

Electric vehicle incentives vanuatu

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The new EV, displaying in Bislama: "I am 100% Electric, No Dirty Smoke, Save the Planet."

In a groundbreaking move for Vanuatu's sustainability efforts, the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation (MoCCA) has become the first government agency to incorporate Electric Vehicles (EVs) into its fleet.

This milestone, achieved through an investment of VT8 million, marks the beginning of Vanuatu's ambitious journey towards greener transportation, as outlined in the National Energy Road Map (NERM) and the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) targets.

Yesterday at the ceremony held to unveil the new vehicles, Minister Ralph Regenvanu emphasised the importance of this step. "We are here today because the MoCCA is now the first government agency to purchase and use EVs. This marks a historic milestone for Vanuatu," he declared.

"Land transport is the second biggest consumer of fossil fuels in Vanuatu after the use of diesel for national electricity grids.

"As the owner of the largest vehicle fleet in the country, the government must lead the transition to electric vehicles, with the purchase of these two vehicles, the Ministry of Climate Change is leading the way." The two newly acquired EVs, Build Your Dreams (BYD) Yuan Pro Mini-SUVs, will replace the Ministry's existing Kia Sportage vehicles.

This pilot project, approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC), will run for the remaining five months of the year, during which the performance and financial savings of the EVs will be closely monitored and compared to traditional fuel-using vehicles.

Minister Regenvanu highlighted the broader economic and environmental benefits of transitioning to EVs. "The less fossil fuels Vanuatu uses, the less money we send overseas to buy fossil fuels, which means more money to spend on our domestic economy," he said.

"We will be less vulnerable and dependent on external shocks, becoming more energy independent and able to determine our own energy future."

The economic benefits extend beyond just savings.

The MoCCA confirmed the two EVs have been purchased at a cost of VT8 million (exclusive of Value Added Tax), 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 EV's with the ability to service and provide replacement parts.

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