



**Media Release**

17<sup>th</sup> February 2016

*For Immediate Release*

## **Government signs airport emergency repairs contract**

Minister for Infrastructure and Public Utilities **Rt. Hon.** Jotham Napat, has signed off on the contract for emergency remedial works for the Port Vila Bauerfield International Airport, which will be constructed by New Zealand contractor, Fulton Hogan.

The contract signing follows the issuance of the letter of award last week Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February by the then Acting Director General of MIPU Johnson Wabaiat, to Fulton Hogan, which was the successful evaluated contractor for the emergency repair works.

Minister Napat made his intentions quite clear at the signing this morning that the incoming government is determined to restore pride and confidence in the country's tourism industry, which has been adversely affected due to delays caused primarily by the political shenanigans of the previous administration.

Meanwhile, Fulton Hogan is proceeding to mobilise upon receipt of the letter of contract award.

The following is a timeline agreed to by the contractor in order to deliver works as scheduled:

- 21<sup>st</sup> Feb – 10<sup>th</sup> March – Shipment of equipment and materials and site establishment.
- 14<sup>th</sup> March – commencement of works

Asphalt patching, which is the final stage of the works, is scheduled to commence on April 1<sup>st</sup> and be completed by the 6<sup>th</sup> of April.

The emergency repairs are expected to greatly improve serviceability concerns of the airline industry and return Bauerfield to a level that is appropriate. Other works such as crack-sealing and line-marking are also included in the 56-days period of the contract.

The remedial works are being funded through the World Bank loan at a cost of approximately Vt139 million. The same World Bank arrangement will fund the formulation of a new Airport Masterplan and an Aviation Sector Strategy which should help guide future development of the country's aviation industry. Other works such as runway overlay, including apron and taxiways will come in as part of a separate contract to be tendered out shortly.

*Ends/...*