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PRESS RELEASE



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SAI Vanuatu strengthens performance through SAI PMF assessment

Port Vila, Vanuatu (26 June 2019) – An assessment of the public financial management (PFM) system of Vanuatu’s Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) was conducted in early June to provide a true and clear baseline of performance built around six core organisational areas in which a SAI should operate.

The assessment in Vanuatu follows the successful SAI Performance Measurement Framework (PMF) planning workshop that was held in Fiji recently.

According to the INTOSAI Development Initiative, the SAI PMF provides SAIs with a framework for voluntary assessments of their performance against the International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) and other established international good practices for external public auditing. SAI PMF is a multi-purpose, universal framework, and can be applied in all types of SAIs regardless of governance structure, mandate, national context and development level.

Vanuatu’s assessment was made possible through the Strengthening of Public Finance Management and Governance in the Pacific Project, which aims to strengthen oversight over public financial management in the Pacific region through improving the budgetary scrutiny, public financial oversight and accountability capacities of parliaments, supreme audit institutions and civil society within the region, aligning with international public financial oversight and accountability standards, and fostering citizen engagement and oversight. The Project is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI).

Under the umbrella of the Project and with additional core funding from PASAI development partners DFAT and MFAT, the Review team (comprised of the PASAI Director of Technical Support, A’eau Agnes Aruwafu, the SAI Fiji-QA Team Leader, Meresimani Katuba, the Senior Auditor for SAI Kiribati, Tokanikai Tiira, and SAI Kiribati Senior Auditor, Mr Ioteke Teweti) developed terms of reference with the Vanuatu OAG as the SAI PMF implementation began.

Following the two-week assessment, the Vanuatu Auditor General, Caleb Sandy, and the Office of the Auditor General underlined how helpful this exercise was in setting benchmarks for their work.

“This assessment will be very useful for Vanuatu SAI to understand where we can improve and also highlight where the office is performing well,” said Sandy. “In particular, this will help me implement the audit mandate more effectively and make a difference to the lives of Vanuatu citizens and residents.”

PASAI Chief Executive Mr Tiofilusi Tiueti added, *“The SAI PMF assessments are not only going to help strengthen our SAIs in the Region, but will also provide excellent baseline information for PASAI to determine appropriate interventions for our members.”*

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SAI PMF Assessment Team with the SAI Vanuatu Auditor General and his staff

