

FijiFocus

1.8km access to basic services for villagers

\$3.5M ROAD



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama officially commissions the newly-constructed access road at Anitioki Village, Tailevu. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

NANISE NEIMILA

VILLAGERS of Anitioki in Tailevu will now have safer and improved accessibility to basic facilities and

services after Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama officially opened the newly-constructed Anitioki access road recently. An emotional 77-year-old Anitioki village headman Uraia

Vuetibau was overjoyed after the opening of the \$3.5million road access.

The newly constructed 1.8 kilometre road access will provide better transportation network to

neighbouring villages like Naisogovau and other settlements.

"I would like to thank Government for constructing the new road access. For decades we have had to travel by boat and it

would depend on the weather." "Our children would travel to

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe
Bainimarama.

Fiji doesn't have any local cases of the coronavirus. Our people are safe. But our economy, which relies heavily on tourism, has been badly stricken, sapping Government revenues at a time when we need every dollar we can dedicate to building our resilience.

NUMBERS

\$4 million is the total cost of Waidamu bridge officially commissioned recently to provide accessibility

to more than **5000** **Fijians** residing in Raralevu, Namata, Vusuya, Maumi, Korociriciri and Naduru.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama@FijiPM

There are no shortcuts on the path to climate resilience. But each day, Fiji takes another step to #BuildBackBetter from cyclones and rising seas. Proud to join @narendramodi, @BorisJohnson and @mariodraghi_it at #ICDR2021. Together, a climate-resilient world is within reach.

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Private hospital raises health care level

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“IT is clearly Government’s responsibility to make sure that all Fijians can get the care that they need.”

While opening the new Nasese Private Hospital in Suva, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said, “We are in the process of building the finest healthcare system in the Pacific, and to do that, we need to unite the efforts of the public and private sectors”.

“Private hospitals work with the Ministry of Health and complement the medical services provided directly by the Ministry.”

“They can free Ministry resources to serve more Fijians, particularly in times of emergencies.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that private hospitals also provide a high standard of efficiency and quality, for Fijians and citizens of neighbouring countries, who are free to seek treatment at private hospitals.

“The new hospital responds to



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama shares a light moment with members of the public as Dr Virgilio De Asa looks on during the official opening of the Nasese Private Hospital. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

a demand in Fiji for specialised and private care, and is currently the only hospital in Fiji or among our neighbours that is performing hip-and- knee replacements, surgeries that have become commonplace in many developed countries and offer an improved quality of life for people as they get older.”

PM Bainimarama further stated the new hospital will also acquire the first private magnetic resonance imaging equipment in Fiji, which will be a tremendous aid in making accurate diagnosis and helping physicians make better

decisions on treatment.

Nasese Private Hospital’s director, Dr Virgilio De Asa said around 50 years ago, during his school days, it was always his vision to become a doctor and open up a hospital.

“After that vision (to become a doctor) became a reality, my family and I came to in 1976, from the Philippines.”

“When I arrived in Fiji, I worked at the Ministry of Health for 12 years as a senior medical officer.”

Dr De Asa said that in 2002 the Nasese Medical Centre was built

and from there they progressed to opening the new Nasese Private Hospital.

“It is a historic day for us after all the struggles, it is not easy to build up a hospital, it took us around four years to build up.”

Dr De Asa said he is happy that they have finally to made their dreams turn into reality and to witness the event.

PM Bainimarama wished all success to Dr De Asa and his team as they begin their new journey as brought another level of health care to the people of Fiji.

\$4m bridge brings big relief

NANISE NEIMILA

WITH a more modern, efficient and resilient infrastructure that serves the entire country, 62-year-old Urmila Lata of Korociriciri, Nausori was satisfied and pleased after the official opening of their new two-lane Waidamu bridge.

This \$4million investment by Government will provide accessibility to more than 5000 Fijians residing in Raralevu, Namata, Vusuya, Maumi, Korociriciri and Naduru to commute safely and easier on a daily basis.

“I have been living in this area for the past 33 years, and commuting on the old bridge was very life-threatening. We had encountered numerous accidents because the road was narrow and we would

fear for our children’s lives.”

“It was not safe at all, we would sometimes refrain from travelling because of the condition however with the new bridge I am happy to say that it’s safe and we can be rest assured our children, grandchildren and the community is safe to travel.”

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while officiating at the opening recently, said the Fijian Government is creating better transportation networks that free Fijians to do business, to go to school, and to travel safely while they take care of the things that must be done every day and every week.

“We are rebuilding it to be stronger, to withstand the violent storms we have been experiencing, and the raging waters they of-



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the official commissioning of Waidamu Bridge outside Nausori earlier this week. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

ten bring. But we are not just defending ourselves against a more threatening climate, we are also giving the Fijian people the kind of infrastructure they deserve and need.”

“Yes, we are building back better, as we like to say, but it is just as important to know that we are growing, we are creating better transportation networks that free our people to do business, to go to school, and to travel safely while they take care of the things, we all must do every day and every week.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama adds that with the new bridge people whose departed loved ones are at the Raralevu Cemetery will find it easier to make their visits.

“The Water Authority of Fiji will have better access to Raralevu Reservoir. The Police at the Vusuya-Raralevu Police Post will be able to respond to emergencies more quickly.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama added children who attend the two local primary schools will be able to walk to school more safely and the Vusuya Bus Company and the vehicles serving the Hanson Supermarket Warehouse will circulate more efficiently

“And, of course, the bridge also provides access to the King’s Road.”

Meanwhile, Government will soon begin building nine more bridges at a cost of nearly \$52m.

\$3.5m road

FROM PAGE 1

school by boat, farmers would have to cart their produce by boat. It was always challenging for the villagers but today that will be history.”

The newly constructed road access is expected to boost the economic growth within the village and neighbouring communities.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the roadway was requested by the community after years of facing hardship of hiring boat to reach the nearest roadway and making their way to Nausori town.

“Roadway by roadway, bridge by bridge, we are connecting Fijians through a reliable, nationally -connected transportation network.”

“Today, that journey has come to Anitioki and we are proud to deliver this new road and the new opportunities it will bring for each of you and your families.”

“Farmers can access the market in Nausori town quickly enough that their seafood stays fresh. You can travel more easily to reach essential services, like healthcare and education.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama adds that by “building this road we are opening your community to the country, we are bringing greater opportunity into your lives, and we are also making your talents, ideas, and ambition a bigger part of our national life that is for the benefit of every Fijian”.

Prime Minister Bainimarama reassured Government’s commitment to Fijians in rural and maritime regions, stating, “We will not rest until every Fijian has equal access to the infrastructure, services, and opportunities that make life better and more fulfilling, and that gives all of our people an equal shot at success. That is a promise I will always strive to deliver.”

Frontline workers ready to be administered with the first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.
Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

First COVID-19 jab given

MEREANI GONEDUA

“GET vaccinated, it works. It will be good for you, good for Fiji. It’s safe, we have done it and so should you.”

These were the encouraging words by one of the first volunteer frontline workers who were administered with the first doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

The Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) head of COVID-19 security taskforce Major Neumi Vakadewabuka highlighted that it is very important for Fijians to begin registrations so they would be able to get vaccinated.

“This a fight that everyone in the world is fighting. The vaccine is here with us, the injection is not even sore it is just like the normal injections that we have that feels just like a small pinch.”

Receiving the first ‘jab’, Dr Mara Vukivukisevu from the Lautoka hospital echoed the same sentiments saying that having the vaccine is very important during this fight against Covid-19.

“I encourage everyone to get vaccinated against COVID-19. This is a fight that the whole world is up against and having this vaccine is very important. COVID-19 is just like going into a battle and if you don’t have a bullet proof vest you will surely be caught out in the crossfire. That’s what these vaccines represent, our protection from this virus.

Meanwhile, Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete stated that the Fijian Government has set aside about \$75 million for COVID-19.

Dr Waqainabete stated that the first 15 out of the total 20 per cent of vaccines earmarked for Fiji through the COVAX facility will be free.



Ministry of Health and Medical Services staff nurse Pratika Singh gets administered with the first doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

“The COVAX facility has made it very clear to us that the first 108,000 doses they will give to us, which is about 15 per cent, will be free and the other five per cent will be subsidized.

He said that the Fijian Government’s \$75m for COVID-19 would also be used to look at ways to procure more vaccines.

“In the supplementary budget last year, \$50m was set aside for the pandemic and in this 2021 budget there was \$25m set aside for COVID-19 and the vaccines would be administered free of charge to all citizens.”

“Even when the Government starts buying the vaccines, it will be free for all Fijians.”

He also added that the eligible age group for COVID-19 vaccinations are those who are 18 years and above, adding for those below the

age of 18 years, the Health Ministry will have to go in line with the scientific evidence available and prioritize accordingly.

The first ‘jabs’ were administered to:

- Fiji Airports - Joe Grey,
- MOH - Dr Mara Vukivukisevu,
- MOH nurse - Pratika Singh,
- MOH health inspector - Setareki Raiula,
- RFMF’s Major Neumi Vakadewabuka,
- FRCS - Sanjeep Reddy,
- Hotelier - Daniel Roy,
- Fiji Airways Purser - Maria Vani,
- ATS Assistant Manager Passenger Services - Nairah Pakeezah Mohammed,
- Fiji Police Force’s Officer in Charge Border Police - Superintendent Aisake Kafoa.



PM seeks support for vaccine rollout

NANISE NEIMILA

THE rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination program will be targeting 6,000 frontline individuals.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while speaking at the recent workshop on the development of the first plan for the Nation wide Stakeholders Consultations Meeting - Development of the Surgical, Obstetric and Anaesthesia, highlighted this to medical practitioners present in Suva.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said “this is our first step on the road to national recovery, and I appeal to all Fijians to support the Health Ministry as we roll out the vaccination program for COVID-19”.

“Your Government is committed to vaccinate all eligible candidates who are 18 years and over according to the Ministry’s expert advice as soon as is physically possible. These vaccines work, they are safe, and they are the key to our economic recovery.”

“I would like to thank the WHO once again and the COVAX facility for providing those first 12,000 doses of vaccine, and we look forward to receiving the rest of vaccines under this arrangement soon.

“The vaccine is part of the arsenal of public health measures that we have employed to date, that we are relying on to protect our people and prepare our nation to re-engage with the rest of the world and reclaim the position in global affairs we’ve worked so hard to achieve.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama adds that Fijians would be keen to register and be vaccinated.

“We are working on procuring all of the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines we need to see that our people are immunised alongside the citizens of developed nations – we will not allow ourselves to be left behind.”

“Healthcare is a critical service. Providing health services and a healthy environment is the key to a wealthy and economically pro-

ductive nation. It is a moral responsibility. And it is one of the first duties any government owes to its people, along with security and education.

The head of government urged medical practitioners to make the most of this opportunity.

“Make the best use of the technical expertise at hand, listen to the voice of the community, and put together a plan that will serve our people well and help our nation grow and prosper.”



Manager for Geological Survey Division Rigjeta Ravuiwasa (left), with permanent secretary Rajjeli Taga for Lands and Mineral Resources. Photo: SUPPLIED

Manager tells of role change

WOMEN have always played the role of household managers prior to being recognised for their contribution and achievements towards their careers and respective professions.

This was highlighted by the Manager for Geological Survey Division at the Ministry of Land and Mineral Resources (MLMR), Rigjeta Ravuiwasa as she commemorated International Women's Day recently.

"The aspect of managing work professionally is something which has always been inbred in a woman which allows women to take on any challenge and be able to produce results," she said.

Ms Ravuiwasa joined the Mineral Resources Department as a graduate trainee in 2008 with the Geological Survey Division and gradually transitioned through the ranks as a Technical Officer II, Scientific Officer, Senior Scientific Officer, Acted on the Principle Scientific Officer Survey before being appointed as the Manager Geological Survey Division in 2016.

"I am a geologist with the MLMR and we support a sustainable mining industry through identifying potential mineral prospects both on land and offshore, undertaking quantity and qualitative tests on aggregates and updating the geological information for Fiji," she said.

"The division also supports sustainable cities and towns and expanding the rural community through conducting geotechnical assessments and providing sound advice and mitigation for geo-hazards such as landslides, river banks and coastal erosion."

"Additionally, we conduct inundation surveys and play an active role in assisting communities in identifying safe and suitable relocation sites around the country promoting resilient communities," she added.

Ms Ravuiwasa completed her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science (Earth Science), Master's Degree in Geology and Graduate Certificate in Public Administration.

She highlighted that she was inspired by her challenging and positive attitude towards the workforce.

"This is a male dominated field and I wanted to challenge myself in pursuing something different from the normal profession that women are associated with," she said.

"I would like to thank my family and superiors for inspiring me to take up this career because their guidance and mentoring inspired me further to pursue and advance my qualifications in the field of geology."

"Challenges that you face along the way are not meant to stop you from achieving your dreams but they shape you to become a strong woman that can take on any challenges when thrown your way," Ms Ravuiwasa advised.

She adds women should always have faith and trust in their ability and to always remain humble as this has always carried her through the years.

-MINISTRY OF LANDS AND MINERAL RESOURCES

'Acknowledge women'

WOMEN in our society had to work twice as hard in the workplace due to the traditional definitions of the roles and place of females in our patriarchal society.

These were the sentiments shared by the Acting Principal Land Use Officer for the Ministry of Land and Mineral Resources, Lia Tuivuya as she spoke about women empowerment in a workplace.

She said that "we should always continue to acknowledge women who work tirelessly in their different callings in life – whether it be in our homes, communities or in the workplace".

Ms Tuivuya joined the Civil Service as a Temporary Geospatial Officer and provided her service in various divisions within the Ministry like the Land Use Division and Foreshore Division.

She is currently posted at the Land Use Division of the Ministry as an Acting Principal Land Use Officer and holds a Degree in Land Use Planning and a Diploma in Hotel Management.

"I am excited to be involved with the Land Reform Initiative of the Government and providing services in sustainable administration, management and development of designated communal – itaukei and state land," Ms Tuivuya highlighted.

"In addition to the technical surveying and valuation work carried out by the division



Acting Principal Land Use Officer Lia Tuivuya (standing third from right) with staff of the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources. Photo: SUPPLIED

my work also includes continuous collaboration with land owning units, developers and stakeholders. This is to ensure the best interest of the land owning units and to warrant accountability and transparency in the distribution of returns," she added.

She is advising our young women leaders to always follow your dreams, to take ownership of their dreams and take the neces-

sary steps to achieve them and be aware of current events.

"Approach life with a teachable spirit, but do not hesitate to test and question the principles of life and remember that the learning process will only end when you leave this world behind," she said.

-MINISTRY OF LANDS AND MINERAL RESOURCES



Senior research officer with the Quality Assurance Unit Ulita Serukalou (third from the left) with staff of the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources. Photo: SUPPLIED

Adapt, build, enjoy: Serukalou

“ADAPT and Enjoy”

This is the advice from Ulita Serukalou, a senior research officer with the Quality Assurance Unit for the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources.

"Change is always happening: learn the required skills, build up your experience, stay current and relevant and above all, enjoy what you are doing," Ms Serukalou said.

In commemorating International Women's Day recently, she highlighted that women are caring and strong.

From her experience of being in the company of her mother, grandmothers and friends Ms Serukalou says women are strong but at the same time caring.

"It's amazing the adversity faced by women and the strength they have to move forward. The platform has been set for the next generation of women to 'challenge' the status quo in this very dynamic

and diverse environment."

"The future is bright for my daughter and her generation because opportunities are out there. However, they still need to display the values of honesty, humility and respect amongst others, to shape their destiny," she added.

Ms Serukalou started her career in the civil service in 1996 when she was appointed as a temporary civil servant with the Ministry of Education.

She was posted to different schools as a relieving teacher and in 1997 she was posted to Adi Cakobau School where she served until January 2007 teaching English, Social Science and Careers.

Ms Serukalou also looked after the school's Hockey teams because at that time she was playing club hockey.

In 2007 she was transferred to the Public Service Commission Scholarship Unit (PSC) where she was promoted to different positions until 2015 when she joined the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources as the Senior Administrative Officer Training based with the Corporate Services Division.

Ms. Serukalou was later promoted as the Senior Research Officer with the Quality Assurance Unit in July 2018.

Furthermore, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in History/Politics and Language/Literature along with a Postgraduate Certificate in Human Resource Management, Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of the South Pacific.

She has also completed Training of Trainers modules 1- 4 from the Training and Productivity Authority of Fiji.

Ms Serukalou also shed some light on how she got inspired to enter the civil service, as she was surrounded by people who worked in the civil service.

"When I eventually joined the civil service, my inspiration was to try and make things better in my work delivery - whether it was teaching, giving scholarship advice, preparing media statements, conducting training, or managing staff she concluded."

-MINISTRY OF LANDS AND MINERAL RESOURCES



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa (third from right) holds a National Action Plan (NAP) with stakeholders representatives. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fiji, first in Pacific with action plan

AZARIA FAREEN

Fiji is the first Pacific Island Country to develop a five-year (2020-2025) National Action Plan (NAP) to prevent violence against all women and girls; and is one of the only two countries globally along with Australia.

This, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa said, is due to the Fijian Government recognising its obligation to prevent violence against all women and girls.

"I am pleased to share with you today that the Ministry is leading the development of the NAP to prevent violence against all Women and Girls by working closely with all relevant stakeholders including civil society and faith-based organisations," she said.

"This is historic for our humble Pacific Island nation and I truly believe that with a whole population, whole of government, evidence-based, inclusive and funded National Action Plan we will be better placed than ever before to prevent violence against all women and girls in Fiji."

"A nationwide consultations and dialogues with Fijian women, men, girls and boys, stakeholders from key settings/sectors and communities will be undertaken this year to inform the development of the NAP," she added.

Fiji is also one of the first countries to sign the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment in the world of work.

"This international commitment is mirrored in our Employment Relations Act which requires employers to develop and maintain a sexual harassment policy in the workplace," she said.

"The ILO has gone a step further in providing a sample sexual harassment policy for employers in the Pacific which is available online and which can be easily adapted to suit an employer's work environment."

"In 2019, the Fijian Government had set up a Taskforce on Early Childhood Care under the National Coordinating Committee for Children to address the development of a national policy and regulation framework for safe and quality early childhood care services," she added.

Recently the Fijian Government through the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation has entered a cooperation agreement with the International Finance Corporation to commence this work.

"The prevalence of violence against women in Fiji is among the highest in the world - with almost two out of three (64 per cent) women having been subjected to physical or sexual violence in their lifetime - double the global average (which is one out of three women) and most cases are perpetrated by an intimate partner," Minister Vuniwaqa highlighted.

"An IFC study entitled "The Business case for workplace responses to domestic and sexual violence in Fiji" found that 29 per cent of employees experienced harassment at the workplace.

"This statistic is exacerbated by the percentage of employees whose work get affected due to domestic and sexual violence at home."

"The same study found that 52 per cent of those who had directly experienced domestic or sexual violence at home had a mental or physical health impact and 42 per cent experienced behaviours that limit going to work or participating at work," she added.

Minister Vuniwaqa adds that COVID-19 has impacted women and girls in profound ways and it is fundamental that diverse women's voices and experiences are central to national and global recovery plans.

She said a key contributor to a more equal COVID-19 world is increasing women's access to leadership roles, however, women still face significant cultural, socio-economic and political barriers to accessing leadership.

Call to address inequalities

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fijian Government recognises both childcare and Gender Based Violence as pressing issues that affect the ability of parents to contribute effectively to the workforce.

This was the key message shared by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa while commemorating International Women's Day (IWD) 2021 with the launch of the first case study under the Tabu Soro series.

The aim of the Tabu Soro case studies is to showcase good practice in managing the impact of COVID-19, and disasters such as tropical cyclones, to foster safe and flexible workplaces for all employees.

In acknowledging the organiser International Finance Corporation (IFC) and stakeholders Fiji Human Resource Institute and the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation, Minister Vuniwaqa thanked "the governments of Australia and New Zealand for their continuous support to the Fijian public and private sector on these critical issues for Fiji's social and economic development".

"I cannot emphasise enough the need for such initiatives at this point in our lives - the post-COVID world demands this to ensure every bit of human resource is utilised to its full potential to build back better," she said.

"The "Tackling Childcare" report by IFC found that the most common ways childcare responsibilities impact on employees at work include: distraction during the day; leaving early from work or coming in late to work; and, being absent from work," she added.

"Eliminating violence against women and girls is indeed everyone's issue and requires everyone to do their part to address the problem and the private sector is very well positioned as a key catalyst to address these inequalities in the workforce; and I commend Fijian businesses who have taken positive steps to join forces in addressing gender-based violence in your workplaces."

Minister Vuniwaqa also commended the IFC and the Fiji Human Resource Institute and the RAKORAKO Peer learning platform for providing a space to raise awareness and build capacity to address gender inequality in the workplace.



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa during the commemoration of International Women's Day (IWD) 2021 with the launch of the first case study under the Tabu Soro series. Photo: SUPPLIED

"It was encouraging and powerful to see the joint RAKORAKO social media campaigns against gender-based violence during the 16 Days of Activism last year, especially the leadership of company CEOs on this matter to set the tone at the top," she said.

"Let's continue to acknowledge the importance of gender equality not only on special occasions like IWD but on a day to day basis, let's create the 'new normal' of safe and resilient workplaces."

This year's IWD theme emphasises why women's leadership makes a difference and it celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

IFC has estimated that across the seven private sector businesses studied, an average of 4.6 percent of work days are lost every four weeks due to staff being late, absent or distracted due to childcare responsibilities.

"This equates to 11.1 lost workdays per employee every year. The cost to business associated with this lost staff time ranges from FJ\$89,000 (USD\$41,000) to FJ\$844,000 (USD\$390,000) per year, depending on average staff salaries and the company's size," Minister Vuniwaqa said.

"On average, lost staff time due to childcare responsibilities is costing employers as much as FJ\$550,000 (USD\$254,000) a year in total," added Minister Vuniwaqa.

She further urged employers to develop and maintain a sexual harassment policy and run at least one training on it so that employees are aware of its existence and how to use it; and if needed they can partner with Non-Government Organisations who work in the area.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with participants during the two-day conference for the development of National Surgical Obstetrics and Anaesthesia Plan for Fiji. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

National surgical plan 'first for Fiji'

NANISE NEIMILA

MEDICAL practitioners from around the country gathered under one roof to gain greater insights into improving access to surgeries that can save lives and improve the quality of life for Fijians.

In opening the first ever two-day conference for the development of National Surgical Obstetrics and Anaesthesia Plan for Fiji, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama highlighted that this is one of the most important things for the healthcare system.

PM Bainimarama emphasised to medical practitioners the need to develop such a plan as there is a rising global recognition that there is a huge unmet need for surgical care throughout the world.

"Every year, more than 313 million surgical procedures are performed globally for illnesses, accidents and common conditions across the medical spectrum. But only six per

cent of these procedures occur in the poorest countries, where over a third of the world's population lives."

"Our record in Fiji is better, but our goal is to be on a par with the most developed countries. Our people deserve no less. Human life and quality of life are in the balance," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He added the World Health Organization estimates that an additional 143 million surgical procedures are needed in low- and middle-income countries each year to save lives and prevent disability for surgically treatable diseases.

"The World Health Assembly has taken this on as a priority. It has called on Member States to identify and prioritise a core set of emergency and essential surgical care that should be made available both at the primary level and at the hospital of first-referral." "Our infrastructure to deliver this kind of care is better than in most developing countries, but we want to improve it. A survey

conducted in 2017 revealed that 67 per cent of our population can access specialist surgical care within two hours of their homes, that we have 5.4 surgeons and surgical support personnel per 100,000 people, and our mortality rate related to surgery was point eight per cent.

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that expectations of the conference will prove that indicators have improved over the last four years given the Health Ministry's greater focus on specialist training for doctors and other health professionals, and the increased effort on outreach services.

"This meeting comes as the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have arrived in the country, and although the pandemic bears no direct relationship to the subject you are discussing, the fact that we are about to begin vaccinating reminds us that health care is a joint responsibility. Government, health professionals and the community work together to make Fiji healthy."

PM: Somare was a true friend



The late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare. NANISE NEIMILA

"THE Grand Chief was a true friend of Fiji. He stood by Fiji as we faced our own set of challenges, urging the international and regional communities to trust judgment and respect our decisions."

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while delivering his eulogy at the Memorial Service held to honour the late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Suva last week, acknowledged him for being a great friend to Fiji.

The Head of Government highlighted the special friendship with Fiji's first Prime Minister, the late Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the other great Statesmen of the region, as they shared the experience of leading their nations to independence.

"Both men believed that Pacific peoples should be masters of their own destiny. Theirs was a genuine friendship, and they truly shared a common vision for the prosperity of their countries and the Pacific region."

"The founding of the South Pacific Forum, now known as the Pacific Islands Forum, in 1971 is one tangible legacy of that vision for collective action on issues that are important to our region. This year marks the PIF's 50th Anniversary, and it is a living and active institution that solves problems and makes the Pacific a stronger, safer and more prosperous part of the world."

"This reflects the true genius and the true heart of Sir Michael, that his ideals were always directed to do good, to build trust, to help people, and to bring people together. We honour that legacy through the solidarity among Pacific nations."

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that the new generation of Pacific Leaders must now deal with the life-threatening challenges of climate change and increased frequency of natural disasters, global health and socio-economic crises.

In remembering the late Grand Chief's life, PM Bainimarama said that every day, people of the Pacific reap the blessings of his life's work, the influence that he wielded and used for greater good and the friendships that he established and maintained, and the words of wisdom that he gave.

The memorial service was attended by Speaker of Parliament Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Cabinet Ministers, members of the diplomatic corp. and members of the PNG community living in Fiji.

Govt pays respects to ex-minister

PRASHILA DEVI

IN a moving eulogy, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama praised former Minister, Jeketani Cokanasiga for his humility and respect for the people he worked with.

Speaking during the funeral service at Sauniveiuto village in Deuba, Serua, the Head of Government said this was evident when despite his achievements and accomplishments, Mr Cokanasiga never boasted.

"He clearly depicted how a leader in government, a father and an elder of the vanua should act. He had a good nature combined with good education," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"He used his good nature and knowledge in building a better life for his people which led them choose him as their representative for 14 years as a Government Minister."



A close family member pays her last respect during the late former minister Jeketani Cokanasiga's funeral in Deuba. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Prime Minister Bainimarama said when a country is faced with hardship that is when the true nature of a man can be seen especially through what he believes in and what he prioritises.

"As you know he was the Minister for Defence during one of the toughest times in our country. During those trying years this gentleman clearly showed his good nature to solve the differences and created unity in our country."

Prime Minister Bainimarama said as a member of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, he

remembers how through Mr Cokanasiga's matured leadership skills, he was able to bring Fiji out of difficult times.

"When he retired from service he said 'I am glad to have served my people, I am happy to see their smiling faces, they are happy so I am satisfied that I have done my duty to the best of my ability. Years have caught up with me, it's about time younger people come and take over and use their knowledge in my position'."

Those, Prime Minister Bainimarama said, are the words of some-

one who gave his all to serve our nation.

The President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote led the Government delegation to the i-reguregu and funeral service for Mr Cokanasiga.

Speaker of Parliament, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and Government Ministers as well as members of the disciplined forces were present to pay their last respects to the former Minister.

The late Mr Cokanasiga was laid to rest in his village and is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren.

Fiji calls for stronger climate action

STRONGER commitment and collaboration among the Commonwealth nations is needed to drive broad action to combat climate change and a future towards net zero emissions and resilient societies.

This message was articulated by the Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama while delivering a statement this week at the first virtual Commonwealth Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change.

Prime Minister Bainimarama spoke on the challenges faced by Fiji in relation to climate change and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Fiji doesn’t have any local cases of the coronavirus. Our people are safe. But our economy, which relies heavily on tourism, has been badly stricken, sapping Government revenues at a time when we need every dollar we can dedicate to building our resilience.

“Since the closure of our borders last year Fiji has endured cyclones Harold, Yasa and Ana. The one-two punch of a global

economic crisis and a continuing climate emergency has been brutal. We are building back better in any and every way that we can. But that good work hinges on a global economic recovery that is not only inclusive, but which transforms the way our multilateral system confronts global challenges,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

Prime Minister highlighted the progressive steps taken by Fiji to Building Back Better and initiatives to strengthen climate resilience.

“The weekend before Commonwealth Day, Fiji took receipt of our first batch of COVID-19 vaccines. Thanks to these medical marvels, a new dawn of hope is on the horizon. But our recovery won’t mean much if our “new normal” does not signal a new relationship between us, humanity, and the natural world we all rely on. Otherwise, we’re trading out one crisis, COVID-19, for another of far deadlier potential, the Climate Emergency.”

“In cyclone-devastated communities, we

have rebuilt schools and infrastructure to climate-resilient standards. We have improved disaster warning systems. We are using nature to fortify communities, by planting mangroves and vetiver grass, and harnessing local materials, like boulders, to build seawalls.

“And our commitment to plant 30 million trees in 15 years and sustainably manage all 1.3 million square kilometres of our ocean by 2030 could very well mean Fiji becomes a carbon-negative society in the not-too-distant future.”

Elaborating on the important role that Commonwealth parliamentarians play in the realisation of climate actions, Prime Minister Bainimarama said, “When we unite behind the hard work of forging common ground, we provide a foundation for global co-operation and wide-reaching change. If we don’t all commit to carbon-neutrality; if we fail the most climate-vulnerable among our number; what sort of example are we setting for the world?”

“The most recent reporting from the Unit-

ed Nations shows just how badly off-track we are from the commitments we need to achieve the 1.5-degree Celsius target of the Paris Agreement. COP26 – and the commitments it demands – cannot come soon enough. We need decisive cuts in carbon emissions by 2030 that set us on the path to net-zero emissions by 2050.

“And we need that ambition backed by action, in a manner that is accountable to our community of nations. As Fiji has championed time and again, we must also recognise the role that our oceans play in regulating our climate, and preserve them as pillars of our global Blue economy.”

In the build-up to the upcoming 26th UN Conference of Parties on Climate Change, the Forum aims to connect parliamentarians and climate experts from across the Commonwealth, to share best practice, identify the strong commitments needed, and highlight the role parliamentarians play in prioritising the climate agenda, through holding their governments to account.

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Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, World Health Organization (WHO) Team Coordinator Pacific Climate Change and Health, Dr Nasir Hassan, permanent secretary for Health and Medical Services Dr James Fong (ALSO PICTURED ON THE RIGHT) and health officials during the launch the Guidelines for Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities.

Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Govt eyes tougher health facilities

FELIX LESINAIVALU

GUIDELINES for Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities (CRESHCF) will determine how many health care facilities in Fiji are

vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, while launching the Guidelines for Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities, said the climate change

impacts on health can never be overemphasised and recent cyclones have exposed our health system, and there is a need to build better with approved global best practices and standards.

“This is a landmark achievement, and it sets the tone for regional growth, dialogue and collaboration among smaller island developing states as we continue to fight the increasing effects of climate change within our region,” Minister Waqainabete said.

He said Fiji and the Pacific’s stance on climate change had already been stressed as a matter of life and death.

“Some of our islands’ vulnerable healthcare facilities experience inundation due to rising sea level, drinking water is no longer potable because of saltwater intrusion.”

World Health Organization (WHO) Team Coordinator Pacific Climate Change and Health, Dr Nasir Hassan, said WHO will work closely with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to build climate resilient health care facilities.



“The guidelines that the Minister launched contextualise the climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities since its launch at global level in October last year,” Dr Hassan said.

“The guidelines itself has gone through tremendous consultations and we have been with Fiji every step on all the way and so we would like to continue our corporation in any way we can provide continuous guidance and support we will be happy to do so.”

Dr Hassan added that from the guidelines WHO can determine how many health care facilities are vulnerable to climate change impacts and also identify the gaps that needs to be worked on to build climate resilient Health Care Facilities.

Fiji’s CRESHCF guidelines are

based on WHO’s Guidance for CRESHCF, and similarly it has four fundamental pre-requisites: Health workforce: adequate numbers of skilled human resources with decent working conditions, empowered and informed to respond to increasing environmental challenges; Water, sanitation, and health care waste: sustainable water, sanitation and health care waste services for all healthcare facilities; Energy: Sustainable energy services powering Fiji’s health care facilities; and Infrastructure and technology: sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure and technologies, ensuring the efficient functioning of the health care facility while building resilience and sustainability.



Village, settlement will benefit from new road access

The opening of the \$3.5million newly-constructed 1.8 kilometre road access brought joy to the villagers of Anitioki in Taleivu.

This latest development will provide a better transportation network to neighbouring villages like Naisogovau and other settlements.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama

said the roadway was requested by the community after years of facing hardship of hiring boats to reach the nearest roadway and making the journey to Nausori town.

"Today, that journey has come to Anitioki and we are proud to deliver this new road and the new opportunities it will bring for each of you and your

families," Prime Minister Bainimarama said. "Farmers can easily access the market in Nausori town quickly enough that their seafood stays fresh. You can travel more easily to reach essential services, like healthcare and education."

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Youth empowered to take actions against climate change

Youth are identified as one of the nine major groups of civil society with the right and responsibility to participate in sustainable development. This was highlighted by the Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar Bala at the closing of the Empowerment training on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation which was held at Togovera Village in Ra.

"Youth participation promotes active citizenship and the empowerment of future generations to engage in environmental governance, including climate change governance," Minister Bala said. The three-day training was aimed to educate and empower the youth to take action against climate change and become agents of change in their respective communities.

Photos: SUPPLIED



PM opens new Nasese Private Hospital

"We are in the process of building the finest healthcare system in the Pacific, and to do that, we need to unite the efforts of the public and private sectors."

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama while opening the new Nasese Private Hospital in Suva on Wednesday.

"Private hospitals work with the Ministry of Health and complement the medical services provided directly by the Ministry."

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that private hospitals also provide a high standard of efficiency and quality, for Fijians and citizens of neighbouring countries, who are free to seek treatment.

PM Bainimarama further stated that the new hospital will also acquire the first private magnetic resonance imaging equipment in Fiji, which will be a tremendous aid in making accurate diagnosis and helping physicians make better decisions on treatment.

Photos: FELIX LESINAVALU



More Fijians to work under the Australia Pacific Labour Scheme

Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar Bala attended the closure of the three-day Pre-Departure Orientation Training for 162 Fijian workers to be deployed under the Australia Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS).

The Fijian Government acknowledged the continued support from the Australian Government through our Vuvale Partnership Agreement which has strengthened our people-to-people links, as reflected in our labour mobility programs.

After the closure of our Borders, the Government has deployed a total of 231 workers under the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) to Australia.

Since the re-commencement of the labour mobility programs in September 2020, 354 more Fijian workers have departed to date.

This third batch of 162 PLS workers will take Fiji's number to over 700 Fijian workers in Australia.

These PLS workers departed our shores on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

Photos: SUPPLIED





Health professionals, quarantine facility staff, aviation and maritime staff, members of disciplined forces ready to receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at Nadi International Airport. INSET: Manager Airport Landside Operations & Customer Services Joe Grey gets administered with the first doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. Photos: MEREANI GONEDUA

COVID-19 vaccine here

MEREANI GONEDUA

HEALTH professionals, quarantine facility staff, aviation and maritime staff, members of disciplined forces were the first batch of Fijians who will soon receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

These Fijians have defended our borders through the corona virus pandemic since last year.

Making this announcement at the arrival of the first batch of vaccine at the Nadi International Airport, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama highlighted that the vaccine is one of the three COVID-19 vaccines that have been recommended by the World Health Organization Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization.

“We have received 12,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine through the COVAX Facility – a global alliance working to ensure that citizens of all nations are protected from this pandemic.

“This first batch of vaccines is designated for doctors, nurses, health inspectors, quarantine facility staff, aviation and maritime staff, and members of our disciplined forces who have defended our border through this pandemic. These Fijians serve on the frontlines of our COVID Containment Strategy. They are first priority for the obvious reason that they face the highest risk of exposure to the virus.”

“It’s a small step but an important start towards protecting Fijians from a plague that has claimed more than two and a half million lives around the world.

“The AstraZeneca Vaccine has shown to be safe and it has shown

to be effective. It is one of three COVID-19 vaccines that have been recommended by the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization.

“This specific vaccine has also been approved by the health boards of the United Kingdom, European Union and at least 14 other countries, including India, Australia and, most recently, by the Fiji Pharmaceuticals Board. Millions of doses of this vaccine have been administered around the world. The data shows it is reducing case numbers, hospitalisations, and deaths due to this virus.

PM Bainimarama highlighted that like many of the other available vaccines, the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine requires two doses.

“That means we have to maintain a careful record of who has been vaccinated and when they are due for dose number two. Under the digitalFIJI umbrella, we have built an online registration portal that will give us the data we need to ensure a smooth nationwide rollout.

“For now, that portal is limited to 6,000 of our frontline workers who will receive this first batch of vaccines. Once that phase is complete, we will announce the next phase of the rollout, and more Fijians will be able to use the portal to register so that they too can be protected through vaccinations.

“Tonight, marks an important start for COVAX in the Pacific, but it is just that – a start. Fiji is not a big country, yet we are only guaranteed enough vaccines for 20 per cent of our population through COVAX, and the timeline for when all of those vaccines arrive is uncertain.

Cash aid brings relief to farmers

MEREANI GONEDUA

HAVING to endure flooding and a cyclone for more than three years in a row has not been easy for farmers in the Western Division however determination and endurance was what carried them through.

For 53-year-old Rajen Kumar, who has been a farmer for more than 36 years in Bilalevu settlement, Nadroga, having to endure the different changing weather patterns was not only costing him his crops and livestock, but also his source of livelihood.

“We have been experiencing different types of weather patterns and this has really cost us farmers a lot as our crops and livestock suffer. However, we always try to get through this by always trying to be on top of our game in terms of the vegetables and crops we plant.

“After the two cyclones TC Yasa and TC Ana we didn’t know what to do as most of our farms were under water and our vegetables and crops destroyed but with the assistance just announced we would be able to rebuild faster in terms of bringing in machines to help us plough the land.

“Not only that but we would be able to buy more than we used as the cash provided will enable us to do so.

“This is not the first assistance provided to us farmers by the Fijian Government and other non-government organisations, we have received enormous support with regards to our farms including help for our families and we are just grateful.

Meanwhile in making the announcement, Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy



Fifty-three-year-old Rajen Kumar at his farm in Bilalevu, Nadroga. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

highlighted that this is the first lot of funding made possible through the support from development partners, in particular the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

“The Ministry of Agriculture, with funding support from development partners, in particular, ADRA, intends to allocate \$200 per farmer to cover the costs of land clearance, preparation and planting of a 1-acre plot of land.

“Payment will be made in two tranches with \$75 as upfront payment and \$125 on providing evidence of land clearance, preparation and cultivation. There will be extensive monitoring to ensure the second tranche is used for its intended purpose.”

Minister Reddy highlighted that around 2000 farmers will benefit from this first lot of funding, however, all farmers will be eligible to participate in this program and each household must identify agriculture as its main source of livelihood.

He stated that eligible farmers will be registered using an

electronic form, advice on the terms and conditions for the cash transfer and issued with the first tranche of \$75.

“The Ministry of Agriculture Extension officers and development partner representatives, such as ADRA staff in partnership with community leaders will ensure smooth implementation of this process. Farmers will be required to sign an undertaking that they will ensure cultivation and production.

The Minister stated that teams will revisit communities to verify that the cash was used for its intended purpose and recommend for payment of the second tranche, however, those farmers who would want to have the whole sum paid to them after planting their one-acre will be allowed to do so.

“The program will focus on TC Yasa/Ana affected communities in the Northern, Central and Western Divisions.

The Minister stated that his Ministry will continue to seek additional funding and implementing partners to scale up the programme to reach more.

Town undergoes major works

FELIX LESINAIVALU

ATTORNEY-GENERAL and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum has reassured that works are under way to repair roads, dredge rivers and look into the drainage of Labasa Town.

When being questioned on road conditions during a recent online budget consultation, the A-G said the Fiji Road Authority (FRA) has been tirelessly working on road maintenance works around the country which have been delayed and affected due to the bad weather conditions, flooding and the recent cyclones.

“You can be rest assured that Government has been putting in a lot of money, FRA has now got a lot more contractors,” the A-G said.

He added that outsourcing is good because it hastens up the process and ensures the quality of outsource would have a standard to work with.

After being asked a question on the drainage issue in Labasa Town, the A-G said that the town’s problem is that most of the drainage is beneath the road and beneath a lot of the buildings, which is why flooding is a common occurrence.

“So it is not a simple issue to just drain the Labasa River, because there is some drainage systems that exists under some of the infrastructure.”

“But if you look at Nadi too, those of you who know Nadi well, opposite the market there is a drain that goes underneath the building.”

The A-G said these are legacy issues and that drains should not have building built on top of it because now the ability for water to exit from those areas will be limited.

He said rehabilitation works are currently on the way at Nadi River with the assistance from the Japanese Government, the Australian Government and the Asian Development Bank.

“If you look at the past tropical depressions or cyclones we have had, a lot of the problems arose because the rivers did not have the capacity to be able to handle the amount of water that fell, or that rained.”

“Which is why dredging works is important because it removes sediments and debris from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbours, and other water bodies which help control the water levels.”

The A-G said it is important to ensure that the drains, the creeks and the river system, the tributary, have the capacity to carry all that water out into the sea and it will be a focus for the Fijian Government.



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu, permanent secretary David Kolitagane and Commissioner Northern Division Uraia Rainima with heads of Government departments during a recent meeting on ways to help revive Northern Division.

HEADS of Departments of various Government ministries and organisations have been urged to work together to help revive the Northern economy.

While addressing the HODs during a recent meeting with Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu, Commissioner Northern Division Uraia Rainima said this would be one of their main focus going forward.

“We need to rebuild and revive the economy here in the North. We’ve used so much money in these two disasters and we need to get our people working. In order

for us to do that, we must be up to par and work together so we can move ahead together. Partnership is important,” Mr Rainima said.

He also advised the HODs to ensure that they continued to visit areas affected by both TC Yasa and TC Ana despite the conclusion of the 20-day extension to the Declaration for a State of Natural Disaster for the North on Saturday.

In his remarks at the meeting, Minister Seruiratu also reminded the North team to continue to coordinate with all Government counterparts.

“I urge you all to provide the necessary assistance and continue to coordinate and carry with the

rest of the work,” Minister Seruiratu said.

“Just reflect on your own work and achievements. That’s something that we need to do. Just self-critic what you and your organisations have achieved because learning is a never ending process. There is no such thing as being perfect.

“We need to also pick up the remaining work. This will link up to developments and your normal programmes post TC Yasa and TC Ana so we can bring back that element of self-reliance and normalcy and confidence in the people. As you all know recovery and rehabilitation is not only short term

but there are long term things that needs to be fixed as well, so you need to pick it up very quickly and continue to work as a team.”

Minister Seruiratu was touring the Northern Division with his permanent secretary David Kolitagane to visit the various teams manning disaster operations in the North and at the same time, check on the progress of Government’s operations post TC Yasa and TC Ana.

The visit concluded with a thanksgiving service at the Nasea Methodist Church in Labasa.

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President Major-General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote, Speaker of Parliament, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, cabinet ministers, members of Parliament, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the non-governmental organisations during the Commonwealth Day 2021 at State House in Suva. Photo: RONAL DEO

Praise for Commonwealth

RONAL DEO

IN commemorating the Commonwealth Day 2021, the Fijian Government has acknowledged the unique support and solidarity of the Commonwealth family.

This is especially evident on issues and priorities close to the hearts of the Commonwealth family such as climate change, health, and education, whilst also recognising the importance of trade, governance and infrastructure development.

The Commonwealth Day programme held at the State House recently was attended by the Speaker of Parliament, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, cabinet ministers, members of Parliament and members of the diplomatic corps along with the representatives of the non-governmental organisations.

The President Major-General (Ret’d) Jioji

Konrote, while speaking at the 2021 Commonwealth Day celebration said, “This enduring cooperation is a true reflection of the spirit of the Commonwealth in promoting our common values. From its earliest beginnings, and through successive stages of expansion and development, the Commonwealth has been a pioneer of invention and innovation, whilst embracing diversity and inclusiveness”.

In reaffirming Fiji’s commitment to enhance partnership with Commonwealth, President Konrote said; “We often speak in general terms about our common future - about greater prosperity, higher standards of living and mutual security, and we must keep making progress on those. But our commitment to a common future today must be more specific, because we have three pressing matters before us.

“We must take ambitious and unrelenting action to combat climate change. We must work very hard to ensure that vaccines are adminis-

tered in an equitable way across the world and within each nation. And we also must get to work on an inclusive economic recovery from this terrible pandemic. That is where we must connect, innovate and transform.”

In recognition of the Commonwealth Day program coinciding with the International Women’s Day celebrations, President Konrote said “Women here in Fiji and throughout the Commonwealth have a critical role in the development of their country, and they are disproportionately affected by crises like climate change and the pandemic.”

The programme also featured the Commonwealth Day message by Her Majesty the Queen, which was conveyed by the British High Commissioner to Fiji George Edgar.

The theme for this year’s Commonwealth Day celebrations is “Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating and Transforming”.



Coconut industry gets top priority

RETURNING the coconut industry to its former glory days remains a key priority area for the Ministry of Agriculture.

With 2021 being declared the Year of the Coconut, there are programmes spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture to help revive the coconut industry and increase the geographical concentration of coconut supplying areas as an attempt to re-establish coconut as a viable and lucrative option for farmers nationwide.

This was highlighted to farmers from Qeleloa, Uciwai and Sariyawa in Nadi last week by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy during informal talanoa sessions organised with farmers of Nadi.

"If you want to plant coconut, please express your interest and we will supply the planting material. This year has been declared as the Year of Coconut and we are trying our best to revive the coconut industry."

"At the moment, coconut planting is largely being concentrated and being harvested from the Northern Division, particularly from Cakaudrove province and we want to advance the coconut industry by increasing the number of coconut growing areas to help sustain the industry," Minister Reddy said.

He said upon a farmer's indicated interest to grow coconuts, the Ministry would provide the required planting material at no cost to the farmer.

On a separate note, Minister Reddy also elaborated on the need for farmers to consider planting pigeon pea and rice to help ease the burden of meeting the dietary needs and food requirements of families, as all of these agricultural programmes were simultaneously geared towards ensuring the food security of all Fijian households.

The Minister also heard of various concerns raised by these farming communities, with similar discussions held across the country recently to help address the immediate issues that were a deterrent to the development and growth of farming clusters and individual farmers respectively.

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Life was hard before the stalls were built as we had to sell our produce out in the sun and sometimes when it rains, we were always wet and would often fall sick and at times miss a few days of selling.

Adi Seinimili Batimala
Roadside stall vendor

Expansion 'vital' for milk production

SEVEN new cluster dairy farmers in Waidina, Naitasiri were established in the last few weeks as part of the Ministry of Agriculture's efforts to not only boost milk production to meet market demand but also to improve the livelihoods of dairy farmers.

Ministry's permanent secretary, Ritesh Dass said the new cluster farmers were set up under the Ministry's Dairy Industry Support program aimed at also assisting to reduce the national import bill.

"The program was designed to help raise and improve the Fiji Dairy Industry contribution, to increase the overall local milk production and also improve the rural income earning capacities of farmers in Fiji," Mr Dass said.

The DIS program has been targeting potential areas with farmers from Waidina, Naitasiri; Sigatoka; and Nayavu, Wainibuka to branch into dairy.

"There is definitely an interest

in this program that will benefit farmers in providing a market that will provide a consistent income," Mr Dass said.

He added that the new cluster farmers group recently formed in Waidina are crop farmers interested in diversifying into the dairy sector to boost the industry and encourage to upscale production from farmers.

The program focuses on providing new dairy sheds for farmers, fencing, water tanks and fodder establishment.

"The assistance is geared to prepare them for a sustainable production and supply of milk an addition to the Central dairy farmers

who supply over 60 percent of the total milk supply," the permanent secretary said.

Farmers of the new Waidina Dairy Cluster were trained on infrastructure improvement, record keeping, dairy management practices, milk hygiene, with the provision of the market, and nutritional and pasture improvement.

In addition to training, farmers visited the Koronivia Livestock Unit and dairy farmers in Tailevu.

Gusuisavu farmer, Mr Naibuka Inakula thanked the Ministry for creating pathways for farmers with livestock.

"We are accustomed to the old ways of farming, and dairy farm-

ing was not something that we thought about taking up in Waidina," he said.

"There is a huge opportunity in taking up dairy farming and the impact it will create to our livelihoods and its contribution to the economy."

"Therefore, it is vital that we are trained to deliver quality products because we are newly established," Mr Naibuka said.

The number of dairy farms in Fiji increased from 987 in 2015 to 1,130 in 2019. The total quantity of milk exported in 2019 was 23,104 kg, worth a total value of \$236,768.

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Seven new cluster dairy farmers in Waidina, Naitasiri were established in the last few weeks as part of the Ministry of Agriculture's efforts to not only boost milk production to meet market demand but also to improve the livelihoods of dairy farmers. Photo: SUPPLIED

Leases renewed for roadside vendors



RUPENI WAQAVONO

"OUR land is our treasure and we need to utilise it as best as we can."

These were the sentiments made by Adi Seinimili Batimala who has been selling produce on the roadside in Volivoli, Nadroga for the past 10 years.

Adi Sainimili, the mother of two was one of the 23 recipients whose lease agreement was recently renewed by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport.

"Life was hard before the stalls were built as we had to sell our produce out in the sun and sometimes when it rains, we were always wet and would often fall sick and at times miss a few days of selling."

"I would like to thank the Fijian Government for this wonderful initiative. I also thank the Minis-

ter for Trade and Commerce and his team for renewing my lease agreement."

These new stalls have really helped us a lot, especially during rainy weather. Before, we always get wet from leaking roofs and sometimes our produce got damaged because of strong winds."

"The new stalls design has really protected us and our pro-

duced from the elements, we have a nice good sitting area, no leaks and our produce are safe with the new steel pipe tables," she said.

The line Minister Faiyaz Koya who was out handing over the lease renewals highlighted that it's been a great initiative for people that sell vegetables, flowers or pot plants along the Queens and Kings highway.

"We continue to help small to medium enterprises who are actually doing this, they are quite happy with their stalls, they don't pay us, the only obligation for them is to keep it neat and tidy and some set of rules and regulations that we have in terms of safety."

The new lease agreement given to the stall owners is for a period of two years.

Adi Seinimili Batimala and her daughter sell produce at their stall along the road at Volivoli Village, Nadroga. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO



Minister for Education, Rosy Akbar, with the LTA chief executive officer, Samuel Simpson and the Managing Director of Total Fiji, Kazi Rahman during the official launch of the VIA programme a new road safety education initiative at Marist Brothers' High School. Photo: SUPPLIED

Ministry launches road safety drive

THE Ministry of Education has joined with the Land Transport Authority of Fiji (LTA), the Fiji Police Force and Total (Fiji) Pte Limited to embark on a new road safety education initiative, the VIA programme. Minister for Education, Rosy Akbar along with the LTA chief executive officer, Samuel Simpson and the Managing Director of Total Fiji, Kazi Rahman, officially launched the programme at

Marist Brothers' High School on Wednesday. "The VIA program is a flexible, cost-effective, easy to integrate and easy to access Road Safety Education program, that has been jointly developed by two global corporate mobility giants, namely, Michelin and Total," said Minister Akbar. "The program was designed for children ranging from the ages of 10 to 18 years and it aims to reach

100,000 young people worldwide over a three-year period." "So far, it has been successfully deployed in large countries such as France, Cameroon and India and is in the process of being deployed in 10 other countries. We look forward to its success in Fiji with the help of our partners." Minister Akbar stated that unfortunately there have been many cases where Fijian children have been involved in road incidents, often ending in fatalities. "Too many times, we have come across situations where our young ones have shown a blatant disregard for road rules," she said. The Minister added that in recent years, Fiji has seen a steady increase in the number of vehicles on Fijian roads, which also increases the risk of accidents. "We have seen our young ones jaywalk across our roads with earphones on and barely paying attention to oncoming traffic and their surroundings. We even have reports of children crossing the roads at night, unsupervised and wearing dark clothing, becoming almost invisible to drivers." "This needs to change." "We cannot take the safety of our

children on the road for granted. Through this program, we will empower our young ones, by first teaching them about why their risky behaviour can lead to, then showing them how they can avoid traffic-related injuries. We need them to understand the benefit of safe behaviour on the road - it is to protect their lives." The VIA program provides four learning modules related to feeling, knowing, creating and implementing, along with learning materials that include detailed manuals, fact sheets, worksheets, games, videos and quizzes to achieve this goal in a way that organically appeals to children. The program was launched globally in 2018 by Total and Michelin and was developed with the help of the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP). Minister Akbar also reminded parents that they are their children's first and primary educators and urged parents to take up a more active role in teaching their children the importance of road safety, and to always ensure their children are supervised when travelling, if possible. news@govnet.gov.fj

Medics reminded of patient care role

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

MEDICAL personnel present at the Stakeholder Consultation for National Surgical, Obstetric and Anaesthetic Plan were reminded that they are crucial in the surgical or delivery room for patients under their care. "When we look at the issues around health system strengthening, it's become very important that as we head towards the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3), which is universal health coverage - that safe, affordable surgery, obstetrics and anaesthesia plays a very important role," the Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said. Speaking to the participants at the consultation, Minister Waqainabete also made it clear that the theatre or the delivery room is at the heart of the health system and in order for it to function, it needs to be sterile, kept in good hygiene with working boilers, linen and trained staff to operate. "What is becoming apparent, is that if you are able to strengthen the delivery room or the theatre, then you are strengthening the health system as a whole, including the human resource capacity. The way to do it is to not do band-aid solutions, but to have a measured and comprehensive plan," he added. Participants of the consultation who are medical professionals from around the country were reminded that priority lies in making sure there is a measured plan in place and that dwelling on the strength of discussions at the consultation to be carried out in formal and informal discussions that they engage in. "We have to remember that we are looking towards 2030 at least. We have to be sure of where we are heading and we all have to align ourselves to the global agenda and the country agenda - which is the 20 year strategic plan or development plan. In doing so, we are ensuring that we are working in sync with what all other government agencies and ministries are doing," Minister Waqainabete added. Those present were commended by the Minister for their work and dedication in the medical field.

LTA signs up for anti-bribery campaign

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Land Transport Authority of Fiji (LTA) became the first statutory body to undergo training as part of the 'I don't accept bribes' campaign. LTA Chief Executive Officer, Samuel Simpson said that it was anti-Fijian to be corrupt and to participate in corrupt practices. "As always, we have a zero-tolerance stance against corruption. As such, we recognise the importance of not just warning the public against bribery, but ensuring that our own officers do not engage in such acts," he said. "We have many great officers that conduct themselves with honesty and transparency. However, in order to keep LTA 100 per cent corruption-free, we must ensure that if there are any officers that accept bribes, they are found out and taken to task." Mr Simpson said the effects of bribery are not to be taken lightly as it can have consequences that the people involved in such acts may not have considered. He also urged the public to report any cases that they see immediately. The Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) in partnership with the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption



President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote receives a badge during the launch of the 'I don't accept bribes' campaign last year. Photo: Felix Lesinaivalu

tion (UN-PRAC) Project launched the 'I don't accept bribes' campaign on 9 December 2020 in Suva on International Anti-Corruption Day, with the presence of the highest political leadership. The President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum were the chief guests during the launch of the campaign in December. The campaign sees all civil servants undergo a thorough anti-bribery training conducted by

FICAC's Corruption Prevention team. FICAC Deputy Commissioner Rashmi Aslam has reminded all civil servants of the important role they play in creating an anti-bribery culture within the workforce. "Your awareness and active participation in this anti-bribery campaign is key to preventing bribery and corruption," he said. He also stressed that bribery is the most prevalent form of corruption and is a crime against the nation.



Villager proud to be a fire warden



Twenty-five-year-old Mataiasi Toma (inset) with fire wardens after a three-week Integrated Community Fire Warden & Emergency Response Framework training at Yako Village, Nadroga. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

NANISE NEIMILA

“I AM proud to be part of this Integrated Community Fire Warden & Emergency Response Framework and being given the opportunity to learn this new skill is something I have enjoyed.”

“It was not any easy task learning all the fundamentals from first-aid training, tsunami drills and being a first responder to provide assistance to an injured person or if a house is on fire is a major responsibility.”

These were the comments shared by 25-year-old Mataiasi Toma of Yako Village in Nadroga who graduated from the three-week Integrated Community Fire Warden & Emergency Response Framework training.

The new framework will empower communities to take ownership of fire safety in your homes and prepare you to deal with fire and other emergencies.

Mr Toma said it was not easy learning the detailed training from first-aid, fire and rescue including tsunami drills.

“I would like to thank the National Fire Authority (NFA) and the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) for their assistance and sacrificing their time to teach us in the three-weeks. It was not easy but I would like to thank my family for their support.”

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while officiating at the event recently, said this was a national effort and acknowledged the Yako Village Community for leading the way—for being the first community in Fiji to adopt this new Framework.

“The National Fire Authority of Fiji is a first-rate organisation, staffed by dedicated and skilled fire-fighters and led by capable people who think

first about saving lives and serving their fellow Fijians.”

“I want to thank them for their hard work and selfless dedication in the face of enormous risks. But we cannot wait until we need to pull a fire alarm or make an emergency call to think about fighting fires. The best way to fight fire is to prevent fire, and that is a job for all citizens, not just our professional fire-fighters.”

“It is for that reason that the National Fire Authority of Fiji has created this mechanism to involve citizens and communities in the work of fire prevention. Our fire-fighters cannot be everywhere at once. They do their best, but they may not be able to arrive at a fire on time to save a life or salvage a property.”

“It has been brought to life through this Framework, which focuses on bringing fire safety and preparedness to every community. That means that every Fijian is able to actively help ensure that their home and their surrounding community are fire safe.”

NFA chief executive officer, Sowane Puamau, said the launch of the Framework was the first step together in reaching out to the most vulnerable communities in Fiji.

Mr Sowane said through the initiative of the authority had taught basic life skills in life saving evacuation.

“Fiji has a total of 1193 villages, 220 informal settlements with Yako village having 84 families with a population of 425 people.

“The 84 homes that have been inspected by the community fire wardens have been verified by the NFA warden safety officers,” he said.

“The community fire wardens have been trained and taught the basic skills in life saving evacuation. This includes fire evacuation and tsunami evacuations and others.”



Minister for Commerce, Trade and Tourism, Faiyaz Koya speaks to entrepreneurs during the University of the South Pacific's Entrepreneurial Fair. Photo: SUPPLIED

Govt invests \$90m in MSMEs

SONAM SAMI

THE Government has invested \$90 million in Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises over the past few years.

Speaking at the University of the South Pacific's Entrepreneurial Fair, Minister for Commerce, Trade and Tourism, Faiyaz Koya highlighted that the pandemic has taught us not to rely on the Tourism Sector alone.

Minister Koya said this investment is done through various targeted programmes, as MSMEs are the engine of growth for the Fijian economy.

He said it is important to diversify our economic base as we must adapt to the new normal.

Minister Koya commended USP for hosting this Entrepreneurial Fair with the theme “Change your World: Become an Entrepreneur”, as the Fijian Government is striving to encourage our citizens to become job creators not job seekers.

The Minister says the Government has several programmes to help youth become self-sufficient entrepreneurs and opened up a dedicated MSME Helpline, 9986014, to become more accessible.

“It is a positive and remarkable achievement as the Ministry endeavours to continue providing as many business savvy training as possible. In fact, the Ministry's training officers are conducting a five-day business training right now in the Western division. This will be followed by a training in the Northern division next week”.

He highlighted on one of the youth-centric programmes led by the Ministry which is the Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES).

The YES programme targets the development of young Fijians as it encourages youth to identify gaps in the market and come up with unique solutions.

The Ministry, through the MSME Fiji and Co-operatives teams, has in the past year, helped more than 2,000 businesses in understanding their costs, pricing, business planning, and forecasts, post-disaster recovery.

In a nutshell, the Fijian Government strives to encourage inclusive and sustainable development of MSMEs and youth.

The growth of MSME is not only essential to job creation, but also to income generation, rural development, poverty alleviation and empowerment of youth and women.



Youth members with Minister of Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar during the Empowerment training on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation at Togovere Village, Ra. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Youth are ‘agents of change’

AZARIA FAREEN

A TOTAL of 60 youths from registered youth clubs in Ba, Tavua and Ra participated and completed Empowerment training on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation recently.

Minister for Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar in closing the training said “the youths are now educated and empowered to take action against climate change and become agents of change in their communities”.

“Youths are identified as one of

the nine major groups of civil society with the right and responsibility to participate in sustainable development,” he said.

“Climate change is a complex global problem that is interlinked with many issues and to support the on-going development of young people, this empowerment training focused on empowering the youth participants as an effort to improve the capacity of people in addressing environmental and developmental issues related to climate change.”

“Youth participation promotes active citizenship and the empow-

erment of future generations to engage in environmental governance, including climate change governance,” he added.

Minister Bala encouraged the youths to urge their fellow peers to join the programmes offered by the ministry so they can have a purpose driven life.

Key partners with the line ministry include the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ra Provincial Office, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Agriculture and the Fiji National Sports Commission.

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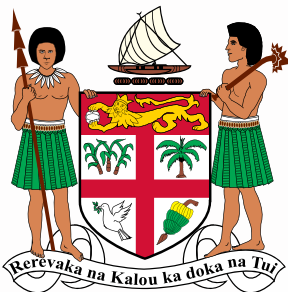
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Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Fiji Rugby Union officials and members of the Fijiana 7s team. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

ROAD TO TOKYO

PM praises Fijiana 7s for Olympics bid

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fiji Airways Fijiana Sevens players were commended by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama for their efforts in preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, in Japan, scheduled for July this year.

While speaking to the team, PM Bainimarama said that it was unfortunate the COVID-19 pandemic had hampered their training in comparison to other athletes around the world.

“Our ability to safely resume contact sports hasn’t only aided your Olympic preparations but it has restored semblance of normalcy for our people in a year that has been anything but ordinary,” PM Bainimarama said.

“When our coaches were looking to assemble the squad that ultimately competed in Rio, there were 200 registered players in Fiji. Now, there are more than 1000 and I want to credit the outreach we have done to spur interest among women in this game.”

“As athletes, it is your effort, your victories and your passion that is bringing this beautiful game into the lives of more young women every year and their eyes are upon you once again,” he added.

As the President of the Fiji Rugby Union, PM Bainimarama urged the players to keep training and working hard to continue being the great team they are capable of being.

“The will to win is important but the will to prepare is what really separates the good from the great,” he advised.

Fijiana 7s Head Coach, Saiasi Fuli said that as a national leader and someone who is passionate for rugby, Prime Minister Bainimarama’s visit has greatly boosted the confidence of the players.

“For women in sports to qualify for the Olympic Games is a major achievement for us in terms of women’s development in Fiji. We have had a special meal plan in the camp with a very strict and hectic training program which is very tough.”

Coach Fuli said the Fijiana team trains, plays and scrimmages with the men’s opposition which is incorporated in their weekly plan.

“We always train with Dominion Brothers team, Gau Kacau and the Lami Cavaliers because every men’s team in Fiji play Sevens and are like the Australia and New Zealand women’s team – that is the only way we can match up and carry that intensity to the Olympic games,” he said.

“We are thankful for the Government that despite the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions in place, we have been able to get players from around Viti Levu to train hard, play and camp as we gear up for the Olympics.”

The Fiji Airways Fijiana 7s team are currently ranked at 7th place in the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series 2020 women’s final standings with 38 points.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama shares a light moment with Fijiana 7s team coach Saiasi Fuli as Fiji Rugby Union (FRU), chief executive officer John O'Connor looks on. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

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प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गे बईनिमारामा, सहायक संसाधन मंत्री विजय नाथ के साथ वाईदामू पुल का उद्घाटन करते हुए। चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

नया वाईदामू पुल से राहत

रेनल देव

नया वाईदामू पुल के खुलने से रारालेवू, नमाता, नदुरू, कोरोदिरीदिरी तथा वुसुया के लगभग पाँच हजार लोगों को फायदा होगा।

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गे बईनिमाराम ने इस पुल का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया। सरकार ने पुल बनाने का सारा खर्च लगभग चार मिलियन डॉलर सहा है।

पुल बनने से आस-पास के इलाकों के लोगों को आने-जाने में काफी सहूलियत हो गई है

जबकि वहाँ आए दिन बाढ़ का पानी चढ़ जाता है जिससे लोगों के लिए खतरा पैदा होता था। कोरोदिरीदिरी नउसोरी की बासठ (62) वर्षिया उर्मिला लता ने इस नए पुल के लिए सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया और कहा कि उन्हें अब नया पुल पार करने में कोई दिक्कत नहीं होगी न ही अब किसी की जान को खतरा होगा।

“मैं पिछले तैतीस (33) सालों से यहाँ रह रही हूँ तथा पुराना पुल इस्तेमाल करने में हमें कई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता था। जब बाढ़

चड़ती थी तो हम पुल पार नहीं कर पाते थे। यहाँ दुर्घटनाएँ भी हो चुकी हैं तथा हम सरकार के अभारी हैं कि इस दो लाइन के पुल से निवासियों को आने-जाने में अब आसानी होगी,” लता ने कहा।

प्रधानमंत्री बईनिमारामा ने कहा कि सरकार यातायात के लिए सुविधाएँ ठीक करने का प्रयास कर रही है ताकि फीजीवासी आसानी से व्यापार कर सकें, स्कूल आ-जा सकें तथा अन्य कामों के लिए रोज़ पुल का इस्तेमाल कर सकें। “हम न केवल अपने-आप को जलवायु

परिवर्तन के खतरों से बचा रहे हैं बल्कि हम फीजीवासियों के लिए उस तरह के संसाधन उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं जिसके वे हकदार हैं और जिसकी उन्हें ज़रूरत है,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि यह पुल उन पुलों में से एक है जो आधुनिक होने के साथ-साथ कुशल और मज़बूत भी है।

सरकार, वर्तमान समय में लगभग बावन (52) मिलियन डॉलर लागत नौ और पुलों का निर्माण करेगी।



शिक्षा मंत्री रैजी अकबर लेकुतु सेकन्ड्री स्कूल के विद्यार्थियों को युनिफॉर्म और जूतों के लिए वाउचर्स प्रदान करती हुई। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

युनिफॉर्म और जूतों के लिए वाउचर्स दिए गए

रोनल देव

लेकुतु सेकन्ड्री स्कूल के तिरान्वे 93 विद्यार्थियों को युनिफॉर्म और जूतों के लिए वाउचर्स दिए गए हैं।

लेकुतु के विद्यार्थियों का मनोबल उठाने तथा माता-पिताओं को राहत देने के लक्ष्य से ऐसा किया गया है जबकि इन लोगों पर समुद्री आँधी यासा का बहुत ही बुरा असर पड़ा है तथा वे कई मुश्किलों का सामना कर रहे हैं।

शिक्षा मंत्री रैजी अकबर ने कहा कि सरकार हमेशा विद्यार्थियों को सहयोग देती रहेगी ताकि वे अपनी पढ़ाई जारी रखें। उन्होंने माता-पिताओं से माँग की है कि वे अपने बच्चों को रोज स्कूल जाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करें।

उधर युनाएटड नईशन्स डिवेलोपमन्ट प्रोग्राम ने

ग्रामीन, बाहरी द्वीप तथा प्राकृतिक विपत्ति मंत्रालय को समुद्री आँधी यासा से राहत पहुँचाने के लिए और सहायता दी है।

पिछले साल सत्रह दिसम्बर को कटेगरी 5 समुद्री आँधी ने वनुआ लेवू और लाउ द्वीप समूह में भारी तबाही मचाई थी।

2016 में आई समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के बाद आने वाली यह सबसे शक्तिशाली आँधी थी जिससे हज़ारों की संख्या में लोग बेघर हो गए।

भविष्य में आने वाली प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों पर और जल्द प्रतिक्रिया प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार को पचास टेबलेट्स मिले हैं।

यह उपकरण स्वीकार करते हुए मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु ने कहा कि इनके द्वारा वे जल्द जानकारी इकट्ठा कर पाएँगे कि कहाँ पर किस तरह के नुसान हुए हैं।

इसके अलावा मंत्रालय के विकास कार्यक्रम की जानकारीयाँ भी इकट्ठा की जाएंगी। उन्होंने कहा कि किसी भी प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के बाद नुकसान वाले इलाके से ज़रूरी आकड़े इकट्ठा करना एक बहुत ही ज़रूरी कदम है ताकि सरकार आगे की अपनी योजना बना सके।

फीजी में यू एन डी पी पेंसिफिक के प्रतिनिधी केविन पेटरीनी ने कहा कि वे अपनी योजना के तहत यह सहायता पहुँचा रहे हैं जो

फीजियन सरकार को किसी प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के बाद आकड़ा इकट्ठा करने, जाँच करने और रिपोर्ट तैयार करने में सहायक होगा। इस योजना को ऑस्ट्रेलियन विदेश मंत्रालय, कोरिया इंटरनेशनल कौपेरेशन अईजेन्सी, निउ ज़ीलैण्ड के विदेश मंत्रालय और स्वीडन के इंटरनेशनल डिवेलोपमन्ट कौपेरेशन अईजेन्सी का समर्थन प्राप्त है।

लिंग और उम्र सफलता के लिए बाधाएँ नहीं हैं

रोनल देव

आपके पास सारी शिक्षा और योग्यता होने के बावजूद आप बहुत दूर नहीं जा पाएँगे अगर आपके पास काम करने का जोश नहीं है।

यह कहना है लेन्ड्स और मिनरल रिसोसस मंत्रालय की डिविज़नल लेन्ड मेनेजर सेन्ट्रल-ईस्टन जेनिस रूबेन का जिन्होंने कहा कि वो अपने पिताजी की सलाह पर ही आज इस उँचाई तक पहुँच पाई हैं। रूबेन ने कहा कि उनके पिताजी हमेशा कहा करते थे कि आशा कभी मत छोड़िए अगर चीज़ें आपके हक़ में न हों। हमेशा याद रखें कि ईश्वर आपके लिए हमेशा अच्छा ही सोचते हैं जो सबसे बेहतर होता है।

“उनकी सीख के कारण ही मैं सरकारी सेवा में पिछले चौदह सालों से सफलता की सीढ़ी चढ़ रही हूँ।”

उन्होंने अपने करियर की शुरूआत युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ़ दी साउथ पेंसिफिक में बेचला ऑफ़ आर्ट्स इन लेन्ड मेनेजमन्ट एन्ड जियोग्राफी की पढ़ाई पूरी करके की। उन्होंने सन् दो हज़ार छः में एक अटेची की हैसियत से लेन्ड्स एन्ड

मिनरल रिसोसस मंत्रालय में काम शुरू किया और तीन साल बाद उन्हें टेक्निकल असिस्टन्ट के पद पर प्रमोटेड किया गया। इसी तरह अपने पिताजी के बताए हुए रास्ते पर चलते हुए वो धीरे-धीरे सफलता की राह पर निकल पड़ी।

उनके लिए सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धि थी जब 2011 में उन्हें एक वेलुआ की तरह रजिस्ट्रार किया गया, 2016 में उन्हें स्थानापन प्रिन्सीपल वेलुआ के पद पर नियुक्त किया गया और फिर 2018 में उन्हें डिविज़नल लेन्ड मेनेजर सेन्ट्रल ईस्टन का पद सौंपा गया।

रूबेन ने कहा कि यह करियर अपनाने का मुख्य कारण है, समाज में बराबर का अवसर हासिल करना और लिंगभेद की समस्या से निपटना।

“हर दिन ज़मीन वाले विषयों से निपटना एक चुनौती है। लेकिन मंत्रालय में काम करते हुए जो अनुभव और शिक्षा मुझे मिली है उससे मैं किसी भी तरह की चुनौती का सामना कर सकती हूँ। कुछ नए मामलों से मैं हर दिन कुछ न कुछ नया सीखती हूँ,” उन्होंने कहा।

“इस क्षेत्र में पुरुष ज़्यादा संख्या में हैं तथा यह भी एक चुनौती हो सकती है लेकिन मैं समझती हूँ कि एक महिला होने के नाते जो मुकाम मैंने हासिल किया है वो एक भारी उपलब्धि है।

रूबेन ने कहा कि काम की तरफ सही रवैया और लगन रखने से लिंग और उम्र आपकी सफलता में कभी बाधा नहीं बनेंगे। उनके अनुसार इसी सकारात्मक रवैया से वो अगले कुछ सालों में और उँचाई तक पहुँचना चाहती हैं।

रूबेन जो कि एक पत्नी और एक माँ भी हैं ने कहा कि अपने परिवार के लिए समय निकालना बहुत ज़रूरी है। उन्होंने कहा कि वो ध्यान में रखती हैं कि वो काम पर समय का उपयोग सही ढंग से करें ताकि काम के घण्टों के बाद उन्हें अपने परिवार के साथ समय बिताने का मौका मिले।

उन्होंने कहा कि अपने पति के सहयोग से वो दोनों ज़िम्मेदारियाँ बहुत अच्छी तरह से उठा लेती हैं।

मल्टी-पेपर्स इरिगेशन योजना से नन्दारी निवासियों को राहत

रोनल देव

नन्दारी बा के निवासियों की पानी वाली समस्याएं सुलझ गई हैं जब सरकार ने हालमें नन्दारी मल्टी पेपर्स इरिगेशन योजना का विमोचन किया।

इस योजना से सुखे के मौसम में अस्सी किसानों के परिवार तथा लगभग चार सौ लोगों को फायदा होगा।

इस योजना के मार्फ़ित वोटरवैस तथा वातावरण मंत्रालय, वहाँ के घरों तथा खेतों में इस्तेमाल के लिए पानी उपलब्ध करेगा। इसमें वर्तमान के रेज़ावोर पर मरम्मतकार्य करना भी शामिल है।

नन्दारी के एडवाएज़री काउन्सलर नविन कुमार गोसाईं जो कि तीस साल के एक किसान हैं, फसल बोने के साथ पशुपालन भी करते हैं, ने सरकार को इस सहायता के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

“पिछले बीस सालों से यहाँ के निवासियों को पीने के लिए साफ

पानी नहीं मिलता था और हम वोटर-वैस मंत्रालय के अभारी हैं जिन्होंने सही समय पर सहायता पहुँचाई है। पानी का यह स्रोत सुरक्षित और साफ पानी प्रदान करेगा,” श्री गोसाईं ने कहा।

कृषि, वोटरवैस तथा वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने इस योजना का विमोचन करते हुए कहा कि सरकार ग्रामीन इलाकों में महत्वपूर्ण संसाधन स्थापित करने का लगातार प्रयास कर रही है जिसके माध्यम से कृषि उत्पादन बढ़ाया जा सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह कृषि गतिविधियों को बढ़ाएगा और वहाँ के समुदाय को कृषि क्षेत्र के विकास में योगदान देने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करेगा।

“इस सरल योजना में जीवनभर की पुँजी खर्च तो नहीं हुई लेकिन इससे इस समाज को सालों तक फायदा होगा। यह योजना गवाही देती है कि हम इस समाज के लिए क्या पीछे छोड़कर जा रहे हैं,” मंत्री ने कहा।



कृषि तथा वोटरवैस मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी नन्दारी बा के निवासियों के साथ। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

टूरिज़्म क्षेत्र में किसी को भूला नहीं गया है

रोनल देव

टूरिज़्म व्यवसाय में किसी को भूला नहीं गया है।

नान्दी में हालही में एक बातचित के दौरान टूरिज़्म मंत्री फईयाज़ कोया ने कहा कि चाहे कोई होटल चला रहा हो, रेस्टुरन्ट या टूरर कम्पनी का संचालन कर रहा हो, सभी टूरिज़्म क्षेत्र में बराबर योगदान दे रहे हैं।

कोविड-19 के आने से पहले देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को आसमान की उँचाई तक पहुँचाने में टूरिज़्म व्यवसाय का भारी योगदान कभी नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं किया जाएगा।

“इस व्यवसाय का सुधरना, निर्भर करता है कि कब बिना कोरनटीन के अंतराष्ट्रीय सफर तथा टूरिज़्म की शुरुआत हो,”

मंत्री कोया ने प्रकाश डाला कि टूरिज़्म व्यवसाय अकेले एक साल में सरकार की टेक्स आमदनी में एक बिलियन डोलर का योगदान देता है। उनके अनुसार हमसे जो हो सके वो करना चाहिए ताकि हम एक दूसरे को सहयोग दे सके, अपने व्यापार की शुरुआत फिर से कर सके, अपने समाज, व्यवसाय और देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को पुनः जीवित कर सकें।

“रोज़गार संबंधी व्यवसाय की कुछ चुनौतियाँ सुलझाई गई हैं। रोज़गार मंत्रालय ने हाल में एक कार्यशाला आयोजित की थी कि कैसे मज़दूरों के साथ और अच्छे ढंग से काम किया जाए। मंत्री कोया ने उन्हें आश्वासन दिया कि अभी भी बहुत कुछ करना बाकी है तथा फीजियन सरकार सामाधान खोजने की कोशिश करेगी।

उन्होंने कहा कि इस साल जनवरी में देश में आने वाले टूरिस्टों की संख्या अक्टूबर दशमलौ पाँच प्रतिशत 98.5% से गिरी, जो पिछले साल जनवरी में पैसठ (65) हजार से गिरकर इस साल सिर्फ एक हजार हुआ। यह संख्या उन्नीसवीं सदी में हुआ करती थी। इस संख्या की वजह से न केवल टूरिज़्म व्यवसाय बल्कि फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को भी भारी झटका लगा है।

दूध का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए डयरी व्यवसाय को बढ़ावा देना ज़रूरी

रोनल देव

पिछले कुछ सप्ताह में वाईदिना नईतासिरी में डयरी किसानों के सात नए दल बनाए गए हैं जबकि कृषि मंत्रालय दूध का उत्पादन बढ़ाकर न केवल बाज़ार की माँग की पूर्ती करना चाहता है बल्कि डयरी किसानों की ज़िन्दगी सुधारना चाहता है।

मंत्रालय के परमनन्ट स्कंटेरी रितेश दास का कहना है कि मंत्रालय के डयरी व्यवसाय सपोट प्रोग्राम के नीचे किसानों का नया दल बनाया गया है



एक किसान नया राईस हावेस्टर से धान काटते हुए। कृषि मंत्रालय के अधिकारी तथा अन्य किसान यह कार्यवाई देख रहे हैं। चित्र: कृषि मंत्रालय

मधुबनी के किसानों को राईस हावेस्टर मिले

रोनल देव

यूरोपियन यूनियन ने तीन राईस हावेस्टर के लिए आर्थिक सहायता दी है जो मधुबनी, बरोतु, मनीसोन्गोसोन्गो तथा वुनिविकालोआ के धान के किसान उपयोग करेंगे।

संयुक्त राष्ट्र की फूड एन्ड अग्रीकल्चर संस्था की एक योजना के तहत ये हावेस्टर दिए गए हैं जिनका लक्ष्य है कृषि मंत्रालय को सहयोग देना ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि फीजी के किसानों के लिए भोजन और आमदनी की सुरक्षा बनी रहे।

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने कहा कि मधुबनी राकीराकी के किसानों के लिए यह सहायता बहुत खास है।

“वो दिन अब बीत चुके हैं जब किसान खाद्य सुरक्षा के लिए खुद धान की किसानी करते थे लेकिन अब समय आ गया है कि धान की खेती

में मशीनों का उपयोग किया जाए। कृषि मंत्रालय उन किसानों को सहयोग देने के लिए तैयार है जो उनके साथ मिलकर धान की खेती करना चाहते हैं। इसलिए मैं न केवल मधुबनी के धान के किसानों से बल्कि फीजी भर के धान के किसानों से धान की खेती अपनाने तथा फीजी के चावल व्यवसाय को बढ़ावा देने वाली मंत्रालय की योजना में साथ मिलकर काम करने की माँग करता हूँ,” मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा।

मंत्री ने इस सहायता के लिए यूरोपियन यूनियन तथा फूड एन्ड अग्रीकल्चर संस्था का आभार व्यक्त किया।

प्रशान्त के लिए यूरोपियन यूनियन के राजदूत तथा प्रतिनिधीमण्डल के अध्यक्ष महामहीम सूजीरो सीम ने प्रकाश डाला कि यह सहायता कितनी ज़रूरी है ताकि फीजियन समाज हर एक स्थिति का सामना कर सके।

“हम जो भी कुछ फीजी में या दुनिया भर में करते हैं, वो उस देश की प्राथमिकता को ध्यान में रखकर करते हैं। मुझे खुशी है कि हमने कृषि क्षेत्र को प्राथमिकता देने के लिए कृषि मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर काम किया क्योंकि यह फीजी के लिए एक प्राथमिकता है। समाज में बदलाव लाना मुख्य बातें रही हैं तथा मुझे लगता है कि हम इस लक्ष्य को हासिल करने में सफल रहे हैं। हम लोगों का जीवन सुधार रहे हैं तथा उन्हें अवसर प्रदान कर रहे हैं जो उन्हें इस योजना के बिना नहीं मिल सकता था,” महामहीम सीम ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार हालाँकि फीजी ने अभी तक कोविड-19 के मुख्य स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों को रोक रखा है लेकिन विश्व महामारी की वजह से कई फीजिवासियों की ज़िन्दगी पर भारी विपरीत असर पड़ा है।



कृषि, वोटरवैस, तथा वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी नकोवदाके किसानों के दल के साथ। चित्र: कृषि मंत्रालय

ताकि देश का कम पैसा बाहर जाए।

“यह कार्यक्रम इसीलिए बनाया गया है ताकि फीजी डयरी व्यवसाय के योगदान को सुधारा जाए, दूध का उत्पादन बढ़ाया जाए तथा ग्रामीन इलाकों में किसानों की आमदनी बढ़ाई जाए,” श्री दास ने कहा।

इस कार्यक्रम का लक्ष्य है वाईदिना, नाईतासिरी, सिंगातोका तथा नयावू, वाईनिबुका को प्रोत्साहित करना कि वे डयरी की किसानी अपनाए।

पेनमन्ट स्कंटेरी ने कहा कि बेशक इस कार्यक्रम में दिलचस्पी है जिससे

किसान लगातार आमदनी कमाएंगे।

“वाईदिना में हालही किसानों का जो दल बनाया गया है, वो फसल बोनो वाले किसान हैं लेकिन वो डयरी व्यवसाय को बढ़ावा देने में दिलचस्पी दिखा रहे हैं। यह कार्यक्रम किसानों को नया डयरी शेड प्रदान करने, फेन्सिंग, वोटर टेन्क तथा चारा देने पर ध्यान देगा।

श्री दास ने कहा कि इस सहायता से यह किसान दूध का उत्पादन और बढ़ा सकेंगे जबकि केन्द्रीय विभाग के किसान साठ प्रतिशत दूध सप्लाय

करते हैं।

वाईदिना दल के किसानों को अपने संसाधन सुधारने, हिसाब-किताब रखने, डयरी प्रबंधन प्रथाओं, दूध की स्वच्छता तथा इससे संबंधित कई ट्रेनिंग दी गई थी। इसके अलावा किसान, कोरोनिविया लाईवस्टोक युनिट और टाईलेवू में डयरी किसानों से मिलने गए थे।

गुसुईसावू के किसान नईबूका इनाकूला ने मंत्रालय को पशुओं द्वारा मदद करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। “हम खेती के पुराने तरीकों के आदी

हैं तथा वाईदिना में किसानों ने डयरी किसानी अपनाने के बारे में नहीं सोचा था। डयरी व्यवसाय भारी अवसर प्रदान करेगा, किसानों की ज़िन्दगी सुधारने के अलावा देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में भारी योगदान देगा,” श्री नईबुका ने कहा।

2015 में देश में डयरी फार्म की संख्या 987 थी जो 2019 में बढ़कर एक हजार एक सौ तीस (1130) हो गई। 2019 में दो लाख छत्तीस हजार डोलर (\$236,768) से ज़्यादा लागत दूत निर्यात किया गया था।



बा में पेशेवर और महिला व्यापारियों ने महिला दिवस मनाया

महिलाओं पर जो बीतती है उसे छुपाना नहीं चाहिए और अपने आप को कभी अकेला नहीं समझना चाहिए। लोकल गवर्नमेंट, हाउजिंग तथा समाजिक विकास मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने हालही बा में आयोजित अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के मौके पर ऐसा कहा। उनके अनुसार महिला संबंधी विषय जैसे कि लिंग भेद, कमिटी और बोर्ड जिनमें संसद भी शामिल है में महिलाओं की कम संख्या कुछ ऐसे विषय है जो सबका ध्यान खींचते हैं। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



लम्बासा में अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस मनाया गया

हालही समुद्री आंधियों से बुरा असर पड़ने के बावजूद कई महिलाएं लम्बासा में आयोजित अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस में हिस्सा लेने के लिए इकट्ठा हुईं। सहायक महिला मंत्री वीना भटनागर ने इन महिलाओं से कहा कि वे देश में अन्य महिलाओं के लिए एक प्रेरणा हैं। उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि महिलाओं ने कोविड-19 महामारी से लड़ने तथा प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों का सामना करने के लिए प्रमुख भूमिका निभाई है। मंत्री ने कहा कि एक राष्ट्र होने के नाते हमें गर्व होना चाहिए कि कोरोनावायरस को देश में फैलने पर काबू पाने में स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय की डाक्टर अलिशा साहूखान तथा प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के दौरान डिसमैक की डायरेक्टर वसुन्ती सोको तथा कई सौ की संख्या में नर्सन, डाक्टर, पुलिस, सेना तथा समाज में अन्य महिलाओं ने देश के लिए अपनी जान दांव पर लगाई है। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



सहायक मंत्री वीना भटनागर महा शिव रात्री पर्व में शामिल हुई

सहायक महिला मंत्री वीना भटनागर ने हालही में सूबा स्थित बहकुमारी गेजयोग केंद्र में आयोजित महा शिव रात्री के पर्व में हिस्सा ले रहे धर्म प्रेमियों से कहा कि उजाला ही ईश्वर की सच्चाई है। "वो ही बनाने वाला, पालने वाला और संहार भी वो ही करता है। ईश्वर में हम का सागर है तथा इस महा शिव रात्री, परमात्मा के साथ विचार और मन की शक्ति के माध्यम से सर्वोच्च के साथ जुड़े और बदले में प्यार, शान्ति और ज्ञान प्राप्त करें" मंत्री ने कहा। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



स्वर्गीय सर माएकल सोमारे फीजी के सच्चे दोस्त थे - प्रधानमंत्री

प्रधानमंत्री वीरेन्दी बर्दिमरामा ने स्वर्गीय सर माएकल सोमारे की श्रद्धांजली देते हुए कहा कि वो फीजी के एक सच्चे दोस्त थे। वो हमेशा फीजी के साथ खड़े थे जब हमारा देश चुनौतियों से गुजर रहा

था और अंतरराष्ट्रीय तथा क्षेत्रीय समाज से लगातार मांग कर रहे थे कि वे फीजी पर भरोसा रखें और हमारे फैसलों का आदर करें। यह कुछ चीजें हैं जो फीजी कभी नहीं भूलेंगी। प्रधानमंत्री बर्दिमरामा ने

कहा कि स्वर्गीय सर माएकल सोमारे, फीजी के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री स्वर्गीय रातु सर कमिसेसे मारा के करीबी दोस्त थे तथा क्षेत्र के अन्य राजनेताओं के साथ भी उनका अच्छा संबंध था चित्त: नर्तन नईमिल



नान्दी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के सीमा पर काम कर रहे पहले दस लोग जिन्हें कोविड-घरा से बचने की सुई लगाई गई। फोटो: मेरेयानी गोनेदूआ

पहले दस लोगों को कोविड-19 की सुई लगी

रोनल देव

सीमा पर काम कर रहे पहले दस लोगों को सबसे पहले नान्दी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर इस सप्ताह कोविड-19 की सुई एस्ट्राजेनेका (Astra-Zeneca) लगाई गई। सुई लगने के बाद लौतोका अस्पताल की डाक्टर मारा वुकीवुकीसेवू ने कहा कि कोविड-19 के खिलाफ लड़ाई में यह सुई लगाना बहुत ज़रूरी है। यही बात सेना के कोविड-19 सिक्कुरिटी

टास्क फोर्स की अगुवाई करने वाले मेजा निउमी वाकादेवाबुका ने दोहराई और फीजीवासियों से माँग की कि वे सुईयाँ लगवाने के लिए रजिस्टा हो। यह आपके लिए और फीजी के लिए अच्छा होगा। यह सुरक्षित है, हमने सुईयाँ लगवा ली है तथा आपको भी ऐसा करना चाहिए। पहली सुई जिन लोगों को लगाई गई है में शामिल है: स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय की डाक्टर वुकीवुकीसेवू, नेर्स प्रातिका सिंह, हेल्थ इन्स्पेक्टर, सेतारेकी राईउला,

सेना के मेजा निउमी वाकादेवाबुका, फीजी रेवन्यू एन्ड कस्टम्स सेविस के संदीप रेड्डी, होटल मालिक डेनियल रोय, फीजी एर्यावैस की कर्म चारी मारिया वानी जो पैसों की लेनदेन करती है, अई टी एस सहायक मैनेजर पसेन्जा सेविसस नारिया पाकिज़ा मोहम्मद, फीजी पुलिस फोर्स के ऑफिसर इन चार्ज बोर्ड पुलिस सुपरिटेन्डन्ट अईसाके काफोआ तथा फीजी एर्यापोट्स के जो गप।



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा, भुतपुर्व स्वर्गीय रक्षा मंत्री चोकेतानी दोकानासिंगा की कब्र पर उन्हें श्रद्धांजली देते हुए। फोटो: अजायिया फरिन

भुतपुर्व मंत्री को श्रद्धांजलि

रोनल देव

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चियोची कोनरोते ने हालही में भुतपुर्व मंत्री चोकेतानी दोकानासिंगा के अंतिम संस्कार में भाग लेने के लिए सरकार के एक प्रतिनिधिमण्डल की अगुवाई की। उनके साथ प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा, संसदीय स्पीकर रातु इपेली नईलातिकाउ, अन्य मंत्री, पुलिस और सेना के अधिकारी अंतिम विदाई देने के लिए सउनिवेयुतो कोरो देउम्बा सेरूआ गए थे। भुतपुर्व रक्षा मंत्री दोकानासिंगा की प्रशंसा में भाषण देते हुए प्रधानमंत्री ने उनकी विनम्रता तथा अन्य लोगों

के प्रति उनका आदर-सम्मान के लिए उनकी तारीफ की। “यह बात बिल्कुल साफ थी कि इतनी उपलब्धियाँ हासिल करने के बावजूद श्री दोकानासिंगा घमण्डी व्यक्ति नहीं थे। उन्होंने यह दिखाया कि एक सरकार में एक नेता, एक पिता और समाज में एक नेता को कैसे व्यवहार करना चाहिए। अच्छी शिक्षा हासिल करने के बावजूद उनका स्वभाव भी अच्छा था।” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा। “उन्होंने अपने लोगों के लिए बेहतर जीवन के निर्माण में अपने अच्छे स्वभाव और ज्ञान का उपयोग किया और इसी वजह से वो चौदह सालों तक एक सरकारी मंत्री की हैसियत से उनके प्रतिनिधि थे,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि जब कोई देश मुसीबत में होता है तब जाकर एक व्यक्ति का सही रंग सामने



उन्होंने अपने लोगों के लिए बेहतर जीवन के निर्माण में अपने अच्छे स्वभाव और ज्ञान का उपयोग किया और इसी वजह से वो चौदह सालों तक एक सरकारी मंत्री की हैसियत से उनके प्रतिनिधि थे

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा

आता है।

“श्री दोकानासिंगा उस समय देश के रक्षा मंत्री थे जब फीजी, मुश्किल के दौर से गुज़र रहा था। इस दौरान उन्होंने अपने अच्छे स्वभाव के

बलपर, अंतरों को मिटाया और देश में एकता स्थापित की।” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि सेना के एक सदस्य होने के नाते उन्हें याद है कि कैसे स्वर्गीय दोकानासिंगा ने अपने नेतागिरी की कुशलता से वो फीजी को कठिन समय से बाहर निकालने में सक्षम हुए। “जब उन्होंने सेवा से अवकाश लिया तो उन्होंने कहा था कि उन्हें खुशी है कि उन्होंने अपने लोगों की सेवा की, उनका मुस्कुराता हुआ चहरा देखकर उन्हें खुशी महसूस हुई तथा वो संतुष्ट थे कि उन्होंने अपना काम कड़ी मेहनत और पूरे लगन से किया। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि श्री दोकानासिंगा ने अपना सबकुछ देकर लोगों की सेवा की थी। स्वर्गीय श्री दोकानासिंगा अपने पीछे अपनी पत्नी, बच्चे और नाती-पोतों को छोड़ गए हैं।

चीनी व्यवसाय के लिए सही हालत में लाने की योजनाएं महत्वपूर्ण हैं



प्रधानमंत्री दफ्तर तथा शुगा मंत्रालय के पेमनन्ट सकेटरी श्री योगेश करण एफ एस सी के नए चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव ऑफिसर भान प्रताप सिंह के साथ

रोनल देव

फीजी शुगा कोर्पोरेशन, आने वाले गन्ने की कटाई के मौसम में चीनी मिलों के संचालन, गन्ने की सप्लाई और चीनी के उत्पादन में सुधार पर मुख्य रूप से ध्यान देगा। एफ एस सी के नए नियुक्त चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव ऑफिसर भान प्रताप सिंह ने कहा कि चीनी व्यवसाय देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में भारी योगदान दे रहा है तथा यह बेहद ज़रूरी है कि इसे सही हालत में लाने की योजना बनाई जाए ताकि मुश्किल की इस घड़ी में व्यवसाय चुनौतियों का सामना कर सके। अभी हालमें प्रधानमंत्री दफ्तर तथा शुगा मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण के साथ सभा के दौरान श्री सिंह ने कहा कि देश में हजारों की संख्या में लोग व्यवसाय पर किसी न किसी तरह से निर्भर हैं तथा व्यवसाय को सही हालत में लाने की पूरी कोशिश की जाएगी।

“पूरी फैक्टरी तथा खेतों के संचालन, प्लान्ट की कार्यक्षमता, विश्वसनीयता में सुधार लाने की ज़रूरत है, चीनी की वसूली तथा उच्च कोटी के गन्ने मिल तक पहुँचाना भी ज़रूरी है। हालही आई समुद्री आँधियों की वजह से गन्ने के खेतों, फसलों तथा चीनी मिल के ढाँचे तथा रेल प्रणालियों पर बुरा असर पड़ा। यह कुछ और चुनौतियाँ हैं जिनका हमें सामना करना है,” सिंह ने कहा। एफ एस सी के नए नियुक्त चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव होने के नाते सिंह ने कहा कि उनमें जो योग्यता तथा क्षमता है, उन्हें पूरी उम्मीद है कि गन्ने के किसान, सरकार तथा अन्य साझेदारों के सहयोग से गन्ना का व्यवसाय नई उँचाईयों को छूवेगा। प्रधान मंत्री की ओर से श्री सिंह को बढ़ाई देते हुए स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण ने कहा कि श्री सिंह के पास अनुभव और ज्ञान का खजाना है तथा वो व्यवसाय से परिचित है। श्री करण ने कहा कि किसानों और अन्य साझेदारों के साथ श्री सिंह का मेल-जोल और संबंध काफी अच्छा रहा है जो कि अतिरिक्त लाभ है। श्री करण ने प्रधानमंत्री की बातों को दोहराया कि चीनी का उत्पादन बढ़ाने, खर्च कम करने तथा किसानों को और समर्थन देने के लिए फी-जयन सरकार, एफ एस सी के साथ काम करती रहेगी। श्री सिंह बाईस मार्च से अपना नया पद सम्भालेंगे।



फीजिवासियों द्वारा गैर-जरूरी सफर करने पर क्वारंटीन के चार्जस

उन्नीस मार्च 2021: दुनिया भर से फीजी लौटने वाले फीजिवासियों का क्वारंटीन संबंधी खर्च पिछले एक साल से सरकार सह रही है।

पिछले साल मार्च से बारह हजार आठ सौ (12,800) से ज्यादा फीजिवासी, फीजी के कोविड-सुरक्षा क्वारंटीन प्रोटोकॉल के नीचे सुरक्षित फीजी पहुँचे हैं जिसके लिए सरकार ने सीधे रूप से अट्ठारह मिलियन डॉलर से ज्यादा खर्च किया है जिनमें उन लोगों के भोजन, ठहरने की व्यवस्था, परीक्षण के खर्च, यातायात और अन्य व्यक्तिगत खर्च भरे गए हैं।

फीजी ने सुरक्षित रूप से परिवारों को मिलाया है और समाज में कोविड-19 फैलने से रोका है। इसके साथ लोगों को क्वारंटीन सुविधा के लिए बिल्कुल इंतज़ार नहीं करना पड़ता है जैसा कि अन्य देशों में देखा गया है। यह रिपोर्ट लगातार सामने आने के बाद कि लोग फीजियन सरकार द्वारा भरे गए क्वारंटीन व्यवस्था से फायदा उठा रहे हैं, फीजियन सरकार ने फैसला किया है कि इसी महीने की उनतीस (29) तारीख से सरकारगैर-जरूरी सफर करके फीजी आने वालों का क्वारंटीन खर्च नहीं सहेंगे। जो फीजिवासी व्यक्तिगत कारण जैसे कि दोस्तों-रिश्तेदारों से मिलने जाना चाहते हैं को चौदह दिन कोरनटीन में रहने का खर्च खुद सहना होगा।

यह चार्जस हमारे पड़ोसी देश जैसे कि ऑस्ट्रेलिया और निउ जीलेन्ड के अलावा अन्य विकसित देश के लागू करने के कई दिनों बाद फीजी में लागू किया जा रहा है।

यह नए चार्जस फीजियन पासपोर्ट रखने वाले सभी लोगों पर लागू होते हैं जिनमें वो फीजिवासी भी शामिल हैं जो विदेश में रहते हैं और उनके पास दो हरी नागरिकता है या अन्य देशों की स्थायी नागरिकता है। इन चार्जस में ठहरने और भोजन का खर्च शामिल है जो सीधे क्वारंटीन की सुविधा में भरे जाएंगे। कितना चार्जस रहेगा, यह क्वारंटीन की सुविधा पर निर्भर करता है और यह पूरे चौदह दिनों के क्वारंटीन के लिए दो हजार दो सौ डॉलर के आस-पास हो सकता है। फीजी लौटने वाले सभी फीजिवासियों का कोविड-19 के कम से कम दो परीक्षण का खर्च, हवाई अड्डे से क्वारंटीन सुविधा तक जाने का खर्च, निगरानी और साईट पर नज़र रखने का खर्च स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को भरना पड़ेगा।

इन चार्जस से छूट आसाधारण परिस्थितियों में सिर्फ उन्ही लोगों को दी जाएगी जिन्हें क्वारंटीन अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी, जो कि स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के पेमनन्ट स्कंटेरी है के द्वारा स्वीकृति मिलेगी।

यह छूट तबही मिलेगी जब:

- * फीजियन नागरिक जो पिछले साल अट्ठाईस मार्च से पहले विदेश गए हैं और अब घर वापस लौटना चाहते हैं;
- * विद्यार्थी और उनपर निर्भर लोग जो सरकार द्वारा स्पॉन्सर या सर्मथन किए हुए छात्रवृत्ति पर पढ़ाई पूरी करके लौटना चाहते हैं;
- * फीजी के स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय की स्वीकृति से विदेशी चिकित्सा के लिए गए मरीज़ और उनके साथी फीजिवासी घर लौटना चाहते हैं;
- * फीजी के नागरिक जो फीजियन सरकार और अन्य सरकार के बीच समझौते के तहत विदेश नौकरी करने गए थे जैसे कि लईबा स्कीम के नीचे;
- * और घर लौटने वाले सैनिकों, फीजियन सरकार के अधिकारी, फीजी के राजदूत (जिनके साथ उनके पति या पत्नी और अट्ठारह साल से कम उम्र के बच्चे भी शामिल हैं) जो औपचारिक कारणों से विदेश गए थे।

आगे बढ़ते हुए फीजियन सरकार देश लौटने वाले फीजिवासियों के स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा को लगातार प्राथमिकता देती रहेगी और फीजी की क्वारंटीन प्रणाली का दुरुपयोग रोकती रहेगी।

और जानकारी स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय प्रदान करेगा।
समाप्त।

विद्यार्थियों को युनिफॉर्म और जूते मिले 2

मधुबनी के किसानों को राईस हावेस्टर मिले 3

दूध का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए डयरी व्यवसाय को बढ़ावा देना ज़रूरी 3

पहले दस लोगों को कोविड-19 की सुई लगी 6

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमारामा, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव डाक्टर जर्म्स फोन्ग, सूचना मंत्रालय की स्थानापन स्थाई सचिव तुपुउ बराविलाला, अन्य सरकारी अधिकारियों के साथ नान्दी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर कोविड-19 दवा का स्वागत करते हुए। चित्र: मेरियानी गोनेदुआ

कोविड की दवा फ़ीजी पहुंची

रोनल देव

कोविड-19 टीके का पहला बैच पिछले शनिवार को फ़ीजी पहुंचा।

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमारामा ने प्रकाश डाला कि यह दवा कोविड-19 की उन तीन दवाओं में से एक है जिसका उपयोग करने की सिफारिश विश्व स्वास्थ्य संघटन के बचाव पर स्ट्रेटिजिक एडवाइज़री ग्रुप ऑफ़ एक्सपर्ट्स ने की है।

“फ़ीजी को कोवेक्स सुविधा के नीचे कोविड-19 की एस्ट्राज़ेनेका (AstraZeneca) सुई के बारह हज़ार खुराक यानि डोसस आए हैं। कोवेक्स एक गठबंधन है जो इस बात को ध्यान में रख रहा है कि सभी देशों के नागरिक इस

महामारी से सुरक्षित हों। फ़ीजीवासियों को इस विपत्ति से बचाने के लिए यह एक छोटा लेकिन बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण कदम रहा है जबकि इस महामारी ने दुनिया भर में दो और आधा मिलियन लोगों की जान ली है। एस्ट्राज़ेनेका (AstraZeneca) टीका ने दिखाया है कि वो सुरक्षित और असरकारक है,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

इस खास दवा को युनाइटेड किंगडम, युरोपियन यूनियन तथा चौदह अन्य देशों के स्वास्थ्य बॉड द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त है जिनमें ऑस्ट्रेलिया और हालही में फ़ीजी के फामासियुटिकल बोर्ड ने भी इसकी स्वीकृति दी है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि इस सुई के कई मिलियन डोसस दुनिया भर में भेजे गए हैं तथा आकड़े दिखाते हैं कि इस महामारी के कारण

बढ़ रहे मामले, अस्पतालों में भर्ती होने वाले लोगों तथा लोगों की जान जाने वाली संख्या में गिरावट देखी गई।

“इस टीके का पहला बैच डाक्टरों, नर्स, हेल्थ इन्स्पेक्टर, क्वारंटीन कर्मचारी, हवाई तथा समुद्री कर्मचारियों, पुलिस, सेना तथा अन्य सुरक्षाकर्मियों के लिए है जिन्होंने अभी तक इस महामारी के दौरान हमारी देश की सीमा को सुरक्षित रखा है।

कई कारणों से इन कर्मचारियों को सबसे पहले टीके लगाने के लिए प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी क्योंकि उन्हें वायरस के संपर्क में आने का सबसे अधिक खतरा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि अन्य उपलब्ध दवाइयों की तरह इस एस्ट्राज़ेनेका (AstraZeneca) टीके

के भी दो डोसस लगाने की ज़रूरत है।

इसका मतलब है कि हमें एक स्पष्ट रिकॉर्ड रखने की ज़रूरत है कि किन लोगों को सुईयाँ लग गई हैं तथा उन्हें दूसरा डोस कब लगेगा। डिजिटल फ़ीजी के मार्फ़ित एक ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन सुविधा की गई है जो हमें वो आकड़ा देगी जिसकी हमें ज़रूरत है ताकि हम देश भर में बिना किसी बाधा के यह अभियान कर सकें।

अभी के लिए छः हज़ार डोसस सीमा पर और स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों के लिए है। यह चरण पूरा होने के बाद अगले चरण की घोषणा की जाएगी तथा और भी फ़ीजीवासी टीके लगवाने के लिए इस ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन सुविधा का उपयोग करके रजिस्ट्रा हो सकेंगे।

Noda Viti

Dola na vale ni bula e Nasese



2

Yaco na marau ena dola ni sala e Anitioki



2

Totoka na sasaga e Nakovacake



6



Sa cula tiko oqori ena icula ni tataqomaki mai na COVID-19 ko Major Neumi Vakadewabuka, na iliuliu ni Veitaqomaki ena Vanua ni Veivagalalataki vei ira na lewei Viti dau veilakoyaki ena iyalayala ni noda vanua ni curuvanua. iTaba: MEREANI GONEDUA

KUA NA WELE: PM



Na icula oqo e sega walega ni dusia na gaunisala me daumaka tale kina na bula, e icula talega me bula vinaka kina na noda bula vakailavo, noda bisinisi, kei na na nodra ivurevure ni ilavo e udolu na tamata cakacaka e Viti.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Paraiminisita

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA vakasalataki keda na turaga na Paraiminisita o Voreqe Bainimarama ni sega ni dodonu meda wele nisa sivi e 320 na siga na noda taqomaki keda tiko mai na COVID-19.

“E dina beka ni sega ni levu era leqa ena noda vanua mai na matetaka oqo me vakatauvtani kei ira mai na veiyasai vuravura. E sega ni curu oso na noda vale ni bula vei ira na tauvi COVID.”

“Ia e sega ni dodonu meda kaya nida sa galala mai kina na sala duadua ga eda rawa ni taqomaki keda kina mai na matetaka oqo sai koya meda cula.”

“Sa rui bibi meda rejisitaki keda taucoko me rawa ni taladrodro kina na veicula oqo,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni dina ni dua na cavuikalawa vinaka ni COVAX ena Pasifika na noda mai ciqoma edua na iwiliwili lailai ni icula ka rawa nira cula kina e 20 na pasede

ni noda lewenivanua.

“Eda vakavinavinaka kina vakalevu dinaga nida na gadreva e levu tale na kateni icula vaka oqo.”

“Oya na vuna eda sa cakacaka vata tiko kina kei ira na noda itokani ni veivakatoro-caketaki kei ira na dau buli icula meda volia tale mai vakalevu na icula ena gauna totolo duadua eda rawata. Sa tu vakarau o Viti me sauma na isau ni icula kece oya ke gadrevi,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Sa na sega nida waraka na matetaka oqo me vaka na misila kei na veimate tale eso. Na icula oqo e sega walega ni dusia na gaunisala me daumaka tale kina na bula e icula talega me bula vinaka kina noda bula vakailavo, noda bisinisi, keina na nodra ivurevure ni ilavo e udolu na tamata cakacaka e Viti. Me suka lesu mai kina na cakacaka, me rawa tale kina na veisemati ena noda iyalayala ni curuvanua ka meda taura tale na itutu dina nei Viti e vuravura.”



Dola na vale ni bula vou e Nasese

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA dolava na vale ni bula taukeni vakabisinisi mai Nasese ena macawa oqo ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. Sa ikuri ni sasaga nei Viti me uasivi duadua nona veiqaravi ni Tabana ni Bula ena Pasifika.

“E na rawa kevaka e cakacaka vata na Matanitu kei ira na dau ni bisinisi.”

Vakadeitaka na Paraiminisita ni matata vinakata tu ni itavi ni Matanitu me vakadeitaka na kena sotavi na nodra gagadre vakavuniwai na lewei Viti kece.

“Na veisele na qaravi tauvimate, na mavoa, na veimasi kei na vakaukauwa yago kei na veicula e gadreva na vale ni bula savasava ka savasava na kena vale ni vakacegu ka savasava na kena wainigunu. Mera dau veikauwaitaki na kena Vuniwai kei na vakaile-silesi,” uqeta ko PM Bainimarama.

“Qoka sa ikarua ni vale ni bula taukeni vakabisinisi e Viti, eda marautaka dina ni na mai ikuri ni veiqaravi sa tiko rawa,” marautaka o PM Bainimarama.

“Ko ira na Vale ni bula taukeni vakabisinisi era vukea na veiqaravi sa cakava tiko na Tabana ni Bula.”

“E na galala kina na vale ni bula ni Matanitu me levu tale era qaravi kina vakabibi na kisi ni veiqaravi e gadrevi vakatotolo.”

“Na vale ni bula taukeni vakabisinisi e cecere na kena itagede ka totolo talega na veiqaravi vei ira na lewenivanua e Viti kei ira na noda itokani ena Pasifika,” vakadeitaka o PM Bainimarama.



Sa duri tu oqori ko Paraiminisita Baianimarama ena rumu ni veisele ena vale ni bula vou taukeni vakabisinisi mai Nasese na Nasese Private Hospital ena nona a dolava ena macawa oqo ka taukena e dua na vuniwai kilai levu e Viti o Dr De Asa e dua na turaga ni Filipino. iTaba: **FELIX LESINAIVALU**

Sa rawa ni dua na gauna me sa na kilai o Viti me vanua ni dikevi vakavuniwai ena Pasifika.

“E na gauna madaga qo na vale ni bula duadua ga oqo e tiko kina na vuniwai ni sui e Viti kei na Pasifika. Sa matau tu na veisele vakaoqo ena veiyasai vuravura kara na marau kina na itaba qase.”

“Na vale ni bula vou talega oqo ena tiko kina na misini matalia ni kena ilovi na yate (liver) ni tamata e Viti (MRI) kana vakarawarawata na nodra vakatulewa na vuniwai ni veisele,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Marautaka noda iliuliu ni Matanitu ni vale ni bula e Nasese e taukena o Vuniwai De Asa ka dau veiqaravi tu eliu ena vale ni bula levu e Suva na CWMH ena nona se qai tadu mai ki Viti dau qasenivuli talega ena vuli vuniwai

ena gauna oya na Fiji School of Medicine.

“Buta vinaka tu ko koya ena veimataqali mate e kune ena noda vanua, kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“E da duavata ni kua ena maliwa ni mate-taka levi ni vuravura na COVID-19.”

“Na kena tiko na icula e cila mai kina e dua na tiki ni rarama ni vakauinui e vuravura ka nuitaki ni na seavu yani na butobuto ka basika na mataka vou.”

“Ko ira na noda dau ni veiqaravi ena noda iyalayala ni curuvana sa 12 na vula nodra veiqaravi. Era sa tekivu cula ena macawa oqo.”

“Au sa lalawataka tiko meu cula ena gauna ga esa vakadonui kina,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Nuitaki na itabagone ena sotavi ni draki veisau:PM

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKARAITAKA vei ira na sivia na 200 vakacaca na itabagone e Viti era bose tiko ena GPH e Suva ena macawa oqo o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni mai nodra wale na isamu ni dawa ni draki veisau na itabagone edaidai.

Ia ena ligadra ga na itabagone edaidai sa vakauinui kina ko vura-vura.

“Na isamu ni dawa ni nodra vakalecaleca na dau veiliutaki ni veimatanitu lelevu me baleta na kasigaga era ceburaka tiko ki maliwa lala.”

“Ko ni a sucu mai kina dua na vura-vura e robalaka tiko kina e vaigauna na ua ni draki ca na noda veibaravi ka sega ni tadrari ena sagavulu na yabaki sa oti ni namai vakatu oqo ena kena veivakurabuitaki.”

Ko ni a sucu mai kina dua na vura-vura e nanumi ni veikabula e bula voli kina me tekivu mai na veicakau ni Pasifika me yaco sara kina veikauloa ena loma ni Amazon ena sega ni bula sivia na nomuni gauna ena delai vuravura.

Ko ni a sucu mai kina vuravura oqo sa rogo voli kina eso na vosavosa ka sega mada ni a rogo ena noqu gauna au se itabagone kina me vaka na “Na ise ni Draki Veisau” kei na “Koro tokitaki”. E daidai esa ulutaga ni veitalanoa ena Bose vakaoqo na ivosavosa oya,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Au vakila ni mosi talega vei kemuni. E sega ni naka e mosi vakalevu vei au me vaka na noqu raici ira na Veiliutaki e vuravura ena nodra sega ni kauwaitaka tiko mai vakabalavu ni tiko na leqa era vakavuna – na leqa era na sega ni donuya na kena revurevu ena gauna era bula tiko kina. E vakaninivaki na nodra vakalecalecava.”

“Ia, ni u raica na vakalecaleca ena noqui tabatamata, au kunea na vakauinui levu ena nomuni itabata-mata. Au vinakata moni kila ni nomuni Matanitu sa liutaka tiko na ulutaga oqo. Ko Viti esa dinata tiko me rawata na saiva na cagi duka ena yabaki 2050.”

Kaya vei ira na itabagone ko PM Bainimarama ni sa tiko edua na noda lava vakaturi me baleta na draki veisau kasa yaco tiko kina ena gauna oqo na kena soli vakasama me rawa ni vakota na noda rawata na noda gagadre me saiva na cagi duka e da ceburaka.

“Au sa uqeti kemuni na itabagone mo ni wilika na lawa vakaturi oqo, e dua na tiki ni lawa ni noda vakatoro-caketaki.”

“Na noda yavala ena gauna oqo, eda nuitaka ni sa ivakaraitaki vinaka ni noda Matanitu kina vo ni vuravura mera vakatotomuria.”

“Ni koni sega ni guce na toso ki liu ena noda vakayacora na ka e gadrevi, kei na nomuni lavaka mera yavala na iliuliu ena gauna oqo, o au keina vo ni vuravura keimami na saravi kemuni tiko,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Yaco na marau ena dola ni sala mai Anitioki



E gauna lagilagi ki na koro ko Anitioki e Daku, Tailevu, ni sa kotiva o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na reveni drokadroka ena dola ni nodra gaunisala ka toka ena \$3.5 na milioni na kena isau vakailavo. iTaba: **VAKARAUTAKI**

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA yaco na marau levu vei ira na lewe ni koro ko Anitioki mai Tailevu ni sa dola nodra gaunisala ka tara na Matanitu ena \$3.5m (tolu poidi lima na miloni na dola).

Vuabale na vakavinavinaka nei nodra Turaga ni Koro ko Uraia Vuetibau ka vaka qo ne;

“Sa qai oti na nodra vodo waqa ki koronivuli na luvei keimami, sa qai oti na kena usa ena waqa na neimami ivoli, sa wali na bolebole levu oqo ena ta kei na dola ni gaunisala oqo.”

“Sa duatani na levu ni neimami vakavinavinaka kina Matanitu,” kaya o Vuetibau

Sega ni kinoca rawa nona marau ko Vuetibau nona laki dolava yani nodra gaunisala na tura-ga na iluliu ni noda Matanitu ko Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ena siga Vukelulu na ika 17 ni Maji 2021.

Marautaka o Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni gaunisala oya ena laki vakalevutaka nodra rawa ilavo na lewe ni koro.

“Na isau ni ta ni gaunisala oqo e 1.8 na kilomita na kena balavu kasa rawa ni kele mai kina e mata ni nomuni vale na motoka kei na lori

ka vakarawarawataka na vakau ni nomu ivoli kara taqomaki vinaka na gone nira laki vuli ni sa qai oti na vodo waqa,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Sega walega ni yaga vei kemuni e Anitioki na gaunisala vou oqo ena yaga talega vei ira mai Naisogovau keina vei tikotiko vagalala volekata.”

Kaya vei ira mai Anitikoki na iliuliu ni Matanitu ni gaunisala oya esa dolava na katuba ki Viti raraba, sa na levu cake kina na ivurevure ni rawaka, ka vakayagtaki vinaka kina nodra taledi na lewe ni koro.



Veivuke ko Ositerelia ena kakana

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA digitaka tiko na Tabana ni Vuli e 50 na koronivuli e Vanua Levu kei naMua-i-Ra era sotava tiko na leqa ni kakana ka mena veivuke mai kina na Matanitu ko Ositerelia.

Ni oti na vakacaca ni cagilaba o Yasa kei Ana eso na koronivuli era sotava kina leqa ni kakana.

Vakabibi ni levu na iteitei a vakacacani kina.

Kaya na Minisita ni Vuli ko Rosy Akbara ni 19 na koronivuli ena Muaira kei na 33 na koronivuli ena Vualiku e 23 vei ira qoka era koronivuli curu e bure.

“Era na vukei ena 3 na kana (katalau, vakasigalevu keina vakayakavi) na vo ni koronivuli era na vukei walega ena kedra vakasigalevu,” kaya o Akbar.

Kaya na Minisita ni Vuli ni veivuke qoka ena 12 na macawa kana veivuke mai kina na Matanitu ko Ositerellia.

Era na vakayagataki kina na isoqosoqo ni tina ena kena vakarautakai na kakana e koronivuli.

Marautaka na Mata nei Ositerelia e Viti ko John Feakes me veivuke ena kakana na nona Matanitu.

“Sa rawa kina me ra kania na kakana bulabula na gonevuli ni viti ka vukea nodra vuli e veisiga. Vakabibi na nodra vuli na gone era tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu ka vakaleqai nodra iteitei vakavuvale,” kaya o Feakes.

‘E dua na turaga yalo vinaka ko Cokanasiga’

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA nona vosa ena siga ni veitalatala vua na Minisita Vakacegu ni Tabana ni Veitaqomaki e Viti o Joketani Cokanasiga ena loma ni valenilotu ni koro o Sauniveuto ena tikina o Deuba ena yasana vakaturaga o Namosi e kaya kina o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni oqo e dua na turaga yalo vinaka ka ra sa vakadinadinataka o ira kece na veiqaravi vata kei koya.

“E matata vinaka talega vei keda ni oqo edua talega na turaga e rawa ni vakatokai vei keimami na nona itokani keimami a vaiqaravi vata mai ena cakacaka vaka Matanitu edua dina na turaga yalodina ka yalo vinaka ena nona qaravi itavi.”

“E da soqoni vata mai ena siga e daidai meda mai talaca e dua na wekada a vakarogoi Viti ena gauna ni nodra veiqaravi,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“E na balavu ni gauna e a caka-

Na tara ni wavu me kaukauwa cake



SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA wavu se ikawakawa vou sa dolava oya o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama mai Vusuya sa na yaga vei ira na 5000 na lewenivanua era vakaitikotiko e Namata, Momi, Vusuya kei Korociriciri. Ena semati ira kina veiyasai Viti.

Vakadeitaka na tikina oqori o Paraiminisita Bainimarama nona dolava tiko na wavu vou koya e toka ena \$4 na milioni na kena isau.

“E ra sa na takoso ena yalo galala na gonevuli ni rua saka tiko na Primary ena itikotiko oqo kei na veiqaravi ni kabani na Vusuya Bus Company kei na usa ni yaya ni sitoa na Hanson Supermarket.”

“Sa vakarawarawataka na sikovi ni ipamu ni wai ni Tabana ni Wai ka vakarawarawataka talega na veiqaravi ni itikotiko ni Ovisa e Raralevu. Na wavu vou saka qo ena semati kemuni kina gaunisala na Kings Road,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Vakadeitaka o PM Bainimarama ni tubu tiko

Era taubaleta toka oqori ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama, ira na ivakalesilesi ni Matanitu kei ira na lewe ni koro na Waidamu Bridge ena gaunisala e Vusuya volekata na koro ko Raralevu. iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

ka sa vinaka tiko na veitosoyaki ka vakavuna me tomani tiko na vakaduri bisinisi kara sa vuli tiko na gone ka vakayacori na veika e caka ena veisiga.

“Sa balavu mai na gauna e vakayagataki saka tiko kina na wavu lailai oqo. E rerevaki ena so na gauna, so tale na gauna e sega ni veiganiti kei na itovo ni bula ni nodatou vanua.”

“Na wavu sa ka makawa ka rawa ni vakacacani vakarawarawa ena waluvu. Io sa oti vakadua na veitalanoa saka oqori, oti vakadua na nuiqawaqawa tara saka tiko na itikotiko

saka oqo ena dua na gauna balavu.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni gauna dredre oqo e saga tiko na matanitu me vakadeitaka na bula vakailavo ena noda vanua.

“Sa tarovi rawa na dewa ni mate ena noda Viti lomani sa tomani tikoga na cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki.”

“E sega ni rawa nida tu vakadua ena gauna oqo ka waraka me vakanadakui keda na mate levu oqo. Na wavu saka oqo edua vei ira na wavu vinaka ena taudaku ni korolelevu ena vukea na nomuni bula ka vaqacotaka na veiqaravi ena noda vanua.”



Era tauca tiko oqori na nona vosa ni veivakacaucautaki vua na turaga na Minisita ni Veitaqomaki vakacegu ko Joketani Cokanasiga na turaga na Paraiminisita e Viti o Voreqe Bainimarama ena loma ni valenilotu ni koro ko Sauniveuto e Deuba, Serua.. iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN

caka kina kei na veika lelevu e sa rawata, sega vakadua ni dau vakacerecere koya, eda kila vinaka taucoko na turaga oqo. Ia e dau nona iyau voli ga na malumalumu na yalo malua. Segga ni ra dau tukutuku koya se me dokadoka i koya.”

“Ia e vakasinaiti ena yalo ni vosa kei na loloma. Na ituvaki ni bula oqori era sa bau laki bulataka na ivakalesilesi kei na leweni-

vanua era bula veimaliwai vata,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni vakilai na vua ni nona veiqaravi ena loma ni nona koro vakaturaga bau tara talega yani na yasana vakaturaga o Serua, vata kei na noda vanua o Viti.

“Era digitaki koya na lewenivanua ka maroroya na veivakabauti oqori ena nodra qarava vinaka na nodra itavi vakabibi ena loma

ni 14 na yabaki ena itutu vaka minisita ni matanitu.”

“Na gauna e sotava tiko kina na noda vanua na dredre sa qai dau laurai na bula dina ni tamata na veika era vakabauta kei na veika era vakabibitaka.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni levu vei era se nanuma vinaka tiko na gauna dredre oqori donuya nona gauna ni veiliutaki.

“Ena dela ni nuiqawaqa sa qai

vakaraitaki koya kina na turaga oqo ena isolisoli vinaka na isolisoli talei e tu vua. Me rawa ni walia kina na veisagasaqa ka kauta mai ena noda vanua na dua-vata. Keimami vakila na lewe ni mataivalu ena gauna oya.”

“Ena matua ni nona veiliutaki e a kauti Viti mai ena dua na gauna drakidrakita me yacova na gauna sa maravu kina na ilakolako,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.



Nodra na itabagone na isamu ni dawa ni draki veisau

Vakaraitaka vei ira e lewe 400 vakacaca na itabagone e Viti era bese tiko ena Grand Pacific Hotel (GPH), e Suva ena macawa ogo o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni mai nodra wale na isamu ni dawa ni draki veisau na itabagone edaidai.

"Au vinakata moni kila ni nomuni Matanitu sa liutaka tiko na ulutaga ogo. Ko Viti esa dinata tiko me rawata na saiva na cagi duka ena yabaki 2050." Kaya vei ira na itabagone ko PM Bainimarama ni sa tiko edua na noda lawa vakaturi me baleta na draki veisau kasa yaco tiko kina ena gauna ogo na kena soli vakasama me rawa ni vakota na noda rawata na noda gagadre me saiva na cagi duka e ceburaka. iTaba: **NANISE NEIMILA**





Oqo ko ira na lewe ni vanua ko Nakovacake e Nadi ka vakacautaki ira na Minisita ni Teitei ko Dr Mahendra Reddy ena daumaka ni ituvatuva ni nodra vakayagataki qele ena gauna bolebole ni mate levu na COVID-19. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Totoka na sasaga e Nakovacake: Reddy

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

E vakacautaki na Minisita ni Teitei ko Dr Mahendra Reddy na nodra sasaga na lewe ni Vanua o Nakovacake e Nadi ni oti na kena mai takoso na mate na COVID-19.

E na dua na nodra bese cokovata e ra a vakaraitaka kina ki vei Dr Reddy na vei tuvatuva e so e ra biuta vata mai baleta na nodra sasaga ni oti na kena vakilai na revurevu ni mate levu e na noda vanua.

E umani e na i tuvatuva qo na kena vakayagataki na nodra qele na turaga kei na marama e na loma Yavusa o Tukai, Noi Naiqoro kei Nadi e na

koro o Namotomoto kei Navoci.

“Na nomudou sasaga qo e sa i vakaraitaka ni nomudou qaga ka dou sega kina ni vaka tara me i tatao ni toso na mate levu ka mai veivakaleqai tiko qo e vuravura,” e vakaraitaka ko Dr Reddy.

“Na Matanitu tale ga e tiko na nona i tuvatuva me baleta na kena vakabulabula taki tale na bula vaka i lavo e na noda vanua ka sa dua na usutu levu ni sasaga oqo sa i koya na kena qaravi na qele me i vurevure ni lavo.”

“Au vakavinavinaka kina vei kemudou e na nomudou sasaga ka’u sa nuitaka ni dou na tomana tiko ka ni yaga sara vakalevu e na gauna

e sa na vakatarai tale kina veitosoyaki e na noda vuravura vei ira na dau saravanua,” e kaya ko Dr Reddy. E vakaraitaka o Asinate Saukuru na vuniola ni soqosoqo na Nakovacake Development Trust na nodratou tokona tiko na sasaga ni matanitu kei na kena laveti cake na vakayagataki qele me i vurevure ni lavo vei ira na vakaleqai e na revurevu ni mate na COVID-19.

“Keitou sa vakauqeti e na veika e so sa mai vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Teitei ka sa neitou i tuvatuva me na tomani tiko na sasaga ka namata yani kina kena teivaki ni i tei me baleta na noda makete ni saravanua,” e tomana ko Saukuru.

Vakauqeti na dauteitei ena tei niu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

E vatokai na yabaki 2021 me yabaki ni ‘Niu’ ka sa koto tale kina e dua na bolebole ki na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei e na kena vakatoroicaketaki na niu me dua na i voli tudei e na noda vanua.

E na dua na nodra bese kei ira na dauteitei mai Qeleloa, Uciwai kei Sariyawa e Nadi, e vakaraitaka kina na Minisita ni Teitei ko Dr. Mahendra Reddy ni koto e na i tuvatuva ni nona Tabacakacaka me baleta na kena segati na Niu me i dua na i vurevure ni lavo levu kina noda vanua.

“Ke ni via tei niu mo ni vakaraitaka mai ka ni sa tu vakarau na Tabacakacaka me na dodo liga mai e na kena tauyavu na nomuni loga niu,” e vauqeti ira ko Dr. Reddy.

“E na gauna sara ga oqo e laurai tiko ni vuqa ga na dau tei niu e ra tiko mai na Vualiku ni noda vanua, vakau-sivi e na yasana ko Cakaudrove.”

E vakaraitaka tale ga o Dr Reddy ni na sega ni saumi na kena vakarautaki ka kau yani na itei ni niu ki vei ira ke sa lomadra dina me ra teivaka.



Sa ira oqo na lewe vitu na dau susu bulumakau loba ena vanua ko Waidina e Naitasiri kara sa duavata me vakalevutaki na levu ni sucu era rawata. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Tauyavu e vitu na dau susu bulumaku loba e Waidina

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

E vakau rawa ki vanua tani e na yabaki 2019 e 23, 104 na kilokaramu na sucu ka kena i sau vaka i lavo e \$236,768. E rawa tiko oqori mai na 1,130 na bai ni bulumakau loba sucu.

E laurai ni sa toso sara tiko vaka totolo na i wiliwili ni lewe ni vanua e ra sa goleva yani na susu bulumakau loba ka ni a tiko na kedra i wiliwili e na 987 e na

yabaki 2015.

E vakaraitaka na Vuniola Tudei ni Tabacakacaka ni Teitei kei na Susu Manumanu o Ritesh Dass ni sa vakavotukana tiko mai na sasaga ni Matanitu e na kena laveti cake na levu ni sucu e rawati e na noda vei belavu e so ka sa dusimaka tiko na mana ni Ituvatuva ni Tabacakacaka me baleta na kena vakavinakataki na rawaka mai na susu bulumakau loba.

E vosa tiko o Dass e na kena

mai tavoci na nodratou sasaga e Vitu (7) na daususu manumanu me ratou qarava na susu bulumakau loba e Waidina e na Yasana Vakaturaga ko Naitasiri.

“Na veivuke qo ni matanitu e na vukei kemudou e na nomudou mai tauyavu vou qo e na susu manumanu ka ni dou a dau tei kakana draudrau kei kakana dina voli ga mai,” e kaya ko Dass.

E tomana ka kaya ni sala vata na veivuke qo na nodratou na tuberi na lewe Vitu me ratou vaka i yau

taki e na kila ni susu manumanu me vaka na vakavinakataki ni vanua ni loba sucu, maroro ni tukutuku, maroro ni sucu, qaravi ni co me kedra na bulumakau kei na veika tale e so me na vukea na nodra vakatoroicaketaki.

“Sa tu vakarau kina na Tabana ni Susu Manumanu me na tokoni kemudou tiko ka vukea na nomudou toso,” e kaya ko Dass.

E vakaraitaka ko Naibuka Inakula e na koro ko Gusuisavu na nona marau ka vakavinavi-

nakataka na veivuke kei na vuli e sa mai vakayacori vei koya keiratou na nona itokani.

“Keimami sa matau tu ga na vakayagatki qele ka keimami tuberi voli mai kina ia ni sa vagolei mai e so na veivuke vaka oqo sa kauta vata mai na vakanuinui ni na rawa ni vuqa sara na ka e na rawati e na sucu ka dua vei ira sa i koya na kena laveti cake na bula vaka i lavo ni noda matanitu kei na neitou dui vuvala,” e kaya ko Naibuka.



Nai Sau ni Veiqaravi Vakavuniwai kei na Veivakagalalataki ni lewei Viti dau Veilakoyaki

12 ni Maji, 2021: E sauma taumada tiko mai na Matanitu na nodra mai qaravi vakavuniwai ka vagalala taki (Quarantine) na lewei Viti mai na veiyasai vuravura ka ra gadreva me ra lesu mai ki na noda vanua ena loma ni dua taucoko na yabaki.

Tekivu taki mai na vula ko Mati 2020, e rauta ni tinikarua na udolu, walu na drau vakacaca (12,800) na lewe ni vanua era mai qaravi ena vanua ni veiqaravi vakarautaki ena noda vanua (Fiji's COVID Safe Quarantine) ka rauta ni tinikawalu na milioni na dola (\$18m) nai sau vaka i lavo e vakayagataka na Matanitu ena nodra kana, itikotiko kei na nodra qaravi vaka Vuniwai ka vaka kina na nodra veikauyaki.

E sa qarava rawa ko Viti na nodra mai veisotari tale na lewei Viti mai na vei yasai vuravura kei ira na nodra dui matavuvale ena bula vinaka ka taqomaki ira mai na mate dewa na COVID. Na vanua ni veiqaravi ni veigalalataki (Quarantine Centre) e noda vanua, e qaravi ira na lewe ni vanua ena gauna cava ga era yaco mai kina ena noda vanua.

Me vaka ni sa tauri rawa na ripote ni so na lewe ni vanua era vakatanitaka na kena sauma tiko vakai lavo na Matanitu nodra mai qaravi, sa mai vakavuna me sa na tarovi na kena sauma na Matanitu na nomuni dau qaravi na lewei Viti curu vanua mai ki na noda vanua. Sa na tekivu taki tiko ena-i ka 29 ni Maji ni yabaki oqo.

Ki vei ira ne lewei Viti ka ra na qai via taleva tale mai noda vanua, ena lakolako vaka gade se veisiko mai ki vei ira na wekadra se i tokani, e sa na lavaki me ra sa na sauma vaka-taki ira na nodra mai qaravi me tini ka va na siga ena loma ni bai ni vei vagalalataki (Quarantine- 14 days).

Na i tuvatuva oqo era sa dau vakamuria tiko mai na vei Matanitu voleka me vakataki Ositerelia, Niusiladi kei na vei Matanitu tale e so ka tautauvata nai vakarau ni kena qaravi nai yalayala ni curu vanua (border).

Na veisau vou oqo, e okati kina o ira ga na lewe ni vanua ka ra taukena nai vola tara ni curu vanua (passport holder) vaka kina vei ira na lewe i Viti ka ra vakaitikotiko tudei (permanent residence) mai vanua tani kei ira era taukena talega nai vola tara ni curu vanua mai na vei Matanitu (dual citizenship). Nai sau lavaki oqo e okati tiko kina na nodra mai qaravi kei na nodra vakani. Na veiqaravi oqo sa na saumi vaka dododnu kina vanua ni veivagagalalataki (quarantine facility).

Nai sau lavaki oqo ena vakatautaki ena vanua ni veiqaravi, nai sau vaka i lavo ni veiqaravi oqo e nanumi tiko me yacova na rua na udolu, rua na drau na dola (\$2200) vakacaca ena loma ni bai ni tinikava na siga (14-day quarantine). Nai tuvatuva ni veiqaravi sa i koya me ra na lai vaka dikevi (ke lailai me rua) ni bera na nodra vagolei ki na i tikotiko ni veiqaravi, ka sa na qai lako i yadravi tiko me yacova ni sa vakagalalataki mai vei iratou na Tabana ni Bula. Na veiqaravi kece oqori ena saumi vakatabaki dua ga ki vei iratou na Tabana ni Bula.

Era na vakagalalataki tiko mai ena i-sau lavaki qo, ko ira na lewe ni vanua ka toqai toka e ra, ena nona veivakadonui na Vunivola tudei ni Tabana ni bula (Quarantine Authority of Fiji-Permanent Secretary for Health and Medical Services):

- Ira na lewe ni vanua era biu vanua ni bera nai ka 28 ni Maji 2020, ka ra sa lesu tale mai kina noda vanua;
- Gonevuli kei na nodra vuvale ka vakauti ira na Matanitu ena i lakolako vaka vuli ki vanua tani, ka sa ra suka lesu mai kina noda vanua ni sa cava mai na vuli;
- Ira na lewe ni vanua ka ra laki qaravi vaka Vuniwai kei ira na i tokani ka vakadonui me ra veitmani vata ki vanua tani ena veitokoni ni Tabana ni bula;
- Ira na lewe ni vanua ka ra gole vaka cakacaka ena loma ni bai ni veidinadinati ni Matanitu ka ra sa lesu mai ki na noda vanua (govt-govt workers labour scheme);
- Ira na tamata cakacaka vaka Matanitu (kei na nodra vuvale kei ira na gone ka lailai na nodra yabaki mai na 18) ka ra biu vanua ena vuku ni veitalai ni Matanitu.

Na Matanitu ko Viti ena tomana tikoga na kena tutaki na tiko bulabula kei na nodra taqomaki na lewe ni vanua ka ra lesu mai ki na noda vanua. Ena yadrava talega na kena qarauni me kakua ni vakatanitaki se vakasabusabutaki nai tuvatuva ni veiqaravi ni veivakagalalataki (Fijian Quarantine System).

Ke tiko na nomuni vakatataro, ni qai veitaratara ki na Tabana ni Bula ena kena vei tukutuku matata. Vinaka.

Noda Viti

TEKI IS AUSAU NI DRAKI VEISAU NA ITABAGONE



E sa kilai e vuravura ni ko ira na itabagone era ika ciwa ni ilawalawa tamata e tu vei ira na dodonu me ra vakaitavi ena veivakatorocaketaki lewai vakamatau.

Parveen Kumar
Minisita ni iTabagone

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

TEKIA tale edua na isausau na Tabacakacaka ni iTabagone kei na Qito ni mai vakacavari vinaka e dua nodra vuli na itabagone me baleta na nodra rawa ni sotava na Draki Veisau keina bolebole e kauta mai kei na kena rawa ni vakalailaitaki.

Nona sogota tiko na vuli koya a kaya kina na Minisita ni iTabagone o Parveen Kumar Bala a vakavinavinakataka ira taumada na dau ni veivakatavulici ena vuli oya.

Vakavinavinakataka ira talega na vei Tabacakacaka ni Matanitu era vakaitavi kina me vaka na Vale ni Volavola ni Yasana ko Ra, na Tabacakacaka ni Qoliqoli, na Tabacakacaka ni Bula, na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei, kei na Matabose ni Qito e Viti.

Kaya vei ira na itabagone o Minisita Bala ni Draki Veisau e bau ulutaga vereverea ni vuravura.

“Baleta ni sema kina e levu na ka. Sa gadrevi kina me sa tiki talega ni nodra kilaka na itabagone edaidai me rawa ni levu na lewenivanua era kila n aka e rawa nida vakayacora me vakailailaitaka kina na vakacaca ni draki veisau.”

Sa kacivaki talega mai Togo-

vere o Minisita Bala ni macawa ogo esa na vakayacori kina nodra bose e 200 na itabagone e Viti mera bosea kina na veika mena vakayacori me rawa ni sotavi kina na revurevu ni Draki Veisau ena nodra dui itikotiko ka mera solia talega nodra vakatutu me baleta na Lawa Vakaturi ni Draki Veisau.

“E sa kilai e vuravura ni ko ira na itabagone era ika ciwa ni ilawalawa tamata e tu vei ira na dodonu

me ra vakaitavi ena veivakatorocaketaki lewai vakamatau.”

“Na nodra vakaitavi na itabagone ena bucina ki lomadra na isausauvou kei Viti ni mataka mera na dau vakaitavi ena veiliutaki baleta na veika etu wavoliti keda, oka kina veiliutaki me baleta na draki veisau,” kaya o Minisita Bala.

Talei vei Minisita Bala ni 60 na itabagone era matataka mai na veisoqosoqo ni itabagone mai Ba, Tavua kei Ra ena vuli oya mai

Togovere.

“Ko ni sa vulica ena vuli ogo na veika moni vakayacora me sotavi kina na bolebole e dau kauta mai na draki veisau ka mo ni vu ni veisau ena nomuni itikotiko,” kaya o Minisita Bala.

Ni oti nona vosa sa qai laki tomani ira na itabagone ena kena teivaki na dogo ena baravi ni koro ko Togovere ena tikina ko Raki-raki mai Ra.

Era tei dogo tiko oqori na itabagone e Togovere, Ra, kei na Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito o Parveen Kumar ena nona laki sogota yani na nodra vuli na itabagone me baleta na sotavi ni bolebole e kauta mai na draki veisau. **ITaba: MEREANI GONEDUA**

VOQA NI DAVUI

Radio Fiji One
Moniti - Tusiti
8.30pm [15 na miniti]

Radio Fiji One
Vukelulu - Lotulevu
8pm [30 na miniti]

Radio Fiji One
Siga Tabu
9.05am [30 na miniti]