



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with a council member at the Nadroga/Navosa Provincial Council Meeting held at the Nasigatoka Village Hall in Sigatoka.
Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Fiji's recovery a joint effort: PM

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJI'S road to recovery was only possible due to joint effort between the Government, the people—with communities, the private sector, with the civil society organisations and the

provincial councils.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while opening the Nadroga/Navosa Provincial Council meeting held at the Nasigatoka Village Hall in Sigatoka on Wednesday, said "Fiji is back, our economy is strong and getting stronger every day".

Speaking specifically on the development of the province, Prime Minister Bainimarama said from 2014 until 2021, the Government has invested just shy of \$75 million of development into the province.

"A good portion was used to elevate the status of Navosa, which was ignored for

decades by past leadership. We don't view Nadroga-

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QUOTE OF THE
WEEK

Voreqe
Bainimarama.

*"iTaukei land ownership
has never been more
secure and more useful to
its owners than it is today"*

Voreqe Bainimarama
Prime Minister

NUMBERS

"\$79 million

to improve conditions in Cakadrove
Province—to make life better for the
people who live there."

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama
@FijiPM

*This morning I saw a miracle:
The first two surgeries at the
Sanjeevani Children's Heart
Hospital saved the lives of
two children, one aged three
and the other aged 10. From
now until 6 May there are
30 procedures planned. 30
surgeries. 30 children. 30 new
leases on life.*

CONTACT DETAILS

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Main office: New Wing, Ground Floor, Government
Buildings, Suva

North office: Level 3 Macuata House, Labasa

West office: Level 1 Ratu Nauliano House, Koroivalu

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

Education Minister hands over CCEM chair to Kenya



Fijian Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar speaks at the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) held in Nairobi, Kenya last week. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE Fijian Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar has handed over the Chair of the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) to Kenya.

Fiji has been the chair of CCEM since 2018 and chaired the 20CCEM in Nadi, which was guided by the concept of Talanoa and embraced the Fijian "Bula Spirit" of friendliness, inclusiveness, and solidarity.

Fiji has worked with member states and the Secretariat to deliver on policy recommendations made in the 20CCEM despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The policies put in place have reflected on the work Fiji had taken to lead globally in the great challenges facing our planet — the campaign against climate change and the preservation of our oceans.

Minister Kumar, who attended the 21st CCEM in Kenya last week, handed over chair to Government of Kenya's Cabinet Secretary, Ministry

of Education Professor George A.O. Magoha.

During the meeting, the Fijian Education Minister met with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland QC, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Professor Asha Kanwar and the Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), Dr Joanna Newman.

It was acknowledged that being women leaders in education provided a point of commonality during their fruitful discussion, which touched upon the support that the Commonwealth Secretariat, COL and ACU can provide to our education sector.

"As a member of the Commonwealth, Fiji has access to a number of resources to benefit ECE, primary, secondary, TVET and tertiary education which we plan to take advantage of as we reform our education sector," Minister Kumar said.

The Secretary General of the Commonwealth commended Fiji for hosting an excellent 20th Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers (20CCEM) in 2018, and reported that all the agreed outcomes of that Conference was accomplished.

She also recognised Fiji for the inclusion of climate change education to prepare, and respond better in a climate challenged world.

The theme for this year's 21CCEM is: 'Rethinking Education for Innovation, Growth and Sustainability post-Covid-19'.

The Ministers met Nairobi to discuss how member countries can build resilience in education, provide equity in education for all students, and use finance in innovative ways to provide the best funding options for education.

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Fijian Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar with the Secretary-General of the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM) Patricia Scotland QC. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Fiji looks to further reduce carbon footprint

Prashila Devi

F IJI intends to bring down its own carbon footprint by 30 per cent, despite being a negligible contributor.

The Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said even though Fiji, or even the whole of the Pacific island countries, contribute a negligible amount to global emissions, it also needs to show its commitments.

Speaking at the launch of the Fiji National Climate Finance Strategy at the Fiji National University's Sports Complex in Nasinu this week, the A-G said for Fiji one of the measures will be having electric buses.

"I mean, we don't want buses that climb up this small hill up in Kinoya to be emitting carbon dioxide. We would like to one day see

electric buses just across the road," he said.

The A-G said the Government was going to set up a Suburban Bus Terminal for these electric buses in the Valelevu grounds.

"These buses will actually run around the Nasinu area to be able to provide service to get into streets where buses currently don't go into. One of the conditions of buses getting the license will be at least to start off, each one of them should have one electric bus," he added.

He said they were working with organisations such as World Resource Institute to get Fiji into that space- "to be able to access finance to have those electric buses up and running" which, while costing money, will improve the quality of the lives of the Fijian people.

The A-G also gave an update on improving Fiji's access to concessional financing.

"So we now have concessional financing

from the World Bank and zero percent interest rate and 0.75 per cent is the service fee. The Asian Development Bank has since this year given us access to get concessional financing. The Japanese for example, now on a bilateral basis are recognising our vulnerability to climate change."

He said Fiji was now getting finance under climate catastrophe funding at 0.01 per cent interest rate on a 40 year term with a 10 year grace period.

"This essentially means that you end up having at least 60 per cent of the loan that you borrowed as grant, which a lot of people talk about debt do not understand what they're talking about."

"So, these changes have taken place but as we have as a country have decided that we need to be able to be one step ahead of the ballgame."



State of the art heart hospital to support children of the Pacific

AZARIA FAREEN

LIFESAVING heart surgery has commenced on some of our most vulnerable children at the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital Fiji situated in Muanikau Road in Nasese.

This follows the inauguration of the Hospital recently by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama who said the \$25 million development was the largest project ever undertaken by any non-governmental organisation in Fiji's history.

The hospital was built under the Sai Prema Foundation Fiji, a charitable organisation founded to serve the poor, underprivileged and needy people of Fiji through Medicare, Educare and Sociocare initiatives.

In acknowledging the wonderful initiative, PM Bainimarama said the hospital was born from the compassion and commitment of the Sai Global Federation of Foundations which delivers humanitarian services the world over.

"Despite the enormous chal-

lenges presented by the global pandemic, the Sai Prema team managed to bring in specialised equipment and technical expertise from around the world such as USA, Canada, Europe, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"The 54-bed hospital has a state-of-the-art Cath Lab, Operating Theatre, Intensive Care Unit, and Pre-operative and Post-operative Wards and will start helping to save young lives," he added.

"The Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital also includes a Training Centre with technological capabilities for international Video Conferencing which will ensure that the Hospital stays abreast of the latest advancements in paediatric medicine."

"Today happens to be my birthday, and I can confidently say that I can't imagine a more important gift than to be here with you, opening a gateway to a better life for hundreds—and eventually thousands—of children," the Head of Government added.

Approximately 200 children

are born in Fiji every year with Congenital Heart Disease and the number skyrockets to 2,500 children if the entire Pacific region was included.

Sai Prema Foundation director, Sumeet Tappoo, in acknowledging PM Bainimarama for his leadership said the hospital was for the people of Fiji and the Pacific.

"Children will no longer have to go overseas for treatment which is now available at their doorstep and most importantly, this hospital does not have a billing counter and will never have it," Mr Tappoo said.

"As the hospital opens, it has a three-pronged approach and a 5-point vision – to serve the children with compassionate health care free of cost, to ultimately have our own surgeons and medical professionals to be based at this hospital, early screening programs, implement genetic study and research and engaging leading healthcare professionals from around the world."

From now until 6 May, there are 30 heart procedures will be carried out.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with members of the Sai Prema Foundation during the opening of the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital Fiji in Muanikau Road in Nasese. PHOTO: AZARIA FAREEN

Fiji's recovery a joint effort: PM



FROM PAGE 1

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with council members at the Nadroga/Navosa Provincial Council Meeting. PHOTO: MEREANI GONEDUA

Navosa as a forgotten province or a small part of a vast confederacy — you are on equal footing with every part of Fiji," he said.

He said that \$38 million was used for health services, from which \$30 million used to build the Keiyasi hospital, which serves villages such as Noikoro, Nasikawa, Namataku, Bemanana, Naqalimare, Navatusila and Nasivikoso in Ba.

The Head of Government also spoke about road infrastructure development and stated that \$13.48 million was used to build roads in Nubuyanitu, Draubuta, Nakoro, Nawairabe, Navitilevu, and Matokana.

"When I think of Nadroga-Navosa, I think of the development we've delivered together for your people. I think

of the beautiful Coral Coast and the vital role it plays in Fijian tourism. I think of your rugby legends, past and present. I think of your vast untapped potential."

He shared his reflection on where Fiji was during the two years of the pandemic and the current recovery efforts, of the risks that the Government had to take and the support of the ordinary Fijians.

"I also thought back to the risks that Fiji faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. We drove past dozens of hotels to get here, all of them open and all of them employing Fijians, many of whom call this province home. Every Fijian who is working in an open hotel is a testament to the success of the policy we implemented in response to the pandemic," Prime Minister Baini-

marama said.

He said the Government paid out \$500 million in direct and indirect Government assistance to Fijians affected by the pandemic; those who lost their jobs, those on reduced hours, fisherfolks, taxi drivers, market vendors, domestic cleaners — everyone.

Prime Minister Bainimarama was accorded a traditional welcoming ceremony by the Vanua of Nadroga/Navosa and was accompanied by the Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and Minister for Health and Medical Services Doctor Ifereimi Waqainabete.

A talanoa session was also held to discuss and address issues such as water connectivity, rural electrification and transportation issues faced by the villages in the Province.

Revised Bus Fare Allowance Payment Schedule for Social Welfare Recipients

THE Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation has announced a Revised Bus Fare Allowance Payment Schedule.

The bus fare allowance refers to the subsidy scheme of the Fijian Government that assists older persons (aged 60+) and persons living with disabilities, whereby 41,600 individuals are being assisted with a transport allowance.

As per the mini budget announcement in March, 2022, this allowance has been increased from \$10 to \$25 per month.

The Ministry will be paying the new Busfare Top Up as a lump sum to cover 3 months travel allowance. The Ministry will make a quarterly payment of \$75 with effect from May, 2022.

We advise our Recipients to use their allowances wisely and make it last three months.

If the funds are utilised before the end of the July, the recipients will need to top up their cards at their own expense, until the next payment is processed in August 2022.

Recipients are kindly reminded to carry their Social Welfare bus fare ID cards (yellow for Older Persons and red for Persons with Disability) together with their e-transport card (purple for Older Persons and green for Persons with Disability) for easy ID verification while travelling.

The Ministry officials with relevant stakeholders will monitor the implementation of the program.

For any feedback or inquiries, please contact your nearest Department of Social welfare district office or send a message via the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation's Facebook page.

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)



Australia Governor-General conveys appreciation for warm Fijian hospitality



Australian Governor General, David Hurley, who was in Fiji on a State visit, being accorded the traditional welcome ceremony. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

The Australian Governor General David Hurley has conveyed his appreciation to the Fijian Government and the people of Fiji for the kind hospitality accorded to him, his wife Mrs Linda Hurley and the Australian delegation.

The Australian Head of State visited Fiji for the historic State visit last week - which for the first time also featured a programme in Vanua Levu.

Providing an overview of his visit to Fiji

upon his departure, Governor-General Hurley said, "The last three days have been a celebration of the Vuvale Partnership. A partnership which provides a platform for increased cooperation, consultation and friendship between our two nations as we work together toward a shared goal of a secure, stable and prosperous Pacific region".

"Linda and I are very grateful for the invitation of their Excellencies the President and First Lady to make a state visit

to Fiji, and to all involved in supporting such a memorable program which has highlighted the breadth and depth of our partnership.

"To share a day with the President and First Lady in their home village of Naduri on Vanua Levu reinforced the sense of vuvale and an occasion Linda and I will treasure for years to come."

Governor General Hurley said that Australia was proud of the success of the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership and the im-

portant progress it continues to make.

The Fijian Government would like to thank all the stakeholders and the Fijian people for their support in making this State visit a memorable one.

Governor-General Hurley's visit to Fiji is the first by an Australian Governor-General since 1993.

Fiji and Australia friendship and our Vuvale Partnership is stronger than ever.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Governor General visits Vanua Levu, gets warm welcome

THE Governor-General of Australia, David Hurley, and his wife Linda Hurley were given a warm welcome when they visited Naduri Village in Vanua Levu during the historic State visit last week.

The Governor-General was welcomed by the Fijian President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere and accorded a traditional welcome ceremony at the village before enjoying a cultural performance by the people of Naduri.

In thanking the people of Naduri for their performance, Mrs Hurley sang a song and was joined in by Governor General Hurley.

They then opened the newly constructed Maramarua District Kindergarten in Vanua Levu, today.

The Governor General also toured the school and took time to meet the students before having lunch with the school reconstruction architects, Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) engineers, and school community.

Governor General Hurley said the school was a symbol of the "strength of this

relationship" and an example that when our two nation work together "enormously good things can happen for the country".

"We talk about Vuvale-our family and the family starts with the children and educating our children. It's great to be part of this celebration here for the future of Fiji."

Acting Minister for Education, Faiyaz Koya highlighted that the Vuvale partnership with the Government of Australia towards the education sector has increased people-to-people ties.

"The funding provided for the Maramarua District School Kindergarten is yet another example of the friendship between our two nations."

"The Government of Australia continued its support, over the past two years, as the Fijian Government rolled out its strategies to counter the COVID-19 pandemic."

Minister Koya added that Australia has supported the Fijian education sector for over 30 years.

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Australian Governor General, David Hurley, and his wife Linda Hurley during their visit to Naduri village in Vanua Levu where they were accorded a traditional welcome ceremony and hosted by Fijian President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere. Photos: FELIX LESINAVALU



New RFNS Stanley Brown Wharf and Gymnasium

THE Governor-General of Australia, David Hurley, and his wife Linda Hurley opened the new RFNS Stanley Brown Wharf and Gymnasium, last week.

Governor General Hurley said the completion of the wharf was a significant milestone in the Australia-Fiji vuvale relationship, for the Fiji Navy and for the nation as a whole.

"Fiji's leadership in the maritime domain is impressive and testament to leadership in the nation. As island nations, we know that maritime security is critical to the safety and security of our region."

Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing Inia Seruiratu said Fiji and Australia equally share and value the ocean and its natural resources.

"The porous nature of our borders together with isolated islands expose our vulnerability to unprecedented maritime threats. The provision of the Guardian Patrol Boats and the upgrading of the Stanley Brown Wharf will significantly reaffirm our posture in the maritime domain," Minister Seruiratu said.



Governor-General of Australia, David Hurley, during his visit to the Stanley Brown Naval Base.
PHOTO: FELIX LESINAIVALU.

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Fiji-Australia ties have changed lives

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJI and Australia have had each other's back during times of disasters which has changed lives.

During the four day State visit by the Governor General of Australian, General David Hurley, the relationship between the two countries, especially during times of disasters, was acknowledged.

Governor General Hurley, while visiting the National Disaster Management Office Warehouse in Walu Bay last week, spoke on the importance of having strategies and logistics to deal with disasters.

He said Australia had given monetary assistance to Fiji during times of disasters but more important than that was the interface between personnel in the two countries while responding to natural disasters.

"For the engine of the response-that's where the dollars are spent-and for each of you who works in the headquarters in the mainstream hands on - the logistics are critical," Governor General Hurley said.

"This warehouse- absolutely critical to the flow through to the people who are in need- we can't deposit it if we don't have a logistics system and we cannot respond without a logistics system so you know better than me how all this ties together."

Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management Office, Inia Seruiratu

tu highlighted that in Fiji's time of need, Australia has stood with Fiji not only during times of disaster but also the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Seruiratu said Fiji has also benefitted from Australia's support in the provision of technical expertise in emergency telecommunications, the upgrading of the information technology capacities of the National Emergency Operations Centre and business continuity support during the height of COVID-19 in the country.

"We hope to further progress our 'Vuvale partnership' through the development of projects and other areas of co-operation that will ultimately strengthen our mutual resilience to disasters and ensure the sustainable development of our respective nations and people," he said.

Minister Seruiratu said that in the last 10 years Tropical Cyclones alone have caused over \$3 billion in damage and 67 deaths in total.

"We are grateful that the Australian Government, in recognising the importance of disaster risk reduction and preparedness, has supported the establishment of the Preparedness and Response Fund under the Fiji Program Support Facility."

For Fiji's part, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces had stepped in to assist their Australian counterpart's response to the bushfires in 2019 and in the following years with the floods in parts of Australia.

Well-deserved facility for vendors

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

WOMEN market vendors from the Nausori Municipal Market are now able to have a proper and comfortable place to rest for the night at the market complex.

This was after the opening of the Nausori Market Women's Accommodation Centre by the Australian Governor General David Hurley and the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya.

Funded by the UN Markets for Change program, the project can house 80 women at once and cost \$629,380.

Of the 1,179 vendors in the Nausori Market, 443 are women and 53 percent of these women are from the interior of rural areas of Fiji - mainly Tailevu, Naitasiri and Rewa, with some women coming from Rakiraki and Ba.

The United Nations Development Programme, UN Women and the women vendors themselves have been instrumental in the Markets for Change program.

"By providing accommodation, these women do not have to expend on transportation nor do they have to wake up in the wee hours of the morning only to spend their nights along the market corridor, bus stands or streets, waiting for the market to open the next day," Minister Koya said.

The first-floor of the accommodation was equipped with a restroom area with special needs ensuite, shower facility, large dining area and two storage rooms.

It will also houses a large sleeping area of 142sqm that can also be used for trainings, workshops and consultations.

The ground floor has been made an open area that will be used to host vendors who were otherwise selling outside or from under temporary tents.



The wife of the Australian Governor General, Linda Hurley, with a market vendor at the Nausori Market during the opening of the women's accommodation centre.
Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

Three kiosks will also provide catering to help generate additional income, and there is an area dedicated to a vertical lift - creating flexibility to persons with reduced mobility.

Australian Governor General, David Hurley reminded the vendors of the importance of their role in their work environment and that the strength of a market is that it continues to forge close partnerships between stakeholders at all levels.

"Markets are critical to life in all countries. Markets operate efficiently when the vendors can arrive safely, deliver their goods, make their sale, retain their earnings, and be securely accommodated overnight if they require to be. That is critical, so to have this facility today, is a life changer for the women of the Nausori Market because it provides you with better health, safety and security outcomes," Mr Hurley said.

Women accommodation centers for municipal markets are present in almost all major towns and cities including Suva, Sigatoka, Nadi, Namaka, Ba, Rakiraki and Labasa.



Investment in sporting facilities shows returns

PRASHILA DEVI

THERE has been an investment of \$77 million into sporting development in Fiji in the last decade, says Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

The Head of Government highlighted this while opening the Community Sports Association conference at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva recently.

Speaking to members of the Government, the Fiji National Commission, sports leaders and athletes, Prime Minister Bainimarama said such conferences helped create dialogues on how to develop different sports, maximise performance, and how to involve more people in athletics.

He said this goes together with investment in infrastructure.

"We've also built parks and gymnasiums, invested in world-class coaching talent, and sent our athletes to compete around

the world as proud ambassadors for Fiji," Prime Minister Bainimarama added.

"More than 10 years on, we've all seen how those investments have steadily paid off. Today, the FSC is a household name. It has helped lift hundreds of athletes from community pitches to the highest stages in the world. And our athletes and coaches have done the rest."

Recounting Fiji's accolades, Prime Minister Bainimarama said with three Gold medals; two in sevens rugby at the Summer Olympics and one in the Paralympics, a bronze medal for the Fijiana and three world 7s series titles was a good return on this investment.

"We've lifted, punched, swam, and ran our way to big wins in the South Pacific Games, Oceania Championships, And Commonwealth games. We've hosted tournaments in everything from chess, hockey and



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with participants of the Community Sports Association conference. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

table tennis, to karate, yachting, swimming and volleyball. Sports like boxing, netball, soccer and cricket are on the rise in popularity," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"We are breaking the bias around women's participation in sports — empowering girls

to pursue athletics, not only as a passion but as a rewarding career, and more than ten years on, we've all seen how those investments have steadily paid off."

"Supported by their Government, our athletes have delivered moments that none of us will ever forget," he added.

Prime Minister Bainimarama advised the participants of the conference to seek more ways to make young girls and women feel welcome in their athletic pursuits and think about how to create opportunities for athletes looking to make the move from competitor to coach.

Fijian Government and SPC reaffirm partnership

THE Fijian Government and Pacific Community (SPC) have pledged unwavering commitment and partnership for the advancement of a more resilient and sustainable future for Fiji and the Pacific region. This was reinforced during the courtesy call paid to the Permanent Secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs, Yogesh Karan from the Director-General of the Pacific Community (SPC), Dr. Stuart Minchin. At the meeting held recently at the office of the Prime Minister, discussions focused on the current areas of engagements and the way forward to strengthen partnership between the Fijian Government and SPC.

Mr Karan acknowledged SPC's timely support to Fiji and the region during times of great need, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He commended SPC for the strategic approach taken to develop Fiji's Country Programme, tailored to Fiji's national priorities and national development framework.

Mr Karan also assured the Fijian Government's support for this new initiative which, will broaden the scope of programs aimed at the empowerment of communities in Fiji and the region.

He reaffirmed the Fijian Government's commitment to regional solidarity, in addressing common challenges and exploring opportunities for resilient recovery post-COVID-19 and climate change.

The importance of 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent in the advancement of regional prosperity, was also highlighted at the meeting. He extended the Fijian Government's appreciation to Dr. Minchin for his leadership and commitment to Fiji and the region, with assurances of Fijian Government's support to elevate the levels of cooperation in mutual interests. Dr. Minchin said that, "SPC enjoys strong support from the Government of Fiji as host country to SPC's biggest regional office. "We commit to working together to maximise development opportunities for Pacific Island countries and territories as we face the manifest challenges of climate change, disasters and COVID-19 recovery in our region."

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

PM receives courtesy call from Australian Governor-General

PRIME Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama received a courtesy call from the Governor-General of Australia, David Hurley during his State visit to Fiji last week.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that Fiji was proud to host this State visit, the first state visit since the re-opening of Fiji's international borders, and it reaffirms Fiji-Australia's strong friendship and Vuvale Partnership.

The Prime Minister expressed the Fijian Government's appreciation to Australia for supporting Fiji in this time of great need, especially the assistance that Australia has provided towards Fiji's national response to COVID-19, through provisions of life saving vaccines and social support programs, which had enabled Fiji to progress steadily into a recovery phase.

He reaffirmed the Fijian Government's commitment to work closely with Australia in addressing common challenges, while maximising opportunities for achieving resilient and sustainable recovery for Fiji and the region.

Prime Minister Bainimarama acknowledged the two nations' shared aspirations for climate action and ocean conservation, with assurances for continued partnership in climate and disaster resilience.

He expressed appreciation for Australia's assistance towards Fiji's rebuilding efforts and humanitarian support provided after natural disasters such as Tropical Cyclones Yasa and Ana.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that Fiji was grateful for Australia's assistance in the recently commissioned Black Rock camp in Nadi, which was a demonstration of Australia's commitment to the advancement of regional defence and security, with opportunities for deeper engagement in humanitarian services and capacity building in



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama meets the Governor General of Australia David Hurley in his office. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

peacekeeping.

Fiji looks forward to the launch of the new Maritime Essential Service Centre (MESCC), which was yet another timely assistance by Australia, and the new facility will significantly enhance Fiji and the region's maritime capabilities.

In his capacity as the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked Australia for its support to the Forum, and he took the opportunity to brief the Governor-General on the key plans and priorities of the Forum.

In response, Governor-General Hurley thanked Prime Minister Bainimarama for the warm hospitality accorded to him and Mrs Hurley upon their arrival to Fiji last night.

"While the past two years have thrown up unprecedented challenges, as vuvale, we have pulled together."

"I congratulate the Government of Fiji for leading a swift and effective

response to COVID-19."

"I am proud that Australia was able to step up and support your health response, and that we are now seeing Australian tourists returning to Fiji, and Fiji's economy on a trajectory for recovery."

"Our Vuvale Partnership continues to provide a platform for elevated cooperation, consultation, and friendship between our two nations as we work together with the common goal of building a Pacific region that is secure, stable, and prosperous."

"Linda and I are delighted to be in Fiji and to have the opportunity to spend time with the community and further strengthen our close connection," Governor-General Hurley said.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Fiji calls for fair, equitable access to finance

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJI has used every fiscal resource it could muster to respond and reset the course toward the 2030 Agenda, says Attorney-General and Minister Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

At the 2022 Economic and Social (ECOSOC) Council Forum on Financing for Development – a hybrid virtual event held recently, the A-G said citizens of Small States suffer the most from global disasters they did not cause and as their leaders, protecting their lives and livelihoods was not a choice but a duty.

“The global financial system serves as a secure foundation for wealthy countries in times of crisis, but its cracks can swallow developing nations. The smaller we are, the further we can fall.”

“Developing countries, on average, spend five times more than developed countries to service their borrowing, often to respond to crises we didn’t cause.”

The A-G highlighted that since signing the Paris Agreement, 13 cyclones have wiped out half of the Fijian gross domestic product (GDP) — “the equivalent of a \$13 trillion (FJ\$27.85 trillion) loss to the US economy” and then there was COVID-19 which had decimated the livelihood of over 100,000 Fijians and erased a fifth of the Fijian economy.

“We, the victims, suffer more and pay more to

the same system that rewards the perpetrators with cheap finance – that is the fundamental injustice at the heart of our global debt architecture. And if there’s a “moral hazard” of relevance in this conversation on global finance, that is it,” the A-G said.

He added that the fact remains that 10 per cent of Fiji’s debt burden was owed to climate disasters alone and as the scale for these disasters increase, so must the access to concessional finance.

The A-G reiterated that Fiji supports the calls for the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to explore and propose well-structured debt for nature swaps or other structural financing changes.

“We urge the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and other multilateral institutions to ensure that eligibility for their climate-related programs and funding is based on our climate vulnerability and not our OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) income status.”

The A-G said Fiji had shown it was able to strategically use the finance made available.

“We are building back better, bluer, greener and in even closer collaboration with the private sector and in line with the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).”

“In 2018, we became the first emerging economy to issue a sovereign green bond. We’re strengthening climate resilience across our entire infrastructure network; relocating communities, and harnessing nature to protect our people.”



The 2022 Economic and Social (ECOSOC) Council Forum on Financing for Development that was attended by the Attorney - General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum virtually. **Photo NANISE NEIMILA.**

Environment Minister welcomes court decision

The Minister for Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy has welcomed the fine imposed on Freesoul Real Estate Development Limited by the Suva High Court.

Freesoul Real Estate Development Limited has been fined \$1 million by the Suva High Court for two counts of undertaking unauthorised developments at Malolo Island in 2018.

The charges against Freesoul relate to the failure to comply with a Prohibition Notice issued by the Department of Environment in June 2018 and carrying out resort development activity in Malolo without an approved Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Freesoul has also been ordered to post a refundable environmental bond of \$1.4million with the Department of Environment and rehabilitate the affected areas to the satisfaction of the Department at its own expense.

Minister Reddy said the decision by High Court Judge, Justice Daniel Goundar would also act as a deterrent and warning to all investors in the country to conduct development that isn’t harmful to the environment.

“We’re now getting the country to understand about the importance of the environment and how important the environment is to our quality of life and it is our moral responsibility to handover these natural resources, the biodiversity and the environment in the same manner that it was handed over to us and if possible build resilience and expand the stock of this environment and hand it over to the future generations.

“In this regard, the Ministry of Environment wholeheartedly welcomes the decision of High Court

Judge, Justice Daniel Goundar, on the fine that was imposed on Freesoul, the company that was developing the hotel in Malolo Island,” he said.

“There are two components of the fine, two components of the ruling, one was the \$1million fine that will go to the Courts and the second component was the \$1.4million of bond deposits for rehabilitation works, refundable bond for rehabilitation work,” Minister Reddy added.

He shared instances whereby investors tried to strong-arm the Department of Environment into disregarding and exempting their EIA reports in order to fast track development and in the name of employment creation.

“We will not allow anyone to use any excuse even though we were at a quite difficult phase of history for this country and the world in terms of our growth scenario, however much we need investment, we will not let these excuses push us to make shortcuts which could lead to irreversible damage to our environment,” Minister Reddy said.

“We will not allow for that to happen so the level of fine imposed on the company sends a clear message to all investors who are interacting with the environment on a daily basis to be mindful of the repercussions of their businesses on the environment.”

Minister Reddy also highlighted that the second component of the fine, which was the \$1.4million refundable bond also demonstrated the magnitude of work that needed to be done to restore the ecosystem and the natural environment to its original state.

(Source: Ministry of Waterways and Environment)

New Zealand’s Climate Change Ambassador meets A-G



Attorney - General and Minister responsible for the climate change, Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum meets the New Zealand’s Ambassador for Climate Change Kay Harrison in Suva recently. **Photo NANISE NEIMILA.**

FIJI has shown great leadership in the climate change space through years of strong commitment and delivery.

This was highlighted by New Zealand’s Ambassador for Climate Change, Kay Harrison when she met with the Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, on her first dedicated climate change visit to the Pacific.

During the meeting in Suva recently, Ambassador Harrison expressed New Zealand’s intention to assist Fiji in accessing climate finance – particularly through their newly announced climate aid contribution of NZ\$1.3 billion (FJ\$1.8b) over four years to support countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Ambassador also conveyed her gratitude towards Fiji’s great leadership in the climate change space through years of strong commitment and delivery, emphasising on Fiji’s ground-breaking climate change legislation – the Climate Change Act.

The A-G highlighted Fiji’s heightened vulnerability to climate change and the recent mitigation and adaptation strategies undertaken by the Fijian Government - including the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure such as underground cabling.

He also emphasised on the importance of accessing affordable climate finance and the support of bilateral partners, such as New Zealand, to assist Fiji in delivering its climate change commitments.

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Financial training helps Nadroga youth become self-sufficient

FOR the young adults, a key component to growth is having the ability to understand and apply financial skills.

The Minister for Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar, while officiating at the Closing of the Empowerment Training on Financial Literacy held at Raiwaqa Village in Nadroga recently said financial literacy is one of the major challenges facing young Fijians in becoming self-sufficient.

“When we talk about financial literacy we are usually referring to a set of skills that allow people to manage their money wisely,” he said.

The three-day training saw a participation of 36 members from six youth clubs.

“This training was intended to assist the youth here in planning, budgeting and management of your respective projects and sales- to help you move from subsistence to commercial farming.”



Photos: Supplied

PM's Walk of Restoration

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama participated in the Yellow Ribbon “Walk of Restoration” organised by the Fiji Corrections Services (FCS) at Albert Park in Suva recently.

The event raised awareness on FCS's second chance program which came to a halt due to the CO-

VID-19 pandemic.

The five kilometre walk attracted more than 4000 registered participants – the highest number till date – and provided refreshments, face painting, entertainment, dog show and other activities for the public.

Photos: Azaria Fareen



Fijians turn out in big numbers

Fijians from all walks of life flocked to the ANZ Stadium recently to watch the Swire Shipping Fiji Drua vs. Highlanders Super Rugby match.

President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Cabinet ministers, and their families were among the crowd cheering on the boys.

Frank Lomani, Vinaya Habosi, and Kalaveti Ravouvou scored tries for the Swire Shipping Fiji Drua along with two converted tries from Teti Tela. A penalty by Fiji Drua fly half Teti Tela just before halftime gave the Drua a 24-17 lead.

The Highlanders scored three tries, kicked three conversions and two penalties, and won 27 - 24.

Photos : Nanise Neimila



A-G opens photo exhibit on climate change

The Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum launched the UK Pacific Climate Change Photography Exhibition at the Sofitel Fiji Resort in Nadi.

The event which was held for the first time in the Western division featured over 60 top photos from a wide range of photographers from the Pacific, as young as nine years old.

The British High Commissioner to Fiji, Dr Brian Jones reaffirmed UK's support to the Pacific and in particular to Fiji in combatting the impacts of Climate Change.

The A-G had side discussions with several youths, academia, private entrepreneurs and the tourism sector on potential partnerships and collaboration.

Photos : Nanise Neimila



Gallau drainage works benefits over 35 farmers

THE recently completed drainage works will extremely boost Farming activities in the Gallau Settlement in Rakiraki.

Surrounded by the mountains from one side, situated in a flat zone, flooding has been a major burden for more than 30 farmers in Gallau.

The Ministry of Waterways has recently completed a total of 3947 meters of drainage works which has addressed flooding for over 35 vegetable, sugarcane and rice farmers.

According to the area advisory councilor Shri Krishna, the completion of drainage works has been a big relief to the farmers.

“There are more than 35 vegetable farmers who are farming in this area and some of them are farming at a large scale that is sugarcane and vegetable,” he said.

“During the rain, water from the mountains comes down the main drain and spills into the farms and over the roads due to the heavily silted drains,” he said.

Mr Krishna said this has resulted in a major decrease in sugarcane and vegetable production as farmers used to lose most crops to flood during the rainy season of the year.

He further acknowledged the support and assistance from the Ministry of Waterways which has protected farmers from floods and supported their food and income security as most are full-time farmers

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy said the drainage and flood protection program was designed to assist these rural communities and further support their livelihood.

He said the drainage works will enable farmers to double their production and ensure their income and food security are not affected.

Minister Reddy further reiterated that the Ministry of Waterways has been continuously working with the farming communities to support their growth

The 3947 meters of desilting works include the removal of all debris, grass, shrubs, and vegetation to allow for unobstructed water flow.

Meanwhile, the Ministry also completed a total of 800 meters of drainage works at Varavu in Ba recently to support over 20 farming households.

According to the area advisory councillor, Samuela Nailiva, the completion of drainage works has provided relief to farmers



Drainage works being carried out by contractors hired by Ministry of Waterways Photo: SUPPLIED

and the residents.

“Because of the poor drainage system, most of the farming land became waterlogged. Due to this many farmers had abandoned their farming land,” he said.

Mr Nailiva said following the completion of drainage works, many farmers have

returned to re-cultivate their farming land and resumed farming activities to support their livelihood.

(Source: Ministry of Waterways and Environment)

Student leaders encouraged to focus on studies and personal development

F IJIANS have been urged to recognise the need to foster and strengthen the leadership roles that young leaders need in these times.

Minister for Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar, while officiating at the 2022 Student Leaders Induction at Votualevu Public School in Nadi recently, said that parents and teachers in particular take the spotlight, for without their love and care, their children would not be where they are in life.

“Parents place a great amount of trust in teachers to care for, further educate and inspire you children,” Minister Kumar said.

He said basic education and values are taught at home and are reinforced in the classroom.

“To the elected leaders of the school, let me remind you that as leaders of the school, you are now role models. The badge which will be given to you today must serve as a daily reminder of the task and responsibility that you have each been entrusted with. I have no doubt that you will carry out your duties and obligations to the best of your abilities. It is therefore

my duty also to urge you to accept this challenge and responsibility.”

Furthermore, Minister Kumar also commented on Fiji’s road to recovery.

“We are very grateful that we are slowly moving back to normalcy through brave decisions taken by the Government and its key stakeholders in the vaccination programs carried out that allowed Fiji to get to a stage today where our borders are beginning to open with travel partners,” he said.

The Minister said commencing of the school and sports programs was a “testament to our resilience and strength”.

“We are very delighted with the fact that sports are now fully operating on a national level and importantly in all our schools and we welcome both our spectators and participants.”

He encouraged them to concentrate on their studies and personal development.

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Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar with teachers and student of Votualevu Public School in Nadi recently. Photo SUPPLIED

iTaukei land ownership intact - Cakaudrove told

Josefa Uluilakeba

“YOU don’t have to strain your eyes to see the progress we’ve made here in Cakaudrove. It is all around you.”

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at the opening of the Cakaudrove Provincial Council meeting in Yaroi village in Savusavu held last week.

Addressing representatives of the 15 districts, guests and Government officials, Prime Minister Bainimarama said that from 2014 to 2021, the Government has dedicated more than \$79 million to improve conditions in the province—to make life better for the people who live there.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said, “Under the Northern Development Programme, Cakaudrove received more than \$25 million and a sum of over \$20 million was allocated to road construction and maintenance”.

“We are continuing our drive to provide electricity for all rural communities and also to prioritise clean and renewable energy to help combat climate change so we have invested more than \$8 million in rural electrification and solar projects here.”

“The Government has also spent more than \$7 million on water and sanitation and through Energy Fiji Limited we spent over \$2 million on grid extensions and dedicated more than \$3 million to provide more effective assistance to welfare recipients in



Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Voreqe Bainimarama with the District representatives during the Cakaudrove Provincial Council meeting. Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Cakaudrove.”

The Prime Minister further stated that more than 40 sites in Vanua Levu now had internet access allowing students, teachers, and healthcare workers to access information and connect with their fellow Fijians and communities can share that access as well.

While addressing the topic of iTaukei land, Prime Minister Bainimarama assured the council that “iTaukei land ownership has

never been more secure and more useful to its owners than it is today”.

“Ownership has remained fully intact. Nothing has been taken, and nothing ever will be taken. That is your constitutional guarantee, which I am sworn to uphold.”

“Under past constitutions and past governments, iTaukei land was allowed to be converted and given away forever — that can never happen again because we finally have a Fijian Constitution that makes that

impossible,” the Prime Minister explained.

In addition, he said the Government had enacted the equal distribution of lease monies in 2011 which provided for the equal distribution of lease money of all those listed under a landowning unit in the Vola ni Kawa Bula.

At present, \$27.1 million have been invested by TLTB on behalf of more than 27,000 young people below the age of 18 all of whom can access their funds when they turn 18 to pay for their higher education or even start their own business.

The Government in the recently announced Revised Budget 2021-2022 the provision of \$1 million for constructing access roads on iTaukei land earmarked for development; \$500,000 for the survey of residential leases; \$500,000 for the survey of agricultural leases and \$1 million to pay for arrears on agricultural and residential leases.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also officiated at the ground breaking ceremony for the new Cakaudrove Provincial office at Yaroi.

Nabouwalu fire station commissioned



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama arrives for the commissioning of the Nabouwalu Fire Station. Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Josefa Uluilakeba

NABOUWALU has now become home to the 12th fire station that was established by the Government since 2011 and also became the 21st fire station in the country.

As Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama proudly stated, “Prior to that, only nine stations existed in Fiji so in 11 years we’ve built more fire stations than were built throughout all of our independent history”.

While commissioning the Nabouwalu Fire Station last week, Prime Minister Bainimarama reflected that fire can cost a family or business owners everything they own in a few horrific hours — or even minutes — with years of hard work going up in smoke.

“When we came into Government, we knew the reach of fire-fighting services in Fiji was nowhere near where it needed

to be. There was a severe shortage of access to emergency services for hundreds of thousands of people so we did something about it,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

The two-vehicle state of the art facility which cost Government \$1.35 million will cater to Vuya, Nabouwalu, Wairiki, Nanave, Dawara, Nawaca, Qereqere, Vinirara, Raralevu, Namulomulo, Namau, Nukubalavu and Raviravi.

This includes 508 households; two service stations; the Fiji Pine chipping mill in Wairiki; the Nabouwalu Hospital; six schools; 13 registered businesses; 14 government departments and the Nabouwalu Wharf — which is of course the main port of entry to the Northern Division.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Government was on a mission to ensure that every Fijian has access to the emergency services they need led by the core belief that nothing

was more important than the safety and wellbeing of all Fijians.

“Every Fijian deserves reliable access to the help they need, when they need it most,” he said.

“These services are also vital to the confidence we’re creating in the great potential of the Northern economy and when reliable government services are made available, economies thrive, because businesses want the assurance of such services, such as fire services, before they make investments,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

Aside from responding to emergencies, the Nabouwalu Fire Station will lead awareness sessions to educate citizens on how to prevent fires; what steps to take in the event of a fire; and how to keep yourself safe around fire.

According to the National Fire Authority, from 2017 to 2021, the authority has responded to 687 structural fires across the country.

Engaging communities in fire safety: Minister Koya

Prashila Devi

THE National Fire Authority has engaged with communities to be fire safe by training fire wardens.

Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, in his capacity as the acting Minister for Local Government, said many communities around Fiji have expressed their interest in the Community Fire Warden Programme.

Speaking at the commissioning of the Nabouwalu Fire Station last week, Minister Koya said, “The NFA has implemented the Community Fire Warden Programme to reach the 1,093 settlements around Fiji in the next five years”.

“This proactive exercise has received positive feedback from the communities as the NFA is receiving requests to establish Community Fire Wardens in their settlements,” he said.

Minister Koya said these initiatives to expand NFA’s services to as many communities as possible was profound and the establishment of this new Nabouwalu Fire Station will continue to realise the Government’s vision to make essential services accessible to every Fijian.

He also acknowledged the efforts of the fire officers, for their brave and selfless efforts not just during fire emergencies but during natural disasters as well.

“In such emergency situations, the NFA’s primary focus is the safety of lives, for which the fire officers on the ground collaborate with the relevant stakeholders on the safe evacuation.”

“I want to also acknowledge the continuous support provided by the NFA in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. They disinfected and decontaminated vehicles and cargo at the borders,” Minister Koya highlighted.

Furthermore, he said the NFA provided assistance in food distribution around the country during the lockdown period.

The new fire station, which was commissioned by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, has become the 21st fire station in the country.



Employers obligated to provide safe working space

Mereani Gonedua

“EMPLOYERS have legal obligations to provide their workers and others who come to the workplace with a safe place of work and a safe system of work.”

These were the sentiments made by the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar, while officiating at the nationwide 2022 World Day for Safety and Health at Work celebration in the Western Division held recently.

With the theme “Act Together to Build a Positive Safety and Health Culture”, Minister Kumar stated that in light of the protection of workers in the workplace, the Constitution gives everyone other rights such as the right to life, the right to health, as well as to fair labour practices.

“The Fijian Government and its key stakeholders have put in place fiscal and monetary policies to assist in our economic recovery and the development of various legislative reforms to facilitate our resilience and return to the new normal.

“In achieving this, the effective social dia-



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Parveen Kumar at the 2022 World Day for safety and Health at work held in the Western Division. Photo: Mereani Gonedua

logue has resulted in additional workplaces having their OHS (occupational health and safety) policies and systems reviewed and established to address persistent and new OHS challenges at the workplace level.”

Minister Kumar encouraged manage-

ments and workers to have open communication and meaningful social dialogue to strengthen their OHS system by creating a culture of prevention and resolving health and safety issues through the workplace OHS Committees.

He also urged partners and stakeholders to continue to work together to build a positive safety and health culture at all workplaces in order to build workplace productivity and economic growth for the nation.

Agriculture export increases



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya at the British American Tobacco Awards Ceremony Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Mereani Gonedua

FIIJIS agricultural exports increased by 43.7 percent in 2021 compared to 2019 to \$284.9 million.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, while officiating at the British American Tobacco (BAT) Fiji Star Farmers awards in Nadi recently.

Minister Koya stated that these figures show how farmers are contributing to the growth of the nation and the Fijian Government wants farmers to continue this good work.

“Now in the second year of this programme, and having endured the adverse effects of a pandemic, coupled with natural disasters, we are gathered again to create opportunities.

“Opportunities to continue upskilling our farmers, opportunities to adopt best practices, opportunities to grow and trade more, and opportunities for greater yield and income.

“When we had virtually no tourists coming to Fiji – our economy was cushioned by Fiji’s ag-

riculture sector.

“In the past two years, we have seen significant growth in export of kava, ginger and tumeric amongst other spices. Compared to 2019, in 2021, the export of kava increased by 29 percent to \$41.9 million, turmeric by 254 percent to \$23 million, whilst spices grew by 175 percent to \$31.9 million.”

Minister Koya highlighted that besides traditional crops, these are the potential crops that Fijian farmers could venture into, during the off-season as well as many other agro-products that will do well in this region – such as pineapple, papaya and mangoes.

He said the Government also gave national recognition to farmers and their agricultural produce through the “Fijian Made - Buy Fijian” brand.

“When you carry the Fijian Made brand – you carry with you recognition of what Fijians are capable of - a mark of quality products and services we offer the world. So please, reach out to the Ministry and carry and become part of this campaign.”

Koro to go organic

FARMERS on the island of Koro in the Lomaiviti Group are being urged to revise their farming practices and progressively implement more environmentally friendly and organic farming practices.

This was in a bid to emulate the organic status of two islands in the Eastern Division, namely Rotuma and Cicia, the only two certified organic islands in the country, which were part of the overall Koro Island agriculture development plans of the Ministry of Agriculture.

While speaking to villagers of Vatu-ulele Village and Nasau Village in Koro during a recent trip to the island, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy highlighted the need to do away with reliance on inorganic fertilisers and chemicals.

“Koro gives a different image to our agricultural commodities, the image our crops from Koro gives in the external market - in the export market is unique, the commodities coming out of the Eastern Division gives a different and separate brand image to our commodities whether it be dalo or cassava, kava or other commodities, particularly those which can be supplied by our competitor countries like Vanuatu (kava), Samoa (dalo).

“Given that we have this pristine environment, we’ve got a different brand image for our commodities in our export destination countries and this gives us a leverage and price to our commodities and we want to maintain that brand image,” Minister Reddy said.

“When we’re talking about the brand image, we also want Koro to be an organic island like Rotuma and Cicia, Rotuma is now a purely organic island, no fertilisers or chemicals are used on Rotuma,” he added.

“We want Koro to go organic in agriculture, the dalo should be organic, the kava should be organic, and it does not require a big effort and we will assist. Once you’ve been certified as an organic island, you can market your dalo, yaqona and all produce from here as organic produce and it fetches a good price.

He said that the Ministry would partner with the small poultry farm on the island to assist them and in return collect all the poultry manure to help establish the island’s organic manure.

Minister Reddy also elaborated that the Ministry had developed a local liquid organic fertiliser, Bacterium Culture that could be applied either directly to their farms or can be used to assist in composting and later applied to their farms.

Organic agriculture was a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems, and people as it relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects.

The Ministry of Agriculture was actively promoting its Organic Initiative, the main objective of which was to reduce the consumption of synthetic or chemical fertilisers in Fiji.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)



Minister Akbar clarifies social pension scheme eligibility

THE Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar has clarified that the Government's Social Pension Scheme was for senior citizens over 65 years of age, who do not have superannuation.

Minister Akbar said that this category includes subsistence farmers and those in the informal sector without regular income support, who will continue to be eligible for the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation's Social Pension Scheme (SPS).

She also clarified that senior citizens who have farmed all their lives and have never paid Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) or any superannuation allowances are eligible for this Social Pension Scheme.

As we recognise their long term contribution to the Fijian economy, their families and the nation of Fiji.

Minister Akbar mentioned that those recipients intending to apply for the assistance will be expected to meet the criteria in order to qualify for the program.

"The social pension forms are currently available in all the Social Welfare District offices. These forms need to be certified by a community leader or a senior civil servant and applicants will also need to

provide their birth certificate for identification. This information ensures that payments are made to the correct recipients needing support".

Monthly payments are made to the client's bank account or through M-PAISA (as nominated).

Minister Akbar said the monthly allowance of \$100 provided under the Social Pension Scheme (SPS) will be maintained, with the eligibility age remaining at 65 years.

"The introduction of the Social Pension Scheme in 2013 and the progressive reduction of the eligibility age from 70 to 65yrs, and the increase of the allowance from \$30 per month to \$50 in the past years, and to \$100 since 2017, are evidence of the Bainimarama Government's commitment to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and to the senior citizens of Fiji".

The MWCPA will establish the National Council for Older Persons as a statutory body, to advocate and support the rights of older person in Fiji.

"We remain committed to honouring, respecting and supporting the dignity of older persons in Fiji," Minister Akbar said.

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Information on replacement of

LOST OR DAMAGED e-Ticketing cards

The Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts has recently received concerns from some parents, where they have been asked to provide signed letter from Justice of Peace in order to process card replacement request together with the signed Replacement/Lost card forms.

The Ministry would like to confirm that there has been no changes to the process and the only requirement for the replacement of e-ticketing cards is the signed form from the Head of School.

The Ministry wishes to inform the students and parents about the process and requirements of obtaining a replacement blue card to replace those cards that have been lost or damaged.

Process for Obtaining Replacement Blue e-Ticketing Card.

1. Student notifies the Head of School of that the current blue card is either lost or damaged and is in need of a replacement eTransport subsidies card.
2. The Head of School or student calls Vodafone on 151 to place a block on the lost or damaged eTransport subsidies card.
3. The Head of School/ District Office/ Transport Assistance Unit completes a Replacement/ Lost card form and gives it to the student or parent.
4. The student is only required to present the Replacement/ Lost card FORM at any Vodafone outlet Fiji-wide. Note that the first lost card is free, subsequent lost card costs \$5.
5. Vodafone issues a replacement card to the student and transfers credit balance from the old card to the new card (Transfer of balance happens after 72 hours from the time when the lost or damaged card gets blocked).
6. The new blue card will be available for collection from Vodafone outlet where the Replacement/ Lost card form was submitted.

Students and parents are asked to follow the above process to avoid any delays in obtaining new replacement cards.

Students and Parents are urged to raise any other requirements enforced to the agents to MEHA on 3220429, 3220571 or email Sandeep Kumar on sandeep.kumar01@govnet.gov.fj or Jone Rabuatoka on jone.rabuatoka@govnet.gov.fj

Source: Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts)

REACH program to assist people in the interior of Tavua

THE Rights, Empowerment and Cohesion for Rural and Urban Fijians Project (REACH) highlights the importance of the services that the key partners of the project deliver for the Fijian people.

Some Fijians weren't aware of the services that were made available to them by the Government due to geographical isolation and physical challenges.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, while officiating at REACH Project at Rakavidi Settlement, Wainivoce Settlement, Koro Village and Davota Village in the interior of Tavua.

Minister Akbar stated that the Fijian Government was committed to improving service delivery for all Fijians through innovative service delivery methods.

"The REACH platform is one of the Government's innovative methods to improve service delivery for all Fijians, and through this platform, information and related services based on the economic, legal, and social rights as enshrined in the Fijian Constitution are delivered," she said.

Minister Akbar added that it was essential to provide opportunities to increase community members' active participation and to facilitate access to these opportunities and services via an additional platform, which can also alleviate poverty.

The stakeholders who were part of the REACH program in Tavua included the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Spinal Injury, Medical Services Pacific, Empower Pacific, Fijian Elections office, Fiji Revenue and Customs, Birth, Death & Marriage, Project Heaven Trust, Ministry of i-Taukei, Fiji Police, Water Authority, Ministry of Health and RFMF Engineers, who provided their services for free. This

program was also supported by the Provincial Administrator and the District Officer for the District.

Minister Akbar also met with the women's group and encouraged them to identify areas of need for economic empowerment and to reach out to the relevant stakeholders and ask for assistance.

Wainivoce Settlement advisory councillor, Rashid Ali acknowledged the Government's continued effort to raise the profile of community members in Fiji and also the presence of the REACH Team.

Inoke Domo, 73, from Koro village thanked the REACH team for bringing Government services to the rural community.

Similar sentiments were shared by Dudhnath Sharma, 80, from Davota village who said that he managed to visit the PROJECT HEAVEN team and got his eyes and ears checked.

"The team gave me advice on how to take care of my eyes and ears as I'm getting old. I thanked the Fijian Government for this great REACH Project initiative and for bringing this service to the rural and urban communities in Fiji," Mr Sharma said.

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Rosy Akbar during the Ministry visit to Tavua with other stakeholders. Photo: Supplied

.. I managed to get two copies of our 'vola ni kawa bula' from the Ministry of i'Taukei Affairs booth. I have to pay \$240 for transportation to Suva in order to access this service at their office. Thank you for bringing this service to our doorstep

Inoke Domo
Koro Village



Government supports real estate sector

By FELIX LESINAIVALU



Minister Faiyaz Koya during the reception at Jokhan Realtors Pte reception

"We've endured a once in a lifetime pandemic. We've lived through natural disasters. And through it all – we've shown resilience."

Faiyaz Koya
Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport.

"AS Government, we will continue bringing about the necessary reforms and best practices that support critical sectors like real estate."

This was highlighted by Minister for Commerce, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya during the Jokhan Realtors Pte Limited reception, recently.

"The revised 2021-2022 national budget designed policy measures to support Fijians and businesses by addressing the challenges and providing a level playing field for the operators," Minister Koya said.

"With the re-opening of the international border, Fiji is now the most sought destination for both tourism and investment."

Minister Koya added that this was the perfect time for the industry to unite and focus their efforts in creating transparency and confidence to enhance the importance of the real estate industry and what it represents.

resents.

"For the real estate sector to thrive – we need to work by the law. We need to bring in the right skills and the right discipline."

"Everyone has had to work smarter to find solutions so that every Fijian has the opportunity to one day, own their own home."

Minister Koya also acknowledged Jokhan Realtors and said, "Like all successful businesses, built on strong values and ethics, I can say that these principles and leadership has brought Jokhan Realtors to where it is today".

He added that every sector has had its fair share of challenges but have endured.

"The real estate sector looks after our homes and our businesses. They're a huge part of our economy."

Minister Koya said real estate agents and salespersons play a major role in the revival of the sector as Fiji progresses with its economic recovery.

IGP Empowers Women's Club

THE Fijian Government is committed to Women Economic Empowerment program in Fiji and it is the process that creates opportunities for women to live a happy and respectable life in a society.

Women are empowered when they are able to access opportunities in a variety of fields such as in education, profession, lifestyle without any limitations and restrictions.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar while officiating at the handing over of sewing machines to the Sew True Women's Club in Nasinu.

The \$4,559 worth of 12 straight sewing machines and one overlock machine was funded by the Office of the Prime Minister for the Sew True Women's Club as part of supporting Fiji's Women Economic Empowerment Program for the members, generate income and to alleviate poverty in the community.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama had made a commitment to support this project.

Sew True Women's Club was formed by the women who graduated from the Makoi Women's Vocational Training Centre.

Minister Akbar said the Ministry has been supporting the Makoi Women's Vocational Training Centre since its inception and she was happy to witness how far the women of the institute have come

in terms of progressing their own income generating initiatives.

"The country where men and women work together develops at a faster rate. Empowering women is essential to the health and social development of families, communities and countries. When women are living safe, fulfilled and productive lives, they can reach their full potential."

"We can contribute our skills to the workforce and also raise happier and healthier children. It signifies that women should be given equal opportunity in every field, irrespective of any discrimination".

"I'm sure that this income generating project will impact all of you the provision of the machines assistance will not only allow the women's group to be able to generate their own income but will allow them to diversify their income generating methods and be economically independent to support their families. I always say this, when our women earn, they do not benefit alone – their families and communities benefit as well as they re-invest their income into the wellbeing of their families," she mentioned.

She also encouraged the women and men to do their part in eliminating discrimination, violence and mistreatment against women which will pave a new way for the future generations in how they will treat the women and girls.

Sew True Women's Club assistant president, Verenaisi Gonewai thanked Minister Akbar for handing over this income generating project to the club.

"This sewing machines will help generate income to our women members and also their individual families. Our seventeen women members also thanked the support and commitment of the Fijian Government on Women Economic Empowerment Program to the rural and urban communities in Fiji".



Members of the Sew True Women's Club in Nasinu after receiving the sewing machines from the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar.
Photo: SUPPLIED

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)

Fiji drops pre-arrival COVID-19 testing requirement

EFFECTIVE 1 May 2022, fully vaccinated visitors to Fiji are no longer be required to produce a pre-arrival negative COVID-19 test prior to entry.

This move reduces costs and lends greater convenience to those travelling to the country.

The change applies to all visitors entering Fiji by air or sea who were previously required to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or rapid antigen test (RAT) prior to their arrival to Fiji.

This step falls in line with best practice for entry requirements among highly vaccinated societies and follows countries such as Australia and Singapore who have also removed COVID-19 testing as an entry prerequisite.

The current requirement to book an in-country pre-COVID RAT test, prior to departing for Fiji, remains.

The test must be done within 48 - 72 hours of arrival. In-country tests must be booked prior to arrival to Fiji on <https://entrytest-fiji.com/>.

Commencing 1 May 2022, the vaccination requirement for entry into Fiji has also been widened. All visitors above the age of 16 years must now display proof of full COVID-19 vaccination prior to entering the country.

The lowering of the age requirement for the vaccine prerequisite comes as more children globally are granted access to vaccines.

Fiji's key visitor markets have considerably high coverage of vaccination amongst those below the 18-year age threshold.

In Australia, the vaccine coverage for ages 16 and above is significant across all key visitor market states of New South Wales (95 per cent), Victoria (94 per cent) and Queensland (92 per cent).

New Zealand has a vaccination coverage of 95 percent for those 12 years and above. In the United States, vaccine coverage for those between the ages of 12 and 17 years the vaccine coverage is 77.4 percent.

Requiring that all tourists aged 16 years and above provide proof of vaccination prior to visitors to Fiji further reduces the risk of community transmission of COVID-19 and allows Fiji to capture a greater percentage of the fully vaccinated tourism market.

All other existing conditions for entry remain applicable and can be reviewed at <https://www.mcttt.gov.fj/>.

This move follow Fiji's continued effort to strengthen its in-country testing programme and wider community surveillance efforts designed to ensure the safety of visitors and Fijians alike.

The COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Taskforce will continue to review Fiji's entry requirements and COVID safe measures, with a focus on strengthening community surveillance and the robustness of the in-country testing digital platform, supplemented by the already high vaccination rates.

(Source: COVID-19 risk Mitigation Taskforce)

Naitasiri villagers thank Govt for new road



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu inspects the Naitauvoli Access Road in Naitasiri. Photo: SUPPLIED

NAITAUVOLI villager, Anareta Lewasau, was among the many villagers of Naitauvoli in the interior of Naitasiri who have waited for decades to finally see a road constructed to their village.

The Government, through the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management had funded the construction of an access road for the village under its Community Access Roads, Footpaths and Footbridges (CARFF) Programme.

The project cost around \$24,000 and was expected to improve accessibility for more than 100 villagers of Naitauvoli.

Previously villagers of Naitauvoli used a track that was in a poor condition as access to and from the village.

This used to pose a risk to the children who use the track particularly during wet weather. The new road will not only improve access, but also ensure easier access to markets for farmers from the village.

Ms Lewasau said, the assistance by Government marked a new beginning for the villagers.

“Before the construction of this new road, we’ve had to walk for at least 250 metres carrying our fur-

niture and shopping on our backs to get to our homes. At times, when a villager is sick, we’ve had to also carry them right to the main road so they could be transported to the nearest health centre. But with this new road, we only have to walk a short distance before we reach our homes. It has also made it easier for us especially when we return from Suva with our shopping,” she said.

“Today we are very grateful for this assistance by Government. We would like to thank the Ministry for thinking about us here at Naitauvoli. It’s been almost 60 years that we’ve waited for this road development and today we are so happy that we are able to witness this new development.”

Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu reiterated that access was crucial for Fijians in rural communities.

“Naitauvoli is big with yaqona farming. They have a farming cluster under the Rural Millionaire concept in the village and we are thankful to see the amount of work done in the village,” Minister Seruiratu said.

(Source: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development National Disaster Management)

Approved Team Sports by Education Ministry

THE Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts considers sports an integral part of a child’s life as it contributes positively to the quality and well-being of the child’s development.

The line Minister, Premila Kumar said, “We are happy to announce the reintroduction of all competitive sports activities in this new academic year”.

“The past two years have been very difficult for everyone, including students. We want students to get back to their normal routine as soon as possible. We encourage as many students as possible to take part in sports. Even if it is not competitive sports, students should take part in some form of sports and physical activity”.

“In some schools, girls do not take part in sports or PE. I want to urge all girls to take part in physical activities and sports. We should not feel that sports is only for boys. We want to inculcate healthy lifestyle practices in our children, especially with the

rise in NCDs and other lifestyle related diseases. I look forward to students taking advantage of this opportunity in this school year. Sports and wellness go together” stated Minister Kumar

The Minister added that “participation in sports also strengthens social bonding of students with their peers and other people around them such as their coaches, opponents and the spectators, which leads to improved social interaction. Together with that, it helps to manage emotions as we are aware of how emotions run high in sports – whether it’s watching a sport or playing it”.

The Ministry promotes student participation in sports as it helps in motivating the students to perform well in academic as well as in other aspects of their life.

Details of sporting events and COVID requirements will be announced by the relevant sporting bodies over the coming days and weeks. The dates are as follows:

Sports Competition

Name of the Organization	Name of the Competition	Dates for Finals
Fiji Rugby Union	Kaji Rugby, Deans and Raluve Finals	8 October
Fiji Athletics Association	Coca Cola Games	9 July
Fiji National Rugby League	Vodafone Cup	2 July
Fiji Swimming Association	Fiji National Schools Swimming Championship	2 July
Fiji Football Association	Schools Inter-District Championship for Primary/ Secondary Schools	5-7 October
Fiji Cricket Association	Fiji Secondary Cricket Championship	3 December
Fiji Hockey Federation	Fiji Secondary School Hockey Tournament	5-7 October

(Source: Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts)

Navuso water project to address water woes faced by school



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Hon. Inia Seruiratu with officials and students of Navuso Technical College in Naitasiri. Photo: SUPPLIED

THE provision of a 10,000 litres water tank for the Navuso Technical College in Naitasiri was expected to address some water woes that had been faced by the school for some time.

The project was made possible through funding under the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management’s Self-Help

Programme (SHP).

The tank will be used to store water to supplement current water supply which was insufficient to cater for the students.

The provision of the water tank will ensure improved hygiene, reduce anxiety of collecting water for the students, improve student welfare and also ensure improved productivity for the students.

Minister for Rural and Maritime

Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu, said with the expansion of programmes, the school needed a water tank in order for some of its facilities which were facing water problems could be better utilised.

“We are providing them with a water tank to help with the water issue in the school so that they can continue to take more student and train them and of course, go back into the community to support our agriculture sector as a replacement for our ageing farmers,” Minister Seruiratu said.

During his visit to rural communities within the province of Naitasiri last Friday, he also met with community leaders and District Advisory Councillors at Lomaivuna.

“It was good to meet the community leaders to have some discussions on opportunities where we can help them so they can continue to expand in their programmes,” he said.

(Source: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development National Disaster Management)

FijiFocus

Focus on human development applauded



The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, and members of the Sai Prema Foundation at the opening of the Sai Prema Ashram in Navua this week. Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

PRASHILA DEVI

A MULTI Faith Centre for Human Development, Love and Service is greatly necessary at such a time when there are ever-changing complexities on the global, regional and national platforms.

The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, while opening the Sai Prema Foundations' Multi Faith Centre for Human Development, Love and Service in Navua this week, said such a centre was timely as the global pandemic among other socio-economic matters has begun to overwhelm Fijians. "I encourage all Fijians to wholeheartedly participate and support the cause of holistic human development," President Katonivere said.

In highlighting that the Sai Prema Founda-

tion was part of a global mission of service to mankind, he said such foundations bring together an international community of organisations which share the common goal of alleviating human suffering, promoting environmental responsibility and creating new opportunities for those in need.

These Centres of Human Development transcend the global barriers of gender, caste, creed, ethnicity, nationality, and colour.

President Katonivere said there were a number of leading institutions that have

signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Sai Prema Foundation to take advantage of the opportunity to have their staff undertake human values classes in this centre.

"I am told that amongst a multitude of service activities that this centre shall undertake, it will also in the not too distant future carry out human values classes that shall be conducted by international experts in the field to be facilitated by the foundation," he said.

President Katonivere also acknowledged the role Sai Prema Foundation has played in Fiji's health sector, particularly in the establishment of the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital in Suva, a world-class hospital specialising in the treatment of congenital heart disease in children.

"Last week the Honourable Prime Minister officially opened the hospital and three days later, lifesaving heart surgeries commenced on Fijian children with congenital heart disease (CHD) by a leading team of international heart surgeons and medical professionals from the United States of America and Australia."

"Today, these life-saving surgeries continue, and I am confident that they have given renewed hope and great joy to the parents and families of these children; most importantly to all Fijians."

Similar centres are also present in 12 countries across the world including India, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Sri Lanka, Italy, Turkey, the United States of America, Argentina, Nigeria, Laos and now in Fiji.

Noda Viti

CAU VAKALEVU KO NADROGA E NA VEIVAKATOROCAKETAKI



JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Sa bau dua na vanua vinaka sa tu kina qo o Viti. Qori na vosa e cavuta na noda iLiuli ni Matanitu ka noda Paraiminisi-ta o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama e na nona lai dolava na bosa ni yasana ko Nadroga kei Navosa e na siga Vukelulu na ika5 ni siga ni vula ko Me ka vakayacori e na koro o Nasigatoka. E na nodra vosa vei ira na lewe ni bosa e ra kaya kina ni vanua totoka na nodra yasana ka sa cau vakalevu sara e na veivakatorocake-taki e na noda vanua. “Niu raica na Yasana o Nadroga-Navosa,

au vaka-samataka na vei-vaka-torocake-taki lelevu eda sa qarava vata ena loma ni Yasana ka’u sa raica rawa talega na levu ni vei-vaka-torocake-taki e rawa ni vakayacori ena loma ni Yasana,” e ra kaya na turaga na Paraiminisi-ta. Me tekivu mai na 2014 me yacova mai na yabaki sa oti, na Matanitu sa vakayagataka e voleka sara ni 75 na Milioni na Dola ena loma ni yasana. E dua na kena iwase levu a vakayagataki me vaka-torocake-taki kina o Navosa. E vakayagataki e 38 na Milioni na Dola ena Tabana ni Bula. Mai na ilavo oqo, e 30 na Milioni na Dola

e vakayagataki me tara kina na Valenibula e Keiyasi ka qaravi Noikoro, Nasikawa, Namataku, Bemana, Naqalimare, Navatusila kei Nasivikoso e Ba. E \$13,485,200 ena ta sala ka vakayagataki e \$5,091,620 ena vakadrodroi ni wainigunu. E vakayagataki e \$4,146,966 ena vei-vaka-livalivataki kei na solar ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu. E vakayagataki talega e \$1,589,442 ena tosoi ni vei-vakalivaliva-taki e Wauosi, Nasivikoso kei Tau. “Keitou na tomana tikoga na kena sega ni saumi na vuli, na kena isau vakailavo ena dua na yabaki e 60 na Milioni na Dola. Keitou vakayagataka talega e \$3,708,509 me tara kina

e dua na yasa ni Sigatoka Methodist Secondary School, na vale ni qasenivuli e St. Theresa Li-si-ya (Lisieux), na Ratu Lalabalavu Secondary School mai Malolo kei na Vatutoko Bainimarama Primary School,” e ra tomana na Liuliu ni Matanitu. Ra vakaraitaka vei ira na lewe ni bosa ni rawa ni dua na siga taucoko na nodra tasereka yani na vei-vakatorocake-taki ni matanitu ena vanua o Nadroga kei Navosa. “Me vaka ga au vakaraitaka mai Serua, Namosi kei Cakaudrove, au sa nanamaki tu ena veigauna mai muri, “na cava na icavukalawa tarava” kina vanua o Nadroga/Navosa kei na noda vanua.”



Uqeti na laveti ni tagede ni nodra bula kei na vuli



ERA sa uqeti na gonevuli ena noda vanua mera laveta cake na itagede ni bula ka vakakina na nodra bula ni qaravi vuli ena veisiga. Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na Minisita ni Itabagone kei na Qito, Parveen Kumar Bala ena nodra laki vulagi dokai ena soqo ni vakatikori ni liuliu ni gonevuli ena koronivuli na Votualevu Public School. Era solia edua na nodra wase levu nivakabauta na itubutubu ve ira na qasenivuli mera qaravi ira kina na gone ia okemuni ragone mo ni rokataka na veiliutaki vinaka ena gauna ni nomuni veiliutaki ena koronivuli. Ni ciqoma na bolebole oqo

Vakamatanitutaki na Koronivuli ni Muri Vuli e MaramaRua

ERA mai vakamatanitutaka na Kovana ni Matanitu mai Ositerelia, Governor General David Hurley na koronivuli vou ni muri vuli e na MaramaRua District School Kindergarten. Donua saraga nodra veisiko siga dua ena vualiku ena veisureti ni matanitu ko Viti ka vakakina na Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere.

Siga marautaki vei ira na gonevuli, dauniveisusu kei na tubutubu ena kena mai tara vou edua na vanua nei qaravi ni vuli muri vuli. Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Vuli-Vakatawa Faiyaz Koya na nodra vakavinaka kina na matanitu levu ko Ositerelia ena vuku ni tara ni koronivuli oqo me vaka sa vakayacori tikomai ena loma ni 30 na yabaki sa oti.



Cakacaka mana ni qaravi bula

Na Sanjeevani Children Heart Hospital e Nasese e Suva era qaravi tiko kina na gone era tiko bibi na nodra uto ka ra sele talega kina. Na macawa sa oti era tekivu qaravi kina e 30 na gone era tiko bibi na nodra uto. Era laki vakadinadinataka na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na veisele oqori

ka tekivu ena macawa sa oti. Era marautaka talega vakalevu na veivuke oqo baleta ni vukei saraga kina na bula ni 30 na gone lalai kei ira na nodra vuvale me vaka ni dau dredre tu na isau ni veisele oqo ka vakayacori tuga mai valagi. Oqo esa dua na veivakatorocaketaki levu ena veiqaravi ni bula ni veisele ena uto ena noda vanua lomani ko Viti.

Ciqomi e Valelevu ko Kovana mai Ositerelia



ERA ciqoma na ilakolako nei Kovana mai Ositerelia Governor General David Hurley kei na nodra lewenivale Radini Linda Hurley na noda Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere kei na nodra leweni vale Radini Vanua Adi Filomena ka ra vakarautaka vua edua na vakasigalevu. Ka tiko talega kina na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na nodra lewenivale Mrs Mary Bainimarama. Oqo esa imatai ni veisiko vaka Kovana mai Ositerelia ni oti e 29 na yabaki.

Dola na siteseni ni boko buka e Nabouwalu

ERA sa malaude na lewenivanua e Nabouwali ena kena nanumi me bau dua na nodra siteseni ni boko buka me vaka era vakadinadinataka ni mai dolava na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. Era na

leweni na siteseni ni boko buka oqori e tini ka lima na ivakalesilesi mera qarava na vanua mai Wainunu ka yacovi Lekutu ena yasana ko Bua. Oqo edua na veivakatorocaketaki vou ni matanitu ka sega ni dau yaco tu iliu.



Yacovi ira yani na veiqaravi ni matanitu

KO Nadrau e Navosa edua na vanua e tiko e cake ena Yasana vakaturaga, ia era sa yacova yani na veiqaravi ni matanitu me vaka era qarava tiko na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua, Rosy Akbar.

Ena loma ni rua na macawa sa oti oqo era veisiko voli na ivakalesilesi ni minisitiri oqo ena vanua o Nadrau me semati kina na veiqaravi vakamatanitu ka vakakina ena yasana ko Ba.

Na REACH porokaramu e vukea na lewenivanua ena nodra bula ena veisiga

ka vakakina na nodra dodonu ena Yavu ni Vakavulewa me rawa ni qaravi kina vakakina na nodra itavi ka laveti kina na bula ena veisiga. E usutu tiko ni veiqaravi oqo na veivakatorocaketaki lewa matau ka sega ni dua e guilecavi kina ka sa ra uqeti kina na lewenivanua ena veiyasana mera vakayagataka na veiqaravi oqo.

Era vakavinakataki na matanitu ko Japani, UNDP kei na timi veiqaravi ena REACH ena nodra veiqaravi.



Marautaki na yabaki ono walu nei PM

ERA vakayadrati na turaga liuliu ni matanitu na rorogo ni biukila keina lagasere vakamataka ena siga Vukelulu ika ruasagavulu ka vitu ni siga ni Everueli. Ka sega ni tarova rawa na lagi na nodra lagasere vua na leweni matabani ni mataivalu ka vakakina oira na leweni sotia, ovisa e tautuba vakakina koiri na ovisa e vale ni veivakadodonutaki.

Ko Komada ni mataivalu Commander-Brigadier-General Jone Kalouniwai, Komisina ni Ovisa Brigadier-General Siti-veni Qiliho, Komada ni Navy Komadoa Humphrey Tawake kei Komisina ni Vale ni veivakadodonutaki Francis Kean eratou liutaka na lagasere kei na kaci ni Happy Birthday.

Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama e vosa lagita na veiqaravi oqori ena kena nanuma taumada mera bau solia na vakanuinui vinaka ni siga ni sucu. Uqeti ira mera tomana tikoga na nodra veiqaravi vinaka na veitabani na veitaqomaki ena noda vanua



E musuka tiko qori na nona keke na noda Paraiminisita o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama iTaba: **VAKARAUTAKI**

Solia ko Viti na veiliutaki ni boseka ni vuli ena Commonwealth kei Kenya



ERA sa laki solia na Minisita ni Vuli, Premila Kumar na itutu ni veilutaki ni boseka ni vuli ena Commonwealth se matabose cokovata ni matanitu qali e Peritania se kivua na Ranadi vei Kenya. Oqo ni oti e 4 na yabaki nodra liutaka toka main a matabose oqori ka donua na gauna dredre ni COVID-19.

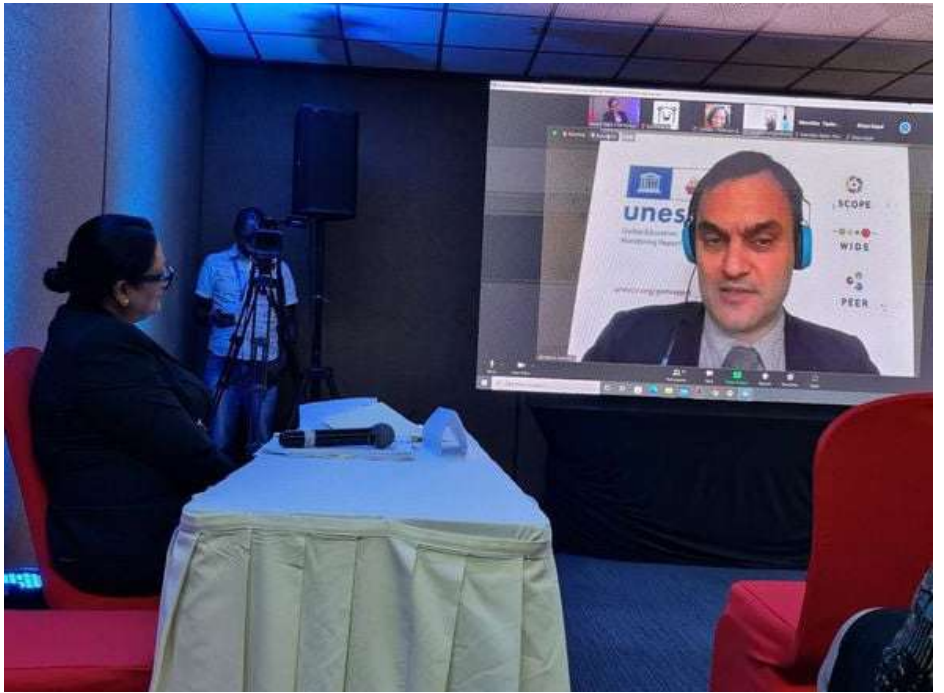


Era visiko ki Naduri na Kovana mai Ositerelia

Na nodra veisiko voli mai na noda vanua na Kovana ni matanitu mai Ositerelia, General David John Hurley kei na nodra Radini ni Vale Linda Hurly era bau laki sikovi Naduri kina na koroturaga

kai tikotiko nei Tui Macuata, Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere. Era mai kidavi ena dua na veiqaravi vakavanua ka dewa yani ena veivakamarautaki vei ira na lewenikoro vakaturaga mai Naduri

Liutaka ko Viti na boseka ni Vuli



ERA liutaka na Minisita ni Vuli Premila Kumar edua na boseka ni vuli ena tagede e cake ni veiqaravi vaka Minisita ena matabose ni matanitu cokovata ka qali ki Peritania se Commonwealth. Era lewena talega na boseka oqori na Vunivola Levu ni Matabose ni matanitu qali vakaPeritania se Commonwealth ko Patricia Scotland. Na bose era liutaka ko Minista Kumar ena ulutaga na redefining learning spaces: multiple pathways and flexible approaches. Era lewena talega na boseka oqori na veimatani kei ira na vulagi surety ka

vakabibitaki kina na vanua ni veiqaravi ni vuli ena monalivaliva ka vakakina ena matanavotu.

Era kaya kina ni oira na gonevuli nikua era sa vakamatautaki ena veiqaravi ni vuli ena monalivaliva ka vakaraautaki ena monalivaliva ia ena gadrevi saraga na vanua ni veiqaravi oqori me rawa ni ra veitalanoa talega kina me ra ni yaga ka ganita nodra vuli. Ia e kuria ka kaya ko Minisita Kumar ni dodonu me vakalevutaki na gaunisala ni nodra vakavulici na gone ka dua vei ira na monalivaliva.



Kidavaki Governor-General Hurley ko Parainimisita Bainimarama

ERA tadu mai ena noda vanua na Kovana levu ni Matanitu ko Ositerelia Governor General David Hurley kei na nodra lewe ni vale Radini Linda Hurley ka rau mai kidavaki vua noda Parainimisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena rara ni waqavuka mai Luvuluvu e Nausori. Era lewena na imatala-walawa ni veikidavaki ko Radini Parainimisita Mary Bainimarama, Minisita ni Veitaqomaki kei na Leqa Tubu koso, Inia Seruiratu,

Komisina ni Ovisa Brigadier-General Sitiveni Qiliho, Mata ni Matanitu ko Viti ena Vanua ko Ositerelia, Luke Daunivalu kei na Talai Veivuke ena Wasewase e Loma, Josefa Navuku. Era mai vakadik-eva na Governor-General Hurley edua na nodra voleni vakaivalu na mataivalu ni noda vanua ni bera nodra laki vakacegu ena otela. Na veisiko oqo e veivakadeitaki wale-ga ena sema veiwekani nei Viti ki Ositerelia.



Ciqomi na visiko mai na Kovana Ositerelia

ERA ciqoma na visiko ni Kovana kei Ositerelia Governor General David Hurley na noda Parainimisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra valenivolavola e Suva. Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni marautaka na matanitu ko Viti na nodra visiko mai ka vakadeitaka talega na sema veiwekani oqori ena cakacaka vakamatani. Vakabibi ena veivuke levu ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso, cagilaba kei na COVID-19 ka vakakina ena veivuke ni bolebole e tarau rau vata ena Pasivika talega.

O Viti e marautaka vakalevu saraga na veivuke nei OSiterelia ena kena mai tara edua na keba vou ni mataivalu ena Black Rock

ka vakaraitaka toka kina na kauwai ena tabana ni veitaqomaki. Vakaraitaka talega ko PM Bainimarama na nodra vakavinaka vei GG Hurley ena vukui Ositerelia kei na nodra veivuke ena loma ni Pacific Forum se Matabose ni veimatanitu ena Pasivika. Vakaraitaka ko GG Hurley na nodra vakavinaka vua na matanitu ko Viti ena veiciqomi vakaturaga vakavanua vakamatani e mai vakarautaki vua kei na nodra imatalawalawa. Vakacaucautaka na matanitu ko koya ena veiqaravi matau sa vakayacora tiko ka vakakina ena loma ni 2 na yabaki sa oti ena sotavi ni mate ni COVID-19 ka vakakina na Vuvale partnership se veiwekani vumai ena Vuvale vaka Pasivika.



Na Kovana mai Ositerelia kei na noda Parainimisita. iTaba: Nanise Neimila

Veiqaravi Vakaraturaga

MAI vakayacori vua na Kovana mai Ositerelia David Hurley edua na veiqaravi vakaturaga vakavanua ena nodra tadu mai ki noda vanua kei nodra lewe ni vale Radini Linda Hurley. Era-tou veiqaravi kina na Vanua ko Natauvakarua kei Kalokolevu vakakina na Tabana ni Veika Vakaitaukei. Vakavinakataki ira ko Kovana Hurley ena nodra veiqaravi. Era tiko talega ena soqo ni oqo na Minisita kei ira na ivakalesilesi vakamatani ni Matanitu ko Viti kei Ositerelia vakakina oira na mata ni veimatanitu sema mai ki Viti.



Kidavaki na timi ni Drua ena noda vanua



ERA kidavaka na imatai ni timi ni noda vanua Fijian Drua me qito ena veisisivi ecake ni Super Rugby na noda liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. Oqo sa isevu ni timi ni Viti me qito talega ena noda vanua me vaka eda kila ni oqo edua na veisisivi kaukauwa ka rau lewena na matanitu erua ko Ositerelia kei Niusiladi. Era vakavinakataki na manidia ni timi ni Drua ena kena qarava tiko mai na nodra itavi ena gauna lekaleka era tekivu qito tiko kina mai Ositerelia ka vakakina na soqosoqo ni qito rakavi ena noda vanua na Fiji Rugby Union. Edau laveta na yaloi keda na lewenivanua e Viti na noda dau vakamuria na nodra qito na noda cauravou ka vakabibi oqo ni sa dua toka na noda timi ena vakatagede e cake ni rakavi saumi ena Pasivika, edua na ka ka sega tu iliu ia ka da sasaga saraga kina vakaukauwa na noda liuliu ni matanitu ena nodra itutu vaka liuliu ni bese ni rakavi ena noda vanua ka vakakina ena gauna era dau sotava kina na liuliu ni matanitu mai Ositerelia kei Niusiladi ka dewa yani ena veta ecake ni veiqaravi ni rakavi ena vuravura ka kilai na World Rugby. Oqo edua na vorosausau talega ni nodra matanitu me bau kilai tu ena vola ni veigauna kei Viti. Ka marautaki dina.

Liutaka na bese vakayabaki ni Rakavi Unioni ko PM

ERA liutaka na bese vakayabaki ni qito rakavi unioni ena noda vanua na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ka vakayacori ena Grand Pacific Hotel e Suva. Era Peresitadi talega ni soqosoqo ni rakavi ena noda vanua na Fiji Rugby Union. Na bese vakayabaki oqori era lewena tale na dauniveitavulici ni timi ni Viti ko Vern Cotter ka vakakina oira na ivakalesilesi ecake ena vei unioni ni rakavi ena noda vanua, wilikina oira na veimata ni qito rakavi ena 24 na unioni ena noda vanua.





Dei tuga na qele vaka Itaukei: PM

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

ERA solia na veivakadeitaki na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni dei vakavatu tu na noda qele vaka itaukei ena boseka ni yasana ko Cakaudrove. Kuria ko koya ni qele esa dei tuga me ka sa yaga cake mai kivei na kena itaukei nikua ka vinaka cake main a gauna eliu.

Sega ni dua n aka esa kau laivi ka sega talega ni dua n aka ena kau laivi. Oqori na nomuni dodonu vaka itaukei ni qele ka volai tu ena Yavu ni Vakavulewa kau sa bubului kina meu taqomaka.

Oya naka dina baleta ni sa tiko na Yavu ni Vakavulewa meda taqomaki kina. Na veika edau vakayacori e liu mai vei ira na matanitu eliu esa sega ni rawa ni yaco nikua. Baleta na dina oqo,' kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

Kuria ko koya ni sa vakalawataka na matanitu na kena veisaumitaki vaka-

tautauvata na ilavo ni lisi main a 2011 vei ira na Vola tu ena Kawa Bula.

Nikia e rauta ni \$27.1 na milioni esa vakayagataka na TLTB ena vukudra e 27,000 na lewenivanua era bera ni yacova na yabaki 18 mera rawa ni veisaumi ena gauna era sa yacova kina na yabaki ni bula oya mera rawa ni sauma kina nodra curucuru ni vuli se tekivuna nodra bisinisi.

Na matanitu esa vakarautaka talega ena vota ni ilavo ni tuvatuva ni ilavo ni 2021-2022 e 1 na milioni me baleta na ta ni gaunisala era veisemati yani ena qele vakaiTaukei ka sa vakarautaki tu me baleta na veivakavaletaki vou. Ka \$500,000 me baleta na savea taki ni qele ni teitei, \$500,000 ena savea taki ni qele ni veivakavaletaki ka \$1milioni ena kena saumi na dinau ni lisi ni qele ni teitei kei na qele ni veivakavaletaki.

Vakaraitaka tiko na tikina oqori ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ena nodra laki dolava na boseka ni Cakaudrove Provincial Council se boseka ni yasana ko Cakaudrove.



Era veiqaravi tale ga e na Bose ni Yasana ko Cakaudrove o ira na ivakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula. ITaba Jo Uluilakeba

\$79MILIONI NA ISAU NI VEIVAKATOROCAKE CAKAU

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Na matanitu esa sovaraka e rauta ni \$79 na milioni ena isau ni veiqaravi veivakatorocaketaki ena yasana vakaturaga ko Cakaudrove.

Oqori na nodra mala ni vosa na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra laki vulagi dokai ena boseka ni yasana vakaturaga ko Cakaudrove ka vakayacori mai Savusavu.

Era kaya ni tekivu mai na 2014 me yacova na 2021 esa sovaraka kina na matanitu na iyau levu oqori ena sasaga ni kena laveti cake na veiqaravi ni bula ena yasana vakaturaga. "Esa sega tale ni ka me vakaoca kina na matada ni da sa raica matanavotu saratuga na veiqaravi oqori," kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

Era vosa tiko veira na 15 na tikina ena loma ni yasana kei ira na kena ivakalesilesi. Ena ruku ni veiqaravi ni Northern Development Programme esa ciqomi oti kina e \$25 na milioni na ilavo ka sa vota tale na matanitu e \$20 na milioni ena veiqaravi ni gaunisala.

Sa solia talega na matanitu e \$8milioni me baleta na veivakatorocaketaki ena tabana ni veivakalivalivataki ena taudaku ni korolelevu kei na livaliva vumai ena kaukauwa vure mai ena cagi, siga kei na wai.

Na matanitu esa sovaraka talega e \$7milioni ena veiqaravi wainigunu savasava kei na vakasavasa-



vataki ka solia e \$2milioni kina Energy Fiji Limited ka \$3milioni kina veivuke ni livaliva vei ira na ciqoma na veivuke raraba ni matanitu.

Vakaraitaka na Paraiminisita ni tiko e 40 na vanua vakarautaki me baleta na vakayagataki ni monalivaliva ena veiyasani vanua ko Vanua Levu ka sa rawati kina na veitaratara vei ira na lewenivanua ka rawa nira vakayagata me nodra





Veisau na liga ni veiliutaki vakamataivalu

E vakayacori na veisau-taki ni tutu ni veiliutaki vakamataivalu ni noda vanua ena dua na lotu mai na Queen Elizabeths Barrack ena siga tabu 1 ni siga ni vula ko Me 2022. Era mai talaci kina vakadua na liulu ni mataivalu vakacegu ko Komada Rear-Admiral Viliame Naupoto ka ra mai kidavaki talega kina na liuliu vou nu mataivalu ena noda vanua Major-General Jone Kalouniwai. Era tiko talega ena lotu oqori na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama, Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Minisita ni Veitaqomaki keina Leqa Tubu Koso Inia Seruiratu kei ira na minisita ni matanitu vakakina oira na ivakalesilesi ni mataivalu ena gauna oqo kei ira eliu. Oti na lotu e qai vakayacori edua na veiqaravi vakavanua vua na Komada vou Major-General Kalouniwai kei ira na nodra matavuvale. Era vakavinakataki Komada Naupoto ena nodra veiqaravi voli mai ena loma ni lima na yabaki vakabibi na kena maroroi na lawa ni noda vanua.



NA NODA PARAIMINISITA KEI NA NODA VUNI LAWa E NA SOQO KA VAKAYACORI E NA KEBa NI MATAIVALU E DELAINABUA. iTABa ; Nanise Neimila



Na noda Paraiminisita kei ira na vulagi sureti ena soqo ni veikidavaki ki vua na Komada ni Mataivalu. iTABa: Nanise Neimila

Noda Viti

DOLA NA VALE NI VEITUBERI E NAVUA

E dolava e dua na vale ni soqosoqo ni Sai Prema Foundation e Navua na turaga na Peresitedi ni noda vanua o Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere e na siga Tusiti na ika5 siga ni vula qo.

Vakatokai toka na vale qo me yacana na Multi Faith Centre for Human Development ka dua na kena i naki sai koya na nodra qaravi na lewe ni soqosoqo e na veituberi me tarai cake kina na nodra bula ka kena usutu levu na loloma kei na dauniveiqaravi.

E vakacautaka o Peresitedi Katonivere na kena mai tauyavu na na vale qo ka sa dua na i cavu kalawa levu ki vei kira na lewe ni soqosoqo.

“Na nomudou soqosoqo e rogo e vuravura ka vaka kina e na noda vanua ka sa tukuni koya ga na vakarau ni vei qaravi e dau vakayacora tiko sa rawa kina ki na vuqa na lewe ni vuravura e bole tu na nodra bula me ra qaravi vakavuniwai, vakavuli kei na bula raraba,” e kaya na Peresitedi.

Tomana o Peresitedi Katonivere ka kaya ni nodratou mai tauyavu e na noda vanua na Sai Prema Foundation e sai vakadinadina ni nodratou tutaka na qaravi ni tamata yadudua ka dua na kena i vakaraitaki na na kena mai vakaduri e dua na valenibula e Suva ka yacana tiko na Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital.

“Qo e kauta mai vakavoleka ki na noda vanua na vei qaravi totoka ka rogo kina na veivalenibula mai vanua tani ka matalia kina ni ra qaravi vakatabakidua kina na luveda se o ira na gone,” e kaya ko Peresitedi Katonivere.

“E kauta mai na marau ni rawa mera qaravi kina na gone e bole ni na nodra bula e na mate ni uto ka sa ka marautaki vei ira na itubutubu kei na dauniveisusu e sa qaravi rawa kina na nodra gone.”



VOQA NI DAVUI

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

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

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

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प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बईनिमरामा हालही में मुआनिकाउ रोड सूवा स्थित श्री सत्य साई संजीविनी बच्चों के अस्पताल का उद्घाटन करते हुए

चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

बच्चों के लिए नया अस्पताल

रोनल देव

फीजी में हर साल लगभग दो सौ बच्चे पैदाशी दिल के रोगी होते हैं और प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र की बात की जाए तो दो हजार पाँच सौ बच्चे इस बीमारी के साथ जन्म लेते हैं। हालही में मुआनिकाउ रोड नसेसे, सूवा स्थित श्री सत्य साई संजीविनी बच्चों के अस्पताल के उद्घाटन अवसर पर बोलते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बईनिमरामा ने ऐसा कहा। सेजरी के बिना कई बच्चों भारी तकलीफ सहते हुए कम उम्र में ही दम तोड़ देते थे, जो अपने माता-पिता, परिवार और समाज को पीछे छोड़कर गए जिन्होंने ऐसा निशान छोड़ा जो उन्हें जीवनभर याद

रहेगा,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा। यह अस्पताल साई ग्लोबल फेडरेशन ऑफ फाउन्डेशन की करुणा और प्रतिबद्धता से खड़ा किया गया है जो दुनिया भर में मानवीय सेवा प्रदान करते हैं। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि साई प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन ने पिछले तीन सालों से इस पचीस मिलियन डोलर लागत योजना पर काम शुरू किया है - जो कि उनकी समझ में फीजी के इतिहास में पहली ऐसी योजना है जो अकेले एक गैर-सरकारी संस्था ने पूरी की है। दिलों की सेजरी करके बच्चों को जीवन दान देकर साई प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन ने अभी तक तिहत्तर (73) बच्चों की जान बचाई है। प्रधान मंत्री बईनिमरामा के अनुसार जिन

फीजियन बच्चों की जान ज़्यादा खतरे में होगी की देखभाल बच्चों की बीमारी के विशेषज्ञ, सेजन तथा अन्य चिकित्सा पेशेवर लोगो करेंगे। फिलहाल, भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने इस मौके पर कहा कि यह फीजी और भारत के बीच पारम्परिक रिश्तों और प्रेम का एक और प्रतीक है। ये दोनों देशों के साजा यात्रा का एक और अध्याय है। “मुझे बताया गया है कि यह अस्पताल न केवल फीजी में बल्कि पूरे दक्षिण प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र में पहला अस्पताल है जो हृदय रोगी बच्चों का इलाज करेगा। यह एक ऐसे क्षेत्र के लिए है जहाँ दिल से जुड़ी बीमारियाँ बड़ी चुनौती हैं। यह

अस्पताल हज़ारों बच्चों को जीवन दान देने का मध्यम बनेगा। मुझे संतोष है कि हर एक बच्चे को न केवल विश्व स्तर का इलाज मिलेगा बल्कि सभी सेजरीज़ मुफ्त में होंगे,” श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने कहा। उनके अनुसार भारत में कहा जाता है “परोपकारीय सत्ता विभूतय” अतः परोपकार ही सज्जनों की संपत्ति होती है, मानवमात्र की सेवा, जीवमात्र का कल्याण यही हमेशा संसाधनों का एकमात्र उद्देश्य है। उन्होंने कहा कि इन्हीं मूल्यों पर भारत और फीजी की साजी विरासत खड़ी हुई है। हमारे दोनों देशों के बीच विशाल समुद्र ज़रूर है लेकिन हमारी संस्कृति ने हमें एक दूसरे से जोड़कर रखा है।



नावसो टेक्नीकल कोलज में पानी वाली समस्या दूर हुई



हाल में मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु नवुसो टेक्नीकल कोलज में पानी वाली एक योजना का उद्घाटन करते हुए कोरिवासियों के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

नईतासिरी के नावुसो टेक्नीकल कोलज को दस हजार (10,000) लीटर पानी का एक टैंक दिया गया है ताकि स्कूलों में पानी वाली समस्या दूर हो सके। यह परियोजना रूरल एन्ड मरिटाइम डिवलपमेंट तथा डिजास्टा मेनेजमेंट मंत्रालय द्वारा स्वयं सहायता कार्यक्रम के तहत संभव बनाया गया। वर्तमान में टैंक का इस्तेमाल पानी भरने के लिए उपयोग किया जा रहा है। पानी की टंकी यह ध्यान में रखेगा कि पानी स्वच्छ हो जो छात्रों के लिए पानी इकट्ठा करने की चिंता को कम करेगा, छात्रों की भलाई का ध्यान रखा जाएगा तथा ये भी आश्वस्त करेगा कि छात्र उत्पादक हो।

रूरल एन्ड मरिटाइम डिवलपमेंट और डिजास्टा मेनेजमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु ने कहा कि स्कूल को अपनी सुविधाओं का बेहतर उपयोग करने के लिए पानी की एक टंकी की जरूरत थी जबकि वहाँ पानी की समस्या थी। “हमने उन्हें स्कूल में पानी की समस्या से निपटने में मदद करने के लिए पानी की टंकी प्रदान की है ताकि वे अधिक छात्रों को भर्ती कर सकें और उन्हें प्रशिक्षित कर सकें तथा निश्चित रूप से, हमारे कृषि क्षेत्र में वृद्ध किसानों के बदले समर्थन देने के लिए समुदाय में वापस जा सकते हैं।” अभी हाल ही नईतासिरी में ग्रामीण समुदायों की यात्रा के दौरान मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने लोमाईवुना में समुदाय के नेताओं और जिला सलाहकार पार्षदों से भी मुलाकात की।



मंत्री चोने उसामाते, जापान इंटरनेशनल कोऑपरेशन अर्जेन्सी के एक अधिकारी के साथ तामावुआ-ई-वाई में नया पुल बनाने के एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के बाद चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

नय पुल के निर्माण से और विकास होगा

सोनम सामी

जापान की सरकार और जापान के लोगों ने लंबे समय से जापान इंटरनेशनल कोऑपरेशन एजेंसी (JICA) के माध्यम से फीजी सरकार को मजबूत समर्थन प्रदान किया है और कई सालों से दोनों देशों ने एक गहरे और उत्पादक संबंध को बढ़ाया है। संसाधन मंत्री चोने उसामाते ने अभी हाल ही तामावुआ-ई-वाई पुल के पुनःनिर्माण के लिए परियोजना के निर्माण चरण के समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करते हुए इसपर प्रकाश डाला। “निर्माण चरण की औपचारिकता एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है जो पुल के निर्माण और योजना पूरी होने का रास्ता तय करेगा। “फीजियन सरकार की ओर से और विशेष रूप से इस अवसर पर मैं जापानी सरकार और वहाँ की जनता के प्रति अपनी हार्दिक प्रशंसा व्यक्त करता हूँ। “मैं विस्तार डिजाइन और मुख्य निर्माण चरण दोनों के लिए तामावुआ-ई-वाई पुल के आवश्यक इंजीनियरिंग, सामाजिक और पर्यावरण अध्ययन प्रदान करने के लिए जापानी सरकार का आभारी हूँ और मुझे बताया गया है कि निर्माण क्षरण की कुल लागत पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं। इसकी कीमत लगभग

साठ (60) मिलियन फीजी डोलर हैं”। मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा कि यह तामावुआ-ई-वाई पुल सुवा और लामी के अलावा क्वींस रोड के द्वारा पश्चिमी विभाग तक महात्वपूर्ण संबंध बनाता है जबकि यह हर दिन सामान और सेवाओं को लाने-लेजाने, लोगों की यातायात और कार्गो की आवाजाही को सुनिश्चित करता है, न केवल सुवा पोर्ट से सुवा राजधानी शहर के लिए बल्कि पश्चिमी विती लेवु के बाकी हिस्सों के लिए भी। राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना के कारण यह कुशल और टिकाऊ यातायात का नेटवर्क तैयार किया गया है, इस योजना के साथ सुवा/लामी कोरिडोर में रास्ते को चौड़ा कर के चार लैन बनाना सरकार का दृष्टिकोण है। मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा कि इस नय पुल से यातायात की भीड़ कम की जाएगी क्योंकि यह सुवा/लामी कोरिडोर विस्तार सबसे कठिन निर्माण स्थलों में से एक है। पुल तामावुआ क्षेत्र और उसके बाहर सामाजिक और आर्थिक सुधार को प्रोत्साहित करेगा और एक लचीला बुनियादी ढाँचे के रूप में फीजी समुदाय और व्यवसायों की सेवा करेगा।

अब फीजी में आने से पहले कोविड19 परिक्षण नहीं देना पड़ेगा

सोनम सामी

फीजी घूमने आने वाले यात्री जो हवा या समुद्र से आते हैं को आने से पहले नेगेटिव कोविड-19 टेस्ट नहीं करवाना

पड़ेगा। पहली मई, 2022 से, फीजी प्रवेश के लिए सुई लगवाने की आवश्यकता को भी बढ़ा दी गई है। सोलह साल से उपर के सभी यात्रियों को अब देश में प्रवेश करने से पहले प्रमाण दिखाना होगा कि उन्हें सुई लग चुकी है। प्रवेश के लिए अन्य सभी मौजूदा शर्तें लागू रहेंगी तथा <https://www.mcttt.gov.fj/> पर अन्य जानकारी दी गई है। फीजी के लिए प्रस्थान करने से पहले देश में प्री-कोविड रेपीड एन्टीजन टेस्ट बुक करने की वर्तमान आवश्यकता बनी हुई है। परिक्षण आगमन के अड़तालिस से बहत्तर (48-72) घंटों के अन्दर किया जाना चाहिए। आप इस लॉक <https://entrytestfiji.com/> के जरिए प्री-कोविड परिक्षण बुक कर सकते हैं .

रा के युवाओं से अपनी पूरी क्षमता का उपयोग करने की माँग की गई



मंत्री परवीन कुमार हालही रा में युवकों द्वारा एक ट्रेनिंग में हिस्सा लेने के बाद उन्हें सम्मानित करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

रा में युवा अब युथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्रालय द्वारा संचालित व्यवसाय पर मोबाइल स्किल्स ट्रेनिंग सफलता से पूरी करने के बाद कोमेस, ट्रेड, टूरिज़्म एन्ड ट्रांसपोर्ट मंत्रालय के साथ साझेदारी के बाद व्यवसाय शुरू कर सकते हैं। अभी हाल ही देलाइरा सेटलमन्ट रा में ट्रेनिंग के समापन समारोह पर युथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन वाला ने बताया कि मंत्रालय अनौपचारिक शिक्षा, जागरूकता और युवकों तक पहुँच वाले कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से युवकों को सशक्त बनाने में निरंतर प्रयास कर रहा है। “ये ऐसे कार्यक्रम हैं जो अधिक औपचारिक जगहों में होते हैं या हम ये ट्रेनिंग गाँव या कोरो में करते हैं ताकि लोगों को मिल रही सेवाओं में सुधार

हो सके।” पाँच दिनों की ट्रेनिंग में उनचास (49) युवकों ने हिस्सा लिया था। मंत्री वाला ने नाकोरोवातु युथ क्लब में एक बेकरी योजना का भी उद्घाटन किया जिसे कृषि व्यवसाय से हुई आमदनी से शुरू किया गया है। इस योजना में ज्यादातर कोरिया इंटरनेशनल कोऑपरेशन एजेंसी (KOICA), ने आर्थिक सहायता दी है जहाँ सोलह हजार डोलर से ज्यादा बेकरी व्यवसाय के निर्माण का सामान खरीदने में लगाए गए हैं। KOICA के डेप्टी डायरेक्टर मिस सियायोन बेंग ने युवाओं से संसाधनों का अपनी पूरी क्षमता से उपयोग करने की माँग की है। इस बेकरी से न केवल समाज के सदस्यों को आमदनी कमाने में मदद मिलेगी, बल्कि आस पास के समाजों और स्कूलों को ब्रेड भी मिलता रहेगा।



फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के साथ काम करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध



सोनम सामी

प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमारामा ने आम चुनौतियों का समाधान करने में ऑस्ट्रेलिया के साथ मिलकर काम करने की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाया। अभी हाल ही ऑस्ट्रेलिया के राष्ट्रमंडल के गवर्नर-जनरल डेविड हली से मुलाकात की। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि यह फीजी और अन्य क्षेत्र के कई अवसरों को बढ़ाएगा। उन्होंने जलवायु और महासागर संरक्षण के लिए दोनों देशों की साझेदारी को स्वीकार किया, जिसमें जलवायु और आपदा लचीलापन में निरंतर साझेदारी का आश्वासन दिया गया था। प्रधान मंत्री ने फीजी के पुन-निर्माण प्रयासों और समुद्री आँधी यासा और आना जैसी आपदाओं के बाद प्रदान की गई ऑस्ट्रेलिया की मानवीय सहायता की सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि फीजी नए मरिटाइम एसेंशल सर्विस सेंटर (एम इ एस सी) के शुभारंभ के लिए खुश हैं जो ऑस्ट्रेलिया द्वारा दी जाने वाली सहायता में से एक है और नई सुविधा फीजी और क्षेत्र की समुद्री क्षमता को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ाएगा। ऑस्ट्रेलिया के राष्ट्रमंडल के गवर्नर-जनरल डेविड हली ने भी बईनिमारामा को सत्कार के लिए धन्यवाद दिया तथा कोविड-19 पर काबू पाने के लिए फीजी की सराहना की।

प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमारामा तथा ऑस्ट्रेलिया के गवर्नर जनरल डेविड हली पुरस्कारों की अदला-बदली करते हुए

चित्र : अज़रिया फरीन

नाला साफ होने से किसानों को फायदा



हालही में वोटवैस मंत्रालय ने इस नाले को साफ और चौड़ा किया

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

मल्लाउ सेटलमेन्ड राकीराकी के पन्द्रह से ज़्यादा किसानों को अब बारिश के मौसम में अपनी फसलें बरबाद होने की चिंता नहीं करनी पड़ेगी।

वोटवैस मंत्रालय द्वारा पाँच हजार सड़सठ (5067) मीटर लम्बा नाला साफ और चौड़ा करने के बाद यह सफल हुआ है। एडवाएज़री काउंसला सुमीत कुमार शंकर ने कहा कि पहले पंद्रह से ज़्यादा गन्ने और शाख-सब्जी के किसान बारिश के मौसम में अपनी ज़्यादातर फसलें खो देते थे।

“बस्ती के सभी नालों में मिट्टी भारी हुई थी और पानी निकलने का रास्ता भी बन्द था जिनमें नालों का पानी रूका हुआ था। जब भी कभी गम्भीर बारिश होती है, खेतों में बाढ़ चढ़ जाती है और बाढ़ का पानी कई दिनों तक रूका रहता था जिससे जमीन में दलदल हो जाता है, इस कारण से उत्पादन स्तर में भारी गिरावट

आई है। एडवाएज़री काउंसला ने कहा कि इस सेटलमेन्ट में गन्ना और शाख-सब्जी की खेती ही घरों में भोजन और आमदनी का ज़रिया है।

उन्होंने वोटवैस मंत्रालय से सहायता और समर्थन के लिए धन्यवाद दिया जिससे किसानों को बाढ़ से बचाया है और उनके घरों में भोजन और आय सुरक्षा का समर्थन न किया है क्योंकि कई किसान पूरा-समय किसान ही करते हैं।

वोटवैस, कृषि तथा वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्रा रडडी ने कहा कि नाला साफ और चौड़ा करने तथा बाढ़ से सुरक्षा प्रदान करने का कार्य चलता रहेगा ताकि किसानों और ग्रामीण परिवारों को सहायता मिल सके। उन्होंने कहा कि इस साल नाला साफ और चौड़ा करने के कार्य से किसानों को गन्ने और सब्जियों की खेती के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में मदद मिलेगी। इससे स्थानीय के साथ साथ विदेशी बाजारों में आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को भी मदद मिलेगी।

महिला मार्केट बिक्रेताओं के लिए सेन्टर

सोनम सामी

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के गवर्नर-जनरल डेविड हली तथा कोमर्स, ट्रेड, टुरिज़्म और ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्री फैयाज़ कोया ने अभी हाल ही नौसोरी मुनिसिपल मार्केट में महिला बिक्रेताओं के ठहरने के लिए सेन्टर की व्यवस्था की।

इस छः लाख उनतीन हजार तीन सौ अस्सी डोलर (629,380) डोलर लागत योजना का मार्केट रेवा, ताएलेवु और नाइतासिरी की अस्सी से ज़्यादा महिलाओं को फायदा होगा। यह सेन्टर उन महिलाओं को राहत प्रदान करेगा, जो पहले मार्केट में फुटपाथ और बरामदे पर सोती थी। इस दौरान मंत्री फैयाज़ कोया ने कहा कि फीजी के बुनियादी ढाँचे का विस्तार करने के लिए लौकल गवमन्ट की योजनाओं के तहत मार्केट विकास को बढ़ाना मंत्रालय की प्राथमिकता बनी हुई है।

“हमने अपनी माताओं, बहनों, और बेटियों को काम करने का आरामदायक माहौल प्रदान किया है जहाँ उनके पास अपनी रसोई, साफ-सुथरे टोएलट, कपड़े धोने की सुविधा और उचित बिस्तरों के साथ सोने का मौका मिलेगा। यह सेन्टर दो मंजिल की है। पहली मंजिल पर विशेष ज़रूरतों के साथ एक टोएलट क्षेत्र, नहाने की सुविधा, भोजन करने की सुविधा और सामान रखने के दो कक्ष हैं। यह 142 वर्गमीटर का एक सोने की जगह भी है जिसका उपयोग प्रशिक्षण, कार्यशालाओं और परामर्श के लिए भी किया जा सकता है। यह काउन्सिल को आय बनाने में सहायता करेगा जो अंततः विक्रेताओं को दी जाने वाली दर को सब्सिडी देने में मदद करेगा और सुविधा को बरकारार रखने में मदद करेगा।



ऑस्ट्रेलिया के गवर्नर जनरल डेविड हली तथा मंत्री फैयाज़ कोया हालमें नउसोरी मार्केट स्थित महिलाओं के लिए एक सेन्टर का उद्घाटन करते हुए

चित्र: अज़रिया फरीन



दिल के रोगी बच्चों के लिए अस्पताल

दिलों की सेजरी करके बच्चों को जीवन दान देकर साई प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन ने अभी तक तिहत्तर (73) बच्चों की जान बचाई है। प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमरामा के अनुसार जिन फीजियन बच्चों को जान ज़्यादा खतरों में होगी की देखभाल बीमारी के विशेषज्ञ, सेजन तथा अन्य चिकित्सा पेशेवर लोग करेंगे। अभी हालमें मुआनिकाउ रोड नसेसे स्थित श्री सत्या साई संजीविनी बच्चों के अस्पताल के उद्घाटन किया गया। यह अस्पताल साई ग्लोबल फंडेडेशन ऑफ फाउन्डेशन को करूणा और प्रतिबद्धता से खड़ा किया गया है जो दुनिया भर में मानवीय सेवा प्रदान करते हैं। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि साई प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन ने पिछले तीन सालों से इस पचीस मिलियन डॉलर लागत योजना पर काम शुरू किया है - जो कि उनकी समझ में फीजी के इतिहास में पहली ऐसी योजना है जो अकेले एक गैर-सरकारी संस्था ने पूरी की है। फीजी में हर साल लगभग दो सौ बच्चे पैदाशी दिल के रोगी होते हैं और प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र की बात की जाए तो यह संख्या दो हजार पाँच सौ से ज़्यादा है। भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने इस मौके पर कहा कि यह फीजी और भारत के बीच पारम्परिक रिश्तों और प्रेम का एक और प्रतीक है। ये दोनों देशों के साजा याता का एक और अध्याय है। "मुझे संतोष है कि हर एक बच्चे को न केवल विश्व स्तर का इलाज मिलेगा बल्कि सभी सेजरीज मुफ्त में होंगे," श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने कहा। हमारे दोनों देशों के बीच विशाल समुद्र ज़रूर है लेकिन हमारी संस्कृति ने हमें एक दूसरे से जोड़कर रखा है।

चित्र: अज़रिया फेने



फीजी डूआ का समर्थन करने भारी संख्या में लोग आए

हर वर्ग के फीजियासी भारी संख्या में हालही में सूवा स्थित अई एन जेड स्टेडियम पर स्वाया शिपिंग फीजियन डूआ तथा हाएलेन्ड्स के बीच सुपा रग्बी का खेल देखने गए थे। इनमें उच्च सरकारी अधिकारी जैसे कि गण्डर्पति गतु विलियाम कार्तीनिवरे, प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमरामा, अटोनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयान सईयद खैयूम, मंत्रीमण्डल के सदस्य तथा उनके परिवार वाले भी अपनी फीजी टीम को चीया करने के लिए गए थे। डूआ टीम फीजियासियों के समर्थन से बेहद खुश हुई जहाँ पं दाह हजार एक सौ दो लोग इन एंतिहासिक खेल को देखने के लिए स्टेडियम पहुंचे थे। फीजी ने एक रिकॉर्ड कायम किया है

जहाँ इस साल अभी तक किसी भी सुपा रग्बी खेल को देखने के लिए इतनी बड़ी संख्या में लोग नहीं गए थे। डूआ टीम ने खेल को शुरूआत अच्छी तरह की थी लेकिन जैसे-जैसे खेल आगे बढ़ता रहा हाएलेन्ड्स टीम, डूआ पर भारी पड़ती गई और खेल खत्म होते-होते हमारे फीजियन टीम को हार का सामना करना पड़ा। फिलहाल, डूआ टीम का फीजी में अगला खेल इग्नी महीने की अक्टोबर्स तारीख को चेचहिल पार्क लौतुका में चौपर्स के खिलाफ होगा जिसके लिए टिकट्स बिकने लगे हैं।

चित्र: ननिसे नर्दामला



छात्रों से पढ़ाई तथा अपने विकास पर ध्यान देने की माँग

फीजियासियों से माँग की है कि वे नेतागिरी की भूमिकाओं को बढ़ाए जिनकी आज हमारे युवा नेताओं को ज़रूरत है। युवा मंत्री परथीन कुमार हालमें नान्दी स्थित वोतुआलव पब्लिक स्कूल में प्रोफेक्टर्स की नियुक्ति वाले समारोह में मुख्य महमान थे जिन्होंने कहा कि माता-पिताओं के प्यार और देखभाल के बिना उनके बच्चे जिन्दगी में उस उँचाई तक नहीं पहुँच पाएंगे जहाँ उन्हें होना चाहिए। "माता-पिता अध्यापकों पर काफी भरोसा रखते हैं कि वे उनके बच्चों की और अच्छी देखभाल करने के साथ-साथ, उन्हें उच्च शिक्षा देंगे तथा उन्हें पोतसाहित करेंगे," मंत्री वाला

ने कहा। बच्चों शुरूआती शिक्षा तथा मर्यादों को घर पर हासिल करने है जिसे कक्षाओं में और निखरा जाता है। स्कूल में युवा नेता बनने का मतलब है कि आपको दूसरों के लिए एक उदाहरण बनना है। आपको जो बेज मिला है वो आपको हर दिन आपको जिम्मेदारी याद दिलाएगा कि आपको क्या कार्य करने है जिसके लिए आपपर भरोसा किया गया है। मंत्री ने बच्चों को अपनी पढ़ाई तथा अपने व्यक्तिगत विकास पर ध्यान देने की माँग की।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



सिलाई वाली मशीन से महिलाओं को आमदनी कमाने का अवसर मिलेगा

फीजियन सरकार देश में महिलाओं को आमदनी कमाने का जरिया प्रदान करके उन्हें समाज में खुशी के साथ इज़्जत की जिन्दगी बिताने का अवसर प्रदान करती है। महिलाओं को होसला बढ़ता है जब बिना किसी रुकावट के उन्हें शिक्षा तथा अन्य क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ने का मौका मिलता है। अभी हालमें सौ दू विमन्य क्लब को तरह सिलाई वाली मशीन प्रदान करती हुई महिला मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने ऐसा कहा। चार हजार पाँच सौ डॉलर से

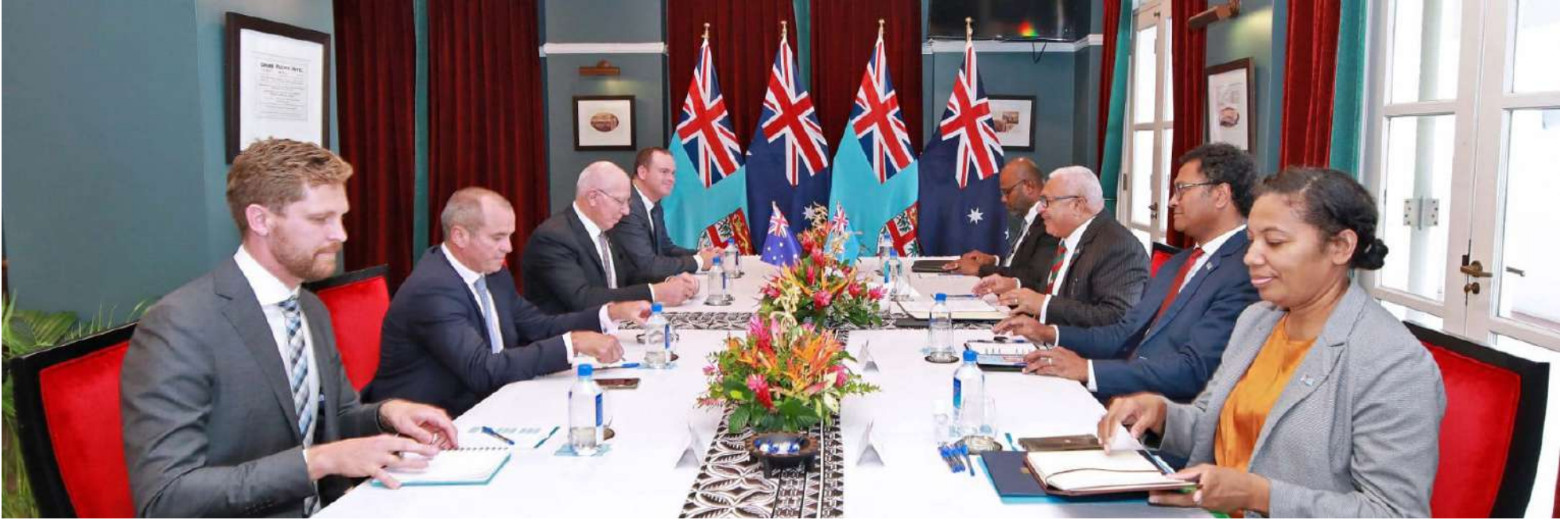
ज़्यादा लागत इन मशीनों के लिए प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर ने आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान की है। इस योजना का लक्ष्य है आमदनी बढ़ाना तथा महिलाओं को गरीबी से निकालना। प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमराम ने इस साल वाले बजट में योजना को अपना पूरा समर्थन देने वादा किया है।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया





बाहरी द्वीपों की ज़रूरी वाला नया सेंटा (एम इ एस सी) - एक और सहायता



बाहरी द्वीपों की ज़रूरी सेवा वाला नया सेंटर बनाने में ऑस्ट्रेलियन सरकार का भारी योगदान है जिसके लिए फीजी की सरकार बहुत ही अभारी है

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमारामा ने कहा कि फीजी, बाहरी द्वीपों की ज़रूरी सेवा वाला नए सेंटा (एम इ एस सी) के शुभारंभ के लिए खुश हैं जो ऑस्ट्रेलिया द्वारा दी जाने वाली सहायता में से एक है और नई सुविधा फीजी और अन्य क्षेत्र

की समुद्री क्षमता को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ाएगा।

प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमारामा ने इस पर तब प्रकाश डाला जब उन्होंने अभी हाल ही ऑस्ट्रेलिया के गवर्नर-जनरल डेविड हली से मुलाकात की। उन्होंने कहा कि इस नई सुविधा से फीजी और

समुद्री क्षेत्र की क्षमताओं में काफी वृद्धि होगी। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि अभी हाल ही ऑस्ट्रेलिया की सहायता से नांदी में ब्लैक रोक कैंप बनाया गया है जिसके लिए वे बहुत अभारी हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि यह क्षेत्रीय रक्षा और सुरक्षा की उन्नति के लिए ऑस्ट्रेलिया की

प्रतिबद्धता का प्रदर्शन है, जिसमें मानवीय सेवाओं में गहरी भागीदारी और शांति बरकारार रखने का अवसर मिलेगा। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि इस कठिन जरूरत के समय में फीजियन सरकार ऑस्ट्रेलिया के समर्थन के आभारी हैं खासकर के वह सहायता जो ऑस्ट्रेलिया

ने कोविड-19 के दौरान राष्ट्रीय प्रतिक्रिया के लिए प्रदान की थी। उनका कहना है कि जीवन रक्षक सुई और सामाजिक समर्थन कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से यह संपूर्ण हुआ है जिससे फीजी को एक आरोग्य चरण में तेजी से बढ़ने में सक्षम बनाया है।

मारामारूआ किन्डागार्डन का औपचारिक उद्घाटन हुआ



राष्ट्रपति महामहोम रातु विलियामे कातोनिवरे, ऑस्ट्रेलिया के गवना जनरल डेविड हली के साथ

सोनम सामी

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के गवर्नर-जनरल डेविड हली तथा उनकी पत्नी लिन्डा हाली ने फीजी में अपने दौर के दौरान वनुआ लेवू में मारामारूआ डिस्ट्रिक्ट कीन्डागार्डन का उद्घाटन किया।

गवर्नर-जनरल डेविड हली ने अपना समय निकालकर स्कूल के बच्चों से मुलाकात की जिसके बाद उन्होंने स्कूल को पुनः निर्माण करने वाले आकिटेक्स, ऑस्ट्रेलियन डिफेंस

फोर्स, रिपब्लिक ऑफ फीजी मिलीटरी फोर्स स, इंजनीयर्स, और स्कूल के समुदाय के साथ दोपहर का भोजन किया। मंत्री फैयाज़ कोया ने ऑस्ट्रेलियन सरकार और शिक्षा क्षेत्र के वुवाले साझेदारी पर प्रकाश डाला जिसके कारण से लोगों से लोगों तक का रिश्ता बंधा हुआ है। मारामारूआ डिस्ट्रिक्ट कीन्डागार्डन के लिए दी गई आर्थिक सहायता दोनों राष्ट्र के बीच की दोस्ती का उदाहरण है। ऑस्ट्रेलिया के सरकार ने पिछले दो सालों से अपना समर्थन देना जारी रखा है।



महिला मंत्री रोजी अकबर ग्रामीन महिलाओं को बर्तन प्रदान करती हुई

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

नांगेलेदामु महिला समूह को बढ़ावा देने का महिला आर्थिक जागरूकता कार्यक्रम

सोनम सामी

ताएलेवु बाउ स्थित नांगेलेदामु कोरो की महिलाओं की खुशियों का ठिकाना ना रहा जब विमन, चिल्लर और पोवर्टी

अलिक्विशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने उन्हें रसोई के उपकरण का एक नया सेट प्रदान किया। रसोई के उपकरण का नया सेट पाँच हजार डोलर से ज़्यादा लागत का है जिसे प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर द्वारा

नांगेलेदामु महिला समूह को खानपान प्रबन्ध व्यवसाय में आमदनी बढ़ाने में इस्तेमाल करने के लिए दिया गया है।

पिछले साल की शुरुवात में कोरो के बुजुर्ग और महिलाओं ने प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर से इसकी माँग करने के लिए एक पत्र लिखा था।

प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमारामा ने 2021/2022 के बजट से इस परियोजना का समर्थन करने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई थी। इस कोरो में 33 घरों में लगभग 250 लोग रहते हैं। महिला समूह में पच्चीस सदस्य हैं जो सक्रिय रूप से भाग लेते हैं और आम तौर पर बड़े समुदाय की सभा के लिए खानपान प्रबन्ध का काम इन्हें सौंपा जाता है। मंत्री अकबर ने इस सहायता को हासिल करने पर नांगेलेदामु और नालिंगा समुदाय से बनी यह महिला समूह को बधाई दी। उन्होंने फीजी की महिलाओं को देखकर संतोष व्यक्त किया जिन्होंने अपने लिए उपलब्ध अवसरों का उपयोग किया और आमदनी उत्पन्न करने के लिए योग्यता का इस्तेमाल किया है।

फीजी पहले से बेहतर – प्रधान मंत्री ने नमोसी को बताया



प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बईनिमरामा हालमें नमोसी प्राँतिफ काउन्सल की सभा का उद्घाटन करने के बाद काउन्सल के सदस्यों के साथ

चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

रोनल देव

हम साथ मिलकर एक बेहतर फीजी का निर्माण कर रहे हैं।

हालमें नमोसी प्राँतिफ काउन्सल का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बईनिमरामा ने कहा कि उन्हें खुशी है कि वो सामन्तों के कोरो वईवातुलोआ में मौजूद है। कोविड की वजह से दो सालों बाद इस तरह की सभा हुई है।

उन्होंने आगे कहा कि नमोसी प्राँतिफ काउन्सल के साथ अन्य प्राँतिफ काउन्सल

तथा फीजियन सरकार, एक ही लक्ष्य, फीजी को एक बेहतर जगह बनाने पर काम कर रहे हैं।

“मैं यहाँ उम्मीद का संदेश लेकर आया हूँ, और मैं कोई मामूली बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ कि हमारे पास उम्मीदें बहुत हैं क्योंकि हमने अपनी नेतागिरी से अपने लोगों को महामारी के चंगुल से छुड़ाया है। हमने जैसा वायदा किया था, उसी तरह का सुधार हुआ है तथा नमोसी में भी आप इस तरह के विकास का अहसास कर रहे हैं,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

“हमारी देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में वापस

सुधार हो रहा है जो उन्हीं लोगों के हाथों में है जो लगातार नौ सालों तक

अर्थ-व्यवस्था में सुधार लाने में सफल हुए – देश के इतिहास में यह सबसे लम्बा सुधार रहा है तथा उम्मीद है कि इस साल भी देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में सुधार होगा। प्रधान मंत्री ने आगे कहा कि सरकार ने नमोसी प्राँत के विकास के लिए छियालिस मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा लगा दिया है तथा इनमें बीस मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा रास्ते पर, बारह मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा स्वास्थ्य पर, ग्रामीन बिजली वाली योजना तथा सौशल वेलफेया पर तीन- मिलियन

डोलर से ज़्यादा तथा

पानी वाली योजनाओं पर दो मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा खर्च किया। आप यह विकास अपने आस-पास देख सकते हैं, जहाँ आपके पास नया रास्ता हो गया है जो वाईनि-लोटुलेवू तक जाता है, एक नया नकावू पुल, एक नया नावुआ अस्पताल जिसमें सभी सही उपकरण हो, सुधारा गया वाईवाका नेसिंग स्टेशन, नमोसी कोरो से नराईयावा तक नया ग्रीड को बढ़ाना, नुकुसेरे कोरो की सोला योजना के तहत घरों की वायरिंग, तेरह कोरो तक पानी की व्यवस्था करना।

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के गवना जेनरल ने अतिथी-सत्कार के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया

रोनल देव

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के गवना जेनरल महामहीम डेविड हेली ने उनका, उनकी पत्नी लिन्डा हेली तथा पूरे ऑस्ट्रेलियन प्रतिनिधिमण्डल का अतिथी-सत्कार करने के लिए फीजियन सरकार तथा फीजीवासियों का आभार व्यक्त किया है।

यह एक ऐतिहासिक राज्य दौरा था जहाँ पहली बार वनुआ लेवू में भी एक कार्यक्रम हुआ।

फीजी के अपने दौर पर गवना हेली ने कहा कि वृवाले साझेदारी की खुशियाँ मनाई गई। यह साझेदारी यह मंच प्रदान करता है जहाँ दोनों राष्ट्रों के बीच सहयोग, परामर्श तथा दोस्ती और भी गहरी हुई है जबकि हम एक सुरक्षित, स्थिर और समृद्ध प्रशांत क्षेत्र स्थापित करने के एक ही लक्ष्य की दिशा में मिलकर काम करते हैं। “मेरी पत्नी लिन्डा और मुझे बेहद खुशी है कि हमें फीजी के राष्ट्रपति विलियामे कातोनिवेरे तथा उनकी पत्नी ने हमें फीजी का राज्य दौरा करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया तथा हम उन सभी लोगों के अभारी



हैं जिन्होंने इस दौर को यादगार बनाने में सहयोग दिया जिससे हमारी साझेदारी की चौड़ाई और गहराई पर प्रकाश डाला गया है।

नन्दूरी वनुआलेवू में राष्ट्रपति के घर पर एक दिन बिताने के मौके से साझेदारी की भावना को मज़बूत हुआ है तथा इस अवसर की यादों को मैं और मेरी पत्नी कई सालों तक संजो कर रखेंगे।

गवना जेनरल हेली ने कहा कि फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझेदारी सफल होने तथा इसमें प्रगति होने पर ऑस्ट्रेलिया को गर्व है।

फीजियन सरकार ने इस राज्य दौर को यादगार बनाने में सहयोग देने वाले साझेदारों तथा फीजीवासियों को धन्यवाद दिया है।

नई सड़क के लिए सरकार को धन्यवाद

रोनल देव

नईतासिरी स्थित नाईतउवोली कोरो के निवासियों की खुशियों का ठिकाना न रहा जब कई सालों के इंतज़ार के बाद उनके कोरो तक एक नई सड़क बनाई गई।

फीजियन सरकार ने ग्रामीन, बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास मंत्रालय के द्वारा रास्ते, फुटपाथ और फुट बिज़ के एक कार्यक्रम के नीचे कोरो के लिए रास्ता बनाने के लिए पैसे अलग किया। चौबीस हजार डॉलर लागत इस योजना से नाईतउवोली के सौ से भी ज़्यादा कोरोवासियों की आवा-जाही में सहूलियत होगी।

नया रास्ता बनने से पहले बच्चों को बारिश के मौसम में कच्ची सड़क इस्तेमाल करते वक्त खतरे का सामना करना पड़ता था। कोरोवासियों को अपना उत्पादन बाज़ार लेजाने में भी काफी आसानी होगी।

सरकार की सहायता से कोरोवासियों के जीवन की नई शुरुआत हुई है। इस नई सड़क से पहले कोरोवासियों को लगभग

दो सौ पचास मीटर तक अपने काँधे पर खाने-पीने और घर का सामान लादकर घर जाना पड़ता था। जब कोई कोरोवासी बीमार पड़ता था तो उसे भी लादकर मुख्य रास्ते तक लेजाया जाता था ताकि वहाँ से उसे नज़दीकी हेल्थ सेंटर तक लेजाया जा

सके। नया रास्ता बनने से कोरोवासियों को अपने घर पहुँचने के लिए थोड़ी दूर ही पैदल चलना पड़ता है खास करके जब वे सूवा से खरीदवीन करके लौटते हैं।

कोरोवासी सरकार की इस सहायता के बहुत अभारी हैं क्योंकि रास्ते के इस विकास के लिए उन्होंने लगभग साठ (60) साल इंतज़ार किया है।

इस नई सड़क का उद्घाटन करते हुए मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु ने ज़ोर दिया कि ग्रामीन इलाकों में खास करके फीजीवासियों की आवा-जाही के लिए सड़कें बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण हैं। नाईतउवोली में भारी मात्रा में यं गोना की खेती होती है तथा मंत्री सेरूईरातु कोरोवासियों का काम देखकर बहुत ही खुश हुए।



मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु नाईतासिरी स्थित नाईतउवोली कोरो में नए रास्ते का उद्घाटन करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

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प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गे बर्दिनमरामा हालमें दकाउन्ड्रोवे प्राँतिफे काउन्सल की सभा का उद्घाटन करने के बाद सदस्यों के साथ
चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसीनईवालू

ई-तउकई ज़मीनों के मालिक बदले नहीं जा सकते हैं- प्रधान मंत्री

रोनल देव

दकाउन्ड्रोवे में हुए विकास किसी से छिपे नहीं है, वो सबके सामने है। सावूसावू स्थित यारोई कोरो में दकाउन्ड्रोवे प्राँतिफे काउन्सल की सभा का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बर्दिनमरामा ने पंद्रह क्षेत्र के प्रतिनिधियों, महमानों और सरकारी अधिकारियों से कहा कि सन् दो हजार चौदह से पिछले साल (2014 - 2021) तक सरकार ने इस प्राँत के निवासियों का जीवन सुधारने के लिए उनासी मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा खर्च किया है।

“दकाउन्ड्रोवे देश के सबसे बड़े प्राँतों में से एक है तथा वहाँ की जनसंख्या भी काफी ज़्यादा है इसलिए वहाँ भारी पुँजी लगाई गई है। नोदन डिवेलोपमन्ट प्रोग्राम के नीचे, दकाउन्ड्रोवे को पचीस मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा दिया गया जिनमें से बीस मिलियन डोलर नए रास्ते बनाने और वर्तमान सड़क पर मरम्मत करने के लिए अलग किया

गया। बिजली और सोला वाली योजना के लिए सरकार ने आठ मिलियन डोलर की पुँजी लगाई। पानी वाली योजनाओं में सात मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा का खर्च बैठा जबकि एनेजी फीजी लिमिटेड के मार्फित बिजली वाली योजना पर दो मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा लगाया गया तथा दकाउन्ड्रोवे में सौशल वेल्फेयर की सहायता पाने वालों को तीन मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा लागत मदद की गई है।”

प्रधान मंत्री ने आगे कहा कि वनुआ लेवू में चालिस से ज़्यादा साईट्स हैं जहाँ इंटरनेट की सुविधा उपलब्ध है जिससे विद्यार्थी, अद्यापक तथा स्वास्थ्य कर्मी जानकारी हासिल करते हैं और अपने साथी फीजीजन्स से संपर्क भी करते हैं। समाज के अन्य लोग भी इस सुविधा से लाभ उठा सकते हैं। ईतउकई ज़मीन पर बातें करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने काउन्सल को आशवासन दिया कि आज के मिलान में ईतउकई ज़मीन उनके मालिकों के हाथों में इतना सुरक्षित कभी नहीं था। यह ज़मीन

न तो छिनी गई है न ही भविष्य में छिनी जाएगी। हमारे देश के संविधान के नीचे यह पुरी तरह से सुरक्षित है जिसका पालन करने के लिए मैंने शपथ ली है। पहले के संविधान में ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था नहीं थी। पहले के संविधान के नीचे तथा पिछली सरकारों ने ईतउकई ज़मीन बदलने और इसे हमेशा के लिए किसी और को सौंपने का मौका दिया था लेकिन ऐसा अब कभी नहीं होगा क्योंकि हमारे पास फीजी का ऐसा संविधान हो गया है जिसके नीचे ऐसा करना नामुमकिन है। और यह एक सच्चाई है, प्रधान मंत्री ने समझाया। प्रधान मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि सरकार ने 2011 में ज़मीन मालिकों को लीस का पैसा बराबर बाँटने की शुरुआत की थी। अभी तक टी एल टी बी ने अट्ठारह साल से कम उम्र के सत्ताईस हजार (27,000) युवकों के लिए लीस के पैसों के रूप में 27.1 मिलियन डोलर की पुँजी लगाई है। ये युवक अट्ठारह साल की उम्र के होने पर ये पैसे उच्च शिक्षा हासिल करने या अपना खुद

का व्यापार शुरू करने में लगा सकते हैं। सरकार ने हालही 2021-2022 रिवाइज़ड बजट में उस ईतउकई ज़मीन पर रास्तों का निर्माण करने के लिए एक मिलियन डोलर अलग किया है जहाँ किसी तरह का विकास होगा, घरेलू लीसस के सेवा के लिए पाँच लाख डोलर निकाला गया है, कृषि ज़मीनों के सेवा के लिए भी पाँच लाख डोलर जबकि कृषि और घरेलू लीसस जो भरे नहीं गए हैं को चुकाने के लिए एक मिलियन डोलर अलग किया गया है। 1987 के बाद पहली बार हमने देश में स्थिरता स्थापित की है तथा हमारी सरकार पहले की सरकारों के मिलान में अच्छा काम कर रही है जो अपने लोगों के हित में काम कर रही है। हमने फीजी को पहले के मिलान में सबसे बेहतर, सुरक्षित बनाने के साथ-साथ लोगों को बराबर का हक दिया है। सबसे ज़रूरी बात यह रही है कि हमने ध्यान में रखा कि कोई फीजीवासी पीछे न छूट जाए,” प्रधान मंत्री ने दकाउन्ड्रोवे प्राँतिफे काउन्सल के सदस्यों को बताया।