

Graduates advised to be generous with their knowledge

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Saturday 8th November 2008 marked a very special day for 29 students of Don Bosco Rural Training Centre, Tetere. It was the day of their Graduation.

Hundreds of people looked on as the students were acknowledged for their exceptional efforts in Agriculture throughout their 2 years at the school.

Attendees included the parents of the students, family and friends plus some other distinguished guests such as Archbishop Adrian Smith sm, Hon. Selwyn Riumana, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock; Hon. Henry Pika, Permanent Secretary; Timothy Ngele, Under Secretary, Ministry of Education, Hon Ephrem Limanikua, Ministry of Education, Guadalcanal Province; Hon Michael Ho'ota, Minister of Agriculture; David Huang, ROC; Michael Hsu, In-charge of the Rice Project; Wilfred Maeke, GPPOL Community Rehabilitation officer and even the One News TV crew.

The ceremony began with a beautifully conducted mass led by Archbishop Adrian Smith sm, Archbishop of Honiara accompanied by 3 priests. The open air church came alive with the sweet sounds of worship songs sung by all. Another melodic highlight of the morning was the singing of the Solomon Islands' National anthem led by the graduates, certainly a proud moment for everyone.

The Archbishop later congratulated the students on their fine efforts and relayed an important message; "...be generous with what you have learnt...share your knowledge and skills so that the community can learn and grow as you have...". He also highlighted the importance of continuing with manual labour rather than adopting machinery which is costly and often causes people to become redundant.



The ceremony continued with each of the students receiving their graduation certificates from the distinguished guests. In addition, students who were particularly outstanding during their schooling were acknowledged and presented with various gifts for their efforts. One junior student was even

recognised for her "cleanliness", quite an achievement particularly in the area of Agriculture!! The graduates later thanked the distinguished guests for their involvement and presented them with the first harvest of their locally grown rice.

The ceremony closed with a massive feast prepared by the graduates. The ample food, including a variety of meats, vegetables, pastries, rice and a rainbow of fruits, ensured all attendees returned home with very full and satisfied bellies.



Congratulations to all the graduates, we wish you a future of success and many blessings in all that you decide to do.