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# Strengthening our Borders Through Partnerships: The Solomon Islands Experience

***Presentation by:***

*Christopher Akosawa, DOI, SIID.*

*Clarence Parisau, DCMO, PNG ICSA.*



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# Partnerships Supporting Solomon Islands Pacific Games 2023





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## **Solomon Islands Immigration Division** prepares for Pacific Games by:

- June 2022, SIID conducted a review of its immigration border processes, concluding that a unique process is needed to facilitate the large volumes of passengers expected for Pacific Games.
- August 2022, SIID engages PNG ICSA counterpart to discuss leveraging from PNG's experience in facilitating large volumes of passengers through APEC and other events.
- September 2022, SIID and PNG ICSA start their collaboration with a series of video conferences.



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## **Bilateral Engagements For the Pacific Games:**

- October 2022 – SIID delegation travels to PNG to draft MOU and establish Games Action Plan.
- May 2023 – Solomon Islands delegation travels to PNG and MOU is signed.
- January, March, July, August & October 2023 – ICSA Delegation travels to Solomon Islands to assist in Games preparations.
- Multiple video and teleconferences between ICSA and SIID teams.
- November 2023, ICSA deploy a team of 8 officers and ABF deploy 2 officers to Honiara for one month to assist SIID with the Games.





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## **PNG Deputy Prime Ministers Visit**

In August 2023, PNG Deputy Prime Minister visited Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare to pledge PNG's support to Solomon Islands for the Pacific Games:

Words from PNG DPM His Excellency John Rosso MP, Minister for Border Security says during his recent visit to Honiara, SI “ PNG Government supports for Solomon Islands Hosting the PG 2023, uniting the Pacific and strengthening the regional security”.





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## **Memorandum of Understanding** on Immigration Border Security between Solomon Islands Immigration Division and Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority:

- Information Sharing
- Twinning and Exchange Program
- Joint Operations
- Joint Training





# PNG-Solomon Islands Immigration MOU

By: Loop Author  
15:56, May 24, 2023

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**The Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Service Authority has successfully signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Solomon Islands Immigration Division (SIID). Our correspondent has the details.**



## PNG aids SI immigration

April 12, 2023 The National National

THE country is keen to provide support to other Pacific Island nations to strengthen border security, Papua New Guinea chief migration officer Stanis Hulahu says. Hulahu said PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority (PNG ICA) would assist the Solomon Islands (SI) build its capacity on border security. The commitment follows a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the sister agencies in both nations following a recent bilateral meeting. Hulahu noted strengthening security was among PNG ICA's key performance areas as well as that of the Government.



PNG and Solomon Islands immigration officials recently ended their second bilateral meeting in the Solomon Islands last month. - Picture supplied

In October 2019, Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare first met Prime Minister James Marape in Port Moresby where they discussed mutual interests on border security, Bougainville referendum, economic, trade and investment, labour mobility and employment opportunities and the Melanesian Spearhead Group. It was also during this discussion that Marape pledged his support to the Solomon Islands for the Pacific Games which would be hosted in Honiara in November this year. Under the draft MOU, PNG ICA was expected to provide technical assistance to SI immigration division to process and facilitate athletes, visitors and heads of delegations of the participating countries. Apart from the technical assistance which includes the development of a travel application to process bulk visa applications, PNG ICA would also assist its sister agency with promotional items and branding materials. "It is the new start of our long relationship and our collective efforts to strengthening security and border control between our maritime borders," Hulahu said. He said the memorandum of understanding was at an advanced stage and was expected to be signed once clearance was given by the State Solicitor. It covered ongoing security cooperation, PNG ICA support for SI immigration for the Pacific Games 2023, joint border operations, capacity building, training and information sharing.



THE Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Service Authority (ICSA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on immigration and border security cooperation with Solomon Islands Immigration Division (SIID) at the sidelines of the Forum for India and Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). The MOU was signed by the Chief Migration Officer Stanis Hulahu and Solomon Islands Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Collin Beck at the ICSA headquarters in Port Moresby yesterday. "This partnership with Solomon Islands Immigration is significant and would pave the way for closer working relationships, capacity building, technical assistance and border security cooperation and security between the two sister agencies," Mr Hulahu said. "This bilateral agreement can be a practical example to other Immigration Agencies in the region, particularly the Melanesian Spearhead Group Member States to join hands and work together to improve concerns around travel and security within the region and same time implement some of the policies on trade-in-services within the MSG." As part of the MOU, the ICSA will provide technical assistance to SI

Immigration Division to process and facilitate athletes, visitors and Heads of Delegations of the participating countries to the 17th Pacific Games in Honiara in November this year (2023). Apart from the technical assistance which includes the development of a Travel App to process bulk visa applications, PNG ICSA will also assist its sister agency with promotional items and branding materials. Mr Hulahu said the assistance provided to Solomon Islands Immigration is part of the government's commitment to support the Solomon Islands to host a safe and memorable games.



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SI AND PNG IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS CONCLUDE 2ND BILATERAL MEETING

March 27, 2023

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Group photo of the SI-PNGCA officials this week at the Heritage Park Hotel

## SI AND PNG IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS CONCLUDE 2<sup>ND</sup> BILATERAL MEETING

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Senior Officials from Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea Immigration authorities have concluded their 2<sup>nd</sup> bilateral meeting in Honiara on Friday 24 March.

The five days meeting which began on Monday 20 March covered areas including the finalization of the Border Security Cooperation between the two countries and formalizing PNG's support to Solomon Islands Operation Plan and Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for Immigration Operations during the Pacific Games 2023.

The PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority under the MOU provides technical assistance to SI Immigration Division to process and facilitate athletes, visitors and Heads of delegations of the participating countries. The Immigration operation plan for the Pacific Games 2023 includes the establishment of a Travel App to process bulk passengers.

Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration, Eric George Ongoa thanked the Papua New Immigration Citizenship Authority for supporting SI Immigration's preparation for the Pacific Games 2023.

Translate »



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# PNG supports SI immigration prepare for influx during PGs

LOCAL NEWS

PAPUA New Guinea has stepped in to assist Solomon Islands Immigration to prepare for the Pacific Games.

A team of PNG's Immigration, Citizenship Authority (ICA) brought a Tech-App which tested and presented the Immigration Management System to the Honiara Islands Immigration Management System.

The Tech-App Border Management System will help manage the facilitation of advance entries during the 2023 Pacific Games in November.

A testing on the Tech-App was done for six PNG ICA personnel at the Honiara Henderson International Airport Tuesday last week.

Director of Immigration, Chris Akosawa acknowledged the offer from the Honiara Islands Immigration, Citizenship Authority for supporting the Tech-App to prepare for the Pacific Games.

Mr. Akosawa said the Tech-App is a free offer given to SIG by the PNG Government.

"This Tech-App if we're going to pay for it, it will cost a lot of thousand dollars, thus we give accreditation to the PNG Government for their support."

The presentation of the Tech-App Proposal was done earlier on March to the Relevant Seniors officials of SIG including Customs, Ministry of Communication and Aviation, Bio Security, Ministry of Agriculture and SI Immigration in Honiara.

Based on the over view consultation and Requirements on the Tech-App, we, SI and PNG Immigration leads, Mr Wellington Navasivua and I, are working on a Cabinet Paper for Approval from the SIG, so we can use the App at the Airport.

"We have an operation plan to enhance our Immigration Visa Management System that goes along under a SI PNG Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for the 2023 Pacific Games."

"In the same way, this new Tech-App is an upgrade, with more effective level of fast tracking visa processing and issuance for all participating athletes, and once the Cabinet paper is done, then will kick off from there."

Shane Hakahtiz of PNG ICA IT Team said they had rolled out the Tech-App testing at the Henderson International Arrival and Departure and it was positive.

"For the Security of the system it was cloud based, it is hosted in the same infrastructure that PNG ICA has hosted on, and we also run it on payment system and was built in the same perimeter and it was perfect."

James Ingis, director of NiuPay, PNG ICA Service Provider, echoed ICA wants to put the concept an advance Visa Management system.

"This Tech-App, we run it in our payment systems as well as larger infrastructures within the Government system. And it is one of the single largest in the country, and we want to do the same for Solomon Is-



ICA IT Team. Photos credit: PNG High Commission Communications.



Director of SI Immigration, Chris Akosawa.



## NEW CHARGES FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY EFFECTIVE 1 AUGUST

In accordance with the Electricity Act (Cap. 128) and the Electricity (Charges for Supply) Regulations 2023, the electricity tariffs have been reviewed and new rates of supply of electricity take effect on 1st August 2023.

Charges: The rates of charges payable for the supply of electricity on and from are as follows:

Prepaid Customers			
Customer Categories	Consumption Block	Non-Fuel Charge SBD/kWh	Fuel Charge SBD/kWh
Domestic	< 50 kWh	3.70	2.70
Domestic	50 - 200 kWh	4.25	2.70
Domestic	> 200 kWh	4.81	2.70
Commercial	All	3.71	2.70
Industrial	All	3.56	2.70

Postpaid Customers		
Customer Categories	Consumption Block	Non-Fuel Charge SBD/kWh
Domestic	< 50 kWh	3.70
Domestic	50 - 200 kWh	4.25
Domestic	> 200 kWh	4.81
Commercial	All	3.71
Industrial	All	3.56

Non-regular Customers		
Customer Categories	Consumption Block	Demand Charge SBD/kWh/month
Domestic	All	1,147.61
Commercial	All	1,147.61
Industrial	All	1,147.61

For August, the Non Fuel Charge increased by an average of 0.9% and decreased by an average of 3.7%. The overall Energy Charges decreased by 0.9% and is due to decrease in imported Fuel prices.

lands and it is all set to go."

Discoarse of the Tech-App, General Manager for IT Information and Technology for PNG ICA Mrs Hilda Kapram, said this Tech App will reduce time consuming when processing the influxes for 2023 Pacific Games Participants.

"Athletes won't have to stand at long queues to receive their visas, their data particulars will automatically appear for instant visa issuance."

"This system got proper cyber security requirements and components in place you are guaranteed that 99.9 percent, no one will hack into this system, especially on the sensitive data."

PNG Deputy Chief Migration, Mr Navasivua further indicated, PNG ICA is ready to support Solomon Islands Immigration, ensuring SI Immigration is ready to facilitate and process huge number of athletes, visitors, diplomats and heads of delegation participating in the upcoming PG 2023 in Honiara.

"We are willing to share our experience learnt when hosting the 2015 Pacific Games and the Asia Pacific Economic Summit and to assist Solomon Islands Immigration to ensure that safety and Security of country's borders," he said.

-PNG HC PRESS



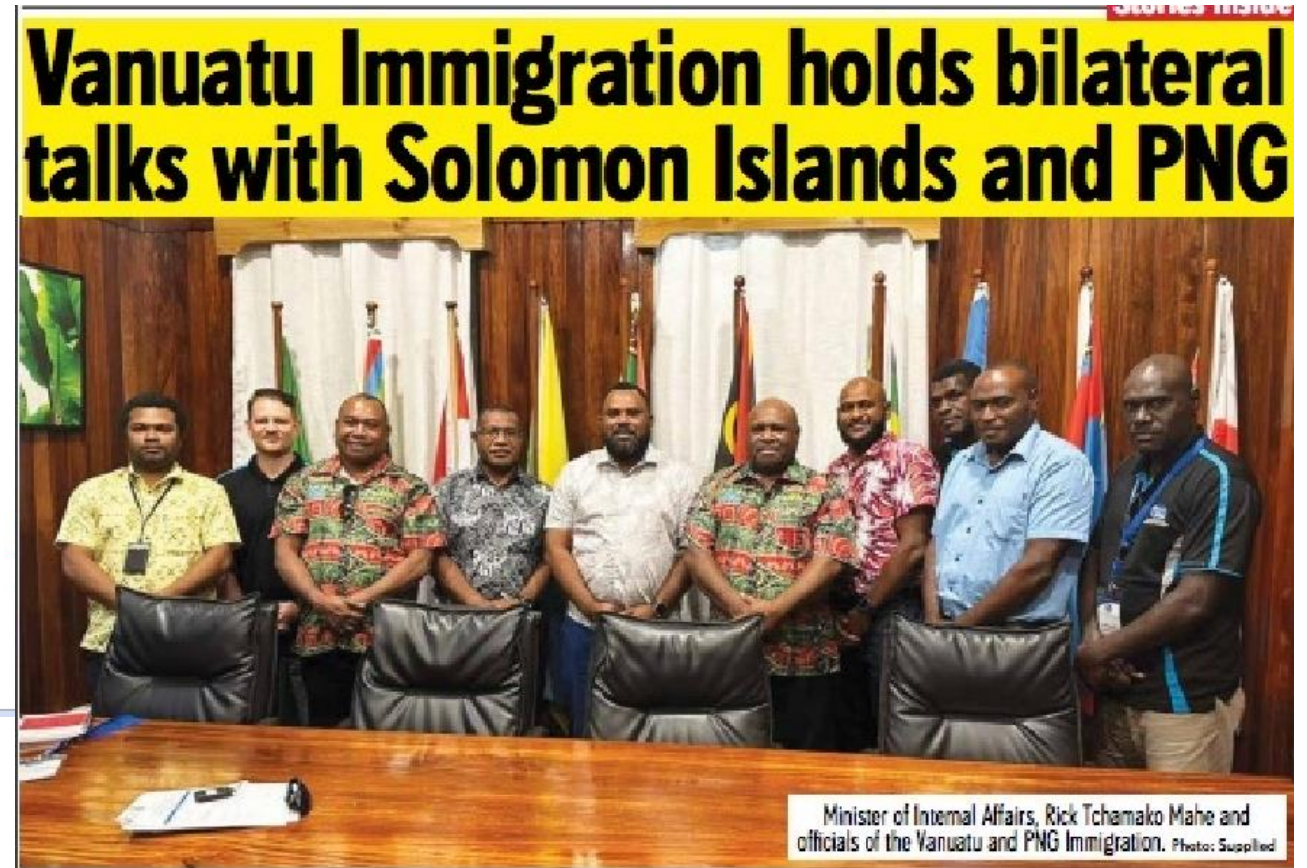


# Vanuatu Immigration holds bilateral talks with Solomon Islands and PNG

By Glenda Willie Jun 23, 2023 0



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## Achievements

With support from PNG, SIID's preparedness for the Pacific Games includes the creation of:

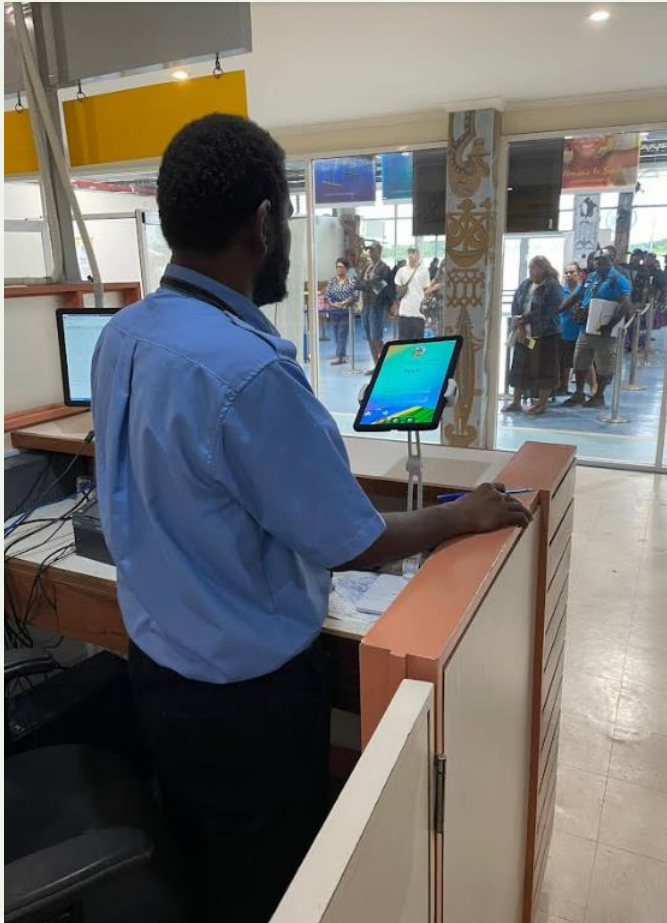
- Games Standard Operating Procedures
- Operational Order
- Reporting Templates
- Process flows
- Training materials
- TECH App.





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## SIID Team are Ready to Go Live





## SIID complete their mission to:

“Facilitate Games participant’s smooth, safe and secure entry to and departure from Solomon Islands”

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TOP STORIES

### PNG supports immigration in Solomon Islands

by GORETHY KENNETH NOVEMBER 20, 2023

**PNG Government through PNGICA is assisting SI Immigration with Pacific Games**

The Papua New Guinea government, through the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority (PNGICA), has assisted Solomon Islands Immigration with the Pacific Games since the start of this year.

The assistance, according to acting director of Immigration, Christopher Akosawa, has supported the Pacific Games preparation and now the hosting of the Games.

He said the system, installed by the PNGICA has been efficiently processing the leaders, athletes, businesses and people coming to Honiara.

PNGICA deputy CMO Wellington Navasivu, who is in Honiara, said this is the commitment by the PNG government to assist Solomon Islands.

In August 2023, PNG Deputy Prime Minister John Rosso visited Solomon Islands Prime

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# **Solomon Islands Border Management System**

*" A trilateral initiative between Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Australia"*



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## **Solomon Islands Border Management System (BMS) journey so far:**

- August 2023, SIID write to Australia seeking support for funding of a BMS.
- September-October 2023, PNG ICSA and Australian Home Affairs deploy technical officers to assess SI's needs and create a Business Requirements Document (BRD).
- February 2024, Australia confirms funding approval for SI BMS and a trilateral arrangement including SI, PNG and Australia is developed.
- April 2024, SI and PNG create Capacity Building Action Plan and host the first BMS workshop with stakeholders in Honiara.



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# PNG-Solomon Island border cooperation continues

THE Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands governments are continuing their cooperation on border security.



**JOHN Rosso**

The PNG Immigration Citizenship Service Authority (PNG-ICSA) and Solomon Islands Immigration Division (SIID) completed a two-day Border Management System (BMS) workshop in Honiara last week.

The workshop, which was held on April 22-23, was a consultation with Solomon Islands national stakeholders which included Foreign Investment, Labour, Police, the Information Communication and Technology Service Unit, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, on the SIID BMS project.

A border management system allows a government to collect, process, store and analyse information of persons entering and departing the country.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, John Rosso, who is also responsible for the Ministry for Immigration and Border Security, said that the workshop in Honiara was a follow-up to a workshop in Port Moresby ear-

lier this month between PNGICSA and SIID.

"In the workshop in Port Moresby, both agencies discussed capacity building options, and mapped out the foundations to explore, identify, and select, a Border Management System for the Solomon Islands," Mr. Rosso said.

"The workshop in Honiara, introduced the BMS to the stakeholders in the Solomon Islands and explained why it is needed."

"I understand that SIID is developing a new visa regime which will be implemented soon, and to go online to support investment, facilitate travel, trade, and tourism."

The proposal to procure a BMS for SIID will be funded by the Australian government through the Department of Home Affairs.

Due to an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ICSA and SIID, and ICSA's technical experience, the Department of Home Affairs has offered the leadership role to PNG to assist Solomon Islands procure the BMS.

"Papua New Guinea stands ready to assist our Pacific Islands family. Our countries should unite and collaborate to address the issues in our region," he said.

## New visa regime soon to be implemented

THE GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA is developing a new visa regime which will be implemented soon. The new online visa regime, which is set to be implemented, will support investment, facilitate trade and tourism.

This Border Management System (BMS) project is one of the 2023 which the Australian Government has approved funding for earlier this year.

The project will help the Immigration Division to better manage the country's borders and streamline investment, employment, visa processes, making it easier for investors, businessmen and tourists wishing to apply for a online.

As part of the BMS project, the Immigration Division, the Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority (PNG-ICSA) successfully conducted a two-day BMS workshop with Solomon Islands stakeholders in Honiara (22 and 23).

The workshop was a follow-up on with the Solomon Islands stakeholders with Foreign Investment, Police, Information, Technology and Ministry of Foreign and External Trade on the SIID proposed

and PNG ICSA BMS functional units to understand a border management system for Solomon

reiterated PNG ICSA commitment to supporting SIID to develop its border management system.

Acting Director of Immigration Chris Akosawa acknowledged the presence of the BMS workshop participants.

PNG ICSA is implementing



Participants in the two-day workshop. Photo supplied

System, which uses their expertise, knowledge and experiences of rolling out the Merit Border System.

Mr Akosawa confirmed the PNG ICSA's assistance which included preparation and training development for Immigration officials on the BMS.

SIID is ambitious about roll-

ing out a robust electronic border management system in which all entries and exits of Solomon Islands to be digitized, ensuring that keep our borders safe and secured.

PNG ICSA assistance includes assessment and scoping exercise on existing Solomon Islands Government infrastructure.

PNG ICSA Infrastructure Of-

ficer Alfred Amos confirmed that he was satisfied with the SI ICT-SU existing infrastructures that would be supportive to the SI Immigration Border Management System.

PNG ICSA has an ongoing support for SI Immigration under an MOU on border security and cooperation signed in 2023.

The SIID is the BMS's contribution in supporting for SI Immigration support and C...

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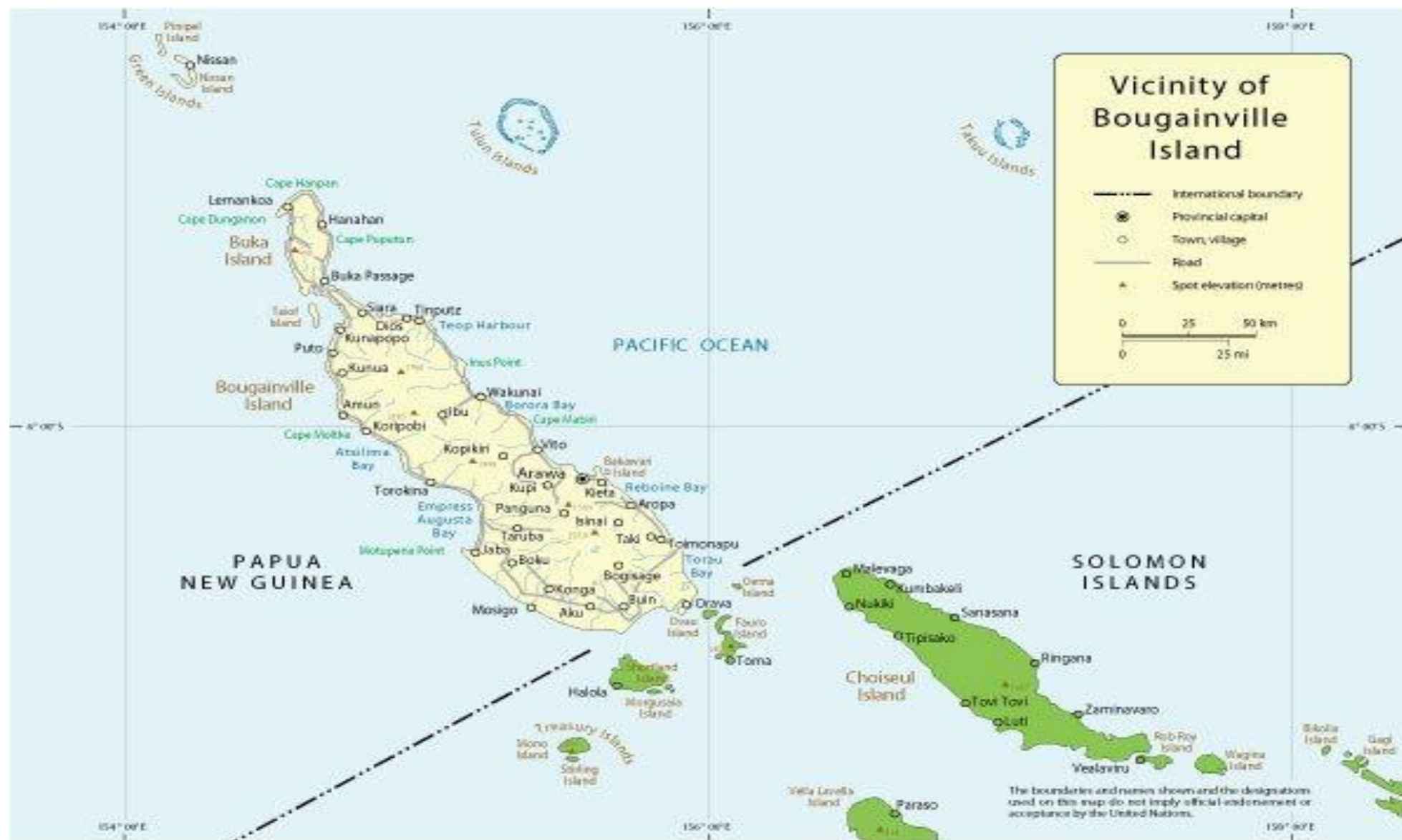
## **Next Steps:**

- July 2024, SIID, ICSA and Home Affairs BMS project team will meet with BMS vendor in Melbourne.
- July 2024, Home Affairs will assist SIID with legislation and policy based on the new SI Visa Regime.
- August 2024, SIID and ICSA will host a workshop in Honiara to finalise Visa Regime.



# Papua New Guinea







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**Tenkiu Tumas.**