



# Vanuatu energy storage for electric vehicles

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The Minister of Climate Change, Hon. Ralph Regenvanu, has stated that land transport is the second biggest consumer of fossil fuels in Vanuatu after the use of diesel for national electricity grids.

"While the transition of our electricity grids to renewable energy is well underway, however, the transition of land transport to electrical vehicles is only just starting. As the owner of the largest vehicle fleet in the country, the Government has to lead the transition of land transport in Vanuatu. With this purchase, the Ministry of Climate Change, appropriately, is leading the way.

"It is my hope that in the next few years, the entire Government fleet can become electrified, and I encourage private sector companies and the general public to do the same. The less fossil fuels Vanuatu uses, the less money we send overseas and the more money we have to spend in the domestic economy, and the less vulnerable and dependent we are to global shocks. And of course, with electric vehicles we will have a much cleaner and quieter environment," the Minister of Climate Change, Ralph Regenvanu, said.

The Ministry is replacing the two Kia Sportage vehicles currently servicing the Corporate Services Unit (CSU) and the Cabinet with two BYD Yuan Pro Mini-SUV electric vehicles.

The two EV's have been purchased at a cost of VT8,000,000 (exclusive of VAT), under an interest-free loan arrangement with the National Green Energy Fund (NGEF), with full repayment expected by December 2027. The two mini-SUVs with five doors and five seats were sold by local company, Nambawan EV, an importer of EVs with the ability to service and provide replacement parts.

Although EVs on the Port Vila grid will still be powered by diesel-based electricity generation, the increased use of EV's will maximize the use of the unutilized generation gap from the current peak load being provided by Unelco. After the commissioning of the new tariff-supported 3 MegaWatt (MW) solar plant in 2025, and the New Zealand-supported 5 MW solar plant in 2026, the Port Vila grid will be almost 50% powered by renewable energy. UNELCO has indicated their interest in establishing fast EV charging stations throughout the Port Vila concession.

They could also be used for power tools, fridges, TVs, pumps in remote areas. The output is 2.2kw - roughly the power of an electric kettle or enough for a small home of lights, small fridge, TV and phone charges.

The importing company of the BYDs, Nambawan EV, is newly established but has a long history in Vanuatu. They have the ability to service and provide replacement parts for BYD vehicles that they import.

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