



PRESS RELEASE

UPDATE STATUS OF RVS TAKUARE

PORT VILA, VANUATU – 30/10/2024: The RVS Takuare is anticipated to return to service in March 2025. Hon. Andrew Napuat, Minister of Internal Affairs, had the chance to speak with the Australian Defense team last week while on an official tour of Australia about the ongoing repairs on RVS Takuare. On this official visit, the Minister is accompanied by the Vanuatu High Commissioner to Australia, the Director General of the MoIA, the Acting Deputy Commissioner of VPF and the Vanuatu's Consular General in Sydney.

Hon. Minister reiterate the importance of improving and strengthening security in the country as one of the main key priorities during this official visit. RVS Takuare, is the main vessels that Vanuatu Police Maritime Wing uses to provide vital maritime surveillance around Vanuatu, was damaged in March 2023 and departed to Australia for repair in April 2023. It takes around a year to finish the repairs before it can resume services in Vanuatu.

The Australian Defense team has confirmed the first layer of bronze undercoat is complete and awaits further paint layers will be applied over the coming week including Vanuatu branding. The team also outline the timeline when will RVS Takuare will be back to its service in Vanuatu.

The upcoming schedule of RVS Takuare is outlined as follows:

Oct 2024 – completion of hull painting above and below

Oct-Dec 2024 – Restoration of power to vessel, progression of planned maintenance

Mid Jan 2025 – Unlocking and relaunch of vessel into water

Mar 2025 – Control of vessel returns to nation – commencement of post maintenance at sea trials.

Australia has also agreed to build a Naiad Rigid Hull Maritime Vessel that will aid in responding to emergencies. The Naiad Rigid Hull Maritime Vessel will arrive in 2025 to begin its services and to support RVS Takuare and other patrol boats. Meanwhile, the crews responsible for RVS Takuare are undergoing training in Tasmania and will be ready to command RVS Takuare when it returns to Vanuatu.

This ongoing assistance from Australia will continue to bring forth positive impacts to the communities and citizens of Vanuatu. Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the Vanuatu Police Force, will continue its collaboration with partners to maintain law and order in Vanuatu and ensures Vanuatu's EEZ waters are protected from illegal fishing.

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About the Ministry of Internal Affairs

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is tasked with the implementation of major and essential policies related to the internal administration of the nation. It plays a crucial role in service delivery across the entire country, from Torba in the far North to Tafea Province in the far South. With six departments under its authority, the Ministry focuses on policies related to decentralization, border control management and national services. Central to its mission is the vision of fostering resilient governance for a vibrant, safe and secure Vanuatu. The Ministry is dedicated to establishing a robust governance system to manage, strengthen, and protect human and natural resources, ensuring the effective delivery of social, economic and cultural values.