



2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

### **Police warn parents to step up their responsibilities after a 4-year-old girl missing last week**

The Royal Solomon Island Police Force (RSIPF) warns parents and guardians to step up their responsibilities to look after children after a 4-years-old girl went missing for two days in Honiara last week.

The warning came after a parent left her 4-year-old girl in a ship at the Pt Cruz wharf and was busy selling some food at that ship prior to the ship's departure.

Supervising Provincial Police Commander (PPC) Honiara City, Superintendent John Matamaru says, "The parent left a 4-year-old girl watching a movie with some other children while she was busy doing her food selling. She makes regular visits to her but at her last visit she found out that her small girl had gone missing."

PPC Matamaru says, "It was so lucky that a St John school student who came at the time when the ship was about to leave saw the little girl so desperately and cried for assistance. The girl had no option but decided to assist her out from the ship and search for her mother but could not make it as she was in a rush to board the public transport to go home at Mount Austen.

Superintendent Matamaru says, "The student decided to take her to any nearest police station or Honiara City Council Law Enforcement but she refused. On Saturday (31 July 2021), they called the police and informed them that the little girl was safe with them.

Mr Matamaru says, "I would like to remind us that if you encounter such a missing child please go to the nearest police station and inform police about it to avoid frustrations. Police mediate between both parties and they have some kind of understanding and go home with the child."

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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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