

MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



E-NEWSLETTER

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PARLIAMENT DECLARES CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Photo: DOCC

VISION

Promote a resilient, sustainable, safe & informed Vanuatu



MISSION

Develop sound policies & legislative frameworks and provide timely, reliable scientific information for service delivery to enable resilient communities, a sustainable environment and economic development



Welcome!



Welcome to Issue No. 3 of the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology and Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and National Disaster Management's e-newsletter.

This edition comes out at the end of the cyclone season and our border has opened after a long period of lockdown following the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in Vanuatu.

While it has hampered much of our

activities in the First Quarter of this year, we managed to work through the lockdown with our Business Continuity Plan to ensure some of the essential services we provide continued to function.

We are now moving forward as we continue to address the Climate Emergency that was declared by Parliament of Vanuatu.

Despite the challenges, we have prevailed as the full services provided by the Ministry continue.

This e-newsletter initiative is part of the Ministry's strategy to fulfil our vision of promoting a resilient, sustainable, safe and informed Vanuatu.

It is a platform that aligns with the national Communications & Engagement Strategy & Action Plan in line with the country's highest level policy framework, the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) – Vanuatu 2030 – The People's Plan.

The Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology and

Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and National Disaster Management is the youngest Ministry in the Vanuatu Government, created in 2014.

Our mission is to develop sound policies and legislative frameworks and provide timely, reliable scientific information service delivery to enable resilient communities, a sustainable environment and economic development.

I acknowledge our international, regional and national partners that work with the Ministry's Corporate Services Unit and the Department of Climate Change, Department of Meteorology and Geo-Hazards, Department of Energy, Department of Environment and the National Disaster Management Office, through bilateral and multilateral support, to ensure targets are met and projects are developed, planned, implemented and completed within their timeframes.

Director General
Esline Garaebiti Bule

Climate Emergency Declaration Gets Bipartisan Support in Parliament

On May 27, 2022 the Parliament of Vanuatu unanimously supported a motion tabled on the floor by the Honourable Prime Minister, Bob Loughman Weibur, declaring a climate emergency in Vanuatu. The motion received bipartisan support in Parliament.

This declaration comes as Vanuatu regionally and globally spearheads a move to raise, at the United Nations General Assembly later this year, the matter of getting the opinion of the International Court of Justice in relation to climate change.

When tabling the motion that was televised on national television and

radio, the Hon. Prime Minister said that the rising sea levels and severe weather were already excessively affecting the Pacific island countries including Vanuatu.

“The climate crisis is a human rights crisis,” the Hon. Prime Minister said. He said these are evident through meteorological events such as category 5 cyclones when cyclones Pam and Harold hit Vanuatu.

Tropical cyclone Pam caused a total damage and loss for Vanuatu at an estimated \$600 million USD. Vanuatu is one of the most disaster-prone and climate-threatened nations in the world.



Hon. Prime Minister Bob Loughman Weibur tabled the motion in Parliament

HRM Goes Through Appraisal Cycle With All NDMO Staff

The role of the Corporate Services Unit (CSU) of the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation is to provide consolidated services and support to the Cabinet and departments under the Ministry.

This means that from time-to-time senior staff under CSU will provide such service when requested by departments.

One of such occasions occurred in February this year when the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) received the service of the Human Resource Manager (HRM), Charles Warwopoc.

The HRM made a presentation about staff performance appraisal and staff training and development and how these link with the NDMO 2022 Business Plan.

One of the expectations of staff at



NDMO was to know how an individual appraisal exercise is undertaken and the appraisal cycle as well as how training needs can be addressed in connection with the NDMO Business Plan. This was an important learning curve for staff to know the connection of the Business Plan and staff appraisal cycle.

Mr Warwopoc says his presentation to the NDMO team was also on how they could work collaboratively to achieve the key priorities of the department as addressed in the Ministry Corporate Plan and National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP).

Climate Change Also a Human Rights Crisis: Minister Melve



The Honourable Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Silas Bule Melve, on May 27, 2022 addressed the Parliament of Vanuatu to raise the issue of climate change and disaster risk reduction and climate finance.

He told Parliamentarians that climate change has only been seen as an issue of temperature or greenhouse gases but it is also now a human rights crisis.

“Developed countries continue to emit dangerous gasses to become richer and more developed while we suffer as our people continue to face the consequences, with livelihoods affected, which is why I say climate change is a human rights crisis.

“After disasters we get assistance from development partners, but that is still not enough, where at the end of the day each family is left with the burden of cleaning the mess that fossil fuels from overseas cause in Vanuatu.

“That is not fair and it is wrong,” the Hon. Minister told Parliament.

The Minister mentioned all departments under the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, including the role of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB), whose key role is to facilitate climate finance to different sectors, non-governmental organisations and business community.

“When you see a new road that Public Works builds, it is likely that its funding came from climate funds.

“When you see Education upgrading schools with the use of solar energy and Health builds clinics in communities, it is likely the money came from climate funds.

“When you see NGOs provide service to grassroots, it is likely that the funding source is climate related.

“The work of the Ministry is to facilitate climate change funding that comes into the country through NAB’s coordination, then send them out to all sectors, islands, and communities that are in need,” Hon. Minister Silas Bule Melve said.

The Minister mentioned projects such as the Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Planning in Vanuatu or VAN-KIRAP Project, funded by the Green Climate Fund as well as the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project that gets funding from Global Environment Fund.

He also announced the Vanuatu Community-based Climate Resilience Project worth US\$32.7 million that the Green Climate Fund Board approved on May 16, 2022.

“I acknowledge and thank partners for

their support such as SPC, SPREP, UNDP and many others that serve as accredited entities for Climate Finance mechanism that facilitate the implementation of these projects in Vanuatu.

“The Ministry of Climate Change is currently working with the Ministry of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management to establish the Government’s National Accredited Entity.

“It is through such establishment that Vanuatu can get direct access to the full amount of funds for all climate change projects,” the Minister said.

The Minister told Parliament that this year Vanuatu submitted its new list of Nationally Determined Contributions to the United Nations. This document contains all climate change needs and projects for Vanuatu in the sectors of renewable energy, ways to adapt, how to respond in the event of a disaster and the loss and damage.

The Minister also said this year Vanuatu will be seeking support from the United Nations General Assembly to ask the International Court of Justice to look at the issue of climate justice.

“I wish to make it clear that this is not a court case and we are not taking a country to court. “There will not be any winner or loser.

“The International Court of Justice will only look at the issue of how climate change undermines basic human rights in Vanuatu, then gives an advise on how countries can contribute to solve the situation,” the Minister said, adding that Vanuatu looks forward for the support from other Pacific, Caribbean and African nations as well as Australia, New Zealand and United States of America.

Validation Workshop on 5-year Corporate Plan for MOCCA

All five departments under the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, including the Corporate Services Unit came together on May 12 and 13 in a workshop to review and validate the draft Corporate Plan for the next five years based on the guideline provided by the Office of the Public Service.

Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Esline Garaebiti Bule, said the review of the Corporate Plan is intended to reflect on the implementation of the existing corporate plan and to ensure current development plans and priorities under the functions of the Ministry and each department are better reflected and captured to be integrated in the reviewed National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP).

“Our planning methodology is a bottom-up approach based on the functions and mandate of this Ministry.

“An important part of this important is



the reflection on the budget forecast for the next five years under different programs and activities that are highlighted in this review.

“This is our roadmap for the next five years to guide our business plans development, directly align with the reviewed CCDRR (Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction) policy, to be reflected in the reviewed NSDP,” the Director General said.

The workshop involved discussions

between departments on their key activities and service targets as well as what stakeholders to work with to achieve these plans.

Each department presented their Corporate Plan Matrix for discussions and validation before final submission to the Public Service Commission.

The current NSDP does not capture all activities mandated by legislations that regulate the ministry, hence the reviews.

National Environment Week and World Environment Day

Director General, Esline Garaebiti Bule, on Monday on June 8, officially closed the programme for the National Environment Week and World Environment Day.

The week saw a series of awareness taking place through the media, as well as tree planting at the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation compound.

These activities are carried out under guidance of Vanuatu’s overarching policy for

sustainable conservation, development and management of the environment in Vanuatu called the National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan 2016–2030 (NEPIP).

The NEPIP aims to:

- 1) provide for the co-ordination of related activities;
- 2) promote the environmentally sound and safe management and conservation of the natural resources and environment of Vanuatu; and
- 3) outline the operational matters necessary

to implement the first two aims.

The official closing of the National Environment Week and World Environment Day programmes coincided with the handing over of cash prizes for individuals that won the poster, photograph and video competitions.

This year the National Environment Week and World Environment Day events were planned to take place in Penama Province, but COVID restrictions disturbed planning

of the event by the Department of Environment Protection and Conservation (DEPC).

However, this did not stop DEPC from hosting a smaller-scale successful event in Port Vila that culminated into the handing over of prizes to competition winners.

The winning art works of the very young artists in the competition were determined by a panel of different staff from DEPC and departments under the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation.

Winning Bidder Takes Over Tanna and Malekula Concessions from Government under DOE



Department of Energy Director, Antony Garae (r), assisting Hon. Prime Minister (c) to sign the agreement

The Honourable Prime Minister, Bob Loughman Weibur, says May 6, 2022 marked a very important milestone achievement for the Government and its citizens, particularly the people of Tanna and Malekula, as the country witnessed the inauguration of the new electricity concessionaire for the two islands.

This was achieved through the official signing of the concession agreement between the Government and the winning bidder, Vanuatu National Provide Fund (VNPF).

Vanuatu's overarching policy called "The People's Plan, 2016-2030" under the Economic (ECO) & Environmental (ENV) Pillars, reaffirms Vanuatu's firm commitment to:

- Increase access to safe, reliable, and affordable modern energy services for all, that is increasingly generated from renewable sources and reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels (ECO 2.1)" and
- Promote renewable sources of energy and promote efficient energy use (ENV 2.3)

The National Energy Road Map (NERM) 2016-2030 on the other hand, reflects the same, however, provides broader details across five key priorities including but not limited to "Accessible Energy, Affordable Energy, Secure and Reliable Energy, Sustainable Energy and Green Growth".

The Hon. Prime Minister in his address

during the signing for the two concessions, said the concession model is sustainable for electricity service in concession areas. This concession model operates by way of the Government giving assets to private utility to operate and manage on its behalf to provide service to the people of Vanuatu.

In this concession arrangement, the Government is guarantor and the private utility is concessionaire. VNPF, through its sub-contractor utility company, Unelco, will operate and manage the Tanna and Malekula concessions for a term of 20 years.

The two concessions were managed by the Department of Energy (DOE) before the signing took place.

NGEF Funds First-ever Solar Street Lights For Shefa Provincial Council

The National Green Energy Fund (NGEF) Board approved and committed up to 8 million Vatu in loan funding to the Shefa Provincial Council's 'Let there be light' Project for the installation of solar streetlights at Beverly Hills, Blacksands and Bladinier Estate in Port Vila.

'Let there be light' is an initiative by the NGEF and the Shefa Provincial Government to address lighting in areas outside the Port Vila Municipal Council boundary where lighting is limited and crimes have been identified as high.

Beverly Hills received its first installations on Wednesday 15th June and was expected to achieve completion of 29 streetlights by Friday 17 June.

Blacksands is the next site with 11 streetlights and finally Bladinier with approximately 40 street solar lights.

Designed to meet lighting challenges in the mentioned areas, the solar street lights are being supplied and installed by Energy4All who was successful with winning the tender and is one of the NGEF first-ever street lights project.

NGEF extends its appreciation to UNELCO for the support in the design of the product and planning for the construction of each post in all the three sites.

The NGEF Project that provided funding for this project, through a loan facility, is hosted under the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation.

Beverly Hills



Delegation Participates in UN Climate Negotiations in Germany

Vanuatu delegates gathered with the rest of the world in Germany from June 6 to 17, 2022 to discuss the earth's future, which is currently being threatened by climate change.

Vanuatu's National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction had successfully obtained full donor funding to send a delegation of eight climate negotiators to the United Nations (UN) climate change conference in Bonn, Germany, to push for more action and support for the benefit of the people of Vanuatu.

Vanuatu's participation at

this climate conference in Germany was an important build-up towards the COP27 UN climate change conference that will take place later this year in Egypt. Similar past UN climate negotiation processes by Vanuatu have resulted in billions of vatu for resilient development, now being implemented in communities in all provinces and islands. For example, climate funds secured by the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation across multiple climate projects at all levels have been used to build and rehabilitate roads, airports, wharves, clinics, water supply systems,

evacuation centres, schools, agricultural plantations, fisheries and even document traditional knowledge.

UN climate finance has, in the last few years, built climate-proof local area council field offices in Central Pentecost, South Santo, South Erromango and even Loh, Torres.

It has upgraded water supply systems and rain water catchments in hundreds of villages around the country. Climate finance has been channelled to the Public Works Department to build climate-proof access roads across the nation.

Climate finance is responsible for new Government policies

and for the tailored climate forecasting and early warning systems which so many people rely on.

Commonly it is climate change funding that is actually supporting the critical community and island operations of our line agencies and departments, and even funding the work of our local NGOs and Civil Society Organisations.

The enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution indicates that Vanuatu will require more than \$1.2 billion US, to be funded by our donor partners, through 2030 to implement our most urgent mitigation, adaptation and loss & damage needs.

Protecting Wetlands For People & Nature

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on February 2 to raise awareness about wetlands.

This year's theme, as set by the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands, is "Wetlands Action for People and Nature".

The 2022 theme highlights the importance of actions to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands for humans and the health of the planet.

Vanuatu is party to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention),

whose activities in the country are carried out by the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) under the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation. The first site for Vanuatu that DEPC has registered as the first internationally recognised Ramsar wetland site is Lake Letas on Gau. Lake Letas is Vanuatu's biggest lake and one of the largest volcanic lakes in the Pacific. The Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty

that provides the framework for national action and International cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Vanuatu has around 13 sites that qualify as national wetlands and these include Lake Letas on Gau, 'Duck' Lake above Teouma on Efate, Port Stanley on Malekula and Blue Hole on Santo.

The United Nations General Assembly last year in August adopted a Resolution that established February 2 as World Wetlands Day.

Lake Letas



Let's We
Forget



Major Natural Disasters That Enhanced Resilience of the People of Vanuatu

Cyclone Uma

February 1987
1 Dead



Tsunami

November 1999
Bay Martelli
Pentecost
5 Dead

1

2

Cyclone Pam

March 2015
6 Dead



Earthquake

January 2002
Port Vila
No Dead

4

3

Volcanic Eruption

2017 - 2018
Ambae



Cyclone Harold

April 2020
1 Dead

5

6

COVID-19

Though this is not a natural disaster, the ripple effects of this infectious disease was global as Vanuatu's economy took a hit after borders were closed, resulting in no international tourism arrivals

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