

# Torba thanks donors, Government, contractor and stakeholders

By Harrison Selmen

**PRESIDENT FOR TORBA PROVINCE,** Erick Shedrack says the province recognizes and acknowledges every assistance towards the construction and establishment of the new National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in Torba.

Mr. Shedrack made the remarks during the opening of the new disaster building last Friday.

The Torba Provincial Government President thanked the European Union, World Bank, Vanuatu Government, Contractor (Loli Construction) and the other stakeholders for making this project become a reality.

He said everyone cannot deny the fact that disaster has no respect for anyone.

Shedrack urged the minister to make sure the new building has all the facilities with necessary equipment and human resources required to provide essential service as intended to the people of Torba.

He said the Torba islanders will now no longer rely on the main office in Port

Vila because they have a facility that will respond faster to the demands of the people of the province.

The new facility will service the people of Torba Province from Mere lava in the Banks group to Hiu in Torres Islands.

The Loli Construction Company completed the building within three months but the initial opening took more time before it was opened last week.

The building has two new water tanks, which are already providing rain water to the government workers serving at the Torba Provincial Headquarter on Sola.

Core Task Team leader for the Project, Tevi Obed says every three years the World Bank avails funds for the Vanuatu Government and Vanuatu gets around Vt3 billion.

This particular project was funded under a grant by the European Union, through the World Bank.

Secretary General for Torba Province, Ketty Napwatt, says it was their long-time wish to see the opening of the building after completion.



President of Torba Province Mr. Shedrack acknowledges the support and effort of Donor Partners, the Government, Contractors and all stakeholders for making the project a reality.

## Council of Regional Organisations ready to assist Member Governments implement the Paris Agreement

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“While the Paris Agreement is now in force, the key steps are to ensure it is operationalised and implemented at the national level so our Pacific islands feel the positive effects of this global treaty, we will all work together to support our islands,” said Mr Kosi Latu, Director General of the SPREP

The three pillars or key action areas of the Paris Agreement are (1) Mitigation (Articles 3-6); (2) Adaptation (Article 7); and (3) Loss & Damage (Article 8). For tangible action in those 3 key pillars, the following facilitation and support modalities are important for the implementation of the Paris Agreement: (1) Climate Finance (Article 9); (2) Technology Transfer (Article 10); Capacity Building (Article 11); and Education (Article 12).

“The University of the South Pacific’s mandate is in the areas of Capacity Building and Education and this is where USP can directly support Pacific Islands Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),” said Deputy Director of USP’S Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD), Dr Morgan Wairiu.

It is important to recognise that the ratification of the Paris Agreement is only the beginning of a long, hard road to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, the Pacific Community Director-General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga, said.

“Pacific nations must continue to exercise commitment and urgency in order to limit the negative impacts of climate change. This includes taking action to reduce the region’s heavy reliance on fossil fuels, for example by meeting obligations under the Majuro Declaration on Renewable Energy,” Dr Tukuitonga said.

Pacific leaders have continued to call for simpler access to global financing facilities for mitigation and adaptation activities in their countries, and CROP agencies are actively supporting this.

Dame Meg Taylor also reflected on value of the recent endorsement of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific to support implementation. “The new framework identified key actions that will guide CROP agencies to support Pacific Islands Countries respond to the risks and challenges posed by climate change.”

The Pacific Climate Change Centre will be a shared resource and regional climate hub for inclusive collaboration to meet the adaptation and mitigation priorities of Pacific island countries and territories, is one avenue to provide support for implementation of the Paris Agreement over the years to come.

Funded by the Government of Japan in partnership with the Government of Samoa and SPREP, the new Pacific Centre will be hosted in Samoa. It will be built and ready for action by mid-2018.

# Stevens siblings attend Pele ordination

By Len Garae

**TWO SONS OF THE JIMMY** Moli Stevens, late Founder of Nagriamel Movement at Fanafo, Santo, led a six member delegation to

attend the ordination of the Paramount Chief Maserei last Friday.

Loddy Stevens and his wife and his brother George Stevens, were with chiefs’ representatives of

the people of Maewo (for Penama Province), Fanafo (for Sanma Province) and Banks (for Torba Province).

While the public was not aware of the presence

of the delegation from the North, George Stevens said their presence was of relevant importance because Paramount Chief Maserei’s mother’s sister is their mother and the widow of

their father.

“Chief Maserei is my first cousin and it is only proper to attend his ordination as family as well as to give him morale support,” Gorge Stevens said.



Nagriamel delegation at Piliura Village