



**Advocating for Rights
& Promoting Abilities
of People with
Disabilities since
1999**

**Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association(DPA)
P.O. Box 71
Luganville, SANMA Province**

**Tel no. (678) 37997 or
7796946**

Email : dpasanto@vanuatu.com.vu

Facebook: Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association

26 June 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

Potential women councilors learn valuable leadership skills

The Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association Vanuatu (DPA) National Coordinator Mrs Nelly Caleb says women have been given valuable leadership and political training at a three-day gender and contestant workshop in Luganville this week.

The workshop was organised by the Department of Women's Affairs to prepare women for the Luganville Municipal Council elections on July 21, which for the first time has four seats reserved for women.

"While I'm disappointed that no women with disability are contesting the election, the workshop was a really good program for both women who are standing for election and those interested in leadership, and I'm sure they took a lot of excellent information away with them," Mrs Caleb said.

"I'm sorry that women with disability have missed out on training that would give them self-confidence to advocate for themselves and other people with disability, but I hope that there will be more training in the future."

The participants listed 11 qualities that make a good leader including:

- Love and respect for God
- Respect cultural values of all races
- Believes in democracy
- Honesty

Other topics included how women leaders fit in the culture of Vanuatu, how to make a good campaign, political parties, fraud and illegal activity in elections and voting systems.

"One of our fundamental principles is that all people have equal rights and that includes the right to participate in political life, so it's important that people with disability exercise their rights in voting at the election," Mrs Caleb said.

"I have already advocated to the electoral adviser Charles Vatu during an awareness run by the Electoral Commission in Chief Nakamal Stage, Luganville that all polling stations should be accessible for people with disability.

"I was assured that every person with disability would be given an opportunity to vote in the elections".

Media contact: Nelly Caleb (678) 37997 or 7796946