



NEWSLETTER

Vanuatu Launches National Consultation on Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR)



Civil Registry and Identity Management Team on Torba with Helper1, providing essential government service such as Registration of Birth, Married & Death and also printing of National ID card to the citizens in Torba province.

The areas where the team has carried out these services is Loh Island, Toga, Torres islands and Banks islands. This is the rollout of the outreach program to decentralize the government services to the people in rural and outer islands - to give them an opportunity to access these services.

Vanuatu Launches National Consultation on Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR)



Vanuatu has officially launched a three-day National Consultation Workshop on the implementation of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) systems, marking a major step toward strengthening border security and modernizing travel processes. Hosted at the Warwick Le Lagoon Hotel in Port Vila, the workshop is held in partnership with the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme and is generously supported by the Government of Japan.



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The way forward includes:

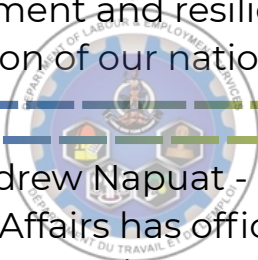
- Roadmap contextualized for Vanuatu
- Establishment of working groups in 4 technical areas: legislation, operational transport industry engagement, and ICT
- Amendment of Vanuatu Immigration Act
- Capacity building trainings



A key highlight is the formal signing of an agreement between the Governments of Japan and Vanuatu, underscoring Vanuatu's commitment to enhancing immigration and border control systems.

Labour Day 2025 - Launching of the Vanuatu Labour Mobility Reintegration Strategy

On this Labour Day, we celebrate YOU - the hardworking men and women of Vanuatu whose commitment and resilience are the foundation of our nation's progress.



Hon. Andrew Napuat - Minister of Internal Affairs has officially launch the Vanuatu Labour Mobility Reintegration Strategy which is the key highlight of the 2025 Labour Day Celebration.





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This milestone marks a bold step forward in supporting our seasonal workers as they return home from Australia and NZ. The strategy will help them reintegrate smoothly into their communities, access new opportunities, and continue contributing to national development.



48 New Officer Joined the Vanuatu Police Force

A proud day for Vanuatu as 48 new recruits of the Vanuatu Police Force (VPF) officially graduated in a vibrant pass-out ceremony.

Hon. Andrew Napuat, Minister of Internal Affairs, acknowledge the recruits for their dedication, resilience, and commitment after months of rigorous training - both in classroom and in the field.



With growing demands for community safety and rising internal security challenges, the new officers will now serve on the frontline, upholding the law and protecting citizens across the country.

As the Minister Napuat reminded, *"The law is for all - no one is above the law"*





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Vanuatu Advances Urban Development Planning Through National Policy Framework Training



The Government of Vanuatu, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has continued its commitment to strengthening sustainable urban development through the Vanuatu National Urban Development Policy Framework training.

The workshop aimed to enhance participants' understanding of the policy and legal frameworks that guide urban development across sectors. By identifying linkages between existing legislation and urban planning objectives, the training supports a more coordinated and sustainable approach to managing Vanuatu's growing towns and cities.

ADB's sponsorship reflects its continued partnership with the Government of Vanuatu in fostering inclusive, climate-resilient, and well-planned urban growth for the benefit of all communities.



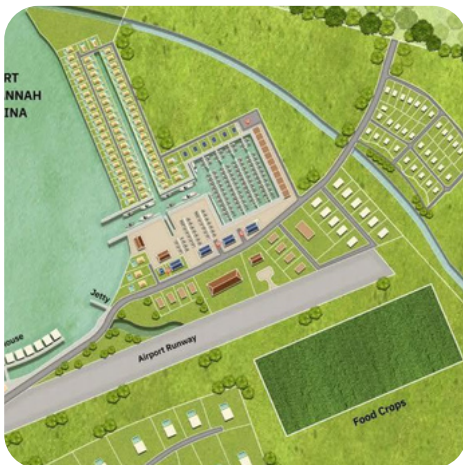


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Groundbreaking Ceremony for Havannah Harbour Marine Project



A groundbreaking ceremony at Havannah Harbour, North Efate, has marked the start of a major marine development project aimed at boosting Vanuatu's tourism and maritime industries. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, represented by Director General Mr. Leith Veremaito and DUAP Director Mr. Jeffrey Kaitip, joined community members and project partners to celebrate the launch.



A partnership between Havannah Haven Limited, Vanuatu Zipline Ltd, and the Marina Development Company, the project aims to combine economic growth with sustainable practices, creating opportunities for both the marine sector and the local community.

The development will provide advanced haul-out facilities, cyclone-protected berths, and a ZERO discharge marina accommodating over 200 yachts, alongside limited commercial opportunities for hotels and businesses. Havannah Harbour's natural deep-water shelter, rich history with the Lapita people, and World War II heritage make it an ideal location.





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MOIA Corporate Review Workshop: Shaping Our Future Together

Ministry of Internal Affairs is hosting a strategic Corporate Planning Workshop to shape the MOIA Corporate Plan 2026–2030.

Facilitated by Principal Sector Analyst Eric Malessas from DSPPAC, this workshop brings together teams across the Ministry to:

- Reflect on our current Corporate Plan (2019–2025)
- Define a shared Vision, Mission, and Core Values
- Conduct a Ministry-wide SWOT Analysis
- Align our strategic direction with Vanuatu 2030 – The People's Plan



Together, we're setting the foundation for a more responsive, inclusive, and accountable Ministry — built on integrity, service, and evidence-based planning.

This is more than just planning — it's about defining who we are, what we stand for, and how we serve all Ni-Vanuatu.

A big step toward building a more connected, effective, and future-focused Ministry.





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Strategic Thinking Training Underway - Ministry of Internal Affairs



The Ministry of Internal Affairs has launched its Strategic Thinking Training, designed to strengthen leadership, planning, and decision-making across departments. Facilitated by Dr. Jason Thomas, the program equips Directors and Managers with fresh tools and perspective for strategic leadership.

Day 1 focused on building strategic mindsets, learning from global missions like Apollo, case studies on resilience, and exploring COL John Boyd's strategic thinking.

Day 2, themes "Lessons from Nature", emphasized adaptability, innovation, and teamwork by learning from natural systems. Participants engaged in interactive exercises, systems thinking activities, and discussions on improving internal planning and service delivery.

This training supports stronger strategic leadership, forward-thinking governance, and a more responsive public service within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.





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DUAP & PIAC Officers Equipped with Emergency Response Skills



Staff from the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) together with PIAC team have successfully completed on a one-day Advanced First Aid Training Certification Course delivered by ProMedical Vanuatu on 9th May 2025. The training focused on key areas of emergency response, equipping participants with practical skills to manage emergencies that may occur in the workplace.

CRIM, VIS & VEO Join ICT Day 2025 Celebration

CRIM, VIS and VEO proudly took part in this year's ICT Day celebrations, showcasing a range of essential government services to the public.

The services provided by CRIM is printing National ID cards and registration of birth, marriage and death.





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The VIS team assisted citizens with the collection of pending passports and processing of new passport applications. Meanwhile, the VEO team facilitated voter roll inspections, verification of electors, and new voter registration.



These services were made available throughout the ICT Day 2025 celebration, giving the public a unique opportunity to access multiple government services in one convenient location.

Final Validation Workshop on Vanuatu's National Employment Policy

The Final Validation Workshop for Vanuatu's National Employment Policy (NEP) was held on the 12th - 13th May 2025, bringing together government representatives, employers, workers, and key stakeholders with support from the International Labour Organization (ILO).



The NEP set national priorities to promote decent work and create more employment opportunities, especially for women, youth, and persons with disabilities. The workshop aimed to review and confirm the final draft before it is submitted to the Government for adoption.

Domestic Employment Division played a key role in process, working alongside the ILO to ensure a clear framework is in place to guide employment actions in Vanuatu.

Participants Reaffirmed their commitment to the policy, marking an important step towards building a stronger and more inclusive labour market.





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Workshop Strengthens Support for Workers and Families in Labour Mobility

The Department of Labour hosted a workshop on 19th May 2025 to enhance preparation and support for workers and their families throughout their labour mobility journeys.



The session brought together the Vanuatu Government, donor partners, and key labour mobility stakeholders to share insights and strengthen collaboration.

Commissioner of Labour highlighted the importance of strong partnerships and holistic programming to ensure workers and their families have quality experiences across all stages of the circular labour mobility program.

Vanuatu Advances Draft National Loss & Damage Policy

The Ministry of Climate Change recently held a draft National Loss & Damage Policy Lab consultation, bringing together representatives from government agencies, including the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning under MOIA.



This policy aims to tackle local loss and damage risks, with Marou Village on Emau Island serving as the first case study. Key objectives include ensuring the policy's relevance across all sectors, reframing issues through local stories, and engaging agencies in developing practical solutions to support vulnerable communities.





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CRIM Joins ICT Day Panel on Digital Innovation and Wins Best Booth Award

The department of Civil Registry and Identity Management proudly took part in a panel discussion during ICT Day in Santo, held as part of Digital Week. The panel focused on *"Digital Ecosystem and Innovation"* with a special emphasis on *Human Resource Development - Are We Ready?*



CRIM was represented by Deputy RG, Mrs. Tari, who joined distinguished panelists to share insights and experiences on digital transformation in Vanuatu. This year's Digital Week carried the theme *"Innovative Today, Sustain Tomorrow"*, with ICT Day highlighting *"Equity in Digital Transformation"*. As a Platinum Sponsor, CRIM reaffirmed its commitment to digital inclusion, innovation, and equitable access to civil and identity services for all ni-Vanuatu.



In addition to its panel contribution, CRIM was honored with the Best Innovative Booth Award during the ICT Day celebrations. This award reflects the department's dedication to digital transformation, creativity, and service innovative in building a smarter and more connected Vanuatu.

CRIM believes the digital ecosystem is a key enabler of innovation, improved service delivery, and sustainable national growth, and remains committed to driving digital progress for the country.





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Commissioner of Labour Meets Australia Ministers on Labour Mobility

The Commissioner of Labour has the honor of meeting with Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Hon Matt Thistlethwaite, during their visit to Vanuatu.



In discussions with Hon Thistlethwaite, the Commissioner highlighted the shared commitment of Vanuatu and Australia to ensuring the welfare of ni-Vanuatu workers in Australia.

Both countries reaffirmed their strong partnership and ongoing collaboration to strengthen the implementation of the PALM Labour Mobility program.

Minister Hands Over Electricity Concession Dividends to Sanma Authorities

The Minister of Climate Change and Energy, Hon. Ralph Regenvanu, has handed over dividends from the Santo electricity concession to the SANMA Provincial Government Council (SPGC) and the Luganville Municipal Council (LMC). The payments, covering 2019 - 2023, totaled VT 7,893,933 for SPGC and VT 5,262,622 for LMC, representing their share of the 2% concession fee paid by Vanuatu Utilities Infrastructure (VUI).



MAY 2025

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Following a Council of Ministers decision in April 2024, the concession fee is now shared 50% to the Government, 10% to LMC, 10% to SPGC, and 30% to the Fanafo Area Council. The funds are intended to support local development priorities, with SPGC and LMC reaffirming their commitment to align activities with the National Sustainable Development Plan.

Sandleng Confirmed as Physical Planning Area in South Pentecost



A final consultation with the landowners of Sandleng, South Pentecost, has concluded with a custom ceremony confirming their agreement for the area to become a Physical Planning Area (PPA)



This decision paves the way for the Provincial team to move forward with plans to develop Sandleng into an economic hub for Penama Province.



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



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Shefa Provincial Government Leads Mission to Tonga



The Shefa Provincial Government Council led a mission to Tongoa Area Council from 12 to 16 May 2025, bringing together the Department of Forestry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Livestock, Vanuatu Primary Producer Authority (VPPA), and the FAO project representative. They were joined by Area Administrators, Area Secretaries, and law enforcement officers from Tongoa.

The mission rolled out the Physical Plan Zone under the Tongoa Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management Project, while also distributing farming tools to local communities. Chiefs and people of Tongoa expressed their readiness to support the initiative. The team also registered farmers who will benefit from activities led by the respective government departments under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries (MALFF).





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Foreshore Development Training Workshop Underway in Sanma

The Foreshore Development Unit (FDU) has launched a three-day training workshop at the Sanma Provincial Government, with participation from staff of the Sanma Planning Unit and Luganville Municipal Council. The training focuses on strengthening knowledge of the Foreshore Development Act, standard operating procedures, permit application process, site inspections, and data collection using Kobo Toolbox.



Day one covered the legal framework and application process, while the remaining sessions will focus on practical field exercises. Sanma Secretary General Mr. Lavare emphasized the importance of FDU's support, noting that many upcoming developments will require Foreshore Development Permits to ensure compliance with national laws.



The purpose of this training is to strengthen enforcement efforts, ensuring that all future foreshore developments are guided, managed and comply with the Foreshore Development Act.





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CRIM Launches New National Civil Registration System - RV5

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the Department of Civil Registry and Identity Management (CRIM), has officially launched **RegisterViz5 (RV5)**, Vanuatu's new Civil Registration and issuance of National ID Cards, as well as birth, marriage, and death certificates.

RV5 strengthens accuracy, security, and efficiency in civil documentation and also supports the Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO) by enhancing the integrity of voter registration and protecting citizen's electoral rights.



The system was developed with the support from UNDP through the Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project, funded by New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



This milestone marks a new chapter in public service delivery and reaffirms the Ministry's commitment to building a secure, inclusive, and technology-driven identity system for all ni-Vanuatu citizens.



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Tripartite Labour Advisory Council Reviews Key ILO Instruments

The Tripartite Labour Advisory Council (TLAC) held its First Extraordinary Council meeting on the 30th of May 2025, to discuss urgent International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions, Protocols and Recommendations.



During the meeting, council members deliberated on six critical items: Protocol 29, Recommendation 203, Convention 190, Recommendation 206, Convention 191, and Recommendation 207. The discussions aimed to ensure Vanuatu's Labour policies align with international labour standards and address emerging workplace challenges.

The TLAC emphasized the importance of adopting these ILO instruments to strengthen worker protections and promote fair and safe working conditions across all sectors in Vanuatu.

Stay tuned
for our June
News Update

Hope you enjoy
reading our May
news

