

Vunivalu of Bau installation historic

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

IT was a historic moment for Fiji as the title holder of the Vunivalu of Bau, Turaga Bale na Tui Kaba Ratu Epenisa Cakobau was installed after a long gap.

The chiefly island, Bau, was abuzz as the richness of the traditional protocols in the lead up to the installation of Ratu Epenisa as the rightful title holder. A solemn occasion and best described as fit for a King, the event while historic was also a learning experience for the younger generations of Bau Island.

Attended by Government Ministers led by Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka and members of the Diplomatic Corp with other guests coming from as far as Dubai and Pakistan, the installation of Ratu Epenisa, clearly had the support and blessing of the Vanua and his family.

While addressing guests and family, the Vunivalu acknowledged his upbringing and the patience taught by his late father which carried him through many difficult times.

The ceremony began on a devotional note with a church service presided over by the President of the Methodist Church, Reverend Ili Vuni-suwai, before he was installed traditionally.

The title had been vacant



The installation of the Vunivalu of Bau, Turaga Bale na Tui Kaba Ratu Epenisa Cakobau was a historic and poignant moment as it was after a lapse of 33 years this important title was being filled.

Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

since 1989 and the installation of Ratu Epenisa Cakobau marks 33 years since the position was last occupied.

Ratu Epenisa is the son of former Governor-General of Fiji and Vunivalu of Bau Ratu Sir George Cakobau, and a great-great-grandson of Ratu Seru Epenisa Cakobau.

Turaga na Vunivalu na Tui Kaba is the Paramount Chief of the Kubuna Confederacy. During the installation ceremony, men from the Turaga na Gonesau in Ra known as the 'Vuakaloa' provided security on Bau Island and also

escorted him to Mateiwelagi to change into his traditional attire and then back to the main *vatuniloa* for the formal ceremony.

Eight districts' chiefs and their people in the Province of Tailevu make up the 'Matanitu o Bau' namely the Roko Tui Viwa, Roko Tui Veikau, Roko Tui Namata, Komai Nausori, Roko Tui Ki-uva, Tora na Bati of Buretu, Turaga na Tudrau of Dravo and the Roko Tui Cautata.

The Vunivalu also takes the title of Tui Levuka, as he is the traditional leader of the

Levuka people of Lakeba, Lau.

There have been 12 Vunivalu of Bau on record since the 1700s with three never officially installed as Vunivalu, but posthumously generally recognised as such.

The last installation ceremony was carried out 66 years ago in 1957 when Ratu Sir George Cakobau was installed as the Vunivalu of Bau and Tui Levuka.

European Investment Bank opens office in Fiji



EU Ambassador for the Pacific, Sujiro Seam, EIB Vice-President Ambroise Fayolle, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Professor Biman Prasad and Deputy Director-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission, Myriam Ferran, at the opening of the European Investment Bank regional office at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva recently. **Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE**

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

“THIS is a great moment for both European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Government of Fiji as this marks an important milestone in our EU-Fiji partnership.”

“It is indeed a sign of confidence and trust placed by EIB in the future of our country and shows EIB’s willingness to not only deepen its engagement with Fiji but expand its role in the region.”

Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning and Statistics, Professor Biman Prasad said the opening of the new EIB

regional office was an advantage seeing that Fiji was well positioned as the hub of the Pacific and the EIB will now be more accessible to its current and future clients.

This will also greatly complement the presence and valuable contributions of other international institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Finance Corporation, the United Nations, and others.

“The European Union has been an important partner in our development process and more recently with the engagements with EIB, now the presence of the regional office here in Fiji we look

forward to more fruitful and deeper engagements,” Minister Prasad said.

EIB Vice-President, Ambroise Fayolle, who is also in-charge of EIB’s Pacific operations, said: “With the opening of an EIB representation office in Suva, the bank of the European Union is demonstrating its growing ambition to be closer to the people, companies and institutions of the Pacific region, and to invest more in projects there. What we aim to do is reinforce Team Europe’s presence on the ground.”

“This office will be another bridge between the region and the European Union, including as part of the EU Global Gateway initiative. It

will help address key issues such as climate change and climate resilience, the energy crisis and food insecurity more efficiently,” Mr Fayolle said.

“Looking ahead, I am confident that we will be able to make a difference in helping to unlock green, sustainable and empowering growth and development for Fiji and the Pacific region.”

The EIB is the European Union’s long-term financing institution that is owned by its member states.

To contribute towards the EU’s policy goals, the EIB is responsible for making long-term finance available for sound investments.

BALANCING ACT

Minister for Finance Biman Prasad lays out plans



The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, Biman Prasad is no stranger to the operation of Civil Service and the Fiji Government as a whole.

In an interview with Department of Information, Minister Prasad laid out the plans of the Coalition Government on its financial position and measures it will be taking going forward.

Department of Information:

To start off, Minister you have met staff and spoken to many people in the weeks that you have been in office. Please reflect on your initial few weeks.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad:

People should know that I have been in Parliament for the past eight years and even when I was working in the university (University of the South Pacific) I understood how the Government and the civil service operated. After working in Parliament for eight years this understanding became even better.

I knew about Government revenue, the finances and the system under which it operates. In the month I have been in office, I have met a lot of people and especially the staff of our Ministry who are doing a great job. The permanent secretary, Shiri Gounder is very experienced and does

a sterling work. There's a lot of work to be done because as we all know that the Government's current economic situation, even before COVID, was on a downward trend and after COVID the situation became worse. Despite getting assistance from other Governments, we still had to take loans and the debt situation was already high. Current debt level in Fiji is very high, it's almost \$10 billion and this means that we want to closely look at Government's revenue and expenditure.

In the last one month or so, I have been looking at the budget of all the different ministries and out of that, as has been announced (by Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka) that students from pre-school till Year 13 will be given \$200 per child, that money we have pulled out from areas where it was either not used or it was not being put to good use so we have moved those fund-

ings and dispersed close to \$50 million.

We have also seen the PM has made an announcement for USP and the Ministry of Finance has looked into this closely.

The issue of expenditure and revenue we are keeping that in mind and on the current situation- it is a difficult and challenging one but I have full confidence in our Coalition Government. I have met a lot of people- including representatives of international organisations, high commissioners and ambassadors and I think there's a sense of unity within the people. Even the traders, there's a sense of confidence coming in.

The people are happy with the Coalition Government and they want us to take the country forward and that's what we are working on now.

DINFO: In one of your speeches recently you said in the civil ser-

vice, there is still a lot of paper being used in this time of digitisation.

Minister Prasad: What I meant is that with e-governance on the rise, which the previous Government had spoken a lot about and on the ICT sector- it still needs a lot of work because we are still far behind. There's been a lot of talk on e-governance but the infrastructure and the way it has been structured, the ICT sector still needs a lot of work and we will focus on it.

The forum organised by the Indian Government, where I spoke, there was a lot of presentation from which we can learn, and in the future, we can even seek assistance from the Indian Government in this area and improve the sector.

DINFO: Could you elaborate on the 10-member Fiscal Review Committee and

shed some light on what this committee will do.

Minister Prasad: In the past we had such a committee, the last time we had a report from the Fiscal Review Committee was in 2004.

However, after 2006 coup there was no such review and no such report. The major task of the committee will be, like I said the Government's expenditure and revenue, even mentioned while I was in Parliament that there is a lot wasteful expenditure. Now that I am going through the books, it is very obvious that there has been a lot of wastage, money spent in places where it should not have and this is why the work of the Fiscal Review Committee to look in detail at the expenditure and revenue of the Government.

The committee will also look at ways to increase Government revenue and what kind of tax policy we can bring in to help businesses grow, to provide security and at the same time ensure that the Government has enough funds to look after the social sector. You must have seen the condition of the hospitals in the country.

At times there are no medicines in the hospital, then you look at the water supply issues, there are constant water cuts in Suva and Nausori, traffic congestions and poor road conditions in the rural areas. We need to keep in mind that

it is not the Government's money but the taxpayers' funds that we are using to deliver services.

Therefore, it becomes a serious responsibility of Government to ensure they get best value of each dollar they use, be it social sector such as social welfare or school students like how we identified that \$50 million used (to fund the Back-to-School assistance) was initially not allocated in the right way, we set it aside and then put it to better use to assist students.

That's my plan in the next four years, to set a culture in the civil service in the direction that becomes their duty to utilise each taxpayer dollar well so that the citizens can access better services, our country progresses and these are necessary.

So, the Fiscal Review Committee will play an advisory role to the Ministry of Finance and Government.

The work of the 10-member committee will be to consult nationwide with the different sectors, different groups and the Government will take valuable insights from them so that we can make the right policies. Similarly, when the next budget is drawn up the report of the Fiscal Review Committee will be used so that we can look at the revenue and decide in which areas to spend.

We don't want to just sit and decide by ourselves after speaking to a few people on what will be there in the budget because that way the funds go where it should not.

Then there is the Economic Summit for which preparatory work has begun and we expect to hold this summit in the second or third week of the April. It is important because we will call different people from different sectors, the NGOs, women's groups,

farmers organisations, religious bodies and so on. We will get them all on board including business people and consult them on different issues such as agriculture, social welfare, health as well as discuss economic policies, tax policies, infrastructure, road works and upgrading of hospitals around the country. All these different groups will sit and discuss and we will listen to them.

Also, the Government will put its proposals to the people as we want to hear what people are saying on that. This is a very important Forum whereby the public can express their views and the Government, especially my Ministry, needs to know what are these issues and factor it into the budget. It will be very interactive sessions as we want to listen very carefully to the views of the people rather than make a presentation and just an-



Minister for Finance, Deputy Prime Minister, Professor Biman Prasad recently visited Dreketi Primary School and Dreketi Central College which were affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasa. **Photo: JOSIA RALAGO**



Minister for Finance, Deputy Prime Minister, Professor Biman Prasad officiated at the Penang Sangam Primary School Prefects' induction ceremony in Rakiraki recently. He says that education is a priority for the Coalition Government and it will continue to assist parents as it did before the beginning of the 2023 School Year. **Photo: SHEENAL CHARAN**

swer a few questions.

DINFO: The Prime Minister has announced that there will be no mini-budget as such.

Minister Prasad: I don't think we need a mini budget. Under the Finance Management Act, what we call deployment, within the current budget we are looking at how we can divert funds to areas where it is needed and with the same budget, we can manage for the next three to four months. And in the three months, we will be working on the 2023-2024 Budget thoroughly and make a budget that looks after the people but at the same time progresses the country and economic development.

Taking everyone together, we want to strengthen the foundation of the country because we have a debt-ridden country

and on top of that we had COVID which made the situation worse and we are now coming out of that, recovery is happening. In the meantime, we need to look at ways to reduce expenditure and increase income, and if that happens it will help us to pay off the debt and spend in areas where the public faces a lot of issues.

This will be economic management strategy, reduce expenditure and spend in areas where we urgently need to, especially the basics such as water, electricity, roads, social welfare and education. At the same time put in place policies that encourage investment from investors who will start up business and this in turn gets businesses up and running and through this, people will be able to get employment, get good salary, then only poverty will reduce and

basic services will improve because when people get employed, more taxes will come in and then revenue will increase and only then can we provide people with services.

If there's no tax and no income, then Government will not have revenue and that would force us to take more loans but we are already in a dire situation with debt and during COVID Australia and New Zealand were giving us budget support as a grant but we will not always get this. We have to work on increasing country's revenue base.

DINFO: The Prime Minister has also announced that civil servants can now take retirement at 60. Will there be any policies to assess the work of civil servants?

Minister Prasad: See

reducing the retirement age does not create new jobs. All it does is just takes the job of one person and gives it to the other. We want to increase the number of jobs, not just in the civil service but outside as well because in the private sector, where you have businesses, here we can increase the number of jobs and income. When the economic situation gets stronger, then it will get better. All over the world, the retirement age is being increased because these are experienced workers, be it nurses, doctors and teachers and here we were in Fiji, reducing the retirement age. At 55 these workers are still young and have the experience that we need. When the retirement age was reduced, people were saying that it's a way of getting more people employed but that's not true, we should be looking at increasing the number of jobs rather than taking one person's job and giving it to another. Jobs will increase when the economic situation of the country improves, when the revenue increases, when more investments and businesses come up, that's when jobs are created. Not everyone can get a job in Government, civil service has a limit. More economic activity will mean more jobs in the private sector and this is the goal of the Government. When young people come out of university with their degree, they



Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Sashi Kiran recently visited the Golden Age Home in Labasa to assess the renovation works. Minister for Finance, Professor Biman Prasad highlighted that the Coalition Government, as part of its economic management strategy, will reduce expenditure and spend in areas such as water, electricity, roads, social welfare and education. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

shouldn't be waiting for someone to retire so that they can get a job. And Government is not the only place to work, world-wide majority of the jobs exists outside of Government because job creation by Government is limited and we cannot make everyone a civil servant.

Retirement age at 60 for civil servants is the right step and people will benefit from it. So, we don't have enough nurses, many are migrating and we are losing a lot of experienced workers. If we reduce retirement age from 60 to 55, problem will become exacerbated. This is the reason for the decision and especially for nurses and doctors, those that retired in January 2022, they can return.

DINFO: You alluded to the debt levels in the country, however, will the Government take any further loans to finance its future projects?

Minister Prasad: We are in a tight fiscal position;

our debt levels has risen to almost \$10 billion. In fact, our debt level was rising even before the COVID, our economy was contracting even before COVID in 2019. COVID, of course, pushed it more downhill and we had to borrow more but at the same time we were supported very strongly through budget support from Australia and New Zealand. The economy also benefitted from huge amount of remittance during the last three years. So, as we are in a tight fiscal situation, our mid-term fiscal strategy would be one where we not only grow our revenue, grow the economy, attract more investment but also control our expenditure by prioritising, ensuring that we work within our means, reduce borrowing as much as we can and in the medium to long term reduce the debt to GDP (gross domestic product) ratio.

DINFO: What are the contingencies in the economy that the Government will look at?

Minister Prasad: First of all, we want to grow the economy so we want to remove a lot of the bottlenecks. I mean we are on a recovery mode; we want to maintain and accelerate that recovery and at the same time, we want to remove all the bottlenecks, we want to build confidence and that is why the Government has emphasised the importance of dialogue and consultation. That is why we are appointing the Fiscal Review Committee and that is why we are going to have an Economic Summit, to bring people together and collectively we achieve economic growth.

The other contingency is that we will prioritise our expenditure, we will cut wastage- there were a lot of expenditure that should have never happened and there were a lot of inflated projects where taxpayers ended up paying hugely and we want to ensure that we have value for money so that every dollar that is spent is done so wisely and spent to get the value for that money.

DINFO: What are Government's plans to reduce inflation?

Minister Prasad: As you know, the cost of living has been increasing. It is a combination of domestic policies and policies beyond our control. COVID brought in new contingencies such as very high freight cost, which has been translated into high

prices of imported goods and these are some of the things the Fiscal Review Committee will be looking at, whether we have any room, whether we can see flashpoints where Government can change things, whether its duty or helping people are struggling to make ends meet and as part of the \$200 support children, the idea was to cushion the effects of the high cost of living, the high cost not just food but also other essential items for school children.

We are trying to help people directly as well as grow the economy so that parents, young people getting out of the universities and training institutions can have jobs.

DINFO: Is the Government looking at austerity measures to save money?

Minister Prasad: One of the immediate measures, which we call the low hanging fruit, is to cut wastage and I can see that we can save significant amount of money from wasteful expenditure to more productive and prioritised expenditure where it is most needed. Cutting down on wastage does not necessarily mean that we are going to reduce the spending but cutting wastage would mean spending in areas where you will have more impact, where more people can be helped, where the economy can grow better, where utility services can be improved.

FNU helps fulfil dream of Tongan national



Tongan National, Ms Hepisipa Matekitonga, who graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) with Honours from FNU's College of Engineering, Science and Technology. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

AZARIA FAREEN

The Fiji National University (FNU) provides opportunities to individuals, not just in Fiji but in the region, through various courses and easy enrolment benchmarks for students to upskill themselves.

This was acknowledged by an elated young Tongan national, Hepisipa Matekitonga, who graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) with Honours (Lower Second Class) from FNU's College of Engineering, Science and Technology recently.

"I started studying at Auckland University, New Zealand in 2015 through a

scholarship. Unfortunately, my scholarship got terminated and the courses at FNU were much cheaper so I enrolled here in 2019 with my two years of study also being cross-credited," Ms Matekitonga highlighted.

"I waited two years to resume study due to the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the Pacific and the world, and I was lucky to get an attachment at an organisation last year for six-months - a core requirement to graduate," she added.

"In my childhood I used to take apart radios and electrical equipment to see how it worked and to also find faults and try re-

pairing them. So, when I finished high school, I was naturally driven to take up electrical engineering as a career choice."

"After eight-years of hard work and dedication all this has been worth the wait and I thank FNU for giving me this opportunity to fulfil my dream and my parents and God for always guiding me in the right path," she added.

Ms Matekitonga adds that "electrical engineering is a male dominated area and as a female, know that nothing can stop you from dreaming big - just have a lot of patience and commitment".

Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodoro, while of-

ficiating the graduation ceremony, applauded the students for their hard work and determination to reach this far.

"I commend the 572 graduates for their tenacity, commitment, and sacrifice," Minister Radrodoro said.

He encouraged the students to pursue opportunities with a goal-oriented ambition and to remain steadfast in their commitment to serving others.

The College has about 15 active higher degree research students with 11 enrolled in Masters by Research programme and four students in PhD programmes.

FNU Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba said that "it is worth recalling that a diamond can only be formed through the application of immense heat and pressure, and once polished, it becomes a precious gem".

"Today, you are that precious gem that FNU has polished, and you are now ready to shine bright in your chosen field of work," Prof. Nabobo-Baba added. In the 2022-2023 National Budget under the allocation for Higher Education Institutions, the Fiji Government has provided FNU funding of \$45.35 million.

Late Prof Lal's family grateful to Government for interment

AZARIA FAREEN

EMOTIONS were running high as people gathered in the hundreds at Tabia Sanatan College in Labasa to pay their last respects to the late Professor Brij Lal.

His widow, Doctor Padma Lal, was finally able to return from Australia with the late professor's cremated remains for an interment after 12 years of not being able to come back home.

Late Prof. Lal won local and international fame as a writer, historian and an academic while specialising in chronicling the settlers from India, the Girmityas; their later history in Fiji and their politics.

Dr Lal thanked the Coalition Government, in particular Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, for revoking the prohibition order which allowed her to bring her late husband's ashes to Fiji.

"We are indeed honoured to have the Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka and the Deputy Prime Minister Biman Prasad along with all

of you to be here with us to mark Brij's homecoming before the final interment," she said.

"Our family would like to thank you as this would not have been possible without the decision made by the PM and his Coalition Government. In the 12-years of being in exile, not for one moment Brij and I had lost hope of returning – we remained optimistic."

"We said, one day, we will return to our country of birth to continue our respective research on issues important to Fiji and the Pacific and continue to contribute in whatever little ways we can," Dr Lal added.

She added that "over the years, Brij had written several times to the Department of Immigration and to the PM's Office while petitions were also signed calling for the removal of the travel ban but it was not acknowledged".

Dr Lal said the personal and professional cost of the travel ban on them was huge.

Prime Minister Rabuka said the late Professor was



Doctor Padma Lal with her family from Australia with the late Professor Brij Lal's cremated remains for an interment after 12 years of not being able to come back home.. **Photo: Azaria Fareen**

"dedicated to the ideals of democracy, particularly freedom of speech and expression which saw him being forced to leave, and return to his academic work in Australia".

"I am duty-bound to announce a full official apology to Professor Brij Lal's family on behalf of the Government and the people – we are sorry and ashamed for the way you and the late Professor Lal were treated and promise that during our term such injustices will not be repeated."

"Like Professor Lal, our Coalition Government believes multiracial societies should strive for multiracial governments and that, as a principle, all groups should have the constitutional right to share power," PM Rabuka stressed.

"To the children of Tabia Primary School - ask your teachers to tell you about your famous school member, Professor Lal, and how

much he cared about freedom, then follow in his footsteps and become a hero of freedom like him".

Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, said "justice has been done although in trying, difficult and sad circumstances as we welcome Professor Lal home".

"This is truly an emotional occasion yet highly symbolic because it permanently buries oppression being endured for the last 16 years in this country. It elevates the Coalition Government and PM Rabuka's most important principle of full restoration and total respect for fundamental rights and freedom."

Prof. Lal died at the age of 69 in Brisbane, Australia, on December 25th, 2021 and his ashes were carried to a location on the bank of the Tabia River.

Noda Viti

Donu na veitokoni baleta na dodonu ni kawa itaukei e vuravura



Ratu Epenisa Cakobau 2, Vunivalu na Tui Kaba, na liuliu ni Matanitu ko Kubuna ena siga ni nodra mai buli ena yanuyanu vakaturaga e Bau.

SA vakadonuya na bose yaco se kebineti ni matanitu Viti me tokona na ivakaro ni matabose levu kei vuravura baleta na dodonu ni tamata itaukei ena veiyasai vuravura.

Na lawa vakaroti oqori ea pasi taki ena yabaki 2007.

Na matabose cokovaka kei vuravura ena nona vakarota na lawa ni kena rokovi

ni itaukei ena vuravura esa vakadavora kina na veigacagaca eso baleta na qaravi ni nodra dodonu ka taqomaki na vakatorocaketaki ni dodonu oqo.

E dina ga ni sega ni vauci na UNDRIP, e matataka na kena vakatorocaketaki na ivakatagedegede vakalawa ni veimatani-tu ka tuvanaka na ivakatagedegede ni nodra qaravi na itaukei ni vanua.

Na kena vakasotari na Viti ki na UN-

DRIP ena vakadeitaka ni sa taqomaki ka taqomaki tale na nodra dodonu na tamata i Viti.

Sega ni vakamacalataki rawa ni sega ni rawa ni vakalawataki se kau laivi na nodra dodonu na itaukei ni vanua – na dodonu ni tamata veitalia ga na lawa e rawa ni vakadewataki. E sega talega ni rawa vua e dua na itaukei me “soro” se “solia” na nona dodonu ni itaukei.

Tavoca ko A-G Turaga na veivuke ni bisinisi lalai ni matanitu

E RA tavoca ko Attorney General Siromi Turaga na Fiji Development Bank (FDB) National Small & Medium Enterprises Awards 2022 ena valenivolavola liu ni FDB e Suva ena vula ko Maji. E kaya na A-G ni bisinisi lalai e taura voleka ni 60 na

pasede ni bisinisi taucoko ena noda vanua ka ra cau ena 18% ki na GDP ni bera na COVID 19.

“Na bisinisi lalai era wilikina na veibisinisi me vakataka na veivoli kei na volivolitaki, teitei, qoli, vakarautaki ni vei qaravi, veilakoyaki, buliyaya, taravale kei na vuqa tale vaka na



buli ni monalivaliva,” kaya ko A-G

“E sega ni vakatitigataki ni bisinisi lalai e kauta talega mai na veisau ki na cakacaka. Me baleta na veivakatorocaketaki kei na tubu mai Viti, oqori na ka eda gadreva – na veisau ni vei qaravi se buli ni ka.”

Na icocovi ni 2022 ena

vakatikori me iwalewale ni veivakaukauwataki me tokona na tubu, ka vakaukauwataka na kaukauwa ni tabana ni bisinisi lalai e Viti ena nodra vakacautaki na dauveivakacacakatiki gugumatua ka veivakauqeti.



Ko Vunilawa Siromi Turaga ena soqo ena Fiji Development Bank se Baqe ni Veivakatorocaketaki kei ira na ivakalesilesi ecake ni Baqe.



Ko Minisita Tubuna kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Veikabula bulawavolitikeda

Ni vakamuria na lawa ni noda itikotiko: Minisita Tubuna

Sa ka bibi sara meda vakayagataka na ivakavuvuli ni kena vakatorocaketaki tudei ka vakayagataki na noda ivurevure ni veika bula, na ivalavala vinaka ni veiqaravi ni benu kei na sasaga ki na veitaqomaki kei na maroroi ni vanua taumada nei Viti me vukea na kena maroroi na sara-vanua.

Vakaraitaka na iVukevuke ni Minisita veiqaravi ena Valenivolavola ni Liuliu ni Matanitu, Sakiusa Tubuna ena nodra dolava na bose ni “Waste Management

and Pollution Control (WMPC)” a vakayacori ena Radisson Blu Resort mai Nadi ena dua na gauna lekaleka sa oti.

“Na kena tiko e dua na vanua taqomaki, maqosa ka savasava me baleta na noda itabatamata mai muri sa vakaosoosotaki tiko ena vuku ni so na noda ivalavala sega ni vakaiyalayala,” kaya ko Tubuna.

“Sa tu vei ira na tamata na kaukauwa me ra vakatorocaketaki, vakayagataka vakavuku na ivurevure, taqomaka ka taqomaka na draki, qarava vakavina-

ka cake na nodra benu ka vakatulewa vakavinaka me vakadeitaki kina ni sa sotavi na gagadre ni gauna oqo ka sega ni vakaleqa me baleti ira na itabatamata mai muri.

A vakauqeta talega na iVukevuke ni Minisita veiqaravi vua na Liuliu ni Matanitu me ra tarogi ka uqeti na itikotiko raraba ka vakayaloqaqataka na nodra vakaitavi ena ivakarau ni lewai matau ni yau bula kei na qarauni na kena benuci.

“Sa laurai talega me ikuri ni tamata yadua, oira na

vakabisinisi e kunei tiko-ga ni ra vakaitavi tiko ena kena vakadukadukalitaka ka vakacacana na itikotiko.

Na iyauqaqa era kunei ni sega ni salavata kei na lawa sa tu rawa, na ivakarau ni veivakadonui, ka sega ni sotavi na ivakatagedegede ni National Liquid Waste Standards, na ivakatagedegede ni ivakarau ni cagi ka sa tuvanaki tu ena ivakarau ni kena lewai na draki (Waste Disposal and Recycling) 2007,” kaya ko Minisita.

Dola na baqe ni matanitu cokovata e Urope ena noda vanua



Ratou taba tiko oqori ena soqo ni kena dola na baqe ni Matanitu cokovata kei Urope ena noda vanua ko na mata ni EU me baleta na Pasifika, Sujiro Seam, ivukevuke ni Peresitedi EIB Ambroise Fayolle, kei na ivukevuke ni Paraiminisitaka Minisita ni Veika Vakailavo Biman Prasad kei na iVukevuke ni Dairekita Raraba ni Veimatanitu Veitokani ni European Commission, Myriam Ferran ena otela na Grand Pacific e Suva ena ika 7 ni Maji, 2023.

“OQO e dua na gauna cecere ki na European Investment Bank (EIB) kei na matanitu o Viti me vaka oqo e dua na ivakananumi bibi ena neitou veitokani ni EU-Viti,” oqori na nodra vosa na Liuliu vei vuke ni Paraiminisita kei Viti, Biman Prasad ena nodra sa mai dola baqe ena noda vanua na EU.

“Sa ivakatakilakila dina ni yalodei kei na veivakabauti a biuta o EIB ena veisiga ni mataka ni noda vanua ka vakaraitaka na EIB na

lomasoli me kakua walega ni vakatitobutaka na kena vakaitavi vata kei Viti ia me vakalevutaka na kena itavi ena vanua o ya.”

Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Veika Vakailavo, Tuvatuva Vakavinaka kei na iWiliwili, Parofesa Biman Prasad ni dolavi ni na valenivolavola vou ni iwasewase ni EIB sa dua na ka vinaka ni raica ni sa tauyavutaki vakavinaka o Viti me hub ni Na Pasifika kei na EIB ena rawa ni raici vakalevu cake na kena itokani ena gauna oqo kei na veisiga ni mataka.

Oqo ena tokona talega

vakalevu na nodra tiko kei na nodra cau yaga na veimatanitu tale eso isoqosoqo me vaka na World Bank, Asian Development Bank, iLavo Vakailavo ni Veimatanitu, International Finance Corporation, na Matabose kei Vuravura, kei na so tale.

“Na duavata e Urope sa dua na itokani bibi ena neitou iwalewale ni veivakatorocaketaki kei na dua na gauna lekaleka sa oti ena veidinadinati kei EIB, oqo na kena tiko na valenivolavola ni iwasewase eke e Viti eda sa vakanamata ki liu ki na

levu cake na veivakama-rautaki vuavuai vinaka ka titobu cake,” e kaya o Prasad.

iVukevuke ni Peresitedi EIB, Ambroise Fayolle, ka liutaka talega na cakacaka ni Pasifika nei EIB, e kaya: “Ena dolavi ni dua na valenivolavola ni matataki EIB e Suva, sa vakaraitaka tiko na baqe ni European Union na kena tubu cake ni gagadre me voleka vei ira na tamata, kabani kei na isoqosoqo ni vanua ni Pasifika.

VEIVAKAUQETI KO MINISITA VASU



Ko Minisita Vasu kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni matanitu ena nodra veisiko e koro ni cakacaka ko Savusavu kei ira na marama veiliutaki Adi Salaseini Kavunono. Era tomani kaya ko Minisita Tuiwailevu.

E veivakauqeti na Turaga Minisita ni Tabacakaka iTaukei, iTovo kei na i Yau Mareqeti, Hon Ifereimi Vasu vei ira na Marama kei na iTabagone mera okati ira mai kina cakacaka ni veivakatorocake taki ena nodra vei koro, Tikina kei na Yasana. E mai cauraka na vei tiki-na oqo na Minisita ena nodra veisiko ena nodra vale na Soqosoqo vakamarama ni Yasana o Cakaudrove iTaukei ena loma ni koro ni cakacaka o Savusavu. E marautaka sara o Hon Vasu na nodra sasaga tiko na marama ni Yasana ena kena tosoi cake tiko ga na vei qaravi era sa vakanananu kina na Marama ni Cakaudrove.

E kaya o Hon Vasu ni gauna era dau veisemati kina na marama ka ra vakanananu taka na veivakatorocaketaki, e dau vakavotukana sara vakatotolo na nodra sasaga.

E tomana ka kaya ni o ira

na Marama era dau sega ni vakanananu se vosa walega ia era dau vakayacora saraga na veika era dau bucina vata ena vuku ni veivakatorocaketaki.

“Ni ra dau dabe ka tiki ni veitalanoa na marama eda

dau raica ni dau taucoko na veivosaki ka dei talega na lewa edau tau,” e kaya o Hon Vasu.

E vakaraitaka ni sa ivakadinadina bula o iratou na marama ni Cakaudrove ena vuku ni nodratou vale ka sa i vurevure tiko ni kena toso tiko na isoqosoqo.

E vakaraitaka na marama veiliutaki ena Soqosoqo vakamarama iTaukei ni Yasana o Cakaudrove, Adi Salaseini Kavunono ni ratou marautaka vakalevu na nodra sikovi tiko yani na marama ena loma ni Yasana.

E a lai sikovi talega ka bulagoci na Turaga Minisita mai vei ratou na ivakalesilesi ni valenivolavola ni yasana ka laki raici talega o ira na noda liganiwau ka ra vakaitavi tiko ena kena tara na valenivolavola vou e Savusavu.



CAVA NA VEIVAKARARAMATAKI NI VAKATATABU NI WASAWASA E LAU



Era lai sogota vakamatanitu na Minisita Veivuke ni Veivakatorocaketaki e na Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu o Jovesa Vocea, na cakacaka ni veivakararamataki me baleta

na vakatabui ni wasawasa e na yasana vakaturaga ko Lau.

Vakayacori na soqo e na koro ko Tubou e Lakeba ka taudonuya tale ga na kena qaravi oti na cakacaka e na loma ni yasana

ka ra vakaitavi kina e dua na matailawalawa mai na matanitu kei na soqosoqo ni maroroi ni yaubula e na taudaku ni matanitu na Conservation International kei na International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Ra vakavinavinakataki ira na turaga kei na marama e na loma ni yasana e na nodra loma soli me bau oka e Ono na wase ni wasawasa vaka Lau me vakatabui.

“E na vuku ni matanitu au sa cavuta kina na vakavinavinaka levu e na nomuni vakatara me ra cabe yani na ivakalesilesi e na kena qaravi na cakacaka bibi qo.”

“Na yasana ko Lau e taukena e dua na wase ni wasawasa levu e na noda vanua ka maucokona kina na

bula ni sasalu kei na veika bula tale eso,” e ra kaya na Minisita Veivuke.

“Na kedra taqomaki e sa tiko sara ga e ligada na lawa tamata da bula tiko qo ka ni sa vurevure ki bula ki vei keda.”

Ra tomana ka kaya ni yaga sara na veivosaki ea vakayacori e na 13 na tikina ka sikovi ka ra vakacaucautaka na veiliutaki e na loma ni tikina rawa kina me qaravi rawa na cakacaka e na loma ni 2 na macawa.

Na matanitu e na navuca tiko me sa na vakatabui e 30 na pasede ni noda wasawasa ni bera ni da yacova na yabaki 2030, ka sa cau tiko kina e na yasana ko Lau e 8.26 na pasede.



Ko Minisita Vocea kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni matanitu kei na soqosoqo ni Conservation International kei na International Union for Conservation of Nature

CABETI NA ITUTU NI VUNIVALU



Vunivalu Tui Kaba, Ratu Epenisa Cakobau II ena nodra vakagunuvi me sai Tui Kaba, Vunivalu ka liuliu ni Matanitu Kubuna.

Era sa mai cabeta na i tutu vaka Turaga Bale na Vunivalu na Tui Kaba o Ratu Epenisa Seru Cakobau.

Oqo ni oti na nodra mai vakatikori vaka lotu, vakagunuvi vakavanua ka vakadeitaki ena Veitarogivanua na kena sa mai tawani na itutu vakaturaga ni Turaga Bale na Vunivalu, na Tui Kaba.

Na veivagunuvi vei Ratu Epenisa Seru Cakobau ea vakayacori ena i ka tini(10) ni siga ni vula o Maji,2023. O Ratu Epenisa e ikarua ni nodra gone na Turaga Vunivalu sa Bale, Ratu sir George Cakobau kei na Radi Levuka, Lady Lelea Cakobau.

E dratabu ena loma ni vuvale oqo o Adi Litia Kaulilotuma Cakobau(sa bale), tarava o Ratu Epenisa Cakobau, Ratu Celua

Cakobau kei Ratu Tanoa Visawaqa(sa bale).

E a soli tu na draki ni soqo, ni taliva vinaka tu na delaniwaisiliva ka makaresese tu na lomalagi me kidavaka e dua na itekitekivu vou e Bau ka vakakina ena yasana o Tailevu kei na vanua o Kubuna.

Ea tekivu na soqo lagilagi oqo ena lotu ni veivakatikori ena Ratu Cakobau Memorial church ka vakaitavi kina na iLiuliu ni Lotu Wesele e Viti kei Rotuma o Reverand Ili Vunisuwai kei ira na veitacini vaka iTalatala.

E ra osota na loma ni valenilotu na dra vakaveiwekani e Kubuna, kei ira na vulagi sureti.

Era tiki ni soqo talega oqo na Turaga na iLiuliu ni Matanitu, Honorable Siti-veni Rabuka kei iratou na lewe vica na nona ilawalawa mai na lewe ni Bose

Yaco.

Era tiko talega na marama wekadra ka iLiuliu ni Matanitu o Burebasaga, na Gone Marama bale na Roko Tui Dreketi, Ro Teimumu Vuikaba Kepa.

Ni mai cava na veivakatikori vakalotu era a kau lesu na Turaga Vunivalu kina Bure e Vunirara, ena raratabu e Mataiwelagi na vanua ka sa vakarautaki tu kina na nodra isulu ni veivakagunuvi vakavanua.

Eratou a veivakasulumi na marama mai na Mataqali Tui Kaba mai na vuvale e Vunilagakali ka ratou veivuke kina na gone vakaturaga e Mataiwelagi.

E matalia ka totoka vakaoiti na nodra isulu, ena vakasekavula ni masi kei na masi bola vakacakaudrove ka kuria na kena kesavi vakamatata tu ena nodra vesa na isala vaka Tui.

E nodra I oro na masi vulavula ka tali vakamatau kei na vuti ni toa loaloa ka ra wabale ena masi vulavula.

E ra a lumu ena kaloni kei na waiwai digitaki ka tawa vakamaqosa tu ena basikete vaka Toga (Kato teu).

Ea qai vakataucoko taka na nodra isulu ni ra sa tokara na wasekaseka ka ratou dau vakayagataka ga na gone vakaturaga ena dua na vei qaravi levu vakaturaga e ratou dau vakaitavi kina.

Eratou qai laki veikau mai Mataiwelagi na Turaga na

Gone Sau kei na Tunitoga me yacova ni ra sa butuka yani na buturara ni veivakagunuvi.

Ea nodra iTavi na Turaga na Roko Tui Bau, Ratu Timoci Tavanavanua me solia na bilo ni yaqona ni veivakagunuvi vakaturaga vua na Turaga Bale na Vunivalu kei na nona matanivanua na Tunitoga. Na itavi oqo era a vakayacora talega na turaga nodrai tubutubu o Vunivai Ratu Jone Atonio Rabici Doviverata, ena nodra a vakagunuva na Turaga Vunivalu sa Bale Ratu sir George Cakobau ena yabaki 1959.

Na kamunaga ni veitataunaki ea vakacabora o Ratu Savenaca Naulivou Naucabalavu mai na vuvale e Qaranikula ka cabora na magiti kei na kamunaga me vakaraitaka na veitokoni ni Yavusa Ratu na Tui Nabou o Semi Matatau.

E laurai votu e matadra na Turaga Bale na Vunivalu na Tui Kaba na nodra lulu- vu ena cecere kei na lagilagi ni soqo ni nodra cabeta na I tutu ka sa lala voli mai vakadede.

“Me dreu cavu tiko na nomuni leba ka boi yawa tiko na tuiwewe ni nomuni yabaki ni vei qaravi na Turaga Bale na Vunivalu na Tui Kaba.

LAMATA KO KUBUNA



Eratou gole veimuri tiko mai oqori na Vunivalu, Ratu Epenisa Seru Cakobau II, nodra matanituvanu Tunitoga Ratu Aisea Jack Komaitai, kei na Turaga Gone Sau Ratu Joji Malani mera sa vakagunuvi na Vunivalu.

Era sa mai cabeta na i tutu vaka Turaga Bale na Vunivalu na Tui Kaba o Ratu Epenisa Seru Cakobau.

Oqo ni oti na nodra mai vakatikori vaka lotu, vakagunuvi vakavanua ka vakadeitaki ena Veitarogivanua na kena sa mai tawani na itutu vakaturaga ni Turaga Bale na Vunivalu, na Tui Kaba.

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bale), tarava o Ratu Epenisa Cakobau, Ratu Celua Cakobau kei Ratu Tanoa Visawaqa(sa bale).

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Eratou a veivakasulumi na marama mai na Mataqali Tui Kaba mai na vuvale e Vunilagakali ka ratou veivuke kina na gone vakaturaga e Mataiwelagi.

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Ea qai vakataucoko taka na nodra isulu ni ra sa tokara na wasekaseka ka ratou dau vakayagataka ga na gone vakaturaga ena dua na veiqaravi levu vakatu-

raga e ratou dau vakaitavi kina.

Eratou qai laki veikau mai Mataiwelagi na Turaga na Gone Sau kei na Tunitoga me yacova ni ra sa butuka yani na buturara ni veivakagunuvi.

Ea nodra iTavi na Turaga na Roko Tui Bau, Ratu Timoci Tavanavanua me solia na bilo ni yaqona ni veivakagunuvi vakaturaga vua na Turaga Bale na Vunivalu kei na nona matanivanua na Tunitoga.

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E laurai votu e matadra na Turaga Bale na Vunivalu na Tui Kaba na nodra luluvu ena cecere kei na lagilagini soqo ni nodra cabeta na I tutu ka sa lala voli mai vakadede.

“Me dreu cavu tiko na nomuni leba ka boi yawa tiko na tuiwewe ni nomuni yabaki ni veiqaravi na Turaga Bale na Vunivalu na Tui Kaba.”

फ़ीजी दर्पण

फ़ीजी, न्यूज़ीलैंड का घनिष्ठ संबंध



प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका, न्यूज़ीलैंड की राजदूत शालट डालौ हालही दोनों देशों के संबंधों पर बातें करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री तथा विदेश मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने न्यूज़ीलैंड सरकार द्वारा लगातार फ़ीजी को प्रदान की जा रही विकास की सहायता के लिए उन्हें धन्यवाद दिया है।

अभी हाल में सूवा बंदरगाह पर लगे हर्डिच एम एन ज़ेड एस केन्टाब्री न्यूज़ीलैंड नौसैनिक जहाज़ पर प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने यह संदेश दिया।

न्यूज़ीलैंड के लगभग तीन सौ सुरक्षा बलों के साथ हर्डिच एम एन ज़ेड एस केन्टाब्री न्यूज़ीलैंड नौसैनिक जहाज़, फ़ीजी के दौरे पर आया था ताकि वे प्रशान्त मानवीय सहायता तथा प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के बाद राहत सहायता देने की ट्रेनिंग दे सकें साथही वे फ़ीजी सेना के ट्रेनिंग उद्देश्यों को सहायता प्रदान कर सकें।

पिछले कई सालों से फ़ीजी की सहायता करने के लिए, प्रधान

मंत्री रम्बूका ने फ़ीजी की जनता की ओर से न्यूज़ीलैंड की सरकार तथा वहाँ की जनता को धन्यवाद दिया है। उन्होंने कहा कि हालही समुद्री आँधियों से पहुँची क्षति के बाद मरम्मत और सुधारकार्य के प्रयास में फ़ीजी ने भी न्यूज़ीलैंड और वनुआतू की मदद करने में खुशी महसूस की।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने जोर दिया है कि मानवीय सहायता तथा प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के साथ

राहतकार्य के लिए फ़ीजी और भी करीब से न्यूज़ीलैंड सरकार के साथ मिलकर काम करेगा।

फ़ीजी के साथ एक मज़बूत साझेदारी स्थापित करने के लिए उन्होंने एम एन ज़ेड एस केन्टाब्री टीम को धन्यवाद दिया है।

ज़रूरत के समय न्यूज़ीलैंड को ज़रूरी सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए न्यूज़ीलैंड की राजदूत शालट डालौ ने फ़ीजी सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया।

गिरमिट दिवस प्रतियोगिता

रोनल देव

गिरमिट दिवस मनाने के लिए इस साल बारह और तेरह मई को एक अंतराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया गया है।

पंद्रह मई को जबकि गिरमिट दिवस की सार्वजनिक छुट्टी रहेगी तो ऐसे में उससे पहले गिरमिट संबंधी कई कार्यक्रमों की आयोजना की गई है। गिरमिट के संबंधी कार्य कर्मों की आयोजना करने के लिए गिरमिट दिवस समारोह पर एक राष्ट्रीय कमिटी की स्थापना की गई है जिसके चेयरपेसन यानि सभापति उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद हैं।

मंत्री प्रसाद ने बताया कि

गिरमिट दिवस की सार्वजनिक छुट्टी के दिन लोग तरह-तरह की प्रदर्शनी करेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि दुनिया के अन्य देश जैसे मोरिशस, ट्रिनिडाड, सुरेनाम, गियाना, मलेशिया, दक्षिण अफ्रीका वगैरह में जहाँ गिरमिट प्रथा के नीचे भारतीयों को अंग्रेजों द्वारा बसाया गया था वहाँ से भी भारतीय मूल के लोगों तथा भारत के युनिवर्सिटीज़ में जो लोग गिरमिट प्रथा पर अध्ययन कर रहे हैं को इस सम्मेलन में भाग लेने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया है। मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि इस दो दिवसीय अंतराष्ट्रीय गिरमिट सम्मेलन में हमारे गिरमिट इतिहास, जैसे कि उस समय क्या-क्या हुआ, क्या हो रहा है, कैसे हम उन दिनों को

याद करें, अपने पुर्वजों के संघर्ष को हम कैसे आगे ले जाए, क्या सीखें और कैसे उसको एक साथ जोड़ें पर चर्चा होगी। उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि चौदाह मई, जो इस साल रविवार को पड़ता है उस दिन एक अलग कार्यक्रम रहेगा जहाँ वो शायद नसिलाई में उस जगह जाएंगे जहाँ सिरिया नामक जहाज़ गिरमिटियों को लेकर डूब गया था।

उन्होंने आगे कहा कि वहाँ के कोरोवासियों ने तैरकर डूब रहे कई गिरमिटियों की जान भी बचाई और उन्हें सुरक्षित ज़मीन पर लेकर आए तथा जिन गिरमिटियों की मौत हो गई थी उनको भी दफनाया।

“यह इतिहास शायद बहुत लोगों को मालूम नहीं है कि

हमारे आदिवासी समाज ने हमारे पुर्वजों की जान बचाई थी तथा उनकी उदारता के बारे में कई लोगों को जानकारी नहीं है न ही हम उनको याद करते हैं,”

इसलिए उस इतिहास को जगाने के लिए एक समारोह अलग से रखा जाएगा ताकि हमारे भारतीय मूल के लोग यह समझ सकें कि आदिवासियों और भारतीयों का संबंध बहुत पुराना है। हमें साथ मिलकर देश की प्रगति के लिए काम करना है तभी हम एक दूसरे को समझ पाएंगे, एक दूसरे के साथ मेलमिलाप कर पाएंगे। सरकार की प्राथमिकता है देश के लोगों में एकता लाना ताकि जातीय भेदभाव की भावना मिट सके।



गिरमिटकाल में फीजी आए भारतीय मज़दूर जिन्हें अंग्रेज़ ज्यादा करके गन्ने के खेतों में काम करने के लिए फीजी लाए थे

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

औस्ट्रेलिया से ज़रूरी सहायता मिली



फायनन्स मंत्री प्रोफेसा बिमान प्रसाद तथा औस्ट्रेलियन राजदूत महामहीम जोन विलियम्स सहायता समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करते हुए चित्र: शीनल चरन

रोनल देव

फायनन्स मंत्रालय ने अतिरिक्त आर्थिक सहायता के लिए औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार के साथ पंद्रह दशमलौ चार मिलियन फीजी डोलर लागत समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किया है।

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनन्स मंत्री प्रोफेसर बिमान प्रसाद का कहना है कि इस ग्रांट से नौ स्कूलों तथा तावेयुनी और कन्दावू हेल्थ

सेन्टर पर मरम्मतकार्य होने में सहायता मिलेगी।

मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि यह सहायता सही समय पर की गई है क्योंकि समुद्री आँधी यासा से क्षति पहुँचे स्कूलों के कई विद्यार्थी अभी भी टेन्ड्स में अपनी पढ़ाई कर रहे हैं।

इन नौ स्कूलों में :

लेकुतु सेकन्ड्री स्कूल, लेकुतु डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल, नुकुबुलु प्रायमरी स्कूल, मारामारूआ डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल, ड्रेकेती डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल,

बुआ डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल, दामा डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल, वाईलेवू वेस्ट डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल तथा रातु लूके मेमोरियल स्कूल शामिल है।

फायनन्स मंत्री ने औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार द्वारा लगातार सहायता प्रदान करने पर आभार व्यक्त किया जिनमें वूवाले साझेदारी के तहत हमारे शिक्षा के क्षेत्र, कोविड की सुँईयाँ प्रदान करने, सुरक्षा तथा मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव का बुरा असर के खिलाफ मदद करना शामिल है।

उन्होंने बताया कि अगला राष्ट्रीय बजट में सरकारी संपत्तियों में सुधार लाने पर खास ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि लम्बासा में नेसिंग कोटस की हालत बहुत अच्छी नहीं थी तथा वाईनिकोरो में एक्सरे मशीन भी पिछले तीन महीने से काम नहीं कर रहा है।

हम चाहते हैं कि गाँव में खास करके लोगों को अच्छी सेवा मिले ताकि उन्हें शहर न जाना पड़े।

फीजी कोरेक्शन सेविस का ग्रेडुएशन

रोनल देव

नम्बोरो स्थित फीजी कोरेक्शन सेविस के बावन 52 कोरेक्शनल सेविस ओफिसर ग्रेडुएट हुए हैं। इस दौरान प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने अधिकारियों को याद दिलाया कि मंडेला शासन के तहत उनकी प्रमुख ज़िम्मेदारी है कि वे स्वतंत्रता से वंचित व्यक्तियों के अधिकारों की रक्षा करें।

“कैदी आज़ादी से वंचित हो सकते हैं लेकिन उनके पास भी अधिकार हैं और आप उन अधिकारों की रक्षा करने में सक्षम होने के लिए ग्रेडुएट हुए हैं। आप इन्हें सज़ा देने के लिए यहाँ नहीं हैं। जिन लोगों को आपकी देखरेख में रखा गया है उनकी देखभाल कैसे करें इसको लेकर आपको कर्तव्यों के बारे में सिखाया गया है।”

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने प्रकाश डाला है कि अनुशासन स्वयं व्यवहार की कला और लोकाचार है, और यह अधिकारियों का अपना व्यक्तिगत व्यवहार ही उन्हें देश और राष्ट्र का एक ज़िम्मेदार सदस्य बनाता है।

आपको गर्व होना चाहिए कि इस संस्था में भर्ती किए गए आप नए लोग हैं। पूरे राष्ट्र ने आपके काँधे पर जो ज़िम्मेदारी सौंपी है उसे निभाने के लिए आपको छानबीन, अदालती कार्य वाई तथा अदालत के फैसले के माध्यम से गर्व होना चाहिए। दस हफ्ते की ट्रेनिंग में अपना सहयोग देने के लिए प्रधान मंत्री ने वहाँ उपस्थित परिवार वालों को धन्यवाद दिया।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कोरेक्शन सुविधाओं बदलाव की प्रशंसा की।



प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका, फीजी कोरेक्शन सेविस के नए ग्रेडुएट्स के साथ

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

एफ एन यू का ग्रेडुएशन



रोनल देव

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनन्स मंत्री माननीय बीमान प्रसाद ने फीजी नेशनल युनिवर्सिटी के नए ग्रेडुएट्स को उनकी कड़ी मेहनत और लगन शीलता के लिए सराहना की है।

मंत्री प्रसाद इस ग्रेडुएशन समारोह में मुख्य मेहमान थे जिन्होंने ने सफल विद्यार्थियों को बधाई दी।

उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार, बचपन की शिक्षा से लेकर उच्च शिक्षा संस्थाओं में शिक्षा हासिल करने के लिए लगातार बच्चों की शिक्षा में पुँजी लगाने पर प्रतिबद्ध है। मंत्री प्रसाद के अनुसार शिक्षा एक बुनियादी मानव अधिकार है जो आर्थिक वृद्धि और विकास का समर्थन करते हुए देश का समर्थन और निर्माण करता है।

मंत्री के अनुसार पिछले साल चौबीस डिसम्बर को जब यह गठबंधन की सरकार बनाई गई थी तब आम जनता से वायदा किया गया था कि देश में प्रजातंत्र की नितियाँ तथा

मानवाधिकार और आज़ादी की स्थापना दोबारा होगी।

“प्रजातंत्र की विशेषताओं में सभा करने की आज़ादी, संघ, सम्पत्ति, धर्म और भाषण, नागरिकता, मतदान के अधिकार तथा अन्य अधिकार शामिल है।

एफ एन यू के मार्च महीने वाले ग्रेडुएशन समारोह में एक हजार आठ सौ से ज़्यादा विद्यार्थी ग्रेडुएट होंगे।



फीजी नेशनल युनिवर्सिटी के ग्रेडुएट हुए विद्यार्थी

चित्र: एफ एन यू

अपने बच्चों में पूँजी लगाए, गरीबी दूर करने के लिए शिक्षा का उपयोग करें - महिला मंत्री

रोनल देव

महिला मंत्री, माननीय लिंडा तम्बुया ने सभी माता-पिताओं को धन्यवाद दिया है जिन्होंने अपनी कड़ी मेहनत से अपनी बच्चों की शिक्षा को प्राथमिकता दी है।

हालमें नाईलागोतम्बुआ डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल में चुने गए प्रिफेक्स को सम्मानित करने तथा स्कूल के रसाईधर को

दोबारा खोलने वाले समारोह में मंत्री तम्बुया मुख्य मेहमान थी। उन्होंने विद्यार्थियों से माँग की है कि वे अपने अद्यापकों की बातें ध्यान लगाकर सुने तथा स्कूल के नियमों का पालन करें। मंत्री तम्बुया ने उन विद्यार्थियों को बधाई दी

जिन्हें प्रिफेक्ट्स चुना गया और इस बात पर गौर किया कि यह ज़रूरी नहीं है कि महान नेता केवल वही होता

है जो महान कार्य करता है बल्कि वो भी महान है जो दूसरों से काम करवाता है।

माननीय तम्बुया ने बाकी विद्यार्थियों से माँग की है कि वे स्कूल प्रिफेक्ट्स को सहयोग दे ताकि वे अपनी ज़िम्मेदारी निभा सके क्यों कि उनका सहयोग बहुत है ज़रूरी है।

“माता-पिता, बच्चों की देखभाल करने वाले तथा

अद्यापकों का योगदान बच्चों की ज़िन्दगी में बहुत

महत्वपूर्ण होता है क्योंकि आपकी शिक्षाएँ और उचित मार्गदर्शन इन बच्चों को हमारे खूबसूरत देश के बहतर नागरिक बनाने में मदद करते हैं। फिलहाल, इस दौरान मंत्री तम्बुया ने स्कूल के रसाईधर का सामान, किताबें तथा स्वास्थ्य रक्षा की किट्स भी प्रदान की।



महिला मंत्री माननीय लिंडा तम्बुया, नाईलागोतम्बुआ डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल के छात्रों के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

बाउ के पास नया सामन्त

रेनल देव

तीस साल से ज़्यादा समय के बाद बाउ द्वीप के लोगों के पास अपना उच्च सामन्त हो गया है। अभी हाल ही में एक भव्य पारम्परिक समारोह में उच्च सामन्त की गद्दी पर रातु एपिनिसा दकोम्बाउ को बिठाया गया।

इस फैसले से बाउ के निवासी ओर रातु एपिनिसा के करीबी काफी गर्व महसूस कर रहे हैं।

पारम्परिक प्रक्रिया यह है कि तुई काम्बा के राजघराने के लोग इस बात से सहमत हुए कि रातु एपिनिसा को वुनिवालू के पद पर नियुक्त किया जाए, जिस बारे में उन्होंने कई सभाएं भी कीं। समारोह के दौरान द्वीप पर एकता और खुशहाली का महोल छाया हुआ था।

आमंत्रित मेहमान, अधिकारी, पारम्परिक रिश्तेदार तथा बाउ के भुतपूर्व निवासी जो अब कहीं और बस गए हैं, इस समारोह में हिस्सा लेने पहुँचे थे।

यह समारोह न केवल महत्वपूर्ण था बल्कि ऐतिहासिक भी। नियुक्ति के दौरान रातु एपिनिसा भावुक हो गए जहाँ उन्होंने अपने चाहने वालों, समर्थकों, तथा मेहमानों को धन्यवाद दिया जो अपना समय निकालकर दूर-दूर से वहाँ पहुँचे थे।

आखरी बार रातु एपिनिसा के पिता रातु जोर्ज दकोम्बाउ को वुनिवालू ना तुई काम्बा के पद पर नियुक्त किया गया था लेकिन उनकी मृत्यु के बाद से यह पद तीस से ज़्यादा सालों से खाली थी।



वुनिवालू ना तुई काम्बा के पद पर नियुक्त होने के बाद रातु एपिनिसा दकोम्बाउ

चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

युनाएटड किंगडम और फीजी के संबंध गहरे हुए



प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका, यू के की सरकार और राष्ट्रमण्डल के लिए उत्तरी आयरलैंड की विशेष दूत सुश्री जो लोमस तथा फीजी में ब्रिटिश राजदूत महामहिम ब्राइन जोन्स - चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

युनाएटड किंगडम (यू के) और फीजी के बीच साझेदारी आर्थिक समृद्धि, मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव का असर कम करने, और विकास को आगे बढ़ाने के अवसर प्रदान करती है। यू के की सरकार और राष्ट्रमण्डल के लिए उत्तरी आयरलैंड की विशेष दूत सुश्री जो लोमस ने फीजी के प्रधान मंत्री तथा विदेश मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका के साथ मुलाकात के दौरान यू के की सहायता की जानकारी दी।

फीजी में ब्रिटिश राजदूत महामहिम डाक्टर ब्राइन जोन्स भी इस सभा में सुश्री लोमस के साथ गए थे।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने सुश्री लोमस को उनके पहले औपचारिक फीजी दौर पर

उनका स्वागत किया जो फीजी यू के के संबंधों की मज़बूती का प्रतीक है।

उन्होंने पिछले कई सालों में सामाजिक आर्थिक विकास के क्षेत्रों में ब्रिटन द्वारा फीजी को प्रदान की गई सहायता का आभार व्यक्त किया है। इसके साथ-साथ प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने सुश्री लोमस को फीजी का दौरा करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया तथा उन्हें आश्वासन दिया कि फीजी सभी स्तरों पर यू के के साथ मिलकर काम करेगा।

इस सभा में फीजी, प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र तथा राष्ट्रमण्डल के बीच संबंध और मज़बूत करने पर बातें हुई जबकि अगले साल

सामोआ में राष्ट्रमण्डल देशों की सभा होने को है।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका का कहना है कि वो सामोआ में राष्ट्रमण्डल की अगली सभा का

इंतज़ार कर रहे हैं। सभा में जिन विषयों पर चर्चा की गई में मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव का असर कम करने, व्यापार और पुँजी, रक्षा और सुरक्षा सहित अन्य क्षेत्रों में भविष्य के सहयोग की सम्भावनाओं पर भी प्रकाश डाला गया। सुश्री लोमस ने प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका को उनकी नेतागिरी के लिए बधाई दी तथा फीजी की गठबंधन सरकार के लिए ब्रिटन के मज़बूत समर्थन की फिर से पुष्टि की। उन्होंने प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका को धन्यवाद दिया कि उन्होंने सहयोग के प्रमुख क्षेत्रों पर चर्चा करने का अवसर जो दोनों राष्ट्रों और उनकी जनता के लिए लाभदायक होगा के बारे में बातें करने को राजी हुए।

ब्रिटन के विशेष दूत ने प्रशान्त क्षेत्र को फिर से जोड़ने में प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका के नेतृत्व के उदाहरण की सराहना की।