



Drainage construction along the street on the Lenakel waterfront.  
 Photo: Natiowas John / Tanna Road Rehabilitation Project

# Lenakel town open for business: Chief

By Fern Napwatt

**IT HAS BEEN 37 YEARS AND A SMALL TOWN** down south is dawning, says Chief Peter Marcel.

The words were spoken to depict the new tar-sealed road on the island of Tanna that will bring easy access for development on the island as the main hub of Tafea province.

"The light has come to Lenakel Blackman Town, and this town is situated on an historical site back when the missionaries arrived thus all that has

led to what we are seeing today, new tar sealed road and future developments that will come," Mr Marshall said.

"As a chief of the area, i am appealing to all business owners living in Blackman town, in Vila or other islands of Vanuatu who are natives of this country, if you are interested to do business on Tanna, do not hesitate to come to our Island Council of Chief who will then speak to the tribal councils on the island about your area of interest to do business.

"We want all businessmen to be loyal

and respect decisions made by chiefs and authorities on the island."

Marcel also appealed to the people of Tanna who have lived in Port Vila for a generations to return to the island and invest on their island.

"Look back children of Tanna, get away from town-life practices because like a Tannese parable says, when a parrot is a colourful bird, it flies anywhere when it is young but when it is about to die it has to return to its 'nasara'," he said.

"This simply means when you are

still strong and fit, come back to your island, there is a tar sealed road now and everything you look for in town has come to your doorstep, invest in your land because we are tired of seeing coffins arriving on planes from Vila to Tanna."

Marcel is optimistic that now with the new look of the town that there will be better developments that will follow suit and will give a better reason for the people of Tanna who are doing nothing or looking for opportunities in town to return to the island.