

## MFAT Management Response to Vanuatu Correctional Services Partnership 2014-2019

*to be reviewed & updated based on new Evaluation Policy and Privacy Act*

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Evaluation: Vanuatu Correctional Services Partnership, 2014-2019 Evaluation Report  
Link to evaluation (IME to insert link to MFAT website)  
Date of Unit Manager acceptance of the final evaluation report 19 July 2021

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Approval of the MFAT Management Response (where provided)

Name of Division Manager Anton Ojala

Date:



20/07/21

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New Zealand has partnered with Vanuatu in the corrections sector since the Vanuatu Dipatmen Blong Koreksonal Sevis (DBKS) was formed in 2003. We are proud of what we have achieved together over the course of the last 18 years. Under the Vanuatu Correctional Services Partnership 2014-2019, which this evaluation looks at, we have supported construction of a new prison in Luganville, and a new women’s prison in Port Vila – the first new corrections infrastructure in Port Vila in 40 years. These developments, coupled with technical assistance from New Zealand Corrections and supported by an in-country programme coordinator, have driven improvements in the professionalism, capacity and morale of the Vanuatu DBKS. With a particular focus on increasing rehabilitation and prisoner safety and well-being, this has had a positive impact on community safety. This evaluation has been an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved, and to plan the next phase of the Partnership.

Recommendation	Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
<p>1. Consider preparing a case study of the design and construction of the Luganville Correctional Centre to inform any future investment in correctional centre infrastructure.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is pleased that the report findings recognise the success of the construction project in Luganville and we would be happy to support Vanuatu with information to improve its processes around infrastructure development projects. We will consider whether such a case study is the most efficient way to support best practice in this area.</p> <p>Partially agree.</p>

Recommendation	Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
<p>2. Offer the preparation of a business case to support the Government of Vanuatu in decisions about the preferred location of correctional facilities in/around Port Vila.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade understands that the Government of Vanuatu has already prepared materials to support decision-making on its preferred site.</p> <p>Reject.</p>
<p>3. Prioritise investment into correctional centre infrastructure in the next phase of support. The focus should be on ensuring correctional centre infrastructure in Port Vila is in a sustainable position, for detainees and staff and for the correctional service as a whole.</p>	<p>The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade recognises the urgent need to address the poor state of the remaining correctional facilities in Port Vila. However, we are currently not in a position to fund additional infrastructure projects because of other investment priorities in New Zealand’s Vanuatu Development Programme. We note that the Government of Vanuatu is still considering its plans for this, including deciding on the best site for a new facility.</p> <p>Partially agree</p>

Recommendation	Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
<p>4. Work with New Zealand Corrections on the scope of their contribution to the next phase of support, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. how the priorities identified by the Dipatmen Blong Koreksosal Sevis might be addressed, such as the provision of technical advice and training on the management and rehabilitation of young offenders and of serious and repeat offenders;</li> <li>b. how New Zealand Corrections might maintain an ongoing relationship with Vanuatu after MFAT has exited from supporting the corrections service. One option could be for New Zealand Corrections to begin transitioning towards self-funding some of its support.</li> </ul>	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is committed to working closely with both New Zealand Corrections and the Vanuatu Dipatmen Blong Koreksosal Sevis to determine the priority areas of work for technical advisors.</p> <p>New Zealand Corrections is committed to supporting a long-term institutional partnership with the Vanuatu Dipatmen Blong Koreksosal Sevis, including following the conclusion of the Vanuatu Correctional Services Partnership activity. The focused support provided through the Vanuatu Correctional Services Partnership is dependent on New Zealand development programme funding, as this activity is out of scope of New Zealand Corrections' departmental budget guidelines.</p> <p>Partially agree.</p>
<p>5. Work with the New Zealand Parole Board on how the relationship with the Vanuatu Parole Board might be developed.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade supports the recommendation for NZ Parole Board to continue to work with Vanuatu Parole Board when it is feasible to do so. Work between the two currently happens on an ad hoc basis and further discussions would be needed to consider more formal arrangements, including possible technical assistance.</p> <p>Agree.</p>

Recommendation	Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
<p>6. Work with the Dipatmen Blong Koreksional Sevis and the Programme Coordinator to confirm a set of indicators, to be monitored regularly in the next phase of support.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade supports the recommendation to develop indicators to better support evaluation of outcomes, and acknowledges the need to improve tracking of relevant data to support evaluation. We will work closely with New Zealand Corrections and the Programme Steering Committee to agree indicators and develop a new results framework to support evaluation of the activity.</p> <p>Agree.</p>
<p>7. Revisit the amount of Programme Coordinator input, dependent on decisions about the scope of activities and level of infrastructure investment in the next phase of the Partnership.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade agrees with the findings of the report that the Programme Coordinator has played a valuable role in the Vanuatu Correctional Services Partnership. The future of the Programme Coordinator role will be assessed based on the value this would bring to work planned under the next phase of the activity.</p> <p>Agree.</p>