

# December- January Newsletter

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

31 January 2025

## What has happened in the last month! News Highlights

New Year Greetings from the Office of the Public Service Commission!

We are excited to share with you OPSC's highlights that occurred during the month of December of 2024 and January 2025.

### Relocation of The Office of the Public Service Commission

The Office of the Public Service Commission has relocated to the VIPAM building after its office sustained damage during the 7.4 earthquake that made landfall on 17th December, 2024.

As the Good Employer, the OPSC has ensured continuity of government services through the support of providing temporary office space in government residence for the relocation of government offices that were damaged during the disaster.

This allocation of temporary office spaces was made through the Commission Flying Minute No.9 of Tuesday, 31st December, Decision No.14



**The OPSC relocated from its former location at the Prime Ministers Office (L) to the VIPAM building (R) inside the Ministry of Internal Affairs premises.**

For those who are still looking for OPSC's location, please see image above to show where we are located. You can call our office on Telephone: 33360 or email: [psinfo@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:psinfo@vanuatu.gov.vu)

Enjoy this bi-monthly newsletter!

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## Appointment of Acting Secretary of the OPSC

The Public Service Commission has appointed Mr. Stephane Bong as the Acting Secretary of the Office of the Public Service Commission in December 2024.

Mr. Bong served as the Acting Deputy Secretary before his appointment and with this new position, he is prepared to lead OPSC in its reform programs to bolster OPSC as the Good employer.



Acting Secretary, Mr. Stephane Bong paid a visit to the Executive officers of the Ministry of Lands after the earthquake.

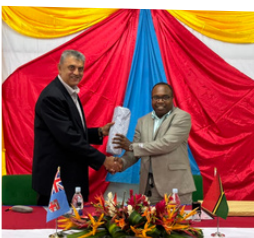
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## Mr. Jonathan Iavere appointed as Secretary General of Sanma Province

### *OPSC Farewells Outgoing Acting Secretary Mr. Iavere*



Mr. Iavere during his tenure as Acting Secretary of the Public Service Commission from 2023-2024.



Mr. Iavere involved in many of the achievements of OPSC e.g. Signing of MoU between OPSC and Fiji Public Service.

Mr. Jonathan Iavere has served as the Acting Secretary to the Office of the Public Service Commission since September of 2023.

Mr. Iavere's appointment lapsed on December 2024 and was farewelled by the staff of the OPSC. The PSC Chairman, Mr. Martin Mahe acknowledged Mr. Iavere for his tremendous contributions and commitment towards PSC especially his active participation in the reform programs the OPSC is currently undertaking.

The outgoing Acting Secretary, Mr. Iavere has moved on to take up his new post as the Secretary General of Sanma Province and the OPSC team wishes him all the best in his new job.



## OPSC supports Recovery Operation Center (ROC) Post 7.4 Earthquake

The Office of the Public Service has provided vital support to the Recovery Operations Center post the 7.4 magnitude Earthquake that struck Port Vila on December 17, 2025.

OPSC has assisted the work of ROC by coordinating Director Generals to submit their recovery plans and has also identified key areas that need to be addressed to ensure service continuity:

- ✓ Psychological Support- through VCH Mental Clinic and respective HRO's
- ✓ Work Flexibility
- ✓ Salary Advance- A recovery incentive to assist PSC employees on Efate affected by the Earthquake.
- ✓ Identify Temporary workstation and relocation for damaged offices



**Acting Secretary, Mr. Stephane Bong visited line agencies affected by the 7.4 earthquake fostering OPSC's support post disaster to identify areas that need OPSC's immediate assistance.**

The OPSC staff have been working tirelessly after the disaster to ensure continuity of services in a timely manner to address welfare of PSC employees that were affected as well as provide assistance to ROC and the Government .

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## Chairman of Fale Governance Board Induction



Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Mr. Martin Mahe went through an Induction program as the Chairman of the Fale Governance Board on the 29th of January, 2025.

The induction focused on familiarization of the new Chairman with the Pacific Public Service organization’s mission, structure, key stakeholders, policies, and his specific roles and responsibilities within the Pacific Public Service regional context.



Mr. Martin Raoul Mahe was appointed as the Chairman of the Fale Governance Board at the Fono in Samoa in November 2024

Chairman Mahe during his induction (above) and with Pacific PSC Leaders at the Fono, Samoa in 2024 (bottom).

## Eight (8) Public Servants Contested the Snap Election

Eight (8) public servants have resigned from their positions to contest the recent Snap Elections on the 16th of January, 2025.

Most of these former public servants were former principal officers, managers and directors from various government agencies.

According to the Public Service Staff Manual (PSSM) Chapter 7, Section 4.5, public servants who wish to contest any elections must resign from their permanent positions.

In regard to Snap Election, public servants must submit their resignation two (2) weeks before polling day.



PC: AP News & RNZ on Vanuatu Snap Election 2025.

For more information visit our link: [psc.gov.vu](http://psc.gov.vu)

‘Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality’ Warren Bennis



## OPSC embarks on strategical planning

The Staff of the Office of the Public Service Commission are strongly encouraged to adopt a more strategic approach in planning for optimal service delivery during OPSC’s retreat at the end of January.

The Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Mr. Martin Mahe made the appeal during his opening remarks and stated that units within OPSC must establish strategical plans to address real time issues currently affecting service delivery in Vanuatu.

“We need to embark on a more strategic approach in our annual business plans and provide actions that are SMART to achieve targets set out in these plans,” he said.

The retreat was facilitated by the Director of the Innovation & Policy Development Unit (IPDU), Mr. Jean Yves Bibi with focus on innovative approach to enhance staff performance to ensure OPSC provides service at the highest level.

“OPSC staff must fully understand the roles and functions of OPSC and must be well versed with the PSSM to be able to deliver a professional service expected by the people,” he stated.

“Each one should ask themselves if they are outstanding in the work that they do, managers and staff need to be open minded and welcome new ideas from each other to assist improve each other in their roles.”

OPSC has incorporated strategies into its planning for 2025 and endeavors innovative approach in terms of service delivery as the Good Employer.



Chairman, Mr. Martin Mahe addressed OPSC staff during his official remarks.



OPSC staff at the Retreat at the VIPAM Conference room.



# Our Staff Corner



Hello! My name is **Jessica Maltock**, hailing from the island of Malekula.

Ms. Maltock is our Admin Support Officer in the OPSC's Corporate Service Unit.

## *What do you love most about your job?*

I provide administrative support at the main reception and assist CSU operations. I gain valuable job-related skills and appreciate that my role allows me to offer basic customer care services to our clients while contributing to the smooth daily operations of OPSC corporate services.

## *Fun Fact:*

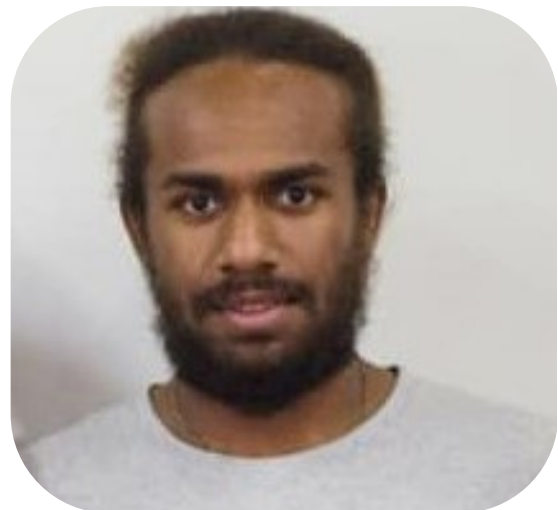
"I am a very helpful person who enjoys assisting others with their needs, both in the office and outside of work."

Jessica has a contagious energy; she makes everyone feels welcome and loves engaging with her colleagues and everyone she meets.

## Meet our new Staff

Meet **Mala Meake**, who is originally from the island of Futuna.

Mr. Meake is our Intern Architect Officer working under Fleet & Housing Unit. He graduated with a Bachelor in Architecture from the International Black Sea University in Georgia, US.



*Thank you for reading!*