



16th October 2020

RSIPF opens COVID-19 quarantine station in North Guadalcanal

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) now has its own COVID-19 quarantine facility at the Tetere Police Station in North Guadalcanal funded by the Government of Australia through the Solomon Island Police Development Program (SIPDP).

The quarantine station was officially opened during a brief ceremony today (16 October 2020). The Permanent Secretary of Police, National Security and Correctional Services, Karen Galokale, Australian High Commission, First Secretary Political, Jessica Carpenter, Commissioner of RSIPF, Mostyn Mangau and Commander of SIPDP, Mark Ney attended the ceremony.

The project cost of \$800,000.00 includes two buildings, earth works, furniture, a generator, tanks, septics and fencing. The facility has two purpose built three-bedroom houses, fully self-contained with water tanks, pump, electricity and septic.

Each house is fully supplied with beds, mattresses, tables, chairs and lounge chairs. Both houses have the ability to sleep up to 12 officers in each house.

The prefabricated buildings are moveable, if required, and can be stacked on top of each other to form double and triple storeys. The RSIPF Quarantine facility houses have additional roofs and verandas for improved insulation.

Commissioner of the RSIPF Mostyn Mangau says, "The RSIPF has an ongoing partnership with SIPDP. This partnership commenced in July 2017, at the end of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). Over the past 3 years, SIPDP have stood proudly alongside the RSIPF to assist the RSIPF in delivering their national security mandate for the Solomon Islands Government (SIG)."

"SIPDP and the Australian government are proud supporters of the RSIPF who is grateful for the financial and development assistance provided in the delivery of the purpose built RSIPF Quarantine Facility. The idea for this facility commenced not long after the COVID-19 pandemic commenced. In April 2020, RSIPF sat down with the SIPDP and looked at opportunities where SIPDP funding could be redirected that would allow RSIPF a greater focus on COVID-19 response."

Commissioner Mangau adds, "These discussions highlighted a need for a standalone centre to house police officers who might be exposed to COVID-19 as part of their duties. This project wanted to ensure that an officer's family members were not unnecessarily exposed to the virus. The project commenced in April 2020 and the construction concluded just this week. Discussions have already occurred with the Ministry of Health and the Attorney General's Office to gazette the location as an official SIG quarantine site."

He says, "Following the long-awaited end of the global pandemic, we look forward to repurposing these buildings as RSIPF housing for the police officers based at the Tere Police Stations."

Commander SIPDP Mark Ney says, "SIPDP, which is a 4-year Australian government funded police capacity development program continues to provide support to SIG and RSIPF. This bilateral program has included a focus on infrastructure support to the RSIPF and has been fully committed to supporting the needs of SIG and RSIPF. As we progress through the final year of SIPDP, in its current form, we look forward to renewed discussions with SIG around what is needed after June 2021."

"One of the key focus of SIPDP, since the commencement of the RSIPF COVID-19 operation, is to support RSIPF deliver a strong, effective and capable operational response."

"SIPDP, in discussions with RSIPF highlighted the importance of staff welfare. The close communal living in Honiara identified to us that isolating police who have been exposed to COVID-19 was going to be difficult. We wanted to ensure that families weren't unnecessarily exposed to the virus just because a member of that family was a police officer. Due to this concern, SIPDP reallocated funding to go towards a RSIPF Quarantine facility at Tere Police Station," says SIPDP Commander Ney.

//End//

For any media inquiries

RSIPF Media Unit contact:

24016 or 23800 Ext 239

Email: rsipf.media@rsipf.gov.sb

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.

For ongoing news and information, please go to

www.rsipf.gov.sb

Follow us on Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/rsipf

Media inquiries

RSIPF Media Unit:
24016 or 23800 Ext 239

Email:

rsipf.media@rsipf.gov.sb

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.

For ongoing news and information, please go to www.rsipf.gov.sb
