

# OFFICIAL STATEMENT



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

To: The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu,  
the Media, and the People of Vanuatu

Re: Public Clarification Regarding Mr. Louis Kalnpel

The Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church in Vanuatu issues this statement in response to the participation of a group of Pathfinders of the Adventist Church in Santo, in uniform, in a public parade in the Chapuis area, Luganville, organised by Mr. Louis Kalnpel, founder of the Vanuatu Presidential Party and the Vanuatu People's Investment and Equity Fund (VPIEF).

Mr. Kalnpel was reportedly arrested following the parade, which police allege was conducted without authorisation and involved the display of a self-created flag.

Given the presence of the Pathfinders at this event, the Church considers it necessary to clarify their role and the Church's position for the Government, the media, and the people of Vanuatu.

The Church wishes to place the following on record:

- 1. Regarding the Pathfinders.** A group of Pathfinders of the Adventist Church in Santo were present at the parade, wearing their uniforms, after having been asked by Mr. Kalnpel to march. The Pathfinders were not informed of, and were not aware of, the true purpose or intentions behind the parade. They took part in good faith, understanding it to be an ordinary community march, without any knowledge of a wider political or other agenda connected to the event. The Church wishes to make clear that the Pathfinders and their leaders bear no responsibility for, and had no involvement in, any unauthorised or unlawful aspect of the parade, as the matter was never made known or clear to them.
- 2. No Church endorsement.** The Church has no knowledge of, and has not endorsed, authorised, or supported, any activity, movement, or idea associated with Mr. Kalnpel, including any initiative described as forming a "New State" or similar undertaking. Whatever movement or activity Mr. Kalnpel is currently organising, including the gathering of groups of people from Tanna, Santo, Malekula, and other islands, is undertaken entirely on his own personal initiative.
- 3. A personal and individual matter.** Any actions taken by Mr. Kalnpel in relation to this matter are his own, in his personal and individual capacity, and are not connected to, sanctioned by, or carried out on behalf of the Church in any way.
- 4. The Church's support for the State.** The Church reaffirms its full support for the Government and the Republic of Vanuatu, its institutions, and the rule of law, and encourages all its members and the wider public to conduct themselves peacefully and within the law. Mr. Kalnpel is known to the Church, and matters concerning his conduct in relation to the Church have, in the past, been addressed through the Church's own internal processes. On this present matter, however, the Church stands entirely apart from him and reiterates that it does not support him or his current undertakings.

As this matter remains under police investigation, the Church will refrain from further comment and asks that all parties allow due process to take its course. In this time, the Church appeals for calm, unity, and mutual respect among all communities.

Issued by:

**Pastor David George Leo** | President, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vanuatu