



28 October 2019

RSIPF supports mission for Bougainville referendum

Officers of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) will join a 30-member unarmed police contingent to support the Bougainville referendum, which will be held from 23 November to 7 December 2019.

New Zealand is leading a police support mission in Bougainville as the region prepares to vote in a non-binding referendum on its political future.

The two RSIPF officers, Staff Sergeant Francis Ramoni and Sergeant Marcillar Haga left Honiara for Wellington, New Zealand during the weekend to join the other officers who will be deployed on the support mission for the briefing on the mission.

Other police officers on the mission will be from Australia, Fiji and Vanuatu. All these countries including Solomon Islands were signatories to the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement. All the countries will be contributing two officers each.

“The RSIPF feels honored and privileged to be included in this unarmed police mission to advise and support the Bougainville Police Service during the referendum next month,” says RSIPF Commissioner Matthew Varley.

He adds: “Police from the region including Australia and New Zealand assisted Solomon Islands under the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) come out from what is now referred to as the social unrest assisting the RSIPF to what it is now, a strong and capable police force. It is only fitting that RSIPF officers assist another Melanesian neighbour in such a time.”

New Zealand has accepted an invitation from the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Government of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to lead the unarmed police contingent.

The regional police support mission is part of New Zealand’s \$4.3 million package of support towards the referendum, which will take place from 23 November.

The final complement of New Zealand and regional police officers will depart for Bougainville on 7 November on a RNZAF C-130 Hercules.

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For any media inquiries

RSIPF Media Unit contact:

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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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The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) was established in 1954. It's 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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