

**GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**  
Department of Strategic Policy,  
Planning and Aid Coordination  
Private Mail Bag 9053, Port Vila  
Vanuatu  
Tel: (678) 23150 Fax: 25481



**GOUVERNEMENT DE LA  
REPUBLIQUE DU VANUATU**  
Service de Gestion Strategiques, de  
la planification et de la  
coordination des Aides Sac Postal  
Prive 9053, Port vila Vanuatu  
Tel : (678) 23150 Fax :25481

02 January 2025

## **Press Release**

### Recovery costs is over VT29.3 billion

A high-level Development Partners meeting at the Melanesian Hotel in Port Vila yesterday was told that the Recovery Cost for the recent 7.4 magnitude earthquake that rocked Port Vila and Efate on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, stands at VT29, 349, 694, 516.

This figure was presented as part of the Recovery Operation Plan by the Chairman and Coordinator of the Recovery Operation Center, John Ezra.

Mr Ezra who is also the director of the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) explained that the figure represents total estimates recovery costs collected from various sectors including Housing under which thousands of homes were destroyed or damaged leaving many families displaced and in need of shelter.

Education was also hit with schools in affected areas sustaining significant damage that will disrupt learning for many children. He said immediate priorities including repair of facilities, replacement of learning materials, and the integration of Build-Back-Better principles is in place to ensure safer learning environment.

The quake disrupted communication networks including damages to government broadband infrastructure. Mr Ezra said repairing these systems is essential for coordination among government agencies and emergency response teams.

The recover plan also sited widespread damage to water systems and contamination of water supply that poses significant health risks.

Emergency water trucking and repairs to damaged reservoirs and pipelines were activated, and with additional investments needed to fully restore and secure water supplies for communities.

"The earthquake caused extensive damage to roads, bridges and public buildings. Immediate repairs are required to restore connectivity and secure water supply for communities", Mr Ezra told the meeting.

Health has also been severely affected. In the first few days after the earthquake, hospitals were facing immense strain when managing injuries and preparing for potential disease outbreaks due to compromised water and sanitation systems.

The two hour meeting in cash and in kind sectors. With pledges for support and assistance from partners towards the affected



Approved By

John Ezra — Director (



+f

