



Members of the PNG Needs Assessment team (front row) with the Director General and staff of the MSG Secretariat (back row), MSG Secretariat, Port Vila, Vanuatu

### **PNG Assessment Team Visits MSG Secretariat**

The Papua New Guinea (PNG) Needs Assessment team comprising of Officials from the Department of Prime Minister, National Disaster and Emergency Services, PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) and the Department of Health paid a courtesy visit to the MSG Secretariat this

morning to brief the Director General, Mr Peter Forau and his staff on their visit.

It is a follow up of an earlier visit by H.E Mr Fred Yakasa, PNG's High Commissioner to Solomon Islands and Mr John Balavu, Director General, Border and Security Cooperation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and an Official from the Department of Works.

The team informed DG Forau that the purpose of their visit is to identify needs caused by Tropical Cyclone Pam in order to determine the long term assistance to be provided by the PNG Government. This assistance by PNG would be in addition to the K5million immediate relief assistance given to the Government of Vanuatu last week.

The PNG Government's long term assistance would include the provision of PNG engineers to assist in the long term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Vanuatu.

The Director General thanked the team for their visit and expressed his gratitude to the assessment team for the briefing.

The team upon visiting relevant Government Departments and Agencies including the Vanuatu NDMO, intends to visit one of the worst affected islands to assess the extent of damages caused by tropical cyclone Pam.

The team departs next week.

***Authorized for release by the Director General*** □ □

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*MSG Secretariat*

*Port Vila*

*Republic of Vanuatu*