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LOA MO SOSEL JASTIS TOKTOK

*The newsletter from the Justice and
Community Services Sector*



Brought to you by:

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

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

Temporary relocation of Vanuatu Women's Centre (VWC) Branch on north Pentecost

Vanuatu Women's Centre Branch has been relocated temporarily to North Pentecost from Ambae, due to the Lobenben volcanic activities. Whether it will stay there, will depend on the situation on Ambae.

There are 3 staff members at the centre on Pentecost and receiving clients. The temporary branch is located beside Sara airport. Anyone travelling to Pentecost can visit us there and spread the word of this temporary relocation.

VWC brought together the violence against women Committees from Maewo and Pentecost for a 5 days training during the week of 06-10 November. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the Committee members about the location of the Penama counselling centre; but also talk about their stories as host families for the Ambae people during the short evacuation from Ambae.

The Penama Counselling Centre phone numbers is 7313952, or call us in Vila on 25764, or our crisis line 24000.

Since November, 2017, VWC extended its counselling services to the people of Ambae - we have counsellors on the ground at Saratamata to see client's including victims and survivors of related abuse due to the situation of Lobenben volcano. The counsellors are assisted by two of our volunteers. Their contact is 7753045 /5323527.

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2017 Pacific Legal Policy Twinning Program

The Pacific Legal Policy Twinning Program provides a unique opportunity for several Pacific law and justice officers to undertake a two month placement in the Australian Attorney-General's Department, Canberra. It is a key activity delivered by the Australian Attorney-General's Department under the Australian aid-funded *Pacific Police Development Program*. The program has been designed to enable participants to contribute to institutional strengthening and become role models for good policy development practices in the region by:

- building their legal policy development skills
- applying these skills to progress a priority crime or policing policy project for their home agency, and
- learning how to effectively share their new skills and learning with their home agencies.

The three participants, or 'Twins', this year are:

- Ms Kylie Wilson, Senior Legislative Drafter, Office of the Attorney General, Samoa
- Ms Louise Nasak, Capacity Development Coordinator, Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Vanuatu, and
- Mr Felix Hollison, Senior Crown Counsel, Attorney-General's Chambers, Solomon Islands.

In 2017, all participants will be working on projects to strengthen their legislative framework to combat cybercrime in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime. The 'Twins' will meet with key stakeholders in the law and justice sector relevant to their cybercrime projects to build their understanding of the policy development process. In addition, the Twins are linked with SES mentors to build leadership skills, consider how to influence people and deliver successful policy outcomes.

MJCS - Stretem Rod Blong Jasti mo Sefti support for Vocational Study

The Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MJCS) - *Stretem Rod Blong Jastis mo Sefti* (SRBJS) Vocational Study Support Scheme (VSSS) is now accepting applications for vocational study support in Semester 1 2018!

MJCS, in partnership with SRBJS, seeks to encourage an environment where staff actively maintain and develop their professional knowledge, skills and expertise. To support this aim, staff from agencies and offices in the Justice and Community Services sector and relevant non-government organisations, may apply for financial support through the VSSS to cover the basic costs (course fees and textbooks) associated with undertaking part time vocational study.

The application process is competitive and fully outlined in the [VSSS Application Procedure](#). Interested applicants must complete an [Individual Application for Part-Time Study](#). All applications must be justified on the basis of clear links between the individual's training needs and the proposed vocational or professional education, and require management endorsement.

Applications must be received by **5pm Friday 12 January 2018** and at least 4 weeks prior to the due date for enrolment fee payments. Note also that the institution will have its own admission procedures that applicants need to fulfill.

For any inquiries, please contact Training and Learning Adviser, Amy Green (amy.green@thepalladiumgroup.com) and MJCS Capacity Development Coordinator, Louise Nasak (lnasak@vanuatu.gov.vu).

We are looking forward to receiving applications from across the sector!

Disability Desk Updates

Draft National Disability inclusive development Policy



The Disability Desk at the Ministry of Justice and Community Services is consulting on the draft National Disability Inclusive Development Policy. Vanuatu had ratified the CRPD in 2008 and followed up by having a 1st ever Disability policy which is for the period of 2008 – 2015.

After the consultation in 2015, there was a draft policy developed which is used to consult in 3 locations in Vanuatu. The consultation was conducted in Port Vila, Tanna and Santo.

The Ministry of Justice and community is planning to finalise this draft Policy by end of this year 2017. The Disability Inclusive Development Policy will be launched next year 2018.

International Day for people with Disability Day Celebration

The international day for people with disability national celebration was organised this year by the MJCS. The theme for this year is **“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”**.

The disability day celebration is celebrated annually to unite together as parents, siblings, carers and friends to celebrate the special Day which UN declared the International Day of persons in order to celebrate the achievement and challenges. These celebrations allow societies to be an environment that is inclusive for all people to exercise their right to decision-making and effective participation.

The celebration supports the obligation of state parties to the UNCRPD where countries agreed to ensure full enjoyment and participation of all persons with disabilities in all levels of development. Vanuatu being a state party to this convention since 2008 continues to roll the program to the provinces to raise awareness around disability inclusion.

The main highlight of the celebration is having people with disability facilitate the program for the day. It is also a time where the Para athletes were introduced to the public. The Honourable Jotham Napat was able to donate some sports shoes during the day of celebration.



International Day for people with disability Parade to Saralana Park

Scholarship: Morris Kerry: USP Regional Disability Scholarship



Morris Kerry, a contract support staff at the Disability Desk within the Ministry of Justice and Community Services was offered a Scholarship to study in Laucala Fiji next year 2018. Kerry was nominated by the disability resource centre in Fiji under the first ever regional scholarship for student with disability to study at Laucala.

Morris Kerry and Frida Willie who is also a female with disability were both selected from Vanuatu for the scholarship program. Morris Kerry will be studying to pursue a Diploma in Social and community work. His Scholarship is for 2 years.

The MJCS is proud of Morris Kerry's achievement. His scholarship is a great awareness to everyone with People with Disability also have the right to education. Morris encourages others like him to also apply next year 2018.

Para Athletes for the Van2017

During the Vanuatu 2017 Pacific Mini Games, there are also para sports for the para Athletes. Vanuatu had a total of 12 athletes' altogether to participate in 4 different sports discipline. The Individuals were selected out from Santo and port Vila to be part of this mini Game.

The 4 sports discipline which they had participated in is Table Tennis, Sitting Shot Put, Javelin, athletics. The Vanuatu para Athletes won 3 medals altogether from 2 sports discipline, Table Tennis and Athletics.

For the Van2017 Mini games the para athletes had also made an impact to the community to clearly state the important of inclusion in Sports. It is for the first time for Vanuatu to have the highest number of para athletes in this Game. The Disability Desk at MJCS is also encouraging the para athletes and any other person with disability to continue to play sports and continue to use sports as a tool to empowering people with disability in our communities.



The para athletes team after winning 2 medals in athletics

Christmas Hampers

Every year during the Christmas festive season the Disability Desk at MJCS and Friends Vanuatu organise Christmas hampers for children with disability around Port Vila. The Hampers were organised especially for kids with disability who are never brought to the public.

This year's visit was going around Port Vila Urban and rural areas and also around Efate. It was such a Blessing to receive the hampers as such, said a mother of a child with disability. It was for the first time for these children to receive gifts from someone they have never known before.

The Disability Desk at MJCS is always grateful to Friends Vanuatu for its support every year.



(L-R) Morris & Allan presenting Christmas Hampers to the 2 brothers, Louis and Paul

The South-South Human Right Forum

On December 7 to 8 2017 the Hon. Minister of Justice & Community Services Ronald Warsal and Acting Director General Pacco Siri had participated in the 'South South Human Rights Forum' that was held in Beijing, China.

The overall theme of the Forum was *"Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind and New Opportunities for Human Rights Development"*. The Forum was a platform for the international community, developing countries in particular, to discuss the current situation, challenges and advancements relating to the human rights cooperation. In his speech the Hon. Minister states:



Poverty Alleviation

Vanuatu is working hard to alleviate poverty through creation of more jobs in the Government and in the private sector. In 2010, 12.7% of population were living below the national poverty line.¹ The population with access to electricity was approximately 34.5% in 2014. For every 1000 babies born in 2015, 23 died before their first birthday.

The Government, through the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, supports a micro lending scheme, Vanuatu Women Development Scheme (VANWODS) to assist unbanked mothers throughout the 6 provinces to access funding needed for investment. These mothers engage in sewing, food catering, food stalls etc. to generate money to pay for their children school fees, medical bills, electricity and water as well as food to feed their family members. In 2011, Financial Services Sector Assessment identified that only 19% of Ni-Vanuatu (44,000 people) have access to financial services. A consumer survey conducted by

Pacific Financial Inclusion Prog(PFIP) in 2016, found that 32% of adult Ni-Vanuatu are completely excluded from financial services and only 37% of Ni-Vanuatu have bank accounts.² Digital infrastructure, including Government-to-Person (G2P), Mobile banking products, to name the few, have the potential to expand coverage and enhance financial inclusion. As you all know, Vanuatu was devastated by Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam in March 2015. Worldwide, Vanuatu's ranking as the country most at risk of natural disasters,³ creates additional challenges for Government efforts to alleviate poverty in Vanuatu.

Health

Vanuatu has 6 provinces with three big hospitals in 3 provinces and 3 provinces have only dispensaries. In the islands, it is a challenge to get to the hospital or a dispensary especially those who have limited or no access to road, ship or boat. For example in Torba province, ships visit after every three to four months, and mostly port at the provincial headquarters. The more remote islands often miss out.

In the absence of health services, mothers die while giving birth due to treatable complications and children die as a result of malnutrition or lack of immunisation. Diseases are not diagnosed early, leading to premature deaths. Life expectancy of Ni-Vanuatu is around the age of 70 years for male and 74 years for females. Non-communicable diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes are major causes of deaths. Early diagnosis and treatment could prevent these premature deaths.

In the remote islands, residents still suffer from a lack of clean drinking water. Water is fetched from underground wells and streams. A lot of adults and children often suffer from dysentery in times of heavy rain and flooding as debris contaminates their water sources.

Our 3 big hospitals still lack certain equipment necessary for saving lives. We only have basic equipment which in many circumstances is insufficient for our doctors and nurses to save patients in critical conditions.

Education

Our schools are bilingual (English & French). Vanuatu has enough schools, and now needs to focus on elevating teaching standards. This includes high quality, inclusive training for teachers and well-equipped science laboratories to allow students to conduct practical exercises. Recently the Ministry of Education and Training and the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu signed a MOU to address the issue of financial illiteracy.

¹¹ UNDP Vanuatu Hardship and Poverty Report (2012), 10 <
<https://vnso.gov.vu/index.php/component/advlisting/?view=download&fileId=2171>>.

² PFIP July 2017 - <http://www.pfip.org/newsroom/press-releases/2017-2/vanuatu-government-ministries-learn-digitization-payments/>

³ World Risk Report: Analysis and Prospects 2017 (2017), 17, 21
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WRR_2017_E2.pdf>.

In addition, Ministry of Education and Training introduced Bislama as the teaching language for lower classes (e.g. class 1), on the basis that using Bislama will enhance students learning ability.

The Government must make concerted efforts to include and address the needs of children with disabilities. Currently, the Government has pilot inclusive schools in Port Vila and Luganville only. The Government needs to expand accessibility of education to children with disabilities throughout Vanuatu going forward.

The Government, through the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 (NSDP – ‘the People’s Plan’) – has recently captured these needs and created targets across Social, Economic and Environmental pillars to guide development in Vanuatu. With the limited resources that we have, Vanuatu will work to address some of the challenges highlighted and report on our progress at the end of each year to the Government.

Infrastructure

The Vanuatu Government and its development partners, including China, are investing heavily in infrastructure reconstruction efforts especially building roads from the remote rural areas in the islands to main centres. Well-maintained roads will improve Ni-Vanuatu access to markets, including in the 6 provincial headquarters and particularly the two big Vanuatu towns (Port Vila and Luganville). Tourism is increasingly becoming a major source of employment for Ni-Vanuatu. The China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), funded by development partners, is currently reconstructing the Port Vila international airport. Vanuatu is hopeful that this reconstruction will bring more good tourists into the country once completed.

Vanuatu looks forward to working together with China to share our cultural beliefs and address our Human Rights issues while respecting national sovereignty - the major pillars of the first South-South Human Rights Forum.



Thank you for reading the November and December 2017 edition of Loa mo Sosel 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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