



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

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8 June 2016

MEDIA RELEASE

Government and electoral bodies must make voting accessible to all people

On 11 May, 2016, Pacific Regional Disability Rights Dialogue started with an opening ceremony which representatives from 12 pacific islands come together to discuss how and why they should make election accessible for all peoples including persons with disabilities.

The participants from different National Disable Peoples Organization's (NDPO) made some recommendations and a small group led by the PDF Chief Executive Officer delivered the recommendations to the electoral management bodies (EMB) during a lunch meeting in Denarau Island.

On the 12th the EMB met with NDPO's and agrees on the recommendation so as a sign of agreement PDF Co. Chair Ms. Nelly Caleb was nominated to open up the signature with her signature on a blank Boucher paper an agreement for persons with disabilities in the Pacific as PIANZEA (EMB members) and leaders of the Pacific Disabled Peoples Organization came together with solidarity to Testify their support through signing and declaring that persons with disabilities have the right to participate in Political processes in the Pacific on an equal basis with other,. It was a moving moment when delegates and participants willing quay up to sign the declaration.

Learning from best practice on the convention on the rights of person with disability (CRPD) base on article 29 about participation of person with disability in political and public life, how DPO and EMBs can collaborate in facilitating future election that should be accessible for person with disabilities.

The essential roles of EMBs in facilitating an accessible election and the strategies for overcoming double marginalization in the electoral process and also to focus on women with disabilities and persons with disabilities living in rural areas to enjoy the right as anyone else.

DPA urge government and electoral management bodies to ensure future elections must be accessible for persons with disabilities.

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