

# Fiji Focus



CLIMATE  
CHANGE,  
WOMEN

7



ENVOY PERSEVERES TO EXCEL  
IN HIS DIPLOMATIC DUTIES

12



GROWING  
NUMBERS IN  
AGED CARE  
CONCERN

11



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel during his visit to Cuba last week. Prime Minister Bainimarama is the first Fijian Head of Government to visit Cuba on an official state visit. Photo: SUPPLIED

# Medical gains

## Fiji builds ties with Cuba

PRASHILA DEVI

“NATIONS are made stronger by great friendships.”

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, on the invitation of the Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, became the first Fijian Head of Government to visit Cuba on an official state visit with a focus of making inroads in the medical field and on the issue of climate change.

Cuba, says Prime Minister Bainimarama who has been attending the United Nations Climate Summit and the UN General Assembly in New York, is on right side of the table on the climate debate.

He said the 12,000 kilometre distance that separates Fiji from

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3





## INSIDE

PRESIDENT APPLAUDS  
WOMEN ON ACHIEVEMENT- 15

JONA'S INTEREST IN  
TILAPIA FISH FARMING - 14

NEW CROSSINGS PUT  
LONG WAIT TO REST - 13

GROWING NUMBERS IN  
AGED CARE A CONCERN- 11

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Mereseini  
Vuniwaqa

*Fiji remains a world leader in the advocacy work against climate change and sustainable oceans. The devastating effects of climate change are inextricably linked to the health of our oceans.*

Mereseini Vuniwaqa  
Minister for Women, Children  
and Poverty Alleviation

### NUMBERS

Breast cancer stands at **300** per year followed by cervical cancer with less than **200** per year.

### TWEET OF THE WEEK



UNICEF (@UNICEF)

*We need everyone to understand that we must work as a team before it's too late. Speak up. It's our time."*  
14-year-old Timoci from Fiji asks for #ClimateAction at the @UN Youth Climate Summit.

### CONTACT

Publisher: Izek Lal  
Sub Editor: Prashila Devi  
Manager Vernacular: Viliame Tikotani  
Virendra Lal  
North office: Level 3 Macuata House, Labasa  
West office: Level 1 Ratu Nauliano House, Korovalu

Contacts: Suva: 3301806 /  
West: 6700086 / 9905965  
North: 8811276 / 9905971  
Fax: 3305139/3304663  
news@govnet.gov.fj  
@FijianGovt  
Fijian Government  
visit us at www.fiji.gov.fj

# Dredging on river to commence soon

HALITESH DATT

A SIMPLE walk along the footpaths of Waicoka Village in Tailevu South will give anyone the first hand impression of the harsh reality of climate change.

Most of the houses are on piles and it seems those houses are struggling every day to keep itself steady on the swampy grounds.

The village is located on the banks of Waidamu River and for generations, that river has been a source of livelihood for more than 200 residents of the village.

However, same cannot be said about the importance of Waidamu River anymore as slightest of rain and high tides break the bank and

inundates the settlement.

Turaga-ni-Koro of the village, 53-year-old Sireli Daivalu found it hard to express what his people had to go through.

"Our farms have been destroyed by water coming in from the river. Places where we used to plant vegetables before, we can no longer farm there," Mr Daivalu said.

Looking at the urgent plight of his people, the village leader sought the Government's assistance through the Bose ni Tikina and the Provincial Council to dredge the 18 kilometre long river.

Although it was a mammoth task, it quickly became the priority for the Ministry of Waterways

and the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources.

Waterways and Environment Minister, Dr Mahendra Reddy has assured the residents that Waidamu River will soon once again be the source of livelihood for the Waicoka Village.

"Entire 18 kilometre of the river will be dredged. We have come up with an economical solution and this river will no longer threaten you," Minister Reddy assured the villagers.

He has also assured Fijians that no community will be ignored when it comes to finding smart solutions to address such issues.

"Dredging can be an expensive exercise. A kilometre of dredging can cost up to \$2million based on

the volume of extraction"

Ministry of Lands also played a crucial part in getting the necessary approvals for the works to commence.

"The Fijian Government will continue to find innovative solutions to such issues that will result in the betterment of the communities affected by the impacts of climate change," Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Ashneel Sudhakar added.

The dredging works are expected to commence this month and this has brought a great sigh of relief for the turaga ni koro.

"We are really happy with this timely assistance. My people will greatly benefit from the dredging works," Mr Daivalu said.



President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote with retired servicemen during the Annual Poppy Appeal launch at Ratu Sukuna Park in Suva last week.  
Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

# Selfless act remembered during poppy appeal

PRASHILA DEVI

"IT is without a doubt that the dedication, selfless commitment and sacrifice of our Fijian servicemen and women needs to be acknowledged, respected and most importantly - supported."

At the launch of the Annual Poppy Appeal, Minister for Fisheries, Semi Korolavesau, in his capacity as acting Prime Minister and Minister for Defence and National Security, hailed the contribution of servicemen and women.

"We as Fijians have always felt obligated in ensuring that the world we live in is a safe

place by bringing peace and security to troubled regions," Minister Korolavesau said at the event held at the Ratu Sukuna Park last week.

"Fiji is a proud country that has continually made commitments to effectively contribute to world peace through the various peace-keeping missions."

For 75-year-old, Sunia Vulitalatala, who was part of the second contingent that was deployed to Lebanon in 1978, said the Poppy Appeal makes him think back of when he was serving as a soldier.

"It reminds me of all the soldiers who served in the war but also makes me think of

my own time of deployment. I was happy to be serving far away from home and for me, it was service to humanity," Mr Vulitalatala said.

The veteran, who hails from Mualevu Village on Vanuabalavu, Lau, retired in 2000 with a rank of Warrant Officer Class 1 and now wears the hat of a farmer, as he plants root crops on his farm in Vuci South.

The Poppy Appeal, which serves the dual purpose of raising funds for retired servicemen and women as well as raising awareness on their contribution to maintaining peace around the world, culminates on November 11 when Remembrance Day is marked.





## Fiji builds ties with Cuba

FROM PAGE 1

Cuba does not diminish the potential of the relationship between the two countries.

However, the highlight of his visit were the 21 Fijian students studying medicine in Cuba on Fijian Government sponsored scholarships whom he met for lunch and a talanoa session where he urged them to do well.

“Once they earn their white coats, they will return to Fiji and dedicate their careers to delivering lifesaving treatment for their fellow Fijians,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said via a Facebook message.

“This is the level of patriotism we would love to see in the next generation of Fijians. Some of these students drove hours overnight to meet with my delegation over some grog, a taste of home we brought to Havana.”



*This is the level of patriotism we would love to see in the next generation of Fijians.*

Voreqe Bainimarama  
Fijian Prime Minister

And as the nation gears up to celebrate the 49th year of independence, Prime Minister Bainimarama has extended words of encouragement.

“Listening to these aspiring Fijian doctors share their stories of what it is like to study in a foreign country, away from their friends and families reminded me of the years I spent studying abroad. I know being away from home is never easy, it takes resilience, it takes strength of character but I have no doubt, these students experiences will impart on them the values, the knowledge they need to become world class Fijians.”

“To all the young Fijians studying hard, wherever you may be, to support yourself, your families and the nation – keep working hard.”

On the issue of medical collaboration and tropical medicine, Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked the Cuban Government for its international collaboration which has immensely benefitted the Small Island Developing states like Fiji.

On the issue of climate change, Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked Cuba for being the first country to enshrine the fight against climate change in its constitution.

President Díaz-Canel was pleased to host the Prime Minister and his delegation, adding the visit would certainly benefit both the countries.

# Fijians encouraged to celebrate Fiji Day

MEREANI GONEDUA

F IJIANs around the world and in Fiji have been encouraged to participate in this year’s Fiji Day Celebrations.

Speaking during the Fiji Day media launch, Ministry of Defence and National Security permanent secretary Manasa Lesuma said the Government has planned a nationwide celebration on Thursday, October 10, 2019.

“The main celebration will be held in Suva’s Albert Park. The other celebration centres are in Labasa and Levuka, while the Western Division will be organizing Fiji Day activities by visiting homes and orphanages in Nadi, Lautoka and Ba.

“The Government has always remembered

the members of the society that are staying in orphanages and homes around the country.

“This is the time of the year where visitations are organised and residents and children presented with gifts – they may not be able to join us in the celebration centres but the spirit of Fiji Day is taken to their homes instead,” Mr Lesuma said.

He said the theme for this year’s celebration is “A progressive and sustainable Fiji for all” and it resonates well with the Fijian Constitution in ensuring that all Fijians are equally involved and benefitting in the development of the nation as this has paved the way forward for a modern and progressive Fiji!

Mr Lesuma stated that the main celebration in Suva begins with the Fiji Day Parade by the members of the Republic Fiji Military Forces, Fiji Police Force and the Fiji Correction Services.

He also stated that the parade will be reviewed by the President of the Republic of Fiji and this would be followed by entertainment and the display by the National Fire Authority and the Search and Rescue respondent agencies.

“As we reflect and celebrate our progress since independence in 1970 – around 49 years on, we will once again be dressed in our national colours, proudly waving the national flags and enjoy a fun filled day to remember.”



Minister responsible for Climate Change, Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the Asia-Pacific Judicial Conference on Environmental and Climate Change Adjudication in Nadi. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

## Expansion of marine protected areas

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

U P to 30 per cent of Fiji’s exclusive economic zone will be dedicated to marine protected areas, under the new Climate Change Bill.

This was confirmed by Minister responsible for Climate Change, Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum at the Asia-Pacific Judicial Conference on Environmental and Climate Change Adjudication

in Nadi.

“The Bill will also help enhance and incentivize environmental protection with the establishment of a framework to progress emissions reductions projects, under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement,” the A-G said.

Accordingly, the Bill will establish a national carbon project registry.

As climate change impacts intensify across the region and court cases build, the confer-

ence was aimed at addressing climate litigation, sustainable development law and necessary policies on judicial training and capacity building.

“Even though we as judicial officers deal with matters that come before the courts and are not involved in enacting legislation or making policies, we must not lose foresight of the fact that we play an important role in protecting the rights of all individuals to have a safe and healthy environ-

ment, which of course would be subject to certain limitations such as national security, economic policy and availability of resources,” said Acting Chief Justice, Kamal Kumar.

This was the first occasion for Fiji to host the conference, organised in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, United Nations Environment, Asian Judges Network on Environment and Global Judicial Institute on the Environment.





# ‘Cancer is treatable’

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

**A** PART from providing support and any necessary assistance to those battling cancer, the Fiji Cancer Society is also facing the constant challenge of trying to create more awareness about the illness so that people are not misinformed.

Society chief executive officer, Belinda Chan said people are still associating the stigma that cancer is incurable and that everyone that suffers from the disease dies.

Therefore, the society has made it its mission to ensure that people are well informed about the curable disease before it reaches the point where it cannot be treated.

“There is not enough awareness. We still have that stigma that ‘cancer will lead to death’ and it is the Society’s mission to ensure that people get the message and the right information.”

“With cancer still being the third leading cause of deaths in Fiji, the society’s main message is that cancer is treatable, and this is done through cancer education, change

in lifestyle and early detection of signs and symptoms.”

Signs that women need to look out for include nipple discharge, lump on one breast, inverted nipples, unusual bleeding and unusual discharge.

Echoing the similar sentiments is Asenaca Driso, a cervical cancer survivor.

She stated the importance of paying attention to our body and getting a Pap smear test done.

“Always look out for that unusual bleeding and any unusual discharge. We have to

listen to our body – we may look good on the outside but what matters is what’s on the inside. Exercise, eat the right food and eat in moderation.”

“It’s important for women to go for a Pap smear test. If they know they’re sexually active from 18 years old and over, then go for a Pap smear test. It’s not painful. It only takes about 15 to 20 minutes and if you’re scared to go alone, then go with friends or go in groups.”

Pinktober will be commemorated throughout the month of October.

## Second lease of life a blessing for Driso



Asenaca Driso (third from right) with the President of the Fiji Cancer Society and fellow cancer survivors. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

**F**OR Asenaca Driso, having another chance of life is a blessing that she continues to share her story on her experience during her cancer journey.

The 33-year-old mother of five is a cervical cancer survivor and is one of the many cancer patients who is sharing her story during this Pinktober month.

“I was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2017. When I was told that I had cervical cancer, the first word that came into my mind was ‘death’. My whole world just came crashing down because my youngest child at the time was only one-year-six-months old.”

Ms Driso said that she noticed the signs in August of 2017 and when she ‘googled’ it, she learned that they were signs and symptoms of cervical cancer.

She ignored the gravity of her discovery, thinking that the signs were part and parcel of the family planning method she was on at the time and only went to the doctor

when the abdominal pain became unbearable.

“The doctors advised me that there was no treatment available for me locally but if I’m lucky and if we have the finances, then we’ll have to go overseas. To go overseas will cost us about \$10,000 to \$15,000 and with my husband’s income at the time, it wasn’t enough to get me to India.”

Ms Driso is thankful for the Government’s assistance that allowed her to go to India to receive the treatment that she needed. Her husband also accompanied her on the trip.

“I’m grateful to the Government because the doctors advised us to apply for a medical evacuation where the Government will pay for our expenses. I’m thankful to the Government of the day for providing all that.”

“We went to India for the treatment – it was chemo and radiation for 10 weeks. I lost a lot of blood and a lot of weight. At times at night I cried myself to sleep because of the pain and because I wanted to get back home.

She is thankful to her husband and children for staying by her side throughout her cancer journey.

“Cancer does not only affect one person, but a family as a whole. My ignorance almost cost me my loved ones, especially my husband and my kids. I’m grateful to God for blessing me with a patient and kind-hearted man who has been with me from day one. Being the man that he is, he was man enough to be beside me throughout my cancer journey.”

October is the month dedicated towards cancer awareness and is now commonly referred to as Pinktober.

“It’s going to prevent a lot of young girls from getting cervical cancer as they grow older,” Minister Waqainabete said.

He said, while there is prevention for cervical cancer, there is none for breast cancer.

“Therefore, it is important to have events such as this (Pinktober Morning Tea) where we raise awareness for breast cancer,” she said.

## Cancer is battle that can be won

PRASHILA DEVI

“YOUR victory will now become a footprint to countless others who will walk that battlefield in the future.”

This was the message by the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete to the cancer survivors who live to tell the tale of their fight to beat this debilitating disease and inspire others through their stories.

Minister Waqainabete, who launched the Pinktober month that marks a period wholly dedicated to cancer awareness including the testimonials of survivors, said their strength and determination paves the way to resilience for others who will take this journey in the future.

“In Fiji breast cancer stands at 300 cases a year followed by cervical cancer as the most common cancers. There has been a steady rise in the incidence and I believe it is due to the greater awareness.”

Highlighting a few key figures, the Minister said in 2018 alone, there were 17 million new cases of cancer worldwide and 9.6 million deaths globally.

“It is predicted there will be 27.5 million new cancer cases worldwide each year by 2040, if recent trends in incidence of major cancers and population growth are seen globally in the future. This is an increase of 61.7 per cent from 2018 and is expected to be higher in males (67.6 per cent increase) than in females (55.3 per cent increase),” he said.

There are events spread throughout the month with the thrust of the awareness being early detection, getting yourself tested and opting for treatment after getting all the necessary testing.

The testimonials of survivors are also a method of ensuring that women who test positive, seek medical intervention without delay.





# Nayacakalou beats disease

EMI KOROITANOA

**O**FTEN times, one is assigned mountains just to show others it can be moved.

This rings true for Reapi Nayacakalou who began her journey four years ago back in 2014, not long after she had celebrated her golden jubilee birthday to move the proverbial mountain in the form of cancer.

Mrs Nayacakalou began experiencing strange occurrences taking place in her body before she started bleeding profusely.

Having reached the stage of life considered “middle age” she did not think much of it assuming she had only reached the stage of menopause, something most women in her age-group are bound to experience.

Two weeks later, however, she began passing big clots.

“And it was coming with a lot of pain so I told my husband we needed to go to the doctors because there was something seriously wrong with me.”

Weeks flew by and by then she had already held several consultations with her medical doctor.

Her results were confirmed and she dreaded returning to the hospital only to be relayed with the daunting news that she was diagnosed with cervical cancer.

“No matter how hard I had been preparing myself for that, at that time I felt like I was dropping into this hole that did not have an ending,” Mrs Nayacakalou said.

An instant worry entered her mind, “How am I going to tell my kids,” she thought.

“I went home to tell my husband and gave him the nitty-gritty details first on what could happen to me,” she said.

“The surgery may be successful but I might not wake up or I might bleed to death.”

“I said these are the things that you have to prepare yourself for. My husband went and got drunk for three days, that was his way of dealing with it.”

She had to undergo surgery, having her uterus and ovaries removed.

“The removal of our ovaries determines us as women, it determines our sex drive, and it determines how we feel about ourselves,” she remarked.

She said the disease is very debilitating as it takes over you.

“So think about it, think about how you want your life to be. If you’ve got a relative that’s going through the same thing, tell them to go to the hospital,” she added.

She further added it was crucial to have such diseases treated while it is still in its early stages.

“I’m standing here now four years free,” Ms Nayacakalou said.

“I still go for Pap smear, and I always encourage my little girl to go for HPV vaccination.”

She urged mothers to seize the opportunity whenever a HPV vaccination arises and take their daughters for check-up.

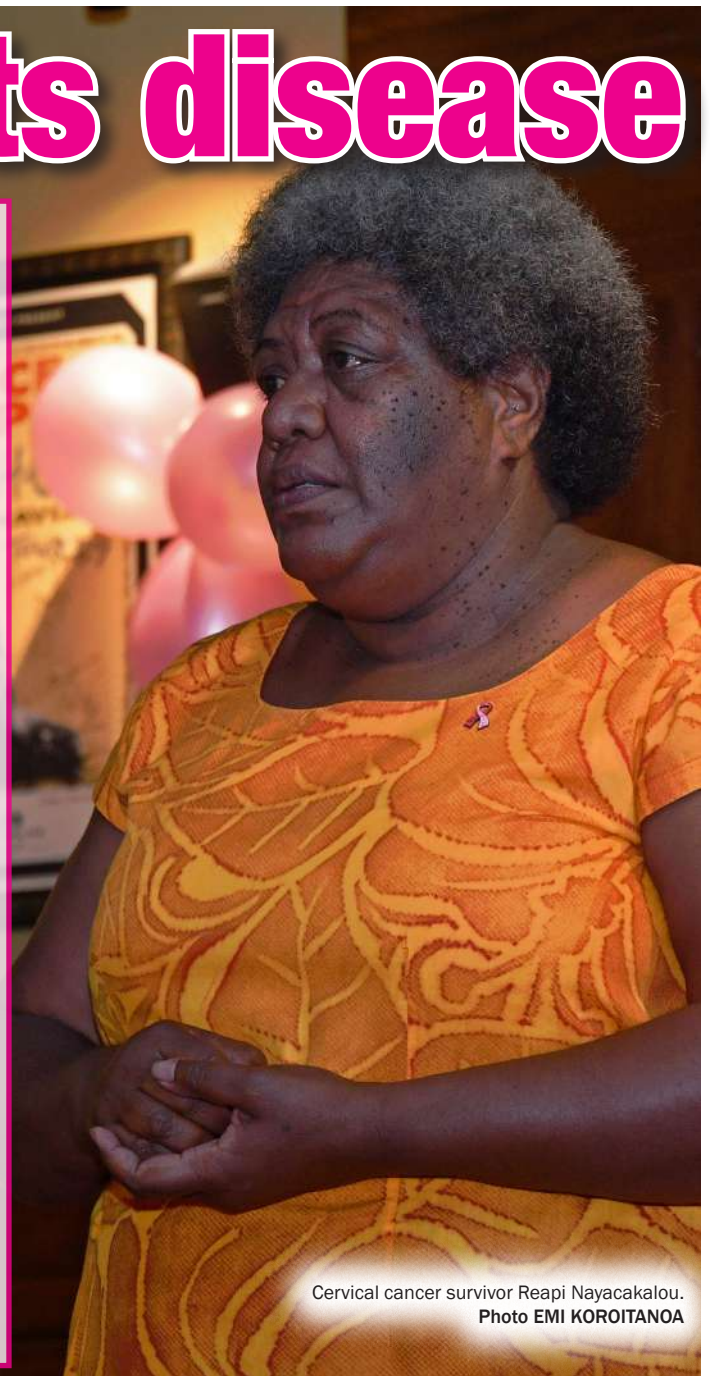
Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete delivered remarks at the Pinktober Morning Tea event held recently at Denarau in Nadi.

Speaking to a crowd of stakeholders, he said HPV vaccination is available locally.

“It’s going to prevent a lot of young girls from getting cervical cancer as they grow older,” Minister Waqainabete said.

He said, while there is prevention for cervical cancer, there is none for breast cancer.

“Therefore, it is important to have events such as this (Pinktober Morning Tea) where we raise awareness for breast cancer,” she said.



Cervical cancer survivor Reapi Nayacakalou.  
Photo EMI KOROITANOA

## Family support vital- cancer survivor



Breast cancer survivor Irene Hamidullah (left), with her two children.  
Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

AZARIA FAREEN

**W**OMEN and men know their body well and should know that not every lump in your breast is cancerous but getting yourself checked will provide you with a peace of mind.

These were the encouraging words of breast cancer survivor Irene Hamidullah who stressed that “If you love your family and want to see your kids grow up and hold your grandchildren then get yourself checked and treated.”

Ms Hamidullah, a single mother of two teenagers said she found lumps on her breasts through self-examination and upon advice from her doctor friend she had biopsy done in October, 2015 and received the results in late January, 2016.

“When I received the heartbreaking results I felt frustrated, stressed, depressed and angry mainly because at that time my family had broken up and I made up my mind not to go ahead with surgery,” she said.

“I lost my mother to this illness and when I broke the painful news to my sisters they adamantly encouraged me to get the surgery done for the sake of my children,” Ms Hamidullah said.

“Waiting for the results after surgery took four months and with all

the emotions I was going through I even became suicidal, however, despite facing the many challenges including meeting the needs of my children, prompted me to keep myself positively occupied which helped a lot.”

The emotional survivor stressed family support to be extremely important for those suffering from cancer especially for a woman who will need support from her husband first, then her children, and later extended family and friends.

“I am happy to say that the Fiji Cancer Society is always there to assist me even going to the extent of helping me in completing a course in hydroponics,” Ms Hamidullah added.

“My goal is to reach out to other survivors by starting up a greenhouse and do hydroponic and organic gardening whereby what we plant would be sold and also for the oncology nurses to take back to the palliative care patients during their visitation.”

President of Fiji Cancer Society, Makrava Wilson, said “we have very active survivors’ network that meet regularly sharing with others who have had similar experiences and inform them in the delivery of our programs, events and services.”

“We have been privileged and proud over the last 26 years in providing a range of services includ-

ing medication that are not available under the Government’s free medicine list, transportation to and from clinics, visa and passport fees, boat transfers and home visitations to name a few.”

Minister for Health and Medical Services Ifereimi Waqainabete, in launching the nationwide Pinktober initiative last week, said 1-in-15 women are estimated to have the likelihood of developing breast cancer in Fiji.

“Breast cancer stands at 300 per year and is followed by cervical cancer with less than 200 per year as the most common cancers and you must remember that all of us in this room are susceptible to cancer as we are all vulnerable,” Minister Waqainabete said.

“Whilst the Ministry of Health and Government take it upon itself to look after patients with cancer and provide them with appropriate screening and treatment, it is the Fiji Cancer Society that support our work with soft components such as providing them transportation and counseling amongst other things.”

Minister Waqainabete adds cancer is treatable if the signs and symptoms are detected early and encourages knowing ones family medical history well, regular self-examination, screening and going through with treatment.





# Natokalau benefits from solar home system



Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate during the commissioning of the Solar Home Projects at Natokalau Village in Lau.  
 Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“IT has been a very long time since we got to see light in this village and I am grateful for this achievement with our Government.”

These were the words by Natokalau Village headman Niu Mataiwalu, after the commissioning of the Solar Home Projects by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate.

“Today we celebrate an achievement for our village, this is something very big for us

because it provides electricity,” Mr Mataiwalu said.

“I would like to thank the Government for approving our application for this project to bring light to our village.”

Minister Usamate added that the children would now have solar lights to study at night and it was up to all Fijians benefitting from this to maximize on this opportunity.

“Access to power is an enormous advantage, it allows you to be more productive and accomplish far more on a daily basis.”

“Don’t let this chance go to waste.”

Minister Usamate said having access to electricity improves the livelihood of everyone, young and old, and its effects multiply to contribute to the achievement of our developmental goals.

A women representative, Taraguci Koto-balavu said, “Whenever we wanted to work through the night it was hard because we had no light, but because of the solar project we are able to”.

“We would like to thank the Minister for this achievement and for always thinking of us villagers.”



Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Jone Usamate, with Cicia High School Principal Maciu Koroitamana.  
 Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

## School set its goals

FELIX LESINAIVALU

CICIA High School Principal Maciu Koroitamana believes that despite hurdles the school faces it will do its best to achieve its goal of 100 per cent pass rate.

Mr Koroitamana believes that even though at times they face water and electricity problems, the school will be successful in achieving its target, which is 100 per cent pass in the major examinations.

“Currently we are facing issues in regards to water problems in school, secondly there are also issues with the solar systems and the lights in the school, but we are making do with what we have.”

Mr Koroitamana said that the school reservoir has no water in it so they are relying on tanks to supply water for the school.

“We are making do for now with water from the tank and the students are using the sea water for their bathing.”

“We are focusing our target this year, like every other school, for a 100 per cent pass.”

“Even though I know we have done this in the past, it has been a platform that has continued to challenge us today and I am thankful to the 78 students that we have and also the 19 staff.”

Mr Koroitamana, who hails from Naitasiri, said, on the behalf of the school, he was thankful to the community, parents and government officials who helped the school in various ways.

“We hope to thank them by providing good results and we will continue to strive for students to always aim for the sky.”

He said that he wants to show the students that anything is possible even if you come from a school on the island.

“Even though it is tough with all these obstacles they face, with the Lord on our side, and all the hard work early in the morning and late at night I believe we can do it this year.”

“It’s the students’ hard work which is one of the greatest assets that we have.”

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate visited the school during his Lau Tour last week.

During his visit to Cicia, Minister Usamate officiated at the commissioning of solar projects with \$463,896 spent to provide electricity to the 140 households.

## Kabara school to benefit from new tank

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE teachers and students of Nakeleyaga Village School have hailed the Government for the installation of a new water tank.

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological services, Jone Usamate officiated at the handing-over of the project as he visited Kabara as part of his weeklong Lau Tour.

Nakeleyaga Village School Head teacher Suliiasi Veitokula said that receiving the tank will be a boost not only for the students but the teachers as well.

“When we ran out of water we usually resort to plan B, which was to drink “Bu” (coconut juice) and bath in the sea,” Mr Veitokula said.

Medical Officer for the Kabara Health Center Serosio Taleituvuki, said one of the main issue faced by the villagers and the hospital is the access to clean and safe

drinking water.

“There are six water tanks that are here at the medical center that have been written-off and we have been trying to liaise with people back at headquarters.”

“Water is the main resource which is scarce in Kabara and the best we can do is get these tanks replaced for the betterment of the people of Kabara.”

Minister Usamate, while handing over a water tank for Nakeleyaga Village School in Kabara, said one of the Fijian Government’s main aim is for every Fijian to have access to clean and safe drinking water.

“Right now around 80 per cent of households in the country have access to clean water and it is Government’s aim that by 2030 for all Fijians to have access to clean water.”

“Another of Government’s aim is that by 2021 every household in Fiji should have access to electricity.”



Nakeleyaga District School staff receives new tanks from Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Jone Usamate.  
 Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU





# Climate change, women: Khan

NANISE NEIMILA

CLIMATE change will continue to affect and make women more vulnerable if they are not properly consulted on climate policies, rendering these policies gender blind and more likely to deepen gender inequalities.

This was highlighted by Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (PRUN) in Geneva, Switzerland, Ambassador Nazhat Khan.

Ambassador Khan stressed that it is important to ensure the involvement of women in all climate negotiations thereby making climate finance beneficial to women as well as men rather than perpetuating the inequalities of the past.

"It is time that all countries put people in the centre of climate action. increasingly, with every protest and march seeing that the people are

*We should also remember how dangerous unconscious bias is, and how much of it we inherit from our own upbringing, and from social attitudes.*

Nazhat Khan  
Fiji's Permanent Representative  
to the United Nations (PRUN) in  
Geneva, Switzerland

demanding such a role."

"We should always remember that acts which result in the disempowerment of women is a form of discrimination against women. Violence against women and girls is a form of gender-based discrimination. Women's equality and empowerment is one of the 17 Sus-

tainable Development Goals, but also integral to all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development. In short, all the SDGs depend on the achievement of Goal 5."

Ambassador Khan highlighted that when women are empowered, emotionally and economically, they are less likely to be discriminated against.

"We should also remember how dangerous unconscious bias is, and how much of it we inherit from our own upbringing, and from social attitudes. Human rights principles state that men and women are equal in dignity and in rights, and that when we suffer from crisis whether from conflicts or disasters, vulnerable groups including women and children are more likely to suffer human rights abuses."

Ambassador Khan adds that Fiji has succeeded in placing climate change and human rights, internal displacement and human rights, and disaster response high is on the agenda of all the institutions that the office in Geneva works with.

Fiji opened the mission in Geneva in 2014.

## Forestry pays out incentives

EMI KOROITANOVA

IN light of the '4Million Trees in 4Years' Initiative, the Ministry of Forestry is paying out incentives for communities to plant more trees. The ministry had set a target of planting a total of one million trees this year.

Ministry's permanent secretary, Pene Baleinabuli, said the incentive serves as an assurance that trees will be planted.

Mr Baleinabuli also said the incentives is only a small step forward, adding that community participation is the important factor to be concerned about.

Meanwhile, the ministry through its REDD+ (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) programme have identified a total of 20 highly degraded forest areas.

These degraded forest areas include those in Viti Levu such as Nalotawa, Savatu, Tavua, Namataku, Noikoro, Tuvu, Saivou, Lutu, Nagonenicolo, Naboubuco and Serua.

In Vanua Levu, a few degraded areas include Bua, Vaturova, Saqani, Tunuloa, Taveuni, Dreketi, Seaqaqa, Wailevu and Labasa.

These are areas that have been disturbed by activities such as deforestation, logging or through natural causes such as fire.

"The size of these 20 areas comes to a total of 37,000 hectares," Mr Baleinabuli said.

"In this 37,000 hectares alone, we can plant close to 30 million trees."

Furthermore, the forestry officer, Maleli Nakasava, said they have the Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests (RDF), a Government funded programme.

"Before we used to give direct payments but now we have changed to indirect payments with the memorandum of understanding already signed with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs," Mr Nakasava said.

"We managed to assist the communities in projects through the incentivizing of the plants which are their contribution to the '4Million Trees in 4Years' initiative."



Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (PRUN) in Geneva, Switzerland Nazhat Khan.



Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar upon receiving the new waste compactor truck. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

## Waste management services boosted

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

MUNICIPAL waste collection services have been boosted in Lautoka with the provision of a new compactor truck by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

"JICA is assisting Fiji's municipal councils, including Lautoka, to assess their solid waste management collection services and designing of district strategic management plans for solid waste collection and minimisation," said Minister for Industry, Trade,

Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar.

Worth \$220,000, the new compactor truck follows an earlier provision for the Nasinu Town Council, and compliments efforts towards cleaner environments, particularly as it addresses climate change impacts.

"The Fijian Government recognises the need to create a cleaner environment and waste free public spaces.

"This commitment of the Government means we continue to focus on appropriate collection and disposal of waste. Thus

the Government will continue to support all municipal councils to serve the people of Fiji.

Over the last five years Government has funded five open garbage trucks and 12 compactor garbage trucks. The total investment has been \$2.9 million," Minister Kumar emphasised.

As a result of this high population and economic growth, Lautoka's waste generation now amounts to 80 tonnes daily and increasing annually.





## Konrote pays visit on French naval vessel

President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote visited the French Naval vessel F734 Vendémiaire that docked at the Kings Wharf. President Konrote was accorded a guard of honour before touring the ship.

He was accompanied by the Permanent Secretary for Defense and National Security Manasa Lesuma.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



## Steady rise in cancer cases due to greater awareness

"Your resilience is a pattern to us all and your victory will now become a footprint to countless others who will walk that battlefield in the future." Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said this while commending the

strength and determination of the cancer survivors during the launch of Tanoa Hotel Group Pinktober initiative. "In Fiji, breast cancer stands at 300 per year and is followed by cervical cancer with less than 200 per year as the most common cancers," Minister Waqainabete said.

He said there has been a steady rise in the cases due to greater awareness which enables people to come forward for check-ups.

Photos: AZARIA FAREEN



## Dredging bring relief to villagers

Dredging works commissioned by Government on Waidamu river has brought relief and answered prayers for the small Waicoka community in Tailevu. Minister for Waterways and Environment, Dr. Mahendra Reddy and Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Ashneel Sudhakar commissioned the dredging works this week. The village consisting of 40 households and approxi-

mately 200 persons is situated on the bank of the river and is vulnerable to flooding during heavy downpour or even high tides. Minister Reddy says the Fijian Government will leave no stones unturned to assist those affected by the impacts of climate change.

Photos: HALITESH DATT





# Investments for second city

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

GOVERNMENT continues to invest in making Lautoka a better place to live, work and play, as the country's second city notes a growing residential and commercial population.

Ongoing projects include a swimming pool at the Lautoka Botanical Gardens, at a cost of \$12.6 million, which is expected to

be completed by year's end.

"According to Investment Fiji reports, a total of \$3.3 billion worth of investment was recorded in the Western Division between 2009 and 2018, and Lautoka City Council continues to play its part, as a significant player, in supporting the growth of the Western Division," noted Premila Kumar, Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Commu-

nity Development.

"You must take pride in your city and produce a high level of adherence to civic duty," she said during a recent visit to the Lautoka City Council.

"We will thus, in partnership, create a city we can all be proud of. Your good practices will contribute to higher living standards; lower health risks; cleaner environments and less waste in our water ways."

Other key projects include a \$2.8 million upgrade of Churchill Park, a municipal market extension to the tune of \$400,000 and Tavakubu Satellite Market, at a cost of \$175,000.

With a growing population, the council spends at least \$310,000 annually on garbage collecting services, while an average of \$400,000 is spent annually on the Vunatu Landfill.



Minister for Local Government, Premila Kumar with management of Lautoka City Council and Ba Town Council, and their new special administrators board. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

## New boundaries for Lautoka

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

TEEMING with a booming population, the Lautoka City Council is working with the Ministry of Local Government to implement the legal confirmation of new municipal boundaries.

"This is being implemented across Fiji and will ensure municipal councils can increase their rate base to deliver effective and efficient services," confirmed Premila Kumar, Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development.

Since late 2018, the council has overseen rural areas from Tuvu to Natalau as well as the Yasawa, Mamanuca and Malolo islands, off the coast of Fiji's second largest city.

"In the 1997 census, the population for Lautoka was 52,220. By the 2017 census, the population had risen to 71,578."

With an additional population in the rural areas at approximately 42,000, the Council was granted \$175,000 in 2018 for garbage collection services in these extended rural boundaries.

The Minister commended the civic pride of residents, as many take advantage of the council's user pay service are actively involved in city clean up campaigns, as well as utilising the council's recyclable center.

To date, 411 residents are using the council's home compost subsidy program.

"This outreach session is targeted at increasing the understanding and knowledge of the NAP process amongst us, the key stakeholders, so as to ensure that when we are carrying out our planning for activities in our respective sectors, we are including climate risk and disaster risk reduction measures in to our plans," he said.

Fiji is among only 13 countries that has managed to produce a National Adaptation Plan to address climate change vulnerabilities.

## New special administrators for Lautoka, Ba

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

MINISTER for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar has incepted a Special Administrators Board to oversee the Lautoka City Council and Ba Town Council.

"The reason why we're appointing a team of Special Administrators is to really guide the municipal councils in the delivery of services," Minister Kumar emphasised.

The board, which is chaired by Lala Sowane, will assume the role of Mayor with members – Renee Brown, Dipti Sharma, Dr Rohit Kishore and Beatrice Nast – assuming the roles of Councillors.

"If you go back to the initial years just before the Local Government Act in 1972, most town councils operated with town and city boards."

Minister Kumar has set a vision for Lautoka and Ba to be more vibrant and provide a higher level of municipal services for ratepayers.

"We have to reform our cities so that people can come and enjoy our cities. In various countries, there are night markets, street food etc. They host big events and have major expos, music shows that bring people and tourists who contribute to the economies of those towns and cities. When we talk about open spaces, it's mostly multi-purpose courts and

### must read

#### MERGE FOR LAUTOKA AND BA MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

IN due course, the Lautoka City Council and Ba Town Council will be merged to reduce administrative costs.

This was highlighted by Premila Kumar, Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development, following the inception of a new Special Administrators Board for Lautoka and Ba.

"This is being done with the purpose to ultimately merge these two municipalities. This is how things are done everywhere because if you want to really reduce the administrative cost, this is what we have to do. We are seeing that municipal councils are very close to one another."

She cited Lami and Suva as examples and the administrative costs borne by ratepayers.

"For this reason, there will be a major change in the way municipal councils operate. This is the new era."

I've done enough research to confirm that globally, the way municipal council operated 20

years ago is being challenged by the ratepayers. A number of researches have been done and there are new models of governance explored and adopted. It is my intention to try out these merges at a later stage and work with a team of special administrators to achieve some of the activities that's been planned."

The Special Administrators Board for Lautoka and Ba is chaired by Lala Sowane, with members including Renee Brown, Dipti Sharma, Dr Rohit Kishore and Beatrice Nast.

"The Government has set the platform with continued investment in infrastructure and a clear strategic direction for Lautoka," Mrs Sowane noted.

"There are some exciting and no doubt challenging times ahead in this next phase of development for Lautoka."

She said the board anticipates being part of this progressive development phase and is committed to guiding and assisting the council teams accordingly.

children's parks. When are we going to move beyond that? We as a service delivery agency need to understand the needs of ratepayers. We can do so much more. Ratepayers travel, see and expect things to be done. We need to up our game, be service-minded and engage with ratepayers. We must understand what they want. It's not just about collecting rates."

Mrs Sowane, as chair, expressed the board's gratitude for the ex-

pression of confidence and trust in their collective diverse skills and proven experience.

"We acknowledge the work of the current Lautoka City Council management and team and look forward to their continued contribution to our quest to strengthen good governance and enhance delivery of services to the ratepayers and citizens of Lautoka City," she said.

Collectively, the chair and board

members have extensive experience in accounting, quality control, service standard, financial and operational management, civil engineering, project management and construction engineering, digital marketing, information technology and business management, academia, economics and risk mitigation, online marketing, human resource management and customer care.





Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa during the Vodafone Hidden Paradise Savusavu Carnival. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

## Minister applauds Chamber of Commerce

JOSIA RALAGO

EFFORTS by the northern tourist town, Savusavu, to be sustainable has not gone unnoticed as this was recently highlighted by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa.

Minister Vuniwaqa, while opening the Vodafone Hidden Paradise Savusavu Carnival, lauded the Savusavu Chamber of Commerce for the consolidation of the Blue Town Economy.

"This Blue Town Concept sits on a platform of protection of our environment and ocean as the driving force behind enhanced economic activity," she said.

"In other words, if we pledge to and in fact, do all we can to protect our natural environment, increased investments into the local economy becomes a given."

Speaking on the carnival theme, "Protect the Ocean and You Protect Yourself", Minister Vuniwaqa said "we could not have a healthy ocean without tackling the issues collateral to climate change".

"Fiji remains a world leader in the advocacy work against climate change and sustainable oceans. The devastating effects of climate change are inextricably linked to the health of our oceans," Minister Vuniwaqa said.

"We can talk about Sustainable Development Goal 14, and discuss ways in which we can conserve and sustainably use our oceans for realisation of that universal goal is premised on local action.

"What do we as individuals and as a community actually do on the local front to protect our local environment."

She urged community members to take ownership of their environment and be instruments of positive change in the community.

"This requires a continuous commitment and concerted effort such as this go a long way in revitalizing our commitments to do all we can in those regards," Minister Vuniwaqa said.

# Improved roads a big boost for farmers

JOSIA RALAGO

PROVIDING better opportunities to ensure a quality standard of living for Fijians is one of Government's main objectives.

This includes the provision of quality and safe drinking water, electricity, better roads, education opportunities, farming assistance and business grants.

One of the beneficiaries of Government programmes is 52-year-old Lanieta Lewavucu of Vatulovona Village, in the Wailevu District, Macuata who for the first time can now catch the bus right in front of her home.

This is following road works carried out by the Fiji Roads Authority this year which has allowed bus companies to extend their services to her village.

"We used to walk for more than two kilometres to get to the nearest bus stop so we could get to school, hospital, town and to the market every day," Mrs Lewavucu said.

"I am a vendor at the market on Saturday which means I have to carry the goods on my back and walk."

"One of our main concerns were our children, who had to go to walk to and from the bus stop every day. It is the prayer of safety that we send to the Lord every morning that keeps them safe."

The mother of three said during rainy season, the Irish crossing



Sugarcane cutters on the new road. Fifty-two-year-old Lanieta Lewavucu of Vatulovona Village, Wailevu, Macuata can now catch the bus right in front of her home. Photos: JOSIA RALAGO



next to their village used to get flooded and members of the com-

munity were forced to carry their dead or sick people to across flooded waters.

"I can honestly say that this improvement has rid us of one of our main issues which is access to a better road. Now our children do not have to walk back in the evenings but are dropped off right in front of our homes

and we feel so much better," Mrs Lewavucu said.

"I would like to thank Government for this assistance and for making life so much easier."

This project has benefitted more than 200 Fijians living in Vatulovona and in nearby communities.

"I am hoping that after the completion of these projects in rural communities the morale of our ordinary Fijians will be boosted and they will find relief in reaching to their destination," Minister Reddy added.

# Growing numbers in aged care a concern

JOSIA RALAGO

GOVERNMENT is working towards a long-term strategy to address the continuous increase in the number of old people being placed in aged homes around the country.

Speaking at the International Day of Older Persons commemoration in Labasa, the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa, said they were collaborating with an academic institution in deliver caretaker courses to communities.

Minister Vuniwaqa said it was saddening to see that families were turning in their loved ones to Golden Age Homes, after all they had done towards raising the individuals in these families and in nation building.

"The Government, non-government organisations, and faith based organisations together, cannot do this alone," she said.

"It rests on us as citizens of this country to take care of the elders in our lives. We can only extend so many homes but when

we look at an aged population in another two or three decades, the responsibility needs to go back to the family unit."

"We know how Fiji is doing on the international arena but all that would not have been possible without the contribution of our aged population and sometimes we tend to forget about that."

"We tend to forget the contribution that those loved ones in our families have made to get us where we are today."

Minister Vuniwaqa said during her visits to the aged home, residents shared their different life experiences and how they turned up at the homes.

She is calling on young people to value and visit elderly people in the homes and in the community because they have knowledge worth sharing.

"Sit down with them, there is so much that they know. If you spend time with them you'd be amazed to hear stories about their lives, the careers they had and you will learn a lot from them," Minister Vuniwaqa said.

The theme for this year's celebration is "The Journey to Old Age Equality".



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa during the Speaking at the International Day of Older Persons commemoration in Labasa. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO





# Ambassador perseveres to excel in his diplomatic duties

THE role of diplomats in the modern diplomacy holds the key to nurturing universal peace, unity and global prosperity.

The role is one of great responsibilities and commitment towards striving to advance the interests of his or her country in a competitive global arena.

The significance of the role is well articulated by the Dean of the Fijian Diplomats, Fiji's Ambassador to Japan, Isikeli Mataitoga.

Ambassador Mataitoga's work ethics are earnestly based on the principles of solidarity as being the foundation for building the resilient and sustainable societies.

The confidence he exudes is the result of his humble upbringing which has won the admiration and respect of the diplomatic fraternity.

The Fijian envoy's exemplary dedication as a diplomat is a true reflection of his passion for advancing Fiji's interests at the global stage.

Ambassador Mataitoga has been based at Fiji's Diplomatic Mission in Japan since October 2009, and his role as a diplomat is focused on building Fiji's bilateral relations with Japan and he also oversees Fiji's relations with countries like Russia, Philippines, and Vietnam.

He manages the work at Fiji's Mission in Tokyo by working actively to strengthen Fiji's cooperation with Japan which has resulted in several memorandum of understanding (MOUs) and memorandum of agreements (MOAs) being signed and projects being undertaken with the Government of Japan.

The work of Fiji's 15 Missions abroad is guided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic and Operational Plan that is aligned with the Fijian Government's National Development Plan 2017-2036.

He says that as a Fijian diplomat, he is proud to see that Fiji's strong presidency at COP23 and the Talanoa framework led by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, that has raised Fiji's profile and given Pacific a stronger voice and recognition at the global stage.

Fiji has been able to solicit stronger bilateral and multilateral collaboration that complements the Fijian Government's vision to transform Fiji into a modern, inclusive, progressive nation and cement its position as the leader in the Pacific Islands.

"The Mission in Japan is working very hard to strengthen and diversify Fiji's relations with Japan and other countries we are accredited to, and pursue socioeconomic development opportunities that will benefit the people of Fiji. And indeed through Fiji's strong leadership, there is positive spinoff by the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries showing strong interests to broaden their engagements with Fiji, thereby increasing socioeconomic opportunities. We have seen an increase in the assistance provided to Fiji in areas of infrastructure, health, education, trade, investment, agriculture," Ambassador Mataitoga explained.

"The diplomatic channel is a gateway to enhance collaborations and ensure that we maximize on the Official Development As-



Fiji's Ambassador to Japan, Isikeli Mataitoga with Mayor of Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture is His Worship Mr Takenori NODA. Kamaishi is the second 2019RWC official second match venue for the Flying Fijians. Photo: SUPPLIED



Fiji's Ambassador to Japan, Isikeli Mataitoga with the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Photo: SUPPLIED

*My parents had to sacrifice a lot to send me and my siblings to school, and the one thing my father emphasized was on the importance of education.*

Isikeli Mataitoga  
Dean of the Fijian Diplomats,  
Fiji's Ambassador to Japan

stance (ODA) and new business and trade platforms to market our local goods and products."

Ambassador Mataitoga who is a lawyer by profession, has served in many leadership roles before taking up the diplomatic posting to Japan. He was appointed as the Director of Public Prosecutions in early 1989, followed by his appointment as the Secretary of Justice and Solicitor General from 1993 to 1996.

His journey in diplomacy began in year 1997 when he was appointed as the High Commissioner to Singapore and Australia where he served for two years.

Later in the 1998, he was appointed as the Ambassador to European Union with bilateral accreditation to 7 European Union (EU) countries.

He was also concurrently appointed as Fiji's Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Food and Agriculture Organisations of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Ambassador Mataitoga was also the headed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade from 2004 to 2006, following his appointment in Brussels.

Then in the year 2007, he served as the High Court Judge for over two years.

Being one of the most senior Fijian diplomats in the foreign services, he also conducts in-service training of young diplomats in preparation for posting to the overseas missions. In doing so, he has designed the information package for Fiji's diplomatic training courses.

Being a mentor and inspiration for Fijian diplomats, Ambassador Mataitoga has conducted series of Diplomacy Trainings for the budding diplomats in Fiji, and including Pacific Island Countries.

According to him, in diplomacy, one needs to be well tuned with the global geopolitical structure and economic framework to be able to comprehend and conduct effective diplomatic engagements with the international communities.

"Most importantly, one needs to set clear goals and specific timelines and always be prepared to walk the extra mile. Being a diplomat, you need to develop ambitious agenda that will achieve the maximum benefit for your nation, which has entrusted you with the diplomatic role. It is simply not enough to do the same work with usual approach. The challenge is to do more with same or less resources.

"Fijian diplomats of the future must develop the ability to respond ac-

cordingly to the changes in the international environment and still engage proactively to get the best returns for Fiji," he said.

Ambassador Mataitoga is determined to further strengthen the Fiji-Japan partnerships to generate new areas of cooperation to complement Fiji's national development.

Having come this far in his diplomatic-career, the Fijian envoy is enthusiastic and grateful for all the support given; especially from his wife and family. He has a daughter, who is a lawyer in the Queensland State Government Attorney General's Department, Australia and a grandson who is in final year law studies as well.

The Fijian envoy acknowledges the values of honesty, hard work, fairness, accountability and compassion imparted to him by his parents, the values which underpins his leadership skills.

He is grateful to have attended schools in Suva that had teachers and students from all ethnic backgrounds, for it enabled him to develop long and lasting bond of brotherhood and friendship that continues to prosper. More so, it's these cultural exchanges that have enabled him to appreciate the importance of cultural diversity and oneness.

"My parents had to sacrifice a lot to send me and my siblings to school, and the one thing my father emphasized was on the importance of education. And that motivated me to work hard to achieve the best in our lives. Being a diplomat requires not only the competencies of a good negotiator and state craft but also the emotional intelligence to connect with people, embrace the uniqueness of cultural diversity that promotes togetherness and unity," Ambassador Mataitoga elaborated.

-MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

Fiji's Ambassador to Japan, Isikeli Mataitoga.  
Photo: SUPPLIED







# New crossings put long wait to rest

AZARIA FAREEN

**M**ORE than a decade of wait is over for community members living in the village of Nasavu in Deuba as the Government announced the construction of a total of 52 foot-crossings around the country recently.

Village elder, 75-year-old, Seveci Batirerega highlighted that during heavy downpour the water fills up the drain, spills over the foot-crossing and also enters homes.

“During this time our children find it difficult to cross the foot-crossing or are unable to go to school and it is tough for the elderly to go to the hospital,” Mr Batirerega said.

“We have been waiting patiently for the past 15-year for someone to listen to our plea and I am grateful to the current Government to come to our aid when we need it the most.”

A 7-foot crossing will be constructed which will assist about 50 households to commute to the next village and the main road.

Nasavu village is connected to Sadro Village by its foot-crossing which faces more problems as they are situated next to the sea.

Village turaga-ni-koro, Lenaitasi Salili, said their current foot-bridge was constructed 10 years ago and daily use over the years have taken a toll on it and during heavy rainfall the water level rises above the foot-crossing.

“We have a population of about 205 people who use this way daily to commute to the main road including people from Sauniveiuto village,” Mr Salili

said.

“School children, elderly and expectant mothers are at a risk because climate change is also affecting us as we always have to vacate our homes and stay at the community hall when the sea-level rises especially when it starts flooding.”

Community members have conveyed their appreciation towards the Fijian Government for the initiative it took in reaching out to the people in Deuba, Serua province and meeting the request for the 15-metre foot-crossing to be constructed at an elevated level.

Minister for Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy said this project will go a long way in improving the quality of livelihood of people in the rural and maritime development areas because it will address their request which has been pending since 2014.

“We have compiled some new and backlogged list of places where foot-crossing is urgently needed as without it our people are facing a lot of difficulties in not having access to markets and they struggle in getting to school and work,” Minister Reddy said.

The project falls under the ministry’s “Hop-Skip & Jump” program - a first ever green, sustainable pedestrianized community crossing - and is estimated to cost about quarter million dollars and expected to be completed before the end of the year.

“I am hoping that after the completion of these projects in rural communities the morals of our ordinary Fijians will be boosted and they will find relief in reaching to their destination,” Minister Reddy added.

Nasavu Village headman Lenaitasi Salili (middle) with Ministry of Waterways staff on the new foot crossing. Photo AZARIA FAREEN



Nasavu Village elder 75-year-old Seveci Batirerega with his grandchild on the new foot crossing. Photo AZARIA FAREEN

## Fijian teacher lauds Govt for opportunity

MEREANI GONEDUA

“Teaching is my passion and I am thankful to the Fijian Government for giving us this opportunity to continue to do what we love.”

These were the sentiments of 57-year-old Vasiti Vosawale who is a teacher and is currently teaching at Nauru Primary School under the Fiji Volunteer Scheme.

The Fiji Volunteer Scheme started in 2012 with the aim to give young people work experience and older people a chance to impart their skills.

Ms Vosawale, who has been teaching for nearly 40 years in Fiji and is now in her second year in Nauru, acknowledged the hard work that had been done by her colleagues and stated that it is not easy teaching in a foreign land.

“I have been teaching for two years now in Nauru and it has been a great experience. I have had my fair share of challenges, however, I have learnt how to overcome them especially with the help of my fellow Fijian teachers who are with me in Nauru,” she said.

“I am grateful to the Fijian Government for providing us another opportunity to be able to continue teaching especially having to teach young kids in a foreign country.”

The Year 4 teacher travels to Fiji to visit her children during her school breaks and stated that even though she misses home she is passionate about her work especially teaching young students.

Meanwhile, the President Major General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote welcomed the students from Nauru Primary School to Fiji and encouraged them to study hard so they can achieve their goals.

The students’ visit was part of their school curriculum on the geography of Viti Levu and learning more about the Fijian culture and traditions.

“Study hard and listen to your parents and one day you can become the President of your nation,” President Konrote said.

The Fijian Head of State highlighted issues of climate change and informed the children that even though they were too young they should be aware of what is happening around them.

“You are too young to know the full story about climate change but it’ll affect all our lives as Pacific Islanders more so in your case as well as Tuvalu and our friends further North. So for the teachers I hope you will explain to the children the profound fact of climate change to those of us who live in the Pacific”.

President Konrote also encouraged the students to keep fit and look after their health.



Vasiti Vosawale meeting with President Major-General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote at State House. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA





# Fisheries sector strategies to grow aquaculture

NANISE NEIMILA

**F**IJI'S blue economy looks to increase investments in the fisheries sector by 2029 as the Ministry of Fisheries sets out its strategy to further enhance the rapid growth of aquaculture in the country.

This was highlighted by the Ministry of Fisheries permanent secretary Craig Strong during an interview.

Mr Strong stressed that to achieve this target the Ministry is capitalising on its new strategy on how to rapidly grow aquaculture by 2029 as there is a register of 1000 farmers producing 1000 tons of tilapia annually and to have a shrimp/prawn industry worth \$35million annually.

"In order to achieve this rapid growth we need

to establish a fit for purpose legislative and regulatory framework."

"Establish a National Aquaculture Development Plan and also the need to identify two new species for long-term development."

Mr Strong highlighted that plans are also in place to use technology to identify potential sites that will suit the new species.

"Long-term plans include the implementation of communications programme that will allow the ministry to inform Fijians on the opportunities and good practices of aqua culture farming."

"We are also looking at further strengthening areas that will incentivise the private sector for sustainability of aquaculture."

The Government through the ministry has shifted its focus on cultivating a sustainable

Blue Economy that will take close coordination effort across businesses, development partners, and society — particularly, to benefit those Fijians who have long-relied on the ocean for their livelihoods.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the announcement of the 2019/2020 National budget address stressed that tangible change will come at the community level, as the Ministry of Fisheries works to accelerate new, sustainable industries in our seaside communities, subsidising the cost of projects like fish hatcheries, shrimp and prawn farming, and seaweed farms.

The A-G adds this will benefit the health of our oceans, and in creating lucrative new career paths for entrepreneurial Fijians.

## Improving the aquaculture sector

NANISE NEIMILA

**A**QUACULTURE farming has the potential to improve the nutrition of the rural populations and generate supplementary income for Fijians.

With the budgetary allocation for 2019/2020 financial period, \$3.5million has been provided by the Government to assist in the operations and capital projects, the Ministry of Fisheries permanent secretary Craig Strong is adamant that this will boost the potential of this growing sector.

Mr Strong stressed that aquaculture remains one of the key tools in the Fijian Government's work towards putting "fish on the table for our communities".

"It can also open up opportunities for aquaculture export markets, diversify activities to relieve inshore fishing pressure and create opportunities for employment. All of which would have clear benefits for the Fijian economy and the people of Fiji."

"Inventory figures undertaken by the ministry show that a total of 425 farmers have been registered aquaculture farms and this include freshwater, Mari culture and brackish water farming.

Mr Strong adds 10-15 per cent are semi-commercial to commercial farmers whereas the majority are subsistence farmers.

"The Ministry's priority this year is to undertake another benchmark/stocktake of farmers with current status before a new plan is designed for the years to come. Aquaculture came into Fijian shores back in the 1950's and has been very slow thereafter. For the last two decades, with increasing pressure on wild stocks and other impacts on marine ecosystems, aquaculture is vitally important to Fiji."

Meanwhile, Fiji's average national fish consumption is estimated to be 21kg per person annually, which is well below the recommended level of the annual 35kg per person by the Secretariat Pacific Community (SPC) Public Health Programme for good nutrition.

This is as per the findings of SPC's 2011 Vulnerability Assessment to Tropical Pacific Fisheries & Aquaculture to Climate Change report.

## Jona's interest in tilapia farming



Jona Dilo (right), one of the tilapia fish farmers hopes to earn good returns from his first harvest next year.  
 Photo NANISE NEIMILA

NANISE NEIMILA

**S**WITCHING to tilapia fish farming was a leap of faith for Jona Dilo, 35, of Uciwai Village in Yako, Nadi, but he was ready for the challenge.

Situated 70km from the main road on the way towards Nadi, the nine acre land that Mr Dilo had leased from his clan has two ponds approximately 600 square meter (30x20) tilapia ponds.

Like any farming project, tilapia fish farming was something new for him but his keen interest towards this new venture kept him motivated in trying to learn more about tilapia fish farming.

Mr Dilo attended workshops

organised by the Ministry of Fisheries and sought technical advice from those farmers that have been in the business for some time.

"There is cluster group around this settlement, we learn how to breed tilapia, how we feed them until harvest and it is so helpful for new farmers like us. At the cluster meeting we share experiences and learn from each other on best practices and way forward. For me I could not stand to see idle land and then I managed to lease this four acre land for 30 years. I requested for assistance from the Ministry of Fisheries under their Food Security Project Assistance Grant during the 2018-2019 financial year."

The Ministry of Fisheries as-

sisted Mr Dilo with digging the two ponds and provided 3400 baby tilapia in July this year.

"I would like to thank the ministry for their assistance and technical advice they have provided for new farmers like us.

"There is a lot to learn from this new concept of aquaculture farming but I believe to achieve success we need to challenge ourselves with new opportunities.

"Just into the second month of farming, we have managed to separate the matured ones in the second pond, they will be kept there for another month before they are transferred to another pond."

One of the major challenges farmers like Mr Dilo is waiting for approval of loans to further

enhance and expand his aquaculture farm.

"I have applied for loan from the Fiji Development Bank (FDB) to construct a farm house so that I will be able to look after my farm because you never know when people might steal from your farm given its location. According to the bank they are still in the process of reviewing my application, once everything is finalised then they will provide me with a feedback."

Mr Dilo hopes to earn good returns from his first harvest in January next year.

He has also challenged local farmers to take up one of the two best ways to utilise idle land- either opt for root crop farming or tilapia.

The Ministry of Fisheries assisted Mr Dilo with digging the two ponds and provided 3400 baby tilapia in July this year.  
 Photo NANISE NEIMILA





## Council conversion to enhance trade

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Government's commitment to enhance Fiji in all aspects of commerce and trade is leading to the conversion of Fiji-Papua New Guinea Business Council to Fiji Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Business Council.

The council incorporates Fiji and Papua New Guinea with inclusion of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands to extend and share common interest among MSG countries.

Council president Div Damodar explains that this will promote and encourage members to trade and invest so as to stimulate and encourage employment opportunities for Fijians and member countries.

"We are formalizing a new concept and working on this project for one and a half year negotiating with four big Pacific nations," Mr Damodar said.

"This has given us a bigger platform to access all these nations for Fijian businesses to do trade in the MSG countries and we want to take a step further by giving opportunities specifically to Small, Medium Enterprises."

"I think this is a start of something big and I'm excited to see how far this council will grow in the next five years particularly because we will be facilitating a lot of dialogues with government," he added.

Mr Damodar said there have been real interest coming in from few companies to be part of the council such as bottled water industry, liquor industry and fashion designers to name a few.

"We've had restrictions on some products with some countries in the past but the setup of the council will ensure that there is a body in place which will act as a mediator and assist in the ease of doing business," he said.

"One thing wonderful about the Fiji MSG Business Council is that we will work as a Pacific and we are focused as one for global trade enhancement."

Investment Fiji will also be working in collaboration with the council to ascertain details on their respective commitments made to provide assistance and information during this transition.

# President applauds women on achievement

AZARIA FAREEN

"TONIGHT we are creating history in Fiji's sporting legacy, with another 'feather in our cap' as a proud sporting nation with an opportunity to honour our women players."

President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote made this comment while launching the first ever Fiji National Rugby League (FNRL) Women's team name and logo – Fiji Bulikula recently.

"This launch marks a significant milestone in FNRL's history and achievements, the unveiling of a special and unique, but at the same time very Fijian and most appropriate team name and logo," President Konrote said.

Bulikula is the iTaukei name for a rare type of golden cowrie that traditionally signifies chiefly status and the adoption of the name has sentimental meaning for Fiji National Rugby League.

"The cowries possesses a porcelain like shine that resembles a dazzling uniqueness of beauty, thus in my humble opinion an apt and relevant comparison to our women."

"The Fiji Bulikula team participated and excelled at the Ox and Palm Pacific Test Invitational Games held in June this year in Australia where they convincingly beat the Papua New Guinea Orchids with a 28-0 win for their first ever test match."

They continued with their win-



President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote with female members of the Fiji Bulikula rugby league. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

ning spree to win Gold Medal at the Pacific Games 2019 in Samoa and will partake in the prestigious Prime Ministers' XIII against Australia on the 11th October 2019.

President Konrote highlighted that the 'Fiji National Rugby League' was previously known as 'National Rugby League of Fiji' and as the rugby league gained popularity throughout the nation, its national team later recorded its trademark as the 'Fiji Bati'.

"Two decades after its establishment, the FNRL has produced remarkable and talented players who have stamped their mark in the regional and international arenas," President Konrote added.

The Fijian Head of State noted

the inclusion of women an additional motivational factor and achievement in sports and encouraged the players to perform well in their next tournament.

"Play as a team, look after one another, go the extra mile, always give your best at each game or tournament and stamp your mark in the rugby league field as a 'Team to Beat'."

FNRL Women's Team manager Jacquie Shannon said, "it is a milestone achievement for Women's Rugby League in Fiji with the launch of our own team name which sets us apart from our Bati brothers".

"This gives the players and management alike a great sense of pride and ownership knowing we

have our own name and emblem to live up to and helps us prepare ourselves and be motivated to give our 100 per cent every time we represent the nation," Ms Shannon said.

"We are up against a star-studded Australian Jillaroos PMs XIII side this week and the Fiji players are equally excited and pumped to run out in front of their home fans to perform to their very best in this historic event," she added.

She further adds there are plans in place for local women to receive more exposure internationally and also vie for spots in professional clubs abroad, which will in turn assist the growth of the sport for women here in Fiji.



Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar with firefighters at the new Rakiraki Fire Station. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

## New fire station for Rakiraki

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

THE opening of the Rakiraki Fire Station marks a major investment in the safety for the growing township.

With a population of around 30,400 spread over a total 1341 square kilometres, the National Fire Authority's newest station is a boost for emergency response in the area.

"Through the 2019-2020 National Budget, the Fijian Government has placed special at-

tention on emergency ambulance services, including the purchase of fire equipment, fire trucks and apparatus kits to effectively equip firefighters during emergency operations," Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar said.

"The NFA is mitigating changes particularly in reviewing regulations that perhaps lack the foundation which realises and encourages partnerships and positive relationships within

Government, corporate entities and the community at large."

The NFA responded to 3,418 emergency calls for the first eight months of 2019, for which 38 percent of calls were for the Western Division.

Whilst 48 per cent of these emergency calls in the West were for ambulance services, 31 per cent of these emergency calls were related to fire; 25 per cent for sugar cane, rubbish and bush fires and six per cent was for property fires.



# Fiji Focus



CLIMATE  
CHANGE,  
WOMEN

7



ENVOY PERSEVERES TO EXCEL  
IN HIS DIPLOMATIC DUTIES

12



GROWING  
NUMBERS IN  
AGED CARE  
CONCERN

11



Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Veena Bhatnagar with women and children at the Homes of Hope at Wailoku in Suva. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

## ‘Be patriotic’

**Govt will continue to support women empowerment: Bhatnagar**

NANISE NEIMILA

FOR 61-year old retired nurse, Ro Vaciseva Leleca believes Fijians around the country have so much to be thankful for as the country celebrates 49 years of independence. Originally from Navutu, Naitasiri she believes that her work at the Homes of Hope, Wailoku in Suva is God’s calling to serve and nurture the young women of the home to become inspirational women leaders for the future. “I have worked here for seven years and every day my work involves providing long-term care, support and holistic resto-

ration for girls and young mothers and their children. We desire to promote freedom from stigmas and deprivation of women.” “We work with communities to protect girls. We help individuals and communities to empower themselves. We help them build safety nets to make a safe place.” Ms Vaciseva adds that this was one way that everyone can contribute to empowering young women especially those that have come through a lot of emotional challenges and give them the opportunity to start afresh with their lives. “I must thank the Fijian Government for providing the assistance in nurturing these young women and providing them with the

opportunity to be able to enjoy life and aspire for a better future.” Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Veena Bhatnagar, while officiating at the Fiji Day celebrations that was held at the home yesterday, reiterated the Fijian Government’s commitment to ensuring that we achieve more as a unified nation. “This year celebrations are also targeting the younger generation because you are the key to having a more unified country tomorrow. It is through instilling understanding and mutual respect from a young age that one can aspire to building a better country.”

“With this year’s theme- “A progressive and sustainable Fiji for all,” the theme is significant because this is in line with government’s focus in prioritizing prosperity of our people today and projects the well-being of generations to come.” Asst. Minister Bhatnagar reassured the women at the home that the Government will continue to support the empowerment of women. She also told the young women that this is not the end of the road. “You all have different reasons for being here, however this be a new beginning for you. This is life. There is no sense in suffering, accept it and overcome it.”



# फीजी फोकस

फीजियन्स और  
ओस्ट्रेलियन्स  
अच्छे साथी हैं  
- प्रधान मंत्री

2



कैंसर के  
खतरों के  
बारे में  
जानें

3



देशभर में  
बनेंगे बावन  
फुटकोसिंग

6



## विश्व का सबसे पहला रिलोकईशन ट्रस्ट फण्ड

वीरेन्द्र लाल

प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्द्रो बड़निमारामा ने विश्व का पहला रिलोकईशन ट्रस्ट फण्ड लॉन्च किया। इस फण्ड से उन लोगों को कहीं और बसाने में मदद की जायेगी जिन्हें जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़े असर के कारण कहीं और खिसकना पड़ेगा।

निउ-योक में चौहत्तरवा (74th) युनायटेड नईशन्स जेनरल असेम्बली में बोलते हुए बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि क्लायमेट रिलोकईशन एंड डिस्प्लैड्ड पिपल्स ट्रस्ट फण्ड से उन समाजों की मदद की जायेगी जिनपर जलवायु परिवर्तन से असर पड़ा है।

“यह एक असरकारक तरिका है जिससे हमारे अंतराष्ट्रीय पार्टनर असर पड़े लोगों की मदद कर पायेंगे। इस फण्ड में हम अपने एनवायरमेंट एंड क्लायमेट अडेप्टईशन लेवी के ज़रिए प्राप्त पैसे डालेंगे। ऐसा अनुमान है कि हर साल लगभग पाँच मिलियन डॉलर तक हो जायेंगे। लेकिन यह पर्याप्त नहीं है। हम और सहायता प्राप्त करने की आशा करते हैं” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि फीजी, समाजों की बढ़ते समुद्र तल से दूर करने लगा है। उन्होंने बताया कि खेतों में खारा पानी जाने से फसलें नष्ट हो जाती हैं और पुरानी शमशान भूमियों को भी हटाया जा रहा है।

उन्होंने वनुआ लेवू में वुनिदोंगोलोआ के लोगों की कहानी बताई जिन्हें बढ़ते समुद्र तल के कारण पाँच साल पहले खिसकाया गया था। उन्होंने बताया कि इसके बाद से दो और समाजों को खिसकाया गया है और निकट भविष्य में कम से कम पैतालिस (45) अन्य विलजस को खिसकना पड़ेगा।

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि एक समाज को खिसकाना, कुछ घरों को खिसकाने से कहीं ज्यादा है।

“यह एक समाज के पुनः निर्माण के बारे में है। नौकरी पर जाने, स्कूलों और डाक्टरों सेवाओं की सुविधा भी देखी जाती है। इसमें कई सरकारी अर्जेसियाँ और अन्य संस्थाओं के साथ मिलकर काम करना होता है। इस बारे में हमने पिछले साल कोप 24 के लॉन्चिंग के दौरान बातें की थी। हमें इस बारे में अब कदम उठाने के लिए अपने आपको तैयार करना है। हम तब तक इंतज़ार नहीं कर सकते जब समाज डूबने लगे। हम सब को मिलकर काम करना है और अभी करना है”, प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्द्रो बड़निमारामा ने कहा।

लॉन्च के दौरान नॉर्वेय के राजकुमार महामहीम हाकुन मेगनस और प्रशांति देशों के कुछ नेता उपस्थित थे। ट्रस्ट फण्ड स्थापित करने में नॉर्वेय का बड़ा हाथ था।



युनायटेड नईशन्स जेनरल असेम्बली के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्द्रो बड़निमारामा, युनायटेड नईशन्स के सेक्रेटरी जेनरल एनटोनियो गुटेरेज़ के साथ चित्र: सप्लाइड





# फीजियन्स और ओस्ट्रेलियन्स अच्छे साथी हैं - प्रधान मंत्री



प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बडिनिमरामा ने केंब्रा ओस्ट्रेलिया में फीजी और ओस्ट्रेलिया के दिवंगत सुरक्षा बलों की याद में एक वृक्ष बोया चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री के दफतर

सोनम सामी

“हम साथी हैं जो जरूरत के समय एक दूसरे की मदद करने के लिए खड़े रहते हैं”। केंब्रा के दौर पर प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बडिनिमरामा ने ओस्ट्रेलियन वो कालेज में फीजी और ओस्ट्रेलिया के निवासियों के संबंध पर प्रकाश डालते हुए दोनों देशों के सशस्त्र बलों को श्रद्धांजलि दी। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि दो हजार सोलह (2016) में समुद्री आंधी विंस्टन की तबाही ने न सिर्फ फीजी की बुनियादी ढांचे और अर्थव्यवस्था का विनाश किया बल्कि चवालीस(44) लोगों की जान भी ली। उन्होंने आंधी के बाद अगले दिन देश पहुंचने के लिय ओस्ट्रेलिया के लोगों की प्रशंसा की।

की।

“एक राष्ट्र के रूप में हम सदमे में थे, लेकिन कुछ ही घण्टों में ओस्ट्रेलिया के लोगों ने आकर हमें मदद पहुंचानी शुरू कर दी फिर थोड़ी ही देर में राहत जहाज हैच एम आई एस (HMAS) केंब्रा के दलों ने सबसे ज्यादा क्षति पहुंचे द्वीपों में जाकर मदद पहुंचाई और वहाँ के लोगों के चहरे पर मुस्कुराहट लाई”, प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बडिनिमरामा ने कहा। प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र की शान्ति सेवा अभियान में हमारे चार दशकों की सेवा, फीजी और ओस्ट्रेलिया के निवासियों में एकता लाता है। “स्वतंत्रता और अज़ादी का अधिकार, राष्ट्रीय संप्रभुता का अधिकार, अपना भविष्य चुनने का

अधिकार, शांति से रहने और अपने और अपने परिवार के समृद्ध भविष्य का निर्माण और बचाव के लिए वर्षों से हम युद्ध और शांति में कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर चल रहे हैं”, प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा। इस दौरान सुरक्षा तथा विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरूई रातु, व्यवसाय मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार और सहायक रोजगार मंत्री एल्विक महाराज भी प्रधान मंत्री के साथ हैच एम आई एस (HMAS) ऐडलैड में रॉयल ओस्ट्रेलियन नौसेना जहाज पर थे। प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बडिनिमरामा ने ओस्ट्रेलिया सुरक्षा बल को फीजी मिलीट्री फोर्सस की ओर उनके अटूट समर्थन तथा तकनीकी सहायता, सीखने के आदान-प्रदान और कई और क्षेत्रों में सहयोग जारी रखने के लिय धन्यवाद दिया।

## औशन और क्लायमेट प्रोटेक्शन पर कदम की माँग

वीरेंद्र लाल

फीजी ने विश्व नेताओं से समुद्र तथा जलवायु संरक्षण को लेकर और कदम उठाने की माँग की है। फीजी ने यह माँग निउ-योक में चौहत्तरवा (74th) युनायटेड नईशन्स जेनरल असेम्बली में की। क्लायमेट एन्ड औशन लीडज़ के युनायटेड नईशन्स क्लायमेट एक्शन सम्मिट में बोलते हुए फीजी के क्लायमेट चेम्पियन तथा विदेश और सुरक्षा मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु ने क्लायमेट एक्शन पर कदम उठाने के लिए विश्व नेताओं को धन्यवाद दिया। उन्होंने बताया कि समुद्र का स्वास्थ्य, जलवायु संरक्षण के लिए ज़रूरी है और इन दोनों को अलग नहीं किया जा सकता। उन्होंने बताया कि वातावरण में ज्यादा ग्रीनहाउज़ गैस के कारण समुद्र तल बढ़ रहा है, समुद्रों में ज्यादा रसायनिक पदार्थ हो गए हैं और इस कारण से समुद्री जीव जन्तुओं और तटवर्ती समाजों पर विपरीत असर पड़ रहा है। मंत्री सेरूईरातु ने बताया कि स्वस्थ समुंद्र रखने का बड़ावा देने के इरादे से फीजी ने पॅसिफिक ब्लू शिपिंग

पार्टनशिप लॉंच किया है जिसमें प्रशांत के सात देश शामिल हैं। इससे सन् दो हजार तीस (2030) तक घरेलू शिपिंग में फोसिल फिउल का इस्तेमाल चालिस प्रतिशत (40%) घट जाएगा और सन् दो हजार पचास (2050) तक फोसिल फिउल बिल्कुल काम में नहीं लाया जाएगा। विश्व नेताओं को यह बताया गया कि फीजी अब अपना एक्सक्लूसिव इकोनॉमिक ज़ोन (EEZ) और समुंद्र सुरक्षा क्षेत्र, और अच्छी तरह से सम्भालेगा। कोप 25 को ब्लू कोप बनाने के लिए मंत्री सेरूईरातु ने चिली के कोप 25 प्रेसिडेंट को बधाई दी। मंत्री सेरूईरातु ने समुंद्र तथा जलवायु नेताओं से स्वस्थ समुंद्र और स्वस्थ जलवायु की दिशा में कदम उठाने की माँग की। “मैं आप सब के साथ मिलकर काम करने की राह देख रहा हूँ। हम अपने बच्चों के लिए ब्लू औशन छोड़ना चाहते हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि भविष्य की पीढ़ियाँ हमें याद करें। इस बात के लिए याद करें कि हमने ज़रूरी कदम उठाया और एक स्वस्थ धरती और स्वस्थ समुंद्र उनके लिए छोड़ा”, मंत्री ने कहा।



फीजी के क्लायमेट चेम्पियन इनिया सेरूईरातु क्लायमेट सम्मिट में बोलते हुए चित्र: सप्लाइड

## क्लायमेट चर्च के खिलाफ कदम उठाने की माँग

वीरेंद्र लाल

चौदह साल के तिमोदी नाउलूसाला ने फीजी को गौरव प्रदान किया जब उन्होंने जलवायु परिवर्तन से फीजी और प्रशांत पर पड़ने वाले असर के बारे में जमकर भाषण किया। ताईलेवू के इस युवक ने निउ-योक में यू.एन यूथ क्लायमेट सम्मिट में इन्टा-जेनेरईशनल टाउन होल सेशन को माशुल आयलेंड्स की राष्ट्रपति महामहीम हिलडा हर्डन और कुछ अन्य विश्व नेताओं के साथ को-चेरा किया था। तिमोदी ने कहा कि आगे की पीढ़ियों को बचाने के लिए विश्व नेताओं को अभी कदम उठाना चाहिए। “जलवायु परिवर्तन से होने वाला खतरा वास्तविक है और अब समय आ गया है कि हम इसके खिलाफ बातें करें। हमें एक टीम की तरह काम करना चाहिए इससे पहले कि बहुत देर हो जाए। अब कदम उठाने का समय है”। तिमोदी ने इस अवसर पर दो हजार सोलह (2016) में समुद्री आंधी विंस्टन के दौरान अपने अनुभव के बारे में बताया।



मैंने खुद अपनी आखों से देखा कि किस तरह से समुद्री आंधी विंस्टन के दौरान सब कुछ बर्बाद हुए। मेरा स्कूल और मेरे कोरो में घर, इस भयानक दृश्य से हम अभी भी उभरे नहीं हैं। इस कारण से मैं विश्व नेताओं से कदम उठाने की माँग कर रहा हूँ ताकि हमारे घर सुरक्षित रहें और प्रशांत द्वीपों के सभी बच्चे सुरक्षित महसूस करें

तिमोदी नाउलूसाला क्लायमेट कोन्फरन्स में फीजी के युवा प्रतिनिधि

फिलहाल अटेनी जेनरल तथा क्लायमेट चर्च के लिए ज़िम्मेदार मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि तिमोदी ने सम्मिट में भाग लेकर, भविष्य की पीढ़ियाँ और सभी लोगों की ओर से अपनी आवाज़ अन्य नेताओं तक पहुँचाई है। तिमोदी और प्रशांत के अन्य युवा जो सम्मिट में शामिल थे, ने सुरक्षा तथा विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु जोकि एक क्लायमेट चेम्पियन हैं, से मुलाकात की और क्लायमेट एक्शन के लिए पॅसिफिक यूथ नेटवर्क मज़बूत करने के बारे में बातें की।



## समुद्री उद्योग में महिलाओं की भूमिका का समर्थन

वीरेंद्र लाल

वोल्ड मेरिटाएम डय एक खास अवसर है जब हमारे जीवन सुधारने के इरादे से समुद्री उद्योग में योगदान देने वाले लोगों के काम की हम सराहना करते हैं। इस उपलक्ष में थीम “एमपावरिंग विमन इन द मेरिटाएम कोमिउनिटी” पर बोलते हुए इनफास्ट्रक्चर मंत्री जोने उसामाते ने कहा कि सभी क्षेत्रों में महिलाओं को सशक्त करना ज़रूरी है। “यह ख्याल कि शिपिंग का क्षेत्र केवल पुरुषों के लिए है, अब बदल गया है। इस क्षेत्र में महिलाएं भी उतरने लगी हैं और उनके काम को भी मान्यता दी जाने लगी है” मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा। इनटानेशनल मेरिटाएम ओगनाइजेशन (IMO) इस क्षेत्र में महिलाओं को उतरने में सहायता प्रदान कर रहा है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र का एक खास अजेन्सी होने के नाते आय.एम.ओ, सस्टेइअबल डिवेलपमेंट गौल्स हासिल करने में मदद करता है और यह देखता है इस क्षेत्र में महिलाओं को भी शामिल किया जाए। “फीजी एक सदस्य देश और प्रशांत में सीफेरिंग इनडस्ट्री के हब होने के नाते, इस क्षेत्र में महिलाओं के काम का समर्थन करता है। इस क्षेत्र में अब काफी महिलाएं काम करने लगी हैं। हमें इन महिलाओं का समर्थन करना चाहिए और अपना मेरिटाएम नेटवोक बढ़ाना चाहिए”। इस क्षेत्र में काम करने वाली कुछ महिलाओं को उनकी उपलब्धी के लिए इस अवसर पर सम्मानित भी किया गया।

# कैंसर के खतरों के बारे में जानें



स्वास्थ्य मंत्री इफेरईमी वांगाइनम्बेते, जेक्स ओफ फीजी के एक प्रतिनिधि और फीशरीज़ मंत्री सेमि कोरोईलावेसाउ पिकटौबा इनिशियइटिव्य लॉच होने के दौरान चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

वीरेंद्र लाल

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वांगाइनम्बेते ने महिलाओं से माँग की है कि वे ब्रेस्ट यानि स्तन कैंसर के खतरों के बारे में जानें। वे सुवा में जेक्स ओफ फीजी में पिकटौबा इनिशियइटिव्य लॉच करते हुए बोल रहे थे। मंत्री वांगाइनम्बेते ने कहा कि देश में ज्यादातर कैंसर का इलाज सरकारी अस्पतालों में होता है। उन्होंने बताया कि देश के सभी मुख्य अस्पतालों में इसका इलाज होता है। “पिछले बीस सालों में हेल्थ सिस्टम में काम करने से मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि कैंसर के अस्सी से नब्बे प्रतिशत (80 to 90%) इलाज यहाँ उपलब्ध है। हमारे सेजन्स ने ओस्ट्रेलिया और निउज़ीलैंड में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त की है और यहाँ किमोथेरपि भी उपलब्ध है”। स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने कहा कि अगर कैंसर के किसी मरीज़ को इलाज कराने विदेश जाना पड़ा, तो

इसके लिए व्यवस्था है, सरकार मदद प्रदान करती है। उन्होंने बताया कि ब्रेस्ट कैंसर के मिलान में सेविकल कैंसर के मामलों में कमी आई है। मंत्री के अनुसार तेरह साल के होने पर लड़कियों को सुई लगाने से ऐसा हुआ है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि कैंसर को लेकर जागरूकता फैलाने से भी कैंसर के मामलों में गिरावट हुई है। “डाक्टर, नेसस, हेल्थ प्रोफेशनल्स और फीजी कैंसर सोसाईटी के सदस्य समाज में जाकर लोगों को इस बीमारी से बचने के बारे में शिक्षित कर रहे हैं”। डाक्टर वांगाइनम्बेते ने इस क्षेत्र में कोपरट सेक्टज़ जैसे जेक्स ओफ फीजी के काम की सहराना की जो कुछ मरीज़ों को किमोथेरपि प्रदान करने में मदद करते हैं। सेविकल कैंसर की एक सवाईवा, असेनादा रिसो ने अपना अनुभव बाँटते हुए बताया कि महिलाओं

को रेगुला चेक-अप्स के लिए जाने की ज़रूरत है। उन्होंने कहा कि पेप्स्मिया टेस्ट करवाना ज़रूरी है। “कैंसर बहुत बेरहम बीमारी है और यह बहुत जल्द फैलती है। मैंने तो सोचा था कि दस हफ्तों में यह ठीक हो जायेगी लेकिन मुझे तो किमोथे-रपि और रेडियइशन ट्रीटमेंट कराना पड़ा। मुझे बहुत पीड़ा सहनी पड़ी। मेरे शरीर से बहुत ज्यादा खून बह रहा था। मुझे सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए मैं फीजी कैंसर सोसाईटी को धन्यवाद देती हूँ। कैंसर मरीज़ों को तुम्हारे समर्थन की ज़रूरत है। कैंसर किसी प्रकार से भेद-भाव नहीं बरतता, वह किसी को भी हो सकता है”। पिकटौबा, अक्टोबर में रहता है जब महिने भर इस बीमारी के खिलाफ अभियान चलाया जाता है। महिलाओं से रेगुला चेक-अप्स के लिए जाने और पेप्स्मिया टेस्ट करवाने की माँग की जाती है।

## महिलाओं की आवाज़ बुलन्द करने की माँग

वीरेंद्र लाल

“महिलाओं की आवाज़ खासकर ऐसी महिलाएं जिन्हें कम सुविधा प्राप्त है, को आगे तक पहुँचाना हमारी ज़िम्मेदारी है। हम चाहते हैं कि महिलाओं की आवाज़ सुनी जाए”। विमन मंत्री मेरेसईनी वुनिवांगा, रूरल विमन लीडज़ कोमिउनिटी मिडिया नेटवोक में बोल रही थी। मंत्री वुनिवांगा ने बताया कि पश्चिमी और उत्तरी विभागों में महिलाओं की अगुवाई में कोमिउनिटी मिडिया नेटवोक और मज़बूत करके अन्य जिलाओं तक पहुँचने की कोशिश सहरानिए है। “ग्रामीण इलाकों की महिलाओं की आवाज़ समाचार माध्यमों तक पहुँचनी चाहिए। इससे पता चलेगा कि दूर-दराज के इलाकों में महिलाएं किस तरह की समस्याओं का सामना कर रही हैं। सालों से फीजी में महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा एक व्यक्तिगत मामला था - महिलाएं चार दिवारों के अन्दर सब कुछ चुप-चाप सहती थीं”। मंत्री ने बताया कि कानून और नीतियों में बदलाव करके और महिलाओं की आवाज़ बुलन्द करने से यह पता चला है कि किस तरह की मुसिबतें महिलाएं सहती थीं। “हमें आवाज़ और तेज़ करने की ज़रूरत है ताकि महिला पुरुष भेद-भाव उखाड़ फेंका जाए तथा महिलाओं और लड़कियों को सशक्त किया जाए। दुनिया भर में प्रशांत क्षेत्र में महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा की दर सब से ज्यादा है। ऐसा अनुमान है कि

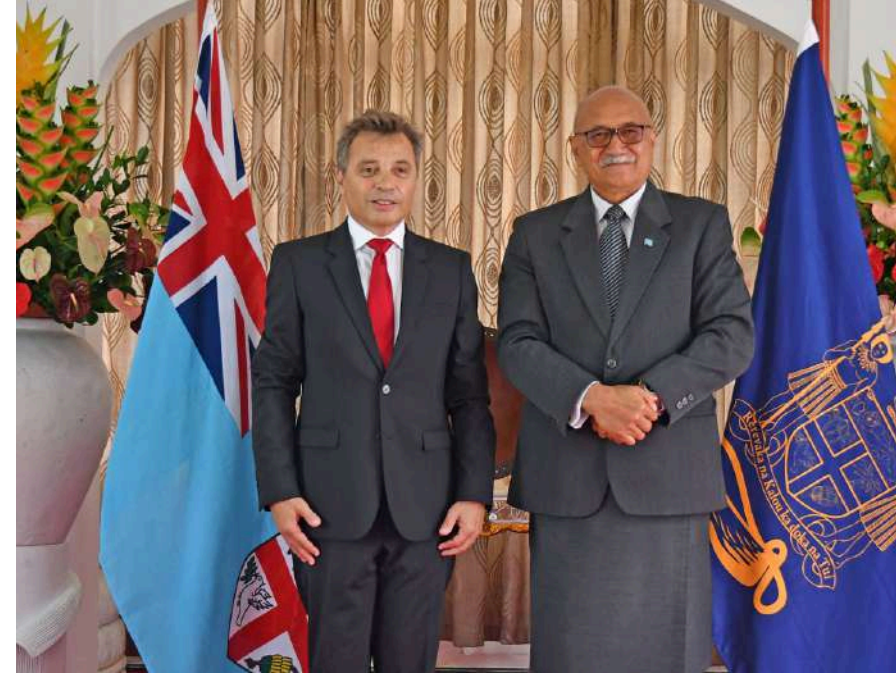


विमन मंत्री मेरेसईनी वुनिवांगा रूरल विमन लीडज़ कोमिउनिटी मिडिया नेटवोक के दौरान महिला नेताओं के साथ चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

प्रशांत की हर तीन में से दो महिलाएं, महिला पुरुष भेद-भाव के शिकार हैं। अपने संदेश में प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बड़िनमारामा ने देश भर की महिला नेताओं की इस फोरम में भागीदारी की सहराना की। उन्होंने बताया कि इस तरह की सभाओं में भाग लेने से महिला सम्बंधी विषयों को सुलझाने में आसानी होगी।

“इससे महिलाओं की आवाज़ अन्य संस्थाओं तक पहुँचाने में मदद मिलेगी और महिलाओं को उनके मानवाधिकारों के बारे में शिक्षित किया जाएगा”। अन्य डिवेलपमेंट पार्टनरज़ के साथ मिलकर फेमिलंक पेसिफिक और फीजी विमन्स राईट्स मुवमेंट ने इस फोरम की आयोजना की थी।





## राष्ट्रपति चोची कोन्रोते ने फ्रान्स के राजदूत का स्वागत किया

अभी हाल ही राष्ट्रपति चोची कोन्रोते ने फ्रान्स गणराज्य के राजदूत जीन फानकोईस फिट्टी का स्वागत बोरन होउज में किया। राजदूत जीन फानकोईस फिट्टी ने फीजी मिलिट्री फोर्स के बीस सदस्य गार्ड ऑफ ऑनर का निरीक्षण करने के बाद अपना प्रमाण पत्र दिया। उन्होंने विदेशी मामलों के

मंत्रालय में कई परियोजनाओं पर काम किया है। फीजी आने से पहले वे नोर्थ कोरिया के प्योंगयोंग शहर के फेन्च ऑफिस में डायरेक्टर थे।

चित्र: ननिसे नईमल



## स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने पिकटौबा पहल की लॉन्चिंग की

कैंसर से पीड़ित लोगों की ताकत और दुर्घटना विश्वास की सहायता करते हुए स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डफरेडिमी वागाइनम्बे ने तानोआ होटल ग्रुप में पिकटौबा पहल की लॉन्चिंग की। फीजी में वेस्ट कैंसर से तीन सौ लोग पीड़ित हैं जबकि मेडिकल कैंसर से दो सौ लोग पीड़ित हैं। मंत्री वागाइनम्बे ने कहा कि जागरूकता बढ़ाने के बाद से ही लोग चेक-अप के लिए आ रहे हैं जिससे कैंसर के मामलों में कमी आ रही है।

चित्र: एमि कोरोईतानोआ



## मेडिकल छात्रों को प्रेरित किया गया

प्रधान मंत्री वडिनिमारागा ने क्यूबा में पढ़ाई कर रहे डेक्कीस फीजियन मेडिकल छात्रों को अच्छी तरह से पढ़ाई करने और फीजी को योग्यता देने के लिए प्रेरित किया। प्रधान मंत्री वडिनिमारागा ने छात्रों को दोपहर का भोजन कराया और उनकी पढ़ाई को लेकर उनसे बात की। उन्होंने क्यूबा में पढ़ रहे छात्रों से कहा कि वह अपने परिवार

को छोड़कर अपने सपने साकार करने के लिए वहाँ पढ़ने गए हैं और उन्हें पूरी लगनता के साथ पढ़ाई करनी चाहिए। प्रधान मंत्री वडिनिमारागा ने कहा कि उनकी सरकार छात्रों की मदद के लिए कोई भी सहायता प्रदान करने को तैयार है।

चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर



## स्थानापन्न प्रधान मंत्री ने निर्यात विकास मंत्री से मुलाकात की

स्थानापन्न प्रधान मंत्री तथा फिशरीज मंत्री सेमी कोरोइलावेसाउ ने निउजीलैंड के व्यापार और निर्यात विकास मंत्री डेविड पाकर का स्वागत विदेश मंत्रालय के कार्यालय में किया। मंत्री पाकर तीन दिनों के सरकारी दौर पर फीजी आए थे और यहाँ प्रमुख सरकारी मंत्रियों के साथ बैठक की जिसमें फीजी और निउजीलैंड के बीच व्यापारिक संबंध और मजबूत हो।

चित्र: अग्रिया फौन







# लौतोका सिटी कौंसल को एक नया कोम्पेक्टर ट्रक मिला

वीरिन्द्र लाल

लौतोका सिटी कौंसल को जापान की सरकार की ओर से एक नया कोम्पेक्टर ट्रक मिला है।

लौकल गवर्मेंट मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने लौतोका में एक लाख इकसठ हजार नौ डोलर (\$161,009.00) मूल्य के यह कोम्पेक्टर ट्रक स्वीकार किया।

“फीजी की सरकार वातावरण साफ रखने के कदम को प्राथमिकता देती है जबकि हम जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़े असर से निपटने में जुटे हुए हैं”, मंत्री कुमार ने कहा।

मंत्री कुमार के अनुसार जनसंख्या बढ़ने के कारण हर दिन अस्सी (80) टन मैला निकलता है और हर साल यह संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है।

अभी लौतोका सिटी कौंसल के पास, नौ किउबिक मिटर के तीन कोम्पेक्टर ट्रक्स हैं और मंत्री के अनुसार लौतोका में सेवाएं प्रदान करने के लिए यह पर्याप्त नहीं हैं।

जापान के ग्रांट असिस्टन्स फोर ग्रासरूट्स हिउमन सेकिउरिटी प्रोजेक्ट्स प्रोग्राम के तहत यह पाँच टन ट्रक दान में दिया गया है।

मैला बटोरने में लौतोका सिटी कौंसल हर साल कम से कम तीन लाख दस हजार डोलर (\$310,000.00) खर्च करती है जबकि वुनातो लैंडहिल पर हर साल अवसतम चार लाख डोलर (\$400,000.00) खर्च किए जाते हैं।

जापान की सरकार ने हाल ही नसीनु टाउन कौंसल को भी एक कोम्पेक्टर ट्रक प्रदान किया था।



व्यापार मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार, जापानी राजदूत मासाहिरु ओमुरा से कोम्पेक्टर ट्रक की चाभियाँ स्वीकार करती हुई चित्र: लितिया बुलाइदउसिंगा

फीजी, प्रशांत के साथ निउ-ज़ीलैंड के हिस्सेदारी को मान्यता देता है

वीरिन्द्र लाल

“हमारे राष्ट्र मज़बूत आर्थिक सम्बंधों और लोगों के बीच रिश्तों के कारण जुड़े हुए हैं। हमारे बीच दोस्ती को ध्यान में रखते हुए हम इन सम्बंधों को और मज़बूत कर सकते हैं”।

इनडस्ट्री ट्रेडिंड एन्ड टुरिज़्म मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार, निउ-ज़ीलैंड के ट्रेडिंड एन्ड एक्सपोर्ट ग्रोथ मंत्री डेविड पाकर से सुवा में ग्रेन्ड पेंसिफिक होटल में मुलाकात करने के दौरान बोल रही थी।

मंत्री कुमार ने बताया कि फीजी इस बात के लिए अहसानमन्द है कि निउ-ज़ीलैंड, फीजी और अन्य प्रशांत देशों को उनकी चुनौतियों से निपटने में सहायता करता है खासकर जलवायु परिवर्तन से सामने आई चुनौतियों से निपटने की दिशा में।

“दोनों ओर से व्यापार, टुरिज़्म और पूंजी को लेकर निउ-ज़ीलैंड के साथ फीजी का द्विपक्षीय सम्बंध मज़बूत होता जा रहा है। फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था पिछले दस सालों से लगातार बढ़ रही है। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आने वाले सालों में भी अर्थ-व्यवस्था बढ़ना जारी रहेगी। मुझे यह बताते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि सन् दो हजार अट्ठारह (2018) में फीजी और निउ-ज़ीलैंड के बीच नौ सौ पचहत्तर दसमलव तीन मिलियन डोलर (\$975.3 million) का व्यापार हुआ था। निउ-ज़ीलैंड उच्च दस देशों में शामिल है जहाँ फीजी अपना माल निर्यात करता है। पिछले पाँच सालों से हर साल हम अवसतम एक सौ दस मिलियन डोलर(\$110m) मूल्य के सामान निउ-ज़ीलैंड निर्यात करते हैं”।

मंत्री कुमार ने बताया कि निउ-ज़ीलैंड से हम काफी सामान आयात भी करते हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि सन् दो हजार अट्ठारह में निउ-ज़ीलैंड से आठ सौ बत्तीस दसमलव सात मिलियन डोलर (\$832.7m) मूल्य के सामान आयात किए गए थे।

आप देख सकते हैं कि बेलन्स ऑफ़ ट्रेडिंड निउ-ज़ीलैंड के पक्ष में है इस-लिए हम अपना निर्यात बढ़ाना चाहते हैं

व्यापार मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार

मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि हाल ही विज़िफीजी प्लेटफोम लॉन्च होने से और स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में प्रायवट पब्लिक पार्टनरशिप से फीजी में व्यापार शुरू करना काफी सहज हो गया है।

# देशभर में बनेंगे बावन 52 फुटक्रोसिंग



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी फुटक्रोसिंग योजना में शामिल तीन मंत्रालयों के स्थाई सचिवों के साथ योजना की घोषणा करते हुए चित्र: अज़रिया फरीन

रोनल देव

देशभर में ग्रामीण इलाकों के फीजीवासियों को कुछ राहत मिलेगी जबकि सरकार ने बावन (52) फुटक्रोसिंग बनाने की योजना बनाई है जो कि होप एन्ड स्कीप कार्यक्रम के तहत होगा।

वोटरवइज़, वातावरण तथा कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने कहा कि इसपर काम जल्द शुरू होगा तथा तीन मंत्रालय मिलकर इस योजना को कार्यरूप देंगे। उनके अनुसार फुटक्रोसिंग बनने से

देश के बावन समाजों के लोगों का जीवन काफी सुधर जाएगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि सभी फुटक्रोसिंग बनाने में सरकार लगभग दो लाख पचास हजार (250,000) डोलर खर्च करेगी।

मंत्री के अनुसार जिन समाजों की पहचान हुई है के लोग पैदल एक जगह से दुसरी जगह जाने में काफी मुश्किलों का सामना कर रहे हैं क्योंकि उन्हें कभी-कभी नदी नालों के अन्दर से होकर जाना पड़ता है। स्कूली बच्चों, बड़े लोग बाज़ार वगैरह

आते जाते वक्त भीग जाते हैं।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि काफी दिनों से यह समाज मुसिबतों का सामना करते आए हैं तथा सरकार से मदद की माँग कर रहे थे।

उनके अनुसार सभी फुटक्रोसिंग बनाने पर काम जल्द शुरू होगा तथा इसी साल डिसेम्बर तक बनकर तैयार होने की आशा की जा रही है।

वोटरवइज़, वातावरण तथा कृषि मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि इस संबंध में कुछ बड़ी योजनाओं पर काम बाद में किया जाएगा।



# गुसूईसावू कोरो को मिली सहायता



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी मंत्रालय के उच्च अधिकारियों के साथ वाईदिना नाईतासिरी में गुसूईसावू कोरो में नदी के किनारा भसकने से रोकने वाली योजना की समाप्ति पर चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

वीरेंद्र लाल

वाईदिना, नाईतासिरी में गुसूईसावू के लोगों को बरसात के मौसम में अब अपने सामानों को उपर नहीं खिस्काना पड़ेगा। बाढ़ चढ़ने पर वहाँ नदी के किनारा भसकने से रोकने के लिए वोटावइज़ मंत्रालय की सहायता से वहाँ कुछ काम हुआ है। केपिटल ड्रैनज और फ्लड प्रोटेक्शन प्रोग्राम के तहत इस योजना पर छः लाख इक्यावन हजार छः सौ पाँच डोलर (\$691,605.00) खर्च हुए हैं। योजना का उद्घाटन करते हुए कृषि, वोटावइज़ तथा वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने बताया कि जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण नदी के किनारा भसक रहे हैं और विश्व स्तर पर इसे

सुलझाना होगा जिसपर प्रधान मंत्री काफी काम कर रहे हैं। “यह मामला हम आज यहाँ सुलझा सकते हैं लेकिन यह केवल अस्थाई समाधान होगा। पूरा देश और अन्य प्रशांत राष्ट्र भी इस समस्या का सामना कर रहे हैं और विश्व स्तर पर इसे सुलझाने की ज़रूरत है। स्थानिए स्तर पर आपको, आपके घर और आपके समाज को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए हम और सम्पत्ति विकसित कर रहे हैं जबकि विश्व स्तर पर हमारे प्रधान मंत्री विश्व सभाओं में भाग लेकर, विकासशील देशों के नेताओं को समझा रहे हैं कि जलवायु परिवर्तन से किस तरह से द्वीप राष्ट्रों पर विपरीत असर पड़ रहा है और इसे रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाना चाहिए”। डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि लोगों और समाजों को सुरक्षा प्रदान

करना, सरकार की प्राथमिकता है। “ड्रैनज और फ्लड प्रोटेक्शन प्रोग्राम ऐसे तैयार किए गए हैं कि नदियों और नालों की गहराई बनी रहे और साथ साथ नदियों के किनारा न भस्के”। गुसूईसावू के पैतालिस (45) वर्षिए मरिका बलेदा ने बताया कि कोरो के लिए यह मदद बहुत सही समय पर आई है। “आज इस कोरो के लिए खुशी मनाने का दिन है। इस सहायता से हम बहुत खुश हैं। इससे नदी के किनारा नहीं भस्केगा और उपजाव मिट्टी बाढ़ में नहीं बहेगी”। बलेदा ने बताया कि बरसात के मौसम में अब लोगों को चिंता करने की ज़रूरत नहीं पड़ेगी।

## फीजी ने आए. सी.अई.औ के क्षेत्रिए दफतर की माँग की

वीरेंद्र लाल

ऐयालाईन सईफटी और सेकिउरिटी कोम्पलायन्स में सुधार करने के लिए, इनटानेशनल सिविल अविअईशन ओगनायजईशन की चालिसवा (40th) असेम्बली में फीजी ने माँग की है कि आए.सी.अई.औ के प्रशांतिए क्षेत्रिए दफतर की स्थापना की जाए। इस विषय को लेकर अटेनी जेनरल तथा सिविल अविअईशन मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम और इनटानेशनल सिविल अविअईशन ओगनायजईशन के सेक्रेट्री जेनरल डाक्टर फेंग लिउ तथा प्रधान डाक्टर ओलुमुईवा बेनाई अलिउ के बीच एक हाय लेवल मिटिंग हुई है। “अब समय आ गया है कि आए.सी.अई.औ, प्रशांत में अपना दफतर खोले। फीजी और अन्य प्रशांतिए देशों ने ऐयालाईन सईफटी और सेकिउरिटी कोम्पलायन्स की दिशा में काफी काम किया है और इन देशों को भी संस्था से लाभ मिलना चाहिए। मिलकर हम एक पेरिफिक ऐयालाईन मार्केट बना सकते हैं जहाँ लोग सुरक्षा के साथ सफर कर सकते हैं जहाँ होड़बाज़ी भी होगी”। सन् दो हजार सोलह (2016) में आए. सी.अई.औ की सभा में निउ जीलैंड और प्रशांतिए देशों ने एक पईपा पेश किया था जिसमें आए. सी.अई.औ सेक्रेटेरियट से प्रशांत में एक आए. सी.अई.औ क्षेत्रिए दफतर खोलने पर अध्ययन करने की माँग की गई थी। यह रिपोट आने वाली आए.सी.अई.औ सभा में रखी जाएगी और इसपर विचार किया जाएगा।

## फीजी और इनडोनिशिया के बीच एम.औ.अई



प्रधान मंत्री दफतर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण, संयुक्त राष्ट्र में इनडोनिशिया के स्थाई प्रतिनिधि डियान ट्रियान्शया जानी के साथ चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री के दफतर

वीरेंद्र लाल

ताईलेवू स्थित क्विन विक्टोरिया स्कूल के पुनः निर्माण कार्य को लेकर फीजी और इनडोनिशिया के बीच एक मेमोरन्डम ऑफ़ अग्रिमेंट साइन हुआ है। प्रधान मंत्री के दफतर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण ने फीजी सरकार की ओर से निउ-योक में चौहत्तरवा (74th) युनायटड

नईशन्स जेनरल असेम्बली के दौरान, संयुक्त राष्ट्र में इनडोनिशिया के स्थाई प्रतिनिधि डियान ट्रियान्शया जानी के साथ समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किया। क्विन विक्टोरिया स्कूल उन एक सौ छियासठ (166) स्कूल्स में शामिल है जो फेब्रवरी दो हजार सोलह (2016) में समुंद्री आँधी विस्टन में क्षतिग्रस्त हुए थे। इस समझौते के तहत इनडोनिशिया की

सरकार, स्कूल पर पुनः निर्माण कार्य जारी रखने की अनुमति दे चुकी है। स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण ने बताया कि इस मदद के लिए फीजी की सरकार, इनडोनिशिया की सरकार के प्रति आभार व्यक्त कर रही है। फीजी और इनडोनिशिया के बीच लम्बे समय से सम्बंध है। फीजी के कुछ छात्रों ने इनडोनिशिया में उच्च युनिवर्सिटीज़ में पढ़ाई की है।



# फीजी फोकस

फीजियन्स और  
ओस्ट्रेलियन्स  
अच्छे साथी हैं  
- प्रधान मंत्री

2



कैंसर के  
खतरों के  
बारे में  
जानें

3



देशभर में  
बनेंगे बावन  
फुटकोसिंग

6



## क्लायमेट रिस्क इनसुरन्स की माँग में फीजी शामिल हुआ



नउ-योक में चौहत्तरवा (74th) युनायटेड नईशन्स जेनरल असेम्बली के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गो बडोनमारामा, नोर्वेय के राजकुमार महामहोम हाकुन मेगनस तथा अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ अईयद खईयूम चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर

वीरन्द्र लाल

निउ-योक में कई उच्चस्तरीय पेनल्स में भाग लेते हुए अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने क्लायमेट रिस्क इनसुरन्स की माँग को आगे बढ़ाया है।

ग्लोबल रिसिलियन्स पार्टनशिप द्वारा आयोजित एक पेनल में बिलडिंग रिसिलियन्ट फिउचा डय शीर्षक पर बोलते हुए सईयद खईयूम ने क्लायमेट रिस्क इनसुरन्स के पक्ष में बातें की।

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने सरकारी, व्यापारिक और समाजिक नेताओं के समक्ष रिसिलियन्स और अडप्टईशन के लिए

इनसुरन्स योजनाओं को आम किया।

“रिसिलियन्स में पैसे लगाना, अच्छी पूँजी है। जितनी जल्द हम यह कदम उठाएँगे, उतना अच्छा होगा। यह पूरी विश्व अर्थ-व्यवस्था के लिए ठीक रहेगा। फीजी में तो हमने यह जिम्मेदारी अपने हाथों में ली है। हम अपनी सम्पत्ति और तौर तरिके अपनाकर योजनाएं लागू कर रहे हैं। हमें अपनी अनुभूति से सीख मिली है कि अच्छी योजनाओं से हम जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़ने वाले असर से केवल बचते नहीं हैं बल्कि इन योजनाओं से लोगों का जीवन संवारते हैं, अर्थ-व्यवस्था में बढ़न्ती होती है और लोगों की मदद भी होती है”।

अटेनी जेनरल ने वल्लारवल ट्वेंटी के लोंच पर भी बातें की जहाँ उन्होंने क्लायमेट रिस्क से निपटने और लव काबन डिग्रेलप्मेंट के बढ़ावा के लिए प्रायवट सेक्टा इनसुरन्स के बारे में बताया।

“हमें ऐसे तरिके अपनाने की ज़रूरत है जिससे हम नुकसान पहुँचाने वाली प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से बाहर हो सकें। सम्पत्तियों की विमा कराने से हम घर, स्कूल और अन्य सम्पत्तियों के पुनः निर्माण में सक्षम होंगे और इससे कुछ हद तक लोगों को सुरक्षा मिलेगी,” अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा।



# Noda Viti

## ‘Rokova nodra rai na sainitisi’

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**S**A kerei ira vakabibi na lewe 195 na iliuliu ni veimatanitu e vuravura lewe ni Matabose kei Vuravura mera rokova na nodra vakadidike na sainitisi.

Cauraka ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama e Niu Yoka ni: “Era sa kacivaka na sainitisi rogolevu ena noda vuravura edua na iyaloyalo vakadomobula ena vuravura era na bula kina na luveda kei na makubuda.”

“Era sa vakasalataki keda ni rawa ni tubu ena 1 poidi dua na mita na cere ni ua ena yabaki 2100. Oya sa tubu ena 10 na centimetres baleta na kena sa waicala na waicevata ena Anataika.”

“Qoka sa dua na itukutuku vakariseyate kina udolu na lewenivanua e Viti kei ira era tiko ena veibaravi ena Pasifika.”

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni sa vakavuna mena vakatotlotaki na porokaramu ni tokitaki ni veikoro e gadrevi mera toki nira sa luvu tiko mai.

“Vakauasivi na Trust Fund me baleti ira na tokitaki ena vuku ni draki veisau kau sa mai tavoca e Niu Yoka,” kaya ko PM.

“Au sa kerei kemuni moni wilika na ripote oqo vinaka na nodra itukutuku na sainitisi oqo. Eso oni tiko ena veiliutaki cecere, na cava oni sega ni via rogoci ira kina na sainitisi.”

Sa vakamasuti ira talega ko Paraiminisita mera rogoca ka katona na nodra veivakauqeti na itabagone baleta na draki veisau.

“Oni sa rogoca na nodra ivakamacala na nodra ivakamacala na itabagone ena nodra vakauqeti vuravura me vakalailaitaki na revurevu ni draki veisau.”

“Era sa oca na itabagone na sarava tiko na nodra sega ni kauwaitaka na veivanua lelevu na vakacaca ni cagilaba ena nodra mata ni vale kara gadreva me vakayacori kina e dua na ka,”kaya o PM Bainimarama.



Rau marautaka me rau taba vata kei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama e rua na tabagone ni Viti ena nona veisiko voli ki America na turaga Paraiminisita.  
ITaba: VAKARAUTAKI





# Sikovi Cuba ko PM Bainimarama

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA isevu ni gauna me sikovi Cuba kina na noda Paraiminisita Josia Voreqe Bainimarama ena macawa sa oti.

Era marautaka na noda gone ni Viti era vuli Vuniwai tiko mai Cuba na nona veisiko yani oya na o PM Bainimarama.

O ira na noda gone ni Viti e ra vuli Vuniwai tiko ena Latin American School for Medicine ka marautaka talega o PM Bainimarama me veitalanoa vata kei ira.

Sa vakauqeti ira na gone ni Viti era vuli Vuniwai tiko me ra qacoya na nodra vuli me rogo

kina na noda vanua.

A laki vakatora talega edua na ivutu senikau o PM Bainimarama ena ivakananumi nei Jose Marti edua na turaga edau tutaka na veika e baleta na vanua o Cuba.

Na yanuyanu o Cuba e koto ena vualiku ni Caribbean, ena ceva ni vanua o Florida e USA, kei na vualiku ni vanua o Jamaica.

Era tawani Cuba taumada e liu na kawa tamata na Ciboney Taino ni bera ni tauyavutaka kina nona Koloni o Spain.

Na ivalu na Spanish American War ni 1898 sa mani tawani Cuba kina o USA ka qai mai tuvakataki koya ena 1902.



Era veitalanoa tiko oqori na gone ni Viti vuli vuniwai mai Cuba kei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua ko Mereseini Vuniwaqa ena sogo ni nodra boseka na liuliu ni marama veiqaravi ena taudaku ni koro ni cakacaka.

## Sasaga na kena laveti na nodra bula na marama

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA laveti cake ni domodra na marama ena noda vanua vakauasivi oira era sega ni dau bula vinaka edua na ulutaga bibi ena raiyawa ni veivakatorocaketaki..

Oqori na rai nodra na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua, Mereseini Vuniwaqa

“Era kilai na marama ni ra dau levu na rai kei na vakasama me

baleta na vukei ni torocake era dau kauta mai ena gauna ni bose. Ia sa bibi kina na kena vakarautaki edua na vanua mera dau mai veitalanoa kina,” kaya ko Minisita.

Vakaraitaka tiko na tikina oqori na minisita ena sogo ni nodra boseka na liuliu ni marama veiqaravi ena taudaku ni koro ni cakacaka. Na nodra vakaqacotaki tiko na marama veiqaravi ena koro kei na itikotiko ena taudaku ni koro vakacacacaka sa

dua naka vinaka dina.

Kuria ko Minisita Vuniwaqa ni kena vakalevutaku na itukutuku baleta na nodra veiqaravi na marama ka taba ena volaitukutuku ka ra vola talega na marama kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni soqosoqo ni tamata sega ni tuvaki vinaka tu na yagodra e vakaraitaka vinaka baleta ni laveti cake kina na ulutaga se bolebole era dau sotakaya ena veisiga.

“Levu na gauna edau vunitaki

tiko na leqa ni nodra vakalolomataki na marama ena noda vanua io na yavu ni vakavulewa nei Viti sa vakararamataki kina na tikina oqo ka mera qarauni ka lomani kina,” kaya ko Minisita Vuniwaqa.

Na tukutuku ni nodra vakalolomataki na marama edua na kisi bibi tiko ena noda vanua vakakina na Pasivika ka sa dodonu medau laurai vakavinaka ka me rawa ni wali.

## Uqeti na soli dra



Sa ra vakauqeti na lewe ni vanua ena noda vanua me ra dau taura na nodra gauna mera laki soli nodra dra ki valenibula.

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA ra vakauqeti na lewe ni vanua ena noda vanua me ra dau taura na nodra gauna mera laki soli nodra dra ki valenibula. Oqo edua na veiqaravi ka sagai tiko me vakalevutaki ena noda Viti nikua.

Sa veivakararamataki kina na Minisita ni Bula kei na Veiqaravi ena valenibula Vuniwai Ifereimi Waqainabete ena nodra laki tekiyuna na soli dra.

Na tabana ni bula era qarava edua na sasaga ni soli dra ena macawa sa oti ka rau liutaka na sasaga oqo na Minisita kei na nodra Vunivola tudei.

Era tokona talega na sasaga oqo na ivakalesilesi ni tabana ni bula. Sa inaki ni tabana ni bula oya me soqona rawa e 400 na mililita na dra mai vei ira na lewenivanua ena veiyasai Viti.

Oqo edua na tiki ni veiqaravi e dodonu me tokoni vakalevu me vaka ni levu na gauna edau laurai nil alai na dra ena vei valenibula me ra vakayagataka na lewe ni vanua ka sa bibi kina me dau tawani vinaka tiko na bola ni dra me veisotari ena gauna e yaco kina na gagadre.

## Veisiko mai na Minisita ni Veivoli ni Niusiladi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

RAU sa mai veitalanoa na Paraiminisita Vakatawa e Viti o Semi Koroilavesau kei na Minisita ni Veivoli kei na Volitaki ivoli ni Niusiladi o David Parker.

Tolu na siga na nona veisiko o Minisita Parker ka sikovi ira talega na veiminisita ni veiqaravi bibi ena noda vanua.

Na inaki levu ni nona veisiko mai oqo me vaqacacotaki kina na nodrau veivoli o Viti kei Niusiladi.

Ena yabaki 2017 e volitaka rawa kina o Viti ki Niusiladi na ivoli ka koto ena \$57.2 na milioni na dola kena isau.

O Niusiladi e ikarua ni vanua e vuravura me levu duadua kina na ilavo edau volivoli mai kina o Viti. Ena 2017 a vakayagataka kina o Viti e \$403 na milioni na dola me voli mai kina na iyau e volitaka o Niusiladi.



Na Paraiminisita Vakatawa e Viti o Semi Koroilavesau kei na Minisita ni Veivoli kei na Volitaki ivoli ni Niusiladi o David Parker.





## Saumi na ilavo kina mataqali Bativudi



Ko Minisita Dr Mahendra Reddy kei na nona Vunivola Tudei ko Joshua Wycliffe ena ibenubenu e Naboro, Lami ena nodratou tiki ni qele na mataqali ko Bativudi.

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**S**A saumi oti kina tobu ni ilavo maroroi ni Yavusa Bativudi ena Yasana o Rewa e \$715,000 na isau ni kena vakayagataki na nodratou tiki ni qele me bulu kina na benu ni siti levu o Suva.

Rawa na veidinadinati oya ena veivakadonui ni Tabacacacaka iTaukei me saumi na royalty ni nodratou tiki ni qele na Mataqali Bativudi kina nodratou akaude ni tobu ni ilavo maroroi se Trust Fund.

Me tekivu sara mai ena yabaki 2005, na Tabacacacaka ni Veikabula e Wavoliti keda sa sauma oti e \$715,000 kina Mataqali Bativudi.

Gauna e taba kina na itukutuku oqo na Tabacacacaka ni Veika e tu wavoliti keda na kena saumi na ikuri ni ilavo oya ena ikarua ni va na yabaki ni 2019.

Na yabaki vakailavo oqo 2019/2020 sa votai ena kena ituvatava vakailavo e \$5.2 na milioni na dola ena kena vakarabailevutaki na ibenubenu mai Naboro.

Namaki me cava na vakarabailevutaki ni ibenubenu mai Naboro ni oti e 56 na macawa.



Ko Minisiter Dr Mahendra Reddy kei ira na lewe ni koro e Gusuisavu, Naitasiri.

## Taqomaki na uciwai e Gusuisavu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**S**A sega ni yaga mera kauta cake tale ki delana na nodra manumanu na leweivanua mai Gusuisavu e Waidina Naitasiri, ena gauna e dau taubi kina na uca.

Era sa vakavinavinaka kina Minisitiri ni Uciwai ena kena laki keli ka bulu na bati ni uciwai mai Gusuisavu.

Na vakatitobutaki ni uciwai kei na bulu ni batini uciwai ena tarova na sisi ni qele kei na luvu ni koro kei na vanau ni teitei kei na susus manumanu.

Vakatubuilavo kina na Matanitu kena vakayagataki e \$691,605.00 me vaka a laki vakamatanituta o Minisita ni Uciwai, Veivakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu o Dr Mahendra Reddy.

Kaya o Minisita Reddy ni qoka na yaga ni qaravi Draki Veisau ena veitacike ni veiliutaki ena noda vuravura.

Kuria o Minisita Reddy ni sa liutaka tiko o Paraiminisita Bainimarama na sasaga mai Niu Yoka me rawata nodra veitokoni na veimataniitu lelevu ena sasaga oqo.

“Sa rawa ni wali na leqa oqo ni kua e Gusuisavu, ia na leqa oqo e vakakilai e vuravura ka gadrevi na iwali e vuravura,”kaya o Minisita Reddy.

“Sa levu na iyau e vakayagataki me sotavi kemuni ena noda veikoro. Baleti ni oqo edua na ka e vakabibitaka na Matanitu.”

Na cakacaka oqo e Gusuisavu ena vakalevutaka na taqomaki ni uciwai kei na koro.

Sega ni kinoca rawa o Marika Baleca yabaki 45 mai Gusuisavu na nona vakavinavinaka ena veiqaravi levu oya.

“Ni kua keitou sa marautaka tiko na koro oqo na cakacaka sa rawa oqo baleta ni keimami na taqomaki vinaka kina kei na neimami itetei kei na neimami manumanu,” kaya o Baleca.



Vosa tiko oqori ko Timoci Naulusala ena Bose ni iTabagone ni Vuravura ena ni Matabose kie Vuravura baleta na Draki Veisau mai Niu Yoka. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

## Vakauqeti vuravura ko Naulusala

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

“NI vosa mai, oqo na noda gauna”. Oqori na vosa ni veivakauqeti ki vuravura nei Timoci Naulusala na cauravou yabaki 14 ni Naivacula mai Wainibuka

Oya ena nona vosa tiko ena UN Youth Climate Summit mai Niu Yoka. Vakauqeti ira na itabagone e vuravura ena bose oya o Naulusala ni raica vata na revurevu ni cagilaba o Winisitoni ena noda vanua.

Dabe tikivi Amina Jane Mohammed na ivukevuke ni Vunivola ni Matabose kei Vuravura kei Peresitedi ni Yatu Masela o Hilda Heini kei ira na iliuliu tale eso ni vuravura o Nulusala.

Kaya vei ira o Naulusala ni se nanuma vinaka tiko na ravuravu eakava na cagilaba o Winisitoni ena rua na yabaki sa oti.

Kerei ira na lewe ni bose o Naulusala mera duavata me vaka e dua na timi dena qai toboki ira koso o gauna.

## Drodro na wai savasava e Drauleba

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**V**OQA ena delana mudremudre mai Drauleba ena Yavusa Vakaturaga ko Navunitivi e Naitasiri na voqa ni domo ni vakavinavinaka levu.

Ni sa qai vakadrodroya yani na Matanitu na medra wai ni gunu savasava ka vulagi dokai kina na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki lelevu ko Jone Usamate.

A vaka kina oqo voqa ni masu me tekivutaki kina na soqo marautaki oya.

“E kaya vakaoqo na iVola Tabu ena Same raica na kena mata vinaka nira sa tiko vaka lomavata na veiwekani... na ilumuoya e



Ko Minisita Jone Usamate kei ira na marama ni itikotiko vakagalala e Dreuleba ena Yavusa ko Navunitivi e Naitasiri. Photo: ??

vakadrodroya duadua na Kalou.”

“Sota tiko ni kua na veiwekani kei na turaga ni vanua qoka sa vaka tu e dua na ilmu e drodrova tu na dela ni vanua qoka.”

“Sa mai saravi tiko ni kua na kena veivakalougatataki.”

“E liu saka keimami gunu ena drau ni via kei na drau ni boka.”

“Ia ni kua keimami vaka vinavinaka vua na Kalou ni donuya na

nomuni dela ni gauna.”

“Ni na gole mai e dua na turaga edua na Ramasi me mai vakadabera na wai ena delana oqori me mai gunu kina na kai Nadaravakawalu na kai Naboubuco na veimataqali tamata gole mai na veimataniitu mera mau gunu ena vanua oqo.”

“Ni matai ni Minisita moni siko va mai na delana oqo.”

“Keimami vaka vinavinaka ni dela ni gauna ni nomuni veiliutaki sa liu mai na paipo keimami kila ni na tarava tale mai qoka e levu na ka lelevu.”

Vakavinavinaka talega o Minisita Usamate vei ira na lewenivanua mai Drauleba.

“Au vakavinavinaka talega vei kemudou na turaga kei na marama ena nomuni veivuketaka na

kena cakacaka.”

“Au vakavinavinaka talega vei ratou na nomudou komiti ni wai.”

“Na levu ni ilavo e vakayagataka na tabana ni wai ni Matanitu Drauleba e \$51,000.”

“Sa bolebole levu ni Matanitu me yacova na yabaki 2030 na veivuale kece e Viti me yacovi ira yani na wai savasava.”





## Tavoci na Pinktober

ERA sa vakauqeti na lewenivanua ena noda vanua mera laki laurai ki valenibula kevaka era nanuma ni sa tauvi ira na mate na kenisa. Oqori edua na ulutaga ka laveti cake mai ena soqo ni tavoci ni Pinktober ka vakaramataki kina na veika me baleta na mate na kenisa. Sa laurai ni sa levu

talega era sa laurai tiko vakavuniwai me baleta na mate na kenisa. Ni tokona na nodra sasaga ena vula o Okotova ni volia edua na nomuni reveni viqi ka daramaka ena veisiga kece ena vula oqo.

iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN



## Yaga na livaliva ni solar e Natokalau

"Na yaco mai ni livaliva e dau laveta na itagede ni bula ena koro." Oqori e dua na mala ni nona vosa na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki lelevu ena nona tekivutaka tiko na vakayagataki ni livaliva rawati ena kaukauwa ni matanisiga (Solar Home Systm Project) ena koro o Natokalau mai na yanuyanu o Cicia ena yasana o Lau.

Na ikava ni yanuyanu a veisiko kina o Minisita Usamate o Cicia, ni oti mai o Kabara, Nayau kei Vanuavatu. Kaya na Minisita ni tekivu ena yabaki 2012 sa vakayagataka kina na Matanitu e \$3.3 na milioni na dola ena kena vakalivalivataki ena solar e 1,117 na itikitoko. Sikova talega na Minisita na iqaqi ni niu mai Cicia vakakina na koronivuli na Cicia High School nib era ni laki veitalanoa kei ira na lewenivanua ena koro o Tarukua. Tale katoa sara vakalevu na veisiko nei Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki lelevu o Jone Usamate kina yanuyanu

o Lakeba mai Lau n

Sikova keca sara l veivakatorocaketaki me vaka na Lakeba Solar Fuel-Saver Project ka vakailavotaki mai na United Arab Emirates (UAE) ena ruku ni Pacific Partnership Fund. Sikova talega na vale ni Kauveilatai Damudamu e Lakeba.

Vakatalega kina na na vale ni qaqi niu, na koronivuli e Waciwaci, kei na Valeniula e Lakeba, kei na vica tale. Qai kuria na nona vakayaco veitalanoa kei ira na lewenivanua ena koro o Tubou, Nasaqalau kei Waciwaci. Era sikovi Kabara, Vanuavatu, Nayau, Cicia kei Lakeba na Minisita.

iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU







# Tavoci na Pinktober

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA nomuni yalo dei kei na vakabauta edua na iyalo yalo ni nomuni qaqa ka sa dua na ivunau levu vei ira na lewe ni vanua e tauvi ira na mate oqo.

Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na Minisita ni Bula kei na Veiqaravi vakavalenibula Vuniwai Ifereimi Waqainabete ena nodra a vulagi dokai ena soqo ni kena tavoci na veivakararamataki ni cakacaka ni valuti ni mate na kenisa ka dau tekivutaki ena vula ko Okotova ka vakayacani talega ena Pinktober.

Vakaraitaka ko Vuniwai Waqainabete ni tukutuku baleta na mate ni kenisa ni sucu ni marama ena noda vanua e laurai kina ni 300 na kisi ena veiyabaki ka muria mai na mate ni kenisa ni katonu gone ni marama se na gacagaca ni marama. Orau na rua na mate oqo kunei ni dau veitauvi tiko vakalevu ena nodra bula na marama.

Kuria ko Minisita Waqainabete ni sa levu sara na kisi era sa laki laurai tiko nikua ni vakatauvatani ena gauna es- ebera ni levu kina na cakacaka ni veivakararamataki me baleta na mate na kenisa ni sucu kei na kato ni gone kei na gacagaca ni marama.

Sa vakauqeti ira na lewenivanua na Minisita mera yalo dei ka vakabauta ka mera taura talega na cavuikalawa me baleta na raici vakavuniwai me rawa ni laki dikevi totolo kina na ituvaki ni yagodra kevaka era sa tauvi mate tiko kei na itagede ni vanua esa toka kina na mate.



Era sota oqori na lewe ni vanua ena soqo ni tavoci ni Pinktober. iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN

## Bose ni qasenivuli eliu kei Minisita

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA vakayaco bose ka wavoki tiko ena macawa sa oti na marama Minisita ni Vuli Rosy Akbar kei ira na qasenivuli iliu kei ira na liuliu ni vei koronivuli ena veiyasai Viti.

Era veisiko yani ena nodra veikoronivuli ka ra sotasota yani kina na qasenivuli iliu kei na manidia ni koronivuli.

E levu sara ga na veital- anoa vinaka era vakayaco- ra ena boseka oqo me vaka ni dua na gauna vinaka vua na Minisita kei ira na nodra ivakalesilesi icake mai na Tabana ni Vuli mera siro sobu kina ka ra bau veisemati yani vei ira na qasenivuli.

Oqo me baleta tikoga na nodra tuberi na vakavulici na luveda me ra yacova edua na vanua vinaka ena vuli me vaka talega ni sa levu na veiveisau ni lawa ena vuli ena gauna oqo ka vaka kina ni sa yalataka tu na Matanitu ni na vukei ira na gone vuli kece sara ena noda vanua.

Edua na ulutaga oya ni sa na vakalutuma vakalailai na matanitu na ivotavota ni lavo edau vakagolei ena tabana ni vuli me baleta na nodra isau ni vuli na gone.

Oya ena veisau mai na \$8-\$25. Eliu era dau solia me \$250 edua na gone ia oqo esa veisau me \$232 edua na gone, ka lutu mai ena \$18. Oya ena primary ia ena secondary era dau taura tiko eliu e \$375 ia nika era san a taura ga \$367.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Akbar ni veisau oqo esega ni tukuni me ra na sauma tale edua na ka na itubu- tubu ka na sega talega ni vakilai ena nodra qaravi ena vuli na gone. Me vaka ni oqo edua walega na tuvatuva ni tabana ni vuli ena kena manidiataki vakavinaka na iyau ni ma- tanitu ka lavaki ena vuli me baleta na nodra vuli sega ni saumi na luveda.

Vakaraitaka talega na minister ni sa vakarautaka na matanitu e \$20,000 na ilavo me baleta na caka- caka ni veiqaravi ena draki veisau ena noda vuli na gone.

E Viti ni kua e tiko kina e 737 na Primary School kei na 173 na Secondary School kei na 39 na ko- ronivuli ni vuli tara.

## ‘Me tautauvata na rai ni veiqaravi’

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

“SA noda itavi na lewe ni vanua kece sara na nodra qaravi na nodra matua.”

Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni dravudra- vua, Mereseini Vuniwaqa ena nodra laki vulagi dokai ena soqo ni siga e dau vakananumi kina na nodra bula na matua se lewe ni vanua era sa qase cake ka sa sivia na nodra iyabaki ni bula.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Vuniwaqa ni nodra vakaraici kei na qaravi vinaka na matua e sega walega ni cakacaka se itavi ni matanitu, se so- qosoqo ena taudaku ni matanitu se soqosoqo lotu.

“Sa dodonu kina me tautauvata tiko na rai kei na veiqaravi baleta ira na matua ni sa balavu tu na nodra veiqaravi veikeda ena veitagedegede kece sara ni bula ena noda vanua.

Sa gadrevi kina na loloma kei ba veikauwaita- ki ena nodra bula na noda matua baleta oqo na ka e ganiti ira vinaka ena ituvaki ni yabaki era sa donumaka tu.

Na macawa ni veivakararamataki oqo ena va- kayacori kina na maji vei ira na gonevuli kei na veitabana vakacakacaka ka me laveti kina na nodra bula na matua mai Labasa.



Ko Minisita ni Marama, gone kei na Valuti ni Bula Dravudravua Mereseini Vuniwaqa kei ira na matua ena siga e vakananumi kina na nodra bula na matua se lewe ni vanua e ra sa qase cake. iTaba: ??

## iSevu ni minisita ki Narocivo

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

QOROYA vakalevu na Mata ni Tikina Vakaturaga ko Nayau ko Luke Karavaki na nona vosota na dredre ni lade vatu ka cabeta cake na ivurevure ni wai mai Narocivo e na yanuyanu o Nayau mai Lau ko Jone Usamate na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki Lelevu.

“Keitou yaco kina ivurevure ni wai e Narocivo e toka ena dua na qaravatu dewa vatu e kea na turaga na minisita, keirau mai lululu, kau tukuna vua ni sa i koya na imatai ni minisita me sa qai yaco mai ena vanua oqo,” e kaya ko Karavaki.

“Na ivurevure ni wai oqo e toka ena 500 na kilomita mai na koro ko Narocivo.”

“Vakayacori talega na veitalanoa kei ira na lewe ni koro ko Narocivo e Nayau ka ra marau- taka ni sa mai saumi eso na nodra vakatataro.”

“Mai vakamacala tikoga na turaga na minisita baleta eso na lawa ni neimami vukei ena gaunis- ala ni veilakoyaki. Baleta ni sotavi sara tiko na dredre vei ira na waqa era vei qaravi vei keima- mi. Na nodra dau vakadaroya na nodra biubiu mai na wavu keimami siko vaka vica ki vale ena so na gauna sa lomalomani bogilevu.”

Levu na gauna qai dau kelevi keimami tu mai

na waqa Nayau ena bogi levu.”

“Keimami mai cakacaka tiko ena lomalomani bogi, kevaka edua ni na kilai Nayau kemuni na vakarorogo tiko ena bogi ni kua nina rawa ni kila na ikelekele ni waqa e Nayau edua vei ira na ikelekele ni waqa dredre duadua ena Yatu Lau. Dua na gauna au donuya bau yacova na siga tabu na cakacaka ena lomalomani bogi.”

“E toka e Salia ena gauna ni draki ca edau dredre sara keke kei na vakasobu pasidia kei na kako.

“Sa kerei tiko na turaga na minisita meratou na veivuke ena tikina oya,” e kaya ko Karavaki.





# Notisi ni cava ni lisi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**V**EITALANOA na noda niusiveva ni Matanitu na itaukei na Noda Viti ena Tabana ni Tukutuku ni Matanitu kei na iVukevuke ni Manidia Levu ni Matabose ni Qele Maroroi ni iTaukei o Solomone Nata baleta na na ke na sa na dau soli na notisi ni kena vakarau cava na lisi vei ira na dau teitei ni vo e 5 na yabaki me cava na nodra lisi.

**TARO: Taleitaki vakalevu na itukutuku a tabaki ena niusiveva ena ika 5 ni Seviteba ena nomuni kaya tiko kina nira na dau notisitaki na dau teitei era lisi tiko ni vo e 5 na yabaki me cava na nodra lisi. Na cava sa rui bibi kina oqo?**

**NATA:** Na itukutuku tabaki oqori ena ika 5 ni Seviteba oqori e dua na soqo a vakayacori mai Nawaicoba ena kena a vakavou kina e 60 vakacaca na nodra lisi na dau vakayagataki qele (tenant) ena nodratou qele na Yavusa Leweivunaniu mai Yako e Nadroga.

Au a kaya kina ni bibi me dau soli taumada na notisi ni vo e lima na yabaki me cava e dua na lisi baleta na neitou itavi o keitou sega walega ni qaravi ira na dau vakayagataki qele keitou na raica tale tikoga na kena soli tale tikoga na qele vei ira na itaukei ni qele me rawa ni rawa tiko kina na bula.

Keitou dau vakatoka tiko oya na soli taumada ni notisi (early notification 5 years in advance). Me bera ni cava na lisi sa solia vua e dua na itukutuku mena kila tiko o koya na kena vakavou na lisi se na kena sana sega ni vakadonui na lisi, sena vidavidai na lisi se sana suka veiratau na itaukei ni qele.

Mera kakua ni kidacala me vo tikoga e dua na yabaki sa mai tukuni vei ira.

Me rawa ni vakarautaki koya tu se cava ena toso ika se na dei tikoga me solia talega e dua na veivakadeitaki vei ira.

zNa ivakasala bibi duadua vei na dau teitei era lisi tiko oya mera qarava tikoga vakavinaka na nodra qele. Mera teitei vakalevu, sauma vinaka tiko na rede, ka kakua ni vakayacora e dua na ka e rawa ni vakavuna mo voroka kina na veiyalayalati ni lisi.

Kevaka o voroka oya esa na viavia dredre toka na kena tosoi tale na nomu lisi.

Keo sauma vinaka tiko nomu rede ka teitei tiko vakalevu e na rawarawa kina na vakadonui ni kena toso tale na nomu lisi.

**TARO: Kena ibalebale kemuni ni vinaka kina yasana ruarua , vinaka vei ira na lisi vinaka talega vei ira na mataqali itaukei ni qele?**

**NATA:** Io keitou dau lai veitalanoa kei ira kevaka ese levu tu na qele me vakavou na lisi. Se ke sa lailai na nodra qele na itaukei ni qele e vo sa ni rawa suka sara ga na qele oya mera vakayagataka. Se sa rawa ni vakavou na lisi ia, me dua na tikina e lako vei koya e vakayagataka tiko na qele ka dua na tikina e lako vei koya na itaukei ni qele. Na veitalanoa oya e dau caka.

Ni bera ni qai tau na vakatulewa me kila o koya e lisi tiko ena qele na cava ena caka vei koya ni sa mai cava na lisi se sa voleka ni cava na lisi.

**TARO: E vica taucoko beka na levu ni qele e lisitaki tiko baleta na teitei ena gauna oqo?**

**NATA:** Na levu taucoko ni lisi ni Matabose



Ko ira na ivakalesilesi ecake ena Matabose ni Qele Maroroi ena nodra bousei na veika bibi baleta na qele.  
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

ni Qele Maroroya gauna oqo sa via yacova toka na 45,000 na eka. Qoka e robota toka e 429,000 na ekatea. Qai vakasamataka toka ni noda qele kece na itaukei e Viti e yacova toka na 1.8 na milioni na ekatea.

Mai na 45,000 oya – na lisi ni teitei e viavia yacova toka na 14,200.

**TARO: E vica na mataqali lisi e tiko ena Matabose ni Qele Maroroi , ni cavuta mada eso na kena ivakaraitaki?**

**NATA:** Na lisi ni teitei viavia 14,200. Na lisi ni itikotiko (residential) viavia 25,600. Na lisi ni bisinisi e viavia 2000. Na lisi ni ka vakavuli viavia 500.

Na lisi ni teikau. Na lisi ni Matanitu bau via levu toka ena qele ni itaukei viavia yacova toka na 500. Sa qai tiko na lisi ni saravanua 270 vakacaca tiko. Tiko na lisi ni bisinisi ni volitaki wai, qai tiko na lisi ni keli vatu talei (mining). Ni soqoni vata taucoko na lisi oya e viavia yacova toka yani na 45,000.

**TARO: E vica na iwiliwili ni lisi ni teitei sa mai cava ka vica esa mai vakavoutaki me yacova mai na gauna daru veitalanoa toka kina oqo?**

**NATA:** E rua na kena mataqali lisi ni teitei, dua na lisi ni tei dov (cane leases) kei na lisi ni taudaku ni tei dov (non-cane leases). Sa tekivu cava mai na lisi ni teitei ena yabaki 1997.

Me yacova mai oqo na lisi taucoko ni teidovu sa mai cava sa mai via yacova toka na 9,616 sa viavia yacova toka na 85 na pasede na vakavou ni lisi oqo.

Ena yabaki 2000 kina 2001 yaco kina edua na vakasuka qele levu ena Matabose ni Qele Maroroi. Levu na mataqali qele vakaoqo sa mai cava na nodra lisitaki. Mai soli vei ira na itaukei mera vakayagataka. Kani rarawa ga ni sega ni dei na kena vakayagataki na qele. A veivuke mai na Matanitu ena gauna oya sega ni dede sara dui lesu tale kina nodra koro sa mai biu tu yani na qele sa tubua tale na qele, veikarasi tu , veiloga vaivai tale tu na veivanua koya dau sinai tu kina na dov.

Gauna oya na kena vakavou na lisi tiko sara era na kena pasede ena 40 na pasede kina 50 na pasede, tu sara tu era. Ia gauna oqo keitou sa via yacova toka yani na 85 na pasede so na gauna 87 so na gauna 90 sara na pasede.

Ia na ka oqo ena lako tuga mai ena veiya-



Na Vunivalu mai Rewa ko Ro Epeli Mataitini kei na Vunikvola Tudei ni Qele ko Josefa Caniogo.  
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

baki kena ibalebale na pasede ena tubu, lutu ,ia dau mai toka ga ena ivakatagedegede oya me 85 toka na pasede. Oya na lisi ni teidovu.

Ia na lisi ena taudaku ni teidovu viavia yacova toka na 2,900. Koya talega oya via mai yacova talega na 40 na pasede na levu ni lisi e vakavou.

E na gauna oqo sa viavia yacova toka yani na 69 se 70 na pasede. Sa levu tiko na qele sa sagai me vakayagataki vakavinaka (productive use) me tubu kina na bula vei ira na dau vakayagataki qele, saumi na rede soli vei ira na itaukei ni qele, soli tale tu ga na galala vei ira na itaukei ni qele mera vakayagataka se lisitaka nodra qele baleta ni levu sara naka e rawa nira rawata mai kina.

**TARO: Ena vakatau vei cei na kena vakavou na lisi kei na kena sega ni vakavou?**

**NATA:** Taro vinaka oqori. Keitou na neitou lawa e sega walega ni keitou sa soli lisi tu ga. Neitou lawa talega e virikotori no kina me qarauni talega o ira na itaukei ni qele me rawa ni tokoni ira. Vakaperitania e kaya vakaoqo; ‘...their use support and maintenance.’... mena tiko edua na qele me rawa nira qaravi kina. Ia na vakatulewa e tiko ena Matabose ni Qele Maroroi.

Na kena tau na lewa ena oka kina na veitikina vakaoya.

E vinaka me soli na qele oqo se sega? Ia kevaka e levu tu na qele ni itaukei kara qai vinakata me dua tale na qele me suka mai vei ira oya na vanua oya keitou na raica. Kevaka esa vo lailai ga na nodra qele sa donu mena suka na qele oya se dua na kena icakacaka me kolai (subdivide) na qele oya

me rawa ni rau wase kei ira na dau vakayagataki qele e rawa talega ni vakayacori.

E levu tu na kena veitikina me na laurai ni bera ni qai soli na vakavou ni lisi vei ira na lisi tiko. E sega ni tutu ga vaka oqo mo sa kaya sa vinaka sa cava na lisi mo sa lako. E tu talega na lawa e vauca tu na veitalanoa oqo.

Me vaka beka na compensation cava ena saumi vei koya sa lako oya. O cei ena sauma? Levu tale tu na tikina vaka oya meda na veitalanoataka.

**TARO: Vei ira na vaqara qele tiko ni teitei mera lisitaka na sala cava e rawa nira kila kina na qele e rawa nira kerea yani?**

**NATA:** Na ivakasala ga vei kemuni na dau kere lisi ni veitaratara ga yani kina vale ni volavola ni Matabose ni Qele Maroroi era sa tu oqori ena veiyasai Viti. E liu dau 4 tikoga neitou vale ni volavola oti sa laki 3 sara. Oya e Suva, Nadi, Lautoka kei Labasa.

Ia gauna oqo sa tete tale neitou vei vale ni volavola dua sa tiko mai Sigatoka, dua tiko mai Rakiraki, dua tiko mai Ba, dau tiko mai Rakiraki, dua tiko mai Korovou, dua sa tiko mai Nausori sa qai dua talega mai Savusavu.

Ni gole ki kea ka laki taro kina. Ena so na gauna keitou sa dau tabaka ena pepa. Keitou dau raica ni keitou dau tender-taka na vei qele vakaitaukei vaka dau lailai era dau kerekere mai.

Ia e levu ga era mai taro tiko. Ni dau vakawilika toka na pepa. Vei kemuni na via lisi ni kakua ni lai soli lavo rawa tiko vei ira na itaukei ni qele. Ni liu mai vei keitou ni mai taro rawa eke moni kila na qele cava e lala dina tiko ka rawa ni o kerea mai.



# Noda Viti



Era tuva tu oqori e matadra na i vakalesilesi ni tabana ni iteitei kei Minisita ni Teitei Dr Mahendra Reddy na pateta damudamu ka cavu mai e Nadarivatu. iTaba: LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA

## Kune na makete ni pateta ni Nadarivatu

LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA

CAVUIKALAWA tale na Minisitiri ni Vakayagataki qele ena nona sa kunea na makete ni papaeta damudamu ni Nadarivatu. Sega walega ni kunei na makete sa takeivutaki talega edua na nodra Farmers Trust Scheme. Kaya ko Minisita ni Teitei o Dr Mahendra Reddy ni 7000 na kilokaramu ni pateta damudamu oqo esa cavu oti kasa volia na Agricultural Marketing

Authority ena \$1.50 dua na kilokaramu. Na Farmers Trust e dau musuka e 15 na pasede ni pateta era volitaka me ilavo ni tu vakaraua ena gauna ni tei pateta. “Na iwalewale ni tei pateta oqo ena vukei ira na dau teitei ena loma ni vanua ka keitou sa vakauqeti ira talega na dau vakaua ivoli ki valagi mera dolava nodra trust account,”kaya o Dr Reddy. “Na pateta damudamu oqo esa volia tiko vakalevu o Ositerelia kei Indonesia.



Kaya ko Minisita ni Teitei ko Dr Mahendra Reddy ni 7000 na kilokaramu ni pateta damudamu oqo esa cavu oti kasa volia na Agricultural Marketing Authority ena \$1.50 dua na kilokaramu. iTaba: LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA