



Yumi Save Stopem Korapsen!

A weekly column on Good Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Responsibility with a view to eliminating Corruption

YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF TRANSPARENCY VANUATU AND BE PART OF THE COALITION TO FIGHT CORRUPTION.

YOU CAN CALL IN AT THE OFFICE AT THE RIVIERE OCEANIA BUILDING OR CALL 2575 OR E-MAIL: transparency@vanuatu.com.vu FOR MORE INFORMATION.

La corruption rend un pays pauvre!
Gagissons contre la corruption!

Transparency Vanuatu
P.O. Box 335 Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tel#: 25715 Fax#: 25716

DATE OF THE NEWS AND THE NEWS VANUATU MAGAZINE AND WITH THE MEDIA IS A PROJECT FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



It's a great feeling to clear your desk!

© D&P August 2003

Will Air Vanuatu recover money owed by its former Employees?

AFTER THE TERMINATION of the former Board of Air Vanuats led by Mr Charles Lini, three Director Generals have been appointed to administer the affairs of the airline and to come up with strategies that may rectify the current financial situation.

However, it remains to be seen whether one of the strategies would include efforts to collect the outstanding money owed to the government by current and former leaders of the airline during the course of their official duties as required under section 45(1) of the Leadership Code Act.

Section 45(1) states: Recovery of proceeds (1) If the Public Prosecutor is of the opinion that a leader who has been convicted of a breach of this Code has obtained proceeds or any other benefit from the search, the Public Prosecutor may apply to the Court for an order that: (a) the proceeds be forfeited to the

Government of Vanuatu; (b) the leader pay a pecuniary penalty equal to the value of any other benefit he or she received; or both, but the total sum ordered to be paid must not exceed the value of the property or benefit received.

However, it seems very unlikely that those leaders could be prosecuted under the Leadership Code. Past experiences have shown that the Ombudsman's Office and the Public Prosecutor have remained hesitant to act any time politicians or political appointees are involved.

It remains to be seen whether all the money owed to the airline will be recovered under the new board. Or will it be just another case that would gradually slide away without any consequences for those implicated?

If this happens again, it would be another example of what happens when the leadership code is not enforced.

years and would also reflect the weaknesses and incompetence of the Office of the Ombudsman when nothing seems to be done to investigate the wrongdoing of elected and appointed leaders who have essentially stolen public money.

When will the destructive political interference stop? When will the destruction of our institutions stop?

The situation of our airline embodies the difficulties that inevitably arise when leaders place political and personal considerations before the wellbeing of the public and the public institutions which have been entrusted with this responsibility. The public have a right to expect them to care for the institutions owned by the public.

The current acting Chairman of the board could not be held for comment as he was in Santo when we contacted his office.

Paray Bay Tuna Processing Plant – Why No EIA with Environment?

THE PURPOSE AND INTENT of the Environmental and Conservation Act No. 12 of 2002 is clear and comprehensive in its intent, encompassing basically every form of development where there is obvious potential for environmental damage; the only exception for the simple construction of a home.

In fact, the size of a project should not be the only criteria. The key issue to consider is whether or not a project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Small-scale projects in or close to sensitive areas can have effects just as damaging as those from large-scale development.

What is extremely puzzling is that on 11 03 09, an advertisement was published in the daily paper by the Tuna Fishing Co Ltd looking for a "short term consultant to under-

take an environmental impact assessment study at the request of the Vanuatu Environment Unit on the proposed packaging plant in Port Vila." A full submission for the EIA was expected.

In February 2010, the study was still not remitted to the Environment Unit and they were stating that they have not yet received the report from the Director of Fisheries. We contacted the owner of the Tuna Fishing Co. Ltd who confirmed that the EIA has already been done by the Director of Fisheries.

As the study report could not be made available for almost a year, how could the owner of the Paray Tuna processing plant justify to the residents of Port Vila that their fish processing facility will not have any social or environ-

mental effect now or in the future? What else would they possibly say?

What assurance will the Tuna Fishing Company or the Vanuatu Government give to the residents of Port Vila that there is no risk of water pollution in Paray Bay?

Under the law, the requirements for the review of an EIA study for deficiencies and for the Director's recommendations under sections 21, 22, and 23 of the Environmental Management and Conservation Act cannot be fulfilled due to the unavailability of the study report.

If such developments are declared not to need an EIA, it is likely that the intent of the law is not respected and the law is being misused to avoid transparency and accountability in the project activities.

— To Page 6

YOTA QUALITY RELIABILITY

Paray Bay Tuna Processing Plant - Why No EIA with Environment?

Here at Asco Motors. Service. Our profession. care in servicing your veh. Toyota Genuine parts, makes.

Let's Go with Asco!

Port Vila Ph 22344 * Santo 38244 * www.asco.com.vu * www.toyota-southpacific.com