



SICCI

SOLOMON ISLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

SICCI GEARS UP FOR

Australia-Pacific Islands Business Council

SICCI SOLOMON ISLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

13th Australia Solomon Islands Business Forum

Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara | 2 - 4 September 2024
 "BUSINESS LEADING EMPLOYMENT AND EXPORT GROWTH"



April-June 2024



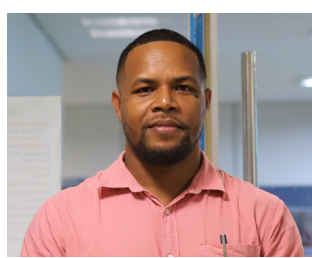
SICCI Hosts NZ Pacific Business Council



SICCI Host Prime Minister Breakfast



SICCI welcomes new CEO



SICCI at National Economic Summit



SICCI Hosts NZ Pacific Business Council Forum



Officials and SICCI members pose for a group photo

Honiara, June 12, 2024 - The Chamber host the New Zealand Pacific Business Council Forum for the first time in Honiara.

The forum provides an avenue for business owners of New Zealand to explore investment opportunities in Solomon Islands.

The Chairlady of Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry [SICCI] says balancing the trade activities between countries is paramount to achieve equal economic benefits.

Ms. Namoi Kaluae made the statement during the opening of New Zealand Pacific Business Mission Forum which was held at Heritage Park on 10 -12th June.

She said Solomon Islands and New Zealand has enjoyed trade relations for decades and last year Statistics New Zealand shows that trade of good and services between the two countries was worth USD 21.1 million of which USD6 million was exports to NZ from Solomon Islands.

“The figure of trade between our two countries is a tiny fraction of NZ international trade and surely there are opportunities to expand our relationship to narrow the gap between value of imports to exports for goods and services. Ideal trade relationship is balancing the benefits between countries. If one country buys a higher value than they sell in any particular year, the balance of payment is uneven so that needs to be balanced,” Ms. Kaluae said.

SICCI Hosts Prime Minister's Breakfast



Guests who attend the PM's Breakfast

Honiara, June 13, 2024 — The Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) proudly co-hosted with the Office of the Prime Minister, the highly anticipated 2024 Prime Minister's Breakfast this morning.

Ms. Naomi Kaluae, the SICCI Chairlady, warmly welcomed all attendees, with a special mention for the visiting New Zealand Trade Mission delegates.

The SICCI Chairlady expressed her gratitude to the visiting delegates and highlighted the significance of the event, which marks the launch of the Government for National Unity and Transformation (GNUT), 100-day key policy priority plan and Policy Statement. This initiative is set to establish the foundation for future discussions, engagements, and actions, providing a crucial platform for direct interaction between leadership, taxpayers, and employers.

Reflecting on the recent successful elections at the national, provincial, and city council levels, Ms. Kaluae congratulated the newly elected Prime Minister and the Government for National Unity and Transformation. She emphasized the need for a fresh start in building stronger relationships between the government and the business community.

“The relationship between government and business is fundamentally important for economic growth and must transcend political and commercial interests,” said Ms. Kaluae. “Our collective commitment to building this great nation, providing opportunities for our young people, and realizing our growth potential is paramount.”

During her speech, Ms. Kaluae identified key areas that require focused policy efforts to boost

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economic performance, aiming to increase growth from 2.5% to a minimum of 5%. These areas include:

1. Diversifying the Economic Base and Increasing Trade Opportunities:

- o Expanding tourism, agribusiness, manufacturing, value-adding, and mining sectors.
- o Encouraging meaningful investment from the development budget.

2. Reforming Investment and Ease of Doing Business:

- o Modernizing outdated labor laws and accelerating tax reforms for VAT.
- o Ensuring a transparent and fair application of incentives and exemptions.

3. Investing in Infrastructure with a Focus on Local Content:

- o Continuing infrastructure development to reduce business costs and improve connectivity.
- o Legislating financial thresholds to reserve certain projects for Solomon Island contractors.

4. Enhancing Education and Workforce Development:

Addressing the shortage of skilled labor by investing in human capital.

5. Strengthening Private Sector Engagement:

Establishing a Cabinet Sub-Committee to focus on trade, investment, regulation, and other private sector concerns.

Ms. Kaluae reiterated SICCI's readiness to support the government in policy dialogue, formation, and implementation. She stressed the need for close collaboration in the current economic climate, which remains fragile despite positive growth projections.

"Together, we can build a stronger, more prosperous nation for our future generations," she concluded. "Our friendship must remain strong, no matter the challenges we face. Through collaboration, trust, and shared efforts, we can navigate global crises and achieve progress and prosperity for the Solomon Islands."

The event was graced by the presence of Prime Minister Hon. Jeremiah Manele, his Ministers, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Permanent Secretaries, Senior Government Officials, and representatives from the visiting New Zealand Trade Mission in Honiara.



SICCI Chairlady
Ms. Namoi Kaluae



PM Hon Jeremiah Manele
and SPM



SICCI Welcomes new CEO



SICCI's new CEO Mr. James Dolarii [center] with SICCI Chairlady Ms. Namoi Kaluae [left] and Vice Chair of SICCI Board Mr. Daniel Tucker [right]

Honiara, July 9, 2024 - The Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) welcomes the appointment of Mr. James Dolarii as the new Chief Executive Officer.

The appointment proved significant as the position has been vacant for almost a year.

Mr. Dolarii's appointment is seen as a positive step for SICCI as it continues to promote and advocate for the private sector in the Solomon Islands.

His leadership is expected to bring fresh perspectives and drive new initiatives that will benefit SICCI's diverse membership.

"I had the privilege of meeting James after a vigorous interview process by our CEO recruitment subcommittee panel prior to his appointment, and I am confident that his previous experience, strategic vision, leadership skills, and passion for our mission align seamlessly with SICCI's values and goals.

"I have full faith that Mr. James will play a key role in driving SICCI's mission forward and enhancing our impact within the community.

"Now more than ever and building from strength gained over the years, is the need for private sector support and advocacy which is the key role of SICCI and we aim to continue be the voice of the Private sector," Chairlady of SICCI Board Ms. Namoi Kaluae said.

She said SICCI's key priorities will be to develop and communicate a strategic vision that aligns with the organisations mission and goals, enhance membership engagement by ensuring value, and that the voice of the business community is heard through effective dialogue, collaboration and representation.

Ms. Kaluae further stated that SICCI will continue to drive development and implementation of new initiatives and programs that benefit SICCI's diverse membership base, promote economic growth and contribute to uphold a conducive business environment in the Solomon Islands.

Special Holiday Package

Looking for an affordable holiday package, “Solomon Holidays” guarantees an enjoyable treat with less hustle.

Solomon Holidays is an initiative established by Solomon Airlines and Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau [SIVB] in partnership with tourism operators in six provinces.

The special holiday package has been launched last week and is now available for bookings.

Solomon Holidays covers six provinces with 23 operators who are licensed and are all registered under the Tourism Solomons.

Solomon Airlines role is to promote and market the packages and SIVB provide information on the land-based packages

“What is the benefit for customers, we offer you one stop-shop to do arrangements for your holiday,”.



Private sector needs proper infrastructure to grow.



PM Jeremiah Manele second from Left with Officials who attend the summit

Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry [SICCI] has made it clear that the private sector needs proper infrastructure to grow.

SICCI made its view known during the recent National Economic Summit as the peak organization representing the country’s private sector.

In his presentation during the Summit, the Chief Executive Officer of SICCI, Mr. James Dolarii reemphasized the important role private sector played in the growth of the national economy.

He highlights some of the challenges private sector continues to face over the years and this includes; proper infrastructure, facilities as well as proper policies that encourages businesses to grow.

“Private Sector can go anywhere as long as infrastructure and facilities are made available,” Mr. Dolarii said.



SICCI CEO Mr James Dolarii



Officials listening to presentations



Mr James Dolarii and Official from CBSI having a discussion

SICCI is NTFC Chair



SICCI CEO Mr. James Dolarii Chairs one of the sessions

Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry [SICCI] has been given the opportunity to chair the National Trade Facilitation Committee [NTFC].

Chief Executive Officer of SICCI Mr. James Dolarii is sitting-in as the chair of committee.

Members of the committee consists of government border agencies and private sector representatives.

The main objectives of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) are to facilitate both domestic coordination on trade facilitation issues and implementation of the provisions of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

Its mandates are but not limited to; facilitate implementation of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, facilitate implementation of provisions related to trade facilitation in the agreements in which SIG is a contracting party/signatories, allow for cooperation and dialogue between all key national stakeholders, including private sector, in trade facilitation issues, provide a forum/platform where stakeholders can raise issues of concern and provide input on trade facilitation related policy decisions, provide a platform to discuss and address constraints related to trade facilitation, identify barriers/weaknesses in trade facilitation area and recommend appropriate actions to be taken to overcome those weaknesses, work closely with the NTDC to provide oversight and guidance on the implementation of WTO TFA and the mobilization of Technical Assistance/Aid for Trade to implement TFA, work closely with the National Trade Development Council (NTDC) to Coordinate and encourage linkages between existing trade-related activities and committees and provide a consolidated framework/platform for a formal national consultations and cooperation on trade-facilitation issues, work closely with the NTDC/DET and provide advices on trade facilitation issues under various trade negotiations in which Solomon Islands is a party (multilateral, regional and bi-lateral level) and provide advices on trade facilitation issues to Cabinet through NTDC Chair.

ADVOCACY DESK



Welcome to my Desk.

My name is Filliam Iroofa and I'm the Advocacy Officer of SICCI.

My Role is to strengthening SICCI's Advocacy through consultations, dialogs and negotiations.

My desk also carry out surveys on issues affecting the private sector knowing very-well datas speaks volume of the issues and the impacts on businesses.

Position Paper can also be drafted and submitted to responsible authorities to address issues in which ever approach either short or long term solution.

UPCOMING EVENTS



AUSTRALIA SOLOMON ISLANDS BUSINESS FORUM

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD 2024

SME SYMPOSIUM

SICCI

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Meet the SICCI Team



CEO
James Dolarii



Admin Officer
Shaun Konaga



Membership Officer
Amanda Korinhona



Finance Officer
Merylyn Nivolo



Advocacy Officer
Filliam Iro'ofa



COMS
Ben Bilua





BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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