A whole of government budget management system for a Pacific island nation

Vanuatu Government implements a solution that significantly enhances productivity, timeliness, accuracy, controls and transparency.

Technology

- Performa BIDS™
- Infor Vision Reporting on Smartstream FMIS
- Microsoft SQL Server 2005
- Microsoft Reporting Services 2005
- Microsoft Office

The Government of Vanuatu

Vanuatu is an independent, democratic republic with a 52 member Parliament elected by the people every 4 years. The executive consists of a Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister who is elected by Parliament from among its members. There is also a mainly ceremonial President who is elected by Parliament and the National Council of Chiefs for a period of five years.

The Prime Minister and the 12 co-members of the Council of Ministers oversee the administration of Vanuatu's 13 government ministries.

The Vanuatu Government traditionally used a combination of spreadsheets, Word documents, the general ledger and manual processes to manage their budget.

They recognised that there was a need to change the way they completed the budget process as they were experiencing a number of issues in the process.

"Using many disparate systems to undertake our budget management meant that budgets were often late and had inaccuracies which could not be tracked. We could not ensure that processes were happening on time, and there was often double handling of the data. The version control of the spreadsheets was very difficult to manage."

Brendan Toner (Project Manager - VBMS)

In late 2006 the Vanuatu Government decided to look for a solution which could be quickly implemented as it was needed for the 2007/08 budget and would significantly enhance productivity, timeliness, accuracy, controls and transparency.

performa
• Plan • Execute • Evaluate • Succeed

Our Solution

The Vanuatu Budget Management System (VBMS) is a web based budget entry application that has been developed using a software product called BIDS™.

BIDS™:

- is a document and process management system;
- captures, tracks and manages business information;
- provides configurable workflows, auditing and security; and
- is applicable for small teams through to large distributed multi-national organisations or governments.

The Government of Vanuatu has used BIDS™ to develop a whole of government Budget Management System that is tailored to Vanuatu's

Budget Process.

The VBMS is used by the following groups of users to enter, review and approve annual budgets:

- The Ministerial Budget Committee
- Ministers
- Director Generals
- Directors
- The Department of Economic and Sector Planning
- The Department of Finance
- Ministry Finance Managers
- Department Finance Officers
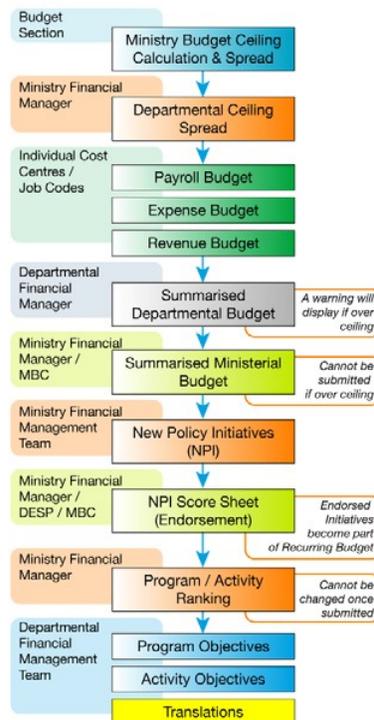- Section Managers

This diagram demonstrates the steps in the budgeting process for Vanuatu.

This whole of government budget management system enables the Vanuatu Government to:

- establish and manage budget to ceilings defined and agreed between MFEM and the Ministries;
- prepare detail in individual ministries for Cost Centre/Job Code based budgets for expense, revenue and employee budgeting, within the ceilings framework;
- support the review and approval process of all Ministerial budgets through a workflow system;
- allow for the entry, evaluation and approval of New Policy Initiatives which will be added to the budget;
- prepare and maintain quantitative performance measures and qualitative details and measures of program and activity objectives, and allow for the translation of these details from French to English via a manual process.

After a successful User Acceptance Testing period, the system went live with over 100 trained users and has been used to prepare the 2007/08 Vanuatu budget.

The system was built around the premise of data being entered only

once and all users working from the same data. Therefore once the budget data is entered all other users will use the same data for any analysis and reporting. There is no need to maintain separate versions of the data or manually create summarised reports using Excel or other tools. Once data has been updated it is available to be used by all other relevant users.

Key Benefits

The key benefits for the VBMS are:

- Ministries able to budget at detailed level for their own management purposes.
- A Common view of data.
- Efficiency improved.
- Data quality improved
- All business processes (central and ministries) supported in one system.
- Transparency of information and process.
- Detailed budget model to meet needs of all agencies and MFEM.
- Improved reporting and analysis.
- Thorough audit trail & tracking capability.
- Complete process control.
- Bilingual application in English and French.
- Recurring and new initiatives budgeting within ceilings.
- Rigorous submission, review and approval processes.
- Able to capture the necessary information to support the decision making processes around new policy initiatives, including text, attachments, and other contextual data.

More Information

To find out how to boost your organisation's effectiveness with our performance management solutions, contact our office on: www.performasolutions.com.au or email: information@performasolutions.com