

**GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**

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**GOUVERNEMENT DE LA  
REPUBLIQUE DU VANUATU  
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From the Right Honourable Edward N. Natapei  
Prime Minister  
Republic of Vanuatu

To all participants in the biennial PINA Convention for 2009

Greetings to all the members of the Pacific Media Family! May I on behalf of the Chiefs, Government and people of Vanuatu invite you to converge on Port Vila for the inaugural Pacific Media Summit from July 27-29 this year. Vanuatu is proud to host this year's PINA convention which has been appropriately renamed the Pacific Media Summit.

I am aware that the Media Association blong Vanuatu (MAV) is busy making sure that the Summit is well organized and that it reflects the spirit of Vanuatu and her people. I assure you all that your time in Vanuatu will be memorable and enriching and as Prime Minister and Minister responsible for the media, I look forward to personally welcoming you to the Pacific Summit.

Media development in Vanuatu is making headway and can further benefit from continued regional cooperation and assistance. The theme of your Summit, Breaking Barriers – Access to Information is most appropriate as Small Island states like ours in the Pacific strive to achieve our millennium development goals during the current global economic crisis. We can achieve this together by keeping people fully informed and enabling greater access to information to allow people to make informed decisions. Herein lies the importance of the media.

I am particularly keen to see the media in the region adopt best practices and take on a more proactive and responsible role. As a firm believer in dialogue, I remain adamant the media can and must play a pivotal role in assisting in national development. I look forward to deliberations on this during your Summit.

As Prime Minister of Vanuatu, I reiterate our pride in hosting our fellow Pacific Islanders. You will find Port Vila a small but fast developing city with a diverse culture of English and French, as well as other Pacific Islanders. You will discover for yourselves how the ni-Vanuatu themselves who come from different cultural backgrounds, live, work and play together as one people and one nation.

I am also particularly happy that you have chosen the days preceding our 29th anniversary of independence to hold your Summit. I encourage you to make the time to enjoy the independence festivities and visit other islands outside of Port Vila. You will be amazed at the simplicity of our people but the similarities with many of your cultures.

The Chiefs, Government and people of Vanuatu wait to welcome you in typical Ni-Vanuatu fashion and trust you will thoroughly enjoy your visit to Vanuatu. I look forward to welcoming you all in Port Vila in person, when I deliver my keynote address at the official opening of the convention on the 26th of July. Until then, thank you tumas, and may God Bless you all.



Hon. Edward N. Natapei  
Prime Minister  
Republic of Vanuatu

