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Press Release

GOVERNMENT REVIEWS STRUCTURAL DAMAGE REPORTS IN PORT-VILA CBD



DG PMO - CheroI ianna Ala getting an update report from Pierre Brunet Enterprise General and NZ contractors on the planned demolition of Chantilly's On The Bay and La Casa De Andrea in Port-Vila - 08 January 2025

The Government of Vanuatu is currently reviewing progressive assessment reports in anticipation on the extent of the structural damage in the Port-Vila Central Business District (CBD).

The Recovery Operations Center (ROC), led by the Office of the Prime Minister, is prioritizing detailed assessments and certifications of the most severely damaged buildings within the CBD to facilitate a gradual reopening of this key economic area.

As part of the recovery efforts, the demolition of two major buildings – *Chantilly's On The bay and La Case De Andrea* - in the CBD has been designated as a top priority. This will help ease traffic flow and ensure business continuity in parts of the city. Both building owners have voluntarily requested demolition after receiving their own structural assessments, and the government has intervened to facilitate the process.

In addition to the demolitions, further technical assessments are required for critical buildings such as Lolam House, Olympic House, and others. These assessments are carried out in multiple stages and may require third-party re-assessments, contributing to the delay in finalizing a recovery plan for the city.

Director General Cherol Ianna Ala emphasized the importance of safety throughout the process: "*We understand that demolition is a complex, highly technical process, and must be thoroughly investigated before proceeding. Safety remains the government's top priority. Our economic recovery depends heavily on how quickly and safely we can secure and clear the delimited no-go zones.*"

The government continues to focus on swift and secure recovery operations to restore normalcy to the Port-Vila CBD.

END

For further media inquiries, please contact:

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Approved by

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