

## 22. Wok Olsem wan Filwoka

Elsy Tilon

Tangkiu tumas mi gat bigfala hona mo rispek blong stanap long fes blong yufala blong talemaot smol tingting blong mi olsem mi kam mi olsem wan woman filwoka. Mi nem blong mi Elsy Tilon mi kam long wes blong Ambrym. Mi angel blong mi ia hemi stap long fored ia, from mama blong mi i kam long not blong Ambrym. Mi wok mi kam olsem woman filwoka hemi eit yias nao, be mi gat wan man filwoka festaem hemi Ramel be ko-operesen blong hem wetem mi hemi nogud tumas. Be taem hemi finis Philip hemi kam in ko-operesen blong mitufala hemi gud. Mitufala wok tugeta wan we hemi tingbaot blong hem i mekem i kam talem long mi. Sins we mi no kam mi no atendem woksop blong 2004, 2005 be taem man filwoka i kam long woksop i go bak hemi talemaot wanem we olgeta oli mekem ale mitufala i wok tugeta. Blong talem nomo se festaem blong mi mi kam long woksop hemi 1997. Topik blong mifala hemi rang blong ol woman be festaem we mi kam, mi mekem risej blong rang blong ol woman ia ale mi go bak mi stap, mi disaed blong tekem wan rang blong mi. Nao afta 2000 an 1997 mi mekem olsem mi kilim pig nao blong mi kam tekem narafala step blong mi mo mi stap olsem ol wok, mi bin wok kolosap long olgeta an we mi bin aot olgeta oli harem. Mo sins tu yias mi no atendem woksop mi olsem mi stap mekem wok blong big man olsem mi mekem wok blong jos mi nomo. Go kolosap long jif mi mi bin atendem ol jif mitings. Long tis yia mi tekem narafala step bakegen mi kam elda blong Presbyterian jos, be wok blong mi i stap, mi lukluk wok blong mi olsem kastom wetem jos mi mekem tufala wok ia i balans nomo. Mo taem mi mi tok mekem awenes mo toktok, ol woman ol man ol jif oli harem mi oli lisin long mi ating hemia nomo smol toktok blong mi tangkiu.

# Working as a Fieldworker

Elsy Tilon

Thank you very much. It is with great honour and respect that I stand before you to tell you a little about me, and how I came to be a woman *filwoka*. My name is Elsy Tilon, and I come from the west of Ambrym. The man sitting at the front here is my uncle, because my mother comes from the north of Ambrym. I worked as a fieldworker when he was just eight years old. Back then there was a male fieldworker by the name of Ramel, but the cooperation between him and me wasn't very good. But when he finished Philip came in, and the cooperation between us is good. We two work together as one, and when he thinks about something regarding his work he comes and tells me. I was not able to attend the workshops in 2004 and 2005, however after he had returned from the men's *filwoka* workshop, he told me of everything they had done—we work together. I should say that the first time I came to a workshop was in 1997. Our topic was 'women's rank'. Alright, after I went back to my island I decided to take my own rank. Next, after 2000, like 1997, I killed a pig to take another step. And this is how I work, I worked closely with them and when I went to the workshop they heard about it. And for the last two years I have not been able to attend workshops because I now work as a big man, that is, I make my own work now. I am close to being a chief, and I attend all the chief's meetings. This year I took another step by becoming an elder of the Presbyterian Church. And so I have work to do. As I see it, in my work in *kastom* and church, I make it so that these two areas of work are balanced. And when I make awareness speeches, women, men and chiefs hear me and listen to me. I think that this is all I have to say. Thank you.