



Chief Tarilama leading MP Vira into nasara

## Chief Tarilama honours MP Alickson Vira

By Len Garae

**THE HIGHEST RANKING CUSTOM** from Ambae in Port Vila, Chief John Tarilama has welcomed the newly elected MP Alickson Vira on his political victory because the young leader has followed the correct custom road to achieve political victory over his rivals.

He says the first four Christian Faiths that were born in North Ambae were Anglican, Catholic, Churches of Christ and SDA.

Former political leaders were elected from the first three denominations. "MP Vira belongs to the SDA Faith. I admire his spirit because he personally approached me in the custom way, to seek my late brother, Onnyn Tah's blessing to contest the seat he vacated. I replied that my brother had passed on but if it was God's will that what he sought was with me then I agreed to allow him to have access to it", Chief Tarilama says.

He says it was worth noting that out of all the candidates that contested the one North Ambae seat, candidate Vira was the only

one to have followed proper custom procedure to seek his assistance.

While respecting his Adventist Faith, Chief Tarilama says every Christian denomination was allowed into the country through custom. It was custom chiefs that allowed the pioneer missionaries to set up in the islands.

With direction from other chiefs, MP Alickson Vira followed through with the relevant custom processes to be awarded the custom name of Moli Angai Tagaro.

Asked his opinion on MP Vira's generosity to hand over his entire salary to the custom chiefs for use to develop their custom governance system, he agrees that this is something that has not been seen anywhere in the country before. "It is a great challenge for us custom chiefs too, to show our respect to use the money wisely to improve the administration of our custom governance system", he says.

Chief Tarilama challenges the chiefs to use the money to serve the best interest of their people.

Chief Tarilama hands over the MP to his people with

the following words, "While you MP have affiliated with Natatok (Party), you are standing on Angai Tagaro or the canoe of the custom creator who created Ambae. To the people of Ambae, this is your MP and to you MP, the people of Angai Tagaro are your people".

While yesterday's ceremony was organised especially to welcome MP Alickson Vira and his family, Chief Tarilama and the small chiefs of different villages of North Ambae and their people, also welcomed the newly appointed Minister of Public Infrastructure and Utilities, Jotham Napat and his wife who is also from North Ambae, along with the Chairman of North Ambae Council of Chiefs, Chief Jack Ture and former candidate Michael Liu who are both of North Ambae.

The Minister who is the President of the Leaders Party from Tanna, has also been adopted by a prominent chiefly family from North Ambae.

Songs of joy in honour of the MP and congratulatory speeches were still continuing when the writer of this article left to file this story.

## Rotarians donate second ambulance

By Anita Roberts

**THE NORTH-DISTRICT HOSPITAL** (NDH) on Santo has a new ambulance to save more lives, thanks to rotarians in Japan.

This donation was made by the Rotary Club of Kawasaki North (KNRC) in north Japan, through the Kawasaki Fire Department.

A delegation of the Rotary Club members led by President Nobuo Yanagisawa were in Port Vila last weekend to deliver the vehicle to the Health Department.

The group handed the ambulance key to the Director General of the Ministry of Health (MOH), George Taleo, at the Vila Central Hospital (VCH) on Saturday.

While thanking the Rotarians, DG Taleo emphasized to everyone present that it is not the first time for the Kawasaki Rotary Club to support health in Vanuatu.

KNRC and Vanuatu established relations in 2001. At that time Vanuatu declared a malaria epidemic so the club made its first donation

of microscope equipment equipped with camera device to VCH.

According to DG Taleo, this not the first time KNRC donated an ambulance. He said the first one given in 2012 is still effectively functioning, "said DG Taleo.

In 2004, KNRC in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kawasaki Nakahara sent an electron microscope and an electric generator to Aneityum.

During their first visit to Port Vila in 2006, KNRC brought three more microscopes. In 2008, the club came visiting again with medical equipment such as stethoscope, blood oxygen meter, astral lamps and dry cell batteries including a lot of bed sheets.

In 2009, the club sent a new sysmex hematology machine in which the VCH Laboratory is still using until now for diagnosing patients.

They also sent a blood analyzer sysmex kx-21 (supported by sysmex corporation, training and maintenance to VCH).

In 2010, they (KNRC) invited the VCH team to their 50th anniversary ceremony in Japan. The first ambulance was donated to VCH Emergency Department in 2012 and was used during the ACP Meeting.

This year KNRC could not donate anything more since they have to save some money for maintenance and transportation for the ambulance from Japan to Port Vila.

DG Taleo on behalf of the newly formed government applauded the Rotarians for their assistance. He stressed while the population of Vanuatu increases every year, the demand of health care is also high.

Taleo said that through the Rotary's many assistance, Vanuatu will be declared malaria free by 2020.

President of the club Yanagisawa said they are proud to support health in Vanuatu.

"We hope the ambulance is utilized to its fullest used to serve people everywhere including rural areas."



The ambulance was handed over to the Director General of the Ministry of Health (MOH), George Taleo, and witnessed by health officials