



Pacific Media Watch

Title -- 5885 VANUATU: MAV deplores assault on publisher

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MAV DEPLORES ASSAULT ON PUBLISHER

PORT VILA (*MAV/Pacific Media Watch*): The Media Asosiesen blong Vanuatu wishes to declare its position on the alleged assault on the *Daily Post* publisher over the weekend that it deplores such an action.

MAV would like to make it clear that while it stands to protect the freedom of media and promote freedom of expression, it does not support assault as a way of expressing one's rights or opinions, the same as it does not support biased reporting.

MAV encourages the media to report freely and fairly, and the general public to feel free to approach any media company if they feel that any materials published or broadcast may infringe their rights in any way.

According to MAV procedures, complaints are lodged with the media company concerned, and if still not satisfied, then the matter could be taken up to MAV.

MAV sees the reported alleged assault on the publisher of *Daily Post* newspaper as a criminal act and punishable by law. MAV calls on the parties concerned and or involved in the issue to resolve their differences appropriately.

Meanwhile, following the incident MAV would like to encourage members of the local media industry to continue practising responsible reporting.

While media represents the public interests, it cannot promote or instigate conflicts, or entertain biased reporting, especially when dealing with sensitive issues. At the same time MAV calls on responsible leaders to show responsibility and accountability in their decisions and actions.

MAV has a code of ethics, and would like to encourage all journalists to respect and uphold professionalism at all times in their reporting.

Media could be a watchdog for the society, but it is also an avenue to promote fair and balanced discussion on issues of national interest.

MAV is yet to receive a report on the incident at the *Daily Post* newspaper.

- *Vanuatu Daily Post* report on the assault – 'Publisher assaulted by prison officers': www.dailypost.vu/index.php?news=3541&VivvoSessionId=6cab49564973e4c425a5f
- *Café Pacific* blog: <http://cafepacific.blogspot.com/2009/01/assault-on-vanuatu-publisher-shocks.html>

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School of Communication Studies | AUT University | Private Bag 92006 | Auckland 1142 | Aotearoa/New Zealand
pacific.mediawatch@aut.ac.nz www.pacmediawatch.aut.ac.nz | creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/nz/

