

# Advancing sign language in Vanuatu

By Anita Roberts

**AN ANALYSIS CONDUCTED ON THE** situation of sign language in Vanuatu released yesterday during the opening of the National Disability Forum will strengthen collective action to improve access to sign language.

Without including people with hearing impairment at all aspects of development, the government will not achieve its National Sustainable Development Plan and the global sustainable development goals.

Sign language is an important tool to help deaf and hard-of-hearing people connect and receive information thus, advancing their rights.

However in Vanuatu, the knowledge and use of sign language is limited.



DG of Justice Dorosday Kenneth (r) receiving the Sign Language Situation Analysis from the Director of Vanuatu Skills Partnership Yanhambath

Deaf and hard-of-hearing people faces a lot of barriers such as limited education

and poor health status. These problems will get worse if the government does not take

actions to address them now. The Australian Government funded Vanuatu Skills

Partnership decided to address the gap by funding the situation analysis aimed to explore the strengths and weaknesses related to access to sign language in Vanuatu.

According to the situation analysis, a sign language will increase opportunities for marginalized deaf and hard of hearing people to communicate, develop social skills, gain and education, participate in cultural and social life, gain access to paid work and participate in political processing.

The analysis recognized the urgent need for the development of a sign language, beginning with the creation of opportunities for deaf people to unite and create their community, language and culture.

The sign language must be developed in the

Vanuatu context so that the government, civil society and partners are familiarize with and can work together more effectively to address the needs of deaf people.

The Director of the Vanuatu Skills Partnership, Fremden Yanhambath, said: "To achieve the People's Plan and the National Disability Inclusive Development Policy, we all need to work together with deaf people to foster sign language and promote inclusion".

He urged all stakeholders to read the report and unite in creating an inclusive and barrier free society.

Director Fremden presented the situation analysis to the Director General of the Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MOJCS), Dorosday Kenneth, yesterday.

WEATHER ICONS & MEANING	PROVINCE	TODAY						TOMORROW							
		WEATHER FORECAST	WIND DIR	WIND SPEED	Temp.	WIND DIR	WIND SPEED	SEA STATE	WEATHER FORECAST	WIND DIR	WIND SPEED	Temp.	WIND DIR	WIND SPEED	SEA STATE
Sunny, Fog, Showers/Thunder, Mostly Sunny, Light Showers, Heavy Rain, Mist, Showers, Storm DownDraft, Mostly Cloudy, Light Rain, Wind Speed & Direction (kt)	TORBA	[Icon]	North-East	10kt	31°C 25°C	North East	20kt	Moderate to rough seas to 2m	[Icon]	North	10kt	33°C 25°C	North	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m
	SANMA	[Icon]	North-East	10kt	31°C 24°C	North East	20kt	Moderate to rough seas to 2m	[Icon]	North	10kt	32°C 24°C	North	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m
	PENAMA	[Icon]	North-East	10kt	31°C 25°C	North East	20kt	Moderate to rough seas to 2m	[Icon]	North	10kt	32°C 24°C	North	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m
	MALAMPA	[Icon]	North-East	10kt	30°C 23°C	North East	20kt	Moderate to rough seas to 2m	[Icon]	North	10kt	30°C 23°C	North	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m
	SHEFA	[Icon]	North-East	10kt	30°C 23°C	North East	20kt	Moderate to rough seas to 2m	[Icon]	North	10kt	29°C 23°C	North	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m
	TAFEA	[Icon]	North-East	10kt	31°C 25°C	North East	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m	[Icon]	North	10kt	28°C 22°C	North-East	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m

SUNRISE/SUNSET TIMES

TIDES FOR PORT VILA & UGICANVILLE

TODAY

TOMORROW