



PRESS RELEASE

CRIM AND ELECTORAL OFFICERS UNDERTAKE JOINT REGISTRATION DRIVE IN TORBA PROVINCE WITH ON-SITE ID CARD PRINTING ENABLED BY PORTABLE STARLINK TECHNOLOGY

Torba Province, Vanuatu – 8th May 2025 | The Department of Civil Registration and Identity Management (**CRIM**), in partnership with the Vanuatu Electoral Office, has launched a joint registration exercise across Torba Province to ensure every eligible citizen is registered for both civil and electoral purposes.

This initiative, which began on the 29th of April, was made possible by CRIM leveraging the Provincial Health Team's outreach program, which is currently visiting each province under a special arrangement with Helper-1. By working alongside the health team's scheduled visits, CRIM and Electoral Officers are able to maximize resources, reach remote communities, and deliver critical registration services more efficiently.

The registration exercise will cover all six islands of Torba Province—Vanua Lava, Gaua, Mota Lava, Mota, Tegua, and Hiu. For the first time, registration teams are equipped with portable Starlink satellite internet devices, providing high-speed connectivity in real time. This technology allows officers to immediately process and print National ID Cards on site, even in the most isolated locations.

Director of CRIM, Jeffrey Trief, highlighted the innovation behind this effort: "By partnering with the Provincial Health Team and utilizing Helper-1's arrangement, we're bringing government services directly to our people. The use of portable Starlink ensures that no matter how remote the village, residents can register and receive their National ID Cards on-site on the very same day."

The Electoral Office also emphasized the benefits of this collaboration: "A credible and up-to-date voter roll is vital for free and fair elections," said the Chairman of the Electoral Commission, Mr. Edward Kaltamat. "By combining resources with CRIM and using portable connectivity solutions, we're improving access, transparency, and efficiency in the electoral process."

We encourage all residents to visit their nearest registration centres on the scheduled dates, bringing required documents such as birth certificates, previous ID cards, or supporting records to complete their registration.

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The joint registration drive will continue until 9th May 2025 after which teams will proceed to other provinces as part of the national rollout.

A group of people, including children and adults, are gathered outdoors under a blue corrugated metal roof. In the foreground, a man is seen from the back, wearing a bright yellow high-visibility vest. The vest has the text "TORBA PROVINCIAL CIVIL REGISTRY AND VITAL STATISTICS (CVR) TEAM" and "PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATE AGENT" printed on it. He is surrounded by a diverse group of people, including several children. Some children are wearing t-shirts with "TUG" and "TUGA" printed on them. The background shows lush green tropical vegetation and a stone wall.

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