

VNYC Q-Newsletter 2016

Youths want real CHANGE

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*"Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success."*



Youths casting their vote during the January Snap Election.

Photo supplied: Daily Post

During the course of the January 22nd Snap Election, VNYC has publicly come out in press as well as on air urging youths to cast their votes. A number of more than 200 youths have been informed through SMS, as well as more than a thousand reached from our Facebook page read the article headlined, "Cast your vote: Youth President". Not only that, but we have also received positive feedbacks from Radio Australia and Radio New Zealand about that article. It's good news though. Anywhere, after the election, VNYC Media have decided to have a Facebook survey to ask youth about their personal views on what they want the current government to do for them. And yes of course, CHANGE is the BOOM word! With the power of social media, one question was out and many answers returned. Many youths mentioned CHANGE. Many wanted to see developments and improvements in service delivery throughout.

Most says they want stability; a government which is accountable and transparent as well as is Corruption free.

"We want leaders to invest more of their times with us allowing a chance to voice our concerns and having it heard", says a youth member. While there are a lot of comments raised, one of which remains a priority is unemployment. "All I want to see is to have an increase in minimum wages and for our leaders or departments concern to create more jobs for the graduates", says a youth member.

"We want to see more focus on economic growth. More trainings institutions should be established in our main towns and create more projects in communities", expressed a youth member from Santo. One of the youth also says that she wanted a GOOD LEADER which will make a GOOD COUNTRY. Meanwhile, more than 20 youths have been interviewed online. We will be publishing the short video once approved.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2016!

And yes, we have strike through few of our plans for the first quarter.

This is the best part!!

For those who are interested to know what we will be doing for this year, see sum up of our activities below.

- ✓ Registration for active youth groups
- ✓ Youth Employment Focus
- ✓ Strategy Consultations
- ✓ Youth Act Consultation
- ✓ Psychosocial support trainings
- ✓ Ola Fou program
- ✓ Duke of Edinburgh award
- ✓ Youth Anti Corruption workshops
- ✓ Looking Beyond Disaster workshops
- ✓ International Youth Day
- ✓ Elections of VNYC Executive and Provincial Youth Presidents
- ✓ Production of films
- ✓ Recruitment of 2017 Volunteers Scheme

Excluded in the list are available training opportunities; Workshops; forums etc. All updates will be circulated through our social network.

Keep connected!

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Call us on Tel: 22352

Meeting the Commonwealth Observers team

The Vanuatu National Youth Council and the Department of Youth and Sports have also attended an Election Observer meeting conducted by the Commonwealth Observers team.

The meeting was held to discuss progress on what the superior youth offices have been doing in terms of Youth advocacy towards the Snap Election on the 22nd January.

The Commonwealth Observer group was chaired by Rt Hon Hubert Ingraham, former Prime Minister of The Bahamas and included four other observers: Ms Jane Pren-

tice, Member of Parliament (Australia), Mr Enrico Woolford, Editor-in-Chief, Capitol News (Guyana), Ms Jessica Nkuuhe, Gender Peace and Security Expert (Uganda) and Mr Walter Rigamoto, former Ombudsman and Supervisor of Elections (Fiji).

Members of the VNYC Executive and staff along with the Acting Director of Youth and Sports, Mr. Reginald Kipe attended the meeting.

The Youth and Commonwealth Observers Meeting was held on the 19th of January at the Grand Hotel.



Staff with the Commonwealth team meeting at Grand hotel.

National Youth Registry Update

Our Youth Registration first began in 2012 by Mrs. Rebecca Solomon. In 2012, Youth Data Registration software was setup by VNYC's first Registration Officer- Mrs. Margarete Terry.

Three youth volunteers have been helping out with the registration since 2012.

In early 2015, another registration officer was

recruited. She is Mrs. Regina Peter.

There are many reasons why registration is essential. One of the reasons behind registration is to identify the nature, needs, capacity, roles and activities being undertaken by different active youth organizations in Vanuatu.

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HERE UNDER IS AN UPDATE OF OUR 2012-2015 NATIONAL YOUTH REGISTRY.

PROVINCE	# OF YOUTH GROUP	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
TORBA	28	152	216	368
SANMA	16	76	101	193
LUGANVILLE	27	248	342	592
MALAMPA	82	325	436	761
PENAMA	32	101	200	302
SHEFA	117	484	682	1264
PORT VILA	38	166	360	536
TAFEA	141	357	517	858
TOTAL	481			4874

We still have a lot of registration forms to enter into our data system and of course numbers of active youth group will surely change. Otherwise, Data entry and registration is still ongoing



Sports Stakeholders Meeting at the Melanesian Hotel

‘WE WILL REMAIN COMMITTED FOR VAN 2017’: ACTING DIRECTOR KIPE

“We will remain committed for VAN2017”, says Acting Director of the Department of Youth & Sport, Reginald Kipe.

Speaking with VNYC’s- Vois blong yut radio program, Mr, Kipe says that all Provincial Youth & Sports Officers and staff of the Ministry and Department , VASANOC, VAN2017 Partners, Stakeholders, National Federations and Sports family will continue to

work hard towards 2017 games. According to the Minister of Youth and Sport, Honourable Nato Taiwia says 2017 will happen.

The Government of Vanuatu will remain committed as Honorable Minister Nato Taiwia re-affirmed its commitment to ensure that the necessary budget is available for the Games Organising Committee to utilize.

DoYSD to support DoE Projects

The Department of Youth and Sports Development (DoYSD) (through the Empowerment Office) will be supporting three award participants’ projects this year. Speaking with VNYC Media, Coordinator of the Vanuatu DoE award program, Mrs Rebecca Solomon says the Empowerment office under the Department of Youth will be providing technical and financial support towards three projects as part of its 2016 work plan.

“Since we have begun the DOE program we have been lobbying for the Government recognition to the program and I would say YES we have achieved that and that is we are now coordinated by the Youth Empowerment section with the Department of youth and sports”, says Mrs Solomon.

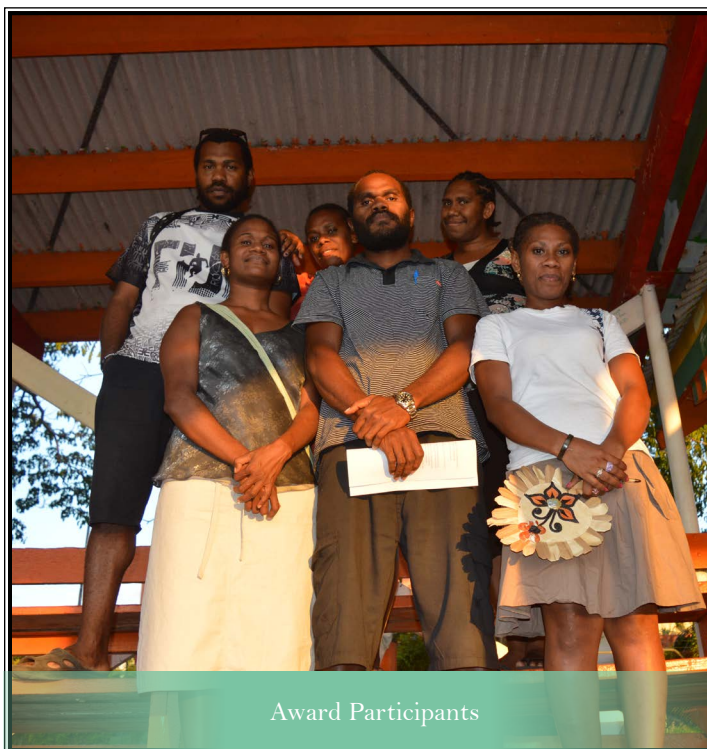
The program has last seen active in 2013.

“The DoE activities are on hold due to many reasons but the only activities up and running are individual skills and services provided through participatory involvement in workshops as well as PAM relief efforts”, explained Mrs Solomon.

Apart from that, participants will again continue their programs this year and onwards. A total of 15 participants are now undergoing their activity sections as well as individual projects. Few are award leaders.

Meanwhile, we have at least 3 operating licence ((1) Vanuatu national Youth council, (2) Port Vila youth council, (3) Luganville Youth Council) which will come to an end in March 2016 and will be renewed.

There are no new intakes for this year.



Award Participants

YOUTH & SPORTS RETREAT

The Ministry of Youth and Sports Development has held its retreat in February.

In his opening remarks, the Acting Director of the Department of Youth and Sports, Mr. Reginald Kipe says the retreat is aimed at two objectives.

The two objectives are the VAN2017 games and the 2016 working plans.

“Our 2016-2017 priority is VAN2017. With that, it is important that all staff including Provincial Youth and Sports officers must create effective sporting programs to work on this year onwards”, says Mr. Kipe.

During the course of the one week retreat, all staff of the Department, National Youth Council, Sports Commission, Sports for Development and Sports development have presented their 2015 reports. Provincial Youth and Sports



Retreat Group photo with Minister Taiwia

Officers have also presented their report as well as the newly offices of Youth Empowerment and Youth Employment. The retreat was held on the

15-19th February at the Crystal Blue Resort in Port Vila. All Provincial Youth and Sports Development Officers attended the retreat includ-

ing staff of the Ministry/Department of Youth and Sports / Vanuatu National Youth Council and Vanuatu National Sports Commission.

Youths trained in CP Response and PSS



TAFEA Youth participants in a PSS Activity

More than 350 youths throughout Vanuatu were trained in Child protection (CP) responses and psychosocial support (PSS) training. The PSS project coordinator,

Mrs. Rebecca Solomon says in a report that quite a number of youths, children and adults have benefited a lot from the program itself. According to a 2015 PSS re-

port, 10,602 children were involved in the CP Response and PSS; 350 youth peer educators were trained; 1500 service providers were trained and 42 community leaders were selected as Community Focal Peer Educators.

Psychosocial has changed minds of the Community leaders – especially youths, allowing them to be more proactive in community participation especially towards disaster response.

“We are working really hard to help local communities have access to awareness they deserve. As long as PSS exists, we will continue to train our young people to reach out to their peers & expand scope of psychosocial activities result-

ing in activities such as; community mapping, identifying PSS needs for children, creation of drop in centers, sports activities and children festivals”, says Mrs. Solomon in an interview.

In another news, VNYC active youth group registration has also been undertaken in Loh and Hiu (TORBA Province) in late January and February.

The psychosocial program is a program funded by the UNICEF in partnership with the Department of Youth Development & sport. It has commenced in April last year (soon after PAM) and ends in February.

PSS has rolled out in all provinces throughout the country.



Ola Fou participants arriving from the Solomon's

OLA FOU YOUTHS BACK FROM SOLOMON IS

A total of 28 Ola Fou youths have return from the Solomon Islands in February.

Country Manager of the Ola Fou Program, Fr. Benjamin Tasiro told VNYC Media that the youths have spend 2 weeks from February 17th – 2nd March to undertake their courses.

“We now have 17 new certificate

intakes, 7 Diplomas and 4 interns”, Fr. Tasiro told VNYC Media.

Fr. Tasiro also added that the Program will soon reached out to take in more youths from TORBA and MALAMPA province within the coming years.

Next trip is schedule for Fiji in July.

Meanwhile, Ola fou means

“New Life” in Samoan Language. It is an educational initiative aimed at supporting Pacific based youth workers to develop their leadership skills and gain a qualification around working with young people in their community.

Funding is supported through the NZ Aid.

FINAL EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD IN LUGANVILLE

The current VNYC Executive led by President Vira Taivakalo has conducted its last meeting in Luganville, Santo from the 7-11th March 2016.

An 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 and the approvals of the 2016 VNYC Annual Business Plan and Budget.

In his remarks, Mr. Vira Taivakalo (VNYC President) acknowledges the support of the Vanuatu National Youth Executive for their confidence in him, the VNYC Secretariat, and the Vanuatu Government for their support towards the Council during his term as President from 2013 – 2016.

VNYC is please to let all aware that 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.

Fish@Work launched to empower youths

The Pacific Community's Director General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga has officially launched the fish@work project for the Rongorongowia session.

The official launching took place on the 22nd of February at Siviri Village, Efate.

It is a project aimed at empowering youth to improve their livelihood as well as allow them to involve in community participation that will benefit them and their community and village at large.

VNYC Media is aware that the Fish@Work project will do roll



Rongorongowia youth group in a group photo with Pacific Community's DG -Dr.Tukuitonga

out in TAFEA Province.

The Rongorongowia session included the four villages of Emua, Saama, Siviri and Sunai (Moso).

Fish@Work project is a PAM Rehabilitation Fisheries project funded by the Pacific Community.

EXECUTIVE VISITS LUGANVILLE YOUTH PROJECTS

The VNYC Current Executive has visited three youth projects in Luganville during the Executive Meeting.

There are currently three youth projects for the Luganville Youth Council.

The Three projects are a Multi Sports Complex (Shapius Area); Youth Centre (Solway Area) and a Fish Pond Project (Shapius Area). President of the Luganville Youth Council, Vira Taivakalo (also the President of the VNYC), has told VNYC Media that the phase one of the fish Pond Project has been completed last year.

Mr. Taivakalo said that the fish pond project has recently received 400 fishes again from the Fisheries Department for feeding. The previous fishes were harvest last year in November.

In terms of the Multi- Sports complex and Youth Centre, Mr Tai-vakalo has also confirmed that construction has already commenced.

Meanwhile, the projects were supported by the Department of Youth and Sports Development.



President of the Luganville Youth Council- Vira Taivakalo explaining more about the Youth Projects to the former Youth & Sports minister- Toara Daniel

Nationwide Strategy Consultation continues

Vanuatu National Youth Council is developing a new strategy that will determine the next four years of programs, projects, advocacy and organisational development. This strategic plan will take up work from the current VNYC Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015.

We have conducted several consultation sessions in local communities around the country with fo-

cus on hearing the voices of young people and understanding their needs and opportunities available to them.

Young people from the provinces of TAFEA, SANMA and LUGANVILLE have already been consulted while Consultations are still ongoing for TORBA, PENAMA, MALAMPA and SHEFA Province and the Port Vila Municipal area.

So far, 120 young people have participated in consultation sessions with additional for, VNYC staff, Internal and External stakeholders, such as other youth services, Provincial Youth Presidents, VNYC Executive members, Youth & Sports Officers and Staff of the Department of Youth & Sports. The information from all consultations will be collated and analyzed in a document to be shared

with VNYC partners.

The results of the consultations with supporting research will ensure that VNYC has a new 2016-2019 Strategic Plan.

Janice Nicholson, an Australian Red Cross Volunteer, is assisting with the review of the current strategy and the development of the next strategic plan. Consultations will end in Mid-2016.

MINI YOUTH CONGRESS AT BIGBAY

A SANMA SDA Mini Youth Congress was held at Bigbay- Santo on December 20-27 last year.

The Seventh Day Adventists Youths from around SANMA attended the congress.

A wide range of activities and trainings from stakeholders were carried out with high youth participation.

VNYC's President- Vira Taivakalo, VNYC's Secretary- Mrs Rebecca Solomon; SANMA Youth & Sports Officer -Newman Tangis; SANMA Youth President- Sam Vula and Registration Officer- Regina Peter attended the congress.

Registration was also undertaken.



YOUTH AUTHORITY BILL CONSULTATION CONTINUES

One of VNYC's notable outcomes of the Executive Meeting was the consultation on the Youth Bill to be passed in Parliament this year.

VNYC's Principal Administrator- Joe Kalo says 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. VNYC has made several consultations with its internal stakeholders as well as a number of CSO's in Port Vila in late February. However, there is still need for wider consultations. The Bill was drafted in 2012.

New Social Media accounts created

While Social Media remains one of the fastest growing tools to advocate, Vanuatu National Youth Council is heading social too!

In the last quarter, a Facebook page was created. Our Facebook page is Vanuatu National Youth Council.

We have a created LIVE twitter account as well. It's @Van-YouthsLIVE.

We believe that social media tools are powerful tools to advocate for Youth development

nationally, regionally and internationally.

'Follow' us on Twitter; 'Like' and 'Invite' your friends on Facebook to like our page.

Additionally, we also have a Google group. It is VNYC& Stakeholder. Send us an invitation if you wish to be part of our group to receive and part take in our discussions online.

Finally we do have a blog page. You can view it at <http://vanutznews.blogspot.com/>.

It is free for subscription.

ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER IN OFFICE

A new assistant finance officer is now helping out with finance in the secretariat.

She is Magreatte Reuben from Tanna.

Miss Reuben will be assisting the Secretariat (on voluntary basis) with finance and registration roles.

She has commenced duties in early March.

The Finance Officer position is vacant and will shortly be advertised.

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fice

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Miss Reuben in Office duties