



Thousands expected in Honiara for festival of Pacific Arts

By Online Editor

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Solomon Islands capital Honiara has been flooded with people from all walks of life arriving ahead of the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts which kicks off next week.

Around the provinces people have been making their way to the capital since the past week and all international flights into the capital have been fully booked.

Solomon Star reports the busiest part of the country is the international airport with more than two to four flights coming in daily as delegates and visitors flood in to witness the festival.

To date, eight countries have arrived in the country. They are Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, New Caledonia, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Taiwan and Palau.

The eight countries make up more than 700 member delegates from the expected 3000 visitors.

Delegates from Guam, Kiribati, FSM, Tuvalu, Fiji and Cook Islands will arrive today.

Easter Island, Australia and additional delegates from the South Pacific Commission (SPC) will follow on Saturday with Vanuatu, Norfolk Island, Tokelau, Hawaii and American Samoa arriving on Sunday

While the international port is busy down at the Honiara's shipping port daily arrivals of vessels from provinces around the Solomon's are also packed to the brim.

Ships have reportedly made additional trips to meet the demand of passengers. Most of the provincial delegation to the festival have also been transported on chartered vessel over the past days.

Traffic congestion in Honiara is expected to get worse as the festival draws nearer as more vehicles and people are expected to move around Honiara.

Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo upon arrival from Rio, Brazil has called on all Solomon Islanders to look after the visitors making this festival a memorable and successful one.

SOURCE: SOLOMON STAR/PACNEWS

<http://www.pina.com.fj/?p=pacnews&m=read&o=9517621654fed0283368dbe2eab067>