



**Australian High Commissioner**

**Vanuatu**

## **Graduation Ceremony for the Young Women in Leadership Program (YWLP)**

**Wednesday 27 September 2023**

*CARE Country Director, Bridgette Thorold*

*SISTA Executive Director, Yasmine Bjournum*

*Staff from CARE and SISTA*

*Young Women in Leadership Program graduates*

*Ol famli mo frens blong olgeta graduates*

- Good afternoon long yumi evriwan mo tankyu tumas blong invaetem mi blong stap wetem yufala tedei.
- Thank you long tim blong CARE blong save organisem graduesen ia
  - mo blong save ranem wan gudfala saksesful program ova las 6 manis no mata we Saeklon Judy mo Kevin I bin kam distebem yumi.
- Blong startem toktok blong mi, mi wantem congratulatem olgeta 13 patisipen we bae oli graduet tedei long Young Women's Leadership Program we hemi wan very important ajivmen.
- The program is more than just a series of workshops and activities, it is a journey of growth, of self-discovery and an investment of time and energy in yourself
  - your hard work, passion and drive to learn and grow your skills through this program is a great testament to you, and to all of you as the next generation of leaders in Vanuatu.
- Women in Vanuatu, in Australia, and across the world face many barriers to leadership



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- these barriers vary across different contexts. They're often invisible and rooted in long-held gender-biased assumptions about what makes a good leader.
- But women all over the world, including in Vanuatu, are challenging these assumptions everyday, standing up and showing that in fact, women make **fantastic** leaders,
  - and that gender-balanced leadership at **all** levels of society produces better outcomes for all.
  - we need to keep pushing against these barriers and confront our boundaries.
- Each wan long yufala insaed long rum ia tedei hemi part blong global grup blong olgeta woman we oli stap challengem olgeta stereotype, brekem olgeta baria mo wok blong wan gudfala fiuja,
  - so congratulations long yumi evriwan.
- Mi save se graduesen blong tedei hemi no bin save happen without help blong plante long yumi we yumi stap sapotem olgeta participant olsem ol mentor, ol frens mo families mo ol organisations we oli bin sapotem wokabaot ia
  - thank you tumas long evriwan from sapot blong yu blong invest long ol women mo ol graduates long hia tedei.
- Young Women's Leadership Program hemi impoten tumas from hemi givim wan unique chance long olgeta fiuja woman lida blong oli save luksave mo divelopem full potential blong olgeta
  - yumi save se taem ol woman oli tek pat long lidasip long evri level blong sosaeti hemi bildim wan stable mo seif community we bae i leftemap yumi evriwan.



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- One thing I wanted to mention for your information is that last month Australia released a new International Development Policy which sets the direction for our aid program
  - the policy reaffirms Australia’s commitment to advancing gender equality and places gender equality at the heart of everything we do
  - this too is in recognition that gender equality is a key requirement for a country to be able to develop and reach its potential.
- Wok blong promotem gender equality hemi wan prioriti we Vanuatu mo Australia i stap serem
  - mo mifala i stap wok klosap wetem gavman blong Vanuatu, thru long ol organisations olsem CARE, blong mekem sua se yumi save kasem ol objective we istap long Nasonal Gender Equality Policy blong Vanuatu.
- The Young Women’s Leadership Program is a great initiative because it builds leadership skills, instils confidence in participants, encourages inter-generational learning and dialogue and builds the knowledge of young women, men, and their networks about gender equality.
- Your program may be finished today but I encourage you all to join the alumni group, stay in touch with each other and your mentors and keep the momentum going
  - because when we’re tackling issues like gender inequality, we can achieve more together.
- There are many inspirational women leaders here to learn from.
- Congratulations once again and all he best long yumi everiwan.
- Tankyu tumas.