



**VANUATU RURAL
DEVELOPMENT BANK**

VRDB PARTNERS WITH TEMENOS TO ADVANCE INCLUSIVE BANKING IN VANUATU

The Vanuatu Rural Development Bank (VRDB) has taken a major step toward modernising its services through the implementation of a new Core Banking System (CBS), enabled by a strategic partnership with Temenos, formalised on 21 March 2026.

For over two decades, VRDB has supported economic opportunities across Vanuatu, operating in a complex environment shaped by infrastructure constraints, geographic dispersion, management capacity, and liquidity pressures. These experiences have helped shape the Bank's transformation journey—informing a more resilient, forward-looking approach to service delivery.

This next phase marks a step change—positioning VRDB at a higher level of capability to better serve individuals, communities, and businesses nationwide.

The new CBS will enable VRDB to deliver modern banking services, including deposit-taking, internet

and mobile banking, faster transactions, and an improved customer experience. Implementation is currently underway, with go-live targeted between late 2026 and early 2027.

The platform will also play a critical role in extending financial services to rural and outer island communities by enabling digital access, reducing the need for travel, and strengthening support for small businesses, farmers, and entrepreneurs.

LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVES

Chairman, VRDB Board – Henrickson Malsokle

“For nearly two decades, VRDB has contributed to expanding financial access in Vanuatu. This investment reflects our commitment to the future. By embracing world-class technology, we are strengthening the Bank’s ability to serve communities more effectively. This is not just about technology—it is about creating greater opportunities for people across the country.”

Chief Executive Officer, VRDB – Philan Kalmanu

“This partnership with Temenos represents a defining

moment for VRDB. For the first time in the Bank’s history, we are investing in a modern core banking platform that will allow us to evolve into a more dynamic and inclusive financial institution.

It will enable us to introduce new services such as deposit accounts and digital banking, ensuring we remain responsive to the needs of our people. Importantly, the system will also strengthen our reporting capabilities to key stakeholders—including the Government of

Vanuatu, the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu, the Vanuatu Financial Intelligence Unit, auditors, and development partners—enhancing transparency, compliance, and accountability.”

As implementation progresses, VRDB will continue working closely with key stakeholders and partners to ensure the successful delivery of this transformation. This journey represents not just a technological upgrade, but a long-term investment in building a stronger, more inclusive financial system for Vanuatu—one that empowers people, supports businesses, and contributes meaningfully to the nation’s economic resilience and growth.