Tuesday 24th March 2020

Hon. Bruno LEINGKONE TAO (MP), Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology and Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and National Disaster Management-Government of the Republic of Vanuatu

Dear Hon. Minister,

DECISION N°015: REQUEST FOR A STATE OF EMERGENCY (SOE) FOR PURPOSES OF STRENGTHENING PREVENTION AND CONTAINMENT MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

The Council of Ministers (COM) held its first Urgent (1st) meeting on Tuesday 24th March 2020.

Here are the decisions made during this meeting:

1. COM approves for the President to declare a State of Emergency (SOE) over the whole of Vanuatu for the prevention and containment of COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to CONSTITUTION;

2. COM approves that all Ministries to reprioritise resources towards COVID-19 response prior to utilization of emergency fund;

3. COM approves for MFEM to present to the next COM meeting: assessment of economic impact of COVID-19;

4. COM approves as part of SOE:

   a. MOIA to ensure peace and security to be maintained.
b. Improve health facilities according to IPC standards.
c. Maintain good hygiene practices and social distancing.
d. Limitation of social and public gatherings.
e. Censorship of media information related to COVID-19.
f. Ensure the continuation of all essential services.
g. Anyone entering Vanuatu must undergo testing for COVID-19 prior to departure.

Thank you,

Esther Rory
Acting Secretary

CC: Hon. Prime Minister
Hon. DPM
All Hon. Ministers
All DGs
All 1st PA
Attorney General
Chairman of the Public Service Commission
Acting Director, Finance
Treasury Unit
DSPPAC
PRO