

RAWCS Projects in Vanuatu

The Government in Vanuatu changed over 12 months ago. The new Government has decided that they want to have far greater visibility and control of ALL volunteer aid Projects in their country irrespective of what volunteer organisation is proposing to deliver this aid. RAWCS is affected by this decision.

The decision I communicated is as follows:

"The Government in Vanuatu has advised that ALL future RAWCS Projects in Vanuatu MUST have the approval of the Government Department concerned. If that approval has not been granted BEFORE the volunteers arrive in Vanuatu, THEY WILL BE REFUSED ENTRY AND WILL BE SENT BACK HOME.

In case there are any teams that choose to simply enter Vanuatu as tourists and then undertake locally arranged Project work, I have been advised that they can be fined up to US\$12K each as well as face a jail sentence for illegal declaration and entry to Vanuatu.

Subsequent discussions with the Government of Vanuatu (GoV) have resulted in an agreement that there will be a single Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established between RAWCS and the GoV. This document will simply state that RAWCS Projects can be undertaken in Vanuatu. The MOU requires an Act of Parliament in Vanuatu to become effective.

Each RAWCS Project will be defined in a Statutory Agreement (SA) between the Project Manager or Rotary Club responsible for the individual Project and the Government Department concerned in Vanuatu (i.e. Health, Education, Forestry). These SA's do not need an Act of Parliament to be made effective.

The current situation is that the text of the MOU is working its way through the Lawmakers in the GoV and will eventually be enacted and approved by the Parliament. The text of the SA's is being worked on and will be issued as soon as it has been agreed.

In the meantime, Rotary Clubs that have an existing RAWCS Project in Vanuatu or which are planning on starting a RAWCS Project in Vanuatu need to make contact with the Government Department concerned and obtain a letter formally agreeing to the Club undertaking or continuing a RAWCS Project in Vanuatu.

I have been provided with the following list of contacts in the GoV Departments that Rotary Clubs may approach to obtain permission for their Projects until the MoU and SA's have been implemented:

Ministry of Health

Mr John Jovi, Project and Aid Coordination Officer

Contact e-mail: jjovi@vanuatu.gov.vu

Ministry of Education

Mr Roy Obed, Director
Contact E-mail: robed@vanuatu.gov.vu

Ministry of Agriculture

Mr Alfred Bani, Executive Officer
Contact E-mail: bania@vanuatu.gov.vu

For any contact with the Departments, copy in the Director DSPPAC.

Department of Sector Policy Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC)

Mr Gregoire Nimbtik, Acting Director DSPPAC
Contact E-mail: gnimbtik@vanuatu.gov.vu

The information that should be provided to these contacts is the same as will be required for the SA's:

Project Title

Ministry

Department

Project Details

Scope

Objective / Outcomes

Scope of Works / Services

Time

Schedule (Milestones or Gantt)

Cost

Project Budget (incl GoV commitment) multi-year if required

Government Investment Program (GIP) vs Aid in Kind (AIK)

If GIP, line on support to VAT zero rating by Ministry

Proposed Procurement Activities (By who).

Quality

Standards for project delivery / works / services

Monitoring and Evaluation by parties and associated funds

Human Resources

Project Team (If required or known, if not just positions and indication from which party)

Comms

Stakeholder List

Reports and Returns (Frequency).

If anyone has any difficulties in establishing contact with these Ministries, Please contact me as soon as possible so I can resolve any small problems before they become big ones.

I hope this clarifies matters for everyone.

Best wishes

Mick Willis

RAWCS National Project Manager