



Photo Credit: Dan McGarry-Imagicity.com

# 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

IN THIS ISSUE

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

### Thank you and farewell Josie



Josiana Jackson (also known as Josie), our Monitoring, Evaluation and Systems Officer (MES), has resigned from the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Government of Vanuatu after four (4) years serving the justice and community services sector. Over the last 10 years and 7 months, Josie has dedicated herself to serving the people of Vanuatu through public service which has included working in the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources in the world of Information Technology (IT),

Geographical Information System (GIS) and enforcement; working in various Government projects including Vanuatu Short Term Land Reform Initiative and the Port Vila Urban Development Project, as well as with the Australian Government funded development programs - Mama Graon Program, Stretem Rod Blong Jastis Partnership (SRBJ) and more recently, the Policing and Justice Support Program (Vanuatu).

In late 2014 Josie participated in the Emerging Pacific Leaders' Dialogue which allowed her to travel to Australia with other emerging leaders of the region. Josie holds a Bachelor Degree in Resource and Environmental Planning, a Certificate in Sustainable Urban Planning and is currently completing a Bachelor Degree in Law.

As MES Officer for the Ministry, Josie has been responsible for the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan for the sector which is intended to capture the progress that the sector as a whole makes in moving forward with its priorities which she has implemented and tracked with dedication.

Josie was also responsible for the annual collation and development of the MJCS Annual Report. She has assisted the Ministry and sector agencies in the

### New research shines spotlight on Conflict Management and Access to Justice in Rural Vanuatu

*New research maps how conflicts within rural communities in Vanuatu are managed and shines a spotlight on the interface between community management of conflict and state management of conflict of all types. The research considers access to justice for people in rural communities with a particular focus on women's experience of and access to justice.*

Refer to page 2

### The building Community Partnerships Program is off to a great start!

*In 2014 and 2015, capacity assessments undertaken across the Justice and Community Services sector highlighted a number of specialist skills development needs. One of these was in the area of community partnerships, and in particular the role that Government organisations play in ensuring that policy is implemented effectively at community level.*

Refer to page 6

Cont'd...

development of M&E frameworks for new initiatives, policies and work plans as well as to build general capacity with respect to monitoring and evaluation and its use as a management tool.

Thank you note from SRBJ – SRBJ would like to thank Josie for her hard work and for her commitment to the program over the recent years as well as her advice, friendship and good humour along the way. We will miss working with and alongside her. We wish her all the very best in her next pursuits and in the arrival of the new addition to her family.

The Director General and staff of the Ministry of Justice & Community Services thank Josie for her hard work and commitment to the work of the Ministry and the justice sector. Her hard work and dedication were an important part of our team. As she turns the page in her life's story, we join together in wishing her every success in all her future endeavor

## Stretem Rod blong Jastis Update

### New research shines spotlight on Conflict Management and Access to Justice in Rural Vanuatu



*L-R at the launch at Lakatoro, Malekula of the new research into Conflict Management & Access to Justice in Rural Vanuatu: Coordinator VAPP, Public Solicitor, Acting Police Commissioner, Minister of Justice & Community Services, Australian Minister of International Development & the Pacific, Australian High Commissioner, President Malampa Provincial Government, Director General Ministry of Justice & Community Services, President Malmetenvanu Council of Chiefs & Coordinator SRBJ.*

New research maps how conflicts within rural communities in Vanuatu are managed and shines a spotlight on the interface between community management of conflict and state management of conflict of all types. The research considers access to justice for people in rural communities with a particular focus on women's experience of and access to justice.

The *Conflict Management and Access to Justice in Rural Vanuatu* report is the result of research conducted by the Policing and Justice Support Program with and on behalf of the Government of Vanuatu, with funding support from the Government of Australia. The research is the result of several years of engagement by the program in partnership with the Vanuatu Ministry of Justice & Community Services. The report makes findings and notes key issues in relation to courts services, police services, chiefs and community justice, and women and access to justice, and makes recommendations to address the issues and significant barriers to justice identified in the report.

Key findings show the impact of many barriers to justice for all citizens in rural Vanuatu and the importance of a more sophisticated understanding of "access" to justice which includes both well understood geographic and resourcing issues, as well as many other intangible barriers to access.

The majority of interviewees reported that in the past year, they received assistance with managing a conflict from leaders in the community including chiefs, family members and religious leaders. State justice is limited across the island and for most interviewees. However, people at the community level, including leaders responsible for managing conflicts, clearly articulate a desire for greater support from state justice and value that support. Men, women and community leaders who manage conflict all identified state justice as the best place to deal with some matters if only it were accessible to them.

The report was launched on Tuesday 16 August at Lakatoro on the island of Malekula, the provincial centre for Malampa Province, by Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific, and Ronald Warsal, Vanuatu's Minister for Justice and Community Services.

The Australian Minister for International Development commended the Vanuatu Government for its close partnership with the program in undertaking the research: "As stated in the Director General's foreword, the research is the first of its kind for Vanuatu. For the first time, we have a statistically sound basis to evaluate how justice is actually administered and experienced in Vanuatu's rural areas." Australian Senator Fierravanti-Wells stated that it demonstrates that the justice system is very complex and also that state justice can be quite limited. She reiterated Australia's commitment to support policing and justice in Vanuatu. The next phase of its support will have a stronger focus on women and children, and provincial service delivery.

In response, Minister Warsal stated that the research and its findings would assist the Government of Vanuatu in its commitment to delivering justice to the people of Vanuatu regardless of their location and status within society, and to find ways to navigate the challenges across this richly diverse country. "While the capacity of state and community-level justice institutions and processes are often discussed in Vanuatu, there has been little research to date that has practically mapped how community level justice - through chiefs mainly, but also religious leaders and family members - and state justice (including courts and police) actually function in Vanuatu, both on their own and as



part of a broader system. Understanding this broader system – and some of the assumptions upon which it is based – is crucial for Vanuatu to be empowered to navigate its own path towards access to justice for all its citizens. This research supports us to do this. Solutions will need to be careful, complex and nuanced and not simplistic if true progress is to be made,” the Minister said.

This report includes clear, practical recommendations which will inform the program’s programming in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Community Services and other stakeholders



*Senator Fierravanti-Wells, Australian Minister for International Development & the Pacific delivering her speech at the launch at Lakatoro, Malekula of the new research into Conflict Management & Access to Justice in Rural Vanuatu*



*Team of researchers at the launch at Lakatoro, Malekula of the new research into Conflict Management & Access to Justice in Rural Vanuatu: (L-R) Powrie Vire, Heidi Tyedmers, Juliana Andrew, Shirley Vira, Shina Timothy, Hellen Bani & Sam Obed.*

## Update Policing and Justice Support Program (Vanuatu)

### (Stretem Rod blong Jastis & Vanuatu Australia Police Project)

The Australian Government support to Vanuatu’s policing and justice sector has since 2014 been through the Policing and Justice Support Program Vanuatu (PJSPV). Both the *Stretem Rod Blong Jastis* program and the Vanuatu Australia Police Project are part of PJSPV. Before becoming so, they existed as separate programs from 2012-2014.

PJSPV is now in its second phase which will come to an end on 31 December 2016. In response to the request of the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, the Australian Government has agreed to continue to provide support to the policing, justice and community services sector in Vanuatu for the next four years, 2017-2020. This will also involve the Australian Government running a tender process before 31 December to select a managing contractor who will be responsible for managing the operations of the next phase of the program. To that end, the Australian Government has already completed a review and a refinement of the current design of the PJSPV.

Recognising the work that is currently underway in partnership by Vanuatu and Australia in this sector, the Australian Government has confirmed its intention to continue and to build on the work of the current program since 2012 and not significantly alter the direction of the program. The new design will strengthen where the program has shown progress; building on what we know and not reinventing what has gone before. Accordingly, the focus of the program should feel like a continuation to the Government and non-Government partners of the program who have been working so hard to make positive change in this sector.

It is the intention of the Government of Australia and program management to ensure as smooth a transition to the next stage of the program as is possible. It is hoped that there will be a contract manager in place from 1 January 2017 such that there will not be a gap in the support provided to the sector, as the program transitions into its next stage. The program is developing a transition plan with the Ministry of Justice and Community Services so that the Ministry too is clear on the status of all program initiatives in preparation for the next stage of the program.

We, as a program, are committed to the ongoing support and strengthening of this sector in partnership with our key stakeholders in Vanuatu and will do all possible to minimise delay and disruption in the delivery of support to Vanuatu as the Australian Government support moves into its next phase.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Viran Molisa Trief (in relation to justice and community services support) and Mr. Brett Jackson (in relation to policing support) should you have any queries or concerns.

Thank you as always for your interest, trust, advice and partnership.

*Policing and Justice Support Program Management.*

## POLICING AND JUSTICE SUPPORT PROGRAM VANUATU (PJSPV)

### WOK TUGETA BLONG LIFTEM UP JASTIS, SEFTI, DIGNITI MO GUD FASIN BLONG EVRIWAN

Thinking about working together as a sector for our shared goals

In April and May of this year the Policing and Justice Support Program (program) conducted an evaluation of how the sector works together; or how the sector collaborates. The full report is available at this link: [http://mjcs.gov.vu/images/reporting/Working\\_together\\_FINAL.pdf](http://mjcs.gov.vu/images/reporting/Working_together_FINAL.pdf) and there are a number of annexes to that report which are available on request from the program.

The program was interested in having a look at this as it tries to support the sector to work together where this is appropriate and would improve efficiency and allow for sharing of limited resources to progress common goals. The work acknowledges that our sector has a very wide scope of related service delivery areas and is comprised of a number of independent but heavily interdependent agencies and institutions in terms of the achievement of access to justice for the people of Vanuatu.

So, what is in the report? The report is not too long (18 pages) and may be worth a dip in. It identifies some of the ways that the sector is currently working together (for example, the Heads of Agency Group meetings, investigations and prosecutions, national disability priorities); it mentions some situations where collaboration is not appropriate just to make it very clear that the program is not supporting collaboration just for its own sake; it makes some general observations about collaboration within the sector, which include in a nutshell that, *“there is good will and good intention with respect to collaboration (or working together) but that there is perhaps a lack of clarity about how to collaborate well to progress shared goals.....collaborative effort is generally reactive, inconsistent, incoherent and is not driven by strategic vision.”*



The evaluation included a rapid political economy analysis (which is explained more in the report) which found: **leadership is foundational** to effective sector collaboration; **accountability, recognition and relevance** will drive stronger commitment to working together; **clear outcome-focused collaboration with iterative wins** keeps us working together; **individual capacity, commitment and passion** are highly relevant; **women have to work harder** to get their voices heard in collaboration; **relationships facilitate collaboration**; and **clear articulation of the boundaries for collaboration** within the justice sector would assist in strengthening collaboration.

And we had a look at four particular case studies in a little more detail to see how they do what they do to work together – they were National Disability Priorities, Prosecutorial Case Progression, and Infrastructure through the working groups and Public Financial Management – have a look at what we found in the report.

Finally, we made some suggestions about what we might do so that we work together better and this is where the program would be interested to hear what you think.

#### These were some of the suggestions we made:

**i. Develop leadership capabilities for collaboration:** PJSPV is working with a Leadership Advisory Group to develop a Leadership Capability Framework and a Plan to support leadership development. Once finalised the Framework and the Plan will be consulted upon with Heads across the sector and it is hoped endorsed for implementation by the HOAG. Given the fundamental role leadership appears to play in supporting and inspiring collaborative effort, it is recommended that competencies and attention be focused on the capacity of leaders to work well with others, inspire collaborative effort and hold others accountable for collaborative effort.



**ii. Build confidence through developing skills and technical knowledge:** The program should continue to provide support across a range of technical areas for sector representatives at all levels of seniority. This could target areas where collaboration is most needed or likely to have greatest impact. This has the dual benefit of building confidence through skills development and also relationship building — sector representatives can learn together in the same room and make the personal connections that are integral to collaboration.

- iii. **Foster more spaces where people can come together in-person:** The program should consider cost effective approaches to facilitating face-to-face meetings with the sector given the importance of such opportunities for building relationships on which professional collaboration can be built.<sup>[1]</sup>
- iv. **Setting clear boundaries around professional relationships:** Program support for awareness raising across the sector of the boundaries of appropriate communications and interactions between officers and agencies. This could include ethics and integrity, as a way of building mutual understanding, clarity and confidence for effective collaboration across this sector.
- v. **Strengthen the Heads of Agencies Group (HOAG):** Support MJCS to strengthen the HOAG meetings as a governance mechanism; targeted in particular to supporting greater engagement, action-oriented meetings; and decision-making capability; as well as encouraging the filtering down of information and messages to working-level staff in each agency by relevant heads.
- vi. **Support informed understanding about the role and importance of the independence of agencies and institutions within the justice sector:** Provide support for a better and deeper understanding of the independence of constitutional and statutory bodies within the sector as a means of protecting against the politicisation of and interference in justice as well as the appearance of interference. Provide support for a nuanced understanding of where collaboration is useful and appropriate and does not undermine independence. Support the agencies and heads of agency within the sector to **agree and clearly explain what information can and cannot be shared and with whom**. This may help people feel more comfortable sharing information and expertise when appropriate and in the knowledge of the boundaries to that sharing of information.
- vii. **Gender:** Provide program support to **combat negative, simplistic stereotypes around gender** that can block people working together well and that risks excluding women. Actively include and support women's professional participation within the sector.

#### Other ideas? What else do you think can be done to strengthen collaboration?

##### Some suggestions and food for thought:

- Identify clear intended outcomes for cross-cutting issues faced by the sector and support the bringing together of relevant agencies, including by brokering arrangements and connections, to work in a collaborative, action-oriented and iterative (emphasising "quick wins" along the way) manner to achieve those intended outcomes.
- Foster opportunities for the sector to articulate and follow through with action related to its strategic vision, in contrast to the reactive, inconsistent and incoherent nature of current collaborative effort.
- Foster more opportunities for information sharing between sector institutions and agencies and in turn, an action learning approach to bringing about change as a result of the new information/knowledge gained.
- Support areas where collaboration is already self-driven by the sector and happening.
- Identify champions for collaboration and support them in their collaborative efforts. In doing this the program should seek to identify the drivers for the collaboration and assess their sustainability for continuing to drive collaboration absent program support.
- Regularly publish good news stories in relation to teamwork, collaboration within the sector and positive outcomes achieved e.g. improved service delivery, efficiency gains, improved access to justice. Use different modes of publication including MJCS newsletters, MJCS website, newspaper articles and HOAG agenda items.

---

<sup>[1]</sup> This is also something that was identified as wanted in the Sector Perception Survey, MJCS, 2016



***Word of thanks:*** PJSPV would like to thank in particular all our colleagues from the policing, justice and community services sector who gave their time so willingly to participate in various aspects of this evaluation and indeed, also for their honesty, openness and self-reflection. Without all the interviewees' very insightful responses, this evaluation would not be as useful as it is, we hope, both to PJSPV and to the sector. Tank iu wea tank yu.

## Capacity Corner

### The building Community Partnerships Program is off to a great start!

In 2014 and 2015, capacity assessments undertaken across the Justice and Community Services sector highlighted a number of specialist skills development needs. One of these was in the area of community partnerships, and in particular the role that Government organisations play in ensuring that policy is implemented effectively at community level.

So the Building Community Partnerships program is designed to address this skills development need. The course which started in June, involves 23 staff from the Ministry of Justice including Department of Women's affairs, Disability Desk, Department of Correctional Services, and additionally the Vanuatu Police Force. So far two blocks of training have been delivered over the last few months. The program is an initiative of the Policing and Justice Support Program Vanuatu in and is been facilitated by Annie Dares, a specialist trainer in the area of community development and community partnerships.

The training explores the principles and processes of building community partnerships, with a strong focus on the practical application of this learning. This is achieved by supporting participants to deliver strategic projects and to demonstrate results through their efforts. Consequently eight projects are currently being implemented and a range of community and cross sector partnerships have been developed.

Reflecting on her experience as the trainer, Annie said *"Participants have genuinely been excited by their learning and how they have been able to apply practically and strategically, a broad range of skills to the building of community partnerships."*

During a recent block of training the Department of Women's Affairs presented the work on their project which aims for the women of Vanuatu to have equal access and opportunity to participate in political processes and political leadership. All of the staff from DWA were excited to share the outcomes that they have achieved to date, and the application of their learning was clearly demonstrated to the Director General, Mark Bebe, participants and the trainer.



Annie Dares posing with DG Mark and staff of the Department of Women's Affairs

The three projects entitled *Building Skills for a Better Future*, by the participants from Department of Correctional Services involves working with community based offenders in **Port Vila and Santo, and detainees at Luganville Maximum Security Prison.**

**The projects** aim to build a range of strategic partnerships to deliver various rehabilitation programs.

The Disability Desk officers have been working in partnership with the Joint Therapy outreach team from Australia to deliver a range of service to people with disability on the islands of Ambae and Malekula.

The VPF have four projects currently being developed and implemented that focus on youth and professional standards.

The final stage of the program will occur in early October, where a third week of training will be delivered, and participants will then showcase their work by a formal presentation to key stakeholders. This will be followed by celebration of the significant achievements of all involved!

Recap session for the participants

## “Miracle worker”: Public Solicitor’s Office resolves complex family law case by negotiating an agreement between the parties in the Court of Appeal

During the July 2016 Court of Appeal session the Public Solicitor’s Office was directed by the Court to represent two young children whose parents had been involved in a longstanding family law dispute.

The case had been going for more than three years. The parents had divorced and both parents were fighting for custody orders in relation to their two young children.

The case had a complex and troubled history and had been through a strongly contested trial in the Supreme Court in 2015 and 2016. By the time the case arrived in the Court of Appeal, communication between the parties had broken down. Both parents were extremely disappointed by the earlier proceedings. The children had been split up by the Supreme Court judge so that one was living in Santo and the other in Port Vila. The appeal books contained more than 700 pages of documents.

When the matter was first mentioned in the Court of Appeal, one judge stated that he had “*lost the will to live*” after reading all the documents. Another judge boldly told both parents that they were “*failed human beings*” who had lost sight of what was in the best interests of the children.

It was in this context that the Court took the unusual step of appointing an independent lawyer to represent the children. The Court was of the view that this was the only way the best interests of the children could properly be protected, rather than the best interests of each parent. Pauline Kalwatman from PSO was given the challenging job of representing the children in Court. The Public Solicitor Office adviser also provided some ‘behind the scenes’ assistance.

The Court of Appeal encouraged all the parties to have round table discussions. These discussions were led by Ms. Kalwatman who managed to negotiate an outcome that was agreed by all parties and endorsed by the Court. It took high level negotiation and communication skills to resolve the case. The Court labelled the lawyer for the children as a “miracle worker”. Both children now live with one parent during school term and travel during school holidays to spend time together with the other parent. This was an excellent outcome for the children and the parents. Most importantly, it was an outcome that was agreed by the parties. It was not a “winner and loser” decision imposed by a Court. The successful negotiation saved time and money for all parties and also helped the family talk together for the best interests of the children.

This case is a great example of the important work done by Public Solicitor’s Office in helping needy people in Vanuatu.

## NZ look at technology to save time, money and lives

Half of all homicides in NZ are Family Violence.

NZ Police said they attended a family violence incident every 5 minutes.

“We take all complaints of family violence seriously. Family violence however is not happening in police stations. They’re not happening in parliament. It happens in your home, my home, our community. We are all part of the solution” PPDVP Mentor to Vanuatu Senior Sergeant Akerei Maresala-Thomson says.

Akerei says that Police are working extremely hard with a vast range of communities and organisations to come up with rooted solutions, ground level up to prevent social issues within our communities.

This as he says, is because regardless of what policies, strategies and resources are in place, we will always have family violence because “we are not attacking it at the root. We are giving free access to these support services to individuals after an incident has taken place”

Building solutions to domestic violence after they happen is not the best place to start. It is not prevention.

“We need to know what is happening behind closed doors and fix it before people come to our attention after the fact” Akerei says.

Through consultations with victims, offenders of family violence, youth, frontline staff and social workers, and a local IT company Corefusion, police had come up with an innovative tool designed to get to the root of all social problems.

Jointly they had created an app called MASA (multi agency services application). The app was very successful during its trial in Counties Manukau helped to get people easier access to support services such as employment, driver’s license, mental health and drug and alcohol type services at the front end.

Link to MASA app: <https://www.instagram.com/p/BGtGeNBPUlf/?taken-by=countiesmanukaupolice>



“The idea behind this app is prevention. Family Violence is a consequence. We needed to know what leads to it. By our communities having visibility of these services at the front end, they can get the help sooner rather than later by building their own solutions instead of police and the justice system doing that for them after an arrest, court sentence and coroner’s inquest”

MASA gave the frontline staff and users the ability to rate the services so that the services can address any shortfalls in their delivery. It also gave other users ability to make informed decisions on services they wished to use based on this rating system.

Currently police and providers are using the MASA tool to assist communities. This time next year Police hope to launch a free community MASA app. The community app should see a reduction in police and other frontline staff referrals, but an increase in community self-referrals. This means people will get help sooner and mitigate the risk of offending, victimisation and suicides.

At the conclusion of the trial police showed that MASA saved half of their daily shift hours. This meant that staff were able to be more visible in our communities conducting proactive policing and prevention activities. Akerei believes this app can go global and this could assist in terms of pre migration training so those migrating to other parts of the world can learn about common laws of those countries, their road rules, support services such as student support etc. These are crucial in terms of education and better preparing people for life in new environments.

“Technology through MASA allows us to save time, money and lives through simply working smarter, not harder. We need to move away from an awards based system where people get free access to services after they’ve been arrested, sentenced or following a coroner’s inquest. MASA allows us to see where the need is and what our true social issues are through community self-referrals. Only then can, we, as decision makers know what and where resources need to be.

Akerei believes that in the future with technology picking up in Vanuatu and across the pacific that it’s a matter of time, not if, MASA will be available.

## Disability Desk

### Report on Santo Training (*Report compiled by Sam Kaiapam, 2 September 2016*)

**Title of Training:** START YOUR BUSINESS (SBY)

**Dates:** 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016

**Meeting Venue:** Sanma Women’s Conference room – Sanma Provincial Head Quarter

**Training provider:** Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce

**Financial support:** ILO, Regional office, Suva



(Above) Participant with their certificate (Photo by ILO)



## 1. OBJECTIVES OF WORKSHOP OR MEETING

- a) The Start Your Business training aims to support business start ups or creation of viable small business by enabling the potential entrepreneurs to identify and carry out the steps to start their own business.
- b) For this Training, it aims to provide people with different types of disabilities business knowledge in order to generate income to support their livelihood.
- c) Develop partnership between Ministry of Justice & Community Services (MJCS), International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce & Industry (VCCI) to work together to in delivering similar program for persons with disabilities
- d) Identify potential persons with disabilities who are interested to start their business to enable the Disability Desk develop informed program and activities.
- e) Enable participant who attended the Training of Trainers (TOT) in Fiji to use the skills to assist VCCI in delivering the training.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

In 2015 the ILO organized a TOT training in Nadi Fiji on SYB particularly focusing on people with disabilities. Vanuatu also attended the Training and during the planning stage, Vanuatu participants agreed that there should be a follow up training in Country after the TOT.

ILO in collaboration with the MJCS and VCCI conducted a week long training in Santo for persons with disabilities from the 22nd – 26th of August 2016. In attendance were 22 participants with various disability including 10 with physical disabilities, 3 with vision impairment, 2 with intellectual disability, 1 with hearing impairment from Penama province and 6 participants without disabilities. Among the participant were people who have started a business and those who are thinking of starting a business.

There was also presence of the ILO representative from regional office in Fiji who support the initiative of people with disabilities involving in small business activities. The Disability Desk and Disability Organization in Santo also participated in the training. The Trainer who facilitated the training was from the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Dorian Naliupis who is the Disability Officer for the Sanma Province was very supportive throughout the training.

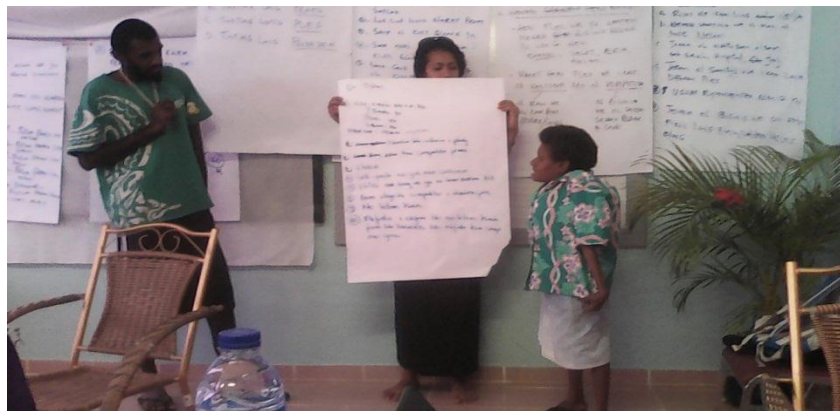


(Above) Group Discussions (Photo by Sam)

## 3. RELEVANCE & USEFULNESS OF TRAINING.

People with disabilities are among the poor and very vulnerable group of the society is the societal picture in Vanuatu and around the world today. The society thinks that starting a business by someone with a disability is impossible, however, the SYB training program showed participants that they can start a business just like any other person, as long as the business is of their interest and they have the skills to do it.

This training supports participants to assess their strength and weakness, their area, their resources, and their competitors before starting a small business. These participants are from various part of Island of Santo and have never attended any business training. This training is a first training to most of them and is the first ever Business training conducted purposely for persons with disabilities.



(Above) Group presentation on group activities (photo by Sam)

Few of them have started business before but could not sustain it due to lack of business skills and lack of support from community and families and this training have provided them with ideas, steps to take in thinking and planning before starting a business. The Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities article 27 on work and employment is implemented once training opportunities are provided to persons with disabilities who will then become self-employed as they operate their own small business. In this way we promote self-employment, entrepreneurship, and development of cooperative and starting one's own business. This will help to improve living standard and social protection for persons with disabilities at a remote community on the islands of Santo or Malo.

#### 4. ANY FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

The Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce will conduct a follow-up visit in October 2016 to provide one on one mentoring to participants and to identify potential individuals which the government can work with to support them start their business are pilot for this program.

Early 2017, the Disability Desk will provide some seed funding to individuals whom the Vanuatu Chamber of commerce has nominated potential individual to receive support to start their business and to be supported and mentored by Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce, Government stakeholders, Disability Desk and ILO.

The Disability Desk and Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce will continue to conducted similar trainings in all other 5 provinces, however, seed funding depends on how effective the participants in Sanma performs.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

Person with Disabilities can be active if they have something to keep them busy and able to make decisions. Business training is a vehicle to showcase the special abilities that people with various disabilities has and are not being utilized as a result of lack of training and mentoring. Participants learnt all the various steps to starting a business and how they can make they business grow. Few participants said they are thankful that they can attend this training which have provided new insights on business ideas, ways to start or improve your business.

ILO representative inform the participants that business has to start somewhere and little steps lead to something big. The Vanuatu chamber of commerce will continue to provide mentoring program working with the Disability Desk and Sanma provincial government to ensure practicality of this training.

#### 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Disability Desk wish to acknowledge the following organizations for making this training successful:

- ILO – for funding the training
- Sanma provincial Gov and Sanma Disability organization for hosting the training
- Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce for delivering the training
- MJC for providing government support
- Participants from the islands of Malo and Santo.
- Disability Desk wish to thank the following organization and people for making this training successful
- International Labour organization for funding the Training
- Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce for delivering the training
- Sanma Provincial Disability Officer and DPA Vanuatu for logistical arrangement and support
- Disability Desk to provide support to the training
- Participant from all over the 2 island of Santo and Malo for their participating



Peter Dick attended the SYB Training in Fiji and he is seen here selling his product during the cruise ship day on the 23rd of August in Luganville.



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

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

Ministry of Justice and Community Services  
Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, PMB 9084, Port Vila, Vanuatu  
W [mjcs.gov.vu](http://mjcs.gov.vu) T +678 33615 E [MJCS@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:MJCS@vanuatu.gov.vu)