



Government of the Republic of Vanuatu

National Disaster Management Office

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Web: <http://www.ndmo.gov.vu/>



NEOC Situation Update

Response Name	Novel Coronavirus (COVID19) Tanna Ash fall Potential Cyclone
Situation Report	02
Date	01 April 2020
Reporting period	25 March 2020 – 01 April 2020
Provinces affected	All
Attachment(s)	Table of confirmed cases in the Pacific Region International Advisory 10 COM's decision no.16 of 2020 State of Emergency Regulation Order no. 41
NEOC Status	Activated - Wednesday 11 March 2020
Next SITREP	Friday 03 2020

Situation Overview

COVID 19

The National Disaster Management Office takes lead on the overall coordination of the COVID19 operation while the Health Cluster leads the medical aspects of the operation.

As at 26 March 2020, a **State of Emergency** Declared by the Head of State, His Excellency Obed TALLIS Moses. **The declaration of SoE is for a period of 2 weeks** effective as of the date of declaration.

Pertaining to the SoE declaration, SoE regulation measures were announced in a press statement by the Prime Minister, Honorable CHARLOT Salwai.

The COVID-19 response is currently at **scenario 2¹**.

Tanna Ash fall

An assessment team was deployed on 31 March 2020 to assess the current ash fall situation on Tanna and will be compiling a report for further response if necessary.

Potential Cyclone

In accordance to the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geo-Hazards Department (VMGD) weather outlook, there is potential for a cyclone to form around the Vanuatu waters and the public is advised to be on alert.

¹ COVID-19 Scenario 2: Some cases suspected or confirmed in Vanuatu including the state of Emergency declaration.

Highlights

- **No confirmed cases in Vanuatu.** The results of the 11 test samples from Aneityum that were sent to New Caledonia on the 25th of March came back negative.
- The Council of Ministers (COMs) decision no.16 of 2020 recommended Financial and Economic Stimulus with instructions for respective sectors to implement.
- 35 Vanuatu and Solomon Islands Force members that were quarantined in Holiday Inn Resort due to having contact with the Aneityum community during the 2020 General Elections were released on 26th March 2020 based on the above results.
- The Auki Solomon Islands patrol boat that was detained pending the release of the Solomon Islands Force members from quarantine site, was released on Monday 31st March 2020.
- Hand washing stations are installed in public areas and social distancing is practiced.

General Coordination

- The NEOC to coordinate this COVID19 operation with respective sectors and Provincial disaster officers.
- All ports of entry in Vanuatu for both land and sea were suspended as at 26 March 2020.
- The Logistics cluster is working with Joint Police Operations Centre (JPOC) to ensure all instructions outlined in the advisories and SoE regulation measures are adhered to.
- As at 28 March 2020, an Advisory Team consisting of Senior Government Officials from designated Departments joined the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) to assist the NDMO in implementing prevention and containment measures to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in the region and Vanuatu.
- A component of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) response plan is to ensure adequate locally sourced food supplies are readily available during the COVID-19 emergency period.
- Currently Inter-island shipping is limited to cargo transfers only while domestic flights are postponed but will be allowed on a case by case basis.
- Schools in Sanma, Shefa and Tafea are currently giving out home school package for students.
- Any COVID-19 related information has to be approved by NDMO and health cluster prior to it being published. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer(OGCIO) will ensure this is implemented
- The public is advised to adhere to curfews as regulated in the State of Emergency Order no. 41 of 2020.

Further Information

- **Health Update:**
 - **NDMO:**
 - **Prepared by:**
 - **Approved by:**
- toll free: 119 | www.covid19.gov.vu
www.ndmo.gov.vu | m.facebook.com/ndmo.gov.vu
NDMO Information Management Unit
Director, National Disaster Management Office





Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) **INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY #10**

SITUATION UPDATE

There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Vanuatu. In the Pacific region, there are currently confirmed cases in Australia, French Polynesia, Fiji, Guam, New Caledonia and New Zealand. Should a case be detected in Vanuatu, the Ministry of Health's Emergency Medical Team are on standby with dedicated quarantine facilities in Port Vila and Luganville. A thorough response plan is ready should it be required.

All Government agencies and state-owned enterprises operating within Vanuatu's international ports of entry (seaports and airports) have been advised on the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration of a global pandemic of COVID-19 on March 11 2020.

The Ministry of Health under the coordination of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) will continue to revise the surveillance program for COVID-19. The Health Cluster operations has adopted the WHO's revised definitions for suspected, probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 as the basis for Vanuatu's response to this disease. These definitions can be found on [WHO's website](#).

Vanuatu continues to enhance its surveillance response measures has further updated the advisory as follows:

GENERAL NOTICE TO ALL TRAVELLERS INTENDED TO COME TO VANUATU

- 1.1. **As of March 26 2020, the President of the Republic of Vanuatu has declared a State of Emergency (SoE).**
- 1.2. **All ports of entry into Vanuatu for both land and sea have now been officially suspended.** These measures have been taken to minimize the risks of importing COVID-19 into the country and to keep Vanuatu free from the virus.
- 1.3. Special considerations will be provided for any medivac in exceptional cases with consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

FOR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS OF VANUATU ONLY

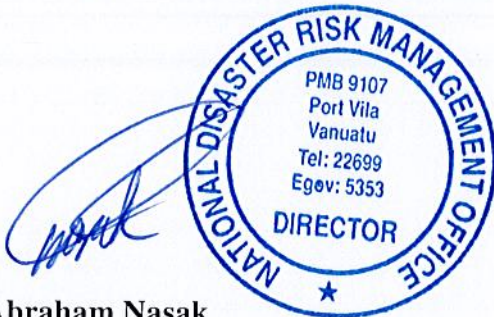
- 1.4. All travels in and out of Vanuatu have been suspended for 14 days effective from March 26 2020.
- 1.5. Vanuatu citizens stranded in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Noumea are asked to contact the respective Vanuatu missions in these countries – please refer to contacts further below.
- 1.6. All Foreign Nationals with visas expiring soon or have expired are advised to bring their passport to the Department of Immigration for the issuance of an appropriate visa to remain in Vanuatu during the COVID-19 crisis
- 1.7. As of today, only general cargo boats, oil, gas and fuel tankers will continue to function as usual but with strict requirements. An exemption is given to fishing boats that operate and remain only within Vanuatu's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and will be monitored by the Department of Fisheries, Ports and Harbour and the Vanuatu Maritime Surveillance Wing.
 - 1.7.1. The Master of all foreign going vessels coming into Vanuatu **MUST** provide the following documentation to the Harbour Master and the Health Surveillance Team within 24 hours prior to arrival:
 - a. Voyage Memo (outlining all ports visited during the past 14 days)**
 - b. Maritime Health Declaration (certifying health condition of crew and captain on board)**
 - c. Vaccination List (outlining any case of outbreak on board)**
 - 1.7.2. The Harbour Master upon recommendation from the Health Surveillance Team will provide clearance to all incoming vessels, prior to berthing alongside the seaport.
 - 1.7.3. Crews and Captains showing symptoms of respiratory illness (flu, running nose, fever, headache, chest pain, or difficulty in breathing) or any other illnesses must report their conditions to the shipping Authorities and Health Authorities and must not leave the ship at any time while in Vanuatu.
- 1.8. All private, naval and scientific research vessels are suspended from entering Vanuatu waters with the exception for vessels approved for COVID-19 related missions.
- 1.9. All pre-loaded inbound air cargos destined to Port Vila are allowed subject to pre-screening by the Department of Customs in Vanuatu and approval by the NDMO

Note: This travel advisory #10 supersedes all previous advisories and is effective until the next travel advisory

For all queries regarding COVID-19: call our toll free number: 119.

Alternatively see Annex 1 for all relevant contacts.

Sign:



Mr. Abraham Nasak
Director

ANNEX 1

CONTACTS:

Doctor in charge, National Taskforce: Dr. Vincent Atua

Contact: 22100 or 112 (Emergency)

Mobile: +678 771 6135

Health Surveillance Monitoring: Mr Vanua Sikon

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Media Focal Person: Mr Russel Tamata

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Vanuatu Missions Abroad

Australia

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Mobile: +61 416 347 994

New Zealand

H.E Mr. Johnson Naviti

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Fiji

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New-Caledonia

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Monday 30th March 2020

**Hon. Gaetan PIKIOUNE (MP), Minister of Finance & Economic Management-
Government of the Republic of Vanuatu**

Dear Hon. Minister,

**DECISION N°016: VANUATU GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDED FINANCIAL &
ECONOMIC STIMULUS – COVID 19.**

The Council of Ministers (COM) held its second Urgent (2nd) meeting on Monday 30th March 2020.

Here are the decisions made during this meeting:

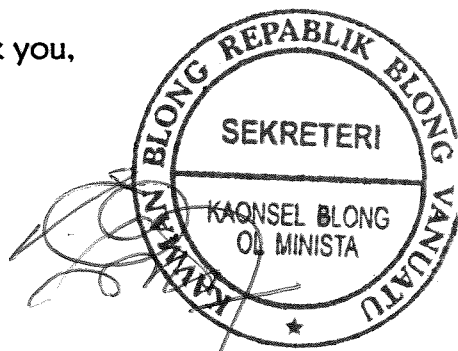
1. COM agrees the economic stimulus measures as described in Table 1 in the Financial Implications and Annex B, both of revenue and expenditure;
2. COM agrees to continue the Citizenship Program, subject to further review, in light of COVID-19 and other economic factors;
3. COM agrees to present a supplementary appropriation bill to Parliament as a matter of urgency requesting an additional 2% of the 2020 appropriation, amounting to VT 1,143 million, to fund the economic stimulus package. COM notes that this must be done before the end of April to ensure the government has sufficient cash flow to implement stimulus measures and that supplementary appropriations legally cannot be passed beyond the end of June 2020.

4. COM agrees to avoid taking on any further external loans but to issue domestic bonds in the order of VT 3.9 billion to help finance the stimulus response;
5. COM agrees to engage lenders to request deferral of payments of principal and interest on external loans until 2021;
6. COM agrees to authorise the amounts to be drawn down from the Public Fund under the Financial and State of Emergency provisions of section 34 C of the PFEM Act amounting to VT 857 million (1.5% for State of Emergency);
7. COM agrees to implement a coordinated communication strategy to ensure the above-mentioned decisions are well understood (The Ministry of Finance & Economic Management to oversee the success of its implementation);
8. COM agrees to authorise the Director General of Finance & Economic Management to work with SLO to enact necessary law to give effect to these decisions;
9. COM agrees to direct NDMO to consult with the Department of Customs regarding the clearance of imported health equipment and facilities that are directly related to COVID -19;
10. COM agrees to note that the Minister of Finance and Economic Management has temporarily suspended requirements for low value procurements in order to accelerate spending by agencies. This suspension may be extended and also applied to high-value procurement if necessary.
11. COM instruct the Ministry of Infrastructure & Public Utilities to accelerate implementation of the total VT 5.0 billion being for infrastructure development fund.
12. COM agrees to cancel the following taxes and charges for 2020 (No refund if already paid).
 - i. Road Tax
 - ii. Work Permit
 - iii. Business licence (other than commercial banks)
 - iv. Residence permit
 - v. Rent Tax
 - vi. Tuition fee exemptions capped to a maximum level of VT42,000 per annum per student for all schools for the whole year 2020;

13. COM agrees for the Government extend the copra subsidy scheme to the following commodities including Kava, coffee and cocoa.

14. COM has considered and agreed on directions N°5 to be issued by Director of NDMO under the State of Emergency (SOE) regulation Order N° 35 of 2020.

Thank you,



Esther Rory
Acting Secretary

CC: Hon. Prime Minister
Hon. DPM
All Hon. Ministers
All DGs
All 1st PA
Attorney General
Chairman of the Public Service Commission
Acting Director, Finance
Treasury Unit
DSPPAC
PRO



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

State of Emergency Regulation Order No. 41 of 2020

In exercise of the powers conferred on the COUNCIL OF MINISTERS by paragraph 69(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu, the COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, make the following Order.

1 Curfew on individuals

- (1) A person is prohibited from leaving his or her residential premises from 9pm to 4am.
- (2) Subclause (1) does not apply in the following circumstances:
 - (a) for emergency purposes; or
 - (b) for health reasons; or
 - (c) for performing a function related to an essential service.

2 Enforcement on a business

- (1) If a business breaches any provision under the State of Emergency Regulations or any directions issued by the NDMO, the Vanuatu Police Force is to close the operation of the business for a period of 24 hours.
- (2) If a business under subclause (1) continues to breach any provision under the State of Emergency Regulations or any directions issued by the NDMO, the Vanuatu Police Force is to close the operation of the business for the period of the State of Emergency.
- (3) For the purposes of subclauses (2) and 3 (2), **period of State of Emergency** means the period referred to under clause 2 of the Declaration of State of Emergency Order No. 34 of 2020.

3 Enforcement on an individual

- (1) If an individual breaches any provision under the State of Emergency Regulations or any directions issued by the NDMO, the Vanuatu Police Force may remand that individual for a period of 24 hours.
- (2) If an individual under subclause (1) continues to breach any provision under the State of Emergency Regulations or any directions issued by the NDMO, the Vanuatu Police Force may remand that individual, subject to a Court Order, for the period of the State of Emergency.

4 Commencement

This Order commences on the day on which it is made.

Made at Port Vila this 31 day of March, 2020.


Honourable CHARLOT SALWAI
Prime Minister

On behalf of the Council of Ministers

