



Joint Media Release

Handover of new Tiroas Barracks boosts VMF capability on Santo

LUGANVILLE, SANTO: The Governments of Vanuatu and Australia have handed over the new Tiroas Barracks facilities to the Vanuatu Police Force (VPF), redeveloped as part of our Cook and Tiroas Barracks investment.

This handover marks an important boost for Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF) capabilities on Santo. Designed and delivered in partnership, VPF and the Australian Defence Force officers worked hand-in-hand on the Tiroas Barracks redevelopment – a demonstration of the close and longstanding partnership between Vanuatu and Australia.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Prime Minister of Vanuatu the Honourable Charlot Salwai Tabimasmās said the development demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring a strong and well-equipped Vanuatu Mobile Force.

“The development of Tiroas Barracks is a statement of the strong partnership between the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu and the Government of Australia,” said Prime Minister Salwai.

“Vanuatu will continue to experience natural disasters and having such facilities will boost the morale of the Vanuatu Mobile Force.”



The Honourable Charlot Salwai Tabimasmās, Prime Minister of Vanuatu and Her Excellency Heidi Bootle, Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu unveil the official opening plaque of the Vanuatu Mobile Force Treatment Centre at Tiroas Barracks in Santo.



The new facilities at Tiroas include a new Armoury, Magazine and Medical Facility as well as power and communications infrastructure. The redeveloped Barracks will better resource and equip the VMF to carry out their mission across Vanuatu.

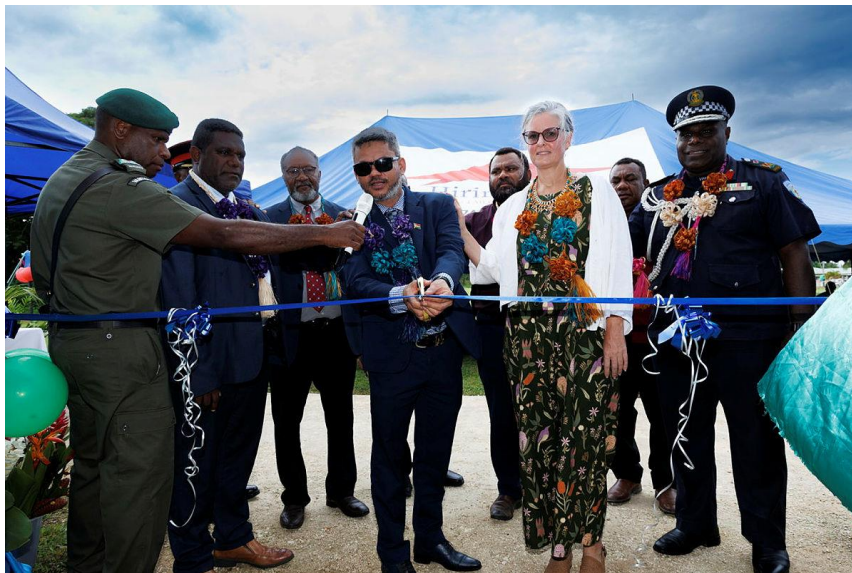
At the ceremony Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Her Excellency Heidi Bootle, said the new Tiroas Barracks was the result of our strong partnership, delivering a fit-for-purpose facility for the Vanuatu Mobile Force.

“High-quality, disaster-resilient facilities are key to enabling the Vanuatu Mobile Force to serve Vanuatu’s people and communities now and into the future,”

“By employing and upskilling the local workforce and using local materials wherever possible, this project has also made a significant investment in Santo’s economy. This approach is a central part of how we ensure our projects also stimulate economic development,” said Australian High Commissioner Bootle.

VPF Commissioner Vuriaru Robson lavro said “Delivering this Program began during COVID and it was a great opportunity to employ Ni-Vans in that Industry.”

“Most significantly, the handover today marks a significant lift in our Partnership between the Governments of Vanuatu and Australia government through the security sector.”



ii Deputy Prime Minister, The Honourable Matai Seremaiah and Her Excellency Heidi Bootle, Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu cut the ribbon to officially open the Tiroas Barracks Redevelopment on Santo.

Construction commenced in February 2022, delivered in a COVID-safe way to protect communities. Eleven Santo businesses engaged in the project, providing concrete, roofing, accommodation, machinery and masonry.



Australian High Commission
Vanuatu

The project builds on previous Vanuatu-Australia security infrastructure investments on Santo including refurbishing both the Northern Command Headquarters and police housing as well as delivering the Vanuatu Government National Emergency Radio Network.



iii Touring the Tiroas Barracks Redevelopment after the official opening by the Honourable Charlot Salwai Tabimamas, Prime Minister of Vanuatu and Her Excellency Heidi Bootle, Australian High Commissioner to Vanuatu.

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