

Solar energy research and development port vila

Port Vila, the capital city of the island state of Vanuatu, has a population of 44,000, of which only 27% have access to electricity. While the island already has some local renewable generation capacity - including PV, wind, and hydro - the majority of energy demand is still met by diesel generators. Masdar installed three solar PV plants to help increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix in addition to providing shading for 112 parking spaces at the country's key civic areas

Vanuatu's geography makes it difficult to create centralized energy systems, which leaves many communities and islands needing electricity, hindering development and forcing the use of fossil fuels for lighting. Only 20 percent of Vanuatu's rural residents have access to electricity. Yet, the country's GDP grew from US\$267M in 2001 to US\$914M in 2018, leading to its graduation from the Least Developed Country status in December 2020 -- further demonstrating the massive potential for local economic development through improved energy access.

Antony Garae, Director of the Vanuatu Department of Energy, said this project is a great boon to his country, where 80 percent of rural residents lack electricity. "Solar is the best solution for these areas not only because of its obvious contributions to climate change mitigation but because fuel is costly and difficult to transport," he said.

The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management (MRMDDM) of Fiji and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Office in...

The Government of Tonga and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Office in Fiji, have formalized their support for the Government's efforts in...

The retail price of diesel remains 183 VT/L. The retail price of benzene will be 200 VT/L, effective May 22, 2024.

The retail price of diesel has dropped by 9 VT/L to 174 VT/L effective June 20, 2024. There is no change for the retail price of petrol and remains at 200 VT/L.



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