



15<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### **RSIPF appeals for calm and peace as SIG makes decision on diplomatic relations issue**

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) appeals to all citizens of Solomon Islands to remain calm and respect law and order as the country awaits a decision by the Government on the future of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

"As the country awaits a decision by the Government on the Report of the Parliamentary Bi-partisan Committee on the Review of Solomon Islands Relations with the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China, I appeal to all good citizens of Solomon Islands to remain calm and to maintain peace and harmony in our communities. I know that the good people of this country and all chiefs and community leaders want to ensure that our peaceful way of life is preserved," says Commissioner of RSIPF Matthew Varley.

Commissioner Varley explains: "At the outset, let me make it clear that the RSIPF is a neutral organisation and does not take any side in political matters. Our job is to maintain law and order as well as preserve the peace in our community," says Commissioner Varley.

He adds: "Your police are continuing to monitor the situation and so far there is no cause for alarm. I appeal to all people in Honiara and the Provinces to not become involved in any potential criminal behaviour that could disturb the peace or cause conflict. Anyone who is planning to use violence or cause trouble because they are not happy with any decision by the Government is warned that police will be quick to ensure law and order is maintained and there continues to be peace in our Happy Isles."

"People are free to express their views on the issue but they must do so responsibly. People are also encouraged to discuss their opinions with their Members of Parliament who they have elected to represent them on such issues of national importance."

"Members of the public are encouraged to get in touch with your nearest police station or call 23666 or 999 if you have information about anyone who may be planning to cause any violence or disorder. Let us respect whatever the decision of the Government will be to show that Solomon Islands is a country that respects its democratic institutions and processes," Commissioner Varley emphasises.

RSIPF will maintain high-visibility patrols throughout Honiara in the coming days to ensure law and order is maintained and that normal life of the capital's citizens and businesses continues.

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**Media inquiries**

RSIPF Media Unit:  
24016 or 23800 Ext 239

Email:  
[rsipf.media@rsipf.gov.sb](mailto:rsipf.media@rsipf.gov.sb)

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) was established in 1954. Its mission is 'To provide a safe and peaceful Solomon Islands by strengthening relationships with the community'. The RSIPF strive to provide efficient and effective policing services for the Solomon Islands and expect RSIPF officers to adhere to the RSIPF values.

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