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VOLUME 18 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SOLOMON PORTS

JAN-AUG 2026



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SIPA TURNS 70



The Solomon Islands Ports Authority (Solomon Ports) successfully commemorated its 70th Platinum Anniversary with two days of celebrations held on 3 and 4 June 2026, marking seven decades of dedicated service to the people and economy of Solomon Islands.

The anniversary celebrations were the largest in the organisation's history and brought together government leaders, stakeholders, customers, development partners, former employees, and members of the public to celebrate the significant milestone.

As part of the celebrations, Solomon Ports hosted a Summit on 3 June 2026 at the National Aquatic Centre in East Honiara. The Summit provided an opportunity for key stakeholders, customers, development partners, and members of the maritime and shipping community to reflect on the past, discuss present challenges, and explore future opportunities for the port sector.

The Summit featured keynote presentations, historical exhibitions showcasing the evolution of Solomon Ports over the past 70 years, and a series of panel discussions involving former Chief Executive Officers, Board Members, government representatives, shipping operators, development partners, and private sector stakeholders.

A key highlight of the Summit was the opportunity for Solomon Ports

Management to provide updates on current and future developments aimed at improving port services and operations, including progress on the implementation of the Ports Master Plan and other strategic infrastructure projects.

Panel discussions reflected on the history and contribution of Solomon Ports to national development, particularly its critical role in facilitating domestic and international trade, while also examining future opportunities in infrastructure development, digital transformation, partnerships, and service delivery improvements.

The main public celebrations were held on 4 June 2026 at the SIPA Magic Land Compound behind the Millennium Terminal in Honiara.

The day commenced with a parade involving Solomon Ports staff from across all departments, marching from the SMI Grounds at Town Ground to the Magic Land venue. The parade demonstrated the unity, dedication, and pride of the organisation's workforce.

Throughout the day, members of the public participated in exhibitions, historical displays, information sessions, entertainment programmes, and community engagement activities highlighting the history, achievements, and operations of Solomon Ports.

Students, schools, and members of the

public also took part in guided tours of the port terminal facilities, gaining valuable insights into the vital role ports play in supporting trade, shipping, and national development throughout Solomon Islands.

The celebrations also featured live entertainment, staff performances, interactive exhibitions, competitions, and prize giveaways, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere for attendees of all ages.

Solomon Ports extends its sincere appreciation to the Government of Solomon Islands, development partners, stakeholders, customers, sponsors, former employees, staff, and members of the public who contributed to the success of the anniversary celebrations.

For 70 years, Solomon Ports has served as a critical gateway for trade, transportation, and economic development. The anniversary celebrations not only honoured the organisation's rich history and achievements but also reaffirmed its commitment to building a modern, efficient, and sustainable port system that will continue to support national development for generations to come.

Solomon Ports looks forward to continuing its partnership with the people of Solomon Islands as it embarks on the next chapter of its journey.



NORO PORT STAFF MARKS 70th Anniversary Celebrations



More than 50 staff members at Noro Port gathered at Agnes Lodge in Munda Town, Western Province, on 6 June 2026 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Solomon Islands Ports Authority (Solomon Ports).

The celebration followed the main anniversary event held at the company's headquarters in Honiara on 4 June, bringing together staff in the Western Province to commemorate seven decades of service, growth and contribution to the maritime sector of Solomon Islands.

The Noro Port celebration featured a dinner, cake-cutting ceremony, speeches from management representatives and reflections

from long-serving staff members, who shared in recognising the organisation's milestone achievement.

Staff also viewed the 70th anniversary video highlights, which showcased Solomon Ports' journey, achievements and development over the years. The screening provided an opportunity for employees to reflect on the organisation's history and its continued role in supporting trade, transport and economic development across the country.

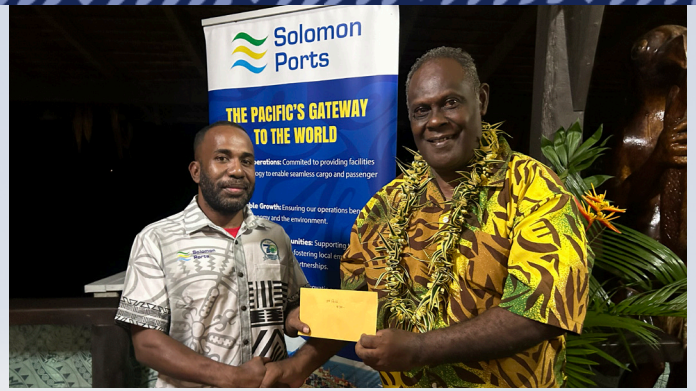
A highlight of the evening was the presentation of prizes to teams that participated in the Noro Port volleyball tournament. The prize-giving ceremony recognised the teams' participation and sporting

efforts, adding a spirit of camaraderie and friendly competition to the anniversary celebrations.

The gathering provided an opportunity for Noro Port staff to celebrate not only Solomon Ports' 70-year milestone but also the dedication and contributions of the people who continue to support port operations in the Western Province.

As Solomon Ports marks seven decades of service, the celebrations at Noro Port reflected the importance of recognising the organisation's history, appreciating its workforce and strengthening the sense of unity among staff across its operations.





SOLOMON PORTS LAUNCHES SHIPPING SCHEDULE HUB APP, A NEW ERA OF DIGITAL MARITIME SERVICES



The Solomon Islands Ports Authority (Solomon Ports) has officially launched its first-ever Shipping Schedule Hub App, a digital platform designed to provide the public with real-time information on domestic shipping vessel movements across Solomon Islands, 29th June.

The launch marks a significant milestone in Solomon Ports' digital transformation journey and reflects the Authority's commitment to modernising maritime services, improving customer experience, and strengthening connectivity between Honiara and the provinces. With the introduction of the app, Solomon Ports becomes only the second port authority in the Pacific, after the Guam Port Authority, to develop and launch a dedicated domestic shipping mobile application.

Development of the app began in 2025 following consultations with domestic shipping operators and key stakeholders to ensure it meets the

needs of passengers, vessel operators, and the wider public.

The app provides users with access to updated vessel schedules, notifications about delays and cancellations, general announcements, press releases, safety information, customer contact details, news, and a feedback platform for communicating directly with Solomon Ports.

A soft launch and press conference were held at the Solomon Ports Auditorium in Honiara, attended by media representatives, domestic shipping operators, government stakeholders, and Solomon Ports staff. Guests were also given a live demonstration of the app, including how to download and navigate its features.

Speaking at the launch, Solomon Ports Chief Information Officer Mr. Ellison Pade said the application demonstrates the Authority's continued investment in digital

innovation and its commitment to improving domestic shipping services.

He explained that the app addresses a long-standing challenge faced by travellers who often rely on word of mouth or multiple enquiries to obtain reliable vessel schedules. The platform provides a single, convenient source of information to help passengers plan their journeys and stay informed about changes.

The Shipping Schedule Hub App is currently available free of charge for Android devices through the Google Play Store by searching "Shipping Schedule Hub." Domestic shipping schedules can also be accessed through the Solomon Ports website at www.sipa.com.sb. The launch represents a new chapter in the digital transformation of Solomon Islands' maritime sector and reinforces Solomon Ports' commitment to delivering safer, more efficient, and innovative services nationwide.

SOLOMON PORTS CELEBRATES 70 YEARS WITH HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT



Solomon Ports celebrated 70 years of service on 3rd June 2026 with its 70th Anniversary Summit at Heritage Park Hotel under the theme “70 Years of Connecting the Nation: Reflecting on the Past, Shaping the Future.” The event brought together government leaders, stakeholders, board members, management and staff to honour the journey since 1956.

CEO Mr. George Rausi welcomed guests and paid tribute to past and present employees across all departments, while Board Chairman Mr. Moses Virivolomo reflected on the founders’ vision and the Board’s commitment to growth. Guests viewed the 70th Anniversary video

tracing the port’s evolution from early wharves to modern facilities at Honiara and Noro, followed by a Keynote Address by the Prime Minister who commended Solomon Ports’ role in trade and national development.

The program featured a presentation on the History of Solomon Ports and a panel discussion on the evolution of maritime trade moderated by Mr. Glyn Joshua. In the afternoon, Mr. Rausi and Chief Engineer Mr. Ronald Ivupitu presented the Port Master Plan outlining future infrastructure expansion, digital transformation and green port initiatives.

Also present was former long time CEO Mr. Ngenomea Kabui, who graced the event with his deep knowledge of the port.

A second panel discussion on key port issues and future directions, moderated by Mr. Robert Iroga, explored infrastructure, technology and regional partnerships, followed by a Q&A with stakeholders.

The summit closed at 4:00pm with remarks from management, reaffirming Solomon Ports as reliable, resilient and ready for the next 70 years.



Solomon Ports Board Conducts Operational and Project Site Visit



he Solomon Ports Board of Directors recently conducted a site visit to key operational and development areas at the Port of Honiara, strengthening the Board's understanding of daily operations, engaging with frontline staff and monitoring major infrastructure projects.

Led by Interim Chairman Mr. Robert Luke Iroga, the Board visited the Terminal Operating System (TOS) Building, Berth Planning Building, Container Terminal and the Honiara International Terminal Berth 1 Redevelopment Project.

At the TOS Building, Directors received an overview of the system supporting container terminal operations and how it helps improve efficiency, coordination and container movement. The Board then met with berth planning and operational staff and observed cargo-handling activities at the container terminal.

The visit continued at the Berth 1 Redevelopment Project, where Directors met with contractors and received a first-hand update on construction progress and the project's importance to the future capacity of the Port of Honiara.

"It is important for the Board to see first-hand how our operations are being carried out, meet the staff responsible for delivering these services, and understand the systems and infrastructure supporting the port."
— Interim Chairman Robert Luke Iroga

Mr. Iroga also emphasised the importance of continued investment in infrastructure and operational capacity to meet future demand while maintaining customer and port-user confidence.

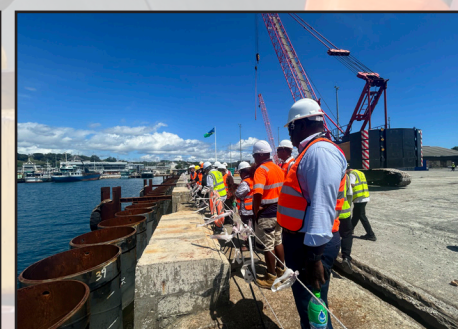
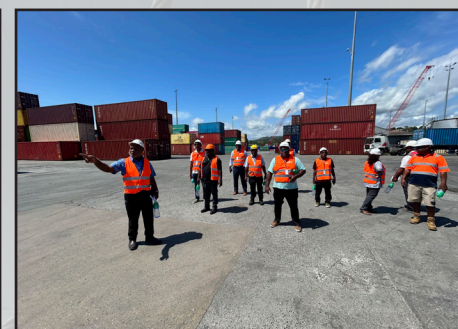
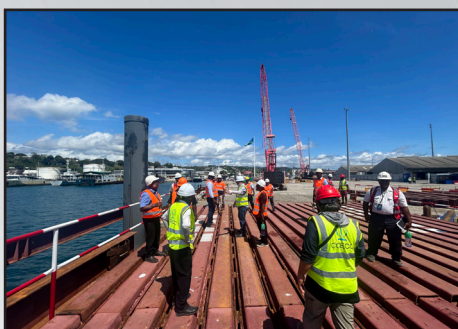
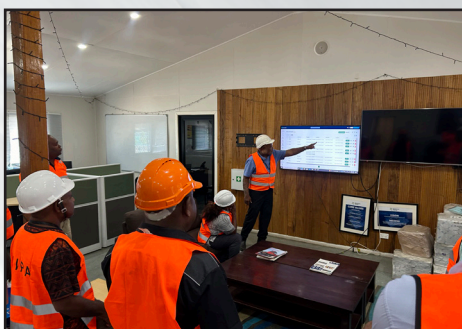
CEO Mr. George Rausi, who led the Board through the various facilities, said the visit strengthened alignment between the Board

and Management.

"It is good for the Board to visit our facilities and see our operations first-hand. This allows the Board to make sound and informed decisions based on what they physically see and understand from the people involved in our daily operations."

Mr. Rausi further highlighted the importance of ensuring that Board and Management decisions remain aligned with the Solomon Ports Master Plan, which provides the strategic direction for the port's long-term development.

The visit reaffirmed the Board's commitment to maintaining close engagement with Solomon Ports' operational teams and ensuring that strategic decisions are informed by a practical understanding of the organisation's operations, challenges and future development priorities.



Yacht Club Boat Landing Area Undergoes Major Cleanup, Security and Management improved



Solomon Ports has undertaken a major cleanup and regulation exercise at the Yacht Club boat landing area, formally known as Mbokona Bay, as part of ongoing efforts to improve the cleanliness, safety, security and overall management of the facility.

The boat landing area is an important access point for small boat operators and passengers travelling to and from nearby islands and communities, including Savo, Isabel, Ngella, East and West Guadalcanal, and Malaita Province.

Over recent weeks, Solomon Ports has removed abandoned and derelict boats from the area, including some boats that are believed to have remained at the site for more than 10 years. The removal has helped clear the area and create a safer and more organised environment for boat operators and users.

The cleanup also involved the removal of accumulated rubbish and waste from the area. Solomon Ports has simultaneously strengthened security and

management measures to address activities that are not permitted within the facility, including informal market stalls, betel nut selling, alcohol sales and consumption, and other unauthorised or illegal activities. With the cleanup now substantially completed, the area is being more closely regulated to ensure it remains clean, safe, secure and properly managed for the benefit of all users.

As part of the new management arrangements, the temporary operating hours for the boat landing area are currently 4:00am to 6:00pm daily. These hours may be reviewed and adjusted in the future depending on operational requirements and the ongoing management of the facility.

Solomon Ports Assistant Property Manager, Mr. Augustine Waleka, has urged boat operators, passengers and other users of the Yacht Club area to cooperate with Solomon Ports and help maintain the improvements that have been made.

“We want to make it clear that

we are not stopping people from using this important area. This cleanup and regulation exercise is about better managing the facility and ensuring that it is safe, secure and properly maintained in accordance with appropriate marine and port standards,” Mr. Waleka said.

“Solomon Ports has future plans for this area to improve the facilities and infrastructure, provide a safer and more suitable environment for boats to land, strengthen waste management and ensure that people can use the area properly and safely,” he said.

We call on all users of the Mbokona Bay boat landing area to take responsibility for keeping the facility clean, following the operating requirements and cooperating with security and port personnel to ensure the area remains safe and accessible to everyone.

WORKSHOP & RIGGERS TEAM SET NEW REACHSTACKER ASSEMBLING RECORD



Solomon Ports has reached another important operational milestone with the arrival and assembly of its latest heavy-duty cargo-handling equipment — a Kalmar DRU450 70-tonne Reach Stacker.

In an impressive demonstration of teamwork, technical expertise and growing in-house capability, the new machine was fully assembled by Solomon Ports' own Workshop and Riggers teams in less than a day.

The achievement represents a significant improvement in efficiency. A task of this scale and

complexity would normally require approximately two to three days to complete safely. Completing the assembly within a single day demonstrates the increasing capability of Solomon Ports' technical teams and their ability to undertake major heavy-duty equipment work efficiently, professionally and safely.

The successful assembly also highlights the value of investing in the skills and capabilities of Solomon Ports employees. Rather than relying entirely on external technical support, the organisation continues to strengthen its internal

expertise, enabling its teams to take on increasingly complex tasks and support critical port operations.

The Kalmar DRU450 will add further capacity to Solomon Ports' reach-stacker fleet and play an important role in cargo-handling operations, particularly in the safe and efficient movement and handling of containers.

The milestone is a credit to the Workshop and Riggers teams whose coordination, technical knowledge and commitment made the rapid assembly possible.



Building Team Spirit Through Sport



Throughout 2026, Solomon Ports has continued to promote staff engagement, teamwork and wellbeing through sport, bringing employees together while also strengthening relationships with external stakeholders.

A key initiative this year was the 2026 Solomon Ports Volleyball League, which brought together nearly 500 staff members from across different departments. Organised into colour-based teams, employees competed in weekly after-work matches, creating opportunities to build friendships, teamwork and camaraderie across the Port.

The league concluded with Team Blue crowned champions after defeating Team Green in a closely contested final. Congratulations to Team Blue and to

all participating teams for making the competition a success.

Beyond the workplace, Solomon Ports staff have also participated in friendly sporting activities with Government agencies, companies and other organisations. Recent games with officers from the Correctional Service Solomon Islands and staff from Our Telekom at Magic Land provided another opportunity to connect, build friendships and strengthen stakeholder relationships.

These activities reflect Solomon Ports' belief that sport brings people together—promoting teamwork, respect, friendship and stronger relationships both within the organisation and across the wider community.



Solomon Ports Staff Celebrate Mothers and Fathers Day



Solomon Ports staff came together throughout the year to celebrate and recognise the important contributions of mothers and fathers within the organisation, with Mothers Day celebrated on 8 May and Fathers Day on 4 September.

The celebrations provided an opportunity for staff to step away from their usual work routines and come together in a relaxed and positive environment. Both occasions featured refreshments, fellowship and networking, creating an atmosphere where colleagues could connect and celebrate one another.

Senior staff also shared words of encouragement and appreciation, recognising the important roles that mothers and fathers play both within their families and in the workplace. The messages highlighted the importance of dedication, commitment, resilience and maintaining a strong balance between professional responsibilities and family life.

The gatherings also provided an opportunity for staff from different sections and departments to interact, strengthen relationships and build greater camaraderie across the

organisation.

The celebrations reflect Solomon Ports' commitment to fostering a positive workplace culture where staff are valued and given opportunities to connect beyond their everyday roles.

Through initiatives such as these, Solomon Ports continues to encourage team spirit, staff wellbeing and a strong sense of belonging, recognising that its people remain at the heart of the organisation's success.



Solomon Ports Connects with the Public at the 2026 National Trade Fair



Solomon Ports participated in the 2026 National Trade Fair, held at the Festival of Pacific Arts (FOPA) area at Panatina Campus, East Honiara, in August. The week-long event provided an opportunity for the organisation to showcase its services, share information and engage directly with the public.

Staff representatives from five major departments worked together at the Solomon Ports tent, interacting with visitors, answering questions and providing information on the Port's operations, services and ongoing

infrastructure developments.

The event also allowed Solomon Ports to connect with its customers, listen to public feedback and strengthen relationships with the communities it serves.

The participation was a success, highlighting the importance of public engagement in promoting awareness of Solomon Ports' services and developments. Solomon Ports remains committed to participating in such events to keep the public informed and provide opportunities for direct interaction with its staff.



SOLOMON PORTS UNVEILS LANDMARK KULABULE JETTY, EXPANDING DOMESTIC SHIPPING CAPACITY



Solomon Islands Ports Authority (Solomon Ports) on 17th June marked another significant milestone in its infrastructure development programme with the official commissioning of the new Kulabule Jetty, a 50-metre domestic jetty constructed at the Honiara Domestic Port.

The facility was officially commissioned by the Minister for Infrastructure Development, Hon. Ricky Fu'ò, who attended the ceremony as Guest of Honour alongside representatives from the domestic shipping industry, government agencies, development partners, and Solomon Ports staff.

The new jetty has been named Kulabule Jetty in honour of the late Captain Judah Kulabule, a highly respected former Harbour Master whose dedicated service and leadership contributed significantly to the development of the maritime sector and port operations in Solomon Islands. The naming recognises his lasting legacy and commitment to advancing maritime services for the nation.

Constructed at a total cost of approximately SBD\$28 million, the project was fully funded by Solomon Ports and delivered by the organisation's own engineers, technical personnel, and project management team.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, Guest of Honour Hon.

Ricky Fu'ò described the completion of the project as a testament to the organisation's growing technical capability and commitment to self-reliance.

"This project demonstrates that Solomon Ports possesses the expertise, skills, and capacity to successfully deliver major infrastructure developments using our own people and resources. The completion of Kulabule Jetty is not only an investment in port infrastructure but also an investment in local capability and national development," he said.

The new jetty is expected to significantly improve operations at the Honiara Domestic Port by increasing available berthing space for domestic vessels, reducing congestion, improving vessel turnaround times, and enhancing safety for both operators and port users.

As the primary gateway for domestic maritime transport, the Honiara Domestic Port plays a critical role in facilitating the movement of passengers and cargo throughout the country. The additional berth capacity provided by Kulabule Jetty will support the growing demands of domestic shipping services and strengthen connectivity between Honiara and the provinces.

Minister Fu'ò commended Solomon Ports for its commitment to infrastructure development and for demonstrating leadership in delivering a

project of national importance through local expertise.

He noted that investments in maritime infrastructure are essential to supporting economic growth, improving transportation services, and enhancing access to markets and opportunities for communities throughout Solomon Islands.

The commissioning of Kulabule Jetty forms part of Solomon Ports' broader strategy to modernise and expand port infrastructure in response to increasing demand for maritime transport services and growing trade activity.

The project also aligns with Solomon Ports' long-term commitment to improving operational efficiency, strengthening domestic shipping services, and supporting national development priorities through sustainable infrastructure investment.

Solomon Ports extends its appreciation to all staff, engineers, contractors, stakeholders, and partners who contributed to the successful completion of the project.

The completion of Kulabule Jetty stands as a lasting symbol of innovation, self-reliance, and Solomon Ports' continued commitment to serving the people of Solomon Islands through safe, efficient, and modern port facilities.



70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN PICTURES



