

VARs NEWSLETTER

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



THE WORLD BANK



Hon. Minister Mahe flanked by World Bank officials, MOLNR Senior Executives and VARs TAs

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND PLANNING

The Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources (MoLNR) is driving reforms with support from VARs and US\$16 million World Bank financing. Key actions include revenue compliance reforms, a Land Bank integration process, and preparation of a 10-Year Masterplan (2026–2036) targeting full digitisation of land records, secure household tenure, and major revenue growth.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The Land Management Information System (LMIS) is moving land administration online. Early impacts include an 18.9% rise in invoices and a 5% increase in revenue (≈ VT 9.7 million). Next steps: public title search portal, GIS mapping, and national ID integration. Ni-Vanuatu will soon be able to search, lodge, and track leases digitally.

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Upgrades in Port Vila's settlements (Seaside, Tokyo, Ohlen-Mataso, Anamburu) have removed 550 tons of waste, installed 100+ trash racks, and improved drainage, footpaths, and ramps. Planned installation of 90 pathway and 50 street lights will boost safety. Community Liaison Committees ensure ownership and sustainability, with women and chiefs leading.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MoLNR supported Vanuatu's first National Housing Policy (2025–2035) focusing on land access, affordable rentals, financing, and informal settlement upgrading. The Etas Gardens Subdivision is underway, offering hazard-resilient, serviced plots, guided by community consultation and environmental safeguards.

FISCAL RESILIENCE AND GOVERNANCE

A Revenue Management Roadmap aims to strengthen compliance and broaden the tax base. Priorities include modern land laws, e-invoicing, online payments, updated valuation rolls, and fairer revenue systems, developed through participatory engagement with chiefs, private sector, and civil society.

CONCLUSION

With VARS backing, MoLNR is transitioning from fragmented systems to modern, digitised, and community-driven governance. The 10-Year Masterplan (2026–2036) will embed these gains, aligning with Vanuatu 2030 – The People's Plan, to deliver secure land rights, resilient communities, and sustainable growth.



INFORMAL SETTLEMENT RUBBISH REMOVAL

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.