



CENTRAL BANK of SOLOMON ISLANDS

P.O. BOX 634, Honiara, Solomon Islands

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Central Bank Condemns Armed Robbery in Auki

(Honiara 27.11.15) - The Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) condemns in the strongest term the armed robbery at the Bank South Pacific (BSP) branch in Auki, Malaita Province, on Friday morning.

A statement released by the Central Bank, calls on Malaita National and Provincial leaders to condemn and speak out against this unlawful action, and for the Government and police to consider strengthening intelligence and security around financial institutions as this is the third and most serious robbery of a bank or bank property in a space of only 24-months.

CBSI, at its **Financial Inclusion Strategic workshop**, held on Thursday this week called for greater efforts from all financial institutions and especially the banking industry to expand and deepen its financial services to the rural population, which ironically this latest incident only undermines bank's confidence and efforts to bring financial services and products closer to ordinary Solomon Islanders.

"This is a very disturbing incident. It is an issue that must be addressed immediately as the actions of a few will not only affect the industry as a whole but greatly affect the banking public in Malaita in terms of accessing financial services'.

"The fact that this was an armed robbery is very serious and shows that high level criminal activities is slowly creeping back into our society"

"We appeal to the Malaita Provincial Government and the people of Malaita to assist the Police to apprehend those involved in this crime as soon as possible.

This latest robbery incident comes after an earlier attack in the first half of this year at the former Westpac branch at Point Cruz in Honiara, where a security officer was seriously injured.

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