



# NEWSLETTER

## PVCC Launches Professional Development Training for City Wardens



The Port Vila City Council (PVCC) has commenced a two-day Professional Development Training for City wardens, starting on 2 February, aimed at strengthening their capacity to better serve the city in Port Vila.



The training focuses on leadership, enforcement law, and community engagement to improve the overall effectiveness of wardens in carrying out their duties.

The main objective is to strengthen knowledge of laws and bylaws, improve evidence handling and reporting, and enhance communication and conflict management skills among officers.

It also promotes coordinated and professional enforcement practices, reflecting PVCC's commitment to improving service delivery and maintaining safety and order within the city.





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## First National ID Machine Installed in Torres to Improve Access to Services



Residents of Torres Islands can now access National ID Services closer to home following the installation of a National ID Card at the Torres Area Council on 2 February.

The machine allows residents to register and print their National ID Cards locally, making the process more convenient and reducing the need for travel.

The installation marks the first National ID machine at an Area Council in Torba Province and represents an important step in the Government's decentralization efforts to bring essential services closer to all communities





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## Torba Province Holds Voting Day on 3 February

Voting took place across Torba Province on 3 February, with polling stations open from 7:30am to 4:30pm to allow registered voters to cast their ballots.

The voting day marked an important democratic event, giving eligible citizens the opportunity to exercise their right and civic duty to vote.

Elections, held every four years, provide a platform for voters to choose their leaders and influence the direction of development with the province.



Authorities encouraged strong public participation, highlighting that each vote plays a key role in shaping the future of Torba Province.

## Minister Announces Suspension of Port Vila City Council Following Investigation

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, has announced the suspension of the Port Vila City Council (PVCC) for a period of five months following the outcome of an investigation.

The announcement was made during a press conference held on the afternoon of 6 February.

As part of the decision, a Commissioner along with an administrative team will be appointed to oversee the operations of the Council during the suspension period.





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The measure aims to ensure continuity of services and proper administration while addressing issues identified through the investigation.

## Tourism Office and PVCC Strengthen Collaboration to Improve Port Vila City Experience.

The Vanuatu Tourism Office (VTO) Board Chairman and CEO met with the Port Vila City Council (PVCC) on the 9 February to discuss key developments aimed at improving the city's overall experience for residents and visitors.

The meeting focused on updates to the Port Vila City Rebuilding Project, with strong emphasis on incorporating visitor feedback to create a more welcoming and attractive capital.





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Discussions, involving key officials including city planners, highlighted priority areas such as city beautification, improvement of public amenities, clearer road and street signage, and better traffic management during cruise ship days.

The collaboration reflects a shared commitment to transforming feedback into practical improvements, with the goal of enhancing Port Vila's image as a vibrant, accessible, and memorable destination for both locals and international visitors.

## Department of Labour Hosts 2026 License Agents Retreat



The Department of Labour hosted its 2026 License Agent Retreat at the Holiday Inn, bringing together newly licensed and existing agents for a day of engagement and learning.

The retreat aimed to support new agents in gaining a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each unit the Labour Mobility Unit.





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It also provided an opportunity for existing agents to receive updates on new developments, policies, and processes, ensuring consistency and compliance across operations.

The initiative strengthens collaboration and partnership between the Department and agents, supporting effective service delivery to communities.

## New Police Station Opens in Erromango to Strengthen Law and Order



A new police station was officially launched in Erromango on 12 February 2026, marking a major milestone for communities in the southern part of the island.

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, together with the Commissioner of the Vanuatu Police Force, witnessed the opening ceremony held at Punkamtongi, Unponkor, Williams Bay in West Erromango.

The station fulfills a long-standing request from chiefs and communities, as Erromango-Vanuatu's third largest island continues to experience population growth and development challenges that require a stronger police presence.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Minister emphasized that security is the foundation of development, noting that the new station will help maintain law and order while protecting the safety of communities.





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The Government also acknowledged the support of land custodians, Area Council, the Simanlo Council of Chiefs, and Community leaders, highlighting the initiative as part of its ongoing commitment to bring essential services closer to the people.

## Torba Provincial Corporate Plan Undergoes Consultation and Review

A consultation meeting was held on 12 February to review the Torba Provincial Corporate Plan, bringing together members of the Provincial Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) from various government ministries.

The meeting focused on assessing the implementation of planned activities and ensuring alignment with current priorities and development goals.



Participants reviewed and discussed key activities within the plan, making necessary adjustments and confirmations in preparation for finalization.



The Consultation process supports effective planning and coordination across sectors, ensuring the Corporate Plan reflects the need and priorities of Torba Province.





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## Torba Province Elects New Provincial Government President



Torba Province has officially elected Hon. Roy Adam Aison as the new President of the Torba Provincial Government Council following the recent provincial elections.

Hon. John Benette Somwia was also elected as Vice President, alongside newly elected councilors who will serve on the Provincial Government Council.

The election marks a new leadership chapter for Torba Province as the council prepares to guide development priorities and governance initiatives for the province.

## Progress Report Highlights Growth of Local Leadership in Humanitarian Action

A new report titled *“Localisation in Vanuatu: Demonstrating Change (Progress Report 2025)”* highlights the growing role of local leadership in shaping humanitarian action across Vanuatu.

The report was developed in partnership with the Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO) and reflects progress made since the baseline assessment conducted in 2019.





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It outlines how government agencies, local civil society organisations, and communities are increasingly contributing to humanitarian coordination, partnerships, participation, funding, capacity building, and policy influence.

The report also acknowledges that while significant progress has been achieved, continued efforts are needed to further strengthen locally led humanitarian action in Vanuatu.

## PVCC Strengthens Waste Management Services in Port Vila



The Port Vila City Council (PVCC) officially signed an amend contract with its private waste collection partners on 17 February 2026 as part of efforts to improve waste management services in the capital.

The updated agreement is aimed at addressing the recent rubbish collection challenges and ensuring more reliable and consistent services for residents across Port Vila.





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PVCC confirmed that the waste collection schedule will be made available through its official Facebook page and website to help keep the public informed.

The initiative reflects the Council's commitment to maintaining a cleaner and healthier city, while encouraging the community to work together in keeping Port Vila clean.

## PVCC Launched 3R Awareness Campaign to Promote Waste Reduction



The Port Vila City Council (PVCC) has launched a new public awareness campaign promoting the 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle - with a special focus on reducing waste around schools in Port Vila.

The initiative aims to encourage students, schools, and communities to adopt better waste management practices as the city continues to grow and place increasing pressure on the Bouffa landfill.

Through the campaign, PVCC hopes to help extend the lifespan of landfill sites, protect marine and land environments, and support a cleaner and healthier community for future generations.





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## Major Clean-Up Drive to Promote a Cleaner Port Vila

The Port Vila City Council (PVCC) carried out a major clean-up campaign as part of its sports day activities, collecting large amounts of litter from Fatumaru Bay to the Port Vila Seafront.

The initiative focused on cleaning public spaces and coastal areas, where council teams removed empty bottles, tins and other waste threatening the beauty of community gathering areas.



PVCC highlighted the importance of protecting parks and coastal spaces, describing them as important areas for families, recreation, exercise, and tourism.

The Council is encouraging the public to stop littering, use provided bins responsibly, and work together to keep Port Vila clean, safe, and environmentally healthy for future generations.





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## ADB President Visits New Emergency Shelter Project in Port Vila



The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, welcomed Asian Development Bank (ADB) President to provide safe refuge for communities during extreme weather events and climate-related emergencies.

President Kanda toured the site of the new multipurpose emergency shelter, a key infrastructure project designed to provide safe refuge for communities during extreme weather events and climate-related emergencies.

The facility is one of three shelters currently being developed under the Greater Port Vila Urban Resilience Project, aimed at strengthening protection for vulnerable residents against natural hazards.

The visit highlights the continued partnership between the Government of Vanuatu and the Asian Development Bank in supporting climate resilience and sustainable urban development in Port Vila





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## Strengthens Operational Capacity with New Equipment and Materials



The Port Vila City Council (PVCC) has strengthened its operational capacity by providing staff with new tools and materials to improve cleanliness and maintenance services across the capital.

PVCC Acting Clerk, Mr. Avio Roberts, acknowledged the dedication of council staff who continued maintaining the city in recent weeks despite limited resources, praising their resilience and commitment to serving the community.



Staff are now equipped with modern tools to carry out their duties more effectively, with encouragement to properly care for the equipment to ensure long-term use and continued benefits for the city.





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## Varsu Area Council Prints First National ID Card in East Epi



Varsu Area Council in East Epi marked an important milestone with the successful printing of its first National ID card following the handover of the ID machine last year.

The achievement now allows communities in Varsu and surrounding areas to access National ID services closer to home, reducing the need for long-distance travel and additional costs to obtain identification documents.

The development reflects the Government's strong commitment to decentralization by bringing essential services directly to communities across rural outer islands areas.

Improved access to National ID services will help more citizens obtain identification documents, enabling easier access to government services and opportunities while strengthening service delivery in remote communities.

## Correctional Services Signs First Agreement for Community Work Program in Tafea

The Department of Correctional Services signed its first-ever Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on 23 February 2026 with the Tafea Provincial Government Council and Lenakel Town Council.

The agreement was signed by Director of Correctional Services Johnny Marango, TPGC President Hon. Andrew Iawak, and LTMC Administrator Reginal Tangap.





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The initiative will allow detainees to complete required community service hours in Tafea Province, including within Lenakel Town and other designated areas, under the supervision and escort of the Tafea Police Patrol.

Director Marango stated that the program provided detainees with an opportunity to give back to the Government and community through public service activities, while supporting rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.





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## Torba Provincial Government Strengthens Teamwork for 2026 Development Goals

The Torba Provincial Government Council (TPGC) management team met with all nine Area Administrators and several Community Liaison Officer (CLOs) as part of preparations for development activities in 2026.

The meeting focused on strengthening coordination and collaboration between provincial leaders, administrators and communities across Torba Province.



Provincial officials expressed their commitment to working closely with leaders and communities throughout the year to improve service delivery and community wellbeing.

The shared vision for 2026 is to build a stronger, more resilient, healthy, and safe Torba Province through unity and cooperation.





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## CRIM Conducts Training to Upgrade Civil Records and Identity Management System



CRIM conducted a five-day training in Torba Province and Penama Province on 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 for Area Councils Administrators and Community Liaison Officer's (CLOS). The training focused on upgrading the Civil Record and Identity Management System to strengthen service delivery at the Community level.

Participants were trained on improving the management and support of civil registration and identity services within their respective communities. The upgraded system is expected to make civil record management more accurate, secure, efficient, and accessible for citizens across the province.





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## Roadside Maintenance and Clearance Works Begin in Port Vila



Roadside maintenance and clearance works have officially commenced in Port Vila following the arrival of new equipment to support city operations.

council teams have begun cleaning roadsides areas and carrying out maintenance activities aimed at improving safety and maintaining a cleaner environment for all roads users

Authorities are encouraging the public to work together in keeping the city clean by disposing of rubbish responsibly and avoiding littering along roadsides and public areas.

Recognition was also given to council staff for their continued hard work and commitment in maintaining the cleanliness and appearance of the city.



## Northern Command Recognized for Strengthening Policing Services.

The Northern Command of the Vanuatu Police Force has been recognized for its ongoing efforts in improving policing services and strengthening community trust across the region.





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During the presentation led by Sergeant Bong David at the Northern Command conference room, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, joined police leadership, the New Zealand High Commissioner, and members of the public to acknowledge the command's work in handling cases and improving operational standards.



The presentation highlighted the Operational Safety Pacific (OSP) Tactical Options Framework and use-of-force training currently being implemented within the command. The framework is designed to improve officer safety, strengthen professional policing standards, and increase public confidence in police operations.



Speaking during the event, the Minister stated that the framework would help maintain in integrity and reputation of the Vanuatu Police Force while ensuring communities continue to feel safe and supported. Northern Command reaffirmed its commitment to delivering effective policing services to the people.





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## PVCC and Correctional Services Partner for Community Cleaning Initiative



The Port Vila City Council and the Department of Correctional Services are working to operationalize a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at strengthening community partnerships and rehabilitation efforts in Port Vila.

Under the initiative, 12 to 13 low-risk detainees will participate in supervised community cleaning and maintenance activities across identified areas of the city. The program is scheduled to begin next week and will operate three days each week in coordination with PVCC team.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to building safer and cleaner communities while supporting the successful reintegration of detainees through meaningful community service activities.

## South Santo Communities Consulted on Foreshore Development Project.

A community consultation was held at Tasiriki and Tanvoi Villages in South Santo on the upcoming Foreshore Development Retaining Wall Project, bringing together community members, chiefs, leaders, and project stakeholders to discuss the proposed development and its benefits.





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The consultation, organized by CCECC with support from engineers, environmental officers, KCI, the VC RTP Project Implementation Unit, and the Foreshore Unit, focused on the retaining wall designs, shoreline protection, coastal resilience, and accessibility features such as ramps and steps to improve safe access for all members of the community.



Community members were also given the opportunity to share their views and concerns regarding the project, reflecting the commitment to transparency and collaboration while promoting awareness that foreshore developments in Vanuatu require proper permits under the Foreshore Act before construction begins.

## Leaders Discuss Success of Community Safety Programs in Santo



The Minister of Internal Affairs, the New Zealand High Commissioner to Vanuatu, and the Commissioner of Police met in Luganville, Santo this week to discuss the progress and success of New Zealand-supported policing programs in Vanuatu.





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Key discussions focused on initiatives such as the Officer Safety Training and the Community Safety Team (CST) program, which continue to strengthen policing services and community engagement across the country.

During a meeting with the Vice Chairman of Chiefs for South Santo Area 2 Council, leaders acknowledge the positive impact of the CST program in communities and highlighted its important role in supporting safer and stronger communities throughout Vanuatu.

## 15 Officers Graduate from Officer Safety Training in Santo



Fifteen police officers in Luganville, Santo, have successfully completed the Officer Safety Training (OST) program, receiving certificates during a graduation ceremony attended by representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Vanuatu Police Force.





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Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, acknowledged the support of the Government of New Zealand, the New Zealand High Commission, and New Zealand Police for delivering the program in partnership with Vanuatu. The initiative reflects ongoing regional cooperation to strengthen professional policing standards, improve operational capacity, and build public trust in policing services across Vanuatu.

The intensive training program focused on physical readiness, tactical drills, operational exercises, decision-making under pressure, tactical communication, de-escalation techniques, and lawful use-of-force procedures aimed at strengthening professionalism discipline, and public safety.





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## Vanuatu Police Maritime Wing Receives New UNODC Catamaran

The Ministry of Internal Affairs witnessed the official handover of a new catamaran to the Vanuatu Police Force, Maritime Wing during a ceremony held at Mala Base.



The vessel, funded by the Government of Japan through the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime Global Maritime Crime Program (UNODC GMCP) at a cost of VT45 million, was officially named RVS Port Vila 360. The ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of Japan to Vanuatu, H.E. Naohisa Okuda, the Commissioner of Police, government officials, and invited guests.

The addition of the vessel is expected to significantly strengthen Vanuatu's maritime security operations, including the protection of territorial waters, combating maritime crime, and safeguarding marine resources. The Ministry also acknowledged the support of the Government of Japan and UNODC GMCP for their continued partnership in strengthening maritime security capacity in Vanuatu. .





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## East Efate Communities Launch New Community Safety Team



Communities within the Silodol Area Council in East Efate have celebrated the establishment of new Community Safety Team (CST), fulfilling a long-standing request for stronger community policing support in the area.

A total of 30 members received certificates of completion on 28 February 2026 after successfully completing a week-long training program conducted by the Vanuatu Police Force in Eton Village. The closing ceremony was attended by the speaker of Parliament, Hon. Stephan Felix, along with community leaders and residents from East Efate.

The new trained CST members will serve as the “eyes and ears” of the Vanuatu Police Force across communities from Rantapau to Epule Village, working closely with police to support safety and law enforcement.

Assistant Commissioner of Police for Southern Command, Jackson Noal, encouraged communities to respect and cooperate closely with the CST members in maintaining peace and security within the area. .

