



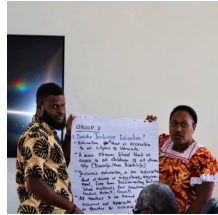
KoBLE Lays To Rest Late Mr. Joel Pakoa



KoBLE Participates in the First 2023 MoET Safe School Technical Working Group Meeting (PC: MoET)



KoBLE Participates in Vanuatu Government's Response Consultation on Human Rights



KoBLE & MoET Collaborate to Facilitate a Disability Consultation Workshop

KoBLE Lays to Rest Late Mr. Joel Pakoa



KoBLE laid to rest one of its board founding members, late Mr. Joel Pakoa, on the 2nd of February, 2023. Late Mr. Pakoa served as the KoBLE Board Chairman right from its establishment in 2017, to the year 2020. After the new Board Chairman was elected in 2020, late Mr. Pakoa remained in the board as an ex-officio financial member, continuing to provide technical support to KoBLE Board and Management for the implementation of its activities and governance functions.

Mr. Pakoa served as Board Ex-Officio from 2020 until he passed on. KoBLE Board and Management takes this opportunity to thank late Mr. Pakoa's families for the contributions that late Mr. Pakoa has provided to KoBLE for the past six years as a KoBLE Board member. Late Mr. Pakoa will surely be missed!

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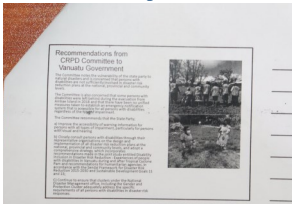
KoBLE participated in the first MoET Safe School Technical Working Group meeting on 3rd of February 2023. KoBLE is part of the technical working committee in the MoET Safe School representing the CSOs. The meeting took place at the MoET conference room from 9AM to 11AM with other key member organisations from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Vanuatu Red Cross Society and Save the Children.

The meeting's key agenda items included 1] feedback update from the technical working committee members to the MoET National Roadmap for Advancing School Safety in Vanuatu 2023-2025 and the Republic of Vanuatu October 2022 School Safety Context Analysis, before they could be endorsed by the MoET; 2] update on the Ministry of Education and Training Contingency Plan; 3] Communication Strategy for Cyclone Preparedness; and 4] update from stakeholders on preposition supplies.

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The priority needs are for the MoET Contingency Plan and the Communication Strategy for Cyclone Preparedness as suggested by the technical working committee. The meeting noted the importance of MoET to work closely with the National Disaster Management Office and look into its strategy and contextualize its plans. Further, another need discussed at the meeting was for MoET storage space to preposition supplies which was already available to be provided by the MoET stakeholders.

KoBLE Participates in the Vanuatu Government's Response Consultation on Human Rights.



KoBLE participated in a consultation workshop which was facilitated by the Ministry of Justice and Community Services' Disability Desk at the Holiday Inn Port Vila, on 8th February 2023. The consultation was made possible with the support from Vanuatu Skills Partnership, the European Union, Australian Aid, New Zealand Aid and the UN Women.

The workshop focused on collecting inputs from the workshop participants as support to the Vanuatu Government's response to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. This call for submissions was relating to Article 11 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The inputs from the discussions highlighted persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. The UN CRPD states in

Article 11. the Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies, "Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters."

The key speakers at the workshop was Board Member of Vanuatu Society for People with Disability and at the same time Treasurer of Sunflower Association, Mrs. Evelyn James; Community Mobiliser of WITT Sunshine, Mrs Ellen Tamata; and DRR Officer of Vanuatu Disability Promotion Advocacy, Ms. Freda Willie. These women champions presented first hand accounts of their experiences as persons with disabilities on the challenges they or persons with disabilities faced during past COVID-19 lockdowns and during past tropical cyclones.

The workshop ended with panel discussions from the invited stakeholder participants and group presentations. The key recommendations from the CRPD Committee to the Vanuatu Government will be then presented to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights call for submissions.

KoBLE & MoET Collaborate to Facilitate a Disability Consultation Workshop



KoBLE, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) National Inclusion Education Unit convened a consultation workshop on 17th February 2023. Space for KoBLE members was provided at Yumi Wokconference room at the Lolam Building, Port Vila. The MoET Education Services Inclusive Coordinator, Mrs. Sylvie Boeson, facilitated the workshop for half a day. Dr. Kabini Sanga and Dr. Ann Cherly from the University of Auckland and the University of the South Pacific, gave introductions to the project. They were contracted by the Australian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trades.

A total of 26 KoBLE members attended the workshop. A Talanoa Session was conducted where KoBLE members shared their cultural perspectives on the definition of inclusive education; to their understanding, what disability meant to them on key areas; how they would differentiate between a regular school, a special and an inclusive school; as parents, what was their perception of inclusion in schools; in what ways the PTA support the school in implementing disability-inclusive practices; and success stories of the influence of their organizations.

At the end of the meeting, KoBLE presented the inclusive video "Equal Education for All" which was the highlight of the meeting. MoET acknowledged the powerful messages in the video and Tongoa Shepherds Women's Association's founder, Mrs. Alice Kalaran, stated, "I am so happy that KoBLE has produced this inclusive video which should be aired for more awareness and advocacy."

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