

Search...



(<https://www.facebook.com/femlinkpacific>)



(<https://twitter.com/femlinkpacific>)



(<https://www.youtube.com/user/femlinkpac>)



(<https://soundcloud.com/femlinkpacific>)

Here Are The Women (2017): Unaisi Bakewa Sadranu - Inclusion and Accountability Vital

(/index.php/en/actions/here-are-the-women/503-here-are-the-women-2017-unaisi-bakewa-sadranu-inclusion-and-accountability-vital)



By Hannah Hicks



Unaisi Bakewa Sadranu wants to see inclusive representation in decision making spaces –particularly the representation of persons living with disabilities.

“Women need to be recognised in the different roles that they play and there is a need for them to be included in the decision making process at the local and national level,” said the 43 year old Vice President of the Tavua Disabled People’s Association.

While working with 150 members in the disability network, Sadranu is also a member of the Tavua Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei, the Tavua Women’s Methodist Fellowship, the Tavua DISCOM (Disaster Committee) and the Tavua Market Vendors Association.

From a very young age, she would witness how the women in the village would get together especially during their club meetings to share skills like sewing, weaving, making handicrafts, cooking, this was what drove her to join the women’s movement.

Sadranu first got involved with femLINKpacific in 2012 as the organisation extended its community media outreach into Tavua and Rakiraki and, since then, has never looked back.

She believes in the work feels it is a way for women to continue to raise their issues and have their voices heard.

“(I came) in with no knowledge at all (but) from that day onwards, I knew that this was a platform given to us, especially rural women,” she said. “Our monthly network meetings at district level is a time we get together as rural women leaders to continue to address development priority issues and at the same time find recommendations to the issues being addressed.”

“This really motivated me to be part of this (women’s) movement because... at the same time we learn from each other.” This has been a message she has communicated via Women’s Weather Watch, disseminating alerts and advisories to her family and her community which assists in their preparedness.

According to Sadranu, Women’s Weather Watch ensures the information is clear and easy to understand which makes it possible to bridge the information gap.

“Even to our women market vendors, I make sure that they are getting this information too as they are always busy in the market every day,” she explained. “Getting this updated news... I don’t think they are aware about it.”

She is also a strong voice for disability rights when she appears on femLINK’s Radio with Pictures series on Fiji One.

“For me, that’s a great achievement in the work that I do,” Sadranu reflected. “Not only being heard but seen on national television representing not only people living with disabilities in the Tavua district but the country as a whole.”

It is the message of inclusion and accountability that she highlights during Radio With Pictures as well as FemTALK89FM’s other programmes.

“For women with disability, access to information and communication is really needed especially during disasters,” she outlined during the third season of Radio With Pictures produced in 2016. “From experience, communication was not accessible and it was not accurate during the last disaster (TC Winston).”

“And another thing is the awareness. Awareness has to be done not only to the people with disability but to the stakeholders too. The stakeholders too should know how to treat women with disability especially when disaster strikes. Women living with disabilities in rural areas have been left out and some of them have not been visited. (So), if women can be resourced and given the accessibility.”

Inclusive decision making would then ensure, persons, especially with women, living with disabilities, are reflected in national and local budget allocations.

