



Telecommunications &
Radiocommunications
Regulator

PO Box 3547
Port Vila
Vanuatu
t: +678 27621
e: enquiries@trr.vu

Sticks and stones as our history and our future with ICTs

Monday 16 September 2013 is important for a good number of reasons.

For the people of Penama, it is their provincial day. It is a day the people from Penama hold their heads high and are proud of who they are and what is unique about their province. It is also a day when they look back and bask in their achievements and contemplate their future.

For one of Vanuatu's closest neighbor's, Papua New Guinea (PNG), it is the national day that marks 38 years of independence as a sovereign state. There were criticism about how the country had been poorly managed in the last 38 years but there were also commendations for the achievements of the last 38 years and as one guest speaker on the Radio Australia's Pacific Beat program stated, the resilient character of the PNG people is one thing that will ensure that PNG will live on.

In Port Vila, for seventeen bright students from Lycee de Monmartre, Lycee LAB, Malapoa College and Tebakor Secondary School, it was also a very important day. As a lead up to Round Two of the Series of ICT School Debates, these seventeen participated in Debate Techniques workshop.

The objective of the workshop is to instill in these students the life-long ability to negotiate, present ideas and argue a case cohesively and persuasively. They were briefly taught the appropriate characteristics of a persuasive debater, debate formats, the order of speaking in debates, how to present a solid argument and a few basic tips.

Instructor, Jeanette Yiu Hing Faerua, the World Bank Consultant at TRR, pointed out that there are a lot of different forms of debates and that the two common ones include "**1. Alternating Arguments** - Whereby speakers from both sides take turns, and give rebuttals against the earlier argument" and "**2. Full Team presentation** - Whereby the affirmative team presents all speakers in one go and the negative team presents afterwards. Rebuttals are then invited at the end of both presentations with a Q&A fashion. This is being adopted for the TRR Schools debate series."

The workshop ended with excitement as students and teachers look forward with their newly acquired skills the next round of debates which takes place today, Wednesday 18 September 2013, where they will debate this question : *"Traditional teaching and learning heavily relies on the*

use of the blackboard, whiteboard, chalk, pen, exercise and reading books, paper, sticks, stones, seeds and shells. People get their primary education from the use of these materials and tools.

Contemporary teaching and learning, and the key focus of the government, is now on the use of ICTs as the future primary education medium for citizens of Vanuatu. Students are invited to consider the benefits and disadvantages of traditional teaching and learning methods as against the contemporary learning aims and initiatives which are being implemented and are being stepped up through the introduction and application of new technologies in education.

The aim, of this debate is “to identify and debate the disadvantages (against) and the benefits (for) of introducing and the use of ICT to advance education.”

The first round was staged at the Saralana Stage on July 24 2013 and turned out to be very impressive. This round will take place at the Sea Front Stage today, starting at 5pm in the evening. The third and final round will take place on Thursday October 24 2013.

Friends, family and members of the public are invited to come and listen, ask questions and enjoy a fun, educational evening with the young upcoming intellects of Vanuatu.