

FIJI Focus



MINISTER
MAINTAINS
STAND ON
SCHOOL HEADS

Inside

30 MILLION
TREES
IN 15
YEARS

7



RFNS
VOLASIGA
ENSURES
SAFETY AT
SEA

15



Members of the Fiji Republic Military Forces bids farewell to their loved ones before flying off to assist in Australia's bushfire crisis. **LEFT:** Minister for Defence Inia Seruiratu, Australian High Commissioner John Feakes with senior members of the Australian army and Fiji Republic Military Forces at Nadi International Airport.

Photos: MEREANI GONEDUA

RFMF troops extend help during bushfire crisis

FIJI AIDS AUSSIES

PRASHILA DEVI

AS a nation, Fijians have come to the aid of not just their own countrymen but also to their neighbours in the Oceania region in battling the impact of climate change.

Prime Minister Bainimarama, speaking as a 54-member engineering contingent from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces left to assist in Australia's bushfire crisis, highlighted that these personnel are assisting on two fronts.

"RFMF personnel and disaster officials are clearing roads, restoring services and providing relief supplies to Fijians impacted by the heavy rains and flooding brought by Tropical Cyclone Tino, which arrived three weeks after Cyclone Sarai this same season," the Fijian Head of Gov-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



INSIDE

RFNS VOLASIGA

ENSURES SAFETY AT SEA- 15

AIRBUS A350 EXPECTED TO

GENERATE MORE VISITORS - 14

VENDORS THANK GOVT FOR

NEW, IMPROVED STALLS - 13

SOLAR LIGHTS BENEFITS

WOMEN'S GROUP - 11

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Rosy Akbar.

As required by the Constitution and in line with the open merit and recruitment selection policy guideline, all school heads must be appointed fairly based on merit and merit alone.

Rosy Akbar
Minister for Education

NUMBERS

239 Fijian police officers, including **4** from Tuvalu, became the third batch of **2019** to complete the Basic Recruits Course last week.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Rosy Sofia Akbar (@RosySAkbar)

I stand to support all efforts to end violence against women and girls. Thank you Minister @MereseiniRakui1 Vuniwaqa & team MWCPA. Big progress.

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Mandatory digital registration (reregistration) for companies, foreign companies and businesses

ALL business names and companies, including foreign companies registered before 14 June 2019, must digitally register with the Registrar of Companies (ROC).

This digital registration process is a free and 1-time requirement and commenced from 15 January 2020.

As per the Fijian Government's commitment to delivering better, faster and more efficient Government services, an online platform for the registration of companies and business names was launched on 14 June 2019. The digital registration initiative, under the Fijian Government's flagship digital transformation program digitalFiji, is designed to boost convenience for Fijians and improve the accuracy and accessibility of information and lower costs, through the following:

- The registered entity's information will be available

online.

- Online notifications will be sent if there are any pending payments.

- Online searches and applications thereby removing the need for physical presence and lining up to access services.

- The ability to make online payments.

The key objective of the digital registration process is to update the information held with the ROC and to ensure that it is current and correct. Therefore, amnesty is provided for previous failures to notify the ROC of relevant changes to business or company information.

Digital registration can be done with a simple three-step process.

- Create an e-profile on the digitalFiji mobile applica-

tion or website (www.digital.gov.fj).

- Using the e-profile, log into the registration portal, click on the digital registration tab and follow the instructions provided to digitally register.

- The ROC will then verify the information provided. All companies must complete their digital registration applications by 15 July 2020 while all business name holders must complete their digital registration applications by 15 October 2020.

This initiative will significantly reduce transaction times with the ROC and make their services accessible online for all Fijians.

ROC will conduct roadshows and visit rural and maritime areas. The location and dates for these roadshows will be released soon.

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Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy during a meeting with farmers in Rakiraki. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Plans for farmers revealed

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Ministry of Agriculture will be announcing a dedicated Kava Research Centre and stations for multiplication of planting materials to expand kava growth and production outside the traditional kava area.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy while meeting with farmers in Rakiraki to promote root crop and livestock farming so they can transition to

commercial farming on a larger scale.

"We will also be making an announcement to make every farmer a member of the Fiji National Provident Fund so that we provide social security to them income wise when they retire," Minister Reddy said.

"Unfortunately only in the commerce sector people are members and it is about time our hard-working farmers also benefit from this scheme which will be launched soon," he added.

Minister Reddy held talanoa sessions in five areas during this

visit to Rakiraki where farmers readily discussed their grievances of water sourcing, proper drainage, land preparation, Irish crossing, bus shelter, rural electrification, farm road and climate change.

He acknowledged the requests and said assistance and support will be provided on issues and works undertaken by the ministry such as drainage works, farm roads, land preparation and providing a market for their produce.

"We are very happy with the support and response received by the farmers and by the end of this year you will see a major production of rice, squash, cassava, pulses and vegetables in the western division," he said.

"We explained the returns from this farming and how it can really bump up their household and farm income and also encourage livestock farmers to prepare a small plot of land where we will provide them with the planting material and take it to their doorstep. We are very excited about this venture and will continue to promote commercial agriculture and motivate farmers by looking

at more ways of mechanization and bringing in more machinery to improve their farm."

He further adds that commercial agriculture plays a pivotal role in export while bringing in foreign currency, job creation, national economic development and livelihood sustenance."

In the last 12-month period the ministry has provided about 80kg of planting material for one quarter in every livestock farmer.

"We want every livestock farmer to have Juncao pasture which is very high yielding, high in protein, drought tolerant, will provide a good return and lasts up-to 40 to 50 years," Minister Reddy said.

Coconut farmer Praveen Ram Swarup said he had requested government for a thousand coconut seedling and planting materials as he has 170 acres of land and is ready for commercial farming.

"My business was good but I lost a lot of my crops during Tropical Cyclone Winston and I am ready to go big now thanks to the government for providing me with 500 coconut seedlings," Mr Swarup said.

Fiji aids Aussies

FROM PAGE 1

ernment said.

“Australians have been there for our people in the aftermath of past disasters, and Fiji is proud to do the same in this time of great need. It speaks to the capacity of the RFMF and the goodness of the Fijian character that we are willing and able to stand in solidarity with Australia while aiding our own citizens at home.”

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison acknowledged and thanks Fiji for the helping hand that was extended as the RFMF personnel joined countries like New Zealand, Singapore, Papua New Guinea and Japan to help in rebuilding lives in areas affected by the bushfire.

“We are deeply grateful for the support from our Pacific family, including PNG, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Nauru and Samoa to help us fight the ongoing bushfires. Thanks to all the governments and people of the Pacific region who have sent heartfelt messages and offers of assistance,” Prime Minister Morrison said.

Fijian Prime Minister Bainimarama added that as Australians battle the bushfire crisis and Fijians recover from cyclones Sarai and Tino, “we are bearing witness to the powerful resilience of the Pacific spirit.”

“I have long said that we are all in the same canoe when it comes to combatting climate change. While the climate emergency presents a new and frightening reality, if we paddle together, there is no challenge we cannot overcome,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

Fiji’s High Commissioner to Australia, Luke Daunivalu, who received the RFMF personnel in Australia, said he was proud to greet the Fijian contingent upon their arrival in Melbourne.

He thanked Prime Minister Bainimarama for spearheading this contribution to “our vuvale in Australia”.

Ministry on renewal of teacher contracts

THE Ministry urges all teachers who have not yet uploaded their new, signed e-contracts onto the FEMIS platform to immediately upload their contracts to avoid any disruption in their pay for the start of Term 1.

More than 2,500 contracts have been successfully submitted – a number that has swelled significantly in recent days due to an ambitious outreach campaign by Ministry officials.

The new e-contract system has significantly streamlined the Ministry’s contract approval process, provided a wealth of valuable data on teacher assignments, added unprecedented security and transparency to the system, eliminated vast

amounts of paperwork, saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in overhead costs, and most importantly made contract approvals much quicker and easier for the benefit of our hardworking Fijian teachers across the country.

The Fijian Education Management Information System (FEMIS) platform can be utilised anywhere in the world from the ease of a mobile phone, so any teachers travelling for the holiday season can take advantage of this improved process.

Meanwhile, several hundred e-contracts remain to be uploaded, and Ministry urges these teachers to act swiftly in order to avoid a delay in their pay.

The Ministry wants to avoid any confu-

sion on this issue and our headquarters officers will be working overtime through the weekend to continue to reach out to those teachers via phone and email.

The contact information being used is that currently provided by individual teachers on FEMIS, so teachers who have not been contacted are also asked to make sure that their FEMIS information is current and up-to-date.

Any questions can be directed to the Ministry by dialing 9904513, and officials will be staffing this helpline from the hours of 9:00am-5:00pm throughout the weekend and from 8am to 5pm during weekdays.

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Minister for Disaster Management Jone Usamate with Government officials before departing for Lau at Walu Bay in Suva yesterday. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Govt officials depart for Lau

NANISE NEIMILA

WE are here to serve with the best of our ability.

This was the advice given by

the Minister for Disaster Management Jone Usamate to departing personnel from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and civil servants to assist Fijians living in the Lau Group who

were affected during Tropical Cyclone Sarai and TC Tino.

“This is our number one job- to make a difference in the lives of people living in the areas affected,” Minister Usamate said.

These Fijians can soon expect assistance to be brought to their doorsteps as the team of officials left for the Lau Group yesterday on Government vessels Bai ni Takali, Veivueti and Sigavou.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with outgoing non-resident High Commissioner of Singapore to Fiji Verghese Mathews.

PM farewells envoy, receives new WAF CEO

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently received a farewell call from the outgoing non-resident High Commissioner of Singapore to Fiji Verghese Mathews.

Mr Mathews, who was also the Ambassador to the Pacific Islands Forum at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Singapore, had served his tenure in office since 2012.

As a token of appreciation, Prime Minister Bainimarama presented a gift to High Commissioner Mathews and extended his well wishes for his future endeavour.

Meanwhile, the new chief executive officer for Water Authority of Fiji, Barry Omundson was officially welcomed by Prime Minister Bainimarama.

Mr Omundson, who is from Australia, has an extensive water-related background and has spent numerous years at executive management level.

He officially resumed office late last month.

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Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama greets the new Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) chief executive officer Barry Omundson (right).



Minister for Education Rosy Akbar with head of schools from in the Western Division at the Fiji National University Campus in Lautoka. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Stop charging parents, minister warns schools

MEREANI GONEDUA

A STERN warning has been sent out to school heads and school management to stop charging parents with various levies from their respective schools. The warning came after the Minister for Education Rosy Akbar spoke to head of schools from Nadi, Lautoka and Yasawa at the Fiji National University campus in Lautoka and highlighted that they have heard of cases of a Parents Teachers Association levy ranging from \$20 to \$300 per child. “A strangely new term I’ve come to hear is

the re-enrolment fees, if you have something like that in your schools, stop charging the parents right now. Remember, the PTA must never be imposed upon the parents, it’s voluntary,” Minister Akbar said. She said that some of the reasons given for these levies was that the fees were charged to cut the grass annually. “In so many schools that my team members have visited the grass was knee length. I seriously wonder why the condition of the schools have deteriorated that much because the Head of School got paid their acting allowances in the holidays.”

“Time and again our Ministry comes in the limelight because we have been given a sizeable portion of the Government pie and each one of us is accountable for how it is distributed.” The Minister stressed that the Ministry is fortunate that every year the government coffers bestows its generosity increasingly on them and they needed to be accountable. “You are the stewards of these funds and every dollar must be spent wisely and visibly. The criteria for the usage of grants was provided by the Ministry and must be adhered to strictly.”

Minister Akbar highlighted that since 2015 more than \$359 million was allocated to the Ministry and were as follows:

2015
\$43,559,959
2016
\$56,085,530
2016/2017
\$65,952,881
2017/2018
\$64,119,440
2018/2019
\$66,433,440
2019/2020
\$63,689,855

Akbar recalls experience of violent dad

EMI KOROITANO

MINISTER for Education, Rosy Akbar has once again given strength to women in abusive relationship by essaying her own struggle at the hands of a violent father. Having spoken about her experiences in the past, Minister Akbar used the platform of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) program to highlight her personal experience of living in a home with a violent and abusive father. She went down memory lane and recalled waking up one night to what looked like her home set ablaze in a fire. As the room infused with smoke, Minister Akbar’s vision became slightly hazy, clueless to what was happening. Her eldest brother, luckily, made the heroic move of grabbing his siblings out of the home before the house became fully engulfed in an inferno. “I still remember, in the early hours of the morning to be dragged out of the house by my older brother because of smoke,” Minister Akbar recalled.

“We could hear tins popping, things exploding because we had a shop next to our house. To make it worse when you live in the village – you have fuels and kerosene and everything stored inside those small shops that we had.” Being the concerned daughter she was, Minister Akbar looked around in search for her dear father but what followed after drew her back in repulse, a memory forever embedded in the back of her mind for many years to come, even to this day as she serves as the Minister for Education. “I was shocked to see my dad standing comfortably under the tree watching the burning house,” she said. “I still recall that weird sense of satisfaction that he had on his face, God knows what he was planning to do.” The year was 1984 and stories hit the headlines in the local media, stories of suspected arson. The Minister shared that she had grown up in a household exposed to domestic violence. “I can still recall that horrific night on the last week of school, I was in class eight surrounded by my three other siblings, my youngest sister was only three. We watched helplessly how my

dad beat up my nine month pregnant mother and thrown out of the family home early that morning.” She shared it wasn’t until after having four children that her mother finally decided to leave. “Why it took her 20 years, I couldn’t understand but now I do,” she said. “She was trying her very best for us, her children and the one that was about to come. She was trying her very best to save her marriage, to give us a normal childhood, to avoid the societal shame, to avoid being judged by the community and reasons she is still not ready to share.” Minister Akbar explained that the Government was working on a lot to ensure education is a first step forward. “I question where I would be if my mother was still there, if my Mum had not left that place where would I be? I asked this of my children, where would I be? Would I be in a position to empower other women? Maybe not,” she remarked. “So that support mechanism is something that we all need to work towards.” This year, Fiji will embark on an historic mission to develop a National Action Plan to Prevent



Minister for Education Rosy Akbar shares her personal story on living with domestic violence. Photo: EMI KOROITANO

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), making it the first Pacific Island Country, and one of the only two countries globally along with Australia, to have an evidence-based approach to preventing violence against women and girls. Fiji is facing an epidemic of violence against women and girls in both public and private spaces. It has one of the highest recorded rates of violence against women and girls globally, with almost two out of three (64 per cent) women experiencing some form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.

I still remember, in the early hours of the morning to be dragged out of the house by my older brother because of smoke. We could hear tins popping, things exploding because we had a shop next to our house.

Rosy Akbar
Minister for Education

Minister maintains stand on school heads



We choose you because we believe you are the best person to serve that institution and you are chosen based on merit. We must embrace change.

Rosy Akbar
Minister for Education



Minister for Education Rosy Akbar with head of schools from Nadi, Lautoka and Yasawa at the Fiji National University Campus in Lautoka. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

MEREANI GONEDUA

FAITH-BASED organisations that appoint their own head of schools based on their faith and religion will not receive Government's Free Education Grant.

This was the statement made by the Minister for Education, Rosy Akbar to more than 100 school heads from Nadi, Lautoka and Yasawa at the Fiji National University campus in Lautoka.

Minister Akbar stressed that the Ministry appoints school heads based on merit alone and not on faith or religion as stipulated in the Fijian constitution.

"As required by the Constitution and in line with the open merit and recruitment selection policy guideline, all school heads must be appointed fairly based on merit and merit alone," Minister Akbar said.

Minister Akbar highlighted that it is essential that the recruitment and selection of teachers are decided by their ability, education and experience rather than ethnicity, faith or favouritism.

"We choose you because we believe you are the best person to serve that institution and you are chosen based on merit. We must embrace change. To be professional, we need to stay current with local, regional and international developments and take responsibility for our own personal development."

Minister Akbar acknowledged those management who have accepted the newly appointed school heads and called on the others to follow their lead.

She also highlighted that every year a large sum of money is allocated to the Ministry and called on the head of schools to take responsibility and spend the funds provided to them

wisely. "You are the stewards of these funds and every dollar must be spent wisely and visibly. The criteria for the usage of grants was provided by the Ministry and must be adhered to strictly. Yet, some Heads of schools will have their contracts terminated simply because of the abuse on the ground."

"Under my watch progress is what I'm targeting, if we are allocating more money, via another allocation, I want to see it utilized that way. Proper planning is vital so that projects which are undertaken in one financial year are completed. If you don't perform you will leave a mess behind for your successors, a pattern of leadership I strongly oppose."

"Projects must be targeted and well allocated for. It must be well planned that all of it is not spent on building works/repair maintenance. Align your plans to those of the Ministry's Strategic plan."

Look after textbooks, schools heads told

MEREANI GONEDUA

SCHOOL heads in the Western division have been warned to be responsible and look after the textbooks provided for free by the Fijian Government.

Speaking to school heads from Ba and Tavua in Xavier College, Minister for Education, Rosy Akbar highlighted that \$11 million has been spent by the Ministry in the past five years on textbooks alone.

Minister Akbar highlighted that an audit revealed that the number of textbooks requested by school heads every year remained the same.

Expressing her disappointment, the Minister stressed that they



Minister for Education Rosy Akbar with head of schools from Ba and Tavua in Xavier College. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

have now devised a plan and forms will be given out to schools to record books given out.

"If a student loses a book than they will have to pay for it or replace it so each student using a textbook are also required to be responsible," Minister Akbar said.

She said that despite this the Government is continuing with the free textbook scheme from Year 1-13 as has been the case in

the past few years.

"If any schools have advised parents to buy textbooks please withdraw the list immediately. If there are any supplementary texts used by schools it is the responsibility of the schools to provide those texts using their Free Education Grant. In case of additional workbooks the parent must not be burdened with the purchase of these additional resources the school must provide

all worksheets. Heads of schools are aware of the free textbook scheme hence school booklists must not include any textbooks or workbooks."

"All schools have been given a set of dictionaries and Atlas sets to be used as resource materials by CAS, keep them properly and use them as class sets.

"Look after the textbooks provided by the Ministry and design internal textbook policies."

You will find answers in the classroom: Bure



Minister for Education Rosy Akbar shares a light moment with head of National Education Services Delivery Timoci Bure. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE role of the head teacher or leader of a school is the most important position for any school because the future of the children is in your hands, it is determined by you to guide them as they are essential to the nation.

These were the words of Ministry of Education's head of National Education Services Delivery Timoci Bure during the Suva District Head of Schools Meeting at St Joseph Secondary School Hall, Suva.

"Almost all homes in Fiji have a child, whether in primary, secondary or tertiary, and it is disappointing when we don't meet expectations."

"We are doing our best to support you, you are in the frontline and we provide the logistics."

"You will not find answers in the office, you will find answers in the classroom and observing the lesson delivery by the teachers."

Mr Bure added that heads of school need to check for themselves that the delivery in the classrooms is taking into consideration the different learning capabilities of the children.

Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Hon. Rosy Akbar, while officiating, said, "If we put our heads together and are committed, we will do justice to the people we serve."

"As teachers a lot of trust has been put in us no matter what we do, it will never be enough, but keep doing your best."

Minister Akbar added the benchmark the public has for teachers is really high, and though they might not be able to do things up to that par, they should always try to do better each day by continuing to do their best.

"We want to form very respectful relationship with you all here and you need to do that with your students and their parents."

"As team Suva, let step up for 2020, let's go out of the way to see that we make a difference in our institutions and let's set higher benchmarks for 2020."

"I see 2020 as a year of opportunity, as a year of hope and as a year of celebration."



Bainimarama seeks to strengthen ties with UAE

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama reaffirmed his personal commitment to building a stronger bilateral relationship with the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Fijian Head of Government said the relationship between the two countries has resulted in the establishment of a new UAE Diplomatic Mission in Suva.

He said this during a bilateral meeting with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE, His Highness Sheik Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, along the margins of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week Forum.

He said he fully appreciated the vast potential and opportunities that Fiji and the UAE could offer.

At the meeting, Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted that one of the Government's primary goals is exploring and securing as many opportunities from our development partners especially the UAE so that Fiji reaches its ambitious yet possible target of 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

The Prime Minister used the opportunity to convey his appreciation to the UAE Government, for the generous support of US\$5 million (FJ\$10.8m) through the initiative of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and the UAE-Pacific Partnership Fund.

This support will assist Fiji with the target of generating 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

The initiative saw the construction of three hybrid solar systems in Lakeba, Kadavu and Rotuma which has resulted in many social-economic benefits, increased productivity, and improved health care services and education services.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also conveyed his



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE, His Highness Sheik Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his recent visit to the United Arab Emirates. Photo: SUPPLIED

gratitude to the Crown Prince for the generous assistance of \$10 million, through the UAE Red Crescent, which assisted in the rehabilitation and construction of three schools in Fiji that were adversely affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016. On education, Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fiji is looking forward to more education opportunities in the UAE for Fijian students and civil servants.

He said he fully recognised that UAE has some of the world's finest educational institutions which some of our Fijian students had previously benefitted from.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also discussed with the Crown Prince the issue of visa waiver for all Fijian passport holders entering the UAE.

This, he adds will open doors for deeper and meaningful engagements between the two countries and its people at all levels.

A total of 250 Fijian nationals are currently working and residing in the UAE. The Head of Government said this is a significant number in addition to the Fijian peacekeepers who serve the United Nations in the region. Prime Minister Bainimarama also said he would like to see more employment opportunities for Fijians in the UAE.

In response, the Crown Prince, among other discussions, said he appreciated the Bainimarama-led government's efforts of establishing the UAE Mission in Fiji.

Fijians urged to remain vigilant

VIRENDRA LAL

DISASTER authorities are on the ground working overtime to assist impacted communities to reopen access to flooded regions and restore critical services to affected Fijians.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, speaking at the Chinese New Year celebrations at the Suva Civic Centre over the weekend, gave an update on the impact of Tropical Cyclone Tino.

"My thoughts are with the Fijians in the Northern and Eastern Divisions who have borne the brunt of TC Tino throughout the (last) weekend."

About Chinese New Year, the Prime Minister Bainimarama said 12 years ago, at the start of the last zodiac cycle, Fiji was in many ways a vastly different country.

"Fijian children did not know the life changing opportunities borne from free education. Our economy had not secured the historic streak of expansion or level of stability we have today."

"Systems of birthright and patriarchal privilege reigned supreme over the proven might of merit-based recognition. Our people did not know the common and equal citizenry they now share and our Constitution and the vast array of rights it enshrines was yet to be promulgated."

Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fijian victories have been victories for every member of the Fijian-Chinese community, the same as any other Fijian.

He said only by working together, by standing united as one nation and one people, can a new chapter be written in the story of Fijian progress through the years ahead.

This year is the Chinese Year of the Rat.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with a teacher and students of Kamil College in Ba who are representing Fiji with a renewable energy proposal at the Zayed Sustainability Prize competition in Abu Dhabi. Photo: SUPPLIED

Students congratulated on sustainability win

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has hailed the teachers and students of Kamil Muslim College in Ba for representing Fiji with a renewable energy proposal at the Zayed Sustainability Prize competition in Abu Dhabi.

The competition is the United Arab Emirates' pioneering global award for sustainability which was inspired by the UAE's founding father, the late Sheik Zayed bin Sultan

Al Nahyan.

Now, in its 12th year, the event recognizes impactful, innovative and inspirational sustainability solutions in the areas of health, food, energy and water.

Prime Minister Bainimarama met the school representatives along the margins of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week recently where he personally congratulated them for being the voice of sustainability and resilience for Fiji on the inter-

national stage.

The school project was aimed at fully energising the school by solar energy with 25KW array of solar panels on the roof of the school buildings.

The project was estimated to save over \$1,000 in electricity bills and another \$1,000 in water bills paid by the college every month or some \$24,000 per annum.

Some 30 high schools from around the globe were selected as finalists

because of their innovative and impactful proposals.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said he was proud of the students for joining the world's largest platform for accelerating sustainable development and especially for showing an understanding of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and living them through their projects at school.

-OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER



Minister makes plea on plastic bag

EMI KOROITANO

A WHOPPING total of 65 per cent of fish found in Fijian waters contain microplastics.

This is according to Andrew Paris, a Master of Science student from the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Mr Paris had carried out a microplastic research and samples along Fijian and Tongan waters as part of his Master's thesis in 2018.

The results from the study by the USP School of Marine Studies (SMS) team, led by Dr Marta Ferreira, showed 67.5 per cent of fish found along the coastal environment of the greater Suva area contained microplastics.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy has

called for a national movement on the eradication of plastic bags in Fiji.

Minister Reddy made this plea during a consultation with farmers from the Sigatoka valley.

He reminded them on the need to adhere to the plastic ban.

"It should be a national movement on keeping Fiji clean, it's a problem created by us and the solution lies with us."

"We need to have national pride, we see a lot of rubbish being thrown alongside the road, alongside the mangroves, along the beach and our waterways."

"One of the problems that we are dealing with regarding waterways and environment is it being clogged up with litter," he said.

Minister Reddy said the intention of the ban is to migrate people from plastics to bio-degra-

dable bags.

"I want to thank all parties, stakeholders and institutions, supermarkets and vendors and consumers who have shown full support and I wish to show our appreciation."

Minister Reddy urged farmers to take responsibility for their actions and not to create an environment that is a liability to society.

"You must take responsibility because it's becoming a health threat to the community."

The newly amended legislation – the Environment Management (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 - defines plastic bags as a carry bag that is made entirely or in part with polyethylene, also referred to as 'PET', and is less than 50 microns in thickness and is used to carry or transport goods.

In Fijian waters, a total of 65 per cent of fish contain microplastics.

Corporates urged to support ban of plastic bags

AZARIA FAREEN

RETAIL outlets, supermarkets, commercial outlets, municipal markets, restaurants and the general public have been urged to get on board in support of Government's initiative to ban single-use plastic Bags.

Government had announced the plastic ban in August 2017, providing ample time for business houses to transit to more eco-friendly options.

Suva City Council board chairman Isikeli Tikoduadua recently met with market vendors in Suva Municipal Market and handed out eco-bags sponsored by HFC Bank to create awareness and promote alternate use of single-use plastic bags.

"HFC Bank is highly commended to come up with this option which has shown its commitment in addressing issues affecting our environment at the forefront at the city and of course for Fiji," Mr Tikoduadua said.

"Corporate organisations, please come on board to be part of this journey because we really need to protect our ecosystem but most importantly this is the survival of our future generation and we should make a habit of using reusable bags so that it becomes a part of you."

Mrs Shahid has been a market vendor for over last three decades and says that she always had Eco-bags at her counter for customers to purchase.

"I have been ready for this move for a while. It is must that I have reusable bags at my counter as it is stronger and you can use it all the time," she said.

"The price range for the Eco bags is a dollar for the small bag, two dollars for a medium cloth material bag and five dollars for the heavy sack material bag and we are also open to a better option at a wholesale price," Mrs Shahid added.

Meanwhile, the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum has called on all retailers, supermarkets and vendors to respect Fijians and be more patriotic.

"I commend retailers who are not only patriotic but who understand that there is financial and commercial gain in protecting our environment while accommodating the needs of their customers," the A-G said.

"By banning single-use plastics, we're safeguarding our environment, our oceans and the health and well-being of our Fijian families. So please, if you as a retailer, supermarket or vendor have not got on-board yet, start now."



Minister for Forestry Osea Naiqamu during the planting of pine trees at Nawaisomo Village in Naitasiri.
Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

30 million trees in 15 years

FELIX LESINAIVALU

NAWAISOMO villagers in Naitasiri will worry no more about the depleting pine trees as the Ministry of Forestry launched the 2020 - 4 million trees in 4 years initiative.

This is part of the Government's 4 Million Trees in 4 Year's programme - an initiative that was launched by the President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote in 2019.

Village chief Ratu Waisea Drakusibale gave around 200 acres of land for tree planting saying that it would help the villages in so many ways in the future.

"We didn't think that the initiative would

come quickly and we are grateful to the Minister for bringing more trees for the area."

"The main reason why we wanted the trees here was to keep the soil erosion from happening next to the river and protect our river banks to keep the river clean."

Ratu Waisea added, "The pine trees were used to make houses and boats, to upgrade the villages with no financial cost, however with it being overused, at this moment the Pine trees are depleted."

"Pine trees have lots of uses when matured and we are very thankful to Government for bringing more to us."

Ratu Waisea pleaded for more trees so they can reach a point where the village can use these trees again at a sustainable rate.

Minister for Forestry, Osea Naiqamu said with this momentum, the Ministry aims to plant 30 million trees within the next 15 years.

"I am proud that we are planting trees in the Naitasiri area because not only will it be useful in the future, it will also help with the people's everyday lives."

Minister Naiqamu has also urged the villagers to take ownership of this important initiative of the Fijian Government.



Fiji will always be there for Australia, defence minister assures

Fiji will always be there for Australia when it needs us." This was the assurance given by the Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs, Inia Seruiratu, while farewelling the 54 Republic of Fiji Military Forces personnel deployed for assistance to Australia to deal with the ongoing bushfire crisis.

Minister Seruiratu stressed Australia that was part of Fiji's vuvale (family) and the two countries would always assist and look out for one another. "This deployment fulfils the highest aim of our vuvale partnership with Australia, because family – above all else – means helping each other in times of need."

Photos: MEREANI GONEDUA



A-G commends police officers for service and ensuring safety, security of Fijians

Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum commended the Fiji Police Force for not just ensuring the safety and security of Fijians in normal times, but also during times of disaster.

The A-G was speaking at the recent police passing-out parade for Basic Recruits Course held in Suva where 239 Fiji Police officers, including four Tuvaluans, became the third batch of 2019 to complete this course. He commended them for being the first responders during any natural disaster in the country.

He said the Government was

undertaking a \$125 million restructure of the force hence, many of the graduating officers were entering the force as full-time constables after the force received a budget of \$177.7m for the current financial period.

"We believe that every Police officer deserves every dollar of that increase, the investments we have made for the officers and the direct investments of the safety and security of every Fijian and the commitment to each and this force will remain unwavering in the years ahead," Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



BE VIGILANT, PM URGES ALL FIJIANS AFTER CYCLONE

Disaster authorities are on the ground in impacted communities working overtime to reopen access to flooded regions and restore critical services to affected Fijians in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Tino. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama was speaking at the Chinese New Year celebrations at the Suva Civic Centre last week.

"My thoughts are with the Fijians in the Northern and Eastern divisions who have borne the brunt of

Tropical Cyclone Tino throughout the weekend." About Chinese New Year, the Prime Minister said 12 years ago, at the start of the last zodiac cycle, Fiji was in many ways a vastly different country. "Fijian children did not know the life-changing opportunities borne from free education. Our economy had yet to secure the historic streak of expansion or level of stability we have today. "Systems of birthright and patriarchal privilege

reigned supreme over the proven might of merit-based recognition." Prime Minister Bainimarama said only by working together, by standing united as one nation and one people, we can write new chapters in the story of Fijian progress through the years ahead.

Photos: VIRENDRA LAL

Donation boosts youth club

AZARIA FAREEN

RECIPIENTS of a 23-foot fibre glass boat and two 40-horsepower outboard engines in Rakiraki have commended the efforts of Government in assisting them at their crucial time of need.

Nukubati Youth Club members received a boat and engine while Hemant Kumar received an outboard engine as part of Government's contribution through the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development to support their fishing venture.

President of the club, Jioseva Daunitoko said the members re-

alise the true potential of being a commercial fishing club as they all have young families.

"This was only possible through the assistance from Government which will help our children with their education through the income we earn from fishing," Mr Daunitoko said.

"I must thank the Prime Minister for giving us an excellent new year's gift which has boosted our morale to be serious with our commercial fishing this year and I would like to plead to young fishermen throughout Fiji to avoid catching undersized fish and engage in sustainable fishing as it will benefit our future genera-

tions."

The 14-member youth group had made their contribution of \$6,000 with the Government assisting them with \$11,764 for the boat.

Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy while handing over the equipment urged the recipients to develop ground rules on the usage and maintenance of the equipment so it serves the intended purpose of Government's support.

"This is a small gesture from Government which means a lot for your community and which will energise your youths," Minister Reddy said.



Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy with members of the Nukubati Youth Club after the handing over of their new 23-foot fibre glass boat and two 40-horsepower outboard engines in Rakiraki. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Farmers lauds Govt assistance



Varun Deo Sharma at his farm in Bilalevu Settlement, Sigatoka Valley. Photo: VILIAME TIKOTANI

VILIAME TIKOTANI

FARMERS along the salad bowl of Fiji have commended the Government for their quick action in building a new road that enabled them to transport their produce to the markets.

Former advisory council Varun Sharma, 52, thanked the Government of the day for ensuring that their calls for assistance were met on time.

"We have got a good new tarsealed road 15 kilometers from Nacocolevu to Narata and the Government has plans to move up to Navosa as they are building a new hospital," Mr Sharma said.

"With the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy we also acknowledge that we have received more assistance for drainage system in the last

year." Mr Sharma said they are working together with the Ministry to look into areas of need.

He explained the Ministry assisted farmers affected by Tropical Cyclone Sarai as most experienced damage to their cash crops such as pawpaw, long bean, okra and eggplants due to the flooding.

In terms of markets, Mr Sharma said he also exports paw-

paw and eggplant with weekly sales to the exporter fetching \$300-\$400.

"In return we can get money every day, and we harvest pawpaw for three to four years if there is no cyclone or drought.

He also asked for more assistance towards the farmers especially in the areas of irrigation system, chemicals, roads and seeds.

Concentration on crops that sell better

FELIX LESINAIVALU

CROPS that sell better in the market are what we concentrate on, says Gurdip and Sons Company founder Gurdip Singh.

"In April 2018 we planted around 10-12 different crops to experience the market supply and demand and prices, and the crops that sell good or make more profit we are concentrating on that."

Mr Singh said chillies, okra and maize are some of the goods that sell well in the markets.

"Our main issue is the market, for example, we can harvest two or three acres of okra plants for the market, which comes to around 100-200 kilograms, and are not able to sell it all because of low demand the okra will get bad in one to two days."

Mr Singh took the opportunity to raise his concerns when Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy held a talanoa session with farmers groups at Tunalia/Marasa, Nabila, and Sariyawa in the Nadi area.

Minister Reddy said he can understand the issues that can arise when farmers are not able to see off all their crops and this is a worry that the Ministry wants to take away from a farmer.

"We are restructuring Agro Marketing Authority (AMA), we just appointed a totally new board recently and we are now looking at the structure and new executive arm to support and bring the market to your doorstep."

"We want you to remain a farmer, to remain a producer and not spend too much time searching for market, so we will align food processor agro marketing to work together so some products can go to processing and evaluating, some will go to direct commodity export and some to product development."

Minister Reddy also said during the talanoa session that Fiji needed to enhance or grow its foreign reserves by exporting and reducing foreign imports.

"As from January last year, we are looking at how we can promote non-sugar agriculture in this area, to this kind of weather conditions and soil environment."



A much improved road to Lagi Village in Macuata. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

Road brings hope to villagers

JOSIA RALAGO

A NEW era is beckoning for students and parents of Dua-vata Secondary and Primary School in Udu following the construction of a road to the school.

Majority of students from the districts of Dogotuki and Udu in the Northern tip of Macuata are boarders at the two schools.

Ma'ata Tekei of Lagi Village said the absence of a road in the past has forced students as young as Year Ones' to leave their home to become boarders.

"It's not easy for us when our children leave especially for the first time," Mrs Tekei said.

"I have three children, two of whom are in secondary school and one in primary school, and I've experienced this with them when they had to leave home at six years old.

"The construction of this new road gives us hope that our children can travel daily from home like students in other parts of the country."

While the road to the school is yet to be completed, villages along the way like Lagi now have access to bus services.

"Our fare to Labasa Town would be \$15 one way by carrier, and if we're taking crops to sell in the market, then we would have to pay extra," Mrs Tekei said.

"We now only pay \$8 to get to Labasa and it's a huge relief for us as the road condition has also improved," Mrs Tekei said.

Mata ni Tikina of Udu Aisake Galodamu said he was grateful to Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama for making this project possible and for listening to their plight.

"This road is being constructed by the Government after we had sent a request to Prime Minister asking for a road, and we are truly thankful for the positive response," Mr Galodamu said.

"The road construction is expected to be completed later this year."

Solar lights benefits women's group

JOSIA RALAGO

THE bright lights we have in our village is like those in urban centres, all thanks to Government.

"We all know that power especially for lighting purposes is needed to help improve our livelihood and we are fortunate enough to be given this, here in Vunikodi," Sainiana Vukicibua, the leader of Vunikodi Women's Group, said.

The Department of Energy recently installed solar lights for all homes in their village in 2019.

Mrs Vukicibua, who is originally from Qoma, Tailevu and has been residing in the village for more than three decades, said the installation of these lights could not have come at a more suitable time.

"Solar power have brought so much more than just night lighting for our villagers, our children get to study late into the night, we can charge our electronics especially mobile phones and our women can now weave their mats, and make their handicrafts which is a source of income for them," she said.

"Prior to this, lighting was an issue because we depended on kerosene lamps and this proved to be a barrier for us women



Women of Vunikodi can also now weave in the evening, thanks to the recently-installed solar power by the Department of Energy. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

especially when we needed to weave or make our handicrafts."

The 56-year-old said she has witnessed a lot of Government incentives over the past few years which has benefitted them greatly.

"From education benefits to the solar that we now have access to, our livelihood has been improved and for that we are grateful to the

Government," Mrs Vukicibua said. Another member of the Women's group, Maca Noame shared similar sentiments, saying the solar lights has brought a lot of positive changes in their lives.

Mrs Noame said for her, she was able to complete her weaving much faster.

"The lights are so bright in the evenings that we can weave in

the day and also in the night," Mrs Noame said.

Sometimes when we have other chores and appointments to attend to, we can return and weave in the evenings.

"This means that we get to make handicrafts for the market."

There are 22 households in Vunikodi which have benefitted from this project.

Govt commended for REACH programme



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa during the REACH programme in Nukusa, Udu. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

JOSIA RALAGO

GOVERNMENT has been commended for reaching out to far flung communities in their efforts to deliver much needed services to Fijians.

Turaga Sauvou Dokanaisuva Ratu Ilimotama Waqanivalu made these comments when the Rights Empowerment and Cohesion (REACH) team reached the shores of Vunikodi Village, Udu in Macuata, to bridge the information gap and bring services closer to Fijians.

Ratu Ilimotama said their village was not an easy one to get to and applauded the Government's effort in ensuring that they receive the services that they had to travel all the way to Labasa for.

"We are truly grateful to the Minister and her team for bringing these services to us," he said.

Ratu Ilimotama said this was a clear indication that people in the outskirts of urban areas were not forgotten by the Government.

Children, youths and elders con-

verged at the village hall to welcome the team and to register individuals in the Vola ni Kawabula (VKB), make their birth certificates and were able to access police and other Government services. Minister Vuniwaqa, while speaking at the event, said this was the main purpose of the Government funded REACH program.

"The Government realises that it is difficult for Fijians living in such areas to access these services and that is why we have brought it to you," she said.

"While travelling up to get to your village we witnessed that it is not easy for villagers in Udu to get to Labasa to access these services."

The villagers of Vunikodi would hire boats, brave the rough seas to get to Qaranivai where they catch a bus to get to Labasa.

"The Government will continue to ensure that all Fijians have access to basic services," Minister Vuniwaqa said.

There are about 120 villagers that reside in Vunikodi.



You're not forgotten: Reddy



TOP: Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy with villagers of Nabukelevu after the official opening of the foot bridge in Serua. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU
RIGHT: Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy while opening the foot crossing at Nakorovou Village in Serua. Photo: JEREMIAH LIGAIRI

JEREMIAH LIGAIRI,
FELIX LESINAIVALU

“OUR village has been waiting for a new foot crossing bridge from the time of our elders”.

These were the words of Inia Saudromodromo, the headman of Nakorovou Village, Serua, after the commissioning of their new foot crossing.

The joy in the faces of the villagers was evident at its opening at which the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, officiated.

“You are not forgotten. You are out of our sight, but you are not out of our mind,” Minister Reddy said.

Mr Saudromodromo said the villagers were overjoyed about the new crossing because with the old makeshift crossing that was previously being used, constant repairs were required and every six months the whole structure had to be changed.

Minister Reddy also commissioned a foot crossing at Nabukelevu Village on the same day.

He thanked the villagers for the effort and hard work they put in as well as looking after the workers who assisted in constructing the bridge.

“I thank the hard-working villagers who looked after the workers who came to build the bridge and helped them in the construction as well as provided them for food,” Minister Reddy said.

Nabukelevu Village chief Eparama Navale thanked Government for the assistance of providing the much-awaited bridge.

“I am grateful that now the people of Nabukelevu, especially the elders and children, have a safe bridge to go to church and carry on with their daily lives,” Mr Navale said.

Minister Reddy also used the visits as a platform to highlight issues such as the newly-enforced plastic bag ban.

“The idea is to move away from plastic bags and move towards biodegradable bags in the effort to protect our environment.”

These projects cost about \$11,000.



‘Ah so refreshing’

JOSAIA RALAGO

SIXTY-YEAR-OLD Losalini Levu of Nukusa Village in Udu excitedly turned the tap on outside her home, cupped her hands allowing cool, fresh and clean water to fill up before she took a sip. “Ah so refreshing,” were her first words after quenching her thirst. Mrs Levu and the rest of the villagers now have access to clean, safe and quality drinking water brought to their homes by the Government after years of suffering. “We used to walk for a good two kilometres outside the village to get water from a spring during drought, and even on good days we used to get intermittent water supply,” she said. “This was not easy feat because we needed water for drinking, bathing, cleaning and cooking. Water is life and in order to obtain this proved to be very

difficult at times.” Mrs Levu, who is now a widow and a grandmother, said the possibility of having consistent water supply has been a dream for generations. “From when I got married here some four decades ago, water has always been a problem and our elders then have been doing their best to provide us with this.” “We are happy that our children and grandchildren are now blessed with this, all thanks to the Government.” “We have seen more than just the improvement of water but we have recently been granted solar power by the Fijian Government and now the construction of the road to Duavata Secondary School.” “I am so thankful to Government for these, for ensuring that we too in rural and maritime areas are not forgotten development wise.”



Sixty-year-old Losalini Levu drinks clean water from the newly-installed tap at Nukusa Village, Udu, Macuata. Photo:



Farmer and roadside stall vendor Vijay Kumaran (middle) at his stall in Ba. Photo: SUPPLIED



.. I know if I plant a lot more, I will get more fruits and vegetables. More fruits and vegetables will get me more money and my stall will help me achieve that high cost.

Murgessan
Farmer, stall vendor
Ba

Vendors thank Government for new, improved stalls

EXPOSED to the hot sun, cold rain and strong winds whilst selling fruits and vegetables on the roadside, will now be a thing of the past for Vijay Kumaran, 49, and Murgessan, 54, of Raviravi, Ba.

Mr Kumaran and Mr Murgessan who have been selling on the roadside from a make-shift shelter for more than two decades, now have their very own new and improved standardized roadside stalls.

Not only are the stalls presentable, they also comply with good hygiene standards and is able to withstand adverse weather conditions.

Mr Kumaran, who started selling straight after completing high school, said the stalls had enough space to display their products, provided a proper place to sit comfortably and ample storage space to keep their things.

“For markets like these, it’s the space and display that’s very important. If you have enough space for all your products and they are displayed well, customers will surely stop and buy from you. These stalls have really lifted marketing of goods to another level and I think it’s really good,” he stated.

He added that with the money he got from selling his vegetables and fruits, he was able to look after his parents and provide for their needs.

“My mother and father live with me and the money I get from selling, is really helping me a lot. With the new stall, I can get \$200 a week and sometimes more. This has enabled me to buy things which I could not afford before. I am able to buy from other farmers, if I don’t have enough stock to sell”.

“This roadside market has really im-

proved our lifestyle and our health. Before, with our make-shift stalls, we would get wet and cold from the rain and dehydrated from the hot sun. Sometimes, we get sick as a result and for this, we’re not able to sell for a day or two. Now, we don’t have to worry when it rains or when it’s really hot, because we’re protected. So I would really like to thank the Government for always helping farmers like myself. Without their assistance, my family and I wouldn’t be where we are today,” Mr Kumaran elaborated.

Mr Murgessan, who shared the same sentiments, said he had customers who admired the stalls more than the fruits and vegetables he was selling.

“These stalls are very different, they’re nice and very attractive. I have customers who come by, just to see the stall first and then later buy. They admire the stall so much that they sometimes forget to take their fruits or vegetables with them. This is very good for us farmers, because it’s an indication that our customers will continue to buy from us,” he said.

He added that with all the attention he was getting from the new stall, he would work hard to plant more vegetables and try planting new crops.

“Now that I know my fruits and vegetables are protected from the hot sun, I am protected from harsh weather conditions and customers love my stall, I will start planting more fruits and vegetables. I usually plant chilly, cabbage and egg-plant, but now I have started planting crops like corn and cassava which are always in demand,” Mr Murgessan stated.

He said that with the money obtained from the sale of his goods, he is able to pay his electricity bills,

buy food and clothes for his wife and daughter.

“I have two daughters, one is teaching and now married, the other daughter is in high school, and my wife stays home and makes sweets and plant flowers to sell here at the stall. With the money I get, which is about \$180 to \$200 dollars a week, I am able to send my youngest daughter to high school, pay our bills and buy whatever they want.”

“This stall has really changed our family, our lifestyle and our attitude towards doing business. I know if I plant a lot more, I will get more fruits and vegetables. More fruits and vegetables will get me more money and my stall will help me achieve that,” he said.

Mr Murgessan further stated that if it wasn’t for the assistance given by Government, he would still be selling from his old make-shift stall and not able to make as much money.

“I want to thank the Government of the day for always taking good care of us the farmers here in Ba. A special thank you to the Assistant Minister for Agriculture Mr Viam Pillay for all his help. He was the one who told us about the stalls and what to do to get one, so here we are”.

“Thank you to the Government, to the Ministry for Industry, Trade and Tourism for this great opportunity. We didn’t have to pay for anything at all. I hope other Fijians will realise how this Government is always trying to help everyone. If I can experience the benefits of having a stall like this, I’m sure other hard working farmers will experience the same,” said Mr Murgessan.

- MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM



Farmer and roadside stall vendor Murgessan at his stall in Raviravi, Ba. Photo: SUPPLIED



Mr Kumaran, who started selling straight after completing high school, said the stalls had enough space to display their products, provided a proper place to sit comfortably and ample storage space to keep their things. Photo: SUPPLIED



Airbus A350 expected to generate more visitors

EMI KOROITANOVA

FIJI Airways Airbus A350-900 has become an opportunity for Fiji's tourism industry to bring in more tourists.

Tourism Fiji chief executive officer, Matthew Stoeckel, said the new aircraft named the Island of Viti Levu, with its world class experience is the real game-changer.

"The new airbus 350 has been reported in the media as such a big and proud moment for Fiji's tourism industry," Mr Stoeckel said.

"For us it gives us a huge opportunity to leverage off it to attract more visitors to Fiji."

Mr Stoeckel said the country's visitor arrivals have been growing year upon year to which 2018 saw a total of 870,000 visitors.

"We're set to beat that in 2019," he said.

"If our growth continues on its current projection, then at the end of this year we'll come close to bringing in 900,000 international visitors to Fiji."

Fiji's tourism industry has a huge range of breadth and depth of experiences that are not available in other tropical island

destinations.

"But where we stand alone, is the warm welcoming nature of the Fijian people and that welcoming Bula Spirit shared across the 333 islands of Fiji."

"That's what makes Fiji where happiness finds you as it continues to be a tourism destination," Mr Stoeckel added.

He said they were delighted with the performance of the tourism industry attributing it to great government policies and institutions that have been supporting and enabling growth to occur in Fiji.



Members of the Vunilagi Book Club.
Photo: EMI KOROITANOVA

The creation of Vunilagi book club

EMI KOROITANOVA

WHAT are the chances of a child succeeding in school if they cannot read?

This was the burning question in Mariana Waqa's mind for some time before she created the 'Vunilagi Book Club'.

"Since founding Vunilagi and holding reading sessions in Nanuku Settlement, I have come to learn that many students in Fiji struggle to read and write comprehensively in the English language," Ms Waqa said.

Ms Waqa, who created the book club in 2017, thought it was only fitting to do so as Fiji's literacy was at an all-time low as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) earmarked the country's literacy rate to be at 34 per cent in 2016.

"Since then I've learned that there are many measures to determine what makes someone literate or illiterate," she said.

She explained there are still many children who fall through the education system, moving from grade to grade without learning how to read properly.

"How will they find what subjects interest them if they are struggling with the basic tool of reading?"

Ms Waqa said the book club was for helping create a better future for Fijians, one where Fijians are empowered while navigating uncertain times.

"We are now in the information age and I see reading as a tool that allows access to that information without discrimination on where someone is from or whether they're rich or poor."

Furthermore, Fiji has recently just reached out to UNESCO for support in implementing its curriculum development for schools across the country.

This call was made by Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts' at the Policy Debate of UNESCO's 40th General Conference held in Paris, France.

During this debate, the Ministry presented the challenges facing Fiji's education sector, in particular, the impact of climate change.

The Ministry highlighted that the direct impact it has on Fijian children and their ability to have access to education in the face of rising sea levels, community relocations and cyclones.

Despite these challenges, the Ministry is using education to create awareness amongst Fijian children with the assistance of the United Nations agencies.

An area that Fiji is keen to develop and hopes to closely partner with UNESCO is the evolution of education through technology and relevant resources.

According to the Ministry, Fiji will address the four pillars of education – literacy, numeracy, physical and digital literacy.

Amputee assisted through REACH programme



Minister for Women Mereseini Vuniwaqa (left), and Representative of Udu District Aisake Galodamu share a light moment with amputee Sainimili Naisokula at her home in Nukusa, Macuata. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

JOSIA RALAGO

SIXTY-FIVE-year-old amputee Sainimili Naisokula had her wish to access proper bathroom facilities granted recently.

Mrs Naisokula, from Nukusa in Macuata, expressed her wish to this basic facility to Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa to her home.

She had her right foot amputated in 2014 because of diabetes and was moved to tears

when receiving the Minister and her team at her home.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think that the Minister for Women would come and visit me in my home, and for that I am so grateful," Mrs Naisokula said.

"I have access to a wheelchair and I am relieved that the Minister has assured that her Ministry would be funding proper bathroom facilities soon which I am in dire need of."

At the moment the widower has to roll herself out of the

house, in her wheelchair to access the bathroom.

This new bathroom facility would be installed inside the house so it is more convenient for Mrs Naisokula.

She lives with her nephew and his wife, who takes care of her.

Minister Vuniwaqa was accompanying her Rights Empowerment and Cohesion (REACH) programme team who were touring the district of Udu when she was informed of Mrs Naisokula's situation.

While addressing villagers of

Nukusa, she said the REACH programme was initiated in 2015 by the Government in its efforts to bring its services closer to Fijians in rural and maritime areas, who had had difficulty in accessing them.

She said Nukusa was such a village and availing these services to community members was a main target for this programme.

Minister Vuniwaqa also visited Vunikodi, Nabouono, Nukudamu and Cawaro village in Udu.



Ratu Savennaca Veikoso.
Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Veikoso to make most of appointment

FELIX LESINAIVALU

FOR Ratu Savenaca Veikoso being appointed to the new Fiji Youth Council Executive Committee will be an opportunity that he will make the most of.

The 26-year-old man of Bureta Village in Tailevu, said; “I would like to thank the Lord, for me this was an unexpected opportunity but I will sure make the most of it for a better Fiji.

“My hope that for this youth council is to hope to change things for the better, for our nation to progress in a better way for youths and the people of Fiji.”

He also thanked the founder of Aspire Network, Kajal Kumar who motivated him to follow this path.

Aspire Network is a non-profitable organizations aimed at involving youths from all works of life in initiatives to help in nation building.

Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar during the new Fiji Youth Council Executive Committee introduction at the Suva Civic Centre encouraged the youth leaders to be bold in addressing issues and to contribute to national solution.

Minister Kumar told the youth that by confronting the challenges of health, by volunteering for health and education awareness they can help in progressing Government’s agenda in the development of human capital and minimizing unemployment.

“We must intensify the campaigns of youth economic participation by developing their skills,” he added.

“These appointments have been made with a lot of thought and with a view to having on board youth leaders who can make a difference.”

“A difference that will greatly impact the policies, programs and deliverables, not only for your fellow youth, but will also contribute towards nation building.”

Minister Kumar added that the appointments were important because they will carry the hopes and aspirations for the youth and nation.

RFNS Volasiga ensures safety at sea



FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Fiji Navy’s capability to ensure safety at sea received a boost recently after the handing-over of a new hydrographic vessel ‘RFNS Volasiga’ from the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Republic of Fiji Navy Lieutenant-Commander Timoci Natuva said in the next few weeks the ship’s crew will go through familiarisation training.

Lt-Cmdr Natuva said they will also have people to assess how the crew operate the ship.

“The time frame will be in the next few months but we are looking at the end of January or early February.”

RFNS Volasiga was built as part of the official development aid project titled “Reinforcing the capacity for responding to climate

change in Fiji” by the Korean Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency.

While officiating at the handing-over ceremony Minister for Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy said this will enhance Fiji Navy’s capability to ensure safety at sea.

Minister Reddy said, “As a maritime nation, we rely immensely on our oceans not only for our

daily livelihood but as a means for security and prosperity for our people. It is without a doubt that our sea lanes of communications must be secured and safe in order to ensure a prosperous economy.”

“The safety and security of our people, our friends and our visitors is paramount to the Ministry of Defence and ensuring the safety of navigation in our waters is a key part of Fiji’s international

maritime obligation under Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention and a responsibility as a member of the International Maritime Organisation and the International Hydrographic Commission.”

“I believe that it is quite reassuring and pleasing to note that the Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries shares this same value as our Government, that people’s life at sea is important.”

The new RFNS Volasiga at Stanley Brown Naval base at Walu Bay, Suva. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Volunteers to promote waste mindful lifestyle

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Japan International Co-operation Agency Volunteers are here to promote waste mindful lifestyle and to make one think twice before you make everyday choices when it comes to waste management.

This was emphasized by JICA’s Environmental Education Volunteer at Ba Town Council, Azusa Yamano during the Japan’s official development assistance tour where they highlighted their support projects through various schemes.

“Japan has been helping Fiji to help manage waste issues by providing hard skills and soft skills and J-PRSIM falls under hard skills where we provide infrastructure and waste management posts.”

“The soft skills, we provide volunteers because the hard skills will not work if not trained or be knowledgeable of what would happen.”

Ms Yamano said the volunteers are sent to work with the community and provide waste education.

“I am part of the Ba Town council 5R team which means rethink refuse reduce reuse and recycle which is a concept on how to properly



JICA’s Environmental Education volunteer Azusa Yamano (front row, second from right), during a presentation at Suva City Council. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

manage your waste.”

“The Ba town Council has been working on three projects since 2012 and my job is to maintain or improve the existing program or provide additional value to an existing program and build a solid foundation of 5R.”

Mr Yamano added that to date 32 volunteers dispatched to Fiji since 1999 and there currently 3 who are serving in Fiji.

Suva City Council senior health inspector,

Naresh Narayan says one of the former JICA volunteers had developed a solid master plan for proper waste management.

“What we are witnessing now is a reduction in solid waste. So far we have achieved about a 15 per cent reduction in market waste which is now being subject to composting and we are trying to enhance with this kind of cooperation government to government and government to municipal co-operation.”

FijiFocus



Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with the Baton of Honour recipient Ulamila Karistiana and her mother during the police passing-out parade for Basic Recruits Course at the Vodafone Arena in Suva last week.
Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

‘GOOD JOB’

A-G commends Police officers for service to Fijians

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJIAN police officers were commended for not just ensuring the safety and security of Fijians in normal times but also during times of disaster.

This was the message from Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, at the police passing-out parade for Basic Recruits Course held at the Vodafone Arena in Suva last week.

Two hundred and thirty-nine Fijian police officers, including four from Tuvalu, became the third batch of 2019 to complete

this course. A-G said Government was undertaking a \$125 million restructure in the force hence many of the officers graduating today were entering the force as full-time constables as the force had received a budget of \$177.7m for the current financial period. “We believe that every police officer deserves every dollar of that increase. The investments we have made for the officers and the direct investments of the safety and security of every Fijian and the commitment to this force will remain unwavering in the years ahead,” A-G said.

“We of course recognise within this con-

text that crime today in the 21st century has taken a new form, there are many new answers to crime.

“You may have crimes that relate to a normal robbery, you have sexual assault crimes and sophisticated criminal elements within our society.”

A-G added that as citizens we need to begin recognising that crimes in certain areas have decreased and “we would like to acknowledge police officers for their commitment”.

He reminded the officers to demonstrate integrity through their work and the service

they are expected to provide to every Fijian.

An elated and soft-spoken Police Constable Ulamila Karistiana said she was humbled and honoured to have received the Baton of Honour during the passing out parade.

Representing Fiji in women’s volleyball, the Tailevu native thanked the Almighty for giving her the strength to be able to achieve such award and saying that she wouldn’t have done it without her parents support.

Other awards included the Commandants book prize for the most improved Police Constable which was awarded to Meli Dogalau and Police Constable Anish Kumar.

किसानों के लिए
एफ.एन.पी.एफ

2

फीजी अपने मुख्य बाजारों को
बनाए रखेगा - प्रेमिला कुमार

3

प्लास्टिक बेग्स के
प्रयोग पर निगरानी

7

सेकन्ड्री स्कूल छात्रों को ओस्ट्रेलिया
में पढ़ाई करने का मौका मिलेगा

6

फीजी दर्पण

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22, 2020 | 8 PAGES | ISSUE 1 VOL 11 | WWW.FIJI.GOV.FJ

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प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्द्रो बड़निमारामा, ओस्ट्रेलियन प्रधान मंत्री स्कॉट मॉरिसन के साथ चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर

ओस्ट्रेलियन प्रधान मंत्री के नाम श्रद्धांजली संदेश

वीरेन्द्र लाल

ओस्ट्रेलिया में जंगलों में लगी आग से हुई जान माल की क्षति को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्द्रो बड़निमारामा ने ओस्ट्रेलियन प्रधान मंत्री स्कॉट मॉरिसन के पास श्रद्धांजली का संदेश भेजा है।

“हमारी सहानुभूति उन सभी लोगों के साथ है जिन्होंने इस आग में किसी अपने को खोया है और जिनकी सम्पत्ति नष्ट हुई है। आग की लपटें देखकर दिल दहल जाता है और मैं आग बुझाने वाले उन हजारों कर्मचारियों और स्वयं सेवकों की सहानुभूति करता हूँ जो अपने साथी ओस्ट्रेलियन्स की मदद करने के लिए अपनी जान जोखिम में डाल रहे हैं”। प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने बताया कि फीजी, ओस्ट्रेलिया को कभी नहीं

भुलेगा जो मुसिवत के हर समय में फीजी के साथ खड़ा रहता है।

मुसिवत के इस समय में ओस्ट्रेलिया की मदद करने के लिए फीजी से चौवन (54) सैनिक ओस्ट्रेलिया गए हैं।

फिलहाल देश के नाम अपने संदेश में प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्द्रो बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि सब के प्रति दया दर्शाते हुए और बिना भेद-भाव के ज़रूरतमंदों की मदद करने से एक बेहतर और सुरक्षित फीजी बनाया जा सकता है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि लोगों को यह देखना चाहिए कि जो कुछ वो कर रहे हैं, सही कर रहे हैं।

उन्होंने बताया कि काफी लोग सही तभी करते हैं, जब कोई उनपर नज़र रखता है।

बड़निमारामा के अनुसार फीजी एक डिजिटल सामाजिक बनता जा रहा है

लेकिन हम अपने मूल्यों को छोड़ नहीं सकते हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि कुछ ऑनलाईन पौस्ट करते वक्त लोगों को अपना दयालूपन बनाए रखना चाहिए और अपनी अच्छाई का परिचय देते हुए फीजी के बच्चों के लिए उदाहरण बनना चाहिए।

उन्होंने सभी फीजियन्स को याद दिलाया कि अपने परिवार और यार दोस्तों के प्यार से बढ़कर कोई आशिर्वाद नहीं है और लोगों को सभी से प्यार करना चाहिए।

प्रधान मंत्री ने सभी को नए साल की शुभकामनाएं देते हुए सभी से कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर काम करने की मांग की। उन्होंने बताया कि फीजी अक्सर समुद्री आंधियों का सामना करता है और प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से पड़ने वाले असर कम

करने की दिशा में वे पूंजी लगाते रहेंगे। प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि मज़बूत इमारतें बनाई जायेंगी, समुद्री मेड़ बनाए जायेंगे, तिड़ीतिड़ी बोर्ड जायेगी और इस तरह के अन्य कदम उठाए जायेंगे जिससे प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से पड़ने वाले असर कम हों।

फीजी उन दस देशों में शामिल है जिनपर जलवायु परिवर्तन से सब से ज्यादा असर पड़ता है। वैसे तुफान सदा से फीजी में जीवन का हिस्सा रहे हैं लेकिन अब जलवायु परिवर्तन होने से तुफानों की गति बहुत तेज़ हो गई है और इससे फीजी को बहुत ज्यादा नुकसान होता है। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि इसी कारण से फीजी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर जलवायु परिवर्तन को लेकर लड़ाई लड़ रहा है।

उन्होंने बताया कि अगर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समाज ने कार्बन एमिशन कम नहीं

किया, तुफानों की गति तेज़ होती जायेगी और हम आँख मूंद कर यह देख नहीं सकते। उन्होंने बताया कि जलवायु परिवर्तन पूरी दुनिया की समस्या है और अन्य देशों को भी इस दिशा में कदम उठाना चाहिए। प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि फीजी और अन्य प्रशांत देशों पर जलवायु परिवर्तन का सब से विपरीत असर पड़ रहा है और हम हाथ लपेटकर बैठ नहीं सकते।

बड़निमारामा ने बताया कि वे चाहते हैं कि हर फीजियन यह जाने कि हमारी सुरक्षा और प्रगति के लिए वे अपनी लड़ाई जारी रखेंगे। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से उभरने में वे लोगों की मदद करेंगे, हमारे बच्चों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करेंगे, बुजुर्गों और विकलांग लोगों को सहायता प्रदान करेंगे।



किसानों के लिए एफ.एन.पी.एफ तथा गन्ना से बाहर किसानों के मौके

वीरन्द्र लाल

किसानों के लिए भी फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडन्ड फण्ड की व्यवस्था की जायेगी।

इसकी घोषणा कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने नारिया भारतीय स्कूल पर किसानों के साथ बातचीत के दौरान की।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि अन्य क्षेत्रों में लोगों की तरह, किसानों के पास भी अवकाश लेने पर, एफ.एन.पी.एफ की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए जिससे बुढ़ापे में उनका गुजर बसर अच्छी तरह से हो।

“सरकार इस बारे में एफ.एन.पी.एफ के अधिकारियों से बातचीत कर रही है और इसपर और जानकारी जल्द ही दी जायेगी।”

कृषि मंत्री ने कहा कि किसानों को खेती बारी एक व्यापार की तरह लेना चाहिए।

मंत्री ने पश्चिमी विभाग का दौरा



पश्चिमी विभाग के अपने दौर पर एलिटन राकीराकी में किसानों के बीच कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी चित्र: अज़रिया फरीन

करते हुए कई इलाकों में किसानों से मुलाकात की और किसानों को यह मौका प्रदान किया कि वे अपनी समस्याओं को उनके समक्ष रख सकें।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने किसानों को यह भी बताया कि गन्ने के अलावा अन्य फसलें बोकर भी किसान काफी आमदनी कमा सकते हैं।

“गन्ना तो अपनी जगह है लेकिन इसके अलावा आप नंगोना, धान और

शाक-भाजी की खेती कर सकते हैं तथा पशु पालन कर सकते हैं जिनसे ज्यादा आमदनी हो सकती है तथा आपका जीवन और बेहतर हो सकता है।”

मंत्री ने कहा कि सरकार से सहायता प्राप्त करने के बाद किसानों को खुद अपने पैर पर खड़ा होना चाहिए और अर्थ-व्यवस्था में योगदान देते हुए अन्य लोगों के लिए नौकरी उपलब्ध करनी चाहिए।

उन्होंने चीनी किसानों का उदाहरण दिया जो सरकार पर निर्भर न रहकर खुद कड़ी मेहनत करते हैं और अच्छी आमदनी कमाते हैं।

कृषि मंत्री ने यह भी बताया कि जल्द ही मंत्रालय के रिसेच स्टैंडिन्स के पुनर्गठन की घोषणा की जायेगी जहाँ एक स्टैंडिशन केवल नंगोना पर अनुसाधान करने के लिए रहेगा।

“नंगोना बोने वाले इलाकों जैसे तविउनी, कन्दावू, नईतासिरी, वनुवा

लेवू और लोमाईविती से बाहर नंगोना बोने की योजना बनाई जा रही है। इसके लिए पश्चिमी विभाग में एक रिसेच स्टैंडिशन का गठन किया जाएगा।”

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि किसानों को इन मौकों से फायदा उठाते हुए अपना सप्लाय बरकरार रखना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार किसानों के लिए बाज़ार भी उपलब्ध कर रही है।

फीजी, महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ हिंसा रोकने की दिशा में एक एक्शन प्लेन तैयार करेगा



फीजी में महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ हिंसा रोकने के लिए तैयार होने वाले एक्शन प्लेन पर सरकारी मंत्री अपना विचार व्यक्त करते हुए चित्र: एमी कोरोईतानोआ

वीरन्द्र लाल

महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ हिंसा रोकने की दिशा में फीजी इस साल एक एक्शन प्लेन तैयार करेगा। ऐसा करके फीजी इस दिशा में कदम उठाने वाला प्रशांत का एकमात्र और दुनिया में ओस्ट्रेलिया के साथ दूसरा देश हो जाएगा।

विमन, चिल्लन एन्ड पोवटी अलेविअर्शन मंत्री मेरेसईनी बुनिवांगा ने बताया कि पाँच साल की इस योजना पर काम की अगुवाई उनका मंत्रालय करेगा।

“सरकार यह मानती है कि महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ हिंसा रोकना उसकी ज़िम्मेदारी है”।

मंत्री ने बताया कि यह राष्ट्रीय एक्शन प्लेन, महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ घरेलू हिंसा और यौन हिंसा रोकने पर ध्यान देगा।

“पिछले साल अकेले इस तरह की हिंसा के कारण फीजी में दस महिलाएँ मारी गई थी,

यह स्वीकार्य नहीं है। एक राष्ट्र की हैसियत से यह हमारी ज़िम्मेदारी है कि हम महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ गलत बरताव और हिंसा रोकें।”

बुनिवांगा के अनुसार विश्व स्तर पर फीजी में महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ हिंसा की दर सब से ज्यादा है। उन्होंने कहा कि यहाँ तीन में से लगभग दो महिलाएँ अपने जीवन में किसी न किसी प्रकार की हिंसा का शिकार होती हैं।

मंत्री बुनिवांगा ने समाचार माध्यमों से इस तरह की हिंसा और संवेदनशील घटनाओं पर रिपोर्ट देते वक्त, ज़िम्मेदारी से पेश आने की माँग की।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री इफेरईमी वांगाइनम्बेते ने बताया कि हिंसा के शिकार लोग अस्पताल पहुँचते हैं और कभी कभी हिंसा की बात छुपा लेते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि हिंसा से महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य पर विपरीत असर पड़ता है।

उन्होंने बताया कि हिंसा इसी कारण होती है

क्योंकि लोग महिला पुरुष भेद-भाव अपनाते हैं। स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने कहा कि हिंसा के कारण देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर भी विपरीत असर पड़ता है।

शिक्षा मंत्री रौज़ी अक्वर ने बताया कि जागरूकता फैलाने और लोगों को मानवीय मूल्य के बारे में शिक्षित करने से इस समस्या से निपटा जा सकता है।

उन्होंने बताया कि बच्चे बचपन में जब हिंसा देखते हैं और उसका शिकार होते हैं, तब इसकी सम्भावना रहती है कि बड़े होकर वे हिंसक हो जाते हैं।

“शिक्षा के ज़रिए इन बच्चों में हिंसा की प्रावृति बदली जा सकती है। स्कूलों में इस तरह के पाठ्यक्रम की ज़रूरत है।”

विमन, चिल्लन एन्ड पोवटी अलेविअर्शन मंत्री मेरेसईनी बुनिवांगा, यू.एन विमन के साथ मिलकर इस साल के अंत तक राष्ट्रीय एक्शन प्लेन तैयार कर लेने की आशा करती हैं।



विमन, चिल्लन एन्ड पोवटी अलेविअर्शन मंत्रालय की स्थाई सचिव जेनिफा पूल चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सरकारी सहायता प्राप्त करने वालों से सावधान रहने की माँग की गई

वीरन्द्र लाल

विमन, चिल्लन एन्ड पोवटी अलेविअर्शन मंत्रालय ने सरकारी सहायता प्राप्त करने वाले सभी बुजुर्ग लोगों से सावधान रहने की माँग की है जबकि समाज में कुछ लोग झूठ - मूठ को अपने आपको वेलफेया अफसर बताकर, लोगों से पैसे ऐंठ रहे हैं।

मंत्रालय के अनुसार यह बहरूपिए, लोगों से बता रहे हैं कि सरकार समुद्री आँधी सराई से हुई नुकसानी के लिए उन्हें पैसे देगी जिसके लिए उन्हें फीस भरने की ज़रूरत है। मंत्रालय की स्थाई सचिव जेनिफा पूल ने बताया कि बहरूपिए, लोगों से नब्बे से एक सौ पचास डॉलर तक ठगकर नौ दो ग्यारह हो जाते हैं।

मंत्रालय के अनुसार मदद करने के लिए सरकार लोगों से कोई फीस नहीं लेती है और जो लोग ऐसा करते हैं, वह अपनी जेब भरने के लिए लोगों को उल्लू बना रहे हैं।

मंत्रालय की स्थाई सचिव ने बताया कि बहरूपिए, बुजुर्गों को निशाना बनाते हैं और हाल ही लौतोका में कुछ लोग इनके शिकार हुए हैं।

मंत्रालय सभी लोगों को सलाह दे रहा है कि वे ऐसे लोगों से सावधान रहें और किसी को पैसे न दें। मंत्रालय के अनुसार लोगों को वेलफेया अफसरों से उनकी पहचान की माँग करनी चाहिए और पहचान न दे पाने पर पुलिस में या सोशल वेलफेया दफतर में इसकी शिकायत करनी चाहिए।

सेल्फ-लेर्निंग यूनिफॉर्म वीडियो टूल

सोनम सामी

फीजी साइन लैंग्वेज सेल्फ-लेर्निंग यूनिफॉर्म वीडियो टूल की लॉन्चिंग, देश के सुनने में असफल लोगों के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है। व्यापार मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने हाल ही सुवा में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में भाग लेते हुए इस पर प्रकाश डाला।

मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि सुनने में असफल हमारे साथी फीजियनस का समर्थन करने के लिए यह उपकरण तैयार किया गया है।

“फीजी एसोसिएशन ऑफ दी डेफ के अनुसार फीजी में सांकेतिक भाषा व्याख्याकार उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, इसीलिए विशेष स्कूलों में माता-पिता और शिक्षकों को पढ़ाने में कठिनाई होती है। इस नए उपकरण से लोगों को भाषा सिखाई जा सकती है। यह अस्पष्टता कम करती है और एकरूपता प्रोत्साहित करती है। इसके अलावा, कोई भी अपने कंप्यूटर या टीवी का उपयोग करके घर या स्कूल से स्वतंत्र रूप से सीख सकता है।”

मंत्री कुमार ने सभी फीजियनस को बताया कि फीजी सरकार ने पिछले साल विकलांग व्यक्तियों के अधिकार लागू किया है और सरकार इस योजना का समर्थन भी करती है। सरकार ने नेशनल इंक्लूसिव एम्प्लोएमेंट पोलिसी भी लागू की है जिसके तहत विकलांग लोगों को काम देने पर, व्यापारों को कर में तीन सौ प्रतिशत तक छूट दी जाती है।

“सरकार हमेशा विकलांग लोगों को आवश्यक समर्थन और मार्ग दर्शन प्रदान करेगी और पहले से कहीं ज्यादा, हमारे देश के युवा नागरिकों को खड़े होकर अपनी विशेष रचनात्मकता दिखाने की जरूरत है।”

मंत्री कुमार ने प्रोजेक्ट के प्रिंसिपल इनवेस्टिगैटर डाक्टर उतकल मेहता, प्रोजेक्ट इन्वैस्टिगैटर विनीत प्रसाद और उनकी टीम जो फीजी एसोसिएशन ऑफ दी डेफ में हैं, के काम की सरहाना की।



सरकार हमेशा विकलांग लोगों को आवश्यक समर्थन और मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करेगी और पहले से कहीं ज्यादा, हमारे देश के युवा नागरिकों को खड़े होकर अपनी विशेष रचनात्मकता दिखाने की जरूरत है।

प्रेमिला कुमार
व्यापार मंत्री

मोरीशस के सहयोग से चीनी के क्षेत्र को फायदा होगा



रोनल देव

फीजी ने मोरीशस से यहाँ के चीनी क्षेत्र में विकास लाने के लिए तकनीकी सहायता की माँग की है। विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु ने मोरीशस के विदेश मंत्री नन्दकुमार बोधा के साथ बातचीत के दौरान यह माँग रखी।

दोनों नेताओं की मुलाकात पिछले साल के अंत में नाइरोबी केन्या में आई सी पी हेड्स ऑफ स्टेट एन्ड गवमन्ट के नौवें (9th) सम्मेलन में हुई थी।

हुई थी।

मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने कहा कि मोरीशस अपनी नीतियों के लिए पहचाना जाता है जिस वजह से कई सालों से उनका चीनी व्यवसाय विकास कर रहा है। फीजी, मोरीशस से तकनीकी सहायता से और मोरीशस में चीनी व्यवसाय की सफलता और अनुभव से सबक हासिल कर सकता है।

मंत्री बोधा ने कहा कि साधारण चीनी के अलावा मोरीशस अपने गन्ने से विशेष चीनी, गुड़, खाद्य

तथा रम उत्पादित करता है। इसके अलावा जो समाग्री बचती है उसे जलाकर बिजली पैदा की जाती है। इस बिजली से मोरीशस में बिजली की एक तिहाई माँग पूरी की जाती है। इस पर भी प्रकाश डाला गया कि गन्ने की खेती से तटीय इलाकों में मिट्टी भसकने से रोका जाता है जोकि मोरीशस के टुरिज़म व्यवसाय के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

“गन्ने से होने वाले कई फायदों के कारण मोरीशस के चीनी

व्यवसाय को गन्ने के व्यवसाय की श्रेणी दोबारा दी गई,” मंत्री बोधा ने कहा।

इस सभा के बाद, फीजी को मोरीशस का दौरा करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया ताकि देखा जाए कि पिछले कई सालों से कई नीतियों और बदलाव के बलपर कैसे वहाँ गन्ने के व्यवसाय को बचाकर रखा गया है। मोरीशस हर स्तर पर तकनीकी सहायता प्रदान करने पर सहमत हुआ है।



देश में गन्ने की बोवाई और कटाई में काफी हद तक मशीनों का इस्तेमाल हो रहा है जिससे काम तेज़ी से होता है तथा किसानों का खर्च भी कम हुआ है चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



शेराटन फीजी रिज़ोर्ट देनाराउ में आयोजित विश्व टुरिज़म डेय के मौके पर देश विदेश से आए लोग चित्र: एमी कोरोईतानोआ

फीजी अपने मुख्य बाज़ारों को बनाए रखेगा

वीरन्द्र लाल

फीजी, नए और हाय-वैल्यू बाज़ारों में प्रवेश करने की इच्छा रखता है।

इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड एंड टुरिज़म मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने दो हज़ार उन्नीस (2019) विश्व टुरिज़म डेय के अवसर पर फीजी रिपोर्ट देनाराउ नांदी में कहा कि मुख्य बाज़ारों को बनाए रखा जाएगा और उभरते हुए बाज़ारों पर खास ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

मंत्री कुमार ने आगे कहा कि फीजियन सरकार अगले साल तक, टुरिज़म व्यवसाय को दो दशमलव दो बिलियन डॉलर (\$2.2 billion) वाला इंडस्ट्री बनाने की आशा करती है।

“अभी तक काफी कुछ उपलब्ध हुआ है, उभरते हुए बाज़ारों पर कुछ अध्ययन समाप्त हो चुके हैं। इनमें कूज़ इमपैक्ट स्टडी, फाम टु टुरिस्ट्स टर्ड्वल और डेस्टिनेशन कोम्पैरिटिव स्टडी शामिल हैं। इन स्टडीज़ के बाद दिए गए सुझावों को लागू करने पर काम शुरू हो चुका है”।

युनायटेड नैशनल्स वर्ल्ड टुरिज़म ओगनायज़ेशन के आँकड़ों के अनुसार पिछले साल टुरिज़म के आँकड़ों में तीन से चार प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। इसमें भारत और रूस के उभरते बाज़ार शामिल हैं।

मंत्री ने बताया कि भारत और रूस से फीजी आने वाले टुरिस्टों की संख्या बढ़ी है।

“पिछले साल अक्टूबर तक यह देखा गया था कि रूस से लगभग चालीस (40) प्रतिशत ज्यादा टुरिस्ट आए थे। पूर्व साल के मिलान में पिछले साल भारत से सात दशमलव छः (7.6) प्रतिशत ज्यादा टुरिस्ट आए थे,” इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड एंड टुरिज़म मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने कहा।

इस अवसर पर टुरिज़म फीजी के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्यूटिव ऑफिसर मेथिउ स्टोकेल, टुरिज़म फीजी की डायरेक्टर मार्केटिंग एमा कैम्पबेल और टुरिज़म फीजी की ब्रैंड मैनेजर सेरा दावानिम्बूका ने भी भाषण किया था।

खेतों में खारा पानी जाने से रोका जायेगा: रेड्डी

वीरन्द्र लाल

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने किसानों को आश्वासन दिया है कि खेतों में समुद्र का पानी जाने से रोकने में किसानों की मदद की जायेगी।

मंत्री रेड्डी बुवा में वातुबोन्गी, नसूवा, दोम्बोई और गिलिनिमोतो के किसानों के साथ बात-चीत के दौरान बोल रहे थे।

अट्ठावन (58) वर्षीय एक किसान मोती चन्द ने इस विषय को उठाते हुए बताया कि खेतों में समुद्र का खारा पानी जाने से वहाँ काफी खेत अब उपजाऊ नहीं रहे गए हैं।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने किसानों को बताया कि जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण ऐसा हो रहा है और उन्होंने कहा कि वोटावर्ड्ज़ और वातावरण मंत्रालय इसपर काम करेगा। उनके अनुसार वातुबोन्गी समुद्र मेड़ पर मरम्मत-कार्य किए जायेंगे, वहाँ और मिट्टी पाटी जाएगी तथा नालों पर काम किया जाएगा जिससे खारा पानी खेतों में न जा सके।

“आपको जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़ने वाले असर के बारे में समझने की जरूरत है। यह एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय विषय है और इस दिशा में हमारे प्रधान मंत्री अन्य राष्ट्रों के साथ मिलकर बहुत काम कर रहे हैं”।

कृषि मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि किसानों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा ज़मीन काम में लानी चाहिए जिससे उत्पादन में वृद्धि हो।

बुवा में नदी के मेड़ भसकने से भी काफी मिट्टी बह गई है।



प्रधान मंत्री यू आई ई में फीजीवासियों से मिले

युनाइटेड अरब एमिरेट्स में बसे फीजीवासियों को प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो वाडिनिमारासा से मुलाकात करने का अनोखा अवसर मिला। प्रधान मंत्री जो एक सम्मेलन में हिस्सा लेने के लिए यू ए ई गए थे, का स्वागत पारम्परिक ढंग से किया गया। लगभग दो सौ पचास (250) फीजीवासी वहाँ नर्स, पालट तथा अध्यापक हैं। रिमिटन्स से देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को भारी योगदान हो रहा है।

चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर



अमरिकी म्यूज़ियम में फीजियन इतिहास की प्रदर्शनी

कैलिफोर्निया अमरिका स्थित लोस एन्जलीस काउन्टी म्यूज़ियम अपनी प्रदर्शनी के द्वारा फीजी का कुछ हिस्सा अमरिका में दिखा रहा है। अभी हालही में प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो वाडिनिमारासा इस प्रदर्शनी में यह देखने गए कि कैसे वहाँ के म्यूज़ियम ने आदिवासी फीजियन इतिहास बचाकर रखा है और कैसे फीजी समुद्र तथा प्राकृतिक दुनिया से जुड़ा हुआ है।

चित्र: प्रदान किए गए



दूसरा एयरबस A350 फीजी पहुँचा

फीजी का दूसरा एयरबस A350 देश में आने से अब ग्राहक और भी आरामदायक वातावरण में सिद्धी तथा लोस एन्जलीस तक सफर कर सकेंगे। इस नए विमान का नाम आएलेन्ड ऑफ वॉरिन्ग लेवू है जो कि प्रशान्त के लिए अनोखा विमान है। इस विमान में प्रधान मंत्री के साथ उनकी पत्नी भी लोस एन्जलीस अमरिका से वापस आई। पहले विमान का नाम आएलेन्ड ऑफ वनूआलेवू है।

चित्र: प्रदान किए गए



फीजियन खिलाड़ियों को चीन में ट्रेनिंग करने का मौका

चीन किसी अंतरराष्ट्रीय खेल से पहले फीजी के दस से बीस खिलाड़ियों को वहाँ ट्रेनिंग हासिल करने का मौका प्रदान कर रहा है। अभी हाल में खेलकूद मंत्री परखीन कुमार चीन के टौर पर गए

थे जहाँ उन्होंने खेलकूद वाली कई सुविधाओं का दौरा किया। विश्व विजेताओं को पैदा करने के लिए ग्वान्जो पोलिटिकनीक स्पोर्ट्स, चीन की जानी मानी खेलकूद संस्था है। चित्र: प्रदान किए गए





माता माई संबंधित सलाह

वीरेंद्र लाल

माता माई के शिकार लोगों की संख्या अट्ठाईस (28) हो गई है। सभी अट्ठाईस लोग केंद्रीय विभाग के हैं और इनमें से बारह लोग सेरूवा/नमोसी इलाके के हैं, नौ लोग सुवा इलाके के हैं, तीन लोग रेवा के हैं और चार लोग नई तासिरी के हैं।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने एक राष्ट्रीय अभियान के तहत उन लोगों को निशाना बनाना जारी रखा है, जिन्हें यह बीमारी पकड़ने और इसे फैलाने का ज्यादा खतरा है। अभी तक लगभग चार लाख साठ हजार (460,000) लोगों को सूई लगा दी गई है।

जिन लोगों को निशाना बनाया जा रहा है उनमें शामिल हैं:

- सभी बच्चे जिनकी उम्र छः महिने से पाँच साल तक की है

- सभी लोग जो उन्नीस सौ अस्सी और सन् दो हजार (1980 and 2000) के बीच पैदा हुए हैं यानि जिनकी उम्र उन्नीस से उन्तालीस वर्ष (19 to 39 years) के बीच है

- फीजी में कोई भी बच्चा जिसे राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम (national immunisation schedule) के तहत माता माई की दो सूईयाँ नहीं लगी है

- फीजी में बारह और अट्ठारह महिनों का कोई भी बच्चा जिसे राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम (national im-

munisation schedule) के तहत माता माई की सूईयाँ लगनी बाकी है

- फीजी में कोई भी व्यक्ति जो विदेश जा रहा हो (विदेश जाने के सुबूत पेश करने होंगे जैसे टिकट इत्यादि)

- सभी स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारी

- हवाई अड्डा, बंदरगाह और होटल के सभी कर्मचारी उपर दिए गए लोगों में केवल गर्भवती महिलाएं, छः महिने से कम उम्र के बच्चे और ऐसे लोगों को छूट है जिन्हें इस दवा से अलेजी है यानि यह दवा लेने से उन्हें कोई और मुसिवत हो सकती है। इन लोगों को यह सूई नहीं लगवानी चाहिए।

माता माई एक दूसरे तक बहुत जल्द फैलती है और इस बीमारी को फैलने से रोकने में मदद करने के लिए स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय फीजीवासियों से सावधानियाँ बरतने की माँग कर रहा है।

माता माई के कुछ चिन्ह इस प्रकार हैं:

बुखार लगना और शरीर में लाल लाल दाने निकलना, साथ में नाक बहना, सर्दी होना, खाँसी आना, आँख लाल होना, आँख से पानी निकलना और मुँह के अन्दर सफेद दाने निकलना। लाल दाने शरीर भर में फैलने लगते हैं।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय जनता से माँग कर रहा है कि वे मंत्रालय की सलाह का पालन करें और अपने आपको तथा अपने परिवार को माता माई की बीमारी से बचाएं।



माता माई से बचने के लिए सूई लगवाने के लिए लोग कतार में चितः प्रदान किया गया



युवा और खेलकूद मंत्री परवीन कुमार चीन के दौर पर वहाँ के अधिकारियों के साथ चितः प्रदान किया गया

चीन ने फीजियन एथलीट्स और ओफिशियल्स को छात्रवृत्ति देने को कहा

वीरेंद्र लाल

चीन, क्षेत्रीय और अंतराष्ट्रीय कोम्पटिशन के लिए तैयारी कर रहे फीजियन एथलीट्स को प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने पर राजी हुआ है। जो फीजियन एथलीट्स और ओफिशियल्स स्पोर्ट्स एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन, स्पोर्ट्स मेडिसन और स्पोर्ट्स साइंस में आगे पढ़ाई करना चाहते हैं, चीन उन्हें छात्रवृत्ति भी प्रदान करेगा।

एम्प्लॉयमेंट, इनडस्ट्रियल रिलीशन्स, प्रोडक्टिविटी तथा यूथ एंड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन बाला बीजिंग के औपचारिक दौर पर गए थे जहाँ उन्होंने चीन के स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री गुड जोंगवेन से इस बारे में बातें की।

इस दौरान मंत्री बाला ने खेल-कूद के क्षेत्र में फीजी को लगातार सहायता पहुँचाने के लिए चीन को धन्यवाद दिया।

“फीजी का चीन के साथ सम्बंध उन्नीस सौ सत्तर (1970) के दशक से है। दोनों देशों के

लोगों के बीच सम्पर्क से यह सम्बंध कायम हुआ था। वास्तव में फीजी, प्रशांत से चीन का पहला द्विपक्षीय पाटनर है”।

दोनों देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय सम्बंध स्पोर्ट्स डिवेलपमेंट, लोगों के बीच सम्बंध, एथलीट्स और ओफिशियल्स की अदला बदली और छात्रों के लिए स्पोर्ट्स सम्बंध पर ध्यान केंद्रित करता है। चीन अपने युवाओं को रग्बी सीखने फीजी भेजता है और बदले में फीजी के एथलीट्स और ओफिशियल्स टईबल टेनिस, बेडमिन्टन, स्विमिंग तथा ट्रेक और फील्ड इवेन्ट्स के बारे में और जानकारी हासिल करने चीन जाते हैं।

चीन रग्बी युनियन ने कहा है कि चीन में पढ़ाई करने के लिए वह फीजी से बीस खिलाड़ियों और कौसच को स्पोंसर करेगा और क्लब लेवल रग्बी डिवेलपमेंट में मदद भी करेगा। चायना रग्बी, फीजी रग्बी को डिवेलपमेंट प्रयोजनों के लिए पैसे भी देगी।

सेकन्ड्री स्कूल छात्रों को ओस्ट्रेलिया में पढ़ाई करने का मौका मिलेगा



शिक्षा मंत्री रैजी अक्बर, ओस्ट्रेलिया की स्थानापन राजदूत आना डोनी के साथ चितः प्रदान किया गया

शेनल देव

फीजी के दस विद्यार्थियों को दो और आधा सालों के लिए ओस्ट्रेलिया के प्रसिद्ध सेकन्ड्री स्कूलों में पढ़ने के लिए छात्रवृत्ति यानि स्कालाशिप मिल सकती है।

पेसीफिक सेकन्ड्री स्कालाशिप प्रोग्राम के तहत साल ग्यारह और बारह (Years 11 and 12) के विद्यार्थियों को यह अवसर मिलेगा। इस सम्बंध में शिक्षा मंत्री रैजी अक्बर ने ओस्ट्रेलिया की स्थानापन राजदूत आना डोनी के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किया है।

“इस समझौते से दस विद्यार्थियों को ओस्ट्रेलिया की शिक्षा प्रणाली से लाभ

उठाने तथा अपनी शिक्षा प्रणाली को चुनौती देने का मौका मिलेगा। इन विद्यार्थियों को ओस्ट्रेलिया की संस्कृति से भी अवगत कराया जायेगा ताकि उनके सीखने का अनुभव बढ़े,” मंत्री अक्बर ने कहा।

स्थानापन हाई कमिशनर ने कहा कि यह फीजियन बच्चों को उच्चकोटी की शिक्षा प्रदान करने का सुनहरा मौका है। कुल दस बच्चों को उनकी योग्यता के आधार पर छात्रवृत्ति दी जायेगी। छात्रवृत्ति देने से पहले बच्चों की पढ़ाई-लिखाई तथा नेतागिरी के गुण भी देखे जायेंगे। छात्रों का पहला दल इसी साल जुलाई में ओस्ट्रेलिया में पढ़ाई शुरू करेगा।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को ओस्ट्रेलियन हाय कमिशन से माता-माई की दवाईयाँ मिली

वीरेन्द्र लाल

माता-माई की बीमारी फैलने से रोकने में मदद करने के लिए ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार ने ओस्ट्रेलियन हाय कमिशन के ज़रिए स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को माता-माई के दो लाख टीकों प्रदान किए हैं। यह सुईयाँ प्रदान करती हुई फीजी में ओस्ट्रेलिया की स्थानापन्न हाय कमिश्नरी, एना डोनी ने कहा कि ओस्ट्रेलिया इस बात से खुश है कि माता-माई फैलने से रोकने में वह फीजी सरकार की मदद कर पा रहा है। “स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय इस बीमारी पर काबू पाने के लिए दिन रात काम कर रहा है और हमें इस बात की खुश है कि इस बीमारी पर काबू पाने की कोशिश में हम कुछ मदद पहुँचा रहे हैं।” स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वांग्गाइनम्बे ने इस सहायता के लिए ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार को धन्यवाद देते हुए कहा, “इन दवाईयों से हम और लोगों को सुईयाँ लगा पायेंगे।” और दवाईयाँ मिलने से फीजी के अन्य इलाकों में भी लोगों को माता-माई की सुईयाँ लगाई गई। फीजियन सरकार को विश्व स्वास्थ्य संस्था (WHO), संयुक्त राष्ट्र चिल्ड्रेंस फण्ड (UNICEF) और निउजीलैंड की सरकार से भी मदद मिली है। फिलहाल स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने हाल ही ग्रेजुवट हुई नेसस को बताया है कि मरीजों का जीवन, उनकी प्राथमिकता है। आप कुछ भी करें लेकिन आपकी प्राथमिकता मरीजों की सुरक्षा होनी चाहिए। यह केवल नौकरी नहीं, आपकी ज़िम्मेदारी भी है। हर दो सप्ताह पर केवल वेतन लेने के लिए हम नहीं हैं, हमारा काम है लोगों को सेवा प्रदान करना, हमने यह कसम खाई है। मंत्री टी.आय.एस.आय संगम कोलज ओफ नेसिंग एंड हेल्थ केया के ग्रेजुवर्शन समारोह में बोल रहे थे जहाँ से एक सौ इक्कीस (121) नेसस ग्रेजुवट हुई हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि ग्रेजुवट होने का यह मतलब नहीं कि पढ़ाई समाप्त हो गई है। मंत्री के अनुसार सैटिफिकेट लेने के बाद आप किस तरह से काम करती हैं, यह बहुत माइने रखता है। एक सौ दस (110) नेसस को बेचला ओफ नेसिंग डिग्री मिली जबकि ग्यारह (11) नेसस नेसिंग प्रैक्टिशनज़ प्रोग्राम से ग्रेजुवट हुई।

आप कुछ भी करें लेकिन आपकी प्राथमिकता मरीजों की सुरक्षा होनी चाहिए। यह केवल नौकरी नहीं, आपकी ज़िम्मेदारी भी है। हर दो सप्ताह पर केवल वेतन लेने के लिए हम नहीं हैं, हमारा काम है लोगों को सेवा प्रदान करना, हमने यह कसम खाई है

इफेरईमी वांग्गाइनम्बे
स्वास्थ्य मंत्री



वीरेन्द्र लाल

वोटावर्डज़ एन्ड एनवायरमेंट मंत्रालय, व्यापारियों और उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा सिंगल यूज़ प्लास्टिक के प्रयोग पर निगरानी रखेगा।

वोटावर्डज़ एन्ड एनवायरमेंट मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने वातावरण विभाग के अफसरों को आदेश दिया है कि वे वातावरण कानून के तहत व्यापारियों और उपभोक्ताओं पर सिंगल यूज़ प्लास्टिक के प्रयोग को लेकर निगरानी रखें।

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अर्दियाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने बीते साल से पहले वाले अपने बजट भाषण में प्लास्टिक पर प्रतिबन्ध की घोषणा की थी। इसका उद्देश्य यही है कि देश में प्लास्टिक का प्रयोग कम किया जाए जबकि प्लास्टिक से वातावरण पर विपरीत असर पड़ता है और समुद्री जीव जन्तुओं के लिए यह खतरनाक रहता है। वातावरण विभाग के अफसर सभी तीनों विभागों में व्यापारों पर नज़र रखे हुए हैं और प्लास्टिक के प्रयोग पर असेसमेंट कर रहे हैं।

कानून के तहत प्लास्टिक जो पचास मायक्रोन्स से कम मोटा है और सामान लाने लेजाने के लिए काम में लाया जाता है, पर प्रतिबन्ध है। यह प्लास्टिक

प्लास्टिक बेग्स पर लगे प्रतिबन्ध के चलते, सूबा मार्केट के कुछ विक्रेता नए बेग्स दिखाते हुए चित्र: अज़रिया फरीन

प्लास्टिक बेग्स के प्रयोग पर निगरानी

बनाने, बेचने, सप्लाय करने और बाँटने पर प्रतिबन्ध है। गावेज बेग्स और बेचे जाने से पहले से जिन प्लास्टिक बेग्स में समान पहले से भरे हुए होते हैं, उनपर प्रतिबन्ध नहीं है। वातावरण मंत्री ने बताया कि पचास मायक्रोन्स से ज्यादा मोटा प्लास्टिक बनाना, वातावरण को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने की दिशा में सही कदम नहीं होगा। उन्होंने बताया कि व्यापारियों को बायो-डिग्रेडअबल बेग्स बनाने चाहिए जिनसे वातावरण को नुकसान नहीं पहुँचेगा।

“कानून में बदलाव लाने का यह इरादा था कि लोग प्लास्टिक काम में लाने के बजाय बायो-

डिग्रेडअबल बेग्स काम में लायें। हम सबको इस कानून का पालन करना चाहिए और वातावरण को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के सरकार के कदम का समर्थन करना चाहिए।” डाक्टर रेड्डी राकीराकी में नाकुम्बाती यूथ क्लब को एक फायवा ग्लास बोट और अउट बोर्ड एंजिन देते वक्त बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने बताया कि प्लास्टिक पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने से नदी, नालो और समुद्र साफ रहने के साथ साथ समुद्री जीव-जन्तुओं को इनसे खतरा नहीं रहेगा। जो लोग इस प्रतिबन्ध का पालन न करते हुए प्लास्टिक बनायेंगे,

बेचेंगे, सप्लाय करेंगे और बाँटेंगे, उनपर कानून के तहत अभियोग लगाया जाएगा। कसूरवार पाए जाने पर लोगों को जुर्माना भरना पड़ सकता है या उन्हें कैद की सज़ा भी हो सकती है। जनता से उन लोगों के बारे में शिकायत करने की माँग की जा रही है जो इस प्रतिबन्ध के बावजूद, प्लास्टिक बनाने, बेचने, सप्लाय करने और बाँटने में शामिल होंगे। सेन्ट्रल डिविज़न के लोग 3311699 पर, पश्चिमी विभाग के लोग 6660141/6645055 पर और उत्तरी विभाग के लोग 8818015/8818017 पर रिंग करके शिकायत कर सकते हैं।

फीजी और ओस्ट्रेलिया के सुरक्षा मंत्रियों की सभा सफल रही

वीरेन्द्र लाल

पर्थ ओस्ट्रेलिया में हुई फीजी और ओस्ट्रेलिया के सुरक्षा मंत्रियों की सभा काफी सफल बताई गई है। फीजी के विदेश तथा सुरक्षा मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु, ओस्ट्रेलिया की सुरक्षा मंत्री लिन्डा रयनोल्ड्स के निर्मलण पर ओस्ट्रेलिया गए थे। सभा में दोनों मंत्रियों ने द्विपक्षीय मेल-मिलाप को लेकर भविष्य में उठने वाले विषयों के बारे में बारीकी से विचार किया। दोनों देशों के प्रधान मंत्रियों ने पिछले साल सितम्बर में फीजी-ओस्ट्रेलिया बुवाले पार्टनशिप पर दस्तखत किया था। इस समझौते को कार्यरूप देने के लिए, दोनों मंत्रियों ने इसके तहत सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था पर बातें की। दोनों मंत्रियों ने ओस्टल का दौरा किया जहाँ फीजी के गाडियन क्लास पेटरोल बौट्स बन रहे हैं। दो नईवेल वेसल्स में से आर.एफ.एन सावेनादा से जल्द ही फीजी पहुँच जाने की आशा की जा रही है।



पर्थ ओस्ट्रेलिया में फीजी और ओस्ट्रेलिया के विदेश मंत्रियों के साथ दोनों देशों के अन्य उच्च अधिकारी चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

दोनों देश शांति सेवा प्रदान करने से सम्बंधित मामलों, मानव सहायता और प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान राहत समान पहुँचाने के काम को प्राथमिकता देते हैं। मंत्री सेरूईरातु ने पर्थ में ओस्ट्रेलिया की कौटा टेरा रिज़म कईपाबिलिटी और व्यवस्थाओं का निरक्षण किया। उन्होंने त्रिसबन

में हुमेनिटेरियन असिस्टन्स एन्ड डिज़ास्टा रिलीफ फंडसिलिटी का भी दौरा किया। ओस्ट्रेलिया और फीजी के बीच सम्बंध, उच्च स्तरिए मेल-जोल, ट्रेनिंग्स, मेरिटाएम सेकिउरिटी, मानविए सहायता, प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान राहत समान पहुँचाने और शांति सेवा पर बना है।

मंत्री सेरूईरातु के साथ ओस्ट्रेलिया में फीजी के हाय कमिश्नरी लुके टुनिलालू, रिपब्लिक ओफ फीजी मिलिट्री फोर्स के डेपुटी कोमान्डर ब्रिगडियर जनरल मोहाम्मद अज़ीज, डेपुटी सेक्रेट्री डिफेन्स इलाई मोदईदा और विदेश मंत्रालय के डेपुटी सेक्रेट्री एसाला नयासी पर्थ गए थे।

किसानों के लिए
एफ.एन.पी.एफ.
2

फीजी अपने मुख्य बाजारों को
बनाए रखेगा - प्रेमिला कुमार
3

प्लास्टिक बैग्स के
प्रयोग पर निगरानी
7

सेकन्ड्री स्कूल छात्रों को ओस्ट्रेलिया
में पढ़ाई करने का मौका मिलेगा
6

फीजी दर्पण

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22, 2020 | 8 PAGES | ISSUE 1 VOL 11 | WWW.FIJI.GOV.FJ

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जपानी राजदूत मशीरो ओमुरा के साथ अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम नेशनल डिज़ास्टा रिस्क रिडक्शन पोलिसी को लेकर समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर के दौरान चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों को लेकर नीती

वीरेन्द्र लाल

नेशनल डिज़ास्टा रिस्क रिडक्शन पोलिसी 2018-2030 लॉच होने से फीजी में सभी समाजों और देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से बचाने में मदद मिलेगी। पिछले महिने होलिडय इन सुवा में पोलिसी लॉच करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्द्रो बड़निमारासा ने दो हजार सोलह (2016) में समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन से हुई तबाही के बारे में बताया।

“सब से ज्यादा असर पड़े इलाकों में एक पेड़ भी नहीं बचा था और सभी इमारतें उड़ गई थी। इस प्राकृतिक आपदा में कुल मिलाकर चौवालीस (44) लोग मारे गए थे, दसियों हजार घर और कई सौ स्कूल नष्ट हुए थे और पाँच लाख (500,000) से ज्यादा लोगों पर इसका असर पड़ा था।” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि जलवायु परिवर्तन से सम्बंधित प्राकृतिक विपत्तियाँ, फीजी की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा हैं।

अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि यह पोलिसी एक कानूनी आधार प्रदान करेगी जो प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से उठे खतरों के लिए पैसे उपलब्ध करने और मेनज करने में मदद करेगी। “इसमें प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से पहले तैयारी करने, तत्कालिक सहायता पहुँचाने और देश भर में आँधियों का सामना करने वाले उच्च स्तर के घर बनाना शामिल है। इस तरह से

हम आँधियों से पड़ने वाले असर कुछ हद तक कम कर पायेंगे। हम समुद्री मेड़ बना रहे हैं, राहत केन्द्रों और ऐली वॉनिंग सिस्टम्स पर काम कर रहे हैं, समाजों को खिस्का रहे हैं तथा और तिड़ीतिड़ी बो रहे हैं।” यह पोलिसी तैयार करने में सहायता पहुँचाने के लिए अटेनी जेनरल ने जापानी सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया। यह पोलिसी लागू होने से लोग प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से कुछ हद तक बच पायेंगे।

Noda Viti



Oqo eso vei ira na noda sotia e na nodra vakarau biuti Viti me ra vuka yani ki Ositerelia ena veivuke ni boko buka ki Ositerelia. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Biu vanua noda sotia

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

“NA nodra sa talaci na lewe 54 na noda sotia lewe ni idinia ni Mataivalu ni Viti sa dua na siga eda cibi kina na lewei Viti.”

Oqori edua na mala ni vosa nei Paraiminisita Josai Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra biu vanua ena ika 19 ni Janueri na noda sotia mera lai vukea bokobuka ena vuku ni na leqa levu ni kama levu e sotava tiko na veikau mai Ositerelia.

“E daidai e dua na siga eda cibitaka kina nida lewenivanua o Viti. Baleta nida sa ca-

vuikalawa yani kina meda vukea na leqa ni draki e sotavi tiko ena rua na vanua ena noda iwase ni vuravura.”

“Mataka ni kua, eda sa mai talaci ira tiko kina na lewe 54 na lewe ni idinia ni noda Mataivalu ni Viti mera laki veivuke ena bokobuka ena vuku ni kama levu e yaco tiko ena veikau mai Ositerelia.”

“Ena gauna vata oqori, na noda vanua era sa takosova yani na noda veiyatuyanuanu na lewe ni noda Mataivalu mera laki veivuke ena vagalalataki ni benu ni cagi era vakacacana tu na veoigaunisala ka vu mai na uca bi, na waluvu, ka rau vakavuna na cagilaba o Tina

kei Sarai. O ira mai Ositerelia era dau mai veivuke ena gauna ni noda leqa tubu koso e Viti ena veigauna sa oti, eka dokai gona vei Viti me vukei ira ena gauna dredre era sotava tiko oqo.” Sa ivakaraitaki ni rabailevu ni yaga ni noda Matataivalu ni Viti kei na vinaka ni yaloda na kai Viti ena noda loma soli meda veivuke vei Ositerelia ka veivuke talega vei ira na lewe ni noda vanua.”

“Nira valuta tiko na kama ni veikau o ira mai Ositerelia kada vakacokotaki ira tiko na lewei Viti era sotava na dredre ena cagilaba o Sarai kei Tino, sai vakaraitakai ni noda rawa ni sotava dredre ena yalo vaka Pasifika,”

kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Au sa dau tukuna wasoma nida vodo vata kece tiko ena dua Takia ena gauna ni kena vorati na draki veisau. E dina ni leqa tubu koso me vaka na draki e vou ka vakadomobula sara, ia kevaka eda voce vata kece, e sega ni dua na bolebole e sega ni rawa nida walia.”

“Vinaka vakalevu vei kemuni na noda sotia kei ira na lewe ni nomuni matavuvale ena nomuni veiqaravi ka me vua madaga na nodra yalo qaqa ena nodra vukei na lewei Viti kei Ositerelia mera bula vinaka tale mai ni oti na vei leqa tubu koso oqo., kaya o PM Bainimarama.



Digitaki na qasenivuli eliu ena kila vakacakacaka

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA sega ni digitaki walega na qasenivuli liu ena nodra vakabauta vakalotu. Oqori naka e vakaraitaka

na Minisita ni Vuli Rosy Akbar ena gauna era vosaa tiko kina vei ira na lewenivanua kei na gonevuli mai Lautoka kei Yasawa ena Fiji National University mai Lautoka. “Keimami digitaki kemuni baleta na nei-

mami vakabauta na nomuni kila niko na digidigi donu moni liutaka na vanua ni vei-vakarautaki oya niko ni rawata.”

Vakaraitaka na Minista ni sa kacivaka vei ira kece na liuliu ni qasenivuli mera ciqoma

na veisau, ka mera laveta cake na itagede ni nodra veiqaravi me vakatauvatani ena veisau ena noda vanua kei na veivanua kece saraga ni veiqaravi e vuravura ka vaka kina na nodra veiqaravi ko ira.



Sa kidavaki ira tiko oqori na noda sotia na Mata nei Viti mai Ositerelia ko Luke Daunivalu ena nodra sa yaco yani ena rara ni waqavuka mai Ositerelia mera laki veivuke ena bokobuka ena kama levu e yaco tiko mai kea (itaba ena i mawi). iTaba: **VAKARAUTAKI**

PM: E na tomani tiko ga na veivuke

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ENA tomana tiko na matanitu na nodra vukei na lewenivanua raraba ena noda vanua me baleta na nodra tiko vinaka kei na bula marau kei na bula vinaka ena namaka tiko.

Vakaraitaka na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni matanitu esa vakavinakataka tiko na veiqaravi veira na lewenivanua ena veiyasai Viti vakabibi ena taudaku ni tauni levu. Oqo ena tara ni kawakawa kei na wavu kei na i kelekele ni waqa, vakarautaki ni solar kei na gacagaca ni veivakalivalivataki me yacovi ira na noda lewenivanua era sab era vakadua nibau taraira yani na veivakatorocaketaki vakaoqo. Vakabibi ena wai ni gunu savasava ka sa vakapaipotaki me yacova sarayani na nodra matanivale ka vakakina na kena vakarautaki na vuli sega ni saumi me tetevi Viti raraba yani ka tarai ira kece yani na lewenivanua kei na nodra vuvale yadua.

Kuria ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni ratou na matanitu ena qarava kece na nodra gagadre na lewenivanua mai na yanuyanu kina na ulunivanua

Kuria ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni vakabauta ko koya ni dodonu mera vakatulewa na lewenivanua e Viti ena veika kece ni veivakatorocaketaki ena vakayacori ena noda vanua. Marautaka okoya ni sa vakayacori tikokina me vaka na nodratou tuvatuva na matanitu. Edau visiko ko koya ena veiyasai Viti me ciqoma na nodra vakatutu na lewenivanua ka vakacuruma ena tuvatuva ni nona matanitu.

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni ratou na matanitu eratou cakacaka kei ira na lewenivanua me baleta na tuvani ni veiqaravi vakamatanitu.

“Vakayacori oqo me baleta nodra kauwaitaki tiko na lewenivanua ka keitou sa cakacaka tiko vakalevu ka vakaukauwa me baleta na neitou vinakata me laveti na bula vakailavo ka uasivi na bula ni lewenivanua raraba ena noda vanua lomani ko Viti,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Ena sega ni guilecavi kina na noda vanua, kei na veika bula era bula vakawavoliti keda me vaka na sasaga kei na tuvatuva ni tei ni kau me 4 na milioni ena loma ni van a yabaki oqo.”

Kauwai ko Viti baleta na kama e Ositerelia

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ENA veigauna kece edau sotava kina ko Viti edua na leqa tubu koso, cava se cagilaba, esega ni dau vakataratutu na Matanitu ko Ositerelia me vakaraitaka na yalo ni vuvale ka dau mai veivuke saraga vei Viti.

Na veivuke nei Ositerelia edau vukei ira na lewe ni vuvale ena noda vanua mera vakaqacacotaki ni oti na leqa tubu koso ka dau dua na yavu dei ni veivuke. Segalega ni guilecava rawa o Viti na nodra tadu main a manua levu duadua mai

Ositerelia na *HMAS Canberra* me baleta na lakolako ni veivuke ni oti na Cagilaba ko Winston ena 2016. Eda kila talega ni veigauna kece edau curuma ko Viti edua na leqa ni cagilaba, ualuvu, era dau nanuma keda ena vunyalodra e loma kei na nodra vakasamataki keda na kai Ositerelia.

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni ra kurabui na lewenivanua e Viti ena kama ka sa teteva tiko na vanua ko Ositerelia ka sa vakarusa ka vakamate tamata kei na manumanu kei na vale. Kuria o koya ni kavoro na yalona ena tukutuku me baleta na

kama ka sa vakarusai Ositerelia-tiko nikua, ena talanoa ni mosi kei na lolosi ena bula sa mai yali vei ira na lewe ni vanua ka vakakina oira na manumanu dau mareqeti e Australia.

Kuria ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni kilai vinaka e Viti na yalo ni dau vorata na dredre ka tiko e Ositerelia me vaka esa dau vakaraitaki mai e liu ena rara ni qito, ena kaukauwa ni yalodra na dau book buka veitalia ga na dredre era sotakaya tiko. Sa tiko ma vakabauta nei Viti kei ira na lewe ni vanua ni na walia ko Ositerelia na leqa ka sotakaya tiko ena gauna oqo.

“Keimami masulaki Ositerelia tiko na lewenivanua e Viti ka nanumi tiko na nodra bula mera taqomaki, ka vakakina oira na dau boko buka kei ira na dau veivuke ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso.

Sa tu vatakaya kei ira na kai Ositerelia o Viti ena gauna no dredre, mosi kei rarawa oqo.

Oya na vuna era sa biu vanua kina e 54 na lewe ni tabana ni idinia ni Mataivalu ni Viti kera sa laki veivuke tiko ena gauna oqo ena bokobuka mai Ositerelia.

Kidavaki ira mai Ositerelia na Mata nei Viti mai kea o Luke Daunivalu kei ira na lewei Viti mai kea.

Cau ki na bula vakailavo na Tabana ni Veivakadodonutaki

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA Tabana ni Veivakadodonutaki esa cau talega kina noda Bula Vakailavo e Viti.

Vakadinadinataki oqori ena nona sa laki solia na Komisiona ni Tabana ni Veivakadodonutaki o Commander Francis Kean e \$561,069.44 kina Minisitiri ni Bula Vakailavo.

Kaya o Commander Kean ni ilavo oqo sai koya na tubu e rawati mai ena Tabana ni Bisinisi Lalai ni mai cava na yabaki vakailavo 2018/2019.

“Qoka e okati kina na Tabana ni Culacula, Tabana ni ta iyaya, tabana ni susu yaloka, tabana ni teitei, tabana ni susu vuaka kei na

tabana ni vavavi madrai. E ka dokai veikeitou me keitou solia na ilavo levu duadua keitou rawa tubu kina me tekivu mai na yabaki 2015,” kaya o Commander Kean.

Kaya na vakailavesilesi ni Minisitiri ni Bula Vakailavo o Isoa ni sega ni rawa na tubu ena caka iba e vakayacori eso na iwalewale me rawati kina.

Vakavinavinkataka o Isoa Talemaibua na veiqaravi vinaka ni Tabana ni Veivakadodonutaki ena kena rawati na nodratou tateke.

Kaya o Commander Kean nira vakavau-lici na curu tiko ena kialaka kei na taledi ka me rawa talega nira vakacici bisinisi ka levu era veisautaka nanodra bula me vinaka cake ena gauna era sa suka mai kina.



Sa solia tiko oqori na Komisina ni Veivakadodonutaki o Komada Francis Kean na Jieke ki vei Isoa Talemaibua na vakailavesilesi ni Minisitiri ni Bula Vakailavo.



Yadravi na vakayagataki ni palasitika

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ESA na yadrava na Minisitiri ni Wai kei na VeikaBula vakawavoliti keda na kena vakayagataki na palasitika mai veira na daunibisinisi kei na lewenivanua.

Sa ratou lesi eso na ivakalesilesi mai na tabana oqo mera vakayaco veivakaqakai me baleta na tikina oqo me vaka e toqai ena Tabana 45A na Environment Management Act 2005.

Na vakatabui ni palasitika esa kacivaka na Minister ni Vakatabuilavo ena tuvatuva vakailavo ni 2018/2019.

Na inaki levu oqo me baleta na kena vakalailaitaki ni vakayagataki ni palasitika ena noda vanua ka vakakina ena kena vakacacani na nodra bula ni veika bula era bula vakawavoliti keda.

Eratou sa wavoki tiko na ivakalesilesi ni tabana meratou yadrava ka dikeva na vakayagataki ni palasitika ena noda vanua ena veivanua kece sara.

Na lawa ni Environment Management Act 2005 section 45A e vakatabua na vakayagataki ni palasitika ka lailai mai na 50 microns thick ka vakayagatki ena tawani keina usani ni kakana.

Na vakatatabu oqo e wilikina na buli, volitaki kei na veiwaseyaki ni palasitika ka vakuwai mai kina na vakayagataki ni palasitika era vakayagataki ena iyaya volitaki.

Ena rawa nira totogitaki na lewe ni vanua era kunei ni ra beca tiko na lewa oqo.



Ko ira na qasenivuli ena dua na bose vata kei na Minisita ni Vuli ko Rosy Akbar ena Fiji National University e Lautoka.
Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Vakavou ni nodra konitaraki na qasenivuli

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA tabana ni vuli esa vakauqeti ira na qasenivuli ena noda vanua mera vakatotolotaka na nodra sainitaka na nodra konitaraki ni cakacaka ka mera vakacuruma edua na kena lavelave ena mona livaliva ena FEMIS se Fiji Education Management Information System.

Veivakauqeti tiko na Minisita ko Rosy Akbar me baleta ni sa vakarau me tekivu na vuli ka gadrevi me kua ni dua na qasenivuli e calata na imatai ni veisaumi baleta ni bera na nodra sainitaka nodra konitaraki se mera vakacuruma mai edua na kena lavelave ena monalivaliva.

Yacova ma oqo e 2500 na qasenivuli era sa vakacuruma na nodra konitaraki ena FEMIS ka namaki me na tubu na iwiliwili ena vica na siga ni bera na tekivu ni vuli.

Na FEMIS edua na monalivaliva ka vukea vakalevu na cakacaka ni minisitiri ena nodra vakasokumuni na itukutuku baleti ira na qasenivuli era veiqaravi

voli ena veiyasai Viti kei Rotuma me vaka ni so na gauna edau tiko vei ira na bolebole mera gole mai vale ni tabacakacaka ni minisitiri mera mai sainitaka nodra konitaraki.

E levu na gauna ni sa b era na FEMIS esa dau dua na cakacaka levu vua na minisitiri na nodra vakacurumi kece na yacadra na qasenivuli kei na nodra itukutuku ni veiqaravi.

Vakaraitaka na Vunivola Tudei vakacegu ko Alison Burchell ni dua na veivuke levu esa vakayacora tiko na FEMIS ena nodratou cakacaka na tabana ni vuli me baleta na nodra qaravi vakavinaka na qasenivuli me rawa nira qarava kina na nodra itavi vei ira na gonevuli ena noda vanua.

E vakabula ilavo talega na FEMIS baleta ni sega nit aura e levu na gauna ni cakacaka me vakayacori kina na cakacaka oqo ni sa vakacurumi kecega ena monalivaliva ka rawa ni vakayagataki main a veiyasai Viti kece sara.

Qiriti na naba ni talevoni na 9904513 me baleta na tikina oqo.



100 na milioni na ika era mate e veiyabaki ena vuku ni palasitika

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKADOMOBULA na vakacaca ni taga kei na iyaya Palasitika kina vei veikabula e loma ni noda wasawasa e vuravura edaidai.

Era vakadeitaka na dau vakadidike nira mate tiko e veiyabaki ena vuku ni Palasitika e 100 na milioni na ika ni noda wasawasa.

E kainaki ni 34 na pasede vei ira oqo na Vonu Taku kara tiloma na Palasitika vakavuna sara nodra mate.

Era nanuma cala ni dumudumukuro se jelly fish baleta ni rau rairai vata tu kei na taga Palasitika.

Era bau mate talega ena veiyabaki e 1 na milioni na manumanu vuka ni wasawasa ena nodra kana Palasitika ena veiyabaki.

Ena yabaki 2018 a kasa mate-mate yani kina ena baravi ni vanua o Spain e dua na tamani Tovuto vakaitamera ka qai kunei ena nona gacagaca e 60 na paodi na Palasitika.

Na nodra kania na Palasitika na ika ni wasawasa e vakamatei ira vakamalua ka mosimosi ka rawa nira rarawa voli kina ena vica na siga ni bera nira mate yani.

Eda vakavinavinaka gona kina nisa tekivutaka na noda Matanitu ena imatai ni siga ni Janueri 2020 na vakatabui ni vakayagataki, buli kei na veisoliyaki ni taga Palasitika ena noda vanua.

Naba dua na leqa tubukoso e vu mai e na draki veisau

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA leqa naba dua ka dau rerevaki ena matanitu oya ko koya e vu mai ena draki veisau kaya ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. Vakaraitaka na tikina oqori na liuliu ni matanitu ena soqo ni kena mai tavoci na vola dusidusi ni vakalailaitaki ni leqa tubu koso.

Kuria na liuliu ni matanitu ni kena sasagataki na voladusidusi oqo edua n aka vinaka talega baleta e vumai ena rai ni tiko veitaqomaki me baleta na nodra bula ena noda manidiataka vinaka na tosotoso ni noda qarava na veileqa cava soti eda dau sotava ka me laurai vata ena rarama ni veiqaravi ni veivaka-



Oqori na soqo ni kena sa tabaki rawa na ivola dusidusi ni ni kena vakalailaitaki na leqa tubu koso. E taba bata tiko oqori kei PM Bainimatama ko Minisita Usamate kei na Mata nei Japani e Viti ko Mashiro Omura.

torocaketaki. Tomana ko PM Bainimarama ni oqo era sasaga talega me taqomaki na vakatubuilavo ka vakayacori tiko ena veiqaravi tiko bulabula, veiqaravi ena vuli, keina na vakatetei voli ni veiqaravi ni matanitu ka dau gadrevu vakalevu ka vakawasoma.

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni

taqomaki talega kina na vakaduri bisinisi ena noda vanua me vaka ni sa tubu sara tikoga vakavinaka ka vakatotolo ena veiyasai Viti. Taqomaki kina na gaunisala, kawakawa kei na veivakatorocaketaki tale eso ena noda vanua ka vakabibi na bula ni lewenivanua raraba. Na voladusidusi oqo ena sereka talega na veiqaravi kece

sara me baleta na walewale ni veivuke, manidiataki kei na veicurumaki ni veiqaravi me baleta na leqa tubu koso ena veivakatagede ni veiqaravi ni matanitu. Oqo mai na tekivu, tuvakataki nib era na leqa tubu koso kina na gauna esa yaco kina na leqa ka vakakina na gauni ni veivakacokotaki ka veiganiti kei na

veiqaravi e cake sara ni leqa tubu koso ena vuravura.

Sa ka levu kina na veiqaravi me qarava walega na matanitu ka sa dodonu ga me veitautiliga taki ena veitabana ena noda vanua main a vanua, lotu, bisinisi kei na veitabana ni cakacaka ka vakakina na cakacaka ni veivakaramataki kina.



Veisiko ko PM ki na United Arabs Emirates

A veisiko na ililiuli ni noda Matanitu ko Voreqe Bainimarama ki na Abu Dhabi ena United Arab Emirates (UAE). Rau laki veitalanoa kei na Ravouvou ni Abu Dhabi ko Crown Prince ka iVukevuke ni Komada ni UAE ko Sheik Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Rau sota talega kei PM Bainimarama kei ratou na mata ni koronivuli na Kamil College e Ba ena nodra matataki Viti ena lewai matau kei na sotavi ni bolebole ni draki veisau e vuravura ni kua.

Vakacaucautaka ko PM Bainimarama na veitokoni nei Abu Dhabi ena ilavo ni veivakatorocaketaki e rauta ni US\$5 na milioni.

Maraudaka talega ko PM Bainimarama na nona sota vata kei ira na lewei Viti era sa laki cakacaka tu mai Abu Dhabi ena totoka ni nodra veikidavaki ka vakaliutaki ira toka na mata nei Viti mai kea ko Ambassador Amlesh Prakash.

ITaba: **VAKARAUTAKI**



Maraudaki na dolavi ni ikawakawa

Veisiko voli ena loma ni vanua ko Minista ni Teitei, Veivakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, Wai kei and Veikabula wapolitu keda, Dr Mahendra Reddy. Ena macawa sa oti era visiko voli ena yasayasa vaka Ra ka laki sotavi ira kina na

lewenivanua. La'ki dolava talega kina e vica na nodra ikawaikawa ni tatakoso ena yava ka sa vukei ira kina na lewenivanua ena nodra dau veilakoyaki.

ITaba: **FELIX LESINAIVALU**





Vakalivalivataki ko Vunikodi

JOSAIA RALAGO

NA kena sa vakalivalivataki ena solar na koro ko Vunikodi e Macuata ena yabaki sa oti e sa matalia kina na irarai ni koro ni sa serau mai me vaka na tu e tauni.

Vakaraitaka nona vakavinavinaka kina Matanitu kei na Tabana ni Veivakalivalivataki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu na iliuli ni Soqosoqo ni Marama e Vunikodi ko Sainiana Vuicibua.

Sa 30 na yabaki na nona bula voli ena nona koro ni vakawati na marama ni Qoma mai Taillevu oqo.

“Sa levu naka vinaka e kauta mai na livaliva oqo ka rawati ena kaukauwa ani matanisiga.”

“Era sa vuli lesoni ena rarama na luvei keimami, sa rawa ni charge na neimami iyaya vakalivaliva eso me vaka na mobile phone, sa rawa talega ni tali ibe ena bogi ena marama,” kaya o Sainiana.

Kaya na marama yabaki 55 oqo ni lima na yabaki sa sivi sa raica ni sa levu sara na cavuikalawa vinaka ni koro sa kauta mai vei ira na Matanitu.

Vuabale talega na vakavinavinaka nei Noame



Era sa rawa ni tali ebe talega ena bogi na marama ni Vunikodi e Macuata, ni sa waqa na livaliva rawati ena kaukauwa ni matanisiga se solar power. iTaba: JOSAIA RALAGO

Macaka kaya ni livaliva ni solar sa totoka vakati ka solia vei ira e dua na bula vou.

“Sa totolo sara kina noqu talei ibe baleta ni sa rawa ni keimami talei ena siga kei na bogi talega. Ni keimami dau osooso ena siga sa rawa

ni keimami qai tali ena bogi,” kaya o Noame.

“Sa levu cake kina na ibe keimami volitaka ena kena makete.”

Era lewe 22 na vuvale e Vunikodi era sa vakila na yaga ni livaliva ena solar.

Oti na biu vale dole ni gonevuli

JOSAIA RALAGO

SA vuabale tiko nodra marau na lewenivanua mai Udu e Macuata ni sa qai ta na isevu ni gaunisala ni lori me yacova yani na nodra koronivuli na Duavata Secondary School kei na Primary School.

Era lewe levu na gonevuli era curu tiko e bure ena koronivuli e rua oqo era cavutu mai na tikina vakaturaga o Dogotuki kei Udu mai Macuata.

O Ma’ata Tekei e dua na itu-butubu e kaya ni kena sega voli mai na gaunisala sa vakavuna mera mai curu e bure na gonelalai kalasi dua.

“Sa dua na gauna dredre dina vei ira na luvei keimami na veitalatala ena veitagicaki nira se gone kani dodonu mera se qaravi tikoga mai vale,” kaya o Ma’ata.

“E 3 na luvequ e 2 sa tiko ena Secondary ka 1 ena Primary. Au sotava na dredre oqo veiratou kece ni ratou biuvale dole meratou mai curu e bure.”

“Na kena mai ta na gaunisala oqo esa dua na ka marautaki vei keimami baleta nisa na oti kina nodra biu vale dole na luvei keimami,” kaya o Ma’ata.

“E dina ni se ta tiko na gaunisala ena gauna oqo ia sa rawa mada ga kina koro me vakataki Lagi me yacovi ira yani ena isevu ni gauna na basi.”

“Na ivodovodo ni carrier kin a tauni mai Labasa e \$15. Ia ni kua sa lutu kina \$8. Sa wananavu talega na ituvaki ni gaunisala,” kaya o Ma’ata.

Vakavinavinaka ki vei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na Mata ni Tikina o Udu o Aisake Galodamu.

“Ena nona sa rogoca na turaga Paraiminista na neimami tagi keimami sa vakavinavinaka vakalevu kina vua.”

“Sa namaki me ta oti na sala oqo mai Udu ena mua ni yabaki vou oqo,” kaya o Galodamu.

Lolomataki na wheelchair vei Sainimili

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA na rawarawa vua na marama yabaki 65 ni Nukusa e Macuata na sikova na nona vale ni sili kei na vala ni vakacegu ni sa lolomataka vua na Minisita ni Marama na nona dabaedabe qiqi se wheel chair.

Mai dredre na nona veitosoyaki ni a mai musu na yavana imatau ena yabaki 2014 ena vuku ni mate ni suka.

Sikovi Sainimili Naisokula na o Minisita Mereseini Vuniwaqa ka sega ni kinoca rawa o Sainimili na drodro ni wainimatana ena luluvu kei na marau.

“Sega vakadua niu bau tadra nina sikovi au mai ena noqui tikotiko na marama Minisita ni Marama, sa duatani na levu ni noqu marau edaidai,” kaya o Sainimili.

E liu e dau kisiraki koya yani ki tautuba o Sainimili ni sikova na vale ni sili ka sa dau dredre dina vua.

Ia, ni kua sa toka saraga ena loma ni loma ni vale na vale ni sili kei na vale ni vakacegu.

Rau qaravi koya tiko na vugona kei na watina ena vale oya.

Veisiko rawa ki Nukusa e Udu na marama Minisita ena veitokoni ni porokaramu ka vakatokai na Rights Empowerment and Cohesion (REACH).

Nona vosa vei ira mai Nukusa kaya kina o Minisita Vuniwaqa ni vei qaravu ni REACH a tekivutaka na Matanitu ena yabaki 2015.

Kena inaki mera sikovi kina na veikoro tu yawa kara sega tu nj dau sikovi. Veisiko talega o Minisita Vuniwaqa kina koro o Vunikodu, Nabouono, Nukudamu, Cawaro kei Udu e Macuta.



Oqo e dua na gauna marautaki duadua vei Sainimili Naisokula (imatau) ni sega vaka dua ni bau tadra nona sikovi koya yani o Minisita ni Marama Mereseini Vuniwaqa (imawi) ka laki lolomataka yani edua nona wheelchair ena nona koro mai Nukusa e Udu. iTaba: JOSAIA RALAGO

Vakacegu na itubutubu e Biaugunu

JOSAIA RALAGO

SA na qai oti na laki vuli vakayawa sara tiko ki Saqani baleta ni sa tara ga e Biaugunu na nodra vale ni vuli na Sova ni Vuli.

Era lewe 10 na gonevuli muri vuli e Biaugunu era sana vuli ga e Biaugunu.

Sa lai dolava na nodra vale nivuli na Minisita ni Teitei o Dr Mahendra Reddy.

Kaya o Dr Reddy nira sa vakarautaki tiko yani oqo na kawa tamata mera na liutaki Viti

ni mataka.

Vakavinavinaka na Turaga ni Koro e Biaugunu o Josateki Leleivuna ka kaya ni yabaki oqo era lewe 10 na gone ni Baiaugunu era yabaki 4 kina 5 era sana vuli ena koronivuli ni muri vuli oqo mai Biugunu.

“E liu era dau lai vuli sara ki Saqani keimami sa dua leqataki ira na gone lalai, ia ni kua sa kauata mai edua na vakacegu levu kina koro o Biaugunu na vale ni vuli vou oqo ni muri vuli,” kaya o Leleivuna.



Era mata mamarau ka bulabula vinaka na gone lalai ni Biaugunu mai Saqani e Cakaudrove. iTaba: JOSAIA RALAGO



Tekivu vou tale ko Raogo

CAVA NA QARAVI TAVI ENA MATAIVALU E PERITANIA ME TEKIVU NA TEI LUMI ENA KORO

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NI oti e 12 na yabaki na nona vei qaravi ena mataivalu e Peritania, sa nanuma ko Solomon Raogo me sa laki tomana tale na nona bula ena nona vanua lomani. Sa yabaki 43 oti ka se tiko vinaka na cegu ni bula ni vei qaravi ka sa tuvana sara ki lomana me laki susu ka tei lumi ena nona koro e Kaba, Tailevu.

Vakila ko Raogo ni levu saraga na cakacaka me qaravi ena gauna e lesu mai kina ki na koro ka vakabauta ni nona kila vakacakacaka mai na vanua e lesu mai kina esa na vukei koya sara vakalevu.

“Vakauasivi ena nodra tuberi na cauravou, goneyalewa kei na itabagone ena nodra raica na bula ena loma ni koro kei na vei qaravi ena veisiga,” e kaya ko Raogo.

Sa nanuma kina ko koya me sa qarava mada na susu kei na tei ni lumi me vaka oqo e dua na cakacaka e rawa ni qarava ka sa tiko vua na kena kila.

“Keimami dau tei lumi vakakoro ena gauna au se cauravou kina kau nanuma ni rawa ni dua na itavi keimami qarava vata ka tomana ka laveta cake tale ki na dua na itagede.”

Era solia talega na veivuke na kena matua ni koro vei Raogo kei na nona matalawalawa ena sasaga oya. Sa tauyavutaka sara ko Raogo na noda tei lumi.

Vakaraitaka ko koya nira nanuma e lewe vuqa na tamata ni cakacaka dredre ia e ka walega ni nomu vakasama kevaka o raica vakararama na veika vinaka ena solia veiko.

Mai na tauyavu lada evakayacora ko Raogo, nikua esa taukena e 100 na laini ni tei ni lumi ka vakaraitaka ni na sasaga me laveta cake tale na nona ite ena vula mai oqo.

Na lumi e taura e 6-7 na macawa na kena tei ni bera ni tamusuki ka qai dua na gauna me dau mai vakamamaca kina. Na kena isau ena gauna oqo ena makete e tiko ena \$1.50.

Eratou vukei Raogo tiko na tabana ni teitei kei qoliqoli ena vei qaravi kei na kila ni tei lumi.

“Levu veikeimami era se tomana tiko na vuli me baleta na tei ni lumi ka dau lesi maina na tabana ni

qoliqoli. Keimami sa laveta cake kina na neimami cakacaka ka keimami sa vakila na neimami cakacaka kaukauwa ni sa mana tiko.”

Era sa uqeti kina na marama kei na taba gone me baleta na yaga ni veika erawati mai kina ena tei ni lumi me vaka na yaya ni vakaboi, waiwai kei na sovu ni yago me vaka ni ra vakila na kena boiboi vinaka kei na kena yaga vei ira.

“E levu sara na veigauna vinaka me baleta na tei lumi kau marau niu bau mai veivuke ena kena laveti cake na qaravi ni kakana se sasalu oqo na lumi me kabata tale edua na itagede ka mera uqe tale ga mai kina na lewenivanua.”

Sa veivuke kina ko Raogo vei ira na lewenivanua, itabagone kei ira na marama mera tauyavu talega ena nodra teitei ni lumi ka ra sa tovolea talega na tei nama me vaka e kauta yani vei ira na tabana ni qoliqoli.

Sa laki vukei ira talega kina na itabagone era sa uqeti mera vakatovolea ka vakaraitaka okoya ni dua na gauna levu edau vakasabusabutaki voliga ena cakacaka ni soqo vakakoro.

“Era vakacegua nodra iyaya ni teitei ka guileca nodra itavi ena teitei ka ra laki marautaka na veitalanoa kei na lasa ena bati ni tanoa.”

“Ian a gauna e sega ni waraka edua na tamata sa bibi kina meda kua ni vakalusia edua na siga baleta ni sa bibi saraga oya ena bisinisi.”

Vakaraitaka ko Raogo ni dodonu mera kidava na tikina oqo na gone tabagone ena noda vanua mera vakayagataki gauna kei nay au vinaka.

“Ena 12 na yabaki au curu kina ena sotia ni Peritania au bula ivakarau kau yadra ena mataka qaravi tavi me yacova noqu davo ena veisiga au yadra vaka mataka. Se tekivu se dredre vei au ia oqo esa rawarawa.”

“Au na dau dinau voliga ena mataivalu ni Ranadi baleta ni solia vei au edua na vuli kei na dua na gauna vinaka ni vei qaravi kau vuli kina e levu saraga n aka vinaka baleta na bula ni tamata ka dua vei ira oya na uasivi ni vakayagataki vinaka ni gauna”



Ko Solomon Raogo ena nona vakamamacataka tiko na lumi era tamusuki mai e waitui.
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



E levu sara na veigauna vinaka me baleta na tei lumi kau marau niu bau mai veivuke ena kena laveti cake na qaravi ni kakana se sasalu oqo na lumi me kabata tale edua na itagede ka mera uqe tale ga mai kina na lewenivanua.”

Solomon Raogo



E kaya ko Raogo ni ra dau tei lumi vakakoro ena gauna e se cauravou kina ka nanuma ni rawa ni dua na itavi e ra dau qarava vata ka tomana ka laveta cake tale ki na dua na itagede. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Eratou vukei Raogo tiko na tabana ni teitei kei na qoliqoli ena vei qaravi kei na kila ni tei lumi. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Noda Viti

Ikawakawa vou e Nabukelevu, Nakorovou



SOLO LEWANAVANUA

KO ni sega ni guilecavi ena veivakatorocaketaki. Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na Minisita ni Teitei, Veivakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, Uciwai kei na Veikabula e wapoliti keda, Dr Mahendra Reddy ena nodra laki dolava e rua na kawakawa itatakoso mai na yasana ko Serua.

“Au gadreva meu vakavinakataki kemuni kece na lewenivanua ena nomuni gugumatua kei na veiqaravi

vei ira na tamata era mai tara na nomuni kawakawa kei na nodra qaravi ena kakana.”

“Na minisitiri ni wai oqo edua k aka bibi ena cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki baleta ni veisemati tiko na bula kina na veiuciwai ka sa dodonu kina na noqu Minisitiri me dabe toka nikua me baleta na gagadre oqo.”

Ko i rau na rua na koro ka la’ki dolavi na nodrau ikawakawa ni tatakoso oqori, ko Nabukelevu kei Nakorovou e tiko na kenai sau vakailavo ka volekata na \$11,000.

Sa taubaletaka mai oqori o Minisita ni Teitei, Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni koro lelevu, Uciwai kei na Veikabula e Wapoliti keda o Dr Mahendra Reddy na ikawakawa vou mai Nabukelevu e Serua kit ira na turaga ni vanua mai kea.

iTaba: FELIX LESINAVALU