

Strong gavnens – stamba blong kwaliti trening

Namas Lume Vocational Training Centre (VTC) has a long history of delivering skills training in the Middel Bush area on Tanna Island. The Centre, formerly known as Lume Memorial Rural Training Centre (RTC), was founded by Jimmy Lume, who has guided its evolution and expansion since 2002. Like many rural and remote training providers, Namas Lume VTC has faced challenges to reaching the national standards for training provider registration under the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority. One challenge has been addressing the need for good governance with limited resources and capacity.

In 2020 the Tafea Skills Centre, under the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) and supported by the Vanuatu Skills Partnership (the Partnership), commenced supporting Namas Lume VTC to address governance and operational issues through an innovative cooperative agreement. The collaboration comprised MoET, Tafea Provincial Government, the Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) and the Partnership. The Partnership, drawing on its experience supporting the establishment of the Malampa Handicraft Centre, proposed a model to transform Lume Memorial RTC from a private-owner entity to a community company. As a result, the training provider was able to formalise ownership, governance and management arrangements.

Extensive consultations were held onsite at Lume with the Middel Bush community and chiefs and Lume RTC staff, as well as representatives from the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission.

Following the consultations, the Lume RTC and Middel Bush community agreed to establish Namas Lume Community Company Vocational Training Centre Limited, to be known as Namas Lume Vocational Training Centre. The change in name was more than cosmetic, it reflects the history of Lume RTC and the sign of a new beginning.

A shareholder group comprising the Tafea Provincial Government, VIT and the Partnership was established as part of the community company structure. At the same time, directors were appointed to a newly formed training provider board with representation from the Middel Bush community and provincial government stakeholders. To facilitate the transition to the more formal footing and guarantee future operations, the Namas area Chiefs signed a memorandum of agreement transferring ownership of the land to Namas Lume VTC.



Representatives from Lume Memorial Training Centre, Vanuatu Institute of Technology and Vanuatu Skills Partnership at the first Namas Lume VTC consultation workshop, Middle Bush, Tanna, Thursday 2 July 2020.



Two construction skills trainees from Namas Lume Vocational Training Centre learning new skills during the construction of the Provincial Area Administration Office on site at Imlao village, South West Tanna.

“With the partnership with VIT and the Tafea Skills Centre we are supported with resources and tools, and VIT supports the implementation of our Quality Management System. If we maintain this partnership and work with different stakeholders we will develop our province and Vanuatu, not only in construction but other sectors too.”

Jimmy Lume, Manager,
Namas Lume VTC.

In parallel to the establishment of Namas Lume VTC as a community company, the Partnership brokered an agreement with VIT – as the country’s national vocational training provider – to provide technical assistance to Namas Lume VTC. The agreement includes support for improvements with quality management, training and assessment resource development and delivery of accredited skills training. VIT construction trainers travelled to Tanna to assist Namas Lume trainers deliver a full accredited construction course for the first time. The delivery of the course was designed around the construction of an Area Administrator office in cooperation with the Tafea Provincial Government. 14 trainees completed the training and will graduate with a nationally recognised construction qualification.

The provider-to-provider support model between Namas Lume VTC and VIT and the community company model for training provider governance and management are two innovations for Vanuatu’s Post School Education and Training sector. It is anticipated other rural and remote training providers will adopt these models to support their re-registration with the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority.

The combination of a good governance framework and upskilling in the delivery of accredited qualifications has strengthened Namas Lume VTC’s capacity to meet the national quality standards for training delivery. The success of the transformation of Lume RTC to Namas Lume VTC demonstrates that small rural training providers have great potential to contribute to national development. The key to success is innovation and a commitment from partners to work together on locally-led change for a shared nation-building vision.