



**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](mailto:dpasanto@vanuatu.com.vu)**

**Facebook: Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association Vanuatu**

**Web site: <http://www.dpavanuatu.org>**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Epi people grateful to learn the rights of people with disability**

People living on Epi Island in the Shepherds Group have learnt about the rights of people with disabilities during an awareness campaign by Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association Vanuatu (DPA).

“There were many positive feedbacks from our workshop including re-setting up there affiliate group committee to advocate for people with disabilities on Epi,” DPA national coordinator Ms Nelly Caleb said.

“We were able to remind the participants of the rights of people with disability as outlined in the Conventional Rights of People with Disability (CRPD).

“After the workshop a participant told me she had learnt that children with disability have the same rights as other able children.

“Our training strengthened the work of the group and educated people of the roles and responsibilities of a leader.

“It’s good that we have this kind of training to help people know about leadership roles. Some points raised by participants about leaders were:

Good leader:

- Have respect
- Humble
- Good cooperation

Bad leader:

- not humble
- lacking respect
- don’t know what their job is.

“Other positive outcomes from the training included awareness training on how to help people with disability during a natural disaster such as a cyclone.

“It’s important we learn from our experiences and past mistakes because some people with disability were left behind during Cyclone Pam as no training or exercises had been given to people.

“DPA advocates for the equal rights of men and women, irrespective of their disability.

“People with disability should have equal rights as all other citizens of Vanuatu, including the right to participate in all aspects of spiritual, social, economic and political life, and that these rights must be protected and promoted.”

**Media contact: Nelly Caleb (678) 37997 or 7796946**