



## Royal Solomon Islands Police Force

### Media Release

21<sup>st</sup> August 2024

### **Six people rescued at sea between Vella la Vella and Gizo**

Police in Gizo have rescued four people who jumped from a bray boat due to rough seas between Gizo and Vella la Vella Island on 19 August 2024.

The rescue came about when a 60-horse Yamaha boat encountered rough sea and four people jumped overboard due to the boat nearly capsizing. A total of six passengers on board with three female adults, two male adults, a 14-year-old boy.

Seeing the boat filled with water, three passengers including a 14-year-old boy jumped out from the boat while the skipper and a female passenger remained inside the boat and managed to overcome the rough seas to the first Island before reaching Gizo.

The skipper dropped off the female passenger including all market products and asked for help from another boat and returned to the location where the four passengers jumped off from the boat. When they arrived, the passengers were already moved out by the strong current.

Gizo police and other relatives in Gizo were notified and search and rescue were conducted. Through the support of other small boats including police stabi craft. The four missing people were rescued in the afternoon.

The passenger boat travelled from North Vella la Vella to Gizo purposely to sell their market products

Supervising Provincial Police Commander (PPC) Western Province Superintendent Wilken Miriki said, "All small boat owners and skippers have to be conscious in making decisions when intending to travel during bad weather."

Supervising PPC Miriki said, "It is always a wise idea for the small boat owners to consider safety first before starting a voyage to any destinations."

PPC Miriki said, “Boat owners as service providers must make sure necessary items like life jackets, compass, extra paddle, water, extra fuel and make sure to collect updated weather status information is very important before travelling.”

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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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