



## Solomon Islands National Provident Fund

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### SINPF LAUDS COMMENCEMENT OF SUBMARINE CABLE

Solomon Islands National Provident Fund (SINPF) Board commends the Australian Government and Solomon Islands Government for the commencement of cable laying on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2019, Commencement of the cable laying is a major milestone in the telecommunication industry to bring better and faster network in the country.

Speaking at the Cable Laying Commencement ceremony, Vice Chairman of the Solomon Islands National Provident Fund Board, Dr Aaron Oritaimae said the SINPF is excited and happy about its investment in the company Solomon Islands Submarine Cable Company Limited (SSC), to support the efforts of our Government and the Australian Government ensure that our country has access to low cost high speed quality broad band.

The SINPF Board has made an informed decision on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to invest in the undersea submarine cable to secure projected long term attractive return for our 142,352 formal and 10,400 informal members' retirement funds.

The SINPF Board is also fully aware of the ramifications of this investment in terms of economic and social benefits for Solomon Islands. Neighboring Countries in the region are now experiencing the benefits of low cost quality broad band technology introduced in their countries, created increase in business activities, spurring new employment opportunities, and provoking economic growth.

"We know that it will add value to the strengthening of social sector, especially in the improve delivery of services in health, education, government and non- government support services, and business and economic growth to people outside the main centres of our country," Aaron said,

Dr Aaron said the funds total exposure to the Coral Seas Cable investment is just under \$270 million comprising of a direct equity investment of \$116 million for our 49% shareholding in the company SISCC and indirectly through the purchase of the \$150 million Solomon Islands Government (SIG) long term development bonds. The government applied the proceeds of the bond issue to finance its shareholding through the investment Corporation of Solomon Islands (ICSI) 51% shareholding in SISCC.

" Our financial returns from this exposure ranges from 6.65% per annum to a projected long term internal rate of return ( IRR) of 18.9%, meeting our investment return objective, our mission, and our vision", he adds,

The SINPF Board and our 152, 352 members are proud to be part of this national transformative investment, partnering with our government in SSC, the Australian Government and its people in gathering the cable to Solomon Islands for our people and future generations.

The opportunities brings risks and changing environment which will require the SINPF Board, and Management to be always on alert looking ahead to participate in national growth and development, with the primary goal of increasing wealth and security for its members.



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