



RESERVE BANK OF VANUATU

PRESS RELEASE

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RBV Promotes Staff Back Yard Gardening Initiative

Reserve Bank Management and staff were privileged to hear and learn firsthand the techniques of planning, nursing and planting a back yard garden through lecture and demonstration sessions from Mrs. GwennethNatu-Tari and Mr. Robinson Solomon from the Agriculture Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity. The presentations took place at the premises of the RBV on 23 March 2017.



The awareness program kicked off RBV's Promoting Backyard Gardening project in joint partnership with the Government of Vanuatu through the Department of Agriculture to promote healthy living lifestyles and habits through the growing and consumption of home grown and backyard garden produces.

In their presentation the two officials commented the RBV Governor, Mr. Simeon Athy, and the RBV for recognizing and supporting the important initiative. They noted that it will not only help the RBV staff to appreciate and be involved in the program but an important learning exercise also for their children.

Governor Athy who initiated the vision in the first place one year ago stated that this is an important project, amongst others that the Bank is giving its full support to. He said staff will be putting to good use the utilization of their backyard space, benefit from savings from transport costs to the markets and the costs of crops that can be grown at home by themselves. More importantly Mr. Athy stressed RBV's partnership role and social responsibility through the initiative to contribute to, amongst others, a healthy population and economy of Vanuatu.

The Chairman of the RBV Promoting Backyard Gardening project, Mr. Alex Ralph, outlined that the project has a number of phases and follows an evaluation and award system under which RBV staff will compete. He encouraged RBV staff to think outside the box in terms of the crop selections, display and planting patterns and wished them good harvesting at the end of the exercise.

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