

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

## **Vanuatu Cyclone Pam Emergency Appeal Launched**

ABM has launched an Emergency Appeal following Cyclone Pam which hit Vanuatu on March 14, cutting communications and leaving communities across the islands with no infrastructure.

A State of Emergency has been declared following the cyclone which left 24 people confirmed dead when it hit the 65 islands with a total population of 267,000.

The death toll is expected to rise significantly once communication is re-established with areas outside Port Villa, the capital city.

ABM's staff member responsible for our programs in Vanuatu, who was on a monitoring visit to the country, was unable to leave Northern Vanuatu last week as the rains meant that planes could not land on the sodden grass runway.

Bishop Nathan Tome, currently Bishop of Guadalcanal who was formerly the Bishop of Banks and Torres, the northern most diocese of the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) in Vanuatu, spoke with ABM on a scheduled visit to its Sydney offices.

"I spoke with my wife last week; she was concerned as the winds are quite strong, the seas are high and the rain heavy. I have not been able to speak with her or anyone else from ACOM all week-end," he said.

Please pray for the cyclone victims, ABM staff and all who are helping in the relief effort.

ABM is seeking to raise \$100,000 to provide emergency relief for those displaced. ACOM is currently assessing their most immediate requirements and we will respond accordingly.

To keep up-to date or to donate to ABM's Vanuatu Cyclone Emergency Appeal please call on 1300 302 663, email [info@abm.asn.au](mailto:info@abm.asn.au) or visit [www.abmission.org/vanuatu-emergency](http://www.abmission.org/vanuatu-emergency)

**ENDS**

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Email [media@abm.asn.au](mailto:media@abm.asn.au) for more details.

Photo attached for your use as no photos from ABM's partner are available due to the lack of communication. Caption: Picturesque Vanuatu has been devastated by Cyclone Pam.

Copyright ABM / Don Brice.

*The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. For over 160 years ABM has been assisting people all over the world to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provide health and education services, improve agricultural practices and strengthen the Church.*