

## Highlights on the National Schools Infrastructure Development Plan

In December 2017, the Council of Ministers has approved the preparation of the National School Infrastructure Development Plan (NSIDP). We have met Serge Lewawa, Director of Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET). It was an opportunity to obtain more details on this National Plan which aims at improving Vanuatu education system and benefiting Vanuatu's future generations.

### Can you please tell us more about the National Schools Infrastructure Development Plan?

The population is increasing and the MoET needs to meet the growing expectations while continuing improving the quality, access and management of Vanuatu education. Thus, the Ministry needs to ensure the best use of its limited resources.

Over the past three years, the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) has followed a steady path to improve its systems for collecting data thanks to Open VEMIS. This online platform allows the MoET to decentralise data collection while keeping a centralised approach. Thanks to the huge amount of data collected so far, we now have a better vision of the reality on the ground and the challenges that lie ahead.

Based on the data collected such as number of students enrolled, school infrastructure details, and precise locations of the schools, the National School Infrastructure Development Plan will define a strategy to optimise the use of MoET resources by analysing data and making informed decisions about the provision of resources.

### Why is it such an important and innovative plan for Vanuatu Education? What is the objective?

Vanuatu, due to its so many islands, has always faced a challenge in terms of data collection; that is why the MoET has developed a very helpful tool. We are very proud to have accurate data and we now need to make the best use of them for the future of our children.

The plan will bring together the components collected in terms of school registration, quality standards, location, demographics, infrastructures, asset management, school

structures and community engagement into a coherent and rational strategy.

In short, the objective is very clear: maximise the use of resources to support better quality, access and management of education in Vanuatu.

**What are the next steps toward the completion of the National School Infrastructure Development Plan (NSIDP)?**

While the Working Group is undertaking the reorganisation process, the high-level Steering Committee supports and provides advice on the preparation of the plan. However, for the Plan to be successful, the Provincial Governments, the Provincial Educations Offices, Education Authorities, Schools and Communities will need to be involved and support this strategy.

Once the National School Infrastructure Development Plan is ready, the Ministry of Education and Training will seek approval of the Council of Ministers. Then, following the two pilot programs done in selected provinces, the plan will be rolled out to other provinces by selecting a cluster of schools in each province and reviewing the current situation of the schools based on its components.

The National School Infrastructure Development Plan will give clear directions. It will provide a more effective and efficient allocation of school resources and ultimately better education services, management and access for all students.