

VanKIRAP

Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redi, Adapt & Protekt | Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



VanKIRAP-VBTC partnership to bring climate information to the people

PORT VILA: For many in Vanuatu, accessing reliable information about climate and weather can be hard. A new media partnership will use the Vanuatu national broadcaster's almost 100% coverage footprint to bring everyone in Vanuatu quality, timely and relevant climate and weather information that they can use in their daily lives to plan for and respond to weather events and the changing climate.

The Climate Information Services for Resilient Development in Vanuatu project (known locally by its Bislama acronym, VanKIRAP) and the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation (VBTC) signed a partnership agreement last Friday to use VBTC's radio, television, and social media channels to deliver climate and weather information to the nation.

Vanuatu is one of the most vulnerable countries to the increasing impacts of extreme weather events and human-induced climate change. This includes climate-related natural disasters such as cyclones and droughts, as well as more slowly occurring climate change-related impacts like sea level rise and ocean acidification. This media partnership helps address this vulnerability by creating a better informed population, and by ensuring that reliable climate and weather information reaches everyone who needs it.

The partnership addresses Vanuatu's vulnerability to the changing climate by firstly extending the reach of the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD)'s climate and weather information services to the whole of the archipelago. Secondly, it embeds VMGD's meteorology and climatology expertise within the national broadcaster so that science-based information is included in all of VBTC's news reporting on climate variability, climate change, and extreme weather events.

Under the partnership, VBTC's audience will see a number of exciting changes.

For the first time, Vanuatu will have a dedicated climate and meteorology team that will present daily weather and climate reports on Television Blong Vanuatu (TBV), Radio Vanuatu, and on VBTC's Facebook page (the most popular page in Vanuatu, with 120,000 followers).

On TV, new animated weather graphics will visually explain what is happening with Vanuatu's weather and the climate. New programs devoted to making climate and weather information comprehensible will air on VBTC's television and radio stations.

New radio talkback programs will allow the audience to have their own questions about climate and weather answered by VMGD experts, and VBTC will also broadcast information from the VanKIRAP Project and VMGD as public service announcements.

At the signing ceremony held at VBTC's offices last Friday, Mr. Francis Herman, VBTC's CEO, said the partnership with the VanKIRAP Project "will help Vanuatu's communities to better understand climate variability, weather, and climate change".

Mr. Herman further explained that under the terms of the partnership, accurate and reliable climate and weather information will be disseminated through VBTC's different platforms, including Radio Vanuatu, Televisen Blong Vanuatu and Facebook.

He also introduced two new VBTC climate reporters, Tiffany Baldwin and Sonia Dick, who he says have been hired to report on climate and weather issues. The two journalists will be working closely with the VanKIRAP Project's communications team to implement the programming and content components of the partnership.

VMGD's Director, Mr. Montin Romone, acknowledged VBTC and the VanKIRAP Project's work on establishing the partnership, as well as the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) managing role, noting that the partnership was the first of its kind for the Pacific Islands region.

Mr. Romone explained that "climate change is a cross-cutting issue that affects all sectors in Vanuatu", and that a key benefit of the partnership is that it "will be able to disseminate climate information messages to the last mile".

"With this partnership, climate information services will be able to reach not just the Government and non-government stakeholders, but most importantly, all of Vanuatu's people".

The VanKIRAP Project is housed at the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department and jointly managed by VMGD and SPREP, and funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The Project's goal is to equip decision-makers,

communities, and individuals with the information they need to respond to climate variability and change, using climate information services (CIS).

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About VanKIRAP

VanKIRAP (Vanuatu Klaemet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt) is a project based at the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) that is making climate information better, more relevant, and more accessible for people across Vanuatu.

VanKIRAP's goal is to support Vanuatu's resilient development by increasing the ability of decision-makers, communities and individuals to plan for and respond to the impacts of climate variability and change, using climate information services (CIS).

VanKIRAP is the Bislama name for the Vanuatu Climate Information Services for Resilient Development Project (CISRDP) project, which is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and jointly implemented by VMGD and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Find out more [here](#) or [follow us on Facebook](#)



Vanuatu Klaemet blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (Van-KIRAP) Project

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