

Honiara City Council

Mayors Speech

July 8th 2019

Mayors Speech

- **Governor General of Solomon Islands (H.E. Right Rev David Vunagi, and Lady Mary Vunagi**
- **Prime Minister of Solomon Island (Hon. Manasseh Damukana Sogavare and Madam Sogavare**
- **Government Ministers**
- **Members of Parliament**
- **Permanent Secretaries**
- **Constitutional Post Holders**
- **Government Officials**
- **Heads of Foreign Government Missions**
- **Heads of Donor and Partner Agencies**
- **Provincial Government Premiers and or your Representatives**
- **Heads of Non-Government Organizations Representatives**
- **Churches Leaders, Arch Bishops, Bishops, Ministers and Clergies**
- **Community Leaders throughout Solomon Islands**
- **Ladies & Gentlemen**
- **Girls and Boys**
- **Children**

It is indeed an honor for me to be present and stand here with you this morning in my capacity as the City Mayor of Honiara City.

I sincerely and warmly welcome you all to this memorable ceremonial parade here in Lawson Tama Stadium to commemorate and celebrate our 41^{yrs} Anniversary years of our country self-termination and Independence from Great Britain.

Those of you who are not present here at Lawson Tama this morning but listening from your radios either from your homes in Honiara, or in a moving vehicles or from your home villages in the provinces. I would also like to extend to you my sincere welcome turn on your radio so that you can also be part of the celebration today.

Ladies & Gentlemen

“I bring greetings with me from my Executive and the Management Team of the City Council”

Honiara for many Solomon Islanders and overseas visitors is a cross before either your travel destination is overseas or visiting other parts of the Solomon Islands.

Therefore, I would like to assure you all that the City Council will always continue to play host to every Solomon Islanders living in Honiara or overseas people visiting Honiara or transiting because people from all over the provinces and the World come to the City for many reasons:-

- Honiara is the gateway to the outside world**

- **People come to Honiara for economic reasons and to do Business in Honiara**
- **Our people come to Honiara for further Education, now that we have our very own Solomon Islands National University (SINU)**
- **Young people come to Honiara for opportunities**
- **Modern Health Services is made available by our qualified professional doctors reasoning our people in the provinces to come to Honiara**
- **These days Legal Services is a requirement and is now readily available in here in Honiara from various legal local firms.**
- **Visiting Relatives & Friends in Honiara, is part of our cultural requirement**
- **Expatriates with different expertise and professionals and Advises come to Honiara to assist, support and help us.**
- **Tourist come to Honiara and to the Provinces**
- **Visiting expatriates eventually become residence of Honiara because they love and Honiara because we have beautiful people living in Honiara.**

The City Council / with City stakeholder / Business houses and external partners throughout the years has been providing Social and livelihood Services for residence of the City for people to enjoy. This is by way of:

- **Flourishing Business Commercial Services in Honiara options for people to do their shopping requirements**
- **Now we have 3-4 Beautiful Building Complex Infrastructure Developments have started to change the face of the City.**

- Participatory and contribution to the CBD, streets improvements in the city
- The city now has a traffic Road improvement with double lane roads and traffic round a bouts, however there is still room for continued improvements.
- Stake holders involvement Strategies to improve and keep the City Clean
- Market and facility services for Market vendors to use

With Limited and minimal “Development Grants” the elected ward councilors continued to strive and work hard to deliver ward development grant services to communities in the various wards they represent within the city boundary

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is not an easy task, because Honiara is a young developing City similar to any other developing cities around the world.

Because.. the population of Honiara is rapidly increasing at a very fast moving rate. The council has encountered so many challenging issues on daily bases.

“Ladies and Gentlemen “ , “That is what process to development is all about”.

The council management team continues to provide basic services for the people living in the City.

The City Council Waste Management Team continued to pick up peoples house hold rubbish within the City Boundary, but again the

council has been met with heavy criticism because of not adequately meeting the peoples demand.

Basically Because.

- **The City is now very spread out.**
- **Many Houses are being built on steep slopes with little access to roads**
- **Informal houses are being built without proper permits is on raise in the city**
- **Informal Settlement continued to use council services**
- **Several business are operating without council licenses**
- **The continued increasing yearly internal migration into the City has dramatically caused hindrance and continued to strain the council's yearly budget thus has affected council services.**

In the Education Sector, village parents still think, and I will agree that the Education services provided in the City is a higher curricular then being provided in the provinces and villages. However the Education curricular and system through out the Solomon Islands is equally the same with qualified teachers

Parents and Guidance continue to send their children to come to Honiara for pre-primary and primary secondary education.

We now have a well established National University (SINU), in the city a welcoming established learning Institution for our country.

In the Health Sector enough medication is budgeted for the various ward clinics within the city however the migrating population hosted by relatives in Honiara again constraint the health services.

However, in spite of such hindrances and challenges the council with the support from the Ministry of Health, the council has an obligation to meet the challenge and make every residence in Honiara and visitors alike to access to free health services in all council clinics.

The unpredictable increasing population of City the council in partnership with the Ministry of Health continues to try and provide reliable and improved quality clinical health services that can be easily reached by the community both through private medical practitioners and the normal Health Clinical services. I will not hesitate to mention a few:

- Apart from the several established clinical services within the City, the Pikiini Clinic has continued to open its doors to the public for children to receive treatments when needed.**
- An eye clinic building has been officially opened to assist people with eye problems. The clinic is fully equipped and is well managed by qualified personnel.**
- A dental Clinic with qualified people has already opened its doors for people to use.**
- Several private medical practitioners managed by well qualified doctors.**
- Private dental services are also available for public access**
- A dialogue is currently in progress with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and other stakeholders to build and establish three (3) bigger and improved Health Centers for West, Central and East Honiara including a professional National Referral Hospital in Honiara**

- **The council is currently in progress with stake holders, the Ministry of lands and Housing and Ministry of Home Affairs so that we can make available enough land spaces to bury our dead. At this point in time we have limited space to bury our dead at the present Grave site. In Kola Ridge.**

You will also notice the services provide by commercial sector, you are able to buy what you want from the shops. The shops are colorful with a variety of choices are available to purchase. The commercial sector will continue to grow and improve to provide and make available quality product of your choices so that we can be equally the same as any other outlet around the world. You need not travel overseas to purchase whatever you want.

The Honiara will continue to grow and attractive for investors both overseas and local and many more people will continue to come to the city.

However the City has already been faced with many social challenges that we have now already experienced in Honiara.

- **Keeping Honiara, our City Clean is a huge challenge, I will continue to appeal and again to today. Take ownership of Honiara and let us all look after our City clean. The makings of too many rubbish in and around the city is not the making of the council. A simple careless behavior such as throwing your rubbish, plastics and empty cans and bottles from a moving vehicle must be immediately stopped. We must work united together to keep our city clean,**

- **The Slogan My city, Your City Our City...**
- **Drugs and Alcohol and Home Brew Kuaso is a concern. There is** an alarming concern for both adults and young people. Drinking and driving inspite of the Police traffic rules. The City has recorded a number of deaths related alcohol and careless driving because of alcohol. Domestic violence that also caused death related alcohol, we cannot and continue to entertain such avoidable death threats in our community. I will appeal to NGOs and churches to work extra harder to address these issues.
- **Informal prostitution for money is also on the raise, again I will call on churches to work on this immoral practices.**
- **Ladies & Gentlemen, Beetle nut is culturally owned by Solomon Islands peoples and is also the livelihood for many people in the city. The Sale of BILI NATE has helped many families to bring food on their table Food, School fees and other benefits for our people. The Council does not stop people from chewing Bili Nate. It is and individual right inspite of Health warnings. However it is a problem for the council because when you, sale, chew spite and throw in public, it effects the council regulations and ordinances, the council is mandated inform people proper by ways to keep the city clean for us to enjoy the environment of the city.**

Ladies & Gentlemen I can only say, the council needs public support to address all these issues. NGO's and churches especially I would call on you to address these issues seriously. Let us all strive to live in an

environment that is crime free. “Understand the past for a better tomorrow” for our Children

Honiara is a beautiful City and can be a paradise of the pacific, its geographic location, its environment and the people of Honiara and Solomon Islands we are all beautiful people

I would like to echo this message to all residence of Honiara and people of Solomon Islands. Let us take ownership of Honiara. Because Honiara is our City we will live and die here in Honiara, so let us look after our city so that we can all enjoy the services provided by the City from all works of life. The City Council cannot do it alone we immediately need public support.

To our donor partners and friends thank you for being party to our celebration and thank you for the financial and moral support you have all rendered throughout the years in the country and also you made Honiara your home during your term of services in Solomon Islands.

I would like particularly mentioned a few.

- **Thank you to RAMSI**
- **Thank you to the Former Mayors and City Council Managements team**
- **Internal Stake Holders of HCC**
- **External ..overseas partners financially supporting HCC**
- **The World Bank for the CAUSE Project. The Jacobs ladders and street cleaning, extended form Rapid Employment project**
- **UN women for the improvement of the Central Market**

- **JICA/JPRISM project for the continued improvement of the damp site and the Leaf project a learning center for our children**
- **New Zealand Government for the improvement of the Multy Purpose Hall and sports facilities**
- **VSA's for advisers and support to HCC management**
- **ICLEI .. for Climate Change and Disaster**
- **SPC,, to improve and project the Botanical Garden... A forest in the city**

The city council is now able to deliver normal services for the people of Honiara with confident and trusts from the public.

The infrastructure and system of the Council has grown to maturity and that the council will continue to do better for the people in Honiara

People of Honiara and Solomon Islands, I therefore would like to assure you all the Council Governance and the Management will take care and responsible for the delivering normal services in Honiara Ladies & Gentlemen Happy Independence celebration. Let us continue to work hard to serve our people throughout the country. Solomon Islands

I thank you all and have a nice enjoyable and peaceful celebration