

GOUVERNEMENT  
DE LA REPUBLIQUE  
DE VANUATU

MINISTERE DE L'EDUCATION ET DE  
LA FORMATION

DIRECTEUR GENERAL  
Sac De Courier Privé 028  
Port Vila, Vanuatu  
Tel : 22309  
Email : [ibergmans@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:ibergmans@vanuatu.gov.vu)



GOVERNMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF VANUATU

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING

DIRECTOR GENERAL  
Private Mail Bag 028  
Port Vila, Vanuatu  
Tel : 22309  
Email : [ibergmans@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:ibergmans@vanuatu.gov.vu)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL - BUREAU DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL

29th April 2020

Mrs. Esline Garaebiti  
Chairlady  
National Disaster Committee  
Port Vila

Dear Mrs. Garaebiti

**Re: Request All Schools to Observe the First Term School Holiday – 4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

This is to inform you that the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), Education Services Directorate (ESD) Heads of Department meeting dated, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> of April, have endorsed that the first term school holiday stipulated in the official 2020 School Calendar from the 4<sup>th</sup> of May to the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 2020 be observed by all schools within the six provinces in Vanuatu.

My office approves this important and strategic decision based on these main reasons;

1. Learning continuity was and still sustained through 'Homeschooling Packages' throughout the period of closure of schools' operation and was also applied after the re-opening of schools in Shefa and Tafea provinces with the arrangement of ensuring alternative classes to respect physical distancing and COVID19 health precautionary measures in Term 1.
2. While the country is under the SOE and the COVID 19 precautionary measures are still applied, the Ministry expects schools and teachers to work closely with the Teaching and Learning team of the Ministry and the provinces during Term 1 Holiday to review and strengthen the 'Homeschooling Packages' to effectively delivered in term 2 if the pandemic threats persist.
3. As approved by NDC and the office of the DG MoET, the non – affected schools by TC Harold in Malampa, Penama and Sanma are to re-open in week 13 in Term 1, schools therefore need to develop their plans on how they will manage health & hygiene and physical distancing, between students, staff and other members of the school community before the re-opening of schools operation in term 2.

4. The first term school holiday is very important for the Ministry, provincial education offices and the schools management and administration in the Northern provinces of Vanuatu. This will ensure at least a smooth transition for the repatriation and relocation of selected level students and teachers from severely damaged schools to non – affected schools within the provinces or beyond if necessary.
5. This period also facilitates the Ministry and development partners to better coordinate immediate responses such as the setting up of temporary learning centers (CLC) and the implementation of Psycho Socio Support activities initiated by the Ministry for teachers and student in preparation for term 2.
6. Teachers who are affected may need more time to renovate and properly resettled and be prepared for term 2.

With the above, I am recommending that all schools must observed the term 1 school holiday as stipulated in the official 2020 school calendar from the 4<sup>th</sup> of May to the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 2020.

I look forward to the National Disaster Committee's endorsement to this request.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Iati Bergmans  
**Director General**



Cc: Honorable Minister of Education & Training  
All Directors MoET  
File

Encl.