



24 April 2019

RSIPF makes 30 arrests in disturbances after election of PM

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) has so far arrested more than 30 suspects for offences involved in disturbances in Honiara after the election of the Prime Minister on 24 April 2019.

Police allege certain members of the public decided to take the law into their own hands and marched through some streets in the capital Honiara causing public disturbances, fighting and property damage. Significant damage occurred at the Pacific Casino Hotel and numerous vehicles were also damaged.

These crowd marches were illegal and Police are currently investigating with the view to arresting further suspects.

Five RSIPF and four Correctional Services officers were injured and needed medical attention during the disturbances.

Commissioner Matthew Varley says, "To stop any further illegal gatherings in our capital city, the RSIPF calls on all good citizens of our capital city to stay home tonight (24 April) and do not come out unless it is extremely necessary."

He adds: "I have ordered a large police operation to conduct more high visibility patrols across Honiara tonight and police will stop anyone that is causing trouble around the city. People engaged in disorderly conduct will be searched and dealt with. I have also ordered a number of road blocks and checkpoints to be put in place to reduce traffic in the city."

Commissioner Varley explains: "This is necessary to ensure we maintain security across Honiara tonight. The RSIPF will not take any chances when it comes to public safety."

"If you are a law abiding citizen, then you have nothing to fear. Police are in control and we are continuing to respond to any incidents of disturbance around the city. But anyone who is planning to carry out any illegal activity can expect police to deal with you sternly."

The Police Response Team (PRT) officers and our riot squad officers have been ordered to take swift action against anyone using violence. .

"I urge all law abiding citizens to stay at home tonight and stay off the streets. Please stay home with your families tonight and allow the police to maintain law and order in our capital city," Commissioner Varley emphasises.

"Once again," Commissioner Varley says, "Let us accept the outcome of the election of the Prime Minister and allow National Parliament and the Courts to deal with any issues that have arisen during the election process."

"I call on all the good people of Honiara to reject and refrain from any violence. Help us spread the message that violence will only destroy our families, our communities and our country. We need peace in our families, our communities and in our nation."

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For any media inquiries

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The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) was established in 1954. Its mission is 'To provide a safe, secure and peaceful Solomon Islands'. The RSIPF strive to provide efficient, capable and responsive policing service and expect RSIPF officers to adhere to the RSIPF values.

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