



Sanma TVET Centre
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Vanuatu Government

Mr. Sakaraia Daniel
Secretary General
SANMA Province

9th April 2014

SANMA TVET CENTRE UPDATE–March 2014

Secretary General,

Please find below a brief report on key activities undertaken by the Sanma TVET Centre to improve the quality of, and access to training delivery in Sanma Province in support of provincial development for the month of March 2014.

We are pleased to inform you of the positive outcomes for that period to ensure benefits for the people of Sanma Province.

Business Development Services

- On the 4th of March, Sanma TVET Centre in partnership with the Department of Tourism officiated the launch of 1 handicraft nakamal and guest-house at Vunespef village (Millennium Cave), the first ever Sanma Information Centre (online booking/marketing service), and 6 local accommodation products and 1 new local beef restaurant at Port Orly. The official launching of these Tourism products marked another milestone witnessed by a high delegation led by the Australian High Commissioner, New Zealand Aid Program Counsellor, Director General of the Ministry of Tourism, Industry, Trades & Commerce, as well as other Government representatives. The launching of these activities demonstrates the good results and achievements of the partnership between the Sanma TVET Centre and the Tourism Department and the New Zealand Aid Program.

During the launching:

1. **Millennium Cave Tour** - The Australian High Commissioner, Hon. Jeremy Bruer, was very pleased and congratulated Mr. Samuel Andikar for his great commitment, determination and leadership in developing the Millennium Cave Tour (MCT) business to a stage where it has now become one of the best world-class attractions. Mr. Bruer continued to share his acknowledgement and gratitude to the MCT staff and community members for their continuous support and

commitment towards the tourism industry. Mr. Samuel Andikar who is the Manager of MCT also received a gift of recognition from Hon. Jeremy Bruer as a gift from the Australian Government. Mr. Andikar was commented on by very senior officials during the launch as a 'Role Model' for other local Ni-Vanuatu tourism operators especially in the outer islands of Vanuatu. Another milestone for MCT development was also witnessed by the delegates and Vunespef village and 3 other surrounding communities was the official handing over of the MCT tour guides certificates of recognition by the Director of the Tourism Department-George Borugu. This is to certify the 12 competent tour guides as professional nationally accredited tour guides after going through several tour guide coaching and trainings on Professional Tour Guiding, First Aid, Safety Management & Emergency Evacuation training in 2012 and 2013, coordinated by the Sanma TVET Centre in partnership with VSA volunteers.. In addition, the Australian High Commissioner, Hon Jeremy Bruer, the New Zealand Aid Program Counsellor, Mikaela Nyman, and the Vanuatu Government through the Ministry of Tourism and Trades, Director General, Marakon Alilee, officially cut the ribbons to officially open the new nakamal and MCT guest house together with a pig killing ceremony by the community paramount Chief as a highlight to mark this event.





2. **Sanma Information Centre** - The Director General, Mr. Marakon Alilee, presented the official address of Hon. Willie Jimmy, Minister for Tourism and Trades. In his remarks, he highlighted the Government's support through the Ministry of Tourism and Trades towards this newly launched project which will benefit the local tourism operators in becoming a 'one-stop-shop' for the international visitors and tourists coming to the northern provinces and to the outer islands. The on-line service, established through the support of the TVET Program, will enable for the first time ever Ni-Vanuatu tourism operators to market and have their product booked internationally. The Chairman of the Sanma Information Centre, the Australian High Commissioner, and representatives from the Vanuatu Tourism Office, and Telecom Vanuatu Limited (a key project sponsor) also stressed the importance of this joint-partnership agreement and efforts to work together in implementing this project in the future. They cut the ribbons and declared the official opening of the Sanma Information Centre.



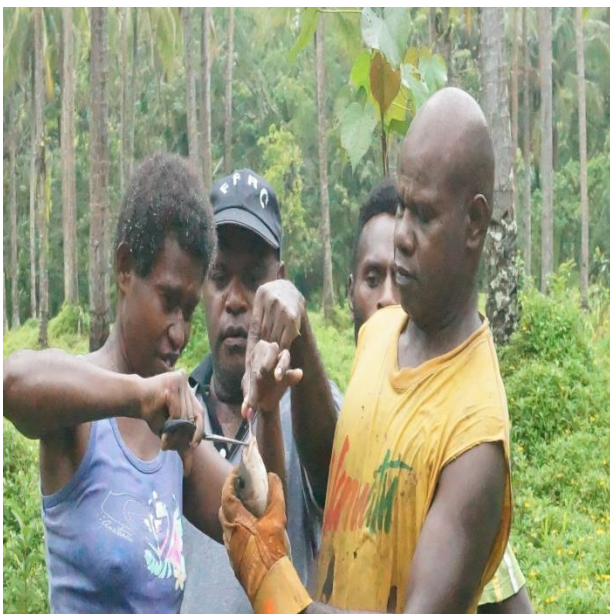
- Port Orly** - The Chairman of the Vanuatu Tourism Office, Mr. Philip Malas, congratulated 7 local product owners in Port Orly for the preservation of their natural land resources and the beautiful white sandy beaches. The investment and development of their land into a tourism attraction is the beginning of a new development in the local tourism industry for the community. He stated that he was excited to see that local land owners of Port Orly recognized their potential to work together with the Sanma Tourism Department and Sanma TVET Centre to develop their products. From his wide-experience in running his own Tourism business “Evergreen”, Mr. Malas ended the day’s event by sharing his life-experience about starting a similar tourism business at a small scale which later grew into a big and very successful tourism business—thus motivating the local community members including the 9 product owners. “Use local, stay local, live local” was the ‘theme’ promoted for the 9 products. This was repeatedly mentioned after the ribbon cutting to officially open all products. The 9 product owners were encouraged to continue in promoting this theme— as it reflects the outer island tourism industry and relevant to tourist expectations, and is also a key principle of TVET Centre support.



- From the 7th to 21st March 2014, Sanma TVET Centre Staff joined the new Torba TVET Centre Staff and representatives from Torba Productive Sectors to conduct the TVET Program awareness campaign to communities in Loh, Hiu, Vanualava, Mota and Motalava Island about the different TVET Centre services and how community members could access these services. During the awareness, TVET Centre staff also distributed brochures and showed DVDs to community leaders that will help the community to understand the objectives of the TVET Program and the new TVET Centre. At the end of the awareness, the community members became aware of and clearly understood these objectives. During the awareness, the TVET Centre staff were faced with significant logistical challenges caused by cyclone Lusi. However, the staff still managed to plan carefully and complete the awareness activities to the scattered islands of Torba province, thanks also to support from TVET Program Head Office in Port Vila.



- From the 24th to 28th March 2014, the TVET Centre worked in partnership with the Fisheries Department to conduct a tilapia fish culture workshop to 28 participants (3 females) at Jarailan Community. This workshop provided technical skills to Tilapia farmers to prepare and fertilize fish ponds, stock tilapia fingerlings and to regularly control the quality of water in ponds for sampling & calculating average body weight for correct feeding ratios within a time frame. Some farmers who took the initiative to start their own fish pond with advice from other trained farmers who were part of previous tilapia workshop also harvested their tilapia fish during the workshop on fish culture. At the end of the workshop, an action plan was developed by each farmer which will guide the Fisheries Department expert and TVET Centre staff to monitor the implementation of the farmers' activities.



- On the 25th of March 2014, Sanma TVET Centre in partnership with Sanma Frangipani Association and DPA, organized an awareness event which gathered together disability representatives from each area council and members of the two disability associations at the Chief's Nakamal. The purpose of this event was to raise awareness about the National TVET Sector Disability Inclusion Strategy being developed through the support of the TVET Program and services available through the Sanma TVET Centre for people with disabilities. The event also focused on identifying the training needs of people with disability in Sanma Province. Another focus of the event was to clarify any confusion that may have existed, gauge feedback and answer questions, about the disability strategy. This awareness event was a great starting point which provides the Sanma TVET Centre staff and disability inclusion stakeholders with a better understanding of how to move forward with training for people with disabilities in Sanma province.



- From 27th to 28th March 2014, Sanma TVET Centre organized a workshop bringing together over 30 participants that included senior government officers, Directors of productive sectors and provincial field officers, Sanma training providers and other NGOs and private sector agencies representing the Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries sector to consult and report on the findings of the Technical follow up survey conducted in September 2013. The follow up survey was a partnership between Sanma TVET Centre, Vanuatu Agriculture College, Vanuatu Maritime College and the Fisheries Department. Drawing from these findings, the workshop enabled participants to discuss and develop skills training plans for their respective sectors for implementation in 2014 for Sanma province, in partnership with the TVET Centre. In this way, the workshop assisted key productive sectors to prioritize their skills development needs based on the report finding of existing farmers and fishermen who were already part of the TVET Centre training and want to further improve their businesses and production levels. The Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries representative also presented and formally submitted after the workshop their initial 'TVET for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, and

Fisheries' work programs for 2014 which will be discussed again in another meeting in mid-April to finalize these plans for implementation.



These are the results of the hard working staff of the TVET Centre and our partners and we look forward to continue to work with you to strengthen our communities by delivering coordinated trainings, workshops, and coaching for economic development.

Sincerely yours

Moulin TABOUTI

SANMA TVET Centre Manager

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