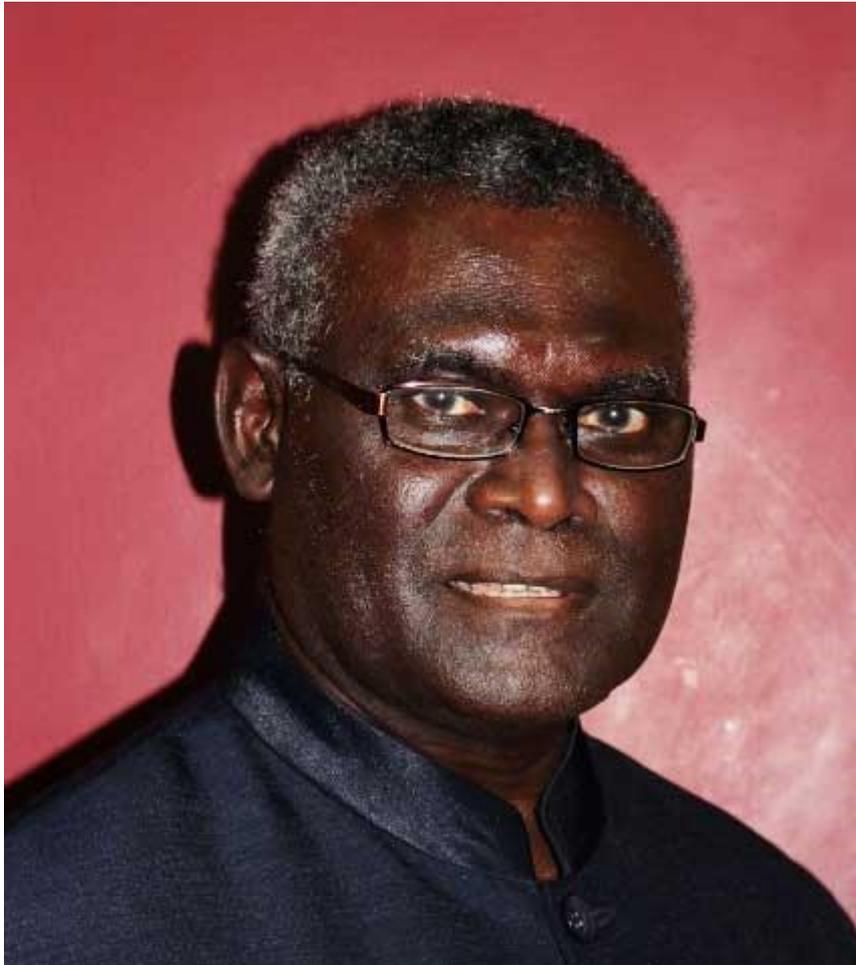


39th Independence Anniversary Greetings From The Prime Minister, Hon Manasseh Sogavare



Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare

It is with profound honour and pleasure for me to convey my best wishes on behalf of the Democratic Coalition for Change Government to all Solomon Islanders nationwide and abroad on the occasion of our 39th Independence anniversary.

This year, the Government has chosen that we celebrate this grand occasion under the theme 'Taking Charge after the End of RAMSI.'

This is a bold theme that carries the desire of the Government to see us all Solomon Islanders collectively take charge of our destiny as a nation in this post-RAMSI era.

The theme symbolises the confidence of the Government in the ability of every Solomon Islander to assist the Government in its nation-building aspirations by ensuring excellence in their respective walks of life.

Last week, we bade farewell to the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) after a successful 14-year intervention that saw the restoration of law and order and laying of the foundations for the long-term stability and prosperity of our nation after the dark years of ethnic crisis.

The RAMSI Exit marked the beginning of a new era for Solomon Islands because it entrusts the Government and all Solomon Islanders alike with the sole responsibility of taking our Nation forward.

This responsibility falls equally on the shoulders of all Solomon Islander. We must stand united and we must work together in order for us to build peace, guarantee security, and foster sustainable economic development.

May I now take this opportunity thank the Governor General, Speaker of Parliament, Chief Justice and all other Constitutional Post-holders, Leader of the Opposition and Members of the Opposition Group, Leader and Members of the Independent Group in Parliament, Heads of Solomon Islands Overseas Diplomatic Missions, Commissioner of Police, Honiara City Mayor, Provincial Premiers, Heads and Employees of Government Statutory Bodies and all Public Servants for their invaluable contributions to the upkeep of the Government Machinery.

Indeed, this year has not been an easy year in terms of the government's policy implementation pursuits and government service delivery but through your commitment to carrying out the various responsibilities you have been mandated with, you have kept the Government Machinery up and running.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Non-Government Organisations, Churches, Civil Society Groups, Community Leaders, Women Leaders and Village chiefs for their varying but equally invaluable contributions towards Solomon Islands nation-building efforts.

I pay special acknowledgement to Solomon Islands Development Partners, the Private Sector and other stakeholders for their unwavering commitment to stand by the Government in its development aspirations for the nation. The Government looks forward to continue its strong working partnership with the country's Development Partners, the Private Sector and other Solomon Islands Stakeholders to achieve its policy objectives for the nation.

To the Solomon Islanders living abroad, I wish you all the best in whatever activities you are organised to mark this event. Be good ambassadors of Solomon Islands in your host countries.

Happy 39th Independence Celebrations Solomon Islands. May God bless our nation from shore to shore!