



ROYAL ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES POLICE FORCE

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PRESS RELEASE

RSVGPF MAPS A STRATEGIC PATH FORWARD

August 25, 2026 - Kingstown: More visible policing, greater respect for the public, stronger support for officers and closer cooperation across every branch of law enforcement are at the heart of the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force's new direction. That message emerged from the Force's General Meeting at the Old Montrose Police Centre on Tuesday, 25 August 2026.

The meeting brought together the senior command, gazetted officers, inspectors, non-commissioned officers, constables and auxiliary police officers to examine the challenges facing the organisation and the work required to make Saint Vincent and the Grenadines safer.

Acting Commissioner of Police Trevor Bailey made it clear that firm policing and respect for citizens must go together.

Officers were reminded that people may record police activity in public spaces and that recording, by itself, is not an offence. They were also urged to treat citizens and their property respectfully during searches, avoid provoking unnecessary confrontations and use force only when it is reasonable and proportionate.

"There is always a better way of doing things," he told officers, calling for courtesy, restraint, teamwork and an end to internal rivalry that weakens the organisation.

Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police Junior Simmons acknowledged the sacrifices made by officers and their families, as well as difficult conditions at some police stations and departments.

Work to improve facilities is ongoing. Leadership is also considering additional counselling and family-support initiatives, while plans are being made to restore the Police Awards and Recognition Ceremony.

Promotion policies are under review, with the goal of creating a clearer system based on merit, competence, experience, performance and qualifications. Officers were encouraged to pursue training and professional development.

That support comes with firm expectations. Every officer, regardless of rank or connections, is expected to demonstrate discipline, integrity, accountability and respect for lawful instructions.

With firearm-related and other serious crimes creating concern, the leadership wants policing to become more visible, coordinated and intelligence-driven.

Acting Assistant Commissioner of Police Brenton Smith, who is responsible for crime, said crime reduction cannot be left to investigators and specialised units. Beat and patrol, traffic, communications, intelligence, divisional personnel, the Auxiliary Police Force and the Coast Guard must share information and support one another.

“Crime is everybody’s business,” he stressed.

Reinforced patrols have already been introduced in Kingstown. A mobile component for beat and patrol, together with the use of drones and other technology, is also being considered to extend police coverage and improve response capabilities.

ACP Smith called for stronger investigations, properly prepared case files, better crime-scene processing and closer supervision. Senior officers are also expected to develop a 12-month crime strategy with clear priorities, responsibilities and measurable objectives.

The approach will not rely on enforcement alone. Community policing, youth outreach, sport and regular contact with residents were identified as practical ways to build trust, gather information and prevent crime before it occurs.

Coast Guard Commandant Lieutenant Commander Henry highlighted the Coast Guard’s round-the-clock contribution to national security. Operating from Calliaqua, Bequia and Canouan, the unit conducts maritime patrols, search-and-rescue missions, medical evacuations and joint operations with local and regional partners.

Lieutenant Commander Deon Henry reported that the Coast Guard conducted 943 patrols during the previous year, despite challenges involving ageing facilities, limited funding, vessel-maintenance costs and staff attrition.

Commandant of the Auxiliary Police Force, Horace Williams welcomed the inclusion of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Auxiliary Police Force in the General Meeting. He underscored the serious work ahead and reaffirmed the Auxiliary Police Force’s readiness to support the RSVGPF and contribute more fully to its public-safety mission.

The senior command also pointed to the need for stronger recruitment screening, better staff retention, modern equipment and training to confront cybercrime, technology-enabled offences and transnational organised crime.

The message from the meeting was direct: a safer SVG will require one coordinated Force, officers who are properly supported, and policing that is visible, professional and respectful. The leadership has outlined the direction; delivering it will depend on every member of the organisation.

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