

# IT Vendors Join the Conversation on Vanuatu's Digital Tax Future

On June 30th, the Vanuatu Sales Monitoring System (VSMS) project took another important step forward with a dedicated awareness session for local IT vendors held at the VSMS Project Office in Port Vila. The event brought together key representatives from Vanuatu's tech supply sector, including Stanly Import, Computer World, Sharper Image, and Spim, in a joint discussion about the future of fiscal compliance and digital commerce.



Led by Data Tech International (DTI), technical partner to the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue (DCIR), the session provided a first-hand look at the upcoming requirements for e-invoicing and digital fiscal reporting under the national rollout of VSMS.

At the heart of the presentation was a clear message: vendors of IT and point-of-sale equipment will play an important role in supporting businesses across the country as they shift from manual methods toward real-time tax compliance and digital receipts.

The discussion was lively and productive, with vendors raising key questions, offering insights, and acknowledging the real business potential the new system brings. From streamlining day-to-day sales operations to reducing manual reporting, VSMS offers an opportunity to transform how retail operates in Vanuatu, particularly in terms of transparency, accountability, and trust between customers, vendors, and tax authorities.

Importantly, participants welcomed the initiative, seeing it not as a burden but as a positive step that will upgrade business processes and strengthen the foundations of fair competition in the local market.

As Vanuatu prepares for the next phases of the VSMS implementation, this engagement signals a strong start. The path to better compliance and smarter sales starts with dialogue, and this week, that dialogue took root with the very people who will help power the change.

## A Reminder of Fiscal Receipts Importance

The awareness session builds on the momentum of Vanuatu's broader transition to fiscal transparency and inclusive economic governance. The Vanuatu Sales Monitoring System (VSMS) goes beyond a technical reform, it is a public commitment powered by clear fiscal receipts, real-time reporting, and a shared sense of fairness. Following the 2023 VAT Monitoring Exercise, where over 500 students monitored 300 retail shops and contributed to a record-breaking VT2 billion in tax revenue for December alone, it became obvious: when tax compliance is visible and fair, everyone wins. But the same exercise also exposed the ongoing challenges of voluntary compliance and tax evasion, issues that limit public trust and restrict essential services.

VSMS directly addresses these gaps. Through introduction of certified e-invoices, automatic reporting, and clear verification mechanisms, the system makes honest business the standard, not the exception. It rewards integrity, levels the playing field, and empowers customers with visibility into how much VAT is collected and where it's going.

Across over 80 islands and communities, VSMS is being rolled out with local realities in mind. Even in areas with weak connectivity, mobile access and phased implementation will make digital receipts accessible to all. Meanwhile, vendors and technology providers are being called on to be part of this transformation to become accredited, support local businesses, and help build a smarter, more transparent Vanuatu.