

# 100



## Days to Sol2023

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JUNE & JULY 2023

We are 100 days away from the grand kick-off of the 17th Pacific Games in Honiara Solomon Islands. On August 11th, we turned up the heat by unveiling the Sol2023 Official Games Baton, launched and at the same time farewelled the Baton as it began its nationwide journey throughout Solomon Islands.

Talk about saving the best for the last? The Games Baton Relay is the final piece of the puzzle in our Games Community Engagement Strategy aimed at uniting, connecting and involving Solomon Islands and the Pacific Region to the Games.

Remember Solo? The energetic Games Mascot who stole people's hearts and brought smiles to many thousands launched in August 2022? the awesome Games Ambassadors program that has and continues to inspire many aspiring athletes throughout Solomon Islands launched in March 2023? Well Now we have Games Baton Relay taking center stage and leading us forward toward the Games in November and December this year.

Do keep an eye out for all the goodies of the Baton Relay tours in our August edition of the Sol2023 Official Newsletter.



PACIFIC GAMES  
SOLOMON ISLANDS

Official Newsletter  
of the Sol2023  
Games Organising Committee



# GOC release Sol2023 Sports Schedule

With the historical 2023 XVII Pacific Games just less than four months away from reaching our shores, the Games Organizing Committee is pleased to inform the public of the Sports Schedule for this year's Games.

The schedule comprises of all 11 Games Venues and the 24 sports competitions assigned to these venues for the two-weeks duration of the Games. It also included the start and finish dates for all sports competitions. According to the schedule Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis and Table Tennis will kick off this year's Games, with their competitions starting Friday the 17th of November, two days before the Sol2023 PG Official Opening Ceremony on Sunday 19th (November).

Weightlifting, Swimming, Sailing, Rugby League 9, Golf and Judo will commence their competitions starting Monday 20th November, with the latter being the first to conclude and hand out medals the following day (Tuesday 21st November).

Tuesday will also see the start of the Archery Competition. The Rugby League 9 competition will conclude Wednesday 22nd November, whilst Thursday 23rd November will see the start of Karate and Rugby 7s competitions.

Weightlifting, Karate and Swimming conclude their competitions on Friday 24th November. Basketball, Volleyball, Golf, Rugby 7s, Table Tennis conclude their events Saturday 25th November, whilst also coinciding is the day-long Open Water swimming competition – all of which wrap up week one of the Sol2023 Pacific Games.

Sunday 26th November is a rest day for all athletes and sports.

The much-anticipated Athletics competition kick start week two of Sol2023 (Monday 27th November) along with Netball, Boxing, Bodybuilding, Rugby Touch, Va'a and Kayaking competitions. Beach Volleyball, Hockey, Powerlifting and Taekwondo kick off competitions Tuesday 28th November –whilst Wednesday 29th November will see the start of the Triathlon competition.

Basketball 3x3 begin its competitions Thursday 30th November. Thursday also sees the conclusion of the Powerlifting event.





Athletics, Boxing and Taekwondo conclude their competitions Friday 01st December.

Events that will wrap up on Saturday 02nd December (final day of Sol2023) include; Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby Touch, Sailing, Tennis, Triathlon, Va'a and Kayaking. The Closing Ceremony will bring down the curtains to Sol2023 PG on the evening of Saturday 02nd December, 2023.



Sol2023 **SPORTS** SCHEDULE






## NATIONAL STADIUM

EVENT/SPORT	START DATE	FINISH/CLOSE DATE
Official Opening Ceremony	19th November, 2023	
 RUGBY LEAGUE 9	20th November, 2023	22nd November, 2023
 RUGBY 7	23rd November, 2023	25th November, 2023
 ATHLETICS	27th November, 2023	2nd December, 2023
 FOOTBALL	1st December, 2023	2nd December, 2023
Official Closing Ceremony	2nd December, 2023	



Sol2023 **SPORTS** SCHEDULE





## DC PARK

EVENT/SPORT	START DATE	FINISH/CLOSE DATE
 ARCHERY	21st November, 2023	24th November, 2023
 SAILING	20th November, 2023	2nd December, 2023
 OPEN WATER	25th November, 2023	
 RUGBY TOUCH	27th November, 2023	2nd December, 2023
 VA'A & KAYAKING	27th November, 2023	2nd December, 2023



Sol2023 **SPORTS** SCHEDULE

## FRIENDSHIP HALL

EVENT/SPORT	START DATE	FINISH/CLOSE DATE
 BASKETBALL	17th November, 2023	25th November, 2023
 VOLLEYBALL	17th November, 2023	25th November, 2023
 BOXING	27th November, 2023	2nd December, 2023
 NETBALL	17th November, 2023	2nd December, 2023



Sol2023 **SPORTS** SCHEDULE

# SIFF ACADEMY

EVENT / SPORT	START DATE	FINISH / CLOSE DATE
JUDO	20th November, 2023	21st November, 2023
KARATE	23rd November, 2023	24th November, 2023
BEACH VOLLEYBALL	28th November, 2023	2nd December, 2023
BASKETBALL 3X3	29th November, 2023	2nd December, 2023



Sol2023 **SPORTS** SCHEDULE

# LAWSON TAMA

EVENT/SPORT	START DATE	FINISH/CLOSE DATE
FOOTBALL	20th November, 2023	1st December, 2023

24 SPORTS 24 COUNTRIES



Sol2023 **SPORTS** SCHEDULE

# AQUATIC CENTER

EVENT/SPORT	START DATE	FINISH/CLOSE DATE
SWIMMING	20th November, 2023	24th November, 2023
TAEKWONDO	28th November, 2023	1st December, 2023
TRIATHLON	29th November, 2023	1st December, 2023



Sol2023 **SPORTS** SCHEDULE

# MARANATHA

EVENT/SPORT	START DATE	FINISH/CLOSE DATE
WEIGHTLIFTING	20th November, 2023	24th November, 2023
BODY BUILDING	27th November, 2023	
POWER LIFTING	28th November, 2023	30th December, 2023



Sol2023 **SPORTS** SCHEDULE

# HCC ARENA

EVENT/SPORT	START DATE	FINISH/CLOSE DATE
TABLE TENNIS	20th November, 2023	25th November, 2023

24 SPORTS 24 COUNTRIES



Sol2023 **SPORTS** SCHEDULE

# SIFF FIELD 1-2

EVENT/SPORT	START DATE	FINISH/CLOSE DATE
FOOTBALL Field 1	17th November, 2023	30th November, 2023
FOOTBALL Field 2	17th November, 2023	30th November, 2023



Sol2023 **SPORTS** SCHEDULE

# HOCKEY STADIUM

EVENT/SPORT	START DATE	FINISH/CLOSE DATE
HOCKEY	27th November, 2023	30th November, 2023



Sol2023 **SPORTS** SCHEDULE

# NATIONAL TENNIS CENTER

EVENT/SPORT	START DATE	FINISH/CLOSE DATE
TENNIS	17th November, 2023	1st December, 2023



# PM Sogavare impressed with National Stadium

Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare is overly impressed with the progress and development of the country's first ever National Stadium (NST).

The Prime Minister was given his first full tour of the new stadium which will be the core venue for this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games, Mr Sogavare conceded he was more than impressed.

"I was told that the new stadium was something special under the flood lights – I had no idea that it would be this special. Seeing is believing.

"It is indeed special to witness this magnificent icon," Prime Minister Sogavare said.

The National Stadium holds an international standard competition pitch that will be used for Rugby and Football at Games time, also a blueish international standard 400 meters synthetic running track for athletics, a 10x8 meters digital screen which will display all Games results, 24 flag poles that will hold the flags of the 24 competing nations and more than 400 floodlights that light up the stadium.

Mr Sogavare conveyed the nation's appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC), its Ambassador to Solomon Islands, His Excellency Li Ming and to the CCECC (China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation).

"CCECC, thank you for this wonderful facility.



"Ambassador Li Ming, I cannot thank your Government enough for this wonderful, wonderful gift to the people of Solomon Islands.

"It is both humbling and wonderful for me and my Government to witness this magnificent icon which is this stadium," Prime Minister Sogavare said.

The National Stadium look set to be completed and handed over to the National Hosting Authority by the end of August.

Meanwhile sports competitions and events that will be staged at the national stadium include; Sol2023 Official Opening Ceremony, Rugby League 9, Rugby 7s, Athletics, Football and the Sol2023 Official Closing Ceremony. These will be between November 19th to 2nd December, 2023.





## SI celebrate 45th Independence four months from Sol2023

Honiara, the host City for this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games was in full celebration mode 7th July 2023, as Solomon Islands celebrated its Independence four months before Games time.

Having had to endure two straight years without any major nationwide festivities due to Covid, this year's 45th Independence Anniversary celebrations was always going to be massive.

Thousands turned out, dazzled in the country's national colors of blue, yellow and green to mark the occasion. Celebrations started on the eve of Independence Day with a Thanksgiving Service at the St. Barnabas Cathedral, and on the morning of the 7th an official parade was held at a packed Lawson Tama Stadium.

A whole host of other events were held in and around the City on the day as part of the festivities. These include live music concerts staged simultaneously at different sections of Honiara, numerous sporting events and other gatherings held in almost every community throughout the City.

SOLO, the Sol2023 Pacific Games Mascot was also part of the Celebrations leading its team on an Independence Drive by, meeting and greeting communities throughout the City 'Happy 45th Independence Anniversary.'

This being Solo's first and maybe its only Independence celebration, SOLO and its team from the GOC (Games



Organizing Committee) took on the initiative of organizing an Independence drive-by, much to the delight of people in communities visited.

Meanwhile following July 7th's celebrations, Solomon Islands now sits merely four months away from hosting the historical Sol2023 Pacific Games come 19th November to 2nd December, 2023.







## GOC, VBTC announce Broadcast Rights for SOL2023

GOC will produce over 1000 hours of coverage during the 2023 Pacific Games. Meanwhile, more details on additional rights holders as well as the Solomon Islands rights holders will be announced this month.

The 2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) is pleased to announce that the Vanuatu Broadcasting & Television Corporation (VBTC) has acquired the television broadcast rights for SOL2023 for Vanuatu.

Operating a free to air TV channel, and three radio stations, VBTC will be providing exclusive coverage of the games, as well as the live broadcast of the opening and closing ceremonies on VBTC's TV channel, "Television Blong Vanuatu".

Francis Herman, Chief Executive Officer for VBTC said that "VBTC is proud to have secured the exclusive rights for the Vanuatu territory and commend the GOC for its confidence in VBTC".

For the first time in its history, VBTC will provide the most extensive television and radio coverage of a Pacific Games. "Our coverage will see daily extensive coverage across all our media platforms," says Herman.

GOC will televise most sports live and will be producing a daily World Feed program of 8-10 hours of coverage. Apart from this, rights holders such as VBTC will be have access to the Venue Feeds to highlight their country's athletes' performances while providing coverage for its viewers.

Peter Stewart, CEO of the Sol2023 Games Organizing Committee, said that "The addition of VBTC to our ever-growing list of international broadcast Rights holders demonstrates the high level of interest that exists throughout the Pacific in the 2023 Pacific Games. We look forward to providing a world class broadcast product across a range of media at Games time. Our rights holders, like VBTC, are crucial to the successful delivery of this coverage."

## GOC, TV1 Samoa announce Sol2023 Broadcast Rights Deal

With less than 120 days to go, the 2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) is pleased to announce that the Samoa Broadcasting Co Ltd has acquired the exclusive television broadcast rights for SOL2023 for Samoa.

TV1 Samoa CEO, Faiese Matafeo said that it is always a privilege to contribute to the success of the Pacific regional events and we are excited to be part of the SOL 2023 production team. GOC will televise most sports live and will be producing a daily 8-10 hours World Feed program. Rights holders such as TV1 Samoa will also have access to the different sport and venue feeds, enabling them to highlight and follow Samoan athletes.

TV1 has always been in the forefront in promoting and showcasing local talents whether it be in sports or any other field, so we will provide maximum coverage and follow the journey of Samoa's athletes and highlight their defining moments.

Peter Stewart, CEO of the Sol2023 Games Organizing Committee said, "Following the success of the last Pacific Games in Samoa, we are so pleased to be able to welcome TV1 Samoa into our suite of broadcast rights holders."

GOC will produce over 1000 hours of coverage during the 2023 Pacific Games.

Meanwhile, more details on other rights holders including the rights holders for the Solomon Islands will be announced this month.





# LOOK AFTER SOL2023 PACIFIC GAMES FACILITIES: NHA

■ NHA Press

THE National Hosting Authority (NHA) is calling on the Solomon Islands public to take pride and look after all newly built facilities to be used at this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

These facilities which are funded for by donors and the national government of Solomon Islands include the National Stadium and sports venues located amidst its east and western surroundings, the football training fields and running track, the SIFF Academy, the Friendship Hall, the DC Park Marine Centre and the Solomon Islands National Institute of Sports (SINIS).

This also includes the PG2023 Games Village which comprises of a 900-bed accommodation at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU)'s main campus, and the refurbishment of dormitories and classrooms at selected schools and institutions east of Honiara City.

NHA Executive Director Christian Nieng, said the opportunity and significance of hosting the Games has allowed Solomon Islands to collaborate with its donor partners in building high-quality state-of-the-art Sporting Facilities.

Acknowledging all donor partners, Mr Nieng emphasized, "these assets bestowed upon Solomon Islands from our donor partners are crucial to the successful delivery of the Games."

"The sports venues are crucial infrastructure for successfully hosting the Games, and facilitating competitions, training sessions, and related activities.

"They will serve as the primary stages for various sporting events this year and in the future."

Mr Nieng highlighted that the opportunity and significance of hosting the Games has allowed Solomon Islands to collaborate

with its donor partners in building high-quality sporting facilities.

He added that it is time Solomon Islanders take pride and ownership in these facilities and help maintain it before, during and after the Sol2023 Pacific Games.

"As these facilities have been provided

through the generous support of donor partners, it is the responsibility of all individuals to take ownership of these assets and ensure their proper maintenance.

Furthermore, he urged staff and students of schools and institutions to be used as Games Villages to start taking care of the facilities that will accommodate the visiting 5000 plus Pacific Island athletes here for the Games come November and December.

Meanwhile all Games facilities are expected to be completed and handed over to NHA





## Construction of new **SIFF Academy** on track

■ NHA Press

**W**ork on the newly Solomon Islands Football Federation (SIFF) Academy is well on track and look to be completed within the next two months.

The National Hosting Authority (NHA) through its Facilities Committee confirmed this.

The newly built SIFF Academy is a multi-donor project co-funded for by the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Government of Japan, with support from the Solomon Islands Government.

Facilities at the SIFF Academy include;

- ▶ A Multi-Purpose Futsal Court
- ▶ Two Football (Soccer) Pitches
- ▶ Beach Soccer Field
- ▶ An Office and Administration Building
- ▶ A Dormitory
- ▶ A Changing Room

“Most of the construction work are progressing well with civil works and leveling already completed. The superstructure for the Futsal building is also close to completion,” NHA Communications Manager, Douglas Saefoa confirmed.

Solomon Islands Government through NHA has acknowledged donors for the tremendous support rendered towards the project.

NHA is confident that the new home of Football will be completed by August’s end, this year.

Meanwhile SIFF Academy will be a multi-sports venue during this year’s Sol2023 Pacific Games. The venue will host five sports; Football, Judo, Karate, Beach Volleyball and Basketball 3x3.

According to the revised Sports Schedule, the venues and its facilities will be used starting 17th November to 30th November, 2023.





## Photo of the Month

### ONWARD TOWARD SOL2023

NHA Executive Director Christian Nieng (Centre) and GOC Human Resource Manager McCleen Sarukiki (left) trying out the new Va'a training equipment donated to the local Federation for their preparations for the Sol2023 Pacific Games this year. This month also saw the arrival of competition equipment for sport. Va'a Competition at this year's Games will be held from 27th November to 2nd December, 2023. PHOTO: Brian Maesulia.

## Our Telekom on track with PG2023 preparations

■ Our Telekom Website

Solomon Islands Telecommunication Giant and Presenting Sponsors of the Sol2023 Pacific Games, Our Telekom is on track with its preparations in providing efficient network coverage during Games time this year.

Our Telekom is actively working to provide smooth and uninterrupted connectivity during the Pacific Games 2023.

We have installed fiber connections in venues on the West side of the 'Sports City' and are extending the same to venues on the East side.

Additionally, the KG tower is now operational, strengthening and improving network connectivity in the Pacific Games Arena and surrounding areas. In addition, we recently built and installed a mobile cell site at the Telekom Ranadi site to enhance network coverage and capacity.

This mobile cell site allows us to quickly address areas with high connectivity demands and provide quality communication.

Our Telekom is also expanding our network infrastructure by conducting civil works at Henderson (Fighter One) and Naha Heights sites to improve network connectivity and customer experience.

These developments reflect Our Telekom's preparation and readiness for the Pacific Games 2023





## Solomon Island athletes off to China

**T**his month (July) saw a total 80 local athletes from Solomon Islands leave for China to undergo intensive training in preparation for this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games.

The athletes were commissioned and given a formal send-off by Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, Government Ministers and Officials and the Chinese Ambassador.... at the National Stadium on the 4th of this month.

The 80-men contingent included athletes and coaches from seven national sporting federations. They include; Athletics, Boxing, Judo, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo and Weightlifting.

The athletes are expected to undergo a three month long intensive training program aimed at boosting their physical, technical, mental capacity, with the hope of achieving improved results and performances.

Accompanying coaches will also have the opportunity to interact with Chinese counterparts and refine their coaching styles, strategies and abilities. The knowledge and experiences acquired in China will then be shared with the entire Team Solomon contingent upon their return.

NSC Chief Executive Officer, Alison Burchell said, "The training program in China will extend over a period of 90 days. It will be a focused training environment where our athletes will learn a lot about the technical aspects of their sport and help improve their confidence and results."

Burchell meanwhile commended the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Solomon Islands Government for providing the opportunity for local athletes to fast track and enhance their preparations for the Games. The first batch of athletes left for China on the 5th of this month, whilst another two batches are expected to leave on the 8th and 12th of July.







## GOC unveil Sol2023 Ceremonies Creative & Production Team

The Wait Is Over!

The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) is pleased to officially announce the Sol2023 Pacific Games Ceremonies Creative and Production Team.

The 15-men team comprises of a Producer/Director, an Associate Producer, Cultural Story tellers, Music Directors, Segment Choreographers and a Designer, Movement Directors, Administration personnel and a Theatrical Consultant. They include:

Neil Nuia	Producer & Director
Joey Manemaka	Associate Producer
Natty Dolaiasi	Cultural Storyteller
Dennis Marita	Cultural Advisor
Selwyn Do'oro	Music Director
Calvin Rore	Mass Choir Director
Henry Oti	Designer
James Apaniai	Head Choreographer
Rhonna Marita	Segment Choreographer
Francis Lilo	Segment Choreographer
Anil Karan Niua	Movement Director
Gillian Aita Oti	Movement Director
Ayesha Evans	Theatrical Consultant
Samantha Niunara	People Management & Administration
Yancy Legua	Finance

Speaking at the Official Unveiling, GOC Board Chairman Martin Rara said, "As the host country for the 2023 Pacific Games, Solomon Islands has much to share with the South Pacific in terms of its unique way of life, its people and its culture.

"The Opening and Closing Ceremonies present a remarkable opportunity to showcase the best in our nation's creativity, entertainment and culture. Ceremonies are once-in-a-lifetime events, highly charged experiences with years of work coming down to one night, one time and one place - and they are vital part of telling our 2023 Pacific Games story to the world," Mr Rara said.

He added that the role of the Ceremonies is to open the Games by introducing the world to the host city and country, and to close the Games by celebrating achievements of the athletes and teams - but also that of the host community and nation.

"In the shows, we will deliver great celebrations of sport and culture with spectacular and unique Pacific Games Moments. Our goal with both Ceremonies is also to provide an uplifting and inspiring message to the world, to create some of the most memorable events of the Games, and to celebrate the incredible spirit of our nation," Mr Rara reiterated.

Congratulating the team, GOC Board Member responsible for oversight of the Ceremonies, Aldrin Bekala said, "The Sol2023 Pacific Games Ceremonies requires a great team of talented people to lead the creative, production and technical teams to conceive and deliver the shows.

"It is their job to create amazing experiences that will be as memorable for the 10,000 plus spectators and the 3000 plus athletes watching in the National Stadium, as they will be to the hundreds of thousands across the Solomon Islands and around the South Pacific watching on television."

He added that after months of searching, analysing and much waiting, the Games now has a Creative and Production team capable of planning and delivering amazingly memorable Ceremonies at the Games this year.

"We believe that our search delivered the best of all possible results - a Solomon Islands Ceremonies team that combines extraordinary depth of talent, knowledge, experience and accomplishment, along with extraordinary commitment.

"Every individual that make up this team have each created, produced, written, directed and presented many of our nation's most memorable events and moments.

"It's a strong multi-talented group with local roots, significant Solomon Islands spirit, and great live event experience," Mr Bekala said.





## Solo make surprise school visits in June

**S**OLO the happy, caring and friendly Sol2023 Pacific Games Mascot has continued visiting schools in Honiara City.

The month of June saw Solo and the Games Organizing Committee (GOC)'s Marketing and Communications team visit two schools.

Woodford International School (WIS) Friday 23rd June, 2023, Woodford International School (WIS) held its School Sports Day program.

Little did any of the students, parents, guardians and off course some staff – know that a furry yellow special turtle guest was about to give them their surprise of the month by making a special appearance.

None even expected that this fun-loving turtle mascot was to officially open the schools sporting festivities that day.

And when Solo appeared from behind the walls of the stage, screams of excitement, joy and laughter almost blew off the roof at the schools Assembly Hall.

Solo took time to meet, greet and take photos with students, parents, staff members of the school.

Solomon Islands Red Cross Society School for Disabled Children (SDC)

The week after its visit to WIS, on Thursday 29th June Solo and the team again made a surprise school visit, this time to one of the City's special schools, the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society School for Disabled Children (SDC) at the western end of Honiara City.

It was the final day of the term – all the students were busy and hyped up for the various sporting activities planned for the day. None even had a clue of the Special Guest that was hiding behind the door, ready to surprise and give them the shock of their lives.

That was exactly what happened moments later when Guess Who Appeared? Yes indeed! Solo the Sol2023 Pacific Games Mascot.



Though not as loud as the previous school, excitement and joy was basking in the ambience – students could be seen aching for their turn to receive a big hug and some love from Solo.

“The purpose of the visits was to simply give students and staff of these schools the opportunity to meet and greet Solo. Everyone wants to meet and take selfies with Solo, especially our students,” GOC Media Officer, Ezmie Oge said. Ezmie said that over the past month her team has received numerous requests for special Solo appearances both in Honiara, the provinces and even overseas, however added due to the Mascot's tight schedules, Solo can only visit some. Meanwhile since its public debut August 1st last year (2022), Solo has since visited all the provinces in Solomon Islands.





## SOLO, the toast of 2023 Olympic Day Celebrations

SOLO, the Sol2023 Pacific Games Mascot was the toast of this year's Olympic Day Celebrations in Honiara.

Marked on the 23rd of June under the theme 'Let's Move!', the celebrations kicked off with a parade from Friendship Hall to the Solomon Islands Institute of Sports (SINIS) grounds. This was followed by the staging of various fun-filled activities in commemorating the special day.

Speaking at the event NOCSI (National Olympic Committee of Solomon Islands) President Martin Rara said the occasion symbolizes the unifying power of sports amongst countries and people around the globe.

"Together on this important day we come to mark and celebrate sports. We are here to celebrate an industry, a way of life for millions around the world.

"Sports is a tool that bridges gaps, it reaches deep and high above. Sports brings people of different cultures, traditions, backgrounds together."

Rara added that this year's theme "Let's Move!", signifies unity and togetherness in sports.

"It is an inclusive move! It is a move that leaves no one behind - meaning we must march on together as a team as we welcome this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games and future events that will be held in our beloved Solomon Islands," the NOCSI President said.

The celebration was made extra special with the special appearance of the fun-loving, yellow furry turtle Mascot 'Solo'- who wasted no time in sharing hugs, blowing kisses and bringing smiles and laughter to everyone in attendance.

And to no-one's surprise, Solo again stole the show by leading the way in almost every activity held on the day.

The highlight of day to many was Solo participating in the Zumba session alongside Eve's Zumba Fitness & Healthy Lifestyle team.







## Emotional Homecoming for CIP & RENBEL Games Ambassadors

The month of June saw the Sol2023 Pacific Games Ambassadors program complete tours to Central Islands and Rennell and Bellona provinces.

However, unlike the others, the two tours in June saw emotional homecomings for the two Ambassadors involved. They include former national football rep and Pacific Games medalist Timothy Inifiri (Central Province), and one of Solomon Islands' first female Paralympian and local sweetheart Hellen Saohanga (Rennell and Bellona Province).

Timothy was the first out on tour visiting villages, schools, communities in Gela and Savo islands respectively. They include; Tulagi, McMahon School, Hagalu School, Halavo School, Taroniara School, Siota Provincial Secondary School, Boromole School, Savo island, Paibeta School, Kalaka School.

"It was real good having the opportunity to go back to where my football carrier literally took off. I nurtured and developed my football knowledge and experience in Tulagi – the provincial capital of Central Islands.

"Having the chance to come back as a Games Ambassador and help inform, advocate, educate and share my footballing experiences to today's generation is indeed an honour for me," Timothy said.

He described the reception he and the GOC (Games Organizing Committee)'s Community Engagement team received in the province as 'heart-warming and overwhelming.

"We were greeted warmly and overwhelmingly received everywhere we went. I even had the chance to meet former teammates (during my playing days), former players I have coached, old friends, colleagues, wantoks that showed tremendous support towards every awareness program we delivered there. It was indeed very emotional – brought back a lot of memories," Timothy said.

Upon his return, Games Ambassador Hellen then led the GOC team to Rennell and Bellona province.



Hellen's weeklong tour covered villages and communities both on Rennell and Bellona islands. They include; Lake Tegano and Hutuna villages in East Rennell and then across to Aotaha and other communities within East, Central and West Bellona.

"The tour was indeed a success. The support, the reception, the hospitality from the people was indeed astounding and very emotional. Hellen did an amazing job in sharing her stories, her experiences and sporting knowledge to her very own people. It was indeed inspiring and motivational not only to the people but to us the organizers as well," Jacqueline Maeli, GOC's Community Engagement Coordinator said.

Hellen herself shared similar sentiments, "It was indeed very refreshing to see and feel the love and support shown towards my carrier as one of the first female Paralympian and the high level of interest toward sports and this year's historic Sol2023 Pacific Games.

"To be able to come on tour, visit my people, share my experiences and receive the kind of reception we received is just so overwhelming. It's a dream come true," an emotional Hellen said.

Meanwhile this month (July) has saw the program successfully complete tours to Isabel, Temotu and Malaita provinces.



# \$58m support for PG2023

## PM Sogavare lauds Kingdom of Saudi Arabia support

Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare has applauded the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its support of \$58,000,000 (SBD) grant assistance towards the Sol2023 Pacific Games.

Mr Sogavare formally conveyed the appreciation of the Government and people of Solomon Islands to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in a meeting with Saudi's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Climate Change Envoy, His Excellency (H.E, Adel Al-jubeir in Riyadh last month (June).

The Prime Minister said, "This assistance is indeed timely. It will directly support my Government's priority policy which include preparations and the successful hosting of the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara from November 19 to December 2, 2023.

"The funds will be used entirely for identified preparation aspects of the Games. The Pacific Games the single largest unifying event for Solomon Islands and a unifying factor for Pacific Island countries to come together as one people," he said.

Saudi's Foreign Affairs Minister, Adel Al-jubeir confirmed all banking formalities for transfer are now complete, with the money already transferred to the Central Bank of Solomon Islands.

Meanwhile, the Solomon Islands Government will be setting up a diplomatic mission in the Gulf region to further strengthen and deepen its relationship with the countries in the region and step up its cooperation with Saudi Arabia and the region.

## 125 SIG & SOE Secondees join GOC Workforce

More than 120 staff from the SIG (Solomon Islands Government) and SOE (State-Owned Enterprises) have this month joined the Sol2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) Collective Workforce.

Following Cabinet's approval for the Secondment of 130 staff from various Government Ministries and SOEs to be assigned roles and assist all GOC functional areas deliver a successful Sol2023 Pacific Games this year, up to 125 secondees have since joined the GOC.

Welcoming the new staff, GOC Chief Executive Officer, Peter Stewart said, "In being part of the GOC, you are not only creating history for yourselves, but for your families, the ministries you represent and Solomon Islands as a whole.

"You are now part of the biggest organization, the biggest company, the biggest project currently in Solomon Islands – so cherish every moment single moment of your time here," Mr Stewart said.

Mr Stewart added that the goal now for the GOC's Workforce is to deliver the best Sol2023 Pacific Games Solomon Islands can deliver, come November and December this year.







## Fairyland Restaurant is the Games Master Caterer

Local popular food hub, Fairyland (Jinas) Restaurant is the Official Master Caterer for this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games. The contract signing between the two parties was officially announced in Honiara, 8th June, 2023.

As per the contract and as the Games Master Catering Service province, Fairyland Restaurant will plan, deliver and manage and catering services at the Athlete Main Dining Hall (KGV) for the Sol2023 Pacific Games – commencing 14th November to 6th December, 2023.

This will include the provision of 140,000 meals at the Main Dining Hall for athletes, team officials, technical officials, broadcasters and catering workforce during Games time.

Fairyland Restaurant will also be responsible for procuring ingredients from both local and international suppliers to meet operational standards.

"Fairyland Restaurant's mission is to create delicious food that leads to memorable experiences for all our clients, and our mission is to provide great culinary delights, support and care to all those whom we serve.

"We are grateful for the trust bestowed upon us to be the Games Master Catering Service provider – we are confident we can and will deliver.



"We will also be working closely with both local and international suppliers to meet operational standards required by the Games," Malissa Lam, speaking on the company's behalf said.

Fairyland Restaurant also announced that they will be recruiting more than 400 people to be part of the team for this year's Games.

Meanwhile, GOC Board Chairman Martin Rara commended Fairyland Restaurant for signing up and coming on board with the Games.

"GOC applaud you (Fairyland Restaurant) for undertaking one of the most important roles in the Sol2023 Pacific Games. We are confident you will help us deliver the best Pacific Games Solomon Islands can deliver, this year in Honiara," Mr Rara said.





# Pink, Solomon Airlines install AED devices at Honiara Airport Terminals

Pink South Pacific together with Solomon Airlines have successfully installed AED (Automated External Defibrillator) devices at the Honiara Domestic and International Arrival Terminals late last month (June).

An AED is a medical device used to help people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest.

It is a sophisticated yet easy to use device that can analyse the hearts rhythm and if necessary, deliver an electrical shock or defibrillation to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

The devices were donated by Pink South Pacific to the people of Solomon Islands.

Geoff Hawes explained, "the importance of the AED machine is that it administers an electric shock to the body, facilitating the restoration of normal heart rhythm.

"The inclusion of this machine will play a crucial role during emergencies such as heart attacks and other injuries." The Solomon Islands Government through the Ministry of Communication and Aviation commended Pink South Pacific for its generous support and assistance in helping save lives.

Meanwhile to further enhance its emergency response capabilities, Solomon Airlines is committed to training its personnel in the operation of AED machines.

"This initiative aims to prepare and equip the airlines staff members to effectively handle potential incidents that may arise at the airport," a statement from the National Carrier stated.



# 300 VEHICLES NEEDED

The Sol2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) will be needing up to 300 plus vehicles to form its transport service at this year's Pacific Games.

As part of its plans to deliver a historic and memorable Games, GOC is committed to providing the most efficient transport service Solomon Islands can provide during Games time this year.

The services include commuting 3000 plus athletes and officials from games villages to venues and back, providing shuttles to help move the public from Games designating parking zones to venues within the Sports City, and work closely with local authorities such as Customs and the RSIPF (Royal Solomon Islands Police Force).

GOC's Head of Transport Services, Anthony Bugotu revealed that his team will be looking at hiring all types of vehicles that are available and meets Games standards and requirements, adding that these include; SUVs, Vans/Mini Vans, Buses/Mini Buses, Sedans and Trucks.

"We will need more than 300 plus vehicles at Games time. We will be needing Rav4s, X-trails, Prados, Harriers, both 15 and 30-Seater Buses, Hilux, Land Cruisers, 3-tone/2tone trucks - all that are available and meets our requirements and standards.

"These include all vehicle license and registrations and certificates (including HCC and Guadalcanal Province license and registration documents), as we also have Games Villages and Venues outside of Honiara City boundary - whereby these vehicles also need to reach and operate in," Anthony



## GOC Transportation run 'Hapi Trafik Hapi Pipol' campaign

The Sol2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) last month (June) launched its "Hapi Trafik Hapi Pipol" campaign throughout Honiara City.

GOC Transport Supervisor, Anthony Bugotu said, "The campaign is aimed at advocating and educating the public on how we all can help alleviate the issue of traffic congestion faced throughout Honiara City.

"This will be crucial to the successful delivery of this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games come November and December this year."

Anthony added that the primary objective of the campaign is to try and help address the issue of traffic

congestion by advocating ways in which we road users can contribute to alleviating the problem.

"Since its launch, we have conducted awareness programs right throughout Honiara City. Our focus was to help road users better understand traffic rules and to observe them as the best means of avoiding unwanted accidents and traffic congestions," he said.

As part of this initiative, Anthony highlighted that GOC Transportation is inviting vehicle owners to participate in the Games Transportation Service by responding to the EOI (Expression of Interest) released 13th June, 2023.

"We encourage interested individuals to apply and be part of our Games Transport Fleet that will provide the most efficient transport service we can provide during the Games," he said.

Meanwhile the deadline for the EOI is 31st July, 2023.



# CCECC confirm scale down of local staff

■ NHA Press

The SOL2023 National Hosting Authority (NHA) is working closely with contractors that have completed their projects and are now beginning to scale down their staff numbers. One of the main contractors that provided employment for local Solomon Islands families is the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC).

At the weekend, the CCECC commenced its staff redundancy exercise now that their projects are drawing closer to completion. Four hundred (400) CCECC workers were given question and answer session by the Office of the NHA and the Commissioner of Labour. All the employee's queries were answered and their concerns taken on board. The NHA is concerned about the level of misinformation among the local workers but the supervisors have been working hard to properly explain and inform all employees about the processes and procedures for redundancy payments.

NHA and labour confirmed that the process taken by CCECC and the final emoluments of the first 130 employees to be made redundant is fair according to employment act and NHA is satisfied that the local workers were paid satisfactorily. NHA is also very pleased with the high standard of discipline displayed by local workers worked in the course of their work on the 2023 Pacific Games Stadium Projects.

However, it is acknowledged that the contractor CCECC has been putting up with isolated theft incidents involving local staff.

Just at the weekend, one or two local CCECC staff broke into the CCECC storeroom at the national stadium and stole three grinders, 6 Led lights plus some cash. At the same time few doors, toilet partitions and a hand basin were vandalised. This action is not representative of all good local employees who are proud of their role in the construction of the 2023 Pacific Games Stadium Project.

The thief who may also have vandalised the property escaped unnoticed. The incident had been reported to the police who are now involved in investigating the incident that will bring the culprit to face justice.

## NHA clarify PG2023 Workers Engagement

■ NHA Press



The 2023 Pacific Games National Hosting Authority (NHA) has come out to clarify the engagement period of all its employees and that of all Committees working towards delivering the Games this year.

NHA Chair Dr Jimmie Rodgers said, "the PG2023 Project is timebound and so there is time for all employees to leave work before the NHA winds up operations."

Dr Rodgers revealed that this also applied to all contracted firms and their employees who have to wind down immediately after completion of their various projects.

"Initially, the NHA started the Secretariat with a small team. The staffing grew as requirements for contractors and workforce grew based on needs to construct Games venues, prepare athletes, and the delivery of the Games requirements for the 5000 athletes and 24 sports that will be delivered for the 2023 Pacific Games.

"Most of the employees will finish work by the end of December 2023 while very few will remain to manage the closure of all NHA operations."

Dr Rodgers advised all employees and contractors that it is the Government's Policy to ensure contractors engaged are reputable companies with good track records.

"All NHA employees must adhere to NHA policies and Contractors and Managers must treat all their employees fairly.

"It is a wonderful opportunity and privilege to be part of the NHA team and its contractors to prepare and deliver Games Villages, Venues and Operations for this year's Sol2023 Pacific Games," Dr Rodgers said.

NHA meanwhile encouraged all its employees to keep up the good work that will see Solomon Islands successfully deliver the Sol2023 Pacific Games come November and December this year.





**2023**  
**PACIFIC GAMES**  
**SOLOMON ISLANDS**  
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# THE FIRST PACIFIC GAMES IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

»» 19TH NOVEMBER - 2ND DECEMBER 2023

## STAGGERING FACTS



**5,000**

ATHLETES



**15,000**

MEALS PER DAY



**3,000**

VOLUNTEERS



**250**

BUS FLEET



**1,000**

CONTRACTORS



**3,500**

BED HOTEL



**60**

TONNES OF WASTE  
PER DAY



**50**

CAR FLEET

## 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 archipelago countries around the Pacific Ocean. It was renamed the Pacific Games in 2015 following the inclusion of Australia & New Zealand. It is held every four years and began in 1963.





**2023**  
**PACIFIC GAMES**  
**SOLOMON ISLANDS**  
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## 24 SPORTS »»



## 24 COUNTRIES »»







2023  
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24  
SPORTS &  
COUNTRIES



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