

FijiFocus



'AUSSIE FIRM TO
MANAGE LAUTOKA,
BA HOSPITALS'

5

INSIDE

VILLAGERS THANKFUL FOR
RIVERBANK PROTECTION



M268
\$897M

FILM FIJI
HOSTS 362
PRODUCTION
IN 5 YEARS

2



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama (sitting, garlanded) says Fiji's Constitution is the very foundation of our democracy and the range of civil, political and socio-economic rights it enshrines, ranks our Constitution as one of the most progressive in any society.

'More than words'

PM: CONSTITUTION CULMINATION OF OUR HOPES, DREAMS

PRASHILA DEVI

THE signing of the Fijian Constitution was the culmination of hopes and dreams Fijians have held for generations.

As the nation celebrated Constitution Day on September 7, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, speaking from Kiuva, Tailvu through a message via his Facebook page, said the highest law of the land represented "more than words on paper".

"Its mandates form the very foundation of our democracy and the range of civil, political and socio-economic rights it enshrines, ranks our Constitution as one of the most progressive in any society, at any time in human history."

Responding to the #OurConstitution Challenge running on Facebook since last week which has seen an inundation

of short clips from mostly children highlighting their favourite part of the Constitution, Prime Minister Bainimarama stated through the message.

"I would like to add my voice to the chorus of appreciation and patriotism echoing across the country. My favourite part of our Fijian Constitution is Chapter 2 Section 31: The right to education."

He elaborated that a parent would fully appreciate how the right of every Fijian to early childhood education, primary and secondary education, and further education has put dreams within reach for the people.

This basic right, Prime Minister Bainimarama said, was not there when he was growing up.

"So many families had to sacrifice the education of their children because of the financial burden of school fees, the price

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



INSIDE

EX-RESIDENT GIVES BACK
THROUGH WHEELCHAIRS - 15

VILLAGERS THANKFUL FOR
RIVERBANK PROTECTION - 13

FUJI MAHOGANY EXPORTS
RAKE IN MILLIONS - 12

DEVELOPMENTS BREATHE
LIFE INTO NORTHERN TOWN - 11

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe
Bainimarama

We are not waiting for others to take the lead in the climate fight. We intend to be on the front line ourselves, leading by example, more action, and more ambition.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Fijian Prime Minister

NUMBERS

600

The total number of Fijians who will soon have cyclone safe homes after the completion of Stage three and four of the Koroipita Model Town Charitable Trust.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



United Nations ESCAP (@UNESCAP)

"We need to raise ambitions to stay in the small remaining carbon budget to limit #GlobalWarming to 1.5C. Strong political leadership is crucial to achieve #ClimateAction." - Amb. - Amena Yauvoli, Director General of @MsgSecretariat #APClimateWeek

CONTACT

Publisher: Deborah Weiss
Sub Editor: Prashila Devi
Manager Vernacular: Villame Tikotani
North office: Level 3 Macuata House, Labasa
West office: Level 1 Ratu Nauliano House, Koroivalu

Contacts: Suva: 3301806 /
West: 6700086 / 9905965
North: 8811276 / 9905971
Fax: 3305139/3304663
news@govnet.gov.fj
[@FijianGovt](https://www.fiji.gov.fj)
Fijian Government
visit us at www.fiji.gov.fj

Film Fiji rakes in \$897m in five years

HALITESH DATT

OVER the last five years Film Fiji has hosted 362 productions with a total value of \$897million with 2018 alone, attracting 106 productions valued at \$265m into the country.

Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Premila Kumar while speaking at the opening ceremony of Eco-Challenge Fiji in Tailevu said these productions spent \$120m directly into the Fijian economy and generated new economic activity levels of \$336m.

"This year has kicked off with a bang and I'm happy to say the first half of the year alone has already hosted \$102m worth of productions. Needless to say, this year is going to be busier and with more productions scheduled for the second half of this year, we're looking at another record breaking year for the industry," Minister Kumar said.

The Fijian Government continues to encourage audio-visual productions with the best film incentive in the world through the 75 per cent rebate for all costs incurred in Fiji.

Minister Kumar said this incentive has been

successful in attracting major productions in the country.

"We are committed and confident that Fiji will become the most desired location for film makers from all over the world.

"We will continue to tell the world of the wonderful opportunities we have on offer, that is the world's best tax incentives and the world's best locations, and we urge you to do the same."

"I can assure you all that the Fijian Government will continue its support for the industry."



Members of local team Namak ahead of the Eco-Challenge Fiji race at Draubuta Village in Tailevu on Monday. Photo: HALITESH DATT

Tailevu sets perfect scene for eco-challenge

HALITESH DATT

AS the twilight set in over the skies of Tailevu on Monday, excitement amongst the villagers of Draubuta Village was quite obvious.

It was something that many villagers had perhaps never experienced.

More than 300 adventure enthusiasts from 30 countries around the world set up their colourful tents to kick start what is regarded as the ultimate expedition race - Eco Challenge Fiji.

Orange-red skies, coconut trees swinging with the breeze and powerful *meke* with echoes of claps from more than 300 villagers was just the start of what these adventure enthusiasts can expect from Fiji over the next two weeks.

"Eco-challenge Fiji, reaffirms Fiji's status as an adventure tourism destination. Hosting it in Fiji just gives us another way of showing the world that Fiji is more than just the beautiful beaches and surfs," Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Premila Kumar said.

Eco Challenge is considered as one of the world's toughest adventure race and a reality television show, hosted by the daredevil Bear



Members of the Argentina team at Draubuta Village in Tailevu on Monday. Photo: HALITESH DATT

Grylls and viewed by millions all over the world. It is after 17 years that this challenge has come back to our shores.

"This event is elevating Fiji's position as an ideal place for audio-visual productions. We're proud to be home to Survivor US for the past eight seasons. Fiji has been featured in the US media extensively, and with Eco-challenge we expect to increase that reach further and create more interest for productions in Fiji," Minister Kumar said.

MGM Worldwide Television

Group and the producer of Eco-Challenge Mark Burnett is no stranger to Fiji, having shot similar series here in the past. Deciding to bring this challenge back to Fiji was an easy choice for him.

"I have a lot of experience in Fiji and of course it's beautiful, it's challenging, it's exotic. But also the film and television event capability in this country is unparalleled," Mr Burnett said.

"We have hired hundreds of local people, not only they are working, earning and improving but they are gaining great skills in the Hol-

lywood production and business," he said.

Minister Kumar added, "We took the decision by MGM and Amazon to come to Fiji seriously and ensured that all approvals were swiftly facilitated. A Joint Government Audio Visual (AV) Task Force Committee was formed in February this year to facilitate the needs of this production".

She also conveyed her appreciation to the landowners of Tailevu for giving their blessing to film this series on their land.



'More than words'

FROM PAGE 1

of textbooks and the cost of transporting their children to school," the Head of Government added.

The Government, in 2014 began the education revolution, which Prime Minister Bainimarama said, saw the provision of free education, free textbooks and subsidised cost of transportation of children to schools.

"We have vastly expanded access to early childhood education and we have given unprecedented funding to tertiary loans and scholarships to empower more of our people to achieve their ambitions of higher education."

The Fijian Government Facebook page got flooded with the creative streak of young Fijians and this coupled with the important messages provides an insight on how this demographic views the Constitution and their future.



I would like to add my voice to the chorus of appreciation and patriotism echoing across the country. My favourite part of our Fijian Constitution is Chapter 2 Section 31: The right to education

Voreqe Bainimarama
Fijian Prime Minister

Tagore Memorial School student Saveer Kumar, 6, dressed in a traditional meke costume, said his favourite part of the Constitution is that he "can call myself a proud Fijian".

Eliki Musaqa, from Muaniweni College in Naitasiri said the "good thing about the Fijian Constitution was that it provides for free education and as a child it gives a better future".

Joselyn Mani, from Labasa, a Year 13 student of Naleba College said the part of the Fijian Constitution which she found most appealing was the Bill of Rights which states that "every person has the right to equal protection, treatment and benefit of the law- either rich or poor, white or black, iTaukei or Indo-Fijian, everyone gets the same assistance".

Ms Mani said treating every Fijian equally would help maintain a healthy relationship amongst the communities.

PM Bainimarama added, "The best part of my job as Prime Minister is opening and upgrading schools, talking with our students and seeing them access new opportunities".

"In the eyes and aspirations of those young people, I see the future of our country. And our work to realise the right to education ensures that the coming years hold incredible promise for this nation and our people."

A-G on Fijian economy

PRASHILA DEVI

FII'S credit rating upgrade from B+ to BB- were done on the basis of four main reasons.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum enlightened Parliament last week during the September sitting on the reasons behind the upgrade given by the credit rating company Standard & Poor's which has been largely attributed to the fiscal consolidation and the consistency of policies of the Government.

These four reasons, the A-G elaborated, as stated by Standard & Poor's were the "greater confidence in policy continuity in Fiji" after the 2018 National Elections and the 10 years of consecutive growth despite severe damage inflicted by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016.

Highlighting the other key points, he said, "We believe the Reserve Bank of Fiji has generally demonstrated operational independence during the past decade."

"We expect net Government debt to be stable, as the Government begins to consolidate its fiscal position."

The A-G also gave Parliament an update on liquidity in the economy, the foreign reserves and addressed rumours that the commercial banks in the country did not have money to loan out.

He said there was a bank that was "sucking in" deposits towards the end of last year and earlier this year and was offering very high interest rates for deposits but the rate has come down.



The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in Parliament last week. The A-G gave an update on Fiji's upgraded credit rating. Photos: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

The A-G further explained that how the agricultural sector or the tourism sector performs has an enormous impact on the level of liquidity.

"As of 2nd September, 2019 liquidity in

the banking system stands at \$626.7million, more than doubled since 2018."

This, according to the Reserve Bank of Fiji, was expected to rise to \$700m by the end of this year.

Dual celebration, Fiji-China celebrate ties

PRASHILA DEVI

SPANNING more than four decades, the friendship between Fiji and China has never waned, with our nations bonded by a common and steady recognition of the mutual benefits of bilateralism.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, who joined the Chinese community in the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, said the event bears extra special significance, as it also marks 44 years since the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Fiji and China since 1975.

"Both of our nations have experienced great evolution over the course of the years, we have witnessed a similar blossoming of both our economies and our societies alike," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He said this bond was clearer than ever when Chinese President Xi Jinping took the time to come to Fiji in 2014 for an official state visit — bringing together a nation of over 1.4 billion people with one of less than a million, as equals on the diplomatic world stage.

The Fijian Head of Government also highlighted how relations have developed in other spheres in recent years such as the visitors from China to Fiji, helping fuel the unprecedented growth of Fiji's tourism sector.

"In fact, China is among Fiji's largest growth markets, with visitor numbers increasing 11-fold from 4,087 in 2009 to 49,083 in 2016," he elaborated.

Pinpointing the mainstay of this bilateral ties, Prime Minister Bainimarama said, the Fiji-China relationship is one that has been



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama joined the Chinese community in the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China Photos: VIRENDRA LAL

built on great respect and genuine kindness that remains constant to this day.

"I thank the Chinese government for its work towards a cause that we in the Pacific prioritise above all else, and for its assistance in adapting our economy here in Fiji to be

more resilient to the ravages of a changing climate," he said.

The celebration was marked with cultural performances at capital city's iconic Suva Civic Auditorium.



Minister clarifies special administrators' role

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

“FIJI is evolving through globalization and appointed special administrators are tasked to proactively promote opportunities for investment, business and tourism, in collaboration with relevant authorities.”

This was the response the Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar gave in Parliament when questioned about the roles of the recently appointed special administrators.

“We are on the review phase of municipal governance in Fiji and Government has taken a bold step in reviewing Municipal Councils’ operation holistically. Under the current arrangement, the Chairperson of the Municipal Council or the Head of the Special Administrators will be holding the office of the Mayor in accordance with section 9(a) (2) of the Local Government Act,” Minister Kumar said.

She said the recent appointment team will

now ensure the demarcation between council members made up of special administrators and the management team – the council chief executive officer and the directors.

The chairperson of the special administrators will hold the office of the mayor and the responsibilities of chairing meetings and carrying out civic duties will now be carried out by the chairperson from the team of special administrators.

Minister Kumar said that positions for special administrators were all advertised in newspapers and one of the areas that the Ministry was closely paying attention to was business skills.

“To run a municipal council, we want people who have business skills, who can manage finance well and they will be able to invest this money into right projects that can derive a lot more money for the council.”

Minister Kumar said during the selection they looked for candidates who had served in other boards and had a understanding of directorship.

“We had consulted FICAC (Fiji Independent

Commission Against Corruption) for clearance of each and every member of the team of special administrators.”

“We have also prepared a form on Conflict of Interest and Declaration Form where each and every special administrator will fill and sign. There is also a code of conduct to adhere to, so all these things are in place.”

Ratepayers who wish to voice their concerns will be notified through various platforms.

“Notices will be given out. It can be through radio announcements, through a notice published in the paper or social media, and that is for the team of administrators to make a decision as to how they want to notify the public.”

“We want the team of administrators to address concerns raised by the ratepayers, so this process will be ongoing and as it is, from the operational point of view, any complaint that comes to the municipal councils is addressed by the CEO and his or her team, and sometimes, even complaints come to the Ministry of Local Government as well.”

A-G presents Help for Homes audit report

AZARIA FAREEN

HELP for Homes (HFH) was the largest initiative the Government had put in place in respect of helping people rebuild their homes during their time of loss.

This was the sentiment of the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum as he addressed Parliament last week on the performance audit for Help for Homes initiatives.

“The Help for Home initiative is a one-off project under the natural disaster that took place during Tropical Cyclone Winston,” the A-G clarified.

“It was actually quite a groundbreaking initiative where we had used the hardware companies whereby individual citizens who actually had their homes damaged were given electronic cards, which they could redeem at hardware stores.”

On the Auditor-General’s report, the A-G said it underlined on the various distribution anomalies of HFH initiative program under the Social Services Sector in a parliamentary paper in 2017.

“The audit report states that various people have tried and passed themselves off as others and it also highlights the respective ministry to ensure proper detailed vetting process be adopted to ensure the accuracy of information processed to avoid mismanagement and fraudulent activity.”

The Auditor-General has the power to conduct performance audit under Section 6A (1) that he considers necessary and determine the number of performance audits to be conducted in each financial year.

The A-G said a number of security measures was put in place and steps taken by the Ministry of Economy in ensuring its internal audit team randomly checks or vets those people who had applied for assistance under the initiative.

“Parliament had also approved the False Information Act 2016 where people who made false declaration when obtaining a particular benefit from the State were culpable for criminal prosecution,” he added.

“Some people were in fact successfully prosecuted through the criminal justice system where they had made fraudulent claims.”

HFH initiative was offered to those whose homes were located in the declared path of the cyclone including those living in maritime islands and their household annual income was \$50,000 or less.

The applicants were granted a minimum of \$1,500 and up to \$7,000 maximum for the cost of repairs to their home.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with children of Koroipita. A total 600 Fijians will soon have cyclone safe homes after the completion of Stage three and four of the Koroipita Model Town Charitable Trust. Photo: SUPPLIED

Cyclone-proof homes for model town residents

MEREANI GONEDUA

A TOTAL of 600 Fijians will soon have cyclone safe homes after the completion of Stage three and four of the Koroipita Model Town Charitable Trust.

The Koroipita Model Town Charitable Trust is a non-governmental organisation that is committed to building engineered and serviced subdivisions and cyclone-safe houses.

Speaking in Parliament last week Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development

Premila Kumar stated that the project was initiated to tackle the growing number of very poor families living in informal settlements in the peri-urban areas surrounding Lautoka.

Minister Kumar highlighted that the Ministry of Housing and Community Development has allocated \$2million to assist the Trust in completing the project.

“Successful completion of stage 3 and stage 4 of the program will add another 145 houses for low income earners.

“This assistance will enable the Trust to complete 25 houses under stage 3 of the program and

also to commence stage 4 which will deliver another 120 houses to the community over the next three years within a fully serviced subdivision.

“Upon completion of stage 3 and stage 4 of the program approximately 600 Fijians are expected to find shelter in cyclone safe home which also provides residents an opportunity to advance to the level of home ownership over a period of time.

She also stated that Koroipita is an outstanding model that provides a good quality of life to a large number of underprivileged people.

The first model town at Koroipita was initiated in 2002. The town is a fully serviced subdivision with wide road access, electricity, clean water supply, sewerage treatment, storm water drains and a garbage collection system in place.

The development of the town was initially funded by Rotary clubs in the region, Rotary International, New Zealand Aid Programme, European Union and a host of other donors and individuals.

The Government assistance was provided in acquiring land and securing connectivity to electricity.



Locum deal helps in medical service delivery

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services continues to improve its service delivery and address the doctor-patient ratio through a partnership with the Fiji College of General Practitioners by appointing locum medical physicians.

The initiative which was introduced in 2016 has 39 locum doctors, general practitioners and social specialists from the private sector providing support to the public and 800 doctors in civil service. Revealing this during the September sitting of Parliament, Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said “to date the ministry has spent \$6 million and set aside \$2.5 million in the 2019-2020 budget for locum appointments”.

“The rates for the locum appointments was also revised, proving effectiveness in providing an incentive for child practitioners and specialists in the private sector to support the ministry,” he said.

“Based on the current arrangement, the practitioners are paid a rate of \$50 an hour, irrespective of how many patients they see, and the specialists are paid \$80 an hour with a cap of maximum 20 hours per week.”

Minister Waqainabete said this arrangement allows the locums to assist the ministry to deliver on its goal of offering prompt access to quality healthcare by providing support during the busiest periods.

“Not only has this arrangement led to shorter waiting times and greater patient satisfaction but it also has eased the workload of the doctors,” Minister Waqainabete said.

“The application for locums are made through the divisional hospitals when a clear need is identified, which is then approved by the Permanent Secretaries office and the practitioner is then identified and contracted on a yearly basis.”

He said most of the locums are Fijian doctors having previously worked within the civil service and understanding the limitations they sometimes face and the protocols put in place.

They have been able to provide support to CWM Hospital, Lautoka Hospital, Labasa Hospital, Makoi Health Centre, Samabula Health Centre, Lami Health Centre, Raiwaqa Health Centre, Valelevu Health Centre, Tamavua Twomey Hospital, St. Giles Hospital and Nadi Hospital.

“Our long-term strategic plan is to keep recruiting experienced doctors or specialists from overseas to address shortage of doctors in the country and to also broaden local and international partnership,” he added.

Lone MRI machine ‘working well’

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete made an assurance in Parliament that Fiji’s lone Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scan Machine present at the CWM Hospital is working well.

“We developed some technical issues with the MRI machine on 13th August, 2019 and we promptly alerted the supplier through its locally based engineer. The engineer from New Zealand and the supplier came over and they identified that the Radiofrequency Ablation – Radio Frequency Amplifier Component was an issue and the parts were ordered, which arrived on 21st August. The test-run was done on Friday, 23rd August which showed that the MRI machine was normal and the services resumed on Monday, 26th August, 2019.”

Minister Waqainabete also stated that in the interest of keeping the MRI serviceable, there is a service contract in place with the supplier and the company that made the machine for maintenance of the MRI machine should it encounter any technical issues in the future. The contract is valid until 2022.



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete (right) in Parliament last week. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

In clarifying what seems to be a confusion for many Fijians, the Minister stated that the MRI machine is a diagnostic tool and not used for treatment.

“The MRI Machine is highly sophisticated diagnostic tool and I want to clarify that it is a diagnostic tool; it is not a treatment. Often Fijians would say, “I hear

there is a machine called the MRI machine at CWM Hospital and I want to go and have my treatment there.” No, it is not a treatment, it is a diagnostic tool.”

The MRI machine complements the diagnostic tools that are available in Fiji, such as the CT Scanner, the Ultrasound Scanner and the X-Ray machines. Before the presence of the MRI machine, diagnosis were carried out by the CT Scanner.

Patients who need to undergo an

MRI scan can only do so if they are being referred by a specialist.

“We are very keen to continue developing the MRI machine that we have in Suva. We also ensure that referrals to the MRI machine are only by specialists because we need to ensure that it is the right diagnosis for the right patient, so only a specialist can be able to make bookings or make referrals to an MRI.”

MRI reports are done by a senior radiologist at the CWM Hospital.

Aussie firm to manage Lautoka, Ba hospitals



Aspen Medical chief executive officer, Bruce Armstrong, (sixth from left), permanent secretary for Economy Makereta Konrote (fifth from left), and government officials with Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) chief executive officer Jaoji Koroi (fourth from right) and staff. Photo: PRASHILA DEVI

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Lautoka and Ba hospitals will next year be taken over by Australian-based Aspen Medical Pty Limited.

This was confirmed in Parliament by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum who highlighted that after the takeover the hospitals will be known as the Lautoka International Hospital and Ba Regional Hospital.

The A-G highlighted that they are now under an observation period that began on August 14 which is part of an agreement between the company and the Fijian Government.

“The Government has to do a number of prerequisite arrangements that have to be put in place. But of course, Aspen Medical has already started working or doing this observation period on things, such as, staffing requirements, they have already started their own procurement system in respect to call for tenders for the purchase of necessary medical equipment and supplies.”

He stated that the hospital has put in place a new enterprise resource planning system that will allow for the streamlining and the processing of information across both hospitals. “We are developing a new asset register. There has not been an asset register done for

quite some time for the hospital which will of course, give us a good understanding of the staff level, the equipment and the supplies, and many additional expert staff who will be required in respect of expediting the commissioning of the two hospitals.

The A-G highlighted that recently there was a major physical transition which recently saw 22 truckload of written-off equipment along with furniture removed.

He also highlighted that Aspen Medical will take over full operations in Lautoka by March at the latest by April and around June or July at the Ba Hospital.



Fiji plans more action, more ambition on climate change

MEREANI GONEDUA

“We are not waiting for others to take the lead in the climate fight. We intend to be on the front line ourselves, leading by example, more action, and more ambition.”

These were the words of Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama as he updated Parliament on the status of his attendance at the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) that was held in Funafuti, Tuvalu.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said later in the month 195 nations in the world will attend a Global Climate Action Summit in New York in order to plan and enhance responses to the climate threat, however, Fiji will not wait and will go ahead in its fight against climate change.

“We intend to be on the front line ourselves, leading by example, more action and more ambition even though our own emissions

amount to a tiny 0.04 per cent of the world’s total.”

The Head of Government highlighted that there is a considerable gap between Fiji, other Pacific island countries and Australia on the urgent need to phase out fossil fuels and coal in particular.

He said he had attended the PIF meeting in the hopes that all member countries would share the same determination to play their part in the climate struggle.

“On the issue of more ambitious and more urgency, my fellow island leaders and I were as one in recognizing the threat that the rising seas, extreme weather events and changes to agriculture and fisheries pose to the welfare of our people and our economy.”

He stressed that he made special reference to a more positive engagement between Fiji and Australia and New Zealand and spoke of a new era, where both nations have shown

commitment to re-engage with Fiji in a more respectful and inclusive way.

Prime Minister Bainimarama welcomed the new found spirit of regional co-operation and acknowledged his Australian and New Zealand counterparts in their efforts to improve relationships.

He stated that it is no secret that no common ground was found with Australia during the meeting but he reiterated his call to Australia to have coal phased out as a matter of urgency.

“We are asking Australia to speed up its transition out of coal and accelerate its investment in clean energy, an area in which it can lead the world and help halt the rise in its greenhouse gas emissions.

The Prime Minister also stressed that he looks forward to meeting with the Australian Prime Minister during his first official visit to Australia.

FSC works on joint venture set-ups

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) is in the process of establishing an additional eight joint ventures in the Western and Northern Division.

Prime Minister and Minister for Sugar Industry, Voreqe Bainimarama, responding to a question in Parliament last week, said the joint venture partnership between FSC and various landowning units are progressing well.

Furthermore, nine joint ventures are currently operational, covering a total of 508 hectares of arable land to grow and supply cane – four in the Western Division and five in the Northern Division.

“In the 2019 season, another four of these joint ventures began planting cane, making a total of eight joint ventures currently producing cane, covering a total of 260 hectares. The final existing joint ventures are making final preparations to begin planting cane as well,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“The success of our joint ventures is not going unnoticed. The Fiji Sugar Corporation is in the process of establishing an additional eight joint ventures, both in the Western Division and Northern Division.”

“These new joint ventures have a potential cane area of 165 hectares to produce 8,200 tonnes of cane, and this addition will bring the total area of cane under joint ventures to 670 hectares with potential to produce nearly 40,000 tonnes of cane. This can potentially generate over \$3 million in revenue at the current guaranteed price of \$85 per tonne,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

With the revenues and yields giving an extremely positive outcome, there is certainty that this is putting all of the current joint ventures on track to full profitability in the long term even though some joint ventures are still in the early stages of their production timelines, which means that they are still recovering their initial establishment cost.

“Our vision for our joint ventures remain consistent. We are building the capacity among our mataqali landowners and partners to transform these joint ventures into fully-owned self-sufficient business ventures,” he said.

Through this vision, Prime Minister Bainimarama also stated that this will result in landowners gaining more profit and will help build economies of scale within the sugar industry.

This will also bring down expenditures and make Fijian sugar more competitive in the increasingly uncertain global market.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with provincial leaders during the Traditional Leaders Curriculum Training at Centre For Appropriate Technology Development, Nadave in Tailevu. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Rural villages eyed for financial literacy programme

AZARIA FAREEN

FOURTEEN villages around the country have been identified as recipients of financial literacy services involving the iTaukei Affairs Board and financial institutions partner group.

These services will target local village businesses, commercial farmers and Small Medium Enterprises.

On this regard, a memorandum of understanding (MoU), was signed between the iTaukei Affairs Board and the British High Commission pledging about \$27,000 towards the programme recently.

The programme provides support towards promoting entrepreneurship, financial literacy, business in small and medium enterprises, commercial agriculture, joint venture business, eco-tourism and other avenues of primary business at village level.

The permanent secretary for iTaukei Affairs, Meleti Bainimarama said the MoU will enhance diverse delivery of financial literacy product and services from fi-

nancial institutions and contribute towards Fiji’s economic contribution in the National Gross Domestic Product.

“One village per province is being targeted, which is set to benefit through the promotion of business programmes and other commercial forms of income generating avenues,” Mr Bainimarama said.

The iTaukei Affairs Board (TAB), had successfully conducted awareness at Sawaiek e village on Gau island in the Eastern Division recently and provided training on savings and investment services leading the villagers to register for new accounts with the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF), Fijian Holdings and Unit Trust of Fiji.

“This shows the economic agricultural transaction happening at the rural level and its untapped financial yield has least engagement with financial banks due to geographical span, maritime, highland constraint access plus,” he added.

“The involvement of the financial literacy programme was

timely and to align the villagers to understand savings, investment, budgeting, unnecessary spending, prioritizing in needs and wants, improving livelihood, job creation, reducing poverty, self-sufficiency and other means of financial success to explore.”

British High Commissioner to Fiji Melanie Hopkins said; This as a genuinely innovative public-private-partnership which will raise awareness on financial literacy in the 14 provinces around Fiji using the Westpac Banking Corporation training curriculum”.

“The best financial strategy is close and effective partnerships of key agencies working together in ensuring that all Fijians have the understanding and the competency to utilise the various financial services that are available to them,” Ms Hopkins added.

She further adds the program endorses inclusive growth - reaching out to rural communities as well as urban areas with specific focus being on reaching women in rural areas.

One village per province is being targeted, which is set to benefit through the promotion of business programs and other commercial forms of income generating avenues. This shows the economic agricultural transaction happening at the rural level and its untapped financial yield has least engagement with financial banks due to geographical span, maritime, highland constraint access plus

Meleti Bainimarama
Permanent Secretary for
iTaukei Affairs



Non-resident heads of missions after participating in the 4 million trees in 4 Years initiative recently. Photo: EMI KOROITANOVA



Ministry closes in on 1m trees target

EMI KOROITANOVA

SINCE the inception of the 4 million trees in 4 years initiative, the Ministry of Forestry has planted close to 450,000 trees. Ministry's permanent secretary Pene Baleinabuli said in the next four months, the ministry intends to achieve its one million trees target. "That is something that we're very confident about because we have repositioned ourselves," Mr Baleinabuli said.

"We've got our Civil Cultural Research Division providing all the seedlings that we need." Mr Baleinabuli said the Division was preparing more than a million seedlings. "In four months, the seedlings will be ready for planting so that we will meet our one million trees target," he said. Meanwhile, non-resident heads of missions from Canberra and Wellington, who were in the country for a familiarisation visit, took part in a tree planting programme at the Colo-i-Suva

Forest Park recently. They were joined by Mr Baleinabuli who officiated at the event. Mr Baleinabuli said it was a good opportunity to promote the ministry's initiative. Launched earlier this year, this initiative aims to prevent soil erosion and siltation, offsetting the nation's carbon output, developing greener towns and cities, and, above all, maintaining and protecting our forests and pristine natural environment.

Project to protect mangroves extended

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) project on mangroves in the Rewa Delta has been extended for another 10 months in order to address issues associated with the increasing population.

The rise in population figures has led to excessive pressure on coastal and mangrove wetland resources within the Rewa and Tailevu provinces.

The Parliamentary sitting last week was informed by the Minister for Forests Osea Naiqamu that the project aims to protect the entire coastal ecosystem that supports the riparian flatlands.

"The targeted communities include villages of Natila, Waicoka, Nasilai and Naivakacau in the Tailevu province, Narocake and Muanaira in the Rewa Province. These communities are being empowered



Teachers and students of Ratu Filise Primary School at Namatakula, Nadroga, plant mangroves under the Youth Coast Care programme. Minister for Forests Osea Naiqamu says the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) project aims to protect the entire coastal ecosystem that supports riparian flatlands.

to practice sustainable mangrove management and to protect and improve the equality of the coastal ecosystem.

Minister Naiqamu highlighted that it is expected that after the completion of this project, the communities will help reduce the pressure from the over-utilisation of coastal and mangrove wetland resources.

"In addition, at least 100 hectares of the degraded area in the selected demonstration site would be rehabilitated with appropriate coastal

tree species to support ecosystem services and human wellbeing in the long term.

Minister Naiqamu elaborated that from a national perspective the project will demonstrate sustainable policy programs and activities that can be amplified in other river systems and communities that live in coastal wetlands and mangrove areas in Fiji and the Pacific region.

"This project will directly contribute to Fiji's ability to trade in carbon and mitigate the impacts of

climate change.

"The communities are also empowered economically, as many individuals have started raising seedlings and selling these for income. The project itself has also purchased excess seedlings from these communities to plant in other areas.

The total cost of the project is \$847,970 of which ITTO has contributed \$679,617 while the Ministry of Forests has provided \$168,353.

Disaster risk reduction policy 'priority for Govt'

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE horrific impact of Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016 was a wakeup call for the nation to take action concerning the usually disregarded and ignored aspects of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy.

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate said in Parliament last week that the events of TC Winston had taught the Government and the whole of Fiji that "by acting now, we can save later".

"While TC Winston was a destructive event, with associated loss of lives and loss of our hard earned developments, it proved to be constructive and was a wakeup call to take action concerning the usually overlooked or neglected aspects of DRR for Fiji."

"TC Winston gave us a window of opportunity to enhance Fiji's resilience to disasters, and the Government has learnt its lessons from TC Winston. We will ensure that actions are implemented so that those who lost their lives did not do so in vain."

Minister Usamate informed Parliament that in its last Cabinet meeting, the Government had recognized the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy for 2018 to 2030 and had made the DRR a priority for Fiji.

"The adoption of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy showcases to the rest of the world that Fiji no longer views DRR as just a humanitarian issue, but as a development issue.

"We know that every dollar invested in disaster mitigation saves government an average of \$7 in response and recovery. By acting now, we will save later."

The policy serves as guide on what Government will continue to work on in order to ensure that an all-inclusive and systematic approach to DRR will help to achieve poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

TC Winston affected approximately 540,000 people, destroying entire communities that resulted in 44 people losing their lives on the February 20, 2016.



Fiji-China ties 'built on great respect, kindness'

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama says the Fiji-China friendship, which spans more than four decades, has never waned with both nations bonded by a common and steady recognition of the mutual benefits of bilateralism.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. He said visitors from China helped fuel the unprecedented growth of Fiji's tourism sector.

Mr Bainimarama said China was among Fiji's largest growth markets with visitor numbers increasing 11 fold from 4087 in 2009 to 49,083 in 2016. He thanked the Chinese government for its assistance in adapting our economy to be more resilient to the ravages of a changing climate.

Photos: VIRENDRA LAL



ECO-CHALLENGE BACK TO FIJI AFTER 17 YEARS

Fiji is fast carving a niche as an adventure tourism destination in the Pacific. And events such Eco-Challenge Fiji are reaffirming Fiji's status in the tourism sector.

The comments came from Minister for Industry, Tourism and Trade Premila Kumar as the challenge event returned to Fiji after a lapse of 17 years.

"In addition to tourism, this event is elevating Fiji's position as an ideal place for audio-visual productions," she said. "We're proud to be home to Survivor US for the past 8 seasons.

"Fiji has been featured in the US media extensively, and with Eco-challenge we expect to increase that reach further and create more interest for productions in Fiji."

The Challenge will involve 60 teams from 30 countries racing non-stop in Southern Tailevu.

It will be hosted by Edward Grylls, a British former SAS serviceman and survival instructor better known as Bear Grylls.

Photos: HALITESH DATT



Call for renewed focus on child cancer

There has been a call for a renewed focus and energy on fighting child cancer in the country and the Pacific. The call came from Mary Bainimarama, wife of Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, at a special fundraising ball organised by Wows Kids Fiji.

Mrs Bainimarama shared her experience over the years in support for children with cancer, adding that it was heartbreaking to consider the plight of the 19 families who have lost their loved ones through the disease.

"And today, our need to fuel this fight with renewed focus and energy is great. So far in 2019, we have

already lost 19 Fijian children to cancer," she said. "While we can take comfort that their battle with sickness was made easier with the comforting support of Wows Kids Fiji, it's heartbreaking to consider that 19 families have been robbed of the chance to see their beautiful children grow up."

Mrs Bainimarama said Wows Kids Fiji held a very special place in her heart and the hearts of her husband and her family.

Photos: VILIAME TIKOTANI



Drone technology helps land survey work

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

TECHNOLOGICAL advancements continue to take land development forward, with drones revolutionising the use of technology by land surveyors and saving time and money compared to traditional methods.

As noted by permanent secretary for Lands and Mineral Resources, Josefa Caniogo, surveyors are being assisted with acquiring, processing and delivering data in timely, accurate and safe ways.

“Drone and data solutions automatically generate advanced analytics such as map creation, digital surface models (DSMs), 3D point clouds and more,” Mr Caniogo said.

“Drone data can instantly be used for taking measurements, volume or stock pile calculations, emergency damage mapping. Drones perform any data capture even in the high-altitude spots or corridor mapping.

Addressing the Fiji Institute of Surveyors, he said surveying work would be more advanced as new and improved technology is availed.”

“Just like any other profession, land surveying has rapidly evolved over the past several decades due to new technological advances. Instruments that were in use in the 1980’s fea-



Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources Josefa Caniogo during the Fiji Institute of Surveyors Congress. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

tured theodolites for observing bearings or directions and chains for measuring bands and distances. The use of such survey instruments or equipment has been phased out and is hardly used in present day survey practice.”

Surveying methods have changed consider-

ably with the advent of digital technology and have dramatically affected both the field and office components of surveying.”

Ultimately, these advances benefit Government, stakeholders, surveyors and most importantly the public.

Outreach begins on National Adaptation Plan

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

OUTREACH on Fiji’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP) has begun, as the Government addresses climate change vulnerabilities and the necessary strategies to address them.

The NAP contains 160 prioritised activities covering food and nutrition, health, human settlements, infrastructure, biodiversity and the natural environment, to help stakeholders plan medium to long-term plans to adapt to climate change.

“Adapting to climate change will be an on-going and often complex process, and our NAP Framework seeks to ensure long-term institutional learning and address structural challenges in order to achieve our adaptation goals,” said Nilesch Prakash, Head of Climate Change and International Cooperation at the Ministry of Economy.

“Our NAP process will seek to connect efforts in rural and urban areas; to place our ecosystems at the centre of adaptation planning; to promote human rights and gender equality; and to leverage the private sector. We also seek to make this an inclusive process that involves all stakeholders’ voices, including the voices of the most vulnerable in our society.”

Fiji launched its NAP in December 2018, and held its first outreach session for Government departments, municipal councils and non-government organizations in Lautoka.

Commissioner Western, Joji Satakala highlighted the need for enhanced partnerships in implementing prioritised actions identified in the NAP.

“This outreach session is targeted at increasing the understanding and knowledge of the NAP process amongst us, the key stakeholders, so as to ensure that when we are carrying out our planning for activities in our respective sectors, we are including climate risk and disaster risk reduction measures in to our plans,” he said.

Fiji is among only 13 countries that has managed to produce a National Adaptation Plan to address climate change vulnerabilities.



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete with participants during the recent Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health in Nadi.

Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

Ministry plans TB info system

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services plans to establish a Tuberculosis Information System in all divisions, to enhance notification and the Fijian public’s health response process.

“Up-scaling of laboratory capacity is also earmarked to enable

Whole Genome Sequencing to genotype TB strains and drug susceptibility profiles for Fiji and perhaps for the region as well,” said Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, Minister for Health and Medical Services.

Minister Waqainabete noted this at the recent Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health in Nadi.

“The possibility of establishing a training center for TB control for the region via a World Health Organization collaboration is also a possibility. In addition, there are also plans to undertake prioritized research initiatives on TB control so as to guide and inform the formulation of targeted policies and appropriately align strategic approaches for the control program.”

Fiji is currently listed as a low TB-burden country, and listed as



The possibility of establishing a training center for TB control for the region via a World Health Organization col-laboration is also a possibility.

Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete
Minister for Health and Medical Services

TB high-burden country until the 1960s.

Minister Waqainabete attributed the drop in TB caseloads to intensified campaigns of community-driven screening and treatment

interventions of the diseases.

“The TB case notification for Fiji underwent a cyclic trend from the year 2000, until 2009. In 2010, when Fiji became a recipient of the Global Fund for Control of TB, HIV/AIDS & Malaria (GFATM) until 2018, the TB case notification rate stabilized at around 49 per 100 000 population. The prevailing case detection and treatment success rates (TSR) for the country at 95 percent and 81 percent are above or close to the internationally recommended targets of 70 percent and 85 percent, respectively,” he said.

With the current case notification rates, Fiji ranking as a low burden country for TB is an outstanding milestone achievement considering the country’s initial TB status in the 1950’s.



Maca Vakasigaleka walks along the new footpath in Seaqaqa.
Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

Footpath upgrade set for completion

JOSIA RALAGO

A MAJOR footpath project by the Government through the Fiji Roads Authority is set for completion by the mid of this month.

This was confirmed by FRA in a statement which has set a celebratory atmosphere for residents of Seaqaqa and people who commute to the satellite town in Macuata.

Apart from the small portion of the footpath that is yet to be completed, the rest is now being utilized by members of the public.

Maca Vakasigaleka, 54, originally from Nayarailagi, a nearby village, said she felt so much safer using the footpath compared to before.

“As you see most parts of the footpath has been completed and we are using it. I do not live here but I come up every now and then for check-ups, using this route more often,” Ms Vakasigaleka said with a smile.

“It is not only me but our children who attend school here and fellow villagers who frequent Seaqaqa to sell their produce, for shopping or to seek Government services here.”

An 18-year-old Jeremaia Vakaolu, who attend Seaqaqa Central College, said the new footpath is an improvement that would greatly assist them.

“Most of us walk from school to the temporary bus-stand after school to wait for our transport home and without a proper walkway, we were exposed to road accidents,” Mr Vakaolu said.

“I would like to thank the Government for this permanent solution which has made walking so much easier for us.”

The footpath extends from the Police Station (on both sides of the road) to the T junction where one leads to the National Fire Station Road and one to the Buavou Road.

Meanwhile, there are also plans by the Government for the relocation of the market and the bus-stand.



Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) workers carrying out footpath works at Seaqaqa. INSET: Waisea Rokocati with his yaqona produce at his farm in Balawaviriki. Photos: JOSIA RALAGO

Improved roads a big boost for farmers

JOSIA RALAGO

THE newly-improved Sevac-Korotasere Road in Cakaudrove has made travelling so much easier for villagers and especially farmers who live along the road and in nearby areas.

The Fiji Roads Authority has highlighted that the road stretches for 41 kilometres and directly benefits 500 people who live in the area not including others who access this route to get to the Natewa Peninsula or to Labasa.

Some of these beneficiaries are yaqona farmers of Balawaviriki who are originally from the district of Tawake in Udu Point but have moved there for farming purposes.

It is understood that because of the lack of arable land back in their area, their elders made a traditional agreement with the landowners back in the day that allowed their descendants to farm on Balawaviriki to this day.

One of these farmers, Waisea Rokocati, 57, said prior to the road improvement, the farmers

used to have a lot of issues when it comes to transporting their produce to the market.

“We used to carry our produce to the main road which is at 10 kilometres away, but times have changed and now it has been made easier through the presence of a proper road,” Mr Rokocati said.

“Even when we had a road, it was not well maintained. When we travel along this road, we came across some very steep hills and sharp bends, so before the maintenance work was carried out last year there were instances where

trucks carrying our produce would sometimes slip down the hill.

“During rainy weather we would have to go the long way which would take much longer to get to Labasa. This road has made things easier for us where buyers come all the way to our farms to purchase our goods instead of us going to town.”

Mr Rokocati said they were grateful to the Government for this project and has encouraged farmers to plant more.

There are about 150 farmers in Balawaviriki.

Developments breathe life into northern town

JOSIA RALAGO

MAJOR development project currently underway in the North is expected to not only be a new lease of life for residents but also boost the Northern Economy.

This includes two of the major projects in Labasa which are the construction of the Damodar City Complex and the Fiji National University Campus in Labasa.

In an interview the Fiji National University vice-chancellor Professor Nigel Healey said the new FNU site together with the Damodar City Project, and the services they offer, would appeal to national and regional students.

“We are currently looking at residential accommodation by the river and we think that this project together with Damodar City project with its cinema, food-court, cinemas, hotel and shops will have a very strong super surging, where Damodar City will make our campus more attractive to students in the region,” Professor Healey said. “In turn, this campus provides customers for their facilities so we



Construction work underway at the new Damodar City Complex in Labasa. INSET: Permanent Secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister Yogesh Karan (left), with Fiji National University (FNU) vice chancellor Professor Nigel Healey at the new FNU Labasa Campus site in Labasa. Photos: JOSIA RALAGO

are working very closely with Damodar City to make sure the two projects are in step and there is a good pedestrian access between their facility and our campus.”

He said they hope to complete construction by the end of this year, allowing them to open their new campus for first semester next

year.

Both project costs are at \$40 million each.

Labasa Chamber of Commerce president Satish Kumar said these major projects would definitely boost economic activity in the North.

“This construction of the Da-

modar City once completed would be one of the major attractions in Labasa and would pull in more people, thus boosting economic activity here,” Mr Kumar said.

“The same goes for the FNU campus which is being constructed right next to it. A lot of developments are taking place in the North and there are more to come.”

The two project are being constructed side by side at Naiyaca Sub-division.



Fiji mahogany exports rake in millions

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

FIJI'S ability to market high value mahogany products is significant with the 2018 total volume exported reaching 3.19 million cubic meters of mahogany with a value of \$5.8 million.

This was highlighted by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, in Parliament in response to a question posed on Fiji's export opportunities for high value mahogany products.

"The overseas market for Fiji's high value product is, in fact, North America through the Dominican Republic, and USA. Other export markets include New Zealand, Australia, China, Haiti, Canada and Vietnam."

Majority of the mahogany products that Fiji exports include sawn mahogany timber, decking and other components.

Other products such as furniture, guitars, aircraft aesthetics and high-end yacht are produced from the high-end portion of mahogany.

He also responded to questions as to why New Zealand had recently stopped buying Fiji mahogany.

The A-G stated that Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus has no bearing on New Zealand purchasing mahogany from Fiji.

In the year 2016, New Zealand purchased from Fiji 741.96 cubic meters of mahogany; 385.33 cubic meters of timber in 2017 and 373.34 cubic meters of timber in the year 2018.

The figures for 2019 is still yet to be produced because the year has not ended.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum addresses Parliament during last week's sitting. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

"PACER Plus has no bearing on whether New Zealand wants to buy mahogany from Fiji. PACER Plus essentially will erode many of our revenue generating abilities."

Under the PACER Plus, local infant industries and mature businesses will have to com-

pete with larger corporations from Australia and New Zealand.

Fiji has not closed the door on PACER Plus, however, there is a need for conditions and recognition for Fiji's infant industries in order to protect local businesses and prevent job losses.

\$200K upgrade for national emergency centre

MEREANI GONEDUA

AROUND \$200,000 has been used to upgrade and improve the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) that is now located at the Nasilivata House.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, National Disaster Management Office and Meteorological Services Jone Usamate in Parliament last week.

"There has been a lot of improvement that is being done in terms of the IT (information technology) infrastructure that is in place.

"The IT infrastructure upgrade to its existing systems that we have in the country such as the Fiji Maritime Surveillance and rescue coordination program that is currently being handled by the Fiji Navy in Togalevu."

Minister Usamate highlighted that they are now trying to hook up the Emergency Centre with the Ministry of Defense Operational Room.

He said as part of the facility the National Emergency Operation Center now has direct connectivity to the Fiji Meteorological Services which collects meteorological data that is then fed into the National Emergency Operation Center so they can keep track of issues which may later lead to disasters.

Minister Usamate explained that currently the backup will be at the Ministry of Defence, however, they are looking at other options of having another backup somewhere else and suggested that Blackrock camp in Nadi would be considered.

"It is also interesting to note, that the Fiji Meteorological Services also have programs that they want to be able to forecast coastal inundation or flooding along coastal zones, especially when you have storm surges, when there are cyclones coming in, need to have that ability to be able to estimate the parts of Fiji that might be flooded as a result of the storm surges.

"So that sort of information together with the other program that is being undertaken now at the Fiji MET is that they're developing their flashflood guidance system."

He also highlighted that as part of the NEOC, they are developing geographical GIS sort of systems which will aid in mapping and geospatial analysis of data needed to help in disaster response planning for the National Disaster Management Office.

Aquaculture plan boosts food security

SONAM SAMI

FIJI will develop aquaculture to provide greater food security and in doing so, offset the increasing pressure on wild stocks and other impacts on marine ecosystem.



Members of Parliament during last week's sitting. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

We did not allow this catastrophic event to drown our vision of developing Fiji aquaculture Today, the Caboni Multi-Species project is getting back on its feet. Aquaculture remains one of the key tools in the Fiji Government's work towards putting fish on the table for our communities.

Semi Koroilavesau
Minister for Fisheries

This was highlighted by the Minister for Fisheries, Semi Ko-

roilavesau, while responding to a question posed during Parliament on the plans for aquaculture for the people of Fiji and the plans the Ministry has for Caboni Multi-Species Hatchery.

Caboni Multi-Species Aquaculture Facility was established in 2015 with a vision to drive aquaculture in more productive and sustainable manner but due to TC Winston disaster, the facility was completely destroyed.

"We did not allow this catastrophic event to drown our vision of developing Fiji aquaculture. Today, the Caboni Multi-Species project is getting back on its feet"

"Aquaculture remains one of the key tools in the Fijian Government's work towards putting fish on the table for our communities," Minister Koroilavesau said.

He said it is vital to be reminded that aquaculture can improve the nutritional status of the rural population and generate supplementary income.

It will also open opportunities for aquaculture export markets and diversify activities to relieve in-shore fishing pressure.

The development of this facility will support increased economic activities and create employment in rural and peri-urban areas.

In the next two months the facility will start hatchery production on brackishwater commodity, like shrimp, post-larvae and conditioning of milkfish juveniles as future brooders.

"Caboni will also house a training centre to hold regional and national aquaculture training. The rebuilt facility will help boost production of cultured fish and prawn, together with replenishing our reefs," he said.

Minister Koroilavesau said this will increase the reliability of locally produce sea food for the local market and the hotel tourism sector.

Villagers thankful for riverbank protection

NANISE NEIMILA

VILLAGERS of Vunibau in Navua will no longer have to move to higher grounds during the constant flooding after the construction of their river bank protection works funded by the Government.

Situated 47 metres from the river bank and given its close proximity, it was highly vulnerable to flooding and the associated soil erosion for villagers was becoming an everyday threat.

After years of constant plea to the relevant authorities and the Government, the Ministry of Waterways stepped in to assist the

villagers.

Vunibau villager, 60-year-old Jone Waqainidrola shared his experience that in the past there were constant flooding within the village.

“During flooding, water flows into the village and slowly the riverbanks were eroding, had there been no action taken the riverbank would have shifted.”

“In 2006, stone boulders and land reclamation were constructed at Vunibau Village, however, because of the constant wave action caused the continuous flooding of Navua River, soil erosion worsened along the riverbank.”

Mr Waqainidrola adds in 2014,

scoping was carried out and the river bank protection works commenced on June 28, 2018.

“The works were completed on December 15, 2018 and the river bank protection works entailed combination of boulder armoring and Reno-mattress works.”

“We have also witnessed changes within the village, there is good growth of vegetation growing alongside mangroves at the riverbank and villagers have started planting cassava.”

Mr Waqainidrola highlighted that the villagers have now adapted to climate change, incorporated sustainable development and more importantly focused food security.

“Before we used to face a lot of challenges mostly from flooding especially when there is a lot rainfall from upstream with the bank protection.”

“Today after the construction of this project we don’t have any more drainage problems and this

has contributed to the improvement of food security and increasing the cropping area and stopping the intrusion of salt water.

Mr Waqainidrola thanked the Government and the Ministry of Waterways for their assistance towards this project that will greatly assist the village.

The riverbank protection works was undertaken by Yadra Viti Investment Ltd at a cost of \$561,292.23 for the construction of the project.



Jone Waqainidrola shows the new riverbank protection works constructed and fully funded by Government. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Farmer champions food security, healthy lifestyle

NANISE NEIMILA

CHAMPIONING food security as well as supporting healthy eating habits have raised the profile of farmers in the country and are the reasons why 25-year old Rishi Goundar of Raiwaqa, Navua, has taken up farming.

Born and raised in Suva, the young lad says he hopes that through his story young people will be able to change the perception towards farmers from wearing ragged clothes to rather those people providing healthy meals on their tables.

Situated a kilometre from the main highway, the 94-acre farmland caters for livestock farming majority of which is sheep with plans to venture into organic farming.

“I have moved here with my family which consists of just my mother, so far so good,” Mr Goundar said.



Rishi Goundar, 25, on his farm in Raiwaqa, Navua. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

“What really interests me is the fact that there has been a change in lifestyle, this all started with the different sickness that a lot of people were contracting which made the generation before us think they never had those illnesses because of subsistence farming where they grew their own food.”

Mr Goundar argued that with westernisation people’s mindset changed and due to that a lot of people started getting into processed food as it was more convenient but actually people do not know what goes in their food.

“So that’s why I am here to contribute to the food security of the country and another big issue is non-communicable disease (NCD), there is so much awareness about it and less things being done in terms of what people consume that creates more diseases.”

Mr Goundar had received assistance from

the Ministry of Waterways last year in the form of proper irrigation and drainage on farm.

“One of the major issues in Navua is the rain and basically controlling the water in a more controlled environment. This is where the Ministry of Waterways has assisted us quite a lot in terms of irrigation and the collection of water. That is the assistance that we have received so far and we have been assured of continued support by the Government once everything is settled.”

Since the Navua area is prone to flooding, for farmers one of the main priorities is having proper irrigation system.

“This is one way I can look after my livestock, by ensuring proper fencing and for the use of fertilizer; I try to minimize the use of weedicides and harmful chemicals

that can eventually go into the waterways and kill everything else.”

“I had done a bit of research and I do not necessarily want to follow everything in the traditional way of farming, especially those practices that damage the environment, I will include modern ways of farming,” Mr Goundar said.

“I have learned quite a bit and in terms of irrigation we have improved a lot in terms of having proper drainage.”

Previously owning a retail and wholesale business Mr Goundar’s family had to sell their properties, rent a few and go big with their farming business.

“I hope to see a couple of processing warehouses here, value adding and probably creating a lot of jobs in this community especially in the Namosi, Serua and Navua

areas.”

“Providing jobs to this people would greatly address the unemployment rate in these areas.”

A graduate of the University of the South Pacific with a degree in business marketing, Mr Goundar admits that for young person when they think of business the first thing that comes to mind is monetary value which should not be the only priority or the perspective.

“For any child as they come through life they always perceive farmers as people in ragged clothes or seen engaged in menial task but it was never put that focus on the farmer that provides you food on your table especially for fresh food that is healthy for you.”



Non-resident Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Fiji from Canberra and Wellington at Daku Village, Tailevu, during the first familiarisation visit programme last week
 Photo: SUPPLIED

Programme strengthens SDG partnership

THE first-ever familiarisation visit to Fiji by non-resident Ambassadors and High Commissioners has become a gateway to solicit stronger global partnership for Fiji's commitment in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These permanent representatives, who are accredited to Fiji and based in Canberra and Wellington, were part of a three-day program designed with the theme of "Nurturing Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development."

The 17 participating envoys were given a comprehensive overview of Fiji's national development priorities and plans.

The program presented the visiting envoys with the first-ever opportunity to receive a comprehensive briefing on Fiji's

economic, trade and investment policies, financial and regulatory policy, tourism, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, to name a few.

A full day "Talanoa" session at the Grand Pacific Hotel with Permanent Secretaries and senior Government officials enabled the Heads of Missions

avenues for strengthened relations.

The second day of the program provided the envoys with the opportunity to interact personally with a Fijian community, Daku village in Tailevu that is adversely impacted by climate change.

They also contributed to Fiji's mitigation efforts and resilience capability by planting trees at the Colo-i-Suva Forest Reserve as part of Fiji's 4-Million trees in 4 Years initiative.

A visit to the Koronivia Research Station and Navuso Agriculture Technical Institute demonstrated Fiji's interest for collaboration in research and development of Fiji's agricultural and vocational training institutes.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Inia Seruiratu, speaking during an official dinner, highlighted the importance of this visit.

"As comprehensive and challenging as the SDG 2030 are for all of our nations, there is an equal assurance we feel in the realisation that we have close allies, friends and indeed partners, who are able and willing to assist us achieve those goals. The strong presence of our Resident Missions and the Diplomatic Corp in Suva, and of course the visit this week by non-resident Heads of Mis-

sions based in Canberra and Wellington, is an expression of faith in the cooperative environment that the Fijian Government has been determined to provide and nurture," Minister Seruiratu said.

At the conclusion of the programme, the visiting envoys expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Fijian Government for a well delivered program targeted towards the realisation of the SDGs through global partnership.

Ambassador Karim Medrek of Morocco, was one of the 17 envoys who participated in the familiarisation visit programme.

He is based in Canberra and has spent over 30 years in the diplomatic service, having also served at their United Nations Mission in New York.

Ambassador Medrek described Fiji's First Familiarisation program as informative, interactive and imperative for the greater collaboration.

He reiterated that Fiji and Morocco co-operation goes beyond partnership in tackling climate change as a key feature connecting both countries was their contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Furthermore, Ambassador Medrek said that the familiarisation visit has opened potential to explore partnership with Fiji in

tourism and solar energy given that Morocco has the largest solar plants in the world.

Efforts will also be made to explore cooperation in agriculture given that Morocco is one of the largest fertiliser producers in the world.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Non-Resident Ambassador Saleh Alsuwaidi said the program helped showcase Fiji's development priority areas.

"It is an honour to be part of Fiji's efforts in addressing climate change. We are with you and UAE stands to support our friends here in Fiji and the Pacific. We are really happy and proud to say that 192 countries have confirmed participation in the Expo 2020 Dubai. We are also happy that Fiji and Pacific countries will have a pavilion at the Expo 2020," Ambassador Alsuwaidi elaborated.

The Austrian Ambassador accredited to Fiji from Canberra, Bernhard Zimburg said the visit will pave the way for enhanced Austria-Fiji cooperation in areas of climate change mitigation, agriculture and trade.

The familiarisation programme was held from 20 - 22 August, with the first two days spent in Suva and the third day in Nadi.

-MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

It is an honour to be part of Fiji's efforts in addressing climate change. We are with you and UAE stands to support our friends here in Fiji and the Pacific. We are really happy and proud to say that 192 countries have confirmed participation in the Expo 2020 Dubai. We are also happy that Fiji and Pacific countries will have a pavilion at the Expo 2020.

Saleh Alsuwaidi
 United Arab Emirates (UAE)
 Non-Resident Ambassador

to better understand the scope of bilateral cooperation that Fiji offers and explore

Ex-resident gives back through wheelchairs

FELIX LESINAIVALU

WITH the aim to donate 700 wheelchairs to Fiji, the Wheelchair Foundation is well in line to achieve this target after donating 110 wheelchairs at the Fiji Pharmaceuticals and Biomedical Services in Vatuwaqa.

Founder/ volunteer of the Wheel Chair Foundation Chetan Singh said it began in 2000 when he met founder of the Wheel Chair Foundation for the USA, Kenneth Behring during a convention.

“I have admired the charity work that he (Mr Behring) and his family have done with the Wheelchair Foundation.”

“When I visited Fiji in 2010, I saw that there were many people in need of wheelchairs.”

Mr Singh said that he was well supported by the Behring family and his own family.

“I have been working with them to raise funds for many other countries, for the last six to seven years.”

Originally from Votua, Ba, Mr Singh said that he does this work as a calling from God to help people living with disabilities.

The Wheelchair Foundation is a nonprofit organization leading an international effort to create awareness of the needs and abilities of people with physical disabilities.

They purchase wheelchairs from manufacturers in China that build a quality product designed to be easily maintainable in developing countries.

The goal for the Wheelchair Foundation is



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete (5th from left) with founder-volunteer of the Wheelchair Foundation Chetan Singh (6th from left) during the handing over of 110 wheelchairs at the Fiji Pharmaceuticals and Biomedical Services centre.

INSET: Founder-volunteer of the Wheelchair Foundation Chetan Singh. Photos: FELIX LESINAIVALU

to distribute one million wheelchairs in the next five years and to further the awareness that a wheelchair is no longer an unaffordable item for delivery in developing coun-

tries throughout the world.

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete has emphasised that Fijians should work together for the benefit of the marginalized and persons living with disability by supporting them.

“Wheelchairs make persons living with disabilities mobile and it also gives them the opportunity to participate in life and we have been blessed with the wheelchair

Ministry staff trained on drill rig

FELIX LESINAIVALU

A TWO-WEEK training to improve and maintain the newly purchased MI3 Drill Rig was conducted in Narewa Village, Sigatoka Valley by the Ministry of Lands and Minerals Resources.

It was an opportunity for the drillers from the Mineral Resource Department to participate and be trained on the usage of the newly purchased MI3 Drill Rig for the Ministry.

Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Ashneel Sudhakar, thanked the 18 drillers who were present at the commissioning of the new drills and advised them to look after their equipment well.

“Such training are not readily available and I hope the two weeks of capacity building in the areas of safe handling, operation, transportation and routine services of the equipment, will help you ensure the sustainability of the machines and its operation.”

“Mr. Jason Laing from Mazzenza Drilling and Mr. Yuichi Ikeda from Tone Corporation have trained you well to operate and also how to maintain this new MI3 Drill Rig and Top Tone 300 and I trust in all of you

that you will use this training and the new Drill Rig to provide our services in a better and quicker way.”

Technical Officer for the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Sakuia Cawaru said the training would help the team to have more knowledge on the different types of drilling for these new machines.

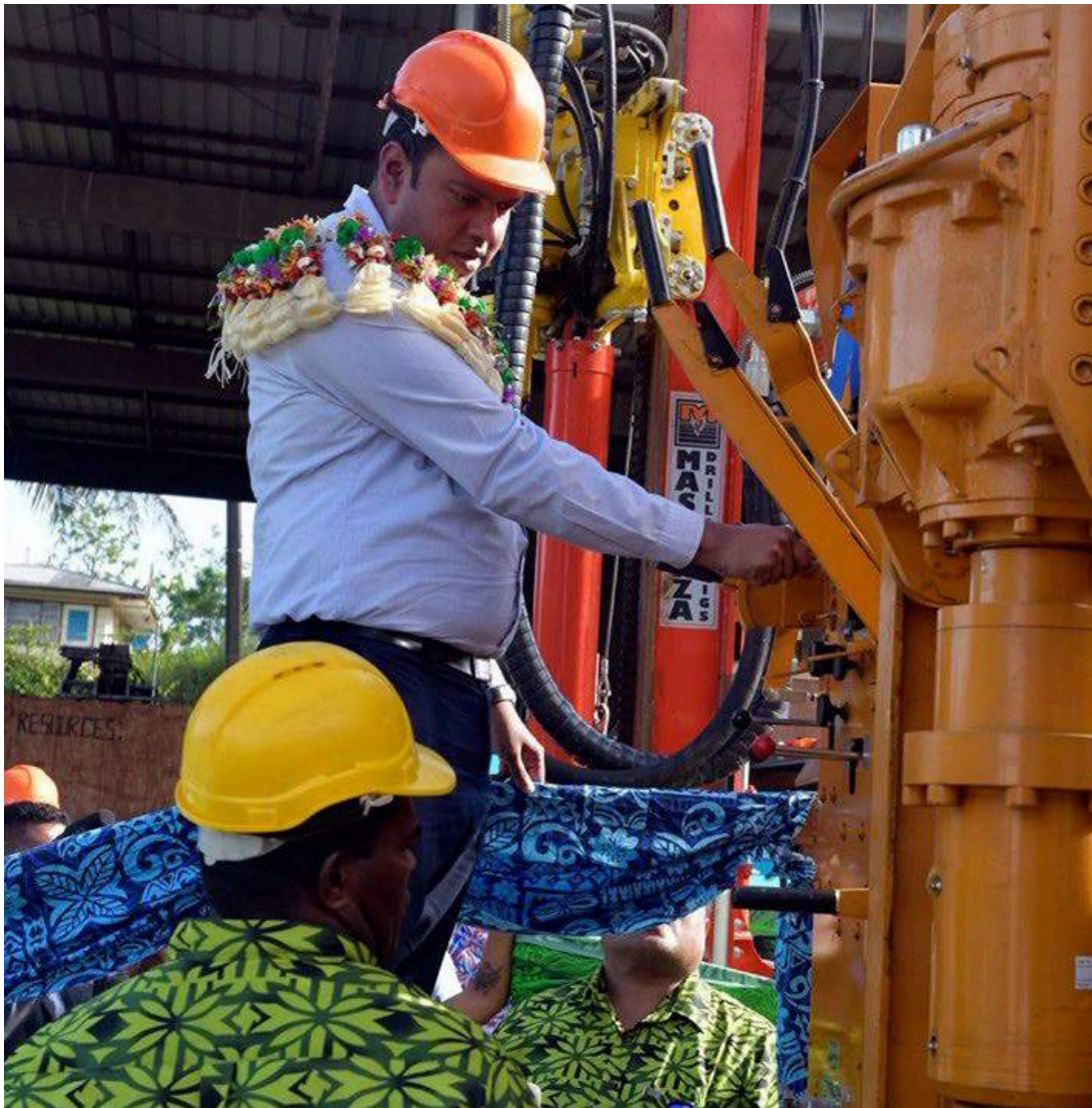
“With this we will be able to meet most of our targets and meet the demand by the people of Fiji.”

Mr Cawaru said these machines will be more efficient when it comes to drilling than the previous machines, with the old drills as it would take at least three days to make a well, whereas these new drills would only take a day.

Mr Laing spoke on the handling and maintenance of the new MI3 Drill Rig.

The \$300,000 worth MI3 Drill Rig is one of the latest versions.

It was highlighted during the opening of the training that since the inception of the Groundwater Development, more than 800 boreholes have been drilled and with this new MI3 Drill Rig, it will boost the Ministry’s contribution in providing clean drinking and safe water to all Fijians.



Minister For Lands and Mineral Resources Ashneel Sudhakar during the commissioning of the latest version of the MI3 Drill Rig and Tone 300 at the MRD Drill Yard. Photo: SUPPLIED

FijiFocus



RM TO
AUTOKA,
TALS'
5

INSIDE

VILLAGERS THANKFUL FOR
RIVERBANK PROTECTION

M2687M
\$897M

FILM FIJI
HOSTS 362
PRODUCTION
IN 5 YEARS
2



Prime Minister and Fiji Rugby Union President Voreqe Bainimarama with members of the Fiji Airways Flying Fijians team to the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan during the Sayonara Gala Dinner at the Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa in Denarau. **RIGHT:** President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote with Fiji Airways Flying Fijians team members after presenting their itatau at State House in Suva.
Photos: LITIA VULDAUSIGA, FELIX LESINAIVALU



'BEST WISHES'

PM farewells Flying Fijians as they head for Japan RWC

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“YOU are going to Japan with one objective, to give every ounce of effort in pursuit of the Web Ellis Cup trophy.”

This was according to Prime Minister and Fiji Rugby Union President Voreqe Bainimarama while farewell the Fiji Airways Flying Fijians team to the Rugby World Cup in Japan during the Sayonara Gala Dinner at Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa in Denarau.

“I, alongside every Fijian, have watched this team’s journey over the past several months with growing pride and optimism.”

“I’ve seen you build a camaraderie on the field and find a pace and rhythm that suits your skills and I’ve admired your strengthening discipline on both sides of the ball.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the competition they will face in Japan will be on another level entirely and that there will be no easy win.

“You will be competing on one of the grandest stages in sport against the best of the best in world rugby.”

The Head of Government cautioned the team that there will be no room for careless errors or sloppy play and that “there will be

no glory unless you reach out and take it for yourselves”.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also urged the players to be wary as their first match will be against a talented Australian side.

“But when you play at your best, there is no team, no matter the size of their country or the resources behind them that you cannot defeat. You know what you’re capable of, and you know the Fijian people stand behind you 100 per cent.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that he expects the team to give their all, play together as a team and show sportsmanship

of the highest degree on and off the field.

“Our expectations are the only expectations that matter, and we expect you to play hard. On behalf of every Fijian, I wish you well. I’d say good luck, but we know luck has nothing to do with your success.”

The World Cup will begin later this month and Fiji will play Australia on the 21st in their first pool match.

Fiji is pooled with Australia, Wales, Georgia and Uruguay.

The Prime Minister will also be in Japan to support the Flying Fijians during the Rugby World Cup.

फीजी फोकस

एलेक्ट्रॉनिक
पासपोर्ट
उपलब्ध

2



चार सौ
अक्कड़
में धान
की खेती

3



मास के क्षेत्र में
काम करने वाले
ओस्ट्रेलिया के
लिए रवाना हुए

7



‘गन्ने का उत्पादन बढ़ाने पर काम जारी’

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री तथा चीनी मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा का कहना है कि फीजी शुगा कॉर्पोरेशन, देश में गन्ने का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए ज़मीन मालिकों के आठ और दलों के साथ सम्मिलित रूप से काम कर रहा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि एफ एस सी ने पश्चिमी तथा उत्तरी विभागों में ज़मीन मालिकों के साथ समझौता किया है जिससे अतिरिक्त चालिस हज़ार (40,000) टन गन्ने काटे जायेंगे। उनके अनुसार गन्ने का वर्तमान दाम जोकि पचासी डॉलर (\$85) प्रति टन है, के हिसाब से इन किसानों को इससे तीन मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा की आमदनी होगी।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि वे मर्तगाली को समझा रहे हैं कि वे इन समझौतों को व्यापार की तरह देखें। चीनी मंत्री के अनुसार इससे ज़मीन-मालिक और भी मुनाफा कमाएंगे तथा अंतराष्ट्रीय बाज़ार में चीनी व्यवसाय को होड़वाज़ी के लिए सक्षम बनाएंगे।

पाँच सौ आठ (508) हेक्टेस में ज़मीन मालिकों के नौ दल काम कर रहे हैं। पाँच उत्तरी विभाग में हैं जबकि चार पश्चिमी विभाग में।

बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि कुछ दलों ने अभी से ही मुनाफा कमाना शुरू कर दिया है, जबकि कई अभी शुरूआती दौर में हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि लम्बे समय में सभी दलों से अच्छा मुनाफा कमाने की आशा की जा रही है।



प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा संसद में चीनी व्यवसाय पर उठाए गए सवालों का जवाब देने के बाद संसद से बाहर निकलते हुए फोटो: प्रदान किया गया



एलेक्ट्रॉनिक पासपोर्ट उपलब्ध

वीरेंद्र लाल

इस सप्ताह से एलेक्ट्रॉनिक पासपोर्ट असर में आजायेंगे। फीजियन इमिग्रेशन डिपार्टमेंट और जर्मनी के मिउबवा आय.डी सेविसस के अधिकारी पिछले कुछ हफ्तों से इसपर काम कर रहे थे।

इस सप्ताह पहले पाँच हजार इ-पासपोर्ट्स निकाले जाने की सम्भावना है।

प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण ने बताया कि मिउबवा आय.डी सेविसस के वाइस प्रेसिडेंट लडविग हुवा फीजी आए थे और कम्पनी के एनजिनियर्स और टेक्निशियन्स इसपर काम कर रहे हैं।

“एक महिने पहले जर्मनी में फेक्ट्री एक्सेप्टन्स टेस्ट हुआ था। स्टाफ को नई सिस्टम से परिचित कराने के लिए ऐसा किया गया था। इस टेस्ट का परिणाम सफल रहा। हम यह देखने के लिए

यह टेस्ट कर रहे हैं कि इसमें कोई खामिया न रहे और इनटानेशनल बोर्ड मनेजमेंट सिस्टम से यह मेल खाए”।

करण ने बताया कि इमिग्रेशन डिपार्टमेंट, जर्मनी की इस कम्पनी की मदद से, कर्मचारियों को बायोमेट्रिक डाटा इकट्ठा करने में प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करेगा।

“यह ज़रूरी काम है। फिर डाटा सिस्टम में डाले जायेंगे और सफलतापूर्वक ऐसा करने से

टेस्ट पुरा हो जाएगा और इ-पासपोर्ट देने के लिए तैयार हो जायेंगे।

करण जनता से डिपार्टमेंट का साथ देने की माँग कर रहे हैं जबकि वे सभी फीजियन्स के लिए एक असर-कारक इ-पासपोर्ट पर काम कर रहे हैं।

पुराने पासपोर्ट अभी भी काम में लाए जा सकते हैं। रिनउ कराने पर या नए पासपोर्ट के लिए अर्ज़ी लगाने पर इ-पासपोर्ट मिलेंगे।



मंत्री उसामाते ने गुसूईसावु विलज रूरल वोट स्क्रीम प्रोजेक्ट का उद्घाटन करते हुए दोहराया कि सरकार का लक्ष्य है कि सभी फीजीवासियों को पीने के लिए साफ पानी मिले चाहे वे कहीं भी रहते हों। फोटो: फिलिक्स लेसिनाईवाल्

साफ पानी, मौलिक अधिकार

वीरेंद्र लाल

जैसाकि संविधान में अंकित है, साफ पानी मिलना, हर व्यक्ति का मौलिक अधिकार है और इसके अलावा विकास के लिए यह ज़रूरी भी है।

इनफास्ट्रक्चर मंत्री चोने उसामाते नडतासिरी में गुसूईसावु विलज रूरल वोट स्क्रीम प्रोजेक्ट का उद्घाटन करते वक्त बोल रहे थे।

“सरकार ने इस तरह की योजनाएं लागू की हैं क्योंकि पानी विकास के लिए बहुत ज़रूरी है। हम पानी के बिना जी नहीं सकते और समाज को भी पानी के बगैर जोड़ा नहीं जा सकता।”

मंत्री उसामाते ने बताया कि सरकार हर घर तक साफ पानी पहुँचाना चाहती है और सरकार के इस लक्ष्य को हासिल करना, वोट ओथोरिटी ऑफ फीजी की ज़िम्मेदारी है।

“पाँच और बीस सालों की अपनी राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना के तहत सरकार साल दो हजार तीस (2030) तक देश के सभी लोगों तक नल का साफ पानी पहुँचाना चाहती है। अभी फीजी की अठहत्तर प्रतिशत (78%) जनता को साफ पानी मिल रहा है और सरकार आशावादी है कि इस लक्ष्य को हासिल कर लिया जाएगा।”

मंत्री उसामाते ने बताया कि हर फीजीवासी के पास सुरक्षित और खुशी से जीने का अधिकार है।



मंत्री उसामाते गुसूईसावु विलज रूरल वोट स्क्रीम प्रोजेक्ट का उद्घाटन करते हुए फोटो: फिलिक्स लेसिनाईवाल्

टी.बी कम करने की योजना

वीरेंद्र लाल

टुबाक्लोसिस (TB) की संख्या कम करने के इरादे से एक योजना पर काम किया जा रहा है। स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वांगाइनम्बेते ने हालही में नांदी में एशिया पैसिफिक पालियामेन्टेरियन फोरम ओन् ग्लोबल हेल्थ को बताया कि इसमें तीन से पाँच साल लगेंगे।

“योजना में हाय रिस्क लोगों जैसे जो लोग हर्डिच.आय.बी से पीड़ित हैं, डायबेटिक हैं और जिन लोगों को टी.बी है को निशाना बनाया जाएगा। दूर दराज के इलाकों तक पहुँचा जाएगा। टी.बी के शिकार लोगों को इलाज करने में प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। नेशनल टी.बी कोन्ट्रोल प्रोग्राम का यह भाग रहेगा” स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने कहा।

मंत्री वांगाइनम्बेते माँग कर रहे हैं कि टी.बी के शिकार लोगों की देख-भाल अच्छी तरह से की जाए। मंत्री ने बताया कि टी.बी कोन्ट्रोल प्रोग्राम, अगले तीन सालों तक कड़ी मेहनत करेगा और इस बीमारी को जड़ से उखाड़ फेंकने का प्रयास करेगा।

उन्होंने बताया कि घरों, स्कूलों, काम की जगहों और सामाजों में इस बीमारी के शिकार लोगों की मदद से, इस बीमारी से बचने के बारे में अभियान चलाया जाएगा।

फीजी में अभी इस बीमारी से बहुत खतरा नहीं है यानि फीजी को एक लौ टी.बी बर्डन देश माना जाता है।

करीब चार सौ अक्कड़ ज़मीन में धान की खेती शुरू हुई

धान की खेती को पुनर्जीवित किया गया है। गैस फार्म रोड जो भारी मात्रा में धान की खेती कर रहा है, के अलावा अभी चार सौ अक्कड़ ज़मीन में धान की खेती शुरू हो गई है।

डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी
कृषि और वोटरवैस मंत्री

उच्चस्तरीय सामान के लिए संसाधन ज़रूरी

वीरेंद्र लाल

इनडस्ट्री, ट्रेड एंड टूरिज़्म मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव शहीन अलि का कहना है कि उच्च स्तर के सामान उत्पादित करने के लिए उच्च स्तर के इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर ज़रूरी है। नादी में पेसीफिक क्वालिटी इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर वोकशोप में बोलते हुए शहीन अलि ने कहा कि उच्च स्तर के इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के कारण प्रशांत देश, अंतराष्ट्रीय बाज़ार में होड़बाज़ी कर पाते हैं। “राष्ट्रीय मंच पर सामानों और सेवाओं के स्तर सुधारने के लिए पहला कदम है क्वालिटी इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर सिस्टम। इससे माँग की पूर्ती करने में मदद मिलती है। बदले में व्यापार बढ़ता है और अर्थ-व्यवस्था में बढ़न्ती होती है। प्रशांत के लिए इस तरह की सिस्टम होने से यह देखा जाएगा कि उच्च स्तर के सामान उत्पादित किए जा रहे हैं और उच्च स्तर की सेवाएं प्रदान की जा रही हैं। ऐसे सामान और सेवाएं, जिनकी बाज़ार में माँग है”।

इनडस्ट्री, ट्रेड एंड टूरिज़्म मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव ने बताया कि यह कार्यशाला पेसी-फिक आयलैंड फोरम सेक्रेटेरियट की इनिशियटिव्य है जिससे फोरम आयलैंड देशों को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे फोरम आयलैंड देश साफ और स्वस्थ वातावरण में सामान उत्पादित करेंगे और ऐसे सामानों की ज्यादा माँग रहेगी। जबकि प्रशांत द्वीपों को जलवायु परिवर्तन से ज्यादा खतरा है, कार्यशाला में इसपर जोर दिया गया कि दोनों सरकार और प्रायवट सेक्टर को क्वालिटी स्टैंड अपनाना चाहिए। पेसीफिक आयलैंड फोरम के डायरेक्टर प्रोग्रेस एंड इनिशियटिव्यस ज़राक खान भी कार्यशाला में उपस्थित थे।

रोनल देव

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने आम किया है कि मंत्रालय ने नावुआ में लगभग चार सौ (400) अक्कड़ में धान की खेती शुरू करवा दी है। पिछले महीने नावुआ में किसानों से मुलाकात करते हुए डाक्टर रेड्डी ने किसानों को बड़े पैमाने पर खेती करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। उन्होंने कहा कि नावुआ में धान की खेती काफी हद तक कम हो गई थी तथा ज़मीनें खाली पड़ी थी। कृषि मंत्रालय ने इन ज़मीनों में नालों पर काफी काम किया है ताकि किसान इनमें खेती कर सकें। मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि नावुआ में इरिगेशन सुधारने के अलावा नाले बनाने वाली योजना में सरकार ने पिछले दो सालों में आधा मिलियन डोलर खर्च किया है। उनके अनुसार इससे धान की खेती को पुनर्जीवित किया गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि गैस फार्म रोड जो भारी मात्रा में धान की खेती कर रहा है, के अलावा अभी चार सौ (400) अक्कड़ ज़मीन में धान की खेती शुरू हो गई है। मंत्री के अनुसार भारत का एक किसान नावुआ में एक सौ पचास (150) अक्कड़ ज़मीन में धान की खेती करने जा रहा है और यह एक बहुत ही सकारात्मक कदम है। उन्होंने कहा कि बाकी के किसान दस से बीस अक्कड़ ज़मीन में धान की खेती कर रहे हैं।



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी, नावुआ में वोटरवैस मंत्रालय की कुछ योजनाओं का दौरा करते हुए। फोटो: ननिसे नईमिला

मंत्री के अनुसार अगले बारह महीनों में नावुआ में कृषि उत्पादनों में वृद्धि होने की सम्भावना है। वोटर वैज मंत्रालय की नालों की खोदाई वाली योजना से कई किसान फायदा उठा रहे हैं जबकि कृषि मंत्रालय ने वहाँ कुछ किसानों को नेसरी भी

प्रदान किया है। सरकार किसानों की मदद करने का हर संभव प्रयास कर रही है। किसानों से खेती करने को लेकर अपनी चिंताएं सरकार के समक्ष रखने की माँग की जा रही है ताकि उनकी मदद की जा सके।

नालों की खुदाई से खेती के लिए और ज़मीन उपलब्ध



तोकोतोकी बैक रोड नावुआ के एक किसान रमज़ान मोहम्मद अपनी खेती में नाले की खुदाई से खुश हैं। वेहद खुश हैं।

रोनल देव

नालों की खोदाई तथा सरकार की इरिगेशन योजनाओं से देश में कृषि क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा मिला है। कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने पिछले महीने नावुआ में मंत्रालय की कुछ योजनाओं का दौरा करते हुए किसानों से मुलाकात की और

उन्हें बताया कि सरकार लगातार नालों की खोदाई तथा इरिगेशन में पैसे लगा रही है जिसके फलस्वरूप खेतों में कृषि उत्पादनों में भारी वृद्धि हुई है। “पिछले दो सालों में नालों की खोदाई वाले कार्यक्रम में सरकार ने करीब आधा मिलियन डोलर खर्च किया है तथा हम इस योजना

को जारी रखेंगे ताकि किसान उन ज़मीनों का इस्तेमाल कर सकें जो पहले वे इस्तेमाल नहीं कर पाते थे क्योंकि उनमें पानी भरा रहता था,” मंत्री ने कहा। डाक्टर रेड्डी के अनुसार सरकार ने डालो, कसेरा, अदरक, धान के उत्पादन तथा पशुपालन में वृद्धि देखी है।

मंत्री ने जोर दिया है कि किसानों को खेती एक व्यापार की तरह चलाना चाहिए जो देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में भारी योगदान देगी। “हम बहुत उत्साहित हैं कि एक दिन कृषि, फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था की रीढ़ बनेगी क्योंकि यह एक ही क्षेत्र है जो स्थिर है तथा सरकार के आधीन है” डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा।



15s रग्बी टीम ने ई-तताउ पेश किया

राष्ट्रपति, चोचो कोनरोते ने इस साल जापान में रग्बी वर्ल्ड कप में हिस्सा लेने जा रही 15s रग्बी टीम का ई-तताउ स्वीकार किया और पूरे देश की तरफ से टीम को

शुभकामनाएं दीं। उन्होंने टीम के खिलाड़ियों को बताया कि उन्हें देश का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए चुना गया है तथा हर एक फीजीवासी उनसे

बेहतरीन खेल दिखाने की उम्मीद कर रहा है। फीजी का पहला मैच ओस्ट्रेलिया के खिलाफ इस महीने की इक्कीस तारीख को होगा।
फोटो: लिलिया बुलाईडउसिंगा / फिलिक्स लेमिनाईवावु



युवा दिवस समारोह

भारते संख्या में स्कूली विद्यार्थी और खेलकूद वाले क्लब्स लौतोंका में इस साल युवा दिवस मनाने के लिए इकट्ठा हुए। इस साल का विषय है शिक्षा को बदलना। युथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन कुमार का कहना है कि फीजी ने पाँच से बीस सालों की राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना तैयार किया है ताकि शिक्षा सभी युवकों के लिए मान्य रखे, न्यायसंगत तथा समावेशी हो। इस दौरान लौतोंका के बोटानिकल गार्डन में पेड़ भी बोए गए।



फोटो: लिलिया बुलाईडउसिंगा



नान्दी में एल टी अई दफ्तर खुला

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने प्रकाश डाला है कि फीजीवासियों को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए कि वे सड़क के कानून का हमेशा पालन करें। नान्दी में लेन्ड ट्रान्सपोर्ट अथॉरिटी के नए दफ्तर का उद्घाटन करते हुए सईयद खईयूम ने ऐसा कहा।
फोटो: लिलिया बुलाईडउसिंगा



नई लीस मिलने से किसान बेहद खुश

नवाईदोम्बा नान्दी के छियासठ (66) किसान अपने आप को बहुत खुशनुसीब मानते हैं जबकि उन्हें नईटिव ज़मीन की पचास सालों की लीस मिली है। प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण जोकि चीनी मंत्रालय, इमिग्रेशन तथा विदेश मंत्रालय के स्थानापन स्थाई सचिव भी हैं, ने किसानों को लीस प्रदान किया।
फोटो: लिलिया बुलाईडउसिंगा





निउजीलैंड में मीज़ल्स ज़ोरों पर

रेनल देव

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने विदेश जाने वाले खास करके निउजीलैंड सफर करने वाले सभी यात्रियों को सलह दी है कि वे माता-माई या मीज़ल्स से बचने के लिए टीके लगवाएं। ओक्लेन्ड तथा वेलिंगटन में भारी संख्या में लोगों को माता-माई या मीज़ल्स से पीड़ित पाया गया है।

अगर आप निउजीलैंड जाने का विचार कर रहे हैं और आपको अभी तक टीके नहीं लगे हैं या आपको

इस बारे में कम जानकारी है तो आप अपनी नज़दीकी हेल्थ सेन्टर या अस्पताल जाकर मुफ्त में टीके लगवा सकते हैं।

माता-माई या मीज़ल्स हवा के द्वारा फैलने वाली एक संक्रामक वायरल बीमारी है जो पीड़ित व्यक्ति के खाँसने या छींकने से फैलती है। आपको यह बीमारी पकड़ सकती है अगर आपने टीके नहीं लगवाए हैं या आप कभी इस बीमारी से पीड़ित नहीं हुए हैं।

माता-माई के चिन्ह हैं - बुखार

लगना, सर्दी होना, खाँसी आना तथा आँखें लाल होना। यह सब चिन्ह के कुछ दिन बाद शरीर पर दाने नज़र आते हैं जो पूरे शरीर में फैल सकते हैं। माता-माई के लिए वैसे तो कोई खास इलाज नहीं है बल्कि आपका शरीर ही इस बीमारी से लड़ता है। कई लोग आठ से दस दिनों में ठीक होते हैं लेकिन इसके लिए लोगों को आराम करना पड़ता है तथा ध्यान में रखना होता है कि वे सही भोजन करें और पानी पीते रहें ताकि शरीर में

पानी की कमी न हो। माता-माई की वजह से कुछ लोग जटिल स्थिति का सामना करते हैं जैसे निमोनिया बुखार होना तथा दिमाग में सूजन। ऐसे लोगों को अस्पताल में भर्ती होना पड़ेगा। पाँच साल से कम उम्र के बच्चे, एक साल से कम उम्र के शिशु, गर्भवती महिलाएं, बीस साल से उपर के युवक तथा कमज़ोर लोगों को यह बीमारी पकड़ने का ज़्यादा खतरा है।

माता-माई से बचने के लिए सन् दो हज़ार तीन (2003) से फीजी में सभी

बच्चों को मीज़ल्स और रूबेला टीके लगाई जाती हैं: पहले जब वे एक साल के होते हैं और दूसरी बार जब वे स्कूल जाना शुरू करते हैं।

फीजी में आखरी बार सन् दो हज़ार छः (2006) में ज़्यादा माता में लोगों को माता-माई हुई थी। उसके बाद से कोई रिपोर्ट सामने नहीं आई है। लेकिन विदेशों में तथा पड़ोसी देशों में यह बीमारी होने की वजह से फीजी को भी खतरा है क्योंकि लोग इधर उधर सफर करते रहते हैं।



सिंगातोका में पेसिफिक सोसाईटी फोर एनाएस्थेसिस्ट्स मीटिंग के उद्घाटन के दौरान स्वास्थ्य मंत्री इफेरईमी वांगाइनम्बेते, मीटिंग में भाग लेने वालों के साथ फोटो: लितिया वुलाईदउसिंगा

डाक्टरों की हुई सराहना

वीरन्द्र लाल

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वांगाइनम्बेते ने डाक्टरों से अच्छी स्वास्थ्य सेवा जारी रखने की माँग की है, नाही केवल अस्पतालों में लेकिन अस्पतालों से बाहर भी।

वे सिंगातोका में पेसिफिक सोसाईटी फोर एनाएस्थेसिस्ट्स मीटिंग में बोल रहे थे।

“उच्च स्तर की सेवा प्रदान करने में सुरक्षा बहुत ज़रूरी है क्योंकि मेडिकल ट्रेनिंग में सुरक्षा पर बहुत ध्यान दिया जाता है।

“यह इस कोन्फरन्स के थीम से मेल खाता है जो है “डिलीवरी ऑफ सर्फ एनाएस्थेसिस्ट्स इन टयेम्स ऑफ डिज़ास्टा” और यह स्थानिए, क्षेत्तिए और अंतराष्ट्रीय तौर पर स्वास्थ्य और

विकास को लेकर उपयुक्त भी है।”

मंत्री ने कहा कि प्रशांतिए क्षेत्र में स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों की सालों से परिक्षा हो रही है और इसे एक लेनिंग प्लेटफोम के रूप में काम में लाया जा रहा है।

“हमने यह सीखा है कि विपत्तियों का जवाब हम अच्छी तरह से तभी दे पायेंगे अगर हमने अच्छी तरह से तैयारी की है और यह कोन्फरन्स जानकारी हासिल करने का सब से अच्छा प्लेटफोम है।”

मंत्री वांगाइनम्बेते ने कहा कि सुरक्षित सेजरीज़ के लिए सुरक्षित एनाएस्थेसिया का बढ़ावा देना ज़रूरी है।

“मैं डाक्टरों को बताना चाहता हूँ कि उच्च स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए सुरक्षा बेहद ज़रूरी है क्योंकि चिकित्सा प्रशिक्षण में सभी प्रगति और सुधान पूरी तरह से सुरक्षा पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं और एक बेहतर परिणाम है जो प्रभावी है।

उच्च सरकारी कर्मचारियों ने लिडाशिप प्रोग्राम में भाग लिया

वीरन्द्र लाल

नेतागिरी के अपने हुनर सुधारने के इरादे से फीजियन सिविल सेविस के बीस उच्च अफसरों ने दो सप्ताह पूर्व एक ट्रांसफोर्मेशनल लिडाशिप प्रोग्राम में भाग लिया। इस प्रोग्राम की अगुवाई मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ सिविल सेविस ने की थी।

पिछले साल के मध्य से एक सौ से ज्यादा एग्ज़ेक्टिव लेवल सरकारी कर्मचारी सप्ताह भर के इस ट्रेनिंग में भाग ले चुके हैं। सिविल सेविस की स्थाई सचिव सुज़न किरण ने बताया कि मंत्रालय, सरकारी कर्मचारियों के नेतागिरी हुनर में सुधार लाना चाहता है। “इस ट्रेनिंग से सरकारी कर्मचारियों पर बहुत अच्छा असर पड़ेगा। उच्च कर्मचारी जो कुछ सीखेंगे, उसे दूसरों को सिखायेंगे और इससे कार्यक्षमता में सुधार आयेगा। कर्मचारियों का भी उत्साह बढ़ेगा और जनता को अच्छी सेवा प्राप्त होगी”। ट्रेनिंग के दौरान कर्मचारियों को स्ट्रेटजी, इनोवेशन, कौचिंग और मेंटरिंग, मेनेजिंग रिस्क और कस्टमा डिज़न सोल्यूशन्स के बारे में बताया जाता है। कोलोनियल वो मेमोरियल (CWM) अस्पताल की स्थानापन्न डायरेक्टर नेसिंग केलेरा सोवाता ने बताया कि नेता के हैसियत से हम सकारात्मक बदलाव ला सकते हैं और फलस्वरूप संस्था में सुधार आ सकता है। ट्रेनिंग, डाक्टर जगदीशवर सिंह लेते हैं जो ओस्ट्रेलिया और प्रशांत के एक जाने माने मेनेजमेंट ट्रेनर हैं।

फीजी, निउजीलैंड के साथ अपना द्विपक्षीय सम्बंध मज़बूत करेगा

वीरन्द्र लाल

“फीजी और निउजीलैंड के बीच सम्बंध मज़बूत होता जा रहा है और हम इस द्विपक्षीय सम्बंध और आगे लेजाने पर काम कर रहे हैं”।

यह कहना है इनडस्ट्री, ट्रेडिड, टुरिज़म मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार का। वह पिछले महिने के अंत में डडन पार्क निउजीलैंड में निउजीलैंड-फीजी और फीजी-निउजीलैंड बिज़नेस कौंसिल एनुवल जोईंट कोन्फरन्स में बोल रही थी।

दो तरफा व्यापार, टुरिज़म और निवेश से फीजी का निउजीलैंड के साथ द्विपक्षीय सम्बंध आगे बढ़ता जा रहा है। मंत्री कुमार ने बताया कि फीजी को हर मौके से फायदा उठाते हुए दोनों देशों के बीच सम्बंध मज़बूत करने की दिशा में

कदम उठाना चाहिए।

निउजीलैंड के व्यापारिक समुदाय को सम्बोधित करती हुई मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि फीजियन सरकार अपनी सेवा में लगातार सुधार कर रही है। इनमें सेन्ट्रलाइज़ड बिज़फीजी पोर्टल (centralised bizFIJI portal) शामिल है जो बिज़नेस शुरू करने और कोन्स्ट्रक्शन पेमिट्स हासिल करने के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान करता है। अंतराष्ट्रीय वेस्ट पेक्टिसस ध्यान में रखते हुए फीजी के इनवेस्टमेंट कानून में भी काफी बदलाव किए गए हैं।

जोईंट कोन्फरन्स में बिज़नेस एनवायरमेंट, रिस्क मेनेजमेंट, ग्लोबल मार्केट शिफ्ट और सस्टेईनबिलिटी पर ध्यान दिया गया था।



मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार निउजीलैंड फीजी तथा फीजी निउजीलैंड बिज़नेस कौंसिल मीटिंग में बोलती हुई

पी.एल.एस के तहत महिलाएं काम करने ओस्ट्रेलिया गईं

वीरन्द्र लाल

फीजी में मास व्यवसाय में काम करने वाली तीन महिलाएं, पेसीफिक लईवा स्कीम के तहत, काम करने ओस्ट्रेलिया गई हैं। यह कर्मचारी, मास के क्षेत्र में काम करने ओस्ट्रेलिया जाने वाले तीसरे दल में शामिल हैं। यह कर्मचारी जेनरल एन्ट्री मीट प्रोसेस बोका के रूप में टीज़ ओस्ट्रेलिया के लिए काम करेंगी।

चार कर्मचारियों का पहला दल सात अगस्त को रोक्केम्पटन सेन्ट्रल क्विंस्लैंड के लिए रवाना हुआ जबकि दस कर्मचारियों का दूसरा दल दो सप्ताह पहले वेगा वेगा निउ साउथ वईल्स गया।

एम्प्लोयमेंट, प्रोडक्टिविटी एंड इनडस्ट्रियल रिलीशन्स के स्थाई सचिव ओसेया द्वारू ने तीन दिनों के प्री-डिपाचा ओरियन्टेशन ट्रेनिंग प्रोग्राम के समापन पर इन कर्मचारियों को बधाई दी।

श्री द्वारू ने इन कर्मचारियों से फीजी की छवि खराब न करने की मांग की जिससे कि भविष्य में और लोगों के ओस्ट्रेलिया जाकर काम करने का रास्ता खुला रहे।

“मैं आप लोगों से ओस्ट्रेलिया में एक परिवार की तरह एक दूसरे का समर्थन करने की मांग कर रहा हूँ। इस मौके का फायदा उठाते हुए अपने और अपने परिवार के लिए सफलता लेकर आएं। कभी मज़दूर मालिकों का विश्वास न तोड़ें। अपनी मेहनत से उनका दिल जीतें और काम करने का एक मज़बूत सम्बंध बनाएं”।

स्थायी सचिव ओसेया द्वारू ने इन कर्मचारियों को इमानदारी और लगन के साथ काम करने की मांग की जिससे फीजी की अच्छी छवि बने और इससे फीजी के और लोगों को पेसीफिक लईवा स्कीम के तहत ओस्ट्रेलिया जाकर काम करने का मौका मिले।

उन्होंने इन कर्मचारियों से अपना ध्यान काम पर रखने की मांग की और कहा कि वे जितना सीख सकें काम सीखें और फीजी में अपने परिवार के लिए पैसे बचाएं।



पेसीफिक लईवा स्कीम के तहत ओस्ट्रेलिया जाकर काम करने वाले लोगों के साथ रोजगार मंत्री कुमार और लईवा मोबिलिटी एनगईजमेंट मैनेजर पिगट फोटो: लितिया बुलाईदउसिंगा

मास के क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले ओस्ट्रेलिया के लिए रवाना हुए

वीरन्द्र लाल



लईवा मोबिलिटी एनगईजमेंट मैनेजर शाशा पिगट कुछ कर्मचारियों से बातें करती हुई फोटो: लितिया बुलाईदउसिंगा

मास के क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले बीस (20) लोग, पेसीफिक लईवा स्कीम के तहत, काम करने के लिए ओस्ट्रेलिया के लिए रवाना हुए। ओस्ट्रेलिया जाकर काम करने वाला, मास के क्षेत्र के कर्मचारियों का यह दूसरा दल है। इस स्कीम के तहत यह लोग तीन सालों के कोन्ट्रैक्ट पर काम करेंगे।

इन कर्मचारियों को बिदा करते हुए एम्प्लोयमेंट मंत्री परवीन कुमार ने कहा कि इन लोगों की सफलता पर और लोगों को काम पर लेने का निर्णय आधारित रहेगा।

“नवम्बर के अन्त तक इस प्रोग्राम के तहत अस्सी (80) लोग काम करने ओस्ट्रेलिया चले जायेंगे और हम यह संख्या यहाँ नहीं रोकना चाहते हैं, और आगे बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। आप लोग अगर अनुशासन में रहकर अच्छी तरह से काम करेंगे, तो फीजी से और लोगों की मांग की जायेगी। अनुशासन पर आपके मज़दूर मालिकों से हमे रिपोर्ट मिलेगी”, मंत्री कुमार ने कहा।

पेसीफिक लईवा फसीलिटी की लईवा मोबिलिटी एनगईजमेंट मैनेजर शाशा पिगट ने बताया कि किसी भी ओस्ट्रेलियन कर्मचारी की तरह यह लोग सामान्य शर्तों पर तीन सालों के कोन्ट्रैक्ट्स पर काम करेंगे।

“यह काम मांग पर आधारित है, तथा अगर और मज़दूर मालिक इस तरह की मांग रखेंगे, तो और कर्मचारियों को काम पर लिया जाएगा”।

फीजी और ओस्ट्रेलिया के बीच इस साल अप्रैल में, पेसीफिक लईवा स्कीम को लेकर एक समझौता हुआ था।

फीजी, क्षेत्र को रसायन मुक्त करने में जुटा

वीरन्द्र लाल

फीजी की सरकार क्षेत्र को रसायनिक हथियारों से मुक्त करने की दिशा में काम कर रही है। नांदी में केमिकल एमेजेन्सी रेस्पॉन्स, प्लेनिंग एंड मैनेजमेंट की क्षेत्रिए सभा का उद्घाटन करते हुए सुरक्षा मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव मनासा लेसूमा ने केमिकल वेपन्स कोन्वेन्सन

(CWC) के महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला। “छोटे द्वीपीय राष्ट्र के कारण क्षेत्र में रसायन के गैर-कानूनी व्यापार की सम्भावना बनी रहती है, यहाँ राष्ट्रों के बीच काफी खुली जगह रहती है और हमारी सीमित सम्पत्ति के कारण भी लोग गलत करने की योजना बनाते हैं। रसायनिक दुर्घटना से हमारे द्वीपीय राष्ट्रों पर

और पूरे क्षेत्र पर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ सकता है। इस लिए इससे बचने के लिए हमें योजना तैयार करनी होगी और इस दिशा में द्वीपीय राष्ट्रों के साथ मिलकर काम करना होगा। लेसूमा ने बताया कि इस क्षेत्र में प्रगति की माप यह है कि किस तरह से रसायनिक दुर्घटनाओं का सामना हम कर सकते हैं।

फीजी के नेशनल ओथोरिटी के नए मुख्या के रूप में उन्होंने बताया कि क्षेत्र की सुरक्षा और शांति के लिए पेसीफिक आयलैंड्स फोरम, औसैनिया कस्टम्स ओगनायज़ेशन और मेलानिज़ियन स्पियाहेड ग्रुप जैसी संस्थाओं के साथ काम करना ज़रूरी है।

फीजी फोकस

एलेक्ट्रॉनिक
पासपोर्ट
उपलब्ध

2



चार सौ
अक्कड़
में धान
की खेती

3



मास के क्षेत्र में
काम करने वाले
ओस्ट्रेलिया के
लिए रवाना हुए

7



लौतोका और बा अस्पतालों का संचालन ओस्ट्रेलिया की कम्पनी करेगी



वीरन्द्र लाल

लौतोका और बा अस्पतालों का संचालन अगले साल से ओस्ट्रेलिया स्थित एस्पेन मेडिकल लिमिटेड करेगी।

इसकी जानकारी अटोनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने संसद में दी। अई.जी ने बताया कि एस्पेन मेडिकल लिमिटेड के इन अस्पतालों का संचालन अपने हाथों में लेने से, लौतोका अस्पताल - लौतोका इनटानेशनल अस्पताल और बा अस्पताल - बा रीजनल अस्पताल कहलाएगा।

सईयद खईयूम ने बताया कि यह अस्पताल अभी ओब्सेर्वेशन अवधी से गुज़र रहे हैं जो चौदह अगस्त को शुरू हुआ है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस बारे में फीजियन सरकार और एस्पेन मेडिकल लिमिटेड के बीच समझौता हुआ था।

“समझौते के तहत सरकार को अभी कुछ व्यवस्थाएं करनी बाकी है, लेकिन एस्पेन मेडिकल लिमिटेड ने ओब्सेर्वेशन अवधी के तहत काम शुरू कर दिया है। वह कर्मचारियों को काम पर लेने पर काम कर रहा है और ज़रूरी डाक्टरी अवज़ार खरीदने के लिए टेन्डस की मांग कर रहा है”।

अटोनी जेनरल ने बताया कि एक नई एनटाप्रइज़ रिसोस प्लेनिंग सिस्टम लागू की गई है जो दोनों अस्पतालों के लिए जानकारी प्रदान करेगी।

“हम एक नया असेट रजिस्ट्रार डिवेलप कर रहे हैं। कुछ समय से असेट रजिस्ट्रार नहीं था। इससे हमें कर्मचारियों, डाक्टरों अवज़ार और अस्पतालों के लिए अन्य ज़रूरतों के बारे में पता चलेगा”।

अटोनी जेनरल ने बताया कि बाईस (22) ट्रक भर भर के पुराने समान और फेनिचा निकाले गए हैं।

उन्होंने बताया कि एस्पेन मेडिकल लिमिटेड अगले साल मार्च या अप्रैल तक लौतोका अस्पताल का संचालन संभालेगा और जून या जुलाई तक बा अस्पताल का संचालन अपने हाथों में ले लेगा।

अटोनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम संसद में बोलते हुए फोटो: अज़ारिया फरीन

Noda Viti

**‘Gadrevi
na veisele
e qarauni’**

2



**\$4 na
milioni
sa qaravi
kina ko
Naitasiri**

6



**‘Yavu ni
qaqa na
vuva’**

6



Veisisivi ni Siga ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa

NA marautaki ni Siga ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa e Viti se na Fiji Constitution Day e duatani ka matalia na kena marautaki ena yabaki oqo, 2019, baleta ni bolel keda na tura-ga na Peresitedi ni noda vanua me da vakaitavi na lewe ni noda vanua lomani o Viti ena bolebole oya ka vaka oqo na ituvatuva ni veisisivi oya:

Katona e dua na iyaloalo se video me dua kina tolu na miniti ka o tuku-na tikoga kina na tiki ni noda Yavu ni Vakavulewa o Taleitaka duadua ka vakauta raraba kina lewenivanua ena iVola Mata se Facebook ena nomu vakayagataka na hashtag oqo; #OurConstitution

Na noda Matanitu ena qai vakaraitaka tiko na nomu video se iyaloalo ena ivolamata se Fijian Government Facebook.

Na tolu na video se iyaloalo e laurai ni uasivi duadua eratou na winitaka e yadua na Samsung Galaxy S-10.

E na cava tiko na veisisivi ena i ka ciwa ni siga ni vula o Seviteba 2019.



Oqori na timi qaqa ni noda vanua eratou vakarau laki valu ena qito levu kei vuravura ko ya ena Rugby World Cup 2019 ka na vakayacori e Japani.

iTaba: LITIA VULDAUSIGA,
FELIX LESINAVALU



Vakanuinui vinaka ena qito ni vuravura

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA vakauqeti keda na lewe ni vanua e Viti ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama me da vakanuinui vinaka ki vei ira na noda timi na *Flying Fijians* ena nodra laki qito ena valataki ni Bilo levu ni Rakavi Vuravura ni 2019 e Japani.

Sa tabaka ena nona ivola mata na turaga na Paraiminisita na itukutuku oqori me da solia na noda vakanuinui vinaka ki na noda mata timi ena kena valataki na Bilo ni Rakavi ni

Vuravura.

“Ni yalo vinaka ka duavata kei au ena noda solia na noda vakanuinui vinaka vei iratou na noda timi ni *Flying Fijians* ena nodratou sa biuta na noda vanua ki na qito ni vuravura ki Japani. E na coba na mata kece kina *television* se retio yaloyalo e Suva me yaco ki Savusavu ena gauna ni nomuni qito. E 100 na pasede na neimami duavata kei kemuni ena nomuni qito kece.”

“Keimami namaka mo ni na qito vakaukauwa, keimami namaka mo ni yalo vata

vakatimi ka keimami namaka na itagede e cake duadua ni dauqito e loma ni rara kei na taudaku ni rara,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Toso Viti Toso!! #GoFijiGo”

“Keimami kila na ka ko ni rawa ni rawata ka keimami duavata kece kei kemuni na lewei Viti,” kaya o PM Bainimarama ena vakayakavi ka vakatokai na Flying Fijians Sayonara Gala Dinner mai Nadi.

E na nodratou laki tatau ki vale levu vua na turaga na Peresitedi kei Viti e kaya kina vaka oqo ko Peresitedi Konrote; “Ko i ke-

muni oqo ko ni sa digitaki, e namaki kemuni ko Viti mo ni vakayacora na itavi.”

“Ko ni matataka na noda vanua lomani ko Viti ka ra sa namaki kemuni na lewei Viti mo ni vakayacora na nomuni itavi,” e kaya ko Peresitedi Konrote.

E ratou na qito tiko ena valataki ni Bilo ni Rakavi ni Vuravura na timi ni *Flying Fijians* ena ika 20 ni siga ni vula oqo.

Na timi ni Viti e tobu vata kei Ositerelia, Welesi, Georgia kei Uruguay.

“Toso Viti Toso!! #GoFijiGo!”



'Gadrevi na veisele e qarauni'



Na Minisita ni Bula ko Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete ena nona vosa tiko ena bose ni dauniveisele ena Pasifika ka vakayacori e Nadi.

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NONA vosa tiko ena bose ni dauniveisele ena Pasifika e kaya kina na Minisita ni Bula ko Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete ni duavata kei na gagadre me qarauni vinaka na cakacaka ni veisele.

Au duavata kei na ikau ni nomuni bose oqo na dauveisele oya na caka tataqomaki vinaka ena veisele ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso.

"Na noda tabana ni bula esa vakatovolei voli mai ena iwase ni noda vuravura oqo ka sa vakayagataki me dua na vanua ni vuli ka vakavinakataki kina na tiko bulabula. Kemuni na itokani vuniwai na tataqomaki baleta na daumaka ni noda veiqaravi ena laki vakatau ena ka e yaco ena gauna ni veisele," e kaya ko o Minisita Waqainabete.

"Na veisele e sala duadua e rawa ni valuti kina ka vakalailaitaki kina na mate."

Maraudaka talega o Minisita Waqai-



Na noda tabana ni bula esa vakatovolei voli mai ena iwase ni noda vuravura oqo ka sa vakayagataki me dua na va-nua ni vuli ka vakavinakataki kina na tiko bulabula.

Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete
Minisita ni Bula



nabete na nona a laki tiko mai Geneva ena vula o Me ena bose ni tabana ni bula ni vuravura ka kena ulutaga "na veisele e taqomaki vinaka."

Vakavinavinakataki ira talega na veitokoni vakailavo kina isoqosoqo ni dau veisele ni Pasifika o Minisita Waqainabete.



Tolu na yabaki na konitaraki

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA daumaka sara na nodra sa konitarakitaki me yabaki tolu na noda era sa laki cakacaka ena vale ni bulumakau mai Ositerelia.

Kaya o Minisita Parveen Bala ni sa totoka sara na nodra rawa sa konitaraki yabaki tolu baleta ni na vakadeitaka na nodra rawaka vakailavo kina nodra veimatavu-vale.

Kuria o Minisita Bala na daumaka talega ni na dolava nan katuba kina nodra veisiga vinaka ni mataka.

Ko ira na lewe 20 era sa lai cakacaka oqo era gole ena ruku ni Australia – Pacific Labour Scheme.

Kaya o Minisita Bala ni sa gadreva talega o Ositerelia me laki tawani na gadrevi ni tamata cakacaka ena tabana ni nodra qaravi na matua, na veiqaravi ena otela, kei na tabana ni teitei.

Sa mana sara tiko na veiqaravi ni National Employment Centre ena noda vanua ka ni sa toso cakle tikoga na kedra iwiliwili na noda lewe ni vanua era sa kune cakacaka kina ki vanuatani.

Dola na vale ni volavola ni LTA e Nadi

VILIAME TIKOTANI

CAVUKALAWA tale na Tabana ni Veilakoyaki e vanua se Land Transport Authority ena kena sa dola tale e dua na kena vale ni volavola

mai Nadi. Dolava na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo ni noda vanua ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

Nona vosa tiko mai Nadi e kaya na Vunilawa ni dodonu vei keda na lewenivanua meda vakamuri

na lawa ni gaunisala.

Era tiko ena dola ni vale ni volavola ni LTA mai Nadi na turaga ni vanua, dau ni bisinisi, kara sarava kina na veisu vou sa vakayacora tiko na LTA me laveta kina nona veiqaravi.

Na dola ni vale ni volavola ni LTA mai Nadi sa tiki ni kena vakavinakataki nona veiqaravi me vaka sa vakayacori mai Seaqaqa, Lautoka, Savusavu kei Suva.



Na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabacacaka iTaukei ko Meleti Bainimarama kei na Mata nei Peritania ki Viti ko Melanie Hopkin.
iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN

Veitokoni ko Peritania ki na Matabose ni iTaukei

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA cavuikalawa tale na Mabose ni Veika ni iTaukei ena nodrau sa sainitaka edua na veidinadinati (MoU) kei na Vale ni Volavola ni Mata nei Peritania e Viti ena kena sagai me ra vakavulici ena veika vakailavo na noda era bula tu ena veikoro..

Na veidinadinati oqo e na rawa kina na kena tokoni na bula vakailavo, na bula vakabisinisi, na kila ka vakailavo, kei

na cicivaki ni bisinisi lalai, teitei vakabisinisi, na sema veiwekani vakabisinisi, na saravanua ni iyau bula kei na bisinisi ena itagede ni koro.

Nona vosa tiko kina na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabacacaka iTaukei ko Meleti Bainimarama e kaya kina ni mataqali vuli vaka oqo ena yaga vakalevu ki vei keda na itaukei ena noda veikoro ena kena vakayagataki vinaka na noda iyaubula ka maqosataki na maroroi ilavo ena noda veikoro.



Sega ni vakatabakidua na veivuke ni matanitu

SOLO LEWA

VAKASAVUYA ena nona itukutuku vei ira na lewe ni Bose ni Yasana o Ra na turaga na iliuliu ni noda Matanitu o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ni veivuke ni matanitu e sega ni vakatabakidua kina na dua na uma tamata, se kina dua na Yasana.



Ni yavutaki vakavinaka na vuvala ena vakavurea na ivakavuvuli vinaka ka na vukea na kena tarai cake na noda vanua.

Voreqe Bainimarama Paraiminisita



“Na veivuke saka ni Matanitu e sega ni dau vakatabakidua saraga kina na dua na Yasana se kina dua na uma tamata, se dua saka beka na mata Lotu. E soli ga na veivuke kina vanua e tiko dian kina na gagadre ni veivakatorocaketaki.”

“Oqori talega na yavu levu ni veiqaravi ni noqu Matanitu,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“E sega ni vakatautaki na veivuke kina Yasana au cavutu mai kina. Se kina isoqosoqo vakapolitiki au digitaka.

“E bibi na kena tarai cake na vuvala ena kena rawati e dua na Viti vinaka. Na ivakarau ni bula oqori esega saka ni qai tekivu ga ena noqu sa taura na itutu vaka Paraiminisita.”

“Oqori na noqu qarava na noqu itavi vakatama. Ni vuvala e vu ni kaukauwa ni dua na itikotiko.”

“Ni yavutaki vakavinaka na vuvala ena vakavurea na ivakavuvuli vinaka ka na vukea na kena tarai cake na noda vanua.”

Na veivakarorocaketaki e cakava na Matanitu ena loma ni yasana o Ra e sega ni dui-dui mai kena e vakayacori ena veiyana tale eso.”

“Qoka na veivuke me vaka na vuli wale, na ivodovodo, na ilavo ni matua se malumamu, na ilavo ni veivuke vei ira na marama vakasucu gone, vakakina na sikolasivi ni vuli torocake, vakakina na ilavo ni tiko bulabula kei na valuti ni mate sureti vakakakina na itikotiko ni ovisa kei na duri ni vale ni bokobuka vakakina na vakadrodoro ni wai savasava kina veikoro,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Gadrevi na turaga e rerevaka na Kalou

SOLO LEWANA VANUA

VAKASALATAKI ira na vei ira na isausau vou ni yasana vakaturaga ko Nadroga kei Navosa e Nadave, Tailevu ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni gadrevi ena gauna oqo na veiliutaki era vakasinaiti ena vuku vakavanua ka ra rerevaka na Kalou.

“Sa ka bibi na kena vakayacori vakawasoma na veivosaki me rawa ni veitalanoataki na veika e sa vure cake tiko mai e na gauna oqo. E rawa nida vakadeitaka ni vinakati na Turaga kaukauwa ka rawa ni qarava ka taqomaka na nona lewe ni Yavusa.”

“Na nodra tiko vinaka na lewenivanua e vakatautaki e na vinaka ni veiliutaki.

E na yavu ni itukutuku oqori sa rui bibi kina na vuli ni veiliutaki e na veigauna mai muri.

“Na veiliutaki e sega ni vakayacori ga e na vetaicake ni veiliutaki e Viti se e na Matanitu. Na veiliutaki e vakayacori talega e na noda veikoro.”

Vakaraitaka talega kina o Paraiminisita Bainimarama na bolebole vei ira na veiliutaki vakavanua e daidai.

“Na ikarua ni itukutuku au gadreva me’u na veitataunaki kina oya na bolebole levu e sa sotava tu na vanua e na gauna oqo.”

“E na vuku ni veisau kei na bula ni veivakatorocake-taki, sa bolele sara vakalevu na ivakarau ni veiliutaki. E na noda sasagataka na vei-vakatorocake-taki, sa vaka me buwawa vei keda na itovo kei na ivakarau ni bula vakaviti.

“Oqo e dua na yavu levu ni kena vakaraautaki na vuli ni sauvaki ni vanua me vukea na nodra liaca rawa na sausau vou na veisau sa tiko e na vanua, ka me ra vaqara na kena iwali ka yavutaki e na vakatulewa matau kei na veiliutaki savasava.

“Kevaka eda sa valuta rawa na bolebole oqori, e na rawa ni qai vakavotukana na bula sautu.

“Au na gadreva me’u na tinia na noqu ivakamacala e na tatadra ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei, oya na “Sautu ni Vuvala, Na Viti Vinaka.

“Na yavu dei ni noda bula na tamata e na delanivuravura oqo na vuvala, ni sa dei na bula vakavuvale e na dei na ituvatuva taucoko eda na vakayacora. Oqo sa bibi kina meda vakaliuca taumada na veiliutaki e na noda vuvala.



Na Vunivola Tudei ni Vale ni Volavola ni Paraiminisita ko Yogesh Karan (karua mai na mawi) kei so vei ira na lewe ni vanua ka mai vakavoutaki na nodra lisi ni tei dovu me 50 tale na yabaki. Photo: LITIA VULIDAUSIGA

Vakavoutaki nodra lisi e 66 na dau teidovu

SOLO LEWANA VANUA

GAUNA taleitaki vei ira na lewe 66 na dau tei dovu e Nawaicoba e Nadi na kena sa vakavoutaki tale na nodra lisi ni tei dovu me 50 tale na yabaki.

Laki solia na nodra ivola ni lisi na Vunivola

Tudei ni Vale ni Volavola ni Paraiminisita ko Yogesh Karan.

Kaya ko Karan ni dina ni dau dede na kena waraki na vakavoutaki ni lisi, ia ni dau yaco e vakavuna na marau levu ki na veimatavuvale baleta ni ko ya na vurevure ni nodra bula ena veisiga.

E kuria ko Karan ni Matanitu ena dau tomana tiko ga na kena vakavoutaki na lisi ka sa na balavu cake mai na 30 kina 50 tale na yabaki.

Kaya ko Karana ni na tomani tiko ga na nodra dau vukei na dau tei dovu mai na Matanitu ena veika me vaka na ivakabulabula ni qele kei na so tale.



Vakayacori tiko oqori na i vakasobu vua na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nona yaco yani ki na Bosa ni Yasana ko Ra e Nanukuloa.. Photo: ISAAC LAL

Gadrevi na veiliutaki vinaka vakavanua

SOLO LEWANA VANUA

VAKARAITAKA o Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ni sega ni gadrevi walega ena Matanitu na veiliutaki vinaka e gadrevi talega ena noda veiliutaki vakavanua ena itagede ni koro se na tikina.

Oya e dua na tikina e vakabibitaka o PM Bainimarama ena nona vosa tiko vei ira na lewe 40 na na isausau vou ni Yasana o Nadroga/ Navosa ena nodra vuli mai Nadave.

Sa vakauqeti ira na isausau vou mera raica vakayalomatua na veivakatorocaketaki ena nodra vanua kara vakatulewa kina vakamatau.

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni veiliutaki vinaka ena kauta main a duavata ena vanua,

Sa dodonu kina meda cakacaka vata ka mera dau loloma, yalo vinaka ka rerevaka na Kalou o ira na dau veiliutaki ena noda veikoro kei na veitikina.



Siga ni Tabagone e vuravura

E ra a marautaka na itabagone ena noda vanua na soqo ni itabagone ena vuravura ka vakarautaki ena noda vanua. Vakayacori na soqo oqori mai Lautoka ena ulutaga na Transforming Education. Vakaraitaka ko Minisitā Parveen Kumar ni nodratou tuvaka ni yabaki ilima kina yabaki 20 esa vakabibitaka na vuli ka me rawa ni tubu ka laveti kina nodra rawaka na itabagone.

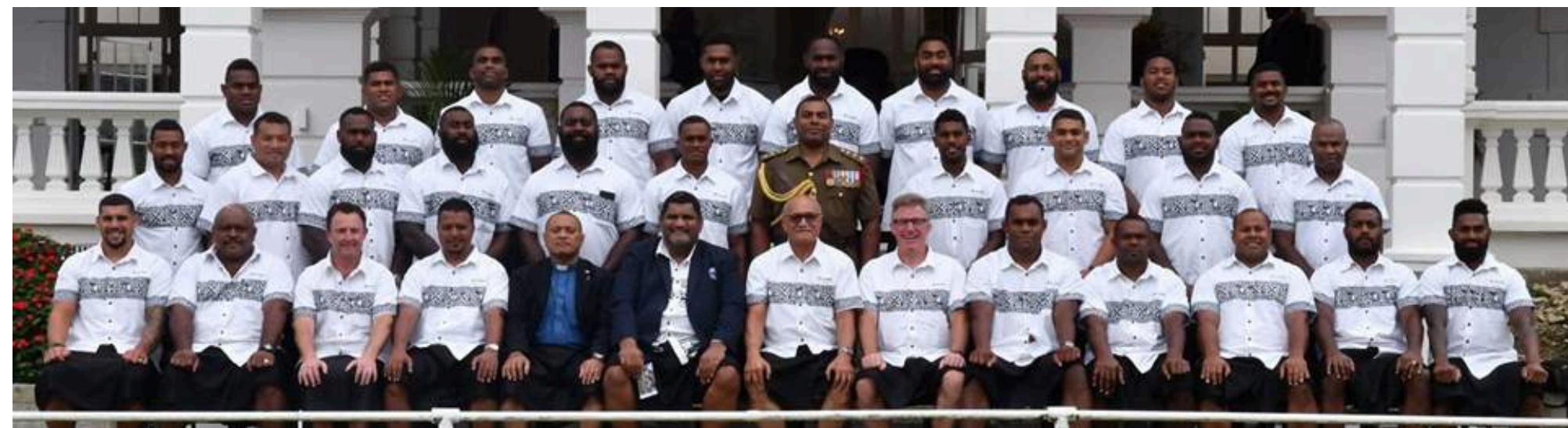
ITaba: LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA



Me vakaukauwataki tale na sasaga

Sa kacivaka ko Mary Bainimarama, na radini Paraiminisita na vakaukauwataki ni valuti ni mate ni kenisa ena Pasivika kei na noda vanua. Vakaraitaka ko Mary ena soqo ni kumuni ni lavo me baleta na sasaga oqo, ni mosimosi na nodra mai kaulaivi e 19 na bula ena mate oqo. Tukuna okoya ni sasaga oqo ena vinakata sara vakalevu na veitokoni ena veivanua kei na kena mataqali.

ITaba: VILIAME TIKOTANI



Ciqomi na itatau ni timi ni Viti ena qito levu kei vuravura

ERA laki vakasobura nodra itatau kivua na Peresitedi Jioji Konrote na noda toa ni vala kina qito levu ni rakavi ena vuravura ni bera nira gole yani ki Japani.

Vakavinavinakataki ira na lewe ni timi oqo ko Peresitedi ka tukuna vei ira mera qarauna vinaka na nodra itavi baleta ni ran a digitaki mera matataki Viti. Ea laki

vakayacori talega edua na nodra soqo ni yavu ena GPH nibera nira gole yani.

ITaba: LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA, FELIX LESINAIVALU





Yavu ni qaqqa na vuvale

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA vuvale e yavu levu duadua ni bula qaqqa. E ivurevure ni kaukauwa ni dua na vuvale.

Na vuvale qaqaco vinaka sa ivurevure ni kaukawa ni noda vanua.

Ni kaukauwa na vuvale ena kaukauwa kina na koro ka qaqqa kina na vanua.

Oqori na veika e vakaraitaka o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nona dolava tiko na Bose ni Yasana vakaturaga o Ra mai Nanukuloa.

“Na ivakarau ni bula oqori esega ni qai vakayacori ga ena gauna ni noqu veiliutaki vaka Paraiminisita. Au vakayacora sara ga ena noqui itavi vaka tama.”

“Na vuvale e vu ni kaukauwa ni dau na Matanitu ena vukea na kena tarai cake na noda vanua.”

“Ni qaqaco vinaka na vuvale ka yavutaki ena itovo vinaka – era na dau muri lewa takega kina na noda lewenivanua ka mera vakavuna na cavuikalawa vinaka ni noda vanua,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Kuria o PM Bainimarama ni Matanitu e daidai esa vakayacora tiko na veika e gadreva na lewenivanua kei na veimatavuvale.

“Ni rabailevu na nomu vakasama, ena rawa ni o tuvana vakabalavu na nomu rawaka. Mo cavuikalawa vata na tubu vakailavo ni noda vanua. Ni ko vakayacora oya ona vukie iko ka vukea na bula raraba ni noda vanua.”



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nona dolava na Bose ni Yasana ko Ra e Nanukuloa.

Uqeti na lotu ena tei kau

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kacivaka vei ira na lewe ni Bose ko Viti ni Lotu Wesele na Vunivola Tudei ni Minisitiri ni Veikau o Pene Baleinabuli ni gadrevi vakalevu na nodra vakauqeti na ivavakoso lotu ena sasaga yaga ni tei kau ka sa kacivaka tiko na Matanitu se na Minisitiri ni Veikau.

“Keitou sa bose vata tiko oqo me keitou veivuke ena vanua sa musu kina na kau. Oya na ituvatuvu e tiko. E sa tiko tale tikoga ni nodatou teivaka tiko na milioni na kau. Keitou a vakamacalataka toka vakalekaleka na 4 na milioni ena loma ni 4 na yabaki,” tukuna ko Baleinabuli.

“Ia e dua tale na ituvatuvu e sala muria tiko oqo keitou sa raica ni sega ni lailai mai na 20 na vanua ena veiyasai Viti. Au vakabauta ni tiko e lima na vanua oqo e Vanua Levu ka 15 e Viti Levu. Oqo na veivanua e vakatokai na ‘Highly Degraded Areas’ se na vanua sa vakacacani vakalevu.”

“E rauta toka na 37, 000 na ekatea keitou sa cakacakataka ni rawa ni tei kina e 30 na milioni na kau.”

“Keitou sa tekivu toka madaga ena 4 milioni ena 4 na yabaki me vakavakarautaki keda ki na ke na teivaki vakalevu na vanua sa vakarau tu oqo na ‘Highly Degraded Areas’. E sega ni rawa ni cakava duadua na Matanitu oya na vuna ko ni sa sureti tiko kina na veisoqosoqo kei na lewe ni vanua mo ni tarai kece yani ena sasaga oqo na lewe ni vanua raraba,” kaya ko Baleinabuli.

“Ni sa raica ni sa tuva toka na yaca na veisoqosoqo ka oka kina veimata lotu. Na veimata lotu e dau veivakauqeti vakalevu vei ira na lewe ni vanua. Oya na vuna keitou sa sureti kemuni mo ni vakauqeti ira na nomuni ivavakoso ena teivaki tale ni vei kau ena noda vanua.”

Era sa vakauqeti talega na lewe ni lotu kei na veisoqosoqo me ra tauyavutaka na nodra vanua ni bucibucini se nursery ka na voli na minisitiri ni veikau na kau era bucina.

“Oni sa vakauqeti talega ena kena tauyavutaki na nomuni vanua ni bucini kau se nurseries. Keitou na vukei kemuni keitou na volia talega vei kemuni na kau kece ni bucina.

Ni sa vakauqeti na isoqosoqo ni marama, turaga, cauravou kei na goneyalewa moni tauyavutaka nomuni vanua ni bucibucini. Ena gauna sara ga oqo keitou vinakata me tauyavu vakatotolo e 100 na vanua ni bucibucini. Sa dua talega na ivurevure vinaka ni ilavo,” kaya o Baleinabuli.



Na Minisita ni Veicakacaka Lelevu kei na Veilakoyaki ko Jone Usamate kei ira na lewe ni koro e Gusuisavu, Naitaisiri, ni oti na kena mai dolavi vou na medra wai ni gunu savasava. iTaba: FELIX LESIANAIVALU

\$4 na milioni sa qaravi kina ko Naitasiri

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kacivaka na Minisita ni Veicakacaka Lelevu kei na Veilakoyaki o Jone Usamate ni loma ni lima na yabaki sa sivi sa vakayagataka kina Matanitu ena loma ni Yasana ko Naitasiri e \$4 na milioni me baleta na vakadrodroi ni wai savasava ena kena veikoro.

Vakasavuya na itukutuku oya ena nona vosa tiko ena dola ni wai ni gunu savasava ena koro o Gusuisavu ena macawa sa oti.

“Na 4 na milioni na dola oya e vakayagataki ena kena vakadavori 42 na cakacaka ni vakadrodro wainigunu savasava.”

“Qoka ena kena qaravi 42 taucoko na cakacaka ni vakadrodro wainigunu ena loma ni yasana o Naitasiri.”

Kuria o Minisita Usamate ni yabaki vakailavo oqo ena vakayagataka tiko kina na Matabose ni Wai (Water Authority of Fiji) e 258.7 na milioni na dola me baleta na sasagataki ni wai ena noda vanua.

“Na iwase levu ga ni ilavo oqo ena vakayagataki ena keli ni vei vurevure ni wai vovou, kei na tara ni vanua ma lai vakasavasavataki kina na wai (treatment plant), vata kei na kena vakarabailevutaki na kena veikauyaki na wai (distribution system).”

E kaya o Minisita Usamate ni sa veisoliyaka na matanitu me yacova mai ni kua e sivia na 11 na udolu na taqe ni wai me tawa kina na wai ni uca e Viti raraba.

“Dua tale na tikina dau vakabibitaka na WAF na noda dau vakayagataka vinaka na wai esolia mai na Kalou. Vakabibi ena yasai

Viti Levu oqo ni dau tau kina vakawasoma na uca,” kaya o Minisita Usamate.

“Vakatokai tiko ena vosa vaka Peritania na Rain Water Harvesting Scheme. Na kena vakayagataki na taqe ena veivale ni sa lutu mai na wai mai lomalagi na kena maroroi me yaga kina loma ni matavuvale.”

“Vakabibi na vanua e se bera ni yaco yani kina na mita ni wai ni paipo.”

“E na nodatou yasana o Naitasiri esa veisoliyaki oti kina e 1,023 na taqe ni wai.”

Vakadreti ira talega mai Gusuisavu me vakabulabulataki tiko na komiti ni wai ena koro.

“Sa nomudou itavi na komiti ni wai mo dou raica na kena cicivaki ka qarauni na vakayagataki ni wai me kua ni vakasabusabutaki ka me laurai ni savasava vinaka tiko na wai,” kaya o Minisita Usamate.



Vakavure cakacaka na iteitei nei Mishra

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

TINIKALIMA kina 20 na lewe ni vanua era dau vakacacakakataki ena veimacawa ena iteitei nei Ram Mishra, yabaki 62 e Viwawa, Navua.

Na iteitei levu oqo e kovuta e 115 vakacaca na eka na kena levu ka qele volivakadua (freehold).

Ena nona vakacegu mai ena cakacaka vakaqasenivuli ko Mishra ena yabaki 2002, sa tekivutaka sara kina na nona teitei vakabisini e Navua ka sa tekivu talega na nona vakacacakakataki ira na lewe ni vanua ena nona iteitei.

“Na gauna duadua e dau levu kina na tamata cakacaka au vakacacakakataki ira oya ena gauna ni teitei kei na gauna ni tatamusuki.”

“Baleta ni’u tei dalo, tavioka, kumala, pateta kei na ginger ka dau volitaki vei ira na kaba-ni dau volitaki ivoli ki vavalagi oya na Bens Trading kei Kaiming rau toka ruarua ga oqo e Navua,” e kaya ko Mishra.

Ena yasa ga ni nona iteitei sa tara tu kina ko Mishra na nodra vale vakacevaceva na nona tamata cakacaka me ra dau mai vakacegu kina ka sauma talega na kedra kakana.

“Au dau mai vakacacakakataki ira na caura-vou ni koro ko Nakavu baleta ni dua na turaga ni Nakavu e cakacaka tudei tiko ena iteitei oqo.”

“E dua toka na ibolebole levu vei au na vaqara tamata cakacaka ena gauna era dau gadrevi kina baleta e na iteitei vakabisinisi e gadrevi me kua ni cala na levu ni ivoli e tei kei na levu ni ivoli e volitaki.”

E dua talega vei ira na tamata cakacaka nui-taki nei Mishra ko Jantilal Sharma. Na turaga oqo e yabaki 50 ka se tekivu cakacaka sara ena iteitei oya ena lima na yabaki 50.

“Keitou lewe 10 na tamata cakacaka tudei ena iteitei vakabisini oqo. Keitou vakavinavina-ka vei Mishra ni vakarautaka tu na vale me keimami moce kina ka vukei keimami talega

ena kakana,” kaya ko Sharma.

“E na veisiga keitou dau yadra mai ka vakayagataka na ikatalau ena walu na kaloko ena mataka lailai (8am). Oti na katalau, qai tekivu na cakacaka. Keimami dau vakasigalevu ena 12 na ka-loko (12pm) ka vakacegu vakalailai e na loma ni dua ga na aua. Tomani tale na yani cakacaka me yacova na lima na kaloko ena yakavi ka keimami qai suka.”

“Tiko talega ena so na gauna keimami dau cakacaka vakakonitaraki ena dua se rua na siga,” tomana ko Sharma.

Marautaka ko Sharma na ilavo e saumi koya tiko kina ko Mishra ena veimacawa.

“Au marau tiko baleta ni cakacaka oqo esa ivurevure ni neitou ilavo vakavuvale. Na kequi isau ena vei macawa e rauta ni \$200. Kevaka au cakacaka talega ena Vakarauwai kei na Siga Tabu sa ya-cova sara na \$280.”

E dua talega na tamata cakacaka tudei ena iteitei nei Mishra ko Peni Tavuti, e dua na turaga ni Nakavu e Namosi ka yabaki 69.

“Au se tekivu cakacaka ena iteitei oqo ena yabaki 2005. Ni’u tu ena iteitei oqo au vakila sara tu ga na bula vakacegu. Keirau sa veikilai vinaka sara kei Mishra, ka sa vakatau sara tu ga vei au ke’u mai cakacaka se sega, baleta ni ba-lavu duadua na noqu sa cakacaka toka e na iteitei oqo.” e kaya ko Tavuti.

Na kaukauwa ga ni nomu cakacaka, na levu talega ni ilavo ko saumi kina,” kaya o Peni.

“O ratou na noqu cauravou ratou tiko mai yasayasa vakara. Na gauna e dau vinakati kina na tamata cakacaka eratou dau lako mai ka mai cakacaka me vica ga na ma-cawa ka ratou qai lesu tale. Sa ivurevure tu ni bula vinaka ni vuvale na cakacaka ena iteitei levu qoka nei Mishra.”



Ko Ram Mishra ena nona i teitei e Viwawa e Navua. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Rogoci na tagi ni tikina



Tucake tu oqori ko Jone Waqa ena bati ni uciwai e Navua ena vanua e bulu me tarova na sisi ni qele volekata na koro ko Vunibau e Serua. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

S A vuabale na nodra marau kei na vakavinavinaka na lewe ni koro e Vunibau ki na Minisitiri ni Wai (Ministry of Waterways) ena kena sa ro-goci na nodra tagi. Sa mai tarovi na sisi ni qele ena bati ni uciwai e Navua, ka dabe voleka koto kina na koro.

E vakamacala kina ko Jone Waqa e dua na lewe ni koro e Vunibau.

“Au dau cakacaka tu e liu ena Tabana ni Salasala ni wai (Ministry of Waterways). Au sa vakacegu mai ka qai kerei au tale na Minisitiri meu cakacaka vata kei na kabani e konitarakitaki me mai cakava na tarovi ni sisi ni qele ena bati ni uciwai e Navua ena yasa ni koro oqo ko Vunibau,” e kaya ko Waqa.

“Baleta ni keitou sa vakadinadinataka tiko-ga mai na gauna au se cakacaka tiko kina ni sa tekivu me kakana tiko na sisi ni bati ni uciwai e Navua me sa toso sara tiko yani me yaco yani e na koro.”

“Keimami sa vakila sara na koro o Vuni-bau na yaga ni kena bulu na bati ni uciwai oqo. Baleta na vanua tou tucake tu kina oqo a yaco sara tu ga kina na sisi ni uciwai,” e kaya o Waqa.

“Keitou a qai buluta sobu ka tuva sobu na vatu me yaco sara e ra oya. Kea sega beka ni caka nab ulu ni bati ni ciwai oqo kea sa vole-kata sara yani na koro na sisi ni uciwai oqo.”

“Ni raica ga sa tekivu mera teitei ena bati ni uciwai oqo na lewe ni koro o Nakavu, na balavu ni yasa ni uciwai e tarovi na kena sisi sa tekivu tale kina mera tei tavioka kina kara sa bula vinaka tu oqori.”

“O au au vakavinavinaka baleta niu se tu madaga ena Matanitu sa dau lako tiko yani na kerekere baleta na bati ni uciwai oqo vakabibi na koro o Vunibau. Au vakavinavi-naka gona niu sa vakacegu mai na Matanitu sa yaco tale mai na gauna vinaka oqo au sa mai tu ena koro au sa mai veivuke sara ena mai qaravi na tarovi ni sisi ni qele ena bati ni uciwai oqo e Navua.

Au sa mai vakavinavinaka kina vakalevu ni

sa mai rawa,” kaya o Waqa.

O Samuela Ratavola na Mata ni Tikina o Deuba e vakavinavinaka talega kina Matani-tu ena veivuke levu oqo.

“Na tikina o Deuba e va na koro e kovuti kina ka dua tale tikoga na itikotiko vagalala. Na koro oqo ko Vunibau, Sauniveito, Sadro vata kei Nasavu. Sa okati talega kina o Waid-radra,” e kaya ko Ratavola.

“Au via cavuta na vakavinavinaka kina Ma-tanitu o Viti na matanitu e veilutaki tiko ena gauna ni kua vakakina vua na turaga e veil-iutaki ni kua o Dr Reddy.”

“E dua na tagi balavu ni vanua oqo vakabibi na tikina o Deuba na kena dau gadrevi vaka-levu na nodratou veiqaravi na tabana ni Wa-terways na kena mai qaravi na sisi ni bati ni uciwai. E levu tale na vanua oqo era tu kina na ikeli lelevu eratou sa qai mai vakamama-cataka na Waterways, se sagai makawa mai ena veimatanitu sa oti. Ia sa qai mai vaka-voutakana ena veilutaki nei Minisita Reddy koaya sa vakavotukana tu oni sa mai raica ena siga ni kua,” kaya ko Ratavola.

Noda Viti

‘Gadrevi na veisele e qarauni’

2



\$4 na milioni sa qaravi kina ko Naitasiri

6



‘Yavu ni qaqa na vuvale’

6



Na Minisita ni Cakacaka ko Parveen Kumar kei so vei ira na lewe 20 era sa biuti Viti me ra la'ki cakacaka ena vale ni bulumakau e Ositerelia. iTaba: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

Biuti Viti e lewe 20 ena cakacaka ki Ositerelia

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA sa biuta na noda matasawa e lewe 20 na lewe ni noda vanua ena i ka 26 ni Okosita me ra laki cakacaka ena vale ni bulumakau e Ositerelia. E yabaki tolu na konitaraki oqo e na ruku ni Pacific Labour Scheme. E talaci ira ena rara ni waqavuka e Nadi

na Minisita ni Veivakacakacakataki ko Parveen Kumar ka kaya kina ni nodra maka vinaka kei na cakacaka vinaka ena dolava na katuba kina nodra na laki cakacaka tale kina e levu na lewe ni noda vanua. Qoka sa ikarua ni mata ilawalawa me ra laki cakacaka ena vale ni bulumakau e Ositerelia. Kaya ko Minisita Kumar ni

na yacova yani na vula ko Noveba esa na 80 na lewe ni vanua e Viti era cakacaka tiko ena vale ni bulumakau e Ositerelia. Ia e vinakati me na levu tale era lako ka cakacaka kina. E kaya na Manidia ni Pacific Labour Scheme ko Sascha Piggot ni tolu na yabaki na nodra konitaraki ka ra na cakacaka ena ruku ni lawa ni tamata cakacaka ni

Ositerelia. Kaya ko Piggot ni cakacaka ko ya e gadrevi vakalevu mai vei ira na itaukei ni cakacaka mai Ositerelia. Ko Viti e tekivu lewena na Pacific Labour Scheme ena vula ko Evereli ni yabaki oqo ka ra lako curuma na National Employment Centre ko ira na via laki cakacaka kina.