



Australian High Commission  
Vanuatu

30 June 2020

## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

### **Prime Minister Bob Loughman Weibur & Australian High Commissioner Her Excellency Sarah deZoeten launch Tafea Cooperative Guest House**

The Hon Prime Minister Bob Loughman Weibur and Australia's High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Her Excellency Sarah deZoeten, launched the Tafea Cooperative Guest House in Tanna on Tuesday.

"I thank the Government of Australia for its financial support to build the new Guest House, which is an enticer for the Government to rebuild the Tafea Cooperatives" Prime Minister Bob Loughman said. "It is a key policy of this Government to encourage productive sector, value addition and inter-island trade and I encourage Tanna land owners to plant and fish more to justify the Government's resurrection of the Cooperatives," said the Prime Minister.

"Following Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015, Australia worked with Vanuatu to build back better 63 public buildings, 204 classrooms, 73 health buildings and 19 cooperative buildings, including the lovely guest house we've launched today. We've continued this approach as Australia and Vanuatu work in partnership on the TC Harold recovery" said Her Excellency Sarah deZoeten.

The Tropical Cyclone Pam Recovery Program is a partnership between Vanuatu and Australia to support recovery focused on education, health, WASH, agriculture, public buildings, tourism and cooperatives. The program has been extended until December 2020.

Under the Cooperative Recovery Program, Vanuatu and Australia have rebuilt and renovated 19 cooperatives across Tafea, Shefa and Malampa provinces, in partnerships with the cooperative associations and through the Department of Cooperatives.

The Tafea Cooperative guest house was badly damaged by TC Pam and had to be rebuilt. The National Recovery Committee approved its reconstruction and the new guest house launched by the Hon Prime Minister and Australian High Commissioner is already booked out for its first week.

-END-



**Australian High Commission**  
**Vanuatu**

**Media Contacts:**

Fred Vurobaravu  
Government Public Relations Officer  
Office Of The Prime Minister  
Vanuatu  
Email: [fvurobaravu@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:fvurobaravu@vanuatu.gov.vu)  
Tel: 7799922 or 5959499

Elizabeth Harris  
Public Diplomacy Officer  
Australian High Commission  
Email: [Elizabeth.Harris@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Harris@dfat.gov.au)  
Tel: 22777 (extension 171)  
Mob: 77776387