

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 28 to 30 January 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 #55 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



Epule and Matarisu custom dancers assembling on the decorated Epule Bailey Bridge to celebrate progress with the sealing of the road.



Chief David of Pangpang speaking at the end of the “Rod Sefti Awenes Blong Pikinini” session held in advance of roadworks commencing near the village.



The first strip of concrete pavement reaches the bottom of Klehm’s Hill. Traffic is now using the concrete pavement near the top of the hill. Overall this work is nearly half finished.

Highlights

Sealing on Efate reaches the 48 km peg near Epule Quarry. Sealing equipment barged to Santo.

Santo Planned Work

Pavement construction has reached the 33 km peg and will continue progressing North of Velit Bay. After the equipment arrives on a barge from Efate, sealing will recommence this week and the stretch between the 17 km peg and 34 km peg is expected to be sealed while the equipment is on Santo.

Efate Planned Work

Clearing and widening work will continue to progress towards Pangpang. Side drains and pavement will be constructed between Elu and Pangpang. Pavement overlay will continue between Epau Village and Elu.

Bigrod Sefti Posta Kompetisen

The posters have been collected from villages and are now being judged. Winners of the Santo Competition will be announced at the Hand-back Ceremony to be held on 3 February at Lopelope and the Efate winners will be announced at the Hand-back Ceremony to be held on 4 February at Takara.

Celebration

On Saturday 23 January the Chiefs and villagers of Matarisu and Epule held a ceremony at Toara Seule’s house to celebrate the seal reaching this section of the Efate Ring Road. Downer EDI Works would like to extend a big thanks to the Chiefs and all the people who worked to make this a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. The food was plentiful and delicious.

Traffic Cautions

Traffic flows on Klehm's Hill will continue to be restricted to one lane while the guardrail and concrete pavement is constructed. There will also be some total road closures of up to 30 minutes while the concrete trucks discharge. Twenty-four hour traffic control will be in place and 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. The roads are construction sites and used by pedestrians as well as vehicles.

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Next update will be provided on Thursday 4 February 2010