

Lavame'a Ta'e'iloa Disabled People Association Incorporated (LATA)

About LATA



Lavame'a Ta'e'iloa Disabled People Association Incorporated (LATA) is a self-advocacy group and non-profit organization based in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga. Established on April 17th, 2018, and registered under the Charitable Act on May 15th, 2019, LATA is dedicated to advocating for the rights of people with disabilities in Tonga. This self-advocacy group is led by people with disabilities for people with disabilities, empowering them to live independently and shift from charity to a human rights approach.

Our Goal

LATA aims to create a barrier-free and inclusive society for all persons with disabilities in Tonga. Our vision includes establishing a center for all types of disabilities, training service providers to accommodate their needs, and ensuring that no one is left behind.



Mission Statements



Our mission statements include the following goals: To facilitate, realize, support, and promote the equalization of opportunities by strengthening LATA; to strive towards an effective, cross-disability, gender-sensitive, and inclusive organization; to maintain efficient communication with government stakeholders, regional partners, and international agencies; and to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD).

Our mandates focus on several key areas: empowering people with disabilities; educating the public that disability does not mean inability; ensuring people with disabilities are regarded as contributors to the country's development; improving care and access for people with disabilities within our communities; insisting all people, regardless of disability, have equal access to education and employment opportunities; advocating for rehabilitation programs that encourage independent living; improving access to all public venues, including towns, shops, markets, offices, car parks, footpaths, transportation (land, sea, and air), educational institutions, social and recreation centers, and churches; promoting access to national media broadcasts for people with hearing and vision impairments; and lobbying the government for funding programs that support people with disabilities.



Meet Satua Ngungutau: A Champion for Disability Rights and Disaster Risk Reduction in Tonga



Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

Satua Ngungutau is a dedicated advocate for the disabled community in Tonga. As a disabled person herself, Satua serves as the Disabled Officer for the Lavame'a Ta'e'iloa Disabled People Association Incorporated (LATA), working tirelessly to empower individuals with disabilities.

In addition to her role at LATA, Satua is the Disaster Risk Reduction Officer for a project with CPM and the Government of New Zealand. Her work focuses on creating strategies to protect the most vulnerable during natural disasters. Part-time, Satua works with the Live and Learn organization on a European Union project, supporting nursery farms that

prioritize disabled people. This initiative aims to improve livelihoods and accessibility for disabled individuals in local communities.

Since taking on her role, Satua has become more aware of climate change and has observed that many evacuation centers are not fully accessible to people with disabilities. Despite some inclusion in workshops, she believes more opportunities are needed for disabled organizations to enhance their resilience to climate change. She emphasizes "One voice, one information" to highlight the importance of inclusive training.



Satua's advocacy began at the Alonga Centre and a Christian radio station, where she raised awareness about disability rights. She also participates in the steering committee disaster resource team, collaborating with LATA, the Naunau 'Alamaite 'o Tonga Association (NATA), and the Tonga National Visual Impairment Association (TNVIA).



Believing her work is a divine calling from God, Satua strives to help the most vulnerable, guided by the principles "Nothing about us without us" and "No one left behind." Her dedication underscores the critical need for inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies and highlights her role as a vital advocate for disability rights in Tonga.