



Media Release
For Immediate Release

Govt pleased with reaching major consensus in VAIP works

Port Vila, 30th November 2018 – The Government is pleased to announce that it has been able to achieve a major breakthrough over an impasse between the Supervising Engineers and the Contractors of the Government's key priority project – the Vanuatu Aviation Investment Project (VAIP), which is currently fixing three of the country's main airport infrastructures at Bauerfield in Port Vila, Pekoa on Santo and Whitegrass on Tanna.

Newly appointed **Minister for Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Christopher Emilee** and **Chairman of the Vanuatu Project Management Unit Steering Committee, Johnny Koanapo**, who is also Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office declared that the impasse, the details of which cannot be divulged, had dragged on for sometimes even under the tutelage of the former minister and threatened at times to jeopardize progress.

Those differences have now been ironed out with the two parties vowing to work together with renewed verve, and in the interest of all parties, especially the Government and the people of Vanuatu as clients, to ensure that the airport works are completed and handed over by early 2019.

"We are really pleased with the outcome of our meeting this week with the contractors and the engineers. With our interventions both parties have now agreed all the terms and conditions of their relationship which will be based on mutual trust and understanding," **Minister Emilee and Parliamentary Secretary Koanapo** said.

"We are confident works will be delivered to the highest possible standards," they added.

Minister for Infrastructure Emelee personally visited the works at Bauerfield and is greatly satisfied with the outcome thus far.

The supervising engineers of the VAIP project are leading international engineering, architecture environment and construction company, GHD, while the contractors are China-based CCECC and Northwest JV.

Meanwhile, in other airport infrastructure projects, Minister Emelee confirmed that works on the Motalava airport will soon be announced by the Government, giving great confidence and assurance to local business there and the traveling public to the country's northern most province.

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