



PRESS RELEASE

Strengthening Bilateral Cooperation: Meeting Between the Minister of Internal Affairs and the New Zealand High Commissioner

PORT VILA, VANUATU, 28th February 2025 | The Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat met today with the New Zealand High Commissioner Mrs. Nicola Simmonds to discuss ongoing **bilateral cooperation and New Zealand's continued support** for the Ministry's key agencies.

Discussions focused on **New Zealand's assistance to the Vanuatu Police Force, Vanuatu Electoral Office, and the Department of Urban Affairs & Planning and Local Authorities**, particularly in the wake of the recent earthquake. The Minister acknowledged the vital role of **New Zealand's support in disaster recovery efforts**, helping affected communities rebuild and strengthen local governance structures.

The meeting also highlighted the **impact of New Zealand's Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) program**, which has been a critical source of income for many Vanuatu families. During this period of economic recovery, the RSE program continues to provide financial stability and opportunities for workers across the country.

The MoIA minister expressed Vanuatu's deep appreciation for New Zealand's strong and enduring partnership, recognizing the valuable contributions made to the country's development and resilience. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining open dialogue and ongoing cooperation, agreeing that further meetings will be held to discuss emerging issues and strengthen the relationship between the two nations.

