



Customs and Inland Revenue Department  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Management  
**NEWSLETTER**  
*Issue 8: April 2021*

**CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUE OATHS SIGNING**

The Oath Signing Ceremony and Training continued again this Month for both Customs and Inland Revenue Division in Vila and Santo.

Finally, all Trainings for the Oath of Office, Maintaining Confidentiality and avoiding conflict of Interest has been conducted for DCIR Officers with the expectation that everyone now have a good knowledge of the new rules and responsibilities as a DCIR Officer. Despite the challenges and the dragging and delaying of Oath Training we managed to tick a box under the Tax Administration Act.

Here are some of the photo shots taken during the Oath signing for Customs Division in Vila and Santo.

**Customs Revenue , Post Clearance Audit and Investigation.**



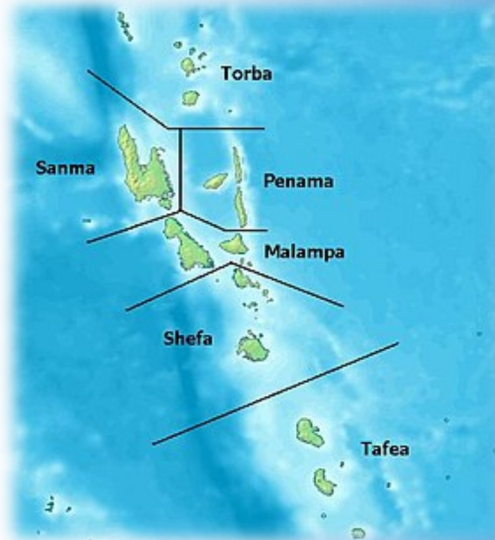
**Customs Border –Airport Team**



**Customs and Inland Revenue Santo Oaths Training**



**INLAND REVENUE AUDIT MANAGEMNET TOUR**



The Inland Revenue Audit Management did its First Management visit to Santo on 5-8 April and Malampa on 8-9 April 2021 purposely to discuss how they can work together to strengthen the Audit Function in the Provincial to address the risk of revenue loss.

As stated by Inland Revenue Audit Manager, the overall business knowledge of Taxation in Santo and Malampa continues to improve. Both Santo and Malampa Officers have worked tirelessly hard with their compliance initiatives to ensure voluntary compliance is maintained and improved.

The Management visit was successfully thanks to the Santo team and Officer Michael Huru for hosting, Corporate services for the logistics and arrangement and Executive for the approval .

The Management looks forward to work with the provinces for the outreach programs with support of Vila Audit Team.

**INLAND REVENUE AUDIT TOUR TO SANTO**



On March 2021 the Inland Revenue Audit did their First Outer Island Tour to Santo purposely to implement Customs and Inland Revenue Business Plan and to operate an effective VAT collection and service, to maximise compliance in accordance to VAT Legislation and Tax Administration Act, and also VAT Office presence and existence in Vanuatu main business centre and outer Islands.

The Audit team comprise of Team Leader Aloma Borugu, Senior Auditor Brian Vukeala, Senior Auditor Esau Garae and Senior Auditor Litiana Chillia.

A total of 23 compliance checks was conducted. Despite challenges and issues arise, the overall tour outcome was good. The team did some recommendations to address the issues arise during their visit, and look forward to another audit tour.

**AIS DATA AND MARITIME INTELLIGENCE**

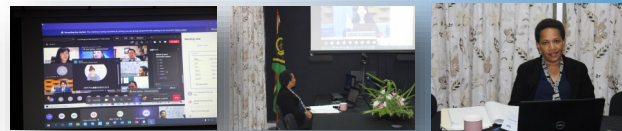


The AIS Data and Maritime Intelligence Training was conducted by the HIS Markit, a AIS data service provider to address efficiency of Vanuatu Government control over all the VU flagged vessels regardless of gear i.e. fishing vessels or cargo vessels in the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry which means the ability to track their whereabouts all over the world.

The Training was also to address the obligation the Government has under the existing legislation as a coastal state and sovereign nation to effectively monitor and track every foreign vessels entering and exiting the Vanuatu EEZ and Territorial seas whether in transit or port call.

A total of 25 Officers from different Border Line Agency; Office of Maritime Regulator, Customs, Vanuatu Police Maritime Wing, Immigration, Ports and Harbour, and Vanuatu Fisheries Department.

**ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT**



Congratulation to Deputy Director Customs for receiving the Certificate of attendance for the World Customs Organization Asia-Pacific Regional Online Workshop on the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement held on the 19th –21st of April 2021 on Microsoft TEAMS platform hosted by ROCB Asia –Pacific.

The Three (3) day workshop was very fruitful for the participants and observers covering the following topics within the time frame

**1.Trade Facilitation Agreement and Mercator Programme**

- ⇒ Introduction of the WCO and of the ROCB on latest developments in the WCO, and ROCB A/P regional capacity building activities
- ⇒ Updates from WTO on latest developments on WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)
- ⇒ Mercator Programme Developments on latest tools and hoc assistance

**2. Developments During COVID 19**

- ⇒ Measure to facilitate goods during the pandemic
- ⇒ Roles of Technologies
- ⇒ Cooperation with the Private Sector, Board Management , and National Committees on NCTFs

**3. Monitoring Implementation and areas requiring further support**

- ⇒ Monitoring implementation on Mercator Maturity Model, and WCO Time Release Study

As stated by Mr Norikazi Kuramoto in his remarks, this workshops will help Customs Organization to take a step forward and build collaboration with each other to out beat this pandemic crisis.

**2021 INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY**

The International Labour Day is most commonly associated as a commemoration of the achievements of the labour movement. The Department of Labour and Employment Services took lead to organise and International Labour Day in Vanuatu celebration to commemorate the struggle and achievements of our workers on the 30th of April 2021 at Sea Front of Port Vila starting with a Parade in the morning led by Honourable Deputy Prime Minister at the same time Minister responsible for Labour and Employment Services, and followed by other Government agencies and Private Sectors.

The Current COVID 19 pandemic crisis has had an adverse impact on Vanuatu's economic sectors and the Government is considering measures to alleviate the impact especially on the private sector by celebrating this year Labour Day with the Theme *"A Safe Business Operation"*.

The Customs and Inland Revenue Executive team would like to acknowledge those who participate in the Labour Day Parade and the activities .

**Labour Day Official Ceremony at Seafront**



**Labour Day Official Parade**



**Labour Day Booths Showcase**



**OCEANIA CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION REMITTANCE**



In line with the Oceania Customs Organization work plan 2020-2021 , OCO has put out an expression of interest (EOI) to members who wish to seek assistance with purchase of identified communication equipment and connectivity needs to enable and strengthen the members participation in activities rendered through online training. The aid aimed to support mainly small island members who has a need to develop their capabilities but is unable to progress due to certain constraints.

The Department of Customs and Inland Revenue wish to acknowledge the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) and its Officers for the support and responds to our request in providing the assistance in funding the connectivity needs for Vanuatu Customs and Inland Revenue. We trust and believe that the supplied ICT equipment will help to improve Customs and Inland Revenue connectivity needs for online and virtual trainings and meetings.

If you have any news regards to Customs and Inland Revenue that you want to share please send your news to the address below.

**Customs and Inland Revenue Department**  
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