

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Judiciary of the Republic of Vanuatu



Chambers of the Chief Justice
Supreme Court of the Republic of Vanuatu
PMB 9041
Port Vila
Efate
Republic of Vanuatu

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REPUBLIC OF VANUATU



CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS

July 2026

Hon. Job Andy
Minister for Justice & Community Services
Ministry for Justice & Community Services
Government of Vanuatu
Port Vila
Efate

Dear Minister,

I have the pleasure of submitting in accordance with section 51 of the Judicial Services & Courts Act No. 54 of 2000, a report for the management and administrative affairs of the Judiciary for the year 2025 and the unaudited financial statements in respect of that financial year. The report includes information about the courts, their activities and workload.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vincent Lunabek'.

Vincent LUNABEK

CHIEF JUSTICE



Introduction

Vision and Mission Statements

The vision statement of the Judiciary of Vanuatu is not radically different to similar statements of vision from other jurisdictions, insisting on fundamental notions like judicial independence, public trust and confidence and effectiveness and efficiency.

However, the vision statement is peculiarly extroverted in seeking to encompass the legal profession into a vision of mutually beneficial standard of expectations of quality, ethical, accessible, and cost-effective legal service.

The mission statement is a statement of intent on how the Judiciary of Vanuatu will deliver on its vision and its overarching Constitutional mandate – the administration of justice according to law.

Vision Statement

“A JUDICIARY THAT IS INDEPENDENT, EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND WORTHY OF PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE, AND A LEGAL PROFESSION THAT PROVIDES QUALITY, ETHICAL, ACCESSIBLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE LEGAL SERVICE TO OUR PEOPLE AND IS WILLING AND ABLE TO ANSWER TO PUBLIC SERVICE.”

Mission Statement

“TO DISPENSE JUSTICE SPEEDILY, FAIRLY, INDEPENDENTLY AND WITH IMPROVED QUALITY OF EXTERNAL INPUTS. TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS. TO BE A JUDICIARY THAT CONDUCTS ITS BUSINESS WITH DIGNITY, INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.”

Statement from Chief Justice

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU



CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FROM CHIEF JUSTICE

The 2025 Annual Report presented in the same format as the previous years.

I am pleased to say that this report captured the major performance indicators accepted regionally and internationally. This includes a deeper analysis of the nature of cases registered, completed, and importantly, those disposed and pending by the courts. Those indicators indicate that the courts have been successful in achieving results by the end of 2025.

The objectives of Court Administration are equity, effectiveness, and efficiency. The review analyses the ways in and the extent to which the courts in their endeavor successfully perform their roles in the delivery of service to the people of the country.

Further, despite the challenges which are critical to the delivery of justice by the courts, the material contribution of the courts to the community is still unevaluated. This material contribution is reflected in the volume of decisions made. In 2025, 96 batches of judgments, containing 433 decisions, were sent to PacLII for publication. These decisions are also published on the Court website. 49 decisions were from the Court of Appeal, 367 from the Supreme Court, and 10 from the Magistrate Courts and 7 from the Island Courts.

The publication of these judgments provides valuable information to land, civil, criminal, commercial, administrative, and constitutional jurisprudence. They also enable transparency and accountability in the courts' decision making.

Throughout the year, the Judges, registrars of the courts and courts support staff have administered the courts and the rule of law with a high degree of independence, impartiality, equity, effectiveness, and efficiency.

The Honorable Justice Vincent Lunabek
Chief Justice

The Management Improvement Plan 2025 [JMIP 2025]

The Supreme Court is mandated by the *Judicial Services and Courts Act* to have a management improvement plan for each year (*section 50*) purposely for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations of the Judicial Service and the Vanuatu Courts, and to report against it annually (*section 51(f)*) in the Annual Report.

The Management Improvement Plan Outcome: “To improve the capacity of the courts to achieve the mission”.

The values that guide the behavior of the Vanuatu Judiciary and this Plan are:

- Accountability
- Resilience
- Quality & Timeliness
- Openness & Transparency
- Continuous Learning & Improvement
- Inclusiveness Despite Geographical Constraints

The Management Improvement Plan has again set out five priority action areas.

These five priority action areas were to:

- Maintain and strengthen judicial independence;
- Refine case management systems and processes to endure fair and timely disposition of cases;
- Develop professional judicial capacity building;
- Ensure justice is accessible for all; and
- Develop physical infrastructure/ assets to support effective service delivery.

The Plan highlights the intention to:

- Appoint sufficient judicial and staff resources to enable effective and adequate court services to be provided
- To provide ongoing professional development for judicial and court officers so that the court employees have greater capacity to fulfil their functions
- Develop a grass-roots approach for the courts’ engagement with the community by undertaking consultation with court circuits
- Secure funds for infrastructure to ensure accessibility to court services.

Brief on the Implementation

Activities achieved:

Table 1 – Total Activities in the JMIP 2025

Total of 30 Activities within the JMIP 2025		
# of Activities implemented	# of Activities in good progress and will roll-over to 2026	# of Activities no longer a priority in 2024
16	6	8

- Revised the Organisational Structure and have it approved
- Recruitment of 2 officers within the JEC (Senta)
- Completed lost data entry - the Government network hit by a ransomware attack in 2022
- CMS now has for source included AP (Authorised person)
- Tonga lay justice recruit, orientation and sworn in.
- An independent Engineer report – obtained for Santo Court building
- An independent Engineer report – obtained for Magistrate court building in Vila
- Solar power up-grade for Ambrym
- Complete building extension to house the JEC office (the Senta)
- Liaise with court's external developing partners and managed to implement seven (7) local and regional activities – core fund with Vanuatu Government for implementing and for officer's participation.

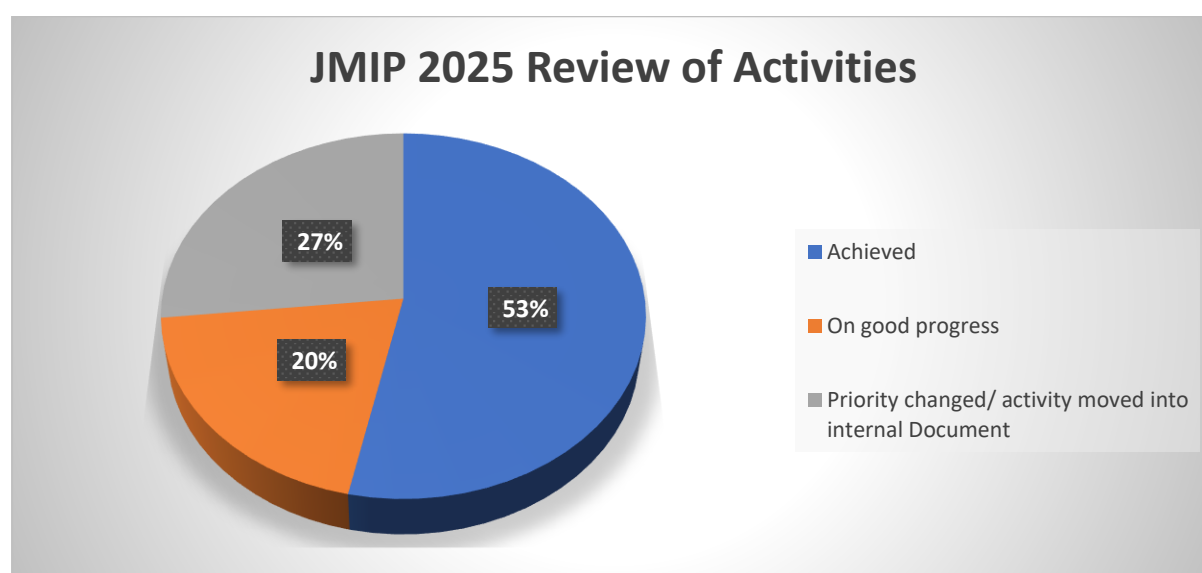


Figure 1: Implementation of Judicial Management Improvement Plan 2025

Some highlights in 2025 Court Improvements

- In 2025, the Chief Justice requested and approved a Special Project aiming at the strengthening and revitalizing of all ten Island Courts in the country with the support of the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Program and supervised by the Senta Director. The initiative focuses on improving court functionality and ensuring that justice services are accessible, affordable, timely, and fair. Particular emphasis is placed on the protection of vulnerable groups, including children, women, persons with disabilities, and other at-risk members of the community. This special Project allows the court to set up a Steering Committee working group that consists of; The Police (FPU & Deputy Commissioner operations), Internal Affairs targeting Area Administrators, the Public Solicitor's office, the Ministry of Justice, Sisters, Malvatumauri, VAPJP, Vanuatu Women's Centre, the Magistrate Court and the Island courts, enabling open discussions on issues raised and sharing of existing resources. The Supreme Court has contracted an Officer for this special project.
- The Judiciary of Vanuatu has updated the Organisational Structure, to capture all existing and new positions within, including reviewing of Job descriptions for all court personnels to reflect and align with the GRT salary review determinations.
- Ambrym Island Court has received its new Solar system to power the Court Office in Craigcove.
- A trial installation of Starlink internet connectivity at Tongoa Island Court was successfully completed in 2025. This initiative enabled the court to utilize digital tools for communication, record management, and service delivery, demonstrating the potential of technology to overcome connectivity challenges in remote island locations.

Brief Highlights in capacity building and Professional developments

- Judicial Officers Professional development;
 - Judicial Training [March]
 - i. 1 day common session to address common issues such as discuss case laws & best practice
 - ii. 1 day separate sessions; judges discusses Supreme Court and COA issues while magistrates deal with magistrate court issues targeting DV matters.
 - New Legislation Training - Evidence Act: For all judicial officers, Facilitators were Judge Goldsbrough, Judge Naigulevu and Justice Mansfield – financially supported by VAPJP.
 - Court of Appeal Workshop: For judges of the Supreme Court, facilitated by Justice Mansfield and Judge Goldsbrough – financially supported by VAPJP
 - In 2025, twenty (20) new Island Court Justices were appointed to serve the Tongoa and Shepherds Island Courts. The cohort comprised nine (9) women and eleven (11) men, contributing to improved gender balance and reinforcing public confidence in the Island Court system. These appointments addressed existing capacity gaps and enhanced the courts' ability to conduct regular hearings and dispose of pending cases in a timely manner.

- Epi Island Court justices have a ½ day refresher Training with the Supervising Magistrate – Senior Magistrate Hannaline Nalau after a customary land case hearing and later conducted community awareness through the area of Tomali, Forestri, Sakau, Warakoto Fare – South Epi.
- Regional Workshops/ Conferences
 - Judge Beverleigh attended the Global Judicial Integrity and Well-Being Conference in PNG on behalf of the Chief Justice. The theme is, *From Principles to Action: Advancing Judicial Well-being as the Foundation for Integrity, Resilience and Public Trust*. *Her participation came after the Supreme Court joined with all other courts around the world to celebrate the International Day of Judicial Well-being Day on 25 July – The Nauru 10 Declaration highlights that judicial well-being is not only essential for individual judicial officers but is fundamental to upholding judicial independence, integrity, and public trust in our justice systems.*
 - The two newly appointed judges of the Supreme Court as part of their pending orientation program attended the Te Kura Judgment Writing Seminar held in Wellington, New Zealand in August.
- Regional Invitations
 - Chief Justice and Madam Lunabek invited by the Chief Justice of PNG, attended and witnessed the OPENING OF THE WAIGANI NATIONAL COURT COMPLEX in September on PNG.
- Court Personnel
 - Island Court clerk Training [June]
 - i. Paclii Workshop: Improving Access to Justice through Paclii – Digitization [3 days]
Facilitated by Paclii Team
 - ii. Internal Island Court Training; Finding way forward for some Island Court common issues [2 days], Facilitated by the Training and Development Officer
 - iii. Access to Justice with a human rights approach; Target: Strengthening the Island court’s existing rules [1 day], facilitated by Dr. Graydon]
 - Dr. Carolyn Graydon, Human Rights Advisor under PJSP Program has facilitated Trainings for Magistrate Court Secretaries on 9 & 12 June focusing on receiving application for Temporary Protection Orders under the Family Protection Act, and improving relevant forms for DV matters, that should help speed up the process on initiating urgent applications in the magistrate court.
 - Dr. Carolyn Graydon has also conducted a workshop with Supervising Magistrates of the Island Courts on strengthening Management Skills and revisit Supervisory rules.
- Digitalisation Training;

- on Luganville/ Santo, training with the Island Court Clerk and scanning of old court files; facilitated by the Paclii Team including the Supreme Court Librarian and Archive officer, Ms Pauline Kalo - scanned 186 decisions
 - Digitization Training on Tanna with the Island Court Clerk and scanning of old court files; facilitated by the Paclii Team including the Supreme Court Librarian and Archive officer, Ms Pauline Kalo - scanned 307 decisions
 - Efate Island Court - scanned 1,000 decisions
 - Banks - scanned 541 decisions
 - Malekula - scanned 535 decisions
- Court Personnel to Regional Programmes
 - Ms. Pauline Kalo - attendance to "Law via the Internet Conference", held in Sydney around September, and in partnership with Paclii, they did a presentation on the importance of digitalization of court cases/ files.

The Senta updates:

Judicial Education and Development Centre [Tren mo Dvelopmen Senta Blong Kot, known for short as the 'Senta'] has commenced its long term establishment;

- An extension building erected in the Supreme Court Area in Joint Court
- Ms. Wendy Raptigh was promoted and appointed as Director of the Centre on May 2025
- The first Support Grant for Year 2025 was signed by the Honorable Chief Justice and Vanuatu & Australia Partnership Justice Program to commence establishing the Centre
- The above Grant enables the Supreme Court to contract a Technical Advisor – Ms Tina Pope
- Ms Tina Pope worked alongside the Senta Director and commence working on ToR for the Training Committee, develop policies to guide the Centre's operation, and design a Professional development Plan for the Senta Director.
- Ms. Tina Pope also assists with additional task to assist in the Senta's 2026 budget plan.
- Mr Robson Lapsai - Senior Administrator of All Island Courts has recently, been promoted from Snr Admin for Island courts and appointed as Program Officer within the Senta commencing on 19 January 2026.

Training Committee

- Composed of Judge Oliver Saksak as Chair, members; Chief Magistrate, Snr Administrator for Island Court and the Senta Director.
- Had two (2) sittings in year 2025

Senta Annual Budget 2025

Senta Annual Budget	
1490- Judicial Education Centre Annual Budget	6,238,880
Operation	765,080
Payroll	5,473,800

2025 Expenditures for the Senta using recurrent budget

Activity	Costings
<i>Trainings</i>	
Clerk Training-11 to June 2025	802,600
Global Judicial Integrity & Well-Being Conference IN PNG-Judge Kanas	128,825
Judges orientation in NZ-Judge Kanas & Judge Naigulevu	592,740
Opening of Waigani National Court Complex in PNG-CJ & Madam Lunabek	1,030,444
Law Conference in Sydney-Pauline	74,000
Starlink-Tonga	55,900
<i>Graduation Lay Justice</i>	44,860
<i>Judicial Training</i>	432,000
<i>Building JEC</i>	<u>2,627,152</u>
TOTAL	<u>5,788,521</u>

Project Funds supporting the Senta's Activities

Funds deposited into Supreme Court Library Account

1. PJSP:

- 1,762,850 _ Tongoa Orientation

2. Ina'ilau fund:

- Support funds for A2J Project Officer_VUV3,851,798
- Hire room_VUV60,000
- Women Leadership support_TA support_VUV1,327,973
- Support funds towards Santo Justice Orientation_VUV384,735

3. VAPJP fund;

- Senta Grant_VUV2,520,759
- Evidence Act Workshop_VUV1,479,241

Pie Chart showing all financial support in 2025

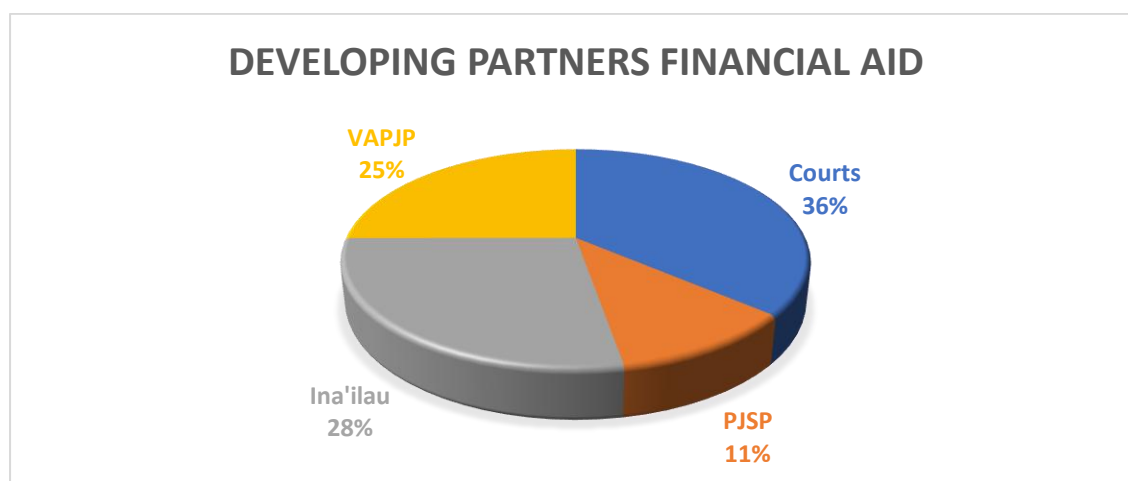


Figure 2: Percentage of funds on implementing the Improvement Plan

On-going major activities into 2026:

- A new judge to be recruited after Judge Goldsbrough's contract ended last year.
- A new Magistrate will be appointed in replacement of Senior Magistrate Peter Moses.
- The Judicial Education & Development Centre will conduct a national Training need assessment to help design the needed curriculum for the Senta.
- Expanding Access to Justice' special Project will continue into 2026 more focus on:
 - Introducing a Free line for DV applications;
 - Equipping justices of the Island court as Authorized persons;
 - Revive Mobile Court in the Island courts;
 - Strengthening Magistrate supervisory role in the Island Courts

- More appointments for new justices targeting; Sanma Island Court & the Efate Island courts in 2026. This is to ensure cases are dealt with, reducing the backlog and ensuring timely resolution of disputes.
- Digitization of judgments for the remaining Island Courts is scheduled for completion in 2026.

Library Information Services

The library exists to support and provide resources to meet the information needs of Judicial Officers and staff of the courts. The main collection is located at the Supreme Court in Port Vila, and a smaller collection is located in Luganville, Santo.

The library is a closed library; its primary users are judicial officers and staff of the courts.

The library is staffed by one person.

Collection development

The collection

The print collection of the library incorporating primary and secondary resources of the collection comprises of 2,800 + items.

Acquisitions

There have been no new acquisitions this year as the focus was on acquiring and preparing a fourth 20ft shipping container for file storage. Library funds were diverted for this purpose.

Services and facilities

Services and facilities provided by the library include:

Photocopy, laminating, binding, coffee/tea making facilities, lounge set & conference table for users, Library research PC & Wi-Fi access in the library and certain areas of the Court building.

Judgment Services

The library staff is responsible for collecting and disseminating court decisions for publication. Decisions are sent to the Pacific Legal Institute commonly known as PacLII: <http://www.pacii.org/> Decisions are published on the courts official website: courts.gov.vu or judiciary.gov.vu. Judgements published are from the:

- Court of Appeal; civil and criminal appeal decisions
- Supreme Court; civil and criminal decisions
- Magistrate Court; civil and criminal decisions
- Island Court; Civil, criminal, land and chiefly title decisions

In 2025, 96 batches of judgments, containing 433 decisions, were sent to PacLII for publication. These decisions are also published on the Court website. 49 decisions were from the Court of Appeal, 367 from the Supreme Court, and 10 from the Magistrate Courts and 7 from the Island Courts.

Court Website

Court Website Information services

Library staff manage content and disseminate information on the Court Website.

The current number of judgments now available on the Court website since its launching in June 2017 is now 2612 and still counting.

Court Website Usage Statistics

The Court website experience approximately 89% growth in unique visitors from 2024 to 2025 – this is a significant increase.

- In 2024, 53,407 unique visitors
- In 2025, 469,836 unique visitors.

The most pages viewed in 2025 were the Court Daily Listings, followed by Court judgments.

The Court Archives

In 2025, three 20FT shipping Containers designated for file storage have now reached full capacity. A fourth 20FT shipping container was acquired later in the year, with preparation for file storage scheduled for 2026.

PacLII/Vanuatu Court Island Court Digitizing Project

In November 2024, PacLII and the Courts embarked on a Island Court Judgments Digitizing Project that was funded by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives and supported by USP/PacLII. The Project commenced in the Luganville Island Court in November 2024, and continued in July 2025 in Tanna, Malekula, Banks and then Efate Island Court in December 2025.

The number of decisions scanned in each Island Court registry:

- Santo island Court – 186 decisions
- Tanna Island Court – 307 decisions
- Malekula Island Court – 535 decisions
- Banks Island Court – 541 decisions
- Efate Island Court – 1000 decision

The project was carried out by Mr. Ephraim Ruddley from PacLII and Pauline Kalo from the Supreme Court. As part of the digitizing project, a 1-day workshop was carried out in each location which involved local community leaders, chiefs, Judicial Officers, and was aimed at providing training on accessing legal information online specifically on the PacLI and the Court Website.

Island Court Clerk Training

As part of the Digitization Project, training was conducted in Port Vila in June 03- 11 2025, which included all Island Court Clerks. The training was designed to equip clerks with the skills needed to continue digitising court decisions and ensuring the project's sustainability across all courts.

LVI 2025 Conference

On November 12- 14 November 2025, both Mr. Ruddley and Ms. Kalo attended the LVI 2025 Conference in Sydney, Australia where they presented a paper on the digitization project. The conference provided an opportunity to showcase Vanuatu's commitment through the use of technology to support and improve the preservation and accessibility of legal information.

This project is likely to extend to the 5 remaining other outer Island Court registries in 2026 depending on the availability of funding.

About the Courts

Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal (COA) is the highest court of the land. It is composed of at least 2 or more Judges of the Supreme Court sitting together. The introduction of remote video connection facilities introduced in the year 2023 during the Covid19 pandemic restrictions, continues to be used for remote connection of judges and lawyers virtually and it works successfully for the COA sittings in February, May, August and November sessions each year.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is the President of the Court of Appeal and all the Judges of the Supreme Court are called upon by the Chief Justice to compose the Court of Appeal. Overseas judges who composed Court of Appeal of Vanuatu in 2025 included:

- Justice Ronald Young – Retired Justice of the New Zealand High Court
- Justice Raynor Asher – Retired Judge of the Court of Appeal of New Zealand
- Justice John Mansfield – Justice of the Federal Court of Australia
- Justice Mark O'Regan – Retired Judge of the New Zealand High Court
- Justice James Bisanko - Retired Judge of the Federal Court of Australia
- Justice Richard White – Justice of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction to hear and determine civil and criminal proceedings. It has jurisdiction to hear questions concerning elections and similar matters; and it has jurisdiction to hear any grievances from citizens about emergency regulations made by the Council of Ministers. The Supreme Court has jurisdiction to hear civil and criminal

appeals from a Magistrate court and to hear appeals from Island Courts as to ownership of customary land.

There are 8 Active Judges of the Supreme Court in 2025 including the Chief Justice. The Hon. Judge Edwin Goldbrough's contract ended at the end of November 2025, reducing the number of active judges to 7. One judge – Justice Maree Mackenze is Secondment by the New Zealand District Court to the Supreme Court of Vanuatu for a period of 2 years. Different Judges of the New Zealand District Court have served on this scheme since 2004.

Magistrates' Court

The Magistrates' Court has jurisdiction to hear cases where the amount claimed or the subject matter in dispute does not exceed VT1, 000, 000; disputes between landlord and tenant where the amount claimed does not exceed VT 2,000,000; and cases involving uncontested petitions for divorce or nullity of marriage.

In its criminal jurisdiction, the Magistrates' Court hears cases that concern any criminal proceedings for an offence for which the maximum penalty does not exceed 2 years imprisonment. It has jurisdiction to hear appeals from civil decisions from Island Courts, except decisions as to ownership of land, where appeal is to the Supreme Court.

The Magistrates' Court is specifically excluded from exercising jurisdiction in wardship, guardianship, interdiction, appointment of conseil judiciaire, adoption, civil status, succession, wills, bankruptcy, insolvency, and liquidation.

There are 9 active Magistrates at the beginning of 2025 including the Chief Magistrate. The Chief Magistrate and 4 other Magistrates are stationed in Port- Vila; Two Magistrates are stationed in Luganville, Santo; One Magistrate is located at Isangel, Tanna and one is stationed at Lakatoro, Malekula.

After the resignation of the Senior Magistrate Peter Moses in the first quarter of 2025, the number of active magistrates is down to 8.

Island Courts

The Island Court may only deal with civil matters in which the Defendant is ordinarily resident within their territorial jurisdiction or in which the cause of action is within their boundaries, such as customary land cases when the land is within their territorial boundaries.

In criminal matters, the court has jurisdiction to hear charges which their penalties do not exceed VT 24, 000 as fine and not exceeding 6 months imprisonment.

In civil claims, the court hear cases in which the defendant is ordinarily resident within their territorial jurisdiction or in which the cause of action is within their boundaries with claims not exceeding VT 50,000; claims in contracts or tort where the amount claimed, or the subject does not exceed VT 50,000 and claims for maintenance not limited in amount.

The Island Courts are specifically empowered to administer the customary law prevailing within their territorial jurisdiction so far as it is not in conflict with any written law and is not contrary to justice, morality, and good order.

There are currently 10 operational Island Courts in the Republic. The Island Courts have full-time clerks, appointed by the Chief Justice to administer the affairs of the Island Courts.

We have the following active justices around all Island courts in Vanuatu:

- 47 active Island Court Justices for Banks & Torres Island Court and 11 are active female Justices;
- 12 active Island Court Justices for Santo & Malo Island Court with 1 active female Justice;
- 23 active Island Court Justices for Ambrym & Pamma Island Court with 6 female active Justices;
- 14 active Island Court Justices for Malekula Island Court with 4 active female Justices;
- 23 Island Court Justices for Ambae & Maewo Island Court with 6 female active Justices;
- 23 active Island Court Justices for Pentecost Island Court with 5 active female Justices;
- 24 active Island Court Justices for Epi Island Court with 4 active female Justices;
- 26 active Island Court Justices for Tongoa and Shepherds Islands with 9 active female Justices; 7
- 12 active Island Court Justices for Efate Island Court with 4 active female Justices;
- 30 active Island Court Justices for Tanna, Aniwa, Futuna & Aneityum Island Court with 6 active female Justices;
- 23 active Island Court Justice for Erromango Island Court with 8 active female Justices.

The lay justices are members of the community.

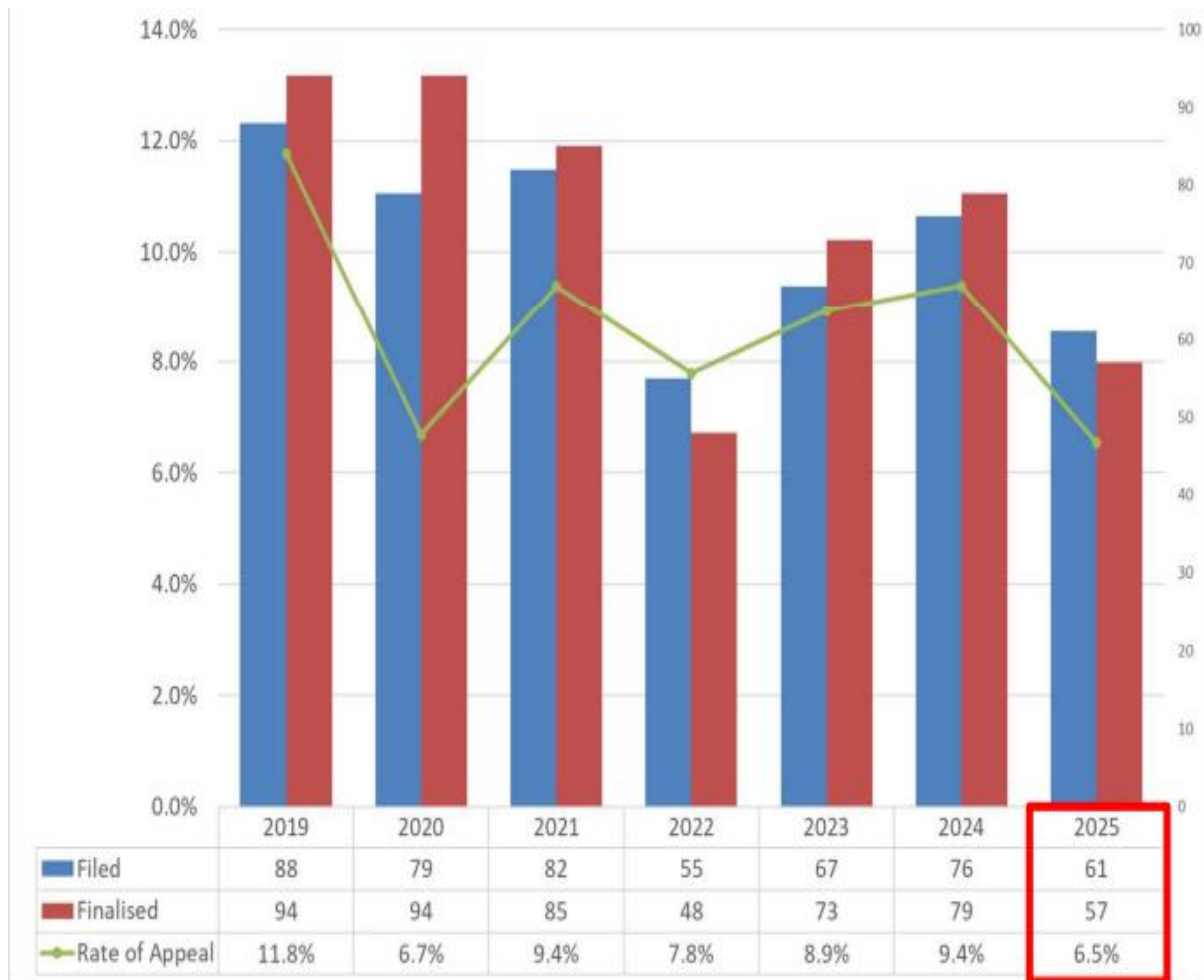
The coming into force of the Customary Land Management Act has added tasks to the operations of the Island Court as they are mandated by law to act as the Island Court [land] Tribunal registrar to receive applications on review of decisions of customary land ownership from the village level.

Rental of court offices and court rooms

- a. **Port Vila Supreme court hearing room rental-** rental for dumbear courtrooms commenced on 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.
- b. **Santo Supreme court office rental-** rental agreement renewed for another 4 years starting 1 February 2024 to 28 February 2028.
- c. **Magistrate court office rental** – rental agreement renewed for another 2 years starting 1 January 2024 to 1st January 2026.
- d. **Magistrate court hearing room 1 rental-** rental agreement for 3 years commencing from 31 May 2025 to 31 May 2028.
- e. **Magistrate court hearing room 2 rental-** rental agreement for 1 year commencing from 1 February 2025 to 1 February 2026

Court Results (Court Workload)

Court of Appeal workload & rate of appeal



CoA filing has been decreased by 20% from 76 in 2024 to 61 in 2025. Finalized cases also decreased by 28% from 79 in 2024 to 57 in 2025.

Of note is the decreasing % of the appealed rate since 2021 and now running at 6.5%.

Figure 3: Court of Appeal; trend of filed and finalized cases, and rate of appeal – 2019 to 2025

Supreme Court workload & clearance rate



Cases being filed in 2025 over 900 cases – the highest workload seen since 2019 and comparing to 2024, a 9 % increase. Finalization up, over 900 cases compared to 2024 a 15% increase, however it came close to the high number of filings resulting a Clearance rate of 97% less than the targeted 100% - adding over 40 cases to Pending #s..

The overall average for the last 7 years is 101% - a solid performance

Figure 4: Supreme Court; trend of filed and finalized cases, and clearance rate – 2019 to 2025.

Magistrate Court workload & clearance rate



Having a late start Magistrate Court, starting in Quarter 2 of 2025, due to earthquake damages to their building in late December of 2024. Cases filed were significantly up from 2,393 in 2024, to 2,492 in 2025 a 4% increase and finalization down from 2,268 in 2024, to 2,215 in 2025 a 2% decrease resulting an 89% Clearance Rate – adding over 140 cases to Pending #s.

The overall average for the last 7 years is 96%

Figure 5: Magistrate Court; trend of filed and finalized cases, and clearance rate – 2019 to 2025.

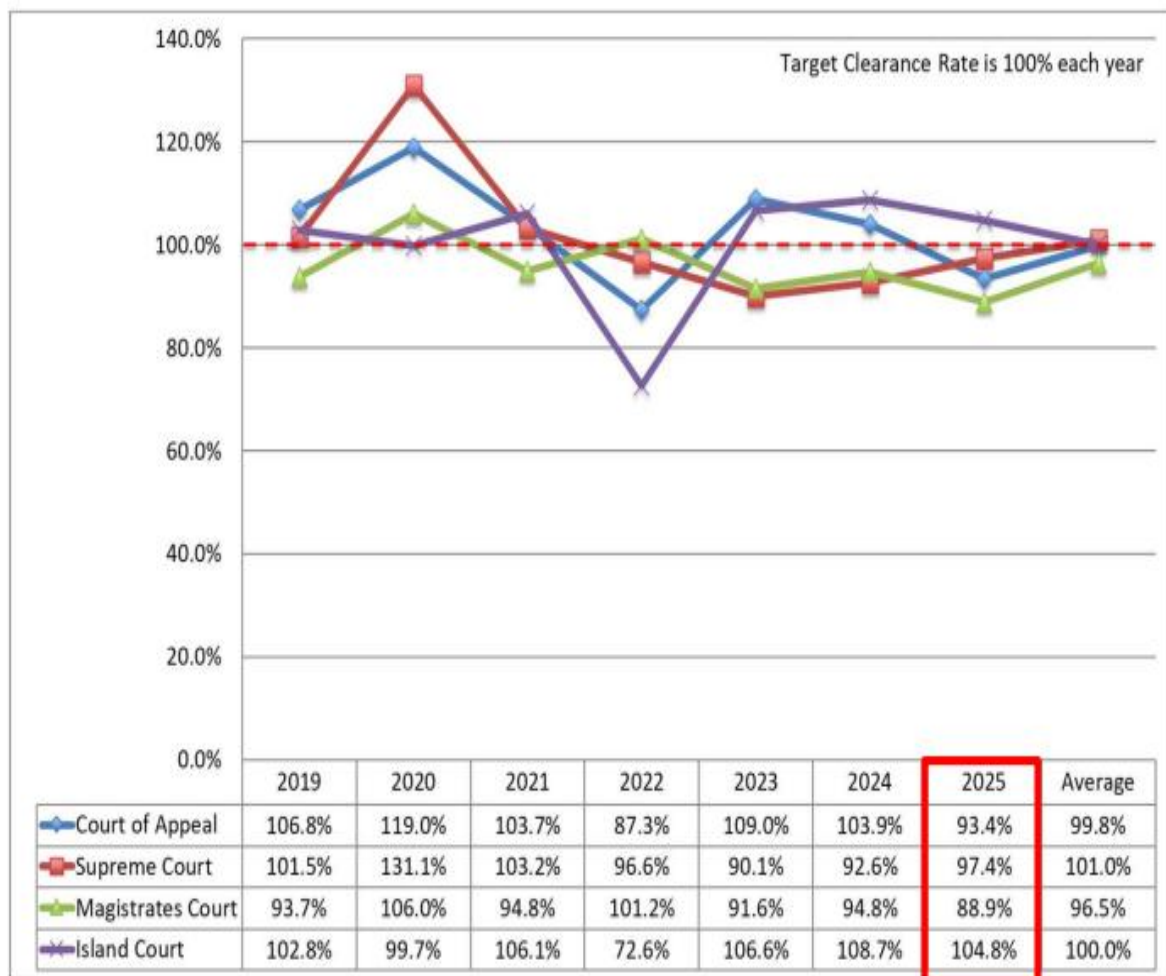
Island court workload & clearance rate



Cases filed has up by 3% from 389 in 2024 to 399 in 2025, and finalizations down by 1% from 423 in 2024 to 418 in 2025, higher than filing in 2025 resulting in a clearance rate of 105% on 100% target - a solid year.

Figure 6: Island Court; trend of filed and finalized cases, and Clearance Rate – 2019 to 2025.

Clearance rate Trends

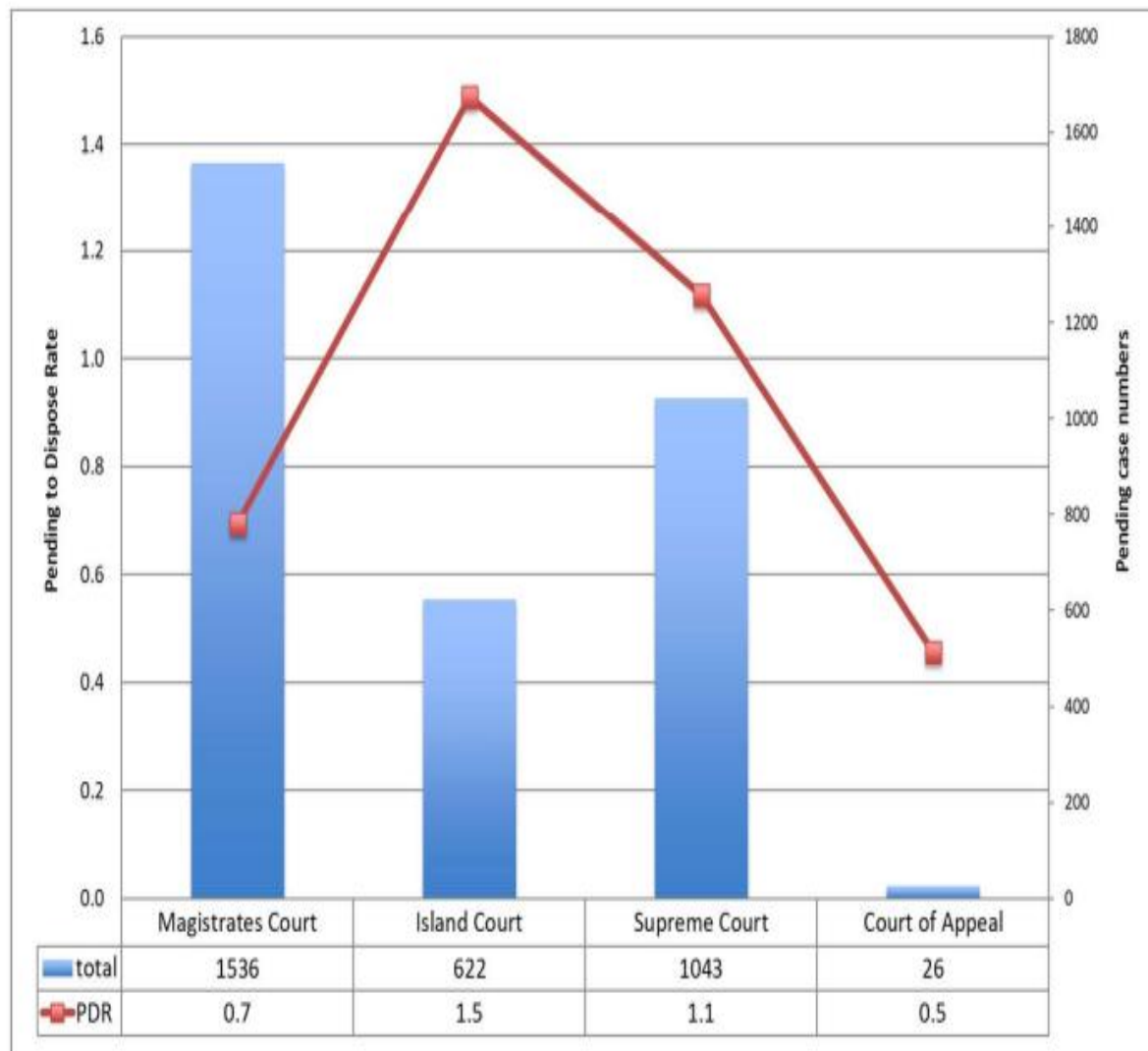


Clearance Rate 3/4 jurisdictions are sitting below 100% if less than 100% - a court's pending workload naturally increases. Island Court at 104.8%, in 2025 reducing pending numbers.

Supreme Court and Island Court have been able to achieve an average Clearance Rate of just over 100% over the last 7 years – by any standard, across 4 jurisdictions – very solid.

Figure 7: All Courts; trend for Clearance Rate – 2019 to 2025.

Pending Cases by Court



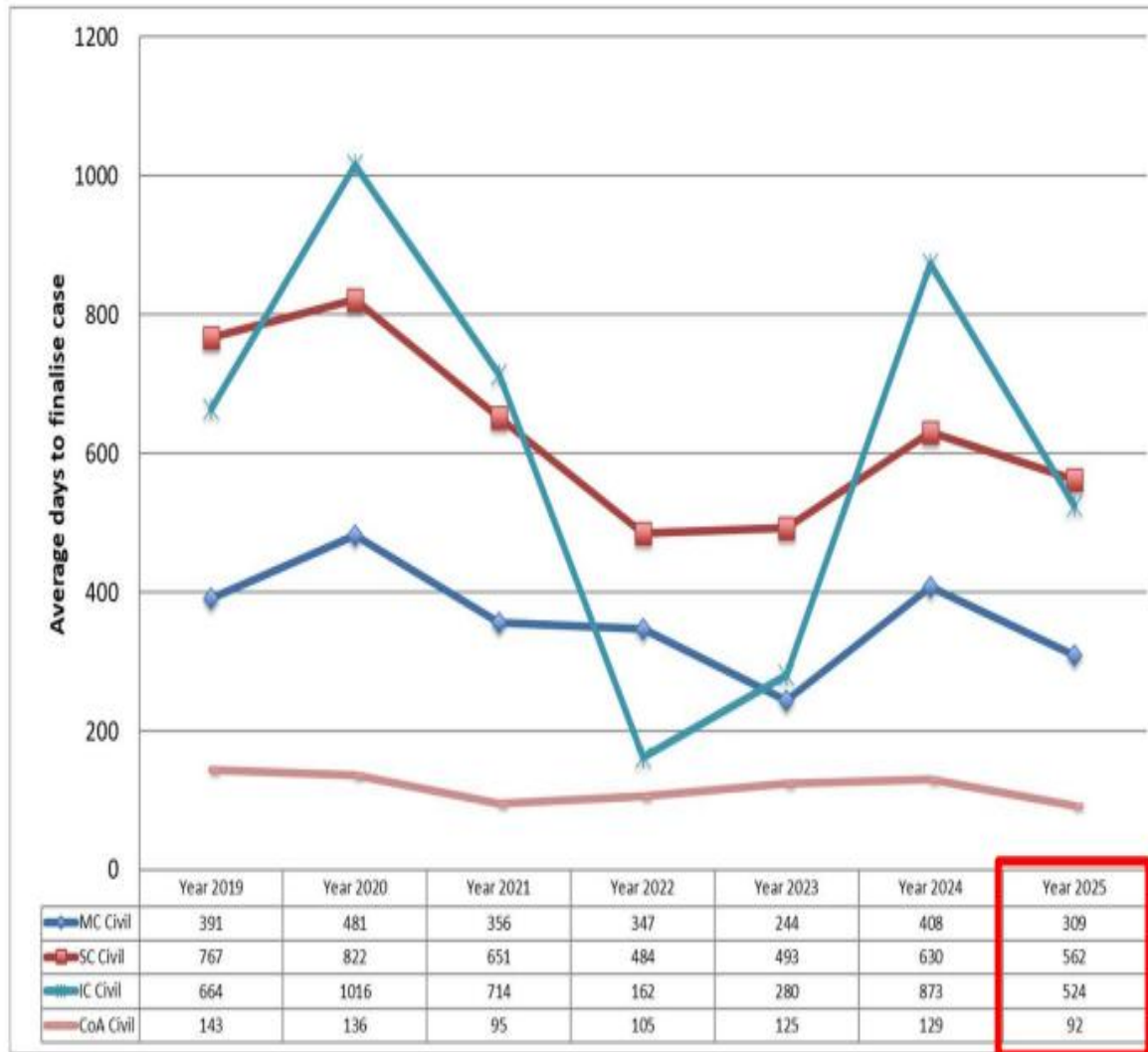
3,227 cases are now pending across the four jurisdictions, with 48% in the Magistrate Court. Of concern is the high Pending to Disposal Ratio (PDR) in the Supreme Court, Magistrates Court & Island Courts. The lower the PDR, the better - and ideally under 1.0 for the Supreme Court and 0.5 for the lower Courts.

Court of Appeal solid with PDR of 0.5

Figure 8: Pending cases by four court jurisdictions.

Timeliness Disposed

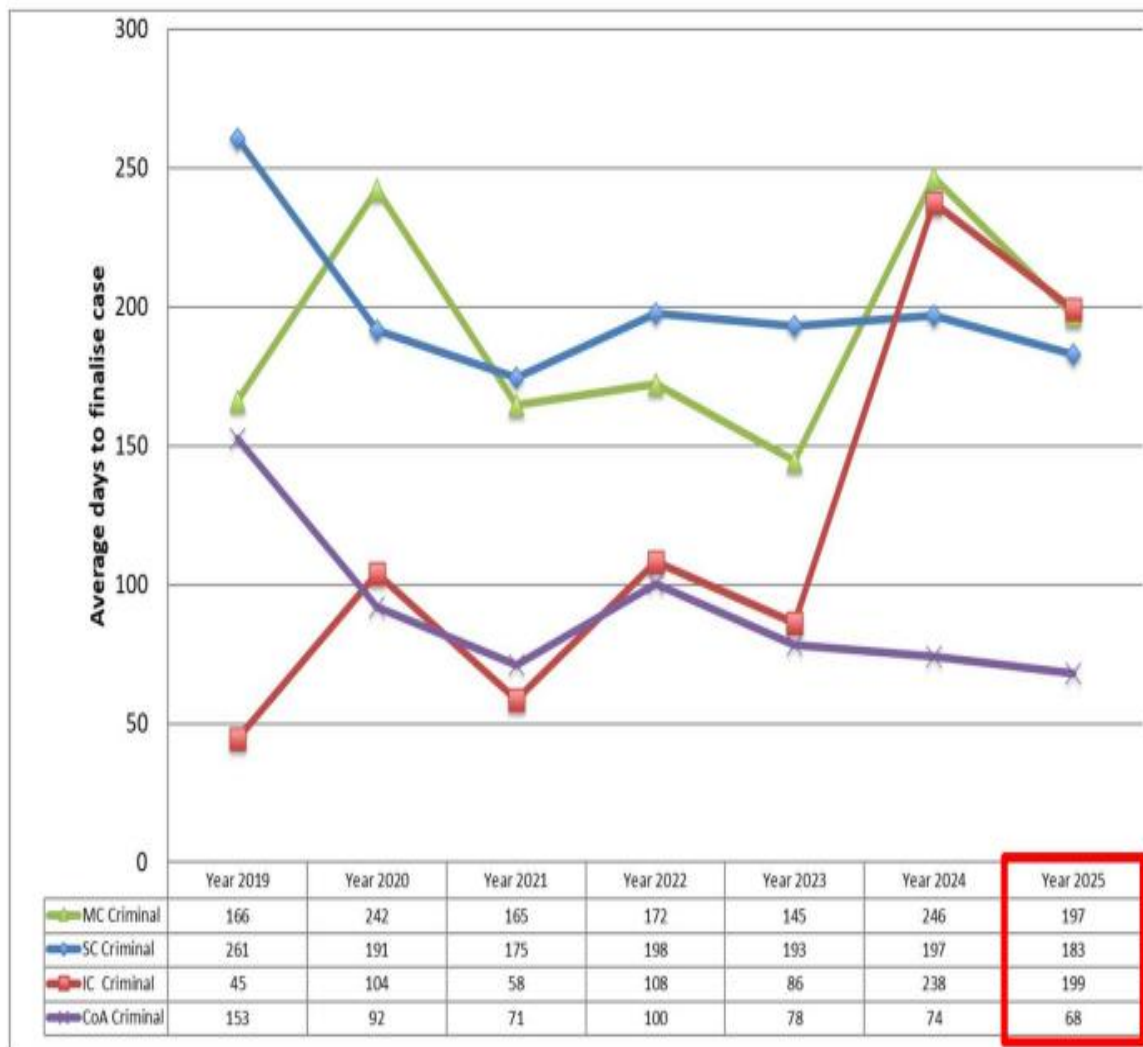
Civil Cases



A significant decrease in the days to dispose of Civil cases across all jurisdiction in 2025 compared to 2024 – an excellent result.

Figure 9: Disposal by days in the courts for civil cases

Criminal Cases



A significant decrease in the days to dispose of Criminal cases across all jurisdiction in 2025 compared to 2024 – an excellent result.

Figure 10: Disposal by days in the courts for Criminal cases

Attendance Rates

Attendance rates, as measured by the number of visits/ appearances at court to dispose a matter.

Supreme Court

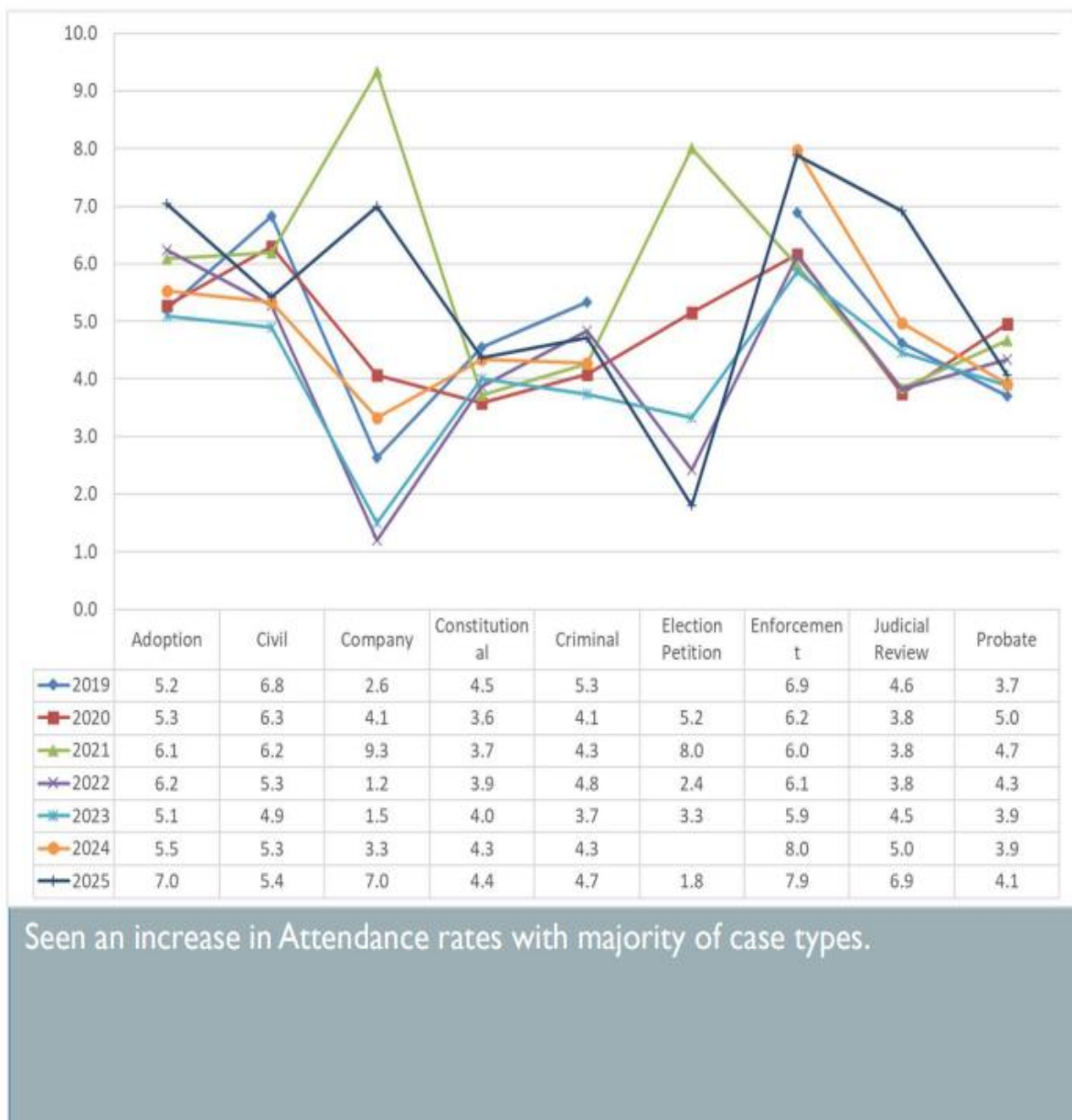


Figure 11: Supreme Court completed attendance rates.

Magistrate Court

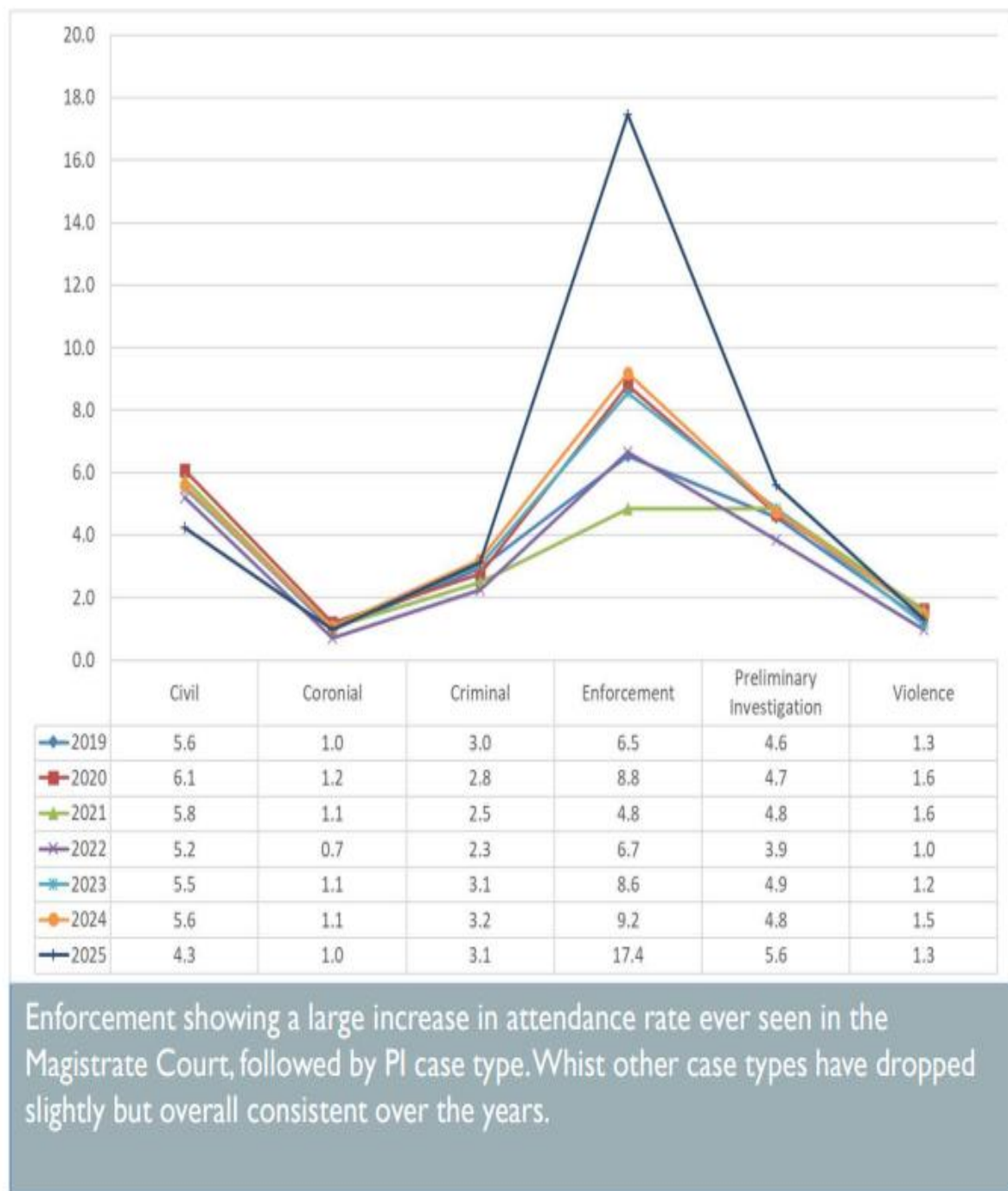


Figure12: Magistrate Court completed attendance rates.

Commentaries

Supreme Court

- SC filings increased – with 958 cases filed – highest seen compared to previous years and to 2024, with 875 cases filed.
- SC finalizations were up from 810 in 2024 to 933 in 2025
- Clearance rate less than 100% - at 97%, but overall, in the last 7 years at 101% - a solid effort
- Pending increased to just over 1,043, due to the Clearance Rate at less than 100%
- PDR is 1.1 – a decrease from 1.2 in 2024 however still slightly above the target of 1.0 for any Supreme Court
- There are still approximately 25% of cases older than 2023 – reflecting many old cases needing to be addressed
- Timeliness for completing Criminal cases decreased by 7% – now at 183 days versus 197 days last year – and Civil cases decreased from 630 days to 562 days – a decrease of 11% - an excellent result.

Overall

- The age of pending cases sees 25% of cases older than 3 years is still a concern and will be a focus of attention in 2026 to reduce the % of aged cases.
- Judicial output (productivity) – as calculated by disposals/full time Judicial Officer – a slight decrease from previous years – but still a solid performance by the Judges and in-line with the average across the 7 previous years.
- Overall, the % of cases with a future listing have increased from 41% to 46% from previous year – a good improvement, but the international benchmark is 80%, so more work needed to ensure cases have a future date.
- Over 43% are under 'case management' without a future listing – a reduction from the 46% the previous year – but further reduction is needed
- Attendance rates (which impact and cost the community) are being monitored carefully. Some variances between case types – overall has been increase. from 4.9 appearances to 5.3 appearances in the last year – while it does not look like a big difference – it is approximately 10% increase from the previous year which is a concern (and 25% increase across the past 2 years).

Magistrate Court

- MC filings increased – with 2,492 cases filed – highest seen in the last 4 years and to 2024, with 2,393 cases filed.
- MC finalizations were down from 2,268 to 2,215 in 2025
- Clearance rate is less than 100% - at 89%, but overall, in the last 7 years at 96% - could be better
- Pending increased to 1,536, due to the Clearance Rate at less than 100%, at 89% • PDR is 0.7 – remains the same as in 2024 and is still slightly above the target of 0.5 for any Magistrate Court.
- There are still approximately 25% of cases older than 2024

- Timeliness for completing Criminal cases decreased by 20% – now at 197 days versus 246 days last year – and Civil cases decreased from 408 days to 309 days – a decrease of 24% - an excellent result.

Overall

- The age of pending with 25% of cases older than 2 years is still a concern and will be a focus of attention in 2026 to reduce the % of aged cases.
- Judicial output (productivity) – as calculated by disposals/full time Judicial Officer – a slight decrease from previous years – but still a solid performance by the Magistrate and in line with the average across the 7 previous years.
- Overall, the % of cases with a future listing have increased from 18% to 45% from previous year – a good improvement, but the international benchmark is 80%, so more work needed to ensure cases have a future date.
- Over 39% are under ‘case management’ without a future listing – a reduction from the 52% the previous year – but further reduction is needed.
- Attendance rates (which impact and cost the community) are being monitored carefully. Some variances between case types – overall has decreased from 2.8 appearances to 2.7 appearances in the last year.

Island Court

- IC filings increased – with 399 cases filed – higher compared to the previous year 2024, with 389 cases filed.
- IC finalizations were down from 423 in 2024 to 418 in 2025
- Clearance rate above 100% - at 105% - a solid result and overall, in the last 7 years at 100% - again a solid result
- Pending decreased to 622, due to the Clearance Rate at more than 100%
- PDR is 1.5 – a decrease from 1.8 in 2024 however still above the target of 0.5 for any Island Court
- There are still approximately 60% of cases older than 2024 – needs to be addressed
- Timeliness for completing Criminal cases decreased by 16% – now at 199 days versus 238 days last year – and Civil cases decreased from 873 days to 524 days – a decrease of 40% - an excellent result.

Overall

- The age of pending with 60% of cases older than 2 years is still a concern and will be a focus of attention in 2026 to reduce the % of aged cases.
- Overall, the % of cases with a future listing have increased from 30% to 35% from previous year – a good improvement, but the benchmark is 80%, so more work needed to ensure cases have a future date
- Over 43% are under ‘case management’ without a future listing – an increase from the 41% the previous year – but further reduction is needed.

- Attendance rates (which impact and cost the community) are being monitored carefully. Some variances between case types – overall has remains at 2.5 same as last year.

Cook Island Indicators

According to the 15 Cook Islands indicators agreed by the Chief Justices of the Pacific region as a starting point for reporting the court's work, below is how the courts in Vanuatu were tracking from 2019.

Clearance rate

- Court of Appeal, the clearance rate is 99.8%
- Supreme Court clearance is 101.0%
- Magistrates Court clearance rate is 96.5%
- Island Courts rate is 100%

Average duration

Average duration of cases from filing to finalization

Court of Appeal

- Civil Appeal Cases – 92 days
- Criminal Appeal Cases – 68 days

Supreme Court

- Civil Cases – 562 days
- Criminal Cases – 199 days

Magistrates Court

- Civil Cases – 309 days
- Criminal Cases – 197 days

Percentage of Appeal

The percentage of cases that goes on to appeal in the Court of Appeal is calculated using the number of cases finalized in the Supreme Court and the number of appeals registered in the Court of Appeal as a percentage of the later. 933 cases were finalized by the Supreme Court in 2025, and 61 cases were appealed to the Court of Appeal. This represents 6.5% of all cases finalized in the Supreme Court that were appealed.

Overturn rate on appeal is 39.3 %

Fee waiver

No cases on Fee waiver

However, Legislation expressed that Temporary Protection applications are free – therefore, 47% Domestic cases in the Magistrate court – no fees charged.

Cases disposed on circuit

The percentage of cases disposed of through court circuits are;

Supreme Court 11% percentage and Magistrate court is at 27%

Complaints

The percentage of complaints received concerning a Judicial Officer is 0 %

The percentage of complaints received concerning a court staff member is approximately 1%.

Judicial resources

The average number of cases per judicial officer in the Supreme Court is 109 cases per year per judge and in the Magistrates, it is 269 cases per Magistrate per year.

Staff resource

The average number of cases per member of the Supreme Court staff (secretaries) is 109 and for Magistrate Court Staff it is 269.

Court services

The Court produces an Annual Report each year, except 2015. The reports are published in the Court website; www.courts.gov.vu.

The court websites also publishes court listings and the court judgements.

Average age of pending to disposal of case load;

- Court of Appeal – 26 days
- Supreme court – 1043 days
- Magistrate court - 1536 days
- Island Court – 622 days

Juvenile/Children cases

No record

Violence cases

Violence against women/Children

1167 violence cases (seeking family protection orders) were registered in the Magistrate Court which represent a total 47% of the total workload in the Magistrate Court in 2025.

Additionally, criminal cases registered in the Magistrate court in 2025 [692 cases], 45% of these cases are DV related matters.

Factors, events, or trends influencing court results.

The Vanuatu Courts enjoy a good degree of independence from the executive branch of the Government. However, external and internal factors contributed to the results of the court operations and functions in 2025.

Challenges

1. The non-service of summonses for criminal cases lodged in the Magistrates Court has a great impact on the Magistrates Court in managing cases.
2. Court circuits to islands other than Efate and Santo have been limited to Provincial headquarters due to limited resources.
3. Warrant issued by the Supreme Court and Magistrate Court for defendants in criminal cases were still a challenge for police to execute due to limited budget or resources by the Vanuatu Police. Some of these pending warrants were over 10 years old.

Human Resources

The workforce, recruitment, Welfares of all court personnel and judicial officers for the last 12 months period; 1 January – 31 December 2025.

1) Current Human Resources

Designation	FTE	Contract	Vacant
Judges	8	1	1
Master	-	-	1
Deputy Master	1	-	-
Chief Magistrate	1	-	-
Senior Magistrates	4	-	1
Magistrates	4	-	-

Judicial Support & Administration.	51	1	1
Enforcement	5	-	-

2) Recruitment

a. There are 4 recruitments in 2025 of which 2 Position is **new** and 2 positions are **replacements** as follows:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>COURT</u>	<u>NEW/ REPLACEMENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1. Secretary	Supreme Court	Replacement	Port Vila
2. Assistant Registrar	Magistrate	Court Replacement	Port Vila
3. Secretary	Magistrate Court	New	Luganville
4. Director	Supreme Court	New – internal promotion	Port Vila

Three positions stated above are Presently on six months probationary period, except for the Director of the Judicial Education Centre.

b. one (1) overseas judicial officers

- i. Judge Maree Mackenzie send by New Zealand government in 2024 for a period of two years.

3) Redundancy/ Separation

Table below shows three officers who resigned from the Institution in year 2025:

Retirement Age	Retire on Medical Grounds	Resignation	Removal from JSC/ Termination
1	-	2	-

Severance Payment Year 2025:

1. Moses Peter (Senior Magistrate) – **8,919,641vt**
2. Jospha Teguebu (Secretary – Supreme Court) – **1,595,084vt**
3. Blandine Tepi (Clerk – Tanna) – **4,580,648vt**
4. Belinda Garae (HRO) – **1,868,083vt**
5. Stephen Kalo (Magistrate) – **953,668vt**
6. Jean Noel Kutty (Administration Driver) – **1,441,989vt**
7. Shirley George (Assistant Registrar -Supreme Court Santo)– **4,442,767vt**

4) Leaves Records

A) Outstanding Leaves Update by Judiciary

- (i) Below is a summary of leave records for Judiciary staff as of 31/12/2025.

BRIEF SUMMARY: This ANNUAL LEAVE REPORT is EXTRACTED from HRO "Manual Tracking up-date" as of: 1/01/2025 - 31/12/2025

1. Overall Total Cost of Annual leave for JUDICIARY as of 31/12/2021 IS: 122,306,684VT
2. Overall Total Cost of Annual leave for JUDICIARY as of 31/12/2022 IS: 110,472,256VT
3. Overall Total Cost of Annual leave for JUDICIARY as of 31/12/2023 IS: 106,101,064VT
4. Overall Total Cost of Annual leave for JUDICIARY as of 31/12/2024 IS: 135,543,526VT
5. Overall Total Cost of Annual leave for JUDICIARY as of 7/11/2025 is: 126,491,138
6. Difference of 9,893,940VT (Comparison of year 2024 total cost to year 2025) - With the **management** of staff annual leave during the last 12 months PLUS GRT **increase** of Judiciary
Staff Annual Salary has tremendously impacted the total cost of Judiciary Annual Leave cost to 126,491,138 as of 31st December 2025.

HRO RECOMMENDATIONS way forward:

1. Judiciary to find FUNDS to pay-off Judiciary staff leaves to a reasonable Balance
2. During Festive season on DECEMBER & JANUARY JO's & staffs with 100+ leave MUST take ANNUAL LEAVE - make it COMPULSORY.
3. Include Plannings of ANNUAL LEAVE in 2025 STAFF ANNUAL WORK PLANS

- (ii) Judiciary will continue to encourage staff to take annual leave where possible and find avenues where leave balances can be paid off so that in the next 2-3 years we would like to see leave balances at a manageable status for the institution.

B. Override of accurate leave records

Judiciary Annual Leave tracking is recorded manually by the Human Resource Officer; it is up-to-date and accurate. Reason for records being made manually was because in year 2021 over-riding by FMIS was not done for all staff. Institution trusts the manual tracking in place.

5) Staff welfares

99% of Staff employment statuses are permanent, receiving all entitlements. Salaries have been paid every fortnight for the last 12 months.

6) Office Hours

Most staff attend work by 7:30 to 8AM; Each Courts has a time record sheet in place. HRO provides an up-to-date report each month to the Chief Registrar on the status of staff timing. Reminders to staff regarding timing are provided to staff where necessary so that Official hours of work are respected by staff.

Day-off is granted to staff for work done on weekends or Public Holiday or when they travel during weekends for work purposes. Day-offs are tracked and Managed by HRO.

7) Record Keeping

Court staff and Judicial Officers each have their own personnel file in both SOFT & HARD COPY of which the HRO have access to these files and updates these files accordingly.

ASSET SUMMARY 2025

NEW ASSETS	BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	VEHICLE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	TOTAL (VT)
7,738,375	4,113,224	1,972,464	13,824,063

New Assets

This summary includes the purchase of new computer sets, office equipment, office furniture and fittings, office tools and vehicles.

Building Repairs and Renovations

Building renovations summary are renovations done within the year 2025 and thus include the courts premises and few official residences. This also includes building accessories.

Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance

This is the summary of all courts vehicles that undergo repairs and maintenance within the year 2025.

See below is the breakdown of all summarize categories – New Assets, Building Repairs and maintenance, vehicle repairs and maintenance.

NEW ASSETS

Date	Court	C Loc	Asset Loc	Asset	Description	Contractor/Supplier	Payment	Amount
29-01-25	Island Court	Port Vila	court room	Aircondition	GREE 12000BTU	Trade Air Engineering	LPO 140-023917	120,750
29-01-25	Supreme Court	Training Centre	office	Office Desk	computer desk	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023918	30,000
04-02-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	J. edwin	Printer	Brother MFC-L2730DW	Computer City	LPO 140-023966	33,990
26-02-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	J. edwin	Filing Cabinet	4 draws	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024039	70,001
		Port Vila	J. Saksak	Filing Cabinet	4 draws			
26-02-25	Supreme Court	Training Centre	office	Aircondition	AIWA, 9000BTU	Trade Air Engineering	LPO 140-024047	218,500
		Training Centre	office	Aircondition	AIWA, 9000BTU			
11-03-25	Magistrate Court	Port Vila	Rodrice	Monitor	ACER EK251QG	Computer World	LPO 140-024091	131,970
			Ruthy	Monitor	ACER EK251QG			
			Veronique	Monitor	ACER EK251QG			
			M. Toaliu	Monitor	ACER EK251QG			
			M. Nimbwen	Monitor	ACER EK251QG			
			M. Sam	Monitor	ACER EK251QG			

23-03-25	Magistrate Court	Malekula Court	office	Filing Cabinet	4 draw cabinet	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024125	75,940
				Fan	standing fan			
24-03-25	Magistrate Court	Malekula Court	Chamber	Office Desk	2 draw, fixed brown	Computer World	LPO 140-024124	26,995
08-04-25	Island Court	Tongoa	office	PC	Dell Optiplex 010	Computer World	LPO 140-024195	139,995
24-04-25	Supreme Court	Dumbea		Plastic Chair	13 plastic chairs	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-024217	27,170
28-04-25	Magistrate Court	Santo Court	Rachel	Filing Cabinet	3 draw cabinet	Wong Sze Sing	LPO 140-024223	29,800
02-05-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	Registry	Printer	Last pmnt, Toshiba 5508a	copy Express	LPO 140-024247	462,953
07-05-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	HR	Filing Cabinet	4 draw cabinet	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024259	36,430
14-05-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	J Aru	Filing Cabinet	4 draw cabinet	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024290	36,430
11-06-25	Magistrate Court	Port Vila	CM chambers	Whiteboard	100*60	Microtech	LPO 140-024413	4,500
12-06-25	Island Court	Banks/Torres	office	Brushcutter	SPT305 Gasoline	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-024414	40,000
	Island Court	Tanna Court	office	Brushcutter	SPT305 Gasoline	Wilco Hardware		
12-06-25	Island Court	Banks/Torres	office	UPS	APC BX950	Computer World	LPO 140-024415	37,990
				UPS	APC BX950	Computer World		
17-06-25	Supreme Court	Santo Court	Judge Chamber	PC	Dell Optilpex 7010	South Pacific Information	LPO 140-024425	169,890
				Monitor	Lenovo S24e-20			
17-06-25	Magistrate Court	Santo Court	Rachel	PC	Dell Optilpex 7010	South Pacific Information	LPO 140-024426	169,890
				Monitor	Lenovo S24e-20			
18-06-25	Magistrate Court	Santo Court	Rachel	Office Desk	office desk w/ draw	Wong Sze Sing	LPO 140-024429	67,800
08-07-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	J. Viran	PC	HP Prodesk 400	Computer World	LPO 140-024490	172,988
				Monitor	ACER EK251QG			
15-07-25	Magistrate Court	Malekula Court	Court Room	Laptop	DELL inspiron 3530	Computer World	LPO 140-024530	125,339
17-07-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	Accountants Office	PC	HP Prodesk 400	Computer World	LPO 140-024543	131,249
04-08-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	IT office	Laptop	DELL inspiron 3530	Computer World	LPO 140-024565	116,440
14-08-25	Supreme Court	Training Centre	Training Dir	Mobile Phone	Samsung A26	Computer World	LPO 140-024599	45,440
18-08-25	Island Court	Ambrym Court	office	Solar System	Bluetti AC200PL + panel 440	AUSPAC SOLAR VILA	LPO 140-024502	329,990
19-08-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila		Heaphone	JBL T500	Computer World	LPO 140-024607	13,759
23-09-25	Supreme Court	Training Centre	Project Officer	PC	HP Prodesk 400	Computer World	LPO 140-024741	174,741
				Monitor	Dell E2425HS 24"	Computer World		
30-09-25	Supreme Court	Dumbea	Court Room 4	Rack cabinet	Hikvision DS-XS6412	Computer World	LPO 140-024750	202,880

				Ports patch	Astrotek 24 ports			
				Switch	Cisco catalyst WS 48			
				Transceiver	Cisco GLC LH			
02-10-26	Supreme Court	Port Vila	Sheriff's Office	Filing Cabinet	4 draw	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024771	29,140
06-10-26	Supreme Court	Port Vila	Registry (Cynthia)	Aircondition	18000BTU AIWA (1st Payment)	Trade Air Engineering	LPO 140-024784	77,625
28-10-25	Island Court	Tongoa	Office	Star Link Kit	Standard kit	Vodafone	LPO 140-024851	55,900
29-10-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	Registry (Cynthia)	Aircondition	18000BTU AIWA (2nd Payment)	Trade Air Engineering	LPO 140-024860	77,625
01-12-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	Library	Storage Container	20FT	FR8 Logistics	LPO 140-024984	465,750
10-11-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	CR	Mobile Phone	Samsung A26	Computer World	LPO 140-025036	46,935
10-12-25	Magistrate Court	Port Vila	Port Vila	Office Chair		Leon Hardware	LPO 140-025042	12,601
10-12-25	Magistrate Court	Port Vila	M. Hannalyne	Bookshelve		Home Centre	LPO 140-025044	25,800
10-11-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	Asset Office	Office chair	black leather w/ steel frame	Computer World	LPO 140-025045	23,995
11-12-25	Supreme Court	Santo Court	Secretary	Monitor	Dell E2425HS 24"	Computer World	LPO 140-025048	154,990
				PC	Dell Optilpex 7020	Computer World	LPO 140-025049	
11-12-25	Magistrate Court	Port Vila	Ass. Registrar	Monitor	Dell E2425HS 24"	Computer World	LPO 140-025051	24,194
14-11-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	Sheriff's Office	Vehicle	Mazda BT50 Double Cab (trade in 1,000,000VT)	Thrifty Auto Centre	LPO 140-024938	3,500,000

Total (VT)	7,738,375
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Building Repairs and Maintenance

Date	Court	Location	Description	Contractor/Supplier	Payment	Amount
10-01-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	2 cubic poussier	Enteprise Dihn Van Thu	LPO 140-023874	9,600
13-01-25	Supreme Court	Registry	pcv ceiling and joiner, accord screw, liquid nails	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023876	57,679
20-01-25	Santo Court	Registry	coral for office	Santo Earth Works	LPO 140-023882	11,000
30-01-25	Supreme Court	Registry	earthquakes repair	Popon Mahu	LPO 140-023944	58,100
09-02-25	Supreme Court	Training Centre	spout and fittings	Esqal	LPO 140-024027	9,260
26-02-25	Supreme Court	Training Centre	installation of sliding windows	Vanuatu Glass and Aluminum Limited	LPO 140-024048	443,530

04-03-25	Supreme Court	Dumbea	screw, plywoods, concrete nails	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024084	35,957
18-03-25	Supreme Court	Dumbea	skirtings	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024113	18,717
14-03-25	Supreme Court	Dumbea	plywood 17/18mm	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024114	26,800
28-03-25	Supreme Court	Dumbea	cap filler, stain, skirting, screw (room 4)	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024136	26,773
04-04-25	Supreme Court	Dumbea	cement, door hinge, door lock (room 4)	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024181	10,831
24-04-25	Supreme Court	Asset Office	fluorescent light (x2)	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024220	3,179
12-05-25	Supreme Court	Registry	roof silicon (x4)	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024279	12,420
16-05-25	Supreme Court	Dumbea	change dock lock (room 3 and 4)	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024308	4,991
18-06-25	Magistrate Court	Port Vila	post assessment	BI Consulting	LPO 14-024435	517,500
01-07-25	Supreme Court	Training Centre	tinnted glass	Design Impax	LPO 140-024462	28,000
10-07-25	Magistrate Court	Port Vila	plywood, 150mx50m, echo board, accord screw	Leon Hardware	LPO 350-0247191	275,721
26-08-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	dumbea court room 4 labor	Popon Mahu	LPO 140-024642	257,500
10-07-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	padlock	Port Vila Hardware	LPO 140-024507	4,840
16-07-25	Pentecost Court	Pentecost	office materials	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-024531	22,949
10-07-25	Tanna Court	Office	2 doors	Jimmy Nasse	LPO 140-024508	92,000
11-07-25	Magistrate Court	Port Vila	labour for court room	Popon Mahu	LPO 140-047243	462,300
25-07-25	Supreme Court	Sheriff's office	padlock (x2)	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024554	6,990
12-08-25	Supreme Court	Sheriff's office	padlock for execution	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024595	4,800
03-09-25	EIC	Office	Fluorescent light (x5) security light	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-024685	19,360
10-09-25	EIC	Office	install rubbish bin cage	Guang Yuan Industries	LPO 140-024698	43,000
26-09-25	Santo Court	Office	building assessment	BI Consulting	LPO 140-024744	500,000
30-09-25	Supreme Court	Port Vila	labour for repair table and desk damage during earthquake	Popon Mahu	LPO 140-024754	
02-10-25	Supreme Court	Dumbea	Court room 3 materials (uplifting of bench) 100X50m, plywood, screw and wood stain/vanish	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024764	94,996
02-10-25	Supreme Court	Dumbea	labour for Room 4 renovation	Popon Mahu	LPO 140-024765	64,680
09-10-25	Magistrate Court	Vila Mall	frosting of glass at court room 2	Design Impax	LPO 350-047840	98,420
09-10-25	Magistrate Court	Vila Mall	materials for bench and tables for room 2	Wilco Hardware	LPO 350-047838	152,007
09-10-25	Magistrate Court	Vila Mall	materials for stools for room 2	Leon Hardware	LPO 350-047839	35,441
14-10-25	Magistrate Court	Vila Mall	labour for stools for room 2	Popon Mahu	LPO 350-047851	120,000
17-11-25	Supreme Court	Hearing room 1	padlock (x2)	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-024940	7,280
25-11-25	Santo Court	Office	plumbing labour	Aaron Stanley Woras	LPO 140-024965	15,000

05-12-25	Supreme Court	library	container slab and roofing materials timbers, screw, iron roofing's, flashing, round bar, deformer bar, galvanized wire	Leon Hardware	LPO 140- 025024	212,703
05-12-25	Supreme Court	library	labour for container slab and roofing	Popon Mahu	LPO 140- 025026	312,600
05-12-25	Magistrate Court	Vila Mall	labour for railing at room 2	Popon Mahu	LPO 140- 025027	36,300

Total (VT)	4,113,224
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Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance

Date	Asset		Description	Contractor/Supplier	Payment	Amount (VT)
30-01-25	RV 3B	service and Repair	change engine oil and filter, top up all fluid levels, clean air filter, change glass regulator, adjust hand brake	Bodiam	LPO 140-023943	108,914
03-02-25	RV 11	Repair	panel beating, front and rear	Autozone	LPO 140-023954	65,000
06-02-25	RV 11	Tyre	new tyre (X1)	Yashoon Station	LPO 140-023983	12,000
24-03-25	RV 9	Tyre	new tyres (x2)	Yashoon Station	LPO 140-024126	24,000
09-05-25	RV 29	Tyre	new tyre	Yashoon Station	LPO 140-024277	12,500
09-05-25	RV 28	Tyre	new tyre	Yashoon Station	LPO 140-024277	12,500
14-05-25	RV 3B	service and Repair	change engine oil and filter, top up all fluid levels, clean air filter, change glass regulator, adjust hand brake	Bodiam	LPO 140-024285	108,915
14-05-25	RV 10	service and Repair	change engine oil and filter, change fuel filter, check leakages	Bodiam	LPO 140-024285	62,105
14-05-25	RV 3A	Repair	attend breakdown, change battery, check system (ok)	Bodiam	LPO 140-024285	40,725
14-05-25	RV 29	service and Repair	attend breakdown, change complete clutch kit, fit back gear box, change engine oil and filter, change gear transmission oil, change fuel filter, clean air filter, adjust handbrake, top up all fluid level, clean aircon filter	Bodiam	LPO 140-024285	154,950
14-05-25	RV 28	service and Repair	change engine oil and filter, change front stabilizer link, change lower arm bush, fix front window, fix rear doors, clean air filter, grease all required areas	Bodiam	LPO 140-024285	80,895
14-05-25	RV 26	service and Repair	change engine oil and filter, change fuel filter, change clutch disc, change gear box and diff oil, change LHS brake bulb, change both plate bulb, service air cleaner, change wiper, change air con filter	Bodiam	LPO 140-024285	286,330
16-05-25	RV 26	Repair	change wheel	Yashoon Station	LPO 140-024307	20,000
16-05-25	RV 11	Repair	change wheel	Yashoon Station	LPO 140-024307	11,500
22-05-25	RV 623	Repair	panel and paint	Sanma Auto Repair	LPO 140-024333	48,000

12-06-25	RV 28	Repair	new tyres (x2)	Yashoon Station	LPO 140-024416	24,000
01-07-25	Rv 29	Repair	remove and replace boot glass	Carpenter Motors	LPO 140-024468	84,000
02-07-25	Boat	Repair	boat parts, epi	Energy4All	LPO 140-024483	35,280
03-07-25	RV 623	Repair	tyre (x2)	John Lum & Associates	lpo 140-024487	47,600
10-07-25	RV 40	Repair	new battery	John Lum & Associates	LPO 140-024509	26,820
29-08-25	RV 10	Repair	panel and repaint	Amadar Auto Shop	LPO 140-024649	70,000
29-08-25	RV 26	Repair	tyre (x4)	Yashoon Station	LPO 140-024655	80,000
03-09-25	RV 29	Repair	temporary glass	Top Sign	LPO 140-024674	20,000
10-09-25	RV 26	Repair	replace hand brake cable	Auto Smash Repairs	LPO 140-024695	29,900
24-10-25	RV 28	service and Repair	change engine oil and filter, change fuel filter and parking bulb, fix rear door	Bodiam	LPO 140-024843	55,150
	RV 9	service and Repair	change engine oil and filter, change rear LHS plate bulb, service air cleaner	Bodiam	LPO 140-024843	31,590
	RV 26	Repair	check lights, change parking light, rewired broken cable	Bodiam	LPO 140-024843	7,825
	RV 26	service and Repair	change engine oil and filter, change air filter, change frt rhs parking bulb, change frt both side bearing, change frt brake pad, change both side upper arm and lower arm, change rear spring silencer	Bodiam	LPO 140-024843	293,875
	RV 37	Repair	remove frt bumper and apply lock broken, apply electrical strap, apply sikaflex	Bodiam	LPO 140-024843	35,615
	RV 29	service and Repair	change engine oil and filter, change fuel filter, air filter, change frt LHS stabilizer link, change rear RHS wheel cylinder, change wiper blade, brake bulb, bleed brake (part payment of 62,880VT)	Bodiam	LPO 140-024843	36,475
25-11-25	RV 38	Repair	4 new tyres	Yashoon Station	LPO 140-024966	46,000

Total (VT)	1,972,464
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Budget execution and management

In 2025, the judiciary's execution of its budget was effectively managed to meet most of the requests from various courts that required funding for implementation. However, not all activities outlined in the Judicial Management Improvement Plan and the court's yearly planner and calendar were executed. Some activities required further discussions and more preparation before they could be implemented.

The judiciary's operational budget did not fully reflect the reality of all planned activities. This includes the annual calendar of events, judicial officer entitlements, and the day-to-day operations of court registries across the country. There is a need for additional budget allocation to adequately cover these operational costs.

Statement of Appropriation

Table showing approved annual budget for Judiciary 2025 Financial year.

Year	Annual Budget	Payroll Budget	Operation Budget
2025	391,287,040	269,019,526	122,267,514

This pie chart shows the percentage in payroll compared to the operation budget.

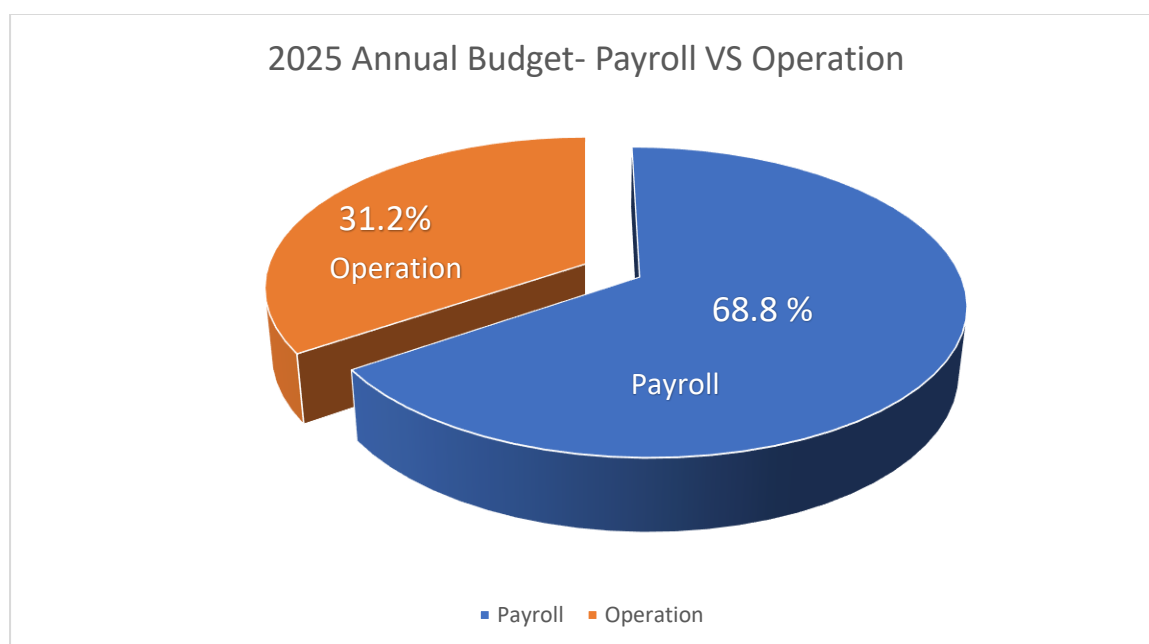


Figure 13: Annual Budget – Payroll vs Operation

Judiciary's 2025 Annual Budget and Allocation

Program/Activity	Budget
CIAA-Corporate Services	40,502,959
CIAB-Court of Appeal	33,953,044
CIAC-Supreme Court	184,187,571
CIAD-Magistrate Court	67,730,757
CIAE-Island Court	34,630,765
CIAF-Land	4,266,752
CIAG-Enforcement	15,740,716
Judicial Development & Training	6,668,880
Case Management	3,605,596
Total Budget	391,287,040

The Judiciary's approved annual budget ceiling for 2025, as approved by Parliament, was a total of VT 391,287,040. This budget was divided into two primary categories:

- **Payroll:** 65% of the total budget, amounting to VT 269,019,526
- **Operations:** 35% of the total budget, amounting to VT 122,267,514

An approved NPP for GRT salary review sums at VT 27,661,192.

Below is a breakdown and explanation of the actual expenses for both payroll and operations for the judiciary in 2025. Several activities were undertaken to manage the judiciary's budget effectively and ensure the achievement of its objectives.

Payroll Expenditures

Account	Description	Actual Expenses	Total	Budget	Under (over)
	Personnel Expenses				
8AAA	Acting Allowances	574,409	574,409	0	(574,409)
8AAB	Responsibility Allowance	1,502,286	1,502,286	1,080,000	(427,960)
8AAF	Family Allowance	2,265,960	2,265,960	2,448,000	182,040
8AAG	Gratuities Allowances	13,099,861	13,099,861	11,890,806	(1,209,055)

8AAH	Housing Allowances	22,801,797	22,801,797	21,240,000	(1,561,797)
8AAO	Other Allowances	721,130	721,130	0	(721,130)
8AAP	Home Island Passage Allowances	896,572	896,572	600,000	(296,572)
8ASP	Provident Fund	8,879,206	8,879,206	7,911,828	
8AWL	Leave expense	11,009,452	11,009,452	0	(11,009,452)
8AWP	Permanent Wages	220,991,524	220,991,524	221,928,892	937,368
PAYR	Payroll expenses	0	0	1,920,000	
	Personnel Expenses	282,742,197	282,742,197	269,019,526	(13,722,671)

Payroll Expenditure Analysis

Overview

The payroll expenditures consist of personnel expenses, allowances, benefits, and wages. Comparing the **actual expenditures** against the **budgeted amounts**, we can identify areas of over- or under-spending.

1. Acting Allowances

- Actual: VT 574,409
- Budget: VT 0
- Overspend by VT 574,409

This indicates acting positions were paid during the year. We cannot know an unforeseen, an officer to take a long leave or an international tour that can happen so budgeting an acting allowance for a position cannot be done with certainty.

- Acting Chief Justice Appointment-A Judge served as Acting Chief Justice from 7th to 15th February 2025.
- Acting Assistant Registrar- A Secretary from the Port Vila Magistrate Court served as Acting Assistant Registrar of the Magistrate Court throughout the year 2025.

2. Responsibility Allowance

- Actual: VT 1,502,286
- Budget: VT 1,080,000
- Overspend by VT 427,960

Responsibility allowances were **overspent by VT 427,960**, as payments exceeded the planned budget due to additional duties.

- Two Junior Magistrates were appointed as Senior Magistrates in 2025. As part of their new roles, they became entitled to a responsibility allowance, which is included in the senior position package. This allowance is provided because they also take on the role

of supervising Magistrates for the Island Courts. One Supervise Penama and the other Tafea. Even though, Judiciary did not budget for, the Management sees best to make these appoints to give the Magistrates power to hear the pending cases in these Jurisdictions.

3.Family Allowance

- Actual: VT 2,265,960
- Budget: VT 2,448,000
- Under spend by VT 182,040

This shows that the amount spent on family allowances during the year was **slightly lower than the budgeted amount**. This is because **some vacant positions were not filled during the year**.

4.Gratuities Allowances

- Actual: VT 13,099,861
- Budget: VT 11,890,806
- Overspend by VT 1,209,055

This show's that gratuity adjustments were beyond projections.

- In 2024, when GRT reviewed the salary structure and placed Judges under a new salary scale, the increase in Judges' increment entitlements was not considered.
- As a result, no additional budget was allocated to cover the resulting shortfall.

5.Housing Allowances

- Actual: VT 22,801,797
- Budget: VT 21,240,000
- Overspend budget by VT1,561,797

This is caused by increased housing costs for certain court officers and

- 3 Junior Magistrates appointed as senior Magistrates. The entitlement for housing is VT600,000 per annum.
- A director judicial education center was appointed also in 2025 and her housing allowance is also at VT600,000 per annum.

6.Other Allowances

- Actual: VT 721,130
- Budget: VT 0
- Overspend by VT 721,130

This shows that some activities were not identified during the budget preparation. During the year, certain circumstances required a secretary to assist three Judges. While she receives a full salary for supporting one Judge, she also receives allowances for assisting the other two Judges while awaiting the recruitment of a new secretary and the completion of a case being handled by the contract Judge.

7. Home Island Passage Allowances

- Actual: VT 896,572
- Budget: VT 600,000
- Overspend by 296,572

Indicates higher travel costs for staff returning to home islands. Home Island claims were paid out with the available budget that is released during the months.

8. Provident Fund

- Actual: VT 8,879,206
- Budget: VT 7,911,828
- Over budget by VT 967,378

Contributions exceeded projections because staff promotions and wage increase by GRT Review.

9. Leave Expenses

- Actual: VT 11,009,452
- Budget: VT 0
- Over budget by VT 11,009,452

There are Court officers which Judiciary pay out their outstanding leaves in year 2025. There are 4 reasons why leaves were paid.

1. The first group are employees who resign from their position.
 - a. Peter Moses
 - b. Josepha Teguebu
2. Contract ends.
 - a. Judge Goldsbrough
3. Retirement
 - a. Evelyn Sawia
4. Long Service
 - a. Chief Justice, Vincent Lunabek
 - b. Judge Oliver Sasek
 - c. Judge Dudley Aru
 - d. Chief Magistrate, Anna Laloyer
 - e. Senior Magistrate, Hannaline Nalau Ilo

Although leave payments were not budgeted for, the Judiciary uses its surplus to make these payments and continues to manage staff leave as best as possible.

The remaining budget under permanent wages should have more savings because Judiciary in 2025 has 4 Vacant positions namely, Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, Master of the Supreme Court, Secretary to Judge and Assistant Registrar of the Port Vila Magistrate Court.

A budget analysis was done on 9th December 2025, show that savings under payroll sums at VT 7,261,747. The advice of this budget was sent to office of the Chief Registrar to request Judicial Service Commission to decide on this amount to be shared equally with the six long

service employees for Judiciary because they have high outstanding leaves that need to be managed.

10. Permanent Wages

- Actual: 220,991,524
- Budget: 221,928,892
- Under Spend by 937,368

Small savings in permanent wages, this is due to vacancies and delayed recruitment. The remaining budget under permanent wages should have more savings because Judiciary in 2025 has 3 Vacant positions namely, Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, Master of the Supreme Court, Secretary to Judge and Assistant Registrar of the Port Vila Magistrate Court.

11. Payroll Expenses

- Actual: VT 0
- Budget: VT 1,920,000
- Under spend by VT 1,920,000

It indicates that the planned payroll-related expenses were not utilized.

The analysis of the 2025 payroll expenditures shows that several payroll components exceeded their budget allocations, while others recorded savings. The overspending occurred in allowances, benefits, and gratuity-related payments due to factors such as staff promotions, new appointments, salary structure adjustments, and operational requirements that arose during the year. Acting allowances, responsibility allowances, housing allowances, provident fund contributions, and leave expenses increased beyond the initial projections because of staff movements, new entitlements, and the need to maintain the effective functioning of the courts.

In addition, some expenditures such as leave payments were not originally budgeted for, but were necessary due to resignations, contract completions, retirements, and long service leave entitlements of several court officers. To manage these obligations, the Judiciary utilized available surplus funds within the payroll budget.

At the same time, certain activities recorded savings. Permanent wages were slightly under spent due to vacant positions and delays in recruitment, while the payroll expenses allocation was not all spent during the year. Overall, despite some variances between the budgeted and actual expenditures, the Judiciary managed its payroll resources carefully and ensured that all staff entitlements and operational requirements were met during the financial year.

Payroll summary

Overall, Judiciary over spent by VT 13,722,671 for the below reasons. In 2024 when GRT do the review, it did not capture these in their budget which contribute to the overspent.

- Anomalies
 - Employees missed out and employees reassessed.

- VNPF Difference
- Gratuity Difference
- Vacant Positions permanent wage difference

This was taken into consideration during the preparation of the 2026 annual budget. The Judiciary submitted a New Policy Proposal (NPP) to address the anomalies that were not considered by the GRT in the 2025 budget. This helps prevent similar budget issues in 2026.

Operation Expenditures

Account	Description	Actual	Total	Budget	Under (Over)
8CAB	Subsistence Allowances	4,844,430	4,844,430	4,419,957	(424,473)
8CAI	Subsistence Allowance International	427,960	427,960	0	(427,960)
8CAS	Sitting Allowances	27,484,280	27,484,280	34,009,259	6,524,979
8CBI	International Accommodation	276,294	276,294	339,997	63,703
8CBL	Local Accommodation	6,112,987	6,112,987	8,334,990	2,222,003
8CEM	Software Maintenance Fees	1,693,416	1,693,416	2,353,480	660,064
8CES	Security Services	2,029,997	2,029,997	10,000	(2,019,997)
8CET	Other Fees	1,300,299	1,300,299	3,372,106	2,071,807
8CFV	Vehicles Fuel	2,301,735	2,301,735	3,405,996	1,104,261
8CGR	Transport - Freight	1,098,995	1,098,995	1,041,000	(57,995)
8CGS	Storage Freight	405,000	405,000	0	(405,000)
8CHL	Local Medical Treatment	603,836	603,836	496,173	(107,663)
8CIE	Equipment Hire	53,478	53,478	0	(53,478)
8CIF	Facilities Hire	177,126	177,126	723,080	545,954
8CIV	Vehicles Hire	853,587	853,587	808,000	(45,587)
8CJO	Office Cleaning	1,153,268	1,153,268	930,905	(222,363)
8CKD	Advertising - Communications	723,368	723,368	1,000,000	276,632
8CKI	Internet & satellite communications	20,000	20,000	0	(20,000)
8CKL	Translation Communications	3,090,259	3,090,259	2,200,000	(890,259)
8CKP	Postage - Communications	6,000	6,000	36,000	30,000
8CKR	Printing - Communications	2,124,949	2,124,949	1,324,986	(799,963)
8CKS	Stationery - Communications	1,588,249	1,588,249	2,547,540	959,291
8CKT	Telephone / Fax - Communications	4,248,859	4,248,859	2,178,594	(2,070,265)
8CMG	General - Materials	24,474	24,474	100,000	75,526

8CMO	Office - Materials	121,599	121,599	400,00	278,401
8CNO	Office Rental	17,247,471	17,247,471	18,125,978	878,507
8CNT	Other Rental	200	2,920,000	2,919,800	2,919,800
8COF	Refunds	427,490	1,553,624	1,126,134	1,553,624
8COI	Incidentals	341,308	341,308	380,000	38,692
8COP	Official Entertainment	3,649,015	3,649,015	2,464,000	(1,185,015)
8COS	Insurance	254,818	254,818	60,000	(194,818)
8COU	Uniforms	126,522	126,522	0	(126,522)
8CRB	Building Repairs & Maintenance	1,820,671	1,820,671	660,000	(1,160,671)
8CRE	Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	235,601	235,601	0	(235,601)
8CRV	Vehicles Repairs & Maintenance	1,363,597	1,363,597	450,000	(913,597)
8CRW	Vehicle Servicing	733,290	733,290	1,000,000	266,710
8CTI	International Travel	2,358,359	2,358,359	1,090,046	(1,268,313)
8CTL	Local Travel	4,543,018	4,543,018	3,936,070	(606,948)
8CUC	Gas - Cooking Utilities	486,108	486,108	346,000	(140,108)
8CUE	Electricity Utilities	10,140,641	10,140,641	5,057,450	(5,057,450)
8CUL	Lighting Utilities	101,485	101,485	0	(101,485)
8CUW	Water Utilities	643,357	643,357	992,080	348,723
8CZV	Value Added Tax	8,967,170	8,967,170	3,665,911	(5,301,259)
8EEA	Equipment - Additional General	2,333,363	2,333,363	231,000	(2,102,363)
8EEC	Equipment - Computer	846,061	846,061	2,202,116	1,356,055
8EEP	Equipment-Photocopiers	402,568	402,568	0	(402,568)
8EFO	Furniture - Office Furniture	359,530	359,530	300,000	(59,530)
8EVA	Vehicle-Additional Vehicle	0	0	4,800,000	4,800,000
8EVR	Vehicle - Replacement	3,043,478	3,043,478	3,880,435	836,957
8FCB	Bank Charges	1,300	1,300	15,000	13,700
OVER	Overhead expenses	0	0	(1,920,000)	(1,920,000)
	Operating Expenses	123,190,866	123,190,866	122,267,514	(923,352)

Operating Expenditures Analysis

The total Operating Expenses amounted to VT 123,190,866 compared to the approved budget of VT 122,267,514, resulting in an overall overspending of VT 923,352.

The variance is mainly due to several operational expenses that exceeded their budget allocation during the year, while some accounts recorded savings which helped offset the overspending.

Overspending Accounts

Electricity Utilities

Electricity Utilities recorded a significant overspending of VT 5,083,191, mainly due to increased electricity consumption across Judiciary premises, rising utility costs, and the establishment of additional office spaces during the year.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

VAT expenditure also exceeded the budget by VT 5,301,259, reflecting increased procurement of goods and services required for Judiciary operations.

Security Services

Exceeded the budget by VT 2,019,997. This expenditure was necessary to ensure security services at Judiciary premises and were not sufficiently provided for in the approved budget. Judiciary sees the need to contract a security company to provide the service after the unlawful break-in on Supreme court premises in 2023. Since then, Judiciary applied for NPP but it was unsuccessful.

Telephone and Fax Communications

The budget was **overspent by VT 2,070,265**, mainly due to increased communication by the courts to hear some cases over the phone. In addition, internet access increased during the year as Wi-Fi was provided to all Judicial Officers and to most court offices, which contributed to the higher expenditure.

Official Entertainment

Exceeded the budget by VT 1,185,015, mainly relating to official meetings, visits and Judiciary functions conducted during the year.

Building Repairs and Maintenance

Exceeded the budget by **VT 1,160,671**, while **Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance** exceeded the budget by **VT 913,597**, mainly due to necessary maintenance works carried out to maintain Judiciary facilities and vehicles. Please refer to the **Asset section** for details of the activities undertaken that contributed to overspending.

International Travel

This was overspent by VT 1,268,313, mainly due to additional overseas meetings, training and official engagements undertaken during the year.

Other areas of overspending include Translation Communications, Printing Communications, Subsistence Allowances, and Local Travel, which reflect increased operational activities throughout the year.

Additionally, some expenditures occurred without an approved budget allocation, including Subsistence Allowance International, Storage Freight, Equipment Hire, Internet Communications, Uniforms, Equipment Repairs and Maintenance, and Photocopier Equipment, due to operational needs that arose during the year.

Underspending

Despite the overspending in several accounts, some expenditure items recorded savings which helped offset the overall variance.

The most significant saving was recorded under Sitting Allowances, which was underspent by VT 6,524,979, due to fewer sittings or court activities undertaken compared to what was originally anticipated.

Other accounts that recorded underspending include Local Accommodation, Software Maintenance Fees, Vehicle Fuel, Stationery, Office Rental, Computer Equipment, and Vehicle Replacement, where the actual expenditure was lower than the approved budget.

Operation summary

Overall, the Judiciary maintained operating expenditures close to the approved budget, with only a minor variance of VT 923,352 above budget. The overspending was mainly by utilities, VAT, communication costs, maintenance expenses, and travel requirements, while savings in sitting allowances and several operational accounts helped ease the total variance.

Expense summary report – Personal emoluments and Operating expenses

Below show a summary table and a pie chart for personnel emolument expenses.

Description	Actual
Allowances (Acting, Responsibility, Family, Gratuity, Housing, Other, Home Island passage)	41,862,015
Provident fund	8,879,206
Leave expense	11,009,452
Wages	220,991,524

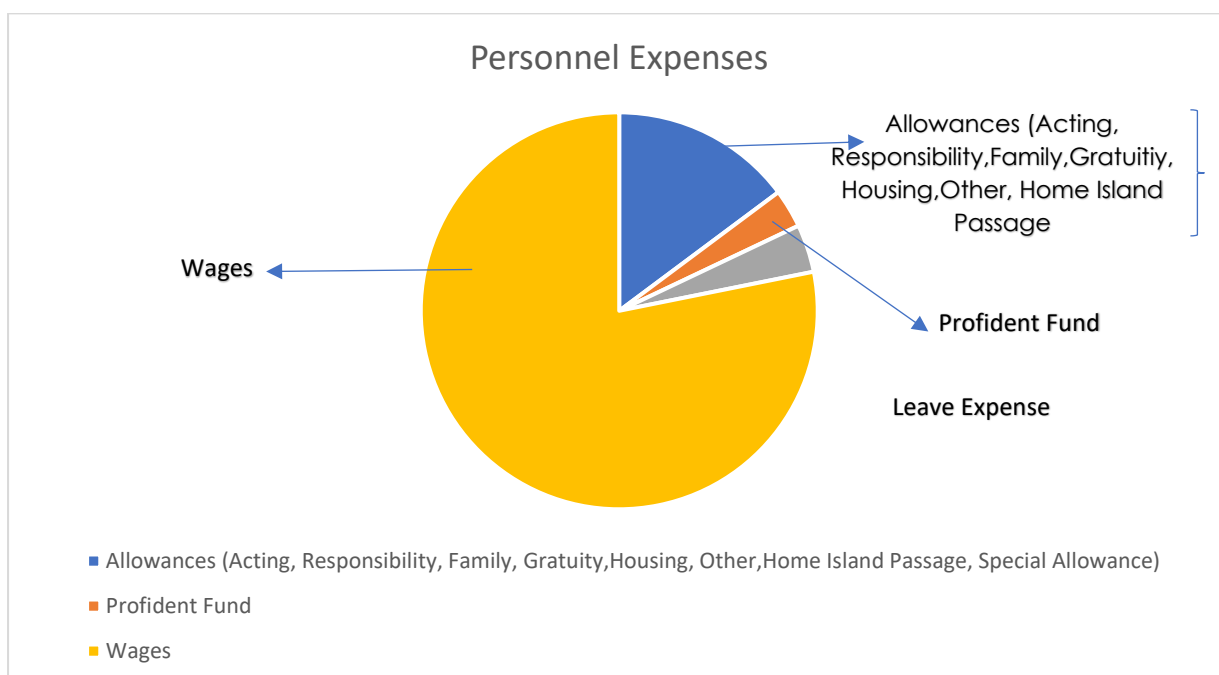


Figure 14: Personnel Expenses

The table showing a summary and graph for operation expenses.

Description	Actual
Subsistence & Sitting allowance	32,756,670
Accommodation (Local & International)	6,389,281
Fees (Software & other)	1,693,416
Security services	2,029,997
Other Fees	1,300,299
Fuel	2,301,735
Freight	1,503,995
Medical treatment	603,836
Hire (Equipment, facilities & vehicles)	1,084,191
Office cleaning	1,153,268
Communication (Advert. trans, postage, printing, stationery & telephone/fax)	11,801,684
General & Office material	146,073
Office and other rental	17,247,671
Refunds/Incidents/Insurance/Uniform	1,150,138
Official Entertainment	3,649,015
Maintenance (building, equipment)	2,056,272
Vehicle repair & Servicing	2,096,887
Travel (Local & International)	6,901,377

Utilities (Gas, electricity, lighting, water)	11,371,591
Value added Tax	8,967,170
Equipment (General, computer, photocopiers, replacement)	3,581,992
Furniture (Office & Other)	359,530
Vehicle – Additional & Replacement	3,043,478
Bank Charges	1,300

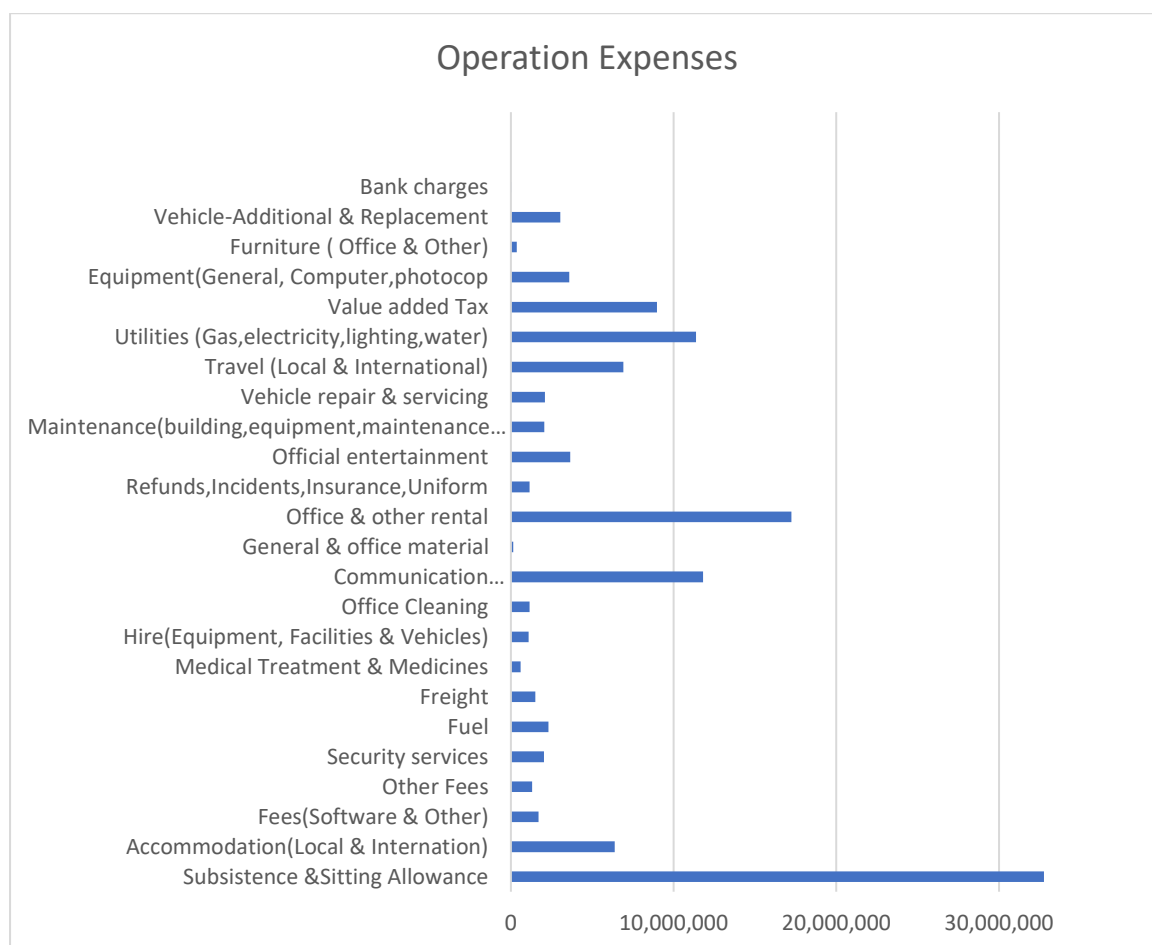


Figure 15: Operation Expenses

Accountable Imprest Management

The accountable imprests issued to court personnel and judicial officers in 2025 were mostly retired before their due dates. Fewer than three officers required reminders to retire their accountable imprests; however, all outstanding imprests were fully retired before 31 December 2025.

Standing Imprest Management

A standing imprest is used for petty cash purposes to purchase small items and may be replenished from time to time as required.

In 2025, there was a total of fifteen standing imprest holders. Out of these, fourteen were balanced through journal entries by the Supreme Court Finance officer and Finance Department clear the accounts in December 2025. The remaining one standing was not cleared in 2025 but was later cleared in 2026.

Advanced Release Management:

There are total of 8 advance releases done for specific court activities.

DATE	DESCRIPTION	COST CENTRE	PERIOD	AMOUNT(VT)
8/04/2025	Payment for remaining balance for Photocopy machine for Port Vila Supreme Court	1491 CIAI	Advance from period 8 to period 4	462,953
15/04/2025	Housing allowance for kept under operation in period 12	142C CIAC	Advance from period 12 to period 4. Then vire to payroll	1,920,000
21/08/2025	Official tour for Chief Justice & wife to PNG to attend the opening of the Waigani new court complex. AND Pay outstanding Utility & other bills	1422 CIAC 1429 CIAC	Advance from period 12 to period 8 Advance from period 12 to period 8	1,932,699 1,000,000
12/09/2025	Chief Magistrate Court tour to Gaua & Sola	1436 CIAD	Advance from period 11 & 12 to period 9	360,840

23/09/2025	Second technical report to ascertain the status of the building -Port Vila Magistrate Court Office	1481 CIAG	Advance from period 12 to period 9	500,000
29/09/2025	Santo and Sola Supreme Court tour	1421 CIAC	Advance from period 12 to period 10	471,140
7/10/2025	Santo Court rental for September to December 2025 Annual rental for Ambae/Maewo Island court	1422 CIAC	Advance from period 12 to period 10	907,800
13/11/2025	Purchase new vehicle to replace RV26	1403 CIAC	Advance from period 12 to period 11	3,500,000

Cash Flow

A cash flow was done in April 2025 to amend the old cash flow under cost centre 1401 CIAA-Human Resource. The NPP for 2024 GRT Review was loaded under cost centre 1401 CIAA PAYR in period 12. Amend cash flow under period 4 and 12. Total NPP for 2024 GRT sums at VT 27,661,192

Period	Old cash Flow	New Cash Flow
4	241,438	27,902,630
12	27,902,624	241,432

1. Virement

There are two virement application that were submitted to Finance Department for certain court activities.

- 1st Virement application done on May 2025 to vire funds for 2024 GRT Review which was loaded under cost centre 1401 CIAA-Human Resource.
- 2nd Virement application done on November 2025 to vire funds to address overspending within the payroll budget resulted from the recent GRT salary increase.

Supplementary Budget Application

In year 2025, Judiciary did not apply for supplementary budget.

Journals:

Journals were done according to the nature of Court activities.

- Department to department-official gazette annual subscription FOR 2025 & 2026 Budget was transfer from Judiciary to State Law office- VT 57,500.
- Department to department-Road Worthiness Inspection for all court vehicles for 2025. Budget transfer from Judiciary to Public Works Department- VT 80,000.
- Department to Department- Water payments for Lakatoro, Santo and Tanna Court office- VT 139,593.
- Department to Department- Payment for foot pedals for Philips SpeechLive.
- Refund project 22C114- While waiting for Finance Department to release an advance budget requested, Accounts use project funds to prepare for the official tour for Chief Justice and Madam Lunabek to PNG to attend the opening of the Waigani new court complex – 1,307,114.
- Retire standing imprest- 2025 standing imprest for Judiciary staffs.

Procurement

- Government Contracts and Tenders (Amendment) Act No. 10 of 2025 states that low value starts from VT 0 to VT 29,999,999 and high value starts from VT30,000,000 up.
- In 2025, Judiciary did not provide a procurement plan to the office of the Central Tender Board.
- Judiciary notifies the office of the Central Tender Board by a letter listing the names of the Evaluation Committee Members who will be signing on the evaluation form of an RFQ- Low Value.
 - Joel Shemi – Chief Registrar (Chairman)
 - Robson Labsai- Senior Administrator of Island Court (member)
 - Alick Willie Marango-Asset office (member)
 - Kathrine Abel Joseph-Accountant (member)
 - Christopher Spooner-Procurement Officer (member)
- In 2025, the Procurement Officer processed two Requests for Quotation (RFQ) for the following procurements:
 - Purchase of a new vehicle to replace RV26 – 3,500,000
 - Procurement of security services from MAS Dealers- VT 2,760,000
- For the 2026 financial year, RFQs will be prepared for all court rental payments, as the rental amounts exceed VT 1,000,000. Additionally, the rental lease agreements will need to be renewed, therefore requiring the RFQ process in accordance with procurement requirements.

2. Earthquake Recovery Fund

- a. An application to request funding to fund an additional Magistrate Court hearing room.
- b. Total Funds requested: VT5,075,529
- c. Annual Rental: VT3,719,559
- d. Hearing Room Establishment: VT1,355,970
- e. The establishment is at the finishing state. The additional Port Vila Magistrate Court hearing room will fully function in the year 2026.

Revenue

Judiciary Revenue Collection for 2025

- For the year 2025, some Island Court Clerks are still not following internal procedures.
- No reports were submitted indicating revenue not collected during a particular month.
- No copies of receipts for revenue collected were provided after deposits were made at FSB Centres and the National Bank.

Despite these minor challenges, the administration achieved a good level of revenue collection for the 2025 fiscal year. The updated revenue report was generated on 6 March 2026.

- **Judiciary target budget:** VT 26,733,020
- **Total revenue collected:** VT 28,486,893
- **Judiciary over collected** VT 1,753,873

The table and graph show the revenue situation of the last 5 years.

Year	Target Budget	Collected	(Under/Over)
2025	26,733,020	28,486,893	1,753,873
2024	26,729,010	26,664,125	(64,885)
2023	26,725,000	21,010,920	(5,033,080)
2022	26,044,000	20,456,120	(5,587,880)
2021	25,920,000	22,852,185	(343,965)

Revenue trend chart from 2020 to 2025

The chart indicates that in **2025**, the Judiciary collected **106.6% of its revenue target**, compared to **99.8% in 2024**. This means the Judiciary **exceeded its 2025 revenue target by VT 1,753,873**.

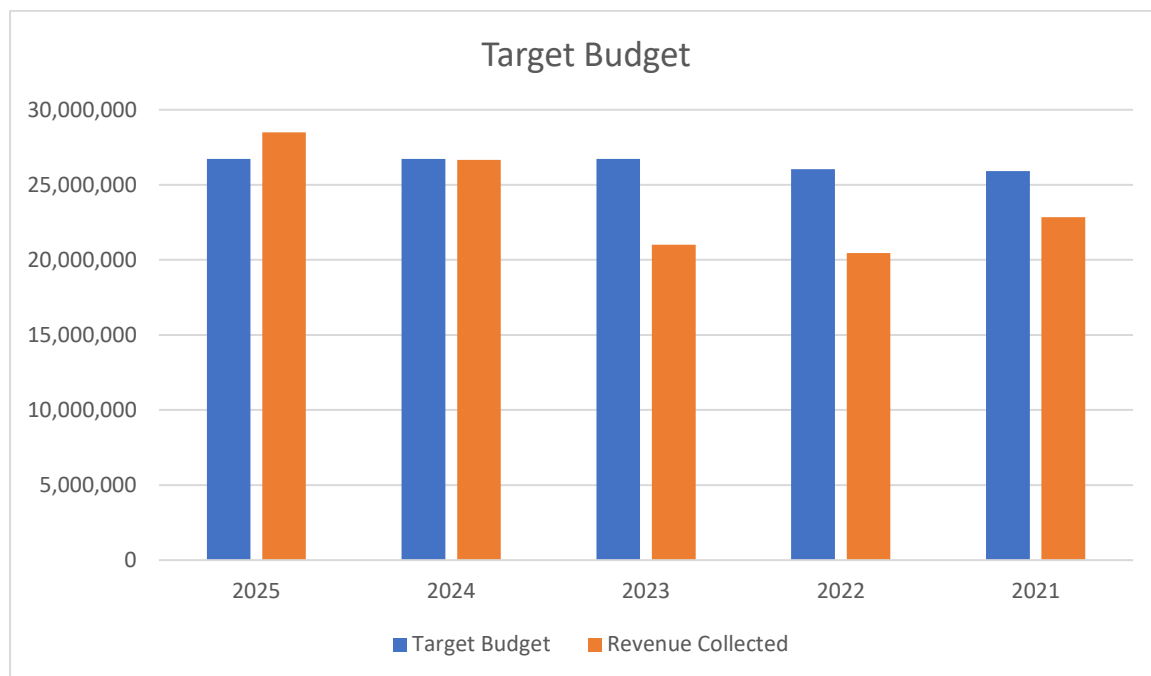


Figure 16: Revenue trend chart from 2020 to 2025

Project Funds

In 2025 there are three project funds which Accounts section is managing.

1. Strengthening the capacity of Vanuatu Judiciary.
2. Yumi wantem Jastis, Yumi tokbaot Jastis, Yumi Lukim Jastis
3. Judicial Education Centre.

1. Strengthening the capacity of Vanuatu Judiciary

This project is fully funded by Commonwealth towards Judge Goldsborough's salary supplement, house rental, home country travel for leave, medical, refunds and other fees.

- November 2021 is the beginning date for the project and is for a period of two years with a budget of VT15,272,050.
- The project was extended for another 2 years from 2024 to 2025 with another grant funding of VT20,520,000.
- Additional grant sum at VT26,709,949.
- Total remaining budget on 27 November 2025 sums at VT17,773,333.

2. Yumi wantem Jastis, Yumi tokbaot Jastis, Yumi Lukim Jastis

This project is under the overarching goal on “Access to Justice”, funded by PJSP, supervised by the *Judicial Education Centre*. It is a 1-year contract which commences 22 September 2025 to 22 September 2026 with a total budget of VT 3,851,798. Funds specifically for:

- Consultation fee – contracting a Project Officer
- Office establishment and stationaries

Total expenditures to date 10 December 2025 sum at VT 1,105,600.

Total remaining budget as of 28 November 2025 sums at VT 1,640,598.

3. Judicial Education Center

The Supreme Court has erected an extension to house the *Judicial Education Centre (JEC)*, with a new structure built into the current Organization Structure, approved by the *Judicial Service Commission*. The JEC has received a grant from the *Vanuatu Australia Policing and Justice Program* upon the request of the Hon. Chief Justice to support in establishing the JEC which is aimed to be launch early 2027. Total Budget for 3 months of 2025 sum at VT2,520,759.

Program Officer (Salaries & Benefits)	621,055
Officer & IT equipment- Program officer	515,000
Technical Assistance	1,384,704
Total 2025 Budget	2,520,759

Total expenditure to date 12/12/2025 is VT774,258 and the remaining budget sums VT1,746,501.

Conclusion

The year 2025 has been a challenging one, marked at its outset by the aftermath of the devastating earthquake. Nevertheless, the ability of the Judiciary to reflect on court performance and budgetary expenditure at the close of the year stands as a credit to the Chief Registrar and his team. The presentation of this report to the Government and the public is a testament to the collective efforts and dedication of many individuals.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all judicial officers, court personnel, other employees of the court, and including the lay justices of the Island Courts, for their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts in ensuring that 2025 was another successful year for the Judiciary.

My gratitude is also extended to all court stakeholders, including government agencies and non-government organisations, whose significant contributions have enabled the Judiciary to

effectively carry out its constitutional mandate. The Judiciary remains committed to working closely with the Government, development partners, and all stakeholders to enhance the timely, fair, and independent administration of justice for all court users, including vulnerable groups.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge all court users. Your continued engagement with the courts reflects your trust and confidence in the Vanuatu court system, which serves as a strong motivation for the Judiciary to remain steadfast in delivering the justice the people seek.