

# APPLICATION OF BUILDING CODE IN VANUATU



# BUILDING REGULATION, LEGISLATION & STANDARD

## ➤ **Status of the National Building Code of Vanuatu**

The National Building Code of Vanuatu was developed in the late 1980s under an Australian Aid program and published in 1990. A revision to the National Building Code of Vanuatu in 2000 updated it to international standards and referenced and incorporated recommendations from the Sanitation Master Plan for Port Vila.

## ➤ **Construction related manuals related to the National Building Code**

A Home Building Manual of Vanuatu was developed in the late 1980s under an Australian Aid program as a companion document to the National Building Code, and was published in conjunction with the National Building Code in 1990. The manual fully conforms with the structural requirements of the National Building Code and does not cover vernacular construction. There have been no updates to the HBMV since publication in 1990.

# BUILDING REGULATION, LEGISLATION & STANDARD (Cont)

## ➤ **Building control legislation and enforcing building regulations and standards**

The National Building Code of Vanuatu was enacted in 2013 as the Building Code Act No 36 of 2013 and was gazetted as Order No 110 of 2017. The Physical Planning Act No 22 (Ch 193) 1986 and Municipalities Building by-laws provided building control prior to the gazetting of the 2013 Building Act in 2017.

The National Building Code is administered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and maintained by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities with the assistance of the Public Works Department.

## ➤ **Buildings to which the legislation applies**

The Building Act applies to the construction of the following:

- Buildings owned in whole or in part by the state in any local government region.
- Buildings in any municipality.
- Buildings in any physical planning area.

# BUILDING REGULATION, LEGISLATION & STANDARD (Cont)

## ➤ **Building standards**

The National Building Code (NBC) references Australian and New Zealand building standards. Where the standards from either Australia or New Zealand do not cover any specific areas, the relevant standards issued by the British Standards Institution or the American Society for Testing and Materials can be used. Some of the Australian and New Zealand standards referenced under the National Building Code of Vanuatu have been withdrawn or superseded. There is no builder's licencing process. There are limited materials testing facilities available at the Public Works Department, Shefa Division compound in Port Vila. There is no legislation on national trade measurement and standards or agency responsible for monitoring standards.

## ➤ **Training, Capacity Building, and Promotion**

The Vanuatu government does not have courses to train building inspectors or programs to build the capacity of the regulatory bodies to administer and monitor compliance of the NBC. Strategies to promote the NBC to the public, builders, professional users, and technical and vocational institutions have not been developed. Hard copies of the NBC are available at the municipal councils and a soft copy in pdf format is available online. Most architectural and engineering consulting firms are aware of both the NBC and HBM and use them on a day-to-day basis for design work.





**THANK YOU**