



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**BIOSECURITY VANUATU**

**AND**

**OFFICE OF THE MARITIME REGULATOR**



## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is made and entered into,

**BETWEEN** [PARTY A] Department of Biosecurity Vanuatu (BV)

And

[PARTY B] Office of the Maritime Regulator (OMR)

### **1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this MOA is to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each party for the implementation and enforcement of the Ministerial Order No. 11 of 2021 to control the movement of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). In particular, this MOA is intended to include the parties in their respective mandates and responsibilities to agree to work in collaboration to contain the CRB on Efate and prevent its spread to the other islands of Vanuatu.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

Biosecurity Vanuatu is mandated to protect Vanuatu's borders against the introduction and spread of foreign pests and diseases that could affect crops, animals, humans and the environment, and to enhance trade of Vanuatu's products. With the recent outbreak of CRB in early 2019, it has spread from its site of interception at Mangaliliu village to Port Vila. This is posing a great risk of spread to the other islands of Vanuatu via domestic shipping vessels and flights. It is also a risk to international vessels berthing in Port Vila Harbor. Due to the current risk of spread, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity made the Order No. 11 of 2021 to restrict the movement of agricultural goods in Port Vila and Control the movement of Vessels in Port Vila. To implement the current Ministerial Order, Biosecurity Vanuatu must work collaboratively under this MOA for the enforcement of this Ministerial Order.

The Office of the Maritime Regulator is a new independent Government owned entity that has been formed to regulate the maritime sector of Vanuatu. The main responsibilities include:

- (1) impose a maritime safety regime throughout Vanuatu which ensures the safety of vessels and their crews and passengers, and which

MT

(Km)



- complies with all applicable international Conventions and obligations,
- (2) Ensures the effective regulation of ports and port facilities through the promotion of efficient and safe port operations and the protection of rights of port users to access ports and port facilities on fair and equitable terms,
  - (3) Enshrine the principles of independence and best practice in relation to regulation of the maritime sector; and
  - (4) Promote the security of shipping and port operations, and to facilitate compliance with all security related aspects of applicable international maritime conventions,

As the regulator of the maritime sector, OMR shall undertake the responsibilities under its scope of work in line with the Ministerial order to prevent the spread of CRB to the other islands of Vanuatu.

### **3. [PARTY A] BV RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOA**

Biosecurity Vanuatu shall undertake the following activities under this MOA:

- 3.1 Receive shipping timetable from OMR;
- 3.2 Assist OMR conducting inspection of vessels during loading;
- 3.3 Supervise cleaning of used machineries, vehicles, and equipment;
- 3.4 OMR to assist BV conducting surveillance and monitoring to ensure vessels depart the wharf by 1600hrs each day.
- 3.5 OMR to assist BV in advising the vessel owners, captains, and crews to reduce the amount of light at night on the vessels berthing at the wharf.
- 3.6 BV to collaborate with OMR in conducting awareness to vessel owners, captains, crews, and passengers of the Ministerial Order No. 11 of 2021 and fees imposed if the Order is breached.
- 3.7 Conduct training & awareness and technical assistance to vessel crew on the importance of moving clean agricultural goods, clean machineries, vehicles and equipment.
- 3.8 Address issues and ensure corrective actions are implemented in a timely manner to comply with the Ministerial Order.
- 3.9 Impose penalty fines to persons or shipping vessel owners breaching the Ministerial Order No. 11 of 2021.

### **4. [PARTY B] OMR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOA**

Office of the Maritime Regulator shall undertake the following activities under this MOA.

- 4.1 Provide domestic shipping schedule departing Port Vila to Biosecurity Vanuatu.

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- 4.2 Certify time of departure from Port Vila for inspection by authorities at the next and subsequent ports.
- 4.3 Stop all vessels intending to depart the wharf after 1600hrs on the advice from the Director of Biosecurity.
- 4.4 Recall all vessels that have departed after 1600hrs.

#### 5. FUNDING


This MOA is not a commitment of funds for the implementation; however, assistance may be provided where and when necessary.

#### 6. TERMINATION

It is understood and agreed by and between the parties that this MOA becomes effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the parties involved and will remain in effect or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. Cancellation or termination of this agreement without cause may be made by providing 30 calendar days in advance by a written notice to the other parties. Such notice shall state the effective date of termination or cancellation and the reasons for termination or cancellation.

#### 7. SIGNATURE AND EFFECTIVE DATES

Undersigned below are the authorized officials from the parties involved and the dates by which they signed this MOA. The effective date of this MOA is the date when all parties have signed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Biosecurity Vanuatu

01/09/2021  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the Maritime Regulator

01-09-2021  
Date