



# **Vanuatu - ICPD Parliamentary Advocacy for Population and Youth Policies**

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**Presentation by Honourable John Tasei (MP) and  
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Vanuatu**

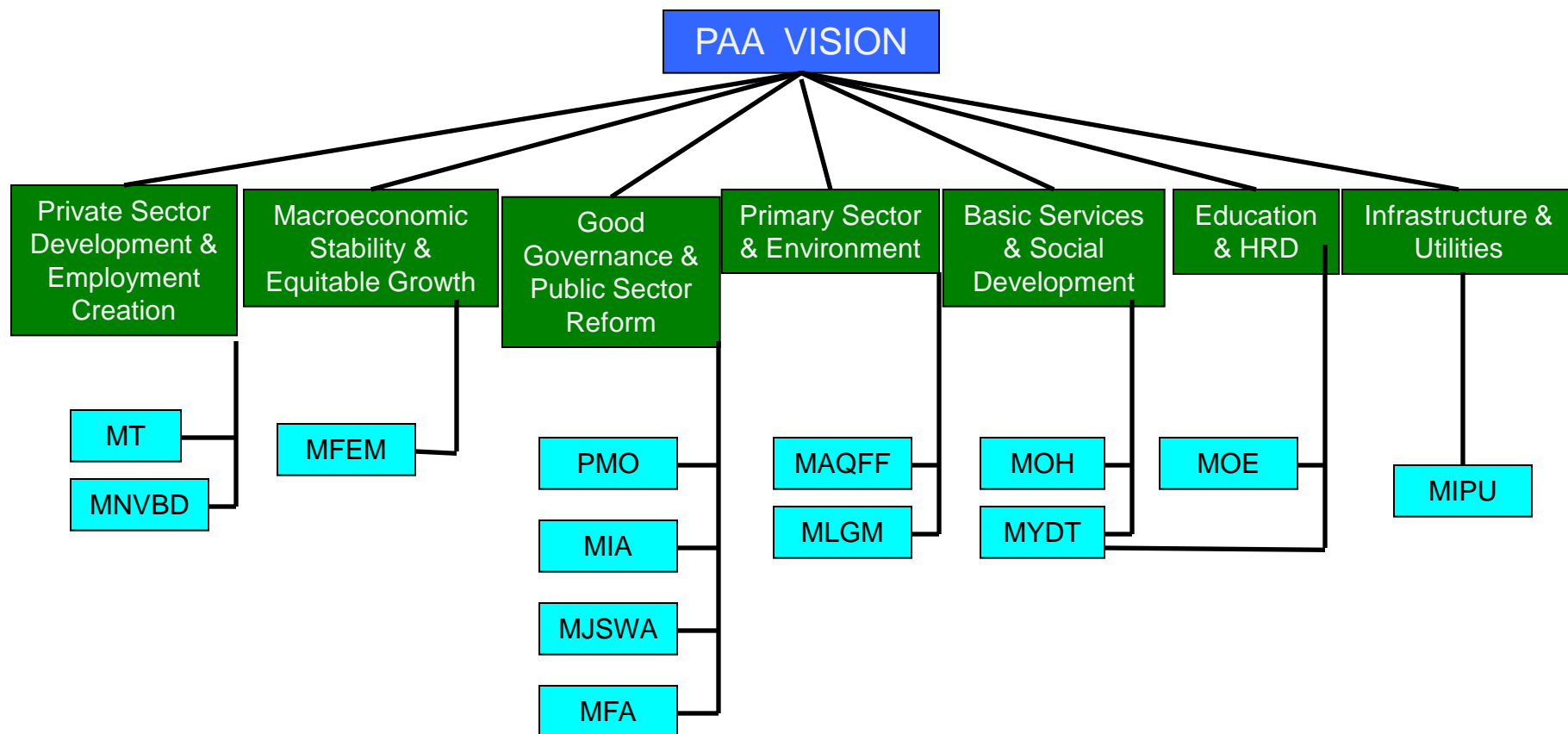


# Presentation Outline

- Vanuatu Priorities & Action Agenda & the PAA Vision
- ICPD and Vanuatu's participation in the ICPD process and dialogue
- Vanuatu's National Population Policy
- Vanuatu's Youth Monograph and Vanuatu National Youth Development Policy
- Role of Parliamentarians in Population & Development (PD)



# Priorities & Action Agenda(PAA) 2006-2015





# PAA Vision



- The PAA sets out the National Vision of Vanuatu (***A Just, Educated, Healthy and Wealthy Vanuatu***) and provides an overview of development.
- The vision is based on recognition of the need for economic growth; that is growth must be led by the private sector and that the Government's role is to create an enabling environment for both domestic and foreign investors whilst ensuring that development is both inclusive and sustainable.



# Vanuatu & ICPD

- Vanuatu has been participating in ICPD Discussions since 1994
- In 2012 Vanuatu participated in the Global Survey on ICPD beyond 2014
- While there were many achievements there are some significant gaps in particular relating to data on gender equality and empowerment of women: education; maternal and child health and sexual reproductive health, particularly in the area of unmet needs



# Vanuatu National Population Policy 2011-2020



- Goal of policy is to improve the quality of life through more effective planning of our development efforts
- It is not a “population control” policy
- Policy is consistent with rights and freedoms contained in the Vanuatu Constitution and with international human rights covenants
- Policy is formulated with Vanuatu’s own cultural values in mind
- Policy is an integrated population & development policy with implementation and monitoring at the sectoral level



# Vanuatu National Population Policy 2011-2020



- There are 7 Policy Goals in the Vanuatu NPP:
- **Policy Goal 1:** Reduce fertility and unintended pregnancy particularly among target population groups
- **Policy Goal 2:** Reduce infant, child and maternal mortality and morbidity
- **Policy Goal 3:** Manage rural-urban migration and urbanization
- **Policy Goal 4:** Improve the availability of data and the integration of population into sector plans and national development strategy
- **Policy Goal 5:** Promote gender equality and reduce gender based violence
- **Policy Goal 6:** Reduce unemployment and underemployment rates among youth and legislate working age(18-35 years)
- **Policy Goal 7:** Reduce hardship and poverty among the elderly, widowers, people with disability, and other vulnerable people



# Young People in the Population



- Young people under the age of 30 years account for 68% of Vanuatu's total population
- Most young people aged between 12-30 years have been to school
- Main movements of young people are from rural to urban areas to take advantage of better education and employment opportunities
- Teenage pregnancy is strongly associated with low level of education attainment
- The main activity for most young people is producing goods for own consumption
- 9% of young people (15-19 years are in paid work) and are mostly employed in the private sector or are elementary workers, sales persons and involved in subsistence work
- 15% of 15-19 year olds are neither in education nor in work





# National Youth Policy 2012-2022



- **Vision:** The young people of Vanuatu use their energies in constructive ways availing themselves of traditional and religious values, along with modern technologies, in support of the national socio-economic development and their financial, physical, social spiritual and family needs
- There are three key areas for policy on youth that include pathways (education and entrepreneurial development); personal development ( health, sports, arts & culture); and public participation (civic training and self-help and community development)



# Role of Parliamentarians in PD



## Population and Development issues:

- We, the parliamentarians are concerned about the rapid population growth in Vanuatu and its impact on the national economy and sustainability on social structures, and more importantly on the welfare of individuals and families
- The population of Vanuatu continues to grow and 2009 Population and Housing census recorded a total population of 234,043 at an annual growth rate of 2.3%
- With a high fertility rate, increase urbanization, increase unemployment, increasing rural-urban migration, population growth has brought about new challenges in addition to its existing pressure on resources and environment



# Role of Parliamentarians in PD



## Statement of Commitment:

- We, the Parliamentarians of Vanuatu, therefore affirm our commitment to the Programme of Action of ICPD and MDGs
- We affirm our commitment to sustainable development including sustainable economic growth, social progress and protection of our people and their environment
- We believe that population, as a cross-cutting issue, affects all other developmental efforts and therefore it is crucial to achieving the MDGs particularly the MDG targets that aimed at: eradicating poverty and hunger, improving maternal & child health, promote safe sexual practices, and reproductive health and rights, combating HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and non-communicable diseases; providing universal primary education; and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment
- We recognize that as parliamentarians, we have a crucial role both individually and collectively as the link between people and the government to advocate for the rights and needs of the people; as legislators to make laws to protect these rights; and as policy-makers to mobilize resources; involve civil society and create the enabling environment necessary to address these needs



# Role of Parliamentarians in PD



## Statement of Action:

- We, the Parliamentarians of Vanuatu:
- Urge the Government and our national parliament to continuously formulate and improve laws and regulations to stabilize population growth, in order to protect families and communities, secure accessible services in health and education and advance the status of women
- Urge the Government to progress further with ICPD and MDG development strategies and to work to attain a fair share of the national budgets for population programmes
- Call on Government and the national Parliament to take lead role in key development areas to address current population issues for which we aspire to support and advocate.

# Thank you tumas



Honorable Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Moana Carcasses Kalosil, with the former UNFPA Representative, Dirk Jena at the launch of the Vanuatu Youth Monograph, in Port Vanuatu, 2012