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## Minister Regenvanu Welcomes Race for Water Foundation

By Adorina Massing Apr 6, 2019



Adorina Massing

**By 2050, if no action is taken** there will be more plastics than fish in the ocean.

The Race for Water Foundation is committed to identifying, promoting and implementing solutions that will create value to end-of-life plastic, in order to preserve water while having a positive impact on local communities.

Vanuatu as the first Pacific island nation in the world to legally ban the use of plastic bags, straws and polystyrene takeaway boxes after passing the legislation in February 2018, has now expand its focus to banning other single use plastic items with ambitions to become completely free of plastic.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ralph Regenvanu was amongst the very few team to visit the 100% self sufficient vessel yesterday for a brief educational tour of the boat and how it runs on renewable energy.

“10 days ago, the cabinet has approved a list of seven items to be banned on the 1st of December 2019,” the minister announced

“These items are;

- Red reusable nylon mesh bag for fruits and vegetables packaging
- Single use disposal plastic forks, knives, spoons and cups
- Single use plastic plates
- Polystyrene single use cups

- Plastic stirrers for drinking tea and coffee
- Plastic cartons and packaging boxes
- Plastic flowers

“The intention of banning single use disposal diapers is yet to be implemented in 2020 following further consultations on its ban.”

Minister Regenvanu thanked the Race for Water Foundation for their visit and the Department of Environment and other NGOs for their effort in educating the population on the proper disposal of rubbish.

“We are looking ahead for no plastics to enter our Ocean, to hear the proposed solutions the Foundation will deliver during their awarenesses and how Vanuatu can adopt some of the solutions to making our ocean plastic free.

“We are also happy to see how other countries are also working together to solve this global issue of plastic pollution, because we share the same ocean and together we can conserve and protect it for our future generations.”

A ‘Plastic Waste to Energy’ Workshop will be conducted on Monday 8th April with locals onboard the vessel following an educational tour for students from Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th April.

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