

Over 400 celebrate first World Consumer Rights Day in Luganville

MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE, including school children gathered to celebrate the World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) that was held on Friday 13th March 2020 for the first time at Unity Park in Luganville, Santo.

The event was organised by a Task Force that consisted of representatives from various government departments and institutions, including the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu (RBV), Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO), Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA), the Ministry of Trades, Tourism, Industry and Ni-Vanuatu Business, the Vanuatu Bureau of Standards (VBS), Vanuatu Police Force and the Office of the Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR).

The Task Force decided to take the 2020 WCRD to Luganville for the first time, so that the consumers in the northern town and SANMA Province could be given a fair opportunity to have access to more information on their rights as consumers and educating them on their responsibilities and appropriate mechanisms in place, and further, an opportunity where they could address the challenges they are facing, to the appropriate authorities.

The objective of the event was to achieve a substantial and appropriate awareness and framework for Consumer Protection in general.

The theme of 2020 WCRD is "Sustainable Consumer".

Activities of that day began with a public parade led by the Police Force members of the Northern Command, from Unity Shell to La Place.

The welcome speech was given by Lord Mayor of Luganville, Peter Patty Isom. The official speech was delivered by the Executive Officer of the Department of Trade, Alick Berry on behalf of the Acting Director General Ridley Joseph who could not attend due to other official commitments.

TRBR Senior Consumer and Compliance Officer, George Hapsai who coordinated the activities on the ground confirmed that the event was an informative occasion that saw school children are given opportunity to answer questions related to information they have received from the panelists and from the booths set up during that day.

Some of the highlights

were panel discussions and quiz sessions with prizes for children given out to the Vanuatu Agriculture College (VAC) students, and also to other schools such as the Santo East, Hog Harbour, Matevulu College, Bombua School and Sarakata SDA School.

TRBR Regulator, Brian Winji gave the closing remarks. He thanked all the sponsors, the Task Force and the general public of Luganville and SANMA Province who attended the event.

"This is an occasion for them to gather more information about their rights as consumers, and learn more about their responsibilities," Regulator Winji said.

The Task Force acknowledges sponsors and stakeholders for their generous support to make that event a successful one.



Parade in Luganville. Photos: TRBR



Reserve Bank Governor, Simon Ahly leading the parade.



Officials attending the WCRD in Luganville.