



**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 Vanuatu

July 6, 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

Copy-cat clothes costing Ni-Vanuatu women their economic base

Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association (DPA) says the Vanuatu Government should stop cheap imitations of island dresses and sarongs being imported into Vanuatu because many women, including those with disability, are losing their economic livelihood.

DPA has made the recommendation in its submission to the United Nations pre-sessional working group of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to be heard in Geneva, Switzerland from July 27 to July 31.

“Whilst most shops in Port Vila and Luganville are importing mass produced imitations of the quality dresses and sarongs crafted by our women for many years, the government must take action to protect women’s incomes,” DPA coordinator Ms. Nelly Caleb said.

“This is important because opportunities for income generation are very limited for many women, including women with disability.

“The government should make grants available to protect our local markets to generate income among Ni-Vanuatu women; otherwise there will be no markets for these beautiful clothes.

“The iconic dresses and sarongs were previously the domain of many women, often suffering from a disability but still able to sew at their machines.

“The DPA vision is to build the skills of people with disability, which we did when we ran trainings for economic literacy for women with disability.

“Without the market of island clothing, they then lose their skills and are not making money.

“The government should take action to regulate imports to ensure the success of local trade and local products.”

Media contact: Nelly Caleb (678) 37997 or 7796946