



STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON THE  
OCCASION OF

THE LAUNCHING OF VANUATU EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTOR  
STRATEGY (VETSS) AND SIGNING OF JOINT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
PROGRAM

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HER EXCELLENCY, THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER  
CHIEF OF FIELD OFFICE FOR UNICEF, MR. ANDREW COLIN PARKER  
MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS  
(REPRESENTATIVE OF PEACE CORPS)  
(REPRESENTATIVE OF LIVE AND LEARN)  
(REPRESENTATIVE CARE INTERNATIONAL)  
(REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS)  
(REPRESENTATIVE OF FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS)  
FIRST POLITICAL ADVISER  
REPRESENTATIVE OF EDUCATIONS AUTHORITIES  
MEMBERS OF LOCAL EDUCATION GROUP (LEG)  
MOET DG AND DIRECTORS  
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS  
MOET STAFF

FIRST OF ALL, LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WARMLY WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS VERY SPECIAL OCCASION TO WITNESS THE LAUNCHING OF THE INTERIM “VANUATU EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTOR STRATEGY” (VETSS) 2017-2018, THE 2017 MOET BUSINESS PLAN AND MOET CHILD SAFEGAURDING POLICY; AND THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (JPA) .

VANUATU IS A UNIQUE COUNTRY; GEOGRAPHICALLY, CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE AND RICH, BUT WHERE WE LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE AND OUR ENVIRONMENT.

OUR ONGOING BUT PLEASANT CHALLENGE IS TO ALWAYS EMBRACE THE FUTURE, AND WE MUST DO THIS THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR GREATEST AND MOST SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE: THE HUMAN POTENTIAL OF THE PEOPLE OF VANUATU.

QUALITY EDUCATION IS CRITICAL TO THIS ENDEAVOUR.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL NO 4 OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR 2030, IS TO:

*“ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL”.*

THE VANUATU GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. IN DOING SO, IT HAS STIPULATED IN ITS NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN OR “THE PEOPLE’S PLAN” GOAL FOR: ‘*AN INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION SYSTEM WITH LIFELONG LEARNING FOR ALL*’ WITH THE OBJECTIVES TO:

- *ENSURE AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM*
- *PROMOTE A TRUSTED, RELIABLE AND WELL MANAGED EDUCATION SYSTEM; AND*
- *ENSURE THAT TEACHING PERSONNEL ARE HIGHLY EDUCATED AND TRAINED*

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TO BE SUCCESSFUL WE MUST ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN CORDIAL, TRUSTWORTHY AND RELIABLE PARTNERSHIPS WITH OUR GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, OUR GENEROUS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS, OUR EDUCATION AUTHORITIES AND PARTNERS, OUR NGO COMMUNITY, OUR CIVIL SOCIETY (CHIEFS, CHURCHES, WOMEN, YOUTH), OUR PRIVATE SECTOR, OUR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITIES, THE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS, OUR YOUTH, OUR CHILDREN AND EVERY LEVEL OF LEADERSHIP IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES INCLUDING LAND OWNERS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE:

- BETTER ACCESS TO EDUCATION,
- BETTER QUALITY OF EDUCATION
- BETTER MANAGEMENT IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

TODAY I AM HONOURED TO HAVE YOU JOIN ME TO WITNESS THE LAUNCH OF THE *INTERIM VANUATU EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTOR STRATEGY (VETSS) 2017-2018*.

THIS STRATEGY IS THE RESULT OF A THOROUGH ASSESSMENT OF THE 2007-2016 VESS, TO GIVE US A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE EDUCATION CHALLENGES WE HAVE FACED TO-DATE, WHAT HAS WORKED WELL AND WHAT HAS NOT WORKED WELL IN THE LAST 10 YEARS.

NOTE THAT THIS INTERIM PLAN ONLY COVERS THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD OF THIS YEAR AND 2018; AS WE EMBARK ON THE FORMULATION OF A LONGER TERM STRETEGIC PLAN.

BOTH THIS INTERIM PLAN AND THE LONGER TERM PLAN WILL ALIGN WITH THE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS OF THE *NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016 TO 2030*, WHICH IS ALSO REFERRED TO AS **THE PEOPLE'S PLAN**.

THE INTERIM VETSS SETS THE OVERALL PRIORITIES AND DIRECTION THE EDUCATION SECTOR, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT KEY POLICY AREAS SUCH AS **SCHOOL GRANTS AND EDUCATION SUBSIDY, INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION, MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, TEACHER QUALITY, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, CURRICULUM, MINIMUM STANDARDS, MONITORING AND EVALUATION, RATIONALIZATION AND DEVOLUTION, MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND POST SCHOOL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM.**

SELF-RELIANCE IS AN IMPORTANT THEME IN THE VANUATU EDUCATION SECTOR, ENSURING PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSIVENESS IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS. AS A RESULT, VETSS HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE; IT IS HOME GROWN AND IN THIS WAY IT IS UNIQUE. THE PROCESS IS LEAD BY A TASKFORCE OF EDUCATION MANAGERS AND A TEAM OF MINISTRY'S OFFICERS WHOM I SALUTE AND THANK FOR THE WONDERFUL OUTCOME. AS SUCH, IT IS ONLY PROPER THAT VANUATU AND EVERY MEMBER OF OUR NATIONAL COMMUNITY TAKE FULL OWNERSHIP OF VETSS.

THIS STRATEGIC PLAN IS FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, AND CAN ONLY BE DELIVERED THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS, AND THE PEOPLE. WE RECOGNISE THE CHALLENGES WE WILL BE FACING TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS

SET OUT IN THE INTERIM STRATEGY. THESE GOALS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS (INCLUDING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS) INVOLVED IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR COLLOBORATE CLOSELY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING. THAT IS WHY MOET WOULD LIKE ALL DEVLOPMENT PARTNERS TO SIGN THE JPA AND THE ATTACHED LOCAL EDUCATION GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN ACCESS, QUALITY AND MANAGEMENT OF EDUCATION, ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION AND LIFE LONG LEARNING FOR ALL NI-VANUATU PEOPLE.

VANUATU AND ALL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS ARE COMMITTED TO THE *PARIS DECLARATION ON AID EFFECTIVENESS*. THE DECLARATION LAYS PRACTICAL ACTION-ORIENTED ROADMAP TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF AID AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLES OF **OWNERSHIP, ALIGNEMENT, HARMONIZATION, MANAGING FOR RESULTS AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY**.

BY OBSERVING AND IMPLEMENTING THESE PRINCIPLES, DONORS ARE WORKING TO MINIMISE PROLIFERATION, HARMONISE PROCEDURES AND ALIGN AID BY USING THE COUNTRY SYSTEM. DONORS ARE ALSO CO-ORDINATING THEIR AID PROGRAMMES AND ENSURING COHERENCE BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SECTORS IN WHICH THEY OPERATE AND AVOIDING DUPLICATION AND OVELAP ACTIONS. AS A RESULT, MOET WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ENSURE BETTER FLOW OF INFORMATION, IMPROVED

PLANNING AND EFFECTIVE USE OF LIMITED RESOURCES, AND QUALITY REPORTING.

IN SAYING SO, LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR ALL FORMS OF ASSISTANCE YOU HAVE LENT TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & TRAINING FOR THE GOOD EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN. WE TRULY APPRECIATE AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS TO-DATE, AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THIS NEW ERA OF DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIP.

FINALLY, I WOULD TO THANK ALL THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT HERE TODAY TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT AND COMMITMENTS. I ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE LEG MEMBERS, EDUCATION AUTHORITIES, SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND ALL MOET STAFF.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION