

REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

DEPARTEMENT DU TRAVAIL ET DE L'EMPLOI



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Date: 20th December 2024

Subject: VANUATU LSU SUSPENSION OF SERVICE DUE TO IMPACT OF THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE

Dear Partners and stakeholders,

We wish to inform you that following the recent devastating earthquake that affected the capital city of Vanuatu, Port Vila on Tuesday 17th December 2024, several services, including flight connectivity, have been disrupted. In response to the situation, the Government of Vanuatu has declared a State of Emergency for a period of seven days, commencing from 17 December 2024 to 24 December 2024. As a result, all commercial international flights have been cancelled, and the relevant authorities are working diligently with airlines to ensure the resumption of flights as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Office of the Commissioner of Labour, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the Australian Government, New Zealand Government, and all Approved Employers for their unwavering support to our workers who are currently stranded in Australia and New Zealand during this challenging time. We are actively collaborating with the authorities to arrange for visa extensions for returning workers until the resumption of international flights.

We are closely monitoring the situation during the State of Emergency and would like to inform all stakeholders that, at this stage, the Department of Labour, through the Labour Sending Unit, is unable to provide precise dates for the departure of workers from Vanuatu into the receiving Countries (Australia and New Zealand). We kindly recommend that Approved Employers work directly with airlines to obtain updated information regarding rescheduled flight times and related details. Once we have confirmation of the resumption of international flights, we will promptly notify all concerned parties.

Additionally, please be advised that the following services from the Department of Labour & Employment Services will be suspended:

- Recruitment of Workers
- Mobilisation of Workers
- Pre-Departure Briefings (PDB)

This suspension is necessary to allow for an engineering assessment of the condition and safety of our buildings prior to the resumption of full operations.

Furthermore, any urgent services typically provided during the Christmas blackout period will also be suspended until further notice.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this time, and we remain committed to keeping you updated as the situation evolves. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

Kind regards,



Murielle MELTENOMEN
Commissioner of Labour
Department of Labour & Employment Services
Vanuatu