

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 1 to 3 July 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 #76 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



Epau Villagers walk across the recently reconstructed Epau River Crossing during the recent flood. After the waters receded, the structure was found to be undamaged.



Father Michael Tavoia blesses the road at Klehm's Hill as SHEFA President Lami Sope and NZ Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully (centre) watch.



Some of the visitors to the Bigrod Sfeti Posta Kompetisen display in Port Vila



A Downer EDI Works Vanuatu grader and roller smoothing the road near Eton after the recent heavy rain and floods.

Santo Work

Quarry operations continue from 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. There are now only 7 km of overlay to do before the total length to Port Olry is complete and only 2 of the 750 mm diameter culverts left to lay. Rock lined drain work is underway near the blue hole North of Hog Harbour. All the guardrail work is now complete.

Efate Work

Very heavy rainfall caused widespread flooding in East Efate on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Many streams and rivers flooded over the road, particularly at Dry Creek and La Cressonniere. Downer EDI Works Vanuatu staff constructed a temporary access at Dry Creek on Wednesday 30 June to still allow access by users. However, the flood water at La Cressonniere is not expected to be low enough to allow the road to be reconstructed there until Saturday 3 July.

No new pavement was constructed during the week and there are still 5 km left to overlay. Sealing remains at the 63.5 km mark approaching Pang Pang village. Sealing will continue South to La Cressonniere as weather permits. Reconstruction of the floodway at Lakenasua has also been affected by the flooding event but with the improvement of weather conditions, work is now underway again.

Klehm's Hill Blessing and Dedication

After requests by local people a short ceremony, hosted by SHEFA, was held on Mr Klorie's property at the top of Klehm's Hill to bless and dedicate the new section of road. The President of SHEFA Province, Mr Lami Sope and Mr. Simeon Athy, Chairman of the MCA – Vanuatu Steering Committee outlined the changes and benefits of the new road. The NZ Foreign Minister Mr Murray McCully also delivered a response. A choir and local string band from Mele Village provided entertainment..

Traffic Conditions and Road Safety

Crews are working in a variety of places repairing the damage done during the floods earlier in the week. 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.

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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 8 July 2010