



VANUATU NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

MISINFORMATION & DISINFORMATION AWARENESS

STOP AND THINK BEFORE YOU LINK



TUGETA YUMI STOPEM KIAMAN NIUS!

It's easier than ever to create and consume information — it just requires a scroll, swipe or click. With so much information at our fingertips, we're constantly exposed to **misinformation** and sometimes **disinformation**.

It's more important than ever to know whether the information we're reading is reliable. And all of Vanuatu's citizens have a role to play to stop false information spreading.

STOP AND THINK BEFORE YOU LINK

Question the Source

Check who is really behind the information and think about what they gain by making people believe it.



Investigate the Issue

Search reliable sources to see what they are saying about the issue.



Think Before You Link

Take a moment to let your emotions cool and ask yourself whether your feelings about the content are based on fact.



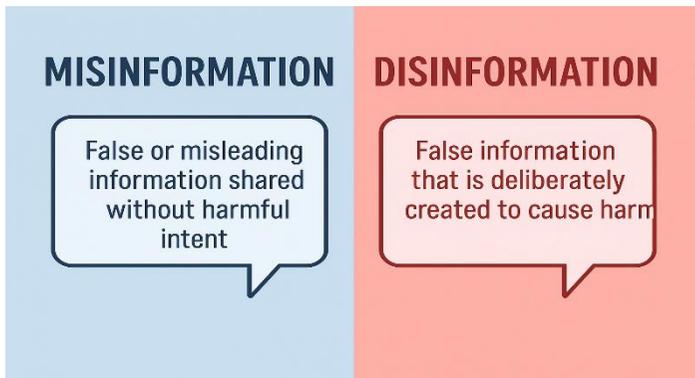
What is misinformation and disinformation?

Misinformation: Is information that is false or misleading, but the person who is spreading it believes that it is true.

Someone might share misinformation unintentionally because they believe it's true, lack context, or are misled themselves, often due to ignorance, haste, or trust in a bad source

Disinformation: Is information that is false or misleading, and is being spread intentionally in order to deceive or manipulate others.

Someone might spread disinformation to influence opinions, create confusion, push an agenda, gain power, or cause harm, often for personal, political, or financial gain.



MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION CAN HARM OUR NATION

It can:

- **disrupt effective government** and implementation of policies, fuel political instability, undermine trust in institutions, and impact elections, aid, and even international relations.



Misinformation on Facebook about the Vanuatu Former Prime Minister Mr Charlot Salwai.

- **harm the economy** by increasing risks posed by scammers, undermining trust in reputable businesses, and unduly influencing consumers' financial decisions.

YTS DISCUSSIONS's Post ✕

YUMI TOKTOK STRET
 YTS DISCUSSIONS · Admin · All-star contributor · January 5, 2022 · 🌐

First Real-World Private Island which aims to be a crypto capital in Vanuatu could be a SCAM. Don't fall for this crypto news because the Vanuatu Laws are not crypto friendly right now according to our crypto tech savvy people, Vanuatu will never allow a freeport type of situation either. NOT YET... WHAT SAY YOU?

Post via DT

SATOSHI ISLAND

Vanuatu is ready to launch a crypto-hotspot with the aim to become the crypto capital of the world on Satoshi Island.

Satoshi Island will be built on the core fundamentals that underlie blockchain including a totally democratic system which aims to be the first real-world crypto economy and blockchain-based democracy. The Island will have crypto-friendly laws and a development process.

First Real-World Private Island Which Aims To Be A Crypto Capital

by *Samantha Dunn* — December 17, 2021



Satoshi Island promises a futuristic crypto-utopia being questioned on Facebook.

- **have consequences for public health** by sharing false health information – such as in relation to vaccines or healthy food options.

NEWS

Anti-vaccination advocates double down as measles kills 50 Samoan children

Non-medical alternatives continue to be pushed as a solution to the Samoan measles epidemic, which has now killed dozens more young children.



The measles death toll in Samoa now stands at 53, with all but three deaths occurring among children under the age of four.

Samoa, Australian and American anti-vaccination advocates are continuing to spread **misinformation**, even as measles rages unchecked among a population with one of the world's lowest rates of protection.

The article from RACGP discusses the resurgence of measles and the role of anti-vaccination advocates in spreading misinformation and disinformation.

- **foster disharmony in society.** Social media 'echo chambers' see users only share information that reinforces existing beliefs, and false or misleading information circulates unchecked. This deepens **polarisation** and makes constructive debate harder and harms decision-making across all levels of society.

How can we fight against the spread of misinformation and disinformation?:

We can all do a few simple things to spot misinformation and stop it in its tracks!

Question the source: Check who is really behind the information and think about what they gain by making people believe it. Disinformation is often designed to look authentic. Critically evaluate content to discern whether it's trustworthy. Is the information from a trusted and reliable news outlet?

Verify with other sources: Search for the same news elsewhere and compare it to other reliable sources. Has the information been covered by other news sites, government agencies, or organisations with expertise on the issue? If only one place reports it, be cautious.

Check for facts and look for evidence: Are there any supporting facts, studies, or expert opinions provided to support the claim? Beware of emotional or shocking statements without proof.

Watch out for manipulated images and videos: It is easier than ever for fake content to be created – including photos and videos produced using Artificial Intelligence (AI). Photos can be easily edited, cropped, or taken out of context so avoid jumping to conclusions. Use tools like Google Reverse Image Search to check the origin of photos.

Read beyond the headline: Headlines are written to draw a strong reaction. Read into a subject deeply before ‘liking’, sharing or commenting. Misleading headlines can distort the real story.

Stop and think before link: Ask yourself: How sure am I that this information is true? Could false information harm my reputation or could it harm someone else?

If you’re unsure, don’t share it!

Stopping the spread of fake news

Facebook is a major source of news for the people of Vanuatu with [almost](#) 140,000 of us – or about 43.75% of the population – using the social media platform.

Facebook should be used carefully as a news source because its algorithm prioritises engagement over accuracy, often amplifying sensational or misleading content. So, we must always verify information with trusted sources, check for bias, and be cautious of echo chambers that reinforce false narratives.

You can mark a post as false news on Facebook:

1. Click ‘...’ next to the post that you’d like to mark as false.
2. Click ‘Report Post’
3. Click ‘Scam, fraud or false information’
4. Click ‘Sharing false information’, then select the kind of false information.
5. Click ‘Done’.

You can report misinformation and disinformation to appropriate Vanuatu Government authorities such as:

CERT Vanuatu (Computer Emergency Response Team)

Email: info@cert.gov.vu

Phone: +678 33380

For more details, visit their advisory on misinformation: CERT VANUATU: <https://cert.gov.vu/>

Final Remarks from the National Security Advisor

In today's fast-moving digital world, the spread of misinformation and disinformation threatens our communities, our trust in institutions, and even our national security. False information can create unnecessary fear, divide us, and lead to harmful decisions. That's why it's more important than ever for each of us to take responsibility for the information we share.

By staying informed, checking sources, and questioning suspicious content, we can all play a role in protecting the truth. Before sharing something online, always remember: Stop and think before you link. A few moments of caution can prevent the spread of harmful misinformation.

Together, we can build a more informed, united, and resilient Vanuatu. Together, we can stop the spread of fake news.

Roline Tekon
Vanuatu National Security Advisor
National Security Council Secretariat