



# GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU

## Ministry of Lands

### 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Newsletter 2017

#### Department of Lands

##### *Contract Staffs Farewell*

On Friday 27 October 2017; Department of Lands & CSU staffs did farewell to three of their staffs which their contract has been ended this month: Mrs Saul, Mr Balmet and Mr Rezel. They joined the Lands departments last year as Scanner and Data entry officers.

The farewell ceremony was witnessed by the A/DoL, the Senior Lease officer, the Senior Planning officer and lands staffs. The A/DoL and the senior officers encouraged the three officers to continue to pursue their dreams and to continue to look for other jobs in other ministries and companies. "When one door closes; another door opens" said the senior Planning officer. As their work comes to an end, the department of lands and CSU team wishes them all the best in their future endeavors.

*"When one door is  
closed, don't you  
know, another is  
open"  
Bob Marley*



*Group photo with all contract staffs*

## Corporate Service Unit : ITC

### *ITC Training in house*

The ICT section produced a second volume of its training manual this year.

At the end of October 2017, the ICT team started a two-week internal training on ICT. The ICT Section, once again, finds it necessary to train officers from the Department of Land, Water, Geology / Mines and the Office of the Valuer General to assist them in some of the basics IT issues that they will daily encounter in their working places.

This training will allow them to change some of the ways of working to improve services and productivity within the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. The ITC section is happy to have retrained the agents and hopes that everyone has left with a new knowledge.

*“The capacity to learn is a gift; The ability to learn is a skill; The willingness to learn is a choice.”*  
*Brian Herbert*



IT Trainers and the participants



## Department of Water Resources

### *Middle bush community accesses water at their door step*



*Minister for Lands and Natural Resources and his delegation were pleased to witness the opening of one of the biggest water systems at Middle Bush Tanna, the project was implemented by the Adventist Disaster Relief Agency (ADRA).*

The last quarter for this year , the Department with its partners that were contracted to do the water systems in the communities , went to the communities to officially hand over the water system to the community and the water committee. The Minister in his speech acknowledges the communities in their commitments to make the dream come true for their communities and most importantly to ensure that the systems are being maintained , with in the new water act at least 40 % of the water committee must be females.

*“By means of water,  
we give life to  
everything.”  
Anonymous*



*People from Imaki were so excited to have their water systems opened jointly by the Minister Ralph and the New Zealand High Commissioner.*



*People of Malampa Province have a new office that that will house the staff of water.*

## Department of Water Resources

### *Project Management Unit update*

#### Progress of Programme

Activity	No of Communities
Completed DoWR	27
Completed Hand Pump contract	17
In progress DoWR RWH	42
In progress DGF contract	22
In preparation RWH Contract	44
Awaiting conditions (incl Ambae)	11
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>163</b>

The Department of Water Resource has established a project management unit, to ensure that the projects are being implemented within their timeframe. The table opposite provides the information on the works that are being done to date, that was funded by the Australian Government.

### *Wash cluster providing quality water to the communities in Ambae*

*"No water, No life.  
No blue, No green."  
Sylvia Earle*



Water Technicians ensures that the water quality is safe for human consumption prior to the returning of the evacuees back to Ambae.



Staff did the water Trucking to the communities that are in need of clean and safe water.



## Department of Water Resources

### *National Hand Washing Day*



Each year on October 15th is the National Hand Washing Day where activities are conducted around the country to educate the communities especially the children on the importance of hand washing. Study revealed that 40 % of absenteeism can be avoided when there is a proper sanitation facilities that the children use in the schools.

### *Life Changing Story*

Talap Naiu from Middle Bush Tanna gave an emotional account of how women in her villages had so much to do from the rising of the sun until they go to bed. “ We the women would wake up very early in the morning get the breakfast for the kids and send them off to schools, then we would walk to the gardens and do the work around the gardens, when we return home we would start to get the evening meals and do the cleaning around the house, by then it is already dark, but we still have to walk for several kilometers to get to the source and have a bath and collect water for the next day. “ A lot of times we would be tired and do not have the energy to walk to the water and would go to bed without a good bath. Women encountered a lot of challenges going to fetch water as they walk through the bushes and shrubs.

We would like to acknowledge the New Zealand government for providing the funds through the department of Water and ADRA for implementing the projects in our communities.

*“Thousands have  
lived without love not  
one without water.”  
W.H. Auden*

## Department of Water Resources

### *Drilling Team*



The Drilling Team were in Ambae when the government ordered the massive evacuation from the island. While they staying in Santo the team assisted the wash cluster team in ensuring that there is enough water in all the evacuation centers, A handful of communities made good use of the team and made them drill their boreholes.

*“Water is life, and  
clean water means  
health.”*

*Audrey Hepburn*

### *Department of water farewell three Senior staffs*



the department of the Water Resources three of their long serving staff members. All seated in front with Director Ericson Sammy and Valuer General Mr Menzies Samuels. All the three staff members serve more than 30 years in the Government under the Department of Water.



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The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources oversees the functions of the Department of Lands, the Department of Water, Geology and Mines and the Office of The Valuer General.

It also works in collaboration with other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs through the Port Vila Municipal Council, to deal with land issues.

The main areas we will focus on, are on:

- ⇒ Ensuring there are fair dealing in lands.
- ⇒ Ensuring that the rights of Custom Owners to their lands, and its developments, are fully recognized and protected.

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