



BY AUTHORITY

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SOLOMON ISLANDS GAZETTE

NO. 90

Wednesday 17th June

2026

EXTRA-ORDINARY GAZETTE

[652]

SOLOMON ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE ORDER 1978

(L.N. No. 43 of 1978)

ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF A TRIBUNAL TO INVESTIGATE AND ENQUIRE INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR. IAN VAEVASO

WHEREAS serious complaints against the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ian Vaevaso, have been presented to the Prime Minister, Hon. Matthew Cooper Wale;

AND WHEREAS the complainants have alleged that the Commissioner of Police had in 2019 and 2024 interfered with lawful investigations and arrests;

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister has also received information regarding involvement of the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ian Vaevaso, in destruction of illicit drugs (i.e, Ketamine and Methamphetamine);

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister has written and represented to me, pursuant to section 129(5) of the Constitution, that a tribunal be appointed to investigate and inquire into the question of removing Ian Vaevaso from the office of Commissioner of Police on ground of misbehaviour;

I, Sir David Tiva KAPU, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of Solomon Islands, in exercise of the powers vested in me by section 129(5), of the Constitution, do hereby appoint a Tribunal comprising the following persons,

- (i) Sir Frank Utu Ofagioro Kabui, GCMG, KStJ, CSI, QBE, as Chairman of the Tribunal;
- (ii) Mr. James Apaniai, as Member of the Tribunal;
- (iii) Mr. Felix Hollison, as Member of the Tribunal.

to inquire into the allegations and to report and recommend to me within 30 days from date of appointment whether the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ian Vaesao, ought to be

removed from the office of Commissioner of Police for misbehaviour. The 30 days may be extended, after my consultation with the Prime Minister, if the Tribunal seeks such extension of time to enable it to conclude the enquiry and to present a complete report to me.

The terms and conditions of the Chairman and members of the Tribunal shall be as contained in their respective engagement contracts.

In their consideration of the question whether Mr. Ian Vaevaso ought to be removed from the office of Commissioner of Police, the Tribunal shall enquire into and report on the following issues;

- (a) Whether Mr. Ian Vaevaso, when he was the Deputy Commissioner of Police, unlawfully interfered with the lawful arrest of Mr. Jackson Vaikota in 2019?
- (b) Whether Mr. Ian Vaevaso, when he was the Deputy Commissioner of Police, unlawfully interfered with, in 2024, the lawful investigation into illegal mining operations conducted by Chinese businessman Mr. John Szetu within Mount Vunusa in Central Guadalcanal where Gold Ridge Mining Ltd held a Prospecting Licence?
- (c) Whether Mr. Ian Vaevaso, when he was the Deputy Commissioner of Police, unlawfully intervened and caused destruction of illicit drugs (i.e, Ketamine and Methamphetamine)?
- (d) Whether Mr. Ian Vaevaso concealed any of the above-named incidents from the recruitment and appointment process which led to his appointment as Commissioner of Police?

The charges and particulars thereof shall be as contained in a formal charge to be issued by the Lead Prosecution Counsel who shall be appointed by the Attorney General. The formal charges are to be served on Mr. Ian Vaevaso who may engage a Defence Counsel to represent him at the inquiry.

In exercise of the power vested in me by section 129(6) of the Constitution, I hereby suspend Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ian Vaesao, to allow free and fair investigation until the Tribunal has provided its report and recommendation to me.

The Tribunal shall be guided by section 137(8) of the Constitution in the performance of its functions.

The following support services are to be provided by the Office of Prime Minister to facilitate the efficient functioning of the Tribunal;

- (a) Tribunal Secretary;
- (b) Secretarial Support Service and office facilities;

(c) Prosecution Office.

Dated at Honiara this seventeenth-day of June, 2026.

SIR DAVID TIVA KAPU, GCMG
Governor General of Solomon Islands.
