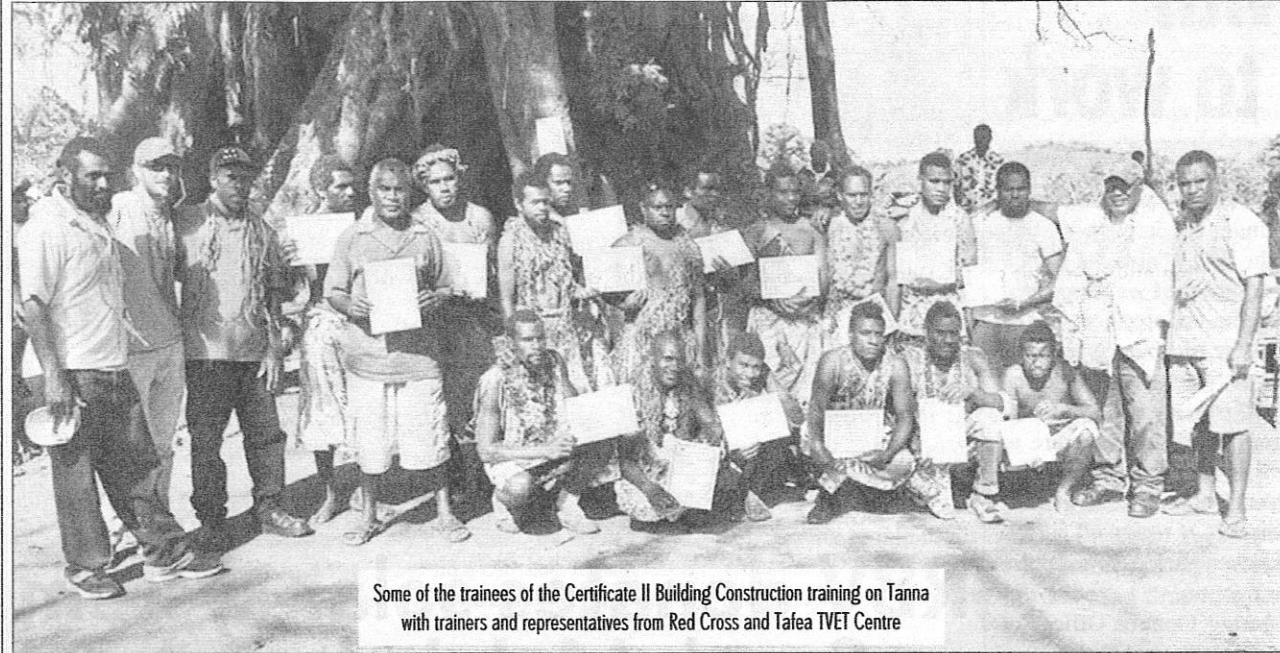


# Increased construction skills in north Tanna



Some of the trainees of the Certificate II Building Construction training on Tanna with trainers and representatives from Red Cross and Tafea TVET Centre

Compiled by Anita Roberts

**PEOPLE IN NORTH TANNA CAN** now design and build their own houses unlike before when they hired builders from other places to do construction work.

There is an increase in people with construction skills

and construction activities in the area. A lot of people there now know how to build a complete house, from start to finish.

They have acquired carpentry skills through skills training, an important need that was identified after cyclone Pam.

Over 40 men from the area have recently graduated with recognized Certificate II in Building Construction.

They successfully completed an eight-week-long training delivered by the Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) under the Vanuatu Skills for Economic Growth Program

(TVET).

This was part of the program's commitment to post-cyclone recovery and reconstruction on Tanna as the worst cyclone hit island.

The training was requested by the French Red Cross.

The participants are to be employed by Red Cross as

builders and maintenance persons for evacuation centres on Tanna.

This is a big achievement for north Tanna, the Chairman of the Community Disaster Committee, Kamil Korisa, said.

"This area lacks qualified builders- all the permanent buildings were built by builders from other places.

"Red Cross and TVET came and gave something very special to the people here after cyclone Pam and that is the skills to build better homes," he said

The Vanuatu Skills for Economic Growth Program Director, Fremden Yanhambath, said this was the first partnership of its kind since the establishment of Tafea Skills Centre bringing together a national training provider, a non-government organization and the provincial government.

The government of Australia is applauded for its continuous support in funding skills development

services through the Tafea Skills Centre.

The certificates which participants received enables direct entry into VIT if they (participants) want to expand their skills in building construction or any other courses, according to the VIT Deputy Principal, Jean Yves Kapalu.

Participants can use it for any entry application into the Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC) for future career, he said.

Sixteen of those participants from 2016 intake are now contracted with the Red Cross to construct classrooms and 5 from this year's intake, are now ready to sign contracts with Red Cross to help build more classrooms.

Two of them have recently started their own construction companies to rebuild schools as part of the reconstruction program.

They are planning to recruit other graduates as employees to their businesses.