

FijiFocus



National lifeline

Budget promises help for Fijians with daily lives

From left: The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Speaker of Parliament Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama after the 2021-2022 National Budget announcement in Parliament last week.

PRASHILA DEVI

IT is a budget that has something for everyone.

The 2021-2022 National Budget has been delivered in the midst of an economic downturn where many Fijians have needed assistance for their daily livelihood.

Many forms of assistance has been given by the Government to those who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic since last year, and the budget that was announced has clearly shown that it will continue to do this.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said, despite the darkness and difficulty of the present outbreak, the Government has the clearest view of a future that is safe and an

economy that is on the move.

“We are not dispensing band-aid solutions or depending on drastic and damaging measures that will cause structural unemployment and wide-scale poverty. We are no longer fighting to win a single battle against this virus — we are fighting to win the war. And we can win, because we have vaccines, enough for every adult in Fiji.”

In saying this, he delivered a \$3.69 billion budget that will support Fijians and help stimulate the economy by ensuring that Fijians are vaccinated to aid in the reopening of the borders and businesses.

Some of these measures include:

- \$200 million in unemployment income support to Fijians affected by COVID-19 both in the formal and informal sectors as from 1 August 2021, every affected Fijians

will be entitled to a monthly allowance of \$120 for six months, which will be paid in two lump-sum payments. These Fijians will need to get vaccinated to access this assistance.

- Working capital support of \$200 million in the form of loans to help Fijian businesses meet their operational needs.

- \$55m allocated for the Social Pension Scheme, supporting 48,094 Fijians above the age of 65 with a monthly payment of \$100.

- Poverty Benefit Scheme, allocated \$36 million to cover the Cash Transfer Support ranging from \$35 to \$127 and a \$50 Food Voucher for 27,490 Fijians.

- \$90 monthly Disability Allowance will also continue with an allocation of \$10.8m, assisting around 9,400 Fijians.

- \$11.3m allocated under the Child Protection Allowance to support vulnerable children.

- The Bus Fare Support for Elderly and Disabled Persons will continue with a monthly top-up of \$10 and a funding allocation of \$5 million. A further \$1mn is allocated for the Food Voucher Programme for Rural Pregnant Women.

Another measure announced to provide financial support is allowing Fiji National Provident Fund members between the ages of 50 to 54 with balances of up to \$10,000 to be able to withdraw all remaining funds from their FNP account.

This is expected to inject up to \$30m in the economy.

(More 2021-2022 National Budget related stories inside)



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe Bainimarama.

Fiji does not ask any nation to do what we are unwilling to do. We are committing to net-zero decarbonisation from multiple sectors, including shipping, agriculture, blue carbon, electric mobility and waste management. That is the only way we will have a realistic chance to achieve net-zero global emissions by 2050.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Prime Minister

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Secretary Antony Blinken@SecBlinken United States government official
We are proud to support Fiji in the fight against COVID-19 by donating more than 150,000 doses of Moderna's safe and effective vaccine. Our donation complements @USAID's efforts to bolster Fiji's vaccine readiness.

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Women, girls priority in recovery efforts

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Minister of Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar in highlighting the 2021-2022 National Budget being a COVID-19 recovery budget said it will allow for the strategic recovery from the pandemic to begin.

"The allocations were made across the board to reduce disruptions to Government services and create the conditions for Ministries and Government funded bodies to continue operating until conditions improve," she said.

"Since funding has been maintained in operational areas, this gives us much confidence that the Ministry of Education, while controlling expenditure in areas that we can control; will have funds in core areas that will ensure that the Ministry is able to carry out its functions properly."

"The Ministry of Education will focus on diversifying learning resources so students can have access to educational resources in various modes, which includes developing online learning resources, improving internet provi-

sion in remote schools and training teachers in the effective use of online resources," she added.

She further added "we are mindful that many students do not have access to the internet so the Ministry will focus on creating alternative learning resources to ensure these students are not disadvantaged."

"The Ministry will also improve systems and processes to streamline operations to further improve our service delivery and better monitoring of expenditure to realise the most effective outcomes with the funds," she added.

The Fijian Government is committed to rebuilding schools and as such the line ministry will continue to rebuild schools to Cat 5 standard to withstand the frequent intensive cyclones that the country encounters.

Despite having a tight budget, Minister Akbar said the initiative that stood out particularly is the Fijian Government providing sanitary pads to around 55,000 female students from late primary to year 13 with an allocation of \$1.5 million.

"The government ensures that the

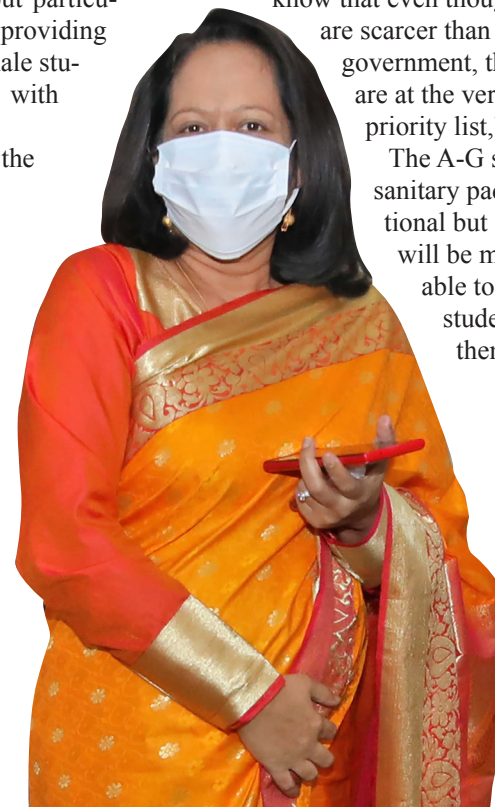
little ones are taken care of despite the many challenges," she said.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum in announcing this initiative relayed that there are more girls in schools than ever before.

"These students will be provided with vouchers in schools by the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts which they can use to buy sanitary pads from supermarkets or other convenience stores," he highlighted.

"This would also be able to help the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to have more focus on young girls and women's reproductive health and be able to monitor them. This would be a holistic approach to the health and well-being of young females in our country."

"We want our young girls and women to know that even though resources are scarcer than usual for their government, their needs are at the very top of our priority list," he added. The A-G stressed that sanitary pads are not optional but essential and will be made available to every female student who needs them.



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar.
Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Govt invests in upskilling students

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fijian Government has continuously invested in the future of children which is evident through the continuation of the free education grant initiative.

Approximately \$60 million has been set aside to cater for over 220,000 primary and secondary school students from Years 1 to 13 under the free education initiative.

An allocation of \$17 million has also made towards transportation assistance for more than 100,000 primary and secondary students from low-income households.

Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar says that through this initiative, schools can now strengthen areas and develop resources that will aid in the continuous delivery of education.

"With significant investment in technical and vocational education allocation, more students will now have access to higher and tertiary education," Minister Akbar said.

"A total of \$71.4 million investment as operational grants to higher education institutions and a further \$159.6 million for Tertiary Education Loans Scheme (TELS) and National Toppers Scheme (NTS) will enable Fijian students to have better access to higher education."

"Changes in criterion for eligibility to funding under NTS and TELS is aimed at improving quality outputs and addressing shortages in the workforce which is fully supported by the Ministry of Education," she added.

"The Fijian Government's strategic decision to invest in Technical-

Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs will also go a long way in up-skilling and re-skilling Fijians," she further added.

There has also been an introduction of a new stream of TELS with 5,000 placements available for TVET courses at the Fiji National University which includes Certificates 3 and 4 as well as Diploma Level 5.

Those students not able to make the cut off mark for TELS for Degree programmes will be able to join this scheme including Year 12 students.

Minister Akbar said this initiative will give Fijians better access to employment and will help them become job seekers as well as job creators in the future.

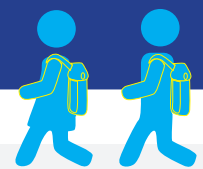
"This investment will see its returns in the short to medium term, which will have a positive impact on our economy and greatly improve the livelihoods of all Fijians," she said.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, in delivering the 2021-2022 National Budget, highlighted that "TELS will now only be provided to students from families with household income of less than \$100,000 and all recipients above the age of 18 must also be fully vaccinated."

The A-G said this also raises entry mark for TELS to a minimum of 280 marks in the new academic year.

"For study areas where there is currently an oversupply of graduates such as accounting, tourism, law, management and public administration and certain areas in teacher training, medicine and health, eligibility marks will be increased to 300 marks for Year 13," he said.

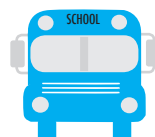
FREE EDUCATION INITIATIVE



\$60m

To cater for over **220K** primary and secondary school students from Years **1** to **13** under the free education initiative.

\$17m



Transportation assistance for more than **100K** primary and secondary students from low-income households

\$71.4m



Operational grants to higher education institutions

\$159.6m



Tertiary Education Loans Scheme (TELS) and National Toppers Scheme (NTS)



Ba Hospital set for December operations

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJIANS living in the greater parts of Ba and neighbouring communities will now have access to reliable and efficient health services when operations at the new Ba Hospital will begin in December this year.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while delivering the 2021-2022 National Budget in Parliament, said as part of the private public partnership arrangement with Healthcare Fiji the Ba Hospital will start operations in December.

The A-G also said the Lautoka Hospital is scheduled to commence operations in March 2022 and will offer specialised services like open-heart surgery.

“We are providing \$20million under head 50 with an additional \$25.7m under the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in the running of the Lautoka Hospital.”

Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said the services that will be offered in Ba and Lautoka Hospital will offer specialised care with trained local experts being able to perform open heart surgery.

Running of LAUTOKA HOSPITAL	
under Head 50	\$20m
MOHMS	\$25.7m
Upgrade of interior of Labasa hospital	
	\$25m
Upgrade and maintenance of health facilities around the country	
	\$6m

“Fijians will no longer have to travel overseas countries like Australia, New Zealand and India to access these services. Most have to spend a lot of money with the operations including airfares and accommodation in these countries.”

“This specialised health care is one of Government’s vision in improving health care services around the country that will benefit all Fijians.”

To achieve quality healthcare to meet the current and growing future demands in health services throughout Fiji, the Government has allocated \$7million for the construction of the new maternity unit in Suva.

The A-G said \$2.5million has been allocated for Labasa Hospital to facilitate for interior upgrade and a total of \$6million for the upgrade and maintenance of health facilities around the country.

Government sets \$5m for locum services

NANISE NEIMILA

FOR Fijians who depend fully on the public health system, the Fijian Government will continue with the program of engaging private practitioners with direct budget funding of \$5 million under the 2021 -2022 new financial year.

This was highlighted by Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum while delivering the 2021-2022 National Budget in Parliament last week.

The A-G said this reduces the load on larger public hospitals, reduces the risks of larger hospitals being on lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreaks and supports the private general practitioners who also have been impacted by the pandemic.

A total of 17 GPs from the Central and

\$5 million

is allocated under a programme to engage private practitioners in the

17 GP clinics



ARE PART OF THIS INITIATIVE

Western Divisions were selected under this initiative to provide medical services.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete thanked Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and the Minister for Economy for their commitment and support in ensuring that all Fijians during this pandemic continue to access proper and safer medical facilities.

Meanwhile, Government will continue to

support the free medicine scheme for eligible Fijians to access this service and will also be beneficial for those Fijians that visit any GPs. Minister Waqainabete said Fijians will be able to access price-controlled medicines prescribed by any general practitioner at any health facility free of charge or from any Government hospital pharmacy or selected retail pharmacies.

“Registration drives were conducted two years back with officials from the ministry visiting other parts of the country to be able to register those Fijians that were eligible for the scheme.

“This included those individuals with annual income or combined household income of \$30,000 or below. Registered Fijians would be provided cards that allowed them to access free medicine at no cost.”



The Fijian Government will provide a subsidy of \$150 per treatment at centres where costs are \$150 for treatment. Photo: SUPPLIED

Sector to outsource diagnostic laboratory services

NANISE NEIMILA

The Fijian Government will now be outsourcing and advertising diagnostic laboratories and imaging facilities to accredited health providers.

While delivering 2021-2022 National Budget address, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said successful providers will need to have proven expertise to operate, maintain and provide biomedical services such as MRI scan, dental scan, CT scan, x-ray centre, OPG mammograms bone densitometer and radiology services.

“We can no longer bear the significant upfront capital and continuing costs so outsourcing is a lot better. Many countries have adopted this, for example recently we have paid out \$500,000 for a scanner at CWM that did not work so we had to direct the outpatients to Suva private hospital.

“What it does now, the whole model that we have now will be based on tender. Somebody is expected to provide a MRI machine, they not only provide the machine. They operate the machine, they make sure the air conditioning is working, if there is software upgrade, they make sure it’s done, they have the op-

erator and they have an up time of seven per cent.”

The A-G said if the providers are not able to meet the required uptime then they will have to pay penalties. Many companies are interested in that. “So, we will be able to use the services 24/7.”

Meanwhile, to provide some relief for kidney patients, the Government is subsidising kidney dialysis treatment for Fijians in need of this treatment.

“We are providing \$1.5 million to subsidise kidney dialysis treatment. The Fijian Government will provide a subsidy of \$150 per treatment at centres where costs are \$150 for treatment,” the A-G said.

“This will effectively mean that the patient will pay no cost however we will be extending to other centres too where they can go and use the \$150 but we are very mindful that a lot of these centres that run privately or other organisations keep on increasing their fees.”

“This is why we have said from day one that we will only allow for dialysis where we have centres like in Labasa and the one that has been setup in Nadera where Government was paying up to 50 per cent but we have now increased it to \$150.”

\$1.5 million

TO SUBSIDISE KIDNEY DIALYSIS TREATMENT



The Fijian Government will provide a subsidy of \$150 per treatment at centres where costs are \$150 for treatment.



\$2.6m allotment brings relief to market vendors

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

MARKET vendors will now enjoy selling their produce at municipal markets without the worry of paying market fees.

This was after \$2.6 million was allocated by the Government to pay full market stall fees from 1 August of this year to 31 July, 2022.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, in his 2021-2022 National Budget announcement said that this was to support all casual and full-time market vendors in Fiji and provide relief across the country.

“There are many new measures in this budget to spur job creation and lift the cost burden on farmers, market vendors, public service vehicle drivers, fishers, students, and other hard-working Fijians. And we are removing costly, inefficient, and outdated bureaucratic processes and regulations.

“If you’re selling in a market, your fees are paid. You can keep more of your income, use it to sustain your family, use it to build your business, and lower your prices if you think it helps you sell and earn more,” the A-G said.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar described the budget allocation as a relief for market vendors who are trying to earn



Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar described the budget allocation as a relief for market vendors who are trying to earn an income during this COVID-19 pandemic. Photo: SUPPLIED

an income during this COVID-19 pandemic.

“Market vendors must be very delighted with this particular budget now that they don’t have to pay stall fees. Surely they will have added income and this relief will go a long way considering the COVID-19 pandemic that we are facing,” Minister Kumar said.

The minister added that considering the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the country, the 2021-2022 National Budget allocation is for every Fijian as it has got something for every person and sector.

Around 8,000 market vendors will benefit from this new waiver of market fees.

Fisheries happy with allocation

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

TO continue its mandated work in protecting, sustaining and managing the country’s fisheries resources, the Ministry of Fisheries was allocated a total of \$13.1 million for the 2021-2022 financial year.

Minister for Fisheries, Semi Koroilavesau says he is content with the allocation given to his ministry and added that the \$13.1m will address the key areas that are important in mitigating and overcoming the current challenges of the pandemic.

“Across the board, all Ministries are adapting to the new norm caused by this pandemic. We are fortunate that Government has budgeted for key areas of food security, enforcement, research in science and technology. These are all critical areas of Fisheries Management. So we as a ministry are content with the allocated budget.”

Together with agriculture, the fisheries sector will also receive a 90 percent export income deduction that will be valid until 31 December, 2024.

This incentive will allow for the support of new and existing businesses to venture into international markets which will result in diversifying the economy and become an income generating avenue for rural Fijians.

Minister Koroilavesau explained the key areas that the ministry will be concentrating on will be to continue the work of managing the sustainability of Fiji’s fisheries resources and to ensure that the livelihoods of all Fijians are protected.

“All our main activities will continue within the Inshore and Offshore Sector, Research and Development, Aquaculture and food security, enforcement, and compliance to name a few. While we focus on these areas, our goal is to ensure that our service delivery is maintained. For example, the budget reflects amendments to the Offshore Fisheries Act, where we will do away with bunkering and provisioning permits for fishing vessels. We will continue to ensure that appropriate permits for the landing of fish are provided swiftly to meet market demands.”

Minister Koroilavesau also said that the ministry’s main goal now is to stretch their fiscal envelope to ensure that service delivery to Fijians is up to standard.

“We will strengthen private and public partnerships, bilateral arrangements, and collaboration with civil society in the achievement of shared sustainable fisheries goals. While the next few months will have its fair share of challenges, I am optimistic that through an innovative and holistic approach, we will strategise and adapt to challenges that come our way,” he said.



A staff of Ministry of Agriculture distributes backyard gardening seeds with the assistance of a police officer in the Suva containment area in an effort to provide food security for all Fijians during the lockdown period. Photo: SUPPLIED

Agriculture will step up programmes

PRASHILA DEVI

AS the second wave of COVID-19 swept through country, most sectors of the economy were adversely affected except for agriculture.

There was an upsurge in agriculture as Fijians went into farming as a means of earning a

livelihood and many even took up backyard gardening after the Ministry of Agriculture started distributing free seeds to communities during the first wave.

After the announcement of the 2021-2022 National Budget, the Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy said he was happy that with the slight increase the Ministry received, they should be able to continue most of their programmes that addresses food security.

“I am happy with the budget because considering the situation we are in, our Ministry’s allocation

went up slightly and all the programmes that we had been carrying out, funds have been allocated for them,” Minister Reddy said.

“I will meet with the officials of the Ministry to discuss how to further increase the economic input of agriculture, engage more people, give more assistance and support to farmers so that they can increase their production.”

He said major attention will be given to rice and other export commodities.

Elaborating further, the Minister explained that there were

other provisions that will act as a stimulus for exporters such as the fees paid through the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji has been waived so 90 per cent of the income will not be taxed.

“To grow exports we will look at the export commodities that are there- dalo, yaqona, cassava and ginger- we will focus on these,” Minister Reddy said.

He added that the Ministry will also be looking at how to grow livestock.

The Ministry has been allocated \$61.9 million for the next financial period.



Free Water and Electricity Subsidy

Up to

92,500 litres

of water will continue to be provided free to households with an annual household income of less than \$30,000.

\$11 million

is the total in electricity subsidies the Fijian Government will pay for households with the annual income of less than \$30,000.

ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS WILL HAVE FREE ELECTRICITY FOR 6 MONTHS

Govt will increase subsidies to 34 cents per unit for 100kilo watts of power usage. This will help about 50,000 households

MICRO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

MSMEs with a turnover of less than \$1.25m

will now pay residential electricity rates with the Govt subsidising the difference.

\$7m

is allocated for this initiative.

Expected to assist 18,700+ MSMEs

2021-2022 National Budget

Social Welfare Support

\$120 million

for the Poverty Benefit Scheme, Child Protection Allowance Programme, Disability Allowance Programme, Social Pension Scheme and Bus Fare Subsidies for the Elderly &Disabled

ASSISTING MORE THAN 130,000 VULNERABLE FIJIANS

\$55m

SOCIAL PENSION SCHEME

will support 48,094 Fijians above the age of 65 with a monthly payment of \$100

\$36m

CASH TRANSFER SUPPORT

ranging from \$35 to \$127 and a \$50 Food Voucher for 27,490 Fijians

\$11.3m

CHILD PROTECTION ALLOWANCE

This is to support vulnerable children

\$10.8m

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

The \$90 monthly Disability Allowance will continue assisting around 9,400 Fijians

\$5m

BUS FARE SUPPORT

Assistance for elderly and disabled persons will continue with a monthly top-up of \$10

\$1m

FOOD VOUCHER PROGRAMME

Assistance for Rural Pregnant Women

CASUAL/FULL TIME MARKET VENDORS

\$2.6m

is allocated for the Fijian Government to pay the full market stall fees for one year.

Assistance will benefit around 8,000 Fijians

Unemployment Support

2021-2022 National Budget

\$200 million

unemployment income support to Fijians affected by COVID-19 both in the formal and informal sectors

\$120

per person per month

will be paid in two lump-sum payments.

\$360

per person for 3 months

1st payment: . Aug - Oct

2ndpayment Nov - Jan 22

Assistance will only be provided to those eligible individuals who have received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine before the application period ends.

Second payment in November to eligible Fijians provided they are fully vaccinated by 31 October, 2021. Medical exceptions will be made for those with a certificate from the PS for Health and Medical Services.

NO JAB, NO ASSISTANCE

\$220

fortnightly payout

from FNNP will continue for members with sufficient General Account balances.

\$720

per-person payout

is for those who have exhausted their General Account balances or do not want to access their General Account balance.



PM makes call on climate finance providers

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI is urging climate finance providers to take up a programmatic approach to better reflect the scale, scope and speed of climate finance demanded by development aspirations of small island developing states.

These were recommendations made by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during a virtual open discussion at the recent Pacific-UK High Level Climate Dialogue meeting.

“There is an urgent need to improve access to affordable and adequate climate finance that moves away from projectised funding to more programmatic funding solutions. For example, Fiji has a National Adaptation Plan with 160 action items that need to be funded as an entire package rather than funding a handful of projects at a time.”

“In this regard, Fiji is glad to be co-chairing the establishment of a Climate Finance Taskforce with the UK COP26 Team to develop a multi-country taskforce that seeks to pilot a harmonised bottom-up approach to accessing climate finance.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama emphasised the need to build on the Ocean Dialogue organised by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) in December 2020 and a follow up Dialogue in June 2021 by the COP Presidency, COP26 should establish a mandated process to incorporate oceans into the UNFCCC agenda.

“Financing for the ocean-climate nexus should be new and additional to the US \$100 Billion financing target and must be included in the post-2025 Goal on Climate Finance for we cannot meet our temperature goal without addressing the ocean-climate nexus. Fiji seeks your support on this and requests for an outcome in the main COP26 document.”

While a recovery is already underway for the wealthy world, Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted how the majority of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) find themselves stuck in time.

“The economic consequences of the pandemic are more serious than ever, which has left us more vulnerable than ever to the extreme challenge of the climate crisis.”

“The gap between nations large and small, developed and developing, is collapsing into a chasm. Our recovery is at stake; our development is at stake; as is the achievement of our SDGs.”

Access to, securing climate funding ‘a priority’

NANISE NEIMILA

“THERE is an urgent need to improve access to affordable and adequate climate finance that moves away from projectised funding to more programmatic funding solutions.”

This was message by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while delivering his virtual statement at the recent Pacific-UK High Level Climate Dialogue.

In his address, Prime Minister Bainimarama said Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) must produce a dramatic change in global climate ambitions and set clear pathways for rapid emission-peak, preferably by 2025.

“That is the only way we will have a realistic chance to achieve net-zero global emissions by 2050. Fiji does not ask any nation to do what we are unwilling to do. We are committing to net-zero decarbonisation from multiple sectors, including shipping, agriculture, blue carbon, electric mobility and waste management. We commend the G7’s recognition in the Carbis Bay Summit Communiqué that developed countries must increase international public climate finance contributions,

particularly to adaptation. The developed economies have made an obligation to provide US \$100 Billion per year in additional climate finance by 2020 and that obligation is still unmet.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama raised concerns on the imbalance between adaptation and mitigation finance which is deeply concerning for small island developing states.

“COP26 must not only expedite this commitment, it should also establish a clear pathway to setting a new quantified goal on climate finance for 2025 and beyond. As COVID-19 continues to cause economic havoc and overwhelm health systems in the Pacific, our development partners must significantly reduce debt as an instrument of climate finance. Piling on more debt is not the answer.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama further adds the better approach is to unlock private-sector finance through grant-based or highly concessional de-risking funds.

“There is very little indication of formal discussions at COP26 on the urgent need to develop a financing mechanism for Loss and Damage despite its being a prominent part of the Paris Agreement package. Small

Island Developing States were instrumental in lobbying for the inclusion of Article 8 in the Paris Agreement in 2015, but developed countries have since continued to ignore the need to finance anything other than insurance-based solutions.

“Financing for Loss and Damage needs to grow some teeth. We commend the work of the COP26 Presidency in establishing the Santiago Network and hope it can address such substantive financing issues.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama also presented a few recommendations during the virtual meeting, one of which is expectations on the upcoming COP26 that does justice to the Oceans pathway championed by Fiji at COP23.

“We thank the COP26 Presidency and the COP25 Presidency of Chile for helping shape an entry point for the Oceans agenda into the UNFCCC process. With less than 4 months remaining until COP26, Fiji looks towards the UK COP26 Presidency with great optimism. As a former COP President, I understand the weight of responsibility on your shoulders and stand ready to assist wherever and whenever needed.”



Fiji's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Naipote Katonitabua presents his credentials to the Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE, Minister of Defence, Ruler of the Emirates of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fiji, UAE eye deeper ties

FIJI through its Mission in Abu Dhabi aspires to advance collaboration with the United Arab Emirates in the areas of mutual interests and benefit to both the nations.

This has been conveyed at the presentation of credentials by Fiji's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Naipote Katonitabua to the Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE, Minister of Defence, Ruler of the Emirates of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum at the Presidential Palace in

Abu Dhabi, UAE.

While presenting his credentials, Ambassador Katonitabua conveyed the kind greetings of the President of Fiji, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and the people of Fiji, while also reaffirming Fiji's commitment to strengthen the bilateral relations between the two nations.

Ambassador Katonitabua said he was deeply honoured and privileged to present his Letter of Credentials to one of the great leaders in the UAE and he looked forward for enhanced co-operation.

Fiji will capitalise on potential opportunities through its participation in the 2020 World Expo in Dubai and anticipation of the signing of key bilateral agreements between its two leaders on the Investment Promotion and Protection Cooperation Agreement, renewal of UAE-Fiji Defence Co-operation; Labour

Mobility and Employment; Visa Free arrangement; Seafarers Cooperation; and Infrastructure Development memorandum of understanding (MOU) to name a few.

Ambassador Katonitabua also pledged his willingness to provide the best of his ability in elevating bilateral relations between the two nations to higher levels.

The UAE Government has supported Fiji in its pursuit towards alternative energy supply through the funding of the Lau, Kadavu and Rotuma (LAKARO) renewable energy project worth US\$5m. It also provided support in 2020 for Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and medical equipment for the fight against COVID-19.

The UAE Government through Emirates Red Crescent Authority assisted Fiji with a sum of \$6.3 million in the reconstruction of

three schools in Fiji damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston. It also donated cash assistance of FJD \$200,364 towards the rehabilitation and recovery efforts for TC Ana and Yasa.

Renewable energy solutions are also a strategic area of collaboration through which Fiji Mission in Abu Dhabi works in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Additionally, IRENA and UAE Mission to the International Renewable Energy Agency last year co-hosted the “Renewables Talk” focused on renewable energy in the global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fiji and the UAE have enjoyed 11 years of cordial relations since establishing diplomatic ties in March 2010. Fiji's Embassy in Abu Dhabi was opened in September 2012.

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A-G attends virtual environment law talks

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum virtually participated in the high-level Roundtable at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) inaugural Oceania Environmental Law Conference recently.

Speaking at the event, the A-G highlighted that addressing climate change means addressing directly or indirectly environmental measures and laws.

“Our future requires us to build resilience, be it against the threat of global pandemics, increased adversities of climate change or an imbalance between economic development and environmental conservation,” he said.

“The economic realities precipitated by a history of colonisation, dependency on services such as tourism, globalisation and pandemics pose significant socio-economic pressures.”

“In turn put practical pressure on climate and environmental measures, it renders the 2030 target of achieving SDGs almost impossible,” he added.

He highlighted that environmental law in Fiji and the Pacific must now evolve to respond to



The Attorney-General, Minister for Economy and Minister responsible for Climate Change Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during a recent virtual high-level Roundtable at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) inaugural Oceania Environmental Law Conference. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

dynamic economic needs and complement national climate ambitions, particularly in the context of helping facilitate climate adaptation and encouraging investments in climate mitigation and adaptation.

The A-G informed the panel that the draft Climate Change Bill was a ground-breaking piece of legislation as many of its provisions addressed concepts that have never previously been given treatment in national legislation, and some of those are international legal firsts.

“The draft Bill addresses critical issues such as planned re-

location for communities affected by sea-level rise and climate change, carbon markets, oceans and maritime boundary issues and meeting net-zero targets,” he said.

“The draft Climate Change Bill will formalise the way in which we collect, store and publicise information on national emissions, and it creates a legal framework for the use of five-year carbon budgets to help define and shape our short-midterm policy objectives.”

“To ensure that Fiji can capitalise on opportunities to protect our environment and build

socio-economic resilience, the draft Bill also provides a framework for engaging with carbon markets by legally recognising carbon-sequestration property rights,” the A-G added.

The A-G also highlighted the need for Non-Government Organisations such as the IUCN to work closely with the Fijian Government and in line with national development objectives.

Over 600 registered participants were expected to attend the inaugural virtual conference held from 14-16 July 2021.

Environment court ‘will cut delays’

“IT is essential to set up an environment court to cut down delays which are hindering the implementation of environmental laws in Fiji.”

“The prosecution launched in the ordinary Criminal Courts never reach a timely or ground breaking conclusion either because of the workload in these Courts, lack of specialised judges, or because there is no proper appreciation of the significance of the environmental matters on the part of those in charge of conducting these cases.”

These were the key points highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy while addressing the Inaugural IUCN Oceania Environmental Law virtual Conference recently.

“In recent times when compared to the previous decade, there is an increasing trend in the number of cases based on environmental pollution, ecological destruction and conflicts over natural resources coming up before the Courts. In most of these cases, there is a need for natural scientific expertise as an essential input to inform judicial decision-making. These cases require expertise at a high level of scientific and technical sophistication.”

“Moreover, any orders passed by the Authorities under the relevant Environment and Pollution Act are immediately questioned by the activities in Courts. Those proceedings take several years to conclude. Often interim orders are granted which effectively disables the authorities from ensuring the implementation of their orders,” Minister Reddy said.

The Minister also stressed the importance of having a separate environment-specific database or digital resources for good research to determine quality judgments.

“The setup of the environment court can be similar to the “Environment Court NZ” or “Land and Environment Court of NSW” and “Queensland Planning and Environment Court”.

“Such Courts may be vested with the jurisdiction to decide both criminal prosecution cases under the various environmental laws and civil cases for compensation to victims of any activity leading to environmental damage or pollution. These Courts should be allowed to adopt summary proceedings for speedy disposal of the cases.

“Another challenge facing small island states is that the small number of large corporate companies are at times at odds with internal and external stakeholders. Those strongly advocating the shareholder theory, tend to be the ones to compromise the long-term dimension of the environment in pursuit of the company’s interest. The shareholder theory states that the corporation should serve the interests of shareholders only. -news@govnet.gov.fj

Fiji drops HCFC use by 35 per cent

F IJI managed to reduce its Hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) consumption by 35 per cent last year.

Ministry of Waterways and Environment permanent secretary, Joshua Wycliffe revealed this, while officially opening the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage II Virtual Stakeholder Consultation for the Refrigeration and Air-conditioning (RAC) sector recently.

Mr Wycliffe stated that this has only been possible through the continuous support of the government stakeholders, enforcement agencies and the RAC sector.

“The overall strategy has been, to facilitate Fiji’s compliance with the phase-out target through minimal impact on the RAC industry, economy and the environment. The government has taken steps to implement a combination of interventions such as policies and regulation, investment on technology transfer, training and capacity building, technical assistance, and awareness in view of integrated approach,” he told participants.

“The aim is to implement an integrated plan for HCFC reductions to facilitate the market transition to HCFC alternatives while achieving climate benefits through the adoption of climate friendly RAC technologies. Stage II is aimed to strengthen national capacity to limit the supply of HCFCs, prevent new demand for HCFCs and promote the adoption of low-GWP and energy-efficient alternative



Ministry of Waterways and Environment permanent secretary Joshua Wycliffe (left) and Department of Environment director Sandeep Singh during a recent HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage II Virtual Stakeholder Consultation for the Refrigeration and Air-conditioning (RAC) sector. Photo: SUPPLIED

technologies to sustain HCFC phase-out.”

“As a Small Island State, Fiji is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The Department of Environment strongly supports and remains committed to any initiative that would help mitigate the negative impacts that contribute to climate change. We call for immediate action to reduce emissions.”

“It is vital that the Department of Environment as the regulator of the Ozone Depleting Substances Act 1998 and lead enforcing agency consults you, our stakeholders to achieve complete phase out of HCFC. Stakeholder consultations must take place so that you are aware on the changes that is recommended be made on policies and regulations, the investment on technology transfers and

the need for training, technical assistance and awareness,” Mr Wycliffe said.

HPMP Stage II

HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) is currently being drafted (to conclude in 2030) and once finalised and endorsed by cabinet, will be implemented by the Department of Environment. HPMP Stage I is coming to a conclusion and Fiji is in the process of planning the development of an overarching HPMP Stage II to address remaining consumption post 2020.

The HPMP Stage II will be built on the achievements of HPMP Stage I to assist Fiji to achieve complete phase-out of HCFCs under the Montreal Protocol.

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MINISTRY LAUNCHES DRIVE-THROUGH VACCINATION SITES

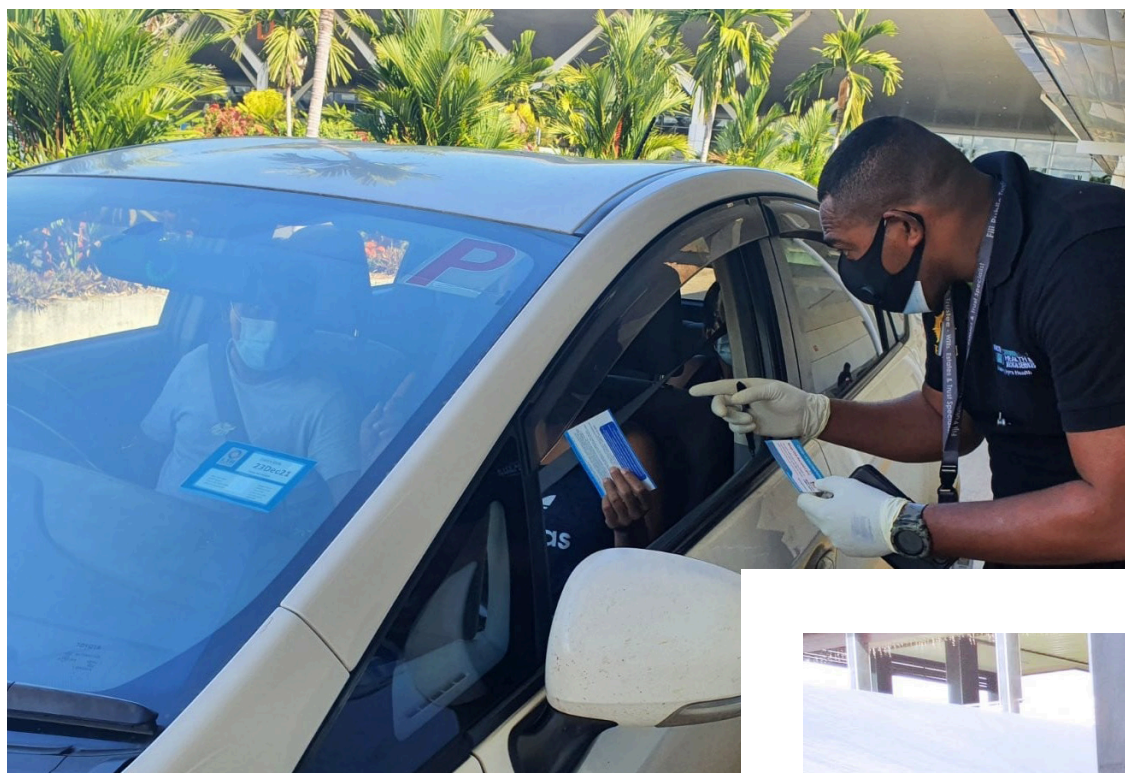
The Ministry of Health and Medical Services launched its first COVID-19 vaccination drive-through site at Albert Park in Suva two weeks ago.

The site is available for first and second doses for those wishing to be vaccinated. It was the first among a series of other such sites set up to ensure people did not have to wait in long lines at various vaccination areas that have already opened to the public.

Apart from Albert Park, the ministry opened drive-through sites at the Fiji National University Nasinu Campus, Vunimono High School and Hexagon Shopping Mall in Nausori, Nadi International Airport and South Seas Club in Lautoka. There are other sites that offer screening clinical

services. The ministry's head of COVID-19 vaccination task force, Dr Rachel Devi, said police officers and volunteers had been doing great work in ensuring the drive-through sites were manned smoothly. Persons with mild COVID-19 symptoms include cough, runny nose, nasal congestion, sneezing, fatigue/extreme tiredness, headache, aches and pains, sore throat, fever, diarrhoea, red eyes (conjunctivitis), loss of taste or smell, a rash on the skin are requested to visit this clinic, or other swab clinics closest to their homes if they experience these symptoms.

Photos: MEREANI GONEDUA, NANISE NEMILA, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES





Frontliners ready to deliver food rations around lockdown areas in Nadi. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Fijians give thanks for ration help

MEREANI GONEDUA

WESTERNERS on home isolation or those who have recently returned home from quarantined have expressed their gratitude to the Fijian Government for its ration assistance.

Nadi resident Asena Qoro stated that the ration was enough for her and her family as there were only three family members in her household.

“We recently received our ration and we are grateful for the assistance because these are tough times and then we were informed to be on home isolation again. The ration was able to assist us as we were not allowed to leave our homes.”

Ms Qoro highlighted that she was

grateful to all frontliners as they continue to conduct their work professionally during the pandemic.

The same sentiments were echoed by Vunayasi resident Mohini Lata who was all smiles as she received her share of grocery and essential items pack from Government officials in Nadi.

The 56 year-old mother of two acknowledged Government officials for their work and for ensuring that Fijians in isolation and quarantine had food on their table.

“We are on home isolation at the moment and the grocery and essential items pack provided to us will help me put food on the table.

“I would like to thank all frontliners who are assisting us in getting what we need during our isolation period.”



Nadi residents with the ration of food provided by the Fijian Government. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA



Youth commend farming assistance

MEREANI GONEDUA

YOUTH groups in Nadroga have commended the Fijian Government for delivering farming assistance to communities despite the devastation caused by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tilivalevu youth group member Waisake Ratunideuba expressed their gratitude after they received their farming assistance.

“We thought that everything was being put on hold because of the difficult situation that we are in, however, we are so grateful that the Minister came to deliver on his promise.”

Mr Ratunideuba said his youth group has a 10 acre land in which they carry out goat farming and have a cassava plantation as well.

“The assistance is very timely and the first of its kind that we have received and we are happy that because of this we will now be able to do more in our farm.”

Meanwhile, Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar, while handing over farming assistance assured the youth groups of the Fijian Government’s continuous support.

Minister Kumar encouraged them to do their best in utilising the various tools provided to them especially during this pandemic.

“Please give all your energy to this project because at the moment we cannot do much because of the various restrictions.”

However, the Minister encouraged the youth representatives to keep on motivating their members on the importance of farming during this time.

Minister Kumar also urged the two group representatives to encourage vaccination as it is the only way to move forward.

The Tilivalevu and Vunatovau youth groups were handed farming equipment worth more than \$2000 under the Ministry of Youth and Sport’s Youth Farm Initiative assistance programme.

Vaccinate ‘and follow guidelines’

RUVENI WAQAVONO

THE Fiji Sugar Cane Growers Council has urged all its members and growers around the country to be vaccinated and adhere to COVID-19 guidelines during this harvesting season.

Council general manager operations Sunil Chaudhary said that it’s important for farmers to adhere to these guidelines and protocols because it will ensure the safety of everyone in the industry.

“We do follow the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health and we also advocate to our growers to abide by these guidelines and adhere to it.”

“We’ve urged them to practice social distancing, avoid socialising during and after harvesting, and also create bubbles with cutters and gangs,” he said.

Mr Chaudhary also encourage farmers to get vaccinated.

“The message is that we need to get vaccinated. Larger nations have taken the lead in



Sugarcane farmers at work. INSET: Fiji Sugar Cane Growers Council general manager operations Sunil Chaudhary says that it is important to follow guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health and also advocate to sugarcane growers to abide and adhere to it. Photos: RUVENI WAQAVONO

this and Fiji is no exception. To get out of this pandemic and the situation we are in, the only way forward is getting vaccinated.”

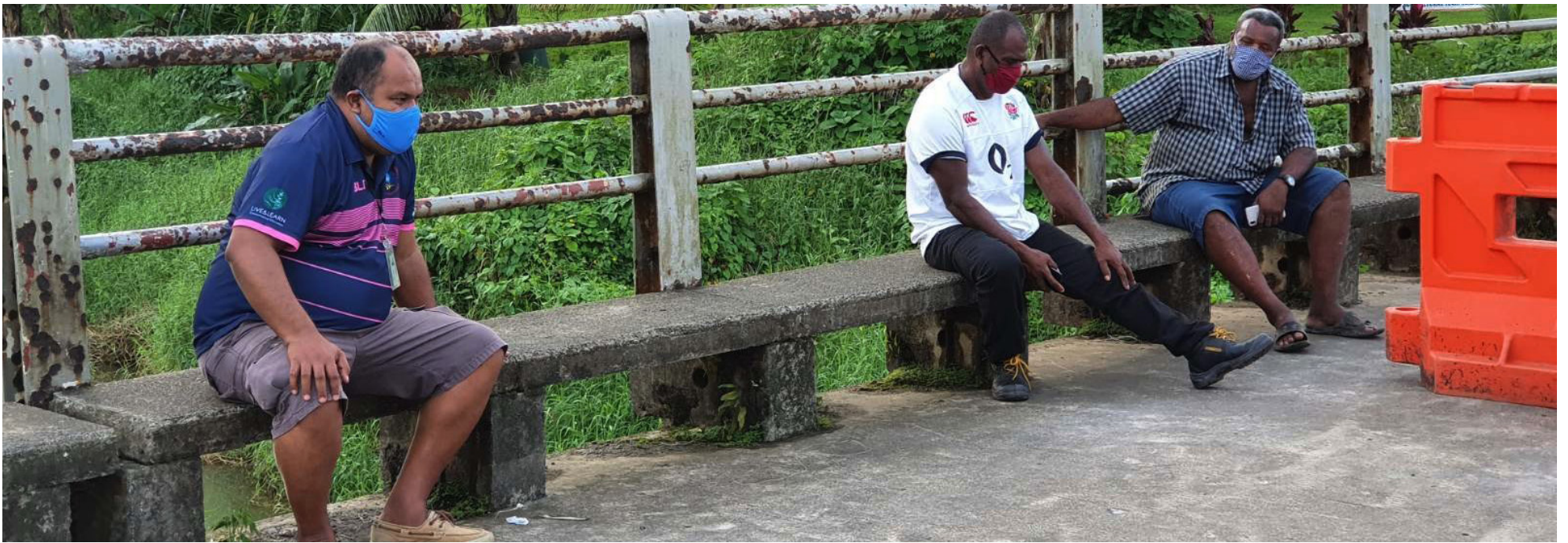
The council has also cautioned its growers to be cautious when getting in cutters from outside their zone.

Mr Chaudhary said there will be a lot of movement between gangs and cutters during this time and farmers must be vigilant at all times.

“Please also make sure that the cane cutters you’re getting are also vaccinated, if they haven’t, please advocate to them.”

Sugarcane farmer Sheik Rahim of Drasa Lautoka also echoed the same sentiments saying that farmers should protect themselves.

“Everyone should get vaccinated, not only the farmers. I’ve heard in the radio that we have some cases in Ba. We need to protect ourselves.”



Divisional Commissioner Central Josefo Navuku (left), at the Sawani border in Naitasiri. Mr Navuku says his team is working closely with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and other relevant agencies to assist with the repatriation of Fijians back to their homes.

Stranded Fijians seek travel clearance

COVID-19
repatriations begin in Eastern Division

SOLO LEWANAVANUA AND
NANISE NEIMILA

NANISE NEIMILA

A TOTAL of 7000 Fijians were stranded in the Central Division because of the lockdown of borders.

Divisional Commissioner Central Josefo Navuku, said they were meeting and working closely with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and other relevant agencies to assist with the repatriation of Fijians back to their homes.

“With the total of 7000 who have registered to travel back to their homes, we have categorised them in two zones; these are green and red zones. The red zone includes Fijians from Serua, Namosi, Rewa delta and Tailvu.”

“These Fijians are swabbed, tested and need to be cleared by Ministry of Health and only then are they allowed to return home.”

Mr Navuku also confirmed that those Fijians in the green zone were not allowed to come in contact with those in the red zones.

“Our teams are working with the Ministry of Health in ensuring that all swab results are clear then they are allowed to move.”

“For instance if someone from Beqa wants to travel to Nausori, they will have to undergo the necessary clearance from Ministry of Health. Then they will need to go into quarantine for another 14 days in Nausori and once cleared, they are allowed to travel to their home.”

Mr Navuku added that travelling from Wainadoti to Logani has been halted because



Police officers provide assistance to Fijians at Sawani border, Naitasiri.

these areas have been classified as red zone because there is a high prevalence of the virus.

“We will be working closely with Ministry of Health to avoid the spread of this virus during the transition of travel from one area to another.”

Mr Navuku is pleading with Fijians who are hoping to return to their families, to bear with them as they are working on setting up safer travel bubbles not only to avoid the spread of the virus but ensuring that Fijians return home safely.

THE Eastern Division has opened up its borders for repatriation travel for those Fijians that have been stranded since the lockdown after the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic hit Fiji.

This was confirmed by Divisional Commissioner Eastern Vitalo Varo and he highlighted that the registration of 1260 Fijians earmarked to travel back to their homes had been carried out.

“We have divided the passengers into two groups- green zone (480) and red zone (780), and we have also received requests from others that want to register.

“As we speak, a group is moving from the green zone to the red zone which includes those that were stranded in different parts of the Eastern Division and needed to return to Viti Levu.”

Mr Varo said those Fijians stranded in the North and need to return to parts of the Eastern Division have been registered under the green zone.

“We have been in consultations with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and various other agencies in instituting safe COVID travel measures during the transition of this travel bubbles.

“We have been meeting with Roko Tui, Fiji Police Force, Provincial Administrators and Ministry of Health on daily basis to assist these Fijians that have been stranded to return safely to their families.

“We have had some setbacks, however, we are working on these loopholes to ensure that there are not loopholes and travel bubbles are not compromised.”

Mr Varo adds that containing the virus cannot only be done by Ministry of Health as it was national effort to assist the authorities to contain this virus.

“We need to learn to obey instructions, stay home, wear a mask and maintain social distancing. This is a challenging time for us Fijians but I would like to urge all Fijians to abide by these health measures.”

Vanua Levu residents seek move to Viti Levu

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

ONE thousand seven hundred sixty Fijians who were stranded in the Northern Division because of COVID-19 restrictions have registered to return to Viti Levu.

Divisional Commissioner Northern, Uraia Rainima said that Vanua Levu is considered a “green-zone” because it was cur-

rently COVID-free.

“Of the 1760, 1010 have managed to be repatriated from the green zone to the red zone (Viti Levu), however, 1724 are still in the North,” Mr Rainima said.

He said that only 59 Fijians had been allowed to travel from Viti Levu to Vanua Levu and extra caution has been observed in this exercise so avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus to the

Northern Division.

“It took us 14 days to carry out this exercise of moving Fijians from Viti Levu to Vanua Levu and the Fiji Forest Industry office in Malau and Labasa College are currently being used as quarantine facilities. Those who travelled from Viti Levu are quarantined for 14 days in these facilities.”

Mr Rainima has also reminded

Fijians in Vanua Levu to adhere to COVID-safe protocols and to completely refrain from any form of social gathering.

“This (social gathering) is an area of weakness for us. I urge and remind everyone to change their mindset towards this pandemic and follow the strict measures being set by authorities,” he said.



THE FOLLOWING ARE CONDITIONS FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM RECEIVING THE COVID-19 VACCINE:

- Individuals with a medical condition or allergy that prevents them from getting the vaccine

TEMPORARY EXEMPTIONS APPLY TO:

- Pregnant women who are awaiting MODERNA vaccine
- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are advised to wait for 90 days before getting their first or second dose of the vaccine.

INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SEEKING EXEMPTION FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE PURPOSES MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DETAILS TO THE MOMHS

- Full personal details (Name, Date Of Birth, Personal Contact);
- Reason for exemption
- Any other supporting document (medical certificates/document)



Vaccination is the best protection against the severe consequences from COVID-19 that include hospitalisation and death. Photo: SUPPLIED

Second dose interval brought forward

INDIVIDUALS who receive the first dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, can now receive their second dose after an interval of eight weeks instead of 12 weeks.

The decision has been made by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services following a latest research which shows that administering the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccines at the minimum interval of eight weeks provides the same level of protection as compared to the 12th week.

The decision to administer the second dose of AstraZeneca vaccines at eight weeks is intended for providing earlier protection to reduce severe illness, hospitalisation and death by the concerning Delta Variant in the country.

Initially, the second dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines could be administered at an interval of eight to 12 weeks.

Administering the second dose at 8th week will not affect the effectiveness of the vaccine and will provide same level of immunity against the delta variant.

Additionally, it will provide earlier protection against severe illness, hospitalisation and death from COVID-19.

Individuals who have received their first dose and were scheduled to take their second dose at an interval of 12 weeks will receive a reminder via text message in the eighth week.

The Ministry of Health reiterates that the second dose will be only provided at an interval of 8 weeks and not BEFORE. Individuals who are due for their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccines can go to their nearest vaccination site.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Govt initiates 'no jab, no job' initiative

“NO Jab, No Job” is a Fijian Government initiative to ensure all vaccine eligible Fijians are vaccinated against the deadly COVID-19 disease.

Government has launched this initiative to encourage all vaccine eligible Fijians to get vaccinated and ensure they receive two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination is the best protection against the severe consequences from COVID-19 that include hospitalisation and death.

For individuals who are employed and are yet to receive the COVID-19 vaccines due to a prevailing circumstance, the Ministry of Health will provide exemptions.

The following are conditions for exemptions from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Individuals with a medical condition or allergy that prevents them from getting the vaccine and;

Temporary exemptions apply to:

- Pregnant women who are awaiting MODERNA vaccine
- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are advised to wait for 90 days before getting their first or second dose of the vaccine.

Individuals who are seeking exemption for any of the above purposes must submit the following details to the Ministry of Health

and Medical Services:

- Full personal details (Name, Date Of Birth, Personal Contact);
- Reason for exemption
- Any other supporting document (medical certificates/document)

For all exemption applications, anticipate the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to revert within at least 24-48 hours. The above details are to be emailed to: covidexemptionreq@gmail.com or call 158. All documents will be reviewed prior to any exemption given by the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

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Moderna vaccine eyed for pregnant women

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services have started administering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to pregnant women across Viti Levu.

Due to the increasing widespread transmission of COVID-19 disease across Viti Levu, pregnant women are at a higher risk of contracting the virus which may cause severe illness.

As a result, these women are prioritised for receiving the Moderna vaccines that provide earlier protection against the disease due to its shorter interval period of 28 days between the first and the second dose.

Pregnant women, who are employed as civil servants and are waiting to receive their COVID-19 vaccines, may continue

to go to work as they will be temporarily exempted until August 1st 2021.

For vaccination, pregnant women must provide their antenatal care clinic card as an evidence of pregnancy and booking done with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

The Ministry of Health recommends that pregnant women living outside Viti Levu must continue to receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

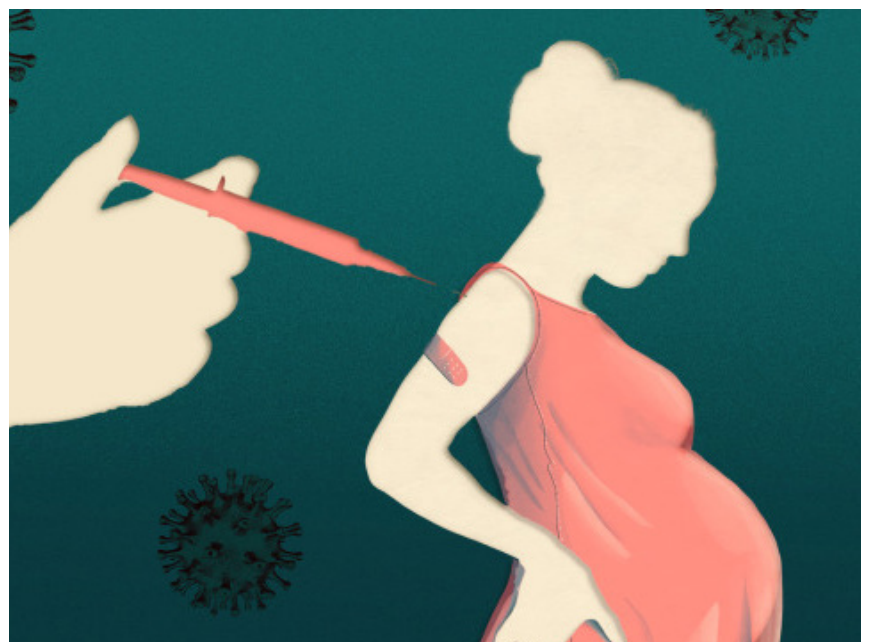
Additionally, Fiji has recorded high number of deaths of individuals aged 60 years and above, particularly those with comorbidity issues as a result of severe illness from COVID-19. These deaths were mainly recorded within the Suva-Nausori corridor where the transmission

is widespread.

Therefore, to provide earlier protection to the remaining unvaccinated vulnerable group within the Suva-Nausori corridor, the Moderna vaccines will be administered to individuals above 60 years of age residing in Suva-Nausori corridor, particularly those with comorbidities such as chronic lung disease, significant cardiac disease, severe obesity, diabetes, liver disease and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

Further information in relation to the roll out of the Moderna vaccine will be provided by the Ministry of Health soon.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES



Pregnant women, who are employed as civil servants and are waiting to receive their COVID-19 vaccines, may continue to go to work as they will be temporarily exempted until August 1st 2021. Photo: SUPPLIED

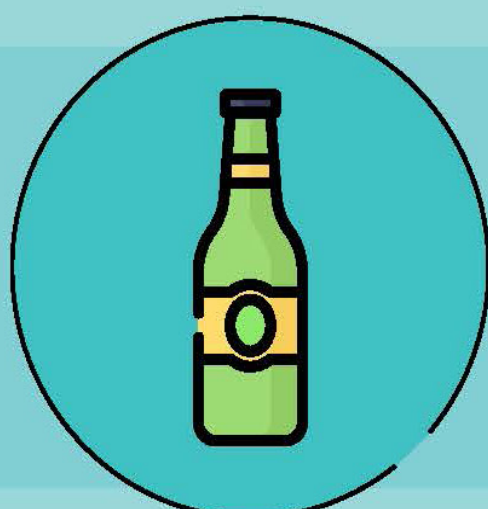
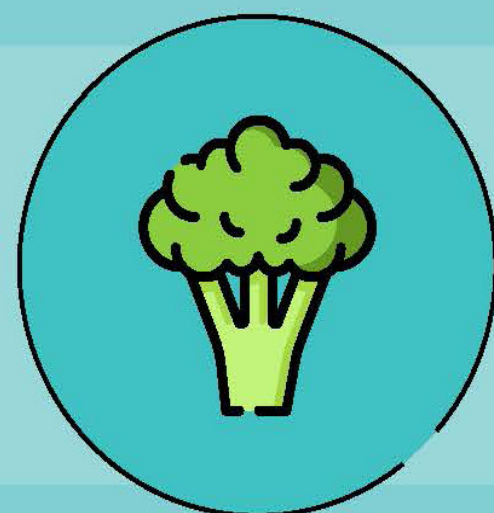
Coping with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak



It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or angry during a crisis.

Talking to people you trust can help. Contact your friends and family.

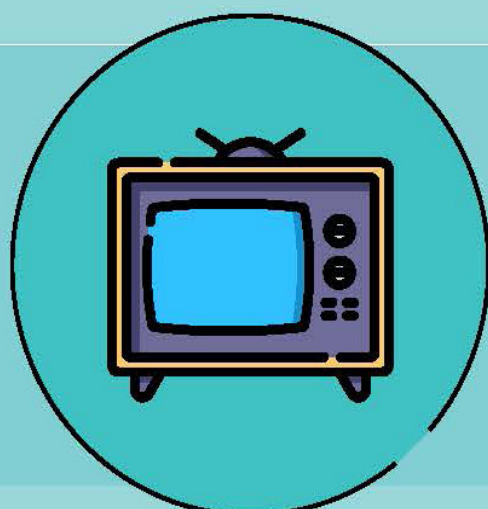
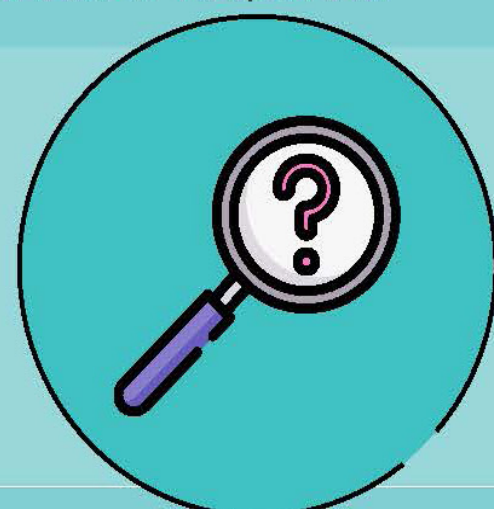
If you must stay at home, maintain a healthy lifestyle - including proper diet, sleep, exercise and social contacts with loved ones at home and by email and phone with other family and friends.



Don't use smoking, alcohol or other drugs to deal with your emotions.

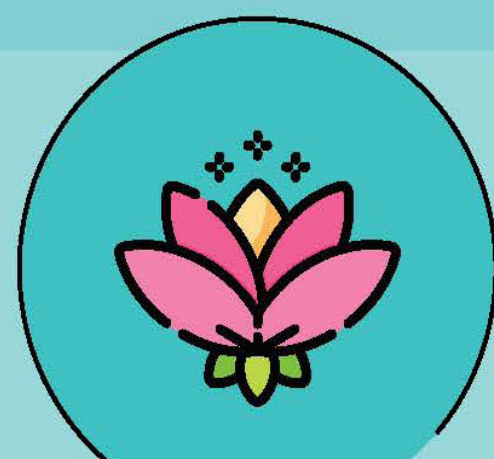
If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor. Have a plan, where to go to and how to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

Get the facts. Gather information that will help you accurately determine your risk so that you can take reasonable precautions. Find a credible source you can trust such as WHO website or, a local or state public health agency.



Limit worry and agitation by lessening the time you and your family spend watching or listening to media coverage that you perceive as upsetting.

Draw on skills you have used in the past that have helped you to manage previous life's adversities and use those skills to help you manage your emotions during the challenging time of this outbreak.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COVID-19

GUIDANCE ON HOMEMADE CLOTH MASK

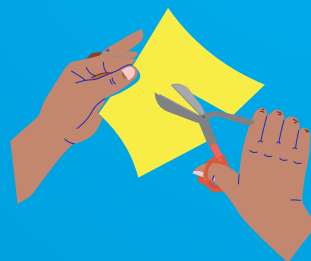
1



Cut two pieces of cotton fabric (length of 25 cm and height of 15 cm each)

Fabrics made of thick cotton or cotton blend, like a tea towel. (If you can see the sunlight through the mask, it is too thin.)

2



Hem or stitch the edges of the two fabrics by cutting away any excess or loose fabric.

3

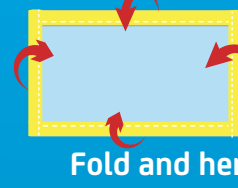


Place the two pieces of fabric on top of each other on a table.

4



Fold and hem

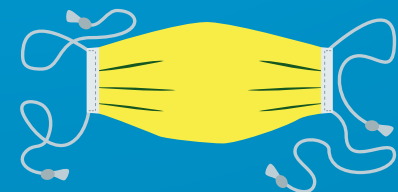


Fold and hem

Fold and hem

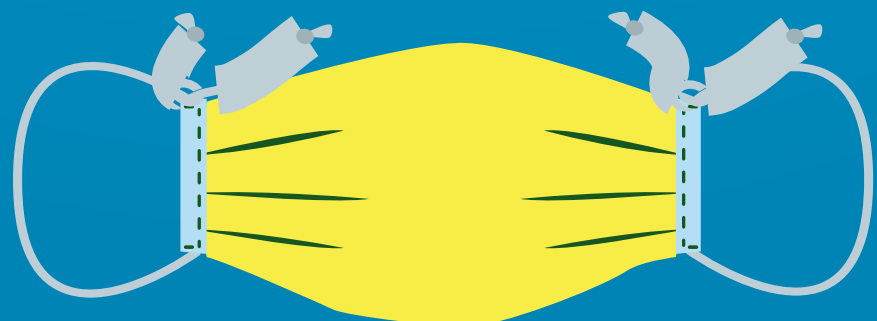
Fold the outer piece of fabric (the one touching the table) over slightly on top of the other piece. Sew the folded over piece onto the top piece. Perform this for both the top and bottom parts of the mask.

5



Place the four cotton threads or two elastic pieces on either side of the mask. Fold over the outer and inner pieces together on top of the threads or elastic. Sew these two sides pieces to securely hold the threads or elastic pieces in place.

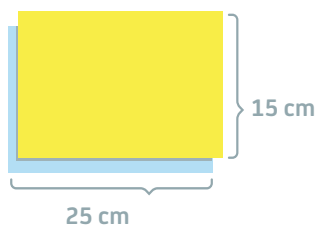
6



Tie the unsewn ends of the threads or elastic into a secure knot. Make sure the knot is tight.

You will need:

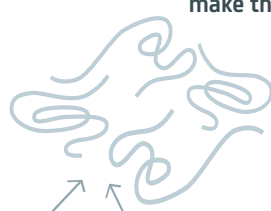
cotton fabrics



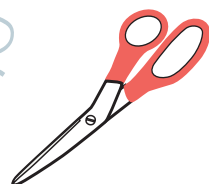
Two cotton fabrics
25 cm length and
15 cm wide



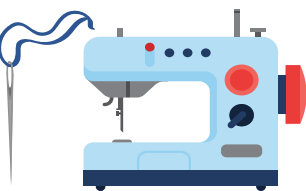
Two pieces
of elastic
15 cm length



Four cotton threads
20 cm length each



Scissors



Needle or
sewing machine.
You may have a seamstress
make the mask, if possible.



World Health
Organization
Representative Office
for the South Pacific

unicef
for every child



UPDATE YOUR **careFIJI**

**CHECK IN AND OUT OF LOCATIONS SAFELY
FOR EASIER COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING**

You do not need data or
WiFi to scan the QR codes.
You only need to turn on the
'mobile data' feature on
your phone.



USING careFIJI CHECK-IN HELPS THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES
TO QUICKLY IDENTIFY AND ISOLATE CLUSTERS



The careFIJI CHECK-IN QR code poster needs to be
prominently displayed at strategic ENTRY and EXIT
areas of buildings and locations



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FijiFocus

PM praises regional neighbours for COVID-19 aid



Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama (left) shares a light moment with Australian High Commissioner John Feakes and New Zealand High Commissioner Jonathan Curr at the Albert Park pavillion. Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Today I want to acknowledge with great appreciation the specific forms of assistance you have brought 39 fully equipped ambulances; a team of 19 including doctors, nurses and logisticians; 250 stretcher beds; some 20 oxygen concentrators; and associated medical consumables; and additional personal protection equipment and supplies.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Fijian Prime Minister

‘THANKS AUST, NZ’

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama applauded neighbours Australia and New Zealand for the work of their medical teams as without their helping hand in Fiji’s COVID-19 response, “the country would be in dire straits”. Addressing the team during an event held to farewell the outgoing and welcome the incoming team of medical personnel from the two countries at the Albert Park pavillion in Suva recently, the Prime Minister said that Fiji, as a country is at a crucial point in the fight against COVID-19, and is deploying all available resources to fight it. “I’m pleased to join the team from the Aus-

tralia and New Zealand Medical Assistance Team and the Heads of Missions from Australia and New Zealand. “From the very beginning, we have used military terminology to describe our campaign. The use of that language was deliberate, because this has always felt like a war. And like a war, it requires us to be totally committed to victory. “We are totally committed. It is a war that we intend to win. It is a war we must win,” he said. Prime Minister Bainimarama adds that the assistance from both Australia and New Zealand went far beyond the life-saving vaccines they have made available but also included equipment, technical advice, testing

of thousands of swab samples, and financial support to help the country through the economic crisis. “Today I want to acknowledge with great appreciation the specific forms of assistance you have brought: three fully equipped ambulances; a team of 19 including doctors, nurses and logisticians; 250 stretcher beds; some 20 oxygen concentrators; and associated medical consumables; and additional personal protection equipment and supplies.” The Head of Government also commended the outstanding support of Australian High Commissioner, John Feakes and his New Zealand counterpart, Jonathan Curr, for going over and beyond the call of duty to assist

my Government and all Fijians throughout this crisis. “You’ve been on the ground beside us and are well aware of the needs of our health infrastructure and communities at large. You’ve been a great advocate for us in your capitals, and the results speak for themselves.” “I believe strongly that we have the ability, by God’s grace, to navigate ourselves out of these treacherous waters.” “I am proud to be here with you all to embark on the next stage of our journey and onwards to the day where the arrival of planes and ships full of Aussies and Kiwis won’t be so out of the ordinary.”

सुई न लगने पर
कोई सहायता नहीं

2

व्यापारियों की मदद के लिए दो
सौ मिलियन का कर्ज

2

सरकार फीस भरेगी

2

गन्ना का दाम पचासी (\$85)
डोलर प्रति टन

3

फीजी दर्पण

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प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बर्दिनमारामा पिछले शुक्रवार को राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा होने के बाद संसद भवन से निकलते हुए चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

सुई लगवाने वालों के लिए वेकसीन पास-पोट

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री तथा अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद-खईयूम का कहना है कि जबकि और भी बड़ी उम्र के फीजीवासियों को पूरी तरह से सुई लगाई जा रही है तो ऐसे में सरकार सुरक्षित वेकसीन पासपोट विकसित कर रही है जो कि वास्तव में वेकसिनईशन सर्टिफिकेट है।

2021/2022 राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा करते हुए सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि इससे आप यह साबित कर सकते हैं कि आपको दोनों सुई लग गई हैं और कोविड-19 के हालही के परिणाम दिखा सकते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि यह डिजिटल टूल दो तरह से उपलब्ध रहेंगे - एक व्यक्तिगत तौर से "डिजिटल वलट" रहेगा जहाँ फीजीवासी अपने स्मार्टफोन पर ही सुई लगाने की तथा कोविड-19 परीक्षण की जानकारी रख सकेंगे या कागज़ प्रिन्ट करें जिसमें पढ़ने के लिए बारकोड्स या क्यू आर कोड्स होंगे। सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि वे इन कागज़ातों को पासपोट कह रहे हैं क्योंकि इनका उपयोग सिर्फ विदेशी यात्रा में होगा लेकिन ये डिजिटल सर्टिफिकेट्स घरेलू और अंतराष्ट्रीय के प्रयोग होंगे।

राहत का बजट

रोनल देव

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने इस महत्व पर जोर दिया कि देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था तथा पूरे देश में सुधार तबही होगा जब फीजी में अस्सी प्रतिशत योग्य लोगों को सुई लग जाएगी।

राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा करते हुए सईयद-खईयूम ने कहा कि उन्हें उम्मीद है कि इसी साल अक्टूबर महीने के अंत तक स भी योग्य लोगों को कोविड-19 से बचने की सुई लग जाएगी। उनके अनुसार फीजी में अठ्ठारह साल से ज़्यादा उम्र के पाँच लाख छियासी हजार छः सौ इक्यावन (586,651) लोगों को सुई लगाने का लक्ष्य बनाया गया है तथा अस्सी प्रतिशत लोगों को सुई लगाने के लिए चार लाख उनहत्तर हजार तीन सौ इक्कीस (469,321) लोगों को सुई लगवाना ज़रूरी है।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के राष्ट्रीय बजट में वृद्धि करके उनके लिए चार सौ तीन दशमलव तीन मिलियन डॉलर अलग निकाला गया है जिसमें शामिल है, अतिरिक्त दो सौ अड़तीस इनटर्न नेसर्स हायर करना, एक सौ चालिस मेडिकल इनटेन्स, एक सौ चौदह डाक्टर, दस नर्स प्रेक्टिशनर्स, तिरालिस मिडवाइव्स तथापचीस मिलियन काकोविड-19 आपात स्थिति का फंड।

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा कि इसके अलावा बारह मिलियन डॉलर और अलग किया गया है जो उन लोगों को भोजन और अन्य ज़रूरी सामान प्रदान करने में खर्च किया जाएगा जो क्वरंटीन में या आयसोलेशन में होंगे जबकि पाँच मिलियन डॉलर प्रायवट जेनरल प्रेक्टिशनर्स के लिए निकाला गया है ताकि पब्लिक हेल्थ सिस्टम से कुछ बोज कम किया जाए। उन्होंने कहा कि इसका मतलब है कि सुई न लगवाने से कोई टूरिज़्म न

हीं, सुई न लगवाने से कोई अवसर नहीं, सुई न लगवाने से कोई स्कूल नहीं, सुई न लगवाने से कोई भविष्य नहीं। उन्होंने कहा कि वे किसी को खुश रखने के लिए नहीं बल्कि सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए यह कदम उठा रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकारी आमदनी पर भारी असर पड़ा है इसलिए स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय, कोमुनिकईशन तथा पुलिस को छोड़कर अन्य मंत्रालयों में नई नियुक्तियाँ रोक दी गई हैं जबकि वे वायरस को रोकने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि अगर हम अक्टूबर महीने के अंत तक सुई लगाने वाले अपने लक्ष्य को पूरा करने में सफल होंगे तो वे न केवल विदेश से टूरिस्टों का स्वागत फिर से कर सकेंगे बल्कि अपने चाहने वालों के साथ बिना किसी प्रतिबन्ध के किसमस मना सकेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि वातचीत होती रहेगी कि हम आगे कैसे बढ़ें। अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा कि इस साल

और अगले साल कर यानि टेक्स से \$1.597 बिलियन आमदनी होने का अनुमान है जिसमें कोविड आने से पहले 43.3% की गिरावट हुई है। लेकिन पिछले साल और इस साल के मिलान में ज़्यादा कर यानि टेक्स बटोरा जाएगा क्योंकि पहले जो कर नहीं भरे गए थे वो इस बार भरे गए। यह भी अनुमान है कि अगले साल के मध्य से पहले शायद सीमाएं खुलना शुरू हो जाए और कोविड से पहले वाली स्थिति के मिलान में टूरिस्टों का आना लगभग बीस प्रतिशत ही होने की आशा है। उन्होंने कहा कि टेक्स के अलावा जो आमदनी होगी वो लगभग \$487.5 होने का अनुमान है। सरकार कई विकसित साझेदारों से बातचित कर रही है ताकि उन्हें बजट सपोर्ट ग्रांट के रूप में लगभग 116.3 मिलियन मिल सके। अनुमान के तौर पर इस राष्ट्रीय बजट में कुल आमदनी लगभग \$2.1 बिलियन होगी।



सुई न लगाने पर कोई सहायता नहीं



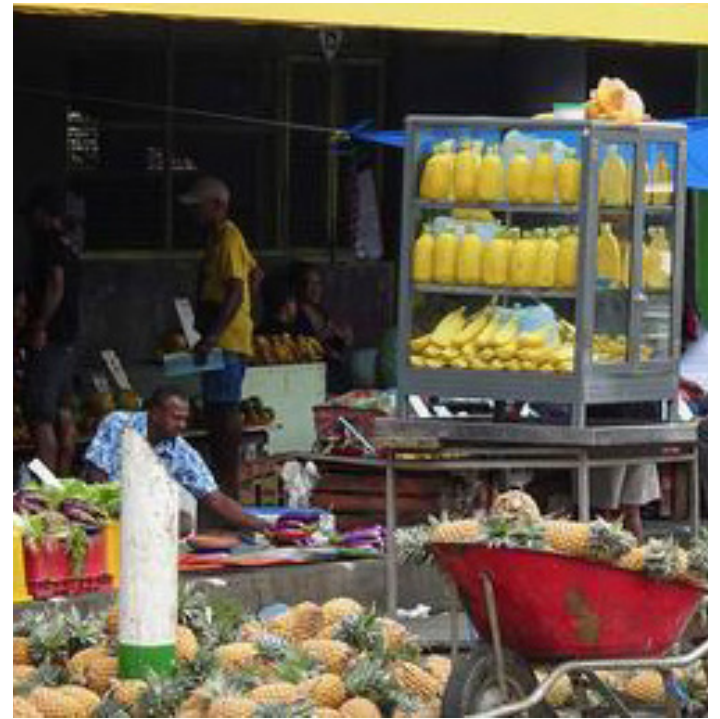
स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी आम जनता की स्क्रीनिंग करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

बेरोज़गार लोगों को आमदनी में सहारा देने के लिए सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय बजट में कुछ सहायता की घोषणा की है तथा यह सहायता लोगों को तबही मिलेगी जब वे अर्जी लगाने वाली अवधि खत्म होने से पहले कोविड-19 से बचने की सुई लगवा लेंगे। अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने बेरोज़गार फीजीवासियों के लिए दो सौ मिलियन डॉलर लागत सहायता की घोषणा की है। वइस साल पहली अगस्त से असर पड़े सभी फीजीवासी अगले छः महीने के लिए प्रति महीना एक सौ बीस डॉलर का हकदार होगा लेकिन यह पैसे उन्हें दो हिस्सों में मिलेंगे।

पहला पईमन्ट अगले महीने किया जाएगा जो तीन महीने, अगस्त से अक्टूबर के लिए होगा जहाँ लगभग एक सौ मिलियन डॉलर तक पैमन्ट किया जाएगा। यह सहायता उन लोगों के लिए है जो फोमल या इनफोमल सेक्टर में काम करते हैं, अट्ठारह साल से ऊपर हैं, वित्तिलेवू में रहते हैं तथा उन्हें सोशल वेलफेयर, एडुकेशन अलावन्स, किसी सरकारी सहायता या एफ.एन.पी.एफ. के द्वारा सहायता नहीं मिल रही है। योग्य फीजीवासियों के पास तीन सप्ताह हैं कि वे ध्यान में रखें कि उन्हें सुई का पहला डोस लग जाए। सईयद-खईयूम ने कहा कि सुई न लगाने पर कोई सहायता नहीं दी जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि तीन सौ साठ

डॉलर का दूसरा पईमन्ट इस साल नवम्बर में किया जाएगा जहाँ योग्य फीजीवासियों को सुई का दूसरा डोज लगाना चाहिए। लगभग सौ मिलियन डॉलर इस पईमन्ट में भरा जाएगा। जिन लोगों को स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के पैमन्ट सकेटरी से सर्टिफिकेट मिलेगी उन्हें ही सुई लगाने से छूट दी जाएगी। लोगों को इस सहायता के लिए अर्जी लगाने की ज़रूरत होगी तथा एम-पैसा और माए-केश प्लेटफॉर्म के माफिन्ट सहायता प्रदान की जाएगी। यह अनिवार्य है कि अर्जी लगाने वाले अपना वेर्थ रेजिस्ट्रेशन नम्बर और टेक्स आए डी नम्बर के अलावा अन्य जानकारी दें। यह ज़रूरी है क्योंकि पईमन्ट एक-एक व्यक्ति को किया जाएगा।



मार्केट बिकरेता, अपने सामानों को बेचते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सरकार फीस भरेगी

रोनल देव

मार्केट बिकरेता, टेक्सी, मिनि बस, केरिया तथा बस संचालकों के लिए खुशखबरी है क्योंकि सरकार उनके स्टोल तथा बईस फीस भरेगी। अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम का कहना है कि फीजी में सभी केशुअल और फूल्टाईम मार्केट बिकरेता को राहत देने के लिए दो मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा निकाला गया है ताकि पहली अगस्त से अगले साल जुलाई तक आठ हजार करीब मार्केट बिकरेताओं की मदद की जा सके। अगर आप मार्केट में बेचते हैं तो आपकी फीस भरी जा चुकी है तथा आप अतिरिक्त आमदनी अपने परिवार पर खर्च कर सकते हैं, व्यापार बढ़ाने तथा कम दाम में ज़्यादा सामान बेच सकेंगे तथा ज़्यादा कमाएंगे। सरकार ने दो और आधा मिलिय

न डॉलर निकाला है ताकि टेक्सी, मिनि बस, केरिया तथा बसों की बईस फीस अगले साल के लिए भरी जा सके। कोविड की वजह से पब्लिक सर्विस गाड़ियों की माँग गिरती जा रही है तथा इस सहायता से संचालकों को कुछ राहत मिलेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार सभी डेक्सी ड्रायवरों, बस ड्रायवर, मिनि बस ड्रायवर तथा केरिया ड्रायवर की ड्रायविंग लायसन्स तथा डिफेंसिव ड्रायविंग फीस भरेगी जो अगले साल के लिए रिनव होना है। अगले साल के लिए सरकार, ट्रैक्टर तथा गोल्फ कार्ट के लिए अगले एक साल के लिए विल टेक्स और रोड यूज़ लेवी भरेगी। सईयद खईयूम ने यह भी कहा कि वे मुनिसिपल टेक्सी बईसस और स्टैन्ड को हटाकर, औपन टेक्सी रैन्क रख रहे हैं ताकि टेक्सियाँ और भी आज़ादी से सेवा प्रदान कर सकेंगी।

व्यापारियों की मदद के लिए दो सौ मिलियन का कर्ज़

रोनल देव

सरकार ने व्यापारों की मदद करने के लिए दो सौ मिलियन डॉलर लागत कर्ज़ की घोषणा की है। बीस हजार व्यापारी इस सहायता से लाभ उठा सकेंगे। सरकार प्रथम दो सालों के लिए ब्याज़ भरेगी जिसका मतलब है कि व्यापारियों को पहले दो सालों का ब्याज़ नहीं भरना पड़ेगा। यह कर्ज़ रिज़ेव बैंक ऑफ फीजी के माफिन्ट उपलब्ध किया जाएगा। अभी के बहुत छोटे व्यापार जिनका कारोबार पचास हजार डॉलर तक है को ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा दस हजार डॉलर तक कर्ज़ मिल सकता है। छोटे व्यापार जिनका कारोबार पचास हजार डॉलर से लेकर तीन लाख डॉलर के बीच है को बीस हजार डॉलर तक कर्ज़ मिल सकता है जबकि मध्य वर्ग के व्यापार जिनका कारोबार तीन लाख डॉलर से एक दशमलौ पचीस मिलियन डॉलर (\$1.25 million) के बीच है को पचास हजार डॉलर तक कर्ज़ मिल सकता है। बड़े व्यापारी जिनका कारोबार एक दशमलौ पचीस मिलियन से

ज़्यादा है को एक लाख डॉलर तक कर्ज़ मिल सकता है। इस स्कीम के द्वारा रिज़ेव बैंक ऑफ फीजी 0.23% ब्याज़ पर दो सौ मिलियन डॉलर का कर्ज़ देगा जो कोमेशल बेन्क्स, एफ डी बी और अन्य कर्ज़ देने वाली संस्थाएँ हासिल कर सकती हैं। ये संस्थाएँ फिर ड.श.श. प्रतिशत पर कर्ज़, दूसरों को देंगी। पहले दो सालों के लिए फीजी के बेन्क्स कर्ज़ का ब्याज़ ग्राहकों से वसूल नहीं करेंगे जबकि सरकार यह ब्याज़ भरेगी। अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा कि इन कर्ज़ों की खूबसूरत बात यह है कि पहले दो साल में यह कर्ज़ खराब नहीं होंगे क्योंकि इसकी भरपाई होती रहेगी। यह हमारे व्यापारों को सुधरने और स्थिर होने के लिए दो सालों का समय देता है और ज़रूरी होने पर वे तीसरे साल के बाद कर्ज़ चुकाना शुरू करेंगे। यह भी घोषणा की गई है कि इस साल पहली अगस्त से बहुत छोटे, छोटे और मध्यम व्यापारी जिनका कारोबार एक दशमलौ पचीस मिलियन डॉलर से कम है वो एनेजी फीजी लिमिटेड को बिजली का घरेलू दर भेंगे, कोमेशल नहीं।



प्रधानमंत्री वीरेन्डो बईनिमारासा कोविड से बचने वाली पर और जानकारी लेते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



गन्ना ढोने वाली लोरियाँ गन्ना लादकर मिल की ओर जाती हुई। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

गन्ना का दाम पचासी (\$85) डोलर प्रति टन

सोनम सामी

अर्थ व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयुम ने अभी हाल ही संसद में नय बजट की घोषणा की जहाँ उन्होंने बताया कि सरकार दो हजार इक्कीस के नए मौसम में गन्ना कटाई के लिय पचासी डोलर एक टन के लिय देना जारी रखेगा। यह मुख्य सर्म्थन का चौथा वर्ष है। उन्होंने कहा की सरकार किसानों की स्थिति स मझती है और सरकार ऐसे समय में उनके साथ खड़ी हैं। 2021/2022 बजट में चीनी व्यवसाय मंत्रालय को बहत्तर (72) मिलीयन डोलर दिए गए हैं जब कि पिछले बजट में चीनी व्यवसाय मंत्रालय को

तिरपर (\$53.6) मिलीयन डोलर दिए गए थे। सैयद खईयुम ने कहा कि इसमें से सैतालिस (47) मिलीयन डोलर गन्ने के मुख्य के सर्म्थन के लिय दिया गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि 2020 सिज़न के लिय आवश्यक टोप-अप पयमन्ट के लिय \$22.9 मिलीयन डोलर शामिल है तथा 2021 सिज़न में पचासी (\$85)डोलर प्रति टन के लिय \$24.1 मिलीयन डोलर दिया गया है। अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा कि 2021 सिज़न के लिय गन्ने की कटाई पर निर्भर करेगा कि आठ मिलीयन डालर की आवश्यकता 2022-2023 के बजट में अंतिम भुगतान को देने में मदद

प्रदान करेगा। इसके अलावा उन्होंने बताया कि सरकार मसाला सबसिडी किसानों को \$25.59 में देना जारी रखेगा जिसके लिय \$15.6 मिलीयन डोलर अलग किया गया है। इसका मतलब कि किसान मसाला के लिय सिर्फ बीस डोलर एक बेग के लिय भरना जारी रखेगा। पिनेग से सरावाई मिल जाने के लिय \$3.8 मिलीयन डोलर गन्ने के कार्टज सबसिडी के लिय दिया गया है। गन्ना निकालने वाले रास्ते के लिय, गन्ने के विकास के लिय कि सानों के लिय सहायता, घासनाशक दवा सबसिडी और नए किसान के सहायता के लिय \$3.3 मिलीयन डोलर दिए गए हैं।



सरकार चाहती है कि देश में और भी अच्छी सड़कें, मज़बूत पुल तथा अन्य संसाधन बनाई जाए जो कई सालों तक लोगों को सेवा प्रदान करें इसलिए इस साल और अगले साल वाले राष्ट्रीय बजट में काफी पैसे अलग किए गए हैं। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

संसाधनों को सुधारने के लिए पाँच सौ मिलियन डोलर

सोनम सामी

सरकार का कहना है कि इस साल के 2021/2022 राष्ट्रीय बजट में पाँच सौ मिलीयन डोलर सड़क नेटवर्क को अपग्रेड, नया और बढ़ाने तथा

पीने के लिय साफ पानी और बिजली की व्यवस्था के लिय दिया गया है। फीजी रौड्स अथोरिटी को \$272 मिलीयन, वोटा अथोरिटी ऑफ फी जी को \$195 मिलीयन तथा इनफ्रस्ट्रक्चर और मिटीयोरोलोजी

कल सेर्विसेस मंत्रालय को \$26.6 मिलीयन दिया गया। इसमें ग्यारह मिलीयन उन समुदायों के ग्रीड एक्सटेन्शन, घर की वायरिंग, डिज़ल स्किम के रिहैबिलीटेशन, जिन्हे बढ़ते समुद्र से बचाने के लिए कहीं और

खिस्काया गया है। बेक टू बेक कार्य की जिम्मेदारी अब एनर्जी फीजी लिमिटेड की होगी जो प्रक्रिया को और कुशल बनाने के लिय ग्रीड एक्सटेन्शन तथा घर की वायरिंग पर काम करेगी।



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गे वईनिमारासा बिजली वाली एक योजना का विमोचन करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

परिवारों को मुफ्त में पानी और बिजली मिलती रहेगी



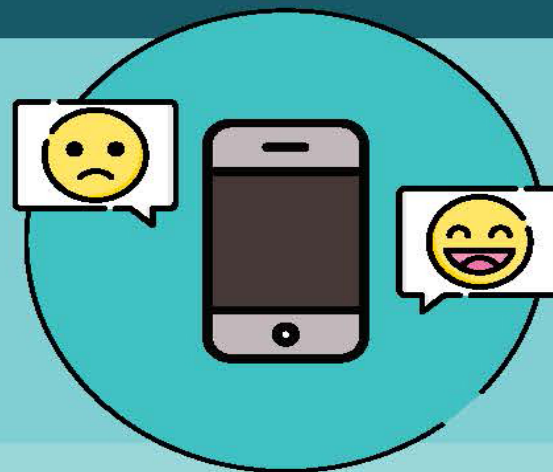
सरकार की मदद से घर तक पानी की व्यवस्था होने पर एक महिला बेहद खुश नज़र आ रही है चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

सरकार तीस हजार डोलर से कम सलाना घरेलु आमदनी वाले परिवारों को 92, 500 लीटर पानी मुफ्त में देना जारी रखेगी। अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सैयद खईयुम ने अभी हाल ही संसद में नय बजट में इसकी घोषणा करते हुए कहा कि बिजली के लिए भी ऐसा किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि तीस हजार डोलर से कम सलाना घरेलु आमदनी वाले परिवारों को वे 100 किलोवाट के इस्तेमाल के लिय प्रति युनिट 16.34 सेंट की सब्सिडी प्रदान कर रहे हैं। पहली अगस्त से इक्कीस जनवरी दो हजार बाईस तक सरकार 34.01 सेंट लगभग पचास हजार घरों के लिय भरने की जो कि कुल ग्यारह (11) मिलीयन डोलर लागत का है। मंत्री अईयाज़ सैयद खईयुम ने बताया कि इस बजट में लगभग हर चीज की तरह, यह नीति सुई लगाने की प्रक्रिया बढ़ने पर निर्भर करती है। इसीलिए छह महीने बाद इसपर पुनः विचार किया जाएगा। इसके अलावा उन्होंने कहा कि सब्सिडाएज़्ड घरेलु ग्राहकों को अपनी बिजली का बिल भरने के लिए छह हफ्ते का समय दिया जाएगा और उससे पहले सेवा नहीं काटी जाएगी तथा जिन घरेलु ग्राहकों को सब्सिडी नहीं मिलती है को बिजली का बिल भरने के लिए चार हफ्ते दिए जाएंगे और इस बीच सेवा नहीं काटी जाएगी। यह विस्तारित बिल भरने के लिय छह महीने का समय पहली अगस्त से इक्कीस जनवरी दो हजार बाईस तक है जिसके बाद सरकार इसकी आलोचना करेगी।



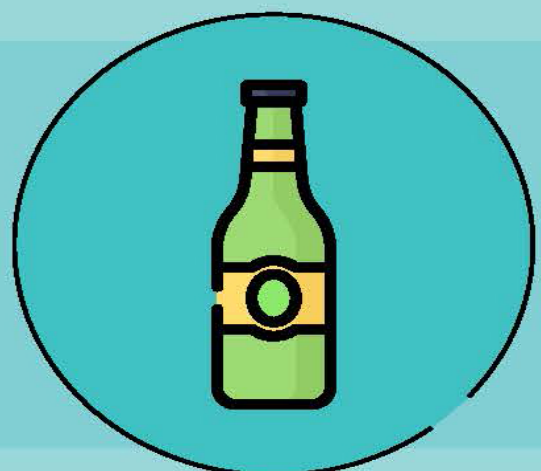
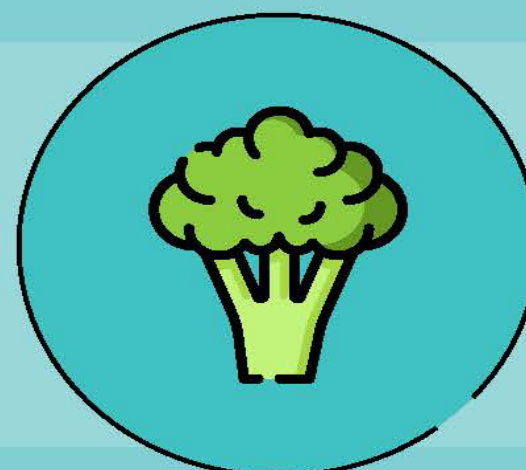
Coping with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak



किसी एक संकट के दौरान उदास होना, तनावग्रस्त, उलझन में, घबराना तथा गुस्सा होना आम बात है।

जिनपर आप भरोसा करते हैं कि वो आपकी मदद करेंगे उनसे बातें करें। अपने दोस्तों परिवार वालों को संपर्क करें।

अगर आपको घर पर रहना है, तो स्वस्थ रहे, सही भोजन करें, अच्छी तरह सोए, कसरत करें, चाहने वालों से ही मेल-जोल रखें और अन्य दोस्तों रिश्तेदारों से ई-मेल या फोन पर बातें करें।

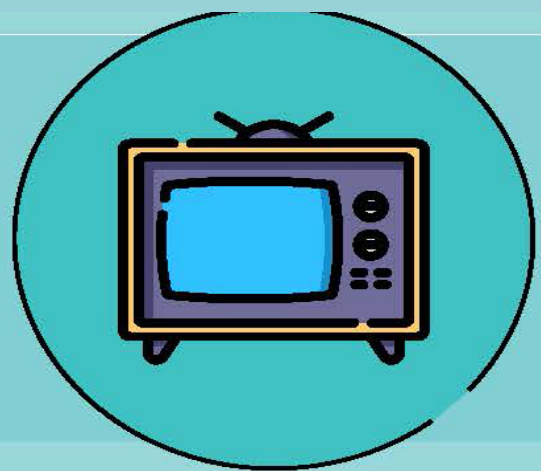
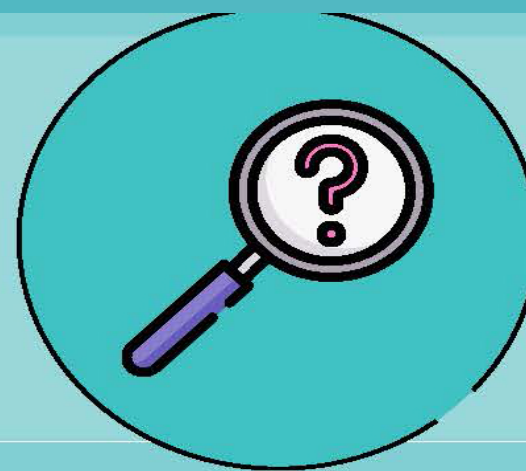


अपनी भावनाएं दबाने के लिए तम्बाकू, शराब या अन्य नशीले पदार्थों का सहारा न ले।

अगर आप घबराया हुआ महसूस करें तो कोई स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारी या काउन्सलर से बातें करें। एक योजना बनाएं कि अगर आपको शारीरिक और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य की ज़रूरत हुई तो आप कहाँ जाएंगे।

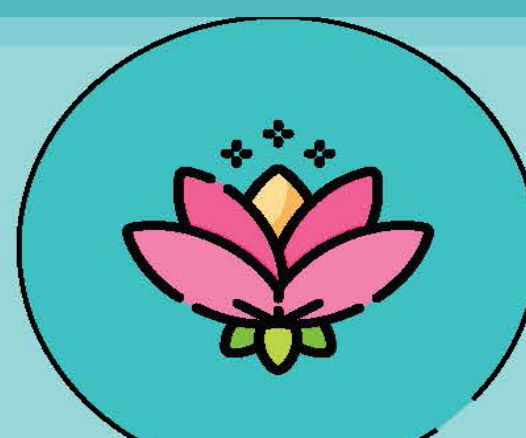
सच्ची जानकारी इकट्ठा करें। वो जानकारी हासिल करें जो सही तरीके से खतरों की पहचान करने में आपकी मदद कर सके

ताकि आप उचित सावधानियाँ ले सकें। और जानकारी के लिए आप www.who.int या www.health.gov.fj पर जा सकते हैं।



आप या आपके परिवार को समाचार माध्यमों की उन रिपोर्ट्स को कम देखना या सुनना चाहिए जो आपको परेशान कर देते हैं।

अपनी पिछली ज़िन्दगी में आपने जिन उपायों से मुश्किलों को हल किया है उन्हीं उपायों का उपयोग करके आप उन भावनाओं पर काबू करें जो आप इस महामारी के दौरान सामना कर रहे हैं।



अपना केयर फीजी

आसान कोविड-घात कोन्टेक्ट ट्रैकिंग के लिए स्थानों से सुरक्षित चेक इन और चेक आउट करें

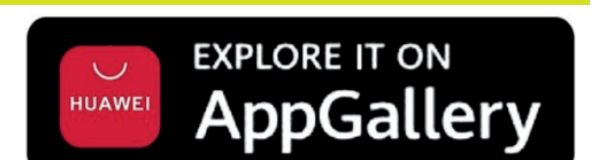
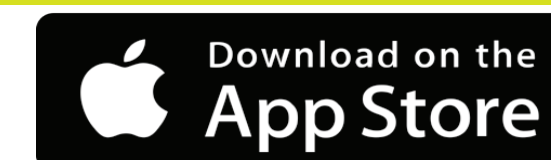
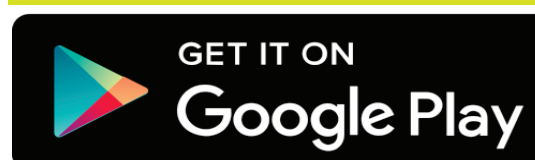
क्यू आर कोड को स्कैन करने के लिए आपको डाटा या वाएफाई की ज़रूरत नहीं है। आपको सिर्फ अपने फोन का “मोबाईल डाटा” फीचर ऑन रखना है।



केयरफीजी चेक इन का उपयोग करने से स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय और मेडिकल सेविसस को जल्द से क्लस्टर्स की पहचान करने और उन्हें अलग करने में मदद मिलती है।



केयरफीजी चेक-इन क्यू आर का पोस्टर किसी इमारत या जगह के अन्दर जाने या बाहर निकलने वाले प्रमुख जगह पर लगे होने चाहिए



और जानकारी के लिए www.careFIJI.digitalfiji.gov.fj पर जाएँ



वह सब कुछ जो फीजी में हो रहा है

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COVID-19
VACCINATION



अपने आप को COVID-19
से बचाएं

कोविड-19 के संकेत और लक्षण



अत्यंत साधारण



कम साधारण



गले में दर्द



बुखार



सर दर्द



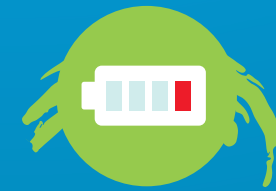
सुखी खाँसी



स्वाद न आना या महकने में तकलीफ



दर्द और पीड़ा



थकावट महसूस करना



साँस लेने में तकलीफ/सीने में दर्द



डायरिया



चमड़े में लाल दाने

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for every child



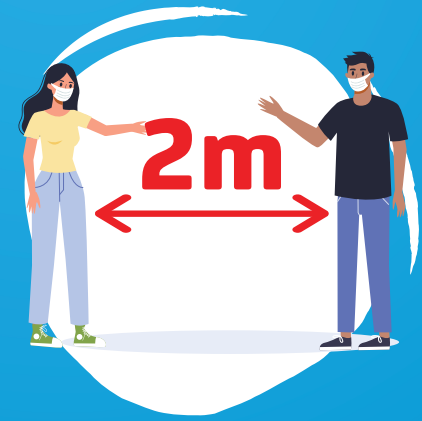
COVID-19
VACCINATION



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सुई न लगने पर
कोई सहायता नहीं

2

व्यापारियों की मदद के लिए दो
सौ मिलियन का कर्ज

2

सरकार फीस भरेगी

2

गन्ना का दाम पचासी (85)
डोलर प्रति टन

3

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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सरकारी कर्मचारियों का वेतन नहीं कटेगा

रोनल देव

सरकारी कर्मचारियों के लिए अच्छी खबर है कि 20 21/2022 के आर्थिक वर्ष में उनका वेतन नहीं काटा जाएगा लेकिन छः महीने में जब बजट पर पुनः विचार होगा तो सरकारी कर्मचारियों के वेतन पर सावधानी से फिर से गौर किया जाएगा अगर सीमाएं नहीं खुली तथा आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार नहीं हुआ। राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा करते हुए, अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री, अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि वे लगातार सरकारी कर्मचारियों को वेतन दे रहे हैं जबकि पेमेंन्ट सफ्टवेयर से नीचे वाली पदवी पर काम कर रहे सरकारी कर्मचारियों का वेतन नहीं काटा जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि वे टीचरों को लगातार वेतन दे रहे हैं हालांकि इस महामारी की शुरुआत से अभी तक उन्होंने कोई क्लास नहीं लिए हैं तथा इस दौरान उन टीचरों को भी वेतन मिल रहे हैं जो एक्टिंग अलावन्स पर हैं। सईयद खईयूम ने आगे कहा कि उन्होंने ऐसा किया क्योंकि वे अपने अध्यापकों को सलामत रखना चाहते हैं और ध्यान में रखना चाहते हैं कि वे पूरी कोशिश करें कि जब स्कूल दोबारा खुले तो वे अपने विद्यार्थियों की मदद करें ताकि जो पढ़ाई का नुकसान हुआ है उसकी भरपाई हो सके।

उन्होंने आगे कहा कि उन सरकारी कर्मचारियों को भी पूरा वेतन दिया जा रहे हैं जो घर से काम करते हैं या जिनके काम करने के घण्टे कम किया गया है, अन्य लोग जो लोकडाउन या घर पर आइसोलेशन की वजह से काम पर नहीं जा सकते। मंत्री ने कहा कि सरकारी कर्मचारियों को सहारा देने से वे न केवल सरकारी नौकरी करने वालों की भलाई के बारे में सोच रहे हैं बल्कि वे उन परिवारों का समर्थन कर रहे हैं जो सरकारी कर्मचारियों पर निर्भर हैं, उन व्यापारियों की मदद कर रहे हैं जहाँ वे खरीद-बिक्री करते हैं तथा इससे वे पूरी अर्थ-व्यवस्था की सहायता कर रहे हैं। सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि कई सरकारी कर्मचारी, सरकारी सेवाओं को बरकरार रखने के लिए पहले से ज्यादा कड़ी मेहनत कर रहे हैं, खास करके इस महामारी के दौरान तथा उनका वेतन न तो काटा गया है या ही आगे काटा जाएगा। उन्होंने खर्च बचाने के बारे में कहा और आगे कहा कि स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय, कोम्युनिकेशन्स, लोकल गवर्नमेंट तथा पुलिस के आवां अन्य सरकारी मंत्रालयों में कोई नए पद पर नियुक्ति नहीं होगी।

सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि एक साल से ज्यादा समय गुज़र गया है तथा गम्भीर रूप से वेतन नहीं काटे गए हैं। लेकिन यह फैसला अगले छः महीने में सरकारी आमदनी सुधारने पर निर्भर करता है और हममें से और भी लोगों को सुई लगने पर भी निर्भर करता है।



अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम पिछले शुक्रवार की रात राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

Noda Viti



Na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena nona kacivaka tiko na ituvatuva vakailavo ni yabaki 2021-2022 e Palimedi.
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

VEITOKONI KI NA BULA RARABA

\$120 na milioni

- Veivuke vei ira na dravudravua
- Lavo ni nodra taqomaki na gone
- Veivuke vei ira na vakaleqai na tiki ni yagodra
- Veivuke vei ira na malumalumu
- Veivuke ni vodovodo ni basi



E na vukei kina e 130K na lewei Viti

\$55m

VEIVUKE
VEI IRA NA
MALUMALUMU

\$36m

VEIVUKE
VAKAILAVO

\$11.3m

LAVO NI NODRA
TAQOMAKI
NA GONE

\$10.8m

VEIVUKE VEI IRA NA
VAKALEQAI NA TIKI
NI YAGODRA

\$5m

VEIVUKE NI
VODOVODO
NI BASI

\$1m

VEIVUKE NI
VOLI KAKANA

TUVAKA VAKAILAVO NI 2021- 2022

TOMANI TIKO GA NA ITAVI

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

SA vakadeitaka na Matanitu ena nodra tuvaka vakailavo ni 2021-2022 ni na tomana tikoga na nodra veiqaravi ni veivuke ena noda vanua vakauasivi vei ira na lewenivanua era sota kaya tiko na dredre ni bula ka vu ena COVID-19.

Vakaraitaka na Vunilawa, ka Minisita ni Bula vakailavo ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ni ka dina sara ni sa vakalailaitaki na ilavo edau rawata na Matanitu mai na veibisinisi kei na saumi vakacavacava ia e vakadeitaka ni dei tiko ga na noda isema na lewenivanua.

E sega vakadua ni guilecava na nodra itavi ni veiqaravi ki vei ira kece sara na lewenivanua vakauasivi oira era sotava na dredre ka vu mai ena COVID-19.

Vakarautaka kina na Matanitu e \$120 na milioni me ivota ni ilavo e vakagolei ena valuti ni dravudravua kei na veiqaravi era veiwekani voleka ena sasaga oya.

Qoka e wili kina na nodra vukei na malumalumu, na matua, na lewenivanua era sega ni taucoko tu na nodra ituvaki ni bula, oira era dau taura na peniseni, vodovodo ni basi ka tiko na nodra iwiliwili ena 130,000

na lewenivanua. Qoka me vaka e \$55m ka soli me vagolei ena Peniseni ka vukei kina e 48,094 na lewenivanua era tiko ena 65 ka lako cake nodra yabaki ni bula, mera taura e \$100 ena veivula.

Na veivuke ni valuti ni dravudravua oqo ena vukei ira na sotava tiko na dredre vakailavo ka sega tiko nodra ivurevure ni ilavo mera bula kina ka solia kina e \$35 kina \$127 kei na \$50 na pasi ni volikakana, ka mera vukei kina e 27,490 na lewenivanua e Viti. Votai kina e \$36m ena veivuke vakailavo oqo.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Khaiyum ni na tom-

ani tiko na veivuke vakailavo e \$90 ki vei ira na lewenivanua era sega ni tu vinaka na ituvaki ni yagodra ka kena levu kece e \$10.8m ka vukei kina en 9400 na lewenivanua.

Vei ira na ciqoma tiko na veivuke baleti ira na gone e vakagolea kina na matanitu e \$11.3m ena sasaga oqo ka kuria talega nodra vukei ena vodo basi na matua kei ira na sega ni tuvaki vinaka nodra bula, ka tiko kece ena \$5m

Ena solia talega na matanitu e \$1m ena nodra vukei na marama bukete era vakaitikotiko ena koro.



Veivuke mai o Ositerelia ki na tabana ni curu vanua

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Enamaki me na vaqacaco-taki na veiqaravi ni Tabana ni Curu Vanua ni oti na kena mai ciqomi na i yaya ni veiqaravi kei na misini ka tiko na kena i sau vaka ilavo e na

\$100,000.00

Na iyaya ni cakacaka e soli mai qo e na vukea na Tabana e na kena valuti na kena dau curu mai vakailoa kina noda vanua na veika vakatabui e so ka ni solia e dua tale na i vakatagedegede ni kena dau digovi na kako.

E na vukea tale ga na kena sabai na nodra sasaga na dau basu lawa ka ni sa na tiko ki na tabana na iwalewale ni kena vakatakilai ka valuti na vei sasaga e so ka dau vakavu leqa kin a dua na vanua. “Na veiwekani ni Tabana ni Curu Vanua e na vanua e rua e

mai vaqacqo taki tale ga ka ni sa rawarawa sara na veitaratara kei na cakacaka vata,” e vakaraitaki mai na Tabana ni Curu Vanua. Na veiqaravi qo e tiki tiko ni tuvatuva ni matanitu e rua ka vakatokai me Vuvale Partnership. E vakadinadintaka taka na ma-

tanitu ko Ositerelia na bibi ni tavi e qarava tiko na noda vanua e na kena veitosoyaki tiko na kako kei na tamata e na wasa Pasifika ka sa tu vakarau kina me na dau dodoliga mai me vaka na veivuke e se qai yaco ga mai qo.

Saumi na isau ni volivolitaki ena makete

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA itukutuku rogo vinaka vei kemuni na dau volivolitaki ena makete ni sa na sauma na Matanitu na isau ni nomuni volivolitaki me dua taucoko na yabaki.

Me vaka a vakamacala kina ena siga Vakaraubuka na Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena iTuvatuva Vakailavo ni 2021-2022.

Me tekivu ena imatai ni Okosita 2021 ki na Jiulai 31 ni 2022 era na vukei kina e sivia e lewe 8000 na dau volivolitaki ena noda makete.

“Na ilavo oqo ena saumi vakadodoni kina vei matabose ni tauni era vakamakete tiko kina.

“Vei kemuni na dau volivolitaki ena noda veimakete ni sa na sauma na Matanitu na sau ni nomuni teveli sa na levu cake na ilavo oni kauta ki vale. Ni gumatua sara ena volivolitaki ka rawa ni lutu sobu tale na isau ni ivoli me dreti ira yani vakalevu na dau volivoli,” e kaya ko Minisita Khaiyum.



E na vukei ira na daunivolivolitaki e na makete na Matanitu e na kena saumi na teveli se na vanua ni nodra volivolitaki me dua taucoko na yabaki. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Vukei e rua na isoqosoqo ni itabagone

MEREANI GONEDUA

ERau sa marautaka ka vakavinavinakataka na Matanitu kei na Tabacacacaka ni iTabagone e rua na isoqosoqo ni itabagone e Nadroga ena veivuke levu esa soli yani vei ira na Matanitu ena ika 14 ni Jiulai 2021.

Qoka na isoqosoqo ni iTabagone e Tilivalevu kei na isoqosoqo ni itabagone e Vunatovau ena tikina o Nokonoko, Nadroga.

E matataka na Tabacacacaka ni iTabagone kei na Qito na kena Minisita ko Parveen Kumar.

Na isoqosoqo ni itabagone e Vunatovau era vukei ena iyaya ni teitei me vaka na bai, ivako, hose pipe, na reki, na ikutari, na isivi balavu, na mataiva, na isele kava, na dramu ni wai, avesaki ni suisui, kei na itei ni kakana drau me vaka na meleni, kaveti, toma-ta, papukeni, kei na kiukaba.

Era lewe 41, 22 na cauravou ka 19 na goneyalewa ena isoqosoqo mai Vunatovau.



Ko ira na itabagone ni Vunatovau vata kei Tilivalevu kei na iyaya ni teitei era vukei kina mai na Tabacacacaka ni iTabagone kei na Qito ka solia vakailoloma tiko na Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito o Parveen Bala. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Na isoqosoqo ni iTabagone e Tilivalevu eratou vukei ena iyaya ni susu manumanu kei na so talega na itei ni kakana draudrau ka tiko ena \$2,655.91.

Qoka na iyaya me vaka na bai ni Me, na kena ivako, na isivi, na iselekava, na itei me vaka na bean, na kiukaba, na papukeni, na sila, na meleni, na kaveti, kei na tomata.

Ko Waisake Ratunideuba e gusudra na itabagone ni Tiliva e vuabale nona vakavinavinaka

kina Matanitu kei na Tabacacacaka ni iTabagone ena veivuke levu oqo.

“Au gusui keimami ena vakavinavinaka kina Matanitu ena neimami vukei na isoqosoqo ruarua nii itabagone e Tilivalevu kei Vunatovau dinaga ni sotava tu na noda vanua na gauna bolebole oqo.”

“Na neitou isoqo a tauyavutaki ena 2018 ka toso vinaka kece tiko mai neimami veiqaravi vakabibi na solesole vakai ia na vei-

vuke keima sa mai taura oqo ena vukea tosoya caka tale na neimami rawaka na isoqosoqo ni itabagone ruarua oqo ena tikina ko Nokonoko,” kaya Ratunideuba.

“Na neitou isoqosoqo ni itabagone e Tilivalevu keimami lewe 49. Na neitou navunavuci e baleta na susu me me vakalevutaki neitou susu me.”

Na isoqosoqo e Tilivalevu era lewe 46, 24 na cauravaou ka 22 na goneyalewa.

Vukei na sasaga ni draiva

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

ESa na veivuke na matanitu ki vei ira na lewe ni vanua e ra gadreva na kedra itukutuku vakaovisa me ra kune cakacaka kina vaka na draiva ni basi, motoka saumi, lori lelevu ni veivakaleleci se na basi lalai.

Me vakatekivu e na matai ni siga ni vula ko Okosita, e sa na sotava keca na matanitu na kena saumi na vakarautaki na nodra itukutuku mai na Tabana ni Ovisa.

E na sega tale ga ni lavaki e dua na ka ki vei ira qori ke ra gadrevi me taba mai na nodra ivola ni sucu.

Sa vakarautaki kina e \$450,000.00.

Saumi na isau ni laiseni ni qoli, isau kina MSAF

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA na sauma na Matanitu na isau kece ni laiseni ni qoliloqi se *inshore licence fee* kei na ilavo e dau lavaka vei ira na dau qoli na Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) ena loma ni rua na yabaki.

E kacivaka oqori na Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo ko Aiyaz Saiyed-Khaiyum.

“E na yaga vei ira e sivia na 3000 na vakalaiseni tiko ni qoli kei ira na itaukei ni waqa ni qoli.

“Sa na votai kina e \$200,000 ena veivuke vinaka oqo vei kemuni na dau qoli. Na isau ni rejisita, na isau ni saveataki ni waqa ena veiabaki, na isau ni laiseni ni *boat masters* sa na vakabalavutaki me lima na yabaki. Qoka e wili kina waqa ni qoli e lailai mai na 15 na mita na kena balavu. Sa vakabalavutaki talega na gauna e vakayagataki kina na laiseni ni *offshore fishing* mai na 36 na vula kina 20 na yabaki.”

“Na kabani ni qoli era na vakalaiseni me 20 na yabaki me vakarawarawataka nodra tauri dinau ka veiraurau na gauna me saumi kina.”

“Sa rawa nira vakatubuilavo kina ena voli ni nodra waqa vou ka vakalevutaka talega na cakacaka vei ira na lewei Viti,” kaya o Minisita Khaiyum.

“E na solia talega na Matanitu na 5 na pasede na veivuke ena voli waqa ni qoli ka tiko na kena isau ena 1 na milioni kina 2 na milioni na dola. Sa vota kina na Matanitu e veimama na milioni na dola.”

“Kena ivakaraitaki kevaka era volia e dua na waqa ni qoli ena \$1m ena vukei ira na Matanitu ena lima na pasede ni kena isau,” kaya o Minisita Khaiyum.



Rawa ni kerei e \$10K ki FNPF mo caka bisinisi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA itukutuku marautaki vei kemuni na sotava tiko na bula bolebole ena vuku ni COVID-19 ni sa rawa mo ni kerea me saumi vei kemuni e rauta ni \$10,000 mai na nomuni ilavo musuki ena Matabose ni ilavo Musuki se Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) me vukei iko ena vakaduri bisinisi.

Na itukutuku vinaka oqori ena yaga vei kemuni na sega tiko ni cakacaka ena vuku ni sogosogo ni veivanua ni cakacaka me vaka na veiotela ena noda vanua. “Sa rawa ni vukei na bolebole e sotava tiko nomuni matavuvale ka rawa talega ni oni tauyavutaka kina e dua nomuni bisinisi ni se sega tiko na nomuni cakacaka,” kaya na Minisita ni bula

vakailavo Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

E rawa talega ni ra taura tau-coko na nodra ilavo musuki na lewenivanua ka tiko nodra yabaki ni bula mai na 50 ki na yabaki 54. Ia me vo tiko e rauta ni \$10,000 ena nodra akaude.

“Qoka ena vukea na kena toso cake na rawa ka ki na \$30 na milioni ena bula vakailavo ni noda vanua.”

Sa kacicaka talega na Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo ni sa na tubu mai na lima na pasede kina ono na pasede na cau ni tamata cakacaka kei na itaukei ni cakacaka kina nodra akaude na lewe ni FNPF.

Sa dola tale tikoga na veivuke vei ira na lewe ni FNPF era sotava tiko na bolebole ni COVID-19 me saumi kina na nodra dinau ni vale ena baqe.



Dolavi na veivuke vou ena matabose ni ilavo musuki se Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) vei ira sotava na bula bolebole ena vuku ni COVID-19 vata kei ira era sa yacova yani na 50 ki na 54 na yabaki ni bula. **Taba: VAKARAUTAKI**

\$5m ki vei ira na Vuniwai vakaitaukei

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA dua na veivuke levu era solia mai eso na Vuniwai Vakaitaukei ki na gauna bolebole e sotava tiko na Matanitu kei na Tabacacaka ni Bula e Viti edaidai.

E vakavinavinaka kina vakalevu na Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ki vei ira na 17 na vuniwai vakaitaukei era yalodina me ra vukea na Tabacacaka ni Bula.

“Na sasaga ni Matanitu meda qaravi tikoga vakavinaka na lewenivanua era a dau laki qaravi tu eliu e vale ni bula ni bera ni yaco mai kina na gauna bolebole ni COVID-19.”

“Sa mani saumi ira kina na Vuniwai vakaitaukei se *private general practitioners* me ra veivuke ena noda qaravi na lewe ni vanua.”

“Sa vota kina na Matanitu e \$5m mera na saumi kina na Vuniwai vakaitaukei era sa veivuke tiko kina noda qaravi na lewenivanua edaidai,” kaya ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum.

“Qoka e vakamamadataka na icolacola era sotava tiko edaidai na vei valenibula lelevu ena noda vanua.

“Era lewe 17 taucoko na Vuniwai Vakaitaukei era sa veitokoni mai oqo kina Tabacacaka ni Bula.

“Na veivuke ni wainimate sega ni saumi ena soli talega vei ira era laki qaravi vei ira na Vuniwai Vakaitaukei oqo,” kaya ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum.

Sega ni saumi na ivola ni sucu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA ivola ni sucu e dua na ivola se sitivikiti e dau gadrevi vakalevu

ena veitabana kece ni veiqaravi vakamatanitu se veiqaravi raraba.

Baleta ni vakadinadinataki kina na yacamu, na yacadrau nomu itubutubu, na vanua ko sucu kina keina yabaki ko tadu mai kina kina dela ni noda vuravura vinaka oqo.

Na veitabana kece vakamatanitu e Viti eda dau kerekere yani kina ena gadrevi kina na noda ivola ni sucu.

Ia sa ka talei dina ni sa rawa ni vakamamadataka na Matanitu ena gauna bolebole oqo na isau ni kena caka noda ivola ni sucu.

Me vaka a vakamacala kina na Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

“Mai na imatai ni siga ni Okosita sana sega ni saumi kina na nomu laki tabaka mai na ivola ni sucu.

“Baleta ni sa levu edaidai na

kena gadrevi na naba ni kena rejistaki na ivola ni sucu.

“Na Matanitu ena sauma vei kemuni na nomuni ivola ni sucu.

“Vei kemuni na via cula baleta na COVID-19 e dodonu mo ni vakarautaka mai na nomuni naba ni rejisita ni vola ni sucu.

“Sa vakarawarawataka vei kemuni na Matanitu na tikina oya,” kaya ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum.



E na vukei ira na dau vakacici tolili se taxi, minibus kei na keria na Matanitu e na kena saumi na ilavo era dau lavaki mai ena nodra i kekeleke se ‘base’. **ITaba: VAKARAUTAKI**

Sauma na Matanitu na isau ni ikelekele ni taxi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA vakila talega na draiva ni basi, taxi, minibus, kei na keria na dredre ena gauna ni vakatatabu ni veilakoyaki ni COVID-19.

E dua na ilavo levu era vakayalia kina ni sa kele vakadua nodra tolili ka lailai na pasidia era via vodo se veilakoyaki ena kena ririkotaki na COVID-19. E ra taleitaka ni sa kalawa mai na Matanitu me vukei ira me vaka kacicaka na Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena iTuvatuva Vakailavo ni Matanitu ni 2021-2022.

“Sa vota na Matanitu e \$2.5 na milioni me saumi kina na base fee ni taxi, minibus, keria kei na basi baleta ni dau lavaki vei ira mera sauma ena veigauna kece era

gole kina kina ikelekele ni basi. Qo e baleta ni levu vei ira oqo era a sega tu ni rawa ni rawa ilavo ena gauna ni vakatatabu me baleta na COVID-19.

E na sauma na Matanitu na isau ni nodra vanua ni kele se *base fees* me dua taucoko na yabaki.

“E na sauma talega na Matanitu na isau ni laiseni ni draiva kei na defensive driving fee nodra na draiva taucoko ni taxi, draiva ni minibus, draiva ni keria, e gadrevi me ra vakavoutaki nodra laiseni ena yabaki vakailavo ka tarava, baleta ni na sau levu vei ira ni ra s sega tu ni cicivaki bisinisi tu mai ena dua na gauna balavu,” kaya o Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum. Ena sauma talega na Matanitu na *wheel tax* ni *tractors*.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni kena ika

va, ena vakarautaki na lawa vakaturi me vakamuri ni sa donumaki na tikolega ena gauna ni COVID, ena dabe tarava ni Pali-medi.

E tiko ena lawa vakaturi na nodra togoti vakailavo o ira na sega ni vakaiubinigu-su kei na ucu ena vanua ga era laurai/tobo kina, kei ira na veibisinisi era sega ni vakamuria na veivakaro ni tataqomaki mai na COVID.

“Ena sega ni wasei o ira na itaukei ni bisinisi kei ira na volivoli kera sega ni vakamuria na veika e lavaki.

E dua na kena ivakaraitaki, ke sega ni vakaiubinigu-su e dua na lewenivanua ni vakayagataka na veiqaravi saumi, erau na togotitaki ruarua o koya kei na itaukei ni bisinisi. Kevaka e basuki vakatolu na lawa ni bisinisi, ena rawa ni sogo.

Sauma na Matanitu na savea ni nomu qele

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA cakacaka ni kena savetaki edua na tiki ni qele e dua na cakacaka sau levu toka.

Ia ni qai mai yaco tale na bolebole ni sega ni cakacaka e kauta mai na COVID -19 e levu era sega ni kila mera sauma vakacava na isau ni savea.

Ia, e ka marautakai dina ni sa kalawa mai na Matanitu ki veikemuni na vinakata tiko moni volia se lisitaka na qele ni iTaukei se Matanitu ko ni sa vakaitikotiko kina me volai vei kemuni.

Ni sa na sauma na Matanitu na isau ni savea ena vuku ni gauna bolebole oqo.

Sa kacicaka na Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo ko Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum ni na sauma na Matanitu na isau ni saveataki ni nomu qele.

“E levu na lewei Viti era vakaitikotiko ni kua ena qele ni iTaukei kei na qele ni Matanitu. Ia esega ni rawa nira sauma na isau ni saveataki ni nodra qele ka dau gadrevi ena gauna era via volia kina na qele me volai vei ira se me ra lisitaka. Sa vota kina na Matanitu e \$1 na milioni me sotavi kina na gagadre oya,” kaya o Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum.



Tomani tikoga na veivuke

ERA tomana tikoga na veivuke na ivakale-
silesi vakamatanitu ena noda vanua ena
nodra tokona na sasaga ni Tabana ni Bula
me valuti na COVID-19.

Era yaco saraga ena Natovi Jetty kei na Logani Border ka vaka kina na colo kei na veiyanyanu ena taudaku ni koro ni caka-caka mera laki dikevi ira na lewenivanua, vakawainimate taka na veivanua e ganita ka gadreva na veivuke ni tataqomaki ni COVID-19.

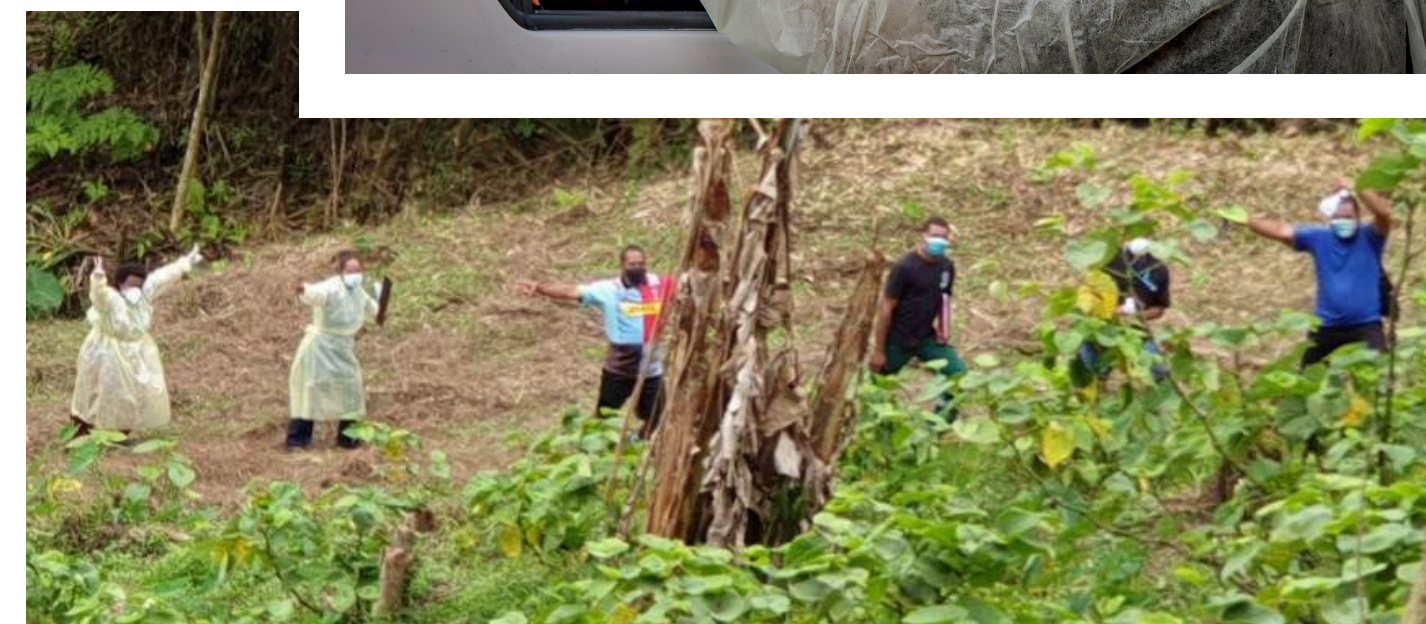
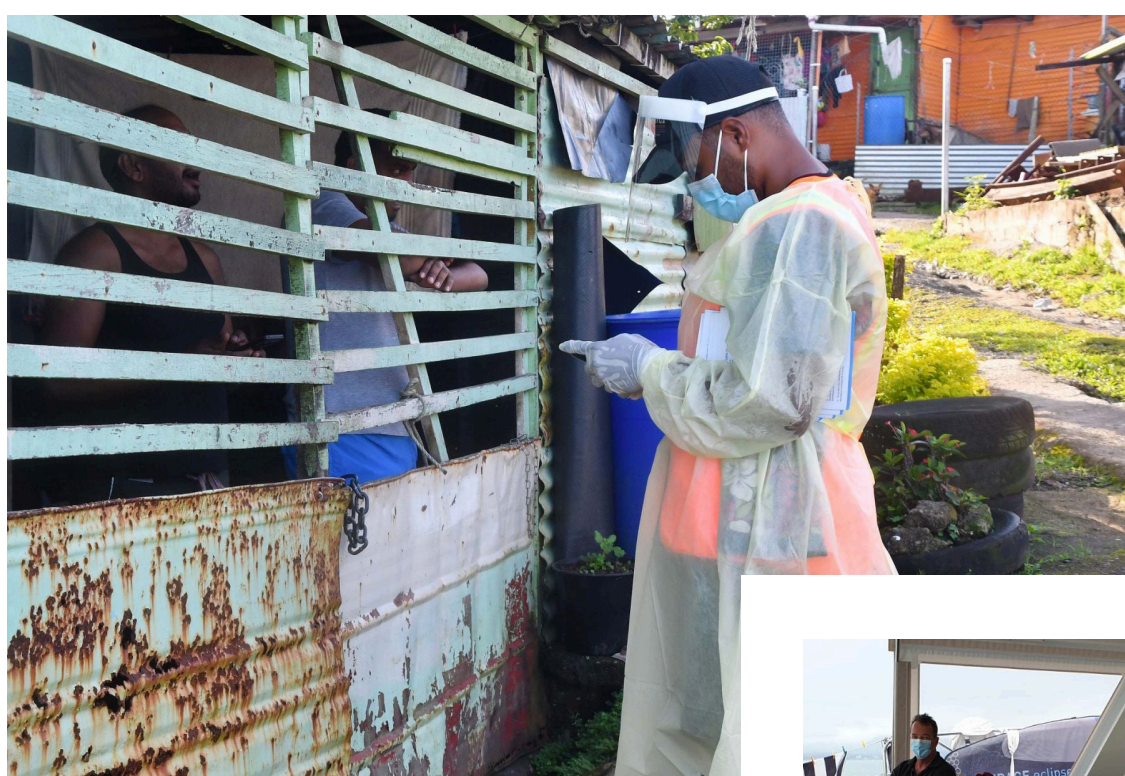
Era vukea talega na kena vei waseyaki na kakana veira na lewenivanua ena vanua sogosogo mai Qauia me vaka ni veitauvi

tiko kina na mate taka na COVID-19. Na sasaga ni Tabana ni Bula me ra taqomaki na lewenivanua ena mate taka na COVID-19 era sa vakatara kina na nodra vakadikevi na lewenivanua mera vodo nodra lori ka laki dikevi ena Koronivili mai Vunimoni.

Eda raica ni sa vakayacori talega na veiqaravi oqo ena Albert Park e Suva me vaka esa vakayacora talega kina na cula vei ira na lewenivanua ena wainimate ni COVID-19.

Sa vakauqeti kina na lewenivanua mera laki cula ena itataqomaki ni mate taka na COVID-19.

iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI





VAKAVOUTAKA nomu careFIJI

TALACA NA careFIJI APP ME TOTOLU KINA NOMU KILA NA VANUA E TIKO KINA NA MANUMANU MECA NI COVID-19

E sega ni gadrevi mo sauma nomu 'WiFi' se 'data' me wilika na 'QR codes'. E gadrevi ga me waqa tiko na bulukau ni 'data'



Na veiqaravi vou oqo ni 'QR code' ena vaqacacotaka na totolo ni nodra kune na tauvi matetaka me ra tarova kina na manumanu meca ni mate ni bera ni dewa



ME VAKARAITAKI TIKO NA IDUSIDUSI QO ENA VEICURUCURU KECE ENA NOMU SITOA NI VEIVOLI ENA VEIGAUNA KECE SARA



Sikova na ivatavata oqori www.careFIJI.digitalfiji.gov.fj



Vakasala ni nomu maroroi iko e na nomu koro me baleta na COVID-19

Tu veiyawaki e na i tikotiko e taudaku ni veikoro lelevu se e na koro vaka-Viti

Eka bibi na kena rokovi tiko na tu veiyawaki me 2 na mita me vukea na kena vakuti na mate na COVID 19. Kena i balebale qo me vakalailai takin a veitaratara kei ira tale na so.

Mo taqomaki iko vataki iko, na lewe ni nomu vuvale, ira na lalai, na matua kei ira na tauvi mate, Sa ka bibi qo.

Kauta laivi na gagadre mo siko wavoki e loma ni koro se tikotiko. Mo biuta ga na nomu i tikotiko ke o lai voli kakana se wainimate.

Me rokovi tiko ga na tu veiyawaki na 2 na mita ke o biuta na nomu vale.

E na gauna bolebole da lako curuma tiko qo, me sa vakabibi taki me da veitaratara ga kei ira na wekada e na talevoni ka me kua na veilakoyakovi se siko vale.



Na sosoqoni vata e taudaku ni veikoro lelevu se e na koro vaka-Viti

ME kua na sosoqoni vata, na soso yaqona, se vakatatakana e nomu vale se na dua tale na vale.

Me kua na siko vale e na nomu tikotiko se koro.

Me ra tiko ga e vale na gone ka me kakua ni vakatarai me ra sosoqni vata se ra qito vata e na rara ni koro se tikotiko.

Na nomu vale sai koya na nomu bubble. Tiko ga e na nomu bubble ka mo kakua ni sikove tale e dua na bubble. Maroroya na nomu bubble.



Na cakacaka e na teitei ni vuvale

Erawa me dou lai qarava na nomudou i teitei vakavuvale. Me kua ga na lai qarava na teitei ni dua tale na vuvale me vaka ni dou duidui bubble. Me kakua tale ga ni vakatarai me dua tale mai na taudaku ni nomu vuvale me lai vei-

vuke yani ki na nomu i teitei.

Kevaka e caka na solesolevaki, me nanumi me tokari tiko na i ubi ni ucu kei na gusu ka me rokovi tiko na lawa ni tu veiyawaki me rua na mita. E ka bibi qo ka ni na vakalailaitaka na se tarova na dewa ni mate ke dua e tauvi koya tiko.

Ni o ni lesu mai na solesolevaki, me rokovi tiko ga na lawa ni tu veiyawaki me rua na mita. E ka bibi qo ka me

na taqomaki iko, ira na nomu lewe ni vuvale kei na i tikotiko.

Mo raica mo sili sara vakavinaka ka savata na yagomu e na sovu ni o lesu mai na qarava na nomu iteitei.

Ke o kana mai na iteitei, nanuma mo savata vinaka na ligamu ka me rokovi tiko ga na lawa ni tu veiyawaki me rua na mita.

Me caka na kana e na dua na vanua e tadola ka mudre vinaka.



Vakasala ni nomu maroroi iko e na nomu vale me baleta na COVID-19

SAVATA na ligamu me rauta e 20 na sekodi e na sovu kei na wai se vakayagataka na wainimate ni savani liga na hand sanitizer.

Ubiya na gusumu na gauna o suru kina se vuvu. Vakananumi ira e na loma ni nomu vale me ra kakua ni tara na gusudra, matadra se ucudra ka me ra vakananumi tiko ga me ra dau savata na ligadra.

Savata se me qua vasoma na vei dela ni vata se vanua e dau tarai vakalevu me vaka na teveli ni kana idoladola ni

katuba, waqawaqa ni cina, na vale ni vakacegu, siqi ni savasava kei na vei vanua ko nanuma ni dodonu me na vakasavasavataki.

Me vakayagataki na wainimate ni savasava e vakadonui ka vakasala taki me dau vakayagataki e na vakasavasava taki ni vei vanua oqori.

Doladolva na katuba leka kei na katuba levu ni nomu vale me rawa ni cagina yani cagi bulabula e na loma ni nomu vale.

Ke dua e tauvimate e na nomu vale,

ni tovolea me ra vagalala taki ki na dua na rumu ka me vakalailai taki na veitaratara kei koya.

O koya e na vei qaravi me na tokara tiko na na i ubi ni ucu kei na gusu ka me na rokovi tiko ga na tu veiyawaki me rua na mita e na gauna e lai qaravi kina.

Me kua na veisiko ki na dua tale na vale ka mo kakua ni vakatara e dua me gade yani ki na nomu vale. Kevaka e dua e gole yani, mo ni kerea tu yawaki kemuni mai me 2 na mita ka me kakua ni curu e na loma ni nomu vale.

Sotavi na bolebole ni tu veiyawaki e na loma ni koro vaka-Viti

ME biu vata e dua na tuvatuva ni veisiko ki vei ira na lewe ni koro ka me ra vakaitavi kina na Turaga ni Koro, Dauniveiqaravi ni Bula se Nasi ni Koro, Liuliu ni Soqosoqo Vaka Marama, Liuliu ni Tabagone, kei na I vakalesilesi ni lotu.

Me caka na veitalanoa kei ira na lewe ni koro e na veika ra lako curuma tiko e na gauna e tikotiko kina na vakatatabu nit u veiyawaki.

Me nanumi me tokari tiko na i ubi ni ucu kei na gusu ka me rokovi tiko na lawa ni tu veiyawaki me 2 na mita.

Noda Viti



CIQOMI NA VEIVUKE NI WAINIMATE NI COVID-19

E sa na rawa me ra na cula e na icula ni tatarovi ni mate taka na COVID 19 o ira na marama bukete. Qo ni oti na nona mai ciqoma na Minisita ni Bula ko Ifereimi Waqainabete e 150,080 na wainimate ka solia mai vakaloloma na matanitu ko Amerika. E vakavinavinakata ka na veivuke qo ko Vuniwai Waqainabete ka kaya ni yaco donu sara ga mai na waini-

mate me vaka ni se taladrodro sara tu ga e na gauna qo na veicula e na noda vanua me vaka ga na ituvatuva ni matanitu e sa tiko. Na icula qo na Moderna Vaccine e totolo vakalailai na kena rawati na taucoko ni kena taqomaka e dua na marama me vaka ni na rawa ni tauri na ikarua ni cula ni oti ga e 28 na siga. ITaba: YAKARAUTAKI

Bisinisi e rawaka ena:
\$50K

E rawa ni kerea na loan me:
\$10K

Bisinisi e rawaka ena:
\$50 - \$300K

E rawa ni kerea na loan me:
\$200K

Bisinisi e rawaka ena:
\$300K - \$1.25m

E rawa ni kerea na loan
\$50K

Bisinisi e rawaka ena:
\$1.25m⁺

E rawa ni kerea na loan me:
\$100K

20K | Na bisinisi e namaki me ra vukei ena sasaga oqo

Vukei na bisinisi lalai ena \$200m

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA kacivaka na Matanitu ni sa vakarau solia na veivuke vakadinou ka tiko ena \$200 na milioni na kena levu taucoko.

Oqori mera vukei kina na daunibisini era vinakata mera vukea nodra bisinisi mera tosoya se mera rawa ni tucake tale kina me vaka nira sotava na dredre vumai ena COVID-19.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ni na vukea na Matanitu ena kena vakalailaitaki na

vakacavacava dau saumi ena dinou vei ira na daunibisinisi era na kerekere ena veivuke oqo. Oqo me yacova e rua na yabaki ka me na vukea talega kina e \$8m ena tuvaka vakailavo ni yabaki mai oqo 2021-2022 ka \$8m tale ena yabaki e tarava.

Kuria ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum ni ratou na vukei ira saraga vakalevu na daunibisinisi lalai era vakaleqai saraga baleta na COVID-19. Gadreva na Matanitu me vakamamadataka na icolacola vakailavo vei ira na lewenivanua oqo kei ira nodra matavuvale ka me ra laveta na nodra bula ka tubu nodra bisinisi.

Oqo me tekivu ena imatai ni Okosita vei ira na bisinisi lalai me yacova e ono na vula. Oira na bisinisi lalai e tiko nodra rawaka vakailavo ka lailai mai ena \$1.25m ka ra sauma tiko na livaliva ena tagede ni bisinisi era sa tekivu sauma ena tagede ni tikotiko e vale. Na Matanitu ena qai sauma na kena duidui se kena caca vakailavo.

Oqori e namaki me vukei kina oira e 18,700 na bisinisi lalai ka vakarautaki kina e \$7m.

Era na vakacegui mai na saumi livaliva me yacova e va na macawa.

Oira na bisinisi oqo ena rawa ni ra saumi

ira kina nodra tamata cakacaka, rede kei na veika kece era gadreva me vukea nodra bisinisi

Oira na bisinisi era tiko ena \$50,000 na rawaka vakailavo ena rawa nira kerea na dinou me \$10,000. Oira na bisinisi era tiko ena \$50,000 kina \$300,000 na nodra rawaka ena rawa nira kerea e \$20,000. Oira era tiko ena \$300,000 kina \$1m ena rawa nira kerea e \$50,000. Oira era tiko nodra rawaka ena \$1.25m ka sivia ena rawa ni ra kerea ea \$100,000. Namaki me ra vukei ena sasaga oqo e 20,000 na bisinisi ena noda vanua.

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]