

VARs NEWSLETTER

Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources – Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements Project Weekly Newsletter



THE WORLD BANK



DIRECTOR GENERAL WILLIAM NASAK AND MINISTRY OF LANDS OFFICIALS IN INTERNAL CONSULTATION

MINISTRY OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES – PROPOSED ROADMAP ON REVENUE MANAGEMENT & COLLECTION

A NATIONAL VISION FOR FISCAL RESILIENCE

This Draft Roadmap seeks to modernise systems, strengthen institutions, and expand the revenue base, ensuring that fiscal management becomes more efficient, transparent, equitable, and sustainable.

At its core lies a simple but powerful principle: building a revenue system that is modern, fair, and resilient, designed to support national development and stability for generations to come.

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STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Roadmap recognises the urgency of reform. Vanuatu's current revenue systems face challenges of efficiency, compliance, and leakage. The way forward is built on four guiding principles:

- **Efficiency** through streamlined processes and reduced wastage.
- **Transparency** with improved accountability and governance.
- **Equity** by creating fair and inclusive systems that don't leave anyone behind.
- **Sustainability** to ensure fiscal stability into the future.

POLICY & LEGAL REFORMS

Central to the Roadmap is the modernisation of Vanuatu's legal and policy frameworks. Proposed actions include clarifying revenue mandates across institutions, introducing stronger penalties and enforcement measures, and creating conditions for e-governance and digital payments. These changes will provide the backbone for improved compliance and service delivery.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

The Roadmap recommends building capacity and restructure where necessary for greater efficiency. Strengthening the Ministry of Lands will allow for more consistent oversight of collection, monitoring, and compliance. Human resource capacity will also be developed, with staff trained in digital systems and compliance monitoring.

DIGITALISATION & TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT

Technology is at the centre of transformation. Plans include the creation of an integrated digital platform for taxpayer registration, filing, payments, and compliance tracking. Mobile money and electronic payments are also being considered to make compliance easier and more accessible. Real-time data analytics will improve forecasting, monitoring, and fraud detection, ensuring the system remains adaptive and responsive.

REVENUE BASE EXPANSION

Strengthening domestic revenue requires expanding the base. The Roadmap calls for bringing the informal sector into the system through simplified revenue raising regimes, while property taxes will be modernised through updated valuation rolls and digital asset mapping. These steps aim to increase coverage fairly and sustainably.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Reform will not succeed without inclusivity. The Roadmap emphasises ongoing consultation with chiefs, the private sector, civil society, and local communities. Development partners will also play a role by providing financial and technical support. This participatory approach ensures reforms are practical and widely supported.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

The Proposed Way Forward lays a solid foundation for a modern, efficient, and sustainable revenue system. Its success will depend on strong political will, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and robust monitoring mechanisms. By prioritising digital transformation, institutional reforms, and revenue base expansion, the Roadmap represents a decisive step toward fiscal resilience.

FEEDBACK & CONTRIBUTIONS:

We want your input!

Send your updates, suggestions, or stories to de@vars.vu by Thursday 3 PM for inclusion in next week's issue.