

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 4 to 6 February 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 #56 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



The Santo East Good Will Highway Celebrations held on 3 February with US Ambassador Teddy Taylor receiving a mat from the Chief at Surunda after the performance of a custom dance.



VIPs planting Namele Palms as part of the Santo East Good Will Highway Celebrations. From left to right US Ambassador Teddy Taylor, New Zealand High Commissioner Jeff Langley, Prime Minister Edward Natapei, Minister of Infrastructure & Public Utilities Serge Vohor, and Minister of Finance Sela Molisa.



Drinking a toast at the Santo East Road celebration at Lopelope. From left to right the President of SANMA Province, The Prime Minister of Vanuatu, The New Zealand High Commissioner and the US Ambassador.



The Prime Minister of Vanuatu Edward Natapei making the Keynote address at the ceremony held on 4 February at Takara to celebrate progress with the Efate Ring Road.



VIPs drink kava after unveiling a plaque recording progress with the Efate Ring Road at Takara.



VIPs and locals dance in front of the stage near the end of the Efate Ring Road progress celebration at Takara

Highlights

Hand-back Ceremonies to celebrate significant milestones with the road reconstruction work were held on 3 February at Lopelope on Santo and on 4 February at Takara on Efate.

These widely attended events included high level Government officials including His Excellency, the President of Vanuatu, Prime Minister Natapei, the new US Ambassador to Vanuatu Teddy B. Taylor, the US Department of State from Washington DC, members of the SANMA and SHEFA Provincial Governments, members of the Diplomatic Corp, MCA – Vanuatu and MCC.

The celebration included lunch receptions for the public and VIP guests and local cultural performances and entertainment. As part of the event the names of the winners of the “Bigrod Sefti Posta Kompetisen” were announced for both Santo and Efate. More photos and articles on both great events will be appearing in the media.

Santo Work

The sealing equipment arrived by barge from Efate and recommenced sealing work on the Santo East Road. Pavement construction has reached the 34 km peg and will continue progressing North of Velit Bay.

Efate Work

Clearing and widening work has reached Pangpang. Side drains and pavement construction will continue between Elu and Pangpang. Pavement overlay will progress between Elu and Pangpang.

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 11 February 2010