



Australian High Commissioner

Vanuatu

Handback of ADF Engineering works to schools on Efate

Tuesday 4 April 2023

Director Nanise Lapi

PEO Marcel Yamisu

Provincial Education Officer David Naviti

Principal Jack Morris from Etas Grace

Principal Norah Naviti Wells from Vila East

Principal Jean Marie from St Jeanne d'Arc

Principal Ericka Tom Kalsa from Pango Esnaar

Principal Daniel Toa from Sorovanga

Principal George Willietien from Central School

Ministry and Shefa Education Office Colleagues

Lieutenant Colonel Scott Jamieson (Defence Advisor)

Lieutenant Colonel Matt Dobney (6th Engineer Support Regiment)

ADF mo VMF colleagues

Ol pikinini and ol tijas

Tank-yu tumas lo welcome

Good moning long yumi everiwan.

Mi wandem tekem opotuniti ia blong aknolejem ol Jifs mo ol traditional owna blong land we yumi mit long hem tedei.

Yumi kam out lo wan had time afta Saeklon Judy mo Kevin bae yumi luk resilience so yumi stanap strong.

I gat fulap man mo woman we i wok hard blong mekem house blong olgeta i stanap, kaikai mo wota i gat, tents i go out.



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Mo tu blong mekem se edukeasen hemi wan prioriti mo learning hemi continue, evriwan e bin wok had.

Mi wandem talem bigfala Tankyu long Ministri blong Edukesen mo Trening mo Shefa Provincial Edukesen Ofis long leadership mo wok blong yu blong mekem se ol skul oli save operate bakeken. Hemi wan big big wok.

Mi wandem talem Tankyu tu, long ol prinsipols we oli wok wetem ADF mo VMF blong mekem se ol repair wok i complete mo ol pikinini mo tija i save usum ol skul bakeken.

Education olsem mi talem hemi kam wan ‘essential service’ las yia, hemi impoten se ol pikinini e ko bak long skul

Australia mobilised quickly to support the Government of Vanuatu’s response to TC Judy and Kevin, through the National Disaster Management Office.

You will have seen the helicopters, trucks, personnel and the HMAS Canberra in town, all here in support of the Vanuatu Government’s response effort.

Last week, we farewelled HMAS Canberra but we were fortunate that a team of 62 Australian Defence Force engineers remained in Vanuatu to finish important works at schools and health facilities.

To the amazing ADF engineers and VMF who worked tirelessly to complete repairs to 19 classrooms at six schools, including at Etas Grace – I want to say thank you for your hard work and for bringing your expertise and dedication to Vanuatu.

This a big work ADF has done and is an enduring example of the partnership between Vanuatu and Australia.

A big tank-yu to ADF personnel.

It is pleasing to be here today to see the good works that have been completed at Etas Grace that will enable students and teachers to re-enter the classroom.



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A bigfala tankyu tumas I go long ol ADF mo VMF memba we oli bin makem bigfala wok lo school ya

As Vanuatu transitions from response to recovery, we will continue to stand by Vanuatu in its recovery.

We are making sure that our existing programs are well aligned to the Government's disaster response.

Our education and skills programs, the Vanuatu Education Support Program (VESP) and the Vanuatu Skills Partnership (VSP) are retargeted to cyclone response and the need of Vanuatu Government

And our Humanitarian Partnership is supporting communities with water supply, food security, psychological and shelter needs over the next 12 months.

Blong klos, Tankyu bakeken lo warm werlcome, to everyone here for working with ADF and VMF and for making them a part of the Ministry's response to TC Judy and TC Kevin.

Tankyu tumas and Gud dei lo yumi everiwan