

# FijiFocus



## NEW DORM FOR QVS

The Fijian Government's pledge to build back better in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016 has seen the students of Queen Victoria School receiving two new hostel facilities recently. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama was joined by the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar and the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Fiji, Raden Carnadi at the opening.

The school was part of the "Adopt a School program" that saw the Government of Indonesia stepping in to assist with the reconstruction at a cost of \$3.9 million.

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# BETTER THAN BEFORE

## PM HIGHLIGHTS NAMOSI PROGRESS

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

FIJIANS living in the remote Namosi Province will see \$46.8 million worth of development projects delivered to provide infrastructure and amenities. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while

speaking at the Namosi Provincial Council held at the Veivatuloa Village in Namosi, said more than \$46.8m for the development of the Namosi Province has been dedicated by the Government. At the provincial meeting, which was the first after two years due to COVID-19, PM

Bainimarama explained that this allocation includes more than \$20m for roads, more than \$12m for health, more than \$3m each for rural electrification and social welfare, and more than \$2m for the provision of water. The Head of Government said he was happy to be present in the chiefly village of Veivatu-

loa to deliver the simple message- "Together, we are building a better Fiji". "I am here with a message of hope, and I am not too modest to say that we have great hope

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe  
Bainimarama.

*"The Fijian Government  
has dedicated more than  
\$43.35million to projects  
to benefit Serua directly."  
Prime Minister Voreqe  
Bainimarama*

Voreqe Bainimarama  
Prime Minister

## TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama  
@FijiPM

*Fiji is a blue nation on a  
blue planet — 99% of  
our country is ocean. On  
#EarthDay, I can't help  
but think of the ocean life  
that we and all people  
depend on. Fiji will take  
every action, pursue  
every innovation, and  
make any sacrifice we  
must to protect our ocean  
world.*

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# "WE NEED TO PROTECT AND SUSTAIN OUR OCEANS"

Nanise Neimila

IN Palau, Fiji put across its message on the ocean as an opportunity for a stronger future.

"Sustainable fisheries that produce blue foods, pristine coral reefs that sustain tourism, and ocean energy solutions that reduce our dependence on fossil fuels are more than just a moral imperative, they are also economically sound."

This was the message made by Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum at the Blue Bonds side event organised



From left to right- Mr Ignace Beguin, senior manager Ocean and Climate Change, UN Global Impact, Mr Levan Bouadze, UNDP Pacific Representative, Minister for Finance, Republic of Palau, Mr Kaleb Udui Jr and Fijian Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum at the introduction and launch of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Blue Bonds Incubator side event at the 7th Our Oceans Conference held in Palau recently. PHOTO- NANISE NEIMILA

at the on the margins of the 7th Oceans Conference held in Palau recently.

The A-G stressed that economic analysis, rather than exploitation, should be used to make the case for ocean management.

"It is our case to make that good oceans management is the economic opportunity of our lifetime. Our Blue Bond, which will be launched later this year, is a financing model for projects that protect Fiji's ocean inheritance which includes 3.5 per cent of the world's coral reefs and over 65,000 hectares of mangroves."

"Those vast ecosystems are vital to the wellbeing of all people, not just Fijians. And we're committed to seeing it protected

through the policy framework of our National Ocean Policy."

Fiji Blue Bonds initiative will feature technical support from the United Nations Development Programme and will focus on raising capital market finance to support projects in four priority sectors:

- 'Blue Shipping' to reduce carbon emissions from domestic maritime transportation;

- 'Sustainable Fisheries' to support aquaculture and mariculture that reduces the burden on natural fish stocks, which are already strained by climate-driven ocean acidification;

- A Blue Investment Fund to provide affordable blue debt to non-government organisations interested in establishing and scaling sustainable blue projects ranging from tourism activities focusing on marine protected areas to ocean based renewable energy generation;

- And 'Sustainable Waste Management' to establish Fiji's second sanitary landfill and a recycling facility in Fiji's western division. These sites will improve management of domestic and commercial waste, especially waste from the tourism sector.

The aim will be to have 80 per cent of the waste recycled and 20 per cent sustainably disposed from these facilities.

## Fiji to launch Blue-Bond for our Oceans Sustainability

Nanise Neimila

F IJI is set to launch its first Blue Bond to fund ocean-centric projects.

The issuance will focus on raising capital market finance to support projects in blue shipping to reduce emissions in our vital maritime transportation sector, sustainable fisheries to expand aquaculture and protect natural fish stocks.

This blue investment fund will provide affordable blue debt to non-government organisations in the ocean space; and sustainable waste management to build a second sanitary landfill and recycling facility in Fiji's Western Division.

This was highlighted by the Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum while speaking at the recent Sustainable Ocean Planning: A Route to a Healthy Ocean, Prosperous People and Thriving Economies during the 7th Our Oceans conference held in Palau.

The A-G said these are small steps on the journey to the blue economy Fiji will be building by 2030.

Much of this work will require partnerships, including in the Pacific to decarbonise the regional shipping sector.



Oceans activists demonstrate their concerns on saving the oceans at the 7th Ocean's Conference held in Palau recently. PHOTO- NANISE NEIMILA.

"To deliver on these commitments and open possibilities for ocean-generated energy in the future, we need significant and urgent expansion in blue concessionary finance."

"While developed nations were printing trillions of dollars to stimulate their economies through the pandemic, many islands nations took on debts to stave off socio-economic catastrophes. An innovative financing solution would be large-scale debt swaps that recognise the value of our commitments to protect our ocean."

"What we protect is part of larger global whole that supports the wellbeing of every person on the planet —and financing solutions should recognise that reality."

To keep the conversation on blue finance going at the UN Ocean Conference, the A-G added that Fiji has proposed to host a side event dedicated to blue finance in partnership with the Waitt Foundation.

"For us, climate finance, development finance, and blue finance exist on the same spectrum."

He also urged development partners to support innovation in the blue economy that they can learn and benefit from as well.

"We seek partnerships that are bonded by a shared commitment to a secure future for all Pacific nations including the lowest lying among us."

"While we welcome new finance from our development partners, if

large, rich countries don't also cut emissions and we fly past the 1.5-degree threshold, there won't be ocean life left in our region to protect."

He further added that if the "world commits to higher levels of ambition in slashing their emissions and protecting their ocean as well as ours, Fiji and our Pacific neighbours are ready to turn our sweeping blue ambition into action."

"We can protect more. We can save more. We can create more economic opportunity. Our communities are asking us, as leaders, to take these bolder steps. Let's take them together, and ensure our ocean is our opportunity, our recovery and our future."





Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, after launching Free Medicine Programme Reform at the Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services (FPBS) complex in Vatuwaqa. Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

# Reformed Free Medicine Programme launched

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

The Fijian Government's will improve the availability of medicines and digitise operations.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, while launching the initiative at the Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services (FPBS) complex in Vatuwaqa recently, explained how the initiative was being improved upon.

"One of the major changes in the reform is that the participating private pharmacies are using their own stock of medication in

the FMP list, which are then re-stocked by FPBS," Minister Waqainabete said.

"From the paper-based system, the operations are reforming to the digital platform and allows for a transparent and efficient method of transaction which leads to appropriate analysis of data as orders are processed through a real time information system, with proper forecasting and quantifications of health commodities."

Minister Waqainabete added that the Ministry of Health had also altered the distribution method of medical supplies by dispatching directly to the doorstep of health facilities

across the country especially in remote areas.

"For example, Narokorokoyawa, Noboubuco and Nasoqo are remote facilities in the interior of Naitasiri, which the team at FPBS have reached and this exercise alone, came at a cost of \$13,000."

"By reaching these hard to reach places or remote facilities we are ensuring universal health coverage for all Fijians," Minister Waqainabete said.

The Minister further stated that "universal health coverage should be based on strong, people-centred primary health care supported by the ready accessibility to treatment

modalities including essential medicine and surgery".

"Good health systems are rooted in the communities they serve. They focus not only on preventing and treating disease and illness, but also on helping to improve well-being and quality of life."

Initially introduced in 2015 as the Free Medicine Programme (FMP) the initiative was announced to ensure equity in terms of accessibility and availability of key medicines through the private and public sector pharmacies, for all who need medication for their medical conditions.



## Better than before: PM highlights Namosi progress

FROM PAGE 1

precisely because of the leadership we have shown to deliver our people from the grip of the pandemic. We are living the recovery that we promised — and you can feel and see that progress here in Namosi," said the Prime Minister.

"Our economy is back on the move guided by the same steady hands that delivered nine straight years of economic growth — the longest streak in history and is projected to achieve double-digit growth this year."

"You can see that progress around you as now you have road access that now reaches Wainilotulevu village; a new Nakavu bridge; a new Navua hospital outfitted with all the proper equipment; an upgraded Waivaka Nursing Station; a new

grid extension from Namosi village to Naraiyawa; house wiring through the Nukusere village solar project; and a grid extension from Namuamua, Nakavika, Vunidavo and Wainiyavu; a new Government station at Dada; and rural water infrastructure in 13 villages and three ecological purification system for Waivaka, Navunikabi and Namosi village," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He, however, cautioned that the country faces extraordinary challenges ahead.

"Climate change will continue to land stronger cyclones at our shores and we must give our full focus to adapting now, not later. Russia's war on Ukraine has also created a global crisis of affordability on supermarket shelves

and at the fuel pump."

"Our recent revised national budget took these challenges head-on and as you know it removed VAT from 21 items and the 20-cent fuel levy to counter the sharp rise in the price of fuel was also removed. It was an innovative budget that devised new ways to deliver services — like healthcare — to our people," added the Prime Minister.

"It is a budget that does more than we have ever done to empower landowners to turn their constitutional right to own land into a constitutional right to make money and it pushes our development forward within the bounds of sustainability, turning our leadership on climate and oceans into more opportunities for our people."

## Olympic heroes honoured with 7-Dollar commemorative banknote

AZARIA FAREEN

OUR Olympic heroes — the Fiji Rugby 7s men and women's team were honoured with the launch of a commemorative \$7 banknote for winning a gold and bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020, held last year.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, in acknowledging the players for playing with passion, determination, courage and unity, said this was possible because the team knew they were carrying the hopes and aspirations of the entire nation.

He said that despite the pressure of the gold medal win in Rio, the team stayed focused on their game which is a sign of a true champion.

"Our Fiji 7s Men and Ladies Teams, who had sacrificed and prepared diligently for months, lifted our hearts and our spirits by winning the Rugby 7s gold and bronze medals at the Tokyo Olympics," PM Bainimarama said.

"Our Fijian teams went to Tokyo to win—to show the world that this is our sport," he added.

"I am extremely proud to show our Olympic heroes just how much pride their grateful nation takes in their win by unveiling a new, \$7 banknote."

"The banknote pictures the men's

team on one side and the women's team on the other. The men's side is a gold colour, and the women's side is a bronze colour," he added.

Reserve Bank of Fiji Governor and board chairman, Ariff Ali said "our latest offering features Fiji's men and for the first time ever - our Fijiana players".

"We are so proud of our athletes and this \$7 banknote celebrates team Fiji's historic double medal achievement at Tokyo Olympics 2020," he said.

"While the nation has become accustomed to the heroics of our men's 7s team who won back to back gold medals, the ladies exceeded expectations throughout the tournament and captivated attention with their gutsy performances," he added.

"Their bronze medal win ultimately made the Olympics Games our most successful ever. The backdrop to the achievements at the Tokyo Olympics was the COVID-19 induced suffering back at home and around the world."

"The two Fijian teams reminded us all of the infinite possibilities of human endeavor and its ability to transcend boundaries, unite and provide profound hope and inspiration," he added.





# Leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar with children from Viwa District School in Yasawa Group  
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

**T**HE Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar visited Viwa Island in Yasawa, the last and furthest island in the Western Division recently.

Over 250 members of Viwa community and the 56 students of Viwa District School, in the Yasawa Island benefited from the commissioning of a new generator, solar lamp, water filters, sanitary pads, straw mats, and wheelchairs, library books that was handed over by the Ministry.

The Viwa District School was established in 1961 and the children from Naibalebale, Naja and Yakani attended this school.

During the handing over event, Minister Akbar said the Fijian Government will be ‘Leaving No One Behind and Reaching the Furthest Behind First’ in delivering its services.

“This shows the continued commitment of the Fijian Government towards the education, village development and the empowerment of women,” she said.

Minister Akbar also urged village members to take ownership of the generator set, which would now be maintained by the school manager and the community members.

The Minister highlighted that access to basic utilities like electricity remains the main focus for the Fijian Government in efforts to ensure that our rural communities are not left behind in terms of development opportunities.

ties. “We are grateful to the All China Women’s Federation, who through the Embassy of China in Fiji donated this generator that we are here to handover. We also have some solar lamps, water filters, hand sanitisers, sanitary pads, straw mats, wheel chairs, library books that are part of the donation which we are happy to be able to present to the Viwa community,” Minister Akbar stated.

“While we’re handing over the generator to the school and community, we especially hope to see that the women and children can benefit from this asset.”

Viwa District School head teacher, Jimione Vuetaki said, “On behalf of the Viwa Island Community, particularly our students and staff at the Viwa District School, I take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for donating this very necessary equipment. This generator will allow for full continuity of operations during power outages, especially in times of disasters”.

“This generator will also be used as back-up during a natural disaster and will most definitely assist the school, community members and women’s group in their income generation projects. The main revenue source for the villagers are from sales of root crops, handicraft products, fish and other sea food products at the Lautoka Market for which they pay \$350 (return) for the boat fare.”

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)

## i-Taukei Affairs board commits to improve the welfare of i-Taukei people

THE iTaukei Affairs Board has reaffirmed its commitment to continuously improve the welfare of the iTaukei.

At its meeting held on April 20, 2022, the iTaukei Affairs Board endorsed a range of measures that will bolster this commitment.

Recognising the movement of rural iTaukei villagers over the years resulting in new iTaukei settlements, the Board approved the establishment of 45 new iTaukei villages under the iTaukei Affairs (iTaukei Affairs Board) (Declaration of iTaukei Settlements as iTaukei villages) By-Laws 2010.

Apart from enhancing security, the Board’s decision will improve their accessing Government assistance including cyclone rehabilitation and FNPF.

Supporting the Fijian Government’s commitment to leave no one behind by endeavouring to reach those furthest behind first, the Board endorsed an initiative for road access to the Tikina of Noemalu in upper Naitasiri and Roma village. The Board also endorsed a plan to rebuild the Cakaudrove Provincial Office, destroyed by fire in 2017.

Underscoring the high rural to urban migration, the Board agreed to strengthen its existing mechanism for reaching urban iTaukei people.

iTaukei Affairs will coordinate this effort with the urban representatives of all Provincial Councils.

The Board underlined the importance of Roko Tuis, as articulated in the iTaukei Affairs Act, by supporting ceremonial and administrative measures that will elevate their significance. These measures will ensure that Roko Tuis discharge their mandated responsibilities, including the financial sustainability of their Provinces.

In a significant development, freehold land held in trust by the Minister for iTaukei Affairs before the formation of the Native Lands Ordinance 1940 will finally be returned to their iTaukei owners. These parcels of land will be transferred to the iTaukei Land Trust Board for administration and control for the benefit of their owners.

Prime Minister and board chairman, Voreqe Bainimarama, was delighted with the outcome of the meeting.

“Approving 45 new iTaukei villages is a significant milestone for the Board, but more importantly for the inhabitants. They’ve been requesting this over the years, which has now been granted. Overall, I am glad that the outcome of today’s meeting continues the Board’s tradition of supporting the Government’s broader development strategy,” said the Prime Minister.

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## PM meets Deputy Asst to the US President

**F**IJI and the United States have pledged commitment to advance collaborations on issues of importance to Fiji and the region.

These issues include areas of climate change, defence and security, and economic recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This was articulated during a courtesy call to Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, from the Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States and National Security Council Indo-Pacific Coordinator, Kurt Campbell.

Prime Minister Bainimarama formally welcomed Mr Campbell and his delegation for their official visit to Fiji, which speaks to the strong cooperation and friendship between Fiji and the United States.

The Prime Minister expressed the Fijian Government’s appreciation to the U.S. for its support to Fiji and the Pacific Vuvale during times of great need, especially in the provision of life-saving vaccines, which contributed to Fiji reopening its international borders and reviving its tourism industry.

Prospective partnerships between the two nations in areas of climate change and oceans,

disaster risk management and resilience, humanitarian services, and socioeconomic development were highlighted at the meeting.

In his capacity as the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the Prime Minister acknowledged the United States for its support to the Forum.

The Prime Minister conveyed the Forum’s profound appreciation to President Biden for addressing the first PIF leaders meeting under Fiji’s Chairmanship last year.

He said Fiji and the region are inspired by President Biden’s exemplary leadership and commitment to climate and ocean action.

The Prime Minister said an invitation has been conveyed to President Biden to attend the upcoming Pacific Leaders’ meeting. Fiji is grateful to its development partners like the United States for their support as Fiji prepares to host the leaders’ meeting.

The Chair of PIF thanked the United States for its solidarity with the Forum, while recognising that there are potential partnerships for realisation of shared goals on regional prosperity and sustainable development.

The Prime Minister conveyed the Fijian Government’s best wishes to President Biden and the people of United States.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama presents a token of appreciation to the Deputy Assistant to the US President and National Security Council Indo-Pacific Coordinator Mr Kurt Campbell. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

In response, Mr Campbell said that he is grateful for the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Bainimarama and the discussions they had will pave the way forward to enhance collaboration between the two nations.

“I appreciate this opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Bainimarama to reinforce U.S. and Fiji cooperation on pressing global issues like COVID-19 recovery and climate change, and to have a strategic dialogue.”

“This was also an important opportunity to discuss regional security developments in the region.

“Our cooperation is critical to advance peace, resilience, and prosperity across the region.”

Following the courtesy call to the Prime Minister, a regional security dialogue took place between the senior officials of the United States and Fiji.

The security dialogue looked at areas of cooperation in defence and security, with a focus on platforms to deepen the level of engagement for promoting a peaceful and unified region.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



# Changes to VAT, relief for Fijians



Attorney - General and Minister for Economy  
Aiyaz Sayed - Khaiyum while delivering the  
revised 2021- 2022 Budget .PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Azaria Fareen

THE 2020-2021 National Budget was centred around liberal trade and simplicity with a special focus on making life more affordable for ordinary people.

This was relayed by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while delivering the 2021-2022 revised budget on March 24, 2022.

“As announced in the 2021-2022 Budget, from 31st August, 2022 the fiscal duty on imported liquid milk, full cream powdered milk, yogurt, cheese and butter will be reduced to five per cent from the current 32 per cent,” the A-G said.

“We will raise the VAT (value add-

ed tax) on 21 non-essential items to 15 per cent which will cover goods and services that previously attracted Environment & Climate Adaptation Levy (ECAL) such as prescribed services, white goods and certain motor vehicles, and will apply to all turnover in excess of \$100,000.”

“The additional list of goods and services to be taxed at 15 per cent VAT now will include alcohol, tobacco, textiles, clothing & footwear, perfumes, jewellery, watches, stereos and sound systems and other electrical equipment,” he added.

Taxed items also include professional services such as legal and accounting, management and consultancy, architectural and engineering, scientific research and development, advertising and market research, veterinary activities and other professional, scientific and technical activities.

The A-G said that the ECAL on plastics and super yachts will also be removed and replaced with a plastic levy and a super yacht levy at the same rates.

“There was a time when six basic food items in Fiji were zero-VAT rated and these were called “basic food items” like flour, tea, pow-

dered milk, cooking oil, rice and kerosene. We subsequently lowered VAT across a wider basket of items that Fijians were purchasing more often, a move that lowered the overall cost of living,” he highlighted.

“However, this price increase crisis demands that we go further by sending VAT back to zero, not on six basic food items but on 21 everyday essentials - dropping the cost of these items by nine per cent overnight.”

“From April 1, 2022, sugar, flour, rice, canned fish, cooking oil, potatoes, onion, garlic, baby milk, powdered milk, liquid milk, dhal, tea, salt, kerosene and cooking gas has all become VAT zero-rated,” he added.

The A-G added that other household essentials that people buy on a daily basis including soap powder for washing, toilet paper, sanitary pads for women and toothpaste was also zero-rated.

“In total, this reduction in VAT will send \$163 million in tax revenues back to the Fijian people and the Government will lose \$163 million, but it will go back to the Fijian people and alleviate the cruellest burden that the pandemic and the Russian war have placed on our people’s backs,” he said.



No.	Zero Rated
1	Sugar
2	Flour
3	Rice
4	Canned fish
5	Cooking oil
6	Potato
7	Onion
8	Garlic
9	Baby milk
10	Powdered milk
11	Liquid milk
12	Dhal
13	Tea
14	Salt
15	Soap
16	Soap powder
17	Toilet paper
18	Sanitary pads
19	Toothpaste
20	Kerosene
21	Cooking Gas

No.	15%
1	Air conditioners
2	Dishwashers
3	Dryers
4	Electric Jugs
5	Electric lawn mowers
6	Electric and gas stoves
7	Hair dryers
8	Microwaves
9	Refrigerators and freezers
10	Mobile phones
11	Televisions
12	Toasters
13	Washing machines
14	Passenger motor vehicles
15	Alcohol and tobacco
16	Textile, clothing and footwear
17	Perfume, jewelry and watches
18	Electrical machinery and equipment
19	Stereo/ sound systems
20	Professional, scientific and technical services including legal and accounting, management and consultancy, architectural and engineering, scientific research and development, advertisement and market research, veterinary activities and other professional, scientific and technical activities.
21	Environment and Climate Adaption Levy prescribed services

## Revised budget to boost Fiji's economic recovery process



Minister for Commerce , Trade, Tourism and  
Transport Faiyaz Koya during the debate on  
the 2021 - 2022 revised budget. PHOTO:  
SUPPLIED

Azaria Fareen

MINISTER for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport (MCTTT), Faiyaz Koya in commending the 2021-2022 revised budget stated that it will bolster the Fijian eco-

nomic recovery in the post-pandemic period.

The ministry received \$86.69 million in the revised budget, an increase of \$1.82 million from the 2021-2022 national budget.

“Our policies and direction have remained consistent and resilient while at the same time our proactive and resilient policies and initiatives have led to consistent economic growth,” Minister Koya said.

“In this revised budget, our focus will shift from reopening of our borders to recovery of the Fijian tourism industry,” he added.

“We’re now easing our entry conditions – alongside many other countries – to remain competitive. That’s why we’ve made policy changes to ensure we’re attractive to tourists and to ensure industry wide ease that supports our goal to be competitive.”

“With the removal of the Travel Partner classification, irrespective of where you come from, you’ll be bound by the same conditions,” he added.

Minister Koya said that this was based on assurance of a highly vac-

cinated nation, and anyone who come through vaccinated with a negative COVID-19 test.

So, from April 7, 2022 all a visitor coming to Fiji needs to do was to pre-book a Rapid Antigen Test for their 24 hour in-country test.

He stated that to further support the tourism industry, the Fijian Government was maintaining low taxes so that it was reflected in how Fiji was marketed as a package.

“Tourism Fiji’s increase in marketing allocation of \$893,000 (now \$20.9 million) and increase of \$700,000 for operations (now \$6.9 million), will help us over the next few months,” Minister Koya said.

“We have, over the past few months, identified areas of improvement to support building and construction activities in Fiji. The amendments to the Town Planning Act are the beginning of the gradual progress towards a fully digitalised system – or Project bizfiji 2.0.”

“The streamlined processes and procedures allow us to ease doing business, especially at a time where we need economic activities to thrive,” he added.





# New smart nursery to address Climate Change



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with High Commissioner of Canada to Fiji, Joanne Lemay as Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy looks on.

PHOTO: AZARIA FAREEN



A new Smart Nursery opened at the Koronivia Research Station recently is the Fijian Government's long-term effort to ensure that there is sustainable food supply which is not disrupted by climate change and extreme weather events.

In highlighting this, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said that farmers face challenges in the form of cyclones or climatic events which can wipe out their entire harvests, increase the price of food in the market and affect the economy adversely.

"When we talk about sustainable agriculture, we are talking about smart agriculture, using technology and the vast knowledge the world has amassed about how plants thrive and adapt - to develop hardy varieties of important crops," he said.

"If we want to have a truly sustainable food supply to ensure that Fiji has a growing agricultural sector that can provide food security — then we must provide seeds and planting

materials to farmers, households and agriculture businesses."

"And that means we must strengthen the resilience of crop nurseries, because that is where those seeds and seedlings are produced," he added.

Koronivia Research Station operates field nurseries where research is conducted on more than 60 crop varieties, however, these field nurseries are directly exposed to extreme weather and 60 to 70 per cent of nursery planting materials are lost each time there is an extreme weather event.

Apart from providing seedlings for rehabilitation programs after natural disasters, this Nursery will also work to harden tissue-culture planting materials for mass propagation.

"Tissue-culture involves using small pieces of plant tissue to create new plants. By making these materials hardier, we go a long way in ensuring their adaptability and survivability under adverse conditions,"

PM Bainimarama said.

He also thanked the Canadian Government for injecting more than \$330,000 for the construction of the Koronivia Smart Nursery and other associated activities.

High Commissioner of Canada to Fiji, Joanne Lemay said that "the establishment of the smart greenhouse is an example of the work Fiji and Canada are undertaking to respond to the global challenge of climate adaptation".

"We are delighted to know that the establishment of this greenhouse facility will support professional pathways for women in agricultural research, management and science," she said.

"Fiji is at the forefront of international efforts to respond to climate change and we are proud to have had the opportunity to partner on this project. Under our Adaptation Fund, we have pledged up to \$10 million to empower the most affected com-

munities to adapt to climate change."

Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy said the ministry has 76 Agriculture Stations around the country including maritime and remote places.

"The Ministry also has Livestock Research Stations that carry out research on new livestock breeds, investigate production parameters such milk yields, food conversion ratios, and pasture research and feed technology," Minister Reddy said.

"Recently we have introduced an electronic ID system for all livestock on our research stations which enables us to backtrack genetic lines as well as increase efficiency in record-keeping."

"The Ministry also has the largest veterinary pathology laboratory in Fiji that has a capacity for bacterial culture and identification which helps with appropriate selection of antibiotics for use in treatment of livestock animals," he added.

## Serua has progressed: PM

FELIX LESINAIVALU

**T**HE Fijian Government has dedicated more than \$43,350,000 to projects to benefit Serua directly.

While opening the Serua Provincial Council Meeting, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said, "That was money spent right here in this community, including more than \$20 million for roads, more than \$10 million for telecommunications and connectivity, more than \$5 million for schools, more than \$2.6 million for electrification and more than \$1 million for water and sewerage."

"But the point is that Serua has benefited greatly from this Government. To put it more plainly, Serua is now a better place to live."

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that the Fijian Government has set about methodically and with determination to transform Fiji - to make it more modern and competitive in the world economy, to guarantee that all Fijians are treated equally and have the same opportunities, and to improve standards of living for everyone.

"We have done what is best for Fiji and best for our future generations. We have listened to what the people have told us."

Furthermore, Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Government has ensured the equitable distribution of lease monies so that all iTaukei are bestowed with equal opportunity — including women.

"Their fortunes were often tethered to the men of their community. Now, they are empowered financially to better their lives as they see fit. Children below the age of 18 also have their share, which is placed in a fund that is invested by TLTB and which they can access when they become 18 to build a foundation for their future," he said

# Two new dormitories for QVS



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Ambassador of Indonesia to Fiji Raden Carnadi at the opening of the new hostel facilities as Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Premila Kumar Looks on PHOTO: AZARIA FAREEN

AZARIA FAREEN

**"S**TUDENTS and teachers of Queen Victoria School were overjoyed as their two new hostel facilities were opened by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently.

The construction of the school was made

possible with the Indonesian Government's commitment to support Fiji's "Adopt a School program" in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016.

In acknowledging the assistance of the Indonesian Government, PM Bainimarama said "the two new dormitories are not just places to sleep - they are designed for students who need spaces to study and relax as well".

"The dormitory facilities here were damaged beyond repair by TC Winston in 2016 and the Government of Indonesia adopted this project through the Fijian Government's Adopt a School Programme, at a cost of \$3.9 Million," PM Bainimarama said.

"These facilities are built to withstand

the kinds of winds that TC Winston assaulted Fiji with. Should another strong storm come this way, we know these buildings will be here after the winds die away."

"The school that began as a place to educate the sons of chiefs is now a school to which students are admitted based on merit and every student at this school can take pride in knowing that they earned their place," he added.

He further added that in a society that values the principle of equality of opportunity, the need for boarding accommodations should never be an obstacle.

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted that a two-storey building with classrooms, science labs, a computer lab and teacher rooms will be constructed this year to replace two classroom blocks at the school block area.

PM Bainimarama also badged the new prefects of Lawaki District School and conveyed his well wishes for the new aca-

demic year.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Fiji, Raden Carnadi said "education is one of the most powerful aspects of life as it allows us to make sense of the world around us, the world inside of us and where we fit in".

"This project identifies one of the mutual areas of cooperation between Indonesia and fellow island countries in the Pacific that we have nurtured to grow together," Ambassador Carnadi said.

"Indonesia is honoured and humbled to be given the opportunity to take part in other sectors in collaborating with Fiji especially in the development of Fiji's human resources, in particular the youths as they are the future leaders of Fiji."

"In the midst of the current challenges, not only the COVID-19 pandemic but challenges emanating from climate change — Fiji and Indonesia have agreed to work as partners to address these challenges," he added.





# Ministry partners with SCC to compost greenwaste



Minister for waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy at the International Mother Earth Day in Suva  
 PHOTO: SUPPLIED

**T**HE rapidly advancing climate change bears a highly negative impact on several of the earth's species and its ecosystems, resulting in biodiversity loss.

Conversely, the protection and the restoration of the earth's biodiversity is crucial to addressing climate change.

The Ministry of Environment has showcased a healthy track record of achieving this through Nature Based Solutions and the Jobs for Nature Restoration (JNR) programme.

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy highlighted this while speaking at the commemoration of the International Mother Earth Day in Suva

last week.

"As I speak, we are faced with the greatest threat - a triple adversity of our time- climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies. Climate change has greatly impacted our daily lives leading to the relocation of many Fijians away from their ancestral homes."

"The climate crisis has also led to serious biodiversity loss in Fiji and all over the world. Scientists have found that climate change and biodiversity loss are crises that cannot be tackled independently of each other. The key to success lies in conserving, managing, and restoring ecosystems."

"We all realise and agree over the urgent need to protect our environment. The first step to do so is to live in harmony with our nature - the very purpose behind the commemoration of the International Mother Earth Day. This year's theme, "Invest in Our Planet," calls for the need to reverse and activate change for good, foster pathways for the sake of our future generations. To regenerate and strengthen our partnerships and our collaborative efforts, creating a paradigm shift in tackling the causes for the degenerative behaviour we see all around us."

"All living things including us humans are supported by our Mother Earth. Our very future is determined by her health. We humans have disrupted the delicate balance main-

tained by our Mother Earth. We have pushed ourselves to this spot through some careless and unsustainable practices including the extraction of natural resources and years of mindless actions that have become detrimental to our ecosystems," Minister Reddy said.

"Waste and Pollution are also a grave threat to sustainable development, second only to climate change. Inadequate management of wastes and poor controls over polluting activities can affect the health of Pacific Communities, degrading their natural ecosystems and reducing their resilience to climate impacts."

"Across the planet people celebrate the earth day in different ways. Celebrating Earth Day promotes the understanding of important environmental issues and shows that you are

part of this global mission to conserve our Mother Earth in harmony with our nature."

"We align our celebrations today to the theme, we have co-invested and partnered with the Suva City Council who think globally and act locally. This investment from the Ministry is symbolic and forms a part of our portfolio of investments towards restoring nature and flourishing our Mother Earth. This investment will directly impact the efficient collection of green waste, recycling resulting in composted material for the benefit of our communities."

(Source: Ministry of Waterways and Environment)



## Akbar calls on the international community to support Fijian women for Climate Action

**T**HE Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Rosy Akbar called on the international community to rise with the Fijian women and girls for Climate Action.

Minister Akbar stressed this while delivering a statement at the 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York recently.

The CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

It has been instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women in all diversity throughout the world and shaping global standards on gender equality.

Minister Rosy Akbar led a three member delegation to the CSW66, which includes Fiji's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Dr Satyendra Prasad, Director for Women Selai Korovusere and Head of Executive Support, Anushka Artika.

The CSW66 theme was "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes".

Minister Akbar said "the climate crisis is now at the heart of our vulnerabilities and we are not equal in the face of it. Gender discriminatory stereotypes, limited decision-making power, burden of domestic work and unpaid care, as well as unequal access to important resources—including basic services, finance, land,

education, information and technology—worsen women and girls' vulnerability to climate change".

"Looking ahead with a long-term vision to accelerate realisation of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, the Fijian Government's efforts and investments (2022-2026) will be focused on three (3) strategic priority areas; ending gender based violence against all women and girls, promoting women's economic empowerment and improving protection, preparedness & resilience to disaster for all women and girls," she explained.

Minister Akbar told the General Assembly, "I call on all of you - the international community to secure the 1.5 Celsius irreversibly. We need comprehensive gender informed biodiversity targets and firm gender informed commitments to restoring ocean health. We need women and girls to be able to access 50 percent climate financing".

"We need to bring women and girls into the centre stage from the margins in this super year of nature and oceans. We need a leap of political will. We need a collective step up in urgency in this CSW66. I urge you to join women and girls across Fiji in taking these steps forward together because our future generations deserve nothing less."

The CSW66 concluded on March 25, 2022.

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)

## 16,000 Fijians to benefit from jobs for nature projects in North



**I**T is anticipated that close to 16,000 Fijians in Vanua Levu will directly benefit from the Ministry of Environment's Jobs for Nature Rehabilitation (J-NR) Programme.

The programme will not only provide employment to local community groups but also rehabilitate and restore Fiji's natural environment deploying Nature based Solutions (NbS). The Ministry of Environment under the J-NR programme has so far initiated 76 projects in Fiji, out of which 38 projects are from the Labasa and Tunuloa catchment areas, focusing on environmental protection, restoration, and rehabilitation while providing employment opportunities as part of the Ministry's efforts post COVID-19 recovery.

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy while disbursing the second round of payment to 29 recipients in Labasa recently, thanked the recipients for taking up initiatives that ensures nature restoration and rehabilitation while enhancing food security at the same time.

"I would like to congratulate the recipients of

the J-NR programme from Labasa and Tunuloa catchment and reiterate that this socio-economic honour comes with great responsibility, diligence and a duty of care that will progress tasks that restore and revive your community's pristine ecosystem," Minister Reddy told the recipients.

"After COP26, Fiji pledged to limit the temperature rise to 1.5°C and the Jobs for Nature Rehabilitation programme through the mangrove planting and forest restoration will sequester carbon and will no doubt contribute to achieving this global target in reducing carbon emissions and carbon footprint by 2030."

The J-NR program aims to mitigate land-based degradation, biodiversity loss, riverbank and coastal erosion, and over-exploitation of Fiji's natural resources, fostering positive environmental stewardship and protection including climate change adaptation and mitigation.

(Source: Ministry of Waterways and Environment)





# PM opening Smart Green Nursery at Koronivia Research Station

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama opened a Smart Green Nursery at Koronivia Research Station worth \$330,000 which is a vital part of the Fijian Government's long-term effort to ensure that Fiji has a food supply that cannot be unduly disrupted by climate change and extreme weather events.

"When we talk about sustainable agriculture, we are talking about smart agriculture—that is, using technology and the vast knowledge the world has amassed about how plants thrive and adapt—to develop hardy varieties of important crops," he said.

"Apart from providing seedlings for rehabilitation programs after natural disasters, this Nursery will also work to harden tissue-culture planting materials for mass propagation," he added.



Photos : Azaria Fareen

# PM unveils 7-Dollar commemorative banknote

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama unveiled a new 7-dollar commemorative banknote on the margins of the Marist 7s tournament at the ANZ Stadium in Laucala Bay recently.

In congratulating the Fiji 7s Men and Ladies Teams for their victories at the Tokyo Olympics last year, PM Bainimarama said the Fijian teams went to Tokyo with the goal of winning.

"Our Fijiana Drua are showing that right now in Super W, and our men's Drua are showing that Fijians play Super Rugby as well as we play Sevens—and even better when we can play on a Fijian team," he said.

"Today we are unveiling a new, 7-dollar banknote to commemorate our win in Sevens. It pictures the men's team on one side and the women's team on the other. The men's side is a gold colour, and the women's side is a bronze colour."

"This commemorative Banknote will be legal tender and will be issued into circulation this from, 28 March and which gives it some extra value as a collector's item both here and abroad," he added.

PM Bainimarama thanked the Reserve Bank of Fiji and Oberthur Fiduciaire—who was selected to produce the banknote, the Fiji Rugby Union for collaborating on this production and the organisers of the Marist 7s.

He also awarded the winners of the Marist 7s.



Photos : Azaria Fareen

# A-G meets Kerry, Espinosa



The Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum met with the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate – John Kerry at the Our Ocean Conference in Palau to discuss ocean, maritime security, climate and conservation finance.

The A-G invited the USA to participate in a blue finance roundtable hosted by Fiji and

the Waitt Institute on the margins of the next UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon.

Meanwhile, the A-G also met with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) executive secretary Patricia Espinosa to discuss the outcomes of the Glasgow Pact and priorities for Conference of Parties 27 (COP27).

Photos : Nanise Neimila



# Minister Koya urges participants to build capacity

Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya recently opened a three-day Basic Business Training workshop, organised by the Rainbow Pride Foundation in partnership with the ministry, which will enhance the participants' talents in order for them to venture into business activities.

"All of you here know how creative you are – the things you have done, the things you are yet to accomplish in the normal thread of life – and you are an integral part of it. This is why, for this community, it's hugely important to continue accessing such opportunities," Minister Koya said.

"We continue to elevate as many Fijians as we can through our training and capacity building programmes, so that no community is left behind in this commercially driven world," he added.

Minister Koya highlighted that in the last financial year, the Ministry undertook 63 trainings, through which more than 1,300 Fijians have been empowered in confidently starting, improving and expanding their businesses ventures.

Photos : Azaria Fareen







# More investor confidence as new businesses open



MEREANI GONEDUA

**T**HE number of businesses opening in the country indicates investor confidence as the country recovers from the recent pandemic.

Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, highlighted this during the opening of the new \$400,000 Grills restaurant at Port Denarau in Nadi recently.

In commending the company for the investment, Minister Koya said the pandemic has taught everyone to adapt to new situations.

In addition, he stated that the new operation presents a source of employment for young Fijians who want to be part of Fiji's growing tourism industry and the "gastro-nomic" experiences offered at the Port Denarau Marina.

The new restaurant will employ 18 Fijians from different trades of life.

Minister Koya also highlighted that certain businesses were recognised to be more delicate than the others during the

pandemic.

"Whilst the pandemic remains challenging at intervals, business adaptability, compliance, and our high vaccination rates – to a very great extent, had a part in allowing us to safely open our international borders to visitors late last year and now support the removal of a minimum 3-night stay at a Care Fiji Commitment (CFC) Certified hotel, taking the next step in our economic recovery."



Guests at the opening of the new Grills restaurant . Photo Mereani Gonedua



Guests at the opening of the new Grills restaurant . Photo Mereani Gonedua

## Flood mitigation measures achieved

**T**HE drainage works recently completed by the Ministry of Waterways has mitigated flooding for two settlements in Lautoka.

The Ministry of Waterways had recently undertaken Flood Mitigation measures and completed a total of 3400 metres of drainage works in the farming settlement of Drasa and Teidamu in Lautoka.

The Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy said this drainage work will increase the water discharge capacity of the creeks and drains during the flood.

Minister Reddy said the Ministry of Waterways has been vigilant in protecting those communities who need urgent assistance and are at risk of flooding, particularly in the low-lying areas.

"The Government is committed to building resilience amongst these communities and we will do this carefully by addressing issues pertaining to waterways, through increasing the conveyance capacity and releasing the free flow of water," he said.

A farmer from Drasa, Hemant Kumar said most of his crops have been washed away due to improper drainage.

"It would also made it difficult for school children to go to school as, during heavy rain, the road would also get flooded," he said.

Mr Kumar acknowledged the continuous de-silting works carried out by the Ministry of Waterways in Drasa settlement over the years that has mitigated flooding and helped safeguard the farms and homes in the area.

The 3400 metres of de-silting works from the Drasa and Teidamu settlement included the removal of all debris, grass, shrubs, and vegetation to allow for unobstructed water flow.

(Source: Ministry of Waterways and Environment)

## Don't be afraid to take first step : Minister Koya



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya at the opening of "Earth Wisher Recyclers" with Shinam Kumar ( 2nd from Right ) and other guests .  
 PHOTO: MEREANI GONEDUA

MEREANI GONEDUA

**T**HE Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya has highlighted that the Government intends to create investment opportunities and empower youth to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

Officiating at the opening of "Earth Wisher Recyclers" in Nadi recently, Minister Koya encouraged young Fijians to think outside the box, believe in their ideas and invest in themselves and their business idea that can synergise with multi sectoral needs and excellence.

This as the new venture by a second year university student, Shinam Kumar, saw her teaming up with her business partners comprising of near-by hotels, schools and the

wider business community to source raw materials.

"The tourism sector is also roped in by this newly registered business and this is exactly the type of synergy, especially for our innovative MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises), we want to see and will allow us to achieve the goals we have set for Fiji in terms of climate mitigation," Minister Koya said.

"Earth Wishers Recyclers is an absolute need in this day and era. With our efforts to mitigate climate change impact, waste management through proper disposal such as recycling is safe, ethical and responsible."

Minister Koya said by venturing in such businesses the youth will not only strive to be "job seekers" but become "job creators" and the Government has played a

supportive role through programmes such as the Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES).

"You have to be confident in what you want to do, without motivation, drive and perseverance the journey towards your dream will seem more difficult.

"Don't be afraid to take the first step. Don't be afraid to fail, as you will learn from failures to better your craft and do not think that it is the end but a learning curve."

Minister Koya also spoke about the Trade Enhancement Programme which is a grant assistance administered through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport whereby \$500 assistance will be made available for skilled Fijians who have ventured into a new trade or want to enhance their existing business.





# Rabi villagers thank Government for Help



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu with the villagers of Buakonikai in Rabi after the handover recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

**V**ILLAGERS of Buakonikai in Rabi now do not need to pay an extra \$70 to travel to neighbouring Nuku Village to purchase ice to preserve their fish.

This was after they received two solar powered panels for their freezers.

The project is funded under the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management's Self-Help Programme (SHP) in partnership with the Ministry of Fisheries who provided the villagers with two solar freezers.

Buakonikai villager, Teribeta Hedstrom, said the villagers were glad and very much appreciated the assistance rendered by Government to improve lives of the people on the island.

"Before the women and their families have to travel right up to Nuku where they can then sell fish, but right now we are very grateful because we only have to walk a short distance to sell our fish," she said.

"The distance from here to Nuku is about 21 kilometres and sometimes we have to hire a boat if we don't have truck service where we pay \$3 one way. If we miss that service, we have to pay about \$70 to \$80 and this is very costly."

"The solar freezer project will really assist our families. We now don't have to spend money, we will just go fish and help our husbands."

Ms Hedstrom said the provision of the solar panels and freezers would boost business for them and would also generate income for individual fishers for their daily livelihoods.

Speaking during the commissioning of the project, Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu, said the project was to not only help the women of Buakonikai but for the community as a whole.

"This will also empower women economically as well which is consistent with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). We hope that this will address the poverty issue as well and provide employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for the women here on Buakonikai," Minister Seruiratu said.

The project was completed at a cost of more than \$22,000.

(Source: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development)

## Villagers excited about new development

Villagers of Navetau and Maravu in Cakaudrove now do not have to worry about their safety getting to and from the village.

This after the commissioning of the village's new 400 metres community access road by the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu recently.

In the past, villagers have had to risk their lives crossing a hanging bridge to get in and out of the village. This was deemed particularly unsafe for the vulnerable groups including children.

The Government, through the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management stepped in to assist the villagers with the construction of their community access through funding under the Ministry's Community Access Roads, Footpaths and Footbridges (CARFF) Programme, at a cost of \$45,000.

The access road is intended to also provide access to services, markets and schools for the villagers of Navetau and Maravu.

Navetau Village headman, Akui-la Kuboutawa, said the villagers

were grateful to the Government for the much needed assistance.

"We used to really face a lot of difficulties in getting our building materials across to the village in the past. Also, the evacuation of the elderly during times of flooding and cyclones was very hard because we had to use to hanging bridge, but today we are very, very thankful," Mr Kuboutawa said.

"We want to really thank the Government for this development. Our responsibility now is to ensure that this new road is well kept at all times."

Speaking during the commissioning of the community access road, Minister Seruiratu said accessibility was important for all Fijians.

"It's an opportunity to improve on their livelihoods and this would also allow for the provision of better services as well to the local communities," he said.

"We hope this will bring positive changes and development to the community here."

(Source: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development)



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu at the commissioning of the access road in Cakaudrove. PHOTO SUPPLIED

# New footbridge to ensure safe accessibility for children



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster management, Inia Seruiratu with children of Nabaka Settlement. PHOTO SUPPLIED

The women of Nabaka Settlement are at ease knowing their children are safe in moving to and from the settlement after the construction of a new footbridge.

Located outside Savusavu Town in Cakaudrove, the settlement is separated by a deep drain running within the settlement.

During rainy weather, residents do not have access to the main road due to flooding of their make-shift crossing consisting of coconut trunks.

In the last financial year, the Government, through the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management stepped in to assist the residents

of Nabaka with the provision of a new footbridge.

Funded under the Ministry's Community Access Roads, Footpaths and Footbridges (CARFF) Programme, the project was completed at a cost of \$20,000.

Nabaka Settlement women's group leader, Raijeli Naseadroka, said they could not thank the Government enough for coming to their aid.

"We are really grateful to Government for this development which will help the women a lot. There is a very deep drain running through the settlement and it is very risky for our children. We've actually

had two accidents already, but today, our prayers have been answered with this new footbridge," Ms Naseadroka said.

"In the past during rainy weather, our crossing used to get flooded, but with this new infrastructural development, we can be assured of our safety. Now with the formation of our women's group, we will have a lot of plans and this footbridge will really help us achieve the goals that we will set."

Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu, said like all the other foot cross-

ings, the project commissioned at Nabaka was aimed at ensuring easy access and the safety of the children, the elderly and members of vulnerable groups.

"This is also to make things easier for those out here in the community, particularly when there is a threat of flooding," Minister Seruiratu said.

"We are indeed grateful that this will provide relief and safety to the local Nabaka community."

(Source: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development)





# PM Bainimarama receives courtesy call from the NZ Defence Minister

**P**RIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently met with the New Zealand Minister of Defence Peeni Henare where he acknowledged the shared commitment of the two nations.

The Fijian Head of Government thanked Minister Henare for his first official visit to Fiji, which signifies the enduring partnership and strong friendship between Fiji and New Zealand.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the two nations had shared commitments in areas such as climate actions, disaster preparedness and resilience, economic recovery and sustainable development.

He thanked the New Zealand Government for its tremendous support provided to Fiji in the provision of humanitarian, financial and technical assistance in times of natural disasters and the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently with the New Zealand Minister for Defence Peeni Henare, his delegation and New High Commissioner to Fiji, Ms Charlotte Darlow (2nd from right, in green). Photo : AZARIA FAREEN

Fiji and New Zealand's ongoing cooperation in the areas of defence and security was acknowledged, with reaffirmation that there are potential opportunities for deepened levels of engagements and realisation

of mutual interests on regional security and defence.

In response, Minister Henare said, "New Zealand is linked to the Pacific, and therefore we share key interests in a safe, secure

and prosperous region. Security in our region requires strong relationships. This is why my trip here was so important to me and to the New Zealand Government".

"We share a strong bilateral defence relationship based on our *whanaungatanga* and valued people to people links. Our militaries have been working alongside one another for a number of years - and may it continue into the future."

"Alongside Minister Seruiratu, we agreed to enter into a Statement of Intent which will strengthen areas of defence cooperation. I look forward to working together to build long term relationships to realise our common goals," Mr Henare said.

"Thank you again to the Fijian people and Government for your warm hospitality you have shown me during my visit. New Zealand

looks forward to reciprocating in the near future. Vinaka Vakalevu," Minister Peeni Henare said.

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## Akbar acknowledges the support of UN Women

**T**HE Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls (NAP), when implemented, must be seen as a living document.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, during her meeting with the Representative of UN Women Fiji Multi - Country Office, Sandra Bernklau at the Ministry's Head Office recently.

During her meeting with the UN Women Executives, Minister Akbar expressed her warm gratitude to the team for their continued support on the development of the NAP alongside the Secretariat and Technical Working Group.

While there was a great need to provide workable strategies for changing social norms, also critical was the means to provide messages

that will be understood clearly by individuals, the community, and the public at large.

The NAP will be the solution to that, with its whole-of government and population approach, and the support it has from all sectors working towards ending violence against all women and girls in Fiji.

Minister Akbar said NAP needs to be promoted for and by everyone using media, including social media, as a powerful advocacy tool.

This will be aimed at individuals who are committed to preventing violence before it starts and eliminating violence against all women and girls and promoting gender equality.

Ms Bernklau, in commending the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, said the Ministry has been steadfast in their commitment to progressing gender

equality.

Furthermore, she said through the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership) program, UN Women remains committed to supporting Fiji's national efforts to respond to and prevent violence against all women and girls.

UN Women continues to provide technical and financial support through the Pacific Partnership, funded primarily by the European Union, and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, and UN Women.

In addition to UN Women, the Ministry has received further technical support from the Government of Australia.

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, met with the Representative of the UN Women Fiji Multi - Country office, Sandra Bernklau and her team together with Permanent secretary for women Jennifer Poole. Photo: SUPPLIED

## A-G calls for on service delivery

RONAL DEO

**T**HE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaimum has urged all the municipal councils to put more focus on improving their service delivery.

While speaking at the Municipal Council Special Administrators Induction at the Holiday Inn in Suva recently, the A-G emphasised that all municipal council special administrators and chief executive officers need to be aligned to the policy objectives of the Fijian Government.

He said that the Government was working on a civil service guideline to bring about a change in the way Fijians accessing Government services are served, to make it more customer service oriented.

The A-G stressed that it was critically important to change the culture within the staff of the municipal council and "we expect the administrators through their CEOs will drive that change".

He urged special administrators to adopt a more

hands-on approach to know exactly how many project approvals are being sought as it has been noted that some of the larger municipalities were lagging behind in the approval process.

This indecisiveness, he said, can cost people their jobs and impact the livelihoods of Fijians as well as the overall economy of the nation.

The A-G further advised the municipal councils to revisit the bylaws and inform their line Ministry on how it can be modernised to suit the 21st century.

He also mentioned that the Fijian economy was expected to grow by 11.4 percent this year and, "we need to be sharper in the way that we do business and we all need to work together to achieve this economic growth".

The A-G said Fiji was expecting 447,000 tourists this year and it's important they know that they are coming to a country that was not only COVID safe with one of the highest rates of vaccination in the developing world, they must also know that the service being delivered, the place was clean and actually was a preferred destination.





# New portal a win for transparency

FELIX LESINAIVALU

**T**HE new Fiji Climate Change portal will not only act as a central information hub for climate change policies, programs, and updates, it will also offer more clarity on Fiji's response to the climate crisis.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, during the launch of the redesigned Fiji Climate Change Portal and the new National Designated Authority Portal at Suvavou House recently, said "the portal brings the data of Fiji's climate action effort into the digital age by mapping new adaptation and mitigation programs more effectively which is a win for transparency for technology and for the security of every Fijian".

"The Government ministries, businesses, international organisations, civic associations, researchers and students will all have more information at their fingertips so that they can understand where Fiji is going and how they can do their part."

The A-G noted that this portal was also a timely step in the total digital transformation journey in Fiji which includes building a better recovery path from COVID-19.

"Fiji's Climate Change Act and the policies we have adopted require an abundance of scientific and economic data, overall information and subject matter knowledge to provide the evidence we need to make informed decisions."

"The Fijian Government is committed to working with the private sector, civil society organisations and development partners to drive climate action and promote resilient development."

In acknowledging the Climate Change and Interna-



Global Green Growth Institute representative, Daniel Smith with Attorney - General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the launch of the new portal  
PHOTO BY : FELIX LESINAIVALU

tional Cooperation Division (CCICD) and Global Green Growth Institute, as the delivery partner, the A-G stated that they play a lead role in coordinating Fiji's climate change response and have worked extensively to develop the updated portal.

Global Green Growth Institute country representative, Daniel Smith, said the Fijian Government recognises the importance of adapting to climate change and streamlining the coordination of climate change.

"The Global Green Growth Institute is proud to have supported the climate change and international cooperation division of the Ministry of Economy," he said.

## A-G speaks of challenges

NANISE NEIMILA

**T**HE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, recently participated as a panelist at the Pacific Regional Debt Conference held at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat office in Suva.

The A-G gave an overview of the challenges faced by the Fijian economy during the pandemic and discussed how the Fijian Government implemented policy measures to cope with the extraordinary challenges caused by the pandemic.

He thanked the multilateral and bilateral development partners for providing highly concessional budget support loans to assist with budget financing, as well as preserving foreign exchange reserves and liquidity levels.

The A-G added to the recent global debate regarding the need to develop a more nuanced approach to assess debt sustainability, taking into account specific country characteristics, unprecedented access to highly concessional debt, as well as historically low interest rates.

In addition, he emphasised the importance of establishing a broader array of risk indicators and ratios to assess debt sustainability, as debt sustainability cannot simply be measured by the simplistic debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio.

The A-G also highlighted the Fijian Government's recent changes to the value added tax (VAT) regime to support families with zero rating of 21 essential household items and the removal of the 20 cent fuel duty as measures to mitigate the current increase in international fuel and food prices.

He called upon the bilateral and multilateral partners to support the Pacific Island Countries in tackling some of these post-pandemic challenges.

# Fiji receives budget-support package from Australian Govt

**A** BUDGET support package for Fiji's climate-change sector of AU\$1 million (FJ\$1.57m) from the Australian Government was announced recently.

The package will boost adaptation and mitigation efforts in Fiji and strengthen the resilience of Fijian communities.

This budget-support package will help Fiji meet the targets delineated in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) by promoting a shift to lower-emissions development and supporting innovative solutions to climate change.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, John Feakes said, "Australia is pleased to provide financing support to assist in the implementation of Fiji's Climate Change Act, help meet Fiji's Paris Agreement commitments, and pilot innovative solutions through local actions".

Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum added, "Fiji's Climate Change Act is a piece of legislation that we hope can serve as a model in our region and to the world. The findings of the latest IPCC Report spell out in terrifying detail what our people will face if the world fails to match Fiji's net-zero ambition. This kind of support from our friends in Australia represents a strong and valuable partnership that is vital to meeting Fiji's climate goals — now it's time for all high-emitting nations to step-up and action equally-ambitious emissions-slashing

commitments".

One of the key pillars of the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership was a joint commitment to building cooperation on international and regional issues, including action on climate change.

High Commissioner Feakes recognised Fiji's ongoing global leadership on climate change advocacy and action and acknowledged Australia and Fiji's engagement at COP26 in Glasgow.

Australia has a target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, which High Commissioner Feakes said presents an opportunity to scale up Australia and Fiji's collaboration in this area.

He further noted Australia was on track to reduce emissions by up to 35 per cent by 2030.

High Commissioner Feakes also pointed out that Fiji was one of the first international partners to join Australia's Indo-Pacific Carbon Offsets Scheme (IPCOS).

IPCOS will help boost public and private investment in climate action and practical projects in the region, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating more economic opportunities for communities.

Fiji's Climate Change Act 2021 provides an ambitious legal framework for mitigation and adaptation action.

Congratulating Fiji on the passage of the Act, High Commissioner Feakes said, "This new partnership will support



Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, John Feakes with Attorney - General Aiyaz - Sayed Khaiyum during the budget support package handover. PHOTO: NANISE NEIMILA

implementation of the Act, in line with Fiji Government priorities," and noted that flexible finance can leverage further resources by enabling feasibility studies and trialling solutions that can be scaled up.

Operationalisation of the Act was a priority for Fiji, and the outcomes of this new funding will support Fiji's efforts in this space.

The A-G highlighted the fact that Fiji's Climate Change Act commits the country to a whole-of-government and

whole-of-society approach to the challenge of both mitigating and adapting to climate change.

It was essential, he said, to put Fiji's commitments into law, which demands action.

Climate change remains one of the greatest challenges facing the Pacific. Under this new partnership, Australia and Fiji will continue working alongside each other to ensure our communities remain safe, resilient, and prosperous.

[news@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:news@govnet.gov.fj)





Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Parveen Kumar, with the 192 Fijians at the Pre Departure briefing for the deployment for the Pacific Labour Scheme.  
Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

# Pacific Labour Scheme to assist Fijians



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Parveen Kumar at the Pacific Labour Scheme Event

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Fijian Government continues to assist those who need help the most and also those who have been affected by the pandemic. In addressing the unemployment issue, the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) saw 192 Fijians getting employed as they prepare to depart for their respective designations in Australia. Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar, while officiating at the closing

of the Pre-Departure Briefing for selected Fijian workers under the labour mobility program, at Kshatriya Hall, Suva, said this was by far the largest group to leave Fiji for the PLS. “Both your Government and your families expect you to perform to the best of your abilities and to follow the terms of your contract,” Minister Kumar said. “I would sincerely like to thank the PLS employers for having the confidence and for believing in our people.” Minister Kumar also thanked Ministry officials and staff for

their hard work to ensure that all selected Fijian workers had met all the requirements for the labour mobility program. “On behalf of the Fijian Government, I would like to sincerely thank the Australian Government and all respective employers in Australia,” Minister Kumar added. “Currently, More than 700 Fijians are currently engaged with the Australian employer, Regional Workforce Management (RWM) in the Meat Works Industry under the Australia PLS to date.” Minister Kumar highlighted

that RWM currently recruited the largest number of Fijian PLS workers. Of the 192 Fijians, 42 workers will be employed by HealthX and distributed to 10 caregiving homes around Queensland; 40 workers for Ulandra and will be working in the Red Valley Farms that specialises in Banana farming; 26 workers for MQ Griffith and will be working as Chicken Catchers in Griffith, New South Wales; and 84 workers for RWM and will be distributed around meat works industries in Victoria and part of Tasmania.

## New employer keen to recruit Fijian workers

THE Permanent Secretary for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Osea Cawaru recently met with a new employer from Australia, Oasis @ Newman. The company’s business manager Mr Andrew Teasdale met with Mr Cawaru recently to discuss employment opportunities for Fijian workers in the hospitality and accommodation industry. Oasis @ Newman is a privately owned accommodation facility business that provides accommodation services to miners that work in Newman, a large dry thinly populated region in the North of Western Australia. Mr Teasdale said this was the first time Oasis @ Newman was in Fiji to conduct interviews and recruit Fijians. “We are here in Fiji to recruit potential Fijians to work for Oasis @ Newman. Thank you to the Fijian Government for allowing us to come and recruit from Fiji,” said Mr Teasdale. He also said that he wanted to recruit in three phases. The first phase will be done this week with the remaining phases in the near future.



Permanent Secretary for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Osea Cawaru met with Oasis @ Newman business manager Andrew Teasdale in Suva recently.  
Photo: SUPPLIED

Mr Cawaru thanked the employer for choosing Fiji during these challenging times. “On behalf of the Fijian Government, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Oasis @ Newman for choosing Fiji and we look forward to your many visits in future,” said Mr Cawaru. He Cawaru also extended the Fijian Government’s appreciation to the Australian Government and Oasis @ Newman for believing in the people of Fiji to work under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme through the Vuvalle Partnership Agreement. (Source: Ministry of Employment, Industrial Relations and

## 86,000 Social Welfare recipients being insured

IN partnership with the Fiji Care Insurance Limited, the Fijian Government has developed a pioneering insurance package designed social welfare recipients. The partnership between the Fijian Government and the Fiji Care Insurance Limited started in the 2018/2019 fiscal year and is being renewed annually. Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar stated that this is an insurance cover that covers recipients of the Poverty Benefit Scheme, Social Pension Scheme, Disability Allowance Scheme and Care and Protection Program, which equates to over 86,000 persons being insured. Social Welfare recipients under the social protection schemes, are entitled to:

- Funeral (\$1,000);
- Accident/injury (maximum of \$3,000);
- Fire Assistance (complete loss of house \$3,000/ partial loss \$1,500)

- Life cover which is applicable to recipients below the age of 70 years (range from \$200 - \$2,000).

Minister Akbar highlighted that the insurance package started from the partnership between the Government and Fiji Care, and so far 16,689 claims have been paid out which amounts to \$20.9 million as of 31st March, 2022. Minister Akbar highlighted that 16,689 claims have so far been paid out totaling \$20.9 million as of 31st March 2022, as a result of the partnership between the Government and Fiji Care. This includes payouts to:

- 12,205 beneficiaries under the funeral assistance, which amounts to \$12.2 million;
- 4355 beneficiaries under term life assistance, which amounts to \$8.3 million;
- 129 beneficiaries under the fire insurance assistance which amounts to \$380,000;
- 1 beneficiary under the

Accident/Injury assistance whereby the individual was paid \$1500. The payouts are based on the assessments of the insurer and their terms and conditions. Minister Akbar emphasised that any Fijian under the Poverty Benefit Scheme, Social Pension Scheme, Disability Allowance Scheme and Care and Protection Program, is directly eligible to access the micro insurance product under the Fiji Care Insurance Limited. In the absence of a nominee, the next of kin of the beneficiaries will receive the insurance upon the recipient’s demise. If clients have any questions, or wish to fill out a form to register for this insurance cover, they can visit the nearest social welfare office during business hours. (Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)





# Women entrepreneurs on the rise



First Lady Filomena Katonivere at the 2022 Women's International Convention (WIN) closing dinner at the Grand Pacific Hotel held recently. PHOTO : Felix Lesinaivalu

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE advocacy for women entrepreneurs is on the rise globally, especially in Fiji, from civil servants to the private sector.

This was highlighted by First Lady Filomena Katonivere as she attended the 2022 Women's International Convention (WIN) closing dinner at the Grand Pacific Hotel, recently.

In her address, Lady Katonivere highlighted the work of the Women Entrepreneurs and Business Council (WEBC) in developing and supporting women entrepreneurs and women business leaders.

“This signifies the magnitude of the impact women entre-

preneurs have and the contributions that they have made and continue to make towards the growth and well-being of our society.”

The convention programme included speakers from different industries; and a variety of panel discussions with experts in each field.

Lady Katonivere acknowledged the contributions of the speakers, presenters and moderators as well as the delegates and the support of funding partners - Women's Fund Fiji, the US Embassy Suva, the French Embassy, the British High Commission, and the Asia Foundation.

“I understand that the role of the members involved in this council is to advise their clients on the challenges and needs of women entrepreneurs in the country and to coordinate feed-

back loops on project effectiveness between beneficiaries and the project team.”

“I am pleased to note that the WEBC is associated with the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and promotes a key objective to migrate women entrepreneurs from the informal sector to the formal sector to now having its own coordinator that supports and coordinates all activities for its members.”

Lady Katonivere added that the role of the members involved in the council is to advise their clients on the challenges and needs of women entrepreneurs in the country and to coordinate feedback loops on project effectiveness between beneficiaries and the project team.

## Assistance to help trade entrepreneurs



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya at the launch of the Trade Enhancement Programme in Suva held recently

SONAM SAMI

BUSINESS owners and budding entrepreneurs can now take advantage of monetary assistance provided by the Fijian Government to aid them in expanding their business.

This follows the launch of the Trade Enhancement Programme by the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya recently.

“We need to provide a safety net to those unemployed or on reduced hours/salary and we need to limit the economic fallout from doing permanent, structural damage and bring the Fijian economy back across a broad

front,” Minister Koya said.

“We have always maintained that no Fijian should be left behind— whether during the better days of continuous positive economic growth or when we are working through recovery post-pandemic,” he added.

“The Fijian Government has always kept the interest of ordinary Fijians and businesses at heart and will continue to do so. We believe that assistance must be targeted to the situation and the needs of the people of Fiji.”

“This programme is dedicated to provide support to those with a special trade, new or existing micro enterprises that have an annual turnover of less than \$50,000 - who are skills based or operating in the trade field,” Minister Koya added.

The Ministry has allocated \$500,000 for the implementation of this programme and applicants qualify for a maximum of \$500 assistance to help them grow their business.

Each application will be assessed on its merit and quality.

Minister Koya adds that all applications will be received and processed online through the portal and this programme will continue until funds are fully utilised.

Applications that have a full set of documents will be assessed on a first come— first serve basis.

## New opportunities for trade and investment in the UAE

BUILDING on the success of Fiji's participation at Expo 2020, Dubai, the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, held meetings with key businesses

The businesses Minister Koya met with included the Markaz Group, Saudi Fund for Development, OYO Group and the Elite Agro LLC, as part of the Annual Investment Meeting held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) recently.

The Minister held discussions with the Markaz Group, which is a Kuwait based company, in areas such as asset management, investment banking, real estate management, to name a few.

“The Markaz Group has shown interest in agriculture, tourism, pharmaceuticals, minerals, and infrastructure development and they want to bring to Fiji a scoping mission,” he said.

Discussions were also held with the OYO Group, who specialise in empowering entrepreneurs and small businesses in the areas of tourist accommodations.

With the Fijian tourism industry on track to recovery, the meeting focused on leveraging technology to increase competitiveness and efficiency in the hospitality sector.

Whilst meeting in the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), a Government agency that finances development projects, Fiji's climate leadership and sustainable development aspirations were highlighted.

This includes strengthening partnership with the Fijian Government on projects related to climate change, clean energy, and resilient infrastructure.

The SFD is also a co-financier of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which has contributed to many on-going developments in the Pacific.

“Further discussions will be held with SFD together with the Ministry of Economy on the key areas of development needs,” Minister Koya said.

The Minister concluded the meetings with Elite Agro LLC, a leading agriculture company with large-scale integrated farming operations engaged in growing, sourcing, importing and marketing agro-products.

“During the meeting, we highlighted the strategic position Fiji provides, as a hub of the region, to Elite Agro, in terms of growing their position in the Southern Hemisphere,” the Minister said.

“These platforms provide great opportunities to market Fiji and Fijian made brands in this part of the world. And there are opportunities in investments, joint ventures, public private partnerships and tourism,” said Minister Koya.

“Being here in Dubai, and at Expo 2020, has paved the way for several possibilities for businesses of all sizes to network, co-create and diversify to smart, sustainable and resilient businesses. And we're glad we're here to be a part of it,” he added.

“These investments have the potential to further strengthen Fiji's position as a regional hub, introduce new technology and ideas and create jobs for Fijians. Investment Fiji will provide the companies additional information on the incentives and information of the best suited areas for investment in their fields of interest,” said the Minister.

The Minister is currently in Dubai, attending the culmination of the Expo 2020 Dubai and related investment events in collaboration with Investment Fiji.

(Source: Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport)



# FijiFocus



The President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere at the opening of the first ever Fiji Seascapes Symposium held recently. Photo: Josefa Uluilakeba

## NO CLIMATE ACTION

### WITHOUT OCEAN ACTION — PRESIDENT KATONIVERE

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

**A** SYMPOSIUM to review the efforts and the impact of the execution of Fiji's commitment to the UN Oceans Conference (UNOC) towards the achievement of the long-term marine reserve and conservation was held recently.

The Fiji Seascapes Symposium was opened by the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva last week.

Speaking at the event, which was a first of its kind for the country and jointly organised by the Fijian Government, Fiji's civil society

and Non Government Organisation from the conservation community, President Katonivere said, "the partnership is testament of the Fijian Government's commitment to the cause of the conservation of nature, as well as the long-standing cooperation between the Fijian Government and its Non-Governmental Organisation partners to conserve our unique, yet vulnerable, ecosystems".

President Katonivere added that Fiji possesses a large maritime domain that contributes significantly to the national economy and provides food, income and recreation, as well as many other benefits to our coastal communities.

He said, "Our ocean is home to a wealth of globally significant biodiversity that remains significant to our cultures and development and attracts tourists from around the globe".

"As a member of the Blue Pacific Continent, Fiji is proudly and confidently a Large Ocean State. Our people and communities have lived in harmony with nature and the sea for generations and possess an intimate connection with the ocean. This linking dictates that we be resilient stewards of the oceanic Pacific continent."

President Katonivere stated that with regard to the issues of climate change, the country calls for specific, yet ambitious, ac-

tion globally, and our collective leadership in the climate-ocean nexus extends beyond our borders, across our Pacific seas, and into other parts of the world.

"As we move through this decade of oceans, we must be uncompromising and clear — there is no climate action without ocean action," the Head of State said.

"At the launch of this first ever Fiji Seascapes Symposium, I am hopeful that this three-day event will continue to reiterate and emphasise Fiji's existing commitments and actions to protect its ocean home, and to conserve, as well as manage its marine resources in the face of climate change."



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# फीजी दर्पण

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प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनिरामा अपने चाहने वालों के साथ ईस्टर की छुट्टियाँ मनाते हुए

चित: प्रदान किया गया

## प्रधान मंत्री का ईस्टा संदेश

रोनल देव

इसाई धर्म के मानने वालों के लिए ईस्टर, दोनों शुरुआत और अंत का प्रतीक माना गया है। प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनिरामा ने अपने संदेश में कहा कि यह पृथ्वी पर यीशू मसीह के समय के अंतिम दिनों और क्रूस पर उनके कष्ट और बलिदान का सम्मान करता है, और यह उनके चमत्कार और उद्धार के नए वादे का जश्न मनाता है जो उन्होंने मानव जाति को प्रदान किया है। 'पिछले साल ईस्टर के दौरान मैंने सभी से प्यार और एकता की राह पर चलने की माँग की थी ताकि हम ऐसे फीजी की तरफ बढ़ सकें जो उस समय सबसे

बेहतर और सुरक्षित था। करुणा से प्रेरित और विश्वास के सहारे हम आज उस भविष्य तक पहुँच गए हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि आज हम पूरी अज़ादी से अपनी-अपनी ज़िन्दगी जी रहे हैं, देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था सुधर रही है, नए-नए व्यापार खुल रहे हैं तथा कई नौकरियाँ वापस आ रही हैं। 'यह ऐसे आर्शिवाद है जिसे मैं माँग करता हूँ कि आप कृतज्ञता और उदारता से अपनाएं। हमें अपनी खुशियाँ अपने आस-पास के लोगों के साथ मनाने के अलावा उन लोगों के साथ भी मनाना चाहिए जिन्हें

हमारी सक्त्त ज़रूरत है। उन्होंने लोगों से अपनी स्वतंत्रता को बुद्धिमानी और सुरक्षित एक से सम्भालने और अपने चाहने वालों के साथ पूजा और चिंतन के लिए समय निकालने की माँग की। उन्होंने कहा कि सबसे ज़रूरी बात है कि हमें उन मूल्यों को याद रखना है जिन्हें यीशू ने अपने जीवन और सेवकाई में धारण किया था; यदि हम इसका उपयोग सबसे कमज़ोर लोगों की सहायता और उन्हें सशक्त्त बनाने के लिए नहीं करते हैं तो हमारी वसूली की प्रगति का कोई मतलब नहीं होगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले साल आई कठिनाईयों पर काबू पाकर, हमने दिखाया है कि हम ऐसे लोग हैं जो अपने साथी नागरिकों के लिए एक-दूसरे के लिए प्यार से बलिदान करने को तैयार हैं। जबकि हम सबसे बुरी महामारी से मुक्त हैं लेकिन ज़रूरतमंदों के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता कम नहीं हो सकती। अभी और अच्छा काम करना बाकी है-और मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि प्रेम और करुणा की भावना हमें यहाँ ले गई है और ईस्टर हमेशा हमारा मार्गदर्शन करेगी।





# सौशल वेलफेया सहायता पाने वाले छियासी (86,000) हजार लोगों का बीमा कराया गया

रोनल देव



मंत्री रोजी अबबर सौशल वेलफेया की सहायता पाने वालों के लिए बीमा पैकज की घोषणा करती हुई  
चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

हज़ार पाँच सौ डोलर)

\* लाईव कवा जो सत्तर साल से कम उम्र के लोगों के लिए है (दो सौ से दो हजार डोलर के बीच) मंत्री अकबर ने प्रकाश डाला कि अभी तक सोलह हजार छः सौ से ज़्यादा (16,689) दावे के पैसे चुकाए गए हैं जहाँ इस साल मार्च महीने के अंत तक 20.9 बीस दशमलौ नौ मिलियन डोलर भरे गए हैं।

पैसे इन सहायता के लिए दिए गए:  
\* बारह हजार दो सौ पाँच (12,205) लोगों के अंतिम संस्कार की सहायता के लिए बारह दशमलौ दो मिलियन डोलर भरे गए;

\* चार हजार तीन सौ पचपन (4355) लोगों को टर्म लाईव सहायता के नीचे आठ दशमलौ तीन मिलियन डोलर दिया गया;

\* एक सौ उनतीस (129) लोगों को आग वाले बीमा से सहायता दी गई जिसमें कुछ तीन लाख अस्सी हजार डोलर डोलर भरा गया;

\* एक व्यक्ति को दुर्घटना/चोट चपेट लगने वाली सहायता के नीचे एक हजार पाँच सौ डोलर दिया गया।

यह पैसे बीमाकर्ता और उनके नियमों और शर्तों के आधार पर होते हैं।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि कोई भी फीजीवासी जो पोवेटी बनेफिट स्कीम, सौशल पेंशन स्कीम, डिसाबिलिटी अलावन्स स्कीम तथा केंया और प्रोटेक्शन कार्य क्रम के नीचे है वे फीजी केंया इंशुरन्स लिमिटेड के नीचे सीधे माएकडोइंशुरन्स उत्पादन तक पहुँचने के योग्य है। किसी की मृत्यु होने के बाद मनोनित व्यक्ति की गैर-हाज़री में व्यक्ति के चाहने वाले या करीबी रिश्तेदार को इंशुरन्स का पैसा मिल सकता है। अगर ग्राहकों के पास कोई सवाल है या वे बीमा के लिए रजिस्ट्रार होने वाला फॉर्म भरना चाहते हैं तो वे अपनी नज़दीकी सौशल वेलफेया दफ़्तर जा सकते हैं।

स्कीम, डिसाबिलिटी अलावन्स स्कीम तथा केंया और प्रोटेक्शन प्रोग्राम के नीचे है। छियासी हजार से ज़्यादा लोगों का बीमा कराया गया है। पहले की सरकारों ने ऐसी व्यवस्था नहीं की थी।

\* सौशल प्रोटेक्शन स्कीम के नीचे सौशल वेलफेया सहायता पाने वालों को:

\* अंतिम संस्कार के लिए एक हजार डोलर

\* दुर्घटना/चोट चपेट के लिए (ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा तीन हजार डोलर)

\* आग वाली सहायता (घर पूरी तरह नष्ट हुआ तो तीन हजार डोलर/कुछ नुकसान हुआ तो एक

फीजी केंया इंशुरन्स लिमिटेड के साथ मिलकर फीजियन सरकार ने सौशल वेलफेया की सहायता पाने वालों के लिए एक इंशुरन्स पैकज तैयार किया है।

फीजी की सरकार और फीजी केंया इंशुरन्स के बीच साझेदारी 2018/2019 में शुरू हुई थी और सालाना तौर से इस साझेदारी को नया किया जा रहा है।

विमन, चिलरन और पोवेटी अलेवि-एशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने बताया कि यह बीमा सहायता पाने वाले उन लोगों के लिए है जो पोवेटी बनेफिट स्कीम, सौशल पेंशन

## सरकारी सहायता के बाद राकीराकी के किसान पशुपालन बढ़ाना चाहते हैं

रोनल देव



मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु किसानों को जानवरों के लिए शेड प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

बरोतू राकीराकी का प्रकाश परिवार अपना छोटा सा पशुपालन का व्यापार और बढ़ाने की योजना बना रहा है जब उन्हें ग्रामीन और बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास मंत्रालय ने भेड़ा पालने का शेड प्रदान किया।

इस सहायता का लक्ष्य है, परिवार के लिए आमदनी उत्पन्न करना। प्रकाश परिवार के पास बासठ भेड़े तथा पंद्रह बकरियाँ हैं। अजनील अनिवेश प्रकाश अपने पिता श्री आनन्द प्रकाश के साथ पिछले छः सालों से खेती कर रहे हैं। 2016 में इस परिवार को भारी झटका लगा जब समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के दौरान उनके अधिकतर पशु मारे गए। प्रकाश ने कहा कि मंत्रालय से जो सहायता मिली है, उससे उनका व्यापार और बढ़ेगा साथ ही साथ उन्हें आगे बढ़ने के लिए प्रोत्साहित भी करेगा।

“पहले हमारे पास एक अच्छा शेड नहीं था जिससे हमने कई पशुओं को खो दिया लेकिन अब हमारे पास उच्चकोटी का शेड है, जहाँ हम सुरक्षित रूप से अपने भेड़े और बकरिया पाल सकते

हैं। इस सहायता के लिए हम सरकार के बहुत अभारी हैं। इस नए शेड के बलपर हम अपनी खेती बढ़ा सकते हैं जिससे हम अपने परिवार के पोशन के लिए और पैसे कमा सकेंगे,” प्रकाश ने कहा।

ग्रामीन और बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु ने नया शेड प्रदान करते हुए कहा कि यह योजना ग्रामीन फीजीवासियों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए है।

“यह इतना महत्वपूर्ण क्यों है इसके कुछ कारण हैं: एक है, यह देश की खाद्य सुरक्षा और पोषण सुरक्षा में योगदान देता है; दूसरा, यह आयात के स्तर को कम करता है और निर्यात के स्तर को बढ़ाता है; और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यह आजीविका और आमदनी की सुरक्षा की रक्षा करता है। मंत्रालय ने प्रकाश परिवार को शेड प्रदान किया है ताकि यह परिवार अपनी भेड़-बकरी की खेती वाली योजना को और बढ़ा सके। जानवरों की सुरक्षा के लिए यह भी बेहद ज़रूरी है।

## बच्चों के लिए यादगार दिन

रोनल देव



मंत्री रोजी अकबर, बच्चों को नान्दी स्थित मेकडोनल्स में भोजन प्रदान करती हुई

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

“दावत के लिए धन्यवाद, माँ”

ट्रेज़ा हौम्स में कम अधिकार वाले बच्चों को भोजन बाँटते समय विमन, चिलरन और पोवेटी अलेविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर से बच्चों ने ऐसा कहा। पाम सनडय और स्कूल का नया साल मनाने के लिए ट्रेज़ा हौम्स के चौदह बच्चों को मेकडोनल्स नान्दी में भोजन का दावत दिया गया। “बच्चों को इस बारे में पहले से नहीं पता था जबकि उन्हें बताया गया था कि वे बाहर कहीं घूमने जा रहे हैं। उनकी आश्चर्य का ठिकाना न रहा जब उनकी मिनि बस जिसमें वे सफर कर रहे थे एक यादगार दावत के लिए मेकडोनल्स के आगे जाकर रुकी।

“वहाँ का माहौल और स्वादिष्ट भोजन का अंनन्द लेने के अलावा, बच्चों को अच्छे मानसिक और भावनात्मक स्वास्थ्य के लिए बच्चे के महत्व पर बुनियादी सबक भी दिए गए। एक बच्चे का मानसिक स्वास्थ्य महत्वपूर्ण है और उनके जैविक और सामाजिक भावनात्मक विकास के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा। उनके अनुसार सबक मिलने के बाद बच्चे राजी हुए कि सभी बच्चे एक उज्ज्वल भविष्य के हकदार हैं तथा फीजियन सरकार और उनके साझेदार, फीजी के सभी बच्चों की भलाई के लिए पुँजी लगाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि इस तरह के अनुभव, बच्चों में लम्बे समय के लिए अच्छी यादें छाड़ जाता है।





सोनम सामी

महिला व्यापारियों की वकालत विशेष रूप से फीजी के नागरिक सेवकों से लेकर निजी क्षेत्र में विश्व स्तर पर बढ़ रही है। अभी हाल ही में गैड पसिफिक होटेल में 2022 विमन इन्टानेशनल कोन्वेंशन में भाग लेती हुई, महामहिम राष्ट्रपति विलियम कातोनिवरे की पत्नी फिलोमेना कातोनिवरे ने महिला व्यापारियों और महिला व्यापारी नेताओं के विकास के समर्थन में विमन एनट्रेप्रेन्यूरस काउंसिल के काम पर प्रकाश डाला। यह महिला व्यापारियों के प्रभाव और योगदान को दर्शाता है कि उन्होंने हमारे समाज के विकास और कल्याण की दिशा में काम करना जारी रखा है। इस कोन्वेंशन समारोह में विभिन्न व्यवसाय के भाषणकर्ता मौजूद थे और विभिन्न प्रकार के पैनल प्रत्येक क्षेत्र के विशेषज्ञों के साथ चर्चा हुई। उन्होंने वक्ताओं, प्रस्तुतकर्ताओं और मध्यस्थों के योगदान को प्रतिनिधियों के रूप में स्वाकार किया और वित्त पोषण भागीदारों जिनमें विमंस फंड फीजी, अमेरिकी दूतावास सूवा, फेंच दूतावास, ब्रिटिश दूतावास और एशिया फाउंडेशन शामिल हैं। मैं पसन्द हूँ कि विमन एनट्रेप्रेन्यूरस काउंसिल, विमन, चिल्लर और पोवर्टी अलिविएशन के साथ मिलकर महिला व्यापारियों को अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र से औपचारिक क्षेत्र तक पहुँचने को बढ़ावा दे रही है और खुद का अमन्वयक होना चाहिए जो सभी गतिविधियों का समर्थन और समन्वय करता है। महामहिम राष्ट्रपति विलियम कातोनिवरे की पत्नी फिलोमेना कातोनिवरे ने कहा कि परिशद में शामिल सदस्यों की भूमिका अपने ग्राहकों की चुनौतियों और महिला व्यापारियों की जरूरतों को देखना तथा लाभार्थियों और परियोजना टीम के बीच परियोजना की प्रभावशीलता को समायोजित करना।



अटेनी जेनरल तथा जलवायु परिवर्तन के जिम्मेदार मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम, ग्लोबल ग्रीन ग्रीथ इन्सटिटयुट के प्रतिनिधि डेनियल मुनोज़ स्मिथ के साथ  
चित्र: ननिस नईमिला

## जलवायु परिवर्तन का नया पोर्टल

सोनम सामी

मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव के लिए नया पोर्टल ना सिर्फ जलवायु परिवर्तन की नीतियों, कार्यक्रमों, तवीनतम जानकारी का स्रोत है बल्कि यह मौसम की संकट की प्रतिक्रिया पर भी स्पष्टता प्रदान करेगा। अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद-खईयूम ने अभी हाल ही सुवावउ हाउज़ में फीजी क्लाएमट चैन्ज पोर्टल के नए स्वरूप और और नेशनल डेजिगनेटड आथोरिटी पोर्टल का उद्घाटन किया और कहा कि पोर्टल फीजी के जलवायु प्रयासों के डेटा को डिजिटल युग में लाता है जो अधिक प्रभावी ढंग से मानचित्रण करता है जो टेक्नोलोजी और हर एक फीजीयन के सुरक्षा पारदर्शिता की जीत है। सरकार के मंत्रालय, व्यवसाय, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगठन, नागरिक संघ, शोधकर्ता और छात्रों के पास अपनी उंगलियों पर अधिक जानकारी होगी ताकि वे समझ सकें कि फीजी किस दिशा में जा रहा है और वे कैसे अपनी भूमिका निभा सकते हैं। अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा कि यह पोर्टल फीजी में कुल डिजिटल परिवर्तन यात्रा में एक सामायिक कदम भी है जिसमें कोविड-19 से बेहतर सुधरने का पथ बनाना शामिल है। फीजी के जलवायु परिवर्तन अधिनियम और हमारे द्वारा अपनाई गई नीतियों के लिए प्रचुर मात्रा में वैज्ञानिक और आर्थिक डेटा, समग्र जानकारी और सूचित निष्पत्ति लेने के लिए विषय वस्तु ज्ञान हमें आवश्यक साध्य प्रदान करता है। फीजी सरकार जलवायु कार्यवाई को चलाने और लचीले विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए नजी क्षेत्र, सिविल समाज संगठनों और विकास भागीदारों के साथ काम करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। डिलीवरी भागीदार के रूप में क्लाएमट चैन्ज एंड इन्टानेशनल कुपरेशन डिविज़न (CCICD) और ग्लोबल ग्रीन ग्रीथ इन्सटिटयुट की सहानुभूति करते हुए अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा कि वे फीजी के जलवायु परिवर्तन प्रतिक्रिया को विकसित करने और बड़े पैमाने पर काम करने पर एक प्रमुख भूमिका निभाते हैं। ग्लोबल ग्रीन ग्रीथ इन्सटिटयुट के प्रतिनिधि डेनियल मुनोज़ स्मिथ ने कहा कि फीजीयन सरकार जलवायु परिवर्तन के अनुकूल होने और इसके समन्वय के महत्व को पहचानता है।

## इंडोनेशिया और फीजी के बीच साझेदारी

सोनम सामी

क्वीन विकटोरिया स्कूल के शिक्षकों और छात्रों की खुशियों का ठिकाना ना रहा जब अभी हाल ही में प्रधान मंत्री वॉरिंगे बर्दिनमारामा ने दो नए होस्टल खोले। यह स्कूल बनने का काम इंडोनेशिया सरकार की मदद से पुरा हुआ जब उन्होंने समुंद्री आँधी विन्सटन के बाद “अडोप्ट आ स्कूल प्रोग्राम” में सहायता प्रदान की। इंडोनेशियन सरकार को धन्यवाद देते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वॉरिंगे बर्दिनमारामा ने कहा कि यह दो होस्टल सिर्फ सोने के लिए नहीं हैं—यह उन छात्रों के लिए भी हैं जो पढ़ाई या आराम करना चाहते हैं। इंडोनेशियन सरकार ने यह प्रोजेक्ट एंड.श मिलियन में लिया था। इन सुविधाओं का निर्माण उन प्रकार की हावाओं का सामना करने के लिए किया गया है जैसा हमने

समुंद्री आँधी विन्सटन के दौरान कि या था। अगर उसी तरह आँधी फिर आती है तो हम जानते हैं कि हवाओं के थमने के बाद ये इमारतें वहीं रहेगी। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि एक ऐसे समाज में जो अवसर की समानता के सिद्धांत को कहत्व देता है, बॉर्डिंग आवास की आवश्यकता कभी भी बाधा नहीं होनी चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि इस साल स्कूल ब्लॉक क्षेत्र में दो क्लासरूम ब्लॉक के बदले में दो-मंजिल वाले इमारत में क्लासरूम, साइन्स लेब, एक कंप्यूटर लेब और शिक्षकों के रूम बनाए जाएंगे। तीन सौ एकड़ पर केम्पस में क्विन विकटोरिया स्कूल की 70वीं और 115वीं वर्षगांठ मनाने हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने लवाकी डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल के नए प्रीफेक्चर को बेज दिए और नए शिक्षा साल की शुभकामनाएं भी दीं। रिपब्लिक ऑफ इंडोनेशिया के राजदूत रेडन मोहम्मद बेन्जामिन स्कोट कर्नाडी ने कहा कि शिक्षा जीवन का सबसे शक्तिशाली पहलुओं में से एक है क्योंकि यह हमें अपने आस-पास की दुनिया, हमारे अंदर की दुनिया और जहाँ हम फिट होते हैं, उसे समझने की अनुमति देता है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह परियोजना इंडोनेशिया और प्रशांत देशों के द्विपों के बीच के साझेदारी को दर्शाता है। इंडोनेशिया फीजी के मानव संसाधनों के विकास के लिए क्षेत्र के अन्य भागीदारों के सहयोग में यह अवसर पाकर सम्मानित और विनम्र है, खासकर के युवाओं के लिए क्योंकि वे भविष्य के नेता हैं। मौजूद चुनौतियों के बीच, ना सिर्फ कोविड- 19 प्रकोप लेकिन जलवायु परिवर्तन से हो रही चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए फीजी और इंडोनेशिया साझेदार के रूप में काम करने पर सहमत हुए हैं।



प्रधान मंत्री वॉरिंगे बर्दिनमारामा हालही में क्वीन विकटोरिया स्कूल में दो नए होस्टल का उद्घाटन करने के दौरान छात्रों से बातें करते हुए  
चित्र: अज़रिया फरीन





## मंत्री कुमार ने रामनवमी उत्सव में भाग लिया

शिक्षा, लौकल गवमन्ट तथा सामाजिक विकास मंत्री, प्रेमिला कुमार ने हाल में राम नवमी उत्सव में भाग लिया। उन्होंने कहा कि हम कितने खुश किस्मत हैं कि हमारे पास ऐसा संविधान है जो लोगों को यह अवसर प्रदान करता है कि वे आज़ादी से अपने-अपने धर्मों का पालन करें। उन्होंने गिरमिट काल में आए भारतीयों के बलिदान को भी याद किया जो अपने साथ रामायण

जैसे धार्मिक ग्रंथ फीजी लाए थे जिसे फीजी में आज भी हिन्दू समाज के लोग पढ़ते हैं। नए साल में जबकि स्कूल की शुरुआत हो चुकी है तो ऐसे में मंत्री ने माता-पिताओं से मांग की है कि वे अपने बच्चों पर बहुत ज़्यादा दबाव न डालें बल्कि उन्हें प्रोत्साहित करें कि वे उसी क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ें जिसमें उनकी रुचि है।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



## पेसिफिक लईवा स्कीम से कई फीजीवासियों को लाभ होगा

पेसिफिक लईवा स्कीम से घशट फीजीवासियों को लाभ होगा जबकि वे हाल ही में काम करने के लिए ओम्पेलिया के लिए रवाना हुए। रोज़गार मंत्री परश्वन कुमार ने कर्मचारियों को विदाई देते हुए कहा कि अवतल पी एल एस के नीचे फीजी से बाहर काम करने के लिए जाने वालों को यह सबसे बड़ी संख्या है। मंत्री वाला ने फीजियन सरकार की ओर से ओम्पेलियन सरकार तथा वहाँ के सभी मज़दूर मालिकों को धन्यवाद

दिया जिनका हमारे लोगों पर भरोसा और विश्वास है। उन्होंने कहा कि नौकरी करने का अवसर यही समय पर आया है जबकि महामारी की वजह से देश में कई लोगों के पास नौकरी नहीं है। मज़दूरों से मांग की गई है कि वे कोन्ट्रैक्ट की शर्तों का पालन करें और नौकरी करने के दौरान अपना काम बहुत ही अच्छी तरह से करें।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



## प्रधान मंत्री ने बूला आउट सोसिंग का विमोचन किया

प्रधान मंत्री चोयईया वॉरेनो वईनिमरामा ने हाल ही में बूला आउट सोसिंग क्षेत्र में बूला आउट सोसिंग का विमोचन किया है। अपने भाषण में श्री वईनिमरामा ने कहा कि बी पी ओ पहले ही हमारे अर्थ-व्यवस्था के सुधरने में मुख्य योगदान दे रहा है ताकि यह होड़वाजी करने के साथ-साथ ऐसी नौकरियाँ पैदा करें जिस तरह की नौकरियाँ हमारे लोगों को चाहिए। ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि यह अपने देशों की बड़ी सम्पत्तियों से फायदा उठाते हैं। प्रधान मंत्री वईनिमरामा ने इस क्षेत्र के मज़दूरों जिनमें युवा, कुशल, पढ़-लिखे तथा अच्छी

तरह अंग्रेज़ी बोलने वालों को कड़ी मेहनत का आभार व्यक्त किया। सरकार ने बी पी ओ के लिए सालाना मार्केटिंग गन्ट के रूप में दो लाख (\$200,000) प्रदान किया है ताकि वे और फीजीवासियों के लिए नौकरियाँ पैदा कर सकें। बी पी ओ का क्षेत्र वर्तमान में सात हज़ार फीजीवासियों को रोज़गार प्रदान कर रहा है और अगले दस सालों में इस क्षेत्र के पास लगभग एक लाख नौकरियाँ पैदा करने की क्षमता है। नया बूला आउट सोसिंग का टर्फ़र गानिलाउ हाउस सूबा में स्थित है।

चित्र: अज़रिया फ़रीन



## नारियल से होने वाले फायदों पर किसानों को ट्रेनिंग दी गई



नारियल एक ऐसा उपहार है जिसमें कुछ भी बरबाद नहीं होता। अभी हाल में कुछ युवकों को बा में ट्रेनिंग प्रदान की गई थी कि वे नारियल के उपयोग के बाद भी बची चीज़ों से किन-किन उत्पादों को बना सकते हैं। तानालेवू वा की लीडरने बूला ने बताया कि ट्रेनिंग में उन्होंने बहुत कुछ सीखा जहाँ उन्हें सिखाया गया कि नारियल खुरचने के बाद दूध निकालने के अलावा भी बहुत कुछ काम में लाया जा सकता है। मैंने नारियल बोन से लेकर नारियल का बीजन तेल बनाने से लेकर साबुन बनाने तक बहुत कुछ सीखा

है। इससे हम अपने और अपने परिवार के लिए बहुत कुछ कर सकते हैं। हमने नारियल की खोपड़ी का भी उपयोग करना सीखा है। बाँगीया वा की एक किसान और सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता सुलोयना वलिन ने नारियल की खोपड़ी से योगेन पीने के लिए बोलो, नारियल की मिठाई, साबुन और अन्य उत्पादन बनाने की योजना बनाई है। कृषि में तालय के पेमनट स्कंटेगे विनश कुमार ने ट्रेनिंग में हिस्सा ले रहे तीस लोगों शुभकामनाएं दीं।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया







# नया सात डॉलर बैंक नोट से ओलंपिक विजेताओं को सम्मानित किया गया



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेगे बर्निमरामा ओलंपिक विजेता फीजी रग्बी 7s टीम तथा महिलाओं की टीम के सम्मान में सात डॉलर का नया नोट का विमोचन करते हुए चित्र: अज़रिया फीने

सोनम सामी

2020 टोक्यो ओलंपिक्स में गोल्ड और ब्रॉज़ मेडल जीतने के बाद हमारे ओलंपिक विजेता - फीजी रग्बी 7s मेन और विमंस टीम को नया सात डॉलर बैंक नोट के शुभारंभ से सम्मानित किया गया।

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेगे बर्निमरामा ने खिलाड़ियों को जुनून, दृढ़ संकल्प, साहस और एकता के साथ खेलने के लिए उनका समर्थन करते हुए कहा कि यह संभव था क्योंकि टीम को पता था कि वे पूरे देश की आशाओं और आकांक्षाओं को लेकर चल रही हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि रियों में गोल्ड मेडल जीतने के दबाव के बावजूद टीम ने अपने खेल पर ध्यान दिया जो एक सच्चे चैंपियन की

निशानी है।

“फीजी रग्बी 7s मेन और विमंस टीम जिन्होंने कई महिनो तक बलिदान दिया और लगन से तैयारी की, उन्होंने टोक्यो ओलंपिक्स में रग्बी 7s में गोल्ड और ब्रॉज़ मेडल जीत कर हमारे दिलों को जीतने के साथ हमारी भावनाओं को उपर उठाया है।”

हमारी फीजीयन टीम टोक्यो 7s जीतने के लिए गई थी - दुनिया को दिखाने के लिए कि यह हमारा खेल है।

“मुझे अपने ओलंपिक विजेताओं को दिखाने हुए गर्व महसूस हो रहा है तथा उनका आभार व्यक्त करने के लिए सात डॉलर का नया बैंक नोट का अनावरण करके पूरे राष्ट्र ने दिखाने की कोशिश की है कि उनकी जीत पर हमें कितना गर्व है।”

इस नोट में एक तरफ मेन्स टीम है और दूसरी तरफ विमंस टीम। मेन्स टीम की तरफ का रंग गोल्ड है जबकि विमंस टीम के तरफ का रंग ब्रॉज़ है। रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ फीजी के गवर्नर और बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष आरिफ अली ने कहा कि इस नवीनतम पेशकश में फीजी के पुरुष और पहली बार हमारे फीजीयाना खिलाड़ी शामिल हैं।

“हमें अपने खिलाड़ियों की जीत पर गर्व है और यह सात डॉलर का बैंक नोट 2020 टोक्यो ओलंपिक्स में टीम फीजी की ऐतिहासिक दोहरी जीत का जश्न मनाता है।

इन दो टीमों ने हमें मानव प्रयास की अनंत संभावनाओं और सीमाओं को पार करने तथा एक होकर गहरी आशा और प्रेरणा की क्षमता प्रदान किया है।



शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार हाल में संसद की एक बैठक में बोलती हुई चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

## नए स्कूल वर्ष की शुरुवात से परिक्षा और पाठ्यक्रम में बदलाव

सोनम सामी

पिछले साल के कठिन महीनों के बाद अब बच्चे जबकि वापस स्कूल जाने में सफल हैं। शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने नया स्कूल वर्ष जो इसी महीने शुरू हुआ है से परिक्षा और पाठ्यक्रम में कुछ बदलाव किए हैं जिसमें कक्षा एक से तीन के बच्चों के लिए कोई भी परिक्षा नहीं होगी जबकि अन्य कक्षाओं के लिए सिर्फ मिड ईया और एनुअल परिक्षा होगी। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि कक्षा छः और दस के लिए बाहरी(एक्सटर्नल) परिक्षा भी नहीं होगी। मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि अन्य परिवर्तन हैं जहाँ देश भर के लगभग 90 स्कूलों में वर्ष एक से चार के बच्चे संशोधित साक्षरता

और सख्यात्मक पाठ्यक्रम (लिटरीसी और न्यूमरसी) का परिक्षा करेंगे तथा कक्षा एक से तीन के बच्चे नए नैतिक और नागरिक शिक्षा पाठ्यक्रम (मोरल और सिविक एडुकेशन) की परिक्षा देंगे।

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि मंत्रालय पिछले साल के सफल परिक्षण के बाद इस साल नया ईया 11 लाइफ मैथ(गणित) पाठ्यक्रम शुरू किया है।

कई वर्षों से अपने बच्चों की सहायता करने खास करके पिछले साल के कठिन महीनों के दौरान सहारा देने के लिए मंत्रालय ने माता-पिताओं की सहायता की सराहना की है।



रोजगार मंत्री परवीन कुमार कर्मचारियों को प्रोत्साहित करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

## फीजिवासियों को मदद पहुंचाने के लिए पसिफिक लैबा स्किम

सोनम सामी

फीजीयन सरकार ने अपने लोगों को खासकर के इस महामारी के दौरान असर पड़े लोगों की मदद करना जारी रखा है। पसिफिक लैबा स्कीम से 192 फीजिवासियों को लाभ हुआ है जबकि वे हालही में काम करने के लिए औस्ट्रेलिया के लिए रवाना हुए। हालमें रोजगार मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला ने कर्मचारियों को विदाई देते हुए क्षत्रिए होल में कहा कि यह

अबतक पी एल एस के नीचे फीजी से बाहर काम करने के लिए जाने वालों की सबसे बड़ी संख्या है। मंत्री बाला ने फीजीयन सरकार की ओर से औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार तथा वहाँ के सभी मजदूर मालिकों को धन्यवाद दिया जिनका हमारे लोगों पर भरोसा और विश्वास है। उन्होंने कहा कि नौकरी करने का अवसर सही समय पर आया है जबकि महामारी की वजह से देश में कई लोगों के पास नौकरी नहीं है। मजदूरों से माँग की गई है कि वे

कोन्टैक्ट की शर्तों का पालन करें और नौकरी करने के दौरान अपना काम बहुत ही अच्छी तरह से करें। फिलहाल 700 फीजीवासी औस्ट्रेलियन नियोजता, रिज्नल वोक-फोस मेनेजमेंट के लिए पसिफिक लैबा स्किम के नीचे माँस वाले व्यवसाय अभी तक कर रहे हैं। मंत्री बाला ने बताया कि रिज्नल वोकफोस मेनेजमेंट ने पी एल एस के नीचे काम करने के लिए सबसे बड़ी संख्या में लोगों को भर्ती किया है। 192 फीजिवासियों में से

बयालिस 42 लोगों को हेल्थएक्स द्वारा भर्तीकिया जाएगा और दस कर्मचारियों को केंयरगीवीग होम क्वी सलेंड में भर्ती किया जाएगा; चालिस 40 को यूलांडा के रेड वेली फार्म भेजा जाएगा जहाँ केले की खेती होती है; छब्बीस 26 को एमक्यू ग्रिफिथ में चिकन केचर्स का काम दिया जाएगा और चौरासी 84 को विक्टोरिया और टज़मनिया के रिज्नल वोकफोस मेनेजमेंट के माँस वाले व्यवसाय में बाँटा जाएगा।



रोजगार मंत्री परवीन कुमार, पसिफिक लैबा स्कीम के नीचे विदेश काम करने गए एक सौ बन्धुबन्ध 192 कर्मचारियों के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया





शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार हाल में ईस्टर की खुशियों में शामिल हुईं चित्र प्रदान किया गया

# शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ईस्टर की खुशियों में शामिल हुईं

रोनल देव

शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने फीजी नेशनल युनिवर्सिटी स्टूडेंट असोसिएशन के साथ मिलकर ईस्टर की खुशियाँ मनाई। मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि धार्मिक समारोह का आयोजन करने के लिए असोसिएशन

जाना जाता है जिससे अलग-अलग धर्म और संस्कृति के फीजीवासी एक साथ जुड़ते हैं। इससे एफ एन यू एक बहु-संस्कृतिक संस्था के रूप में जाना जाता है। उन्होंने बहु-संस्कृति और बहु-जातीयता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एफ एन यू की प्रशंसा की है।

एकता का प्रचार-प्रसार करने के अलावा, समारोह के दौरान युनिवर्सिटी के विद्यार्थियों ने अपनी कलाएं भी दिखाई। मंत्री कुमार ने अपने भाषण में कहा कि हम कितने खुशकिस्मत हैं कि हम ऐसे राष्ट्र में रहते हैं जहाँ सन् दो हज़ार तेरह वाला संविधान हमें अपनी पसन्द के धर्म

का पालन करने का अधिकार और आज़ादी देता है। इसी धर्म के मानने वालों ने इस साल बहुत ही हर्ष के साथ अपने चाहने वालों के संग ईस्टर की खुशियाँ मनाई। कई लोगों की खुशियाँ दुगुनी हुईं जब विदेश से भी उनके चाहने वाले इस साल उनके साथ शामिल होने में सफल हुए।

## पूँजिपतियों का भरोसा कायम है

रोनल देव

देश में कई व्यापारियों का खुलना दर्शाता है कि पूँजिपतियों का भरोसा बना हुआ है जबकि फीजी हालही की महामारी से उभरने की कोशिश कर रहा है। हालही में पोर्ट देनाराउ नान्दी स्थित चार लाख डॉलर लागत गिल्स रेस्टोरन्ट का औपचारिक उद्घाटन करते हुए व्यापार मंत्री फर्डिनांड कोया ने पूँजी लगाने के लिए कम्पनी को धन्यवाद दिया जिससे कई युवा फीजीवासियों के लिए नौकरियाँ पैदा हुई हैं। यह वो युवा लोग हैं जो फीजी के बढ़ते हुए टूरिज़्म व्यवसाय में अपना भविष्य बनाना चाहते हैं। मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि इस महामारी ने लोगों को नई स्थिति से निपटना सिखाया है। मंत्री कोया ने युवा फीजीवासियों को प्रोत्साहित किया है कि वे बड़ी सोच रखें, अपने विचारों पर भरोसा रखें और अपने व्यापारों में पूँजी लगाएँ। आप जो करना चाहते हैं उसपर आपको भरोसा होना चाहिए, प्रेरणा और कड़ी मेहनत के बिना आपके सपनों की ओर यात्रा बहुत ही कठिन हो जाएगी। पहला कदम लेने से पहले घबराए नहीं। गिरने से डरे नहीं क्योंकि आप अपनी गलतियों से सीख सकते हैं तथा असफल होने पर यह न सोचें कि सबकुछ खत्म हो गया है।



व्यापार तथा टूरिज़्म मंत्री, फर्डिनांड कोया देनाराउ नान्दी में कुछ व्यापारियों के साथ वार्ता करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

## कोविड की वजह से एक लाख लोगों की नौकरियाँ गईं

रोनल देव

कोविड-19 महामारी की वजह से एक लाख से ज़्यादा लोगों ने अपनी नौकरियाँ खो दी हैं। कोरोनावायरस जब अपनी चरम सीमा पर थी उस दौरान फीजीयन सरकार ने देश के नागरिकों की सहायता करने के लिए क्या-क्या सुविधाएँ उपलब्ध की थी पर अभी हालही संसद में अटोनी जेनरल अर्डीयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने प्रकाश डाला कि सरकार ने बेरोज़गारों को चार सौ तीस मिलियन डॉलर तक सहायता की व्यवस्था की थी। इसके अलावा सरकार ने अन्य सहायता स्कीम के अलावा, सीधे नब्बे डॉलर की सहायता, दो बार पचास डॉलर की सहायता तथा दो बार तीन सौ साठ डॉलर की सहायता प्रदान की थी।



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अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम, हालही पलाउ में महासागरों के सम्मेलन के दौरान फीजी के नागरिकों के साथ चित्र: नतिसे नईमिला

## महासागरों का सम्मेलन

रेनल देव

हालही में पलाउ में जारी महासागरों के सम्मेलन में अटेनी जेनरल तथा जलवायु परिवर्तन के ज़िम्मेदार मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने वहाँ फीजियन समाज से मुलाकात की। मंत्री ने वहाँ के फीजियन समाज द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं पर गौर किया। वहाँ के फीजियन समाज के कई लोग स्वास्थ्य और कानूनी क्षेत्र से जुड़े हैं। अटेनी जेनरल ने पापुआ निउ गिनी, प्रशान्तीय देशों, पूर्वी अईशिया तथा प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र के वोल्ड बेन्क कन्द्री डायरेक्टर स्टीवन न्देगवा तथा क्षेत्रीय औपरेशन्स मैनेजर वालेली से मुलाकात की। सभा में

विश्व की अर्थ-व्यवस्था द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं पर भी प्रकाश डाला गया जैसे कि फिउल का दाम उपर जाना, माल इधर-उधर लाने लेजाने का खर्च बढ़ना तथा जिससे जान-माल का खतरा बढ़ना शामिल है। अटेनी जेनरल ने बताया कि सभा में खास रूप से गौर किया गया कि हालही की वैश्विक घटनाओं से फीजी जैसे छोटे-छोटे देशों पर किस तरह के असर पड़ रहे हैं। लोगों का जीवन सुधारने पर पुँजी लगाने से हम इन खतरों को लम्बे समय तक टाल सकते हैं। उनके अनुसार वनुआ लेवू की अर्थ-व्यवस्था बढ़ाने वाली योजना पर भी बातचित हुई जहाँ नए संसाधन में पुँजी लगाने, टूरिज़म क्षेत्र को बढ़ाने,

नौकरियाँ पैदा करने तथा व्यवसाईक कृषि क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देना शामिल है। अगले कुछ सप्ताह में वनुआ लेवू पर गौर करने वाली वोल्ड बेन्क की एक टीम फीजी में रहेगी। अटेनी जेनरल ने वोल्ड बेन्क का आभार व्यक्त किया है जिन्होंने पिछले दो सालों से अत्यधिक रियाती कर्ज़ प्रदान किया है। इस दौरान अटेनी जेनरल ने प्रशान्त के क्षेत्रीय डायरेक्टर मार्क ड्रिउ के साथ समुद्र के चट्टानों यानि कोरल रीफ बचाने की पहल तथा महासागरों के चट्टानों के कार्यक्रम पर बातचीत की। इसके अलावा सईयद खईयूम ने यू एन एफ सी सी की एक्ज़ेटिव सक्टेरी पेद्रीशा एस्पी-नोसा के साथ ग्लेसगो में हुई सभा के

नतिजो तथा कोप27 की प्राथमिकताओं पर चर्चा की। अटेनी जेनरल ने इसके अलावा इंटरनेशनल रिनिउबल एनेजी अईजेन्सी के डायरेक्टर जेनरल फ्रान्सेसको ला केमरा से भी मुलाकात की जहाँ उन्होंने सन् दो हज़ार तीस तक फीजी के लक्ष्य पर बातें की जहाँ रिनिउबल उर्जा का पूरी तरह उपयोग करने की योजना बनाई गई है। कुछ द्वीपक्षीय सभा भी हुई कि किस तरह से फीजी को जलवायु परिवर्तन से बचने के लिए आर्थिक सहायता मिल सकती है। उन्होंने सोवरन ब्लू बोनड तैयार करने में सहायता देने के लिए युनायटेड किंगडम की सरकार तथा यू.एन.डी.पी प्रशान्तीय दफ्तर को धन्यवाद दिया है।



# Noda Viti



Ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama kei Tui Namosi Ratu Suliano Matanitabua ena bese ni yasana vakaturaga ko Namosi.

## SA TOSO KO VITI; PM BAINIMARAMA

JOSEFA ULUILEKBA

E ra dolava na bese ni Yasana ko namosi na noda Liuliu ni Matanitu ka noda Paraiminisota o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama e na siga Lotulevu na ika21 ni vula qo ka ra vakaraitaka kina na nodra marau e na nodra sureti yani me ra bau lai tiko e na soqo ya ka vakayacori e na koro o Veivatuloa.

Ra veitavaki ki vua na Paraiminista na Vunivalu na Turaga na Tui Namosi o Ratu Suliano Matanitobua ka ra vakavinanakataka na noda Liuliu ni Matanitu e na nodra yaco rawa yani e na nodratou veisureti.

E na nodra vosa e vakaraitaka kina na Turaga na Paraiminisita ni sa dua na cavuikalawa levu e sa vakayacora tiko na noda matanitu e na kena sa dolavi tale na vei vakatatabu e so ka vakaduri e na gauna ni mate dewa na COVID ka gole tiko yani kei na dua na tukutuku ni veivakadeitaki ki vei ira na wekadra mai Namosi.

“Na matanitu e sa qarava tiko na

nona utavi e Namosi ka rauta ni 48 na Milioni na dola na sau vakailavo ni veivaka torocaketaki sa qaravi oti e na loma ni yasana ka tokona vakalevu na cakacaka qori na bulabula ni noda tubu vakailavo e na loma ni ciwa na yabaki sa oti,” e kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

Ia e ra vakadreta tale ga me da na kua ni wele ka yadrava tiko na revurevu e kauta mai na draki veisau, na cagilaba lelevu ka vakabibi na tubu ni sau ni bula e vu mai na ivalu ni matanitu e rua o Rusia kei Ukreini.

“Na tuvatuva ni lavo ka se qai kaci-vaki ga qo e ra qarava na tikina qori ka raica me veiraurau tiko na sau ni bula e Viti e na kena sa mai kau tani na ivakacavacava na VAT e na 21 na ivoli e dau vakayagataka vakalevu na lewe ni vanua.”

Ra tomara ka kaya ni sa toso sara na noda vanua ka sa dua na vanua vinaka e da tu kina qo me vatauvata taki kei na gauna e sera ni mai liutaka kina na matanitu.



Era luvata tiko na kamunaga vakaturaga na vakasobu vanua vua na liuliu ni matanitu ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ko nodra matanivanua Isei Tuvoi.





# Kua ni dua e guilecavi: Akbar

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

**M**e kua ni dua na lewenivanua ena guilecavi ena toso oqo. Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua ena nodra laki vakamatanitutaka na veivuke ni matanitu I Viwa island.

Oya na soli ni generator vou, cina solar, vakadewa ni wainigunu savasava, nodra iyaya ni tataqomaki na marama ena gauna ni mat-evakavula, ibe ni jaina, wheel chairs, ivola ni wilivola ka solia na Ministiri ni Marama, Gone, kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua. Na koronivuli oqori na Viwa district school e dola ena 1961 mera qaravi kina nodra vuli na gone ena Naibalebale, Naijia kei Yakani.

Era veisiko kina na Minisita ni Vuli ena kena vakatetei tikoga na veiqaravi ni matanitu me yacovi ira yani na tiko ena taudaku ni koro levu. Ka ra laki solia kina na veivuke ni matanitu me rawa ni vakararamataki kina na nodra koro me vaka ni sega ni yacovi ira na livaliva.

Era sa vakadreti talega na lewenikoro mera manidiataka na nodra misini vou me rawa ni qaravi ira vinaka.

Vakavinaka taka na matanitu na Qasenivuli e Liu ko Jimioni Vuetaki ena veivuke levu baleti ira na gonevuli ena nodra susugi ena vuli vak-



Laki solia ko Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua Rosy Akbar na nodra generator vou, cina solar, vakadewa ni wainigunu savasava, nodra iyaya ni tataqomaki na marama ena gauna ni mat-evakavula, ibe ni jaina, wheel chairs, ivola ni wilivola ena koronivuli ko Viwa district school mera qaravi kina nodra vuli na gone ena Naibalebale, Naijia kei Yakani.

## Tavoci na porokaramu ni waimate soliwale

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

**N**a porokaramu vou ni veivuke ni soli wainimate wale ni matanitu era mai tavoca na Minisita ni Bula, Vuniwai Ifereimi Waqainabete ena Volau ni Wainimate ni matanitu mai Vatuwaqa.

Ea tavoci taumada na veivuke ni wainimate oqori ena 2015 me vakarautaka na kena vei-waseyaki vakatautauvata na wainimate vei ira na lewenivanua ena gadreva na veivuke oqo.

Oqo ena veivalenibula ni matanitu ka vakakina vei ira na veiqaravi ni vuniwai saumi. Na kena vakavuai na porokaramu oqori oya mera vakayagataka na veiqaravi ni vuniwai saumi na nodra vuniwai ka meqai veisosomitaki yani na matanitu.

Na porokaramu oqori ena vei-waseyaka na wainimate oqori ena vei vale ni wai vakamatani ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu me vukei ira na lewenivanua.



Tavoci na porokaramu ni waimate soliwale ka vakaitavi kina ko Minisita ni Bula Vuniwai Waqainabete.



## LAVETI NA VEIQARAVI NI TABACAKAKAKA NI BULA

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

**E**sa veisautaki na iwalewale ni veiqaravi e na tolu na Siteseni ni Nasi e Vanua Levu ka vakatorocake taki e na itagede ni Health Centre.

O ratou n tolu na siteseni qori e veiqaravi tiko e na tikina o Kubulau, tikina o Bua e na yasana o Bua kei na tikina o Naweni e Cakaudrove.

E na nodra a lai vesiko e na Vualiku na Minisita ni Bula e varaitaka kina ni sa vakavinaka taka tiko na nona Tabacakacaka na sala ni veiwekani kei ira na lewe ni vanua ka dua na sala e raica tiko sai koya na kena laveti na tagede ni veiqaravi.

“Sa ka bibi kina na nofra veisemati vinaka na ivakalesilesi kei ira na lewe ni vanua vakabibi e na taudaku ni vei koro lelevu,” e kaya o Vuniwai Waqainabete.

“Na nodratou mai laveti mna itagede ni siteseni ni nasi qo me sa Health Centre e tiki tiko ni veiqaravi e na loma ni tabacakacaka ka qaravi wavoki tiko e na noda vanua ka dua na kena usutu levu sai koya na vakavinakataki ni veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula.”

“Ni da raica na veideavi ni mate e na noda vanua, e solia mai kina e dua na bolebole levu me laveti cake tale na ivakarau ni veiqaravi ka sotavi na gagadre ni lewe ni vanua ka me tau-tauvata tiko na veiqaravi e na veikoro lelevu kei na taudaku ni vei koro lelevu.”

E varaitaka tale ga na Minisita ni sa na vakarautaki yani e dua na lori ni valenibula (Ambulance) me na veiqaravi main a vale ni bula e Nabouwalu.





# Sotavi na gagadre ni waitui e Palau

NANISE NEIMILA

ERA laki sotavi ira na kena dau ni vuravura ena waitui ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena boseka ni waitui ni soqosoqo ni matanitu cokovata e vuravura se United Nations ka laki sotavi Mark Drew na Pacific regional director ni WWF ka laki veitalanoataki kina na sasaga kei na gagadre ni Coral reef rescue kei na great sea reef programme.



Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei ira na ivakalesilesi eake ni waitui ena matabose cokovata ni veimatanitu e vuravura ena boseka ni waitui mai Palau

International renewal energy ni ratou sa duavata tiko kei na sasaga kei mna gagadre nei Viti ena kena rawati na takete ni kaukauwa ni livaliva vumai na vurevure savasava ma vaka na waitui kei na siga. E dua na gauna vinaka ni veitalanoa vei Viti me vaka ni rawa ni talanoataki kina na BlueBond nei Viti kei na nodra sasaga ko Viti me kerea na veivuke vakailavo ni waste management, blue shipping, blue investment funds kei na sustainable fisheries.



Ko Vunilawa kei ira na lewenivanua e Viti era veiqaravi tiko mai Palau



## Sotavi na lewei Viti mai Palau

ERA laki veisotaraki na lewei Viti era vakaitikotiko ena vanua ko Palau na Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena nodra laki boseka me baleta na Waitui. Levu vei ira na lewei Viti oqo era vakaitavi ena tabana ni bula kei na tabana ni veiqaravi ena lawa. Era veisotari ka wasea vata edua na tanoa ni veitalanoa me baleta eso na veiqaravi kei na sasaga mai kea.



Ko Vunilawa kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni bese ni waitui ka lewena talega na Baqelevu kei Vuravura kei ira na kena ivakalesilesi.

## Dikevi vou tale na veiqaravi e Vanua Levu

NANISE NEIMILA

ERA vakadreta tale na na sasaga ni matanitu o Viti na Minisita ni Veika Vakailavo, Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum baleta na kena vakatoroicaketaki ko Vanua Levu ena porokaramu ni cakacaka ni Baqe Levu kei Vuravura. Era qai veitalanoa kina kei na Daireketa ni World Bank ena Pasivika ko Stephen Ndegwa kei Paul Vallely na manidia ena wasewase pasivika. Na boseka oqo era veitalanoataki kina na vei ulutaga levu me vaka natubu ni isau ni bula, ena veiyasai vu-

ravura, na tubu ni sau ni waiwai kei na vakau iyaya ka vakakina na bole tiko na bula ni tamata yadua. Na nodratou boseka era talanoataka talega na veika esa yacovi vuravura tu nikua ka vakakina na revurevu esa taura tu oqo na noda vanua. Eratou veitalanoa taka talega na sasaga baleti Vanua Levu na kena laveti cake na rawaka vakailavo kei na veivakatoro-caketaki ena gaunisala, wavu, saravanua, vakatubuilavo, vakasucumi ni cakacaka ka vakakina na bisinisi. Edua na timi main a World bank e namaki mera gole mai kina noda vanua ena loma ni vica na macawa mai oqo me baleta na sasaga oqo.

## Lagiti na veiqaravi ni UN Women

MINISTRY OF WOMEN

ERA vakalagilagia na veiqaravi ni soqosoqo ni marama ena matabose cokovata kei vuravura na Minisita ni Marama Rosy Akbar. Rogo nodra vosa ena nodrau boseka kei na Mata ni Soqosoqo ni Marama ena Pasivika ko Sandra Bernklau ena dua na nodra boseka ena monalivaliva. Era vakaraitaka na Minisita na nodra vakavinaka kina

na soqosoqo ni marama ena matabose cokovata kei vuravura ena veivuke veu Viti vakabibi na kena mai biuvata edua na Fiji National Action Plan ena kena vakalailaitaki kei na valuti ni nodra vakalolomataki na marama. Esa gadrevi tikoga kina na sasaga oqo na veitauriliga ni vei tabana vakamatani kei ira na soqosoqo veiwekani main a lotu, soqosoqo vakamarama kei ira na lewenivanua raraba ena kena laveti ka cuqeni na sasaga oqo.



Ko Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua Rosy Akbar kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura ena tabana ni Marama.







## Vukei ka laveti ko Serua

Ni da veitalanoataka na Serua eda vinakata, ena yaga meda na raica tale mada na veika sa qarava na matanitu me baleta na yasana mai na 2014 ina 2021.

Sa vakayagataka na matanitu e \$49,192,716 ena kena vakatoro-caketaki na yasana.

Oqori na ilavo a vakayagataki vakatabakidua ina veitikotiko okati kina e 20 na milioni na dola ena ta gaunisala, 10 na milioni ena sala ni veitaratara, sivia e 5 na milioni ena koronivuli, e sivia e 2.6 na milioni ena vei-vakalivalivataki ka sivia e 1 na milioni ena vuku ni vakadrodroi ni wai savasava. Ena rawa meu vakamatatataka na veika sa vakayagataki ena vuku ni yaubula,

valuti ni dravudravua, teitei, tei kau, na qoliqoli kei na veiqaravi tale eso. Na kena usutu, ni sa levu sara na veivuke vakamatani e yaga ena Yasana o Serua.

Sa vinaka sara na vanua sa yacova o Serua. Sa tosocake na itagede ni bula ka na taraicake tikoga. A qaravi duadua beka ga o Serua? Sega. Ia, keitou cakava me ciqoma talega o Serua na veivuke vakamatani. Keitou a rogoca na domomuni kei na nomuni gagadre. Au sa yalataka qo vei kemuni kei ira na noda lewenivanua taucoko – na yalayala oqo e sega vakadua ni veisau ena veiyabaki ni noqu veiqaravi vakaParaiminisita.



Ko PM Bainimarama ena boseka ni yasana ko Serua kei ira na ivakalesilesi vakamatani, leweni bese ni yasana ka vakakina oira na veiqaravi vakavanua. Itaba: Josefa Uluilakeba



# Lagiti na veiwekani kei Canada



Ko PM Bainimarama kei na mata vou ni matanitu ko Canada Joanne Lemay. Itaba: Josefa Uluilakeba

**N**a veiwekani nei Viti kei Canada esa lagiti na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. Oqori ena nodra visiko mai na mata vou ni matanitu ko Canada Joanne Lemay. Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama nira na tomana tiko na nona matanitu na veiwekani vinaka kei na matanitu ko Canada. Vakabibi ena gauna eda salako curuma tiko oqo oya ena Draki veisau ka vakakina ena gauna ni COVID-19 me vaka ni vakaleqai na vurevure ni rawaka vakailavo ka sa veivuke tiko mai kina ko Canada ena matanitu ko Viti. Soli nodra vakanuini vinaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama kin a matanitu ko Canada



## Ciqomi na mata mai Austria

**E**RA ciqoma na mata ni matanitu mai Austria ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra valenivolavola. Vakavinakataka na mata ko Wolfgang Lukas Strohmayer ena veiwekani sa bu-cini kei na matanitu ko Viti ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama. Vakauasivi ena vei vuke ni matanitu ko Austria ena COVAX facility se baleta na COVID 19 ka veuvuke ena kena qaravi na cula ni lewenivanua ka laki vakavuna sarana na kena dolavi na veiyalayala ni vanua ni oti na vakatatabu.



Ko PM kei na mata ni matanitu ko Austria. Itaba: Azaria Fareen





# Vale Ni Nasi E Galoa, Bua

**E**ra marautaka na lewe ni koro o Galoa e na yasana o Bua na veika e sa lai vakaraitaka yani ki vei ira na Minisita ni Bula o Vuniwai Ifereimi Waqainabete e na nodra a taleva yani na yanuyanu e na vula sa oti.

Qo e na kena sa vakarau lai tauyavu taki yani e na yanuyanu o Galoa e dua na siteseni ni Nasi me qarava na yanuyanu e tolu o Galoa, Yaqaga kei Tavea.

Dua na dredre e rad au sotava na lewe ni yanuyanu sai koya na nodra dau vakaleleci na tauvimate e na gauna ni drake ca me r alai qaravi e na Valeniwai e Lekutu ka ra kerea kina ki na matanitu me bau dua na nodra siteseni ni Nasi e yanuyanu.

Varaitaka o Tevita Vukavuka ni gagadre qo e vu tale ga mai ni tiko

e dua na korovuli e yanuyanu ka na veivuke na Nasi e na kena raici na nodra tiko bulabula na gone.

“E rauta ni 1000 na lewe ni vanua e ra tiko e na yanuyanu e tolu ka na veivuke sara vakalevu na Nasi ni sa na mai vakatikori e yanuyanu, e kaya ko Vukavuka.

“A dau mai tataou tug a ni kena tara e dua na vale ni nasi na kena dau dredre tu na wai e yanuyanu, ia qo ni sa yaco main a wai e sa vakarawarawataka saran a neimani gagadre.”

E vakadeitaki ira na lewe ni yanuyanu na Minisita ka kaya ni sa ratou na cakacaka taka na ivakalesilesi na veika e na gadrevi ni bera ni teki-vutaki na veivaka toro calatila

- JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA



Itaba: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA



Minisita ni Bula Vuniwai Waqainabete kei ira na lewenivanua e Bua. Oira na ivakalesilesi ni matanitu mai Bua ka vaka kina oira na lewenivanua mai Bua ena gauna e visiko voli kina mai keya.



## Vakavinavinakataki Na ‘Tiko Savasava’



Minisita ni Bula Vuniwai Waqainabete kei ira na lewenivanua mai Bua ena nodra visiko voli mai keya ena vunau taki ni vei qaravi ni bula savasava ka vakakina na veivakatorocaketaki baleta na vale ni vakacegu.



**E**sa vakadinadinakataki ni rau veiwekani vinaka na savasava ni noda itikotiko kei na noda tiko bulabula na lewena.

Qo na ka e vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Bula o Vuniwai Ifereimi Waqainabete e na nona veisiko voli mai Vanua Levu e na vula sa oti.

E na nodra veitalanoa kei ira na lewe ni tikina o Wainunu, e kaya kina o Vuniwai Waqainabete ni dua na iyaragi levu duadua ni valuti ni mate na Minimanu, Taifote kei na Deqi sai koya na noda dau raica me savasava vinaka na noda itikotiko ka dua na kena ivakaraitaki vinaka e a raica e nay asana vakaturaga o Bua.

“E laurai ni lutu na kisi ni vei mate e so e na veivanua e ra qarava vinaka na nodra tiko savasava dua na itavi levu e rau vakaitavi kina na valenivolavola ni Roko Tui kei na Tabacakacaka ni Bula e na kena

tarai cake na vei tuvatuva e so,” e kaya ko Vuniwai Waqainabete.

“Na ituvatuva ni kena vakatorocake taki na vale ni vakacegu e na vei koro e sa qaravi tiko e na veiyasai Viti ka sa sivia na 1000 e sa vakadaberi rawa e na noda vei koro e gadrevi kina.”

Ra varaitaka tale ga na Minisita ni sa na laveti cake na vei qaravi e na Siteseni ni Nasi e Namalata ka me sa vei qaravi e na tagede ni Heath Centre ka sa dua tale ga na kena Vuniwai me na vei qaravi e na loma ni tikina o Kubulau.

E vakavinavinaka taki ira tale na lewe ni Yasana ko Bua e na nodra tokona na sasaga ni Matanitu e na nodra cula e na icaula ni tatarovi ni mate dewa na COVID-19.

- JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA





# Meda goleva edua na sala ni loloma kei na duavata: PM

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

**N**a volau ni bucini itei e qarava tiko edua na itavi bibi ena tabana ni veivakatoricaketi ni tei kakana ena noda vanua. Oqori na vanua e bucini kina na itei ni kakana nib era ni kena laki kaburaki ena qele vakarautaki me baleta na teitei. Eka bibi sara okoya ka sega ni rawata vakadua me da sega ni vakavakayagataki ira. Oqori eso na imala ni vosa nodra na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra laki tavoca edua na volau vou ni bucini itei mai Koronivia ena Tabana ni Teitei ni noda matanitu.

‘Ni da tukuna na veivakatorocaketaki lewa matau ena teivaki ni qele lewa matau eda tukuna tiko na teitei vakayalomatua ka vakayagataki kina na veimataqali kila ni teitei me rawa ni bucini ka teivaki kina eso na itei ni kakana vou,’kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

‘Kevaka eda vinakata meda vakarautaka edua na vurevure ni kakana lewa matau ena noda vanua ena dodonu meda vakarautaka na tei ni kakana vinaka kei na kena gagaca vei ira na dautei, kei ira na veitabana ni veiqaravi ni teitei. Sa kena ibalebale oya meda vaka qaqacotaka noda rawaka ena itei bucini ena volau ni bucini itei.

Na volau ni bucini itei oqo ena bucini kina e milioni na veimataqali itei ka na tubu mera itei bulabula ka rawa nira volataki ena makete ena isau rawarawa talega. Oqo edua gauna talei vei Viti.



Minisita ni Bula Vuniwai Waqainabete kei ira na lewenivanua e Bua. Oira na ivakalesilesi ni matanitu mai Bua ka vaka kina oira na lewenivanua mai Bua ena gauna e visiko voli kina mai keya.

# Tavoci edua na volau vou ni bucini itei e Koronivia

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

**N**a volau ni bucini itei e qarava tiko edua na itavi bibi ena tabana ni veivakatoricaketi ni tei kakana ena noda vanua. Oqori na vanua e bucini kina na itei ni kakana nib era ni kena laki kaburaki ena qele vakarautaki me baleta na teitei. Eka bibi sara okoya ka sega ni rawata vakadua me da sega ni vakavakayagataki ira. Oqori eso na imala ni vosa nodra na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra laki tavoca edua na volau vou ni bucini itei mai Koronivia ena Tabana ni Teitei ni noda matanitu.

‘Ni da tukuna na veivakatorocaketaki lewa matau ena teivaki ni qele lewa matau eda tukuna tiko na teitei vakayalomatua ka vakayagataki kina na veimataqali kila ni teitei me rawa ni bucini ka teivaki kina eso na itei ni kakana vou,’kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

‘Kevaka eda vinakata meda vakarautaka edua na vurevure ni kakana lewa matau ena noda vanua ena dodonu meda vakarautaka na tei ni kakana vinaka kei na kena gagaca vei ira na dautei, kei ira na veitabana ni veiqaravi ni teitei. Sa kena ibalebale oya meda vaka qaqacotaka noda rawaka ena itei bucini ena volau ni bucini itei.

Na volau ni bucini itei oqo ena bucini kina e milioni na veimataqali itei ka na tubu mera itei bulabula ka rawa nira volataki ena makete ena isau rawarawa talega. Oqo edua gauna talei vei Viti.



Ko PM kei na mata ni matanitu ko Canada ena soqo ni dola ni volau ni bucini itei mai Koronivia.



# Noda Viti

## VAKANUINUI VINAKA NA PERESITEDI KI NA BOSE NI WAITUI

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

EE ra dolava e na mataka ni siga Vukelulu na ika20 ni siga ni vula ko Evereli na Turaga na Peresitedi o Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere e dua na veitalanoa me baleta na waitui ka vakatokai vaka Peretania me Fiji National Seascape Symposium e na otela na Grand Pacific e Suva. Ra marauataka na nodra mai dolava ka ra kaya kina ni qo se qai matai ni veivosaki vaka oqo e vakayacori e na noda vanua ka me vakaitavi kina na vei soqosoqo veiwekani tuvakai ira vata kei na matanitu.

Ra tomana ka kaya ni sa dua na ivakaraitaki vinaka qo ka vakadeitaka ni sa cavukalawa tiko na noda matanitu e na kena maroroi na noda yaubula vakabibi na noda waitui.

“Na noda vanua e dua na matanitu e na ceva ni Pasivika e levu taudua na kena wasawasa ka sa vu ni bula tale tiko ga vei ira e vuqa na lewe ni vanua qo ka ra sa tuvata tale ga na kena i walewale e na kena maroroi na vei sasalu eso me rawa ni ra bula tale ga kina na muri tiko mai,” e ra kaya e na nodra vosa.

“Dua na leqa e sa vakilai tiko e na gauna qo na kena sa tatara sara tiko vakalevu na revurevu ni draki veisau e na noda vei cakau, na tubu ni yalyalaya ni waitui kei na katakata ka sa lai vakavuna na nodra tokitaki e vuqa na veikoro kei na tikotiko e ra tiko e na vei baravi.”

Tomana o Peresitedi Katonivere ka kaya ni noda vanua e sa boleli ira tiko na vei matanitu lelevu e na kena vakaukauwa taki na vei vakatutu e so me rawa ni maroroi kina na noda waitui.

Cakacaka tiko ina na noda matanitu e na kena vakadeitaka na kena taqomaki na veicakau lelevu ka viribaita tiko na noda vanua.

Oka kina na Cakaulevu se Great Sea Reef, na Vatu i Ra na Cakaubalavu mai Kadavu se na Astrolabe reef kei na wasawasa vaka Lau ka koto kina e vica na cakau levu.



Era ciqoma tiko na bilo ni yaqona vakaturaga na Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere ena nodra dolava na bose ni waitui.

Na Cakaulevu e ka tolu ni cakau balavu taudua e vura-vura ka tiko kina e vuqa na veimataqali sasalu, na dogo ka sema tale ga yani ki na Vatu i Ra.

E tiko na kena levu e na 1,200 na kilomita vakarivirivi ka davo koto e na daku i Macuata, cici sobu vaka ki Bua, takoso sara yani ki na wasawasa vaka Ba ka yaco sara yani e Nadroga.

Sa vakaitavi tale tiko ga kina na soqosoqo ni maroroi ni yaubula na Wildlife Conservation Society vata kei ira na vei tikotiko e Ra, Bua, Lomaiviti, Tailevu kei na vei vanua e Cakaudrove e na kena maroroi e rauta ni 28,000 na kilomita va

karivirivi me taqomaki kina na iyaubula e waitui

E Kadavu e vakaitavi tiko kina na FLAMA se na Fiji Locally Managed Marine Network e na kena taqomaki ka maroroi na Cakaubalavu na Astrolabe Reef.

Dua tale na isoqosoqo na Conservation International, e cakacaka vata tiko kei na Vanua o Lau e na kena vakaveiwekani taki na bulabula ni nodra waitui kei na kena maroroi mai vei ira na 9,600 na lewe ni yasana vakaturaga o Lau.

Ra vakanuinui vinaka kina na Turaga na Peresitedi ki vei ira na lewena na veivosaki qo ni na 3 na siga yaga me baleta na waitui.



Era dabe toka na Peresitedi ena dola ni bose ni waitui. Era vakasarava toka na itaba ena dua na iteveli ni veivakararamataki ena bose ni waitui.

**VOQA NI DAVUI**

**Radio Fiji One**  
Moniti - Tusiti  
8.30pm [15 na miniti]

**Radio Fiji One**  
Vukelulu - Lotulevu  
8pm [30 na miniti]

**Radio Fiji One**  
Siga Tabu  
9.05am [30 na miniti]