



Australian High Commission

Vanuatu

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Joint Media Release

Vanuatu and Australia partner to construct new VPF Central Police Station in Port Vila

PORT VILA, JANUARY 25: The Governments of Vanuatu and Australia today announced a joint commitment to construct a new, fit-for-purpose Vanuatu Police Force (VPF) Central Police Station in Port Vila.

This is the latest initiative in the Vanuatu-Australia policing partnership, which spans over two decades.

The modern police station will be constructed on state land at the George Pompidou site in Port Vila, where Prime Minister of Vanuatu the Honourable Charlot Salwai Tabimasmal led a foundation stone laying ceremony today.

At the ceremony Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Heidi Bootle, said the new Central Police Station was an investment made in partnership by Vanuatu and Australia to ensure the VPF has the resources and facilities it needs to best serve the Vanuatu community.

“Safe communities are strong communities, and Australia and Vanuatu both value accountable, honourable and trusted police forces that keep our people and region safe,”

“Our partnership approach ensures a sustainably and inclusively-designed Central Police Station to meet Vanuatu’s needs now and into the future,” said Australian High Commissioner Bootle.

Port Vila Central Police Station is the headquarters of VPF’s Southern Command and once complete, it will accommodate approximately 165 VPF personnel. The proposed new police station is designed to enable an expanding VPF to meet emerging challenges and continue to deliver the highest standard of professional policing. Local contractors will be engaged in the construction, generating employment opportunities and a boost to the local economy.

The plans will see the Central Police Station house a number of VPF specialist units including General Duties, the Criminal Investigations Division, the Family Protection Unit, the Cybercrime Unit, the Traffic Section, the Forensics Labs, Evidence Storage, and holdings cells.

According to VPF Commissioner Vuriaru Robson Iavro, the new station will future proof the policing needs of the communities it serves better, including by centralising specialist VPF units within the station to allow improved collaboration and sharing of resources.

“This new, modern facility will give the Police a greater flexibility to accommodate current units of the VPF in terms of addressing future crimes.

“As the Police Commissioner I take this opportunity to thank the Vanuatu Government and the Australian Government for their support in this new project to the security of Vanuatu.”



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The modern facilities will include open floor work areas, offices, meeting and interview rooms, short-term holding cells, an armoury, a forensics and digital lab, a basic medical examination room, a public Nakamal and waiting areas. The purpose-built facility will also promote inclusion and access for all through additions such as wheelchair ramps, wider door frames and accessible restrooms.

Government officials, policing and community leaders attended the foundation stone laying ceremony, including Efate Vaturisu Council of Chiefs, Chief Simeon Poilapa.

Following a procurement phase, construction is estimated to run for a 20-month period including initial demolition and ground preparation works. Groundbreaking is expected by the end of 2024 with completion of the project in early 2026.

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