



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

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Press Release

Access to information is vital for persons with disabilities

The Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association (DPA) calls on government and other stakeholders to ensure that disaster warnings and other information on disaster preparedness and response reaches all people including persons with disabilities.

This comes after participants at an organised event in Gaua Island Torba Province Vanuatu raise their concern on the lack of information they received before, during and after cyclone Pam.

Participants raised their concern on the lack of information and warnings they received during cyclone Pam as they never received any cyclone warning or information.

They highlighted that Radio Vanuatu and Television of Vanuatu services, do not reach them. They stressed that these are the two main platforms used to disseminate important information on disaster preparedness and response to the people; therefore it should be made available to all.

Persons with visual and hearing impairments rely on these services to obtain information on disaster preparedness and response. Therefore, it is important that such services are available

Getting accessible information to people at the right time is vital in minimising loss of lives and property.

Torba province is prone to cyclones and therefore it is important that disaster information reached them.

DPA reiterate call on the government of Vanuatu to ensure that radio and television platforms are available to all so that persons with disabilities receives disaster information on time, and give them enough time to prepare and move to evacuation centers.

DPA urges government and National Disaster Management Offices to include persons with disabilities in the development, implementation and monitoring of National Disaster Plans to ensure that they are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

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