Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 16 to 18 September 2010

This is a regular update on progress with the Millennium Challenge Corporation Vanuatu Project compiled by MCA-Vanuatu and the Design and Build Contractor – Downer EDI Works Vanuatu Ltd on behalf of the MCA-V Project Team.

MCA Update #84 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



Spraying the final section of first coat seal on the Santo East Coast Road in Port Olry.



Progress with sealing on Santo – – here Hog Harbour mamas celebrate the sealing of the road through their village.



Road Maintenance training, PWD SHEFA staff from left Wesley Simon, Philippe Firiam, Joel Langlois, Hathy Kalpukai, James Hakwa and Philip Morrison practice pavement fault identification on an old section of the Japanese Road

Santo Work

Very good progress is being made with sealing on Santo and the sealing crew have now completed the first coat seal all the way to Port Olry. They are now making good progress with widening the existing 5 m seal to 6 m wide.

Efate Work

Final tidy up and road marking is underway in Section 4 (between the Epule Bailey bridge and Neslep Crossing at Elownea Bay) as preparation for Handing – Over this length of finished road to The Employer late in September.

Starting on 20 September small teams will be counting the traffic travelling on the road at five locations around the island. This work is being carried out by MCA- Vanuatu and SHEFA PWD as part of the Project monitoring and evaluation and to gain information for road maintenance purposes. The traffic will be counted at the following locations; top of Klehm's Hill, Tanoliu, Takara, Pang Pang and Rentabao, between 5:00 am in the morning and 9:00 pm at night.

While awaiting the return of the sealing crew from Santo so that the remaining section of second coat seal between Eton and Rentabao can be completed, the construction crews on Efate have been undertaking a series of minor jobs necessary to achieve Project completion. These include entrance construction, quarry rehabilitation and the installation of gabion baskets to protect the road formation near the Mele Cascades. The planting crew from Eton Village are making good progress with establishing grass in the table drains near the village. A start will be made on the installation of a two cell box culvert at Dry Creek in late September.

Road users are urged to comply with the safety signs and the directions of traffic controllers at work sites. Again, we ask all drivers to refrain from speeding anywhere on the sealed road or where construction is underway. The roads are construction sites and used by pedestrians as well as other vehicles.

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In addition further information can be found on the MCA – Vanuatu website at www.mcavanuatu.gov.vu.

Next update will be provided on Thursday 23 September 2010