

**2019 PACIFIC UPDATE PROGRAM  
3-5<sup>th</sup> JULY  
VANUATU GOVERNANCE SYSTEM- LABOUR  
MOBILITY PROGRAM**



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

# LABOUR MOBILITY PROGRAMS FOR VANUATU

- The Recognized Seasonal Employment (RSE) with NZ Government- Implementation arrangement commenced in 2007.
- The Seasonal Workers Program (SWP) with the Australian Government- Implementation arrangement commenced in 2012.
- The Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) with the Australian Government. Implementation arrangement commenced on December 2018.

# CURRENT LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. Seasonal Employment Act No. 23 of 2007.
  - LICENCES AND PERMITS
  - DUTIES OF LICENSEES AND PERMIT HOLDERS
  - RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR
2. Seasonal Employment Agency Regulation Order No.13 of 2007.
  - Deals with administrative arrangement of the RSE program.
  - Pre-departure Orientation
  - The Visa requirement
  - General requirements on compliance while on seasonal Employment
  - Monitoring and compliance of the program by Labour Commissioner

# Legal framework continue....

- The legislation and policy enacted in 2007 was developed to set the legal framework for the RSE only.
- SWP and PLS are not captured in the legislation and Regulation.

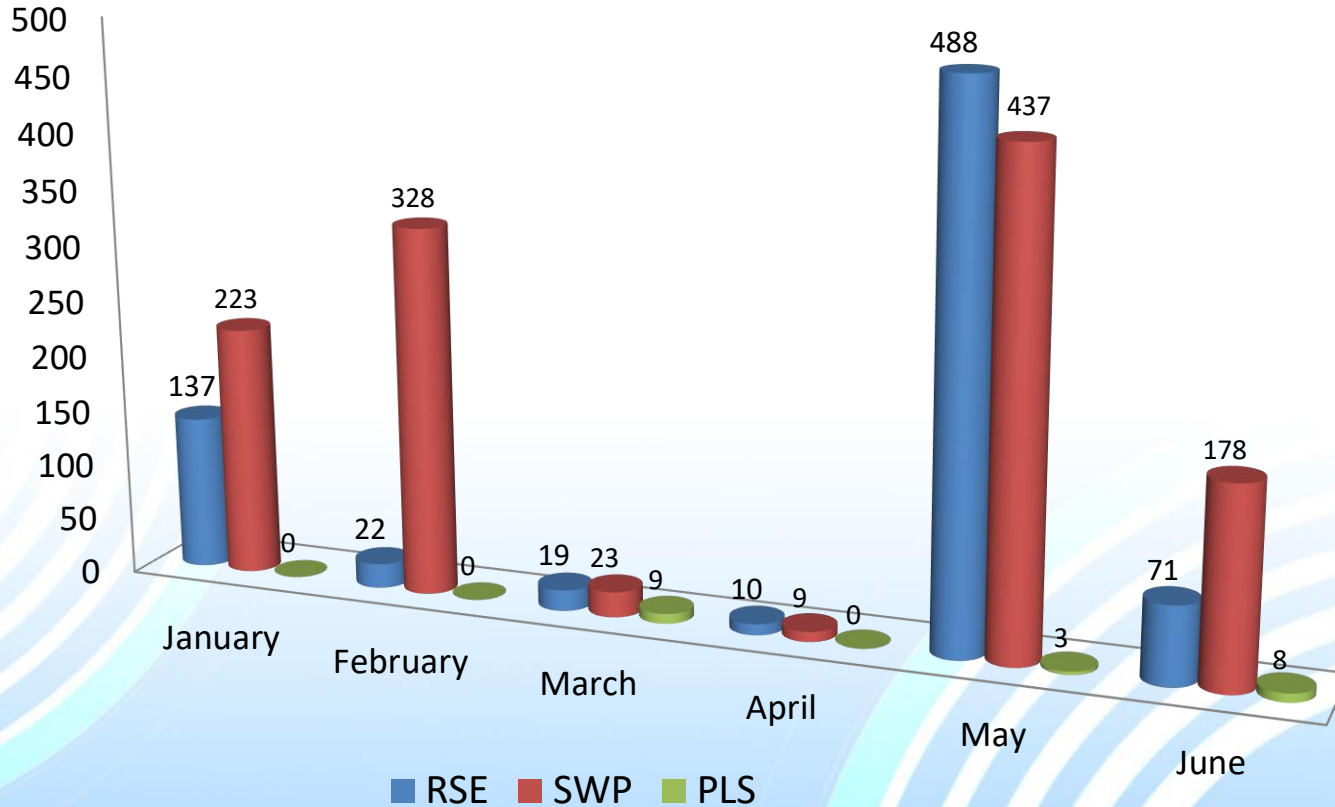
# Recruitment Process

- The Recruitment process is done through (1) Agents (Ni Vanuatu) and (2) Approved Employers (Direct Recruitment) for the Unskilled Program (RSE and SWP)
  - a. Number of RSE (New Zealand) Approved Agents for 2019: 23
  - b. Number of RSE Approved Employers for 2019 : 73
  - c. Number of SWP (Australia) Approved Agents for 2019: 107
  - d. Number of SWP Approved Employers for 2019: 32
- All agents and Employers are recruited through the issuance of license and permit.
- There are prescribed fees for the permit and license application.
- Permit and license are issued on a yearly basis.
- There is no work ready pool as a recruitment method for Vanuatu.

# Recruitment process continue.....

- The PLS recruitment is strictly implemented by the Employment Services Unit (ESU) under the Labour Department.
  - a. Number of PLS Employers: 5 (Who have already been recruited but we are expecting more 😊 to come😊).
- Ni- Vanuatu agents are not allowed under the terms and condition of the MOU to recruit for the PLS program.
- The current recruitment process comprises of industry such as Agriculture, Tourism/Hospitality/meat workers.

# Labour Mobility Statistics for 2019 as of June 2019



# Success Stories



*Doctor's house in Epi build by more than 100 RSE workers from Epi and was opened in 2018. The project of the building took the workers 3 years to complete it.*

*A worker from Pele build his bungalow at Pele Island. He is an RSE workers under SSCO and has been to New Zealand for 3 season.*





# Remittances

- Figure below shows the remittances collected in 2016 – 2018 by the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu for the RSE and SWP program

REMMITANCES ( NZ-RSE and Australia ( SWP)				
	2016	2017	2018 Jan- June	2018 RBV Forecast
RSE NET ( VATU)	1,880,637,480.00	1,895,004,080.00	921,245,840	2,000,000,000
SWP NET ( VATU)	771,378,400.00	1,130,459,200.00	620,391,200	1,400,000,000
TOTAL REMMITANCES ( inflow)	2,652,015,880.00	3,025,463,280.00	1,541,637,040	3,400,000,000
	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS ( Transfers Dr)</b>	<b>1,659,677,960.00</b>	<b>1,803,403,760.00</b>	<b>902,993,680</b>	<b>1,995,000,000</b>
Sources: Dept of Labour & RBV BOP Model				

# Challenges

- Financial Constraint is our biggest challenge
- Lack of resources- Office space
- Lack of Human Resource from the sending country to manage all three programs
- Lack of Monitoring and compliance of the Agents conduct, employers conduct and workers conduct.
- Lack of proper database system.
- Legislation Outdated and is currently under review.
- Exchange rates is another challenge for the workers
- Liaison Officer – Need to have a Liaison Officer in New Zealand and Australia to manage issues and minimise problems.

# Way Forward

- Development of National Labour Mobility Policy to accommodate all recommendations put forward by Mr. Richard Curtain from the ANU.
- Review of current legislation to address all the three programs.
- Change in the terminology of policy and legislation (Labour Mobility Policy/Legislation vs Labour Migration Policy/Legislation)

## Way Forward continue.....

- Restructuring of the department to strengthen the compliance of the program by agents/employers/workers.
- Relocation of office space to new building.
- Work in partnership with training institution such as APTC for the implementation arrangement of the PLS.
- Development of Re-intergration Policy
- Establishment of Work Ready Pool



**Thank yu Tumas,  
Vinaka Vakalevu**