



For Immediate Release

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Final Executive Meeting for current VNYC Executive

Port Vila- The current Executive of the Vanuatu National Youth Council (VNYC) led by President Vira Taivakalo conducted its last meeting in Santo from 7-11th March 2016 as their terms comes to an end in August during the Annual General Meeting. The current VNYC Executive was elected in August 2013 at Rovo Bay, Epi Island, by Presidents of 6 Provincial Youth Councils and 2 Municipal Youth Councils.

A notable outcome of the Executive Meeting was the consultation on the VNYC Strategic Plan for the next 3-4 years and Youth Bill to be passed in Parliament this year. The Youth Bill when passed in Parliament will pave the way for the long term support of the Government of Vanuatu to the young people in their respective Provincial and Municipal Youth Councils. The Meeting was also crucial in approving the 2016 VNYC Annual Business Plan and Budget.

President Vira Taivakalo and his team of Presidents have led the VNYC in the last 3 years to promote the VNYC and the plight of the young people of Vanuatu. The Vanuatu National Youth Council has been more visible and more relevant although more needs to be done to reach all youths including youths with special needs.

Some milestones that this current VNYC Executive can be proud of are programs like the Youth Parliament, Youth Justice Symposium, Youth Climate Change initiatives and taking the celebration of the International Youth Day to the Provinces and Municipals throughout Vanuatu. In last year's International Youth Day celebration His Excellency, Fr Baldwin Lonsdale Officiated the event with the pledge to support the young people of Vanuatu.

In his last speech, President Vira acknowledges the support of the Vanuatu National Youth Executive for their confidence in him, the VNYC Secretariat, and the Vanuatu Government for their support to Council during his term as President from 2013 – 2016. Provincial and Municipal Youth Councils elections will be announced and conducted towards the end of March 2016.

Members of the VNYC Executive members are, Vira Edward Taivakalo, - President of the Vanuatu National Youth Council, Vice President John Patas- (represented by Sam Vula) Rebecca Solomon- Secretary, Jefferson Bani- Treasurer , Principal Administrator- Joe Kalo, and Janice Nicholson- Red Cross Volunteer.

Present at the Meeting was the Acting Director of Youth & Sports, Mr.Reginald Kipe.