



# FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DESK

ROD HILTON

*Solomon Islands - Australia Partnership*

## Shared goals of stability and prosperity



*Australian Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Richard Marles MP meets Solomon Islands Prime Minister the Hon. Jeremiah Manele.*

Hallo yufala evriwan. This week we hosted a nambwan fan of Solomon Islands, the Honourable Richard Marles, Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence.

The Deputy Prime Minister came to the Hapi Isles for the eleventh time this week.

Deputy Prime Minister Marles met with members of the new government to discuss and drive forward the Solomon Islands-Australia partnership. But first he started his day with a jog around Kakabona to enjoy the local coastline.

The Deputy Prime Minister's first official meeting was with Prime Minister, the Honourable Jeremiah Manele, where they discussed the strong partnership and democratic values shared between our two countries. They reaffirmed their commitment to work closely together in the future.

After meeting Prime Minister Manele, Deputy Prime Minister Marles met with Deputy Prime Minister the Honourable Bradley Tovosia, Minister for Police, National Security and Correctional Services the Honourable Jimson Tanangada, and Minister for Finance and Treasury the Honourable Manasseh Sogavare.

The Deputy Prime Minister took the opportunity during these meetings to listen to the priorities for the new Government of National Unity and Transformation. He discussed with

Ministers ways Australia can work to help support the priorities of Solomon Islands.



*Shaking hands with his SI counterpart, DPM the Hon. Bradley Tovosia*

In addition to these ministerial meetings, the Deputy Prime Minister made two big announcements during his stop in Honiara. At Unity Square he announced SBD 18 million in Australian support for Solomon Islands' new Border Management System. Australia will implement this system for Solomon Islands with our shared neighbour Papua New Guinea.



*(L-R) Minister of Police & National Security Tanangada, DPM Richard Marles and Australian High Commissioner, HE Mr Rod Hilton.*



*Richard Marles with (L) PNG High Commissioner HE Moses Kaul and (R) the Hon. Jimson Tanangada, representing the Pacific trilateral security partnership between Australia and the two Pacific Rim countries.*

Deputy Prime Minister Marles said he was proud to be Solomon Islands' primary economic, security and development partner. He said he wanted to make sure Solomon Islands gets all the economic benefit of people travelling to here for business or holidays, while making sure Solomon Islands stays safe and secure.

Police Minister Jimson Tanangada joined the Deputy Prime Minister for the announcement. He told the crowd gathered that the new system would answer many of the unanswered border security challenges faced by Solomon Islands.



*Staff & nurses at the official start of construction of the SBD250 million Naha Birthing Unit.*

Deputy Prime Minister Marles also announced the start of main works for the Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre. Australia is proud to contribute over SBD 250 million in support. Minister for Health and Medical Services the Honourable Dr Paul Bosawai said this will be Solomon Islands' one and only birthing clinic and the beginning of a new chapter.

This is a major health project that will improve health outcomes for people living in Honiara and give children the best possible start in life.



*Marles with the SI Minister of Health and Medical Services, Dr Paul Popora Bosawai*

At the end of the visit Deputy Prime Minister Marles joined Prime Minister Manele as joint guests of honour at a reception at my residence. I was happy to host ministers, members of parliament and key community representatives. The Deputy Prime Minister enjoyed some great Solomon Islands motu food and a local band.

The Deputy Prime Minister told me how much of a pleasure it was to be welcomed warmly from one of Australia's closest neighbours. He said many times throughout the day that he sees Solomon Islanders as not just friends but close family.

And he's already looking forward to his next visit!

**Lukim iu neks taem!**