



OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

PUBLIC REPORT

**ON THE
MISUSE OF MP ALLOCATION FUND BY MP
ISABELLE DONALD**



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

6 September 2006

3008/2006/05

Top Floor, Pilioko House
Tel: +678 27200 Fax: +678 27140

PMB 9081 Port Vila, Vanuatu
Email: ombud.vt@vanuatu.com.vu

**PUBLIC REPORT
ON THE
MISUSE OF MP ALLOCATION FUND BY MP ISABELLE DONALD**

The Ombudsman is issuing this Public Report to show how MP allocation funds allocated to Members of Parliament (MP) can be misused.

MP allocation fund is a fund that is provided to MPs to use to carry out projects in their constituencies to benefit the constituents. Even though the allocation is under the name of an MP, the funds belong to the people in his or her constituency. Funds are released to members of the constituency who submit requests to the MP for proposed projects within their community. Application forms are completed with the endorsement of the MP concerned after which the Speaker will give authorization for funds to be released for these particular projects.

Honourable Isabelle Donald is currently serving her second term as a Member of Parliament representing the Epi constituency as of July 2004. She is currently a Government Minister holding the portfolio of Women's Affairs, Children, Disabled Persons, Justice, Social Welfare and Correction Services.

During her first term as a MP which was from March 2002 to July 2004, MP Donald was entitled to an MP allocation fund of VT 700,000 per year.

MP allocation funds are for all people in a constituency regardless of their political affiliation.

During MP Donald's term as a MP, certain communities in her constituency made requests for her to assist them in implementing some projects.

It was found in this enquiry that some of these projects were not implemented instead the funds that were released by Parliament were used for the interests of the political party that MP Donald is affiliated to – Vanua'aku Pati. Thus, MP Donald made a false declaration to Parliament that the funds were used for community projects. This is a breach of the MP allocation fund policy, a dishonest practice and therefore a breach of the Leadership Code Act.

As this may also be defined as theft, MP Donald may have also breached the Penal Code.

Following the investigation that was made by the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman recommends for the following actions to be taken :

Recommendation 1:

The complainant in this case lodge an official complaint with the Police on this issue so that MP Isabelle Donald and her political supporters who were involved in this matter can be investigated accordingly for breach of the Penal Code.

Recommendation 2:

The Public Prosecutor consider this report in accordance with section 35 in Part 5 of the Leadership Code Act.

Recommendation 3:

The Speaker of Parliament ensure that the current MP allocation fund policy be reviewed so that:

- (i) there is a procedure in place to monitor Follow Up Reports that are submitted by Members of Parliament after using the MP allocation funds that were applied for. Confirmation of such use of MP allocation funds should be made

by independent sources within the community that had originally applied for assistance.

- (ii) funds should not be transferred to nominated bank accounts as it happened in this particular case as it may be misused.
- (iii) complaints of a similar nature do not occur in the future.

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1. JURISDICTION

- 1.1 The Constitution, the Ombudsman Act and the Leadership Code Act allow the Ombudsman to look into the conduct of government, related bodies, and Leaders. This includes Members of Parliament. The Ombudsman can also look into defects in laws or administrative practices, including the MP allocation fund policy.

2. PURPOSE, SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION AND METHODS USED

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to illustrate how a Member of Parliament has breached the MP allocation fund policy and therefore the Leadership Code Act. It is also to show that the current MP allocation fund policy needs to be reviewed accordingly.
- 2.2 The scope of this investigation is to establish the facts about the alleged misuse of MP allocation fund by MP Isabelle Donald and to determine whether MP Donald's conduct was proper and the current policy used to administer MP allocation fund is defective.
- 2.3 This Office collects information and documents by informal request, summons, letters, interviews and research.

3. RELEVANT LAWS

- 3.1 Relevant parts of the following laws and quasi-legal contexts are reproduced in **Appendix 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D'** respectively.
- (i) Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu
 - (ii) Leadership Code Act No. 2 of 1998
 - (iii) Penal Code
 - (iv) MP allocation fund policy

4. OUTLINE OF EVENTS

- 4.1 MP Isabelle Donald (MP Donald) is currently serving her second term as a Member of Parliament for Epi constituency as of July 2004. She is also currently serving as a Government Minister in the Lini led Government with the portfolio of Comprehensive Reform Program (CRP) and Women's Affairs.
- 4.2 MP Donald served her first term as an MP when she was elected as a Member of Parliament in 2002 after she contested the elections as a candidate for Vanua'aku Pati (VP). In 2002, each MP, upon election, was entitled to an allocation fund of VT 700,000 for that year.
- 4.3 On 18 September 2002, an amount of VT 300,000 was released, in the form of a cheque (No. 2099944), from MP Donald's MP allocation fund.
- 4.4 On 27 September 2002, this amount was deposited into an account at the National Bank of Vanuatu (NBV). This account at NBV is an account that was opened by and for the Epi VP sub-committee.

- 4.5 The signatories to the account held at NBV are Mrs Sylvana David, Mr Harry Joe Maete and Mr Tasso Pulpe; who all reside on Epi Island.
- 4.6 On 25 April 2003, MP Donald submitted a Micro Project Follow Up Report to the Parliament. In this report, MP Donald stated that the VT 300,000 that was released from her MP allocation fund was used for the following :

- (i) Lamén Island Women's Association Pandanus dye;
- (ii) Sports trophies and
- (iii) 9 sub-committees supplements.

A copy of the application is attached as Appendix 'G'.

- 4.7 On 6 May 2003, MP Donald was interviewed by an officer of the Ombudsman's Office. She confirmed that she had requested that the amount of VT 300,000 be released from her MP allocation fund. She further advised that this amount was distributed to communities around Epi Island which is about 80 plus communities.

She also stated that the funds were used to start a Women's Association. Pandanus dyes were bought for women to use to make mats and sell them.

The funds were also used to pay transport fees for sub-committees who travel to their meetings. Sub-committees who are on South Epi pay approximately VT 20,000 one way to reach Lamén Bay.

MP Donald also stated that they used some of the funds to pay for transport fees for the Epi delegation travelling to the VP Congress held in the Banks Group, TORBA Province. Those who attended the Congress were the Chairmen of the sub-committees. The funds were used as such because there were no funds to pay for their transport costs. The Regional Executive on Epi approved for the funds to be used for transport costs to Banks.

- 4.8 On 27 July 2004, letters of enquiry were sent to Mrs Sylvana David, Mr Harry Joe Maete and Mr Tasso Pulpe. They were requested to provide information on the VT 300,000 which was deposited into the NBV account that they are signatories to.
- 4.9 On 23 August 2004, a response was received from Mrs Sylvana David. She advised that the VT 300,000 was used to settle expenses that were raised during the campaign period of the 2002 General Elections. The rest of the money (amount not stated), was used for travelling expenses for the VP delegates that attended the VP Congress that was held at Veteboso, Vanua Lava, Banks Group in 2002.
- 4.10 On 24 December 2004, reminder letters were sent to Mr Pulpe and Mr Maete requesting them to respond to the Ombudsman's enquiry.
- 4.11 On 27 January 2005, Mr Pulpe was contacted by the Ombudsman's Office and was advised that a response was yet to be received from him. He stated that he had not seen any letter from the Ombudsman's Office. He was advised that a letter of enquiry will be forwarded to him regarding the account that he is a signatory to at the NBV.

- 4.12 On 28 January 2005, the letters of enquiry were resent to Mr Pulpe and Mr Maete.
- 4.13 On 23 February 2005, the Ombudsman received a response from Mr Maete. He advised that even though he is a signatory to the account at NBV, he does not know how much money goes into this account and how it is used therefore he cannot confirm if VT 300,000 was deposited into this account. He further advised that he is only approached to sign the withdrawal slips when funds are needed. He reiterated that he does not know how the money from this account was spent.
- 4.14 To date, the Ombudsman has not received any response from Mr Pulpe.

5. RESPONSES BY THOSE WITH COMPLAINTS AGAINST THEM

- 5.1 On 9 June 2005, a Working Paper was issued to the following people; providing them with an opportunity to respond within two weeks to this matter before a Public Report is issued :
- (a) Honourable Isabelle Donald, MP for Epi and Minister of CRP and Women's Affairs;
 - (b) the complainant in this case;
 - (c) Mrs Sylvana David;
 - (d) Mr Harry J. Maete;
 - (e) Mr Tasso Pulpe and
 - (f) Honourable Sam Dan Avock, Speaker of Parliament.
- 5.2 On 17 June 2005, the Ombudsman received a telephone call from Honourable Donald. Honourable Donald informed the Office that she would not be able to respond within the two weeks time frame that was given to her to respond to the Working Paper. She will be going on an overseas trip to China and when she returns, she will be travelling to Epi for the Silver Jubilee Celebrations. While she is in Epi, she will collect some documentary evidence that she will attach with her response to us. Honourable Donald was advised that the deadline that we had given her will be extended to the first week of August 2005. She was also advised that as the Working Paper also had to be translated to Bislama in order to be sent to those residing on Epi, an extended time frame will also be given to the other persons implicated in this Paper.
- 5.3 On 21 June 2005, a written response was received from Honourable Donald in which the contents of the telephone call of 17 June 2005 were confirmed. Honourable Donald further advised that she will respond to the Working Paper on 12 August 2005.
- 5.4 On 30 August 2005, a letter was issued by the Ombudsman to Honourable Donald advising her that the Ombudsman had not received her response to the Working Paper as she had promised to do.
- 5.5 On 6 January 2006, a final reminder was sent to Honourable Donald informing her she had a final opportunity to respond to the Working Paper before 20 January 2006. If no response is received from her, a public report will be issued concerning this investigation.

- 5.6 On 26 January 2006, the Bislama version of the Working Paper which was now available was sent to:
- (i) Mr Tasso Pulpe
 - (ii) Mrs Sylvana David and
 - (iii) Mr Harry J. Maete.

- 5.7 On 24 February 2006, the Ombudsman received a response from Honourable Isabelle Donald. In her response, she advised that she regrets that she is in a no better position to find other relevant documents in proper manner according to advices she received from Moses Eric who was the Chairman of the VP sub-committee on Epi at that time. She however, recommends that maybe the Ombudsman and herself could work together with Mr Eric Moses who is now the Chairman of TVL to clear this matter if the need still stands (see Appendix 'H').

It is the opinion of the Ombudsman that it was not necessary to contact Mr Eric Moses as any information or documents given by him will not change the facts of this case. The funds that were withdrawn from the NBV account were used for purposes other than what it was officially applied for to the Speaker of Parliament's office.

- 5.8 On 28 February 2006, a response was received from Mr Tasso Pulpe who was calling from Lamenu Island. He advised that he has just received a copy of the Working Paper in Bislama and wishes to comment as follows. He confirms that he is a signatory to this account but the only time that he recalls having anything to do with this account was when they opened the account itself. After this, he did not sign for any withdrawals or deposits so he does not know anything about the VT 300,000 in question.

Furthermore, he lives on Lamenu Island, not on the mainland but the other two signatories and MP Donald live on the mainland so they were more involved in withdrawing and depositing into this account. Mr Pulpe was advised that his response will need to be confirmed with National Bank of Vanuatu (NBV) before we can proceed to eliminate him from the investigation (refer to Appendix 'I').

- 5.9 On 7 March 2006, a letter was issued to the Managing Director of NBV requesting him to advise the Ombudsman of the persons who had signed the withdrawal slips for the NBV account that is under this investigation.

- 5.10 On 7 April 2006, a response was received from the NBV. The Ombudsman was advised that the appropriate account signatories dully signed the four withdrawals that were made from this account, 50-34216004 (Refer to Appendix 'J'). The Ombudsman was also advised that out of the four (4) withdrawals that were made, Mr Pulpe had signed two (2) of the withdrawal slips.

Upon receiving this response from the NBV, the Ombudsman tried to contact Mr Pulpe on Lamenu Island to inform him that his response as mentioned in section 5.8 above to the Ombudsman was false. Mr Pulpe was however, never available to come to the phone. Since April 2006, numerous messages were left with people on Lamenu Island to advise Mr Pulpe to contact the Office of the Ombudsman but to date; Mr Pulpe has not done so.

The Ombudsman tried to seek the assistance of the Police to get into contact with Mr Pulpe but this was not possible as there is currently no police officer stationed on Epi island.

- 5.11 The Ombudsman did not receive any further responses from those whom the Working Paper was sent to.

6. FINDINGS

6.1 Finding 1: MP ISABELLE DONALD MAY HAVE BREACHED THE PENAL CODE

MP Isabelle Donald may have breached the Penal Code as an accomplice to theft by her supporters on Epi. The VT 300,000 applied for were for specific projects as approved by the Speaker of Parliament. However, these funds were not used for the specified approved purposes that were outlined in the application. They were used for the interests of the political pati that MP Donald is affiliated to, VP. The sub-committee members and supporters appear to have committed theft against the State of the Republic of Vanuatu. MP Donald did nothing to ensure that the funds were to be used as per the application forms to Parliament and therefore appears to be an accomplice to theft as specified under s.125 of the Penal Code Act. If MP Donald is investigated by the police and found to have breached the Penal Code, then she has also breached the Leadership Code Act.

6.2 Finding 2: MP ISABELLE DONALD MAY HAVE BREACHED THE LEADERSHIP CODE ACT

As a leader, MP Isabelle Donald is expected to behave fairly and honestly in all her official dealings. In this case, MP Donald was dishonest when submitting her Follow Up Report on the VT 300,000 that was released from her MP allocation fund. Due to her dishonesty, she made a false declaration that this money was used for community projects on Epi and never stated that some of it was used to meet political expenses. As MP allocation funds are deemed to be public money, it may appear that MP Donald has misused public money as a result of her dishonesty. Her dishonesty and false declaration may have allowed her integrity to be called into question. As misuse of public money is an offence under the Leadership Code Act, MP Donald has breached the Leadership Code Act.

Furthermore, it appears that some of MP Donald's political supporters are dishonest which also contributed to MP Donald's misconduct. Such supporters include Mr Pulpe who had provided false information to the Ombudsman as stated in section 5.8 above. From the responses received from NBV regarding this issue, the Ombudsman does not accept the response received from Mr Tasso Pulpe in section 5.8 of this report to be true.

6.3 Finding 3: PARLIAMENT DOES NOT HAVE PROPER CHECKS WITH COMMUNITIES ON FOLLOW-UP REPORT SUBMITTED BY PARLIAMENT

The Parliament secretariat also contributes towards misappropriation of MP allocation in that it does not have a proper check up policy in place requiring the Secretariat to go back to the communities named for the allocation fund to assess the end result of the fund and whether or not it has benefited the community as stipulated in the MP Allocation Fund application form.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the above findings, the Ombudsman makes the following recommendations which may also prevent similar complaints from occurring in the future.

7.1 Recommendation 1:

The complainant in this case must lodge an official complaint with the Police on this issue so that MP Isabelle Donald and her political supporters who were involved in this matter can be investigated accordingly for breach of the Penal Code.

7.2 Recommendation 2:

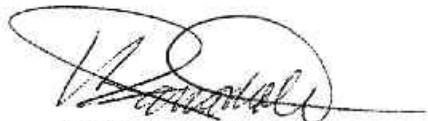
The Public Prosecutor considers this report in accordance with section 35 in Part 5 of the Leadership Code Act.

7.3 Recommendation 3:

The Speaker of Parliament must ensure that the current MP allocation fund policy is reviewed so that:

- (i) there is a procedure in place to monitor Follow Up Reports that are submitted by Members of Parliament after using the MP allocation funds that were applied for. Confirmation of such use of MP allocation funds should be made by independent sources within the community that had originally applied for assistance.
- (ii) funds are not be transferred to nominated bank accounts as it happened in this particular case as it may be misused.
- (iii) complaints of a similar nature do not occur in the future.

Dated 6th day of September 2006.



Peter K. TAURAKOTO
OMBUDSMAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

8. INDEX OF APPENDICES Relevant laws, quasi – legal contexts and other relevant documents :

- A** Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu
- B** Leadership Code Act
- C** Penal Code
- D** MP allocation fund policy
- E** Application forms used to apply for MP allocation fund
- F** Follow Up Forms (after receiving assistance from MP allocation fund)
- G** Copy of Follow Up Form of 25 April 2003
- H** Copy of response from MP Donald
- I** Copy of response from Mr Tasso Pulpe
- J** Copy of NBV's response

APPENDIX 'A'

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

CONDUCT OF LEADERS

- 66(1) Any person defined as a leader in Article 67 has a duty to conduct himself in such a way, both in his public and private life, so as not to—
- (a) place himself in a position in which he has or could have a conflict of interests or in which the fair exercise of his public or official duties might be compromised;
 - (b) demean his office or position;
 - (c) allow his integrity to be called into question; or
 - (d) endanger or diminish respect for and confidence in the integrity of the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu.
- 66(2) In particular, a leader shall not use his office for personal gain or enter into any transaction or engage in any enterprise or activity that might be expected to give rise to doubt in the public mind as to whether he is carrying out or has carried out the duty imposed by sub article (1).

DEFINITION OF A LEADER

- 67 For the purposes of this Chapter, a leader means the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and other Ministers, members of Parliament, and such public servants, officers of Government agencies and other officers as may be prescribed by law.

APPENDIX 'B'

LEADERSHIP CODE ACT

LEADER'S BEHAVIOUR

3. A leader holds a position of influence and authority in the community. A leader must behave fairly and honestly in all his or her official dealings with colleagues and other people, avoid personal gain, and avoid behaviour that is likely to bring his or her office into disrepute. A leader must ensure that he or she is familiar with and understands the laws that affect the area or role of his or her leadership.

PART 3 – BREACHES OF LEADERSHIP CODE

MISUSE OF PUBLIC MONEYS

20. A leader must not use, or agree to the use of, any public money for a purpose other than the purpose for which it may lawfully be used.

OTHER OFFENCES PUNISHABLE UNDER THIS ACT

27. (1) A leader who is convicted by a court of an offence under the Penal Code Act [CAP. 135] and as listed in subsection (2) is :
- (a) in breach of this Code; and
 - (b) liable to be dealt with in accordance with sections 41 and 42 in addition to any other punishment that may be imposed under any other Act.
- (2) The offences are :
- (n) theft or misappropriation or false pretences.

OBEYING THE LAW

28. A leader acting in his or her capacity as a leader who fails to abide by an enactment that imposes on the leader a duty, obligation, or responsibility is in breach of this Code.

APPENDIX 'C'

PENAL CODE

PROHIBITION OF THEFT, MISAPPROPRIATION AND FALSE PRETENCES

124. No person shall cause loss to another –

- (a) by theft
- (b) by misappropriation; or
- (c) by false pretences.

Penalty: Imprisonment for 12 years.

APPENDIX 'D'

MP ALLOCATION FUND POLICY

If an MP requires an amount of money from his or her allocation fund, they need to put in an application to the Speaker of Parliament. The standard application form can be viewed in **Appendix 'E'**. In the application form, there should be two community leaders who need to sign to prove that they are the ones who are requesting for the particular project being applied for through their MP. The Speaker of Parliament will then process the application and he may or may not approve the application. If the application is approved, the Speaker will then release funds from the MP's allocation fund. The funds do not go directly to the MP but Local Purchase Orders (LPO) are made out for the purchase and transportation of goods. The MP must at this stage, produce invoices from the suppliers of the materials so that the Speaker will know the exact amount to be released. When an MP has purchased the goods, they are to be transported to the location of the community who requested the project. The project must then be carried out as applied for.

At this stage, there is another form known as a Follow-Up Form, **Appendix 'F'**, where the community leaders of the village must sign to confirm that they have received the materials that they had requested. If the project was never carried out and members of the community complain to the Speaker, the Speaker will refer the matter to the CID (Police) for further investigation as such matters will be treated as theft.

APPENDIX - E
OFFICE OF SPEAKER

Parliament of Vanuatu

Seventh Parliament

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ALLOCATION

MICRO PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

PART I

To be filled by the applicant (pleased read the guidelines at the end of this form)

1. **Project title:**.....
2. **Name of community applying:**.....
3. **Project Location:**..... **Island:**.....
4. **Brief description of project request:**.....
.....
.....
5. **Number of people directly effected:**.....
6. **Benefits :**.....
.....
.....
7. **Breakdown of costs (including freight):**

	ITEM	SUPPLIER	COSTS (VT)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
TOTAL COSTS			

APPENDIX 'E'

8. Leader of the community:..... Tel. No.:.....
Name *Signature*
9. Project supported by chief:..... Tel. No.:.....
Name *Signature*
10. Project supported and presented by the Honorable:.....
- Member for Constituency
Signature

Made at: the day of 200.....

PART II

For the Parliament use - Office of Speaker

11. Application received on the day of 200.....
12. Details of Members allocations:

Amount allocated	
(Less) amount already spent	
Balance Unspent	
(Less) Amount requested	
New Balance	

13. **Project certification:**

I certify that I have checked the project application form and other documents required for screening this project. I am satisfied that this project is ready for approval.

Officer responsible

Date _____

14. Approval granted/rejected/withheld by the Speaker:

Honorable Speaker

Date _____

APPENDIX 'E'

PART III

For the Parliament use – Office of Speaker

15. Project funds released by the Department of Finance

Amount VT..... Date...../...../.....

16. Project implemented: YES or NO

(Project implementation must be supported by the document entitled *Micro Project Follow-Up Report*)

16. Remarks on the project:
.....
.....

Officer responsible

...../...../.....
Date

APPENDIX 2

GUIDELINES TO FILL THE MICRO PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

- a. The applicant must fill properly and clearly **PART I** only of this form i.e. items 1 to 10;
- b. The applicant must have the support of the right authorities of communities, village or charitable associations;
- c. The application must be presented by the Member of Parliament directly concerned;
- d. Any item to purchase must be supported by an invoice issued by the supplier: Under no circumstances will a Member of Parliament be paid directly by cash; and
- e. After receiving the Members allocation, the applicant must fill and return as soon as possible the document entitled *Micro Project Follow-Up Report* to the Member concerned who will forward it to the Office of Speaker - Parliament House.

Note: No further disbursement of the allocation of the Member concerned will be considered until the submission of the said report.

APPENDIX F1

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu

Seventh Parliament

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ALLOCATION

MICRO PROJECT FOLLOW UP REPORT

PART 1

To be completed by the applicant

1. Micro project under Honourable..... Member for.....
Name of M.P. Constituency
2. Project Title:.....
3. Name of Community Applying:.....
4. Goods/donation received on the:..... day of..... 2003
5. Brief description of goods/donation received:.....
.....
6. Planned activities:.....
.....
7. Estimated date of completion:..... day of.....
8. General comment:.....
9. Leader of Community applying:..... Tel N0:.....
Signature
10. Chief Applying:..... Tel N0:.....
Name Signature
11. Members: Names Signatures
.....
.....
.....

Made at..... the..... day of..... 2003.....

APPENDIX 'F'

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu

Seventh Parliament

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ALLOCATION

MICRO PROJECT FOLLOW UP REPORT

PART 1

To be completed by the applicant

1. Micro project under Honourable..... Member for.....
Name of M.P. Constituency
2. Project Title:.....
3. Name of Community Applying:.....
4. Goods/donation received on the:..... day of..... 2003
5. Brief description of goods/donation received:.....
.....
6. Planned activities:.....
.....
7. Estimated date of completion:..... day of.....
8. General comment:.....
9. Leader of Community applying:..... TelN0:.....
Signature
10. Chief Applying:..... TelN0:.....
Name Signature
11. Members: Names Signatures
.....
.....
.....

Made at..... the..... day of..... 2003.....

Appendix 'G'

Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu

OFFICE OF SPEAKER

Sixth Parliament

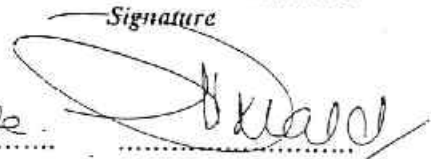
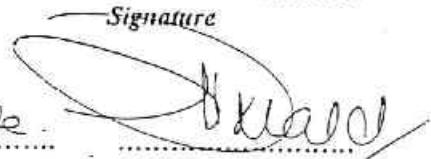
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ALLOCATION

MICRO PROJECT FOLLOW UP REPORT

(2)

PART I

To be completed by the applicant

1. Micro project under Honourable..... ISABELLE - Y Member for EPI
Name of MP Constituency
2. Project title: Supplement to projects ① & Women & Youth in Particular
3. Name of community applying: Whole Epi
4. Goods/donation received on the..... day of August & September 2002
5. Brief description of goods/donation received: Lamen Island women's Association Pandanus dye & Sports trophies + 9 sub-
6. Planned activities: Formation of Association to dye } Committees
mats for sale & Youth Centre + Kindy activities } Supplement
7. Estimated date of completion:..... day of August to December 2002
8. General comment: women are saving mats, youth
a bit of problems especially in building, sub-committee
Gradually building
9. Leader of community applying:
Name Signature

10. Chief applying: MP Isabelle
Name for Chiefs Signature

11. Members:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Signatures</u>
<u>Silvana David</u>	<u>28230</u>
<u>Harry Joe</u>	<u>28221</u>
<u>Apia Mova</u>	<u>28053</u>

Made at Lamen Bay the 25th day of April 2002

Payment made to Epi vP Regional
Committee Bank A/c: no 50-342160-04
(NBV)
VT 300.000

PART II
For the Parliament use - Office of Speaker

13. Report received on the.....day of.....
14. Follow up certification:

I certify that I have checked the Micro Project Follow up Report together with the Micro Project Application Form. I am satisfy that the project has reached the community/village/charitable association who apply for the MP Allocation.

.....
Officer responsible

.....
Date



5/18
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
PAYMENT ADVICE/AVIS DE PAIEMENT

Enquiries concerning this payment should be made to the:
Payments Section, Department of Finance,
PMB 031, Port Vila (Telephone 24543)

Toute demande de renseignement concernant ce paiement doit être fait au :
Bureau des Paiements, Service des Finances,
SPR 031, Port Vila (Téléphone 24543)

DATE

CHEQUE NO.

JOINT VP SUB-COMMITTEE (EPI)
C/- ISABELLE DONALD
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
PORT VILA

18/09/2002

2099944

Date

Invoice
Facture

Description

Amount (vatu)
Montant (vatu)

17/09/2002	DONATION	DONATION MP I.DONALD	300,000
pay to A/C No. 50-242160-04. NBV..			

TOTAL

300.000

(File) 6/18

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu

Seventh Parliament

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ALLOCATION

MICRO PROJECT FOLLOW UP REPORT

PART 1

To be completed by the applicant

1. Micro project under Honourable... ISABELLE D. Member for... EPI
Name of M.P. Constituency
2. Project Title: CONTRIBUTIONS - SUB COMMITTEES (1)
3. Name of Community Applying: See Attached letter VT 400.000
4. Goods/donation received on the: day of July 2002
5. Brief description of goods/donation received: Cash received
as detailed in letter
6. Planned activities: To get each sub-
committees set-up own income generating Proj.
7. Estimated date of completion: day of December 2002
8. General comment: some sub committees used up whole
9. Leader of Community applying: on projects
Name Signature still running up
until now.
10. Chief Applying: VP Regional President on their behalf
Name Signature
11. Members: Names Signatures
MP Michael
Moses Eric

Made at Lamen Bay the 25th day of April 2003

PART 11

For the Parliament use - Office of Speaker

13. Report received on theday of.....2002

14. Follow up certification:

I certify that I have checked the Micro Project Follow up Report together with the Micro Project Application Form. I am satisfy that the project has reached the Community/Village/Charitable association who apply for the MP Allocation.

.....
Officer responsible

.....2002
Date

GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
Ministry of the
Comprehensive Reform
Program

Private Mail Bag 084
Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tel: (678) 24845
Fax: (678) 25815



GOVERNMENT DE LA
REPUBLIQUE DE
VANUATU
Ministère du Programme
De la Reforme Globale
Sac Postal Confidentiel 084
Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tel: (678) 24845
Fax: (678) 25815

O/Ref: CRP/101/30

Mr. Pasa TOSUSU
Director of Investigations
Office of the Ombudsman
PMB 9081
PORT VILA.



Thursday, February 23, 2006

Dear Sir,

**Working paper on the alleged 2002 misuse of MP allocation fund by
Isabelle as MP for Epi.**

Thankyou for your correspondance referenced 5155/3008/L66/ids dated 6th January 2006 regarding the above mentioned caption.

I quoted from your correspondance my final opportunity to respond to the matter by 20 January 2006.

I regret I am in no better position to find other relevant documents in proper manner according to advices I received from Moses Eric (Chairman at the time) However I recommend if we could work together with Mr Moses Eric who is now the chairman of TVL to clear this matter if the need still stands.

I thankyou for your long time consideration and look forward to closer working relationship with your High Office.

Yours faithfully,

Isabelle D. Sikawonuta (MP)

Minister of CRP, Women, Children and Disabled Persons

Appendix 'I'

TELEPHONE MEMORANDUM

Case Name and No.:	Alleged misuse of MP allocation by MP Isabelle Donald; case # 3008
Date:	28 February 2006
Person spoken to:	Mr Tasso Pulpe
Department:	Lamenu Island
Phone Number:	28309
Investigator:	TAURAKOTO Olive (66)
Reference no.:	0771/3008/TM66

The above called to say that he has received our Working Paper and wishes to make the following responses :

It is true that he was a signatory to this account but the only time that he recalls having anything to do with this account was when they opened the account itself. After this, he did not sign for any withdrawals or deposits so he does not know anything about the VT 300,000 in question.

He lives on Lamenu island, not on the mainland but the other two signatories and MP Donald live on the mainland so they were more involved in withdrawing and depositing into this account.

I advised him that we will confirm this information with the NBV before proceeding further with this case. I also thanked him for calling to provide his response.



Appendix 'J'

National Bank

Vanuatu's Own Bank

Head Office: Rue de Paris, P.O. Box 249, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Telephone: (678) 22201 Facsimile : (678) 27227
Email: nationalbank@vanuatu.com.vu
Swift: NBOVVUVU



April 6, 2006

Mr Peter K. Taurakoto
Ombudsman of the Republic of Vanuatu
PMB 9081
Port Vila

Dear Mr Taurakoto,

Re: Account Number 50-34216004- Held at Branch Number A66.

I refer to your letter of 7 March 2006 seeking investigation on four withdrawals made on the above named account and our subsequent letter of 3 April and advise as follows:

1. The appropriate account signatories dully signed the four withdrawals mentioned in your letter of 7 March.
2. The account authority was that any two of the three signatures can jointly signed to withdrawal funds from the account.

Yours sincerely,

Jerry Ishmael
Manager Retail Banking