



Australian High Commission
Port Vila

Wednesday, 11 May 2022

Media Release

Vanuatu-Australia Parliamentary Relations

Vanuatu and Australia share a long history of interparliamentary relations, built on shared values including parliamentary democracy and good governance. Australian High Commissioner Her Excellency Ms Heidi Bootle and the Honourable Speaker of the Vanuatu Parliament Simeon Seoule discussed the strong partnership between the two national parliaments during the High Commissioner's introductory call on the Speaker last week.

Inter-parliamentary two-way skills exchanges between parliamentarians and parliamentary staff in Vanuatu and Australia have benefited both of our parliaments. Our parliaments, parliamentarians and staff face many common challenges and sharing experiences through dialogue and visits is mutually beneficial.

High Commissioner Bootle presented the Speaker with audiovisual equipment on behalf of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships Fund, which fosters cooperation and support between parliaments in the Pacific Region through parliamentary strengthening. The equipment will improve the technical capabilities of Parliament sittings ahead of the upcoming First Ordinary Session of 2022.



Image: Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Her Excellency Ms Heidi Bootle handing over IT equipment to the Honourable Speaker of the Parliament of Vanuatu, Simeon Seoule.

“Thank you to Australia for considering our need and facilitating this handover. The equipment will be used to improve AV quality and support virtual parliamentary sittings.



**Australian High Commission
Port Vila**

“We look forward to working with the High Commission to strengthen interparliamentary relations between Vanuatu and Australia,” said the Speaker.

High Commissioner Bootle said the partnership is based on a shared commitment to democracy, and a long history of parliamentary exchanges between the two countries.

“I look forward to visits by Australian parliamentary delegations resuming with the reopening of Vanuatu’s international borders,” said the High Commissioner.

Interparliamentary links between Vanuatu and Australia began at Vanuatu’s independence in 1980, when Australia gifted the Speaker’s chair to then Prime Minister Walter Lini and the first Speaker of Parliament Maxime Carlot. The Speaker’s chair was the only piece of furniture from the old Parliament chamber that was moved to the new Parliament House in 1993.

In 1993, the Parliament of Australia gifted the Vanuatu Parliament dispatch boxes and lecterns. To mark Vanuatu’s 40 years of Independence, Australia gifted the Vanuatu Parliament a ballot box – an important symbol of democracy.



Australian High Commission
Port Vila





Australian High Commission
Port Vila



–END–

To know the latest about Australia in Vanuatu please follow us on:

[Web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Ellenson Taurakoto
Public Affairs Unit Manager
Australian High Commission
Email: Ellenson.Taurakoto@dfat.gov.au
Tel: 22777 (extension 129)
Mob: 7360174