

Reduce poverty, raise prosperity

By Anita Roberts

ERADICATING HUNGER AND poverty is the main worry why mothers and women on Malekula wanted to create a sustainable development project that will raise cash income to sustain basic needs and livelihood.

The 2012 International Women's Day on Malekula hosted approximately 300 women who came from communities around the island to display pieces of their distinct and varied artworks.

It was during the occasion that these rural women, who are struggling very hard to meet their family demands as school fees, strongly

decided they ought to own a handicraft centre to commercialize their creations as a means of gaining small vat.

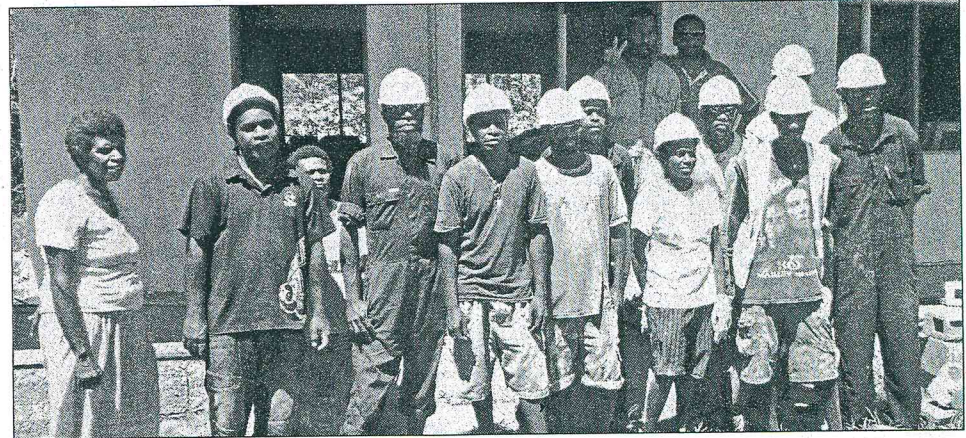
But, the coordinator of the Malampa Provincial Council of Women, Naomi Malau, was recently applauding the close partnership of the Australian Government-funded TVET (Technical and Vocational Education Training) Program with the Malampa Provincial Government, Malampa Department of Women's Affairs and Malampa Rural Training Centres.

That is because the Malekula Women's Handicraft building has taken shape and ready to be use after enduring construction last Friday

on the sweats of the nine trainees of the TVET Centre funded three-weeks building construction training.

While it will reduce the overloading at Lakatoro Market House with combine 'aelan kaikai', vegetables, mats and artefacts, or the practice of selling on sheds besides the roads and at homes, the centre will not be only for women but will be use by whoever possesses skills in making handicrafts, said the Malampa Provincial Planner, Palen Ata.

Considering cruise ships to Wala on Malekula, Daily Post was told the 10m by 8 building located beside the Lakatoro Market House also intends to unify producers



Trainers and trainees that built the women's handicraft at Lakatoro, Malekula with Coordinator of the Malampa Provincial Council of Women, Naomi Malau (far end of left) and Malekula Island Council of Women, Gloria Jeremiah.

from Ambrym and Paama including other provinces.

Mr Ata explained that the idea of creating a handicraft centre was also a resolution of the first Malampa Business and Leaders Forum held in 2011.

"We (provincial government) want the woman to feel the ownership and to manage the development project.

Though it is small, the development sustainability depends on its future man-

agement", said the Malampa Provincial Planner.

The provincial government allocated the land for the development and financially supported by the women's department.

Coordinator Malau confirmed the dedication of the handicraft centre is to be on May 15, 2014, which is the International Women's Day.

While women are looking forward for the launching, all trainees will receive a nationally recognized cer-

tificate from the Vanuatu National Training Council, which means that from now and into the future, they are certified to be used by the public works or be employed in any construction company in the province or anywhere in Vanuatu.

The partnership between the TVET and Malampa RTC aims to enable trainees to gain employment, increase income level and start to develop livelihood projects and development.