**MEDIA STATEMENT: BROADCASTING OF SAMOA 2019 PACIFIC GAMES**

24 April 2019

The Office of the Pacific Games wishes to clarify issues and address inaccurate information being reported and distributed regarding the awarding of the contract for Host Broadcaster and IBC Service Provider.

In October 2018, an Open Competitive Tender Process was undertaken by the Office to secure the services of a qualified company or consultant to provide technical assistance for the Broadcasting of the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games. The tender was advertised publicly and attracted bids from two overseas companies. No local-based company submitted a bid.

Pacific Broadcast Consultancy was awarded the contract which included a feasibility study. This study included a consultation process with local stakeholders in the Broadcasting industry to gather information regarding local capacity and capability to seek ways to incorporate local Broadcasters and Production companies into the Broadcasting plan for the upcoming Games.

The consultation process included a number of experienced local production companies all of whom have previous experience from the 2007 South Pacific Games. All local based Broadcast companies were also invited to participate, with all but one responding positively.

Pacific Broadcast Consulting Limited concluded their contract with the Office in late February, delivering a number of key outputs including a venue connectivity plan, draft broadcast production plan, and a report on initial engagements with potential rights holders.

In March, the Office undertook a preferred supplier procurement process to secure a qualified Host Broadcaster and IBC Service Provider.

Two overseas-based companies with previous Games experience, and one locally-based broadcaster, were approached to provide bids. All three were provided the same brief and amount of time to provide proposals.

The bids received were then evaluated as per K.2.4 of the Treasury instructions, Section 6 ‘Procurement and Contracting’ June 2016 (“Treasury instructions”) with findings reported to the Tenders Board.

Melanesian Media Group’s (MMG) proposal was found to be the most technically compliant and competitive bid, and were awarded the contract for Host Broadcast and IBC Service Provider.

The priority of the Office, and the Games Organising Committee, is to provide a high-quality broadcast, within budget, for the Games to ensure Samoa is presented well, sponsors and partners are duly represented, and the athletic feats of Pacific athletes currently preparing for the Games are celebrated.

Under the Pacific Games Charter it outlines all obligations and regulations that a host country must adhere to. Regulation 13 sets out the Minimum Broadcast Standards and Guidelines where 1.3. states that “coverage of the events in the Basic Feed must be at least as good in overall technical quality as that provided at previous Pacific Games and shall be produced to an international standard in accordance with the then applicable international broadcasting standards for events equivalent to the Games.”

MMG’s previous experience includes Production and technical experience for the 2007 South Pacific Games, 2011 and 2015 Pacific Games, and production and distribution services for three Festivals of Pacific Arts. MMG’s proposal also provided a commercial revenue strategy, backed by previous experience, that provided a competitive edge.

The opportunity to build local capability has been considered throughout the Broadcasting project with opportunities made available to local broadcasters and production companies to bid for Broadcast related contracts, participate in consultation processes, and be involved in the Host Broadcasting together with the Games Host Broadcaster, MMG.

The Office highlights that the President of JAWS was invited as owner of an experienced local production company, to be part of the consultation process undertaken in December however cancelled due to illness. This was not acknowledged in comments made to date.

Samoa Broadcasting Corporation, Apia Broadcasting Limited and EFKS TV were invited and participated in the same process in December 2018. Catholic TV were invited however the Office received no response.

The TV1 News story on the Host Broadcast and IBC Service Provider contract which aired on 23/4/2019 therefore also carries inaccuracies, as SBC were part of the consultation and later the bid process for the Host Broadcast.

The Office encourages local broadcasters and production companies to engage with the Games Host Broadcasters as it offers an opportunity to build local capacity and capability. The Office is committed to providing a high-quality and commercially successful broadcast for the upcoming Samoa 2019 Pacific Games.

- - - - -Ends- - - - -

For more information visit [www.samoa2019.ws](http://www.samoa2019.ws)

For further comments or to arrange an interview, contact: media@samoa2019.ws

**Attachment: Melanesian Media Groups Experience**

The experience of Melanesian Media Group includes Lead Broadcaster PNG for 2015 Pacific Games; Regional Rights/Distribution partner for SBS 2014 FIFA World Cup; and Click TV DVBT2 platform in PNG for 18,000+ subscribers.

Its experience by way of Managing Director Richard Broadbridge includes, Executive Producer World Feed – South Pacific Games 2003; Manager Production services South Pacific Games 2007; and Project Manager TV 2008 (American Samoa), 2012 (Solomon Islands), 2016 (Guam) Festival of Pacific Arts.

By way of Thomas Rioux the technical services contractor includes: Host Broadcast Technical Director for Port Moresby 2015; Technical Director for production of the 2012 African Cup of Nations in Guinea Equitorial and Gabon; CTO of 2011 Pacific Games New Caledonia; and Consulting mission for Tahiti Nui Television for the design of their new technical facilities.