Cyber security policies needs to be implemented

by Premilla Hinge

THE Government has been called on to implement cyber security policies in order to prosecute and control cyber bullying on the Internet and Facebook pages in Vanuatu.

Two women from 'Girls in ICT' who want to remain anonymous said that the recent highly publicised assault and kidnap would not have happened if the government had implement the security policies.

"We still don't have legislation of cyber security operating in the country, we only have cyber security policies which are yet to be implemented," they said.

"The Government should introduce the legislation because it will help prosecute people who practice cyber-crime.

"However, one of the main reasons behind the issue was the taxi and bus drivers' frustration towards the situation at the wharf and the airport.

"As we all know they depend on tourists for their living, like most of us in our two main towns depend mostly on tourism.

"The government also depends on tourism since it is the key income for our economic growth for the country.

"The drivers thought the comment on Facebook was wrong as they were really trying their best to get income to help their families with their needs.

"But those drivers should firstly have complained to the people concerned on Facebook before taking the next step which ended up with charges being laid.

"The Government needs to address the existing structures to tackle gender inequalities, change the persecution and value women Vanuatu for who they are."

Both the women suggested that the government should create something useful for young girls to do rather than wasting their time posting their personal views on the Internet that can affect other people who read it.

"People living in rural areas read and make comments on Facebook, therefore the government needs to promote cyber security especially on groups like 'Yumi toktok stret' (YTS) and others.

"More awareness should be done to help people to restrain their comments on Facebook, and to use social media with education, respect and cultural ways.

"The cyber security is already there but the government has delayed implementing them."

They said that the YTS should promote education on its page and its administration should delete any sensitive comments.

"Normally, custom does not allow women to speak freely in our Nakamals; this makes women feel free to express themselves on the social network.

"On Facebook, women express themselves freely in cyber world where people think they can say anything compared to our Nakamals in Vanuatu.

"And also women should bear in mind that social media is not only about expressing yourselves but to share information.

"YTS should use this to educate people but not using it for arguments with its members.

"The government needs to promote a cyber security policy plus implemented measures on how to handle the cyber-crime.

"Men should be educated by chiefs, parents, elders and teachers to respect women and girls in their society."

They said that, for example, on Tanna boys grow up differently to girls, and they were told by the chiefs and parents that they are the head of the family to speak out but not women.

"This makes boys think that they are more highly regarded compared to girls in the village.

"Authorities need to examine existing structures to address gender inequalities and change the mentality to value women Vanuatu for who they are.

"If they have a well-educated mind-set on how to handle this issue but not the consequences of what will happen next."