



Royal Solomon Islands Police Force

Media Release

20th August 2026

Minister Napuat says MoU will strengthen community policing between the RSIPF and VPF

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will recognise and strengthen the importance of community policing, a statement highlighted by the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, during the MoU signing in Honiara on 18 August 2026.

Hon. Minister Solomon Napuat said, “I am particularly pleased that this memorandum recognises the importance of community policing through the exchange of community policing officers between our two police forces.

Minister Solomon Napuat said community policing is far more than a policing strategy. It is the very heart of effective policing throughout the Pacific. It reminds us that the strength of a police force is not measured solely by its equipment, its legislation or its enforcement powers. Its true strength lies in the confidence and trust that it earns from the people it serves.

Honourable Minister Napuat said when community policing officers from Vanuatu serve in the Solomon Islands and officers from the Solomon Islands serve in Vanuatu, they will do much more than exchange professional knowledge. They will spend time with chiefs and traditional leaders, engage with churches, women’s groups and youth organisations, visit schools, participate in village meetings and work alongside communities to prevent crime before it occurs.

“They will learn from one another’s experiences and return home with new ideas, stronger partnerships and a deeper understanding that policing is ultimately about serving people with compassion, dignity and respect,” said the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu.

The MoU signed will further enhance cooperation in criminal investigations, forensic science and the exchange of specialist training instructors.

“Criminal investigations are becoming increasingly complex and frequently extend beyond national boundaries. By working together, sharing investigative expertise and strengthening forensic capabilities, both police forces will improve their ability to deliver justice, uphold the rule of law and protect the integrity of our criminal justice systems,” said Minister Napuat.

He said, 'Likewise, the exchange of instructors will contribute significantly to developing future generations of highly professional police officers capable of meeting the evolving security challenges of our region.'

The signing of the MoU also reflects the broader relationship that continues to flourish between the governments of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. These understandings are founded upon mutual respect, trust and the recognition that our common border is not merely a geographical line separating two nations. Rather, it is a shared responsibility that requires cooperation, dialogue and collective stewardship.

A communique document was signed between the two ministers and the two commissioners at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara last night. During the communique document signing, the acting commissioner of RSIPF, Mr James Aitorea, presented a gift to the commissioner of VPF.

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Captions for photos

Image 1: Minister of the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Service, Hon. John Junior Tuhaika, gives his brief remarks during the MoU signing ceremony.

Image 2: Second from the right, the minister of the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Service, Hon. John Junior Tuhaika, signs the MoU.

Image 3: The second from the left, the minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, signs the MoU.

Image 4: Right, the Minister of Police, National Security and Correctional Service, Hon. John Junior Tuhaika, and the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, shake hands after the signing of the MoU.

Image 5: Two ministers at the centre shake hands after the signing of the MoU while two commissioners witness it.

Image 6: The minister of the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Service, Hon. John Junior Tuhaika, presents a gift to the minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, after the signing of the MoU.

Image 7: Acting RSIPF Commissioner Mr James Aitorea delivers his acknowledgement remarks after the MoU signing.

Image 8: Official delegations from both sides of the country who participate in and witness the signing of the MoU

Image 9: The Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, gives his remarks during the signing of the MoU.

Image 10: Right, the Minister of Police, National Security and Correctional Service, Hon. John Junior Tuhaika, receives a gift from the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, after the signing of the MoU.

Image 11: Group photo after the signing of the MoU at Mendana Hotel in Honiara

Image 12: Right, the minister of police, national security and correctional services, Hon. John Junior Tuhaika, and the minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, shake hands after the signing of the communique document.

Image 13: Acting Commissioner of RSIPF Mr James Aitorea signed the communique document.

Image 14: Commissioner of VPF Mr Karlshem Bongran signs the communique document while the two ministers witness it.

Image 15: Second from the right, the minister of the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Service, Hon. John Junior Tuhaika, signs the communique document.

Image 16: Second from the left, the minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, signs the communique document.

Image 17: Acting Commissioner of RSIPF Mr James Aitorea presents a gift to the Commissioner of VPF, Mr Karlshem Bongran, after the signing of the communique document.

For any media inquiries

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The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) was established in 1954. Its mission is 'To provide a safe, secure and peaceful Solomon Islands'. The RSIPF strive to provide efficient, capable and responsive policing service and expect RSIPF officers to adhere to the RSIPF values.

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