

AMBRYM ISLAND MAGISTRATES' COURT TOUR, 2025 **(MALAMPA PROVINCE)**



Date: 9-16 September 2025

Author: Kalo Shem Amos

This document provides a brief report on the Magistrate's Court tour to Ambrym Island from 9-16 September 2025.

Members of the team attending this tour includes Chief Magistrate Anna Laloyer and Lolin as the court's officers, two state counsels (Mr. Toas and Mr. Asang) from State Prosecution Department (SPD), and myself from the Office of the Public Solicitor.

On 9 September 2025 we boarded air-Vanuatu flight from Bauerfield airport, Port Vila, to Craig Cove airport on west Ambrym.

After our arrival at Craig Cove airport, we are being transported by the police vehicle to the seaport at west Ambrym. We then boarded a fiberglass boat from West Ambrym to Nepul at North Ambrym where the court venue is situated. It took us roughly about 1 hour 45 minutes cruising from west Ambrym to North Ambrym.

At North Ambrym, 2 days (10-11 September 2025) is scheduled for plea, committal, and trial hearings. There are 19 cases altogether listed for hearing among which about 7 cases are for trial, 2 for committal, and 10 for plea and sentence. The results of the hearing shows that 1 defendant is acquitted during trial and the others are guilty after trial. The sentencing of the court in all cases for plea and trials generally includes, fine and suspended sentences. Some cases cannot be dealt with as the defendants are not present during the court hearing.

After the hearing at north Ambrym, we departed at around 3:00PM on 11 September 2025 voyaging back to West Ambrym. On Friday 12 September 2025 summons were being served by assisting police officers to the defendants who are to appear before the court on Monday 15 September 2025.

On Monday 15 September 2025, the court proceeded to deal with the cases listed for hearing at west Ambrym. There are about 11 cases altogether listed for hearing among which 1 is for committal, and 10 for plea. The plea cases are being dealt with and sentences of imprisonment and fine is imposed on the defendants by the court.

The hearing on 15 September 2025 at west Ambrym brings an end to this Malampa tour. On 16 September 2025 three of the team members boarded air-Vanuatu flight from Ambrym back to Port Vila whereas 2 other members boarded a fiberglass boat and travels back to Malekula Island.