

## **RESERVE BANK OF VANUATU**

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Central Bank of Solomon Islands Staff Social Club tour to the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu

A group of 26 members of the Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) Social Club touched down at the Port Vila Bauerfield International Airport on Saturday 1 July 2017 to take part in a one week social exchange program with the Social Club of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu.



CBSI Social Club Staff photo with Governor, Deputy Governor (center) and RBV staff – Level 8, Reserve Bank Building, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

In welcoming the delegation at the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu on Monday this week, Governor Simeon Athy thanked the visitors for their planning and commitment to making this trip come true following the discussions and approval that was reached between the Governor of the Central Bank of Solomon Islands, Mr. Denton Rarawa and himself towards the end of last year.

Governor Athy stressed in his speech "that such visits between the central banks of the MSG countries is very important in strengthening the regional cooperation between the MSG central banks organization

of which Vanuatu is the smallest member. This is important because of the many common interests that are shared between the MSG central banks and also because of the unique roles that these central banks contribute to the economy and confidence in their respective economies".

One of the key challenges Governor Athy stated "is the lack of active trading within the region between the MSG member countries despite the huge resources that the member countries hold. In line with the government policies on trade exchange and other regional areas, the central bank has a very important role also to play in supporting these efforts through the sharing and exchange of programs like this one and others in the area of joint research works and others".

Head of the team, Mr. Michael Erekali thanked the Board, Governor, Management Team and the Staff of the Bank for the wonderful hospitality that the group received from the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu. "For most of them this is the first time for them to visit Vanuatu and they are really enjoying the friendliness and hospitability of the people" he stressed. The visit to the Reserve Bank on Monday this week saw the group touring the departments of the Reserve Bank followed by the afternoon site seeing tour to some of the key tourist attractions in Port Vila.

The group outdoor sports exchange in soccer, volleyball and netball games kicks off on Tuesday afternoon and will ends on Friday and the group departs for Solomon Islands over the weekend. One of the highlights of the tour also is taking part in the Vanuatu/Solomon Islands celebration of the SI's 39 years of Independence anniversary in Port Vila this year that will feature the parade through the town and flag raising ceremony at the Government Convention Centre.

## **Reserve Bank of Vanuatu**