



2023
PACIFIC GAMES
SOLOMON ISLANDS
CHALLENGE • CELEBRATE • UNITE

Official Newsletter of the
Games Organizing Committee (GOC)

Issue 13

August 2023



Merch & Tickets

Available Soon!



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Sol2023 Merchandise & Tickets to be available this September

The much awaited Sol2023 Pacific Games Merchandise and Tickets will be made available to the public this September, two months out from Games Time.

Head of the Games Organizing Committee (GOC)'s Revenue, Mike Veresen revealed that all Games Merchandise will be made available for purchase by Ausmart, the Official Games Merchandiser as early as mid-September.

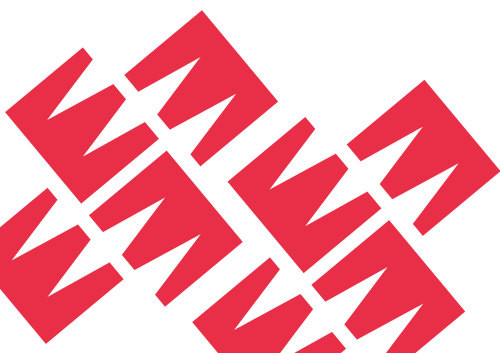
"We have received confirmation from Ausmart that all Games Merchandise will be on their shelves and in stock starting mid - September. These include a variety and range of Sol2023 branded items. Do check out all Sol2023 Pacific Games media platforms as we will soon reveal all merchandise that will be available for public consumption within the coming weeks," Mike said.

He added that all Games Tickets will also be available for purchase by the end of September.

The six ticket types include;

Opening Ceremony Ticket at \$200 (SBD), Closing Ceremony Ticket at \$200 (SBD), Package Ticket/Pass at \$1000 (SBD), Sports City Ticket/Pass at \$500 (SBD), General Admission Ticket at \$30 (SBD) and Men's and Women's Football Final Ticket at \$100 (SBD).

Do check out the Sol2023 Official Website or Facebook Page for more information regarding these.





Opening Ceremony Ticket

Price: **SBD \$200**

Validity: 1 Day (19.11.2023)

Access: National Stadium

Conditions: Valid for only the opening ceremony.
Not usable at other venues.

Closing Ceremony Ticket

Price: **SBD \$200**

Validity: 1 Day (02.12.2023)

Access: National Stadium

Conditions: Valid for only the closing ceremony.
Not usable at other venues.

Package Ticket/Pass

Price: **SBD \$1000**

Validity: 14 Days

Access: A II Venues

Conditions: Excludes Opening & Closing Ceremonies

Sport City Ticket/Pass

Price: **SBD \$500**

Validity: 14 Days

Access: A II Venues in Sport City

Conditions: For only event/sports held in Sport City

Fantastic Friday Ticket

Price: **SBD \$100**

Validity: 1 Day (01.12.2023)

Access: A II Venues in Sport City

Conditions: Watch all finals played on
Fantastic Friday

- Womens Football Final
- Athletics Final
- Boxing Final
- Triathlon Final
- Volleyball Final
- Taekwondo Final

Super Saturday Ticket

Price: **SBD \$100**

Validity: 1 Day (02.12.2023)

Access: A II Venues in Sport City

Conditions: Watch all finals played on
Super Saturday

- Men's football final
- Athletics final
- Boxing
- Volleyball
- Tennis

General Admission Ticket

Price: **SBD \$30**

Validity: 1 Day

Conditions: Non-refundable after date of use.

Access: Specified Venue

General admission tickets are available
for the following venues:

- VENUES**
- Sport City Aquatic Center
 - Sport City Friendship Hall
 - Sport City National Stadium
 - Maranatha Hall
 - Lawson Tama Stadium
 - SIFF Academy
 - HCC Arena
 - Hockey Stadium

“PG2023, an investment for the future of Solomon Islands”

■ Photo: Shane Gwally

PM Sogavare

Solomon Islands Prime Minister and Minister responsible for the Pacific Games (PG2023), Hon. Manasseh Sogavare has described the PG2023 Project as an investment for the betterment of the future of Solomon Islands.

An investment that involves partnership between the host country, the Pacific Games Council (PGC) as owners of the Pacific Games, foreign aid donors and stakeholders all of which contribute towards seeing Solomon Islands host and deliver a successful PG2023.

Giving his keynote address at the Official handover of the PG2023 Stadium project by the PRC (People's Republic of China) Government to Solomon Islands, the Prime Minister said, “this is a testament of genuine partnership and appropriate investment.”

“It is the 2023 Pacific Games projects that saved Solomon Islands from total economic collapse during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic when the global, regional, and our very economy contracted.

“Investments brought in by the Pacific Games also leveraged major infrastructure projects such as the international Airport upgrade and the Kukum Highway phase construction, employing about 1000 nationals during the construction phase of the stadium project, putting in an average of \$1 million (SBD) into the pockets of these skilled hard workers every payday.

“It is costly but most importantly it is an investment for the betterment of our people and the future of this country. Seeing the PG2023 Stadium project come to fruition is a testament of genuine partnership between Solomon Islands, the Pacific Games Council (PGC), the Government of PRC, other foreign aid donors and all stakeholders involved,” he said.

PM Sogavare further expressed, “Without the Pacific Games, SINU would not have the opportunity to obtain \$170 million dollars’ worth of dormitory rooms for up to 900 students.”

Thanking PRC for the gift, the Prime Minister reiterated, “Investing in the 2023 Pacific Games is an investment for our children and our youths who make up more than



60% of our population. I thank all Contractors, CCECC and CSADI for overcoming all challenges and delivering the project on time.”

“The completion and handing over of the 2023 Pacific Games Stadium project in a record time of 26 months is testimony to genuine partnership and commitment by both our countries to accomplish agreed priorities within agreed timeframes.”

Mr Sogavare added, “It is a historical achievement of the joint construction of the Belt and Road between China and Solomon Islands. It is a historical achievement of equality, respect and win-win cooperation between China and Solomon Islands.”

Meanwhile all Games Venues and facilities are scheduled to be completed and handed over to the National Hosting Authority by October.



SI receive \$2.6m worth of sports equipment from PRC

■ NHA Press

Solomon Islands this month (August) received \$2.6 million (SBD) worth of sports equipment from Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare received the sports equipment that will cater for and assist seven of the 24 sports that Solomon Islands will be competing in at this year's Pacific Games (PG2023).

The \$320,000 USD (\$2.6m SBD) worth of sports equipment was funded for by

the PRC Government and facilitated by Shandong Foreign Trade Vocational College, the institution that also hosts 80 Solomon Islands athletes currently training in China.

Speaking at the brief handover ceremony, PRC Ambassador to Solomon Islands H.E Li Ming said, "The equipment was procured and supported by the Shandong Foreign Trade Vocational College. 80 Solomon Islands athletes that are currently training in China are hosted and trained by Shandong Foreign Vocational College."

Li Ming assured Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare that PRC is proud and committed to continue on rendering its support to Solomon Islands in its bid to successfully host the 2023 Pacific Games.

"The Government of PRC is committed to advance its relationship with Solomon Islands through supporting sports development to enable sports men and women to grow from strength to strength in their preparations for

PG2023," Ling Ming said.

Prime Minister Sogavare in his response to the Chinese Ambassador said, "Please convey to your Government the sincerest appreciation of my Government for this tremendous support – the continuous support you give to Solomon Islands.

"We are indeed grateful for this generous support which will contribute immensely toward supporting our local athletes prepare for PG2023."

Mr Sogavare said Solomon Islands target of winning 40 gold medals at the Games this year still stands, adding that this support will go a long way in toward gearing up Team Solomons preparations for the Games.

Meanwhile the 80 local athletes training in China are expected back in the country in October.



Larkhan: Enjoy, Make Use and Look After Your Facilities

The Pacific Games Council has called on the Government and people of Solomon Islands to take ownership and help look after all its newly built and refurbished sporting facilities to be used at this year's 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara.

PGC President Vidhya Larkhan made the call in his address at the Official Handover of the country's first ever National Stadium funded for by the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) this month.

Whilst acknowledging PRC's magnificent contribution in funding and building the new state-of-the-art facility, Mr Larkhan also cautioned Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, his Government and the people of Solomon Islands to look after it and all other facilities erected and renovated for use at this year's historical Games.

"Providing the venues required to host the Pacific Games is the easy part, however the difficult part, the hard part is the operation and maintenance of such beautiful facilities post Games.

"Often times we find that the legacy management protocols of these facilities post Games does not include proper thought out management, maintenance operational plans backed or supported by appropriate human and financial resources. This oversight usually results in some of the facilities left underutilized, left decaying or shut down completely."

Mr Larkhan said, "Mr Prime Minister, please ensure that there is a long-term commitment from the Government to ensure that these valuable facilities are well maintained and operated with adequate financial and

human resources to deliver on their responsibilities for the benefit of the people of Solomon Islands.

He also reminded sportsmen and women of Solomon Islands to fully utilize and make proper use of the facilities in building their performances and carriers before, during and after the 2023 Pacific Games.

"To the sportsmen, women and indeed the people of Solomon Islands - these facilities are your facilities built for your benefit. Please enjoy and look after them so that you and your future generations can enjoy going forward from these wonderful facilities."

Larkhan added that with merely three months left till Games time, many more challenges will be met, stressing on the theme for this year's Pacific Games - Challenge, Celebrate, Unite.

"We have and will continue to meet challenges as we prepare to host the Games less than three months away. But as we continue to meet these challenges, let's celebrate the success of meeting these challenges successfully in the hope of delivering an excellent Game with 23 other member countries of the PGC.

"We will invite and unite the whole of the Pacific in that celebration - this is the message that I would like to leave for you from now until the Official Opening Ceremony of the 2023 Pacific Games come November 19th.

Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Manasseh Sogavare in his response assured Mr Larkhan and the PGC that already his government has set aside and in motion mechanisms and systems that will help maintain the facilities after this year's Games.

"I'd like to assure the PGC that we will look after these facilities post Games as part of our Games Legacy Programme."

SIBC granted exclusive rights for live radio coverage of Sol2023 PG

The Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) has been granted exclusive rights to provide live radio coverage of the 2023 XVII Pacific Games (Sol2023) in Honiara this year.

This came after an agreement signed between the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) and the National Broadcaster (SIBC) this month (August), gave the latter exclusive rights to provide live to air radio transmission of sports and ceremonies from the Games Venues. This include live broadcasting of matches, plus the Official Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

This agreement also granted SIBC non-exclusive free to air rights for live TV broadcast of the Games within Solomon Islands, where streaming shall be free of charge to the end user and viewers throughout the country. SIBC's streaming of the Games will be GEO BLOCKED – meaning it can only be accessed within the Solomon Islands.

The agreement also states that SIBC may commercialise radio broadcast by selling ads and programs with Sol2023 Sponsors given the first purchasing rights to these programs.

SIBC's Chief Executive Officer, Johnson Honimae said, "SIBC is indeed pleased to be given the rights to provide radio live coverage of the Games to listeners all around Solomon Islands.

"SIBC appreciates these important rights that have been given to us as the national broadcaster." Mr Honimae added that SIBC will do everything it can to ensure that live coverage of the Games reaches its listeners and viewers both in the provinces and in Honiara.

"SIBC will try as much as possible to bring the games to our viewers, listeners and followers on TTV 1, radio and online platforms," Mr Honimae said.

GOC's Head of Broadcast Andrew Lano shared similar sentiments.

"GOC is pleased to be able to grant SIBC the rights for live to air radio broadcast, in its capacity as the country's national broadcaster. We do hope that SIBC's coverage reaches everyone especially in the provinces who will not be able to come to Honiara for the Games in November and December this year," he said.

SIBC's inclusion now brings the total number of both local and international Broadcast Rights holders to eight (8).

Games preparations ahead of schedule with NST handover

The Official Handover of the National Stadium (NTS) on 18th August, 2023 three months before the start of this year's 2023 Pacific Games is an indication that Solomon Islands' preparations is on schedule.

President of the Pacific Games Council (PGC), Vidhya Larkhan revealed this whilst in Honiara this month.

"Today is an auspicious day and occasion which marks the handing over of international standard sporting facilities worth millions of dollars to the government and people of Solomon Islands."

Mr Larkhan conveyed the PGC's gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) for its continuous support and assistance toward Solomon Islands achieve its biggest infrastructural development – the completion of the newly built world class state-of-the-art stadium three months before the commencement of the Games.

"We (PGC) are grateful and indeed indebted to the Government and people of PRC for this very generous and magnificent contribution to the youth and sporting fraternity of Solomon Islands.

"What is most significant in the handing over of these facilities is that at least three (3) months out before the start of the Games, its main venue has been completed and handed over to the host Government. This does not happen these parts of the world very often.

"We thank you (PRC) and all your contractors, the workers (both locals and from China) for your contribution in meeting the completion deadline for this venue, its facilities and others to be used at this year's Games."

Mr Larkhan said that having the facility ready months before Games time is an advantage to Solomon Islands in boosting its athletes' preparations and determination in achieving its 40-gold medals target at the Games this year.

"Getting the facilities ahead of schedule provides an opportunity for athletes and the youths of Solomon Islands who would be part of Team Solomons in the 2023 Pacific Games to train and familiarize themselves in these venues.

"This is so that they are better prepared, so that they can perform better, jump higher, run raster and ultimately perform to such an extent of excellence that they meet the challenges and celebrate their achievements as expected of them.

"You (Team Solomons) should have no excuses to have the opportunity to participate in these excellent venues now, during and after the 2023 Pacific Games," PGC President Larkhan said.

The 2023 Pacific Games commences November 19th to December 2nd in Solomon Islands' national capital, Honiara.



SIPA sign up as Sol2023 PG Silver Sponsor

The Solomon Islands Ports Authority (SIPA) is the latest SOE (State Owned Enterprise) to sign up as a partner-sponsor of the Sol2023 Pacific Games.

The Sol2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) made the announcement at an official ceremony held at the newly built Aquatic Centre at Sports City in Honiara this month (August).

SIPA's sponsorship in kind is valued at \$2,000,000 (SBD) dollars. As an Official Silver Sponsor of the Games, SIPA is granted exclusive rights as the official Ports Management and Service Partner for Sol2023. This partnership underscores SIPA's commitment to enhancing the overall experience and service provision for the Games.

Speaking at the event, SIPA's Chief Executive Officer, Eranda Kotelawala said, "This is a historic moment for us, as it is the first time our company has taken up such an initiative. We are immensely proud to be part of this endeavour. "As a responsible state-owned company, becoming a Silver sponsor for the Sol2023 Pacific Games is a significant achievement for us.

"Our goal is to support the Games and the athletes, so being part of this sponsorship means a lot to our company, our athletes and our country.

"We are truly honoured to be part of the Sol2023 Pacific Games. Furthermore, our expectation for the Games is to provide access, storage and clearance assistance for the Sol2023 Pacific Games Limited," he said.

GOC's Chief Executive Officer, Peter Stewart commended SIPA for its valuable and timely support.

"We are delighted to have the Solomon Islands Ports Authority on board to stand alongside GOC and help deliver a memorable and successful Sol2023 Pacific Games.

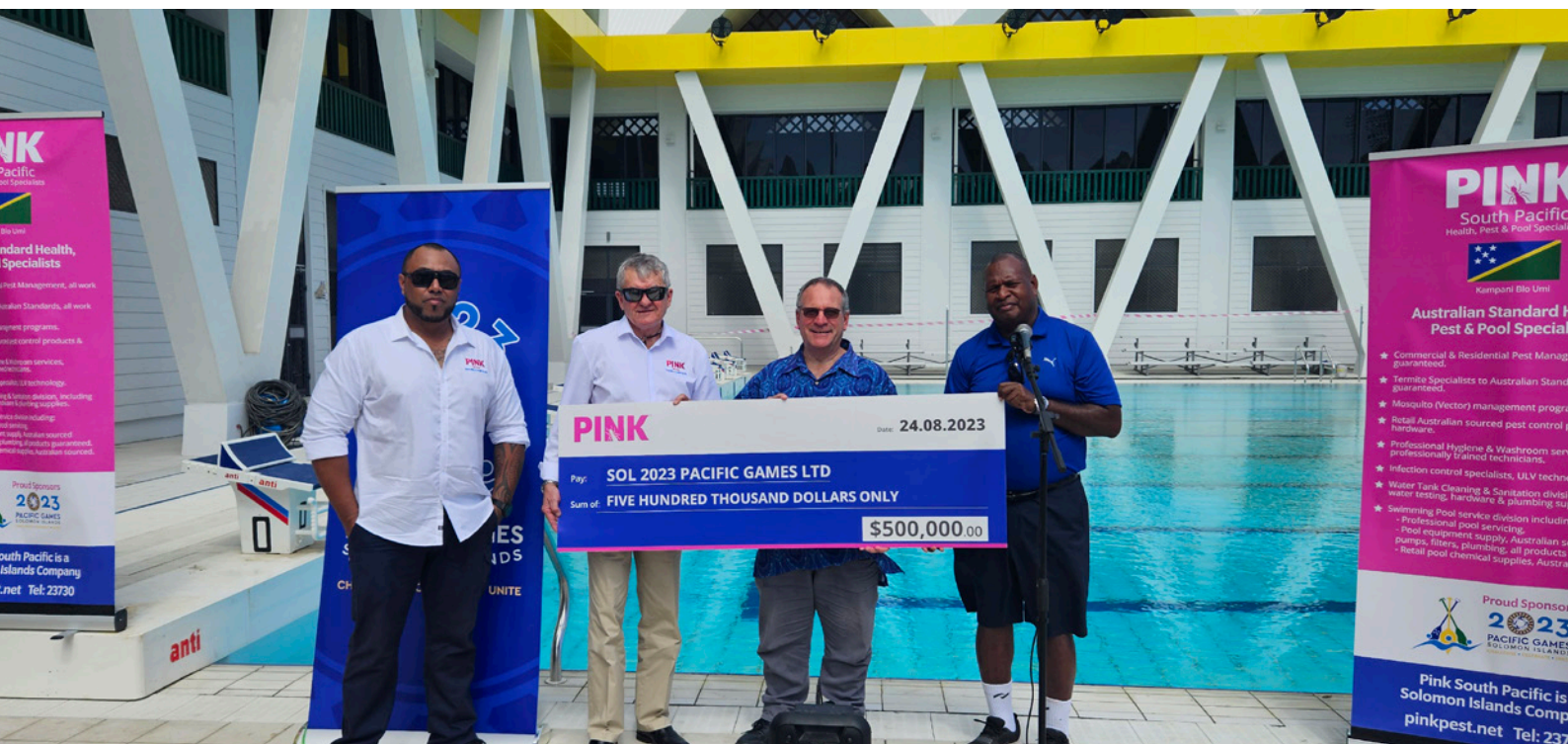


"Your support and involvement are essential to our ability to host a successful Games. Your support and facilitation toward the Games, including clearance assistance for sporting equipment and support for the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) will indeed help us greatly in our preparations less than three months out from Games time.

"SIPA's contribution to other infrastructures and support during the Games is of utmost importance. Your involvement over the two weeks of the Games is greatly appreciated," Mr Stewart said.

Meanwhile, Solo the official Games Mascot also made an appearance at the event - much to the delight of the SIPA staff in attendance.

In commending SIPA, Solo handout out gift packs to SIPA's CEO and his staff whilst also making time to greet and take selfies with attendees of the event.



Pink South Pacific, sign up as Sol2023 Bronze Sponsor

Pink South Pacific Limited is now an Official Bronze Sponsor for the Sol2023 Pacific Games.

The Sol2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) made the formal announcement of the sponsorship (in kind) valued at \$500,000 (sbd) at the newly built Aquatic Centre at Sports City in Honiara today.

As part of the partner-sponsorship, Pink South Pacific has been granted exclusive rights as the Official Pest, Hygiene, and Infection Control Specialist Partner for the Sol2023 Pacific Games. The partnership also highlights the company's dedication to enhancing the overall experience and safety of the Games.

Speaking at the event, Pink South Pacific Managing Director, Malcolm Trotter said, "Our company is thoroughly prepared for the Sol2023 Pacific Games, and our Bronze sponsorship provides an excellent platform for our staff to demonstrate their skills and actively contribute to the Games' success.

"Our goal is to share our staff's expertise with the event's facilities and maintain unwavering support for athletes throughout the Games.

"Furthermore, our expectation for the Games is to consistently deliver top-tier services, adhering to the successful procedures we have implemented for our past customers," Mr Trotter said.

GOC Chairman Martin Rara praised Pink South Pacific Limited for their valuable support.

"We are very happy and excited to have Pink South Pacific on board to stand alongside GOC and deliver a memorable Sol2023 Games.



"Your support and involvement are a blessing, not only to the GOC and our preparations but most importantly, to provide a professional hygiene pest and pool management which is crucial at this stage. Your involvement is very important for the duration of two weeks is truly needed for the Games," Mr Rara said.

Solo, the Sol2023 Pacific Games Mascot made a surprise visit to sum up today's sponsorship event, gracing the poolside with its charm, blowing kisses, sharing hugs – bringing joy, laughter and smiles to wrap up the event.

Meanwhile Pink South Pacific also generously donated an automated external defibrillator (AED) and successfully installed it at the Honiara Domestic and International Arrivals Terminal in June of this year.



Rara thanks SIG, PRC, PGC and Stakeholders for support

■ GOC Media

Chairman of the 2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC), Mr Martin Rara has heaped praise to the Solomon Islands Government (SIG), the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Pacific Games Council (PGC) and all stakeholders involved in preparing Solomon Islands for this year's historical Games.

Mr Rara highlighted this during the Official Handover of the National Stadium at Sports City in Honiara 18th August, 2023.

"Today marks a historical moment for sports in Solomon Islands.

"To be able to witness the handover of this state-of-the-art facility to the Government of Solomon Islands by the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is indeed a great milestone achieved.

"Thank you on behalf of the youths and sportsmen and women of Solomon Islands."

He added, "I also thank our Government leaders for standing in solidarity behind our government I championing this project to fruition and to H.E Li Ming and PRC that despite covid, they still continue to work to ensure that this facility is ready in time for the Games."



Mr Rara also thanked the Pacific Games Council and its President Vidhya Larkhan for assisting and ensuring GOC's preparations are on schedule.

"Thank you President Larkhan for ensuring we never go out of the radar. Today is an indication that we remain on schedule and on track to the course set before us which is to deliver a historically successful Games," he said.

Mr Rara meanwhile thanked all donors and stakeholders for their massive contribution and assistance in standing with Solomon Islands through the past two years and onwards to November and December's Sol2023 Pacific Games.



GOC, TTV announce Broadcast Rights for SOL2023

■ Tali Dever | GOC Media

The 2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) is pleased to announce that Telekom Television Limited (TTV) is officially a rights holder for Sol2023 and will be broadcasting the Games in the Solomon Islands.

TTV the Solomon Islands only free-to-air terrestrial television network will be providing exclusive coverage of the Games including live coverage of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies on its TV channels as well as mobile streaming via its TTV Now app.

During Games time, GOC will oversee and work with more than 160 broadcast personnel from all across the region including Solomon Islands to produce the Games coverage.

This include producing over 1000 hours of content during the Games, televising most sports live and producing a daily World Feed program of 8-10 hours coverage.

TTV being the broadcast Rights holder for Solomon Islands will also have access to the Venue Feeds to highlight their country's athletes' performances while providing coverage for its viewers.

GOC's Chief Executive Officer, Peter Stewart said, "The addition of TTV to our growing list of broadcast Rights holders demonstrates the high level of interest that exists throughout the Pacific in the Games.

"We look forward to providing a world class broadcast product across a range of media at Games time. Our Rights holders, like TTV, are crucial partners for the successful delivery of this coverage," Mr Stewart said.

Our Telekom CEO, Christina Lasaqa in reflecting on the partnership says, "Telekom Television is privileged to be an official Broadcast Rights Holder for the Pacific Games 2023. We look forward to providing the LIVE coverage to viewers in the Solomon Islands and to working with GOC in contributing to the success of the Games"

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.



**Follow
the
Baton**



GAMES BATON Relay complete Isabel & Central Island provinces

The countdown to November continues, the hype is on and preparations are progressing as Solomon Islands sits merely two months out from witnessing the first ever Pacific Games (PG2023) to be held this year, on the shores of its national capital – Honiara.

Leading the charge and anticipation through towards the start of this historical event is the Games Baton Relay, officially unveiled and launched on 11th August by Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, exactly 100 days out from the Games Official Opening Ceremony.

Following its launch, the Baton made its public debut setting out on its first Relay leg, carried by more than 60 Baton bearers and cheered on by onlookers starting at the National Stadium right up to Henderson Airport, where it boarded the plane and headed off to Isabel province.

Since 11th August, the Baton has traveled and completed two provinces – Isabel and Central Island provinces. Visiting a host of villages and communities in both provinces and at the same time gaining hundreds of followings and support throughout the course of this month.

“The reception, the support, the hospitality and the organization both Isabel and Central provinces have had was simply overwhelming. They were very prepared to receive the Baton and carry it throughout their province.

“We’ve had the Baton travel through rough seas, dive underwater, cross rivers, climbed mountains, passed from one person to another – all of whom represented different generations. Everyone was involved,” Baton Relay Team Leader, Jacqueline Maeli said.

The Baton will next journey on to the far eastern ends of the Solomon seas to Temotu province in the first week of September.



Baton Relay unites the nation

GOC Chairman Martin Rara

The Games Baton Relay will unite Solomon Islands to deliver a historically successful 2023 Pacific Games.

Chair of the Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC), Martin Rara highlighted this at the Official Unveiling and Launching of the Games Baton Relay, 11th of this month (August) held at the Pacific Games Stadium at Sports City.

"Today marks a very special day in our history as we stand exactly 100 days to go until the Opening Ceremony of the 2023 Pacific games in November. Today is also all the more significant as we unveil and launch the Games Baton.

"The Games Baton Relay is a symbol of unity as it crosses the country, visiting all our provinces before finishing off its journey on November 19th at the 2023 Pacific Games Opening Ceremony in Honiara," he said.

Mr Rara said the Baton Relay helps promote Solomon Islands to the outside world, and at the same time help carry the Games message to everyone across the country.

"The Baton Relay helps us promote our country. By visiting the various eye-catching tourism destinations, historical sites and at the same time showcase our diverse cultures.

"The Baton Relay also helps us carry the Games message to our people in the provinces – help them feel part of the Games and that they own the Games," he said.

The Baton has since 11th August journeyed through Isabel and Central province. At the start of the new month (September) the Baton will set sail to Temotu province in the eastern end of Solomon Islands.

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.

It's amazing how a **passion** can shape a life's Path

By Ezmie Oge (GOC Media)

Could you tell me a bit about yourself?

My name is Casper Hairiu, and I hail from Nareakera village in the West Areare region of Malaita Province. While my educational journey might not have been extensive, I found my true passion in art after completing my primary schooling. Despite not pursuing higher education, I embraced my love for art and have been devoted to it ever since.

Could you explain the meaning or symbol behind your design?

As we gear up to host this event for the very first time, one thought that stands out is the power of unity through organising games. Gathering to feast has historically brought people together, and in today's world, sports also serve as a bridge to connect and promote cross-cultural understanding. Currently, our Pacific region enjoys peace, making it a perfect setting for what I'm about to unveil.

This symbol holds profound significance, embodying a multitude of powerful elements that resonate deeply with our culture and values.

At its core, the design shows people coming together, holding hands in unity, representing the friendships formed through sports among people from different backgrounds. A running figure portrays athleticism and the competitive spirit of the Games, honouring the hard work athletes put into their sports.

The frigate bird, revered in our culture, signifies its role in our daily life—helping with weather, guiding fishermen, and showing wind directions. This connects our heritage with the natural world.

A wooden bowl and a fish in the design represent joyful feasting, inviting people and visitors to share warmth and togetherness, embodying our community spirit. Traditional patterns on the baton pay homage to our history, reminding us of our identity and linking us to nature's beauty.

How do you go about making your designs?

I remove the old paint by scraping it off and sanding the surface. I use chemicals to clean out any remaining residue and let it dry for a few days. Next, I apply a blue base coat and wait for it to dry.

Once it's dry, I paint on my designs and concepts, making sure I'm happy with how it looks. Finally, I apply multiple coats of protective finish to safeguard the designs. It's a step-by-step process that ensures the baton looks great and stays protected.

Have you ever created designs on behalf of the country, or made captivating designs within the country?

In my career, I've made art that locals and tourists buy. I've also achieved significant milestones:

In 2019, I won the Solomon Water staff official wear competition.

In 2021, I designed a logo for community policing.

I represented my country as a visual artist painter during the 2016 Pacific Games.

Back in 2015, I and my colleagues received an award at an exhibition in Sydney for our visual arts.

These achievements bring me immense joy. Being a self-taught artist, I've come this far through hard work, advice from experienced artists, and my passion for art. It's been an inspiring journey that continues to motivate me.

What's your feeling about being the designer behind the Sol2023 Pacific Games baton?

This opportunity holds an immense honor and fills me with overwhelming pride. Designing the baton isn't just a small task; it's a monumental privilege. Our country hosting the games is already significant, and being the driving force behind the Games' baton is a source of deep honor and immense pride for me. The baton, as a symbol, plays an important role in the Sol2023 Pacific Games, representing unity, sportsmanship, and our shared journey.

As the designer, my heart swells with pride and joy, knowing that this creation will become a part of our history. Even beyond my time, when I'm no longer here, the next generation, years down the line, will recall and recognize the person behind this significant design. My story will carry on to the next generations. Being a part of the Sol2023 Pacific Games as the baton's designer is a dream fulfilled, and it brings me profound happiness.





2 Provinces, 300+ Signatures

More than two hundred people have thus far signed the Solomon Airlines Sponsored Baton Relay Signatory book over the two provinces it had covered this past month (August).

Since its official launch on 11th August, the Baton Relay has since completed Isabel and Central Islands Province respectively.

The Games Baton Relay, officially sponsored by Solomon Airlines, was unveiled and launched by the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Hon. Manasseh Damukana Sogavare, on August 11th. The Prime Minister, along with representatives from the Airlines, His Excellency Li Ming (Chinese Ambassador to Solomon Islands), and other dignitaries from the Solomon Islands government, were the first to sign the official Signatory Book.

The Signatory Book, sponsored by Solomon Airlines, serves the purpose of encouraging people throughout the country to sign and send their well wishes to our athletes as the Baton Relay makes its way through our nine provinces, including Honiara.

Since its launch, the Baton has already completed its first and second legs, visiting Isabel and Central Islands Province. Next on its itinerary is Temotu Province, followed by the remaining six provinces yet to be visited after Temotu Province.

With the recent visits during the Games Baton Relay, we've proudly recorded a total of 295 signatories, including community leaders, chiefs, provincial government officials, and community youths, all expressing their enthusiastic support and best wishes for Team Solomons as we prepare for the Sol2023 Pacific Games.





H4-SAL Homecoming Celebration with National Pride

The H4-SAL homecoming event was marked by a joyous welcome and celebration. The official mascot of the games made a special appearance, adding to the excitement as everyone awaited the arrival of the new Airbus.

Upon landing at Henderson International Airport, the H4-SAL national carrier was met with great enthusiasm. Solo, the mascot, graced the VIPs and guests with his signature wave and presence. The welcome ceremony included custom dances, pan pipe performances, Solo's appearance, and a blessing of the new Airbus before the guests had the opportunity to explore the aircraft.

Among those present were the Prime Minister, Senior Government officials, ground VIPs, guests, staff of Solomon Airlines, and local media. The new Airbus proudly displayed Solo's photo at its main entrance, capturing the attention of all the attendees.

During the inaugural flight program, Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare highlighted the historical significance of the day. He said "today we create history as we witness an important milestone by our national carrier Solomon airlines of its second airbus, what we experience today is of cause

the beginning of new chapter of Solomon airlines a chapter of expanding of fleet ,our national carrier will now be able to expand its routes serve not just our needs but the needs of some of our neighbours "



He added "iam delighted that this achievement has come as we countdown to the 2023 Pacific games our national carrier is also the flag carrier for the 2023 Pacific games"

Minister for Aviation and Communication, Honorable Peter Shannel Agovaka, also spoke at the occasion. He expressed immense pride in the addition of the Airbus H4-SAL, and its significance for the country. The Minister assured that his Ministry was diligently working to refurbish the international arrival lounge before the Pacific Games, ensuring that the airport would be fully functional to welcome 5000 athletes and officials arriving for the Sol2023 Pacific Games.

This event marked a momentous occasion for the nation, celebrating progress, growth, and unity as Solomon Airlines continues to serve its people and extend its reach to neighbouring regions



GOC launch Games Ticketing and Sponsorship Program

■ Ezmie Oge | GOC Media

The 2023 Pacific Games Organizing Committee (GOC) successfully launched its Ticketing and Sponsorship Program, August this year.

This week, the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) successfully launch the ticketing and sponsorship program for the upcoming Pacific Games.

The launch serves as a testament to the GOC's meticulous preparations for this year's biggest sporting event. During the ceremony, the main ticketing sponsor, Ricoh Solomon Islands Limited, was officially introduced as the SOI2023 Games' ticketing partner.

The official launch, held at GOC's FA'ARODO Conference Room, and was attended by representatives from the GOC Board members, GOC Staff and Ricoh Staff.

Mr. Pradeep Narayan, the Country Director of Ricoh, delivered a brief speech expressing gratitude to the GOC and his company's enthusiastic support for this major event.

Mr. Narayan conveyed, "We are deeply honored to contribute to the outstanding work being carried out by your executives and the entire team preparing for the Sol 2023 Games. As a Japanese company with a strong presence in the Pacific Islands, RICOH operates worldwide, and we are committed to supporting the Solomon Islands' government and people in hosting the most remarkable games to date. Our goal is to forge strong relationships with our friends from other Pacific Island nations participating in the games, and we aspire to bolster our Pacific Islands network, families, and communities to promote mutual respect and unity."



He further expressed his anticipation for the production of the game's tickets, expressing hope that they will leave a lasting impression once they become available for public use.

In response, GOC Chairman Mr. Martin Rara acknowledged Ricoh Ltd. and their valuable support for the games. He said, "We are so happy to be partnering with RICOH in this undertaking as the Bronze Partner for successful delivery of the games."

The ticketing system is a very crucial aspect of the games, especially to control and administer the movement of the public in and out of the venues.

We are looking forward to the final product of the ticket and the safest use of technology to ensure a secured ticketing system is in place."

Mr. Rara also emphasized the broader vision of the Pacific Games, beyond mere medal achievements, focusing on fostering friendships and establishing enduring partnerships with other Pacific Island Countries.



RSIPF members visit Australia for Pacific Games training.

■ RSIPF Media

Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) members planning security for the upcoming 2023 Pacific Games have spent time in Queensland as part of an AFP-hosted exchange program.

The week-long program highlighted the AFP's ongoing support to the RSIPF as it ramps up its operational readiness before Solomon Islands hosts the 2023 Pacific Games.

The exchange program was delivered under the RSIPF & AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP) and it supported two RSIPF Aviation members to travel to Queensland's Gold Coast and Brisbane airports. RAPPP Advisor, Leading Senior Constable Will Varga led the RSIPF members on a tour through the Gold Coast and Brisbane airports, where they were introduced to various teams across the AFP.

At Brisbane Airport, they met the AFP team responsible for managing athletes travelling through the airport for the FIFA Women's World Cup. This included learning how the AFP worked with FIFA volunteers and the special processes implemented at the airport to ensure seamless transits for the athletes. The program provided the RSIPF members with examples of practices that could be applied during the Pacific Games at Honiara Airport, when more than 5000 athletes are expected to travel to Solomon Islands.

The RSIPF members were also introduced to the various areas within the AFP airport offices including the Emergency Operations Centre, airport operations area, Protection Operations Response Team (PORT) operations area, canine facilities and the rapid appraisal officer capability.

Earlier this year, the AFP also hosted three RSIPF members in Canberra as part of the RAPPP exchange program which aimed to prepare the RSIPF for Pacific Games security planning.

During this trip, they visited the National Operations State

Service Centre (NOSSC) and spoke to the Special Events Planning Team (SEPT). This provided RSIPF members with a unique insight into how the AFP's NOSSC and SEPT operate during major events, similar to the Pacific Games.

Leading Senior Constable Varga said hosting RSIPF members in Australia is always a rewarding experience for the AFP.

"As well as being able to highlight the work the AFP does here, it also provides Australian based members with the opportunity to hear first-hand how the RSIPF operates and learn new skills and techniques from them," he said.

"We are very proud of our long-standing relationship with the RSIPF, and we remain ready and eager to assist in ensuring the delivery of a safe and secure Pacific Games."

RSIPF Officer-in-Charge of Aviation, Paul Kalea, thanked the AFP and RSIPF executive, including RAPPP Advisors Nathan Weaver and Will Varga, for making the training possible.

"With the expectation of RSIPF capacity development, I am hoping to see similar advancement in other areas of training that will improve our officer's capabilities and assist them with their careers," he said.

"I have identified various areas of interest in terms of security capabilities for aviation police which will be provided in my detailed report with suggestions and recommendations."

Solomon Islands is hosting the Pacific Games from 19 November to 2 December 2023 for the first time in more than 40 years, with 5,000 participants from 24 Oceania countries and territories expected to compete in 24 sports.

AFP and RSIPF are working together in partnership through a joint planning team to ensure preparedness for the delivery of a 'safe and green games' as mandated by the Solomon Islands Government.



St. Nicholas wins Sol2023 School Speech Competition

■ Walter Vente | GOC Media

Saint Nicholas Anglican College is the winner of the Pacific Games 2023 (Sol2023) School Speech Competition.

Staged before a packed Friendship Multipurpose Hall on Sunday 6th August, and based on the topic, “Being a Pacific Games Ambassador: How would you share your story to motivate the younger generation”, the speech competition grand finale featured 10 contestants representing five schools in Honiara and Guadalcanal province.

The schools include St. Joseph Tenaru, Selwyn Anglican College, Ilia Community High School, Betikama Adventist College and St. Nicholas Anglican College, with the latter scooping up the top prizes in both the Junior and Senior Categories.

St. Nicholas Grade 7 (Form 1) student, Leaba Korovo was the winner of the Junior Category, whilst Grade 12 (Form 6) student Mirriam Bobby clinched top spot in the competition’s Senior Category.

Both winners took home \$3000 cash prizes, Runners-up were awarded \$2000 and third place winners received \$1500 in cash prizes.

Junior Category Winners include:

- Winner: Leaba Korovo (St. Nicholas Anglican College)
- 2nd Place: Annlucy Baragamu (Selwyn Anglican College)
- 3rd Place: Olivette Kelly (St. Josephs Tenaru)

Senior Category Winners include:

- Winner: Mirriam Bobby (St. Nicholas Anglican College)
- 2nd Place: Mary Rausi (St. Josephs Tenaru)
- 3rd Place: Christy George (Selwyn Anglican College)

Ezmie Oge, GOC’s Media Officer and the woman behind the initiative of organizing the school speech competition to wrap up the Sol2023 Ambassadors program, said that she was indeed impressed with all the contestants and their speech deliveries.

“The finals were of very high standard and indeed really competitive. All 10 contestant did an amazing job in the delivery of their speeches, however only six winners could walk away with the cash prizes,” she said.

Ezmie added that the speeches were judged on its overall content, presentation, delivery and effectiveness.



“The judging criteria focused on; clear introductions, organization, clarity and relevance of ideas, posture, gestures, facial expression, voice projection, pronunciation, audience interest and time awareness.

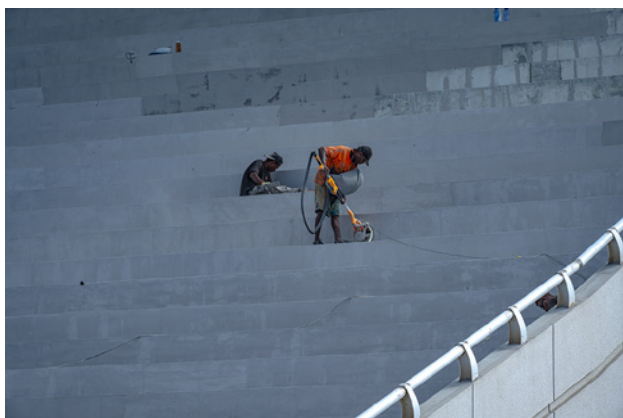
“Overall, I would say that everyone were winners today, especially given the opportunity to deliver their speeches in front of a very high caliber judging panel, the audience and most importantly the Sol2023 Ambassadors.”

All 29 participants of the Sol2023 School Speech Competition were given were given consolation prizes and presented with Certificates for their participation.

The speech competition marked the end of the Sol2023 Ambassadors Program launched in March this year.

NHA Chair pays tribute to 700 locals that helped built the NSP

■ NHA Press



Chair of the National Hosting Authority (NHA) Dr Jimmie Rodgers has paid tribute to the seven hundred locals skilled workers who have contributed in the development and completion of the Pacific Games (PG2023) Stadium project.

In an emotional address at the Official handover of the PG2023 Stadium broadcasted live on air, Dr Rodgers described the 700 locals and the 300 Chinese workers as ‘Champions.’

He commended them for their sacrifice, their dedication and their efforts in working through challenges faced and completing the project within the timeframes set.

“These facilities come from the hands of the 700 islanders who worked with the 300 people from China.

“These workers have faced the Covid 19 crisis, and they have suffered through the darkest days of the pandemic which many of them got Covid.

Dr Rodger also thanked the families of the 700 local workers for their sacrifices and support towards the project.

“Looking back, these 700 would see the pride of what they had built - their contribution towards development in Solomon Islands.”

Meanwhile the handing over the stadium project marks one of the most successful infrastructure developments in Honiara.

Solomon Islanders to benefit from Sport Training Course

■ NHA Press

The Opening of the Training Course on Sports Management and Coaching for Solomon Islands government by the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) on 18th August, has been described an opportunity of a lifetime.

National Sports Council (NSC) Chair, Joe Sika described the Training Course on Sports Management and Coaching as timely and an eye-opener that will benefit and boost the country’s sporting status amongst other Pacific Island countries.

“I believe this is the beginning of a longer cooperation in sports development, equipping our people with necessary skills, not only to do well in sport but also look after the beautiful gifts so that our future generation can continue to build and live their sporting dreams,” Sika said.

He encouraged sports administrators and coaches to learn and share what they achieved from the training to aspiring athletes, coaches and administrators.

A total 36 people attended the sport management and event organization module that kicked off a day after the official opening, 19th August, 2023.

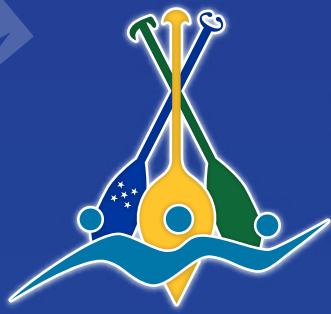
Mr Sika said, “This is the legacy we want to create for our future as we walk this road together.”

“NSC has been deeply involved in this because they are committed to achieving a human resources legacy for administrators, coaches and sport in general.

“The training opened the opportunity to the provinces, the national university and the ministry of education to attend.

“We want to work as one team to improve our standards and ability to win in the boardroom and on the field on behalf of our nation,” Mr Sika said.

Meanwhile Mr Sika thanked the People’s Republic of China (PRC) Government for their continuous support to sports development in Solomon Islands.



2023
PACIFIC GAMES
SOLOMON ISLANDS
CHALLENGE • CELEBRATE • UNITE

**INFO
SHEET**

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.



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THE GAMES IS COMING

