



## World Water Day: a call for better water management in the schools



### Media Release

**Port Vila, Vanuatu – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018:** Today, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Vanuatu joins all the nations to celebrate International World Water under the theme of “Nature for Water”. While many schools in Vanuatu are still facing challenges in term of water access and water sanitation, the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) with the support of Vanuatu Education Support Program (VESP) work actively in developing and implementing School Improvement Plans.

The School Improvement Plans developed by the MoET are in line with the Water Sanitation and Health requirements (WaSH) as well as the fifteen Minimum Quality Standards for schools in Vanuatu that recognised the importance of having appropriate school facilities, maintaining a good personal hygiene, having access to at least two litres of potable water every day for teachers and students.

Serge Lewawa, Director of Policy and Planning, stated “Today is an opportunity to highlight the importance of an access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene in our schools. It is also a day to celebrate the achievements done so far; and share our enthusiasm for the future projects”.

All the schools across Vanuatu spare no effort or ingenuity in facing the challenges. For instance, Akama School in Epi was facing a hard time providing enough drinking water to its nearly 300 students and teachers while using water accessed from the community. The School Council came up with their own solution and dug a water well which was connected to a tank with a pump. In Brenwei School, the almost 400 students and teachers shared a single tap. The church community and the school worked together to drill a well which gave them access to water. Teachers and students can now enjoy easier and regular access to water as well as better hygiene facilities such as flush toilets.

The MoET is continuing to support access to water through facility development or simple smart tricks like using a simple pipe with many holes to share access to water in Matarisu School.