

FijiFocus

Hospital ensures faster services for rural dwellers



The opening of the new \$30 million Navosa Sub-Divisional Hospital has brought access to medical services right to their doorstep. Full details: Inside. Photos: MEREANI GONEDUA

HEALTH LIFELINE

MEREANI GONEDUA

LIFE for more than 10,000 Fijians living in the province of Nadroga, Navosa and in the highlands of Ba will

now be easier than what they had been enduring for decades. The opening of the new \$30 million Navosa Sub-Divisional Hospital in Keiyasi, has brought access to medical services right to

their doorstep. Lusiana Nayara, 45, recalled her days when she was pregnant and had to travel one month in advance before she would give birth.

“Those were the days where we struggled and had to travel earlier than our due date because we were travelling for more than five to six hours to get to the Koromumu Sub-Divisional Hospital in

Sigatoka. “It was hard then but now with the opening of the State-of-the-art

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe
Bainimarama.

Today, in the face of climate and ocean crisis and the economic crisis that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought upon us, solidarity is still our best recourse.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Prime Minister

NUMBERS

400 community awareness programmes was conducted by National Fire Authority in **2019** with nearly **26,000** house-to-house visits and **500** programmes conducted in schools.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama@FijiPM

Fiji has lost a dear friend with the passing of former Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare. He was more than PNG's founding father, his legacy as an architect of regional unity lives on in the hearts of all Pacific people. I deeply regret that I cannot be in PNG to pay my respects.

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Digital health platform launched

FELIX LESINAIVALU

Developer of the Pasifika Heartbeat app, Rakin Wahed, believes that one day Fijians would be able to get healthy information easier, which led him to the idea of the app.

During the launch of the Pasifika Heartbeat app at the Fiji National University Pasifika Campus Auditorium, Mr Wahed said, "everyone has a spark, and mine started in 2016 when I was in form six".

Originally from Bangladesh, Mr Wahed has lived in Fiji since

2006 and is a student at the University of the South Pacific studying Marketing and Tourism.

While officiating at the launch, the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya said the Pasifika Heartbeat app is a great example of how Fijians are exploring opportunities to make information services available to Fijians.

"Each time I see our youth succeed in their business ventures, I feel very proud and at the same, confident that Fiji's future is in the right hands."

He also praised the founder of



Developer of the Pasifika Heartbeat app Rakin Wahed (left) and Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya during the launch of the Pasifika Heartbeat app at the Fiji National University Pasifika Campus Auditorium.

Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

the Pasifika Heartbeat app, Rakin Wahed, saying that the innovator had provided a solution for Fijians to adapt to the digital age and enable them to have easy access to valuable information.

"Mr Wahed is a passionate young Fijian, who started this project on his own. We are glad that the Ministry through the Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) was able to provide support of \$12,000, which as we can see today, has enabled him to host the app online."

The Pasifika Heartbeat app provides a digital health platform of valuable information, which includes geo-location of the healthcare institutions – public and pri-

vate health clinics, pharmacies, and hospitals. It will potentially connect the public to the medical professionals.

Minister Koya said the app improves connectivity between urban and rural areas, enhancing service delivery and promoting innovation.

"This connectivity is made better due to the excellent IT and mobile infrastructure that we have in Fiji and the fact that 95 percent of our population is connected to these services."

"The Fijian Government continues to invest in youth to empower Fijians with digital skills and technology."



Newly-inducted prefects of Namaka Public School in Nadi. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Nurture children's leadership, minister urges teachers

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar has urged teachers of Namaka Public School, Nadi, to nurture the leadership talents in their school.

Officiating at the school's prefect's induction recently, Minister Akbar stressed the importance of teachers' roles in schools and urged them to identify the various talents in students.

"Your role is to nurture that leadership talent. Your role is to identify the special talent that all these kids have. Everybody is different, you all are different, you must teach the younger generation that while we are different, we must accept others differences and that is very important.

Minister Akbar highlighted that the notion of unity should be taught in schools and urged the teachers to teach their children about the right path in life.

"Unity in schools, in your communities is very important and as teachers you should be promoting unity in your classrooms and this is the first step towards having a unified Fiji.

The Minister informed the more than 100 student prefects that their role was also important given that they have been chosen to be leaders.

Meanwhile, the Minister also officiated at the Ba Sanatan College prefect's induction where she reminded them to never forget the sacrifices made by their parents.

"One of the things that you need to know in

order to progress in your leadership career is to listen to your parents. You should never forget the sacrifices they have made.

Minister Akbar highlighted that the parents sacrifice a lot in order to send their children to school and students need to learn to always be thankful.

"The Fijian Government has also provided a number of initiatives in order to assist parents and the whole idea is that we do not want parents to fork out more money as we understand times are difficult."

Minister Akbar also congratulated the students for their pass rate last year and encouraged the teachers to continue with their good work.



Health lifeline

FROM PAGE 1

facility, our younger generation will not have to travel like we did as services are just nearby.”

“The hospital is just what we needed because now we are able to have our x-rays done here, we now have the birthing facility and most importantly our families who would come with us can also stay in the other rooms provided for visitors.

“We are just so grateful for all this especially to our Prime Minister and his Government for being able to bring this very important services near us.”

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while opening the hospital, said that the new hospital will serve 26 villages, 58 settlements, 11 kindergartens, and 13 primary and two secondary schools.

“And the people from Bukuya medical area and the upper Naqalimare nursing district can also choose to come here for care.

PM Bainimarama highlighted that the hospital will not only make a huge difference for Fijians in the area it will also save lives.

“This new hospital was once a primary care facility. Its medical services were good, but quite limited.

“By expanding this hospital into a sub-divisional hospital, we can perform surgeries in a modern operating theater, with proper post-operative care and inpatient services.

“As I said, we know that this hospital will not be able to treat some of the most serious, acute or complicated cases. But the people of this area can be assured that if they need to be treated quickly at a larger hospital, they can be transported by helicopter from the medevac heliport that was built into the design.”

“We see the hospitals and health centers as impressive building complexes, but I encourage you all to look at all of our hospitals as an integrated network that works together for every patient.

The Prime Minister stated that patients who need constant medical attention will have a bed in a sanitary and well-crafted hospital with doctors and nurses on site.

“One of the most important objectives of my Government has been to eliminate the gap that has existed for so long between the living standards of our rural and urban communities. We have worked hard to create greater opportunities for rural residents in education, and to provide greater access to clean water and reliable power, and also to ensure that not one Fijian will ever suffer because they cannot get the medical care they need when they need it. That day has passed.”

The \$30m facility also includes a guest house for families who would be able to stay with their loved ones without having to bear the expenses of a hotel or transportation to and from their villages.

COVID-19 vaccination key to rejuvenating Fiji

SONAM SAMI

CABINET has approved a new strategy for 2021-2022 budget with key focus on rejuvenating the economy and the best way to get out of this is to ensure that all Fijians get vaccinated.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum highlighted this while noting that “the government has the fiscal capacity to pay for the vaccinations which is in the process of procurement”.

“The COVID-19 vaccines will be made available soon and the Government is very much leading at the forefront through our Prime Minister in respect of ensuring that we get the supply of vaccines,” the A-G

said.

“It is not an easy thing to do as most of the larger countries in the world are also struggling with the supply but Fiji is also ready to procure the vaccine and not simply relying on aid or grant,” he added.

In response to a question on curfew restrictions, the A-G said, “it is the Ministry of Health’s call since there are various health protocols which needs to be met and as we’ve said - the solution to many of these things is that we need to get the vaccination done as quickly as possible and only then can the Ministry of Health be able to advise us as to how and what can be done with the curfew hours but our foremost priority is to ensure Fiji is COVID contained”.

“To maintain stability, the Ministry of

Communications is working together with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to ensure that we have a digital recording of those people who actually do get vaccinated as a proof,” he said.

“Talks are also underway with development partners to ensure that we get the supply of vaccines and at the moment ensure that 70 percent of the population is vaccinated,” the A-G added.

“People will feel a lot more secure, the Government will feel a lot more secure to allow their citizens to come to Fiji for tourism purposes and we will also feel secure to accept people from those countries of vaccination which will rejuvenate our economy.”



Minister for Education Rosy Akbar with students of Lekutu Secondary School while handing out vouchers for uniform and shoes.
Photo: SUPPLIED

Ministry continues to assist affected students

A TOTAL of ninety three students of Lekutu Secondary School received vouchers for uniforms and shoes

from the Minister for Education Rosy Akbar.

As stated earlier by Minister Akbar, the Ministry continues to provide assistance to ensure that students are well supported to continue classes despite hurdles from recent disasters.

“There are many generous organisations and people who are still willing to come on board to assist students and the Ministry

will ensure that the assistance is well channelled so that it reaches the genuine recipients” said Minister Akbar.

She added that today’s assistance should boost the morale of Lekutu students and bring a sigh of relief to parents who are struggling to provide for their families after being severely affected by TC Yasa.

The Ministry urges parents to

ensure that children come to school daily. Parents are to address any issues that they have with the School Head so the Ministry can assist.

Minister Akbar thanked Lekutu Secondary School students for their perseverance in the face of adversity. She wished them all the best for the 2021 school year.

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Govt financial year 2020-2021 budget on track

AZARIA FAREEN

THE COVID-19 crisis has severely impacted Government revenues as the tourism sector came to a standstill, business activity slowed, trade flows declined and domestic demand plummeted, as highlighted in the last two budgets.

This was relayed by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum as he responded to questions on the status of Government finances and debt during the online budget consultation recently.

“In the first six months of the financial year 2020-2021, revenue collections have been above the forecast while expenditure trend is slightly lower than expected,” the A-G highlighted.

“External financing remains on track while there is some tightening in domestic financing, this will be offset by higher revenue collections and we expect to have some savings

in expenditures,” he said.

“Overall, Government remains on track as per the financial year 2020-2021 Budget. Government’s total revenue collection for the six months of financial year 2020-2021 stood at \$964.8 million, while total expenditure amounted to \$1,510.7 million.”

“In terms of financing, a gross borrowing of \$2.75 billion was budgeted for financial year 2020-2021 which included \$1.4 billion to be sourced externally and \$940 million to be sourced from the domestic market,” he added.

The A-G adds in terms of external financing, Government has in the first six months accessed a total of \$530 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

This includes \$424 million (US\$200 million) from ADB and \$106 million (US\$50 million) from AIIB.

“Currently, a total of around \$710 million external financing is being finalised from the

World Bank (US\$185 million), ADB (US\$50 million) and JICA (US\$100 million) and the preparations and discussions for these loans are progressing well and on track,” he said.

“Of the planned \$940 million in domestic borrowing, Government has raised around \$193.8 million in the first 6 months of this fiscal year based on the financing needs. While we have noted some tightening in the domestic market, the higher than budgeted revenue collections and potential expenditure savings will mitigate this risk.”

“Government debt stood at around \$6.875 billion, equivalent to 69.5 percent of GDP (gross domestic product) at the end of January 2021,” he added.

The A-G also provided the viewers with a presentation obtained from the International Monetary Fund on 2021 projected debt to GDP ratio of tourism driven countries such as Barbados, Aruba, Maldives, Jamaica, Mauritius and Grenada including Fiji.



A-G clears air on MBBS, TELS

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, has reassured Fijians under the Tertiary Education Loans Scheme (TELS) that they are not required to do repayments until they get a job.

The A-G highlighted this during the recent online budget consultation where he said that once the individual under TELS starts working there is a certain percentage that get deducted from their salary through the Fiji Revenue and Customs Services.

“Please understand you are not required to make any repayments nor is the family required to make any repayments until you start working.”

The A-G also addressed issues regarding the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) students who are seeking assistance in regards to their education.

The National Toppers Scholarships and Tertiary Education Loan Scheme for MBBS and Oral Health has been suspended from this year after the announcement in the 2020/2021 National Budget.

“So we had to make adjustments, plus there had been the issue of the of the Government’s ability to intake doctors into the government system or the public service.”

The A-G added that the Government has had to take into account the current financial position of the government as revenue is halved because of COVID-19.

“But we have, as indicated recently, when the economy recovers we are looking at various mechanisms as to how to assist those students who have achieved the Toppers marks, in particular in the area of MBBS.”

Since the inception of the new merit based National Toppers Scholarship Scheme and the Tertiary Education Loans Scheme, the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board (TSLB) has funded 934 students for the MBBS program and 202 students for the Bachelor of Oral Health and Bachelor of Oral Health and Dental Surgery, combined under these schemes.

Between the period 2014 to 2020, 245 students have already graduated in MBBS, 31 with Bachelor of Oral Health and another 72 with Bachelor of Oral Health and Dental Surgery.

‘Govt capital projects to continue’

AZARIA FAREEN

SINCE 2016, the Government has allocated a total of \$36 million to assist iTaukei landowners to develop their land for residential and commercial purposes.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum in highlighting this said that “there have been a number of projects which have been completed which are just getting the completion certificate”.

“There are a total of nine subdivision projects under iTaukei Land Development scheme and to date, five projects have been completed - Vuda and Yadua is fully completed including infrastructural works such as water reticulation and electrical services while Saweni, Wairebatia and Nasoqela are awaiting

infrastructural services to be completed.”

“Some of the project that was designed was not necessarily climate resilient in the sense that some of these subdivisions have had overhead electricity cables which we want to put underground because that is the Government’s new way of building resilience into our infrastructure,” he explained.

“Similarly to the one in Tailevu, we are ensuring that we will get the cables underground. The other 4 projects are at initial design stage, namely the Saravi, Vuda (Phase 2), Veiseisei and Tavua Subdivision,” he added.

The A-G urged that while the government is committed to providing assistance, the public are encouraged to apply for this scheme and contact the Office of the Solicitor-General for application require-

ments.

“Since 2016, we have had 13 cyclones - if you count Cyclone Bina it will be 13 and half cyclones - and it has put enormous pressure on us to redeploy funds,” he highlighted.

“Cyclones are getting a lot more frequent, they are getting more intensive, and the damage is quite deep in some of the areas,” he said.

“What is also interesting is that buildings that were built through the cyclone resilient program in particular through the Construction Implementation Unit – the schools that were certified cyclone 4 and 5 have not been damaged.”

The A-G said that as a lot of these buildings get rebuilt, it needs to be built up to and maintain a particular standard which is costly but the Government recognises the need for it.

He clarified that some of the capi-

tal projects like the four-lane roads need a lot of work such as land acquisition as a lot of the homes are built close to the road, moving a lot of water piping and electricity poles with drains and where a lot of planning and costing is required.

The Government had for the first time also allocated a large sum under the First Home Purchase Programme for those people earning in the lower income bracket.

“A total of 343 applications have been approved, 223 applications have been disbursed in total and the total funding released by the government is \$3.815 million,” the A-G said.

“For those earning more than \$50,000 and less than \$100,000 we have released \$825,000 and 71 applications have been disbursed,” he added.

Scheme creates jobs



Ministry of Economy staff during the online budget consultation. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE “Stronger Together” Jobs Support Scheme, to date has created 1063 new jobs for Fijians as an unemployment assistance to those who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

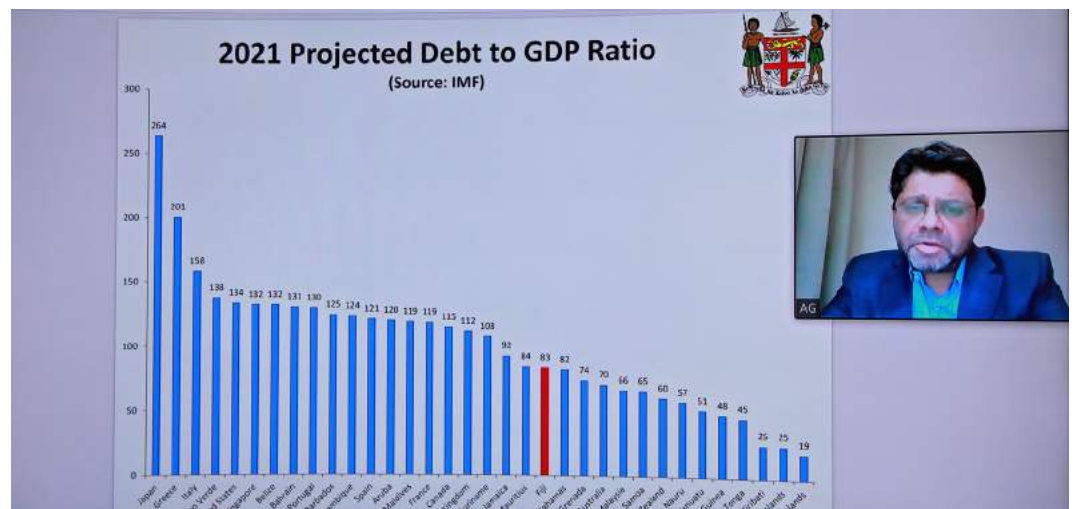
This was highlighted by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during a recent online budget consultation.

The Fijian Government is committed to promoting employment generation through its Stronger Together Job Support scheme locally to incentivise employers to create employment for out-of-work Fijians.

According to the A-G a total of 56 employers are part of the scheme.

The A-G also said the Fijian Government introduced a number of policy initiatives in both the COVID-19 Response Budget and the 2020-2021 National Budget to assist those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Unemployment Benefit Scheme implemented in partnership with the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPf).

“As of now, a total of \$216.6 million has been paid out to members. Of this, Government has paid out \$102 million, including \$30.6 million from the COVID-19 Response Budget and \$71.2 million from the Financial Year 2020-



The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum makes a presentation during the consultation. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

2021 Budget,” the A-G said.

“It is estimated over the current figures that in March, this program will be paying the bulk of the people that have exhausted their general accounts and Government will be paying the bulk of the unemployment benefits.”

The A-G added that when the Fijian Government introduced the Stronger Together Job Support Scheme, they had also given the concessional loan to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) with a total of \$30 million already being dispersed to around 5,500

MSME’s.

He added that through the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) there are around 425 Fijians who are now working in both Australia and New Zealand.

“Of that 354 are working under PLS in Australia and 71 in New Zealand in what they call the Seasonal Worker Program (SWP).”

The A-G added that the Fijian Government is definitely looking at ramping up more of the opportunities offshore and have been providing stronger together job support scheme.

A-G reassures MSME's

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Fijian Governments aims to assist Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to ensure that they are ready for business as soon as the borders can be safely reopened.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, during the first ever online budget consultation, recently said that in order to get the borders open in the quickest and safest way was to get Fijians vaccinated.

"Because the moment you get 70 per cent of Fijians vaccinated we can then be able to welcome people a lot more freely into our country and a lot more people will feel safer

to come to our country because we know at least 70 per cent of the population has been vaccinated."

The A-G added that there would be a spill-over effect from the borders opening that would eventually benefit MSME's.

Meaning that hotels will open up, people will get back to their jobs and the people who had businesses related to the tourism sector, whether it's the lady who goes and sells boiled ivi to the people working outside Fiji Airways or outside hotels, all of those business will start flourishing again."

According to the A-G the Fijian Government has already dispersed \$30 million to help existing micro business and new ones too and has given loans up to \$21,000 to the

small and medium enterprises.

"We hope to continue with the assistance to MSME's, please also try and understand that a lot of the economic situations we are facing."

"The tourism sector has been badly affected by the pandemic as you know we were very much reliant on the tourism sector, about 40 per cent of our GDP (gross domestic product).

"Many of the tourism driven countries like in the Caribbean, countries like Maldives have also been very badly hit in that respect."

The A-G said in the meantime the Fijian Government will need to be creative in the hopes to look into the new budget as to how

they can also help the other businesses.

The Fijian Government recently introduced the MSME Concessional Loan support for MSMEs and has so far paid out over \$30m to almost 5500 MSMEs.

Existing and new micro businesses with turnover less than \$50,000, were eligible for a loan up to \$7000 with an interest rate of 0.5 per cent, five year repayment term and one year grace period.

Existing small enterprises with turnover between \$50,000 to 300,000 were eligible for \$14,000 at an interest rate of one per cent while existing medium sized businesses (300k to \$1.25m) could get up to \$21,000 at an interest rate of 1.5 per cent.



Post Tropical Cyclone Yasa assistance has been trickling in for farmers and fisherman to help address Fiji's food security concerns. Photo: SUPPLIED

It has been our policy to build capacity not just, for example, in fresh water farming but also in respect of growing more sheep, cattle and piggeries. All of these will actually make us a lot more self-sufficient in not just for sustaining our own food supply but to be able to supply to the tourism sector when the border opens up and also for export to other Pacific Island Countries too.

Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum
Attorney-General and
Minister for Economy

Agriculture sector critical for food security: A-G

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum addressed the nation during the first 2021-2022 online budget forum ahead of the national budget consultation recently.

He highlighted the potential of farming and the Ministry of Agriculture being one of the few ministries to receive an increase in the national budget compared to the post-COVID budget last year.

"The Government has continued to provide funding in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector as this is very critical for food security, income support for farmers and export," the A-G said.

"In the current financial year, the Government has provided a \$65.3 million budget to the agriculture sector, with \$33.7 million specifically for capital projects," he added.



Minister for Agriculture Dr Mahendra Reddy and staff view the F1 Breeder Bucks. Photo: SUPPLIED

"For 2020, the agricultural sector recorded a 15 per cent growth in exports volume, which translated to 21 percent growth in value of export revenue earned compared to previous year and this was despite a very challenging external environment."

The Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture will further upscale the programmes to drive accelerated growth in agricultural production in the country, promoting exports, addressing short, me-

dium and long term food security and driving towards sustainable livelihoods, whilst also driving the import substitution agenda in key areas like rice production, livestock (beef, sheep and dairy), and other horticulture products currently imported in the short term.

The A-G highlighted that there is also a strong focus on providing necessary cultivation support on agriculture so that rapid expansion of the sector could be achieved through productive use of arable

land in Fiji. Government has also provided a total of \$3.3 million for the aquaculture sector in the 2020-2021 national budget.

This includes \$400,000 for aquaculture development, \$380,000 for brackish water development, \$259,000 for seaweed development and \$500,000 for assistance to small holder freshwater aquaculture farmers, \$250,000 for commercial brackish water shrimp aquaculture support and \$417,000 for the construction of a multi-spe-

cies hatchery in Ra," he said.

"It has been our policy to build capacity not just, for example, in fresh water farming but also in respect of growing more sheep, cattle and piggeries," the A-G said.

"All of these will actually make us a lot more self-sufficient in not just for sustaining our own food supply but to be able to supply to the tourism sector when the border opens up and also for export to other Pacific Island Countries too."

The Ministry is working on streamlining processes and having a future fit structure that supports the growth of the agriculture sector in Fiji by providing effective extension services to farmers through better service delivery.

"A Soil Health Card initiative was launched last year whereby farmers will have detailed analysis of their land provided post testing, with specific advisory on actions to take to improve nutrients in the soil for improved yield," the A-G said.

"Whilst farmers are able to get the required advisory through the various Ministry of Agriculture stations across Fiji, we will ensure further improvements are realized to enhance its service delivery to benefit the farmers."



Fire wardens during the launch of the Integrated Community Fire Warden and Emergency Response Framework at Yako Village in Nadroga. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Fijians urged to take fire safety seriously

NANISE NEIMILA

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has reminded all Fijians that preventing fires is a community responsibility.

His comments came at the launch of the Integrated Community Fire Warden and Emergency Response Framework at Yako Village in Nadroga last week.

“A fire in your house can spread to your neighbour’s house and beyond. A property left vacant and unattended can invite vandalism. Faulty wiring, an overloaded electrical circuit, or an unattended cook stove can lead to tragedy,” he said.

“So, I urge you all: Embrace this opportunity to work with our brave fire-fighters to make

unwanted fires a rarity in Fiji. Learn how to stay safe. Then stay aware. Think about fire safety. Watch out for your neighbours. Learn to recognise trouble before it starts.”

Fiji has already had a total of 20 house fires in Fiji only two months into the year but last year Fiji had 16 house fires in January and February and fires cost the nation nearly \$13 million in property damage in 2020 and more than \$22.1 million in 2019.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fiji needs to go beyond the statistics because with each of these fires there is a human story.

“A house fire in Nadele, Sabeto, not far from here claimed the lives of an elderly couple and their five-month old grandchild. The fire had occurred at 1am, while the family was sleep-

ing. It was tragic. And most likely, it was preventable.”

“Seventy-seven per cent of the fires attended to by the National Fire Authority are caused by electrical mishaps, arson, unattended cooking and mishandling of matches.

“In 2020, 35 per cent of all fire incidents related to electricity, making electrical mishaps the number-one cause of fires,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama commended 31 volunteer fire wardens of Yako Village who have offered their valuable time for the safety of homes and the community after two weeks of training as part of the Integrated Community Framework on fire safety and other emergencies.

PM praises faith group for help

NANISE NEIMILA

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama commended the work which Fiji Sevashram Sangham has undertaken to defend the most vulnerable in our society.

He made the comment as the Sevashram Sangha commemorated the 125th Birthday of their celebrated founder – Swami Pranavananda Maharaj and the launching of commemorative medals.

“Families have been fed, homes are being rebuilt, and books are being read by students because of what you have done and what you are doing.”

“In the spirit of Swami Pranavananda’s teachings, the legacy is not constrained by the chain of slumber. You have defined yourselves through your actions; by taking Fiji forward through



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the launch of the Commemorative stamps for the Fiji Sevashram Sangha. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

education, the arts, and philanthropy.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama commended the organisation for supporting Fijians, not based on who they are, but rather on the difficulty of the circumstances that they face.

“Regardless of our faith and regardless of the way we worship, Fijians know what is right,

we know what is wrong, and we know we must do what we can to aid those who need our help.”

“Throughout history, we have seen quite clearly and at times, quite painfully the absolute imperative of unity among all Fijians. We have suffered the folly of division along ethnic, religious, and provincial lines. And that experience has shown us the im-

measurable value of the common and equal citizenship all Fijians share today.”

Speaking on behalf of the Sevashram Sangha, Shri Virsukh Lal applauded the Head of Government for his visionary leadership and thanked him for his continuous support towards the organisation.

We are stronger together as a Pacific family: Bainimarama

PRIME MINISTER Voreqe Bainimarama as Chair of the 2021 Pacific Island Forum has invited Micronesian Leaders to Fiji for this year’s meeting along with other Pacific leaders to discuss and give a fair shot to the Pacific way of openness and dialogue.

While conveying his deep respect for his fellow Micronesian Leaders, the Prime Minister said that he regretted the announcement on their intention to leave PIF.

“I hope you know the doors to our home are open to you, and I urge you to reconsider and work with all our fellow leaders to find ways to respond to your large concerns and overcome this disagreement for the long-term,” he said.

“We are a family and I firmly believe that we can make this the time we disagreed, not the time our family, fell apart. Rest assured, Fijians and your fellow Pacific islanders, will always fight as hard for your future as we fight for our own.

“Our last discussion made clear, Talanoa doesn’t always translate over zoom. As Chair of this year’s Pacific Islands Forum, I invite you to join us in Suva, in person, to give our Pacific way a fair shot to continue the work we have been doing for 50 years, and recommit ourselves to a stronger common purpose.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the mana of our leadership has been tested by the natural complexities of regionalism during the 50 year history of PIF.

“As sovereign nations with common challenges and a common destiny, we can be proud of what we have achieved together. Rather than endure meekly the existential threats we face like climate change, we have united with one voice to demand that our children have the future they deserve.”

“Our voice has been strong and it is now too powerful for the world to ignore. Today, in the face of climate and ocean crisis and the economic crisis that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought upon us, solidarity is still our best recourse.”

He said with climate action again at the top of the agenda for the United States, the PIF have another window of opportunity in which he has invited President Joe Biden this August to join our nations on the frontlines of the climate emergency.

“It is an opportunity that deserves every measure of our collective support.”

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ICT going green

SONAM SAMI

CLOSE to 95 per cent of Fijians can now access mobile internet connectivity across the 3G and 4G band plus with a very good broadband bandwidth that is now 150 megabits per second (mbps) to 300 mbps and that goes up to 300 mbps.

This was highlighted by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum while responding to questions raised during an on-line budget consultation held recently.

He said the Green Information and Communications Technology (ICT) plays an immense role in this criteria and ICT companies should transform to green and provide services that do not harm our environment.

"I believe it's 2021 and the speed of broadband connectivity should be more than 100mbps, particularly since COVID-19 has increased the appetite of people for more data, and with more things getting digital, it is about time the Internet Service Providers (ISP) in Fiji match the speeds of broadband to the developing countries," the A-G said.

"It is necessary to be mindful of various standards that need to be adhered to whether it's wireless standards which includes green ICT," he added.

"All technology companies and organisations that have an Information Technology department should be credited for some sort, for example, International Organization for Standardization to 27001 Information Security Management, as this kind of certification will help Fiji as a whole to work on achieving the digital Fiji goal".

He also commended the clean-up campaign of removing plastics and rubbish from the Nabukulou creek, which is a better way of moving forward.

The A-G said Green ICT is one area that needs to be looked into in terms of discarding of electronic devices, and the proper way of disposing phones, computers, hardware's and technology as a whole.

"We need to make our environment greener by throwing less pollutants into our rivers and streams which ultimately ends into the sea, and which will assist in our ICT going green," he said.

"The role of e-waste reduction is not just for the ICT companies, this relates to the electronic devices that have reached its end of life like old phones, computers, washing machines, televisions, radios, cameras and gaming consoles."

'The time is now'

IN recognition of the accelerating climate crisis and the challenges it creates for the effective enjoyment of human rights, Fiji participated in an event called "The Time Is Now".

The event was hosted by the Universal Rights Group on the case for the universal recognition of a right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment on the margins of the High Level Segment of the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council held recently.

Since becoming a member of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2018 and as the first Pacific Small Island Developing State elected to the HRC, Fiji has participated in numerous

high level panel discussions and side events to shed light on the linkages and mutually dependent nature of upholding human rights everywhere and the sustainability of the environment.

Fiji has led the way in normalising conversations surrounding climate justice and human rights in such global platforms and spaces.

Fiji has further pledged to champion global recognition of the universal right to a safe and healthy environment.

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, affirmed the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as enshrined in the Fijian Constitution

which rendered the protection of the natural world as sacred to all Fijians.

He further affirmed that Fiji had safeguarded environmental protection as supreme law by taking the rights-based approach enshrined in our constitutional Bill of Rights.

Minister Reddy emphasised that a clean and healthy environment was the greatest gift that communities could give their children and their posterity.

To achieve this vision, he called for collective action and responsibility, stating, "No ecosystem can be kept safe unless all are. And the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for Fijians and all global citizens,

can only be secured through humanities collective commitment".

Other prominent speakers who spoke following the Minister Reddy's opening remarks included the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet.

He informed Ms Bachelet that Fiji is in total support of her leadership to secure the universal recognition of a right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all people and the time to act is now.

The Universal Rights Group is an independent think tank dedicated to analysing and strengthening global human rights policy. -news@govnet.gov.fj



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum (left), during the signing of Fiji's Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement between the Fijian Government and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (ERPA). Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Carbon-trading US\$12.5m to benefit resource owners

MEREANI GONEDUA

RESOURCE owners will soon benefit from a US\$12.5million (FJ\$25.4m) incentive payments through a benefit-sharing plan developed by the Fijian Government in collaboration with the World Bank.

This was highlighted in Parliament recently by Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum while elaborating on Fiji's Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement between the Fijian Government and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility or ERPA.

The A-G highlighted that Fiji is one of the 19 countries only in the world, accepted for funding under the Carbon Fund portfolio and is the first and only Pacific Island Country to enter into the carbon trade under this framework.

"The ERPA has identified an area of 37,282 hectares within 20 Districts, spread over the three islands of Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni, in which the emission reduction activities will be conducted.

"Those activities include the establishment of forests on degraded land; sustainable manage-

ment of designated timber production forests; total protection of intact existing natural forests; incorporation of trees into farming and agricultural systems; promotion of forest-based livelihood ventures as an alternative to forest attraction, such as ecotourism, beekeeping, agroforestry; and establishment of nurseries for high-valued native species of forests."

He stated that corporate bodies, such as the Fiji Pine Group of Companies and the Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited are already supporting the ERPA and have pledged to contribute to the establishment of forests as designated carbon sinks within their respective programs and as their corporate responsibility to reduce emissions and help Fiji combat climate change.

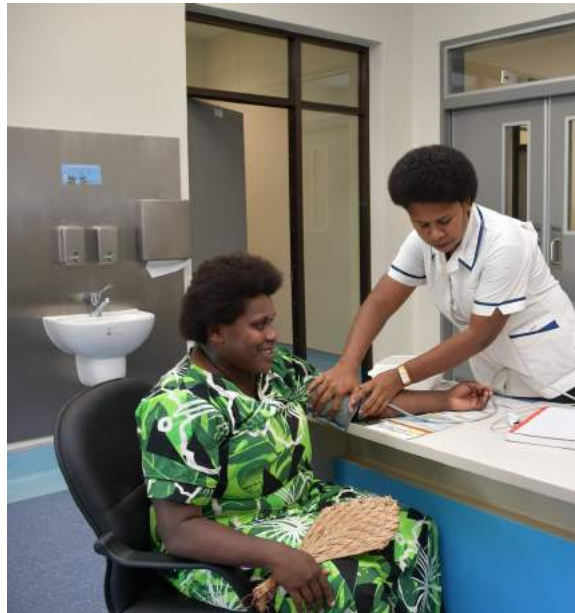
"The contracted volume of carbon dioxide emissions that Fiji is expected to sequester from those forest activities over the next five years is 2.5 million tonnes, which upon verification will yield a result-based payment of US\$12.5 million over the span of five years, divided into three trenches, which are as follows from 11th July, 2019 to 31st December, 2020 - 300,000 units; 1st January, 2021 to 31st December, 2022

- 1 million units; and from 1st January, 2023 to 31st December, 2024 - 1.2 million units."

The A-G stressed that the rights of property owners will be protected under the feedback grievance mechanism, the safeguard information system and a robust monitoring, reporting and verification system, which will be jointly administered by the Ministry of Forestry, iTaukei Lands Trust Board, the Provincial Councils, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Economy.

"From a policy perspective, ERPA further supports Fiji's commitment to various Agreements, Treaties and Conventions, particularly the commitment to reduce Fiji's GHG emissions by 30 percent by 2030 and the planting of 30 million trees in the next 10 years.

"At the end of the five-year ERPA Programme, Fiji will establish a reputable monitoring, reporting and verification system that will vigorously be tested in preparation for future carbon trade and competitive carbon markets, allowing us to build on our momentum and continue to tap into new carbon trading opportunities."



Hospital ensures quick access to health services

The new Navosa sub-divisional hospital in Keyasi Village will allow Fijians living in the province of Nadroga, Navosa and the highlands of Ba to get access to quality medical treatment without having to travel far. The Fijian Government believe that

Fijians living in remote or maritime areas should have the same access to urgent or emergency healthcare as anyone else in the country. This new hospital will serve 26 villages, 58 settlements, 11 kindergartens, 13 primary and two secondary schools.

The \$30m facility also includes a guest house for families who would be able to stay with their loved ones without having to bear the expenses of a hotel or transportation to and from their villages.

Photos: MEREANI GONEDUA



Village fire wardens end three-week training

The Fijian Government will stop at nothing to ensure that the safety of members of the public and that their properties are well protected from the devastating impact of fires. After undergoing three weeks of training, thirty-one men from the village of Yako, Nadroga, graduated as certified fire wardens under the Integrated Community Fire Warden and Emergency Response Framework. The fire wardens will now be able to undertake basic fire compliance within the village and carry out basic first aid before the National Fire Authority (NFA) arrives in any emergency.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Lease deal for roadside vendor

Twenty two roadside stall owners along the Sigatoka and Nadi corridor received their new lease agreement from the Minister of Commerce and Trade, Faliyaz Koya. Minister Koya said that it's been a great initiative for people that sell vegetables, flowers or pot plants along the Queens and Kings highway. The new lease agreement given to these stall owners is for two years.

Photos: RUPENI WAQAVONO



Faith group commended for their help

While launching the commemorative stamps for the Fiji Sevashram Sangha Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said "Your countless acts of compassion have had an impact too wide to capture in words. But to put it simply: Your commitment to service is exactly how great societies, and great nations, are built. Your work makes us all proud to call ourselves Fijians."

Secretary for Fiji Sevashram Sangha, Shri Manhar Narsey commended the

head of Government for his visionary leadership in Fiji, the region and around the world. The occasion marked milestones in two remarkable legacies; the 125th Birthday of their celebrated founder, Swami Pranavananda Maharaj and 20 years of service to the Fijian people by the Fiji Sevashram Sangha.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA





Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya with participants during the the 3rd Real Estate Agents Conference at the Warwick Resort. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Real estate agents urged to maintain professionalism

MEREANI GONEDUA

A TOTAL of 60 complaints relating to the conduct of agents were received and addressed by the Real Estate Agents Licensing Board in 2020.

This was brought to the fore by the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya while officiating at the 3rd Real Estate Agents Conference at the Warwick Resort recently.

“Bogus agents, failure to obtain consent from the rightful owner before advertising, failure to refund deposits and salesperson complaints against agents are the top issues.

“We want these issues to be in the foreground. And it must be addressed by the industry and the Government together to ensure the industry can operate at its full potential.

Minister Koya highlighted that whilst the Fijian Government continues to create an environment where Fijians are able to have access to affordable homes, the industry players need to conduct their duties with integrity and high professional standards.

“I want us all to remember our duty of care to the public, especially during this time. The real estate sector is suffering, but so are Fijians. So, we have to ensure to empathise and uphold integrity in our dealings.

“No matter how great the trade or commission, it is hard earned money that clients, our everyday Fijians, save to invest in homes and places of businesses. And we must not lose sight of this.

Minister Koya stated that while the real estate industry has endured its own share of challenges, it is important to note that the Ministry and REALB have been working collaboratively on a number of key projects.

“One priority is the review of

the Real Estate Agents Act 2006. The review is set to bring about positive reforms in the industry and strengthen professionalism and transparency.

“Continuing professional development is a vital component for agents and salespersons. I encourage you all to participate and keep yourselves abreast with the latest innovations and developments in the real estate sector. Soon, REALB will be introducing educational programs to agents and salespersons to ensure that they have acquired basic knowledge and understanding when dealing with their clients. This is to ensure that a minimum standard is achieved by an applicant before license is granted.”

The Minister stressed that in this financial year, REALB has been allocated funds to develop a database of real estate agents and salespersons for the whole country and through this, stakeholders will have information on the licensed real estate agents and salespersons, including any adverse reports against them.

“This will be a public database; it will create transparency and confidence in individuals who wish to deal with individual agents.

“As the Ministry responsible for consumer protection, I encourage you all to work together as an industry. To achieve this, you have to be familiar with the rules, regulations and procedures pertaining to property transactions and ensuring that consumer rights are protected. Competition is of course good for the market but only if it's healthy and in good spirit.”

“The role you play, as real estate agents, and your employees is vitally important to ensure the sector is able to bounce back and at the same time you are conducting yourself in a professional and ethical manner.



The new Commercial Business Centre in Nadi. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya has reiterated that the commitment of local investors is vital and necessary to give new strength to the Fijian economy.

Officiating at the opening of the Commercial Business Centre in Nadi recently, Minister Koya acknowledge the commitment shown by local investors and stressed that the Fijian Government will continue to do whatever it takes to enable business continuity now and in the future.

“Fiji has a prominent and vibrant future, when Fijians like Anwar invest in their country. It makes me think that, we, the Fijian Government, are doing something right to keep you and other Fijian investors firmly committed to our country.

“Your confidence in the Fijian economy, even during this time of the pandemic, sends out a positive indication to foreign investors.

“Let me assure you all, that your Government will continue to do whatever it takes to enable business continuity now and in the future. We remain within reach to assist you.

Minister Koya stated that the 2020-2021 National Budget has been tuned towards rebuilding Fiji again and getting Fijians back to work - with new quality of energy and responsibility.

“The National Budget includes several incentives to boost our retail sector – such as duties being slashed on 1,600 items, elimination of STT (service turnover tax), stamp duty and business licensing. We want to make it effortless for you to do business in Fiji.

“Also, the Fijian Government has implemented decisive reforms in the area of starting a business. Beginning with digitalisation of the business registration process, bringing tax registration online and now with the removal of business licensing.

Minister Koya stated that they are also looking at measures to ensure that the Fijian economy remains resistant.

“Therefore, under the Regulations of Building Permits Act 2017, a fast-tracked and streamlined approval process for obtaining a construction permit for commercial and industrial purpose has been established, through the Building Permits Evaluation Committee.”

“Over the year, we will work on the digitalisation of building permits application and approvals and starting a business process.

“These are some of the specific policies, provided by the budget, which will allow our economy to recover faster. You, the industry stalwarts, need to capitalise on the initiatives and incentives provided and help create new economic opportunities and jobs for Fijians.

The Minister also highlighted that the Commercial Business Park will be a center of activity for retail and commercial purpose, which will create employment, business activity and wider commercialism.

“It is quite unmistakable that your investment in Nadi is industrious and is a reassurance to other investors, that there is still hope during this time of the pandemic. I take this opportunity to wish you and your team well.”

Villagers reassured of new relocation site

FELIX LESINAIVALU

NABAVATU villagers have been reassured by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama on a new site for the relocation of their village.

Prime Minister Bainimarama visited the villagers of Nabavatu who are currently residing in the Assemblies of God Church in Dreketi, Macuata.

The Prime Minister also visited the village which was displaced after multiple climate-related disasters hit them within a span of two months which includes two cyclones, floods, earthquake, landslides, land cracks, and landslips.

District representative Eseroma Lava said the villagers are awaiting a decision from the Government on a new site for the relocation of their village.

Mr Lava added that he is thankful to the Fijian Government for the assistance given so far.

“We were looking forward to meet the Prime Minister to discuss the issues the villagers are facing and to discuss the new relocation site of the village.”

Mr Lava said that the villagers are living off the supplies given by Government but have also been planting their own food and harvesting from their plantations.

“We have brought most of the beddings, pillows and house materials to help us while we are living in the tents.”

“We are eager to work with Government in the rebuilding of the village and the relocation.”

Mr Lava added this has happened due to climate change because years back they would never have come across such disasters in their village.

The Head of Government has directed that a committee be formed to look into the relocation of the village.

Villagers were also advised to form a village committee and work closely with government officials in the identification of a piece of land which can be used for the relocation of Nabavatu.

PM Bainimarama also requested village elders to ensure the safety of women and children during their stay at the AOG church compound.

The 87 families of Nabavatu Village in Dreketi, Macuata have been displaced after multiple climate-related disasters hit them within a span of two months and 65 families have so far moved into temporary shelters set up by the Government at the Savadrua AOG Church premises in the last couple of days.

PM Bainimarama has also requested that the process of identifying and confirming the new site be done quickly so that villagers can move out of the tents.

The Republic of Fiji Military Forces engineers continue to erect makeshift tents for the villagers.



FELIX LESINAIVALU

STUDENTS, teachers, parents and guardians in the North were thankful and surprised when Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama visited the schools that were affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Ana.

After visiting nine schools on the first day of his tour in the North, Prime Minister Bainimarama continued his tour by visiting road slips and even more schools and to some, he delivered relief supplies.

Besides visiting the first nine schools, Prime Minister Bainimarama also visited Qalitu District School, Savusavu Secondary School, Daku Primary School, Nadogo Central College, Vunivitu Primary School, Navai Primary School, Vunimanuca Primary School, Seqaqa Primary School and Yadua Village School.

Daku Primary School committee member Jone Dakai said that

it was a pleasant surprise to see PM Bainimarama talking to the children as it lifted their morale and spirits.

“I would like to take this time to thank the Prime Minister for coming all the way here to Daku Primary School to visit us.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama visited the school to inspect the new roofing which was constructed by members of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces.

He also visited Nadogo Central College where he distributed

relief supplies for the 62 hostel students.

Nadogo Central College vice principal, Deepak Prasad, thanked the Fijian Government for the support and the supplies given to the school.

“We are very grateful, we have 62 students who are borders at the school who come from different places all over Nadogo, and with food an issue during these times, my sincere thanks goes to the Prime Minister and his entire team for providing re-

lief supplies to our schools.”

Whenever Prime Minister Bainimarama had the chance he would stop by classrooms to greet students and ask them how they were doing.

The Head of Government had also instructed Government Officials to quickly help the students to move out of the tents and back into suitable classrooms.

PM Bainimarama was happy that the students remain focused on education whether it is from the classroom or tent.

‘Education a priority’

FELIX LESINAIVALU

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama’s visit to Yadua Island was long awaited as the villagers were finally able to raise issues they were facing directly with the Head of Government.

On the last day of his recent Northern Tour to visit areas that were affected by Tropical Cyclone Ana and Yasa, Prime Minister Bainimarama visited Yadua Island.

PM Bainimarama visited Yadua Village School, as soon as he reached the island where he met with the students and teachers and got to see first-hand the damage done to the school.

He was moved by how the children were neatly dressed with their new uniforms with sandals and encouraged them to keep working hard.

PM Bainimarama also made the decision that Yadua Village School be relocated to an alternative location on the island.

According to Yadua Village headman Maleli Nawai, the school management were happy about the decision to relocate the school.

“The school is located near a slope and is risky when it rains heavily. We’re so thankful to the Government for the plans in place to relocate the school to a suitable location,” he said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said engineers from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and the officials from the Department of Lands



Minister for Infrastructure and Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources Jone Usamate with Yadua Village School students on Yadua Island in Vanua Levu. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

were sent to survey the relocation site for the school.

He added that the Fijian Government’s priority was to repair the classrooms so the children could go to school.

PM Bainimarama encouraged the children to work hard on their academics while urging parents and guardians to support the education of their children.

Yadua Village School head teacher Josaia Natuilagilagi said PM Bainimarama’s visit to the school brought joy to the students.

“We are so fortunate that we have been

given a lot of assistance like cornering exercise books, uniforms for the children, their sandals, the repairing of the school, tents and electrical equipment to kick start the 2021 academic year.”

Prime Minister also visited the Yadua Medical Centre and was accompanied by Minister for Rural, Maritime Development and Disaster Management and Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Inia Seruiratu and Minister for Infrastructure and Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources Jone Usamate.



Pay your rates: Kumar

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

RESIDENTS of Nasinu generate an average of 20,000 tonnes of solid waste per year with an annual cost of expelling the waste at \$2.4 million.

This would cost around 80 percent of Nasinu Town Council's total invoiced rates and garbage fees – provided it is paid by the rate-payers.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar while opening the Caubati Resource Recovery Facility at Topline Caubati.

"Ratepayers pay \$78.48 per bin and the total collection of waste per household per year is 172 collections- which includes three days per week for kitchen waste, monthly green waste collection and once a quarter for white goods.

Minister Kumar stated that it is a fact that the current garbage collection services are running at a loss and the garbage fee is under-priced.

"Each time garbage is collected from a household, the cost of collection is just 45 cents. The cost of garbage services has increased over the years and this is not reflected in the council garbage fees."

The Nasinu Town Council is also faced with the challenge of residents dumping waste on the roadside without following the collection



Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar while opening the Caubati Resource Recovery Facility at Topline Caubati. Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

schedule which causes further complications.

"Some rate-payers are not paying their rates or garbage fee but expect the service. In this financial year, government gave a grant of \$1.5 million to Nasinu Town Council for garbage collection to meet the shortfall," Minister Kumar stated. Nasinu Special Administrator chairman, Baskaran Nair stated that the

Council has been trying to educate communities to start practicing waste separation and create value from their waste, but this has not been successful as residents continue to dispose waste inappropriately.

Nasinu is the second highest populated municipality after Suva and is home to 11,252 rate payers with a total population of 92,043.

Facility will minimise solid waste

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE opening of the Caubati Resource Recovery Facility in Nasinu will enable residents to work in collaboration with relevant authorities to manage and control the disposal of solid wastes.

Of the 84 organisations that applied, the Nasinu Town Council was one of the five cities/towns chosen to be part of the UNESCAP's (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) and Sustainable Urban Resource Management (SURM) initiative in the Asia-Pacific region.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar, who officiated at the opening the facility at Caubati Topline, stated that in an effort to protect Fiji's environment, the Fijian Government is encouraging recycling and waste management business with a new tax incentive.

"The Fijian Government's intention is to see more waste management and more recycling facilities built in Fiji. The area around Naboro has been declared a tax-free zone where companies could set up their own recycling facilities. Companies operating in the Naboro zone would be granted an income tax exemption for capital investments, import duty exemption on raw materials, plant machinery and other equipment," Minister Kumar said.

The pilot project has enabled the construction and commissioning of the first ever public sector and community-led Resource Recovery Facilities, one of which is at Topline Caubati and the other is under construction in Makoi.

"These facilities were proposed based on the findings of a community-based research project and after a series of stakeholder consultations, including youth and private sector. This underscores the importance of all sectors working together in collaboration for better management of resources."

The chairperson of Nasinu Town Council special administrator, Baskaran Nair stated that the project was established in 2019 and carried out in two phases – Phase 1 from July–December 2019, and Phase 2 from December 2019 to April 2021.

"This project is fully-funded and managed in partnership with UNESCAP, Commonwealth Local Government Forum with a total investment of US\$90,000 (FJ\$182,033) in cash and kind. As this project started, the partnership further expanded to our local recyclers, rate payers, residents and other key stakeholders," Mr Nair stated.

The facility became operational from March 1, 2021.



Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar with members of the Soweri Youth Club during the handing over of farming equipment in Ba. Photo: SUPPLIED

Ministry puts youth interest to use

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE Ministry of Youth and Sports is assisting youth groups around the country through Youth Farm Initiatives to sustain themselves and their communities and to utilise their time well.

Minister for Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar handed over farming equipment to the Soweri Youth Club in Ba and encouraged the members to put the farming tools into good use.

Minister Kumar explained that when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Fiji, officers from

the ministry went around the country to meet with youth groups to enquire about the immediate needs that they thought the ministry could assist them with.

Most of these youth groups had requested for farming tools and equipment because there was land available for them to utilise.

"At that time we also found out that those who were working in towns and cities had moved to their villages and settlements. Therefore, we thought that this is the right time to engage with our youth and assist them," Minister Kumar said.

Soweri Youth Club vice president, Waisake

Kurivitu, extended his appreciation for the assistance provided to them by the Government.

"The farming tools will enable us to toil the land and money earned from the produce that we will harvest will be invested into our youth project for this year, and that is to install solar street lights in our community," Mr Kurivitu said.

It was also highlighted by Minister Kumar in Parliament recently that as of now, close to 2400 youth groups across the country have been assisted.



Fiji, JICA reaffirm commitment

STRENGTHENED partnership between Fiji and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will enhance progressive rebuilding and recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 and climate induced challenges.

These sentiments were articulated at a courtesy call received by the Acting Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Yogesh Karan from the new Resident Representative of JICA Fiji Office, Mayumi Amaike.

This coincided with a farewell courtesy call from the outgoing Resident Representative of JICA Fiji Office, Yukari Ono.

Mr Karan thanked JICA for its ongoing assistance to Fiji through infrastructure projects, funding for Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation, technical assistance in Disaster Risk Reduction and programs contributing to Fiji's socioeconomic development.

Recognising JICA's Volunteer programme, Mr Karan commended the work of JICA volunteers in their efforts to reach communities in Fiji.

In terms of the cooperation for COVID-19 response, Mr Karan said Fiji is currently working with its international development partners in the procurement of COVID-19 vaccine, whilst focusing on strategies for economic recovery and building back better.

In response, Ms Amaike said, "While the three priority areas of "Strengthening the Basics for Economic Growth" (especially Infrastructure and Fishery), "Climate Change and Environment", "Provision of Quality Social Service" (Health and Education) remain important, we will also work with our partners in Fiji in the COVID-19 pandemic fight.

"There are about 2,400 ex-participants of our programs in Japan. Since I have been in charge of training programs in Japan for the past several years, I would like to seek opportunities to collaborate with them in our programs.

"This is the 37th year of JICAs bilateral cooperation with Fiji, in terms of economic and social development. "We are grateful for the trust developed overtime with the Fijian Government and its people. Although we are in a difficult time with the pandemic, JICA looks forward to continuing working closely together with the Fijian People," Ms Amaike said.

Ms. Ono shared the same sentiments and said that it has been a great honour for her to serve as a first female resident representative of JICA Fiji office, in its 37 years operation.

"I'd like to express my hearty appreciation to the Fijian Government and people of Fiji for the kindness rendered to me and all the JICA related personnel. I hope that this cordial relationship will be strengthened and continue into the future."

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Employees acknowledged for their dedication

AZARIA FAREEN

STAFF of the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) were commended for their dedication and tireless efforts during the organisation's Annual Awards Night 2020 recently.

In acknowledging their commitment, Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya thanked the staff for making a difference in people's lives through their work.

"Your vision, enthusiasm, passion, flexibility, determination and resilience are what makes this organisation and drives it towards success," he said.

"Dedication and hard work, coupled with the strategic leadership has been key to achieving unprecedented levels of success and I commend the leadership and guidance of the chair, board and CEO in moulding FCCC into its best form. To be part of such an important organisation means willingness to devote yourself fully to realizing the objectives of the Commission and making the vision of the Fijian Government a reality," Minister Koya added.



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya (third from left), thanked the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) for making a difference in people's lives through their work. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

FCCC chief executive officer Joel Abraham also commended the staff for their tremendous efforts in accomplishing their goals for the last financial year.

"I know this pandemic has affected all of us, not just professionally but at a personal level and I can tell you that it has been a hard year, but I am so very proud of all of you," he said.

"It's important to demonstrate that a team is truly noted for their commitment and showing that we

understand the struggles we go through every day. FCCC held the line when things were at their most hectic and everyone was still adjusting. FCCC developed a business continuity plan, a preparedness plan, workplace guidance and employment advisory – not just for our office but to provide assistance to the Fijian businesses that did not have a plan in place," he added.

Mr Abraham adds that FCCC also developed advisories for the

transportation sector, especially for bus, taxi and other public services operators to focus on personal hygiene, vehicle management and cleaning of ventilation systems to further keep Fiji safe.

The staff of FCCC also pooled in their Employees Annual Leave Pledge worth more than \$13,000 which went towards the Prime Minister's National Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation Fund to assist those affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Ana.

Health ministry receives timely boost

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services received over 22,220 Cepheid GeneXpert test kits from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete while thanking UNICEF and ADB said the Ministry of Health team will continue to work hard in protecting everyone in Fiji through this pandemic.

"The 22,200 Cepheid GeneXpert test kits is estimated to be US\$439,560 (approx. FJ\$895,234.21) will strengthen the capacity to screen samples through the borders and high risk communities as well," Dr Waqainabete said.

The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests are extremely accurate, and work by quickly identifying the unique genetic profile of the COVID-19 virus. This will help build the capacity of the local health system to manage COVID-19 cases as well as limit transmission.

Minister Waqainabete added that the timely donation will ensure increasing surveillance through communities across Fiji and will boost confidence among our neighbours on the safety of our



From left: Asian Development Bank (ADB) Pacific Sub-regional Office in Fiji regional director, Masayuki Tachiiri, Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Pacific Representative, Sheldon Yett with the Cepheid GeneXpert test kits. **Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU**

shore as a tourist destination going forward.

"I am very grateful to our donor partners for their esteemed effort in availing these test kits to the Ministry."

"Fiji has gone through a challenging period in the midst of COVID-19 with two destructive natural disasters and it is a sigh of relief to the Ministry of Health and the Fijian Government to receive such support."

ADB's Pacific Sub-regional Office in Fiji regional director, Masayuki Tachiiri said moving

forward towards COVID-19 recovery, testing will become increasingly important and the testing kits are a vital tool to help stop the virus in its tracks.

"We will continue to work with our partners to help Pacific countries better respond to COVID-19."

UNICEF Pacific Representative, Sheldon Yett, said "These COVID-19 testing kits will support frontline healthcare workers in Fiji to safely provide services to the community to ensure that any potential cases are immediately

detected".

Mr Yett further added that UNICEF appreciates the Fijian Government's leadership in strengthening the critical services that healthcare workers provide.

ADB provided 20,000 of the test kits, while UNICEF provided the remaining 2,220.

The kits were financed through an ADB grant of USD7.9 million (FJ\$15.97m) to UNICEF to support Pacific Island countries in their preparedness and response plans for COVID-19 as well as UNICEF core resources.



Investment in Buildings for Use by Government or Government Entities

IN the 2020/2021 National Budget, the Fijian Government announced a new incentive package for private companies investing in buildings to be used by government or any entities approved by government.

This investment package is only available to those starting this Project on or after 1 August 2020.

In this week's Tax Talk, we will focus on the policy and operational practice in relation to the private sector investment in buildings to be used by government or any entities approved by government. This incentive is granted in two stages including provisional and final approval.

PROVISIONAL APPROVAL

Applications for provisional approval needs to be lodged with the Minister for Economy with the following details:

- ☐ the name and details of the person;
- ☐ a current statement of all assets and liabilities of the person;
- ☐ the location and description of the proposed building site;
- ☐ a sketch showing the project;
- ☐ the estimated cost of the project;
- ☐ if the project is to be carried out in stages, a description and the estimated cost, of each stage and details of the proposed timetable;
- ☐ evidence of the person's ability to undertake the project;
- ☐ details of the proposed method of financing the project;
- ☐ estimates of the projected rental income of the person;
- ☐ evidence that the Government or an entity approved by the Government has given the person a written undertaking to use the building on completion of the project; and
- ☐ any other information the Minister may require.

The following factors will be considered for provisional approval:

I. Assets and liabilities of the applicant- it is important for the applicant to provide the details and the market value of his/her asset and liabilities endorsed by the external recognized auditor.

II. Nature and the extent of the project- the following documents are required:

- ☐ The type of ownership of land on which building will be constructed;
- ☐ Building plan approved by the required authority;
- ☐ Scope of work;
- ☐ Estimated project cost;
- ☐ Contractors and sub-contractors that will undertake the work;
- ☐ Estimated date of completion of the project;
- ☐ Contractors and sub-contractors that will undertake the work; and
- ☐ Estimated date of completion of the project.

III. Any other information that the Minister may consider relevant.

Duty Concession Importation of Raw Material and Capital Goods

Once the provisional approval is granted, companies or entities engaged in government building investment projects will be entitled to exemption from fiscal and excise duty on importation of raw materials, capital equipment, plant, machinery and any

other goods used for production of other goods that will be used in the construction of the building excluding furniture and motor vehicles.

However, 9 percent Value Added Tax (VAT) will apply on the importation of exempt goods. Evidence must be provided that these goods cannot be produced locally as approval may not be given to goods that can be produced locally.

Disposal of Imported Goods Under Duty Concession

In accordance to section 17 of the Customs Tariff Act 1986, any capital goods imported under the duty concession for the purpose of the Government Building Investment Incentive is being disposed or used for any other purpose apart from the Government Building Investment Incentive within 5 years from the date of importation or delivered from warehouse will be liable for the import duty at the rate on the value subsisting at the date of disposal or goods may be put to other use as determined by

the Comptroller (FRCS CEO).

Additionally, any person who disposes the goods imported under the concession or uses the goods for any other purpose apart from Government Building Investment Incentive project, must pay the duty with a report as required by the Comptroller within 14 days.

Failure to pay the duty within 14 days may result in maximum of \$25,000 fine or 10 years' imprisonment or both and forfeiture of goods. Any person who knowingly acquires, uses or otherwise deals with the goods imported under this concession within 5 years from the date of importation of such goods is liable for maximum \$25,000 fine or 10 years' imprisonment or both and forfeiture of goods.

The concession can be transferred from one concession holder to another concession holder with the approval from the Comptroller.

Completion of Project and Final Approval

Applicants granted with provisional approval and has completed the project, need

to apply for final approval with the following documents:

- ☐ fully audited final accounts showing the total cost of the project;
- ☐ a final plan showing the site, layout and surrounding areas of the project;
- ☐ a certificate of completion; and
- ☐ permit to occupy issued by a building surveyor in accordance with the Public Health (Building) Regulations 1959, as applicable.

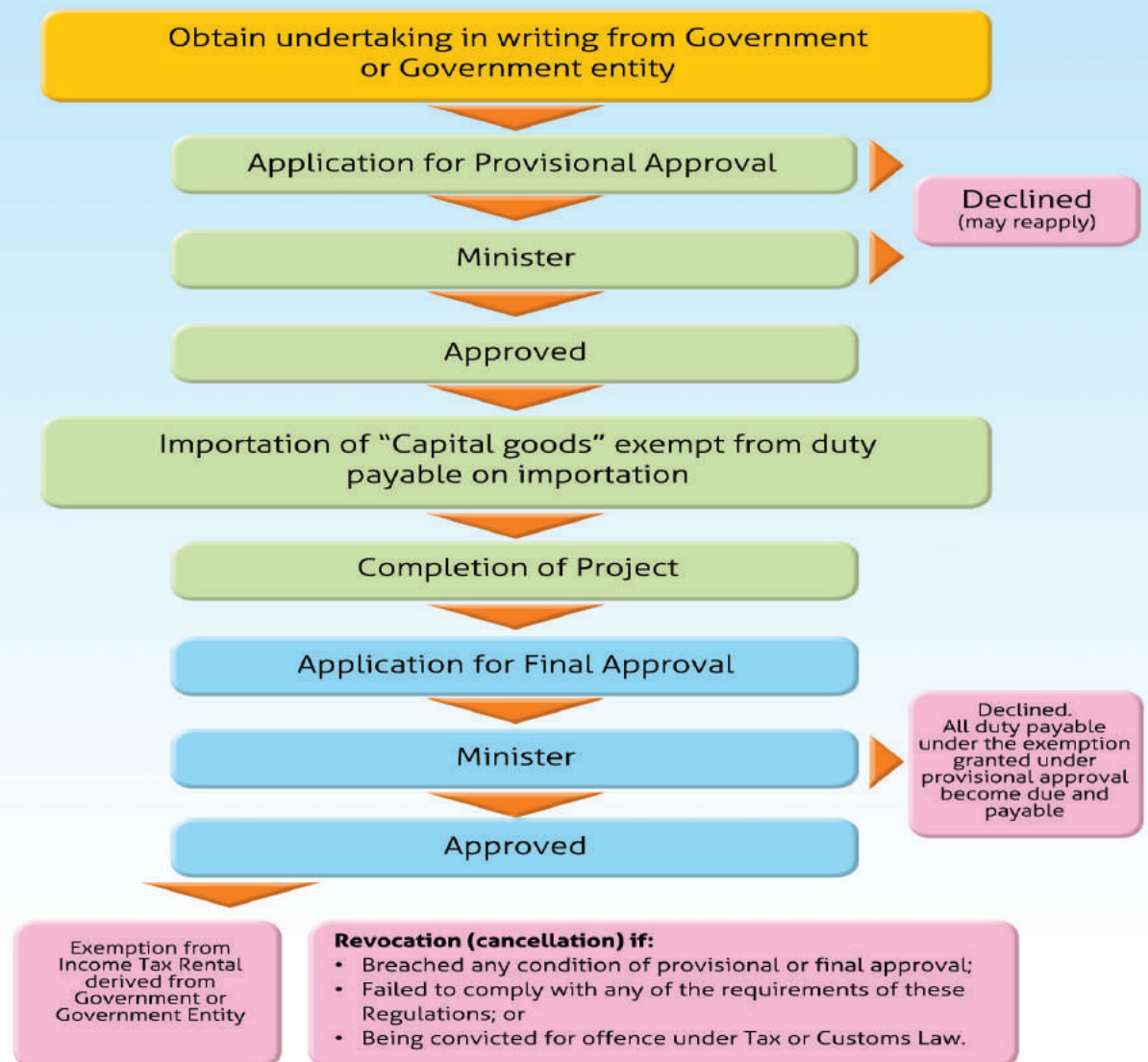
This incentive can be revoked or cancelled in the case of:

- ☐ a breach of any condition of provisional or final approval;
- ☐ failure to comply with any of the requirements of Income Tax Act (Government Building Investment Incentive) Regulation 2020; or
- ☐ being convicted of an offence under any written law relating to taxation, customs or excise.

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

FIJI REVENUE AND CUSTOMS SERVICES

Investment in Buildings for use by Government or Government Entities.



For more information, call us on 1326 or email info@frcs.org.fj



FIJI REVENUE AND CUSTOMS SERVICE



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Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing Inia Seruiratu, New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji Jona than Curr and UNDP Team Leader for Effective Governance, Nanise Saune-Qaloewai with members of the security forces during the launch of the Nationwide Public Consultations on the Draft Police Bill 2020. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Police Powers

Nationwide consultations on the draft bill for law enforcers

AZARIA FAREEN

ALL Fijians now have the opportunity to voice their opinion and make submissions with the launch of the Nationwide Public Consultations on the Draft Police Bill 2020 earlier this week.

In launching the public consultation, Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing Inia Seruiratu said this is “a crucial step to the overall review of the Police Act issued in 1965”.

“The Public Consultation phase is extremely important, because we need to adequately capture and take into consideration the interests, concerns and voices of every Fijian,” Minister Seruiratu said.

“As our leading law enforcement agency, the Fiji Police Force needs an enabling foundation that not only assists them in the work that they are constitutionally mandated to do but which will greatly enhance our national efforts to effectively respond to the rapidly evolving criminal landscape,” he added.

“The draft bill aims to provide additional enforcement powers to the Fiji Police Force to effectively address new forms of crime, provide legal powers to use modern technological aids to combat complex and organized crimes, and institute deterrent penalties in comparison to the outdated penalties currently in force.”

“I want to gather as many submissions as possible and I am pleased to announce that the review team will be moving out to twenty-one centres across Fiji and also to rural and maritime areas such as Rotuma, the Yasawa Group of Islands, Kadavu, Ovalau, Taveuni and the Lau Group to receive your proposals,” he added.

Minister Seruiratu thanked the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Program

for funding this public consultation on two platforms – online platform and face to face consultation which will commence on 8 March, 2021.

New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji, Jonathan Curr said public consultations on the Draft Police Bill provides an excellent opportunity for the general Fijian public to democratically express their views on current operations of the Fiji Police Force.

“The UNDP, New Zealand Police and the Fiji Police Force have been working closely together to establish and embark on an ambitious and exciting police partnership programme for over four years,” he said.

“The wider programme aims to support the Fiji Police Force in four shared priority areas of support – transnational organized crime, investigation skills, financial crime and proceeds of crime recovery, and leadership development and governance.”

Speaking at the event, UNDP Team Leader for Effective Governance, Nanise Saune-Qaloewai said, “the current Police Act passed in 1965 needs to be brought into the 21st century, and take into account positive standards and best practices from international treaties to which Fiji is committed, and take advantage of the opportunities modern technology affords the Fiji Police Force to better carry out its duties and mandate”.

“The ministry is travelling to reach out to citizens residing in remote island communities or the interior of Fiji. Online modality will also enable citizens to submit their opinions whenever and wherever convenient to them and when they have internet connection.”

Members of the community who are unable to provide their comments face to face will be able to provide their comments virtually through the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Policing website on www.defence.gov.fj



From Left: New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji Jonathan Curr, Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing Inia Seruiratu and UNDP Team Leader for Effective Governance, Nanise Saune-Qaloewai at the launch of the Nationwide Public Consultations on the Draft Police Bill 2020 earlier this week. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

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प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमरामा पिछले शनिवार को फीजी सेवाश्रम संघ के स्मारक स्टैम्प का विमोचन करते हुए, संघ के सदस्यों तथा पोस्ट फीजी लिमिटेड के अधिकारियों के साथ चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

सेवाश्रम संघ की सराहना

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमरामा ने फीजी सेवाश्रम संघ के योगदान की प्रशंसा की है जो पिछले बीस सालों में फीजीवासियों की सहायता करते आ रहे हैं।

पिछले शनिवार को सेवाश्रम संघ के स्मारक स्टैम्प का विमोचन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि संघ के अनगिनत नेक कामों से कई लोगों को राहत मिली है जो शब्दों में बयान करना मुश्किल है।

“सेवा के प्रति आपकी प्रतिबद्धता वास्तव में महान समाजों तथा महान देशों का निर्माण करती है,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

“आपका काम देखकर हमें अपने आपको फीजीवासी कहते हुए गर्व महसूस हो रहा है। आपने फीजीवासियों की मदद यह देखकर नहीं की कि वे कौन हैं बल्कि यह देखकर कि वे किन कठिनाईयों का सामना कर रहे हैं। हम जातीय, धर्म और प्रांत नाम पर अलग होने का नतिजा देख चुके हैं तथा इसने राष्ट्र

की भलाई के लिए एकता में रहना और किसी को पीछे न छोड़ना सिखाया है,” प्रधानमंत्री ने संघ के सदस्यों से कहा। कोरोनावायरस महामारी तथा अन्य आपातकालीन स्थिति के चलते फीजी सेवाश्रम संघ ने समाज में कई कमज़ोर लोगों को भोजन दिया, घर बनवाए तथा बच्चों को किताबें दीं। उत्तरी विभाग में सेवाश्रम संघ की समुद्री आँधी की राहत सहायता तीसरे चरण में जारी है। इस संस्था के सदस्य होने के नाते आपके काम का कोई मोल नहीं है। “हमें फीजीवासियों

को कम नहीं समझना चाहिए कि वे अपने देशवासियों और दुनिया के लिए कुछ नहीं कर सकते। जलवायु परिवर्तन हमारी नेतागिरी से दुनिया के कोने-कोने में लोगों के जीवन में अच्छा बदलाव आ रहा है। यह एक बेहतर रास्ता है जो मानवता और प्राकृतिक दुनिया के बीच से होते हुए अमन की ओर जाता है। सिर्फ एक साथ ही, हम एक वैश्विक समाज के रूप में लोगों और ग्राह के लिए उस महान उपलब्धि को सुरक्षित कर सकते हैं।



स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफिरैमी वेंगाईनबेते आईशियन डिवेलोपमन्ट बैंक तथा युनिसेफ से दान में मिले टेस्ट किट्स स्वीकार करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

बच्चों द्वारा की गई हिंसा बरदाश्त नहीं की जाएगी



शिक्षा मंत्री रैज़ी अकबर चित्र:प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने सभी विद्यार्थियों को याद दिलाया है कि वे स्कूल में या उसके बाहर अनुचित व्यवहार न करें। हालही नान्दी में एक स्कूल के छात्र मार-पीट में शामिल हुए थे जिसके बाद मंत्रालय ने यह बयान निकाला है।

मंत्रालय ने माता-पिताओं तथा अन्य नागरिकों से माँग की है कि वे अपनी भूमिकाएँ निभाए ताकि स्कूल या उसके बाहर बच्चों द्वारा हिंसात्मक व्यवहार न हो।

मंत्री रैज़ी अकबर का कहना है कि बच्चों को अनुशासन में रखने की चिन्ता केवल माता-पिताओं और अध्यापकों की नहीं होनी चाहिए।

उन्होंने आम जनता से माँग की है कि वे संदेशों को लेकर और ज़्यादा चौकस रहे जब शौशल मिडिया पर इस तरह के विडियो भेजे जाएं। इस घटना के बारे में छानबीन की जाएगी तथा जो छात्र इसमें शामिल थे उनपर कड़ी कार्यवाही की जाएगी तथा हम इस तरह के व्यवहार को बरदाश्त नहीं करेंगे।

मंत्रालय लगातार स्कूली घण्टों में छात्रों के आचरण पर निगरानी रख रहा है तथा बच्चों के व्यवहार पर काबू रखने के लिए मंत्रालय फीजी पुलिस फोर्स के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहा है।

माता-पिताओं को अधिक सतर्क रहना चाहिए और इस बात का ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि घर पर बच्चों से इस बारे में बातचीत होती रहे ताकि ऐसी घटनाओं में कमी आए और ऐसे मामलों पर काबू पाया जाए। शिक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि अगर किसी विद्यार्थी को ऐसा कोई कदम उठाने पाया गया जो स्टुडन्ड कोड ऑफ कोन्डक्ट का उल्लंघन करता हो फिर चाहे वो स्कूल के प्रांगण में हो या बाहर, उसको स्टुडन्ड विहईविया मनेजमन्ट पोलिसी के तहत कड़ी सज़ा दी जाएगी। हम किसी भी तरह से बरदाश्त नहीं करेंगे कि बच्चे अनुशासन तोड़े तथा सभी विद्यार्थियों को याद दिलाया जा रहा है कि वे अनुशासन नितियों तथा आदेशों का पालन करें।

जो विद्यार्थी स्कूल युनिफॉर्म में लड़ाई-झगड़ा करेंगे वो स्कूल से सस्पेन्ड कर दिया जाएगा क्योंकि स्कूलों में हिंसा बिल्कुल भी बरदाश्त नहीं की जाएगी।

माता-पिताओं तथा बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों से माँग की गई है कि वे अपने बच्चों से बातें करें कि स्कूल के अन्दर और बाहर क्या हो रहा है।

टेस्ट किट्स दान में मिले

रोनल देव

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय इस महामारी के दौरान फीजी में सभी को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए लगातार कड़ी मेहनत कर रहा है।

हालही वतुवांगा स्थित फीजी फामासियुटिकल तथा बायोमेडिकल

सेविस पर आईशियन डिवेलोपमन्ट बैंक और युनिसेफ से बाईस हजार दो सौ (22,200) टेस्ट किट्स स्वीकार करते हुए स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफिरैमी वेंगाईनबेते ने ऐसा कहा। इस टेस्ट किट का नाम

सेफिएट जेने एक्सपेट (Cepheid GeneXpert) है। अनुमान है कि

इन टेस्ट किट्स की कीमत करीब नौ लाख फीजियन डॉलर है जिसकी मदद से सीमा पर आने वालों तथा जोखिम वाले समुदाय में लोगों के परीक्षण किए जा सकते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि सेफिएट जेने एक्सपेट (Cepheid GeneXpert) टेस्ट किट कम समय में परिणाम देते

हैं अगर किसी व्यक्ति को कोरोना वायरस होने का शक है। “फीजी भारी चुनौती से गुज़र रहा है जबकि कोविड-19 महामारी के बावजूद, दो समुद्री आँधियों ने यहाँ भारी क्षति पहुँचाई तथा यह सहयोग मिलने से स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय और फीजियन सरकार को काफी राहत मिली है।

अध्यापको, माता-पिताओं से अच्छा नमूना बनने की माँग

रोनल देव

अध्यापकों और माता-पिताओं को बच्चों के लिए एक अच्छा उदाहरण बनना चाहिए।

हालही वातुवांगा प्राथमरी स्कूल में शिक्षा मंत्री रैज़ी अकबर ने प्रीफेक्ट्स इंडक्शन समारोह के दौरान उपस्थित माता-पिताओं को याद दिलाया कि न तो अध्यापक या न ही माता-पिता, माता-पिताओं की जगह ले सकते हैं क्योंकि बच्चों की जिन्दगी में माता-पिताओं की जगह अलग है।

“मंत्रालय और अध्यापक हर सम्भव कोशिश करके बच्चों को उच्च शिक्षा प्रदान करने के अलावा उन्हें नशीले पदार्थों तथा दुरुपयोग से दूर रखेंगे। मैं यह सहन नहीं करूँगी कि कोई अध्यापक किसी छात्र पर हाथ उठाए। हमें उस भरोसे को कायम रखना है जो माता-पिताओं ने हमपर रखा है,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा।

उन्होंने प्रीफेक्ट्स को बधाई दी और उन्हें याद दिलाया कि उनकी ज़िम्मेदारियाँ बढ़ गई हैं तथा उन्हें यह ज़िम्मेदारियाँ उच्च सम्पर्ण के साथ निभाने की ज़रूरत है।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि वो चाहती है कि आगे चलकर ये प्रीफेक्ट्स नेता बने और देश का नेतृत्व करें। वतुवांगा प्राथमरी स्कूल के विद्यार्थियों को बधाई और शुभकामनाएँ देती हुई उन्होंने जोर दिया कि वो देखना चाहती है कि बच्चे स्कूल में खुश रहें।

उन्होंने छात्रों से माँग की कि वे अपने माता-पिताओं के बलिदान को कभी न भूले। शिक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि विद्यार्थियों को एक बात याद रखनी है कि उन्हें अपनी नई भूमिका में भी अपने माता-पिताओं की बात सुननी है।

“अपने बच्चों को स्कूल भेजने में माता-पिताओं को कई तरह से बलिदान देना पड़ता है तथा यह ज़रूरी है कि बच्चे शुक्रगुज़ार होना सीखें,” मंत्री ने कहा।

उन्होंने आगे कहा कि फीजियन सरकार ने माता-पिताओं की सहायता के लिए कई सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था की है जबकि सरकार नहीं चाहती कि माता-पिता बच्चों को स्कूल भेजने में जेब से ज़्यादा पैसे खर्च करें।

उन्होंने विद्यार्थियों के नए नेताओं से माँग की कि वे अपने बेज के महत्व को समझे जिसे वे पहने हुए हैं।



शिक्षा मंत्री रैज़ी अकबर वतुवांगा प्राथमरी स्कूल में एक छात्र को प्रीफेक्ट का बेज लगाकर बधाई देती हुई चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



“एकता में हम मज़बूत हैं”

रोनल देव

फीजी के प्रधानमंत्री तथा इस साल प्रशान्तीय द्वीपों के फौरम के सभापति चोसईया वोरिन्गे बर्डिनमारामा ने माएकोनैशियन नेताओं से माँग की है कि वे प्रशान्त के एक परिवार के रूप में विकास के मुद्दों और अन्य संकटों से निपटने के लिए आगे बढ़ने में बाकी प्रशान्तीय नेताओं के साथ एकजुटता में खड़े हों। औपचारिक रूप से फौरम छोड़ने के लिए जबकि माएकोनैशियन नेताओं के लिए एक योजना तैयार की गई है तो ऐसे में प्रधानमंत्री बर्डिनमारामा ने कहा कि प्रशान्तीय द्वीपों के फौरम के पचास सालों के इतिहास में हमारे नेतृत्व की क्षेत्रीयता की प्राकृतिक जटिलताओं द्वारा परखा गया है। “किसी एक परिवार की तरह, हमारे बीच मतभेद हैं लेकिन हजारों सालों से एक तरह की संस्कृति, परम्पराओं और इतिहास के कारण हम जल्द से एक बार फिर साथ जुड़ जाते हैं। सामान्य चुनौतियों और एक सामान्य नियत वाले राष्ट्रों

के रूप में हमने जो कुछ भी हासिल किया है उसपर हमें गर्व होना चाहिए। जलवायु परिवर्तन की तरह हमारे सामने मौजूद खतरों के कारण हम एक ही आवाज़ में एकजुट होकर माँग करते हैं कि हमारे बच्चों का भविष्य ऐसा होना चाहिए जिसके वे हकदार हैं। “हमारी आवाज़ आज इतनी बुलन्द हो गई है कि दुनिया इसे नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं कर सकती। आज जबकि हमारे सामने जलवायु परिवर्तन तथा समुद्र का तथा कोरोनावायरस महामारी की वजह से जो आर्थिक मंदी हुई है तो हमारी एकता ही सबसे बड़ी ताकत है। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि अब जबकि अमरिका भी जलवायु परिवर्तन पर बातचित को प्राथमिकता देने लगा है तो ऐसे में रेशनी की किरण नज़र आ रही है कि दुनिया का एक शक्तिशाली देश भी अन्य देशों की सूची में शामिल होगा। “मैंने अमरिकी राष्ट्रपति जो बाएडन को इसी साल अगस्त में प्रशान्तीय नेताओं के सम्मेलन में भाग लेने के लिए आमंत्रित किया है।

प्रधानमंत्री ने माएकोनैशियन नेताओं को अपना गहरा सम्मान व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि उन्हें इस घोषणा से काफी दुख पहुँचा है कि ये नेता प्रशान्तीय नेताओं के सम्मेलन से निकलना चाहते हैं। “हमें उम्मीद है कि आपको पता होगा कि हमारे घर के दरवाज़े आपके लिए हमेशा खुले हैं तथा मैं आपसे माँग करता हूँ कि आप अपने फैसले पर फिर से विचार करें, बाकी नेताओं के साथ मिलकर काम करें ताकि लम्बे समय के लिए समझौता का कोई हल निकल सके। हम एक परिवार हैं तथा मैं आपको आशवासन देना चाहता हूँ कि फीजीवासियों तथा अन्य प्रशान्तीय देशों के निवासी अपने भविष्य के लिए हमेशा लड़ेंगे जैसे हम अपनों के लिए लड़ते हैं। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि सम्मेलन के चेयरमैन होने के नाते वो माएकोनैशियन नेताओं को इस साल सूवा में होने जा रहे प्रशान्तीय नेताओं के सम्मेलन में खुद हिस्सा लेने के लिए आमंत्रित कर रहे हैं।



प्रधानमंत्री वोरिन्गे बर्डिनमारामा चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

वोटरवैज मंत्रालय की मदद से किसान राहत की साँस ले रहे हैं

रोनल देव

किसानों को लगातार खेतों के आसपास नालों पर काम करने में सहयोग मिलने से कृषि उत्पादनों में वृद्धि देखी गई है। सोलोवी नान्दी के चौतिस (34) वर्षिए एक किसान धन राज सिंह ने हालही पश्चिमी विभाग में कृषि, वोटरवैस तथा वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी के साथ बातचीत में ऐसा कहा। सिंह ने कहा कि बारह अक्कड़ ज़मीन में बारिश के मौसम में खेती करना बहुत मुश्किल काम था क्योंकि खेतों में पानी रूक जाता था। उनके अनुसार यह एक बहुत बड़ी चुनौती थी जहाँ वो बारिश के मौसम में पाँच अक्कड़ ज़मीन इस्तेमाल नहीं कर पाते थे।



कृषि, वोटरवैज तथा वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी हालही नान्दी में किसानों से मुलाकात करने के दौरान

चित्र: कृषि मंत्रालय

“कई बार मैं सही मौसम में फसल बोने और काटने में पीछे रह जाता था क्योंकि खेतों में पानी भरा रहता था। जिस पाँच अक्कड़ ज़मीन में पानी भरा रहता था, उसे सूखने में समय लगता था तब जाकर वहाँ कुछ बोया जा सकता था।

सिंह ने कहा कि हालही बारिश के मौसम में उनकी काफी फसलें नष्ट हुई क्योंकि खेतों में पानी भर गया था। “अब जबकि वोटरवैस मंत्रालय ने खेत के पास नालों पर काम किया है तो मैं पुरे बारह अक्कड़ ज़मीन में खेती कर सकता हूँ जिससे कृषि

उत्पादन में वृद्धि देखी गई है,” सिंह ने कहा। फिलहाल, मंत्री रेड्डी ने देश भर के किसानों को आशवासन दिया है कि उन्हें नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं किया जाएगा तथा कृषि उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए तुरन्त प्रतिक्रिया दी जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि वोटरवैस मंत्रालय

देश भर के अन्य किसानों की मदद करना जारी रखेगा और ध्यान में रखेगा कि सभी नाले साफ हो ताकि उनके खेतों के उत्पादन पर असर न पड़े। देश भर में नालों पर बहुत काम हुआ है तथा यह अभी खत्म नहीं होगा। मंत्रालय, समाज, कोरो और सेटलमन्ट्स की माँग पर काम कर रहा है।

पहला घर बनाने के लिए और भी लोगों को मदद मिली

रोनल देव

हाउजिंग मंत्रालय के फेस्ट हउम औनाशिप सुविधा के नीचे इस आर्थिक साल में अभी तक तीन सौ चौतिस (334) लोगों को फेस्ट हउम तथा फेस्ट लेन्ड ग्रान्ट कार्यक्रम के माफित सहायता दी गई है। 2020/2021 राष्ट्रीय बजट में जो पैसे अलग किए गए थे उसमें से पाँच मिलियन डोलर भरे गए हैं। मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार का कहना है कि पहला घर खरीदने या बनाने वाली सुविधा के इस कार्यक्रम के लिए इस साल के राष्ट्रीय बजट में ज़्यादा पैसे निकाले गए थे ताकि देश के कोन्सट्रक्शन क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा दिया जाए और यह देखा गया है कि कई फीजीवासियों ने इससे फायदा उठाया है। कम और मध्य आमदनी वर्ग के फीजीवासियों को योग्य घर प्रदान करने के इरादे से 2014 में फेस्ट हउम सुविधा की शुरुआत हुई थी। तब से लेकर अभी तक मंत्रालय ने दो हजार नौ सौ अठहत्तर (2,978) फीजीयन परिवारों की मदद

की है तथा उन्हें कुल अट्ठाईस दशमलौ छः (28.6) मिलियन डोलर दिया गया है। “सालाना पचास हजार डोलर या उससे कम कमाने वाले परिवार को इस साल सरकार से पहला घर बनाने के लिए ग्रान्ट को पंद्रह हजार डोलर से बढ़ाकर तीस हजार डोलर कर दिया गया है। सरकार का इरादा था कि आर्थिक हालत ठीक न होने के बावजूद लोग इस ग्रान्ट को डिपोज़िट की तरह उपयोग करके अपने सपनों का घर बनाने के लिए कर्ज़ लेंगे। पचास हजार डोलर (\$50,000) या उससे कम आमदनी कमाने वालों की श्रेणी में दो सौ बाईस (222) परिवारों को इस कार्यक्रम के नीचे अपना पहला घर बनाने के लिए सहायता मिली है,” मंत्री कुमार ने कहा। मंत्री के अनुसार इस कार्यक्रम के नीचे जो सहायता दी गई है से अर्जी लगाने वालों को बेन्कों से ब्यालिस मिलियन डोलर (\$42 million) लागत कर्ज़ लेने में मदद मिली जिससे

आर्थिक गतिविधियों के अवसर पैदा हुए। इस कार्यक्रम के द्वारा जितना पैसा ग्रान्ट में दिया गया है उससे दस गुना ज़्यादा फायदा अर्थ-व्यवस्था को हुआ है। इस बात पर गौर करना ज़रूरी है कि इस कार्यक्रम से कोन्सट्रक्शन क्षेत्र और सप्लाइ चैन में नौकरियाँ उपलब्ध होती हैं तथा भारी संख्या में फीजीवासियों को इससे लाभ होता है,” मंत्री कुमार ने कहा। मंत्री के अनुसार इस साल पहला घर बनाने के लिए ग्रान्ट सहायता कार्यक्रम का पैसा पूरी तरह से लोगों को भर दिया गया है तथा बाकी अर्ज़ियों पर अगले साल बजट को मध्यनज़र रखते हुए गौर किया जाएगा। “हमने बेन्कों तथा अन्य संस्थाओं को लिखित में सलाह दी है कि जिन लोगों ने इस साल अर्जी दी थी लेकिन उन्हें सहायता नहीं मिली है को अगले साल सहायता देने का विचार है। चौरान्बे (94) लोगों ने पिछले साल अर्जी दी थी लेकिन उन्हें इस साल जाकर सहायता मिली है,” मंत्री

कुमार ने कहा। अपना पहला घर बनाने के लिए एक सौ बयासी (182) लोगों को ग्रान्ट मिला, पहला घर खरीदने के लिए एक सौ बारह तथा पहली ज़मीन खरीदने के लिए चालिस लोगों को ग्रान्ट दिया गया। पहली ज़मीन खरीदने वाले ग्रान्ट की अर्जी अभी भी स्वीकार की जा है। बेन्कों से माँग की गई है कि वे ग्रान्ट का पैसा मंत्रालय को वापस कर दे अगर घर बनाने के लिए ग्रान्ट हासिल करने वालों ने अपनी योजना स्थागित की या इसे रोकने का फैसला किया। हम इस पैसों से उन लोगों की मदद करेंगे जो कतार में ग्रान्ट का इंतज़ार कर रहे हैं। पिछले साल पंद्रह लोगों को ग्रान्ट से सहायता मिली थी जिन्हें वापस लिया गया और उन लोगों की मदद की गई जो कतार में इंतज़ार कर रहे थे। लोगों से माँग की जा रही है कि वे इस ग्रान्ट का अच्छी तरह उपयोग करें नहीं तो वे इसे खो देंगे,” मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने कहा।



“अपने माता-पिता के बलिदान को कभी मत भूलना”

शिक्षा मंत्री, रैजी अकबर ने हाल में बा सनातन कॉलेज के प्रोफेक्टर डेवियन समारोह के दौरान विद्यार्थियों से माँग की कि वे अपने माता-पिताओं के बलिदान को कभी न भूलें। “अपने बच्चों को स्कूल भेजने में माता-पिताओं को कई तरह से बलिदान देना पड़ता है तथा यह जरूरी है कि बच्चे शुक्रगुजार होना सीखें,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा।

चित्र: मेरयानी म्गोन्दुआ



विश्व के महान नेताओं के उदाहरण से सीख हासिल करें: मंत्री बाल

रेजिगर मंत्री, परवीन कुमार बाला ने हाल ही में वलेवु हाई स्कूल के विद्यार्थियों से माँग की कि वे दुसरो के हित के लिए काम करें। प्रोफेक्टर डेवियन और पुरस्कार समारोह में मंत्री बाला ने कहा कि जहाँ तक नेतृगिरी की बात आती है तो आपके द्वारा उठाए गए कदम ही तय करते हैं कि आप एक नेता हैं। उनके अनुसार एक गलत कदम आपके सब अच्छे कार्यों पर पानी फेर सकता है। “भविष्य में अच्छे नेता बनने के लिए आपको विश्व के महान नेताओं के उदाहरण से सीख हासिल करनी चाहिए,” मंत्री बाला ने कहा। स्कूल में दो सौ सत्तान्वे (297) विद्यार्थी पढ़ाई कर रहे हैं।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



राष्ट्रपति ने जापान के एम्परा के जन्म दिन समारोह में भाग लिया

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चियेयो कोनरोते ने मंत्रियों, संसदीय स्पीकर रातु इपेलो नईलातिकाउ तथा कूटनैज़ियों के साथ जापान के एम्परा के इक्सटवी (61st) जलगाह के समारोह में भाग लिया। राष्ट्रपति की तरफ से चीफ ऑफ प्रोटोकॉल चिको रासीनासीनो ने फीजियन सरकार तथा देशवासियों की ओर से महामहीम एम्परा, जापानी सरकार तथा जापान की जनता को शुभकामनाएं दी। “कई वर्षों से फीजी और जापान के बीच विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में संबंध विकसित हुआ है। आज जापान फीजी को कई क्षेत्रों में योगदान दे रहा है। इस मौके पर जापानी राजदूत महामहीम कावाकामी फुमीहरो ने कहा कि फीजी और जापान ने धनिय मित्रता को बढ़ावा दिया है और क्षेत्रीय और अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर महत्वपूर्ण भागीदार बन गए हैं।

चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसीनईवालू



सड़क के पास स्टोल पर सामान बेचने वालों को नए लीस समझौते मिले

सिंगातका से नान्दी के बीच सड़क के पास स्टोल पर सामान बेचने वाले बाईस (22) विक्रेताओं को सरकार की ओर से हाल ही में दो सालों के लिए नए लीस के समझौते मिले हैं। को-मैस और टूईड मंत्री फेडियाज कोया का कहना है कि जब से ये स्टोल बने हैं तबसे हजारों परिवारों ने इससे फायदा उठाया है। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार छोटे-छोटे व्यापारियों की सहायता करती रहेगी। उनके अनुसार सड़क के पास स्टोल की खासियत यह है कि इसके मालिकों को इसके लिए कुछ भी पैसा नहीं चुकाना पड़ता है तथा उन्हें सिर्फ इन स्टोल्स को साफ-सुधरा और सही हालत में रखना जरूरी है।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया





जापान ने फीजी को 200 मिलियन डॉलर का कर्ज दिया

रोनल देव

कोविड-19 के जवाब में फीजी, जापान से दो सौ मिलियन डॉलर का कर्ज लेगा। कर्ज लेने के समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री

वोरेन्गे बईनिमरामा ने जापानी सरकार और वहाँ की जनता को धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने इस महामारी के दौरान फीजी के लोगों को एकजुटता दिखाई है। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि जापानी सरकार से जो सहायता मिली है वो कोविड-19 से फीजी की सुरक्षा को और मजबूत करेगी खास करके हमारी सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली को। इस सहायता से सीमा पर काम करने वालों को और सुरक्षित उपकरण मिलेंगे जबकि इस महामारी से आगे भविष्य की ओर जाने की तैयारी हो रही है। “बेशक भविष्य तक जाने का दरवाज़ा दवाईयों की उपलब्धि से ही खुलेगा। इसलिए हम हर सम्भव प्रयास कर रहे हैं कि हमारे लोगों तक दवाईयाँ पहुँचाई जाए। हम बैठकर धनी देशों के ठीक होने का इंतज़ार नहीं कर सकते। हमें देखना है कि फीजी के लोग अमरिका, निउज़ीलैण्ड, औस्ट्रेलिया तथा जापान और अन्य विकसित देश के लोगों के साथ सुरक्षित हों। इसमें अगर कुछ कमियाँ देखी गईं तो



प्रधानमंत्री वोरेन्गे बईनिमरामा, जापानी राजदूत कावाकामी फुमीहीरो कर्ज का समझौता करते हुए चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

यह नैतिक और चिकित्सा की असफलता होगी। “हम जानते हैं कि यह महामारी जापानी लोगों के लिए कितना दुखदाई है तथा हमें खेद है कि इस वजह से कई लोगों की जानें गई हैं। जापान द्वारा ओलिम्पिक का खेल आयोजित करने की योजना से फीजी की उम्मीद जागी है जबकि हम टीम फीजी को मुकाबला करते हुए देख

सकेंगे और रग्बी सेवन्स में हमारी टीम गोल्ड मेडल का बचाव करेगी। फीजी एक ऐसा देश है जहाँ कोरोनावायरस को काबू में रखा गया है। तीन सौ दिन से ज़्यादा हो गए हैं जब आखरी बार समाज में किसी को कोविड-19 से पीड़ित पाया गया था। फीजी उन चंद देशों में है जहाँ लोग बिना किसी दूसरे व्यक्ति के स्वास्थ्य को

नुकसान पहुँचाए एक जगह इक्ठ्ठा हो सकते हैं। लेकिन इस उपलब्धि को हासिल करने में भी फीजी को कीमत चुकानी पड़ी।

“हमारे सीमाएं जबकि बन्द हैं तो ऐसे में हमारे होटल टूरिस्टों से खाली हैं, हमारे विमान ज़मीन पर हैं तथा हमारा टूरिज़्म व्यवसाय रूक गया है। ऐसे समय में सरकारी आमदनी बिलकुल डूब गई है जब हमें जलवायु परिवर्तन से बचने के लिए देश को मजबूत बनाने में भारी संसाधनों की ज़रूरत है,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि वो इसी साल जून में पार्म 9 की सभा तथा भविष्य में ऐसे अवसरों का इंतज़ार कर रहे हैं जो फीजी और जापान के बीच रिश्तों को और मजबूत करेगा।

जापानी राजदूत कावाकामी फुमीहीरो का कहना है कि यह कर्ज 0.01 प्रतिशत ब्याज पर बहुत ही रियायती शर्तों के साथ दिया जा रहा है। कर्ज भरने के लिए पंद्रह सालों का समय दिया गया है तथा चार सालों का ग्रेस पिरियड यानि रियायत की अवधि रहेगी।

राजदूत ने कहा कि जापान द्वारा फीजी को पहुँचाई गई सहायता के इतिहास में, यह कर्ज सबसे बड़ा है।

फीजी कोरेक्शन्स सेविस ने प्रधान मंत्री रिलीफ फन्ड को दान दिया

रोनल देव

फीजी कोरेक्शन्स सेविस ने समुद्री आँधी यासा और आना से पीड़ित लोगों को कुछ राहत देने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री के टी सी यासा रिलीफ फन्ड को दस हजार डॉलर दान किया है।

कोरेक्शन सेविस कमिशन फ्रान्सीस कीन का कहना है कि यह दान फीजी कोरेक्शन सेविस के अफ़सर, पुरुष तथा महिलाओं ने मिलकर दिया है।

“हमारी प्रार्थनाएं उन लोगों के साथ हैं जिनपर इस विपत्ति का असर पड़ा है तथा जो पीड़ित लोगों तक राहत पहुँचाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। हमें उम्मीद है कि जल्द से जल्द सबकुछ पहले जैसा हो जाए तथा लोग फिर अपनी जिन्दगी सँवार सकें,” फ्रान्सीस कीन ने कहा।

दान स्वीकार करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री वोरेन्गे बईनिमरामा ने फीजी कोरेक्शन्स सेविस के इस योगदान पर आभार व्यक्त किया।

उन्होंने कहा कि इस तरह की सहायता से समुद्री आँधी से असर पड़े फीजीवासियों की मदद करने में भारी सहयोग मिलेगा। उनके अनुसार असर पड़े इलाक़ों खास करके वनुआलेवू में सुधारकार्य जारी है तथा फीजियन सरकार ध्यान रखेगी कि ज़रूरी सहायता उन लोगों के घर के दरवाज़े तक पहुँचाई जाए जिन्हें इनकी सक्त्त ज़रूरत है।

प्रधानमंत्री ने उन सभी संस्थाओं तथा लोगों को धन्यवाद दिया है जो समुद्री आँधी से पीड़ित लोगों की मदद करने के लिए आगे आए हैं।



नवोसा में नए सबडिविज़नल अस्पताल का निर्माण होने से आस-पास के कोरे तथा स्कूलों को बहुत फायदा होगा चित्र: मेरेयानी न्गोनेदुआ

नवोसा में नया अस्पताल खुलने से लोगों की जिन्दगी सुधर जाएंगी।

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वोरेन्गे बईनिमरामा ने हालही नवोसा में अस्पताल का उद्घाटन करते हुए कहा कि एक सरकार के लिए ग्रामीण इलाकों में अपने लोगों के लिए बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदान का यह ज़रूरी कदम रहा है।

“हमें उनकी चुनौतियाँ समझनी चाहिए जिनका सामना वे इलाज करवाने के दौरान करते हैं तथा तरीकों पर अध्ययन करना चाहिए कि लोगों का इलाज उनके घर के नज़दीक कैसे किया जाए। लोग जानते होंगे कि बहुत गम्भीर और उलझन वाली बीमारियों के लिए सूबा, लौतोका या लम्बासा अस्पताल जाना पड़ेगा। लेकिन घर के नज़दीक

वाले अस्पतालों या हेल्थ सेन्टर में बीमारी या चोट ठीक करने से इसे और गम्भीर रूप लेने से रोका जा सकता है,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार इस अस्पताल को एक सब-डिविज़नल अस्पताल में बदलने से इसके आधुनिक औपरेटिंग थियेटर में सेजरीज़ हो सकती है, औपरेशन से पहले अच्छी देखभाल तथा लोगों को और बेहतर सेवा प्राप्त होगी। इस अस्पताल में मरीज़ों के परिवार वालों के लिए एक गेस्ट हाउस भी है ताकि लोग अपने चाहने वालों के साथ रह सकें और कोरे आने-जाने के खर्च की बचत हो। वहाँ कर्मचारियों के ठहरने की भी व्यवस्था है ताकि वहाँ चौबीसों घण्टे डाक्टर और नर्स उपलब्ध रहे। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि लोगों को

आशवासन दिया जा रहा है कि अगर उन्हें जल्द से किसी बड़े अस्पताल में इलाज की ज़रूरत हुई तो उन्हें इस अस्पताल में बने हे-लिपोट से ही हेलिकॉप्टर के ज़रिए ट्रान्सफर किया जा सकता है। “यह नया अस्पताल छब्बीस (26) कोरे, अट्ठावन (58) सेटलमन्ट, ग्यारह किन्डागार्डन, तेरह प्रायमरी तथा दो सेकन्ड्री स्कूलों को सेवा प्रदान करेगा। बुकुर्या मेडिकल इलाके तथा नैंगाली-मारे नेसिंग डिस्ट्रिक्ट के लोग भी यह अस्पताल जा सकते हैं। मेरी सरकार के मुख्य लक्ष्य में से एक है ग्रामीण और शहरी इलाकों के बीच जीवन स्तर के अंतर को खत्म करना,”

श्री बईनिमरामा ने कहा। पिछले साल हमारे स्वास्थ्य देखभाल

प्रणाली ने स्पष्ट रूप से दिखा दिया कि हमने कितनी प्रगति की है जब फीजी में सफलता से कोरोनावायरस महामारी को काबु किया।

तीन सौ से ज़्यादा दिन हो गए हैं जब बोर्ड कोरनटीन सुविधा के बाहर किसी व्यक्ति को कोविड-19 हुआ था। इस रिकॉड का दावा कोई और देश नहीं कर सकता। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि कुछ लोगों को संदेह था लेकिन फीजी ने इस विश्व महामारी की चुनौतियों का सामना करते हुए इस वायरस को हमारे लोगों पर कहर डाने से रोका है। इस महामारी की वजह से दुनिया भर में दो मिलियन से ज़्यादा लोगों की जान चली गई है, तथा यह ऐसा नुकसान है जिसकी भरपाई कोई नहीं कर सकता।

खेती के लिए किसानों को आर्थिक सहायता मिलेगी

रोनल देव

आने वाले महीनों में देश भर के किसान जिनपर प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों का असर पड़ा है को आर्थिक सहायता दी जाएगी ताकि उनकी जिन्दगी और बेहतर ढंग से चल सके। हालही इस आर्थिक सुविधा के लिए कृषि मंत्रालय तथा एडवेंचर डिबेलोपमन्ट एन्ड रिलीफ अर्इजेन्सी (ADRA) ने एक इरादे की घोषणा पर हस्ताक्षर किया।

इस सुविधा का लक्ष्य है, समुद्री आँधी यासा और आना का असर पड़े कमजोर किसानों को आर्थिक सहायता देना जिससे किसानों को अपनी ज़मीन साफ करने, खेत तैयार करने तथा एक अक्कड़ में बोने के लिए समग्री से मदद की जाए।

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी का कहना है कि इस सुविधा को लागू किया गया है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि कृषि क्षेत्र जल्द से जल्द पहले जैसी अवस्था में आ जाए।

“कृषि मंत्रालय, अपने साझेदार जैसे कि एडवेंचर डिबेलोपमन्ट एन्ड रिलीफ अर्इजेन्सी (ADRA) के सहयोग से एक किसान को दो सौ डोलर तक मदद पहुँचाने का इरादा रखता है ताकि ज़मीन साफ करने, खेत तैयार करने और एक अक्कड़ ज़मीन में उपज बोने का खर्च सहा जाए,” डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा।

ए डी आर अर्इ कन्द्री डायरेक्टर इलियापी तुवाई ने कृषि मंत्रालय को उनके साथ काम करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया और कहा कि उन्हें गर्व है कि एक बार फिर मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर इस योजना का विमोचन किया गया है जिसपर कई दिनों से चर्चा हो रही थी। देश भर के किसानों को बटोरे गए थोड़े-बहुत पैसे से सहयोग दिया जाएगा।

केश फोर कल्टीवईशन सुविधा के मार्फित किसानों को दो हिस्सों से पर्इमन्ट किए जाएंगे। पहला पर्इमन्ट पचहत्तर (75) डोलर का होगा और बाकी एक सौ पचीस डोलर ज़मीन साफ करने, खेत तैयार करने और बोने का सुबुत देने के बाद दिया जाएगा।

इस कार्यक्रम के तहत कड़ी निगरानी रखी जाएगी ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि जिस काम के लिए पैसे दिए जा रहे हैं वो उसी काम में लाया जाए।

सभी किसान इस कार्यक्रम में हिस्सा ले सकते हैं तथा हर एक परिवार को पहचान करनी होगी कि खेती-बारी से ही उनका गुज़ारा हो रहा है। यह कार्यक्रम उन परिवारों को प्राथमिकता देगा जहाँ महिलाएं अकेली घर चलाती हैं या जिन परिवारों में विकलांग लोग हैं। योग्य किसानों को एक एलेक्ट्रॉनिक फॉर्म के द्वारा रजिस्टर किया जाएगा, उन्हें पैसे ट्रान्सफर करने की शर्त समझाई जाएगी जिसके बाद पचहत्तर डोलर का पहला भाग दिया जाएगा। किसानों को एक कागज़ात पर हस्ताक्षर करने की आवश्यकता होगी कि वे ध्यान में रखेंगे कि खेती ज़रूर की जाएगी।

एक दल समुदायों का दौरा करेगा और देखेगा कि पहला पर्इमन्ट जिस काम के लिए दिया गया है उसी काम में लगाया गया है या नहीं जिसके बाद दूसरा पर्इमन्ट करने का सुझाव दिया जाएगा। कृषि मंत्रालय तथा ए डी आर ए और भी गिनरानी रखेंगे ताकि वे इस कार्यक्रम के नतिजे का आँदाज़ा लगा सकें। ए डी आर ए, निउ ज़ीलेन्ड तथा युरोपियन युनियन से मिली सहायता से शुरूआत में एक हज़ार से ज़्यादा किसानों के परिवार की मदद कर सकते हैं जहाँ वे एक हज़ार अक्कड़ ज़मीन साफ करने, तैयार करने तथा वहाँ उत्पादन बोने में योगदान दे सकते हैं। यह कार्यक्रम

उत्तरी, कन्द्रीय तथा पश्चिमी विभाग में समुद्री आँधी यासा और आना पहुँचे क्षति वाले इलाक़े पर गौर करेगा। कृषि मंत्रालय और भी आर्थिक सहायता की तलाश कर रहा है ताकि और भी असर पड़े किसानों की मदद हो सके।

इस कार्यक्रम के नीचे किसान कोई भी शाख-भाजी या जड़ वाला भोजन वो सकता है।



शिक्षा मंत्री रौज़ी अक्बर बा रिवा साईड कानिवल कमिटी के सदस्यों से स्कूली फेनिचर स्वीकार करती हुई चित प्रदान किया गया

उत्तरी स्कूलों के लिए फेनिचर दान में मिले

रोनल देव

शिक्षा मंत्री रौज़ी अक्बर को बा रिवा साईड कानिवल कमिटी ने चार हज़ार डोलर लागत स्कूली फेनिचर दान किया जो उत्तरी विभाग के स्कूलों के लिए है।

इस सहायता के लिए कमिटी को धन्यवाद देती हुई मंत्री अक्बर ने कहा कि उत्तरी विभाग के विद्यार्थियों को इस दान से ज़रूर राहत मिलेगी जबकि हालही आई समुद्री आँधियों का भारी असर उनपर पड़ा है। मंत्री अक्बर ने प्रकाश डाला कि मंत्रालय

ने दकाउन्ड्रोवे प्राँत स्थित नुकुबुलु डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल को यह सहायता देने की पहचान की है। “मैं कमिटी की बहुत अभारी हूँ, खास करके शिक्षा में पुँजी लगाने के लिए ताकि हमारे फीजियन बच्चे अपनी शिक्षा जारी रख सकें,” मंत्री अक्बर ने कहा।



ग्रामीन तथा डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमन्ट मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु वालेबसोन्गा लम्बासा के निवासियों के साथ नए बोहौल वाले स्थान पर चित: प्रदान किया गया

वालेसोन्गा में बोहौल की योजना

रोनल देव

किसी भी विकास योजना के लिए सरकार और समाज के बीच भागीदारी बेहद ज़रूरी है। हालही में वालेबसोन्गा लम्बासा में बोहौल वाली एक योजना का विमोचन करते हुए ग्रामीन, बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास तथा डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमन्ट मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु ने कहा कि सरकार सभी फीजिवासी खास करके बच्चों के लिए एक बेहतर फीजी बना रहा है।

इस तरह की विकास योजना के लिए ज़रूरी

है कि सरकार और लोगों के बीच भागीदारी हो।

“इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं कि सरकार की अपनी ज़िम्मेदारियाँ हैं और समाज की अपनी। साझेदारी एक तत्व है जो किसी भी विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है,” मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने कहा।

“विकास है भागीदारी।” सरकार के पास ज़िम्मेदारी है। हम समुद्री यासा और आना के बाद सभी रास्तों पर मरम्मत करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, बिजली की सेवा तथा अस्पतालों में सेवाएं सामान्य करने तथा आप तक साफ पानी पहुँचाने की भी कोशिश कर रहे हैं। हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि सभी बच्चों स्कूल जाए तथा आने-जाने के लिए यातायात का खर्च भी सरकार सह रही है। सरकार की भारी ज़िम्मेदारी है लेकिन सरकार हमारे लिए सबकुछ नहीं कर सकती है। हमें आत्मनिर्भर होना चाहिए।”

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि फीजिवासी होने के नाते हमें अपने परिवार की देखभाल करने के

लिए कड़ी मेहनत करने की ज़रूरत है।

“मैंने देखा है कि कुछ परिवारों का घर समुद्री आँधी में नष्ट हुआ तथा मैं लोगों से माँग कर रहा हूँ कि जितना भी पैसे बचा

सको, बचाकर अपने घर में लगाओं। अगर आप के घर मज़बूत रहेंगे तो आपके परिवार पर असर नहीं पड़ेगा। मुझे उम्मीद है कि हम यह ज़िम्मेदारी गम्भीरता से लेंगे खास करके अपने परिवारों की सुरक्षा के लिए,” मंत्री ने कहा।

फिलहाल, बोहौल वाली इस योजना से वालेबसोन्गा के बीस परिवारों को फायदा होगा जिन्हें अब पीने के लिए साफ पानी मिलेगा जैसे कि सन् दो हज़ार तेरह के संविधान में अंकित है।

सरकार, समाज और दानियों की भागीदारी से यह योजना पूरी हुई है। सरकार ने इस योजना में आठ हज़ार डोलर लगाया जबकि समाज और दानियों ने दो हज़ार डोलर लगाकर योजना पूरी की।

“हम दवा खरीद सकते हैं” अई जी 2

“एकता में हम मजबूत हैं” पी एम 3

नवोसा में नया अस्पताल खुलने से लोगों की जिन्दगी सुधर जाएगी। 6

उत्तरी स्कूलों को फेनिचर दान किया गया 7

फीजी दर्पण

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पिछले साल 2020/2021 राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा करते हुए अटोनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम चित: संसद भवन

“हम दवा खरीद सकते हैं”

रोनल देव

अटोनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम का कहना है कि अगर जरूरत पड़ी तब फीजीयन सरकार कोरोनावायरस की दवा ज़रूर खरीदेगी।

सिंगापुर से एक ऑनलाइन बजट पर परामर्श करने के दौरान सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि सरकार के पास यह क्षमता है कि वो उन दवाइयों को खरीद सकती है जिसे वे हासिल करने की कोशिश कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि दवाइयाँ महंगी हैं लेकिन वे इसे खरीदने की तरफ कदम बढ़ा रहे हैं।

“आप सभी जानते हैं कि यह काम आसान नहीं है क्योंकि कई बड़े देश दवाइयों की सप्लाई को लेकर मुश्किलों का सामना कर रहे हैं लेकिन फीजी यह दवाइयाँ खरीदने के लिए तैयार है। हम सहायता या ग्रांट पर

निर्भर नहीं होना चाहते हैं। इसमें चालिस, पचास या साठ मिलियन डॉलर तक खर्च होगा लेकिन इसे खरीदने के लिए हमारे पास राजकोष में और बजट की क्षमता है,”

अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि वे देश की आबादी के सत्तर प्रतिशत लोगों को टीकें लगाने का लक्ष्य बनाए हैं जिससे लोग और सुरक्षित महसूस करेंगे। उनके अनुसार टीके लगाने के बाद टूरिज़म व्यवसाय के लिए सीमाएं खोली जा सकती हैं जिससे हमारी देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में कुछ जान आएगी।

फिलहाल, अटोनी जेनरल ने आश्वासन दिया है कि सरकारी कर्मचारियों का वेतन नहीं काटा जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि करीब तीस हजार लोग सरकारी सेवा में हैं तथा सरकार उनके वेतन के रूप में एक बिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा भरती है।

“जिस सप्ताह वेतन मिलता है तो कई सरकारी कर्मचारी अपने परिवार के साथ होटल में जाकर

रुकते हैं क्योंकि भाड़ा काफी कम है। यह एक तरह से अर्थ-व्यवस्था को चलाने में मदद करता है क्योंकि अन्य लोगों की नौकरियाँ चलती हैं।

उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि सरकारी कर्मचारी, प्रायवट सेक्टर और बेरोज़गार परिवारों को भी सहारा दे रहे हैं। सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि खर्च के लिए सरकार को और कर्ज़ लेना पड़ेगा जबकि सरकार का सबसे भारी खर्च सरकारी कर्मचारियों का वेतन है।

अटोनी जेनरल ने स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि वो सिंगापुर में चिकित्सा उपचार से फीजी लौटने पर कोरनटीन में रहेंगे। उन्होंने सौशल मिडिया पर दावों का खण्डन किया कि वो कोरनटीन नियमों का पालन नहीं करेंगे। “कोई भी व्यक्ति जो फीजी आता है, फिर चाहे वो टूरिस्ट हो, कूटनीतिज्ञ या मंत्री हो, तथा देश लौटने वाले हो को यहाँ कोरनटीन में जाना होगा और मैं वापस आने पर ऐसा ज़रूर करूँगा,” अटोनी जेनरल

ने कहा। उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया है कि उनका इलाज उनके व्यक्तिगत खर्च पर हो रहा है न कि फीजीयन सरकार या करदाताओं के खर्च पर।

अटोनी जेनरल ने यह भी कहा कि “स्ट्रोन्गा टूगेदा” जोब सपोर्ट स्कीम ने एक हजार से ज़्यादा फीजीवासियों के लिए नौकरी की व्यवस्था की है जिनकी नौकरी कोविड-19 के चलते चली गई है। उनके अनुसार इस स्कीम में शामिल मजदूर मालिकों को बेरोज़गार फीजीवासियों के लिए नौकरी पैदा करने की खातिर सरकार की ओर से छूट दी जा रही है। अभी तक छप्पन (56) मजदूर मालिक इस स्कीम का हिस्सा हैं। सरकार ने फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड के साथ मिलकर फंड के बेरोज़गार सदस्यों को दो सौ सोलह मिलियन डॉलर भर दिया है। यह पैसे पिछले साल कोविड-19 के जवाब में निकाले गए राष्ट्रीय बजट और 2020/2021 राष्ट्रीय बजट में अलग किए गए थे।

Noda Viti



LOLOMA ENA GAUNA NI LEQA TUBUKOSO

NA loloma ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso edua na itovo se ivakarau eda dau kilai kina na itaukei lewenivanua ena noda Viti lo-mani. Oqori na iyaloyalo levu eda raica ena vuqa na lewenivanua kei na matavuvale era sotava na leqa tubu koso ka vumai ena TC Yasa/Ana ka vakacaca ena noda vanua. E Vanua Levu ena itikotiko ko Naviavia edua na iyaloyalo duatani sara eda raica kina ena bula ni dua na vuvala ena itovo ni veilomani vakaveiwatini.

Ko Asenaca Diranuve na marama radini vale oqo e tauvi paralase ka sega ni rawa ni yavala vinaka na yavana ia na itovo ni veiqaravi kei na loloma e vakarautaka toka o Wili Tarika na turaga liuliu ni vuvala oqo esa bau vakaturu wai ni mata sara ga. E rau sa yabaki 70 vakacaca ka dina ga ni rau sotava na vakacaca ni TC Yasa/Ana, erau saumaki me rau toso tikoga me vaka eda raica ena itaba oqo ena nodrau a sikovi yani ena veiqaravi ni matanitu mai vua na turaga Provincial Administrator ena tikina o Cakaudrove, Seta Dakuiboca. Eratou laki solia talega eso na kedrau reseni ni cagilaba ka veivuke mai kina na Matabose ni Kauveilatai Damudamu.

Taba toka qori o Provincial Administrator Cakaudrove Seta Dakuiboca (yasana imatau) kei rau na veiwatini Asenaca Diranuve kei Wili Tarika (rau dabe toka e liu) ena nodrau itikotiko e Naviavia.

ITaba: VAKARAUTAKI

VEISIWATI NI ILAVO



Na gauna dredre ni bula vakailavo oqo, era qai cakacaka mai kina o ira na dau veidabui qoka ena vakayagataki ni mona livaliva.

Savenaca Siwatibau
ivakaillesilesi ni Cyber Crime Unit

Sivia e lewe 1000 era coko ena monalivaliva

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA vakasalataki keda na lewei Viti na Cyber Crime Unit ni Tabacakacaka ni Ovisa meda kua ni temaki vakarawarawa vei ira na dau veisiwati ena rawa ilavo ena mona livaliva. Me yacova mai e daidai, esa laurai kina e sivia na 1000 na kisi ni lawakitaki ni nodra ilavo na lewei Viti ena mona livaliva. E kaya na vakaillesilesi ni Cyber Crime Unit Savenaca Siwatibau ni kena a sega ni tiko na lawa e Viti e vauca na Computer Crimes ka se qai mai vakadonui ga ena Palimedi ena

vica na macawa sa oti. “Era a vakayagataka voli mai kina na dau veidabui ena mona livaliva na luluqa ni lawa oya mera temaki ira kina na lewei Viti.” “Na gauna dredre ni bula vakailavo oqo, era qai cakacaka mai kina o ira na dau veidabui qoka ena vakayagataki ni mona livaliva.” “Dua na turaga cakacaka vinaka sara e toka ena itutu ni veiliutaki ena dua na kabani oqo i Suva. Cakacaka vinaka vakaitutu vinaka toka ena lotu, mai na koro, ka veiliutaki toka ena nodratou mataqali, ena nodratou ituvatuvani vakatubuilavo.”

“A ciqoma edua na email e tukuni ni sa win-itaka e vica na drau na milioni na dola. Me vakauta yani e dua na ilavo me rawa ni sere mai kina nona milioni.” “Na titobu ni veitalanoa oya, e vakalusia kece o okoya na nona ilavo e vakabula tu mai ena nona gauna ni cakacaka, nona ilavo musuki ena FNPF, ilavo ni isoqosoqo lotu e qarava tiko kei na ilavo ni nodratou vakatubuilavo ni mataqali.” “Na levu taucoko ni ilavo e vakalusia kina e sivia tiko e \$40,000.” “E ratou sauma mai nona ivodovodo me gole yani ki tai me laki sotavi ratou.”

“Ratou lai lasutaki koya baleta ni sa taroga tiko o koya na levu ni ilavo sa vakauta oti vei ratou.” “Na ivadi ratou kitaka, ratou sauma ga edua na office lala e Idonisia, volai tu kina na yaca ni kabani. Me lai solia ga o koya edua tale na uma ilavo ekea oti ga ratou vagalalataka tale ratou dui yali. “Dua na ka vakaloloma keitou qai gole yani o keitou na tabana ni veivaqaqai sa caka oti tiko na leqa. Qai mai kerekere o koya vei keitou sa vakau oti na ilavo sa mai leqa talega kina nona bula vakavuvale.”



Veivakadeitaki na FNPF

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA veivakadeitaki tiko na FNPF se Fiji National Provident Fund na Matabose ni Ilavo Musuki ni Tamata Cakacaka ni sa toso vinaka tiko na vakatubui ilavo baleta na tamata cakacaka.

Vakaraitaka na tikina oqori na Manidia ni Veiqaravi kina lewenivanua ena Matabose ni ilavo Musuki ni Tamata Cakacaka na Fiji

National Provident Fund (FNPF) ko Alipate Waqairawai.

A vakatarogi koya voli na Tabana ni Matanitu ena niusiveva na Noda Viti, se vakacava na veiqaravi ni vakatubuilavo.

“Keitou vakabauta tiko ni laurai na tubu keitou sauma tiko na Tabacakacaka ni ilavo Musuki ni tamata cakacaka ni veidutaitaki vata kei na veitubu tale eso esoli

tiko ena veivanua tale eso ni vakatubu ilavo, na tubu vinaka duadua e solia tiko na Tabacakacaka ni ilavo Musuki (FNPF),” kaya ko Waqairawai.

“Kena ikuri ni FNPF e tiko vua na kaukauwa vakailavo me rawa nira nuidei tiko kina na lewenivanua nira vakacuruilavo tiko ena dua na FUND e rabailevu, e tu vua na kaukauwa vakailavo me sauma

tiko na mataqali tubu qo.”

Vakaraitaka ko Waqairawai ni ratou sa raica talega ni laurai tiko na tubu koya ni ratou solia ena COVID-19 vata kei na cagilaba ena veivuke me vaka esega tale ni dua e solia tiko na veivuke vei ira na meba.

“Na yavu ni neitou lawa o keitou na tu raviti ira na neitou meba ena gauna ni nodra leqa vata kei na

gauna ni nodra tiko vinaka,” kaya ko Waqairawai.

“Na Tabacakacaka ni ilavo Musuki na itavi e soli vua o koya me vakatubura na nodra ilavo na meba. Na itavi bibi ni FNPF me vakasokomuna nodra musumusuka mai vakatubuta oya dua na itavi levu na vakatuburi (invest) ni noda ilavo.”

(Kena ikuri page 7)



37 NA SOTIA KI NA VULI E OSITERELIA

ERA biuti Viti e 37 na sotia ni noda mataivalu mera laki vuli ki Ositerelia me 4 na macawa. Oqo ena tabana ni veiqaravi raraba ni mataivalu, matai idinia. Era laki vakaitavi talega ena dua na vakaukauwa yago kei ratou n aka 7th ni Combat Brigade ka me vukea na nodra kilaka ni veiqaravi vakamataivalu ena nodra tataqomaki ena gauna ni COVID19. **ITaba: VAKARAUTAKI**

Vakayaloqaqataki na lewe i Nabavatu



Ko Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama kei Josefara Naiikidi, e dua na dau qito rakavi ka bau lewena mai na mata timi ni Viti ena koro o Nabavatu.

ITaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA sikova na koro ko Nabavatu ena yasana ko Macuata na liuliu ni Matanitu, Voreqe Bainimarama ka ra laki vakayaloqaga taki ira na lewenivanua mai kea. Oqori baleta nira sa tokitaki mai na nodra koro dina se qele ka dabe kina nodra koro ni a sisi ka kavida ena gauna ni Cagilaba ko TC Yasa.

“Ena gauna e yaco kina na TC Yasa i Bua kei Vanua Levu era a vakila edua na uneune ka mani kavida kina na nodra loma ni koro e Nabavatu,” kaya ko Minisita ni Qele kei na Yau Bula, Jone Usumate.

“Ratou sa vakaqaga tiko na nodratou tabana ni qele kei na iyau bula na vuni ka e yaco oqo, ia ni kua e ra sa vakagalalataki mai na nodra koro ka laki vakatikori ena tikotiko ni lotu na AOG.”

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita na nodra veivakadeitaki ena veivuke ni matanitu vei ira na lewenivanua me baleta na nodra vakavaletaki.

Sa tekivutaki nodra boseka kei ira na vakalesilesi ni matanitu me baleta na nodra tokitaki na koro ka vakakina ena kena kunei edua na nodra qele vou me laki tara kina na nodra koro.

Vakasalataki ira o PM Bainimarama mera bulia edua nodra komiti ni tokitaki ni koro ka me rawa ni cakacaka vakavoleka kei na matanitu.

Vakarautaka ko Apolosi Iloilo na nodra marau ena nona veivuke na matanitu me tokitaki ira kina vakatotolo ni oti na kena mai yaco na vakacalaka ena nodra koro ni kavida na loma ni qele ka sisi talega.

Era laki veivuke talega ena kena veisoliyaki na kedra kakana kei na tara ni nodra valelaca.



Taba toka oqo na nodra veiqaravi na tabana ni veika bula wavoliti keda ka dua vei ira na tabana ka vukei mai na soqosoqo na JICA.

ITaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Dei na veitokoni nei Japani

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA vakadeitaka talega mai o Japani ena soqosoqo ni veivuke vakamataniitu na JICA se Japan International Cooperation Agency na nodra veitokoni vei Viti me baleta na cakacaka ni vakacoko mai na Cagilaba ka vakakina ena re-

vurevu ni mate na COVID-19 kei na bolebole e kauta vata mai.

Oqori e vakadeitaka na mata vou ni JICA e Viti o Ms Mayumi Amaike ena nodra veisiko mai ena valenivolavola ni Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama.

Vakaraitaka na Vunivola tudei ni Valenivolavola nei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama, ko Yogesh Karan na nodra vakavinavinaka vua kei nodra veikidavaki ena nodra tadu mai ki Viti.

Oqori e salamuria tikoga na nodra mai tatau me lesuyani na mata taumada o Ms Yukari Ono.

Vakavinavinakataki Japani kei na JICA o Karan ena nodra veivuke vakamataniitu ena levu na cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki kei na cakacaka ni veivakacokotaki ni leqa tubu koso ka uasivi ena veivuke ni vakatubuilavo ni noda matanitu.

Era vakavinavinataki ira na voluteers ni JICA o Karan me vaka ni nodra dau veisemati yani kina veivanua ena taudaku ni koro lelevu ena cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki.

Vakaraitaka ko Karan ni sasaga tiko oqo ko Viti me volia mai na wainimate ni COVID19 me bale-

ta na kena taqomaki na lewenivanua ena noda vanua.

Oqo na ika 37th ni yabaki ni veiwekani o Viti kei JICA ena cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki ka marautaki na veiwekani kei na isema sa buli rawa ena kena laveti cake na bula yadua ni lewenivanua. Me vaka na kena tara na veivakatorocaketaki bibi ena Taqe ni Vakawainimatetaki ni Wainigunu, Vanua ni vakasobu kakana ni qoli, veivuke ena CWM, FNU, USP kei na Tabana ni Draki. Wilitalega kina na sasag me baleta nodra vakavulici se terenitaki na tamata cakacaka.



Edua na dau ni bisinisi lalai ena nona sitoa

Vakavurei e 1063 na cakacaka

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA vakavurea rawa na matanitu e 1063 na cakacaka vou ena sasaga ni veivuke kei na veitokoni ena cakacaka vei ira na lewenivanua era vakaleqai nodra vurevure ni vakatubuilavo ena COVID19.

Vakaraitaka na Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ni sa tuvakarau na matanitu me tomana ka tokona na sasaga oqo baleta nira sa vukei kina na lewenivanua. Era lewe 56 na lewenivanua era sa vakaitavi ena cakacaka buli oqo.

Sa veivuke talega na matenitu ena nodra tauri ilavo mai na nodra ilavo musuki ni cakacaka na lewenivanua era sotava na dredre oqo mai na Matabose ni Ilavo musuki ni cakacaka.

Tiko ena \$216.6 na milioni na levu ni ilavo esa vakayagataka na Matabose ni Ilavo musuki me saumi veira na lewenivanua. Oqo e wilikina e \$30.6milioni ena veivuke ni COVID19, \$71.2milioni main a ilavo ni matanitu ena tuvatuva vakailavo ni 2020/2021.

Na veivuke oqo era wilikina oira na daunibisini lalai ka tiko na kena levu ena 5,500.

Eratou sa gole talega e 425 na lewenivanua ena cakacaka i O-iterelia kei Niusiladi ena pasifik labour scheme.

Na matanitu esa via laveta cake na nodra sasaga me dewa yani ki tai me vukei ira kina na lewenivanua era gadrevi dina na vurevure ni ilavo mera vukei ira kina noda matavuvale.

‘E ka bibi na bula’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA rai ni matanitu me baleta na bula ni lewenivanua e sega ni veisau ka sa vakaukauwataka talega baleta na bolebole e kauta mai o COVID-19 ena noda vanua.

Oqori na mala ni nodra vosa na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama vei ira na lewenivanua mai na vualiku ena gauna era veisiko voli kina ena mua ni vula o Fevuruali ni yabaki oqo.

Vakaraitaka o PM Bainimarama ni vakacaca ni TC Yasa kei TC Ana ena vualiku ena yasana o Bua, Macuata kei Cakaudrove edua na bolebolelevu vua na matanitu ena delani dredre sa sotakaya rawa tiko na matanitu ka vakasucuma mai o COVID19.

“E sega ni kauta lauvi na bibi ni bula ni tamata ena kena dodonu me vakayacora na matanitu na nodra itavi me vakarawarawataka na bula vei ira,” kaya ko PM ena nodra mala ni vosa ena na Vualiku ena koro Nabavatu.

“Dina ga ni sa sotava tiko o Viti na

dredre ka vumai ena sega ni dolavi tiko na noda iyalayala ni veilakoyaki e vuravura se vanua tani me vaka edau vakanuinui kina na nodra matanitu ena vakatubuilavo.”

“Ia esa qai vakaukauwataka walega na yalo qaqa ni lewenivanua e Viti vaka kina na matanitu ena noda sasaga taka vata meda qaravi keda vinaka ka tucake ka cavuikalawa yani.”

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama vei ira na gonevuli kei na koronivuli era vakaleqai ena vualiku ni matanitu ena sega ni vakawelea na gagadre e tiko baleta na nodra taraicake tale vakavinaka na koronivuli kei na valenivuli kece era vakacacani.

“Ena gauna oqo esa sasaga tiko na matanitu me vakalesui mada mai na vuli me tekivu rawa nodra vuli na gone. Sa ka bibi nodra qaravi vinaka na golevuli ka mera taqomaki vakavinaka ni oti na cagilaba,” vakaraitaka tiko ko PM ena dela ni mate dewa e kauta mai na TC Yasa/Ana me vaka na Mini Manu, Deqi, Taifote, Coka.



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei na dua na veitamani ena yanuyanu ko Yadua e Vanua Levu. iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU



Era boseka ena monalivaliva na lewe ni matanitu erua ko Niusiladi kei Viti. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Veitalanoataki na bolebole e kauta mai na COVID-19

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERAU veitalanoa ena macawa oqo na matanitu ko Viti kei Niusiladi ena ulutaga levu ni COVID19 ena bolebole e kauta mai vua na bula

ni vakatubuilavo ena matanitu erua. Wili talega ena boseka oqo na sasaga ni matanitu erua ena sasabai kei na taqomaki ni bula ni lewenivanua kei na qarauni me kua ni vakatetei vakarabai levu ka vakakina na nodrau bula ni veimaliwai vakamatanitu veiwekani ena Pasifika.

Eratou lewena na bosa oqo na Vunivola ni Valenivolavola ni Paraiminisitako Yogesh Karan kei na Vunivola ni Tabana ni Veimaliwai kei na Veivoli ena vanuatani ni Niusiladi ko Chris Seed

Vakadreta na matanitu ko Viti na bibi ni veimaliwai vakamatanitu kei Niusiladi ka sa tu vakarau me vakaqacotaki tiko na veiwekani oqo me baleta talega na veivuke ni matanitu ko Niusiladi vei Viti ka vakavinakataki Niusiladi ena veitokoni kei na veivuke tiko mai vei Viti ena veiqaravi ni veivakatorocaketaki.

Vakaraitaka tiko ko Karan ni bosa oqo emai vakayacori tiko ena dua na gauna bibi baleta ni solia veirau na matanitu erua na gauna merau vakamacala kina ena nodra tuvatuva ena vukei

ni bula ni vakatubuilavo ka vakauasivi ena kena voli main a wainimate ni sasabai baleta na COVID19.

Vakaraitaka kina ko Niusiladi na nodra veitokoni vakamatanitu vua na matanitu o Viti ena loma ni 3 na yabaki mai oqo ena veiqaravi vakamatanitu ena kena vakaqacotaki ni bula ni veiqaravi vakauasivi ni rau se sema veiwekani makawa sara ka dewa yani na veiwekani vinaka oqo ena bula ni veiqaravi vakamatanitu.

Vakasavasavataki na veiqaravi ni Housing Authority

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA sasaga ni Matanitu me vakasavasavataki na veiqaravi ni vakailasilesi ni Matabose ni Veivakavaletaki era sa vakasakei kina e lewe 8 na kena tamata cakacaka ena yabaki 2020.

Kaya na Minisita ni Vei-

vakavaletaki ni o iratou na lewe 8 oqo e vakabauti ni ratou a tauyavutaka e dua nodratou kabani, ka ratou vakayagataka kina na yacani Matabose ni Veivakavaletaki se Housing Authority(HA), ka ratou rawa ilavo tiko ena kena vakatorocaketaki na nodra qele na voli qele.

Kaya o Minisita Kumar ni

vakadeitaka na cala oqo na Tabana ni kena Vaqaqai na cakacaka vakailoa se Fiji Independant Commission Against Corruption (FICAC).

Kuria na Minisita ni salamuria oqo na levu ni qiri kai na kudru edau yaco tiko yani kina Matabose ni Veivakavaletaki mai vei ira na lewenivanua.

“E levu era kaya vei au nira se biuta sara nodra ivola kerekere ena HA ena 2007 kina 2011, me yacova mai oqo e sega ga ni dua na kena macala,” kaya o Minisita Kumar.

“Qai kena ilutua ni so vei ira e soli nodra qele era a sega ni vakalewena na kena ivola kerekere.”

“A tukuni vei au ni kena ivakarau me dau digitaki ena loma ni kato o ira e kalaugata me soli noda qele, ai, au sa qai kila ni sega voli ga ni caka tiko mai na kena iwalewale oya,” kaya o Minisita Kumar.

“Sa levu na cakacaka vakailoa e yaco tiko ena HA ka sa dede na kena vakayacori voli mai.”



Sevutaki e Yako na idusidusi ni lewenivanua daubokobuka

E sevutaka ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na idusidusi ni nodra cakacaka vata na lewenivanua kei ira na dau bokobuka (Integrated Community Fire Warden) ena koro o Yako e Nadi. E ra lewe 31 taucoko na tagane ni koro o Yako era sa sevutaka na idusidusi ni cakacaka vata oqo.

Ni sarava sara yani eso na itaba ni ke na lai sevutaki na idusidusi ni nodra cakacaka vata na lewenivanua kei ira na dau bokobuka (Integrated Community Fire Warden).

ITaba: MEREANI GONEDUA



Marautaki na vale ni bula vou e Navosa

E sivia na 10,000 na lewenivanua ena vanua vakaturaga o Navosa kei na veivanua volekata era sa marautaka tiko edaidai na nona sa lai dolava yani o Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama na Keyasi Subdivisional Hospital ena itokotiko ni

Matanitu mai Navatumali. Ni sarava sara yani na kena itaba ni soqo lagilagi oya. ITaba: MEREANI GONEDUA





Taleitaki na veivuke ni iseivu ni vale

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kacivaka na Minisita ni Veivakavale-taki ko Premila Kumar ni taleitaki sara tiko vakalevu na veivuke ni Matanitu me tara kina na iseivu ni nona vale se qele e dua na lewei Viti.

Qoka e vakatokai vakaperitani me First Home Ownership Initiative.

Me tekivu mai na yabaki 2014 era sa vukei oti kina e 2,978 na vuvale ka vakayagataki kina e \$28.6 milioni na dola. Na inaki ni veivuke oqo

me rawa nira tara kina nodra vale vinaka na lewei Viti ka tiko na kedra isau ena dua na yabaki ena \$50,000 dua na yabaki lako sobu.

Sa vakalevutaka na Matanitu na veivuke vakailavo oqo ena yabaki oqo e kena inaki me vakalevutaka na bisinisi ni taravale baleta ni laurai ni sa levu sara na lewenivanua e Viti esa yaga vei ira na veivuke oqo.

Sa tosoya cake kina na Matanitu na ivotavota vakailavo e dau soli ki vua edua e kerekere mai –mai na \$15,000 kina \$30,000 qoka vei ira na tiko nodra rawaka vakailavo ena \$50,000 lako

sobu ena dua na yabaki.

Kaya o Minisita Kumar ni yabaki vakailavo ni 2019-2020 era vukei kina e 222 na vuvale e lailai nodra rawaka vakailavo \$50,000 lako sobu ena dua na yabaki.

Ena yabaki vakailavo 2020-2021 era a vukei kina e 334 na kerekere ni tara vale kei na voli qele, Ka saumi kina e \$5 na milioni n dola.

Ena yabaki vakailavo talega ni 2020-2021 era a vukei kina e 94 na kerekere era a lutu ena veivuke ni yabaki 2019-2020.

Pasifika Heartbeat App bisinisi nei Wahid

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA vakavotukana na veivuke ni vakailavo ki vua e dua na itabagone dau ni bisinisi ena porokaramu ni Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) a vukei koya kina na Matanitu ena \$12,000.

Sa tekivutaki kina nona Pasifika Heartbeat App ka vulagi dokai ena kena sevutaki na Minisita ni Bisinisi o Faiyaz Koya.

“Na App oqo ena solia vei keda na itukutuku ni veiqaravi ni veitabana ni bula , na vanua era tiko kina, na mataqali veiqaravi cava, e semata na veiqaravi ni Tabana ni Bula kina lewenivanua.”

Kaya o Minisita Koya ni qoka sa salavata na sasaga ni noda Matanitu me lailai sobu na dewa ni mate ka vu mai ivakarau ni noda bula se Non-Communicable –Diseases (NCD).

“Ono na vula sa oti au vosa kina baleta nodra vakauqeti na itabagone e Viti ena bula vakailavo me uqeta noda bula vinaka tale mai vakailavo na lewei Viti.”

“Au vosa tiko oya ena anoqu soli tiko na veivuke vakailavo ni matanitu vei ira na itabagone cici vakai bisinisi se na Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES), ka dua sara ga vei ira o Mr. Rakin Wahed.

“Ia, edaidai au cibitaka noqu mai tavoca na Pasifika Heartbeat App – au kila ni ki ni ilakolako nei Mr. Wahed.”

“Me vakau niu Minisita ni porokaramu ni YES , na veigauna kece au raica kina nona cavu isuasau ena bisinisi e dua na itabagone sa dua na ka na noqu dau cibitaka.”

“Na YES kemuni na noda e vakauqeta mera vakavotukana nodra tadra na itabagone, kena ilutua ni sega ni tarov ira na bolebole ni matetaka na COVID-19 , ia e vakavuna mera ladeva yani na bula ni bisinisi,” kaya o Minisita Koya.

“O Mr Wahid esa vakarau-taka vei keda edua na iwali meda vakayagataka na mona livaliva ena qarai ni iwali ni leqa ena kena vakayagataki na noan App vou oqo.”

“Marautaka na noqu Tabacacacaka me veitokoni vua ena \$12,000 sa rawa kina vua edaidai me tekivutaka edua na Pasifika Heartbeat App.”



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na sotia idinia ena nodra veivakacokotaki tiko e na Vualiku ni noda vanua. iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Qarauna nomu itavi vaka idinia kei na dau droini

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Veivakavale-taki ko Premila Kumar ni taleitaki sara tiko vakalevu na veivuke ni Matanitu me tara kina na iseivu ni nona vale se qele e dua na lewei Viti.

Cavuta na kauwai oqori o koya

ena nodra vuli na dau droinitaki vale e Suva ena macawa oqo.

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni kevaka e sa bokoci nodra cakacaka sana sega ni rawa ni vakatokai ira mera dau droini.

Kaya na Minisita ni o ira na dau droini vale ni dodonu me yadrava nodra cakacaka na matabose ka me tu ena matabose na kaukauwa

ni kena bokoci nodra laiseni kevaka esega ni vinaka nodra cakacaka.

“E na gadrevi me vakaivakarau nodra veiqaravi ena veigauna kece me kua ni veisaqasaqa na nodra veiqaravi – me vaka beka “me kabani ni droini kei na taravale”, kaya o Minisita Usamate.

Sa qarava tiko o Minisita Usa-

mate na dikevi ni lawa ni dau droini kei na idinia.

“E na qai rawa ni dei na vale e tara nira vakaivola vinaka na kena dau era veiqaravi kina.”

“Sa na vaqacacotaki na nodra buala vakaivakarau na kena dau kevaka e sega e rawa ni bokoci nodra laiseni.”

Cibitaki na veivuke ni lewei Viti mai Canada

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA marautaki, vakavinavainakataki ka cibitakai ena noda vanua na igu ni nodra soli iloloma na lewei Viti era sa vakatikotiko mai Canada.

Ka sa tauca tiko nona vakavinavainaka levu vei ira ena mona livaliva ena vukuda kece na Vunivola Tudei ni Vale ni Volavola ni Paraiminisita o Yogesh Karan.

Era vakayagataka na nodra gauna ni Siga ni Sucu kei na Vakatawase mera kumuni ilavo kina mera mai vukei kina na sotava na leqa ena cagilaba o

Yasa kei Ana. Kaya o Karan ni yalo ni veinanumi e yaco mai Canada mai vei ira na noda mai kea e tukuna tiko nira se mosita voli ga na vanua era cavutu yani kina ka na sega vakadua nira guilecava na nodra itekitekivu.

Na veicagilaba kece e ravuti Viti era dau sega ni vakacauoca na wekada mai Canada me ra vakauta mai na ilavo eki na iyaya ni veivuke vei ira na noda era sotava na vakacaca ni cagilaba.

“Ena vukuna na noda Paraiminisita, au sa gusuda kece na lewei Viti ena vakamuduo kei na vakavinavainaka levu ki vei ira na lewe ni noda vanua

era sa laki cakacaka ka vakaitikotiko voli mai Canada.

“Na vakavinavainaka levu vua na noda mata mai Canada o Ambassador Prasad kei Mr Bobby Naikar ena ilavo levu era kumuna rawa ena Siga ni Sucu kei na vakatawase oya e \$40,000 ka sa mai biu ena tobu ni ilavo ni vakacoko nei Paraiminisita.

Vakavinavainaka talega o Karan kin a Radio Mirchi, keina isoqosoqo ni noda mai Canada, na siteseni na Bula Masti Radio kei Netani Gucake na iliuliu ni lewei Viti mai Canada ena nodra soli igu ena soli loloma oqo.



Oqo na mata nei Viti e Canada o Bobby Naikar. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Boko na akaude lala ni FNPF

Veitalanoa na Tabacakacaka ni Tukutuku ni Matanitu kei na Manidia ni Veiqaravi kina lewenivanua ena Matabose ni ilavo Musuki ni Tamata Cakacaka na Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) ko Alipate Waqairawai ena vukudra esa na bokoci nodra akaude baleta ni sa mai lala tu vakabalavu. Wilika sara yani.

Taro: Na cava na inaki raiyawa a tauyavu kina na Fiji National Provident Fund e Viti?

FNPF: A tauyavutaki ena 1966 na Matabose ni ilavo Musuki (FNPF) ena kena sagai mera maroroi ilavo kina na tamata cakacaka, ka vakatuburi tiko me yacova edua na itagede vinaka mera na bula tiko kina ena gauna era sana vakacegu kina mai na cakacaka.

Taro: E ra lewe vica taucoko na meba ni FNPF sa dede na kena mai lala koto na nodra akaude kasa nanumi me sa bokoci?

FNPF: Na gauna daru veitalanoa tiko kina oqo na levu taucoko ni meba ni Tabacakacaka ni ilavo Musuki (FNPF) era lewe 477, 635. Ia ena neitou ripote era lewe 59, 751 na meba esa sega sara ga ni dua na ilavo e tu ena nodra akaude.

Taro: Na cava so na vuna sa mai lala kina nodra akaude ni FNPF o ira na meba oqo?

FNPF: Ni se bera na COVID-19 a musu tiko mai vua na itaukei ni cakacaka e 10 na pasede, mai vua na tamata cakacaka e walu na pasede.

Ia, ena imatai ni Evereli baleta na leqa e a tarai vuravura raraba ka kauta mai na COVID-19 e lima na pasede mai vua na itaukei ni cakacaka lima na pasede mai vei koya na meba.

Ni laurai cava na vuna sa mai sega kina nodra ilavo e baleta ni so sa mai sega ni cakacaka, sa sega ni lako mai e dua na musumusu.

Eso nira sa biu cakacaka era sa tara eso na veivuke baleta natara vale baleta na sega ni cakacaka ya sara dau vakayagata. Sa lutusobu kina nodra tobu ni ilavo e tiko vei keitou.

Vei keda kece na meba edua ga na ilavo edau musu vei keda ena veiyabaki e \$35 e baleta edua naka e vakatokai tiko na Special Death Benefit Premium. E vakatu edua na inisua. Kevaka edua e leqa na FNPF ena qai taqara tale e cake na ilavo e \$8500 me kuria kina na ilavo sa tiko vei FNPF.

Koya ga tiko nona ilavo ena tubu tiko ke sega na ilavo sega na tubu.

Taro: E so era rivarivabitaka tiko de na laki manata nodra akaude ni FNPF na veisau ena vakayacori oqo sena kena bokoci nodra akaude o ira sa lala tu vakadede nodra akaude?

FNPF: Au kila ni gauna a kaci-vaki kina na itukutuku oqo e levu era a nuiqawaqawataka baleta ni so na veivuke e lako tiko oqo baleta nira tara tiko nodra veivuke sa sega nodra General Account, io na nodra Preserve Balance e tu.

Kena ibalebale vei ira oya mera kua ni leqataka na nodra akaude ena dola tuga.

Kena ibalebale o ira ga keitou kauwai tiko kina qo o ira sara ga sa sega sara ga ni dua na ilavo e tiko ena nodra akaude ruarua.

Ni kila ni tiki ga ni cakacaka nida tiko ena dua na vale ni cakacaka ena tiko na gauna meda vakasavasavataka kina noda Data. Koya na iwiliwili ni 59,751 koya qo me tekivu mai na yabaki 1966 me yacova mai qo koya keitou via vakasavasavataka tiko.

Kena ibalebale na FNPF esega ni rawa ni tuga e sogota e dua na akaude ni se vo tu kina na ilavo. E na muria na kena sala mena tovolea mena vakauqeti keda kina.

Keitou vakauqeti kemuni ke tu eso na ivurevure ni nomuni ilavo se gauna vinaka moni tomana kina na vakatawani ni nomuni akaude ena FNPF.

Taro: Ko ira na sega ni meba ni FNPF kara gadreva mera curu yani me vaka edua na Voluntary Member na cava mera cakava?

FNPF: Taro vinaka oqori, na gauna oqo kevaka edua evia mai Voluntary Member ke dua na gone ese qai yabaki ono sa rawa ni mai meba. Na vakasama ni yabaki ono,



Era veiqaravi tiko oqori vei ira na meba ni FNPF mai Nadi na kena ivakailesilesi ena veivakararamataki a laki qaravi e kea. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

ni yabaki ono kalasi dua na gone. Keitou saga e dua na ituvatuva mera kila na gone na yaga ni vakatubuilavo. Baleta kevaka edua via dolava edua na akaude vua edua na luvena se makubuna ni o vakacuruma tiko oya me Voluntary Member ni sa na yacova na yabaki ni vuli torocake yabaki 16, 17, se 18 ke musu tiko madaga e \$10 dua na macawa me qai yacova nona gau-na ni vuli torocake sa rawa madaga ni sauma na nona icurucuru. Qoka sana via via 1300 vakacaca tiko na kedra iwiliwili na Voluntary Member keitou tekivuna ena rua na yabaki sa oti. Tekivu vei ira na yabaki ono me yacova na yabaki 54 rawa ni curu me Voluntary Member.

Na yaga ni FNPF me kakua ni ologi keda ga na sa cakacaka tu e dola raraba talega kina informal sector vei ira na cakacaka vata-taki ira, o ira na tu ena koro sena itikotiko ni vagalala kei ira na caka bisinisi.

Taro: E vica na meba esa saiva se sa lala tu vakadede nodra akaude ruarua ni FNPF?

FNPF: Na neitou ripote vakailavo ni ika 30 ni June 2020 koya keitou kacivaka o ira na sa sega sara ga ni dua na ilavo e tu ena nodra akaude ruarua se o ira na saiva era lewe 59,751. Oira oqo esa sega sara ga ni dua na ilavo e tiko ena nodra akaude ruarua, nodra Preserved Account kei na General Account.

Taro: E ra lewe vica e lailai mai na \$5000 lako sobu na nodra ilavo ni FNPF?

FNPF: O ira na lailai mai na \$5000 lako sobu o ira qo era lewe 186,952.

Taro: E ra lewe vica na meba e tiko ena \$5,000 kina \$20,000?

FNPF: O ira na tiko nodra ilavo ni

FNPF ena \$5,000 kina \$20,000 era lewe 114,551.

Taro: E ra lewe vica n ameba e tiko ena \$20,000 kina \$40,000 ?

FNPF: O ira na tiko nodra ilavo ni FNPF e \$20,000 kina \$40,000 era lewe 47,168.

Taro: Kena ibalebale edua na iwase levu ni meba e tiko nodra ilavo ena \$40,000 lako sobu. Era lewe vica oya?

FNPF: E ra lewe 358,179 na meba e tiko nodra ilavo ena \$40,000 lako sobu. Na iwase levu duadua ni meba ni FNPF e toka ena loma ni bai oya. Qoka edua na bolebole levu vei keitou ena neitou veivakauqeti tiko vei ira na meba.

Taro: E ra lewe vica na meba e tiko nodra ilavo ni FNPF ena maliwa ni \$40,000 kina \$100,00?

FNPF: O ira na tiko nodra ilavo ni FNPF ena maliwa ni ni \$40,000 kina \$100,00 era lewe 31,383.

Taro: E ra lewe vica na meba ni FNPF e tiko nodra ilavo ena \$100,000 kina \$250,000?

FNPF: O ira na meba e tiko nodra ilavo ni FNPF ena maliwa ni \$100,000 kina \$250,000 era lewe 7063.

Taro: E ra lewe vica na meba ni FNPF e tiko nodra ilavo ena maliwa ni \$250,000 kina \$500,000?

FNPF: O ira na tiko nodra ilavo ena maliwa ni \$250,000 kina \$500,000 era lewe 796.

Taro: E ra lewe vica na meba e sivia na \$500,000 na nodra ilavo ni FNPF?

FNPF: O ira na sivia na \$500,000 e tiko ena nodra FNPF era lewe 217 na meba.

Taro: Na bolebole cava e tiko vei kemudou ena ituvaki vakailavo oqo ni FNPF?

FNPF: Na bolebole levu e tiko vei keitou oya mera vakauqeti na lewei Viti mera mamaroroi. Baleta ni levu na gauna na vakasama makawa ni FNPF era dau lako mai na ka ra vinakata me mai tarai ena FNPF.

Taro: Ni se bera ni yaco na veiveisau e vica na iwalewale e rawa ni tauri ilavo kina ni FNPF edua?

FNPF: Na gauna se bera ni keitou vakayacora kina na veiveisau a rauta tiko ni 23 na yavu edua e rawa ni mai tara ilavo kina. Oti keitou mai veisautaka oya ena vuku tikoga ni vakasama mera mamaroroi na nodra ilavo.

Taro: Ni dou cakava na veisau na cava sa qai yaco?

FNPF: Matai ni ka sa qai yaco oqo, mai na 23 na yavu koya edua rawa ni mai tara ilavo kina sa keitou musuka sobu me lima ga.

Kena ikarua ena yabaki 2014 keitou sa wasea rua talega na tobu ni noda ilavo na meba ni FNPF. Dua tiko kina e 30 na pasede, dua e tiko kina e 70 na pasede.

Koya tiko kina e 70 na pasede koya sa maroroi vakatabakidua sara ga me yacova na nomu vakacegu ena cakacaka. Kena ibalebale koya ya me yadrava na inaki a tauyavu kina na Tabacakacaka ni ilavo musuki.

Koya tiko kina na 30 na pasede me qaravi kina na gagadre ni vuli, tara vale, voli qele, na qaravi vakavuniwai, na so mate kei na sega ni cakacaka.

Noda Viti



Totoka na vale ni bula vou e Keyasi, Navosa, ka laki dolava ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. E koto ena \$30 na milioni na isau ni kena tara na vale ni bula oqo. iTaba: MEREANI GONEDUA

Dola na Vale ni Bula vou e Keyasi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA sa na sega ni vakacauoca na lewenivanua ena vualiku ni colo kei Viti Levu ena nodra sasaga mera laki dikevi e valenibula se vakavuniwai.

Oqori baleta ni sa baci cavuikalawa tale na Matanitu ena mua ni vula sa oti (Tusiti na ika 23 ni Veverueri) ena nona sa dolava kina ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na Vale ni Bula vou mai Keyasi e Navosa.

Na isau ni kena tara na Keyasi Divisional Hospital e koto ena \$30 na milioni.

Na vale ni bula vou oqo era na qaravi kina e 26 na koro, 58 na itikotiko ni vakagalala, 13 na koronivuli kei na 11 na vanua ni nodra vuli na Sovu ni Vuli.

E vakavinavinakataka vakalevu ko PM

Bainimarama na veikidavaki vakavanua ka ra kidavaki tiko kina na vakaillesilelesi vakamatani.

“E da mai vakadinadinataka tiko ena mataka ni kua na nona vakabibitaka tiko na Matanitu na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena noda vanua vakabibi ena vanua saka oqo o Navosa.”

“Sa dua na vale ni bula totoka da mai sarava tiko ena mataka ni kua. E mai qaravi na sasaga ni Matanitu me walia na ibolebole o ni dau sotava na lewenivanua vakabibi ena taudaku ni veikoronivuli.”

“E dodonu me da kila na cava na leqa e sotavi tiko ka vakarautaka saka na kena iwali.”

“Sa dodonu talega meda kila na mate cava e kune vakalevu ena vanua oqo, ka me va-

karautaki talega na kena iwali,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Sa vakalevutaki ena gauna oqo na veiqaravi ena mataqali vale ni bula vaka oqo ka sa tiko talega na vanua ni veisele. E vakarautaki talega kina na vanua me ra tiko kina na lewenivanua se lewe ni vuvale era mai qarava na tauvimate, era sa na sega ni mai saumi otela se saumi vodovodo tiko mai ena veisiga,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Sa vakarautaki talega na nodra vale na vuniwai kei na nasi me ra veiqaravi ena siga kei na bogi.”

“E so na mate ena gadrevi me na laki qaravi e na vale ni bula Levu. Ni raica tiko oqo e matada ni sa vakarautaki talega na iroko ni waqavuka me vukataki kina o ira na tauvimate ki na vei vale ni bula lelevu,”

e kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Vakamatataka na District Officer (D.O) e Navosa o Jovesa Naqarikau na veivanua era na qaravi ena Vale ni Bula vou qoka mai Keyasi.

“Na Vale ni Bula oqo e namaki me na qaravi ira na veitikina eso vakatekivu tiko mai ena tikina vakaturaga o Navatusila, tikina vakaturaga o Noikoro, na tikina vakaturaga o Nasikawa, na tikina o Namataku, na tikina o Bemana, na tikina vakaturaga o Naqalimare, na itikotiko ni Matanitu e Navatumulali, vakatalega kina na tikina vakaturaga o Magodro ena vuku ga ni nona voleka tiko mai o Magodro ena yasana vakaturaga o Ba kina itikotiko ni Matanitu e Navatumulali,” e kaya ko Naqarikau.

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]