



# Royal Solomon Islands Police Force

## Press release

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

### 10 People arrest after a burning incident in Choiseul Province

Officers of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) at Taro and Police Response Team (PRT) have arrested 10 suspect for burning down three excavators in relation to a land dispute at Pangoe in East Choiseul early this month.

RSIPF Commissioner Mostyn Mangau said, "Initial report stated that the motive behind the arson incident is related to land issue which logging currently operated in east Pangoe. Originally, it is a civil on going issue between parties. Since it involves the burning now it became the police matter."

The disputed party sent three men on 3 March 2023 to the disputed area to set fire on company excavators but were unsuccessful.

Commissioner said, "Few days after (7 March 2023), the first incident more than 50 men approached the company's security with masks on their faces and started attacking the security using bows and arrows, timbers and iron rods that seriously injured four securities officers."

'As the security escaped, the group of men burnt down three excavators, a welding generator, lotting the security tent and stole valuable properties estimated around six million Solomon Island dollars." Said Commissioner Mangau

"The company security officers were transported to Taro hospital for further medical attention after the incident and now they are in stable condition." He adds

"Investigation into the burning incident is continuing and currently the 10 alleged suspects remanded at Gizo Correctional Centre while other suspects were yet to be arrested."

I appeal to those suspects who at large to surrender themselves to police. Or parents and relatives of suspects at Pangoe to report their whereabouts to Taro police on phone 63199

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**Media inquiries**

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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.

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