MALAMPA
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

BUILDIING A BETTER CONNECTED MALAMPA

MALAMPA
PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026 | ISSUE 02 | *"Our Province, Our Stories, Our Progress"*

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MALEKULA STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTE TO VANUATU–CHINA TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

The Department of External Trade (DoET), together with the Bilateral Trade in Goods and Trade in Services Technical Working Group, conducted a five-day stakeholder consultation on the proposed Vanuatu–China Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) in Malekula from 13 to 17 July 2026.

The consultation brought together representatives from government agencies, the Malampa Provincial Government, Area Administrations, private sector, producers, exporters, farmers,

community leaders, women, youth and other stakeholders across Malekula.

The programme included public awareness sessions, community consultations and visits to local businesses and producers. Consultations were held with communities in Vinmavis, Lingarak, Hatbol, Potindir, Lounie, Barik, Atchin, Barvet and VAO, providing communities with an opportunity to learn about the proposed agreement and share their views on potential export opportunities.

Stakeholders generally welcomed the proposed agreement and recognized its potential to create greater market access, investment opportunities, technology transfer, tourism growth and economic opportunities for Vanuatu and Malampa Province.

However, stakeholders also highlighted several challenges that need to be addressed to enable local producers to benefit from increased international trade. These included limited production capacity, poor feeder roads, inadequate processing and storage facilities, high production and transport costs, unreliable energy supply and limited export capacity.

Local producers also identified a number of products with potential for future export markets, including cocoa, coconut products, honey, cassava products, watermelon, avocado, kumala, river prawns, tilapia and Vanuatu Water.

A key recommendation from the consultation was the need to strengthen value addition and local processing, including improved cocoa drying facilities, pack houses and the possible establishment of a cocoa milling facility in Malekula. Stakeholders also called for stronger technical support, capacity building and practical cooperation to help local businesses meet international market requirements.

The consultation further highlighted the importance of joint ventures between foreign investors, local businesses and customary landowners, as well as stronger youth participation in agriculture and agribusiness, particularly in the cocoa and coconut sectors.

The Department of External Trade acknowledged the support of the Malampa Provincial Government, particularly Secretary General Mr. Victor Rory, Assistant Secretary General Ms. Flaviana Rory, Industry Officer Mr. Amson Tari, Area Administrations, communities, producers, businesses and other stakeholders who contributed to the successful consultation.

The feedback gathered from Malekula will contribute to the development of Vanuatu's negotiating positions and help ensure that the proposed Vanuatu–China Bilateral Trade Agreement reflects the interests and priorities of local communities, businesses and producers.

"The consultation provided an important opportunity for the people of Malekula to have their voices heard and to identify the support needed to ensure that future trade opportunities translate into real benefits for local communities and the province."



Revenue and Accounts Refresher Training Strengthens Financial Capacity in Malampa

On 12 August 2026, the Department of Finance and Treasury (DOFT) Revenue and Accounts Team conducted a refresher training for cashiers and finance officers from line departments in Malampa Province.

The training was held at the Western Union Conference Room in Lakatoro, Malekula, and focused on strengthening participants' knowledge and capacity in revenue and accounts management.

The refresher training provided an important opportunity for finance personnel to enhance their understanding of financial procedures, strengthen accountability and improve the effective management of government revenue and financial transactions.

The initiative demonstrates the importance of ongoing capacity building for finance and revenue officers and supports stronger financial management practices across government departments in Malampa Province.

BRINGING ELECTORAL SERVICES CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITIES



The Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO) Provincial Office, in partnership with the Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM) Office in Lakatoro, has continued its outreach efforts to bring essential electoral and civil registration services closer to communities across Malampa.

During the Missa Games at Wilkin Stadium on the first week of July , the team conducted a one-week awareness and service campaign, reaching large numbers of people, including secondary school students. Services provided included the issuance of new National Identity Cards with expiry dates and processing of changes of residency. The team also worked with CRIM to raise awareness about the new Electoral Act and provide updated information on voter registration.

The outreach continued through the HELPR1 Mission Trip from 6–17 July 2026, with the team stationed at key locations across Ambrym, Paama and South Malekula. Working alongside CRIM, the team provided a wide range of electoral and civil registration services, including voter list inspections, new voter registration and ID printing, updating voter records, voter transfers and community awareness.

Officials also worked with communities to identify and officially declare deceased voters within the Civil Status Registry, while conducting scoping exercises for potential new polling stations to improve access to electoral services in remote communities.

According to VEO Provincial Officer Mr. Teklitani, the outreach programme forms part of the Electoral Office's ongoing commitment to ensuring that people across Malampa, particularly those in remote communities, have better access to voter registration, identification and electoral information.





TOURISM DELEGATION VISITS VAO ISLAND AND TAMTAM BUNGALOWS TO STRENGTHEN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

A high-level tourism delegation visited Tamtam Bungalows and Vao Island in Malampa Province in late July 2026 to assess local tourism operations, identify challenges faced by tourism operators and explore opportunities to further strengthen tourism development in the area.

The delegation included representatives from the Ministry of Trade and Commerce, Vanuatu Tourism Office (VTO), and the Department of Tourism. During the visit, the team engaged with local tourism operators and stakeholders to gain a better understanding of existing tourism activities, infrastructure needs and opportunities for improving the visitor experience.

Tamtam Bungalows, a family-owned and community-supported tourism accommodation, was visited as part of the assessment. The establishment provides accommodation and opportunities for visitors to experience local culture and access cultural sites, including the Small Nambas and Big Nambas areas.

The delegation also travelled to Vao Island, recognised as an important location for cruise expedition tourism. Discussions focused on the potential to strengthen local tourism services and improve community readiness to benefit from increasing tourism opportunities.

As part of the visit, the delegation also met with the Chairman of the Nalawan Cultural Festival Committee for the South West Bay area. The annual Nalawan Festival, which showcases traditional dances, music and grade-taking ceremonies, provides an important platform for promoting Malampa's rich cultural heritage and strengthening cultural tourism.

The visit provided valuable insights into the needs and priorities of local tourism operators and communities. It also highlighted opportunities to improve tourism infrastructure, strengthen local tourism products and services, promote cultural experiences and support sustainable tourism development in Malampa Province.



TOURISM AND TRADE DELEGATION VISITS MALEKULA



From July 27 to 30, 2026, a delegation consisting of the Director General of the Ministry of Trades and Commerce (Mr. Noah Kouback), the Director of the Department of Tourism (Mr. Paul Pio), the CEO (Madame Adela I Aru), and the Chairman of the Vanuatu Tourism Office (Mr Gideon George) visited Malekula. The purpose was to launch two annual cultural events on July 28th at Orap Village, North East Malekula Area Council: the Malekula Canoe Race and the Wala Heritage Festival.

The delegation also conducted a site inspection of the DOT Staff House Project (funded under NPP 2025) and visited tourism operators and industry stakeholders, including the MTC Malampa Compound in Lakatoro, the Vanuatu Travel Information Centre, and the SG Malampa Office. On July 28th, the delegation also attended independence celebrations at Orap, Wala Rano, and Vao Island to make donations to the respective celebration committees.

VANUATU BUREAU OF STATISTICS CONDUCTS COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACROSS MALAMPA

The Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics (VBoS) Malampa Office successfully conducted a two-week community outreach programme from 6 to 16 July 2026, visiting selected Area Councils across Malampa Province.

The outreach covered Aulua in South East Malekula; Endu and Utas in South East Ambrym; Baiap in West Ambrym; Nepul in North Ambrym; Hokai in South Malekula; Carolyn Bay in South West Malekula; and Liro in Paama.

The programme aimed to raise community awareness about statistics and the important role that reliable data plays in planning and decision-making. VBoS officers Mrs Eunice Sarai explained the importance of data collection through national censuses and surveys and how information collected from communities contributes to government planning and the delivery of services.

A key focus of the outreach was also to inform communities about the ongoing Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) and encourage households to understand the importance of participating in the survey.

As part of the programme, VBoS conducted a short assessment to measure community understanding of statistics and its importance. A total of 211 community members participated, comprising 63 males and 148 females.

The outreach provided an important opportunity for VBoS to engage directly with communities, answer questions and strengthen public understanding of how statistics and reliable data contribute to the development of Malampa Province and Vanuatu as a whole.

The VBoS Malampa Office continues to encourage communities to participate in national surveys and censuses, as every household and every response contributes to better data for better development planning.



OMBEL TES KALANGIS KAKAO PROJECT LAUNCHED IN NIJING, MALEKULA



A new community-supported cacao initiative, Ombel Tes Kalangis Kakao, was officially launched on 19th August in the Nijing area of Malekula, marking an important step towards strengthening cacao production, value addition and market opportunities for local farmers.

The initiative is a partnership between local and international investors and the Mele family and landowners, with a focus on establishing a cacao training and production hub in Malekula. The project aims to improve cacao quality and processing, support farmers through training, increase local value addition and expand access to specialty cacao markets.

The launch brought together community leaders, government representatives, development partners, cacao producers and other stakeholders. The programme included the signing of an agreement between Ombel Tes and landowner representatives, remarks from Malampa Provincial Government Honorable Councilor Kalo Malres, MP for the constituency Hon. Paul Paolo, and Director General of MALFB Mr. Timothy Tumukon.

The project is expected to support women and youth participation, improve farmer livelihoods and strengthen Malekula's position in the specialty cacao market.



OFFICIAL LAUNCHING O F THE SOLAR WATER PUMP

On 20 August 2026, a major achievement was recorded in North West Malekula with the official commissioning of the Lerongrong–MO Tontar Solar Water Pump Project in Tontar Village, North West A Area Council.

The project is one of the priority projects identified by the North West Malekula Area Council and is expected to improve access to water for more than 145 people across the two communities.

The project was made possible through funding support from DFAT, with an investment of more than VT7 million, and through collaboration involving GGGI, GCF, TEVAT and the Malampa Water Department. The project followed community consultations to ensure the water system responds to local needs.

The commissioning marks an important step towards bringing reliable water access closer to households and strengthening essential community services in North West Malekula.





SOLAR-POWERED WATER SYSTEM OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN NORTH EAST MALEKULA



On 21 August 2026, a new solar-powered water system was officially launched at Petervat Village in North East Malekula, marking an important step towards improving access to reliable water for the local community.

The project was funded by the Australian Government, with an investment of approximately VT 5 million, and forms part of efforts to strengthen access to clean and sustainable water services in rural communities.

The project also reflects the importance of renewable energy solutions in supporting essential community services and improving the wellbeing of people in rural Malekula.







Education & Youth

EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH OUTREACH, AWARENESS AND REGISTRATION

The Department of Youth Development and Sport – Malampa continued its efforts to strengthen youth participation and engagement through youth awareness and registration activities conducted across the province.

As part of the MYSC Outreach Programme on Paama Island from 6–14 July 2026, the Department worked alongside the Child Desk, Disability and Women's Affairs departments to conduct youth awareness activities and register youth groups within communities visited. The outreach provided an opportunity to engage directly with young people, raise awareness of available government programmes and services, and encourage greater participation in community development.





The Department also conducted Youth Group Registration at Espigles Bay on 28 July 2026, during the 46th Independence celebrations. Holding the registration alongside the celebrations enabled the team to reach a large number of young people from Espigles Bay and nearby communities.

Together, these activities are helping to strengthen the provincial youth database, improve access to youth programmes and services, promote youth leadership and participation, and encourage networking, community involvement and unity among young people throughout Malampa Province.

Health

NEW AID POST FACILITY OPENED ON RANO ISLAND

Malampa Provincial Health officially opened a new Aid Post facility on Rano Island on the 13th of August, strengthening access to essential primary healthcare services for the local community.

The achievement was made possible through the support of Hon. MP Gratien Shadrack, Rano Island community leaders and residents, the Aid Post Committee, and health workers, with additional support from the Malampa Health Executive, Village Health Worker Programme and Norsup Hospital Pharmacy Management.

The opening highlights the importance of community participation and continued investment in decentralised health services, supporting the goal of improving access to quality healthcare for communities across Malampa.











MINISTRY OF YOUTH, JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AT LAKATORO OUTREACH PROGRAM TO PAAMA ISLAND ON 06-14 JULY 2026

WOMEN'S AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT PROMOTES FOOD SAFETY AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

The Department of Women's Affairs engaged with women and communities to promote practical skills, safer food practices and greater participation in economic activities.

The programme featured food safety awareness, training and cooking activities, equipping participants with practical knowledge on safe food preparation, hygiene and handling practices that can contribute to healthier households and communities.

The activities also provided important information on registration, licensing and certification requirements, helping women better understand the steps needed to formalise and strengthen their activities and income-generating initiatives.

Through these activities, the Department of Women's Affairs continues to strengthen women's skills, promote economic participation and support women to become more confident contributors to community development across Malampa Province.

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HUMAN RIGHTS UNIT – CHILD DESK STRENGTHENS CHILD PROTECTION AWARENESS

The Child Desk under the Human Rights Unit continues to strengthen child protection awareness and promote the rights, safety and wellbeing of children across communities.

The initiative focused on child protection awareness, providing communities and key stakeholders with important information on safeguarding children and understanding their responsibilities in preventing and responding to child protection concerns.

The Child Desk also worked closely with stakeholders to strengthen child protection referral pathways, improving understanding of the procedures and support services available to children and families requiring assistance.

Through these efforts, the Child Desk continues to promote stronger collaboration, effective referral systems and safer, more responsive communities where children's rights, protection and wellbeing are prioritised.





DISABILITY DESK STRENGTHENS INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION



From 6–14 July 2026, the Disability Desk conducted awareness activities on Paama Island to promote greater understanding of disability rights, inclusion and meaningful participation within local communities.

Through community awareness activities and engagement with Area Technical Advisory Groups (Area TAGs), the Disability Desk strengthened collaboration with stakeholders and encouraged greater recognition and understanding of disability-related issues at the community level.

A key focus was ensuring that persons with disabilities are meaningfully included in training, development programmes and community activities, with equal opportunities to access services and participate in decision-making and community development.

The activities on Paama Island demonstrate the Department's commitment to building more inclusive, accessible and supportive communities where persons with disabilities can participate fully and contribute to the development of their communities.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE NORTHWEST MALEKULA AREA COUNCIL SUB-CENTRE



The Malampa Provincial Government officially marked the beginning of construction of the Northwest Malekula Area Council Sub-Centre Office at Unmak Village on 28 July 2026, with a Groundbreaking Ceremony and Laying of the Foundation Stone.

The new sub-centre represents an important investment in local governance and public service delivery, bringing government services closer to communities across Northwest Malekula and strengthening the role of the Area Council in serving its people.

The ceremony was officiated by Hon. Paul Paulo, Third Deputy Speaker of Parliament and Official Representative of the Minister of Internal Affairs, alongside provincial government officials, customary landowners, traditional leaders, church representatives and members of the local community.

The project reflects a shared commitment to strengthening local institutions, improving access to government services and supporting community development in Northwest Malekula.

The Malampa Provincial Government acknowledges the support and participation of all stakeholders who contributed to this important occasion and looks forward to the completion of the new Area Council Sub-Centre for the benefit of the people of Northwest Malekula

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDER

2-3 September 2026

🌺 Wala Heritage Festival

📍 Wala Mainland & Wala Island

A two-day cultural celebration showcasing Wala's traditional heritage, culture and community traditions. Day 1 will take place on the Wala mainland, followed by Day 2 on Wala Island.

🎟️ **Package:** VT 8,500 per person
🍽️ **Optional Melanesian Feast:** VT 2,500 per person

Bookings: Mr. Etienne Tiasinmal
📞 568 5852 / 711 4485
📧 etiennetiasinmal@gmail.com

21-23 December 2026

🛶 Malekula Canoe Festival

📍 Atchin Island, North East Malekula

A three-day cultural and sporting celebration highlighting Malekula's maritime heritage, traditional canoe racing and community culture.

Day 1 – Arrival & Opening: Registration, canoe inspection, traditional ceremonies, cultural performances, food and handicraft stalls.
Day 2 – Main Races: Traditional sailing, men's, women's, youth and mixed-team canoe races, alongside cultural entertainment and local markets.
Day 3 – Finals & Closing: Championship races, awards presentation and community celebrations.

🎟️ **Pricing:** To be confirmed

Contact: Mr. David Childson Patunvanu
📞 526 0862 / WhatsApp: (61) 044 725 3956
📧 dpvanu@gmail.com

For further information on the Wala Heritage Festival and other tourism activities:
Vanuatu Travel Information Centre
📞 753 0186
📧 nlunabek@vanuatu.travel

NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE OF SALE – TOYOTA DOUBLE CAB

The Malampa Provincial Government invites offers for the sale of a Toyota Double Cabin vehicle on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis.

- Minimum Offer: VT 2,000,000
- Inspection: Available upon request
- Closing Date: 20 September 2026
- Additional Costs: Transfer, collection and removal costs are the responsibility of the successful buyer.

Offers should be submitted to:
Secretary General
Malampa Provincial Government
Lakatoro, Malekula, Vanuatu

The Malampa Provincial Government reserves the right to accept or reject any offer.
Issued: 20 August 2026

