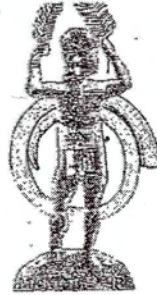


PARAMOUNT CHIEFS  
MALVATUMAURI

République de Vanuatu

From : NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHIEFS  
CONSEIL NATIONAL DES CHEFS  
PRIVATE MAIL BAG 047  
PORT VILA  
TEL : (678) 22474 - FAX : (678) 27743



Republic of Vanuatu

Our Reference :

Date :

To :

**Whomever It May Concern**

8<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Letter of Support and Endorsement:  
Inaugural Australian South Sea Islanders National Conference, 6 - 9 April 2012,  
Bundaberg**

I am writing this letter as the President of the Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs of the Republic of Vanuatu.

The Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs is aware of the decision taken in October 2011 to hold a National Conference of Australian South Sea Islanders in Australia for the purpose of establishing a single representative body to represent, among others, descendants of people of Ni-Vanuatu ancestry who were "blackbirded" to Australia in the second half of the 1800's and the early years of the 1900's.

The Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs has endorsed the decision to hold this National Conference, and has mandated the establishment of the "Vanuatu Indigenous Descendants Association" to represent the Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs in all dealings related to this Conference and with the organisers of this Conference.

The Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs has also mandated Chief Simon Kaukare and Chief David Fandanumata, as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Vanuatu Indigenous Descendants Association respectively, to represent the Council at this Conference.

The connection of communities in Vanuatu with the South Sea Islanders in Australia is very deep, due to our shared histories going back to the time of the labour trade between our two nations in the second half of the 1800's. The people and chiefs of Vanuatu support all efforts to give the special circumstances of South Sea Islanders due recognition and acknowledgement within Australia.

We also welcome all efforts to build the capacity of South Sea Islander communities to engage with their heritage and with our people, especially the “source” communities in my country in which family connections with South Sea Islanders have been and continue to be discovered and developed.

Accordingly, on behalf of the Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs, I am also happy to officially express the Council’s support for the organisation of the inaugural Australian South Sea Islanders National Conference and for the “Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson)” as the main organising body for this National Conference.

Yours sincerely,



.....  
Chief Gratien Alguet  
**PRESIDENT**

