

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Judiciary of the Republic of Vanuatu



Caption: Banks & Torres Court building renovation in 2024

Chambers of the Chief Justice

Supreme Court of the Republic of Vanuatu

PMB 9041

Port Vila

Efate

Republic of Vanuatu

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REPUBLIC OF VANUATU



CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS

September 2025

Hon. Job Andy
Minister for Justice & Community Services
Ministry for Justice & Community Services
Government of Vanuatu
Port Vila
Efate

Dear Minister,

I have the pleasure in submitting in accordance with section 51 of the Judicial Services & Courts Act No. 54 of 2000, a report for the management and administrative affairs of the Judiciary for the year 2024 and the unaudited financial statements in respect of that financial year. The report includes information about the courts, their activities and workload.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vincent Lunabek', written over a red circular stamp.

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
COUR COURT
LEX SUPREME LEX
REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

Vincent LUNABEK
CHIEF JUSTICE

Introduction

Vision and Mission Statements

The vision statement of the Judiciary of Vanuatu is not radically different to similar statements of vision from other jurisdictions, insisting on fundamental notions like judicial independence, public trust and confidence and effectiveness and efficiency.

However, the vision statement is peculiarly extroverted in seeking to encompass the legal profession into a vision of mutually beneficial standard of expectations of quality, ethical, accessible, and cost-effective legal service.

The mission statement is a statement of intent on how the Judiciary of Vanuatu will deliver on its vision and its overarching Constitutional mandate – the administration of justice according to law.

Vision Statement

“A JUDICIARY THAT IS INDEPENDENT, EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND WORTHY OF PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE, AND A LEGAL PROFESSION THAT PROVIDES QUALITY, ETHICAL, ACCESSIBLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE LEGAL SERVICE TO OUR PEOPLE AND IS WILLING AND ABLE TO ANSWER TO PUBLIC SERVICE.”

Mission Statement

“TO DISPENSE JUSTICE SPEEDILY, FAIRLY, INDEPENDENTLY AND WITH IMPROVED QUALITY OF EXTERNAL INPUTS. TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS. TO BE A JUDICIARY THAT CONDUCTS ITS BUSINESS WITH DIGNITY, INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.”

Statement from Chief Justice

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU



CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FROM CHIEF JUSTICE

The 2024 Annual Report presented in the same format as the previous years.

I am pleased to say that this report captured the major performance indicators accepted regionally and internationally. This includes a deeper analysis of the nature of cases registered, completed, and importantly, those disposed and pending by the courts. Those indicators indicate that the courts have been successful in achieving results by the end of 2024.

The objectives of Court Administration are equity, effectiveness, and efficiency. The review analyses the ways in and the extent to which the courts in their endeavor successfully perform their roles in the delivery of service to the people of the country.

Further, despite the challenges which are critical to the delivery of justice by the courts, the material contribution of the courts to the community is still unevaluated. This material contribution is reflected in the volume of decisions made. In 2024, 61 batches of judgments, containing 515 decisions were sent to PaCLII for publication. These decisions are also published on the Court website. 42 decisions were from the Court of Appeal, 413 from the Supreme Court, and 41 from the Magistrate Courts and 19 from the Island Courts. 2024 records the highest number of decisions to be published.

The publication of these judgments provides valuable information to land, civil, criminal, commercial, administrative, and constitutional jurisprudence. They also enable transparency and accountability in the courts' decision making.

Throughout the year, the Judges, registrars of the courts and courts support staff have administered the courts and the rule of law with a high degree of independence, impartiality, equity, effectiveness, and efficiency.

The Honorable Justice Vincent Lunabek
Chief Justice

Implementation of the Judicial Management Improvement Plan [JMIP] 2024

The Supreme Court is mandated by the *Judicial Services and Courts Act* to have a management improvement plan for each year (*section 50*) purposely for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations of the Judicial Service and the Vanuatu Courts, and to report against it annually (*section 51(f)*) in the Annual Report.

The Management Improvement Plan Outcome: “To improve the capacity of the courts to achieve the mission”.

The Management Improvement Plan has again set out five priority action areas.

These five priority action areas were to:

- Maintain and strengthen judicial independence;
- Refine case management systems and processes to endure fair and timely disposition of cases;
- Develop professional judicial capacity building;
- Ensure justice is accessible for all; and
- Develop physical infrastructure/ assets to support effective service delivery.

The Plan highlights the intention to:

- Appoint sufficient judicial and staff resources to enable effective and adequate court services to be provided
- To provide ongoing professional development for judicial and court officers so that the court employees have greater capacity to fulfil their functions
- Develop a grass-roots approach for the courts’ engagement with the community by undertaking consultation with court circuits
- Secure funds for infrastructure to ensure accessibility to court services.

**Brief on the Implementation of the Judicial Management Improvement Plan 2024
[JMIP 2024]**

Table 1 – Total Activities in the JMIP 2024

Total of 35 Activities within the JMIP 2024		
# of Activities implemented	# of Activities delayed and will roll-over to 2024	# of Activities no longer a priority in 2024
22	9	4

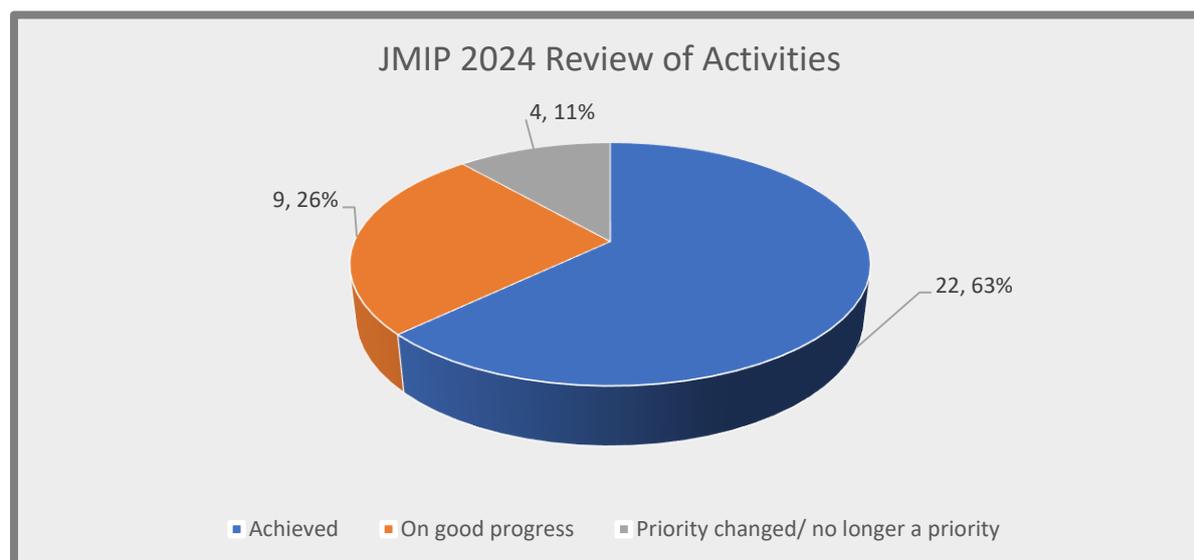


Figure 1: Implementation of Judicial Management Improvement Plan 2024

FUNDS: The Judiciary is serious about developing the priorities in the Judicial Improvement Plan each year including supports for Professional Development for judicial officers and support staff. Although challenged by limited funds, but continuous support from *Pacific Judicial Integrity Program (PJIP)*, *Pacific Justice Sector Program (PJSP)* and *Vanuatu Australia Policing & Justice Program (VAPJP)*, has made it possible for most of the planned activities in the JMIP to be carried out. Thanks to all our developing partners, assisting in monies and in-kind.

Table 2 – Total Funds for Implementing the JMIP 2024

Developing Partners in Year 2024	Total Funds used VUV
Pacific Judicial Integrity Program [PJIP] – In kind	17,271,854
Pacific Justice Sector Program [PJSP] – In kind + cash	10,083,579
Vanuatu Australia Policing & Justice Program [VAPJP]	3,716,721
Vanuatu Government [VanGov]	<u>14,437,198</u>
Total	<u><u>45,509,352</u></u>

TOTAL FUNDS USED IN % FOR IMPLEMENTING THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024

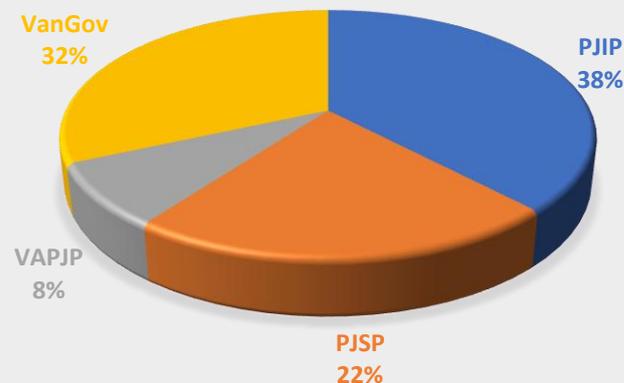


Figure 2: Percentage of funds spent on implementing the Improvement Plan

Brief: Court Trainings & Judicial Development within the JMIP 2024

- Successful Trainings
 - Secretarial refresher workshop on the Case Management System – focusing on identified missing data inputs that needs strengthening for example, disaggregated data and charges outcomes, and training on activating features such as ‘file movements’.
 - Sheriff Team refresher workshop on better planning and reporting on enforcement matters and hands-on training on using and updating CMS.
- Successful Orientations
 - 2 new secretaries to the Supreme Court, has completed an induction and placed on 6 months probation.
 - Tanna and outer Island lay justices orientation on Isangel; 18 lay justices received their appointments and took official oaths.
- Continuous Leadership Education Program
 - Mediation; Deputy Master successfully completed a continuous Educational Program in New Zealand.
 - Chief Registrar and Judicial Development officer successfully completed a Public Service Leadership Program (PSLP) that was spread over a period of 3 months; Sept/Oct/Nov.
- Regional Workshops
 - The Chief Justice attends to the Pacific Chief Justice Forum in Samoa on the month of February; this is the Forum where Pacific court Programs and activities are discussed and approved for implementation by each respective courts.
 - The Chief Justice and a Judge attended the Pacific Electoral Justice Network Workshop with a Theme for “The Role of Courts in Increasing Public Confidence in Elections” – month of February.

- The Deputy Master has attended the 10th Asia Pacific Mediation Forum, held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from 19 to 21 August 2024 with the theme *“Regional Challenges, Regional Solutions, Global Outcomes: Using Mediation to Resolve Environment and Climate Change Disputes”*.
- Vanuatu Hosted the Pacific Judicial Integrity Program (PJIP) Regional Workshop at Holiday Inn – participation of judges from Pacific Courts –the workshop targets reporting on ‘Fraud and Corruption’, a way forward for better management and reporting.
- Chief Registrar and 2 support staff attended the PJIP Advance curriculum at Honiara Solomon in the month of June.
- Court registry participated in the PJIP Workshop, one staff attended the online workshop and 3 staff attended the Tonga Workshop; discussed way forward to improve customer services and entering court data.
- The two new judges attend to the Judicial officer’s PJIP workshop at Samoa from 3 – 5 December, on return initiate the importance to observe the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-being and now driving a committee forward.
- International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) conference participation at PNG, 23 – 24 September; 2 female judicial officers, and the Judicial Development officer attended, ended up with Judge Viran Trief nominated as the Melanesian woman representation in the Pacific Association judicial officers steering committee – on return has progressed in taking the list of all women judicial officers (lay justices inclusive), and arrange a get-together to give views on the Association’s constitution, chaired by Justice Trief.
- The Access to Justice Project – the focus on strengthening access to justice for communities in remote and rural Vanuatu, has been approved by the Chief Justice to be implemented in 2025, around November 2024 the Steering committee has been formed. The Program should commence around July 2025.
- Judicial Education Centre – Contract signed by the Chief Justice on behalf of the Vanuatu Government and Mr Lorenz Metzner (consultant) for a scoping study. The Scoping Study paper successfully achieved, and way forward stated for implementation in 2025.
- Legal Education Centre – Contract signed by the Attorney General on behalf of the Legal Counsel and Mr Lorenz Metzner (consultant) for a scoping study. The Scoping Study paper successfully achieved, and way forward stated for implementation in 2025.
- JSC involvement in the GRT determination for 5 months (Feb – June 2024) appointed the Judicial Development officer – Wendy Raptigh, as a secondment officer to GRT for the GRT review on new salary determination. Review implemented month of December 2024.
- Missing data project: 3 months project for missing data entry for the year 2022 caused by the hack, for the Efate Island Court, Supreme Court and Magistrates, from Aug - Oct (for Port Vila only) is completed.

On- going major activities into 2025:

- On going discussion and planning for the Implementation and Launching for the Judicial Education Centre [for the court] & the planning forward to establish the Legal Education Centre [for all Lawyers, government & private].
- Implementation of the Recommendation on the 'Expanding Access to Justice' consultation carried out last year by Carolyn, Holly & Wendy – Activities to be funded by the *Pacific Justice Sector Program* [PJSP] – to commence July 2025.
- Certificate of Justice Program extending to Banks & Torres Island court lay justices in 2024
- Appointment & Orientation for lay justices for; Tongoa, Santo & Efate Island courts.

Library Information Services

The Library exists to support and provide resources to meet the information needs of Judicial Officers and staff of the Courts. The main collection is located at the Supreme Court in Port Vila and a smaller collection is located in Luganville, Santo.

The Library is a closed library; its primary users are judicial officers and staff of the courts.

The library is staffed by one person.

Collection development

The collection

The print collection of the library incorporating primary and secondary resources of the collection comprises of 2,800 + items.

Acquisitions

There have been no new acquisitions this year as the focus was on acquiring and preparing a 20ft shipping container for file storage. Library funds were diverted for this purpose.

Services and facilities

Services and facilities provided by the Library include:

Photocopy, laminating, binding, coffee/tea making facilities, lounge set & conference table for users, Library research PC & Wi-Fi access in the Library and certain areas of the Court building.

Judgment Services

The Library staff is responsible for collecting and disseminating court decisions for publication. Decisions are sent to the Pacific Legal Institute commonly known as PaCLII: <http://www.paclii.org/> Decisions are published on the courts official website: courts.gov.vu or judiciary.gov.vu. Judgements published are from the:

- Court of Appeal; civil and criminal appeal decisions
- Supreme Court; civil and criminal decisions
- Magistrate Court; civil and criminal decisions
- Island Court; land and chiefly title decisions

In 2024, 61 batches of judgments, containing 515 decisions were sent to PacLII for publication. These decisions are also published on the Court website. 42 decisions were from the Court of Appeal, 413 from the Supreme Court, and 41 from the Magistrate Courts and 19 from the Island Courts. 2024 records the highest number of decisions to be published.

On the 13th of November 2024, the Courts and PacLII collaborated on a Digitization Project, funded by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives and carried out in the Santo Court. The aim of the project was to digitize lower court Judgments specifically Land and Chiefly Title cases which have never been published. A total of 182 decisions were located in the Santo Island and Magistrate Court registry, scanned and are now in the process of being published on PacLII and the Court website. These decisions are from the years 1978 – 2023.

This project is likely to extend to other outer Island Court registries in 2025 depending on the availability of funding.

Court Website

Court Website Information services

Library staff manage content and disseminate information on the Court Website.

The current number of judgments now available on the Court website since its launching in June 2017 is now 2467 and still counting. 2025 forecast would be updating content so that it would be more user-friendly for the general public.

In 2024, the website received a total of 53,407 unique visitors and a total of 2,154,905 hits to the website.

THE COURT ARCHIVES

In 2024 a third 20ft shipping container was purchased and prepared for case file storage. A fourth shipping container will be acquired in 2025. Future forecast would be digitizing records to reduce the high cost of creating physical spaces for file storage.

Asset Management: Infrastructure, vehicles & office equipment

ASSET SUMMARY 2024

NEW ASSETS	BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	VEHICLE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	NBB 2023 SOLA COURT HOUSE RENOVATION, PURCHASE RV 45	TOTAL (VT)
12,190,156	7,137,827 VT	2,401,658 VT	6,523,613 VT	28,253,254 VT

New Assets

This summary includes the purchase of new computer sets, office equipment, office furniture and fittings, office tools and vehicles.

Building Repairs and Renovations

Building renovations summary are renovations done within the year 2024 and thus includes the courts premises and few official residences. This also includes building accessories.

Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance

This is the summary of all courts vehicles that undergo repairs and maintenance within the year 2024.

NBB 2024

This is the summary of NBB of the year 2024.

See below is the breakdown of all summarize categories – New Assets, Building Repairs and maintenance, vehicle repairs and maintenance and NBB.

NEW ASSETS

Date	Court	Location	Asset	Description	Contractor/Supplier	Payment	Amount
11-01-24	Port Vila	Training Office	Laptop	Dell Latitude 5420	Computer World	LPO 140-22550	152,980
06-02-24	Port Vila	Asset Office	Wireless mouse /Keyboard	HP 300 wireless keyboard and mouse, Alick	Computer World	LPO 140-022630	4,995
13-02-24	Tongoa Court	Island Court	Fan	stand fan with remote, Joy Path	Computer World	LPO 140-022659	7,595
16-02-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Printer/Copier Machine	Pantum M7100W	Computer City	LPO 140-022682	60,970
22-02-24	Santo Court	Magistrate Court	Air Condition	Air Conditioner, Suppy and install, 1st installment	Supercool Vila LTD	LPO 140-022698	67,500
04-03-24	Santo Court	Magistrate Court	Air Condition	Air Conditioner, Suppy and install, 2nd installment	Supercool Vila LTD	LPO 140-022698	135,000
04-03-24	Santo Court	Magistrate Court	Chair	Visitors chair	Wong Zse sing Store	LPO 140-022726	9,920
12-03-24	Santo Court	Sheriff	Printer/Copier Machine	Brother MFC 1810	Etech	LPO 140-022753	58,800
15-03-24	Tanna Court	Magistrate Court	Air Condition	TCL, fittings and accessories	George William	LPO 140-022772	381,940
18-03-24	Port Vila	Magistrate Court	Chair	executive mesh chair	Ahapi Stationary	LPO 140-022776	29,000
19-03-24	Santo Court	Magistrate Court	Shelves	bookshelve	Wong Zse sing Store	LPO 140-022788	39,800

19-03-24	Port Vila	Magistrate Court	Monitor	Samsung FHD Curve LED	South Pacific Information	LPO 140-022787	29,990
20-03-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Vehicle	RV 37, KIA sonet, trade-in Hyundai Accent, 500,000	Presitige Motors LTD	LPO 140-022797	2,400,000
11-04-24	Port Vila	Magistrate Court	Monitor	Samsung FHD Curve LED	Computer World	LPO 140-022869	32,994
18-04-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	PC	1st pamnt, Dell Optiplex 7010, J.Aru	Computer World	LPO 140-022895	206,487
	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Monitor	Acer K243	Computer World		
	Port Vila	Supreme Court	PC	Dell Optiplex 7010, HR	Computer World		
22-04-24	Port Vila	Magistrate Court	Chair	executive chair, Sidonie	Leon Hardware LTD	LPO 140-022910	12,150
22-04-24	Port Vila	Magistrate Court	Chair	Office desk	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-022909	25,100
22-04-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Laptop	Dell Latitude 3540, Tour Laptop	Computer World	LPO 140-022899	157,189
02-05-24	Port Vila	Dumbea	Electric Kettle	water boiler, 12L AG-12LE	Rapid Electric	LPO 140-022941	18,300
03-05-24	Port Vila	Magistrate Court	Chair	visitors chair X2, blue, M.Toaliu	Sharper Image	LPO 140-022959	29,000
06-05-24	Tanna Court	Magistrate Court	Filing Cabinet	filing cabinet with 4 draw	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-022963	29,060
06-05-24	Port Vila	Asset Office	Label Maker	Brother PTH110 (11,500VT)	Computer World	LPO 140-022962	25,485
	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Printer/Copier Machine	HP DeskJet 3720 (13985VT)	Computer World		
10-05-24	Santo Court	Magistrate Court	Chair	Bench executive chair	Wong Zse sing Store	LPO 140-022981	28,000
10-05-24	Santo Court	Sheriff	Hammer	Tactic hammer sledge	Santo Hardware	LPO 140-022984	29,210
	Santo Court	Sheriff	Hammer	Tatic claw hammer	Santo Hardware		
	Santo Court	Sheriff	Axe	with wooden handle	Santo Hardware		
	Santo Court	Sheriff	Bush knife	tramontina 450mm	Santo Hardware		
10-05-24	Santo Court	Sheriff	Hammer	Tactic claw hammer (X2)	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-022928	12,780
10-05-24	Santo Court	Magistrate Court	Chair	executive chair, Rachel	Wong Zse sing Store	LPO 140-022981	28,000
20-05-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	PC	Last pamnt, Dell Optiplex 7010, J.Aru	Computer World	LPO 140-023015	206,486
			Monitor	Acer K243			
			PC	Dell Optiplex 7010, HR			
17-06-24	Port Vila	Magistrate Court	Desk	office desk	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-022909	24,100
27-06-24	Port Vila	Asset Office	Folding Table	folding table X2	Au Bon Marche	LPO 140-023128	19,000
31-07-24	Tongoa Court	Clerk Residence	Tank	Water Tanks and fittings	Tradebase	LPO 140-023005	181,495
18-07-24	Port Vila	Library	Shelves	Metal shelves at archive container at EIC	Guang Yuan Industries	LPO 140-023213	480,000
06-08-24	Port Vila	Master's Chamber	PC	Dell Optiplex 7010 (119,995)	Computer World	LPO 140-023261	172,985
	Port Vila	Master's Chamber	Monitor	LG 24MR400	Computer World		
08-08-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Vehicle	sit covers	Au Bon Marche	LPO 140-023275	19,000
09-08-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	PC	Dell Optiplex 7010 (119,995), J.Kanas	Computer World	LPO 140-023279	351,960

	Port Vila	Supreme Court	PC	Dell Optiplex 7010 (119,995), J.Naigulevu	Computer World		
	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Monitor	Acer K243YE, J.Kanas	Computer World		
	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Monitor	Acer K243YE, J.Naigulevu	Computer World		
05-09-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Curtain	J chamber 3 curtains and accessories	Don Tailleur	LPO 140-0253391	71,780
	Ambae Court	Saratamata	Curtain	office and accessores	Don Tailleur		
06-09-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Vehicle	4 sit covers	Au Bon Marche	LPO 140-023403	15,200
08-10-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Printer/Copier Machine	2 new printer for J.Kanas/Jnaigulevu, Brother2730 (33990VT)	Computer City	LPO 140-023537	67,980
22-10-24	Santo Court	Island Court	Desk	office desk	Wong Zse sing Store	LPO 140-023591	60,800
	Santo Court	Island Court	Chair	executive chair	Wong Zse sing Store		
22-10-24	Santo Court	Supreme Court	Air Condition	12000BTU, install	Supercool Vila LTD	LPO 140-023590	135,000
24-10-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Shelves	Bookshelve, J.Naigulevu	Home Centre	LPO 140-023600	25,000
11-11-24	Santo Court	Sheriff	Chair	Executive chair	Wong Zse sing Store	LPO 140-023697	18,000
11-11-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Shelves	Bookshelve, J. Kanas	Home Centre	LPO 140-023696	25,800
12-11-24	Tanna Court	Island Court	Filing Cabinet	filing cabinet with 4 draw	Microtech	LPO 140-023704	41,000
13-11-24	Port Vila	Dumbea	Chair	executive chair for bench, X4	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-023707	77,360
14-11-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Chair	executive chair, Kahtrine	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-023730	38,680
	Port Vila	Magistrate Court	Chair	executive chair, M. Hannaline, 19340vt	Wilco Hardware		
14-11-24	Santo Court	Sheriff	Air Condition	Aircon and fittings, Installation	Aquacool	LPO 140-023714	125,000
14-11-24	Santo Court	Supreme Court	Air Condition	Aircon and fittings, Installation	Aquacool	LPO 140-023713	135,000
15-11-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	PC	Dell Optiplex 7010, Iona Mathias	Computer World	LPO 140-023733	357,569
	Port Vila	Supreme Court	PC	Dell Optiplex 7010, Rita Kali	Computer World		
30-10-24	Port Vila	EIC	Signage Board	outside indication sinage board	Design Impax	LPO 140-023613	44,000
30-10-24	Port Vila	Hearing Room 1	Air Condition	Aiwa, 12000BTU, install	Trade Air Engineering	LPO 140-023612	1,265,000
20-11-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Vehicle	new vehicle, RV 27, Kia Seltos, Trade-In RV 27 hyundai Tucson (500,000VT)	Presitige Motors LTD	LPO 140-023746	3,000,000
20-11-24	Santo Court	Magistrate Court	Monitor	Acer K27, Rachel	Computer World	LPO 140-023743	21,995
27-11-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Table	office table at judge chamber	Leon Hardware LTD	LPO 140-023778	12,961
09-12-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	PC	Dell Optiplex 7010, Cynthia Thomas	Computer World	LPO 140-023815	596,653
	Port Vila	Supreme Court	PC	Dell Optiplex 7010, Gloria Kalotiti	Computer World		
	Port Vila	Supreme Court	PC	Dell Optiplex 7010, Kathrine Abel	Computer World		
09-12-24	Santo Court	Magistrate Court	Chair	Visitors chair X2	Wong Zse sing Store	LPO 140-023821	17,680
11-12-24	Tanna Court	Island Court	Network Switch	Nano network switch	Computer World	LPO 140-023839	35,980

11-12-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Solar Light	100W solar street light, replacement damage one	Rapid Electric	LPO 140-023835	7,400
12-12-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Printer/Copier Machine	1st paymnt of Toshiba A5528A, Total 965,000vt	Copy Express	LPO 140-023843	502,047
12-12-24	Santo Court	Magistrate Court	Chair	executuce chair, Rachel	Ahapi Stationary	LPO 140-023847	25,000

Building Repairs and Maintenance

Date	Court	Location	Description	Contractor/Supplier	Payment	Amount	
22-01-24	Santo Court	Santo Court	Earthworks	coral_for court ground works	Santo Eart works	LPO 140-022578	22,000
13-02-24	Port Vila	IT Office	Renovation	roofing silicon for roof repair	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-022652	20,790
16-02-24	Tongoa Court	Clerk residence	Renovation	Solid door, hinge,half round,	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-022679	99,268
16-02-24	Tongoa Court	Clerk residence	Renovation	plywood, window screen,stable, stable gun, hinge	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-022680	98,995
26-02-24	Port Vila	SC Registry	Air Con Service	service aircon	Trade Air Engineering	LPO 140-022703	19,550
26-02-24	Port Vila	IT Office	Renovation	repair IT office	Johnny loma	LPO 140-022707	35,000
26-02-24	Santo Court	Santo Court	Renovation	timber, plywood,screw sotboard	Sato Harware	LPO 140-022709	61,250
06-03-24	Tongoa Court	Clerk residence	Renovation	door lock, door board, hinge, screw	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-022729	61,250
06-03-24	Tongoa Court	Clerk residence	Renovation	paint, 20L	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-022729	26,826
22-03-24	Port Vila	SC Registry	Renovation	cutter, cement sheet, clips and bracket	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-022809	71,297
05-04-24	Port Vila	Library	Renovation	spout and fittings	Esqal	LPO 140-022842	25,811
11-04-24	Port Vila	Library	Renovation	repair spout and fittings	Johnny loma	LPO 140-022862	55,000
14-05-24	Port Vila	Library	Renovation	cutting down mango to save cutter and iron roofings	Johnny loma	LPO 140-022993	150,000
16-05-24	Tongoa Court	Clerk residence	Renovation	water tank and fittings	Tradebase	LPO 140-023005	178,420
17-06-24	Tongoa Court	Clerk residence	Renovation	bolt, mission brown,wood primer, entrance knob, nail	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-023095	40,563
12-07-24	Port Vila	EIC	Renovation	bracket, plywood,wahser, round bar, timber, nail, screw	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-0231174	224,018
15-07-24	Torba Court	Sola	Renovation	complete roof renovation materials	Santo Hardware	LPO 140-023194	1,823,613
01-08-24	Port Vila	Library	Extension	1st payment of extension, container roof at EIC	Johnny loma	LPO 140-023237	150,000
07-08-24	Tongoa Court	Clerk residence	Renovation	toilet set and fittings	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023255	62,766
09-08-24	Torba Court	Sola	Renovation	transportation of renovation materials	Santo Earth Works	LPO 140-023287	266,000
09-08-24	Port Vila	CJ chamber	Renovation	repair door (2500VT)	Johnny loma	LPO 140-023289	5,000
	Port Vila	J chamer 5	Renovation	repair door (2500VT)	Johnny loma		
21-08-24	Port Vila	Hearing Rooms	Extension	extensions materials	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023317	53,986
23-08-24	Port Vila	Hearing Rooms	Extension	extensions materials	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023325	22,166
05-09-24	Port Vila	Hearing Room 2	Renovation	renovate hearing room 2 to a Judge chamber	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023394	17,854
12-09-24	Port Vila	hearing Room 2	Labor	convert hearing room 2 judge chamber, construct slab, build roof, lightings	Popon Mahu	LPO 140-023421	20,687

13-09-24	Port Vila	Hearing Room 2	Renovation	10L paint for office conversion (grey)	Port Vila Hardware	LPO 140-023424	14,925
13-09-24	Port Vila	Hearing Room 2	Renovation	3L paint (white)	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023425	3,550
13-09-24	Port Vila	Hearing Rooms	Renovation	timbers and accessories for rail	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-023428	11,060
19-09-24	Port Vila	Hearing Rooms	Renovation	timbers and accessories for rail	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-023447	3,200
26-09-24	Port Vila	Hearing Rooms	Renovation	cement for water tank slab	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023464	2,300
30-09-24	Port Vila	Hearing Rooms	Renovation	water cutter and accessories	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-023483	4,560
30-09-24	Port Vila	Hearing Rooms	Renovation	water tank base materials	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023484	14,292
30-09-24	Port Vila	CJ Residence	Plumbing	dig, and change old pipes	JB Plumbing	LPO 140-23487	130,000
24-10-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Renovation	door locks X2	Wilco Hardware	LPO 140-023604	10,080
29-10-24	Port Vila	Sola	Renovation	roofing srew	Santo Hardware	LPO 140-023611	51,300
30-10-24	Port Vila	Hearing Room 2	Renovation	7x10 timber X1, nail, screw for office convesion	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023614	5,055
30-10-24	Port Vila	Hearing Room 1	Renovation	Labor for fixing roof, change iron roof , fasciar board, pearling, water cutter	Popon Mahu	LPO 140-023615	53,600
30-10-24	Port Vila	Hearing Room 1	Renovation	materials for roof renovation	Trade and Farm Vanuatu	LPO 140-0236619	52,826
04-11-24	Port Vila	Staff Mens Toilet	Plumbing	change toilet set + labor	JB Plumbing	LPO 140-023671	65,000
04-11-24	Port Vila	HR Office	Air Con Service	refill air con gas	Trade Air Engineering	LPO 140-023676	17,250
11-12-25	Port Vila	Training Centre	Extension	Labor for the new training centre	Popon Mahu	LPO 140-023841	752,000
12-11-24	Port Vila	Training Centre	Extension	materials for the new training centre	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023706	1,242,925
14-11-24	Port Vila	Hearing Room 1	Renovation	additional materials for hearing room, masonite, quarter round, flashing	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023731	23,481
26-11-24	Port Vila	Training Centre	Extension	5 cubic black sand (22500), 4 cubic coral(20000)	Entreprise Dinh Van Thu	LPO 140-023768	43,300
09-12-24	Port Vila	Training Centre	Extension	roofing silicon and cutter	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023820	14,766
10-12-24	Torba Court	Sola	Renovation	Paint, water tank and fittings, plywoods	Santo Hardware	LPO 140-023827	487,264
10-12-24	Torba Court	Sola	Renovation	labor for additional renovation	Jame Son Construction	LPO 140-023829	100,000
11-12-24	Port Vila	Training Centre	Extension	nz pines 100x100 x8, 150x100 X8	TIVR Timber	LPO 140-023831	96,951
11-12-24	Port Vila	SC Registry	Renovation	building materials, paint	Leon Hardware	LPO 140-023833	110,012
11-12-24	Port Vila	Training Centre	Extension	paint, 20L grey	Port Vila Hardware	LPO 140-023834	24,420
11-12-24	Port Vila	SC Registry	Renovation	labor for registry renovation (130000VT)	Popon Mahu	LPO 140-023840	148,600
12-12-24	Port Vila	J chamers 5	Renovation	labor for fixing leaking roof (18600VT)			
12-12-24	Port Vila	Library	Renovation	slab and concrete step for conatainer at EIC	Popon Mahu	LPO 140-023852	43,000

Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance

Date	Asset	Description	Contractor/Supplier	Payment	Amount (VT)
08-02-24	RV 623	gas refill	Aquacool Vanuatu	LPO 140-022638	13,800
12-02-24	RV 11	air con compressor	Bodiom	LPO 140-022650	96,000
20-03-24	RV 28	change tyre x2	Yasoon Station	LPO 140-022803	24,000
22-04-24	RV 28	change tyre x2	Yasoon Station	LPO 140-022907	50,000
	RV 27	change tyre x2	Yasoon Station		
02-05-24	RV 11	Panel door dent	Autozone	LPO 140-022940	25,000
06-05-24	RV 37	mat set	Carpenter Motors LTD	LPO 140-022965	5,360
06-05-24	RV 623	Evaporator	Carpenter Motors LTD	LPO 140-022968	25,000
15-05-24	RV 623	replace evaporator	Carpenter Motors LTD	LPO 140-022995	58,448
15-05-24	Boat	service engine, pentecost boat	Energy4 All	LPO 140-022999	18,020
21-05-24	RV 29	change bulb, H4 (9200VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023016	536,520
	RV 26	schedule service, 114164KM,(63500VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023017	
	RV 9	schedule service, 103091, service B, change arm assy lower RH&LH (117180VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023018	
	RV 37	change gasket silicon, (20035VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023019	
	RV 11	clean aircon tube assu-suction, add gas, (103,745VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023020	
	RV 9	change battery	Bodiom	LPO 140-023021	
	RV 3B	schedule service engine and gear, (60,740VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023022	
	RV 38	schedule service A, (28,780VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023023	
	RV 28	schedule service A, change stabilizer link & brake pads, (63,510VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023024	
	RV 9	change stabilizer link, (35,650VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023025	
03-06-24	RV 11	change tyre X2	Yasoon Station	LPO 140-023058	24,000
26-06-24	RV 3	change tyre X4	Shang Hang Tyre Paint	LPO 140-023120	60,000
28-06-24	RV 29	schedule service A, change lower arm bush, clean aircon tube and valve, change change stabilizer bar rr bush	Bodiom	LPO 140-023133	248,175
05-07-24	RV 623	test and refill gas	Aquacool Vanuatu	LPO 140-023159	9,775
15-07-24	RV 38	change tyre X2	Yasoon Station	LPO 140-023188	20,000
05-08-24	RV 13	change tyre X1	Yasoon Station	LPO 140-023255	12,000
01-11-24	RV 11	change tyre X1	Yasoon Station	LPO 140-023635	12,000
04-11-24	RV 26	schedule service A, 121278KM	Bodiom	LPO 140-023678	38,855
04-11-24	RV 10	schedule service A, 16757KM	Bodiom	LPO 140-023679	26,960
06-12-24	RV 623	change battery	Wong Sze Sing Store	LPO 140-023790	14,200
09-12-24	RV 9	schedule service A, 110329KM, steering rack ends(54,800VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	931,010
	RV 3	change battery, towing (35,020VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 11	change Battery(31,100VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	

	RV 11	schedule service A (25.505VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 13	schedule service B, gear oil, bulb 12V, check steering noise (61.545VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 38	wheel alignment, check engine oil (17.825VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 10	schedule service B, transmission oil (50.995)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 11	Check electrical system, ABS light warning, scan to find fault, clean and fit back sensor (28.175VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 26	schedule service, 128.216VT	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 13	change battery, 35.020VT	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 28	schedule service, transmission oil, bulb wedge parking, LWR/LWR arm bush, 89415VT	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 26	fuel, sensor camshaft, body control module, electric cable, (222,930VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 10	schedule service A, bulb 12V double GL, (36195)VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 9	change headlight RHS bulb and parking (9.725VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 11	schedule Service B, check stabilizer bush, crease required area (40.095VT)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
	RV 13	schedule service, 24535KM, wiper blades, check suspensions (41.700)	Bodiom	LPO 140-023812	
11-12-24	RV 9	new tyre X2	Yasoon Station	LPO 140-023832	25,000
12-12-24	RV 37	Panel Beating	Autozone	LPO 140-023854	127,535

NBB: Sola Court House Renovation & Purchase RV 45

Date	Court	Location	Asset	Description	Contractor/Supplier	Payment	Amount
15-07-24	Torba Court	Sola	Court Building	building materials for the renovation	Santo Hardware	LPO 140-023194	1,823,613
11-10-24	Torba Court	Sola	Court Building	labor cost of the renovation	Jame Son Construction	LPO 140-023536	1,100,000
11-10-24	Port Vila	Supreme Court	Vehicle	New Vehicle, RV 45 Hyundai Creta	Thrifty Auto Centre	LPO 140-023453	3,600,000

Rental of court offices and court rooms

- a. **Port Vila Supreme court hearing room rental**- An advice from State Law Office review that Supreme Court will continue to pay rental on the current rate and that the lease will end on 2024.
- b. **Santo Supreme court office rental**- rental agreement renewed for another 5 years starting 2020 to 2025.
- c. **Magistrate court office rental** – rental agreement renewed for another 2 years starting 2022 to 2024.
- d. **Magistrate court hearing room rental**- rental agreement for 2 years starting 2023 to 2025.

About the Courts

Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal (COA) is the highest court of the land. It is composed of at least 2 or more Judges of the Supreme Court sitting together.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is the President of the Court of Appeal and all the Judges of the Supreme Court are called upon by the Chief Justice to compose the Court of Appeal. Overseas judges who composed Court of Appeal of Vanuatu in 2024 included:

- Justice Ronald Young – Retired Justice of the New Zealand High Court
- Justice John William Hansen – Retired of the New Zealand High Court
- Justice Raynor Asher – Retired Judge of the Court of Appeal of New Zealand
- Justice John Von Doussa – Retired Justice of the Federal Court of Australia
- Justice John Mansfield – Justice of the Federal Court of Australia
- Justice Richard Conway White – Retired Judge of Supreme Court of New South Wales
- Justice Mark O’Regan – Retired Judge of the New Zealand High Court

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction to hear and determine civil and criminal proceedings. It has jurisdiction to hear questions concerning elections and similar matters; and it has jurisdiction to hear any grievances from citizens about emergency regulations made by the Council of Ministers. The Supreme Court has jurisdiction to hear civil and criminal appeals from a Magistrate court and to hear appeals from Island Courts as to ownership of customary land.

The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice and justices appointed on local terms and conditions. One judge – Justice William Kenneth Hastings is Secondment by the New Zealand District Court to the Supreme Court of Vanuatu for a period of 2 years ended in mid 2024 and the next Secondment commences in July 2024 – Justice Maree Mackenzie. Different Judges of the New Zealand District Court have served on this scheme since 2004.

Justice Edwin Goldsbrough was sent by British government in 2021 for a period of two years and have extended in 2023 for another period of two years – contract ends 2025.

Magistrates’ Court

The Magistrates' Court has jurisdiction to hear cases where the amount claimed or the subject matter in dispute does not exceed VT1, 000, 000; disputes between landlord and tenant where the amount claimed does not exceed VT 2,000,000; and cases involving uncontested petitions for divorce or nullity of marriage.

In its criminal jurisdiction, the Magistrates' Court hears cases that concern any criminal proceedings for an offence for which the maximum penalty does not exceed 2 years imprisonment. It has jurisdiction to hear appeals from civil decisions from Island Courts, except decisions as to ownership of land, where appeal is to the Supreme Court.

The Magistrates' Court is specifically excluded from exercising jurisdiction in wardship, guardianship, interdiction, appointment of conseil judiciaire, adoption, civil status, succession, wills, bankruptcy, insolvency, and liquidation. Currently there are 8 Magistrates appointed across Vanuatu.

Island Courts

The Island Court may only deal with civil matters in which the Defendant is ordinarily resident within their territorial jurisdiction or in which the cause of action is within their boundaries, such as customary land cases when the land is within their territorial boundaries.

In criminal matters, the court has jurisdiction to hear charges which their penalties do not exceed VT 24, 000 as fine and not exceeding 6 months imprisonment.

In civil claims, the court hear cases in which the defendant is ordinarily resident within their territorial jurisdiction or in which the cause of action is within their boundaries with claims not exceeding VT 50,000; claims in contracts or tort where the amount claimed, or the subject does not exceed VT 50,000 and claims for maintenance not limited in amount.

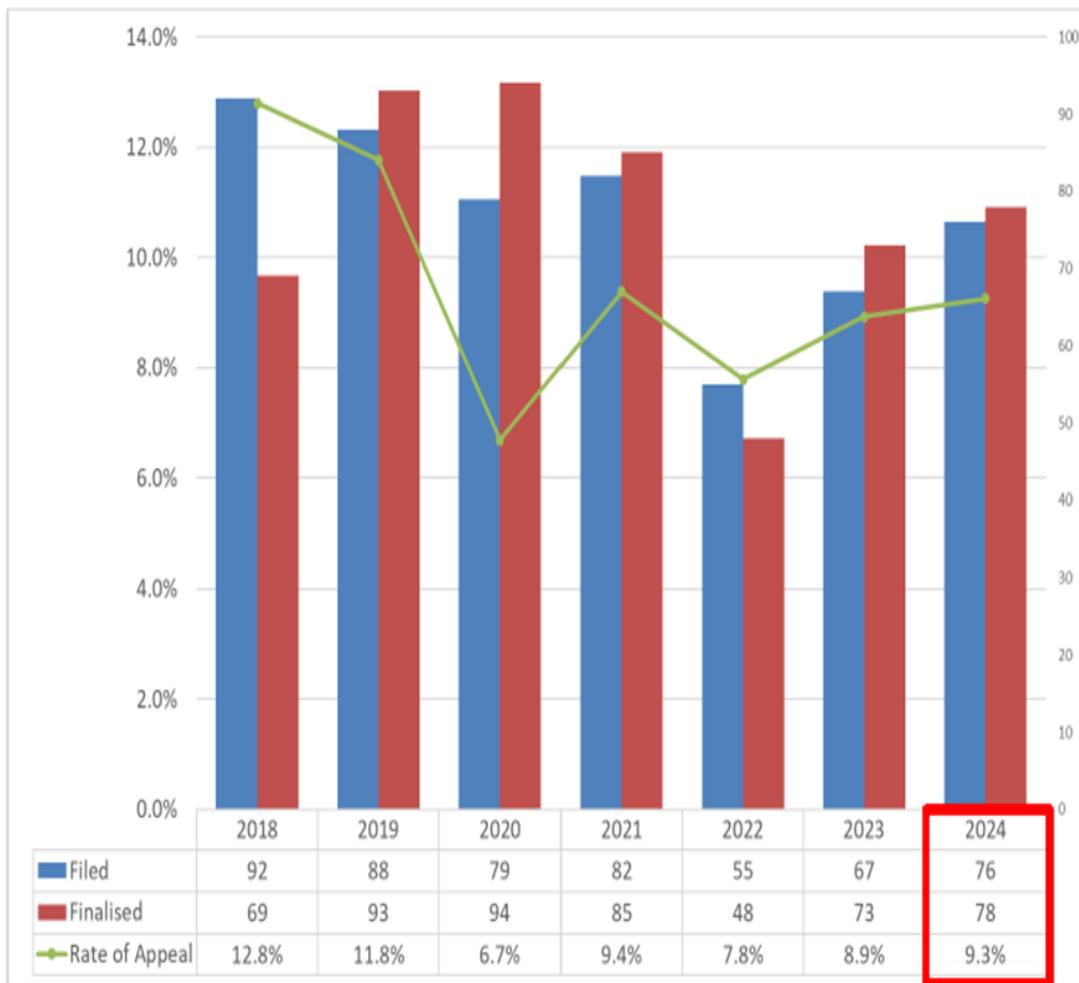
The Island Courts are specifically empowered to administer the customary law prevailing within their territorial jurisdiction so far as it is not in conflict with any written law and is not contrary to justice, morality, and good order.

There are currently 10 operational Island Courts in the Republic. The Island Courts have full-time clerks, appointed by the Chief Justice to administer the affairs of the Island Courts. There are about 140 active lay justices appointed to decide on matters/ claims within the jurisdiction of the Island Courts. The lay justices are members of the community.

The coming into force of the Customary Land Management Act has implications for the operations of the Island Court as they are mandated by law to act as the Island Court [land] Tribunal registrars to receive applications on review decisions of customary land ownership from the village level.

Court results (Court workload)

Court of Appeal workload & clearance rate



CoA filing has been consistent to the previous 3 years. Finalized cases has increased by 7% in 2024 compared to 2023.

Of note is the decreasing % of 1st instance matters finalized that are appealed (compare to 2018) now running approximately 9.3% of first instance matters finalized.

Ref: CoAWTrend

Figure 3: Court of Appeal; trend of filed and finalized cases, and clearance rate – 2018 to 2024.

Supreme Court workload & clearance rate



Cases being filed in 2024 again over 800 cases – the highest workload since 2018. Clearance rate 93% less than the targeted 100% - but finalization were up compared to 2023.

The overall average for the last 7 years is 102% - still a solid performance over a long period.

Ref: SCTW

Figure 4: Supreme Court; trend of filed and finalized cases, and clearance rate – 2018 to 2024.

Magistrate Court workload & clearance rate



Cases filed and finalized were significantly up in 2024 compared to previous year, however still unable to reach a Clearance Rate of 100%, at 88% in 2024 – adding over 30 cases to Pending #s.

The overall average for the last 7 years is 97%

Ref: MCTW

Figure 5: Magistrate Court; trend of filed and finalized cases, and clearance rate – 2018 to 2024.

Island court workload & clearance rate

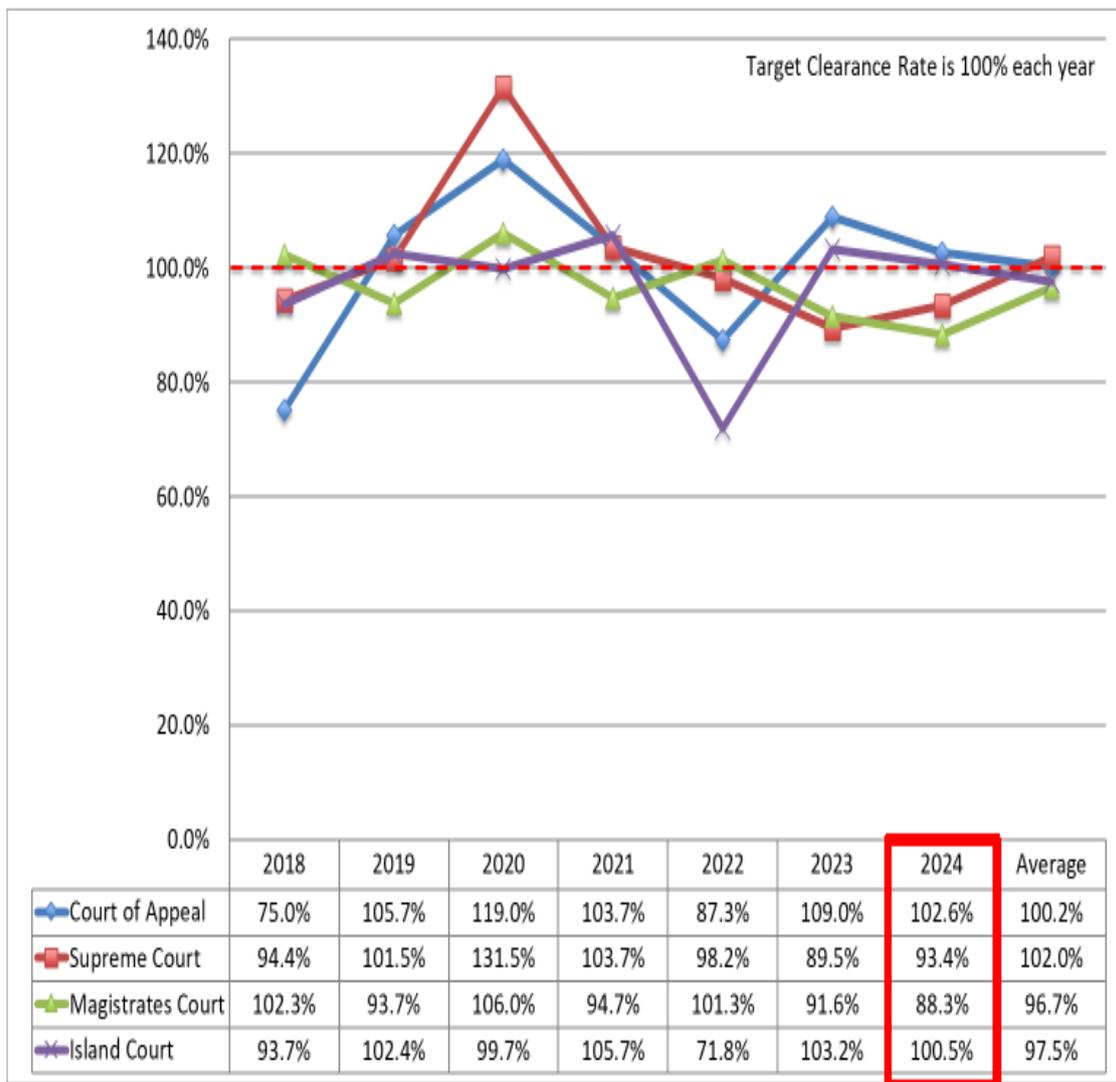


Cases filed has decreased by 5% in 2024, and finalizations were also down from the previous year by 7%. Clearance rate at 101% on 100% target - a solid year.

Ref: ICTW

Figure 6: Island Court; trend of filed and finalized cases, and Clearance Rate – 2018 to 2024.

Clearance rate Trends



Clearance Rate 2/4 jurisdictions are sitting at 100% with Court of Appeal at 102.0%, in 2024.

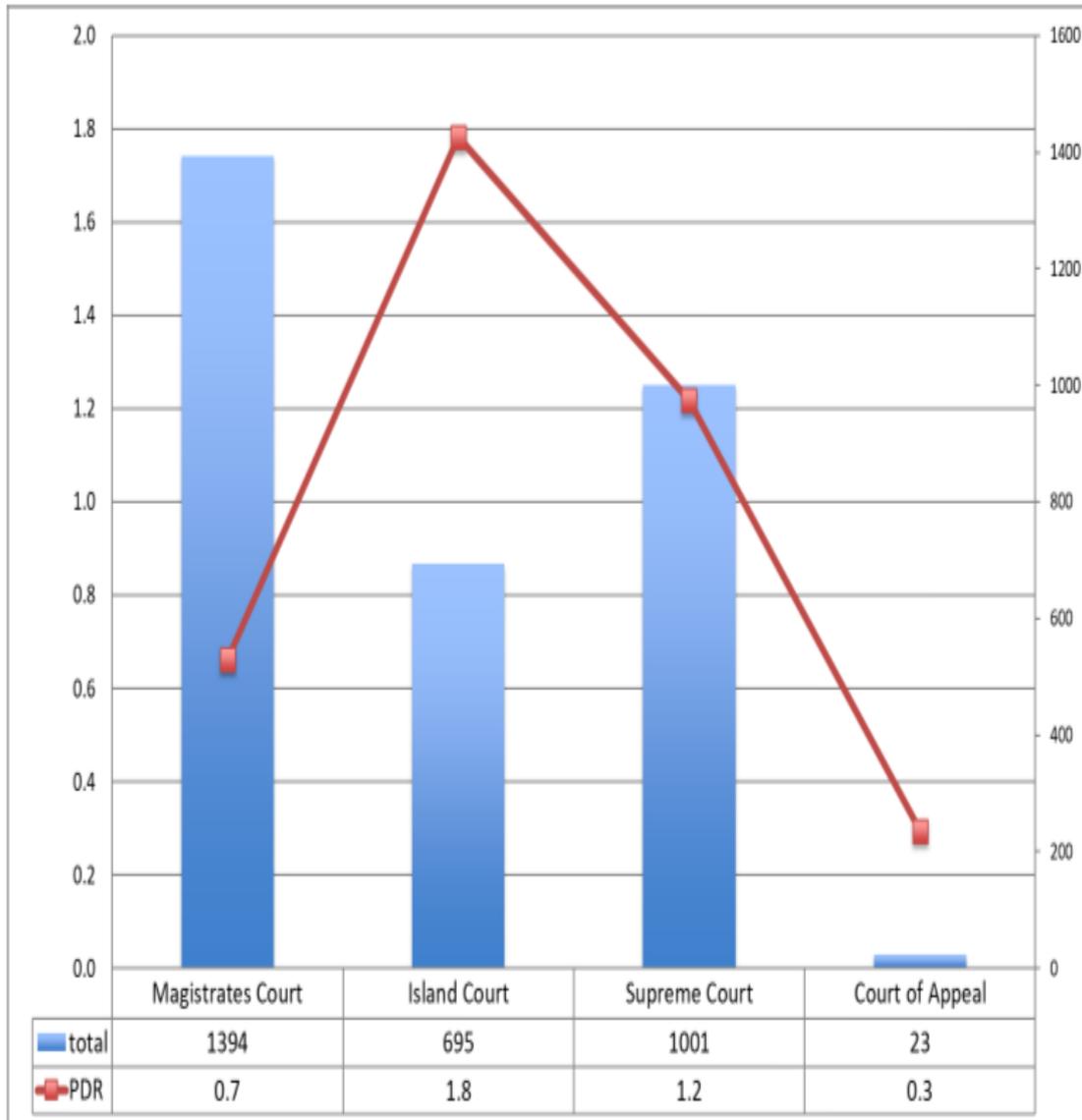
Both the Court of Appeal and Island Court have been able to achieve an average Clearance Rate of just over 100% over the last 7 years. If less than 100% - a court's pending workload naturally increases.

A steady performance over the years.

Ref: AICRate

Figure 7: All Courts; trend for Clearance Rate – 2018 to 2024.

Pending Cases by Court



3,113 cases are now pending across the four jurisdictions, with 45% in the Magistrate Court. Of concern is the high Pending to Disposal Ratio (PDR) in the Supreme Court, Magistrates Court & Island Courts. The lower the PDR, the better - and ideally under 1.0 for the Supreme Court and 0.5 for the Magistrate Court.

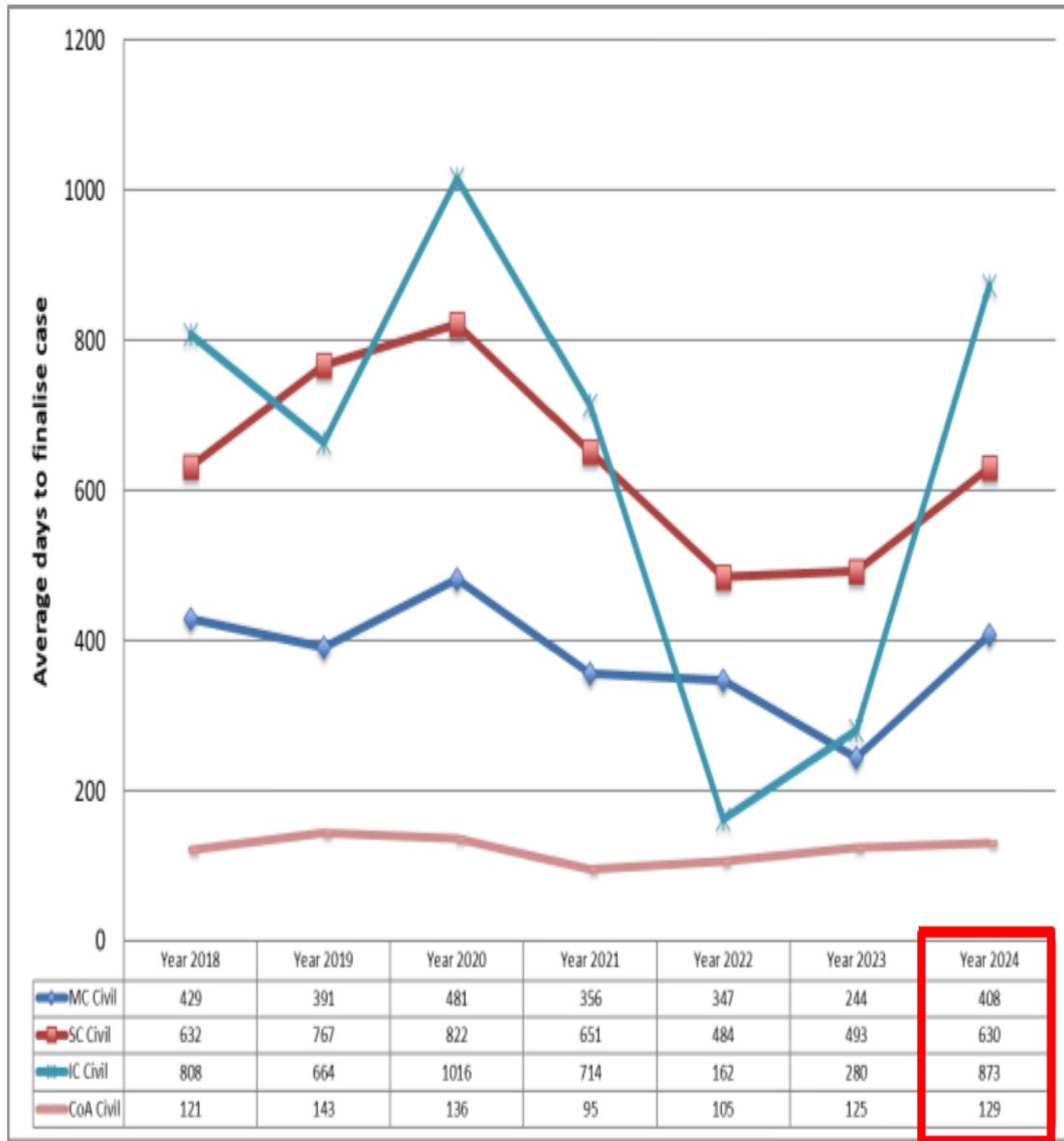
Court of Appeal doing exceptionally well with PDR of 0.3

Ref: AllPending

Figure 8: Pending cases by four court jurisdictions.

Timeliness Disposed

Civil Cases

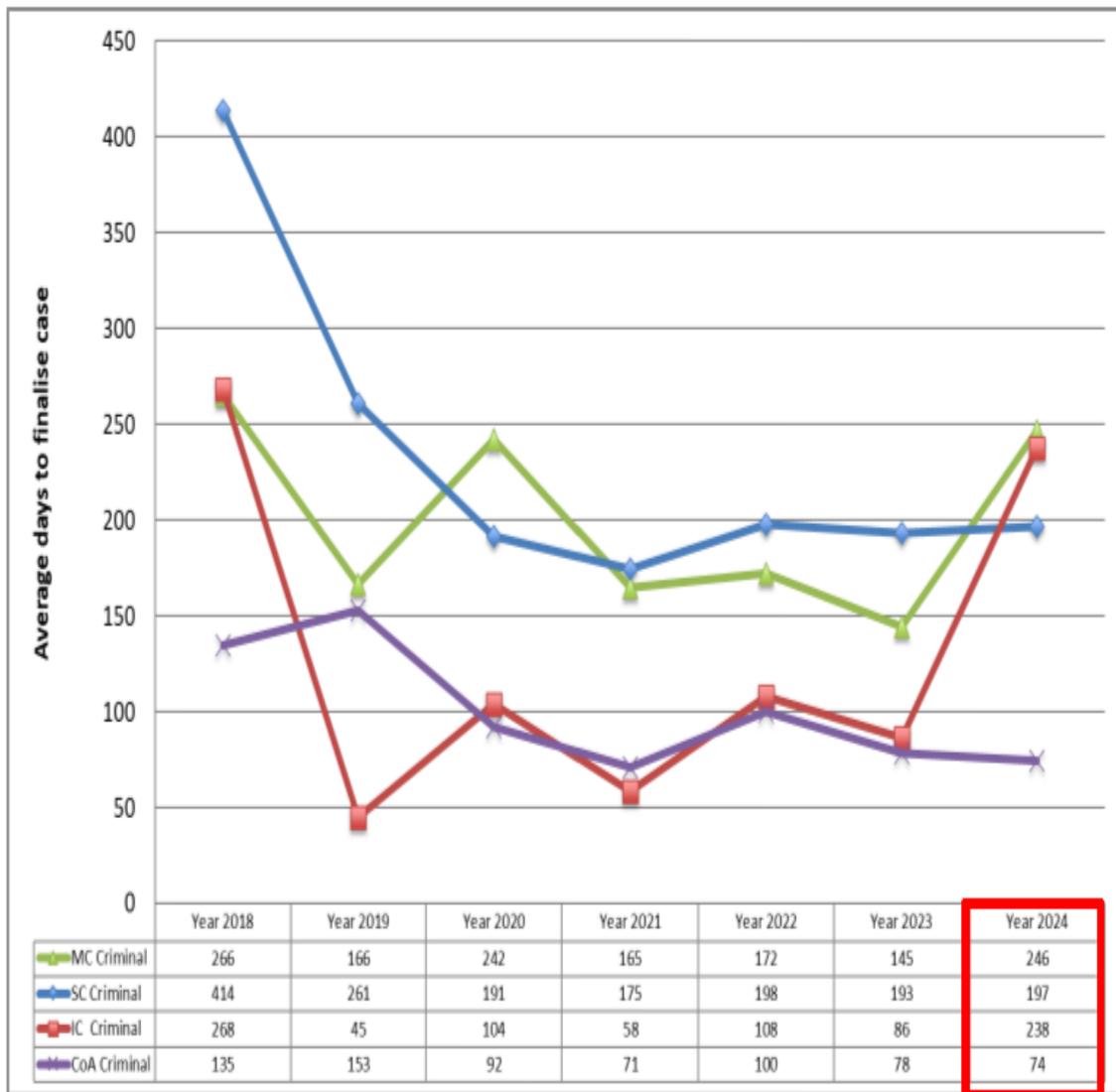


Compared to 2023 the days to dispose of Civil cases 3/4 courts have significantly increase, while Court of Appeal remains consistent.

Ref: AllTimeCi

Figure 9: Disposal by days in the courts for Civil cases

Criminal Cases



Criminal cases average days to dispose is the same for Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal compared to last year whereas seen a high increase in the Magistrate and Island court.

IC closing off old cases that were open in 2021

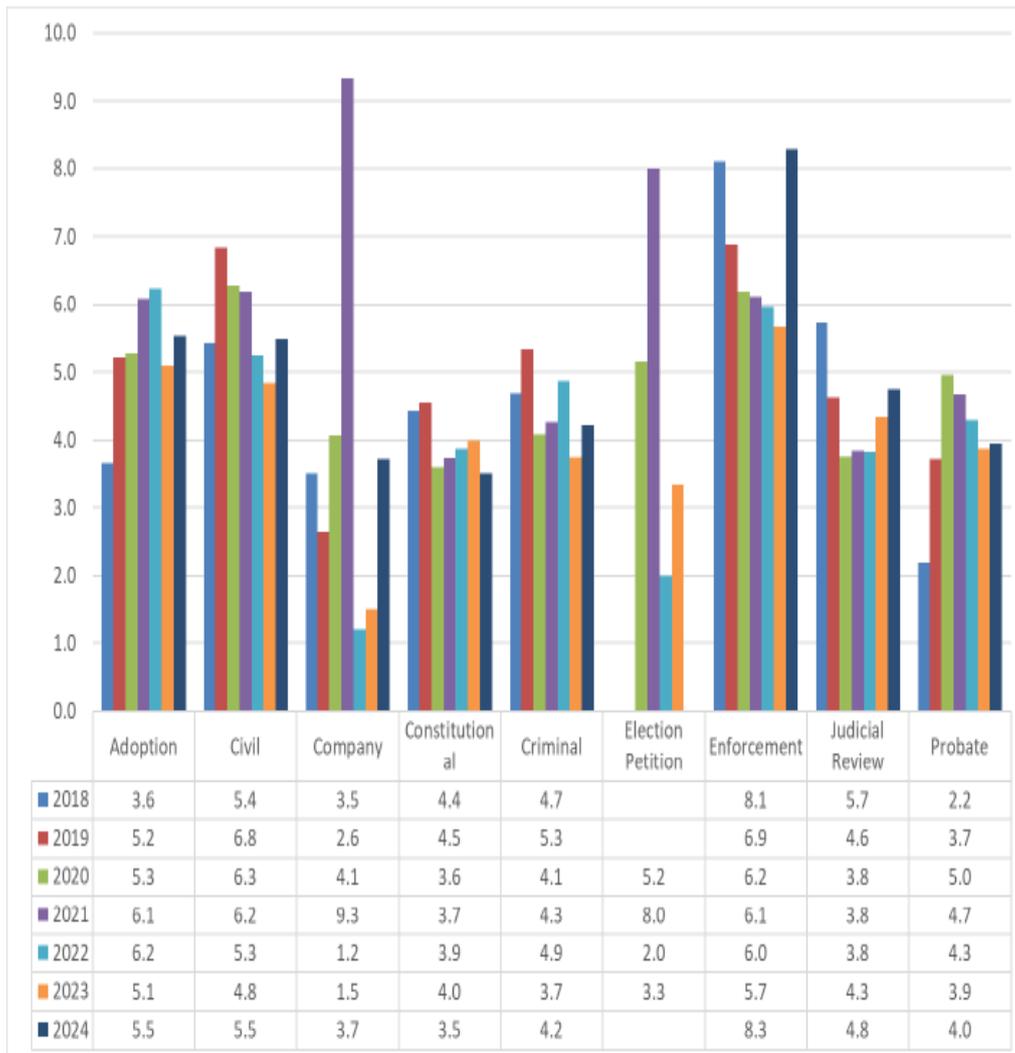
Ref: AllTimeC

Figure 10: Disposal by days in the courts for Criminal cases

Attendance Rates

Attendance rates, as measured by the number of visits/ appearances at court to dispose a matter.

Supreme Court

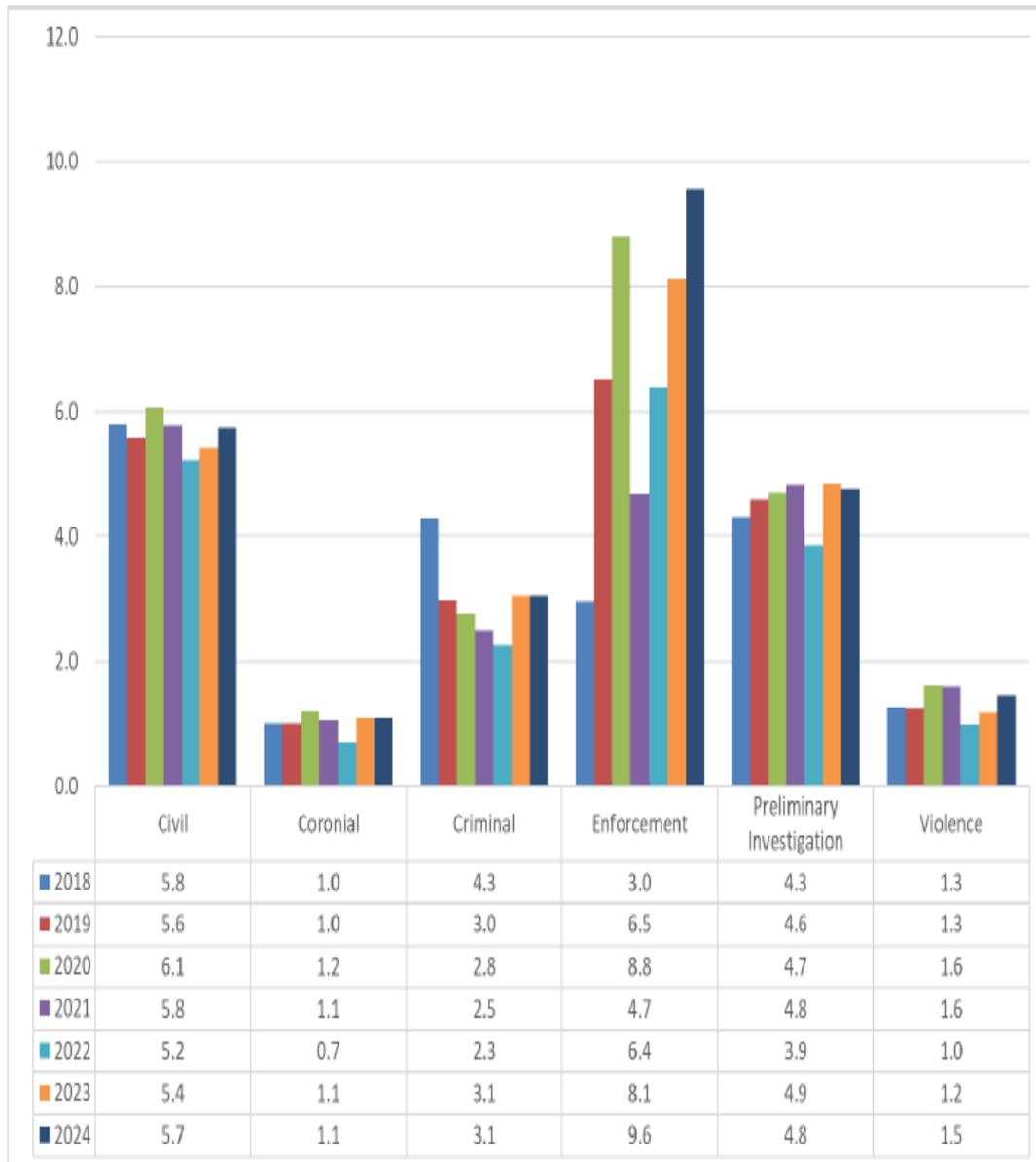


While attendance rates by case type remain largely consistent over the years, of concern is the higher number of attendances for Enforcement which has direct impact on inconvenience and costs to parties. This is to be reviewed.

Ref: SCAttendanceC

Figure 11: Supreme Court completed attendance rates.

Magistrate Court



Largely consistent over the years for the main case types, Criminal, PI and Violence (protection orders) – the attendance rates are generally in-line with good practice for Magistrate Court.

Ref: MCAttendanceC

Figure12: Magistrate Court completed attendance rates.

Commentaries

Supreme Court

- SC filings increased – with 879 cases filed
- SC finalizations were up from 2023 at 821
- Clearance rate less than 100% - at 93%, but overall, the last 7 years at 102% - a solid effort
- Pending increased to just over 1000, due to the Clearance Rate at less than 100%
- PDR is 1.2 – which is slightly above the target of 1.0 for any Supreme Court
- There are still approximately 25% of cases older than 2022 that should be assessed
- Timeliness for completing Criminal cases continues to be consistent – now at 197 days versus 193 days last year – and Civil cases increased from 493 days to 630 days – an increase of 21% - this typically is due to finalizing old cases

Overall

- Pending still manageable amongst the judges but the 25% of cases older than 3 years – needs actioning
- Judicial output (productivity) – as calculated by disposals/full time Judicial Officer – a slight increase from previous years – but still a great performance by the Judges
- Overall number of cases without a future listing has increase from previous years:
- Only 41% of all pending cases have a future date (benchmark is 80%), this could be better.
- Over 46% are under ‘case management’ without a future listing – an improvement compared to 2023 which was sitting at 55%.
- Attendance rates (which impact and cost to the community) are being monitored carefully. Some variances between case types – but overall has been maintained at 5 since 2022.

Magistrate Court

- MC fillings were up in 2024 from 2,227 to 2,383 – an increase of 7%
- MC finalizations were slightly up compared to 2023 from 2,039 to 2,105 – an increase of 3%.
- Clearance Rate was under 100%, at 88% in 2024 – the overall average for the last 7 years is at 97%
- Pending slightly increased from 1,357 in 2023 to 1,394, thus adding over 30 cases to Pending #s – Because of old cases being closed off from earlier years, 2023 or earlier as part of the Data back capture project.
- PDR is maintained at 0.7, slightly higher than the target of .5 or lower.
- There are still approximately 24% of cases older than 2 years that should be assessed.
- Timeliness for completing Criminal cases – a significant increase from 145 days in 2023 to 246 days in 2024, a concern.

Overall

- Pending case numbers (open cases) increased due to the Clearance Rate less than 100% at 88%.
- MC has a Pending to Disposal Ratio (PDR) of 0.7 which equates less than a year worth of outstanding cases. (Target is 0.5)

- Judicial output has remained consistent at 298 cases per Magistrate per year despite down by two magistrates – a good performance
- Overall number of cases without a future listing has increase from previous years:
 - Only 18 % of all pending cases have a future date (benchmark is 80%)
 - Approximately 52% are under ‘case management’ and
 - 29 % of without a future date
- 14 cases under Reserved Judgment

Island Court

- IC filings – slight decrease by 5% in 2024, from 407 to 388 cases filed, compared to 2023
- IC disposals decreased from 420 cases to 390 a decrease by 7% compared to 2023.
- Clearance rate is above 100% - maintained around 101% compared to 2023
- Pending slightly increase from 652 to 695 cases – by 7%
- PDR at 1.8 - very high, a concern
- There are now approximately 62% of cases older than 2 years equating to 433 cases that should be assessed

Overall

- The decrease in filing is a concern that needs improvement in 2025
- The low finalization of cases this year has resulted in the Pending workload increasing
- Overall # of cases with a future listing is 30%
 - 41 % of cases are under case management and
 - 29 % with no future date

Cook Island Indicators

According to the 15 Cook Islands indicators agreed by the Chief Justices of the Pacific region as a starting point for reporting the court’s work, below is how the courts in Vanuatu were tracking from 2013.

Clearance rate

- Court of Appeal, the clearance rate is 102%
- Supreme Court clearance is 93%
- Magistrates Court clearance rate is 88%
- Island Courts rate is 101%

Average duration

Average duration of cases from filing to finalization

Court of Appeal

- Civil Appeal Cases – 129 days
- Criminal Appeal Cases – 74 days

Supreme Court

- Civil Cases – 493 days
- Criminal Cases – 238 days

Magistrates Court

- Civil Cases – 408 days
- Criminal Cases – 246 days

Percentage of Appeal

The percentage of cases that goes on appeal in the Court of Appeal is calculated using the number of cases finalized in the Supreme Court and the number of appeals registered in the Court of Appeal as a percentage of the later. 821 cases were finalized by the Supreme Court in 2024, and 76 cases were appealed to the Court of Appeal. This represents 9.2% of all cases finalized in the Supreme Court that were appealed.

Overtake rate on appeal is 72.3 %

Fee waiver

The percentage of cases that are granted fee waiver - none

Cases disposed on circuit

The percentage of cases disposed through court circuit are;

Supreme Court 16% percentage and Magistrate court is at 57%

Complaints

The percentage of complaints received concerning a Judicial Officer is 1 %

The percentage of complaints received concerning a court staff member is approximately 2%.

Judicial resources

The average number of cases per judicial officer in the Supreme Court is 117 cases per year per judge, and in the Magistrates, is 263 cases per Magistrate per year.

Staff resource

The average number of cases per member of the Supreme Court staff (secretaries) is 117 and for Magistrate Court staff is 263

Court services

The Court produces an Annual Report each year, except 2015. And published on www.paclii.org and in the Court website; www.courts.gov.vu.

Average age of pending case load;

- Court of Appeal – 129 days
- Supreme court – 630 days
- Magistrate court -408 days
- Island Court – 873 days

Juvenile/Children cases

No record

Violence cases

Violence against women/Children

1228 cases were registered in the Magistrate Court in 2024 which represent a total 51.5% of the total workload in the Magistrate Court in 2024

Factors, events, or trends influencing court results.

The Vanuatu Courts enjoy a good degree of independence from the executive branch of the Government. However, external and internal factors contributed to the results of the court operations and functions in 2022.

Challenges

1. The missing data recovery project is picking up in a slow pace in the year 2023 and still ongoing into 2024.
2. The non-service of summonses for criminal cases lodged in the Magistrates Court has a great impact on the Magistrates Court in managing cases.
3. Court circuits to islands other than Efate and Santo have been limited to Provincial headquarters due to limited resources.
4. Warrant issued by the Supreme Court and Magistrate Court for defendants in criminal cases were never executed due to inability of budget or resources by the Vanuatu Police. Some of these pending warrants were over 10 years old.

Human Resources

The workforce, recruitment, Welfares of all court personnel and judicial officers for the last 12 months period the 01st of January 2024 - 31st December 2024.

1) Current Human Resources

Designation	FTE	Contract	Vacant
Judges	8	2	-
Master	-	-	1
Deputy Master	1	-	-
Chief Magistrate	1	-	-
Senior Magistrates	5	-	-
Magistrates	4	-	-
Judicial Support & Administration.	48	-	4
Enforcement	5	-	-

(NB: FTE- Full Time Employee)

2) Recruitment

There are six recruitments in year 2024 of which 4 Positions are **new** and 2 positions are **replacements** as follows:

POSITION	COURT	NEW/REPLACEMENT	LOCATION
1. Secretary	Supreme Court	New	Port Vila
2. Secretary	Supreme Court	New	Port Vila
3. Judge	Supreme Court	New	Port Vila
4. Judge	Supreme Court	New	Port Vila
5. Magistrate	Magistrate Court	Replacement	Port Vila
6. Magistrate	Magistrate Court	Replacement	Port Vila

Judicial officers when appointed as Judge and Magistrates automatically their Job status become permanent effectively as of their start dates. For the 2 Administration Positions 6 month's Probation will be due on the 9th & 10th of April 2025.

Two (2) overseas judicial officers

- i. Judge Maree Mackenzie sent by New Zealand government in 2024 for a period of two years.
- ii. Judge Edwin Goldsbrough was sent by British government in 2021 for a period of two years and have extended in 2023 for another period of two years

3) Redundancy/ Separation

Table below shows three officers resigned with the Institution in year 2024:

Retirement Age	Retire on Medical Grounds	Resignation	Removal from JSC/ Termination
-	-	2	-

Severance Payment Year 2024:

1. Shalika Marcel (Secretary – Supreme Court) **1,330,293vt**
2. Naomi Victoria Vira (Secretary – Supreme Court) **3,129,694vt**
3. Setariki Waqanitoka (Magistrate) **2,484,974vt**

4) Leaves Records

A) Outstanding Leaves Update by Judiciary

- (i) Below is a summary of leave records for Judiciary staffs as of 31/12/2024. With **leave management** in place in year 2024 PLUS **increase of Judiciary staff Annual Salary (GRT Review 1 December 2024)** has increased the Overall total cost of Judiciary Annual Leave to” **135,543,526vt.**

BRIEF SUMMARY: This ANNUAL LEAVE REPORT is EXTRACTED from HRO "Manual Tracking up-date" as of: 1/01/2024 - 31/12/2024

1. Overall Total Cost of Annual leave for JUDICIARY as of 31/12/2021 IS: **122,306,684VT**
2. Overall Total Cost of Annual leave for JUDICIARY as of 31/12/2022 IS: **110,472,256VT**
3. Overall Total Cost of Annual leave for JUDICIARY as of 31/12/2023 IS: **106,101,064VT**
4. Overall Total Cost of Annual leave for JUDICIARY as of 31/12/2024 IS: **135,543,526VT**
5. Difference of 29,447,320VT (Comparison of year 2024 total cost to year 2023) - With the **management** of staff annual leave during the last 12 months PLUS GRT **increase** of Judiciary

Staff Annual Salary has tremendously impacted the total cost of Judiciary Annual Leave cost to 135,543,526 as of 31st December 2024.

HRO RECOMMENDATIONS way forward:

1. Judiciary to find FUNDS to pay-off Judiciary staff leaves to a reasonable Balance
2. During Festive season on DECEMBER & JANUARY JO's & staffs with 100+ leave MUST take ANNUAL LEAVE - make it COMPULSORY.
3. Include Plannings of ANNUAL LEAVE in 2025 STAFF ANNUAL WORK PLANS

UP-DATE "ANNUAL LEAVE REPORT" COMPILED BY HRO 31/12/2024							
#	ID #	DESIGNATION	EMPLOYMENT START DATE	TOTAL YEARS	ANNUAL LEAVE BALANCE	ANNUAL	TOTAL LEAVE
						SALARY	PAYMENT PER STAFF
1	430397	Chief Justice	01-Jun-96	29	643.5	11,100,000	27,378,480
2	153601	Judge	06-May-97	28	601	9,800,000	22,575,551
3	292425	Judge	20-Nov-21	4	46	9,800,000	1,727,912
4	328849	Judge	31-May-11	14	523	9,800,000	19,645,612
5	194654	Judge	15-Jul-19	6	92.75	9,800,000	3,483,997
6	1129937	Judge	02-Jul-24	1	40	9,800,000	1,502,532
7	505404	Judge	14-Aug-13	12	102.25	9,800,000	3,840,849
8	1091433	Judge	02-Sept-24	7 Months	51	9,800,000	1,915,729
9	1077584	D. Master	11-Jan-18	7	15	6,162,000	354,283
10	231373	Chief Magistrate	01-Apr-99	25	221	5,648,000	4,784,370

11	428342	Senior Magistrate	05-Feb-91	33	501.5	4,076,000	7,835,071
12	636209	Senior Magistrate	26-Jan-11	13	7.25	4,076,000	113,269
13	1076457	Magistrate	07-Nov-16	8	43.75	4,076,000	683,518
14	1076127	Magistrate	06-Jun-14	10	-3.75	4,076,000	-58,587
15	1085051	Magistrate	06-Jun-14	10	53.5	4,076,000	835,845
16	1076938	Magistrate	22-Nov-21	3	55.75	3,470,000	741,502
17	1083796	Magistrate	25-Jan-25	1 month	17.5	3,470,000	232,758
18	1073576	Magistrate	02-Dec-24	3 months	21.75	3,470,000	289,285
19	1096124	Magistrate	02-Dec-24	3 months	21	3,470,000	279,310
20	706028	Chief Registrar	03-May-99	26	595.5	5,648,000	12,891,821
21	741843	Judicial Dev/ Training Coordinator	11-Apr-16	9	138	3,453,000	1,826,474
22	1066364	Accountant	23-Feb-09	16	82	3,453,000	1,085,296
23	1064487	Human Resource Officer	27-Apr-20	5	19.5	2,970,000	221,988
24	1064313	Technology & System Officer	13-Jun-22	3	19.5	2,904,000	217,055
25	1080937	Finance Officer	22-May-14	11	112.25	1,858,000	799,411
26	1113837	Procurement Officer	03-Mar-22	3	78.75	1,400,000	422,587
27	430710	Sheriff	03-Jun-19	6	69	2,111,000	558,310
28	1065228	Deputy Sheriff	25-May-15	10	55	1,421,000	299,567
29	1077468	Assistant Sheriff	19-Aug-22	3	50	1,421,000	272,334
30	1074213	Court Orderly	06-Apr-21	4	20.5	1,209,000	94,999
31	1066466	Secretary	16-Feb-15	10	26.5	1,380,000	140,172
32	1030961	Driver	24-Sept-12	13	149.75	1,187,000	681,327
33	1102615	Driver	01-Aug-22	3	64.75	1,187,000	294,597
34	1076314	Cleaner	21-Oct-19	6	21.75	1,001,300	83,476
35	1065953	Cleaner	02-Oct-17	8	32	914,000	112,107
36	1076585	Filing Clerk	17-Oct-22	3	31.5	1,209,000	145,974
37	1101868	Asset Officer	04-Jun-18	7	153	1,400,000	821,027
38	741413	Library	20-Nov-06	19	73.25	2,316,000	650,255
39	743690	Receptionist	09-Jan-12	13	42.75	1,187,000	194,502
40	552810	Secretary	01-Feb-96	29	255	1,793,000	1,752,501
41	442848	Secretary	01-Feb-96	29	254	1,597,000	1,554,807

42	1080937	Secretary	03-Nov-99	26	34.25	1,662,000	218,187
43	1078057	Secretary	02-Feb-13	12	31	1,466,000	174,194
44	1127597	Secretary	31-Jul-23	2	20.5	1,400,000	110,007
45	1075034	Secretary	27-Jul-09	16	81.25	1,466,000	456,557
46	1100800	Secretary	09-Apr-18	7	13	1,400,000	69,760
47	1090421	Secretary	05-Sept-22	3	32.75	1,400,000	175,743
48	1100157	Secretary	10-Jun-24	1	21.25	1,400,000	114,031
49	1064655	Secretary	02-Aug-21	4	42.75	1,400,000	229,405
50	1065584	Assistant Registrar	09-Mar-14	11	56.5	1,924,000	416,669
51	1063080	Assistant Registrar	02-Jan-21	4	69.25	1,727,000	458,406
52	639393	Secretary	16-Apr-98	27	167	1,662,000	1,063,862
53	1083514	Secretary	30-Apr-12	13	103	1,378,000	544,032
54	1085134	Secretary	05-Jun-17	8	27	1,378,000	142,610
55	1065690	Secretary	12-Jul-21	4	42.75	1,378,000	225,800
56	10700115	Secretary	07-Dec-06	19	20.5	1,531,000	120,300
57	1088944	Secretary	04-Oct-21	4	65.5	1,380,000	346,464
58	1083666	Secretary	03-Jul-23	2	25.25	1,209,000	117,011
59	1087496	Secretary	03-Jul-23	2	43.5	1,209,000	201,583
60	1118226	Secretary	06-Nov-23	1	30.75	1,209,000	142,498
61	1078396	SAIC	10-May-10	15	98.25	2,390,000	900,053
62	1069788	Secretary	02-Sept-10	15	101.25	1,378,000	534,788
63	1072647	Island Court Clerk	12-Aug-13	12	100.5	1,727,000	665,267
64	1084169	Island Court Clerk	02-May-13	12	178.25	1,727,000	1,179,939
65	1078620	Island Court Clerk	14-Aug-23	2	34.5	1,662,000	219,780
66	1079026	Island Court Clerk	14-May-15	10	32.25	1,727,000	213,481
67	1069727	Island Court Clerk	02-Oct-06	19	48.5	1,727,000	321,049
68	1063923	Island Court Clerk	03-Mar-10	15	92.75	1,727,000	613,966
69	1083480	Island Court Clerk	30-Apr-12	13	77	1,727,000	509,707
70	1074771	Island Court Clerk	03-Mar-10	15	78.75	1,727,000	521,292
71	1077952	Island Court Clerk	09-Mar-10	15	160.75	1,727,000	1,064,097

72	1110361	Island Court Clerk	12-Jul-21	4	30	1,662,000	191,113
GRAND TOTAL COST FOR OVERALL JUDICIARY FOR <u>STAFF ANNUAL LEAVE AS OF: 31/12/ 2024:</u>							135,543,526

- (ii) Judiciary will continue to encourage staff to take annual leave where possible and find avenues where leave balances can be paid off so that in the next 2-3 years we would like to see leave balances at a manageable status for the institution.

The Judiciary will continue to encourage staff to take annual leave where possible and find avenues where leave balances can be paid off so that in the next 2-3 years, we would like to see leave balances at a manageable status for the institution.

B. Override of accurate leave records

- Judiciary Annual Leave tracking is recorded manually by the Human Resource Officer, it is up-to date and accurate. Reason for records done manually was because in year 2021 override by FMIS has not been done for all staffs. Institution trusts the manual tracking in place.

- Follow-up will continue this year with the FMIS team to ensure the override is implemented for a specific grouping.

5) Staff welfares

99% of Staff employment statuses are permanent, receiving all entitlements. Salaries are paid every fortnight for the last 12 months.

6) Office Hours

Most staff attend work by 7.30am to 8am; Each Courts has a time record sheet in place. HRO provides an up-date report each month to the Chief Registrar on the status of staff timing. Reminders to staff regarding timing are provided to staffs where necessary so that Official hours of work are respected by staffs.

Day-off is granted to staffs for work done on weekends or Public Holiday or when they travel during weekends for work purposes. Day-offs are tracked and Managed by HRO.

7) Record Keeping

Court staff and Judicial Officers each have their own personnel file in both SOFT & HARD COPY of which the HRO have access to these files and manages these files.

Budget execution and management

Judiciary’s execution of budget in 2023 have been managed to its very best to meet most of the courts request that were brought forward which required budget to implemented.

Not all activities that were listed in the Judicial Management Improvement Plan and court yearly planner and calendars were executed. Some required further discussions and need more work to be done on them before executing them.

The operation budget of the judiciary did not reflect the reality of all activities such as the annual calendar of events, all judicial officer entitlements, the day to day running of all courts registries around the country. Need to allocate more budget to operation.

Table showing approved annual budget for Judiciary 2024 Financial year.

Year	Annual Budget	Payroll Budget	Operation Budget
2024	368,308,364	237,679,203	130,629,161

This pie chart shows the percentage in payroll compare to the operation budget.

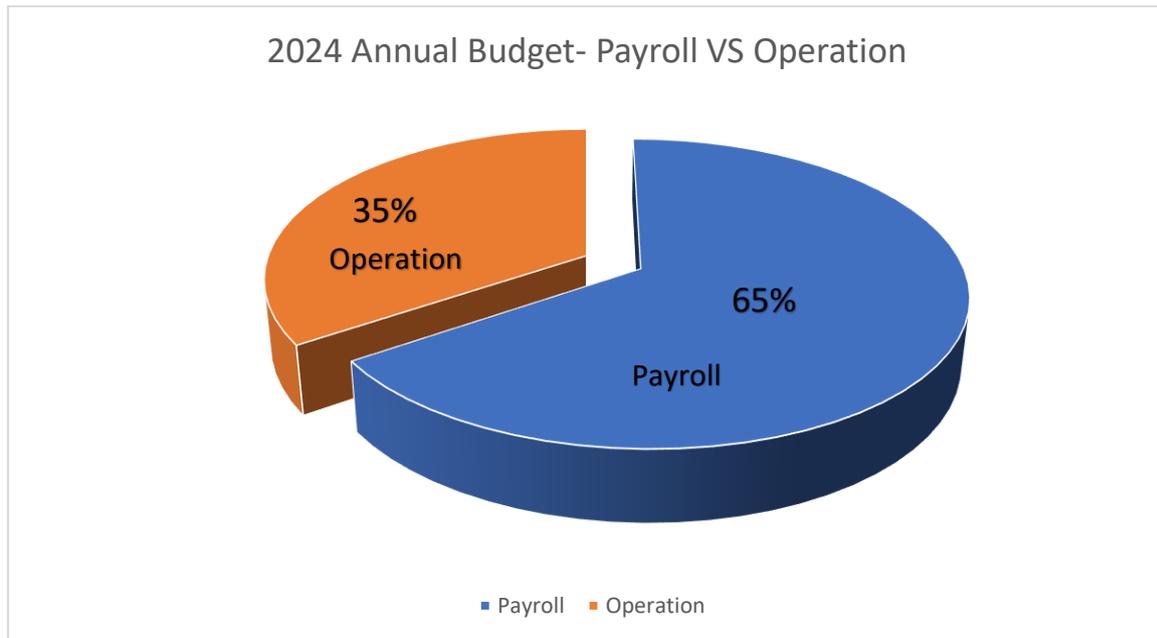


Figure 13: 2024 Annual Budget: Payroll vs Operation

Statement of Appropriation

Budget Allocations

Program/Activity	Budget
------------------	--------

CIAA-Corporate Services	39,102,459
CIAB-Court of Appeal	33,953,044
CIAC-Supreme Court	167,994,544
CIAD-Magistrate Court	63,834,892
CIAE-Island Court	31,058,765
CIAF-Land	4,266,752
CIAG-Enforcement	14,921,916
Judicial Development & Training	4,887,880
Case Management	3,605,596
Total Budget	363,625,848

Judiciary's 2024 annual budget approved ceiling by Parliament was a total of VT 368,308,364. The budget share of Payroll was 65 percent and budget share for operation is 35 percent. The administration also applied for NPP to assist with its priority activities. The total approved NPP sums at VT 33,114,802.

Below is the explanation of actual expenses of the budget under payroll and operations for Judiciary. There are different activities done also to manage Judiciary budget.

Payroll Expenditures

Account	Description	Actual Expenses	Total	Budget	Under (over)
	Personnel Expenses				
8AAA	Acting Allowances	62,118	62,118	0	(62,118)
8AAB	Responsibility Allowance	1,253,092	1,253,092	900,000	(-353,092)
8AAF	Family Allowance	2,042,114	2,042,114	2,496,000	453,886
8AAG	Gratuities Allowances	8,633,026	8,633,026	11,890,806	3,257,780
8AAH	Housing Allowances	19,625,819	19,625,819	22,584,000	2,958,181
8AAO	Other Allowances	355,000	355,000	0	(355,000)
8AAP	Home Island Passage Allowances	561,691	561,691	650,000	88,309
8ASP	Provident Fund	6,652,290	6,652,290	7,901,608	1,249,318
8AWC	Contract Wages	308,601	308,601	0	(308,601)

8AWD	Daily Rated Wages	0	0	215,498	215,498
8AWL	Leave expense	224,455	224,455	0	(224,455)
8AWP	Permanent Wages	165,971,933	165,971,933	194,072,700	28,100,767
PAYR	Payroll expenses	0	0	(3,031,409)	(3,031,409)
	Personnel Expenses	205,690,139	205,690,139	237,679,203	31,989,064

Judiciary under spend its payroll budget by VT 31,989,064 for the reason that:

- There are vacant positions
- Officers resignations
- Recruitments are done late
- Government measures to :
 - Freeze Virement from payroll to operation
 - Freeze Leave payments
 - Short-term employment contracts

Major Spend Accounts

The major payroll accounts spend are:

- Responsibility allowance
- Family allowance
- Gratuity allowance
- Housing allowance
- Provident Fund
- Permanent wages

Underspend Payroll Accounts

The underspend payroll accounts are:

- **Gratuity allowances-** Judiciary budgeted for VT11, 890,806 and spend only VT 8,633,026. This is because master's position is vacant and two Judges of the Supreme Court were recruited late in year 2025.
- **Housing allowance-**Judiciary budgeted for VT22, 584,000 and spend only VT19, 625,819. There are staffs who were recruited but did not received housing allowance due to still under probation period plus recruiting Supreme Court Judges late. There are also staffs who resign in 2024. All of these contributed to the under spend.
- **Provident Fund** – This account underspends for the reason that some staff resigned and there are vacant positions.
- **Permanent wages-** Judiciary budgeted for VT 194,072,700 under permanent wages and spend VT 165,971,933. Total of VT 28,100,767 was not spent for the reason that there are vacant positions and some of these positions were recruited in 4th quarter of 2024. There are also staff who resign which contribute to the under spend.

Overspend Payroll Accounts

The major overspend payroll accounts are:

- Acting allowances

- Responsibility Allowances
- Other allowances
- Contract wages
- Leave expenses

Below are reasons to justify the overspendings

- Acting allowances-** No budget was allocated to this account for the reason that there is uncertainty of the upcoming activities. However, there are need arises during the year to expend under this account.
- Responsibility allowances-** There are staff applying for responsibility
- Other Allowances-** There are expenses under this account being for staff doing task apart from their Job Description.
- Contract Wages-** There are staff which Judiciary employed to assist with workloads at the Supreme Court.

Operation Expenditures

Account	Description	Actual	Total	Budget	Under(Over)
8CAB	Subsistence Allowances	4,312,140	4,312,140	4,879,977	567,837
8CAI	Subsistence Allowance International	191,509	191,509	0	(191,509)
8CAS	Sitting Allowances	26,372,635	26,372,635	29,280,219	2,907,584
8CBI	International Accommodation			369,977	369,977
8CBL	Local Accommodation	5,468,532	5,468,532	5,158,509	(310,023)
8CEM	Software Maintenance Fees	968,910	968,910	2,353,480	1,384,570
8CES	Security Services	2,400,000	2,400,000		(2,400,000)
8CET	Other Fees	312,071	312,071	4,492,106	
8CFV	Vehicles Fuel	2,155,053	2,155,053	2,313,187	158,134
8CGR	Transport - Freight	765,446	765,446	665,370	(100,076)
8CGS	Storage Freight	465,000	465,000	142,581	(322,419)
8CHL	Local Medical Treatment	2,105,943	2,105,943	428,831	(1,677,112)
8CIE	Equipment Hire	98,034	98,034	600,000	501,966
8CIF	Facilities Hire	616,435	616,435	633,385	16,950
8CIV	Vehicles Hire	894,195	894,195	1,458,000	563,805
8CJO	Office Cleaning	1,125,697	1,125,697	781,060	(344,637)
8CKD	Advertising - Communications	468,304	468,304	300,000	(168,304)
8CKL	Translation Communications	1,406,995	1,406,995	5,000,000	3,593,005
8CKP	Postage - Communications	6,000	6,000	10,000	4,000
8CKR	Printing - Communications	1,603,251	1,603,251	545,286	(1,057,965)

8CKS	Stationery - Communications	1,901,131	1,901,131	1,352,810	(548,321)
8CKT	Telephone / Fax - Communications	3,090,906	3,090,906	1,939,439	(1,151,467)
8CMG	General - Materials	91,167	91,167	0	(91,167)
8CMO	Office - Materials	340,111	340,111	250,000	(90,111)
8CNO	Office Rental	15,831,995	15,831,995	18,125,978	2,293,983
8CNT	Other Rental	1,018,001	1,018,001	2,331,272	1,313,271
8COF	Refunds	1,432,772	1,432,772	1,643,624	210,852
8COI	Incidentals	483,896	483,896	881,962	398,066
8COP	Official Entertainment	3,552,737	3,552,737	2,465,089	(1,087,648)
8COS	Insurance	21,347	21,347	60,000	38,000
8COU	Uniforms	394,130	394,130	0	(394,130)
8CRB	Buildings Repairs & Maintenance	7,410,985	7,410,985	4,497,516	(2,913,469)
8CRE	Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	383,343	383,343	100,000	(283,343)
8CRV	Vehicles Repairs & Maintenance	1,648,842	1,648,842	1,100,000	(548,842)
8CRW	Vehicle Servicing	500,326	500,326	1,000,000	499,674
8CTI	International Travel	2,984,119	2,984,119	1,790,046	(1,194,073)
8CTL	Local Travel	4,136,879	4,136,879	6,345,924	2,209,045
8CUC	Gas - Cooking Utilities	374,766	374,766	735,600	360,834
8CUE	Electricity Utilities	8,866,221	8,866,221	6,222,632	(2,643,589)
8CUL	Lighting Utilities	103,276	103,276	100,000	(3,276)
8CUW	Water Utilities	428,457	428,457	964,500	536,043
8CZV	Value Added Tax	10,839,815	10,839,815	4,035,841	(6,803,974)
8EEA	Equipment - Additional General	1,295,598	1,295,958	1,131,000	(164,958)
8EEC	Equipment - Computer	2,472,723	2,472,723	2,152,116	(320,607)
8EEP	Equipment-Photocopiers	824,222	824,222	0	(824,222)
8EFO	Furniture - Office Furniture	855,636	855,636	250,000	(605,636)
8EVA	Vehicle-Additional Vehicle	3,130,435	3,130,435	4,800,000	1,669,565
8EVR	Vehicle - Replacement	4,719,097	4,719,097	3,880,435	(838,662)
8FCB	Bank Charges	14,300	14,300	30,000	15,700
OVER	Overhead expenses	0	0	3,031,409	3,031,409
	Operating Expenses	130,883,743	130,883,743	130,629,161	(254,582)

Total budget allocated to operation sum at VT130, 883,743. Judiciary overspend its budget by VT130, 883,743. This is due to medical refunds not paid through LPO but were directed to Payroll.

Please refer to operation table to view the expenditures for the accounts below.

Major Spend Accounts

Judiciary expend more under these accounts because most court operations were done under these activities.

- Subsistence allowance
- Sitting allowance
- Local accommodation
- Software maintenance fees
- Security fees
- Vehicles fuel
- Local medical treatment
- Vehicles hire
- Office cleaning
- Translation communication
- Printing communication
- Stationaries
- Telecommunications
- Office rentals
- Other rentals
- Refunds
- Official Entertainment
- Building repairs & Maintenance
- Vehicles repair and maintenance
- International travel
- Local travel
- Electricity Utilities
- Value Added Tax
- Equipment-Additional general
- Equipment-Computer
- Equipment-Photocopiers
- Office Furniture
- Vehicle-Additional vehicle
- Vehicle-Replacement

Major underspend Operation Accounts

- Subsistence allowance
- Sitting allowance
- International accommodation
- Equipment hire
- Vehicles hire
- Office rental
- Other rental
- Translation communication
- Incidentals
- Vehicle Servicing
- Gas-cooking utilities
- Water Utilities

Below will justify each underspend accounts.

- **Subsistence allowance**-This account underspend due to Air Vanuatu cancel flights to some part of the island and thus leads to some court tours were cancelled.
- **Sitting allowance**- Two Supreme Court judges were recruited in the last quarter of 2024 saves budget under this account. Sitting allowances for Court of Appeal.
- **International accommodation**- There are savings under this account because most international tours, the organizers met accommodation expenses.
- **Equipment hire**- During Sheriff executions they do not hire JCB or other heavy equipment to assist with the evacuation.
- **Office Rental**- This account underspend for the reasons that some tours cancel due to Air Vanuatu issues. Also, the measures imposed by Finance department to only use agencies facilities for trainings and meetings.
- **Other rental**- This account underspend because recruitments of Supreme Court judges were done in the last quarter.
- **Translation communication**- This account underspend because not much cases required interpretation.
- **Incidentals**- This account underspend for the reason that not all court tours required incidental costs.
- **Vehicle servicing**- servicing of court vehicles indicates that vehicles are under good managements.
- **Gas-cooking utilities**- Two judges recruited in quarter 4 contributes to underspend and on the other end, over budgeted under this account.
- **Water utilities** – The under spend indicates that there is good management of water in the court offices.

Major Overspend Operation Accounts

- Local accommodation
- Security services
- Storage freight
- Local treatment
- Office cleaning
- Printing communications
- Stationary communications
- Telecommunications
- Official Entertainment
- Uniforms
- Building repairs and maintenance
- Vehicles repairs and maintenance
- International travel
- Electricity utilities
- Value added tax
- Equipment computer
- Equipment photocopies
- Vehicle replacement

Each major overspend operation accounts will be justified below.

- **Local accommodation**
 - The unforeseen weather causing the flight cancellation which cause additional days to pay to secretaries and judicial officers
- **Security services**

- There was no security budget for Judiciary in 2023. A break in the Supreme Court offices in May 2023 required for security to be present at the premises for the safety of court assets and employees.
- **Storage freight**
 - In 2024, a used storage container was
- **Office cleaning**
 - The increase of fees for cleaning of Chief Justice official residence increases in year 2024 but was not budgeted for.
- **Printing communication**
 - Judiciary budgeted VT1, 603,251 under this account and overspend by VT 545,286. This is due to high purchasing of toners for printers and photocopiers and also printing of folders for new case files.
- **Stationary communication**
 - This account overspends by VT 548,321- There are recruitments of new court personnel, Magistrates and Judges in year 2024 and thus require additional stationaries for their usages.
- **Telecommunications**
 - In January of 2024, routers were purchase to be used in all Island Courts.
 - This account is under budget and should insert more budget to it since it is one of which that it used daily.
- **Official Entertainment**
 - This account over spends due to high increase of goods in the shops.
- **Uniforms**
 - No budget was insert under this account
 - The account overspends because:
 - 3 new magistrates recruited and required new gowns- official and ceremonial.
 - 2 new judges recruited and required gowns and jackets.
 - Existing magistrates' gowns were also replaced.
- **Building Repairs & Maintenance**
 - Most damaged done by the twin cyclone at the court premises in Port Vila are renovated slowly due to budget constrain.
- **Vehicles repairs & Maintenance**
 - Assets like vehicles depreciate and leads to high cost to repair.
- **International Travel**
 - Judges when travel overseas to attend a workshop or meetings are entitled to business class.

- **Electricity Utilities**
 - Judiciary budgeted VT6,222,632 under this account and the actual spending sums at VT8,866,221.
 - The aircons in the Library and Achieve room works 24 hours.

- **Value Added Tax**
 - Since Vanuatu Government increase VAT percentage, it did not allocate additional budget to Judiciary.

- **Equipment-Computer**
 - Replacement of old computers
 - Purchase new computers for newly recruited judges, magistrates and court personnel.

- **Equipment-Photocopiers**
 - The need arises to purchase new photocopy machine for Efate Island Court.
 - Supreme Court photocopy machine recommended to be replaced so 1st part installment was done to enable supplier to placed order for new photocopy machine. The remaining balance will be sorted out with 2025 budget.

- **Office furniture**
 - New furniture was purchased for the newly recruited court officials.
 - Replacement of old furniture in court offices.

- **Vehicle replacement**
 - Judiciary budgeted VT3,880,435 to replace one vehicle, however, it went ahead to replaced two to cater for additional judge.

Expense summary report – Personal emoluments and Operating expenses

Below showing a summary table and a pie chart for personnel emolument expenses.

Description	Actual
Allowances (Acting, Responsibility, Family, Gratuity, Housing, Other, Home Island passage)	32,532,860
Provident fund	6,652,290
Leave expense	224,455
Wages	166,280,534

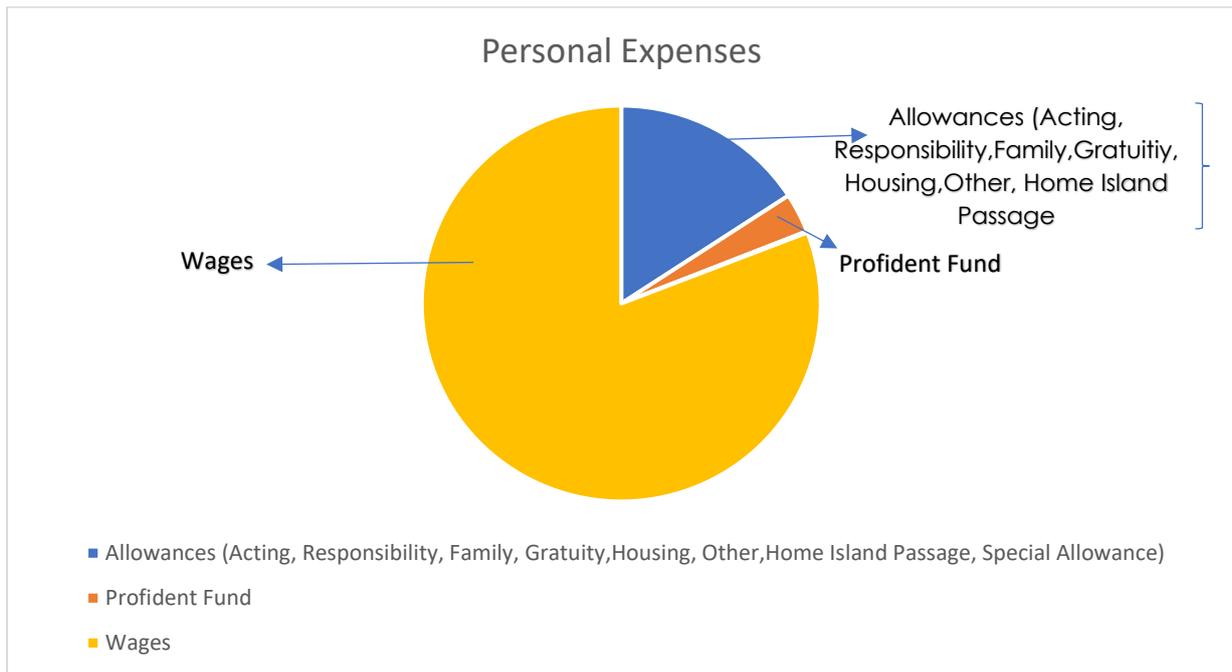


Figure 14: Personnel emolument expenses

The table showing a summary and graph for operation expenses.

Description	Actual
Subsistence & Sitting allowance	30,876,284
Accommodation(Local & International)	5,468,532
Fees(Software & other)	1,280,981
Security services	2,400,000
Fuel	2,155,053
Freight	1,230,446
Medical treatment & medicines suppliers	2,105,943
Hire (Equipment, facilities & vehicles)	1,608,664
Office cleaning	1,125,697
Communication (Advertisement, translation, postage, printing, stationery & telephone/fax)	8,476,587
General & Office material	431,278
Office and other rental	16,849,996
insurance	21,347
Refunds	1,432,772
Incidentals	483,896
Official entertainment	3,552,737

Maintenance (building, equipment)	7,794,328
Vehicle repair & Servicing	2,149,168
Travel(Local & International)	7,120,998
Utilities(Gas, electricity, lighting, water)	9,772,720
Value added Tax	10,839,815
Equipment(General, computer, photocopiers, replacement)	4,592,543
Furniture (Office & Other)	855,636
Vehicle – Additional & Replacement	7,849,532
Bank Charges	14,300

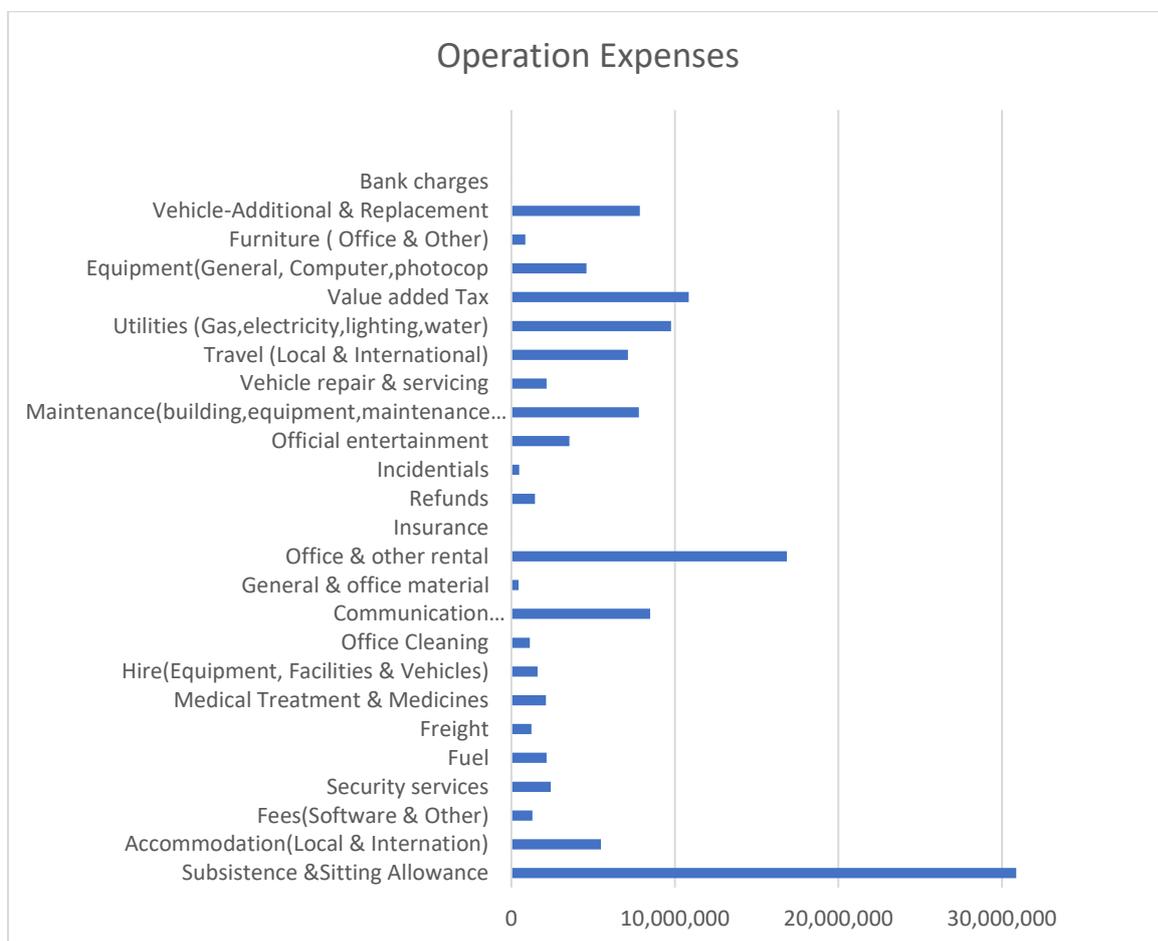


Figure 15: Operation Expenses

Virement

- A. 1st application was done on the 26th February 2024 with a total of VT 1,581,802 which was vired from cost centre 1422 CIAC PAYER TO 1421 CIAC PAYR.

- B. 2nd virement was done on the 7th May 2024 with an amount of VT 2,300,000. Funds vire from cost centre 1429 CIAC PAYR TO 1406 CIAA OVER.

Advanced Release Management

In year 2024 Judiciary request budget advanced on some of its cost centres specifically towards some activities. Below are reasons why budget were advanced from these cost centers.

- A. **1403 Asset-** The advanced release were requested only where there are needs arises for specific activities.

There are three advanced release done under this cost centre. Total funds loaded in period 12 2024 was VT 4,126,283.

- a. 1st advanced request done on 15 March 2024- This advance request was done for the replacement to RV37. Total of VT2, 400,000 was advanced.
- b. 2nd advanced request done on 21 August 2024- This advanced request was done to repair hearing court room which was damaged by cyclone Judy and Kevin. The damaged air condition was also replaced together with the Efate Island Court signage was also replaced. Total budget advanced VT 281,981.
- c. 3rd advanced release done also on 21 August 2024- This advanced request was done to purchase office equipment's and office furniture's to be placed in the Judge's Chambers. Total VT 580,735 was advanced.

- B. **1409 Repair and Building** – This is a new cost centre created on 2023 to input costings for renovation of Sola court house. Total Budget of VT 4,682,516 loaded under period 12

There are two advance release done.

- a) 1st advance request was done on 4th July 2024- This advance request was done to request Finance to release funds for building material, land and sea transport plus freight and contingencies. Total advanced VT2, 761,476.
- b) 2nd advanced request was done on 14 August 2024- This request was specifically for Labour for the contractor. Total budget advanced VT1, 100,000.

- C. **1422 Port Vila Supreme Court Registry-** Judge and Secretary's NPP (operation budget) were loaded in period 12.

- a. 1st advanced request was done on 3 September 2024 to purchase new vehicle for newly appointed Judge of the Supreme Court. Total Advanced VT3, 600,000.
- b. 2nd advance request was done on 5 November 2024 specifically for funds to refund international court of appeal Judges for their tickets. Total VT511, 210 was advanced.

- D. **1492 Case Management-** This cost centre was another related IT cost centre. NPP of VT 2,065,760 was approved and funds loaded in period 12 specifically for

- i. Visual files upgrade
- ii. Safe Drop & Zylpha

iii. Computer Replacement

- a) 1st advanced request was done on 21 August 2024. Total of VT659, 904 was advanced to purchase computers & other IT accessories for the newly appointed judges of the Supreme Court.
- b) 2nd advanced request was done on 22 October 2024. Total of VT936, 215 was advanced to pay out the upgrade of Court management system (Visual Files Upgrade).

E. December release on all cost centres for Judiciary

Finance only release December warrant on request provided by different ministries and departments. Judiciary also make the exercise to request funds.

Total amount request to release VT 10,051,933.

The major activities that administration expend these funds on are stated below.

- Outstanding bills
- Accountable Imprest-Christmas & New Year day to day operation.
- Airfare for Chief Justice and family.
- Toner for photocopy machine-Efate Island Court.
- Toner for printer-Chief Magistrate Office.
- Obiquiti Nanostation Lolo-Tanna court office.
- 3 new computers.
- Fuel for 3 weeks- Christmas & New Year.
- Office furniture & other items-Sola Court New Office.
- Repair of RV37.
- Repair Registry area, paint inside and outside cement seat and replace solar light at parking area of the Supreme Court.
- Visitors chair and electrical fun-Malekula Magistrate office
- 1st installment payment for new photocopy machine- Supreme Court.

Journal

Journals were done according to the nature of Court activities.

- Department (Judiciary) to department (PWD)-Payment of 2024 court vehicles road worthiness total VT 55,000.
- Department (Judiciary) to department (SLO)-official gazette annual subscription total VT28, 750.
- Department to department (PWD) - Pay water bills for outer courts total VT76, 773.
- Department (Judiciary) to department (Quarantine) - Pay fumigation & Phytosanitary Certificate total VT63, 800.
- Department (Judiciary) to Department (VMSA) – Pay valuation cost for MV Kedi for Sheriff to sale. Total valuation fee- VT11, 500.
- Retire standing imprest-credit the standing imprest accounts total VT615, 000.
- Transfer funds been expended to advertise execution to be done by Sheriff- 1422 CIAD 8CKD to 1408 CIAA 8CKD – VT122, 130.
- Transfer funds been expended under 1408 CIAA towards preparation of two Judges of the Supreme Court. 1403 CIAA to 1408 CIAA- VT487, 885.

- Transfer funds been expended under project # 22C114 towards medical treatment for Chief Justice in Fiji on April 2024. 1422 CIAC TO 1422 CIAC 22C114 total VT731, 409.

The revenue collection

Year	Budget	Revenue Collected	(Under)/Over
2024	26,729,010	25,649,135	(1,079,875)
2023	26,044,000	21,010,920	(5,033,080)
2022	26,044,000	20,456,120	(5,587,880)
2021	25,920,000	25,576,035	(343,965)
2020	23,607,570	22,852,185	52,565
2019	22,200,000	21,501,130	(698,870)
2018	23,437,002	17,252,060	(6,184,942)

Judiciary’s Revenue target in 2024 is VT 26,729,010. Judiciary Collected 96 percent or VT 25,649,135 from January to December 2024. Most revenue were from the court fees and fines.

Revenue trend chart from 2018 to 2024



Figure 16: Revenue Trend; 2018 – 2024

The above chart indicates that in year 2024, Judiciary's revenue collection increased by 95% compared to year 2023 increased by 80%.

Project Management

Project Name: Strengthening capacity of Vanuatu Judiciary

Project code: 22C114

- The project is fully funded by Commonwealth by the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- November 2021 is the begin date for the project and is for a period of two years with a budget of VT 15,272,050
- The project was extended to 2024 with another grant funding of VT 20,520,000
- The project was extended again to 2025 with additional grant funding of VT 9,609,843
- Most of the expenses were expend on the Salary Supplement, house rent, and home country travel with associating cost, transportation, medical, refunds and other fees.
- Total remaining balance of funds on 19 February 2025 sums at VT 19,678,892.

Annual Amounts		
	Budget :	21,813,718
	Release :	21,813,718
	Allotment :	21,813,718
	Commitment :	0
	Encumbrance :	68,980
	Expense :	2,065,846
	Available :	19,678,892
	Payment :	0
Description 1 : Strengthening Capacity of Vanuatu J		
Description 2 :		

Statement of Commitments & Contingencies

Attached is a list of all the commitments and contingencies marked (Annexure A).

Conclusion

Focus for the Year Ahead With the list of priorities that have been provided for in the Year Planner, and the Management Improvement Plan, the office is working on carrying out the tasks in 2025. The aim is to employ additional human resources to target the heavy court workload, an important indicator within NSDP. One other priority is capacity building for courts and lawyers included, to meet bar standards. The courts will continue to disseminate and provide further awareness on court processes in conjunction with court circuits to outer/ remote areas. In addition, the office will continue to work with the Government, developing partners and all stakeholders to improve the dispense of justice speedily, fairly and independently to all court users including the vulnerable group.