

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 #75 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



Efate: Starting at the End: Downer plant at the end of the Japanese Road working back towards Erueti to utilise drier pavement material. Only 5 km of old road remain to be overlaid.



Efate: Lakenasua Floodway. Excavating the upstream side of the reconstructed structure.



A sign that means what it says. This sign is placed on newly sealed sections and advises drivers that they should drive slowly because there are loose stones on the road. 30 km/hr is the speed limit.



One of MCA – V posters expressing concern at the abuse of newly installed signs. These posters are being displayed on village notice-boards.



Santo: Rock lined drain under construction on the Champagne Beach Hill. This work is now nearly complete.



Santo: The widened road through Hog Harbour village. The football field is in the back ground on the left.

Santo Work

Quarry operations have transferred from the Vatrath Quarry to the Maour Quarry at the 52 km mark and the pavement team are now working from this quarry back towards the previous work front at the 49 km mark. This means there are now only 8 km of overlay to do before the total length to Port Olry is complete. Side drains have now been completed through Hog Harbour. There are now only 12 of the 750 mm diameter culverts left to lay. Rock lined drain work is underway on both sides of Hog Harbour and the final length of guardrail for the Santo Project is nearing completion at the Blue Hole at the 48 km mark north of Hog Harbour.

Efate Work

Wet conditions have again disrupted operations on Efate this week. After reaching the 87.2 km mark the pavement construction crew jumped to the 92.6 km mark to utilise drier material and have now only 5 km of overlay left to place. Sealing remains at the 63.5 km mark near Pang Pang village. Sealing will continue South to La Cressonniere as weather permits. Reconstruction of the floodway at Lakenasua is underway. Rock lined drain work is complete near the 11 km and 50 km marks. Guardrail construction is underway at the 67 km mark near the old mine at Forari.

Bigrod Sefti Posta Kompetisen Display

Arrangements have been made to display the art work created by pikinini from areas associated with the MCA - Vanuatu Efate Ring Road and the Santo East Coast Road Projects at the Espace Culturelle from Monday 28 June to Thursday 1 July. This display space is located on the Father Walter Lini Highway next to the French Embassy.

Traffic Conditions and Road Safety

Klehm's Hill is now open to two way traffic without restriction. Road users are urged to comply with the safety signs and the directions of the traffic controllers at the various 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.

Several sections of the road between Klehm's Hill and Epule have had a third coat of tar seal applied to areas where traffic stresses are high. These are generally sections of hills and corners. Drivers should note the signs that have a 30 km/hr speed limit with the warning message "Loose Stones Drive Slowly." These signs mean what they say. A temporary speed limit of 30 km/hr applies to all the newly sealed sections of road.

Abuse of Road Signs

MCA-Vanuatu is currently disseminating a public notice to communities adjacent to the Efate Ring Road concerning vandalism of road signs. Road signs are one of the effective safety measures for both drivers and passengers. By removing the signs, people's lives along the road are put at risk for any potential tragic accidents to occur as they need to be warned about driving at certain speed limits.

Recently, there has been an increasing level of abuse on road signs along the road from either getting stoned, twisted around to misinform users or stolen. MCA-Vanuatu is very concerned about this inappropriate action and is appealing to community leaders for their assistance to ensure that the level of abuse is reduced to zero tolerance.

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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 1 July 2010