



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 ROYAL OCEANIA BUILDING OR CALL 2575 OR E-MAIL: transparency@vanuatu.com.vu FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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

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

TRANSPARENCY VANUATU IS PART OF THE TRANSPARENCY MOVEMENT WITH THE MEDIA IS A PROJECT FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Transparency Vanuatu Calls For A 'Working Ombudsman'



The President Abial speaking with Mr. Pearson of Transparency Vanuatu

IN A BRIEF MEETING WITH the Head of State last week, Transparency Vanuatu emphasized the need to strengthen the work of the Ombudsman Office in carrying out more effectively its role as a watchdog institution of the government.

The accomplishment of this goal is closely dependent

on several fundamental principles that need to be followed – the independence of the Ombudsman; the professional knowledge and leadership skills; the moral standing of the Ombudsman and staff; and the effectiveness of the Ombudsman, all of which are crucial for the institution's effective performance.

In fact, it is simply not enough to amend the Ombudsman Act to see cases brought to court. What is urgently needed is a 'Working Ombudsman' who can lead the office in ensuring that the work is being done, and done within expected reasonable time frames.

Illegal Sale Of State Properties Continues While Authorities Continue To Turn A Blind Eye

THE VANUATU PUBLIC HAS grown accustomed to hearing and reading stories of corruption in the public service.

It is no secret that corruption in the public service is driven largely by two factors. On the one hand, there are public servants who are prepared to use the influence provided by their office to enrich themselves. On the other, there are people who place a sufficiently high value on receiving these services without having to go through the normal procedures required.

The current Ministry of Health DG, Mark Ieko, recently announced the Attorney General's lack of interest in the possible illegal sale of government property in Santo by officials of the Department of Lands

that he called for disciplinary action against the officer.

The property was allegedly sold for an undisclosed amount without following the proper tender process to former Sango MP Philip Andakir. The property is understood to now be in the market for sale and may indeed have already been sold.

It is unfortunate that incidents of bribery, fraud and other corrupt practices in the public sector entities continue unchecked without any sign of any serious attempt to tackle this.

If the truth be told, the government has shown an unwillingness to take any firm steps to stop any corruption in the public sector.

to be raised it that, somehow, despite the scale of corruption in the public sector, those who are (rarely) caught and punished are almost always people who are low on the totem pole. Those who are higher up in the government hierarchy usually slip away without paying any price for their wrongdoings.

To rid the public service of corrupt practices, the government must stop turning a blind eye to these tendencies, behavior that impacts on both the private and public sector, including the evasion of duties and taxes, under-investing, and the siphoning of kickbacks to officials, all of which continues to take, often with public and government money, the

Coroner's Report On The Death Of John Bule Strikes A Blow At The Rule Of Law

Transparency Vanuatu would like to see the Coroner's report on the death of John Bule held and for the report to be made public.

We would also like to join the Coroner in congratulating Mr. Eric Malahak for his courage and professionalism as Counsel to assist the inquest.

The damning Report of the Inquest into the cause of death of John Bule has again raised serious questions on the role of the Vanuatu Police Force (VPF) and the Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF).

In fact the issue of police brutality is not new. It has been raised by the public and the media for years. Yet, no

one seems to take any steps to address it. The Police Commissioner has failed to look into this pattern of abuse that has been going on for years.

Now that the tragic realities of a police officers were reviewed by the Coroner, why is a Statutory Justice Minister, or the Justice Commissioner, or Minister of Internal Affairs as Minister responsible for the VMF and VPF, say to the people of Vanuatu to win back their confidence?

Now that the truth in the Bule killing in custody has been revealed, what will the government do or say? Does such a damning report need to be made public before there is any official response? It remains to

be seen whether or not any disciplinary or other action will be taken.

In such circumstances, the most honourable thing to do is for the high ranking officials of the Ministry to resign. However, in a country like Vanuatu, with its history of a poor accountability, it would be unrealistic to expect that to happen.

This is a very disturbing and dangerous trend that needs to be left unchecked. The situation has escalated to such an alarming state that visionary members of the public are openly questioning the role and responsibility of the police and the VMF in law enforcement and especially their methods of investigation.

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Japan gives Vt92 million, VCH next on list

THREE COUNTRIES are on the list of donors for the VCH. The list includes Japan, which has given Vt92 million. The VCH is the next on the list.



Message on World Water Day—22 March 2010

WATER IS THE SOURCE of life and the link that binds all living beings on earth. It is a natural diversity of water that sustains the natural environment and the human race. Water is essential for life and the environment. It is the source of life and the environment. It is the source of life and the environment.

Coroner's Report On The Death Of John Bule Strikes A Blow At The Rule Of Law

ALTHOUGH the Coroner's report on the death of John Bule is a damning indictment of the police and the mobile force, it is a blow to the rule of law. The report reveals the extent of the abuse and the lack of accountability. It is a blow to the rule of law.



Representatives of the Bule family during the inquest.

Survey finds MP's rarely visit people

A RECENT SURVEY has found that Members of Parliament (MPs) rarely visit their constituents. The survey found that only a small percentage of MPs visit their constituents regularly. This is a concern for the public.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'Be the Change you wish to see in the World'
Mahatma Gandhi