



NEWSLETTER

MOIA PARTICIPATES IN PUBLIC SERVICE CELEBRATION DAY IN TORBA PROVINCE

The Ministry of Internal Affairs took part in the Public Service Celebration (PSC Day) in Torba Province, setting up a service booth to bring government services closer to communities in line with the Government's decentralization vision.



Services provided at the MOIA booth included new voter registration, voter ID validation, and polling station transfers by the Vanuatu Electoral Office; free ID cards and birth certificates from CRIM; information on Area Council developments and urban planning from Local Authorities and Urban Affairs; and passport and immigration support services. The team also delivered a Career Talk Session to help students plan their future pathways.



The event offered a valuable opportunity for the people of Torba to access essential government services within their own province. Decentralization in action—Government is coming closer to the people.





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TONGOARIKI ANCHORAGE ABLUTION BLOCK OFFICIALLY OPENED

During an official visit to Tongoariki Island, the first development project launched was the Tongoariki Anchorage Ablution Block — a new toilet facility designed for community use and for visitors arriving on the island. The Hon. Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, together with MP Kaltabang, cut the ribbon to officially open the facility for public use.

The project, funded through a VT 700,000 community grant from the New Zealand High Commission, marks an important step in improving hygiene, cleanliness, and safe sanitation for the people of Tongoariki. Better access to clean and safe toilets is essential for preventing disease and supporting healthy living conditions.

This initiative demonstrates the Government’s commitment to strengthening basic services that enhance community wellbeing and contribute to healthier, safer islands.





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TONGOARIKI MAIN ACCESS CEMENT ROAD PROJECT MOVES FORWARD



Another major highlight of the Government's official visit to Tongoariki Island was progress on the Tongoariki Main Access Cement Road Project, a vital road that links all communities across the island. The project began in response to a community petition submitted to the Shefa Provincial Government in 2024 and is now advancing through the Province's support in supplying construction materials.

Area Administrator Donald Firiam praised the outgoing President and Secretary General of Shefa Province for ensuring that materials reached the island. He stressed that the road is the island's primary access route, essential for delivering services and supporting development. Despite its poor condition and the challenges faced by the community in sourcing building materials, the road has long served as the backbone connecting households, including those built on higher ground.





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Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Hon. Xavier Harry, officially launched the project and reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to helping Tongoariki complete the road. He announced that the first shipment of materials will arrive before the end of the year, with the Public Works team scheduled to conduct scoping next week for both the wharf area and the main access road. The Government underscored that this road is more than infrastructure — it is a lifeline for the island’s communities and a priority for future development.

TONGOARIKI MAIN ACCESS CEMENT ROAD PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

During the Government’s official visit to Tongoariki Island, another important milestone was achieved with the unveiling of the new Tongoariki/Buniga Area Council sign board, now prominently displayed at the entrance of the Area Council office.





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The new sign board strengthens the identity and visibility of the Area Council, marking the key location where government and community meet to plan and implement development activities. It also improves accessibility, making it easier for visitors, community members, and partners to locate the office and recognize the Council's ongoing work.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF TONGOARIKI/BUNIGA AREA COUNCIL OFFICE

The people of Tongoariki and Buniga marked a historic occasion on 1 October 2025 as the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, led a government delegation to officially open the new Tongoariki/Buniga Area Council Office. The project began in 2021 after the Area Council and Tongoariki Council of Chiefs agreed on land provided by Chief Jimmy Mariketau. Construction was funded through Area Council allocations, an additional VT 1 million support from the Department of Local Authorities, and strong community contributions through labour, food, and in-kind support.

The Area Administrator acknowledged the challenges of building in a remote location but highlighted that determination and community cooperation made it possible to complete the office over three years. The new facility now stands ready to support local governance and service delivery.





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In his remarks, Minister Napuat commended the leadership of the Area Administrator and the unity shown by the community. He stressed that the office represents partnership, hard work, and the Government's commitment to bringing essential services closer to island communities. The Tongoariki/Buniga Area Council Office will serve as a central hub for governance, coordination, and community development.



NATIONAL ID CARD PRINTER HANDED OVER TO TONGOARIKI/BUNIGA AREA COUNCIL

A significant milestone was reached in Tongoariki and Buniga with the official handover of a National ID Card Printer to the Tongoariki/Buniga Area Council Office. The new machine, installed by the Senior National ID Officer from the Department of CRIM, will now enable residents to print their National ID cards directly on the island.





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During the handover, the Minister of Internal Affairs expressed appreciation for the swift installation and highlighted the importance of the initiative in advancing the Government's decentralization agenda. Bringing essential services closer to communities, he said, ensures that citizens no longer need to travel long distances to access basic identification services.

The community welcomed the development with pride, calling it a historic first for the island. The printer represents greater inclusiveness and improved access to government services for remote communities.





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OFFICIAL OPENING OF YARSU AREA COUNCIL BUILDING IN SOUTH EPI

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, led an official delegation to South Epi today to open the new Yarsu Area Council Building — a major milestone in bringing government services closer to rural communities. The building, valued at over VT 10 million, was funded by the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji through the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project (VCAP), with an additional VT 1.7 million co-financing from the Department of Local Authorities to equip the facility for essential service delivery.



The ceremony was attended by Members of Parliament, Shefa Provincial leaders and staff, representatives from UNDP and VCAP, the National Bank of Vanuatu, and senior officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In his remarks, Yarsu Area Council Chairman Chief Tarsong described the new building as a long-awaited symbol of government presence, giving people a place to access services just like communities in other islands.

Minister Napuat emphasized that the opening was more than the launch of a building — it marked expanded opportunities and improved access to government services under the national decentralization policy. The new Yarsu Area Council Building stands as a proud achievement for South Epi, strengthening governance, leadership, and community development at the local level.





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HANDOVER OF NATIONAL ID CARD PRINTER – YARSU AREA COUNCIL, SOUTH EPI ✨ 🇻🇺

The Department of Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM), under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, has officially handed over a National ID Card Printer to the Yarsu Area Council — an important milestone in bringing essential ID services closer to the people of South Epi. With the new machine and 1,000 blank ID cards, community members can now print their National ID cards directly at the Yarsu Area Council Building, without needing to travel to Port Vila or another island.





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This handover means that the same services provided at the Civil Status Office in Port Vila are now available locally in South Epi. It is a major step toward improving service accessibility and strengthening the national identity system for citizens in rural areas.

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, said the handover represents real progress in the Government's decentralization efforts and reflects its commitment to bringing essential services closer to the people. He described it as a proud moment for the Yarsu Area Council and the communities of South Epi, symbolizing partnership, improved access, and local development.



HANDOVER OF QUAD BIKE, STARLINK, SOLAR POWER & SPORTS FACILITIES – YARSU AREA COUNCIL, SOUTH EPI

The community of South Epi received a major boost today as the UNDP Pacific Office, through the VCAP II Project, officially handed over a Quad Bike, Starlink Internet System, Solar Power Setup, and Sports Facilities to the Yarsu Area Council. The keys were presented to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Andrew Napuat, who will formally hand them over to the Area Administrator and Area Secretary. Valued at over 5.3 million vatu, these new resources are expected to strengthen local services through improved transport, reliable internet connectivity, sustainable power supply, and enhanced sports opportunities for young people in the Yarsu Area Council.





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During the ceremony, UNDP Representative Jackson Tambe highlighted that the goal of the VCAP II Project is to improve the quality of life and community resilience in South Epi, and noted UNDP's pride in supporting such meaningful development.

Minister Napuat expressed appreciation to UNDP, VCAP II, the Department of Local Authorities, and the Area Councils for their ongoing efforts to bring government services closer to the people in line with the national decentralization policy.





NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE ROVO BAY ZONING DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN – EPI ISLAND

On 7 October 2025, the Minister of Internal Affairs led a delegation to Rovo Bay, Epi Island, to officially launch the Rovo Bay Zoning Development Control Plan. The delegation included a Member of Parliament, the Director General of the Ministry, the President and Councillors of Shefa Provincial Council, the Secretary General, and staff who joined the Rovo Bay community in celebrating this important milestone for Epi. Developed by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, the plan serves as a practical blueprint to guide future development, ensuring that growth is balanced with environmental protection and aligned with the needs of local communities.





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During the launch, the Minister emphasised that the plan is not just a document, but a living guide that must be implemented to help Epi grow, create more job opportunities, and support sustainable development. The event marks a significant step in empowering local communities, strengthening good governance, and promoting planned development in rural Vanuatu. The launch represents a shared commitment to building a clear, safe, and sustainable future for Epi Island.



HANDOVER OF NATIONAL ID CARD PRINTER TO VERMALI AREA COUNCIL ✨ 🇻🇺

As part of his official visit to Epi, the Minister of Internal Affairs marked an important milestone by handing over a National ID Card Printer to the Vermali Area Council. This new service means that people living within the Vermali Area Council can now access key services of the Department of Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM) directly in their community — including printing and receiving their National ID Cards without needing to travel to Port Vila.





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HANDOVER OF NATIONAL ID CARD PRINTER – YARSU AREA COUNCIL, SOUTH EPI ✨ 🇸🇻

The Department of Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM), under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, has officially handed over a National ID Card Printer to the Yarsu Area Council — an important milestone in bringing essential ID services closer to the people of South Epi. With the new machine and 1,000 blank ID cards, community members can now print their National ID cards directly at the Yarsu Area Council Building, without needing to travel to Port Vila or another island.





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In his remarks, the Minister highlighted that this achievement reflects the Government's National Decentralization Policy, which focuses on bringing essential government services closer to the people and empowering Area Councils to deliver at the grassroots level. "Decentralization is not just a concept; it is a real commitment to ensuring that every man and woman across our islands has equal access to essential government services," he said. This initiative reinforces the partnership between national and local authorities and demonstrates the Ministry's ongoing effort to make decentralization a practical reality across Vanuatu.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF VARSU AREA COUNCIL EXTENSION AND FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION – EAST EPI

On 7 October 2025, as part of his official visit to Epi Island, the Minister of Internal Affairs officially opened the new extension of the Varsu Area Council Building in Nuvi, East Epi. The upgraded facility will provide additional space and a better working environment to support governance and economic development within the community. Following the opening, the community also launched the new Fishermen's Association, which is expected to strengthen livelihoods and boost economic activity for fishers in East Epi.





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In his remarks, the Minister said the new extension — which will also accommodate the Fishermen’s Association — demonstrates the true spirit of decentralization by bringing government services and development opportunities closer to people in the islands. Area Administrator Philip Dick noted the community’s pride in seeing the Fishermen’s Association operate from its own dedicated office within the Area Council building, supporting income generation and development activities. He added that other local groups, including kava, livestock and farmer associations, are also contributing to Varsu’s growth. This development marks another important milestone under the Government’s Decentralization Policy, ensuring that progress reaches every island and every community across the nation.





NEWSLETTER

HANDOVER OF NATIONAL ID CARD PRINTER TO VARSU AREA COUNCIL – EAST EPI 🌟🗳️

Following his official visit to Epi, the Minister of Internal Affairs officially handed over a National ID Card Printer to the Varsu Area Council, allowing residents in Varsu and surrounding areas to print their ID cards locally. The Minister highlighted that the handover demonstrates the practical implementation of decentralization, ensuring island communities have equal access to essential government services such as ID registration and printing.

The new printer will save time and costs for the community while bringing government services closer to the people. Area Administrator Philip Dick welcomed the initiative, noting it as a historic step that strengthens partnerships between the government, Area Council, and local communities. This handover is part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts under the Decentralization Policy to make government services accessible to every island across Vanuatu.





NEWSLETTER

HANDOVER OF NATIONAL ID CARD PRINTER TO LIRO – PAAMA AREA COUNCIL

On 8 October 2025, the Minister of Internal Affairs officially handed over a National ID Card Printer to Liro, Paama Area Council, marking a significant step in bringing essential government services closer to island communities. The new printer allows residents to register and print their National ID Cards locally, removing the need to travel for these services.

Minister Andrew Napuat highlighted the milestone as part of the Government's Decentralization Policy, ensuring that small islands like Paama have equal access to basic services as those in larger centres such as Port Vila and Luganville. The printer will streamline ID registration and printing, strengthening connections between the people of Paama and other government services, and demonstrating the Ministry's commitment to making services accessible across all corners of Vanuatu.





NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW TAVULAI COMMUNITY HALL – PAAMA ISLAND

During his official visit to Paama Island, the Minister of Internal Affairs and his delegation inaugurated the new Tavulai Community Hall, a strong and safe facility designed to serve as an evacuation centre for residents during disasters. The hall can accommodate up to 700 people, providing a critical resource for the community in times of need. During the program, members of the Tavulai community also presented a petition to the Minister, requesting his support for the ongoing maintenance and development of the building.



In response, the Minister expressed his appreciation for the community's initiative, noting that the hall reflects their care for families and children by providing a safe space for gatherings and communal activities. He emphasised that the new facility exemplifies how the Government's Decentralization Policy brings essential services and infrastructure closer to people across the islands. The opening of Tavulai Community Hall marks an important milestone in strengthening community resilience, safety, and access to government-supported infrastructure on Paama Island.





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OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE WOMEN'S HOUSE IN VAULELI – PAAMA ISLAND

As part of his official visit to Paama Island, the Minister of Internal Affairs officially opened the new Women's House in Vauleli, a facility that can also serve as an evacuation centre during disasters. The project represents a significant achievement for the Vauleli community, built through the combined efforts of local seasonal workers and the Area Council, which contributed 800,000 vatu to make the project a reality.



Speaking at the event, Minister Andrew Napuat praised the community's collaboration, noting that the Women's House is more than just a building—it is a symbol of love, respect, and strong community spirit among the people of Paama. He added that initiatives like this demonstrate how local communities can take the lead in development and resilience efforts, providing safe and meaningful spaces that strengthen social cohesion and disaster preparedness.





NEWSLETTER

ACCESS TO MARKETS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES IMPROVED IN SOUTH MALEKULA

On 9 October, the Minister of Internal Affairs officially inaugurated the Hokai Business Centre in Hokai Community, South Malekula, marking a significant milestone in bringing essential services closer to rural communities. The event was attended by Australia's Acting High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Ms. Emily Fisher, and the British High Commissioner, who witnessed the launch of this important initiative. The Business Centre is the result of a strong partnership between the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Malampa Provincial Government, Australia (through the Vanuatu Skills Partnership), the UK, and other development partners.

The centre is designed to provide local farmers and small businesses with easier access to markets, while also housing the Area Council Administration Office to streamline access to government services. A permanent Agriculture Officer will be based at the centre to provide technical support, training, and advice to farmers, while an Aid Post will serve South Malekula and neighbouring islands, strengthening health and community services in the area.





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For this rural and remote community, the Hokai Business Centre represents a major step forward in decentralization and improved service delivery. It demonstrates the Government's commitment to empowering local communities and improving livelihoods, while Australia and the UK reaffirmed their ongoing support in provincial development and capacity-building across Vanuatu.

HISTORIC MILESTONE: LAKATORO BECOMES Vanuatu's 4th MUNICIPALITY

On 10 October 2025, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, participated in a custom ceremony in Lakatoro to show respect and appreciation for local traditions while marking a historic milestone for the area. The ceremony was conducted with the agreement of the Malvatumauri and Malmetenvanu chiefs, who officially accepted the Minister's recognition of Lakatoro as Vanuatu's fourth municipality.





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The declaration was formally supported by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, ensuring the process aligns with national governance and planning standards. During the ceremony, the Minister signed the official documents confirming Lakatoro/Norsup Municipality, making the designation legally binding.

The event also included the unveiling of the municipality's official signboard, symbolising a new phase in local governance and development for the people of Malampa Province. This milestone reflects the Government's commitment to strengthening municipal governance and creating opportunities for sustainable growth in Vanuatu's communities.





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HISTORIC MILESTONE: STRENGTHENING SECURITY IN MALAMPA PROVINCE

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, officially handed over new security assets to the Commander North for escort and patrol operations in Malampa Province, marking a historic milestone for the region. The handover included two trucks, two escort motorbikes, and a patrol boat, the RVS Ralvanuademat, donated by China, aimed at enhancing security and operational capacity across the province.



Young Police Maritime Captain Solomon Kenneth from Uripiv Island was officially entrusted with the keys to the new patrol boat during the ceremony. The vessel will play a crucial role in supporting maritime patrols, ensuring community safety, and strengthening overall security for communities across Malampa Province.





NEWSLETTER

LAKATORO MARKET HOUSE EXTENSION BOOSTS MALAMPA'S ECONOMY

Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, officially opened the extended Lakatoro Market House, creating more space for farmers to sell their products and enhancing economic opportunities in Malampa Province. The expansion is a key initiative to strengthen local businesses, empower farmers, and improve community livelihoods, enabling more producers to participate in the market and contribute to a vibrant, growing local economy.



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NEWSLETTER

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS EXCELS AT PSC DAY IN MALAMPA



The Ministry of Internal Affairs celebrated a major achievement at this year's PSC Day in Malampa Province, winning two prestigious awards in recognition of its dedication to serving the community. The Ministry's booth was awarded Best Booth for effectively providing government services and information to the public, while its parade received the Best Parade award for showcasing energy, spirit, and community engagement. These accomplishments highlight the Ministry's commitment to bringing government services closer to the people and actively engaging with local communities.





NEWSLETTER

UNVEILING OF WILKINS MEMORIAL PARK – CELEBRATING MALAMPA DAY

On Malampa Day, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, officially opened Wilkins Memorial Park, adding another landmark to Malampa Province. Minister Napuat expressed his gratitude and honour at having his name inscribed in the park, describing it as a symbol of pride and unity for the community. The unveiling commemorates the contributions of Malampa's people, with the park set to serve as a space for reflection, community gatherings, and preserving the legacy of those who have played a vital role in the development of the province.





NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL OPENING OF MELIP MULTIPURPOSE HALL – SOUTH WEST MALEKULA

On 11th October 2025, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, along with his delegation, officially opened the Melip Multipurpose Hall in South West Malekula. The event was marked by a warm welcome from local chiefs and the Melip community, who performed a traditional dance celebrating culture, unity, and respect. The hall is a key community project, identified through Community Profiling by the Area Administration to address the real needs of the Melip community.



The project was completed through a partnership approach, with 40% funding provided by the Government through the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) and 60% contributed by the community. Minister Napuat highlighted that the unity and cooperation of the Melip people made the hall a reality, describing it as a true example of community spirit. The Melip Multipurpose Hall will serve as a venue for meetings, community programs, and also as an evacuation centre during disasters, ensuring the community's safety in times of need.





NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL OPENING OF MELIP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT – SOUTH WEST MALEKULA

Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs officially opened the Melip Water Supply Project, marking a significant achievement for the community with the installation of a 10,000-litre water tank to provide clean and reliable water to every household. Developed under the Community Profiling initiative by the Area Council, the project addresses the community's need for safe daily water access.



Minister Napuat highlighted that the project reflects the value of collaboration between the Government and the community, noting that working hand in hand can bring meaningful change. The new water tank will improve health, sanitation, and the overall quality of life for families in Melip.





NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL OPENING OF DESALINATION PROJECT – TOMAN ISLAND, SOUTH WEST MALEKULA

On 11th October 2025, the people of Toman Island in South West Malekula celebrated a significant milestone as the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, along with his delegation, officially opened the Desalination Project — a system that converts seawater into clean, usable water for the community. The project addresses the long-standing water needs of Toman residents and reflects strong collaboration between the Government and the community to bring essential services closer to the people. Completed at a cost of 14 million vatu over one year, the project is a successful example of the Community Profiling Program in action.



The Desalination Project was made possible through support from the Government of Vanuatu via Area Council funding under the Department of Local Authorities, with additional assistance from the Ministry of Lands, the Government of Japan, and the expertise of German engineer Mr. Daniel. Minister Napuat emphasized in his remarks that access to clean water is a right, not a privilege, and praised the partnership between the Government, development partners, and the community for turning the project into reality. As the second desalination system in Malekula, the project will provide safe, clean water to many Toman families for years to come.





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HON. MINISTER MAKES HISTORY ON TOMAN ISLAND, SOUTH WEST MALEKULA

During the Malampa Trip, Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, Andrew Napuat, marked a historic moment on Toman Island when the local chief presented him with a special stone to commemorate the successful completion of the community's Desalination Project. By placing the stone in the ground, the Minister symbolized a new chapter of collaboration between the Government and the people of Toman Island, celebrating a project that provides clean and safe water to every household. Minister Napuat highlighted that meaningful development happens when leadership and communities work hand in hand, noting that the stone will stand as a lasting symbol of unity, hope, and the power of collective action toward shared goals.





NEWSLETTER

UNVEILING OF SOUTHWEST MALEKULA AREA COUNCIL SIGNBOARD & HANDOVER OF NATIONAL ID CARD PRINTER

SouthWest Malekula marked another important milestone today with the official unveiling of the new SouthWest Area Council signboard and the handover of a National ID Card Printer. The ceremony was led by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, in the presence of Area Council members and community representatives.

The new signboard symbolizes the Council's authority, identity, and commitment to serving its communities. Minister Napuat highlighted that the signboard is more than just a marker—it represents unity, responsibility, and the government's ongoing effort to bring essential services closer to the people.





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At the same event, the Minister officially handed over the National ID Card Printer, enabling residents of South West Malekula to now access ID card services directly within their communities. This initiative will allow faster, easier issuance of National ID cards, strengthening service delivery at the local level. Minister Napuat emphasized that the National ID is a vital symbol of citizenship, and the government remains committed to making this service accessible to all.



OFFICIAL OPENING OF TWO 10,000-LITRE WATER TANKS FOR LEMBINWEN COMMUNITY – SOUTH WEST MALEKULA

The community of Lembinwen in South West Malekula celebrated a major development today as the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Napuat, officially opened two 10,000-litre water tanks delivered under the South West Malekula Area Council's Community Profiling Program. The project will provide clean and safe water to more than 400 residents, improving daily access and community wellbeing. In his remarks, Minister Napuat highlighted that "water is life," noting that bringing clean water to communities brings health, dignity, and hope, and reflects the positive impact of strong collaboration between the Government, the Area Council, and the people.





NEWSLETTER

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR VT4.6 BILLION PORT VILA CENTRAL POLICE STATION

The construction of the VT4.6 billion new Port Vila Central Police Station will officially begin next month, following a ground-breaking ceremony held yesterday at George Pompidou Park, attended by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, whose Ministry oversees the Vanuatu Police Force. The ceremony also included the Lady Mayor of Port Vila, Hon. Jenny Regenvanu, and representatives from the Head Group, the company leading the construction. The new facility marks a major investment in strengthening law enforcement infrastructure and improving service delivery for the public, reflecting the government's commitment to supporting the Police Force with modern, reliable, and community-focused infrastructure.





NEWSLETTER

VPF Hosts First Executive Leadership Program in Vanuatu

Thirty senior officers of the Vanuatu Police Force successfully completed a one-week Executive Leadership Program held at Warwick Le Lagon in Port Vila from 13–17 October 2025. It was the first time this program was delivered locally, allowing a larger group of officers to participate without travelling overseas.



The training focused on strengthening leadership capacity across the organisation, in line with priorities under the VPF People's Plan. Participants were guided through real-world policing challenges and key leadership principles to help them carry out their roles more effectively. The Commissioner of Police emphasised that the program provided valuable tools to support officers as they continue to lead their teams within the VPF structure.



Vanuatu Police Force
13 October 2025 10:32 am

The Vanuatu Australia Policing and Justice Program (VAPJP), working alongside the Australian Institute of Police Management and the Australian Federal Police, partnered with VPF to deliver the training. A follow-up session of the same program is scheduled for next month to include senior officers from other provinces.





NEWSLETTER

New Zealand–Funded Restoration Project Boosts Vanuatu’s Leadership Capacity

The official launch of the New Zealand Defence Force Building Restoration Project at VMF Cook Barracks marked a significant step forward in Vanuatu–New Zealand cooperation. Representing the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Director General highlighted the long-standing partnership between the two countries and its role in strengthening peace, resilience, and leadership across the Pacific. The restored facility will become the Vanuatu Leadership Development Training Hub, providing a national centre for training VMF officers and government personnel in service, discipline, and integrity.



The project aims to equip future leaders with the skills needed to address national and regional challenges, including governance, security, and climate resilience. In his remarks, the Director General emphasised that the project represents “a foundation for stronger leadership, resilience, and unity for Vanuatu’s future.” The Government of Vanuatu extends its gratitude to the Government and people of New Zealand, particularly the New Zealand Defence Force, for their continued support through the Māori Partnership.





NEWSLETTER

Shefa Province Marks Milestone with Lokopue Aidpost Opening

On 20 October, the communities of Lokopue Village and the Varsu Area Council on Epi witnessed an important step forward in local health services with the official opening of the new Lokopue School Aidpost. The achievement was made possible through the strong leadership of the Area Administrator and Area Council, with the support of community leaders who worked together to deliver improved health access for the area. The Shefa Health Office also acknowledged the continued support of the Shefa Provincial Government, whose commitment — alongside the leadership of Area Administrators and their councils — plays a key role in strengthening the health system across the province.





NEWSLETTER

Makira–Mataso Area Council Strengthens Leadership Through Good Governance Training

The Makira–Mataso Area Council recently took part in the Good Governance Training held on Emae Island, with a delegation that included village leaders and disability representatives. This training plays a vital role at the area council level by equipping local leaders with the knowledge and skills to improve decision-making, transparency, and accountability in their communities. By fostering stronger leadership and inclusive practices, the program directly benefits the area council and its communities, ensuring more effective governance and better outcomes for all residents.





NEWSLETTER

Torres Local Area Council Launches New Climate-Proof Field Office

The Torres Local Area Council officially launched its new climate-proof field office facility, a key milestone in strengthening local governance and service delivery in the region. The project was implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the Department of Local Authorities, the Torba Provincial Government, and the Torres Local Area Council. The new facility is designed to withstand climate-related challenges, ensuring continuity of services and support to the local communities.



This initiative was made possible with the generous support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the UNDP/VCAP 2 Project, alongside contributions from the Vanuatu Government via the Ministry of Climate Change and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The upgraded field office not only enhances administrative capacity but also reinforces the commitment of the Ministry and its partners to resilient, effective, and community-focused local governance across Vanuatu.





NEWSLETTER

Torres Local Area Council Receives New Fibreglass Boat to Boost Local Service Delivery

The Torres Local Area Council has officially received a new fibreglass boat to strengthen service delivery and improve accessibility across the Torres Islands. The handover marks an important step in enhancing local governance and community support, made possible through a partnership between the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Department of Local Authorities, the Torba Provincial Government, and the Torres Local Area Council. The Government of Vanuatu, through the Ministry of Climate Change, together with funding support from the (GEF) via the UNDP-implemented VCAP II Project, provided the resources for this essential transport asset.



Vanuatu Strengthens Global Partnerships to Advance Affordable and Resilient Housing

Vanuatu has taken a significant step toward improving access to safe, affordable, and climate-resilient housing, with the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) under the Ministry of Internal Affairs participating in the World Bank Technical Deep Dive on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for Affordable Housing in Tokyo, Japan, from 15–19 September 2025. The international workshop brought together global experts, government officials, and urban planners committed to tackling one of the world's most pressing challenges — making quality housing accessible for all.





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Representing Vanuatu were Ms. Devny Toa from DUAP and Mr. Jimmy Pierre from the Department of Lands, who joined specialists from the World Bank Group and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Their involvement reflects Vanuatu's continued efforts to implement its National Housing Policy and ensure that ni-Vanuatu families have access to stronger, safer, and more affordable homes. "This collaboration shows Vanuatu's commitment to making affordable housing a reality for our people," said Ms. Toa, highlighting the value of knowledge gained through global cooperation.

The partnership aims to unlock new opportunities for sustainable urban development by strengthening housing regulations, encouraging private-sector participation, and promoting innovative PPP models tailored to Vanuatu's context. Insights from the Tokyo program will support the Government's work to deliver homes that meet community needs while withstanding the realities of a changing climate, building a more resilient future for households across the nation.





NEWSLETTER

DLA Senior Officials and Heads of Units Strengthen Local Governance at National Meeting



The Department of Local Authorities (DLA) convened a three-day Senior Officials and Heads of Units meeting from 20–23 October 2025 at the MG Cocomo Conference Room in Port Vila, focusing on strengthening local governance through strategic planning, performance management, decentralization support, improved coordination between provincial and national levels, and the promotion of transparency and accountability. The discussions reinforced DLA's commitment to delivering effective, responsive, and transparent local administration across all provinces.

UNDP and MoIA Strengthen Vanuatu's Electoral System with Enhanced ID Printing and Voter Technology

The UNDP Pacific Office's Deputy Resident Representative, Abduvakkos Abdurahmanov, visited Vanuatu to view the newly upgraded ID printing system for citizens — a key component that, along with the voter registration system, will undergo further improvements under the Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project..





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Supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Vanuatu Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, this initiative aims to deliver a more secure, inclusive, and efficient electoral process for all ni-Vanuatu. The upgrade represents a meaningful step forward in strengthening national identification, safeguarding voter integrity, and ensuring that development efforts continue to positively impact families and communities across the country.

Port Vila City Council Announces New Acting Leadership Team

Port Vila City Council (PVCC) has officially handed over the responsibilities of the Town Clerk to Acting Town Clerk Mr. Avio Roberts and Acting Deputy Town Clerk Mrs. Georgina Tari, who will serve in these roles until the appointment of a new permanent Town Clerk. Outgoing Town Clerk Mr. David Hopa encouraged the new acting leaders to carry out their duties with professionalism, independence, and a strong commitment to justice and transparency, upholding the standards and integrity of PVCC.





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The Ministry of Internal Affairs, together with PVCC staff, expressed sincere appreciation to Mr. Hopa for his leadership and dedicated service, and extended best wishes to the newly appointed acting leadership team as they take on their roles.



VMF Completes Joint Training with Australia's 51st Far North Queensland Regiment

Delta Company of the 51st Far North Queensland Regiment (FNQR) successfully completed a three-week joint training program in Vanuatu with 21 officers from the Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF), strengthening defence cooperation under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The intensive sessions equipped VMF officers with key operational skills, including basic navigation, patrol formations, environmental operations, rapid incident response, reporting techniques, and essential soldiering practices. Four Australian Defence Force (ADF) officers also took part, contributing to the comprehensive training experience.



Police Force



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During the closing ceremony on 21 October 2025, the Vanuatu Police Force Commissioner's Office and the Australian Defence Attaché had the honour of officially promoting the four participating ADF officers. The program concluded with the presentation of certificates to all trainees, marking another milestone in the ongoing partnership between Vanuatu and Australia to enhance security capabilities and strengthen professional development within the VMF.

Construction Begins on Malampa Training and Disaster Centre with Chinese Support

CCECC has begun site clearance for the construction of the Malampa Training and Disaster Centre near Aoup Roundabout. The facility will serve as both an evacuation centre during disasters and a training centre in normal times. The President of Malampa Provincial Government officially opened the works, while the Chinese Government is funding the full construction, which CCECC will carry out. Malampa Province expressed its gratitude to China for supporting this important development.





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Consultations Begin on Economic Hubs and Foreshore Developments in Northern Islands

The Department of Local Authorities Planning Unit, together with the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, began consultations on 24 October 2025 across four sites, starting at East Gaua. The activities included discussions on economic hubs, raising awareness on foreshore developments, and mapping the boundaries of these hubs in East Gaua, East Vanualava, Mota Lava, and West Ambae.



VEO Conducts Field Verification in Tanna, Torba, and Santo; Voters Urged to Update Records

The Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO) is currently conducting field verification exercises in Tanna, Torba Province, and rural Santo. Voters who experienced issues in previous elections and are aware of the VEO team visiting their Area Council or village must take the initiative to check and update their name or ID. Failure to do so may result in losing their right to vote, as this is considered their responsibility. The VEO urges all eligible voters to make the effort to meet the team when they visit.





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VEO Sanma Receives Truck to Support Electoral Operations

On 29 October 2025, PEO Mr. Guilain Malessas handed over a truck to the VEO Sanma Provincial Office in Luganville, received by Mr. Henry David in the presence of the Sanma SG and other provincial staff. The vehicle will play a crucial role in strengthening the office's capacity to effectively manage electoral operations, ensuring smooth coordination and accessibility before, during, and after elections throughout the province.



VEO Brings Voter Services to Mota Island Communities to Strengthen Participation



The VEO team is carrying out voter awareness, list verification, transfers, and registration activities on Mota Island, Torba Province, bringing essential electoral services directly to the community level. These efforts ensure that every eligible voter can confirm their details, update records, and understand their voting rights, strengthening the integrity of the electoral process and empowering the community to fully participate in upcoming elections.





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Shefa Provincial Council Holds First Planning Meeting for 2025 to Strengthen Community-Focused Development

The Shefa Provincial Council held its first Provincial Planning Meeting for 2025 from 27–31 October, bringing together Area Administrators, Council members, PTAC, and key partners to strengthen collaboration and ensure community priorities are at the centre of provincial planning. Led by Secretary-General Mr. Lionel Kalwat, the meeting focused on identifying priority needs, addressing existing challenges, and shaping realistic development pathways as Shefa aligns its five-year plan with the NSDP 2030. Mr. Kalwat highlighted the importance of driving meaningful, community-based outcomes as Vanuatu approaches its 50th Independence anniversary, encouraging participants to be creative, proactive, innovative, and strategic in developing policies and implementation plans that are inclusive, sustainable, and beneficial to all Shefa communities.



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