

Fiji Focus



Daylight Savings
Begins: Sunday 4th Nov 2018
Ends: Sunday 13th Jan 2019



PM COMMENDS
AUSSIE
FIJIANS FOR
PATRIOTISM

2

\$12m

RELOCATION
PLAN BRINGS
RELIEF TO
SQUATTERS

2

DIWALI

A TIME FOR
ALL FIJIANS
TO UNITE,
SAYS PM

3



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar with medical practitioners outside the new Nakasi Health Centre last week.
INSET: PM Bainimarama officially opens Nakasi Health Centre. Photos: ERONI VALILI

PM BRINGS JOY

\$6.7M STATE-OF-THE-ART HEALTH CENTRE FOR NAKASI

NANISE NEIMILA

CLOSE to 25,000 Fijians living in the Nakasi area will be able to access quality health services without the hassle of long travel after the

opening of \$6.7million state of the art health centre.

Staffed by two doctors and over eight nurses, the Nakasi Health Centre will offer many advanced treatments and houses state-of-the-art equipment for treating a

variety of ailments and conditions.

Ame Rokovoro, 48, a resident of Nakasi, described the opening of the new facility as a blessing for the less fortunate.

“I have been living in Nakasi

since 1970, this by far the first Government to construct a health centre, we would travel as far as Nausori or even to Suva just to access health services but today I cannot express my heartfelt gratitude for this investment.”

“I don’t have to spend a lot of money for travelling because it’s just at my doorstep and I would again like to thank Government for ensuring that all Fijians have

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Meghan Markle

When girls are given the right tools to succeed, they can create incredible futures, not only for themselves but also for those around them.

Duchess of Sussex
Meghan Markle

NUMBERS

\$12.5m

is the total cost of the Rotuma Airport sealed runaway that was recently opened by PM Bainimarama.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



European Union

The European Union congratulates Fiji for succeeding in its campaign for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council. Fiji is the first Pacific Island Country to achieve this great result. The EU looks forward to Fiji's important contribution to this essential UN body.

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PM commends Aussie Fijians for patriotism

NANISE NEIMILA

“IT doesn’t matter if you are living in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or somewhere on the other side of the world, you are all Fijians, you are part of our national celebrations and you deserve to share in our national joy.”

This was message by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while speaking at the Fiji Day celebrations held in Sydney Australia last month.

“Our identity as Fijians has never been defined by where we live. It is defined in ways that shape us far more profoundly.”

“Our identity, as Fijians, is not defined by our ethnicity, nor is it defined by our religion, our language, our status in life, our gender or our physical ability. It is defined, above all, by our love of country and our love of one another, and that is why we celebrate Fiji Day.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama told the crowd gathered at the event that “Fijians are defined by that excitement that seizes us when our Flying Fijians step out on the rugby pitch and our joy when they win the day”.

“The sense of duty and responsibility that fills us when the world looks to Fiji to lead in solving great challenges; and the anxiety that grips us for the safety of our fellow Fijians when a cyclone bears down on our country.”

For all those reasons, the Government has been bringing the Fiji Day celebrations to as many places as possible.

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that



Prime Minister shares a light moment with the members of the Aboriginal community during the Fiji Day celebrations in Sydney, Australia. Photo: ERONI VALILI

last year, the celebrations were taken to the West for the very first time and this year, history was made again when national celebrations were held in Labasa- the first ever in the Northern Division.

“A full military parade through the streets of Labasa Town and a sea of Fiji blue that stretched across all of Subrail Park. It was like nothing the North had ever seen before and truly a moment for the history books.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama also shared some of the developments and successes of the Government from the nine years economic growth, to the construction of new road networks, to even ensuring that women have access to better opportunities.

He encouraged Fijians living in Sydney to share this information with fellow Fijians who are now residing in Australia and to be proud of their country’s achievement.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with Vinod Bhindi in Suva. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Relocation plan brings relief to squatters

AZARIA FAREEN

AROUND 2500 people living in the informal settlements of Veidogo and Nanuku settlement in Vatuwaqa are breathing a sigh of relief after the announcement of their relocation to Makoi.

This was announced by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum recently.

The squatter resettlement program headed by landowner Vinod Bhindi will entail subdividing 25 acres of land in Makoi into 300 lots for the families, which will have the necessary infrastructure for resettlement and development.

“Through meetings with the squatter settlers in Vatuwaqa, the Bhindi family has agreed to develop a site in Makoi at a cost of \$12 million to relocate the families and give them blocks of land which they will be entitled to have under their own name under a 99-year

lease,” the A-G said.

“Each family will receive a thousand dollars from the Bhindi family for the relocation cost and following the approval of the engineering plan, we are looking into nine to 12-months where relocation can actually commence.”

The families will have access to all basic necessities including water, electricity, garbage collection, sealed roads and sewage systems including a greenbelt allocation for farming to support their livelihood.

“We are most definitely following in the philanthropic ways of Karsanji Bhindi, my late father. He would be proud of our development dedicated to his memory and especially our ability to give the squatters a fresh start and actual ownership for the first time,” Mr Bhindi said.

The land in Vatuwaqa will be developed into high-end residential and commercial lots.



Economy grows for 9th consecutive year

PRASHILA DEVI

THE Fijian economy is expected to grow by 3.2 per cent, higher than the 3 per cent growth of 2017 and resulting in the ninth consecutive years of expansion.

The chair of the Macro Economic Committee and Reserve Bank of Fiji Governor, Ariff Ali, explained that this projection is backed by the changes in terms of sectoral contributions.

Mr Ali said, “the sectors projected to drive growth in 2018 include the wholesale and retail trade; accommodation and food services; public administration and defence, and the construction sectors”.

Furthermore, he said the overall domestic demand (for goods and services) was supported by the Government’s CARE for Fiji program and rehabilitation works post the

natural disasters in April.

Elaborating on the contributing factors, Mr Ali said the fiscal policies set out in the 2018-19 National Budget and accommodative monetary policy stance, higher tourism arrivals and improving labour market conditions are expected to provide support to economic activity this year.

“The Fijian economy is forecast to achieve a broad based growth of 3.4 percent in 2019, also unchanged from the earlier projection. In 2020 and 2021, the economy is expected to expand by 3.3 percent, with major contributions expected from the wholesale and retail, construction, manufacturing and the financial and insurance sectors.”

On the external sector, Mr Ali said despite the widening trade deficit arising from the growing economy and rising mineral oil prices, the overall balance of payments position has been projected to remain com-

fortable due to adequate support from tourism earnings and remittances.

On the downside, the fishing and the mining sectors are expected to decline, a turnaround from the earlier forecast where these sectors were projected to grow.

This downturn in the fisheries sector has been attributed to lower activity expected for inshore fishing and marine aquaculture while the plant breakdown at the Vatukoula Gold Mines in September led to the downgrade in the forecast for the mining sector.

The committee, which consists of the Ministry of Economy, Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Office of the Prime Minister, Investment Fiji, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Fiji Revenue and Customs Service, will continue to monitor global and domestic developments and review the macroeconomic projections again in April 2019.

\$6.7m state-of-the-art health centre for Nakasi

FROM PAGE 1

access to better health services.”

Tokasa Sai, who is village nurse from Navakacau, Tailevu said that this one of the best facility built by the Government to cater for a big population that Nakasi- along the densely populated Suva-Nausori corridor- has.

“The new health centre is state of the art and comparing it to other health centres this is one of the best. The equipment is just professional and the services are offered at one spot so residents will not have to travel too far to access health services.”

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, who opened the health centre, said the landmark project is Government’s huge capital injection into the medical sector which has been replicated all across Fiji, from Beqa to Cuvu to Sigatoka, from Lautoka to Vatukarasa to Nagatagata to Makoi.

“My Government’s approach to overhauling medical care in Fiji is holistic and it starts with making sure we have the necessary staff and equipment to fill these walls with the tools that Fijians need to live longer, healthier lives.”

“That mission is what is constantly driving us to find new and innovative solutions: thanks to the latest National Budget, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services is now undertaking a wide-reaching investment in our human capital that rewards those Fijians who are the lifeblood of our healthcare sector.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama adds the number of doctors and nurses in Fiji has doubled over the years and there are plans to increase the number.

“We are actively recruiting more doctors, providing our community health workers with a \$200 monthly allowance and the Government have increased the salaries of our existing essential healthcare workers by significant margins.”

He added that this approach by the Government is reflected from the ongoing civil service reforms, doctors and nurses have already received huge pay rises of 80 per cent or more, depending on their grades and positions.

New developments include schools to roads to health centres and even an expanded airport — the Suva-Nausori corridor is quickly proving to be an epicentre for Fiji’s rapid transformation into a dynamic and modern economy.

Meanwhile, Colonial War Memorial Hospital is currently undergoing a maternity ward expansion and upgrade at a cost of \$11-million.

This will bring women’s health in Fiji up to international standards, expanding the number of beds to 200.



Diwali is a celebration of victory, the victory of good over evil. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM

PM: Diwali a time for all Fijians to unite

NANISE NEIMILA

“WE are one Fijian family. Now, we not only share in our religious celebrations, we share in the progress and prosperity of Fiji.”

This was message by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in ‘light’ of the Diwali celebrations that will be marked by Fijians around the country this week.

“We share a future, we share a destiny, and we share a love for each other that transcends any of our differences, differences that come together to compose the rich fabric of Fijian society,” he said.

“Diwali is a celebration of victory, the victory of good over evil.”

The Head of Government said that during those tragic times of Fiji’s history when Fijians were divided along ethnic and religious lines, Diwali has always served as a bridge that linked Fijian communities to one another in kindred celebration.

“Those moments of happiness we shared together, even in the darkest of times, gave us all a glimpse into the remarkable potential of a united, inclusive Fiji.”

“I ask we take the time to reflect on our great progress, as one nation and one people, and on what our nation has yet to achieve.

Prime Minister Bainimarama recalled memories of Diwali that stretched all the way back to his youth.

“I remember the happiness of our Hindu brothers and sisters year after year, I remember the happiness I felt myself watching their festivities, and I remember always being welcomed with open arms to share in the joy of their celebrations.”

“I know every Fijian, regardless of our background, enjoys the spectacle of the fireworks, the wonderful colour of this festival and the warm glow of the candles and lamps that adorn communities across Fiji — all of which are happy reminders of the joy and goodness of what life has to offer.”

Diwali, which is also known as the festival of lights, will be celebrated on November 7, 2018.



Fiji commits two forest areas to Queen's project

PRASHILA DEVI

COLO-I-SUVA Forest Park is now one of Fiji's two forest areas that have been dedicated to the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC).

Fiji has become one of the 42 out of the 53 commonwealth nations to dedicate forest area to the QCC for which the Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry has paid tribute to Fijians for contributing towards "conserving Fiji's natural environment".

"Forests are crucial to the survival of our planet and all Fijians should be proud of your largely unspoilt environment," he said during the dedication ceremony at the park, which was part of the three-day royal visit by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

"It's incredibly encouraging to see how many countries have now signed up to this initiative, in my grandmother's name, to preserve forests throughout the Commonwealth."

The Duke also voiced his concern over the impact climate change has had on island nations such as Fiji and he highlighted the World Bank Report that has found that increasing rate of disease as average temperatures rise.

Furthermore, Prince Harry said the report states that the other impacts are the "increasingly destructive storms as oceans get warmer and weather patterns become more severe" and "disruption to agriculture as the intrusion of saltwater damages existing farmland".

He said Fiji was highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change and it was having a profound effect on people's lives.

"Just six years ago, Fiji's Vunidogoloa (in Bua, Vanua Levu) became the first village in the world to begin relocating to higher grounds due to sea level rise. Since then, five more villages have been moved."

"In the next 18 months, I have been told 10 more will be relocated, and within the next



The Duke of Sussex Prince Harry officially unveils the plaque dedicating Colo-i-Suva Forest Park to be part of Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC).

couple of years, it is expected that over 40 villages will be displaced."

Prince Harry said we cannot ignore the reality of what was happening around us but good work was also being done and he was impressed by the Fijian understanding of how to work sustainably with their surroundings.

"I've seen today how pandanus trees that grow in Colo-i-Suva can be used in the weaving of traditional mats. I've heard from local people

and companies about how the preservation of the environment helps attract tourists, further contributing to the local economy."

"All of you depend on this beautiful piece of rainforest in some way. This delicately balanced eco-system serves you so well and there is an obligation to protect it for the benefit of the next generation."

He warned that once such precious resource was lost, it can never be replaced.

must read

QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH CANOPY (QCC)

There were two submissions from the Fiji on the conservation initiative programs through the Ministry of Forests. The Colo-i-Suva Forest Park and the Emalu Forest were submitted to The Royal Commonwealth Society for consideration to be included in the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC).

EMALU FOREST

The Emalu forest, located in the Western Division, is an area of almost 7400 hectares, uninhabited and traditionally owned by the clan of Emalu. The site is also the pilot site for the REDD+ program (Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks). The mataqali of Emalu have been given a conservation lease whereby the Ministry of Forests oversees its reforestation programs and creates alternative livelihoods to the landowners.

COLO I SUVA FOREST

Colo-i-Suva Forest Park is a legally protected preserved forest, containing native flora and fauna, sites of archaeological and historic interest, ecological systems, geological features and other natural phenomena of special scientific.

In 1949 the creation of public amenities around the waterfalls began and in 1953 the Colo-i-Suva Forest Reserve, 913 acres of native land was leased and gazette.

The Department of Forestry then established a tree plantation of mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla), which had been introduced from Central America in 1911.

In 1963, approximately 92 hectares was set aside and proclaimed the Colo-i-Suva Forest Park. From 1970, an integrated forestry development program began, which resulted in walk trails, look-out platforms, and public facilities built within the park.

Around this time native plants which naturally re-established themselves, were allowed to grow together with the mahogany trees and other introduced species like pine, kadamba, Albizia falcata and Maesopsis eminii trees.

The park receives around 50,000 visitors annually, of which 25,000 are members of the public, 15,000 are school children, and 10,000 are tourists.

(Source: <https://queenscommonwealthcanopy.org/>)

Students join Prince for tree planting event

PRASHILA DEVI

TWO students from schools in Tamavua, Suva had the opportunity of a lifetime when they planted a dakua tree with the Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry in Colo-i-Suva.

A bashful Jeremaia Tawake, who is a Year 7 student of Tacirua Primary School, had to give the 6th in line to the throne of the United Kingdom a response to his question on "how tall will the tree grow" to which he responded "as tall as the others" in the Colo-i-Suva Forest Park.

The forest park is now part of the Queens Commonwealth Canopy (QCC).

Young Jeremaia, who originally hails from the Lau Group, joined Nikita Chand, a Year 8 student of Tamavua Primary School, in planting the dakua

tree as part of the QCC dedication ceremony.

"I was excited and nervous at the same time. It is a day I will never forget throughout my life," he said.

Jeremaia understands the basics of climate change but very strongly believes in conserving the forest.

An equally nervous Nikita said she admires the beauty of the forests and understands the important role in plays in the ecosystem.

On her brush with royalty, she said her family's advice was for her to dress well so that she can take a proper 'selfie' with the prince.

Many other conservation projects were brought to Prince Harry's attention during the dedication ceremony and the people from the Colo-i-Suva village made a presentation on the products that come out of the forest.



Tacirua Primary School student Jeremaia Tawake and Nikita Chand of Tamavua Primary School await Prince Harry to plant the dakua tree with the same spade that was used by Queen Elizabeth II back in December 1953 (INSET) at Colo-i-Suva Forest Park.



The Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle at the Suva Municipal Market.
Photo: ERONI VALILI

Duchess' market visit thrills vendors

NANISE NEIMILA

PREPARATIONS involved for the visit by the Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle to the Suva Market was strenuous, but it was an honour for the women market vendors.

Fiji was part of the 16 day visit by the Royal couple, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex who had a number of engagements during their three-day stay in the country.

Legal advisor to the Suva Market Vendors Association Shobna Verma shared her story of having sleepless nights, long hours of planning and tireless nights and days of rehearsals.

For the 57-year-old-mother of two, awaiting the arrival of the Duchess of Sussex was an opportunity she will never get.

"I was nervous and tired but at the same time excited, to think of a Duchess visiting the women market vendors," Ms Verma said.

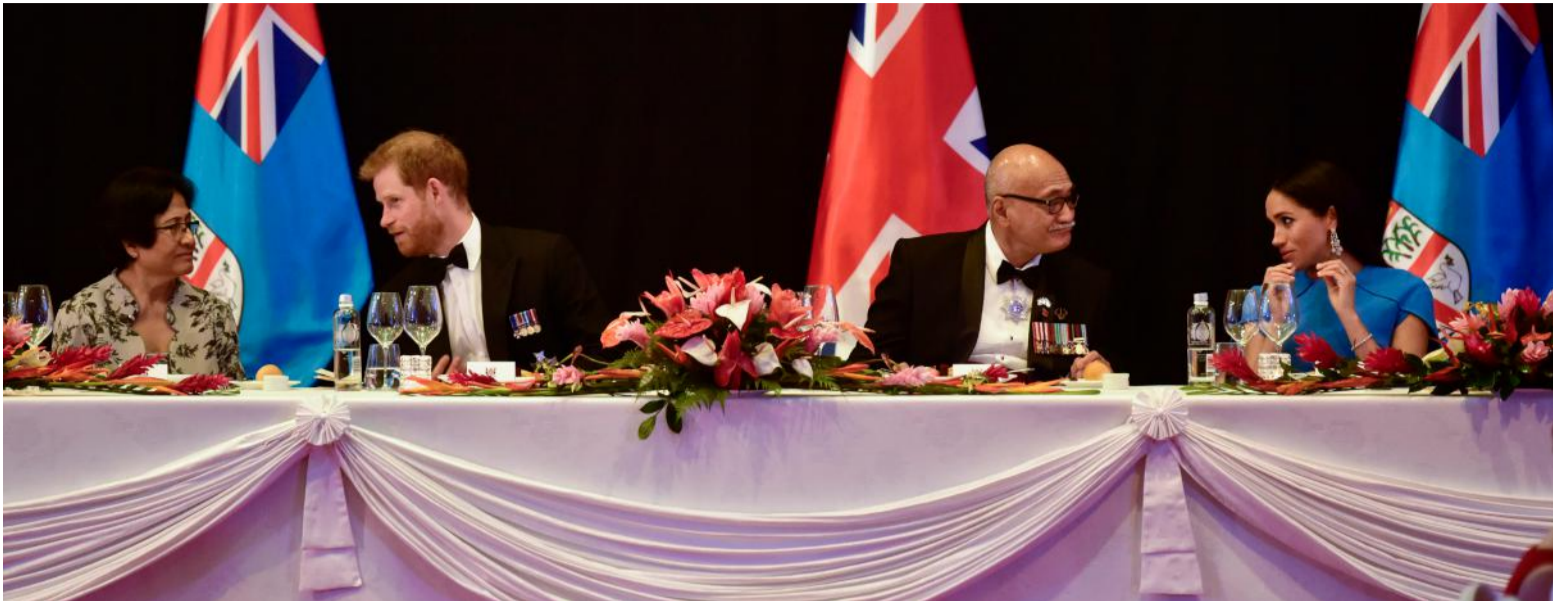
"Being a market vendor we don't even get this sort of opportunities but we are lucky to be part of this historical moment. This time will be in history books and we will tell our grandchildren and great grandchildren," she said.

The hype among these women has been crazy, as "we had to ensure everything was sorted before the arrival".

Sharing similar sentiments Mereseini Taga travelled all the way from Naitasiri just to get a glimpse of the Duchess of Sussex.

"We only see them in magazines, television like for me I only saw Meghan Markle during their wedding and to see her today is just spectacular.

"I'm blessed to be part of this historical event and I would like to thank the organizers for giving us an opportunity to be part of this historical event."



The royal couple with President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and wife Sarote Konrote during the State Dinner hosted for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva.

Visit 'strengthens ties'

NANISE NEIMILA

F IJI and Great Britain will mark 50 years of friendship and nationhood since Fiji gained independence in 1970 and as a nation we still hold strong ties with the Royal Family and the Commonwealth.

This was a reassurance made by the President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote while speaking at the State Dinner hosted for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva.

President Konrote said Fiji being part of the Commonwealth family, the significant relationship truly had reached right around the world as it embraces common values, institutions, respect for the rule of law and care and consideration for each other.

"As with most families, we may have had the occasional disagreement. But it is the en-

during nature of our bond that we celebrate tonight, and especially the long history of our association that extends from Queen Victoria through to the present Queen, the Head of our Commonwealth."

"We are a sentimental people by nature and have watched you both (Prince Harry and brother, Duke of Cambridge, Prince William) grow from childhood through your teenage years and into the impressive young men you are today."

President Konrote paid special tribute to the Duke of Sussex late mother, Diana Princess of Wales, who visited Fiji very briefly in 1985 during her trip to Australia.

"We know that she would be very proud of your many accomplishments – as we are – and especially for finding happiness with Meghan, your new Duchess."

"Prince Harry, we warmly thank you for setting an example of service to the Commonwealth and the world through your two tours of duty as a soldier in Afghanistan."

President Konrote also commended Prince Harry for becoming a global advocate for the preservation of the environment and the fight against climate change through such initiatives as the Queen's Canopy.

"For Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, thank you for choosing a life of service at Prince Harry's, the Duke of Sussex side after your own successful career as an actress. For showing us that dreams really can come true beyond the screen and for making Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, so obviously happy."

President Konrote welcomed the royal couple and thanked them on behalf of Fiji for the 144 years of their own family's ties with Fiji.

Meghan pushes women's right to education

NATASHA BEGUM

"WHEN girls are given the right tools to succeed, they can create incredible futures, not only for themselves but also for those around them."

This was the message by the Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle while speaking to students of the University of the South Pacific during their recent three-day visit to Fiji.

"Everyone should be afforded the opportunity to receive the education they want, but more importantly the education they have the right to receive. And for women and girls in developing countries, this is vital."

Ms Markle said providing young women and girls with access to education is the key to economic and social development.

"While progress has been made in many areas across the Commonwealth, there is always scope to offer more opportunities to the next generation of young adults, and

specifically to young women."

Ms Markle said the Association of Commonwealth Universities, which Her Majesty the Queen is Patron of, supports universities to promote equality in their own institutions.

"I am pleased to announce today that two new grants will be awarded to Fiji National University and the University of the South Pacific, allowing each of them to run workshops which empower their female staff."

"This means that female faculty members are able to encourage others to follow in their footsteps and enter higher-education, and that more women become part of the decision-making process in academic institutions."

She adds that grants like this ensure that women are provided with the training and skills to operate effectively in their roles and those with leadership potential are given the opportunity to be heard and recognized at the most senior level.



The Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle while speaking to the students at the University of the South Pacific (USP), during their recent three-day visit to Fiji. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM



The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at USP in Suva. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM



PM opens \$12.5m airport after upgrade

ISAAC LAL

CHEERS of applause filled the air on October 29 as Fiji Airways' ATR 42 touched down on Malha'ha, – the largest plane to land on island of Rotuma.

The momentous occasion was marked with the official opening of Rotuma Airport's runway by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, following an expansion of 1400 meters of chip-sealed pavement and improved security fencing.

In opening the runway, Prime Minister Bainimarama pointed out that successive governments in the past 40 year have neglected and shelved this project as "they saw no business case for an expanded runway in Rotuma".

"To my Government, this was about so much more than just paving a new runway — it was about paving a new future of connectivity for every Rotuman man, woman and child. It was about giving the thousands of Rotumans who have gone on to live elsewhere in Fiji and the world a chance to visit their families, and see their home, with unprecedented ease," the Fijian Head of Government said.

The \$12.5 million project is expected to



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, Fiji Airports executive chairman Faiz Khan and Commissioner Eastern Luke Moroivalu with Government officials and stakeholders at the opening of Rotuma Airport's runway. Photo: ISAAC LAL

increase economic trade and tourism opportunities to the bountiful island and revolutionize Rotuma's travel experience.

Students, villagers and chiefs welcomed the initiate by the Government to reduce travel time to Rotuma and increase air passenger

capacity.

The massive crowd at the opening of the airport brought the island to a standstill and the crowd waved the Fijian flag with pride as the Prime Minister boarded the plane to return to Viti Levu.

AFL chair praises reduced travel time

ISAAC LAL

THE opening of the newly chip-sealed runway on Rotuma has meant bigger aircrafts will now be able to land but it has also reduced travel time to and from the island by an hour.

Fiji Airports executive chairman Faiz Khan said the reduction of travel time to and from Rotuma and availability of the increased seating capacity will allow for more traffic on the route.

"Now more Rotumans can travel to and from the island faster and the route will likely be very busy once the schedule is released," he said.

"If we can build a new runway 587km from mainland we can and will change the face of domestic air travel within Fiji in a few years' time."

Mr Khan said the project was part of the Government's vision for better connectivity, development of Fiji and prosperity for the Fijian people.

"The success of this project marks the new beginning for air connectivity for Fijians. In the past it was difficult to find a flight to Rotuma with the twin otters only carrying 7 passengers at a time with one flight a week, if at all. This restricted the development of Rotuma. There are no hotels on the island. Many Rotuman people and Fijians have never visited Rotuma. Yet, Rotuma has pristine environment with its turquoise blue waters and white sandy beaches," he said.

"The project was 40 years in the making - This project was a work-in-progress for the last 40 years, designed and shelved a number of times due to challenges with its isolation and resulting cost factors. The last time it was shelved some 15 years ago, a budget of \$22m plus variations was prepared for the runway alone."

Fiji Airports delivered this project for \$12.8m with a bigger scope which included consultants' costs, fencing, fire tender, fire building, crop clearance and compensation, barging, charter flights among other costs.

Mr Khan hopes with the improvement in the airport, businesses and hoteliers will be able to use Rotuma to make the island economically productive.

"Rotuma has some of the most beautiful scenes and beaches and we hope that this will allow for a few hotels on the island that would not only attract tourism but also provide employment opportunities for Rotumans on the island."

Granny plans first flight, thanks Government

ISAAC LAL

A 93-year-old great-grandmother, Kia'a of Malhaha Village on Rotuma is planning her first flight on the newly opened chip-sealed Rotuma Airport following its opening by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently.

She was one of the hundreds who braved the early morning shower on the island to witness the opening of the runway which now allows for bigger aircrafts such as the ATR42-700 to land on the island bringing with it new economic opportunities for the islanders on Rotuma to tap into.

"I have travelled to Fiji once and it was in the 90's however, the long boat rides meant the women and children would be sea-sick all the way to Suva and back," she recalled.

"Airfares to and from Rotuma costs us over \$700 one way and this is the reason why many Rotumans have no choice but to either rely on the inconsistent shipping services but now with a bigger aircraft and more seats, airfares will come down and I will be able to make my first plane trip to Fiji."

She hopes to visit her families in Suva and Lautoka in the coming months to spend Christmas with them in Viti Levu.

"I cannot thank the Prime Minister enough for allowing people of my generation to be able to see a

big plane land on Rotuma," Kia'a said referring to the ATR700 which made its maiden flight to the island.

"Many of us could only dream of flying and seeing our island from the air because formerly, a twin – otter would only allow six passengers but this new development means we will be able to now afford flying to Fiji as airfares will be reduced."

Chief of the seven tribes, Gagaj Maraf echoed similar sentiments adding that a lot of positive developments had been seen on Rotuma in the last 10 years.

"We want a Government which tends to its people and this Government has allowed Rotumans to feel as Fijian as any other part of the country, in the past we used to be left to usually fend on our own as past government's somehow neglected us with very little resources on the island," Mr Maraf added.

"Now we have most of the government offices here on the island allowing us to be served right at our doorstep, we also have improved road conditions around the island, electricity is being connected, a wharf, a barge and a new hospital is currently under construction, Rotuman language is being taught in schools and we are just grateful to the Prime Minister in his leadership in allowing Rotuma and Rotumans to grow and prosper."



Ninety-three-year-old Kia'a (middle) of Malhaha Village during the official opening of the Rotuma Airport's runway. Photo: ISAAC LAL

Action sought on biggest challenge to mankind

PRASHILA DEVI

PRIME Minister and COP23 president Frank Bainimarama has called for urgent action as he believes “we are not doing nearly enough to confront the greatest threat humankind has ever faced”.

The Fijian Head of Government, in response to the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said national leaders need to aim higher with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

He urged all national leaders to follow Fiji and the Marshall Islands’ lead and aim higher in their national plans to reduce emissions.

“The goals of the Paris Agreement are not yet out of reach but to achieve them will require a realignment of our priorities and an unprecedented global mobilisation to deliver much stronger Nationally Determined Contributions in line with the 1.5-degree target and a universal commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He said the scientific community was indicating that the planet was entering a “frightening new era” where people will face mounting challenges beyond changes to the environment but one that will put the health, prosperity and security of all nations at risk.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the denial of these facts was a denial of science itself.

“We must put an end to even the slightest denial within our ranks of where we need to go from here — a rapid transition to net-zero economies, and a much greater effort to build resilience to the impacts of global warming and to mobilise the funding to pay for it.”

The president of the 23rd session of Conference of Parties (COP23) urged all parties to use the findings contained in the report to launch an unprecedented endeavour to build cleaner “more resource-efficient and more resilient societies”.

“We are rapidly developing affordable alternatives to fossil fuels in power, transportation and manufacturing, as well as solutions across all other parts of our economies.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said as leaders, it was “up to us to marshal the political will” that would ensure technology and ingenuity that will allow people at all levels of economic development to live better lives while producing fewer greenhouse gases.

World looks to Fiji for environment leadership

MEREANI GONEDUA

“WE look to Fiji to provide leadership on environmental issues which affect all of us, and that have been affecting you as an island nation for many, many years.”

This was the statement made by the Duke of Sussex Prince Harry during the state dinner recently hosted by the President, Major-General (ret’d) Jioji Konrote at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.

Prince Harry highlighted that Fiji has a proud and vibrant culture whose people are so gentle

but proud, honourable and resourceful.

“Your country has demonstrated its fortitude and resilience by rebuilding your communities following the devastating Cyclone Winston two years ago. You continue to smile, you continue to have hope, and you continue to share what you have with others.”

Prince Harry acknowledged the Fijian people for their hospitality and emphasised his respect, admiration and camaraderie with the Fijian soldiers that he served with in Afghanistan.

“This visit is also an opportunity to learn more about the future of Fiji, your economic

growth, sustainable tourism development and social enterprises,” he said.

“I’m very glad that the British Government is increasing its support for Fiji and the region, and we are proud of the long-standing collaboration between the UK and Fiji on climate change; and in fact, the UK just hosted its own Talanoa on climate change across Great Britain earlier this month.”

He also stated Fiji is renowned all over the world for its incredible natural beauty and hospitality and they feel very lucky to be spending part of their tour as Fiji’s guests.



From left: Fiji’s Ambassador to the United States, Solo Mara, former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger and singer and philanthropist Akon watch Fijian Prime Minister and COP23 President Frank Bainimarama deliver his message in a satellite link to the Talanoa Dialogue on Climate Finance in Los Angeles, USA. Photo: SUPPLIED

Energy, innovation ‘needed in climate change battle’

PRASHILA DEVI

CLIMATE change is too big an issue to leave to national governments alone- it needs the energy, the commitment and the innovation of sub-national players, says Prime Minister and COP23 president Frank Bainimarama.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said “the Grand Coalition that has always been the centrepiece of my COP (23rd session of the Conference of Parties) presidency”.

The Fijian Head of Government

was addressing the Talanoa Dialogue on Climate Finance hosted by Arnold Schwarzenegger in Los Angeles, United States this week, which was also attended by singer and philanthropist Akon amongst an eclectic group, through a message delivered via satellite link.

In very succinct terms, Prime Minister Bainimarama called on everyone to get on board- governments, private sector, non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations- in order to achieve the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degree Celsius.

“The scientists have just told us that the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is still possible, but it is quickly moving out of reach, and we need to move a lot faster. And we need your help to do it,” he said.

He extended his appreciation for the countries embracing the Pacific concept of Talanoa and bringing it to the urgent task of raising more finance for the climate vulnerable.

“We’re looking forward to hearing your stories, and taking your messages with us to COP24.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama

also paid tribute to the Terminator himself, Mr Schwarzenegger, for his own bold leadership of the climate struggle and who was “kicking some serious butt”.

“And together with all of you, I know we are can terminate the current complacency and lack of resolve and do what is necessary to protect the vulnerable and save our planet.”

Also in attendance was Fiji’s Ambassador to the United States, Solo Mara, American politicians, heads of private sector companies, multinational institutions and environmentalists.



DUKE AND DUCHESS GRACE OUR SHORES

The 6th in line to the British throne, Prince Harry, and his wife, Meghan Markle, spent three days in Fiji on a royal visit late last month (October 23-25).

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex touched down at Nausori International Airport from Brisbane, Australia, and after a courtesy call on President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, they were accorded traditional iTaukei ceremonies of welcome at Suva's Albert Park. They were then welcomed again at a State dinner and

reception at Suva's Grand Pacific Hotel, spending the night in the very same room where the Duke's grandparents – Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh – stayed in back in 1953.

On the second day of their visit, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex visited the University of the South Pacific to hand out Commonwealth study grants. Prince Harry then unveiled a plaque dedicating Colo-i-Suva Forest Park as of the Queen's Commonwealth

Canopy project, while the Duchess had discussions with representatives of women's organisations then visited the Suva Municipal Market to view the UN Women's Markets for Change project.

On the third and final day, Prince Harry unveiled a statue of Nawaka native and former British SAS Sergeant Talaiali Labalaba at Nadi International Airport before leaving with his wife for Tonga. Sgt Labalaba died in the Battle of Mirbat in the Sultanate

of Oman, Arabian Peninsula, on July 19, 1972, and there have been attempts by his colleagues to have the highest British medal for gallantry – the Victoria Cross – awarded to him for his part in the battle.

Photos: ERONI VALILI, NANISE NEIMILA, NATASHA BEGUM, LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA, LEON LORD, ISAAC LAL





Govt strives for healthy population



Minister for Agriculture Inia Seruiratu and Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar during the launch of the "Open Pollinated Capsicum variety" last month. Photo: SUPPLIED

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

AS the Fijian Government strives to develop a healthier population and combat a high death rate from diabetes, new policies will be implemented to effect positive habits and changes.

Speaking at World Food Day celebrations in Sigatoka, Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar confirmed that the Fiji Policy on Food and Nutrition Security and the Fiji Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition Security would be launched in January 2019.

These will focus on national strategies and the promotion of collaborations between social protection, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, health and education policies.

"The Fijian Government is aspiring to work across policy areas by adopting an integrated and cross policy approach," Minister Akbar said.

"These sectors all have the same goal, to lift people out of poverty and hunger so they can contribute to national development and economic growth."

Her ministry is advocating coordinated

effort of the public, civil and private sector, with Minister Akbar noting that no single entity could achieve national food and nutrition security on its own.

Advocacy on healthy eating have also been adopted at ministerial events, with the traditional cakes to commemorate achievements now replaced by fruit, as a subtle conveyance of tackling non-communicable diseases.

"The Fijian Government will ensure effective citizen involvement, enhance coordination mechanisms, facilitate dialogue and create incentives for different sectors and stakeholders to work together," Minister Akbar added.

"We will also empower local authorities to have direct access to the individuals, communities and businesses whose involvement is essential to achieving zero hunger, reducing poverty and malnutrition, and food and nutrition insecurity."

Accordingly, necessary tools and support will be provided by the Fijian Government to assist, coordinate and engage with key stakeholders.

\$24m industry 'prime opportunity' for aquaculture farmers

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

WITH Fiji's annual demand for shrimp and prawns averaging 700 tonnes and amounting to \$24 million, there certainly are prime opportunities for aquaculture farmers to consider.

Industry partners recently gathered for the second Fiji Shrimp Summit at Lomawai in Nadroga, where King Prawns Limited currently operates as one of only two fully fledged companies in this sector.



Minister for Fisheries, Semi Koroilavesau with King Prawns Limited staff. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

In terms of commercial shrimp farming, 2015 and the past three to four years have been very significant for us with major investments in this area.

Minster for Fisheries, Semi Koroilavesau

And as Minster for Fisheries, Semi Koroilavesau highlighted, the world's fastest growing food sector has much to offer local farmers.

"Aquaculture is responsible for the impressive growth in the supply of fish for human consumption and according to FAO's 2016 report, production of aquatic animals from aquaculture in 2014 amounted to 73.8 million tonnes, with an estimated first-sale value of USD\$160.2 billion

(FJ\$343.77b)," he noted.

Aquaculture remains a growing sector in Fiji and is recognized as a key component in the fisheries sector if explored and capitalized thoroughly. It is towards these efforts that the Fisheries Ministry seeks major development for more local suppliers.

"That is why it is important that we work together to try and address one of our biggest challenges and that is to try to reduce Fiji's import bill by promoting locally grown prawns and other viable cultured fish to achieve import substitution," Minister Koroilavesau emphasized.

"Most of Fiji's aquaculture feed is imported, through these new and improved initiatives, the Ministry of Fisheries is looking to start producing good quality feed that are more species focused and

are affordable to farmers."

The ministry introduced a new species of shrimp in 2013, which constitutes about 80-85 per cent of the world's total shrimp production.

"It's easy to breed so we introduced that in Fiji and it's very conducive," noted Shalendra Singh, the Ministry of Fisheries' Head of Aquaculture.

"In terms of commercial shrimp farming, 2015 and the past three to four years have been very significant for us with major investments in this area."

Up to 25 per cent of the demand for shrimps by hotels are met by imports and so necessary supply by locals is essential to this industry.

"Frozen imports also increase the risk of disease in our production. Since we are basically grow-

ing, the last thing we need is diseases so the high demand – while it's an opportunity- it's also a risk for us."

Interestingly, the ministry revealed that positive opportunities also exist for coastal farmers whose lands have been inundated with sea water.

"The excellent quality of sea water and tropical climate we have is also ideal," Mr Singh added.

"Climate change is coming. We have been to a lot of sites where there is salt water inundation in rice fields and sugar cane fields which are near to the sea. These are now being inundated with salt and that's an opportunity for us. It's not good under climate change conditions but it's an opportunity presented to turn former sugar cane and rice farming lands into shrimp farms."

Aside from two commercial shrimp farmers, there are some 60 small farms, three hatcheries, two commercial shrimp species and one native species with five commercial ponds in local shrimp production.

A lack of basic shrimp farming skills also poses a challenge but stakeholders are eager to make necessary developments.

Practical and skill-based training and mentoring programs and processes for new farmers and collaborations with major educational institutions on research projects are some of the initiatives being considered by stakeholders.

As Minister Koroilavesau enthused, such summits should pave the path for improved collaboration, networking, knowledge-sharing and partnerships for aquaculture success.



Govt's role 'to spread benefits'



Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya during the disbursement of Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) to 3404 recipients in Labasa last week. Photo: NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

PRASHILA DEVI

As our economy grows, it is the responsibility of your Government to make sure the benefits reach the people who need it most, says the Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya.

As he handed out the Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) to 3404 recipients in the Northern town of Labasa last week, Minister Koya highlighted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) February 2018 report had noted that Fiji's income inequality had declined over the last 15 years.

He attributed this to the improvements in the social safety net and employment.

"This means, the unequal distri-

bution of household or individual income across Fijians has been reduced."

"The IMF noted that programmes, such as the Poverty Benefit Scheme, Social Pension Scheme and Tertiary Education Loan Scheme and programmes such as MSBG, are well targeted and could be expanded. The report also stated that the expenditure on education was a positive step."

Minister Koya also reminded the entrepreneurs of their role in the national economy.

"It is also important to remember that all of you make up the MSME sector – the backbone of the Fijian economy. Therefore, your commitment and passion to furthering your business contributes signifi-

cantly to the growth of Fiji."

"We want you all to be recognised for your contribution to the overall growth, which is calculated at around 18 per cent of the GDP (gross domestic product)," he said.

After this latest disbursement, the Government has invested a total of over \$3 million into the Northern economy with a boost to the micro and small businesses leading to the improvement in the livelihood of 15,000 people.

Minister Koya has also handed out the \$1,000 leg-up to recipients in Taveuni, Savusavu, Nabouwalu and Seaqaqa, bringing the total number of Fijians benefitting from the initiative to over 10,000 in the Northern Division.

35,000 small enterprises given leg-up

PRASHILA DEVI

SMALL businesses don't always remain small, they only start small.

These were the sentiments of the Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya as he officiated at the 39th phase of the Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) initiative in the Northern Division.

This is why, Minister Koya explained, the Government, since 2015, has helped formalise 35,000 micro and small enterprises through the MSBG initiative.

"Many grow quickly to become medium and big businesses. Be ambitious and strive for the success of yourselves, your families and for your nation."

On the numbers, Minister Koya said thus far the MSBG programme, 35,006 micro and small entrepreneurs have been assisted, impacting the lives of 175,030 Fijians, with the Government investing over \$35 million.

"The number of applications received from all over Fiji, stands at an overwhelming 47,045."

Minister Koya said the development and strengthening of the micro small business and grassroots communities will lead to the growth of the nation from within because as these businesses grow it will employ more workers.

"It is the vision of the Fijian Government to ignite entrepreneurial spirit in Fijians and this is embedded in the 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP). The NDP sets the overall vision of "Promoting entrepreneurial culture through sustainable micro, small and medium enterprises."

Therefore, he said, the policy interventions have focused on improving the institutional setting, access to finance, business incubation and training and connecting MSMEs to markets.

He also highlighted that the Ministry's role does not end with the handover of the grants as it provides advice, mentoring, training and support through its National Center for Small and Micro Enterprise Development.

"We have seen the emergence of many new and innovative ideas through the MSBG initiative. Be rest assured that your Government will support you in realising your ideas, through initiatives, such as, MSBG and the Young Entrepreneurship Scheme, amongst others."



Luisa Nuku waves happily after receiving her \$1000 grant from Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya in Labasa. Photo: NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

Villager praises MSB grant scheme

NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

"IT is an honour and privilege for me to be part of this micro and small business grant program."

These were the sentiments of Luisa Nuku, 39, originally from Gau in the Lomaiviti group but married into Ravuka Village in the District of Namuka in the Macuata Province.

The mother of two was one of the 1937 micro and small entrepreneurs who received up to \$1000 grants from the Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya at Subrail Park in Labasa last week.

Mrs Nuku said the grant she received would certainly boost her small business and also contribute heavily to her family needs and wants.

"I have a Hawkers license and this involves selling cooked and sweet foods," she said.

"I already have a stove, so the grant will allow me to purchase four portable chairs, a portable table, a folded tent, ice box, a

blender and a mixer."

The hardworking Mrs Nuku normally sells her produce every weekend at the Labasa Municipal Market and also has fixed customers who place orders for birthday parties and weddings.

Mrs Nuku said the District of Namuka holds a rugby 7s game every fortnight and this was where she sells her food.

"From this rugby 7s tournament the demand and expectation is very high and it is where I know I will earn more," Mrs Nuku said.

"That is the whole purpose of applying for the micro and small business grant so that I'm able to purchase the material I want and also take my business to another level."

Mrs Nuku's commitment and passion to furthering her business will certainly contribute significantly to the economic growth of Fiji from within.

A total of 4685 micro and small entrepreneurs in Labasa have now been assisted under the MSBG initiative.

It is the vision of the Fijian Government to ignite entrepreneurial spirit in Fijians and this is embedded in the 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP). The NDP sets the overall vision of Promoting entrepreneurial culture through sustainable micro, small and medium enterprises.

Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya



The Duke of Sussex Prince Harry receives a bowl of yagona as the Duchess Meghan Markle looks on during the farewell ceremony at Nadi International Airport. Photo: LEON LORD

Fiji greets royal couple with pomp, ceremony

DIPESH KUMAR

IT was a day that everyone had been waiting for where Fijians turned up with their flags to greet the royal couple.

Hours before the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Albert Park, Suva, was a sea of blue and white and people even lined both sides of the road leading to the park despite the threat of a heavy down-pour.

Fijians came armed with umbrellas in one hand and mobile phones in the other ready to capture the once in a lifetime snap of the royal couple.

People of different walks of life came with their families and friends, including those who finished work early especially for the occasion.

Ashweta from Nadi said: "It's really exciting to come down to the park to witness the auspicious event, especially because the royals have come after so many years, I've always seen them on TV but seeing them in real life is something else."

The atmosphere was incredible as traditional ceremonies and dance performances gave way to the iconic balcony wave.

As the royal couple graced the public with their presence, Fijians could be heard excitedly calling out; 'They are here!' 'They are here!' and this was quite infectious.

Suddenly the road was packed full of police cars who were trying to make way in the in the crowd as people cheered and waved.

Behind all the police and escorts were the royal couple whom everyone had been waiting for, crowds gathered around, wanting to take photographs of them.

During the traditional yagona ceremony the crowd cheered and shared a light moment when the Duke of Sussex drank a bowl of kava with the obligatory 'bula'.

After the official welcoming ceremony, the couple left for the Grand Pacific Hotel where they made a balcony appearance.

The two royals tour continued for two more days after which they departed for Tonga.



The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle wave to the crowd from the balcony at Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

Dere: Medal brings honour to my family

VILIAME TIKOTANI

IT was a honourable occasion for me and my family and I'm deeply honored to receive this on behalf of my family and my late father.

These were the comments of Isaia Dere of Vatu, Nawaka in Nadi as he collected the Presidential War Cross from the President, Major-General (ret'd) Jioji Konrote.

"I was barely a child of about four years old when my late father had died fighting for the British Army in the battle of Mirbat," an emotional Dere said slowly.

"I am deeply honoured to receive this on behalf of my dad who died as a hero."

The occasion was also marked by the unveiling of the Sergeant Talaiasi Labalaba statue at the

carpark of Nadi International Airport.

The fallen hero was a Fijian Sergeant in the East Squadron 22nd division of the Special Air Services in the battle of Mirbat in 1972.

He has been posthumously decorated with many accolades over the years for his heroics that saved the day but for him that meant he had to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Sergeant Labalaba was only 30 years old at the time of his death and was honoured in Nadi on October 25 with the Fijian President's War Cross.

Mr Dere said the statue would be a reminder to all Fijians and all travelling tourists of the bravery efforts taken by his late father on that fateful July 19th morning.

The statue was unveiled by Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex on his recent visit to Fiji.



President, Major-General (ret'd) Jioji Konrote pins the Presidential War Cross on Isaia Dere, in honour of his late father's heroic deeds in the battle of Mirbat in 1972. Photo: ANA WAQALAIWI

Prince Harry to youths: Solution in your hands

NATASHA BEGUM

YOUNG people have the ability to be leaders who can create solutions, says the Duke of Sussex His Royal Highness Prince Harry during the recent Royal Visit to Fiji.

The Duke, while talking to students of the University of the South Pacific said that in his new role as a Commonwealth Youth Ambassador, his goal was to listen to the concerns of young people and reflect on their achievements.

"My goal is to listen to your concerns, learn more about the work you are doing to combat these issues and highlight your remarkable achievements at the highest levels," Prince Harry said.

"Together, I believe we can make a lasting difference and this really is our best chance to turn the tide."

The Duke acknowledged that climate change was a growing threat and something that young people experienced firsthand.

"You will be the ones most affected by the global challenges that face us all but you are the leaders who are creating the solutions," he said.

"One of the greatest challenges is undoubtedly climate change and all of you living here are confronted with this threat in your daily lives. You are actually experiencing changing weather patterns and rising sea levels and you have been living with this for many years."

In saying this, the Duke announced the four new Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships for students from the Caribbean and the Pacific regions.

"These scholarships which are managed by the Association of Commonwealth Universities will support young people to travel between these regions and study climate change and resilience," he said.

The scholarships will be offered by the University of the South Pacific, Fiji National University and the University of West Indies in Jamaica.



Aviation sector hears of need for collaboration

NANISE NEIMILA

COLLABORATION and harmonisation will be necessary and would also facilitate the high labour mobility of aviation personnel and skills for the region.

This was highlighted by the Solicitor General and Ministry of Civil Aviation permanent secretary Mr Sharvada Sharma while speaking at the opening of the 55th Conference of the Directors General of Civil Aviation Asia and Pacific Region held in Nadi.

Mr Sharma reminded participants that the aviation industry requires sustainable aviation given that aviation is one of the major contributors to carbon emissions.

In view of this, the conference theme was "Collaboration and harmonisation for safe, secure and sustainable aviation in the Asia Pacific Region".

"Managing our carbon emissions is critically important to address adverse effects of climate change. While climate change is a global problem, the Pacific is at the forefront of the adverse effects of climate change."

"The Pacific region and in particular Fiji, has played an important role in the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference by presiding over and leading COP23 to be a global voice calling on the international community to commit to more ambitious targets to curb the carbon emissions that are warming our planet."

Mr Sharma adds that Fiji continues to play this important role and called upon the Asia Pacific region to join in the protection of the environment.

"We need safe, secure and a sustainable aviation is vital for our economic growth and sustainable development of the Pacific communities as we are heavily reliant on the tourism industry and international trade."

"About 90 per cent of Fiji's tourists arrive by air transportation and the Fijian Government's strong leadership and investments in our aviation sector have seen an enormous growth and modernisation in our aviation and tourism sectors."

He also added that as the demand and need for greater commitments grow, Fiji realises the need to have a world class international airport.

The Nadi International Airport, Mr Sharma said, has undergone extensive renovations to ensure that not only Fijians but people all over the world travelling to or through Fiji experience an international standard facility.

This year the Nadi International Airport has received Airport Carbon Accreditation Level 1 certification from the Airports Council International.

This accreditation recognises the efforts put in by Fiji Airports to reduce their carbon emissions and Fiji Airports is working towards achieving level 2 certification for the Nadi

Widow thanks Govt for insurance payout

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ARIETA Vunisa, a forty year old mother of three, lost her husband two weeks ago and the burden of having to raise their kids alone has been an overwhelming task.

"He was a school teacher and his untimely departure was not only sad but distressing for me and my kids so receiving this payment by the FijiCare Insurance is a huge boost," she said when approached for a comment on what she thought about the assistance.

"I didn't realise that he had been paying insurance with FijiCare, it was just something I had always noticed on his payslip but didn't understand what it meant at that time until I was told that I could get money for it."

Mrs Vunisa credited the work done by the Government in putting together an insurance package for civil servants through the Family Insurance initiative.

"I want to thank the Government for taking its time to assist us in this way and I know many of us here today appreciate the



Arieta Vunisa, 40, receives her cheque from the FijiCare Management team. Photo: VILIAME TIKOTANI

kind hand of gesture," she said

Mrs Vunisa was one of the nine beneficiaries under the FijiCare insurance initiative of the Government which received timely assistance this week.

This initiative is line with the Government's 2018/2019 National Budget announcement where it had signed up with insurance service provider FijiCare Insurance Ltd to provide a cover for civil servants and

social welfare recipients.

This scheme would benefit 107,417 people which included civil servants, social welfare recipients and the general civil servants.

If a beneficiary's home is lost in a fire, \$3000 will be paid out to the family and for any form of personal injury the insurance scheme will pay up to \$3000 to help those families cope during that difficult time.



Newly certified marriage celebrants with Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary for Justice Sharvada Sharma. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN



Newly certified marriage celebrant Beato Dulunaqio receives his certificate to officiate marriages from the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary for Justice Sharvada Sharma. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Marriage celebrant eyes 'I do' tourists

RUPENIVATUBULI

"COUPLES run away from their countries to elope in Fiji."

These are the words of the newly certified Beato Dulunaqio who was presented with certificate to officiate marriages by the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary for Justice Sharvada Sharma.

The 50-year-old manager at Wananavu Beach Resort said they are trying to move into the wedding tourism industry and that the certification would help boost their resort's profile.

"We have an average of three weddings in a month and sometimes it is in chaos as our only marriage celebrant has to be

brought in from all the way in Nadi. With this certification, I am able to not only to boost the profile of the resort but also serve the community," Mr Dulunaqio said.

He said Fiji is a romantic destination for many couples and some get so caught up in the moment they want to get married immediately.

"We have couples from overseas who have been dating for just a few weeks – then boom! They want to get married! Even friends who travel here in groups just wake up the next day and decide to get married! It is not our place to judge but help and guide – the heart wants, what the heart wants!" Mr Dulunaqio said.



Storm forecast for cyclone season

RUSIATE BALEILEVUKA

ONE to two tropical cyclones are expected to affect Fiji this season with one predicted to reach Category 3 or stronger intensity.

This was highlighted by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services permanent secretary, Meleti Bainimarama while giving a brief on the 2018/2019 Tropical Cyclone Outlook.

Mr Bainimarama said that the Fiji Meteorological Services further predicts an elevated risk of tropical cyclones for the Northern and Eastern parts of the country while seven to nine tropical cyclones are expected in the Pacific Island region, with the forecasted geographical spread covering Solomon Islands to French Polynesia.

Whilst the tropical cyclone season is normally from November to April the current season has already seen a tropical cyclone forming near Solomon Islands in September this year.

“We therefore, advise all communities to remain alert and prepared throughout the 2018-2019 Tropical Cyclone Season and in particular; to take heed of alerts, warnings and advisories issued by both the Fiji Meteorological Services and the National Disaster Management Office,” Mr Bainimarama said.

He emphasized that Fiji has seen an increase in the number of natural disasters and experienced the most severe cyclones known to hit the southern hemisphere; namely, Tropical Cyclone Winston where 44 lives were lost and resulted in FJ\$1.29 billion in damage.

“The National Disaster Awareness Week that was launched marks the beginning of

our preparedness for the 2018/2019 Cyclone Season. As our key Partner in this national effort; your role is very critical; to disseminate both disaster preparedness and response information as we strive to adequately inform and educate the public to effectively manage hazards and disasters,” Mr Bainimarama said.

He also confirms that the NDMO has trained civil servants and volunteers to assist and be part of Emergency Operation Centres around the country in times of natural disasters.

For the rural communities, training was also conducted for 14 villages and one settlement this year.

To date a total of 310 villages have undergone this Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Training (CBDRR).

The National Disaster Awareness will continue for three months.



Members of the public including government officials around Albert Park end all moved up to Knolly Street during the tsunami drill in Suva last week.

Learn about disaster preparedness, Fijians urged

NANISE NEIMILA

F IJ IANS have been urged to learn more on disaster preparedness and ways in which they can protect their families during and after a natural disaster.

Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services permanent secretary Meleti Bainimarama, while officiating at the launch of the National Disaster Week, said individuals must take the initiative to

The Fiji Meteorological Services, has predicted seven tropical cyclones will form in the Pacific Region for the 2018/19 cyclone season with two anticipated to directly affect Fiji. Of the two anticipated cyclones; one could potentially reach Category 5 level strength.

Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management & Meteorological Services permanent secretary Meleti Bainimarama

improve their knowledge and understanding of the various natural hazards in our surroundings.

“Basic knowledge and understanding about hazards and disasters contributes to saving more lives.

“This basic principal is even recognized and promoted at the international level through the Sendai Framework where one of its four priority actions are “understanding disaster risks.”

“The main reason for organizing this week’s activities is twofold. Firstly; we aim to improve understanding of hazards and disasters and secondly; how best we can prepare ourselves to respond in the advent of a disaster.”

The theme for this year’s National Disaster Awareness is “Reducing disaster economic losses”. This is aligned to the International Day for Disaster Reduction which focuses on Target C of the Sendai Framework; to Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.

Fiji is currently at the forefront of achieving Target E of the Sendai Framework. Target E aims to ensure that signatories to the Sendai Framework have implemented a National and Local Disaster Risk Reduction Plan by 2020.

“This National Disaster Awareness Week Programme is part of our preparedness prior to the beginning of the 2018/2019 cyclone season.”

He adds that the dissemination of disaster information are geared towards making all Fijians better informed on hazards and disasters along with the appropriate actions to be taken.

“The Fiji Meteorological Services, has predicted seven tropical cyclones will form in the Pacific Region for the 2018/19 cyclone season with two anticipated to directly affect Fiji. Of the two anticipated cyclones; one could potentially reach Category 5 level strength.”

How to prepare for a cyclone

A tropical cyclone (also known as typhoons or hurricanes) is a violent rotating windstorm that develops over warm tropical waters warmer than 26.5°C and located between 5° and 15° latitude.

As a result of climate change, cyclone frequency has doubled in the last decade. The cyclone season in Fiji runs from November to April and some cyclones do occur outside the season.

PRE-SEASON PREPARATIONS

- Be aware of Cyclone Warning Systems
- Check your house for structural weaknesses
- Identify the safest room in your house
- Clear your property of loose objects/material that could blow about during extreme winds. Trim tree branches away from windows and power lines
- In case of a storm surge warning, know the nearest safe high ground and the safest access route to it.
- Prepare an emergency kit for the family containing a portable radio with spare batteries, torch, fuel lamp, candles, matches, water containers, canned food with opener, spare clothes and beddings, masking tape for windows and plastic bags.
- Clear all drains and waterways on the property.
- Ensure houses have proper provision for earthing lightning.

UPON HEARING A CYCLONE WARNING

- Listen to your radio for further information.
- Fill water containers and fuel car (if you have one)
- Store or tie down all loose objects in the house.
- Batten down roof. Fix any loose parts of the house.
- Close off shutters. If you live in a flood-prone area, take flood precautions.
- Ensure all the members of the family are present; keep children away from swollen drains and waterways.
- If your house is not structurally safe, prepare to move to the nearest evacuation centre.
- Collect firewood and keep in a dry place.

DURING THE CYCLONE

- Disconnect all electrical appliances but listen to your battery radio for further information.
- Open louvers on side away from wind to reduce the pull force of the wind on the roof.
- Remain calm, stay indoors but clear of doors and windows. Remain in the strongest part of the building.
- Only use the telephones for very urgent calls
- If the building breaks up, protect yourself with rugs or mattresses under a strong table/bench or hold onto a solid fixture

BEWARE OF THE EYE OF THE STORM:

If the cyclone eye passes over a sudden lull in winds occurs and may last up to two (2) hours. The other side of the cyclone then hits and winds resume with equal strength but blowing from the other direction. It is vitally important to remain in shelter during and after the eye passes.

AFTER THE CYCLONE WIND STORM HAS PASSED

- Don't go outside until officially advised it is safe
- Do not attempt to drive and don't allow children to roam around outside.
- Beware of fallen power lines, damaged buildings, trees or flooded waterways.
- Listen to your radio for advice and updates.

(SOURCE: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services)

Pacific archipelagic states meet in Indonesia

TWENTY-ONE Archipelagic Island States met in Manado, Indonesia, for the First Ministerial Meeting of AIS to address common development challenges that inhibit their ability to live and grow prosperously and sustainably.

Archipelagic Island States (AIS) are facing existential threats that include climate change, natural disasters, marine pollution, marine plastic debris, unsustainable fisheries and ocean sustainability, all of which seriously risk the survivability of these nations.

In addressing the AIS forum this week, Minister for Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau shared Fiji's commitment as current chair of COP23 and Co-President of the first United Nations Oceans Conference in New York in 2017.

Minister Koroilavesau called on AIS Member States to remain committed in adopting innovative strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adopt new, innovative solutions to safeguard the ocean resources.

This can only be through cooperation and collaboration between nations who share the same views.

"As President of COP 23, Fiji took the role to represent all our vulnerable communities including members of the AIS Forum to call on the global community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," Minister Koroilavesau.

"We must all do more than our fair share if we are to avert climate devastation for our planet. Fiji speaks for every Fijian and AIS member countries, and for the billions of climate-vulnerable people globally when we say: 'we are not doing enough, we can and we must do more'."

He added, "Fiji hopes that we can leave here educated and appreciative of what we can gain and offer as AIS members. It is our hope that we leave enlightened to enable us to build our resilience over the deteriorating health of the ocean, including the significant adverse impacts of climate change."

The Ministerial Meeting was concluded on November 2, 2018 with the adoption of the historic Manado Joint Declaration on the Establishment of the Archipelagic and Island States Forum which was negotiated in the three Senior Official Meetings in Indonesia this year.

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Nausori Municipal Market was a sea of colours as vendors decorated their stalls and dressed up in their best attires to mark the Nausori Annual Diwali Celebration. Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Infrastructure and Transport, Parveen Kumar highlighted that Diwali was a festival that celebrated our unique diversity.

Photos: NATASHA BEGUM

Vendors celebrate Diwali



Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Infrastructure and Transport, Parveen Kumar lights a diya to mark Annual Diwali Celebration this week. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM

NATASHA BEGUM

VENDORS of the Nausori Municipal Market gathered in a sea of colours and decorated stalls to mark the Nausori Annual Diwali Celebration this week.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Infrastructure and Transport, Parveen Kumar highlighted that Diwali was a festival that celebrated Fiji's unique diversity.

"Diwali, the festival of lights is a national festival in Fiji with blessing and messages of good over evil, light over darkness. In Fiji our beloved and beautiful islands, the festival of lights is a festival celebrating our diversity, a vibrant celebration of our lives together as Fijians no matter our race, class,

caste, creed or colour," he said.

Minister Kumar said that Diwali was a happy occasion for family and friends to come together in unison.

"Diwali is symbolic of the teachings of all religions, the teachings of all humane, education systems and the teachings of our parents. The teaching that we value and place humanity over all other," he said.

"It is good to see all vendors here dressed for the occasion and may Diwali bring to you all joy, peace and success."

Vendors walked away with prizes for best dressed male and female and the best decorated stall.

The celebration was organized by the Nausori Market Vendors Association, Nausori Town Council and the Nausori Municipal Market.

Ministry acquires full licence for global award

THE Ministry of Youth and Sports has achieved another milestone by acquiring a 'Full Licence' for the Duke of Edinburgh International Award.

Also known as DEIA, the Award is available to all individuals between the ages of 14-24 years and is the world's leading youth achievement award.

The Ministry, being the national operator of the award, last year received a provisional licence with provisions to fulfil certain requirements and conditions to acquire the full licence. Presented at The Duke of Edinburgh's International

Award 2018 Forum currently taking place in Ghana, the full license was received by National Award Board member Jenny Seeto and Manager Olivia Tawaqa on behalf of the Ministry.

Since the early 1990s, the Ministry of Youth and Sports has been the national award operator co-ordinating the programme with support from the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts through participating secondary schools and youth clubs.

"To date, we have registered 75 award units in both Secondary schools and youth clubs, 117

Award Leaders and 1438 young people," Ms Tawaqa, the programme manager, said.

"The International Award is a voluntary, non-competitive, balanced and enjoyable programme that requires sustained effort over time aimed at encouraging young people to design their own activities, set their own goals, explore their potential and challenge them to achieve set targets," Ms Tawaqa adds.

The award comprises of three levels and four sections with participants required to complete all four sections at each level in order

to achieve their award.

The service section of the award encourages young people to volunteer their time to and understand the benefits of this service to their community.

Participants are required to provide service over a set period of time that enables them to experience the benefits it provides to others and demonstrate social responsibility.

The forum in Ghana was attended by over 300 delegates, including businesspeople from 130 member countries across the world.

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Fiji Focus



PM COMMENDS
AUSSIE
FIJIANS FOR
PATRIOTISM

2

\$12m

RELOCATION
PLAN BRINGS
RELIEF TO
SQUATTERS

2

DIWALI

A TIME FOR
ALL FIJIANS
TO UNITE,
SAYS PM

3



The Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry unveils the statue of the late Sergeant Talaiasi Labalaba at Nadi International Airport. Sergeant Labalaba was an exceptional 30-year-old Fijian member of the Special Air Service (SAS) who died in the most heroic circumstances during the Battle of Mirbat in the Gulf State of Oman. Photo: LEON LORD

Labalaba's legacy

KONROTE: HE BELONGS TO FIJI, BRITAIN

RUPENI VATUBULI

LABALABA belongs to all of Fiji and to Britain.

These are the words of the President Jioji Konrote at the unveiling of the statue of Talaiasi Labalaba.

Hundreds of people gathered at the Nadi International Airport to not only catch a glimpse of Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke And Duchess of Sussex but also be part of the momentous occasion that will acknowledge the heroic deed of the late Talaiasi Labalaba.

Visitors and Fijians returning from over-

seas will get to see the statue of the valiant Fijian at the airport.

"Sergeant Labalaba was an exceptional 30-year-old Fijian member of the Special Air Service (SAS) who died in the most heroic circumstances during the Battle of Mirbat in the Gulf State of Oman," President Konrote said.

Some 250 rebels stormed the small town of Mirbat on the Arabian Sea and had the British forces were pinned down inside the local fort, which they were about to overrun.

With no cover and under heavy fire, Sergeant Labalaba sprinted across 800 metres

of exposed ground to reach a 25-pounder field gun, which normally requires three to four men to operate effectively.

As his fellow troops watched in astonishment, Sergeant Labalaba turned the huge weapon around and opened fire at point blank range on the rebels, decimating their ranks and successfully keeping them away from the main British and local forces defensive lines.

Even after a bullet struck his face, and being critically wounded, he kept on firing. And as he struggled to operate the gun alone, his fellow Fijian, then Trooper Sekonaia Takavesi, came to the assistance

of his injured comrade.

The two men fought on. But shortly afterwards – as Sergeant Labalaba crawled across a small space to reach a 60mm infantry mortar/support weapon he was shot dead.

Furthermore, President Konrote said that Fijians honour Sergeant Labalaba with the unveiling of his statue by Prince Harry and also honour his family and his village of Vatutu, Nawaka, for their gift to the world.

He also mentioned the heroic deed of Trooper Takavesi who was by Sergeant Labalaba's side and did everything he could to save him.

Noda Viti



Era kotiva tiko oqori na liuliu ni matanitu ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na reveni ni kena dolavi na irara ni waqavuka vou mai Rotuma ena Okotova 29 ena tikina ko Malahaha. iTaba: ISAAC LAL

Semati ko Rotuma ki Viti kei vuravura

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKARAITAKA ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni kena sa mai vakalevutaki ka tasilitaki na rara ni waqavuka kasa semati Rotuma ki Viti kei vuravura.

Na isau taucoko ni kena vakavoutaki na rara ni waqavuka e Rotuma e koto ena \$12.5m.

“Sa dolava na katuba ni bula vakailavo vakabibi ena bisinisi ni saravanua ena yanuyanu ko Rotuma,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama

“Na rara ni waqavuka makawa ka se tara ena 1981 e raba lailai ka lekaleka ka levu na gauna ni draki ca e sega ni ro rawa na waqavuka.

E daidai sa rawa ni mai ro na waqavuka lelevu na *ATR* ka sivia na 40 na levu ni kena pasidia.”

“Na kena vakarabailevutaki, tasilitaki ka vakabalavutaki na rara ni waqavuka oqo sa yacova kina na 1400 na mita na kena balavu ka rawa ni ro kina e rua na waqavuka *ATR*.”

“E daidai sa na daumaka sara na kele mai kei na vuka yani ni waqavuka e Rotuma ni sa taisilitaki vinaka na kena rara ni waqavuka ka sa vakalevutaki talega ka vakayagataki kina e \$12.5m,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Qoka e sega wale ga ni baleta na tasilitaki ni rara ni waqavuka e Rotuma. Sa solia talega e dua na mataka vou ni veitaratara kei Rotuma.”

“Sa na vakarawarawataka vei ira na udolu na lewei Rotuma era sa tu tani ena veiyasai Viti kei vuravura mera sikova na nodra vanua. Sa semati Rotuma kina veivanua e Viti ena isevu ni gauna ni itukutuku ni vanua ko Rotuma,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni vakalevutaki ni rara ni waqavuka e Rotuma a vakaitavi kina na China

Railway ka qaravi rawa ni oti ga e dua na yabaki ka sa na veisautaka vakadua na ivakarau ni veisiko ki Rotuma.

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni levu era sa kila tu e liu na leqa oqo ena loma ni sagavulu na yabaki esega ga ni dua na matanitu sa sivi me vakavinakataka na rara ni waqavuka oya.

“Ni kua e dua na siga ena dau guilecavi dredre ki vei ira na lewe ni vanua ni isevu talega ni gauna me qai ro yani kina na waqavuka lelevu ni *Fiji Link* na *ATR 72* ena rara ni waqavuka ka sa vakalevutaki ka tasilitaki ena isevu ni gauna.”

Na vakasobu duru ni kena tara vakavinaka na rara ni waqavuka e se caka ena ika matai ni siga ni June, 2017.

Eratou a vakaitavi ena vakasoburu oya ena yabaki sa oti na vitu na turaga se Gagaj ni vitu na tikina ena yanuyanu ko Rotuma kei ira na vakaillesilesi ni AFL.

E liu esega ni rawa ni ro e Rotuma na waqavuka lelevu me vaka na *ATR*, ia na kena sa dola oqo sa rawa ni ro talega kina na *ATR72* kara rawa ni vodo kina e 70 na pasidia.

Na yawa ni rara ni waqavuka e Rotuma mai na rara ni waqavuka e Nadi e koto ena 600km.

Na ivodovodo ni waqavuka na Fiji Airways ki Rotuma e Nadi e daidai e koto ena \$610.45. Lako yani lesu tale mai e koto ena \$1220.90.

Na waqavuka e dau vuka ki Rotuma ena vei siga Vakaraubuka.

Na isevu ni rara ni waqavuka mai Rotuma e se dola sara e Malahaha ena yabaki 1981. Na kena wavu mai Oinafa e dola ena 1973.

Na iwiliwili ni lewe ni vanua mai Rotuma a tauri rawa ena wili lewe ni vanua ni 2007 e 2002.

E rauta ni 10,000 na kai Rotuma era sa vakatikotiko e Viti Levu kei Vanua Levu e daidai.



Dei tu na veiwekani nei Viti ki Peritania

NANISE NEIMILA

Emarautaka ko Viti na i ka 50th ni vakananumi ni nodrau veiwekani na noda matanitu kei na vuvala vaka-Tui ePeritania kei na nodra matanitu ka vaka kina na Commonwealth se Matabose ni Veimatanitu qali ki Peritania.

Oqori na nodra vosa na Turaga Peresitedi Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote ena nodra kana vata vakamatanitu kei irau na Duke kei Duchess e Sussex ena Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva. Vakayacori na kana vata oqo ena nodrau kidavaki na vei-watini mai na vuvala vaka-Tui ko Prince Harry kei Meghan Markle.

Vakaraitaka ko Peresitedi Konrote ni veiwekani nei Viti ena Matabose ni veimatanitu qali ki Peritania e vakadinati ena vei-yasai vuravura ena yalo ni veimaroroi, veitokoni, veiraici, na veikauwaitaki kei veidokai ena lawa.

“Io, me vaka ena dua na matavu-vale edau tiko na gauna ni veilecavi. “Ia na balavu ni noda veiwekani eda marautaka ni kua me tekivu mai na gauna nei Queen Victoria me yacova mai ni kua vua na Marama Ranadi ni kua ki vua na turaga na tamamu ko Prince Charles ka vakarau me na Tui ena dua na gauna ki vei iko Prince Harry kei Prince William na tuakamu.”



Ko rau na vei-watini na Duke kei na Duchess e Sussex ko Prince Harry kei Meghan Markle vata kei Turaga Peresitedi Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote kei Sarote Konrote e Borron House e Suva. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

Solia na Ranadi e va na sikolasivi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SALA VATA na marau-taki ni yabaki 50 ni Univesiti ni Ceva ni Pasifika na nodrau veisiko kina na Duke kei na Duchess e Sussex ko Prince Harry kei Meghan Markle.

Qai mai kena ilutua na nona vakadewataka ko Prince Harry ni sa vakadonuya ko Ranadi Ilisapeci II me solia mai e va na sikolasivi kina Pasifika kei na Caribbean

“E dua na isevu ni noqu caka-caka vaka-Mata ni itabagone ni veivanua qali taumada ki Peritania oya meu tavoca na *Queen Elizabeth scholarships* ka dokai kina na marama buqu kei na nona gauna balavu ni veiqaravi ena veimatanitu qali taumada ki Peritania,” tukuna ko Prince Harry.

“Ni kila ni 60 na pasede ni lewe ni vanua ni veivanua qali taumada ki Peritania e lailai mai na yabaki 30 na na yabaki ni nodra bula,” tukuna ko Prince Harry. “E dua vei ira na bolebole levu oqo esega ni vakataratutu ni sai koya na draki veisau. Ni bolele tiko ena tikina oqo ena nomuni bula ena veisiga,” tukuna na ko Prince Harry.

“Ni na vakila tiko na tubu ni wasawasa, na cagi kaukauwa, kei na waluvu vakabibi ena vanua vakataki Tuvalu kei Kiribati.”

“Na sikolasivi oqo eratou na cicivaka na isoqosoqo ni univesiti qali vaka Peritania se na *Associate of Commonwealth Universities* ena tokoni ira na itabagone era via vulica na draki veisau kei na sala erawa nida bula kina ena Univesiti ni Ceva ni Pasifika, Fiji National University kei na University of the West Indies,” tukuna na Duke of Sussex.

“Keirau taleitaka vakalevu me keirau sikova na Univesiti ni Ceva ni Pasifika kei na noqu lewe ni vale. Vakabibi ena kena marautaki na ika 50 ni yabaki ni univesiti.”

“Me keirau mai vulica na veika vinaka oni veiqaravi tiko kina vei ira na lewe 12 na matanitu ena Pasifika.”

“E na 50 na yabaki sa oti a mai solia kina na marama na buqu na *Royal Charter* kina univesiti oqo. Sa ka dokai gona kina vei keirau me keirau vakaraitaka ni dua na noqu itavi vaka mata ni itabagone lewe ni matanitu qali ki Peritania meu mai rogoca na bolebole oni kauwai kina.”

“Au vakabauta kevaka eda cakacaka vata e rawa nida vakayacora e levu na veisau vina-ka. Qo sa sala talega ni noda vakayacora na veisau,” tukuna o Prince Harry.



Ko Serafina Navuso ena nona maliwai ira na veitavaki ena tolo ni gaunisala e Colo-i-Suva, na kena waraki na Duke e Sussex ko Prince Harry.

iTaba: SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Raici Prince Harry e matana votu ko Navuso

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA nona sa qai raici Prince Harry kina e Colo-i-Suva ko Serafina Navuso e kauta lesu na vakananumu vua na marama ni Taveuni oqo ka vakawaiti e Colo-i-Suva.

E dina ni sa vakatitoko voli ko Navuso e bolele me yaco rawa mai ena bati gaunisala me mai raici Prince Harry e matana votu.

“Baleta ni noqu siga ni sucu na siga Moniti na ika 22 ni siga ena vula sa oti. Oqo e dua na siga au na guigulecava dredre baleta niu mai yabaki 60 kina,” tukuna ko Serafina.

“Sa dua na iloloma levu vei au na noqu mai raici Prince Harry ni kua.”

“Noqu raici koya au vakanuma lesu na nodratou a gade mai ki Viti na marama na Ranadi, na turaga na luvena o Prince Charles, vak akina vei Prince Andrew. Qo au sa mai raici Prince Harry sara.”

“Vanua au dabe toka kina oqo au raici koya rawa baleta na

noqu matailoilo e kauti koya mai vakavoleka. Au raici koya na nona matadrede toka,” tukuna ko Navuso.

Au marautaka vakalevu sara na siga ni kua baleta niu a nana-maki tu mai ena gauna au se qai rogoca kina ni rau na gole mai o Prince Harry kei na marama na watina.”

“Rau tadu mai na turaga vei-watini ena noa. Koya au bolele meu lako mai niu sa dau vakatitoko tiko oqo. Au bolele meu yaco mai ni kua meu mai raici koya sara vakavoleka.”

“Dina niu sega ni raica rawa na marama na watina ia ena noa au dabe volekta sara toka ga na neitou Tv meu saravi rau vakavoleka,” tukuna ko Serafina.

“Au vakavinavinaka kina Matanitu ni bau digitaki ko Colo-i-Suva me vanua e mai gade kina ko Prince Harry qai kena ilutua ni vanua oqo e dau kilai tani ni vanua ni uca. Ia, ni kua e cila vinaka na siga ka kalougata kina na veisiko mai ki Colo-i-Suva nei Prince Harry,” tukuna ko Serafina.

Dodonu mera vuli kece na goneyalewa kei na marama



Na Duchess e Sussex ko Meghan Markle ena nona siko wavoki ena makete levu e Suva. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

NANISE NEIMILA

EDodonu me soli kece na dodonu ni vuli vei keda kece na lewe ni vanua ka sa bibi sara ena gauna nikua nodra vuli na goneyalewa kei na marama.

Oqori na nodra rai na *Duchess of Sussex* ko Meghan Markle ena nodra veisiko voli ena Univesiti ni Ceva ni Pasifika ka tiki tikoga ni nodra porokaramu ni veisiko siga tolu ki Viti.

Erau gole vata tiko mai vakavei-watini kei na Ravouvou e Bolatagane ko Prince Harry na *Duke of Sussex*.

Vakaraitaka ko Megan ni vakarautaki ni vuli vinaka vei ira na marama kei na goneyalewa sa ki ni katuba ni rawaka vinaka vakailavo kei na veivakatorocaketaki raraba.

“Baleta ni soli vei ira na marama kei na goneyalewa na iyaya vina-ka ni bula torocake era na bulia edua gauna vinaka mai liu sega ni

nodra walega ka noda vata meda wasea.”

“Ia sa toso vinaka tiko na vei-yasana oqo ena loma ni veimatanitu okati ena Commonwealth, sa tiko tale na katuba me vakavinakataki kina me rawa ni laveti cake tale.”

Vakaraitaka na *Duchess ni Sussex* ni tokona na Marama Ranadi na vakatauvatani ni veiqaravi ena veiunivesiti kece e vuravura me vaka ni sa kena Petereni ni Soqosoqo ni Univesiti ena Matanitu kece qali taumada ki Peritania se Commonwealth.

“Au marautaka kina me kacivaka erua na veivuke vakailavo kina na Fiji National University kei na University of the South Pacific me rawa ni ra tuberi ira vinaka kina na nodra ivakalesile-si marama.”

“Sa na rawa kina nira veitokoni ka veiuqeti mera muria yava ena vuli torocake ka me rawa nira vakaitavi kina ena veiliutaki kei na vakatulewa.”



Lagiti Bainimarama ko Schwarzenegger

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA vakavinavinakataki Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ka Peresitedi tale-ga ni COP23 ko Arnold Schwarzenegger na kovana vakacegu e Carlifornia ka dau ivakaraitaki rogo levu ena retio yaloyalo.

A tauca na veivakacaucautaki vei PM Bainimarama ko Schwarzenegger ena dua na Talanoa era veitalanoa kina mai Amerika ka tiko kina ko Schwarzenegger, ko Solo Mara na mata nei Viti e Amerika, kei na dau lagasere ko Akon, vakakina na turaga ni koro mai San Diego ko Kevin Faulconer.

E tiko tale ga ena talanoa oqo na Seneta vakacegu ni Carlifornia ko Fran Pavley, na CEO ni LACI ko Matt Peterson, vakakina na CEO ni Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation ko Terry Tamminen, vaka kina na Commissioner ni Energy Commission e Carlifornia ko David Hochschild. Vaka kina na turaga a tekivuna na Global Environment Project Institute ko Rampa Hormel, kei na Executive Director ni Climate Policy Initiative ko Barbara Buchner kei na levu tale,

Vakavinavinakataka ko Arnold Schwarzenegger na nona vakayagataka ko PM Bainimarama na Peresitedi ni COP23 na iwalewale ka vakatokai na Talanoa me tiki ni COP23.

“Vinaka vakalevu Paraiminisita Bainimarama ena nomuni vakayagataka na Talanoa me



Ko Solo Mara na mata nei Viti e Amerika kei Arnold Schwarzenegger na kovana vakacegu e Carlifornia
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

tiki ni COP23 o kaya edua na iliuliu matalia; keirau a sota mai Parisi kau taleitaka vakalevu na igu e solia kina kauwaitaki ni veika e tu wavoliti keda.

E dolea na vosa oqo ko PM Bainimarama ena livestream ka kaya vaka oqo ne;

“Au via vakaraitaka vei iko Arnold na noqu vakavinavinaka levu ena nomuni cicivaka na bose oqori kei kemuni kece na tiko ena bose

oqori. Au gadreva vakalevu meu tiko ena bose oqori, ia, e sega ni rawa baleta donuya tiko na gauna ni vakavakarau kina veidigidigi,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

Na bose oya a qaravi rawa ena vukudrau ko Schwarzenegger kei Bainimarama kankena inaki me kauti ira vata mai na kena dau ena veika vakailavo me vukea na bolebole ni dra-ki veisau.

Namaki na toki mai Nanuku ki Makoi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kacivaka na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni iLavo ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum na nodra sa na tokitaki ki Makoi e 300 na vuvale era tara vale tu vakailoa e Nanuku kei Veidogo e Vatuwaqa.

Mai rawa oqo ni sa mau na veitalanoa kei iratou na vuvale na Bhindi.

“E ratou sa vakadonuya na vuvale na Bhindi me ratou vakatorocaketaka e dua na tiki ni qele e Makoi ena \$12m mera tokitaki kina na veimatavuvale oqo.”

Tukuna na Vunilawa ni sa na rawa kina vei ira na veimatavuvale kece oya mera toki ka voli na dui tiki ni qele oya me nodra ka mera lisitaka me 99 na yabaki.

“Eratou sa cakacaka vata tiko kei na Matabose ni Qele maroroi ni itaukei ka kani marau ni vanua oya ena caka vinaka na kena livaliva, wai kei na vanua ni maroroi benu me tiki ni veivakatorocaketaki oya.

Marautaka e dua na tina e Nanuku ko Sharon Begum, 42, na vakatutu oqo ka kaya ni sa yabaki 20 nodratou tiko voli e Nanuku e Vatuwaqa.

“E vinaka ni voleka ki Suva ia sa toka vata talega na kena bolebole ni vanua dau soso vakalevu ka dredre na kena tara kina na vale ni vo dre.”

“Dau levu na gauna sa dau kuvuraka mai na iboi ca ni valelailai ka dau vakavu tauvimate vei keimami,” tukuna ko Begum.

Taleitaka talega na lewa oya ko Isireli Turaga e dua na dau teitei yabaki 42 mai Lakeba, Lau ka sa sivia e 30 na yabaki nona tiko e Nanuku.

Sa lima na luvena ka 10 na makubuna.

“Sa vakayabaki nodratou vuli lesoni tiko na luvequ ena cina solar baleta ni dredre vei keimami na livaliva kei na wai.”

“Qoka sa dua na itukutuku rogo vinaka vei keimami era na vakila na kena vinaka na makubuqu.

Ena taura e 12 na vula ni bera ni taladrodro na toki ki Makoi.

Veiwaseyaka na Minisita ni Veivoli Ko Faiyaz Koya na na ilavo ni bisinisi lalai ki vei ira e lewe 1937 na dau ni bisinisi lalai mai Labasa. iTaba: NEMANI TURAGAIVUI



Sivia na 33,000 era vukei ena bisinisi lalai

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA mana sara tiko vakalevu na veivuke ni bisinisi lalai se Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) ka tekivutaka na Matanitu ena 2015.

Me yacova mai ni kua sa 33,995 na lewenivanua e Viti era sa vukei

kina ena kena tauyavutakai ka tokoni na nodra bisinisi lalai.

Sa vakatubuilavotaka kina na Matanitu e \$32.35m.

Mai na iwiliwili levu oya esa laki vakaila talega na nodra dui matavuvale na yaga ni bisinisi lalai oya ni drodro yani na kena yaga ki vei ira e rauta ni 169,975

na lewe ni vanua,

Ni qai yacova na yabaki 2018 sa ciqoma oti kina na minisitiri ni veivoli e 47,045 na ivola kerekere ni bisinisi lalai se Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG).

E dua na inaki levu ni veivuke oqo ni dau kilai tu ni levu na lewenivanua era dau guta mera

qaravi bisinisi ka dau sega tiko na ilavo ni nodra tauyavu se capital.

Tukuna na Minisita ni Veivoli ko Faiyaz Koya ni veivuke oqo e vukea na nodra tauyavu na bisinisi lalai.

Ena macawa oqo a laki solia kina ko Minisita Koya na ilavo ni bisinisi lalai ki vei ira e lewe

1937 na dau ni bisinisi lalai mai Labasa.

Qoka sa ika 39 ni kena soli na ilavo ni bisinisi lalai me vaka a tekivutaki ena yabaki 2015. Na ikarua ni kena soli na ilavo ni bisinisi lalai mai Labasa a soli vei ira e 1467 na lewei Labasa.



Siko mai na Duke kei na Duchess e Sussex

Era visiko siga tolu mai kina noda vanua na Ravouvou mai Bolatagane ko Prince Harry kei na nodra lewe ni vale ko Meghan Markle ena macawa rua sa oti Okotova 23-25. Tekivu na soqo ni nodra tadu mai mai Nausori ena rara ni waqavuka ena dua na voleni vakamataivalu ka tarava yani ena dua ena lakolako ina Borron House me rau laki sotava na Peresitadi Jioji Konrote. Laki vakayacori vei rau edua na vei qaravi

vakavanua ena Albert Park ni bera nodrau laki vakayakavitaki vakamatani ena Grand Pacific Hotel na otela vata ga era mai vakacili kina na tubudra na Ranadi kei Peritania IIsapeci II. Era veisiko ena Colo-i-Suva Forest Park ka laki tavoca kina edua na ivakananumi ni *Queens Commonwealth Canopy* me baleta na draki veisau ka veisiko talega ena Universiti ni Ceva. Laki sotavi ira na sotia luvei sulu ena ivakananumi

vakaivalu ka laki biuta kina edua na vutu senikau. Era gole sobu yani ki Nadi ka ra laki cereka na ivakananumi nei Talaiaisi Labalaba na sotia ni Peritania ka mate ena valu mai Mirbat Oman ena 1972. Era vakavinavinaka taka na vei qaravi mai vakayacori vua ena nodrau veisiko voli ena noda vanua. **ITaba: ERONI VALILI, LEON LORD, ISAAC LAL, KUINI WAQASAVOU**



Dolava ko PM na iroto ni waqavuka e Rotuma

Era malaude na lewe ni vanua e Rotuma ena nodra laki dolava na iroto ni waqavuka ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. Sa na rawa kina ni roro ni waqavuka lelevu ka sa kenai balebale ni sa rawa

ni vakavuka waqavuka ki vavalagi talega me vaka na ATR kei ira na waqavuka ni cargo. Vakaraitaka na veitokoni ni matanitu na Paraiminisita Bainimarama ena nodra laki dolava na iroto ni

waqavuka oqo ka vakausivi ena raiyawa ni matanitu me baleta na vakatorocaketaki ni vanua ena taudaku ni koro vakavalagi.

ITaba: ISAAC LAL



Itatau ni timi Vanua

Eratou laki vakayacora nodratou l'tatau na timi ni Vanua XV kivua na Peresitadi Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote ena Borron House. Vakaraitaka vei ira na Peresitadi ni golegole vakaqito oqo edua na gauna vinaka ka katuba ni nodra vakaraitaki ira

ka vakavinakataka kina nodra qito ena sotasota kei ira na timi mai Niusiladi. Kuria ko Konrote nei sega ni dredre na nodra itavi kevaka era vakadeitaka ena nodra vakasama kei na vuni yalodra me baleta na nodra qito vinaka. Eratou namaki na

Vanua XV meratou voroisausau talega me vaka na Fijian Drua ka ratou sa winitaka na National Rugby Championship ka veiqatitaki kei ira na timi ni Osterelia.

ITaba: NANISE NEIMILA





Vakavure cakacaka na reveni dromodromo

Vale ni volavola vou ni wai e Savusavu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA dola vou e dua na vale ni volavola vou ni Matabose ni Wai se Water Authority of Fiji e Savusavu.

E vulagi dokai ena dola ni vale ni volavola oqori na *Special Administrator* ni tauni mai Labasa kei Savusavu ko Vijay Chand.

Sa kau vakavoleka kina na veiqaravi vei ira na dau saumi ivakacavacava kei na lewe ni vanua e Savusavu.

“Au vakacautaki ira na tamata cakacaka ena Matabose ni Wai e Viti ena nodra dinata tiko nodra cakacaka na kau mai vakavoleka ni veiqaravi ena bula kina nodra ilavo na lewenivanua,” tukuna ko Chand.

Tukuna na Manidia ni WAF ena Vualiku ko Apete Radrodrolagi ni dola ni vale ni volavola vou oqo ni WAF ena vakarawarawataka na bula vei ira na lewe ni vanua.

“E liu era dau lako vakayawa sara tiko kina *Depot* ena taudaku kei Savusavu ka rui dredre kina vei ira na lewe ni vanua na veilakoyaki,” tukuna ko Radrodrolagi.

“Sa qai rawarawa sara ni sa rawa talega na saumi bili ni wai vei ira na veikabani me vakataki MH/Max Value, Post Fiji, M-Paisa service, Westpac, ANZ kei BSP.”

“Keitou vakadeitaka tikoga na yavu rai yawa ni neitou veiqaravi oya na ‘Vakanamata ni veiqaravi vei ira na lewe ni vanua’ qoka na kena vakatetei yani na veiqaravi kina lewe ni vanua.

E rauta ni 1843 na levu ni mita ni wai e qaravi tiko ena WAF mai Savusavu.



Eso vei ira na qaravi tiko ena porokaramu ni reveni dromodromo ena vanua ni veivakadodonutaki. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA isevu ni bese e Viti ka kena ulutaga tiko na ‘Vakavure cakacaka ni Reveni Dromodromo’ e kaya na Minisita ni Veivakacakacataki ko Jone Usamate ni veivakauqeti sara vakalevu.

Na veimataqali bisinisi ka sa vakavure cakacaka tiko vei ira na suka mai vanua ni veivakadodonutaki kara vulica ena porokaramu ni Reveni Dromodromo sa koto oqo era;

“Na nodra vulica na culacula, na vavavi madrai, na susu vuaka, na tei kakana dina, na tei kakana draudau era sa vakavulici kina na curu ena porokaramu ni Reveni Dromodromo,” tukuna ko Minisita Usamate.

Tukuna ko Minisita Usamate ni sa tiko na veitalanoa me vakarautaki ira na suka mai kina vuravura ni cakacaka oya ena kena soli na gauna mera suka totolo kina mera laki qarava na cakacaka e tautuba se mera laki tiko

ena so na vuli e tuba ni bera nira qai suka yani vakadua.

Tukuna ko Minisita Usamate ni mana sara tiko vakalevu na Reveni Dromodromo ka ni solia tale vei ira na suka mai vale ni veivesu na veisau vou ka veisau vinaka.

Vakavinavinakatalega ko Minisita Usamate vua na Komisina ni Veivakadodonutaki kei ira na nona ivakaillesi ena vuku ni veimataqali cakacaka era vatavulici kina na curu tu e vale ni veivesu me rawa nira mai qarava ena gauna era sa suka kina ka me yaco mera lewenivanua vinaka.

“Oqo e dua na porokaramu e tekivutaka na Matanitu ka matalia duadua e Viti,” tukuna ko Minisita Usamate.

Na ikau ni itukutuku eke oya ‘Na kena soli tale na gauna mera veisau’ – na veisau mai veitotogitaki kina veivakadodonutaki kei na veiciqomi na kena tabaki vakalevu kei na kena sa kilai levu ki vei ira na lewenivanua

sa mana sara kina vakalevu na porokaramu ni Reveni Dromodromo.

Vakacautaki ko Minisita Usamate na veiqaravi ni Fiji Corrections Service ena nodra vakcokotaki tale na curu yani me yaco mera tamata yaga.

Nida raica na iwiliwili ni curu suka e vale ni veivesu e sa lutu sobu sara. Ena 2008 a koto ena 39 na pasede. Ia ena 2009 sa lutu kina 7.9 na pasede.

Ia ena yabaki 2017 kina 2018 sa lutu sara kina 1.50 na pasede.

Tukuna ko Minisita Usamate ni kena lutu na iwiliwili ni cauravou curusuka e vu ena kena veisautaki na lawa kei na vakayagataki ni iwalewale vou ni

Vakacokotaki ni kaivesu qai kena ilutua na vaqacacokotaki ni nodra vakavulici na lewenivanua se lewe ni itikotiko ena porokaramu ni Reveni Dromodromo ka tekivutaki ena yabaki 2008.

Drodro vinaka tale na wai e Nadi, Lautoka

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA dodonu meda vakavinavinakata na nodra cakacaka tiko ena siga kei na bogi na vakaillesi ni Tabana ni Wai Water Authority of Fiji se (WAF) ka sa mai drodro vinaka tale kina na wai ena veivanua e dau leqa tu e liu e Nadi kei Lautoka.

Mai rawa oqo ena kena laki vakacobari rawa na *Vanessa valve* ena ivakaso ni wai e Nagado Water Treatment Plant ena macawa sa oti.

Vakaraitaka na *Director* ni Matabose Ni Wai ko Kamal Gounder ni sa wali rawa na leqa ni wai e Nadi kei Lautoka.

“Na kena coba e rua na *Vanessa valve* ena Nagado Water Treatment Plant ka qaravi ena gauna yalataki.”

“Na gauna a caka tiko kina na cakacaka keitou vakadeitaka me ra gunu wai tikoga na lewe ni vanua

ena kena kau tiko yani vei ira na lori ni usa wai mera gunu tiko kina,” tukuna ko Gounder.

“Sa levu talega na leseni vinaka keitou vulica kina o ya ni tiko e so na vanua e dau malumu kina na gu ni wai ka tiko e so na vanua e dau kaukauwa kina na gu ni wai.”

“Na coba ni rua na *vanessa valve* esa tarovi kina na cila tiko ni wai ena ena ivakaso ni wai mai Vaturu ki Nagado,” tukuna ko Gounder.

Vakavinavinaka na Manidia ni Customer Services ni WAF ko Sekove Ulluinayau ena nodra veitokoni kei na nodra vosota tiko na lewenivanua.

“Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu kina - Airports Fiji Limited, the Fiji Hoteliers Association, Nadi Chamber of Commerce, ira na dau ni bisinisi, Valenibula kei na Valeniwai, kei na veivanua ni veivakavaletaki ena nodra veitokoni tiko ena cakacaka oqo,” tukuna ko Ulluinayau.



Sa dusia tiko oqori na Manidia ni Customer Services ni Water Authority of Fiji (WAF), ko Sekove Ulluinayau na ikarua ni *vanessa valve* ka coba ena mua ni macawa sa oti. iTaba: VAIKARAUTAKI



Doka o Dere na metali ni veidokai nei tamana

VILIAME TIKOTANI

VAKARAITAKA na luvei Talaiasi Labalaba ko Isaia Dere mai na koro ko Vatutu mai Nadi ni doka vakalevu na kena nanumi me soli edua na metali ni veidokai ni vanua ko Viti na Presidential War Cross me nanumi kina na soli bula a vakaraitaka na nona itubutubu turaga ena buca ni ivalu.

“Qoka e dua na gauna dokai vakalevu vei au kei na noqu vuvale kau rokova vakalevu na veinanumi oqo me baleti tamaqu kei na noqu vuvale,” tukuna ko Dere.

Oqori e dua na mala ni vosa nei Isaia Dere ni oti nona solia vua ko Peresitedi Jioji Konrote na metali oya mai Nadi.

“Au se gonelilai sara au se qai yabaki 4 ena gauna a mate kina ko tamaqu ena buca ni ivalu ni mataivalu ni Peritania mai Mirbat e Oman,” a kaya ena luluvu ko Dere.

“Au ciqoma ena vakarokoroko titobu

ena vuku ni yalo qaqa nei tamaqu ka solia kina nona bula.”

Na soli metali oya a vakayacori ena gauna a cereki kina na ivakatakarakara kei Satini Talaiasi Labalaba ena rara ni waqavuka mai Nadi.

Ko Labalaba a satini voli ni East Squadron 22nd ni Special Air Services ena ivalu ena 1972.

A vanataka duadua edua na gasau ka rauta ni 25 paodi na kena bibi ka dodonu me lewe va e vakaitavi kina, me vanalaki ira kina na meca.

Sa laki kacikaci ni cagi ko Labalaba ena nona solia nona bula ena vukudra na nona itokani.

E se qai yabaki 30 ena gauna e mate kina. Tukuna ko Dere ni ivakatakarakara oya ena dau ivananumi tudei tu kei tamana vei keda na lewei Viti kei ira na saravanua ena veika e yaco ena mataka ni 19 ni Julai oya.

Cereka na ivakananumi kei tamana ko Prince Harry na Ravouvou e Sussex ena nona vesiko mai e Viti.



Daramaka tiko ko Peresitedi Jioji Konrote vei Isaia Dere na metali ni veidokai ni vanua ko Viti na Presidential War Cross me nanumi kina na nona itubutubu turaga ko Satini Talaiasi Labalaba e na nona soli bula e ena buca ni ivalu ena 1972. iTaba: ANA WAQALAI VI

Nanuma lesu ko Takavesi na iotioti ni nodrau gauna vata kei Labalaba

VILIAME TIKOTANI

EMarau ko Satini Sekonaia Takavesi Voakolo, na itokani voleka nei Satini Talaiasi Labalaba sa bale ka dau kilai talega na yaca na Taka ena SAS ni sa qai dua na kena i ivakatakarakara me nanumi kina ena nona vanua.

Sa yabaki 75 ko Satini Takavesi ka vosa tiko vei ratou na vakaillesi ni Tabana ni Tukutuku ni Matanitu ni oti ga na nona cereka ko Prince Harry na ivakatakarakara kei Satini Labalaba ena rara ni waqavuka e Nadi.

E bau dua ko Takavesi na itokani lewe ni SAS nei Labalaba ena mataka ni ika 19 ni siga ni vula ko Julai oya ena yabaki 1972 ena gauna era sikobotei mai kina mai vei ira na mataivalu lewe 300 ni 300 Popular Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arabian Gulf (PFLAG).

E ra a vanalaki iratou na lewe ciwa na ni lewe SAS na meca ka vakavuna me ra robo sobu ena nodra dui qara.

E keru talega sa kidava na cauravou yabaki 30 oqo ko Satini Labalaba ni kevaka e sega ni ra lauvana na meca ena gasau bibi, sa na rawa ni ratou mate kece na nona itokani.

E mani gutugutua ko Labalaba ena 800 na yate me yacova yani na gasau levu ka vakatokai na 25-pound field gun, ka dau gadrevi kina e tolu na tamata me ra vanataka.



Mai na wai: E dua vei ira na valu vata mai kei Talaiasi Labalaba ena SAS, Satini Sekonaia Takavesi Voakolo, ko Prince Harry, Isaia Dere na luvei Talaiasi Labalaba, Peresitedi Jioji Konrote kei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena mata ni i vakatakarakara kei Talaiasi Labalaba e na rara ni waqavuka e Nadi. iTaba: LEON LORD

E dina ni a sa laugasau ko Labalaba, e vosota voli na nona mavoa ka vanalaki ira tikoga na meca lewe 250 ena gasau levu oya mera bula ga na nona itokani ena loma ni ono na aua.

“Keirau itokani dredre sara ka keirau dau veilomani vakalevu. Oya sai otioti ni lima na vula ni neirau vei qaravi,” tukuna ko Takavesi.

“Keirau a somica vakalailai na ramu ena bogi ni bera na mataka oya ka keirau dui maroroya neirau dua iyaya ni valu ka moce yani ena bogi oya ni bera na veisau yadra. Ia e ka ni kidacala ena 4 na kaloko ena mataka lailai oya sa tekivu me ra ravuravu mai na meca.

“Keimami nanuma ga ni ra na vanavana ga vakalailai ka ra suka lesu tale kina veiulunivanua. Era sega ni suka ka ra lewe levu sara mai vei keimami.”

“Sa bau balavu toka na gauna neimami vakatura voli mai me dua na kena ivakananumi na noqui tokani yalo qaqa oqo. E talei ni sa qai mai rawa e dua na kena ivakananumi e Viti,” kuria ko Takavesi.

“E rui bibi ki vei keda na lewe ni vanua e Viti. Keimami doka na neimami yalo dina ki vua na Ranadi ka vakaibalebale vakalevu kina ni mai cereka na ivakananumi oqo ko Prince Harry.”

“Na tuakana ko Prince William e cereka na kena ivakatakarakara mai Hereford ena yabaki 2010.”

Na Duke of Sussex sa qai cereka na ivakatakarakara ni qaqa ni Viti a bale mate ena ivalu mai Mirbat.”

Ena ivalu koya e Oman ena 1972 a vanalaki ira kina e lewe 250 na meca e dua na lewe ni SAS ko Satini Talaiasi Labalaba.

Vakaraitaka kina ko Satini Labalaba na nona yalo qaqa ena

buca ni ivalu.

Ena dau nanumi na yacai Satini Labalaba ena kedra maliwa na lewe 1250 na lewe ni mataivalu ni Peritania.

E tiko talega ena soqo e Nadi na luvena ko Isaia Dere Labalaba.

A kaya kina vakaoqo ne; “Au marau vakalevu ena siga ni kua. Nai otioti ni gauna au se raici koya kina oya ena yabaki 1971 ena gauna a gole kina kina qaravi itavi ena mataivalu ni Peritania, e dodonu me lesu tale mai ia e mani mai bale mate ni vo ga e vica na siga me lesu tale mai kina. Ena gauna oya au se qai yabaki va vula 11 kina.

“E turaga dau kauwaitaka na vuvale ko tamaqu.”

“Au taleitaka vakalevu na noqu mai sotavi Prince Harry. E ka dokai vakalevu na nona vakadonuya me mai cereka na ivakananumi oqo,” tukuna ko Dere.

Vakananuma ko Viti na bula nei Labalaba

VILIAME TIKOTANI

VAKARAITAKA na turaga na Peresitedi ni noda vanua ko Jioji Konrote ni ko Satini Talaiasi Labalaba a sucu ena koro ko Vatutu ena tikina ko Nawaka e Nadi ena yabaki 1942.

A tauca tiko nona vosa ko Peresitedi Konrote ni bera ni cereka na Ravouvou se Duke e Sussex ko Prince Harry na ivakatakarakara kei Satini Talaiasi Labalaba ena rara ni waqavuka e Nadi.

E sucu ena gauna e vakayagataki vakalevu kina na rara ni waqavuka e Nadi ena nodra valuti na kai Japani ena ikarua ni ivalu levu.

“Sa donu vinaka kina me mai duri ena rara ni waqavuka e Nadi na kena ivakatakarakara na sotia yalo qaqa oqo. Me nanumi kina nona solia nona bula mai vanua tani ena vuku ni Ranadi ena 1972,” tukuna ko Peresitedi Konrote.

“E dina ni a sucu e Nadi ko Satini Labalaba, esa okati me kai Viti ka kai Peritania – baleta ni kilai ena vanua erua na nona yalo qaqa ena nona soli bula ena mataivalu ni Peritania.”

Tukuna ko Peresitedi Konrote ni a curu ena mataivalu ni Peritania ko Satini Labalaba ena yabaki 1961. Era curu kina mataivalu ni Peritania na gone ni Viti ena vuku ni kena sa rogo na yacadra ena ivalu ena nodra valataka na nodra vanua, na nodra Ranadi kei na nodra Kalou.

“Me yacova mai ni kua era se vei qaravi voli ga kina e 1250 na cauravou ni Viti ena mataivalu ni Peritania vakakina ena Republic of the Fiji Military Forces.

A lewena voli ko Satini Labalaba na Special Air Service, SAS ena gauna ka se qai yabaki 30 kina ka laugasau ka bale mate kina ena ivalu na Battle of Mirbat ena Gulf State mai Oman.

A tiko talega ena cereki ni ivakatakarakara kei Satini Labalaba ko Trooper Sekonaia Takavesi na turaga ka laki vakabulai koya ko Satini Labalaba ena ika 19 ni Julai 1972.

Na yaca ni toso vuni vakailu oya na Operation Jaguar – ka tiki ni sasaga ni mataivalu ni Peritania me taqomaki koya na Sultan of Oman mai vei ira na kominisi.

E dina ni mai bale mate koso ena baravi ni wasawasa vaka-Arapea, e bula voli ga ena nodra vakanananu na donuya na ivalu koya ka vakauqeta na noda bula na nona yalo qaqa.

Sa mani soli kina kina na yacana ena lewe 100 na “New Elizabethans” me vakananumi kina na Jiupili Daimani ni marama na Ranadi.

Ena yabaki 2010 e cereka kina ko Prince William e dua na kena ivakatakarakara ena valenivolavola liu ni SAS e Hereford.

Noda Viti



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nona laki dolava na valenibula vou e Nakasi se na Nakasi Health Centre. E na veiqaravi ena valenibula ogo e lewe rua na vuniwai kei na walu na nasi. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

Vula i Cagilaba-Noveba – Epereli

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kacivi ira vata mai na dau volai itukutuku na turaga na Vunivola Tudei ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, veivanuyanu kei na Leqa tubu Koso ko Meleti Bainimarama. Me vakauqeti ira mera kaburaka ki Viti raraba nida sa yacova yani na vula I cagilaba oya mai na Noveba kina Epereli ena veiyabaki.

“Meda vakavakarautaki keda ni sa tekivu ena vula ogo ko Noveba na vulai cagilaba koya da dau kila tiko. Tekivu qoka ena Noveba me yacova na vula ko Epereli,” tukuna ko Vunivola Tudei Bainimarama.

“Dua na kena cavucavuti makawa era dau vakatoka kina na vula ogo na qase ‘na vula I urulaca’. Na gauna sa sega ni veilakoyaki kina na nodra waqa baleta ni ra kila ni vula ogo na vula I cagilaba.”

“Na kena mai tavoci ni kua e vakananumi ga kina na noda dau vakavakarautaki keda. Sega walega ena cagilaba, na waluvu, na sisi ni qele, koya gona sa mai tavoci tiko ni kua me rawa nida tiko vakarau,” tukuna ko Vunivola Tudei Bainimarama.

Cavuikalarawa levu

DOLA NA VALENIWAI VOU E NAKASI

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

CAVUIKALARAWA tale na noda Matanitu ena kena vakadeitaki e dua na dodonu ni lewe ni vanua ka tabaki ena Yavu ni Vakavulewa ni noda vanua oya na dodonu ni tiko bulabula.

Oya ena nona sa dolava ko Paraiminisita ko Voreqe Bainimarama na valeniwai vou se na Nakasi Health Centre.

“Na valeniwai ogo e rauta ni \$6.7 na milioni na isau ni kena tara kei na kena vakaiyayataki. E na laveta na itagede ni veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula e Viti,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na valeniwai e Nakasi ena veisautaka vakadua na ivakarau ni nodra qaravi na drau kei na udolu na lewe ni vanua eke.”

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni ra na veiqaravi ena valeniwai ogo e lewe rua na vuniwai kei na walu na nasi ka na levu na veiqaravi vakavuniwai ni gauna ni kua ena qaravi kina.

“Ena veiliutaki ni noqu Matanitu esa vakaruataki kina na kedra levu na vuniwai kei na nasi e Viti ni kua.”

“Sa tomani tikoga nodra vakacakacakataki tale e levu na vuniwai kei keitou sa tosoya cake na kedra isau na dau ni veiqaravi.”

“Sa soli talega na nodra ivotavota se al-

lowance rauta ni \$200 ena veivula na nasi ni koro,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Eda vakavinavinaka kina veiveisau vou ni veiqaravi vakamatanitu sa rawa kina vei ira na nasi kei na vuniwai me tosoi cake sara na kedra isau ena 80 na pasede vakatau ena itagede era tiko kina kei na itutu era yacova.”

“Era lewe levu sara era na qaravi ena valeniwai ogo me tekivu mai Narere, Makoi, Wainibuka, kei Waila. Ena yaga sara vakalevu vei ira na valenibula ogo.”

“Na itagede ni iyaya kei na veiqaravi ena valeniwai ogo ena laveta na itagede kei Nakasi me dua na vanua e levu cake

tikoga na veiqaravi vinaka e kune kina,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na veiqaravi vakabisinisi era sa vakacagu tiko e Nakasi sa qai kena ikuri na ivakatagedegede e cake ni valeniwai ogo sa na qai temaki ira mai vakalevu na lewe ni vanua me tekivu mai Valelevu ki Nausori ni vanua ogo esa tubu tikoga vakalevu.”

“Na veivakatorocaketaki uasivi ni gauna ni kua esa tubu tikoga ena maliwa e Suva ki Nausori me vaka na koronivuli, na vakarabailevutaki ni gaunisala, na valenibula kei na rara ni waqavuka e sa seda ni veisau vou e Viti ni kua,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

फीजी फोकस



प्रधानमंत्री ने नकासी हेल्थ सेन्टर का किया उद्घाटन।

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा रोतुमा ने इसी सप्ताह पूर्व नकासी हेल्थ सेन्टर का उद्घाटन किया। हज़ारों की संख्या में लोग इस हेल्थ सेन्टर की सेवा से लाभ उठाएंगे जो नकासी के आस-पास रहते हैं जिनमें नॉरे, मकोई से लेकर लोकिआ, टवुईलेवू वईनिबुकु तथा वईला के निवासी शामिल हैं। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि सरकार मेडिकल सेवा में सुधार लाने पर गौर कर रही है तथा यह इस बात का ध्यान रखने से हो रहा है कि सभी अस्पतालों में पर्याप्त ज़रूरी कर्म चारी तथा उपकरण हो ताकि लोगों की जिन्दगी लम्बी और स्वस्थ हो। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि वे पब्लिक-प्रायवट पार्टनरशिप पर गौर कर रहे हैं ताकि उन्हें अंतराष्ट्रीय साजेदार मिले और वे वा तथा लौतोका अस्पताल में सुधारकार्य करके उन्हें अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर का बनाए। इससे इन अस्पतालों में भी जटिल इलाज जैसे ओपन हार्ट सेजरी भी हो सकेंगी ताकि इलाज के लिए लोगों को विदेश न जाना पड़े और इनका इलाज यहीं फीजी में हो और उनके पैसे भी बचेंगे।

प्रधानमंत्री का दिपावली संदेश

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा का कहना है कि दिपावली जीत का जश्न है: बुराई पर अच्छाई की जीत।

अपने दिपावली संदेश में श्री बईनिमरामा ने कहा कि यह जीत आध्यात्मिक है जो सभी फीजीवासियों से बातें करती है, साथ ही सभी अपने दैनिक जीवन में एक बेहतर, उच्च मार्ग, धैर्य के साथ कोद को त्यागते हुए शान्ति और समझ के साथ आगे बढ़ें।

उन्होंने कहा कि कई पीढ़ियों से फीजीवासियों ने साथ मिलकर दीपों का त्योहार मनाया तथा कई पीढ़ियों से हमारी दिपावली की खुशियों ने

विविधता के विजयी प्रदर्शन के रूप में कार्य किया है कि हम बहुत भाग्यशाली हैं कि हम अपने देश में खुशियों का आनंद ले रहे हैं।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि दिपावली की यादें उनके बचपन का हिस्सा थी जहाँ उन्हें बेहद खुशी होती थी जब वो हिन्दुओं को दिपावली मनाते देखते थे। उन्हें याद है कि उन्हें भी इन खुशियों में शामिल होने के लिए आमंत्रित किया जाता था।

“मैं जानता हूँ कि सभी फीजीवासियों को पटरखों से खेलना तथा खुशियाँ मनाने में मज़ा आता है फिर चाहे वो कोई भी हो।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि दिपावली ने उस समय

भी अलग-अलग समाज के बीच पुल का काम किया था जब देश के इतिहास में फीजीवासियों के बीच धर्म और जातीय आधार पर विभाजन पैदा किया गया था। वो खुशियों के पल जो हमने साथ बिताई, यहाँ तक कि अंधेरे के समय में, हमें एक संयुक्त, समावेशी फीजी लौ उल्लेखनीय क्षमता में एक झलक दी।

अब जाकर हम एक फीजीयन परिवार बने हैं। हम न केवल अपने धार्मिक समारोह साथ मिलकर मनाते हैं बल्कि हम फीजी की प्रगति और समृद्धि में हिस्सा लेते हैं। हम एक भविष्य, भाग्य तथा एक दूसरे के लिए प्रेम का हिस्सा बनते हैं।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि इस दिपावली में हम एक बार फिर खुलेपन और एकता की भावना का जश्न मनाते हैं जो फीजीयन चरित्र को परिभाषित करता है। हमें अपने महान प्रगति पर गौर करना है कि एक राष्ट्र और एकता में हमने क्या हासिल किया है तथा आगे क्या हासिल करना है। सबसे ज़रूरी बात यह है कि हम अपने परिवार वाले तथा प्रियजनों के साथ समय बिताएँ, जिससे हमारी आत्माओं को परिवार और दोस्ती की असीम शक्ति के साथ पोषण मिलता है।

उन्होंने सभी फीजीवासियों को दिपावली का शुभ संदेश दिया है।



कर में बदलाव पर झूठे दावे

रोनल देव

अटोनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री माननीय अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम का कहना है कि कुछ लोग झूठे दावे कर रहे हैं कि कर के ढाँचे में

जो बदलाव किए गए हैं से धनवानों को फायदा हो रहा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार की कर वाली प्रणाली न्यायसंगत है तथा सरकार ने जो बदलाव असर में लाया है के कारण गरीब और पिछड़े हुए

कम टेक्स भर रहे हैं।

“हमने वेट को पंद्रह प्रतिशत से घटाकर नौ प्रतिशत किया है तथा जिन फीजीवासियों की सालाना आमदनी तीस हजार डॉलर से कम है उन्हें कुछ भी इनकम टेक्स नहीं

भरना पड़ता है। हम कठोर तरीके से नहीं बल्कि बुद्धिमानी से कर लागू कर रहे हैं। हम गैर-ज़रूरी सेवाओं पर कर लागू करके, ऐसे कार्य कर्मों में पैसे लगा रहे हैं जिससे कई पिछड़े फीजीवासियों को सीधे फायदा

होता है,” जनाब सैयद खैयुम ने कहा। उनके अनुसार सरकार ने उन खामियों पर भी काबू पा लिया है जिसका इस्तेमाल करके कई सालों से लोग कर भरने से बच रहे थे। वो दिन अब खत्म हो गए हैं।



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बईनिमरामा रोटुमा के नए रनवेय का उद्घाटन करते हुए जिस योजना में बारह मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा खर्च हुआ।

प्रधानमंत्री ने रोटुमा हवाई अड्डे का किया उद्घाटन

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बईनिमरामा ने हाल ही में रोटुमा हवाई अड्डे का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया है जहाँ रनवेय को फिर से सील किया गया है तथा और सुधारकार्य हुए हैं।

कई सौ की संख्या में महिलाएँ, पुरुष और बच्चों दूर-दूर से इस समारोह में भाग लेने के लिए पहुँचे जबकि इस हवाई अड्डे ने उनके लिए दुनिया भर के अवसर खोल दिए हैं।

यह नए रनवेय खुलने का मतलब है, रोटुमा में अई टी आर विमान भी उतर सकता है जिससे दस गुना ज़्यादा यात्री तथा सामान वहाँ उतरेंगे और लादे जाएँगे।

प्रधानमंत्री बईनिमरामा ने उद्घाटन करते हुए कहा कि सरकार प्रतिबद्ध है कि वो राष्ट्रीय सम्पति बराबर बाँटेंगी तथा संसाधनों में विकास जैसे हवाई अड्डों, जेटी, रास्तों तथा अस्पतालों में सुधार इस विकास के केन्द्र में है।

उन्होंने रोटुमा के निवासियों के साथ बातचित की तथा वहाँ सेवा प्रदान कर रहे सरकारी कर्मचारियों से भी मुलाकात की। हवाई अड्डे पर सुधारकार्य के अलावा एक नया फायर स्टेशन भी बनाया गया है और हवाई अड्डे के लिए एक नया फायर ट्रक भी है। हवाई अड्डे के आस-पास सभी तरह की बाधाएँ हटा दी गई हैं ताकि विमानों तक संचालन अच्छी तरह से हो।

इस बारह दशमलौ आठ मिलियन डॉलर वाली योजना पूरी होने में एक साल से कुछ ज़्यादा समय लगा।



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बईनिमरामा रोटुमा के नए रनवेय का उद्घाटन के समय अन्य सरकारी अधिकारियों के साथ रनवेय का दौरा करते हुए।

नावुआ और नउसोरी निवासियों के लिए मुफ्त इंटरनेट सेवा



वालेसी लिमिटेड के बोर्ड डायरेक्टस नावुआ में मुफ्त वाए फाए होट स्पॉट लॉन्च करने के दौरान, रखे गए प्रतियोगिता के विजेता को पुरस्कार से सम्मान करते हुए।

रोनल देव

नावुआ और नउसोरी के निवासी भी अब एक दिन में एक घण्टे के लिए मुफ्त इंटरनेट सेवा से लाभ उठा सकेंगे। वालेसी की बटौलत नावुआ तथा नउसोरी शहर में लोग इंटरनेट सेवा से फायदा उठा सकेंगे।

खराब मौसम के बावजूद लोग भारी संख्या में इस विमोचन में हिस्सा लेने के लिए आए थे। खास करके कई विद्यार्थी भी वहाँ उपस्थित थे जिन्होंने कहा कि मुफ्त वाए फाए उनकी पढ़ाई में सहायता देने की भारी भूमिका निभाएंगी।

उधर हालही में कोमुनिकैशन्स, इफोरमेशन तथा आए टी सी के स्थानापन पेमनन्ट स्कैटरी शरवदा शर्मा ने सिरिया पार्क नउसोरी में मुफ्त वाए फाए होट स्पॉट का विमोचन किया। इस दौरान लोगों ने अर्जी डालकर, वालेसी सेटोप बॉक्स भी अपने साथ घर ले गए।

श्री शर्मा ने कहा कि मुफ्त वाए

फाए होट स्पॉट, डिजिटल मंच के नीचे सरकार की एक सुविधा है ताकि आम जगहों पर सभी के लिए वाए फाए की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराई जाए।

सन् दो हजार अट्ठारह और उन्नीस राष्ट्रीय बजट में मुफ्त वाए फाए होट स्पॉट के लिए चालिस मिलियन डॉलर अलग किया गया था ताकि देशभर में आमजनता के लिए होट स्पॉट की रफ्तार को और तेज़ की जाए।

देश के कई शहरों में मुफ्त होट स्पॉट की सुविधा हो गई है। वाए फाए का विमोचन प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बईनिमरामा की सोच थी। अगर हम इस तकनीकी सहायता से लाभ उठाते हैं तो हमारा समाज में लोगों का ज्ञान और भी बढ़ेगा।

वालेसी लिमिटेड, सरकार की एक कोमेशल कम्पनी है जिसका संचालन उनके अपने बोर्ड ऑफ डायरेक्टस करते हैं।



कोमुनिकैशन्स, इनफोमईशन तथा आए टी सी के स्थानापन पेमनन्ट स्कैटरी शरवदा शर्मा नउसोरी के सिरिया पार्क में मुफ्त वाए फाए होटस्पॉट का विमोचन करते हुए।



इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड मंत्री फईयाज़ सिदिक कोया लम्बासा में छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारी को एक हजार डॉलर का ग्रांट देते हुए।

डयरी व्यवसाय में होगा भारी सुधार

रोनल देव

इंडस्ट्री और ट्रेड मंत्री फईयाज़ सिदिक कोया ने इसी सप्ताह पूर्व लम्बासा में एक हजार नौ सौ सैतीस (1,937) छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारियों को एक-एक हजार डॉलर का ग्रांट दिया।

लम्बासा के सुबैरल पार्क में बाँटा गया यह ग्रांट, सन् दो हजार पंद्रह से लेकर अभी तक उनचालिसवा

चरण था जबकि लम्बासा में बुधवार को दूसरे चरण में एक हजार चार सौ सड़सठ (1,467) और लोगों को ग्रांट बाँटा जाएगा।

ग्रांट बाँटते हुए जनाब कोया ने कहा कि सरकार ने फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था तथा लम्बासा के लोगों में लगभग तीन मिलियन डॉलर की पुँजी लगाई है। इस ग्रांट से न केवल वहाँ के छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारों को भारी सहायता मिलेगी बल्कि कम से कम पंद्रह हजार (15,000) लोगों की ज़िन्दगी में भारी सुधार आएगा।

इसी साल फरवरी में अंतराष्ट्रीय मोनेट्री फंड द्वारा निकाली गई रिपोर्ट से यह बात सामने आई है कि पिछले पंद्रह सालों के मिलान में फीजी की आमदनी असमानता में कमी देखी गई है। मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि इसका मतलब है कि फीजीवासियों के बीच धरेलू और व्यक्तिगत आमदनी के वितरण में असमानता कम हुआ है।

इस रिपोर्ट में इस बात पर गौर किया गया है कि पोवेटी बनेफिट स्कीम, सौशल पेन्शन स्कीम तथा व्यापारिक ग्रांट ने इस कमी में मुख्य भूमिका निभाई है। इस छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारिक ग्रांट कार्यक्रम के नीचे पैतीस हजार नौ (35,009) छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारियों की मदद की गई है। सरकार की पैतीस मिलियन डॉलर (\$35million) की सहायता से एक लाख पचहत्तर हजार तीस फीजीवासियों की ज़िन्दगियों पर सकारात्मक असर पड़ा है।



इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड मंत्री फईयाज़ सिदिक कोया ने लम्बासा में छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारियों को दो चरण में एक-एक हजार डॉलर ग्रांट दिया।

यूरोपीयन युनियन ने प्रदान किया ग्रीनहाउस



यूरोपियन युनियन ने हाल ही में सिंगातोका और सेंगाँगाँ के किसानों के लिए एक नया ग्रीनहाउस प्रदान किया जिससे वे और भी उच्चदर्रे के फल और शाख-भाजी उगा सकेंगे।

रोनल देव

सिंगातोका और सेंगाँगाँ के किसान अब और भी उच्चदर्रे के फल और शाख-भाजी उगा सकेंगे जब यूरोपीयन युनियन ने उन्हें एक नया ग्रीनहाउस प्रदान किया। यूरोपीयन युनियन कृषि मंत्रालय के साथ एक कार्यक्रम कर रही है जिसके चलते इस योजना के लिए आर्थिक सहायता

दी गई है। यह साझेदारी पिछले साल शुरू हुई जिसका लक्ष्य है, फल और शाख-भाजी के आयात को कम करने के अलावा इनके निर्यात को बढ़ाना। उन्होंने कहा कि इसके लिए साल भर विश्वसनीय रूप से उत्पादन का दौर और बीमारी प्रतिरोगी किस्मों की ज़रूरत है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि इस योजना के तहत किसानों को बाँटने और अनुसंधान

करने के लिए पौधे उगाए जाएंगे। इस उपकरण और ग्रीनहाउस से किसानों को मिल रही सेवा में भारी सुधार होगा। वे बोवाई वाले सामान इन दोनों ग्रीनहाउस के द्वारा किसानों के लिए तैयार रखेंगे जो सिंगातोका और सेंगाँगाँ रिसेच स्टेशन में बन रहे हैं।



जापान में इस सप्ताह पूर्व हुए हाई स्कूल विद्यार्थियों का सम्मेलन विश्व सुनामी जागरूकता दिवस के दिन हुआ तथा इस साल कोरो हाई स्कूल ने इस सम्मेलन में फीजी का प्रतिनिधित्व किया था। उन्हें यह अवसर मिला था कि वे समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन से हुई तबाही का अनुभव अन्य विद्यार्थियों के साथ बाँटें।

कोरो हाई स्कूल के विद्यार्थियों ने जापान में हुए सम्मेलन में लिया हिस्सा

रोनल देव

कोरो हाई स्कूल के विद्यार्थी, जापान में हाई स्कूल विद्यार्थियों के सम्मेलन में हिस्सा लेने गए हैं जो इस साल विश्व सुनामी जागरूकता वाले दिवस के मौके पर होगा। दिसम्बर सन् दो हजार पंद्रह में विश्व सुनामी जागरूकता दिवस की शुरुवात हुई थी तथा जापान ने तीसरे सम्मेलन की मेज़बानी की है। इस साल का सम्मेलन खास रहेगा क्योंकि यह वाकायामा में होगा जहाँ एक व्यक्ति हामागुची होरियो ने पाँच नवम्बर अक्टूबर सौ चौवन (1854) में

आने वाली सुनामी से अपने गाँव वासियों को उँची जगह जाने के लिए अपने चावल के ढेरों को जलाकर रास्ता दिखाकर उनकी जान बचाई थी। इस वजह से उन्हें जापान में हीरो समझा जाता है। शिक्षा मंत्रालय की पेमनन्ट सकेटरी एलिसन बेर्चल का कहना है कि इस सम्मेलन में हिस्सा लेने के लिए कोरो हाई स्कूल का चुनाव ज़रूरी है क्योंकि उन्होंने ने समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन से हुई तबाही का अनुभव किया है खास करके जब बड़ी-बड़ी लहरों ने कोरो द्वीप के हिस्सों में क्षति पहुँचाई थी। उन्होंने उम्मीद व्यक्त की है

कि ये विद्यार्थी अपने अनुभव बाँटने के साथ-साथ अन्य विद्यार्थियों के अनुभव से कुछ सीख भी हासिल करेंगे। विश्व सुनामी जागरूकता दिवस पर हाई स्कूल विद्यार्थियों का सम्मेलन इक्तीस अक्टूबर से पहली नवम्बर तक हुआ। दुनिया भर के चार सौ सत्तासी लोग इस सम्मेलन में हिस्सा लेंगे। पिछले साल रातु कन्दावूलेवू स्कूल ने सम्मेलन में हिस्सा लिया था जबकि सन् दो हजार सोलह में मारिस्ट ब्रदर्स हाई स्कूल के विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिया था।



सोलिसिटा जेनरल ने किया डी जी सी ए सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन

सोलिसिटा जेनरल तथा सिविल एविएशन मंत्रालय के पेमनन्ट सिक्रेटरी, शरवदा शर्मा ने हाल ही में शेराटन फीजी रिज़ॉर्ट नान्दी में डायरेक्टस जेनरल ऑफ सिविल एविएशन के पंचपनवे सम्मेलन का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया। इस सम्मेलन में एशिया प्रशान्त क्षेत्र के बाहर विमान उद्योग भागीदारों, इससे जुड़े लोग तथा नज़र रखने वाले देशों ने हिस्सा लिया।



मंत्री कोया ने लम्बासा निवासियों को बांटे ग्रान्ट

इंडस्ट्री और ट्रेड मंत्री फईयाज़ सिदिक कोया ने इसी सप्ताह पूर्व लम्बासा में तीन हजार चार सौ से ज़्यादा छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारियों को एक-एक हजार डॉलर का ग्रान्ट दिया। लम्बासा के सुबैरल पार्क में बांटा गया यह ग्रान्ट, सन् दो हजार पंद्रह से लेकर अभी तक चालिसवा चरण था। जनाब कोया ने कहा कि सरकार ने फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था तथा लम्बासा के लोगों में लगभग तीन मिलियन डॉलर की पुँजी लगाई है और पंद्रह हजार से ज़्यादा लोगों की ज़िन्दगी में सुधार आया है।



राजकुमार हेरी और उनकी पत्नी का फीजी दौरा

इंग्लैन्ड स्थित ससेक्स के नवाब या डियुक, राजकुमार हेरी और उनकी पत्नी मेगन माकल इसी महीने पूर्व फीजी के तीन दिनों के दौर पर आए थे। यह एक राज्य यात्रा थी जिसकी महज़वानी फीजी के राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चियोची कोनरोते कर रहे हैं जो सभी फीजीवासियों का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे हैं। राष्ट्रपति और प्रधानमंत्री के अलावा वि-रोधी नेता तथा अन्य रेजिस्टर्ड राजनितिक

पार्टी के नेताओं को भी शाही जोड़ी के साथ स्वागत समारोह और रात का भोजन करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया था। फीजीयन सरकार और कॅनसिंगटन पैलेस साथ मिलकर काम किया ताकि इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाए कि राजकुमार हेरी और उनकी पत्नी, फीजी की एक सुरक्षित और यादगार यात्रा का आनंद लें तथा जितने फीजीवासी हो सकें से मिलकर हमारे विश्व प्रसिद्ध अतिथि-सत्कार का भी

आनंद लें।

यह शाही दम्पति मंगलवार तई स अक्टूबर को नउसोरी हवाई अड्डे पर उतरी तथा गुरुवार को नान्दी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के मार्फत देश से रवाना हुई। इस दौरान इन जोड़ी ने कई पारम्परिक और संस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों में हिस्सा लिया तथा अपने अनुभव के बारे में भाषण भी दिया।





‘बईनिमरामा एक अनोखा नेता’

रोनल देव

कैलिफोर्निया अमरिका के भुतपुर्व गवर्नर तथा विश्व प्रसिद्ध अभिनेता अनल्ड स्वाज़नेगर का कहना है कि फीजी के प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमरामा एक अनोखे नेता है।

जलवायु परिवर्तन का सामना करने वाली अन्य नेताओं वाले दल की बातचित की अगुवाई करते हुए श्री स्वाज़नेगरने ऐसा कहा। श्री स्वाज़नेगर ने जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ लड़ाई में उनकी प्रतिबद्धता के लिए श्री बईनिमरामा की प्रशंसा की।

“मुझे वो बात बहुत पसन्द आई जब मैंने पेरिस में श्री बईनिमरामा से मुलाकात की थी, उस वक्त उन्होंने मुझे बताया था कि किस तरह से वे बातचित करते हैं तथा उन्हें नीती वार्ता से सक्त नफ़रत है। इसके बदले उन्हें पसन्द है एक दूसरे के साथ कहानियाँ बाँटना जैसा यहाँ हो रहा है।

विभिन्न नेता इस बातचित का हिस्सा थे तथा श्री बईनिमरामा ने श्री स्वाज़नेगर को जलवायु परिवर्तन पर चर्चा जारी रखने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

उन्होंने अमरिका के भुतपुर्व गवर्नर तथा अभिनेता और अन्य नेताओं को बातचित जारी रखने के लिए विशेष धन्यवाद दिया और कहा कि वहाँ उपस्थित रहने का उनका भी मन था लेकिन वो अभी फीजी में चुनाव अभियान लड़ रहे हैं।

श्री स्वाज़नेगर और श्री बईनिमरामा के साझेदारी से यह बातचित आयोजित की गई थी जिसका लक्ष्य था सभी बड़े नेताओं को एक साथ लाना ताकि ज़्यादा ध्यान जल वायु परिवर्तन के आर्थिक साधन पर रखा जाए।



फीजी के प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमरामा, कैलिफोर्निया अमरिका के भुतपुर्व गवर्नर तथा विश्व प्रसिद्ध अभिनेता अनल्ड स्वाज़नेगर से मुलाकात करते हुए।



वतुवांगा सूवा स्थित ननुकु और वेईदोन्गो सेटलमन्ट के निवासियों की ज़िन्दगी सवारने के लिए वहाँ के ज़मीन मालिक उन्हें मकोई में जाकर बसने के लिए ज़मीन दे रहा है तथा खिसकने के खर्च के रूप में एक-एक हजार डोलर भी देने को तैयार है।

ननुकु और वेईदोन्गो सेटलमन्ट के निवासियों को मकोई खिसकाया जाएगा

रोनल देव

वतुवांगा सूवा स्थित ननुकु और वेईदोन्गो सेटलमन्ट के तीन सौ परिवारों को अगले नौ से बारह महीने में खिसकाकर मकोई में एक ज़मीन दी जाएगी।

अटोनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री माननीय अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम ने घोषणा की है कि भिन्डी ब्रदस लिमिटेड के विनोद भिन्डी इस ज़मीन के मालिक है।

सैयद खैयुम ने कहा कि खिसकने के खर्च में सहयोग देने के लिए ज़मीन मालिक सभी निवासियों को एक-एक हजार डोलर देगी। इस योजना से भिन्डी ब्रदस को लगभग बारह मिलियन डोलर का खर्च बैठेगा।

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा कि लोग पहली बार खरीदने या बनाने वाली स्कीम से भी फायदा उठा सकेंगे।

वतुवांगा सूवा स्थित ननुकु और वेईदोन्गो सेटलमन्ट में कई ऐसे लोग हैं जो वहाँ बीस सालों से ज़्यादा समय से रह रहे हैं जो अपने बच्चों के अच्छे भविष्य की तलाश में आकर बस्तियों में बस गए। निवासियों का कहना है कि यह जगह सूवा शहर के नज़दीक है जहाँ यातायात की अच्छी व्यवस्था है लेकिन वहाँ रहना चुनौतियों से भरा रहेगा।

बुरी स्थिति में जीवन बिताना कई निवासियों के लिए दैनिक ज़िन्दगी का हिस्सा बन गई है।



कई निवासी इस सेटलमन्ट में पिछले कई सालों से अपना जीवन बिता रहे हैं जो अपने बच्चों के लिए अच्छे भविष्य की तलाश में आकर वहाँ बसे और कई तकलीफों से गुज़र रहे हैं।

लोगों का सपना हुआ पूरा

रोनल देव

लेन्ड्स मंत्री जनाब फईयाज़ कोया ने हाल ही में पश्चिमी विभाग की बस्तियों के निवासियों को चालिस (40) अप्रुवल नोटिस और एक सौ तिहत्तर (173) रेजिस्टर्ड लीस प्रदान की है।

नवाकाई नान्दी की बस्तियों के निवासियों को चालिस (40) लीस अप्रुवल तथा नान्दी को पैतीस (35) रेजिस्टर्ड लीस दी गई।

मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि इसके अलावा राकीराकी में पचीस (25) रेजिस्टर्ड लीस बाँटे जाएंगे जबकि तावुआ में इक्कीस (21), म्बा में सत्तर (70) रेजिस्टर्ड लीस तथा लौतोका में बाईस (22) लीसें दी जाएंगी।

मंत्री कोया ने प्रकाश डाला कि इससे पहले, बस्तियों के लिए तीन सौ साठ अप्रुवल नोटिस दी गई है जिससे फीजीवासियों को सुरक्षा मिली है।

उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमरामा की बातों को दोहराया कि सरकार, स्कोटर में विकास के लिए और भी सरकारी ज़मीनों को विकसित करेगी तथा जिन सरकारी ज़मीनों पर स्कोटस रहते हैं को सब-डिवाइड किया जाएगा तथा वहाँ के निवासियों को निन्यानवे सालों की लीस दी जाएगी।

उन्होंने कहा कि इस पहल के साथ, सरकार का उद्देश्य है आनी वाली पीढ़ी के भविष्य को सुरक्षित करने के लिए इस वादे को पूरा करना।

फीजी और ग्रेट ब्रिटन में समान्यता

रोनल देव

इंग्लैन्ड स्थित ससेक्स के नवाब या डियुक, राजकुमार हेरी का कहना है कि फीजी और ग्रेट ब्रिटन के संबंध बहुत ही गहरे हैं क्योंकि दोनों देशों में राष्ट्रमण्डल के सिद्धान्त, सामान्य लक्ष्य, रग्वी के प्रति प्रेम तथा हँसी मज़ाक की भावना एक जैसी है।

इसी सप्ताह पूर्व सूवा स्थित ग्रेन्ड पॅसिफिक होटल में राष्ट्रपति चियोची कोनरोते ने राजकुमार हेरी के लिए रात का भोजन रखा जिसके दौरान राजकुमार हेरी ने कहा कि वो फीजी द्वारा उनका भव्य स्वागत पाकर बहुत ही खुश है।

उन्होंने जोर दिया कि लम्बे समय से फीजी शाही मेहमानों का स्वागत करने की परम्परा निभाते आया है तथा दोनों देशों ने इस नज़दीकी संबंध और दोस्ती का आनन्द लिया है। उनके अनुसार यह दौरा उनके और उनकी पत्नी मेगन मार्कल के लिए बहुत खास है।

उनके अनुसार ग्रेड ब्रिटन की तरह अन्य देश भी फीजी पर वातावरण संबंधी विषय उठाने की अगुवाई करने का भरोसा रख रहे हैं जिसका गम्भीर असर हम सब पर पड़ेगा जबकि फीजी और अन्य प्रशान्तीय देशों पर इसका असर कई सालों से पड़ रहा है।

राजकुमार हेरी ने फीजी की प्रशंसा की और कहा कि यहाँ के लोगों को अपनी संस्कृति पर गर्व है तथा वे आदर्शवादी हैं।



इंग्लैन्ड स्थित ससेक्स के नवाब या डियुक, राजकुमार हेरी और उनकी पत्नी मेगन मार्कल युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ़ दी साउथ पॅसिफिक का दौरा करके निकलते हुए।



राजकुमार हेरी की पत्नी मेगन मार्कल यू.एस.पी में अपना पहला औपचारिक भाषण देते हुए।

महारानी एलिज़बेथ छात्रवृत्ति का विमोचन

रोनल देव

राजकुमार हेरी ने जोर दिया है कि यह उनके और उनकी पत्नी मेगन मार्कल के लिए गर्व वाली बात है कि वे युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ़ दी साउथ पॅसिफिक की पचासवीं सालगिराह का हिस्सा हैं।

पचास साल पहले महारानी एलिज़बेथ ने यू.एस.पी को व्यक्तिगत रूप से रॉयल चार्टर प्रदान किया था

राजकुमार हेरी ने युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ़ दी साउथ पॅसिफिक के विद्यार्थियों से कहा कि राष्ट्रमण्डल के युवा राजदूत की अपनी नई भूमिका के तहत उनका लक्ष्य है, युवकों की चिन्ताओं को सुनना तथा यह सीखना कि वे अपने विषयों से निपटने के लिए क्या काम करते हैं। इसके अलावा उनका

यह भी काम है युवकों की उपलब्धियों को उच्चतम स्तर पर प्रकाश डालना।

राजकुमार हेरी ने आम किया कि अपनी नई नौकरी में उनका पहला काम है अपनी दादी महारानी एलिज़बेथ के सम्मान में क्वीन एलिज़बेथ स्कॉलशिप यानि छात्रवृत्ति का विमोचन करना।

राजकुमार की पत्नी मेगन मार्कल ने भी यू.एस.पी में शिक्षा के महत्व और फीजी में महिला सशिक्षितकरण की ज़रूरत पर भाषण दिया। उन्होंने युनिवर्सिटी में पढ़ाई करने के लिए अपने स्वयं के संघर्ष का खुलासा किया।

इस दौर में मेगन मार्कल का पहला औपचारिक भाषण था। उन्हें दस मिनट के लिए सूवा मार्केट के दौरे पर भी लेजाया गया था जहाँ कई सौ की संख्या में लोग उन्हें एक झलक देखने के लिए

इकट्ठा हुए थे।

दूसरी ओर राजकुमार हेरी दोलो-ई-सूवा के औपचारिक दौरे पर गए तथा उस महिला से भी मुलाकात की थी जिसने साठ (60) साल पहले महारानी एलिज़बेथ को चाय पिलाई थी। छियासी (86) साल की लितियाना बुलादा का कहना है कि उन्नीस सौ उनचास (1949) में वो आँदी दकोम्बाउ स्कूल प्रिन्सीपल फ्रान्सेस लिलियन शाल्टन के लिए काम करती थी जब उन्हें महारानी को चाय पेश करने के लिए चुना गया।

बुलादा ने कहा कि वो नईतासिरी की एक आम महिला है लेकिन शाही परिवार से मिलने का सौभाग्य मिलना एक उपहार की तरह है तथा ऐसा मौका प्रदान करने के लिए वो ईश्वर को धन्यवाद दे रही है।



फीजी के प्रधानमंत्री वोरनो बर्डनिमरामा ने हाल ही में सिडनी के दौरे पर पहली बार ऑस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधानमंत्री श्री स्कॉट मोरिसन से मुलाकात की।

ऑस्ट्रेलिया फीजी के बीच मज़बूत रिश्ता-प्रधानमंत्री

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वोरनो बर्डनिमरामा ने पहली बार सिडनी में ऑस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधानमंत्री स्कॉट मोरिसन से मुलाकात की।

उनके बीच सुरक्षा, व्यापार से लेकर परिवार और रग्वी पर बातें हुईं।

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि ऑस्ट्रेलिया और फीजी के बीच मज़बूत रिश्ता है। “हम पुरानी बातें छोड़कर, अपने साझेदारी का नया अध्याय लिख रहे हैं ताकि फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया अपने

संयोग की उँचाईयों तक पहुँच सकें,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने सिडनी में नए काउन्सिल के दफ्तर का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया। इस दौरान उन्होंने कहा कि यह दफ्तर सिडनी के व्यापारिक केन्द्र में स्थित है। फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के लोगों के बीच दोस्ती और संबंध फीजी की आज़ादी के इतिहास से बहुत पहले से हैं।

श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने कहा कि वो ऑस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधानमंत्री स्कॉट मोरिसन के साथ नज़दीकी संबंध कायम करना चाहते हैं ताकि निष्पक्षता और पारम्परिक सम्मान के आधार पर द्विपक्षीय साझेदारी मज़बूत बनाना जारी रखा जाए।

उनके अनुसार ऑस्ट्रेलियन टुरिस्टों के लिए फीजी अभी भी छुट्टियाँ बिताने के लिए पसन्द-दीदा जगह है जबकि पिछले साल ऑस्ट्रेलिया से टुरिज़म व्यवसाय को करीब एक बिलियन डॉलर की कमाई हुई जो कि एक इतिहास है।

श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने कहा कि उन्हें गर्व है कि फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच व्यापार दोनों तरफ से हो रहा है जो प्रति साल एक बिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा है। ऑस्ट्रेलियन बाज़ार तक फीजी के निर्यात में चार प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है जबकि फीजी के नए-नए उत्पादन तथा व्यापार क्षेत्र में फैल रहे हैं।

बईनिमरामा एक
अनोखा नेता
-अनल्ड स्वार्ज़नेगर

6



औस्ट्रेलिया के
प्रधानमंत्री से
पहली मुलाकात

7



इंग्लेन्ड स्थित ससेक्स के नवाब या डियुक, राजकुमार हेरी और उनकी पत्नी मेगन माकल का फीजी में भव्य स्वागत किया गया जिन्होंने यहाँ तीन दिन बिताए तथा कई फीजीवासियों से मुलाकात की।

औपचारिक शाही यात्रा

रोनल देव

इंग्लेन्ड स्थित ससेक्स के नवाब या डियुक, राजकुमार हेरी और उनकी पत्नी मेगन माकल इसी महीने पूर्व फीजी के तीन दिनों के दौर पर आए थे।

इस दौर की तारीख आम चुनाव की तारीख तय होने से बहुत पहले तय हो गई थी। यह एक राज्य यात्रा थी जिसकी मेहज़बानी फीजी के राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चियोची कोनरोते कर रहे हैं जो सभी फीजीवासियों का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे हैं।

आश्वासन की माँग की गई और दी गई थी कि

अगर यह दौर आम चुनाव से पहले हुआ तो यह गैर-राजनितिक होगा। फीजीयन लोगों के अलावा शाही जोड़े इस दौर का कई दिनों से इंतज़ार कर रहे थे। दोनों पक्ष निराश होते अगर आम चुनाव की वजह से दौर स्थगित या रद्द किया जाता। लेकिन इसकी ज़रूरत नहीं थी क्योंकि यह दौर राजनिती से जुड़ी नहीं थी।

राष्ट्रपति और प्रधानमंत्री के अलावा विरोधी नेता तथा अन्य रजिस्टर्ड राजनितिक पार्टी के नेताओं को भी शाही जोड़े के साथ स्वागत समारोह और रात का भोजन करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया था।

फीजीयन सरकार और केंसिंगटन पैलेस साथ मिलकर काम किया ताकि इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाए कि राजकुमार हेरी और उनकी पत्नी, फीजी की एक सुरक्षित और यादगार यात्रा का आनंद लें तथा जितने फीजीवासी हो सकें से मिलकर हमारे विश्व प्रसिद्ध अतिथि-सत्कार का भी आनंद लें।

यह शाही दम्पति मंगलवार तईस अक्टूबर की शाम साढ़े तीन बजे नउसोरी हवाई अड्डे पर उतरी तथा शाम छः बजे से एलबर्ट पार्क सूवा में उनका पारम्परिक ढंग से स्वागत हुआ। फिर ग्रेन्ड पेंसिफिक होटल की बलकनी से दम्पति

सभी को शाही अंदाज़ में हाथ हिलाया।

बुद्धवार को यह शाही दम्पति युनिवर्सिटी ओफ दी साउथ पेंसिफिक के प्रांगन में वहाँ के विद्यार्थियों से मिलने गए। उसके बाद राजकुमार हेरी दोलो-ई-सूवा जबकि उनकी पत्नी ब्रिटिश राजदूत के निवासस्थान पर महिला प्रतिनिधि दलों से मिलने गई और फिर सूवा मार्केट का दौरा किया।

दौर के अंतिम दिन राजकुमार हेरी ने नान्दी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर साजन्ट तलियासी लाम्बालाम्बा की मुर्ती का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया।