

## Not a minute late, dad

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb
- *from the panel presentation, testimonies and comments*

It was a delightful morning for all gathered in the hall at Don Bosco Technical Institute, Henderson, on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2009, as they participated in the sharing of the past-pupils 'Bosconians Today' and the Panel Discussion – entitled '2 B a family'.

There eminent persons – Ms. Veronica Toben, Director Inspectorate, Mr. Bernard Rapasia, TVET and Mr. Robinson Gegeu, Ministry of Labour - presented their views.

Ms Veronica Toben, Director Inspectorate highlighted that children are a wonderful blessings, the responsibility of a family and the role that parents play in the education of a child. She also spoke of the different learning domains - Psycho motor domain, Affective domain and the Cognitive domain. She concluded her talk with articles from the United Nations International Law on the Rights of a child. Mr. Bernard spoke of youth in training – their struggles and achievements, difficulties and success. Mr. Robinson reminded the students that they are in the Image of God and they need to prepare themselves, lest the system fail them. The audiences were then permitted to make comments and ask questions.

The sharing that follows was a testimony from Greg Matikitofi, from Nukukaisi, Makira. At the last holiday, he asked his son, "What have you learnt at school?" And immediately came the reply, "Not a minute late dad," said Desmond Tufunga as he shared with his dad what he had learnt at Don Bosco Technical Institute, Henderson. Then to test him, his father said, 'You have been to a Technical Institute, will you repair the leaking shed'. And Desmond took the hammer and completed the task to perfection. 'Will you lend a hand to your mother to brush the coco plantation?' was his next assignment. His father then checked his palms to see if they had blisters. 'Well done, my boy! It shows that you are working at school', said the happy father. And then came the third assignment. 'We will be out today. Will you cook for the three of us". Yes, said a smiling Desmond as he undertook the task immediately and prepared a delicious meal.

Then the father added – Desmond is indeed a changed boy. He even gathered the youngsters around him and prayed and sang hymns and songs – something he was not accustomed to do. A proud father thanked Don Bosco and Julian Trade way for being the guardian and caring for his son, while he and his wife are away in Makira.

The audience had a chance to ask questions and was given appropriate answers. It is wonderful that the students ponder over what was shared and put it into practice.

