



23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

### **Minister Veke says SIG and Aussie relationship is ‘always robust’ during a farewell dinner in Honiara**

The Honourable Minister of the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services (MPNCS) Mr Anthony Veke says the relationship between the Australian Government and Solomon Islands is ‘always robust’ during a farewell dinner for the Royal Solomon Island Police Force (RSIPF) and Australia Federal Police (AFP) Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP) Commander Paul Osborne in Honiara on 21 June 2022.

Honourable Veke said we have too much shared history, that it would be wrong not to acknowledge it. This country is forever grateful to Australia, and we will always be appreciative of your support especially in security and policing. It is my hope that this partnership will continue to grow and not cease.

Minister Veke said the partnership that the AFP and RSIPF share and continuity to nurture, is a clear testament of that relationship. We have a program that is beneficial and outreaching in its span, and I expect that this will be built on in the years to come. It is the government's hope that the RSIPF will grow into a discipline force with a capacity and capability that can be self-sustaining in the future.

Mr Veke in his remarks said, in the future you can all look back and see that RSIPF has grown positively with pride, and know that this was all possible because of your hard work, commitments and partnership. The RSIPF has a lot of areas required for improvement, and we are in a working progress with all our able partners. Therefore, I wish upon us to see it so, and work together to achieve those expected progress.

He said, thank you so much for your time as leader of both the RAPPP program and Deputy Commissioner under the Solomon International Assistance Force (SIAF) program. These are not easy tasks, to tackle two priority areas simultaneously, and you have again proven yourself capable. I understand last year was not an easy time for our security since the November riots, and SIAF have since then been working hard to restore law and order, as well as, bring trust to our Police Force.

Honourable Veke said I understand a lot is expected of SIAF under this program and I hope that as we continue we will address them collectively. I am sad that Commander Osbourne will be departing us at this time, but I trust that the SIAF program will be in good hands.

The farewell dinner program concluded with some presentations of gifts to the outgoing commander.

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Captions:

**Image 1:** Minister Anthony Veke chat with outgoing commander Mr Paul Osborne during farewell dinner

**Image 2:** Paul Osborne right, chat with Deputy Commissioner Mr Ian Vaevaso

**Image 3:** The Honourable Minister for the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services (MPNSCS) Mr Anthony Veke present his remarks during the farewell dinner at Monarch bar and Grill.

**Image 4:** Commander Paul Osborne give his remarks during the farewell dinner

**Image 5:** Minister of MPNSCS Mr Antony Veke present certificate of appreciation to Commander Paul Osborne

**Image 6:** Minister Veke present another present to Commander Paul Osborne

**Image 7:** The Commissioner of Police from right present a gift to the Commander Paul Osborne at the dinner

**Image 8:** Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services (MPNSCS) Ms Karen Galokale give a present to Commander Paul Osborne

**Image 9:** A group photo during the farewell dinner at the Monarch bar and Grill

**Image 10:** Commander Paul Osborne chat with Assistant Commissioner, National Capital and Crime Prevention during the dinner

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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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