

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 29 April to 1 May 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 #68 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



Efate: Clearing vegetation re-growth from the table drains near Safaki. This work is being done by Downer workers, the next clearing work will be done using community contracts with the villages along the road.



Efate: A bulldozer ripping the ground to break up large rocks so that the table drains can be excavated near the 85 km mark. The D 155 A machine is operated by Jacky Kaltapiri while Alex Muramur provides guidance.



Efate: Last load for the day. The Cat 966 loader operated by Joel Kalsal loads the last truck for the day as other quarry workers place the covers to keep the stockpile dry overnight.



Santo: Clearing and widening on the road between Hog Harbour and Port Olry

Santo Work

This week better weather has enabled more progress to be made and clearing has reached the 52 km mark. This means there are now only 6 km left to widen and clear before reaching the end of the road at Port Olry. Final pavement conditioning and shaping is underway in the 38 km to 42 km section. Vatrath quarry is starting to be used. All operations will progress North as weather permits.

Efate Work

All heavy vegetation has now been cleared and widening is progressing through the farmland at the 86 km mark. This means that there is now only 6 km left before reaching the end of the Japanese road. Table drains have reached the 83 km mark. Pavement progress has again been affected by wet weather and continues slowly between La Cressonniere at the 69 km mark and Pang Pang at the 65 km mark. Guardrail, drainage and tidy up work continue on Klehm's Hill. Rock lined drain work is underway near the 2 km mark and the 67 km mark.

Traffic Controllers

Recently several cars and buses have driven past a traffic controller's "Stop" sign and through the worksite when they should have stopped and waited until the "Go" sign was displayed. If this happens Downer traffic controllers and other personnel are empowered to take a description of the vehicle and its driver so that these details can be given to the Police to follow up. Disregarding the traffic controllers is a serious safety concern, especially when it is a bus full of passengers.

Traffic Conditions

Klehm's Hill is open to two way traffic overnight. During the day when guardrail, drainage and tidy up work is underway traffic restrictions may be required and controllers will be on duty between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm. Road users are urged to comply with the safety signs and the directions of the traffic controllers on site. 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 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 6 May 2010