

FijiFocus

PM officiates at FNU Fiji Day celebrations



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Fiji National University students during the Fiji Day celebrations last week. [MORE ON FIJI DAY CELEBRATIONS: INSIDE](#). Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

PM: You are our 'FUTURE'

NANISE NEIMILA

“YOU are the generation that will define our future. You are the foundation, the rock of a Fiji that will build upon the progress that we have fought so

hard to achieve.”

This was a message by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama as Fiji heads into the second half of the century, while officiating at the Fiji Day celebrations with students of the Fiji National University last week.

Prime Minister Bainimarama reminded the students that while the older generation shaped Fiji’s independence, they were “the generation that will shape where we go next”.

“You are the generation that will take the

baton we pass to you and run with it, full speed ahead. You are the generation that has tapped into your full potential, seizing

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Voreqe
Bainimarama

I'm convinced that when you give people an opportunity to learn by breaking down the barriers to education — and especially the barrier of poverty — they will seize it. And I'm proud to be in front of an audience this afternoon that has seized that opportunity with eager arms and even more eager mind.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Prime Minister

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Faiyaz Koya @FaiyazKoya

It's a rare privilege to witness the birth of a nation, then see it blossom into a country that has truly made a difference in the world. I was honored to share this day in my hometown Lautoka, with Fijians who also witnessed our independence in 1970. #FIJI50

CONTACT

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

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

Fijian history immortalised

FELIX LESINAIVALU

EVEN in these trying times, nothing can rob us of our spirits, and our sense of patriotism, as we look back at all that Fiji has achieved in the past 50 years.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, speaking at the unveiling of Fiji's 50 years of independence commemorative banknote and coin at the Grand Pacific Hotel, said "nothing can take away our undying optimism as we look ahead, knowing that we are strong, that we are resilient, and that the best is yet to come."

He said this while referring to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which has affected the world and Fiji.

"Fiji, even though we are safe from the virus, something just doesn't sit well in hosting lavish celebrations as our people bear the burden of the global economic fall-out COVID-19 has created," PM Bainimarama said.

"I'm proud to announce that this cherished moment in Fijian history has been immortalized on the front of a newly-designed \$50-dollar banknote."

"With highlights of Fiji blue, bright yellow and the familiar orange of our 50-dollar bill, the commemorative polymer \$50-banknote is strikingly vibrant and colourful, adding to Fiji's already-beautiful collection of bills known around the world for their tropical flair."

Reserve Bank of Fiji governor, Ariff Ali said in the humble spirit of celebration and unity, the Reserve Bank of Fiji is honoured to mark our 50 years of love, care, shared prosperity, inclusiveness, equality and freedom, in the unveiling tonight of a new banknote and coin, to commemorate 50 years of Fiji's independence.

"I wish to highlight in stating these trends



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at the unveiling of Fiji's 50 years of independence commemorative banknote and coin at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

is that the growth and improvement in these indicators, showcase a nation that has made considerable economic progress over the last five decades."

"Of course, our journey has not been easy. We confronted challenges both foreseen and unforeseen, that tested our resolve, but at the

same time provided us the unique opportunities to put aside our differences for the collective good of our country, just as we have been experiencing in the current pandemic.

"With all that we have been through over the years, we have shown time and time again that we are a nation of resilient people."

Official Fiji50 commemorative postage stamp released

RONAL DEO

POSTAGE stamps are important symbols of national sovereignty and identity around the world.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama made these comments while introducing the postage stamp to commemorate Fiji's 50 years of independence at the Post Fiji outlet in Suva.

"We are also celebrating World Post Day, which marks the creation of the Universal Postal Union or UPU in 1874, which is the same year Fiji was ceded to the British," the Prime Minister said.

He stressed that mail service has been critical to people in their everyday lives, to businesses and to global social development.

Postal co-operation, Prime Minister Bainimarama stressed, has been very important to Fiji because we are far from most of the countries with which we exchange mail and parcels.

"We benefit from standardised rates and the mutual recognition that the members of the UPU give each other's post. We follow that same principle in Fiji, where it costs 38 cents to mail a letter, whether it travels from one part of Suva to another or from Ono-i-Lau to Rotuma. This is one way we



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama unveils the postage stamp to commemorate Fiji's 50 years of independence at the Post Fiji outlet in Suva. Photo: RONAL DEO

bring our country closer together."

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the stamp being launched has a face value of 38 cents, so it can be placed on any letter to be sent anywhere in Fiji with a circulation period of two years before being withdrawn.

"I urge all Fijians to show their pride in our 50 years of Independence by seeking out this stamp and using it. I know we don't send as many letters as we used to because we now rely so much on email and texts, but we still use the Post. And we can celebrate our proud 50

years of Independence every time we do," he said.

"This anniversary will only happen once in our lifetime, so a sheet of these stamps can be a keepsake or a gift that will help anyone remember this proud moment long into the future."

He commended Post Fiji for another beautiful design, a design that has an elegant simplicity as it shows the Fiji flag and the official 50 Years of Fijian Independence logo.

"The design also includes the words "celebrating 50 years of

Fijian Independence," because this postage stamp will travel the world, and we need to inform people about Fiji. It will be sought by collectors everywhere and will appear suddenly in the mailboxes of people who receive letters from Fiji.

"In fact, I am told that 99 per cent of the people who collect Fijian stamps are international customers. They have standing accounts with Post Fiji's Philatelic Bureau, and they are already ordering this stamp," the Head of Government said.

PM: You are our future

FROM PAGE 1

on the opportunities at your feet by taking advantage of free primary and secondary schooling, and unprecedented access to tertiary institutions like FNU.”

“You are the generation that will represent Fiji on the world stage, known not as a colony that answers to the whims of a greater power, but to the needs of our people. It’s all you’ll ever know and for that, you are the future.”

The Head of Government told students during his term as Prime Minister the best way of opening opportunity for Fiji was to open opportunity for the young people.

“First and foremost, we needed to give our people all of our people the opportunity to gain an education.”

“I’m convinced that when you give people an opportunity to learn by breaking down the barriers to education — and especially the barrier of poverty — they will seize it. And I’m proud to be in front of an audience this afternoon that has seized that opportunity with eager arms and even more eager minds.”

Fiji National University (FNU) acting Vice-Chancellor Dr William May said that although the FNU was merely 10 years young this year, it played a small yet crucial role in shaping Fiji.

“Despite being merely 10 years young, we have a rich history through our former national institutions dating back to the 1800s,” Dr May said.

“Our alumni, such as our esteemed Chief Guest himself, have become leaders and politicians, medical professionals, teachers, creative artists, sports personalities, engineers, successful entrepreneurs, tradespeople, and play many other crucial roles that make up the fabric of this country.”

“As we leap into our next decade as a University, together with the continued support of the Fijian Government, we do so with confidence and the determination to take education to the next level in Fiji.”

FNU Student Association (FNUSA) President, Ketan Lal acknowledged the work of the Fijian Government in the education sector and said FNU students were grateful for the opportunities, support and facilities available to them.

Konrote: Stand together

AZARIA FAREEN

“WHEN we stand together, as friends, as family, as fellow Fijians, there is no challenge we cannot overcome and there is nothing we cannot achieve.”

This was the message to the nation by the President Major-General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote in an address to the nation after the national celebrations of Fiji’s 50th anniversary of independence at Albert Park in Suva.

In addressing hundreds of Fijians following the celebrations which culminated in a sea of blue to watch the military parade and the 21 gun salute, President Konrote told Fijians; “Today is our day – our Fiji-50 Day – and no virus, no once-in-a-century crisis can temper the love we share for our nation, our people and our home”.

“I began our 50th Anniversary celebrations in Levuka, Fiji’s first capital under the colonial government where I journeyed through history, visiting the 1874 Deed of Cession site and speaking with those who lived through our independence in 1970,” President Konrote said.

“This Fiji Day will not be remembered for being lavish but it will be remembered. History will tell that today, despite the great adversity we faced, our spirits were not broken. In good spirits and good health, Fijians in every city, town, community, including our most rural and maritime regions, proudly celebrated our 50-year journey as a nation.”

“Together, over these five decades, Fijians have risen to heights some never imagined, but which we always saw for ourselves. We are a major contributor to peacekeeping in the world, and a world leader in the fight to combat climate change and protect our oceans,” President Konrote added.

He proudly added that Fiji is the economic hub of the South Pacific, the leader in aviation, finance, telecommunications, and technology, trade, and commerce and we have vastly expanded our networks of infrastructure and have put the ills of the past behind us.

“Today all Fijians share common and equal citizenry and equal votes of equal value, along with a vast array of political and socioeconom-



President Major-General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote with members of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces during the military parade at Albert Park, Suva last week. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

ic rights in our Fijian Constitution,” President Konrote said.

“Our rugbys have come home from the Olympic Games with gold around their necks. We have played host to major international meetings and sporting events and while our borders may be closed today, we are still one of the world’s most desirable tourist destinations.”

“Our success is not owed to luck or chance but because of our people; with their diverse strengths and skillsets, have together propelled Fiji forward, both knowingly and unknowingly. Because we have united, because we worked hard, and because we have pooled our talents, we have built a great nation; we have defined what it truly means to be a Fijian,” His Excellency added.

The Head of State said to be a Fijian is to have courage and optimism and to love this country, love your neighbors, and look after your fellow citizens, irrespective of their background. Because to be a resilient people, we must be

a strong people, a caring people, and a united people.

“Together we have done great things, and together we will do more great things in the next 50 years,” President Konrote said.

The Head of State also acknowledged the many youngster who took part in a competition – “What makes Fiji Special”, particularly Alexandra Surendra and Ana Maria Tovate from Saint Joseph’s Secondary School who said that “regardless of our country’s spectacular scenery and our exceptional experiences, it is the Fijian people who together make our journey complete”.

“No matter how we arrived here, no matter who our ancestors are, we all make Fiji special, we all make Fiji stronger,” President Konrote said.

“So, to every Fijian, wherever you are, however you are celebrating, I thank you for all you do to make Fiji special, and I wish you a very happy Fiji-50 day.”

Prince Charles tells of Fiji memories

TO mark the 50th anniversary of Fiji’s independence, The Prince of Wales has sent his “special blessings and congratulations” to President Konrote, Prime Minister Bainimarama, and the people of the Republic of Fiji via video message.

In the video, The Prince reflects on his memories of the Independence Ceremony in 1970. His Royal Highness represented Her Majesty The Queen at the ceremony in Suva, and afterwards visited communities across the islands.

On the morning of 10th October, five Fijian Soldiers of The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland visited The Duke of Rothesay at Birkhall.

His Royal Highness was presented with a Tabua, during

the arrival ceremony on behalf of the Fijian community by Sergeant Lawaci, who was awarded the Queen’s Gallantry Medal in 2005 for his services in Iraq.

The Fijian Soldiers danced the ‘Lakalaka’.

The Lakalaka is a celebration of life traditionally performed at formal occasions such as the birthday of The King.

The Duke of Rothesay, also watched a recorded performance of Fijian Soldiers at Fort George, who were unable to attend, dancing the ‘Raude’. The Raude is a fan dance which tells the story of an explorer on an expedition crossing the equator.

- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCE OF WALES



Prince of Charles with Castaway Island Resort staff during his visit to Fiji in 2005. Photo: SUPPLIED



Jahan encourages education for girls



I have gained great happiness in 32 years of my radio career by living in the hearts of my listeners and viewers through my hard work. I feel very satisfied when I get blessings from my listeners for putting a smile on their faces for doing something very small for them.

Noor Jahan
Radio personality for
Radio Fiji Two at the Fijian
Broadcasting Corporation



Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote pins the 50th Anniversary Independence Medal on the Fijian Flag designer, 77-year-old Noor Jahan at the State House. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

AZARIA FAREEN AND RONAL DEO

“I AM unable to put it into words but the respect that has been bestowed upon me and the happiness I am feeling is all due to god blessing me with this honour and my parents for their vision to educate girls which has brought me this far.”

These were the sentiments shared by the recipient of the 50th Independence Anniversary Medal, Noor Jahan, who is a radio personality for Radio Fiji Two, a Hindi station at the Fijian Broadcasting Corporation.

Mrs Jahan was born in a small village called Nabila, about 35 kilometers away from Nadi town and her father was a sugarcane farmer who also used to plant other cash crops.

Her father had to walk 2.5 kilometers to the post office to put through money order for magazines from India which were read by everyone in her home.

“Today, I am 77 years old and in the 50s and 60s it was very difficult for parents in Fiji to focus on educating their daughters. We were 12 siblings and my parents had a vision of educating them all starting with always having a reading environment,” she said.

“My siblings are all well-educat-

ed today so just imagine how visionary my father, Abdul Gafoor was. All the prayers for him will never be enough to thank him,” Mrs Jahan added.

“There is a saying that behind every successful man there is a woman, similarly behind every successful woman there is a man. Behind a successful woman the support of her life partner, visionary father or brother is very important otherwise things get difficult.”

Mrs Jahan says her husband has been very supportive of her since they got married 51 years ago and she also attributes her success to him.

“I have gained great happiness in 32 years of my radio career by living in the hearts of my listeners and viewers through my hard work. I feel very satisfied when I get blessings from my listeners for putting a smile on their faces for doing something very small for them,” Mrs Jahan said.

“Our Prophet had said that when we educate a daughter, it is similar to educating a new family. If you educate a son, you are only educating him, however, when educating a daughter, you are giving her the skills to look after a new generation.”

“It is not absolutely necessary

that you get an education just to find employment, but learning and getting educated is very important and this also includes the education of your religion,” she added.

Mrs Jahan stressed that educating daughters is really important and parents should not think that they have wasted a lot of money on them but ask those parents whose daughters are successful in life and they will tell you how proud they are of their achievements.

Former teacher awarded for her service

AZARIA FAREEN

Having a career in the teaching field spanning 55-years is not an easy feat and for her efforts 80-year-old Raditini Manueli was bestowed the Fiji 50th Anniversary Independence Commemorative Medal recently.

In an investiture ceremony held at the State House in Suva, the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, who is also the Chancellor of the Order of Fiji, acknowledged and appropriately rewarded about 31 individuals who have served selflessly and contributed immensely towards Fiji's socio-economic and political progress and development.

“This is a great achievement and blessing and I thank god for letting me reach this number of years in my life and to also receive this great honour to receive a medal at this stage of my life,” Mrs Manueli said.

“I graduated from Corpus Christi Teachers College in the year 1961 and started teaching in 1962. I taught as a civil servant until I turned 55 years old, took a nine month break to the United States and started teaching again when I got back to Fiji,” she said.

“I taught at Yat Sen School and then I worked at the Institute of Education at the University of the South Pacific where I worked in the Literacy Centre and processed children's storybooks while advising teachers and parents on what kind of stories to use for children's literacy and language development.”

“I worked there for quite a while and taught English at the Pacific Regional Seminary for a bit before going back to Corpus Christie to teach religious education. This is where I continued with my teaching career until I turned 77-years-old,” she added.

Mrs Manueli started teaching little children, setting the base for their education and development for a long time before taking up a post in the training college.

“I encourage the teachers to do the best they can for the children or the adults they teach and get our young people into the teaching profession because for me teaching is a very noble profession,” she said.

“Teaching is not easy but you have to be loyal, devoted and have the passion I had and I wish I could go back into the classroom especially with the few year olds in class 1, setting the foundation for the children.”

Mrs Manueli reveals she was 30-years-old when she witnessed Fiji gain independence from British rule in October 1970.

“Fiji gaining independence for me was giving a sense of the country coming of age as I believed we were now able to take care of ourselves and we didn't need Britain to look after us anymore,” she said.

She directed a mass choir during the visit of Pope John Paul II to Fiji in 1986 and also led 500 voices for Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara's funeral in 2004.



Eighty-year-old Raditini Manueli (sitting) was bestowed the Fiji 50th Anniversary Independence Commemorative Medal recently. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**



Setareki Macanawai with wife Ana Macanawai after being awarded the 50th Anniversary of Independence commemorative medal at a Special Investiture Ceremony held at the State House. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Macanawai dedicates medal to the disable community

NANISE NEIMILA

LOSING his eye site at the age of 17 some 39 years ago, Setareki Macanawai never imagined that he would be recognised for his contribution to people living with disability.

“Contributing 38 years of service to the disability community of Fiji has surely been an honour. I would like to thank the Government for its contribution in recognising people that have contributed to nation building and the civil society.”

“I was not expecting to receive this medal but I believe that this is a team effort that is from all our collective contributions we have made, especially contributions made towards the community of people living with disability.

Mr Macanawai believes that as individuals, “we do not grow weary of doing good, we keep on doing good and the harvest will come”.

“Regardless if you are being recognised then or now our challenge is contributing to nation building and with everyone’s contribution it will make a whole lot of difference.”

Mr Macanawai was among the 32 Fijian recipients being awarded the 50th Anniversary of Independence commemorative medal at a Special Investiture Ceremony held at the State House.

He is a leading disability advocate in the Pacific region and has served in the committees of many international and regional organizations concerned with disability.

Mr Macanawai is currently the CEO for the Pacific Disability Forum and had previously served as the Executive Director for the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons and as the Head Teacher of the Fiji School for the Blind.

He was instrumental in developing Fiji’s first national policy on disability, using the Biwako Millennium Framework of Action as a model and is also a member of AusAID’s Disability-Inclusive Development Reference Group (DRG), a small honorary advisory group, comprising international and Australian leaders and active participants in disability-inclusive development.

‘Flag is your identity’

NANISE NEIMILA

SHE is well-known for designing the Fijian flag 50 years ago and for 85-year-old Tessa McKenzie celebrating the country’s 50th independence was an honour.

A school teacher by profession, Mrs McKenzie has called Fiji her home since 1961 and in search of a new flag before Fiji gained independence in 1970, she was amongst the thousands that entered the national competition.

At 85 years old, she fondly remembers her flag design being chosen 50 years ago which is a moment that she “holds dear to her heart”.

“I think a flag is important for a country because it’s kind of your symbol and it’s your identity,” said Mrs. McKenzie.

“When you’re faced with the temptation (because the competition got me tempted to enter), it’s quite a big responsibility and I thought about it very carefully at that time. I wanted to try and so I looked at flags around the world and I thought well.”

“To start with, I thought to keep the union flag because that’s our history. History is part of your make up and you can’t change it.”

“With all history, there are some good and some bad and you learn from history. If and when there are mistakes, then you learn from those mistakes and if there were things that went well, then you build on that.”

Mrs McKenzie was among the 32 recipients who were awarded the commemorative medals at the Special Investiture ceremony held at the State House last week during Fiji’s 50th Independence celebration.

“The flag belongs to Fiji, I can be called the flag lady but it’s great to be part of this history. Fiji has come a long way. It’s had a lot of mistakes and we all make mistakes.”

“Let’s hope that for the next 50 years that as a country we will make better progress because I think we have gone backwards not in every way but in some ways. And I believe that there is a lot that we can make our country



Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote pins the 50th Anniversary Independence Medal on the Fijian flag designer, 85-year-old Tessa McKenzie at the State House. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

better.”

Mrs McKenzie was surprised to be nominated as one of the recipients however, she was honored to be chosen for the award.

“To receive this commemorative medal, it’s good to remember the flag and to realise that it has so much meaning for all us and I always love to see when people hold the flag with so much pride even though we are losing in any rugby match,” she said.

In recognition for her contribution to the country’s national flag, Mrs. McKenzie was awarded for services worthy of particular recognition as the contributor to the Fiji Flag.

She attributed her medal to her late husband whom she said would have been proud and all her family members.

I think a flag is important for a country because it’s kind of your symbol and it’s your identity ... To start with, I thought to keep the union flag because that’s our history. History is part of your make up and you can’t change it.

Tessa McKenzie

Patriotic singer commends Govt for award

AZARIA FAREEN

FOR 70-year-old Jese Mucunabitu, receiving the Fiji 50th Anniversary Independence Commemorative Medal from the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote this week was nothing short of unbelievable.

Mr Mucunabitu has been singing for many years and most of his songs are about the beauty of Fiji which he promotes a lot.

“I am honoured to receive this medal and I thank my country Fiji as a whole, the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and everyone who has treasured and loved my songs throughout the years,” he said.

“I really have to commend the Government for hosting this event as there

are so many people that have put so much effort into this country and done a lot for Fiji who need to be applauded.”

“Some may get awards and some may not but despite it they still contribute towards Fiji being a better place and all the recipients present here today were well-deserving of the award while there are more people out there who deserve the same,” he added.

Mr Mucunabitu is a popular Fijian singer who has been providing entertainment since the age of 20-years-old and has sung popular tunes like Whispering Palms, Fascinating Fiji, Stars Over Fiji and Tropical Dawn.

The singer, whose voice is distinctly known over the radio has launched multiple albums made up of old songs

which have been given an upbeat and modern tempo to liven them up.

“I am over 70-years-old now and I am still singing and whenever I travel around the world, I am always proud of singing about this exquisite country I call home,” the patriotic singer said.

Mr Mucunabitu has travelled all over the world performing and promoting Fiji as a holiday destination and has been entertaining at the Fiji Day celebrations in Australia for many years.

“After travelling to different countries around the world, the biggest satisfaction that I have and everyone else should have is coming back home to Fiji because Fiji is unique,” he said.

“I just want to tell everyone to be proud of this beautiful nation, don’t give up and keep persevering and pushing ahead to build a better Fiji.”



Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote pins the 50th Anniversary Independence Medal on 70-year-old Jese Mucunabitu at the State House. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with staff of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs during their Independence Day Celebrations at Nasese, Suva. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Independence the first leap

FELIX LESINAIVALU

WE knew independence was only the first great leap, that the coming decades could bring us many challenges.

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs Independence Day Celebrations in Suva.

“Even as a young boy, I remember the great pride that we shared as a nation, and the feeling of unity, of being one and of being whole. I remember the great hope and great potential that we felt for

our country,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“At the time, the idea of forming a new, independent country, one with not only our own flag but our own Government with our own fate in our hands, was in some ways, intimidating.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that if we wanted to build a truly great nation it would take hard work, it would take every measure of our resilience and it would demand sacrifices.

He also said that it would require we find strength in one another; that we stand together, as one people, in both

good times and the bad.

“As we come together to celebrate, a half-century later, Fiji, like nations around the world, is left dealing with the economic fall-out of a global pandemic.”

“Still, we can take comfort in those things that drive us, the resilience and unity of our people, our togetherness, and our eternal flame of hope. Again, the future is uncertain.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said “if we stand together and look out for one another, we will press through this crisis onto better days, and we will be stronger for having endured it”.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama unveils a monument dedicated to all frontline border control and healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Monument dedicated to frontline workers

NANISE NEIMILA

AS part of the Fiji Day 50th Independence celebrations, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama unveiled a monument dedicated to all frontline border control and healthcare workers who worked tirelessly to protect their fellow Fijians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking at the launch held at the Queen Elizabeth Drive last week, Prime Minister Bainimarama said these Fijians are the heroes our nation needed to weather this difficult year.

“Every time we lace up our boots for a game of rugby, every time we pray in our houses or worship, every time we gather with friends or hug a loved one, every time we enjoy freedoms that so many around the world do not have, we owe them our thanks.”

“When future generations 10, 20, even 50 years on from today read the words etched onto this monument, they will know the great lengths that Fijians went for each other. They will be inspired to do the same.”

“This monument also pays tribute to the present. It is an everlasting salute to the Fijians whose sleepless efforts and sacrifice have spared our people from the worst of COVID-19. I’m speaking of the doctors, the nurses, the lab technicians, and the members of our disciplined forces safeguarding our shores. Because of them we gather today not only in good spirits, but in good health.”

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Bainimarama also unveiled another monument Fiji 50 Jubilee Feature.

“This new monument is dedicated to Suva City, our capital through our independent history and long before, all the way back to 1882 when the seat of the then-colonial administration was moved here from Levuka.”

“With the COVID-19 pandemic still raging overseas, that good health is our greatest blessing, for the coronavirus is contained in Fiji. We are safe — at home in the safest place in the world. The lives of our most vulnerable are not at risk. With global infections from the coronavirus nearing 37 million and over one million deaths recorded, Fijian hearts break for our friends around the world who continue to contend with this sinister plague.”



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama say that the Children of Fiji song is sung in English, Fiji Hindi, iTaukei and Rotuman – it is a truly Fijian song for a truly national celebration.

‘An anthem of the moment’

RONAL DEO

TO kick-off the week of the 50th Fiji Day Anniversary celebrations, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama last week launched Fiji’s official 50th birthday song “Children of Fiji.”

The Prime Minister thanked the musicians and the production team at Fijian Broadcasting Corporation (FBC) for this wonderful contribution to the national Fiji50 celebrations.

“I have heard the song — I love it. It is an anthem of the moment, one that captures the spirit of courage and compassion which has carried our people through hardship time and again,” the Head of Government said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that no matter the challenge Fiji faces, whether it is cyclones or the coronavirus pandemic, “we know Fijians are at our

best when we stand united. Together, there is nothing we cannot overcome,” the Prime Minister said.

“Children of Fiji is sung in English, Fiji Hindi, iTaukei and Rotuman — it is truly a Fijian song for a truly national celebration. I believe this is the first time an official song has actually included Rotuman lyrics,” he said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama reiterated that “we are a people of many languages, many backgrounds and many religions”.

“No matter who we are or where we come from, we are all proud daughters and sons of this nation. We are all children of Fiji. We all love this country. And nothing not even a global pandemic can snuff out the light of happiness in our hearts as we welcome our nation’s 50th Birthday together,” he said.

“Throughout this week Fijians can enjoy this song while sharing loves with

family and friends, pitching flags, planting trees, and decorating their homes in the lead-up to Fiji Day itself, where our Republic of Fiji Military Forces will proudly parade in Suva’s Albert Park, the very spot that Queen Victoria’s great-great-grandson, Prince Charles, handed over our Instruments of Independence 50 years ago to the day,” he said prior to the celebrations

“It is a catchy tune, one I have no doubt we will all find ourselves humming throughout this week of Fiji-50 and long after.”

FBC chief executive officer Riaz Sayed-Khaiyum said this year due to the pandemic FBC decided to do something different and give the people of Fiji an anthem which was going to signify the situation the people are going through at the moment and “to bring us together and make us more resilient in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic”.



President of Weightlifting Fiji, Della Shaw-Elder after receiving the 50th Anniversary Independence Medal from Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote at the State House.
Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Fijians motivated to do more

FELIX LESINAIVALU

PRESIDENT of Weightlifting Fiji, Della Shaw-Elder was emotional and excited as she received the 50th Anniversary Independence Medal from Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote at the State House.

"I was actually overwhelmed, emotional and excited at the same time," Ms Shaw-Elder said.

"The years of contribution and to see the development of the sport in Fiji, this reward gives me the satisfaction to continue to want to do more."

Ms Elder-Shaw was an athlete, coach, an administrator, an international technical official before becoming the president of Weightlifting Fiji.

"Now I am not only wearing the hat of Weightlifting Fiji but also that of the only female sitting on the board in the Commonwealth of Weightlifting Committee."

"As I have gone through the ropes to gain experience, it has given me the push to take Weightlifting Fiji to go to the next level from where we are right now."

She said the next aim for Weightlifting Fiji is to win gold at the World Championships and the Olympics.

"We are trying to make awareness of weightlifting reach the far corners of Fiji and that is what I would love to see, to ensure that all the talents are identified for Fiji."

"I would love to see athletes who come through to win medals for Fiji and don the Fiji colours and feel the same pride and joy I felt."

'Serve with passion'



Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Jimi Koroi after receiving the 50th Anniversary Independence Medal from Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote at the State House.
Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

FELIX LESINAIVALU

HAVING served Fiji for 45 years through the disciplined forces, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Jimi Koroi was happy to be recognised for his work in the last 50 years.

Mr Koroi worked for the Fiji Police Force and the Republic of Fiji Military Services for 45 years in which for 18 years he was on a wheel chair and for his commendable service he received a 50th Anniversary Independence Medal from the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote at the State House in Suva last week.

"This is my second independence medal as I received my first independence medal on October 10, 1970."

"Working for the Fiji Police

Force is something I do with passion and when you serve the country for 45 years, 18 of which is on a wheel chair it gives you great happiness and satisfaction to spend your time both standing up and on the wheel chair working for the interest of the nation.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd)
Jimi Koroi

Force is something I do with passion and when you serve the country for 45 years, 18 of which is on a wheel chair it gives you great happiness and satisfaction to spend your time both standing up and on the wheel chair working for the interest of the nation."

Mr Koroi believes people in such positions are to serve Fiji as a nation but must realise that there is always room for improvement.

"That is why we are here, to improve the life of citizens of this nation and to keep moving forward rather than backwards. I believe that there is a lot of improvement over the last 50 years."

Another recipient of the Independence Medal was 65-year-old Adi Laisa Balavu who said she was very grateful and even

at her age she feels that nothing is too late to do.

Ms Balavu is currently a full time volunteer for Fiji Cancer Society and believes that helping Fijians is her way of giving back and helping the nation.

"I started doing community service work when I retired in 2010 and I have continued doing that so, this medal is a great acknowledgement and it motivates me to continue. I will continue to serve."

President Konrote said the medal is to acknowledge and appropriately reward individuals who had served selflessly and contributed immensely towards Fiji's socio-economic and political progress and development over this period with the 50th Anniversary Independence Medal.

Look to other sectors, Raivoce urges

FELIX LESINAIVALU

LIEUTENANT Colonel (Ret'd) Sakiusa Raivoce is encouraging Fijians affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to look into other sectors, such as agriculture and fisheries to find employment.

Mr Raivoce recently received a 50th Anniversary of Independence Medal from the President Major-General (Ret'd), Jioji Konrote during a special investiture ceremony at the State House.

"I spent 33 years in the Republic of Fiji Military Forces before joining the United Nations. I also spear headed the enlistment of our soldiers for men and women to join the

British Army."

"And that was an achievement itself because now more than 3,900 of our people are part of the British Army."

Mr Raivoce also started the Global Risk programme in Iraq after they contacted him, whereby for eight years from 2003, more than a thousand men and women went through the programme to be employed as security guards in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

"I am so honoured to receive this medal, I have already gotten the Fiji Independence medal as I was on parade on the 9th and 10th October 1970 when the Union Jack was lowered for the last time and the

Fiji flag was raised on the morning of 10th October."

"We have come a long way, and strictly speaking we are still finding our way."

President Konrote, while addressing medal recipients and those present at the prestigious event, said the Investiture ceremony commemorates and celebrates Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

He added the honour being bestowed on the recipients is to acknowledge and appropriately reward individuals who had served selflessly and contributed immensely towards Fiji's socio-economic and political progress and development.



Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote pins the 50th Anniversary Independence Medal on Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Sakiusa Raivoce at the State House.
Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

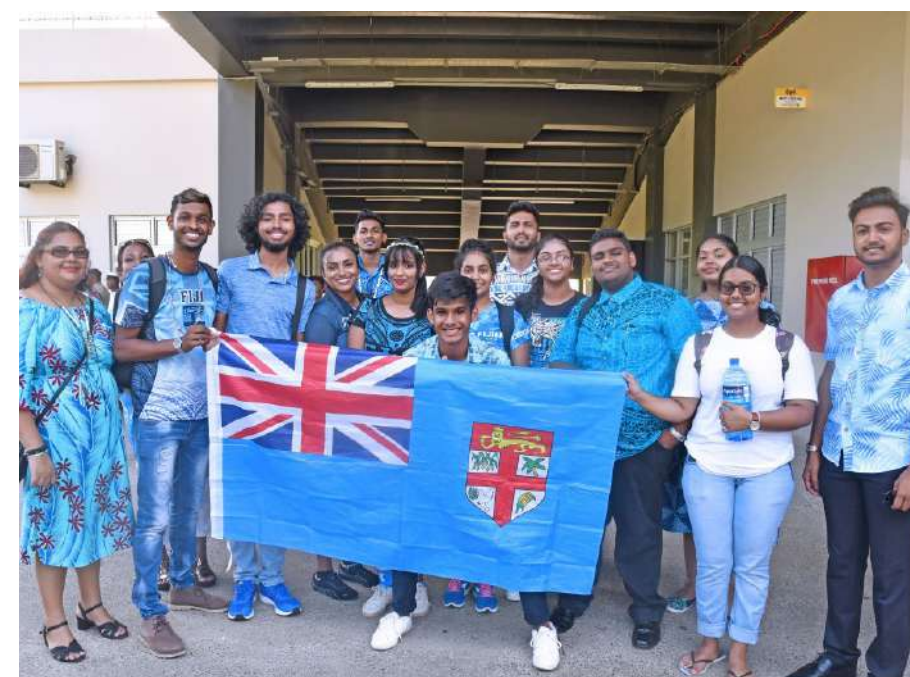


FIJI MARKS 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Albert Park, Suva, was a sea of blue last week as Fijians turned up to watch the 50th anniversary of Fiji independence military parade. President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote reviewed a military parade that was mounted by members of the disciplined forces, including a 21 gun salute. The military parade included six detachments. As part of the celebrations Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama launched the new \$50 note and 50 cents coin, unveiled the new Fiji50 postage stamp, opened the Fiji50 Food fair at Fiji Sports Council car park, Suva, and unveiled a monument dedicated to all frontline border

control and healthcare workers who worked tirelessly to protect their fellow Fijians during the COVID-19 pandemic at the Queen Elizabeth Drive. Members of the public had the opportunity to meet PM Bainimarama and enjoy the day with their families. Celebrations were also marked in the old capital, Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba and the Northern Division where cabinet ministers were chief guests. More INSIDE.

Photos: MARICA CAUCAU, MEREANI GONEDUA, NANISE NEIMILA, RUPENI WAQAVONO, FELIX LESINAIVALU



'Tourism helped in town development'

RUPENI WAQAVONO

TOURISM activities on the Coral Coast have helped Sigatoka town to grow in the last 50 years.

While speaking at the Sigatoka Town Council Fiji Day celebration, chairman of the Nadi and Sigatoka Special Administrators, Adish Naidu said that Sigatoka has grown significantly over the years.

"In the last 50 years, a lot of businesses have been set up in Sigatoka and of course that's been encouraged by the hotels around Coral coast and the town is very dependent on tourism," Mr Naidu said.

"A lot of big businesses were developed in Sigatoka, while they venture out to other parts of Fiji, their hearts remain in Sigatoka."

Mr Naidu also adds that COVID-19 failed to dampen the spirit of the Sigatoka people and its business community.

Meanwhile, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar shared similar sentiments when addressing the people of Sigatoka during the celebration.

Minister Kumar acknowledged the companies and businesses who have existed and operated in



Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar meets members of the public during the Fiji Day celebrations in Sigatoka. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

Sigatoka for the last 50 years.

"I would like to congratulate companies and businesses who have existed in Sigatoka for over 50 years.

"They are Tappoos, Sigatoka Electric Ltd, PD Singh, Billmoria and Kanta Construction Ltd. Congratulations for being in Fiji

for the last 50 years and still providing service to the public. Thank you for your dedication and your continuity in providing the service to the people of Sigatoka," Minister Kumar said.

The Minister also stated that Sigatoka Town had its challenges, but urged the business commu-

nity and stakeholders to work together with Sigatoka Town Council.

"It's extremely important that we plan for the future. And to plan for the future, the first thing that is required is making sure that we have a town planning scheme for Sigatoka."



Josefa Dakuinisavu at the Fiji Day celebrations in Nadi. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Nadi has come a long way: Dakuinisavu

MEREANI GONEDUA

"Fiji has come a long way since independence, there are now many developments and I was only six years old when I witnessed my first Fiji Day celebrations in Nadi."

These were the recollections of Josefa Dakuinisavu from Taveuni during the Fiji Day celebrations at Prince Charles Park in Nadi.

"The town itself has changed, there are now new buildings around and even this park was not as developed before."

"It has been a long road for our country and for those of us who have been in this town for quite a while, we can really see the many positive changes around."

Meanwhile officiating at the celebrations, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar highlighted that economic development in the district has grown rapidly and now Nadi is an economic power base for Fiji.

"The town of Nadi is expanding quickly and finds itself in a transition, creating many expectations and opportunities.

"The current population of the Nadi municipality is over 70,000. Nadi has three wards – Nadi, Martintar and Namaka - and a rate payer base of 2,722.

"We know that Nadi is a city in the making and that you have the desire "to be Fiji's most liveable city".

Minister Kumar revealed that further plans for Nadi include the Nadi Flood Alleviation Project in three phases and the Nadi – Lautoka Master Planning Exercise overseen by her Ministry is putting in place strategic thinking for the next 75 years.

"Together, we have set a pace of national development unmatched in the Pacific, developing our towns, cities, and our rural and maritime areas, extending life-changing services across our islands."

The Minister also reiterated the President, Major-General (ret'd) Jioji Konrote's message "that our success is not owed to luck or chance".

"It has come because our people, with their diverse strengths and skillsets, have together propelled Fiji forward, both knowingly and unknowingly."

Tell your children about independence day: A-G

RUPENI WAQAVONO

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum has urged Fijians to look back and reflect on what the country has achieved in the last 50 years.

Officiating at the Fiji Day celebrations with yachters and staff at the Musket Cove Island Resort, the A-G highlighted that Fijians who witnessed the handing over of our instruments of independence should be proud.

"We would like to ask the Fijians who were there, that today – the ones who remember – to think about how they felt that day and to tell your children and grandchildren about it," he said.

"It is a rare privilege to witness the birth of a nation and then see it blossom into a country that has truly made a difference in the world."

"To the younger citizens among us, Fiji has always been an independent country, and they can't imagine anything different."

The A-G said it was all new back in 1970 when Fiji was entering a new world as a nation and Fijians were responsible for their own destiny.

"No one knew what the future would bring, all we knew with certainty was that we alone



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with Musket Cove Island Resort staff during the Fiji Day celebrations on the island. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

would determine our destiny. So, tell them about that day."

The A-G who was also officiating at the opening of the 37th Fiji Regatta 2020 event thanked Fiji's frontline heroes at the borders and hospitals for their hard work and sacri-

fice which allowed Fijians to celebrate Fiji Day all over the country.

"We are grateful to be able to celebrate at all. In most places in the world, large gatherings are not safe. But because Fiji acted quickly to contain the coronavirus, our people are safe."



Bridge lights up to mark 50 years of Independence

MINISTER for Local Government, Premila Kumar, in commemorating Fiji's 50th year of independence together with the business community of Sigatoka, officiated at the lighting of the Melrose Bridge.

The Minister said that the lighting of the bridge brought back wonderful memories filled with pride for all Fijians.

"We still remember the wonderful day when Fiji won the Melrose Cup in Hong Kong on 23 March 1997. The bridge was named Melrose Bridge by the then President of the Republic of Fiji, the late Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara to commemorate the achievement of the Fiji Rugby Union Sevens Team in becoming the World Champions at the World Cup Sevens Inaugural Tournament," Minister Kumar said.

The Minister added that the Melrose Bridge remained an expression of Fiji's relationship with the European Union, the major donor for the construction of the bridge.

The Minister also said that Sigatoka is one of the towns affected by COVID-19 and reminded residents of Sigatoka of the Government's Stronger Together Job Support Scheme, which was recently announced by the Minister for Economy.

"You may have heard that the Minister for Economy had announced a new initiative by the Government for MSME. The new initiative is where once the companies or the employer is registered with the Government, Government will then be paying for the employee, but only the basic minimum wage. Because we have different sectors, we therefore have different pay rates for the different sectors. So the idea is to keep people employed and also to get the business going," the Minister said.

Minister Kumar also acknowledged and thanked companies and business who have existed and operated in Sigatoka for the last fifty (50) years.

"I would like to congratulate companies and businesses who have existed in Sigatoka for over 50 years. They are Tappoos, Sigatoka Electric Ltd, PD Singh, Billmorria and Kanta Construction Ltd. Congratulations for being in Fiji for the last 50 years and still providing service to the public. Thank you for your dedication and your continuity in providing the service to the people of Sigatoka," Minister Kumar said.

The Minister also stated that Sigatoka Town had its own challenges, but urged the business community and stakeholders to work together with Sigatoka Town Council.

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The Melrose Bridge in Sigatoka lights up in blue to commemorate Fiji's 50th year of independence. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

Bhatnagar celebrates Fiji day at Home



Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Veena Bhatnagar with children during the Fiji50 celebrations at the Dilkusha Children's Home in Nausori. Photo: SUPPLIED

CHILDREN are the presence of God on earth and it is indeed an honor to be commemorating our 50th independence anniversary with our future leaders.

This was highlighted by Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Veena Bhatnagar while officiating at the Fiji50 celebrations at the Dilkusha Children's Home in Nausori.

Asst. Minister Bhatnagar said that Fiji Day 2020 marked 50 years since Fiji became independent and the whole nation came together to celebrate and commemorate a significant part of the history and an era that set the foundation of the great work that has been carried out over the years.

"Fiji Day is a reminder of how far we have come as a strong and united nation," she said.

"I am very proud to be called a Fijian and this week I witnessed the unity in this country with the streets covered with blue themed kalavata and bula smiles coupled with cheerful spirits that truly represent the excitement of every Fijian".

"The Honorable Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama launched the official song "Children of Fiji" for Fiji's 50th Independence Anniversary. The song is an anthem of the moment which captures the spirit of courage and compassion in these difficult times. It encourages diversity and resilience, the traits that make us Fijians. Given the title of the song, it values the lives of our children and the importance of loving and supporting each other, forgiving one another, and working together through challenges and trials," she added.

Asst. Minister Bhatnagar said that every child deserves a home and a family that loves, supports, and empowers them.

She also acknowledged the carers in the Homes for their hard work and dedication in taking care of the children.

Asst. Minister Bhatnagar wishes a Happy 50th Anniversary Fiji Day to all the children and carers at the Homes. She also thanked them for the support shown to her during the event.

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Reddy spearheads tree planting initiative for fiji50

MINISTER For Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy led a tree planting exercise in Dratabu, Nadi that was held simultaneously across 49 other villages to commemorate Fiji's Independence Day.

The Minister acknowledged the immense contribution of past leaders from 1874 till date including those from the United Kingdom.

"Since 1970 there have been a number of leaders in this country who contributed to the growth and development of Fiji to reach where it is today.

"Our first Prime Minister, the Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, our Statesman, our Governor Generals, our Presidents, Prime Ministers - all contributed to the contemporary Fiji that we see today," he reflected.

He also recognised the role of leaders outside Government, whom he said, also gave their time, resources and energy to help develop the country.

"Our leaders outside Government; leaders of NGOs; Civil Society Organisations; formal and non-formal institutions, religious institutions like the Methodist Church, Sangam, Muslim League, Sanatan Dharam - these institutions have helped shaped Fiji and today after 50 years of independence we reflect on their contributions."

Minister Reddy said the task of institutional development would continue and it was important to ensure the security of future generations.

However, he said, the lesson that COVID-19 taught, was that food and nutritional security was critical, and aligned perfectly to one of the Ministry's strategic objective.

"I want to announce here in Dratabu Village that as part of food and nutritional strategy we will be launching, the #iPlanted50 initiative where we will be planting 50 fruit trees in 50 villages.

"It is our contribution, it is your contribution to secure food and nutritional security for our children, their children, and future generations."

Taukei Navo, Ratu Meli Saukururu thanked Minister Reddy and his team for coming to Dratabu Village and said the village was blessed to start off the next 50 years of Independence with Agriculture.

"We have passed 50 years now. We look forward to be part of this agriculture programme," Ratu Meli

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International community congratulatory message

REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Congratulatory message has been conveyed by the President of the Republic of India His Excellency Ram Nath Kovind to the President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote on the occasion of Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

In the congratulatory message, President Kovind stated, "On behalf of the Government, the people of India and on my own behalf, I extend warm greetings and felicitations to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of the Republic of Fiji on the occasion of your 50th Independence Day.

"India and Fiji are also marking 50 years of diplomatic relations this year. It is a momentous occasion in the history of our bilateral relationship."

TONGA

Congratulatory message has been sent from His Majesty King Tupou VI - Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tonga to the President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote on the occasion of Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

"On the auspicious occasion of the celebration of the Independence Day of the Republic of Fiji, I would like to convey my congratulations and sincere wishes for the good health, peace and prosperity of the people of Fiji."

NEW ZEALAND

Fijian Prime Minister, Honourable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama received a congratulatory message from New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Rt Honourable Winston Peters.

In a congratulatory message, Rt Honourable Winston Peters said, "On behalf of the New Zealand Government, warm congratulations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of independence.

"Fiji is a vibrant and culturally diverse country which leads on critical issues of regional and global importance. We are proud to call Fiji a cherished partner. Our countries have a strong foundation of shared values and people-to-people connection. Since Fiji's independence in 1970, also the year we established formal diplomatic relations, we have deepened our partnership with the Government of Fiji.

"Working together we will be able to recover faster and come back stronger. Congratulations again on 50 years of Fiji's independence."

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Congratulatory message has been received by the President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo to the President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote on the occasion of Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

"On this proud occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Fiji, I have the privilege to extend my warmest welcome to you and the people of Fiji.

"I am delighted that our two countries have been closely working together in a spirit of partnership. I believe that cooperation between us have benefitted immensely to the prosperity of our peoples.

"Allow me, Excellency, to offer my prayers to you and the people of Fiji. May health and prosperity be with you all, particularly during this challenging global environment," President Joko Widodo said.

UNITED KINGDOM (BRITAIN)

Congratulatory message has been conveyed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote on the occasion of Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

A special message received from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II said "On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Fiji's independence, The Duke of Edinburgh joins me in sending our good wishes to you and the people of the Republic of Fiji. We remember fondly our first visit to Fiji in 1953, as well as our subsequent visits.

"Our two nations retain a close bond, which has developed over many years, and long may that continue. As you celebrate this anniversary year, I send my congratulations to you all, and my best wishes for Fiji and the happiness, health and prosperity of its people. Elizabeth R"

AUSTRALIA

Congratulatory message has been conveyed by Australia's Governor General His Excellency, Hon. David Hurley to the President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote on the Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

In his congratulatory message Governor General David Hurley said, "On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Fiji's independence, I wish to convey to you, the Government and the people of the Republic of Fiji, my warmest wishes, together those of the Australian Government and people.

"Fifty years ago, Fiji took its place in the international community as an independent state and began to make its mark, regionally in our Blue Pacific, and globally. During this time, the Australia-Fiji relationship has had its challenges, but it is now stronger than ever. Always neighbours, we have now become family. Through our Vuvale Partnership, we are committed to a new era of cooperation, consultation and friendship, based on trust, mutual respect and understanding. Governor-General David Hurley expressed his confidence that the friendly relations between Fiji and Australia will continue to prosper in the coming year and for the next 50 years."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Congratulatory message has been conveyed by the President of the United States of America, His Excellency Donald J. Trump to the President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote on the occasion of Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

In his congratulatory letter, President Trump said that, "On behalf of the American people, I congratulate you and the citizens of Fiji as you celebrate 50 years of Independence on October 10.

"The United States has enjoyed shared values and a close friendship with Fiji during the half century since your independence in 1970. As we address the challenges of 2020, our comprehensive relationship is expanding to include greater cooperation on security, closer coordination on development, and new commercial opportunities."

REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

Congratulatory message has been conveyed by the President of the Republic of Marshall Islands, His Excellency David Kabua to His Excellency, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote on the occasion of Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

In a congratulatory message, President Kabua said, "On behalf of the Government and the People of Republic of the Marshall Islands, I wish to convey our sincere congratulations and best wishes to you and the People of the Republic of Fiji on the 50th anniversary of your nation's Independence Day on 10 October 2020.

MALAYSIA

Fijian Prime Minister, Honourable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama received a congratulatory note from the Malaysian High Commissioner based in Suva, His Excellency Ilham Illias Tuah. "I wish to also congratulate you and the Fijian people on the 50th Celebration of Fiji Day on 10 October 2020. May Fiji be blessed and prosper under your able leadership."

JAPAN

Congratulatory note was conveyed by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, Naruhito to His Excellency the President of Fiji Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote.

In a special message sent to Fiji, His Majesty Naruhito said, "On the occasion of Fiji Day of the Republic of Fiji, this year especially marking the fifty years of Independence of the Republic of Fiji, I have great pleasure in sending Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and sincere good wishes for Your happiness and for the prosperity of the people of Your country."

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Congratulatory message has been conveyed by the President of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency, Moon Jae-In to the President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote on the occasion of Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

In a congratulatory message, President Moon Jae-In said "On the occasion of the 50th Independence Day of the Republic of Fiji, I wish to convey my warmest message of congratulations to Your Excellency and to the people of the Republic of Fiji.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Congratulatory message has been conveyed by the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping to the President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote.

In a congratulatory message, President Jinping stated "On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Fiji, I wish to extend, on behalf of myself as well as the Chinese Government and Chinese people, to you and through you to the Fijian Government and the Fijian people, my sincere congratulations and best wishes.

"During the 50 years, since its independence, Fiji has been actively exploring the development path that suits its own circumstances and managed to achieve continued socio-economic development. China congratulates Fiji on such achievements.



LOOK BACK

1970S...QUEEN, POPE, PMS VISIT OUR SHORES



Sir Robert Foster (Fiji's last colonial Governor)
 Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Michael Somare
 The President of Chile, General Augusto Pinochet
 Commonwealth Secretary General, Sir Shridath Ramphal
 Australian Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser
 Speaker of the British House of Commons, George Thomas

1981
 India's Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi

1982
 Malaysia's Prime Minister, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohammed
 QUEEN Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh official visit

1984
 Prime Minister of New Zealand, David Lange
 Prime Minister of Australia, Bob Hawke (opened the new technology building at the USP)
 Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs from Sri Lanka, Tyrone Fernando
 Governor General of Australia, Sir Ninian Stephan

1985
 Prime Minister of Japan Yasuhiro Nakasone
 Official visit by Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China
 United States Secretary of State, George Schultz
 The Governor General of New Zealand, Sir David Beattie

1986
 Prime Minister of South Korea, Shinyong Iho
 Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew
 President of Israel, Mr Chaim Herzog
 His Holiness POPE JOHN PAUL II

1989
 Prime Minister of France, Michael Rocard

2000'S

FIJI was the first country in the world to usher in the new millennium.

On May 19, 2000 while celebrating its one year in office the People's Coalition Government was taken hostage by failed businessman George Speight. They were incarcerated for 56 days.

A mutiny at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks (QEB) by the defunct Counter Revolutionary Warfare (CRW) Unit in November in an unsuccessful bid to unseat by the then Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), Voreqe Bainimarama.

The Soqosoqo Duavata ni Lewenivanua (SDL) Party was elected to lead after the general election of **2001**.

After being contentiously re-elected in the **2006** general elections, the SDL Government created discontent and division by trying to push through legislations that had the potential disenfranchise the multicultural Fijian society

In December 6, 2006 there was a change in administration that saw the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama-led Government lead the country until 2014.

On September 7, 2014 with a new Constitution, electoral system and growing economy the FijiFirst Government won with a clear majority.

As of 2016, Fiji has seen seven years of unprecedented growth.

1990S SPORTS UNITE A NATION

CAPTURING a hat trick of victories at the premier Hong Kong 7s tournament then winning the Rugby World Cup 7s title in 1997 was the perfect catalyst in a decade which saw the nation emerge from the shadows of rare political upheavals.
 Then at the 1997 IRB Sevens World Cup the Fiji team snatched the crown beating South Africa in the final 24-21.
 Waisale Serevi, the Most Valuable Player and leading scorer (117 points) confirmed his dominance at Hong Kong.
 On the political front the drafting of a new constitution and the creation of Fiji as a democratic republic were milestones.
 In the aftermath of two coups executed by Sitiveni Rabuka against Timoci Bavadra's Labour-Federation Party coalition government, the country was still in a state of political uncertainty in the 1990.
 Fiji was declared a Republic but after two attempts at finding a Constitution acceptable to all sections of Fiji's community, a common consensus was yet to be attained.
 Fiji was ruled by an interim government with Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau as President and Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara as Prime Minister.
 The announcement on the night of the July, 25 1990 by the President of Fiji of a new Constitution came as a shock to the people of Fiji because it happened without any prelude.

1991-1992
 Following the adoption in 1990 of a new Constitution that guaranteed ethnic Fijian domination of the political system, Rabuka was chosen to lead the newly formed SVT Party in 1991.
 This party won the parliamentary election of 1992 and Rabuka became Prime Minister.
 The party dominated politics in the 1990s and was the mainstay of coalition governments from 1992 to 1999.
 The Great Council of Chiefs appointed Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara president in January following the death of Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau in the previous month.
 The GCC consisted of 55 members, mainly hereditary chiefs along with some specially qualified commoners.

1995 –October 2 to 9
 The old capital was a hive of activity with the start of the 25th anniversary of independence celebrations, Back to Levuka Week and Company Family Day.
 After the parade, President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara opened festivities

1997 WAY FORWARD
 Fiji was re-admitted to the Commonwealth after it introduced a non-discriminatory constitution.
 In welcoming Fiji to the Commonwealth after its membership lapsed 10 years ago, Commonwealth secretary-general, Chief Emeka Anyaoku said "the Commonwealth responded warmly to the wish of the people of Fiji that their country resume its membership of the Commonwealth now that a new constitution has been approved which enjoys national consensus and which conforms to the Commonwealth's Harare principles."

1999
 The Fiji Labour Party won the general elections in 1999 and formed a coalition government with other parties with Mahendra Chaudhry as Prime Minister. However, this Government lasted for one year as what transpired in the months that followed is now history.

1970S... BIRTH OF A NEW ERA

FIJI attaining independence on the 10th of October, 1970 is considered to be the beginning of a new era.
 Before the introduction of a new constitution, Fiji was ruled by colonial administration for 96 years.
 Previously the country was being ruled by the styled Tui Viti, Vunivalu and other high chiefs through the rule of law known as the Deed of Cession.
 The lowering of the Union Jack and the handing over of Independence document by Prince Charles to Prime Minister Ratu Kamisese Mara are memories that give many the sense of belonging.
 The establishment of the parliament of the Queen, appointment of members and change in legislations was the birth of new life to these 300 islands in the sun.

DECADE OF CHANGE
 "When historians begin to chronicle the mid-20th Century, there is no doubt that the decade of the 70s will be recorded as a period of dramatic economic and political change"- Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara (Fiji- The First Decade, 1970-1980)
 The initial highlight was Fiji's immediate membership into the United Nations Assembly where Ratu Kamisese Mara clearly stated that Fiji had become independent with a united, multiracial society.
 "We hold this as a pearl of great price, which can perhaps be shared with the world at large. We therefore look to the United Nations to help us to protect and cherish it as perhaps our greatest contribution to this distinguished body," the former prime minister said.

WAY FORWARD
 A means to stimulate economic development in a nation are methods of transportation for the population.
 The most costly and major development during the first decade of independence was the construction of the highway between Suva and Nadi.
 The multi-million dollar "right royal road- QUEENS Road" was officially opened by Governor General, Ratu Sir George Cakobau in November, 1976.

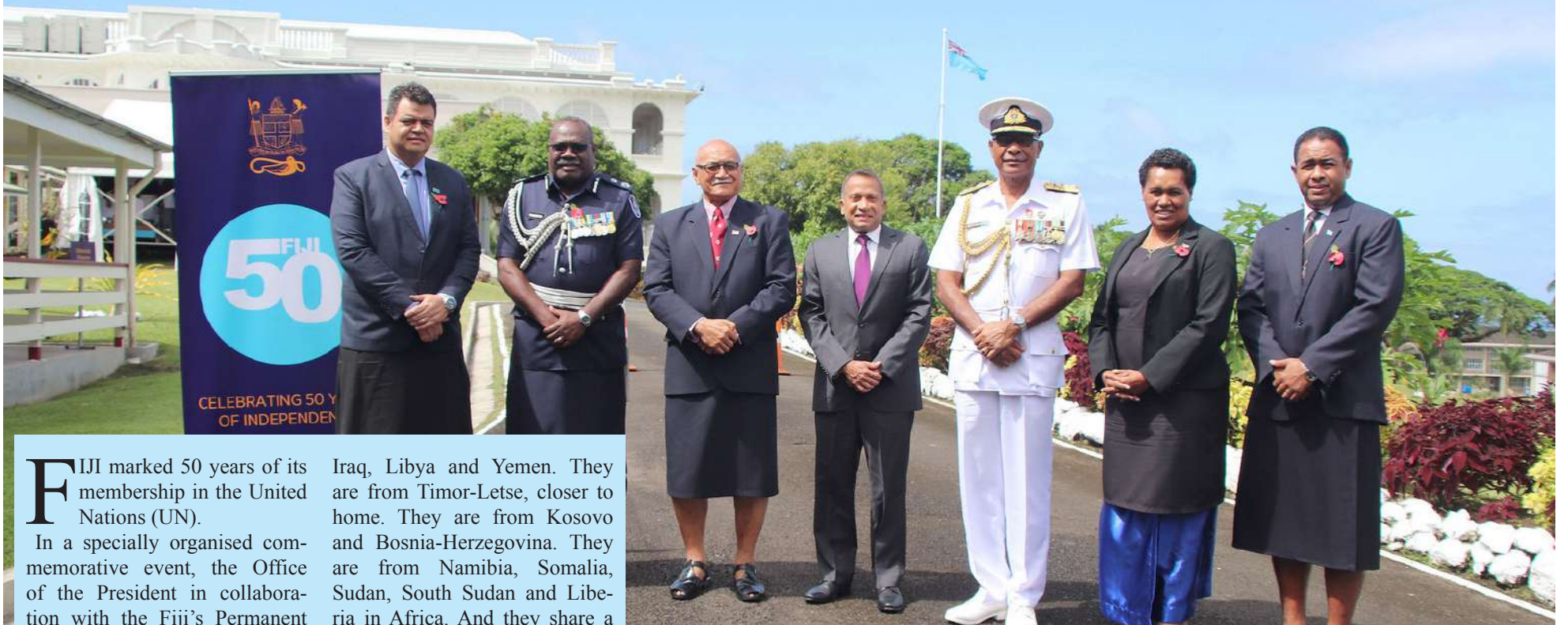
PEACE MISSIONS
 The then Royal Fiji Military Forces became popular toward the end of the 70s with the deployment of Fijian soldiers to the South of Lebanon.
 About 500 soldiers were sent in June 1978 as the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).
 The peacekeeping duties also saw the loss of lives in the UNIFIL's Fiji's Battalion. By April 1980, saw the death toll at nine.

SPORTS
 Fiji's big win against the British Lions on Tuesday, August 16, 1977 on home ground with notable players such as Pio Bosco Tikoisuva, Ilaitia Tuisese and the late Rupeni Qaraniqo were part of the winning side.
 Also, in 1979 Fiji hosted the 6th South Pacific Games. The games were officially opened by the royal celebrity, Princess Alexandra where thousands of sportsmen and women from 19 countries participated.



Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence

Fiji deepens ties with United Nations



FROM LEFT: Director Multilateral Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peter Emberson, Acting Commissioner of Police, Rusiate Tudravu, Fijian President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, United Nations (UN) Resident Co-ordinator Sanaka Samarasinha, Commander Republic of Fiji Military Forces Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto, Acting Official Secretary at the Office of the President, Kiti Temo and Chief of Protocol Jiko Rasoqosoqo.

FIJI marked 50 years of its membership in the United Nations (UN).

In a specially organised commemorative event, the Office of the President in collaboration with the Fiji's Permanent Mission in New York, marked 50 years of Fiji's remarkable engagement with the United Nations, since 13th of October 1970.

In a virtual reception held this week at the State House, the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote conveyed Fiji's statement to commemorate the 50 years of Fiji's work in the UN.

President Konrote expressed Fiji's appreciation to the UN senior officials and the diplomatic and consular representatives for their tremendous contributions to the UN and for advancing Fiji's interests at the United Nations.

He stated that Fiji is one of the first Pacific island states to become a member of the UN, as it welcomed 11 more Pacific island states, building a regional voice in the global community.

President Konrote reflected on Fiji's unprecedented commitment in supporting the UN to deliver global mandate on peacekeeping, climate change and human rights.

He paid tribute to all the Fijian peacekeepers and Fijians who had served in the UN peacekeeping missions that contributed to building 50 years of strong relations with the UN.

"For a full 41 years, not a day has passed when our peacekeepers were not on duty in one conflict area or another. Thousands of brave Republic of Fiji Military Force members and police have served, and 66 of our brave men have lost their lives in this national mission, and to them and their families we all owe our gratitude, our deepest respect and our heartfelt prayers.

"There are many people in this world who thank and remember the men in uniform from an island nation far away who helped heal their war-torn country. They are from the Middle East—from Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt; from

Iraq, Libya and Yemen. They are from Timor-Leste, closer to home. They are from Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina. They are from Namibia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Liberia in Africa. And they share a common experience: Their lives were touched, and made better, and in some cases even saved, by Fijian peacekeepers," President Konrote told the UN officials.

In reaffirming Fiji's commitment and support for the UN, President Konrote said, "Fiji's rising star on the world stage is not owed to luck. We earned it. We are a strong people, we know who we are as a nation."

"We are a part of a huge, complex world. It may seem sometimes that the UN reflects that complexity—that it moves slowly, that its actions can be watered down by the need for consensus. But can we imagine a world without the United Nations? No. And can we imagine a United Nations without Fiji? No. And that is one reason why we will be counting even more Fijian contributions to the world through the UN in 50 years' time," President Konrote said.

Joining President Konrote at this virtual meeting was Republic of Fiji Military Forces Commander Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto, Acting Commissioner of Police, Rusiate Tudravu, UN Resident Coordinator Sanaka Samarasinha, and officials from the Office of the President and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Also joining the virtual reception from New York was Fiji's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, Ambassador Satyendra Prasad who was joined by Jean- Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Department of Operational Support and Fekitamoeloa Katoa, Under Secretary General for Landlocked and Small Island Developing States and UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, Peter Thomson and Fiji's Trade Commissioner to North America, Praneet Singh.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence

'Remarkable achievements'

FIJI'S Mission in Geneva has reaffirmed its commitment to work closely with the United Nations in Geneva and the UN in Vienna in advancing Fiji's interests and development priorities.

This was conveyed through the Fiji Mission's message on the occasion of Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN and Other International Organisations (PRUNOG) Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan said that Fiji has made remarkable achievements and recognition in areas of UN peacekeeping, multilateralism, human rights, climate change, inclusivity and sovereignty.

Ambassador Khan stated that Fiji's 2013 Constitution contains one of the most comprehensive and progressive Bill of Rights in the world.

The Fiji Mission in Geneva is working closely with UN Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in ensuring the Bill of Rights is relative to all Fijians.

"Ensuring that relevance is a responsibility of the Geneva Mission. Whether it is by organising anti torture events in Geneva for the police, prisons, judiciary and Legal Aid Commission of Fiji, or by working on integrating the

Nelson Mandela Rules into Fiji's prisons structure, or by facilitating Fiji's reports to treaty bodies or the Human Rights Council through the Universal Periodic Review, the Geneva Mission works at moving Fiji forward on the journey our elders undertook in 1970, to a future based on dignity, partnership and equality.

"The Parliament of Fiji has shown great commitment to the ratification of international human rights instruments. We are proud that in the years since the Geneva Mission opened, Fiji has ratified all core human rights conventions, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the ILO Convention against Violence at Work, and the Treaty against Nuclear Weapons.

"We are now moving towards the signing of the Optional Protocols under these Conventions. These are important milestones in the journey of a country," Ambassador Khan said.

Ambassador Khan reiterated that integrating human rights and climate action with a focus

on Blue Oceans Economy is central to the work carried out by the Fiji Mission in Geneva.

"We continue to advocate for programmes on climate change in every UN Organisation in Geneva. Next year, Fiji will chair, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, a body committed to work with States to ensure that displacement caused by sudden and slow onset disasters, is orderly, dignified, planned, inclusive and participatory. Similarly the partnership with World Health Organisation and World Trade Organisation is a defining feature of the Geneva Mission.

"We look forward to continue to work with UN Geneva and Vienna. I thank all our colleagues from all Missions in Geneva, and all staff of the international organisations here for their continuous support and encouragement. I thank the Federal Government of Switzerland, our host, for its steady support and collegiality towards the Fiji Mission. I thank our Pacific colleagues and diaspora for the support given unfailingly to the Geneva Mission and its staff. It is together and in partnership, that we Fijians can look to a future which celebrates equality, respect, dignity, and economic growth.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



‘No place like Levuka’



Vallabh & Sons retail shop owner, Navin Vallabh, 72 and his wife Hemletta Vallabh inside their shop in Levuka. INSET: Navin Vallabh proudly stand beside his father's sewing machine that was used to sew the late President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara's school uniform. Photos: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

No matter the places that a person visits, when they set foot in Levuka, they will always take a piece of Levuka with them because there is no place like the Old Capital

Navin Vallabh, 72
Vallabh & Sons retail shop owner

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

“People are trapped in history and history is trapped in them” – James Baldwin

Vallabh & Sons retail shop owner, Navin Vallabh, 72, is known to every resident of the old capital because of his caring nature when entering his shop – you will always be greeted with a glass of juice or lemonade.

His family shop has been operating in Levuka Town for almost a century because as Mr Vallabh describes, “there is no place like Levuka”.

“This is where it all began and this is where the heart of Fiji is.”

His forefathers came to Fiji from India as tailors and since then their family business has been passed down from generation to generation for the past 96 years.

They have now ventured out into selling a

wide variety of clothes and items which has come in handy for those who have to make last minute shopping for unexpected events when in the old capital.

“My father sewed Ratu Mara’s (former President, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara) uniform when he was attending Levuka Public School. Back then school uniforms had to be custom made so Ratu Mara’s was done by my father. We even still have the sewing machine and scissors he used to make the uniform. I treasure it very much because of the history it contains.”

He remembers Fiji’s Independence Day in 1970 like it was yesterday and said it was the most memorable day he had ever come across in terms of Fiji’s history because his father took a photo with Prince Charles.

“Levuka came to life on that day. There were floats, marching bands and everyone was happy on that day. It was a big celebra-

tion through the town and what made it even more special was when Prince Charles came. All the ladies said he was the most handsome man to come to Fiji,” he said.

His wife, Hemletta shared the same sentiments of what she remembered of that day.

“It was so beautiful, much more than the festivals happening these days. On that day they re-enacted the signing of the Deed of Cession and I absolutely loved the vintage and traditional outfits that the cast wore when re-enacting. Levuka will always be in my heart and the atmosphere felt that day cannot be explained,” she said.

The smiling and caring nature of this couple can be mistaken as if there are no problems in the business world due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Business has been slow since the virus came but then again, what more can we do. We have to accept that there will be bad days as

much as

there are good ones. Not every day can be good. We are coping, but what’s more important to us is keeping visitors to Levuka happy so that they can always return and visit us again.”

“No matter the places that a person visits, when they set foot in Levuka, they will always take a piece of Levuka with them because there is no place like the Old Capital,” Mr Vallabh said.

His plea to Fijians is to take the “Bula spirit” and love wherever they go because Fiji is the way the world should be.

“The love for everyone and for your country should come from the heart. You may have all the things in the world but if you fail to have love then everything is of no use.”

The couple plan to operate their shop for a century or even more when they pass the business to their children and grandchildren.

Konrote promotes Govt initiatives

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

PRESIDENT, Major General (ret’d) Jioji Konrote did not mince his words when he spoke on three Government initiatives during his Fiji50 tour to the old capital, Levuka.

The Head of State reminded the students of St Johns College, Delana Methodist High School and Levuka Public School the importance of backyard farming. As well the Fijian Government’s wellness programme in the fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and planting trees (30 Million Trees in 15 Years initiative) – three initiatives that the Government is currently working on.

“Today is historical in many aspects, because of the fact that the nation will be celebrating the 50th



SITTING FROM LEFT: Permanent Secretary for Forestry and acting Permanent Secretary for Fisheries Pene Baleinabuli, Acting Commissioner of Police Rusiate Tudravu, Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto and President, Major General (ret’d) Jioji Konrote with teachers of Levuka Public School during the Fiji50 tour to Levuka. Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

anniversary of our independence.

Within the next 15 years, Government wants to plant 30 million trees. When I launched this initiative, we were targeting four million trees in four years – we have surpassed that,” President Konrote said.

As a chief advocate in the fight against NCDs, President Konrote advised the schools that keeping fit and eating healthy food is an important aspect in this fight.

“My plea to you is to remain focused in your studies, eat well and exercise daily. You are the future of our nation. In years to come you are going to be our leaders and a healthy population and healthy nation is what we all want to achieve in the end,” President Konrote stated.

Adding to his address, he encouraged students to practice backyard farming and to depend less on processed food.

“This (backyard farming) is something that is very dear to me. COVID-19 has changed the way we are going to live from now on. You might have heard about the new norm – the new norm means you and I getting back to planting more *tavioka, dalo, uvi* and *kumala*. We are going back to the soil, where we all came from.”

President Konrote also encouraged the students to stay focused on their studies and their health.

“Look after your health and look after one another. Stay focused and committed with your studies. You are going to be our future leaders and we depend on you.”

Ministry of Forestry permanent secretary, Pene Baleinabuli, acting Commissioner of Police Rusiate Tudravu and Republic of Fiji Military Forces Commander Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto were also part of the presidential tour to Levuka.

FijiFocus



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Acting Permanent Secretary for Health and Medical Services Dr James Fong during the unveiling of the monument dedicated to all frontline border control and healthcare workers who worked tirelessly to protect their fellow Fijians during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Fiji marks 50 years of independence

NANISE NEIMILA, FELIX LESINAIVALU

ALBERT Park was a sea of blue as Fijians from all walks of life turned up to watch the Fiji's 50th anniversary of independence military parade.

The President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote reviewed a military parade that was mounted by members of the disciplined forces, including a 21 gun salute.

The military parade included six detachments consisting of Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Fiji Police Force and Republic

of Fiji Naval Forces.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Cabinet Ministers were also present at the event alongside members of the diplomatic corps.

Members of the public also had the opportunity to meet PM Bainimarama and enjoy the day at the park with their families.

President Konrote in his 50th Independence Day Message said "history will tell that today, despite the great adversity we faced, our spirits were not broken".

"In good spirits and good health, Fijians in every city, town, community, including our most rural and maritime regions, proudly celebrated our 50-year journey as a nation."

"Together, over these five decades, Fijians have risen to heights some never imagined, but which we always saw for ourselves."

President Konrote added that all Fijians share common and equal citizenry and equal votes of equal value, along with a vast array of political and socioeconomic rights in the Fijian Constitution.

"No matter how we arrived here, no matter who our ancestors are, we all make Fiji special, we all make Fiji stronger."

"When we stand together, as friends, as family, as fellow Fijians, there is no challenge we cannot overcome, there is nothing we cannot achieve."

The parade was a culmination of a week-long celebration that saw many different activities organised throughout the country to get Fijians engaged and inspired as the nation walks into the next decade.

अटेनी जनरल ने कोरेक्शन सुविधा का उद्घाटन किया 2

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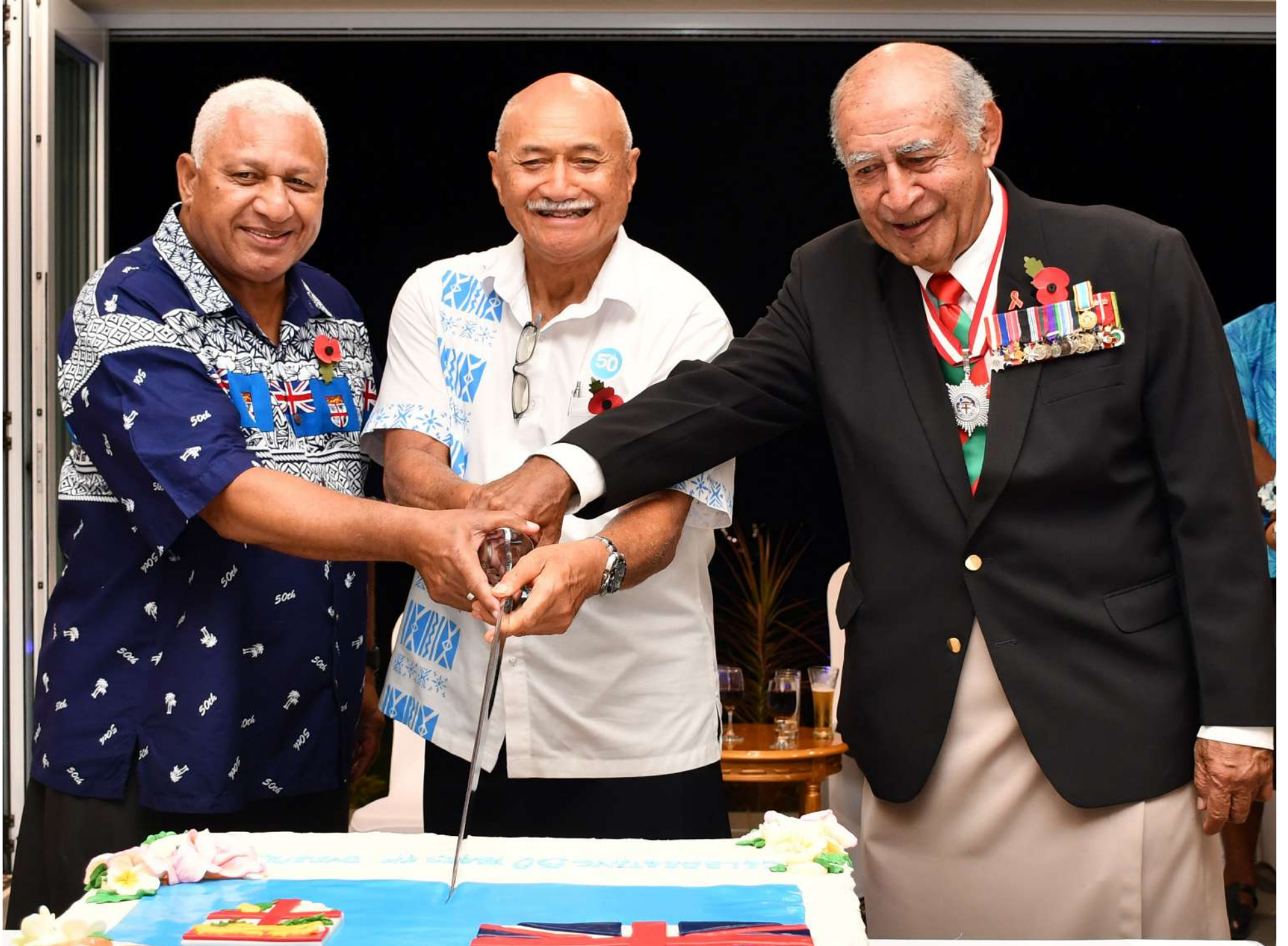
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फ़ीजी दर्पण

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फ़ीजी दिवस के अवसर पर राष्ट्रपति भवन पर कईक काटते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बड्निमारासा, राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चोची कोन्रोते और स्पीका महोदय रातु इपेली नईलातिकाउ चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री के दफ़तर

पचास सालों की स्वतंत्रता

वीरेन्द्र लाल

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चोची कोन्रोते ने फ़ीजी दिवस समारोह का समापन शनिवार की रात राष्ट्रपति भवन पर एक रिसेप्शन की मेज़बानी करके की। इसमें मंत्री-मंडल के सदस्यों और राजनयिक कोर के सदस्य शामिल हुए जो हमारे राष्ट्र की प्रगति की खुशी मना रहे थे और हमारे उज्ज्वल भविष्य की कामना कर रहे थे।

दिन में देश के विभिन्न इलाकों में भी समारोह आयोजित किए गए थे और नीला पोशाक में कई सौ की संख्या में लोगों ने इनमें भाग लिया।

अपने संदेश में राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि इतिहास बताएगा कि भारी प्रतिकूलता के बावजूद, फ़ीजी डय मनाने का हमारा जोश कम नहीं हुआ। उन्होंने कहा कि हर शहर, नगर और ग्राम में जिनमें दूर दराज के ग्रामीण इलाके और समुद्र से घिरे इलाके शामिल हैं, में लोगों ने हमारे देश के पचास सालों के सफ़र को धूमधाम से मनाया।

फ़िलहाल प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बड्निमारासा का कहना है कि किसी भी फ़ीजियन को पीछे छोड़ा नहीं जाएगा।

“हमारा सब से बड़ा वायदा यह है कि किसी के साथ भी भेद-भाव नहीं

किया जाएगा, अच्छे समय में और खराब समय में किसी को भी पीछे नहीं छोड़ा जाएगा।”

प्रधान मंत्री ने यह आश्वासन ननुकु-लोबा रा में रा प्रोविशियल कौंसिल सभा का उद्घाटन करते वक्त दिया।

सरकार के प्रमुख ने कहा कि दुनिया पर असर कर रही महामारी, अलग नहीं है और सरकार से जो कुछ बन पा रहा है, वह लोगों की मदद कर रही है।

“अपने समाज के नेता की हैसियत से आप यह जानते हैं कि हमारे लोग इस साल किस तरह की मुसिबतों का सामना कर रहे हैं। हम सब जानते हैं कि किसी ने अपनी नौकरी खो दी है

या किसी के काम करने के घण्टे कम हो गए हैं। हम सब ऐसे लोगों को जानते हैं जो भोजन खरीदने में आर्थिक कठिनाईयों का सामना करते हैं। यह केवल फ़ीजी की समस्या नहीं है, यह वैश्विक समस्या है और दुनिया भर के लोग इससे ग्रसित हैं।”

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि वर्तमान वैश्विक महामारी से असर पड़े फ़ीजियासियों को सरकार ने अभी तक कुल-मिलाकर पचास मिलियन डोलर (\$50m) सहायता के रूप में प्रदान किया है।

“हम ज़रूरतमंद लोगों के साथ आगे भी एकता में खड़े रहेंगे जिन्हें हमारी

मदद चाहिए जबतक यह आर्थिक मुसिबत समाप्त नहीं हो जाती चाहे ऐसा होने में जिनती भी देर लगे। नेताओं की हैसियत से मैं आप से माँग करता हूँ कि आप हमारा साथ दें।”

प्रधान मंत्री ने नेताओं से माँग की कि वे ज़रूरतमंद लोगों पर नज़र रखें और उनकी हर समस्या सुलझाने के लिए सरकार का इंतज़ार न करें।

“हमें सब के विचारों की ज़रूरत है, हमें सब के साहस और रचनात्मकता चाहिए, हम चाहते हैं कि हर फ़ीजियन सावधानी और प्यार से उन लोगों की ओर हाथ बढ़ाएँ, जिन्हें मदद की ज़रूरत है,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

अटेनी जनरल ने कोरेक्शन सुविधा का उद्घाटन किया

वीरेन्द्र लाल

अटेनी जनरल तथा अर्थ-
व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद
खईयूम ने नतम्बुआ लौतोका
स्थित फीजी कोरेक्शन्स
सेविसस में दो मिलियन डोलर
मूल्य की दो नई सुविधाओं का
उद्घाटन किया।

रिमान्ड कैदियों के लिए मेस होल पर सुधारकार्य किया गया है तथा युवा और वृद्ध कैदियों के लिए एक नई सुविधा बनाई गई है। अटेनी जनरल ने बताया कि फीजियन सरकार देश भर में कैद-खानों की सुविधाओं में सुधार करना चाहती है। उन्होंने कहा कि इसके अलावा फीजी फेस्ट सरकार कैद-खानों में काम करने वालों के लिए अच्छा वेतन और अच्छी सुविधा भी उपलब्ध करना चाहती है।

अटेनी जनरल ने कहा कि यह भी देखा जायेगा कि कैदियों के रहने के लिए अच्छा वातावरण रहे। उन्होंने कहा कि अन्य कैद-खानों में भी इस तरह के मरम्मतकार्य किए जायेंगे। अटेनी जनरल ने फीजी कोरेक्शन्स सेविसस के काम की सहराना करते हुए कहा कि एफ सी एस को अपने कार्य में पारदर्शिता लाने की आवश्यकता है।

उन्होंने कहा कि सभी साझेदारों से मेल-मिलाप रखना ज़रूरी है जिससेकि चुनौतियों का सामना करने में सहायता मिले। कोविड-19 के कारण लगे प्रतिबन्धों को लेकर अटेनी जनरल ने सभी से प्रतिबन्धों का पालन करने की माँग की और कहा कि वर्तमान स्थिति से निपटने में सभी को सहयोग देना चाहिए।



अटेनी जनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम प्रिज़न्स कमिश्ना फ़ासिस कीन के साथ नतम्बुवा में कोरेक्शन्स सेविसस में सुविधाओं का उद्घाटन करने के बाद दौरा करते हुए



प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगो बड़निमारामा, स्काईप के ज़रिए वैश्विक नेताओं से बातें करते हुए

परमाणु मुक्त दुनिया की ओर कदम

वीरिन्द्र लाल

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरन्गे बड़निमारामा ने पे-सिफिक स्मोल आयलेंड डिवेलपिंग स्टर्ड्स (PSIDS) के सभापति की हैसियत से वैश्विक नेताओं से संयुक्त राष्ट्र के “परमाणु मुक्त दुनिया” की ओर कदम उठाने की मांग की है।

पैसिफिक स्मोल आयलैंड डिवेलपिंग स्टर्डट्स की ओर से “कोमेमोरईशन एन्ड प्रोमौशन ओफ इनटानेशनल डे अगईस्ट निउक्लिया एक्सप्लौशन” के अवसर पर प्रधान मंत्री वडनिमारामा ने कहा कि

उन्नीस सौ छियालीस (1946) से उन्नीस सौ छियानवे (1996) तक प्रशांत में तीन सौ से ज्यादा परमाणु परिक्षण किए गए थे और इन परमाणु परिक्षणों से छोटे द्वीपिए राष्ट्रों पर काफी विपरीत असर पड़ा है।

“परिक्षण होने वाले स्थानों के नज़दीक रह रहे लोगों को वहाँ से खिस्काया गया था। उनपर अपनी जीविका के लिए समुद्री सम्पत्ति का उपयोग करने पर प्रतिबन्ध लगे थे। उन लोगों ने कई स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं का सामना किया था। परमाणु परिक्षणों की समाप्ति पर इन खतरनाक उपकरणों को वही ज़मीन में गाढ़ दिया गया था या समुद्र में छोड़ दिया गया था।”

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि क्षेत्र के नेता साउथ पेसिफिक निडक्लिया फी ज़ौन की स्थापना करके पश्चात के कुछ भाग में परमाणु परिक्षण समाप्त करने में सफल रहे।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि छोटे द्वीपिए राष्ट्रों का लक्ष्य है “परमाणु मुक्त” धरातल।

“हम प्रशांत के लोग अपने आपको प्रशांत महासागर के संरक्षक मानते हैं। प्रशांत महासागर को सुरक्षा प्रदान करना, हमारे भविष्य के लिए बहुत ज़रूरी है। यह तभी शांति का महासागर हो सकता है जब यह परमाणु मुक्त रहेगा। और यही पूरी दुनिया के लिए लागू है। दो हज़ार तीस के स्टर्डीअबल डिवेलपमेंट गौल्स हमारे समाजों के लिए बहुत ज़रूरी हैं और हम किसी को पीछे नहीं छोड़ना चाहते हैं। परमाणु परिक्षणों से रूकित वातावरण, हमें स्टर्डीअबल डिवेलपमेंट गौल्स हासिल करने में बाधा करेंगे। दो हज़ार अट्ठारह में हमारे नेताओं ने वो डिवेल्टेरिशन की स्थापना की थी जिसमें कहा गया है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन से प्रशांत के लोगों के जीवन, सुरक्षा और रहन-सहन पर असर पड़ता है।”

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र के अधिकारियों को बताया कि दुनिया को परमाणु हथियारों की जरूरत नहीं है।

“हम बहुपक्षीय प्रणाली मजबूत करके ऐसा कर सकते हैं जिससेकि पारदर्शिता बनी रहे, विश्वास रहे और मिलकर काम किया जा सके,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।



कृषि तथा वातावरण और वोटार्बईज मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी सिंगातोका में नम्बित् नेसरी के उद्घाटन के दौरान वहाँ किसानों से मिलते हुए चित्र: मेरेयानी गोनेन्दुवा

कृषि हम
फौजियन्स
की आशा

वीरेन्द्र लाल

कृषि, हम फीजियन्स की आशा हो गई है जबसे कोविड-19 के कारण टूरिज्म व्यवसाय पर बुरा असर पड़ा

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कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी पिछले सप्ताह सिंगातोंका में नम्बितू नेसरी के उद्घाटन पर बोल रहे थे। “कोविड-19 के दौरान भी कृषि क्षेत्र में बढन्ती हो रही है। यह उन लोगों के लिए आशा बन गई जो खेती से निकलकर अन्य व्यवसाय में शामिल हो गए थे। यह लोग अब वापस खेती करने लौट गए हैं।”

मंत्री रेड्डी ने बताया कि मंत्रालय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए तैयार है। उन्होंने किसानों, उत्पादनकर्ताओं और निर्यातकर्ताओं की कड़ी मेहनत को मान्यता दी। मंत्री ने बताया कि पिछले साल के पहले छः महीनों के

मिलान में, इस साल इस अवधि में निउजीलैंड, ओस्ट्रेलिया और अमेरिका निर्यात होने वाले कृषि निर्यात में पन्द्रह प्रतिशत की वृद्धि र्ड है।

“यह एक बड़ी उपलब्धि है और मैं सभी किसानों और निर्यातकर्ताओं को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। उनकी मेहनत के बिना, यह हासिल करना सम्भव नहीं रहता।”

कृषि मंत्री ने बताया कि कोरोना वायरस के कारण देश काफी चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है लेकिन इसके बावजूद हम निर्यात में वृद्धि करने में सफल रहे।

“कछ कछ इलाकों से बाहर आने

जाने पर प्रतिबन्ध था लेकिन इसके बावजूद किसान और निर्यातकर्ता अपने सामान बाहर भेजने में सफल रहे। उस वक्त कैफिउ भी जल्द शुरू होकर देर तक रहता था।

और फईट की दर में भी वृद्धि हो गई थी क्योंकि सीमा बन्द होने के कारण लोग देश से बाहर नहीं जा पा रहे थे, केवल सामानों को भेजा जाता था और आमदनी की पूर्ती के लिए फईट की दर में वृद्धि की गई थी।”

मंत्री ने बताया कि सभी विपरीत परिस्थितियों के बावजूद, फीजी ने काफी अच्छा किया और किसानों से और मेहनत करने की माँग की।

पचास सालों का सफर

वीरेंद्र लाल

दस अक्टूबर उन्नीस सौ सत्तर में स्वतंत्र होने पर फीजी के लिए एक नया युग शुरू हुआ। नया संविधान लागू करने से पहले फीजी में छियान्वे सालों तक ब्रिटन का शासन था। ब्रिटन, डीड ओफ् सेशन के तहत फीजी पर शासन करता था।

दस अक्टूबर उन्नीस सौ सत्तर में राजकुमार चाल्स ने प्रधान मंत्री रातु कमिसेसे मारा को स्वतंत्रता कागज़ात सौपा। कागज़ात स्वीकार करते हुए रातु मारा ने कहा फीजी एकता में बंधा हुआ बहुजाति समुदाय है। फिर संसद की स्थापना हुई, सदस्य चुने गए और फीजी के लिए संविधान तैयार किया गया।

स्वतंत्र होने के तुरंत बाद फीजी संयुक्त राष्ट्र में शामिल हो गया। सत्तर के दशक में काफी आर्थिक और राजनैतिक बदलाव हुए। इस दौरान सुवा और नांदी के बीच हाथवय बना। नवम्बर उन्नीस सौ छियात्तर में उस समय के गवना जेनरल रातु सेर जोज टकोम्बाउ ने क्वीस हाथवय का उद्घाटन किया।

सत्तर के दशक अंत होते होते रोयल फीजी मिलिट्री फोर्स के सैनिक शांति सेवा प्रदान करने लेबानोन जाने लगे। जून उन्नीस सौ अठहत्तर में लगभग पांच सौ फीजियन सैनिक युनायटेड नईशन्स इंटरिम फोर्स में लेबानोन भेजे गए।

अगस्त उन्नीस सौ सतहत्तर में फीजी की जीत ब्रिटिश लाएस् से हुई। पियो बोस्को तिकोईसुवा, इलईतिया तुई सेसे और स्वर्गीय रूपनी नारानिगियो जैसे खिलाड़ी फीजी की ओर से मैदान में उतरे थे।

उन्नीस सौ उनहत्तर में फीजी ने छटवा साउथ पेसिफिक गैईम्स् की मेज़बानी की थी। राजकुमारी एलेक्ज़ांड्रा ने गैईम्स् का उद्घाटन किया था और

इसमें उन्नीस देशों से महिला पुरुष खिलाड़ियों ने भाग लिया।

अस्सी के दशक में कई देशों के प्रधान मंत्रियों ने फीजी का दौरा किया। उन्नीस सौ अस्सी में पापुवा निउगिनी के प्रधान मंत्री-मायकल सोमारे, चिली के राष्ट्रपति-जेनरल अगस्तो पिनोशे, राष्ट्रमंडल के सेक्रेट्री जेनरल-सेर श्रीदत्त रामपाल, ओस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधान मंत्री-मेलकम फर्डिज़ा और ब्रिटिश हाउज़ ओफ् कोमन्स् के स्पीकर-जो ज़ोमस फीजी आए।

उन्नीस सौ इक्यासी में भारत की प्रधान मंत्री इंदरा गांधी फीजी आईं। उनका फीजी में भव्य स्वागत किया गया। उन्होंने यहाँ भारतीय मूल के लोगों से मुलाकात की और कई इलाकों का दौरा किया।

उन्नीस सौ ब्यासी में मलेशिया के प्रधान मंत्री-डाक्टर महातीर मोहम्मद और महारानी एलिज़बेथ टू सेकन्ड ने अपने पति के साथ फीजी का औपचारिक दौरा किया।

उन्नीस सौ चौरासी में निउज़ीलैंड के प्रधान मंत्री-डेविड लोंगी, ओस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधान मंत्री-बोब होक, श्री लंका के उप प्रधान मंत्री-टायरोन फेनाडो और ओस्ट्रेलिया के गवना जनरल-सेर निनियन स्टिफन ने फीजी का दौरा किया।

उन्नीस सौ पचासी में जपान के प्रधान मंत्री-यसुहिरो नकोसोमे, चीन की कोमुनिस्ट पार्टी के जेनरल सेक्रेट्री-हू यावबंग, अमरीका के सेक्रेट्री ओफ् स्टेट-जो ज़ेड्ज़ और निउज़ीलैंड के गवना जनरल सेर डेविड बीटी फीजी आए।

उन्नीस सौ छियासी में साउथ कोरिया के प्रधान मंत्री-शियोंग इहो, सिंगापो के प्रधान मंत्री-ली क्वान यिउ, इज़रैल के राष्ट्रपति-चईम हेज़ोग और पौप जोन पोल टू सेकन्ड ने फीजी का दौरा किया।

उन्नीस सौ सत्तासी में देश में पहला



उन्नीस सौ सत्तर में उतारे गए कुछ चित्र जब राजकुमार चाल्स ने प्रधान मंत्री रातु



कमिसेसे मारा को स्वतंत्रता कागज़ात सौपा था

सत्ता पलटाव हुआ था जब सितिवेनी रम्बुका ने डाक्टर तिमोदी बावांड्रा की सरकार को सत्ता से हटा दिया था।

सत्ता पलटाव के बाद अंतरिम सरकार आई जिसकी अगुवाई रातु मारा कर रहे थे। जुलाई उन्नीस सौ नब्बे में नया संविधान की घोषणा की गई। उन्नीस सौ इक्यान्वे में आदिवासियों की एक नई पार्टी - सोंगोसोंगो नी वाकावुलेवा नी तउकई ने जन्म लिया और एस वी टी की अगुवाई रम्बुका कर रहे थे। उन्नीस सौ ब्यान्वे में इस पार्टी की जीत चुनाव में हुई और रम्बुका प्रधान मंत्री बने।

राष्ट्रपति रातु सेर पेनईया गनिलाउ के निधन होने पर ग्रीट कौंसल ओफ् चीफ्स ने रातु मारा को राष्ट्रपति नियुक्त किया।

उन्नीस सौ पंचानवे में देश के स्वतंत्र होने की पचीसवी सालगिरह मनाई गई। लेवुका में सप्ताह भर के कार्यक्रम की आयोजना की गई थी।

उन्नीस सौ सत्तानवे में फीजी दस सालों बाद फिर से राष्ट्रमंडल में शामिल हुआ। इस साल फीजी की जीत होंग कोंग सेवन्स् टुनामेंट में हुई और फीजी ने रग्बी वॉल्ड कप सेवन्स टायटल भी जीता। फायनल में फीजी की जीत साउथ अफ्रीका से 24 - 21 से हुई थी।

उन्नीस सौ निन्यानवे में महेन्द्र चौधरी फीजी के पहले भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री बने जब उनकी लईवा पार्टी की जीत बहुमत से हुई। लईवा पार्टी ने फीजियन असोसिएशन पार्टी के साथ मिलकर पीपल्स कौलेशन गवर्मेंट बनाया था।

चौधरी की सरकार केवल एक साल तक चली और उन्नीस मई सन् दो

हज़ार में एक असफल व्यापारी जोज स्पईट ने सरकार को बंधक बना लिया और चौधरी के साथ उनके सरकारी मंत्रियों को छप्पन दिनों तक बन्दी बनाकर रखा। इस साल नवम्बर में उस वक्त के सेना प्रमुख वॉरेन्गो बड़निमारामा को भी कुछ सैनिकों ने उनके पद से हटाने की कोशिश की थी।

दो हज़ार एक वाले आम चुनाव में सोंगोसोंगो दुवावाता नी लेवेनिवनुवा - एस डी एल पार्टी की जीत हुई और लईसेनिया नारासे प्रधान मंत्री बने। दो हज़ार छः के चुनाव में एक बार फिर से एस डी एल की जीत हुई और पार्टी कुछ ऐसे कानून पास करने की कोशिश करने लगी जो देश के कुछ लोगों के लिए ठीक नहीं रहता। उसी साल डिसेम्बर में सेना ने सत्ता अपने हाथों में ले लिया और दो हज़ार चौदह तक बड़निमारामा सरकार सत्ता सम्भालती रही।

नया संविधान, नई चुनाव प्रणाली और बढ़ती अर्थ-व्यवस्था के कारण सन् दो हज़ार चौदह में फीजी फेस्ट पार्टी की जीत बहुमत से हुई और वॉरेन्गो बड़निमारामा फिर से प्रधान मंत्री बने। दो हज़ार अट्ठारह वाले आम चुनाव में फिर से फीजी फेस्ट पार्टी की जीत हुई।

फीजी फेस्ट सरकार के आने से लोगों को काफी सुविधाएं मिलने लगी जैसे बुजुर्गों को सोसल पेंशन स्कीम के तहत अलावन्स मिलने लगा, उन्हें कहीं आने जाने के लिए बज़ का भाड़ा सरकार से मिलने लगा, बच्चों की स्कूल फीस हटा दी गई, स्कूल जाने के लिए सरकार बज़ का भाड़ा भरने लगी, हाथ स्कूल के बाद आगे की

पढ़ाई करने के लिए सरकार ने टेशरी एजुकेशन लौन्स् स्कीम की व्यवस्था कर दी जिससे गरीब से गरीब व्यक्ति भी अपने बच्चों को उच्च से उच्च शिक्षा दे सके।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा की नेतागिरी में फीजी का नाम अंतराष्ट्रीय समाज में भी बड़ा सम्मान से लिया जाने लगा जबकि प्रधान मंत्री ने कोप23 के अध्यक्ष की हैसियत से जलवायु परिवर्तन को लेकर अंतराष्ट्रीय मंच पर बहुत आवाज़ उठाई।

जलवायु परिवर्तन से प्रशांति द्वीपों पर पड़ने वाले असर को लेकर प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा सभी प्रशांति द्वीपों की ओर से आवाज़ उठा रहे हैं। वे चाहते हैं कि समुद्रों की देख-भाल भी अच्छी तरह से किया जाए और बड़े बड़े व्यवसाईक देश, कार्बन एमिशन कम करें जिससेकि तापमान नियंत्रण में रहे।

फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था भी पिछले कुछ सालों से बहुत अच्छा करने लगी थी और उसमें लगातार बढ़ती हो रही थी लेकिन इस साल कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण पूरी दुनिया की अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ा।

फीजी की सब से ज्यादा आमदनी टुरिज़म से आती थी और इस महामारी के कारण सीमाओं के बन्द होने पर टुरिज़म व्यवसाय लगभग ठप्प हो गया है।

इस महामारी के शिकार लोगों की मदद सरकार कर रही है और आशा की जा रही है कि इस महामारी के समाप्त होने पर हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था में सुधार होने लगेगा और हम पुनः आगे की ओर बढ़ने लगेंगे।

पचास से ज्यादा सालों से सेवा प्रदान कर रहे व्यापारियों को मान्यता मिली

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प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गो बड़निमारामा ने सुवा रिटईलज़ असोसिएशन के चालीस से ज्यादा सदस्यों को मान्यता दी जो पिछले पचास से ज्यादा सालों से सुवा में व्यापार कर रहे हैं।

सुवा सिविक ओडिटोरियम में पिछले सप्ताह सुवा रिटईलज़ रिकोगनिशन नाईट में बोलते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि इतनी लम्बी दौर के लिए कड़ी मेहनत और लगनशीलता की ज़रूरत है।

“उपभोगताओं के बदलते पसन्द का ख्याल रखना, अर्थ-व्यवस्था को समझना कि कैसे व्यापार पर असर करेगा और आगे के लिए योजना बनाना कोई सहज काम नहीं है। पचास सालों बाद भी कई दुकान-मालिक अभी भी उसी व्यापार में

शामिल हैं जो उनके बाप दादे करते थे। इन पचास सालों में सुवा में काफी बदलाव हुए हैं और यह व्यापारी अभी भी सेवा प्रदान करने से पीछे नहीं हटते। आपके परिवार भी आपके व्यापार में शामिल हैं और आज भी आप सुवा की स्थानिए अर्थ-व्यवस्था को सहयोग दे रहे हैं”। कोविड-19 को लेकर प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि अभी कोई नहीं कह सकता कि कब तक सब कुछ सामान्य होगा लेकिन सरकार से जो कुछ बन पायेगा, वह लोगों की मदद करना जारी रखेगी। उन्होंने व्यापारियों से सरकार के साथ मिलकर लोगों को नौकरी प्रदान करने की दिशा में काम करने की माँग की। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि इन पचास सालों में इन व्यापारियों ने कई मुसिबतों का सामना किया लेकिन आगे बढ़ने से उन्हें कोई रोक नहीं पाया।



सुवा में पचास से ज्यादा सालों से व्यापार कर रहे कुछ व्यापारियों के साथ प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गो बड़निमारामा चित्र: रोनल देव



फीजी दिवस के अवसर पर देश भर में समारोह हुए

फीजी के स्वतंत्र होने की पचासवीं सालगिरह के अवसर पर देश के विभिन्न इलाकों में समारोह आयोजित किए गए थे। दिन में नीला पोशाक में कई सौ की संख्या में लोगों ने इनमें भाग लिया। प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो वडिनमारासा ने अपने संदेश में कहा कि अपनी चुनौतियों के बावजूद दुनिया में कहीं पर भी

किसी छोटे देश ने अपने लिए और विश्व के कल्याण के लिए इतना बड़ा काम नहीं किया होगा जितना फीजी ने किया है। हमारा इतिहास है कि हमारे लोग हर परिस्थितियों में मजबूती से खड़े हुए। एकजुट लोगों के रूप में हमारे सबसे अच्छे दिन अभी आने बाकी हैं।



पचास डोलर के नोट और पचास सेंट के सिक्के का विमोचन हुआ

फीजी की पचासवीं स्वतंत्रता दिवस के मौके पर प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो वडिनमारासा ने पचास डोलर (\$50) के बैंकनोट और पचास सेंट (50 cents) के सिक्कों का विमोचन किया। ग्रेन्ड पैसिफिक होटल सूबा में प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि ये नई मुद्रा फीजी के समृद्ध अतीत और उज्ज्वल भविष्य का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है। उन्होंने कहा कि फीजी के इतिहास में पहली बार रंगीन सिक्कों का विमोचन हुआ है। प्रधान मंत्री ने घोषणा की कि नए पचास सेंट के सिक्के फीजी में सभी प्राथमरी और सेकन्डरी स्कूल के कक्षा एक से लेकर तेरह तक के विद्यार्थियों को बांटे जाएंगे।

चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन





प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बड़निमारामा कुछ मंत्रियों तथा उच्च सरकारी अधिकारियों के साथ उत्तरी विभाग का दौरा करते हुए चित: प्रदान किया गया

फीजी ने चीन, कोरिया, तुवालू और पलाउ को बधाई दी

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प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बड़निमारामा ने चीन के राष्ट्रपति महामहीम जी ज़िपिंग को चीन की इक्वहत्तरवीं वर्षगांठ के अवसर पर बधाई दी।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि दोनों देशों के बीच पिछले पैंतालिस सालों से अच्छा सम्बंध है और वे एक दूसरे के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि आगे भी वे कांधि से कांधा मिलाकर काम करेंगे।

प्रधान मंत्री ने फीजी के विकास के प्रति चीन की सहायता और योगदान की सराहना की।

फीजी और चीन के बीच उन्नीस सौ पचहत्तर में कूटनीतिक सम्बंध स्थापित हुए थे।

और कोरिया के नेशनल फाउंडेशन डय के अवसर पर भी प्रधान मंत्री ने बधाई का संदेश भेजा।

कोरिया के राष्ट्रपति महामहीम मून जयइन के पास संदेश में प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कोविड-19 को लेकर कोरिया के राष्ट्रपति की नेतागिरी की सराहना की।

उन्होंने कहा कि आगे भी फीजी और कोरिया के बीच अच्छा सम्बंध रहेगा।

दोनों देशों के बीच उन्नीस सौ इक्वहत्तर में कूटनीतिक सम्बंध स्थापित हुए थे और तब से दोनों देश एक दूसरे के साथ मिलकर और सहयोग देते हुए काम कर रहे हैं।

तुवालू के बयालीसवीं वर्षगांठ के अवसर पर भी प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने बधाई का संदेश भेजा।

तुवालू के प्रधान मंत्री काउसेया नतानो को भेजे गए अपने संदेश में प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि इस साल का समारोह, इतिहास में सब से चुनौतिपूर्ण रहेगा जबकि पूरी दुनिया कोविड-19 महामारी से जूझ रही है।

उन्होंने कहा कि तुवालू, पेरिफिक बुवाले का एक खास सदस्य है और लोगों की भलाई के लिए वे तुवालू के साथ मिलकर काम करते रहेंगे तथा सम्बंध और गहरा करेंगे।

फीजी और तुवालू के बीच पिछले चालीस सालों से अच्छा सम्बंध है।

और पलाउ को भी उसकी छब्बीसवीं वर्ष गांठ के अवसर पर प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने बधाई दी।

पलाउ के राष्ट्रपति महामहीम टोमी एसंग रेमेंगेसाउ के पास बधाई के अपने संदेश में प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि पलाउ और फीजी के बीच सालों से अच्छे सम्बंध हैं और वे इन्हें बनाए रखेंगे।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि क्षेत्रीय एकता बढ़ाने के ज़रिए वे दोनों देशों के बीच सम्बंध मज़बूत करेंगे। फीजी डय के अवसर पर कई देशों से बधाई के संदेश मिले।

प्रतिबन्ध लगे कीटनाशक अब बाज़ार में नहीं हैं

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देश में व्यापारी फीजी पेस्टिसाईड्स कानून का पालन करते हुए प्रतिबन्ध लगे कीटनाशक अब नहीं बेचते हैं।

ओवालाउ लेवुका में प्लांट प्रोटेक्शन एन्ड प्लांट हेल्थ क्लिनिक में बोलती हुई कृषि मंत्रालय की सिनिया टेक्निकल असिस्टेंट पेस्टिसाईड रेजिस्ट्रेशन एश्वीन लता ने बताया कि व्यापारी अब फीजी पेस्टिसाईड्स कानून का पालन कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि एक सर्वेक्षण से पाया गया है कि प्रतिबन्ध लगे कीटनाशक, इस साल जनवरी से दुकानों में नहीं दिखाई देते हैं।

“पहले दुकानों में प्रतिबन्ध लगे कीटनाशक बेचे जाते थे। दुकानदार इन खतरनाक दवाईयों को कभी कभी भोजन समग्री के साथ रखते थे और कभी कभी इन दवाईयों पर सही लेबल भी नहीं लगाया जाता था। लेकिन लगातार जागरूकता फैलाने से दुकानदार अब कानून का पालन करने लगे हैं और कीटनाशक सुरक्षित तरीके से अलग रखते हैं।”

एश्वीन लता ने बताया कि बार बार खतरनाक कीटनाशकों के सम्पर्क में आने से इनका विपरीत असर लोगों और जानवरों पर पड़ता है।

“अगर इन खतरनाक दवाईयों का प्रयोग सही तरह से नहीं किया गया, तो इन से चमड़े की बीमारी, नाखुनों का सड़ना और वातावरण पर भी विपरीत असर पड़ सकता है। इस कारण से हमने दुकानदारों, किसानों और इन दवाईयों का प्रयोग करने वाले अन्य लोगों से मिलकर उन्हें इन दवाईयों से होने वाले खतरों के बारे में बताया और समझाया कि इन खतरों से कैसे बचा जा सकता है,” एश्वीन लता ने कहा।

मोआला, कन्दावू, दिदिया, तोतोया, वनुवाम्बलावू, लकेम्बा, न्गाउ, कोरो और ओवालाउ के कृषि अफसरों ने इस प्रशिक्षण में भाग लिया।

तुई साम्बेतो अई एम अई के साथ जुड़ें

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तुई साम्बेतो, एगरो मार्केटिंग ओथोरिटी के साथ जुड़कर एक व्यापारिक किसान हो गए हैं।

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी की निगरानी में अई एम अई की ओर से सी ई औ एल्विन शर्मा और तुई साम्बेतो की ओर से उनके छोटे भाई रातु जोसईया नम्बूकातावातावा ने हस्ताक्षर किया।

हस्ताक्षर के बाद बधाई देते हुए डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा कि इससे कृषि क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। इस समझौते के तहत तुई साम्बेतो छः अक्कड़ ज़मीन में दुरूका, कसेरा और अन्य सफल

बोयेंगे जिन्हें अई एम अई खरीदेगा।

कृषि मंत्री ने बताया कि एक कोमेशल क्लस्टा फार्मिंग मॉडल में शामिल होने से सप्लाय बना रहेगा और निर्यात के लिए सामान सदा उपलब्ध रहेंगे।

उन्होंने बताया कि खेती बाड़ी करने के लिए लोगों के पास कोई खास हुनर या पढ़ाई लिखाई की भी बहुत ज़रूरत नहीं है।

मंत्री ने बताया कि कोविड-19 के कारण कई अन्य क्षेत्रों में काम रूक गए थे लेकिन खेती जारी रही और कृषि उत्पादन में वृद्धि देखी गई।

“कृषि के कारण अर्थ-व्यवस्था टिकी रही, कृषि से लोगों को आशा मिली कि वे इस महामारी का सामना कर सकते हैं।”

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि यह देखकर अच्छा लगा कि शहरी इलाकों के लोग भी खेती करने में दिलचस्पी लेने लगे हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि सुवा नउसोरी में कई लोग जिनके पास बड़ी ज़मीन नहीं है, अपने आंगन में तरकारी भाजी बाने लगे हैं।

फीजी को एम एस जी व्यापारिक समझौते से फायदा हुआ

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वनुवातु, सोलोमन आयलैंड्स और पापुवा निउगिनी के साथ मेलानिज़ियन स्पीयाहेड ग्रुप व्यापारिक समझौते (MSGTA) के तहत फीजी को काफी फायदा हुआ है।

रूरल एन्ड मेरिटाएम डिवेलपमेंट तथा डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु ने नसोलो बुआ में कोरोवासियों के साथ एक तलानोवा बैठक के दौरान इसकी जानकारी दी।

“इस समझौते से फीजी को काफी कुछ हासिल हुआ है।”

मंत्री ने बताया कि इस समझौते के तहत फीजी वनुवातु से नंगोना आयात करता है।

“हमारे पास काफी बड़ा घरेलू बाज़ार है और अंतराष्ट्रीय बाज़ार तो है ही। हम इसलिए वनुवातु से नंगोना आयात करते हैं क्योंकि हम यहाँ घरेलू माँग की पूर्ती नहीं कर पाते हैं विदेशी बाज़ार की तो बात छोड़ो।” मंत्री सेरूईरातु ने कहा कि अगर नंगोना के स्थानिए किसान और मेहनत करके ज्यादा नंगोना बोयेंगे, तब हमें वनुवातु से नंगोना आयात नहीं करना पड़ेगा।

“नंगोना के लिए अभी काफी मौके उपलब्ध हैं। ग्रामीण इलाकों के किसान केवल वनुवा लेवू में उपलब्ध बाज़ार के बारे में जानते हैं लेकिन इससे बाहर भी अन्य बड़े बाज़ार उपलब्ध हैं। लेकिन इन बड़े बाज़ारों तक जाने के लिए कावा मेनुवल और कावा स्टैंडर्ड्स ज़रूरी है। अगर हम बड़ा पैसा चाहते हैं, तो हमें विदेशी बाज़ारों की ज़रूरतें जैसे क्वालिटी कोन्ट्रोल की पूर्ती करनी होगी।”

मंत्री सेरूईरातु, प्रधान मंत्री के साथ उत्तरी विभाग के दौर पर गए थे जहाँ उन्होंने लोगों से मुलाकात की और ऐसी योजनाओं का उद्घाटन किया जिनसे ग्रामीण इलाकों के लोगों के जीवन में सुधार आने में मदद मिल सकती है।



रूरल एन्ड मेरिटाएम डिवेलपमेंट तथा डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु, मंत्रालय के एक कर्मचारी के साथ भीतरी इलाको का दौरा करते हुए

होटल्स को और कर्मचारियों की ज़रूरत - आई जी

रोनल देव

अटेनी जनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने आम किया है कि “लव आवा लौकल्स कार्यक्रम के कारण देश में कई होटल्स को सप्ताह अंत ज़्यादा कर्मचारियों की ज़रूरत होती है।

मंत्री ने कहा कि होटल कर्मचारी काम पर लौटने से हिचकिचा रहे हैं क्योंकि कर्मचारियों की डर है कि अगर वे काम पर लौटेंगे तो उन्हें मिल रही सरकारी सहायता से पैसे काटें जाएंगे। लेकिन सईयद खईयूम ने होटल कर्मचारियों को आशवासन दिया है कि उन्हें सप्ताह अंत काम करने के लिए वेतन मिलेगा और एफ.एन.पी.एफ. से उन्हें हर दो सप्ताह में जो दो सौ बीस डॉलर मिलते हैं, उसमें कोई कटौती नहीं की जायेगी।

“यह समझना बेहद ज़रूरी है कि जब सरहदें खुल जाएंगी, हम नहीं चाहते कि हमारे लोग जो खास करके टूरिज़्म क्षेत्र में काम करते हैं, अपना हुनर भूल जाएं इस-लिए ज़रूरी है कि वे काम करते रहें। कुछ क्षेत्र की नौकरियाँ ऐसी हैं जहाँ लोग अपना हुनर भूल सकते हैं अगर वे कुछ दिनों तक काम नहीं करेंगे,” अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा।

अटेनी जनरल ने यह भी घोषणा की कि अच्छी तरह गौर करने पर नान्दी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के टेक्सी ड्राइवरों को भी हर दो सप्ताह में सरकार बेरोज़गारी वाली सहायता के रूप में दो सौ बीस डॉलर देगी। इन टेक्सी ड्राइवरों के पास अभी बहुत कम या कुछ भी आमदनी नहीं है। नउसोरी हवाई अड्डे की टेक्सी सेवाओं पर भी गौर किया जा रहा है।



लौतोका में नंदिलाउ यूथ क्लब को खेती करने के लिए औज़ार और तार लगाने के सामान देते हुए यूथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला चित्र: मेरियानी गोनेन्दुवा

युवा दल से सामाजिक विकास की अगुवाई करने की माँग की गई

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युवा मंत्रालय की मदद से युवकों को सामाजिक विकास की अगुवाई करनी चाहिए।

यूथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला लौतोका में नंदिलाउ यूथ क्लब को खेती करने के लिए औज़ार देते वक्त बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने बताया कि मंत्रालय युवकों को सफलता हासिल करने की ओर बढ़ने के लिए प्रेरित करता रहेगा। “मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि समय के साथ

हम आगे बढ़ेंगे। आज जो कुछ प्राप्त हुआ है, मंत्रालय, तुम्हारा समाज और तुम्हारा यूथ क्लब ने मिलकर हासिल किया है। तुम्हारी सफलता का मतलब है कि हम सब साथ मिलकर आगे बढ़ रहे हैं”।

मंत्री ने युवाओं से वर्तमान महामारी से हताश न होने की माँग की है।

“इस महामारी में घबराने की ज़रूरत नहीं, हमें आगे बढ़ना है और काम करने के अपने तरीकों को बदलना है।”

मंत्री बाला ने ज़मीन मालिकों को भी धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने यूथ क्लब को ज़मीन प्रदान की है।

“मैं तुम्हारी योगदान को मान्यता देता हूँ। इससे तुम्हारे समाज और पूरे देश के सामाजिक और आर्थिक विकास में मदद मिलेगी,” मंत्री बाला ने कहा।

नंदिलाउ यूथ क्लब में चालीस से ज़्यादा सदस्य हैं और खेती करने के सामानों के अलावा उन्हें तार लगाने के सामान और बीज भी दिए गए।

निवेशक अभी भी दिलचस्पी दिखा रहे हैं

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निवेशक अभी भी फीजी में विश्वास रखते हैं और कोविड-19 महामारी के बावजूद अभी भी यहाँ पूंजी लगा रहे हैं।

पिछले सप्ताह एक समाचार सम्मेलन में बोलती हुई हाउज़िंग, लौकल गवर्नमेंट एन्ड कोमिउनिटी डिवेलपमेंट मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने इसकी घोषणा करते हुए फीजी में पूंजी लगाने के लिए पूंजीपतियों को धन्यवाद दिया।

मंत्री कुमार ने बताया कि इस साल जनवरी से सितम्बर तक चौबीस (24) बड़ी बड़ी योजनाओं की अनुमति मिली है जिनका मूल्य बाह्यतर मिलियन डॉलर (\$72m) है।

पिछले साल तेईस (23) योजनाओं की अनुमति मिली थी जिनका मूल्य एक दशमलव चार बिलियन डॉलर (\$1.4b) था।

मंत्री ने बताया कि इस साल अनुमति मिली योजनाओं में व्यावसायिक और औद्योगिक योजनाएं शामिल हैं।

उन्होंने कहा इनमें ऑफिस स्पेइस, रेस्टुरांट, वेयाहाउज़, व्यावसायिक तथा रिसिडेंशियल अपार्टमेंट्स और एक प्रायवट अस्पताल है।

इन योजनाएं पर देश के विभिन्न विभागों में काम हो रहे हैं।



रूरल एन्ड मेरिटाएम डिवेलपमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु, जपानी राजदूत के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किए गए

आपदा के समय काम में लाने के लिए नई नाव मिलीं

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जापानी सरकार ने जपनीज़ इनटानेशनल कोपरईशन सिस्टम (JICS) के तहत आपदा के समय काम में लाने के लिए छः नई नाव दान में दिया है।

नाव के अलावा जापानी सरकार ने मिनिस्ट्री ओफ़ रूरल एन्ड मेरिटाएम डिवेलपमेंट एन्ड डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमेंट को पाँच दसमलव आठ मिलियन डॉलर मूल्य के अन्य समान दिया है। दो हजार सत्तरह में जपनीज़ इनटानेशनल कोपरईशन सिस्टम के साथ एक समझौता हुआ था जिसके तहत यह सामान दिए गए हैं।

दान में प्राप्त सामानों को स्वीकार करते हुए रूरल एन्ड मेरिटाएम डिवेलपमेंट एन्ड डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु ने कहा कि यह सामान सही समय पर आए हैं जबकि फीजी में तुफानी मौसम बस आने वाला है।

“इन नावों के ज़रिए प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के दौरान हम असर पड़े भीतरी इलाकों तक पहुँच सकेंगे। प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के बाद हुई नुक़सानी का पता लगाने में और लोगों तक पहुँचने में यह नाव मददगार साबित होंगे।”

मंत्री ने कहा कि इन नाव को देश के सभी विभागों में काम में लाया जा सकता है।

“प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के बाद लोगों तक ज़रूरी सामान पहुँचाने में भी यह नाव काम में लाए जायेंगे और इस तरह से हमें लोगों से जुड़ने में भी मदद मिलेगी।”

मंत्री ने बताया कि सरकार दूर-दराज और भीतरी ग्रामीण इलाकों तथा समुद्र से घिरे इलाकों तक भी अपनी सेवाएं पहुँचाना चाहती है।

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फ़ीजी दर्पण

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अटेनी जनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम बेरोज़गार लोगों को नौकरी दिलाने वाली नई स्कीम की घोषणा करते हुए चित्र: शेनल देव

बेरोज़गार लोगों के लिए राहत सहायता की घोषणा हुई

शेनल देव

देश में बेरोज़गार लोगों के लिए नौकरियाँ उपलब्ध कराने और मज़दूर मालिकों को कुछ राहत देने के इरादे से सरकार ने स्ट्रोंगर टुगेदर जॉब्स सपोर्ट स्कीम (Stronger Together Jobs Support Scheme) की शुरुआत की है।

इसकी घोषणा करते हुए अटेनी जनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि कोविड-19 के जवाब में निकाले गए बजट तथा राष्ट्रीय बजट में उन लोगों को राहत देने के लिए पैसे अलग किए गए हैं जिनकी नौकरियाँ कोरोनावायरस के कारण छूट गई हैं

या जिसके काम करने के घण्टें कम हुए हैं।

अभी तक सरकार की इस सहायता से एक लाख पंद्रह हजार फीजीवासियों को लाभ हुआ है जिसके लिए अभी तक सरकार ने सीधी सहायता के रूप में लोगों को लगभग पचास मिलियन डोलर दिया है।

अटेनी जनरल ने प्रकाश डाला कि जो मज़दूर मालिक नए लोगों को नौकरी देंगे, को हर नए मज़दूर के लिए सरकार \$2.68 प्रति घण्टा वेतन देगी।

अई जी ने प्रायवट सेक्टर, सरकारी विभाग, गैर-सरकारी संस्थाएं, टाउन और सिटी काउन्सिल के मज़दूर मालिकों को इस स्कीम में अपनी दिलचस्पी दिखाने के लिए आमंत्रित किया है।

“शर्त यह है कि सरकारी सहायता के बाद बचे वेतन तथा फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फण्ड और अन्य खर्च मज़दूर मालिकों को भरना पड़ेगा। जिन फीजीवासियों के पास एफ.एन.पी.एफ. नहीं है या छोटा-मोटा काम या व्यापार करते हैं, कोविड-19 से पहले जिनकी नौकरी छूटी है (पिछले साल तीस सितम्बर से पहले जिनके एफ.एन.पी.एफ. में पैसे जमा होना बन्द हो गया है) को इस स्कीम के नीचे प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। जिन लोगों को एफ.एन.पी.एफ. के पहले और दूसरे चरण से सहायता मिली है वो भी इस स्कीम से लाभ उठा सकते हैं।”

अटेनी जनरल ने कहा कि जिन फीजीवासियों को सोशल वेलफेयर से सहायता मिल रही है

वो भी इस स्कीम के तहत नौकरी पा सकते हैं लेकिन नौकरी मिलने पर उन्हें सोशल वेलफेयर पैमन्ट नहीं मिलेगा। जिन छोटे व्यापारियों को सरकार से छूट पर कर्ज मिला है तथा एफ.एन.पी.एफ. के पेन्शनर्स, इस नई स्कीम के तहत रोजगारी हासिल नहीं कर सकते। इस नई सुविधा का संचालन फीजी रेवेन्यू एंड कस्टम्स से-विसस, एफ.एन.पी.एफ., अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्रालय तथा अन्य सरकारी अईजेन्सी मिलकर करेंगी। मंत्री ने पुष्टी की कि सरकार तीन महीनों तक, मज़दूर मालिकों को हर नए कर्मचारी के वेतन के हिस्से में \$2.68 प्रति घण्टे देगी। उन्होंने नान्दी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के टेक्सी ड्राइवरों को सहायता देने की भी घोषणा की।

Noda Viti

‘Eda sa kaukauwa cake sara mai na kena eliu’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA itutu nei Viti ena vuravura raraba e se bera vakadua ni bau kaukauwa cake me vaka ena gauna nikua, Vakaraitaka na tikina oqori na liuliu ni matanitu ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama.

“Se bera vakadua ni dua na gauna me raica keda ko e vuravura raraba me baleti ira na noda tamata, noda itovo vakavanua, kei na noda itovo,” e kaya o koya.

A vakayacori na vosa oqori ena

soqo ni ka 50 ni yabaki ni vakananumi ni tugalala kei Viti ena nodra minisitiri ni tabacakacaka ni taukei me vaka ni kena Minisita talega okoya.

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni namaka me tomana ko Viti na nodra veivakatorocaketaki ena gauna esa rawa kina me dolava na nona yalayala ni vanua vei vuravura

“Au sa nanamaki me ‘u tomana tiko na toso o ya — me da vakaraitaka e vuravura na noda duidui sere, na noda danisi, noda

cakacaka ni liga, kei na noda soqo,” a kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Me da raici ira na iliuliu e vuravura, Peresitedi, kei ira na liuliu ni Matabose cokovata kei Vuravura ka gunuva na imatai ni bilo yaqona, ka sarava na noda vakaraitaka vinaka na noda ivakarau eda vakamareqeta.”

E kaya o Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni rawa ni taqomaki tikoga na keda itukutuku kei na nodra itovo vinaka ni veirokovi ka me kua ni yali raw aka sivia e 50 vakacaca na yabaki.

“Baleta ni vakayacori vakakina, o ira na noqu itokani, o ira na ivakarau ni bula oqori era sa maroroi tu ena sivia na 50 na yabaki; ia era sa tawamate rawa ena ivola tukutuku kei na ivakananumi vakatautauvata, e veiyasai vuravura taucoko, me tawamudu,” kaya ko PM

“Ia ni kua, ena noda sa mai yacova na ika 50 ni yabaki, oqori e dua na ka eda rawa ni dokadoka kece kina.”

Kuria ko PM Bainimarama ni da marau tiko ena dela ni dredre

vakailavo ka kauta mai na mate dewa ni Covid-19.

“Ni da lako vata mai me da marautaka, e dua veimama na senijuri, e Viti, me vakataki ira na veimatanitu e veiyasai vuravura, ka ra sotava talega ga na dredre ni bula vakailavo.”

Kaya ko PM Bainimarama ni ivakarau ni yalo ni veiqaravi oqo ena vakaukauwa taki keda tikoga me yacova tale edua na 50 na yabaki nida dau curuma na dredre ia ena toso tikoga.



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra tavoca na noti vou ni \$50 kei na 50 na sede- na ivakananumi ni yabaki 50 ni tu galala kei Viti. iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN

‘Sega ni rawa me tagutuva rawa na neimami loloma’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA mate oqo na COVID-19 se dua na leqa ena senijuri e sega rawa ni voroka na loloma eda wasea me baleta na noda vanua, o ira na noda tamata, na noda itikotiko,

Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena soqo ni nodra laki tavoca na noti vou ni vakananumi ni yabaki 50 se jubili nei Viti

“Eda mai lagita vata tiko ena yakavi ni kua ni da dolava na ivakatakilakila vou ni Viti 50 Jubilee,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na ivakananumi vou oqo e baleta na city o Suva, na noda cakacaka ena noda itukutuku makawa kei na kena e liu, na sala kece ki na 1882 ena gauna a toki kina eke na idabedabe ni vakoloni mai na Levuka.”

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni sa tucake tu e lomadra o Suva ena loma ni 140 na yabaki ni itukutuku makawa, ena gaunisala na Queen Elizabeth’s Drive, ena iyaloyalo ni otela ni Pasifika, ena loma ni gaunisala mai vei Albert Park, na Thurston gardens, ka voleka kina valeni veiqaravi vakamatani ka tiko kina na Peresitedi, voleka kina na palimedi kei na idabedabe

ni matanitu.

“Au doka na veika eda sa cakava ena veiyabaki sa oti oqo me da kauta lesu mai kina na bula ki na iwasewase oqo ni noda cakacaka, vata kei na veiqaravi vinaka ka sa vakalesuya mai na serau nei Suva,” kaya ko PM.

“Au taleitaka ni sa rawa vei keda meda maroroya ka vakayagataka na kena itaratara mai na kena e liu vakoloni.

Au taleitaka ni sa tubu ka vakaiivolataki na siti oqo, ia me maroroi na kena ivakarau. Kau taleitaka ni gauna oqo sa tu vei keda na madigi me da marautaka na siti oqo kei

na kena itukutuku makawa. Ia nikua e sega walega ni baleta na noda gauna sa oti.”

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni tucake tu o Suva me vaka edua na tauni se city levu ena Pasivika ka dodonu me tubu tikoga.

“Sa dodonu meda tara tikoga na vale. Ko Suva e dodonu me toso cake tikoga ki na vale me baleti ira na kena lewenivanua, e dua na vanua ni veika vakailavo, tekinolaji, kei na vakauitukutuku ena wasewase ni vuravura ena Pasivika, kei na nodra icavacava ni veisiko na vulagi mai na veiyasai vuravura.”



Tabaki ira vata toka qori na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Bula vakailavo Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena soqo ni vakananumi ni yabaki 50 na tu galala kei Viti kei ira na tamata cakacaka e na Musket Cove ena yatu Malolo. iTaba: RUPENI WAQAVONO

Noda siga vinaka e na yaco mai: Vunilawa

RUPENI WAQAVONO

NA veisiga vinaka kei Viti ena qai yaco mai me da na qai vakila na lewenivanuararabaenanodavanua. Na mala ni vosa nodra na Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum emai tau toka ena soqo ni vakananumi kei Vitimainamua ira ena otela na Musket Cove ka vakayacori kina edua na veitau waqa main a yanuyanu o Malolo.

Kaya ko Vunilawa Sayed-Khaiyum ni veimatanitu cecere dina e dau segata wasoma me vakayacori na yalayala ni nodra sucu, me ra bulataka na vakasama ka na rawa ni kila na nodra rawa-ka dina na

lewenivanua kei na nodra vanua.

“Na veimatanitu cecere dina era kila na bula vakataki koya sa imatai walega ni ikalawa ena dua na ilakolako balavu,” kaya ko Vunilawa Sayed-Khaiyum

“Keimami a tamata ka kila tu na neimami rawa-ka cecere, ka keimami sa vakadeitaka me keimami taura na cecere oya, me keimami rokovi ira na veimatanitu kecega ka sega tale ni taura e dua na idabedabe e muri.”

Kuria ko Vunilawa ni sa rawa me da marautaka na siga oqo baleta ni da basika mai na veigauna dredre oqori ka bibi cake sara

– cake ka duavata vakalevu cake.

“Kevaka meda qai dau nanuma tiko ni da sa dua ga na matanitu, qai dua na kai Viti, na bolebole oqori ena takali yani ka sega ni vakaibalebale,”

“E rawa ni da dokadoka, ni oti e 50 na yabaki, eda sa tara vata e dua na demokarasi dina. Eda sa biuta vata tu na ivakarau ni Veivakatorocaketaki vakamatanitu ena Pasivika, vakatorocaketaki ni noda veitau, veikoro, kei na noda vakakoro kei na vanua, na veiqaravi ni bula e veiyasai vuravura.”

iTukutuku ni veika vakailavo me baleta na veivakatorocaketaki ena UNGA75

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA mate oqo na Coronavirus se COVID-19 e dua na bolebole levu sara ki na kena vakatorocaketaki na matanitu lalai, ia na mosi e sega ni tukuni ena veiqaravi taumada.

Vakaraitaka na tikina oqori ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainiwrama ena nodra vosa tiko ena bose ni Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura ena ika 75 ni nodra dabe na liuli ni veimatanitu ena vuravura.

Na bose oqori e vakayacori ena talevoni monalivaliva

“Me vaka na veisau ni draki, eda kauta voli na icolacola sega ni dodonu mai na leqa eda a sega ni tekivuna ka sega ni rawa ni walia duadua,” a kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Kevaka eda bolebole meda tarova na veidewavi ni mate se na tarovi ni kaburaki ni kasi, kevaka eda sega ni cakava edua na ka e sa dau baleti keda kece. Kevaka e dua na qaqa, eda vakayalia na veika kece.”

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama kivei ira na vei ira na veimatanitu lalai era kila ni sasaga ni ituvaki ni veimatanitu e kena ibalebale na vakanaulu sobu ena dua na sala ka na vakatotolotaka na katataka ni lati kei vuravura raraba.

“Ia e dodonu me da vakayagataka na noda vakacokotaki vinaka me vakalesui mai kina na cakacaka vata kei na veitokoni ni noda valuta na bolebole kece.”

“Na ilavo lelevu kece oqori era solia na veimatanitu lelevu e sega ni rawa ni da rai lesu kina ena noda vakayagataka na waiwai ka kaburaka na kasi gaga.”

Tomana ko PM Bainimarama ni dodonu me ra vakanamata ki liu, ki na dua na vakalesui mai vakabalavu, ki na vakatau vatani ni tamata, ki na wiliki kece ena monalivaliva, ki na lailai ni veivakaduiduitaki, ki na veivakatorocaketaki karakarawa kei na drokadroka, ka me rawati kina na bula se mate ni vakalailaitaki ni kasi ena loma ni dua na senijiori.

Nanumi na nodra yaga na daunibisinisi

VILIAME TIKOTANI

OIRA na dau ni bsinisi ena tauni o Suva na korotura ga ni noda vanua o Viti era sa bau vakilai saraga na nodra yaga ena tarai cake ni nodra bula na lewenivanua ena noda vanua.

Oqori na nodra vosa na liului ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra laki soqoni vata kei ira na 40 na dau ni bisinisi e Suva ka marautaka kei ira na yabaki 50 ni nodra veiqaravi dede tiko mai ena noda vanua ena balavu ni gauna ni oti na gauna ni tugala mai vei Peritania.

“Oni sa bula dina na nomu-

ni yaga kei na veiqaravi ni bisinisi ka vakabulai Suva toka mai ena gauna balavu ena vakaduri businisi kei na vakatubuilavo ka oni bula vaka matavuvale ena gauna oni cicivaki bisinisi toka kina ena nomuni vale.”

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni o Suva e rawa ni tubu cake tale ena loma ni 50 na yabaki mai oqo baleta na nodra sasaga ni cuqena ni itavi o ira na daunibisini ena loma ni 50 na yabaki sa oti mai oqo.

Kuria ni sa levu na veisau, ia na nodra sitoa ese toka g aka dola toka ga ena veisiga me yacova na Vakarauwai ka levu na veitokoni ki vua na vakaubuilavo ni matanitu ko Viti.



E so vei ira na marama ka ra vakamakete tiko ena makete levu e Suva ena soqo ni martautaki na yabaki 50 ni tu galala nei Viti iTaba: ILISAPECI TUIVALE



‘E da rawata na kaiviti’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

Okeda na lewenivanua eda rawata meda ravuta na bolebole eda dau sotava ka meda laveta cake na noda bula kina dua tale na vanua vou.

Oqori na nodra vakamacala na Minisita ni Tauni, Veivakavaletaki kei na Veiqaravi ena Veitikotiko Premila Kumar ena nodra vakaitavi tiko ena soqo ni vakananumi ni tugalala kei Viti kei na veivakamarautaki e Sigatoka.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Kumar ni dina ni levu na bolebole kei na dredre eda dau sotava ena loma ni 50 na yabaki sa oti ia eda dau kaukauwa ka qarauna meda rawata ka ravuta ka meda duavata ena qaga ni ka eda rawata vata.

“E dodonu meda marautaka vakalewei Viti ka meda dokadoka kina ena veika vinaka eda sa rawata vata mai ena loma ni 50 na yabaki,” kaya ko Minisita Kumar.

“Nikua ena siga ni soqo nikua ena vei-

yasai Viti, eda sa tekivuna edua na itovo ni veivakatorocaketaki esa bera ni bau vakila se vakayacori ena dua na vanua ena Pasivika, meda tauyavutaka na noda tauni, siti noda vei koro kei na yanuanu ka mera semati yani ena veiqaravi vou ni matanitu kina nodra vanua.”

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Kumar na nodra vakavinaka kivei ira na lewenivanua ena nodra yalo qaga ena gauna ni mate dewa na COVID-19 ka kaciva na veitokoni ena cavui kalawa yani ki liu.



Ko Minisita Premila Kumar ena soqo ni vakananumi kei Viti e Sigatoka ka laki sotavi ira kina na lewe ni vanua.
iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA



Na gaunisala vou ni vakasobu ena Vale ni Bose ni Yasana ko Ra ni oti na kena dolava ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Dolavi na gaunisala ni vakasobu e Ra

VILIANE TIKOTANI

ERA laki dolava na gaunisala ni vakasobu mai Ra ena valenibose ni yasana na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama.

“E ka dokai dina vei au na noqu mai vakaitavi tale e na kena dolavi na Bose ni Yasana o Ra,” kaya ko PM

“Au marautaka talega, ni sa mai dolavi na gaunisala na Vakasobu Road ka’u a yalataka ni na tarseal e na yabaki sa oti.”

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama kivei na yasana ko Ra ni sa dodonu mera vakavinavinaka-taka na Kalou ni a sega ni yaco na veika oqori e na noda vanua me vaka na

COVID-19.

“A sega ni vakaruataki e na yabaki oqo na mate vakayauyau a sotavi e Viti e na 1918,” kaya ko PM

“A totolo na vakatulewa ni Matanitu me tarovi na veitosoyaki ka vakarautaki na vanua vakatabui mera qaravi kina na suka mai vavalagi. Na iwalewale ni tataqomaki oqo e tarova na dewa ni mate ka maroroya na bula e na noda vanua,” kaya ko PM

“Sa oti qo e 170 na siga na kena sega ni vaka-deitaki tale e dua na mate e na noda vanua. A levu na itukutuku ni veivakarerei a rogoci e na vula o Maji. E ka ni rarawa ni levu na itukutuku lasutaki era vaka-dewataka sara tikoga eso na veiliutaki.”

“Era tukuna ni rawa ni dewa na mate mai na cagi, e na oti na kakana ka levu tale na itukutuku lasutaki me vakarerei keda na lewenivanua.”

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni vakabauta ni so vei ira na vaka-dewa-taka tiko na itukutuku oqori sa laki ca tale na kakana era volia ka sa laki vaka-osooso tu e vale na iyaya era se volia e na vula o Maji.

“Au vakabauta ni levu vei ira na vakadewa-taka tiko na itukutuku oqori, sa sega na ka mera tukuna me baleta na mate oqo ka ra sa vaka-saqara tale eso na itukutuku mera lasutaka - era na gadreva tikoga mera beitaka na Matanitu e na veika ca e yaco e na noda vanua.”

Solia na metali ni siga kei Viti ko Peresitedi



Ko Peresitedi Jioji Konrote ena soqo ni soli metali ena siga ni vakananumi kei Viti.
iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA tekivuna na Peresitedi kei Viti Jioji Konrote na kena marautaki na soqo ni yabaki 50 ni noda vanua se siga kei Viti ena nodra veisoliyaka na metali ni vakananumi ni matanitu.

Vakaraitaka ko koya na nodra marautaka na soqo oqo me vaka nira donua saraga na soqo ni marautaki ni siga kei Viti ena yabaki 50.

“Oqo mera vakananumi kina oira na lewenivanua era sa bau oca ka solia na nodra bula kivua na kena buli ka tarai cake na bula ni vanua oqo o Viti,” kaya ko Peresitedi.

Era kuria na Peresitedi ni dina ni kila ko koya ni sega ni levu saran a metali era na solia ena soqo oqo, ia sa nona kerekere taumada vei iratou na valenivolavola mera nanumi ira na sa kena qase toka ka vakakina oira na lewenivanua mai na veitabana kece ni bisinisi, matanitu kei ira na sega ni veqaravi vakamatani.

“Sa noqu masu ni sasaga oqo ena laveti cake tale ena dua na gauna e liu ka me rawa ni uqeti ira na lewenivanua raraba ka mera da wilikece kina na lewenivanua main a vei tabana.”

Vakaraitaka ko Peresitedi ni kena curuma main a vuravura na mate dewa na COVID-19 e kau vata mai kei koya na taqaya ka sa vakalailaitaka kina na matanitu na nodra sasaga me baleta na soqo ni siga kei Viti.

“Oqo ena sega ni vakayalolailai taka na kaiviti ka me vagolea tani na rai kei na uqe ni tamata lewenivanua mai na soqo ni yabaki 50 kei Viti me vaka nida matanitu gone ka ra se bulabula noda itabagone ka sa bau yacova toka edua na kabakaba ni matua vinaka vakamatani kei na bisinisi na noda vanua.”



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na lewenivanua ena tikotikoe Mamas Place e Caubati, Suva. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Veivakadeitaki e Caubati ko Paraiminisita Bainimama

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA namaki me tomani na cakacaka ni veiqaravi ni veivakatorocaketaki ena itikotiko e Caubati. Mai vakadeitaki na tikina oqori ni oti na nodra sikova na vanua oqori

na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei Minisita ni Tauni, Premila Kumar ena macawa sa oti.

Era sa vakailavotaka na matanitu ena \$1.4 na milioni me laki tosoi na cakacaka oqori me vaka ni a tiko edua na veicalati

ni rai vei ira na lewenivanua kei ira na contractor era saumi yani vua na matanitu mera qarava na cakacaka.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Kumar vei ira na lewenivanua ni cakacaka esa namaki me na tekivu taki talega ena gauna to-

tolo mai oqo ena yabaki vou.

Oira na vuvale era na vakatataro tiko ena sasaga oqo era sa tokitaki talega mera kua ni vakalatilati ena sasaga ni matanitu baleta ni oqo e lavaki kina na ilavo.



Duavata ena noda drotini

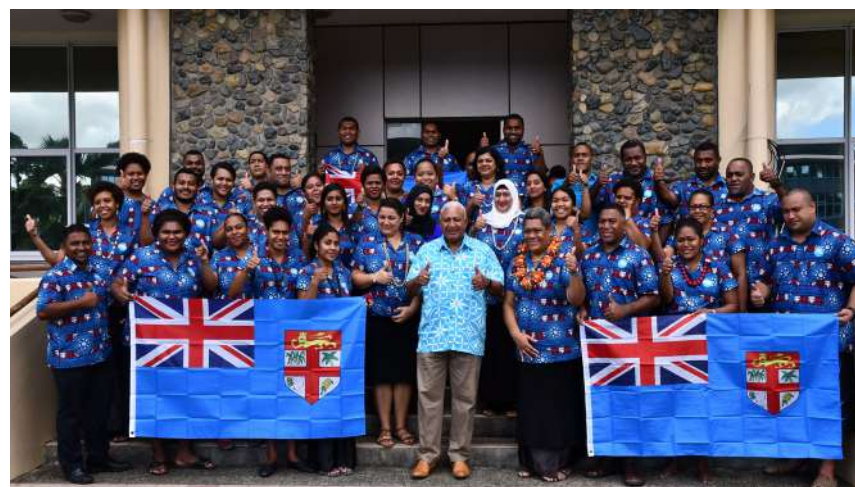
ERA duavata na lewenivanua ena noda vanua ena kena marautaki na Siga kei Viti se vakananumi ni yabaki 50 kei Viti me vaka edau marautaki ena veiyabaki. Ena yabaki oqo e duatani vakalailai baleta na mate na COVID-19 e vakalatilati ena noda soqo vakalevelevu na lewenivanua ia esega ni tarova na noda marautaka.

Era cicivaka edua na veisivisi na matanitu ena kena ukutaki na loma ni vale se boroi na vale ena kena roka karakawata me vakaraitaki ni soqo ni siga kei Viti.

Oqo edua na ivakaraitaki ni duavata vakalewenivanua ena marau ka vakaraitaki ni iyalovata, noda lomana na noda vanua ka dokai ira na kena lewenivanua duikaikai ka cakacaka vata me dua na matanitu.

Era laki tavoca edua na noti vou ni \$50 ka vakakina na edua na 50 na sede na Paraiminisita me ivakananumi ni siga ni yabaki 50 kei Viti ka vakakina na nodra laki tavoca edua na ivakananumi ena tauni o Suva me vaka eda sarava ena I taba era.

ITaba: FELIX LESINAVALU, AZARIA FAREEN





Tavoci e dua na noti vou ni \$50

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA laki tavoca edua na noti vou ni \$50 na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama me vakananumi ni yabaki 50 ni noda vanua ena tugalala mai Peritania.

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni noti oqo etiko kina na roka ni karawa kei Viti, waki kei na dromo sikayawa ka kuria tiko kina na roka vinaka me vakaraitaka na noda vanua.

“E tiko kina edua na droini ni kaloko levu ena vale ni tabacacaka ka vakaraitaka na 10 na kaloko ena gauna donu sa vakarewa kina na noda kuila ena yabaki 50 sa oti ena 1970.”

Me vaka eda na taleitaka na veilesoni e kauta mai ia eda na raica na noda Viti ena gauna eda raica kina na noda noti, oira na gone era na liutaka na noda vanua ena dua na gauna mai iliu. Oira na gone oqo era raica ira cake baleta na nodra duavata vakalewenivanua e Viti ka



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena soqo ni tavoci na noti vou ni \$50 kei na 50 sa sede ena ivakananumi ni yabaki 50 ni tu galala. iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN

sega baleta na veika era lako curuma mai, se nodra kawa tamata se vakabauta.

Era tavoca talega na PM edua na lima saga vulu na sede me vakananumi ka duidui na kena roka ka imatai ni sede ka duidui na kena roka ena noda sede.

Era veisoliyaka na matanitu vei ira na gonevuli ena noda vanua merawa ni vakananumi vei ira ka tukuna kina o PM Bainimarama ni vinakataka mera nanuma na gonevuli ena veigauna kece ni nodra bula.



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na gonevuli isausau vou kei Viti ena Fiji National University. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

‘Siga namaki na siga ni tu galala kei Viti’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SEGA ni dua na ka taleitaki m eda marautaka vata kina na nodra soqo ni marautaki ni yabaki 50 vakamatanitu tu vakagalala oya meda tiko kei ira na gonevuli ena Fiji National Univesiti me vaka nira susugi kina na noda itabagone era na veiliutaki mai ena gauna sa bera mai.

Oqori na mala ni nodra vosa na liuliu ni matanitu Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra laki vulagi dokai ena soqo ni yabaki 50 ni

siga kei Viti mai FNU.

“Oqo edua na siga ena noda vola ni vula eda dau namaka me vaka nida kila ni siga eda tugalala kina mai vei Peritania ka sucu kina na noda vakamatanitu vou,” kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

“Vakavinakataki kemudou na soqosoqo ni gonevuli ena nomudou sasaga meu mai tiko kei kemudou ena siga nikua ka vakakina vei kemuni na tubutubu dauniveisusu ka vakakina vei kemuni kece na vei qaravi vakacacaka kei kemuni na vulagi tiko nikua,” kaya ko PM.

“Kemuni na gonevuli nikua o kemuni na liutaki keimami yani kina veigauna sa bera mai.

“O kemuni na vatu deti ena yavutaki koya kina o Viti ena gauna sab era mai me vaka nida sa sasaga balavu mai meda mai tugalala ka sa oti e 50 na yabaki ni noda soko vata mai.”

“Kemuni sa sucu main a loma ni 50 na yabaki sa oti o kemuni oni na kauti keda yani ena 50 tale na yabaki mai oqo ka lewa na cava na tuvaki ni noda veivakatoroi-caketaki ena gauna sab era mai.



KO Peresitedi Konrote kei Sivika ni Bose Lawa Ratu Epeli Nailatikau ena nodra soqo vata na lewe ni Palimedi kei ira na veiliuliu ni soqosoqo vakacacaka ena kena marautaki vata na yabaki 50 ni tu galala nei Viti ka vakayacori e State House e Suva. iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Qaravi na soqo ni marautaki ni yabaki 50

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA marautaka na Peresitedi Jioji Konrote na yabaki 50 ni noda matanitu ena nodra vale ni matanitu ena Vakarauwai sa oti.

E sureti ira kina na ivakalesilesi vakamatanitu mai na liuliu ni matanitu, Sivika ni Bose Lawa ka vaka kina oira na leweni Palimedi,

Era surety talega na mata ni matanitu mai na veivanuatani ena talai mai kina noda vanua mera

mai vei qaravi ena vuku ni nodra veiwekani vakamatanitu kei Viti.

Era yaco yani vakavuqa kei na drau ka ra daramaka tiko yani na nodra sota kei vinivo ena roka karawa me vaka ni roka ni kuila ni noda vanua.

Vakaraitaka kina ko Peresitedi Konrote ni dua na siga vinaka ni soqo na siga oqo em vaka ni kauta vata kece mai na lewe ni vanua dui kaikai me ra mai marautaka na yabaki 50 ni noda matanitu.



Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei Peresitedi Jioji Konrote ena nodra soqo vata na lewe ni Palimedi kei ira na veiliuliu ni soqosoqo vakacacaka ena kena marautaki vata na yabaki 50 ni tu galala nei Viti ka vakayacori e State House e Suva. iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Sega ni tarovi keda na mate dewa na COVID19



Na Minisita ni Bisinisi, Saravanua, Veivoli kei na Veilakoyaki, Faiyaz Koya kei ira na gone ena soqo ni vakananumi ni yabaki 50 ni tu galala nei Viti e Churchill Park, Lautoka. iTaba: RUPENI WAQAVONO

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA COVID-19 e sega ni vakacala na noda tuvatuva ni marautaka na noda siga yabaki 50 ni noda bula vakamatanitu tu vakagalala

Oqori na nodra rai na Minisita ni Bisinisi, Saravanua, Veivoli kei na Veilakoyaki, Faiyaz Koya ena noda vosa tiko ena soqo ni marautaki ni siga kei Viti mai na Churchill park e Lautoka.

E sega ni tarovi keda ia esa solia vei keda e levu na gaunisala meda qarava kina na soqo ni marau oqo me vaka e yaco ena veiyasai Viti.

Marautaka ko Minisita Koya na nodra rawa ni marautaka na lewei Viti ena veiyasana na soqo oqo edina ni tiko na ivakaro kei na ivakasala ni COVID-19.

Lagiti ira na lewenivanua era vei qaravi tiko ena yalayala ni noda vanua ena nodra cuqena ka yalo dina ena nodra itavi.



Ko ira na lewenivanua ivakalesilesi vakamatani ena nodra maji ena tauni e Labasa ena soqo ni marautaki ni siga ni tu galala kei Viti.

Sa ka bibi na drotini kei Viti: PM Bainimarama

NANISE NEIMILA

Ekilai vinaka tu o koya, nodra buli edua na drotini kei Viti ena 50 na yabaki sa oti ka sa ka dokai vei Tessa McKenzie me bau digitaki me dua e soli na nona metali ni vakananumi kei Viti ena soqo ni marautaki ni yabaki 50 ni tugalala kei Viti.

Ko Mckenzie edua na qasevuli ena nodra gauna ni cakacaka ka mani vakasaqara edua na vanua me mai lewena ena 1961 ni bera ni mai vakaitavitaki koya ena veisisivi ni kuila ni bera na soqo ni tugalala ena 1970.

Sa yabaki 85 okoya ka se nanumi dei vinaka voli na veika era vakayacora ena 50 na yabaki sa oti kei na kena taleitaki vei ira.

“Au vakabauta ni bibi e dua na kuila ki na dua na matanitu baleta ni sa vaka e dua na nomu ivakatakilakila ka nomu ivakatakilakila,” e kaya o McKenzie.

“Ni ko sa sotava tiko na veitemaki (baleta ni sa temaki au na veisisivi me ‘u curu), sa dua dina na itavi levu kau vakasamataka sara vakavinaka ena gauna o ya. Au a vinakata me ‘u tovolea kau raica na kuila e vuravura kau vakasamataka vakavinaka.”

“Me tekivu ena, au nanuma me ‘u maroroya na kuila ni duavata baleta oqori na noda itukutuku makawa. Na itukutuku makawa e tiki ni nomu cakava ka na sega ni rawa ni o veisautaka.”

“Ena itukutuku makawa kece sara, e tiko eso na ka vinaka kei na so na ka ca ka o vulica mai na itukutuku makawa. Kevaka e tiko eso na cala, o sa na vuli mai na cala oqori ka kevaka e tiko eso na ka e lako vinaka, o sa na tara cake o ya.”

E tiko o McKenzie ena kedra mal-iwa na 32 era a ciqoma na metali ni vakananumi ena soqo ni kena soli ka vakayacori ena vale ni matanitu ena macawa sa oti ena gauna ni marau nei Viti ika 50.



Ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama kei Tessa McKenzie ena nona mai ciqoma na nona metali ena soqo ni vakananumi kei Viti ena kena marautaki na yabaki 50 ni tu galala kei Viti. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

‘Me da nanuma na kedra yaga na itabagone’



Ko ira na itabagone ena soqo ni kena marautaki na yabaki 50 ni tu galala nei Viti e Ba. iTaba: RUPENI WAQAVONO

MEREANI GONEDUA

Ni rekitaka tiko o Viti na ika 50 ni kena yabaki ni tugalala, e veirauti ga me da vakasamataka na sala e rawa ni tara cake kina o keda na kaiviti, ka meda qarauna ka vakarokoroko taka na kena vakayagataki na iyaunibula.

Mai vakoto oqori na mala ni nodra vosa na Minisita ni Itabagone kei na Qito, Parveen Kumar Bala ena nodra vakaitavi ena soqo ni veiqaravi ni tugalala kei Viti mai Ba

Kaya okoya mera dau nanumi na itagagone kei na nodra yaga kina vanua o Viti baleta ni oira oqori era na qai veiliutaki main a vei-gauni e liu sab era mai.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Bala ni veivakauqeti tiko vei ira na itabagone mera vakaqaqa tiko mera taura na itavi n4i veiliutaki ka mera veimurimuri en aka vinaka vei ira kei Viti.

“Ia me vaka ni ra sa iliuliu era sa tubu cake tiko kina na iliuliu tale eso,” e kaya o Minisita Bala.

“Oqo ena vakarautaka na veil-iutaki e yavutaki tiko ena kena yavutaki kei na veiqaravi ka vakarautaka na vatavata dodonu me baleta na tarai cake ni matanitu.”

Kuria o Minisita Bala ni a makataka okoya ni ka bibi me da nanuma tiko ni sai ira na itabagone era dau dusimaki Viti me ra bula vakataki ira, sai ira na itabagone era sa tubu cake tiko ena nodra bula ka ra tubu cake tiko ena maqosa ni veiliutaki me ra tara cake e dua na matanitu.

A tiko talega ena soqo o ya na iliuliu ni Matabose ni Tauni e Ba o Dipti Sharma, Tui Ba Ratu Filimoni Nale Lagivala, Peresitedi ni Soqosoqo ni Bisinisi e Ba ko Mr Dinesh Patel.

Marautaki na veitokoni ki na bisinisi lalai

VILIAME TIKOTANI

A marau sara vakalevu ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena gaunani soqo ni kakana e Viti me marautaki kina na 50 na yabaki ni tu galala kei Viti se Fiji Day.

“Au marau vakalevu niu raica e vuqa na tamata ka ra a kauta mai na nodra bisinisi ena Fiji Day,” e kaya o koya.

“E vakaraitaka na yalo ni tamata e Viti, na igu kei na uqe kei na yaloqaqa e taura me tekivutaki kina e dua na bisinisi ka me tubu.”

“Na nomu qaqa o ya na qaqa nei Viti, — baleta ni rekitaki iko vakalevu o Viti ena nomu dau marautaki Viti.”

Kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni oqo e dua dina na veivakamarautaki — sega walega ni noda yacova yani na ika 50 ni yabaki ni tu galala, ia mai na bula nei Viti kei na yalo vaka-Viti.

“Ni ko ni sa tu kece oqo ena gauna edua na leqa ni mate levu e dewa totolo tiko oqo, ka sa uqeti keimami me veitokoni kina veikemuni ena ka oni volitaka ka veivuke ena kena buli e dua na yalo dina ni bula raraba vakalewenivanua,” kaya ko PM

“Oqo e dua na ka eda dau calata eso sara, ka sa dua na ka eda gadreva.



Ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama kei Mary Bainimarama na nodra lewenivale ena soqo ni Siga kei Viti kei ira na gone ena musu keke ni vakaloma vinaka. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

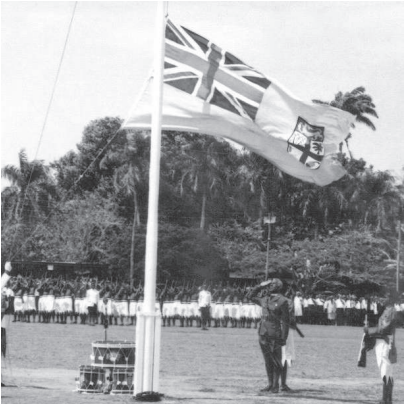
“Na lovos, na curries, na qito, na veivakamarautaki, na jokeliti — sa ka talei me laurai. Ena gauna ga eda qarauna kina na kena yawa, e solia vei keda na inuinui me baleta e dua

na gauna eda na rawa ni lesu tale kina. Me yacova na gauna oya, sa rawa ni da marautaka vata na siga oqori ena vanua oqo, vata kei iko.”

Noda Viti



Ko Peresitedi Jioji Konrote kei Lieutenant colonel Sakiusa Raivoce ni oti nodra mai ciqoma na nodra metali ni vakananumi kei Viti. iTaba: ??



Sarava cake toka oqori ena vakarokoroko vakamataivalu ko Talatala Samisoni Vugakoto, ka veiqaravi tiko vakaitalatala ena Republic of Fiji Military Forces na kena vakarewataki na drotini vou nei Viti ena ena ka 10 ni Okotova, 1970 e Albert Park, Suva.

iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Cereka toka na drotini vou ko Talatala Samisoni Vugakoto ni bera ni vakarewataki.

iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Sa uruca toka oqori Ko Lt Col (Ret'd) Sakiusa Raivoce drotini na Union Jack ena soqo ni tu galala kei Viti se Independence Day ena Albert Park e Suva ena 10 ni Okotova, 1970.

iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

YABAKI 50 NA TU GALALA KEI VITI

Cadra cake ko Viti

VILIAME TIKOTANI

Ena lomani 50 na yabaki sa oti, o keda na kaiviti kei na lewenivanua raraba eda sa laveta cake na noda veiqaravi ka yacova edua na vanua ka sega ni bau tadrai vakadua.

Oqori na mala ni nodra vosa na Peresitedi Jioji Konrote ena nodra vosa ena soqo ni vakananumi ni yabaki 50 ni noda vanua.

“O keda e dua na dau cau levu ki na veiqaravi veisaututaki e vuravura, ka dua na iliuliu e vuravura

ena ivalu me valuta na veisau ni draki ka taqomaka na noda wasa-wasa,” e kaya ko Peresitedi Konrote.

“O keda na ‘hub’ se na loga ni veika vakailavo ena ceva ni Pasifika, na iliuliu ena veivukayaki, veika vakailavo, vakauitukutuku, kei na tekinolaji, veisau, kei na vevoli kei na bisinisi.

Kaya ko Peresitedi Konrote ni da sa vakarabailevutaka na noda veitaratara ni veivakatorocaketaki lelevu. Eda sa biuta tu e dakuda na veidredre kei na leqa vakapoli-

tiki sa oti..

“Ni kua sa dau wasea o keda na lewenivanua e Viti, me da sa vakatauvatani ena gauna ni veidigidigi ka vaka kina na noda dodonu vakatamata ena yavu ni vakavulewa kei Viti.

E kaya o Peresitedi Konrote ni ratou sa qaqa oti na noda toa ni vala mai na qito levu ni vuravura se World Olympic Games ka ra dara mai na koula e domodra.

“Eda sa dau qito tu ki na soqoni lelevu ni vuravura raraba kei na vei qito e yaco. Me vaka ni sa

rawa me sogo na noda iyalayala nikua, eda se dua tikoga na vanua gadrevi vakalevu duadua e vuravura ena saravanua. “

Vakaraitaka ko Peresitedi Konrote ni noda qaqa e sega ni caka-cakataka ki na kalougata se madigi, e tomana o kaya.

“Sa yaco mai baleta ni o ira na noda tamata, ena nodra kaukauwa kei na kila duidui, era sa qalotaki Viti yani ki liu, ena kilai kei na unknowingly,” a kaya o kaya.

“Baleta ni keirau sa duavata, baleta ni keirau a cakacaka vakau-

kauwa, ka ni keirau sa pooled na neirau taledi, keirau sa tara cake kina e dua na matanitu; eda sa vakamacalataka na ibalebale dina ni dua na kai Viti.

Ko Lt Col(Ret'd) Sakiusa Raivoce erau curu vata kei Peresitedi Konrote ena 1966 ka talanoataka vakalekaleka na nona a vakaitavi ena uruci ni drotini na Union Jack ni bera ni qai vakarewataki na drotini vou nei Viti na *Banner Blue*. Rau taba vata ni oti na soli ni nona metali ena vakananumi ni yabaki 50 ni tu galala nei Viti.