



Australian High Commissioner

Vanuatu

**Laying of foundation stone for Port Vila Central Police Station
Speech delivered by Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, H.E. Ms Heidi Bootle
George Pompidou Area
9:30am, Thursday, 25 January**

Acknowledgements

- Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu, Charlot Salwai Tabimasmass
- Minister of Lands, Hon. Rick Mahe Tchmako
- Commissioner of Police, Vuriaru Robson Iavro
- Commander VMF, Astrophile Mwele
- Chairman of Police Services Commission, John Taleo
- Chairman of the Vaturisu Council of Chiefs, Simeon Poilapa
- Director General Internal Affairs, Leith Veremaito
- VPF executive and all members of the force
- Representatives of civil society
- New Zealand Police and Defence Force advisers
- Australian Federal Police, Australian Defence Force and civilian advisers
- Ladies and gentlemen



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- Gud moning long yumi evriwan
- Tankyu tumas long Gavman blong Vanuatu mo Vanuatu Police Force blong invitem mifala blong markem tugeta impoten day ia blong policing
 - hemi wan bigfala hona blong yumi save join tugeta blong stanemap foundation stone blong niufala Port Vila Central Police Station we bambae hemi stanap long ples ia.
- Tede hemi wan janis blong yumi selebratem gudfala patnasip blong yumi long policing
 - mo luk fowad long wan strong fiuja blong Vanuatu Police Force.
- Hemi ova long twenty yia nao we Australia mo Vanuatu i bin wok tugeta blong sapotem policing sevis long Vanuatu
 - ol value we yumi serem olsem integrity, accountability, resilience, trust mo rispek – hemi stamba blong polising patnasip blong yumi
 - mo tugeta, yumi stap wok tuwod long vision we tufala kaontri blong yumi serem, blong gat wan safe, secure mo prosperous Vanuatu.
- Long las fiu yia we i pas, yumi bin mekem sam gudfala prokres long ol objective blong VPF mo Vanuatu Gavman, olsem:
 - addition blong ova long 380 niufala police recruit we i oli bin joinem fos mo helpem VPF blong inkrisim police presence long ol provins
 - ol infrastructure developmen olsem niufala police station long Epi we yumi bin openem las yia mo ol refurbishment long police post, VANSEC House mo Police Academy long Port Vila



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- mo ol wok we Australian Federal Police i stap mekem side-by-side wetem VPF evri dei blong yumi blong impruvem ol sevis we i stap go long ol community.
- Australia has supported Vanuatu Government and VPF efforts on this project since concerns were first raised about the structural integrity of the Central Station in 2018. This support has included:
 - initial testing on the building which informed the vacation of all officers in 2021
 - infrastructure to support VPF's initiative to decentralise officers to urban posts, such as Freswota and Nambatri,
 - assisting with temporary facilities to ensure continued service delivery over this period
 - and now, the design and construction of a new purpose-built facility.
- The new Port Vila Police Station is designed to meet the needs of the VPF and the community now, and into the future.
- Once complete, the new station will allow the consolidation of the VPF's Southern Command into a secure and appropriately planned site
 - and will assist the VPF to enhance collaboration, sharing of resources, and improve cross functionality.
- To align with VPF growth projections, the new station will have the capacity to house approximately 165 VPF personnel
 - future proofing the policing needs of the Port Vila community.



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- The design is informed by consultations across the VPF, including with female police officers,
 - as well as with community stakeholders such as the Vanuatu Women's Centre and Vanuatu Society for People with Disabilities,
 - to ensure that the new station also promotes inclusion
 - and supports a police force that reflects the diversity of the people it serves.

- Police play an incredibly important role in our community to keep people safe and maintain order
 - community safety is not just about reducing crime,
 - safe communities allow community members to reach their full potential and contribute to society
 - strengthening community safety is about building strong, vibrant, cohesive and participatory communities for all.

- Mi luk fowod blong wok tugeta long completem niufala Port Vila Central Police Station
 - mo continue long wok we yumi stap mekem blong leftemap delivery mo quality blong policing sevis i go long ol man, woman mo ol pikinini blong Vanuatu.

- Tankyu tumas.