



Customs & Inland Revenue Department Ministry of Finance & Economic Management **NEWSLETTER**

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY AND BORDER SECURITY DAY

“Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a Sustainable Supply Chain”



Once again the Customs and Inland Revenue Department in collaboration with the Border Security Agencies come together, united in celebrating the International Customs Day and Border Security Day on the 26th of January 2021 at Sea Front park.

The International Customs Day and Border Security Day was dedicated to the united efforts of Customs and Border Security agencies for emerging from the Corona Virus crisis and support people and businesses by strengthening the global chain, reinforcing collaboration, harnessing technology and putting people at the centre of the Transformation process with the slogan *“Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a Sustainable Supply Chain”*.

As stated by Honourable Ministers of Finance and Economic Management Mr Johnny Koanapo Rasou, COVID19 situation has pushed Countries to become more responsible for their safety and security adopting strict controls and measures at the borders to defend against corona virus. Therefore, Customs and other border agencies are carrying out this strict controls and measures to ensure Vanuatu is COVID Free!.

Gratitude of hard work and services was also addressed to the Biosecurity together with NDMO team for reducing the number of Rhinoceros Beetles in Efate, and also to Health Department and Customs for addressing and disposing Tin Fish that has worms.

The Minister also made an appeal to the chiefs to work together with the respectful authorities to report any illegal entry of yachts or ships on our shores - concluding with a message to the public and our leaders to work together to protect our country Vanuatu from illegal threats to our environment and our people.

The World Customs Organization Secretary General Dr. Kunio Mikuriya also shared in his message that Customs will be moving to construction in the wake of COVID 19. Members will be invited to embrace digital transformation at the borders, use of innovative technologies, and the adoption of collaborative approaches with all stakeholders along the supply chain. And customs being uniquely positioned and mandated at borders can contribute to a sustainable supply chain in the following ways:

- Reinforcing collaboration to drive the Recovery process.
- Embracing advanced technologies to enable Renewal rather than return to how things were before
- Putting people in the centre of change for a Resilient and sustainable supply chain

And that WCO will continue to provide guidance, help to share best practices and information and deliver capacity building and technical assistance support to members to achieve these goals.

The Customs International day and Border Security Day started off with a Parade from Moorings to Sea Front Stage followed by an Official Ceremony to open the activities of the Day and ended with Showcases from Border Security agencies and Customs Border Team. The day was a success despite the wet weather.

The Customs International Day and Border Security Day Committee and Executives appreciates all the participants especially the Custom Brokers, the small business groups such as string band, Taxi Association, Handy Craft Mamas, and the border security agencies for their participation in the day and look forward to 2022 International Customs and Border Security Day In collaboration with the Tax Week.

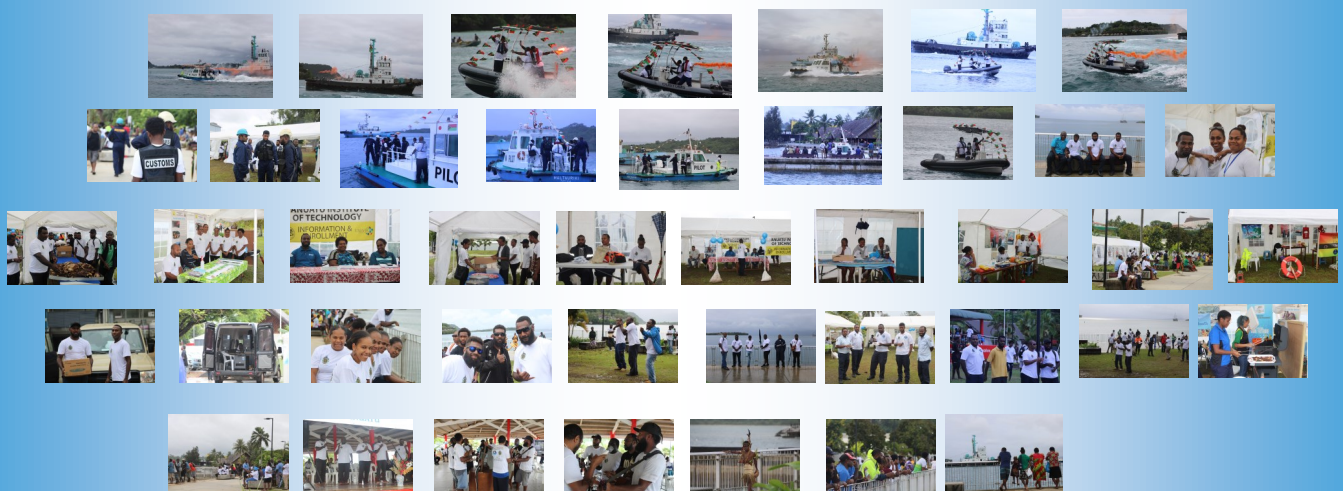
Parade: Moorings to Sea Front Stage



Official Ceremony: Sea Front



Showcase and Entertainment





CUSTOMS & INLAND REVENUE STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025 LAUNCHING

On the 19th of January 2021, the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue has launch its 2021 –2025 Strategic Plan at Grand Hotel Conference by the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Management First Political Advisor on behalf of Honourable Minister Johnny Koanapo Rasou.

The strategic plan is offering a renewed vision for DCIR as a capable and committed customs and revenue administration for a modern Vanuatu. It aligns to the clear expectations, expressed in the People's Plan for 2030, that will build a stable, sustainable and prosperous Vanuatu. As stated by DCIR Director Mr Harold Tarosa, the New DCIR Vision reflects DCIR desire for a determined pursuit of Knowledge and skills and the continued harnessing of modern processes and information technology which will provide platform for future revenue generation. They are the building blocks by which DCIR will be responsive to government and business expectations and to the people we serve.

The Department of Customs and Inland Revenue five year plan outlines the DCIR needs and ways forward through the pursuit of six strategic priorities that are consistent with DCIR mission as a department which is "For the good of Vanuatu, Collect revenue, protect our borders and facilitate legitimate trade. As stated by the Honourable Minister's forward message, the new strategic plan for DCIR is an important step towards strong governance for our tax system. It outlines new strategies and performance indicators for the DCIR that enhance the capacity of the Department and the accountability of its officials.

A hard copy of the DCIR Strategic Plan 2021-2025 can be collected at DCIR Headquarters or click here to view the scan copy: [K:\DCIR Strategic Plan 2021-2025.pdf](#)



2021 BUSINESS PLAN RETREAT



On the 19th –21st January 2021, the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue has held a three day conference for the 2021 Business Plan , Budget and Management Meeting at Grand Hotel Conference room.

The Meetings were officiated by the Executive and Management Team from North to South to discuss the 2021 work plans , budget and also ways we can move forward in tackling DCIR 2021 revenue target.

Business Plans for 2021 were presented by each responsible cost centre Managers and Principal Officers to the Executive team in relation to their 2021 Budget and Targets and also the new DCIR strategic plan 2021-2025 launched on the very first day of the Business Plan Retreat.

A 2021 Business Plan Report has been compiled by the Corporate Services Unit Team. Once finalised a copy will be made available to Officers and Public.

DCIR STAFF MEETING

Customs and Inland Revenue Department has held its First 2021 Staff Meeting at Moorings Conference on the 22nd of January 2021.

The Meeting was officiated by the Executives especially to introduce the new DCIR Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and give updates on the Customs International and Border Security Day preparations and program. And most importantly to announce the 2021 Revenue Target DCIR is expected to collect.

As mentioned by Director Harold Tarosa, DCIR has faced a lot of challenges in 2020, particularly from the global COVID 19 pandemic and Tropical Cyclone Harold that really affects our collection. But this year 2021 we will have to work hard together to collect the 2021 Revenue Target of 17 billion Vatu and also the last year “*koan* ” *since it is expected of us.*



HUMANITARIANT GESTURE

Once again our National Disaster Management Office, Customs and Port Authorities has received gratitude from SY Sirius for their Humanitarian gesture (as stated by Mike and Jules aboard catamaran Sirius in their message) in allowing them to make a “no-contact” stopover at Port Vila during this very difficult time in history as the world struggles with the Covid Pandemic.

Credit goes to the Sea Port Task Force Team for carrying out their responsibilities professionally.

Mike and Jules are acutely aware of the dangers that Pacific Island nations face in trying to keep Covid out and recognize that it would have been far easier to refuse them entry and are therefore most grateful that, even with the risks involved, we found it in our hearts to allow them a short “no contact” stop to undertake sufficient repairs to enable them to continue on their journey to



WCO-JICA Sub Regional Master Trainer Program

The WCO has been enhancing its support for the Small Island Economies (SIEs). As part of this effort, the WCO, in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan Customs, organized a “WCO/JICA Joint Sub-regional MTP Preparatory meeting for the Pacific Islands” on 26 January 2021. The meeting took place virtually with the participation of six Customs administrations in the Pacific, namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, as well as the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) Secretariat.

With a view to stepping up its support to the SIEs, the WCO agreed with JICA, one of the active donors in the region, to seek a possibility to support Customs modernization in the Pacific through the “Master Trainer Program (MTP)”, the flagship program of the WCO/JICA Joint Project. The MTP is aimed at developing sustainable training capacity in the Pacific by 1) developing a pool of well-experienced trainers and (2) developing regionally featured training materials and programs to be used by these trainers. Upon completion of the MTP, successful alumni are expected to become a regional asset and contribute to the sustainable economic development of the Pacific islands through Customs modernization.

Following the successful organization of the “WCO/JICA Joint Sub-regional MTP Introductory Webinar” which took place in August 2020, and during which the Customs administrations in the Pacific agreed to take collaborative actions to launch the MTP, the “MTP Preparatory Meeting” was organized to discuss the latest capacity building needs in the Pacific and to identify the priority topics to be covered by the program. As a result of the active exchange of views and ideas, the Customs in the Pacific Islands identified revenue related topics, such as Customs valuation and HS classification, as priority topics to launch MTP in the Pacific Islands.

Both the WCO and JICA welcomed the active sharing of views and ideas during the meeting and agreed to continue their collaborative work to launch the MTP to ensure more sustainable capacity development in the Pacific Islands.



(The Session was attended by Deputy Director Customs Mrs Jessica Tarivonda and Principal Officer Mrs Rose Donald)