



**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
AND
FOREIGN POLICIES**

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2021**

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

November 2021

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CHAIR'S FORWARD

This report presents the summary of general activities of the Committee on Economics and Foreign Policies as required by the standing order 68 (3). Accompanied with this report is also the report of the Committee's field visit as required by section 21 (2) of the Procedural Guidelines of the Parliamentary Committees.

The 2021 annual work plan has been endorsed by the National Parliament at the Second Ordinary Session of 2020; however, the Committee could not proceed due to Constitutional case No. 3176 of 2019. The annual workplan was revised by the Committee on the 12th of May 2021 and approved by Parliament at its Second Extraordinary Session of 2021, after the proper establishment and membership appointments of the Committee. The work plan was approved with respect to the scope and function of the Committee mandated under Standing Order 63 (1) (b).

Despite the challenges encountered throughout the year, the Committee has progressed some of its activities in its work plan for this year 2021.

Therefore, as Chairman of the Committee, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all Honourable Members of the Committee and the Secretariat team who actively involved with the Committee's meetings and production of its reports.

On behalf of the Committee, I commend this Report to Parliament

Hon. Wesley **RASU**, MP

Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Foreign Policies

November 2021

COMMITTEE MANDATE

The Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu provided for Parliament to establish committees and appoint members to them. Parliament legally established and appointed the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members of the Committee on Economic and Foreign Policies through Motion No.4 of 2021 at the first extraordinary session of Parliament on April 2021.

As per Standing Order 64 of the Vanuatu Parliament, a committee should have not more than seven (7) Members.

The mandate and role of the Committee is specified under Standing Order 63, and also described in the said motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 63 (1), the Committee has the responsibility to consider, enquire

following subject areas: Trade, Tourism, Economic and Fiscal Policy, Foreign Policy, Agriculture, Public Utilities, Infrastructure, Land, Investments, Regulation on economic activities, commerce and business development.

As required by Standing Order 68 (3), the Chairman must present the general activity report of the Committee to Parliament at the second ordinary session.

INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Economic and Foreign Policies is established by Parliament to perform the fundamental role of scrutinizing government activities. The activities conducted by the Committee in the 2021-year is governed by Motion No. 4 of 2021 that was approved by Parliament, the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu (Parliamentary Services Act [CAP 306]) (Parliamentary Services Act [CAP 306]), and the Parliament Administration Act.

Parliament approved a revised work plan of the Committee that formed the basis of activities conducted in the year.

The report summarizes the activities of the committee conducted during this year 2021. The challenges and recommendations are also being discussed for Parliament to consider for further possible funding.