



République de Vanuatu
Republic of Vanuatu
Ripablik blong Vanuatu

**NASONAL YUNIVESITI
BLONG VANUATU**
**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
OF VANUATU**
**UNIVERSITÉ NATIONALE
DE VANUATU**

France visits the National University of Vanuatu after committing over 471 million vatu

Port-Vila, Vanuatu – 12 August 2022: On Thursday 11 August 2022, AFD - Agence française de développement regional Director in the Pacific visited the National University of Vanuatu (NUV) following the signature of the two financing agreements with the NUV in May 2022 for a total amount of over 471 million vatu (€3.8 M - €3M grant from AFD and €0,8M EU grant delegated to AFD). This operation complements ongoing projects from French Embassy in Vanuatu and the government of New Caledonia financed by AFD and represents a major strategic development in Vanuatu's education and digital development policy.

Through this funding from the AFD, France is supporting the Government of Vanuatu in the structuring of its national multilingual university by supporting the development of its infrastructure, training offer, its governance, its human resources, and its technical, digital and pedagogical means. This approach is in line with Objective 2.4 of the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 (NSDP) of Vanuatu, which aims to increase higher education opportunities, including technical and vocational training and skills through a law establishing the National University of Vanuatu (Act No. 34 of 2019 published on 24 January 2020).

AFD regional Director in the Pacific, Mrs. Virginie Bleitrach, said “AFD is delighted to carry out this ambitious project in partnership with the National University of Vanuatu, the EU and the French Embassy. 65% of the population in Vanuatu is below 30 years old. Developing the skills of the young generations is essential for their future and the future of the country. We do sincerely hope that the NUV will benefit from our worldwide expertise and experience in education to develop an offer that meets the youths’ expectations and offer them a brighter future”.

The Vice-Chancellor of the NUV, Mr. Jean-Pierre Nirua, said “The National University of Vanuatu and the Government of Vanuatu are grateful of the support provided by the French Development Agency. This support is totally aligned with the university Strategic Plan from 2021 to 2030”.



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About the National University of Vanuatu

The National University of Vanuatu was established by the Act n°34 of 2019 adopted by the Parliament on the 17th of December 2019 and officially published on the 24th January 2020.

The purpose of the University as stated in its article 3 is “to provide higher education advancement and lifelong learning through academic and professional excellence by way of training, teaching and learning, in both the English and French official languages, research and international cooperation”.

Based on the Act, the NUV is authorized to offer the current Bachelor Programs and to develop collaboration with new partners on the implementation of other Bachelor and Master programs.

The Act also paved the way for merging existing Vanuatu PSET training into the NUV over time, and under the overall supervision of the MoET, including the following institutions which are approved to deliver accredited degree level courses according to Vanuatu Qualifications Framework (VQF): Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education, Vanuatu College for Nursing Education, and Vanuatu Agriculture College. Inclusion in the NUV will require meeting high quality tertiary education and trainings standards and accreditation requirements in accordance with the laws of Vanuatu.

The National University of Vanuatu works in collaboration with several international universities, which support the development of the institution by issuing internationally recognized diplomas.

About l'Agence française de développement

AFD Group implements France's policy in the areas of development and international solidarity. The Group includes Agence Française de Développement (AFD), which finances the public sector and NGOs, as well as research and education in sustainable development; its subsidiary Proparco, which is dedicated to private sector financing; and Expertise France, a technical cooperation agency. The Group finances, supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer, more resilient world.

With our partners, we are building shared solutions with and for the people of the Global South. Our teams are at work on more than 4,000 projects in the field, in the French Overseas Departments and Territories, in



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115 countries and in regions in crisis. We strive to protect global public goods – promoting a stable climate, biodiversity and peace, as well as gender equality, education and healthcare. In this way, we contribute to the commitment of France and the French people to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Towards a world in common.