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## **ACTING COMMISSIONER OF POLICE** **ROYAL PAPUA NEW GUINEA CONSTABULARY**

News Release: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### **NCD/CENTRAL POLICE COMMANDER SUSPENDED**

The Commander of the NCD/Central Command has been relieved of duties and placed on 21-day suspension while disciplinary offences are investigated in accordance with Part IV of the Police Act 1998.

Acting Commissioner of Police, Donald Yamasombi, said the action has come about following initial investigations by the RPNGC Internal Affairs Directorate (IAD) into the events that transpired during Wednesday, 10 January 2024.

“Acting on the advice of the IAD Director, I have approved the suspension of the NCD/Central Commander in accordance with the requirements of the Police Act in order to facilitate a thorough and impartial investigation,” Acting Commissioner Yamasombi said.

“In my capacity as Acting Police Commissioner I have an obligation to adhere to correct administrative process in a transparent manner and so remove the officer from his role as this disciplinary process takes place.

“The Member will have the opportunity to provide further information to investigators as is required during this process.

“This is the first of potentially several more suspensions associated with the way in which some police personnel conducted themselves during the events of 10 January.

“The people of Port Moresby and the country expect answers as to how the looting and destruction came about.”

Acting Commissioner Yamasombi said the RPNGC is a constitutionally designated Disciplined Force operating under the Police Act, for which disciplinary offences are clearly articulated in legislation.

“As this is part of an ongoing investigation there is not a lot further that can be said at this point, other than the fact that the public deserves leadership from their police commanders and the personnel they manage.

“We did not see this leadership last Wednesday when police in the NCD/Central command abandoned their posts to attend strike meetings, and no discipline was imposed.

“Police do not and should never go on strike because they have a Constitutionally mandated role in which they must put their duty first.

“There are other means to address industrial issues and these were not followed on 10 June and this left NCD city vulnerable to mob criminal activity as we witnessed.

“At the heart of this problem is a failure of leadership and command of disciplined personnel at the local level.

“It is the responsibility of every commander to maintain discipline within their immediate rank and file.



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**Donald Yamasombi, DPS, QPM**  
Commissioner of Police