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LOA MO SOSEL JASTIS TOKTOK

The newsletter from the Justice and Community Services Sector



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Brought to you by:

JASTIS, SEFTI, DIGNITI, RISPEKT MO GUD FASIN BLONG EVRIWAN

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The purpose of this Newsletter is to share information, news and data among our Sector. You can keep up with more news at the Ministry of Justice & Community Services (MJCS) website and other Sector agencies websites.

SECTOR UPDATES

“Our Children Are Our Future”: A facilitation package supporting communities to encourage and protect children



As part of MJCS’s strategy to strengthen community based child protection systems, Child Desk has been working closely with UNICEF and the Department of Youth to develop a Community Facilitation Package entitled “Our Children Are Our Future”. The Package is a tool that guides community leaders and caregivers to improve their understanding of child development, positive parenting, early identification and child protection.

The workshops build on positive kastom and traditional practices within communities, and encourage participants to recognize the value of children in our communities. Participants learn about the issues that children face and provide them with tools to overcome these challenges.



The Community Facilitation Package has now been finalized, and presented to national level stakeholders in Port Vila in August. There was considerable interest from government departments and NGOs to use the package in their own work.

In August and September, Child Desk, UNICEF and MOYDST conducted 2 Training of Facilitators in Santo and Tanna. We have now trained 27 facilitators (including youth, faith based leaders, community and women’s leaders) to deliver the workshops in their communities across Efate, Santo, Pentecost, Tanna and Erromango.

Launching of Disability Pilot Survey report and Mobility Aids storage, August 2016

The Disability Desk launched a report on a disability pilot survey conducted in 2014 in some communities of Shefa and Tafea Provinces.

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Vanuatu Law Commission delivers a presentation at the USP- School of law- Law Clinic Session

On the 16th of September a small team from the office of the Vanuatu Law Commission (VLC) prepared and delivered a presentation at a session of the LW341- Law Clinic Course at the USP Moot Court.

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A one day workshop conducted for police, lawyers and prosecutors

In August a one day training workshop was conducted for more than 15 police officers, lawyers and prosecutors in Luganville.

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Vanuatu National Child Protection Policy endorsed by COM

The first ever National Child Protection Policy in Vanuatu has been endorsed in full by COM this month. COM also endorsed the 10 year Implementation Plan, approved the public release of the policy, approved an official launch in 2016 and mandated MJCS to coordinate the implementation of the policy across all 8 strategic areas. MJCS will work closely with the National Child Protection Group to coordinate the full implementation of this vital policy.

Child Desk would like to extend its thanks and acknowledgement to all our colleagues who assisted in the development of the policy, through drafting, consultations, and procedural matters and in any other way.

Launching of Disability Pilot Survey report and Mobility Aids storage, August 2016

The Disability Desk launched a report on a disability pilot survey conducted in 2014 in some communities of Shefa and Tafea Provinces. Funded by the DFAT through the Stremem Rod blong Jastis program the Disability Desk in collaboration with the National Statistics Office (NSO) conducted a pilot survey in Ifira Island, Eton and Epule villages in Shefa province and Futuna Island in Tafea province.

Recently there was a loud call for data collection on disability. This was mentioned in article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (UNCPRD) which Vanuatu ratified in 2008. Vanuatu also signed up to the Asia-Pacific strategy called the Incheon Strategy 2012 which call for countries to produce and disseminate reliable and internationally comparable disability statistics in formats that are accessible by persons with disabilities. Target 8.B: Establish reliable disability statistics by the midpoint of the Decade, 2017, as the source for tracking progress towards the achievement of the goals and targets in the Incheon Strategy.

Forum Disability Minister meeting in 2012 also recognize the lack of disability statistics and **called** for increased efforts to assist countries to collect and analyze relevant data to improve understanding of country progress in implementing the pacific regional framework on Disability and therefore **urged** national and regional stakeholders to work together to increase the disability data, research and knowledge.

In response to this high calls for disability data, the Disability Desk in collaboration with the NSO conducted a pilot's survey to identify the needs, types of disability, location and access to services, education and health status and other issue on people with disabilities. The finding of the report shows that there are people with disabilities who are in the remote communities which need more attention in terms of access to education and health services. The remote also showed that children with disabilities who attended school often drop off in primary or lower secondary and never continue to high secondary or tertiary education. This is due to various reasons be it distance between home and school, skills level of teachers to cope with children with special needs, access to school facilities and material seemed to be challenging and so on. The full copy of the report can be access from the MJCS website on the publication site.



(Above). Minister for Justice & Community Services Hon. Warsal Ronald launched and hand over the report to the Director General of the MJCS. (Photo by MJCS)



(Above) Hon. Warsal launched the Mobility Aid storage, while DG Bebe looks on.

The Minister for Justice & Community services launched the report on the 12th of September at the Ministry of Justice & Community Services back yard.

The Minister also launched Mobility Aid storage for Disability equipment to be stored where field workers can distribute to those who might need for mobility. The MJCS thank the DFAT through the Stremem Rod blong Jastis program in funding this container storage and the roof over the container. We hope this will be used to serve those Ni- Vanuatu citizens who are out there in the communities and we look forward to continuous contribution in filling this container with appropriate equipment.

Vanuatu Law Commission delivers a presentation at the USP- School of law- Law Clinic Session



On Friday 16th of September a small team from the office of the Vanuatu Law Commission (VLC) prepared and delivered a presentation at a session of the LW341- Law Clinic Course at the USP Moot Court.

The Office received an invitation from the Unit's Course Coordinator and Manager of the Community Legal Centre, MS Naomi Nawasaitoga to speak to the 3rd and final year law students about the vital role of the office in studying and keeping under review the laws of Vanuatu.

The 3 hour Session included a presentation made by the team and an activity in which the students made "Problem Tree's" as this is one of the tools that the office uses a lot in its work especially when trying to dissect the underlying issues that a legislation is facing with regard to implementation, this tool is should also help the students to think critically in analyzing issues and tackling issues at its cause rather than at the consequences of an issue. The Presentation spoke of the offices roles in updating the laws of Vanuatu in accordance to concepts of custom, the common and civil legal systems in Vanuatu, the process in which the office follow in producing a final paper comprising of the recommendations and the challenges that the office face when reviewing and reforming an Act.

During the Session, MS Pakoasongi, the Secretary of the VLC also answered a number of questions from students which showed their interest in this particular area of work with respect to reviewing and reforming laws.

At the end of the session, a student on behalf of the class and Ms. Nawasaitoga thanked the office for taking the time off from their usual duties to attend the session and speak with the students. Ms. Nawasaitoga was also pleased with the engagement received by the class during the session.

Some news of Case Management and Systems around the sector

Police

- Solid progress with the development of the new Police Information Management System (PIMS) - scheduled to "go live" in late November in Santo. Port Vila and other locations in the first half of 2017.
- The Working Group meets regularly and constantly checking the progress of the system that covers incidents, investigations, criminal history and traffic.

Courts

- It is coming up to a year since the Courts embarked on their court/case management system from Lexis Nexis.
- The Super Users are actively supporting all staff - and identifying future enhancements to the system, as well as ensuring data quality is maintained in the system.

State Law Office

- Very similar to the Courts with their case management system.
- And work is well underway in implementing the Saperion Document Management product to assist with managing documents such as finance, HR and advisory documents.

Department of Correctional Services

- A major upgrade occurred to the Offender Management System and is now linked to the Saperion Document Management System where all documents related to offenders are scanned and stored.
- These two initiatives have cemented their system as one of the best - if not the best - in the region.

Prosecution

- Work is well underway in implementing the case management system for both OPP and SPD - as a joint system.
- It is based on the Lexis Nexis product used in the Courts and SLO.

Ombudsman's Office

- Similar to Prosecution, work is well underway for their implementation of a case management system.

Public Solicitor's Office

- Major upgrade to their case management system, along with the closure of old cases has ensured the Office is maximizing the use of their CMS.

One day training workshop conducted for police officers, lawyers and prosecutor



Stephen Barlow conducting workshop

In August a one day training workshop was conducted for more than 15 police officers, lawyers and prosecutors in Luganville.

PSO adviser Stephen Barlow and VAPP Adviser John Connoley jointly conducted the workshop. Topics included investigation, interviewing witnesses and suspects, gathering of evidence for court, identification evidence, preparing a PI bundle, charge selection and preparation for trial.

This was a unique training because it brought together defence lawyers, police and prosecution. Police were told into the tactics that defence lawyers often use during trial. There were discussions about how police can gather strong evidence so that more prosecutions are successful. The full day workshop was an excellent example of collaboration between different agencies.



Police officers, lawyers and prosecutors standing with facilitator Stephen Barlow & VAPP advisor John Connoley



Participant doing a presentation

Special thanks to Jane Tari of PSO and Rexton Langton of SPD for their assistance with the workshop.



Thank you for reading the September edition of Loa mo Sospel Jastis Toktok.

If you have any feedback for the newsletter please send to MJCS@vanuatu.gov.vu. If you have any information to share for next month's newsletter please also email us.

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