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Seafront Toilets Polluting Harbour

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Other organisations and government departments directly polluting the harbor will also be expecting Direction Notices or Penalty Notices in the coming weeks, says Director Sammy

The discharge of sewage water from recreational toilets at the Seafront playground and Handicraft Market in Port Vila have been leaking directly into the Port Vila harbor.

This was identified through monitoring and inspection conducted by the Wastewater Taskforce.

Management issues of the sanitation facilities was identified as the cause of the leakage thus, a Direction Notice was issued to the Port Vila Municipal Council (PVMC) to resolve the issue.

Conditions under the direction notice include closing down the toilets while repairing and fixing the waste water treatment plants as well as making necessary arrangements to cater for the public in terms of alternative sanitation facilities for the time being.

Direct pollution of any water resources falls under the Water Resources Management Act (281) giving the Director of Water Resources the power and responsibility to penalize anyone who commits the offence.

PVMC will be issued with a Penalty Notice or face prosecution if it does not meet the conditions of the Direction Notice, according to the Department of Water Resources.

PVMC said the toilets at the Seafront are already closed for maintenance while those at Fatumauru Bay and Market House are open.

PVMC has also appealed to all stores and businesses operating in the Central Business District (CBD) to properly manage their sewage as the Wastewater Taskforce will be checking out all businesses.

Those found to be causing leaks into the coast can be penalized.

“We would like to assure the public that for the purposes of restoring our beautiful harbor, this is not the only notice that will be served,” Director of the Department of Water, Erickson Sammy stated.

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