



NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES REGULATORY FRAMEWORK REPORT

NO.1 2021

All rights reserved.

This publication may be reproduced, as a whole or in part, provided that acknowledgement of the source is made. Notification of such would be appreciated.

Date: March 18 2021

Authors: Nadya Robert, Gracelyn Tasso, Powrie Vire, and Sandy Kalo

Editors: Nadya Robert, Gracelyn Tasso and Sandy Kalo

Design and Layout: Nadya Robert and Sandy Kalo

For further information and request for copies, contact:

Vanuatu Law Reform Commission

Top Floor, Drug Store

PO Box 3380, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Tel: +678 33620

Email: lawcommission@vanuatu.gov.vu

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This report would not have been possible without the people who gave their time, freely, to participate in this review. We would like to thank the communities and professionals who contributed their valuable thoughts and experiences.

Key stakeholders in Port Vila:

The staff in the government administrations, municipalities, non-government organizations, Constitutional bodies and statutory bodies, as listed in Appendix 1.

Others:

The staff in the provincial administrations, non-government organizations and government departments in the provinces as listed in Appendix 1.

Vanuatu Law Reform Commission Team:

Lawson Jack Samuel (Secretary), Koleta Yauko (Operations Manager), Lessy Joel Tavala (Finance & Administrative Assistant), Powrie Vire (Principal Policy Officer), Nadya Robert (Principal Legal Researcher), Gracelyn Tasso (Senior Legal Researcher) and Sandy Kalo (Legal Researcher).

FOREWORD

After the National Library Services regulatory framework consultations in Torba province, I attended a relative's funeral service where a community described the deceased as a library. This only reminds me about the importance of libraries are just as important as our elders when it comes to information and historical records. This coincides with the African proverb- ***"when an old man dies, a library burns to the ground"***.

Just after Cyclone Harold, a survey was undertaken to evaluate the damage done by TC Harold on schools especially libraries in Penama and Sanma provinces. In some schools, the whole library was completely damaged. But there is now hope in the air. The hope that this regulatory framework will be a new beginning, to fill in that vacuum that existed for so long since the establishment of the National Library under the Vanuatu Cultural Centre. The vacuum was a result of many issues which included a lack of legislation regulating the existence of the National Library and giving legal powers to the institution to facilitate the development of libraries in communities and schools and the lack of Finance to enable growth and development of libraries to a certain standard to facilitate learning and transfer of information.

The issue of housing, where the best and practical host of the national library is also an important aspect of this review. Libraries in schools evolve as an activity but not a vital aspect of the academic development of children. In some schools, teachers develop their small libraries in their teaching rooms but it is insufficient. In these circumstances, the teachers are libraries at the same time. Furthermore, a minute percentage of school grants given is used for library development despite the fact that libraries are an important component of a child's academic progress and development.

This review has brought to light issues that have been ignored for so long and it is our hope that this review will be the basis of a level playing field in relation to the access to information, the placement of rural school children in the tops schools in the country and generally, the empowerment of the population through access to information through reading.

Lawson Jack Samuel
March 2021

Contents

All rights reserved. 1

FOREWORD..... 3

INTRODUCTION 5

TERMS OF REFERENCE..... 6

METHODOLOGY..... 7

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 9

TERMS AND ACRONYMS 11

PART 1 – LACK OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION 12

PART 2: NATIONAL LIBRARY OFFICE STRUCTURE..... 20

PART 3 - FUNDING 36

PART 4: ANNUAL REPORT 39

PART 5: REGULATION 41

PART 6: OTHER LAWS AND MATTERS..... 43

LIST OF APPENDIX..... 44

CONSULTATION LIST..... 45

BIBLIOGRAPHY..... 55

INTRODUCTION

The National Library's fundamental task is to acquire, preserve and make accessible all significant publications published in a country and unpublished documents (such as manuscripts) of national interest and importance.¹ Libraries act as gateways to knowledge and culture by providing resources and services that create opportunities for learning, support literacy and education, and help shape the new ideas and perspectives that are central to a creative and innovative society.² They further help ensure an authentic record of knowledge created and accumulated by past generations. It would be difficult to advance research and human knowledge or preserve the world's cumulative knowledge and heritage for future generations without libraries.³

The National Library of Vanuatu was established under the *Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act* in 1985 but it was only physically established in 2004 in the same building as the Vanuatu Cultural Center. In 2013, the National Library along with the National Archives, was moved into a new building, just to the side of their original location. However despite its establishment and later relocation, the National Library's governing legislation has not been amended to further elaborate or expand the National Library's services or resources.

This report will look at issues raised by the National Library, which were the basis of an earlier Discussion Paper, which includes:

1. Lack of specific or standalone legislation for the National Library
2. National Library Office structure
3. National Library funding
4. National Library Annual report
5. Regulation
6. Other Laws and Matters

In addressing these issues, the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission undertook consultations on this review through-out the six provinces within the country, namely Shefa, Sanma, Malampa, Penama, Torba and Tafea provinces.

¹ Andy Stephens "Functional, tasks and roles of national libraries in the 21st century" (June 17, 2016) <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0955749016653031> (Accessed 15/2/2021)

² Ben White "Guaranteeing Access to Knowledge: The Role of Libraries" (Wipo Magazine, August 2012) https://www.wipo.int/wipo_magazine/en/2012/04/article_0004.html (Accessed 15/2/2021)

³ Ibid

TERMS OF REFERENCE

In 2019, the Law Reform Commission received a Terms of Reference (TOR) from the office of the National Library of Vanuatu to review its status under its governing legislation, the *Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act* [Cap 186] along with the *Deposit of Books Act* [Cap 88].

The TOR made reference to comprehensive issues that is important to the establishment, maintenance and development of the National Library of Vanuatu and also to further foster cooperation between libraries and external parties within Vanuatu, regionally and internationally. The provisions were limited in its interpretation and implementation which is why a thorough review is profound.

The Commission in undertaking this review is to consider in particular whether a standalone and separate legislation for the National Library could enable and empower the office of the National Library to provide the appropriate and decent provisions that is required to advance and develop the libraries in Vanuatu.

The Law Reform Commission in accepting this TOR and taking into consideration the issues at hand, wrote up a Discussion Paper followed by a nationwide consultation. This report consists of the findings of this consultation along with the recommendations provided by the Law Reform Commission on the best way forward with regards to the current issues.

METHODOLOGY

The Vanuatu National Library review report began toward the end of 2019. For clarification purposes, a brief consultation was first carried out with National Library, Public Library and other stake holders which led on to the production of an Issues paper. In early 2020, an Issues Paper was created by the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission highlighting the priority issues surrounding the TOR that was submitted by the office of the National Library.

The scope of this research extends to the Pacific Regional countries, especially the well-established National Libraries in Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, Fiji, Western Samoa and Australia

The financial support ensuring the successful completion of this evident based report is sourced from the office of the National Library and the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission.

Coverage

In this review, the consultation team comprised of staff from the office of the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission, the National Library, National Archives, and the Public Library. The Consultation team visited all the six provinces of Tafea, Shefa, Malampa, Sanma, Penama and Torba for consultation and collected their views. The main participants targeted during this consultation included the School principals, librarians, English teachers of schools and Provincial Councilors. However, with financial constraints, the team only managed to visit the provincial headquarters and some schools. Prior to travelling, communications and preparations were made with the provincial Focal points to make arrangements for consultations.

For consultation in Torba province, a team visited Vanua Lava and Malekula Island for Malampa province. For Sanma and Penama province, a team visited Santo, Malo, and Ambae Islands. Another team visited Tanna Island for Tafea province, and around Efate Island and Port Vila for Shefa province which completed all the six provinces in Vanuatu.

Below is a table showing number of participants of each Province during consultation.

Province	Total Number of Participants
Torba	49
Sanma	57
Malampa	113
Penama	42
Shefa	12

Port Vila	18
Tafea	22

Method of Data Collection

There are various method on how data was collected. Prior to the creation the Issues Paper, there were table talks and exchanging of information via emails and phone calls between the offices of the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission and National Library. Note taking was the main method of which data is collected at this stage.

Another method is desk research, which involved researching on the internet.

During brief consultations, Issues were identified and produced on an Issues paper. This is followed by the Discussion Paper which draws a background information on each issue. Each issue is then compared with various approaches practiced in the region. Question for discussion and interview were posed at the end of each chapter. Throughout the consultation phase, note taking was used to collect data. At the end of each day during consultation phase, each team convened, compiled all the notes taken during their discussion, and connect issues with the people’s views.

Limitation and Challenges

Limited funding remains a challenge for Vanuatu Law Reform Commission, which limits the teams from carrying out a wider consultation. This was dealt with by collecting views from representatives from the government and non-government organizations in the provincial headquarters also known as the Technical Advisory Committees (TAC).

School principals, teachers and Librarians from school in close proximity with the headquarters were also included in the consultations. Arrangements of meetings with staff from schools and the Provincial Councils was not an easy task. The schools are scattered around the islands and some areas still have no access to mobile phone connection. This was due to poor network services caused by destruction of Cyclone Harold especially on Penama and Sanma province. Only when the school staff reaches a location that allows access to a clear network can they receive messages. Penama province had other programs occurring concurrently during consultations, which saw quick changes made to the venue of consultations.

Issues surrounding the few weekly flights to Torba Province saw the team splitting up in different flights, which delayed consultations. Consultation dates were changed but they were eventually carried out. Travelling by boat from Vanua Lava to other islands in Vanuatu’s Northern Province still remains a challenge with the rough seas between the islands.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report was produced to provide recommendations to issues surrounding the current situation of the National Library and its services in Vanuatu.

Legislation wise, the *Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act* of 1988 makes brief mention of the library services in Vanuatu. This Act has undergone a number of amendments over the years, none relating to Libraries.

The review draws attention to the absence of an exclusive and detailed legislation for the establishment and management of the National Library. This leads to insufficient funds and discrepancies in the management of its human resources, which hinders development of this important service in the country.

Results from Consultations and research show that majority of the people in Vanuatu do not have access to a basic library and thus desire a new legislation, which will deal with the issues of National and Public Libraries. The services it offer will also assist special and academic libraries. The new Act will cover functions to publish materials as well as the deposit of books written about Vanuatu. This will also ensure that library services are developed throughout Vanuatu. With this new Act, the office of the National Library Service will have a basis to seek funds from the government to implement its programs. Donations and contributions will not be excluded as a means for source of funds for the National Library Service. Trainings and workshops will also be implemented to maintain libraries and their important role in education. Not only schools but other institutions such as government offices will also benefit from this proposed law.

For its office structure, the law must provide for the position of the Chief Librarian. Its recruitment must be based on merit, qualification such as degree, Master Degree, or PHD in the field of library in addition to any related program and good administration capacity with at least two to three years' work experience. Any other positions below the Chief Librarian can be provided for in a staff manual. Equally important is the need for a separate board that will be separated from the Vanuatu National Cultural Council. The Composition of the National Library Board will comprise of seven (7) members altogether and from the following institutions:

- Vanuatu Library Association (VLA); and
- Prime Minister's Office; and
- Ministry of Justice and Community Service (MoJ&CS); and
- Ministry of Internal Affairs in particular the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) and
- Ministry of Education (MoE) in particular the Curriculum Development Unit (CDU); and
- Office of the National Library, the Director in particular.

The Chair of the National Library Board will be the Director of the National Library Service.

Each board member will be entitled to an amount of VT 10 000 allowance for each calling of a meeting. They will be entitled to a period of 4 years per term.

For transparency purposes, annual reports is required from this important institution. Other laws such as the *Deposit of Books Act* will be amended accordingly to reflect changes made to the running of the National Library. Concerning online access to libraries, it is not a legal requirement for libraries to create this at this stage, but it is strongly recommended that they do to provide better services especially for those who are not able to visit the National Library itself and who have difficulty in obtaining physical reading materials.

TERMS AND ACRONYMS

Abbreviation	Explanation
CDU	Curriculum Development Unit
COM	Council of Ministers
DG	Director General
DLA	Department of Local Authorities
MJCS	Ministry of Justice and Community Service
MoE	Ministry of Education
NLSAB	National Library Service Advisory Board
NUS	National University of Samoa
OGCIO	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
PHD	Doctor of Philosophy
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PSC	Public Service Commission
RBV	Reserve Bank Of Vanuatu
RTI	Right to Information
SI	Solomon Islands
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environmental Program
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TOR	Terms of Reference
VKS	Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta
VLA	Vanuatu Library Association
VNCC	Vanuatu National Cultural Council
VNL	Vanuatu National Library

PART 1 – LACK OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Legislation refers to the preparation and enactment of laws by a legislative body through its lawmaking process. It refers to a law that has been promulgated (or "enacted") by a legislature with a purpose to regulate, authorize, provide funds, sanction, grant, restrict or declare a development of something within a state.

Currently, the establishment, maintenance and administration of the National Library of Vanuatu and the Port Vila Public Library is mandated under the *Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act* [Cap 186]. The Act provides the library services responsibility to the National Cultural Council and that the Council is to support, encourage and make provision for the establishment, maintenance and development of both public libraries⁴ and National Library⁵ in Vanuatu. The Council will also support training programs initiated by national and public libraries in Vanuatu.

The Council comprises of six members and two of the members must be persons whom the Minister considers to have relevant experience in matters relating to museums, public libraries or archives. The word "or" connotes that a person with relevant experience in libraries is not a requirement as it suffices if a person has experience in museums and archives.

Whilst the purpose of this Act has taken into account the idea to support and maintain both national and public library services, there is no other provision in the mentioned Act that provides for how those services, support or maintenance could be carried out and so forth. This limits the overall development of library services throughout the country.

The *Deposit of Books Act* on the other hand is also brief but contains a partial function of the National Library in that the National Library will serve as a place of disposition of 1 copy of a book published about Vanuatu whether published in or outside of Vanuatu. Although not specifically provided for, Section 3 of this Act provides that the public is not allowed to remove books from the library or other depository after it is delivered to the person designated by the Minister to receive such books. The National Library now serves as this depository for books published about Vanuatu.

Comparable jurisdiction

Different countries in the region have different situations with regard to legislations that govern National Libraries and Public Libraries. For quite a while, Governments have understood the educational benefits of public libraries and have created policies to foster their growth. Examples are drawn from countries like China, the United Kingdom, Australia and so forth. With the already established library legislation in

⁴ Section 5(c), *Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act* [Cap 186] (Vanuatu), http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/vncca362/ (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

⁵ Section 5(d)(i), *Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act* [Cap 186] (Vanuatu), http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/vncca362/ (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

these countries, library legislation is not something that is static. As new ideas emerge, library legislation also change to promote libraries.

While other countries have taken steps to enact their own National Library Legislations, several countries like Vanuatu have their libraries mandated under a different *Act* (*Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act*).

Countries with no standalone legislation

In Kiribati, the development of Library services is captured in its *Local Government Ordinance* [Cap 51]. Section 3(e) states that the Ministry of Education is to grant sums of money towards the establishment or maintenance of any public library or museum or to any association existing for the promotion of arts and crafts, or recreation and sport, or educational purposes generally.⁶ Like Vanuatu, the *Act* in Kiribati does not have any other provision that further provides for the development of library services in Kiribati which has an impact on the overall service provided in terms of library throughout the country.

A similar situation is found in Samoa where its *National Cultural Centre Trust Act* of 1978 establishes the Cultural Centre which also consists of the National Library and its functions. The *Act* provides the Trust power to establish and maintain on a suitable site in Apia or in the vicinity of Apia, a National Cultural Centre, to consist of:

- (i) a national museum;
- (ii) national library services;
- (iii) national archives;
- (iv) a national theatre;
- (v) art and craft training workshops; and
- (vi) a handicraft centre.⁷

Unlike Vanuatu and Kiribati, Samoan *Act* also further states that in relation to the national library services, the Trust has the responsibility to:

- (i) increase the resources of Western Samoa in library materials for research and scholarship;
- (ii) collect and disseminate information including the publication of reports and journals; and
- (iii) develop research into library matters, and the making of grants for the study within or beyond Western Samoa of libraries or any matters connected with the administration of libraries.⁸

⁶ Section 3, *Local Government Act* [Cap 51] (Kiribati)

http://www.paclii.org/cgi-bin/sinodisp/ki/legis/consol_act/lga182/index.html?stem=&synonyms=&query=Library (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

⁷ Section 9, *National Cultural Centre Trust Act* 1978 (Samoa) http://www.paclii.org/cgi-bin/sinodisp/ws/legis/consol_act_1996/nccta1978351/nccta1978351.html?stem=&synonyms=&query=National%20Cultural%20Centre%20Trust%20Act%20of%201978 (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

⁸ *National Cultural Centre Trust Act* 1978 (Samoa) http://www.paclii.org/cgi-bin/sinodisp/ws/legis/consol_act_1996/nccta1978351/nccta1978351.html?stem=&synonyms=&query=National%20Cultural%20Centre%20Trust%20Act%20of%201978 (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

Countries with standalone legislation

On the other hand, countries with their own library legislations have a different experience when it comes to the development of library services. The *National Library Act* of Australia is a good example of the standalone legislation that establishes, administer and manage the development of libraries throughout Australia. The *Act* stipulates that the functions of the library are to:

- (a) maintain and develop a national collection of library materials;
- (b) make library material in the national collection available to persons and institutions;
- (c) make available such other services in relation to library matters and library materials for the purposes of:
 - (i) the library of the Parliament; and
 - (ii) the authorities of the Commonwealth; and
 - (iii) the Territories; and
 - (iv) the Agencies (within the meaning of the *Public Service Act* 1999); and
- (d) co-operate in library matters (including the advancement of library science) with authorities or persons, whether in Australia or elsewhere, concerned with library matters.⁹

In carrying out its functions, the *Act* has provided the Library with powers to:

- (a) purchase or take on hire, or to accept on deposit or loan, library material, and also furnishings, equipment and goods needed for the purposes of the Library;
- (b) dispose of, lend or hire out library material or other goods the property of the Library;
- (c) purchase or take on lease land or buildings, and to erect buildings, necessary for the purposes of the Library;
- (d) dispose of, or grant leases of, land or buildings vested in the Library;
- (e) occupy, use and control any land or building owned or held under lease by the Commonwealth and made available for the purposes of the Library;
- (f) accept gifts, devises, bequests and assignments made to the Library (whether on trust or otherwise); and
- (g) act as trustee of moneys, library material or other property vested in the Library upon trust, or to act on behalf of the Commonwealth or an authority of the Commonwealth in the administration of a trust relating to library material or library matters.¹⁰

The management of library falls under the responsibility of the Council of the National Library of Australia and the Council shall consist of the Director-General, one Senator elected by the Senate, one member of

⁹ *National Library Act* 1960 (Australia), <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2011C00245> (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

¹⁰ Section 7, *National Library Act* 1960 (Australia), <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2011C00245> (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

the House of Representatives elected by that House and 9 members appointed by the Governor-General.¹¹

Most importantly, in terms of its finances, the *Act* states that the Parliament of Australia for the purposes of library services shall pay to the Library such money as are appropriated by the Parliament. The Minister of Finance may give directions as to the amounts in which, and the times at which, moneys are to be paid to the Library.¹² The *Act* also provides for the application of moneys payable to the library.¹³

Besides the clear functions of the Library as laid out in the *Act*, the *Act* consist of preliminary matters, the establishment of the National Library of Australia, the management of the library, finance and the miscellaneous matters.

Like Australia, the *National Library Service Act No.4*¹⁴ of Solomon Islands is another example of a standalone library legislation that regulates the establishment, maintenance and development of libraries throughout Solomon Islands. The *Act* came into force in 1979, which provides the legal power of autonomy for the National library and its subsidiary legislation namely the *Public Libraries Service Regulation*.

The *Act* does not make provision for the overall organizational structure of the library in terms of functions and other activities of administrative nature. However, section 10 of the Principal *Act*, makes provision for subsidiary legislation governing administrative matters relating to the proper function of the National Library. The Board of the National Library reports to the Minister of Youth and Cultural Affairs on the operation and development of the Library, as stated in section 7 of the *National Library Services Act* [Cap 71]. Like Australia, the *Act* also provides for the establishment of a National Library Services fund. The fund shall consist of:

- a) such money is to be appropriated by law for the purpose of the National Library Services throughout Solomon Islands.
- b) fund any moneys which may accrue to it by virtue of any regulations made under the provisions of section 10 or by reason of any charge reasonably made for services performed by the National Library Service; and
- c) gifts, grants and bequests derived from any public or private source.¹⁵

¹¹ Section 10, *National Library Act* 1960 (Australia), <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2011C00245> (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

¹² Section 20, *National Library Act* 1960 (Australia), <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2011C00245> (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

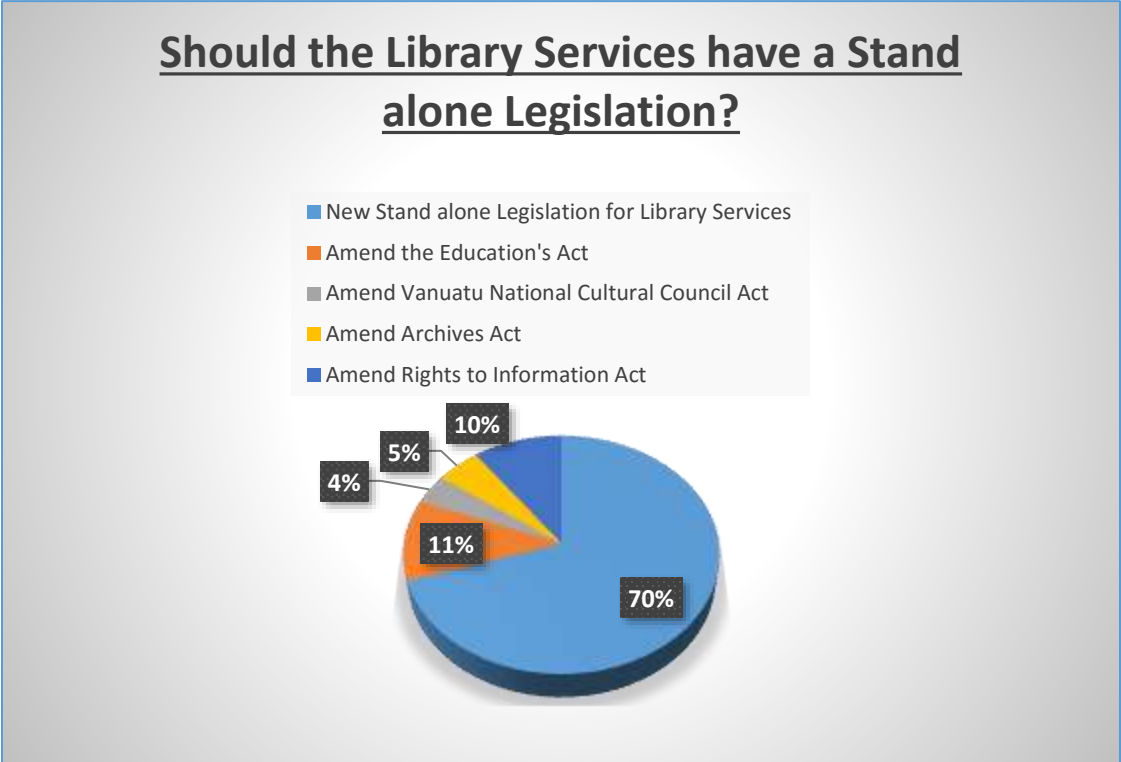
¹³ Section 22, *National Library Act* 1960 (Australia), <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2011C00245> (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

¹⁴ *National Library Act* 1960 (Australia), <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2011C00245> (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

¹⁵ Section 9, *National Library Service Act No.4 of 1979* (Solomon Islands), http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/nlsa251/ (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

Papua New Guinea (PNG) also has a library legislation in place. In PNG, the *National Library and Archives Act* of 1993 provides for the functions of the office of the National Library which is to manage and administer the national library service and the National Archives and Public Records Service and other bodies. The functions of the National Library Service are also clearly stipulated under section 5 of this Act. The Appointment of the Director General of the Office of Libraries and Archives is also provided for under Section 7. His or her functions are provided for under section 8. In addition, the library legislation of PNG allows the Director General to authorize publication of Material. However, it is not stated as to what the term “Material” connotes. Setting of the Library standards and disposal of property and books are also part of the power of the Director General.¹⁶

Consultations



The chart above portrays the result of the consultation of the populace when asked about a new stand-alone legislation for the National Library Service. The largest portion of the populace added that for far too long the government has ignored library services and it is therefore necessary to have a standalone legislation to boost library services throughout the country. Emphasis was placed on the clear structure of the library legislation stipulating its functions which should encourage the establishment of a well-structured office with clear functions and roles. The following were suggested to be included as functions of the Act:

¹⁶ *National Library and Archives Act* 1993 (PNG), Paclii, http://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/num_act/nlaaa1993270/ (Accessed 30 October 2020).

- Authorise a function to publish materials pertaining to Vanuatu in addition to the usual library services a library delivers.
- Having allocated days for the nation to just read and participate in activities relating to the library is also a positive way to encourage reading and writing in all audiences.
- Incentives should also be in place to encourage writers write about stories originating from Vanuatu.
- Decentralization of National Library Services though out Vanuatu is agreed to by 100% of the Populace.

The 11% that said the Library Services should fall under the *Education Act*¹⁷ provided that the Library is a learning institution and should therefore be part of the education system. As such, the *Education Act* should be amended to cater for the establishment and the development of both national and public libraries. However, others were of the view that the Ministry of Education has already a lot on its plate. There is still a lot to improve on in terms of service delivery and library services will be a burden added to the Ministry.

The 10% who suggested for this important institution to be added to the *Right to Information Act*¹⁸ which is under the responsibility of the Prime Minister, reasoned that the Library services is seen as an information sharing institution hence the reasoning behind its affiliation under the Ministry responsible for Media and information sharing.

Commission's Views

After careful consideration, the Commission is of the view that Vanuatu needs a standalone legislation for Library services. For almost 20 years now since the enactment of the *Vanuatu National Cultural Centres Act* in 1988, the National Library and public libraries provision sits under the Cultural Centre with no improvement. Although there has been a change in the Ministry responsible for Cultural Centre, Library and Archives in 2016, there is still no progress given to the development of the National Library and public libraries throughout the country. It is not the question of the change of the Ministry responsible for library nor a question to amend the existing laws to cater for the development of libraries. However, it is the view of the Commission that a standalone legislation is needed in Vanuatu to boost the development of libraries, which has for far too long resulted in library and information services being denied to the citizens of this country.

On the issue of whether or not national library and public libraries be catered for under the *Education Act*, the Commission is of the view that the purpose of the *Education Act* on its own is already huge and should therefore remain as it is. The current purpose of the Act is to provide clear directive for the development and maintenance of an effective and efficient primary and secondary education system for the benefit of Vanuatu and its people.¹⁹ However, the National library's role and library and information services on its

¹⁷ *Education Act* (Vanuatu), http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/ea104/ (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

¹⁸ *Right to Information Act* 2016 (Vanuatu), http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/num_act/rtia2016234/ (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

¹⁹ Section 1, *Education Act* (Vanuatu), http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/ea104/ (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

own is also a big issue, which requires separate co-ordination for the betterment of its development throughout the nation.

In view of the idea to have a separate responsible board for library services, and given its current situation, the Commission is of the view that a separate board is needed. The mentioned board should be established by the proposed Act with a mandate to better administer or effectively manage the affairs of library services.

With regards to the issue regarding the responsible Ministry, the majority of the people consulted were of the view that the Ministry responsible should be the Ministry of Justice and Community Services as it currently is. However, the Commission notes the recent COM's decision dated 15 October 2020 regarding the restructuring of the Ministry of Justice and Community Services into a Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean & Maritime Affairs. Considering this, the Commission is of the view that the government of the day should be responsible for the allocation of the Ministry responsible for Library services.

The Commission agrees to the idea that a clear structured law stipulating the functions of the office of the National Library Service will lead to a well-functioning law and office. The PNG model offers a good approach for consideration in this regard. The idea to publish materials, to be used as reading resources and to capture the rich national heritage of Vanuatu should form part of the functions of this entity. The concept that the National library be responsible for decentralization of library development throughout Vanuatu should also form part of the functions of the Office of the National Library Service of Vanuatu. Decentralization and development of the National library service in Vanuatu along with trainings must be supported by the office of the National Library.

Recommendations

Therefore, the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission makes the following recommendations:

Recommendations: That Vanuatu should have a standalone legislation to deal with the issues of National Library and Public Libraries as well as special and academic libraries throughout the country.

Recommendations: That the proposed National Library and Public Libraries Act should establish a separate board to oversee its affairs in order to effectively carry out its functions throughout the country.

Recommendations: That the government of the day be responsible for the decision to allocate the appropriate Ministry which will be responsible for National Library and Public Libraries in Vanuatu.

Recommendations: That Vanuatu include the function to publish materials in the stand-alone legislation for the National Library Service.

Recommendations: That the new stand legislation must include the deposit of books written about Vanuatu.

Recommendations: That the National Library service promotes and encourage the organization of library and information services throughout Vanuatu.

Recommendations: That the National Library Service set and enforce standards for libraries in Vanuatu.

Recommendations: That the National Library service encourage the development and maintenance of literacy in Vanuatu.

Recommendations: That the National Library promote and conduct in service training and short courses in the field of librarianship throughout Vanuatu.

Recommendations: That the National Library request, provide information services to the National Parliament, authorities, institutions, government offices and the general public.

Recommendations: That the National Library provides professional advice and assistance to library staff in any government office libraries and other organization.

Recommendations: That the National Library support libraries run by government and private offices to ensure that adequate resources are available to any person or institution upon request.

Recommendations: That the National Library carry out any other functions necessary for the development and maintenance of library and information services in Vanuatu.

PART 2: NATIONAL LIBRARY OFFICE STRUCTURE

Structure

The existing National Library has a somewhat complex and ad-hoc structure in place. The Chief Librarian is responsible for technical library functions of two separate team of staff, from the Port Vila Public Library and the National Library. In terms of remuneration for these two teams, the Chief Librarian is responsible for only one of these teams. In terms of staff reporting upwards, staff capacity building and staff development, there is uncertainty as to who is responsible for these.

Similarly, both the Chief librarian and the Chief Archivist report to the Director of Vanuatu Kaljarol Senta (VKS) who in turn reports to the Vanuatu National Cultural Council. The Archivist though has a separate Act that defines his function and therefore reports to both the VKS Director as well as the Minister responsible. The Chief Librarian although not responsible for the administration nor the staff of the National Archives has somewhat assumed these roles due to competency issues, adding to an already complex mix. Both the VKS Director and the Chief Archivist are answerable to the responsible Minister, the Minister for Justice and Community Services (MJCS).

Within the National Library Structure itself, there is no independent body like a Board. A board in a Library institution can be defined as a formal, policy-setting group that exist within such institution to assist in setting up the goals and objectives that meets the community's information needs.²⁰ Usually a board is comprised of legislated members representing various institutions. For instance, the National Cultural Council is established under the *Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act*. This Board comprised of six (6) members representing various bodies, which include the following institutions:

- the Cultural Affairs who is the Director of VKS;
- the National Council of Chiefs;
- National Council of Women;
- Vanuatu national Cultural Centre; and
- Two (2) others who must have relevant experience in matters relating to museums, public library or archives²¹.

The said Council has the power to function for a term of three years. The Council's power and function is exercised in achieving their main goals and objects. One of their core function is to administer certain agencies including the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, National Archives and the National Library. Administering these institutions can be complicated because each of the institutions have differing technical functions, thus have divergent goals, which at most times resulted in insufficient support towards development and services of National Library in the country.

²⁰ *Role of the Library Board*, 2016, https://cpl.prl.ab.ca/~media/camrose/policies-and-guiding-documents/the_role_of_the_library_board.ashx?la=en, (Accessed Date: 12/03/2020)

²¹ S3, *Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act* 1985, (Vanuatu), http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/vncca362/, (Accessed Date: 23/03/2020)

Spacing

An important issue associated with the National Library Office Structure is lack of office and functional workspaces. The National Library is housed in the same building as the National Archives, and space has now become inadequate to hold the growing Library collection as well as the vast amount of government records being regularly transferred for archiving. From as early as 2014, archives records have been 'spilling' into three shipping containers, which served as additional storage. The implementation of the *Right to Information Act (RTI Act)* has already started placing huge pressures on the available space.²²

Other agencies such as some government and non-government-run schools, the Supreme Court of Vanuatu, the National Parliament and the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu (RBV), have made great effort in establishing their own libraries. These libraries serve the research and information needs of these agencies. Within the Education Sector, a current ad-hoc library policy is implemented by the Ministry of Education as part of each schools administration, even without clear provisions for libraries²³.

Staffing

The internal staff recruitment process of the National library is provided for under the Vanuatu National Cultural Council Staff Manual. More so, the national library staff appointment falls under the National Cultural Council discretion as pursuant to section 10 of the *National Cultural Council Act*²⁴.

Currently the National Library's staff consists of the Chief Librarian, and one staff member while the Port Vila Public Library has only four staff members. Salaries for both library staff teams fall under the budget of the National Archives and the Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta²⁵ respectively. Since the National Library does not have a budget, it consumes the National Archives appropriated grant and the Public Library is similarly managed by VKS. These arrangements pose the difficulty of implementing outcomes and goals relating to libraries exclusively. The responsibility of implementing the functions of the National Library with only 2 staff is unfortunate. There is an urgent need for more staff in order to cope effectively to fully implement the functions and plans of the National Library. In major projects the National Library have had no choice but to seek the support of librarians from other libraries to assist in order to meet its goals.

Comparable Jurisdiction

Solomon Islands

Firstly, Solomon Islands, in section 3 of the *National Library Service Act* establishes its National Library²⁶.

²² Margaret A. Terry '2018 Annual Report National Library of Vanuatu & Port Vila Public Library', 18 March 2019

²³ Vanuatu Education for All 2015 National Review, <file:///C:/Users/ksandy/Downloads/229881eng.pdf>, (Accessed Date: 05/02/2020)

²⁴ S 10, *Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act* 1985, (Vanuatu), http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/vncca362/, (Accessed Date: 23/03/2020)

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ S3, *National Library Service Act*, 1996, (Solomon Islands) http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/nlsa251/, (Accessed Date: 05/02/2020)

The Minister responsible for the National Library is that of Youth and Cultural Affairs or other Minister from time to time²⁷. The *National Library Service Act* gives power to the Minister for several functions, to decide and approve any developments of the National Library. To provide and maintain the buildings and equipment's and other related facilities that maybe required for by Solomon Islands National Library. The Minister ensures that the security of available facilities meets the general requirements of both adults and children, by:

- The keeping of enough stock;
- Making appropriate arrangements with library other than those administered by the National Library Service; and Such other means as may be appropriate²⁸.
- Makeingregulations concerning any particular of library facilities.

Board

More so, the Minister has the mandate of appointing the NLSAB (National Library Service Advisory Board). This Board comprises of the Chairman and six other members. The Secretary to this Board is an Officer of the National Library Service²⁹. The required criteria of the Chairman and the Secretary to the Board is that they must be a person who is an ex Officio member of the Executive Committee³⁰.

The Board appointed an Executive Committee at their first meeting who were then tasked to appoint other Committee members to conduct any necessary duty within the main aspect of its function as recommended³¹.

Additional function of the Board includes giving advice to the Minister on matters concerning the operation, and development of the National Library Service³² of Solomon Islands. The Board makes recommendation to the Minister on matters of policy regarding the National Library Service and any related matters. Furthermore, it advises the Minister on matters concerning the National Library Service Fund³³ for material and library services. Finally, the Board has the responsibility to make mutual arrangement with authorities or organizations within or outside Solomon Islands concerning the provision of the library³⁴.

²⁷ S2, *National Library Service Act*, 1996, (Solomon Islands) http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/nlsa251/, (Accessed Date: 05/02/2020)

²⁸ S8(2)(a)(i-iii), *National Library Service Act*, 1996, (Solomon Islands), http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/nlsa251/, (Accessed Date: 05/02/2020)

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ *National Library Service Act*, 1996, (Solomon Islands), http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/nlsa251/, (Accessed Date: 05/02/2020)

³¹ Ibid

³² Section 7), *National Library Service Act*, (Solomon Islands), http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/nlsa251/, (Accessed Date: 05/02/2020)

³³ S7(1), *National Library Service Act*, (Solomon Islands), http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/nlsa251/, (Accessed Date: 05/02/2020)

³⁴ Ibid

Furthermore, the Board to the National Library are obliged to meet not more than three times a year. The required quorum in each meeting is four and in any decision, it must be supported by the majority votes from the members³⁵.

Staffing

The National Library of Solomon Islands has nine staff members. Two graduated with a Diploma in Library and Information Studies, three with Certificates and one without a Library Certificate while the other three are auxiliary staff³⁶. This staff composition however, was in few years' back in 2017, which could have changed now.

Relationship

Despite the *Act* being silent on the relationships with other institutions, an Annual Report of 2015 revealed that there is collaboration of the National Library with other Libraries, Archives and Museums³⁷. For example, a librarian network was formed in August 2015, which comprises of librarians working in the Government Department libraries, special Libraries, University of the South Pacific (SI) Campus Library, and Solomon Island National University Library, in working together for better library services³⁸.

Papua New Guinea

PNG's National Library is a government agency under the Ministry of Education. Its National Library is established under section 3 of the *National Library and Archives Act*³⁹.

The PNG Government through the Minister for Education ensures that the proper function and development of National Library and Archives meets the need of societies through a 10 year strategic plan (2016-2025)⁴⁰. Also ensuring that section 25 of the *National Library and Archives Act*, which requires government agencies to work together with the National Library and Archives to ensure administrative and indigenous records and were adequately housed for future references.

A Board comprising of eleven members⁴¹ is appointed by the Minister responsible; the Board reports to this Minister. The appointment of the Board members is based on the criteria that one must possess the

³⁵ S7, *National Library Service Act*, 1996, (Solomon Islands), http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/nlsa251/, (Accessed Date: 05/02/2020)

³⁶ Annual Report of Solomon Island National library, 2017, https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/meetings/pdf/AR2017_Solomon_Islands.pdf, (Accessed Date:13/02/2020)

³⁷ Annual Report of Solomon Island National library, 2017, https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/meetings/pdf/AR2017_Solomon_Islands.pdf, (Accessed Date:13/02/2020)

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ S3, *National Library and Archives At*, 1993 (PNG), http://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/nlaaa1993270/, (Accessed Date: 10/02/2020)

⁴⁰ *STABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S 22 PROVINCES*, 2019, https://www.ica.org/sites/default/files/4.2_b_kaiku.pdf, (Accessed Date: 21/12/2020)

⁴¹ S37, *National Library and Archives At*, 1993 (PNG), http://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/nlaaa1993270/, (Accessed Date: 10/02/2020)

capacity, knowledge and experience in advancing the development of the National Library and Archives. The Minister appoints the Chairperson of the Board amongst the Board members.

The main function of the Board is to give advice on archives and library matters. The Board advises the Minister concerning policy matters regarding the development of libraries and archives.⁴² More so, the board has the power to make recommendations to the Minister on policies concerning the co-ordination, planning and management of the libraries, archives and information service⁴³.

Unlike Solomon, the Head of State of PNG acts upon the advice of the Minister to make regulations for the quorum and tenure of the National Library and Archives Board⁴⁴.

In addition, a Director General who with relevant qualifications and experience in Library and archives shall be the Head of the Office of National Library of PNG and his or her functions is to manage and control the Office affairs⁴⁵. Another function is to develop and formulate policy to be approved by the National Librarian and Archives.⁴⁶ The Director General is also responsible to direct any matter to the Minister responsible. The Additional functions are:

- to co-ordinate planning and implementation of a national policy concerning libraries, archives and information services⁴⁷;
- to administer grants in promoting the Office and display materials by the Office and advice the allocation of priority project that funded by outside agencies;
- to encourage and promote publication and display suitable materials by the Office; and
- to undertake essential consultation and liaison to ensure that the functions of the Office are carried out effectively and efficiently.⁴⁸

Moreover, there is a National Librarian whose power is conferred by the National Public Service of PNG who is responsible to Control the National Library Services.

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ Above n41

⁴⁴ S38, *National Library and Archives Act*, 1993 (PNG), http://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/nlaaa1993270/, (Accessed Date: 10/02/2020)

⁴⁵ S7, *National Library and Archives Act*, 1993 (PNG), http://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/nlaaa1993270/, (Accessed Date: 10/02/2020)

⁴⁵ S4, *National Library and Archives Act*, 1993 (PNG), http://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/nlaaa1993270/, (Accessed Date: 10/02/2020)

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Section 8, *National Library and Archives Act*, 1993 (PNG), http://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/nlaaa1993270/, (Accessed Date: 10/02/2020)

⁴⁸ S8, *National Library and Archives Act*, 1993 (PNG), http://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/nlaaa1993270/, (Accessed Date: 10/02/2020)

Relationship

There is collaboration in terms of Office work by the National Library with the National Museum of PNG concerning programs that relates to heritage since there are no other offices for archives⁴⁹. The Office of the National Library receives request from organizations both private and public to help them on archival training⁵⁰. The National library also has connections internationally, with the National Archives of Australia where most of the historical records had been kept and preserved⁵¹.

Samoa

Samoa, like Vanuatu, has no specific National library Act that clearly spells out the establishment and structure of Samoa's National Library. The management of Samoa's National library lies within the *Public Records Act* of Samoa and reports to the Ministry of Education of Samoa. The Act caters for custody, control, management, preservation and use of Public records, along with its establishment⁵². Section 9(g) of the *Public Record Act*, only provides for a member of the National Library Association of Samoa to be part of a Board of Directors who is responsible for the Policy creation and administration of the Authorities of the National Archives and Records⁵³. However, an Annual Report concerning the National Library of Samoa reveals that the Ministry of Education takes a serious focus on the development of School libraries in their ten-year strategic plans to promote librarianship⁵⁴.

Similarly, there is no specific provision that provide for a clear structure for the administration of Samoa's National Library. However, according to an Annual Report of the Library produced by the National University of Samoa, there are twelve employees altogether. These include three postgraduate librarians and other nine with qualifications in other disciplines⁵⁵.

Moreover, there is also no provision that provide for the connection of Samoa's National Library with other libraries. However, the Annual report reveals that the National University of Samoa's (NUS) Library with some key libraries such as SPREP, USP School of Agriculture, Apia Public Library, Parliamentary library, National Archives, Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration, and several private school

⁴⁹ Annual Report of National Library of Papua New Guinea, 2017, https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/meetings/pdf/AR2017_Papua_New_Guinea.pdf, (Accessed Date: 03/02/2020)

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Above n49

⁵² *Public Records Act*, 2011, (Samoa), http://www.paclii.org/ws/legis/consol_act_2018/pr2011153/, (Accessed Date: 03/02/2020)

⁵³ S9(g), *Public Records Act*, 2011, (Samoa), http://www.paclii.org/ws/legis/consol_act_2018/pr2011153/, (Accessed Date: 03/02/2020)

⁵⁴ *Annual Report of Avalogo Tugi, Tunupopo*, 2016, https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/meetings/pdf/AR2016_Samoa.pdf, (Accessed Date: 05/02/2020)

⁵⁵ Ibid

libraries in Samoa have gone through a digitization project⁵⁶ which helps in managing and providing new access to other individual collections⁵⁷.

Tuvalu

In Tuvalu, the services of the National Library is catered for under the *National Library and Archives Act*⁵⁸ under the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The primary purpose of the *Act* is to provide for the preservation of the Public Records of Tuvalu⁵⁹. Like Vanuatu and Samoa, there is no mention of the National Library Structure in Tuvalu's *Act*. However, their annual report mentioned briefly about the Library Structure. Its management and administration falls under the said *Act*. The *Act* establishes an Archive Office known as Tuvalu National Archives. It houses the preservation of public records of Tuvalu, which are later transferred to the Archivist⁶⁰. The National Library and Archives were housed in an old Red Cross building in the capital of Funafuti⁶¹.

Regarding the Structure, the Minister of Education Youth and Sport is responsible for the National Library. The Chief Librarian answers to the Minister; and works with one other Librarian and two Assistant Librarians.

Relationship

There is an existing domestic and international collaboration for Tuvalu National Library. The National Library of Tuvalu is collaborating with the Library service and National Archives in Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and Island Culture Archives⁶². A recent example of an international collaboration was in 2017 where the Tuvalu National Library and Archives liaised with the National Archives of Fiji for archives training attachment⁶³.

Consultation

Structure

During consultation, 100% of the participants proposed that a standalone National Library legislation must legislate the structure of the National Library of Vanuatu.

With regards to the issue of appropriate Ministry where National Library should submits its report to, a bar graph below shows percentage of participant proposals of different Ministries that the National Library of Vanuatu should report to.

⁵⁶ Ibid

⁵⁷ Above n54

⁵⁸ *Public Records Act, 2008*, (Tuvalu), http://www.paclii.org/tv/legis/consol_act_2008/pr153/, (Accessed Date: 04/02/2020)

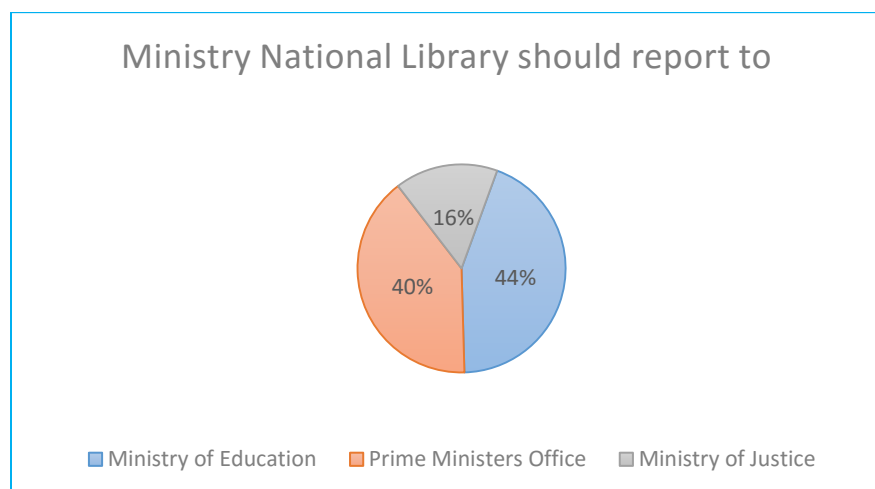
⁵⁹ Ibid

⁶⁰ S4, 2008, (Tuvalu), http://www.paclii.org/tv/legis/consol_act_2008/pr153/, (Accessed Date: 04/02/2020)

⁶¹ Ibid

⁶² Above n54

⁶³ Above n54



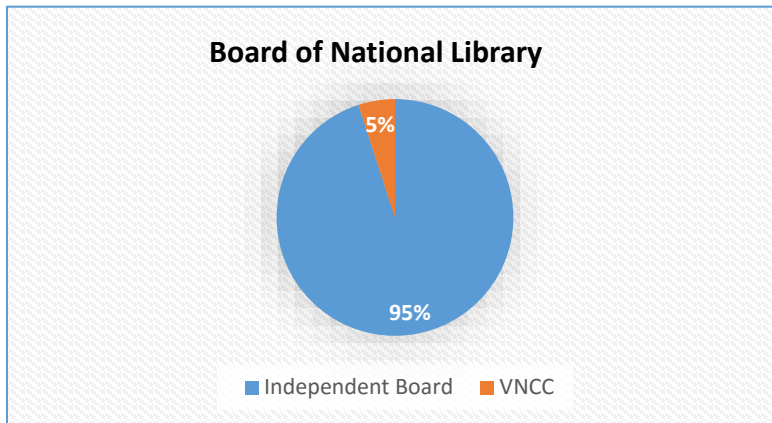
The above graph shows that more people proposed for Vanuatu National Library to report to the Ministry of Education reason being that core library function supports teaching and learning in schools. 10 % suggested Prime Minister’s Office because all other information-based agencies fall under it, like OGCIO, Language and Right to Information Unit. Only 4 % prosed that National Library should remain with Ministry of Justice since this Ministry has recognized the work of National Library.

Staffing

Regarding the question of whether or not the number of staff serving under the National Library should be legislated as per the National Library Office structure, suggestion has been made by 100 % of the participants during consultation that, only the top positions are to be legislated. The top positions to be legislated would include the Minister responsible, Director and the Chief Librarian, and that their recruitment process must be guided by the proposed legislation.

With the issue of staff recruitment, 100% of those who were consulted were of the view that the National Library’s Staff Manual, which will be aligned with Public Service Commission standards, will guide the recruitment process. A comment made in support of this view is that the National Library should refrain from employing staff under contract because this will affect the effectiveness and consistency of the work of National Library. Furthermore, when a contract is due when there is unfinished work, there could be difficulties in continuing and completing the work. Additionally, contract work requires time and resources for training and familiarization efforts, which in most cases, is a waste of time and money and could affect the National Library in achieving its goals.

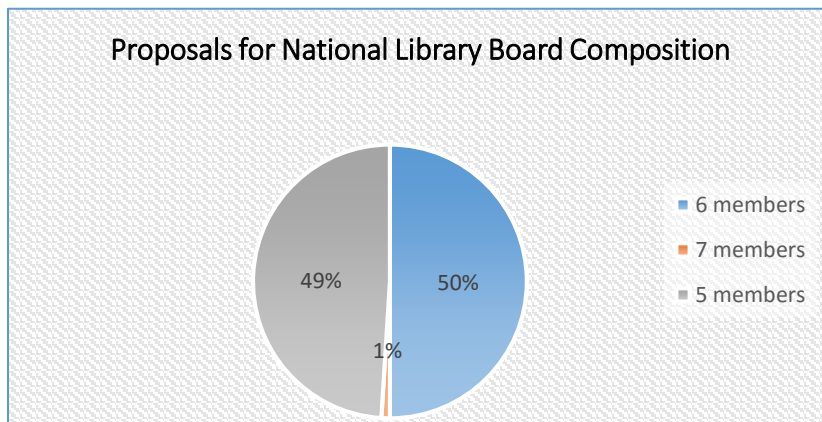
Proposal for National library Board is shown on the pie chart below.



From the above pie chart, 95% of participants suggested that the National Library should have a separate Board if it has a standalone legislation. While 5 % proposed that the Board of the VNCC should continue to manage the work of National Library.

Board Composition

There are three (3) main suggestion by the participants during consultation on for National Library Board composition. The pie chart below shows these suggestions.



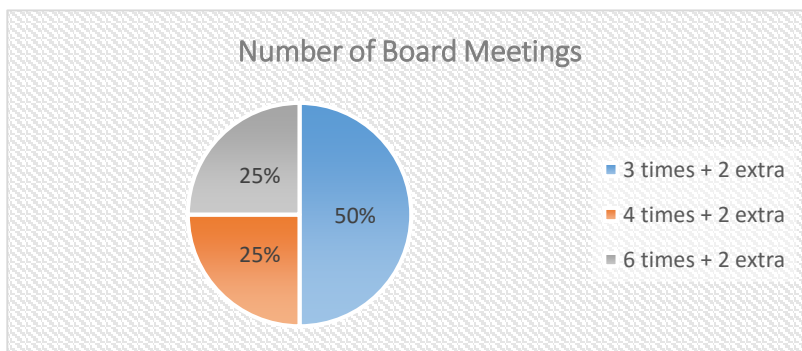
The above chart reveals that 50% of those who have been consulted suggested that the National Library board should comprise of 6 members to represent each province of Vanuatu. 49% agreed for 7 members while only 1% proposed that 5 members is sufficient to contribute effectively to the work of National Library.

On the question of criteria, the participants agree that Minister responsible should made his or her appointment based on qualifications and merit. Qualifications as in Degree, Master Degree or PHD in Library Program with some experience plus any related program like Management and Public Administration. Suggestion has been made that the composition of the Board should have representatives from the following institutions:

- Representative from Prime Minister’s Office where nominee should come from OCGIO and Right to Information
- Ministry of Justice from the community Service
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Education
- Cultural Centre , and
- National Library

Emphasis was made about the need for an effective board; one with diverse expertise from different field among the members for a fair representation on the relevant institutions in the Country.

There are three main proposals for number of Board meetings by the participants during consultation. The pie chart below shows the percentage of these participants’ proposals.



Though proposals for number of board meeting a year may be varied as seen above, they all agreed for 2 extra ordinary meetings for any agent matter.

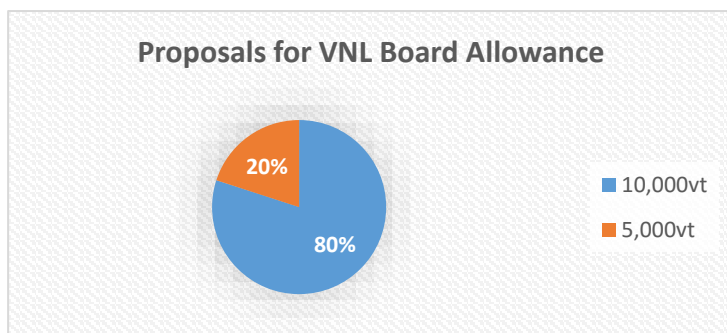
With the question of quorum of board meetings, 99.5 % of the participants agreed that 2/3 of the board members should form the quorum. A comment made in support of this view that the principle of majority rules should apply in this regard. However, it is very important for those whom trust had been bestowed on them for such post to attend every board meetings. Another comment made that those who were absent in any sitting must have good reasons for their absence and must not receive any sitting allowance.

Sitting Allowance

Concerning the issue of sitting allowance, 100 % of those who were consulted agreed that board members should be entitled to sitting allowances. However, two suggestions were made for the amount for each member per meeting. The reason being that the board were paid for their expertise and contribution to the services and development of National library which will in turn benefit the people of Vanuatu.

With the issue of allowance a comment made that sitting allowance should change to calling allowance; this means that allowance should be meant for per calling and not sitting. Reason made following the experience of the current board which sometime tend to reserve one or two agendas for meeting adjournment with the motive of receiving additional allowance.

Below is a pie chart that highlights the percentage of participants with two different proposals mention above.



The above chart reveals that 80% of the participants during consultation agree for VT 10,000 as an appropriate amount because of the member's expertise and good contribution. 20 % of the participants said VT 5,000 is sufficient because the board members already get paid for their jobs.

Finally, people had also shared their views on the issue of national and international connection. With national connection, 100 % of the participants agree that libraries around Vanuatu must be connected to the National Library. A comment made that development of libraries around Vanuatu will be more effective if there is a good connection between public, school and community libraries with the National Library. Libraries in rural and very remote areas will have quality library services such as capacity training for library staff and fair distribution of library resources for all libraries. There will be good monitoring of

libraries around every schools and ensuring that there is equity and fairness in terms of services and resources provided to teachers and students all around the country.

100 % of the people consulted were also of the view that partnerships with overseas libraries is vital. In support of this view, a participant noted that once this sort of relationship is regulated in a legislation it will pave a pathway that should guarantee the National Library to access more assistance abroad in terms of finance, material and capacity training.

Commissions View

Structure

The Commission's view regarding the office structure of the National Library is that it has to be legislated in order to establish a standard reporting process. It is also important for the accountability and transparency in the institution recruitment process.

Staffing

With careful consideration on the issue of Staffing, the Commission suggested that the proposed National Library Act should cater for the leading position only, namely the Chief Librarian, who will be responsible for the National Library management, including the administration of the staff. The appointment of the National Library staff in the proposed Act should be connected with the recruitment guide provided for under a new National Library Staff Manual.

Board

With the issue of an independent board, the commission suggest that National Library must have a board of its own. The work of the Board should be part time and not a full time job because this board is to meet per required number of times provided by the proposed Act.

An independent Board is important to the National Library for certain reasons. Firstly it will help to manage and administer the work of National Library. Secondly, this board is to act as a filter to filtrate resources like materials and finance granted by the government, individuals, and private entities for development and services of the National Library. This idea will be established as a process of check and balance in avoiding any possible conflicts in terms of resource distribution among libraries throughout the country.

With regards to sitting allowances, the Commission notes the practice of reserving one or two agendas and adjourning meetings to another day by some councils and boards for personal gain. Such practice are costly and to avoid this practice, the Commission is of the view that allowances are to be paid according to each calling of meeting instead of per sitting. Each calling should be worth VT 10,000, which means that if the board decides to reserve some agendas and adjourn meetings to another day they will not receive any extra allowance because the allowance was meant for per calling and not for per sitting or

adjournment of meetings. Currently, different Commissions in the country have different sitting allowances. However, most boards, Commissions or councils have a sitting allowance of 10,000vt. Examples are the Vanuatu Law Commission Board and Public Service Commission. It is a view of the Commission that the proposed standalone legislation for National Library should also state that the National Library board should also be entitled to a sitting allowance for 10,000vt per member.

Concerning the composition of the Board, the Commission notes that having representatives of the board from different provinces is ideal, however very costly and will consume a lot of time. Given the geographical locations of our islands this idea will not be practical especially when there is need for urgent matter to be discuss. To ensure the appointment of a cost effective board, the Commission suggest that the proposed board be made up of only seven (7) members to be nominated from the following institutions:

- Vanuatu Library Association (VLA),
- Prime Minister's Office
- Ministry of Justice and Community Service (MoJ&CS),
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Internal Affairs,
- Ministry of Education (MoE),
- National Library of Vanuatu
-

The Commission is of the view that the Chief librarian should hold the post of Secretary because of the expertise from the field of librarianship. Some specific roles of the Chief librarian will include setting up meeting agendas and calling of meetings. Other leading role like the Chairman have to be appointed by the Minister responsible.

The Director General from each Ministry are to nominate representatives from the above-mentioned institutions, while the VLA executive is to nominate and submit its representative's name to the Secretary of the National Library. The Secretary shall then submit the names of the nominees to the Minister responsible for appointments.

The representation from various agencies in this regard captured wider community with diverse expertise and experience to contribute to the development and sustainability of the national library. Representative from VLA is important since they have the ideas and knowledge to address issues of Libraries. The representative from PMO should be a nominee of the Right to Information Unit and OCGIO, agencies involved with information and information sharing. Opportunities for effective collaborations through dissemination of information nationwide via these agencies could influence the government regarding the work of the National Library. It could also be a leeway to access ideas concerning the use of advanced technology for libraries with the help of OCGIO. For example, the use of technology to provide online library catalogue services.

Nomination from the Ministry of Justice should come from the Community Service Unit because of the existing connections they have with the communities, as well as vulnerable groups such as children and

people with disabilities. Representative from the Ministry of Finance is significant for financial support of the National Library. A nominee that comes from the Ministry of Internal Affairs is to support the implementation of the Decentralization Policy in ensuring the library services is not confine only in urban areas but decentralize to rural areas as well. The representative from the Ministry of Education is important because the National Library works closely with schools but will need to develop better collaborative initiatives with the education sector in Vanuatu for maximum benefit.

Thirdly, for board meetings, the Commission's view is that four meetings each year should be adequate and should there be any urgent matters requiring the Boards decision, two extra ordinary meetings can be used for these. A meeting should take place in each quarter of a year; however, extra ordinary meetings are to be held to discuss urgent matters only.

With the question on quorum, two-third reflects the principle of majority rules and is therefore established as quorum. More so, there will be effective and sufficient contribution of ideas from various experts regarding agendas discussed in a sitting.

The subject of the relevant Ministry also required careful consideration. The Commission considered the existence and importance of *Education Act* relating to Libraries, but it fall short in providing for libraries in Vanuatu. The Commission discovered that efforts has been made by many schools to build school libraries and employ school librarians however, unfortunately, most were not qualified for the job, librarians are not on government payrolls and so most ended up being part time staff, a reason why many left library work.

The Commission is also aware of the COM decision in removing the Ministry of Justice and Community Services and replacing it with the Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean & Maritime Affairs. This created the uncertainty of which ministry to place National Library under. The Commission's view is that National Library should continue to report to the MJCS on the basis that they had been supporting the development of the National Library in terms of training and budgeting via the office of the National Archives and the National Cultural Council. Therefore, the Commission's view is that National Library will continue to report to the MJCS until such time when the Government decides on which Ministry to be responsible for National Library.

Finally, the Commission thinks that the proposed Act should legislate the cooperation of the office of the National Library with other libraries in Vanuatu as well as any international institutions or organization for the development of Libraries in Vanuatu. Support, Capacity development, Monitoring services and resources will be improved for libraries in Vanuatu through this.

Note: Term of Board has not been captured during consultation but being a matter closely related to the functioning of the Board, this is also considered. The Commission notes that the current term of the council responsible for the National Library as per section 3(2) of the VNCCA that a member is entitled for

three (3) years and a member can be reappointed by the Minister⁶⁴. A period of 2 years is viewed as too short which will affect the consistency and continuity in the work of the National Library. Therefore, the commission recommends that a term of the board should be four (4) years to advance the work of the National Library in a consistent manner.

Recommendations

Therefore, the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation: That the authoritative positions for the National library only should be legislated, especially the position of Chief Librarian.

Recommendation: That the recruitment of the Chief Librarian to be based on merit, qualification like Degree, Master Degree, or PHD in the field of library plus any related program and good administration capacity with at least two to three years' work experience.

Recommendation: The recruitment of any other staff below the Chief Librarian to be within the internal recruitment process provided for under a new National Library Staff Manual. The appointment of staff should be endorsed by the Board following the process provided by the Staff Manual.

Recommendation: That the national library must have a new separate board from the current Council established by VNCCA.

Recommendations: That the Composition of the National Library Board comprises of six members altogether and from the following Ministries:

- Vanuatu Library Association (VLA)
- Prime Minister's Office
- Ministry of Justice and Community Service (MoJ&CS),
- Ministry of Internal Affairs, Director DLA
- Ministry of Education (MoE), CDU

⁶⁴ S 3(2), *Vanuatu National Cultural Act 1985*

Recommendation: That each board members to be entitled for 10, 000vt as an allowance for each calling of a meeting.

Recommendation: That the term of the National Library Service Board to be 4 years.

PART 3 - FUNDING

Current Situation

Section 12 of the *Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act* provides that the funds of the Council shall consist of grants from the government out of monies appropriated by Parliament, grants from other sources, monies borrowed by the Council and monies received by the Council in any other way in the course of the discharge of its objects.

However, the National Library and the Public Library are currently being funded by two different government offices. The National Cultural Council funds the operations and staff of the Port Vila Public Library while the National Archives funds the operations and the payroll of the National Library staff. The grant belonging to these two offices for their operations in implementing their objects will cause restraints in implementing objects from all four offices.

Donations and generous support of individuals and organizations have been the only way thus far of growing both book collections in the National Library and Public Library. The *Deposit of Books Act* offers another option to acquiring books for the National Library. Various schools in remote places in Vanuatu have small but well-established libraries via the donations and contributions from individuals and organizations such as Ratua Foundation in Santo and Calvary College in Santo, Little Stars and Peace Corps in other islands.

Other than that, the staff from the National and the Public Library have also been carrying out fund raisings from their own pockets to raise funds in order to carry out services of the National Library throughout Vanuatu.⁶⁵

Comparable jurisdictions

PNG has the following provisions to support the work of the National Library Service:

- Section 13 providing that the Director General of the National Library and Archives may accept gifts, devises, bequests and assignments made to the office and act as trustee of moneys, library and archival materials or other property vested in the office on trust; and act on behalf of the government in relation to the administration of a trust relating to library and archival materials.

In the Solomon Islands section 9 of the *National Library Services Act* [Cap 71] established a National Library Service Fund which is to be used by the Minister to enforce the functions under the *National Library Service Act*. The fund includes such monies appropriated by law for the purpose of the National Library Service, any moneys which may accrue to it by virtue of any regulations made under the *Act* and gifts, grants and bequests derived from any public or private source.

⁶⁵ Interview with Margaret Austrai, Chief Librarian of the National Library, National Library and Archives Conference Room, Port Vila, 11 June 2019

A brief comparison is also made with the *National Library Act 1960* of Australia. Finance is contained in Part IV that provides for moneys payable to Library, Application of Moneys of Library and exemption of taxation. The provisions are precise. For instance, under section 20(1) which is Moneys payable to Library it is provided that *“there are payable to the Library such moneys as are appropriated by the Parliament for the purposes of the Library.”* Moreover, the Finance Minister may give directions as to the amounts in which, and the times at which, moneys referred to above are to be paid to the Library. Further specification of the use of the Moneys payable are provided for under Section 22. That is the money must be applied only in payment or discharge of the costs and expenses of the Library under that *Act*, and in payment of remuneration, allowances and expenses of the members of the Council. The library is exempted from paying tax.

Consultations

100% of the people consulted strongly suggested that any Act covering the National Library must contain a provision about funding. Funding must be appropriated from the Parliament. The creation of its own law for a separation institution of the National Library Services will obligate the government through the Finance Department to allocate funds for the establishment and development of libraries in Vanuatu.

Everyone stated that donations and contributions must continue to be allowed. A new law should not prohibit this but rather a reporting mechanism be established to ensure information is provided back to the National Library Service Office of the donations and contributions made to the libraries. Currently there are not enough human resource at the National Library to allow approval of donations and contributions thus only reporting to record the donations and contributions must be made.

A minor group on the other hand stated that with regards to donations and contributions, the National Library Service office must first receive all donations in order to distribute to allow a fair distribution to libraries according to statistics recorded by them.

Other ways to fund raise for funds to implement the necessary services of the National Library is to make as much awareness as possible and in order to enable donations and support from anyone including community members and schools. Others suggested for school and community libraries to pay an affiliation fee to connect with the National Library and an annual contribution can be required from small libraries to better the work of the Library throughout Vanuatu. These fees will assist the National Library Service to develop Libraries throughout Vanuatu.

Commissions Views

The Vanuatu Government must be responsible to source the funds for service of the National Library Office. Other ways to make funds must not be excluded such as accepting gifts and donations from individuals and organizations. It is a government office and should not encourage other means such as libraries paying for any kind of fees as this defeats the purpose of a government funded office.

Recommendations

Therefore, the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation: That the National library Service is a government funded office and therefore must be sourced by the Parliament.

Recommendation: That the proposed Act for the National Library should not exclude the donations and contributions and gifts accepted from any individual or organization.

PART 4: ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report is a report that is presented by a responsible person (Director) to his or her stakeholders each year to account the sets of activities being done⁶⁶. The report is to include activities, level of service delivered, and the cost of providing those services. The annual report provide stakeholders with a clear frame work to assess the efficiency, effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness of the Department activities⁶⁷.

Annual reports are often mandatory for every Department and Ministries. As following the current reporting process, the National Library and Archives makes an annual report to the Director of VKS. The Director then merges the report with that of the VKS and presents it to the National Cultural Council before submitting to the Minister of Justice⁶⁸.With lengthy reports, the National Library of Vanuatu reports directly to the Ministry of Justice and a copy is sent to the Director of VKS on behalf of the Council for recording purposes.

Comparable Jurisdiction

In PNG the annual report is provided for under section12 of its *National Library and Archives Act* that the Director General:

- Can request an annual report to be lodge 31 March of each year from the head, of each responsible government instrumentality on the condition of Libraries and archives in that government instrumentality,
- As soon as after 30 June in each year, prepare and provide to the Minister a report on the Working of this *Act*, including breaches of any provision of the *Act* of which DG has noticed, and
- The Minister to cause a copy of the report furnished to be laid before Parliament⁶⁹.

The reporting process of both Vanuatu and PNG are similar. It is mandatory, for a Director or Director General (DG) to exercise his or her power in ensuring consistent annual reporting of National Library to the Ministry responsible.

Commissions Views

Annual report is significant for proper management and administration of the National Library. Activities and costs incurred during the business year would be shown in the Annual Report for transparency purposes. Consequently, request for funding for the following year is made easier. Hence, the Commission

⁶⁶ *Controller and Auditor General*, <https://oag.parliament.nz/2011/local-government-annual-reports/part2.htm#:~:text=Local%20authorities%20prepare%20annual%20reports,delivery%20with%20forecast%20service%20delivery> (Access Date: 17/09/2020)

⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁸ Interview with Margaret Austrai, Chief Librarian of the National Library, National Library and Archives Conference Room, Port Vila, 11 June 2019

⁶⁹ S12, *National Library and Archives Act*, 1993 (PNG), http://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/nlaaa1993270/, (Accessed Date: 10/02/2020)

is of the view that the proposed National Library legislation must legislate for the annual reporting from the office of the National Library. The Secretary/ Chief Librarian of the National Library should always prepare a report each year before budget season of Parliament in November every year, and submits it to its Board of Commission for approval. The Board will then submit the report to the Ministry where the Minister submits it to the Parliament for debate.

Recommendations

Therefore, the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation: That a provision of Annual Report be inserted to the Proposed Vanuatu National Library Act that spells out the reporting process.

The report must be prepared by the National Library Secretariat prior to a budget approval session of Parliament which is in November every year, submits to its Board for approval. The Board to submit the report to the Minister responsible, and be taken to Parliament during budget approval session for debate.

PART 5: REGULATION

Regulation is also known as a subsidiary legislation, which is often found in almost every principal legislation. It is a rule of order having the force of law; prescribed by a superior or competent authority, relating to actions of those under the authority's control⁷⁰. The primary purpose of having regulation is to support the requirements specified under the principal legislation (Act). There are various types of regulation made in serving different purposes. Such as rules, orders, bylaws, and ordinance, which are made without any conflict or inconsistent to the provisions of the primary Legislation in supporting a specific requirement provided in the Primary legislation⁷¹.

In Vanuatu, usually the power is granted to a Minister or could be any person authorised by a state Minister or by law so have power to make regulations. For instance, the power of the Minister responsible is exercised in accordance to section 21 of the *Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act* to make regulation regarding any matter of National Library. Although the provision of regulation is not specifically provided for National Library but since National Library is established under the VNCCA, the Minister of Justice has the power to make regulation in support of the provision of the principal *Act*.

Comparable Jurisdiction

In PNG, the Head of State is mandated to make regulations by acting on the advice of the PNG National Library not inconsistent with the principal *Act* agreeing in all things in the *Act* that are permitted in giving effect to the Principal *Act*⁷².

Commissions View

The issue of regulations was not included in consultations although is a matter required for a well-established legislation. The Commission thinks that the proposed legislation for the National Library Services should contain a provision for regulations to be made by the Minister responsible. As the amendment for legislations is a lengthy process, regulations are beneficial for minor matters not required to undergo the lengthy process of legislation amendments but would be suffice to be included in regulations.

⁷⁰ Regulation, <https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/regulation> (Accessed Date: 25/09/2020)

⁷¹ Regulation, http://dlib.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/courses/LA100_Legal_Systems1/LA100_Unit_5.html (Accessed Date: 28/09/2020)

⁷² S38, *National Library and Archives Act*, 1993, (PNG), http://www.pacii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/nlaaa1993270/, (Accessed Date: 10/02/2020)

Recommendations

Therefore, the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation: That a provision in a legislation to provide for the National Library will cover regulations for the better implementation of the National Library Service in Vanuatu.

Recommendation: That the power to make regulations be granted to the Minister responsible for Vanuatu National Library without any conflict or inconsistency to the provisions of the proposed Principal Act.

PART 6: OTHER LAWS AND MATTERS

Official Depositories of Thesis Publications in the National and Government Publications in Library

During the consultation, some other minor issues were also highlighted. One of these issues was the official depositories of any thesis publications of Vanuatu in the National Library, which includes any government publications.

The *Deposit of Books Act*⁷³ provides for the deposit and preservation of copies of books printed or published in Vanuatu and for any relating matters. However this *Act* is outdated and quite brief and does not cover thesis publication based on Vanuatu and where they are to be stored. This *Act* should work alongside any changes made to the National Library to provide for consistency.

Recommendations

Therefore, the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation: The *Deposit of Books Act* to be amended accordingly to reflect changes made to the running of the National Library.

Use of technology

Another recurring issue brought up during consultations was the use of technology. With the world becoming more modernized and digitized, it was stated throughout the consultations that the National Library should also be able to provide its services online, especially for the remote and rural areas where it is difficult to get reading materials. However it was also agreed that while technology was beneficial for children educationally, there should be supervision in school libraries to avoid misuse or abuse of research materials.

Recommendation

Therefore, the Vanuatu Law Reform Commission makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation: It should not be a legal requirement for the National Library to update its online and technological services, it is strongly recommended that they do to provide better services especially for those who are not able to visit the National Library itself and who have difficulty in obtaining physical reading materials.

⁷³ *Deposit of Books Act* [Cap 88] (Vanuatu) http://pacific.org/vu/legis/consol_act/doba178/ (Accessed 22/10/2020)

LIST OF APPENDIX

CONSULTATION LIST

Name	Position and Office	Island of Origin
Julia Sagler	Admin- ORCEBDS	Mota
Philimon Ling	PEO –Torba	Motalava
Mario Woleg	Project Officer	Motalava
Edmond Harry	President Torba Province	Merelava
Rynolds Surmp	SG Torba Province	Merelava
Judah Silas	Police Officer	Motalava
Henry Wetul	Health Officer	Merelava
Milla Wilkins	Principal Telhei Primary School	Motalava
Simon Ambi	Principal Secondary School	Motalava
Stward Vores	Area Administrator	Motalava
Glenny Collen	Library Rep. Wongyeskei School	Motalava
Marrie Hanson towbah	Principal Wongyeskei School	Motalava
Lisline M. Dini	Principal Telvet Primary School	Motalava
Folorie MOli	Year 1 teacher	Motalava
Marrie Janne . D	Year 3 Teacher	Motalava
Stephanie Pantutun	Kindy Teacher	Motalava
Elina Towbah	Inclusive Teacher	Motalava
Gilbert Jersy	Chief	Vanualava
Lotie Ben	Teacher	Vanualava
Loridalum Noris	Kindy Teacher	Vanualava
Jemima Malau	Kindy Teacher	Vanualava
Cylia Garae	Library Teacher	Ambae
Manuel Natu	ASS. Church Leader	Vanualava

Anna David	Head Teacher	Vanualava
Tonny Romeo	Chairman	Vanualava
Mark Keker	Youth Leader	Vanualava
Daniel Gollon	Chief	Vanualava
Cecil Wilsin	Parent Rep	Vanualava
Samuel Keker	Church Leader	Vanualava
Ben Lista	Kindy Association Chairman	Vanualava
Crimson	MEO	Vanualava
Hesron Berry	Chairman	Vanualava
Ken	Vice Chairman	Vanualava
Fr. Kamuel	Priest	Vanualava
Polycap Wenistone	Principal	Motalava
Maken Lorette	Helper Gneretururo School	Vanualava
Mark Helena	Kindy Teacher	Vanualava
Mark Lesing	Treasurer Gneretururo School	Vanualava
Sigi Jerry	Andiman Gneretururo School	Vanualava
Augustine Sigi	Church Leader	Vanualava
Lensdaere Coppinge	Language Teacher	Motalava
Flince Benedick	Language Teacher	Mota
Sinker Liza	Teacher	Motalava
Rose Rina Rebu	Language Teacher	Pentecost
Moira Kuau	Primary Teacher	Tanna
Joana Kampai	Language Teacher	Malekula
Celine Kombae	Language Teacher	Malekula
Annie Surmat	Primary Teacher	Tanna
Maxim Vora	Deputy Principal	Santo

Philip Baniuri	Principal Titiai	Santo
Sumbe	Librarian	Malo
Raphael Takaia	English Teacher	Solomon Isnlands Malaita
Napang Gino	Principal	Santo
Kavik Herre	Deputy Principal	Santo
Emilyn Mahe	Principal Sarakata School	Santo
Florence Kalpukai	English Teacher	Santo
Kezenda Ngwele	Librarian	Ambae
Maybe Willie	Director Education Church of Christ	Santo
Annie Vanua	Principal	Principal
Silviet Garae	Librarian	Tanna
Rayleen N	English Teacher	Santo
Gisleine Samsen	Teacher	Ambae
Helen Avio	Teacher	Ambrym
Hancy Mahuri	Teacher	Santo
Willie Laih	Teacher	Santo
John Pouneret	Principal	Santo
Leo Fredrick Ora	SIO	Santo
Cathy Bage	Teacher	Pentecost
Roline Enrel	Teacher	Malekula
Cecile REpAlbert	Principal	Santo
Ova William	Principal	Santo
Bulelip Simon	Teacher	Pentecost
Tapuna Augustina	Teacher	Santo
Alguet Edwina	Teacher	Santo
Hu Gzarine	Teacher	Santo

Rapoulpoul Diana	Teacher	Santo
Tamos Johan	Teacher	Pentecost
Hivird Fatrenne	Teacher	Ambrym
Avock Tallet Eliane	Teacher	Paama
Ova Fabrice	Teacher	Santo
Livoholo Jessica	Teacher	Santo
Ngwele Andrew	Teacher	Santo
Narasse Talataveti	Teacher	Santo
Sylvio Laboukly	Teacher	Malekula
Elsiva	Teacher	Malekula
Floyd	Teacher	Malo
Murielle	Teacher	Santo
Henry Wass	Principal	Santo
Rwen Ham	Teacher	Santo
Joana B.t	Librarian	Santo
Tania Waka	Teacher	Santo
Betty B. Andy	Teacher	Penticost
Jill David	Teacher	Santo
Hanson Rymill	Teacher	Malekula
Johnston Ilo	Principal Academic	Ambae
Joel Dick	Principal	Malo
Mathron Vatu	Principal	Santo
Matavusi Nellie	Teacher	Malo
Sale Bani	Principal	Malo
Pauline Malesu	English Teacher	Efate
Isaac Tanga	Teacher	Ambae
Percy Roro	Acting Principal	Ambae

Riquet Melanie	Teacher	Ambae
Kery Douglas	Teacher	Ambae
Samuel Vanua	Principal	Ambae
Hensly Tariolo	Deputy Principal	Ambae
Joana Titiro	Acting Principal	Ambae
Loretta A. Vatu	Acting Principal	Ambae
Giliala Noelline	Principal	Ambae
Manasseh Tangwole	Principal	Penticost
Edison Moli	Principal	Ambae
Koho Handson	SIO	Ambae
Alice Bani	Acting Principal	Ambae
Joserh G.	Chairman	Ambae
Dickson Banga	Principal	Ambae
Ruben Boe	Principal	AMbae
Trevis Vile	Principal	Ambae
Redlyne Tari	Principal	Ambae
Sorineala Bartholomew	Principal	Ambae
Katheleen Tahi	Principal	Penticost
Eunice Tari	Librarian	Ambae
Gladys Moli	Language Teacher	Ambae
Galibert Mwea	Principal	Penticost
Edwin Mala	Principal	Ambae
Samson Mera	Principal	Ambae
Eddie Tori	Principal	AMbae
Lorinette Garae	Principal	Ambae
Christine Garaleo	Principal School Improvement Officer	Pentecost

Taribiti Edwin	Primary Teacher	Ambae
Singo Enok	Teacher	Ambae
Morrison Tari	Principal	Ambae
Haraold Mala	Teacher	Penticost
Father Albert	Chaplin	Penticost
Edlyne Paululum	Observer Teacher	Santo
Adeline Tari	Teacher	AMbae
Esline Morris	Principal	Malekula
Ennely Longa	Chairlady Librarian	Malekula
Belisen Tamau	Librarian	Malekula
Sarsoum Xavio	PSC HRO	Malekula
Nedis Olivia	General Manage Norsup	Malekula
Annie Taissets	Acting Nursing Manager	Ambrym
Ben Asurs	SCBDO	Malekula
Esmon Maki	Corrections	Malekula
John Yata	Police Officer	Tanna
Rollyne Liu	Tourism Officer Manager	AMbae
Jason Moli	Custom Land Officer	Santo
Stephen Luka	Class teacher	Malekula
Irene Sandy	Class Teacher	Malekula
Lioyde Regenvanu	Class teacher	Malekula
Sam Alick Class	Class Teacher	Malekula
Wales Regenvanu	Class Teacher	Malekula
Lizzie Rose Young	Deputy Academic Principal	Pentecost
Melani Laau	Geography Teacher	Malekula
Ackie Veremaito	Agriculture teacher	Malekula
Marita Kali	Teacher	Malekula

Selina Kambong	Librarian	Malekula
Tokone Isaac	Teacher	Paama
Visauremal Jean Patric	Teacher	Malekula
Naomie Nguen	Teacher	Malekula
Martine Terear	Librarian	Malekula
Silta Kosip	School Principal	Malekula
Ireen A	Teacher	Malekula
Mclean Edwin	Teacher	Malekula
Merelin Lini	Teacher	Malekula
Joyce Napinmal	Teacher	Malekula
Betiyn Joel	Relief Teacher	Malekula
Glory Ambhaphath	Kindy Teacher	Malekula
Lethy Kalnavan	Teacher	Malekula
Linda Aru	ECCE teacher	Malekula
Mire Alpet	ECCE teacher	Malekula
Payen Peter	Teacher	Malekula
Amkori Charlie	Teacher	Malekula
Samson Joma	Teacher	Malekula
Tamath Niptic	Secondary School teacher	Malekula
Lorin Tawi	Secondary Teacher	Malekula
Saiken Sakio	Librarian	Malekula
Harnpel Florence	Librarian	Malekula
Charles Yatyat	Principal	Malekula
Resinan Sauki	Librarian	Malekula
Tomo Samson	Principal	Ambrym
Noube Fabrice	Teacher	Malekula
Livoholo Vekololo	Teacher	Santo

Slee Irene	Teacher	Anatyum
Nolyne Jerethy	Teacher	Tanna
Cosette Arcknaveth	Teacher	Malekula
Tevanu Florida	Teacher	Malekula
Malkali Sylvano	Teacher	Malekula
Nawinmal Jean	Principal	Malekula
Nati Marietta	Librarian	Malekula
Kalurel Cyriaque	Principal	Malekula
Rarthykal Albert	Principal	Malekula
Serah Malsrake	Librarian	Malekula
Apolinette Maluwosy	Librarian	Malekula
Honorine Malibou	Principal	Ambrym
Peter Obed	Principal	Malekula
Jeflin Willie	Librarian	Malekula
Winifer Tembesson	Teacher	Malekula
Sandrine Tari	Teacher	Ambae
Amato Malvirlani	Replacement Teacher	Malekula
Mauirlany Pavelina	Head Teacher	Malekula
Felina Merah	Librarian	Malekula
Francina Turan	Librarian	Malekula
James Johnethy	Teacher	Malekula
Bong Walter	School Principal	Ambrym
Willie Alick	Teacher	Epi
Noma Simon	Teacher	Efate
Skye Ravensroh	USP Emalus Librarian	Australia
Gloria kalurea	Librarian Public Library	Efate
Reneta Kalwatman	Pango School Teacher	Efate

Ericka Mathias	Librarian	Efate
Leyala Laliet	Archivist Vanuatu National Archives	Efate
Julia Toto	Archivist	Efate
Jenny Tevi	Policy Advisor MOJCS	Pentecost
Vatiseva Robert	Teacher	Fiji
Stelline Serel	Epauto Teacher	Efate
Richard Sing	Director VKS	Aneityum
S. Regenvanu	Retired Pastor	Malekula
Pauline Kalo	CSO	Emae
Alice Kaloran	CSO rep	Tongoa
Helen Tamtam	Language Consultant	Malekula
Linda Bakokoto	PSO	Ifira
Agustine Tevi	Archivist	Pentecost
Mr. Tari	Teacher	Ambae
Mr. Micah Kerry	Teacher	Manua
Mrs Sacklyn George	Teacher	Nakasakasarau
Mr. Alick Langitong	Teacher	Green Hill
Miss Esther	Teacher	Fokona
Irine Kalmar	Teacher	Efate
Leisaurei	Teacher	Efate
Edgen	Teacher	Efate
Alison Bani	Teacher	Ambae
Irish Jimmy	Teacher	
Delvin Taridue	Teacher	Pentecost
Leiwia Kaltalia	Teacher	Penticost

Daniel Caleb	Teacher	Efate
T Laurent	Teacher	Efate
Morris Esrom	Teacher	Efate
Jimmy Arthur	Teacher	Efate
Martin Manses	Teacher	Efate
Rose Steven	Tafea USP sub Centre	Tanna
Yanic	Deputy Academic	Tanna
Niruaque	Teacher	Tanna
	Librarian	Tanna
Shem	Academic Principal	Tanna
Iaka	Acting Principal	Tanna
	Pastor	Tanna
Sherry Bwarren	Librarian	Tanna
Iapson Manu	Acting Principal (TAC)	Tanna
Teana	School Officer (TAC)	Tanna
Emabon	Media Officer (TAC)	Tanna
Knakat	Project Officer (TAC)	Tanna
Manuela	Tourism Officer (TAC)	Tanna
Joe	Secretary General (TAC)	Eromango
Kapalu	Principal	Tanna
Camille	Teacher	Tanna

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

Margaret A. Terry, 2018 Annual Report National Library of Vanuatu & Port Vila Public Library', 18 March 2019

Interviews

Interview with Margaret Austrai, Chief Librarian of the National Library, National Library and Archives Conference Room, Port Vila

Online Materials

Andy Stephens "Functional, tasks and roles of national libraries in the 21st century" (June 17, 2016) <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0955749016653031> (Accessed 15/2/2021)

Annual Report of Avalogo Tugi, Tunupopo, 2016, https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/meetings/pdf/AR2016_Samoa.pdf (Accessed: 05/02/2020)

Annual Report of National Library of Papua New Guinea, 2017, https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/meetings/pdf/AR2017_Papua_New_Guinea.pdf (Accessed: 03/02/2020)

Annual Report of Solomon Island National library, 2017, https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlao/meetings/pdf/AR2017_Solomon_Islands.pdf, (Accessed: 13/02/2020)

Ben White "Guaranteeing Access to Knowledge: The Role of Libraries" (Wipo Magazine, August 2012) https://www.wipo.int/wipo_magazine/en/2012/04/article_0004.html (Accessed 15/2/2021)

ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S 22 PROVINCES, 2019, https://www.ica.org/sites/default/files/4.2_b_kaiku.pdf (Accessed: 21/12/2020)

Regulation, <https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/regulation> (Accessed: 25/09/2020)
Regulations, http://dlib.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/courses/LA100_Legal_Systems1/LA100_Unit_5.html (Accessed: 28/09/2020)

Role of the Library Board, 2016, https://cpl.prl.ab.ca/~media/camrose/policies-and-guiding-documents/the_role_of_the_library_board.ashx?la=en (Accessed: 12/03/2020)

Vanuatu Education for All 2015 National Review, <file:///C:/Users/ksandy/Downloads/229881eng.pdf> (Accessed: 05/02/2020)

Statutes

Deposit of Books Act [Cap 88] (Vanuatu) http://paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/doba178/ (Accessed: 22/10/2020)

Education Act [Cap 272] (Vanuatu), http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/ea104/ (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

Local Government Act [Cap 51] (Kiribati)
http://www.paclii.org/cgi-bin/sinodisp/ki/legis/consol_act/lga182/index.html?stem=&synonyms=&query=Library (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

National Cultural Centre Trust Act 1978 (Samoa) http://www.paclii.org/cgi-bin/sinodisp/ws/legis/consol_act_1996/nccta1978351/nccta1978351.html?stem=&synonyms=&query=National%20Cultural%20Centre%20Trust%20Act%20of%201978 (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

National Library Act 1960 (Australia), <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2011C00245> (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

National Library and Archives Act 1993 (PNG),
http://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/nlaa1993270/ (Accessed: 10/02/2020)

National Library Service Act [Cap 71] (Solomon Islands),
http://www.paclii.org/sb/legis/consol_act/nlsa251/ (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

Public Records Act 2008 (Tuvalu), http://www.paclii.org/tv/legis/consol_act_2008/pr153/ (Accessed: 04/02/2020)

Public Records Act, 2011, (Samoa), http://www.paclii.org/ws/legis/consol_act_2018/pr2011153/ (Accessed: 03/02/2020)

Right to Information Act 2016 (Vanuatu), http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/num_act/rtia2016234/ (Accessed: 26/10/2020)

Vanuatu National Cultural Council Act [Cap 186] (Vanuatu),
http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/vncca362/ (Accessed: 26/10/2020)