



For Immediate Release

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Cast your vote: Youth President

Port Vila- The president of the Vanuatu National Youth Council (VNYC), Mr. Vira Edward Taivakalo says it is essential that young people must vote in the upcoming snap election which is scheduled to take place on the 22nd of January.

President Taivakalo made this statement in an interview earlier this week at the VNYC office.

“Young people could make a huge difference if they vote for their best right candidates because their vote matters a lot. Therefore, it is essential that they cast their vote during the upcoming snap election”, says President Taivakalo.

President Taivakalo made this call due to observation of the poor turnout at the previous by Election in October 2015.

“During these times of campaigns, many political parties seemed to make their statements focussing on young people because they are a high percentage of the population. Many made promises; Many have youth followers campaigning for them however, young people should not be thrown away during voting day”, continued Taivakalo.

President Taivakalo says that many youths would not want to vote because no change may have been seen within their community in the recent years.

“Many youths would say that their voting never changes anything, therefore may not seriously think of voting again. In this case I am urging all to do so in this upcoming snap election because their voting matters.”

Youths must exercise their right to vote and that no one is to decide on who they should vote for, but for them to make the right choice of their own.

When questioned about his best word of advice to the youths, President Taivakalo says, “Youths have a very big responsibility to play within a country. There are two points I would like to address. One is time and one is change. Time moves and change happen. No one is rich in time and no one is poor in time. We all have the same time but the point is how best we manage it. In terms of change, change will happen whether you like it or not”.

He continued saying that, whatever happens, youths who have access to a card must vote. Their vote counts and may not matter now but in the coming years. Alongside that, he also added that youths should consider seriously who to vote for and why they vote for that representative.

President also added that government services throughout the country have reasons why they existed.

“All government schools, institutions and training centres are provided for a reason. They are built to help youths in the future. Therefore, youths should bear in mind that wherever they set their foot in any training centres or so, they know that it is their vote that brings them to it.”

President Taivakalo also said that if youths really want to see change, they should start within themselves. The change is in their hands.

“I strongly urged the youths of Vanuatu to cast their vote if they do have their cards. Those who need proxies should also do so. However it is sad to see that no cards could be made at this point in time”.

President Taivakalo concludes saying, “Youth vote matters. Choose your best right leader and cast your vote”.

Meanwhile, Young people needed to take greater responsibility and see it as their civic duty to vote is essential and would only bring about change if they exercise it.

Vanuatu National Youth Council strongly believes that youths could make a change as 68% of Vanuatu’s population young people a powerful political force. Furthermore, VNYC would like to wish all youths as well as citizens of Vanuatu a happy voting day on the 22th January.