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# Here Are The Women (2017): Kinisimere Ceyaqalo (/index.php/en/actions/here-are-the-women/506-here-are-the-women-2017-kinisimere-ceyaqalo)



By Sulueti Waqa



“Quite often the lack of income to cater for the need in a home has always resulted in a tension that leads to conflict so, peace for me, is being able to provide a healthy food for my family at an affordable price and as well as living in an environment that is free of violence,” shared Kinisimere Ceyaqalo, broadcaster for FemTALK89FM in Labasa.

A mother of two, she is the second eldest of six siblings and she hails from Namukalau Island, Dogotuki in the province of Macuata. According to Ceyaqalo, growing up in a village setting made an everlasting impression, especially the challenges of life when public services aren’t easily accessible.

“I would like an improvement in infrastructure (so) it is sustainable enough to withstand any weather condition,” she reflected. “Most villagers come to town to sell their produce in order to support their family...the road should be good in order for them to transport their produce.”

Being raised alone by her mother from a very young age, she is familiar with what young women and women need in the community. It was just awareness and passion that she maintains to this day.

Since joining femLINKpacific in 2014 as a volunteer, Ceyaqalo is now a familiar voice as the primary host for the FemTALK89FM weekly broadcasts – more confident in her communication.

“Women learn from each other by listening to each other’s stories,” she shared, reflecting on her role in the community media process. “Community radio is (being that) platform for women to raise their issues and giving voice to the voiceless.”

She goes on to highlight the critical role that femLINKpacific’s Women’s Weather Watch campaign also plays the network’s rural women leaders, including in the Northern Division.

“It has been an important tool of information not only for individuals but also for the communities,” outlined Ceyaqalo. “It has assisted women to prepare in advance and minimise the losses that they face in their families, village and settlements.”

“It has built resilience amongst the women and they have come up with solutions to tackle their problems.”

But Women’s Weather Watch hasn’t been the solution to all the women’s problems – while they are better equipped, more informed and feel connected to each other, there is a continuing need to address the ongoing discrimination faced by women in all their diversities.

“Having more empowerment programmes for women to build their capacity (is still needed),” suggested Ceyaqalo. “Also, more networking with other women’s groups and organisations...it will build a stronger voice to amplify their issues.”

She hopes to see a better future through the investment in women as leaders so that national policy is gender inclusive, leaders should put the people’s interest before their own personal agenda and that there can be 50 percent representation of women in decision making.