

FijiFocus



4K FIJIANS
BENEFIT FROM
\$1.5M GOVT
STATION

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Developments link cyclone-ravaged island to rest of Fiji



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama meets children at the official opening of the four new low-level bridges during his visit to Koro Island earlier this week. Photos: NANISE NEIMILA

\$4.4M FACE LIFT

NANISE NEIMILA

A \$4.4 million infrastructural development will now connect villagers and communities of Koro Island to urban centres and the nation after the commissioning of four new low-level bridges.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while commissioning the fully-funded government project, highlighted that Koro's infrastructure network has never been more accessible, it's never been more reliable and it is certainly never looked better than it does today.

"You more better than anyone know the value of all weather infrastructure. Koro's communities were among the first I visited in the aftermath of Cyclone Winston's devastation in 2016.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe
Bainimarama

Whenever and wherever I spend time in our country, I treasure the time I spend with communities, learning about their needs and exploring how my Government can help solve their problems.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Fijian Prime Minister

NUMBERS

\$4.4m

The amount spent by Government to build four low-level bridges on Koro that will provide linkages across the whole island and to the rest of Fiji.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama (@FijiPM)

Through the @PacificNDCHub, Pacific Island Countries are leading by example (and with credibility) by charting decisive pathways to net-zero emissions. If we can do it, larger developed nations have zero excuses. #IfWeCanDoItSoCanYou

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Call centre committed to quality service

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations has achieved a significant milestone in its bid to provide quality service to its customers and in reducing the turnaround time.

This follows the recent launch of the Ministry's Call Centre and Customer Service Charter which aims to provide a new benchmark in service delivery.

The call centre reflects a cutting-edge approach towards customer care and will greatly contribute to facilitating processes and en-

hance the Ministry's role in employment.

Line Minister Parveen Kumar, in launching the initiative, said Customer Service Charter is intended to make life easier for customers and also to make the Ministry more transparent and accountable.

"The Customer Services Charter reaffirms our commitment and sets out the level of service that you can expect from our teams," Minister Kumar said.

"It will provide a suite of services including receiving request to the Ministry, receiving complaints and enquiries on our

services, follow up on complaint requests and any feedback on our performance," he added.

"A quality service culture is essential in sustaining and driving the continuous growth of our economy which has become increasingly service-oriented."

The new Call Centre has a toll free line - 1535 - which is accessible to all Vodafone users and now open for customers to inquire on employment related services or lodge complaints from anywhere in Fiji.

"This centre will be operational initially for 12 hours on working days between 8am to 8pm from

Mondays to Fridays free both via call and SMS platform," Minister Kumar said.

"Adherence to quality service provision is no longer an option but a requirement for all Government entities," he added.

"We expect our customers to continually engage with us and let us know where we can improve, or what they expect from us and to send those comments in by mail, or Facebook."

Meanwhile, all of the ministries operations are being standardised under the ISO 9001 2015 Quality Management System.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with staff of the Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Hub office in Suva. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

NDC hub office supports Pacific countries

AZARIA FAREEN

A VISIBLE commitment of the execution of the Paris Agreement for Pacific Island Countries (PICs) was evident with the opening of the Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Hub office in Suva this week.

The NDC Hub provides country and sector-specific technical assistance and facilitates match-making of support to PICs for NDC implementation, enhancement and financing which also includes strengthening policy and institutional instruments as well as capacity development.

In opening the FJ\$3.4 million funded office, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said "the only path to net-zero emission in our region is a path by which Pacific people walk hand-in-hand".

PM Bainimarama states Pacific nations share extreme climate vulnerabilities with challenges in tailoring climate plans to front-

line realities and ambitious realistic plans can only take form by listening, learning and working together.

"In the lead up to COP21, the Fijian Capital saw the launch of the Suva Declaration - a milestone in the campaign which ultimately secured the Paris Agreement's 1.5-degrees Celsius target," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"So, I can't imagine a better berth for this regional Hub than Suva, as you support Pacific nation's unrelenting pursuit of ambitious climate action."

He adds every nation must strengthen their commitments as every percentage drop in global emission matters and every solution forged at any scale can be a difference maker for the global campaign to keep temperature rise at 1.5 degrees.

"Pacific people are suffering dearly from the climate crisis but this problem extends far beyond any of our borders - it is a global emergency, its consequences impact every

person on the planet and every nation must act decisively to stave off catastrophe," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"By joining Pacific ingenuity with the expertise of our development partners, we're creating living laboratories of climate innovation and incubating ideas that can literally shift the course of history."

UK Convoy to the Commonwealth, Philip Parham has commended the Fijian Government in driving the agenda of the establishment of the NDC Hub.

"The UK is pleased to be following in Fiji's footsteps by hosting COP26 in partnership with Italy and we are determined to sustain our historic leadership on climate change and to be committed, ambitious and effective hosts," Mr Parham said.

"2020 now needs to be a year of climate ambition and it is crucial that every country comes forward to 2020 with ambitious new climate commitment which will help us meet the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement."



\$4.4m facelift

FROM PAGE 1

When I arrived I cannot recall seeing a single leaf on the tree.”

“Koro’s schools were devastated. We look forward to the opening of the final two schools Government is rebuilding on Koro, Kade village school and the Nakodu Mudu Primary School, which are set to be completed in the coming weeks.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted that “today is victory for Koro but it is hardly the first big win Fiji has celebrated in 2020 and this time, I’m not talking about rugby”.



You more than anyone know the value of all weather infrastructure. Koro’s communities were among the first I visited in the aftermath of Cyclone Winston’s devastation in 2016. When I arrived I cannot recall seeing a single leaf on the tree. Koro’s schools were devastated. We look forward to the opening of the final two schools Government is rebuilding on Koro, Kade village school and the Nakodu Mudu Primary School, which are set to be completed in the coming weeks.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Fijian Prime Minister

“Yesterday, I opened a new Government station in Namosi. Over the weekend, I commissioned a \$6.2million roading project including 8kilometres of new roadway and another crossing connecting Kaba to Kiuva. And last weekend I was in Vanua Levu, opening over \$7million worth of new roads and bridges for the benefit of our fellow Fijians in the North.

Mata-ni-tikina Nakodu Jale Tawake thanked the Government for their assistance towards the construction of their new bridge.

“The new bridges will provide a lot of opportunities for the villagers in connecting them to other villages and nation. We have been seeking the assistance of the Government for the construction of our new bridges and this was blessing.”

“Villagers will be able to transport their produce to the markets, businesses will grow on the island of Nakodu and neighbouring villages.”

4K Fijians benefit from \$1.5m Govt station

NANISE NEIMILA

A \$1.5 million investment into a new Government Station for Fijians living in the Namosi Province was commissioned by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

The new Government Station will service four tikinas, namely Veinuqa, Wainikoroalua, Naqarawai and Namosi, made up of 18 villages with a population of approximately 4,000, with two secondary and seven primary schools.

During the event Prime Minister Bainimarama said this project was initiated by the community members of the upper Namosi region when they requested for a more accessible government station.

“You told us about the long journey you used to have to take to travel to Navua for basic health needs, or Debuva for agricultural services. You explained the time and cost of this journey, and how it was taking a toll on your quality of life. And my Government listened.”

“I don’t like to refer to this as an expense, or as a cost to Government, but as an investment. You’ll hear me saying this whenever I speak about my Government’s visionary plan for building a better future in Fiji.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said this was because wise investors realise the price of infrastructure today will pay for itself in the long term as Fijians reap the benefits long after the project is commissioned.

“Whether it’s a school or a road, increasing

access to clean water or affordable electricity, my Government knows that the payoff from these investments will benefit Fijians today, tomorrow, and for generations to come”

“Gone are the days when parents and children had to travel to the Navua Hospital for basic medical needs. Gone are the days when farmers needed to journey to the Debuva Ministry of Agriculture office for seedlings and advice.”

“And I know that, as a region where farming is central to your lives and livelihoods, that time is particularly precious. That’s why I’m confident this facility will serve you well, and the benefits that the Ministry of Agriculture can be provided with unprecedented ease.”



Enosi Navunicagi, 70, of Navilaca, Noco, points at a what was a good fishing spot in the past is now a dumping area in the village.
Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

NANISE NEIMILA

CLIMATE change has rapidly intensified as we are now experiencing a lot of catastrophic weather patterns and its direct impacts to the human race is becoming reality.

Enosi Navunicagi, 70, of Navilaca, Noco Rewa, a father and grandfather, shared his experience on how climate change has affected their livelihoods as most villagers rely on the sea as a source of food security.

“In the past we did not really pay attention to climate change but then after years of experiencing the changes in weather patterns we realised

the direct effects it has on our children.”

“Where we used to fish before is no longer a good fishing area because we had villagers dumping rubbish around the sea-front. It becomes a challenge for us because we know about the effects of climate change but people cannot change this lifestyle.”

“Our village relies heavily on the sea as a source of income and food security, however, we can say when there high tide we often experience flooding and fishing is very hard so we need to go out in the open sea.”

Mr Navunicagi highlighted that during rainy weather the

village experiences flooding and this happens almost every time.

“What never used to happen is happening right now, most of our plantations get affected during the rainy weather because there is flooding and we cannot control it.”

“Most of the villagers have to look for other plots of land to utilise for their plantation away from the village area.”

Mr Navunicagi has encouraged the youth groups in the village and also sought assistance from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to assist with more awareness programs on how villagers can learn more on climatic

changes and ways to mitigate it.

Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Environment and Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy stressed the need for villagers to safeguard their environment from degradation and to refrain from unnecessary deforestation, highlighting the importance of maintaining a healthy mangrove and ridge for the safety and livelihood of the village.

Elders of the village were also encouraged to teach their children to keep away from drugs and illegal activities as it would have negative impacts for the village’s future.



Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy with local farmers at a goat farm in Sigatoka. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Minister cautions farmers on animal breeding

FELIX LESINAIVALU

Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy has urged all the farmers to be careful on the breeder buck they have because if there is inbreeding they will lose the attributes of that good animal and it will upset the output.

“You have to be very particular about maintaining your breeder buck, don’t maintain it in one year, then slaughter and eat it and use their offspring as a breeder.”

“The moment you do that, then the genetic

characteristics is lost.”

Minister Reddy shared this when asked to give on an update on sheep farming and goat farming breeds and how to get the right breeds.

“We did a cross breed with Fiji Fantastic and Australian Doper, and last January we gave out the breeder, the cross between the two, to farmers. We will do another round in a months’ time so that farmers can get this new breed into their line. What has happened overtime, is that when we do not give them a breeder, then there is a lot of in breeding and overtime the breeds that are left on the farm are left with the original genetic

makeup which then makes the animal susceptible to disease, their weight is low and their feed efficiency is lost.”

Minister Reddy said similarly with goats you will see that a lot of goat farmers now are having goats which do not have their original gene attributes because of inbreeding.

“We give them new breeders every four to five years, so that can get the pure characteristics in them.”

“We were supposed to give them out a couple of months back but we are held back slightly, because we want to make it a 100 per cent sure



Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy inspects a goat farm in Sigatoka. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Farmers set partnership for livestock investment

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE launch of large scale commercial agricultural venture in Sigatoka is an investment for the future.

Head of the Tavuni Capital Investment Limited, Suren Kumar said, “Before I retire I want to do something important, productive and leave a legacy that others can uphold and take to the next level”.

Mr Kumar along with his local partners, Jiten Kumar and Jai Kumar is venturing into large scale goat and sheep farming as well as high valued crops.

“This farm has around 400 goats with around 150 sheep, which is actually small from what we want to achieve.”

“We want to go up to 2000 to 4000 goats and sheep, especially around this farm and surrounding areas.”

“I’ve been in this business for 25 plus years and given advice to very large farms, I am an investment banker by trait, but firstly I am a farmer.”

Minister for Agriculture Dr Mahendra Reddy welcomed the commercial venture saying; “We will ensure Mr Kumar and his partners that we will do all we can to ensure that this venture is successful and becomes a model venture for other commercial farms”.

“I wish to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to other potential investors to establish their operational office here in Fiji and vertically integrate with farm level production activity so that they have full control over supply and quality and value add and export from Fiji.”

Minister Reddy added given the scale of the project, it will take them at least five years to fully establish the commercial venture.

“I am pleased to note that they have already invested in acquiring basic machinery set for farm land preparation, have established a processing and packaging house.”



Georgia Wise in her bee suit on her way to tend to her bees. Photo: SUPPLIED

Wise turns love for bees into cash

FELIX LESINAIVALU

BEING a sweet tooth Georgia Wise, 26, took it upon herself to start her honey bee farm with the agricultural land that her father had offered to her in Savusavu.

“For years I’d always try and incorporate honey in my baking and in my diet instead of everyday brown sugar. In 2016, I started thinking how expensive honey was getting and I noticed the quality of honey I was getting was not really good.”

“In the beginning I wanted to begin bee farming more for a business, but after two years of travelling back and forth from Savusavu and caring for my hives, I grew to love doing it and it became more of a hobby for me. I really started to understand how bees work, their life cycle, and their biology. They are really one of the most interesting and probably the most beneficial to the world.”

Ms Wise first went into Kava farming with the land provided and then with research, she finally began her bee farm.

“I began with a course that was offered by the Ministry of Agriculture in Nausori, it was the first module on farming bees.”

“I was so interested and so I hired the trainer at the Ministry to help me build my own boxes and organise everything I needed for farming.”

At the moment Ms Wise has five double hives which she has built on her own.

“I had built my own boxes and there were a lot of equipment used at the beginning, like the different timber and machinery but I knew that it would work out cheaper if I was planning to expand my farm.”

“I have always felt that I’ve wanted to do business, creating jobs, contributing to a healthier economy and what better way than through the agriculture sector. Apart from the obvious, bees are a very important group of pollinators and are very important to agriculture.”

Ms Wise hopes to go expand her bee farm this year to create a consistent supply of honey to start selling.

“After harvesting the honey, it is bottled in Savusavu then shipped to Suva where my mother distributes it to friends and family. I would like to thank my parents who have always supported me with this and helped me whenever I needed.”

Ms Wise currently resides in Australia and with the help of family, the bees are in capable hands.

Enumerators undergo agro census training

ENUMERATORS for the 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census will participate in a final series of training to help familiarize themselves with the use of the data collection tools and processes.

The training, which is being held simultaneously across seven locations for enumerators nationwide this week, reiterates the important role of enumerators in collecting factual and reliable data during the national exercise which is earmarked to be held from 10-28 February 2020.

Ministry of Agriculture's permanent secretary, Ritesh Dass in his opening message delivered at all enumerator trainings, emphasised the importance of enumerators' engagement during the Census operation.

"The Ministry, together with its stakeholders, has conducted a series of training to ensure that officers engaged in this vital operation are appropriately trained to fully understand the systems and processes in place and what is expected of them to deliver.

"Your role enables the collection of much needed quality information that will populate Fiji's Agriculture Census data-base," Mr Dass said.

"Such statistics allow for better planning and policy formulation and ensures sustainable development and accurate measurement of sectoral performance," he added.

Enumerators were also advised to commit and focus on their roles, taking ownership of its responsibilities and demands as the success of the agriculture census rested on them.

"Any census, survey or data collection exercise needs collaborative input from all levels of the structure in order to be successful, and to be able to generate that quality data," he said.

"There is a high demand for agriculture information not just locally but also globally and such pleas have been a driving force in



2020 Fiji Agriculture Census enumerators during a training on the use of the data collection tools and processes. Photo: SUPPLIED

the urgent need to establish a sustainable Agriculture Statistic System in Fiji."

"The primary sectors which include the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forest are the main sources of agricultural production statistics in Fiji, therefore, it is imperative to create a sustainable statistical system for these Ministries that will warrant generation of quality and timely data," Mr Dass said.

"Fiji is vulnerable to climate change, natural disasters and economic shocks, therefore it is very important to have necessary data sets that clearly identify these occurrences and allows for responsive development strategies based on evidence."

The 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census will be the first time whereby officers engaged will use the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) system through the use of tablets for data collection.

The adoption of this technology will im-

prove the quality and transparency of data collected, shorten the time for data processing and rapidly disseminate results for Census data users.

"I am sure we all are proud to be a part of this revolutionary move, and agriculture statistics, with this new device, has now embarked on a conception of a successful and sustainable statistical system," Mr Dass said.

"Make use of this opportunity to enhance your understanding of the census process, ask as many questions when you depart on the last day of training so that you are ready and confident to carry out your roles as Field Enumerators for the 2020 Agriculture Census."

The Fiji Agriculture Census training for Enumerators is currently being held in seven centers across all the four geographical divisions.

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Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy addressing farmers at Naroro Settlement in Nadroga. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Fiji 'conducive for large-scale farm investment'

THE strategic advantage of established factors available in the country's agriculture sector is conducive for large scale investment.

This was highlighted by Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy during the launch of a large scale commercial agricultural venture in Naroro Village, Sigatoka recently.

An invitation was extended by Minister Reddy to potential investors to establish their operational offices here in Fiji.

"I wish to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to other potential investors to establish their operational office here in Fiji and vertically integrate with farm-level production activity so that they have full control over supply and quality and value add and export from Fiji.

Minister Reddy elaborated that since Fiji had fertile land suitable for crop agriculture, an abundant source of water available at no cost for agricultural use, with climatic conditions suitable for year-round production and pristine endowment offering leverage to venture into organic farming, these strategic advantages could be utilized by investors to capitalize on.

"We now have to re-orient our farming system, move towards mechanization and large holdings.

"We need to have large holdings which will allow minimization of unit costs of production, an advantage over the sourcing of raw materials, large scale production, control over timing and volume of supply and uniformity in product quality," he said.

Minister Reddy said the Government was mandated to grow agriculture because it was in the nation's best interests to do so as agricultural growth in national interests would allow the engagement of labourers into meaningful and rewarding enterprises as well as putting idle fertile land into productive use ensuring landowners received maximum returns from it.

Minister Reddy added this new venture would provide a source of livelihood for rural dwellers; and assist Fijians in meeting the food and nutritional security objective.

The Ministry of Agriculture will assist and develop a plan to supply them with the seedlings on a monthly basis as this staggered approach would allow ample time for them to prepare their land as well as acquire new land.

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Plant processing 'best option' for farmers

F IJI is producing around 8500 tons of pineapple in a year at a value of \$10.7m.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy while launching the Pacific Crown Canned pineapple.

Minister Reddy applauded Food Processors (Fiji) Limited for establishing a processing plant for pineapple.

"With this new market, we can raise the production by end of the year to at least \$12m and in five years' time, to at least \$25m," he said.

Minister Reddy said it was something he terms as market led inducement of production rather than inducing production via subsidies and grants.

"We are moving in the right direction in terms of incentivizing the farmers by taking the market to them."

"Fiji has a huge potential both in local and export market which be unlocked by food processing and value addition," Minister Reddy added.

He also presented certificates to farmers – loyal partners with the company for the past 10 years

-news@govnet.gov.fj



Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy applauded Food Processors (Fiji) Limited for establishing a processing plant for pineapple. Photo: EMI KOROITANO



Six new quarters benefit district school

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE timely assistance from the Office of the Prime Minister's small grants scheme has empowered the teachers, students, parents and the stakeholders of Namalata District School.

This was highlighted by Namalata School Principal Log Nadan during the commissioning of six new quarters by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at Namalata District School in Korovou.

"With your support and guidance we will take Namalata District School to another level, we have already started and changes will be made."

Mr Nadan said this occasion will be one to remember for everyone at the school and it will also create a friendly environment that enables job creation and economic growth.

He thanked the Government for its commitment towards education, especially at Namalata District School.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said he was proud to be at the school to deliver what he promised to the school.

"We all know that a good teacher can have a lifelong impact, so we cannot take their comfort or quality of life for granted."

"With the peace of mind, independence and security, proper housing, your teachers can fully focus on what matters most, teaching."

"And I'm confident that with this heightened quality of life what they will now bring to the



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with students of Namalata District School after the official opening of their teachers' quarters in Tailevu. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

classroom will be felt directly by their students."

Prime Minister Bainimarama added sometimes, all it takes is that extra push from a motivated teacher to inspire a passion that stays with a young girl or boy for the rest of their life.

"Whenever and wherever I spend time in our

country, I treasure the time I spend with communities, learning about their needs and exploring how my Government can help solve their problems."

"That personal, face-to-face interaction is what I love most about Fiji."

\$3.3m road brings relief to north villagers

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE opening the \$3.3million Lekutulevu Rural Road has not only provided better roads for Fijians in the area but is a way to bring back the people of Lekutulevu who left for greener pastures.

This initiative provides better access road which is four kilometres long and includes three bridges built to withstand intense flooding.

Salanieta Manadawa, a Lekutulevu villager who has been residing in Dreketilailai for a couple of years, said they were now ready to move back to their village.

"The lack of a proper road which restricted access for most of us, forced us to move closer to town. Our people are scattered around communities in Labasa for the sake of education and access to necessary services," Manadawa said.

"Travelling from Lekutulevu to Dreketilailai where we can catch the bus is no easy feat. We have to cross the river three times and walk for hours before we could get here but with this new road, we are ready to move back to our village."

"For this, we are thankful to the Prime Minister and the Government for making this possible."

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while commissioning the project, said this was a part of a wider Vanua Levu Resilience Programme that will see the Fiji Roads Authority provide more direct, resilient, sustainable, and cost-effective travel all throughout Vanua Levu.

"While those living in Lekutulevu no longer have to worry about making the difficult choice of whether to stay or swim, there are many hundreds of communities scattered all throughout Fiji where, undoubtedly, Fijians will continue to wade through dangerous waters," PM Bainimarama said.

"As we live in a world where climate change is making storms worse, our rivers are even more unpredictable. The same stream or river that you or I may have swum across as children poses a very different risk today than it did when we were young."

"This is why I take time to personally come to see projects like this one firsthand, because I know that the impact it has on your communities will not only be life-changing, but life-saving."

"It is a project that will undoubtedly prove critical to linking the people of Lekutulevu to surrounding communities, the rest of Vanua Levu, and indeed, all of Fiji."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Kaba and Kiuva villagers after the commissioning of the unsealed road that connects Kiuva road and Kaba peninsula in Tailevu. Photo: MARICA CAUCAU

MARICA CAUCAU

MORE than 200 villagers of the district of Kaba in Tailevu have lauded the recent opening of their peninsula road by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

The \$6.2 million eight kilometre unsealed road now connects Kiuva road to the Kaba peninsula.

Prime Minister Bainimarama, while officiating at the event, said that the new road will enable local farmers to get their produce to the Nausori market more quickly.

"Travelling to school will also be much faster for students travelling to not only the Kaba District Primary School in Dromuna Village, but also to the schools along the existing road to Kiuva, Buretu and Nakelo," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

The Head of Government added

that villagers will have a quicker commute to health centres and other government services, allowing them to fully participate in Fiji's unprecedented progress and economic prosperity."

An emotional 59-year-old Emele Radio said that previously villagers used to pay up to \$80 for a one way boat trip from Nakelo landing to Dromuna village.

"This new road has opened up a lot of opportunities for us. We can now take our produce to the market with ease," Ms Radio said.

"Previously we used to leave our vehicles also at the landing and travel to the village by boat. This was quite a challenge for us because we had to wait for the boat captain which took up a lot of time."

Sharing similar sentiments was the village headman of Dromuna, Tomasi Tokalauvere.

"This new road has greatly eased transportation for us. We now can travel freely and at our own leisure," Mr Tokalauvere said.

"We don't have to pay as much now for transport costs like we used to before for our school students."

Prime Minister opens \$6.2m peninsula road



Learn to conserve wetlands, minister urges

NANISE NEIMILA

CONSERVATION of wetlands ecosystems is essential not only for sustainable fresh water supply and flood mitigation but also for preserving biodiversity.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy while officiating at the 2020 Wetlands Day Celebration at the Upper Navua Conservation Area, in Serua.

The convention on wetlands of international importance more commonly known as the RAMSAR convention, is an international agreement promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

This is the only global treaty to focus on a single ecosystem.

Minister Reddy adds that wetland conservation is vital for individuals considering the services it provides in the ecosystem.

“Wetlands are incredibly vital for humans,



Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy (right), at the 2020 Wetlands Day Celebration at the Upper Navua Conservation Area, in Serua. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

ecosystems, and for our climate as they nurture a great diversity of life,” he said.

The upper Navua conservation area is source of income sustenance for the nearby village communities with its wide range of products, building materials, medicine source, and orna-

mental materials not to mention the river has been used as a mean of transportation for so many years.

Rivers Fiji director Kasiniro Taukeinikoro shared similar sentiments of how important wetlands are and the contribution it has to the natural environment.

“We need to protect our natural environment, in particular wetlands like this one in Navua, we cannot afford to pollute this natural reserve.”

“We have responsibility as business owners and resource owners to protect this pristine environment. As tour guides we always encourage our visitors to be mindful and not to litter in the rivers because a lot this wetlands are depleting because of continuous logging, polluting of the environment.

The Upper Navua Conservation Area (UNCA) is a source of economic sustenance to the nearby village communities with its wide range of food products, building materials, medicine source and ornamental materials.



Salanieta Koro and Chris Shalendra
Photo: SUPPLIED

Dynamic duo champions the environment

EMI KOROITANO

AS the need for a planetary emergency has increased, so has the fleet of eco-activists in different parts of the world like Fiji.

Salanieta Koro and partner Chris Shalendra felt called to adjust to a more eco-friendly lifestyle, which included changing to a plant-based diet and planting trees along My Suva Park.

This is in alignment to the planetary emergency that has been the mantra of world leaders and scientists.

“Never before has there been a need for a state of planetary emergency until now,” Ms Koro explained.

“And that gives us an idea of just how dire the situation is. We decided that we could not, in good conscience, have this knowledge and not play our role to mitigate climate change- particularly with regards to carbon emissions and our carbon footprint.”

Ms Koro and her partner decided to walk the talk as they both made the bold effort of turning vegan.

“Switching to a plant-based diet is the most effective way to lower carbon emissions- the meat and food industry contributes 15 per cent of global carbon emissions- more than air, sea and land transport sector combined.”

The budding climate advocate and her friends have also started composting and recycling plastics as an effort to lower their carbon footprint.

“And finally, we decided to plant mangrove seedlings every week to sequester the carbon emissions we still released so that we can achieve carbon neutrality,” Ms Koro added.

She explained My Suva Park is their area of focus for the time being “but we’d be happy to plant mangroves anywhere”.

“This is not just a one-year goal for Chris and me. We will continue to plant mangroves consistently in order to offset our carbon dioxide emissions for the rest of our lives.”

Their target for the end of this year is to influence at least 20 people to convert to veganism and to plant 200,200 mangrove seedlings.



A University of the South Pacific (USP) student rides the electric bike at the Laucala Campus. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

USP builds eco-friendly transport

EMI KOROITANO

AS vehicles have become a major cause of global warming, Ali Mohammadi says electric bikes are a great eco-friendly alternative.

Mr Mohammadi, who is a lecturer in the School of Engineering and Physics at the University of the South Pacific (USP), also believes this would be a good solution to the ever-increasing prices of petroleum and gasoline based fuels.

“Pacific Island Countries will need to look for more sustainable, cheap and user-friendly means of transportation which are not only economical but environmentally friendly as well,” he said.

Mr Mohammadi said Fiji is easily affected by the price changes in fuel hence having

an efficient and non-fuel depended vehicle is a choice many would prefer in the Pacific.

“The proposed E-Trike should be able to cater for the transportation needs of many people. Cheap and compact design is what most people require these days. It comes as a bonus when modern control techniques can be used to make the usage of tikes effortless and safe,” he said.

The bike, which was designed and built by the School of Engineering & Physics at USP, is a conventional mechanical bicycle interfaced with electric motor and a controller that is used to assist the user exert less force but not completely replace it.

An ordinary bicycle is designed to carry just one passenger.

An electric bike, on the other hand, is conventional mechanical bicycle interfaced

with electric motor and a controller that is used to help assist the user to exert less force but not completely replace it.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said Fiji is a nation that is backing the demands of youths for action with climate-conscious development, slashing its emissions while building an inclusive and resilient economy. “We are committed to reaching the Paris Agreement’s 1.5-degree target by achieving net zero emissions by 2050,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“We all know that for Fiji, and any Pacific Island country, adapting to climate change is a much more urgent priority than reducing our negligible levels of emissions.”

“Indeed, effective adaptation is inseparable from sustainable economic development,” he added.



\$4.4m infrastructural development relinks island to rest of Fiji

VILLAGERS of Nakodu, Waitabu, Nasoi and Nasau on the island of Koro will now access new low-level bridge crossings after Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama commissioned the projects during his one-day visit to the island.

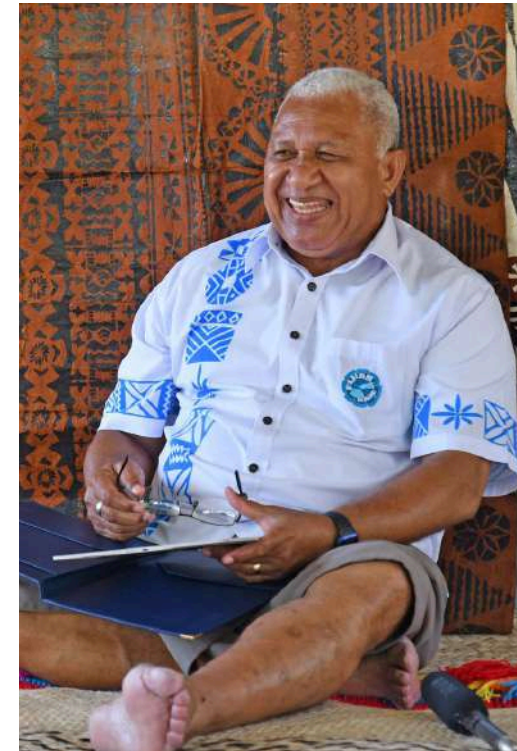
The \$4.4million infrastructural development project will connect communities to each other and connect Koro with the rest of the nation like never before.

PM Bainimarama said the island's infrastructure network had never been more accessible, more reliable and certainly never looked better than it did after the commissioning.

The head of government also visited Qalivakabau Primary School before heading to Nasau Village for a talanoa session.

Koro was ravaged by tropical cyclone Winston in February 2016, in which seven people died at Nasau alone.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



RFMF troops commended for bushfires relief efforts

Fiji's commitment in reaching out to our Australian "Vuvale" in response to the bushfires rebuilding efforts have been commended by the Australian Defence Force (ADF). This has been in recognition of the work carried out

by the 54-member engineering contingent of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) deployed to Australia to assist with the recovery efforts. As the Vuvale Partnership culminates into unprecedented co-operation, the official visit

by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, Inia Seruiratu to Australia on Monday this week paves the way forward for strengthening engagements with the Australian Defence Force

Photos: SUPPLIED

Maintain professionalism, A-G urges

MEREANI GONEDUA

SUPPORT staff of the Legal Aid Commission have been urged to maintain their standard of professionalism at all times.

This was the statement made by the Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum at the closing of commission's annual corporate

staff workshop at the InterContinental Resort and Spa recently.

The A-G highlighted that apart from being professional at all times officers needed to ensure that they always uphold integrity, values and principles.

He stressed that integrity meant that officers would be able to stand up against bribery when it happens.

"If somebody gives you a bribe, you actually tell them you don't want to take it and you report that person even though you may be the best of mates," the A-G said.

"You have to maintain your standard of professionalism at all times. You have to ensure that you continuously maintain high levels of integrity and integrity involves ensuring that you deliver

service with security even with your own organisation."

He called on those present to ensure that every person requiring their services are treated with respect and provided with the best services they can offer.

"We expect that you will treat those people who walk into your doors with dignity and respect. Many times, I have seen that just

because somebody does not drive a Prado and catches the bus, and may not be able to speak English properly or is poor, or not well connected, people don't treat them well. Please do not do that," the A-G said.

He reiterated that the whole reason for them being in the organisation is to serve and they must not lose focus on this.

School heads told to monitor classroom activities

MEREANI GONEDUA

SCHOOL heads should be aware of what their teachers are teaching in their classrooms and should ensure that students are learning what they need to.

This was emphasised by the Ministry of Education's Head of National Service Delivery Unit, Timoci Bure, during a meeting with the Minister for Education, Rosy Akbar, senior education officials and school heads from Nadi, Lautoka and Yasawa at the Fiji National University campus in Lautoka.

"How well do you know what your teachers are teaching in the classrooms and how well do you know that your teachers are teaching from the syllabus and that students are able to understand the activities?" Mr Bure asked.

He stressed that these questions can only be answered if head of schools move into the various classrooms and observe the sessions.

"You can't fix the performance of your students from your office; you have to get out and go to the classrooms and see what is happening."

He called on the school heads to ensure that teachers are acknowledged for achieving excellent pass rate as this can boost their morale.

"Every child you teach has a dream and that is the dream of their family, community and also a dream of the nation.

"We hold the key to that dream. The position you hold is very important and that is why the Minister for Education is going around meeting all head of schools to remind you that you have a very important role to play in nation building," Mr Bure said.

"We need to get our students educated; every child needs to be educated in all areas of our country. Those in the squatter's settlements need to be educated, they need to come out of that poverty cycle and the only way out is education.

"The children in our villages – they need to know the importance of the resources they have and that can only be known through education. They have a huge amount of resources yet the mindset to develop those resources is not there and that is why education is very important."

Mr Bure also reminded the school heads to be passionate about the work they do.

Aussie tourists grateful for Fiji's help

MEREANI GONEDUA

"WE are grateful for any assistance provided to Australia during this difficult time."

This were the words of a 70-year-old Australian tourist to Fiji John Maddock who was at the Nadi International Airport traveling back to Australia with his wife during the departure of the 54 Republic of Fiji Military Forces personnel to Australia.

The 54 RFMF personnel

have been deployed for one month to Australia to assist in combating its recent fire crisis.

"We've had many fires in Australia but not as devastating as this one. We were at our home when the recent fires begin and even though we did not lose anything were very saddened by what has happened to the others," Mr Maddock said.

He acknowledged the various nations including Fiji for assisting their home in the

recent crisis and highlighted that Australians are grateful for all the help rendered so far.

Furthermore, Mr Maddock said that even though it would be difficult to return home but seeing everyone helping out during this difficult time has encouraged Australians around the world that there are still some good neighbours out there.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs, Inia Seruiratu, while farewelling the

soldiers stressed the importance of their work.

Minister Seruiratu told the soldiers that their deployment was not one to be taken lightly and they were to complete every task required of them and to the best of their ability.

He also acknowledged the families of the soldiers and encouraged them to pray and support the troops as it will be a source of inspiration and strength to the contingent as they leave on this arduous assignment.

John Maddock and his wife Mrs Maddock
at Nadi International Airport
Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

PM opens new library for island school

JOSAIA RALAGO

IT was an emotional day for the elders of Kia Island to witness another Government investment in the education of their young ones.

Poliyani Josefa, 78, of Daku Village joined the rest of the island during the commissioning of a new school library for Kia District School.

Mr Josefa said this initiative marked a new era for the students on the island as they had better resources to help them in their academic journey.

“When I was in class one some decades ago, we had our classes in a “bure”, we had no desks, no chairs and there were no books given to us,” he said.

“Years went on before we could afford to build wooden classrooms for our children, and to purchase other materials to help them in their education.

“Witnessing the opening of this library for the children of Kia is a milestone achievement and one that we are so grateful to the Government for. Education in our island and in the country has improved so much.”

Headteacher Iosefo Meke said the new library has greatly assisted students in terms of the resources available and a proper place for them to read.

“We are thankful to the Prime Minister for funding this project. This is a maritime school and this library constructed for the students is set to bring positive changes for them,” Mr Meke said.

The Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while officiating at the event, said nothing made him prouder than watching the transformative journey of the Fijian education system.

“We made education free, we then made textbooks free, and massively expanded tertiary loans and scholarships, giving students from across our islands — urban rural and maritime regions alike — the chance to pursue their dreams,” PM Bainimarama said.

“Because of that record, today, we have more children in school than ever before including record numbers of girls in classrooms worldwide.”

He urged the students to read as it would greatly assist them in their academic journey and their future.

There are a total of 53 students enrolled this year who would benefit from this \$60,000 project.

Rural school thankful for teachers quarters

JOSAIA RALAGO

IT was a day to celebrate for the people of Wailevu in Cakaudrove when Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama opened two by two bedroom teachers’ quarters for the lone high school in their district.

While officiating at the event, Prime Minister Bainimarama said the school was a symbol of progress.

“Before this school existed, parents had to send their children to secondary schools in Savusavu, or even as far off as Taveuni, Labasa and Viti Levu,” he said.

“Today, the student body — around 250 strong — hails from many small communities around the area, from Wailevu West to other nearby villages and settlements such as Naiqaqi, Laucala, Valeni, Natuvu, Vunidamoli and

Natua.

“This college is a symbol of progress. Its growth has meant a growth in opportunities available for your young people. And this addition to your campus marks a continuation of our dedication to this school and to every member of this community.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that a great teacher could have a lifelong impact on the

society, holding the future of so many young Fijians in their hands every day.

“For this reason, my Government has recognised that we cannot take the comfort or quality of life of Fijian teachers for granted,” he said.

“With the peace of mind, independence, and security that this new, proper housing will provide, your teachers can now

fully focus on what matters most — teaching.”

This initiative is a promise delivered by the Prime Minister after it was requested by the school management during his visit in 2017.

School principal Rupeni Vulaca said this was initiative was another show of support from the Prime Minister for the education of young Fijians, for which they are truly grateful for.

JOSAIA RALAGO

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has assured students that the Government was there to support them with their dreams and aspirations in life.

“I look forward to seeing your students grow up to achieve great things in the years to come,” Prime Minister Bainimarama told teachers.

“No matter what dreams they hope to achieve for their future, my Government will be there to support them, every step of the way.”

The Prime Minister made these comments while commissioning two by two bedroom teachers’ quarters at Uluvalili College in Cakaudrove last week.

“Every Fijian girl and boy has a greatness within you, and education allows you to tap into that greatness — and discover your true potential — to create whatever life you want for yourself,” he urged the students.

“As you continue through this term, and through all of your educational journey — from secondary school to beyond — I want you to remember that. Today in Fiji, you can do anything you put your mind to; so don’t let the immense opportunities that exist go to waste.”

Established in 2012, the school is home to



Uluvalili College students in Wailevu, Cakaudrove. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

students from Year 9 to 13 and is located 46 kilometres from Savusavu Town.

“Before this school existed, parents had to send their children to secondary schools in Savusavu, Taveuni, Labasa and Viti Levu,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“Today, the student body — around 250 strong — hails from many small communities around the area, from Wailevu West to other nearby villages and settlements such as Naiqaqi, Laucala, Valeni, Natuvu, Vunidamoli and Natua.”



Foot bridges ease villagers' struggles



Enosi Navunicagi proudly stands at the newly-constructed foot bridge at Naivilaca Village in Noco, Rewa. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

NANISE NEIMILA

AN emotional 70-year-old Enosi Navunicagi could not hold back his emotions as he witnessed the commissioning of two foot bridges at Naivilaca, Noco Rewa last week.

"It has been a long-time coming for us at the village, for me the two crossings will benefit our women and children especially since this place always gets flooded."

"I am one of the elders in this village and to see our grandchildren struggle through the swampy crossings so we decided to build planks for the time being, however, due to heavy rain it would just then wash away."

Mr Navunicagi commended the Fijian Government for their commitment towards providing better accessible foot bridges for those living in rural areas.

Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment

Dr Mahendra Reddy said such initiatives are a national priority for the Government.

"The Government is committed towards improving the livelihoods of Fijians living in the rural and maritime areas. The \$7,000 project will benefit close to 45 households and over 150 villagers."

Minister Reddy reiterated the Fijian Government's commitment towards the protection and development of rural and maritime communities for improved quality of life, highlighting public service delivery being brought to rural communities to address the disparity between rural and urban growth.

"Our Prime Minister noted that there was a lot of disparity in the growth and development in rural and maritime areas and urban areas with regards to the quality of health services, within the education sector, roads, water, electricity etc."

"The quality of life in the rural and maritime area was much lower than what we had in an

urban area and our Prime Minister decided that one of his objectives would be to ensure the quality of life for rural and maritime communities is improved," he said.

Minister Reddy stressed that the underlying objective was to provide equal opportunities to all Fijians to ensure rural and maritime communities were part of the growth and development process.

"Therefore it is important that we reach out to them and provide them with the basic infrastructure that will contribute towards their development and under this Government-led by our Prime Minister we are working very hard to secure and improve the livelihoods of rural and maritime communities," he stressed.

Minister Reddy further reiterated the need for villagers to safeguard their environment and refrain from the careless disposal of rubbish especially in the waterways which contribute to flooding during a heavy downpour.

Villagers commend Govt for timely assistance

NANISE NEIMILA

"FOR past 20 years we have been walking in swampy areas which gets worse during wet season as we have to cross a flooded crossing- it has been a challenge for us and our children too."

This was sentiments of Taraivini Ratumaitavuki from Nakuruwai in Noco, Rewa as she commended Government for responding to their plea and constructing a foot bridge that was commissioned last week.

"The bridge will assist villagers to access their plantation because at times when it rains heavily we have to walk for miles then reach our plantations but with the new bridge we can cross on dry surface."

"Our children will not have to walk in mud especially when they have to wait for the bus to take them to school."

The \$2700 foot crossing will benefit the 10 households as it will vastly improve accessibility for the villagers to their farms and neighbouring villages.

Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy reminded the villagers that such initiatives are a national priority for the Government.

"The aim is to assist communities and villagers with basic needs and infrastructure to improve living standards and quality of life in the rural and maritime sector," Minister Reddy said.

He stressed that these initiatives are a national priority to assist rural and outer island communities to meet their basic needs, improve living standards and become self-sufficient.

Nakuruwai Village headman, Ratu Emosi Ratumaitavuki said the crossing was a big help to the villagers as the whole village faced difficulty in crossing, especially women and children, who had no choice but to cross over on a piece of timber and a coconut trunk.

"I would like to thank the Government for their assistance towards the crossing and this will greatly assist villagers."

The foot crossing bridge will also consist of solar lights which will allow the villagers to cross safely during night time.

Prayers answered as bridge opened

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE prayers of many residents living along the Korotari River and nearby areas have finally been answered following the opening of a new bridge.

Residents who used to cross the river on foot or used the suspension before it got damaged, now have a reason to celebrate.

A 44-year-old Mareselo Natui of Koromakawa Village said the construction of the bridge was the fruit of their prayers coming to life.

"We have gone through so much in past years because of the lack of a proper crossing. There have been times during floods when we have had to carry sick patients across using bamboo rafts and at times the rafts capsize on our way, then we'd need get them on the bilibili again," he said.

"Our children would now be able to cross to school and back on a proper bridge without having to cross the river, and this has been some of our main areas of concern.

There are instances when they slip because the water reaches up to thigh at some point while crossing."

Mr Natui said they have been requesting for this bridge for years and were grateful that the Government has invested in building one for them.

Kiran Devi of Korotari shared similar sentiments saying it would now be easier for cane farmers to transport their cane to the mill.

"The communities here are mainly made up of farmers and with this bridge in place, it would help us a lot in getting our produce to the market and the cane to the mill," Ms Devi said.

"This is a really good initiative and I would like to thank the Government for this."

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while opening the bridge, said the \$4.5 million Bridge represented a direct investment in the opportunities available to Fijian people.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama officially opens the new Korotari bridge in Labasa. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO



Doreen Prasad speaks during the launch of the My Kana Garden App.
Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

App launch ‘for a healthier Fiji’

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE main goal for the new Mai Kana Garden app is centered on having a healthier Fiji.

These were the words shared by Learning Experience Designer of the Center for Flexible Learning, Mojito Jone during the launch of the Mai Kana Garden app at Holiday Inn, Suva recently.

“In 2016 we applied for this strategic research theme, an idea that was born over a morning tea talking about a crazy idea to create this app,” Mr Jone said.

“We put the research proposal to do this project and a year later we were given a grant to create this My Kana Garden App.”

Mr Jone said the rise of non-communicable diseases related deaths was the reason that drove the team to develop the app.

“The heart of this My Kana Garden App is centered on this ‘my healthy plate’, which basically means we want people to eat healthy.”

While officiating at the launch of the new app, Minister for Health, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said, “This home gardening component is to encourage all Fijians to grow home vegetables, fruits and crops and to eat healthy.”

“It is based on the Ministry of Health’s home gardening guide to grow your own food and also provides informative instructions that users can follow to start their home food gardens.”

“Through the My Kana App all our health facilities will stand a model health establishment for food gardens, promote healthy living and complement the food rations in the hospitals.”

Minister Waqainabete added that the Ministry currently uses the My Kana App to train its health workers around Fiji.

The app is currently available to android users only with plans to make it available to iPhone users in the future.



Minister for Forest Osea Naiqamu plants a tree at Naboutini Village, Serua, during the ‘30 Million Trees in 15 Years’ initiative in the Western Division. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Fiji ‘doing more to address climate change’

VIRENDRA LAL

NO nation, however big or small, wealthy or poor can escape the impact of climate change.

These are the words of the Minister for Forest Osea Naiqamu at the tree planting exercise at the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) headquarters in Suva at the weekend.

“Rising sea levels threaten every coastline. More powerful storms and floods threaten every continent. On shrinking islands and shorelines, families are already being forced to flee their homes as climate refugees.

The security and stability of our nation is in

jeopardy and the time we have to control this phenomena is quickly running out.”

Minister Naiqamu believes that climate change disproportionately affects the poorest and most vulnerable around the world, often those who have done the least to contribute to change in climate yet have already started to bear the brunt of its devastating effects – Fiji included.

According to the Minister, the Ministry of Forestry would like to see a formidable partnership with faith-based organizations in Fiji and the region to better address the effects of climate change and the renewed respect for

creation. He commended PCC for making a stand especially in advocating the plights of Pacific communities affected by climate change to international communities, regional and national platforms as well as at the community level.

In May last year, PCC general secretary Reverend James Bhagwan in his statement at the 3rd Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference held in Suva, affirmed the call of faith-based communities made in the Talanoa Call to Action by the Presidents of COP23 and COP24 for spiritual leaders to unlock spiritual pathways for addressing climate change.

Mobile phone app promotes healthy living



Savenaca Kurusalili during the launch of the My Kana Garden App.
Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

FELIX LESINAIVALU

WITH the new My Kana Garden Application available for Android users, communities are looking to make the most out of it to stay healthy and save money.

The Mai Kana Garden app promotes a balanced meal and helps Fijians with backyard gardening was launched by Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete at Holiday Inn, Suva.

Savenaca Kurusalili, a home garden farmer, from Nanuku Settlement, Vatuwaqa said that the app has helped his family in so many ways.

“We just joined My Kana Garden App in late December and I am thankful to the founders for encouraging us, my family has en-

joyed using the app and we have saved money.”

Mr Kurusalili said that instead of buying from the stores they managed to save money by growing their own food.

“I will be spreading the good news to my community to join the My Kana Garden App community.”

Another backyard gardener, Doreen Prasad, said in Narere there is not much space to do their gardening and they have learnt on how to farm in containers.

“We do whatever we can to plant it and get it done. I was not into gardening, but it caught my attention last year when nurses came home and explained about all benefits of the app and healthy living through the app. So I grabbed the opportunity and made the most of it, because we never had some-

thing like this before,” Mrs Prasad said.

With the help of nurses, Mrs Prasad and her family ventured on this new found journey to stay healthy.

“From that day I started, I never looked back and now we are looking to do more to better our community.”

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete during the launch said, “This home gardening component is to encourage all Fijians to grow home vegetables, fruits and crops and to eat health.”

“It is based on the Ministry of Health and Medical Services home gardening guide to grow your own food and also provides informative instructions that users can follow to start their home food garden.”



Fiji keeps watch on coronavirus outbreak

‘RAPID public health detection and response systems the best protection against novel coronavirus’

The Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services is closely monitoring the current outbreak of 2019 novel coronavirus (2019 – nCoV) in China and is continuing its efforts to prepare for its potential introduction to Fiji. At present there are no confirmed cases of 2019 – nCoV in Fiji, or any other Pacific island country.

WHAT IS FIJI DOING?

In response to the increased

threat of 2019 – nCoV, the Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services is working closely with relevant Government ministries, World Health Organization and partners to enhance its public health systems to rapidly detect, test and respond if a case is identified in Fiji.

This is because international spread of the disease is best stopped by rapid containment efforts at the source, and early detection and response, not by implementing unnecessary restrictions to international travel. Travel bans have been proven to

be ineffective in stopping infectious diseases crossing borders, and may in fact worsen the impact of an outbreak. Fiji did not impose travel bans during the SARS epidemic in 2003 nor the H1N1 influenza (swine flu) pandemic in 2009. Most countries worldwide have not implemented travel bans in response to this outbreak in China, and they are not recommended by the World Health Organisation.

Alongside other countries globally, including New Zealand, Australia and the United States, Fiji has intensified efforts to reduce the risk of the virus being introduced and spreading in Fiji through a multi-layered approach, including early identification of cases at the international borders and in the community, targeted awareness for high-risk persons, in particular travellers visiting or returning from affected areas, and enhancing the skills and resources of our health staff to rapidly respond if a case is identified.

As a core part of Fiji’s preparedness for possible introduction of the virus, the Ministry is working with international border control stakeholders, including airlines and airport and port authorities, to enhance existing mechanisms to

detect ill travellers at international points of entry. Under Fijian legislation, airlines and vessels are required to report any ill passengers prior to disembarking. All travellers arriving on flights from Hong Kong and Singapore undergo additional health screening. And as an added health screening measure, all incoming passengers will soon be required to complete a supplementary arrivals card – an Arrival Health Declaration Form- to help ensure all travellers are checked for their potential exposure to the virus.

On Wednesday 29 January, the Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services will begin providing refresher training to health workers on infection prevention and control measures, ensuring they are aware and equipped with the correct procedures and protective wear to safely respond to any potential cases.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Whilst we await further information about this new disease, at this time the Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services wishes to remind the public that staying calm and continuing to practice good hygiene is important in helping to protect them against

many diseases.

This includes:

- Frequently cleaning hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water;
- When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissue away immediately and wash hands;
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough;
- Avoid non-essential travel to mainland China
- If you have been to China in the last 14 days and develop any of the symptoms (fever, cough or difficulty breathing), immediately contact one of the numbers listed below. If you need to see a doctor please call ahead, using the following phone numbers, before visiting to reduce the risk of infecting other patients.
- Central 2219905
- Eastern 2219906
- Western 2219907
- Northern 2219908

The Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services is monitoring the developing situation and will provide updates regularly to the public.

RFMF troops commended for bushfires efforts



Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, Inia Seruiratu with members of the Australian Defence Force and members of the Engineering contingent of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) at the rebuilding and recovery project sites in Australia. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fiji’s commitment in reaching out to our Australian ‘Vuvale’ in response to the bushfire rebuilding efforts have been commended by the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

This has been in recognition of the work carried out by the 54-member engineering contingent of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) deployed to Australia to assist with the recovery efforts.

As the Vuvale Partnership culminates into unprecedented cooperation, the official visit by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, Inia Seruiratu to Australia on Monday this week paves the way forward for strengthening engagements with the Australian Defence Force.

Chief of the Australian Defence Force, General Angus Campbell expressed gratitude and appreciation to Fiji for its re-

markable support to Australia in its efforts to restoring lives and rebuilding communities.

He spoke highly of the work carried out by the Fijian Troops in diligently supporting the Australian Defence Force to operationalize its rebuilding efforts.

Minister Seruiratu’s meeting with the Australian Defence Forces resonated Fiji and Australia’s commitment to enhance cooperation opportunities in building resilience and in pursuing the unified vision for regional and global peace, security and prosperity.

After the briefing at RAAF Base East Sale, Minister Seruiratu was flown to Orbost, Victoria to meet with the Fijian troops who were delighted to meet with him. The troops briefed him on various rebuilding activities that they have been working on

with ADF now for a few weeks.

Minister Seruiratu conveyed the well wishes of Fijian Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama and the Fijian people and thanked them sincerely for their unprecedented commitment to selfless service provided to our “Vuvale”, Australia at its greatest time of need.

He also thanked the Australian Defence Force for its support given to the Fijian Troops as they together aspired to assist with Australia’s rebuilding efforts.

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Minister Seruiratu said that Fiji is proud

of the impressive achievements of the Fijian Troops. He stated that this collaboration testifies to the resilient spirit and unbreakable friendship of the Australian and Fijian people.

He also thanked the Australian Defence Force for its support given to the Fijian Troops as they together aspired to assist with Australia’s rebuilding efforts.

The response by Fiji in deploying the Fijian troops is in accordance with the Vuvale Partnership which, is the foundation of Fiji and Australia’s cooperation in many development areas.

The swift communication between the two nations is a demonstration of the strong partnership that has been ably supported by the Defence Teams and High Commissions of both Australia and Fiji.

-news@govnet.gov.fj



Members of Krav Maga Fiji.
Photo: EMI KOROITANOVA

Israeli martial art ‘effective for women’

EMI KOROITANOVA

KRAV Maga is not only a self-defense system but a way of life and thinking as it teaches women effective self-defense skills.

Senior chief instructor for Krav Maga Fiji, Russ Rasiga, felt the need to introduce the system in Fiji, saying it is more realistic than most self-defense programmes he has seen in the country.

With techniques derived from boxing, wrestling, aikido, judo and karate, Mr Rasiga introduced Krav Maga in Fiji.

“We started Krav Maga as a way to give back to the community,” he said.

Krav Maga, according to Mr Rasiga, is effective as the school tailors its training programme to help individuals if they encounter confrontational and hostile situations at some point in their lives.

“The reason why I taught Krav Maga specifically is because everybody in Fiji does the staged version,” he said.

“This one (demonstrates knife attack) will get people killed. What we try to bring is realistic training.”

The school had recently provided a course called the ‘Anti-rape programme’, helping women take responsibility over their own safety if faced with a dangerous situation.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation will lead the development of a five-year National Action to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls (2020-2025). Sharing the Government’s plans at an inter-governmental press conference in Suva recently, the line minister Mereseini Vuniwaqa said once it has been developed, Fiji will be one of the only two countries in the world to have a whole of government, inclusive, evidence-based approach to prevent violence against women and girls.

“Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls will focus on preventing domestic violence, intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women and girls with an emphasis on stopping violence before it starts,” Minister Vuniwaqa said.

Principal reminds prefects of role



FELIX LESINAIVALU

Minister for Education Rosy Akbar with newly-inducted prefects at Ratu Kadavulevu School in Tailevu. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

PREFECTS play a critical role in the learning that takes place in the school, given that they are charged with the children’s welfare, says Ratu Kadavulevu School Principal Arvind Prasad.

Speaking on the important role of school prefects during the Prefect Induction Ceremony held at the iconic Tailevu school, Mr Prasad said they act as a link between the students and the school administration.

“Because they are in this position they are tasked to report indiscipline cases directly to the administration.”

Mr Prasad thanked the Minister for Education, Rosy Akbar for her presence at the important event and acknowledged the assistance provided by the Ministry in times

of need.

“We have gathered on this very special day for the schools leaders’ induction for 2020, the selection of the school prefects are directed by the school policy.”

“Each student are tasked to show the staff what they are capable of if they are selected, then the staff collectively decides upon

their performance and past experience of the students. Once they are selected then the parents are informed so that the decisions of the school is concurrent with the parents and if they agree then they will nominate the child.”

Minister Akbar, while officiating at the induction, said, “You are the leaders and it is your responsibility

to lead the school with the assistance of your teachers.”

“Schools breed leadership qualities in you, that badge is an indication of the trust the teachers have for you,” she said.

Minister Akbar said that the badge is the beginning for the students to aim higher and achieve success in their lives.

Minister tells of waste management woes

HALITESH DATT



Government is urging people to practise good waste management habits.
Photo: HALITESH DATT

MEMBERS of the Rotary Club of Suva together with the Suva City Council got their hands dirty over the weekend as volunteers turned up in numbers to clean the Suva foreshore.

The volunteers battled the scorching sun, collecting waste along the shores of what now has become a favorite picnic spot for many in the capital city.

The sweat and effort was worth the praise.

“We are grateful to the Rotary Club of Suva for partnering with the Suva City Council (SCC) for this great initiative. Such partnerships are crucial, especially in building strong foundations towards sustaining a cleaner environment,” Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar said.

Within a few hours of the clean-up, a number of disposable garbage bags were filled and lined up for disposal giving a stark reminder that we are still far from practicing good waste

management habits.

“Suva City Council alone annually incurs \$2.28m on solid waste management operation. The annual operation cost is funded through general rates collected, where 12 per cent of the general rates goes towards solid waste management alone. Through garbage fee, SCC collects around \$328,189 which does not cover the landfill gate fee or tipping fee,” Minister Kumar added.

“Around \$600,000 is spent annually for tipping around 25,000 tons of city wastes at the Naboro Landfill.”

With the consequences of improper waste management getting costly and obvious day by day, focus now shifts on changing the mindset of people.

“We must treat waste management as an essential service. For small island nation like Fiji, the struggle to manage an ever-increasing volume of solid waste is becoming a huge challenge. Municipal Councils play a critical role in creating incentives for waste minimisation and ensuring adequate resources for proper waste management,” Minister Kumar said.

FijiFocus



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with students, teachers while commissioning two teachers' quarters at Ratu Ilaisa Memorial School in Semo, Nadroga. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

BIG HELP

Quarters will aid teachers to focus on work

FELIX LESINAIVALU

WITH peace of mind, independence, and security that the new housing will provide, teachers can focus on what matters most, teaching.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama highlighted this while commissioning two teachers' quarters at Ratu Ilaisa Memorial School in Semo, Nadroga, saying, "When it comes to rural schools there are challenges and special efforts for all of us to overcome".

"A great teacher can have a lifelong impact on the students and they hold the future of

so many young children in their hands every day."

"Good educative teachers need the assurance, comfort and security when teaching in rural locations."

Head Teacher at Ratu Ilaisa Memorial School, Netani Tabua said that having the Prime Minister at the school was a sign of his respect and love he has for people.

"The Prime Minister's presence here today is a blessing to the students and to the community."

Mr Tabua added that the quality of education would definitely improve because of the

new quarters.

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that at the same time they would help the children achieve their true potentials.

"Every Fijian girl and boy has greatness within them, and education allows you to tap into that greatness to tap your true potential and create whatever life you want for yourself."

"As you continue through this term and through all of your educational journey from early childhood education, to primary school and beyond I want you to remember that today in Fiji, you can do anything you

put your mind into."

Prime Minister Bainimarama urged the students to not let these immense opportunities go to waste.

The two by two bedroom teachers' quarters cost \$205,449 to construct and was funded by the Office of the Prime Minister through the small grants scheme.

Prime Minister Bainimarama was accompanied by Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate.

प्रकृति की
इज्जत करें

2

कोरोना वायरस को लेकर
सावधानी बरतने की मांग

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निउ ज़िलेन्ड से सहयोग के
लिए आभार व्यक्त किया गया

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भारत ने मनाया इक्वत्तरवा
(71st) गणतंत्र दिवस

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फ़ीजी दर्पण

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यह दो लईन स्ट्रक्चर सोलिड स्टील पाएल्स का है। इसपर बहुत उच्च स्तर का काम हुआ है और आँधी की ताकत को ध्यान में रखकर इसे बनाया गया है। यह पुल सौ सालों तक सेवा प्रदान कर सकता है।

वॉरेन्गो बड़निमारा
प्रधान मंत्री

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गो बड़निमारा उत्तरी विभाग के दौर के दौरान एक स्वागत समारोह में भाग लेते हुए
चित्र: जोसईया रंलागा

उत्तरी विभाग में पुल, रास्ता और पुस्तकालय का उद्घाटन हुआ

वीरेन्द्र लाल

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गो बड़निमारा ने उत्तरी विभाग के अपने दौर पर वहाँ एक पुल, रास्ता और स्कूल लायब्ररी का उद्घाटन किया।

कोरोनारी लम्बासा में एक नया पुल बनने से वहाँ कई सौ की संख्या में लोग फायदा उठा रहे हैं। पिछले सप्ताह पुल का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि सरकार इस तरह की योजनाओं में पूँजी लगाने से नहीं हिचकिचाती है जबकि इस तरह

की योजनाओं से हमारे लोगों के लिए काफी मौके उपलब्ध होते हैं।

“यह दो लईन स्ट्रक्चर सोलिड स्टील पाएल्स का है। इसपर बहुत उच्च स्तर का काम हुआ है और आँधी की ताकत को ध्यान में रखकर इसे बनाया गया है। यह पुल सौ सालों तक सेवा प्रदान कर सकता है”, प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारा ने कहा।

यह पुल बनाने में चार दशमलव पाँच मिलियन डॉलर (\$4.5million) खर्च हुए हैं।

और ड्रेकेतिलाईलाई - लेकूतुलेवू

रास्ता बनने में तीन दशमलव तीन मिलियन डॉलर (\$3.3million) खर्च हुए।

यह रास्ता बनने से पहले वहाँ के किसानों को अपना सामान बाज़ार लेजाने में बहुत कठिनाई हो रही थी। इस रास्ते का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि यह रास्ता बनने से अब वहाँ किसानों के लिए नए बाज़ार खुलेंगे और उनके लिए नए मौके उपलब्ध होंगे।

“यह चार किलोमीटर रास्ते में तीन कोसिंग्स हैं। इससे वातुरोवा के

लोग, बुलिलेका रास्ते के आस-पास सेटलमेंट्स में लोगों से जुड़ेंगे। भीतरी इलाकों के किसान भी अब सरलता से अपने सामान बाज़ार लेजा पायेंगे। इससे नए बाज़ार खुलेंगे और लोगों को नए मौके उपलब्ध होंगे। आशा करता हूँ कि लोग नए मौकों से लाभ उठावेंगे। लेकूतुलेवू, आस-पास के समाजों, वनुवा लेवू और पूरे फीजी को इससे फायदा होगा”।

इस दौरान प्रधान मंत्री ने कीया डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल लायब्ररी का भी उद्घाटन किया।

उन्होंने बताया कि फीजियन शिक्षा प्रणाली में हुए बदलाव से वे खुश हैं।

“आज से पहले इतनी संख्या में बच्चे स्कूलों में कभी नहीं थे। भारी संख्या में लड़कियाँ भी स्कूल जा रही हैं। पढ़ाई करने से ज्ञान में वृद्धि होती है और इससे आप सही निर्णय लेने की बेहतर स्थिति में होते हैं। इससे आपका जीवन अच्छा होता है और भविष्य उज्ज्वल रहता है,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

लायब्ररी बनाने में साठ हज़ार डॉलर (\$60,000) खर्च हुए हैं।



प्रकृति की इज्जत करें



फॉरेस्ट मंत्री ओसेया नईगामू नवाका विलज में नवाका सेवन्स के लॉच के दौरान
चित्र: मेरियानि गोनेन्दुवा

वीरन्द्र लाल

फॉरेस्ट्री मंत्री ओसेया नईगामू ने सभी फीजियन्स से प्रकृति की इज्जत करने की मांग की है।

मंत्री नवाका विलज में नवाका सेवन्स के लॉच पर बोल रहे थे। मंत्री ने बताया कि सभी को समय समय से यह याद दिलाने की जरूरत है कि हम सब प्रकृति से जुड़े हुए हैं।

“हमारा अपना स्वास्थ्य, प्रकृति से जुड़ा है। पेड़ और तिड़ितिड़ि हमारे जीवन में बहुत मायने रखते हैं। इनपर हमारा भविष्य निर्भर है। बढ़ते समुद्र तल से तटवर्ती इलाकों को खतरा है, भयानक बाढ़ें आ रही हैं और आँधियाँ ताकतवर होती जा रही हैं। जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण लोगों को अपना घर छोड़ना पड़ रहा है। इस कारण से देश की सुरक्षा और स्थिति

खतरे में है। समय तेजी से भागा जा रहा है और हम सब कुछ पहले जैसा करने में असमर्थ हैं”।

मंत्री नईगामू ने सभी से जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़े असर कम करने में, साथ मिलकर काम करने की मांग की। उन्होंने कहा कि रबी के माध्यम से हम जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़े असर कम करने के अपने इस छोटे से देश का संदेश, देश विदेशों तक पहुँचा सकते हैं।

मंत्री के अनुसार प्रकृति के साथ छेड़-छाड़ न करके, आँचल फैलाकर प्रकृति की गोद में सिमटने से हम खुशी और अन्दरूनी शांति का अनुभव करते हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि हमें मानव की तरह बरताव करते हुए, प्रकृति की रक्षा करनी चाहिए और उसका आदर करना चाहिए।



इनडस्ट्री, ट्रेड एंड टुरिज़्म मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार रिसेच एंड इनोवैशन स्कीम फो एन्टर्प्राइज़स की लॉचिंग पर बोलती हुई
चित्र: प्रशीला देवी

स्थानिए व्यापारियों से अनुसंधान और विकास में पूंजी लगाने को कहा गया

वीरन्द्र लाल

अनुसंधान और व्यापारियों को प्रोत्साहित करने वाली योजनाओं का प्रयोग करके सरकार, फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को एक आधुनिक और ज्ञान प्रधान अर्थ-व्यवस्था में बदलना चाहती है।

इनडस्ट्री, ट्रेड एंड टुरिज़्म मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार, रिसेच एंड इनोवैशन स्कीम फो एन्टर्प्राइज़स (Research and Innovation Scheme for Enterprises or RISE) के लॉच पर बोल रही थी। मंत्री ने बताया कि इसका मुख्य लक्ष्य है व्यापारियों को प्रोत्साहित करना, व्यापार करने के नए तरीके ढूँढना और व्यापार में विस्तार लाना।

“लोगों के दिमाग में यह भरना होगा कि लगातार सुधार करने से हम आगे बढ़ सकते हैं। इस योजना के लिए हम पाँच लाख डॉलर (\$500,000) अलग कर रहे हैं। इससे हम ज़रूरतमंद व्यापारों की मदद करेंगे। व्यापारों के अलावा इससे फीजी की जनता को भी फायदा होगा”।

मंत्री ने कहा कि यह योजना, फीजियन सरकार और प्रायवट सेक्टर के बीच लम्बे समय की साझेदारी की शुरुआत है।

“इस योजना को सफल बनाने के लिए यह ज़रूरी है कि प्रायवट सेक्टर के साथ साथ, ऐसी संस्थाएँ खासकर अकाडेमिक संस्थाएँ इसमें योगदान दें जो अनुसंधान, विज्ञान और विकास में प्रमुख भूमिका

निभाती हैं।”

मंत्री ने स्थानिए व्यापारियों से अनुसंधान और विकास की दिशा में बढ़ने पर गौर करने की मांग की जिससे वे अच्छे स्तर के सामान तैयार कर सकें या बेहतर सेवा प्रदान कर सकें।

“मैं सभी व्यापारियों से यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि यह योजना आपके लिए है, इस मौके से फायदा उठाईए और अच्छे स्तर के सामान तैयार कीजिए या बेहतर सेवा प्रदान कीजिए।”

यह योजना सभी व्यापारों के लिए है लेकिन रिनोवेल एनेजी, ग्रीन टेक्नोलॉजी, आय.सी.टी और बिज़नेस प्रोसेस अउट-सोर्सिंग तथा टेलिकोमिउनिक्वैशन्स क्षेत्र को प्राथमिकता दी जायेगी।

यूरोपियन युनियन ने प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के लिए तैयारी करने के सामान प्रदान किया

वीरन्द्र लाल

फीजी और प्रशांत के लिए यूरोपियन युनियन के राजदूत सुजिरो सीम ने नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमेंट ऑफिस को पचास (50) डिज़ास्टा प्रिपेरेडनेस किट्स (disaster preparedness kits) प्रदान किया है।

नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमेंट मंत्री चोने उसामाते को प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के लिए तैयारी करने के सामान प्रदान करते हुए राजदूत सीम ने कहा कि अन्य प्रशांत देशों की तरह फीजी भी अक्सर प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों का सामना करते रहता है और जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण, प्राकृतिक विपत्तियाँ और जल्द आने लगी हैं तथा इनकी गति में तेज़ी आ रही है।

“यह ज़रूरी है कि लोग प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों का सामना करने के लिए अच्छी तरह से तैयारी करें। ई.यू. खुश है कि वह एन.डी.एम.ओ की मदद कर रहा है। इस दान से लोग प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के लिए तैयारी कर सकेंगे और अपने परिवारों को सुरक्षा प्रदान कर पायेंगे,” राजदूत



प्रशांत के लिए यूरोपियन युनियन के राजदूत सुजिरो सीम ने नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमेंट मंत्री चोने उसामाते को डिज़ास्टा प्रिपेरेडनेस किट्स प्रदान किया चित्र: जेरी लिंगईरी

सुजिरो सीम ने कहा।

प्रदान किए गए सामानों में सोला पावा बेंक, ओटा बोटल, मिनि फेस्ट अईड किट, एमेजेन्सी विशल, सोला लेन्टन, ओटापूफ रईनकौट और महिलाओं के लिए हायजीन पैक शामिल है। इन

सामानों का मूल्य ग्यारह हजार डॉलर (\$FJD 11,000) बताया गया है।

इन सामानों को स्वीकार करते हुए नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमेंट मंत्री जोने उसामाते ने यूरोपियन युनियन को धन्यवाद देते हुए कहा कि फीजी का

यूरोपियन युनियन के साथ सालों से अच्छा सम्बंध है।

“इस मदद के अलावा यूरोपियन युनियन तुकुराकी विलज खिस्काने में मदद करेंगी तथा नेशनल एमेजेन्सी ओपरईशन्स सेन्टा के अलावा देश भर

में डिविज़नल और डिस्ट्रिक्ट एमेजेन्सी ओपरईशन्स सेन्टज़ में सुधार करेगी,” मंत्री ने कहा। यूरोपियन युनियन की मदद से पिछले साल देश भर में नौ एमेजेन्सी ओपरईशन्स सेन्टज़ पर सुधारकार्य किए गए थे।

डाक्टरों को उनकी ज़िम्मेदारी याद दिलाई गई

वीरन्द्र लाल

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वांगाइनम्बेते ने छियान्बे (96) इनटेन मेडिकल अफसरों को तीन सालों की उनकी पौस्टिंग से पहले, उन्हें उनकी ज़िम्मेदारी याद दिलाई है और उनकी भूमिका के बारे में बताया है।

मंत्री वांगाइनम्बेते पेल रिसोट

पेसिफिक हावा में डाक्टरों के लिए आयोजित तीन दिनों के इनडक्शन ट्रेनिंग के उद्घाटन पर बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि डाक्टरों को अपनी शपथ याद रखनी चाहिए और मानवता की सेवा में अपना जीवन लगा देना चाहिए।

“आपको किसी को पीछे नहीं छोड़ना है, खासकर उन लोगों को जिनके पास खास सुविधा नहीं है और जो अपाहिज हैं। किसी के साथ भेद-भाव नहीं बरतनी है—चाहे वह अंधे हों, गरीब हों या बिन ब्याही माँ हों। हमें उन लोगों तक पहुँचना है जहाँ कोई नहीं पहुँचा है, हमें सब को शामिल करना है। हमें जात-पात से उपर उठना है। हमें मानवता की सेवा करनी है”।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने डाक्टरों से ज़रूरत पड़ने पर काम के घण्टों के बाद भी रुककर काम करने की माँग की है।

“शाम साढ़े चार बजे अगर कोई बीमार व्यक्ति आता है, आपको रुककर उनका इलाज करना चाहिए। या सुबह सुबह जब आप काम पर जाते हैं और रास्ते में कोई दुर्घटना घट जाती है, आपको अपनी गाड़ी से उतरकर घायल लोगों की जाँच करनी चाहिए। हमे सभी लोगों और सभी समाजों को एक नज़र से देखनी चाहिए और सभी को उच्च स्तर की सेवा प्रदान करनी चाहिए”।

मंत्री वांगाइनम्बेते ने इन नए डाक्टरों से देर से मरीजों का इलाज करने वाली आदत बदलने की माँग की है।

तीन दिनों के इनडक्शन ट्रेनिंग के दौरान इन नए डाक्टरों को पब्लिक सेविस कौड ओफ् कोन्डक्ट, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के स्टेटजिक प्लेनिंग और ओपरेशनल प्लेन तथा मंत्रालय की प्राथमिकताओं के बारे में बताया गया।



कोरोना वायरस को लेकर समाचार माध्यमों को जानकारी देते हुए स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वांगाइनम्बेते चित्र: जेरी लिंगईरी

कोरोना वायरस को लेकर सावधानी बरतने की अपील

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चीन में फैली कोरोना वायरस को ध्यान में रखते हुए फीजियन्स को सलाह दी जा रही है कि वे चीन न जाएं। इस बीमारी पर काबु पाने के प्रयास में चीनी अधिकारियों ने हुबई प्रांत में सार्वजनिक यातायात बन्द कर दिया है। इसकी सम्भावना है कि अन्य इलाकों में भी सार्वजनिक यातायात बन्द कर दिया जाए जबकि वायरस पर अभी काबु नहीं पाया जा सका है। आगे चलकर शायद लोगों को एक इलाके से दूसरे इलाके में जाने से रोक दी जाए।

लेकिन अगर किसी कारणवश आपको चीन जाना पड़ा, आप से माँग की जा रही है कि आप:

ऐसे भीगे बाज़ारों में न जाएं जहाँ खुले में जीवित या मृत जानवरों को बेचा जाता है,

जीवित जंगली या पालतू जानवरों के सम्पर्क में आने से बचें,

बुखार लगने के चिन्ह वाले लोगों के सम्पर्क में आने से बचें,

केवल अच्छी तरह से पके हुए मांस या अण्डे खाएं,

कुछ छूने के बाद हाथ धोएं,

खासी सर्दी आने पर मुँह पर हाथ रखें या टिशु काम में लाएं और खासी सर्दी के बाद टिशु बिन में फेंकें और नाक, मुँह और हाथ ठीक तरह से साफ करें,

बीमार लोगों के सम्पर्क में आने पर भी हाथ ठीक तरह से साफ करें,

समय समय पर हाथ साबुन पानी से धोएं, बुखार लगने के चिन्ह वाले लोगों के सम्पर्क में आने से बचें। अगर हालही आप चीन से लौटे हैं और आपको सर्दी खासी आ रही है और साँस लेने में दिक्कत हो रही है, तब आपको तत्काल नीचे दिए जा रहे नम्बर पर कोल करना चाहिए। डाक्टर के पास जाने से पहले नीचे दिए जा रहे नम्बर पर कोल कीजिए ताकि आपको अन्य मरीजों से दूर रखा जाए जिससेकि वायरस अन्य लोगों तक न फैले।

नम्बर इस प्रकार है:

केन्द्रिए विभाग 2219905 पूर्विए विभाग

2219906 पश्चिमी विभाग 2219907 उत्तरी

विभाग 2219908

जियोपाशियल जानकारी से जीवन में सुधार आयेगा

वीरन्द्र लाल

जियोपाशियल जानकारी का प्रयोग करके लिए गए निर्णयों में सुधार किया जा सकता है जिससे लोगों के जीवन और बेहतर हो।

लेंड्स मंत्री अशनील सुधाकर पिछले सप्ताह जियोपाशियल इनफोर्मेशन मैनेजमेंट कौंसल के वेबसईट के लॉन्च पर बोल रहे थे।

“कौंसल के वेबसईट लॉन्च करने से उपलब्ध तकनीक का उपयोग और अच्छी तरह से किया जा सकेगा और कौंसल की कारवाइयों में तेज़ी आयेगी। लेंड्स मंत्री की हैसियत से मुझे यह अच्छा लगेगा जब मंत्रालय की सेवा प्रदान करते वक्त जियोपाशियल इनफोर्मेशन का प्रयोग किया जाएगा। इससे सही निर्णय लेने में मदद मिलेगी और फलस्वरूप लोगों के जीवन में सुधार आयेगा”, मंत्री ने कहा। लेंड्स मंत्री ने कहा कि यह वेबसईट, कौंसल का चेहरा बन जायेगा और इसमें जानकारी से केवल कौंसल के सदस्यों को ही फायदा नहीं होगा बल्कि यह जियोपाशियल विशेषज्ञों के काम में भी आयेगा।

मंत्री सुधाकर के अनुसार कौंसल मिटिंग्स के ज़रिए फीजी में काफी सुधार हो रहा है और फीजी जियोपाशियल के योगदान से ऐसा हो पाया है।

उन्होंने बताया कि इन प्रेक्टिसस को बनाए रखना कौंसल की ज़िम्मेदारी है और यह भी देखना है कि इन प्रेक्टिसस से सभी को लाभ हो।



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी नकुरुवाई कोरो नोदो रेवा में एक फुट कोसिंग के उद्घाटन के दौरान चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

सरकार असमानता खत्म करेगी—मंत्री रेड्डी

वीरन्द्र लाल

फीजियन्स के जीवन स्तर सुधारना सरकार की प्राथमिकता है इसी लिए ग्रामीण और समुद्र से घिरे इलाकों में विकास किए जा रहे हैं।

कृषि तथा ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी नकुरुवाई कोरो, नोदो रेवा में पिछले सप्ताह एक फुट कोसिंग का उद्घाटन करते वक्त बोल रहे थे।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि सरकार ग्रामीण और समुद्र से घिरे इलाकों में विकास करने की दिशा में काम कर रही है जिससे वहाँ लोगों के जीवन स्तर में सुधार हो, उन्हें अच्छी सेवा मिले और ग्रामीण तथा शहरी इलाकों के बीच असमानता खत्म हो।

“हमारे प्रधान मंत्री ने पाया है कि शहरी

इलाकों के मिलान में ग्रामीण इलाकों में स्वास्थ्य सेवा में, शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में, सड़कों और बिजली पानी की सेवाओं को लेकर काफी असमानता है। ग्रामीण इलाकों में इन सेवाओं की व्यवस्था बहुत अच्छी नहीं है और इसी कारण प्रधान मंत्री चहते हैं कि सभी क्षेत्रों में इन सेवाओं की अच्छी व्यवस्था रहे।” मंत्री रेड्डी ने बताया कि सरकार का लक्ष्य है, सभी फीजियन्स को बराबर मौका प्रदान करना।

“इस लिए यह ज़रूरी है कि हम ग्रामीण इलाकों तक पहुँचे और वहाँ लोगों को मिल रही सेवाओं में सुधार करें। प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा की अगुवाई में हम सभी फीजियन्स के जीवन स्तर सुधारने की दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं”, मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा।

फिलहाल नकुरुवाई की अड़तालिस (48) वर्षिया अकोसिता मातानामे ने वहाँ एक फुट कोसिंग बनवाने के लिए सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया।

“नकुरुवाई कोरो के लिए यह खुशी मनाने का समय है क्योंकि पहली बार यहाँ इस तरह का विकास हुआ है और मदद की गई है। इसके लिए हम सरकार को धन्यवाद दे रहे हैं। कोरो के लोग इस विकास से बहुत खुश हैं।” अकोसिता ने बताया कि फुट कोसिंग बनने से वहाँ लोग अपने सामान इस पार से उस पार बिना कड़ी मेहनत के ले जा पायेंगे। इससे पहले लोग एक लकड़ी के सहारे नाला पार करते थे जो खतरों से भरा रहता था। वहाँ के लोग खेती बाड़ी करके और मछली मारकर अपनी जीविका चलाते हैं।



नया पुल बनने से निवासियों को मिली राहत

कोरोना के लम्बासा में एक नया पुल बनने से वहाँ कई सौ की सख्या में लोग फायदा उठा रहे हैं। पिछले सप्ताह पुल का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि सरकार इस तरह की योजनाओं में पूँजी लगाने से नहीं हिचकिचाती है जबकि इस तरह की योजनाओं से हमारे लोगों के लिए काफी मौके उपलब्ध होते हैं। यह पुल बनाने में चार दशमलव पाँच मिलियन डॉलर

(\$4.5million) खर्च हुए हैं। वहाँ के निवासी बहुत खुश हैं कि वे अब कभी भी नदी पार करके एक ओर से दूसरी ओर जा सकेंगे तथा उन्हें बाढ़ चढ़ने की चिन्ता नहीं करनी पड़ेगी। पुल बनने से पहले बाढ़ चढ़ने के कारण बच्चे स्कूल नहीं जाते थे।

चित्र: जैम्सिया रलिंग



नरोरो सिंगातोका में एक व्यापारिक कृषि योजना का उद्घाटन हुआ

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने भावी पूँजीपतियों को फीजी में अपना दफ्तर स्थापित करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया है। डाक्टर रेड्डी नरोरो सिंगातोका में एक व्यापारिक कृषि योजना के लॉन्च पर बोल रहे थे। इस योजना की अगुवाई नरोरो सिंगातोका के भूतपूर्व निवासी, सिडनी ओस्ट्रेलिया के सुरेन कुमार करेंगे।

चित्र: फिलिक्स लेमोईवाल्



बा में युवाओं के लिए दफ्तर खुला

मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ यूथ एंड स्पोर्ट्स का एक दफ्तर बा में खुला है और बा, तावुआ और राकीराकी के युवकों में इससे फायदा उठाने की माँग की गई है। इस नए दफ्तर का उद्घाटन करते हुए यूथ एंड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन बाला ने बताया कि मंत्रालय के कर्मचारी, इन इलाकों के युवाओं की मदद करने के लिए सदा उपलब्ध रहेंगे। मंत्री ने युवाओं से समाज में आगे बढ़कर काम करने की माँग की है।

चित्र: मेर्यानी गोनैदुवा



सरकार स्थानिए और विदेशी स्कोलाशिप्स जारी रखेगी

सरकार नौ सौ पचास (950) स्थानिए नेशनल टोपज़ स्क्रीम स्कोलाशिप्स और बीस (20) विदेशी स्कोलाशिप्स का समर्थन करना जारी रखेगी। शिक्षा मंत्री रेजी अक्वर ने बताया कि इनमें मैडिसन, एजिनियरिंग, टेक्नोलॉजी और एनुकईशन की पढ़ाई शामिल है।

नसीनु मुस्लिम कॉलेज प्रिफेक्चर्स इनवेस्टिगा सैरमनी में बोल रही थी।

चित्र: एम कोरेईनानोवा





कृषि मंत्रालय के अधिकारी जनगणना के लिए ट्रेनिंग हासिल करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

कृषि क्षेत्र में जनगणना करने वाले अधिकारियों को ट्रेनिंग प्रदान की गई

रोनल देव

इस साल फीजी के कृषि क्षेत्र में जो अफसर जनगणना करेंगे, की ट्रेनिंग कराई गई है ताकि उन्हें आँकड़ा इकट्ठा करने वाले उपकरण और प्रक्रियाओं के इस्तेमाल के बारे में खुद को परिचित करने में मदद मिल सके।

यह ट्रेनिंग जो सात अलग-अलग जगहों पर हुई में इस बात को ध्यान में रखा गया कि जनगणना करने वाले अफसर सही और विश्वसनीय आँकड़ा इकट्ठा करने वाली अपनी भूमिकाओं के महत्व के बारे में समझें।

कृषि मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव रितेश दास का कहना है कि सभी ट्रेनिंग में इस बात पर जोर दिया गया कि अधिकारियों को जनगणना के दौरान मन लगाकर काम करना चाहिए।

“ट्रेनिंग के दौरान यह ध्यान में रखा गया कि अधिकारी प्रणाली और प्रक्रियाओं को समझें और यह जानें कि उनसे क्या उम्मीदें हैं। कर्मचारियों को समझाया गया कि उनके द्वारा इकट्ठा की गई जानकारी मंत्रालय के लिए कितनी ज़रूरी है जिससे

मंत्रालय आगे के लिए योजना बना सकता है। यह ट्रेनिंग मंत्रालय तथा मंत्रालय से जुड़े लोगों ने साथ मिलकर आयोजित किया गया था।”

कृषि क्षेत्र पर जानकारी की माँग न केवल फीजी में बल्कि विदेशों में भी बहुत ज्यादा है, इसलिए यह बेहद ज़रूरी है कि कृषि आँकड़ा की प्रणाली की स्थापना हो।

फीजी पर जलवायु परिवर्तन, प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों तथा आर्थिक धीमापन का असर पड़ता है। यह आँकड़े इसलिए भी ज़रूरी हैं ताकि सुबूतों के तौर पर इन आपदाओं से पड़े असरों की पहचान हो सके। इस साल पहली बार फीजी कृषि क्षेत्र की जनगणना में अफसर, किसानों के साथ भेंटवार्ता में कोम्प्युटर का प्रयोग करेंगे जहाँ आँकड़े सीधे टेबलट्स के द्वारा इकट्ठा होंगे। इन तकनीक का इस्तेमाल शुरू किया गया है ताकि आँकड़ों की योग्यता और पारदर्शिता बढ़ने के साथ-साथ, कम से कम समय में जनगणना का परिणाम निकाला जाए।

फीजी कृषि क्षेत्र की जनगणना इस साल दस से अक्टूबर (10-28) फरवरी के बीच होगी।

बेकयार्ड गार्डनिंग से लोगों को लाभ होगा



सहायक कृषि मंत्री चाले सिंगारा बेकयार्ड गार्डनिंग पैकज प्राप्त करने वालों के साथ चित्र: जोसईया रलांगो

वीरेन्द्र लाल

लम्बासा के पचास लोगों को कृषि मंत्रालय की ओर से बेकयार्ड गार्डनिंग पैकज मिला है जिससे वे स्वस्थ जीवन शैली अपना सकें।

कृषि विकास का बढ़ावा देने और कृषि उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए कृषि मंत्रालय ने इस तरह की योजना शुरू की है। नासेयाकुला विलज में बेकयार्ड गार्डनिंग करने के सामान देते हुए सहायक कृषि मंत्री चाले सिंगारा ने बताया कि सरकार इसका भी बढ़ावा दे रही है कि लोग ताज़ा शाक-सब्जी खाएं जिससे कि वे स्वस्थ रहें।

“जिन लोगों के पास खेती करने के लिए बड़ी ज़मीन नहीं है, वे अपने बेक-यार्ड या आँगन में ही शाक-सब्जी बो सकते हैं। ऐसा करने से आप स्वस्थ भोजन तो करते ही हैं, इसके साथ साथ आप कुछ पैसे भी कमा लेते हैं। सब से अच्छी बात है कि छोटा मोटा काम करने से आप स्वस्थ भी रहेंगे। भोजन पैदा करने की माँग बढ़ रही

है और हम शहरी और अर्द्ध-शहरी इलाकों में इस तरह की योजना का बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं”, सहायक कृषि मंत्री ने कहा।

इस योजना के तहत होरिज़ॉन्टल एंड वेटिकल कौटईना मेथड्स अपनाए जायेंगे जिससे जगह की बजट के साथ साथ खर्च में कटौती हो।

सहायक कृषि मंत्री ने बताया कि इससे भोजन के खर्च में कमी आयेगी।

नासेयाकुला विलज के सेफानईया रोकों दुवा ने बताया कि इस सहायता से उन्हें अपना स्वास्थ्य बनाए रखने में और जीवन जीने सम्बंधी बीमारियों से लड़ने में मदद मिलेगी।

“अभी मैं बैसाखी पर हूँ और दूर खेत जाकर बोने का सवाल ही नहीं पैदा होता। इस मदद से मैं अपने बेक-यार्ड में शाक-सब्जी बोऊंगा। इस तरह से मेरा कस्तर भी हो जाया करेगा,” श्री रोकोंदुवा ने कहा।

सावुसावु में भी पचास लोगों को कृषि मंत्रालय से बेकयार्ड गार्डनिंग पैकज मिला है।

निउ ज़ीलेन्ड से सहयोग के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया गया

रोनल देव

फीजियन सरकार ने राहत सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए निउ ज़ीलेन्ड के विदेश तथा व्यापार मंत्रालय का आभार व्यक्त किया है। इस सहायता से लाउ द्वीप समूह तथा पूर्वी (Eastern) विभागों में उन लोगों के जीवन सुधारे जायेंगे जिनपर समुद्री आँधी सराई और टीनो से विपरीत असर पड़ा है।

हालही आई इन प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से असर पड़े परिवारों को राहत सामान बाँटने के लिए नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट से एक दल और सरकारी अधिकारी दक्षिणी लाउ द्वीप गए हैं। निउ ज़ीलेन्ड सरकार तथा फीजी में निउ ज़ीलेन्ड हाई कमिशन, नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट ऑफिस के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं ताकि लाउ द्वीप समूह में हुई क्षति की बारीकी से जाँच हो तथा एक महीने के लिए पाँच

हज़ार चार सौ बारह (5,412) परिवारों को भोजन राशन प्रदान किया जाए।

निउ ज़ीलेन्ड अर्डि प्रोग्राम के तहत दो लाख चौवन हज़ार चार सौ इकहत्तर फीजियन डॉलर (FJD 254,471.40) लागत की सहायता प्रदान की गई है।

इस सहायता की सराहना करते हुए विदेश तथा राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु ने फीजियन सरकार की ओर से निउ ज़ीलेन्ड सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया। मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने कहा कि इस सहायता से उन परिवारों को अपना जीवन फिर से शुरू करने या सुधारने में भारी योगदान होगा जिनपर समुद्री आँधी सराई और टीनो का असर पड़ा है।

मंत्री के अनुसार निउ ज़ीलेन्ड की इस मदद से निउ ज़ीलेन्ड यह दर्शाता है कि वो फीजी के लोगों की भलाई और कल्याण के बारे में कितना ख्याल करता है।



संसाधन मंत्री चोने उसामाते तथा सहायक मंत्री विजय नाथ निउ ज़ीलेन्ड सरकार से राहत सामान स्वीकार करते हुए चित्र: ननिस नडिमिला

भारत ने मनाया इक्कहत्तरवा (71st) गणतंत्र दिवस



राष्ट्रपति मईजा जेनरल (Ret'd) चोची कोन्रोते के साथ भारतीय हाई कमिशनर श्रीमति पद्मजा चितः प्रशीला देवी

रेनल देव

भारत, फीजी के विकास में हाथ बटाने वाले देशों में से एक है। भारत के इक्कहत्तरवे (71st) गणतंत्र दिवस के मौके पर सूवा में आयोजित एक समारोह में राष्ट्रपति (Ret'd) चोची कोन्रोते ने कहा कि कई कार्यक्रमों के माफत फीजी और भारत के बीच द्विपक्षीय संबंध बनाया गया है जिनमें शामिल है, जलवायु परिवर्तन, प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के लिए तैयार रहना, व्यवसाय और पूँजी लगाना, कृषि, मछली व्यवसाय, वन व्यवसाय, नवीकरणीय उर्जा और मानव संसाधन विकास। उधर, भारतीय राजदूत श्रीमती पद्मजा ने प्रकाश डाला कि भारत

कई क्षेत्रों में फीजी का समर्थन करता रहेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि दोनों देशों के बीच संबंध और भी गहरा होता जा रहा है तथा वे साथ मिलकर काम करते रहेंगे। “कई क्षेत्रों में हम साथ मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं जहाँ हम अपना अनुभव बाँट सकते हैं। फीजी से हम बहुत कुछ सीख भी सकते हैं तथा बहुत कुछ बाँट भी सकते हैं।” उन्होंने कहा कि भारत फीजीवासियों को उच्च शिक्षा हासिल करने का अवसर भी प्रदान करता है जहाँ हर साल एक सौ छात्रवृत्तियाँ यानि स्कोलाशिप दी जाती हैं। अगले साल विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन फीजी में होगा और फीजी ने इसका स्वागत किया है।

नए टीचर्स कोटस से अध्यापकों को लाभ होगा

रेनल देव

अध्यापक पढ़ाने में तबही पूरा ध्यान लगायेंगे जब उनका मन शान्त होगा, वे स्वतंत्र होंगे और घर-बार की सुरक्षा को लेकर उन्हें कोई चिन्ता नहीं होगी।

ताईलेवू स्थित नमालाता प्राथमरी स्कूल में अध्यापकों के लिए नए टीचर्स कोटस का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गो बड़निमारामा ने ऐसा कहा। प्रधान मंत्री के अनुसार वे समाजों के साथ समय बिताते हैं, लोगों की ज़रूरतों के बारे में पता करने के अलावा यह देखते हैं कि सरकार इन समस्याओं को कैसे हल कर सकती है।

बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि हमें अध्यापकों को आरामदायक और अच्छी ज़िन्दगी देने की दिशा में कदम उठाना चाहिए क्योंकि एक अच्छा अध्यापक जीवन भर के लिए अपनी छाप छोड़ जाता है।

“हम अपनी आँखों से समस्याएं देखते हैं, चिन्ताएं सुनते हैं तथा हम अपने लोगों के साथ मिलकर समस्याओं का समाधान निकालते हैं।”

प्रधान मंत्री के स्मोल ग्रान्ट स्कीम की मदद से इस योजना पर छः लाख डॉलर (\$600,000) से कुछ ज्यादा खर्च हुआ है।

बड़निमारामा ने सेना के इंजिनियर्स को भी धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने टीचर्स कोटस बनवाने में मदद की थी।

चार टीचर्स कोटस सरकार की हाउजिंग योजना में शामिल हैं जबकि दो और कोटस अलग से बनाए जायेंगे।



लेन्ड्स मंत्री अशनील सुधाकर नंधारी बा में पानी वाली एक योजना का उद्घाटन करते हुए . चितः मेरेयानी गोनेंदुवा

नंधारी में पानी वाली योजना से लोगों को लाभ होगा

वीरेन्द्र लाल

नंधारी बा में पानी वाली एक योजना से वहाँ लगभग सौ घरों को नल का पानी मिलने लगेगा। लेन्ड्स मंत्रालय की सहायता से इस योजना पर काम हो रहा है और लेन्ड्स मंत्री अशनील सुधाकर ने बताया कि योजना के पहले और दूसरे चरण पर काम हो चुका है।

पहले चरण में मायको प्रोजेक्ट

प्रोग्राम के जरिए हायड्रो जियो-लोजिकल असेसमेंट किया गया था। इसमें साउथ पैसिफिक कोमिउनिटी और मिनरल रिसोसस डिपार्टमेंट शामिल थे और इसके लिए पैसे यूरोपियन युनियन से मिले थे। मायको प्रोजेक्ट प्रोग्राम की अगुवाई प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर कर रहा था।

दूसरे चरण में पचास (50) मिटर गहरा एक बो-हौल खोदा गया जिससे इलाके में लगभग सौ घरों

को पानी मिलेगा।

मंत्री सुधाकर ने बताया कि खुदाई करने के लिए जपान से हाल ही खरीदा गया टौन 300 ड्रिल रिग (TONE 300 Drill Rig) काम में लाया गया था। मंत्री ने कहा कि अगले चरण पर काम जल्द शुरू होगा जिसके समाप्त होने पर लगभग चार सौ लोगों को पानी मिलने लगेगा। नंधारी, गन्ना की खेती वाला पहाड़ी इलाका है जहाँ अक्सर लोग

पानी की कमी का सामना करते हैं।

इसके अलावा नाविया बा और राकीराकी के वोलिवोलिल और रापापातू इलाकों में जल्द ही यह योजना शुरू होगी।

मंत्री सुधाकर ने बताया कि जो लोग पानी की कमी का सामना कर रहे हैं और अपने इलाके में बो-हौल खुदवाना चाहते हैं, उन्हें अपने डिस्ट्रिक्ट ऑफिस में इसकी जानकारी देनी चाहिए।

प्रकृति की
इज्जत करें

2

कोरोना वायरस को लेकर
सावधानी बरतने की मांग

3

निउ ज़ीलैंड से सहयोग के
लिए आभार व्यक्त किया गया

6

भारत ने मनाया इक्वत्तरवा
(71st) गणतंत्र दिवस

7

फीजी दर्पण

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शरणार्थियों के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र की क्षेत्रीय प्रतिनिधि लुईस ओविन, प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शरणार्थियों के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र का दफ्तर फीजी के साथ मिलकर काम करेगा

वीरेंद्र लाल

जलवायु परिवर्तन को लेकर फीजी की नेतागिरी को मान्यता देते हुए शरणार्थियों के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र हाय कमिशनर का दफ्तर (UNHCR), फीजी के साथ मिलकर काम करने की बात दोहराई है।

फीजी के अपने पहले दौर पर, शरणार्थियों के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र दफ्तर की हाल ही नियुक्त हुई क्षेत्रीय प्रतिनिधि लुईस ओविन ने प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण से मुलाकात की।

इस दौरान सुश्री ओविन ने जलवायु परिवर्तन को लेकर फीजी की क्षेत्रीय और विश्व नेतागिरी की सरहाना की और कहा कि यू.एन.

हर्डिच.सी.आर फीजी के साथ सम्बंध में मजबूती लाने की दिशा में काम करेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि जलवायु परिवर्तन को लेकर फीजी के काम से वे खुश हैं।

सुश्री ओविन और श्री करण के बीच ग्लोबल एक्शन प्लेन हासिल करने में फीजी और प्रशांत क्षेत्र की भूमिका और मजबूत करने कि दिशा में कानून बनाने और तकनीकी समर्थन हासिल करने पर विचार विमर्श हुआ। सुश्री ओविन ने कहा कि फीजी और यू.एन.हर्डिच.सी.आर साथ मिलकर बहुत कुछ हासिल कर सकते हैं, जिनसे फीजी, प्रशांत और पूरी दुनिया के लोगों के जीवन पर सकारात्मक असर पड़ेगा।

“यह स्पष्ट है कि इस अभियान में फीजी

हमेशा से एक दोस्त रहा है और उसकी नेतागिरी और भूमिका से काफी कुछ हासिल किया जा सकता है”, सुश्री ओविन ने कहा।

श्री करण ने सुश्री ओविन को इस पद पर उनकी नियुक्ति की बधाई दी। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि फीजी सरकार, शरणार्थियों के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र दफ्तर के काम का हमेशा समर्थन करेगी। श्री करण ने इनटानेशनल ओगनाएज्जेशन फो मायग्रेशन (IOM) के साथ, पसिफिक मोबिलिटी प्रोजेक्ट पर यू.एन.हर्डिच.सी.आर के काम का स्वागत किया।

इस प्रोजेक्ट का लक्ष्य है, जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण दूसरे देशों में बसने का इरादा रखने वाले लोगों के लिए एक क्षेत्रीय ढाँचा तैयार करना।

श्री करण ने बताया कि फीजी इस साल जुलाई तक प्लेटफोम ओन डिज़ास्टा डिस्पलैमेंट के अध्यक्ष का पद सम्भालने की ताक में है।

उन्होंने कहा कि इससे फीजी की जलवायु परिवर्तन को लेकर कदम उठाने में तेज़ी लाने की दिशा में सभी देशों को एक साथ जोड़ने का मौका मिलेगा।

इस पद पर नियुक्त होने से पहले सुश्री ओविन, यू.एन.हर्डिच.सी.आर के मुख्यालय जिनीवा, स्विट्ज़रलैंड में फील्ड प्रोटेक्शन सेविस, डिविज़न ऑफ इनटानेशनल प्रोटेक्शन की डेपुटी डायरेक्टर थी। यू.एन.हर्डिच.सी.आर का कवरज ओस्ट्रेलिया, निउ-ज़ीलैंड, फीजी और तेरह (13) प्रशांत देशों में है।

Noda Viti

Sotavi na gagadre

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

S A sotava na Matanitu na gagadre ni va na tikina ena loma ni vanua e Namosi me tosoyanivakavolekanaveiqaravini veitabana vakamatanitu.

Oya ena nona dolava ena siga Tusiti ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na itikotiko ni Matanitu e Dada mai Namosi.

Kaya ko PM Bainimarama ni itikotiko ni Matanitu oya ena yaga kina tikina o Naqarawai, Veinuqa, Wainikoroiluva kei Namosi.

“E 18 na kena koro ka rauta ni 4000 na iwiliwili ni lewe ni vanua. E rua na kena koronivuli ni secondary ka vitu tiko na koronivuli ni primary,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Ena vuku ni veika oqori sa vakarautaka na Matanitu e rauta ni \$1.5 na milioni na dola me cakacakataki kina na nomuni gagadre na lewe saka ni yasana.”

“Mai caka na veivakatorocaketaki oqo ena nomuni gagadre na lewenivanua me tara vakavoleka vei kemuni e dua na itikotiko ni Matanitu. E da a mai veitalanoa kina ena vica na yabaki sa oti. Ena nomuni a gole yani ni a lai vakamacalataka na balavu ni vanua o ni lakova mo ni yaco ena vale ni bula e Navua, na nomuni siro sobu ki Deuba me baleta na veiqaravi ni Tabacakাকা ni Teitei.”

“Sa mani vakatudaliga mai kina na Matanitu me rogoca na cakacakataki ni nomuni gagadre,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Sa sega talega ni oni na gole kina vale ni bula i Navua, sega tale ni oni gole ki Deuba ena nomuni lai kauta mai na nomuni itei se oni lai veitalanoa kei ira na vakaillesilesi.”

“Na veiqaravi taucoko oqo sana tiko eke. Na Matanitu oqo sa kauta mai vakavoleka veikemuni na nona veiqaravi. Sa na levu cake na gauna oni na qarava kina na veika me bula kina nomuni vuvale kei na nomuni



Mai dolava tiko oqori ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na itikotiko vou ni matanitu e Dada, Namosi . iTaba: ??

veikoro,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Au kila ni lewe levu vei kemuni oni dau vakayagataka na qele. Mo ni rawata kina na nomuni bula. Ena gadrevi kina na nomuni solia na nomuni gauna kina teitei. Au vakabauta ni na yaga sara vakalevu ki vei kemuni na ituvatuva ni Matanitu tu oqo ka oni na qaravi vakavinaka ena veiqaravi ni Tabacakাকা ni Teitei.”

Kuria o PM Bainimarama ka kaya vei ira na turaga kei na marama e Nabukebuke ni sa lalawataka tiko mena tara talega e kea na vale ni wai, na valenivolavola ni Yasana, kei na nodratou vale ni volavola na Tabacakাকা ni Veikau.

“Qo sa na vukea na nomuni qaravi vinaka ka sikovi wasoma na lewe ni vanua ena loma ni yasana o Namosi.”

“Na cakacaka oqo e sega ni vakayacori ga e Namosi. E tara ena veiyasai Viti vakabibi ena taudaku ni veikorolelevu,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Ni na rogoca tiko ni macawa sa oti au a lai veiqaravi kina kina Vualiku sa toso tiko na cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki ka milioni na dola na isu vakailavo ni cakacaka e lai dolavi e Vanua Levu.”

“Ena macawa oqo au sa na dolava kina na gaunisala vou ena yanuyanu o Koro ka va tiko na kena itatakososo ena loma ni yanuyanu.”

“Au na dolava tale tiko ga kina e vica na vale ni qasenivuli e Sigatoka. Na Matanitu e sega walega ni vosa ni yalayala vei kemuni na lewe ni vanua. E cakacakataka saraga na veika e yalataka,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.



‘Me qacoi na tiko bulabula’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA vakasalataki ira na lewe ni vanua mai na vualiku na Minisita ni Bula kei na Veiqaravi e Valenibula, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete mera qacoya ka to taka na tiko bulabula me vakailaitaki kina na leqa main a mate sureti. Na nomu bula se itovo ni bula ko bulataka ena dusimaka veiiko na nomu tiko bulabula ka vakakina na mate. Oqori na mala ni vosa ka vakaya-

cora na Minisita ena nodra veisiko voli ena vica na koro mai na vualiku. Kuria ko Minisita ni da dau vakatulewa cala ena levu na gauna ka dau laki vakavuna na noda tauvi mate ka dau vakavuna na leqa tale eso ena noda bula vakalewenivanua.

Sa vakauqeti ira na lewenivanua raraba na Minisita mera dau qarauna na nodra tiko bulabula ena veisiga ka medau sava vinaka na liga kena mata ena sovu ni sisili

ena gauna e vakayagataki oti kina na vale ni vakacegu ka vakakina kevaka edau tarai na duka.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita ni tubu cake ni mate sureti me vaka na taifote, kei na coka e vumai ena kena sega ni maroroi na savasava ni tiko bulabula ka sega ni dau kauwaitaki vakalevu vei keda na lewenivanua me yacova saraga na gauna esa veitauvi kina na mate se sa dua e tauvimate.

Sa vakasalataki ira na lewenivanua ko Minisita mera dau cakacaka vata baleta nira na kaukauwa kina ena gauna era dau curuma kina edua na bolebole ni nodra tiko bulabula ka me dau wali kina na leqa.

Na kena dau tubu cake na mate edau kauta talega main a leqa ni bula vakailavo baleta ni valuta na bula ni rawaka vakailavo ena matavuvale ka vakakina ena bula ni lewe ni vanua raraba.



Era vuli toka oqori ko ira na lewe ni vanua ka ra na vakaitavitaki ira tiko ena kena kumuni na i tukutuku baleta na i wiliwili ni dau teitei, nodra teitei, nodra itei ka vaka kina na nodra rawaka vakailavo mai na vua ni qele. iTaba: **VAKARAUTAKI**

Rai ki liu , toso tale ga ki liu



Na Minisita Ni Vuli Rosy Akbar e na soqwo ni nodra vakatabui na gonevulio e Nasinu Muslim College.

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

MO kakua ni dau vakanananu lesu ki na ka sa loti, toso ki liu ka laveta cake na nomu koronivuli ena dua na ivakatege vinaka ka toro cake talega.

Mai vakakoto oqori na nodra vakamacala na Minisita ni Vuli Rosy Akbar ena nodra vakananumi ira tiko na gonevuli ena koronivuli Nasinu Muslim era sa mai vakatabui mera veiliutaki ena yabaki vakavuli oqo ena 2020.

Vakabibitaka ko Minisita Akbar ka yaga ni nodra dau vakarautaki vinaka na gonevuli ka uqeti ira kina na qasenivuli mera veivuke ena nodra dau tuberi na gonevuli mera kila vinaka na veiliutaki.

Ena sega ni ra vulica na gone kevaka era sega ni liutaki ira vinaka na qasenivuli me vaka ni rad au vuli levu ga na gonevuli ena nodra veituberi ka veivakarautaki vinaka na qasenivuli.

Era laveti cake talega na gonevuli ena kena dau tau veira eso na vosa e ganiti ira me rawa ni dau dolava na nodra rai kei na vakasama mera raica vakararama na veika era curuma ka sarava talega na iyaloyalo levu me vaka ni sega tale ni dua na ka edau namaki vei ira ka mera tubu cake mera lewenivanua dvinaka.

Vakaraitakina ko Minisita Akbar ni matanitu esa na vukei ira e 950 na toppers ena vuli torocake ena sikolasivi. Oqo e wilikina na vuli, vuniwai, idinia, teknoloji ka 20 na sikolasivi ena vuli e bvanua tani.

Uqeti ira na gonevuli ni Nasinu muslim mera qacoya na veisau vinaka ka ni sega ni dua ena vukei ira m vaka ira ga.

Vakasokumuni ni tukutuku baleta na teitei, susu manumanu, qoliqoli

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA vakarautaki tiko e dua na mata vakaisilesi vakamatanitu mera qarava na cakacaka ni vakasokumuni ni tukutuku me baleta na iwiliwili ni dau teitei, nodra teitei, nodra itei ka vakakina na nodra rawaka vakailavo mai na vua ni qele. Segi ni guilecavi kina na nodra cakacaka talega na dau veiqaravi ena susu manumanu, oira na gonedaui kei na dau vana ena qoli vaki ni sasalu kei na yau bula mai na waitui ka vaka kina oira na lewe ni vanua era dau teikau.

Na cakacaka oqo ena vakayacori tiko ena vula saraga ko February ka tekivu ena 10-28 ni siga aka vakayacani tiko me 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census ka ratou cakacaka vata kina na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei kei na Tabacakacaka ni Qoliqoli, Tabacakaka ni Veikau, Tabacakacaka ni Susu Manumanu ka vakakina na Tabacakacaka ni wiliwili kei na sokumuni ni tukutuku me vaka ka rawaka vakailavo ena veisiga ka vakakina ena dua na yabaki vakailavo.

Ena vula ko January era a digitaki kina na lewenivanua kara vola kerekere yani mera vakaitavi veiratou na Tabacakacaka ni teitei

ka ra vakautaki talega ena vuli kei na kila ka baleta na cakacaka oqo. Na veiqaravi ni vakasokumuni tukutuku oqo edau vakayacori ni oti ena 10 na yabaki ka otioi ni gauna eya vakayacori kina ena noda vana oya ena 2009.

Vakaitaka na liuliu ni Tabacakacaka ni Vakasokumuni tukutuku kei na rawaka vakailavo ena Tabana ni Teitei ko Sera Bose ni oqo esa imatai ni gauna mera vakayagataka kina na nodra tabana na kila ka veivuke mai kina na Tabana ni Teitei kei na Kakana main a Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura oya na FAO se Food agriculture organization mevaka ni se sega nib

au taucoko saratu na itukutuku me baleti ira na dauteitei, susu manumanu, dau qoli kei ira na tei kau ena noda vanua.

Oqori edua na bolebole levu ena tabana ka vakakina vua na matanitu baleta ni itukutuku oqo edau vakarautaki talega kina na tuvatuva ni rawaka vakailavo se vakayagataki ilavo ena veiyabaki vakamatanitu.

Na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabana n Teitei, Ritesh Dass ena nodra laki dolava na vuli me baleti ira na ivakalesilesi era na vakaitatvi ena cakacaka oqo, era vakabibitaka na kena sa rui bibi na cakacaka vakakina na nodra qarava vinaka

ena veisiga.

Na matanitu esa tu vakarau me vakayacora kecesara na nodra itavi ni veiqaravi vei ira na lewenivanua ena loma ni vanua, taudaku ni koro lelevu ka vakakina na veiyatu yanuyanu ka raica ni dua na gagadre levu oqo ena teitei se teivaki ni qele me baleta na kakana.

Kuria ko Minisita Dr Reddy ni dina ni ra yawaki keda main a lewenivanua ena taudaku ni vei koro lelevu ia era dua vei ira na tiko ena tuvatuva ni matanitu ena gauna edau navuci kina edua na veiqaravi ni veivakatorocaketaki baleta ni sega ni qai vinakataki me dua e guilecavi ena kui ni veivakatorocaketaki.

“Noda Paraiminisita esa deivaki tu vua na nodra dai vukei na lewenivanua ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu baleta oqori na nodra tu-

vatuva kei na raiyawa vaka liuliu ni matanitu oya nodra tubu na lewenivanua raraba e Viti me toso vata kei na tubu levu ni matanitu,” kaya ko Minisita Dr Reddy.

“Na raiyawa oqo esa matata tu vakasigalevu ka mera qaravi vakatautauvata na lewenivanua ena noda vanua.”

Kuria ko Minisita ni sasaga ni matanitu me vakatauvatani na veiqaravi kei na veika ni veivakatorocaketaki ena loma ni vanua, buca, yanuyanu kei ira na toka ena loma ni tauni ena veiyasana kece vakavuli, tiko bulabula kei na veika ka kece ni veiqaravi vakamatanitu.

“Sa ka bibi kina vua na matanitu me dau talevi ira na lewenivanua raraba e Viti ka mera dau semati vaka vinaka mai ena veiqaravi ni matanitu.”

Dei na sasaga ni veiqaravi ena taudaku

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA laveti cake ni bula nodra na lewenivanua raraba ena noda vanua edua na cakacaka ena sega ni vakacauoca kina na matanitu baleta ni oqo edua na inaki levu ni veiqaravi vakamatanitu. Oqori na vakamacala nodra na Minisita ni Teitei, Veivakatorocaketaki, Wai kei na VeikaBula Wavoliti keda, Dr Mahendra Reddy ena nodra laki tavoca na vakayagataki ni wavu tatakoso main a koro ko Nabukelevu village e Serua.

Kuria okoya ni itavi dina ga ni matanitu me laveta na bula ni lewenivanua ena veisiga ena veika e vakarautaka vei ira ka vakauasivi oira na vakaitavi ena vakatubuilavo ni matanitu



Tukutuku mai na tabana ni curuvanua

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA KACIVAKA NA Tabana ni Curuvanua ena noda vanua ni sa sogo na airport kei na yalayala ni curuvanua ena noda vanua vei ira na lewenivanua era gade mai vanuatani kevaka era sa curuma main a vanua ko Jaina ena loma ni 14 na siga ena nodra via gade mai ki noda vanua.

Oqori e tiki tikoga ni sasaga ni Matanitu for Viti ena nodra via taqomaka na noda vanua ka vaka kina na lewenivanua ena noda vanua main a mate veitauvi ka rerevaki sa veide-wavi tikomai Jaina kei ira na matanitu vaka Esia ena noda vanua.

Oqori na Coronavirua kevaka oni sab era ni kila vinaka na kena I talanoa, okoya e mate veitauvi ka vua mai ena kania eso na manumanu ka sega ni samaki vinaka ka levu kina na duka. Na tauni ko Wuhan e tauyavu mai kina na mate oqo ka laurai ni sa tetevei Jaina totoloa saraga ena loma ni vica na siga ena macawa rua sa oti. Tukuna oira na kenadau vakavuniwai kei na tiko bulabula ni mate oqo esa bvakamatei ira saratikoga na kai Jaina ena loma ga ni vica na aua na kena dewavi ira yani. Ka laurai ni mate e veitauvi totolo saraga baleta na duka ni vakarautaki ni kakanana. Na lawa vata oqori esa vakadonua mai ko Sigapore, Australia ka vakatabui kina na takosovi ni nodrau border se yalayala ni curuvanua me yacova ni sa dua tale na veisau ni tukutuku oqo.



Na Minisita ni Wai Dr Mahendra Reddy kewa ira na lewe ni koro e Naivilaca ni oti na kena mai dolavi na nodra itatakoso vou e Noco, Rewa. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Marautaki na tatakososo e Naivilaca

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA marautaka na 45 na matavuvale mai na koro ko Naivilaca ena yasana vakaturaga ko Rewa ena kena mai tavoci edua na nodra ikawakawa vou me vakayagataki ena koro. Rauta e 250 na lewenivanua era na rawa ni vukei ka vakayagataki na veivakatorocaketaki oqo.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Dr Mahendra Reddy ni marautaka na matanitu na nodra vukei na lewenivanua me vaka ni oqo na nodra itavi veitalia walega na vanua era na tiko mai kina.

Kuria ko koya ni nodra qaravi vinaka na lewenivanua ena veivuke vakaoqo esa na laveta cake kina na nodra bula ni veiqaravi ena veisiga. Na

ikawakawa oqo esega walega ni vukea nodra veilakoyaki ena veisiga na lewenivanua mera gole kina na makete ka kauta kina nodra ivoli, ia ena vukea nodra vuli na gonevuli ena nodra taubale takoso mera gone ki koronivuli.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Reddy ni dua na veiqaravi levu ni matanitu oya me semata na nodra bula na lewenivanua mai na loma ni vanua kei ira na tiko ena tauni vakakina oira ena yanuyanu. Marautaka ko Enosi Navunicagi yabaki 70 na veivuke ni matanitu baleta ni vukei ira na lewenikoro ena nodra veilakoyaki ena veisiga. Sa oti kina na nodra dau takosova na waluvu mera gole i na makete oira na lewenivanua ka vakakina na gonevuli ena nodra gole i koronivuli.

Veisau yadra ena valenivolavola nei Komisina

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

OTI vinaka e 103 na yabaki ni veiqaravi vata ena matanitu esa mai cava ena nodratou mai cegu e tolu na Komisina se Talai Veivuke ena wasewase e tolu na Loma, Ra, kei na Tokalau. Ratou mai talaci kina vua na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro lelevu, DR Mahendra Reddy ko Talai Veivuke ena Tokalau Luke Moroivalu, Talai Veivuke ena Ra Joji Satakala, Talai Veivuke Vualiku Jovesa Vocea.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Dr Reddy ni dua dina na bula ni qaravi itavi ratou solia na ivakalesilesi vakamatanitu oqo ena gauna ratou mai veiqaravi voli kina me vaka ni ratou solia 30 vakacaca na yabaki vakacaca yadudua ena gauna ratou cakacaka kina.

Vakavinakataki iratou kei na nodratou matavuvale ena yalo dina ni nodratou veiqaravi.

Ko Moroivalu e solia e 36 na yabaki, Vocea e 37 na yabaki kei Satakala e 30 na yabaki ka levu sara na veisau kei na veivakatorocaketaki eratou qarava ena dela ni gauna ni nodratou cakacaka vakamatanitu me vaka ma dola ni Kubulau government station, Wainikoro ka vaka kina na kena mai tekivutaki na *rural millionaire scheme* ni matanitu ena yanuyanu ko Gau ka vuqa tale.

Eratou sotava talega eso na gauna dredre ka ratou vorata mai ena delani ni gauna ni veiqaravi me vaka na cagilaba ena veiyasana eratou veiqaravi kina ka gadrevi kina na ivakatulewa matau ka momona.

Ratou veisosomitaki tiko vakawawa ena gauna oqo ko Inoke Tuiwainunu ena Loma, Uraia Rainima ena Vualiku kei Jone Bacau ena Ra.

‘Nomu itavi mo liutaka’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA nomuni itavi na veiliutaki ena koronivuli. Oqori na nomuni lesilesi oni sa digitaki kina ka nanuma mo na vakayacora sara vakavinaka main a vuni yalomu mai loma ena veiliutaki nei ratou na qasenivuli.

Oqori na itukutuku nodra na Minisita Ni Vuli Rosy Akbar ena nodra laki vakatabui ira na gonevuli mai Ratu Kadavulevu School ena nodra laki veiliutaki ena koronivuli.

Oira na prefects induction oqo era vakauqeti mai vua na Minisita ni Vuli mera yaloqaga tiko ena nodra itavi ka mera vukei ira na qasenivuli ena kena vakayacori na itavi ni veiqaravi ni veitavulici



Na Minisita ni Vuli Rosy Akbar, ira na qasenivuli kei rau na iliului ni gonevuli ena nodra vakatabui na gonevuli e Ratu Kadavulevu School, Tailevu, ena macawa sa oti.

ena koronivuli ni matanitu.

“O kemuni na iliului ni sa digitaki ka sa nomunui itavi moni qarava na koronivuli kei ira na qasenivuli,” kaya ko Minisita Akbar.

“Na koronivuli oqo edau susugi

ira na iliului ena veiliutaki vinaka, na badge oqo edua na ivakaraitaki ni veidinati esa vakayacori vei kemuni na koronivuli kei na qasenivuli.”

“Ni taqomaka vinaka ka moni laveta cake kina na nomuni

koronivuli vakauasivi na nomuni bula ni veiqaravi vaka gonevuli kei na rawaka vinaka vakavuli.”

Vakaraitaka na Qasenivuli Liu Arvind Prasad na bibi ni itavi vaka prefect se gonevuli veiliutaki baleta nira vei semati ena

veiqaravi ni koronivuli vei ira na qasenivuli kei ira na gonevuli.

“Era vakaitavitaki talega ena kena cicivaki vakadodonu ka vakamuri vakavinaka na lawa ni koronivuli.”



Yaga vakalevu vei ira dau tei dovu, gonevuli na wavu vou e Korotari

Nona sa dolava na wavu mai Korotari mai Cakaudrove ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama sa na yaga ki vei ira e lewe 20 na dau tei dovu ena yasayasa oya kei na nodra laki vuli e veisiga na dui luvedra. E liu era dau vakayagataka tiko na gonevuli mai Korotari na wavu lili. Ia mai laqa na kena ikelekele ena

coka ni dua na dobuilevu e kea ka sa dau yavavala sara vakalevu. Era marautaka na itubutubu ni wavu vou sa dola oya sa na taqomaka na nodra bula na gonevuli ka vakarawarawataka na kena dau kau na nodra ivoli kina iqaqi.

iTaba: JOSAIA RALAGO



Dola e va na vale ni qasenivuli e Namalata District School

Sa dolava rawa ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama e va vei ratou na ono na vale ni qasenivuli era sa tara oti na idinia ni mataivalu e Namalata District School e Taillevu. Dola tale ga kina e dua na vale ni volavola ni koronivuli. Vakailavotaka na Matanitu na tara ni vale kece o ya ka koto ena \$600,000 na kena isau. Sa dau tusanaka tiko e veigauna na turaga na iliuli ni Matanitu

ni vinaka na nodra vale na qasenivuli era na marautaka kina na laki veivakavulici ka na kune na mawena ena daumaka ni macala ni nodra veitarogi na gonevuli. arava sara yani na solevutaki ni dola ni vale ni qasenivuli oya ena Tikina o Namalata mai Taillevu.

iTaba: SOLO LEWANAVANUA



Marautaki na dola ni gaunisala mai Kaba

Sa na qai cegu na vodo idini cavu vakabalavu ni sa dolava ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na gaunisala mai Kaba e Taillevu. Sa na vakarawarawataka sara nodra veisiko na tu ena veikoro ni cakacaka kina veikoro e Kaba.

Vakarawarawataka talega na kau ni nodra ivoli nisa na usa ga ena lori sena basi. Sa dua na marau levu vei ira mai Kaba. Mo sarava sara yani oqori eso na itaba ni soqo lagilagi oya.

iTaba: MARICA CAUCAU



Na soli kakana ni cagilaba e Lau

Sivia e 80 na vakalesilesi vakamatanitu era a kau kakana ni vakacoko kina yasana o Lau ena vula sa oti ka rau liutaka o Roko Tui Lau Maikeli Waqatabu kei Roko Yasayasa Moala o Wiliame Nayacatabu. Era veitokoni talega na idinia ni Mataivalu ena kena vakavodoki ka veisoliyaki na kakana ni veivuke ni

cagilaba kina veiyanyanu. rua na iwasesewase kena imatai vei qaravi ena Yasayasa Moala keina ena ikarua vei qaravi e Lau e Cake. Saravi sara yani eso na itaba ni veisiko oya.

iTaba: SOLO LEWANAVANUA





Vuabale na marau e Kia

JOSAIA RALAGO

VUABALE na nodra marau na itubutu-bu ni gonevuli ena Kia District School mai Macuata ni sa dolava o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na nodra vale ni wili vola vou me vaka e kaya na Jeameni ni koronivuli o Akuila Tutora.

“Taumada au vakavinavinaka vua na Kalou ni solia vei keda na draki rawa kina nida mai tiko rawa me mai dolava tiko na Paraiminisita na nodra vale ni Wilivola na gonevuli ena yanuy-anu o Kia.”

“Levu na gone ni Kia era solia tu na nodra bula ena tara ni Library, era solia na nodra gauna era lako mai era mai tara me vaka ni vakailavotaka na Tabana ni Vull.”

“Keimami qai veivuke tuga na lewe ni yanuy-anu o Kia ka taura walega e 2 na vula na kena tara na vale ni Wilivola vou ni Kia District School ka sa mai dola ni kua o PM Bainimarama,” kaya o Tutora.

“E liu era vaka-library tiko kina na gone ena vei ruku ni veivunikau mera lai wilivola tu kina.”



Ko oira na gonevuli e Kia District School ni oti na nona dolava ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na nodra vale ni wili vola vou. iTaba: JOSAIA RALAGO

“Ia ni kua sa dua na vakacegu levu vei ira na itubutubu kei na gonevuli keimami sa vakavinavinka kina vakalevu kina Matanitu,” kaya o Tutora

“Keimami vakavinavinaka vakalevu vua na turaga na Paraiminisita ni solia mai e dua na ilavo tara rawa kina na vale ni Wilivola ni koronivuli na Kia District School.

Dola na sala kei na wavu e Lekutu Levu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

YACO na marau levu ena vanua o Vaturova ni sa dolava o Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama na gaunisala vou mai Dreketi Lailai ki Lekutu Levu mai Cakaudrove.

Qai kuria ni tau tu na kena uca ni

“Na isau vakailavo saka ni cakacaka oqo e tiko ena 3.3 na milioni na dola mena ci-civa e 4 na kilomita kei na 3 na kena wavu.”

Vakaraitaka talega kina o PM Bainimarama na yaga ni gaunisala oya kina lewenivanua.

“Na gaunisala saka oqo e semata tiko na tikina o Labasa kei na tikina o Vaturova. Era sa na vakayagataka saka na gaunisala oqo na veikoro e tiko ena gaunisala o Bulileka okati saka kina na iteitei era toka ena loma ni vanua. Qo saka talega sana dolava na makete vou ni veivoli vei ira na dau teitei kei na susu manumanu. Na cakacaka saka talega oqo e semati Lekutu Levuki Vanua Levu vakasaka kina kina veiyasai Viti.”

Vakaraitaka o PM Bainimarama ni kena ta na gaunisala kei na kena dola e 3 na kena wavu sa oti kina na dredre ni kena dau takosovi n uciwai ena veigauna eliu.

“E liu ni dau lako curuma tu na lewenivanua e Lekutu Levu na dredre ni veilakoyaki vakabibi ena gauna saka ni dobui.”

Vakavinavinaka talega o PM Bainimarama vua na turaga na Tui Vaturova kei ira na dau ta sala.

“Gone turaga saka na Tui Vaturova, kemuni saka na cakacaka ena tabana ni gaunisala taumada na veikidavaki vakaturaga vakavanua mai lagiti saka tu kina na noda veiqaravi. Vinaka saka vakalevu na veivakaturagataki. Au marautaka ni sa vakarau dola oqo na gaunisala mai Dreketi Lailai ki Lekutu Levu.”

Yaga ki na vuvale nei Natui na wavu e Korotari

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

KO Marisela Natui e dua na dau tei dovu yabaki 45 e Korotari, Labasa, ka sega ni kinoca rawa na nona marautaka na kena sa mai dola na wavu vou ka ni na yaga sara vakalevu vei ira na dau teidovu kei ira na gonevuli ena nodra veilakoyaki.

“E liu a vakayagataki tikoga na wavu lili koya e tiko mai ra. E levu na luvei keimami e ra gole ki koronivuli. Ia dua na waluvu a yaco mai cavuta na ikelekele ni wavulili mai tai-kadua. Na gauna oqo nida butuka na wavulili oya sa levu na kena yavavala. Ririkotaki o ira na levu keimami dera na lutu.” kaya o Natui.

“Koya gone keimai sa maraua vakalevu I sa mai dua qoka kaya e dei esa mai vakatovolei oti ena 3 na dave lelevu me yacova na kena sa dola oqo sa bau tovolei vinaka sara ga. Keitou vakabauta ni sa dua na wavu kaukauwa vinaka.”

Kaya o Marisela nira lewe 20 kece na dau teidovu e ena yaga vei ira na wavu vou oqo e Korotari.

“Wili talega kina na veikoro e ra tiko mai cake me vakataki Satulaki kei na kena veikoro vagalala e levu

era tiko oqo keimami na vakayagataka na wavu oqo keimami sa marautaka dina ena siga ni kua, vakabibi o ira na luvei keimami era gole tu ki koronivuli.”

“E liu dau levu na gauna keimami cabe uciwai neimami lori ni dovu dau sega ni cabe cake rawa mai ena bati ni uciwai oqori,” kaya o Marisela.

“Tamani dredre levu vakabibi vei au e liu niu biuta mai na luvequ me lako mai koronivuli na uciwai levu oqo ni sad au coka na dobui e kila o Labasa na kena voravora.”

“Oya ni donumaka na gauna ni vuli era sana sega ga ni vuli ni dua na macawa kalougata mera na vuli va dua,” kaya o Marisela.

“Na qele au lisitiko kina e qele ga ni neitou mataqali o Navesi. Keitou lisitaka tiko e 31 na lisi ni eke ni tei dovu ka keitou tei yaqona talega vakelevu ni sa vanua vaka Cakaudrove dau levu toka na kena uca.”

“Vakacaca ni dau musumusu na ka e musu ena isau ni dovu sa qai dau bula toka vei keitou e 5 kina 6 na udolu na dola ena dua na yabaki mai na dovu.”

“Keitou e levu sara mai na ilavo e rawa mai ena yaqona ni vakatautauvatataki ena ilavo ni dovu,” kaya o Marisela.



Ko Marisela Natui e na wavu vou e Korotari, Labasa. iTaba: JOSAIA RALAGO

Dola e rua na vale ni qasenivuli e Uluivalili

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

“AU vakabauta ni nodra vakavaletaki vinaka na qasenivuli ena lai kune na kena vakavoukana ena nodra rawaka vakavuli na gonevuli e Uluivalili.”

Oqori edua na mala ni vosa ni nona dolava tiko ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama e rua na vale ni qasenivuli ena

Uluvalili College mai Wailevu Cakaudrove.

“Ena 2017 ena gauna ni noqu veisiko ena Vualiku ra kerei au na qasenivuli ke rawa ni 2 tale na vale ni qasenivuli. Sa da mai vakadinadinataka na noqu yalayala ena 3 na yabaki sa oti,” e kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

Kuria o PM Bainimarama ni duavata na Matanitu me tara na vale vinaka ni qasenivuli me

vorata na cagilaba kaukauwa.

“Na dolavi ni rua na vale ni qasenivuli e Uluivalili College e ivakaraitaki ni sasaga ni Matanitu me tara na vale me sotava na revurevu ni draki veisau. Na isau vakailavo ni 2 na vale ni qasenivuli oqo e koto ena \$268,000.”

“Na Uluivalili College a tauyavutaki ena 2012 ka rauta ni 46 na kilomita mai Savusavu.”



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na qasenivuli e Uluivalili College ni oti na dola ni rua na vale ni qasenivuli e Wailevu, Cakaudrove. iTaba: JOSAIA RALAGO

Na inaki levu ni qaravi ni Census Agriculture 2020

VEITALANOA na noda niuseva ni Matanitu na iTaukei na **NODA VITI** kei na marama Dau ni Bula-vakailavo se *Chief Economist* ni Tabacakacaka ni Teitei ko Sera Bose.

Me baleta tiko na na qaravi ni wiliwili ni Tabana ni Teitei ka kilai ena vosa vakaperitani me *Census Agriculture 2020*. Mo wilika sara yani.

NODA VITI: Ni rawa ni vakamacalataka mada na cava sara mada na inaki ni qaravi iwiliwili ni Tabana ni Teitei ni 2020?

SERA BOSE: Na qaravi ni wiliwili ni Tabana ni Teitei e dau qaravi ni oti na vei 10 na yabaki. Na kena sa oti a qaravi ena yabaki 2009. Sa kena inaki ga me kumuni kina na iwiliwili ni iteitei, ivoli kei na veika matailalali kece me baleta edua na vanua ni teitei me rawa ni laurai kina na iyaloayalo levu ni rawaka sa yaco tiko kina ena vei-mataqali ivoli se itei kei na levu ni rawaka e yaco tiko kina.

Na isevu talega ni gauna oqo me na kumuni vata talega na wiliwiliwili ni rawaka ena veitabana lalai tale eso me vaka na tabana ni teitei, susu manumanu, qoliqoli, kei na suka. E liu e tauri ga na sabolo ni wiliwili. Ia qoka se qai imatai ni gauna me tauri taucoko na veivanua ena taudaku ni koro lelevu kei daku ni korovakavalagi mera okati kece ena wiliwili ni yabaki 2020.

Na vuna e baleta ni gadrevi me vakavinakataki na iwiliwili e yavutaki kina neimami veiqaravi. Me matata talega kina vei kemami na kedra iwiliwili na lewenivanua keimami qaravi ira.

NODA VITI: Na veivuke cava oni vukei kina?

SERA BOSE: Veiyabaki sa sivi e dau levu era vakatitigataka na iwiliwili edua kumuna mai na Tabana ni Teitei baleta ni vakabekataki tuga na neimami rawa ni kumuna mai iwiliwili dina.

Ia, keimami sa vakavinavinaka ga kina (FAO) se Food Agriculture Organisation ni keimami sa mai sala vata voli ena cakacaka oqo me vakavinakataki kina na kumuni ni wiliwili me baleta na Tabana ni Teitei e Viti sa mai caka kina e levu na vuli ni qaravi ni cakacaka oqo.

NODA VITI: Ni via tukuna tiko beka e keka ni kumuni iwiliwili ni Tabana ni Teitei oqo e okati kece kina nava na tabana ni vakayagataki qele e Viti?

SERA BOSE: Ni kila nira kila



Ko ira na lewe ni vanua ka ra na qarava na iwiliwili ni Tabana ni Teitei se na Census Agriculture 2020. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Na marama Dau ni Bula vakailavo se *Chief Economist* ni Tabacakacaka ni Teitei ko Sera Bose. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

vinaka na Tabana ni Teitei na ena vuku ni tabana ni veikau kei na qoliqoli ia me vaka e sega ni levu na iwiliwili e vakadeitaki tu me baketi ira. Keimami sa duavata kina ena vakasokomuni iwiliwili oqo. Mera okati kece mai kina na

veitabana keceera okati ena Tabana ni Teitei. Me matata kina na levu ni lewenivanua era okati ena veitabana kece oqori.

NODA VITI: Na ka beka oni via tukuna tiko ni sa mana tiko

nomudou cakacaka vata kei na FAO baleta ni na vinaka cake kina na ivakarau ni nomudou vakasokuni iwiliwili?

SERA BOSE: Io, sana rawarawa cake kina na kumuni iwiliwili ni vakayagataki na kena iwiliwili oya. Ena vukea talega me matata kina na kumuni wiliwili ena qai muri mai.

NODA VITI: Na kumuni iwiliwili sa oti a vakayacori ena yabaki 2009, ni veisau cava sa vakayacori rawa?

SERA BOSE: O keda eda kalougata vata kei Samoa ni da lewena tiko e dua na kena ivakarau ka vakatura na Matabose kei Vuravura kei na FAO. Na FAO e liutaka tiko na ivakarau ni kumuni wiliwili vakaoqo. O Viti ga kei Samoa e rau matanitu ga ni Pasifika e okati ena porokaramu oya ni UN. Baleta ni levu na veivanua e se qai



Veiyabaki sa sivi e dau levu era vakatitigataka na iwiliwili edua kumuna mai na Tabana ni Teitei baleta ni vaka-bekataki tuga na neimami rawa ni kumuna mai iwiliwili dina.

Sera Bose

vakatorocaketaki ira tiko e sega ni taucoko tu na kumuniu ni nodra iwiliwili.



Na qaravi ni wiliwili ni Tabana ni Teitei e dau qaravi ni oti na vei 10 na yabaki. Na kena sa oti a qaravi ena yabaki 2009. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Noda Viti

Semati na gaunisala e Kiuva, Kaba Peninsula



MARICA CAUCAU

LAGILAGI DINA na soqo mai Kiuva Bau Tailevu ena imatai ni siga ni February 2020 ena nodra mai dolava vou na gauni sala tasili ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama me semati kina na gaunaisala ki Kaba, Bau Tailevu.

Na gaunisala oqori eratou tara na Fiji Roads Authority ena ilavo \$6.2 na milioni ka sa laveti cake talega kina na bula ni veiqaravi ena veisiga vei irana lewenivanua ena tikina o Bau ka sa vukei kina na nodra veilakoyaki ena veisiga.

Na sauni gaunisala tasili vou mai Kiuva Kaba Peninsula esa i vakaraitaki talega ni bibi ni kena kauwaitaki na bula ni lewenivanua me vaka nira dau takosova main a waitui mera gole mai kina na tauni I Nausori.

Ia oqo esa dua na veivakatorocaketaki levu ena nodra bula na lewenivanua ena vanua ko Kalili, Vatani, Dromuna baleta nira sa semati mai kina na loma ni vanua ena dua na gaunaisala vou. Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ena nodra laki dolava na gaunisala vou oqo ni oqo edua na siga vou ena nodra bula

na lewenivanua oqo me vaka nira sa semati vakavoleka mai kina loma ni tauni ena dua na veivakatorocaketaki era dau tatadra tuga kina na nodra qase ena veigauna sa oti yani. Ia nikia era sa mai vakavatukana taka na tatadra oya ena kena mai Dolavi saraga ena matani nodra matasawa edua na nodra gaunisala ni veilakoyaki ni tauni ka mera usana kina na nodra ivoli kin a makete.

“Oira na dauteitei era sana marautaka na veisau oqo baleta ni vakarawakarawataka vei ira na nodra veiqaravi ena kau ni nodra I tei mera laki volitaka ena makete levu e Nausori,” kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

“Ena otela ni saravanua mai Toberua ena rawa nira ciqoma na vulagi ena gauna totolo ka rawarawa talega baleta nira sa goleva main a gaunisala vou oqo ka na vukea saraga na nodra bisinisi ni saravanua ka vukei kemuni talega na lewenivanua ena koro voleka.”

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni veilakoyaki main a vanua ena rawarawa sara vei ira na gonevuli mai Kaba district school ena koro ko Dromuna ka vaka kina oira na koronivuli ena gaunaisala mai Kiuva, Buretu kei Nakelo.

Dolava tiko oqori ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na gaunisala vou ka semata na koro vakaturaga ko Kaba kei na yasana ko Bau e Tailevu. iTaba: MARICA CAUCAU

VOQA NI DAVUI

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

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

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