



Marlborough House ● Pall Mall ● London SW1Y 5HX ● United Kingdom ● secretariat@cwealthstudents.org

Amplifying student voices throughout the Commonwealth

For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT ON THE VANUATU FERRY TRAGEDY

The Commonwealth Students' Association stands with the people of Vanuatu following the sinking of the inter-island ferry MV Matui, an event that has claimed lives and left more than thirty passengers missing.

Vanuatu is a member of our Commonwealth family, and this tragedy is felt across our student communities throughout the Commonwealth. Our thoughts are with the families still awaiting word on their loved ones, and with the search and rescue teams working along the coastline.

This disaster arrives in a country already carrying the weight of repeated cyclones and the 2024 earthquake, a reminder that Vanuatu faces disaster risk unlike almost anywhere else in the world. It underscores why the safety and security of students, and of the communities and transport systems that carry them to and from school, must remain a standing priority across the Commonwealth, not an afterthought raised only after loss.

The CSA calls on relevant Commonwealth institutions and development partners to support Vanuatu's recovery, and we extend our solidarity to the National University of Vanuatu (NUV) Student Association, affiliated Vanuatu Students Association (VSA) bodies across University of the South Pacific (USP) campuses, and to students in Vanuatu whose families or communities have been affected.

We grieve with Vanuatu. We stand with Vanuatu.

ENDS.

Francis Azubuike, AloL
President of the Commonwealth Students' Association

On behalf of students across the Commonwealth.