

LEGAL CLINIC 2016 – SOUTH EAST TANNA
(07th– 16th November 2016)

The Office of the Public Solicitor was historically carried out the Legal Clinic to the people of South East Tanna, on the white sand area.

PUBLIC SOLICITOR’S TEAM

Miss. Jacob Kausiama (Team Leader)	-	Public Solicitor
Mr. Harrison Rantes	-	Assistant Legal Officer
Mr. Junior Garae	-	Assistant Legal Officer
Mr. Glenn Talae	-	Paralegal Officer



During the awareness the team was accompanied by the driver and the guide. The trip began early, daily every 0730 am by a transport for about 2-3 hours ride. It is very fatigued but we managed to overcome it.

TRANSPORT

We hired Mr. Moses Mahana’s public transport base on a charter rate. He also delivered our notices to the area few weeks before our arrival in Tanna



The Team was very happy to be in some parts of Tanna which they used to be a tourist industry.

Before the ending of the awareness, we were honored to be a special guest from our two colleagues into their villages for a kava ceremony, and some gifts.

ACCOMMODATION

KARAIAT GUEST HOUSE (Jimmy Kapiel)

The Team lodged at the Karaiat Guest house at Lenakel Town It situated about 2kilometres from Isangel. The cost of the accommodation was VT 2,000 per night based on our negotiations to exclude meals. However, the service provided was very good and the staffs were very friendly.

After our last awareness, Mr Jimmy Kapiel requested the team to carry out the legal awareness to the head chief of his village Isla which include more than seven Nakamal.

Our last night was ended with a roasted chicken, fish and laplap to share together with Dr Robert Vocor and Mr Richie Sanchez.

AWARENESS AND CLINIC

Harrison Rantes: **Family Law**

This will include Matrimonial issues (Divorce and so forth), Custody and access of Children, Matrimonial properties Control of marriage act, in particular age requirements and other relevant issues within this topic. You will also be expected to talk about Domestic violence and the relevant avenues one can have access to and in particular the process and requirements to attaining DV protection orders. For Criminal issues you are expected to talk on all offences against the Person. So you are allocated section 102 – 119 of the Penal Code to talk about.

Junior Garae:

Probate and Administration Law

In this regard you are expected to explain the reasons, process and justification of probate. In particular you will have to let people know about who is the next person in line to be awarded administration and the role of an administration. You should also be thinking about the explaining a will and other terms in a simplified term so that people understand it. Another topic you should prepare for is the process in the civil procedures rules. In particular filing a claim, serving the claim, filing response and the procedures involve and also the inform people of the relevant fees involved. For criminal issues you are allocated section on offences against property. Section 122 – 146 of the Penal Code is allocated for your perusal.

Glen Talae:

The role of the PSO and the procedures on how to engage the services of the office. Explaining conflict checks and the means and merit test. And some statistics is vital so that people know what we are doing. I will assist and prepare some notes for you

so that you can talk about offences against public interest and basically section 147 – 151 of the Penal Code.

Jacob Kausiama: **Land issues** (Custom Land Management Act) Land Lease Act, and other land laws and land related issues. I will also dwell on the fundamental and human rights under the constitution and explain to them. I will also discuss offences against Morality and that is sections 89 – 101E of the Penal Code.

This is how all our awareness will start. I will introduce us to the Community and thank them for allowing us to talk to them. Glen starts with the role of the office. Harrison follows glen with Family law only. Junior is after Harrison talking about probate administration and how to file claims only. I do the same with land issues and rights only. The second part is talking about criminal offences and we will follow the same sequence but this time Harrison will start, followed by Junior, Glen and myself.

The most important part of this awareness is to disseminate the correct information to the people for the purpose of misleading information or guessing.



LOCATIONS WHERE THE AWARENESS WERE CARRIED OUT

1. *Imaki Village*
2. *Iapkapen Village*
3. *Manuapen Village*
4. *Kwaramanu Village*
5. *Sulphur Bay Village*
6. *Ianmakel Village*
7. *Lowiepeng Village*
8. *Lapangtawa Village*
9. *King Cross Village*
10. *Isla Village*

The village of Isla was not on our plan, but the villagers were excited to know about the legislations of the Republic of Vanuatu, therefore we spend almost 3-4hours with them.

On Sunday 13th November 2016 the team was at Ianmakel village and in middle of the session, it was quiet interesting and the head chief decided to stop the awareness and postponed to another day so that he will bring all his people to attend the awareness.

The chiefs in the villages asked for the clarification to be seriously considered as there is a need for people to hear about the law and its significance to individual and society. They have noticed considerably the fastest growth of development around Tanna within and would encourage the knowledge for law to increase amongst their people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are some factors that have come to light when travelling for legal clinics especially around Tanna.

1. A doctor for a specific issue of Marijuana and Alcohol that could cause to a human body.
2. As when the chiefs would have the power to enforce their punishment.
3. Demand of penal code to supply to the chiefs for knowledge of penalties.
4. Want to see more often the police patrol in their area and reported case must be prosecuted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Public Solicitor's Team would like to thank Mr Moses Mahana and His Family, the area Secretary of South Tanna Mr.Noel Noar & Mr Noel Yalu for their Assistance and Mrs Jimmy Kapiel and his Family.

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