



24<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### **Police urge Honiara drivers to be careful on the roads**

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) Traffic Department has intensified its traffic operations to ensure the safety of road users in Honiara, as election activity fills the streets.

An influx of people is expected in Honiara as people who travelled to the provinces to vote return.

Mixed reactions to election results can heighten the risk of road accidents, prompting the RSIPF Traffic Department to remind the public about the importance of responsible behaviour.

The Department is also urging the public to follow the liquor ban that is currently in place to avoid accidents.

Since the RSIPF commenced its election security operation, the Traffic Department has recorded three road accidents.

The first accident on 17 April, involving two motor vehicles colliding at the Kukum Ports area. An investigation has been established and the drivers of both vehicles were served with Notice of Intended Prosecution (NIP).

On 19 April, two vehicles collided in front of the Western Union office at Point Cruz. An investigation was also established and one driver was served with a NIP. The other driver is at large.

On 22 April, two vehicles collided at the Capital Park area in East Honiara. An investigation was established and both drivers were served with NIP.

None of the drivers in these matters had consumed alcohol, however police are concerned that when the liquor ban is lifted it may trigger more road accidents.

RSIPF Deputy Director of Traffic, Staff Sergeant Measly Kelo Veets, said reckless road behaviour endangered the lives of drivers and posed a grave threat to the safety of road users.

"Careless driving or driving while under the influence of alcohol increases the likelihood of accidents with potentially fatal consequences.

"We urge all residents, visitors and drivers to refrain from consuming alcohol before driving," Staff Sergeant Kelo said.

Staff Sergeant Kelo said his officers were diligently monitoring traffic violations and signs of intoxicated driving to maintain order and prevent accidents.

"Safety must always remain our top priority. All drivers must exercise caution on the roads, obey traffic laws and refrain from engaging in any behaviour that could jeopardise the safety of themselves and others," Staff Sergeant Kelo said.

The RSIPF Deputy Traffic Director urged all Honiara residents to cooperate with law enforcement officers and play their part in ensuring a safe and enjoyable post-election period.

"We can help prevent unnecessary tragedies and keep our roads safe for everyone," Staff Sergeant Kelo added.

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<p><b>Media inquiries</b></p> <p>RSIPF Media Unit: 24016 or 23800 Ext 239</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:rsipf.media@rsipf.gov.sb">rsipf.media@rsipf.gov.sb</a></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>For ongoing news and information, please go to <a href="http://www.rsipf.gov.sb">www.rsipf.gov.sb</a></p> <p>Follow us on Facebook Page: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/rsipf">www.facebook.com/rsipf</a></p>
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