



# NEWSLETTER

## CRIM LAUNCHES FIRST RV5 TRAINING IN TANNA

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to supporting NGOs through improved registration processes, capacity building, accountability frameworks, and stronger collaboration. This year's theme, "Tugeta Gavman mo NGO/CSO i Bildim Vanuatu," highlights a shared vision where government and NGOs work together to ensure inclusive, people-centered development and services reach every community. The Ministry honored the dedication and leadership of all NGOs and CSOs, recognizing their courage, service, and continued contribution to building a stronger Vanuatu.



The first-ever RV5 training took place in Tanna last week, bringing together Area Administrators from Tafea and other key personnel responsible for facilitating vital event registrations. The training was conducted by CRIM officers from Port Vila and Tanna, with funding support from UNDP and guidance from UNDP representative Olivier Kasso. The Ministry acknowledges the efforts of everyone involved in ensuring that staff are equipped with the right skills to continue decentralizing these essential services to communities across Vanuatu..





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## PORT VILA CITY COUNCIL LAUNCHES SEASIDE COMPOST HUB PRODUCT

Port Vila City Council proudly announces the official launch of the Seaside Compost Hub Product — an innovative, community-driven initiative transforming food scraps and garden waste into nutrient-rich compost for healthier soils and a greener environment. This new hub promotes local sustainability by reducing landfill waste, empowers communities through shared action among neighbours, schools, and businesses, and supports eco-friendly solutions that are simple, accessible, and impactful. By providing natural compost for local gardens and farms, the Seaside Compost Hub strengthens food security and encourages cleaner, greener coastlines. Together, we celebrate a meaningful step toward a more sustainable seaside future.





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## LAUSAKE VILLAGE CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW COMMUNITY HALL ON EMAU ISLAND

On Saturday, 29 November, the Department of Local Authorities—joined by representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning—came together with the people of Lausake in the Emua–Takara Area Council to celebrate the official opening of their new Community Hall. The new facility will serve as an important space for community meetings, social events, and a safe refuge during disasters, while the attached water catchment system will greatly improve access to clean and reliable water for the village.





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## VEO CONDUCTS TRAINING ON NEW “VANELEKTA” DATABASE IN TORBA

The Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO) is running a three-day training in Sola, Torba Provincial Headquarters, from 1–3 December 2025. The training brings together six Area Administrators, three Community Liaison Officers, and two volunteer contract officers to learn how to use the new “VanEleкта” database. This capacity-building program aims to prepare a skilled team to support the upcoming voter list inspection, scheduled for 8–21 December 2025, ahead of the Torba Provincial Election on 3 February 2026.



## LAUNCH OF THE VANUATU NATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2025 EDITION

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, officially launched the Vanuatu National Building Code (VNBC) 2025 Edition — marking a major milestone towards ensuring safer, stronger, and more resilient buildings across the country. The last update to the Building Code was in 2017, and in the eight years since, Vanuatu has experienced rapid growth, new technologies, and increasing climate and disaster risks. Recent earthquakes in December have also reinforced the urgent need for stronger building standards. The new VNBC 2025 provides clear, practical, and internationally aligned guidelines for builders, engineers, planning officers, and communities to construct safer and more durable buildings.





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The VNBC 2025 is the result of close collaboration with the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF), development partners, technical experts, and the Building Code Technical Working Group, which includes the Port Vila City Council, SHEFA Provincial Government Council, the Fire Department, Environment, Geology & Mines, the Vanuatu Bureau of Standards, and the Vanuatu Engineering Association. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and MIPU have reaffirmed their strong commitment to implementing the new code to ensure a safer and more resilient building future for Vanuatu.





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## OFFICIAL LAUNCH AND HANDOVER OF WATER SYSTEMS ON EMAE ISLAND

The Ministry of Internal Affairs acknowledges today's significant milestone on Emae Island, where Her Excellency the New Zealand High Commissioner, the UNICEF Country Director, and the Director of the Department of Water Resources, Mr. Erickson Sammy, officially launched and handed over five rainwater harvest systems for the villages of Tabakoro, Marae, Sasake, Sangava, and Finonge, alongside an upgraded gravity-fed storage system for Reisu.



This achievement reflects strong collaboration between the New Zealand Government (through MFAT), UNICEF, the Department of Water Resources, the Area Council, and the six local communities who worked together to successfully complete the project. The Ministry commends the leadership of the Area Council, chiefs, and community members for their commitment to improving access to clean and reliable water—reinforcing the shared vision of delivering essential services to rural communities across Vanuatu.





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## VANUATU CONSULATE GENERAL IN DUBAI ACTIVATES NEW BIOMETRIC PASSPORT ENROLMENT SYSTEM 🌐

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is pleased to announce that the Vanuatu Consulate General in Dubai has become the third overseas mission to officially install and operationalise Vanuatu's new biometric passport enrolment system, following successful deployments in New Caledonia and Hong Kong earlier this week. This achievement represents a major milestone in the Government's commitment to modernising the national passport system, enhancing security features, and improving access to essential identity services for Ni-Vanuatu citizens abroad.



This upgrade significantly strengthens Vanuatu's global service delivery by ensuring faster, safer, and more efficient passport processing for citizens, investors, and travelling nationals in the Middle East region. The Ministry acknowledges the strong collaboration between the Department of Immigration and Passport Services, overseas missions, and technical partners who continue to support the nationwide and international rollout. Through this modern biometric platform, Vanuatu reinforces its dedication to providing reliable and world-standard identity services no matter where its citizens are in the world.





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## RV5 CIVIL REGISTRATION TRAINING UNDERWAY IN SOUTH EPI

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the Department of Civil Registry and Identity Management (CRIM) in partnership with the Vanuatu Electoral Office, conducted a one-week RV5 civil registration training for Shefa Area Administrators in Yarsu, South Epi. The training supports the national transition from Registry Version 4 to the upgraded Registry Version 5 (RV5), an important step toward strengthening accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility of civil registration services across all communities in Vanuatu.



During the sessions, Area Administrators received practical training on how to properly record Vital Events under the Civil Status Act, including births, adoptions, marriages, and deaths. Following the completion of the Shefa training, the team will continue delivering the same program to the remaining provinces. The final four provinces are scheduled to receive their training early next year, ensuring all Area Administrators nationwide are fully equipped to use the RV5 system in their daily work.





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## STRENGTHENING WATER SECURITY IN TAFEA PROVINCE

The Ministry of Internal Affairs acknowledges the important role played by TAFEA's 13 Area Administrators during the recent Area Administrator Training and Provincial Consultation held from 8–11 December in Isangel, Tanna. Hosted by the Department of Water Resources (DoWR), the program provided key briefings on the Vanuatu Water Security Project and the DoWR NIP-CAP process, while also delivering practical training on climate resilience and water security. Area Administrators contributed valuable insights, including recommendations to strengthen engineering standards and improve the Capital Assistance Program, as DoWR prepares to convene a Provincial Water Advisory Committee to select communities for the Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning (DWSSP) initiative.



This activity forms part of the Vanuatu Water Security Project, funded by the Green Climate Fund and implemented through strong collaboration between DoWR, SPC, and UNICEF. The Ministry of Internal Affairs extends sincere appreciation to all Area Administrators in TAFEA Province for their dedication and leadership in advancing water security, strengthening community resilience, and supporting essential service delivery across Vanuatu..



