



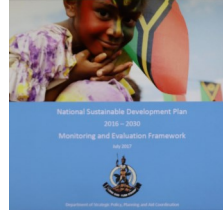
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Celebrating Vanuatu Women's Day: KoBLE Featuring Mrs. Janet Bong



The Vanuatu National Women's Day is celebrated yearly on the 15th May. This year KoBLE celebrates this special women's day in featuring Mrs. Janet Bong, who teaches children with disabilities at the Freshwater Bilingual School, Port Vila.

Mrs. Bong first taught in the mainstream classes as a primary school teacher for 14 years before taking up her role as the disability teacher. In 2015, Mrs. Bong accompanied the Freshwater School principle to attend a Disability Forum which was organized by the Queensland University and the Ministry of Education and Training. It was the first time she attended such an event and later in the year of 2016, she was appointed to be the first inclusive teacher in Vanuatu. To date, the number of Inclusive Teachers teaching at public schools is still unknown.

This year marks her fifth year as an inclusive teacher at Freshwater Bilingual School. There are 84 students with disabilities in her class which are inclusive of four children with physical disabilities, a few having hearing impairments and the rest with learning difficulties. Before that, she had identified 28 students who had physical and learning disabilities in the mainstream classes and provided support three times a week but was not satisfied with their progresses.

Mrs. Bong later received support from a teacher colleague at the Port Vila International School (PVIS), to better identify and observe students with possible disabilities, a process which would require much needed time to see positive progress results. Mrs. Bong developed a guide, contextualizing an Australian sample, to assess and separate students of children with less severe disabilities to continue in the mainstream classes.

Mrs. Bong stated that working within the area of education for disabilities is not an easy role, it needs passion, perseverance and support from the government and donors in terms of infrastructure and resources.

KoBLE would like to acknowledge Mrs. Bong for her leadership role and dedication to help and support the children with disabilities to have an education like every other normal kids in Vanuatu.

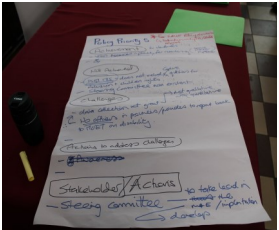
KoBLE Presents the 8th April, 2021 Forum's Outcome Statement to MoET



On Thursday, 20th May, 2021, KoBLE's National Coordinator presented the 8th April, 2021 Forum's outcome statement to the Director General of the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), Mr. Bergmans Iati. DG Bergmans acknowledged receipt of the outcome statement and confirmed distribution of the outcome statement to the senior management team.

KoBLE is positive that the recommendations will inform the development of the education for the disadvantaged groups and education in the classrooms. KoBLE will continue to advocate for these issues through spotlight reports and conduct researches in these important areas. Please view the outcome statement here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p0lKW2gNwPyl1_AEyPAL38Y1BGFm4f4A/view?usp=sharing

Ministry of Education and Training's Policy Consultation Workshops



The Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), through the Education Services and Policy Planning Unit, organized a provincial consultation for the review of Social Inclusion Policies-Inclusive Education, Gender Equity and Child Safeguarding. Stakeholders including KoBLE were invited to participate in a three days workshop from the 26th -28th May, 2021.

On 26th May, 2021, the review of the Inclusive Education Policy and Strategic Plan 2010-2020 commenced; followed by the Child Safe Guiding Policy on the second day; and on the third day, the Gender Equity in Education Policy. All three policies have lapsed. The Gender Equity in Education and Child Safe Guiding Policy have both lapsed in 2018, and the Inclusive Education Policy and Strategic Plan recently lapsed in 2020.

Kolisen Blong Leftemap Edukesen had the privilege to participate in all three days of the workshop, joining other invited stakeholders, with the Ministry's education officers. Some of the priority recommendations for the policies were funding, proper launchings, the need for effective steering committees, awareness to all levels especially to the outer islands of Vanuatu, quality data collection, monitoring and evaluation, auditing and compliance.

VANGO is Nominated into the NSDP's National Advisory Committee (NAC)



The Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO) nominated the National Coordinator of KoBLE, Ms. Shirley Abraham, to represent CSOs in the National Sustainable Development Plan's (NSDP) National Advisory Committee. The first meeting was held on 28th May, 2021.

This year, the government of Vanuatu, through the Department of Sector Strategy Policy Aid Coordination (DSSPAC) will be reviewing its five years of implementation of the NSDP in Vanuatu. The NSDP has 15 goals under the three pillars of Environment, Society and Economy. Ms. Abraham's participation will ensure that CSOs' views are well represented in the development plan, particularly looking at the marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Ms. Abraham commended DSSPAC for recognizing the importance of the CSOs' inputs in the five years' national review of the NSDP. The review will include all 15 goals' implementations in the last five years. The education goals under the NSDP SOC 2, will also be reviewed.

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