

# Need for a national comprehensive survey to measure literacy rate

By Anita Roberts

**A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY** must be undertaken to measure the national literacy rate.

Having a clear data and information on literacy levels will help address the issue of language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) among adults and school-leavers.

Partial surveys indicate that perhaps a high number

of youth and adults in Vanuatu have a low literacy and numeracy skills.

A nationwide survey is required to provide researchers, policy makers and others with data that is useful and reliable to make good decisions and bring greater attention to the issue.

The need to have accurate LLN data was brought up in a workshop organised by the National LLN Strategy and

Working Group to mark the International Literacy Day.

This year's International Literacy Day theme: 'Literacy and Skills Development', focused mainly on adult and youth.

The workshop calls on stakeholders for financial assistance to develop LLN programs.

Literacy is the foundation for successful education, training and employment outcomes,

said the spokesperson from the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Samuel Kaitip.

"To create a truly independent and prosperous nation, Vanuatu needs a literate and numerate population across all sectors, from workplaces to farms, industries and institutions", he said.

Led by the Vanuatu Skills Partnership and the MOET,

the LLN Strategy and Working Group is made of stakeholders in education.

The team has been working hard to address literacy and numeracy by developing a National Adult LLN Framework and Adult LLN Strategy.

The National Adult LLN Framework and Adult LLN Strategy both addresses goal 4.6 of the Sustainable Development Goal which

states that "By 2030, all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy".

They also are component of the Post Education and Training (PSET) Policy of 2016 to 2020. Conducting a national literacy survey is also outline as a plan of the Adult LLN Strategy, which will be launched at the end of this year.