



KoBLE Office Survives Twin Tropical Cyclones Judy & Kevin!



Pikinini Playtime Recovering from Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin



KoBLE as a Panelist at the MoET 2023 International Education Day



KoBLE's First 2023 Quarterly Board Meeting Convened

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By the end of February and going into the month of March 2023, Vanuatu was struck with two category 4 tropical cyclones, Judy and Kevin, which caused a lot of damages to schools and homes in the provinces of the nation. The Vanuatu government declared a 6-month state of emergency and humanitarian aid assistance have been coming in from Australia and China, as major donors. International NGOs and the Vanuatu Red Cross Society are also providing assistance to affected communities.

Most damages done by the twin cyclones were on the islands of Efate and Tanna, which are within the SHEFA and TAFEA provinces. Even though KoBLE's office is located on the island of Efate, in the heart of Port Vila Town, it was secured and there was no damage done to the building nor to KoBLE's assets.

On a positive note, KOBLE is excited to announce its new office building which has moved from the Ardmari Building above Jungle Café, to its new premises at the ground floor of the Telsat Building, just before the Vanuatu Family Health Centre and the Police Station. The office relocation allows KOBLE to ensure the rent payment expenditure is within its donor's budget line. KoBLE looks forward to receiving its members!

Pikinini Playtime: Recovering from Tropical Cyclones Judy & Kevin



Cyclones Judy and Kevin caused some damages to Pikinini Playtime School's ECCE campus and two buildings were out of operation for a week or two. All other buildings across the schools' three campuses were fine and the schools reopened for all classes on Tuesday 7th March 2023.

The school lost only three (3) days of school during these cyclones and this was due to the Yellow and Red Alerts that were being activated. The school staff have been outstanding and have demonstrated what competent, committed teachers can achieve. Pikinini Playtime School Management is so proud of the schools' awesome team!

The positive impact on students of school resuming is obvious when the schools' management team and staff see the excitement and joy on the children's faces as they reconnect with teachers and friends and tell their stories. Returning to normal as soon as possible provides both staff and students with control over a small component of their lives and contributes greatly to building resilience and maintaining mental health.

As Pikinini Playtime School recovers and rebuilds, they are looking to help others where possible. Their sister school at Rongdal, in the Forari area, East of the island of Efate, has lost several classrooms and their teachers' housing. It will take them some time and much work to recover.

KoBLE as a Panelist at the MoET's 2023 International Education Day



KoBLE was fortunate to be nominated as a panelist speaker at the 2023 International Education Day stakeholder event. The celebration was organized by the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) on the 24th of March 2023, at the Seafront Stage, Port Vila. The four panelist included the Director General of MoET, Mr. Bergmans Iati, a Member of Parliament, Silas Bule, KoBLE's Programs Officer, Petronella Kilu, and Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC) Chairman, Pastor Colin Kaleb.

The theme of the International Education Day was "To invest in People, Prioritize Education." This event also engaged the launching of the Vanuatu Skills Development Campaign to promote skills for national development, with its theme: "Skills development hemi enjin blong bildimap Vanuatu," translated in English, "Skills Development is the engine to advance Vanuatu."

KoBLE's advocacy messages from panelist Ms Kilu highlighted gaps on the school pushout rates and education learning for children with disabilities. KoBLE thanks members who have contributed their views, via email, to inform KOBLE's key points during the panelist.

The International Education Day also included a parade through Port Vila Town with the MoET staff, key education partners and stakeholders such as students from various schools, teachers, parents, skills training institutions and education organisations. Opening remarks proceeded by the Director General MoET and Her Excellency Heidi Bootle, to cutting of Nalot, a traditionally made cake. Education booths were displayed to showcase education materials from all key education providers.

KoBLE's First 2023 Quarterly Board Meeting Convened



KoBLE convened its first 2023 quarterly Board meeting at KOBLE's conference room on 27th March, 2023. Board members representing Oxfam Vanuatu, Progress Pikinini, Wan Smol Bag, Vanuatu Teachers' Union and Youth Challenge Vanuatu were present and formed a quorum. Anita Samana, who represents the Oxfam International Vanuatu is the Chairlady of KOBLE's Board of Directors.

The board meeting deliberated and endorsed the new date for the Annual General Meeting, accepted the presentation of the external audit preliminary findings, accepted nomination of the proposal of two new members as Ex-officio and accepted the new signatory to KOBLE's bank account.

The AGM date was confirmed to be held on 17th March 2023. Meanwhile, financial members are encouraged to review their membership fees for 2023, to allow eligibility of voting rights and nomination of becoming part of the Board of Directors. All the current Board of Directors terms will lapse this year, 2023.

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