

Port Vila Urban Development Project (PVUDP)

PROGRESS UPDATE

FEB 2017

ROAD SEALING; ONE STEP IN A SERIES OF IMPROVEMENTS TO PORT VILA ROADS

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The Government of Vanuatu in Partnership with the Australian Government and Asian Development Bank (ADB) are funding the Port Vila Urban Development Project (PVUDP) as one of the major investments in the nation's capital. PVUDP will contribute to sustainable urban development in Port Vila through improved road, drainage, sanitation infrastructure and services. The project duration is from February 2013 to December 2018.



Urban Roads and Drainage Phase 1 contractor, RMS, and sub-contractor Downer, began road sealing in January. The project will seal 13 km of Port Vila roads with a double coat of rubberized bitumen seal (hot tar). This waterproof coating

is just one step in a series of improvements to Port Vila roads. Road potholes were filled prior to the sealing activity. Once sealing works are complete the roads will be tested for several months to address any faults (cracks or

potholes) that may develop. During this same period the contractor will continue with drainage works and kerb and footpath. Once these are complete, there will be 40 mm of asphalt applied to 7 km of the road network.

UTILITY PROVIDERS COOPERATE TO ‘FUTURE PROOF’ PORT VILA ROADS

Achievements

A major achievement to Port Vila infrastructure has been brought about by the Department of Lands working with PVUDP surveyors. Department of Lands have installed 24 new Permanent Survey Markers (PSMs). These are major reference points that provide long-term, accurate information, which will enable all future projects and local surveyors to confidently connect to accurate survey marks from Tagabe roundabout through to Wharf road roundabout along the scope of the PVUDP road network.

This process involved static surveys using a GPS receiver to set horizontal levels with data from multiple satellites. Precise levelling equipment was employed to set verticle heights, achieving a sub 10 mm accuracy. This is a significant improvement from previous survey marks.

UNELCO and TVL are working closely with PVUDP to 'future proof' the roads, by installing shared utility conduits under the road before the asphalt surface is laid. Organising utility

access in this way will safeguard our road assets for the future. Road users can expect to see RMS laying utility conduits as well as drainage pipes across the newly sealed roads.

Rest assured these locations will be completely bitumen sealed before the 40 mm asphalt is applied to 7 km of road surface.



Utility conduits being laid under the road



Safety strip laid across buried conduits

RMS TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS: BRAVE WOMEN WORKING ON THE ROADS

Alice Ruth is one of five female traffic controllers currently working with RMS on Urban Roads and Drainage Phase 1. Alice and her colleagues have had to face extraordinary challenges on the work site. Traffic controllers have been physically and verbally abused by bus and taxi drivers with reports raised to the police regarding 5 incidents. In one instance a bus driver is alleged to have purposely bumped his vehicle into a traffic controller! After reporting the incident

to the police the RMS traffic controller returned to work at the road-side only to have the same driver jump from his vehicle and chase the group of traffic controllers off the road. Even after such incidents, these brave women continue to come to work, often working night shifts and weekends and working on the road-side in all kinds of weather.

The Government asks for patience and human decency from all drivers while the roads are being improved. Improved roads and drainage will benefit everyone, especially those



Alice Ruth has been working as a Traffic Controller with RMS since April 2016

in the transport industry. Traffic Controllers must be respected and obeyed.

PVUDP TARGET COMMUNITIES CLEANER AND BETTER EDUCATED ABOUT HEALTH, HYGIENE & SANITATION

In completing their involvement with PVUDP, World Vision Vanuatu commissioned an independent evaluation to assess changes within the project's 7 target communities. Support activities were aimed at improving community health, hygiene and sanitation and increasing the capacity of Sanitation Committees (SCs). SCs were established to operate and maintain the community toilets, showers and laundry facilities being constructed under PVUDP. The independent evaluation assessed change against data from a 2014 baseline study. The 2016 evaluation

identified the most significant changes in the communities as:

Communities are visibly cleaner – 45% of people surveyed in 2016 stated this was the major change they had seen in their community.

People have a greater understanding of the links between good hygiene and health – 52% of respondents understand that diarrhoea is caused by not washing hands after using the toilet compared to only 15% in the 2014 baseline survey.

More people are washing their hands at critical times – 91% of survey respondents in 2016 said they could wash their hands when needed.

69% cited the importance of washing hands before eating compared to 42% in 2014.

Sanitation Committees are better maintaining existing facilities – 48% of people surveyed in 2016 said their facilities are clean compared to 37% in the 2014 baseline. Only 20% said the facilities were not being cleaned compared to 60% in 2014.

Sanitation Committees are active and trusted in their communities – 68% of community members surveyed in 2016 claimed they are somewhat or very satisfied with the work of their Committee.

Pedestrian and Traffic Safety

It is very important that buses, private and corporate vehicles and persons walking on foot remain alert and use caution when in the area of road works. When the Contractor is spraying hot tar, or bitumen the road surface will be extremely hot and can melt shoes and vehicle tyres. Please stay clear of areas where drainage ditches have been dug.

Please follow the instructions of the traffic controllers, reduce speed and stay clear of all road works.

PORT VILA URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OUTPUTS:

Output 1: The Government has improved the road network and drainage system in greater Port Vila

Output 2: The Government has improved the sanitation system in greater Port Vila.

Output 3: Central area and settlement communities use improved hygiene facilities

Output 4: Government agencies and community and user organizations have the capacity to effectively and efficiently manage sanitation, roads and drainage systems.

All enquiries related to George Kalsakau Drive, Urban Roads and Drainage Phase 1, Septage Treatment Facility and construction of Community and Public Toilets please contact the project:

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