



Customs and Inland Revenue Department
Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
NEWSLETTER

Issue: February 2021

SY BOLD OPERATION



The SY BOLD Operation was successfully conducted by the responsible authorities . The Vessel was penalised for breaching some of the Acts and NDMO SOE Protocols. Once again, Our Border Team has handle the situation with professionalism of great responsibility and team work to protect our borders.

PORT VILA TEAM AT THE AIRPORT READY TO DEPLOY



GROUND OPERATIONAL TEAM



**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT
REVENUE FORUM WITH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

On Wednesday 10th of February 2021, The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management held a Revenue Forum with the Council of Ministers at Convention Centre. The Forum was held purposely for a brief in Revenue Collection and the Economic outlook of Vanuatu.

Honourable Prime Ministers and Deputy Prime Minister with all State Ministers were invited to attend this Forum with their Political Advisors, Direct Generals and Directors to have a insight of the revenue collection and challenges and ways to move forward to improve Governments Revenue.

The Customs and Inland Revenue Department and the Department of Finance and Treasury both covered VAT, Import Duties, Excise Tax, Exemptions and Export Levy and other considerations requested by the Honourable Minister Mr Johnny Koanapo on their Presentations.

Concerns and comments were shared in relation to Revenue collection to Customs and Inland Revenue since it is the heart beat of Vanuatu generating Revenue for the Country. The Executive teams took notes and look forward to its next seating with the Council of Ministers to present ways we can improve our Revenue collection with the help of todays Government.



**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT
FIRST EXECUTIVE MEETING 2021**

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management Executives held its First 2021 Executive Meeting on Friday 19th February at Pele Island.

On Friday Morning, the Executive team travel to Pele Island by boat to the shores of Peleura Village for the Executive Meeting. Upon Arrival, Executives were informed of passing away of Chief John Masere late Mother few days ago. The Director General and MFEM Executives visited Chief Masere to pay respect to Chief Masere family before commencing with the meeting.

The Three Department under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management present their Challenges and issues on operations and HRM updates that will be addressed this year 2021.

The Executive team are working together with Director General's Office to ensure the issues raised are address to ensure 2021 Revenue Target and Priorities are achieved.

IMPROVING COMPLIANCE IN THE LARGE TAXPAYER SEGMENT REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The Pacific Islands Tax Administration Association (PITAA) in collaboration with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) has offered online sessions based on improving compliance in the Large Taxpayer Segment facilitated by Georg Eysselein and Koni Ravono for the Pacific Member Countries.

The Inland Revenue Return and Debt Team Leaders; George Brechtfeld, Issen Tari and Andrew Norwo attended the Workshop with the Inland Audit Team Leader Aloma Borugu and Auditor Robyn Takiau. The compliance in Large Taxpayer Services session started on the 24 February 2021 and ended on 3rd March 2021 covering 14 Sessions altogether.

The sessions has been very informative covering the importance of large taxpayers in reprioritizing revenue collections, applying compliance models in the large taxpayer environment and the key features of an effective large taxpayer compliance strategy.

Above all, the training was successful conducted and the Inland Revenue team looks forward to apply these knowledge gain in their work operations.



OCEANIA CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION ONLINE TRAINING COURSE WITH THE CENTRE FOR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

The Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) has offered online studies for Certificate III and Certificate IV in Regional Customs Administration for Valuation, Enforcement and compliance Management, Ethics and Governance , Risk Management, Cargo and Travellers, and Tariff.

The OCO professional standard framework is to provide the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies for regional customs staff to effectively perform their duties.

These online courses are divided into two streams Revenue and Enforcement. For each stream only 2-4 participants from each Customs Administration will be recommended by OCO from the list of Applications submitted to OCO Administration.

The First online course offered is Ethics and Governance Certificate III, and Vanuatu Customs is so fortunate that nine applicants were nominated for both stream five for Revenue stream (Queni Kenneth, Ann Warsal, Samuel Ben, Kalory Sope, Julieth Jacob) and 4 for Enforcement stream (Aquila Kency, Barry Narwayeng, Sandy Stephen, Roger Shem).

As a competency requirement, the Recommended Customs Officers must complete the six core subjects and complete two Electives subjects and comply to all the requirements of the online studies to be graded as competent and awarded the certificate III.

DCIR looks forward to the completion of these online studies for the recommended applicants and Officers who are attending these online courses.

2021 ONLINE COURSE (OCO-CCES)

COURSE TIMETABLE

Month	Week Beg	Revenue Stream	Enforcement Stream
February	15	Ethics and Governance III	Risk Management III (Catch-up for both streams)
	22		
March	1		Ethics and Governance III
	8		
	15		
	22		
April	29	Enforcement and Compliance III	Enforcement and Compliance III
	5		
	12		
	19		
May	26		
	3		
	10	Tariff III	
	17		
June	24		Tariff III
	31		
	7		
	14		
July	21	Valuation III	Valuation III
	28		
	5		
	12		
August	19		
	26		
	2	Legislation III	
	9		
Sept	16		Legislation III
	23		
	30		
	6	Elective: International Trade Transactions III	
Oct	13		Elective: Cargo and Travelers: Processes and Procedures III
	20		
	27		
	4		
Nov	11		Elective: Trade Facilitation III
	18		
	25		
	1		
	8		Elective: Maritime Enforcement III (proposed)
	15		
	22		
	29		

CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVNEUE NEW APOINMENTS

The Department of Customs and Inland Revenue has held an Official gathering on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at DCIR Headquarters to hand over the Offer letters and Appointment letters and to congratulate and warmly welcome the New Appointments and Direct Appointments for the following Officers on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at DCIR Headquarters.

	Name	New Appointment Post Title
1	Tony George	Customs Border Principal Officer
2	Samuel Ben	Documentary Officer –AIR
3	Solomon Boe	Senior ICT Officer
4	Bronson Wells	Network and Support Officer
5	Yano Maltock	Senior Finance and Corporate Officer
6	Alvina Chilia	Senior Corporate and HR Officer
7	Kency Bulu	Customs Auditor
8	Madeleine Ian	Taxpayer Services Officer
9	Mayleen Bani	Taxpayer Services Officer
10	Eren Mansop	Taxpayer Services Officer
11	Samuel Karae	Taxpayer Services Officer
12	Kalfau Maliu	Customs Revenue Officer –Santo

The handing over was officiated by the Acting Deputy Director Customs Mr Jerry Toran and Corporate Services Manager Mr Kalo Paul on behalf of Directors Office witnessed by the Corporate team and the section Managers' and Principal Officers who attend the ceremony.

Most of the Direct Appointments are for Contract Officers who have been in contract basis for a couple of years. Finally they have secured permanent positions within DCIR for the loyal assistance and effort for the years they have been working in DCIR.

As stated by ADDC Mr Toran, these appointments comes with great responsibilities and challenges so do not take anything for granted. Perform to your best ability and produce results expected. The Executive team looks forward to working with the new appointments and see what they can bring to the table to carry out and achieve DCIR goals and priorities.



WE CARE ASSOCIATION MEDICAL CHECK UP

The We Care Association has organised a two day Medical Check up with the Vila Central Hospital team for the Customs and Inland Revenue from 8am –5pm at Taxpayer services Section on the Tuesday 16th February and at Customs Wharf Conference room on Wednesday 17th of February.

A number of DCIR Officers and other Officers from Ports and Harbour have attended the Medical Check up and volunteered to donate blood to save a life.

The Vila central Hospital acknowledge DCIR We care Association for assisting them to organise this activity and making it a successful one especially with the assistance of blood donors. The We Care Association President Officer Johnson Bakeo the team Members appreciate all the Officers who took a time off from their busy schedule to attend this activity and donate blood.

