

SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU



CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS

YEAR PLANNER 2021



[Ground breaking of Hall of Justice project – 22 September 2020]

Introduction

The administration of justice is vested in the Judiciary. This is the focus each Court Calendar of Events for each year. It provides the force behind the planning for the courts to deliver the service of justice wherever in the archipelago.

The 2021 Court Calendar of Events is produced by the Office of the Chief Justice of Vanuatu in the effort to produce a management plan which is an operational plan to implement in the 2021 year.

It should, therefore, be read with the 2021 Management Improvement Plan and other planning instruments of the Judiciary.

The main emphasis of this Court calendar is the court circuits sees the Supreme Court, Magistrates' Courts and Island Courts visit the 6 Provinces regularly during the course of the year. This is a deliberate effect to achieve the vision and Mission of the Judiciary of Vanuatu.



**Honorable Vincent LUNABEK
CHIEF JUSTICE
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**

VISION

A Judiciary that is independent, effective and 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 the call to public service.

MISSION

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”

CALENDER OF EVENTS FOR 2021

No.	DATES	SPECIAL JUDICIARY EVENTS	
1.1	17 December 2020	Start of Court Recess period 2020 - 2021	
1.2	15-Jan 2021	End of Supreme Court Recess	
1.3	22 -Jan 2021	Official Opening of 2021 Legal Year	
	DATES	COURT OF APPEAL SESSIONS	
2.1	08 – 19 February	1 st Court of Appeal Session	
2.2	03 – 14 May	2 nd Court of Appeal Session	
2.3	5 - 16 July	3 rd Court of Appeal Session	
2.4	8 – 19 November	4 th Court of Appeal Session	
	DATES	SUPREME COURT CRIMINAL PLEA DATES [1 st Tuesday of each month]	
3.1	Tuesday 2 - February	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Port Vila	
3.2	Tuesday 2 March	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Port Vila	
3.3	Tuesday 6 April	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Port Vila	
3.4	Tuesday 18 May	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Port Vila	
3.5	Tuesday 1 June	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Port Vila	
3.6	Tuesday 20 July	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Port Vila	
3.7	Tuesday 3 August	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Port Vila	
3.8	Tuesday 7 September	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Port Vila	
3.9	Tuesday 5 October	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Port Vila	
3.10	Tuesday 2 November	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Port Vila	
3.11	Tuesday 7 December	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Port Vila	
	DATES	SUPREME COURT CRIMINAL PLEA DATES FOR LUGANVILLE, SANTO	
4.1	Monday 22 February	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day - Luganville	
4.2	Monday 8 March	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day - Luganville	
4.3	Monday 12 April	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day - Luganville	
4.4	Monday 17 May	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day - Luganville	
4.5	Monday 14 June	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day – Luganville	
4.6	Monday 19 July	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day - Luganville	
4.7	Monday 9 August	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day - Luganville	
4.8	Monday 13 September	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day - Luganville	
4.9	Monday 11 October	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day - Luganville	
4.10	Monday 22 November	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day - Luganville	
4.11	Monday 6 December	Supreme Court Criminal Plea Day - Luganville	
	DATES	MAGISTRATES COURT CRIMINAL PLEA DATES [8.30am on 1 st and 4 th Wednesday of each month]	MAGISTRATES COURT PLEA SESSIONS FOR CASES BROUGHT UP ON POLICE SUMMONSES – [2.00pm on 1 st and 4 th Wednesday of each

			month]
5.1	8.30am on 3 February	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.2	8.30am on 24 February	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.3	8.30am on 3 March	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.4	8.30am on 24 March	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.5	8.30am on 7 April	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.6	8.30am on 28 April	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.7	8.30am on 5 May	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.8	8.30am on 26 May	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.9	8.30am on 2 June	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.10	8.30am on 23 June	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.11	8.30am on 7 July	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.12	8.30am on 28 July	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.13	8.30am on 4 August	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.14	8.30am on 25 August	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.15	8.30am on 1 September	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.16	8.30am on 22 September	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.17	8.30am on 6 October	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.18	8.30am on 27 October	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.19	8.30am on 3 November	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.20	8.30am on 24 November	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
5.21	8.30am on 1 December	Magistrates' Court Criminal Plea Day	
	DATES	MAGISTRATES COURT JUVENILE PLEA DATES [1 st and 4 th Thursday of each month]	
6.1	4 February	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.2	25 February	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.3	4 March	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.4	25 March	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.5	1 April	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.6	22 April	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.7	6 May	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.8	27 May	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.9	3 June	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.10	24 June	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.11	1 July	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.12	22 July	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.13	5 August	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.14	26 August	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	

		Juveniles	
6.15	2 September	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.16	23 September	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.17	7 October	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.18	28 October	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.19	4 November	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.20	25 November	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	
6.21	2 December	Magistrates Court Criminal Plea Day – Juveniles	

	DATES		COURT TOURS	
	Start	End		
	FEBRUARY			
7.1	22 Feb	26-Feb	Supreme Court criminal plea tour: Santo	
7.2	08-Feb	12-Feb	(Master) Supreme Court Tour – Santo	
7.3	15-Feb	19-Feb	Supreme Court Tour: Lakatoro	
7.4	08-Feb	12-Feb	Magistrates' Court Tour: Epi	
7.5	22-Feb	26-Feb	Magistrates' Court Tour: Sola	
7.6	8-Feb	12-Feb	Island Court Clerk Tour: Tafea	
7.7	8-Feb	12-Feb	Island Court Clerk Tour: Sanma	
	MARCH			
8.1	8 March	12 March	Supreme Court criminal plea tour: Santo	
8.2	8 March	12 March	Supreme Court tour: Tanna	
8.3	22 March	26 March	Magistrates' Court Tour: South Santo	
8.4	22 March	26-March	Magistrates' Court Tour: Erromango	
8.5	8 March	12 March	Pentecost IC Enforcement	
8.6	8 March	12 March	Tongoa IC Enforcement	
	APRIL			
9.1	12-Apr	16-Apr	Supreme Court criminal plea tour: Santo	
9.2	12-Apr	16-Apr	Supreme Court Tour: Pentecost	
9.3	12-Apr	16-Apr	Magistrate's Court tour: Ambrym	
9.4	12- Apr	16- Apr	Magistrate Court Tour: Ambae	
9.5	12- Apr	16 Apr	Island Court Enforcement: Malampa	
9.6	19-Apr	23-Apr	Island Court Clerk Tour: Torba	
	MAY			
10.1	24-May	28-May	Supreme Court criminal plea tour; Santo	
10.2	24- May	28- May	Supreme Court Tour; Epi	
10.3	24-May	28-May	Magistrates' Court Tour: Tongoa	
10.4	24- May	28-May	Magistrates' Court Tour: Torba	
10.5	10-May	14-May	Island Courts Enforcement: Tafea	
10.6	10-May	14-May	Island Court Enforcement: Sanma	
	JUNE			
11.1	7-Jun	11-Jun	Supreme Court Tour: Torba	
11.2	14-Jun	18-Jun	Supreme Court criminal plea tour: Santo	
11.3	14-Jun	18-Jun	Magistrates' Court Tour: Morua	
11.4	14-Jun	18-Jun	Magistrates' Court Tour: Tafea	
11.4	7-Jun	11-Jun	Island Court Clerk Tour: Penma	
11.6	7-Jun	11-Jun	Island Court Clerk Tour: Shefa	
	JULY			
12.1	12-July	16-July	Supreme Court criminal plea tour: Santo	
12.2	12-July	16-July	Supreme Court Tour: Tanna	
12.3	5-July	9-July	Magistrates' Court Tour: Malampa	
12.4	5-July	9-July	Magistrates' Court Tour: Tafea	
12.5	5-July	9-July	Island Court Enforcement: Malampa	
12.6	5-July	9-July	Island Court Clerk Tour: Torba	
	AUGUST			
13.1	9- Aug	13-Aug	Supreme Court criminal plea tour: Santo	
13.2	9-July	13-Aug	Supreme Court Tour; Malampa	

13.3	16-Aug	20-Aug	Magistrates' Court Tour: Malampa	
13.4	16-Aug	20-Aug	Magistrate Court Tour: Penema	
13.5	9-Aug	13-Aug	Island Court Tour: Tafea	
13.6	16-Aug	20-Aug	Island Court Enforcement; Sanma	
	SEPTEMBER			
14.1	13-Sept	17-Sept	Supreme Court criminal plea tour: Santo	
14.2	13-Sept	17-Sept	Supreme Court Tour: Torba	
14.3	20 - Sept	24 - Sept	Supreme Court tour Santo (Master)	
14.4	13-Sept	17-Sept	Magistrates' Court Tour: Shefa	
14.5	20-Sept	24- Sept	Magistrates' Court Tour: Torba	
14.6	13 Sept	17 Sept	Island Court Clerk Tour:Penema	
14.7	13-Sept	17 Sept	Island Court Enforcement; Shefa	
	OCTOBER			
15.1	11-Oct	15-Oct	Supreme Court criminal plea tour: Santo	
15.2	11-Oct	15-Oct	Supreme Court Tour: Torba	
15.3	18-Oct	22-Oct	Magistrates' Court Tour: Sanma	
15.4	18-Oct	22-Oct	Magistrate Court; Tafea	
15.5	18-Oct	22-Oct	Island Court Clerk Tour: Malampa	
15.6	18-Oct	22-Oct	Island Court Enforcement: Torba	
	NOVEMBER			
16.1	22-Nov	26-Nov	Supreme Court criminal plea tour: Santo	
16.2	22-Nov	26-Nov	Supreme Court Tour: Ambae	
16.3	8-Nov	12-Nov	Magistrates' Court Tour: Malampa	
16.4	15-Nov	19-Nov	Magistrates' Court Tour: Penema	
16.5	8-Nov	12-Nov	Island Court Enforcement: Tafea	
16.6	15-Nov	29-Nov	Island Court Clerk Tour: Malampa	
	DECEMBER			
17.1	6-Dec	10-Dec	Supreme Court criminal plea tour: Santo	
17.2	6-Dec	10-Dec	Magistrates' Court Tour: Sanma	
17.3	6-Dec	10-Dec	Island Court Clerk Tour: Shefa	
	DATES		COURT USERS GROUP MEETINGS	
18.1	15 March		Court Users' Group Meeting	Could be more as needed
18.2	28 June		Court Users' Group Meeting	
18.3	2 August		Court Users' Group Meeting	
18.4	1 November		Court Users' Group Meeting	
	DATES		TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT EVENTS	
	Start	End		
19.1	18 Jan	19 Jan	Secretarial Training & Development	
19.2	18 Mar	19 Mar	National 1 st Judicial Training/Development session	
19.3	17 Jun	18 Jun	Sheriff training	
19.4	22 July	23 July	National Island Courts Clerks' Training & Development	
19.5	20 Sep	24 Sep	Court of Appeal training (Subject to Hon. Chief Justice approval)	
19.6	7 October	8 October	National 2 nd Judicial Training/Development Session	
19.7	2 Dec	3 Dec	Judicial Administration Retreat	

NOTES:

1. Dates are subject to changes by the Court Administration reasonably justified with notice.
2. Urgent tours will be organized as the need arises.
3. Magistrates Court Plea Day is for Port Vila, Luganville, Lakatoro & Isangel.
4. Supreme Court Plea Day for Port Vila are held on the first Tuesday of each month and includes:
 - i. Criminal Plea cases,
 - ii. Appeals from the Magistrates Courts,
 - iii. Disputed Matrimonial cases, and
 - iv. Non-urgent short applications
5. Court of Appeal:
 - a) Reviews of cases are allocated to Judges on a rotation basis.
6. Supreme Court Circuits:
 - a) The resident Judges of the Supreme Court in Port Vila shall be responsible for the Supreme Court circuits on PENAMA, SHEFA, MALAMPA, TORBA, SANMA and TAFEA Provinces.
 - b) Total number of Supreme Court circuits

TAFEA	- 2
SHEFA	- 2
MALAMPA	- 2
PENAMA	- 2
TORBA	- 2
7. Magistrate's Court Circuits:
 - a) The resident Magistrate of Luganville, shall be responsible for the Magistrates Court circuit in SANMA and TORBA.

- b) The resident Magistrate of Lakatoro, Malekula, shall be responsible for the Magistrates Court circuit in MALAMPA.
- c) The resident Magistrate of Isangel, Tanna, shall be responsible for the Magistrates Court circuit in TAFEA.
- d) The resident Magistrates in Port Vila shall be responsible for the Magistrates' Court circuit in SHEFA and PENAMA
- e) Total number of Magistrates' Courts circuits
 - TAFEA - 4
 - SHEFA - 4
 - MALAMPA - 4
 - SANMA - 2
 - PENAMA - 2
 - TORBA - 3

7. Island Courts:

- a) Total number of Island Court Clerks' tours;

Tafea Island Court	- 2
Efate/Epi/Tonga Island Court	- 2
Ambrym/Malekula Island Court	- 2
Pentecost Island Court	- 1
Ambae Island Court	- 1
Santo/Malo Island Courts	- 1
Banks/Torres Island Court	- 2

- b) Tours for Supervising Magistrates of Island Court for Enforcement of Island Court decision and other duties of Supervising Magistrates;

Tafea Island Court	- 2
Efate/Epi/Tonga Island Court	- 1
Ambrym/Malekula Island Court	- 2
Pentecost Island Court	- 2
Ambae Island Court	- 1
Santo/Malo Island Courts	- 3

Banks/Torres Island Court	- 2
Shefa	- 2

8. Court Support Staff Training and Development.

Court Personnel training and development programs will be organized when the need arises on the dates and times to be notified.