



Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association

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

2005 Annual Report

“Just as a canoe has a hull and outriggers, so there are males and females, those with and without disabilities. Both parts are needed to create a society that is balanced.”



DPA is a self-help national umbrella organization of and for people with disabilities & the NGO Focal Point in Vanuatu for the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action Toward the Asian & Pacific Decade of Persons with Disability 2003-2012

Quote on the front page made by Akiie Ninomiya at the **1ST NATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE & BARRIER-FREE AND RIGHTS-BASED SOCIETY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY & the BMF***
17 March 2005, Luganville, Vanuatu

Photograph on front page by Elizabeth Mortland of some of the participants at the workshop:

Akiie Ninomiya from JICA / Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability in front with canoe; Alistair Wilkinson from ESCAP – tallest one in the back. Windsor Tom, thumbs up for the *Nasivung Association*, who presented the canoe to Akiie, is seated on the wheelchair in the centre, front row.

Otherwise acknowledged, the photos in this report were also taken by Elizabeth Mortland.

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This report was compiled by Andonia Piau-Lynch, National Coordinator. Information contained in this report may be used by individuals and organizations as long as DPA is acknowledged.

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* Biwako Millennium Framework for Action Toward the Asian & Pacific Decade of Persons with Disability 2003-2012

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FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF DPA

VALUE OF LIFE

We believe that the life of a person with disability has equal value to, and shall be accorded the same rights, dignity and respect as that of a person without an obvious disability.

HUMAN RIGHTS

We believe in the equal rights of men and women and that we 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.

EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

We believe in the equality between men and women and promote non discrimination on the basis of sex.

NON-DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEX

We believe that discrimination based on sex is contrary to our belief in the equality between men and women. We therefore advocate for non - discrimination based on Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and will work toward promoting non-discrimination within DPA and in the nation.

PARTNERSHIP

We believe in the inspirational words of Helen Keller that "Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much" and will work with individuals, community groups, national and international development organizations that have similar values.

VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS

We acknowledge and value the work that Volunteers give from their hearts and treasure their commitments to provide this invaluable service to the betterment of humanity.

PART 1 INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report provides a summary of activities carried out by DPA in 2005. It is divided into several parts:

Part 1 introduces the Annual Report

Part 2 reports on the advocacy work carried out by DPA at the national and international level

Part 3 reports on work carried out by the Coordinating Committee & the fulfillment of DPA's legal obligations

Part 4 reports on administration and human resources

Part 5 reports on how DPA shares information to members and the public at large

Part 6 outlines DPA's goals for 2006/2007, and

Part 7 reports on DPA's financial status

Part 8 acknowledges all those who have supported us in 2005.

2005 has proved to be one of DPA's most successful year of advocacy. Using a two-pronged approach, the DPA Secretariat continued to work with Government agencies for policy changes at a national while affiliates advocated and raised awareness of rights of people with disability on the community level. That much of the work is now carried out in three provinces in Vanuatu by people with disability themselves and their caregivers shows very strongly our belief that people with disability can, and should be the main advocates for their rights and deliver the message that people with disabilities have rights just as any other citizen in the country. The commitment of all members and the recognition of the different stakeholders about DPA as a serious organization has seen much achieved through the partnership with many diverse groups both within and outside of Vanuatu.

DPA works on a number of different levels as part of its advocacy programme for the recognition of the human rights of people with disability:

- i) National level – with Government, NGOs and
- ii) International level – with regional and international organizations and
- iii) Community level – with communities at the village level
- iv) Individual level - with individuals within and outside the organization.

In order to assist the readers understand DPA, our Aims as envisioned in 1999 are as follows:

- a) To advocate for rights and promote abilities of persons with disability throughout Vanuatu;
- b) To lobby the national government for the establishment of a National Disability Council which shall be a permanent body with adequate infrastructural support with representation from government agencies, non-governmental organization including representation from persons with disability and organizations working with and for people with disabilities;
- c) To ensure that the Mandate for Actions during the Asia Pacific Decade of Persons with Disability are implemented;
- d) To raise awareness that people with disability have the same as rights as any one else, no more, no less.
- e) To liaise, promote and support persons with disability, caregivers, family members, communities, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies to recognize and promote these objectives;
- f) To promote and support the establishment of branches in each province to promote the above aims;
- g) To provide training and other skills for people with disability in order to promote their organizations to participate fully in all levels of society.

In 2002 when the Asia Pacific Decade of Persons with Disability was extended and the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action toward the second Decade was declared, DPA embraced these action plans and have advocated for its support and implementation. DPA is therefore pleased to see the results of this work now bearing fruit in both Vanuatu and in the Pacific and thank all who have participated in these developments in their various capacity. In particular we acknowledge the support that the Government of Vanuatu has given to help us achieve our aims as will be seen in this report.

PART 2 ADVOCACY WORK CARRIED OUT IN 2005

Advocacy in Vanuatu consists of work carried out at the national level by the DPA Secretariat and at the local level by Affiliates and individual members. At the national level advocacy is directed mostly at legislative and policy development while at the community levels, advocacy is directed at community awareness of the human rights of men, women and children with disabilities. In 2005 a major thrust of our national campaign has been to institutionalize many of the programmes we have been advocating for.

2.1 Access to Public Buildings and Public Environments

In 2001 DPA spoke of the lack of ramps on the footpaths in the Port Vila as part of our report to the 1st DPI Regional Leadership Training Workshop held in Port Vila. Venus Illagen, Current Chair of Disabled Peoples' International, spoke at that time about the lack of ramps at the Port Vila Municipal Seafront Stage. One of the outcome of our joint campaign is that the Seafront has had a ramp since 2003. However, this was insufficient and there was a need to involve the national Government to ensure that ALL public buildings are accessible. In 2004 DPA for example, DPA compiled a document including photos of inaccessible spots in downtown Port Vila plus copies of the UN Universal Standards and presented them to the then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Public Utilities calling for universal access to public buildings and for a review of the Building Code.



"Make Vanuatu Accessible" display board during the VANGO "NGO Fair"

In 2005 the Vanuatu Government declared 2005 as the "Year of Tourism" and continues to 2006. As part of its advocacy for universal access, DPA staged a public awareness campaign called "*Make Vanuatu Accessible*" at the Exhibition Hall of the French Embassy. Radio interviews were held and the print media published the campaign. There is still a lot of work to be done in this area.

The awareness campaign called attention to the fact that not only should we consider access for overseas tourists but we must also consider local tourists and residents with disability, pregnant women, mothers with small children, elderly folks and people with temporary disability like a person with a broken leg who might like to go to the bank or even to the VAT office which is totally inaccessible.

2.2 Access to Universal Education

Access to education is vital if we are to include people with disability in national development. At present is it unclear how many people with disability are literate but it is clear that many are not able to participate and benefit because of barriers impeding their access to education.

Since 2003 DPA has been working with the Ministry to Education to ensure that enrolments of children with disability are gathered annually. In 2005 the Ministry of Education was invited to the Annual General Meeting and was able to provide updates of the number of children attending schools in 2004. As stated in their Annual Report, this is a first time that the Ministry of Education is able to provide statistics on primary school students with disability. They found the following:

- A high number of students in primary schools who have physical problems are slow learners or have started school later for unknown reasons
- 2% of students in secondary schools have a disability
- An average of 5% of pupils who are disabled do not have access to specific equipments and specific learning
- MALAMPA Province has the highest number of students who have a disability.

One of their recommendations is that “...it is important that the Ministry of Education commence to plan to support projects to meet the needs of children who are disabled and are actually enrolled in primary schools. “

Table 1 Types of Disability and Other Problems Exhibited by Children Identified by the Ministry of Education

Disabilities	Torba		Sanma		Malampa		Penama		Shefa		Tafea		Total		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	T
Deaf or Hard hearing	1	2	28	31	5	6	21	15	16	22	34	24	105	100	205
Blind of Partially sighted	21	11	14	18	3	0	12	10	9	5	9	5	68	49	117
Speech problems	5	4	13	27	3	2	28	16	34	23	19	6	102	78	180
Slow listening	7	1	97	94	43	35	46	42	51	37	81	67	325	276	601
Asthma	3	1	19	21	2	6	13	9	16	12	7	1	60	50	110
Albinos	1	2	4	5	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	7	11	18
Physical disabilities	19	8	2	7	2	1	9	0	7	6	5	0	44	22	66
Emotional/ Social problems	0	0	21	32	3	3	6	4	19	12	4	0	53	51	104
Have started school late	15	15	81	132	40	28	33	17	50	37	73	64	292	293	585
Have down syndrome	0	0	6	1	1	1	0	0	4	6	0	0	11	8	19
Other	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	4	3	7
TOTAL	72	44	285	369	102	82	170	114	210	165	232	167	1071	941	2012

“At the moment, there are no policies in place to guide the Ministry of Education in developing future plans to assist these children. It is important that the government and NGO’s show greater interest in establishing primary schools for disabled children. The procurement of appropriate tools or specific equipment is also recommended for these students. The Ministry of Education has to develop specific training for teachers in order to academically assist children who are disabled” (Ministry of Education, 2005).

DPA congratulates the Ministry of Education for collecting these data as the first step to promoting universal/inclusive education.

2.3 Advocacy for Inclusion of Women with Disability in Mainstream Women’s Organization

Advocacy for women with disability has been guided by DPA’s fundamental principles of equality between men and women and non-discrimination based on sex. It is also guided by commitments under Priority Area No. 2 of the BMF and Priority Area No. 3 of the National Disability Policy directive of the Vanuatu Government. Our advocacy in this area stems from the failure of mainstream women’s organization and other decision making bodies to include women with disability in decision making. This lack of recognition is significant particularly as women with disability are doubly or triply discriminated: as women, as women with disability, and often, as mothers and sometimes also as care givers and their concerns can be significantly different to other women. Very few programmes to assist or include women with disability are in place at any level of society.

In 2003 DPA began advocating for women with disability to be included in women’s organization such as the Vanuatu National Council of Women. In 2005 DPA pulled out of the VNCW as a member until it realizes that women with disability are also women of Vanuatu and have a right to be part of its programmes. In 2005 DPA worked instead with the SHEFA Island Council of Women to include Tourana Patas as an observer. DPA takes this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Audrey Luan, as President of the SHEFA Island Council of Women for taking this positive action to recognize women with disability in the province and sees this action as a positive step toward mainstreaming disability within the VNCW .

2.4 Advocacy for Housing for Persons with Disability

Since 2002 DPA Chair and National Coordinator have been lobbying Habitat for Humanity for housing for people with disability. At that time, an application by the Chair was submitted. It was not until 2004 that Habitat for Humanity addressed the application. As a result, John Suran now has his own home which was completed in May 2005. Well done, John!

A number of homes have now been built for people with disability by Habitat for Humanity through the support of individuals. This is a positive step to supporting the concept of “Independent Living” and we support and encourage community members who have given support in this area.

In 2005, Habitat for Humanity and Rotary Club of Port Vila in collaboration with DPA have began preparation to support 10 houses for members of DPA in Port Vila and Santo.

One of the outcome of this successful venture is that DPA is now represented on the Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors.

Back row under doorframe: Adamo Missoeve

Centre row: Nancy Palmer, Roger Whitley, John Suran, Sera Suran & Andy Piau-Lynch.

Front row: Leias Kaltovei



2.5 Advocacy at Community Level

As a background to this part of the report, it is important to highlight the founding principle:

“SELF HELP” IS ONE OF THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF DPA

At its first meeting in 1999 the Interim Coordinating Committee agreed to advocate and promote rights of people with disability without applying for core funding. This stems from the knowledge that many NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) often wait until there is funds before undertaking advocacy. The founding members of DPA believed firmly then and continue today that people with disability have skills, knowledge and commitment that can be utilized for advocating for their rights and should use them. The core activities undertaken over the past five years therefore have largely been carried out using minimal funds but maximizing the use of local resources such as people with disability themselves, caregivers and other volunteers. While the core business of the Secretariat has been to liaise with Government of Vanuatu which is ultimately the decision maker of any policies that will affect the lives of people with disability, the core activities of affiliates has been raising awareness of rights of people with disabilities at the community level.

In this annual report, we highlight and stress again the importance of members whose commitment and ability to use their various skills are more than able to carry out awareness, training, advocacy with ZERO financial support from the DPA Secretariat. Through these courageous and adventurous people, advocacy on the rights of people with disability on the community level, *by people with disability and caregivers* themselves, has been greatly strengthened as well as **effective**. This is particularly encouraging since DPA has believed, since its inception, that people with disabilities do have the ability to advocate through the utilization of local resources!

In 2005 three community based organizations were officially welcomed as Affiliates: Etveglala Dendeh Association (EDA) (TORBA Province); Frangipani Association (Luganville) and Vanmolmol (South Santo) and the Nasivung Association of Tomman Island (Malekula) have yet to be affiliated. A brief overview of what they have been able to achieved is provided below.

2.5.1 Nasivung Association is based on Tomman Island, Malekula. Inspired by the 1st National Training and Awareness on the BMF, Windsor Tom has been involved in raising awareness on the rights of people with disability on the islands of Malekula, Ambrym and Pa’ama.

2.5.2 The Etveglala Dendeh Association (EDA) have advocating and raising awareness of rights of people with disability in three locations in the TORBA Province: Loh, Motalava and Sola. One of the important activity undertaken by Edgar Howard of EDA has been the collection of statistics of the number of children currently in various schools in the Province.

2.5.3 Frangipani Association continues to use theatre as a tool to advocate for rights of children with disability. National Day for Children on 24 July is one day that they have used effectively each year to advocate for rights of children as witnessed in the 2005 celebrations at La Place, Luganville.

Approximately 700 residents in Luganville attending the Children's Day celebrations were able to see and hear children with disability call for their rights. International Day of People with Disability in 2005 was also used as an opportunity to advocate for rights of children with disability at a picnic at Samansen Wharf, Luganville. One special event held there was that children with disability who had never kicked or thrown a ball were taught how to kick and throw a ball. One strategy successfully used by the Frangipani Association has been to worship at different churches. This has helped caregivers and believers who did not realize before that people with disability including children with disability also have a spiritual part that must to be developed.



Frangipani children performing during the Opening of the 2005 Annual General Meeting, Luganville

Another one of the highlights for the children of Frangipani Association was the visit to the *Pacific Sun*, a tourist boat that visits Luganville regularly. Through the assistance of the Espiritu Santo Tourism Association and NISCOL children were able to board the ship and even have lunch with the captain and had a fun-filled day!

2.5.4 Vanmolmol Association has been active with two workshops on rights of people with disability that were held at Narango and Belmol where 54 people attended. This was a major achievement for a group that was only established in March 2005 following the Annual General Meeting. Again, 3 December was used as another opportunity to advocate for rights of people with disability. This celebrations was the first time that a disability organization in South Santo has ever held a gathering attended by 200 people with and without an obvious disability.



Joel Path with John Suran

In recognition of this occasion, Joel Path, the Secretary General of the SANMA Province spoke on the importance of recognizing rights of people with disability that many times people with disability are forgotten but they also have rights. The SANMA Provincial Government is now committed to supporting the work of disability organizations to promote rights of people with disability. One of the first commitments made by the Secretary General will be to support four participants from the SANMA Province to participate in the governance of DPA at the 2006 Annual General Meeting in Motalava.

2.6 UN Declaration of 3 December as International Day of Persons with Disability Continues to be the Day for Awareness Raising

The celebrations in this year took a number of new directions in both Port Vila and in Santo. In Port Vila a number of awareness talks were held both in-house as well as on the radio courtesy of Alex Huri on FM 98. Issues discussed by Alex consisted of the International Day theme on Action in Development; the difference between service providers (VSDP) and advocacy organization (DPA) and achievements of these organizations; action in development by Government through the National Disability policy; ESCAP's BMF and the UN Draft Disability Convention. DPA takes this opportunity to thank Alex for providing valuable airtime to impart these information



In Motalava, the day was celebrated with gatherings and sports. In Narango the Secretary General of SANMA Province was invited and attended with his wife Lucile. Also leading up to 3 December, a number of talks were held by the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People, Vanuatu Diabetes Association, and DPA. In Port Vila, members were honoured to have the presence of their Patron, HE Head of State Kalkot Matas Kelekele and the First Lady Hanson Kelekele as well as the Hon Isabelle Donald, Minister for Women, Children and People with Disability at a picnic at Mele Cascade courtesy of EVERGREEN Limited.

Head of State & Minister Isabelle Donald and Friends celebrate 3 December 2005 at Mele Cascade



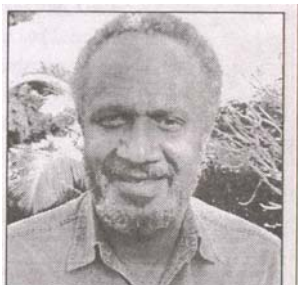
Seated in the centre row from left to right:

Franki Salili (on wheelchair); Freda; Hon Isabelle Donald; John Suran; First Lady; Head of State & Leitangi Solomon

2.7 Advocacy to Ratify the Land Mine Treaty

DPA began advocating for Government to ratify the *Convention the Use, Stockpiling, Production and transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction* (otherwise known as the Land Mine Treaty or the Ottawa Convention) since 23 September 2003 when it presented a report following the 5th States Parties Meeting in Bangkok. DPA used days such as the Human Rights Day on 10 December to support the International Campaign Against Land Mines (CALM) and to promote peace through creating a mine-free world.

Vanuatu ratified the Convention on 27 May 2005 and now joins the world-wide body of States against land mines.



Hon. Sato Kilman

DPA takes this opportunity to Congratulate the Members of Parliament for ratifying the Treaty after Vanuatu signed on 4 December 1997. In particular, we thank the Hon Sato Kilman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, for tabling the Bill for ratification.



Adamo Missieue, John Suran & Windsor Tom, Members of DPA supporting the International Campaign Against Land Mines at the Exhibition Hall of the French Embassy, 10 December 2004.

2.8 Inclusion of Disability Information in Vanuatu's MDG report

Aware that the Government of Vanuatu was preparing the MDG Report for the UN General Assembly, DPA submitted to the Department of Economic & Sectoral Planning available information on disability for inclusion in the report. The report is currently not available to see if these information are included. In particular, Targets 6,7,8, & 9 of the MDGs under Early Education and Detection and Target 50 under Reduction of Poverty were highlighted.

2.9 BMF Awareness & Training for Senior Government Officials Results in the Establishment of the National Disability Committee

Just as access to information is important for people with disability, it is also important that those in decision making positions are also aware of what is happening in the disability sector. Working in partnership with the Department of Strategic Management and UN ESCAP, a first ever workshop on the BMF was held for Senior Government Officials in November 2005 with representatives from nine Departments. Greg Nimbtik, Acting Director of the DSM, Alistair Wilkinson, Social Policy Adviser at UN ESCAP, John Suran and Andonia Piau-Lynch of DPA presented papers at this meeting. One strategic but important result of this workshop the is recommendation adopted at the meeting to establish a National Disability Committee. Members of this Committee will comprise of representatives from DPA, Vanuatu Society for Disabled People, **vandisports** plus Departments of Public Utilities, Education, Health, Finance, Economic & Sectoral Planning, Labour and the National Statistics Office and Human Resource Department.

2.10 Lobby for the Ratification of ILO Convention 159

One of the Priority Areas of the BMF is the lobbying for the ratification of ILO Convention 159. In 2005, DPA has written to both the Labour Department and the Department of Strategic Management to move toward ratifying the Convention.

2.11 Women with Disability to Comment on Vanuatu's CEDAW Report

On 2nd March 2005 Honourable Isabelle Donald, Minister for Comprehensive Reform Programme and also responsible for Women, Children and People with Disabilities presented Vanuatu's Initial, 1st and 2nd Report on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women to the United Nation's Office of the Status of Women. This report was written by DPA's National Coordinator Andonia Piau-Lynch. It is expected that the UN CEDAW Committee will receive Vanuatu's report in 2007.

As part of its preparation for the hearing and input from the NGO sector on the national report, work is underway to involve women with disabilities to review the report. Nelly Caleb has been tasked with this responsibility. In October 2005 DPA initiated the placement of a Cooperant from CUSO in 2006 to assist with this phase. The Cooperant is expected to be placed in Luganville by September/October 2006.

2.12 BMF Bislama Translation Project



One of the priority areas of the BMF is to translate the BMF into local languages. As part of its advocacy for access to information by people with disability, DPA, in partnership with the New Zealand High Commission have begun the process of translating the BMF into Bislama. With funding from his Head of Mission Fund, HE Mr Paul Willis was able to launch the BMF Bislama Translation Project in June 2005. The translation of the BMF into Bislama is being undertaken by Dr Robert Early of the Pacific Languages Unit, Emalus Campus, University of the South Pacific. It will be completed by March 2006 and will be launched in April 2006, 10 months after the receipt of the funds as per agreement with NZAID.

* Photo shows Alisha Murgatroyd hanging a *salusalu* on HE Paul Willis, NZ High Commissioner at the launching of the project.



Individual members of the Coordinating Committee have also carried out their parts by advocating within their own local areas, nationally and internationally. Some of these activities are highlighted below.

2.13 DPA Chair Continues to Represent Vanuatu at the UN Ad Hoc committee on the Draft Disability Convention, New York

2005 continues to see Chair John Suran represent Vanuatu at the Un Ad Hoc Committee on the Draft Disability Convention. At the 6th Ad Hoc Meeting John intervened to call for more participation of Pacific Islanders at the Meeting, an intervention that was made known to the participants at the Forum Regional Disability Workshop.



One of the outcome from Suran’s call is the recommendation from the Regional Disability Workshop for Governments to include more people with disability in the Pacific to attend the Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

This is the 4th time that John has participated at the meeting. His participation has been made possible with the support of the Government of Vanuatu and friends such as Remmy Maradona. In June 2005 the Government of Vanuatu through the Hon Sato Kilman, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister appointed Maradona as Vanuatu’s Goodwill Ambassador.

* Photo showing Adamo Missoeve assisting John Suran with a microphone during the Opening of the 2005 Annual General Meeting

2.14 DPA Vice-chair Calls for Ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW

On 19 September 2005 the a seminar was held at the Department of Women’s Affairs to hear a report from the 1st Global Meeting on the Ratification and Use of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. This seminar was presented by Andy Piau-Lynch, National Coordinator of DPA who attended the meeting that was organized by the International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW). Recognizing that there is not one NGO specifically working on CEDAW in Vanuatu or the Pacific, members to the Global Consultation agreed to look at the possibility for one in the Pacific. One such move in Vanuatu was the formation of the *Action for CEDAW Today* formed on 7 September and under the umbrella of DPA for the time being. Andy was invited as an individual to be on the IWRAW Advisory Committee since 2004.

Following the seminar, Vice –Chair of DPA, Ms Nelly Caleb (above) called on the Government through the Department of Women’s Affairs, to ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

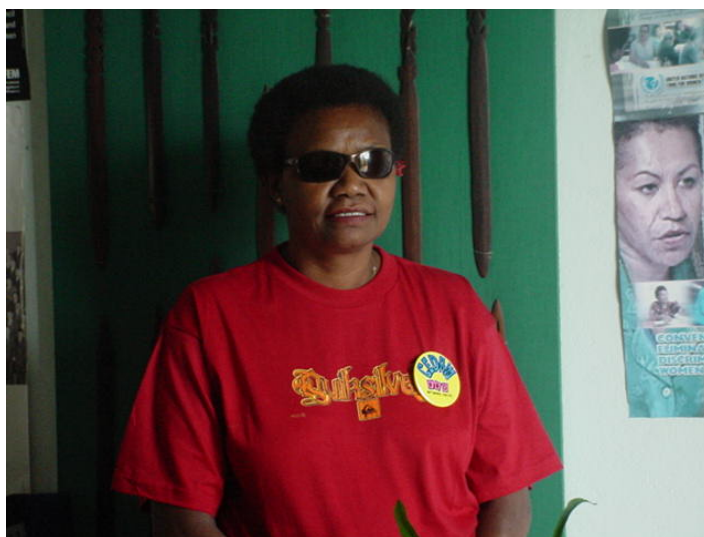


Photo: Elines Morris

The Optional Protocol provides for two procedures - the Complaints and Inquiry procedures – that women can use after all domestic remedies have been exhausted. She said that DPA, which is a rights-based organization advocating for rights of people with disability, is taking this opportunity to support the call made by previous women to realize rights of women and these includes women with disabilities.

2.15 National Coordinator Attends Forum’s 1st Regional Disability Workshop

In 2001 DPA was instrumental in getting disability on the resolutions of the 1st Regional Leadership Training Seminar held in Port Vila. Most consider this as the most important point in the historical development of disability in the Pacific Region. As a result of that initiative, Vanuatu is seen as a major player in the disability sector. As part of the background to this important meeting called by the Forum Secretariat, we provide some background information on why we consider this meeting to be important:

- i. In August 2002, Hon Edward Natapei Nipake, Prime Minister flagged disability as an issue to be addressed by the Forum;
- ii. In August 2003, the Forum Heads of Government endorsed the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) in Auckland;
- iii. In September 2003, Prime Minister takes up disability under its Portfolio
- iv. In October 2003, Morris Kaloran, representative of Government attended the 1st ESCAP training on the BMF
- v. In April 2004, DPA becomes the NGO Focal Point for the BMF in Vanuatu in an MOU with Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability
- vi. In 2004 Forum hires Graham McKinstry to provide a report on disability legislation in the Pacific
- vii. In December 2005, Minister for Comprehensive Reform Programme Hon Isabelle Donald takes over Disability Portfolio
- viii. In August 2005 the Forum holds its first ever Government/NGO meeting to discuss disability issues.

The Government of Vanuatu was represented by Greg Nimbtik, Acting Director of the Department of Strategic Management which is housing the Disability Desk. Andonia Piau-Lynch represented the disability sector. One of major outcome of that meeting is the development of resolutions for the Forum to continue to give priority to the sector. Forum Secretary Greg Urwin's closing speech at the Forum Disability Workshop:

One of the key things that has emerged from the workshop has been that of integration of disability issues, or mainstreaming or inclusion as it is more commonly known. This is true of education, training and employment. This requires a substantial mind-shift and is part of seeing disability as a human rights issue, rather than a charity or medical issue as in the past. This involves moving, forever, away from the concept of special schools and training centres and sheltered workshops to that of inclusion of people with disabilities in all spheres of life. As someone at this workshop put it, "children that learn together – learn to live together".

Participants at the Forum's 1st Regional Disability Workshop, Nadi, Fiji



Participants from New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa



Participants at far right are Greg Nimbtik & Andonia Piau-Lynch with Helen Tavola with microphone in front

PART 3 FULFILLMENT OF DPA'S LEGAL OBLIGATIONS & ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

DPA is governed by its constitution and the Coordinating Committee is responsible for managing the affairs of the organization. The headquarters of DPA is located in Port Vila and staffed by volunteers. In 2005 the following legal obligations were met

3.1 Annual General Meeting

One of the primary legal obligation of the Coordinating Committee is to ensure that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) takes place on an annual basis. The AGM is the decision-making body of DPA which elects members of the Committee as

well as endorsing any policies affecting the organization. The 2005 Annual General Meeting was successfully staged in Luganville on 18 March with the generous financial support of JICA/Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability (APDC).

The staging of the Annual General Meeting in Luganville is significant for a number of reasons:

1. This was the first time since 2000 that an AGM has been held outside of Port Vila
2. This was the first time that a Head of State has opened a BMF Workshop and an AGM
3. This was the first time that a Minister of State has attended and closed an AGM
4. This was the first time that a representative of UN ESCAP has supported a BMF workshop AGM
5. This was the first time that a representative of the Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability, Bangkok, has provided financial support to DPA as the NGO Focal Point of the BMF in Vanuatu
6. This was the first time that a Secretary General of a Province has attended a DPA workshop & AGM
7. This is the first time that a Lord Mayor of Municipality has hosted dinner for Delegates to the AGM
8. This is the first time that representatives of the Ministry of Education has attended a BMF Workshop and AGM
9. This is the first time that representative to the AGM were nominated as Delegates of their respective Provinces



HE Head of State & Patron of DPA arrives to open 1st BMF Training Workshop and AGM in Luganville



Luganville Lord Mayor Paul Hakwa (in tie) looks on as Mr Akiie Ninomiya greets HE Head of State & Mrs Kelekele

The 2005 Annual General Meeting was also supported by DPA through its fundraising efforts in Port Vila and Luganville. The AGM Organizing Committee in Luganville is acknowledge for raising awareness of the rights of people with disability through their huge effort in staging a successful AGM.

3.2 2005-2006 Coordinating Committee Members

The Coordinating Committee is elected by the Annual General Meeting every two years. Section 10(b) of DPA's constitution (as amended in 2002) states that

The Coordinating Committee shall consists of seven members including the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, one parent/caregivers representative, and two members at large. 51 percent of the Coordinating Committee members shall be persons with disability.

Section 10(c) of the constitution requires that the positions of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary be reserved for members who reside where the headquarters of DPA is located. The position of Vice-Chair shall be reserved for a member from a provinces other than where the DPA headquarters is located which in this case is located in Port Vila. We are pleased to report that all these obligation have been fulfilled.

Photos from the 2005 Annual General Meeting



Daphne Naliupis very glad to meet Head of State



Delegates raise awareness in Luganville



Delegates from MALAMPA, TORBA and SANMA



John Wotleng, Leisel Sope, Leitangi Solomon & Joshua Joshua



Edgar Howard, Delegate from TORBA



Head of State receives gifts from DPA Presented by Isaac and Doriana, SANMA Delegates

The 2005-2006 Coordinating Committee are:

Mr John Suran	Chair	Port Vila, SHEFA Province
Ms Nelly Caleb	Vice-Chair	Luganville, SANMA Province
Ms Leitangi Solomon	Treasurer	Port Vila, SHEFA Province
Mr Roger Whitley	Secretary	Port Vila, SHEFA Province
Mrs Doraina Naliupis	Parent/Caregiver representative	Luganville, SANMA Province
Ms Leisel Sope	Member at large	Port Vila, SHEFA Province
Mr John Wotleleng	Member at large	Mota Lava, TORBA Province

3.3 Endorsement of “Our Vision 2005-2007”

The Annual General Meeting endorsed the document called “Our Vision 2005-2007”. This is the first time that DPA has produced its 3 Year Plan for the AGM to endorse.

3.4 Endorsement of the Santo Statement

The Annual General Meeting endorsed the Santo Statement calling for

more access to an inclusive education;
more assistance to hospitals to provide prosthetics
more support to self-help organizations

3.5 Activities Carried out by Coordinating Committee Members

Section 10(a) of the DPA constitution states that the Coordinating Committee is

“... responsible for looking after the affairs of the association between Annual General Meetings. It shall meet at least four times per year...”

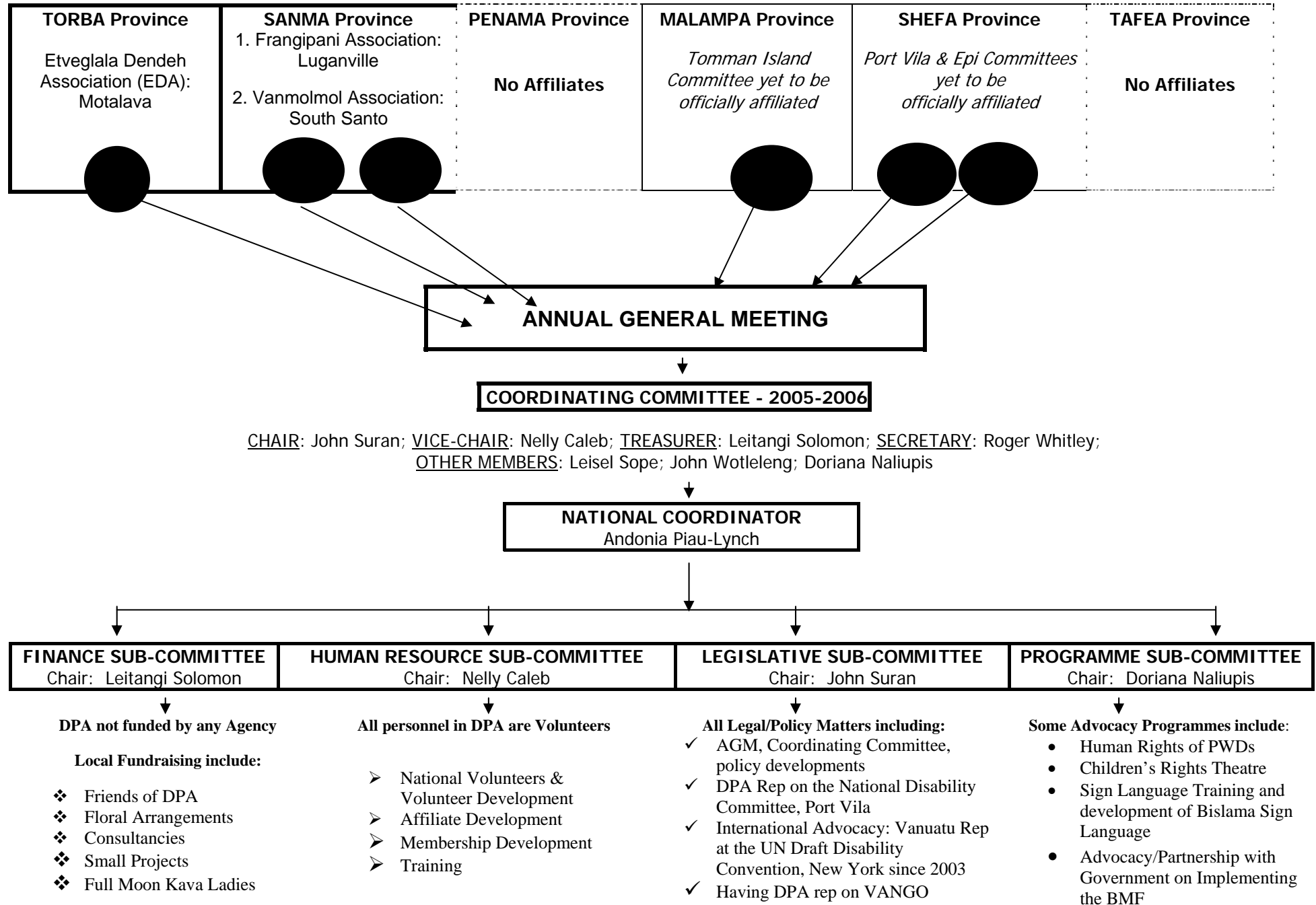
Due to financial constraints the Coordinating Committee only met twice, once in Luganville and once in Port Vila. A third meeting is scheduled to take place just prior to the 2006 Annual General Meeting to be held in Motalava. While many decisions affecting the operations of the organization were made, there were other policy decisions reflecting the need to amend DPA’s constitution and membership obligations due to changes in the last year. It was agreed that the Coordinating Committee members review the constitution and submit amendments for endorsement at the AGM.

Other legal decisions and organizational obligations made by the Coordinating Committee in 2005 were:

1. Review the DPA constitution
2. Approval of the Etveglala Dendeh Association (EDA), Frangipani Association and the Vanmolmol Association as Affiliates of DPA
3. DPA to look for core funding for its programmes
4. Approval of VT 2,500 as Affiliation fee
5. Approval that Affiliates and Members seek financial support from Provincial Governments to send 2 delegates from their Province to attend meetings the Annual General Meeting
6. Approval of Chair, Treasurer and National Coordinator as signatories to the DPA bank account
7. Approval that DPA investigate avenues for a Reserve Fund to be instituted at the National Bank in 2006
8. Approval that membership fees be increased to VT 500 per year.

Following the approval of the three Affiliates, DPA is now moving toward fulfilling section 3(f) of the constitution. While only three Affiliates were approved in 2005, several other community based organizations (CBOs) will be submitting their nominations in 2006 to become Affiliates of DPA. These include the CBOs on Epi, Tomman Island on Malekula and Port Vila. With these developments, the organizational structure of DPA has changed since the beginning of 2005. Figure 1 is provided to help visualize the structure of the organization.

Fig. 1 Organizational Structure of DPA as at 31st December 2005



3.6 DPA Develops Policies for the Organization

In view of the changes taking place within the organization including the increase in the number of volunteers and Affiliates, the Secretariat prepared seven policies in December.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Policy on Non-Discrimination | 2. Policy on Equal Opportunity |
| 3. Policy on Equity | 4. Policy on Sexual Harassment |
| 5. Policy on Volunteers | 6. Policy on Loans |
| 7. Policy on Consultancies | |

PART 4 ADMINISTRATION & HUMAN RESOURCES

4.1 VOLUNTEERS OF DPA

The human resource of DPA consist of 14 committed volunteers throughout Vanuatu. In 2005 the volunteers of DPA were located in the following areas:

DPA Secretariat	:	3 Volunteers (National Coordinator; Local Fundraiser; Resource Assistant)
EDA	:	3 Volunteers (Advocates)
Frangipani Association	:	5 Volunteers (Advocates)
Nasivung Association	:	1 Volunteer (Advocate)
Vanmolmol Association	:	2 Volunteers (Advocates)

While Coordinating Committee Members also advocate, they are not considered as volunteers. Their advocacy is considered as part of their responsibility. John Suran, Chair of DPA must be acknowledged for his ceaseless energy, support and direction that he has provided to all the volunteers throughout the country and to the organization itself.

4.2 TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

As part of DPA's capacity building programme, members are sent each year for training both within in Vanuatu and overseas. In 2005 all trainings for DPA members were provided in Vanuatu and one in Bangkok in ICT by DPI-AP.

i. Training to be Self-Advocates

While members of DPA have been successfully advocating for their rights to the community at large, DPA also recognizes the importance that they too be provided training on how to be self-advocates. One significant venue through which their capacity as rights advocates can be developed has been through workshops and training. In 2005 one of the most significant training was the 1st National Training and Awareness on the Biwako Millennium Framework that was conducted as part of the pre-2005 Annual General Meeting activities.

Funded by JICA / Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability, and facilitated by Akiie Ninomiya, Special Adviser on Disability with support from Alistair Wilkinson, UN ESCAP Social Development Adviser, the workshop provided training to approximately 60 people with disability, caregivers, representatives from community based organizations, national, provincial and municipal officials who attended the 4-day programme. Using a very culturally appropriate metaphor, Akiie Ninomiya encouraged participants as a way to move forward to a socially just society with the following words:

“Just as a canoe has a hull and outriggers, so there are males and females, those with and without disabilities. Both parts are needed to create a society that is balanced”

Topics and activities covered during this training include the following:

- From Global to Local: Disability and the United Nation; Government; Service Providers; Advocacy Groups; Regional Coordination
- Awareness March
- Human Rights and Disability: Human Rights and Custom; Vanuatu Constitution; UN Conventions, Treaties, Declarations; the Draft UN Disability Convention.



- Roles of Regional Organizations and Actions toward Promoting Rights: Roles of ESCAP; the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and its progress toward implementation the 7 Priority Areas; preparation in Vanuatu for the Mid-Term Review of the BMF in 2007.

Photo shows some members of DPA with Distinguished Guests at the 1st BMF Awareness & Training Workshop in Luganville

ii. Training on How to Implement “Our Vision 2005-2007”

In order for members to become self-advocates and support the aims of DPA, specific training on DPA’s three-year plan was provided to members from 26-28 of July. This was through DPA’s 1st Strategic Planning meeting supported by VANGO, PWD Australia and Pacific Skills Link. 19 participants from Motalava, Luganville, South Santo, Port Vila and Blacksands attended this meeting to identify strategies to implement DPA’s Vision for 2005-2007.

“Our Vision 2005-2007” is the document that was endorsed by the Annual General Meeting in April 2005 and highlights the priority areas for action that DPA wants to engage in over the next three years. A Project Proposal Writing segment was included in the Strategic Planning workshop which provided members opportunities to identify which of the actions were priorities for their communities and how would they achieve their aims.

This training is also the first that PWD Australia has participated and highlights the partnership that DPA is building both inside Vanuatu and overseas. Photo below shows both partners and participants at the training.



(Photo by Damien Griffis, PWD Australia)

Standing on the left toward the whiteboard: Helen Naupa (PSL); Nelly Caleb (DPA); These Sands (PWD Australia), Ure Mesa (DPA) and Henry Vira (VANGO).

iii. How to Write Project Proposals

In 2005, two training courses on how to write project proposals were provided to members of DPA:

i) 19 members of DPA attended a Project Proposal Writing course provided by VANGO as part of the Strategic Planning Workshop. As a result four project proposals were prepared by participants by the EDA Association, Frangipani Association, Vanmolmol Association and the Port Vila Group. DPA Secretariat subsequently submitted to AusAID under Rights Small Grant Scheme.

With great regret DPA was informed that the scheme was not operating but at the same time that they could not consider the application because DPA has not had the track record of managing funds.

ii) 2 Members attended the Project Proposal Training course run by VANGO at Dumbea Hall.

iv. Sign Language Training Project

Since February 2004 DPA has been looking at providing sign language training for its members. This is further articulated in item 6.9 of "Our Vision" that we will work with Government to ensure that sign language as an alternative form of communication is available to members who are deaf and to be part of curriculum of institutions such as the Vanuatu Teachers College.

As a start to our sign language programme, DPA made arrangements in November with a New Zealand volunteer to assist in the development of DPA's Sign Language Programme. One of the aims of this programme is to have a Bislama Sign Language kit available. In 2006 it is expected that a member of DPA will receive full-time training in New Zealand Sign Language and be DPA's Sign Language Trainer.

v. Board Management Training

In March and April 2005, five members of DPA in Port Vila and Santo took part in a 2 three-day workshops conducted by the Vanuatu Association of Non Government Organizations (VANGO). The purpose of the NGO Board Management Training Workshop were to look at the governance structures of NGOs and to strengthen the management and operations of NGOs and other community level organizations. VANGO had identified that there was a need for Board Members of NGOs and CBOs to be better informed of their roles and responsibilities, particularly in respect of transparency, openness and accountability. With the training, Board Members are expected to be well informed about their legal and administrative responsibilities. This is important particularly since DPA has three Affiliates who need this type of training. As a result of these training a booklet called *NGO Governance: Roles and Responsibilities*¹ was published containing the following information:

What is an NGO? What is Governance? NGO Board Responsibilities; Roles of NGO Board Members; Legal Responsibilities; Keeping the Board Strong; Board Manual and Orientation

For the purpose of helping DPA members understand the roles and responsibilities of the people they elect to the Coordinating Committee of DPA or what their role is if they are on the Board of their own organization or another NGO, two sections of this document are provided here to assist them.

¹ Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO). (2005). *NGO Governance: Roles & Responsibilities*. VANGO: Port Vila. Copies of this document can be obtained by contacting VANGO at PMB 096, Port Vila, Vanuatu or Telephone (678) 26034 or emailing them on vangov@vanuatu.com.vu.

A. NGO Board Responsibilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Determine the organization’s mission and purpose ii. Select the Executive Director of the organization iii. Support the Executive Director and review his/her performance iv. Strategic planning for the organization v. Ensure adequate financial resources vi. Manage financial resources effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vii. Determine, monitor and strengthen the organization’s programmes and services viii. Enhance the organization’s public image ix. Ensure the legal and ethical integrity of the organization and maintain accountability x. Recruit and orient new Board members and assess Board performance xi. Review performance of the Executive Director
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B. Roles of NGO Board Members

Board Member	Roles and Responsibilities
Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presides over Board meetings and other meetings (such as the Annual General Meeting) • Has a casting vote in Board decisions • Provides leadership to the organization • Public spokesperson for the organization • Signs official documents • Signatory on bank account • Ensures the successful functioning of the Board • Responsible for Board development
Vice-chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists Chair with his/her duties • Presides over Board meetings when the Chair is absent • Often becomes the next Chair of the organization • Usually given full power of Chair when Chair is unable to act • Often responsible for identifying new Board members
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranges venue, date and time for meetings • Keeps record of meetings (minutes) • Ensures that the Annual Report is prepared in time for the AGM
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for financial reports • Responsible for overseeing budget • Organizes fundraising • Often signatory on bank accounts

Source: VANGO (2005)

vi. DPA Assists with Review of NZAID Pacific Disability Programme

For the first time in DPA’s history the organization was called to assist in reviewing the NZAID Pacific Disability Programme. Contracted by the Daniel Stubbs Consulting, DPA was able to bring together representatives from the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People, vandisports, NGOs and members of DPA to review the programme carried out in Vanuatu by Inclusion International. Participants were able to hear from the representative of VSDP of the importance of the disability study undertaken in the TAFEA Province.

The meeting saw that the TAFEA study was important as it

- i. Provided training to VSDP staff in conducting a survey and upgrading their skills
- ii. Provided an opportunity for VSDP staff to identify more people with disability
- iii. Provided an opportunity to identify the needs in the disability sector in TAFEA as provided below.

The needs identified in the TAFEA survey and discussed during the meeting shows that DPA is at least moving toward addressing some of the needs. These needs are provided below in Table 2. Of the 25 needs, sign language is the No. 5 priority identified. DPA has already reported on its Sign Language Training Project above.

Table 2 Unmet Needs identified through the TAFEA Disability Survey

Category	Need	Total	
Treatment	Doctor/Nurse	78	
	Fieldworker	155	
	Physiotherapist	6	
	Eye Test	28	
	Hearing test	75	
	Medicine	14	
	Local Massage	10	
	Speech Language Therapy	13	
	Aides and Devices	Wheelchair	35
		Hearing Aide	10
Glasses		22	
Orthotics		5	
Prosthetic – Arm		1	
Prosthetic – Leg		3	
White cane		4	
Communication	Language Development	11	
	<i>Sign Language</i>	59	
Education	Primary School	36	
	Secondary School	3	
	Tertiary Education	1	
	Rural Development	19	
	Classroom Support	60	
Job/Work	Job Training	14	
Community Support	Home Support	7	
	Parent Group Support	3	
	TOTAL	672	

A report of the review sent to the Daniel Stubbs Consulting provided a number of recommendations which have been incorporated in their report which was finalized in November 2005. This report is available in the DPA Secretariat.

One important and positive point that DPA wishes to point out is the inclusion of people with disability, caregivers, staff and volunteers who all worked together to provide input into this review. This has provided skills in how to analyze organizational objectives and measure it against what the organization does. It should stand in good stead for members when they review DPA's Vision 2005-2007 as well as the Mid-Term Review of the BMF.

vii. DPA builds links with ESCAP and other Organizations but says *Au Revoir* to Alastair Wilkinson

2005 saw an end of DPA's close working relationship with Alastair Wilkinson, of UN ESCAP who has been a Friend of DPA and a great supporter in the disability field in both Vanuatu and in the Pacific. He and Fiona have left for Fiji where the ESCAP office will be based. This is one partnership that DPA has been fortunate to have built.



Seated from right to left: Hon Minister Isabelle Donald, John Suran, Alastair Wilkinson, Mary Oliver, NZ Deputy High Commission



Hon Minister Isabelle Donald presents the Vanuatu flag to Alastair Wilkinson as a token of appreciation of the work done in Vanuatu as John Suran, ESCAP representative and Greg Nimbtik look on.

Alastair’s contribution to the disability sector in Vanuatu and in particular his support for DPA has been tremendous. Prior to his departure, Alastair wrote a report commissioned by DPA through the Foreign Affairs on the status of people with disability and service providers in Vanuatu. The recommendations contained in his report have seen an increased attention to the disability sector, the 1st BMF Awareness Training for Senior Government Officials and the establishment of the National Disability Committee. *Thank you, Alastair. Au Revoir & Good Luck!*

A list of organizations that DPA has been fortunate to know and build linkages over the years is provide below.

Other local partnerships that DPA has built quite successfully over the years has been the moral support from Friends of DPA. Through the Friends of DPA we have been able to raise funds and be supported through initiatives like the Sign Language Training Project with the Full Moon Ladies. The BMF Translation Project is being undertaken by another Friend of DPA, Dr Robert Early.



DPA members & Friends with Geordie & Votausi Mackenzie-Reur of Fibre Glass Vanuatu

In July 2005, the Mackenzie-Reur family who have been Friends of DPA since 1998 have come to support. This generous support is the donation of a water tank, a gift which the Secretariat in turn has donated to the EDA Association of Motalava.

Thank you, Friends!

Building and Strengthening Linkages with Government and NGOs

ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION	ADVOCACY AREAS	DATE STARTED
1. Government of Vanuatu		
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Signing / ratification of regional & international Declarations, Treaties and Conventions	1999
	i. Signing of the Proclamation	April 1999
	ii. Ratification of the Land Mine Treaty	June 2005
Office of the Prime Minister	i. National recognition of rights of pwds	
	ii. Vanuatu to get disability issues on the Forum Agenda	August 2001
	iii. Vanuatu to lead Forum to endorse BMF	August 2003
	iv. Appointment of John Suran as Vanuatu representative observer on the UN Ad Hoc Committee on the Draft Disability Convention	August 2003
	v. Establish Disability Portfolio	Sept 2004
Department of Strategic Management	i. Implementation of the BMF	2003
	ii. Disability Desk	
	iii. Development of the National Disability Policy Paper	April 2004
Department of Physical Planning	Universal Access	1999
Department of Economic & Sectoral Planning	Inclusion of disability information in the Vanuatu report on the MDG	2005
Ministry of Public Utilities	Submission for review of Building Code and implementation of universal access in the Building Code	2004
National Statistics Office	Collection of statistics on people with disability	1999
Department of Education	Information on children with disabilities	2003
Department of Women's Affairs	Promotion of women with disabilities	2003
SHEFA Provincial Government	Promotion of people with disability in SHEFA Province	2003
SANMA Provincial Government	Promotion of people with disability in SANMA Province	2004
2. ESCAP	Promotion of the Biwako Millennium Framework; reports, meetings and operational support on disability	2002
3. VSDP	Promotion of people with disability	1999
4. Media Association of Vanuatu	Membership & promotion of people with disability in the media	1999
5. vandisports	Promotion of sports for people with disability	1999
6. DPI Oceania	Membership at a sub-regional level	2001
7. DPI Asia Pacific	Membership at a regional level	2002
8. DPI	International Membership	2002
9. PWD (Australia)	Partnership with disability organization	2002
10. VANGO	Inclusion of people with disability in NGOs	1999
11. SHEFA Island Council of Women	Inclusion of women in mainstream Provincial NGOs	2003
12. VASANOC	Promotion of sports for people with disability	2003
13. Inclusion International	National Disability Identification Survey	2003
14. Campaign Against Land Mines (NZ)	Supporting international campaign against land mines and ratification of the Land Mine Convention in Vanuatu	2003
15. Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability (APDC)	Signed agreement with APDC that DPA is the NGO Focal Point for the BMF in Vanuatu	2004
16. International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP)	CEDAW Rights of women with disability	2004
17. Regional Rights Resource Team	Rights awareness/training	2005
18. Habitat for Humanity Vanuatu	Home Ownership Programme for people with disability	2005

PART 5 INFORMATION & PUBLICITY

DPA has used a number of ways in which it disseminates information about what it does and why. For its members, we have produced Annual Reports since 1999. Reports are also produced, such as the DPA Strategic Planning Workshop, the Review of the NZAID Pacific Disability Project Review, the Forum Regional Disability Workshop and the AGM are provided to funders, all of which are available at the DPA Secretariat. Articles are also provided to the print and broadcast media about different issues. One such example is the response by the National Coordinator to the weekly column of *Sisters Toktok* on the definition of advocacy (*Vanuatu Daily Post*, 21 July 2005, p. 7) where we took the opportunity to advocate for rights of women with disability. Part of the article is included in this year's report below.

"I was particularly interested in the article on "What is Advocacy" in the latest issue of Sisters Toktok. The article was concise and was able to define advocacy in a clear and friendly matter which I am sure many readers would have appreciated. As this column focuses on women's rights, I would like to inform you that DPA is probably one of the few registered NGOs that advocates for a particular group that is often forgotten by mainstream women's organization: women with disability. Our purpose for advocating for rights of women with disability is that women with disability are no less women just because they have a disability.

They are human being, they feel pain just as all human beings feel pain; they have aspirations just as everyone else have aspirations; they experience the same desire to be mothers just the same as all women; they contribute to the laughter in the household just like every other members; they have a right to life just like every one else and they have a right to be recognized as valuable members of the family, the community, the nation and the world.

Advocating for rights of women with disability is not a task that is the sole responsibility of DPA: it is a task that must be recognized and must be promoted by all women and men. While women in general bear the responsibility for educating their children, caring for their families and ensuring that their family have food on the table, women with disability are tasked with an extra burden: they also suffer from disability.

To advocate for rights of women, it must be a responsibility for all of us who are human rights advocates to also remember women with disability. To this end, DPA has been working on advocating for rights of women



(L-R) ANDY PIAU-LYNCH, NADINE ALATOA & ELIZABETH MORTLAND

with disability through the Biwako Millennium Framework. This document is a 7-point action plan for Governments during the Decade of Persons with Disability 2003-2012. Of importance has been the recognition by UN ESCAP to place Women with Disability as Priority No. 2.

The Government of Vanuatu has also recognized the importance of women with disability and prioritized this as No. 3 in the National Disability Policy directive.

Within these policy framework, there are a number of actions that must be taken during the Decade to make sure that the targets do not just appear on paper, but they become a living reality to be embraced by all women. One of the three targets for action under Priority 2 is that "Women with disabilities should, by 2005, be included in the membership on national mainstream women's association".

Since 1999 DPA has advocated for gender equality as a policy of the organization. Since that time, the Coordinating Committee has had 4 out of 7 members who are women with disability. The 2005-2006 members comprise of four women: one who is deaf, one who uses a wheel chair, one who has 50 percent vision and one caregiver. This latter member is in recognition of the fact that parents and caregivers – most of whom are women – also require our support.

I would like to invite all mainstream women's association to help DPA to advocate for rights of women with disability and create a change that is not in the sky but is practical and grounded in the experience of women and girls with disability and caregivers in their day-to-day life. Could I perhaps be bold enough to invite not only mainstream women's organizations but all women's organizations to achieve this target by Christmas 2005?

We will be very pleased if *Sisters Toktok* could publish this article. And to let your readers know that DPA stands ready to talk to any women's groups who would like to support us to advocate for women and girls with disability."

- Andonia Piau-Lynch

Since 2000 DPA has produced an internal newsletter called *A NOTE TO OUR FRIENDS*. This is a quarterly newsletter for members and particularly for Friends of DPA as a means of keeping them in touch with what is happening. In 2005 four issues of *A NOTE TO OUR FRIENDS* was produced. The following is an example of the type of information as provided in Issue No. 13 of 2005, p. 2.

Tom Kalmet Participate in Queen's Baton Relay

As an organization advocating for rights *and promoting abilities of people with disabilities*, DPA congratulates all those who took part in the Queen's Baton Relay which hit Vanuatu in October. One DPA member, Tom Kalmet Tete, represented sportsmen and women with disabilities. He was assisted by Mary Estelle Kapalu Mahuk Sports Development Officer at VASANOC. Tom will be participating in the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in March 2006. DPA wishes Tom every success in this venture!



Tom Kalmet Tete is seated in the in centre back row
(Photo by Theresa Sands, PWD Australia)

BMF AWARENESS & TRAINING SUPPORTS DRAFTING OF DISABILITY ACT

On 2 November 2005 a BMF Training & Awareness Workshop was held at the Government Training Centre for senior Government officials. This workshop was organized by the Department of Strategic Management (DSM) with support from DPA and ESCAP to help officials to become more aware of the issues currently revolving around disability issues. The following topics were presented by representatives from the three agencies:

Gregoire Nimbtik, Acting Director of DSM:
Government Policies and Disability

John Suran, Chair of DPA: UN Draft Disability
Convention

Alastair Wilkinson, Social Development Advisor,
ESCAP: Background to BMF, UN Draft Disability
Convention and related issues

Andonia Piau-Lynch, National Coordinator, DPA:
Relationship between the Vanuatu National Disability
Policy and the BMF

One of the outcomes of the Workshop was the agreement of a working group to begin work on the drafting of the National Disability Act. A Council of Ministers paper has been developed by the Department of Strategic Management and is now before the Council for approval. Once approved the Working Group to be comprised of both Government and NGO representatives will be required to have a Draft Act to be ready for the first Parliament sitting in March 2006.

For an historical revisit, DPA asked Government in 1999 for Parliament to pass a Disability Act. At that time, Clement Leo, Minister for Health fully supported DPA and publicly announced in the newspapers that an Act will be drafted. With the backing of the State Law Office, moves were made to draft the Act but was stopped by DPA because members had not been consulted.

An attempt in the 2001 Annual General Meeting to discuss the Act saw the Chief Justice, Vincent Lunabek address members on Access to Justice: justice not only to the legal system but justice throughout the whole structure of society.

Brochures of the 7 priority areas of the BMF were developed in 2005 and DPA takes this opportunity to acknowledge the Fiji Disabled Peoples' Association from whom we borrowed the layout for the brochures. Work has already been completed for the production of the 7 Priority Areas as posters when funds are secured in 2006.

PART 6 PLANS FOR 2006 AND BEYOND

DPA will continue to further increase its advocacy work at both national and community levels. We recognized during the year that its advocacy work will be difficult to achieve without strengthening its financial basis. This is more so now with the establishment of community based self-help organizations in rural Vanuatu and therefore it is imperative that financial support be sought to assist their work. At the Secretariat level it is also necessary that this is strengthened.

The overall programme for 2006 – and beyond – has been endorsed by the AGM and Affiliates have their own plan of action as identified during the Strategic Planning Workshop on how to implement “Our Vision 2005-2007”. The following general plans have been identified for the next year.

Identified Needs	What is Required to Meet the Identified Needs	Who can support this requirement	Expected Duration for Achievement of Goal
Strengthening the Organizational Capacity of the Secretariat	1. Core financial support 2. Permanent Office 3. Additional Staff 4. Improve monitoring of work	- Government; Donors; - Provinces - DPA Secretariat & Affiliates	- 2006 - Ongoing - September 2006 - July 2006
Strengthening the Organizational and Programming Capacity of Affiliates	1. Rights Training 2. Training in Financial Record keeping 3. Financial support 4. Organizational development	- RRRT; DPA - Secretariat; Affiliates; - Secretariat; Affiliates; Government VANGO; DSM; Donors	- August 2006 - Ongoing - 2006 - Ongoing
Strengthening Partnership with Government	Continued development of partnership; Participation in the National Disability Committee	DPA; Government	Ongoing
Building partnership with Provincial Governments and Local communities	Establish partnership with various bodies	Secretariat/Affiliates/ National & Provincial Governments	Ongoing
Strengthen Linkages with Existing Partners	Continue dialogue, share information	Secretariat/Affiliates/ Members/ National & Provincial Governments/ NGOs, Donors	Ongoing
Advocacy, Awareness & Training on the 7 Priority Areas of the BMF	Training workshop for affiliates and community at large	Secretariat/Affiliates/ Donors	Ongoing
Prepare reports for the Mid-Term Review of the BMF, CEDAW	1. Identify appropriate personnel and tools for the job 2. Financial Support for participants to review	Secretariat/Affiliates/ Donors	December 2006 – March 2006
Review the Implementation of “Our Vision 2005-2007”	Financial support for participants to review	Secretariat/Affiliates/ Donors	March 2007
Production of appropriate IEC materials	Printing of Bislama translation and posters on the 7 Priority Areas of the BMF	Donors DPA	2006

PART 7 FINANCIAL STATUS

At the 1st Coordinating Committee Meeting of 2005 the Committee moved that DPA begins to look for core funding for the organization. This decision was made in the light that DPA had now successfully fulfilled its decision of 1999 that the organization work without core funding for five years believing in the ability of members to advocate using their own natural skills and abilities. Despite this directive, it is regretful that DPA was not able to secure funding core in 2005. This will remain one of the principle activity in the coming year.

Raising funds for the various programmes for the organization remains very much at a local level. These have been through some interesting activities such as the provision of floral arrangements to public figures such as the Head of State, Minister for CRP and the Department of Women's Affairs.



Example of a floral arrangement made for His Excellency, the Head of State



Example of a floral arrangement made for the Minister of CRP, the Hon Isabelle Donald

DPA needs to go beyond this if it is to support the now increasing programmes carried out by affiliates at the community level. In 2005 we have continued to lobby the national government for the inclusion of disability in the national budget. We are pleased to report that the Department of Strategic Management has succeeded for the first time to include disability in its budget. How this will be used to support disability organizations remains to be seen in 2006.

As the focal point for the BMF in Vanuatu, DPA acknowledges the support received from JICA / Asian Development Centre on Disability for the 1st BMF national training and awareness workshop. Funds for other workshop and trainings were provided through project proposals to VANGO, NZAID and PWD Australia.

One major development in 2005 was the realization that DPA as an organization and individual members have skills that can be used to provide income to the organization. One such example is the income obtained through the consultancy fee for the NZAID review of the pacific disability programme. This is one area that DPA can further investigate in future. Another major development in building the capacity of members and affiliates in their roles as advocates has been the training provided in writing project proposals. It is pleasing to report that to the credit to those who attended the trainings provided by VANGO, three project proposals were submitted to the Secretariat for funding. Unfortunately the proposal submitted to a potential funder was unsuccessful. The lesson learned in this exercise is that DPA must seek core funding to show funders that it can manage its finances. Searching for funding for programmes developed by Affiliates and training in financial accountability will be one area that DPA will be directing its resources in 2006.

Summary of DPA's Financial Status

DPA continued to work without successfully finding core funding. In 2005 DPA was able to raise VT 2,048,696 and spent VT 1,706,040. The balance in the bank on 31 December was VT 342,656. Of this amount, VT 280,000 was unspent fund from the New Zealand High Commissioner for the translation of the BMF into Bislama. A summary of the income and expenditure sheet and our approximation of the value of In-Kind contribution is provided below.

2005 STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOME

	Vatu	
Balance brought forward from 2004	6,600	
Membership fees	3,900	
Friends of DPA	42,500	
<i>Designated Funds</i>		
JICA/APDC for 1st National BMF Workshop	381,370	
DPI-Asia Pacific for ICT Workshop, Bangkok	176,436	
NZAID for Bislama Translation of the BMF Project	280,000	
VANGO for DPA Strategic Planning Workshop	152,500	
Loan	580,000	<i>Note 1</i>
Local Fundraising	177,527	
Consultancy Fee for Review of NZAID Pacific Disability Programme	141,042	
Donations from PWD Australia	106,821	
TOTAL	2,048,696	

EXPENDITURE

<i>Designated Funds</i>		
JICA/APDC	381,370	
DPI-Asia Pacific	176,436	
NZAID	0	<i>Note 2</i>
VANGO	152,500	
Rent	12,000	
<i>Affiliation Fees</i>		
DPI-Asia Pacific	6,572	
VANGO	2,000	
Library Association of Vanuatu	2,000	
Meetings & Trainings	142,250	
2005 Annual General Meeting	585,634	
Loan Repayment	200,000	
Fundraising	38,748	
Bank Charges	6,530	
TOTAL	1,706,040	

Balance as at 31 December 2005	342,656
Available Cash in Bank	62,656

Note 1: Loan for funds for the 2005 Annual General Meeting

Note 2: Fund unspent in 2005 as Project is not yet completed

As per directive of the Coordinating Committee in 2005, the name of the DPA Cheque Account at ANZ Bank has been changed from 'Disabled People's Association' to '**Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association (DPA)**'.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION

Valuing Contribution from Volunteers

For many years DPA has acknowledged the invaluable contribution from volunteers. However, it has not been able to provide this value in terms of money in order that their volunteer contribution can be appreciated. In 2005 the volunteers have increased and their work has been more coordinated. In addition, through their Affiliation to DPA, we are now able to calculate the number of volunteers and provide some monetary value to the considerable contribution made by volunteers in 2005 as highlighted below. What is provided below is what DPA would have had to fork out if they were not so generously provided by these kind people.

Volunteers	5,360,000	
Luganville Municipal Council (Opening Dinner for Workshop & AGM)	50,000	
Leung Man San (AGM Closing Dinner)	50,000	
JICA / APDC (Workshop Closing Dinner)	25,000	
SANMA Provincial Government	60,000	<i>Note 1</i>
Northern District Hospital	100,000	<i>Note 2</i>
Christian Mission Church	50,000	<i>Note 3</i>
Department of Women's Affairs	30,000	<i>Note 4</i>
Santo Hardware	5,000	
VMF Santo	40,000	<i>Note 5</i>
SANMA Women's Resource Centre	25,000	
Market Women of SANMA	50,000	<i>Note 6</i>
Frangipani Association	30,000	
Vanuatu Copra Marketing Board	30,000	<i>Note 7</i>
VANGO	10,000	
UN ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre	30,000	<i>Note 8</i>
Vanuatu Society for Disabled People	36,000	<i>Note 9</i>
Mackenzie-Reur Family	38,000	<i>Note 10</i>
Lynch Family	300,000	<i>Note 11</i>
Windsor Tom (Gift of canoe on behalf of DPA to Akiie Ninomiya, APDC)	8,000	
Unity Airlines	50,000	<i>Note 12</i>
Total	6,377,000	

NOTES

Note 1 Building of ramps, logistics for visit of Head of State; transportation

Note 2 Full-time nurse for 5 days; use of mini-van for 10 days

Note 3 Lunch for Delegates

Note 4 Use of photocopy to print DPA's newsletter, Port Vila, support in Santo

Note 5 Provision of security during 1st BMF Workshop & AGM

Note 6 Donation of food for delegates during Workshop & AGM

Note 7 Free use of tables, chairs, tablecloths for Workshop & AGM

Note 8 Photocopying of DPA'S newsletter

Note 9 Rent-free office space for 9 months

Note 10 Donation of 1 fibre glass water tank

Note 11 Donation of office furniture and equipment auctioned by ESCAP POC including 3 desks, 3 computers and 3 book stands, all telephone and email access, oasis, paper, ink cartridges, colour photocopying of posters.

NOTE 12 Discount on charter for SHEFA Delegates to Santo for the Annual General Meeting

PART 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DPA is indebted to many individuals and organizations who have supported us over the past 12 months. In particular, we take this opportunity to thank all our adult volunteers and the Frangipani Children who have been true ambassadors of DPA and Vanuatu! Thank you and Well Done!

Unlike previous reports, the 2005 one will not be highlighting many of the individuals who have supported us during the year because there have been very many of you! Thank You! We are sure that you know what support you have given and that we are deeply grateful for these support. For many of you, and particularly Friends of DPA, we hope that you have had an opportunity to see our acknowledgments in DPA's newsletter "A NOTE TO OUR FRIENDS...".

✚ DPA would like to thank HE Kalkot Matas Kelekele, Head of State & Patron of DPA for the tremendous support given - from the Parliament of Vanuatu to the grassroots of Vanuatu. We also acknowledge the support from the First Lady Mrs Hanson Matas Kelekele who graced us with her presence at our various gatherings in 2005.

✚ DPA also takes this opportunity to thank the Honourable Isabelle Donald, Minister for CRP, Women, Children and People with Disability whose support has seen the disability agenda discussed in Parliament and now in the process of being institutionalized or mainstreamed in Government through the establishment of a National Disability Committee.

GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU

- Office of the Prime Minister
- Ministry of Comprehensive Reform Program
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health
- SANMA Provincial Government
- Department of Labour
- Department of Strategic Management
- Department of Women's Affairs
- Luganville Municipal Council
- Members of the
- Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF) Santo
- Vanuatu Broadcasting & Television Corporation, FM Radio, Port Vila
- Vanuatu Copra Marketing Board

DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS / OFFICE

- New Zealand High Commission, Port Vila
- Goodwill Ambassador Remmy Maradona, New York

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- UN ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, Port Vila, Vanuatu
- JICA / Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disability, Bangkok, Thailand
- Forum Secretariat, Nadi, Fiji
- University of the South Pacific, Emalus Campus, Port Vila and Santo

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NGOs

- VANGO
- International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- CALM (NZ)
- Fiji Disables Peoples Association
- PWD (Australia), Sydney
- RRRT, Nadi, Fiji
- DPI Oceania, Nadi, Fiji
- DPI Asia Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
- Pacific Disability Forum, New Zealand
- Habitat for Humanity Vanuatu
- Nasivung Association, Tomman Island
- Etveglala Dendeh Association, Motalava
- Pacific Skills Link, Port Vila
- Library Association of Vanuatu
- Frangipani Association, Luganville
- VASANOC
- SHEFA Island Council of Women
- Vanuatu Society for Disabled People

BUSINESS HOUSES & OTHERS

- Fibre Glass Vanuatu
- Business Houses in Luganville
- Evergreen Limited
- Unity Air
- Full Moon Kava Ladies, Port Vila & Suva
- Friends of DPA
- Lynch Family
- Mackenzie-Reur Family

Map of Vanuatu

