



**Australian High Commission**  
**Vanuatu**

28 September 2021

## **JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Welcoming RVS *Takuare***

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu, the Honourable Bob Loughman Weibur, and Australia's High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Her Excellency Sarah deZoeten, joined the celebrations in Efate to welcome home Vanuatu's new Guardian-class Patrol Boat RVS *Takuare* and its crew today. The RVS *Takuare* celebration follows the completion of the maiden journey from Australia to Vanuatu.

Delivered under Australia's Pacific Maritime Security Program, RVS *Takuare* is a significant boost to Vanuatu's maritime security and disaster response capability.

Prime Minister Loughman said "this day is another milestone achievement to be credited in the successful bilateral and defence cooperation between the Republic of Vanuatu and Australia".

"On December 4<sup>th</sup> last year, our country graduated from a Least Developed Country into a Developing Country and today's event reflects perfectly the graduation trend"

"I want to personally thank the people and Government of Australia for their continued support in ensuring that our countries develop together. And border and maritime securities are paramount to Vanuatu and our region. The security of Vanuatu is the security of Australia and your security is our security" said the Prime Minister.

H.E. Sarah deZoeten said the arrival of RVS *Takuare* opens an exciting new chapter in Australia and Vanuatu's strong and enduring partnership.

"Australia and Vanuatu have been working together for decades to protect and enhance our regional maritime security. The Pacific Maritime Security Program builds on this rich history and reinforces Australia and Vanuatu's commitment to safeguarding the prosperity and sovereignty of the Blue Pacific for future generations."



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“RVS *Takuare* provides Vanuatu with an enhanced capability to deliver essential services across the archipelago and to protect its borders and precious resources. The new Patrol Boat also provides an important platform to further deepen the cooperation and friendship between our security forces.” H.E. deZoeten said.

RVS *Takuare* complements other initiatives under the Australia-Vanuatu partnership to enhance Vanuatu’s maritime capability, including upgrades to RVS Mala Base wharf, the provision of other additional maritime assets and increased training opportunities for the Maritime Wing of the Vanuatu Police Force.

RVS *Takuare* is the 12<sup>th</sup> vessel delivered under Australia’s Pacific Maritime Security Program, a commitment of approximately VUV 172 billion (AUD 2.1 billion) over thirty years to the Pacific. In addition to delivering 21 Guardian-class Patrol Boats to 12 Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste, the program provides dedicated aerial surveillance to enhance maritime domain awareness and coordination in the region. Ongoing training, advisory support, maintenance and sustainment of the vessels is a hallmark of the program.  
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