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PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES  
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NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF VANUATU

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS AND FOREIGN POLICIES

**COMMITTEE ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

**2022**

Presented on ..... 2021

Committee Secretariat

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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Hon. Wesley <b>RASU</b> , MP	Chairman
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Hon. Marc <b>MUELSUL</b> , MP	Vice-Chairman
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Hon. Xavier <b>HARRY</b> , MP	Member
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Hon. John <b>SALA</b> , MP	Member
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Hon. Ian T <b>WILSON</b> , MP	Member
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Hon. Bakoa <b>KALTONGGA</b> , MP	Member
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Hon. Andrew <b>NAPUAT</b> , MP	Member
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## **CHAIR'S FOREWORD**

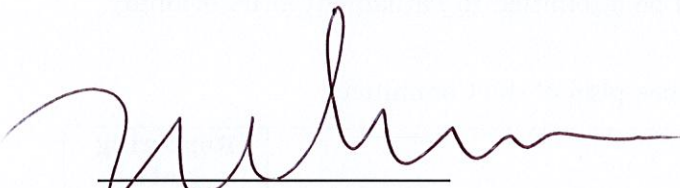
As the Chairman, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce the annual *Work Plan* of the Committee on Economic and Foreign Policies for 2022 as required by Standing Orders 68(1) (a) & (b).

As outlined in the Parliamentary Services Act [CAP 306] and section 63 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, this report describes the Committee's priorities based on its budget resource allocation for the 2022-year.

The Committee believes that parliamentary oversight of the Government's activities is part of the Parliament's proper role in reviewing and recommending improvements to important areas of government and public policy.

I would like to draw the Government's attention to Section 23 (2) of the Parliamentary Services Act and Standing Order 63 (2) that requires the submission of 'annual reports of Government Ministries' to parliament. I am appealing to the Prime Minister and all government ministers to respect this particular requirement of the Act to ensure that parliamentary standing committees can effectively undertake their fundamental roles of scrutinizing government activities.

Therefore, under provision 68 of the Standing Orders, I, Hon. Wesley RASU, Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Foreign Policies, hereby submit the 2022 Annual Work Plan of the Committee to the Parliament for endorsement through you, Hon. Seoule SIMEON, Speaker of Parliament.



Hon. Wesley **RASU** (MP)

Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Foreign Policies



## 1. BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Article 23 of the Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu, the Committee on Economic and Foreign Policies was legally established through Motion No. 4 of the 2021 in the first extra ordinary session of Parliament of 2021.

Under Standing Orders 63, the Standing Committee on Economic Policies is established and its subject areas are: trade; tourism; Economic and Fiscal Policy; Foreign Policy; Agriculture; Public Utilities; Infrastructure; Land; Investments; Regulation of economic activities; Commerce; and Business development.

Furthermore, the functions of the Committee as referred by Parliament are specified in the Motion No. 4 of 2021.

Therefore, this work plan was prepared by the Committee on Economic and Foreign Policies as required by Standing Order 68 for the Chairman to present to Parliament for its endorsement the list of matter(s) to be enquired into or examined in the 12 months following.

## 2. 2022 WORK PLAN

Section 8(1) of the Procedural Guidelines of Parliamentary Committees requires every Standing Committees to meet at least twice in each half of the calendar year. The Committee has therefore agreed to undertake three sessions in the year 2022 to ensure its functions as provided for under Standing Orders 63 are attended to. Reports of the sessions and enquiry will be submitted to Parliament at its ordinary sessions.

The Table below sets the 2022 annual work plan of the Committee:

Session #	Month	Agenda	Reporting Date
1	<b>10-Feb to 3-Mar</b> (22 Calendar Days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review of MoFAICET Annual Report (2020)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Labour Mobility</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Review of PMO Annual Report (2020)</li> </ul>	First Ordinary Session
2	<b>17-Mar to 14-Apr</b> (29 Calendar Days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review of MALFFAB Annual Report (2020)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agriculture Policy Objective &amp; Implementation</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Review of MTTCNB (2020) Annual Report               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local Tourism</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Review of MIPU (2020) Annual Report</li> </ul>	First Ordinary Session
<b>May</b>		<b>FIRST ORDINARY SESSION</b>	
<b>July 15–August 15</b>		<b>PARLIAMENT RECESS</b>	
3	<b>25-Aug to 16-Sept</b> (23 Calendar Days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review of MoLNR Annual Report (2020 &amp; 2021)</li> <li>➤ Committee's 2022 Annual Activity Report</li> <li>➤ Committee's 2023 Work Plan</li> </ul>	Second Ordinary Session
<b>November</b>		<b>SECOND ORDINARY SESSION</b>	



Subsequent to this work plan, the Chairman will inform the Speaker in writing prior to the calling of each session on the duration, meeting agenda, work program, along with the budget to be expended for the meeting.

Following is an outline of the agendas with objectives and process to be undertaken for each session.

**First Session: 10-February to 3-March 2022 (22 Calendar Days)**

In the first meeting of the Committee for 2022, the Committee will consider two Ministry annual reports; the annual report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade for 2020 and the annual report for the Prime Ministers Ministry for 2020. In considering the annual report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Committee will also undertake enquiry into labour mobility as external trade in terms of policies surrounding the program. The Committee aims to submit a report of its first session to Parliament on its first ordinary session 2022.

**Objectives:**

- i. To review and scrutinize annual reports in line with NSDP;
- ii. To provide oversight into the policy settings of the labour mobility program, including their impact on employment and social cohesion;
- iii. To enquire into the effectiveness and benefits of the labour mobility programs thus far;
- iv. The impacts of the programs on the aspects of social, economy, and policies;
- v. Suggest possible recommendations

**Methodology:**

- i. Review Reports;
- ii. Invite written submissions;
- iii. Hold a public hearing inviting the relevant authorities, and interested groups or persons;
- iv. Prepare report of the session for 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary session of Parliament.

**Second Session: 17-March to 14 April 2022 (29 Calendar Days)**

The second session of the Committee aims at reviewing the 2020 annual reports of three Ministries: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Biosecurity; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade; and Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities. Given the current circumstances affecting our tourism sector, the Committee will also enquire into the sustainability of the tourism sector through local tourism and long-term economic recovery mechanisms. As part of the reviews, the Committee will undertake a review through field visits to Santo, Malo and Tanna; inviting submissions from the public and conduct public hearings. The Committee intends to hear from the field/people on the impact of policy and budget implementations of these respective Ministries. A submission on this will be tabled at the first ordinary session of Parliament.

**Objectives:**

- i. To review and scrutinize annual the reports in line with NSDP;
- ii. Invite written submissions;
- iii. Examine the implementation of government policies and budget implementation;
- iv. To provide oversight analysis on the productive sector against government policies, in terms of budget and implementation.



- v. Examine the efficacy of existing mechanisms to address the productive sector; the impact on tourism, and effective measures to drive long term economic recovery;
- vi. Barriers to implementation of government policies;
- vii. Examine the economic benefits of local tourism, including the extent to which the current arrangements maximize the benefits to the local industry;
- viii. Any related matters; and
- ix. Suggest possible solutions.

**Third Session: 23-Auguts to 16-September 2022 (23 Calendar Days)**

In its third and final session for the year 2022, the Committee will review the annual reports of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for 2020 and 2021. The Committee will table a report on this session together with a report on the committees' activities for the year 2022 and its work plan for the 2023-year.

**Objectives:**

- i. To review and scrutinize annual report of Ministry in line with NSDP;
- ii. Examine the implementation of government policies and budget implementation;
- iii. Draw up 2022 Annual Activity Report and 2023 Work Plan of the Committee;
- iv. Suggest possible recommendations.

**Methodology:**

- i. Review reports;
- ii. Invite written submissions;
- iii. Hold a public hearing inviting the relevant authorities, and interested groups or persons;
- iv. Prepare report of the session for 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary session of Parliament.

**3. 2022 BUDGET**

Below is the budget detail of the 2022 work plan:

1. Three Sessions ( <i>including field visits</i> ) for 68 Calendar days	= Vt	10,947,080
2. Entitlements: Chairman and Vice-Chairman	= Vt	5,315,155
3. Committee resources and related items	= Vt	1,000,000
<b>TOTAL Budget</b>	<b>Vt</b>	<b>17,262,235</b>

The Committee will need an extra Vt. 700,000 to Vt. 1,000,000 to complete all its agenda in the work plan.

**4. CONCLUSION**

The Committee's work plan is subject to Government Minister's tabling their annual reports as required by Section 23 (2) of the Parliamentary Services Act and the budget. Apart from reviewing annual reports, any matter or bills may also be referred to the Committee for consideration. Given such circumstance, this work plan will be subject to change due to budget constraint.

The Committee on Economic and Foreign Policies is thankful for the support of the Parliament, Government, Government departments and Agencies and public to implement its 2022 work plan successfully.

Thank you everyone for your attention.