

47 Years of Independence: Celebrating Our Journey and Shaping Our Future

Introduction – A Moment of Reflection and Gratitude

On this 7th day of July 2025, we come together as a nation to celebrate the 47th Anniversary of Solomon Islands' Independence. It is a moment to reflect warmly on our journey since that historic day in 1978 when our islands took their place as a proud sovereign nation. Over the decades, we have grown from a population of roughly a quarter-million to an estimated 800,00 citizens today. We have remained united through trials and triumphs alike, guided by faith, community, and an enduring hope for a better tomorrow. As we mark this occasion, let us honour the sacrifices and accomplishments of those who came before us – the leaders, elders, and everyday citizens who have built the Solomon Islands we know today – and look ahead with optimism to the future we will shape together.

Milestones in Governance, Education, Peace and Culture

Forty-seven years of nationhood have given us many milestones to celebrate. These achievements in governance, education, peace-building, and cultural preservation chart the progress of our young nation:

- **Founding a Democratic Nation (1978):** Independence on 7 July 1978 laid the foundation of our parliamentary democracy. We established a Westminster-style system with a unicameral Parliament and introduced nine provincial assemblies led by Premiers, affirming the principle of government by our own people. Since then, successive free elections and peaceful transitions of power (with only a few disruptions) have testified to our commitment to democratic governance.
- **Expansion of Education:** In the years since independence, educational opportunities have expanded from primary schools to secondary and tertiary institutions across the islands. A landmark was the establishment of our first national university, the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), under an Act of Parliament in 2012. Through institutions like SINU, teacher training colleges, and technical institutes, we have improved literacy and nurtured local expertise, ensuring that education reaches even our more remote communities. Today, thousands of Solomon Islanders – both young and mature – are pursuing knowledge and skills that will drive our development in the decades ahead.
- **Peace-Building and National Unity:** Our journey has not been without challenges. Two decades after independence, internal tensions tested our unity. The **Ethnic Tensions** of 1998–2003 shook our nation, as grievances over land and development led to conflict on Guadalcanal. Yet, we prevailed through dialogue and regional solidarity. The **Townsville Peace Agreement of 2000** helped cease hostilities, and the **Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)** arrived in 2003 as a partnership of Pacific neighbours to restore law and order. By the time RAMSI concluded in 2017, Solomon Islands had regained stability and rebuilt its national institutions. The success of post-conflict peace-building – including local reconciliation ceremonies and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission – stands as a testament to our ability to forgive, heal, and move forward as one people.
- **Cultural Preservation:** We take great pride in our rich Melanesian culture, along with Polynesian and Micronesian strands that weave into our national tapestry. Since independence, we have made concerted efforts to preserve and promote our cultural heritage. The National Museum and Cultural Centre in Honiara serves as a guardian of traditional artifacts, stories, and art. Our government's Culture Division works to safeguard both tangible and intangible heritage, from ancient shell money and panpipe music to oral histories and kastom (custom) knowledge. Events such as the Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival and our hosting of the Festival of Pacific Arts in 2012 brought international recognition to our dances, music, and crafts, strengthening pride in our identity. Across the provinces, communities continue to maintain languages, rituals, and crafts

passed down through generations, ensuring that modern development does not come at the cost of our unique heritage.

Each of these milestones – political independence, educational development, the restoration of peace, and cultural revitalisation – reminds us how far we have come. They also guide us in the work that remains, inspiring confidence that we can overcome any challenge through unity and determination.

Embracing Our Identity – Pride in Heritage, Language and Custom

One of the greatest strengths of Solomon Islands is the diversity of our people and the depth of our shared heritage. We are a nation of many islands and many tongues, yet one people. There are over sixty distinct indigenous languages spoken across our archipelago, alongside our national lingua franca Pijin and the English language that links us to the wider world. This linguistic abundance is a source of pride and identity. Our languages carry our histories, values, and worldview; preserving them is essential to maintaining our Solomon Islander soul. In recent years, scholars and community leaders have been working together to document and revive several of our smaller vernacular languages, ensuring that our children and grandchildren can continue to speak the language of their ancestors. These efforts go hand-in-hand with incorporating local culture into school curricula and community programs, so that education includes not only academic knowledge but also appreciation of kastom and tradition.

We also celebrate the customs and traditional knowledge that have guided our societies for centuries. From the art of communal living and reciprocal help (wantok system) to the respect for chiefs and elders in decision-making, our cultural practices instil unity and social harmony. Our traditional dances, songs, carvings, and storytelling are thriving – not only as cultural expressions, but as threads binding communities together. As Solomon Islanders, we take pride in wearing our traditional attire during national events, performing our panpipe and bamboo band music on the world stage, and teaching the next generation the importance of family, faith, and respect. In an increasingly globalised era, our heritage is our anchor. It reminds us who we are and what values we stand for. Today, on our independence anniversary, we reaffirm that our identity – our languages, customs, and spiritual beliefs – is the foundation upon which we will build a confident and united future.

Unfinished Business: Decentralisation and Constitutional Empowerment

Even as we celebrate our achievements, we must candidly address areas where our nation-building journey continues. One such unfinished task is the strengthening of our constitutional arrangements, particularly through decentralisation and empowering our provinces (or future “states”). Ever since independence, Solomon Islanders have debated how to balance power between Honiara and our far-flung communities. The 1978 Independence Constitution, while a sturdy framework for unity, did not fully satisfy early calls for local autonomy and “state government”. In 1981 we introduced a system of provincial government, but without robust revenue-sharing or devolved decision-making powers, many provinces struggled to meet local expectations. Over the years, constitutional review commissions and draft federal constitutions have come and gone, reflecting the persistent aspiration to bring government closer to the people. Yet to date, we remain a unitary state under the original constitution – a nation that, as one statesman poignantly observed, has been “conceived but never born” into the fully devolved form many envisioned.

Why does decentralisation matter? It matters because too much power and resources concentrated in Honiara can lead to feelings of alienation in the provinces. Our central government, while the seat of national unity, can sometimes seem distant to villagers on Ontong Java or in the highlands of Guadalcanal. Services and development need to reach all corners of our country, not just the capital. By empowering provincial authorities – through greater fiscal autonomy, local decision-making, and perhaps a future federal system – we can make governance more responsive and equitable. The aim is to *draw government closer to the people*, thereby improving accountability and effectiveness in service delivery. Local communities know their needs best; a decentralised system would allow them a stronger voice in shaping development projects, schools, healthcare, and resource management in their area. Indeed, much of the tension in our past arose from perceptions of unequal development and

neglect of rural communities. A fairer sharing of power can help address these issues, fostering stability.

As we move forward, let us mildly and constructively critique our own systems where needed. We acknowledge that nation-building is a continuous journey of improvement. In the spirit of unity, the conversation about constitutional reform and decentralisation should continue with broad consultation and goodwill. By resolving this unfinished business of our independence – by crafting a governance structure that truly reflects our diversity and local aspirations – we will strengthen the bonds of nationhood. Our goal is a Solomon Islands where all provinces feel equally heard, valued, and empowered within our one nation. This Independence Day, even as we honour the past, we commit to refining our nation's foundations so that no community is left behind.

Youth – Our Greatest Resource and Hope

One cannot look to the future of Solomon Islands without feeling a surge of optimism about our youth. We are blessed with a youthful population – the median age in our country is just around 20 years, meaning half of all Solomon Islanders are in their teens or early twenties. This youth bulge, often cited as a challenge in other contexts, is in fact our greatest resource. It represents energy, creativity, and potential on a grand scale. Today's students and young professionals will be the drivers of our economy and leaders of our communities tomorrow. Investing in them is paramount.

What kind of investments do our youth need? First and foremost, a quality education that not only imparts knowledge but also fosters critical thinking and ethical leadership. In a world awash with information, our young people must learn to question, innovate, and make wise decisions. They should be equipped to navigate modern technology and global knowledge, while also understanding the unique context of Solomon Islands. This means curricula that celebrate cultural knowledge and languages alongside science and economics. When a child in Temotu learns to read and write in her own language as well as English, or a boy in Malaita studies both computer skills and the history of his tribe, we are creating well-rounded citizens rooted in their identity and confident in the wider world.

Ethical leadership training is also vital. We envision a new generation of leaders – in politics, business, and society – who uphold integrity, transparency, and service. Mentorship programs, youth parliaments, church and community youth groups, and school leadership opportunities all contribute to nurturing values-based leadership. Our young people must be encouraged to see leadership not as personal power, but as responsibility to community and country. With the memories of past conflicts still with us, it is essential that the next generation rejects divisiveness and corruption, and instead champions unity, honesty, and hard work.

Furthermore, we must address the practical needs of our burgeoning youth population. This means investing in job creation, skills training, and entrepreneurship so that our young men and women can find fulfilling livelihoods here at home. It also means giving them a voice in national affairs – youth consultations and representation, so policies reflect their aspirations in areas like climate action, education reform, and digital development. Many of our youths are already stepping up: they are volunteering in community projects, starting small businesses, excelling in sports and arts, and advocating for positive change. We celebrate their contributions this Independence Day.

Finally, a special aspect of empowering youth in Solomon Islands is reviving our languages and cultural practices through them. As elders pass on, it is the youth who must carry the torch of culture. Initiatives to teach traditional crafts, canoe building, weaving, or medicinal plant knowledge to the younger generation are essential. Likewise, programs to record folktales and customary laws with participation from youth ensure that this precious heritage is not lost. In doing so, we reinforce in our young people a deep pride in who they are. They inherit a legacy of warriors, navigators, artisans, and peacemakers – and with that inheritance, they can forge a future that is both modern and authentically Solomon Islands in character.

On this anniversary, we celebrate our youth – their resilience, talents, and idealism. We call on all stakeholders, from government to families, to continue investing generously in education, youth

development, and cultural revival. In the faces of our children, we see the Solomon Islands of tomorrow. Let us equip and inspire them to build a nation even more peaceful, prosperous, and proud than today.

SINU – Fostering Leadership, Knowledge and National Progress

In advancing the goals of education, ethical leadership, and cultural preservation, the Solomon Islands National University plays a pivotal national role. As the country's premier institution of higher learning, SINU is more than just a place to earn qualifications – it is a hub for nation-building. Our university is committed to producing the next generation of responsible, educated citizens who will carry Solomon Islands forward.

At SINU, we strive to foster a vibrant research and learning culture that addresses the real needs of Solomon Islands. Through our academic programs and community outreach, we inculcate in students the values of critical inquiry and service. Universities worldwide are known as drivers of progress, and SINU is no exception. We see it as our duty to promote good citizenship, inclusive civic virtues, and participatory norms that strengthen our democracy. By bringing together students from every province, of every background, our university nurtures links across communities – connecting future leaders in government, business, churches, and civil society. These connections build social capital and national unity. A student from Choiseul studying alongside a student from Makira at SINU not only gains academic knowledge, but also learns to appreciate the diversity of our nation, forging lifelong bonds that bridge islands and cultures.

One of SINU's core missions is to cultivate civic-minded and ethical leaders for Solomon Islands. In a society still healing from past divisions, our university provides a neutral space where students can debate ideas openly, learn from history, and envision a better future. We encourage aspiring leaders to hone their skills here – whether they are training to be teachers who will shape young minds, nurses who will serve the sick with compassion, engineers who will build our infrastructure, or policy analysts who will craft wise legislation. By emphasizing ethics and accountability in our curriculum and campus life, we aim to instil a strong moral compass in our graduates. Our hope is that when SINU alumni take up roles in public office or private enterprise, they will distinguish themselves by their integrity and dedication to the common good.

Importantly, SINU also sees itself as a guardian of culture and knowledge. We have academic departments and research centers focused on Solomon Islands studies, including our history, languages, and natural environment. Through research projects, we document and analyse our indigenous knowledge – for example, studying local agricultural practices for sustainability, or recording oral literature in endangered languages. We partner with community elders to ensure that traditional wisdom finds its place in modern scholarship. This cultural work is not merely academic; it feeds back into preserving what is unique about Solomon Islands. By integrating indigenous knowledge and perspectives into education, SINU helps validate and carry forward the heritage that defines us. We also work with international partners to bring global insights to local issues, whether it's climate change adaptation or public health, always with the aim of solutions that respect our culture and circumstances.

As a national university, accessibility and inclusion are among our guiding principles. We strive to make higher education attainable for all talented Solomon Islanders, regardless of gender, province, or social background. Through scholarships, decentralised learning centers, and future plans for provincial campuses, we want to ensure that no capable student is left behind due to geography or finances. This aligns with our national goal of equal opportunity and taps the potential of youths from every corner of the country. An educated populace is the backbone of development; by expanding access to tertiary education, SINU contributes directly to our country's progress.

On this Independence anniversary, SINU reaffirms its pledge to Solomon Islands: to educate, research, and lead in the service of our people. We are proud to be producing graduates who are not only knowledgeable, but also grounded in ethics and culture – the kind of well-rounded citizens who will drive Solomon Islands' development while upholding its values. In collaboration with

government and other institutions, we will continue to champion ethical leadership, critical thinking, and cultural pride among our students. In doing so, SINU is helping build a stronger, wiser Solomon Islands for generations to come.

Economic Resilience and Opportunity – A Balanced, Hopeful Outlook

Economic development is a cornerstone of our nation's journey since 1978. We have come a long way from a subsistence-based colonial economy to a growing, more diversified national economy that strives to meet the needs of our people. On this 47th Independence Anniversary, it is fitting to take stock of where we stand economically – to recognize the challenges, but also to highlight the resilience and opportunities that inspire hope for the future.

The current economic data present a picture of cautious optimism. Despite global turbulence in recent years, Solomon Islands has maintained relative stability in key indicators. Inflation, for example, remains modest and under control – the national Consumer Price Index in May 2025 was only 3.8% higher than a year earlier, indicating that the cost of living is rising at a manageable pace. This low inflation reflects steady prices for household essentials and is a relief for our families, protecting the purchasing power of ordinary Solomon Islanders. Our Central Bank's monitoring shows that domestic inflation has even been easing in early 2025, thanks in part to declines in certain food and fuel costs, which is welcome news for consumers.

Encouragingly, production and exports have surged in recent months, pointing to economic resilience. In May 2025, the Central Bank's monthly production index jumped by 40 points – a strong performance driven by notable gains in logging, mining, and agricultural commodities. To put this in perspective, round log output surged by 44% in that month, and gold production by 17%, while cash crops like palm oil, copra, cocoa, and coconut oil all rebounded strongly. This uptick in productive sectors translated into a significantly improved trade position. Exports leaped by 63% in May to reach \$534 million, buoyed by higher shipments of minerals, timber, and agricultural products. Meanwhile, imports declined, partly due to lower fuel and machinery purchases. The result was a trade surplus of \$98 million in May 2025 – a remarkable turnaround from the trade deficit recorded in the previous month. This surplus, our best in recent memory, not only earns vital foreign exchange but also signals that Solomon Islands can compete in global markets with the resources and products we have.

Our external reserves and financial system remain healthy. Gross foreign reserves stand around SBD 5.9 billion (about US\$5.9 billion), sufficient to cover over 10 months of import payments. Such a buffer provides stability and confidence, ensuring we can weather external shocks or fluctuations in commodity prices. The banking system has ample liquidity to support lending for business expansion, and private sector credit is slowly picking up as investors gain confidence. These trends indicate that, with prudent management, our economy has the capacity to recover and grow even in a challenging global environment.

Of course, we must be clear-eyed about the challenges. Our economy is still heavily reliant on a few primary sectors – especially logging and mining – which are finite resources and subject to world price swings. The logging industry, while presently contributing to growth, must be managed sustainably to prevent the depletion of our forests and biodiversity. The government is actively looking at policies to reforest and add value locally, so that timber can remain a long-term asset rather than a short-term windfall. Similarly, mining revenues need to be transparently managed and invested in infrastructure and human capital, so that all citizens benefit from our mineral wealth and future generations are not left worse off when mines close.

We also recognize that not all sectors are booming. The tourism industry, which holds great promise due to our beautiful environment and culture, has faced setbacks (recent global pandemic years being a prime example). Reviving tourism will require continued stability, improved transport links, and marketing our unique heritage to the world. Agriculture and fisheries – the backbone of rural livelihoods – need support to increase productivity and to enter international markets with value-added products. The encouraging spike in cocoa, copra, and coconut oil production shows what is possible; by investing in downstream processing (like virgin coconut oil products or chocolate

making), we can keep more value in-country and create jobs. Likewise, boosting fisheries exports must go hand in hand with sustainable practices to ensure our tuna stocks and marine life are not over-exploited.

Crucially, inclusive economic development remains a focus. It is not enough for statistics to improve if the benefits are not felt by all Solomon Islanders. We are aware that youth unemployment and underemployment remain concerns; hence, many of the investments discussed – in education, in new industries, in decentralisation – are aimed at creating opportunities in all provinces. Infrastructure development, such as renewable energy, roads, and internet connectivity, will help bridge rural-urban divides and spur local enterprise. We salute our hard-working entrepreneurs, farmers, fishermen, and market vendors who drive the grassroots economy day in and day out. Their perseverance through difficulties exemplifies the resilience of our people.

The economic picture of Solomon Islands in mid-2025 is one of steady resilience with clear opportunities on the horizon. We have low inflation, improving trade performance, and strong foreign reserves – a platform upon which to build. By confronting our challenges – diversifying our economy, managing resources wisely, and ensuring broad-based growth – we can transform these opportunities into concrete gains for our citizens. The government, private sector, and communities must continue to work in partnership to achieve this vision. Let us approach the coming years with the same resourcefulness and unity that carried us through past hardships. With God's providence and our people's determination, the Solomon Islands economy can and will provide a better life for all.

Guardians of Our Land and Sea – Stewardship and Sustainability

Our islands are not just a place on the map – they are our home, our inheritance, and our responsibility. As Solomon Islanders, we have always understood the sacred duty of stewardship of our land and sea. Long before the modern concept of environmental conservation emerged, our ancestors practiced sustainable living: taking only what was needed, respecting seasonal rhythms, and setting aside *tambu* (sacred) areas where nature could replenish. Today, as we face global environmental challenges, we draw wisdom from those traditions even as we employ new knowledge to protect our environment for future generations.

One remarkable aspect of Solomon Islands is that the vast majority of our natural resources are owned and managed by our people through customary tenure. About 80% of the land and an estimated 90% of inshore marine areas are under indigenous customary ownership. This means that decisions about forests, reefs, and fisheries are often made at the community level by landowning clans and tribes. Our laws recognize these customary rights, validating what our culture always knew: that land is *identity*, and people are inseparable from the environment that sustains them. This deep connection places communities at the heart of conservation efforts. Across the country, many villages have established marine protected areas and forest reserves through their own initiative, ensuring that the bounty of nature – whether it be reef fish, mangroves, or game animals – can sustain their children and grandchildren as it sustained them.

On this Independence anniversary, we also highlight the global significance of our environment. The Solomon Islands are part of the Coral Triangle, which contains some of the richest marine biodiversity on Earth. Our coral reefs, mangrove nurseries, and deep oceans are home to thousands of species, from vibrant corals and fish to turtles, dolphins, and dugongs. Scientists tell us that certain coral reefs in our central and western provinces are among the most climate-resilient in the world – a beacon of hope as climate change threatens marine ecosystems everywhere. Meanwhile, our dense tropical rainforests are havens of biodiversity found nowhere else; they regulate our climate, protect watersheds, and are a source of medicinal plants and cultural materials. Tragically, we have lost a significant area of primary forest over the past two decades due to overharvesting. We must heed this warning. Let us reaffirm that environmental stewardship is a patriotic duty. Preserving our forests and reefs is not opposed to development – it is integral to a *sustainable* development that lasts for generations.

The Solomon Islands Government, along with community leaders and NGOs, has been actively working on environmental protection initiatives. These include strengthening regulations on logging and mining to mitigate their impact, promoting reforestation programs, and expanding protected areas on land and sea. We are integrating climate change adaptation into our national planning, recognizing that rising sea levels and changing weather patterns pose serious risks to our low-lying atolls and coastal villages. Traditional knowledge is proving invaluable here: for instance, our elders' knowledge of building climate-resilient homes or planting cyclone-resistant crops can guide modern adaptation strategies. We also acknowledge our international partners and donors who support climate resilience projects and disaster preparedness in Solomon Islands – this global solidarity is much appreciated.

Yet, at its heart, environmental responsibility in Solomon Islands comes back to each of us as citizens. It is in the choices we make daily: how we fish, how we farm, how we dispose of waste, and how we use our land. It is encouraging to see many grassroots efforts: community-based resource management committees, youth groups doing clean-up campaigns, churches raising awareness about care for creation, and schools planting trees. These acts may seem small, but collectively they make a huge difference. They demonstrate that Solomon Islanders are not passive victims of environmental challenges but active custodians working for solutions.

Our cultural values teach us respect – respect for the earth (*mud kap raon* in one of our languages, meaning “the land is chief”) and respect for the handiwork of the Creator. Let us hold fast to those values as we pursue economic growth. As we develop industries and infrastructures, we must ensure they are pursued with minimal harm to nature and with fair returns to local communities. Only then can we truly call our development progress. We do this not only for ourselves but to honor our ancestors and to fulfill our duty to the unborn generations who will inherit this land.

So, on this day of national celebration, let us also celebrate our islands' natural beauty and pledge anew to protect it. Stewardship of our land and sea is a sacred trust. By upholding that trust, we safeguard the very foundation of life, culture, and prosperity in Solomon Islands. In doing so, we live out the truth that independence is not just about political freedom, but also about the responsible management of the gifts we have been given.

Unity and Hope – Charting the Future Together

As we celebrate the commemoration of our 47th Independence Anniversary, one overarching theme shines through: unity. Unity has been the bedrock of our achievements and will be the compass for our future. In our relatively short history as an independent nation, whenever we have stood together – across islands, across communities, across generations – we have overcome obstacles that once seemed insurmountable. Our journey affirms that we are stronger together. Whether it was rebuilding after the trials of conflict, responding to natural disasters, or simply the daily task of nation-building, Solomon Islanders have shown again and again that cooperation and mutual respect are the keys to progress.

Today, let us renew our commitment to national unity. We are a country of many islands and cultures, yet we share one name and one destiny. Let no divisions – whether they be provincial, ethnic, religious, or political – weaken the fabric of our nation. We can have our differences, as any vibrant democracy does, but let those differences be settled through dialogue, understanding, and the rule of law. Our unity is grounded in the Melanesian concept of “one-talk” – the idea that we are all wantoks, bound by ties of kinship and friendship that extend beyond blood to the national family. In this spirit, we must reject any voices that seek to sow hatred or disunity. Instead, we embrace the path of reconciliation and cooperation. When one province celebrates a success, all of us celebrate with them. When one community faces hardship, all of us feel that pain and respond with compassion.

Looking to the future, there is so much reason for hope. The Solomon Islands of 2030, 2040, and beyond can achieve things that earlier generations only dreamed of. Imagine a future where our children enjoy world-class education and healthcare right here at home; where sustainable industries provide jobs in every province; where our cities and villages are connected by modern infrastructure; where our unique cultural heritage thrives alongside technological innovation; and where peace and

justice reign for all. These are not mere fantasies – they are entirely within our reach if we continue to work hard and make wise choices. We have abundant natural resources, but even more importantly, we have an abundance of human talent and communal strength.

Each Solomon Islander has a part to play in realising this vision. To our leaders and public servants – let this anniversary be a reminder to govern with humility, accountability, and foresight, always keeping the people's welfare at heart. To our chiefs and community leaders – thank you for being pillars of stability and wisdom; your role in guiding social harmony and development at the local level remains crucial. To our teachers, health workers, police officers, and other nation-builders – your daily dedication underpins the progress of our country; continue to serve with pride and professionalism. To mothers and fathers – you are raising the next generation; instil in them the values of respect, discipline, and love of country. To our youth – seize the opportunities before you, believe in yourselves, and remember that this nation's future is literally in your hands. And to our elders – we honour you for the foundation you laid; your stories and counsel are treasures that must continue to enlighten our way forward.

On this day, we also acknowledge the support of our friends in the international community who have journeyed with us. From our neighbours in the Pacific family to partners across the globe, your friendship and assistance have been vital in our development and in moments of need. As an independent nation, Solomon Islands cherishes its sovereignty and also its role as a responsible member of the international family, committed to cooperation on global challenges like climate change, peacekeeping, and sustainable development.

As we celebrate 47 years of independence, let us do so with gratitude for the past, celebration of the present, and unwavering hope for the future. We have a rich history and heritage to guide us, a firm foundation on which to build, and a bright horizon of possibilities. The journey continues – each year, each generation brings new opportunities to fulfill the promise of Solomon Islands. If we remain united in purpose and proud of who we are, there is no limit to what Solomon Islanders can achieve.

Happy 47th Independence Anniversary to all! May God bless our beloved Solomon Islands and all her people. Let us move forward together – in unity, in pride, and in hope – towards the next chapter of our national story.

Professor Transform Aqorau
Vice-Chancellor, Solomon Islands National University

4 July 2025