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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**October 4, 2021**

**TO:** CNMI Media Partners

**FROM:** DPS Public Information Officer

**SUBJECT: DPS responds to distress swimmers outside Aquarius Beach, Chalan Kanoa**

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On Sunday, October 3, 2021, at about 12:18 p.m., the CNMI Department of Public Safety (DPS) received a call regarding three (3) distressed swimmers just behind the Aquarius Beach Tower in Chalan Kanoa.

Shortly after, DPS Boating Safety Section (BSS) then launched the Zodiac 1 Rescue boat from the Smiling Cove Marina to assist.

When police reached the area the three (3) swimmers made it safely back to shore.

Police learned that a group of four (4) teenagers began fishing around 10:00 a.m. At around 11:30 a.m., strong currents pulled the group out of the reef. The group attempted to swim back into shore, but two (2) were having a hard time. One (1) friend swam into shore to call for police assistance. The two (2) friends outside the reef managed to ride a wave that pushed them back into shore.

All four (4) individuals were asked if they needed medical attention but they said they were ok.

We encourage swimmers/fishermen to notify friends and/or family members about your float plan or what area you plan to swim at and what time you expect to return. Check the weather before going out great weather for the beach does not always mean it's safe to swim or fish. Rip currents often form on calm, sunny days. It is important to know your abilities and always bring a backup flotation device in case you get fatigued or cramped.

If you would like to report a crime or an emergency please call **911** anytime. Your CNMI law enforcement officers care for your safe return home.

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