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VOLUME 12 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SOLOMON PORTS

JAN-APR 2024



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SOLOMON PORTS RINGS IN THE FESTIVE SEASON WITH SPECTACULAR COMMUNITY EVENT



As the Christmas lights twinkled and the New Year's countdown began, Solomon Ports hosted one of the most unforgettable events in Honiara. It was a celebration that brought together the community in a joyous spirit of camaraderie and festivity.

The event, held at Solomon Ports, wasn't just about marking the end of one year and the beginning of another. It was a testament to the port's commitment to supporting the local community and fostering a sense of togetherness among its residents.

Live bands set the stage on fire with their electrifying performances, filling the air with infectious rhythms and

melodies that had everyone dancing in the moonlight. From traditional tunes to contemporary hits, the music resonated with people of all ages, uniting them in a shared love for music and celebration.

But the festivities didn't stop there. Choirs filled the night with angelic harmonies, lifting spirits and spreading the message of hope and joy. Their melodious voices echoed through the port, creating a magical atmosphere that captured the essence of the holiday season.

And let's not forget the captivating dramas that unfolded on stage, weaving tales of love, laughter, and redemption. From heartwarming stories to thought-

provoking narratives, the performances touched the hearts of all who attended, leaving a lasting impression long after the curtains closed. But perhaps the most heartwarming aspect of the event was seeing the community come together as one. Families gathered under the starry sky, friends reunited with laughter and hugs, and strangers became friends as they shared in the joy of the season.

This event wasn't just about entertainment; it was about giving back to the community and spreading the spirit of goodwill and generosity. It was a reminder that in times of celebration, we should never forget those who are less fortunate and always strive to lend a helping hand to those in need.



SOLOMON PORTS OPENS NEW DOMESTIC JETTY AT HONIARA PORT



Solomon Ports achieved a historic moment today with the commissioning of the new 'Wate Jetty' at Honiara Port in February.

The event was graced by the presence of the Caretaker Prime Minister, Honorable Manasseh Sogavare, who served as the guest of honor and had the esteemed privilege of officially inaugurating the new jetty. The ceremony was attended by government ministers, representatives from domestic shipping companies and operators, The Paramount Chief of Tadaï, heads of diplomatic missions, as well as the board, management, and staff of Solomon Ports.

Named 'Wate Jetty,' after one of our Ports Pioneers, the new infrastructure stands as a testament to our commitment to enhancing port facilities and services throughout the Solomon Islands. Designed by BECA Engineering of New Zealand, the jetty was fully self-funded by Solomon Ports and represents a significant upgrade from the existing infrastructure. Spanning 50 meters in length and 14 meters in width, the new jetty surpasses its predecessor in size, offering enhanced capacity to accommodate the increasing number of vessels utilizing the

domestic terminal.

The commissioning of the new jetty addresses the evolving needs of domestic shipping in the Solomon Islands, particularly in response to the growing size and capacity of passenger vessels serving the islands and provinces. With a wider design, the 'Wate Jetty' can accommodate two vehicles simultaneously, facilitating faster loading and unloading of cargo and improving vessel turnaround times.

Notably, the 'Wate Jetty' features expansive parking areas and is the first jetty in the Solomon Islands to be fully compatible with individuals with disabilities. Specifically designed walkways cater to wheelchair accessibility, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all members of the community.

A remarkable achievement for the Solomon Islands, the construction of the 'Wate Jetty' was accomplished entirely by Solomon Islanders, from engineers to laborers, underscoring the nation's capacity for self-sufficiency and development. The completion of the jetty signifies a significant milestone for Solomon Ports as a state-owned enterprise,

showcasing its dedication to advancing port infrastructure and services for the benefit of the nation.

While delivering his keynote address this morning, Caretaker Prime Minister Hon. Sogavare congratulated the port for leading the way in infrastructure development and recognizing the need to accommodate more vessels.

"I would like to congratulate the board management, and staff of SIPA for responding to the need, to provide much needed service for our people, and to serve our people" he said.

"This is a demonstration that the port is self sufficient, and can build its own infrastructures."

Looking ahead, Solomon Ports remains committed to further enhancing domestic shipping services in the Solomon Islands. Plans are already underway for the construction of a similar jetty adjacent to the 'Wate Jetty,' scheduled to commence next year.



REGION'S AND COUNTRY'S FIRST-EVER 'WATCHKEEPER BUOY' DEPLOYED AT HONIARA PORT



Solomon Ports is proud to announce the groundbreaking achievement in maritime technology with the deployment of the inaugural 'Watchkeeper Buoy' at Honiara Port. This remarkable milestone marks the first of its kind for the region, and Solomon Islands.

Sourced from a globally renowned manufacturer in Canada, the 'Watchkeeper Buoy' was successfully installed during the first week of this month. This sophisticated apparatus represents an innovative leap in enhancing maritime operations within the Solomon Ports' Harbours Department, specifically empowering our pilots to monitor crucial maritime elements.

The cutting-edge technology embedded within the 'Watchkeeper Buoy' enables real-time monitoring of essential maritime metrics. These encompass wind speed, sea

currents, barometric readings, temperature fluctuations, and a comprehensive array of data vital for safe and efficient navigation through the seaway.

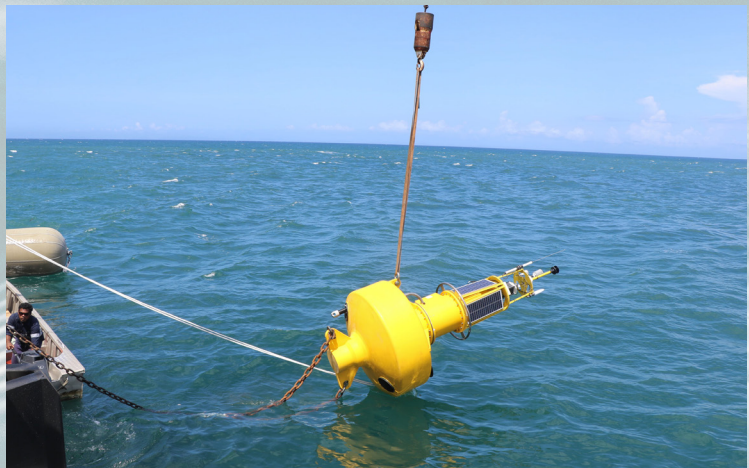
Speaking on this monumental advancement Solomon Ports Harbour Master Captain. Percy Biliki, emphasized the significance of this investment for Solomon Ports. "The deployment of the 'Watchkeeper Buoy' represents a pivotal step forward in our commitment to ensuring the highest standards of safety and efficiency in maritime operations within our ports," Capt. Biliki stated. "This technology equips our team, particularly our pilots, with invaluable real-time data, allowing for informed decision-making and proactive navigation."

"The most important thing is the equipment will give us data on wind speed, Swell directions and height, current directions,

relative humidity, this will give us timely and accurate information, for us to pilot vessels into the Port more safely," he said.

Capt. Biliki also extended a crucial call to action, urging the public utilizing the seaway to respect and acknowledge the presence of the 'Watchkeeper Buoy'. Acknowledging its role in enhancing maritime safety and efficiency, he emphasized the importance of cooperation in maintaining and safeguarding this pivotal tool.

The deployment of the 'Watchkeeper Buoy' at Honiara Port marks an epochal moment in Solomon Ports' commitment to embracing cutting-edge technology for the betterment of maritime operations. As Solomon Islands' foremost port authority, Solomon Ports continues its dedication to fostering a safer and more efficient maritime environment.



SOLOMON PORTS TAKES PART IN THE 2023 PACIFIC GAMES

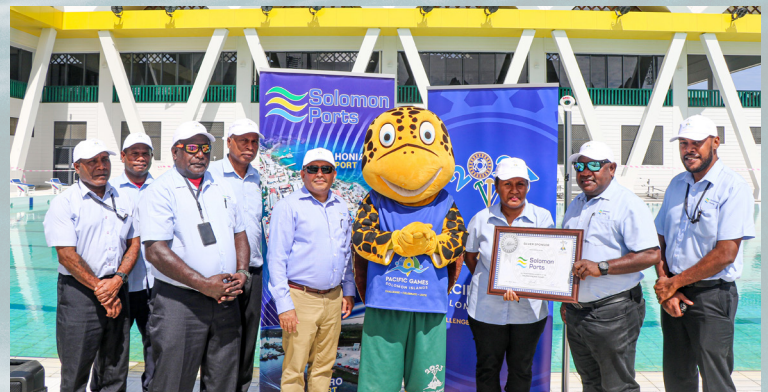


Solomon Ports Authority (SIPA) proudly participated in the 2023 Pacific Games hosted in Honiara, Solomon Islands, marking a significant milestone in the nation's sporting history. As a Silver Sponsor of the games, SIPA showcased its commitment to fostering community engagement and supporting local initiatives.

The partnership between SIPA and the Pacific Games exemplifies the organization's dedication to promoting sports and culture in the region. SIPA's involvement extended beyond sponsorship, as staff members set up a vibrant booth at the Games Pavilion in the National Stadium. This platform provided an excellent opportunity to highlight SIPA's role in facilitating maritime trade and promoting economic growth.

By actively engaging with attendees at the Games Pavilion, SIPA demonstrated its commitment to the community and showcased the vital role of ports in driving development and connectivity. The event not only celebrated sporting excellence but also served as a platform for fostering meaningful connections and promoting the importance of maritime infrastructure.

As Solomon Ports Authority reflects on its participation in the 2023 Pacific Games, it reaffirms its dedication to supporting initiatives that contribute to the prosperity and well-being of the Solomon Islands. Through partnerships and community engagement, SIPA continues to play a pivotal role in shaping a brighter future for the nation.





SIPA SUPPORTS KIRIBATI PORTS

Solomon Ports recently conducted a two-week work attachment and training program by the Kiribati Ports Authority (KPA) staff at Honiara Port.

A dedicated team of six KPA staff members participated in this enlightening experience, engaging with various departments at Honiara Port to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration in the Pacific maritime industry.

The primary objective of the work attachment was to provide KPA staff with a firsthand experience of the operations at Honiara Port, enabling them to interact with and learn from the experienced professionals at Solomon Ports. Through this exchange of ideas and expertise, KPA aimed to identify areas where they can enhance their own port facilities and services back in Kiribati.

One noteworthy achievement during the work attachment was KPA's exposure to the advanced Terminal Operating System (TOS) used by Solomon Ports. Impressed by its efficiency and capabilities, KPA expressed its intent to soon implement a similar system in their own port facilities, inspired by the valuable lessons learned during their time at Honiara Port.

A farewell event was held today, marking the end of this productive collaboration. Mr. Eranda Kotelawala, CEO of Solomon Ports, expressed his gratitude to the KPA team for choosing Solomon Ports

as their training destination. He emphasized the importance of knowledge sharing and cooperation among Pacific ports, highlighting the positive outcomes of the recent Pacific Maritime Transport Alliance Conference hosted by Solomon Ports in July.

KPA was a participant in this significant event, where connections were forged and knowledge exchange was prioritized. Ms. Maitiote Roubena, the team leader of KPA, extended her sincere appreciation to Solomon Ports for their warm welcome and generous sharing of expertise.

She acknowledged that KPA has gained invaluable insights from Solomon Ports, which they are eager to implement in their own port operations upon their return to Kiribati.

As a token of recognition for their dedication and commitment, the KPA team members were presented with certificates during the farewell event.

This successful work attachment and training program represent a significant step towards strengthening cooperation and knowledge exchange among Pacific ports. The KPA team's newfound insights and experiences gained at Honiara Port will undoubtedly contribute to the development and improvement of port facilities in Kiribati.



SOLOMON PORTS PREPARES FOR SEAMLESS TRANSITION TO OCTOPI TERMINAL OPERATING SYSTEM



Solomon Ports, as gearing up for a significant technological leap with the adoption of the Octopi Terminal Operating System (TOS). After commencing staff training last year, Solomon Ports has successfully equipped its team with the necessary skills to navigate this innovative system, setting the stage for a smooth transition.

The implementation of Octopi TOS marks a strategic move towards enhancing efficiency, productivity, and overall operations management at Solomon Ports. With a robust training program conducted over the past year, employees are now proficient in utilizing Octopi's advanced features and functionalities.

Recognizing the importance of collaboration and stakeholder engagement, Solomon Ports has extended its training efforts beyond internal staff. In recent months, the port authority has organized training sessions for shipping agents and port clients, providing them with firsthand experience and insights into the capabilities of the new system.

By familiarizing shipping agents and port clients with Octopi TOS, Solomon Ports aims to streamline communication, optimize workflow processes, and foster stronger partnerships within the maritime ecosystem. Through proactive engagement and knowledge sharing, the port authority is paving the way for a seamless transition and ensuring that all stakeholders are well-prepared for the upcoming changes.

The decision to switch to Octopi TOS underscores Solomon Ports' commitment to embracing cutting-edge technology and staying at the forefront of industry innovation. With its user-friendly interface and powerful functionality, Octopi TOS promises to revolutionize port operations, driving efficiency gains and delivering superior service to customers.

As Solomon Ports prepares to embark on this transformative journey, the port authority remains dedicated to upholding the highest standards of operational excellence and customer satisfaction. With the support of its trained staff, shipping agents, and port clients, Solomon Ports is poised to unlock new opportunities and achieve greater success in the dynamic maritime landscape.

ENHANCING EFFICIENCY: SOLOMON PORTS STAFF EXCEL IN MICROSOFT EXCEL TRAINING



Solomon Ports recently completed an intensive two-week Excel training program for staff, organized with a local small business enterprise. The course covered everything from basic data entry and formulas to advanced data analysis, pivot tables, and macros. Hands-on training ensured immediate application of skills to real-world scenarios.

A key highlight was data visualization, teaching participants to create dynamic charts and graphs for clearer data-driven decisions. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with staff expressing increased confidence and efficiency in their tasks.

This training enhances individual competencies and contributes to Solomon

Ports' operational excellence. We thank the small business enterprise for their expertise and effective training approach. Solomon Ports remains committed to continuous improvement and excellence. Stay tuned for more updates on our professional development initiatives.

NEW STAFF PROFILE



Name: Joshua Pitakesa Ramosaea

Department : IT

Position: IT Support Officer



Name: Timothy Sikwauta

Department : IT

Position: Senior Network Administrator

Solomon Ports Launches Lifestyle Intervention Program to Combat NCDs



Solomon Ports is proud to announce the launch of the 'Lifestyle Intervention Program,' a vital health initiative spearheaded by our dedicated Ports Clinic and Nurse, Mr. Evans Tiri. This program aims to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among our staff through comprehensive health awareness and regular clinic checkups.

Mr. Tiri, committed to enhancing the well-being of our team, strongly encourages all SIPA staff to participate in regular health checkups. These checkups are designed to monitor and manage health conditions early, ensuring timely

intervention and care. In addition to medical evaluations, the program emphasizes the importance of a healthier diet and lifestyle changes to prevent the onset of NCDs.

The Lifestyle Intervention Program includes informative sessions on health awareness, offering valuable insights into the prevention and management of conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. By fostering a culture of health consciousness and proactive care, Solomon Ports aims to create a supportive environment where

employees can thrive both personally and professionally.

We invite all staff to take advantage of this program and join us in promoting a healthier, more active lifestyle. Together, we can make significant strides in reducing the impact of NCDs and enhancing the overall health and productivity of our workforce.

Stay healthy, stay informed, and let's work together towards a brighter, healthier future.

SIPA Staff marks Easter with Fun Run and Sports



Solomon Ports is delighted to share the enthusiastic participation of around 100 SIPA staff members in the 2024 Annual Easter Fun Run. The event, covering a 5km distance from Lawson Tama to East Kola Ridge, Kukum, and back, was a tremendous success and highlighted our community's commitment to health and camaraderie.

The Fun Run began with eager participants ready to take on the scenic route. The atmosphere was filled with energy and excitement

as staff members ran, jogged, and walked together, showcasing their team spirit and dedication to a healthy lifestyle.

Following the run, the festivities continued with lively games of volleyball and darts, organized to celebrate Easter. These activities not only provided fun and relaxation but also fostered team building and friendly competition among the staff. Prizes were awarded to the winning teams, adding an extra layer of excitement to the day's events.

The 2024 Annual Easter Fun Run and subsequent games were a perfect blend of fitness, fun, and fellowship. Solomon Ports is proud of its staff for their enthusiastic participation and looks forward to more such events that promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

Thank you to everyone who took part and made this event memorable. Here's to many more successful and enjoyable activities in the future!

