



# SOLO

The talk of the Nation **P3**

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Site visit at the National Stadium (KGV). From left: PMU Executive Director Eldon Tepa, GOC Senior Manager Operations Jack Smith, President Vidhya Lakhan, GOC Media Officer Ezmie Oge, CEO Andrew Minogue and NHA Executive Director Christian Nieng.

# PSC happy with Games progress

**T**HE Pacific Games Council (PGC) has commended Solomon Islands for the progress made in its preparations for next year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

PGC President, Vidhya Lakhan and CEO, Andrew Minogue briefly visited the country this month to assess the state and development of all Games venues from Saint Joseph's Tenaru school right down to Lawson Tama.

President Lakhan said that having visited all Games venues, and after series of meetings and consultations with the Government and Games Organizers – he is convinced preparations for Sol2023 Pacific Games are on track.

"We are very, very happy with the progress. In fact, all the venues that we visited – there is considerable progresses being made. All the venues are on track and should be ready by 31st of May, 2023," President Lakhan said.



Pacific Games Council President, Vidhya Lakhan

NHA (National Hosting Authority) Chair and Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr Jimmie Rodgers announced at a press conference in Honiara this month that they have secured funding for facilities required at next year's Games.



National Hosting Authority (NHA) Chair and SSPM, Dr Jimmie Rodgers speaking at a press conference in Honiara this month.

"We have secured funding for 107 facilities required for the Games. We are confident that we will have all the facilities ready before the Games."

Dr Rodgers thanked President Lakhan and Mr Minogue for their timely visit, whilst also assuring the PGC of the Solomon Islands governments' commitment to ensuring that the Sol2023 Pacific Games is the "Best Games Ever."

In their weeklong stay in Honiara, President Lakhan and Mr Minogue also had the opportunity to meet Solo, the Sol2023 Games mascot.





## Site Visits

in pictures

## The Talk of the Nation

"Solo" is the most popular name in Solomon Islands this month.

Solo, the 2023 Pacific Games official mascot has proven to be a hit with locals everywhere it goes or is present. Kids who have had the chance to see and meet Solo have grown accustomed to its hugs and dance moves, whilst those who have yet to see and meet Solo are continuously growing anxious as to when the fluffy yellow turtle would set foot on their shores. Since its public debut on the 1st of this month, Solo has thus far toured communities, schools and villages in three provinces as part of the Games Organizing Committee's (GOC) Community Engagement Program. (See pictures and report pages: 10 & 11).



*Pictures: Top to Bottom*

*Site visit to the newly constructed SIFF Academy (KGVII).*

*President Vidhya Lakhan (second from left), and Mr Minogue (right) visited Saint Joseph Tenaru School (one of the Games villages) where they met with the school's Principal and staff.*

*Visiting inside the National Stadium at KGVII*

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## Visiting inside the National Stadium at KGVI.



Don Bosco school (Henderson), another of the existing venues to be used in next year's Games.



President Lakhan was also given a tour of the now completed Friendship Multipurpose Hall at Panatina.



Maranatha Hall (Burns creek) one of the existing venues for next year's Games



President Lakhan & PGC CEO Minogue also visited the DC Park venue which will host the Games' Sailing and Va'a competitions



President Lakhan and PMU Executive Director Eldon Tapa enjoying the sites of the newly constructed facilities at the main stadium.



Site visit at the National Stadium (KGVI). From left: Christian Nieng (NHA Executive Director), Jack Smith (GOC Senior Manager Operations), PGC President Vidhya Lakhan, Eldon Tapa (PMU Executive Director) and PGC Chief Executive Officer Andrew Minogue).





## PM welcomes Australia's \$100m Games contribution

**S**OLOMON Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare has welcomed Australia's SB\$100 million contribution towards hosting the Pacific Games in Honiara in next year (2023).

Australia's Minister for Defense Industry, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Hon Pat Conroy announced the assistance at the ceremony attended by Sogavare and senior officials from the two countries at the Solomon Islands Institute of Sports (SINIS) early this month.

The contribution made Australia the second largest development partner contributor to the 2023 Pacific Games.

Speaking at the ceremony, Sogavare conveyed his personal and the governments sincere appreciation to the Prime Minister and People of Australia for this huge contribution to Solomon Islands 2023 Pacific Games efforts.

PM Sogavare further commended the Australian team on the ground, led by High Commissioner Dr. Lachlan Strahan for his tremendous efforts in supporting the government's proposal for funding support.

For the government and the people of Solomon Islands, the 2023 Pacific Games is not just about "two weeks of sporting extravaganza" but also an opportunity so see Honiara attracting more than five thousand people to its shores, November, 2023.

As a first-time host of this major sporting event – all preparations and planning are underpinned by one single word – LEGACY.

"The 2023 Pacific Games is all about leaving a legacy for our young population, and our future generations. "Sol2023 Pacific Games is indeed the largest unifying

event for the nation," Sogavare said.

The theme for the 2023 Pacific games comprising three simple words – Challenge, Celebrate, Unite, which aptly describes Solomon Islands vision and hope that the games will continue to unify the nation.

"The financial contribution from Australia will leave a legacy for the schools selected to be part of our games village program for the 2023 Pacific Games.

"The Pacific Games has become an important catalyst for my government to seek help to assist us refurbish and in some instances, modernize our schools and their facilities," Sogavare said.

The assistance will also ensure that technical expertise that the National Hosting Authority has engaged to help deliver the 2023 Pacific Games successfully on behalf of the government, the Pacific Games Council and Solomon Islands Pacific Games Association – the three partners to the host agreement is assured until the games are delivered.

The assistance will also enable the NHA to start work on the last games facility it had not been able to build – the marine sports center to accommodate water sporting events.

Furthermore, the financial support will ensure SINIS acquire the remaining sports equipment it needs for its operation.

These are the four targeted areas that the Australian funding will support and that will live on beyond the 2023 Pacific Game – which will continue to shape the development of young people in the country for years to come.

# "Sol2023 Pacific Games, the largest unifying event for Solomon Islands"

*Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare*



**T**HE Sol2023 Pacific Games will be the single largest unifying event for the country, which promises to leave a legacy for the young and future generation of Solomon Islanders.

Prime Minister, Manasseh Sogavare highlighted this when acknowledging Australia's SBD\$100 million contribution towards the Games and speaking on the value of hosting the region's biggest sporting event. The Solomon Islands Government through the National Hosting Authority (NHA) and other associated organizations has committed huge efforts and resources towards the Games with the aim to leave a lasting legacy for the future generations of Solomon Islanders.

Sogavare said the 2023 Pacific Games is not just about the two weeks of sporting extravaganza, which will bring together thousands to Honiara in November 2023 for competition and celebrations on the theme "Challenge, Celebrate and Unite, but it will be one of the unifying event for the nation.

"The 2023 Pacific Games is all about leaving a legacy for our young population, and our future generations and it is the single largest unifying event for our nation."

"It is our vision and our hope that the games will continue to unify our nation," Sogavare said.

The Australian support will contribute largely to the games legacy by improving school facilities and infrastructures which will be used at the Games Villages to host visiting athletes.

The Pacific Games has become an important catalyst for the government to seek help to assist in refurbishing and in some instances modernize school's facilities.



## GOC agrees to take part in PMS 2022

**T**HE Games Organizing Committee (GOC) has agreed to take part in this year's Pacific Media Summit (PMS 2022) in Honiara next month (September).


The PMS is the largest media gathering in the pacific region which will attract media delegates include top media executives from around the region.

MASI (Media Association of Solomon Islands) won the bid to host the PMS back in 2018 in Tonga with the support and endorsement of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) however due to covid – the summit was then differed to this year. MASI together with the PINA Secretariat are working in partnership to ensuring that the summit which is scheduled for September 26th to 30th does happen and is a success.

Following fruitful consultations with MASI, GOC's Chief Executive Officer Peter Stewart assured MASI that GOC is more than happy to take part in preliminary workshops and sessions at the summit.

"GOC is happy to be involved in the PMS next month. We see this as a great opportunity to be able to talk about how the Games is a good example of how the digital platforms and the digital media environment has changed the way that organizations deliver information to journalists and for media organizations.





## Waste Management Prioritized as SOL2023 Pacific Games Looms

**W**aste management is one of Solomon Island's priority areas as the host country for the 17th Pacific Games edition, next year.

In Honiara, with an almost 80,000 populations, waste management is still a challenge.

The game's timeline is set to be held for two weeks from November 19th to December 2nd, 2023 here in the capital with an estimated 5,000 athletes coming in from countries in the Pacific region.

The Pacific Games is the biggest sporting event in the Pacific region and Solomon Islands is looking forward to hosting it next year. Currently, the preparation is gearing up and plans are taking shape to complete the construction of key Games facilities scheduled anytime between May to June next year.

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) is looking at prioritizing recycling as responsiveness that will be undertaken during the two weeks of the games. According to GOC, the waste estimated to be collected per day during the games is up to 3,000 tons which is equivalent to 42,000 tons of waste in two weeks.

"This is a priority area that needs to be addressed and we are working on it to ensure that the Pacific Games 2023 is environmentally friendly," said Jack Smith, a Senior Manager for Venues and Games Service.

The GOC planning committee at the moment is working on a system that will mitigate waste management during the games. These are food waste reduction, partnering with local stakeholders or businesses for single-use bottle water- reusable water bottles. This system will try to focus on the 'Reuse, Reduce and Recycle' initiative. Ongoing discussion on whether to seek a new land field location or to continue using the Ranadi land field side for all disposal of rubbish is still not finalised but soon that will be set before the games.

City Clerk, Justus Denni recently confirmed that his office has already identified a new landfill site as the current landfill at Ranadi has now reached its maximum capacity and has no space to accommodate additional wastes as big as the one expected during the games.

Dr Jimmie Rodgers, chairman of the National Hosting Authority, was very positive about the idea of having new locations before the games and stated, "We are looking at locations that will be suitable for the dumpsites and at the moment we have identified a few locations. "Priorities are in place to finish with the construction and put a face on the new game sites but with assurance, waste management is one lacking issue."

In a report by the Deputy Director of Environment, Debra Kereseka, she mentioned that managing waste and controlling pollution in the Solomon Islands will require a national effort that includes high-level political leadership, effective policy and legal frameworks and developing appropriate institutional capacity and changing attitudes starting at individuals in the community, provincial and national level.

Lacking the knowledge of waste segregation, reuse and recycling is one of many contributing factors that will ensure that it must be done before the games.

Honiara City Council is working closely with a few of its partners to ensure Honiara maintains good clean practices.

"We are trying our very best to ensure that all the machinery sites do a cleaning up also because waste produced every day is increasing and now has become a challenge," said George Bogese, Honiara City Council.

In collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), one of HCC's project sites is the Ranadi dump site, however, according to the two parties, it was a great challenge.

"It takes time for people to understand doing waste segregation beginning right from their homes," the Counselor of the Embassy of Japan in the Solomon Islands, Norimasa Yoshida said. Separation of solid waste at the home level is a good practice and will go a long way in keeping our environment clean.

"Environmental education will be done in the coming months before games and during the event to ensure that everyone is on the same fight for solid waste management," Jack Smith added.

Honiara City also anticipates raising the standard of beautification in preparation for the Pacific Games in 2023.

President of the Pacific Council, Vidhya Lakhan in his visit to the games project sites recently expressed how impressed he was to see the ongoing developments in preparation for the Pacific's biggest sporting event and he even made mention that waste management is one priority area no one should miss.

"Everyone should take ownership and keep Honiara in a clean state because the world will now see how beautiful the Solomon Islands is during the games.

"Showcase Honiara in a clean and safe image, we don't want to make Honiara an image that nobody will not want to visit. It's the population of the Solomon Islands that will have to be behind this to help clean up," Mr Lakhan said. According to Jimmy Rogers, a few locations have already been spotted but are yet to be consulted and confirmed. In contrast to that, Honiara City Council is also eyeing a new location for a new waste dump site.

Mr Denni said "despite the challenge, the council is now gearing up its preparation to make Honiara a clean city ahead of next year's Pacific Games.

"HCC is preparing to make Honiara clean during the games."

■ Photo & Story: Jeremy Gwao | Freelance Reporter

## Solomon Islands receive third facility for Sol2023

Solomon Islands preparations for the 2023 Pacific Games has received a major boost, with the official handing over and opening of its third major facility – the Friendship Hall Multipurpose Sports Complex by the Indonesia Government.

Witnessed by a host of senior dignitaries from both the Solomon Islands and Indonesian Governments including Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare and other government ministers, the handing over and opening ceremony was an important milestone reached for Solomon Islands in its preparations to hosting next year's Games.

The sports complex is built over an area of 5,800 square meters, and features three courts for futsal, indoor volleyball, indoor tennis, netball and basketball. It also has a sick bay, a media control room, two changing rooms for each court, accessible rest rooms and an elevator.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Indonesia, Ms. Retno Marsudi, said that the completion, handover and opening ceremony of the Friendship multipurpose hall is an important milestone achieved in the bilateral relations between the two countries.

"Today is an important milestone in our bilateral relations. This building is more than just bricks and mortar, it is a symbol of hope, friendship and opportunity."

She added that she hopes one day the National Futsal teams of Solomon Islands and the Republic of Indonesia can play an international friendly at the new complex.

Prime Minister Sogavare thanked the Indonesian government for their support, adding that the facility will be instrumental toward sports development in Solomon Islands during and after the Sol2023 Pacific Games.









## 2023 GAMES INFORMATION SHEET!!

*The first Pacific Games in Solomon Islands*

*From 19 November, 2023 Honiara will welcome 24 countries from around the Pacific region including Australia and New Zealand to compete across 24 sports.... all in just 14 days of action.*

### DATE

19th November to 2nd  
December, 2023

### WHAT ARE THE GAMES AND HISTORY?

The Pacific Games (formerly known as the South Pacific Games) is a continental multi-sport event competing Olympic sports, with participation exclusively from archipelagic countries around the Pacific Ocean. It was renamed the Pacific Games in 2015 the inclusion of Australia & New Zealand. It is held every four years and began in 1963.

### SOME STAGGERING FACTS!!



**5,000 Athletes**



**15,000 meals per day**



**3,000 Volunteers**



**Bus Fleet (250 vehicles)**



**1,000 Contractors**



**Car Fleet (50 vehicles)**



**3500 Bed Hotel**



**60 Tonnes of waste  
per day**



## 2023 GAMES INFORMATION SHEET!!

## 24 Countries, 24 Sports

## SPORTS



## PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES





## 30

# **schools identified to take part in Sol2023 PG ceremonies**

**A** TOTAL of 30 schools from within Honiara and Guadalcanal province have been ear-marked to take part in the Sol2023 Pacific Games next year. This was revealed at a meeting between Games Organizers, the Government and Schools this month (August).

The nominated schools included; 11 from Honiara City Council, nine (9) Church Schools, five (5) Guadalcanal Provincial Schools, four (4) Private School and one (1) Government School.

These include four schools which will play host at the Games village and other schools which will take part in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Official Medal Ceremonies and to participate in the 'Adopt a Nation' program that will be rolled out before the start of the Sol2023 Pacific Games in Honiara.

GSIC (Government Services Integration Committee) Chair, Bernard Bataánisia said that the actual list of the 30 schools will be announced and provided at the appropriate time by the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) and the Ministry of Education and Human Resources (MEHRD).

Mr. Bataánisia said that the Games will need up to 2000 school children to be involved in the Games Opening and Closing ceremonies and the various Medal ceremonies which will be held at different venues during Games.

He added that the 30 nominated schools identified will help provide the needed number of students to take part in the Games Official programs.

"These are the schools we have identified to participate in the Games Opening, Closing and Medal Ceremonies.

"The actual list will be confirmed, provided and announced once GOC confirms the list of participating countries. As far as we know, there will be 24 countries competing at next year's Games," Mr. Bataánisia said.

MEHRD Deputy Secretary Christopher Sakiri said; "These are the schools GOC has identified to take part in these important programs at the Games. These schools will select the students to take part – but we will be needing around 2000 students to participate in all these programs."

Mr. Sakiri said that the Ministry has a plan and had submitted a bid to the GSIC to ensure that schools identified and that participate at the Games will receive support from the Government.

"MEHRD will provide logistical support and we will try as much as possible to provide funding for schools, however added that no discussions on the subject have yet taken place," he said.

Meanwhile, School Principals and School Board members have called on Organizers to speed up the process of officially announcing the schools to be involved so that they (schools) too can prepare well ahead of next year's Pacific Games.

## **Sol2023 PG provides learning opportunities for students**

**T**HE Sol2023 Pacific Games is the opportunity for students to enhance their learning.

GOC (Games Organizing Committee) CEO, Peter Stewart highlighted this whilst speaking on the values of the Pacific Games to Education Authorities, School Principals and School Boards this month (August).

The meeting organized by GOC, GSIC (Government Services Integration Committee), the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) was purposely to update schools about the Pacific Games, and the need to engage 2000 plus students to take part in the Games Opening, Closing and Medal Ceremonies.

Mr. Stewart said that next year's Sol2023 Games in Honiara provides the opportunity for students learning and at the same time, a means of encouraging students to get involved in sports.

He said that schools and students' participation in the Games Opening, Closing and Medal Ceremonies and their participation in the 'Adopt a Nation' program which will be rolled out before the start of the Games is also important for student learning.

"From a learning point of view, the Games presents a whole range of subjects and provides learning incentives such as; Pacific Geography, Pacific Culture and Geo-politics.

"Schools and students can use this as an opportunity to also learn about the 24 countries who will be competing at the Games next year.

Mr. Stewart said added that the Games also provide sports awareness for students and encourages them to get involved in sports.



"It (Games) also provides the opportunity for sports education, awareness and development – through the 24 sports that will be on display next year, whereby students could potentially think about learning.

"These are but some of the important values associated with the Pacific Games that students ought to know and learn – apart from the Sol2023 Pacific Games being just another sporting event," Mr. Stewart said.

Meanwhile MEHRD Deputy Secretary, Christopher Sakiri revealed that 30 schools within Honiara and Guadalcanal province have been identified to take part in the Games next year.

## PGC President calls for media support



**P**RESIDENT of the Pacific Games Council (PGC), Vidhya Lakhan is calling on the Solomon Islands media to support organizers, developments and athletes gearing up towards next year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

Speaking to the local media during his brief visit in the country, President Lakhan said that the media in Solomon Islands plays an important role in delivering a successful Pacific Games next year.

President Lakhan said whilst the PGC appreciates the progress of preparation towards the Pacific Games, the Media has a very important role to play in supporting these preparations.

"All I ask of you is that we want positive and helpful reporting.

"I want you to help us through your messages, through your media to get the Solomon Islands people on board, helping and supporting the people and athletes to reach that extra mile we need for them to achieve their goals, so that you all can say it was a very successful Games.

"I know you want to report things that you see, but if there are negatives, if I can request that you discuss those issues, I'm not saying that you don't report them, you do but get the facts right before you start writing about them.

"You can help us (PGC) to make sure that you have the whole population behind the Government, behind the GOC and authorities who are responsible in delivering the Games," President Lakhan said.

The PGC President said that it is time media help get Solomon Islanders on board to help promote next year's Games.

"It is high time that the media works together with the NHA (National Hosting Authority), GOC (Games Organizing Committee) and SINIS (Solomon Islands National Institute of Sports) to help promote the Games throughout the country.

"I call on the Solomon Islands media to help us get the country on board in preparing for the 2023 Pacific Games – the single biggest sporting event Solomon Islands will have the opportunity of hosting next year.

"It is important that the media work together with organizers in publishing positive stories that should educate, provide awareness and make people feel part of hosting this historical event – after all this is a people event.

President Lakhan and PGC's Chief Executive Officer Andrew Minogue spent a week in Honiara to assess Games venues and preparations to see if it meets PGC requirements.



## GOC hosts referee education program



The Games Organizing Committee (GOC)'s Sports Delivery team together with SIBF (Solomon Islands Basketball Federation) held a four-day Referee Education training program for young adults interested in basketball, in Honiara.

The training program covered theoretical and practical aspects of the sport. The aim of the training program was to help produce more potential local table officials (bench officials) and statisticians, in preparation for the 2023 Pacific Games Basketball competition.

"The outcome of this training will very much benefit GOC because we now have 26 local table officials and statisticians for Sol2023 Pacific Games Basketball competition," GOC Sports Delivery rep. Luke Paeni said.

He added that the training is also beneficial for SIBF. "This will also benefit SIBF because these 26 can now officiate in school basketball competitions and even the national basketball league," Mr Paeni said.

Mr Paeni encouraged participants to use the knowledge they have acquired from the recently held training to pursue higher referee accreditation in the future.

"The 26 participants can even use this course as a stepping stone to pursue higher referee accreditation in the future - either in country or abroad," he said.

Meanwhile SIBF is among other sporting federations to conduct such trainings in preparations for next year's Pacific Games.



## GOC supports NSF with office equipment

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) continued its support towards National Sports Federations (NSFs) in Solomon Islands with the handing over of office equipment to national sports federations, last week (Friday 5th August, 2022).

As part of GOC's Legacy Plan in strengthening and promoting good governance amongst national sporting bodies, GOC handed over laptops, printers and mobile phones to 17 national sports federations. They include;

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Boxing
- Football
- Golf
- Karate
- Netball
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union
- Sailing
- Table Tennis
- Taekwondo
- Tennis
- Weightlifting
- Bodybuilding
- Volleyball
- Va'a.

GOC Deputy Chair, Jasper Anisi said, "the GOC Legacy Plan is to strengthen the good governance aspect of all sporting federations in Solomon Islands in preparation for 2023 and beyond."

"What we (GOC) are doing is support national federations to strengthen governance standing with the aim to support the functionality, enhancement and capability of NSFs to engage with GOC, regional and international sporting bodies.

"GOC wants to start supporting Sports Federations to promote good governance and at the same time see the growth of Sports Federations in Solomon Islands."

Mr Anisi highlighted the importance of such support, "If we strengthen national federations, we will be partnering with them when we deliver 2023. We will need them to assist us in technical areas and in providing volunteers – they are our local partners in delivering 2023," he said.

Mr Anisi revealed that as part of the support, GOC had cleared all affiliation fees for the 17 sporting federations with their respective regional bodies and with NOCSI (National Olympic Council Solomon Islands). Meanwhile as part of the support, each of the 17 national sporting federations will receive a monthly financial support of \$6000 given that they provide their development plans, technical officials and governance.





# Staff Feature

*meet the team*



## Rocklive Poloso

Finance Manager

Meet Rocklive Tau Poloso, GOC's very vibrant Finance Manager.

Rocklive hails Boe Boe village in South Choiseul province, Solomon Islands. As Finance Manager, Rocklive's role is to lead and guide the finance and procurement team, ensuring that the Games is delivered within the approved budget and that all audit clearances and compliance are achieved at the end of the 2023 Pacific Games project.

The GOC Finance Manager reports to the CEO of the Games and to the GOC board

### What's it like working for the GOC?

Being part of the GOC team is a lifetime experience that I wouldn't want to miss out on.

I am very excited and committed to bring my knowledge and experience to the GOC. I understand that the role I am entrusted to deliver is challenging, especially when it comes to decision making and execution, but I believe in my expertise to deliver and get the job done. I have great confidence in my capabilities and in my hardworking team that we will deliver the Games and make Solomon Islands proud before, during and after the Sol2023 Pacific Games.

### What are your views on the Sol2023 Pacific Games?

Everyone of us should look forward to the Sol2023 Pacific Games because not only will the Games bring positive economic impact in the short and medium term to our country, but in the long run we are leaving behind a legacy that our children and the future generation of Solomon Islands will benefit immensely from. I believe that it is time for our young leaders to extrapolate our future considering all the improvements to sporting infrastructures that is mainly driven by the Games as a catalyst to infrastructure development. Our infrastructures are our enabler to derive economic and social activities. I challenge my fellow countrymen and women to rise and together we look forward to seeing our athletes, our country celebrate with our 24 sister island nations and Unite our People going forward.



## Karrie Jionisi

Ceremony and Culture Coordinator

With the Games less than 16 months away, all eyes will be on Honiara as it hosts by far the biggest event the country would have ever hosted, the Sol2023 XVII Pacific Games – and the very person tasked to coordinate all ceremonial programs at the Games is Karrie Foóá Jionisi.

Karrie is from the northern region of Malaita province and she is the Ceremonies and Culture Coordinator at the Games Organizing Committee (GOC).

Karrie's key role involves planning, organizing and coordinating the Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies plus medal ceremonies for all 24 sporting events that will take place at next year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

### What are your views on being part of GOC and hosting the Sol2023 Pacific Games?

The Pacific Games is undoubtedly one of the biggest events in the region. It is not only about sports but it's about countries coming together to challenge, celebrate and unite our different diverse cultures as one big Pacific family.

I joined the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) knowing that such an opportunity doesn't always come around every year, and to be part of it and help Solomon Islands make history is an experience I just couldn't let slip by.

I count it a great honour and privilege to be part of GOC to help deliver the best Pacific Games, Solomon Islands can deliver next year 2023.



## Benjamin Nginabule

Graphic Designer

Meet Benjamin Nginabule. One of the Games Organizing Committee's newest inclusions.

Benjamin or Ben as most commonly known around the office comes from the beautiful Western province and is the Graphic Designer for GOC. Ben is part of GOC's Communications and Marketing Team and looks after all of GOC's graphic needs. As the Sol2023 Pacific Games draws closure, Ben will be responsible for "Coloring Up" the Games.

### Your views on working for the GOC?

It is indeed a privilege for me to be part of this amazing GOC team tasked to deliver this once in a lifetime event. The Pacific Games is no ordinary national event, but a global one that I believe everyone wants to be part of. To be delivering this once in a lifetime event our nation needs the best professionals and GOC has the best! Having the chance to part of that is truly an experience that will live on with me for the rest of my career both as a graphic designer and as a Solomon Islander.

### What are your views on the Sol2023 Pacific Games?

This event is certainly one of a kind and being able to showcase our ability not only in sport but through our world class facilities, diverse cultures, traditions and people is an opportunity that often only comes once in a lifetime. We Solomon Islanders should be proud and excited to host next year's Pacific Games – we must support and do whatever we can to ensure that our visitors come and leave Solomon Islands with good, fond memories that will last their lifetime.



## Alumeci Kativerata

Executive Assistant

Being part of a major historical event such as the Pacific Games is an opportunity that only comes once – an opportunity I just can't let slip by. These were the words of Alumeci Kativerata, one of the newest inclusions here at the Games Organizing Committee.

Alumeci is from Fiji however has spent most of her lifetime here in the Solomon Islands. She is the Executive Assistant to the Senior Manager for Venues and Games Operations.

### Your views on working for the GOC?

I am indeed grateful to be part of the GOC team as we will be responsible for organizing and delivering the biggest event Solomon Islands will ever witness and experience. It is an opportunity that only comes once – an opportunity that I just can't let slip by.

### What are your views on the Sol2023 Pacific Games?

This event will definitely be a memorable milestone for Solomon Islands as it will be our first time host the Pacific Games.

Everyone in the country should participate and be excited for the Games as we will unite, celebrate and integrate the diverse cultures of the Pacific through sports and culture come next year's event.





## PGC President, CEO visit SINIS

The Pacific Games Council President, Vidhya Lakhan and CEO, Andrew Minogue briefly visited the Solomon Islands National Institute of Sport (SINIS) during their weeklong stay in Honiara this month (August).

As part of their site visit program to look at preparations towards next year's Sol2023 Pacific Games, Mr. Lakhan and Mr. Minogue visited SINIS to have a look at training facilities and programs offered there.

SINIS Executive Director Aaron Alsop explained to them the various education

programs, health services and internship programs SINIS offers, funded for by Australia's DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade).

"Our health program here is based on health assessments carried out on and for athletes which covers; nutrition screening, blood testing, medical checks, muscle assessments and eye tests.

"SINIS is also hiring full time and intern professional staff who specialize in different areas such as physio, rehab coaches, nutritionists, mental health and a

health officer.

"Our internship program mainly focuses on new graduates and professionals. We aim to help them build their capacity here at SINIS before going further to get full time jobs," Mr. Alsop said.

Meanwhile both PGC officials have been impressed with the various programs offered at SINIS, encouraging both staff and athletes to continue developing their potentials in the various sports they choose to train for.

## SINIS continues support for Para Sports

| SINIS Media

THE Solomon Islands National Institute of Sports (SINIS) continue to support the development of Para Sports and its build-up preparations for the 2023 Pacific Games.

"Recently, through the high-performance program, a 7 weeks talent identification trial was scheduled for the para-athletes – these are to identify and classify new aspiring para-athletes

and an opportunity to help them discover their abilities.

"So far we going through the basics, especially the new ones to use some of the sporting equipment and how the para-athletes can practice and adjust comfortably (seated & standing)," Para coach Mark Ologa explained. He says that during the 7 weeks trial the para-athletes went through a series of high-performance capabilities with the strength & conditioning team, talent pathways, wellbeing & lifestyle and coach development.

"We continue to thank SINIS for providing the support of equipment and venue. For me, it's the first time I noticed that the athletes enjoyed the environment coming to training and the amazing access," Ologa expresses.

"We need more para-athletes for us to include in the right events to compete at the games. Currently para-athletics only focuses on events for shot put, 100m race, discus and javelin.

"As the host country we need to include more events for para sports like the able sports – more events more chances for us to win medals," Ologa stated.

Other para-athletes sports included during the 7 weeks trial are; Para archery, Para table tennis and Para powerlifting.





## ABC TV produce show in Honiara

A FILM crew from ABC Australia was in the country this month (August) to film its latest series of the TV show 'That Pacific Sports Show'.

'That Pacific Sports Show' is a 30-minute television show which captures inspiring stories and achievements of Pacific Islands athletes across the world. This series features SINIS (Solomon Islands National Institute of Sports), SINPC (Solomon Islands National Paralympic Committee) and Para athletes and sports development in Solomon Islands in the lead up towards the Sol2023 XII Pacific Games in Honiara.

ABC Australia/ABC iView Series Producer, Simon Heath led the two-men film crew that spent 10 days (August 18th – 15th) in filming in Honiara and Munda, Western province.

"We came here to learn more about Solomon Islands and showcase Solomon Islands sports. Sports here in Solomon Islands is exceptional and we are here to showcase and make those stories be heard not only in the Pacific and Australia, but to the whole world." He said that a majority of their filming was based on the stories and achievements of athletes at SINIS, adding that they also covered Solomon Islands Soccer.

"I really love telling stories about people like Sharon Firisua, Raphael Lea'ai, athletes who has been to go from their village to the world stage and that's not easy. That takes so much talent, so much strength, so many setbacks and often training with western ideals - that is amazing, what it brings to the Solomons.

"A third of our stories were based on athletes at SINIS, where all sports are centred. SINIS is really a centre point. There's just so many talented athletes coming through there - the para athletes, the sprinters, the boxers and many more."

"We also spent a lot of time filming soccer - you cant come to the Solomons and not cover soccer - you just cant, its just too amazing." Simon added that the third sporting area covered was sports development in Solomon Islands centred around sporting events Solomon Islands is not known for. "We also covered some sports which people might not acquaint the Pacific (Solomon Islands) for like; surfing, skateboarding and the traditional custom canoe race out in Munda, Western province." He said that the goal is tell these unknown stories so that the world is aware of the sporting potentials and credentials of Solomon Islands.



"I think people don't often understand sports and the pacific culture - the Solomon Islands culture where sports and culture relate. "We try to let people tell their own stories - stories about the value of family, the pride for their country and the support that the church has on their carriers and the lives as people," he said.

Meanwhile, Dan Stevenson, the Series Producer and Editor said that they hope to come back next year for the Pacific Games.

