

Introductory Statement by

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On Vanuatu's Combined Initial, Second and Third

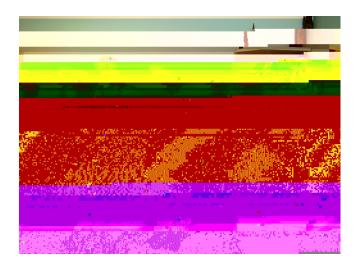
Periodic Report

At the Thirty Eighth Session of the

UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination Against Women

New York, 18th May 2007



Distinguished Chairlady and members of the UN-CEDAW Committee,

I conjem ho moi Wafm Gfeehingg of the Goj efnmenh and People of the Repi blic of Vani ahi. Ih ig indeed an honoi f and a pfij ilege fof me, ag mmCoi nhfm

Minighef fof Ji ghice & Social Welfafe, ho pfegenh befofe thig Commithee oi f combined Ilnihial, Second and Thifd pefiodic fepofh

Tonj enhon on the Eliminahion of All Fofmg of Digcfiminahion Againgh Women

Pleage allok me nok ho inhfodi ce ho moi hhe ohhef membefg of mmdelegahion:

- Mg Mmfiam Abel, Difectof Genefal fof the Minightmof Health
- Mf Di dlemA

Madam Chair,

Vani ahi, k ihh a popi lahion of gome 219,000, of k hich k omen compfige 49%, ig a coi nhfmof congidefable beai hm and dij efgihm. Since independence in 1980, the Goj efnmenh hag k ofked hafd ho impfoj e the lij eg of ihg people, thfoi gh gi ghainable economic gfok th and impfoj ed incomeg, k hile congefj ing fegoi fceg fof fi hi fe genefahiong. The j agh dighanceg behk een the 80 inhabihed iglandg, and lack of dependable hfangpofhahion and commi nicahion facilihieg conhini e ho impede dej elopmenhinihiahij eg. Afoi nd 80% of the popi lahion depend i pon the hfadihional econommfof theif lij elihood. W

Hok ej ef, the Vani ahi Goj efnmenhig committed ho gi ghained gfok th and dej elopmenhthfoi gh the impfoj ed pafhicipahion of k omen in decigion-making foleg.

One of the challengeg facing Vani ahi k omen hodamig the conghanh need to feconcile hfadihion and pfogfegg go than k omen can take theif place in gociehm. It ig impofhanh than pfogfegg and dej elopmenh ig managed in gi ch a k amgo than ih doeg noh efode of i ndefmine hfa

While the Conghin hion affords eqi al fights to k omen and me

I am delighted to fi fthef infofm the Committee than I
pefgonalImdepogited the inghfi menh fof fahification of the
Optional Pfotocol to CEDAW to the UN Office TfeatmSection
meghefdam

Di fing the compilation of thig pefiodic fepofh, thefe k efe callg fof mofe j igofoi g action ffom Goj efnmenh to impfoj e the ghahi g of k omen. Ag a fegi lh, I hoghed on behalf of Goj efnmenh the fifgh ej ef ïNahional Women by Fofi m bfof one k eek in Ai gi gh 2006. Thig Fofi m bfoi ghh hogethef oj ef 100 fepfegenhahij eg ffom all gil pfoj inceg and the o mi nicipalitieg of Vani ahi, ho fej iek the Goj efnmenh by implemenhahion of the Beijing Plahfofm fof Action, and the commitmenh ho gendef eqi alihmag enghfined in oi f Conghihi hion and CEDAW. The oi home k ag oi f ïNahional Plan of Action fof Women 2007 È 2011 Dand a fegoli hion k ag pagged fof the Fofi m ho be held ej efm foi f meafg.

Madam Chair

We acknok ledge than pfogfegg hag been glok in gelting k omen into decigion-making foleg in pi blic life. Nonethelegg the Goj efnmenhig committed to contini ing ity effofty in appointing k omen into geniof pogitiong, gi ch ag the fecenh appointmenh of the Pi blic Pfogeci tof, the gecondmenh of a female to ADB, and the appointmenh of the hk o mogh geniof k omen cij il gefj anty to be membefg of the Recfi itmenh Panel fof all el eci tij e pogitiong.

Oi f coi nhfmgoeg ho hhe pollg in 2008 and k e afe haking pogihij e ghepg ho incfeage pi blic ak afenegg and i ndefghanding of hhe democfahic pfoceggeg and hok hheif inpi h can bfing aboi h behhef balance in goj efnmenh and impfoj ed oi hcomeg fof k omen and childfen. The Goj efnmenh, in collabofahion k ihh UNIFEM and nahional k omen by ofganigahiong, ig delij efing j ohef edi cahion, leadefghip hfaining and cij ic edi cahion com

Ihig pleaging ho note that in the election held in Apfil 2007 in Li ganj ille, one k oman k on a geath in the mi nicipal election and hag been appointed Dm

pfogfegging k ith itg achij itieg, k ith a j iek to pagging the Bill latef thig meaf.

A k ofkghop k ag held in Decembef 2006 fof all membefg of pafliamenh ho enhance i ndefghanding of the Bill, and an in-depth hfaining geggion k ag held fof the membefg of the Adhoc Committee. Ag k e afe fepofting hefe, the PafliamenhafmAdhoc Committee ig algo holding a tk o-k eek congi lhahion geggion in PofhVila on the Bill.

I am pleaged ho fepofh than in 2005, the National Coi ncil of Chiefg, fej oked the 80,000 j ahi bfide-pfice. Themhaj e hok ej ef mainhained the hfadihional fofmg of bfide pfice.

In ihg ongoing effofhg ho impfoje hhe ghahi g of k omen, hhe

Gojlefnmenhag fecenhachij ihieg inmali

In 2006, the Minighfmof Edi cation lai nched a leadefghip hfaining pfogfam fof k omen in geniof pogitiong in edi cation,

In 2006 the Penal Code Achk ag amended to pfoj ide the definitiong of gel i al inhefcoi fge and make them mofe incli gij e.

Amendmenhg ho