



Country: Vanuatu
School : Port Vila International School - Port Vila
Student: Georgilla Worwor - 15 years

Dear Lucas,

My name is Georgilla Worwor and I am an indigenous citizen of Vanuatu. We are called Ni-Vanuatu (Ni-Vans colloquially). Life here in Vanuatu with English as an official language is quite good in my youthful opinion.

There are advantages of English as an official language here in the Pacific region. This includes our relationship with other Pacific countries such as Australia and New Zealand. These two neighbouring countries are who we generally depend on for assistance in times of natural disasters, such as the recent Cyclone Pam. In addition to this, there are numerous Pacific countries that also have English as an official language. Some examples are our Melanesian neighbours: the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. So, in my opinion it makes perfect sense to have English as our official language as it enables us to communicate with our neighbours. Having English as an official language supports our connections with other Pacific nations as we have something in common that can help to stabilise our relationships. This happens in education too. Where I live in Port Vila, English is used at regularly in my daily life. At home we speak both English and Bislama and although two of my siblings are Francophone (French speakers), they both speak English too. I go to an English school called Port Vila International School and we have a very diverse population of students who can all communicate in English. I speak English out of school as well to shop keepers in boutiques in town as it isn't uncommon for me to do so. When I am around friends in my community who go to the Central school (another English school), we communicate in English but I also have friends who go to French schools and they are all able to understand English sentences very well. Most of them are able to reply in English quite well. The English language is commonly spoken everywhere around us in the capital city of Port Vila.

Of course there are other languages of communication that are present here, like our 83 different island lingos and our commonly spoken, native pigeon English called Bislama. This is used in Port Vila and throughout Vanuatu. French is another official language apart from English and can be just as important as English in some respects but I feel as though with regard to Vanuatu's proximity to a lot more English speaking countries, that English has a slight advantage. Thank you for your interest in our country and I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Regards

Georgilla Worwor