



NEWSLETTER

Women Employment in Action

Women in the Lamalu community are stepping up as leaders in development following the DWSSP training. They have begun producing seat risers to improve the standard of VIP toilets, promoting healthier and more dignified sanitation for their communities.



In addition, congratulations go to Mary lawilu of Louiaru, Central Tanna, who has been awarded the construction contract for the Central Tanna Area Council Office. The contract has been officially signed, and construction work is set to commence this week.



These achievements highlight the vital role of women in driving positive change at the community level, showcasing their leadership, skills, and commitment to sustainable development.

CRIM Outreach Team Supports ID Registration and Election Awareness in Ambrym

Over the past three days, the Vanuatu Department of Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM) conducted an outreach program in Ambrym, visiting Helper 1 to reach communities in Nebul, Olal, and Ranon. The team assisted residents with new registrations, reissuance of National ID cards, and raising awareness about the provincial elections. 🗳️



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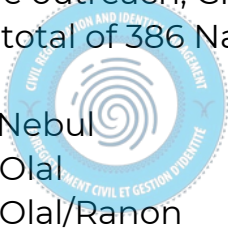


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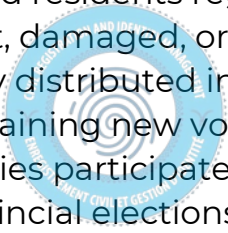


During the outreach, CRIM printed a total of 386 National ID cards:

- 133 in Nebul
- 150 in Olal
- 103 in Olal/Ranon



The team helped residents register for new ID cards and replace lost, damaged, or expired ones. At the same time, they distributed informational pamphlets explaining new voting procedures to help communities participate effectively in the upcoming provincial elections.

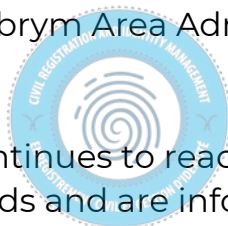


CRIM also provided election education materials to principals at:

- Ranon School
- Sameou School
- Lehili School



Registrar Malampa and the North Ambrym Area Administrator joined the team to support these efforts.



With the support of Helper 1, CRIM continues to reach remote communities to ensure all citizens have access to National ID cards and are informed about how to vote.



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North Pentecost Area Council Holds Sitting to Strengthen Collaboration

The Area Council held its sitting this week, welcoming the presence of political contractors who attended to share ideas on working in collaboration with the Council. Discussions focused on alignment efforts with the Area Council's work plan and identifying ways to jointly support community projects through available funding.



A key highlight of the meeting was the adoption of the "One Plan, One Budget" approach, designed to ensure better coordination and resource sharing. This approach aims to enhance service delivery and bring greater benefits to communities.

Together Against Human Trafficking in Vanuatu

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, with support from the Australian Government and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), hosted a two-day workshop in Port Vila to strengthen Vanuatu's response to human trafficking.

More than 40 government officers from the police, immigration, customs, fisheries, ports, corrections, and labour sectors participated alongside Australian partners.





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Key areas of focus include:

- Protecting victims
- Reviewing laws to meet international standards
- Raising awareness in communities across all islands

Participants exchange ideas, mapped out support systems, and contributed to the design of a simple, low-cost national awareness campaign.

This workshop reinforced a shared commitment to protect communities and uphold human rights across Vanuatu.

Community Safety Team Training Completed in Epi

The Community Safety Team (CST) program, led by the Vanuatu Police, continues to strengthen partnerships with communities across the country. Currently, CSTs are established in all 16 Area Councils in Vanuatu, supporting safer and more resilient communities.

Last week, Police officers delivered CST training in Epi for selected participants from the Vermali Area Council.



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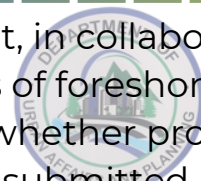
The 10-day program included three days of training for chiefs and seven days for CST members, focusing on leadership, safety, and community collaboration.

Today marks an important achievement as participants successfully graduated and received certificates, officially becoming Community Safety Team members of the Vermali Area Council.



Foreshore Development Unit Conducts Inspections on Aore Island

The Foreshore Development Unit, in collaboration with planners from Sanma Province, carried out inspections of foreshore developments on Aore Island. The purpose of the visits is to check whether proper applications for Foreshore Development permits had been submitted.



During the inspections, the team also used the opportunity to raise awareness among residents about the requirements of the Foreshore Development Act, ensuring communities are informed about legal processes for coastal development.



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Department of Labour Launches Leba Konekt Online Employment Platform

The Department of Labour - Circular Labour Mobility, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has officially launched **Leba Konekt**, Vanuatu's new online platform employment platform.

The platform is designed to connect job seekers with employers and make the recruitment process easier and more accessible.



Through Leba Konekt, job seekers can:

- Register and create profiles
- Explore available job vacancies
- Apply directly online

At the same time, employers can post job opportunities on the platform free of charge, opening new pathways for recruitment across the country.



The launch of Leba Konekt marks an important step toward improving employment services in Vanuatu and supporting stronger connections between workers and businesses.

Leba Konekt

☒ Yu stap lukaot wok?
☒ Yu wan employeea we i stap lukaot wan gudfala man blong wok?

Mifala i gat ansa blong yu!

Dipatmen blong Leba, wetem patnaship blong IOM, e lauchem niufala employem website blo Vanuatu we yumi kolem: **Leba Konekt!**

Leba Konekt hem i wan onlaen platform blong helpem ol man we oli lukaot wok mo ol employeea we oli stap lukaot man blong wok long Vanuatu.

Yu save:

- ◆ Rejista olsem wan man we i lukaot wok
- ◆ Lukluk ol advetaesmen blong ol wok
- ◆ Aplae onlaen
- ◆ Ol employeea oli no nidim fi blo advetaesem wok long platform ia.

<https://lebakonekt.gov.vu>
 Kontaktem Department blong Labour long 33130 / 33135 blong moa infomesen.



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Officially Opening of the Area Council Building - Central Pentecost

A new chapter of service delivery has begun for the people of Central Pentecost with the official opening of the Central Pentecost 2 Area Council building. The ceremony was led by the Member of Parliament for Pentecost, Hon. Charlot Salwai, who unveiled the facility in the presence of community leaders, chiefs, and residents.



The new Area Council building will serve as an administrator hub, supporting local governance and strengthening coordination of community development initiatives in the area. Leaders emphasized that the facility represents a step forward in bringing government services closer to the people.

CRIM Holds National Workshop in Luganville

The Department of Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM) hosted a national workshop in Luganville, Santo, Sanma Province, bringing together key stakeholders to strengthen understanding of the department's role and future direction.

The main objective of the workshop was to conduct an in-depth review of CRIM's overall functions in civil registration and its evolving responsibilities going into 2025.



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Participants also reviewed key issues under the Marriage Act as part of efforts to update and improve legal frameworks.

The workshop marks an important step in enhancing CRIM's capacity to deliver effective services and support national development priorities.



Port Vila Launches First Modern Zoning and Development Control Plan

A historic milestone has been achieved for urban planning with the official launch of the first-ever modern Zoning and Development Control Plan for Port Vila City. The launch was made possible through the collaboration of the Port Vila Municipal Council (PVCC) and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP).

The new plan provides a framework to guide orderly development, improve land use management, and support the city's long-term growth. It represents a significant step toward creating a more sustainable and well-planned Port Vila.



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Acknowledgement was given to all planners, including former planners and mayors, who contributed over the years toward making this vision a reality. Their efforts were recognized as an important part of celebrating this achievement.



Handing Over of Sword to New Police Commissioner

Police officers and members of the public gathered today to witness the official handing over of the Commissioner's Sword to the new head of the Vanuatu Police Force (VPF), Mr. Karlshem Bongran. His appointment was highlighted as recognition of his long record of service and leadership. The Minister of Internal Affairs also acknowledged Mr. Willie Samuel, who served as Acting Commissioner over the past five months, ensuring stability during the transition.



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In his first remarks as Commissioner, Mr Bongran outlined a clear vision for the future of the VPF, committing to strong leadership, fairness, and accountability. The Minister praised his address as inspiring and a positive direction that will help build community trust and confidence in the police.



The handing over of the sword marked the beginning of a new chapter for the VPF. The government reaffirmed its support through training, equipment, and strengthening provincial officer, while emphasizing that the Commissioner's leadership must be guided by transparency, integrity, and public service.



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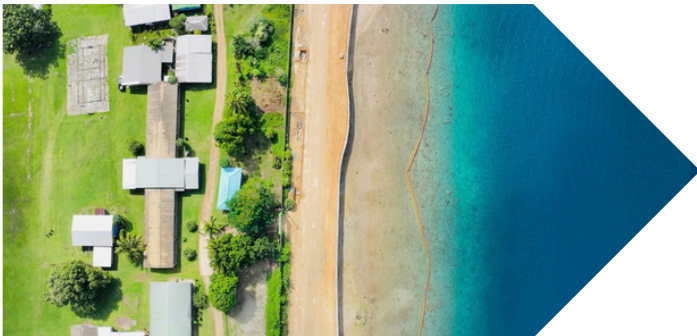


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Foreshore Development Unit Inspects South Santo Roads Project Works



The Foreshore Development Unit (FDU) conducted inspections of several foreshore developments carried out by CCECC under the South Santo Roads Project. The site visits included seawalls, drainage systems, and culverts.



The purpose of the inspections was to ensure that all works followed the approved engineering designs submitted in the development applications, and that no unauthorized additional structure were built.



The team also assessed the strength and durability of the structures to confirm they meet required standards and can withstand potential environmental impacts.





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PSC Day 2025 in Shefa Official Opening at Siviri Park

The Ministry of Internal Affairs also took part at the official opening of PSC Day 2025 - Shefa at Siviri Entertainment Park with the theme ***“Strengthening Government Decentralized Services through Innovative Approach.”*** The event brings together government ministries and agencies to showcase how service are being delivered closer to the people through innovation and community engagement.



MOIA Team highlighted its central role in driving the government's decentralization agenda, emphasizing its commitment to strengthening area and local governance structures so that essential services reach all parts of Vanuatu.





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Bringing Government Services Closer to the People in Malampa

The Department of Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM) has successfully completed an outreach program across Malampa Province, making it easier for communities to access vital government services directly in their local areas.



During the program, CRIM provided services such as the registration of births, deaths, and marriages, as well as the printing of National id cards. A total of 1,119 National ID cards were issued:

- 279 in Malekula
- 668 in Ambrym
- 172 in Paama



This achievement was made possible through strong collaboration with the Malampa Provincial Registrar, Area Administrators, and the valuable support of Ship HELPER 1, sponsored by Respond Global, which enabled the team to reach remote communities.





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Voting Awareness Outreach in Malampa Province

As part of the outreach program CRIM in partnership with VEO combining registration services with voter education to the communities in Malampa Province. The Team conducted awareness sessions on the new steps for voting, distributed How to Vote pamphlets, and provided Electoral Learning Materials to school principals to support civic education in schools.



These efforts helped communities and schools gain valuable knowledge about democracy and making informed choices during elections.

The outreach was supported by HELPER 1 through Respond Global, enabling the team to reach remote communities and ensure equal access to both essential identity services and civic education.





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First Offline Passport Enrolment Test Brings Services Closer to Communities

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has successfully carried out its first offline and offside passport enrolment test during the Public Service Day and Shefa Day celebrations at Siviri. This marks a significant step toward decentralizing government services and making them more accessible to communities.



With this new approach, the long queues at the Passport Office will soon be a thing of the past, as passport services are brought closer to the people through innovative, community-based enrolment system.



Vanuatu Signs Landmark Agreement for Climate-Resilient Affordable Housing

The Government of Vanuatu and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group have partnered to launch a Climate Resilient Affordable Housing Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program, aimed at addressing housing challenges for low to middle-income households. The agreement, signed on June 16 at the Ramada Resort, sets a collaborative framework for delivering climate-resilient homes, with a pilot project starting at the Bukura site near Port Vila.





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The program targets improving housing quality, infrastructure, and affordability, potentially reducing housing cost by up to 40%. Deputy PM Hon. Johnny Koanapo and Ministers emphasized efficient public-private collaboration, while IFC representatives highlighted resilience and urban planning. The initiative also aims to unlock government land and empower communities, with plans to expand beyond the Bukura pilot site.

Team Leader Training Strengthens Vanuatu Labour Mobility Leaders

The Department of Labour recently hosted a three-day Team Leader Training for Vanuatu's Labour Mobility Program leaders. The pilot training focused on effective communication, leadership skills, and raising awareness on gender-based violence (GBV), equipping participants with practical tools to lead their teams confidently and responsibly.



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Participants actively engaged throughout the program, preparing to support teams in Australia, New Zealand, and back home. Certificates of participation were awarded, and positive feedback could see the pilot program expand to other Pacific countries, fostering stronger leaders and communities across the region.



Consultation Underway for Port Vila CBD Redevelopment

The Government of Vanuatu has launched a consultation and planning process for the redevelopment of Port Vila's Central Business District following the December 2024 earthquake. This initiative aims to guide the recovery and rebuilding of the city's economic and commercial hub, ensuring a resilient and sustainable future for business, residents, and visitors.



Ministry of Internal Affairs, Independence Park, Efate – Shefa Province



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- PORT VILA CBD – CONCEPT PROJECTS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**
- TROPICAL DESIGN EXCELLENCE**
 - Design integrity review ongoing seaboard
 - Architectural character response conference
 - Landscape excellence in the public domain
- CIRCULATION AND ACCESS**
 - Review circulation differentiating CBD streets
 - Street widening and landscaping
 - Kumal Street pedestrian priority
 - Paris Street vehicle & bicycle priority
 - Extend walking paths along the waterfront
 - Review consolidated CBD Car Parking
 - Reconsider CBD through moving traffic
 - Create bus holding area outside the CBD
 - Reconsider extended CBD bus corridor
- INFRASTRUCTURE**
 - Earthworks BEFORE rebuilding streets
 - Stormwater drainage design
 - Wastewater & sewer CBD design
 - Review water reticulation design
- PLACE MANAGEMENT & WAYFINDING**
 - Upgrade and consistent CBD signage
 - Place and street naming review
 - Events management calendar
- CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT & STAGING**
 - Identify & secure strategic CBD sites
 - Temp. decent functions to nearby sites
 - Manage construction to minimise impact
- IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY POLICY INCENTIVES**
 - “Triage” policy roadblock
 - Seek incentives opportunities
 - Identify implementing agencies

Government officials are engaging with stakeholders to gather input and develop a comprehensive plan that balances infrastructure restoration, safety, and community needs, laying the foundation for a stronger and more vibrant Port Vila

Vanuatu Participates in 2025 PIDC Annual Meeting in Tonga

Vanuatu, through the Department of Immigration and Passport Services under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, participated in the 2025 Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) Annual Meeting held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, from 16 to 19 June 2025. Director Mr. Jeffrey Markson and Executive Officer Mr. Simon Tor, representing the Director General, attended the meeting on behalf of the Ministry.





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A key outcome of the meeting was the agreement to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PNG Immigration and a proposal with Australia and IOM to implement the Advance Passenger Information (API) System in Vanuatu. Mr. Markson highlighted that Vanuatu's participation demonstrates the country's commitment to a strong Pacific region, protecting both people and borders. The meeting followed the theme: ***"Understanding the Complexity of Migration Today: Protecting Our Blue Pacific Continent and People"***, fostering regional cooperation and coordination.



VANGO Launched Key Tools to Strengthen Civil Society in Vanuatu

The Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organizations (VANGO), with strong support from the Ministry of Internal through its NGO Desk, has launched three tools to enhance the country's civil society sector: the CSO Governance & Practice Guide, the CSO Reporting Template aligned with the NSDP, and Vanuatu's first-ever CSO Directory. The tools were unveiled during VANGO's Annual General Meeting at the Ramada Resort in Port Vila.





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These initiatives aim to improve transparency, accountability, and collaboration between CSOs, government, and development partners. Representing 234 member organizations - including CBOs, INGOs, and NNGOs - VANGO continues to lead efforts promoting good governance, strong partnerships, and ethical practices. Dr. Willie Tokon, VANGO CEO, emphasized that strong collaboration between government, civil society, and development partners is vital to addressing community needs.

New Area Council Building Opens in South East Ambrym

Residents of Southeast Ambrym celebrated the official opening of a new Area Council Building and the unveiling of its signboard. Costing over 10 million Vatu, the building reflects strong collaboration between the community and government, with significant financial support from the National Government and other Area Councils. This marks the fulfillment of a long-standing community aspiration. Director of the Department of Local Authorities, Mr. Ian Abbil, thanked the community for their cooperation and encouraged active participation in upcoming Provincial Council elections to ensure effective leadership.





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Director General of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Mr. Leith Veremaito, highlighted that the building is more than just a structure - it is a step toward bringing government services closer to the people, with plans for additional departments to operate from the site. The local chief expressed gratitude, noting the building symbolizes government presence and the community's spirit of unity, captured in their slogan: *"Unity is our strength for development."*

Stakeholders Consulted on Port Vila CBD Concept Plan

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) and the Port Vila City Council (PVCC), has acknowledged the support of various government departments during consultations for the Port Vila Central Business District (CBD) Concept Plan, developed with assistance from the World Bank.



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The recent workshop presented the draft CBD Concept Plan, encouraged open discussion, and gathered feedback to guide its finalization. DUAP recognized stakeholders for their valuable contributions in shaping a CBD that reflects the vision and needs of both the local community and visitors.

National Housing Policy Workshop Underway



The National Housing Policy Stakeholder Workshop opened on the 26th of June 2025, bringing together government representatives and NGOs to shape Vanuatu's first National Housing Policy. The two-day programs run until the 27th of June, with sessions dedicated to key policy pillars.



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Day one focused on Access to Land, Access to Housing Finance, and Improving Building Quality. The final day will address Improving Informal Settlements and Rentals as well as Housing Governance, ensuring a comprehensive approach to housing challenges and solutions across the nation.

Vanuatu Champions Legal Identity at Regional Ministerial Roundtable

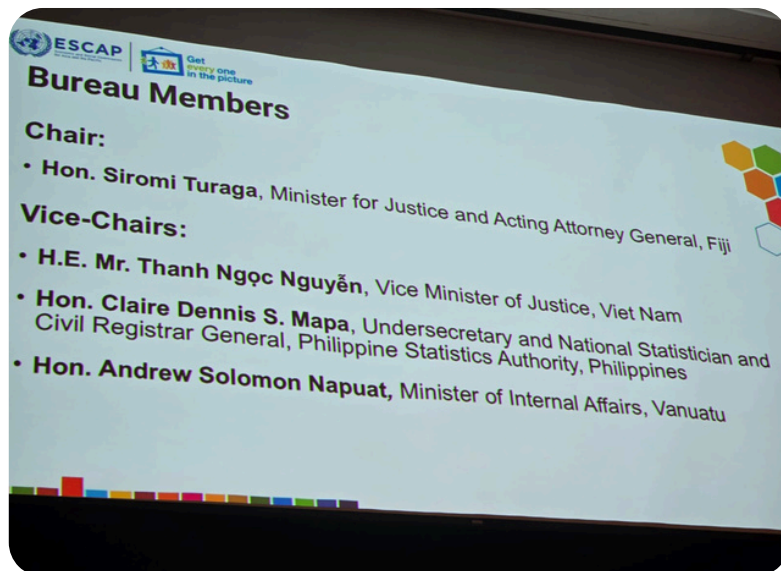
Vanuatu has taken a leading role at the Ministerial Roundtable on Legal Identity held on 25th June in Bangkok, Thailand. Represented by the Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, alongside Registrar General Jeffrey Trief, Permanent representative to UN ESCAP Mathieu Hervillard Le Peillet, and CRIM Specialist Kathleen Preissing Pakoa, Vanuatu presented its progress in civil registration and national identity reforms. A key highlight was Minister Napuat's nomination as Vice Chair of the Third Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, marking a significant regional achievement.

Discussions focused on legal identity as a foundation for good governance and inclusive services, with Vanuatu showcasing digital innovations such as the RV5 Registration System and mobile outreach to remote islands. Minister Napuat also met with international partners to strengthen cooperation and secure further support for CRVS projects, emphasizing that **“every Ni-Vanuatu must be counted, must have a legal identity, and must be able to access essential services.”**





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Vanuatu Launches National Surveys for Infrastructure Resilience Project

On 30th June 2025, the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP), in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC) and other government agencies, held a stakeholder consultation and officially launched the National Surveys for Infrastructure Resilience Geospatial Databases Project. Funded by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and IRIS initiative, the project is part of a regional effort involving Kiribati, Tonga, and Vanuatu to strengthen infrastructure resilience through geospatial data, exposure modeling, and capacity building.



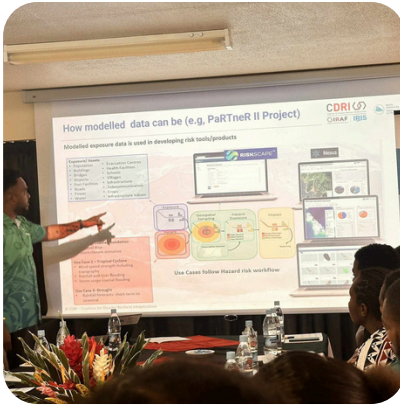
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The workshop introduced the projects relevance to national planning, outlined the scope of work, and facilitated discussions on expected outputs. Following the event, SPC delivered refresher training on data collection tools and methods and began in nine-day field survey around Efate Island to gather critical infrastructure data. Director of DUAP, Mr. Jeffrey Kaitip, thanked SPC and partner agencies for their vital contributions, emphasizing the importance of aligning the initiative with national priorities and resilience efforts.

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for our July
News Update

Hope you enjoy
reading our June
News



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