



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,  
TRADE, COMMERCE AND NI-  
VANUATU BUSINESS

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL

1. Development of Type approval module prototype
2. Deployment of ASYCUDA-CDS interface prototype
3. Launching of the ASYREC Project

# Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project Monthly newsletter

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## Council of Ministers approves ASYREC Project *A VT48million Project to be funded by the Government of Australia*

### Automated System for Relief Consignments



*The ASYREC is the Automated System for Relief Consignments developed by UNCTAD and OCHA*

The Vanuatu Council of Ministers (COM) made the decision during its 3rd ordinary meeting of 2022 on 3rd March, to award UNCTAD the sole source contract for the implementation of the ASYREC module in Vanuatu, under the VeSW Project.

Valued at US\$437,0143 (approx. VT48million), the ASYREC Project will be funded by the Australian Government under its Governance for Growth program. Not only is Australia's commitment to this Project important to Vanuatu as a country that is very prone to natural disasters, but also to see the pilot project in Vanuatu, being replicated to other Pacific island countries, who also face similar challenges of natural disasters, climate change and the current global pandemic.

Today, without a coordination mechanism in place, the many different stakeholders involved in managing humanitarian flows tend to work in silos. This can result in confusion and the late arrival of much needed, urgent humanitarian assistance. ASYREC can assist to overcome these challenges by enabling the facilitation, coordination, and oversight of international humanitarian relief.

Developed by UNCTAD and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), ASYREC facilitates and expedites the processing of international relief during humanitarian crises, natural disasters, and complex emergencies. Furthermore, ASYREC will allow for Operational readiness, identified priority needs and eligible actors, ensures pre-arrival processing, prioritizes and coordinates controls, and enables real-time tracking and tracing of relief supplies.

The module has been implemented in 4 countries worldwide, and Vanuatu will be the first Pacific island country to pilot this new solution.

Following this approval from the Council of Ministers, the Vanuatu Project is now scheduled to be launched next month in April and is expected to be completed in 12 months. The primary agencies to be utilizing the module in Vanuatu are the National Disaster Management Office, its Stakeholders and Customs.

For more information about the ASYREC module, please visit: <https://www.asyrec.asycuda.org>.

# Online Payments proven crucial during the current Covid lockdown

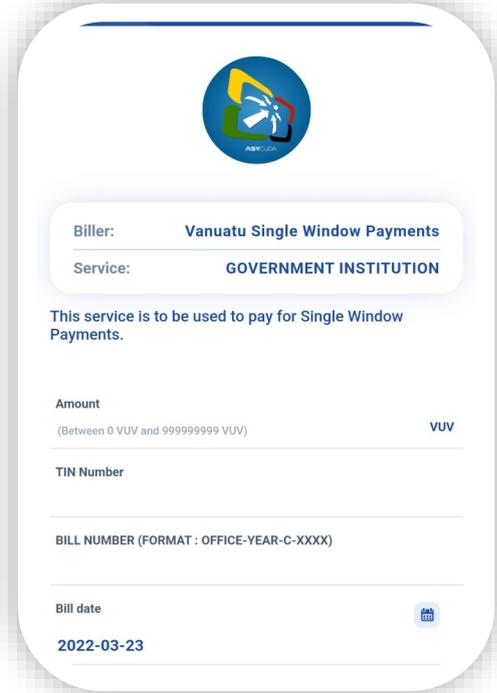
Despite the VeSW system being a totally online processing system, clients still opted for over the counter mode of payment. This was despite efforts made by the VeSW teams to implement and encourage online payments to facilitate processing of permits, certificates and Customs clearance.

Nonetheless, online payments were put to test during the current lockdown, when the Government imposed restrictions on the movement of people and the operations of Government offices in Port Vila and Luganville, to reduce the spread of the covid-19 virus.

Brokers and Traders were therefore diverted to using the online payment facilities to make payments for permits, certificates or Customs clearance.

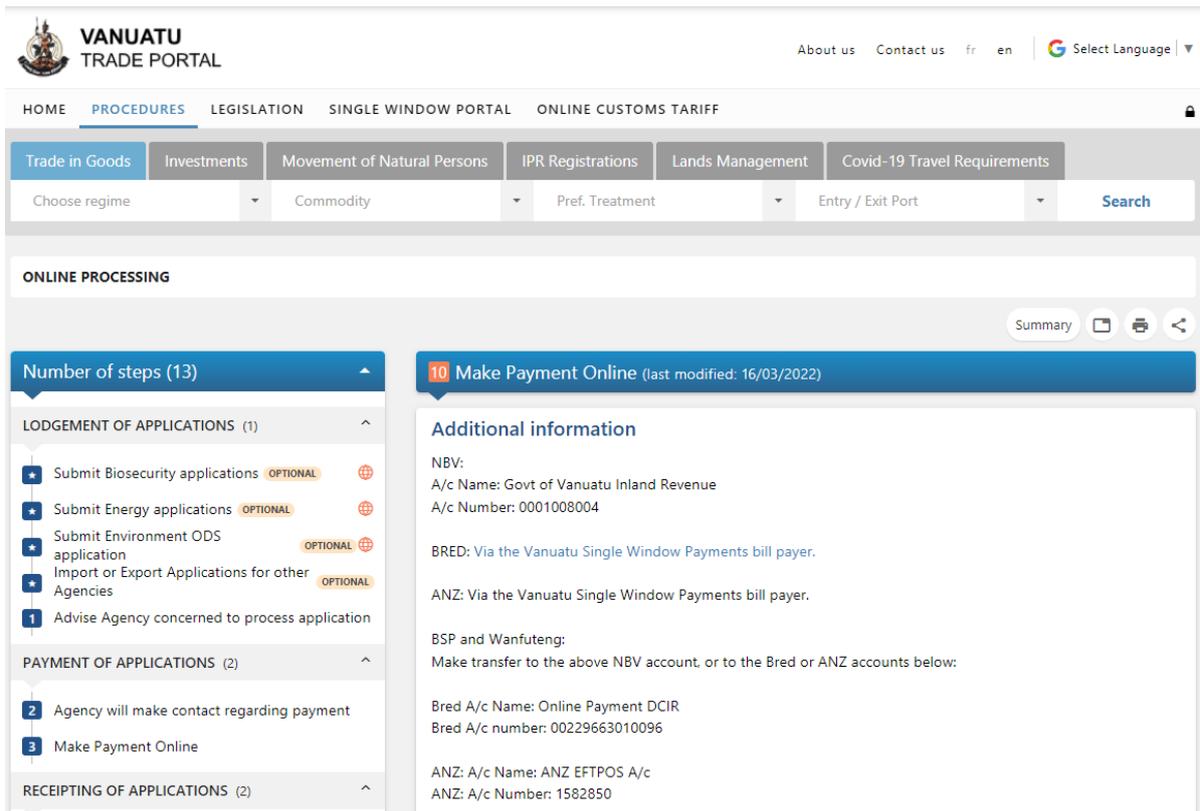
Definitely a challenge for a few clients, however it is anticipated that this will settle down in the coming days when clients get use this new norm.

The lockdown has brought about a opportunities for those involved in trade to be more familiarized with online payment facilities, to further facilitate trade, and also enhance the collection of Governments revenue.



The Bred Bank Bill Payment facility has electronic connection to Customs declarations in the VeSW system in real-time

## Online Processing and Payment guidelines are available here on the [Vanuatu Trade Portal](#)



# Discussions underway to utilize the ANZ eGate Payment Solution

“Similar interface has been implemented in Jamaica and VeSW is looking to adopting the same solution for Vanuatu”

## Secure Payments through ANZ eGate



The VeSW and DCIR Officials had discussions with team ANZ (Vanuatu Ltd) on 3rd March, as an introduction to this payment solution, which ANZ would like to trial with DCIR.

As far as the VeSW system is concerned, this facility would allow clients to make payments in real-time, directly to Customs and other VeSW agencies using

Visa or Mastercards.

Having another payment solution would give clients payment options in addition to the existing means of payments. This will not only facilitate trade but enhance Government revenue collections as well.

Furthermore, such means of payment would be beneficial to Small

and Medium-sized enterprises who would operate on such financial basis, as well as personal payments either at the post or at the airport by passengers.

This mode of payments by debit or credit cards in ASYCUDA was implemented in Jamaica, and VeSW is looking into adopting the same solution for Vanuatu.

## World Bank Group undertaking gap analysis on the VeSW system

*Upon the request of the Trade Facilitation Steering Committee*



### WORLD BANK GROUP

*“TFSC welcomes this undertaking by the WBG to assist Vanuatu in further improving its VeSW system”*

Upon the request of the Vanuatu Trade Facilitation Steering Committee (TFSC) to the WTO for the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), Vanuatu is fortunate that the World Bank Group (WBG) has offered its Expression of Interest to the WTO TFA Facility to assist Vanuatu with its Single Window system,

amongst other provisions of the TFA.

The WBG pledged its support to assist with the VeSW in September 2021 and the decision to conduct the VeSW gap analysis was reached in December. A series of meeting has therefore been conducted since January to March 2022 between the WBG and VeSW.

The meetings were to assist the WBG team to be familiar with the VeSW system and how it operates. WBG has also been in touch with current VeSW agencies to identify options to further enhance the VeSW system. Furthermore, the WBG team has

made contact with other agencies who were identified to use the VeSW system in the future. This will allow the WBG to have a better understanding of the needs of these agencies with regards to automation.

The TFSC and the VeSW welcomes this undertaking by the WBG to assist Vanuatu in further improving its Single Window System.

The TFSC is therefore encouraging all agencies to cooperate with the WBG team in this exercise, to ensure that the VeSW meets the trade requirements of all agencies concerned.

# System Specification Requirement for the Type Approval module validated by TRBR



*VeSW and TRBR Officials begin discussions on the Type Approval module on 2nd March 2022*

The standard practice of developing new Computer systems or system modules, is that there has to be a clear understanding of the procedures and requirements of the user prior to actually developing the automated system. This has been the standard practice at the VeSW for all the system modules that have been developed and deployed in Vanuatu.

After reaching the agreement to include the Telecommunication Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR) in the VeSW system, the VeSW team began the work with the team at TRBR in March to document the current process of issuing Certificates and Import Permits for Radiocommunications and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment.

The VeSW team further document the System Specification Requirements (SRS) to accommodate the requirements of TRBR into the new Type Approval module. The document also covers proposals to further improve the process using automation and the technical requirements to make this happen in the system.

Despite the lockdown experienced in the country during March, both teams were determined to complete this exercise, which involved a couple of online meetings and a many email exchanges before the SRS was validated by the TRBR Regulator, Mr. Brian Winji, during an online meeting on Friday 25th March.

The SRS has now been sent of to the system Developers in UNCTAD to work on the module prototype. UNCTAD has indicated that development will begin on the prototype in April and will be later deployed for testing, trainings and implementation.



*Online validation session with the Regulator on 25th March 2022*

**Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project**  
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The overall objective of the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window project is to expand Vanuatu's GDP through increased exports. The project outcome is to increase Vanuatu's competitiveness through the reduction of cost and time of trading across its borders. The Project is kindly funded by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the Australian Government. The Vanuatu Government is also providing in-kind contribution towards the project, in terms of personnel and ICT support. The main implementing partner in the Project is United Nations for Trade and Development, UNCTAD.

