

VBTC WINS FIVE MEDIA EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Vanuatu Broadcasting & Television Corporation scooped five of the seven media excellence awards at the inaugural Vanuatu National Media Awards organised by the country's media association.

Our winners were:

1. Youth station (Paradise FM) deejay, **Miss Sharon Nichols**, for *Outstanding Reporting on COVID-19*. Her entry was based on events surrounding the discovery in Port Vila of the body of a crew from a foreign oil tanker who was infected with the virus and later buried in Vanuatu.
2. Journalist **Mrs. Premilla Hinge-Vagaha** for *Outstanding Reporting on Climate Change & Adaptation*. Her entry focused on the different weather phenomenon in Vanuatu and the construction of a traditional farea on Nguna Island built to withstand a category five cyclone.
3. Journalist **Miss Leah Lowonbu** for *Outstanding Social Media Campaign*. Her entry was based on the campaign to buy new incubators for the Vila Central hospital, and, women front line workers during Covid-19.
4. Cameraman and video editor **Mr. Philip Merika** for Outstanding Visuals for a News Story. His entry was based on the arrival of the vaccines in Vanuatu.
5. Veteran media personality **Mrs. Malonie Albert** for Outstanding Reporting on Gender & Inclusion. Her entry was an extensive collection of television, radio and online content to celebrate the achievements of women in Vanuatu.

Commenting on the achievements, VBTC's Chief Executive Officer, Francis Herman, acknowledged the five winners and the team that works behind the scenes to support the everyday work of these winners.

"What's also special is that four of our winners are women and apart from long time journalist Mrs. Malonie Albert, the others are media practitioners who are relatively new to the media industry."

Their achievement demonstrates that VBTC is on the road to recovery under the strategic reform program now underway at Broadcasting House – a reform program that places enormous emphasis on building human capacity and creating quality content.

Herman also congratulated Daily Post/Buzz FM personality Mrs. Kizzy Kalsakau who won *Outstanding Reporting for a News Story*, and veteran Capital 107FM personality Mr. Harry Atisson for *Outstanding Sports Reporter*.

Vanuatu's Head of State HE Pastor Tallis Moses Obed joined 500 guests at the Media Awards Gala Dinner on Friday July 02nd at the National Convention Centre where the awards ceremony was held.

The major sponsor of the inaugural Vanuatu Media Awards was the New Zealand High Commission.

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P.M.B 9049
Port Vila
VANUATU
+678 22999
admin@vbtc.vu
www.vbtc.vu