

UK boosts RSIPF capacity through leadership training and strategic partnership

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High Commissioner Paul Turner attended the final day of a leadership training course run by the UK College of Policing for the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.

This two-week programme was designed specifically for middle-ranking RSIPF officers and focused on developing essential leadership skills such as decision-making, conflict resolution, and community engagement. The objective was to strengthen their capacity to lead effectively within their communities and address evolving security challenges.

By equipping RSIPF officers with these critical skills, the training is expected to enhance operational effectiveness and foster stronger relationships between police officers and the public. Ultimately, this initiative aims to contribute to safer, more resilient communities across the Solomon Islands.

Crucial moment for RSIPF

Turner presented certificates to 32 officers who had completed the UK College of Policing course, paying tribute to their dedication and teamwork.

He underlined that the training came at a particularly important moment for the RSIPF with Solomon Islands embarking on a planned expansion of the RSIPF to strengthen national security and build long-term capability.

Turner said that an expansion of police numbers placed greater demands on middle-level leadership in the RSIPF; it was the middle-ranks, he said, that turn strategy into delivery.

He said as the RSIPF moves into its next phase of development, middle-ranking police officers will be essential for guiding teams and embedding standards. The RSIPF's recently launched 10-year Strategic Direction 2026-2036 provides a roadmap for transformation and modernisation of the police force.

Long History of Partnership between UK and RSIPF

The United Kingdom's relationship with Solomon Islands policing stretches back many decades to the time of the British Protectorate. The High Commissioner said that the partnership had evolved over time - from early capacity building to cooperation focused on professional standards, leadership, and governance.

Turner said the UK would continue to play an important role in the development of the RSIPF, working with other donors such as Australia and New Zealand.

The British High Commissioner said that culturally the RSIPF was deeply rooted in the British Police where policing was done through consent of the community with a commitment to strong, accountable institutions.

In recent years, the UK has worked closely with the RSIPF to support its operational readiness for major national events such as the Pacific Games and the National General Elections in 2024.

RSIPF vital for Regional Security Cooperation

Turner also highlighted the ways in which Solomon Islands plays an important role in policing across the Pacific region. He said the UK was proud to support regional cooperation through initiatives such as INTERPOL Blue Pacific project which enhances information-sharing and builds professional skills across police forces in 11 Pacific countries, including Solomon Islands. This was more important than ever with the increased trafficking of drugs from Fiji and other countries in the region.

Last year, the UK-supported Blue Pacific project helped RSIPF develop stronger operational understanding of INTERPOL tools, improving their capacity to address transnational organised crime.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-boosts-rsopf-capacity-through-leadership-training-and-strategic-partnership>