

HEADLINE

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THE PACIFIC'S GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

Efficient Operations: Committed to providing facilities and technology to enable seamless cargo and passenger services.

Sustainable Growth: Ensuring our operations benefit both the economy and the environment.

Empowering Others: Supporting the local employment and enhancing community development.

Future-Focused: Investing in infrastructure to maintain a leading regional hub for trade and commerce.

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SIPA WELCOMES NEW CEO

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FORMER
CEO**



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Dear colleagues, partners, and stakeholders,

It is with great honour and humility that I address you in this first edition of the Solomon Ports Newsletter for 2025, now as your newly appointed Chief Executive Officer.

As someone who has journeyed with this organisation for over three decades, from my early days in finance to now leading our national ports, I am truly proud of how far we have come. I want to begin by paying tribute to my predecessor, Mr. Eranda Kotelawala, whose visionary leadership over the past eight years has laid a strong foundation for continued growth and transformation. His legacy lives on through the systems, infrastructure, and values he helped build.

This year has already seen encouraging momentum. In February, we commissioned the upgraded Commonwealth Street entrance—an important milestone that enhances access to both the International and Domestic Ports in Honiara. We also officially opened our new Exit Overhead Gatehouse at the Honiara International Terminal, further strengthening our operations and security systems. These developments are not just physical improvements; they are steps toward our goal of becoming a modern, efficient, and world-class port.

Beyond infrastructure, we remain deeply committed to our communities. Just this past month, we made a meaningful visit to Lalana Island in Langalanga Lagoon, where we handed over livelihood tools and materials to the Koalimaurina Women in Business Association. This is part of our ongoing Mangrove Restoration Project—an initiative close to our

hearts that balances environmental responsibility with community development.

As we move forward in 2025, my focus as CEO is clear: we must continue to modernise, innovate, and operate sustainably. We must strengthen our partnerships—with government, private sector, and international allies—while maintaining our core values of transparency, inclusiveness, and service to the people of Solomon Islands.

Solomon Ports is more than just a gateway for trade—it is a driver of national growth, a contributor to community well-being, and a symbol of what we can achieve when we work together with purpose.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Let us move forward together into a strong and prosperous future.

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Profile: Mr. George Rausi – Chief Executive Officer, Solomon Ports

George Rausi is the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Solomon Islands Ports Authority (SIPA), trading as Solomon Ports. A veteran of the organization, Mr. Rausi brings over 30 years of experience in the port and maritime sector, having risen through the ranks within Solomon Ports.

Originally from Hunanawa Village in East AreAre, Malaita Province, Mr. Rausi began his career with the organization as a Management Accountant, steadily progressing to Chief Financial Officer (CFO), then Deputy CEO, before assuming the top leadership role in 2025. His journey reflects a deep institutional knowledge and proven leadership capability.

Academically, Mr. Rausi holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration (MBA). He has also completed numerous Port Management and Leadership Programs across the Asia-Pacific region, making him one of the most qualified and experienced port professionals in the country.

Throughout his career, Mr. Rausi has played a crucial role in shaping Solomon Ports' strategic direction. As CFO and Deputy CEO, he was instrumental in ensuring the financial stability of the organization and contributed significantly to long-term planning, operational improvements, and performance monitoring. He has also been

deeply involved in major infrastructure and modernization initiatives, as well as the implementation of advanced port management systems.

Mr. Rausi is known for his ability to maintain strong working relationships with the SIPA Board, government agencies, international partners, and key stakeholders. His collaborative approach and deep understanding of the port's operational landscape uniquely position him to lead Solomon Ports into its next phase of growth and development.

SOLOMON PORTS FAREWELLS OUTGOING CEO



Solomon Ports on February bid farewell to outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Eranda Kotelawala, who has served the organization with distinction for the past eight years, from 2017 to 2025.

Mr. Kotelawala's tenure as CEO officially concludes today, February 14, 2025, marking the end of his leadership over both the Port of Honiara and the Port of Noro.

In honor of his service, a formal farewell ceremony was organized by the Board and Management team of Solomon Ports. The event recognized Mr. Kotelawala's remarkable contributions and leadership in transforming the organization over the years.

Speaking at the ceremony, Solomon Ports Board Chairman, Mr. Mike Wate, commended Mr. Kotelawala for his instrumental role in advancing the port's development. He highlighted several key achievements under his leadership, including significant progress in digital transformation, infrastructure development, regional and international connectivity, sustainability initiatives,

and community engagement. These advancements have positioned Solomon Ports as a model port in the Pacific region.

"In terms of financial performance, the past eight years have seen record net profits, all of which have been reinvested back into the port. As Mr. Kotelawala departs, he leaves the port well-positioned for further growth and investment to meet the increasing demand for our services," Mr. Wate stated.

Reflecting on Mr. Kotelawala's tenure, Mr. Wate further acknowledged his dedication and leadership, which have resulted in visible improvements in port operations, financial stability, and overall performance.

In his farewell remarks, Mr. Kotelawala expressed his gratitude to the Board, Management, and staff of Solomon Ports for their support throughout his tenure. He attributed the port's successes to teamwork and collective effort at all levels of the organization.

"We have achieved so much as a team. My role was to provide leadership, but the real hard work was done by the entire Solomon Ports team. With the support of the Board,

my job was made easier, and none of these accomplishments would have been possible without your dedication and commitment," he said.

"Looking back, we have introduced new systems, enhanced infrastructure, strengthened human resources, and recognized talented individuals within our workforce. The digital infrastructure we built has transformed the way we operate, construct, and generate revenue. I sincerely thank each one of you for being part of this journey and for contributing to our shared success."

The farewell event also included a presentation of gifts from the Board, Management, and staff as a token of appreciation for Mr. Kotelawala's invaluable contributions.

Solomon Ports extends its best wishes to Mr. Kotelawala in his future endeavors and expresses its deep gratitude for his leadership and service over the past eight years.



Former SIPA CEO Mr. Eranda Kotelawala giving his remarks



Presentation of gifts to former SIPA CEO from Board Of Directors



New SIPA CEO Mr. George Rausi giving his remarks during the farewell event.



Presentation of gifts to former SIPA CEO from SIPA CIO and Manager Special Projects.



New SIPA CEO Mr. George Rausi bids farewell to former CEO Mr. Eranda Kotelawala



Presentation of gifts to former SIPA CEO from SIPA New CEO.



Former SIPA CEO Unveils a Portrait presented to him during his farewell ceremony.



SIPA Human Resources Manager Mr. Roland Delemani giving his remarks during the event.



COMMONWEALTH STREET AND HONIARA PORTS ROADS UPGRADED

Solomon Ports in February held a commissioning ceremony to mark the completion of the Commonwealth Street entrance upgrade, enhancing access to both the International and Domestic Ports of Honiara. The project focused on improving four main roads connecting to the port.

The refurbishment, which was completed within two months, was fully self-funded by Solomon Ports and executed by China Railway Construction Engineering Group. The works included the re-sealing of Commonwealth Street, extending through the International Port Terminal, Yacht Club Mbokona Bay Road, and the entire Domestic Terminal area.

The event was attended by Chief Guest, the Minister of Infrastructure and Development,

Hon. Manasseh Maelanga, along with heads of diplomatic missions, Solomon Ports Board members, management, and staff.

In his remarks, Solomon Ports CEO Mr. Eranda Kotewalala emphasized that the project aimed to enhance the port precinct and uplift the city's overall appearance. He highlighted the significance of Commonwealth Street, describing it as one of Honiara's most appealing areas, home to iconic landmarks such as Unity Square.

Guest of Honour, Hon. Minister Maelanga, expressed his appreciation for Solomon Ports' commitment to infrastructure development. He acknowledged the port's initiative in improving the roads surrounding the Honiara Port, describing it as a valuable contribution to

the government's efforts in enhancing urban infrastructure.

"This area, especially Commonwealth Street, is a popular gathering place in Honiara. It is very beautiful, and I believe this is the kind of development we want to see," said Hon. Maelanga.

"Solomon Ports continues to play a key role as a State-Owned Enterprise (SOE), supporting the government in infrastructure development."

The event concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially mark the project's completion, followed by a guided tour showcasing the newly upgraded roads.



Second Overhead Gatehouse officially opened



Solomon Ports proudly opened our second overhead gatehouse today, officially inaugurating the new Exit Gatehouse at the Honiara Port International Terminal.

In a soft opening ceremony held on the 3rd of April attended by Management and Staff of Solomon Ports, the Exit Gatehouse was formally opened for use by port users and relevant stakeholders.

This new two-storey structure features three rooms on the upper floor. One of these rooms will house the new Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Office, while the other two will be allocated to relevant stakeholders. The ground floor is designated for security officers, who will monitor vehicles exiting the terminal and verify documentation to ensure a secure and efficient process.

The Exit Gatehouse follows the completion of the Entrance Overhead Gatehouse, which was opened in 2022. Solomon Ports is the only port in the Pacific to implement such overhead gatehouses at both entry and exit points of its international terminal—a testament to our commitment to innovation and operational excellence.

This new facility is a key component of our Port Modernization Plan and brings multiple benefits, including:

- Reducing congestion and improving traffic flow, allowing two vehicles to be processed and exit simultaneously.
- Enhancing security with better monitoring and automated processing.
- Speeding up operations and reducing waiting times for importers, exporters, and transport operators.
- Improving safety by optimizing the movement of people and cargo within the port.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. George Rausi, emphasized that this achievement aligns with Solomon Ports' vision of becoming a world-class port that drives economic growth, trade facilitation, and national development.

"This reflects our commitment to aligning with international port standards, adopting modern technology, and continuously improving our services."

Mr. Rausi also extended his appreciation to all staff and contractors involved in making the project a success:

"I want to commend your hard work and dedication in bringing this structure to life. Your efforts are instrumental in the progress and success of Solomon Ports."





Honiara Port staff celebrates Easter

Solomon Ports staff marked this year's Easter celebrations with vibrant energy and a strong show of team spirit by taking part in the 2025 Annual Rotary Easter Fun Run, followed by a lively Volleyball Tournament at the Honiara Port Recreation Center.


Over one hundred staff from across the organization turned out early on Easter Saturday, proudly representing Solomon Ports among hundreds of other participants in the iconic community fun run. Dressed in their SolPorts colors, staff showed enthusiasm and unity as they ran and walked through the streets of Honiara, promoting wellness and community involvement.

Following the Fun Run, the energy continued at the Port's Recreation Center, where staff gathered for a festive Volleyball Tournament. To promote inclusiveness and encourage new friendships, participants were randomly assigned into eight teams identified by different colors. The friendly competition was met with great excitement, laughter, and cheering from the sidelines.


At the end of the tournament, the winning team was awarded exciting prizes, with all participants enjoying light refreshments and the joy of spending the Easter weekend together as one SolPorts family.

Chairman of the SIPA staff and engagement committee, George Fiuramo congratulated everyone who took part in the activities, emphasizing the importance of staff wellbeing, teamwork, and community participation. "Events like these reflect the true spirit of Solomon Ports — one of unity, health, and celebration. I'm proud of our staff for showing such great energy and sportsmanship," he said.

Solomon Ports wishes all staff and their families a joyful and safe Easter. Here's to more fun, laughter, and shared success in the year ahead!



SIPA Staff taking part in the fun run activity



Hundreds of Honiara residents turned out to take part in the fun run

MEET OUR NEW STAFF



NAME: David Maitani

POSITION : Port Pilot (Honiara Port)



NAME: Douglas Ken Manakako

POSITION : Port Pilot (Honiara Port)



NAME: Randy Baedonga

POSITION : Accountant Accounts Receivable Officer



NAME: Blondy Zhania

POSITION : Human Resources Officer



NAME: Jealot Giri

POSITION : Project Engineer



NAME: Angelina Wale

POSITION : Human Resources Officer (Noro Port)

COMMUNITY SUPPORT STORIES



Solomon Ports Supports Livelihoods and Mangrove Conservation in Langalanga Lagoon

Solomon Ports in April made a special visit to Lalana Island in the Langalanga Lagoon, Malaita Province, to officially hand over tools and materials to members of the Koalimaaurina Women in Business Association.

This initiative is part of Solomon Ports' ongoing Mangrove Restoration Project for Langalanga communities, in partnership with the Koalimaaurina Women in Business and supported by the Gizo Women in Business. The project, which began in 2023, aims to promote the protection of mangroves and other coastal and marine ecosystems.

The recent handover marked the "livelihood component" of the project, designed to equip Koalimaaurina members with the tools and knowledge to pursue alternative income-generating activities. These activities—such as vegetable farming, beekeeping, and savings clubs—are intended to reduce human pressures on the fragile mangrove ecosystems

of the lagoon.

During the event, Solomon Ports provided materials and tools for the women to build their own beehive boxes, along with two boxes containing 15 varieties of vegetable seeds. These will help the community improve food security, boost nutrition, and generate income through the sale of surplus produce. In addition, two (2) 10,000 Liter water tanks were funded under the project to improve access to clean drinking water in Lalana and surrounding areas.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Ms. Angela Sugeli, President of the Koalimaaurina Women in Business Association, expressed heartfelt gratitude for Solomon Ports' continued support.

"The tools, seeds, and water tanks are a huge boost for us," Ms. Sugeli said. "They mark a significant step forward in improving our livelihoods and addressing the daily challenges faced by women in the lagoon."

Village elder and community representative, Mr. Sudani Walemae, also acknowledged the support and highlighted the longstanding relationship between Langalanga communities and Solomon Ports. He reflected on the historical contributions of Langalanga men who worked as stevedores and laborers during the early expansions of Honiara Port.

Meanwhile, Solomon Ports CEO, Mr. George Rausi, said the Port was proud to support the people of Lalana.

"As a state-owned enterprise, we also have a responsibility to give back to our communities, especially in rural areas where people face many challenges," Mr. Rausi said. "We hope these tools and resources will benefit not just the Koalimaaurina Association members, but the entire Lalana and Langalanga Lagoon communities."





Solomon Ports on the 6th of March, had the honor of welcoming H.E. Ambassador Gallardo Valencia, the Ambassador of Peru to Australia, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea, during his courtesy visit to Honiara Port.

Ambassador Valencia met with CEO Mr.

George Rausi, where they discussed the dynamics of maritime trade between the Pacific and South America. The Ambassador highlighted the importance of future collaborations and partnerships with key maritime stakeholders in Peru and South America.

In response, CEO Rausi provided an overview of Solomon Ports' operations and services, along with the port's vision for enhancing maritime trade in the Solomon Islands.



Solomon Ports ON 10 April was pleased to welcome a courtesy visit from the Directors of Ifira Trustees Limited (ITL), Vanuatu's private sector company responsible for managing both domestic and international ports.

The visiting delegation was led by Director Mr. Michael Kalrowai and Director Mr. Kalmet Kaltabang. During their visit, the ITL team met with Solomon Ports Chief Executive Officer, Mr. George Rausi, at the Honiara Port Head Office.

Director Kalrowai expressed his gratitude to the CEO for hosting the visit, which centered around discussions on strengthening future collaboration between Solomon Ports and ITL. The aim is to explore avenues for mutual learning, knowledge exchange, and the sharing of expertise to enhance the delivery of vital port services in both the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Following the meeting, the ITL delegation toured key facilities at Honiara Port, including the newly completed Millennium Domestic Terminal Building and the ongoing construction of the new domestic jetties.

The visit marks a positive step toward fostering closer ties and regional cooperation between Melanesian port authorities.