

FijiFocus



NDP

HELPS
RAISE
LIVING
STANDARDS

11



PM

PRAISES
INDIA'S
ENERGY
INITIATIVE

8



A-G

CLARIFIES
ECARD
BALANCE
ISSUE

4



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama studies the artist impression of the new Keiyasi sub-divisional hospital during its ground-breaking ceremony at Keiyasi Village in Navosa. This new facility will meet the medical needs of 10,000 people in this area with the facility expected to be serving the communities upon completion. **Photo: ISAAC LAL**

Highlanders grateful

ISAAC LAL

NAVOSA province will have a new sub-divisional hospital that will meet the medical needs of 10,000 people in this area with the facility expected to be serving the communities in the 18 months.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the new facility that will cost around \$30 million and will be funded entirely by the Government was a step closer for the villages in the interior parts of the province towards a new hospital with state of the art equipment.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, who officiated at the much awaited event, told the communities

there that the new facility will be able to cater for specialised treatments, x-rays and ultrasounds, maternity services, pharmacy services, and laboratory testing and a new mortuary.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said upon the completion of the hospital, the over 10,000 Fijians living in the upper valley of Nadroga/Navosa and Ba would no longer have to travel long distances to Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka or Ba to access these services.

“That will no longer be the reality for healthcare and all of these services will be offered right here in Keiyasi,” he said.

“Over the past decade, Fiji has made serious progress in improving the

health of our citizens; from increasing life expectancy to improving health outcomes and reducing disease but even with this progress, there are still risks and realities that we face every day, and we must work together to tackle these issues head-on.”

Villagers in the highlands welcomed the new hospital adding it would put an end to the high cost of travelling long distances for better health services.

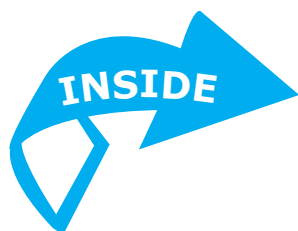
Josateki Korokura, the mata-nitikina of the district of Magadro in the highlands of Ba who are geographically closer to Navosa, said the construction of a new hospital was a blessing for the people of the highlands.

“For so long we have had to see

our elderly, our pregnant mothers, sisters and children take complications in their health via bumpy rides to the urban centres which may have at times aggravated further injury or pain but with this new hospital, we will have everything at our door step,” Mr Korokura said.

“One of the key features for the new hospital is a new morgue and we currently do not have any here in the highlands and our deceased are taken and kept in either Nadi, Sigatoka, Lautoka or Ba and there are high costs to bring them up for burial and this will greatly benefit us.”

“We are grateful to the Prime Minister who has answered our prayers and it has been the only request for the people here.”



WARNING OVER KILLER
DISEASE 15

PROGRAMME HELPS
RAISE LIVING STANDARDS 11

FUJI URGES CLIMATE
CHANGE ACTION 2

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Mereseini Vuniwaqa

There are a lot of caregivers leaving Fiji for overseas to do private caregiving work, but nationally, looking at our demography, it is also time for us to highlight this as a profession that people can study in light of what we are expecting as a nation in a decade, two decades and three decade

Minister for Women,
Children and Poverty
Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa

NUMBERS

10, 000

residents will benefit from the signed agreement to begin works towards formalising seven informal settlements around the country.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



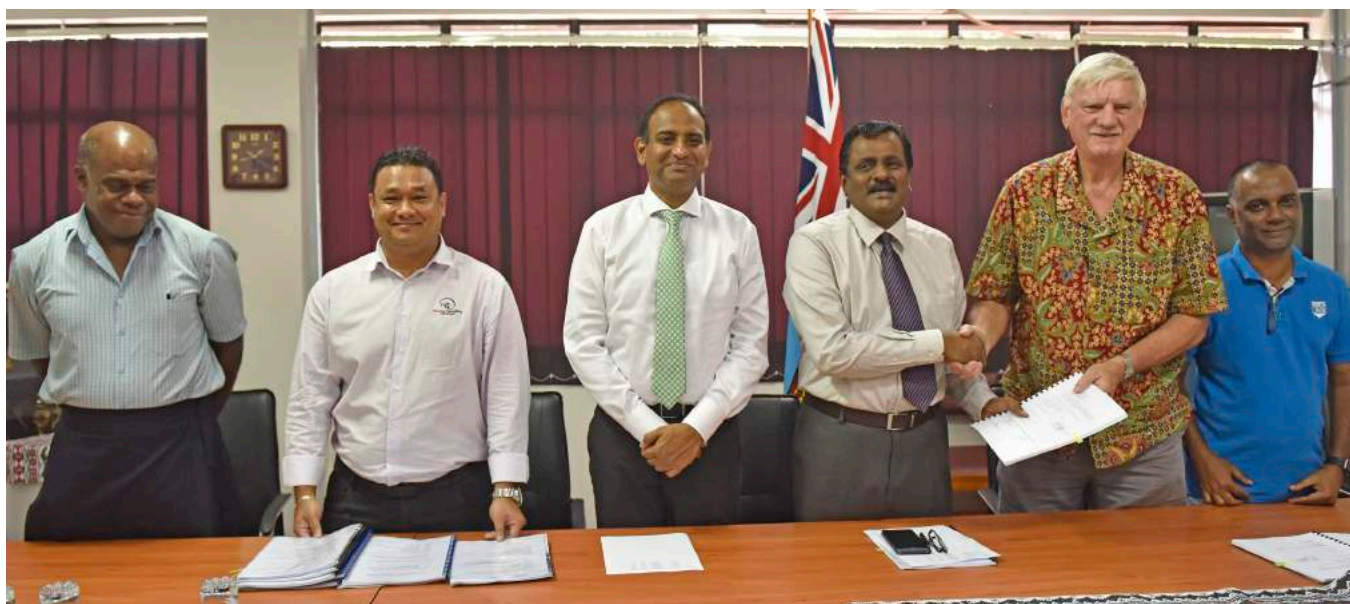
UN Climate Change
(@UNFCCC)

2018 is the pivotal year for the world to step up together to solve #climatechange. All actors are invited to engage in the #Talanoa4ambition Dialogue to meet the #ParisAgreement #ClimateAction goals.

CONTACT

Publisher: Sharvada Sharma
Sub Editor: Prashila Devi
Manager Vernacular: Viliane Tikotani
North office: Level 3 Macuata House, Labasa
West office: Level 1 Ratu Nauliano House, Koroivalu

Contacts: Suva: 3301806 /
West: 6700086 / 9905965
North: 8811276 / 9905971
Fax: 3305139/3304663
news@govnet.gov.fj
@FijiRepublic
Fijian Government
visit us at www.fiji.gov.fj



Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar (third from right), during the signing of the greements to begin works towards formalising seven informal settlements around the country. Photo: PRIYANKA LAL

More to benefit from project

PRIYANKA LAL

THE Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment recently signed agreements with two consultants to begin works towards formalising seven informal settlements around the country.

The signing was done in the presence of the Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar in Suva this week.

WesEng Consulting Limited director, Andrew Singh and Wood & Jepsen Consultants' Rod Jepsen signed the agreements with the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment permanent secretary Joshua Wycliffe.

Minister Kumar said three settlements in the Western Division, one in the Cen-

tral Division and three in the Northern Division would benefit from the project.

He said the consultants would now work on the engineering plan.

Close to 10,000 residents living at Lovu Seaside, Field Four, Tomuka, Sakoca, Vunivau A, Vunivau B and Vunika would benefit from the housing project.

WesEng Consulting Limited would undertake works for Lovu Seaside, Field Four and Tomuka in Lautoka while Wood & Jepsen Consultants' would work on the formalisation project for Sakoca, Vunivau A, Vunivau B and Vunika.

Minister Kumar stressed that while the engineering plans were worked on, no families living at the informal settlements would be relocated.

"The Government's intention is not to move people here and there while the consultants will be doing the engineer-

ing plans. What we would like to see is that they save as many houses as they can. If there is a major road works going on and if there has to be some adjustment, we will assist tenants to relocate," Minister Kumar highlighted.

Mr Jepsen said they would need to do a detailed site survey, collect information on where the existing houses and services were and then prepare a scheme plan for the subdivision.

Minister Kumar said once the engineering plan and civil works were completed, tenants living at the informal settlements would be issued with 99-year land leases.

The Government had already paid a premium of more than \$330,000 to the iTaukei Land Trust Board to be distributed to the landowners.



Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources, Faiyaz Koya during the Ram Naumi celebrations rituals at Narere. Photo: RONAL DEO

Respect diversity of cultures: Koya

RONAL DEO

MINISTER for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources, Faiyaz Koya has stressed that the Fijians need to be tolerant and respect diversity of cultures, religions and economic backgrounds.

While officiating at the Ram Naumi celebrations in Narere recently, Minister Koya, using the teachings of Lord Rama, said "we cannot always just be concerned and worried about our own comfort, convenience and pleasure".

He said Fijians must be thoughtful about those people who are in difficult situations and if the need arises, at times sacrifices must be made in order to help them.

Minister Koya told the devotees at the celebration that the 2013 Constitution protects their right to worship and enables them to freely participate

and be part of any religion.

"We need to be tolerant and respect our diversity of cultures, religions and economic backgrounds. This diversity enriches our lives and makes us a model community locally and internationally. One of our strengths as a nation is our diversity," he said.

"When we come together in unity, we unleash a great power of good. Our other strength is our belief that there is a God that loves each and everyone of us, irrespective of our ethnicity, culture or religious background," Ministry Koya said.

He added that Lord Rama sacrificed everything for his Kingdom and his people.

"I think we in Fiji are very blessed, because we all Fijians are actually gifted in helping others", Minister Koya said.

The Om Shiv Shakti Ramayan Mandali organised the celebrations in Narere.



NDPs nucleus of development

ISAAC LAL

FIJI'S five Year and 20 Year National Development Plans (NDP) which were unveiled at the 23rd Conference of Parties (COP23) in Bonn, Germany last year will be at the core of all Government frameworks.

This was confirmed by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama who this week said it was critical to expand and upgrade facilities and infrastructure with a particular emphasis on delivering more and better services to Fijians living in remote, rural and maritime communities.

"My Government is committed to this goal, and projects such as the Navosa Sub-Divisional Hospital groundbreaking is proof that these NDPs are

more than words on paper or empty promises—they are testament to the fact that my Government puts plans to action," he said.

Fiji has seen a major transformation to its critical infrastructure and utilities that have been upgraded and improved to go hand in hand with the eight consecutive years of economic growth.

Economic projections are predicting that 2018 would be the first time that the Fijian economy grows for nine consecutive years.

"This forward-thinking is a continuation of the immense progress that we as a nation have already achieved together but we are not sitting on our laurels," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"In the next five years, even more

investment will be made to upgrade and expand our existing divisional hospitals, making room for more beds, providing more services, and creating an overall better experience for those seeking treatment."

The four lane road widening from the Nadi International Airport to Denarau, new sealed roads, the Suva-Nausori four-lane upgrades, Nadi Airport modernising, overhaul of the Lautoka emergency department, new Ba hospital, access to clean and safe drinking water for villages and settlements, rural electrification project including projects with the use of renewable energy, better sea connectivity, street lights for villages and settlements along roads amongst many others are all in line with the NDP.

Major works for western health facilities

ISAAC LAL

WITH an increasing population in the western division, the Government has announced major improvements to the health facilities to cater for the increasing demands for improved healthcare for Fijians.

This proactive approach would ensure that health services in the division are on par to meet the increasing number of Fijians and investors who now reside in Lautoka, Nadi, Sigatoka, Ba, Tavua and Rakiraki with state of the art equipment in an effort to provide modern healthcare services.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama announced major projects for the division to supplement ongoing improvements in the current facilities.

"We already have further plans in place to improve health centres and medical services in our Western division, including upgrading the Votualevu Health Centre, the Sabeto Health Centre, and the Korovuto Health Centre," he said.

"As your Prime Minister, I am committed to bringing each and every Fijian into the fold and whether this is through expanded access to healthcare, to clean water, to infrastructure, to education, to Walesi free-to-air television, or to the many other benefits we are spreading far and wide in Fiji every day, you deserve to share the progress that Fiji is experiencing as a whole as much as anyone else, and I am personally committed to sharing the unprecedented prosperity that Fiji is experiencing with each and every one."

The Government is already working on plans to bring Fijian health system to new heights with a Public Private Partnership (PPP), which will provide new opportunities for the medical staff and increased and better services for the patients at our Ba and Lautoka Hospitals, and overall Western Division.

"In fact, it is estimated that this innovative partnership will bring new and higher-quality medical services to around 380,000 Fijians, with certain treatments and procedures to be offered in Fiji for the first time ever," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"And I am even prouder to say that all of this progress, this unprecedented access here at home, will come at no additional cost to the patient."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the official opening of the Nabua Resource Centre. Photo: ERONI VALILI

Timely gift for Nabua residents

NATASHA BEGUM

IT was a joyful day for residents of Nabua Village at Sukanaivalu Road as Prime Minister Bainimarama opened the doors of their new resource centre.

The Nabua Resource Centre was funded by the Fijian Government and will cater for 4000 Fijians living in the community to conduct communal and religious activities.

At the opening, the Prime Minister highlighted that the new building would replace the old Nabua Community

Hall which was partially destroyed by a fire almost five years ago.

"I'm sure the demolition of the badly damaged hall was a very emotional decision for you all," the Prime Minister said.

"Despite not having the same wealth privilege that some others are blessed with, many of your young people have gone on to make not just Nabua, but all of Fiji very proud.

"That's why my Government vowed to build the Nabua Community Hall bigger and better than it was,

dedicating over \$320,000 to this construction project because we understood what it means to the more than 4000 Fijians who live along Sukanaivalu Road."

The new double-storey facility would also serve as a place for students to study, be tutored and take their examinations.

"It will accommodate countless seminars, workshops, cultural programs and training for Fijians across all walks of life; from worshippers to sporting enthusiasts, women's and men's groups, from senior citizens' meet-

ings to youth events, and of course the rugby players who will host their fundraisers and social events within its walls," the Prime Minister said.

"And by hiring out this resource centre, the community will generate a source of revenue to put directly back into the many various groups who will benefit from it the most."

The Head of Government stated that the resource centre was not only a gift to the community but was an investment into the Fijian people.



Pensioners gain under FNPF reforms

JOSAIA RALAGO

A MINIMUM of \$100 is being given to pensioners in the country from the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF), says the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

The A-G, while speaking in Parliament in its March sitting, said this was part of the reform instituted by the Government which ensured that even those who were supposed to be receiving \$7 monthly payment actually received \$100.

“Under these reforms, all those people who were in fact supposed to be techni-

cally receiving less than \$100 are now getting paid at least \$100 a month, notwithstanding the very small contribution they make to the fund,” he said.

“If all of us, for example, individually try and save our money, it may not be much, but if we all pool our money together, then we can buy, build assets and the returns can be shared equally. This is what we are trying to achieve as far as FNPF is concerned.”

He added that the FNPF was in a much stronger financial position as a result of these reforms.

The A-G said that according to the 2017 Annual Report of FNPF, the net profit increased to \$359million last year

from \$331m in 2016.

“The Fund has credited over \$1 billion to its members in the last five years. Record contribution of \$46m to \$480m on 2016 as a result of better compliance through automation,” he added.

“Total assets of the Fund now stand at \$5.7 billion, which is more than sufficient to cover its liabilities of \$4.8b.”

The A-G said that the net asset of the institution was now at \$836m.

He added that these various reforms were endorsed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in partnership with the Financial Sector Assessment (FSA) and the Reserve Bank of Fiji as the moderator.

Budget rise for stray animal control

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE seriousness of the stray animal issue in the country has prompted the Government to increase the allocation for it to \$1.37million in the 2017/2018 National Budget.

This was brought to the attention of Parliament by Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management Office Inia Seruiratu last week, while responding to a question on the Government’s plans to control animals from straying on to the Kings and Queens Highway, the major road network on Viti Levu.

He said the Government’s stray animal campaign was not restricted to the Queens and Kings Highways only, but was a nationwide campaign.

“It is a campaign throughout Fiji,” Minister Seruiratu said.

“Apart from natural calamities, we have disasters like cyclones, El-Nino, floods, of course pests and diseases and market constraints but the two that are really worrying us the most is on criminal activities and the other one is stray animals.”

He said stray animals were governed under two main laws, which were the Pounds Act of Cap 165 and the Trespass of Animals Act.

“The unfortunate thing is when our communities do not look after the animals this is when the Acts that I have stated come into play,” Minister Seruiratu said.

“We have to enforce it because complaints are not only coming from our farming communities but in *tikina* (district) and provincial council meetings as well.”



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa (pictured), believes that the local demand for caregivers will increase in direct correlation to the ageing population.

Boost for caregiving industry

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa, believes that the local demand for caregivers will increase in direct correlation to the ageing population.

In the next two to three decades, Minister Vuniwaqa told Parliament in its March sitting, the elderly population was expected to rise because of a number of factors.

She said that while most car-

egivers have been opting for work overseas because of lack of local demand, this might change in the future.

“There are a lot of caregivers leaving Fiji for overseas to do private caregiving work, but nationally, looking at our demography, it is also time for us to highlight this as a profession that people can study in light of what we are expecting as a nation in a decade, two decades and three decades,” Minister Vuniwaqa said.

She said that a Memorandum

of Understanding was signed between the ministry and the Australian-Pacific Technical College (APTC) for capacity building for caregivers within the home.

“Keeping in mind the 2017 Census data which shows that right now, about nine per cent of our national population is above 60 years of age, while 70 per cent of the population is below 40 years of age,” Minister Vuniwaqa said.

“Looking long term strategically that 70 percent in about

20 to 30 years will be our elderly population and that is quite a number to deal with.”

She added that at the moment, the ministry’s priority lay with the maintenance and administration of the three elderly institutions in the country that was being funded and managed by the Government.

“At this time, we do have a budget for the maintenance of existing State Homes, but have set up a long-term strategic direction for the ministry,” Minister Vuniwaqa said.

Minister responds to brutality claims

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Fiji Police Force will not condone police brutality and the use of excessive force will be thoroughly investigated to ensure that justice is served, says Minister for Defence and National Security Ratu Inoke Kubuabola.

He made the comment while responding to questions in Parliament last week on the alleged increase in police brutality cases.

"In circumstances where the Fiji Police Force is faced with strong resistance and violent action from drunkards, drug peddlers, violent robberies etc officers institute reasonable force as a means of

self defence to counter and deflate the situation," Ratu Inoke said.

"Do not forget that there are cases where police are being brutally assaulted and seriously injured in the exercise of their duties. There are a total of 118 cases of resisting arrest in 2017 and 2018 alone."

He said the proactive steps being undertaken by the force to curb acts of brutality included the strengthening of its Internal Affairs Unit to ensure the swift, fair and transparent investigations.

The strengthening of the unit, he elaborated, would enable them to adopt a monitoring system and introduce improvement concept.

"A total of 1082 activities such as

training awareness and lectures to the personnel of the Fiji Police Force were conducted last year. Stringent guidelines are in place to steer police operations and minimise brutality by the police," Ratu Inoke said.

"Stringent guidelines are in place to steer police operations and minimise brutality by the police. The recent introduction of video recording and first hour interview procedures has contributed to the reduction of complaints against police officers."

The force intends to modify all interview rooms nationwide under their Tier Modelling concept and the budgetary implications will be reflected in the Budget of 2017-2018.



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

A-G clarifies e-card balance issue

JOSAIA RALAGO

MEMBERS of the public have been advised that they can redeem the left over funds on their disposal e-ticketing cards as stated by the law.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum made this clarification in Parliament, saying there had been some misunderstanding that people could not cash the remaining credit in their dis-

posable eticketing cards.

"The law or regulations actually provides that should there be even five cents left in these disposable cards, which are for those who need to temporarily use it, you can go and redeem it within 30 days," the A-G said.

"You know there were all these rumours about it, that any of the credit in the disposable card gets eaten by the Government, no!" he said.

The A-G added that the

e-ticketing system has increased the level of accountability in the transportation sector, especially for buses.

He said that this had put an end to scams that were at one stage being carried out by teachers and senior students, where they would photocopy bus vouchers and sold them for half price.

"So that would not work in the eticketing system. When you have electronic transactions, they provide a lot better accountability," the A-G said.

He said that this system also allows for better planning.

"This technology gives us that level of ability to be able to plan better.

"Of course, no one is denying there have not been some teething issues, teething issues will always be there, but we need to resolve it in the same way," the A-G said.

He said since the implementation of the eticketing system in October last year, 400 new employment opportunities have been created for Fijians.

Policies will improve lives of Fijians

MEREANI GONEDUA

INITIATIVES and programmes put in place by the Ministry of Fisheries are for the betterment of the Fijian people, says Minister for Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau.

Speaking in Parliament, Minister Koroilavesau said the initiatives were to ensure that while there are enough resources available today, it must be used and managed in a sustainable manner so that future generations could benefit from it as well.

He said the ministry was implementing a lot of these programmes to help replenish depleted coastal stocks.

"First is the legislative review. There is ongoing work being carried out to make changes to the current coastal legislation," Minister Koroilavesau said.

He added that while recognising the urgency to address depleted stocks, having supportive legislation allowed the ministry to implement conservation and management measures for coastal resources.

"In particular, the work done to review the size limits and restrictions on protected species is one that needs changes in legislation. On the current Fisheries Act, the only size limit on crustacean and invertebrates is for mud crabs," Minister Koroilavesau said.

However, there are no size restriction for species such as reef and mud lobsters, land and coconut crabs, octopus, clams and freshwater mussels.

However, Minister Koroilavesau pointed out that while regulation 18 of the current Fisheries Act set out size limits for fish fin, there were no provisions available to protect these species when they are most vulnerable.

He said the ministry recognised that with any ban or restrictions, coastal communities who rely on these species as their means of livelihood would be affected.

"While keeping that at the back of our minds, it is also important to consider how allowing continuous harvest of certain species will lead to their over exploitation and loss of sustainability for our future generation."

He said that since the establishment of a separate independent Ministry of Fisheries, it had over the past year ventured into goals that were worth addressing because of its urgency.



Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum looks on as a Fiji National University student raise an issue during the 2018-2019 National Budget Consultation at the FNCDP Hall in Suva. Photo: ERONI VALILI . Photo: ERONI VALILI. Photo: ERONI VALILI

Loan repayment issue raised at budget consultation

PRIYANKA LAL

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Education, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum has reiterated that students on the Tertiary Education Loan Scheme (TELS) will repay the loan once they start earning a salary.

The A-G made the statement during the 2018 – 2019 National Budget consultations at the Fiji National University (FNU) Samabula Campus this week.

He was responding to a question from FNU student, Rizwan Asgar, who asked if the Government would consider making tertiary education free for students from poor backgrounds.

The A-G said the Government had increased the TELS allowance by about 30 to 40 per cent to ensure students' educational needs were met.

"We can afford to do that as we are managing the economy well. We need to be financially prudent. What you are proposing about completely free education is something that we cannot afford to do at this point in time. We need to live within our means every time," he explained.

He said the interest rates on the loan repayment was also low, adding that the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board (TSLB) was currently working on what percentage of salary would get deducted once TELS students started earning.

"Now the deduction is no longer done by TSLB. It is done by the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) so you all have to have a Tax Identification Number (TIN)," the A-G said.

"At the moment, the system is that 20 per cent gets cut from the salary to be paid for the loan but an issue that has been brought to our attention, and something that we will be considering is when you earn \$15,000 may be the percentage that you pay of your salary should be lower than somebody who is earning \$30,000."

The A-G highlighted the percentage should be lower "but nobody should pay anything higher than 20 per cent."

He stressed that the Government was focused on fair, inclusive and sustainable development.

\$2m for TSLB IT project

PRIYANKA LAL

TERTIARY Education Loan Scheme (TELS) recipients will soon be able to access all information regarding funds being disbursed to them for their education.

To make this possible, the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board is working with the Government's Information Technology and Computing (ITC) Services on a \$2 million IT project.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum explained this to The University of the South Pacific (USP) student, Kirisitiana Uluwai, during the 2018 – 2019 National Budget consultations held recently at the USP Laucala Campus in Suva.

During the consultation Ms Uluwai said

TELS recipients were not able to keep track of the funds being issued to them as they were not being provided with regular statements.

She raised concerns on the lack of updates on the amount they had used so far. "My cousin, an existing TELS student for two to three years, was told that there was no record of his expenditure so far. He then had to re-apply for TELS," Ms Uluwai said.

"I would like TSLB to give me a feedback on the money I have used so that I don't use less and pay more after I graduate."

While responding to her queries, the A-G said the Government had provided \$2 million to TSLB to invest in IT system.

"We want them to give you a statement every six months so that you have a running checklist of how much money has been given to you," the A-G said.

TSLB chief executive officer, Bobby Maharaj said they were already working on the IT project, which was administered by the Government's Information Technology and Computing (ITC) Services and it should be up and running by August this year.

"Once that is done, students will be able to have a log-in portal and view their statements in terms of what was disbursed to them semester by semester. And if they are repaying after graduating and getting an employment, they will also be able to get a running balance," Mr Maharaj said.

'Laws are there to protect persons with disabilities'

PRIYANKA LAL

PERSONS living with disabilities, who come across discrimination at their workplaces or in the society as a whole, must raise these issues with the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum stated this at the 2018-2019 National Budget consultations with persons living with disability at the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons (FNCDP) Hall in Suva on Friday.

Ritesh Kumar told the A-G that he was made fun of by his colleagues at his previous workplace.

Mr Kumar said it was difficult to work in both the public and private sector where discrimination existed.

"The Government is giving concessions to private sector for employing people with



Ritesh Shalendra Kumar- person with disability raises a question during the 2018-2019 National Budget Consultation at the FNCDP Hall in Suva. Photo: ERONI VALILI

disabilities but I have personally experienced some sort of discrimination in Government departments and private sector," he said.

The A-G said the Government had laws in place to protect persons with disabilities through the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Fiji became signatory to the United Nations Human Rights

Convention in 2010 and ratified it in June, 2017.

"It happened to you and unfortunately, the issue was not addressed but you should not use that example and say everything is bad. You can write to us or go to the Fiji Human Rights and Anti – Discrimination Commission to raise the issue directly. The commission has the ability to get in touch with the respective ministries and provide some feedback,"

the A-G said.

"There are places where people with disabilities are made fun of. It's a fight. Not everybody is going to be good. This is the third time we have come here for consultations. Governments did not do that previously so it is a good thing."

The A-G said women also got discriminated because of their gender but everyone needed to work together to address the issue.



Gas emissions top climate focus

PRIYANKA LAL

MINISTER for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Inia Seruiratu has stressed the need to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions at source.

Minister Seruiratu, who is the high-level champion for global climate action of the 23rd session of the Conference of Parties' Fijian presidency, emphasised the need to transition to a net-zero emission world as soon as possible.

He was speaking at the recent opening of the Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) Technical Experts Meeting in Suva where representatives of the coalition of Pacific stakeholders and regional and international partners

met.

CAPP was established under the COP23 Presidency in July 2017.

"This has been the strong call from the Fijian COP23 Presidency. There are two parts to this equation – the need to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions at source and the need to protect and increase carbon sinks including natural carbon sinks like oceans, forests, wetlands and soils," Minister Seruiratu said.

He said both were necessary to achieve net-zero emissions for climate neutrality and the importance of one over the other should not be detracted.

Minister Seruiratu also stressed the importance of achieving overall resilience and sustainable development in all our climate actions.

"We need to ensure that maximum synergies are created between mitiga-

tion and adaptation actions. Mitigation and adaptation initiatives should also have far-reaching impacts across our island landscape – benefitting our ecosystem, our people and our economies," he added.

Minister Seruiratu said cross-cutting issues such as gender, health, education, social well-being and sustainable financing had to be addressed in order to achieve real and sustainable climate action.

The participants at the meeting were urged to contribute to the Talanoa Dialogue where all stakeholders were encouraged to share examples of best practices and lessons learnt.

"During this process, let us remain resolute in our call to achieve the more ambitious target of limiting the rise in global temperature to within 1.5 degrees," Minister Seruiratu said.

NDC Hub timely for region

MEREANI GONEDUA

"WE in the Pacific contribute the least to harmful emissions causing climate change but we stand to lose the most from climate-related impacts," says Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

He made the comment at the opening of the 3rd Pacific Regional Dialogue on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and consultations on the regional Pacific NDC hub in Suva last week.

"Make no mistake, every nation on earth is put at-risk by our changing climate, but Pacific nations face an extreme and unique vulnerability, and that must be reflected in our NDCs," he said.

The A-G explained that the hub would be used to accelerate flows of public and private finance to every Pacific Island Country – finance of both a concessional and non-concessional nature.

"We are extremely proud to have answered that call at COP23 (23rd session of Conference of Parties) with the launch of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub. And we are grateful to the Global NDC Partnership, the German, British and Australian Governments, and our other development partners for providing the initial resources to establish the Hub," he said.

The A-G said NDCs must be focused on greater ambition and must build our overall resilience to the increased flooding, the rising seas and the more frequent and more severe cyclones that are already causing immense destruction around the region.

"This regional Pacific NDC hub gives us all a formidable new tool. It will allow us to share knowledge, experiences and best practices tailored to the challenges we face in the Pacific and within our own nations," he said.

"And in wielding this tool, we need to place ourselves on the cutting edge of new strategies in adaptation and we must become incubators for new and innovative approaches that build resilience and protect our development."

"The effective implementation of our NDCs needs to be supported by our shared evidence base, and by our financial institutions, our tax systems, our legal and policy frameworks and our systems of insurance.



Minister for Forests Osea Naiqamu, staff and Mali villagers after the pledged to plant 200 hectares of native trees on their land. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

Islanders make tree-planting pledge

JOSIA RALAGO

IN a bid to address environmental issues on their island, Mali villagers – through the assistance of the Ministry of Forests – pledged to plant 200 hectares of native trees on their land.

And the islanders have already planted 28 hectares of

native trees ever since the launching of the programme in 2016.

Tui Mali Ratu Meli Bogiso said this was a solution to the numerous issues faced on the island on a daily basis as a result of deforestation in the past.

"We now have water problems on the island, there is even a shortage of firewood because there are hardly any trees around," Ratu Meli said.

"And ever since we started with the tree planting two years ago, we are slowly reaping its benefits and that is why we will continue with this initiative."

He said previously villagers

had a tendency to burn forests for agriculture and other purposes, but they were now focused on saving the plants and increasing the forest size.

"I have urged my people to refrain from burning forests because if this preserving our forests is a way to overcome the issues that we face, then we should continue with the preservation efforts," Ratu Meli said.

"We are supposed to respect plants because of the interdependent relationship we share through. And this is through the air that we breathe, the provision of building materials and even firewood."

While addressing the islander on one of his recent visits, Minister for Forests Osea Naiqamu said tree planting was an important tool in the fight against climate change.

"I wish to thank you, (Ratu Meli) and the vanua for your support. I know you are not only supporting the ministry, but the Government especially in your contribution to our fight against climate change, which you must have felt over the years," Minister Naiqamu said.

"Whatever you are doing today will have a positive impact not only to you, but for the future generation."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi with their respective delegates during a bilateral meeting on the margins of the Solar Alliance Founding Conference in New Delhi, India. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

PM praises India's energy initiative

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI will tap into a global co-operation initiative for efficient exploitation of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels through the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama commended India for taking the lead role in promoting the use of solar energy by initiating ISA.

Speaking at the bilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the ISA Founding Conference with his Indian counterpart, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, PM Bainimarama cited the National 5-Year and 20-Year Development Plans.

He said through these plans further investments in renewable energy were expected to take place in the areas such as geothermal, wave, tidal, and energy derived from processing waste.

"Fiji has submitted through the Indian Government a list of project proposals for possible co-operation under the ISA Initiative that Fiji wishes to pursue in collaboration with the Indian Gov-

ernment," PM Bainimarama said.

These include the Fiji Electricity Authority (FEA) Solar System with Backup Water Authority of Fiji (WAF), Borehole Pumps for Remote Villages, solar water pumps for rural village, Department of Energy Solar Street Lighting Containerised Solar Generator.

They used the opportunity to discuss areas of mutual interest to further enhance their bilateral economic co-operation.

Prime Minister Modi said India stood ready to support Fiji in defence and electrifying its rural communities with the distribution of LED bulbs.

"India is the fastest-growing economy and through its UJALA initiative is boasting its LED supply source. So far India has distributed around 280 million LED bulbs worldwide," Mr Modi said.

"The initiative aims to replace an estimated 770m, mostly incandescent lamps, with energy-efficient LED lamps by 2019."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi at New Delhi, India. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Fiji urges climate change action

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI has reminded world leaders about the threat posed by climate change to humanity, but adds that it is one of its greatest opportunities to pool ingenuity and resources to tackle the challenge head on.

Prime Minister and president of the 23rd Session of Conference of Parties (COP23) Voreqe Bainimarama drove the point home during the plenary session of the International Solar Alliance Founding Conference 2018 held in New Delhi, India, recently.

Dignitaries of 23 countries gathered at the summit and were told that India, the world's biggest democracy, would produce 175 gigawatt of electricity from renewable sources by 2022 and as much as 100 gigawatt from solar en-



Prime Minister and president of the 23rd Session of Conference of Parties (COP23) Voreqe Bainimarama speaks during the International Solar Alliance Founding Conference 2018 held in New Delhi, India. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

ergy.

"We all know that the accelerated development of alternative clean energy sources such as solar, hydro and wind is the key to meeting the most ambitious target of the Paris Agreement of 2015, which is to limit the global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius above that of the pre-industrial age," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"That is the priority I have set as President of COP23. And I urge the global community to focus more – much more – on the massive new investment in

solar, hydro and wind needed to make this possible – as well as the emerging technologies such as battery storage that show so much promise of being able to power our homes and economies.

"Along with that up-scaling of investment, we need a concerted effort to make this technology more affordable and spread it across the world. With the ISA, you are leading this effort and assisting many developing countries such as Fiji to gain that access."

Prime Minister Bainimarama

added that the adoption of these technologies remained critical to achieving the maximum ambition and maximum action that I am continually stressing as COP23 President.

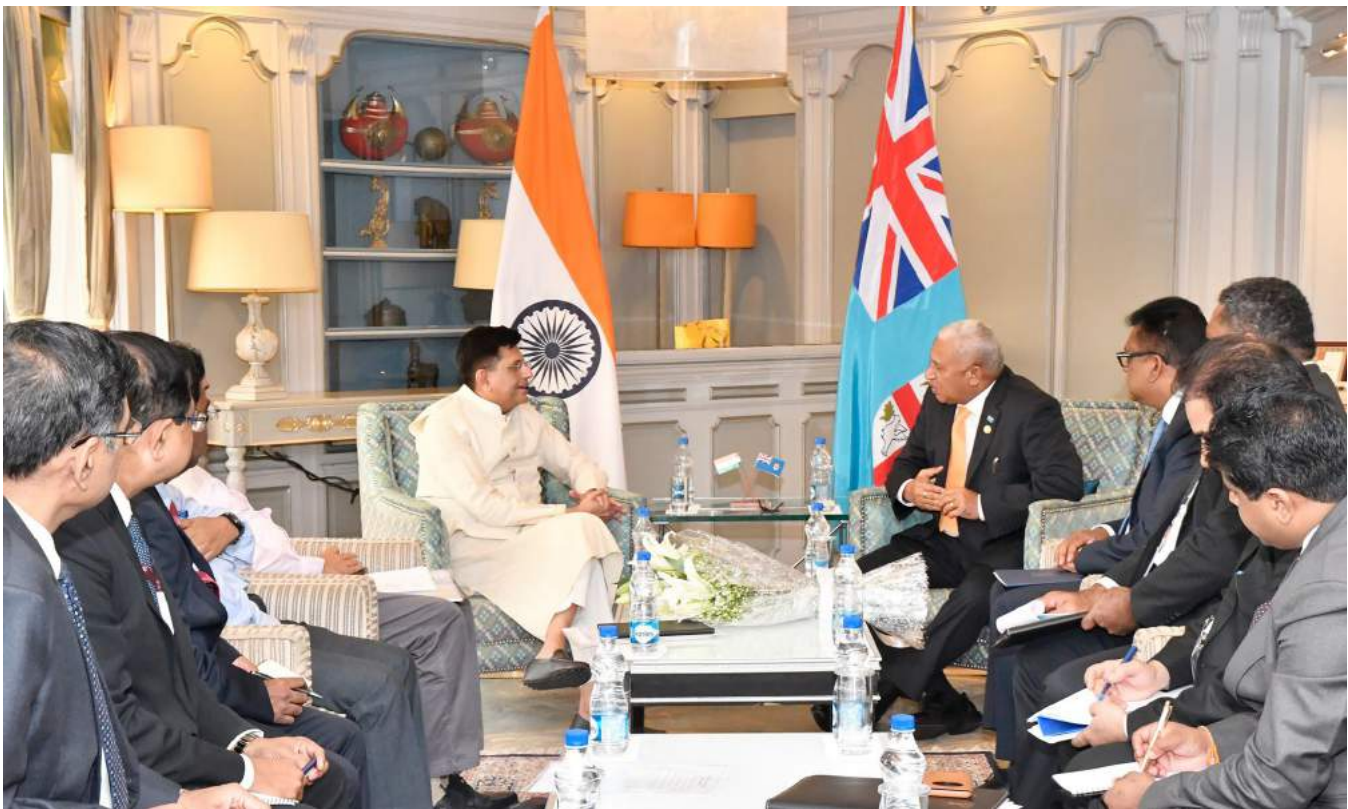
At COP24, Fiji will partner Poland to conduct a global engagement called the Talanoa Dialogue, which was designed to increase the collective ambition of Fiji's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the need for full ecosystem for

the availability and development of technology, economic resources, and development of storage technology, mass manufacturing and innovation.

"We all have to think about the road ahead and have 10 point action plan that I would like to share with you," he said.

"We should ensure cheap and easy availability of solar technology and innovation should be encouraged so that solutions for our various needs to be provided."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Indian Minister for Railways and Coal Piyush Vedprakash Goyal with their respective delegates during a bilateral meeting on the margins of the Solar Alliance Founding Conference in New Delhi, India.
Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

PM briefed on railway plan assessment

NANISE NEIMILA

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama met the Indian Minister for Railways and Coal, Piyush Vedprakash Goyal, on the margins of the Solar Alliance Founding Conference in New Delhi, India. The meeting was an opportunity for Prime Minister Bainimarama to hear from the Indian Minister for Railways and Coal on the preliminary findings of the RITE team's assessment of the railway lines in Fiji and the options available to enhance the rail network in Fiji.

Minister Goyal and a team of experts in the Railway and Locomotive industry highlighted their initial findings and provided options, which the Prime Minister - who is also the Minister for Sugar Industry - was very pleased with. The Indian Railway Minister confirmed the participation of Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) to provide a thorough survey report of the whole railway system in Fiji and present a cost-benefit analysis to both governments.

In his response, the Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted that such initiatives and support from the Government of India will provide the necessary impetus to drive the sugar industry forward and become competitive in the global market.

Fiji anticipates long-term benefits to the sugar industry from the improvements of the railway tracks.

The meeting was hailed as a success and a part of the many ongoing initiatives mooted by the two countries to further enhance their steadily growing Fiji-India bilateral relations.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Indian Minister for Railways and Coal Piyush Vedprakash Goyal.
Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Fiji ties in star power for solar energy

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation will work with the Fijian Government on a plan to provide solar energy to communities that currently rely on fossil fuel or cannot be connected with the national electricity grid.

This partnership to provide solar energy to these communities will be in the medium to long term.

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while speaking at the International Solar Alliance conference in New Delhi, India, recently.

Prime Minister Bainimarama, addressing leaders from 55 countries, commended the actor and humanitarian for lighting up the lives of others by harnessing the power of the sun.

"The economic value of solar energy is improving all the time. At a utility scale - on rooftops and in conjunction with batteries and electric vehicles, solar power - offers a bright, sustainable future for all our people," he said.

"Solar and storage is increasingly cheaper and cleaner than diesel generators and more reliable than the grid. It can be deployed more rapidly to those who don't have access to power than by extending the grid."

Solar energy is viewed as the dominant electric power source this century.

Prime Minister Bainimarama explained that it would need to be a vital part of the mix if the 1.5 degree target set out in the Paris Agreement was to be met.

He said Fiji's participation at the International Solar Alliance provided an opportunity for international countries to provide assistance on the solar projects being built locally.

Department of Energy's acting director Mikaele Belena, who also participated in the ISA conference, said Fiji was one of the countries that signed the Solar Agreement which coincides with the implementation of solar projects to commence in the country.

"In 2016 Government committed \$13.1million for 34 rural electrification projects where they met the full cost of all the projects undertaken," he said.

Mr Belena said in 2017/2018, the Government committed \$42m on rural electrification projects, out of which \$32m would be allocated to Fiji Electricity Authority (FEA) for the grid extensions.

"A total of 148 projects will be installed in this financial year," he said.



ISA Mission

-Recalling the Paris Declaration on the International Solar Alliance of 30th November, 2015 and the shared ambition to undertake joint efforts required to reduce the cost of finance and the cost of technology, mobilize more than US \$ 1000 billion of investments needed by 2030 for massive deployment of solar energy, and pave the way for future technologies adapted to the needs,

-Recognizing that solar energy provides solar resource rich countries, lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, with an unprecedented opportunity to bring prosperity, energy security and sustainable development to their peoples,
-Acknowledging the specific and common obstacles that still stand in the way of rapid and massive scale-up of solar energy in these countries,
Affirming that these obstacles can

be addressed if solar resource rich countries act in a coordinated manner, with strong political impulse and resolve, and that better harmonizing and aggregating the demand for inter alia solar finance, technologies, innovation or capacity building, across countries, will provide a strong lever to lower costs, increase quality, and bring reliable and affordable solar energy within the reach of all.



Statistics underreported

VILIAME TIKOTANI

AGRICULTURAL statistics in Fiji and the Pacific have been underreported, says Ministry of Agriculture permanent secretary and newly-appointed chairman of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics David Kolitagane.

Mr Kolitagane made the comment as he assumed the chairmanship of APCAS at the 27th session held in Nadi last week.

He said Fiji's chairmanship was significant for not just Fiji, but for the Pacific region as a whole, because it was the first time that the meeting had been hosted in the Pacific Islands with Fiji being the first country from the region to host such a meet.

Mr Kolitagane added that two countries

- Tonga and Papua New Guinea joined the meeting for the first time although Fiji has been a member for some years now.

"Such a meeting hosted in Fiji is very significant in the sense that we still need proper reporting of agricultural statistics in Fiji and again when you look at the Pacific region as whole," he said.

"It is very important that we properly collate and account for the statistics because it will help in the overall planning as we look at ways of reducing imports and improving our exports of commodities."

APCAS is a statutory body of FAO and convened a meeting of senior statisticians from member countries of the Asia-Pacific region, responsible for the development of agricultural statistics.

APCAS secretary and regional statisti-

cian Mukesh Srivastava said agricultural statistics was a major component for development planning in as far as sustainable development goals.

However, he added, there were different capacities in the areas of statistics that needed proper responses - for example technical assistance and training.

A highlight of the meeting was the launching of Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS), which focused on specific issues faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Prominent themes on the agenda were: Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals, Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, developing an Integrated System of Agricultural Census and Surveys.

Soil health card for sugarcane farmers

ISAAC LAL

THE Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) will soon introduce a Soil Health Card (SHC) for farmers to gauge the fertility of Fiji's sugarcane fields, says FSC chief operating officer Navin Chandra.

By maintaining this card, FSC and farmers will be able to know their farms better and the quality of the soil.

"We realise that our sugarcane farmers have tilled the land for decades and the quality of the soil has degraded, some farms were left barren for a number of years and the quality of soil has improved. However, going forward, FSC will introduce the soil health card system to gauge the health of our farmlands," Mr Chandra said.

"This system is being piloted by a handful of farmers around our cane belt areas and should be implemented in the coming season."

He urged Fijians living in cane belt areas not to burn cane because it degraded the quality of soil and reduced sugar content in the cane.

"The sugar industry is yield focused and we need to ensure that our yield does not reduce through various means such as burning and using ratoon that are over eight or ten years old," Mr Chandra said.

"When cane is burnt or there are bush fires in the cane-belt areas, it directly affects the quality of the soil which will affect the quality of cane that will be planted the next season."

Mr Chandra confirmed that upgrades on all cane access roads would be completed before the start of the crushing season.

"We recently have stalled the maintenance of these roads because of the amount of rain that we have been receiving in the past two months that have delayed these projects, but all cane access roads will be ready before the harvesting season begins."



Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC), field

FSC's first female field co-ordinator

GROWING up, Seniwati Ratu, had always loved the outdoors.

"We always had a backyard garden where we had a lot of different types of vegetables and I would love working on the garden after school and during any free time I had".

For someone who's always had a passion for gardening, it was no surprise that Seni started in the area that has been mainly dominated by men - Field Extensions Services within the Fiji Sugar Corporation.

This department serves the needs of sugar cane growers around Fiji.

Field Extension offices are located within the cane belt, in the interior and rural areas where sugar cane planting is the major economic activity.

The Nadakuni, Waimaro, Naitasiri lass now calls Lautoka home and has been a resident of the Sugar City since 2014.

She moved across from Suva to pursue work in the sugar industry and she clearly enjoys every single moment of living and working in the sugarcane belt.

"Agriculture was always my favourite subject in school and I developed a passion for planting and working with nature from a very young age".

It is not usual that a female would pursue farming but this is something that comes as second nature to Ms Ratu, Field Coordinator for the Lautoka area.

In her current role, she looks after 673 sugar cane growers within the Lovu and Lautoka

sectors. Her biggest challenge has been in trying to get nil producing growers to start planting sugarcane again.

However, Ms Ratu feels encouraged by the fact that many growers who have not been actively farming sugarcane for sometime are slowly coming back.

"I like talking to farmers, I like to know how they are getting along and conducting their daily lives, this helps me understand their needs better, and it helps me in my job", she said.

Her journey with FSC started in October 2014 where she began on a roving three-month probation, working in all the sectors within the Lautoka area.

In June 2015, she got confirmed as Field Assistant and

although this role was more administrative in nature, her perseverance paid off when early this year she was promoted to Field Co-ordinator.

At the time of her promotion, Seni was the only female employee in the FSC's Field division.

"Working in an all-male environment was challenging at times, but I was passionate about my pursuit to be successful in this area," she said.

And her passion has paid its dividends.

She now looks forward to growing in the Field Extension area within the FSC, whilst aiming to further her academic studies, to add onto her Diploma in Agriculture Studies that she currently holds.

-FIJI SUGAR CORPORATION



A-G hears farmers' concerns

JOSAIA RALAGO

MEMBERS of a farming community in the Northern Division had the opportunity to air their grievances with the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, when he visited them earlier this month.

Farmers of Vunivutu, Nadogo in

Macuata, located 40km from Labasa Town, applauded the A-G for taking time out from his busy schedule to visit them.

One farmer, Avilash Prasad, said he had been encountering problems with a land lease he shared with his uncle.

Mr Prasad said despite the numerous complaints and calls made to the authorities the issue was still not attended to. "But I am glad that the

A-G was able to come down today to hear me out and has advised us what to do," he said.

Another farmer in the area, Aporosa Robaigau, raised a number of issues which he said needed clarity.

"We had a lot of questions and issues that needed to be raised and we are thankful for the chance to raise it with the Attorney-General, and we would like to thank him for com-

ing to our area to address us," Mr Robaigau said.

Most of these farmers had land issues that have been pending for a long time and are now at peace knowing that their problems have been heard and possible solutions would be looked at.

On his one-day trip to Macuata earlier this month, the A-G visited the Labasa Market and spoke with vendors.

Programme helps raise living standards



Former British Army soldier, Rusiate Waqa points to the bee boxes at his bee farm in Labasa. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

JOSAIA RALAGO

"WE must align ourselves with Government initiatives so we can raise our standard of living," says Labasa farmer Rusiate Waqa, who has benefitted from the Government's agricultural assistance throughout the years.

With a recent grant of \$10,000 from the Northern Development Program (NDP) for his bee farm, the 38-year-old said he was grateful for the continuous assistance from the Government.

"Anything is possible and with the Government's vision to well equip farmers so they can thrive, gives no person an excuse to be poor," Mr Waqa said.

"If we do not have formal employment then we should till the land. Everything has been made easier for farmers, loans and grants have been made more accessible and, on top of that, we have officials who bring training closer to us so we could better our farming practices and grow."

The father-of-two is a living testimony of what one can achieve when making good use of the Government's backing.

A former British Army soldier, Mr Waqa said he was expecting a 500 tonne harvest from his sugarcane farm this year.

This is after assistance of \$2100 given to him by the Government

for the expansion of his farm.

"My first harvest was a mere 50 tonnes in 2013 and it has progressed over the years and last year I harvested 400 tonnes. This year, I expect to harvest 500 tonnes and I would like to thank the Government and the Fiji Sugar Corporation for the assistance I received," Mr Waqa said.

Apart from his booming sugarcane farming venture, he has a commercial cassava farm encompassing 26 acres and a bee farm that has been made possible through an NDP grant.

"A team from the Ministry of Agriculture helped me clear the land for my cassava plantation and for that I am thankful. My bee farm started with only two double cases and when I realised that it was very profitable, I then applied to the NDP to assist me so I could get more bee cases."

And now he has 22 cases for his bee farm.

With an annual income of \$18,000 from his three ventures last year, Mr Waqa said he would continue to work hard and provide for his family.

Meanwhile, the NDP has invested \$18million in the Northern economy over the past 10 years.

NDP manager Waisale Tuidama said they had seen positive changes in the lives of those entrepreneurs they have assisted in the past.



Villagers carry the new fiberglass boat to the sea. The fiberglass boats, valued at \$17,000 each, were handed over to the villages of Yasawa and Nagasauva in Tawake, Cakaudrove. Photos: JOSAIA RALAGO



Boats improve access for villagers

JOSAIA RALAGO

TRAVELLING has been made so much easier for two villages along Udu Point, Vanua Levu, after recently receiving fiberglass boat from the Government.

The fiberglass boats, valued at \$17,000 each, were handed over to the villages of Yasawa and Nagasauva in Tawake, Cakaudrove.

Villagers there rely solely on the sea as a mode of transportation.

The villagers claimed they often encountered challenges in finding a boat to ferry them to their various destinations.

"This boat will be based in the village and one that belongs to the community, making transportation more accessible for everyone," said Yasawa villager Eparama Veramu.

"It is bound to make life easier for us, especially when transporting people to

the health centre and travelling to the landing.

"Some of the boats that we have in the village are old and are costly to hire. That is why we are truly grateful to the Government for this assistance."

He said the initiative would help villagers protect their fishing ground, which was invaded by poachers in the past.

"We have heard and seen people coming from as far as Labasa to fish in our fishing grounds at night, so this boat will be used to help safeguard our iqoliqoli," Mr Veramu said.

Nagasauva Village headman Koresi Vocea shared similar sentiments and said the handing over of the boat was timely and solved their transportation problem.

While handing over the boats to the villagers, Commissioner Northern Jovesa Vocea assured them that the Government would continue to work to improve their livelihood



A-G officiates at Ram Naumi celebrations in Waituri

FIJIANS must use religious functions and celebrations to reflect on how they can improve their own individual lives.

While speaking at the Ram Naumi celebrations in Waituri Nausori, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum highlighted that while

celebrating the birth of Lord Ram people should focus on how he led his life, how he ruled as a King and treated his people.

"After listening or preaching about stories in Ramayana we should reflect on how we treat our wives, children, neighbours and community," the A-G said.

He said all these occasions meant something for us and everyone followed a religion so that their lives had meaning.

"We must inculcate the lessons we learn from such religious events to guide us in the way we live as good human beings," the A-G said.

Photos: RONAL DEO



Minister Kumar officiates at World Water Day

MINISTER for Local Government, Housing, Environment and Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar officiated at the World Water Day celebrations in Lautoka last week.

He was accompanied to the event by the Minister for Waterways, Dr Mahendra Reddy. The national celebration was held in the Western Division to reiterate the importance of saving water.

Speaking at the celebrations in Lautoka, Minister Kumar said Government remained committed to ensure that "We safeguard our environment and scarce resources such as water."

He says the 2018 World Water Day celebration theme, "Nature for Water" augured well with Government's initiatives and plans for the protection of our natural environment.

Photos: ISAAC LAL



Minister launches clean-up campaign for Western Division

A major clean-up campaign for the Western Division was launched last week by the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar, at Nawaqa, Nadi.

The inter-sectoral initiative, "Fight the Bite" - clean-up campaign, is to help control the dengue fever situation in Fiji with MOH stats recording that more than 1000 persons had been affected by the disease in the past two months. "The need to undertake a whole of Government and whole of society approach to reduce

the transmission of dengue by mosquitoes is essential given the imminent danger that dengue imposes on people's lives as case numbers build up," she said.

Also attended by students from all schools in Nadi, Minister Akbar urged them to be agents of change and lead the fight against dengue and unhealthy living.

Activities organised for the day included oratory contests, poster competitions and a clean up of the Nawaqa community.

Photos: ISAAC LAL





Minister for Forests Osea Naiqamu with Ministry of Forests' Forestry Training Centre graduate Paulini Yavala (with garland) and her family members. Photo: PRIYANKA LAL

Lass follows dad's footsteps

NATASHA BEGUM & PRIYANKA LAL

PURSUING a career as a forester is not a choice many women make, but Paulini Yavala chose to follow in her father's footsteps.

The 20-year-old lass from Lomanikoro, Rewa recently graduated as a forestry technician from the Ministry of Forests' Forestry Training Centre and drew inspiration from her father who pushed her to pursue a career in the field.

"My father was a forestry technician and I am thankful to him for pushing me and moulding me into becoming one as well," Ms Yavala said.

"Being a woman in this male-dominated field was a challenge, but as time went by I realised my peers were very welcoming and did not doubt my capabilities."

Ms Yavala believes that women play an important role in the forestry sector and have a lot to contribute to it.

"Seeing myself as a forester, I think it is an inspiration for other women to take up this role and stand up for our environment," she said.

"Women have a lot to contribute, especially in this sector, and this is one of the ways I am contributing to it."

Proud father Iosefo Yavala said he was delighted that his daughter sought

inspiration from him.

"I am very proud of her achievement and her decision to take up a job in sustainable forestry," Mr Yavala said.

"She has done so well and has already visited places that I haven't as a forestry technician."

Mr Yavala said the role of forests was an important one, especially in mitigating the effects of climate change, and it was crucial that the knowledge critical to the sustainability of the sector was passed down to generations to come.

"Forestry is spearheading issues affecting us globally such as global warming and climate change and it's

becoming important than ever that we pass that kind of knowledge," he said.

"Many people are unaware of how important forests are so we must help in trying to broaden that knowledge."

Ms Yavala's advice to other young women is to grab opportunities that came their way regardless of the obstacles they may face.

"There will always be challenges, but don't lose hope. Learn to tackle it because there is always an opportunity to learn and grow."

The new forest technician is excited about her new career and hopes to further her studies in the near future.

Sky the limit for go-getter

RONAL DEO

A SECOND chance to fulfil his dream is how 21-year-old Mohammed Ierfan describes the opportunity given to him to complete his high school education.

The Saraswati College student initially dropped out of school when a disaster literally took away the roof over his family, but this did not deter him.

Today, the young lad has not only returned to school but is excelling and the icing on the cake was when he was made a school prefect during an induction ceremony last month at which the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment, Parveen Kumar, officiated.

Mohammed left school in 2014 when a fire razed his family home and left many



Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment, Parveen Kumar with Saraswati College school prefect Mohammed Ierfan. Photo: RONAL DEO

in tears, but their spirits lifted when they heard of his determination to complete his secondary school education.

He said he had to leave school and started working in a mobile phone company and then in the garment industry to help his father, who is a carpenter, to rebuild their house.

Being the eldest, Mohammed did not want a similar fate for his two younger sib-

lings on their education front.

Their house was rebuilt in six months, but Mohammed continued to work.

"I used to get told off by production managers because I lacked the skills of the job they required. I started to think how long I could go through with this," he said.

"This is how I felt until the beginning of last year when I met a retired school teacher

who asked me where I'd see myself in 10 years without education."

Mohammed said he thought deeply about this and the words of the retired schoolteacher motivated him to complete his high school education.

He met the principal of Saraswati College, Wasu Deo, who convinced him not to repeat Year 11 but challenged

and inspired him to enrol into Year 12.

In the first term his marks were very low. However, with the support of the teachers and his hard work his marks started improving.

Last year he attained 330 out of 400 marks in the Fiji School Leaving Certificate Examination.

"The first day when I came to school this year all the teachers were congratulating me and were so proud of me for my success and said that it would have been very hard for any other student to achieve this," he said.

"My mother supported me all along and it is because of her that I have tasted success."

Mohammed said this year he was aiming for 100 per cent attendance at school and wanted to score more than 340 marks in the Fiji Seventh Form Examination.

He wants to become a lawyer and hopes to pursue a Bachelor of Laws degree through the Government's education assistance programme.

Mohammed is very vocal and hopes his story inspires other youth not to give up on their dreams.



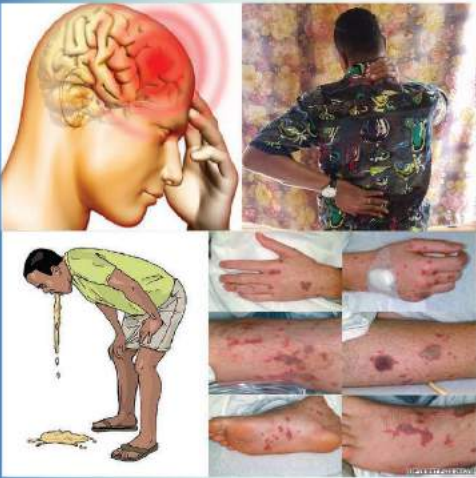
Meningococcal Disease



Meningococcal disease is a life-threatening disease caused by the bacteria called Neisseria Meningitidis. It can cause infections in the lining of the brain (meningitis) and in the blood (Meningococemia), or both. These conditions are very serious and can be deadly.

Seek immediate treatment if you experience the following symptoms:

- sudden fever, vomiting, headache, or stiff neck/backache



Other symptoms includes:

- Nausea
- Eyes are sensitive to light
- Confusion
- Rash – red/purple spots in the skin

This disease can develop within hours of the first symptoms appearing and can only be treated at a hospital or health clinic with antibiotics (medicines that kills bacteria in the body).

If you notice signs and symptoms of this disease, you must urgently visit your nearest health facility for immediate treatment

Meningococcal disease is very serious, but can be treated if detected early

- Meningococcal disease can only be treated at a health facility with antibiotic medication (medicines that kill bacteria in the body) specifically used for this disease. People with meningococcal disease will be admitted to hospital.
- Identifying the symptoms and seeking urgent medical treatment at a health facility is critical and will give a sick person the best chance of survival. In previous outbreaks worldwide, up to 50 per cent of people who got the disease died when they did not get treatment.
- Most people who get the disease, and are treated appropriately, will recover fully. However eight to 12 per cent will still die and around 20 per cent will have permanent disabilities
- If you notice signs and symptoms of this disease, you must urgently visit your nearest health facility.
- A person may start to feel sick within three to seven days after coming in contact with the bacteria.
- It is critical that everyone knows the signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease, so they can seek immediate medical treatment if they suspect meningococcal disease. -MOHMS

Warning over killer disease

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services has declared an outbreak of meningococcal disease in Fiji. Meningococcal disease is a life-threatening disease caused by the bacteria Neisseria meningitidis.

IN recent years Fiji has had an increase in cases of meningococcal disease, although prior to 2016, there were 1-10 cases per year reported. In 2016 there were 29 cases, and in 2017 there were 48 cases. In 2018, there have

been 18 cases as of February 21. Despite the recent increase in cases meningococcal disease remains uncommon in Fiji, but has a high death rate. In 2017, 14.4 per cent of meningococcal disease cases in Fiji proved fatal. To put

this in context, the death rate for dengue fever in Fiji is 0.4-0.6 per cent annually, even during outbreaks. This is why the Ministry of Health and Medical Services is taking nationwide action.

Meningococcal Disease is Spread from Person to Person

- The meningococcal disease bacteria are not easily transmitted but are spread from person to person via transfer of saliva or spit. This can happen when a person with the bacteria coughs on an uninfected person, or deeply kisses an uninfected person on the mouth. It may also spread through the sharing of drinks from the same glass/cup/water bottle or bowl e.g. kava, or taki alcohol at a nightclub.
- Babies and children under the age of five frequently put things into their mouths, therefore they are at higher risk of getting the bacteria.
- Not everyone who has the bacteria will get the disease. Approximately 10-20 per cent of the general population will carry the bacteria at the back of their nose and mouth from time to time, but will not have symptoms. This is because the bacteria need to get into the bloodstream to cause the disease. -MOHMS

Meningococcal Disease

Meningococcal disease is a deadly disease caused by the bacteria called Neisseria Meningitidis. It can cause infections in the lining of the brain (meningitis) and in the blood (Meningococemia), or both.

These conditions are very serious and can be deadly.

If your child or baby displays has any of these signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease, seek immediate medical advice at your nearest health centre.



- High fever
- Unusual crying
- Refusing to eat or drink
- Vomiting
- Floppy/lack of muscle tone
- Changes in sleeping patterns
- Seizures or Fits
- Rash – red/purple spots on the skin

This disease can develop within hours of the first symptoms appearing and can only be treated at a hospital or health clinic with antibiotics (medicines that kills bacteria in the body).

For more information please go to your nearest health facility.



Fiji is experiencing an increase of meningococcal disease cases.

Stay Alert for Signs and Symptoms

Go Immediately to your nearest health centre

Prevention

- Practising proper hygiene can help prevent the spread of the disease
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue or handkerchief when coughing and sneezing
- Dispose tissue in the bin, wash handkerchief daily with soap and water
- After coughing or sneezing, wash your hands with soap and water
- Don't share eating utensils, cups/glasses/water bottles, drinks at social gatherings (taki), cigarettes, or kava bowls.

For more information please visit your nearest health facility or the 'My Health Section' on the Ministry of Health and Medical Services website <http://www.health.gov.fj> -MOHMS



Gender ‘vital to’ climate action response

JOELI VUETI

FIJI participated in discussions on the grassroots and indigenous women’s participation in gender responsive climate action at the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa, represented Fiji in the discussion, which was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations and the Mary Robinson Foundation.

Speaking on the theme “Enabling grassroots and indigenous women’s participation in gender responsive climate action”, Minister Vuniwaqa said, “the indigenous woman is both an individual and a cultural being”.

“As a cultural being she may be subjected to a patriarchal system of communal governance which could pose

hierarchical and differential access to resources and even to being heard in a communal setting,” Minister Vuniwaqa said.

“And when we consider this in the context of participation in gender responsive climate action, it is important to be aware of these cultural nuances and to be able to resolve such a dilemma in order to amplify her voice.”

Amongst other issue, the dialogue revolved around access to climate financing, traditional knowledge, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and how rural and indigenous women fit in these discussions.

Minister Vuniwaqa said, “We must ensure that the individual voice does not get lost in the myriad of communal interests because it is the clarity of individual voices and the proper articulation of their challenges which lend credence

to a strong collective action”.

She urged the participants and delegation present at the event to make use of the Talanoa Dialogue that was established during the 23rd session of the Conference of Parties (COP23) in Bonn, Germany, late last year and to make on-line submissions through the online portal to ensure that diverse viewpoints and unique experiences were recorded.

The main objective of the event was to promote dialogue and bring together representatives from gender, climate and development communities to identify opportunities to increase the participation of grassroots and indigenous women in climate action.

It was to help identify actions to be taken by the CSW and the UNFCCC to promote and enable the participation of grassroots and indigenous women in gender-responsive decision-making.

Minister stresses voice for women

JOELI VUETI

“AS we strive towards a net-zero emission world and with the emergence of exciting new and innovative technologies and industries, we need to ensure that women are not left behind,” says Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa.

She made the comment while delivering her remarks at a side event on the margins of 62nd Commission on the Status of Women in New York, USA, adding that leaving no one behind was after all the pledge of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Besides the representation from governments and grassroots women organisations, there were three panellists from India, Zambia and Belize who shared their experiences from their own country in context with the event theme “Rural Women Leading Climate Resilience”.

United Nations Development Programme’s director for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Jo Scheuer, delivered the opening statement at the side event.

He said the world’s natural resources were being depleted as a result of climate change and therefore it was important to understand and know the risks involved and foster women’s leadership in the development process.

Minister Vuniwaqa stressed the importance of having the voice of the rural woman heard in international negotiation processes and touched on the importance of gender inclusion in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

“We need to strengthen our efforts to bring the views and issues of our rural women into the climate negotiations space. This can only be possible through an inclusive participatory process,” she said.

Minister Vuniwaqa spoke about the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs), saying that “there needs to be closer connectivity between the sectoral focal points and the gender groups at all levels-from the negotiators to on-the-ground implementers”.



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa with other participants at the Inter Parliamentary Union meeting in New York.

INSET: Minister Mereseini Vuniwaqa and other government leaders at a side event during the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women in New York, USA,

Fiji tells of empowerment efforts

JOELI VUETI

MINISTER for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa has highlighted the relentless effort of the Government to empower the rural population.

In delivering the country statement at 62nd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, Minister Vuniwaqa spoke on the theme “Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls”. She said, “rural Fijian women

make up 48.1 per cent of the rural Fijian population and 21.2 per cent of the nation’s population.

When we consider the fact that Fiji is made up of over 300 islands and that rural women and girls reside over at least a hundred of those islands, accessibility and connectivity to services becomes a critical consideration”.

Minister Vuniwaqa said the Fijian Government took relentless efforts towards the empowerment of the rural population, including women and girls, with its unprecedented investment in in-

frastructure development in rural areas, legal reforms to repeal gender discriminatory laws and access to justice initiatives particularly targeted at the rural population.

In addition, she said, the “investment in social protection has ensured that elderly women who have no superannuation, not having worked in paid employment their entire lives do still have access to a pension.

It ensures that single mothers, who have no source of income, receive a stipend to assist in looking after their children.

It ensures that women living

with disabilities have an allowance to cater for their needs”.

She invited the CSW and the delegates present to take advantage of the Talanoa Dialogue and to use that medium to amplify the voices of women in the different countries by making submissions through the online portal.

Fiji along with United Nations’ member states, other UN entities and UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)-accredited non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from all regions of the world delivered their country statements.

फ़ीजी फ़ोकस

भारत और फ़ीजी के बीच द्विपक्षीय वार्ता

संगीता लाल

प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डनिमरामा ने हाल ही में भारत के राष्ट्रपति भवन के सांस्कृतिक केंद्र होल में भारत के प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र मोदी के साथ एक द्विपक्षीय सभा की।

सभा में, प्रधान मंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने संबंधों को और मज़बूत बनाने के लिए फ़ीजी की प्रतिबद्धता तथा फ़ीजी और भारत की साझेदारी को एक नए स्तर पर ले जाने के साथ साथ सहयोग के लिए नए क्षेत्रों की खोज की पुष्टि की।

“मैं अंतरराष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन (International Solar Alliance) या आई एस ए की स्थापना के लिए भारत की पहल की सराहना करता हूँ जिसका उद्देश्य है जीवाश्म ईंधन (fossil fuel) पर निर्भरता को कम करने के लिए सौर ऊर्जा (solar energy) के कुशल शोषण के लिए काम करने के लिए वैश्विक सहयोग।”

“फ़ीजी के बीस और पाँच वर्षों के राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना के मुताबिक, भूतापीय (geothermal), लहर (wave), ज्वार (tidal), और रूढ़ी प्रसंस्करण जैसे क्षेत्रों से अक्षय ऊर्जा में आगे के निवेश की संभावना है,” प्रधान मंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने कहा।

“संयोग से, फ़ीजी ने आपकी सरकार के माध्यम से आई एस ए पहल के तहत संभव सहयोग के लिए परियोजना प्रस्तावों की एक सूची प्रस्तुत की है जिन्हें फ़ीजी भारत सरकार की सहायता से आगे बढ़ाना चाहता है।”

प्रधान मंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने प्रधान मंत्री मोदी के साथ रुचि वाले क्षेत्रों जैसे; पर्यटन (tourism), व्यापार (trade) कृषि (agriculture) और फ़ीजी की सड़कों का नेटवर्क के बारे में चर्चा की।

जवाब में, प्रधान मंत्री मोदी ने प्रधान मंत्री बर्डनिमरामा को विकास के कुछ क्षेत्रों से मिलने और चर्चा करने के अवसर के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

“मैं फ़ीजी के प्रधान मंत्री को रुचि के कुछ क्षेत्रों में और विकास पर चर्चा करने के अवसर के लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ,” प्रधान मंत्री मोदी ने कहा।



प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डनिमरामा ने हाल ही में किए गए भारत के अपने दौर के अंतर्गत भारत के प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र मोदी के साथ एक द्विपक्षीय सभा की।

अर्थव्यवस्था में लगातार नौवें वर्ष के लिए वृद्धि

संगीता लाल

फ़ीजी की अर्थव्यवस्था लगातार नौवें वर्ष की वृद्धि के लिए ट्रैक पर है।

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री, अर्डियाज़ सैयद-खैयूम का कहना है कि यह फ़ीजी के इतिहास में एक अभूतपूर्व (unprecedented) वृद्धि है।

मंत्री सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा कि 2016 में समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के बाद जी डी पी में 0.4 प्रतिशत वृद्धि को छोड़कर, पिछले पाँच सालों में अर्थव्यवस्था में औसत चार प्रतिशत से अधिक की वृद्धि हुई है।

“इस उत्साही प्रदर्शन से 2017 में प्रति व्यक्ति के लिए हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था की सामान्य जी डी पी \$12,000 से अधिक थी जो 2006 में \$6,419 से लगभग दोगुना ज़्यादा है। यह हमारे इतिहास में अब तक का सबसे बेहतर नमूना है यहाँ तक कि वास्तविक जी डी पी प्रति व्यक्ति पिछले साल लगभग \$8,000 पर अपने उच्चतम स्तर पर पहुँच गया,” जनाब सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा।

मंत्री ने कहा कि कई रिकॉर्ड स्तर के प्रदर्शन की गई हैं जिसमें विदेशी मुद्रा में भी पिछले साल \$2.4 बिलियन से अधिक की वृद्धि हुई है।

उन्होंने बताया कि यहाँ तक कि सरकार की कर संग्रह (tax collection) सबसे कम टैक्स दर होने के बावजूद भी अपने उच्चतम स्तर पर है।

छोटे और मध्यम स्तर के व्यवसायों के लिए ग्रांट से 17,970 लोगों को लाभ हुआ

संगीता लाल

इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड, टूरिज़्म, लैंड्स और मिनरल रिसोर्सस मंत्री, फर्डियाज़ कोया ने संसद में अपने बयान में कहा कि पिछले चार सालों में सूक्ष्म और छोटे स्तर के व्यवसाय के लिए सहायता (Micro and Small Business Grant [MSBG]) के

द्वारा कुल \$1.74 मिलियन के निवेश से 17,970 प्राप्तकर्ताओं को लाभ हुआ है।

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि यह सरकारी सहायता ने लगभग 89,850 लोगों के जीवन को प्रभावित किया है।

उनका कहना है कि उन्होंने 10,760 पुरुषों और 7,210 महिला व्यवसायी (entrepreneurs) को सहायता प्रदान

की है।

मंत्री कोया ने बताया कि मोनिटरिंग और मूल्यांकन अभ्यास से यह पता चला है कि अब तक आकलित किए गए व्यवसायों में सफलता का दर 80.3 प्रतिशत है।

उन्होंने संसद सदस्यों से कहा कि इनमें से कुछ सफल प्राप्तकर्ता संसद

में उपस्थित हैं और उन्होंने विपक्षी पक्ष के सदस्यों से मांग की कि वे इनमें से कुछ मेहनती फ़ीजीवासियों से मिलें और सरकार की पहल के माध्यम से प्रदान किए जा रहे समर्थन के स्तर के संबंध में उनकी प्रेरणादायक कहानियाँ (inspirational stories) और संतुष्टि सुनें।



सीज़नल वर्कर्स स्कीम के तहत 1060 रोज़गार

संगीता लाल

एम्प्लॉयमन्ट, प्रोडक्टिविटी और इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशनज़ मंत्री, चोने उसामाते ने संसद में अपने मिनिस्टीरियल बयान में कहा कि 2015 में ओस्ट्रेलिया और न्यू ज़ीलैंड के सीज़नल वर्कर्स स्कीम (seasonal workers

scheme) में शामिल होने के बाद, फीजी ने अब तक 1060 कर्मचारियों को भेजा है। उन्होंने कहा कि उसमें से 600 श्रमिकों को न्यू ज़ीलैंड और बाकि 460 को ओस्ट्रेलिया भेजा गया।

“इन में 116 महिला और 944 पुरुष श्रमिक हैं,” मंत्री ने कहा।

“यह योजना दोनों देशों में बढ़ रही है और हम फीजी से ओस्ट्रेलिया और न्यू ज़ीलैंड काम करने जाने वाले श्रमिकों की संख्या में वृद्धि लाने के लिए काम करना जारी रखेंगे।” 33 नियोक्ता (एम्प्लॉयर) फीजीवासियों को भर्ती कर रहे हैं - 12 ओस्ट्रेलिया से और 20 न्यू ज़ीलैंड से।

फीजी में 43 समावेशी स्कूल

संगीता लाल

अब फीजी में चालीस से अधिक समावेशी (inclusive) स्कूल हैं, जो विकलांग बच्चों को उन बच्चों के साथ पढ़ाई करने का अवसर प्रदान करता है जो विकलांग नहीं हैं। संसद में पूछे गए एक मौखिक प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए, ज़िम्मेदार



प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डिनिरामा ने हाल ही में नई दिल्ली, भारत में आयोजित International Solar Alliance Founding Conference 2018 के plenary session के दौरान विश्व नेताओं से मांग की कि वे जलवायु परिवर्तन से उत्पन्न खतरों के लिए अपने संसाधनों को इकट्ठा करें और इस चुनौती से सामना करें।

प्रधान मंत्री ने की जलवायु परिवर्तन पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की

संगीता लाल

प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डिनिरामा ने हाल ही में नई दिल्ली, भारत में आयोजित अंतरराष्ट्रीय सौर अलायंस संस्थापक सम्मेलन 2018 (International Solar Alliance Founding Conference 2018) के पूर्ण अधिवेशन (plenary session) के दौरान विश्व नेताओं से मांग की कि जलवायु परिवर्तन से उत्पन्न खतरों मानवता को एक बड़ा अवसर प्रदान करता है कि हम अपने संसाधनों को इकट्ठा करें और इस चुनौती से सामना करें। “हम सभी जानते हैं कि तेज़ गति से विकसित किया हुआ वैकल्पिक स्वच्छ ऊर्जा स्रोत जैसे सौर (solar), हाइड्रो और हवा 2015 के पैरिस समझौते के सबसे महत्वकांक्षी लक्ष्य को पूरा करने की कुंजी है, जो वैश्विक तापमान को पूर्व औद्योगिक युग (pre-industrial age) के ऊपर 1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस तक सीमित करता है,” प्रधान मंत्री बर्डिनिरामा ने कहा।

“मैंने कोप23 के अध्यक्ष के रूप में यह प्राथमिकता स्थापित की है। और मैं वैश्विक समुदाय से सौर



हाल ही में नई दिल्ली, भारत में आयोजित अंतरराष्ट्रीय सौर अलायंस संस्थापक सम्मेलन 2018 (International Solar Alliance Founding Conference 2018) के हिस्सेदार।

(solar), जल (hydro) और हवा (wind) में भारी नए निवेश जिसकी ज़रूरत है और साथ में उभरते तकनीक जैसे बैटरी स्टोरेज जो हमारे घरों और अर्थ व्यवस्था को शक्ति प्रदान करने में इतना वादा दिखाते हैं - पर अधिक - बहुत अधिक ध्यान देने की मांग करता हूँ।” प्रधान मंत्री बर्डिनिरामा ने कहा

कि निवेश को संपन्न (अप-स्कैलिंग) कर के हमें इस तकनीक को और अधिक किफायती बनाने और दुनिया भर में फैलाने के लिए एक ठोस प्रयास की आवश्यकता है।

“आई एस ए के साथ, आप इस प्रयास के अगुवाई कर रहे हैं और फीजी जैसे विकासशील

देशों की सहायता के लिए यह पहुँच हासिल कर रहे हैं। और ऐसा करने में, आप न केवल जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ लड़ाई का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं बल्कि हमारे लोगों के जीवन स्तर में सुधार कर रहे हैं,” प्रधान मंत्री बर्डिनिरामा ने बताया।

शिक्षा प्रणाली में, 43 मुख्यधारा वाले (mainstream) स्कूल हैं, जो अब समावेशी स्कूल हैं, इन 43 में से 24 स्कूलों को विशेष शिक्षा ग्रांट दिया जाता है ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि विशेष ज़रूरतों वाले विद्यार्थियों को वह विशेष ध्यान दिया जाए जिसका वे पात्र हैं

मंत्री, मेरेसेईनी वुनिवांगा ने कहा कि 2017 जनगणना में, 13.7 प्रतिशत या एक सौ तेरह हजार पाँच सौ और पंचानवे (113,595) फीजीवासियों में विकलांगता दर्ज़ की गई है। विकलांग लोगों की सहायता के लिए कई पहल हैं, मंत्री वुनिवांगा ने शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में सहायता के बारे में बताया।

“शिक्षा प्रणाली में, 43 मुख्यधारा वाले (mainstream) स्कूल हैं, जो अब समावेशी स्कूल हैं, इन 43 में से 24 स्कूलों को विशेष शिक्षा ग्रांट दिया जाता है ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि विशेष ज़रूरतों वाले विद्यार्थियों को वह विशेष ध्यान दिया जाए जिसका वे पात्र हैं।”

मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि विकलांग लोगों की सहायता के लिए राष्ट्रीय बजट में \$7.9 मिलियन अलग किया गया है जबकि फीजी नेशनल काउंसिल फोर पर्सनल डिसेबिलिटीज़ (National Council People with Disabilities) के लिए अतिरिक्त \$1.2 मिलियन अलग किया गया है।



सभी पेंशनर को मिल रहा है \$100

संगीता लाल

अटोनी-जेनरल तथा अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्री, आईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम का कहना है कि फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड (FNPF) से देश के पेंशनरों को कम से कम \$100 प्राप्त होता है।

जनाब सैयद-खैयूम ने संसद में कहा कि यह सरकार द्वारा स्थापित रिफॉर्म का हिस्सा है जो यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि जिन लोगों को \$7 प्रति महीना प्राप्त होना चाहिए, उनको भी \$100 प्राप्त हुआ है।

“इन रिफॉर्म के तहत, उन सभी लोगों को जिन्हें तकनीकी तौर पर \$100 से कम मिलता था, अब उन्हें कम से कम \$100 प्रति महीना प्राप्त हो रहा है, हालांकि, वे फंड में बहुत ही छोटा योगदान देते हैं,” अटोनी-जेनरल ने कहा।

“अगर हम सभी, उदाहरण के लिए, व्यक्तिगत रूप से अपने पैसे बचाने की कोशिश करें, यह बहुत अधिक नहीं होगा, लेकिन अगर हम सब अपने पैसे एकत्र करते हैं तब हम संपत्ति खरीद सकते हैं, बना सकते हैं, और उसमें से मुनाफे को समान रूप से बांटा जाना चाहिए। जहाँ तक एफ एन पी एफ का संबंध है, हम यही हासिल करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।”

उन्होंने बताया कि इन सुधारों के परिणामस्वरूप एफ एन पी एफ एक मजबूत वित्तीय स्थिति में है। अटोनी-जेनरल ने कहा कि एफ एन पी एफ की 2017 वार्षिक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 2016 में शुद्ध लाभ (net profit) \$331 मिलियन थी जो पिछले साल बढ़कर \$359 मिलियन हो गई है।

“पिछले पाँच वर्षों में फंड ने अपने सदस्यों को \$1 बिलियन से अधिक का कर्ज़ दिया है।

स्वचलन (automation) के माध्यम से बेहतर अनुपालन (compliance) के परिणाम स्वरूप 2016 में \$46 मिलियन से \$480 मिलियन का रिकॉर्ड कायम हुआ है,” उन्होंने बताया।

“फंड की कुल संपत्ति (Total assets of the Fund) अब \$5.7 बिलियन है, जो \$4.8 बिलियन की अपनी देनदारियों (liabilities) को कवर करने के लिए पर्याप्त से अधिक है।”

अटोनी-जेनरल ने कहा कि संस्था की शुद्ध परिसंपत्ति (net asset) अब \$836 बिलियन है।

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि इन विभिन्न सुधारों को इंटरनेशनल मोनेटरी फंड या आई एम ए

(International Monetary Fund [IMF]) के साथ साझेदारी में फाईनैन्शल सेक्टर असेसमेंट या आई एम ए (Financial Sector Assessment [FSA]) और रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ फीजी (आर बी एफ) द्वारा मध्यस्थ (moderator) के रूप में समर्थन दिया गया है।

रोज़गार संबंधी अधिनियम में संशोधन करने के लिए बिल

संगीता लाल

संसद ने रोज़गार संबंधी अधिनियम में संशोधन करने के लिए एक बिल पारित या पास किया है जो महिलाओं को भूमिगत खानों (underground mines) में काम करने की अनुमति देगा।

जैसा कि हमने हाल ही में अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस मनाया, अटोनी-जेनरल, आईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा कि जबकि फीजी महिलाओं के खिलाफ सभी तरह के भेदभाव के उन्मूलन पर सम्मेलन (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) के लिए एक राज्य पार्टी है,

यह ज़रूरी है कि हमारे कानून सम्मेलन के तहत हमारे राज्य के दायित्वों के साथ गठबंधन कर रहे हैं।

यह बिल रोज़गार संबंधी अधिनियम 2007 के धारा 88 को हटाने की कोशिश करता है।

अधिनियम के धारा 88 में कहा गया है कि किसी नियोक्ता (employer) को सभी प्रकार के खानों (mines) में भूमिगत (underground) काम में महिलाओं के रोज़गार पर रोक लगाने से रोक नहीं जाता है, सिवाय प्रबंधन (management) वाले पादों जिनमें हाथ से करने वाले कामों (manual work) की आवश्यकता नहीं

है को छोड़ कर, स्वास्थ्य और कल्याण सेवाओं, शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण या फिर कभी कभी नोन-मैन्यूअल (non manual) कामों के।

अटोनी-जेनरल ने कहा कि इस मनाही (prohibition) के द्वारा खनन (mining) क्षेत्र में लिंग रूढ़िबद्धता (stereotyping) को कायम रखा गया है और अगर इसे ठीक नहीं किया गया तब महिलाओं के लिए यह बाधा जारी रहेगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि महिलाओं को भी वही रोज़गार अधिकार मिलनी चाहिए जो पुरुषों को मिलता है चाहे वे जहाँ भी काम करना चुनते हैं।



प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डिनिरामा ने हाल ही में की गई भारत के अपने दौर के अंतर्गत भारत के रेलवे मंत्री, पीयूष गोयल के साथ एक द्विपक्षीय सभा की।

प्रधान मंत्री ने भारत के रेलवे मंत्री के साथ की एक सभा

संगीता लाल

प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डिनिरामा ने हाल ही में की गई भारत के अपने दौर के अंतर्गत भारत के रेलवे मंत्री, पीयूष गोयल के साथ एक द्विपक्षीय सभा की।

सभा में, प्रधान मंत्री बर्डिनिरामा ने हाल में फीजी में रेलवे नेटवर्क के आकलन और नेटवर्क को अपग्रेड करने के लिए भारत से आने वाले रेलवे

विशेषज्ञों द्वारा अधिक माल भाड़ा और यात्रियों की यात्रा (पसेन्जर ट्रेवल) को समायोजित करने की सिफारिश की योजना के बारे में चर्चा की।

मंत्री गोयल ने प्रधान मंत्री बर्डिनिरामा को उस परियोजना के लिए धन्यवाद दिया जो सभी फीजीवासियों के लिए सभी पसेन्जर ट्रेवल को समायोजित करेगा।

चावल उद्योग में सरकार का निवेश

संगीता लाल

उत्तरी विभाग में ड्रेकेती के धान के किसानों को अब मिल पर अपने धान के वजन को तौलने के लिए बहुत ज़्यादा इंतज़ार करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी क्योंकि अभी हाल में ही कृषि मंत्री, इनिया सेरूईरातू द्वारा ड्रेकेती, मटुआता स्थित फीजी राइस लिमिटेड में दो ड्रायर (dryers) और एक हस्क कशर (husk crusher) का उद्घाटन किया गया।

सरकार ने दो और ड्रायर के लिए \$60,000 निवेश किया है जिसे अगले तीन महीने में स्थापित कर दिया जाना चाहिए।

मंत्री सेरूईरातू ने कहा कि हस्क कशर पशु चारा उत्पादन (animal feed production) में विविधता (diversify) लाएगा।

“यह कंपनी के लिए एक और उपलब्धि है क्योंकि इस उद्यम (venture) से कंपनी के लिए और अधिक आय (income) उत्पन्न होगी और साथ ही साथ ड्रेकेती के ग्रामीण समुदाय के लिए और अधिक रोज़गार भी उत्पन्न होगी। मैं साझेदारों को याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि वे अपने हिस्से का काम करें और इस उद्योग को आगे बढ़ने में सहायता प्रदान करें। मैं आपको आश्वासन देता हूँ कि सरकार सभी तरह की सहायता जैसे धन, मशीनरी, सब्सिडी, आदि प्रदान करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है,” मंत्री सेरूईरातू ने कहा।

“हमें आधुनिकीकरण (modernise) की आवश्यकता है क्योंकि फीजी के उत्पादनों के लिए बहुत बड़ी मांग (demand) है न केवल स्थानीय रूप से बल्कि विदेशों में भी। हम जानते हैं कि बढ़ती मांग को मध्यनज़र रखते हुए हाथ से काम करने (manual [मैन्युवल]) के लिए समय नहीं है अब,” उन्होंने कहा।

“हमें मशीनरी, मशीनीकरण और तकनीक की आवश्यकता है, इतना ही नहीं हमें उत्पादन की मात्रा भी बढ़ाने की ज़रूरत है लेकिन सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है हमारे लिए कि हमें जलवायु परिवर्तन के संदर्भ में बदलते वातावरण के अनुकूल होने में सक्षम होना है, विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था की गतिशीलता और खाद्य और पोषण सुरक्षा के संदर्भ में हमें अपने लोगों को खिलाने की ज़रूरत है,” मंत्री सेरूईरातू ने कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि इस मिल का उद्घाटन 2020 कृषि नीति एजेन्डा (Agriculture Policy) में मशीनीकरण योजना का हिस्सा है और उस आधुनिकीकरण में वे खेत के स्तर से बाज़ार तक और सभी साझेदारों की ज़िम्मेदारियों की मूल श्रंखला देखेंगे।



वह सब कुछ जो फीजी में हो रहा है

email: news@govnet.gov.fj;
@FijiRepublic;
Fijian Government;
visit us @ www.fiji.gov.fj
phone: 3301806



राम नवमी

इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड, टूरिज़म, लेन्ड्स एन्ड मिनेरल रिसोर्सज़ मंत्री, फैयाज़ कोया ने हाल ही में रामपुरवा रोड, स्टैज फोर, नरें में ओम शिव शक्ति रामायण मंडली द्वारा आयोजित राम नवमी उत्सव का उद्घाटन किया। उद्घाटन के दौरान मंत्री ने भगवान श्री रामचन्द्र की शिक्षाओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि हम हमेशा सिर्फ अपनी चिंता, सुख और सुविधा के बारे में नहीं सोच सकते हैं।



मंत्री अकबर ने किया अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस भाषण प्रतियोगिता का उद्घाटन

हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विसज़ मंत्री, रोज़ी अकबर ने हाल ही में अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के अंतर्गत सोरोप्टिमिस्ट इंटरनेशनल वीमन्स मूव्मन्ट (Sorooptimist International Women's Movement) द्वारा आयोजित एक भाषण प्रतियोगिता जिसमें लौतोका के स्कूलों ने भाग लिया, का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया। इस भाषण प्रतियोगिता में प्राथमरी और सेकन्डरी स्कूलों के छात्रों ने महिलाओं के लिए समानता पर जागरूकता बढ़ाया।





अटोनी जेनरल ने वुनिवूतू के कृषि समुदाय के लोगों से की मुलाकात

अटोनी जेनरल, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल ही में मदूआता के वुनिवूतू, नंदोंगो तथा आस पास के कृषि समुदाय के लोगों से मुलाकात की तथा उनकी चिंताओं को सुना। यहाँ के एक किसान, अविलाश प्रसाद ने कहा कि वे बहुत खुश हैं कि अटोनी जेनरल ने समय निकाल कर उनसे मुलाकात की और उनकी चिंताओं को सुना।



फीजी रग्बी अवोर्ड्स नाइट

प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डनिमरामा ने हाल ही में देनराऊ स्थित शेर्टन फीजी रिज़ोर्ट एंड स्पा और में आयोजित फीजी रग्बी यूनियन 2017 अवोर्ड्स नाइट का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया। प्रधान मंत्री जो फीजी रग्बी यूनियन के प्रधान भी हैं, ने विजेताओं के प्रयासों की सराहना की, लेकिन इस बात पर बल दिया कि असली विजेता फीजी रग्बी है। उन्होंने फीजी सेवन्स टीम की भी सराहना की जिन्होंने हाल में वैकूवर, कैनडा में सेवन्स जीता है।





चार लैन की सड़कों से यात्रा में होंगी बदलाव

संगीता लाल

अटोनी-जेनरल तथा इंफस्ट्रक्चर मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने संसद में कहा कि चार लैन के सड़कें होने के बाद लोग कैसे यात्रा करते हैं, इस पर बहुत बड़ा परिवर्तन हो सकता है।

उन्होंने सांसदों को बताया कि वे विदेशी शहरों की तरह योजना बना रहे हैं जहाँ लोग अपनी कारों को सेटलाइट कार पार्किंग क्षेत्र (satellite car parking area) में पार्क कर के नियुक्त (designated) बसों में सफर कर सकते हैं।

अटोनी-जेनरल ने सोडेलपा के सांसद चोसेवा दूलाकिवेराता के प्रश्न कि क्या सरकार के पास कोरोनाविषा रोड का विस्तार करने और सूवा और नौसोरी के बीच बढ़ती

यातायात को कम करने के लिए सूवा की ओर एक तटीय सड़क का निर्माण करने की कोई योजना है, के जवाब में ऐसा कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि चारों लैन समाप्त हो जाने पर, उन्हें बसों के स्तर में सुधार लाना होगा ताकि लोगों को बसों में सफर करने के लिए सशक्त किया जा सके।

“वास्तविकता यह है कि फीजी में बहुत सारे लोग बस में सफर करने के बजाय टैक्सी में सफर करते हैं या अपनी कार लेते हैं क्योंकि वे वकील, अकाउंटेंट या सूट पहनते हैं,” मंत्री सैयद-खैयूम ने बताया।

“ये ही लोग सिडनी या ओकलैंड में बस, फेरी या ट्रेन पकड़ते हैं।”

इस बीच, सोडेलपा के सांसद मेरे सामीसोनी ने मंत्री सैयद-खैयूम से लामी और सूवा शहर के बीच अनुभव की जा रही विशाल

ट्रैफिक जाम के समाधान के बारे में पूछा।

सामीसोनी ने संसद में कहा कि वे लामी में रहती हैं और लगभग हर दिन वे एक दर्घटना का सामना करती हैं जिसके कारण भारी ट्रैफिक जाम हो जाता है और उन्हें सूवा पहुँचने में दो घंटा लग जाता है।

उन्होंने कहा कि यह काफी लंबे समय से हो रहा है और पूछा कि क्या ट्रैफिक को हटाने या क्लीयर (clear) करने का कोई उपाय हो सकता है।

जवाब में, मंत्री सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा कि लामी सीमेंट कारखाना (cement factory) से सूवा तक एक बहुत बड़ी बाधा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि इस सड़क को चार लैन की आवश्यकता है और ऐसा करने के लिए तीन पुलों को बदलने की आवश्यकता होगी।

आई एस ए पहल के समर्थन के लिए प्रधान मंत्री की सराहना

संगीता लाल

भारत के प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र मोदी ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय सौर अलायंस संस्थापक सम्मेलन 2018 (International Solar Alliance Founding Conference 2018) की पहल की के लिए प्रधान मंत्री, बोरिगे बर्डिनमरामा के प्रति अपना आभार प्रकट किया।

दोनों प्रधान मंत्रियों ने आई एस ए सम्मेलन के दौरान भारत के राष्ट्रपति भवन पर सभा की। प्रधान मंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि इस पहल में प्रधान मंत्री बर्डिनमरामा की भूमिका एक राजदूत की भूमिका के रूप में थी, जहाँ उन्होंने लोगों को एक साथ लाया और पहल का नेतृत्व किया जिससे आज वे उस स्थान पर हैं जहाँ वे क्रिया-उन्मुख योजनाओं (action-oriented plans) को लागू करने में सक्षम हैं। उन्होंने अवसर पर अपने द्विपक्षीय आर्थिक सहयोग (bilateral economic cooperation) को और बढ़ाने के लिए आपसी हित (mutual interest) के क्षेत्रों पर भी चर्चा की। फीजी में दवा उत्पादों की आपूर्ति श्रृंखला (chain of pharmaceutical products) स्थापित करने के लिए प्रधान मंत्री मोदी अपने ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के गुजरात राज्य (countryside Gujarat State) से समर्थन की मांग कर रहे हैं।

उन्होंने फीजी के विशिष्ट आर्थिक क्षेत्र (Exclusive Economic Zone [EEZ]) की निगरानी के लिए भारतीय नौसेना के साथ जुड़ने के लिए फीजी की आवश्यकता के बारे में भी बात को आगे बढ़ाया।

भारत फीजी की रक्षा करने में सहयोग के साथ साथ ग्रामीण समुदायों को एल ई डी (LED) बल्ब भी प्रदान करेगा।

भारत सबसे तेज़ी से बढ़ती अर्थ व्यवस्था है और अपनी “उजाला” पहल के माध्यम से यह अपनी एल ई डी सप्लाय स्ट्रोत पर गर्व कर रहा है। अभी तक भारत ने दुनिया भर में लगभग 280 मिलियन एल ई डी बल्ब वितरित किया है। इस पहल का लक्ष्य है 2019 तक लगभग 770 मिलियन ज़्यादातर तापदीप्त (incandescent) लैंप को ऊर्जा कुशल एल ई डी (energy-efficient LED) लैंप के साथ बदलना।

दोनों प्रधान मंत्रियों के बीच यह चौथी द्विपक्षीय बैठक है। वे पहले 2014 में फोरम फोर इंडिया पैसिफिक आइलैंड्स कोवापैरेशन वन या एफ आई पी आई सी 1 (Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation 1 in 2014), 2015 में जयपुर भारत में एफ आई पी आई सी 2, और 2016 में नई दिल्ली भारत में मिले थे।

सात हाऊजिंग प्रोजेक्ट्स पर हस्ताक्षर

संगीता लाल

लोकल गवर्नमेंट, हाऊजिंग और एन्वाइरन्मेंट मंत्रालय द्वारा हाल ही में दो सलाहकारों

(consultants) के साथ समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए ताकि देश में सात (7) अनौपचारिक बस्तियों को औपचारिक बनाने पर काम शुरू की जा सके।

हस्ताक्षर लोकल गवर्नमेंट हाऊजिंग और एन्वाइरन्मेंट मंत्री, परवीण कुमार बाला और वेसईंग कंसल्टिंग लिमिटेड (WesEng Consulting Limited) और वुड एंड जेपसन कंसल्टंट्स (Wood & Jepsen Consultants) के सलाहकारों (consultants) के बीच किए गए।

वेसईंग कंसल्टिंग लिमिटेड के डायरेक्टर, श्री एंड्रयू सिंह और वुड एंड जेपसन कंसल्टंट्स के श्री रोड जेपसन ने इस समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

मंत्री बाला ने कहा कि इस



लोकल गवर्नमेंट, हाऊजिंग और एन्वाइरन्मेंट मंत्री, परवीण कुमार बाला और वेसईंग कंसल्टिंग लिमिटेड के डायरेक्टर, श्री एंड्रयू सिंह।

परियोजना से पश्चिमी विभाग के तीन, केंद्रीय विभाग के एक और उत्तरी विभाग के तीन बस्तियों को लाभ होगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि सलाहकार अब इंजीनियरिंग योजना पर काम

करेंगे।
लोवू सी साइड, फील्ड फोर, तोमूका, सकोदा, वुनीवाऊ ए, वुनीवाऊ बी और वुनिका में रहने वाले करीब 10,000 लोगों को इस हाऊजिंग परियोजना से लाभ

होगा।
मंत्री बाला ने कहा कि सरकार ने पहले से ही ई-तऊकेई लैंड ट्रस्ट बोर्ड को \$330,000 से अधिक का प्रीमियम चुका दिया है।

एफ एन यू में बजट पर परामर्श

संगीता लाल

फीजी नेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी (एफ एन यू) के दो छात्रों ने 2018-2019 बजट पर परामर्श के दौरान अटोनी-जेनरल, अर्थव्यवस्था और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम को बताया कि यूनिवर्सिटी में योग्य लेक्चरर (lecturer) नहीं हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि यूनिवर्सिटी में कुछ लेक्चरर हैं जिनके पास सिर्फ डिग्री है और वे ऑनर्स (honours) कार्यक्रम में शिक्षण प्रदान कर

रहे हैं। छात्रों में से एक का जवाब देते हुए, मंत्री सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा कि उन्हें भी एफ एन यू के बारे में सुनने को मिला है और ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि कुछ लोग नहीं चाहते हैं कि एक्सपैट्रिएट्स (expatriates) एफ एन यू चलाएँ।

“ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि ये लोग चाहते हैं कि केवल फीजी के लोग ही यूनिवर्सिटी चलाएँ,” मंत्री सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा।

“मैं इससे सहमत नहीं हूँ और एफ एन यू

चलाने के लिए हमें सबसे सर्वश्रेष्ठ लोगों को लाना चाहिए।”

छात्रों ने मंत्री को आवास (accommodation) और सीखने के उपकरणों से संबंधित समस्याओं के बारे में भी बताया।

मंत्री ने बताया कि उठाए गए विषयों को नोट की जा रही है और इन्हें एफ एन यू प्रशासन (administration) के समक्ष रखा जाएगा।

पहले जारी टैक्सी परमिट अव्यवस्थित

संगीता लाल

पिछले सरकारों द्वारा जारी किए गए टैक्सी परमिट (taxi permit) संरचित (structured) नहीं था।

अटोनी-जेनरल तथा स्थानापन्न ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम का कहना है कि इस मुद्दे को हल करने के प्रयास में, लैंड ट्रान्सपोर्ट अथोरिटी द्वारा टैक्सी क्षेत्र (taxi zones) शुरू किया गया है।

स्थानापन्न मंत्री सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा कि एल टी ए द्वारा टैक्सी क्षेत्र की पहचान जनता के परिवहन मांगों के आधार पर की गई थी।

“इनमें से प्रत्येक क्षेत्र स्पष्ट रूप से सीमांकन (demarcate) किए गए हैं, और

प्रत्येक क्षेत्र के अन्दर, उन्होंने अलग अलग टैक्सी परमिट की संख्या की पहचान की है और प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में जनसंख्या, टैक्सियों के उपयोग और आवश्यकताओं के आधार पर परमिट जारी किए जाएंगे,” अटोनी-जेनरल ने कहा।

एल टी ए ने टैक्सी क्षेत्र या ज़ोन की पहचान की है, छः क्षेत्र केंद्रीय विभाग में, 18 पश्चिमी विभाग में, छः क्षेत्र उत्तरी विभाग में और चार क्षेत्र समुद्री या मैरीटाइम विभाग में।

अटोनी-जेनरल ने कहा कि टैक्सी परमिट जारी करने के मापदंड (criteria) कम आमदनी कमाने वालों को भी एक नया परमिट प्राप्त करने का मौका प्रदान करेगा।

“दरासल हम कम आमदनी कमाने वाले लोगों को एक परिसंपत्ति (asset) देने के लिए लक्षित कर रहे हैं ताकि उन्हें टैक्सी परमिट दिया जा सके। टैक्सी परमिट का उपयोग करके, वे पाँच प्रतिशत (5%) कम ब्याज पर एक गाड़ी ले सकते हैं, वे उस टैक्सी परमिट को एक बंधक (mortgage) के रूप में इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं इसलिए वे बैंक जा सकें और एक संपाश्विक (collateral) के रूप में उपयोग कर सकते हैं और हम आम तौर पर उन्हें आय का एक स्रोत दे कर उन्हें सशक्त कर रहे हैं,” उन्होंने कहा। इस बीच अटोनी जेनरल टैक्सी परमिट के लिए लोटरी प्रक्रिया शुरू करने पर संसद में विपक्षी सांसद, असेरी रंडोडो द्वारा

उठाए गए सवाल का जवाब दे रहे थे।

उन्होंने बताया कि नई प्रक्रिया के तहत, नए परमिट होल्डरों (holders) को चुनते समय पारदर्शिता में सुधार हुआ है।

नई टैक्सी परमिट की आवश्यकताएँ:

1. अर्जी देने वाला फीजी का नागरिक होना चाहिए।
2. अर्जी देने वाले को अपने संबंधित परिवहन क्षेत्र में रहना चाहिए और वहीं पर उपलब्ध टैक्सी परमिट के लिए अर्जी देनी चाहिए।
3. अर्जी देने वाले को किसी भी यौन अपराध के लिए दोषी नहीं होना चाहिए।
4. अर्जी देने वाले के परिवार की कुल आमदनी \$20,000 से अधिक नहीं होनी चाहिए।

आप का विचार 2018-2019 राष्ट्रीय बजट में आप क्या देखने की उम्मीद करते हैं?

इमदाद अली,
57, नम्बुआ

अभी मंहगाई जिस कदर बढ़ रही है उसे मध्यनज़र रखते हुए मैं भोजन समानों के दामों में गिरावट की उम्मीद करता हूँ।



आशिका विकास,
36, नौसोरी

मंहगाई की बढ़ती दर को देख कर मैं यही उम्मीद करती हूँ कि लोगों के तनख्वाह में वृद्धि हो।



अतीश कुमार, 38,
नकासी

हम जितना कमाते हैं वह सब भोजन सामान और अन्य ज़रूरतों में खर्च हो जाता है इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि जीवन यापन के खर्च में गिरावट हो।



ललिता देवी, 57, सूवा

वर्तमान में मंहगाई बहुत ज़्यादा है और घर खरीदना बहुत मुश्किल है, ऐसे में किराय पर रहना लोगों के लिए काफी कठिन है इसलिए मैं चाहती हूँ कि घरों के दामों पर गौर किया जाए तथा इनमें गिरावट हो।



वनय चन्द, 25,
कोरोवातू

मैं चाहता हूँ कि खाने पीने वाले सामानों के दामों में गिरावट के साथ साथ लोगों के तनख्वाह में वृद्धि हो और दर्शरी शिक्षा प्राप्त करने के लिए छात्रों के लिए और ज़्यादा स्कॉलशिप उपलब्ध हो।



अटोनी-जेनरल, अर्थव्यवस्था और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम फीजी नेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी (एफ एन यू) के सामाबूला कैम्पस के छात्रों के साथ 2018/2019 बजट पर परामर्श करते हुए।

दर्शरी शिक्षा को अभी मुफ्त नहीं किया जा सकता

संगीता लाल

अटोनी-जेनरल, अर्थव्यवस्था और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने फीजी नेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी (एफ एन यू) के सामाबूला कैम्पस के छात्रों को बताया कि वर्तमान में सरकार दर्शरी शिक्षा को मुफ्त करने की स्थिति में नहीं है।

मंत्री सैयद-खैयूम से एफ एन यू के एक छात्र ने पूछा था कि क्या सरकार गरीब

परिवार से आने वाले बच्चों के लिए दर्शरी शिक्षा को मुफ्त करने पर विचार करेगी जिसके जवाब में मंत्री ने ऐसा कहा। मंत्री ने कहा कि हमें अपने साधनों के अन्दर रहना चाहिए। उन्होंने जोर दिया कि जब से सरकार ने दर्शरी एजुकेशन लोन स्कीम (Tertiary Education Loans Scheme [TELS]) शुरू किया है तब से लोग केवल दर्शरी शिक्षा को मुफ्त करने के बारे में बात कर रहे हैं।

“सरकार कुछ विदेशी पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए टेल्स (TELS) को कवर करके पैडोरा के बॉक्स (Pandora's Box) को खोलना नहीं चाहता है,” मंत्री ने बताया।

छात्रों ने एफ एन यू कैम्पस में लेक्चर रूम (lecture room) की संख्या बढ़ाने और इंजीनियरिंग पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए अधिक मान्यता की आवश्यकता के बारे में भी कहा।

मेनिंगोकोकल बीमारी का प्रकोप

संगीता लाल

हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विसज़ मंत्रालय के स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों द्वारा मेनिंगोकोकल

(Meningococcal) बीमारी जो मस्तिष्क को प्रभावित करता है और मृत्यु का कारण बन सकता है, के प्रकोप की घोषणा की गई है। इससे मस्तिष्क (मेनिन्जाइटिस) और रक्त में (मेनिंगोकोक्सेमिया) या दोनों में संक्रमण हो सकता है। ये परिस्थितियाँ बहुत ही गंभीर और घातक हो सकती हैं, लेकिन जल्दी पता लगने

पर इसका इलाज किया जा सकता है। लक्षणों की जल्दी पहचान करके स्वास्थ्य सुविधा पर तत्काल चिकित्सा उपचार कराना महत्वपूर्ण है।

मेनिंगोकोकल बीमारी का उपचार केवल एंटीबायोटिक दवाइयों (दवाईयाँ जो शरीर में बैक्टीरिया को मारता है) विशेष रूप से इस बीमारी के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है। मेनिंगोकोकल बीमारी से पीड़ित लोगों को अस्पताल में भर्ती होना पड़ेगा।

हाल के वर्षों में फीजी में मेनिंगोकोकल बीमारी के मामलों में वृद्धि हुई है। 2016 से पहले, प्रति वर्ष 1-10 मामलों की सूचना मिलती थी। 2016 में 29 मामले थे, और 2017 में 49 मामले थे। 2018 में, 21 फरवरी तक 18 मामले सामने

आए हैं। हाल में इस बीमारी के मामलों में वृद्धि हुई है परन्तु फीजी में मेनिंगोकोकल बीमारी असामान्य है। हालांकि इस बीमारी में उच्च मृत्यु दर है।

डब्लू एच ओ के अनुसार, उचित चिकित्सा उपचार के बिना 50% रोगियों की मृत्यु हो जाती है।

मेनिंगोकोकल बीमारी थूक या लार के माध्यम से एक व्यक्ति से दूसरे तक फैलता है। ऐसा तब हो सकता है जब एक व्यक्ति जिसे यह बीमारी है खांसता है या किसी को मुँह पर गहराई से चुंबन लेता है। यह एक ही ग्लास, कप, पानी की बोतलें या कटोरे से पेय पदार्थ जैसे यंगोना या शराब, आदि पीने से भी फैल सकता है। पाँच साल से कम उम्र के बच्चे अक्सर चीज़ों को उठा

कर अपने मुँह में रख लेते हैं इसलिए उन्हें भी यह बैक्टीरिया होने का खतरा हो सकता है।

उचित स्वच्छता का अभ्यास करने से इस बीमारी को फैलने से रोका जा सकता है:

- खांसी और छींकने के दौरान टिशू या रुमाल से अपना मुँह और नाक कवर कर लें। टिशू को रबिष बिन में फेंक दें और रुमाल को रोज़ाना साबुन और पानी से अच्छी तरह धो लें।

- खांसी या छींकने के बाद, साबुन और पानी से अपना हाथ धो लें।

- खाने के बर्तन, कप, ग्लास, पानी की बोतलें तथा सिगरेट, शराब या यंगोना पीने वाले कटोरे आदि को शेयर न करें।

सात हाऊजिंग
प्रोजेक्ट्स पर
हस्ताक्षर

पृष्ठ 22



प्रधान मंत्री ने
भारत के रेलवे
मंत्री के साथ की
एक सभा

पृष्ठ 19



SUNDAY MARCH 25, 2018 | ISSUE 6 - VOL 9

फ़ीजी फ़ोकस



अटोनी-जेनरल और अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम राम नवमी उत्सव के दौरान वाईतूरी, नौसोरी स्थित वाईतूरी ग्राम सुधार रामायण मंडली के सदस्यों के साथ।

वाईतूरी में राम नवमी उत्सव

संगीता लाल

अटोनी-जेनरल और अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम का कहना है कि फ़ीजीवासियों को अपने धार्मिक कार्यों और समारोहों का उपयोग करना चाहिए ताकि वे अपने व्यक्तिगत जीवन में सुधार कर सकें।

वाईतूरी, नौसोरी स्थित वाईतूरी ग्राम

सुधार रामायण मंडली द्वारा आयोजित राम नवमी उत्सव के दौरान अटोनी-जेनरल ने कहा भगवान श्री रामचन्द्र जी के जन्म का उत्सव मनाते हुए लोगों को यह भी ध्यान देना चाहिए कि उन्होंने किस तरह से अपने जीवन का नेतृत्व किया, कैसे उन्होंने एक राजा के रूप में शासन किया और किस तरह से अपने लोगों के साथ

व्यवहार किया।

“रामायण में कहानियों को सुनने या प्रचार करने के बाद हमें इस बात पर विचार करना चाहिए कि हम अपनी पत्नी, बच्चों, पड़ोसियों और समुदायों के साथ कैसा व्यवहार करते हैं,” अटोनी-जेनरल ने कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि इन सब अवसरों का

हमारे लिए कुछ मतलब है और हम एक धर्म का पालन करते हैं ताकि हमारे जीवन का कोई अर्थ हो।

“हमें इस तरह के धार्मिक कार्यक्रमों से जो सबक मिलता है उसे समझना चाहिए ताकि अच्छे मनुष्य के रूप में रहने के लिए यह हमें मार्गदर्शन प्रदान कर सकें,” अटोनी-जेनरल ने बताया।



**RAWA NI MAI
CAKA E VITI
NA QITO:
VUNILAWA**

2



**VAKAVINAVINAKA
KO IDIA VEI VITI**

4-5

VULA I KELI

SIGA TABU, 25 NI MAJI 2018 - KA 5 NI TABANA

Noda Viti



Vosa tiko oqori ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena International Solar Alliance (ISA) Founding Conference e New Delhi, Idia. iTaba: **NANISE NEIMILA**

Uqeti na solar e vuravura: PM

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ENA rawa ni rawati na takete me vakailailaitaki na kaburaki ni kasi gaga ena 1.5 na degrees, kevaka ena vakalevutaki ena veiyasai vuravura na vakayagataki ni livaliva buli ena kaukauwa ni matanisiga.

Oqo na nona nanuma na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ka Peresitedi ni COP23 ena nodra tiko ena bose ni International Solar Alliance founding conference

mai Idia.

Na livaliva buli ena kaukauwa ni matanisiga se solar power esa bisinisitaki tiko nikua me isosomi ni livaliva ka buli mai ena waiwai ka sa vakayagataki tiko vakararaba ena levu na matanitu lelevu ena noda vuravura.

Levu na matanitu ena vuravura era sa vakayagataka tiko ena nodra tabana ni veilakoyaki, taravale kei na buliyaya.

Na bose oqo mai Idia era liutaka na Peresitedi mai Varanise, Emmanuel Macron kei na Paraiminisita mai Idia

Narendra Modi ka ra lewena e 23 na liuliu ni matanitu wilikina ko Viti, vatakei na 10 na minisita ena sasaga baleta na vakailailaitaki ni revurevu ni draki veisau.

“Na veisiga ni mataka ni lewe 7.5 na bilioni na lewei vuravura e vakararavi na nodra veimataka kina solar se kaukauwa vakalivaliva ni matanisiga,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na isau vakailavo ni solar esa dau-maka cake tikoga. Sa isau rawarawa tikoga na solar ka isau vinaka cake

mai na idini waiwaid ka vinaka cake na vakararavi kina mai na livaliva levu se grid.

“Na solar ena kena ilakolako ena gauna oqo me sana ivurevure uasivi ni livaliva ena senitiuri oqo. Sa salavata kei na sasaga nei Viti ena itutu vaka Peresitedi ni COP23.”

Sa yalataka ko Varanise e 700 na milioni na euros me tokona kina na sasaga me baleta na vakayagataki ni kaukauwa vu mai na matanisiga se solar.



Rawa ni mai caka e Viti na qito: Vunilawa

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKARAITAKA ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ki na vale ni bose lawa ena noda vanua ni na rawa ni mai vakayacori ena noda vanua na sotasota ni qito ni rakavi leweyavitu ena vuravura se

World Rugby sevens series.

Tukuna na Vunilawa ni rawa ni mai caka e Viti kevaka e qaqa o Viti ena sasaga ni kena mai caka e Viti na qito lewe yavitu.

A tarogi ena Palimedi ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum se rawa ni mai qaravi e Viti na qito lewe yavitu ni vu-

ravura. Na taro baleta na tiki-na oqo a taroga ena Palimedi na mata mai na ito ni veisaqa.

“Kevaka e sa qaqa ko Viti ena nona sasaga me mai caka eke sana rawa ni vakayagataka kina na Matanitu e \$10 milioni na dola me qaravi vinaka kina e viti na sotasota oqo,” kaya na Vunilawa

Sayed-Khaiyum.

“Kevaka e mai caka e Viti ena laki caka mai na yasayasa vakara baleta ni dua naka e gadarevi oya me voleka na rara ni waqavuka ena vanua ni qito ka voleka talega na vei otela. Ko Nadi e tiko kina na veika e gadrevi oqo,” kaya ko Vunilawa.



Vosa tiko na Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum a ena Palimedi. iTaba: PALIMEDI KEI VITI

Taladrodro na veivakalivalivataki

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA dodo ni livaliva kina veikoro e Taveuni ka sucu mai na livaliva ka qaqi mai ena Somosomo Hydro Power Station sa taladrodro vinaka tiko oqo.

E namaki me 1600 na vu-vale era na vakalivalivataki kina ena imatai ni gauna.

Vakaraitaka na itukutuku oqori ena Palimedi na Vuni-

lawa ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

“Na veivakalivalivataki e Taveuni e wase tiko vakatolu.” Tukuna na Vunilawa ni sa rawa ni vakabula na Somosomo Hydro kina Matanitu e \$1.9 na milioni na dola ena veiyabaki mai na voli diesel ni FEA mai valagai.

“Na imatai ni iwaseswase ni vakadodo livaliva e10 na kilomita na kena balavu ka tekivu mai Waiqe ki Wairi-

ki ka na vakalivalivataki kina e 1086 nas vuvale,”tukuna na Vunilawa.

“Na ikarua ni iwaseswase na dodo ni livaliva mai Tagimoucia Settlement, Wailaqa, Qilia, Vunidawa, Nabuloni Settlement, Vuniwai, Naqara Settlement, Niusawa Methodist School, Loloi, Waiyevo, Naiyalala kei Nalele,” tukuna na Vunilawa.

Sa vakarautaka na Matanitu e \$2 na milioni na dola ena

itauvatuva vakailavo ena 2017 – 2018 me qaravi kina na ikarua ni iwaseswase.

“Oya na qaravi kina 515 na vuvale sa na tubu kina na levu ni vuvale era vakalivalivataki kina sivia na 1601 na vuvale. Na dodo ni wa ni livaliva ena koto na kena isau ena \$515,000 ka na yaga vei ira e 8000 na lewe ni vanua,” tukuna na Vunilawa.

Gumatua na Vualiku ena tei kau: Naiqamu

JOSAIA RALAGO

ERA sa vakacautaka A na Minisita ni Veikau ko Osea Naiqamu na nodra gumatua tiko na lewenivanua mai na vualiku ena tei kau ena qele lala.

Tukuna na Minisita nira vakamura vakavinaka tiko na porokaramu ni teivaki tale ni veikau e cicivaka tiko na Minisitiri ni Veikau.

E dua na kena ivakaraitaki ko ira ena yanuyanu ko Mali mai Macuata era teivaka rawa e 200 na eka ena kau ni Viti

dina.

“Ena vukuna na Matanitu, au vakavinavina vakalevu vei ira vakakina nodra veitokoni na lewenivanua e tiko voleka vei ira,” kaya ko Minisita Naiqamu.

Kuria okoya ni dua na veisivi levu e tiko ena levu ni veikau e dau musu kei na levu ni veikau e teivaki tale ena veiyabaki sa sasaga tiko na minisitiri me teivakai vakalevu na kau ena veiyabaki.

“Qoka e dua na bolebole levu ni levu tiko na musu kau ka lailia na kena vakaisosomitaki tale.

“Au sa uqeti ira tiko na lewe ni vanua me tei vakalevu na kau,” kaya ko Minisita Naiqamu.

Sa vakanananutaka tiko na Tabana ni Veikau me tosoi caka na ilavo ni tei kau vei ira na vei koro.

“Na ilavo oqo e solia mai na Matanitu me vakauqeti ira na lewenivanua ena teivaki ni noda veikau.”

Tukuna ko Minisita Naiqamu ni ratou sadau veitalanoataka wasoma na veisala eso e rawa ni tokoni kina na veivuke ni ilavo ni draki veisau. E sa na kerei tale na kena vakalevutaki na ilavo.

\$100 dua na vula na peniseni

JOSAIA RALAGO

SA kacivaka ena Palimedi na Vunilawa ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ni na saumi tiko e \$100 dua na peniseni ena tabana ni ilavo musuki ni tamata cakacaka se Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPf) kevaka e lailai sara na ilavo e dau taura tiko e veivula.

“Taura mada kevaka e dua e dau penisenitaka tiko e veivula e \$7 esa na toso cake kina \$100 e veivula,” tukuna na Vunilawa.

“Na gauna eda vakabula ilavo kina esega so ni levu n aka e da rawata, ia na gauna ga e solevaka kina eda raica ni rawa nida voli iyau, tara vale, na tubu e rawa mai kina ilavo oya eda wasea vakatautauvata.”

“Qoka na ka e via rawata tiko vei keda na FNPf. Sa qai kaukauwa cake na itu-vaki ni bula vakailavo ni FNPf ena vuku ni veiveisau vou e vakayacora na Matanitu.

Kuria na Vunilawa ni ripote ni FNPf ENA 2017 eda koto kina ena tubu levu e \$331 na milioni na dola ka levu cake mai kena ena yabaki 2016 oya e \$259 na milioni na dola.

“Ena loma ni 5 na yabaki sa sivi sa cau kina na FNPf ena \$1na bilioni na dola kina noda dui akaude na musu ilavo kina,”tukuna na Vunilawa

“Ena yabaki 2016 eda cau kina na tamata cakacaka kina FNPf ena \$46 na milioni na dola kina \$480 na milioni na dola baleta ni sa qai vakavinakataki na noda musu ilavo kina.”

“Na levu taucoko ni iyau tudei e taukena ni kua na FNPf e koto na kena isau ena \$5.7 na bilioni na dola sa rauta vinaka na kena saumi na \$4.8 na bilioni na dinau.”

Tukuna na Vunilae ni Net asset ni FNPf sa koto ni kua ena \$836 na milioni na dola.

E tukuna na Vunilawa ni veiveisau sa mai caka e veitokoni mai kina na veitaban me vaka na International Monetary Fund (IMF) kei na Financial Sector Assessment (FSA) vakakina na Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF).



Vakalailaitaki ni cagi duka

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

EA vulagi dokai na ivukevuke ni Paraiminisita ni noda vanua ka Vunilawa talega ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena ika tolu ni bose ni Pasifika baleta na Nationally Determined Con-

tribution, (NDC) se na kena vakalailaitaka na cagi duka e ceburaki tiko ki macawa. Na bose oqo e solia na gau-na vei ira na lewe ni Pasifika me ra veiwaseitaka na veika era sotava sera qarava me vakalailaitaki kina cagi duka e ceburaki tiko ki maliwa lala.

“Ni da raica ena noda NDC na levu ni cau eda rawa ni cau kina meda rawata kina noda takete eda vakila nida veise-mati vinaka,” tukuna na Vuni-lawa. “Sa yaga kina meda cakacaka vata ena NDC ena Pasifika ka meda vakaraitaka ki vuravura

na noda yalovata.” Vakasavuya talega na Vuni-lawa na gagadre ni noda raica me kaukauwa cake na NDC eda vakaraitaka ki vuravura me sotava na itagede ni vura-vura. “Na vuravura ni kua e sa ya-cova tiko yani na tolu na dikiri

se sivia ka rawa ni ra sotava na kena revurevu na veivanua eso.” “Na noda cakacaka vata eda vakatotolotaka na drodro yani ni ilavo ni matanitu kei na bisinisi kina na veiyanuyanu ena Pasifika,” tukuna na Vuni-lawa

Gadrevi na dauveiqaravi ni matua

JOSAIA RALAGO

NAMAKI ena loma ni 20 se 30 na yabaki ka tu mai mena gadrevi vakalevu e Viti ko ira na dau vei qar-avi vei ira na itaba qase se matua (care giver).

Oqori na vatavatairalago nei minisita ni marama, Gone kei na valuti ni dravudravua ko Mereseini Vuniwaqa.

Tukuna ko Minisita Vuni-waqa ni kua levu na dau veiqqaravi vei ira na matua era sa biuti Viti kara sa laki cakacaka tu mai vavalagi veira na matua mai kea.

Ia, ena veigauna satu mai liu sa a tubu na kedra iwiliwili na itaba qase e Viti. Sa rawa nira cakacaka e Viti na dau veiqaravi vei ira na itaba matua.

“Sa gauna vinaka talega meda tukuna tiko ni vanua vinaka ena rawa kina na cakacaka e Viti mai liu na taba ni veiqaravi qoka vei ira na matua,” tukuna ko Minisita Vuniwaqa.

Tukuna ko minisita Vuniwaqa ni sa sainitaki e dua na veidinadinati kei na She said that a Australian-Pacific Technical College (APTC) me ratou vaka-vulica talega na care giver se veiqaravi vei ira na mataua.

“Ni kila tiko ni wili lewenivanua ni 2017, e 9 na pasede ni keda iwiliwili era sivia na yabaki 60 ka 70 na pasede e lailai mai na yabaki 40.”

“Ena loma ni 20 kina 30 na yabaki katu mai ena 70 na pasede ni keda iwiliwili era san a matua kina,”tukuna ko minisita Vuniwaqa.

E tukuna na marama minisita nisa tiko talega na itavi ni Matanitu ena nodra qaravi na matua ena tolu na veivale ni malumalumu ena noda vanua.



Minisita ni Saravanua, Qele, kei na Veivoli ko Faiyaz Koya ena Palimedi. iTaba: PALIMEDI KEI VITI

Sivia na \$8m na ilavo ni lisi

MEREANI GONEDUA

SA saumi oti vei ira na itaukei ni qele e \$8m na ilavo ni lisi.

Tukuna na itukutuku oqori na Minisita ni Qele ko Faiyaz Koya ena Palimedi.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Koya ni namaki me tubu na ilavo oya ni bera ni cava na yabaki vakailavo oqo.

“Qoka e vakamuri kina na veika e lavaka na lawa ni vakayagataki qele se Land Use Act, sa vakayagataki kina e \$8,535,046-68 me isau ni lisi vei ira na itaukei ni qele,” tukuna ko Minisita Koya.

Tukuna ko Minisita Koya ni tekivu mai na

Okosita kina Veverueri sa 17 taucoko kina na sota ni nona tabana kei ira na itaukei ni qele era sikovi tale vakarua e 17 na itaukei ni qele ka 5 na vakaraitaki cakacaka.

“Na veisiko sa tiki tikoga ni itavi ni Tabana ni kena vakayagataki na qele ka sa dauvaka-bibitaki kina na nodra bula na itaukei ni qele,” tukuna ko Minisita Koya.

“Dua talega na cavuikalawa levu na kena saveataki e 1415 na eka na qele taukenai vakamataqali e lima ena iwasewase e loma, ka lima ena mua-i-Ra,” tukuna ko Minisita Koya.

Tukuna ko Minisita Koya ni toso oqo ena yaga vei ira na itaukei ni qelel kei ira na dau vakaduri bisinisi.

Yaga na qivawai kina lewe 800

MEREANI GONEDUA

SA yaga vei ira e 822 na lewe ni vanua na cakacaka ni qivawai ena loma ni ono na vula sa sivi.

“Qoka e okati kina na vei-koro oqo: Vatani e Kaba, Tailevu; e va na koro e Kubulau, Bua; Navatu, Nasasaivua, Waisa kei Natokalau vakakina na Navasua Government Sta-tion. Vaka kina na koro ko Yavuna volekata na tauni e Nadi kei na Tai District School era vuli tiko kina e rauta ni lewe 131 na gon-evuli.”

Vakaraitaka na ituku-tuku oqori ena Palimedi na Minisita ni Saravanua, Qele, kei na Veivoli ko Faiyaz Koya.

“Era guilecavi ira tu oqo na veimatani tu sa sivi, kei-tou sega ni vakakina na Matanitu oqo”

Tukuna ko Minisita Koya ni namaki mera na vakama-tanitutaki e vitu tale na va-nua ni qivawai me yaga kina 115 na vuvale.

Qoka e okati kina na koro ko Nakanacagi mai Macu-ata kei Nagasauva mai Udu poidi, Qwali kei Narata mai Nadroga vakakina na Ratu Latianara School, Nairuku-ruku Primary School, Saio-ni AOG mai Nadroga rauta ni 991 na gonevuli kei na 27 na vale ni qasenivuli.

“Vaka kina na qivawai mai na yanuyanua ko Cikobia mai Lau, Qerelevu kei Nakavika mai Ba kei Votualailai mai Serua.”

Tukuna ko Minisita Koya ni sa volia talega mai na minisitiri e so na misini vou ni qivawai ena vei-tokoni ni Matabose ni Wai ni noda vanua.



Vakanumi ko vuravura ena draki veisau

NANISE NEIMILA

NA rerevaki ni draki veisau edua na ibole-bole levu ena sotava koi keda na tamata ka sa donu me veivuketaki ka veitauriligatiki na kena sasaga.

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ena bese ni Solar ka vakayacori mai Idia ka ra lewena e 23 na liuliu ni matanitu ena vuravura.

“Eda sa kila kece ni sasaga ni veivakalivalivataki mai na vurevure ni livaliava savasava ena sola, hydro kei na cagi edua na sasaga levu ena takete ni veidinadinati ni Paris agreement, ka vakalailaitaki kina na kaburaki ni cagi duka ena 1.5 na dikiri,” kaya ko PM.

“Oqo edua na usutu ni noqu veiqaravi ena liutaki ni COP23. Kau sa uqeti ira kina na liuliu ni matanitu e vuravura mera duavata kei Viti ka vakadeitaki ira ena nodra yalayala ena COP23 me vakalailaitaki na kaburaki ni kasi gaga.”

Kuria ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni kena vakavinakataki ni ilavo sa sovaraki ena sasaga oqo sa dodonu me veitokonitaki ni kena vakasaurawarawataki ka me roboti vuravura yani.

“Ni sa liutaki keimami na matanitu lalai ka bera tiko na neimami veivakatorocaketaki ena sasaga oqo ni solar ena vuravura ka sa liutaki kina na sasaga ni drakiveisau,” kaya ko PM ena bese ni solar mai Idia.

Kuria ko PM ni sa veitauriliga tiko kei Poladi ena sasaga ni kena rawati na nodra iyalayala na matanitu ena bese ka vakayacori e Bonn, Jamani.



Ko Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama e nona tiko voli ena bese ni Solar Alliance Conference e New Delhi, Idia. ITaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Vakavinavinaka ko Idia vei Viti

NANISE NEIMILA

SA vakavinavinakataki Viti na Paraiminisita mai Idia ko Narendra Modi ena bese ni Solar Alliance Conference mai New Delhi e Idia.

Vakavinavinakataki ko Paraiminisita Modi na veitokoni nei Paraiminisita Bainimarama ena bese oya baleta na ivurevure ni livaliva na rara ni matanisiga se solar energy.

Vakavinavinakataki na Paraiminisita mai Idia na gumatua nei PM Bainimarama me vakasoqoni ira vata mai na veimatanitu ena nona itutu vakailiuli me rawati kina na inaki.

Tukuna ko PM Modi ni bese oya sa rawa kina vei ira na veimatanitu mera veitalanoataka na veitokoni vakailavo e rawa nira cau kina ena vakayagataki ni solar power.

“Sa tu vakarau ko Idia me tokoni Viti ena sasaga ni ivurevure savasava

ni livaliva vaka kina ena veitokoni ena tabana ni veitaqomaki vakauasivi ena tabana ni mataivalu e wai ena kena yadravi na iyalayala ni wasawasa e Viti,” tukuna ko PM Modi.

E kilai talega ko Idia ni tubu totolo sara tiko nona rawaka vakailavo ena volitaki ni LED ka sa volitaka ki vuravura e 280 na milioni na LED bulb ki vuravura.

Na bese oqo e vaqacacotaka tale na kedrau isema na vanua ko Idia kei Viti.



Ko Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama kei na nona mata ilawalawa kei Narendra Modi na Paraiminisita kei Idia kei na nona mata ilawalawa ena bese ni Solar Alliance Conference e New Delhi, Idia. ITaba: NANISE NEIMILA



Ko Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama kei Narendra Modi na Paraiminisita kei Idia ena bese ni Solar Alliance Conference e New Delhi, Idia. ITaba: NANISE NEIMILA



Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei na Minisita ni Sitima e Idia ko Piyush Goyal ena nodrau a sota ka veitalanoa e New Delhi, Idia. ITaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Sota ko PM Bainimarama kei Goyal

NANISE NEIMILA

ERAU sa sota ka veitalanoa na noda Paraiminisita ko Voreqe Bainimarama kei na Minisita ni Sitima ni vanua mai Idia ko Piyush Vedprakash Goyal mai New Delhi.

A rogoca kina ko PM Bainimarama mai vei Minisita Goyal na macala ni vakadidike ni mata timi ni RITE ka ratou a mai dikeva na qaravi ni sala ni sitima ni vanua e Viti.

Ena veitalanoa oya sa vakaraitaka kina ko Minisita Goyal na macala ni vakadidikei ni RITE kei na ka e rawa ni cakava ko Viti me

rawa ni taladrora kina na yaga ni sitima ni vanua e Viti.

Taleitaitaka vakalevu ko PM Bainimarama na veitalanoa oya baleta nina yaga vakalevu talega ena bisinisi ni suka me vaka ni Minisita ni suka talega e Viti ko koya.

Sa vakadeitaka talega ko Minisita Goyal ni soli ivakasala talega mai vei Viti na isoqosoqo ni qaqi ni dovu mai Idia baleta na yaga ni sitima ni vanua ena bisinisi ni suka.

Vakavinavinakataki ko PM Bainimarama na veitokoni nei Idia ena sasaga oqo ka ni na mai vukea vakalevu na vakau ni dovu kina iqaqi ni dovu ena noda vanua.



Ko Nilesh Kumar, Sakeasi Waikere kei na vunivola levu ni valenivolavola ni Paraiminisita Yogesh Karan. ITaba: NANISE NEIMILA



Kalawa ena vuli bisinisi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

CAVUIKALAWA na koro o Buliya ena tikina o Ono mai Kadavu ena dua na sasaga ni nodra mai vuli bisinisi na kena itabagone.

Laki veitokoni kina na Minisitiri ni Itabagone kei na Qito kei na Minisitiri ni Veivoli kei na Saravanua.

Era lewe 30 taucoko ena vuli oqo ka wilikina edua na gone ka vakaleqai tu na ituvaki ni yagona.

Tukuna na Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito ko Laisenia Tuitubou ni vakauqeti

ira na tiko ena vuli mera guta mera tauyavutaka na nodra dui bisinisi lalai.

“Era vulica ena vuli oqo na sala e muri ena cicivaki bisinisi na veika era rawa ni rawata kei na bolebole ena sotavi,” kaya ko Tuitubou.

“E vakavulici ira talega ena tauyavutaki ni nodra lalawa ni bisinisi.”

“Sa rawa vei ira na tiko ena vuli oqo mera kere ilavo ni bisinisi mai na Minisitiri ni Veivoli kei na Baqe ni Veivakatorocaketaki.”

E vakavinavinakataka ko Viliame Tuni, na turaga ni vanua e na koro ko Buliya na

Minisitiri ni itabagone ena kena qaravi na vuli oqo.

“Sa toso totolo sara tiko na veivakatorocaketaki ka sa neimami itavi na lewe ni koro me keimami vakarautaki keimami,” kaya ko Tuni.

“Na vuli oqo e yaco mai ena gauna donu, ena vukei keimami ni mataka ka na sotavi talega kina na neimami gagadre.”

Tokona na rai oqo ko Misaele Vakaloloma na dauniyau ni itabagone ni Buliya. “Sa dolava sara ga na neimami rai na vuli oqo. Sa qai matata vei au na noqu itavi.”

Misini ni qaqi raisi e Dreketi

ERONI VALILI

SA dua na vakacegu levu vei ira na dau tei raisi mai Dreketi e Macuata nona sa laki solia e tolu na kena misini na Minisita ni Teitei ko Inia Seruiratu.

E dua na misini ni vakamacacataki raisi kei na dua na misini ni vakasavasavataki raisi.

Sa namaka talega na Matanitu me vakayagataka e \$60,000 ena kena voli tale mai e 2 tale na misini ni vakamacacataki raisi.

Tukuna ko Minisita Seruiratu ni misini ni vakasavasavataki raisi e rawa ni veivuke talega ena qai ni kedra kakana na manumanu.

“Qoka sa dua tale na cavuikalawa levu kina kabani ni raisi mai Dreketi baleta ni na vakalevutaka na ilavo e rawa mai na raisi era tea ka levu talega era rawa cakacaka kina,” kaya ko Minisita Seruiratu.

“Au via vakananumi ira na vakaitavi mera dui cakava nodra itavi ka mera vukea na tubu ni bisinisi ni raisi. Au via vakaditaka ni Matanitu e yalo dina me vukei kemuni vakailavo, vakamisini kei na vuqa tale kin a bisinisi ni raisi.

“Sa gadrevi meda sa vakavoutaka na noda veiqaravi me ganita na gauna vou ni kua baleta ni gadrevi vakalevu tiko na ivoli nei Viti e na noda vanua kei na vanuatani. Sa oti na gauna ni mataiva kei na isivi.”

Tukuna ko Minisita Seruiratu ni dola ni iqaqi ni raisi mai Dreketi e tiki ni sasaga ni tabana ni teiteie me rawati na vakayagataka ni misini ena yabaki 2020.

“Au vakananumi keda ni tiko noda itavi kece ena vakayagataka ni misini ena bisini ni raisi.”



E ra sigani tiko oqori na nodra yaqona na itabagone ena tiki ni qele e Balawaviriki. iTaba: Josaia Ralago

Me yalomatuataki na ilavo ni yaqona

JOSAIA RALAGO

ERA sa vakasalataki na dau tei yaqona mai na Vualiku me dua nodra takete ni teitei ka mera yacova na takete ka mera yalomatuataki na nodra ilavo ni yaqona.

Oqori na ivakasala mai vua na vakaillesilesi ni Northern Development Program (NDP) ena nona vosa tiko vei ira na itabagone kei na turaga dau tei yaqona ni koro ko Wainika, Vatu, Nagasauva

kei Yasawa ena tikina ko Tawake, e Cakaudrove.

Tukuna e dua na dau teitei ko Ilaisa Lomani nira sa laki teitei tiko e na qele vaka Vatuova e Cakaudrove ni lailai na qele ni teitei ena nodra koro sa mani lai kerei kina vakavanua na tiki ni qele ka vakatokai ko Balawaviri.

Ko Balaviriki gona oqo era sa teitei tiko kina na cauravou ni veikoro sa cavuti mai cake oya ka ratou a veisiko na vakaillesilesi mai NDP.

“E dodonu me tiko na no-

muni dui tatadra rai yawa kei na takete moni yacova keva-ka e sega ko na vakaoti gauna voli ga,” tukuna ko Toroca.

“E duidui na noda dui tatadra yadua, eso beka e vinakata e dua na lori, na vale se cava tale na inaki ni nomu teitei.”

Tukuna ko Toroca ni keva-ka era na yalomatuataki na ilavo ni nodra yaqona era na vakila na lewe ni nodra dui vuvale na kena vinaka.

“E dodonu mera kila kece na lewe ni nomu vuvale na

levu ni ilavo ka rawata keina veisau o sa cakava ka isau ni nomu buno.”

“Kakua ni vakayagtaka kece na nomu ilavo.”

Tukuna ko Lomani ni dola-va nodra rai na ivakasala ni NDP ka vakararamataka na nodra vakasama ena so naka eda dau vakawelewetaka tu.

E levu na gauna era keba tu ga e Balawaviriki na cauravou kei na turaga ka ra tiko yani e na koro na vuvale kara dau qai veisiko ena so na gauna.

Rogoca ko PM Bainimarama na kerekere mai Ra

ISAAC LAL

YACO na marau vei ira ena tikina ko Nalawa ena colo kei Ra ni sa rogoca na nodra kerekere na noda Paraiminisita ko Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra a sota mai Rakiraki.

Sa vakadeitaka na Paraim-

inista vei ira na lewe ni tikina ni tekivu na vakavinakataki ni nodra gaunaisala ena dua na gauna walega oqo.

“Sega ni rawa nida lewa na draki ia sa na vakarau qaravi yani na nomudou gaunisala me rawa ni vorata na draki okati kina na kena ikawakawa,” tukuna ko PM

Bainimarama.

“Au sa kerea na FRA me raica na kena vakavinakataki na gaunisala ena taudaku ni koro lelevu me rawa nira lako ki vuli ni noda gonevuli.”

Na kerekere e gole mai vei ira na 12 na koro ena tikina ko Nalawa ena vuku ni nodra gaunisala.

Tukuna ko Epineri Tavuya e dua na lewe ni koro mai Nasau ni ituvaki ni nodra gaunisala esa rui ca vakalevu ena 12 na koro ka sa levu nodra kerekere kina Fiji Roads Authority.

“E rua na koronivuli e tiko ena neitou tikina ka dredre kina na gole ni lori e dau

kauti ira na lori ki koronivuli e veisiga, levu na gauna sad au ca koso na lori ena ca ni gaunisala.”

Tukuna ko Tavuya ni marautaka na nona tukuna na Paraiminisita ni na raica me qaravi na neitou gaunisala na tikina ko Nalawa.



Nodra icovi ni dau qoli e Nukuloa kei Levuka e Gau ka solia na tabana ni qoliquoli.



Katoa na qoli vei rau na cauravou oqo.

Vakamatatataki na isau ni laiseni ni qoli

AVEITALANOA na i vakalesilesi ni *Noda Viti* kei na Minisita ni Qoliquoli ko Semi Koroilavesau baleta na isau ni laiseni ni qoliquoli me vaka e veitalanoataki ena loma ni bose lawa ena macawa sa oti.

Ni wilika sara mada yani.
NODA VITI: Turaga Minisita ni vakamacalataka mada na isau ni nomuni taro ena Palimedi me baleta na isau ni laiseni ni qoliquoli?

KOROILAVESAU: Na kena tarogi mai vei Hon. Parmod Chand na taro au kila ni taro oya e lako tiko mai vakapolitiki baleta ni yasana au raica o au ni kena tuvai na ituvaluva ni kena laurai na laiseni ni qoli e se caka tikoga na kena veitalanoa. Sa caka oti na Public Consultation sa tiko oqo ena Matanitu me rawa niu solia o au ena Bose Yaco.

Na taro nei Hon. Parmod Chand noqu rai o au ni na solia na nuiqawaqawa vei ira na tiko vei ira na dodonu ni itaukei ni qoliquoli na traditional fishing rights owners vata kei ira na dau qoli. Koya kau tukuna kina ni sega ni dodonu me veitalanoataki ena politiki edua naka e se qai vakatututaki tiko.

Na lawa keitou raica tiko qo ena kena tovolei me veiveisautaki e se caka tu mai vakailaoa ena 30 ki 40 na yabaki sa oti. Eda raica o ira na dau qoli era lako ga e ralai tukuna vei ira na mataqali se itokatoka se yavusa mera qoli qai lavaki tu vakailavo qai duidui tu na ilavo era sauma na dau qoli. Na ka ga e via cakava na matanitu me vakamatanitutaki na



Sa tadu yani ki na vanua ni vakadidike ni qoliquoli mai Makogai ko Minisita ni Qoliquoli ko Semi Koroilavesau.



Qolivi na yellow fin tuna mai vei ira na dauqoli e Viti.

ka e dau solia vei ira na customary fishing rights owners. Koya au nanuma kina ni tarogi e Palimedi ena vakavuna na nuiqawaqawa ni se bera ni tu vakalawa na idavodavo

ni laiseni vou koya dodonu me lavaki vei ira na dau qoli kei na tiko vei ira na dodonu ni itaukei ni qoliquoli se traditional fishing rights owners.

NODA VITI: E vica na laiseni e dau solia tiko na tabana ni qoliquoli?
KOROILAVESAU: Keitou vakarau navuca tiko oqo na Tabana ni Qoliquoli me rauta

ni va na mataqali iwalewale ni saumi ni laiseni. Matai mena soli na iwasewase ni ilavo oqo vei ira na itaukei ni qoliquoli. Matai o ira na tu ena koro e ra dau lai qoli ga me ka ni kana na kena vo sa qai dau volitaki, sega ni bisinisi ena veigauna taucoko.

Qai tiko na waqa ni qoli koya e 32 na fiti, qai tiko na waqa ni qoli e sivia na 32 na fiti, qai kena ikava ni laiseni ko ira na dau qoliva na ika me biu ena aquarium me ka ni sarasara.

NODA VITI: Dau ka ni veitalanoa tiko se o cei e taukena noda iqoliquoli ni vakamatatataka mada?
KOROILAVESAU: Taro vinaka oqori. Ena gauna e tuvakataki koya kina o Viti e dua tu ga na lawa.

Na leqa e tiko era sega ni dua vakamatatataka na veimatanitu era a duri mai liu mera vakaraitaka vakadodonu ena veikorokoro ena veiyasana. Na iqoliquoli e vuravura taucoko ena nona taucoko na Matanitu na wai me lai yacova sara a maka ni ualevu.

Oya mai liu mai liu io baleta ga ni dau veitalanotaki tu ena vunau vakapolitiki koya e dau tukuni tu kina sega qori e nomuni na itaukei ni qele.

Sega na itaukei ni qele e yacova ga na iyalayala ni ualevu. Yalayala ni ualevu kina bati ni cakau koya koya e vakatokai tiko ni noda na itaukei na dodonu ni qolivi ni vanua oya. Ni vakayacori e dua na veivakatorocaketaki e vanua oya sana kautani kina na noda dodonu ka dodonu kina me saumi vakailavo vei keda.

Noda Viti



Ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei ira na ivakalesilesi ena Housing Authority. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

Rawa na vutuniyau

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ESA na rawa vei keda na lewe ni vanua meda vutuniyau ke-vaka eda taukeni vale se meda volia noda vale.

Oqori na ivakasala nei Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ka kerea kina me sa veisautaki na rai ni lewe ni vanua me baleta na tikina oqo, vakabibi vei ira na veiwatini gone, vuvale vou era se bera ni volia edua na nodra vale.

Kaya ko Sayed-Khaiyum ni dodonu me ra vakauqeti na itabagone e Viti mera volia na nodra dui vale me rawa ni okati vaka nodra iyau.

“Sa dodonu me da sa veisautaka na noda rai ka uqeti ira na itabagone mera voli vale,” kaya ko Sayed-Khaiyum.

Kuria okoya ni tubu ni dinau ni vale ena Matabose ni Veivakavaletaki (Housing Authority) e tiko duadua ira.

“Oqo edua na veivuke levu ena nodra vakavaletaki na lewe ni vanua,” kaya ko Sayed-Khaiyum.

Tomana ko koya ni sa vakalevutaki ena \$125 na milioni na Matanitu na uma ilavo ka votai ena veivuke ni tara vale ni Matanitu (Help for Homes) ka so era se tara vale tikoga.

Kaya ko Umarji Musa, liuliu ni matabose ni veivakavaletaki, ni ratou tokona vakalevu na sasaga ni Matanitu baleta na nodra vakavaletaki vina-ka na lewe ni vanua ka tiko na nodra rawaka vakailavo ena loma ni bai ni veimama kina na tagede.

“Keitou vakavinavinakataka vaka-

levu na veitokoni ni Matanitu ni sa levu na tara vale e vakayacori,” kaya ko Musa.

Sa volitaka tiko na matabose e 175 na tiki ni qele eNepani, 730 e Davuilevu, 400 e Matavolivolvi, 530 e Tavakubu,Lautoka, 119 e Koronis-alusalu, Tavua ka sa vakaturi tiko e 620 e Veikoba, Nasinu

“Keitou namaka talega e rauta ni 550 na tiki ni qele e Nepani kei na 176 e Wainibuku,” kaya ko Musa