



28th November 2025

Landowners, Police, and Company Agree on Plan to Remove Illegal Miners at Gold Ridge

A crucial meeting was held on 27 November 2025 between representatives of the 16 land-owning groups, the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), and the operating company at the Gold Ridge Mining site.

The meeting provided a platform for land-owning chiefs to express their concerns regarding illegal mining activities in the pit.

During discussions, the chiefs outlined a structured plan to remove illegal miners from the site. The miners have been categorized into two groups: Group A, consisting of two outsiders employed by the landowners, and Group B, comprising twelve tribal chiefs and their associated land-owning tribes residing illegally in the pit.

According to the plan, the ten chiefs will lead a peaceful process to ensure Group A vacates the pit. The original schedule allowed 18 days for this process, but after police consultation, it was agreed that the period will be reduced to three days, with Police monitoring and assisting the removal. During this time, any unauthorized tents not recognized by Group B will be demolished.

Following the departure of Group A, the company will focus on addressing outstanding issues with Group B before any further removal action.

Landowners also raised concerns regarding Police security at the pit gate and blast site, noting that the pit is their primary source of livelihood in the absence of gardens or alternative food sources.

Deputy Commissioner Mathius Lenialu emphasized that only authorized personnel and vehicles will be allowed entry to ensure safety. Chiefs were asked to submit a list of authorized vehicles to the company for approval.

The company representatives, briefed by DC Lenialu, agreed to the plan and assured landowners that all company-related concerns would be addressed, even if a full agreement is not immediately reached.

The tribal chiefs expressed their appreciation to the Police for actively listening to their concerns and committed to working with authorities to ensure the timely removal of Group A. Notices to Group A will be issued today, reminding them of the three-day timeframe, which concludes on Monday.

The removal plan for Group B remains under discussion, and Police will maintain strict security and entry control at the pit until further notice.

End//...

Media inquiries

RSIPF Media Unit:
24016 or 23800 Ext 239

Email:
rsipf.media@rsipf.gov.sb

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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