



Australian High Commission

Vanuatu

1 June 2022

Media Release

Dorosday Kenneth and Judith Iakavai recognised with Mataskelekele and Lynch Awards

Empowering women and girls promotes economic growth, development and stability. Australia and Vanuatu are working in close partnership to advance gender equality through enhancing women's voice in decision-making and leadership, promoting women's economic empowerment and ending violence against women and girls. The Australian High Commission has partnered with the Lynch and Mataskelekele families to organise their annual award ceremony. This event celebrates the diverse women nominated for the awards each year and honours the two outstanding winners for their significant contributions to the community.

In her address, High Commissioner Bootle emphasised the positive impacts of gender equality for the whole community.

"Promoting gender equality is a shared priority for Australia and Vanuatu because it benefits everyone" said High Commissioner Bootle.

"We know that when women participate in the economy it leads to greater economic growth, when women participate in decision-making it produces better outcomes for all and that if we can eliminate violence against women, we will also eliminate the significant negative effects it has on families and communities."

The 2022 Hanson Mataskelekele Award for Women in Leadership was presented to Ms. Dorosday Kenneth for her outstanding work to promote women's voices and leadership in government.

"Gender equality requires a different mindset. The journey to promote gender equality has been many years in the making. This award is not just for me it is for all women who are aspiring to take on leadership roles" said Ms. Kenneth.

The 2022 Andy Lynch Award for Excellence in the Community Sector was presented to Judith Iakavai for her tireless efforts to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.

When accepting her award, Ms. Judith said, "I wish to see many more young women and men in the disability inclusion space because inclusion needs to be on everybody's agenda."

High Commissioner Bootle said the two women had demonstrated great commitment and leadership in their work.



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“We thank them for their hard work and dedication to make our society more equal and inclusive for all.”

This year many amazing women were nominated for the awards. Nominees hailed from various fields of expertise including government, health, law and justice, business, sports, music, community associations, and civil society.

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