

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
BILL FOR THE
GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT)
ACT NO. OF 2025

Explanatory Note

This Bill amends the Government Act [CAP 243] (“the Act”).

Since the enactment of the Act in 1998, the Government has faced a lot of challenges to efficiently and effectively manage its policy priorities. The Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (“the Department”) has the primary function to coordinate national policy and planning, however, the Act does not provide the basis for this and for other functions and powers of the Department.

This Bill clearly outlines the functions and powers of the Department, which includes a key function to measure the progress of the country in achieving the development policies and to report to the Development Committee of Officials (“the DCO”) and to the Council of Ministers (“the COM”).

The Bill further provides for the functions of the Director, such as to translate government policies into workable plans that Ministries can align into their respective plans. This is currently a challenge as each Ministry develops its respective plan, which are all different, therefore, making it difficult for the Government to achieve its policies. The Director will also have a main function to scrutinize COM papers submitted to the DCO for policy relevance.

Prime Minister



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

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REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

**BILL FOR THE
GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT)
ACT NO. OF 2025**

An Act to amend the Government Act [CAP 243].

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

1 Amendment

The Government Act [CAP 243] is amended as set out in the Schedule.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS OF GOVERNMENT ACT [CAP 243]

1 Section 3

Insert in its correct alphabetical position:

““Department” means the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination;

“DCO” means the Developmental Committee of Officials established under section 12

“Director” means the Director of the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination;”

2 Section 12

Delete “(DCO)”

3 Subsection 13(1)

Delete “Developmental Committee of Officials”, substitute “DCO”

4 Paragraph 13(1)(e)

Delete “of the Department of Strategic Management who”

5 After Part 4

Insert

**“PART 4A – DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGIC POLICY,
PLANNING AND AID CORDINATION**

Division 1 Functions and powers of the Department

18A. Functions of the Department

The Department has the following functions:

- (a) to develop a national policy and planning system; and
- (b) to coordinate the implementation of Government policies and programmes; and
- (c) to review all sectoral policies and provide strategic directions; and
- (d) to review and ensure all budget narratives are aligned with Government policies; and
- (e) to examine all Government development project submissions; and
- (f) to ensure all development cooperation are linked and aligned with Government policy priorities; and
- (g) to review all sectoral corporate plans and business plans to ensure the plans are aligned with Government policies; and
- (h) to monitor all national programmes and projects to ensure alignment with Government policies; and
- (i) to produce annual development reports on the Government’s development status and progress; and
- (j) to carry out any other functions as may be conferred on the Department under this Act or any other Act.

18B. Powers of the Department

The Department has the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of its functions under this Act.

Division 2 Functions and powers of the Director

18C. Functions of the Director

The Director has the following functions:

- (a) to ensure all policy submissions prior to being considered by the DCO and the Council are examined for policy relevance; and
- (b) to coordinate the operational level or output-based planning of the Government; and
- (c) to develop a system for compliance with policy directives from the Prime Minister and the Council; and
- (d) to carry out any other functions as may be conferred on the Director under this Act or any other Act.

18D. Powers of the Director

- (1) The Director has the power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of his or her functions under this Act.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Director has the following powers:
 - (a) for the purpose of producing the annual development reports- to request reports from Ministries, Development Partners and individuals; and
 - (b) to make recommendations on programme activities to ensure compliance with Government policy priorities.”