

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

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TOP NEWS

Senior officials meeting with New Zealand



On September 3rd, 2025 New Zealand High Commission came together with senior officials across Vanuatu government to storian on their partnership: to celebrate achievements and to check that it is working as well as it can. Whether it's our diplomatic and regional partnership here or in the Pacific Islands Forum; our economic and trade partnership or the work we're doing together across the 6 provinces to build a more resilient, prosperous and inclusive Vanuatu.

Our thanks to Directors General and Directors who shared their perspectives, priorities and suggestions across the breadth and depth of our partnership. Through this high-level consultation process we've agreed priority actions to work together on over the next 12 months so that we can continue to deliver for people and communities .

Ki te kotahi te kākaho ka whati, ki te kāpuia e kore e whati - If there is but one reed it will break, but if it is bunched together it will not. This whakatoki (Māori proverb) reminds us that when we stand alone we are vulnerable but together we are unbreakable.

Source: New Zealand High Commission



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Australian Prime Minister visit to Vanuatu



Australian Prime Minister, Hon Anthony Albanese (MP) visit Vanuatu on 9th September, 2025. And had bilateral talks with PM Napat at the Prime Minister's Office based on common interests including the Nakamal Agreement which was not able to be signed.



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Government Moving Ahead with AVOL and AVL Reforms



On September 10th, 2025 Deputy Prime Minister Johnny Koanapo signed contracts for Directors of Air Vanuatu and [Airports Vanuatu Limited](#). The Government is moving ahead with its reformist agenda behind all its State Owned Enterprises (SOE) as stipulated by the new Commercial Government Business Enterprises Act 2024.

The Act, amongst its many goals, seeks to remove politics from interfering with business operations of SOEs - something that has clearly been identified as the cause of the downfall of many SOEs. Minister Koanapo emphasized the importance of the Directors' role in overseeing the management of the two key entities.

The following Directors were present for the contract signing: AVL - Jessie Benjamin (Chair), Jackie Trief, David Warfe, and Romella Bue. AVOL: Paul Pio. Chairman, Captain Robin Deamer is still overseas (PNG) and will sign once the Finance Minister travels to PNG next week.

The Finance Minister urged the Directors to do everything within their powers in order to improve the performances of the two SOEs and the Government through the Commercial Investment Unit (CIU) will be keeping a close watch.

CIU is an entity within Finance. They reveal advertisements for membership of the two boards attracted a lot of interest from applicants wanting to make a difference in the stories of the two bodies, which was encouraging.

The Government fully trusts the boards and has pledged to work closely with them to chart a new chapter - hopefully for the better



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DCDT Director Appointed



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (MR. JOHN JACK AND MR. JAMES MELTERES)

On 11 September 2025, Secretary Mr. James Melteres of the Office of the Public Service Commission officially handed over the appointment letter to Mr. John Jack, confirming his position as the new Director of the Department of Communication and Digital Transformation.

Mr. James Melteres congratulated the newly appointed Director, Mr. John Jack, on his official appointment.

Upon receiving his appointment letter, Mr. Jack expressed his gratitude, saying:

“Thank you for the trust and confidence that you and the Commission have placed in me by appointing me to this position. I am committed to giving back through dedicated public service. I am confident that, by working together, we can ensure that our people receive equitable and efficient services. Together, we will continue to advance our country in the field of information technology and realize the broader vision for digital transformation as presented to the Commission.”

Mr. John Jack has been the Deputy Director of the Department of Communication and Digital Transformation from October to November in the year of 2024 and on December he became the Acting Director that same year. He has more than 20 years of experience in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

As of 11 September 2025 he is now the Director of the Department of Communication and Digital Transformation.



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AFL festival



AFL Vanuatu's AFL Festival brought together players, families and fans for a full day of finals footy, medal presentations, pikinini games, and a live screening of the AFL Grand Final from Australia. Congratulations to all the players for a great season of footy, and to Seaside Mele Girls and Momarte Boys on being AFL Vanuatu Premiers for 2025! Through PacificAus Sports, Australia was proud to support the celebrations.

Acting High Commissioner Emily Fisher joined Director General Georges Maniuri from the Ministry of the Prime Minister - Vanuatu, and First Political Advisor George Amos from the Vanuatu Ministry of Justice and Community Services to present medals and share a few words about how sport brings people together.

To wrap up the day, there was a special screening of the Geelong Cats vs Brisbane Lions AFL Grand Final on the big screen—an epic way to finish a great day of footy.

Source: Australian High Commission

