

# FijiFocus



## PM: THE FUTURE IS DEFINITELY BRIGHTER

FIJIANS are now linked nationwide through the networks of Walesi Digital TV and Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Government was well on its way to broadcasting free-to-air digital television to every home in the country. The Prime Minister made this announcement while launching the Walesi Digital Television platform in different

villages on Taveuni and at Savusavu during his tour of the Northern Division last week. He said Fijians, especially those in rural, remote and maritimes areas could now follow the news and stay up to date with developments across the country, cheer for the Flying Fijians and other athletes competing in different

sports. "This initiative is a major milestone in the Government's vision to give every Fijian, regardless of their socio-economic status or of their location, access to better information and entertainment," he said. **FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 3. Photo: ERONI VALILI**

# NORTH BOOST

## More Govt-funded services, amenities, better schools

PRASHILA DEVI

**A**CCCESS to clean and safe drinking water and electricity, more resilient school structures and digital television are now a reality for Fijians in the North through Government-funded projects. Fijians in the Northern Division were present in numbers as Prime Minister

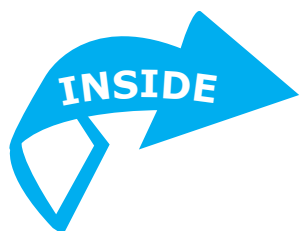
Voreqe Bainimarama officiated at the various projects last week. The projects would ensure the availability of basic necessities, and brings these rural areas up to par with the amenities available in the urban parts of the country. All these projects, excluding Walesi Digital Television, cost an estimated \$5million to deliver on the ground. This was Prime Minister Bainimara-

ma's second Northern tour in just over six months, where similar projects were also delivered. During his tour he told the people in the North that his Government remained committed to delivering these projects to ensure that every Fijian benefitted from the country's eight years of positive growth. These projects will not only have an

impact on the individuals or households, but will have a multiplier effect on the economy in the Northern Division. Some of the major projects are:  
- Fiji Electricity Authority grid extension in Naverea settlement in Daku, Savusavu, which cost around \$73,000 and

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Semi Koroilavesau

*Rubbish is a huge problem not only in Fiji, but around developing countries. It's a huge task to contain, but I think raising public awareness and making people aware of the problems of plastics and discharging rubbish carelessly will hopefully convince them to stop doing it.*

Minister for Fisheries and  
Fiji's Ocean Champion  
Semi Koroilavesau

## NUMBERS

**24 hours**  
and **7 days**  
a week Valelevu  
Health Centre  
will provide its  
services

## TWEET OF THE WEEK



Narendra Modi.

*Thank you PM Frank Bainimarama! for the Republic Day wishes. India truly cherishes our deep-rooted ties with Fiji. <https://twitter.com/fijipm/status/956782956567130112>*

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# Families connected to power grid

RONAL DEO

THE Government has a target of providing electricity to 6000 homes in the rural and maritime islands this year under their rural electrification scheme.

While commissioning the Fiji Electricity Authority (FEA) grid extension in Daku, Savusavu, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said any electricity upgrade initiative was a definite boost to any community.

The project cost \$73,000 and will benefit at least 105 individuals from 20 households.

"This project is part of the Government's ongoing efforts in rural electrification in 2017/2018 financial year and caters for extension of FEA grid to rural localities, house wiring connections and installation of new solar systems."

"To deliver this strategy the Government has allocated \$42.6million for this initiative and will, of course, improve the lives of 6000 households of which 2413 are from the Northern Division," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He said the project was aligned to the development priorities pursued globally, in particular the sustainable development goal which involves affordable and clean energy.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the commissioning of Fiji Electricity Authority grid extension at Daku in Savusavu. Photo: ERONI VALILI

In terms of Fiji's development priorities the recently-launched 20-year National Development Plan targets access to all population including the rural and maritime islands by 2021.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said so far about 90 per cent of Fiji's population had access to electricity.

Daku resident, Saten Chand said after

the grid extension that they no longer had to use diesel generators and kerosene lamps.

He said the assistance through the Department of Energy would improve the lives of the residents because they can now access to 24 hours clean and safe electricity.

## State-of-the-art classrooms, quarters

RONAL DEO

STUDENTS of Vuani-saiki District School, Vusasivo Village, Natewa, Vanua Levu, are now enjoying the same school facilities as students from urban areas.

The remote school was given an upgrade after Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama opened the state-of-the-art classroom blocks and three teachers' quarters at Vuani-saiki District School.

The Prime Minister's office provided \$1.14million to fully fund the project, which includes the fencing of the school compound.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the new classrooms and the triplex teachers' quarters have been constructed out of materials that are built to withstand storms and cyclones.

He added that the Government was putting in the time and resources to construct schools that will last to give students schools they can



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the opening of new classroom blocks and quarters at Vuani-saiki District School, Vusasivo Village, Natewa, Vanua Levu. Photo: ERONI VALILI

count on through times of crisis. Prime Minister Bainimarama said that 95 per cent of schools destroyed by Cyclone Winston were originally constructed without any building plans in place, leaving the education sector in a vulnerable position.

He said after Cyclone Winston struck, more 200 schools were badly damaged or destroyed entirely.

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that a "quick fix" would have been to erect new schools built to the same poor

standards as those that were wiped away by Winston.

However, he said, the reality was that because of climate change, storms like Cyclone Winston were only going to become stronger and more frequent in the years ahead and that was why the Government has invested in high-quality school construction "that is worthy of our students, teachers and communities".

School head teacher Tukewai Madematalau thanked the Government for the assis-

tance because it would have been very difficult for them to fundraise more than \$1m for the project.

He said students will no longer have to travel to urban centres to study in safe and comfortable environment.

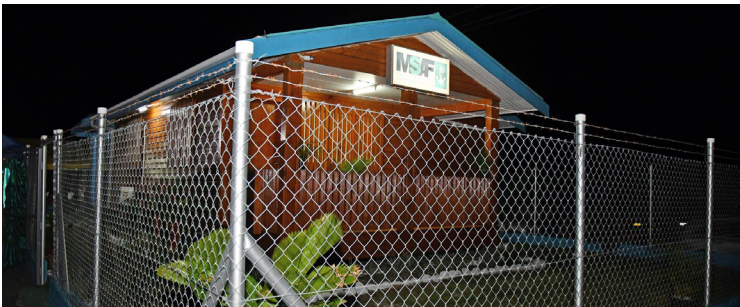
The teachers, Mr Madematalau said, will no longer have to travel to and from school every day and this will put them in a better frame of mind and boosted their performance and lead to a better learning experience for the students.





Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama shares a moment with Susana Sugucolo during the opening of the new Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji office on Taveuni.

The newly-opened Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji office on Taveuni.  
Photos: ERONI VALILI



# MSAF opens island office

RONAL DEO

IN A bid to further improve the service delivery of the Government, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently opened the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji office on Taveuni.

Prime Minister Bainimarama, while opening of the MSAF office on the garden island, said with this new office MSAF's outreach and presence throughout Fiji would be expanded.

He expressed confidence that maritime safety awareness and compliance would be greatly improved with the new facility.

"MSAF officers will now be able to track ships for any problems, which might compro-

mise their ability to sail as well as ensure that all safety equipment is present and working. Also there is no overloading of ships," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He called on MSAF officers to be vigilant and keep a watchful eye on the safety of men, women and children on board ships and boats that leave different ports.

"The consequence of not doing so comes with a very heavy price. Our safety out at sea is a collective responsibility and members of the public have been urged to follow the safety requirements promoted by MSAF," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

There are plans to open MSAF offices in Labasa, Kadavu and Rotuma in the near future.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama takes a tour around the newly-opened Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) office with MSAF chief executive officer John Tunidau.  
Photo: ERONI VALILI

## North Boost

FROM PAGE 1

will benefit 23 households.

- New classroom block, library and two duplex quarters at Naweni District School in Cakaudrove worth \$1.65m. The school has the roll of 134.
- Borehole projects commissioned in Waisa, Natokalau and Nasasaivua villages in Bua and Vuadomo, Wailevu East, Cakaudrove, with the cost of these projects over \$100,000
- Navakawau and nearby villages in Vuna, Taveuni, received 26 water tanks with wa-

ter storage capacity of 25,000 litres

- Vuanisaiki District School in Vusasivo Village, Natewa, Cakaudrove, was helped with a classroom block, three teachers' quarters and school compound fencing with the total cost of the project \$1.14million sourced from the Prime Minister's office and 130 students to benefit

Prime Minister Bainimarama launched Walesi Digital Television, which has been fully funded by Government, in Taveuni and Savusavu.

## Walesi Digital TV's 100pc presence



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama switches on a channel for free-to-air Walesi digital television platform that he officially launched at Naselesele Village, Taveuni. Photo: ERONI VALILI

RONAL DEO

WALESI Digital Television's signal is now available everywhere in Fiji through terrestrial and satellite networks.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama made this announcement while launching the Walesi Digital Television platform in different villages on Taveuni and at Savusavu, who now join Fijians in urban centres in benefiting from the free-to-air digital television.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Government was well on its way to broadcasting free-to-air digital television to every home in the country.

"This initiative is a major milestone in the Government's vision to give every Fijian, regardless of their socio-economic status or of their location, access to better information and entertainment," he said.

During the launch Prime Minister Bainimarama said the villagers could now follow the news and stay up to date with developments across the country, cheer for the Fly-

ing Fijians and other athletes competing in different sports.

The Walesi platform gives all Fijians the opportunity to become more involved and informed citizens.

"You can now watch our parliamentary channel, see what's happening and make bigger and better contributions to our national discussion, putting your voice and the voice of your communities in the mix like never before," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"I realise that living outside of our major cities and population centres can make life more difficult. It is the duty of my Government to make special efforts to bridge that divide by bringing you the same level of services, infrastructure and access to technology as your fellow Fijians residing on Viti Levu. And that is what this initiative is all about."

Prime Minister Bainimarama informed the villagers of the Government subsidy whereby they can get a free Set Top box per household if they qualify for the electricity subsidy or if their total annual income was below \$30,000.





Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the opening of the new Kubulau ice plant in Bua. **INSET:** Prime Minister Bainimarama drinks from the newly-commissioned borehole in Bua. **Photos: ERONI VALILI**

# Ice plant, station for district

RONAL DEO

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has opened the new Kubulau ice plant and the Kubulau Government Station.

Prime Minister Bainimarama applauded the Korean International Agency (KOICA), which donated the plant for the benefit of hundreds of fishermen in Bua.

The local fisherman will no longer have to go to urban areas to store their catch, which will eliminate waste and enable them to increase their individual revenues.

“My Government is particularly focused on preserving our fishing industry because these plants will be useless if there are no fish in our reefs to feed them,” Prime Minister Baini-

marama said.

He thanked the landowning unit Mataqali Nasamatua for agreeing to lease 20.2 acres of land to the Government to construct the Kubulau Government Station.

This will directly benefit more than 34 villages and settlements throughout Kubulau, Wainunu and Wailevu districts, granting 5000 Fijians direct access to government services.

Previously these residents had to travel to Nabouwalu, Savusavu or Labasa to access government services and had to spend a night in the centres before travelling home the next day.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said after looking at all these concerns the Government built the government station to make services more accessible.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama speaks to a little girl during the commissioning of the new Kubulau ice plant in Bua. **Photo: ERONI VALILI**



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with women of Naqelekula Village, Cakaudrove, after handing over their kitchen utensils. **Photo: ERONI VALILI**

## Development focus for North

RONAL DEO

“ALL of our success is not owed to luck. It’s owed to my government’s agenda for building up Fiji,” said

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, during the first day of his four-day tour of the Northern Division.

During the tour, he commissioned three boreholes, a Government station and an ice plant in Bua.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the successful completion and subsequent commissioning was because of the Government’s discipline financial management of the economy and bold policies that have empowered ordinary people and grown their contribution to our development.

“It takes far more than talks and smiles to grow an economy,” the Prime Minister said.

He said these tours were the highlights of his year because they gave him a chance to meet communities and speak directly to Fijian families as they begin the New Year by sharing in the great prosperity of the nation’s booming economy that has grown for eight straight years.

“Being here in the Northern Division brings me a lot of joy because it is not only the beautiful part of our country, but because each

time I visit the North there is more and more evidence of progress and development we accomplished together as one nation and as one people,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“As I make my way through Vanua Levu I will be surrounded by Fijians with access to new infrastructure, electricity and for the first time free to air television.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said seeing the progress in person filled him with pride and renewed his commitment to continue the work to bring the same level of opportunity and quality of life to every village and town in the North as that being enjoyed by those residing on Viti Levu.

On the first day of tour the Prime Minister opened three boreholes at Waisa, Natokala and Nasasaivua villages in Bua, where residents now have clean and safe drinking water.

He said the three boreholes would cut down time spent by these communities in finding and gathering water.

Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya added that these projects were part of the Mineral Resources Division’s programme.

The cost of the projects was around \$100,000, which was funded by Government.



# School upgrade brings relief, joy



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama officially opens new classroom block, library and two duplex quarters at Naweni District School. Photo: ERONI VALILI

RONAL DEO

TEACHERS, students and parents of Naweni District School in Cakaudrove were elated after the official opening of new classroom block, library and two duplex quarters by Prime Minister Bainimarama. The Head of Government said all the construction was built to a higher-standard resilience from foundation to roof, out of materials that were built to last for when the next storm struck.

He explained that the reality was that storms like cyclone Winston will become stronger and frequent due to the effects of climate change. The school sustained damage during Tropical Cyclone Winston and other previous cyclones. School manager Akilo Sila said that it was a very big day for the school, which has a roll of 134, after Government donated \$1.65million for this project.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the opening of new classrooms at Naweni District School. Photo: ERONI VALILI



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Daku residents in Savusavu. Photo: ERONI VALILI



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the commissioning of a borehole at Vuadomo Village in Cakaudrove. Photo: ERONI VALILI

# Govt provides essentials

RONAL DEO

RESIDENTS of Vuadomo in Wailevu East, Cakaudrove, will no longer have to rely on water from nearby rivers and creeks. This comes as Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama commissioned a borehole for the whole village. Prime Minister Bainimarama said this rural water supply project would improve the livelihood of 28 families who now have clean and safe water supply up to their doorsteps. He said the village had a very bright future because it hosted a lot of tourists on a daily basis and water supply would now be a problem of the past. Vuadomo resident Sekove Maqanataqane, 34, said they were blessed to receive the Government's assistance because he grew up in the village witnessing the struggles of

the older generation, especially women and children, from lack of water supply. He added that the villagers would remember the timely assistance by the Government in years to come. Prime Minister Bainimarama handed over kitchen utensils worth \$3235 to Naelekula Methodist Mission School in Savusavu. The Head of Government said the request for the cooking utensils was made in his last visit to the Northern Division in 2017. School pastor Eremasi Tuiqara extended the school's appreciation for Government assistance. He said they do not only teach the Bible, but also train the children to become good leaders and citizens of this country when they return to their respective villages in Bua and Macuata. Twenty-students from six circuits study in this 50-year old circuit school.



Women of Vuadomo Village, Cakaudrove, were all smiles after the commissioning of their village borehole by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama. Photo: ERONI VALILI





# No pay cuts, A-G assures teachers



Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum has assured teachers around the country that there will be no pay cuts.

MEREANI GONEDUA

**T**EACHERS around the country have been reassured that there will be no pay cuts.

This assurance came from the Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, who dismissed rumours of teachers receiving pay cuts.

“As we move to institute civil service reforms and merit-based recruitment we want to be very clear that no teacher will receive any pay decreases. There were

rumours going around that teachers would receive pay decreases – that is not true at all,” he said.

The A-G highlighted that all teachers re-engaged would get a higher pay rate than what they received prior to the job evaluation exercise and new graduates would have greater opportunities for higher pay based on their performance.

He said teachers would be able to receive further pay rises based on assessments in the first year.

The A-G said that new con-

tracts issued by the ministry would depend on the result of the teachers’ evaluation and that pay would be supplemented by additional performance-based payments later in the year.

“Once the reforms are fully instituted Fiji will have a merit-based compensation that rewards our educators for their work and their results resulting in a fairer system that better serves not only our teachers, but our students who are essentially our clients,” he said.

The A-G added that any education staff who did not receive their acting allowance during the school holidays had been put back on that acting allowance as of January 10 during the start of the students free days ahead of term one.

“We recognise that you have served in that acting capacity in order to prepare for the first day of school and therefore you will be paid that acting allowance. We want to assure you are compensated appropriately for that work.”

## Time limits for eTransport card use

MEREANI GONEDUA

**S**TUDENTS around the country have been reminded that they can only use their eTransport cards from 5am to 7pm from Monday to Saturday.

This was highlighted by Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, who acknowledged parents and students who took advantage of Government’s subsidised bus fares by registering their children for the e-transport cards.

The A-G said the ministry deployed 23 roving teams around the country to assist with eTransport registrations.

“At the start of the term many students will need to top up their eTransport cards and if they have not done so or registered for a new card they can do so at the school for the next two weeks.”

The A-G stressed that school heads could approve card applications and urged parents who have yet to register their child to do so in their respective schools.

He said that students without cards would still be able to board buses because the ministry had made arrangements with bus companies to accept students without cards for the first two weeks of school.

“Students and parents please note that you must have your cards within the first two weeks of first term beginning.

“Of course, there are also some other forms of alternative transport that we do provide on subsidised basis such as carrier trucks and boats in rural and maritime areas and this, of course, do not have eticketing, but as in the past students who use this still receive their vouchers.”

He said that the ministry had addressed abuse in the system and amended the system so it could be efficient and accountable for students.

The A-G reiterated that students needed to contact their school if they lost their eTransport cards so they could be replaced.

He has warned principals that they did not have the right to turn away students who attended their schools in the past academic year.

## Ministry hands over school supplies

**E**DUCATION is the right of all children and an essential component in preparing them for their future when they eventually complete their education and move into the workforce.

In this regard, the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation handed over school supplies to the Care and Protection beneficiaries in the Nasinu area.

Ministry permanent secretary Dr Josefa Koroivueta handed over stationery to Viliame Laliqavoka and Manjula Devi’s family.

“It is important for the ministry because we want to continue to support the children in terms of educating the needy children in Fiji,” Dr Koroivueta said.

In the same token, the ministry acknowledged the World Health Organization (WHO) for donating the stationery and bags, of which the children were proud recipients.

Mr Laliqavoka acknowledged the timely support by the ministry to his



Viliame Laliqavoka and his grandchildren receive school stationery from Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Dr Josefa Koroivueta and a staff member in Suva.

four grandchildren, which will help them go to school well equipped with school stationery this year.

Dr Koroivueta said that this type of educational assistance offered was not a giveaway, but a practical way of ensuring that children from poor families could continue to have access to education.

He said the stationery was essential for school children and an important part of the learning process for children to be used in the classrooms and

at home.

“The ministry has strengthened awareness programs on the need for everyone to work together to protect our children, to ensure that no child is left behind and to prevent them from any forms of abuse or neglect,” Dr Koroivueta added.

He encouraged the children to work hard to unlock their potential and achieve their dreams in the future.

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# Oceans champion calls for civic pride

NATASHA BEGUM

**A**S guardians of the ocean it should be our civic pride and public responsibility to keep our surroundings clean,” says Minister for Fisheries and Fiji’s Ocean Champion Semi Koroilavesau.

He walked the talk as he led the second session of the clean-up campaign along the Colo-i-Suva Forest Reserve last week along with the staff of the Ministry of Fisheries and Ministry of Forests as well as soldiers of the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces.

Minister Koroilavesau believes the main aim behind these clean-up campaigns is to raise awareness and encourage Fijians to have a sense of pride in their environment and surroundings.

“Rubbish is a huge problem not only in Fiji, but around developing countries. It’s a huge task to contain, but I think raising public awareness and making people aware of the problems of plastics and discharging rubbish carelessly will hopefully convince them to stop doing it,” he said.

“This will not have a major impact on the overall amount of dumping but it will create an awareness for people seeing us collecting rubbish and rethink their actions.”

Minister Koroilavesau added that the Forests Department needed to carry out more surveillance and monitoring



Minister for Fisheries and Fiji’s Ocean Champion Semi Koroilavesau and staff of the Ministry of Fisheries and Ministry of Forests during the second session of the clean-up campaign along the Colo-i-Suva Forest Reserve last week. **Photo: NATASHA BEGUM**

through the use of modern technology to deter people from using the forest reserve as a dumping site.

“The problem of plastics does not fade away that easy. It takes years to be degraded and eventually all of this rubbish

will flow out into the oceans and affect our marine life,” he said.

The Minister highlighted there were plans to carry out more of these campaigns around the four divisions in the near future.

## COP23 secretariat backs rugby club

PRASHILA DEVI

**T**HE Conference of Parties 23 (COP23) Secretariat partnered a local rugby tournament in Tavua to raise awareness on climate change issues through sports.

COP23 secretariat director John Connor, while receiving \$500 from the Vueti Delai Naroni Trust committee, said the partnership linked and assisted the international effort that Fiji was leading with its presidency of COP23.

“The club will have a rugby tournament twice a year and they have asked to be part of COP23 and we have said, yes, this will be a COP23 initiative,” Mr Connor said.

He said while dealing with climate change most of the time was taken up with big

acronyms or technical terms when in fact COP was about the people and teamwork would be needed to tackle the problem.

The five-year strategic plan of the club was presented to the secretariat director and Ministry of Economy’s director Climate Change and International Co-operation, Nilesh Prakash, who commended the Delai Naroni family for coming on board with the Government to raise awareness and take action to address the impact of climate change. Mr Prakash

said, “It is good to see a family-run rugby tournament embrace the concept of “Greenness”, how you are trying to infuse the message of climate change through sports”.

He told the committee that it was important that they were thinking about climate change issues and how, as members of the community, they could take ownership.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Filipe Sorovi said villagers on Kadavu were living reality of what climate change

did to the livelihoods of people on the islands and vulnerable communities.

“We want to be part of the solution and that’s why we have come up with this initiative where we are going to ‘go green’ during our rugby tournaments. One of the ways will be by minimising the use of plastic bags,” Mr Sorovi said.

The tournament has the endorsement of the COP23 secretariat and will therefore use a special logo in its promotion materials.



Members of the Vueti Delai Naroni Trust committee with COP23 secretariat director John Connor and Ministry of Economy’s director Climate Change and International Co-operation, Nilesh Prakash. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

## Planners train for risk assessment

PENI KUINIKORO

**N**EW development initiatives, if unchecked, can pose harm to people and reduce the intended good and identifying how development projects can put people’s safety at risk will help increase the success and longevity of government investment.

This has been the focus of a training undertaken by senior Government rural development and disaster management officials from the four divisions.

Speaking at the training, National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), director Anare Leweniqila indicated that the training of development practitioners in identifying risks was a result of the Fijian Government’s commitment at COP23.

“This risk screening tool is very important for us as practitioners because it aligns with the Prime Minister’s commitment during COP23 in Bonn that Fiji is serious about implementing risk screening procedures in its development planning processes,” he said.

Initiated in partnership with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the Pacific Risk Resilience Program (PRRP) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the three-day training programme equipped development practitioners in assessing project proposals and applications for small and major infrastructural projects.

Mr Leweniqila said that addressing risks of climate change, natural hazards and man-induced disasters ensured that development projects were sustainable.

PRRP Programme Manager Moortaza Jiwanji said the risks were not limited to scientific and technical mappings and forecasts, but inclusive of the different ways communities are affected by gender, sexuality, age, or disability – sometimes referred to as “invisible risks”.

Participants included development practitioners, policy makers, research offices and disaster management officials from the four divisions in Fiji.





Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with staff during the opening of the Tappoo Group's newest addition in the Western Division, TappooCity Lautoka complex. Photo: ISAAC LAL

# PM: Best time to be Fijian

ISAAC LAL

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has reiterated that with all the developments taking place in the country, "it is the best time to be a Fijian".

The head of Government said the Fijian economy was booming, unemployment was at its lowest levels in 30 years, "an education revolution" was under way with a skilled workforce contributing to advancements for the country.

Prime Minister Bainimarama made the comments while opening the \$30million TappooCity Lautoka complex recently.

"Our management of the Fijian economy hasn't only brought us growth, it has put more money back in the pockets of ordinary people. Last year, we raised our income tax threshold, giving thousands of hard-working people more spending power, and I'm sure our retailers have noticed a big spike in consumer spending as a result," he said.

"That has given Fijian families access to more goods and services and pumped money back into our economy, grow-

ing businesses, creating new market opportunities and creating and sustaining employment. All making for big wins for our entire Fijian economy," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He added that the Government would continue to ensure that wealth from the Fijian economy is equally distributed among all Fijians.

"All throughout the West we've delivered development; new roads and bridges, water, electricity and telecommunications infrastructure, and a state-of-the-art airport in Nadi."

"We've widened the reach of Government services to make life more convenient, and we've created an economic environment that is building businesses, attracting investment and making life better for every Fijian who calls our Western Division home," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"It has been built by my Government's commitment to deliver real development that is making real differences in the lives of the Fijian people and that work has made it a very exciting time to be a Fijian, and an equally exciting time to invest in Fiji."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while officiating at the handing over of school equipment at Christian Mission Fellowship School in Suva last week. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

## No shift in education focus

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Government will not shift its focus in providing better and affordable education for all Fijians.

This was the message by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while officiating at the handing over of school equipment at Christian Mission Fellowship School in Suva last week.

Prime Minister Bainimarama handed over \$130,000 worth of equipment and furniture funded from Government coffers to the school.

"The future of our nation will be defined by our work to expand access to high quality education," the head of Government said.

"As your Prime Minister, there is nothing that brings me more pride than what we've achieved in widening the reach of the Fijian education system and levelling the academic playing field for young Fijians. Because it is you, our young people, who are the future of Fiji."

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted that under his leadership, the Government had taken the burden off of parents by making education free for the first time in Fijian history.

"My Government introduced free textbooks and subsidised bus fares, unshackling thousands of Fijian children from financial restraints. We've done this for every student in Fiji, no matter who they are, no matter where they live, no matter their religion, and certainly no matter who their parents, pastors or community members may support in our elections," he said.

"Our work in education is far bigger than politics. It is about building a better Fiji long after all of us gone.

"It is about raising a new generation of talented, ambitious and motivated young people who will carry this nation to even greater heights in the years ahead. That is our mission. That is the ultimate aim of my Government."

School manager Pastor Emosi Toroca thanked the Government for the donation that will greatly boost the children's education.

"As growing institution we are thankful to the Government for providing the donation of this equipment and furniture," Pastor Toroca said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama commended the school management for their work and financial commitment to helping young Fijians attain high-quality education.



## Idle land eyed for replanting

ISAAC LAL

**F**ALLOW land must be put to productive use and the Government will prioritise this.

Ministry of Sugar permanent secretary Yogesh Karan said putting idle land to productive use remained a priority, adding that appropriate measures would be taken to ensure that land was not left idle.

This may mean that sugarcane farmers whose leased land has been left idle for more than three to four seasons could lose their land if they do not start planting cane on their farms.

“The Ministry of Sugar is in the process of drawing up a database to show the amount of land that has been leased out to farmers, but are idle,” Mr Karan said.

“We need to have those land used for the purpose the lease was given and we are working with iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) to see how best we can put those lands back to its primary purpose.”

For farms whose leases expired and land reverted to the landowners, a provision has been made for these farms to be put to good use again.

“Landowners whose land once had cane and is now idle can go into partnerships with Fiji Sugar Corporation,” Mr Karan said.

Under this partnership, FSC will plant new cane on the land and fertilise the farm, harvest the cane and produce sugar and after deducting all the costs, the profits will be given to the landowners.

“The landowners will be able to benefit from their land through this partnership and they do not have to plant the cane themselves,” he added.

# Sugar leaders praised

ISAAC LAL

**S**UGARCANE farmers in Rakiraki have praised the efforts of the Government for the various incentives provided to farmers.

This was made known during a recent consultation in Ra where farmers came out in support to all the assistance that was being provided to producers.

“This is the first time so much is being done for farmers by Government through various incentives provided to us such as the increase in weedicide and fertilisers contribution to Government, the cane replanting programme, the mechanisation of the industry and many others,” cane farmer Ravneel Kumar said.

“If a sugarcane farmer now says that the Government has not done anything for him that farmer needs to move out of the industry.”

He added that it was imperative for the farmers to play their role in the industry.

“We need farmers who are on the same wavelength with the rest of the industry and this is the only way forward,” Mr Singh added.



Permanent secretary for the Ministry of Sugar and Ministry of Waterways Yogesh Karan with members of the public during public consultations in Rakiraki. Photo: ISAAC LAL

Meanwhile, one of the largest cane farmers in Rakiraki, George Shiu Raj, has challenged farmers in the four sectors of Rakiraki to raise their yield.

“We need a mill in Rakiraki and while we are grateful for Government’s assistance in carting our cane to Rarawai. We

need to have a mill and we will ensure this by playing our part, which is to increase the tonnage of cane,” Mr Raj said.

“We need to increase our yield through tonnage to tell Fiji Sugar Corporation that Rakiraki farmers are committed to the industry and that we need a mill here.”



Assistant Minister for Agriculture Viam Pillay with Frespac chief operations officer Ray Hall during the opening of the refurbished Frespac ginger factory at Wailada, Lami. Photo: EREMODE KALIVETAU

## Push to double ginger sales

PRIYANKA LAL

**F**ARMERS and other key stakeholders in the ginger industry have been encouraged to work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture to double ginger product sales over the next five years.

While speaking at the opening of the refurbished Frespac Ginger Factory in Wailada, Lami, last week Assistant Minister for Agriculture Viam Pillay said there were realistic market opportunities for the country to increase ginger

product sales.

Assistant Minister Pillay said ginger played an important role in the livelihood of the people of Fiji because it created employment, generated income for the rural people, alleviated poverty and was environmentally sustainable.

“Today, the focus on export market is a narrow seasonal niche for baby ginger. In parallel to the fresh export industry, processed ginger is now the industry’s dominant sector and is where the greatest growth opportunities lie,” Assistant

Minister Pillay said.

He said when compared with other commodities, ginger had significantly greater growth potential than any of Fiji’s other agricultural export industries.

“From the Government’s perspective, the vision for the ginger industry in Fiji is for a substantially expanded Fiji Ginger Industry that is economically and environmentally sustainable to provide a worthwhile livelihood for our people,” Assistant Minister Pillay said.

The objectives of Fiji’s Gin-

ger Development Plan were to:

- Double the volume and value of ginger purchased by agribusiness processing and exporting companies,

- Increase the number of farmers involved in ginger production in any one year by at least 50 per cent, and

- Enhance the environmental sustainability and longer term financial viability of ginger production.

The factory, a subsidiary of the Buderim Group, was refurbished at a cost of about \$300,000.





# Engineers graduate

ISAAC LAL

**T**EN senior engineers of the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC), recently graduated from India's Vasantdada Sugar Institute in Pune.

The engineers' graduation was the culmination of three-years of advanced mill operations training, which was a programme funded by the Indian Government and supported by the Fijian Government.

Attending the graduation ceremony was FSC's chief operating officer Navin Chandra, who on behalf of the company expressed his gratitude to VSI and Indian Government for their ongoing support.

"Increasing technical capabilities within FSC is a key objective, especially in diagnostic skills and application to enhance efforts when responding to mill breakdowns and stoppages to ultimately reduce factory downtime," he said.

"This advanced certificate level train-



Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) chief operating officer Navin Chandra with graduates from India's Vasantdada Sugar Institute in Pune.

ing commenced in 2015 and each semester lasted 10 weeks in duration and the course includes theoretical and practical training and students got to regularly visit modern sugar factories in India and the sugar machinery man-

ufacturing companies."

Mr Chandra took this time to discuss arrangements for a second group of certificate course trainees for their fifth and sixth semester, which will commence in March 2018.

## Retention dams for Nadi River

ISAAC LAL

**T**HE Minister for Waterways, Dr Mahendra Reddy, has highlighted that the Government will continue to explore ways to mitigate flooding in Nadi.

Minister Reddy said four retention dams were built upstream along the Nadi and Nawaka rivers to slow the flow of water during heavy rain.

"The Government's commitment towards mitigation and adaptation measures towards flooding is a priority because we do not want a repeat of 2009 or 2013," he said.

"As such Government has started building weir (retention) dams to address this. Four of these dams have been completed and there are 12 dams in total that will be built to further reduce the impact of flooding."

He added that the Government remained concerned with the amount of damage caused by the previous two floods, which led to the building of these dams.

"We understand the suffering faced by the people of Nadi and we hope that there is not a repeat of this in the future," Minister Reddy added.

"Apart from the weir dams, we are looking at widening, dredging and straightening the two rivers (Nadi and Nawaka Rivers) in efforts to solve flooding in Nadi."

Minister Reddy said work on these projects had begun and the Government allocated \$10million towards the project in Nadi.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Tappoo Group chairman Kanti Tappoo during the opening of the Tappoo Group's newest addition in the Western Division, TappooCity Lautoka complex. Photo: ISAAC LAL

# Tappoo tells of confidence in Fiji

ISAAC LAL

**T**HE head of one of Fiji's biggest retailers, Tappoo Group, says the company has full confidence in the Fijian Government and the Fijian economy.

Tappoo Group chairman Kanti Tappoo made the comment during the opening by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama of the Tappoo Group's newest addition in the Western Division, TappooCity Lautoka complex, recently.

"Fiji is our home and we are proud to be able to invest back into our country because our fellow countrymen and women have given us a lot," Mr Tappoo said.

"Many businesses are now coming up which is only good for Fiji and for the businesses. As for Tap-

poo City Lautoka we are proud of it.

"In addition to our commitment to giving back to the community that has made us what we are, we will always strive to be an exemplary corporate citizen of our beloved nation."

The \$30million project, which sits in the heart of Lautoka, houses 25 restaurants, stores and other outlets and has become the centrepiece of commerce in the sugar city, a place where Fijians can shop, grab a meal and spend time with their friends and families.

Mr Tappoo said exciting work had already begun in their other business fronts.

"As many of you are aware, the Tappoo Group has diverse business interests which include tour-

ism and travel, retail and wholesale, manufacturing and exports, motor vehicle sales and servicing, commercial real estate and investments," he said.

"We strongly believe in our corporate social responsibilities. Among others, we are currently doing preliminary planning for two projects in Sigatoka, the community in which we were raised.

"One is the beautification project along the town's riverfront.

"The other is the construction of a children's park on a location where my father started his small workshop.

"Talks are still underway and we are hopeful that we will soon be able to finalise the details so that ground works can commence," Mr Tappoo said.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Tappoo Group chairman Kanti Tappoo. Photo: ISAAC LAL





## Be active, diversify, co-ops urged

PRASHILA DEVI

**C**O-OPERATIVES on Vanua Levu have been urged to remain active and to diversify to increase their effectiveness and to maximise the benefits for members.

Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Land and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya expressed the need for Fijians, especially in the rural areas, to work collectively and encouraged the co-operatives to diversify to generate more income and benefits for its members.

Addressing members of Nairirilleka Land Purchase Co-operative Limited and Vanualevu Rice Farmers Co-operative Limited at Muanidevo, Dreketi, Minister Koya said; "I must encourage you that while one person may not be able to achieve much, through Co-operatives, mountains can be moved".

He called for the revival of the Vanualevu Rice Farmers Co-operative Limited, which was formed in 2003 with the objective to mediate between rice farmers and the industry partners like Ministry of Agriculture and the Fiji Rice Limited

"This co-operative initially played a major role in negotiating with the stakeholders on behalf of the rice farmers. Vanualevu Rice Farmers Co-operatives Limited needs to re-organise itself and once again be recognised as the champions of the farmers."

Minister Koya said it was encouraging to hear of co-operatives being formed in the sugar sector which will help address the major concerns of hiring labourers for cane farmers.

"These co-operatives have been able to access the Fijian Government grant for sugar sector improvement and have purchased a number of cane harvesters."

Nairirilleka Land Purchase Co-operative Limited was established in 1969 in Muanidevo with the objective to acquire freehold land and have it subdivided for its 39 members who shared 2300 acres of land. Minister Koya applauded the cooperative for achieving most its objectives with the exception of the subdividing of a piece of land.

There are 450 operating co-operatives registered as consumer, marketing, production, forest, fisheries, tourism, thrift and credit and land purchase.

## Great Sea Reef nominated as Ramsar site

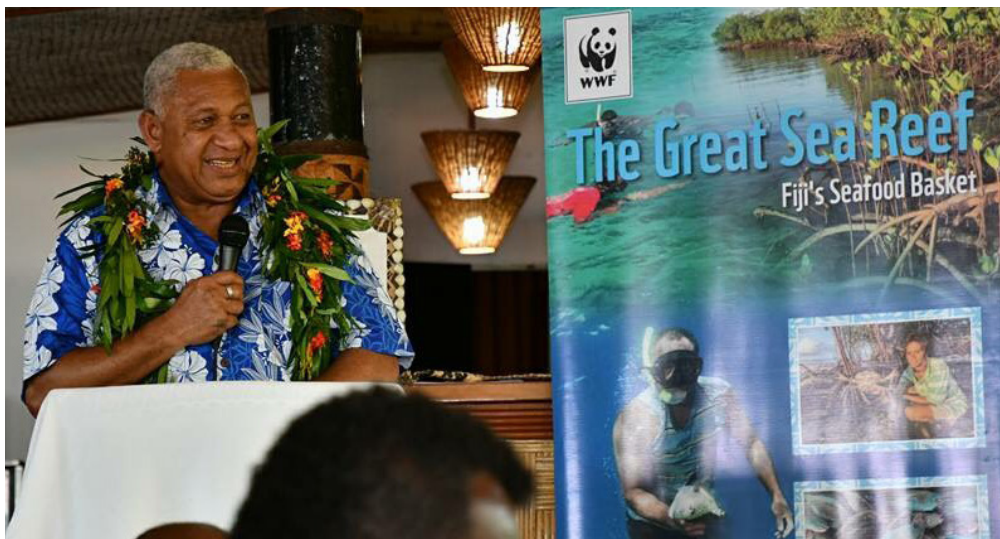
NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

**F**IJIAN Government approval has allowed a significant portion of Cakaulevu (Great Sea Reef) off Macuata, Vanua Levu, to be considered a Ramsar site.

This has been part of efforts to protect and manage ocean and coral resources for future generations.

A Ramsar Site is a wetland site designated of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO, coming into force in 1975.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama heaped praise on the joint effort of the people of Macuata and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) in the management and protection of the area of Great Sea Reef or Cakaulevu for future generations.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the launch of the International Year of the Reef at Nukubati Island, Vanua Levu. Photo: NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

At the International Year of Reef launch in Nukubati Island, Vanua Levu, the Prime Minister Bainimarama said one of the great tragedies of the modern age was that reefs were slowly dying.

"We are here today to issue a plea to the world to summon the collective will to reverse this process, to save our coral reefs before it is too late," he said.

"With the dramatic increase in coral bleaching caused by climate change, the plastic pollution of our oceans and other forms of human abuse such as over-fishing, it is a shocking fact that our generation could be among the last to witness the beauty of our reefs and benefit from their bounty."

United Nations Environment Programme executive

director, Erik Solheim commended the Government's effort.

"This is the third biggest reef in the Southern Hemisphere, one of the most spectacular reefs in the entire world," Mr Solheim said.

"By doing that you're protecting your heritage for the generations to come, critical for the public, fish stock, tourism and the ecosystem."



United Nations special envoy for oceans Peter Thomson about to take a dive in the Great Sea Reef in Macuata waters. Photo: NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

**T**HE ocean like our coral reefs is in deep trouble and the world needs to protect it well for the benefit of future generations," said United Nations special envoy for oceans Peter Thomson.

This message was conveyed to the people of Macuata by Ambassador Thomson as he urged the protection of their ocean and Great Sea Reef.

"The good news is we have the plan to save the ocean."

"That comes back to the Paris Agreement, which the Prime Minister is leading at the global action for

implementing the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goal 14, which is about the ocean," Ambassador Thomson said.

He said Macuata was one of few places that had a great sea reef - which was a bunker biodiversity sandwiched with mangrove coastline and considered a nursery of life.

"Between the mangroves and the reef, Macuata is uniquely placed and the ocean action is something we should all be involved in," the UN special envoy said.

The Great Sea Reef (GSR) has often been referred to as "Fiji's Seafood Basket" because it directly supports

10 per cent of Fiji's coastal population (subsistence use) - food security and livelihoods.

It has the third longest complex barrier reef system in the Southern Hemisphere running at 260 kilometres and has various complex reef systems in that it has a variety of reef systems, not just a barrier reef system.

Coral reefs in Fiji cover 10,200 square kilometres in area and represents 9.0 per cent of the coral reefs of the Pacific and 3.5 per cent of the total area of tropical coral reefs in the world.

Three quarters of all corals in Fiji can be found in the Great Sea Reef.





# SOPD opened for Nadi

ISAAC LAL

A SPECIAL Outpatient Department (SOPD) wing was recently opened by the Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar at the Nadi Hospital.

The opening of the clinic has been made possible after the

refurbishment of the old outpatient wing, which was closed for more than 15 years and resulted from the Government's commitment towards improving health services to the public.

"The main aim of the refurbishment and transformation of the old hospital into the Special Outpatients Department (SOPD) was to reduce the overcrowding number of patients at our general outpatient department into this new facility," Minister Akbar said during the opening of the clinic.

The new clinic will further improve services in diabetic comprehensive care, mental health,

hypertension, asthma clinic, medical clinic, surgical clinic, co-ordinate outreach activities by actively following defaulters and general patient education and counselling.

"Building infrastructure capacity is important, but we must integrate the care and the design of our healthcare facilities to better serve the needs of our patients.

"And I am glad to say that this new SOPD has been planned with such needs in mind," Minister Akbar added.

So the various improvement works or new facilities are a sign of the Government's dedi-

cation to the Fijian people's health and wellbeing.

"However, we provide the service and your responsibility is to ensure that you take care of your health. Building new facilities does not encourage you to be casual with your health."

She announced a \$2million maintenance overhaul for the Nadi Hospital that will begin at the end of next month and is anticipated to be completed by November this year.

Meanwhile, refurbishment work at Nabouwalu Sub Divisional Hospital will begin next month and is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

## Doctors urged to be service oriented

PRIYANKA LAL

MORE than 60 new doctors joining the health sector have been reminded to be service-oriented and work as a team to provide the best services to all Fijians.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar highlighted this at the opening of the 2018 Doctors Induction programme in Suva earlier this month.

Minister Akbar said doctors were the engines of the health system, and urged them to uphold the values of the Health Ministry and that of the Government.

"You must have respect, dignity, integrity, be customer focused, responsive and practice equity. Also, be empathetic in your service towards your patients, and that includes families of the patients and the public as well," she said.

Minister Akbar told the 68 new doctors that they would be held accountable for their actions and encouraged them to seek assistance from their seniors.

She stressed that no matter where the doctors were posted, the quality of their service mattered at all times.

"We are aware that you will face challenges in terms of the health facilities and the much needed resources. Our health sector is facing these challenges for many years and work is in progress to improve on the facilities," Minister Akbar said.

"We need to strengthen our pharmaceutical supplies. Drugs and medicine might not be available at certain health facilities, but I urge you to work with your supervisors to ensure those needs are met."

The doctors were reminded to be calm and professional, even when dealing with difficult patients.

Minister Akbar advised the doctors to look after their health as well.



Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar during the launch of 24/7 general outpatient services at the Valelevu Health Centre.

INSET: Minister for Health Rosy Akbar cuts the cake with students who visited the Valelevu Health Centre to mark the launch of the centre's 24/7 services.

Photos: PRIYANKA LAL



# 24/7 services at health centre

PRIYANKA LAL

THE recent launch of 24/7 general outpatient services at the Valelevu Health Centre will ensure people in the greater Nasinu area receive efficient services.

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar, while launching the services, said with the opening of its doors 24 hours and seven days a week, the Valelevu Health Centre was expected to serve an estimated population of about 200,000 people along the Suva-Nausori corridor.

The Valelevu Health Centre is one of the biggest and busiest health centres in Suva Subdivision, serving a total population of 58,000.

On a daily basis, the health centre served an average of 500 to 700 patients and even reached 900 patients during disease outbreaks.

"These developments are aligned with the ongoing efforts of the Fijian Government to reach out to all Fijians be it through education, health, infrastructure, housing, primary industries and trade to name a few," Minister Akbar said.

She said the 24/7 operation of the health centre meant that people, who were victims of road accidents, were attended to and stabilised before transfer to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital.

"This means that people will still be able to access health services without missing work or school and prevent people from overcrowding the health centre in the

morning and in the afternoon after work or school rushing to the health centre before it closes," Minister Akbar said.

"The Fijian Government has committed a lot of resources towards the realisation of this 24-hour service. The number of doctors and nurses was increased to cater for this additional service. A 24-hour ambulance services will be based at this health centre for rapid response and transfer of acutely ill patients."

Caubati resident, Nafisha Shazmin, 25, welcomed the new service saying she would not have to spend \$10 to \$15 on taking her grandfather to the CWM Hospital during emergencies.

The Valelevu Health Centre has seven medical officers, 26 nurses and three nurse practitioners.





## Residents welcome flood mitigation measures

ISAAC LAL

**A** CONSULTATION was held by the Minister for Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy for Rakiraki residents to highlight plans and to get views on how to address the issue of flooding in the area.

The consultation, which was attended by business owners, landowners and the general public, sought to inform and hear views on ways to solve flooding at Vaileka.

During the consultations, Minister Reddy informed them of the various projects that would roll out starting next week to address this issue.

“The Government has given Rakiraki Town Council \$212,000 to ensure that all drains and other projects are completed before June or early July this year,” he said.

### THE FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS

- Clearing and construction of new open channel drains on both sides on the back of Gafoor to MH Supermarket
- Construction of new open channel and installation of culvert from behind the FBD building to Shiu Raj Supermarket
- Construction and installation of new open channel drains and installation of new culverts from behind Dr Naidu's clinic to Adi's Motel
- Construction of new drains and installation of culverts from Dhiraj to CMF Church
- Clearing and construction of drains (rockwall) at the rear service lane (Naidu's building to Bank of Baroda
- Clearing and construction of drains from Adi's Motel to Nakauvadra River
- Clearing and widening of public drain links to main Nakauvadra River from Lins Bakery to the river
- Construction of new open channel from LTA to Nakauvadra River (bridge end)
- Construction of new drains for Ram Murthi main drain
- Construction and installation of new public drains at MH compound Road main drain
- Clearing of debris from the back of Sunil Chand lot (off Vatumami)
- Construction of concrete open channel at Qelema (beside Iguana Rentals towards Akbar garage)

A separate project for the dredging of the main river will have its tender advertised in Saturday's newspaper and work on this project is expected to begin once the tender process is completed and awarded.

# Fulfil role, officers urged

ISAAC LAL

**C**HIEF Justice Anthony Gates, has reiterated that the Legal Aid Commission and its staff fulfil a critical role.

He made the comments while opening the annual Legal Aid Corporate Staff workshop at the Intercontinental Fiji Golf and Spa Resort at Natadola, outside Sigatoka. The annual event aimed to provide Legal Aid staff an opportunity to further enhance their knowledge and skills in their workplaces.

Justice Gates acknowledged the impor-

tant role played by Legal Aid Commission in ensuring accessibility to justice for people who could not afford legal representation among others.

“The Government must be congratulated for their vision in strengthening this aspect of the justice system especially for people who are poor, your work (Legal Aid) in ensuring a fair justice system is commendable and is very important,” he said.

“We all need a good atmosphere in the office and we need to understand each other and respect each other to ensure we all do the right thing to ourselves, to the Government of Fiji as our employer, and

to the general public our customers and client,” Justice Gates said.

He noted that growth of the commission, which has been dubbed as the largest law firm in the country, with offices in all major towns and cities including the maritime islands.

“The commission has a good deal of autonomy. It has to be, as you also to be free of politics,” Justice Gates said.

“This is especially so in 2018 because we know we are in election year. The courts wish to keep politics out of the court and the same applies to the grant of legal aid for cases.”



Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with Legal Aid officers during the 7th Annual National Corporate Staff Training of the Legal Aid Commission (LAC), at Intercontinental Fiji Golf and Spa Resort in Natadola.

**INSET:** Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum addresses participants at Intercontinental Fiji Golf and Spa Resort in Natadola.  
Photo: PRIYANKA LAL



## Equal legal aid access 'vital'

PRIYANKA LAL

**L**EGAL Aid Commission (LAC) corporate staff have been urged to ensure all Fijians have equal access to legal services.

Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum highlighted this at the recent closing of the 7th Annual National Corporate Staff Training of the LAC at Intercontinental Fiji Golf and Spa Resort in Natadola almost 33km from Sigatoka, where he stressed to participants that they were the front-line of legal aid.

The A-G said the LAC was one of the fastest-growing or-

### must read FIVE MORE LEGAL AID OFFICES

The Legal Aid Commission will open five more offices in the coming months to implement Government's commitment of easing access to justice.

Commission director Shaheen Ali said it was critical that legal services be taken to areas outside the urban centres as they have done in Nabouwalu, Taveuni and Levuka. “As such, in the coming months, we will open offices on Rotuma, at Seaqaqa, Vunidawa, Keiyasi and on Kadavu,” he said.

“It would mean taking our services to the doorsteps of our clients and the citizens of the country.”

The commission provides assistance on family law, maintenance, custody, domestic violence and legal representations for offenders who cannot afford a lawyer. Since 2012 the commission has opened offices in Nadi, Rakiraki, Sigatoka, Nausori, Nasinu, Navua, Savusavu, Tavua, Korovou, Levuka and Taveuni.

ganisations in the country and called on the corporate staff to prioritise service delivery to ordinary Fijians at all times.

“How you present yourself and how people are able to convey a particular issue to you is important. You are there to provide a service to people who otherwise will not be able

to access that service. Some people don't understand the legal documents so you need to have that level of empathy,” the A-G said.

He said the Government had done a lot over the years by opening legal aid offices around the country to make services more accessible.

“Since this Government came into power we have legal aid offices in every urban centre and now we are going out to the maritime islands. We have grown exponentially. In 2007, the Legal Aid office was a small room at the clock tower at Government Buildings.

“It was difficult for people to access that office and it was not very welcoming. Today, you have state-of-the-art offices. Many of you will have career paths in this organisation,” the A-G added.

About 60 participants at the two-day training were reminded of the job evaluation exercise for the LAC, which would be implemented in the near future.

“You will be assessed according to the market and going forward you will be assessed individually. All these are part of getting a robust organisation and provide you with a better working environment,” the A-G said.





# Retired teachers for Nauru work

UNAISI MOCE

THE Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations bid farewell and presented eight Fijian retired teachers with air tickets in Suva last week.

The eight volunteer teachers will leave Fiji this Friday (February 2) for their volunteer teaching assignment in Nauru under the Fiji Volunteer Service program.

Of the eight, three will be engaged at the secondary school and five at the primary level.

Employment Ministry permanent secretary Salaseini Daunabuna urged the group members to impart their knowledge and skills and open doors for other retiree teachers to register in the system.

“This afternoon it’s an honour for me to be here to present the air tickets for successful teachers who have been chosen to represent Fiji in terms of knowledge sharing and skills sharing across the Pacific region,” Ms Daunabuna said.

“Our partnership with Nauru began in 2013 and just last year we renewed our ties so we are happy to say that this year we are sending across a batch of teachers who will help them to upskill their education sector.”

She extended her appreciation to the



Permanent secretary for the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Salaseini Daunabuna with the eight volunteer teachers who will leave for Nauru this Friday.  
Photo: UNAISI MOCE

group for their willingness to participate in the programme.

Team leader for the group, Rusiate Tora, thanked the Government for the opportunity given to retiree teachers.

“We will be able to share our teaching experiences to schools and to the children who are waiting for our arrival in Nauru. We as another group of teachers are ready to serve in the teaching fraternity,” said Mr Tora.

“We will continue to serve and uphold

the standard set by our predecessors. We will try our very best to work in partnership with our comrades in schools for effective and productive results as far as smart teaching and learning is concerned.”

“This team will be good ambassadors for our beloved country and the Government of the Republic of Fiji. We will go forward to serve and try our very best to serve with loyalty, dignity and distinction,” he said.

## Ministry helps young entrepreneur

ASHNEEL SINGH

THE Minister for Youth and Sports, Laisenia Tuitubou, gave electrical materials under the Small Micro Enterprise (SME) allocation to a young entrepreneur in Tavua this week.

Minister Tuitubou handed over tools including a drill, pycutter, screw drivers and other materials to Jone Kanagasau of Gold Power Tech.

He urged the young entrepreneur to expand his business and become more marketable in the electrical field.

“The ministry is pleased to support entrepreneurs like Jone Kanagasau,” the minister said.

“I urge you to expand your business and create employment opportunities for other youth in the area.”

Divisional Manager West Valami Naloga said the assistance by the ministry will lead to job creation and further assistance would encourage youths to go into self employment using the skills they had.

Mr Kanagasau thanked the ministry for the timely assistance.

“I am grateful that the ministry has assisted my business with electrical tools this year. This will certainly boost my business,” he said.

## Timely help for club

ASHNEEL SINGH

TWENTY youths from the Nayarabale Settlement at Nasomo, Vatukoula, are new beneficiaries of the Voluntary Youth Organisation Training (VYOT) grant facilitated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

This follows a handing over of Income Generating Project (IGP) materials to the Vueti Nayarabale Youth Club by Minister for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou last week.

While handing over the IGP materials, in the form of brushcutters, Minister Tuitubou urged the youths to use the materials to generate income and become resourceful in their community.

“In order to be successful, youth clubs should plan well and work towards your common goals,” he said.



Minister for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou during the handing over of brushcutters to members of Vueti Nayarabale Youth Club at Nasomo, Vatukoula.

“The Ministry of Youth and Sports supports youth clubs and individuals that take initiatives in venturing into business. There are many opportunities available; however youths must be determined to work hard and make use of those opportunities.”

Divisional Manager West Valami Naloga urged the youths of Nayarabale to become business minded and promote a healthy and sus-

tainable environment in the Nasomo area.

“The Ministry of Youth and Sports will continue to provide assistance to youths for the purpose of encouraging you to diversify and create your own jobs and not rely on paid employment,” he said.

“The ministry’s objective is to reduce unemployment and poverty and at same time, youths will contribute to the

local economy and economic growth.”

Meanwhile, the Nayarabale youth club president Ana Baleiwaievo, thanked the minister and the ministry for providing the materials to the youth club.

“Initiatives by the Ministry of Youth and Sports drive our youth to the next level and the brushcutters provided will be used well for our projects”.



*The Ministry of Youth and Sports supports youth clubs and individuals that take initiatives in venturing into business.*

*There are many opportunities available; however youths must be determined to work hard and make use of those opportunities.*

Minister for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou



# फ़ीजी फ़ोकस

## फ़ीजी के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र को लगातार मिल रही सहायता

रोनल देव

फ़ीजी में बने या सिले हुए कपड़ों का निर्यात यानि एक्सपोर्ट बढ़ाने में सहायता देने के लिए इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड और टूरिज़म मंत्रालय लगातार

टेक्सटाईल क्लोथिंग एंड फ़ुटवेयर काउन्सिल का समर्थन कर रहा है।

सरकार जानती है कि टी.सी. एफ़ व्यवसाय, व्यापार और नौकरी पैदा करके फ़ीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में बढ़ती करने

में भारी सहयोग दे रहा है तथा पिछले दस सालों से सरकार अलग-अलग तरह से व्यवसाय का समर्थन कर रहा है।

इस व्यवसाय के और विकास के लिए मंत्रालय ने उन्हें इस साल \$100,000 दिया है।

दुनिया के होड़बाज़ी वाले वातावरण में हमारे टी.सी.एफ़. व्यवसाय कई चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है। व्यवसाय को सहायता देने के लिए 2009 में सरकार ने मार्केटिंग ग्रांट की शुरुआत की।

पिछले कई सालों में टी.सी. एफ़. ने खुद कई बाज़ारों की तलाश की तथा इस साल वे फ़ीजी में बने और सिले हुए कपड़ों के लिए नए-नए बाज़ारों को सुरक्षित करने की योजना बना रहा है।



हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विसज़ मंत्री, रोज़ी अकबर नसीनू स्थित वालेलेवू हेल्थ सेंटर के 24/7 ज़ेनरल आउटपैशन्ट सेवाओं का विमोचन करते हुए।

## वालेलेवू हेल्थ सेंटर पर सेवाएँ 24/7

संगीता लाल

हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विसज़ मंत्री, रोज़ी अकबर ने हाल में नसीनू स्थित वालेलेवू हेल्थ सेंटर के 24/7 ज़ेनरल आउटपैशन्ट सेवाओं का विमोचन किया।

वालेलेवू हेल्थ सेंटर, सूवा उपविभाग (Subdivision) में सबसे बड़े और व्यस्त स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों में से एक है, जो लगभग 58,000 लोगों को सेवा प्रदा करती है। दैनिक आधार पर, यह स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र प्रतिदिन औसत 500 से 700 मरीज़ों को सेवा प्रदान करता है और यहाँ तक कि रोग फैलने (disease outbreaks) के दौरान मरीज़ों की संख्या लगभग 900 तक पहुँच जाती है।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि अब चौबीसों घंटे और सप्ताह के सातों दिन खुला रहने के साथ साथ ऐसी आशा है कि वालेलेवू हेल्थ

सेंटर सूवा-नौसोरी कोरिडोर के लगभग 200,000 लोगों को अपनी सेवा प्रदान करेगा।

“ये विकास फ़ीजी सरकार के चल रहे सभी प्रयासों के साथ जुड़े हुए हैं ताकि शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य बुनियादी ढाँचा, आवास (हाऊज़िंग), प्राथमिक उद्योग (प्रायमरी इंडस्ट्रीज़) और व्यापार, आदि के माध्यम से सभी फ़ीजीवासियों तक पहुँचा जा सके,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि हेल्थ सेंटर के 24/7 सेवाओं का मतलब यह भी है कि सड़क दुर्घटनाओं के शिकार लोगों की हालत स्थिर करके उन्हें सी.डब्ल्यू.एम. अस्पताल में ट्रांसफर किया जाएगा।

“इसका यह भी मतलब होगा कि लोग काम या स्कूल मिस किए बिना स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं का उपयोग करने में सक्षम होंगे और सुबह सुबह हेल्थ सेंटर को भीड़-भाड़

(overcrowding) से भी रोका जा सकेगा तथा शाम को हेल्थ सेंटर बन्द होने से पहले वहाँ पहुँचने की भाग-दौड़ से भी लोग बच सकेंगे।”

“इस चौबीस घंटे की सेवा की प्राप्ति की दिशा में सरकार द्वारा कई संसाधन लगाए गए हैं।”

“इस अतिरिक्त सेवा के लिए डाक्टरों और नर्सों की संख्या में वृद्धि हुई है।”

“बहुत ज़्यादा बीमार मरीज़ों के तेज़ी से प्रतिक्रिया और ट्रांसफर के लिए इस हेल्थ सेंटर पर चौबीस घंटों की एम्बुलेंस सेवा भी उपलब्ध रहेगी,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा।

वालेलेवू हेल्थ सेंटर की देख-रेख सात चिकित्सा अधिकारी (medical officers), 26 नर्सों और तीन नर्स चिकित्सकों (प्रैक्टिशनरों) द्वारा की जा रही है और इसका 24/7 संचालन इस वर्ष 15 जनवरी से शुरू हुआ।

## सावूसावू में बनेगा ई-सेन्टर लेन्डिंग स्टेशन

रोनल देव

सरकार ने जबकि लक्ष्य बनाया है कि वनुआ लेवू में तेज़ इंटरनेट की सेवा पहुँचाई जाए तो ऐसे में सरकार ने स्वीडन के एक विशेषज्ञ फ़्लेक्ससेनक्लोज़ा (Flexenclosure) को सावूसावू में ई-सेन्टर कैबल लेन्डिंग (E-centre Cable Landing) बनाने का काम सौंपा है।

यह कैबल समुद्र के नीचे तूई-सामोआ कैबल से जुड़ेगा, जिससे वीती लेवू और वनुआलेवू में इंटरनेट की तेज़ सेवाएँ उपलब्ध होंगी। फ़ीजीयन सरकार की इस सुविधा से देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में भारी सुधार आएगा, आए. सी.टी. क्षेत्र में और नौकरियाँ पैदा होंगी तथा खराब मौसम के दौरान दो मुख्य द्वीपों के बीच आपातकालीन स्थिति में संपर्क साधन में कोई बाधा नहीं पहुँचेगी। ऐसा अनुमान है कि इस साल के मध्य से पहले वनुआलेवू में इंटरनेट की तेज़ सेवा मिलने लगेगी।

“सरकार का एक अभियान है कि इक्कीसवीं सदी वाली अर्थ-व्यवस्था में जितनी भी माँग है वे सभी फ़ीजीवासियों के लिए पूरी हो तथा इस ई-सेन्टर को बनाना इसकी ओर एक बहुत बड़ा कदम है फिर चाहे फ़ीजीवासी कहीं भी रहते होंगी, अटोनी ज़ेनरल अईयाज़ सैयट-खैयूम ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार इस योजना से वनुआलेवू वाली सेवाओं का स्तर वीतीलेवू के स्तर के बराबर हो जाएगा।

फ़्लेक्ससेनक्लोज़ा के चीफ़ एक्ज़ेक्टिव अफ़सर, डेविड किंग का कहना है कि उन्हें गर्व है कि वे देश में हो रहे डिजिटल बदलाव में फ़ीजीयन सरकार की मदद कर रहे हैं।





सूवा में आयोजित 2018 डॉक्टरों के इंडक्शन प्रोग्राम (Doctors Induction programme) के दौरान हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विस मंत्री, रोजी अकबर ने कहा कि डॉक्टर स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के इंजन हैं, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय और फीजीयन सरकार के मूल्यों को कायम रखना चाहिए।

# 2018 डॉक्टरों के इंडक्शन प्रोग्राम

संगीता लाल

सूवा में आयोजित 2018 डॉक्टरों के इंडक्शन प्रोग्राम (Doctors Induction programme) के उद्घाटन के दौरान हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विस मंत्री, रोजी अकबर ने कहा कि स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में शामिल होने वाले 60 से अधिक नए डॉक्टरों को सेवा-अभिविन्यस्त (service-oriented) होने की तथा एक टीम की तरह काम करने की याद दिलाई गई ताकि फीजीवासियों को उच्च स्तर की सेवाएँ प्रदान की जा सकें। मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि डॉक्टर स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के इंजन हैं, और उनसे आग्रह

किया कि वे स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय और फीजीयन सरकार के मूल्यों को कायम रखें। “आपके पास सम्मान, गरिमा और अखंडता होनी चाहिए, आप में ग्राहक केंद्रित, उत्तरदायी और निष्पक्षता अभ्यास करने की क्षमता होनी चाहिए। इसके अलावा, अपने मरीजों के प्रति अपनी सेवा में संवेदनशील हों और इसमें मरीजों के परिवार और जनता भी शामिल हैं,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा। उन्होंने 68 नए डॉक्टरों को बताया कि उनके कार्यों के लिए उन्हें जिम्मेदार ठहराया जाएगा, और उनसे अनुरोध किया कि वे अपने सीनियर डॉक्टरों से सहायता

लें। मंत्री अकबर ने जोर देकर कहा कि डॉक्टरों को चाहे जहाँ भी पोस्ट किया जाता है, उनकी सेवा प्रदान करने का स्तर हर समय मायने रखता है। “हम जानते हैं कि आपको स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं और आवश्यक संसाधनों के मामले में चुनौतियों का सामना करना होगा। हमारे स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र कई वर्षों से इन चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे हैं और सुविधाओं में सुधार के लिए कार्य प्रगति पर है। हमें अपने दवा आपूर्ति या फार्मस्यूटिकल सप्लाईज़ (pharmaceutical supplies) को मजबूत करने की ज़रूरत है। हो सकता है कि कुछ स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं पर ड्रग्स

और दवा उपलब्ध न हो लेकिन मैं आप से आग्रह करती हूँ कि आप अपने सूपर्वाइज़रों के साथ काम करें ताकि यह सुनिश्चित की जा सके कि उन ज़रूरतों को पूरा किया जाए,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा। डॉक्टरों को यह भी याद दिलाई गई कि वे अनावश्यक या तर्कपूर्ण मरीजों से निपटते वक्त शांत और धैर्य रखें। डॉक्टरों को अपने स्वास्थ्य की भी देखभाल करने की आवश्यकताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि वे एक बीमार श्रमिक संख्या या वर्कफोर्स (workforce) नहीं चाहते हैं।



नसीनू, सूवा स्थित श्री सत्य प्रकाश मंदिर द्वारा हाल में नसीनू इलाके में रहने वाले 60 बुजुर्ग नागरिकों के लिए एक थैंक्सगिविंग डिनर (thanksgiving dinner) आयोजित की गई।

## एकता और शान्ति के लिए विश्वास आधारित संगठन की सराहना

संगीता लाल

एकता के मूल्यों और बुजुर्ग नागरिकों के सशक्तिकरण को बढ़ावा देने के प्रयास के लिए नसीनू, सूवा स्थित श्री सत्य प्रकाश मंदिर की सराहना की गई। हाल में नसीनू इलाके में रहने वाले 60 बुजुर्ग नागरिकों के लिए यह विश्वास आधारित संगठन (faith based organisation) ने एक थैंक्सगिविंग डिनर (thanksgiving dinner) आयोजित किया। हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विस मंत्री, रोजी अकबर ने विभिन्न समुदायों में एकता को बढ़ावा देने की अपनी प्रतिबद्धता के लिए श्री सत्य प्रकाश मंदिर के सदस्यों की सराहना की। राष्ट्रीय विकास के प्रति बुजुर्ग नागरिकों को

उनके योगदान के लिए धन्यवाद दिया गया। मंत्री अकबर ने बुजुर्ग नागरिकों के अधिकारों और हितों को बढ़ावा देने में मंत्रालयों, गैर-सरकारी संगठनों और विश्वास आधारित संगठनों के बीच एक सहयोगी साझेदारी की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया। “इस तरह के अद्भुत कार्यक्रम के आयोजन के लिए मैं श्री सत्य प्रकाश मंदिर जैसे विश्वास आधारित संगठनों की सराहना करना चाहती हूँ और आशा है कि आप भविष्य में इस तरह के कार्यक्रम करना जारी रखेंगे। बुजुर्ग नागरिकों के लिए एक समावेशी और सहायक वातावरण बनाने की आवश्यकता पर समुदायों के बीच जागरूकता पैदा करना ज़रूरी है।” “यह मेरी विनम्र इच्छा है कि इस देश

के सभी बुजुर्ग नागरिकों को उनके परिवारों से वह प्यार, विश्वास और सम्मान मिले जिनका वे हकदार हैं,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा। डॉक्टर विजय नायर ने श्री सत्य प्रकाश मंदिर की ओर से कहा कि वे सभी समुदायों में बहुसंस्कृतिवाद प्रदान करने के लिए ऐसे सामाजिक कार्यक्रमों पर भरोसा करना जारी रखेंगे। “हम बहुसंस्कृतिवाद के माध्यम से ही सभी के बीच में एकता और शांति को बढ़ावा दे सकते हैं। इस वर्ष और आने वाले वर्षों में हम इस तरह के और कार्यक्रमों को तैयार करेंगे और अपने बुजुर्ग नागरिकों और समुदायों के सदस्यों की देखभाल के लिए मिल कर काम करने के लिए जागरूकता पैदा करेंगे,” डॉक्टर नायर ने कहा।

## स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने की साप्ताहिक साफ-सफाई की आग्रह

रेनल देव

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने आम जनता से माँग की है कि वे हो सकें तो हर सप्ताह मच्छर पैदा होने वाली जगहों को नष्ट करें। मंत्री ने कहा कि लोगों को अपने घर आँगन तथा नौकरी वाले वातावरण में पानी वाले कोनटेनर खाली करके उन्हें अच्छी तरह फेंकना चाहिए।

डेंगी बीमारी से बचने के लिए मंत्री समाचार माध्यमों के द्वारा लगातार लोगों से यह माँग करती आ रही है।

“हम आँधी-तूफान के मौसम में हैं और इस दौरान बहुत ज़्यादा बारिश होती है इसलिए हमें मच्छरों के पैदा होने वाले स्थानों को नष्ट करना चाहिए,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा।

उत्तरी विभाग में टाएफोर्ड बीमारी के एक मामले के सामने आने के बाद मंत्री ने जोर दिया कि लोगों को अपने आपको भी साफ सुथरा रखना चाहिए जैसे कि भोजन करने से पहले या पाखाना जाने के बाद हाथ धोना चाहिए ताकि आप अपने आप और अपने परिवार को डेंगी और टाएफोर्ड जैसी बीमारियों से बचा सकें। सातों दिन बिजली मिलेगी। उनके अनुसार सरकार द्वारा कोरोवु से राकीराकी के बीच बिजली की व्यवस्था करने वाले विकास का यह छोटा सा हिस्सा है।

इस साल सरकार ने देश भर में 6000 से ज़्यादा घरों में बिजली की व्यवस्था करने के लिए \$42.6 मिलियन अलग किया है। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि यह योजना उस दूरदृष्टता का हिस्सा है जहाँ सरकार ग्रामीन इलाकों तक ऐसी सेवाएँ पहुँचाना चाहती है ताकि वहाँ के आम फीजीवासी पानी, बिजली और देश में बाकी लोगों के संपर्क में रहने की चिन्ता छोड़कर अपना जीवन बिताए।





## वीमन मंत्रालय और गो एडवर्टाइजिंग के बीच समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर

संगीता लाल

वीमन, चिल्लरन और पोवर्टी अलीविएशन मंत्रालय द्वारा गो एडवर्टाइजिंग लिमिटेड (Go Advertising Limited) के साथ एक मेमोरैंडम ऑफ अन्डरस्टैंडिंग या एम.ओ.यू. पर हस्ताक्षर किया ताकि फीजी में बच्चों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार और उपेक्षा पर रोकथाम लगाने के लिए विज्ञापनों को और ठोस बनाते हुए इस पर और अधिक जागरूकता लाई जा सके।

माता पिताओं, समुदायों और परिवारों के बीच संबंध को और मजबूत करने के लिए मंत्रालय के चाइल्ड सर्विसेज यूनिट ने गो एडवर्टाइजिंग लिमिटेड के साथ देश भर के प्रमुख स्थानों पर बिलबोर्ड (billboard) किराए पर लेने के लिए एक अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किया।

एम.ओ.यू. पर हस्ताक्षर मंत्रालय के स्थायी सचिव, डाक्टर चोसेफा कोरोईवुएता और गो एडवर्टाइजिंग के डायरेक्टर, श्री चार्ल्स डेनियल लम ने अभी हाल में सूवा में किया।

समझौता मंत्रालय और गो एडवर्टाइजिंग के बीच सहयोग के क्षेत्रों को शामिल करता है जो टीम को बिलबोर्ड के माध्यम से जागरूकता प्रदान करने में सक्षम बनाता है, जिसका उद्देश्य है फीजी में बच्चों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार और उपेक्षा (Child Abuse and Neglect) की प्रतिशत दर को कम करना।

डाक्टर कोरोईवुएता ने गो एडवर्टाइजिंग को उनकी सेवाओं के लिए धन्यवाद देते हुए कहा कि उन्हें ऐसी पूरी आशा है कि भविष्य में इस तरह के और भी सहयोग होंगे।

श्री लम ने गो एडवर्टाइजिंग को चुनने के लिए मंत्रालय के प्रति अपना आभार प्रकट किया तथा मंत्रालय को यह पहल करने के लिए धन्यवाद भी दिया।

“हमें बहुत गर्व है कि हम मंत्रालय के साथ मिल कर यह संदेश जिसका हम दृढ़ता से समर्थन करते हैं और देश भर के फीजीवासियों में विश्वास करते हैं, देने के लिए जुड़े हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।

स्ट्रोंगर फैमिलीज़ सैफर चिल्ड्रन (Stronger Families Safer Children) इस वर्ष का मुख्य विषय या थीम (theme) रहा है।

चायल्ड सर्विसेज यूनिट के असिस्टेंट डायरेक्टर, सुश्री एला तुकुतुकुलेवू ने कहा कि बिलबोर्ड पर संदेश और छवियाँ माता पिताओं को यह याद दिलाएंगी कि वे अपने बच्चों के साथ वक्त बिताएँ।

“मंत्रालय बिलबोर्ड विज्ञापन या एडवर्टाइजिंग का उपयोग कर रहा है - ताकि लोग जहाँ रहते हैं, यात्रा, काम या फिर सामूहीकरण (socialize) करते हैं वहाँ तक वे पहुँच सकें,” सुश्री तुकुतुकुलेवू ने कहा।

“बिलबोर्ड विज्ञापन टेलिविज़न और रेडियो के विपरीत है, जहाँ उन्हें बन्द किया जा सकता है। इस समझौते के बाद, हम सबसे पहले ठोस संदेश और छवियाँ बना कर संकलन करेंगे जिन्हें फीजी भर में बिलबोर्ड में विज्ञापन किए जाएंगे,” डाक्टर कोरोईवुएता ने बताया।

जागरूकता सभी विभागों में किए जाएंगे।

# नान्दी-लौतोका में पानी सप्लाई में होंगी बाधाएँ

रोनल देव

आपको याद रहे कि नगाँदो ट्रीटमन्ट प्लांट में भारी सुधारकार्य करने की वजह से शनिवार तीन फरवरी की सुबह एक बजे से लेकर छः फरवरी की शाम पाँच बजे तक नान्दी के अधिकांश इलाके और लौतोका इलाकों में पानी की सप्लाई में बाधाएँ पहुँचेंगी।

लौतोका शहर और बाहर वाले इलाके जहाँ बूआम्बूआ और सारू वोटर ट्रीटमन्ट प्लांट द्वारा पानी सप्लाई होता है वहाँ पानी की सप्लाई में बाधाएँ नहीं पहुँचेंगी जबकि नान्दी और लौतोका के अन्य इलाकों पर असर पड़ेगा।

सुधारकार्य में शामिल है, नगाँदो वोटर ट्रीटमन्ट प्लांट में बिगड़े हुए कोन्द्रील

वल्व को बदलना तथा प्लांट तक जाने वाले मुख्य ट्रान्समीशन पाईप पर मरम्मत करना। ऐसी उम्मीद है कि काम समाप्त होने के बाद धीरे-धीरे पानी की सप्लाई सामान्य की जाएगी। मरम्मत के बाद पानी सप्लाई पूरी तरह सामान्य होने में तीन दिन तक लग सकते हैं तथा मंगलवार छः फरवरी तक सब कुछ सामान्य होने की आशा है।

वोटर अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी ने सलाह दी है कि लोगों को अपने दैनिक जीवन के इस्तेमाल जैसे कि पीने के लिए, भोजन बनाने, नहाने और कपड़े-बर्तन वगैराह धोने के लिए पानी इकट्ठा करके रखना चाहिए। अगर पानी खत्म हो जाए तो वोटर अथोरिटी कुछ इलाकों में 5,000 और

10,000 लीटर वोटर टैंक्स बिठाएंगी जहाँ से लोग पानी भर कर ले जा सकेंगे। वोटर अथोरिटी अपने घरेलू ग्राहकों की माँग पर भी पानी बाँटेगी। अथोरिटी इसका ध्यान रखेगी कि मुख्य सेवाएँ जैसे कि अस्पताल, एयरपोर्ट, स्कूल तथा होटलों पर पानी सप्लाई का गम्भीर असर न पड़े, इसलिए 100 से ज़्यादा ट्रकों को पानी बाँटने के लिए रखा जाएगा।

इसलिए अथोरिटी, अपने ग्राहकों से माँग कर रही है कि वे काम शुरू होने से पहले पर्याप्त पानी भर कर रख लें और जब पानी की सप्लाई बन्द हो तो पानी बचा कर इस्तेमाल करें। वोटर अथोरिटी को ग्राहकों को होने वाले किसी भी असुविधा के लिए खेद है।



एम्प्लोयमन्ट, प्रोडक्टिविटी और इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशन्स मंत्री तथा इंफ़स्ट्रक्चर और ट्रांसपोर्ट के स्थानापन्न मंत्री, चोने उसामाते ने हाल में एफ.एन.पी.एफ. प्लाज़ा में लैंड ट्रांसपोर्ट अथोरिटी (एल.टी.ए.) के नए सूवा एक्सप्रेस दफ़्तर का उद्घाटन किया।

## सूवा में एल.टी.ए. का नया एक्सप्रेस ओफिस

संगीता लाल



सूवा एल.टी.ए. एक्सप्रेस दफ़्तर के उद्घाटन के दौरान एम्प्लोयमन्ट, प्रोडक्टिविटी और इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशन्स मंत्री, चोने उसामाते ने कहा कि इस नए एक्सप्रेस दफ़्तर के खुलने से अब अथोरिटी के ग्राहकों को और अधिक कुशल, ग्राहक-अनुकूल और आसानी से सुलभ सेवाएँ प्राप्त हो सकेंगी।

एम्प्लोयमन्ट, प्रोडक्टिविटी और इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशन्स मंत्री तथा इंफ़स्ट्रक्चर और ट्रांसपोर्ट के स्थानापन्न मंत्री, चोने उसामाते ने हाल में एफ.एन.पी.एफ. प्लाज़ा में लैंड ट्रांसपोर्ट अथोरिटी (एल.टी.ए.) के नए सूवा एक्सप्रेस दफ़्तर का उद्घाटन करते वक्त कहा कि इस नए एक्सप्रेस दफ़्तर के खुलने से अब अथोरिटी के ग्राहकों को और अधिक कुशल, ग्राहक-अनुकूल और आसानी से सुलभ सेवाएँ प्राप्त हो सकेंगी।

मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा कि यह नया कार्यालय ऐसे समय में खुला है जब एल.टी.ए. सेवाओं की माँग बढ़ रही है क्योंकि कि लोग यातायात के क्षेत्र में पूँजी लगाना जारी रखे हुए हैं, जिसके लिए उन्हें तेज़, कुशल तथा आसानी से प्राप्त करने वाली एल.टी.ए. की सेवाओं की आवश्यकता होती है।

“सूवा में रहने वाले ग्राहकों को अब दूर नहीं जाना पड़ेगा क्योंकि अब वे एल.टी.ए. की सेवाओं को आसानी से नए सूवा

एक्सप्रेस दफ़्तर से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं,” मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा।

“वालेलेवू स्थित एल.टी.ए. दफ़्तर प्रति दिन औसतन (on average) 300 से अधिक ग्राहकों को सेवा प्रदान करता है, इसलिए शहर के केंद्र में एल.टी.ए. सेवाएँ जनता के लिए कार्यों को और आसान बना देंगी।”

सूवा एल.टी.ए. एक्सप्रेस दफ़्तर सोमवार से शुक्रवार तक सुबह आठ बजे से शाम साढ़े चार बजे तक तथा शनिवार को सुबह नौ बजे से दोपहर एक बजे तक खुला रहेगा।

गाड़ी के इन्स्पेक्शन फीस, रजिस्ट्रेशन फीस, ड्राइवर्ज़ लाइसेंस रिनूवल, टैक्स इन्फ़िन्ज्मन्ट नोटिस, सर्च रिकोर्ड्स, डिफ़ेन्सिव ड्राइविंग कोर्स के लिए बुकिंग और मोटर वीहिकल लेवी के लिए पैमन्ट सूवा एक्सप्रेस दफ़्तर में किया जा सकता है।

नए एल.टी.ए. दफ़्तर में सात अधिकारी काम करते हैं।





वह सब कुछ जो फीजी में हो रहा है

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## टप्पू सिटी लौतोका कोम्प्लेक्स का औपचारिक उद्घाटन

प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बर्डिनमरामा द्वारा हाल में पश्चिमी विभाग में टप्पू ग्रुप ऑफ कंपनीस की सबसे नई शाखा - टप्पू सिटी लौतोका कोम्प्लेक्स का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया गया। \$30 मिलियन की इस परियोजना में 25 रेस्तरा, दुकानें और अन्य आउटलेट्स हैं।



## लीगल ऐड कमीशन ट्रेनिंग

हाल में नतंदोला सिंगातोका में Intercontinental Fiji Golf Resort and Spa पर 7th Annual National Corporate Staff Training के समापन के दौरान अटोनी जेनरल और न्याय मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने प्रशिक्षण में भाग ले रहे लीगल ऐड कमीशन के अफ्सरों से कहा कि उनकी प्राथमिकता फीजीवासियों को अपनी सेवा प्रदान करना होना चाहिए।







## नवेनी डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल के नए क्लासरूम का उद्घाटन

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनिरामा ने हाल में अपने उत्तरी विभाग के दौर के अंतर्गत दकाउन्ड्रोवे के नवेनी डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल में टीचरों, छात्रों और माता-पिताओं को हार्दिक प्रसन्नता तब हुई जब हाल में प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनिरामा द्वारा स्कूल के नए क्लासरूम ब्लॉक, लाइब्रेरी और दो डुप्लेक्स क्वार्टर का उद्घाटन किया गया।



## डाकू और नवेरेया में ग्रिड एक्स्टेंशन

हाल में किए गए अपने उत्तरी विभाग के दौर के अंतर्गत प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनिरामा ने सावूसावू के डाकू और नवेरेया इलाके के लोगों के लिए फीजी इलेक्ट्रिसिटी ग्रिड एक्स्टेंशन का उद्घाटन किया। \$73,000 लागत इस परियोजना से 23 परिवारों का लाभ होगा।







# शिक्षकों के वेतन में कोई कटौती नहीं

संगीता लाल

देश भर के टीचरों को आश्चस्त किया गया है कि इस वर्ष उनके वेतन में कोई कटौती नहीं होगी।

अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने शिक्षकों के वेतन में कटौती की अफवाहों को खारिज करते हुए यह आश्वासन दिया।

“जैसा कि हम सिविल सर्विस रिफॉर्म (civil service reform) और मेरिट बैसड रिक्रूटमन्ट (merit based recruitment) स्थापित कर रहे हैं हम यह स्पष्ट करना चाहते हैं कि कोई भी शिक्षक कम वेतन नहीं प्राप्त करेगा। चारों ओर अफवाह थी कि टीचरों के वेतन को कम किया जाएगा - यह बिल्कुल सही नहीं है,” शिक्षा मंत्री सैयद-

खैयूम ने कहा।

मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि उन सभी स्कूल टीचर जिन्हें फिर से काम पर लिया गया है, को जोब इवैल्यूएशन एक्सर्साइज़ (job evaluation exercise) से पहले जो वेतन प्राप्त होता था उससे ज़्यादा वेतन दिया जाएगा और नए ग्रेजुवट को उनके काम के आधार पर ज़्यादा वेतन दिया जाएगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि टीचर पहले साल में मूल्यांकन के आधार पर और अधिक वेतन वृद्धि प्राप्त करने में सक्षम होंगे।

उन्होंने कहा कि मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी नए अनुबंध या कोन्ट्रैक्ट (contract) शिक्षक के मूल्यांकन के परिणाम पर निर्भर होंगे और उस भुगतान को साल में बाद में अतिरिक्त पर्फॉमन्स बैसड पैमन्ट (performance-

based payments) के साथ पूरा किया जाएगा।

“एक बार रिफॉर्म पूरी तरह स्थापित हो जाए हमारे शिक्षकों को पुरस्कृत करने के लिए फीजी के पास एक योग्यता आधारित मुआवज़ा (merit-based compensation) होगा। यह उनके काम और परिणाम के आधार पर एक आदर्श व्यवस्था कायम करेगी जो न केवल हमारे शिक्षकों बल्कि हमारे छात्रों जो हमारे ग्राहक भी हैं, के लिए आवश्यक है,” उन्होंने कहा।

जनाब सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा कि स्कूल की छुट्टियों के दौरान जिन शिक्षा कर्मचारियों को उनके स्थानापन्न या एक्टिंग अलावन्स नहीं प्राप्त हुआ था, उन्हें दस जनवरी से यह फिर से मिलने लगा है।

## हेल्थ और फिटनेस प्रोग्राम

संगीता लाल

फीजीवासियों में तीव्र जागरूकता कायम करने के लिए कि उन्हें अपने स्वास्थ्य के लिए ज़िम्मेदार होना है, हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विसज़ मंत्री, रोज़ी अकबर ने हाल में कोर्ट्स और स्पोर्ट्स वर्ल्ड हेल्थ एंड फिटनेस प्रोग्राम (Courts & Sports World Health and Fitness Programme) का विमोचन किया।

मंत्री ने कहा कि कार्यक्रम का यह दूसरा वर्ष है और यह हम सभी फीजीवासियों को स्वस्थ जीवन शैली अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित करता है जो बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है।

“गैर-संक्रामक बीमारियों की बढ़ती दर से लड़ने की सम्मिलित प्रयास की आवश्यकता पर राष्ट्रीय जागरूकता को यह बढ़ावा देता है,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि गैर-संक्रामक रोग फीजी के जीवन शैली के लिए भी खतरा उत्पन्न कर रहा है।

“कोर्ट्स और स्पोर्ट्स वर्ल्ड के विभिन्न शाखाओं के साप्ताहिक आउटडोर ब्रॉडकास्ट के दौरान मुफ्त चिकित्सा जांच, पौष्टिक भोजन और फिटनेस टिप्स की व्यवस्था उपलब्ध रहेंगे।”

मंत्री ने यह भी बताया कि अगले महीने आयोजित “फन रन” में लोगों को भाग लेने के अवसर भी प्रदान किए जाएंगे।

उन्होंने लोगों को नियमित रूप से जांच और परीक्षाएँ कराने की तथा अस्पतालों और हेल्थ सेंटरों का दौरा करने की भी मांग की ताकि उन्हें अपने स्वास्थ्य की स्थिति का पता चल सके।

मंत्री ने बताया कि पिछले साल मंत्रालय द्वारा 106 मरीजों को अत्यधिक जोखिम वाले कार्डियक सर्जरी के लिए विदेशी उपचार पर लगभग एक मिलियन डॉलर खर्च किया गया।



प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा द्वारा हाल में पश्चिमी विभाग में टप्पू ग्रुप ऑफ कंपनीस की सबसे नई शाखा - टप्पू सिटी लौतोका कोम्प्लेक्स का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया गया

## टप्पू का फीजी में विश्वास

संगीता लाल

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा द्वारा हाल में पश्चिमी विभाग में टप्पू ग्रुप ऑफ कंपनीस की सबसे नई शाखा - टप्पू सिटी लौतोका कोम्प्लेक्स का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया गया।

उद्घाटन के दौरान ग्रुप के चेयरमैन कांति लाल टप्पू ने कहा कि टप्पू ग्रुप ऑफ कंपनीस का फीजी सरकार और फीजी की अर्थव्यवस्था पर पूर्ण विश्वास है।

“फीजी हमारा घर है और हमे अपने देश में वापस निवेश करने में सक्षम होने पर गर्व है क्योंकि हमारे साथी फीजीवासियों और महिलाओं ने हमें बहुत सहयोग दिया है,” उन्होंने कहा।

“कई व्यवसाय अब उबर रहे हैं जो फीजीवासियों और उन व्यवसायों के लिए अच्छा है। जहाँ तक टप्पू सिटी लौतोका की बात है, हम इसको लेकर गर्व महसूस कर रहे हैं।” “समुदाय जिसके कारण आज हम यहाँ पर हैं को वापस देने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता, को ध्यान में रखते हुए हम एक अनुकूलित कोर्पोरेट नागरिक (exemplary corporate citizen) बनने का प्रयास करेंगे।”

\$30 मिलियन की ये परियोजना जो लौतोका शहर के केंद्र में है में 25 रेस्तरा, दुकानें और अन्य आउटलेट्स है, और शूगर सिटी में व्यापार का केंद्र बना हुआ है जहाँ लोग

खरीददारी कर सकते हैं, भोजन ले सकते हैं और अपने दोस्तों और परिवार के साथ समय बिता सकते हैं।

श्री टप्पू ने कहा कि उनके अन्य व्यवसायों में रोमांचक कार्य पहले से ही शुरू हो चुका है। “जैसा कि आप जानते हैं, टप्पू ग्रुप के पास विभिन्न व्यवसायिक हित हैं जिनमें पर्यटन और यात्रा (टूरिज़्म एंड ट्रेवल) रिटेल और होलसेल (retail and wholesale) निर्माण और निर्यात (manufacturing and exports), मोटर वाहिकल सेल्स और सर्विसिंग (motor vehicle sales and servicing), कोमर्शियल रियल एस्टेट और इन्वेस्टमन्ट शामिल हैं।”

“हमें अपनी सामाजिक कोर्पोरेट ज़िम्मेदारियों पर दृढ़ विश्वास है।”

“वर्तमान में हम सिंगातोका में दो प्रारंभिक योजना बना रहे हैं, वह समुदाय जहाँ हम पले-बढ़े हैं।”

“एक है शहर के रिवरफ्रंट पर सौंदर्यीकरण परियोजना (beautification project). दूसरा है, उस स्थान पर जहाँ हमारे पिताजी ने अपनी छोटी सी कार्यशाला (workshop) की शुरुआत की थी, पर बच्चों के लिए एक पार्क का निर्माण करना।”

“बातचीत अभी चल रही है, और हमे आशा है कि हम शीघ्र ही विवरण को अंतिम रूप देने में सक्षम होंगे ताकि ग्राउन्ड वर्क शुरू हो सके,” उन्होंने बताया।

### ज़रूर पढ़ें

## यंग ओन्ट्रप्रेनर्शिप स्कीम (YES) का विमोचन

संगीता लाल

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने हाल में ग्रैंड पसिफिक होटल में यंग ओन्ट्रप्रेनर्शिप स्कीम (Young Entrepreneurship Scheme [YES]) का विमोचन किया।

यंग ओन्ट्रप्रेनर्शिप स्कीम एक पहल है जिसका लक्ष्य है फीजी के युवाओं के प्रतिभा को बढ़ावा देना ताकि वे नौकरी ढूँढने के बजाय नौकरी उपलब्ध करें।

“हम चाहते हैं कि हमारे युवा लोग फीजी को प्रशांत क्षेत्र और दुनिया के लिए नवीनता का केंद्र बनाएँ। हम चाहते हैं कि वे व्यवसाय, नागरिक समाज और सरकार के नेता बनें और फीजी के विकास के मामले में अपने विचार को सबसे आगे रखें,” प्रधान मंत्री बईनिमरामा ने कहा।

प्रधान मंत्री ने उन पाँच युवाओं को प्रमाण पत्र प्रदान किया जो YES के माध्यम से यह कार्यक्रम जो अगले महीने तक जारी रहेगा, शुरू कर चुके हैं। इसके बाद, ये पाँच जीतने वाले ओन्ट्रप्रेन्यूर (Entrepreneur) - लौतोका के सिवन नारायण, नान्दी के संध्या गाउन्डर, वोतुआलेवू के रोवियल रायनल कुमार, तईलेवू के आतूनाईसा रैनिमा और लम्बासा के विन्सन्ट पड़याची अपने व्यवसाय के विचारों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए लगभग \$20,000 तक का ग्रांट प्राप्त करेंगे।

इनका चुनाव YES जजिंग पैनल द्वारा किया गया जब उन्होंने दर्शाया कि न केवल इनके पास व्यवसाय के महान विचार हैं बल्कि उन विचारों को लाभदायक व्यवसायों में बदलने की योजनाएँ भी हैं।



# राकीराकी में फ्लड मिटिगेशन उपाय

संगीता लाल

द्वोटोरेवैज़ मंत्री, महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने हाल में राकीराकी के लोगों के साथ एक परामर्श किया ताकि उनके इलाके में बाढ़ वाली समस्याओं को ले कर उनके विचार तथा सरकार की योजनाओं के बारे में बातें कर सकें।

परामर्श में व्यापारियों, ज़मीनदार या लैन्डोनर्ज़ (landowners) तथा आम जनता ने भाग लिया और वाइलेका इलाके में बाढ़ वाली समस्याओं पर विचार-विमर्श किया।

परामर्श के दौरान, मंत्री रेड्डी ने उन्हें विभिन्न परियोजनाओं

के बारे में बताया जो कि अगले सप्ताह शुरू होंगे ताकि इस विषय को हल किया जा सके।

“सरकार ने राकीराकी टाऊन काउन्सिल को \$212,000 दिया है ताकि सभी नलों और अन्य परियोजनाएँ जून से पहले या जुलाई की शुरुआत से पहले पूरा हो सकें,” मंत्री ने कहा।

पैसे को इन परियोजनाओं के लिए उपयोग किया जाएगा:

- गफूर से एम.एच. सुपरमार्केट तक के पीछे दोनों तरफ नए खुले चैनल ड्रेन्स (new open channel drains) की सफाई और निर्माण।
- एफ.डी.बी. बिल्डिंग से शिव

राज सुपरमार्केट तक के पीछे नए खुले चैनल का निर्माण और कल्वर्ट (culvert) की स्थापना।

- डाक्टर नायडू के क्लीनिक के पीछे से लेकर आंदीज़ मोटेल (Adi's Motel) तक नए खुले चैनल का निर्माण और स्थापना तथा नए कल्वर्ट (culvert) की स्थापना।

- धीरज से सी.एम.एफ. चर्च तक नए खुले चैनल का निर्माण और कल्वर्ट (culvert) की स्थापना।

- रियर सर्विस लेन (rear service lane) (नायडूज़ बिल्डिंग) से लेकर बैंक ऑफ बरोडा तक नए खुले चैनल ड्रेन्स

(new open channel drains) की सफाई और निर्माण (rock-wall).

- आंदीज़ मोटेल (Adi's Motel) से नकाउवांज़ा नदी तक नालों की सफाई और निर्माण।

- मुख्य नकाउवांज़ा नदी से लीन बैकरी तक पब्लिक ड्रेन लिंक की सफाई और चौड़ाई।

- एल.टी.ए. से नकाउवांज़ा नदी (पुल के अंत) तक नए खुले चैनल का निर्माण।

- राम मूर्ति मुख्य नाले के लिए नई नालियों का निर्माण (construction of new drains).

- एम.एच. कम्पाउंड रोड मैन ड्रेन पर नए सार्वजनिक नालियों

का निर्माण और स्थापना।

- सुनील चन्द्र लोट (ओफ वातूमापी) के पीछे से मलबे (debris) को हटाना।

- गेलेमा में (अकबर गैराज की तरफ इग्वाना रेन्डल्स की ओर) कोन्कीट ओपन चैनल (concrete open channel) का निर्माण।

मुख्य नदी के ड्रेनज के लिए एक अलग परियोजना रहेगी जिसके टेन्डर का विज्ञापन शनिवार वाले अखबार में रहेगी। ऐसी आशा है कि टेन्डर की प्रक्रिया पूरी तथा समाप्त होने पर इस परियोजना पर काम शुरू होगी।

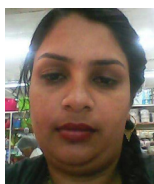
## आप का विचार

हाल में सूवा के स्टिन्सन प्रेड और वतुवांगा पुल का उद्घाटन किया गया। क्या इस उद्घाटन से आप को किसी तरह से सहूलियत हुआ है?

दीपक शांडिल, 33, कनिंघम इन रास्तों के खुलने से अब ट्रैफिक की समस्या काफी कम हो गई है और मैं सुबह समय से काम पर तथा शाम को समय से घर पहुँच जाता हूँ।



ज्योति प्रतिका, 36, सवानी पहले हम घंटों ट्रैफिक में फंसे रहते थे परन्तु अब हमें इन रास्तों में उतना समय नहीं लगता है जितना पहले लगता था।



जगदीश कुमार, 55, कोरोनोविया सुबह सुबह बच्चों को स्कूल पहुँचने में देर हो जाती थी परन्तु अब यह समस्या खत्म हो गई है।



नाज़मा बीबी, 53, नकासी पहले हमें घंटों लाइन में इंतज़ार करना पड़ता था परन्तु इन रास्तों के खुलने से यह समस्या खत्म हो गई है।



जय लाल, 60 सूवा जब ये रास्ते बन्द थे तब बच्चों को तथा नौकरी पर जाने वाले लोगों को बहुत सुबह घर से निकलना पड़ता था। अब यह समस्या सुलझ गई है।



भारत में पूने (Pune) स्थित वसंतदादा शूगर इन्स्टिट्यूट से ग्रेजुएट हुए फीजी शूगर कोर्पोरेशन (एफ.एस.सी.) के दस सीनियर इंजीनियर एफ.एस.सी. के चीफ ओपरेटिंग ऑफ़िसर, नवीन चन्द्र के साथ।

## एफ.एस.सी. के इंजीनियर ग्रेजुएट हुए

संगीता लाल

हाल में फीजी शूगर कोर्पोरेशन (एफ. एस.सी.) के दस सीनियर इंजीनियर भारत में पूने (Pune) स्थित वसंतदादा शूगर इन्स्टिट्यूट से ग्रेजुएट हुए।

उन्होंने तीन वर्षों तक एड्वांस्ड मिल ओपरेटिन्स ट्रेनिंग की थी, एक ऐसा प्रोग्राम जिसे भारत सरकार द्वारा फंड और फीजीयन सरकार द्वारा समर्थन किया गया। एफ.एस.सी. के चीफ ओपरेटिंग ऑफ़िसर, नवीन चन्द्र ने कंपनी की ओर से वसंतदादा शूगर इन्स्टिट्यूट और भारत

सरकार को उनके लगातार सहयोग के लिए अपना आभार प्रकट किया।

“एफ.एस.सी. में तकनीकी क्षमताओं को बढ़ाना एक प्रमुख उद्देश्य है विशेष रूप से नैदानिक कौशल (diagnostic skills) और एप्लिकेशन (application) के क्षेत्रों में और मिल टूटने तथा रूकने पर प्रतिक्रिया करते समय प्रयासों को बढ़ाना,” श्री चन्द्र ने कहा।

“एड्वांस्ड सर्टिफिकेट लेवल ट्रेनिंग की शुरुआत 2015 में हुई और प्रत्येक सेमेस्टर की अवधि दस सप्ताह की है और पाठ्यक्रम में सैद्धांतिक और व्यावहारिक

प्रशिक्षण (theoretical and practical training) शामिल हैं और छात्रों को नियमित रूप से भारत के चीनी मिलों और चीनी मशीनरी विनिर्माण कंपनियों (sugar machinery manufacturing companies) का भ्रमण करने का मौका भी मिलता है,” श्री चन्द्र ने बताया। उन्होंने सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स करने के लिए जाने वाले दूसरे ग्रुप जो अपने पाँचवे और छठे सेमेस्टर करेंगे, की व्यवस्था के बारे में भी चर्चा की।

यह सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स मार्च 2018 में शुरू होगा।

## नवेनी डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल में हुआ नए क्लासरूम ब्लोक का उद्घाटन

संगीता लाल

दकाउन्ड्रोवे के नवेनी डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल में टीचरों, छात्रों और माता-पिताओं को हार्दिक प्रसन्नता तब हुई जब हाल में प्रधान मंत्री

वॉरेनो बर्डिनिरामा द्वारा स्कूल के नए क्लासरूम ब्लोक, लाइब्रेरी और दो डुप्लेक्स क्वार्टर का उद्घाटन किया गया।

प्रधान मंत्री बर्डिनिरामा ने कहा कि सभी निर्माण उच्च स्तर के

लचीलेपन के लिए बनाया गया है, फाउन्डेशन से लेकर छत तक उन मटीरियल से बनाए गए हैं जो अगले तूफान का सामना कर सकेंगे।

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि वास्तविकता यह है कि जलवायु

परिवर्तन के असर के कारण विंस्टन जैसे तूफान अक्सर आएँगे और और अधिक मज़बूत रहेंगे।

स्कूल समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन तथा पिछले अन्य कुछ तूफानों के कारण क्षतिग्रस्त हुआ था।

इसी बीच, स्कूल के मैनेजर, अकिलो सीला ने कहा कि स्कूल के लिए यह बहुत बड़ा दिन है क्योंकि सरकार ने इस कोंस्ट्रक्शन के लिए \$1.65 मिलियन दान किया है। स्कूल का रोल 134 है।



# फीजी फोकस

सुवा में एल  
टी ए का  
नया एक्सप्रेस  
ओफिस पृष्ठ 19



एफ एस सी  
के इंजीनियर  
गैजुएट हुए पृष्ठ 23



प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने हाल में उत्तरी विभाग का दौरा किया जहाँ उन्होंने विभिन्न सरकारी परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन किया। अपने दौर के अंतर्गत उन्होंने वहाँ के लोगों को बताया कि उनके सरकार की अनुशासनात्मक अर्थव्यवस्था और बोलड पोलिसी का नतीजा है जो आम लोगों को सशक्त करने के साथ साथ देश के विकास में उनके योगदान को बढ़ावा देता है।

## प्रधान मंत्री ने किया उत्तरी विभाग का दौरा

संगीता लाल

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने हाल में उत्तरी विभाग का दौरा किया जहाँ उन्होंने विभिन्न सरकारी परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन किया। अपने दौर की शुरुआत में उन्होंने बूआ में तीन बोर्होल (borehole), एक गवर्नमेंट स्टेशन और एक आइस प्लांट (ice plant) का उद्घाटन करते हुए कहा कि यह उनके सरकार की

अनुशासनात्मक अर्थव्यवस्था और बोलड पोलिसी का नतीजा है जो आम लोगों को सशक्त करने के साथ साथ देश के विकास में उनके योगदान को बढ़ावा देता है। “अर्थव्यवस्था के विकास के लिए वार्ता और मुस्कुराहट ही काफी नहीं है,” उन्होंने कहा। इसके अलावा उन्होंने वाईलेवू ईस्ट दकाउन्ड्रोवे के वूवांदोमो इलाके में भी एक बोर्होल का उद्घाटन किया जिससे

यहाँ के 28 परिवारों को अब पीने के लिए स्वच्छ पानी मिलेगा। उधर सावूसावू स्थित नंगेलेकूला मेथडिस्ट मिशन स्कूल में प्रधान मंत्री ने \$3,235 लागत भोजन पकाने के लिए काम में लाए जाने वाले बर्तन दान किया। इसके बाद उन्होंने सावूसावू के डाकू और नवेरिया इलाके के लोगों के लिए फीजी इलेक्ट्रिसिटी ग्रिड एक्स्टेंशन का उद्घाटन किया।

\$73,000 लागत इस परियोजना से 23 परिवारों का लाभ होगा। इसके अलावा दकाउन्ड्रोवे के नवेनी डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल के टीचरों, छात्रों और माता-पिताओं को भी हार्दिक प्रसन्नता हुई क्योंकि प्रधान मंत्री ने स्कूल के नए क्लासरूम ब्लॉक, लाइब्रेरी और दो डुप्लेक्स क्वार्टर का भी उद्घाटन किया। \$1.65 मिलियन लागत इस परियोजना से स्कूल के 134 बच्चों को लाभ होगा।