

# 2023 PACIFIC GAMES

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Games Organizing Committee!

ISSUE 3

July 2022

## MY NAME IS "SOLO"

Sol2023 Mascot gets name before going on nationwide tour.



*Also in this issue:*



Games Dormitories  
Groundbreaking



Mascot to Tour Isabel  
Province



SINIS updates

# Welcome

This is the official Newsletter of the 2023 Pacific Games, published and distributed on a monthly basis.

It contains updates and news from the Games Organizing Committee, Games Facilities Committee and the SINIS High Performance Centre.

This publication is produced by the Media & Communication Department of the 2023 Games Organizing Committee.

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# MY NAME IS SOLO!!!



*Dreamcast's opening performance with "Solo" the mascot*

"It is with great honour that I declare the name of the Official Mascot of the Pacific Games as : SOLO!"

This was the Declaration made by the Honorable Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Manasseh Sogavare, Guest of Honour at the Mascot Inauguration Event on the evening of 21st July witnessed by Dignitaries and members of the public at the Museum Auditorium in Honiara.

The Prime Minister, expounded on the theme of the Games Challenge, Celebrate, Unite. He highlighted the journey of the mascot and

its significance; "It will be visiting valleys, lagoons, mountains, terrains, sandy-beaches, crossing our blue oceans, rivers and lakes, across the width and breadth of our country. It is a uniting factor, a source of pride for our people. It is also authentic and imaginary, inspirational, fun, vibrant, positive and energetic. It is sporty, adventurous and friendly reflecting the theme for the 2023 Pacific Games which is – Challenge Celebrate Unite.

The Mascot will travel to Guadalcanal, Isabel and Central Provinces are the first Provinces privileged to receive the

Games Official Mascot. This will then be followed by the Western, Choiseul, Renell Bellona, Makira/Ulawa, Temotu and Malaita Provinces," he added.

Chairman of the Judging Panel and GOC Board Member, Mr Robert Iroga, reiterated that the GOC decided to give the opportunity to participate in the Games to High School and Primary School Students across the Nation by naming the PG Mascot. A total of 185 entries from 36 Schools were received.

The Panel of 5 Judges representing Government Departments and NGOs

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Tourism, Solomon Islands Artist's Association, Media Association Solomon Islands Board; sifted through entries which almost took a whole day against 5 categories;

1. Must represent all our Regions and Country
2. Must be imaginary, fun and vibrant
3. Must be sporty, friendly and be less than 5 words.
4. Must reflect the theme of the Games, Challenge, Celebrate and Unite
5. Neutral – neither male nor female.

Dreamcast, who staged the musical production, kept the audience in awe as they put on an explosion of color, dance and musical performance representing all regions of Solomon Islands welcoming the Mascot to its inauguration and ensuing journey.

Seventeen year old, Zola Karamui from Betikama Adventist College and twelve year old Damien White of Woodford International School each received a cheque of \$10,000 (SBD) from sponsor of the Mascot, The Nature Conservancy.

Both winners expressed that eventhough they had different reasons for choosing, "Solo" as the name of the Mascot they were surprised that they had submitted the same winning name.



*Hon. PM Manasseh D. Sogavare (centre) posing with the mascot name winners Zola Karamui and Damien White. Looking on is Willie Atu (left), Robert Iroga (behind) and Solo the mascot*

Miss Zola Karamui, when interviewed, expressed she was so blessed and thankful for the award.

"The reason why I named the

**“SOLO represents us as one country, a perfect symbol for a country with so much diversity in culture.”**

**- Miss Zola Karamui**

Mascot SOLO is because it represents us as one country a perfect symbol for a country with so much diversity in culture. So when we cheer, we cheer Solo, we praise our country, Solo gives pride to our identity as Solomon islanders and brings Unity.

I also have a love for marine turtles and would like to be an advocate and would like to encourage my community to keep on conserving our marine turtles"she added.

Softly spoken, Damian White said he was surprised to have been invited to attend the Mascot Inauguration day but had no idea he was a winner. He also expressed that he chose the name Solo to identify the Mascot as a Superhero of the Games.

The Mascot's first public appearances will be at the Guadalcanal second appointed day on the 1st, August and then in Isabel Province on August 2, 2022.



*Dreamcast performing with the "Solo" the mascot after name reveal by Hon. PM Manasseh D. Sogavare*



# CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

## SIG, SINU, PRC break ground for Games Village

Phase One of Construction work on the Games Village, three, four - story buildings, has started after the ground-breaking ceremony on June 23rd, 2022 on the campus of the Solomon Islands National University (SINU).

According to architectural design, the Dormitories will consist of a total of 216 rooms with high quality Accommodation and a multi purpose hall. The dormitory building when completed will be used first as the Games Village for the 2023 Pacific Games next year, to accommodate 950 athletes and officials. It will be a convenient, environmentally, friendly setting for athletes and officials with scenic ocean views.



*SINU students greeting the Prime Minister and PRC Ambassador to Ground Breaking venue*

This development will add a major transformation to the Solomon Islands National University, as its Land will be home to four Games venues for the Games in 2023. "SINU is very proud to be host to these very important games and this

is a great boost to our infrastructure development. We applaud the commitment of the NHA Chairman and all those who are involved in making this happen. We are here to make things happen for a good cause," he added.

**Continue next page**



SINU acting VC; Dr. Jack Maebuta, giving his remarks during the Ground breaking ceremony

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He applauded the Government of Solomon Islands, the People's Republic of China, JiangSu Provincial Construction Group Co Ltd (JPC), The National Hosting Authority (NHA) and the Games Organising Committee for Sol2023(GOC) for more important developments expected to happen on SINU land in the coming months.

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Solomon Islands, H.E. Ambassador Li Ming; in his keynote speech, assured the Solomon Islands Government that China will deliver the project as expected. China is honoured to make contributions to the future of Solomon Islands and the Pacific Games

The two Governments have been working hard and closely to make sure the construction is completed according to schedule.

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare who is also, Minister for the Pacific Games 2023, thanked the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) for their continuous support towards major facilities for the Pacific Games.

"Thank you for gifting the multimillion-dollar facility through the National Hosting Authority to the National University of Solomon Islands (SINU)," he said.

The Prime Minister referred to this as a '7 Wins Project.'

1. A win for the National Hosting Authority who is spearheading this legacy project.
2. A win for the 2023 Pacific Games Athletes and Officials.
3. A win for the Solomon Islands National University who will inherit this fabulous facility.
4. A win for our Students studying at our University.
5. A win for the Solomon Islands Government.
6. A win for the People's Republic of China (PRC).
7. A win for the young bilateral cooperation between Solomon Islands and China.

**“I refer to this project as 7 WINS Project.”**

- Honorable Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare

The Prime Minister also reiterated by acknowledging SINU for availing space for the Pacific Games 2023 facilities on its campuses, which are suitable locations, that will benefit SINU in the long term as well as the people of Solomon Islands.



PM Hon Manasseh Sogavare, giving his remarks during the Ground breaking ceremony

He also acknowledged Government Ministries, State owned Enterprises and other Institutions which have fully put support behind the National Hosting Authority (NHA) and 2023 Pacific Games, which is a flagship Government project.

The construction is expected to be completed by May 2023, and ready to house athletes and officials during the Pacific Games.

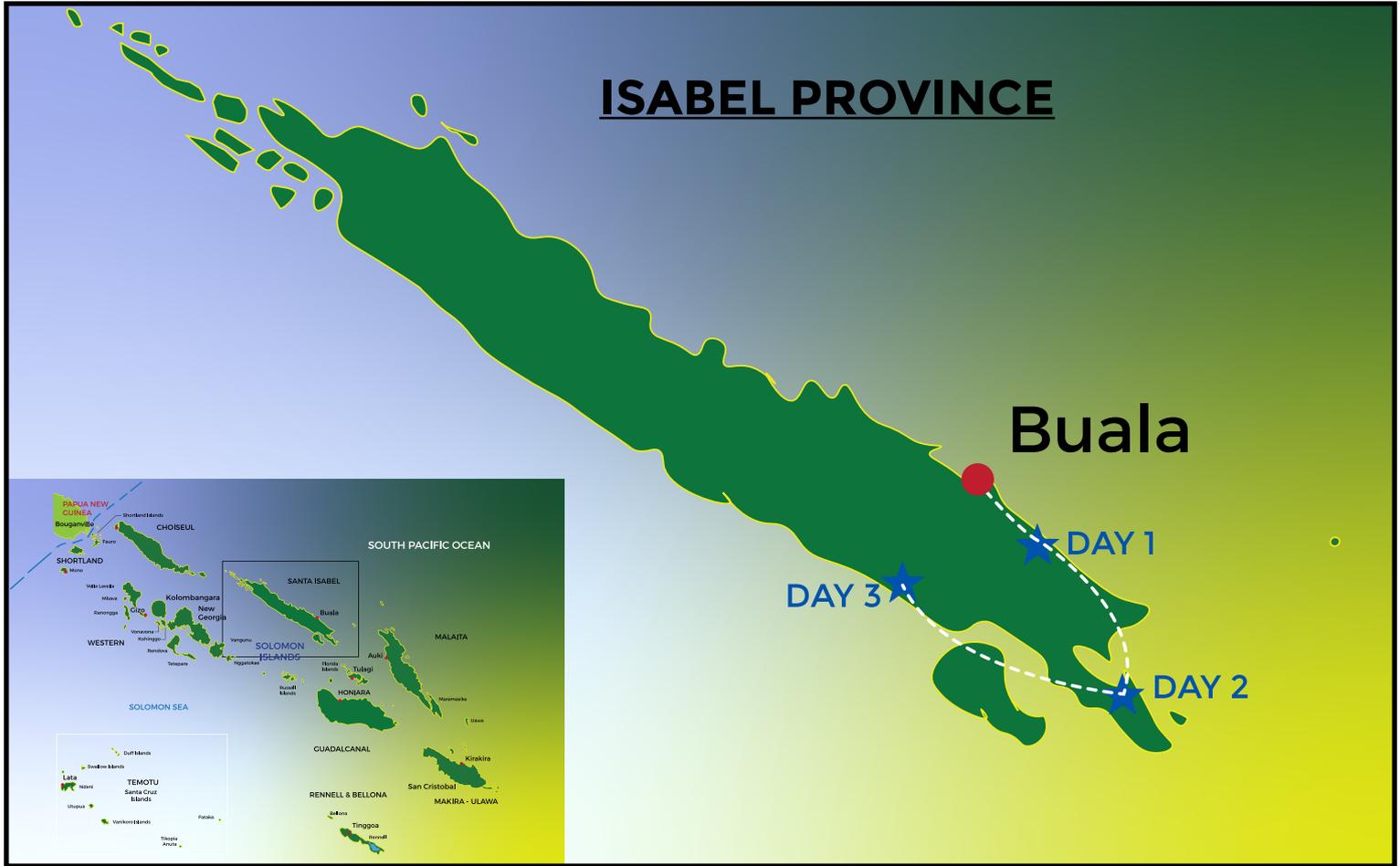
The Games Village is the fifth of seven ground-breaking event for facilities being prepared for the Pacific Games. With SINIS being the first. The Friendship Hall, Indoor Games Stadium second, the National Stadium being the third the SIFF Football Academy (FIFA Standard) and Beach Soccer Stadium being the fourth. All of which are coming to life.



Artists impression of the Games Village



# Solo's Isabel Tour



## GOC Brief Updates

Catering for the Games has received Expression of interest (EOI) from a total of 55 companies for various areas of Catering at the Athlete Dining, Village Dining and VIP Lounges.

The Master caterer tender will be released around July to cover lunch and dinner of Athletes and Technical officials. It will be in the market for six weeks with a hope to close sometime in October.

Transportation for the Games has also received wide interest from the public. Opening of registration for Games Vehicles and Transportation Services, will be advertised at the end of January 2023.

Transportation Requirements and conformity, for vehicles available for hire will be provided in December of this year. The Games organizing committee, GOC2023 encourages interested Bus owners, organizations, and groups to check our Sol2023 Pacific games

Facebook (Sol2023XVII Pacific games) and twitter pages for latest developments, regarding Vehicles and Caterer updates. Questions can be sent to Email: [Transport@sol2023.com.sb](mailto:Transport@sol2023.com.sb)



Five venues have been confirmed for accommodation of athletes and officials, from Don Bosco Technical school, Solomon Islands National University -Panatina, Kukum and Marine Campuses, King George VI National Secondary School, Saint Nicholas Secondary School and Tenaru Secondary School Campuses.

These venues will undergo renovation of their dormitories and ablution blocks to International Games Standards to accommodate athletes and officials for the Pacific Games 2023.



## POSSIBLE ROLE OF CHURCHES DURING PG2023

Like all other sectors in the country, Churches will provide important support services when the country hosts the Pacific Games 2023 next year.

The role of churches was highlighted during a meeting between representatives of the Government Services Integrated Committee (GSIC) and the National Hosting Authority (NHA) in Honiara.

Church bodies such as the Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA) and the Solomon Islands Full Gospel Association (SIFGA) have been consulted previously by the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) on this initiative.

The roles of churches will include Counselling services to athletes and team officials, organizing Church Services for athletes and team officials, Support to provinces for community engagement programs, Use of church facilities including Fields or Halls for team trainings and assisting to deliver key messages to



*Solomon Islands Christian Association General Secretary; Rev. Edward Kolohai blessing the Solomon Islands National Institute of Sport building, November 2021.*

communities.

Other roles that will require church support includes facilitating the Games mascot tours of church congregations and church-run schools, engagement in the Games Relay, Provision of teams (financial contributions to congregations) for, Logistics, Cleaning and other voluntary services.

The GSIC is spearheading a

government-wide support to the NHA to ensure the Games are successfully hosted next year.

- GCU Press



*Team Solomon that went to Pacific Mini-Games in Northern Marianas after their church service at Saint Barnabas Cathedral*

## Winners from NMPMG2022

The 6th Pacific Mini Games in the Northern Marianas, brought 20 countries together for 10 exciting days of competition in 9 sports, 17<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June this year.

According to Rota Mayor, Efraim M. Atalig; "The Municipality of Rota and her people proudly welcomed over 2,000 athletes, coaches, officials, and their families."

The Games concluded with Papua New Guinea leading the medal Tally with a total of 80, Tahiti coming second with 58 and Northern Marianas coming in third with 38.

Solomon Islands, came in ninth with 29 medals after its counterparts Australia, New Caledonia, Guam, Fiji and Samoa.

The Combined Countries' Vote, presented the Award for **Best Male Athlete to Morea Baru of Papua New Guinea** who won 3 Gold in his Weight lifting category, whilst **Best Female Athlete Award, to Five-Time Olympian and Gold Medalist also from Papua New Guinea from Weightlifting, Dika Toua.**



Papua New Guinea's Dika Toua, third from left, poses with, from left, Pacific Games Council CEO Andrew Minogue, CNMI acting governor Jude Hofschneider, Pacific Games Council President Vidya Lakhan, Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter, and Northern Marianas Sports Association President Jerry Tan. Photo: RNZ Pacific/Mark Rabago

**Other winners at the NMPMG2022:**  
**Best Male Athlete - Morea Baru,**  
**Papua New Guinea, Weightlifting**

**Best Female Athlete - Dika Toua,**  
**Papua New Guinea, Weightlifting**

**Best Team - Tahiti Men's V6 Va'a**

**Best Junior Male - Hugo Koch,**  
**New Caledonia, Golf**

**Best Junior Female - Zhimin Jin,**  
**Northern Mariana Islands, Golf**

**Best Coach - Brett Green, Papua**  
**New Guinea, Athletics**

**Best Technical Official - Yvonne**  
**Mullins, Athletics Technical**  
**Delegate**

These elite athletes will not be settling on their laurels for long, as they continue to compete in their specific sport at the Commonwealth games in Birmingham, United Kingdom from July 28 – August 8, 2022 and onto the Summer Olympic Games in Paris 2024.

Those who have also qualified for the Commonwealth and Olympic Games from the Mini Games, will also be on the Athletes Well-being Programme facilitated by the Oceania Athletics Association, along with their partners the Oceania National Olympic Committees and the Pacific Games Council, in between games.

The next appointment for all Pacific Games Associations- Athletes and Officials; will be in Solomon Islands, SOL2023.



Papua New Guinea's Morea Baru, third from left, poses with, from left, Pacific Games Council CEO Andrew Minogue, CNMI acting governor Jude Hofschneider, Pacific Games Council president Vidya Lakhan, and Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter. Photo: RNZ Pacific/Mark Rabago

# PACIFIC GAMES COUNCIL: PALAU to HOST 8th PACIFIC MINI GAMES.



*General Assembly of the Pacific Games Council at the 6th Pacific Mini Games in SAIPAN, CNMI.*

The Pacific Games Council (PGC) comprising of representatives from 24 Pacific Island Countries converged at the Pacific Mini Games in Rota, CNMI.

"The Pacific Games Council (PGC) manages and organises the Pacific Games, a quadrennial multi-sport event with participation from Pacific island countries and territories.

offers Pacific Small Island developing States (Pacific SIDS) the opportunity to develop and promote sports in their local communities, identify sporting talent, provide a platform for participation in a multitude of sports, and offers a bridge to the Olympic experience." <https://www.oceaniaoc.org/partners/pgc>

Olympic Committee, (NOCSI) and Games Organizing Committees, led by Board Chairman- Mr Martin Rara, presented updates of its preparations to host the 17th Pacific Games 2023, which is on schedule and will be on par with "state-of the art, international games requirements, standards;" much to the delight of the council.

Although postponed from July 14-28, 2023 and confirmed to November 19-December 2, 2023 due to the Covid Pandemic effects on the country, cordial sentiments were expressed by all present, in anticipation of SOL2023.

A Ceremonial Hand Over of the Pacific Mini Games Flag, to Palau as the next host of the games in 2025 by PGC, President, Vidhya Lakhan, was done at the closing ceremony.

All Photo Credits. <https://www.facebook.com/pacificgamescouncil/>



## 2023 Games Information Sheet!!

### The first Pacific Games in Solomon Islands

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

## DATE

19<sup>th</sup> November -  
2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2023

## WHAT IS THE GAMES AND HISTORY?

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

## SOME STAGGERING FACTS!!



**5,000 Athletes**



**15,000 meals per day**



**3,000 Volunteers**



**Bus Fleet (250 vehicles)**



**1,000 Contractors**



**Car Fleet (50 vehicles)**



**3500 Bed Village**



**60 Tonnes of waste per day**

# 24 Sports, 24 Countries

## SPORTS



## PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



**The Sol2023 Games Organizing Committee now has four (4) Officers within its Venue and Games Operations Department.**

**The Operations Team is responsible for the operational delivery at the 2023 Pacific Games.**

**They ensure that all Games sites are fully operational and provide a world class experience for all the games clients. They are the team that plans, integrates and executes all service, such as catering, security and transportation, into the game's sites. The team provides the support to ensure the 24 sports of the games run smoothly.**

## Meet the Sol2023 Venue & Games Operations Team



I come from Viru Harbor in the Western Province of Solomon Islands and serve as the Executive Assistant to the Senior Manager for Venues & Games Operations. This involves collection and preparing information for meeting with staff and External stakeholders and clients of the Games, calendar management, client relations and more.

I am excited to be part of Team GOC 2023, as it delivers the Games.

I believe everyone should anticipate and participate in the Sol2023 Games, because it is the first-ever, enormous, event, in Honiara and Solomon Islands and this is our opportunity to deliver a successful event to the Region.

**Name: Gremaly Jonah**  
**Province: Western Province**



I come from Basakana Island, North Malaita. My role is to take care of all the Services needed by the Participants of the Games. As soon as they set foot on our shores, their needs and wellbeing become our entire responsibility.

I am humbled to be part of this robust team that are entirely responsible to deliver the biggest, historical event in Solomon Islands.

"No man is an island." We are all in this together as a country to host these two weeks of Challenge, Celebrating and Uniting as one blue continent!

**Name: James Burg Talotuita**  
**Province: Malaita Province**



**Name: Pongi Tangia**

**Province: Rennel Bellona Province**

My role as the Venue Operations Manager, requires that we provide ready and functional to ensure successful events happen in all our 14 Fields of Play Venues. I will be behind the scenes ensuring, Security, Logistics, Medics, Transport, Catering and Volunteers, are always ready for the success of the games. It is especially important that our Volunteers must be trained, have food, and equipped to help in the Games.

As a Sports person, I am proud to be part of this legacy on our Shores. It is a Ónce-in-a-lifetime experience!

I believe that we all should participate in the Pacific Games, 2023. Its our Business, it will shape our image Regionally and Globally. The benefits to us in Tourism and Sports gives the Solomon Islands, Growth Opportunities across the Board.



**Name: Angellina Fakaia**

**Province: Malaita Province**

I come from South Malaita and serve as the Games Services Manager. I manage services for client groups, across all Games villages and venues. I'm elated to be part of the team organising the largest event the country will have ever experienced to date!

The 2023 Pacific Games will be a merger of cultures and traditions, uniting Pacific nations through the unique sporting event. It will be the first time Solomon Islands host and directly benefit from the Pacific Games, and for all attendees to experience the delivery of the Games in a truly Solomon style!



# UPDATES

- from SINIS Media

## SINIS host successful SINBBF Championship 2022

The Solomon Islands National Bodybuilding Federation (SINBBF) Championships 2022 was a successfully staged at SINIS High-performance facility.

The 2-days of the competition were jointly organized in which 50 plus bodybuilders from Honiara and Auki, Malaita province showcased their physique - as part of the sports preparations for the 2023 Pacific Games.

The event started on Friday 15th July with the official weigh-in of body builders.

This lead up to the overall Mr Solomon Islands Body building champion pronouncement on the evening of Saturday 16th July.

SINBBF President Paul Fanasia Jr expressed appreciation – reiterating that the championship was the largest domestic event ever for the federation since formally registering in 2021.

“Compared to past competitions, this was the biggest event we ever hosted since 2017,” Fanasia revealed. The turnout of supporters, families and friends was encouraging for the athletes and the federation.



Adding that holding this Championship was a step forward to encourage the sports culture for a healthy society.

Fanasia complemented the event’s sponsors – the Government under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Solrais Company, SINIS High-Performance and supporting business houses and individuals for contributing to the Championship’s success.

“SINBBF will continue to work closely with our supporting partners. Thank you very much!

Furthermore, the President explained that winners will be

reviewed through to the final selection event next year before the country hosts the regional games.

The guest of Honor presented over the weekend was Acting Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Maelanga. Meanwhile, the new Mr Solomon Islands Bodybuilding is Barnabas Waqa.

Results as follows;  
 Junior Category- Alpheus Fiuramoa  
 60kg- Patrick Ramo  
 65kg- Junior Amos Sui  
 70kg- Joe Kisa & Jeffery Hou  
 75kg- John Ben  
 80kg- Barnabas Waqa  
 85kg- Willie Siata  
 90kg- Allen Mai  
 95kg- Rex Billy  
 100+kg- Jimmy Joe

U-170cm- Mustafa Rade  
 U-180cm- Junior Billy Oge

Mr Solomon Islands Body Building - Barnabas Waqa.

Mr Solomon Islands Physique - Junior Billy Oge.



# ATHLETE ADVISORY GROUP (AAG) FORMED



*Standing: Robert Anita (Karate), Gary Nuopula (Table Tennis), Henrik Siopo (Taekwondo), Festus Vana (Bodybuilding), Michael Boso (Athletics/ Football). Sitting: Paul Taka (SINIS HP Wellbeing & Lifestyle Coordinator), Hellen A Boso (Chair), Doris Laula (Archery), Esmie Belo (Hockey), Tony Lomo (Judo) Not in Photo: Wendy Hale (Weightlifting), Judith Neuwa (Netball), Rose Gwali (Volleyball), Philip Tuhaika (Basketball), Jovita Ambrose (Athletics), Rodney Vaka (Badminton).*

**S**olomon Islands National Institute of Sport (SINIS) High-Performance program has recently formed the Athlete Advisory Group (AAG) committee.

The group consists of 19 members, who are senior and former athletes that have represented the country in the past 3 years. It is a voluntary initiative which will have regular monthly meetings, for elite athletes who want to contribute positively by giving back sound advice from their career experience to the next generation of athletes.

This initiative provides a platform for elite Solomon Islands athletes providing current athletes with a voice towards aspects of the country's High-Performance system delivery. They would also provide

strategic advice to SINIS Staff to help support the development and implementation of activities and improvement of services specifically suited for individual athlete needs.

The group will inform SINIS also on a strategic direction that will help shape education strategies through the provision of insights into the pressures and influences in the sport that can threaten the integrity of the sport in Solomon Islands. AAG-appointed Chair; Helen Aumae Boso said, "the bottom line is to help address issues that athletes face and their requirements when accessing the High-Performance services and programs."

"It will be very much a collaborative effort between the group, SINIS and relevant stakeholder partners who will be supporting us," she added. She reiterated by saying;

"meeting the team for the first time was overwhelming but humbling. With utmost respect to every member; I believe, each team member is valuable and each member has an important role to play as a member of the AAG."

"This group is the first of its kind and it is really exciting to see how we can work and collaborate as a team to achieve our goals. Our first meeting was all about getting to know each other and being introduced to the team from SINIS whom we will be working closely with moving forward," she added. The group covered the High-Performance Portfolios of Combat & Weight Sports, Team Sports and Racquet, Aquatic, Target & Individual sports.

# Athletes celebrate Olympic Day

The National Olympic Committee of Solomon Islands - NOCSI celebrated the International Olympic Day. 23rd June 2022, at the SINIS facilities.

Olympic Day is a chance to inspire people to get active and move together with purpose. In Honiara it gathered a number of sports from Boxing, Taekwondo, Judo, Table Tennis and Athletics.

The International Olympic

Committee (IOC) believes; "Sport can help make a better world – by reconnecting people locally and globally and promoting sustainability, inclusion, solidarity and peace."

"This Olympic Day celebrates the power of sport to bring people together in peace. Whether running together with friends for a cause or showing up for team-mates, whatever peace means to you and

however you choose to move, move together!

The SINIS - Solomon islands national institute of sport- High performance is grateful for partnering to host this year's event with the theme Together, For a Peaceful World.

Young athletes also had the privilege to meet two of the country's Olympians for Judo, Tony Lomo and Athletics, Francis Manioru.





**OLYMPIC DAY**



**#MOVEFORPEACE**

**23-06-22**



2023

PACIFIC GAMES  
SOLOMON ISLANDS



MY NAME IS SOLO!