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World Teachers Day 2025



World Teachers Day at Saralana

Prime Minister Jotham Napat apologized on behalf of past governments on October 3rd to more than 400 teachers at Saralana Park on behalf of the Government before delivering his address to mark the World International Teachers Day. The emotional moment brought tears to many teachers who later met him to offer their sincere gratitude for saying “sorry” at an opportune time, as they finally felt heard and recognized after years of trying to get the authorities to listen.

In a significant gesture, Prime Minister Napat spoke directly to the teachers' concerns, while acknowledging their prolonged suffering for almost 20 years. He expressed deep regret for the government's inaction, partly because of a lack of leadership at all levels and proper planning and resourcing at the Teaching Services Commission and the Ministry of Education levels. "We understand that this issue has lingered for far too long, and for that, we are truly sorry. We commit to doing better and ensuring that our educators are treated with the respect and fairness they deserve," he said.

Prior to the Prime Minister's address, Minister for Finance, Johnny Koanapo, provided clarifications and assurances that the government remains committed to sorting out all verified teachers' claims. "We are dedicated to resolving this matter in a fair and transparent manner. Our priority is to ensure that all legitimate claims are addressed, and we will work diligently to achieve this. He made it clear that the funds allocated are available to begin sorting out the remainder of the outstanding claims once the current verification processes are completed.



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UN Joint Steering Committee Meeting



United Nations (UN) and the Vanuatu Government has agreed on the country's 3 years Implementation Plan (CIP) worth US\$ 80 million (approximately Vt 9.5 billion).

Focusing on some of the country's priority sectors, the plan will be implemented starting this year through to 2027.

UN Resident Coordinator for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, Dirk Wagener and Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, George Maniuri signed off on the CIP today after a joint steering committee meeting between the Vanuatu Government and the United Nations.

"The health sector is one of the priority areas covered in this implementation plan, particularly NCD (None-Communicable Disease), a time-bomb affecting a lot of our strong middle-aged population," said Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, George Maniuri.

He added that there will be projects targeting immunisation, and malaria.

DG Maniuri added that other areas comprised in the CIP includes good governance and the electoral system which the UN and been involved with its implementation in the past and will continue to in the future.

The valuation of the programs and activities included in the CIP amounts to US\$ 80 million in which US\$ 40 million has been secured.

According to the UN Resident Coordinator for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, Dirk Wagener said the UNs commitment to Vanuatu is as strong as ever.

"If anything as changed, it (UNs commitment) has only become stronger.

I think Vanuatu is a true leader amongst the Pacific Countries to manage a small initiative started by some students here in Vanuatu jointed by other Pacific students that leads to the historic advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice," said Mr Wagener. He added that the UN have always been supporting Vanuatu in all its endeavours.

The Country Implementation Plan was developed after the UN contacted ground works by consulting with different government ministries earlier this year.

During the consultations the different Ministries identified their priority areas that the UN is able to fund.

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PM VISITS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE



Prime Minister Jotham Napat visited the Attorney General's Office on October 15th, where he received a briefing on the office's roles and responsibilities. He also witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by State Counsels, particularly after their relocation due to the December 2024 earthquake.

The Prime Minister expressed appreciation for the Attorney General, Angeline Glenda Roy, and her staff's commitment and dedication, acknowledging that their work is often underappreciated particular by leaders and officials in government. The emphasis on the need for the Government to support the office with improved conditions and additional staff resources in areas like drafting, litigation, and advisory services were quite obvious to the head of government.

During the visit, the Prime Minister unveiled the office's new logo, marking a significant milestone. The visit highlighted the Government's commitment to supporting its principal advisors in delivering justice and legal services to the people of Vanuatu



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National Adaptive Social Protection Policy and draft VNPf SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures)



Government and partners met on 15 Oct to review the National Adaptive Social Protection Policy and draft VNPf SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) for emergency cash transfers. Participants included DSPPAC, Department of Finance & Treasury, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu, Vanuatu National Provident Fund, banks, telcos, line ministries, INGOs, and development partners. The World Bank designed and delivered the stakeholder consultation and is providing technical support to Government on the ASP agenda. Council of Ministers (COM) has tasked DSPPAC and DOFT to coordinate the policy, while DSPPAC oversees implementation and cross-government coordination - aligning this work with national recovery efforts.

The Vanuatu Government has made strong progress - enacting the NASPP in 2024 after broad consultations across the country. The NASPP directs Government to design an Emergency Cash Transfer program and issue clear SOPs on eligibility, enrolment, payments, grievance, and data protection. VNPf's nationwide network and digital options provide a platform for fast, rules-based payouts during shocks.

The system builds on local experience: cash-assistance pilots by INGOs (i.e. Vanuatu Red Cross Society, Save the Children) and recent emergency responses coordinated by NDMO. It also draws on RBV's Inclusive Green Finance and shock-responsive delivery - supporting mobile wallets and emergency transfers, inclusive savings to help households recover, and multi-purpose cash/livelihood grants to rebuild homes and businesses. Government is now standardizing approaches through the NASPP, regulations and SOPs so public and private actors operate under common rules

Next steps: finalize the VNPf SOPs; set up information systems and triggers; and keep coordination through the National Recovery Committee and the ASP Taskforce so support can scale quickly after disasters. This work links financial inclusion with climate resilience. What this means for Vanuatu: faster, predictable cash to households after cyclones, floods, and earthquakes - helping families recover sooner, strengthening resilience, and ensuring no one is left behind.



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RTI awareness in Torba Province



Mr. Harold Obed - RTI Manager



The Right to Information (RTI) awareness campaign in Torba Province, led by RTI Manager Mr. Harold Obed, aims to empower citizens by educating them about their legal right to access government information. The campaign focuses on increasing transparency, accountability, and public participation in governance processes. Mr. Obed emphasizes that RTI is a vital tool for promoting good governance and combating corruption, encouraging residents to utilize the RTI Act to seek information from government offices. Through community outreach programs, workshops, and informational materials, the initiative seeks to build a more informed and active citizenry in Torba Province, ensuring that everyone understands the importance of RTI and how it can be used effectively for societal development.



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2026 Budget Briefing - PMO



The 2026 budget briefing with the Prime Minister and all department heads within the Prime Minister's Office is a critical preparatory meeting ahead of the upcoming parliamentary sitting. During this session, key budget allocations, financial priorities, and strategic initiatives are reviewed and discussed to ensure alignment with national development goals. Department heads present their financial requirements, justify their proposals, and address any concerns raised by the Prime Minister. The briefing also involves a review of previous fiscal performance, adjustments based on economic forecasts, and the identification of targeted sectors for increased investment. This cohesive planning session aims to facilitate a comprehensive, transparent, and effective budget presentation to Parliament, ensuring resource allocation supports sustainable growth, social welfare, and infrastructural development.

