

# Erakor Village Mpau Natkon

South East Efaté



Dear Shefa Public Health responsible

Port Vila, 6 May 2022

The Ministry of Health have been invited to the Erakor initiatives "The Voices of Erakor Lagoons" and the "Erakor Lagoons Restoration" plan. We understand that you didn't participate due to the COVID situation but we still look forward to continue our cooperation to Save the Lagoons.

Following the visit to the Erakor Lagoons on the 21 and 22 April by the Chiefs, Departments of Water Resources, Environment and Urban Planning, we jointly identified pollution hotspots that leak solid and wastewater pollution into the Lagoon. For you to be informed with detail on our activities see <http://storian.invanuatu.net/>

We are concern about getting all of us prepared to the opening of the borders. The Erakor Lagoons host many hotels and resorts. As you know the Restoration Plan has 3 main objectives: 1 STOP Pollution, 2 CLEAN and 3 RESTORE the Lagoons, based on Awareness, Education and Livelihoods.

We will continue to work in partnerships with authorities, businesses and communities and to achieve the objective 1, we need to make a general clean-up of all the hills around the Lagoons, before start cleaning the Lagoons. Attached our plan, for your information.

We would like to reiterate that it is important to have the government instruction to ban fishing and swimming approved urgently, making sure that the areas between the Chiefs and Government bans coincide. We think that MoH and Public Health needs to be more proactive to make population aware on swimming in the Lagoons

We also witnessed together some areas on the Lagoons being threatened by ongoing activities that we believe are illegal:

1. Dumping area of electronic, car batteries, AC, construction materials, at the opposite side of the South Pacific Supply, after Korman;
2. Various private houses with pipes leaking water into the lagoons
3. The Hospital wastewater plant

We believe that if we work together the Erakor Lagoons Restoration Plan can be achieved.

Please inform us on the progress of both government instruction and actions taken to the illegal activities that are damaging the water quality of the Lagoons.

Best Regards,

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