



NEWSLETTER

Government Signs Amendment to NISCOL Concession Agreement.

Luganville, Santo - 3 July 2025 - The Government of Vanuatu has officially signed an amendment to the NISCOL Concession Agreement, reinforcing its commitment to transplant and productive port operations in the northern provinces.



The signing ceremony was held at the NISCOL compound in Luganville and officiated by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Minister of Internal Affairs, and the Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, with the Minister of Lands as witness. In his remarks, the Minister of Internal Affairs described the occasions as “more than just a formality,” stressing that ports are the “heartbeat of island economies” and that the amendment reflects careful consultation and negotiation to ensure the Government -NISCOL partnership continues to serve the interests of the people.

The amendment, which does not extend the 50-year concession granted in 2015, introduces improvements to strengthen performance and accountability. Key provisions include:

- Expansion of NISCOL’s business activities beyond stevedoring into other commercial ventures.
- Authority to manage neighboring wharfs, including Litzlitz Wharf.
- Increased investment in assets and human resources
- Flexibility in staff recruitment and working hours
- Clearer obligations for wharf management
- Strengthened governance structures to ensure profitability and transparency.





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The Government highlighted that the amendment aligns with the National Sustainable Development Plan, particularly in infrastructure and service delivery, good governance, and empowering provincial economic participation. Officials noted that this milestone in modernizing port operations and public-private partnerships lays the foundation for more efficient, accountable, and inclusive economic growth across the provinces.

National Survey for Infrastructure Resilience Geospatial Databases Concludes in Vanuatu.

The two-week National Survey for Infrastructure Resilience Geospatial Databases in Vanuatu officially concluded last Friday. The initiative, led by the Pacific Community (SPC) under its Disaster Resilience and Community Program, was designed to strengthen exposure and hazard modeling across the country.



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The Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) acknowledge the valuable contributions of participants from government and non-government agencies, noting that the project will play a vital role in enhancing hazard exposure modeling and supporting risk-informed planning for Vanuatu's future development.

Tafea Province Celebrates Record 48 Community Safety Team (CST) Graduates

The Nanunata Area Council has taken an important step forward in strengthening safety and security for its people. This achievement demonstrates a strong commitment to the principle that safety and security are everyone's responsibility.



There are 48 Community Safety Team (CST) members from the Nanunata Area Council graduated after completing two weeks of intensive training. This is the highest number of CST graduates in Vanuatu, setting a new national record.



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This record graduation marks an important step in strengthening community resilience and safety in Tafea. The 48 graduates are now tasked with serving as role models and a source of hope in their communities.

Santo Writes History as Independence Victory Parade Moves to the Northen Provinces

For the first time in 44 years, the Independence Day Victory parade was held in Luganville, Santo, marking a historic moment and a major step in Vanuatu's nation-building journey.

The Government highlighted that this milestone reflects its commitment to decentralizing national events, ensuring that major celebrations are shared across the islands so all citizens can take part in moments of national pride and unity. The parade in Santo provided an opportunity for people from the northen provinces to join in commemorating Independence Day together in a spirit of solidarity.



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In his address, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, underlined the Government's vision to position Santo as an economic hub for business and development. He noted ongoing investments in roads, agriculture, tourism, commerce, and infrastructure to support sustainable growth in the province. The Minister also reflected on Santo's proud history, recalling its people's role in the struggle for freedom and their resilience during times of rebellion that shaped the nation's independence.

Today's Victory Parade was not only a celebration, but also a time of reflection on the nation's journey since independence. It stands as a symbol of unity, progress, and strong leadership as Vanuatu continues to move forward together.

Government Opens Extended Immigration Services Office In Luganville

The Government of Vanuatu, through the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Vanuatu Immigration Services (VIS), has officially opened the newly extended Immigration Services office in Luganville, Sanma Province - a major step in decentralising essential government services to the northern provinces.



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The upgrade office now provides a larger working space for staff, two passport enrolment systems to speed up processing, CRIM services for civil registration and ID management, and a dedicated ID officer to serve Sanma, Torba, and Penama. Starting next week, the office will also issue invoices and process payments for passports and immigration fees, while preparing for the roll-out of the Advanced Passenger Information (API) systems to strengthen border security.



Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat said the expansion supports the Government's long-term vision of positioning Santo as an economic hub. Linked to airport upgrades and future developments in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the facility will help manage increased passenger flows from flights, maritime traffic, and business activities.



Special appreciation was extended to the Government and people of Japan and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for their contributions, as well as to VIS staff, contractors, and stakeholders who made the project possible. The extension represents another step toward a more connected, secure and people-focused Vanuatu.





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Port Vila Market House Officially Reopens After Earthquake

After seven months of closure caused by the devastating 7.3 magnitude earthquake in December 2024, the Port Vila Market House has officially reopened - marking a major milestone in the city's recovery.

Speaking at the reopening ceremony, Port Vila City Council (PVCC) Lady Mayor, Hon. Jenny Regenvanu, described the market as the "heartbeat of Port Vila," symbolizing the city's resilience and the strength of its people. She also used the occasion to renew her call for urgent investment in disaster preparedness, urging the national government to establish a tsunami siren system to protect lives in the capital.



Port Vila Launches CBD Vision and Concept Plan

The Port Vila City Council has officially launched the Central Business District (CBD) Vision and Concept Plan, a forward-looking roadmap to transform the capital into a greener, safer, more inclusive, and culturally vibrant urban space.

The plan outlines key priorities, including pedestrian-friendly and accessible public spaces, green infrastructure and open areas, improved traffic flow through mix-use zoning, heritage and cultural preservation, and upgraded infrastructure and public amenities.





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Acknowledging the contributions of landowners, civil society, business leaders, and development partners, the City Council expressed gratitude for the collective support that made the launch possible.

“This is not the end. It is the beginning of a bold journey,” said Lady Mayor of Port Vila City Council Mrs. Jenny Regenvanu. “Let us rebuild a capacity that reflects the resilience, strength, and spirit of Vanuatu.”

The CBD vision and Concept Plan will guide future development projects in Port Vila, ensuring that growth is inclusive, sustainable, and aligned with the city’s long-term vision of becoming a model Pacific capital.

Opening of Public Service Day Celebration 2025

The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MOIA) is taking part in Public Service Day 2025, officially launched today, thursday 31st July, at Lamenu Park on Tanna Island.

MOIA, together with its departments, has set up information booths to showcase their work and services, providing the public with the opportunity to learn more about how the Ministry supports communities and provinces across Vanuatu.



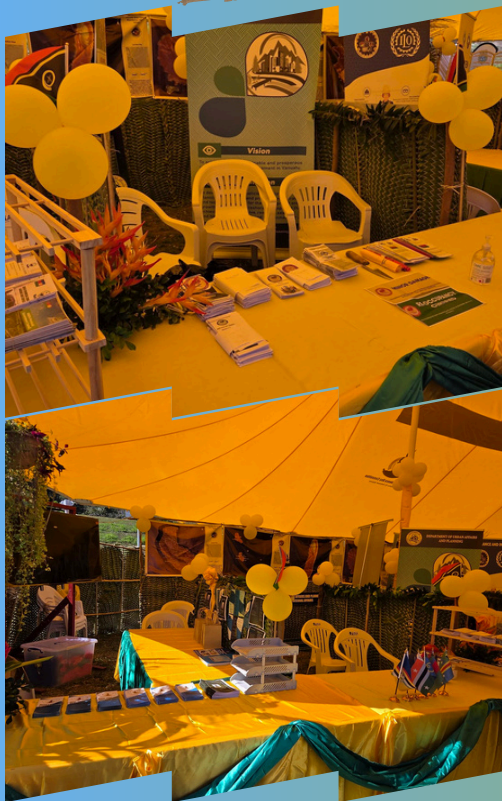
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The services showcase at the booth including e-passports and visa applications, birth and marriage registration and National IDs, employment and seasonal worker programs, urban planning and infrastructure resilience, voter registration and election awareness, as well as information on provincial governance and support to area councils.

Public Service Day is a celebration of the role and contribution of public servants. Members of the public are invited to visit the MOIA booth and engage with staff to better understand the services available to them.

The event highlights the Government's commitment to transparency, accountability, and bringing services closer to the people.

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