05 April, 2012

Dear Acting Secretary General,

MALAMPA TVET CENTRE UPDATE FEBRUARY-MARCH 2012

Please find below a brief report on key activities undertaken by the TVET Sector Strengthening Program to improve the quality of, and access to, training delivery in MALAMPA Province in support of provincial development for the month of February to March 2012.

Thank you for the collaborative efforts we have all put together to make these development activities happen.

Sincerely,

Marian LOUGHMAN
Deputy Team Leader/ Malampa Centre Manager, TVET Sector Strengthening Program

CC: Joe Iautim, Director, Department of Youth Development, Sports & Training
    David Lambukly, CEO VNTC
    Renjo Samuel, MALAMPA PTB Chair
    Palen Ata, MALAMPA Provincial Planner
    Christelle Thieffry, Senior Program Officer, AusAID
    Fremden Shadrack, BDS Manager, TVET Program
    Anna Gibert, Team Leader, TVET Program
    Peter Morris, Technical Director, TVET Program
    MALAMPA PTB Members
A. Accredited Training Activities

A total of two accredited trainings happened in Malampa Province this period. Both trainings were in the area of Forestry, targeting mainly Nursery & Woodlot Management.

*Table 1.1 below shows the details of the training activities that have been delivered.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector/Training type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Training Provider</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery &amp; Woodlot Management</td>
<td>23 January-3 February 2012</td>
<td>Tenmaru, North West Malekula</td>
<td>Vanuatu Agriculture College</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery &amp; Woodlot Management</td>
<td>23 January-3 February 2012</td>
<td>Vinmavis, Central West Malekula</td>
<td>Vanuatu Agriculture College</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Forestry

*Nursery & Woodlot Management*
Under this sector, this training (Nursery & Woodlot Management) is the first of its kind delivered in Malampa province after several workshops in Chalk line and Chainsaw mini-milling. The Forestry Department, through its provincial staff, initiated these trainings. As shown in the table above, the two trainings, one delivered at Vinmavis and the other at Tenmaru were targeted particularly at Sandal wood nursery and management. Participants were selected around the Central and NW of Malekula. The outcomes and recommendations of these trainings indicate that this is a positive initiative that requires further development. Trainers’ reports highlighted clearly that Sandal wood grows well in this geographical location (North West Malekula), hence, it should be encouraged to be grown widely and in high quantity. The TVET Program will continue to work with the training institution concerned, the Forestry Department and relevant experts to support Sandal wood industry in Malampa province.

A highlight that is worth mentioning in this report is that the Forestry Department officers who have gone through the TVET Centre funded Trainer Trainings were the trainers of these two trainings. With the assistance of the TVET Program, these trainers are now registered under the scope of the Vanuatu Agriculture College (VAC) to deliver VNCT certified training. A strength of this collaboration is that the Forestry officers after training will continue to support these clients as part of their roles and responsibilities under the Department of Forestry.

**Long standing approved trainings**

One of the challenges that the Centre is currently facing is the delay of Training Providers proposal submission. Hence, a major focus for the Centre this period was follow up of training providers to submit proposals for long standing approved trainings. According to the Centre’s records, the need for training in the tourism industry, for instance, is of high priority, and with the Training Providers long delay in submitting proposals for training, this leads to increased number of approved trainings left unattended to since 2010. With special efforts exerted on this, positive indications have been received by training providers concerned for these accredited trainings to be delivered.

**B. Business Development Service (BDS) Activities**

Three main BDS activities happened this period. These include Tourism Coaching & Workshop and Launching of Malekula Tourism Products, Cane & Rattan furniture making Stage 2 and Follow up of clients who have been through accredited trainings & BDS activities.

1. **Tourism coaching highlights**

The Malampa Tourism Office launched four new tourism products in Malekula in the month of March bringing the total number of Department of Tourism approved bungalows and tours in Malekula to 12. These products were able to reach the necessary accreditation quality standard with the support of the TVET Centre’s Malampa tourism BDS program.
Reaching the accreditation standard is a result of two years of business development support services provided by the Malampa TVET Centre to grow tourism in the region. The TVET Centre employed tourism expert Pascal Gavotto to mentor, coach and guide locally owned tourism operators.

Included in the four launches were:

- **Big Nambas Bungalow**: the small bungalow and restaurant operation is the first accommodation available for tourists in the North West Big Nambas area of Malekula. Tourists will now be able to stay in the area and enjoy several of the Big Nambas activities including custom dancing.

  - "The bungalow, which is one of the most romantic in Malekula, is a first step into a broader project to re-activate the Big Nambas culture and custom for the Tenmaru north west tribe," said Pascal Gavotto.

The New Zealand Aid Programme provided funding for the bungalow to have fresh running water.
**Pialo Smol Kustom Vilej:** this is also located in the Big Nambas area. This is an 'experience' idea where you can live for couple of days in a small village built close to the famous Pialo Cave, that is believed to be full of the Big Nambas spirits and where there are handprints and mysterious-looking faces carved onto the cave wall.

The village includes two traditional Melanesian style bungalows and traditional restaurant with firewood kitchen.

- "The bungalow owner, Beatrice, has also reactivated the culture and custom of the local Big Nambas tribe who now invite tourists to see their traditional custom dancing and tell stories about their magic and cannibalism of the past," said Mr Gavotto.
Hone Vaghbal Small Nambas Tours-Vao

➢ **Hone Vaghbal Small Nambas tour**: a purpose built show ground with giant Tam Tam, traditional Nakamal and sheltered seating area for guests provide an ideal setting for the Small Nambas to showcase their custom dancing.

Award winning Tam Tam bungalow is located in walking distance from the showground making it one of the only tourism attractions tourists can enjoy in Malekula without hiring transport.

- “The opening ceremony was mainly a celebration of Vao small nambas custom re-born and not only to offer a new product for tourist but to preserve the culture, dances and tradition for future generation,” said Mr Gavotto.
Dram Dram Bungalow; featuring one restaurant and a two bedroom bungalow, Dram Dram is the only accommodation available in the northern Unmet region of Malekula. The area features a waterfall, two rivers and beach to swim at as well as a guided tour to a cannibal site.

All these products have been accredited by the Department of Tourism as they have running water, flushing toilet and shower facilities and are at a standard suitable for international tourists. "The launches were an emotional event for me as I have been working with these TVET Centre clients for two years to realise their dreams of a tourism business and now that moment has finally arrived for them," said Mr Gavotto.

Malampa Tourism Office Product Development Officer, Edna Paolo, said March was a huge month for tourism in Malampa. "Malampa tourism is growing from strength to strength. This week we have launched four new tourism products and next week we will be the only Vanuatu travel centre represented at the Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism Conference in Australia," said Mrs Paolo.

The Malampa TVET Centre will next focus on growing the tourism industry in Ambrym with similar business development services.
2. Cane & Rattan

The stage 2 of the Cane and Rattan activity involves the actual construction of furniture resulting in the production of 6 cane arm chairs. Two types of arm chairs were produced namely Retur Arm Chair and Collapsible Arm Chair. Participants together with the whole community were so impressed of what they termed in the past as ‘rubbish’, they now can turn that into cash. For the participants, the knowledge and skills acquired ranged from processing of raw materials to the finished product. They have also identified themselves areas that they need to improve on to ensure quality production of this unique product.
According to the expert, Mr Tias J from South East Ambrym, participants may not really have been sure of what they were going to achieve especially from the first stage of this activity which happened on 28th November to 2 December 2011 (with the expert) and was focused on taking careful care in the sun drying process until the construction stage. Some of the quality of cane used was not to that expected required standard. It was at this final production stage that participants admitted that sun drying process was not undertaken as well as advised. This was a big lesson learnt for the participants. With the newly formed association, members will build more of this product to the required market standard. This activity is initiated by the TVET Centre to support the growing tourism industry in Malampa Province where bungalow owners are now needing quality furniture for their tourist clients. The Centre will continue to provide close support in this industry area for improved quality production.

Follow up
Follow up of TVET Centre clients (who have benefited from the Employment and Training Fund - ETF) is an ongoing activity that the Centre has placed a lot of emphasis on and this has been underway since January 2012. The purpose of this is to identify committed clients who need further support and coaching to grow their business activities. Because of the successful outcomes experienced with the tourism coaching activity, the concept of undertaking this follow-up is the initial step into creating similar coaching & mentoring type support for other sector areas. To date over 70 clients have been consulted. This activity will continue into the coming months. The outcome of this activity will be discussed with the productive sector groups and stakeholders concerned as to how support will be provided. It will also be an opportunity to identify the roles of all stakeholders concerned. This activity is linked to the outcome of the AgriBusiness Seminar held in November 2011 as farmers need to be well supported in order to improve their quality of their products and services and also engage in commercial production.

The Malampa TVET Centre team, stakeholders, community leaders and committed individuals have been working very hard to achieve these results and we look forward to seeing continued positive outcomes for the benefit of the people of MALAMPA province.