

FijiFocus

Fiji fights off pandemic and tropical cyclone



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete with health officials and staff at the Valelevu fever clinic in Nasinu. Fiji has had 18 positive COVID-19 cases, but no deaths, and 15 have fully recovered with three still being treated. The pandemic led to several measures taken by Government, including lockdowns and restrictions in affected areas. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

DOUBLE BATTLE

FELIX LESINAIVALU

Fiji may have won the initial battle against COVID-19 (coronavirus) but it will not rest on its laurels as the world still grapples with the spread of the deadly virus.

As the nation continues with restrictions that were announced two months ago, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has told Fijians that they “must choose to make Fiji COVID-free”. He highlighted the need to continue with the good habits that were picked up to fight

off infection such as regularly washing of hands, not sharing bilos, keeping homes clean and minimising movement including social gatherings. PM Bainimarama emphasised that Fiji has been fighting two disasters as Tropical Cyclone Harold devastated parts of the coun-

try especially the maritime islands in April. “We declared two simultaneous States of Natural Disaster, kicking off a month-long, whole-of-government campaign to assist those in the path of the storm’s wrath with-

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

Fiji has proven that we can successfully contain this virus, and while still keeping the wellbeing of our people first, our eyes are now set on rebuilding our economy, getting Fijians back to work, and securing confidence among our major trade and tourism partners.

Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum
Attorney-General

NUMBERS

\$7.2m

The cost of building the new Laqere Market in Nasinu, which contains **459** vendor stalls, **12** kiosks, **3** mini-restaurants and room to expand parking in the future.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum @FijiAG

Australia's support is a vote of confidence in Fiji's response to the dual economic and health crises facing our nation, and this grant will help fuel our ongoing efforts to uplift Fijian families who have been suffering from the crippling impact of this global pandemic. #Vuvale

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Capitalise on Fijian brand, A-G urges

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE previously known Copra Millers Fiji has been re-branded to Fiji Coconut Millers PTE LTD to make the most of the coconut and not solely focus on copra.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, who launched the new brand name at Civic House recently said that by expanding the name to include the word coconut makes the company not only focus on copra but other products that come from a coconut.

"Copra Millers Fiji name change is part of a branding exercise, for the Fijian brand that we have and have kept alive, and we need to capitalise on it."

Fiji Coconut Millers PTE LTD Chairman Raj Sharma said the company is testing coconut juice with possible plans to can the beverage in the future.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the launch of the Fiji Coconut Millers Pte Ltd brand name. It was previously known as Copra Millers Fiji Ltd. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Since 2016, Fiji Coconut Millers had continued to revise the optimum output on copra.

The role of the company has moved from extracting crude oil from copra to manufacturing virgin coconut oil.

"We are looking at how we can

to be innovative which is why we have changed the name. We are looking at getting the maximum output we can get from the coconut."

Over the past two years, the Government provided almost \$1 million to support the company, Mr

Sharma said.

He added that in 2016, when the coconut industry was on its knees, the Government paid farmers \$20 to plant a coconut palm, bringing to 58,000 the number of coconut trees planted to date in the name of Fiji Coconut Millers.

Fijian Govt targets Aust, NZ travel bubble



From left: Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, Australian High Commissioner to Fiji John Feakes and Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum at Ro Lalabalavu House in Suva. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

FELIX LESINAIVALU

DISCUSSIONS on whether Fiji will join a travel bubble with New Zealand and Australia is still underway, says Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

"We have had discussions with respective Ministers from Australia and New Zealand and we look forward to working in collaboration with them and enable Fiji to get into this travel bubble."

"All of us have to do quite a lot of work in that respect and we need a bit of time to do so."

Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, John Feakes said before borders can open, there needs to be measures in place to ensure coro-

navirus has been contained and not allowed to spread to uninfected populations.

Mr Feakes, while taking the bilateral relationship between Fiji and Australia to new levels, with first-ever Direct Funding Agreement to provide \$18 million of budget support to Fiji, said, "The Fijian Government's efforts to contain COVID-19 have been outstanding and I have every confidence of its ability to navigate these uncertain economic times."

"The \$18m in immediate funding will assist Fiji to manage the emerging health, economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure essential services can continue."

"It builds on our longstanding relationships with our Fijian partners to provide direct support to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the National Disaster Management

Office and the Ministry of Economy."

While receiving the funding at Ro Lalabalavu House in Suva, the A-G thanked the Australian Government and highlighted that it will be part of the Fijian Government's COVID-19 relief assistance.

"Australia's support is a vote of confidence in Fiji's response to the dual economic and health crises facing our nation, and this grant will help fuel our ongoing efforts to uplift Fijian families who have been suffering from the crippling impact of this global pandemic."

"Fiji has proven that we can successfully contain this virus, and while still keeping the wellbeing of our people first, our eyes are now set on rebuilding our economy, getting Fijians back to work, and securing confidence among our major trade and tourism partners."

Double battle

FROM PAGE 1

out compromising any of our life-saving progress in our war against the coronavirus.”

“By adapting our cyclone response to the reality of COVID-19, we’ve saved lives on the frontlines of both existential threats. Even as Fijians evacuated their communities and authorities dispatched to badly-hit regions during TC Harold, not a single case of coronavirus was spread as a result of the storm.”

Fiji had 18 confirmed cases and 15 of those who tested positive have since recovered but Prime Minister Bainimarama has highlighted that the Health Ministry will continue to test people who show signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Worldwide, 4.79 million people have tested positive since the virus was first recorded in late December of 2019 in Wuhan, a city in People’s Republic of China’s Hubei Province.

Some 1.7 million patients have recovered but unfortunately, 318,000 deaths have also been recorded with COVID-19 as the cause.

“Much of the rest of the world is still in the grips of widespread viral outbreaks, meaning the coronavirus-fuelled collapse of the world economy will likely get worse before it begins to relent. Like most other nations Fiji is deeply connected with the rest of the world, and like most other economies, our businesses, industries and citizens have been affected,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He said China is already seeing a second wave of infections and Europe is bracing for the same.

“We cannot risk a second wave of Fijian infections; that is why, for the time being, all of our health protection directives will remain in full effect,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

The nationwide curfew will remain in effect from 10 pm until 5 am every day, social gatherings must be limited to 20 people or fewer while gyms, nightclubs, cinemas and swimming pools will remain closed, as will houses of worship.

Furthermore, contact sports are still not allowed to be played and keeping with the earlier announcement, schools will remain closed as well until June 12, 2020.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said existing quarantine protocols will remain in place, including for Fijians returning overseas.

“These repatriating Fijians will immediately enter 14 days of quarantine in government funded facilities. At the end of the 14 day period, if they test negative for the virus, they can complete their remaining 14 days of self-quarantine at home.”

‘careFIJI’ app helps with contact tracing

UNDER the digitalFIJI initiative, a mobile app called “careFIJI” has been developed that will harness a mobile phones’ Bluetooth technology to make any future contact tracing faster, easier and more effective.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently made this announcement where he also

conveyed that as Fiji explores ways it can scale back restrictions that had been put in place as a measure to counter the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus), it will be stepping up virus containment.

“If enough Fijians use careFIJI, we’ll be able to avoid large-scale lockdowns entirely. More importantly, widespread adoption

of careFIJI will help save lives, bring back jobs, and increase confidence among our tourism and trading partners,” he said.

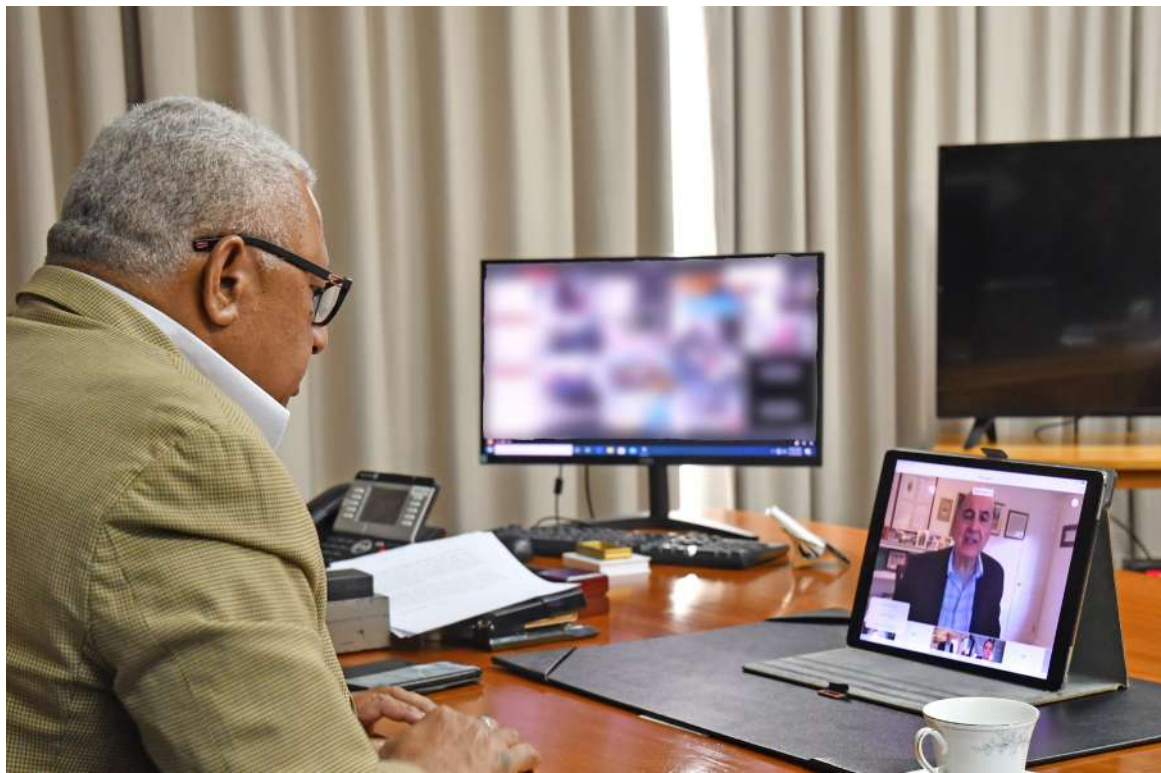
The Head of Government said the aim was to launch the pilot programme of the app “as soon as we get approval from the Android PlayStore and Apple AppStore”.

“We need you to download this

app when it’s available, just as we need you to continue to adhere to every one of our life-saving directives - because your Government cannot win this war alone.”

Fiji has not recorded any new cases in the past 31 days while three out of the 18 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases continue to undergo treatment.

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Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during a virtual meeting at the launch of the Business and Economic Roundtable Discussions for the U.S and its allies . Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

PM reassures US partners on investment potential

NANISE NEIMILA

“FIJI is a nation of immense potential for investment, including the services sector, a nation that is served by geographic advantages, a built-in luxury brand, and a skilled IT-savvy, English-speaking workforce.”

“Above all, Fiji is ripe with immense potential. Let’s tap into it together.”

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during a virtual meeting at the launch of the Business and Economic Roundtable Discussions for the U.S and its allies held yesterday.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fiji is now 30 days removed from its last confirmed case of COVID-19.

“We bit the bullet and made hard decisions early on that spared us a large-scale viral outbreak.”

“Now, with most businesses having re-opened their doors, Fiji could theoretically resume our role in re-

gional supply chains from tomorrow. In fact, we’re already exploring a step-up in our manufacturing and assembly capacities for those looking to relocate supply chains.”

“Before this crisis struck, our national carrier, Fiji Airways, was actively exploring new, direct routes to major air travels hubs in Chicago and Dallas — showing the great potential of expanding Fiji’s access and brand affinity to relatively untapped, lucrative markets.”

PM Bainimarama adds while plans have been put on hold, all of the fundamentals for explosive growth between the US and Fiji lie eagerly in wait.

“You likely know Fiji as a tropical paradise — and if you’ve watched shows like “Survivor” or “Love Island” while stuck at home, you’re familiar with our pristine beaches and untouched beauty. But for those on today’s call, I want you to leave with one impression of Fiji: that we have far more to offer than you expected.”

Enumerators start workplace survey

AZARIA FAREEN

ENUMERATORS and volunteers around the country who were recently trained are on the go to gather critical information on the number of Fijians whose jobs were affected due to COVID-19.

This nationwide survey has been made possible in close partnership with the Ministry of Employment and Industrial Relations, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Bureau of Statistics which will ensure that accurate data is collected.

Line Minister Parveen Kumar said the participants are fully equipped with the basic knowledge needed to conduct the survey on workers on the field.

Speaking to the 140 enumerators, Minister Kumar said “the information you are going to collect from the field will be used to generate an understanding of our workplaces and our workers, and therefore it is important that you follow all aspects of the training”.

“We must employ strategies to stay strong and put in place mechanisms that we have our various sectors ready to make a return once the global economic machinery begins to move once again,” Minister Kumar said.

“This data and informational collection will enable us to plan for means to overcome some of the short-term effects of the economic downturn, including planning for government and international programs towards overcoming some of these impacts.”

Minister Kumar has appealed to employers to abide by their obligations and to comply with all the provisions of Employment Relations Act as any breach will be addressed under the law.

The Bureau of Statistics has provided 150 tablets to 35 teams who are conducting the nationwide survey which started on 13 May and which will conclude on 19 June with a geographical coverage of the Central, Western and Northern divisions.



Maraia Nacolaivalu with her father, Vilikesa Tawake Qiaqia, in front of what's left of their home at Mokoisa Village in Kadavu. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Mokoisa villager recounts ‘worst experience’

NANISE NEIMILA

MOKOISA Village in Kadavu was not spared by the forces of nature as it was one of the worst hit villages on the island during Tropical Cyclone Harold.

Majority of the houses in the village were badly affected while some were partially damaged and many were left homeless.

However, for many like Maraia Nacolaivalu, life has to move on as she had to make do with whatever was left in the aftermath.

For 30-year-old Ms Nacolaivalu it was one of the worst experience ever as she recounted her brush with the cyclone but she is thankful that her family is safe.

“At about 9pm we began to experience strong winds and continuous rain so we decided to move to higher ground. My dad and cousin of mine were trying to secure our home before they joined us.”

“In my past experience with other cyclones this was one that badly hit our village and as a village we were well prepared but we can’t believe the damage it has caused.”

Ms Nacolaivalu said they lost almost everything they had invested in over the years but she was thankful that no one died during this encounter.

“One thing I have learned from this past cyclone is the need to prepare well and having proper shelter as you can see a lot of the houses in the village are wooden structures. We plan to construct concrete home that will be able to stand any cyclone.”

“We are fortunate that families from around the country and overseas have sent cash and we have bought materials to rebuild our home. We are currently sheltering with my uncle but it’s not like living in your own home.”

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has directed relevant agencies to rebuild

Kadavu Provincial Secondary School and Kavala Bay Primary School in Kadavu that were damaged during TC Harold.

This comes after the Head of Government visited the schools during his Kadavu tour and witnessed the devastation firsthand.

There were 13 houses, which included teachers’ quarters and boarding facilities at Kavala Bay Primary School that were severely damaged.

Classroom blocks at Kadavu Provincial Secondary School were also destroyed.

PM Bainimarama has also called on the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) engineers to assist in rebuilding the schools.

A total of 33 schools have suffered severe or minor damage in Kadavu.

The Ministry of Education had earlier estimated that close to 60 schools in different divisions were either severely or partially damaged due to TC Harold.

One thing I have learned from this past cyclone is the need to prepare well and having proper shelter as you can see a lot of the houses in the village are wooden structures. We plan to construct concrete home that will be able to stand any cyclone.

Maraia Nacolaivalu
Mokoisa Villager



Villagers with relief supplies at Nukuni Village, Ono-i-Lau. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Cyclone preparedness ‘key to survival’

NANISE NEIMILA

LIKE any other Category 5 tropical cyclone TC Harold was not going to be any different as people of Ono-i-Lau prepared for the worst one week before it reached Fiji’s shores.

Village announcements by the village headman and the daily weather updates were the only source of information that the villagers of Lovoni paid heed to whilst preparing for the worst.

According to 27-year-old Netani Waqavakatoga of Lovoni Village, Ono-i-Lau shared how the villagers and neighbouring villages on the island of Ono-i-Lau were well prepared for TC Harold.

“It’s been three weeks since TC Harold hit our island, it was around 9pm in the evening when we started to experience heavy

rain and strong winds. This is first time ever for me to experience one of the strongest cyclones in my life.”

“We are thankful to God that it only lasted for a few hours into the night, had it been longer than we expected I don’t think there will be any house standing today and there would have been deaths.”

In Lovoni, 12 houses were damaged during TC Harold, plantations destroyed and there were a lot of debris washed into the village as it is situated near the sea.

“We were also fortunate that we still had enough food stored just to take us through post TC Harold.”

“Our village had prepared for the worst so the village headman advised the villagers that we evacuate the elderly, secure all homes and ensure the storage of food and water. We had prepared well for

this cyclone and we are thankful to God that no one died.”

Mr Waqavakatoga adds that to survive such natural disaster “we need to prepare well for it but that will not guarantee anything”.

However, a lesson learnt for the villagers of Lovoni was to listen and adhere to early warnings as always advised by the authorities.

On a tour to the Lau Group, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama visited Nukuni, Lovoni and Doi village on the island of Ono-i-Lau.

Prime Minister Bainimarama commended the people of Ono-i-Lau for their resilience and for their patience as relief supplies continued to arrive on the island.

The Head of Government had the opportunity to meet with the civil servants serving on the island and he also visited the school.



85-year-old tells of TC Harold's wrath

NANISE NEIMILA

IF there was something that 85-year-old Aseri Raratabu of Yaroi Village in Matuku is thankful for, it is the safety of his family in the face of the wrath of nature.

The octogenarian recounted his experience during the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama's tour to the Lau Group for the distribution of relief supplies for those islands being affected by the recent Tropical Cyclone Harold last month.

Mr Raratabu, who lives with his wife and two sons on the island, shared his experience of the disaster that he labelled as "five hours of terror".

"At about 6pm we were informed that the category five cyclone was heading our way and to make preparations to move onto higher grounds as villagers began to move. We were also told that there was possibility of tidal waves," he said.

"However, we were not expecting for big tidal waves but rather small tidal waves that we had experienced in the past."

"I own two homes, one is just by the beach and other within the village boundary, I told my wife that we needed to move to higher grounds. At about 7pm I started to see water flowing into my house and it started to flood so then I decided to move to where all the villagers were being sheltered."

Mr Raratabu said as darkness enveloped the whole village, within seconds, water just rushed in and the house they were in got flooded.

"The other people who were in the house with us tried to escape outside but I told them to stay inside because eventually water will recede. However, another tidal wave hit us just moments later at the same place but we were fortunate to be rescued and taken up to the hospital."

"We could not see anything at night but the next morning all hell broke loose as people saw the devastation of TC Harold. A lot of the villagers lost their belongings and homes and it was really sad to see helpless people."

Mr Raratabu had never encountered anything of this sort since birth and this was one of those experiences he will never forget.

"Most houses in the village are concrete so we could not believe that the impact of the tidal wave destroyed almost all the homes in the village."

A total of 28 homes were destroyed by TC Harold and during our visit, visible scars of what the tidal wave did was still evident.

Village headman Maikeli Lesukilakeba said it had been more than a month since TC Harold ravaged the village and the damage caused was still clearly visible in the lives of the villagers.

"At morning break we could not even believe the damage that was left behind by the tidal wave. I would like to thank the villagers for their resilience. In the morning we began cleaning the village and picking up anything we knew that could be used again and disposed what was damaged."

As relief supplies began to pour in from family members overseas and Suva including Government, the people of Yaroi are more than adamant that life will have to continue despite all the damage.

85-year-old Aseri Raratabu at Yaroi Village in Matuku, Lau
Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Villagers commended for their resilience

NANISE NEIMILA

THE village of Makadru in Matuku, Lau was not spared as it suffered extensive damage to housing structures and vegetation during Tropical Cyclone Harold that hit most parts of Fiji earlier last month.

For 35-year-old Inia Cinavidaku of Makadru said the villagers are still trying to recover from the devastation left behind by TC Harold where most of them lost their homes.

"At about 3pm in the afternoon it started to rain heavily, strong winds started blowing and we began to see tidal waves coming into the village. I told my wife that we needed to go uphill and take shelter, we then moved our children and some belongings," Mr Cinavidaku said.

"We took shelter in the church but not for long as large waves started to crash into the church. Our church was destroyed during the storm but we are thankful that God had protected us."

Approximately 14 houses were destroyed during TC Harold but villagers are thankful that no one died during the cyclone.

Mr Cinavidaku said after the damage caused by TC Harold, the villagers have begun rebuilding whatever they have managed to save.



Inia Cinavidaku at Makadru Village in Matuku, Lau. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

He said one of their first priority was rebuilding homes of the elderly.

"Cleaning up in the village continues but most of the villagers losing their homes has been hard because most of them have invested so much even though we are thankful that no life was taken during the cyclone."

"The villagers had prepared for the cyclone but what we saw that day with three-folds of tidal waves coming into the village and taking with it houses was a horrific experience we will never forget. We are lucky that everything happened in daylight and not at night."

Food rations, clothing and essentials

have arrived in from families living in Suva and overseas and the villagers are thankful for the support.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama visited the village of Makadru as part of his tour to the Lau Group distributing food rations, tents and household essentials.

He commended the villagers for their resilience as right after the cyclone they had started picking up the pieces rather than waiting for assistance.

The Head of Government also reassured the people of Makadru that the Government will assist the village in the rebuilding of their homes.



Girmitiya descendent proud of ancestry

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI marked 141 years since the first ship of indentured labourers landed in Fiji from British India on May 14th.

Thus began the history of Girmit in Fiji whereby in 1879, and in the nearly four decades that followed, over 60,000 more labourers — who we know as Girmitiyas — would make that same journey.

For 76-year-old Saraswati Lal being a descendent of the early Girmitiyas is a matter of pride because of the struggles and difficulties her forefathers faced in order to have a decent living in the place they call home now.

In the case of Mrs Lal, her father arrived in Fiji when he was only two-years old. He came with his mother who found a safe haven in Girmit due to domestic violence she faced in the family.

Mrs Lal's grandmother was from

Pachaiya, India.

"I am happy to call Fiji my home as I remember the struggles of my forefathers, it was during those tough times that we had to endure to get a better living."

"When we came here, we were very poor. We had to work very hard and go through many difficulties to build everything we have now."

Mrs Lal is married to Mr Sundar Lal who is also a descendent of the early indentured labourers.

The couple, who have two daughters and a son, were among the majority of the Fijians of Indian descent who are direct descendants of the Girmitiyas in Fiji.

Mr Lal's grandfather came in a ship called Arno in 1904 from Gonda District in India when he was nine-years-old.

His grandfather was accompanied by his uncle to Fiji and they came to work as cane labourers.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar with descendants of Girmitiyas at Wainibokasi, outside Nausori.. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Some years ago, Mr Lal had the opportunity to visit his grandfather's birthplace in Gonda District. In an effort to learn more about his family roots and culture, he spent five weeks in India.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has commended the sacrifices of the early indentured labourers and for the contribution they have made to Fiji and its economy.

"The vast majority of these men, women and children had never heard of Fiji before, many had never even been aboard a ship."

"Most left their loved ones behind based on the lie that they would only spend a few months working overseas before returning home."

PM Bainimarama said a journey of thousands of kilometres, in slave-like, inhumane conditions and — all too often — no way to return to the communities they left, was done with the hope for a better life.

"And though they toiled under the crack of the whip and they were often beaten and sexually abused, they never gave up that hope."

"Girmitiyas supplied much of the hard labour it took to build Fiji's early colonial economy — toiling in cane fields, building roads and laying the foundations of many of the towns and cities we live in today. But one of their greatest legacies was borne from the value they

placed in education as the ultimate tool for change."

"Please, honour their legacy by remembering their struggles, but more importantly, do not take your own opportunity for education for granted. Use today as another opportunity to re-dedicate yourself to your own educational journey — and in doing so, find hope in brighter tomorrow."

A video message by Prime Minister Bainimarama on the 141st anniversary saw an outpouring of similar sentiments where members of different communities acknowledged the socio-economic contribution of the Girmitiyas and their descendants to Fiji.

Pacific islands target global pandemic co-operation

FIJI as the Pacific hub and member of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) has called for stronger international and regional solidarity and cooperation to amplify efforts towards containing COVID-19 pandemic.

This was alluded to at a virtual meeting held recently between People's Republic of China and the Pacific Small Island Countries (PSIDS) on strengthening collaboration towards containing COVID-19.

Whilst representing Fiji, the Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and Acting Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yogesh Karan emphasised that multilateralism is central in all aspects of the region's response to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Fiji, therefore looks forward to the adoption of the COVID-19 resolution in the World Health Assembly that not only recognises the challenges posed by the pandemic to the global community but also identifies corresponding strategies to address the current impact and curb any future outbreak through global cooperation and commitment from Member States and



A virtual meeting between representatives of the People's Republic of China and those Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) on strengthening collaboration towards containing COVID-19

partners.

"Fiji believes that the pandemic will be defeated by exchanging factual information, sharing knowledge, sharing best practices and by applying the relevant guidelines recommended by the World Health Organisation.

"The unprecedented crisis caused by the pandemic can be mitigated and successfully reversed through strong leadership guided by the most updated available science and

sustained global cooperation" PS Karan said.

In commending the assistance provided by China towards Fiji and the Pacific Region, Mr Karan said that the coordinated approach demonstrated the importance of a robust response based on the principles of unity and global solidarity.

The meeting provided a platform for Fiji and PSIDS to put forward its proposition and synchronize the response in consideration of the

challenges and needs of the Pacific Region.

"The small states of the Pacific have special needs and circumstances. Most of us need assistance in public health and medical infrastructure to prevent and respond to the pandemic.

"We have limited social safety nets, some face high levels of debt and lack access to financial markets, and have a very narrow fiscal space.

"For this reason, we have supported the call by the UN Secretary-General to the international community to provide significant financial resources; provide urgent debt relief and increase development assistance to help small states to respond to the sc

"Our special needs and circumstances need to be reflected in all global and bilateral responses."

-news@govnet.gov.fj

We're facing two crises at once, Fiji tells UN

FIJI has been at the forefront in calling for international solidarity on an unprecedented level and far more substantial support for the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS).

This is in the face of coping with the double burden; climate change disasters and the COVID-19 crisis.

This call was made to the UN Member states as it convened a high level briefing for the UN Ambassadors Group on Universal Coverage, co-chaired by Japan, Thailand and Georgia.

During the 2019 UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and world leaders endorsed a political declaration calling for Universal Health Coverage.

In his address earlier this week to the High level officials representing the UN Ambassadors, the World Health Organisations and the UN system, Fiji's Permanent Representative to United Nations

(PRUN), Ambassador Satyendra Prasad spoke on the need for international solidarity in extending progress towards providing universal health care for all people – and especially across the Pacific Small Island states.

Ambassador Prasad resonated the messages conveyed by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama through his recent national address on COVID-19, in stating that "Fiji is now well on its way to eliminating COVID-19 entirely, and it's one of the few nations on Earth who can make that claim."

He further informed the UN audience that the Tropical Cyclone Harold, being one of the fiercest cyclones in Fiji's history, destroyed many livelihoods and displaced thousands into emergency shelters - in the midst of the spread of COVID-19.

Ambassador Prasad said that it was commendable that during emergency response to rebuild and recover, Fiji took the greatest of care to protect its citizens from



Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Dr Satyendra Prasad, addresses high-level officials representing UN ambassadors, the World Health Organization and UN system. Photo: SUPPLIED

the threat of COVID-19. During the cyclone response, not a single case of transmission from emergency responders to those in the path of the cyclone was recorded.

This deep commitment to protect the wellbeing of Fijian communities at one of the most difficult times in the human history reflects

deeply on PM Bainimarama's exemplary leadership and dedication of staff across the Fijian Government machinery- OPM, NDMO; Health; Defence; working in consolidated partnership with Fijian civil society, WHO and Fiji's diplomatic partners.

Ambassador Prasad reminded the

UN that "COVID-19 has exposed collective and national fragilities of health systems and that given the scale of social and economic impacts; in many cases, the entire SDG's are now at risk."

He stated that, "COVID-19 has the potential to overwhelm the health systems of small island developing states. Many national health systems are already overstretched. In Fiji's case, our heroic health professionals - nurses; doctors and the entire health system has been mobilized on a war like footing for 3 straight months responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic; responding to a climate emergency; responding to climate change induced challenges such as the outbreak of dengue and leptospirosis – all the while maintaining all health services".

"Many small island states face unfair restrictions in accessing critical equipment and supplies. Supply chain disruptions are causing serious strains on supply and distribution of medicine across the Pacific region. Small states face yet another unfair advantage – many are now required to pay much higher prices for many essential medicines. Many companies are using these disruptions to supply as an opportunity to unfairly increase price of essential medicine. This impacts small island states the hardest".

He also conveyed Fiji's deep gratitude and appreciation to Fiji's partners - Governments of "Australia, Japan, New Zealand, EU, US, and others for their extensive support to Fiji's efforts to crush the COVID-19 pandemic."

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Norway-Pacific ties open research opportunities

THE Norway-Pacific Oceans-Climate Partnership built on shared belief and perspectives on multilateralism is opening advanced research and development opportunities for young people in Fiji.

In fact it has benefitted youths from across the Pacific Island Development States (PSIDS).

This has been reiterated by Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Satyendra Prasad whilst speaking through the virtual event at the official launch of the Norway-Pacific Ocean-Climate Scholarship Programme (N_POC) recently.

The N_POC program was officially launched earlier by Fiji's Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama and Norway's Minister for International Development Dag-Inge Ulstein.

In his address Ambassador Prasad spoke on the importance of the Norway and Pacific partnership in accelerating the SDG's and the urgency of taking actions to preserve the health of the Pacific's oceans and its biodiversity.

"In Norway, the Pacific small states find a



VIRTUAL EVENT ... Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama speaks at the official launch of the Norway-Pacific Ocean Climate Scholarship Programme (N_POC). Photo: SUPPLIED

convergence of perspectives. Norway has genuine empathy with the plight of, and pressures that small states face in the global system. It has spoken persistently and forcefully in their support – at the UN and across international forums".

Ambassador Prasad said that "like the Pacific, Norway is a large ocean state, having depended on its ocean for centuries for its sustenance and livelihoods. Like the Pacific; Norway also has to find the balance between stewardship and sustainability. This always requires cooperation between neighbours; and across the international system. Multilateralism is in both our DNA's.

But building new sustainable blue economies also requires investments that are beyond most of the PSIDS.

Norway has led the world in the establishment of PROBLU – the first dedicated multilateral financing instrument for the development of sustainable blue economy".

"In framing this science and education partnership between two great Universities – the University of the South Pacific (USP) and University of Bergen; the Pacific and Norway have approached their relationships on the basis of pragmatism. We are practical in our expectations; in our ambition; and in agreeing to what makes the best sense for

each of our countries," Ambassador Prasad said.

"UNESCO-IOC's launch of the Decade of Oceans Science kicks off in the new year. We know far too little about our Oceans. We need to bring new scientific knowledge and traditional wisdom; repeated observation and solid analytics in finding the balance between stewardship and sustainable development.

"This partnership aims to develop world class talent within the PSIDS region. From the platform of a partnership between the best of knowledge, science and technology available at the University of Bergen to great research, analytic and scientific capabilities at the University of the South Pacific; PSIDS Governments look to the emergence of a new world class cohort of Pacific climate and oceans experts.

"The Pacific needs to shape the international agenda with its own science and analysis."

"In the area of international climate and oceans diplomacy, Pacific's leaders and policy makers had very high expectations from this program," Ambassador Prasad said.

"As the World and the Pacific recovers from COVID19; there will be no return to business as usual. The Pacific will create new-opportunities from its oceans and from its lands – that are greener; that are bluer; that are fairer and that are far more sustainable. We look to your enormous contributions to those efforts."

-**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**



Help Govt provide relief, PM urges traditional leaders

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has urged traditional leaders of Matuku Island in the Lau Group to support and co-operate with Government efforts to distribute relief items to those affected by Tropical Cyclone Harold. This is in response to requests for proper housing after many houses were destroyed on the island.

The PM reassured the people of Matuku that "the Government will provide all the necessary rehabilitation works on the island".

Prime Minister Bainimarama visited Ratu Mocevakaca Memorial School earlier as well as Makadru Village, which suffered widespread damage.

He had earlier been visiting Ono-i-Lau to distribute rations and meet villagers and headed for Kadavu after leaving the Lau Group.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Fiji marks 141st anniversary of arrival of Girmitiyas

Fijians have been urged to remember the sacrifice and struggles of the Girmitiyas, indentured labourers who first arrived in Fiji in 1879 after being brought here by the colonial government to work on the sugar plantations. The comment came from Prime Minister Voreqe

Bainimarama as Fiji celebrated the 141st anniversary of the arrival of the Girmitiyas. The PM celebrated the special day at Nakomoco Settlement, Wainibokasi, outside Nausori, with a family of Girmitiya descendants. Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Sugarcane growers urged to consider rice alternative

MEREANI GONEDUA

SUGARCANE farmers have been urged to set aside one acre of their land to plant rice.

Officiating at the launch of a rice planting initiative with the Fiji Sugar Corporation, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy stressed the need for rice production in the country.

“We want each sugarcane farmer to plant rice as a supplementary and complementa-

ry crop; it could supplement your food and income security. It has also proven to be a good complementary crop rotation with sugarcane,” Minister Reddy said.

He highlighted that the Ministry would provide sugarcane farmers with 30 kilogram of rice seeds at no cost and the seeds could be grown under rain fed climatic conditions.

Minister Reddy encouraged the farmers to plant rice as about 8,000 metric tonnes of rice was produced and consumed locally.

“We have achieved around 66 per cent

self-sufficiency of rice production before and this can be done again as the agro-climatic conditions in Fiji are exceptionally favourable for rice cultivation.”

He said that Fiji have around 7000 acres of land under rice cultivation and to achieve self-sufficiency, a total of 24,000 acres of land with two crops per year was needed.

“In 2019, Fiji imported \$42.6m worth of rice into Fiji, and that is equivalent to around 40,000 metric tonnes of rice.

“Cultivation of rice is not new to the cane farming communities as historically

every farming entity, especially sugarcane farming households were self-sufficient.”

Minister Reddy also handed over five tonnes of star variety seeds to 166 sugarcane farmers to help initiate their rice farming.

Pravin Prakash, 58, acknowledged the generosity of the Government and stated that this was a great initiative.

“Given the environment that we are in, I am thankful that this kind of initiative are provided to farmers like us in order to help us with our farming.



Civil servants, members of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and villagers help load, unload and distribute food rations to the Malolo, Mamanuca and the Yasawa Group that was severely affected by Tropical Cyclone Harold. Photos: MEREANI GONEDUA



Adhere to restrictions, villagers warned

MEREANI GONEDUA

VILLAGERS in the Yasawa group have been warned to adhere to the Government restrictions implemented during this coronavirus crisis.

Addressing villagers during a briefing, Assistant Roko Yasawa Nemani Tarotaro stressed the importance of adhering to restrictions placed by the Government as it would save lives.

“Restrictions in place are for your own safety and I urge you to adhere to them. We have been conducting awareness on most of the villages we have visited and we have stressed the importance of adhering to the laws in place as people’s lives are at risk due to the coronavirus crisis, we are in.”

Mr Tarotaro highlighted that the Government is taking precautionary measures to avoid any more outbreak so Fijians need to be cautious about their movements.

“Please ensure all restrictions are adhered to especially about social gathering given that were you live in a village setting and a lot of gatherings occur in villages so we would like to stress the importance of avoiding such things at the moment while we try and battle this crisis.”

“I also urge all villagers to listen to the instructions given by your village headman as they are government’s representatives in the various villages.”

Meanwhile Yaqeta village headman Apisai Rakele stated that village elders were doing their best in reminding villagers about the restrictions.

“We have informed everyone that social gatherings are not allowed and we have also told our children to avoid playing around.”

“We have stopped our meetings and gatherings even drinking grog has been stopped because we do not want anyone here to get sick.”

Mr Rakele also acknowledged the government delegation for visiting their village and shedding more light about the restrictions and other necessary information that they need to know.

“We have been listening to the radios and watching the news however this visit has enabled us to ask our questions and be able to understand more on what is happening around us.”

Islanders commend timely Government assistance

MEREANI GONEDUA

VILLAGERS on Malolo, Mamanuca and the Yasawa group have commended the Government for the timely assistance provided to them post Tropical Cyclone Harold.

This is after a government delegation visited the villagers to distribute food rations, conduct awareness programs and carry out assessment on the ground to finalise details of the damage sustained post TC Harold.

Soso village headman Jone Ratu highlighted that most of their crops were damaged

and they had run short of food supply due to the travel restrictions that were in place for COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

“This distribution has been a timely one because we in the islands have run short of food supply. We’re so grateful to the Government for its continuous assistance especially during this crisis,” Mr Ratu said.

Nacula village headman Moses Qaluibau echoed similar sentiments highlighting that food shortage was one of the main issues faced in the islands.

“We were really looking

forward to government assistance because TC Harold damaged our crops and many of our essential items were running short so the assistance was just on time.”

“We thank the Government for the assistance provided and for not forgetting those of us who are in the maritime islands.”

Meanwhile, Assistant Roko Yasawa Nemani Tarotaro highlighted that the delegation visited and distributed food rations to all 32 villages in Malolo, Mamanuca and the Yasawa group.

“The assistance was in the form of food items such as

flour, rice, dhal and other essential items. The ration is to assist and cater for their needs for at least two weeks,” Mr Tarotaro said.

Mr Tarotaro stated that assessment teams were also on the ground conducting assessment in order to see the amount of damage sustained so they would be able to determine other forms of assistance that can be provided.

“We also want to reassure Fijians who were affected that assistance is on its way and all we ask is that they be patient with us as we are trying our very best to assist every Fijian affected.”

Call for rice farmers to raise production

GOVERNMENT resources have been utilized to ensure improved rice production and boost agriculture development.

This was shared by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy to rice farmers of Vuniyalayala, Vunicuicui in Macuata and Tausa in Bua while handing over their hand-held tractors.

Minister Reddy highlighted that it was Government's responsibility to provide the necessary equipment and infrastructure to boost agriculture development.

"We have invested a lot of money in this area in terms of the drainage scheme, farm roads, machinery, and technical support, and we expect an increase in rice production," he said.

"This is a designated rice area and we are investing a lot of money to maintain the scheme and we expect major returns."

"You must take ownership of this equipment and ensure that it is in good working conditions to last 10 to 15 years, therefore you must look after its maintenance and repair," Minister Reddy said.

Speaking on behalf of the Vuniyalayala and Vunicuicui rice farmers, Mukesh Chand thanked the Ministry of Agriculture for the continued support rendered by the Government in uplifting the standard of farming in the area.

"We're very appreciative of the efforts put in by the Ministry of Agriculture to support our farming groups and we believe the assistance handed over here today will surely benefit the 25 farmers within the area," Mr Chand said.

-Ministry of Agriculture



Through such assistance, we want you to grow agriculture to become the backbone of Fiji's economy and for this, you need to double your effort and treat farming as a business as the Ministry will be supporting you with land preparation, provision of markets and technical advice

Dr Mahendra Reddy
Minister for Agriculture

Civil servants step up LTDD clean-up campaign



Civil servants in the Northern Division conducted several clean-up campaigns to help reduce and prevent cases of leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue fever and diarrhoea recently. Photo: NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

CIVIL servants in Macuata, Bua and Cakaudrove conducted a number of clean-ups as part of interventions towards the reduction and eradication of Leptospirosis, Typhoid, Dengue and Diarrhoea illness (LTDD).

The aim was to prevent the increasing number of LTDD confirmed cases around the country, particularly in Vanua Levu.

The source reduction clean-up recently was conducted in the hotspot areas of Macuata namely Namara, Siberia, Vuni-vau, Wailevu, Waiqele Korotari and Batikama.

The LTDD source reduction plan was to conduct two consecutive weeks of clean-up in the whole of Vanua Levu.

One of the main objectives of the campaign as well was to ensure that the basic needs of the vulnerable population are identified and addressed in a timely manner.

Meanwhile, house-to-house inspection and larval surveillance were also conducted in addition to spraying hotspot areas.

This initiative was a whole of government approach coordinated by the National Disaster Management Office and the Ministry of Health.

It also reduces the potential Health and Economic burden on the daily lives of Fijians in view of the current COVID-19.

The goal of the clean-up campaign was to increase the knowledge and understanding of proactive measures against these infectious diseases.

A major focus was also on the removal of all potential mosquito breeding sites.

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Hand-held tractors for North farmers



Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy (fifth from left) during the handover of hand-held tractors for rice farmers in Dreketi, Macuata. Photo: NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

RICE farmers of Qaraniqoli Group One and Qaraniqoli Group Two in Dreketi, Macuata received hand-held tractors from the Ministry of Agriculture to assist them with their land preparation.

While handing over the hand-held tractors to the two farming clusters recently, Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy said the assistance was to be used to contribute towards Fiji gradually achieving self-sufficiency in rice production.

"Through such assistance, we want you to grow agriculture to become the backbone of Fiji's economy and for this, you need to double your effort and treat farming as a business as the Ministry will be supporting you with land preparation, provision of markets and technical advice," he said.

Hon. Reddy advised farmers to plant two or three crops per year as

the agro-climatic conditions in Fiji were exceptionally favourable for rice cultivation.

"There are thousands of farmers who need this kind of hand-held tractors and we want every farming cluster to get assistance such as this," he added.

Farmers also heard that 24,000 acres of land was needed to be brought under the crop to achieve 100 percent self-sufficiency for rice, with local rice production needing a major boost.

"The timing is right to involve new farmers in rice production and the Ministry will provide 30 kg (for lacre farms) rice seeds for them to get into rice production and after that, they will grow," Minister Reddy said.

Meanwhile, the Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA) is looking to introduce contractual farming for its current and potential suppliers as

part of its new programmes.

The contract will define the quantity of the produce required, at which intervals the produce is required, the pricing range that will be paid to farmers, and the AMA obligations and that of the respective farmer(s).

AMA chief executive officer Alvin Sharma highlighted this during the handover.

"We want to engage farmers to grow more targeted produce and AMA will commit to buying them from you," Mr Sharma said.

The targeted produce includes duruka, chillies, pulses, tumeric, and cowpeas.

Mr Sharma assured farmers that the AMA would purchase the recommended produce and would work with the Ministry of Agriculture to identify other crops best suited to the climatic conditions.

-Ministry of Agriculture



Institute gives \$10K to aid Govt efforts

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE President of Fiji Institute of Accountants (FIA) Nilesch Lal believes that they have a responsibility to answer government's call to assist those affected by COVID-19 (coronavirus).

While presenting a \$10,000 cheque at Ro Lalabalavu House to Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Mr Lal said this pandemic has taught them to do business differently.

"We believe that this small con-

tribution will add to the pool government has allocated and will assist those Fijians in need."

"In these challenging and uncertain times we have to do things differently, it has taught us to do business and work differently."

"It is very important for communities and businesses to come out and assist those who are really affected by this virus."

Mr Lal says the donation will assist those directly and indirectly affected by the pandemic.

While receiving the cheque at Ro Lalabalavu House the A-G said, "We need to be resolute, we need



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with Fiji Institute of Accountants president Nilesch Lal at the \$10,000 cheque donation. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

to be resilient, creative and innovative as to how we deal with this particular pandemic".

The A-G also thanked the FIA and said we need to be able to have as much collaboration as possible, not with just the different industries and organisations but also as a nation.

"It is really important to have that level of collaboration and understanding."

The A-G said it was important

that FIA works close with Government and the people of Fiji so that after this they can ensure that Fiji will come out on top of this pandemic.

vention at their workplaces. It is important that we continue to innovate and incentivize and fight this global pandemic."

Minister Kumar added that Occupational Health Service is an area that is equally important to occupational safety.

Nationwide survey collects critical data

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE Nationwide Workplace Survey on the Effect of COVID-19 is aimed at collecting critical information on the number of Fijians whose jobs were affected due to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Intended to commence on May 13 to June 19, 2020, the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations is working in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation and the Bureau of Statistics in conducting this survey.

Officiating at the National Workplace Survey Enumerators Training, Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Parveen Kumar stated that there has been a lot of incorrect and misleading information on social media about the number of Fijians who are unemployed or on reduced hours due to the pandemic.

"You will find that a lot of figures have been thrown out (on social media), however, I can assure all Fijians that having this national survey will give us the right figure."

Enumerators and volunteers from around the country are being trained on the aspects of the survey to ensure that accurate data is collected.

"Your work is critical since the information you are going to collect from the field will be used to generate an understanding of our workplaces and our workers, and therefore it is important that you follow all aspects of the training."

The participants are also being encouraged to be fully equipped with the basic knowledge needed to conduct the survey on workers on the field.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) Director South Pacific, Martin Karimli stated that the Pacific is among the hardest economically-hit by the pandemic and stresses the importance of the job entrusted upon the enumerators.

"This crisis affects our lives as individuals, our health and our economy. The ILO estimates that 305 million jobs worldwide will be lost by mid-year."

"Your job will define the course of action. The results of it will suit the foundation of the Government's decision and the decisions that workers and employers would take."

The Bureau of Statistics has provided 150 tablets to 35 teams who will be conducting the nationwide survey.



From left, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Osea Cawaru, Director International Labour Organization Office for the Pacific Island Countries, Martin Karimli, Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Parveen Kumar and Assistant Minister Alvick Maharaj during celebrations for World Day for Safety and Health at Work in Suva. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Culture of safety 'tested even more'

FELIX LESINAIVALU

TODAY the culture of safety and health at work is tested even more with the arrival of the global COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

This was issue highlighted by the Director International Labour Organization Office for the Pacific Island Countries, Martin Karimli, during the World Day for Safety and Health at work 2020.

With the theme "Stop the pandemic: Safety and Health at Work

can save lives" Mr Karimli said, "The pandemic has exposed how vulnerable the world is to a pandemic, and the devastating impacts to our life, health and economies".

"On this special day let's remember for working women and men who have passed due to a work related injury or illness and to working people who are exposed right now to risk of COVID-19, doctors, nurses and health care workers."

Minister for Employment, Parveen Kumar highlighted that Government is working with em-

ployers on possible avenues to reduce the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on employment- proposing reduced work hours, job sharing and usage of leave entitlements.

"We urge employers to consider these alternatives. It is also important that we follow the employment laws and regulations that is in place, and that our workers are not denied their rights."

Minister Kumar added that the Fijian Government has placed the health of all Fijians first, as they

remain committed to the economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We will be introducing a recognition award to those workplaces that show compliance and commitment towards COVID-19 prevention at their workplaces. It is important that we continue to innovate and incentivize and fight this global pandemic."

Minister Kumar added that Occupational Health Service is an area that is equally important to occupational safety.

\$64K for pandemic trust fund

AZARIA FAREEN

ATTORNEY-GENERAL and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum received a donation of \$50,000 towards the COVID-19 Trust Fund from Total Fiji Limited recently.

The company further contributed more than \$14,000 towards the fund, a collection from more than 100 of its employees.

In thanking the company, the A-G said Total Fiji Limited continues to commit itself towards Fiji including some of the

capital projects they have committed to.

The A-G stressed that there is 300 per cent tax deduction to anyone who contributes towards the Trust Fund.

“As for the contribution made by the staff – thank you very much for that as it is a real sign of commitment and concern for your fellow citizens,” he said.

“There are a number of people particularly from the tourism sector and other related industries that are dependent on the Australia and New Zealand markets in particular who are no longer employed or

have got reduced hours,” he added.

“This contribution towards the Tust Fund will go towards ensuring the Government’s efforts in terms of economic recovery, in particular providing social assistance to those who need it will continue to be provided - we are doing so through the Fiji National Provident Fund.”

“And of course there are other initiatives that will be announced in order to be able to have some form of sustainable assistance for those who do need assistance,” he added.

Total Fiji Ltd Managing Director Kazi Rahman said the company was pleased to participate in solidarity with the Fijian Government and thanked the Prime Minister for his bold leadership.

“This is in line with our participation to the local community which is consistent with the participation we have done before in TC Harold, TC Winston and TC Keni,” he said.

“I am also pleased to say that we remain positive about Fiji’s prospects in the long term and we will continue to invest in Fiji.”

Minister helps students in 10 villages

FELIX LESINAIVALU

MINISTER for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar encouraged parents, elders and guardians to take this time, as schools are still closed, to teach the children.

“Keeping the schools closed doesn’t mean that learning stops, use this time wisely to teach your children.”

Minister Akbar shared these sentiments while delivering story books and materials to 10 villages in Tailevu.

“These are difficult times and you might have some problems keeping your children occupied so these educational materials should help, we want them to be engaged in a lot of activities.”

Minister Akbar said the edu-



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar with students from 10 districts in Tailevu North after she handed over storybooks and educational materials. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

cational materials will not be examined.

She also used the time to promote the new free-to-air education channel on Walesi and urged parents to encourage their children to view the free-to-air

channel. The Minister distributed books Sawakasa 1, Sawakasa 2, Vurerua, Nayawasara, Matacula, Navunisole, Nailaga, Nakalawaca, Naitutu and Veinuqa.

“As the Ministry for Education, we want our students to be occu-

pied in their villages and homes. The Ministry of Health is working through great lengths to make sure we protect our people.”

“As the Minister for Education and the Government of today we want to keep the children safe by

keeping the schools closed.”

A Walesi team also accompanied the Minister and her team to assist with a community hall installation and gave away a free TV and set-top box to halls that were up to standard.



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete (right) with the President of the Chinese Association of Fiji Jenny Seeto after the association gave \$13,000 worth of personal protective equipment to the ministry. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Federation aids ministry with protective gear

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fiji Chinese Federation for Commerce and Industry has come forward to donate personal protective equipment worth more than \$13,000 for COVID-19 health workers.

In receiving the equipment last week, Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete thanked the Chinese community for their support and their hearty contribution during this crisis.

Minister Waqainabete said “it was heartening to note that people came forward to contribute from their own pockets, including children, to the cause that is before us and for that we are truly grateful”.

“We have seem to have won the first part of the battle but it is not finished yet and as long as this virus is rampant around the world we have to make sure that our guards are lifted at all times and that we are always cautious moving forward,” he stressed.

“We have been able to get so far because everyone has filled their path and we’ve had very strong leadership by the

Honourable Prime Minister and my senior colleagues in the cabinet in decisive decisions made to protect this nation.”

The Chinese Association of Fiji president, Jenny Seeto speaking at the handover commended the health ministry and its staff for an excellent job in controlling the spread of the coronavirus.

“We are certainly very heartened by all the efforts that has gone in by the Ministry of Health officials and all the very long hours put in by the frontliners at the hospital and around the various medical centres and fever clinics,” she said.

Ms Seeto also acknowledged and thanked Minister Waqainabete for being on the frontline, being out in the field and not hesitating in meeting people together with leading by very good example in terms of what can be done in fighting a crisis in this situation.

“One of thing we would like is if you could share the masks with the Ministry of Agriculture and Biosecurity Authority of Fiji as well,” she added.

The donation consists of 13 cartons of face masks equalling 10,000 face masks, temperature measuring guns and medical separations.



Govt policies bring relief to Fijians

Tax Talk- Fijians to benefit from relief policies announced by Government

The Fijian Government announced a number of policies to assist businesses and individuals in its COVID-19 Response Budget. The relief measures announced are effective from 1 April 2020. In this week's Tax Talk we will discuss in detail the change in policies and how it will benefit Fijians.

Removal of Stamp Duty on Mortgage

From 1 April 2020, any mortgage executed, will not attract Stamp Duty charges. However, taxpayers will still have to pay the applicable Stamp Duty on all transfer documents.

Stamp Duty applications from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020 will be as follows:

1. Stamp Duty levied on mortgage for resident taxpayers has been reduced from 1.75% to 0%.
2. Stamp Duty levied on mortgage for non-resident taxpayers has been reduced from 5% to 0%.

Similarly, the Stamp Duty of \$10 on Airway bill for any goods, merchandise or effects exported from Fiji has also been removed. While Stamp Duty has been removed, taxpayers are advised that the process to lodge Stamp Duty applications remains unchanged.

A document or instrument must be presented for assessment of duty and stamping within two months after signing or execution. During this period, documents will be stamped without any fine. However, after two months, any late stamping will incur fines.

FRCS will conduct inspections on properties on an ad-hoc basis especially for cases where conditional exemptions has been granted. If a taxpayer makes an incorrect declaration, FRCS will recover the tax underpaid accordingly.

In addition to the new relief measures introduced in the COVID-19 Response Budget, any small and medium enterprise with an annual gross turnover not exceeding \$500,000 is already exempted from paying Stamp Duty.

Reintroduction of Certificate of Exemption for Contractors Provisional Tax

The COVID-19 Response Budget also reintroduced the Certificate of Exemption for 5% Provisional Tax withheld on contract for services. This policy will improve cash flow management of contractors since they will now receive pre-tax payments for the services provided.

From 1 April 2020, all persons engaged in contract for services can apply for Certificate of Exemption for 5% Provisional Tax under the Income Tax (Collection of Provisional Tax) Regulations 2016.

The Certificate of Exemption can be obtained by completing the application form, which is available on the link <https://www.frcs.org.fj/our-services/taxation/taxation-forms/provisional-tax/> and the completed form can be emailed to coe@frcs.org.fj.

For smooth administration of Certificate of Exemption initiatives, businesses and companies that engage in contract for services must ensure that they are registered with FRCS for Provisional Tax before withholding 5%.

Suspension of Tertiary Loan Repayments

Furthermore, as part of the COVID-19 relief package, the tertiary loan repayments for those students who have studied under the Tertiary Education and Loans Scheme (TELS) has been suspended. Repayment has been suspended from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020.

Employers who have been deducting tertiary loan repayments from their employee's salaries and wages are strongly advised to suspend all deductions during the mentioned period.

With the suspension of deductions, customers are also advised that all due dates for the Accelerated Repayment Incentives has been extended by 9 months.

It will ensure that TELS and PSC Loan recipients do not lose out in taking full advantage of the Accelerated Repayment Incentives due to the current suspension in

Stamp Duties removed Stamp Duty levied on mortgage Stamp Duty on any Airway Bill for any goods, merchandise, or effects exported from Fiji.	Suspension of TELS Repayments Repayments have been suspended from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020. Due dates for the Accelerated Repayment Incentives for the various discount percentages has been extended by 9 months.
Export Income Deduction Increased Rate raised from 50% to 60% for years 2020 to 2022 A separate set of records is to be kept for export sale and all domestic sales together with separate expenses for all export and domestic sales.	Deferment of VAT Monitoring System Implementation of the VAT Monitoring System has been deferred to 1 January 2021. Will only be applicable on businesses with gross turnover of more than \$100,000.

Customers can obtain the Certificate of Exemption by fulfilling the following requirements:

- Completed Form for Application of Certificate of Exemption (IRS603) bit.ly/ptformsfj or scan the QR Code:
- All tax returns to be lodged/updated
- All taxes to be paid

If you are unable to meet the requirements due to COVID-19 please contact covid19response@frcs.org.fj

repayments.

Export Income Deduction Incentive

Export Income Deduction rate has been increased from 50% to 60% for the tax year 2020 and the rate of 60% will be maintained until 2022.

This tax incentive encourages export of goods and services from Fiji to stimulate economic growth and inflow of foreign exchange. A deduction for export income is allowed in accordance with Section 25(8) of Income Tax Act

2015.

Export income means net profits derived by a person from the business of exporting goods and services, but excludes re-exports. The export income deduction is only allowed if FRCS is satisfied that the export earnings have been remitted back to Fiji.

Deferment of VAT Monitoring System (VMS)

FRCS also wishes to advise members of the public that the implementation of the VAT Monitoring System has been deferred to

1 January 2021. VMS will now be applicable on gross turnover of more than \$100,000 only. Taxpayers who voluntarily register for VAT (that is, those presently below \$100,000) will not be captured. The policy will assist small businesses in mitigating financial costs and promote ease of doing business.

For more information, please email us on covid19response@frcs.org.fj.

-FIJI REVENUE & CUSTOMS SERVICE

Tax relief set to stimulate economy

Tax Talk- Relief policies announced in the COVID-19 Response Budget

THE COVID-19 Response Revenue Policies have been designed to stimulate the Fijian economy in the wake of the global spread of the coronavirus disease.

The Policies are targeted towards businesses and the taxpaying community to mitigate losses that would be sustained during the COVID-19. The revenue policies also complement other measures introduced by the Fijian Government to assist Fijians in dealing with the COVID-19 situation in Fiji.

No duty and VAT on importation of medical products

To ensure adequate supply of health and medical care products, fiscal duty on items which are essential in the containment and treatment of COVID-19 has been reduced. In addition, for ease of doing business and reducing the red tapes to encourage companies, entities and individuals to import the required items, there is also an exemption of Import Value Added Tax (VAT) on the importation of goods related to COVID-19.

Medical items that will attract zero customs duty and import VAT exemption includes hand sanitizers and antibacterial hand wash, gloves (surgical, medical, knitted, crocheted with plastic coating), masks, disposable hair nets, disinfectant wipes, tissue papers, face shield, medical goggles and spectacles (used in the lab and medical facilities), plastic garments for surgical and medical use, protective garments of textiles or rubberized textiles, long sleeve medical gowns, scanners and cameras used in medical examination, ethanol for companies involved in hand sanitizer production, disinfectants, vaccinations and medicaments, air purifier, boots specifically used in medical environment, hospital beds, hydrogen peroxide; paper bed sheets; thermometers; medical equipment under chapter 90 of the customs tariff.

300% tax deduction

A 300% tax deduction will be allowed to employers for wages/salary paid to employees who are quarantined and approved by Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

Employment taxation scheme

Employment Taxation Scheme which provides attractive tax deductions for employee cost has been extended by 3 years to 2023 and has been further incentivised. Tax deduction on wages paid on first full-time employee has been

FIJI REVENUE AND CUSTOMS SERVICE

Relief policies announced in the COVID-19 Response Budget

No duty and VAT on importation of certain medical products

TAX Reduction

300% tax deduction (wages/salary paid to employees who are quarantined).

Employment Taxation Scheme - tax deductions for employee cost has been extended to 2023.

The Export Income Deduction (EID) has been increased from 50% to 60% for the tax years 2020 to 2022.

Business losses of up to \$20,000 will be allowed to be deducted against employment income.

Short Life Investment Package (SLIP) - Income tax exemption for the construction of new hotels.

Deferment of VAT Monitoring System

Deferred to 1 January 2021.

Thin Capitalization Rules has been suspended;

Certificate of Exemption will be re-introduced for the provisional tax system. The 5% Provisional tax rate will remain.

Stamp Duty on Mortgages has been removed.

Contribution to the COVID-19 Fund

A 300% tax deduction will be available for donation made to the COVID-19 Fund

Please note that in order to qualify for these measures, certain requirements need to be fulfilled.

For the full list of revenue measures, please refer to our website or scan the code below.

FIJI REVENUE AND CUSTOMS SERVICE

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Certificate of Exemption will be re-introduced for the provisional tax system. The 5% Provisional tax rate will remain.

Stamp Duty on Mortgages has been removed.

Waiver of lodgement penalty

Waiver of late lodgement penalties for all tax returns and other documents.

For the full list of revenue measures and relevant requirements, please refer to our website or scan the code below.

increased from 200% to 300%. Tax deduction on wages paid for work placements in the related area of study up to 6 months in a year before graduation, as part of the course requirements has been increased from 200% to 300%. Tax deduction on wages paid to students employed on a part-time basis (in the related area of study up to 3 months in a 12-month period) has been increased from 200% to 300%. Tax deduction on wages paid in the employment of disabled people employed for 3 consecutive years has been further increased from 300% to 400%.

New Investment initiatives

The COVID-19 Response revenue policies also encourages new investment activities which in turn will create jobs. In this regard, the following policies have been introduced. A new hotel investment incentive package has been introduced that will provide attractive tax holiday as well as investment allowance to both existing and new hotels.

Short Life Investment Package (SLIP)

Income tax exemption for the construction of new hotels based on the following capital investment levels.

Standard Allowance	
Capital Investment (\$)	Tax Holiday
\$250,000 - \$1,000,000	5 Years
\$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000	7 Years
More than \$2,000,000	13 Years

An Investment allowance of 25% will be allowed on the capital expenditure incurred for the construction, renovation, refurbishment and extension. This applies to new and existing hotels.

The new Hotel Investment Incentive Package, will be applicable from 1 April, 2020 to 31 December 2022.

Waiver of lodgement penalty

FRCS will provide waiver of late lodgement penalties for all tax returns and other documents. The penalty waiver is applicable from 31 March, 2020 to 31 December,

2020. Taxpayers are encouraged to contact their nearest FRCS office for more information.

Debt forgiveness and thin capitalization rule

Debt Forgiveness will not be subjected to income tax. This applies strictly to any debt taken prior to the COVID-19 response budget announcement.

In the current economic climate there would be increased write-offs and debt forgiveness situations and this particular policy will avoid tax burdens from such situations.

Thin Capitalization rules has been suspended for borrowings undertaken up to 31 December, 2020 to allow full interest deductions for related party borrowings.

Stamp Duty

Stamp duty on Mortgages has been removed. The stamp duty rate for foreigners has reduced from 5% to 0%, while the current

rate for Fiji resident taxpayers for mortgages has been reduced from 1.75% to 0%.

Furthermore, the \$10 Stamp Duty on air waybills for any goods, merchandise, or effects exported from Fiji has been removed.

Depreciation

Accelerated Depreciation has been expanded to include construction of all types of industrial and commercial buildings. 100% write-off will be allowed and approval process will be streamlined. Small fixed assets purchased for business purpose up to \$10,000 to be depreciated at 100%.

Contribution to the COVID-19 Fund

A 300% tax deduction will be available for donation made to the COVID-19 Fund.

Export Income Deduction Incentive

The Export Income Deduction (EID) has been increased from 50% to 60% for the tax years 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Business losses

Business losses of up to \$20,000 will be allowed to be deducted against employment income to compute the chargeable income and the overall tax position of the personal income taxpayers.

Provisional Tax

Certificate of exemption has been reintroduced for the provisional tax system however, the 5% provisional tax rate will remain.

Tax deduction for reduction of commercial rent

A tax deduction will be accorded to landlords for reduction of commercial rent. The reduction refers to the rent payable after 01 April 2020 to 31 December 2020. The deduction will only apply to existing rental contracts. Landlord will have to provide record of rental income received for the past 6 months.

Deferment of VAT Monitoring System (VMS)

The implementation of the VAT Monitoring System as captured in the Electronic Fiscal Device (EFD) Regulations has been deferred to 1 January 2021. The VAT Monitoring System will be applicable on gross turnover of more than \$100,000.

The taxpayers who voluntarily register for VAT (that is, those presently below \$100,000) will not be captured in VMS. The policy will assist small businesses in mitigating financial costs.

For more information, please email us on info@frcs.org.fj

-FIJI REVENUE & CUSTOMS SERVICE

FijiFocus

Municipal facility brings opportunities for vendors



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Minister for Local Government Premila Kumar tour the \$7.2m Laqere Market in Nasinu. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

\$7.2M MARKET



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama officiates at the opening of the \$7.2m Laqere Market. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

AZARIA FAREEN

FIJIAN Government through its line ministry continues to ensure that high quality and well-designed infrastructure underpins safe and well-run markets that serve the interests of the vendors and the consumers.

This follows the opportunity being presented to vendors and entrepreneurs of Nasinu with the opening of the new Laqere Market recently.

In opening the market, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said this investment has been made for the sake of the physical and financial security of the informal roadside vendors within municipal boundaries.

“This new Market is the chance for these

vendors to embrace the future of Fijian commerce by establishing a permanent presence in this brand-new marketplace,” PM Bainimarama said.

“Funded by my Government to the tune of \$7.2million, this new marketplace contains 459 vendor stalls, 12 kiosks, three mini-restaurants and thanks to our foresight, it also comes with ample room to expand parking in the future.”

“And – above all else - by supplying sellers with newfound security and sanitary facilities, we will lend a new measure of dignity to our vendors, all of whom play a vital role in putting food on the tables of Fijian families.”

This market is where customers will come

for a more convenient and one-stop market-ing experience with its new restaurants and proximity to fish and meat markets.

The market also has its entry ways wide enough to suit those Fijians using wheel-chairs for mobility and Fijian living disabilities can also access a specially designed washroom on the ground floor. A total of 26 CCTV cameras are also fitted to create a safe environment.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar said this is due to the Fijian Government seeing the need to provide a proper market to approximately 92,043 residents and 20 squatter settlements in Nasinu.

“My Ministry is increasingly leveraging

its market assets across the country to increase the number of SME opportunities and the next Phase for the Nasinu-Laqere market will be an SME Hub on site,” Minister Kumar added.

“With COVID-19, Fijians cannot wait around to be offered jobs that will provide a good livelihood for their families; we all should create our own opportunities. All the sellers at this market have done just that, and I commend them for their initiative to be self-employed.”

There are two other projects planned for Nasinu and preliminary works for the Narere swimming pool and the Valelevu Stadium have commenced.

नसीनू में नया मार्केट 2

प्रधान मंत्री ने लाउ और कन्दावू गुण का दौरा किया 3

गरानिगोली और बुवा के किसानों को हेन्ड-हेल्ड ट्रेक्टर मिले 6

खेल-कूट वाले सभी कार्यक्रम, अस्थायी रूप से निलम्बित रहेंगे 7

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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इस साल चौदह मई को गिरमिट दिवस के अवसर पर प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्द्रो बड़निमारामा वाईनिम्बोकासी नउसोरी में गिरमितियों की कुछ संतानों से मिलते हुए। चित्र: ननिसे नइमिला

गिरमिट दिवस

वीरेन्द्र लाल

एक सौ इक्तालिस (141) वर्ष पहले हमारे पूर्वज, शर्तबन्धी प्रथा के तहत फीजी लाए गए थे।

गिरमितिया मजदूर, अपनी मातृभूमि भारत को त्यागकर, एक उज्ज्वल भविष्य की तलाश में फीजी आए थे।

गिरमितियों की संतानों के नाम अपने संदेश में प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्द्रो बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि इस देश के विकास में गिरमितियों के योगदान को कभी भुलाया नहीं जा सकता।

उन्होंने बताया कि शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में गिरमितियों ने बहुत बड़ा योगदान दिया है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने विद्यार्थियों से गिरमितियों के बारे में पढ़ने की मांग की है कि किन विपरीत परिस्थितियों और कठिनाईयों का सामना करके उन्होंने फीजी को आबाद किया।

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि गिरमितिए खुद पढ़े लिखे तो नहीं थे लेकिन चाहते थे कि उनके बच्चे शिक्षित हों ताकि वे अच्छी तरह से गुजर बसर कर सकें।

गिरमितिए अपने साथ तुलसीदासकृत रामचरितमानस, श्रीमद्भगवत् गीता, हनुमान

चालीसा इत्यादि धार्मिक ग्रंथ लेकर आए थे जिस कारण से वे यहाँ हिंदी भाषा और भारतीय संस्कृति जीवित रख सकें।

थोड़े ही समय में फीजी, एक “छोटा भारतवर्ष” के रूप में अपनी नई पहचान बना चुका था।

फीजी की प्रगति में भारतवंशियों का योगदान सराहनीय है।

गन्ने की खेती करने के लिए भोले भाले भारतीय मजदूरों को अलग-अलग जहाजों में भरकर कलकत्ते से फीजी लाया गया था। तब उनसे कहा गया था कि यहाँ की मिट्टी खोदने

के बाद उन्हें सोना मिलेगा। वास्तव में ये अंग्रेजों के धोखे से भरी चाल थी।

जैसे अमावस्या की काली रात के बाद पूर्णिमा आती है, ठीक उसी तरह भारतीय संस्कारों, संस्कृति, हिन्दी, और असीम आत्म-बल से धनी हमारे पुर्वजों ने कड़ी मेहनत से देश को सोना बना दिया।

हम अपने पूर्वजों के प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हुए परमात्मा से प्रार्थना करते हैं कि उनकी आत्मा जहाँ कहीं भी हो, उन्हें शांति एवं सद्गति प्राप्त हो। फीजी में हर साल चौदह मई को गिरमिट दिवस मनाया जाता है।



नसीनू में नया मार्केट

वीरन्द्र लाल

“नसीनू के पास एक नया सेंटा ओफ कोमेस हो गया है और लोग अब इज़्ज़त के साथ अपना सामान बेच सकेंगे।”

प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्द्रो बड़निमारामा, नया लंगेरे मार्केट का उद्घाटन करते वक्त बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने बताया कि नया मार्केट खुलने से इलाके में व्यापार बढ़ने की आशा की जा रही है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि नया मार्केट उन विक्रेताओं को अपने सामान बेचने के लिए सभी सुविधाओं के साथ अच्छा और सुरक्षित वातावरण प्रदान करता है जो रास्तों के किनारे शेड बनाकर सामान बेचते थे।

नए मार्केट में ऐसी व्यवस्था है कि व्हील-चेया काम में लाने वाले भी आसानी से वहाँ मार्केटिंग कर सकेंगे और वहाँ सुविधाओं का उपयोग कर सकेंगे।

बड़निमारामा ने यह भी कहा कि कोविड-19 से दुनिया भर में कई लोगों पर असर पड़ा है और इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने फीजी भर में सभी मार्केट विक्रेताओं के पहले दो स्टोल्स के लिए स्टोल फीस हटा दी है। उनके अनुसार कुछ नहीं तो जून के अंत तक यह छूट दी जाएगी।

मार्केट बनाने में सरकार ने सात दसमलव दो



नए लंगेरे मार्केट जिसका उद्घाटन पिछले सप्ताह हुआ में एक विक्रेता अपना सामान बेचते हुए चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

मिलियन डोलर (\$7.2m) खर्च किया है। नए मार्केट में चार सौ उनसठ (459) स्टोल्स हैं, बारह कियोस्क और तीन मिनी रेस्टुरांट्स हैं। वहाँ मछली और मांस बेचने की भी व्यवस्था है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि कोविड-19 महामारी से फैली अस्थिरता के बावजूद फीजी प्रगति की ओर बढ़ रहा है। देश भर में नसीनू में लोगों की जनसंख्या जब से ज्यादा है।

टुरिज़म रिकवरी टीम तैयार हुई

वीरन्द्र लाल

कोरोना वायरस से टुरिज़म व्यवसाय पर सब से बुरा असर पड़ा है और व्यवसाय को फिर से जोड़ने के लिए एक टुरिज़म रिकवरी टीम तैयार की गई है।

इस टीम की अगुवाई कोमेस, ट्रैडिड, टुरिज़म एन्ड ट्रांसपोर्ट के स्थाई सचिव शहीन अली कर रहे हैं। इस टीम में टुरिज़म फीजी, फीजी होटल एन्ड टुरिज़म असोसिएशन, फीजी एयावर्ड्स, रिसेव बैंक ओफ फीजी, सोसाईटी ओफ फीजी ट्रवल असोसिएट्स और स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ कुछ अन्य संस्थाएं भी जुड़ी हुई हैं।

टीम का गठन तब किया गया जब ऐसी माँग सामने आई कि टुरिज़म की चुनौतियों और चिन्ताओं पर गौर किया जाए। टुरिज़म से सब से ज्यादा आमदनी फीजी कमाता था और इस व्यवसाय के बिखरने से काफी लोगों की नौकरी चली गई है तथा व्यवसाय से जुड़े लोग काफी आर्थिक मुसिबतों का सामना करने लगे हैं।

टीम को इस वैश्विक समस्या से निकालने के लिए रास्ता ढूँढने का काम सौंपा गया है। टीम, अन्य साझेदारों के साथ मिलकर, इस मुसिबत से निकलने की दिशा में जानकारी प्रदान करेगी और नीती तैयार करेगी। टीम यह विचार करेगी कि कैसे लम्बे समय तक टुरिज़म व्यवसाय बना रह सकता है।

शहीन अली ने बताया कि व्यवसाय को कितनी जल्द हम पहले की तरह कर पाते हैं, यह इस बात पर निर्भर करेगा कि किस तरह से हम अपने आपको ढालते हैं और बाज़ार में फिर से उतरने के लिए किस तरह से तैयारी करते हैं।

उन्होंने बताया कि टीम में अन्य संस्थाओं के प्रतिनिधियों की मदद से वे व्यवसाय को पुनः जागरित करने में सफल हो सकते हैं।

व्यवसाय में शामिल नेताओं ने सभी से सहयोग देने और व्यवसाय को आगे बढ़ाने में मिलकर काम करने की माँग की है। अली ने बताया कि ऐसा करते हुए विश्व स्वास्थ्य संस्था के सुझावों का पालन करना होगा और इसी कारण से स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को टीम में शामिल किया गया है।

टीम, समय समय से बैठक करेगी और साझेदारों के साथ विचार करेगी कि व्यवसाय को फिर से जगाने के लिए क्या करने की ज़रूरत है।

फीजी, ओस्ट्रेलिया और निउज़ीलैंड अर्थ-व्यवस्था सुधारने पर मिलकर विचार कर रहे हैं

वीरन्द्र लाल

कोमेस, ट्रैडिड, टुरिज़म एन्ड ट्रांसपोर्ट मंत्री फर्डियाज़ कोया ने क्षेत्रीय अर्थ-व्यवस्था पुनः जागरित करने की दिशा में विचार विमर्श करने के लिए ओस्ट्रेलियन हाय कमिशन जोन फीक्स और निउज़ीलैंड के हाय कमिशन जोनाथन केर के साथ मुलाकात की।

मंत्री कोया ने बताया कि उनका मंत्रालय नए तरीकों पर विचार कर रहा है कि किस तरह से उन व्यवसायों को पुनः जागरित किया जाए जो फीजियन अर्थ-व्यवस्था के लिए बहुत ज़रूरी हैं।

“हम अपने उत्पादनों के लिए बाज़ारों की तलाश कर रहे हैं और पूंजी लगाने के मौके तलाश रहे हैं।”

मंत्री कोया ने बताया कि ओस्ट्रेलिया और निउज़ीलैंड, फीजी के दो खास ट्रैडिंग पार्टनर हैं और उनसे बात-चीत करने से हम कोई रास्ता ढूँढ



कोमेस, ट्रैडिड, टुरिज़म एन्ड ट्रांसपोर्ट मंत्री फर्डियाज़ कोया के साथ ओस्ट्रेलियन हाय कमिशन जोन फीक्स और निउज़ीलैंड के हाय कमिशन जोनाथन केर चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सकते हैं और इस चुनौतिपूर्ण स्थिति में नौकरी उपलब्ध कर सकते हैं तथा पूंजी लगा सकते हैं। इस सभा में यह भी विचार किया गया कि किस तरह से तीनों राष्ट्र मिलकर

व्यापार करना जारी रख सकते हैं। फीजी आने वाले सत्तर (70) प्रतिशत टुरिस्ट, ओस्ट्रेलिया और निउज़ीलैंड से आते हैं। इस सभा में इन देशों से मेल खाने वाली सीमाओं पर लोगों

की आवाजाही को लेकर कानून बनाने की ज़रूरत पर भी सहमति हुई। सभा में आर्थिक नीतियों के बारे में विचार किया गया और इन नीतियों का आदान प्रदान किया गया।

कम्पनी मालिकों पर छानबीन

रेनल देव

एम्प्लोएमेंट मंत्रालय को देश भर में मजदूरों से तीन सौ से ज़्यादा शिकायतें मिली हैं कि कुछ मजदूर मालिक कोरोनावायरस महामारी का फायदा उठा रहे हैं। मंत्रालय इसपर छानबीन कर रहा है।

मंत्री परवीन कुमार ने बताया कि कुछ कम्पनी मालिक अपने कर्मचारियों के प्रति घण्टे वेतन दर (hourly rate) काट रहे हैं। मंत्री ने ज़ोर दिया है कि एम्प्लोएमेंट रिलीज़न्स एक्ट के तहत किसी भी मजदूर मालिक के पास ऐसा कदम उठाने का अधिकार नहीं है।

उन्होंने कहा कि कम्पनी कर्मचारियों के काम करने के घण्टे कम कर सकती है लेकिन प्रति घण्टे वेतन दर (hourly rate) काटना गैर-कानूनी है। मंत्री ने कहा कि वे समझते हैं कि कम्पनियाँ भी तकलीफों का सामना कर रही हैं, इसलिए वे अपने कर्मचारियों

से बातचीत करके काम करने के तरीके में बदलाव कर सकती हैं।

मंत्रालय ने कुछ कम्पनियों से इन शिकायतों को लेकर बातचीत की है जो अब अपने कर्मचारियों को वापस पहले जैसा वेतन देने लगी हैं।

उन्होंने मजदूरों से माँग की है कि वे अपने मालिकों के साथ किसी नए समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने से पहले मंत्रालय के दफ्तर जाकर वहाँ के अफसरों से सलाह लें। मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि उनका काम कुछ कठिन हो जाता है जब कुछ कर्मचारी अपने मालिकों के साथ समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने के बाद मंत्रालय के पास शिकायत दर्ज करते हैं।

मंत्री कुमार ने कुछ होटल मालिकों को धन्यवाद दिया जबकि हालही कुछ जगहों का दौरा करने पर उन्हें पता चला कि कुछ होटल मालिक अपने कर्मचारियों को गुज़र-बसर के लिए सप्ताह में सौ डोलर तक दे रहे हैं हालाँकि यह कर्मचारी अभी काम नहीं कर रहे हैं।

मंत्री के अनुसार उनके अफसर देश भर में काम वाली जगहों पर जाकर आँकड़े इकट्ठा करेंगे कि कोविड-19 के कारण कितने कर्मचारियों ने नौकरी खोई है या कितनों के काम करने के घण्टे कम हुए हैं।

मंत्री ने खेलकूद वाली संस्थाओं से माँग की है कि वे धीरे रखें क्योंकि

वे किसी भी खेलकूद को जारी होने की अनुमति नहीं दे सकते जबकि कोरोना वायरस के चलते लोग अभी भी भारी संख्या में इकट्ठा नहीं हो सकते हैं।

मंत्री ने निराशा व्यक्त की है कि कुछ-कुछ मजदूर मालिक अभी भी अपने कर्मचारियों को चिट्ठी नहीं दे रहे हैं जो नौकरी खोने या काम के घण्टे कम होने की वजह से फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडन्ड फंड से सहायता लेना चाहते हैं। मंत्री ने मालिकों से एक बार फिर माँग की है कि वे संकट के इस समय अपने कर्मचारियों की मदद करें नहीं तो समय आने पर सरकार उनपर ठोस कदम उठाएगी।

समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड से काफी घर नष्ट हुए

वीरन्द्र लाल

समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड से देश भर में लगभग छः सौ पैंतीस घर नष्ट हो गए हैं और दो हजार एक सौ से ज्यादा घरों की क्षति पहुँची है।

समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड से असर पड़े लोगों को भोजन राशन और राहत सामान बांटे गए हैं।

डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरुई रातु ने बताया कि असर पड़े इलाकों में बारिश से सर्वेक्षण करने के लिए एक और दल जल्द ही बाहरी द्वीपों में भेजा जाएगा।

“अभी यह खत्म नहीं हुआ है। हम एक और दल असर पड़े इलाकों में भेजने की ताक में हैं।”

मंत्री ने बताया कि हाल ही एक सरकारी दल असर पड़े इलाकों का निरीक्षण करके लौटा है।

प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगो बड़िनमारामा ने घोषणा की है कि ग्रामीण हज्रिंग सहायता कार्यक्रम के तहत हज्रिंग एन्ड कोमिउनिटी डिवेलपमेंट मंत्रालय, असर पड़े लोगों की मदद करने पर काम कर रहा है।

“जैसाकि पहले तुफानों के बाद हमने कम खर्च पर घर बनाने वाले सामान लोगों को प्रदान किया है, अबकी बार भी हम वैसा ही करेंगे। जो लोग सलाना पन्द्रह हजार डोलर से कम कमाते हैं, उन्हें एक तिहाई, दो तिहाई के आधार पर सामान दिया जाएगा।”

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि सहायता के लिए अज़ी लगाने वाले, इन समानों के लिए कम पैसे भरेंगे जबकि सरकार भारी मात्रा में सामान खरीदकर उन्हें देगी और बिना खर्च के सामान उनके घर तक पहुँचाए जायेंगे।

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि फॉरेस्ट मंत्रालय के अधिकारी, तुफान में गिरे पेड़ों को चीरकर लकड़ी मुफ्त में तुफान से असर पड़े लोगों को घर बनाने के लिए देंगे।

इस साल कबूतर दागने की अनुमति नहीं

वीरन्द्र लाल

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने इस साल कबूतर मारने की अनुमति रद्द कर दी है। इसका मतलब है कि इस साल कबूतर मारने की अनुमति नहीं है।

परामर्श और सर्वे करने के बाद मंत्रालय ने इस साल कबूतर मारने का मौसम रद्द करने का फैसला किया है। मंत्री का कहना है कि समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड के कारण कबूतरों के घोंसले नष्ट हो गए होंगे।

“हाल की आँधी से जंगलों के भारी भाग पर बुरा असर पड़ा है और फलस्वरूप कबूतरों के घोंसले नष्ट हो गए होंगे। इस साल कबूतर न मारने से कबूतरों को पलने और उनकी संख्या बढ़ाने का काम से कम बारह महिनों का समय मिलेगा। अगले साल इस फैसले पर पुनः विचार किया जाएगा,” कृषि मंत्री ने कहा।

मंत्रालय लोगों को सलाह दे रहा है कि वे आदेश का पालन करें और इस साल कबूतर न दागें।



हाल ही लाउ और कन्दावू में समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड से नुकसान पहुँचे इलाकों का दौरा करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगो बड़िनमारामा चित्र: ननिसे नडिमिला

प्रधान मंत्री ने लाउ और कन्दावू ग्रुप का दौरा किया

वीरन्द्र लाल

समुद्री आँधी के बाद प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगो बड़िनमारामा ने लाउ और कन्दावू ग्रुप का दौरा किया। समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड से इन इलाकों में हुई नुकसानी के बाद लोगों की मदद करने और इन द्वीपों में लोगों से मिलने के लिए प्रधान मंत्री वहाँ गए।

कई द्वीपों में प्रधान मंत्री का पारम्परिक स्वागत किया गया।

प्रधान मंत्री ने इन द्वीपों में लोगों को टेन्ट्स, किताबें, चईनसव, खाना बनाने वाले चूल्हा, हायजीन किट्स और भोजन राशन प्रदान किया। प्रधान मंत्री के साथ इस दौरा पर गया हुवा उनके प्रतिनिधि-मंडल के लिए व्यवस्था करने

की खातिर वोरेंगो बड़िनमारामा ने इन द्वीपों पर लोगों को धन्यवाद दिया।

प्रधान मंत्री ने इन द्वीपों पर स्कूल्स, हेल्थ सेंटर और सरकारी क्वाटर का भी दौरा किया। इस दौरान उन्होंने इन द्वीपों में सरकारी कर्मचारियों से बात-चीत की और लोगों को सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए उन्हें धन्यवाद दिया।

सर्वेक्षण के लिए एनुमेरईटज़ की तैयारी शुरू हुई

वीरन्द्र लाल

कोविड-19 को लेकर काम करने की जगहों का सर्वेक्षण करने के लिए लगभग एक सौ चालिस एनुमेरईटज़ को प्रशिक्षण प्रदान किया गया है।

एमप्लोयमेंट मंत्री परवीन कुमार ने बताया कि कोविड-19 के कारण काम करने की जगहों पर किस तरह का असर पड़ा है, इसका पता लगाने के लिए सर्वेक्षण किया जाएगा। उन्होंने बताया कि इस बारे में सही निर्णय लेने के लिए जानकारी इकट्ठा की जाएगी।

“इस स्थिति से निकलने के लिए हमें सही कदम उठाने पड़ेंगे ताकि अर्थ-व्यवस्था सुधरने पर सब कुछ पहले जैसा हो जाए,” मंत्री कुमार ने कहा।

मंत्री ने बताया कि अर्थ-व्यवस्था में धीमापन का असर कम करने के लिए, सही निर्णय लेने की खातिर यह सर्वेक्षण किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि ऐसा करते वक्त सरकार के और अंतराष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रमों को भी ध्यान में रखा जाएगा।

मंत्री ने मज़दूर मालिकों से एम-प्लोयमेंट रिलीज़न्स कानून की सभी



एमप्लोयमेंट मंत्री परवीन कुमार काम करने की जगहों पर सर्वेक्षण करने के लिए एनुमेरईटज़ की घोषणा करते हुए चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

धाराओं का पालन करने की माँग की है।

अंतराष्ट्रीय लईबा संस्था (ILO) के साउथ पैसिफिक ओफिस के डायरेक्टर माटिन केरिमली ने बताया कि अगर विश्व अर्थ-व्यवस्था को सुरक्षा प्रदान नहीं की गई, तब इसका विपरीत असर काफी लम्बे

समय तक रहेगा।

“हमारे अनुमान के अनुसार इस साल के मध्य तक दुनिया भर में तीन सौ पाँच मिलियन लोग अपनी नौकरी खो देंगे। इस महामारी का विपरीत असर दुनिया भर में चार सौ छत्तीस मिलियन व्यापारों पर पड़ा है।”

श्री केरिमली ने बताया कि अभी देशों के लिए यह बहुत ज़रूरी है कि वे कोविड-19 के असर के बारे में समझें और इसे कम करने कि दिशा में कदम उठाएं।

उन्होंने बताया कि कोई भी निर्णय, जानकारी और सबूतों पर आधारित होना चाहिए।



नए नसीनू मार्केट का उद्घाटन

“नसीनू के पास एक नया सेन्टा ऑफ कोमिस हो गया है और लोग अब इज्जत के साथ अपना सामान बेच सकेंगे”।

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़िनमारागा, नया लन्गेर मार्केट का उद्घाटन करते वक़्त बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने बताया कि नया मार्केट खुलने से इलाक़े में व्यापार बढ़ने की आशा की जा रही है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि नया मार्केट उन विक्रेताओं को अपने सामान बेचने के लिए सभी सुविधाओं के साथ अच्छा और सुरक्षित

वातावरण प्रदान करता है जो रास्ते के किनारे शेड बनाकर सामान बेचते थे।

नए मार्केट में चार सौ उनसठ (459) स्टोलर्स हैं, बाहर कियोस्क और तीन मिनी रेस्टोरंट्स हैं। वहाँ मछली और मांस बेचने की भी व्यवस्था है।

चित्र: अज़रिया फ़र्गेस



देश के चीनी समुदाय से सहायता

फीजी के चीनी सामाज ने कोविड-19 हेल्थ वॉकज़ को तेरह हजार डॉलर से ज्यादा मूल्य के वचाव करने वाले सामान दान में दिया है। इन सामानों की ख़ीकार करते हुए स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफ़रेडमी वागाइनस्वेते ने इस महाभारी के दौरान सहायता प्रदान करने और योगदान देने के लिए चीनी सामाज को धन्यवाद दिया। “यह जानकर अच्छा लगता है कि लोग अपनी जेब से दान कर रहे हैं, और वच्चे भी इस में शामिल हैं। ऐसा लगता है कि हमने लड़ाई का पहला भाग जीत लिया है लेकिन अभी यह ख़त्म नहीं हुआ है। जबतक दुनिया में यह वायरस रहेगा, हमें सावधानी बरतनी होगी,” मंत्री ने कहा। फीजी-चायनीज़ फंडेरेशन फ़ोर कोमिस एन्ड इनडस्ट्री के जेनरल सेक्रेटरी ज़ियावचुन वों ने सामान देने हुए कोविड-19 के खिलाफ़ लड़ाई में स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के कर्मचारियों को उनकी कड़ी मेहनत के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

चित्र: प्रदान किए गए



पी.एम गिरमिटियों के संतानों से मिले

इस देश के विकास में गिरमिटियों के योगदान को कभी भुलाया नहीं जा सकता। प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़िनमारागा ने गिरमिटियों के संतानों के नाम अपने संदेश में कहा कि शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में गिरमिटियों ने बहुत बड़ा योगदान दिया है। प्रधान मंत्री ने विद्यार्थियों से गिरमिटियों के बारे में पढ़ने की मांग की है कि किन विपरीत परिस्थितियों और कठिनाइयों का सामना करके उन्होंने फीजी को आबाद किया।

चित्र: ननिसे नडमिला



नए नईवल वेसल सावेनादा का स्वागत

“फीजी जबकि समुद्र से घिरा हुआ है, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा में मरिटटाइम सेक्योरिटी एक ख़ास भाग है लेकिन सीमाओं पर अवरकारक ढंग से निगरानी रखने में हम सक्षम नहीं हैं।” डिफ़ेंस, नेशनल सेक्योरिटी एन्ड पॉलिसिंग मंत्री इनिया सेरुई रातु, नया नईवल वेसल और एफ एन एस सावेनादा का स्वागत करते वक़्त बोल रहे थे। मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने बताया कि यह दोनों फीजी और ओस्ट्रेलिया के लिए बड़ी उपलब्धी है। वर्तमान बुबाले समझौते के तहत, सुरक्षा को लेकर दोनों देश मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं।





सभी फीजियन्स का स्वास्थ्य, प्राथमिकता है

वीरेंद्र लाल

सरकार मजदूर मालिकों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रही है ताकि नौकरी पर कोविड-19 महामारी का असर कम किया जाए। इनमें काम करने के घंटे कम करने, काम बाँटने और छुट्टी पर भेजने के प्रस्ताव शामिल हैं। एम्प्लॉयमेंट मंत्री परवीन कुमार, वोल्ड ओकुपेशन हेल्थ एंड सर्टिफिकेट डेय के अवसर पर बोल रहे थे। “हम मजदूर मालिकों से इन प्रस्तावों पर गौर करने की माँग कर रहे हैं। यह ज़रूरी है कि हम एम्प्लॉयमेंट कानून और नियमों का पालन करें। कर्मचारियों को उनके अधिकारों से वंचित नहीं रखना चाहिए”। मंत्री कुमार ने बताया कि फीजियन सरकार सभी फीजियन्स के स्वास्थ्य को प्राथमिकता देती है। उन्होंने बताया कि कोविड-19 महामारी के बाद से वे अर्थ-व्यवस्था पुनः उठाने में जुटे हुए हैं। “उन्नीस मार्च जब कोविड-19 का पहला मामला सामने आया था, उससे पहले से मेरा मंत्रालय कोविड-19 को

लेकर मजदूर मालिकों और कर्मचारियों में जागरूकता फैला रहा है। हमने काम करने की जगहों को तीन भागों में बाँटा है। एयापोट्स, सीपोट्स, होटेल्स, सुपामार्केट्स, पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट, मेनुफेक्चरिंग, शॉपिंग मोल्स, रेस्टुरांट्स और बैंक्स में यह बीमारी फैलने का सब से ज्यादा खतरा है”। मंत्री कुमार ने बताया कि अभी तक कोई एक हज़ार पाँच सौ से ज्यादा मजदूर मालिकों और लगभग दस हज़ार कर्मचारियों से इस बारे में बातें हुई हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि इस सम्बंध में काम जारी है और अगले छः महिनो के अंत में इसपर पुनः विचार किया जाएगा। फिलहाल, एम्प्लॉयमेंट मंत्रालय को शिकायतें मिली हैं कि कुछ मजदूर मालिक कोरोनावायरस महामारी का फायदा उठा रहे हैं जिसपर मंत्रालय इसपर छानबीन कर रहा है। मंत्री परवीन कुमार ने बताया कि एम्प्लॉयमेंट रिलीज़न्स एक्ट के तहत किसी भी कम्पनी मालिक के पास अपने कर्मचारियों के प्रति घण्टे वेतन दर (hourly rate) काटने का अधिकार नहीं है।



एम्प्लॉयमेंट मंत्री परवीन कुमार, वोल्ड ओकुपेशन हेल्थ एंड सर्टिफिकेट डेय के अवसर पर सभी फीजीवासियों के स्वास्थ्य के हित में बोलते हुए। चित्र: एलिसापेटो तुईवाले



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी गारानिंगोली में धान के किसानों को हेन्ड-हेल्ड ट्रेक्टर प्रदान करते हुए। चित्र: कृषि मंत्रालय

गरानिंगोली और बुवा के किसानों को हेन्ड-हेल्ड ट्रेक्टर मिले

वीरेंद्र लाल

रेकेति मटुवाता और बुवा के धान के किसानों को हेन्ड-हेल्ड ट्रेक्टर मिले हैं। धान बोने के लिए ज़मीन तैयार करने की खातिर कृषि मंत्रालय ने गारानिंगोली गुप वन और गारानिंगोली गुप टु तथा वुनिवाउ, कोरोकान्दी और वकाले के किसानों की मदद की है। हेन्ड-हेल्ड ट्रेक्टर प्रदान करते हुए

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने कहा कि यह मदद, चावल उत्पादन करने के क्षेत्र में फीजी को आत्म निर्भर करने की दिशा में है। “इस तरह की मदद से हम चाहते हैं कि किसान खूब खेती करें और कृषि, फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था की रीढ़ बन जाए। आपकी कड़ी मेहनत करनी होगी और खेती को एक व्यापार की तरह देखना होगा। मंत्रालय तुम्हें

ज़मीन तैयार करने, बाज़ार ढूँढने और तकनीक सलह प्रदान करके मदद करता रहेगा।” डाक्टर रेड्डी ने किसानों से साल में दो या तीन बार धान बोने की सलाह दी। उन्होंने बताया कि फीजी में धान बोने के लिए अच्छा मौसम है। मंत्रालय नए किसानों को धान की खेती करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर रहा है। नए किसानों को एक अक्कड़ के

लिए तीस किलोग्राम धान के बीज दिए जायेंगे। फीजी रईस लिमिटेड, किसानों से धान खरीदेगा। अभी ज्यादा मात्रा में चावल विदेशों से आयात किया जाता है। फिलहाल एगरिकल्चरल मार्केटिंग ऑथोरिटी, किसानों से धान के अलावा डालो, कसेरा, टूरुका, दाल और हल्दी बोने की माँग कर रही है जबकि इन फसलों के लिए बाज़ार उपलब्ध हैं।

बाढ़ से बचने के लिए नालों की साफ सफाई ज़रूरी

वीरेंद्र लाल

बाढ़ से बचने के लिए वोटावईज़ तथा वातावरण मंत्रालय, नउसोरी इलाकों में नाले साफ करवा रहा है। वोटावईज़ तथा वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने बताया कि कुछ कुछ इलाकों में नाले गहरे किए जायेंगे। मंत्री ने बताया कि साफ और गहरे नालों से ज्यादा पानी बहकर समुद्र जायेगा और इससे बाढ़ चढ़ने की सम्भावना कम रहेगी।

नउसोरी के निचले इलाकों में कोई सत्तर हज़ार लोग रहते हैं और वर्षा होने पर अक्सर वहाँ बाढ़ चढ़ जाती है। डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि हाल ही वूटी, लकेना और वाईतूरी इलाकों में ज्यादा वर्षा के अलावा, नदी नाले साफ न रहने और गहरा न होने के कारण भी बाढ़ चढ़ी थी।

“कई नालों में घरेलू समान, टायज़, कूड़ा-करकट और मोटर गाड़ी के पार्ट्स पाए गए हैं जिस कारण से बाढ़ चढ़ती है। हम लोगों से मैला नदी नालों में न फेंकने की माँग कर रहे हैं। घर बनाते वक्त यह देखें कि पानी के बहने का रास्ता हो। घर बनाते वक्त ड्रिनेज प्लैन्स का पालन करना चाहिए।”

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने यह भी बताया कि कुछ कुछ इलाके समुद्र से नीचे हैं जिस कारण से वहाँ बाढ़ जल्द चढ़ जाती है। लोगों से मैला फेंकने को लेकर ज़िम्मेदारी से पेश आने की माँग की जा रही है।

नारियल व्यवसाय को बढ़ावा

रेनल देव

फीजी का उत्पादन अंतराष्ट्रीय बाज़ार में प्रोत्साहित करने के इरादे से कोपरा मिलस फीजी लिमिटेड का नाम बदलकर फीजी कोकनट मिलस प्रायवट लिमिटेड कर दिया गया है। नए नाम की घोषणा करते हुए अटनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि कोविड-19 के चलते सरकार देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था सुधारने का हर सम्भव प्रयास कर रही है तथा यह कदम भी इसका हिस्सा है। “इस महामारी में हमें सकरात्मक विचार रखना चाहिए तथा इस तरह के पुनः विचार और बदलाव को स्वीकार करना चाहिए,” अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा।

फीजी कोकनट मिलस प्रायवट लिमिटेड बोर्ड चेयरमैन राज शर्मा का कहना है कि पहले केवल नारियल की सूखी गरि यानि कोपरा से तेल बनता था लेकिन अब नारियल से बहुत सी चीज़ें बनने लगी हैं जो लोगों के दैनिक जीवन में काम में लाई जा रही हैं। अभी नारियल का तेल और वेजिन कोकनट ओईल विकता है लेकिन अगले दो सप्ताह में खाना बनाने के लिए भी नारियल का तेल विकना शुरू हो जाएगा। उनके अनुसार अभी विचार किया जा रहा है कि नारियल की गरि, नारियल का पानी तथा पूरा नारियल और किस तरह से उपयोग किया जा सकता है। आँकड़े दिखाते हैं कि भोजन पकाने के लिए सत्तरह से अट्ठारह (17 to 18) मिलियन डोलर लागत के तेल विदेशों से मंगाया जाता है।



लॉच पर अटनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम के साथ कम्पनी बोर्ड चेयरमैन राज शर्मा और जेनरल मैनेजर जॉन देव चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसोनईवालू



हाउजिंग मंत्रालय की सेवाएं सुधरी

वीरेंद्र लाल

हाउजिंग एंड कोमिउनिटी डिवेलपमेंट मंत्रालय का दफतर कोरोम्बासांगा हाउज गोरी स्ट्रीट सुवा खिसक गया है।

हाउजिंग मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने बताया कि मंत्रालय के तैतीस कर्मचारियों के अलावा यू एन हबिताट टीम्स भी वहाँ स्थित हैं। मंत्री ने कहा कि इससे लोगों की हाउजिंग सम्बंधित सभी ज़रूरतों की पूर्ती वहाँ हो जायेगी।

“यह सही समय पर हुआ है और इस नए दफतर में लोगों को हाउजिंग सम्बंधी और भी सेवाएं प्राप्त होंगी। मंत्री कुमार ने बताया कि मंत्रालय का वेबसाईट और फईसबुक पईज भी काफी लाभकारी साबित होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि लोग अपने घर बैठे ही काफी जानकारी हासिल कर सकेंगे।

“अभी जबकि कोविड-19 महामारी जारी है, तो ऐसे में नए डिजिटल और ऑनलाइन प्लेटफोम्स मददगार साबित होंगे जबकि लोगों को जानकारी हासिल करने के लिए दफतर नहीं जाना पड़ेगा। लोग हमारे वेबसाईट www.housing.gov.fj या हमारे फईस बुक पईज पर जाकर जानकारी हासिल कर सकते हैं या लिखकर जानकारी की मांग कर सकते हैं,” मंत्री कुमार ने कहा। मिनिस्ट्री ओफ हाउजिंग एंड कोमिउनिटी डिवेलपमेंट की स्थापना दो हजार अट्टारह में हुई थी। मंत्रालय, यू एन अडप्टईशन फण्ड प्रोग्राम और रिवायटालायजिंग इनफोमल सेटल्मेंट्स एंड एनवायरमेंट्स (RISE) योजनाओं को लागु करने पर भी काम कर रहा है। राईस योजना के लिए ऐसे निउज़ीलैंड की सरकार देती है।

फिलहाल हाउजिंग मंत्री ने बताया कि मंत्रालय समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड के शिकार लोगों की मदद करेगा और इन लोगों की पहचान करने के लिए मंत्रालय नेशनल डिसास्टा मेनेजमेंट ऑफिस, रूरल एंड मेरिटार्ड मंत्रालय तथा फोरेस्ट्री मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहा है। मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि जो कोई अट्टारह साल या उससे ज्यादा उम्र के है, उनकी सलाना आमदनी पन्द्रह हजार डोलर से कम है और जो घर नुकसान हुआ है, व्यक्ति का एकमात्र घर था, तब व्यक्ति की मदद की जायेगी। उन्होंने बताया कि मदद प्राप्त करने के लिए एक घर में रह रहे एक परिवार के सभी सदस्यों की कुल आमदनी पन्द्रह हजार डोलर से कम होनी चाहिए।

मंत्री ने कहा कि जिन लोगों का घर बिलकुल नष्ट हो चुका है, उनकी मदद एक अलग स्कीम के तहत की जायेगी जहाँ लोगों को घर के पुनः निर्माण का केवल एक तिहाई खर्च भरना पड़ेगा।

खेल-कूद वाले सभी कार्यक्रम, अस्थाई रूप से निलम्बित रहेंगे

वीरेंद्र लाल

कोविड-19 महामारी के चलते देश में खेल-कूद वाले सभी कार्यक्रम, अस्थाई रूप से निलम्बित रहेंगे।

कोविड-19 के शिकार पंद्रह लोग ठीक हो गए हैं और उन्हें अस्पताल से छुट्टी भी मिल गई है लेकिन सरकार का कहना है कि लोगों को अभी भी सावधानी बरतनी चाहिए। किसी नए मामले के सामने आने पर इसकी जानकारी तुरन्त जनता को दी जायेगी।

तीन लोग अभी भी इस बीमारी से पीड़ित हैं और उनकी हालत संतोष-जनक बताई गई है। फीजी में कुल अट्टारह लोग इस बीमारी के शिकार हुए थे।

जबकि ज्यादा लोग ठीक हुए हैं, कुछ प्रतिबन्ध हटाए गए हैं और अब बीस की संख्या तक लोग एकत्रित हो सकते हैं लेकिन स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय का कहना है कि देश में खेल-कूद वाले सभी कार्यक्रम, अस्थाई रूप से निलम्बित रहेंगे। इनमें खेलकूद वाली संस्थाओं तथा सामाजिक सदस्यों द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रम शामिल हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गे बड़निमारामा ने बताया कि यह बीमारी फैलने से रोकने के लिए, लोगों को एक दूसरे के बीच दूरी बनाए रखना ज़रूरी है।

एक व्यक्ति से दूसरे व्यक्ति तक यह बीमारी फैलने का खतरा ज्यादा है इसी कारण से ज्यादा संख्या में लोगों को एक जगह एकत्रित होने पर प्रतिबन्ध है। इसी कारण से स्पोर्टिंग फेसिलिटीज़, स्टेडियम्स

और पलय-ग्राउंड्स जहाँ दूरी बनाए रखना चुनौति हो जाती है, बन्द रहेंगे।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय खेल-कूद वाली सभी संस्थाओं को इन प्रतिबन्धों का पालन करने के लिए धन्यवाद दे रहा है। खेल-कूद वाले कार्यक्रम पर प्रतिबन्ध है लेकिन लोग अकेले खुद व्यायाम कर सकते हैं। लोग पैदल चल सकते हैं या जोगिंग कर सकते हैं। अक्सर व्यायाम करने और स्वस्थ भोजन करने से बीमारियों से लड़ने की हमारी क्षमता बढ़ जाती है।

लोगों से कोविड-19 महामारी से बचकर रहने की मांग की जा रही है। इस बीमारी के कोई भी लक्षण सामने आने पर या इस बीमारी से सम्बंधित कोई भी जानकारी के लिए लोगों को टोल फी नम्बर 158 पर कोल करना चाहिए।



ड्रामासी तावुवा में पानी वाली एक योजना का उद्घाटन करते हुए बोटावईज़ मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी चितः मेरयानी गोनेदुवा

ड्रामासी के लोगों को सरकार की मदद से नल का पानी मिलने लगा

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तावुवा में ड्रामासी के लोगों को अब पानी की समस्याओं का सामना नहीं करना पड़ेगा।

सरकार की मदद से वहाँ पानी वाली एक योजना का उद्घाटन किया गया है। इस योजना में बाईस हजार डोलर से ज्यादा खर्च हुए हैं। योजना का उद्घाटन करते हुए कृषि, बोटावईज़ तथा वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने कहा कि ड्रामासी के लोगों की पानी वाली समस्या अब दूर हो जायेगी।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि सूखे के समय में वहाँ लोगो को पानी के लिए दूर दूर जाना पड़ता था। उन्होंने बताया कि लोगों को पीने के लिए साफ और सुरक्षित पानी प्रदान करना सरकार की प्राथमिकता है।

“इस दिशा में सरकार ने काफी पूंजी लगाई है। नए बोटा ट्रिटमेंट प्लांट्स तथा रईसवो बनाए जा रहे हैं। यह कोशिश है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों को नल का पानी मिले।”

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि ड्रामासी पानी योजना

से वहाँ तीस से ज्यादा परिवारों को फायदा होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इस योजना के ज़रिए वहाँ लोग अब खेती बाड़ी भी कर पायेंगे और अपने लिए कुछ आमदनी कमा सकेंगे।

मंत्री ने बताया कि इस तरह की योजनाओं से पूरे समाज को फायदा होता है और आगे की पिड़ियाँ भी सालों तक इससे लाभ उठा सकेंगी।

ड्रामासी के तिर्पन (53) वर्षिए कमलेशवर रेड्डी ने इस सहायता के लिए सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया। उन्होंने बताया कि इस योजना से ड्रामासी और आस-पास के इलाकों में खेती बाड़ी में वृद्धि होगी।

“सूखे के समय में यहाँ खेती करना बहुत मुश्किल हो जाता है। सूखे के समय में जयजाद तो नष्ट होते ही हैं, साथ साथ काफी चौवे भी मारे जाते हैं। लेकिन अब इस योजना के बाद से किसानों को पानी की कमी के बारे में चिंता नहीं करनी पड़ेगी,” श्री रेड्डी ने कहा।

फिलहाल इस योजना के साथ साथ वहाँ एक सौ पौधे में लगाए गए।

कोविड-19 पर व्यापारिक सर्वेक्षण

वीरेंद्र लाल

कोविड-19 से प्रायवट सेक्टा पर पड़े आर्थिक असर समझने और इसके लिए सामाधान ढूँढने के लिए मिनिस्ट्री ओफ कोमेस, ट्रैडिड, टुरिज़म एंड ट्रांसपोर्ट (MCTTT) तथा इनटानेशनल फायनेंस कोर्पोरईशन (IFC), फीजियन व्यापारों से एक सर्वेक्षण में भाग लेने की मांग कर रहे हैं।

कोरोनावायरस फैलने के कारण वैश्विक अर्थ-व्यवस्था में भारी धीमापन आया है। पूरी दुनिया में इसका असर महसूस किया जा रहा है। छोटे छोटे व्यापारों पर इसका सब से विपरीत असर पड़ा है।

फीजियन सरकार समझती है कि कोविड-19 महामारी से फीजी भर में व्यापारों पर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ा है। इस सम्बंध में MCTTT तथा IFC मिलकर, फीजी के व्यापारिक समुदाय पर पड़े इसके असर पर सर्वेक्षण कर रहे हैं।

कोमेस, ट्रैडिड, टुरिज़म एंड ट्रांसपोर्ट मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव शहीन अली ने बताया कि MCTTT विभिन्न व्यापारों और सरकारी अर्जेसियों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहा है जिससे कोविड-19 से प्रायवट सेक्टा पर पड़े आर्थिक असर समझने और इसके लिए सामाधान ढूँढने की दिशा में नीति तैयार की जाए।

“स्थिति की अस्थिरता एक चुनौति है और समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड के कारण स्थिति और बिगड़ गई है। हमने अपने इनडस्ट्री पार्टनर से इस बारे में बात की है कि किस तरह से कोविड-19 के असर पर काबु पाया जाए। हम बिज़नेस से उनकी स्थिति के बारे में सुनना चाहते हैं। सभी को अपनी बात कहने का अधिकार है चाहे वह बड़े हों या छोटे।”

शहीन अली सभी बिज़नेस से इसमें भाग लेने की मांग कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि इससे आने वाले बजट के लिए तैयारी करने में मदद मिलेगी। कोविड-19 के कारण दुनिया भर की अर्थ-व्यवस्थाओं पर असर पड़ा है। प्रायवट क्षेत्र पर इसका सब से बुरा असर पड़ा है और कुछ व्यापार तो बन्द हो गए हैं और कुछ बन्द होने के कगार पर हैं।

फीजी, सामुवा, तोंगा, किरिबास और तुवालु के लिए आय एफ सी प्रतिनिधि देवा डि सिलवा ने बताया कि उन्हें नयापन लाने की ज़रूरत है। उन्होंने कहा कि अगर वे बिज़नेस की स्थिति जान जायेंगे, तब वे विचार करेंगे कि किस तरह से उनकी सहायता की जाएगी।

नसीनू में नया मार्केट 2

प्रधान मंत्री ने लाउ और कन्दावू गुप का दौरा किया 3

गरानिंगोली और बुवा के किसानों को हेन्ड-हेल्ड ट्रेक्टर मिले 6

खेल-कूट वाले सभी कार्यक्रम, अस्थायी रूप से निलम्बित रहेंगे 7

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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कोरोना वायरस को लेकर बयान देते हुए अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम। चित्र:सूचना विभाग

फ़ीजी द्रवल बबल में शामिल होने की आशा करता है

वीरेंद्र लाल

फ़ीजियन सरकार, “द्रवल बबल” में शामिल होने के लिए निउज़ीलैंड और ओस्ट्रेलिया से बात-चीत कर रही है जिससेकि वह अपनी अर्थ-व्यवस्था में सुधार कर सके।

लेकिन अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने बताया कि वे इस

बात को लेकर चिंतित भी हैं कि प्रतिबन्धों को ढीला करने से कहीं कोरोना वायरस फिर फ़ीजी न पहुँच जाए।

सईयद खईयूम ने बताया कि उन्होंने ओस्ट्रेलिया और निउज़ीलैंड के सम्बंधित मंत्रियों से इस बारे में बात-चीत की है और वे एक औपचारिक जवाब की ताक में हैं।

ओस्ट्रेलिया और निउज़ीलैंड, ट्रांस-टस्मन द्रवल

बबल शुरू करने को लेकर बात-चीत कर रहे हैं और फ़ीजी भी अपने दो बड़े व्यापारिक साझेदारों के साथ इसमें शामिल होना चाहता है।

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने बताया कि इस सम्बंध में चिट्ठी पत्री हो चुकी है और वे जवाब का इंतज़ार कर रहे हैं।

“इसमें शामिल होने की फ़ीजी की सम्भावना ज्यादा है जबकि यहाँ कोरोना वायरस के बहुत

कम मामले हैं और यहाँ ज्यादा लोगों का परिक्षण भी किया जा रहा है। इससे जूझने के और भी तरिके हैं। इसके लिए एक समझौते की ज़रूरत पड़ेगी”।

सईयद खईयूम ने बताया कि इसमें बहुत सावधानी बरतनी होगी जबकि हम नहीं चाहते हैं कि यह बीमारी विदेशों से फ़ीजी आए। फ़ीजी में अब केवल तीन लोगों को यह वायरस है।

Noda Viti



Vosa tiko oqori ena monalivaliva e Viti o Paraminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra veitalanoa tiko kei Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Veivanuatani ni Norway o Dag Inge Ulstein me baleta na 24 na sikolasivi ni draki kei na wasawasa me baleti ira na gonevuli torocake ena Pasifika.. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

24 na sikolasivi ni draki kei na wasawasa

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKARAITAKA na turaga na iliuliu ni noda Matanitu ko Voreqe Bainimarama ni sa cakacaka vata tiko o Viti kei na veimatani yanyanu ena Pasifika kei na matanitu mai Norway ena kena soli e 24 na sikolasivi ni vulici ni wasawasa kei na draki.

Nona veitalanoa tiko kei na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ni Veivanuatani mai Norway o Dag Inge Ulstein ena mona livailiva a kaya kina o PM Bainimarama ni dina ga ni wasei keda na laini ni mape ni wasawasa duidui eda tiko kina. Eda okata kece na wasawasa me noda iyau bula.

“Mai na toba balavu ka cere na batibatina, sota kei na Wasawasa ni Vualiku, kina vei-

cakau e wavokita na Veiyanyanu ena Wasa Pasifika, na bula ni noda wasawasa e duabulu ga ka duabulu ga na nona veimataka.”

Kaya vei Minisita Ulstein o PM Bainimarama ni dina ni tawasei rau o Norway kei na Veiyanyanu ena Pasifika e 15,000 na kilomita, e dua bulu ga na noda inaki, na bula vinaka ni noda wasawasa,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“O ira na kai Norway kei keda na kai Pasifika e da kawa tamata ni wasawasa – e tiki ni itukutuku ni veigauna kece ni noda bula.”

“Ni vakalevutaka na veisau ni draki na tamata, e da sarava toka ena idabedabe ni yatu e liu

na revurevu ni vakacacani ni bula ni noda wasawasa – ka vakilai sara – ena nodra bula na noda lewenivanua.”

“E da kila nira sema vata tu nanoda wasawasa, ia e levu tale n aka e tu meda vulica me vakarabailevutaka noda kila, kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“E dodonu meda kila na veika tawakilai oya ena noda vakasotara vata noda vuku mera vakauqeti kina na gone vuku duadua ena Pasifika mera vulica na veika vovou oqo.”

“Mai na neitou idabedabe ena bose ni wasawasa o au vakakina o Prime Minister Solberg kei Peresitedi Remengesau keitou sad au veivosakitaka vakabalavu na lailai ni kendau ni wasawasa ena wasa Pasifika.

Sa vure mai kina na gagadre ni kena duri edua na sikolasivi ni Norway kei na Pasifika ena kena kauwaitaki nanoda wasawasa,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Sa kerei Minister Ulstein o PM Bainimarama me yalovinaka qai vakadewataka na noda vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni yalo loloma nei Norway me tokona na 24 na sikolasivi me baleti ira na gonevuli ni veiyanyanu ena Pasifika.

“Ena nodra nalai vulica na veikatawakilai me baleta na noda wasawasa kei na Veiveisau e yaco tiko kina -na veitokoni ka tiko na kena isau vakailavo ena Ono na Milioni na dola.”

“Na veiwekani vou oqo, mai na Univesiti ni Ceva ni Pasifika kei na University of Bergen e Norway, ena bucini cake kina na kawa tamata mera veiliutaki baleta na wasawasa – mera kumuna vata kina nodra kilaka kei ira na kena dau e vuravura me baleta na wasawasa kei na draki,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.



\$7.2m na makete e Laqere

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA dolava na iliuliu ni noda Matanitu ko Voreqe Bainimarama na makete vou e Laqere, Nasinu, ka vakailavotaka na Matanitu na kena tara ena \$7.2 na milioni.

Sa oti kina vakadua na nodra dau volivolitaki tu e bati ni sala mai Laqere ko ira na lewenivanua.

“Eso vei kemuni sa matau voli mo ni dau volivolitaki tu ga ena bati ni gaunisala ni tauni e Nasinu kei na veivanua vakavolivolita.

“E na so na gauna e levu vei kemuni oni sa dau moce tuga e na vanua ni volivolitaki ena nomu qarauna tiko na nomuni ivoli me kakua ni dua e mai butakoca. Sega soti ni vinaka na nomuni vale ni vakacegu,” e kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Ia, na leqa oya sa mai oti e daidai. Sa cavuikalawa o Nasinu me lako laivi mai ena dua na leqa ka sa sagavulu na yabaki na nona sotava voli mai ka ra vakila na kena revurevu na kena lewenivanua.

Oya na vuna sa tara tiko kina e levu na veimakete vou e Viti raraba,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Ko Selaema Wati marama ni Cakova mai Moala e marautaka ni sa vakateveli ena makete vou oqo e Laqere.

“Au tukuna vei ratou na luvequ yaloqu e tu ga ena makete. Baleta e dua eda tauri sede e veisiga, ka ga ko via kania ko kania, lako mai a ogaoga lavaki tiko na ilavo.”

“Noqu ivakasala ni veivakauqeti vei keda oya ena gauna ni kua meda kua ni vakatusa tiko na dredre. Na dredre meda



Ko Salema Wati ena nona teveli e na loma ni makete vou e Laqere, Nasinu. iTaba:??

laiva ga vua na itaukei ni dredre. Me vakarawarawatakina a meca vei keda.”

Ko Ruci Lewakulati e dua na marama ni Naocovonu mai Macuata vaka teveli talega ena makete vou e Laqere, sa duatani nona marau.

“Au sa marautaka saraga vakalevu na dola ni makete e Laqere.

Au tiko mai Vanua Levu sa lako yani na qiri. Au qai vakavinavinaka vua na Kalou ena nona itu-vatuvu esa dola na makete eliu au dau vakamakete sara tu mai Suva.”

“Au vakavinavinaka ni sa dola na makete e Laqere niu toka ga oqo e Kalabu Koro sa voleka ga vei au oqo.”



Sa solia tiko oqori na iliuliu levu ni baqe na BSP e Viti o Haroon Ali na ilavo levu e \$50,000 vei Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed Khayum.

\$50,000 na veivuke nei BSP

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SOLIA vakailoloma edua na uma ilavo levu oya e \$50,000 na Baqe ni Ceva ni Pasifika na BSP.

Sa nona cau na BSP kina tobu ni ilavo ni vakacoko ni leqa tubu koso ni Paraiminisita (Prime Minister's Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Fund).

Ciqoma na ilavo oya ena vuku ni Matanitu na Minisita ni ilavo o Aiyaz Sayed-Khayum.

Mai solia na ilavo oqo ena vuku ni BSP na kena iliuliu o Haroon Ali ka tukuna ni oya sa ivakaraitaka ni yalodina tiko na BSP vei Viti ena gauna matalia eda donuya tiko oqo.

Kaya o Ali ni baqe na BSP e kila na bibi ni noda itikotiko kei na bula vakavanua ka sa nona itavi me veivuke talega kina dredre oni sotava tiko.

Tasoro mai na veivuke ni cagilaba nei Ositerelia

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAMUDUO tiko na noda vanua o Viti ena kena taladrodoro tiko main a veivuke ni cagilaba mai na noda itokani ni vuvale o Ositerelia.

Vakavinavinakataka na veivuke levu nei Ositerelia na turaga na iliuliu ni noda Matanitu o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama.

Sa solia tale mai o Ositerelia e \$4.74m me ikuri ni \$350,000 a solia taumada mai me baleta na veivuke ni cagilaba e Viti.

Kaya na Mata nei Ositerelia e Viti o John Feakes ni na sega ni guilecava o Ositerelia na veivuke ni mataivalu ni Viti ena kama levu ni veikau mai Ositerelia.

“Ni keimami nanuma tiko na ivakarau ni veikauwaitaki kei na yalo loloma nei Viti oya- qai mai raici vata na kena mai vakacaca tale e Viti na Cava o Harold salavata kei na valuti tiko ni matetaka na COVID-19, sa kani marau vakalevu vei Ositerelia me veivuke mai vei Viti ena gauna e sotava tiko kina na bula dredre oqo.

Kaya o Feakes ni veitokoni mai o Ositerelia ena vale laca, na iyaya ni vakacoko, na iyaya ni kana, kei na iyaya ni tiko savasava.

Sa solia talega nona veivuke vakailavo kina isoqosoqo ni Kauveilatai Damudamu me vukea na vakavinakataka ni veivale, teivaki tale ni kakana kei na qaravi ni tiko savasava.

Kaya ni qarauni vinaka sara na iyaya ni veivuke e solia mai o Ositerelia me vakalailaitaki talega kina na dewa mai ni manumanu ni COVID-19.

\$100,000 na veivuke ni USAID

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA dodo mai na liga ni veivuke ni USAID ki Viti salamuria na vakanadaku ni Cava o Harold.

Me vaka ni sivia na 3,400 na vale era a vakacacani kina salavata kei na boko ni livailiva, waluvu ni vanua kei na vakacacani ni veivanua ena iwasewase e loma, Tokalau, kei na Ra.

Sa loma soli kina na USAID me solia na iyaya ni veivuke kin a isoqosoqo na Kauveilatai Damudamu oka kina na iyaya ni vakacoko gadrevi vakayotolo me vaka na wai, na iyaya ni tikobulabula, mera vukei kina veivanua vakaleqai vakaca.

Na waqa ni vaivuke ni cagilaba kara gole ki Yasawa, Mamanuca, Vatulele, Kadavu kei na Ceva kei Lau era bau veitomini talega kina na vakaillesilesi ni Kauavielatai damudamu ena ken alai votai wavoki na veivuke ni USAID.

Marautaka na USAID me tokoni na vakacoko sa qarava tiko na Matanitu ka sad au vakayacora tiko mai ena veigauna kece e dau yaco kina e Viti edua na leqa tubu koso vakaoqo.



Rau matadredre tu oqori na Mata nei Amerika e Viti o kei na Daireketa ni USAID o Lawrence Hardy ena nodrau marautaka me veivuke mai ki Viti na USAID ena vakacoko me baleta na vakacaca ni Cava o Harold e Viti.. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

\$2.6m na veivukei ni cagilaba nei Niusiladi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA yalataka na Mata nei Niusiladi e Viti o Jonathan Curr nina tomani Viti tiko ena ikalawa kece ni vakacoko e vakayacori.

Na levu taucoko ni isau vakaila-

vo ni veivuke nei Niusiladi kina vakacoko ni Cava o Harold e Viti me yacova mai ni kua sa \$2.6m

Oya ni oti na nona veitokoni o Niusiladi ena \$200,000 na veivuke vakatotototaki ka salamuria talega na nona a veitaba wavoki ena veivanau e vakacacakina na

Cava o Harold na waqavuka ni Niusiladi na Royal New Zealand Air Force P31 Orion.

Qai kuria tale mai ena \$1.3m na veivuke me ikuri ni kena sa ciqomi taumada.

“Ni oti na imatai ni veivuke oqo keitou na qai bose tale me baleta

na ikuri ni veivuke kina veivanua e vakacacani vakalevu ena Cava o Harold.”

Marautaka o Niusiladi me veivuke tiko mai vei Viti ena vuku ni vakacoko ni Cava o Harold.



Vuli ena Walesi TV

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA vuli leseni ena sitese ni ratio yaloyalo na Walesi esa rawa ni ra vakayacora na gonevuli ena veiyasai Viti e yacova yani na porokaramu oqo.

Me vaka ni yaco tiko na tatarovi baleta na COVID-19 oqori edua na veiqaravi sa vakarautaka na tabana ni vuli ena veivuke ni matanitu me veitaratara kina kei ira na nodra gonevuli raraba.

Era veitalanoa vinaka kina na Minisita ni Vuli Rosy Akbar

kei na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Vakauitukutuku ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena veivuke ni Fiji Broadcasting corporation kei na Walesi me tekivutaki edua na channel vou.

Era na rawa ni sarava kina na gonevuli main a muri vuli kina na

yabaki 13 na veika porokaramu ni vuli ena vatavata vou ka sega ni saumi ena Walesi.

“Na inaki levu ni matanitu ena tabana oqo sa ikoya mera toso vata tiko kei na gauna na veiveisau vou na tabana ni vuli me rawa nira veiqaravi vei ira na gonevuli

ena gauna e tiko kina na vakatatabu ni COVID-19 ka mera taqomaki tikoga,” kaya ko Vunilawa Sayed-Khaiyum.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita Rosy Akbar nira na veivuke ena sasaga oqo na kabani erua ko FBC kei Walesi.

Misini ni cukicuki e Qaraniqoli



O ira na dau tei rai mai Qaraniqoli mai Dreketi e Macuata kei na nodra misini vou ni cukicuki ka lolomataka yani na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei.. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA lolomataka na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei eso na nodra misinisi ni cukicuki na ilala dau tei rai mai Qaraniqoli e Dreketi mai Macuata.

Qoka na mataqali misinisi ka vakatokai na Rotovators ka rua na kena taya ka rua na kena itautauri ka dau biligi yani ki liu me cukilaka vakavinaka na qele ni teitei.

Era wase rua tiko na ilala dau tei rai oqo mai Qaraniqoli, era marautaka ni na vukea na nodra cukiraka vinaka na nodra qele ni tei rai na mataqali misini vaka-oqo.

“Na veivuke oqo keitou vinakati kemuni moni tea vakalevu na ivoli moni rawa ni yaco moni usutu ni bula vakailavo e Viti.”

“Gadrevi moni vakaruataka na igu sa toka rawa oqori ka moni wilika na teitei me dua na bisinsisi.”

“E na loma ni dua na yabaki tea e 3 na mataqali itei baleta na draki ena noda vanua e ganita na tei rai,” kaya o Dr Reddy.

“E udolu na dau teitei era gadreva tu na mataqali misini ni cukicuki vaka oqo. Keitou vinakataka mera vukei kece na veisoqosoqo ni dau teitei.”

Sa tukuni talega vei ira na dau tei rai ni gadrevi e 24,000 na eka me teivaki tale kina na rai me na qai rawati kina na 100 na pasede ni noda rawa ni vakani keda ga ena rai e Viti

“Sa donu vinaka na gauna mera vukei kina na dau tei rai vou kana solia talega kina na Minisitiri e 30kg ena vei ya 1 na eka,” kaya o Dr. Reddy.

Konitaraki na dauteitei ki na Agro



O ira na dau teitei ni Sigavou Farmers mai Nawaka mai Nadi. Marautaki na lalawa mera konitarakitaki na dau teitei mai na AMA.

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA lalawataka tiko na Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA) me konitarakitaki ira eso na dau teitei. Qoka e tiki ni noda veiveisau vou.

Na konitaraki oqo ena vakatau kina na itagade ni kakana era tea ka volitaka kei na isau ena saumi vei ira kei na veika e gadrevi mena vakayacora vei ira na AMA. Vakakina na itaivi

ena gadrevi vei ira na dau teitei.

Tukuna na lalawa oya na iliuliu ni AMA o Alvin Sharma ena nona solia tiko nodra misini ni cukicuki na dau teitei mai Qaraniqoli e Macuata.

“Keitou via vakaitavitaki kemuni na dauteitei moni teitei vakalevu ka tea na ivoli e taketaki vakalevu, ena yalodinataka na AMA mena dau volia mai vei ke-

muni e veigauna.

Na ivoli e taketaki oqo e oka kina na duruka, na rokete, na Pulses, Tumeric, kei na Cowpeas.

Veivakaddeitaki vei ira na dau teitei o Sharma ni AMA ena volia vei ira e veisiga na nodra ivoli kana cakacaka vata kei na Tabacacaka ni Teitei me kilai se ivoli cava tale e ganita na ituvaki ni draki ena noda veivanua.



E ratou duri tu ena yasa ni misini ni veisautaki waitui me waidroka na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu kei na Veiyanyanu o Inia Seruiratu kei Neil Towner mai na Sea Mercy kei na Vunivola Tudei ni Minisitiri oya o David Kolitagane.

Misini ni veisautaki waitui kina waidroka

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA ciqoma na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Tauadaku ni Koro lelevu kei na Veiyanyanu o Inia Seruiratu na misini ni veisautaki waitui kina waidroka ka lisitaki mai na kabani na Sea Mercy Fiji me dua na yabaki.

Na misini oqo a ciqoma ena siga Tusiti o Minisita Seruiratu ka salavata mai na kena idini ka tiko na kena isau ena \$100,000.

Na misini ni veisautaki waitui me waidroka oqo e rawa ni veisautaka e 50,000 na lita na waitui me waidroka me gunuvi e vale.

Nona solia tiko na misini ni veisautaki waitui me waidroka oqo ena siga vukelulu a kaya kina o Neil Towner mai na Sea Mercy ni ratou marautaka meratou cakacaka vata kei na matanitu ena nodra vukei na leqa tiko na medra wainigunu ena noda veiyanyanu.

Kaya o Towner ni ivakatagedegede ni wai e tiko kina e tiko sara e cake kara na taleitaka na lewenivanua.

Kaya na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu kei na veiyanyanu o Inia Seruiratu ni na tomata tiko na noda matanitu e Viti na nodra vagunuvi ena wai savasava na lewenivanua.

Kaya o Minisita Seruiratu ni loma ni 3 na yabaki sa sivi e sa vakayagataka kina na Minisitiri e \$1.2 na milioni ena kena kau tiko na winigunu kina veiyanyanu.

Na misini oqo ena vukea na leqa ni waidroka mai Yasawa, Lau kei Kadavu.

Sa na tekivu saraga ena kena lai veisautaki me waidroka na waitui mai Dravuni kei Naqara mai Kadavu ena misini ni oya.

Ni oti Kadavu ena qai veiqaravi talega na misini oya kina vo ni veiyanyanu e gadrevi kina na waidroka e Viti.

Na italanoa ni kena lisitaki mai misinisi ni veisautaki waitui kina waidroka oya sa ivakaraitaki ni kena daumaka na nodra cakacaka vata na veikabani kei na matanitu.

Vakalevutaki na bisinisi ni teitei

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kena gauna me vakalevui kina na bisinisi ni teitei me rawa ni vakau talega vaka edua na iyaya ki vanua tani ka rawa ilavo vinaka.

Dodonu kina me sa vakayagataki na iyaya misini kei na livaliva me baleta na qele ka rawa talega ni vakayagataki na kila vou.

Oqori eso na mala ni vosa nodra na Minisita ni Teitei, Dr Mahendra Reddy ena nodra vakamacalataka tiko na yaga ni veivuke vei ira na dauteitei mera vakau yaya talega se itei kakana ka mera vakalevu take na nodra teitei.

Vakaraitaka okoya ni ratou vukei na lewenivanua mera laveta cake nodra itei baleta na yaga ni teitei ena vakarautaki ni kakana ena

noda vanua kavakakina ena vei vanua tani.

Levu na veivuke oqo e solia walega na matanitu ena tabana ni teitei ka sa uqeti kina na lewenivanua mera taurivaka vakaukauwa na tikina oqo.

Era tou sa cakacaka vata kina keina tabana ni Agro marketing authority kei Fiji Rice kei na food processors me laurai na veivuke vakacava erawa ni vakarautaki.



***Veiqaravi ni COVID-19,
qeke kei na wai***

ERA maqusa na ivakalesilesi
main a Mua-ira ni noda
vanua me ra vukei ira na
lewenivanua ena nodra
sasamaki ena loma ni tauni
e Lautoka. Sala muria tikoga
na veiqaravi ni COVID-19
ena tiko sasavasava. Era veisiko
voli talega na Minisitani
i Qele Jone Usumate, ena
nodra ililesi voli ko savati

ira kina na ivakalesilesi
vakacakaka ena
Tabacakakaka ni Qele. Ko Dr
Mahendra Reddy na Minisitani
ni Teitei kei na Wai e liutaka
e dua na ilawalawa ena kena
laki vakamatinutitaki edua
na vurevure ni wai ena loma
ni vanua.

**ITaba: MEREANI GONEDUA,
NANISE NEIMILA**



***Tomani tiko ga
na veiqaravi ni
vakacokotaki***

Era veivuke mai na Matanitu ko Australia kei New Zealand ena veivakarai ni vakacokotaki lewenivanua me baleta na TC Harold kei na COVID-19 me vaka e laurai ena itaba oqori.

Era vukei kina na veivakarai ni matanitu.

Era veisoiyaka talega na Minisita ni Teitei, Dr Reddy na veivuke ni tei me baleta na veivuke ni kakana.

Mai tekivu talega ko Minisita Koya na Minisita ni Veivoli ena nodra lilesili vau me vala ni mai vosa bubului otu talega. Era veisiko talega ko Minisita ni Tauni kei na Tikotiko Premila Kumar ena veivanua ena vakaleqai ena Cagilaba ko TC Harold.

ITABA: RFMF MEDIA CELL, PRASHILA DEVI,





Vakamuduo kina Matanitu ko Vatoa

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA vakaraitaka na Turaga na Koro mai Vatoa ena Yatu Lau ko Jone Talainilotu kina ikarua ni wavoki ni veivuke ni Matanitu a liutaka na turaga na Paraiminisita o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama kina na yanuyanu ciri yawa oya ena macawa sa oti.

“Keimami na lewei Vatoa keimami sa vakamuduo sara ga ki vua na iliuliu ni Matanitu kei ira kece na veitabana era veisiko tiko mai ena ikrua ni wavoki ni veivuke me baketa na cagilaba sa vakanadakui kei-

mamai.”

“Sa dua na veivuke levu a tagataga isulu, a kakana , a qaqe ni wai lelevu e rua, na taga raisi, falawa kei na suka, keimami sa vakavinavainaka saraga ena kakana levu sa tu oqo vata kei na dua na mataqali paramasi e mai vunautaki tiko vei keimami ka vakayagatakai ga kina na buka , keimami sa bau marautaka saraga vakalevu,” kaya o Turaga ni Koro Vatoa.

“Qoka sa ikarua ni gauna ni nona veisiko mai ki Vatoa o Paraimisita Bainimarama keimami mai veitalanoa tiko neimami tiko ena vale ni soqo, keimamai sab au maraua

ka vakavinavinaka, ni turaga rawarawa ka sega nib au dau vakabibitaki koya me vaka eso na ivakalesilesi vakamatani, rawarawa a veitalanoa kei koya keimami marautaki vakalevu.”

Duavata ena vakavinavinaka o Mesui Luvu e dua na turaga ni Nukuni mai Ono-i-Lau ka kaya vakaoqo ne;

“E rawarawa na nona veitalanoa kei keimami me vakaga ni keimami taura toka na yasana ni veitabani o Bau kei Ono, e rawarawa sara ga kina na veitalanoa e marautaka o koya keimamai marautaka talega na neimami veivosaki,” kaya o Luvu.

Marau ko Matuku ni yaco yani na ivaro ni paini

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA dabe ena yanuyanua o Matuku mai Lau e dua na misini ni varo kauvaro (portable sawmill) ka laki tavoca ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nona veisiko ni soli veivuke ni cagilaba ena macawa sa oti.

Qoka me na varo kina na nodra paini na lewe ni yanuyanu ko Matuku me vukea na tara cake tale ni vale era vakacacani ena cabe ni auloka ena ualoka mai Matuku vakabibi ena koro ko Yaroi kei Makadru.

E luluvu na turaga na Tui Matuku ko Lorima Niu-mataiwalu ni raica lesu na vakadomobula ni vakacaca e cakava na ualoka ena koro o Yaroi.

“Na ualoka qo e laveta na vale qai veibilyaka yani. O ya na kaukauwa sara ga ni ua



Oqori na ivaro ni kau sa laki tavoca tiko ena koro ko Yaroi mai Matuku o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama me vukea na ta ni kau ni vale era vakacacani ena cabe ni loka ena Cava o Harold.. iTaba: **NANISE NEIMILA**

koya mai kasere saraga e mata-sawa,” e kaya na Tui Matuku.

Ia e yaco na marau ki vei ira na lewei Matuku ni sa vakadonuya na Matanitu oya na Tabana ni Veikau kei na Fiji Pine ni rawa ni varo na nodra paini me veivuke ena tara ni vale.

Tukuna na Turaga ni Koro mai Yaroi ko Seru Tamani ni sa dua na ka na nona marau na Turaga na Paraiminisita ni keimami sa boleka ga ko keimami

na kau ni vale.

“Ia keimami sa vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni solia mai okoya na ivaro, solia mai koya na tamata me mai varovaro, n aka me mai vakawainimatetaki kina na kau.”

“Na paini levu gaka tiko e Matuku ka tiko oqo e Yaroi. E Yaroi ena vinakatai sara tiko mada ga ena gauna oqo mena vakavinakataki e 26 na vale, kaya o Tamani.

“Kaya na Roko Yasayasa Moala o Wilisoni Nayacatabu ni sa dua na veivuke levu baleta ni sa au kerei tu mai dua na gauna balavu ia ra sa qai vakaraitaka tiko na turaga na Paraiminisita ni sa qai kena gauna oqo koya sa yaco yani kina na ivaro.

“Sa na dua na veivuke levu kina loma ni Tikina vakaturaga o Matuku me baleta saka tiko-ga na veivakavaletaki,” kaya o Roko Yasayasa Moala.

Veisiko na Minisita vou ni Qele

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA tekivuna tiko ena macawa sa oti na nona sikova wavoki tiko na valenivolavola ni Tabacakacaka ni Qele ni Matanitu na Minisita vou ni Qele kei na iYaubula e loma ni qele o Hon. Jone Usamate.

Na Tabacakacaka ni Qele ni Matanitu e qarava tiko e 18,000 na qele ni Matanitu lisitaki ka tautauvata ni va na pasede ni qele kece e Viti.

“Macawa sa oti au tekivu sikova kina na neitou vale ni volavola mai Suva vakakina na kena ena yasayasa vakara.”

“Mera lai laurai o ira ena neitou vale ni volavola mai Lautoka kei ira na kena vakaillesilesi.”

“Laurai talega e so na tiki ni qele ni Matanitu koya e levu na kena veitalanoataki.”

“Eda kila ni veitiki ni qele ni Matanitu e dau sagai me rabailevu na kena vakayagataki vei keda e Viti.”



Veisiko talega na Minisita ni Qele ko Jone Usamate kina valenivolavola ni vakadikevi ni iYaubula e loma ni qele mai Delainabua. Era taba vata tu oqo kei ira na kena ivakaillesilesi. iTaba: **NANISE NEIMILA**

“Au gole gona kina Nadi kei Lautoka ni oti mai Suva sikovi talega o Ba kei Tavua cowiri ani vaka ki Wainibuka ka lesu tale yani ki Suva.”

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni dua na bolebole levu ena sagai mena wali taumada na berabera ni kena dau sagai me lisitaki e

dua na qele se me veisautaki na zoning ni dua na tiki ni qele.

“Keitou sa veitalanotaka tiko kei ira na vakaillesilesi me laurai na veigaunisala eso e rawa ni vakavinakataki kina ka vakatotolotaki ni nodra veiqaravi, kaya na Minisita ni Qele o Hon. Jone Usamate.

Robai Vatulele o Harold: Vunisalevu



E kaya ko Ratu Joji ni vale era kabasu qo ena yanuyanu ko Vatulele era muloraki sara ga ka sega tale ni qai rawa ni vakayagataki na kava. iTaba: **VAKARAUTAKI**

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

TALANOATAKA mai na turaga na iliuliu vakavanua ena yanuyanu o Vatulele na Vunisalevu o Ratu Joji Toge ni roba na yanuyanu oya na Cava o Harold ena kaukauwa ni cagi kei na cabe ni ualoka.

“E va tiko na koro ena loma ni yanuyanu o Vatulele na vakacaca ni cagi kei na ualoka e vakacaca taucoko saraga na 4 na koro,” kaya na Vunisalevu.

“Sa ratou lako mai vakadidike na Matanitu sa tauri na levu kece ni vale era vakacacani koya vakacacani vakadua kei koya e vakacacani ga vakatikina.”

“Eso talega na neitou veivalevale oqo e tara vinaka sara ga na ua. Sa sivita na imatai ni yatu vale imatasawa qai lako vaqo ki loma ni koro,” kaya na Vunisalevu.

“Vakacacani talega vakaca na otela e Vatulele. Ni kua sa vo tuga na buloko na vuvu ni vale. Dau yacana tu eliu na Vatulele Island Resort. Sa oti qoka e vitu na yabaki na kena sa mai sega tu ni dola na otela.”

“Keimami sa saga mada ga me vakacokotaki na itikotiko vakatalega kina na iteitei.”

“Eso sara ga gole tiko ki Viti Levu qo mera laki usa iyaya mai na nodra iyaya ni vale.”

“Na vale era kabasu qo era muloraki saraga sega tale ni qai rawa ni vakayagataki na kava. Sa bau dua na vakacaca levu saraga,” kaya na Vunisalevu.

“O au mada se qai matai ni gauna meu sota kaya kina e dua na cagi me vaqo na kena kaukauwa. Au kila au se donuya sara o Bebe baleta ni lako vata talega mai na Loka.”

“Keimamai neimami vurevure ga ni ilavo na masi. Sa tasogo tu oqo na saravanua sa dredre sara ga vei keimami na cakacaka ni vakacoko.”

“Io keimami sa veivosaki tiko oqo kei ira na tu ena vanua ni cakacaka ra bau rawa ni veivuke mai kasa tiko talega na neitou veitaratara vata na neitou mata kasa keitou veivosakitaka vata de rawa ni dua na nona veivuke.”

“Au kila ni sa veitaratara tiko okoya kina vei otela ka vaka kina ki vanuatani,” kaya na Vunisalevu.

“Baleta na matanitu se bera sara ni tau-coko sara na veivuke naka mada ga keimami rawa ni cakava totolo keimami sa yavala sara tiko kina ena gauna oqo.”

“Ratou sa dikeva oti talega na iteitei na Tabana ni teitei ka ratou kaya ni dua na vakacaca levu sa yaco ena neimami iteitei,” kaya na Vunisalevu.



Vukei ko ira na dau tei raisi

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA laki soli yadua na nodra misini ni qaqi raisi na dautei raisi ena noda vanua mai Vunivau, Korokadi, kei

Bakale e Bua.

E ra laki veisolia wavoki na Minisita Dr Mahendra Reddy na veivuke oqori me rawa vukei ira na kena tei vakalevu na raisi ka vukei nodra bula na lewenivanua.

Kuria ko Dr Reddy nira sa kila vinaka na lewenivanua na yaga ni cakacaka ni dauteitei ena nodra sa vakacegui main a daucakacaka ena nodra veiqaravi, era sa vuki mera teitei ka mera vukei ira vakai ira. E

ra kuria ni so na vanua se matanitu era sa vakila na leqa ni kakana ia o Viti e sega ni vakila edua n aka baleta ni levu tu na keda kakana.

E da vakauta mai vanua tani e 80 na pasede na raisie mai Vietnam

kei Thailand ka sau levu talega ka sa dodonu meda tea vakalevu noda raisi ka kua ni ravi veiira na lewe ni vanua ena vanua tani.

Veisoliyaka talega na tabana ni teitei na tei ni raisi.

ikarua ni wavoki ni vakacoko: Talai Veivuke



Sa vodo tu oqo na iyaya ni veivuke ni cagilaba ena loma ni waqa ni Matanitu me kau yani ki Lau kei Kadavu ena ikarua ni wavoki ni vakacoko ka liutaka tiko yani o PM Voreqe Bainimarama kei na Talai Veivuke ena iwasewase na Tokalau o Vitale Varo.

iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

SOLO LEWANA VANUA

ERA sa seredali e rua na waqa ni Matanitu ka liutaka tiko yani na Tali Veivuke ena iwasewase na Tokalau o Vitale Varo.

Era na qai muri tiko yani na turaga na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama me ra laki sota ki Ono-i-Lau, Vatoa, Yasayasa Moala kei Kadavu. “Na i naki ga ni ikarua ni ilakolako ki Lau kei Kadavu me tomani tikoga kina na cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki kei na veivakadeitaki vei ira na wekada ena kena kau tiko yani na veivuke ni matanitu.”

“E rua na waqa erau sa seredali me veiqaravi yani kina Yatau Lau, oya na waqa na ‘Bainitakali’ kei na ‘Vunilagi’. Na ‘Vunilagi’ era na vodo kina e 80 na vakaillesilesi vakatalaga kina na ‘Bainitakali’ qai kena ikuri na kako ni veivakatorocaketaki,” kaya o Varo.

“Vakabibi talega ena kena kau vakalevu tiko yani kina na kakana mera laki veivotayaki yani vei ira na wekada era sotava na bula dredre ena vuku ni Cava o Harold kei na cabe ni ualoka ena nodra vei koro.”

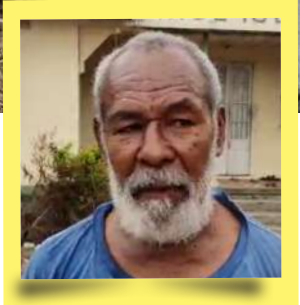
“Keimami sa liu ena Vakarauwai na vakaillesilesi era na qai mur yani ena Siga Tabu na turaga na Paraiminisita . Keimami na qai laki veitavaki sara mai Ono-i-Lau, ena qai lako yani na turaga na iliuliu Matanitu mera na laki veitamani mai mai Ono –i-Lau kei Vatoa, yasayasa Moala vakabibi o Matuku.

“Oti mai Lau sa na sema sara yani ki Kadavu tomani tikoga kina na vakacoko kara sa solia tiko kina na noddra veitokoni na iliuliu ni Matanitu. Oti ya ena qai lesu tale mai Suva ena via taura beka tiko e dua na macawa na ilakolako oqo.”

“Na veisemati sa vakayacora tiko na vale ni volavola ni Yasana. Sa nuitaki ni na marautaki na cakacaka levu ni veivakacokotaki. Eda sema tiko kina na tuaraga ni koro, na nasi ni koro, na mata ni tikina baleta nida liga ka yava ni veivakatorocaketaki ni noda vanua,” kaya o Varo.



Vakacacani e 28 na vale ena loma ni koro vakaturaga o Yaroi mai Matuku ena yatu Lau ena cabe ni ualoka ka ni malumu yani na Cava o Harold. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA



E taba toka oqori e loma ni koro ko Yaroi na turaga na Tui Matuku o Roko Lorima Niumataiwalu. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Na cabe ni loka e Yaroi

SOLO LEWANA VANUA

TALANOATAKA na turaga na Tui Matuku o Roko Lorima Niumataiwalu na cabe ni loka ka vakacacana na veivale ena nona koro mai Yaroi ena yanuyanu Matuku mai Lau. Ni malumu sobu ga vakalailai na Cava o Harold.

“Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni rawa ni mai dua noqui ivakamacala baleta na cabe ni ualoka kei na cagilaba ena neitou koro ko Yaroi.”

“Vakacaca sara vakelevu na ualoka ena loma ni neitou koro. Na ualoka qoka keimami sega ni namaka.”

“Sa mai kasura toka na duru neitou vale vaka vuvala. Sa vakacacani talega na nodratou vale na taci keitou mai Nakorovou. Ko Waqatalaca sa suka sara yani ki muri sa qai vo tu ga qoka na kena yavu kei na duru,” kaya o Tui Matuku.

“Na ualoka qoka keimami sega ni namaka keimami a vakavakarau ga na cagi. Qai lai lako tiko mai na itukutuku ni na cabe ni ualoka mai vei ira eso naneitou mai Viti Levu mai Suva keimami sa nanuma tikoga ni keimamai sana vuki bera keimami nanumaga ni sa’na malumu ga na cagi sa oti.”

“Ia ni malumu sara ga na cagi ena yakavi lailai keimami se yadra kece tiko rauta na

6 kina 7 cabe mai na ualoka oya e vakasauri sara ga. Ia sa tamani ualoka levu sara ga e laveta ga na vale qai veibiliyaka yani,” kaya o Tui Matuku.

“Na kaukauwa sara ga ni ua qai mai kasere saraga e matasawa. Keimami kila ni vakarawarawataka talega na kena sa yavu tiko mai neimmai matasawa. Qai lako mai na loka qoka sa mai kasura voleka ga ena neimami yasa ni vale.”

“Mai vakacacani talega na vale ni tabana ni draki ia eratou sa mai vakavinakataka tale na kena vakaillesilesi eratou gole mai Viti Levu baleta ni bibi kilai tiko na ituvaki ni draki ena Yatu Lau,” kaya o Tui Matuku. Vuabale nona vakavinavinaka na turaga na Tui Matuku kina veivuke levu era sa lai ciqoma.

“Sa dua na vakavinavainaka levu ki vei ira na luvei Matuku era tu tani yani mai Viti Levu kei ira era tu tani ena veiyasai vuravura ena nodra veivuke mai. Sa keimami mai taura eso na iyayay ni veivuke era vakauta mai.”

“Sa dua na veivuke levu vakavinavinakataka vakalevu na veinanumi tiko mai . Vakavinavainakataka talega vakalevu na nodra veisiko mai na vakaillesilesi vakamatani . vakavinavainakataka vakalevu na nodratou veiqaravi.”

“Vakakinna na vei itukutuku ratou sa

mai vakasokomuna yani. Sa tu naneimami vakanuinui ni rawa ni keimami na semati vata tiko yani kei na matanitu kei ira na kena ivakaillesilei kei na tabacakacaka itaukei , tabana ni teitei, tabana ni draki , vakakina na vei NGOs me vaka na kauveilatai damudamu kei ira na so tale na veitabana.”

“Vakavinavinakatakia vakalevi na veivuke e kani vakacagau veikeimami ni na raica na veika keimami sa sotava tu oqo. Au nuitaka ni keimami rawa ni vukei ena vakacoko ga na kakana sa levu sa mai biu tiko oqo. Sa gadrevi tikoga na bai ni manumanu kei na itei me teivaki na dela ni vanua,” kaya o Tui Matuku

“Keimami rokova tale tikoga na lawa ni vakasoqoni vata e vakarota tiko mai na Matanitu. Keimami sa dui tiko voli ga vakamatavuvale.”

Kaya na turaga na Tui Matuku ko Roko Lorima Niumataiwalu ni cabe ni ualoka ena Cava o Harold esa vakauqeti ira ni sa dodonu mera toki ki delana.

“Keimami sana qai bose tiko ni tikina ena kena kerei mena tosoi eso na koro ki na vanua cecere. Ena derdre toka ni sa matatu veikemami na raica tiko na cakau. Ia na cabe ni loka oqo sa vaka e vakauqeti keimami ni sa dodonu me sa ia na tara vale ki delana.”

Noda Viti



Era taba tu oqori na turaga Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei na iyaya ni veivuke ni cagilaba ena koro o Nukuni e Ono-i-Lau. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Sikovi Lau kei Kadavu ko PM

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Ekivutaki ena veisiko nei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ki na Yatu Lau kei Kadavu ena yanuyanu o Ono-i-Lau ena kena kau yani na kakana kai na yaya ni vakacoko era liu kina ena koro o Nukuni. Me vaka a vakamacala mai kina na Turaga ni Koro Vakacegu o Mesui Luvu. “Mai raica na mawe ni cagi ena koro, lako cake ki vale ni bula, laurai na koronivulikoya ka vakacacani tu, oti oya sikovi talega n koro o Lovoni.” Rogoca talega o PM Bainima-

rama na nodra vakatutu na lewe ni koron o Nukuni.

“Keitou mai kerea vakavinaka vua na Paraiminisita baleta na waqa ni franchise

ke rawa ni qaravi keitou mai edua na waqa e vinaka cake, keitou kerea vua ke rawa ni toso cake na vuka ena rara ni waqavuka me vukei ira na qase esa sega ni ganita mera vodo waqa, kena ikatolu na mawe n cagi sa mai vakadinataka keitou sa vakacegu toka ena isau ni taro mai tukuni vei keitou nina mai qarava a matanitu, keimamai vqakavinavinaka sara vakalevu nona siko mai sa mai

saumi neimami vakatataro.”

Sikovi talega na koro o Doi mai Ono-i-Lau me vaka a vakamacala mai kina o Mataika Pasi.

“Keimami marautaka na levu na iyaya ni veivuke emai solia na Turaga n Paraiminisita me vaka na 10 na valelaca, 23 na tavuleni, 17 na biomass stove, 23 na taunamu, 23 na vokete ni tawa wai, 8 na tool kit, kei na veivuke ni Tabana ni teitei na tabani tavioka kei na itei ni kumala, ena yaga sara vakalevu vei keimami,” kaya o Pasi.

Vakavinavinaka talega na Turaga ni Koro mai Vatoa Lau o Jone Talainilotu ka vakaqo ne, “A ta-

gataga isulu, a kakana, a taqe ni wai, na taga, raiasi, na falawa, na suka vakavinavinaka sara ga ena kakana levu kei na mataqali paramasi mai vunautaki tiko vei keimami.

Sikovi talega na yanuyanu o Matuku me vaka a talanoa mai kina na Turaga ni Koro mai Yaroi o Maikeli Lesikilakeba.

“Keimamai sa vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena vuku ni nona siro sobu mai na iliuliu ni Matanitu. Sa mai tavoca kina e Yaroi na ivaro mena tekivu kina na varo ni kau ka tiko ogo ena loma ni koro ko Yaroi mena tarai kina veivale esa

vakacacani ena cabe ni ualoka,” kaya o Lesikilakeba.

“Vakatututaki mai Yaroi vua na Paraiminisita na wai, vakavinakataki na wavu, vakavinakataki na veika e baleta na monalivaliva, nira tiko na kendau sa sotavi sara ga na vakavinakataki ni monalivaliava.

“Mautaka o Paraiminisita ni keimami sa solia na neimami vei Paini e Yaroi mena varo kina na kauvaro me vukea na veivakavaletaki ni cagilaba baleta na vakadidike ni paini e ke vakabauti ni yacova tiko na \$1 na milioni na kena sau,” kaya o Lesikilakeba.

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]