

Catholic Women on visit to Port Villa

- Corina Luli, Catholic Women

The Matana Ara women's associations of Kakabona, Tanagai parish have toured Port Vila, Vanuatu on the 16th to 23rd June 2009. The aim of their tour is for the women to have experience in travel, and also to meet and interact with women from other countries in terms of capacity building. Most of the women who traveled are the members of the Catholic Women's Council of the parish.



The cost of the tour was met by the women themselves. It took them almost five months to raise funds for their airfare and other costs. Well, it was not easy to raise a huge sum of money, but through their time and effort they manage to raise \$ 200,000-00 dollars within that period to cover all the costs incurred during the tour.



During their tour, they have visited some of the tourist sites and flower gardens in and around Port Vila town. They also visited a women's group outside of Port Vila town and they demonstrated to them on how to prepare a pudding cake called the Tuluk. Also they were invited by the Catholic women's group in Port Vila for a dinner where they were enjoyed a cultural evening, entertainments and exchange of gifts.

Then on Sunday 20th of June they took part in a liturgy in Pare parish. After mass they walked around the parish compound and visited a museum located in one of the parish building. They also visited a statue of Mary standing in a cave looking over the lagoon, and they were very amazed to see how large the statue was. In honour of Mary they recited the rosary, before they left. The women returned back on the 23rd of June and also participated in another trip to Makira for the celebration of the Assumption of Our Lady.