

Resolutions



**National Customary Land
Workshop
5-7 September 2011
Port Vila**

Introduction

A National Customary Land workshop organized by the Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs was held in Port Vila from the 5 to 8 of September 2011. The workshop brought together over 50 chiefs, women and youth from the six provinces of Vanuatu.

The main objectives of the workshop included;

- Re-visiting and acknowledging the recommendations from the 2006 Vanuatu Land Summit and activities so far and plan forward.
- Raising awareness about the objectives and activities of the Mama Graon – Vanuatu Land Program.
- Identifying and prioritizing the customary land issues in Vanuatu.
- Seeking the National Council of Chiefs direction for the way forward and endorsement of the workshop outcomes.

1. The Resolutions

After a 3-day workshop, a total of 19 recommendations were submitted to the National Council of Chiefs for endorsement.

The National Council of Chiefs endorsed the 19 recommendations and presented it to the Minister of Justice & Community Services as the way forward for the Mama Graon – Vanuatu Land Program and its partners in addressing customary land issues in Vanuatu.

Resolution 1

Identify customary land boundaries

Resolution 2

Identify custom authorities and restore them to their rightful places

Resolution 3

Undertake land use planning and zoning for customary land

Resolution 4

Promote and strengthen custom ways of managing and maintaining resources on custom land

Resolution 5

Conduct communication and awareness programs

Resolution 6

Transcribe custom rules and laws

Resolution 7

Ensure land leasing processes are approved by the relevant custom authority

Resolution 8

Request the Government through the National Council of Chiefs to remove the power of the Lands Minister to sign land leases for customary land on which there is a dispute

Resolution 9

Strengthen the custom governance system of tribes and clans

Resolution 10

Establish and clarify the chiefly titles in every area

Resolution 11

Custom land disputes should remain with the custom chief or Customary Lands Tribunal

Resolution 12

Secure and protect custom landmarks and historical sites

Resolution 13

Review existing land related laws and Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs (MNCC) Act

Resolution 14

Conduct more training

Resolution 15

Establish and strengthen the structure of the Malvatumauri in order to link national government administration with customary authorities

Resolution 16

Strengthen the consultative processes from national to village level

Resolution 17

Revive and organize the Vanuatu National Conference of Custom Chiefs (VNKKJ)

Resolution 18

Recognize the custom system of recording custom land and its transactions

Resolution 19

Put on hold any new claims of custom land to the Land Tribunals until such time when the Council of Chiefs and Lands Tribunals are appropriately set up. This does not apply to cases already in the Tribunals.

2. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS

The National Council of Chiefs also mandated Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs, Vanuatu Cultural Centre and Lands Tribunal to implement the resolutions of the workshop with support from Mama Graon – Vanuatu Land Program.

CONCLUSION

The National Council of Chiefs acknowledged Mama Graon – Vanuatu Land Program for the support to the 3-day workshop and future implementation of the 19 resolutions.

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