GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU

Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources

1st quarter Newsletter 2017

Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources

Dengue Clean Up Campaign at MOL&INR (18/01/2017)

Employees of the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources participated in the clean-up campaign of 18 January 2017 launched by the Ministry of Health to combat the rapid increase of dengue fever in the country. Each department of the ministry was able to clean its place: Raking and collecting dirt around the buildings, destroying breeding sites for mosquitoes, cleaning inside the office, etc...

Together we fight dengue fever to keep all of us healthy.

"Prevention is better than cure."
Desiderius Erasmus

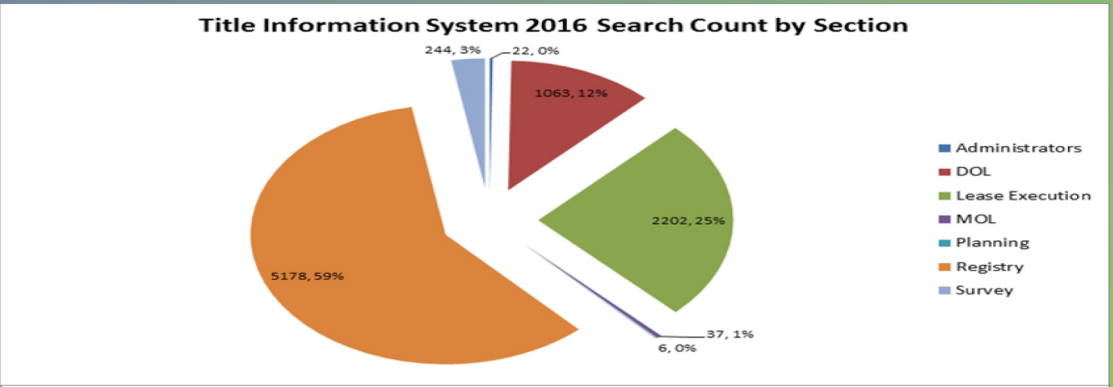
Corporate Service Unit : ITC

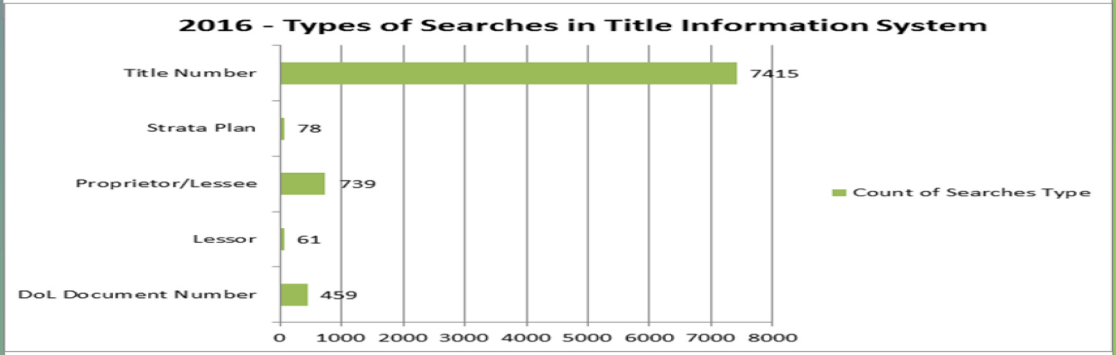
2016 Annual Title Information System Usage Report

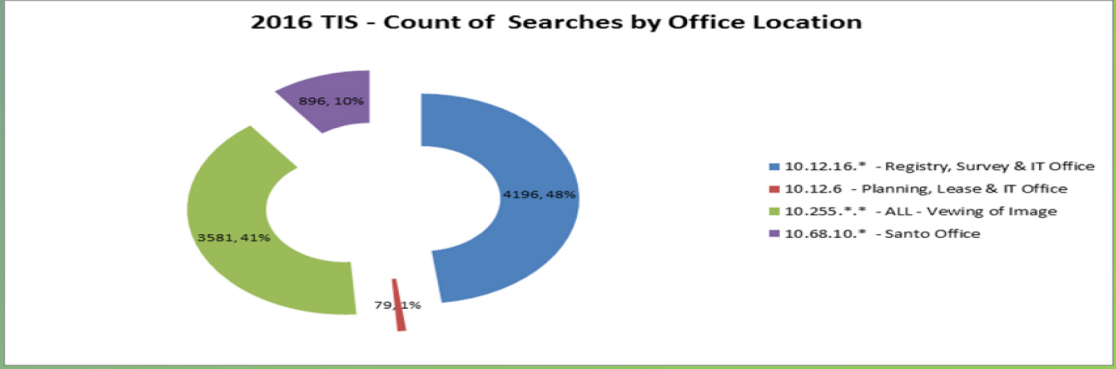
Since MOL&NR launched the TIS (Title Information System) application in 2015 to search for all lands titles, the work of officers is much easier to serve a client. Officers can process documents more easily and quickly.
Despite the benefits of the TIS, last year there was a major decline on the use of searches on TIS. The system has disrupted for an update of TIS-related software and maintenance, which is the reason of the decline. There were a total of 8,752 searches last year (2016), which is a major drop compare to 2015 with a total of 17,537 searches.
Now that the system has updated, let's hoped that this year will be better than all previous years. Below are diagrams of the 2016 annual usage of the TIS application by section.
2016 - A daily average of 39 searches per working day
2015 - A daily average of 78 searches per working day

Summarized in the graphs & charts below;
2016 TIS searches count by Section
2016 TIS search by search type
2016 TIS search by office location.

"Design is a funny word. Some people think designs means how it looks. But of course, if you dig deeper, it's really how it works." Steve Jobs







Questions or comments? Email us at Lands-Administrators@vanuatu.gov.vu

Corporate Service Unit : ITC

Valuation Unit & Water Network Installation (January 2017)

The IT team began this year with the networks installation in the new offices renovated specially for the Valuation unit and the department of water. The space is limited on their current offices so the new ones have been renovated for them. The Valuation Unit move to the 1st floor of Department of Lands and The department of water has move to 2nd floor of the Ministry of Land. The IT Team work very hard to make sure the network installation is complete and everything's working properly so that Officers can move into their news offices.

"Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people."
Steve Jobs

Corporate Service Unit : Human Resources Management

CSU farewells Mr Amos Kalo

On Thursday 9 March 2017; CSU staffs bid farewell to Mr Kalo. Amos joined the CSU Team as Project Officer in 2010. He assisted the Director General's Office to monitor and assess project progress within the Departments of Lands and Department of Water. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PSC Chairman courtesy visit to MOLNR

On Wednesday 8 March 2017; the PSC Chairman and his delegation visited the Ministry of Lands. He took time to visit work stations and meet staffs individually. The Acting Director General, Directors and Managers to welcome PSC delegation. Staffs raised issues to PSC as our Employer. The Ministry thanked PSC for their assistance and support on various matters.

"Don't be afraid to change. Change happens for a reason. Roll with it. It won't be easy, but it will be worth it."
Markamoment.com

Acting DG for MOLNR

On 16 December 2016, the Prime Minister appointed on acting basis Mr Michael Mangawai– Executive Officer as Acting Director General whilst the Director General post are being formalized. Congratulations on your Acting Appointment!

EO Michael Mangawai appointed as Acting DG for MOLNR

Questions or comments? Email us at jgaroleo@vanuatu.gov.vu or danielg@vanuatu.gov.vu or call on no# 5334550 or 33120

Enforcement Section

Lease Compliance Audit

- The Lease Compliance Audit is a systematic process that examines leasehold payment on existing leases in Vanuatu, with priorities being Port Vila and Luganville but slowly disseminating to the provincial level.
- The purpose is to identify existing land rent, variations and other breaches on a lease and to apply proper stringent measures to deal with these breaches.
- To date, as of last year 2016 the Land Lease Audit Compliance Team has collected 175,225,956 Million VT of invoicing since the collection of land rent inception.

Revenue account for land rent for 2016

7NOA	Application Charges Recoveries	12,458,992	8,056,070	45,559,960
7NOP	Permits Recoveries		0	50,000
7NTO	Other Items Revenue		0	194,080
7NOU	Other User Charges Recovery		0	1,874,210
7TLP	Prospect License and Regis	20,985,550	3,328,086	477,600
7TPL	Land Lease	-3,850,334	463,918	435,259
7TPG	Land Registration	420,478,196	381,079,064	357,562,703
7TTP	Land Premium	14,487,136	22,355,343	38,170,699
7TPR	Land Rent	141,312,528	67,015,039	175,225,956

"Work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed."
Vaclav Havel

How long has the Lease Compliance Audit been active for?

- The Lease compliance audit has been active since 2005. A compliance team was set up and it is currently made up of 3 Compliance Officers. The team initially set up 13 test areas in Port Vila, to pilot the Lease Compliance Audit.
- No 2 & 3 Areas (A & X)
- Parliament Area (B)
- Town South-Seaside Area (C)
- Town Centre-Tasiriki Area(D)
- Fatumaru Bay-Freshwota 1 Area(E)
- Melcoffee-Freshwota 2-4 Area(F)
- Sokapo-Anaburu/Freshwota 5 Area (G)
- Agriculture Supply- Simbolo Area (H)
- Ohlen Area (I)
- Tagabe Area (J)
- Sweetie Area (K)
- Elluk Area (Y)

Enforcement Section

What is currently happening in this Audit?

- Currently the team has divided Port Vila into thirteen (13) areas and does compliance audits on properties.
- We do site inspections serve notice of land rent and do research on the particular property not only within the department but also with Municipality, Rates and Tax, Internal Affairs, do analysis on collected data and compile their reports based on these.

What do Compliance Audit Reports contain?

- The reports outlines the breaches found on particular properties, include examples like:
- Carrying out uses for which no planning approval has been obtained.
- Nonpayment of land rent for various reasons.
- Fencing/hedges.
- Overhangs of buildings on adjacent properties.
- Overlaps on lease boundaries.
- Field inspection on properties

"Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning." Bill Gates

Nonpayment of land rent for various reasons.

Fencing/hedges on vacant lands

Overlaps on lease boundaries

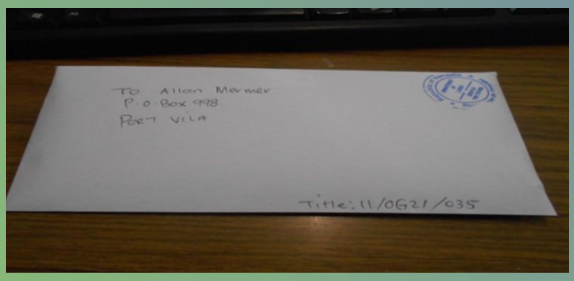
How are these non-compliance matters dealt with?

- Although there are many potential breaches identified, the Compliance Audit team currently only enforces two (2) main things, with other breaches falling in the jurisdiction of other line agencies , they are:
- The collection of outstanding land rents.
- Variation to lease class.

Enforcement Section

What is the process that the team follows to deal with breach in rent and variation to lease?

- The team sends out letters to the Lessor/Lessee advising them of the breach.



30 days Notice Serve

- The team has meetings with the Lessor/Lessee to try and resolve the matter.
- If resolution cannot be reached in terms of outstanding rent the matter gets referred to the Valuer General.

How could you resolve your outstanding land rent?

- Agree to pay in Installments – This agreement is based on the condition that you agree to pay 10% of the outstanding amount prior to any agreements of installments is made.
- Pay all outstanding in cash/check up front either form of payment is based on your discretion in agreement with Compliance Officer.

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and Land." Aldo Leopold

How do you resolve your breaches in Variation to your lease?

1. You can come in and have a discussion with a Compliance Officer on your identified breach and if you are in agreement with what has been identified.
2. You can acquire a Variation Form, complete it and lodge it to the Compliance Officer to be approved. If your application for Variation is approved by Compliance Officer, your application will then be processed further by the Land Registry to make amendments to your lease. Once your variation is approved, your land value and rent may be subject to change.

For more information

Contact the Department of Lands in Port Vila on Telephone: 33120 VoIP: 2602
Joseph Namariau Enforcement Officer: Email: jnamariau@vanuatu.gov.vu
Or Thomas Malvanu Finance/Enforcement officer: Email: tmalvanu@vanuatu.gov.vu
In Luganville Conduct the Department of Lands Santo Officer on telephone 33700 if you have any problem with your land rent.

Department of Water Resources

Contract for tender to deliver Water Supply Material signed (20/01/2017)

The Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Hon Ralph Regenvanu together with a representative from the Vanuatu Agricultural Supplies (VAS), Mr Aron was signed on January 18, 2017 a contract for tender to deliver Water Supply Materials for Walarano Water Project, North East Malekula.

Walarano is located on the north eastern part of Malekula that has a population of more than 3000 people and were without proper piped water supply system since 1992.

The signing was made at the Ministry of Lands Conference room in the capital Port Vila witnessed by the Acting Director General of the Ministry of Lands, Michael Mangawai and Acting Director of Water, Brooks Rakau

The tender of the supply and delivery of Water supply materials for Walarano was approved by the Council of Ministers (CoM) in 2016 after extensive consultations within the Department of Water (DoW), Finance, Central Tenders Board and the Ministry of Lands.

As a normal requirement, CoM is to consider and approve the recommendation by the Central Tenders Board to award the Contract to the supplier.

The Contract was drafted with consultation with the Central Tenders Board (CTB) and the State Law Office in line with the RFT (Request for Tender) standards which is in line with the government contract. The contract was approved and endorsed by the CTB.

The supplier is the Vanuatu Agriculture Supplies (VAS) with a contract value of Vt19, 139,770.

The Walarano Project is funded by New Zealand Government through UNICEF, the government as its contribution to the project will fund the staffs salary supervising and monitor the project.

"Water is the driving force of all nature."
Leonardo da Vinci

(R-L) Minister Regenvanu and Mr.Arron from VAS signed the contract for tender to deliver water supply materials for Walarano, North East Malekula.

Representatives from the departments of water under the Ministry and Acting DG, Michael Mangawai witnessed as Minister Regenvanu shakes hand with VAS representative Mr. Aron after the signing of the agreement.

Department of Water Resources

Renovation of ex health department- George Pompidue building to department of water, mines and minerals

A supplementary budget was allocated to the Department of Water to renovate the ex - Health Department Office above the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources Office. Normal contract requirements was carried out with the assistance from the Department Public Works .Selection of the contractor was processed through a panel , consisted of Director of Water, Executive Officer and Public Works Officer to selected the appropriate contractor that will carry out the renovation for the a one month period.

The renovation is part of the Council of Ministers decision 27 of 2016 of the merging of the water section of Public Works into the Department of Water to accommodate extra staffs moving into the Department of Water Office.

The Contract was awarded to REM Construction for a value contract of VT 3,775,273 including a variation cost of 800,000 Vatu and the total contract cost was VT 4,575,273 to carry out the task under the supervision from Corporate Services Unit and the Department of Public Utility.

The renovated offices include the office spaces, receptionist front desk, stairways, hallway and toilets as shown in these pictures.

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."
Socrates

Department of Water Resources

World Water Day 22-23 March 2017

World Water Day is being celebrated every year on the 22nd of March, this year the event is jointly organized with the Department of Meteorology on the 23rd of March. The activities for this year began with a parade from Saralana Park to the Convention Centre. To commemorate the event of these two days there were speeches and activities.
The main target audiences for the events are school students and teachers. They visited the kiosks and were given the opportunity to ask questions about water and weather.
This was also a good opportunity for students who wish to pursue a career later in life in these related fields.

This event was officially designated in United Nations General Assembly in 1993, and since we have been celebrating the events. This year the theme is "Water and Waste water". And this theme is about taking action to address water crises. A lot of people around the world are living without safe water supply close to home. A lot of time it is the women and children that take the burdens of getting water to the household.

The Sustainable Development Goals launched in 2015 aims to ensure that everyone must have access to safe water by 2030. Fight to eradicate extreme poverty.
There has been also a photo competition highlighted the celebration of this year, where the competitors were creative to capture a shot that best describes the theme that is around the water conservation.

"Rivers, ponds, lakes and streams they all have different names but they all contain water. Just as religions do they all contain truths." Muhammad Ali

The event is organized in conjunction with World Meteorological Day, which was celebrated on March 23, and the committee developed a program.

The stake holders of the two departments especially the Non- Government organizations also joined the celebrations and set up booths to display their activities and the public and schools that visited have the opportunity to ask them questions regarding their organization.

The day ended with a tree planting activities at the Tagabe Protection Zone, the planting is done by school students of various schools around Port Vila as this is an educational activity for them as well.

Ready to commence the parade

Department of Water Resources

Presentation of speeches at the Vanuatu National Convention Centre.

Each organisation which is part of the world water day are setting up the kiosks and prepare to receive the visit of the students and public.

"If there is magic on this planet it is contained in water."
Loren Eiseley

Students planting trees at the Tagabe Protection Zone

MOL&NR Officers planting trees at the Tagabe Protection Zone

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The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources oversees the functions of the Department of Lands, the Department of Water, Geology and Mines and the Office of The Valuer General.

It also works in collaboration with other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs through the Port Vila Municipal Council, to deal with land issues.

The main areas we will focus on, are on:

⇒ Ensuring there are fair dealing in lands.
⇒ Ensuring that the rights of Custom Owners to their lands, and its developments, are fully recognized and protected.

AKNOWLEGMENT:

A special thanks to Linguistic Services team for the translations made in French and English of this newsletter. We now know that we will be able to call upon your collaboration with confidence, with the assurance of quality work, on time.

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We're on the web !

Website: www.mol.gov.vu
Facebook: Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources –Vanuatu