

NATIONAL SECURITY

A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR EVERYONE

What is national security?

Introduction

We are surrounded by ocean, nature and strong communities but just like every country we must think about how to keep our people's land, ocean, airspace and livelihood safe - this is what we call national security.

This booklet explains Vanuatu's definition of national security, what it means for us, why it is important and how we can all help protect our country.

What does national security mean?

National security means protecting our country from anything that can harm us like natural disasters, crime or outside threats. It's about keeping our people safe, protecting our land, sea and airspace and making sure our communities are healthy, safe and peaceful.

National Security Strategy Definition of National Security

The National Security Strategy captures security under 10 Pillars which are:



What are the threats?

The world today is interconnected and fast-changing. Here are some common modern threats:

- **Terrorism:** Both domestic and international threats to public safety.
- **Cyberattacks:** Hacking, data breaches, ransomware, cyberbullying and misinformation campaigns.
- **Disinformation:** False information used to confuse or divide people.
- **Pandemics:** Diseases that spread rapidly and overwhelm public health systems.
- **Climate Change:** Extreme weather, rising seas, food insecurity, and forced migration.
- **Economic Disruption:** Trade wars, financial crises, or sanctions that impact stability.
- **Geopolitical Rivalries:** competition between superpowers that destabilizes state sovereignty and national priorities.

WHAT ARE WE PROTECTING?

In Vanuatu, national security helps us protect:

- our people**
our families, elders, and young people
- culture and traditions**
Language, custom practices and stories
- our borders**
land, sea and air
- the environment**
our oceans, reefs, forests, biodiversity, root crops, plants and islands
- the economy**
jobs, tourism, fishing, agriculture and trade
- information**
government data, personal details and information, and local knowledge



Who keeps us safe?

Many people work together to protect our national security including:

Police Force - Keep peace, respond to threats and enforce the law.

Border Agencies and police maritime wing - protect our seas and checks to see who comes and goes.

Disaster and emergency response teams - help during storms, earthquakes or floods.

Digital agency and cybersecurity teams - protect data and systems online.

Village chiefs and local communities - the first to notice problems and respond.

Government agencies - community and government collaboration.

Non-Government Organizations – local, regional and international NGOs collaborating with communities on security related programs and activities.

Why does national security matter?

It helps protect the things we care about the most:



When our country is secure, we can live in peace, grow our economy and protect our way of life.

How can you help?

Everyone plays a part in keeping our nation safe. You are contributing to our country's national security when you:

Respect yourself and respect others



Respect our laws and traditional values

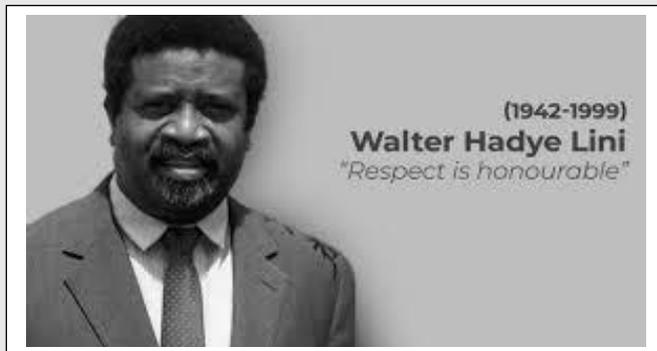
Report anything unusual, suspicious or dangerous

Protect your information online

Engage in social media in a peaceful and respectful manner

Helping your community before, during and after disasters

Learn about the challenges facing our nation



Rispek hemi onorobol – Late Father Walter Lini

Every small step and action you take, can either contribute to peace and security or provoke a disaster to our beautiful country – Vanuatu. Think Security and Act Wisely.