



Vanuatu 6th in world for diabetes; Chiefs to get more power

Truly shocking news from Health Minister Toara Daniel in *Daily Post* today confirming on World Health Day yesterday that **Vanuatu is rated sixth in the world for diabetes prevalence**. At least 30,000 have non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and that figure includes the 21% of the adult population suffering from diabetes. Largely brought about by lifestyle factors the disease is on the increase everywhere with 347 million people suffering from it worldwide. Deaths from diabetes are expected to rise by 50% in the next ten years making it the seventh leading cause of death by 2030. Minister Daniel expressed the government's concerns to those commemorating the World Health Day at Amicale Field. He is worried that the general population is not seriously considering the impact of the disease. He said "Diabetes causes suffering, and disability, and adds financial and social burdens which contribute to poverty." The government is calling on people to change their lifestyle eating habits, and to make the right choices concerning the foods they buy to eat.

The Minister of Justice, Ronald Warsal, has told Malvatumauri chiefs meeting at the Cultural Centre that his ministry is **working to amend the Constitution to equip the chiefs with more power** because of their vital duty to manage custom lands and affairs.

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