major sponsorships with various sport teams this year.



SIPA's Ashley Vasula meeting young athletes during the expo.



SIPA's Sonia Rausi making a point to young athletes during the expo.



Athletes visiting the SIPA booth.