



# RESERVE BANK OF VANUATU

<p><b>RBV ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM</b></p> <p><b>“Enhancing Financial Inclusion for a More Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development”</b></p> <p><b>17 May 2017</b></p> <p><b>Venue: Warwick (Le Lagon) Resort, Port Vila</b></p>	
7:30 – 8:30 am	<b>Registration</b>
8:30 – 8:35 am	<b>Opening Prayer</b> Vanuatu Christian Council
8:35 – 8:50 am	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductory Remarks</b> Governor Simeon Athy, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu
8:50 – 9:05 am	<b>Role Play on Financial Inclusion</b> RBV Staff
9:05 – 9:25 am	<b>Key note Address</b> Honorable Charlot Salwai Tabimasmās, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu
9:25 – 9:40 am	<b>Presentation of Key Findings – Financial Inclusion Demand Side Survey</b> Mr. Krishnan Narasimhan, Deputy Programme Manager, Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP)
9:40 – 10:00 am	<b>Presentation of Key Findings – MSME Survey</b> Governor Simeon Athy, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu
10:00 – 10:30 am	<b>MORNING TEA BREAK</b> <b>(PHOTO SESSION)</b>
10:30 – 12:00 noon	<b>Session 1: Use of Informal Instruments</b>
	Majority of Adults and Businesses in Vanuatu are most likely to use informal institutions and other financial institutions products and services other than the products and services offered by formal financial institutions. Although the majority of adults in Vanuatu earn income from Agriculture, a significant portion of agricultural income earners are unbanked.
Chairperson	Mr. Benjamin Shing, Acting Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Bio-security

	<b><i>Break-out Sessions</i></b>
Facilitators	Mr. John Aruhuri, Head of Rural Banking, National Bank of Vanuatu Mr. Antoine Ravo, Director, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Mr. Johnny Wilson, Managing Director, Credit Corporation Vanuatu Ltd Mr. Ashok Kumar, Managing Director, Colorite Graphics Mr. Eliko Boletawa, Head of Regional Initiatives and Working Groups, Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI)
12:00 – 1:30 pm	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
1:30 – 3:00 pm	<b>Session 2: Women and Youth</b>
	There is a significant gender gap in bank account ownership and business ownership in Vanuatu. Survey findings have indicated a lower portion of female adults owning a bank account, compared to male. Similar findings were reported in business ownership with male entrepreneurship having a larger portion than female entrepreneurs. Youth participation in business is still low in Vanuatu.
Chairperson	Ms. Patricia Fred, Director AusAID Gender Advocates, AusAID
	<b><i>Break-out Sessions</i></b>
Facilitators	President, Women in Business Vanuatu (Astrid Boulekone) Mrs. Caroline Kipe, ANZ Bank Ms. Andrina KL Thomas, ETM Consultancy Services Mrs. Julie-Ann Sala, CEO Vanwods Microfinance Mr. Joe Kalo, Vanuatu National Youth Council
3:00 – 4:30 pm	<b>Session 3: Problems faced by Businesses in Vanuatu</b>
	Businesses indicated that the main problem for their businesses is lack of infrastructure, lack of training, and lack of support services for business development. Also businesses indicated that external financing through loans from commercial banks is the main problem due to high interest rates. Furthermore, businesses indicated that they do not need insurance, why?
Chairperson	Hon. John Sala, Member of Parliament
	<b><i>Break-out Sessions</i></b>
Facilitators	Nancy Wells, ADB Liaison Office Mr. Rob Kaanen, Technical Advisor, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu Mr. Marakon Alilee (TBC) Mrs. Thelma Tapasei, Dominion Insurance Mr. George Borugu, Acting DG, MTTCNVB
4:30 – 5:00 pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA BREAK</b>

5:00 – 5:30 pm	<b>Launching of the DSS and SME Survey Booklets</b> Honorable Joe Natuman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trades, Tourism, Commerce & Ni-Vanuatu Business
5:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>Concluding Statement</b> Governor Simeon Athy, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu
6:00 – 9:00 pm	<b>CLOSING DINNER</b> Hosted by Honorable Gaetan Pikioune, Minister of Finance and Economic Management