

Local News

# TVET centre enhances tourism clients' accounting skills

By Anita Roberts

**ACCOUNTING, OR HOW TO** deal with money, is a priority skill that existing local Sanma province tourism operators are still lacking, said the Sanma Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centre manager, Moulin Tabouti.

For one week, 22 individuals from bungalows, restaurants and tour operations in Santo have been going through an accredited accounting train-

ing course at the Santo East Primary School.

This initial training is part of the Australian-funded TVET centre's aim to increase the understanding of and equip participants with basic accounting skills so as to improve productivity and the likelihood of their success in business.

Knowing where the money goes, how it is used and how it is recorded: calculating balance budgets, producing financial

statements and paying expenses, are examples of what participants learnt, said trainer Arthur Edgell from the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce.

One participant, Bob Henry, who came from the Flower Garden Water Music Experience, agreed that accounting is an ability most people lack.

"Only some have it, like bank tellers...educated people prefer to be employed, unlike the

uneducated who struggle hard to make a living by creating small jobs, like in tourism.

"These small businesses could have better infrastructure and brilliant operation plans, but their management is somehow difficult.

"After this course, I believe there will be significant improvement in local businesses in the future and I acknowledge the TVET centre for its funding and support," he said.

The Australian-government funded TVET sector strengthening program aims to support provincial economic development through access to skill development services.

The program encourages a more responsive and better quality training system that is able to meet the skill demands of key sectors, like tourism.

The course is accredited and quality-assured by the Vanuatu National Training Center

(VNTC). Participants, upon successful completion of training, receive a nationally recognized certificate.

The training course ends today, Friday, November 21.

Participants are from the Millennium Cave, Riri Blue Hole, Nada Blue Hole, Million Dollar Point Tours, Little Paradise Restaurant, Secret Garden, Marine Conservation, Water Music and also in attendance is a Vanuatu tourism officer.