



LOA MO SOSEL JASTIS TOKOAT

The newsletter from the Justice and Community Services Sector.



Brought to you by:

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

IN THIS ISSUE

The purpose to the 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 website.

SECTOR UPDATES

VPF

With COM sign-off, the work is set to begin for the implementation of the Police Information Management System (PIMS) in April, and aiming to conclude by the end of the year.

As previously reported, the new system will bring tremendous benefits to all of the Force, especially around incidents, investigations and criminal history.

The implementation will not be without its challenges, e.g. training and support, but the Working Group, led by Acting Commander South - Willie Ben Kalo and supported by the VAPP Team, will be actively managing the implementation, and ensuring plenty of participation from all areas of the VPF.

CORRECTIONS

Steady work has been happening with the upgrade to OMS (the Offender Management System) and introducing the Document Management System - and building the 'bridge' between the two systems. Staff have been trained in the new features/system, and under the stewardship of Corporate Services Manager (Jask Carlo), he and his IT Leadership Team have set the benchmark in ensuring new systems are implemented with the full engagement of all staff. New Zealand Aid TA - Rob McAlister continues to provide invaluable support in these implementations.

OMBUDSMAN

Similar to the Prosecution offices, Lexis Nexis spent a day with the Ombudsman and his team scoping out the work to implement a CMS for the office, replacing the old 'File Tracker' system that has been used for many many years. It will provide the Ombudsman and the investigators significant case management features.



Mobility walkers a kind gift

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Page 4



Vanuatu translating Human Rights into Action

Engaging with the United Nations human rights mechanisms can be a daunting task...

Page 6

COURTS AND SLO

With almost six months using the new system, both organisations have identified 'things' they would like to see added to their respective CMS systems. When Lexis Nexis were here in March - they also spent time with both groups (the super users) talking/discussing the potential changes, so that Lexis Nexis can provide an accurate estimate of cost to introduce new features. They will report back to Courts and SLO in the coming weeks, with costs estimates, and then both groups, in conjunction with SRBJ will consider what can be achieved this year - recognising the usual financial challenges/priorities.

And for SLO - work is set begin in April in introducing the Document Management System (as per Corrections and other government agencies) for the likes of the Advisory Unit, Parliamentary Counsel, Corporate Services Unit.

PROSECUTION

During last month (March), Lexis Nexis visited both PPO and SPD undertaking a Scoping activity, to properly gauge the implementation effort for upgrading both offices from their Case Tracking System - to a Case Management System - along similar lines to SLO, but including the criminal functionality as

seen/provided for in the Court's system.

It is hoped that implementation beings in earnest in May - with full implementation for the two offices by the end of the year. Importantly, it will be one system, and allow more consistency on the way which cases are managed, documents are produced, and where appropriate - visibility across all cases.

NEWS FROM THE SECTOR

SOPAC CONFERENCE, BRISBANE AUSTRALIA

With support from the SRBJ Program me, Pacco Siri from Justice and Jimmy Avia from Police attended the SOPAC conference in Brisbane Australia in March with the Finance Adviser Sue Morrison.

This conference covered training and information sessions on finance, audit, governance, fraud, technology and management.

They also had many opportunities to network with people from all over the Asia Pacific Region, and meet inspirational speakers. A summary of the key learnings has been presented at a workshop for Finance Officers



PROBATION OFFICERS UNDERTAKING CHILD PROTECTION SYMPOSIUM AT APTC

Earlier this month the probation officers undertook awareness on Child Protection symposium, which covers the Correctional Services Act in relation to Juvenile issues, the Penal Code, the Correctional Centre and future plan, Probation community services as well as the 'Rod Blong Jastis' process.

Undertaking community awareness is one of the core roles of a Probation officer besides writing Court reports and supervising offenders on community sentences.

These awareness activities are in accordance to the business plan of the Probation unit with regards to education and community awareness



Probation officers undertaking awareness on Child Protection Symposium



NEW VEHICLE FOR MALEKULA PROBATION

The Caption above shows the Director of Correctional Services Mr. Johnny Marango receiving the key of the new Malekula Probation Vehicle by Mr. Ricky Lee (NZ Program Manager NZHC) on behalf of the New Zealand High Commissioners Office/Government on the 21st of March 2016. During the ceremony, Director Marango thanked the New Zealand Government for the funding of the vehicle to strengthen the work of the Probation Services on Malekula where there is a high caseload of offenders on community work and parole.

It is the first time since 2009 since the establishment of the Office at Lakatoro for the Probation Unit to have such a vehicle to help with the work of the Probation Officer in Malekula. Meanwhile Mr. Ricky Lee confirmed that the New Zealand Government is and has been helping Government agencies to improve its service delivery to the people and the community at large and will continue to support the Vanuatu Government and strengthen its partnership.

The Management expresses their outmost gratitude to the New Zealand Government for making it possible with

DISABILITY DESK HAS A NEW MEMBER

Leniker Thomas, a graduate from the University of Waikato in New Zealand, has just started working alongside the Ministry of Justice and Community Service's Disability Desk. Leniker has a Bachelor of Social Sciences, with a major in Economics. As Leniker is deaf, he will be teaching the MJCS sign language, as well as working on a number of outreach programs. It is important that employers within Vanuatu begin removing the barriers for people with a disability to enter the workforce, as these people have an enormous amount to contribute. The Disability Desk is excited to learn from Leniker, and most the most of his valuable skills.



CUSTOMARY LAND OFFICE AND MALVATUMAURI HELD ITS RETREAT

The four days retreat convened for officers of the Customary Land Management office and the Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs with financial support from the Stretem Rod blong Jastis project. The retreat held in Port Vila on the 14 to 17 March 2016. The retreat also brought together Chiefs from the Vaturisu Council of Chiefs from Efate for two days throughout the week.

The activities conducted throughout the week related to planning in jurisdiction of organizational hierarchies with reference to budgets. Chiefs were involved so as to participate on discussions regarding the success, challenges and current implementation status of the MCC 19 Resolutions.

There was also focus on administration strengthening regarding achievements, challenges, opportunities and focus on individual Job Descriptions (JD's) as the basis on which staff performances is assessed and how well work place procedures can assist administrative strengthening.

The lessons learned while implementing the new land legislations pertaining to leases in terms of difficulties encountered while putting into practice with relevant stakeholders were also presented. Experiences in other Province was put up to draw a closer look at the current status of the act's implementation. The recommended ways forward was put in the hope that it would assist future implementation of the act and the institutions as a whole

MOBILITY WALKERS A KIND GIFT FROM AUSTRALIA

Recently, the Disability Desk and the Physiotherapy Department of Villa Central Hospital received a generous donation of twenty mobility walkers complete with seats and wheels. These donations will be used to assist people with disabilities in their daily living and mobility. Many people living with disabilities cannot play as active a role in the community because of the physical restrictions and barriers that prevent their mobility. It is important that communities, governments and civil society organizations provide services and advocacy that help overcome these physical, mental and sometimes attitudinal barriers.

Thus it was with gratitude that the Disability Desk received on behalf of the Physiotherapy Department this gift of mobility walkers from a generous donor in Australia wanting to remain anonymous. We can however, acknowledge and thank the Mudgeeraba Pre School Community Parents and Friends Committee for helping out with the cost of the freight. Their thoughtfulness and kindness goes a long way to supporting the many people living with disabilities in our community. These walkers are all new and can be utilize by both the Disability Desk and the Physio Department as they assess current and new clients for their needs.

The Vanuatu Government showed a huge commitment to human rights in May 2007 when they signed off on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (UNCRPD). Sam Kaiapam the Disability Desk Officer with the Ministry of Justice and Community Service said “that the purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity”. To this ends the Disability Desk is guided by a Policy and Action Plan as well as the National Sustainable Development Goals. These documents outline the vision, rationale and strategies for the Disability Desk of achieving its goal of improving the lives of people with disability. The donation of quality goods received such as these mobility walkers support the desk to achieve these goals. The Disability Sector cannot do this on our own and it is not only appreciated but needed to have the broader community support the Disability Sector in its important work.

Mr. Kaiapam reiterated that it is very much appreciated to receive new and quality aids such as these. Mr. Kaiapam stressed the importance of communicating with the Disability Desk or other Disability Service Providers before bringing donated goods into the country. It is vital that these aids and donations meet a genuine need of the people we serve. We need to be careful particularly receiving second hand goods that may need repairs as often we do not have the skills or resources in country to fix these.

The Disability Desk can be contacted on 5333110 extensions 5200 if people or donors would like to discuss what assets or resources are required. We thank the Mudgeeraba community for supporting this initiative and to let them know that this donation will really meets a need over here. Donations such as these can really improve the life and opportunity of and individual to play a more meaningful and active role in their community.



THE SPIRIT OF EASTER AND A WONDERFUL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Easter is a time of giving and receiving and thinking of others beyond you. With this in mind the Student Council Representatives (SCR) of Port Vila International School (PVIS) thought about and discussed how they could create an activity that transcended one's own self. It was decided that a way to pave this concept forward was to ask all the students and families of PVIS to donate an Easter egg and these would be given to others in the community. It was with warmth and empathy that the students decided that they would like to donate these chocolate delights to people in their community living with disabilities. Thus a special assembly was organized where a beautiful exchange sweeter than chocolate occurred.

Vanuatu Society of People with Disability (VSPD) facilitates Early Intervention classes for pikinini with disability. The SCR thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to share their kindness with these children. The organization was contacted and staff and some pikinini were invited to PVIS on Friday 18 March for a whole school assembly to receive these gifts.

The assembly was a really special occasion as Rainbow Theatre Disability Group had offered to come and present a performance of one their plays to the school to showcase their talents. Frances Ruru from Rainbow Theatre introduced the play and talked a bit about the actors in the troupe. There were seventeen actors and together they held students, staff, parents and friends enthralled and enchanted throughout the 40 minute performance of "Bae I Kam", a play about cyclone preparation and climate change issues. There was heartfelt song and rhythm amidst the accomplished acting and the audience felt, heard and witnessed the full gamete of human emotions from joy and laughter, anger and confusion, rejection and connection. It was a marvelous event and as Mrs. Kate Lloyd, the Deputy Principal of PVIS, said in her thank you speech "it really showcased the actor's abilities not their disabilities".

Leitangi Solomon is an amazing role model for people with disabilities, despite being born with no arms or legs Leitangi works fulltime and spends much of her spare time advocating for Inclusiveness of people with disabilities in the community. Leitangi was also an invited guest and pointed out "that the play delivered awareness about climate change issues but the day was also very good for the school students to understand some people's life with a disability as many of the children may not have seen or interacted with people with disabilities before".

The PVIS year six student Council Representative, Emily Brevan commented: "The play was really interesting and entertaining. Seeing the smiles and laughs on the students faces while they watched the play, we knew that we had made the right choice inviting Rainbow Theatre and the Disability Society to share Easter celebrations with us."

Knox Lanny, a Support Officer from the Disability Desk in the Ministry of Justice and Community Services said the kind gesture of the SCR and the school was a tangible and positive step in showing how inclusion matters. People with disabilities have the same rights as every citizen of their country and should be included in all aspects of community life. The

performance and connection of Rainbow Theatre, VSPD and others being invited to the school to share in this event was a wonderful way for everyone to feel included. This was the first time that Rainbow Theatre or the Early intervention class has been invited to the International school so it a chance to share the spirit of Easter together as well as the thousand plus Easter Eggs. Rainbow Theatre really offers a great opportunity for children and adults of all ages to understand that everyone has talents and qualities they can contribute to their communities.

This Easter the students had the opportunity of thinking and acting beyond themselves, they are thankful of VSPD and Rainbow Theatre and Leitangi Solomon for coming to their school to share in the Easter gifts and know that more than just chocolates were exchanged on this very special day



VANUATU TRANSLATING HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS INTO ACTIONS



Engaging with the United Nations human rights mechanisms can be a daunting task. There are a great many requirements, and the sheer scale of the reporting and sources of information available to UN experts can make going before a committee a difficult and stressful process.

Such could have been the case with Vanuatu. The small island State was recently scheduled to present a report of its progress in improving the rights of women to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee. In the past, the delegation was unaware of the depth and breadth of information a committee would call upon in order to investigate how

well the country was keeping its human rights obligations to women.

But this time, said Jenny Tevi, acting head of the Treaties and Conventions Division of the country's Department of Foreign Affairs, they were ready.

"Our delegation felt well prepared and able to give updated information beyond what we had already submitted in writing, to ensure our responses fully satisfied the experts," she said.

Tevi, along with 10 other State officials, took part in training on how to best engage with UN expert committees. The training was organized by the UN Human Rights Regional Office for the Pacific, along with UN Women and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. It was held a few weeks before Vanuatu was to face the CEDAW Committee.

The training was aimed at helping government officials to better handle the interactive dialogue with CEDAW experts. Every four years, Vanuatu, as one of the 189 countries that ratified CEDAW, needs to demonstrate what steps it has taken to improve the situation of women in the country by reporting to the Committee.

In the training, officials were taught to understand the international standards on women's human rights and shown how to translate those standards into tangible action, said Catherine Phuong, acting head of the UN Human Rights Office in the Pacific.

"We are hopeful that through concerted efforts and the government's strong commitment, the fulfilment of women's rights will become a reality in Vanuatu and in the Pacific at large," she said.

And it seems the training helped the Vanuatu delegation impress during their CEDAW review session this past February. After the review, committee member Barbara Bailey said the delegation was in total control of the process. Bailey, who was a resource person in a similar training program me, said the answers to questions posed by experts were candid and frank and, in instances where information was not readily available, the delegation was open and receptive to advice on what more needed to be done.

"The performance of the delegation was stellar," she said. "The dialogue was refreshing and useful on both sides of the table. It is rewarding to see that capacity building undertaken by the UN Human Rights Office and UN Women can contribute to such a result and we look forward to future delegations following suite taking their engagement with the expert committees as seriously.



Thank you for reading the March edition of Loa mo Sospel Jastis Tokaout.

If you have any feedback for the newsletter please send it 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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