

VARs NEWSLETTER

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



THE WORLD BANK



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MAJOR MILESTONE ACHIEVED: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION APPROVES KEY RESTRUCTURES

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, with support from the Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements (VARs) Project and the Project Management Unit (PMU), is pleased to announce the successful approval of four key organisational restructures by the Public Service Commission.

This represents a major milestone in the Ministry's reform agenda, reflecting strong collaboration between Government, Ministry leadership, and technical advisors over the past six months.

DRIVING MEANINGFUL REFORM ACROSS THE MINISTRY

The approved restructures form a critical component of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources Reform Master Plan, providing the institutional foundation required to deliver improved services and stronger governance.

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Key reforms include:

- **Restructure of the Department of Lands:** This is the most significant reform and sits at the core of the Ministry's mandate. The restructuring strengthens the Department's capacity to manage land administration, improve service delivery, and support critical initiatives such as land allocation, registration, and revenue generation. It positions the Department to play a central role in achieving sustainable land management outcomes across Vanuatu.
- **Restructure of the Corporate Services Unit:** This reform enhances the Ministry's internal systems, including financial management, human resources, and administrative support. Strengthening corporate services is essential to ensuring that all technical departments are effectively supported and that the Ministry operates efficiently and transparently.
- **Strengthening of the Water Sector:** The Ministry has now split the Department of Water into two distinct entities, reflecting the increasing importance and complexity of water resource management and service delivery. This change enables greater focus, accountability, and operational effectiveness.
- **Additional structural improvements:** Further adjustments across the Ministry ensure improved alignment of functions, clearer reporting lines, and enhanced coordination across departments.

A FOUNDATION BUILT OVER SIX MONTHS

These achievements are the result of six months of intensive organisational development work, undertaken in close collaboration with the Ministry and supported by technical expertise.

The reforms:

- Strengthen institutional structures
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Improve coordination across departments
- Lay the groundwork for sustainable service delivery

This milestone demonstrates that reform is not only being planned—but actively implemented.

RECOGNISING COLLECTIVE EFFORT

This achievement reflects the commitment and collaboration of:

- The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
- The Public Service Commission
- Technical advisors supporting organisational development
- The VARS Project Management Unit (PMU)

The collective effort across all stakeholders has been instrumental in delivering this outcome.

LOOKING AHEAD: FROM APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENTATION

While the approval of these restructures is a significant achievement, it also marks the beginning of the next phase.

The focus now shifts to:

- Implementing the new structures
- Aligning budgets and resources
- Embedding systems and processes
- Delivering tangible improvements in service delivery

The Ministry is now well-positioned to translate these reforms into real and lasting benefits for the people of Vanuatu.

A MOMENT TO CELEBRATE

The approval of these restructures is a clear demonstration of progress and momentum within the Ministry.

It reflects:

- Strong leadership
- Effective collaboration
- A shared commitment to reform

This is an important achievement—and one that sets the foundation for continued transformation.

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.