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Vanuatu Launches Mutual Evaluation Technical Team (METT) to Lead AML/CTF Reform and APG Readiness

Port Vila, November 5th 2025, Vanuatu – The Government of Vanuatu, through the National Coordinating Committee (NCC), has officially launched the Mutual Evaluation Technical Team (METT), a national taskforce mandated to lead Vanuatu’s preparations for the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) Mutual Evaluation scheduled for November 2026.

The Honourable Prime Minister officiated the launch as Chief Guest, delivering a keynote address that reaffirmed Vanuatu’s commitment to international standards on Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF), and Counter-Proliferation Financing (CPF), and the country’s determination to demonstrate both technical compliance and operational effectiveness.

The METT is composed of over 20 senior officials drawn from key government institutions that are members of the NCC, including the Financial Intelligence Unit, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu, Financial Services Commission, Vanuatu Police Force, Office of the Attorney-General, Office of the Public Prosecutor, Customs and Inland Revenue, and others. Private sector reporting entities will participate as observers.

Under the NCC’s oversight, the METT will:

- Draft core evaluation deliverables including the Technical Compliance Questionnaire and Effectiveness Report.
- Coordinate and participate in APG’s on-site visit, including mock interviews and rehearsals.
- Lead capacity-building across agencies through technical clinics, and workshops.
- Implement remedial actions from the 2024 National Risk Assessment and align with the 2025–2030 National AML/CTF/CPF Strategy.
- Track progress on effectiveness indicators, gather cross-agency statistics, and ensure readiness through monthly scorecards and mid-term reviews.

The METT will serve as Vanuatu’s technical backbone for the evaluation, ensuring that every sector is engaged, every risk is addressed, and every reform is documented. Its workstreams are structured across four modules with concrete actions, timelines, and outputs to ensure full preparedness by November 2026.

The Mutual Evaluation is a critical milestone for Vanuatu. It will assess the strength of our legal frameworks, institutional capacity, and operational effectiveness in combating financial crime. The outcomes will directly impact Vanuatu's access to international finance, investment, correspondent banking relationships, and global partnerships.

The METT's launch signals high-level political commitment and national ownership of AML/CTF reforms.

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