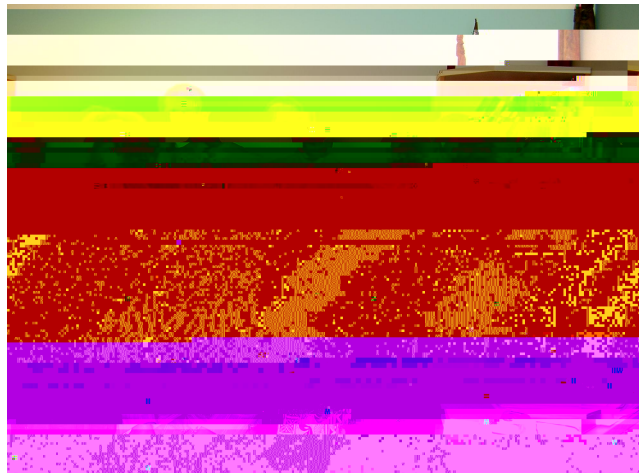


Introductory Statement by
Honourable Isabelle Donald Sikawonuta
Minister for Justice and Social Welfare
& Head of the Vanuatu Delegation
On Vanuatu's Combined Initial, Second and Third
Periodic Report
At the Thirty Eighth Session of the
UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination Against Women
New York, 18th May 2007



***Distinguished Chairlady and members of the UN-
CEDAW Committee,***

= Včbj Ym hc' mci ' K Ufa ' ; fYYh]b[g' cZ' h\Y' ; cj Yfba Ybh' UbX'
DYcd'Y' cZ' h\Y' F Ydi V']WcZ' J Ubi Uhi "' =h']g']bXYX' Ub' \cbci f'
UbX' U' df]j]Y[Y' Zcf' a Yž' Ug' a m7ci bhfm]A]b]ghYf' Zcf' >i gh]W' /'
GcW]U' K Y' ZUFYž' hc' dfYgYbh' VYZcfY' h\]g' 7ca a]hYY' ci f'
Vča V]bYX' Ī=b]h]Už' GYVčbX' UbX' H\]fX' dYf]cX]WfYdcfhĐcb' h\Y'
Ī7cbj Ybh]cb'cb' h\Y' 9`]a]bUh]cb'cZ' 5``: cfa g'cZ' 8]gW]a]bUh]cb'
5[U]bgh'K ca YbĐ'

D'YUgY' U`ck' 'a Y' bck' 'hc']bhfcXi W' hc' mci ' h\Y' ch\Yf' a Ya VYfg'
cZ' a mXY'Y[Uh]cb. '

! 'A g' A mf]Ua ' 5VYž' 8]fYW'cf'; YbYfU' Zcf' h\Y' A]b]gh' micZ' < YU' h'
! 'A f' 8i X' Ym5

Madam Chair,

J Ubi Uhi ž'k]h\`U'dc di `Uh]cb`cZ'gca Y`&%- ž\$ \$\$ž`cZ`k \]W`
k ca Yb`W`a df]gY`(- i ž`]g`U`W`i bhfmcZ`W`bg]XYfUV`Y`VYUi hmi
UbX`X]j Yfg]hm`'G]bW`]bXYdYbXYbW`]b`%- , \$ž`h\Y`; cj Yfba Ybh`
\Ug`k cf_YX`\UfX`hc`]a dfcj Y`h\Y`"j Yg`cZ`]hg`dYcd`Yž`h\ fci [\`
gi ghU]bUV`Y`YW`bca]W[fck h\`UbX`]a dfcj YX`]bW`a Ygž`k \]Y`
W`bgYfj]b[`fYgci fW`g`Zcf`Zi hi fY`[YbYfUh]cbg" H\Y`j Ugh`
X]ghUbW`g`VYhk YYb`h\Y`, \$`]b\UV]hYX`]g`UbXgž`UbX``UW`cZ`
XYdYbXUV`Y`hfUbgdcfhUh]cb`UbX`W`a a i b]W]h]cb`ZUW`]h]Yg`
W`bh]bi Y`hc`]a dYXY`XYj Y`cda Ybh`]b]h]Uh]j Yg" 5fci bX`, \$i`cZ`
h\Y`dcdi `Uh]cb`XYdYbX`i dcb`h\Y`hfUX]h]cbU`YW`bca mZcf`h\Y]f`
`]j Y`]\ccX"K

<ck Yj Yfž'h\Y'J Ubi Uhi ' ; cj Yfba Ybh'jg'Wta a]hYX'hc'
gi ghU]bYX'[fck h\ 'UbX'XYj Y`cda Ybh'h\ fci [\ 'h\Y']a dfcj YX'
dUfh]WdUh]cb'cZk ca Yb']b'XYW]g]cb! a U_]b['fc`Yg''

CbY'cZh\Y'WU`Yb[Yg'ZUW]b['J Ubi Uhi 'k ca Yb'hcXUm]g'h\Y'
WtbghUbh'bYYX'hc'fYWtbW]Y'hfUX]h]cb'UbX'dfc[fYgg'gc'h\Uh'
k ca Yb'W]b'hU_Y'h\Y]f'd`UW]]b'gcW]Yhm''=h]g']a dcfhUbh'h\Uh'
dfc[fYgg'UbX'XYj Y`cda Ybh'jg'a UbU[YX']b'gi W'U'k Umigc'h\Uh'
]hXcYg'bch'YfcXY'cf'i bXYfa]bY'hfU

K \]Y`h\Y`7cbgh]hi h]cb`UZZcfXg`Yei U`f][\hg`hc`k ca Yb`UbX`

a Y

=Ua 'XY`][\hYX'hc'Zi fh\Yf']bZcfa 'h\Y'7ca a]hY'Y'h\Uh'=
dYfgcbU`mXYdgcg]hYX'h\Y']bghfi a Ybh'Zcf'fUh]Z]WUh]cb'cZ'h\Y'
Cdh]cbU`DfchcVt`hc'7985K 'hc'h\Y'I B'CZZ]W'HfYUhmGYW]cb'
mYghYfXUm'

8i f]b['h\Y'Vta d]Uh]cb'cZ'h]g'dYf]cX]WfYdcfhz'h\YfY'k YfY'
WU`g'Zcf'a cfY'j][cfci g'UW]cb'Zfca ; cj Yfba Ybh'hc']a dfcj Y'
h\Y'ghUhi g'cZ'k ca Yb""5g'U'fYgi 'hž'=\cghYX'cb'VY\U'Z'cZ'
; cj Yfba Ybh'h\Y'Z]fgh'Yj Yf'IBUh]cbU`K ca YbDj: cfi a DZcf'cbY'
k YY_]b'5i [i gh&\$\$*" H\]g: cfi a 'Vfci [\h'hc[Yh\Yf'cj Yf'
%\$\$'fYdfYgYbhUh]j Yg'Zfca 'U`g]l 'dfcj]bW'g'UbX'hk c'
a i b]WdU`h]Yg'cZ'J Ubi Uhi ž'hc'fYj]Yk 'h\Y'; cj Yfba YbhDj'
]a d`Ya YbhUh]cb'cZ'h\Y'6Y]b['D`UhZcfa 'Zcf'5W]cbž'UbX'h\Y'
Vta a]ha Ybh'hc' [YbXYf'Yei U']hmiUg'Ybg\ f]bYX']b'ci f'
7cbgh]hi h]cb'UbX'7985K ""H\Y'ci hVta Y'k Ug'ci f'IBUh]cbU`
D`Ub'cZ'5W]cb'Zcf'K ca Yb'&\$\$+'É'&\$\$%DUbX'U'fYgc'i h]cb'k Ug'
dUggYX'Zcf'h\Y': cfi a 'hc'VY'\Y'X'Yj YfmZci f'mYUfg"

Madam Chair

K Y UW_bck`YX[Y`h Uh'dfc[fYgg`Ug`VYYb`g`ck`]b` [Yh]b`
k ca Yb`]bhc`XYW]g]cb! a U_]b[`fc`Yg`]b`di V`]W`]ZY"" BcbYh`Y`Ygg`
h`Y` ; cj Yfba Ybh`]g`W`a a]hYX`hc`W`bh]bi]b[`]hg`YZZcfhg`]b`
Uddc]bh]b[`k ca Yb`]bhc`gYb]cf`dcg]h]cbgž`gi W`Ug`h`Y`fYW`bh`
Uddc]bha Ybh`cZ`h`Y`Di V`]W`DfcgYVW`hcfž`h`Y`gYW`bXa Ybh`cZ`U`
ZYa U`Y`hc`586ž`UbX`h`Y`Uddc]bha Ybh`cZ`h`Y`h`c`a`cgh`gYb]cf`
k ca Yb`W]]`gYfj Ubhg`hc`VY`a Ya VYfg`cZ`h`Y`FYWi]ha Ybh`
DUbY`Zcf`U`YI YW`hj Y`dcg]h]cbg""

Ci f`W`i bhfm[cYg`hc`h`Y`dc`g`]b`&\$\$, `UbX`k`Y`UfY`hU_]b[`
dcg]h]j Y`ghYdg`hc`]bWYUgY`di V`]WUk UfYbYgg`UbX`
i bXYfghUbX]b[`cZ`h`Y`XYa cWUh]WdfcWYggYg`UbX`ck`h`Y]f`
]bdi h`Wb`Vf]b[`UVci h`VYhYf`VU`UbW`]b[`cj Yfba Ybh`UbX`
]a dfcj YX`ci hW`a Yg`Zcf`k ca Yb`UbX`W`]XfYb"" H`Y`
; cj Yfba Ybhž`]b`W`UVcfUh]cb`k]h`I B= 9A`UbX`bUh]cbU`
k ca Yb`D]cf[Ub]gUh]cbgž`]g`XY`j Yf]b[`j chYf`YXi W]h]cbž`
`YUXYfg`]d`hU]b]b[`UbX`W]]WYXi W]h]cb`W`a

=h]g`d`YUg]b[`hc`bchY`h\Uhi]b`h\Y`Y`YW]cbg`\Y`X`]b`5df]`&\$\$+`

]b`@ [Ubj]`Yž`cbY`k`ca`Ub`k`cb`U`gYUhi]b`h\Y`a`i`b]WdU`

Y`YW]cb`UbX`\Ug`VYYb`Uddc]bhYX`8a

dfc[fYgg]b['k]h\]hg'UW[h]]h]Ygž'k]h\ 'U'j]Yk 'hc'dUgg]b['h\Y'6]''
'UhYf'h\]g'mYUf''

5'k cf_g\cd'k Ug'\Y'X']b'8YW'a VYf'&\$\$*'Zcf'U''a Ya VYfg'cZ
dUf`]Ua Ybh'hc'Yb\UbW'i bXYfghUbX]b['cZ'h\Y'6]''ž'UbX'Ub'
]b!XYdh'hfU]b]b['gYgg]cb'k Ug'\Y'X'Zcf'h\Y'a Ya VYfg'cZ'h\Y'
5X\cW7ca a]hY''5g'k Y'UfY'fYdcfh]b['\YfYž'h\Y'
DUf`]Ua YbhUfmi5X\cW7ca a]hY'Y']g'U`gc'\c`X]b['U'hk c!k YY_
Wčbgi `hU]cb'gYgg]cb']b'Dcfh'J]U'cb'h\Y'6]''''

=Ua 'd`YUgYX'hc'fYdcfh'h\Uh]b'&\$\$) ž'h\Y'BUh]cbU`7ci bW'cZ
7\]Ygž'fYj c_YX'h\Y', \$ž\$\$\$\$j Uhi ' Vf]XY!df]W''H\Ym\Uj Y'
\ck Yj Yf'a U]bhU]bYX'h\Y'hfUX]h]cbU`Zcfa g'cZVf]XY'df]W''

=b]hg'cb[c]b['YZZcfhg'hc']a dfcj Y'h\Y'ghUhi g'cZk ca Ybž'h\Y'
; cj`Yfba YbhU'fYW'bhUW[h]]h]Yg']b'W

=b`&\$\$*ž`h\Y`A]b]ghfmicZ`9Xi WWh]cb``Ui bW\YX`U`

`YUXYfg\]d`hfU]b]b[`dfc[fUa `Zcf`k ca Yb`]b`gYb]cf`

dcg]h]cbg`]b`YXi WWh]cbž`

=b`&\$\$*`h\Y`DYbU`7cXY`5Wk Ug`Ua YbXYX`hc`dfcj]XY`

h\Y`XYZ]b]h]cbg`cZ`gYI i U`]bhYfWti fgY`UbX`a U_Y`h\Ya`

a cfY`]bWl gjj Y"

5a YbXa Ybhg`hc

