



Tuesday 24th March 2020

**Hon. Bruno LEINGKONE TAO (MP), Minister of Climate Change Adaptation,
Meteorology and Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and National Disaster Management-
Government of the Republic of Vanuatu**

Dear Hon. Minister,

**DECISION N°015: REQUEST FOR A STATE OF EMERGENCY (SOE) FOR PURPOSES OF
STRENGTHENING PREVENTION AND CONTAINMENT MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

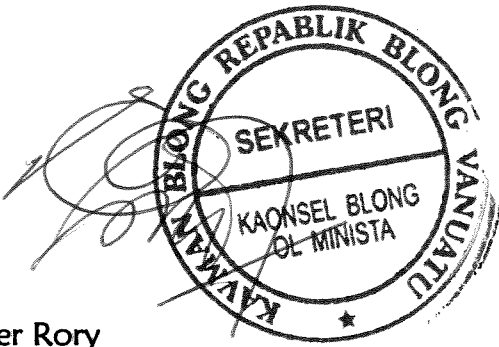
The Council of Ministers (COM) held its first Urgent (1st) meeting on Tuesday 24th March 2020.

Here are the decisions made during this meeting:

1. COM approves for the President to declare a State of Emergency (SOE) over the whole of Vanuatu for the prevention and containment of COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to CONSTITUTION;
2. COM approves that all Ministries to reprioritise resources towards COVID-19 response prior to utilization of emergency fund;
3. COM approves for MFEM to present to the next COM meeting: assessment of economic impact of COVID-19;
4. COM approves as part of SOE:
 - a. MOIA to ensure peace and security to be maintained.

- b. Improve health facilities according to IPC standards.
- c. Maintain good hygiene practices and social distancing.
- d. Limitation of social and public gatherings.
- e. Censorship of media information related to COVID-19.
- f. Ensure the continuation of all essential services.
- g. Anyone entering Vanuatu must undergo testing for COVID-19 prior to departure.

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
DPPAC
PRO