



NEWSLETTER

Police Recover Stolen Airport Funds



Vanuatu Police Force have recovered 99% of funds stolen during a robbery at Bauerfield International Airport in Port Vila on 29 December 2025, following a swift response to the incident.

An official complaint was received on 30th December 2025, prompting immediate action. With support from the community, police were able to identify suspects within three days and carry out multiple arrests.

Eight suspects have been arrested, and the main suspect was apprehended in Luganville and transferred to Port Vila.

The Commissioner of Police has acknowledged the public's support and reassured both citizens and non - citizens that Vanuatu remains safe, encouraging continued cooperation with law enforcement.

VPF and Partners Farewell Australian Defence Attache After Two Years of Service

The Vanuatu Police Force (VPF), together with key partners, gathered to farewell Australian Defence Attache in Vanuatu, Colonel David Silverstone, in a ceremony held at the Cook Baracks.

The farewell event brought together commanders from different VPF units across the three policing elements, along with the Commissioner of Police, the Director General of Internal Affairs, and the Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, H.E. Max Willis.





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Colonel Silverstone has completed his two-year tenure in Vanuatu, during which he provided significant support to the Vanuatu Police Force, particularly the Vanuatu Mobile Force and the Police Maritime Wing.

Commissioner of Police acknowledged and praised Colonel Silverstone's valuable contribution to strengthening policing cooperation and capacity over the past two years.

In recognition of his service and partnership, the Commissioner presented Colonel Silverstone with a ceremonial shield as a token of appreciation and respect on behalf of the Vanuatu Police Force.

The farewell reflects the strong ongoing cooperation between Vanuatu and Australia in supporting policing development and security cooperation in the country.

Three Multipurpose Emergency Shelters Near Completion Under Urban Resilience Project



Three multipurpose emergency shelters in Port Vila are nearing completion under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) - funded Greater Port Vila Urban Resilience Project (GPVURP), with official opening expected this year 2026.

The project is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen urban resilience in Greater Port Vila through infrastructure development, capacity building, and institutional strengthening.





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Once completed, the shelters will provide safe spaces for emergency response and community protection during disasters and other emergencies.

The overall impact of the project is to support Port Vila in becoming a safe, inclusive, resilient, and vibrant urban and economic hub, guided by sustainable development principles.



Police Leadership Visits Malampa, Strengthens Support to Lamap Police Post



The Commissioner of Police, together with the Minister of Internal Affairs, conducted their first official visit for 2026 to Malampa Province, visiting the Metmet Demat Police Post Station in Lakatoro.

The visit provided an opportunity for discussions and the handover of logistical support to the Lamap Police Post, aimed at strengthening police operations in the province.

The logistics support is expected to improve security service delivery for communities in the southern part of Malekula, ensuring better police presence and response.





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Commissioner Kalshem Bongran acknowledged the work of officers stationed in Lakatoro and encouraged them to properly maintain police assets to ensure continued and effective service delivery to the people of Malampa.



Luganville Council and Correctional Services Strengthen Community Clean-Up Partnership

The Luganville Municipal Council and the Department of Correctional Services have continued their partnership through community clean-up activities, reinforcing their shared commitment to rehabilitation and community wellbeing.

The first activity for 2026 involved low-risk detainees carrying out cleaning works at the Luganville cemetery, as part of an ongoing rehabilitation and country wellbeing.



The initiative provides detainees with an opportunity to contribute positively to the community while developing discipline, responsibility, and practical work skills in a supervised environment

Officials from both institutions emphasized that the programmed plays an important role in rehabilitation, helping prepare detainees for successful reintegration into society while also supporting a cleaner and healthier community.





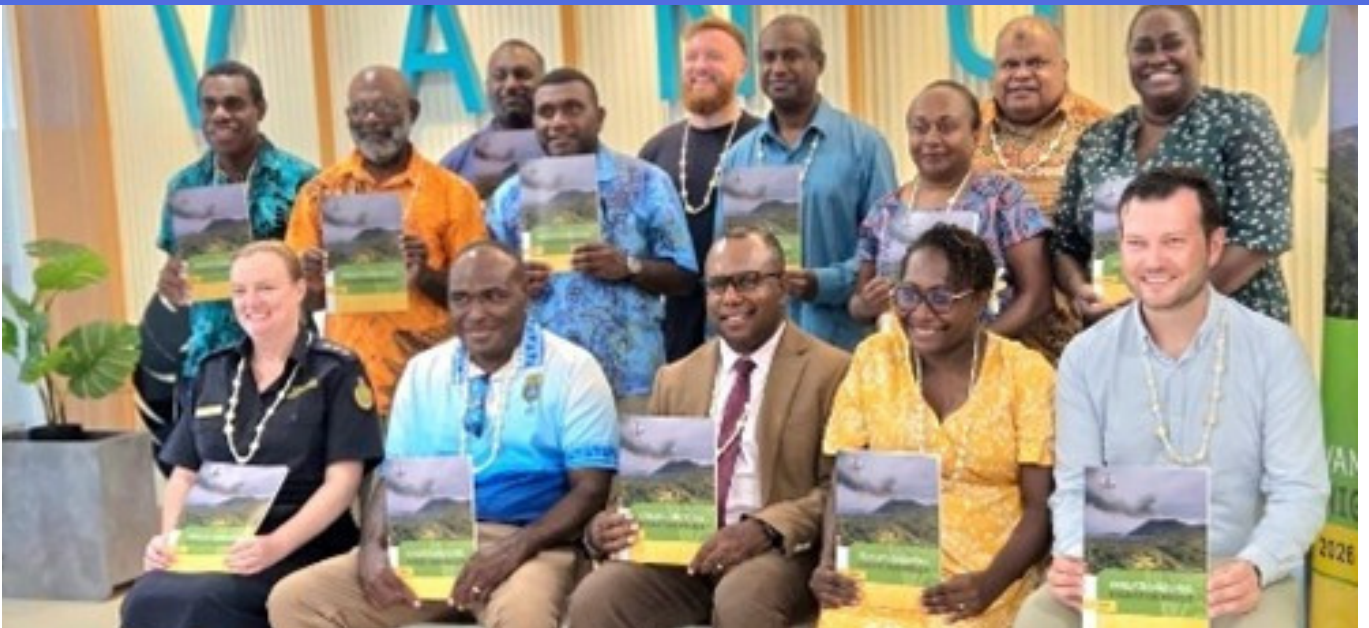
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Vanuatu Launches National Migration Policy to Strengthen Safe and Orderly Migration

The Government of Vanuatu has officially launched its National Migration Policy through the Department of Immigration and Passport Services on 19th January, marking a significant milestone in managing migration across the country.

The policy establishes, for the first time, a comprehensive and forward-looking framework to guide migration in all its forms, ensuring it is managed in an orderly, lawful, and inclusive manner.

Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, highlighted the importance of the policy, stating it is focused on protecting citizens, supporting national development, and strengthening national security, while keeping Ni-Vanuatu connected to home wherever they may be.



The National Migration Policy is people-centered, with strong emphasis on migrant protection, effective labour mobility, secure border, and inclusive opportunities. It also aligns with the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP), the National Security Strategy, and Vanuatu's international commitments.

The launch reaffirms the Government's commitment to building a safe, well-managed, and future-focused migration system that supports national growth while responding to emerging challenges such as climate change and urbanization.





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Immigration Authorities Refuse Entry to French National at Port Vila Airport

Immigration authorities at Port Vila International Airport denied entry to a French national upon his arrival on Sunday, 18th January 2026.

At approximately 4:00pm, immigration personnel escorted the individual, identified as Jerome Marcelin, to the departure area where he was placed on the same Fiji Airways flight for return to his country of origin, France.

The action was carried out in accordance with immigration procedures and border control regulations to ensure compliance with entry requirements.



Authorities continue to enforce strict border management measures to safeguard national security and uphold immigration laws in Vanuatu.

Labour Department and Vanuatu Women's Centre Launch First Community Outreach for 2026



The Department of Labour and Employment Services, in partnership with the Vanuatu Women's Centre, conducted its first community outreach for 2026 at Tokio Street, Warwick Back Road.

The outreach aimed to raise awareness within the community on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Vanuatu, as well as provide information on the Labour Mobility Program.





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This initiative marks the beginning of a series of awareness activities planned for 2026, targeting communities with important information on social protection and employment opportunities.

Officials highlighted the importance to continued outreach to ensure communities are informed, supported, and empowered on key national issues affecting wellbeing and development



Government Expands Services to South Santo with National ID Launch and Policing Outreach



The Government has expanded essential services to South Santo, with the launch of a new National ID registration machine in Tasmelum, South Santo Area 1, alongside discussions on strengthening policing services in the area on 21 January.

The milestone event was marked during an official visit by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, who emphasized the importance of extending development and government services to remote communities in Sanma Province.

Commissioner of Police Kalshem Bongran welcomed the progress and encouraged communities to work closely with police and relevant stakeholders to ensure effective delivery in Tasmelum. The development aligns with the Government's decentralization policy, reinforcing the commitment to bring services closer to the people through collective efforts





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Government Boosts Police and Immigration Capacity with New Vehicles



The Government has strengthened operational capacity by handing over new logistical support to the Vanuatu Police Force and Immigration Services on 22 January.

Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, together with the Commissioner of Police, officially handed over two vehicles to the Traffic Unit in the Northern Command and one truck to Immigration Services.

The new assets are expected to improve response capabilities and support both departments in effectively carrying out their duties in line with public and government expectations.



During the ceremony, the Minister also expressed appreciation to officers for their dedication and commitment during the Christmas operations.

The initiative highlights the Government's continued focus on strengthening frontline services and working together to ensure Vanuatu remains safe and secure for all.



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Nine National ID Machines Handed Over to Sanma Province to Improve Community Access



The Government has strengthened access to identify services with the handover of 9 National ID card machines to area councils in Sanma Province.

During his visit to Santo, Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, officiated the handover and confirmed that the installation and operation of the machines will allow people to register and print their National ID cards directly at their respective Area Council

The machines were distributed to 9 Area Councils across the province, enabling services to be delivered at the community level and reducing the need for travel to urban centres.

This initiative marks an important step in the Government's decentralisation efforts, led by the Department of Civil Registry and Identity Management, to bring National ID and other civil registration services closer to the people.

The Department will continue to provide full support to ensure identity services are accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of all citizens across Vanuatu.

First National ID Machine Installed in Maewo to Improve Community Access

The Government has expanded access to identify services with the installation of the first National ID Card machine on the island of Maewo on 22 January.

The milestone was marked during the first official provincial visit of the year by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, who officiated the handover to North Maewo Area Council.





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The new machine will enable communities on Maewo to access services provided by the Department of Civil Registry and Identity Management, allowing citizens to register and print National ID Cards and other identity documents closer to home.

This development reflects the Government's commitment to decentralization, ensuring that essential services reach all citizens and that communities across Vanuatu have equal access to efficient and reliable government services.

Kerebay Police Post Recieves First Vehicle, Marking Milestone for Maewo

The Kerebay Police Post on the Island of Maewo has recieved its first-ever Land Cruiser vehicle on 23 January, marking a significant milestone for policing services on the Island.

The handover was officiated by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, together with the Commissioner of Police, during an official visit to Maewo. The Member of Parliament for Maewo, who is also the Minister of Agriculture, joined the ceremony.



The new vehicle is expected to strengthen police mobility and improve response capabilities, supporting efforts to maintain law and order across the island.





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During the ceremony, the Minister expressed appreciation to community members and leaders for their continued cooperation with police in ensuring safety and stability in the area.

The milestone reflects the Government's decentralization policy, aiming to bring essential services closer to communities across the provinces. Residents of Maewo and Penama Province have welcomed the development as a major step forward in improving service delivery.

Port Vila City Council Launches New Hearse and National ID Services

The Port Vila City Council (PVCC) has launched two new municipal services on 30 January, aimed at improving accessibility and dignity for residents in Port Vila.

The first addition is a new professional hearse, dedicated to serving families at Port Vila Memorial Garden in Eratap. The service is designed to provide respectful and dignified transportation for loved ones during funeral arrangements.





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In addition, a new high-speed National ID and Birth Certificate machine is now operational, allowing residents to access essential government documentation more quickly and efficiently.

The introduction of these services reflects PVCC's commitment to improving service delivery, ensuring residents have easier access to important services while maintaining dignity in times of need.

Department of Labour and Employment Services Supports “Famili i Redi” Program in Teouma



The Department of Labour and Employment Services supported the “Famili i Redi” program at Teouma Stage 3 on 30 January, marking the end of a successful week of community engagement.



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Labour officers participated in the workshop, providing guidance and support to participants as part of the program activities.

The initiative offered participants an opportunity to learn about employment opportunities in Australia, including practical information on living and working conditions.

The program plays an important role in preparing individuals and families for overseas employment, ensuring they are informed, ready and able to adapt successfully.



Vanuatu Launches Seaport Online Clearance System to Strengthen Border Security

The Department of Vanuatu Immigration and Passport Services (VIS) officially launched the Seaport Online Clearance System on 30 January 2026, marking a major step forward in strengthening border security and data management at the country's seaports.

The system was launched by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, who also signed the order for its immediate implementation on the same day.





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The new digital platform allows vessels to complete pre-clearance online before arriving at Vanuatu's borders, similar to existing systems used at international airports.

This system will enable VIS to collect accurate and timely data on vessels, passengers and crew, improving border management and supporting informed government decision-making.

Key features of the system include online pre-clearance of vessels prior to arrival, enhances border security and risk assessment, improved data collection for planning and reporting, and supporting for safer and more efficient maritime operations.

The initiative reflects the Government's commitment to modernizing border systems and ensuring safe, secure, and efficient entry processes across all ports of entry.

ELECTRONIC NOTICE OF DECISION
NOTIFICATION DE LA DECISION ÉLECTRONIQUE

VESSEL PRE-CLEARANCE

AP0000015

VESSEL INFORMATION
INFORMATIONS SUR LE NAVIRE

NAME OF VESSEL Nom Du Vaisseau	Aquana
REGISTRATION NUMBER Numéro de passeport	SO62625+
NAME OF CAPTAIN Nom du Capitaine	Allan James
HOME PORT Port d'attache	noumea
NUMBER OF CREW Date de délivrance du document	10
PASSENGER NUMBER Date d'expiration du document	19

Port Of Call Information
Informations sur le port d'escale

LAST PORT OF CALL Dernier Port Touché	New Caledonia
PORT OF ARRIVAL Port D'arrivée	Port Vila Seaport
INTENDED ARRIVAL DATE Date D'arrive	31/01/2026
INTENDED DEPARTURE DATE Date de Depart	2026-02-15

REMARKS: You are required to print or have a digital copy of this notice as you will be required to present it with valid passports for all the relevant passengers at the point of Entry 24 hours prior arrival. Vanuatu Immigration reserves the right of admission or the port of call.

