

## Morning Albema

<u>Mission:</u> To foster the wellbeing of the youth through promoting programs that develop Good Citizenship, Community Services and Leadership.

## KEEPING TONGA CLEAN

The number fourth issues of concern for youth in Tonga is climate changes and Disaster Risk Reduction.

In the last few months the environmental division have been working with a new project name "Go Green" is funded by Global Green Fund.

The project have 3 major activities and its focus on two target group that's of the Primary School and Small Business Enterprise Unit. This is the first piloting of this project if it is successful than we are looking to do similar project with as much communities and school as we can do" said Mosese Siuta the Assistant Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Officer. "For the pass months we have been working in building trash bin for primary school" said Moses Siuta "our work with the primary school focus on waste management teaching primary school children in collecting and sorting rubbish before the actual disposal. The second part of this project is teaching primary school how to do composting making sure that they are making good used of their green waste and help the soil. For now, we are only working with the Free Wesleyan Church primary school at Vaololoa call Maamaloa, and we are building for them three trash bin one for aluminium can, one for plastic and the other is for green waste".

## Young entrepreneurship in action

"We are embarking in a new frontier" said Naunau 'oe 'Alameite Association (NATA) Technical Advisor, Rheema Misser on the opening day of the Wood work, Carving and Handicraft work shop for youth who are living with disability (YLWD) as well as youth who are unemployed last month. "Today we mark the begin of this work where we as people who are living with disabilities can work and earn a living by doing something which we have a talent for and we like.

Thanks for the space that TNYC, NATA and Civil Society Forum Tonga have set up so that YLWD can now come and use this space and be creative and do something that they love and sell this and earn income.

"I love this work" said Sione one of the YLWD that are now grafting his own design at the handicraft workshop "I'm thankful for this project for it has given me direction to move forward. I'm using all my idea to make these beautiful kiekie for women and kava cups. Yes, we need to sales our product but that can come later for now I'm grateful that I'm using my hands to form something beautiful regardless of what the public thinks that I'm a person who is living with disabilities".

The program is giving opportunity to all youth out of school, youth living with disability who are interested in making handicraft from coconut shell as well as training. The program is looking at expanding toward the direction of wood carving, sewing and jewel making. Order for kava cups as well as shell for kiekie making are flooding in. We are doing the work here with our dream of having our own workshop so we can run our own independent small business. Meanwhile this is the opportunity to kick start this dream said Samu one of our YLWD staff.

