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JANUARY 2025

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TOP NEWS

Earthquake Recovery Cost Over VT29 Billion - ROC



The total estimated cost for recovery efforts following the recent earthquake in Vanuatu is projected to be 29,349,694,516 Vatu.

This figure underscores the significant resources required for rebuilding infrastructure, restoring services, and providing support to affected communities, highlighting the critical need for both local and international assistance to facilitate the recovery process.

The 7.4 magnitude earthquake has really affected the government's broadband network and infrastructure. Recovery Operation Center Director Mr. John Ezra says that there is a big need for repairs and rebuilding back of government system and coordination between government agencies and response team.



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17.12.24 Earthquake Vanuatu Government and Development Partners High-Level Round table Meeting.



Caretaker Prime Minister, Hon. Charlot Salwai Tabimasmas was present in the meeting to give his opening speech. The meeting focused on updating on Response and the Presentation of the National Recovery Plan which was presented by the Director of DSPPAC, Mr. John Ezra.

The Recovery Plan provides a roadmap to mobilize resources, coordinate efforts across sectors, and engage development partners in supporting the nation's recovery. It identifies key recovery projects and highlights the importance of building resilience against future hazards.

This plan will serve as a guiding document for ministries, stakeholders, and international partners to align recovery initiatives with the principles of sustainability and disaster preparedness.

Press Conference with Government agencies - ROC



At a press conference held today at the Prime Minister's Office, officials from various government departments presented updates on the recovery efforts following the recent earthquake.

The Director General of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Johnson Binaru reported significant progress in assessing structural damages, with plans to demolish damage buildings.

The Director General of the Prime Minister's Office emphasized the government's commitment to swift action and collaboration to aid recovery, urging citizens to remain resilient during this challenging time.

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ICL BECOMES PLATINUM SPONSOR FOR WOMEN'S CRICKET



Representing the government as a shareholder with the ICL, was Cheroi Ala, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, who praised both parties for their commitment. "Cricket is a growing sport in Vanuatu, especially among women."

"This partnership not only promotes the sport but also creates a safe space for women to come together, share experiences, and engage in positive dialogue," she said. She acknowledged the role of ICL in providing much-needed funding to support cricket activities in the provinces of Sanma and Tafea.

VCA CEO Tim Cutler emphasized the critical role that cricket and sports play in the nation's development, particularly in rebuilding efforts post-December's earthquake. He highlighted the longstanding success of the Island Cricket Program, which has been running for over 12 years, and how this new partnership will further boost its impact. Interchange Limited General Manager Niall Downey emphasized the company's commitment to the growth of women's sports in Vanuatu.

"Cricket is the highest-ranked sport in Vanuatu, with two of our women's teams among the top thirty in the world. We see this as an opportunity not only to support women in sports but also to aid in post-earthquake recovery efforts and bring smiles back to the people of Vanuatu," Downey said.

He also expressed confidence in the long-term success of this collaboration, highlighting how sports serve as a unifying force in society.

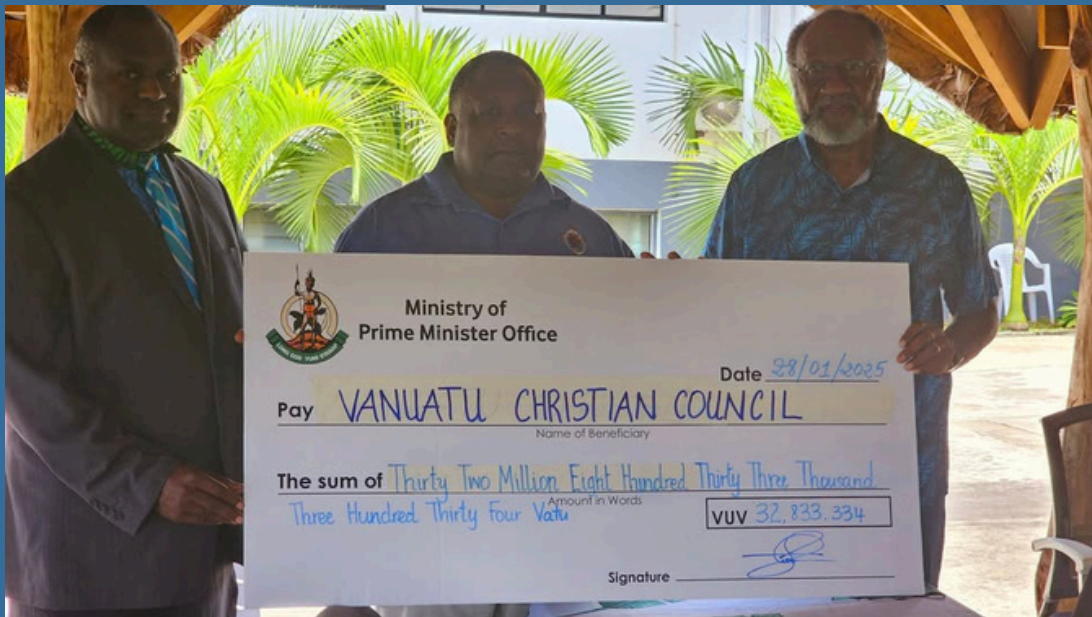
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JANUARY 2025

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Vanuatu Government and Vanuatu Christian Council Grant Hand Over



Caretaker Prime Minister Charlot Salwai Tabimasmias hands over a total of 32,833,334VT to Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC) as part of the other half of the Government grant which was handed over last year.

This other half was based on a report given by VCC detailing the Council's financial spending and operational activities.

The Caretaker Prime Minister expressed confidence in the VCC's commitment to transparency and effective use of funds, highlighting the importance of supporting community initiatives and the church's role in promoting social welfare in Vanuatu.

This half of the grant is expected to enhance the council's programs and outreach efforts, contributing to the overall spiritual development of the nation.