

Prime Minister to open the Pacific ICT Days 2017 next Wednesday



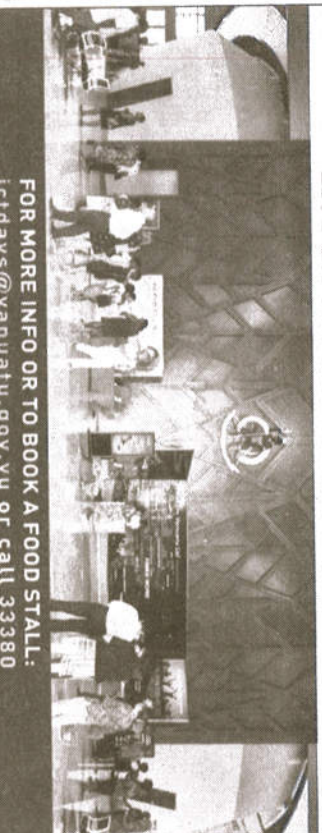
Pacific ICT Days 2017

BIG DATA FOR BIG IMPACT

17th and 18th of May 2017 from 9am to 5pm

NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

**EVENT OPEN TO ALL ICT HEMI BLONG EVRIWAN
EVENT TO BE REBROADCASTED
LIVE ON TV AND RADIO VANUATU**



FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK A FOOD STALL:
ictdays@vanuatu.gov.vu or call 333380



PRIME MINISTER, CHARLOT SALWAL, as minister responsible for ICT and Telecommunications, will be opening the Pacific ICT Days 2017 ceremony next Wednesday (May 17) at 9am.

The event will be open to all and will take place for the second time at the Vanuatu National Convention Centre.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) will join other members of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to celebrate World Telecommunication & Information Society Day (WTISD) 2017 theme "Big Data for Big Impact".

For the occasion, free internet will be provided for all at the venue, traditional food stalls will be set up outside the conference area (to book, email ictdays@vanuatu.gov.vu or call 333380 — only Vt10,000 for both days) and a free shuttle service will be organized in town as well as in Pango and Mele area (see bus schedule on www.ictdays.gov.vu/shuttle-service).

To finish off the Opening on Wednesday, a live concert with Vanuatu's popular Reggae Bands — Nairo and Kross Road will take place from 6pm to 10pm.

The conference will provide an environment and a platform for delegates as well as visitors, technology providers and specialists to come together and share experiences, discuss latest technologies advances, address key issues and challenges and explore new business opportunities within the telecommunications industry.

It will be the opportunity to reinforce relationships among all players of the ICT ecosystem, including public administrations, private sector companies, entrepreneurs, non-for profits, as well as all the people living in the Pacific.

An unforgettable Pacific ICT Award Ceremony will take place on Thursday evening, the 18th of May, and will also be open to all.

The Ceremony will celebrate and recognize outstanding ICT solutions and applications among our Pacific ICT talents and organizations. Six ICT Awards will be handed out by Valerie Martinez, Miss Vanuatu: Best Innovation Award, Best Digital Inclusion Award, Best Business Solution Award, Best Entrepreneurship Award, Best ICT Entrepreneurship Award, Best Digital Leader Award and Best Customer Service Award. An ICT Gala Dinner will follow the

ICT Awards Ceremony from 7pm to 11pm, at the Banquet Room of the new National Convention Centre. Tickets are on sale at OGCIO Reception, Vila Mall Building: Vt7,000 per person or Vt50,000 per table (seats 8) inclusive of a Buffet meal, champagne on arrival, white/red wine on table and entertainment.

This will be an exciting conference thanks to the valuable support of 18 local and international partners and sponsors: the Telecommunications Radiocommunications Regulator (TRR), Australian Aid, University of the South Pacific (USP), Vanuatu Tourism Office (VTO) as well as Huawei Technologies Ltd, Telecom Vanuatu Ltd, Digicel Vanuatu Ltd, Wantok, Opticom, Computer World, Cambium Networks, the Asia-Pacific Network Information Center (APNIC), the Vanuatu National Provident Fund (VVPF), Kacific Satellite Broadband, Sharper Image, CNS, Ahitec Services, and Pacific Group.

Together, we will build a bright digital future for all whilst enhancing collaboration and celebrating the whole ICT sector.

France stands with Vanuatu against climate change effects

Expresses solidarity and help after the passage of cyclone Donna.

By Godwin Ligo

THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF Foreign Affairs in Paris, had expressed France's solidarity stand with Vanuatu against climate change, when conveying a message of support and help to the affected population of Vanuatu, following the passage of cyclone Donna.

The statement released through the French Embassy in Port Vila read: "France expresses its solidarity with

the Republic of Vanuatu, hit in recent days by Donna cyclone that caused widespread damage, both to the buildings and on crops.

"Our thoughts are also with our compatriots in New Caledonia, affected by the cyclone.

"Immediate assistance will be released to finance air surveillance, reconnaissance, and evaluation, as well as for the transport of humanitarian cargo.

"Our action is coordinated with Australia and New Zealand as provided for in "FRANZ" agreement (France-Australia-New Zealand), which set a regional coordinated framework in the South Pacific, in case of natural disaster.

"France will continue to make every effort to fight against the effects of climate change.

"It will continue to be with the island states, who are the first victims," the statement from the Foreign Ministry in Paris stated.

Unity and Discipline

□ From Front Page

"Uphold the rules of law, at all times in this nation."

In response to President Lonsdale, the new Commissioner of Police said, "I thank you for your trust.

"I assure you that unity, as you mentioned will be a priority.

"Our Force was without a Commissioner for some time and this allowed different opinions to come in and create divisions.

"Security is a pillar in the building of any economy and we will strive to achieve this."

Commissioner Nalpini was humbled by the trust placed on him to shoulder this enormous responsibility.

In his first interview with Vanuatu Nightly News' Kizzy Kalsakau immediately after his appointment yesterday morning, he said: "I am

humbled and honoured to be appointed as the Commissioner of Police.

"It is a honour and trust bestowed. He (Head of State) has entrusted me and I will never let that trust down".

He stressed that discipline is one of his top priorities. "Where there is no discipline, there is no control so this is one of the areas we will be tackling.

"As the Head of State rightly mentioned, the Force has been divided.

"It is my responsibility, my duty to ensure we have a Force that is united, disciplined and capable."

The appointment was witnessed by Minister of Internal Affairs Alfred Maoh, Chairman of the Police Service Commission, Willie Vira, former acting Police Commissioner Robson Lavro and senior VPF officers. President Lonsdale

acknowledged Colonel Lavro for his leadership as acting ComPol, until the official appointment and handover of responsibilities yesterday.

Mr. Nalpini's appointment comes after five different Acting ComPols over two years. "The appointment process took a while," said President Lonsdale. "The people have waited a long time for the appointment of the Commissioner of Police."

Mr. Nalpini secured the top position in the VPF after he was selected from the three candidates that were shortlisted, out of the eight applicants- one woman and seven men in June 2016.

Despite the delay in the appointment, Commissioner Nalpini believes, "Thursday May 11, 2017 was the day God chose for his appointment. "Today (yesterday), is the appointed day," he said.

Opposition Bloc congratulates new ComPol

THE OPPOSITION BLOC has congratulated the new Commissioner of Police (ComPol), Chief Inspector Albert Nalpini on his appointment yesterday.

A statement signed by Leader of Opposition, MP Ishmael Kalsakau also applauded the

Police Service Commission (PSC) for its efforts towards the occupation of the police top job, which has been occupied by acting ComPols for more than a year.

"In the absence of a ComPol, there has a great deal of uncertainty in the Vanuatu Police cooperation.

Force (VPF)," the Bloc stated.

"Politics has influenced the appointments of acting ComPols and over the years, we have witnessed a build-up of political rivalry, cronyism and nepotism in the VPF." The Bloc further assured the new ComPol of their cooperation.

God. Do not let politics in your high office.

"The professionalism and integrity of the VPF must remain intact, do not lose respect in the eye of the people.

"The office of the Opposition has confidence in your appointment."

Members of the public have also taken to social media to congratulate the new ComPol.