

Malaita Premier proposes new domestic seaport terminal for Auki

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Solomon Star, Auki

PREMIER of Malaita Province, Elijah Asilaua, has proposed the construction of a new domestic seaport terminal in Auki to ease congestion and improve services for passengers travelling between Malaita and Honiara.

Mr Asilaua shared the proposal during a press tour at his office in Auki on Wednesday.

The visit was organised by the Embassy of Japan in the Solomon Islands and led by Japanese Ambassador to Solomon Islands, Keiichi Higuchi, and his delegation.

Speaking during the tour, the Premier said the Auki-Honiara Sea route remains one of the busiest and most challenging in the country, with the province heavily dependent on maritime transport.

"We are considering establishing a terminal that can properly accommodate our people travelling in and out. This route is very difficult and always busy," he said.

Mr Asilaua noted that the need for improved facilities became particularly



From left to right: Japanese Embassy Program Officer Mr. Takuya Ichikawa, First Secretary to the Japanese Embassy Ms. Yukiko Nakajima, H.E. Keiichi Higuchi, Malaita Province Premier Elijah Asilaua, JICA Representative, and Province Secretary Erick George pose for a photo following a press tour meeting.

evident during the recent Christmas season, when large numbers of people travelled between Honiara and Malaita.

Overcrowding at the existing wharf left many passengers stranded outside due to limited space.

"With the present chal-

lenges we face, especially during Christmas when our people travelled in large numbers, there is a clear demand for additional infrastructure. People were stranded outside because there was not enough space," he said.

He highlighted that

Malaita relies more on sea transport than air services, making the development of a domestic seaport terminal a priority for the province.

The premier confirmed that the proposal has been submitted to the Minister for Infrastructure Develop-

ment and the national government for consideration.

"As an agent of the national government, we are heavily dependent on the national government for infrastructure development," he said.

Mr Asilaua also acknowledged Japan as a key development partner and expressed hope that it could assist in supporting the project.

"It is good that Japan is here, our very strong friend. I believe Japan can take up the challenge to support additional work there, even a seaport terminal. That is our need," he said.

With Solomon Islands preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary of independence, the Premier said delivering a new terminal would serve as a meaningful milestone project for Malaita Province.

"When people ask what our priority is this year, especially as the country prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary, I suggest this additional work at the seaport terminal for us as a province. If we can achieve that, it will be a very good project for our people," he added.