

<b>PROJECT NUMBER:</b>	GVAN050
<b>POST TITLE:</b>	Supreme Court Judge
<b>DUTY STATION:</b>	Port Villa, Vanuatu
<b>DURATION:</b>	Two years
<b>RESPONSIBLE TO:</b>	The Chief Justice of the Republic of Vanuatu
<b>DATE OF COMMENCEMENT:</b>	September 2014

### **Background**

This project is part of the ongoing Commonwealth technical assistance to the Government of Vanuatu to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Supreme Court. This technical assistance aims to reduce backlog of cases and improve administration of justice particularly with regard to the disposal of commercial cases.

In the short term, the project will improve the timely delivery of cases. In the long term, the project will contribute to business and investor confidence in the judicial system through effective judicial processes and adoption of internationally required good practice in the administration of justice.

The Supreme Court of Vanuatu is the country's main superior court. It exercises first instance jurisdiction over serious civil and criminal matters and appellate jurisdiction over the magistrates' court.

The Court is headed by the Chief Justice. Although the constitution allows for twelve judges of the Supreme Court, currently there only six including the Chief Justice.

Appeal from the Supreme Court lies to the Court of Appeal.

Vanuatu's legal system is a combination of the common law and civil system. However, in practice the common law predominates.

The national languages of Vanuatu are Bislama, English and French.

### **Purpose of the project**

To strengthen the institutional capacity of the Supreme Court.

### **Scope of Work**

The project will provide a Supreme Court judge for a period of two years. The appointed judge will be based at the Supreme Court in Port Vila and will work under the direction of the Chief Justice.

The Supreme Court judge will be expected to hear a full range of cases both civil and criminal. In addition to legal business generated by the local population, there is a growing international dimension to the court's work. Vanuatu is a tax free environment in which a significant number of off-shore companies are registered.

The appointee will undertake the following activities, inter alia

- Hear cases both criminal and civil as assigned;
- Travel on Supreme Court circuits as assigned;
- Assist the Chief Justice with judicial education ; and
- Assist with any other request made by the Chief Justice.

### **Implementation Arrangements**

The judge will be based in the Supreme Court in Port Vila for a period of two years. S/he will submit six monthly reports to the Commonwealth Secretariat through the Chief Justice.

### **Required Experience and Qualifications**

An Expert with the following experience and qualifications is sought:

#### Essential

- Graduate degree;
- Professional qualification in law
- Minimum of ten years' service as a judge of a superior court of both criminal and civil jurisdiction in any Commonwealth jurisdiction Candidates who can demonstrate relevant experience for an equivalent period but derived from a combination of legal practice and a part time judicial appointment may be considered;
- Strong communication skills, both written and oral
- Fluency in English
- Computer literacy

#### Desirable

- Working knowledge of French;
- Experience of conducting judicial education courses;
- Knowledge or experience of automated Court Management Systems;
- Knowledge or experience of court recording and transcription
- Knowledge or experience of working in the Pacific region