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MPM NEWSLETTER

Government Prepares for Earthquake Recovery Review

Government agencies have begun preparations for the After-Action Review (AAR) of recovery efforts following the December 17, 2024 Efate-Port Vila earthquake.

Following the earthquake, the Council of Ministers formally declared a 24-month Disaster Recovery Process period. This period, declared under the Disaster Recovery and Resilience Act No. 17 of 2024, will conclude in December 2026.

Vanuatu's disaster recovery and resilience legislative and policy framework recommends an After-Action Review as good practice to evaluate the effectiveness of recovery and reconstruction interventions undertaken by different actors during the recovery period. The review event is scheduled for November 30, 2026-December 4, 2026. It will assess progress, examine challenges and capture lessons to inform ongoing recovery and longer-term reconstruction.

National recovery is coordinated under the Prime Minister's Office through the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) and its Disaster Recovery Coordination Unit (DRCU), with oversight from the National Recovery Committee.

The AAR will draw on experiences from government agencies and recovery partners.

Opportunities for public input will also form part of the review, allowing people to share their experiences and perspectives on the recovery process. Details on how to contribute will be announced as preparations progress.

The conclusion of the designated recovery period marks a milestone, while longer-term reconstruction, including the Port Vila CBD rebuild, continues. Findings from the AAR will inform this ongoing work and strengthen future recovery arrangements, reinforcing a shared focus among government agencies, development partners, civil society and community leaders on "building back better" throughout recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The initiative aligns with Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030, the Vanuatu National Recovery Framework and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, and directly supports Priority 4 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.