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SERIES OF ICT IN EDUCATION DEBATES - ROUND ONE

Twelve bright and enthusiastic students from four schools in the vicinity of Port Vila took part in the first round of the 2013 Series of ICT in Education Debates organized by TRR as a Telecommunications/ICT consumer awareness activity. The aim of this activity is to encourage these young people to take the time to examine the various forms of ICT now in use in their country, to identify the impacts these devices and tools have in their lives as well as to encourage them to practice responsible use of ICTs.

2013 Children's Day for these twelve may have started differently in their various homes, however it ended with them all taking the stage at the Saralana Park to put forward their ideas, arguments and findings on the first research topic:

- Explore the term ICT and describe three unique good and bad aspects of the use of ICT. Relate that to your own society and explain three main types of services and products now available, their uses and think of what is not available but may be useful. Describe at least two.

The six judges and those who attended were quite impressed with the superb performance of the four teams whose presentations ranged from the simple definition of ICT to the use of mobile phones to internet and the possibility of e-commerce, e-health and even the ongoing submarine cabling project. Their performance was not only exciting and impressive but very educational and we thank them for starting the series of debates at such a high note.

The series will be completed after three rounds. The second round will be held on the 22nd of August and the final round in 18th September after which the winning school will get an Interactive Whiteboard, an educational technology that is currently being used in only two schools in Vanuatu.

TRR via its Consumer complaints handling and through its Consumer Advisory Group work made the realization that even with the flooding in of various types of ICTs, telecommunications and radiocommunications consumers are no more educated. It is therefore important that TRR take on this important task of ensuring consumers become educated enough to make informed choices, make full use of ICTs in whatever sector they may be in and to become as creative and innovative as

they can. Stakeholders are also involved to ensure that young people get the maximum benefits of ICT/Telecommunication including:

- skills for employment,
- enhanced formal and information education learning,
- information and services to aid in health and well-being,
- Improved social engagement,
- Opportunities to be creative.

TRR wishes to thank Wan Smol Bag Theatre and the Navataparop Youth Group and the Beverley Hills youth volunteers for their contribution to the hosting of Round One of the 2013 Series of Debates and hope to work closely with them in the second and third round of the series.

The second round will be held on the 22nd of August from 5.00 – 6.30pm at the Saralana stage. TRR encourages students, parents, teachers and the public to come along.

The question students will be debating then is:

- **“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.”

TRR wishes all participating schools, Lycee de Monmartre, Lycee LAB, Malapoa College and Tebakor Secondary School, and their participating students all the best in the 2013 Series of Debates.

