

FijiFocus



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FOR CLIMATE
- FRIENDLY
TRADE DEALS

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MAKES
MAJOR FLEET
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FIJIANS
'UNITED BY
PATRIOTISM,
FLAG'

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Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with students of Ratu Veikoso Primary School after commissioning the new teachers quarters at Cautata Village, Tailevu. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

'NO POLICY CHANGE'

PM clears air as he opens teachers' quarters

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“WE will not change our policy on free education because this Government remains committed to providing chil-

dren of Fiji all the opportunities that education can deliver.”

In saying this, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has called on all parents not to believe everything they read on social

media. This assurance comes as rumours on social media painted a misleading picture that the Government will not continue with the Free Education programme.

“The Government will continue to invest

in the future of the children of Fiji. We will not change this policy.”

At the same time, Prime Minister Bainimarama said teaching does not only happen

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Satyendra Prasad

This is the first generation since Fiji's independence that will be able to complete 15 years of education for free. This is the first generation that will be completing university education regardless of the income and background of their parents. We are reaching 95 percent high school completion rates for boys and girls. For five years in a row, girls and young women are outnumbering men as graduates from Universities.

Ambassador Satyendra Prasad
Fiji's Permanent Representative
to the United Nations (PRUN)

NUMBERS

7 million

The amount paid out to pine landowners for the 2018 season this week. It marks a total of \$1.9 million in returns since lease security bonuses were introduced in 2013.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama (@FijiPM)

Fiji's 10 years of consecutive economic growth, alongside the host of incentives designed to make the Fijian market attractive for foreign investors, means that there is no better time to invest in our beloved country. The potential is limitless.

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Fiji commits to achieving SDGs

NANISE NEIMILA

As a signatory to the United Nations Convention, the Fijian Government is committed towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals including SDG 1: "No Poverty".

The Government is achieving this through the policy objective of Reducing Poverty to a Negligible Level by 2035 as articulated in the five-year to 20-year National Development Plan (NDP).

This was highlighted by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation permanent secretary Jennifer Poole as Fiji marked the 27th anniversary of the Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Ms Poole said the Bill of Rights

under the 2013 Fijian Constitution clearly articulates the rights of all Fijians and the Government's obligations towards fulfilling this.

"With this strategic direction, Government is committed to review and develop poverty targeted policies and programmes in the priority areas inclusive of the Social Sector, Education, Infrastructure, Health, Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Housing and Environment to name a few in addressing the issues of poverty."

"Inclusive socio-economic development is at the heart of the five-year to 20-year NDP and the strategies within are ultimately designed to empower every Fijian, widen the reach of programmes, services and networks of infrastructure to transform Fiji

for every Fijian."

Ms Poole adds with the 2019 observance theme of "Acting Together to Empower Children, their Families and communities to End Poverty", the Fijian Government has taken colossal steps over the past 10 years to map the way forward for Fiji and all Fijians.

"Achievements have been driven by the establishment of a modern and inclusive Fijian Constitution, along with an unprecedented programme of administrative reforms across Government; substantial and consistent public investment in infrastructure, public utilities, education, health and social inclusion in the ambition to ensure that no Fijian is left behind."

She adds the 2019 observance theme links directly to the Ministry's National Strategic

Development Plan which aims to focus efforts towards the vision to transform Fijian Communities with empowered women, children, older persons, those living with disabilities and the disadvantaged.

"The Ministry endeavours to ensure that programs and services are delivered effectively and efficiently for child protection, gender equality and empowerment of the most vulnerable groups in Fiji to attain sustainable livelihoods. The goals have a synergy not to create dependency and focuses on reducing inequalities."

Meanwhile, recent statistics released by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics from 2013-2014 shows that Fiji's poverty status has reduced when compared to the previous years.



Fijian Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and his wife Ela Sayed-Khaiyum at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund. Photo: SUPPLIED

Revise development finance measures

PRASHILA DEVI

"WE need to recalibrate and revamp the development finance architecture to keep pace with the rapid changes in our climate and the resulting effects on nation-states."

Speaking at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund's 2019 Annual Meeting, the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Fijian Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum highlighted that the traditional metrics used to measure debt sustainability do not capture the intrinsic benefits of adaptation nor the opportunity costs of failing to build resilience now.

"This narrow focus has forced some states to make the impossible choice between what is currently considered debt sustainability and desperately needed investments in adapta-

tion."

"It is becoming clear that the old frameworks for measuring debt sustainability cannot stand the heat of a warming world.

"With every notch in global temperature rise, these systems will struggle to address climate realities they were never designed to solve," the A-G told the financial heads of Governments and institutions gathered in Washington, DC.

He said the indisputable benefits of adaptation must form the basis of new metrics and measures of debt sustainability.

Furthermore, the A-G said multilateral development banks (MDB), and financial institutions must sharpen the frameworks they employ to assess a nation's ability to service debt.

He said they must recognise that debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio is never

the full story.

"Asset values and other underlying indicators in our economies should be considered. And the system must accurately reflect the rising costs of climate impacts and the long-term value of effective adaptation."

"The World Bank Group and the IMF must keep those realities top of mind when re-designing finance frameworks. I urge the new leadership of the World Bank Group and the IMF to give this issue urgent attention."

The A-G said the world's larger economies must also continue to play their role to grow the pool of accessible and affordable finance.

"But even the full weight of public-sector finance, coupled with MDB financing, cannot fill every gap in resilience. We must also enlist the resources, expertise and ingenuity of the private sector."

'No policy change'

FROM PAGE 1

in school but should also take place in homes.

The Head of Government made this comments as he opened the teachers' quarters at two rural schools in the Central Division.

The teachers of Cautata District School and Ratu Veikoso Primary School in Tailevu will now be housed in well-structured accommodation.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said, "My Government's commitment to education is no secret, the education revolution in Fiji during my tenure as Prime Minister is my proudest achievement".

The cost of the project at each of the two schools was \$145,850 with funding provided by the Office of the Prime Minister under the Small Grants Scheme.

In both the openings, the communities joined the teachers and students in welcoming the development that provides teachers better living standards during their posting to these schools.

Head Teacher of Cautata District School, Sailosi Kama said that the teachers were pleased with the new quarters and it would help them in their work.

"Some teachers travel far from home to school which was an inconvenience."

"We are very thankful to the Government for always assisting this school."

Mr Kama said that there are still some teachers who need to travel but they are grateful for what they have now.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that he found nothing more fulfilling than to see the real human impact of the investments the Government makes.

"Each of these investments has shown my Government's commitment to the education of our children and it's an invaluable role in the broader development as a nation."

"While these projects may seem small to some, we see the very large impact it has on our communities."

"That is why I am working so hard for these students and at every level, wherever they reside, they are provided with a learning environment that can help them in their success in life."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Fiji Pine lease security bonus recipients at Drasa Avenue, Lautoka. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

Record pine lease bonuses benefit all

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

TO ensure long-term benefits for landowning communities, the Fiji Pine Group of Companies is reinvesting 70 per cent of lease security bonuses into infrastructural and entrepreneurial aspirations for landowning units.

Pine landowners received a record \$7 million for the 2018 season this week, marking a total of \$19 million in returns since the lease security bonuses were introduced in 2013.

"This is not a stand-alone victory," said Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama.

"Fiji Pine is in a position that will sustain its financial security over the long-term. The

company is debt-free and infrastructure has been upgraded to a state-of-the-art level. And this has been done with no importation of raw materials. All the money generated by Fiji Pine stays in Fiji, benefitting Fijian families and adding fire to the Fijian economy."

Group executive chairman, Faiz Khan said the cut-off for re-investment is a minimum of \$20,000 entitlement in bonuses.

The balance monies are equally distributed, and are in addition to forest levies, stumpage and ground rent.

Landowners can choose to invest in building houses, improving water and sanitation facilities in their communities, buying machinery and vehicles for setting up a business, buying

fishing boats and outboard engines, renting or buying space for entrepreneurial aspirations, or investing in anything with a view to long term benefits or returns.

At least 50 percent of their land-owning unit has to agree to the investment.

These communal benefits were exemplified at the lease handover in Drasa, where landowning units such as the Mataqali Tawa of Naseyani, Ra received new three-ton truck, while the Mataqali Keranaratu invested in a new house valued at \$75,000.

The new reinvestment system follows extensive consultations by the Fiji Pine Board with landowner shareholders.

Commercial development will boost rural Ba

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

IN rural Ba, construction of the Nukuloa Commercial Centre will boost the area's economy and complement recent infrastructural upgrades by the Fijian Government for surrounding settlements and villages.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama poured cement on the foundation of the commercial project by Nasura Investments Pte Ltd, owned by Parmesh and Renu Chand, and commended their foresight in contributing to rural development.

"We all have dreams but without energy and action, and without people who are willing to take risks to do something really great, all those dreams mean very little. So, I am especially proud to be here with Parmesh and Renu Chand, a husband-and-wife team of entrepreneurs who saw the need for this project, had a vision of what could be done, and then did it," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.



Nasura Investments Pte Ltd owners Parmesh Chand and Renu Chand with Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

"Many people shared in this vision, and this project could not have been done without the forward-thinking landowners of Vunadoidi subdivision, particularly Toge Town Land, and the TLTB, who worked to make this land available on a long-term lease basis. Without certainty, we can't have investments. And it is absolutely critical for landowners and entrepreneurs to work together to create that certainty so that everyone can prosper."

This first stage of development will house a modern supermarket, six smaller shops and space for banking automated teller machine facilities.

Stage 2 will include a service station and all associated facilities, while Stage 3 is due to grow commercial activities in tourism for the area.

"I am pleased that Nasura Investments is working with tour operators and hoteliers in Nadi area to bring that about, because that is

the way to get things done that are truly beneficial—by working together across sectors so that we understand our markets, understand our customers and understand what our partners and stakeholders need so that everyone can be successful," the Prime Minister said.

Mrs Chand noted the center will also be used for education awareness and focus sessions for the community in health, nutrition, sharing best practices in farming and information technology.

"The leadership and vision of the Government to this community needs to be recognized and we as members of this community also need to contribute so that we all grow together and succeed in building a great Fiji for the future," she said.

Their project is due to assist as many as 10 villages and about 1000 school children, including residents of Balevuto, Toge, Vatu-sui, Tabataba and Moto.



Big celebration in Korea

THE appreciation of Fiji and Korea friendship and enhanced collaborations was evident at the Fiji Day celebrations which was proudly hosted by the Fiji Embassy in Seoul, Korea on October 10th, 2019.

In line with the theme, “A Progressive and Sustainable Fiji for All,” the celebrations was platform to celebrate Fiji Day and an opportunity for 150 guests that comprised of senior officials from the Korean government, businesses, stakeholders and investors to get an insight into Fiji’s cultural diversity, Fiji’s lucrative tourism industry and Fiji’s progressive economic prosperity that makes Fiji an ideal destination for trade and investment.

Fiji’s Ambassador to Korea, Peniana Lalabalavu, speaking at the celebration, provided an overview on Fiji’s socioeconomic developments and the significance of remarkable progress Fiji has made at the global, regional and national stage in its 49th year of independence.

“From a small humble beginning in the last 49 years, Fiji has developed greatly in its economic and social capacity providing for its people, and has become the hub and center of the South Pacific, a melting pot for the interaction of various cultures and people and connecting the vast Pacific Ocean and its neighbours with the rest of



Fiji’s Ambassador to Korea Peniana Lalabalavu with Korean government officials, stakeholders and investors marks Fiji Day at the Fiji Embassy in Seoul, Korea. Photo: SUPPLIED

the world,” Ambassador Lalabalavu elaborated.

She said that Fiji continues to punch above its weight as the Pacific Islands Developing State through its commendable leadership in championing global issues like climate change, human rights and peacekeeping.

Ambassador Lalabalavu reiterated that as the hub of the Pacific, Fiji has adopted a collaborative approach as being essential

to achieving sustainable development by strengthening the local and international partnership.

In doing so, she thanked the other stakeholders, companies and private investors who had been visiting the Fiji Embassy in Seoul and extending business proposals and projects, and assured them of the Embassy’s continued support and assistance.

She also expressed appreciation and gratitude to the various Korean Government

Ministries, public and private institutions, and business and civil society groups, which have contributed extensively to Fiji’s growth and development over the years.

Fiji and Korea have continued to share strong bilateral ties since both countries forged diplomatic relations in 1971, shortly following Fiji’s independence in 1970 from Great Britain.

-MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Fiji’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations (PRUN) Ambassador Satyendra Prasad with his staff during the Fiji Day celebrations at New York. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fiji has mainstreamed sustainable development goals into our national programming. This is driving us forward as a progressive, inclusive country that is moving forward as a nation deeply respectful of the United Nation’s core values of equality and respect for human rights.

Ambassador Satyendra Prasad
Fiji’s Permanent Representative
to the United Nations (PRUN)

Fiji commits to strengthen United Nations ties

FIIJ’S Permanent Mission to the United Nations (UN) in New York is committed to strengthen its partnership with the United Nations.

This was the key message conveyed at the celebration of Fiji’s 49th Independence, Fiji Day celebrations hosted by the Fiji Mission in New York on October 10th, 2019.

The celebrations was attended by the UN officials, Fiji and Pacific Islanders at the UN and diplomats from around 80 countries.

Speaking at the celebrations, Fiji’s Permanent Representative

to the United Nations (PRUN) reaffirmed Fiji’s commitment to strengthen collaborations with UN Agencies in progressively achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. He thanked and commended UN for its tremendous contributions in advancing the development and prosperity of Fiji and across the Pacific.

“Fiji has mainstreamed sustainable development goals into our national programming. This is driving us forward as a progressive, inclusive country that is moving forward as a nation deeply respectful of the United Nation’s

core values of equality and respect for human rights.

“We shared our progress and challenges with the UN through our first Voluntary National Review.

“We welcomed the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to Fiji and to Pacific earlier this year.”

“Fiji looks forward to the continued strengthening of our ties with the UN in all dimensions: from fighting climate change, to promoting peace and security, to promoting sustainable development and to protecting human

rights,” Ambassador Prasad said.

He also spoke highly of the success that Fiji has achieved through its strong leadership at global, regional and national stages to shape a safe, secure and sustainable future for Fijians. Ambassador Prasad highlighted the bold actions and progress that Fiji has achieved over the years, to provide an equitable, inclusive and prosperous future for all Fijians.

As part of the 2019 Fiji Day celebrations in New York, Fiji’s 40 years of peacekeeping service has been acknowledged and tribute

was also paid to those 60 Fijian peacekeepers who have paid the ultimate price whilst serving in the war torn and conflict zones around the world.

Fiji’s contribution in upholding the integrity of the UN through its peacekeeping with grace, humility and courage has also been commended by senior UN officials and Ambassadors who took pride in celebrating Fiji Day with Ambassador Prasad and the small Fiji Mission team in New York.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

We have come a long way, says villager

JOSAIA RALAGO

WE have come a long way as a nation and we are reaping the contributions we have all made, over the years.

These were the sentiments of Lolive Vakaloloma, 68, of Galoa Island in Bua who was a part of the Fiji Day Celebrations in Labasa earlier this month.

“What a time to be alive and to witness the progress we have made so far and to celebrate Fiji’s 49th year of independence,” Mrs Vakaloloma said.

Accompanying her during the celebration were her three grandchildren who were as excited as she was to be a part of the day’s programme.

“I brought them here today so they could learn about the history,

the significance of this date and to be with other Fijians to share the patriotic spirit that we all have,” she said.

Mrs Vakaloloma said she remembers October 10th, 1970 when the noble banner blue was hoisted for the first time.

And even though she could not make it to Suva where the main celebration was held, villages around the country marked this

day with feasting and merrymaking.

“In hindsight, I can say that we have come a long way in terms of development, services, assistance and the fight for equality,” Mrs Vakaloloma said.

“There were a lot of difficulties we used to face before in terms of mandatory services but we are grateful to see that the Government has made this easier for us.

“I would also like to thank our past leaders, ancestors and fellow Fijians before for us for their contribution in nation building. I am very proud to be celebrating this momentous occasion and I wish our beloved Fiji all the best.”

There was a march through Labasa Town to commemorate Fiji Day with more than 400 people attending the programme at the Subrail Park.

Fijians ‘united by patriotism, flag’

JOSAIA RALAGO

“THERE is no visitor on Fiji Day or any other day.”

“United by patriotism, we all fly the same flag, and sing the same anthem – and that is the spirit of togetherness that should be carried within us not just today, but through every day of the years.”

The Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa shared this message to more than 400 Fijians that gathered at Subrail Park in Labasa for Fiji Day.

“Today (Fiji Day) is about that powerful and unbreakable bond of national identity, and celebrating what we have in common, and what we all share,” Minister Vuniwaqa said.

“We must continue to remove the divides created and perpetuated by some based along the lines of ethnicity, religion, and province.

“The sense of pride that every Fijian feels on Fiji Day is something incredibly special”

She commended the efforts of our ancestors and leaders who have passed before us for their contribution in nation building, urging Fijians to appreciate the efforts put forth by them.

“Building a great nation takes a lot of sacrifices and tremendous efforts from individuals, communities, leaders and the nation as a whole,” Minister Vuniwaqa said.

“We cannot go without remembering today the great leaders at various levels, our elders who toiled in various sectors, the countless advocates of social issues and human rights, the professionals, the carers and each and every Fijian who made heroic sacrifices for fellow Fijians, especially during disasters and unrest of any form. Today, let’s say thank you to all of them.”

She reminded members of the public of the Government’s emphasis on education and equal opportunities, and their motto that ‘No One Should Be Left Behind’.

Minister Vuniwaqa is calling on Fijians to strive towards a peaceful and progressive Fiji.



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa with students of Bethel Primary School dressed in traditional attire during the Fiji Day celebrations in Labasa last week. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

Fiji celebrates 49 years of independence

FELIX LESINAIVALU, EMI KOROITANOVA

THE dark clouds of colonialism were swept away some 49 years ago from the shores of Fiji.

Commemorating that significant day that took place on 10th October 1970, Albert Park became a sea of blue as hundreds of Fijians turned up in their all-blue attires to honour the 2019 Fiji Day celebrations.

A patriotic Mereisi Tabualevu was amongst the hundreds of Fijians that turned up to the occasion with her family.

Being 79-years of age, Tabualevu has lived to see the bright and dull days of history,

saying that the nation has achieved a sense of love and unity so far.

“I can remember back in 1970 when we gained independence, and I think ever since then we have achieved so much,” she said.

“Each section of government, I tell you, is doing pretty good.”

Also present at the celebrations were Cabinet Ministers, Members of the diplomatic corp and the general public.

Furthermore, the President Major-General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote reviewed a 400 men parade.

It consisted of members of disciplined forces from Republic of Fiji Military Forces,

Fiji Police Force and the Fiji Corrections Services.

It was also a good opportunity for members of the public to meet the President Konrote, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and the Attorney-General, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

The main celebrations were held at Albert Park while activities were held in other centres. In Labasa, Levuka and the Western Division, Fiji Day activities included visitation to homes and orphanages in line with the theme “A Progressive and Sustainable Fiji for All”.

A much prestigious celebration is expected next year as Fiji will welcome its golden jubilee.



PM commends Australia-Fiji Business Council

Aussie think tank praises economic growth



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at the 25th Australia-Fiji Business Council Forum at the Brisbane Marriott Hotel conference centre. Photo: SUPPLIED

THE Australia-Fiji Business Council stands as evidence of the intimate economic relationship between the two countries.

This is a relationship whose strength is owed in no small way to the business communities of Fiji and Australia's commitment to strengthening such bond every year.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama made these remarks while speaking at the 25th Australia-Fiji Business Council Forum at the Brisbane Marriott Hotel conference centre yesterday.

"Over the years, this forum has evolved to become a hallmark event for Australian business people who are looking to Fiji for investment and business opportunities," he said.

"With over 120 companies as members, this forum has become the perfect space for any business engaged in bilateral trade or looking to engage in the future.

"As we come together for this year's event, joined by the highest levels of government from both Fiji and Australia, it's clear now more than ever that this forum is a dynamic platform for exchanging ideas, engaging in networking and exploring business opportunities between our two countries."

The Fijian delegation to the forum included the Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, Permanent Secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister, Sugar Industry and Immigration and also acting Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Yogesh Karan, Permanent Secretary for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Shaheen Ali and Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia, Luke Daunivalu.

news@govnet.gov.fj

FIJI'S 10 years of unprecedented economic growth has undoubtedly been attributed to the sound leadership of Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

This was highlighted by Jonathan Pryke, the Director for Pacific Islands Programme at the Lowy Institute during the 25th Australia-Fiji Business Council forum official dinner.

Mr Pryke said it's no secret that the formal relationship between the two countries have been through a tough time but the Bainimarama-led Government has turned a new page which has seen an enhanced Fiji-Australia bilateral relationship, among other important achievements.

With the signing of the Vuvale Partnership, he said the Prime Minister's prospects for a better Fiji have been bright.

"I think it's beyond time to elevate the relationship even further with Australia and Fiji negotiating on a comprehensive bilateral trade and investment agreement," Mr Pryke said.

"A comprehensive trade and investment agreement would help the relationship in a number of ways. It would give regulatory certainty to investors in both directions, reduce barriers of entry for new traders and investors and minimise risk by setting out mutually agreed upon legal and regulatory frameworks.

"Such an agreement would be a perfect starting point for a broader conversation about how to deepen and thicken the bilateral economic relationship, a conversation this business council has already been having for some time."

On the people-to-people and institutional links under the Vuvale Partnership, Mr Pryke said this is critically important as the two pillars go hand in hand.

"Sports is one area in which the people-to-people and institutional links can naturally be strengthened. Also, twinning relationship with the Australian state education and health agencies and Fijian equivalents is a concept that can be further explored," he said.

Mr Pryke added Australia is trying to increase opportunities for Fijians from all walks of life to work in the country through its temporary Seasonal Worker and Pacific Labour Schemes, both important initiatives that should be fully supported.

"This kind of relationship, one of intimacy and independence, is what I imagine for Australia and Fiji in 25 years. I thank Prime Minister Bainimarama and Prime Minister Morrison for signing the partnership, a one-page framework laying out the key pillars that this new relationship will be built on."

news@govnet.gov.fj

Urban centres take up climate fight

PRASHILA DEVI

AS countries themselves are proving slow to change, and international consensus seems increasingly elusive, the mobilisation of our urban centres is filling the void of nation-based leadership.

This was the message by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at the opening of the Asia Pacific Urban Forum 7 in Penang, Malaysia, and he added that across the world, urban centres are assuming a larger role in achieving our Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—"something that is particularly true with climate change".

"Mayors are stepping up where presidents and prime ministers are not. While countries stick to the status quo, cities are finding new ways to collectivize and innovate. And that, my friends, gives countries like Fiji who are on the front lines of climate change a ray of hope," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He pointed out that 90 per cent of the world's cities- concentrated population hubs with high-density living- are located on the coast, which make them naturally more vulnerable to catastrophic weather events.

And added to that, Prime Minister Bainimarama said these cities have an outsized carbon footprint and their buildings and infrastructure trap heat, further intensifying the effects of global warming.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at the opening of the Asia Pacific Urban Forum 7 in Penang, Malaysia. Photo: SUPPLIED

"But when it comes to meeting any of our SDGs, we shouldn't see our cities as the problem; with proper urban planning, and through innovative, local thinking, they can be the solution," the Fijian Head of Government said.

The Pacific island state, Prime Minister Bainimarama said, are experiencing some of the most rapid rates of urbanisation on the planet, the drivers of this change are common throughout the world.

"Regardless of the reason for this urban drift, it's on us to ensure that when our people make that move, they find towns and cities that are capable of supporting their well-being."

"We in the Pacific have accepted that this is our new reality, and recognise that planning of

urban settlements and associated infrastructure, legislation and capacity must keep up with — and in fact get ahead of — the pace of urbanisation."

Prime Minister Bainimarama told the forum that it is the impact of the actions, the boldness of the commitments and the strength of cooperation at the forum that will determine whether the urban centres become bastions of inequality and climate vulnerability, or instead, emerge as engines of sustainable development.

"The future is in our hands; for the sake of our people and our planet, I urge each of you to leave Penang more sustainably-minded than when you arrived."



PM calls for climate - friendly trade deals



Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama with world leaders during a conference on the margins of Climate Change Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS) in New York. Photo: SUPPLIED

PRASHILA DEVI

PRIME Minister Frank Bainimarama has called for bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements that are currently under negotiation to be made more climate-friendly.

As the debate and call for action on climate change intensifies, Prime Minister Bainimarama said in climate policy discussions, relatively little or no attention is paid to the global trade architecture.

He made this observation at an event on margins of the United Nations Climate Summit which saw the announcement of the launch of negotiations towards an agreement on Climate Change Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS) in New York recently.

“As a starting point, bilateral and regional or multilateral trade agreements that are currently under negotiation should be made more climate-friendly. Climate change issues embedded in trade agreements could help to meet climate goals,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He said despite the 2015 Paris Agreement, most countries’ climate policies show a chronic lack of ambition and the world remains on track for temperature increases of more than 3°Celsius thus the world needs ‘transformative solutions’.



Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama has called for bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements that are currently under negotiation to be made more climate-friendly.

Explaining the premise of ACCTS, Prime Minister Bainimarama said one of the key objectives of the agreement was to removal of tariffs on environmental goods and the establishment of new and binding commitments for environmental services

“This will increase market access for goods and services that are more sustainable in nature. However, we also propose that the agreement look at both tariff and more importantly, non-tariff barriers, and work to remove subsidies for fossil fuels and other products that harm our climate.”

Elaborating further, he said as the initiative is developed it was important to have inbuilt safeguards to ensure that it is not simply a “means for countries with a trade advantage to use the agreement as a means for dumping or promoting goods, or putting in place new barriers on imports under the guise of sustainability”.

Fiji together with the Heads of Government of Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Costa Rica, is supporting and giving its voice to the initiation of negotiations on the agreement.

Ministry, company seal ‘waste to energy’ agreement

FELIX LESINAIVALU

WE believe that climate change is a real situation that will eventually affect us all no matter where we live so we are taking massive and immediate action to do our part.

Infinite Power Corporation (IPC) founder and chief executive officer Robert Beam said this during a press conference announcing the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the IPC and the Ministry of Waterways and Environment.

“We are doing our part right now to make a difference by sharing and implementing these technologies with everyone as quickly as we

can,” Mr Beam said.

“IPC is a proud distributor and facilitator of ‘waste to energy’ technologies that can process municipal solid waste, human sewage as well as animal manure and organic waste and turn these to wastes into electricity.”

Minister for Waterways and Environment, Agriculture, Rural and Maritime, Dr Mahendra Reddy said that this can help Fijians in terms of waste disposal and over dumping at landfills.

“We need programs and technologies that can remediate waste including municipal solid waste, human sewage, animal manure, used tires, etc. Currently these waste are being burnt, buried or dumped into the landfill sites or sewage treatment ponds where the run-off, treated

or untreated, ultimately can end up in our seas.”

Minister Reddy added that around 500 tonnes of new rubbish deposited on a daily into the many landfill sites located around the Fiji mainland and more than 30 mega-litres of raw human sewage are flushed into the local sewage treatment facilities.

He added that apart from the \$3 million operational costs, the Ministry has also spent over \$15 million in just expanding the landfill capacity.

Mr Beam said that the IPC’s goal is to make the process of eliminating waste and toxic situations easy for the customer or partner by using all resources available to remediate these wastes quickly.

Leading solar power firm helps reduce fuel reliance

FELIX LESINAIVALU

SUNERGISE Fiji is working with the Government on its aim to reduce the reliance on imported fuels in the energy sector.

Founder of Sunergise Fiji, Ajay Raniga said not only have they created specialised employment in Fiji but they have also helped the country improve their balance of payments by reducing diesel importation.

“We have partnered with the Government in this regards and via donor funds such as from the DiCaprio foundation, have started to slowly electrify a number of maritime villages.”

“The business models involves the villages paying a small tariff which is basically equivalent to the money they spend currently on either non- scalable or sustainable small home solar systems or small diesel generator sets (genset) to get 24/7 power.”

A genset refers to an equipment whose function is to convert the so-called heat capacity into mechanical energy and then into electrical energy

Mr Raniga said the revenue from these installations will in the future be able to fund and sustain the electrification of all off grid villages.

“One of our business models, Sun Access, was designed to electrify rural villages who currently have very little (via limited time operation of gensets) or zero electricity.”

“All work in this regards has been carried out by our own team of engineers, technicians and installers based out of our Suva office.”

He said that they have also used the same team to install systems in other Pacific Island countries.

“However the initial stages requires donor funding and the next tranche has already been committed by the United Kingdom government.”

Sunergise was founded in 2012 as the first pan-Pacific solar power utility.

Sunergise began its operations with the introduction to the world’s largest installation for a marina at Port Denarau in Fiji.

To date over 13 MW of clean power has been installed and over 20 gigawatt-hours of electricity produced by Sunergise.

According to an Investment Fiji report, the Government is committed to reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels by incentivizing energy generation through renewable energy sources in the country.



Rugby league event strengthens Vuvale Partnership

FIJIAN Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama joined his Australian counterpart, Scott Morrison, recently at the ANZ Stadium for the PM XIII rugby league tournament. The inaugural event comes in the wake of the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership, which has paved the way to new levels of understanding and commitment. PM Bainimarama joined his Australian counterpart be-

fore the main game and awarded the Australian women's team with their trophy. Also present at the event were the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa, and Minister for Youth & Sports Parveen Bala Kumar

Photos: HALITESH DATT, FELIX LESINAIVALU



Suva, Labasa host big Fiji Day celebrations

Suva's Albert Park was a sea of blue as Fijians from all walks of life gathered in numbers to celebrate Fiji's 49 years of independence.

The President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, reviewed a 400-men parade, which consisted of members of the disciplined forces. Present at the celebrations was Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, Cabinet Ministers, members of the Diplomatic Corps, school students and members of the public.

The celebration programme included a 21-gun salute by members of the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces (RFMF). "There is no visitor" on Fiji Day or any other day."

This was the message from the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa, to more than 300 Fijians gathered at the Fiji Day Celebration in Labasa.

"We must continue to remove the divides created and perpetuated by some based along the lines of ethnicity, religion and province," Minister Vuniwaqa said.



More rural women to train as solar engineers

MORE rural women will be given opportunities to train as solar engineers, with the construction of the Barefoot College. This was highlighted by Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa at Rural Women's Day celebrations in Tavua. "Apart from looking at climate change and disaster risk resilient projects, my ministry has women empower-

ment programmes, which at this stage focuses mainly on women in rural areas." The Fijian Government continues to promote the participation and involvement of women in climate action at local, regional and international levels.

Photos: LITIA VULAIDAUSIGA



FSC makes major fleet investment

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

THE consolidation of the Fiji Sugar Corporation's transportation assets has been a major focus for management, for revenue-generating potential and

its crucial use in cane development.

"To date, there are 71 mechanical harvesters operating across the country," noted FSC chairman Vishnu Mohan at their recent annual general meeting.

"This year, the FSC made the bold de-

cision 110 six-wheeler trucks, to complement the industry's transportation segment. The total cost of this investment is \$15.55 million, of which \$5.9 million is contributed by the Government."

Mr Mohan said the trucks would be

hired out to transport cane from farms to mills during the harvesting season. Out of season, the trucks will be utilized to cart weedicide and fertiliser to farmers.

The trucks will therefore be operational throughout the year.



Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, Permanent Secretary Ritesh Dass with Esava Nabuta (third from right) and other farmers of Nadarivatu, with samples of Red Pontiac potatoes. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

Greater market access for highland farmers

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

THE difficulties of securing markets are now history for highland farmers of Nadarivatu, whose new variety of potatoes are being purchased by the Agricultural Marketing Authority at a guaranteed price of \$1.50 per kilogram.

Bought at the farm gate, this also significantly saves the expense of travelling to urban centres to sell their produce.

"We will continue to buy all produce and have nearly 7000 kilograms of these new Red Pontiac potatoes so far," the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy said.

The AMA was established by the Ministry of Agriculture to secure market access for farmers, particularly those from rural and remote areas.

"There are other crops planted by Nadarivatu farmers that are also economical such as yellow cassava, kumala, duruka, bongo chillies and yams. There's a market in Australia and also strong interest from Indonesia."

The Red Pontiac variety was identified by the Ministry's Potato Research and Development Program, and its inception and market access has been hailed by Nadarivatu's farmers, which include villagers from Navai, Na-



Nadarivatu farmer Esava Nabuta commends the new Red Pontiac potatoes and the market access guaranteed by the Ministry of Agriculture. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

dala and Nadrau.

"They grow well up here and we are very grateful to the Ministry for supplying us seedlings and to AMA for buying our produce, which helps our families," farmer Esava Nabuta said.

The potatoes were harvested from over 20 farmers, with farms extending to Tavua, Ra and the upper Sigatoka Valley.

"The test we have suggested

this is a very firm variety and suitable for domestic use and of course commercial use as chips as well. As of now, we are liaising with some supermarkets around Fiji and had some success in that respect," AMA chief executive officer, Setareki Tale said.

"We are also having negotiations with some of our contractors, whom we supply to. We

have a total of seven tonnes of potatoes in stock and another two tonnes purchased. The forecast we have is a total of around 20 to 30 tonnes of potatoes."

The new Red Pontiac potatoes align to a national policy on non-sugar agricultural development objectives of private sector development and agricultural diversification.

Club empowers members, community

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

FROM a monthly contribution of \$2.50 per member, a youth club between Nadi and Lau-toka is able to offer funerary assistance of \$1200 to grieving families in their community.

Such is the clout of the Barara Youth and Social Club at Lomolomo and the positive reach of young Fijians who actively engage services and advice by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

"When we started the club we hardly had any funds and now new members also pay when they join," said founder of the club, Avinesh Singh.

"Existing members are given \$1200 when there's a death in their family. They pay \$2.50 a month and this club's main focus is looking after the community in times of death."

The organization has a sister club- the Barara Soccer Club- with two reps on the Nadi soccer team.

"Our youth also help the community when there's a flood or natural disaster and the club has ventured into other activities. There's always been a drainage issue and last year the Minister for Agriculture sorted this out. We work closely with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Government has always supported us."

Recently, the club hosted Fiji Day celebrations for the seventh consecutive year, in an effort to further fuel community spirit as they marked the country's 49th year of independence.

Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Veena Bhatnagar, graced the occasion and made a financial donation as a token of appreciation.

"I congratulate Barara for keeping the spirits of communal responsibilities. Death is a difficult time for any family and the club stands up with people in times of grief. I commend their service to humanity."

Asst. Minister urged more young Fijians to access the Ministry of Youth's divisional offices and enter small to medium enterprises, community based projects and business initiatives for young Fijians, such as the Young Entrepreneurs Scheme, Seeds of Success and 30 Under 30 Fijians.

Millers invest \$300K in machinery

JOSAIA RALAGO

EFFORTS to revive the copra industry has resulted in the Copra Millers of Fiji Limited recently investing in a de-husking machine, a de-shelling and a Hot Air Dryer in Savusavu.

Copra Millers of Fiji Limited's chairman Raj Sharma said the investment was also intended to address the issue of labour shortage in the coconut farms.

"This is one of the historic occasions because the machine not only addresses labour shortage but helps in the de-husking process and the shelling machine takes out the actual coconut meat," Mr Sharma said.

"The cost of this investment is \$300,000, part of it is financed by the Government and the Fiji Development Bank. We are trying our very best to revive this industry."

Minister for Agriculture Dr Mahendra Reddy, while commissioning these new incentives, assured farmers and millers that the Government would continue to support the coconut industry.

He said this was because of the history behind this industry and the high economic potential it carries.

"We will continue to support copra and coconut industry because of the simple fact that coconut is a tree of life. Coconut provides a nutritious source of food, juice, milk, and oil that has fed and nourished Fijians people for generations," Minister Reddy said.

"It is a very versatile crop, it survives different weather conditions and some of the toughest cyclones in Fiji's history. It is an industry that we want to continuously promote."

He said the new machines purchased by the Copra Millers would help make the production rate faster and also more efficient.

"The new machines and Hot Air Dryer will assist in producing Food Grade Coconut Oil for human consumption in the local markets," Minister Reddy said.

"Fiji imports 17,000 tons of vegetable oils valued at \$20 million per year."

"By introducing coconut oil as cooking oil we are targeting to reduce the imported oil by five per cent."



President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, government officials, stakeholders and some home gardeners in Labasa. Photos: JOSAIA RALAGO

President launches home gardening initiative

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE Fijian Government spends in excess of \$400 million every year on people suffering from non-communicable-disease related illnesses.

The President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote said lifestyle choices and keeping healthy should not be taken lightly by Fijians.

President Konrote made these comments while launching the Home Gardening Initiative by the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture in Labasa earlier this month.

"Sadly too many of our people are dying of NCD related illnesses like high blood pressure, diabetes, you name it. It's the choices we make, what we eat and how we live our lives."

"Now we all want to live longer but we have to make the right choices."

"There are more benefits to be derived from home gardening, apart from the financial gains, like environment and ecological benefits," President Konrote said.

"There is also an increase in awareness among researchers and health practitioners around the world on health benefits derived

from Home Gardening activities. When you plant your own food and you exercise daily when you tend to your gardens."

"Let's grow our own tavioka and dalo, and eat healthy food. Let us try and get away from eating too much processed food."

He said this initiative was highly recommended as the cost of living was high and planting your own vegetables could address budget constraints.

"Continue to practice gardening in your own communities to ensure you get maximum benefits from it."



TOP: President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote receives a basket of fruits from a Ministry of Health and Medical Services official.



LEFT: President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote during the World Food Day celebrations in Savusavu.

Photos: JOSAIA RALAGO

Nutrition 'key to better health, success'

JOSAIA RALAGO

A CHILD with better nutrition is less likely to be absent and have high test scores in school, says the President Major-General (retired) Jioji Konrote.

"Acquiring a healthier lifestyle at a young age will contribute to better nutrition, better health as they grow older and achieve greater academic success."

"Nutritional choices that children make or have made for them today can dramatically affect their health, success and well-being tomorrow," President Konrote said.

"The choices and eating habits developed today can determine whether our children live long lives or die prematurely – the choice is that stark."

Addressing more than 300 people who turned up to the World Food Day celebration in Savusavu last week, President Konrote said while there were local vegetables and crops available, people tend to still choose processed food.

"Less time is spent in preparing meals at home for consumption especially in urban areas, as Fijians are increasingly relying on supermarkets, fast food outlets, street food vendors, take away restaurants and fast highly processed foods with little or no nutritional value," President Konrote said.

He added that there was also a need to promote agricultural practices which were resilient to climate change in order to feed a growing global population in a sustainable way.

"The Government is also focusing on national strategies promoting synergies between social protection, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and health and education policies," President Konrote said.

"If we adopt two good agricultural practices for sustainable farming of organic produce that is nutritious, healthy and free of chemicals, we can not only feed ourselves, but contribute positively to the world."

"We can and must do better to choose fresh, tasty and healthy, food that enhances our lives."



Fijians allowed bigger kava leeway to Australia

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJIANS will now be allowed to take twice the amount of kava for personal use when travelling to Australia.

This announcement by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison during his recent two-day visit to Fiji was welcomed by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama who said that Fijians had been looking forward to the increase.

Prime Minister Morrison, who was in Fiji to watch the Australian Prime Minister's XIII matches and visit the Blackrock Training Camp in Nadi, made the announcement after a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Bainimarama.

This will allow Fijians to take twice the amount of kava while travelling to Australia,

from two kilograms to four kilograms.

"Recognising the strong cultural and economic significance that kava has for Pacific communities, including those living in Australia, the Australian Government is stepping up its commitment to the Pacific by launching a kava pilot program," the Australian Head of Government said.

Prime Minister Morrison also announced a pilot program for the commercial importation of kava by the end of 2020 with Australian officials to hold discussions with Vanuatu and other Pacific partners on this.

"In addition to greater access to kava in Australia, particularly for ceremonial and cultural purposes, the Pacific can soon expect new export opportunities to further maximise the growth potential of their own natural resources."

He added that the Australian Government was committed to implementing a pilot that is respectful of states and territories' regulatory role regarding domestic supply and use of kava and will work closely with state and territory governments on a pilot design that maximises the benefits for the Pacific family while securing strong social, cultural and health outcomes across Australia.

Furthermore, he said the pilot will include consultation on robust monitoring and evaluation arrangements to be put in place with the Australian Government committed to seeking input from communities, including Australia's Pacific Islander communities, and businesses wishing to participate in the pilot.

The pilot program will be evaluated at its conclusion at the end of 2022.

Diplomacy project gives support to sportswomen

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

THE Sports Diplomacy Program between Fiji and Australia has created additional support for Fijian sportswomen and highlighted the fight against domestic violence.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa recently met with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Marise Payne, who said the visit had been fruitful towards empowering young people.

"The Sports Diplomacy program and our Pacific-Aus Sports package focuses on rugby league, rugby union, football and on netball – all very powerful tools to engage particularly with young people in the Pacific, on key message around the way their lives are shaped around education, around health, around nutrition and the anti-violence messages," Senator Payne noted.

"We've been able to engage, inform and empower young people in Fiji through these visits this week, to talk directly in their communities about the effect that violence has on them. We know the effects it has on women and children.

"We also took the opportunity to provide some additional funding, given Fiji is a priority country in terms of supporting women's teams across all of those sports, to improve and develop their administration and their management. We see them competing at an international level."

Senator Payne was part of an Australian Government delegation to Fiji led by Prime Minister, Scott Morrison.



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Marise Payne. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

Praise for Fijian troops at Blackrock Camp

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJI'S involvement in United Nations peacekeeping missions and the role of defence forces in relief and rehabilitation efforts in the aftermath of disasters are key to the establishment of the Blackrock Camp.

Australia will be contributing \$25 million and creating about 550 jobs to this joint effort.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, in a recent visit to the camp, alluded to the contribution by Fiji and other Pacific island countries to not just peacekeeping missions in countries like Iraq but also in keeping the whole region safe, stable and secure.

PM Morrison said Australia wants to be in constant contact with the Pacific family and the Blackrock camp was one opportunity to do just that.

On the possibility of Fijian troops serving in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), he said, "Well, I think our existing arrangements are serving the purposes. But that's the purpose of having ongoing dialogue, though. I mean, you constantly are reappraising what you are doing together".

However, the Australian leader said this is not an issue in front of them at the moment.

The issue at hand, Prime Minister Morrison, was the sustain-

ment of the current very high level of engagement which he says was "equivalent of finishing each other's sentences".

"That's how closely engaged we are here in supporting Fiji in terms of their training for peacekeeping missions. As I said to the troops up there, 52 Fijians have given their lives in peacekeeping operations."

Prime Minister Morrison visited the Blackrock Camp facility in Nadi during his recent visit and was accompanied by his Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Marise Payne and the Fijian Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs, Inia Seruiratu.



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison with Fijian Minister for Defence and National Security Inia Seruiratu at Blackrock Camp in Nadi. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

\$1.7m relocation project helps children

FELIX LESINAIVALU

CHILDREN from Waciwaci Village and Waitabu village in Lakeba are looking forward to their new school building for which plans are well underway.

Head teacher for Waciwaci District School, Maritaga Domoni said that since she began in February this year (2019), there has been flooding the school on three occasions.

“Whenever it rains I would have to run to the school and put up all the chairs, books and other important things just in case the school might flood.”

“It has been around six-seven years that

the villages have been trying to relocate the school.”

Ms Domoni said that she is positive that this relocation, which is set to cost \$1.7 million, will happen.

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate said one of the schools severely under threat in Fiji is Waciwaci District School.

“We’ve just seen the school and some of the teachers’ quarters are not usable because of incursions from the sea, and they also have a problem of flooding.”

“Now there is a project to relocate the school to higher ground through funding and assistance through the EU (European

Union) and GIZ.”

Minister Usamate visited the school and had a talanoa session with the village during his Lau tour.

“From what we gathered from the meeting, those plans are well underway and we expect to see the civil works begin shortly and then after that construction will take place together with the teachers’ quarters.”

“We will be able to move the children out of their current facility which is flooded and under severe stress.”

“We hope this will have a good impact on the children of Waciwaci and also from the children from Waitabu Village in terms of education.”



Kumaleilia Ledua (second from left) after receiving the water tank on behalf of the Narocivo villagers from Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate.

Water tank donation delights villager

FELIX LESINAIVALU

KUMALEILIA Ledua who hails from Narocivowasecstaticwhenreceivinga new water tank from the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster ManagementandMeteorologicalservices,JoneUsamate.

Her home, and some others, is situated on a hill in Narocivo which made it tough for her to access water.



I am very thankful that we have a new tank and we have been waiting for so long for this to happen.

Kumaleilia Ledua
Narocivo villager

“I am very thankful that we have a new tank and we have been waiting for so long for this to happen.”

Ms Ledua said that she has been waiting very patiently for this moment and was really happy.

“I would like to thank Minister Usamate for commissioning this tank for us, the people of Narocivo, and we will never forget what you have done for us.”

“This should end us walking around looking and asking for clean water which was a bit shameful for us.”

Minister Usamate also commissioned the Solar Home System Project which benefitted 44 households of Narocivo Village.

He said “our gathering here today signifies another success of the Government’s commitment to ensure that all Fijians have access to electricity.”

“Access to power is an enormous advantage, it allows you to be more productive and accomplish far more on a daily basis.”

“Since 2012 to date, the Government has invested \$3.3 million in the implementation of 1,117 Solar systems in the Lau group.”

Minister Usamate said that the project has benefitted more than 5000 Fijians.

“The positive impacts from this infrastructure development will provide a step up in life and enable you to achieve greater things.”

The cost of the project was \$155,199.72 and was installed in 2017.

This was Minister Usamate’s third stop as part of his Lau Tour after Kabara and Vanuavatu.



Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Jone Usamate during the official commissioning of the solar home system project at Taira Village on Vanuavatu. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Home solar systems benefits islanders

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE power of affordable and reliable electricity is among the most critical pillars for the development of any country.

This was highlighted by Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological services, Jone Usamate while commissioning the solar home system project at Taira Village in Vanuavatu during his Lau Tour.

“The positive impacts from this infrastructure development will provide a step up in life and enable you to achieve greater things.”

Minister Usamate commissioned 23 Solar Home Systems.

Acting principal for Vanuavatu District School, Salote Dilo, who has been teaching on the island for the last three years,

said the main issues the school faces are electricity, water and the land.

“I am glad that Minister Usamate visited the school.”

“I would like to thank the Government for the solar systems that they have installed around the village and the school.”

Ms Dilo said that she is grateful that the Government always looks into issues faced by the village in regards to electricity and water.

“Sometimes when there is no water we have to go down to the sea to have our shower and do our laundry.”

Ms Dilo said that when times really got bad with water they would only use the water in the tanks for drinking and cooking.

Water Community Rep for Vanuavatu Paula Vesudamu said that he was pleased to hear that in two weeks’ time their wa-

ter machine, which turns seawater into drinking water, would be fixed.

Mr Vesudamu said he was trained for three weeks on how to operate the machine and its maintenance.

“Life in the village was better when the machine arrived because it created an endless supply of water for the villages.”

“Right now the machine is not working because something is wrong with the generator and people will be coming in two weeks’ time to fix it.”

Mr Vesudamu said he was glad that the much needed help was on its way.

Minister Usamate also visited Vanuavatu Health Center while touring the village.

Vanuavatu was the second stop of his tour after Kabara where he commissioned a water tank.



Make a difference, civil servants told

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“EVERY single day of your life you can make a difference in somebody’s life.”

This was highlighted by Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Service, Jone Usamate when visiting the Lakeba Hospital during his Lau Tour recently.

“I believe that there is no higher calling then to serve human beings, one of the great things about being a civil servant is that you get paid to serve other people.”

“To make a difference in people’s lives every day, we have that opportunity

to do that, whether you are working to supply water to people, supplying electricity to the people, looking after people’s lives in hospitals and all other aspects of work that we do we have the opportunity to make the difference in somebody’s life every day.”

Minister Usamate added that it all depends on bringing the right attitude to work.

“Whenever someone wants to raise an issue or a complaint just show that person that it is something you can take seriously as it is something that gives people comfort.”

“We as politicians are servants of our people and together, all of us, we serve the people of this country.”

“We have it a bit better off because we are in the city, you out here, helping people with all the difficult situations that you have and my first message to all of you is to thank you for all the service you have put in.”

Minister Usamate said the role of parliament is to make laws and see that issues are addressed, and hope it will enhance and improve the lives of everybody in Fiji.

“We come in and set directions, set policies, establish budgets and then we need people to turn those plans into a reality.”

“We need servants of society and servants of civilians, that’s why most of you here are civil servants.”



Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Jone Usamate (middle with garland) with villagers after commissioning the Home Solar Project on Vanuavatu in Lau. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Tour allows minister to check Government projects

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate recently toured the Lau Group visiting Kabara, Vanuavatu, Cicia, Nayau and Lakeba.

During his tour, Minister Usamate said, “there have been a number of objectives on the whole trip, one is to follow up on the issues we have at the Ministry, issues to do with water, electricity, roads and maritime transport.”

“We also reviewed some projects, we have commissioned some projects and we have had some opportunity to interact with the people from different islands in the Lau Group.”

“We have had the opportunity to meet them and present to them the proposed

maritime travelers rights.”

Minister Usamate said this was something that was part of the Government’s mandate.

“Now the Government is trying to make it a policy, it also coincides with the work that have been undertaken and the petition that was looked at in Parliament. As we go around we have been collecting some feedback on this new policy it has also given us an opportunity to commission projects.”

Minister Usamate commissioned solar home systems in Vanuavatu, Nayau and Cicia and Water Tanks in Kabara and Nayau.

“We have also identified new areas that need to be addressed and as usual when you come visit these islands there are a lot of requests as well.”

“Sometimes things are promised to

them and they don’t fully comprehend the complications of the processes when trying to get things across.”

Minister Usamate added that the tour had also given them the opportunity to share information with people on the islands.

“It has been great to come out here, meet people and actually listen to people who we serve about the issues they face on a daily basis.”

“It’s been very informative, it has allowed us to get good feedback on our maritime traveler’s rights.”

“Once we have completed that we should be able to develop a legislation for the policy.”

Minister Usamate said that villages face a lot of difficulties and through the tour, the Government will be able to address some of these difficulties.

Students flock to West careers fair



Jone Gonevou.



Mere Delailoa

EMI KOROITANOA

TOURISM is also the largest employer in Fiji creating one in three jobs directly or indirectly.

This was highlighted by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism permanent secretary, Shaheen Ali while officiating at the University of the South Pacific (USP) School of Tourism, Hospitality Management (STHM) Careers Fair.

The event, which was hosted at the Shangri-La’s Fijian Resort & Spa, saw a total of 99 students (62 graduating and 37 interns) from USP STHM.

The students sat through interviews with potential employers particularly 42 industry representatives including HR Directors, HR Managers and Training Managers who participated at this prestigious annual Careers Fair.

“As a young nation, we continue to make headway with the advancement of youth by providing the necessary resources and support to grow into productive, educated and ambitious Fijians.”

Mr Ali said this aligned closely with United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 4 which calls for Quality Education as well as 8, calling for Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Jone Gonevou, 22, was amongst the 99 students who participated at the fair.

The young lad is a final year student pursuing his Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in human resources management and tourism management.

“In the future I would like to work in management level in one of the high profile resorts here in Fiji and at the same time I would like to own a clothing line on the side,” Mr Gonevou shared.

He added he would like to urge young people completing highschool studies to explore their interests and passion to be able to find the future that they deserve.

A 21-year old Mere Delailoa also participated at the event, sharing that potential employers from the tourism industry were largely interested in the types of personalities their interviewees had.

“I aspire to one day manage my own department and also to make sure the guests that come and stay at the resort I’m working for is satisfied with whatever services they’re using and to make sure they’re happy.”

Mr Ali, while officiating at the event, also highlighted Fiji’s marketing brand.

“Fiji – where happiness finds you is built on three-pillars – the people, the place and the experience. Whilst we can find similar places or quality experiences in other destinations around the world, the warm and welcoming hospitality that is uniquely Fijian can never be found elsewhere. And that makes us Fijians stand out.”

Mr Ali said over the last five years, tourism earnings grew at a higher rate, an average 8.9 per cent, in comparison to arrivals, which increased by 5.8 per cent.

“This is an indication that we are earning more from the visitors we are getting.”

Minister attends high-level climate talks

FIJI joined a high-level Ministerial Meeting on Migration and Climate Change with focus on Small Island Developing States in the margins of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly recently.

Fiji was Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Inia Seruiratu, who spoke on the scientifically proven impacts of climate change on communities and its projections on displacement.

He noted the increasing international recognition of the adverse impacts of climate change, the frequency of its occurrence and the proactive actions taken in the region, enabled through mechanisms like the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific to address these impacts.

Minister Seruiratu informed the meeting on the development of Fiji's Planned Relocation Guideline; a guideline that aligns with other key national documents and international agreements that consider vulnerable groups within relocating communities.

He provided an update on relocation programmes in Fiji.

Vunidogoloa and Tukuraki villages have been fully relocated with three more, namely Vunisavisavi, Denimanu and Narikoso village partially relocated. A project aimed at relocating Waciwaci Primary School in Lakeba, Lau is also currently underway.

Fiji and other Pacific Island countries are beneficiaries of two programmes that address the issue of displacement; 'Enhancing Protection and Empowerment of Migrants and Communities Affected by Climate Change and Disasters in the Pacific region' and 'Understanding and enhancing preparedness and response to risks of disaster displacement in the Pacific'.

These two programmes are delivered through partnership between the International Organization for Migration (IOM), The International Labour Organization (ILO), IDMC, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and also through the Platform on Disaster Displacement and Pacific Island Forum Secretariat.

The programmes aim to benefit vulnerable community members whose mobility patterns and livelihoods are vulnerable to climate change.

Minister Seruiratu reaffirmed that Fiji will continue to push and lobby for increased climate action, improved access to climate funding and more ambitious mitigation targets from developing nations for the sake of future generations.

-MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Nature-based solutions 'are Govt strategy'

ONE of the key strategies undertaken by the Government of Fiji in its commitment to tackle the climate crisis is the 'Nature Based Solutions' development.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Inia Seruiratu, while delivering a statement at the Nature Based Solutions coalition presentation at the United Nations headquarters in New York at the margins of the UN Climate Action Summit recently.

It was highlighted that nature based solutions is most cost-effective approach to adapt the communities and economy, to address the impacts of climate change.

Minister Seruiratu outlined the nature based strategies adopted by Fiji to build resilient communities and livelihood.

One of the nature based solutions adopted by Fiji is the introduction of climate resilient crops to withstand climate change. Fiji is also increasing its forest and mangrove cover; restoring its coastal areas so that mangrove and sea grass cover can expand.

Minister Seruiratu emphasised that Fiji's efforts on infrastructure development is geared to-



President of the Republic of Kiribati Taneti Maamau, Fiji climate change advocate Timoci Naulusala and Fiji Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs Inia Seruiratu. Photo: SUPPLIED

wards ensuring that it is able to withstand the more frequent heavy and torrential rains.

Fiji has introduced the Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (ECAL) and also issued a green bond to support its green investments and exploring a blue bond.

"But there are limits to how far small and vulnerable island economy can go. It is for this reason that we are looking for new partnerships with development partners to help lift the

pace and breadth of our investment in nature based solutions," Minister Seruiratu said.

The initiatives, developed by the Nature-Based Solutions Coalition, co-led by the People's Republic of China and New Zealand, include efforts to conserve and restore marine and terrestrial ecosystems, promote regenerative agriculture and the greening of supply chains, and advance innovative financing mechanisms to scale-up nature-based solutions.

The UN Climate Action Summit held in New York ahead of the UN General Assembly, was hosted by the United Nations secretary-general António Guterres to call on all leaders – governments, the private sector, civil society, local authorities and other international organizations – to come with concrete, realistic plans that will boost ambition and rapidly accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement.

-MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



President of the Republic of Kiribati Taneti Maamau (sitting middle), Fiji Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs Inia Seruiratu (sitting first from right), with Pacific Climate Change youth advocates. Photo: SUPPLIED

Consider small economies, Fiji urges ACP

FIJI has urged the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States to consider the position of small economies in the group so that they are not left behind in future economic and trade program negotiations.

This call was made by Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs Inia Seruiratu at the meeting of ACP Ministers and Senior Representatives on the update of the Post Cotonou negotiations - the successor agreement to the current Cotonou Partnership agreement currently in place between the ACP States and the European Union.

Signed in 2000, the Cotonou Partnership Agreement has been the main framework for

cooperation and relations between the ACP and the EU. The Agreement covers three key pillars of cooperation: Economic and Trade Cooperation, Development Finance Cooperation, and Political Dimension. Fiji's own relations with the EU is founded on this agreement.

Meeting in New York at the margins of the United Nations 74th General Assembly, the Minister addressed the ACP Leaders on the progress of the Post Cotonou negotiations, and in particular, Fiji's own positions with various components of this agreement.

In his remarks made on behalf of the Pacific region, Minister Seruiratu highlighted that whilst on three out of 15 Pacific ACP states

may have Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) with the EU, the new Cotonou Agreement being negotiated needed to cater for ACP States that have not signed onto the EPA.

"The Pacific (interim) EPA does not include trade in services, temporary movement of natural persons, and it does not have a Development Cooperation chapter. It is therefore appropriate that our texts for the post-Cotonou agreement provide for our interests in these areas, especially if the possibilities of a meaningfully deepened and widened EPA is still far from being realized after 18 years after the launch of EPA negotiations," Minister Seruiratu said.

-MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FijiFocus



PM CALLS
FOR CLIMATE
FRIENDLY
TRADE DEALS

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MAKE A
DIFFERENCE,
CIVIL SERVANTS
TOLD

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FIJIANS
'UNITED BY
PATRIOTISM,
FLAG'

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President Major-General (retired) Jioji Konrote and First Lady Sarote Konrote with Fiji embassy staff and Fiji students studying in Japan. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

Bilateral TALKS



President Major-General (retired) Jioji Konrote (second from left), with President of the Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation Peter Sato and Fiji Ambassador to Japan, Isikeli Mataitoga. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

PRESIDENT IN JAPAN FOR EMPEROR'S ENTHRONEMENT

THE President Major-General (retired) Jioji Konrote is in Japan to represent Fiji at the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Naruhito.

President Konrote was invited to attend the ceremony which took place yesterday in his capacity as Head of State and was accompanied by his wife, First Lady Sarote Konrote and Fiji Ambassador to Japan, Isikeli Mataitoga.

President Konrote also held bilateral meet-

ings with the Japanese Government officials during this visit.

He met with, the Japanese Minister responsible for Promoting Dynamic Engagement for All Citizens, Seiichi Eto MP, the Minister in charge of Territorial Issues; Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs; Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety; Minister of State for Measures for Declining Birth Rate and Minister of State for Ocean

Policy. The Head of State thanked Minister Eto for his personal support in helping our Mission to promote Fiji throughout Japan.

Meanwhile, President Konrote also met with Peter Sato, the President of the Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC).

Issues discussed were climate change, APIC exchange programmes and APIC's more involvement in the Pacific.

President Konrote thanked Mr Sato for

APIC's contribution in Fiji and the Pacific.

He also took the opportunity presented by his visit to remind the Fiji students studying in Japan to work hard and be good ambassadors for Fiji.

The students are pursuing their Masters and PhD programmes in some of the renowned institutions in Japan. The Head of State has urged the students to work hard and ply their trade in Fiji after the completion of their studies. -news@govnet.gov.fj

फीजी फोकस

नारियल छीलने
और खुरचने
वाली मशीने
बिठाई गईं

2



आँधी तूफान
के मौसम
के लिए
तैयारी

3



स्वास्थ्य
मंत्री ने विश्व
स्वास्थ्य
संस्था की
सहजाना की

6



दो दिनों के अपने फीजी दौर पर ऑस्ट्रेलियन प्रधान मंत्री स्कॉट मॉरिसन, प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा के साथ प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर में चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर

फीजी और ई.यू, साथ साथ

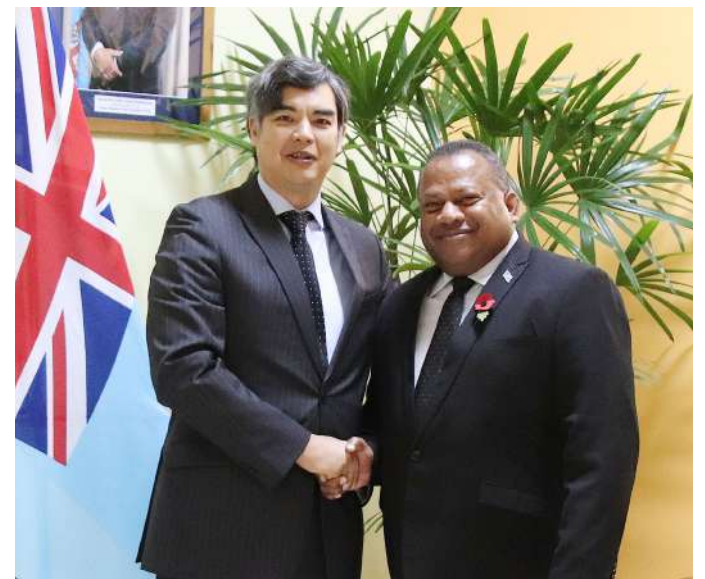
वीरेंद्र लाल

फीजी और इरोपियन युनियन के बीच सम्बंध मजबूत होने से फीजी के सामाजिक और आर्थिक विकास में तेजी आने की सम्भावना है। प्रशांत के लिए इरोपियन युनियन (EU) डेलिगेशन के मुख्या तथा राजदूत महामहिम सुजिरो सीम ने सुरक्षा तथा विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु से मुलाकात करने पर ऐसा कहा। मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने राजदूत सीम को उनकी नई भूमिका के लिए बधाई दी और दोहराया कि फीजी, इरोपियन युनियन के साथ मिलकर काम करेगा और व्यापारिक नीतियों को लागू करेगा तथा विकास के क्षेत्र में सहायता हासिल करेगा। राजदूत सीम ने कहा कि इरोपियन युनियन, जलवायु परिवर्तन, मानवाधिकार और सस्टेइअबल डिवेलपमेंट गौल्स पर विश्व और क्षेत्र स्तर पर फीजी की नेतागिरी को मान्यता देती है। उन्होंने बताया कि मंत्री सेरुईरातु के साथ सभा से प्रगति और चुनौतियों के बारे में पता चला है तथा वे रास्ता निकालेंगे कि किस तरह से फीजी और इरोपियन युनियन के

बीच सम्बंध और मजबूत हो।

“हमारी चुनौतियाँ एक हैं और जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ लड़ाई में हम साथ हैं। हम स्थिति मजबूत करने में साथ हैं, हम मिलकर गरीबी से लड़ रहे हैं, हम प्रजातंत्र और मानवाधिकार के मूल्यों को बनाए रखने में साथ हैं। हम बहुपक्षीय के पक्ष में साथ हैं और इस दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं कि अंतराष्ट्रीय सिस्टम को हम कैसे मजबूत कर सकते हैं। फीजी को लेकर हम काफी उत्साहित हैं”।

राजदूत सीम ने बताया कि इरोपियन युनियन फीजी के साथ मिलकर, जलवायु परिवर्तन से जुड़े विषयों को सुलझाने, मानवाधिकार से जुड़े मामलों को आगे बढ़ाने तथा व्यापार और व्यापारिक मौके विकसित करने में और सहायता प्रदान करेगी। इरोपियन युनियन, सहमत हुए विषयों पर फीजी के साथ हर साल मई महीने में “पॉलिटिकल डायलॉग” नाम से द्विपक्षीय विचार विमर्श करती है। इरोपियन युनियन फीजी का एक सब से ज़रूरी द्विपक्षीय हिस्सेदार है और पिछले पैंतालिस (45) सालों से ई.यू, फीजी की विकास ज़रूरतों को लेकर उसे समर्थन कर रहा है।



प्रशांत के लिए ई.यू मुख्या तथा राजदूत सुजिरो सीम के साथ विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



नारियल छीलने और खुरचने वाली मशीने बिठाई गईं

वीरेंद्र लाल

कृषि मंत्री ने नारियल व्यवसाय में शामिल किसानों और मिलजु को आश्वासन दिया है कि सरकार नारियल व्यवसाय को सहायता प्रदान करना जारी रखेगी।

डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी सावुसावु स्थित कोपरा मिलजु फीजी लिमिटेड में नारियल छीलने वाली एक और खुरचने वाली एक मशीन का उद्घाटन करते वक्त बोल रहे थे।

“हम कोपरा और नारियल व्यवसाय का समर्थन करना जारी रखेंगे क्योंकि नारियल जीवन देने वाला पेड़ है। पीड़ियों से लोग भोजन, पानी, दूध और तेल के लिए नारियल पर निर्भर हैं। हम इस व्यवसाय को बढ़ावा देना चाहते हैं” कृषि मंत्री ने कहा। सावुसावु स्थित कोपरा मिलजु फीजी लिमिटेड में नारियल छीलने वाली एक और खुरचने वाली एक मशीन के साथ साथ एक होट ऐया झरिया भी बिठाया गया है।

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने बताया कि इन मशीनों के बिठाने से तेल के उत्पादन में तेजी आएगी और काम सरल हो जायेगा।

“नई मशीनें और होट ऐया झरिया से खाने पीने की खातिर, स्थानिए बाजारों के लिए नारियल के तेल बनाने में मदद मिलेगी”।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि फीजी हर साल बीस मिलियन डॉलर मूल्य के सत्तरह हजार (17,000) टन वेजेटबल ऑइल आयात करता है।

कृषि मंत्री के अनुसार खाना पकाने के लिए नारियल के तेल काम में लाने से, आयात होने वाले तेल में पाँच प्रतिशत की गिरावट होने की आशा की जा रही है।

फिलहाल कृषि मंत्रालय जल्द ही किसानों को उन फसलों की सूची प्रदान करेगा जिनके लिए बाजार उपलब्ध किए जायेंगे।



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर रेड्डी नारियल छीलने और खुरचने वाली मशीन का उद्घाटन करते हुए चित्र: जोसईया रलांगो

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने इसकी घोषणा सावुसावु में नई एगो मार्केटिंग ओथोरिटी (AMA) प्रोसेसिंग फेसिलिटी का उद्घाटन करते वक्त की।

“सरकार ने एगो मार्केटिंग ओथोरिटी के साथ मिलकर काम करने का फैसला किया है ताकि

किसानों को, इन फसलों के लिए बाजार उपलब्ध हो”।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा कि बाजार लेजाने से पहले प्रोसेसिंग फेसिलिटी में फसलों को चेक और साफ किया जाएगा।

कीड़ा मारने वाली कुछ दवाओं पर अगले साल से प्रतिबन्ध

रोनल देव

लोगों के स्वास्थ्य तथा वातावरण पर कीड़ा मारने वाली दवाओं के बुरा असर को ध्यान में रखते हुए कृषि मंत्रालय अगले साल पहली जनवरी से अत्याधिक खतरनाक कीटनाशक दवा जैसे पाराकोट और इमिडाक्लोप्रिड (IMIDACLOPRID) देश में मँगाने, बेचने और इस्तेमाल करने पर प्रतिबन्ध लागू करेगा।

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी का कहना है कि इन दवाओं से बहुत ज़्यादा नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ता है इसलिए इनपर प्रतिबन्ध लगाया जा रहा है। यह प्रतिबन्ध अनिवार्य है क्योंकि पाराकोट की वजह से लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर बुरा असर पड़ता है जैसेकि आँखों की कमजोरी, नाक से खून बहना, चमड़ी तथा शरीर के अन्य हिस्सों में जलन महसूस करना। “विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने पाराकोट में पाई गई ज़हर को दूसरे श्रेणी में रखा है जोकि मध्ययम रूप से खतरनाक है, लेकिन यह विश्वास है कि इसे प्रथम श्रेणी में रखना चाहिए क्योंकि इस ज़हर को काटने के लिए कोई दूसरी ज़हर उपलब्ध नहीं है,” डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा।

बच्चों के दिमाग पर बुरा असर पड़ सकता है या उनके शरीर में कैंसर विकसित हो सकता है अगर थोड़े से भी वे इन पदार्थों के सम्पर्क में आ गए। इसके अलावा देश में आत्महत्याएं करने या ऐसा करने की कोशिश में भी पाराकोट का इस्तेमाल होता है। सन् दो हजार चौदह से पिछले साल के बीच इस तरह के एक सौ चौवालिस (144) मामले सामने आए हैं।

जहाँ तक वातावरण पर पाराकोट के असर की बात है तो यह पौधों, जानवरों तथा मच्छलियों के लिए बहुत ज़्यादा ज़हरीला है। घास पर स्प्रे करने के तुरन्त बाद अगर घोड़े, गाय तथा भेड़ इत्यादि यह घास चरते हैं, तब उनके लिए भी यह ज़हरीला साबित हो सकता है। कुत्तों को ज़हर के रूप में भी पाराकोट दिया जाता है। “इमिडाक्लोप्रिड (IMIDACLOPRID) का इस्तेमाल मधुमक्खी पालन पर बुरा असर डालता है क्यों कि फूलों के खिलने से कुछ सप्ताह पूर्व जब यह पदार्थ पौधों पर छिड़का जाता है, तो यह पौधे और फूल मधुमक्खी के लिए ज़हरीले हो जाते हैं,” मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा।

किसान पाराकोट और इमिडाक्लोप्रिड (IMIDACLOPRID) के बदले अन्य कीटनाशकों का इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं जो स्थानिय बाजार में उपलब्ध हैं। सन् दो हजार दो से फीजी शुगा कोर्पोरेशन ने गन्ने के खेतों में पाराकोट के इस्तेमाल पर प्रतिबन्ध लागू किया है तथा शाकभाजी के किसानों से भी इसका प्रयोग न करने की माँग की गई है

लौतोका शहर में और पूंजी जारी

सोनम सामी

फीजी सरकार हमारे देश के दुसरे सब से बड़े शहर लौतोका को रहने, काम करने और खेल कूद के लिय बेहतर बनाने में पूंजी लगा रही है। जारी परियोजनाओं में लौतोका के बोटैनिकल गार्डन में स्विमिंग पुल जो बारह दशमलव छः मिलियन डॉलर (\$12.6m) का है, इस साल के अंत तक पुरा होने का अनुमान है।

व्यापार मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने कहा कि इन्वेस्टमेंट फीजी की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार दो हजार नौ से दो हजार अट्ठारह तक कुल मिलाकर तीन दशमलव तीन बिलियन डॉलर (\$3.3b) की पूंजी पश्चिमी विभाग में लगाई गई है। एक साझेदार के रूप में लौतोका सिटी कौंसल अपना काम कर रही है और पश्चिमी विभाग के विकास में योगदान दे रही है।

लौतोका सिटी कौंसल के अभी हाल ही के दौर पर मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि लोगों को अपने शहर पर गर्व होना चाहिए और एक नागरिक होने का कर्तव्य निभाना चाहिए।

“इस प्रकार हम साझेदारी से एक ऐसा शहर बना सकते हैं जिसपर हम सब को गर्व हो। आपके अच्छे व्यवहार से हम, उच्च जीवन, कम



व्यापार मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ऑस्ट्रेलिया फीजी विसनज़ कौंसल सभा में एक ऑस्ट्रेलियन अधिकारी के साथ चित्र: सप्लाईड

स्वास्थ्य जोखिम, साफ वातावरण और पानी की कम बर्बादी से जो सकते हैं,” मंत्री ने कहा। अन्य प्रमुख परियोजनाओं में दो दशमलव आठ मिलियन डॉलर (\$2.8m) चेचल पार्क की मरम्मत पर, चार लाख डॉलर (\$400,000) मुनिसिपल मार्केट को बढ़ाने पर और एक लाख पचहत्तर हजार डॉलर (\$175,000) तावाकुम्बु

सेटलाइट मार्केट के निर्माण पर खर्च होंगे। बढ़ती जनसंख्या के कारण, कौंसल तीन लाख दस हजार डॉलर (\$310,000) कचरा इकट्ठा करने में खर्च करती है और सालाना लगभग चार लाख डॉलर (\$400,000) वुनातो लेन्डफिल में लगाती है।

आँधी तुफान के मौसम के लिए तैयारी

वीरन्द्र लाल

सरकार के चालिस से ज्यादा हेड ओफ डिपार्टमेंट्स ने दो हजार उन्नीस-दो हजार बीस (2019-2020) आँधी तुफान के मौसम के लिए तैयारी करने की खातिर, कोमिउनिर्कईशन एन्ड कोमिउनिटी एनगईजमेंट (CCE) ट्रेनिंग में भाग लिया।

नेशनल डिज़ास्टा अवेयनस वीक पिछले सप्ताह वईयेवो तबिउनी में हुआ जहाँ नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमेंट ओफिस ने कोमिउनिर्कईटिंग विद डिज़ास्टा अफेक्टड कोमिउनिटीज़ (CDAC) नेटवर्क के साथ विचार किया कि किस तरह से प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के दौरान असर पड़े लोगों की मदद की जाए।

इससे सरकार और मदद पहुँचाने वाले अन्य लोगों को पता चलेगा कि कहाँ पर किस तरह की मदद की ज़रूरत है और उसी आधार पर लोगों की मदद की जाएगी। इस तरह से सभी इलाकों में ज़रूरतमंद लोगों की मदद की जा सकेगी।

ट्रेनिंग का उद्घाटन करती हुई स्थानापन्न डायरेक्टर एन.डी.एम.ओ, लितियाना बड़निमारामा ने बताया कि हम सब जानते हैं कि विपत्ति के दौरान सम्पर्क में रहना कितनी ज़रूरी है क्योंकि इसी के आधार पर लोगों तक मदद पहुँचेगी।



ऐसी सेवाएं जिनसे लोगों के जीवन पर सकारात्मक असर पड़े। लोगों की ज़रूरतों के बारे में जानने के लिए उनके सम्पर्क में रहना बहुत ज़रूरी है

बड़निमारामा ने बताया कि फीजी के नेशनल हुमेनिटेरियन पोलिसी फोर डिज़ास्टा रिस्क मेनेजमेंट में नेशनल इनफोर्मईशन मेनेजमेंट एन्ड कोमिउनिर्कईशन्स की स्थापना के महत्व के बारे में कहा गया है।

ट्रेनिंग में हेड ओफ डिपार्टमेंट्स, प्रोविशियल एडमिनिस्ट्रैटिव, डिस्ट्रिक्ट ओफिसस, असिस्टेंट डिस्ट्रिक्ट ओफिसस, तुरांगा नि कोरो और डिस्ट्रिक्ट एडवायज़री कौंसल मेंबर शामिल थे।

फीजी में हर साल नवम्बर से अप्रैल तक आँधी तुफान का मौसम रहता है और लोगों से इसके लिए तैयारी कर लेने की माँग की जा रही है। लोगों को यह देखना चाहिए कि रेडियो, टोच, बैटरी और खाने पीने वाले ज़रूरी सामान घर पर रहें। लोगों को अपने नज़दीक के राहत केंद्र के बारे में भी जानना चाहिए ताकि ज़रूरत पड़ने पर वे सुरक्षित वहाँ पहुँच सकें।

फीजी और ओस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधान मंत्रियों के बीच द्विपक्षीय सभा



फीजी के द्वीप पर नादी में ब्लैकरोक ट्रेनिंग कैंप में आर.एफ.एम.एफ के अफसरों को सम्बोधित करते हुए ओस्ट्रेलियन प्रधान मंत्री स्कॉट मोरिसन चित्र: लितिया बुलाईदउसिंगा

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फीजी के अपने द्वीप पर ओस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधान मंत्री स्कॉट मोरिसन ने फीजियन प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गे बड़निमारामा के साथ सुवा में एक द्विपक्षीय सभा की थी।

प्रधान मंत्री मोरिसन, सुवा में ओस्ट्रेलियन प्राइम मिनिस्ट्रज़ मेचस देखने और नादी में ब्लैकरोक ट्रेनिंग कैंप का दौरा करने, दो दिनों के लिए फीजी आय थे।

द्विपक्षीय सभा के बाद ओस्ट्रेलियन प्रधान मंत्री ने यह घोषणा की कि फीजी के लोग ओस्ट्रेलिया जाते वक्त अब दो के बजाय चार किलोग्राम नंगोना अपने साथ ले जा सकते हैं। “हमने कई विषयों पर बातें की, बातें तब

शुरू हुई जब मैं पहली बार वनवातु गया था। नंगोना के लिए अलावन्स हम दोहरी कर रहे हैं। यह दोनों देशों के बीच अच्छा सम्बंध दर्शाता है,” उन्होंने कहा।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि सभी फीजियन्स इस घोषणा का स्वागत करेंगे जबकि वे इसकी ताक में थे।

दोनों नेताओं ने कई विषयों पर बातें की जिनमें प्रशांत भू में मछलियों की संख्या बनाए रखना शामिल है।

फीजी-ओस्ट्रेलिया बुवाले पार्टनरशिप के तहत ऐसा हो पाया है। दोनों देशों के बीच मुख्य मेच से पहले प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने ओस्ट्रेलियन प्रधान मंत्री के साथ मिलकर ओस्ट्रेलियन विमन्स टीम को ट्रॉफी प्रदान की।

नादी में ब्लैकरोक ट्रेनिंग कैंप का दौरा करने के बाद ओस्ट्रेलियन प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि वे पीस-कीपिंग एन्ड हुमेनिटेरियन असिस्टन्स एन्ड डिज़ास्टा रिलीफ कैंप की प्रगति से खुश हैं। अपने पॅसिफिक सेट-अप इनिशियईटिव के तहत ओस्ट्रेलिया की सरकार कैंप को सहायता प्रदान कर रही है।

प्रधान मंत्री मोरिसन ने इराक के लिए छः हफ्तों की प्री-डिप्लोयमेंट ट्रेनिंग पर जा रहे आर. एफ.एम.एफ के एक सौ तिरासी (183) अफसरों से भी मुलाकात की।

प्रधान मंत्री मोरिसन को विदेश तथा सुरक्षा मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु ने स्वीकार किया था।

विपत्ति के दौरान काम में लाने के लिए नाव मिली

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हम आँधी तुफान के मौसम में जबकि प्रवेश कर रहे हैं, तो ऐसे में चायना विलज इनवेस्टज़ ने केन्द्रीय विभाग के कमिशनर को प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के दौरान काम में लाने के लिए एक फायवा ग्लास नाव और एनजिन दान में दिया है।

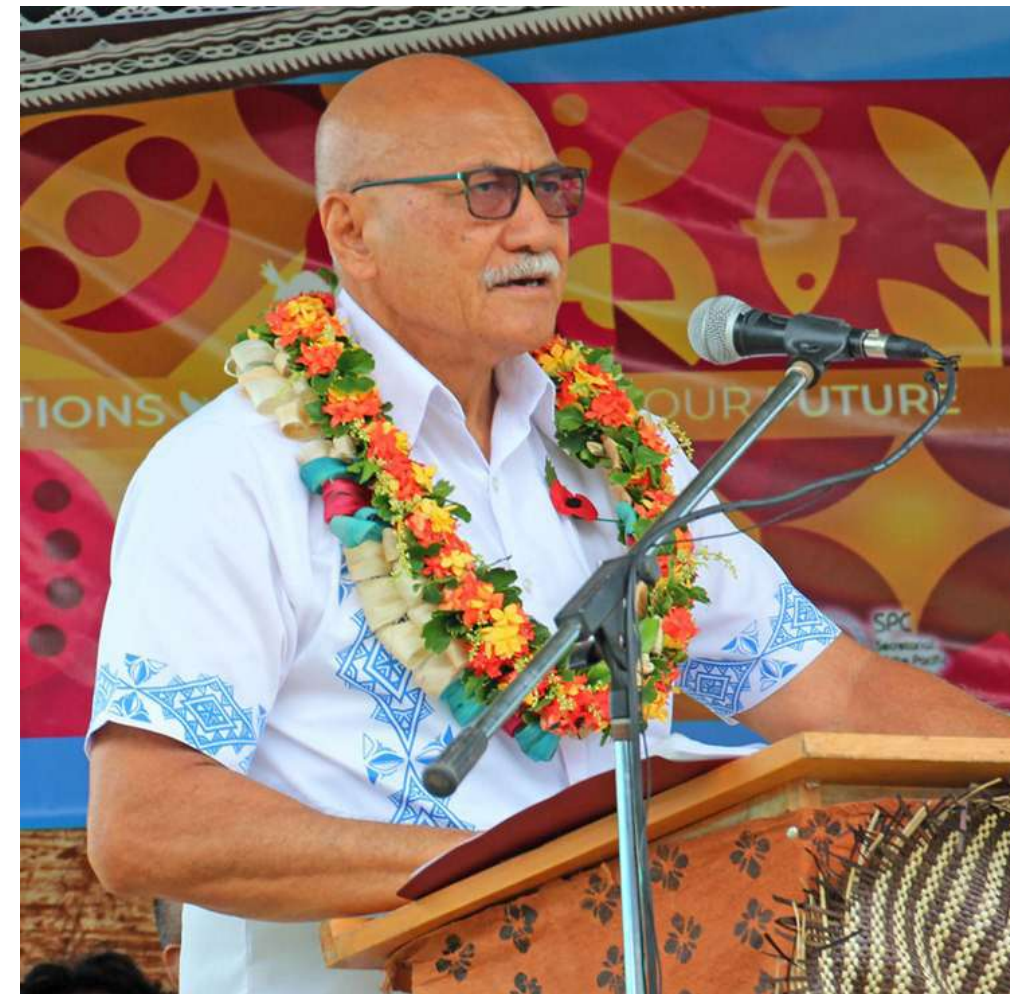
पचीस हजार डॉलर (\$25,000) की यह नाव, प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के दौरान, राहत कार्य के लिए काम में लाई जाएगी।

सरकार की ओर से नाव स्वीकार करते हुए कमिशनर सेन्ट्रल जोसेफो नवूकु ने चायना विलज इनवेस्टज़ के मेनेजिंग डायरेक्टर जेकी फंग को धन्यवाद दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि इस दान से बाढ़ के दौरान नउसोरी के निचले इलाकों में रह रहे लोगों को काफी राहत मिलेगी।

नवूकु ने कहा कि इस सहायता से चायना के साथ फीजी का सम्बंध और मज़बूत होगा। उन्होंने बताया कि अन्य कम्पनियों को भी इस तरह से सहयोग देकर अपनी सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी निभानी चाहिए।



कमिशनर सेन्ट्रल जोसेफो नवूकु, चायना विलज इनवेस्टज़ के मेनेजिंग डायरेक्टर जेकी फंग से नाव स्वीकार करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



उत्तरी विभाग में दो नए किस्म के धान

राष्ट्रपति मईजा जेनरल (retired) जोजी कोन्वेले ने सावुसावु में दो नए किस्म के धान लॉन्च किए। सितारा और दांगिवु धान किस्म भी प्रकार की मिट्टी में बोय जा सकते हैं।

सैंकिउरिटो की समस्या कुछ हद तक कम होगी और साथ देश में भोजन की बढ़ती मांग की पूर्ति होगी। राष्ट्रपति ने लोगों से सही प्रकार का भोजन करने की मांग की है।

चित्र: जोसईया रलंगो



देशभर में फीजी दिवस मनाया गया

इस साल का उनचासवा (49th) फीजी दिवस समारोह देश भर में मनाया गया जबकि मुख्य समारोह सुवा के एलबर्ट पार्क पर हुआ।

इस साल का विषय था सभी के लिए उन्नति और प्रगति करने वाला फीजी।

पुलिस और सेना का परेड मुख्य आकर्षण था। सुवा के एलबर्ट पार्क पर मुख्य समारोह मनाया गया तथा लम्बासा और लेवुका में भी समारोह आयोजित किए गए थे। इस दौरान नान्दी, बा तथा लीतिका में कुछ वृद्ध तथा अनाथ आश्रमों का भी दौरा किया गया था।

चित्र: फिलिक्स लैमिन्ग्वालु/एफएम कोरेईतानो/जोसईया रलंगो



देशी एजुकेशन लोन स्कीम से फायदा उठाईए

शिक्षा मंत्री रैजी अक्वर ने हालही गेट सेन स्कूल में विद्यार्थियों को पुरस्कार देते हुए मांग की कि अगले साल से वे देशी एजुकेशन लोन स्कीम से फायदा उठाने की कोशिश करें। देशी संस्थाओं में फाउन्डेशन की पढ़ाई करने वाले विद्यार्थियों की

संख्या, सेकन्डी स्कूलों में इया 13 में पढ़ रहे विद्यार्थियों से ज्यादा है जो टेलस के हकदार हैं।

चित्र: एफएम कोरेईतानो/जोसईया रलंगो



वह सब कुछ जो फीजी में हो रहा है

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गाँधीजी के सीख का पालन करें



महात्मा गांधी की एक सौ पचासवीं जन्मजयंती पर आयोजित वीकाथोन में भाग लेने वालों के साथ प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण तथा भारतीय उच्चायोग के अधिकारी चित: वीरन्द्र लाल

वीरन्द्र लाल

प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव ने लोगों से गाँधीजी के सीख का पालन करने की माँग की है - न देख बुरा, न सुन बुरा, न बोल बुरा। योगेश करण, महात्मा गाँधीजी की एक सौ पचासवीं (150th) जन्मजयंती पर माय सुवा पार्क में आयोजित वीकाथोन में बोल रहे थे। राष्ट्रों और लोगों के व्यक्तिगत जीवन में गाँधीजी के योगदान को सम्मानित करने के इरादे से

ईंडिया फीजी फ्रेंडशिप फोरम (IFFF) ने वीकाथोन की आयोजना की थी। श्री करण ने बताया कि आजकल कई लोग इस कारण से बीमार पड़ रहे हैं क्योंकि वे अपनी देख-भाल अच्छी तरह से नहीं करते हैं। वीकाथोन में भाग लेने वाले चलते हुए मैला भी बटोर रहे थे जबकि गाँधीजी साफ सफाई पर बहुत ध्यान देते थे और साथ साथ गाँधीजी हर दिन पन्द्रह (15) किलोमीटर चलते थे। वे इसे सबसे अच्छा व्यायाम मानते थे।

महात्मा गाँधी दो अक्टूबर अद्वितीय सौ उनहत्तर (1869) में पोरबन्दर भारत में पैदा हुए थे। उन्नीस सौ सैंतालीस (1947) में भारत को आज़ादी दिलाने में उन्होंने प्रमुख भूमिका निभाई थी। गाँधीजी को सच्चाई, अहिंसा, क्षमाशील होने, व्रत रखने, शाकाहारी भोजन करने, माला जप करने, चलने इत्यादि के लिए जाना जाता है। गाँधीजी को दुनिया भर में अभी तक का सबसे महान नेता माना जाता है।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने विश्व स्वास्थ्य संस्था की सहराना की

वीरन्द्र लाल

फीजी और प्रशांत में स्वास्थ्य सम्बंधी विषयों में मदद पहुँचाने के लिए स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वांगाइनम्बेते ने विश्व स्वास्थ्य संस्था (WHO) की प्रशंसा की है। स्वास्थ्य मंत्री, मनीला फिलिपीन्स में WHO के सत्तरवा (70th) रीजनल कमीटी सभा में बोल रहे थे। रीजनल डायरेक्टर की रिपोर्ट और अगले चार सालों के लिए WPRO की योजना पर प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त करते हुए मंत्री वांगाइनम्बेते ने WHO को फीजी एमेजेन्सी मेडिकल असिस्टन्स टीम (FEMAT) को और पिछले साल मेनिंजकोकल बीमारी फैलने के दौरान तकनीकी सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। रीजनल डायरेक्टर ने भविष्य के लिए सब से स्वस्थ और सुरक्षित क्षेत्र यानि "For the Future - Towards the Healthiest and Safest Region" यानि की दिशा में शीर्षक पर पर्झपा प्रस्तुत किया। मंत्री वांगाइनम्बेते ने फीजी और प्रशांत में स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञों के लिए प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र के रूप में फीजी की भूमिका का समर्थन करने और फीजी में सुरक्षित तथा कम खर्च में सेजरी की व्यवस्था करने के लिए विश्व स्वास्थ्य संस्था के कदम की सहराना की है। फिलहाल मंत्री ने इसपर ज़ोर

चुनौतियों को मौकों के रूप में देखें



एम्प्लोयमेंट मंत्रालय की अगली साल तक की योजना को लॉच करते हुए मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला, मंत्रालय के कर्मचारियों के साथ चित: प्रशीला देवी

वीरन्द्र लाल

एम्प्लोयमेंट मंत्रालय के कर्मचारियों को याद दिलाई गई है कि नई चुनौतियों को उन्हें मौकों के रूप में देखने की ज़रूरत है। मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला मंत्रालय की योजना (Costed Operational Plan FY 2019-2020) के लॉच पर कर्मचारियों को सम्बोधित करते हुए बोल रहे थे। "मंत्रालय के रूप में बदलाव लाने से इनकार

करना, कोई विकल्प नहीं है। सरकार, बदलते वातावरण का डटकर सामना करने के लिए तैयार है" मंत्री ने कहा। मंत्री ने बताया कि जबकि यह योजना नई होगी, यह लईबा बाज़ारों की माँग और ज़रूरी चुनौतियाँ पूरी करेगी। "हम योजना लागू करने के चुनौति-पूर्ण चरण में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं। पाँच और बीस सालों की राष्ट्रीय विकास योजनाओं के तहत मैं आपको आपकी ज़िम्मेदारियों के बारे में याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

सरकार चाहती है कि दो हज़ार इक्कीस (2021) तक हम कांधे से कांधे मिलाकर बेरोज़गारी की दर को घटाकर चार प्रतिशत (4%) से कम करें"। मंत्री ने प्रकाश डाला। एम्प्लोयमेंट मंत्री ने कहा कि शिक्षित, प्रशिक्षित और कार्यकुशल कर्मचारी होने से फीजी व्यापार करने के लिए अच्छा रहेगा और इससे पूँजपत्ती आकर्षित होंगे। उन्होंने बताया कि इससे काम कराने के लिए मज़दूरों को बाहर से नहीं लाना पड़ेगा।

रीजनल हब के रूप में फीजी को सहायता प्रदान करने और फीजी तथा प्रशांत के स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों के विकास में योगदान देने के लिए हम WHO को धन्यवाद देते हैं। सुरक्षित तथा कम खर्च में सेजरी की व्यवस्था करने की दिशा में हम मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं

दिया कि जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होने वाली बीमारियों पर काबू पाने की ज़रूरत है। उन्होंने कहा कि जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होने वाली बीमारियाँ, जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़े असर से जुड़ी हैं। मंत्री ने लोगों से स्वस्थ भोजन करने और अपनी तथा अपने बच्चों की देख-भाल अच्छी तरह से करने की माँग की।

और ग्रामीण महिलाएं होंगी सोला एंजीनियज़

वीरेंद्र लाल

बेयाफुट कोलज बनने पर और ग्रामीण महिलाओं को सोला एंजीनियज़ के प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त करने के मौके दिए जायेंगे। विमन मंत्री मेरेसईनी बुनिवांगा, तावुवा में रूरल विमन्स डेय सेलेब्रेशन्स में बोल रही थी। “क्लायमट चईज और डिसास्टा रिस्क रिसीलियंट प्रोजेक्टस् देखने के अलावा, मेरे मंत्रालय के पास महिलाओं को सशक्त करने के प्रोग्राम हैं। इस प्रोग्राम के तहत अभी खास करके ग्रामीण महिलाओं पर ध्यान दिया जाता है”। मंत्री ने बताया कि नेशनल विमन्स एक्सपोजे में हर साल कई सौ की संख्या में महिलाएं एक साथ आती हैं और अपना हुनर दिखाती हैं। उनका कहना है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन से महिलाओं के जीवन, उनकी सम्पत्ति, कृषि उत्पादन और स्वास्थ्य पर भी असर पड़ता है। मंत्री बुनिवांगा के अनुसार फीजी की जनसंख्या के उनचास (49) प्रतिशत लोग महिलाएं और लड़कियां हैं। फीजियन सरकार स्थानिए, क्षेत्रिए और अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर महिलाओं के क्लायमट एक्शन में शामिल होने के कदम का बढ़ावा दे रही है।

वोल्ड स्टैंडड्स डेय मनाया गया

वीरेंद्र लाल

फीजी ने क्षेत्र के हब के रूप में जड़ जमा लिया है और तकनीकी की तरफ वह तेजी से बढ़ता जा रहा है। दंड इन्डस्ट्री मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव शहीन अली “वोल्ड स्टैंडड्स डेय” के अवसर पर मुख्य महमान के रूप में बोल रहे थे। इस दिवस का थीम “विडियो स्टैंडड्स किअर्ट ग्लोबल स्टैंडज” था और इसे ग्रेंड पेंसिफिक होटेल सुवा में मनाया गया। वोल्ड स्टैंडड्स डेय जो हर साल चौदह अक्टूबर को मनाया जाता है, के तहत दुनिया भर में उन हज़ारों विशेषज्ञों को याद किया जाता है जो वोल्ट्री टेक्निकल अग्रीमेंट्स डिवेलप करते हैं। यह वोल्ट्री टेक्निकल अग्रीमेंट्स, इनटानेशनल स्टैंडड्स के रूप में छापे जाते हैं।

किसानों से नालों की देखभाल अच्छी तरह से करने की माँग



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी, मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव रितेश दास और अन्य उच्च कर्मचारियों के साथ उत्तरी विभाग में किसानों से मुलाकात करते हुए चित्र: जोईया रलांगो

रोनल देव

किसानों और आम जनता से माँग की गई है कि वे सरकार द्वारा बनाए गए नालों को नुकसान न पहुँचाएँ जिससे पानी नहीं रूके और गम्भीर वर्षा के समय बाढ़ न चढ़े। उत्तरी विभाग के दौरे पर किसानों से बात-चीत करते हुए वोटरवइज़ मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने नालों तथा खेतों वाले रास्तों पर किसानों के सवालों का जवाब देते हुए कहा कि खेतों में नालों की खोदाई करने में काफी पैसे खर्च किए गए हैं तथा अब इनकी देखभाल करने की ज़िम्मेदारी किसानों की है।

“कुछ किसान डालो और कसेरा नालों के अन्दर या उनके बहुत करीब बोते हैं जिससे नालों में पानी रूकता है। इससे नालों की खोदाई करने से कोई फायदा नहीं होता जैसाकि किसानों ने माँग की थी। नालों से तीन मीटर की दूरी पर फसल बोनी चाहिए तथा खेत वाले रास्तों पर मरम्मतकार्य पूरा होने के बाद किसानों को इनकी देखभाल अच्छी तरह करनी चाहिए,” मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा। मंत्री ने किसानों को व्यापार के रूप में देखने वाली बात दोहराई। “सरकार सभी किसानों तक मदद पहुँचाना चाहती है तथा वह केवल एक ही किसान को बार बार सहायता पहुँचाने पर ध्यान नहीं देगी। किसानों को सरकार की सहायता से खुद आगे बढ़ना चाहिए,”

उन्होंने कहा।

कृषि मंत्री ने कहा कि सरकार चाहती है कि कृषि व्यवसाय और बढ़े, निर्यात में वृद्धि हो तथा आयात में कमी लाई जाए। फीजी ऐसे किसानों पर निर्भर नहीं रह सकता जो केवल खाली समय में खेती करते हैं इसलिए किसानों में जोश होना चाहिए कि वे खेती को एक व्यवसाय के रूप में देखें। मंत्री रेड्डी ने किसानों को यह भी सलह दी कि वे ज़्यादा होने वाले धान जैसे सितारा और दाँगीवउ बोएँ तथा साल में दो से तीन बार इन्हें काटने पर ध्यान दें। उनके अनुसार फीजी में सामान्य धान से कम चावल निकलता है।

सड़कों की समस्या

सोनम सामी

“सड़कों में गड़बड़े ठीक करने के बजाय, पूरी सड़क का पुनः निर्माण मुख्य लक्ष्य है जिसे सरकार प्राप्त करने की कोशिश कर रही है”। एक भेंटवार्ता के दौरान इनफास्ट्रक्चर मंत्री चोने उसामाते ने सड़कों और पुलों की समस्याओं पर बातें करते हुए ऐसा कहा। “सड़क की मरम्मत के लिय हम पहले ही बजट में बता चुके हैं कि किन सड़कों का पुनः निर्माण किया जाएगा”। दो हजार उन्नीस और बीस बजट में फीजी रौडस् ओथोरिटी को चार सौ उन्नीस दशमलव चार मिलियन डोलर (\$419.4) दिए गए हैं जिनमें से उन्नीस दशमलव सात मिलियन (\$19.7) संचालन खर्च के लिय है और तीन सौ निन्यानवे दशमलव आठ मिलियन (\$399.8) संसाधनों को ठीक करने के लिय। संसाधन वाले खर्च में से साठ (60) मिलियन एफ आर आई के चल रहे मरम्मत कार्य में लगाए गए हैं। मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा कि वे सड़क बनाने वाले सामान की ओर ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहते हैं। “सड़कें विरासत के मुद्दे हैं, इनका निर्माण बहुत साल पहले हुआ है, सड़कों पर चल रहे वाहनों के वजन को भी नियंत्रित करना है ताकि हम सड़कों को और बर्बाद होने से बचा सकें”। पहले हमने नदी के ग्रेवल का इस्तेमाल किया है



इनफास्ट्रक्चर मंत्री उसामाते ने बताया कि वे सड़क बनाने वाले सामान की ओर ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहते हैं चित्र: सप्लार्डड

लेकिन अब सरकार कश्च मेटल के इस्तेमाल पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहती है जबकि यह एक नाजुक समस्या है। “इस वर्ष पंद्रह पुलों को ठीक करने की प्राथमिकता दी गई है, हालांकि फीजी में सौ से अधिक पुलों को ठीक करने की आवश्यकता है”। मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा कि फीजी रौडस् ओथोरिटी

और उनके इंजीनियरों जानते हैं कि कहाँ-कहाँ पर पुलों को ठीक करना ज्यादा ज़रूरी है। “यह यातायात के संदर्भ में समस्याएं पैदा कर रही हैं लेकिन हम जानते हैं कि इसे पुरा करना भी ज़रूरी है”। उन्होंने कहा कि इस कार्य में समय लग सकता है जबकि हमें कुछ सहायता की जरूरत है।

फ़ीजी फ़ोकस

नारियल छीलने और खुरचने वाली मशीने बिठाई गईं ②



आँधी तूफान के मौसम के लिए तैयारी ③



स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने विश्व स्वास्थ्य संस्था की सहराना की ⑥



अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम, फीजी के प्रतिनिधि-मंडल और वोल्ट बैंक तथा इनटानेशनल मोनेट्री फण्ड की सेक्रेटरियट टीम के साथ वोल्ट बैंक और आय.एम.एफ सभा के दौरान चित्र: सप्लाईड

फीजी यू.एन वीकिंग ग्रुप का चेर्या नियुक्त हुआ

वीरेंद्र लाल

जिनेवा में संयुक्त राष्ट्र के लिए फीजी की स्थाई प्रतिनिधि राजदूत नज़हत शमीम को वियेना, ऑस्ट्रिया में युनायटेड नईशन्स ओगानायज़ेशन फोर ड्रग्स एंड क्रीम (UNODC) के वीकिंग ग्रुप ओन ट्रेफिकिंग इन पेंसन्स की चेरा नियुक्त किया गया है।

राजदूत खान ने बताया कि इस यू.एन वीकिंग ग्रुप का चेरा नियुक्त होना, फीजी के लिए बहुत गर्व की बात है। उन्होंने बताया कि इसका मतलब है कि ट्रेफिकिंग के खिलाफ कानून लागू करने के फीजी के कदम को देखा जा रहा है और मान्यता दी जा रही है।

उन्होंने बताया कि बहुपक्षीय संस्थानों में नेतागिरी की भूमिका प्राप्त करना, फीजी के लिए बड़ी उपलब्धि है और इससे फीजी विश्व स्तर पर अपना काम दिखा पायेगा।

राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर इस भूमिका के ज़रिए फीजी, एन्टी ट्रेफिकिंग

इनिशियईटिव्स के लिए सम्पत्ति और मौके हासिल कर सकता है। इससे नेशनल स्टैंडवैल्यूज़ और जिनीवा में फीजी मिशन के बीच मेल-जोल बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

फीजी ने दो हजार नौ में क्रीम कानून में परिवर्तन किया और इस तरह के अपराध के अभियोग लगे लोगों को दो हजार दस से अदालत ले जाने लगा।

फीजी ने ट्रेफिकिंग पर एक नेशनल स्ट्रेटजी लॉच किया है और वह UNODC के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहा है।

ट्रेफिकिंग एक मानवाधिकार विषय है और इसे जिनीवा में हिउमन राईट्स कौंसल (HRC) के समक्ष रखा जाता है जिसका फीजी उप प्रधान है।

युनायटेड नईशन्स ओगानायज़ेशन फोर ड्रग्स एंड क्रीम (UNODC) के वीकिंग ग्रुप ओन ट्रेफिकिंग इन पेंसन्स की सभा पिछले महिने वियेना में हुई थी जहाँ क्रीम प्रिवेंशन और लिगल स्ट्रेटजीज़ पर ध्यान दिया गया।



संयुक्त राष्ट्र के लिए फीजी की स्थाई प्रतिनिधि नज़हत शमीम चित्र:सप्लाईड

Noda Viti

Vakatabui na paraquat e na yabaki vou

3



Reveni dromodromo, iteitei kei na susu manumanu

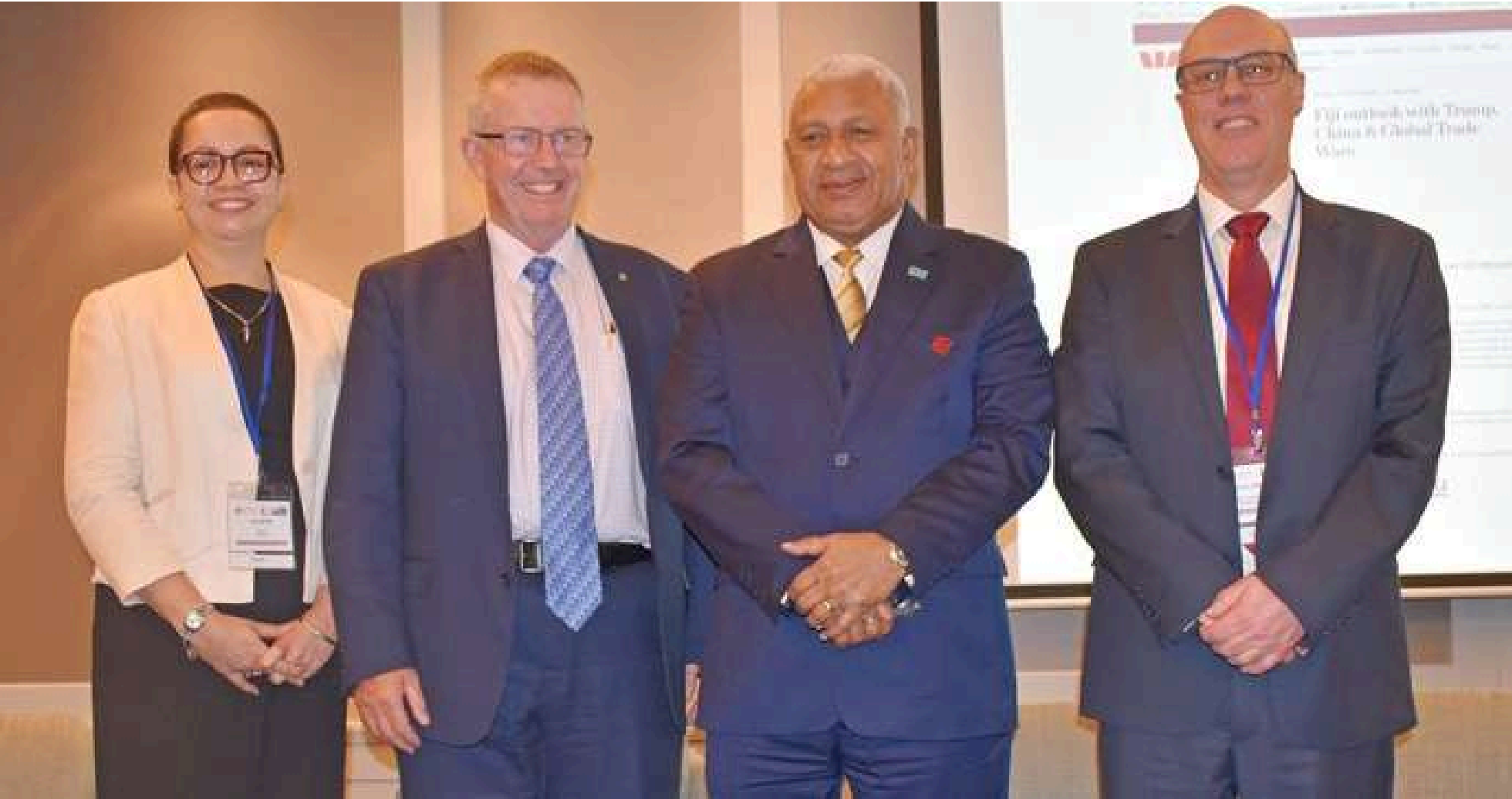
7



Rawa ni kau e va na kilo na yaqona ki Ositerelia

2





Na kena mai sainitaki na Vuvale Partnership, sa vakacautaki kina na nodra raiyawa na Paraminisita ni vanua e rua ko Viti kei Ositerelia. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

VUVALE - sala ni toso nei Viti kei Ositerelia

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAVINAVINAKA vakalevu o Jonathan Pryke na daireketa ni porokaramu baleta na Pasifika ki vei rau o Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama kei Paraiminisita Scott Morrison ena nodrau sa mai sainitaka na veidinadinati ni Vuvale - ka yavutaki kina na veiwekani vou ni vanua e rua.

“Oqo na mataqali veiwekani veivolekati ka tu vakataki koya, au nanuma ni rau na duavata yani kina o Ositerelia kei Viti ena loma ni 25 na yabaki.”

A vosa tiko o Pryke ena gauna ni vakayakavi ni Matabose ni Bisinisi nei Viti kei Ositerelia.

Kaya ko Pryke ni 10 na yabaki ni tubu vakailavo nei Viti sa ivakaraitaki ni veilutaki vinaka nei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama.

“E sega ni vakabekataki ni rau sa lako curuma mai na vanua e rua na gauna dredre eso, ia na Matanitu nei Bainimarama esa mai cereka tale e dua na drau ni veva vou, sa mai daumaka cake kina na nodrau veiwekani na vanua e rua.”

“Na sainitaki ni Vuvale Partnership esa

vakaramataka na sasaga nei Viti me dau-maka cake sara,” kaya ko Pryke.

“Au nanuma ni sa kena gauna vinaka me laveti cake kina na veiwekani nei Viti kei Ositerelia ki na dua tale na itagede ni veivoli kei na vakatubuilavo.”

“Na veidinadinatai oqo era na yalo dei kina na via vakatubu ilavo ena vanua e rua oqo. Ena kauta laivi na ivakatatao ni veivoli ka vakalailaitaka na ririko ni vakatubu ilavo ni rau sa duavata ena lawa me muri,” kaya o Pryke.

Kaya o Pryke ni nodra veisemati na kena lewenivanua ena Vuvale Partnership e bibi

baleta ni o rau na yavu erua oqo erau veitauriliga.

“Veitauriliga me vaka ena tabana ni qito, tabana ni vuli, kei na tabana ni tiko bulabula, rawa ni yaco e kea na cakacaka vata,” kaya o Pryke.

“Na veitauriliga oqo e rawa ni qaqaco kina na veiwekani ni Mataivalu ni Ositerelia kei na Mataivalu ni Viti.”

Kaya o Pryke ni saga tiko o Ositerelia me tosoya cake na iwiliwili ni lewei Viti era mai cakacaka ena Seasonal Worker Scheme kei na Pacific Labour Scheme.



Bose ko Bainimarama, Morrison

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

YAGA sara vakalevu na nodrau mai veitalanoa na iliuliu ni Matanitu ni Ositerelia o Scott Morrison kei na iliuliu ni noda Matanitu e Viti o Voreqe Bainimarama ena macawa e Suva ena ika 11 ni Okotova 2019.

Sa mai rawati kina me tosoi cake na levu ni yaqona e rawa nida kauta ki Ositerelia oya mai na 2 na kilokaramu e liu kina 4 na kilokaramu me tekivu ena yabaki vou.

Na nona sa vakila o Ositerelia na bibi ni yaqona ena noda bula vakavanua kei na noda bula vakailavo na lewenivanua ena Pasifika oka kina o ira na lewenivanua ena Pasifika era s alai vakaitikotiko mai Ositerelia sa laveta tale kina nona vei qaravi vei veikeda ena Pasifika ena kina tekivutaki na ise vu ni porokaramu baleta na yaqona.

Kaya kina na Paraminisita ni Ositerelia o Scott Morrison ni nona a veisiko ki Vanuatu ena vula o Janueri, asa vakadonuya kina mena dikeva tale mada o Ositerelia na kena rawa ni tosoi cake na levu ni yaqona eda rawa ni kauta ki Ositerelia na kai Pasifika. Ni oti mai Vanuatu a mai veitalanoataka talega na gagadre ya e Viti.

Kaya o PM Morrison ni kani marau gona vua me vakaraitaka ki vua na noda Paraiminisita o Voreqe Bainimarama nisa na toso cake mai na 2 na kilo kina 4 na kilo na levu ni yaqona e rawa ni kauta ki Ositerelia e dua na lewe ni vanua ena Pasifika ni cava na yabaki.

Kaya o PM Morrison ni sa na tekivutaka o Ositerelia na ise vu ni porokaramu ni voli yaqona ena Pasifika ena yabaki 2020.

Rau veitalanoataka talega nana iliuliu e rua na lewai vakavuku ni ika ena Pasifika vakakina e vica tale na veidiandinati e rau sana vakanamata yani kina.



Rau bese tiko oqori na Paraiminisita ni Ositerelia o Scott Morrison kei na Paraiminisita ni Viti o Voreqe Bainimarama ena Vale ni Volavola ni Paraiminisita e Suva. Bainimarama. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Ko ira na lewe ni Bose ni Yasana vakaturaga ko Namosi..

Veivakatorocaketaki lelevu e Namosi: Usamate

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

“SA itavi noqu Minisitiri me vakadeitaka ni o ni gunu wai savasava kece na lewe Viti, me vakalivalivataki kece nomuni veitikitiko, ka yacovi kemuni na gaunisala ni veilakoyaki.”

Oqori na mala ni vosa nei Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki Lelevu o Jone Usamate ena nona vosa tiko vei ira na lewe ni Bose ni Yasana ko Namosi ena macawa sa oti.

Kaya ko Minisita Usamate ni

yacova mai ni kua era sa gunu wai savasava e 78 na pasede ni lewe ni vanua e Viti.

“Na takete ni yabaki 5 kina 20 oya me qai yabaki 2030 mesa 100 na pasede ni lewe Viti esa drodro yani vei ira na wainigunu savasava. E na loma ni Yasana Vakaturaga o Namosi sa vakayagataka oti kina na Matanitu e \$850,00 ena kena vakadrodroi yani na wai savasava ena nomuni veikoro,” kaya o Minisita Usamate.

Kuria o Minisita Usamate ni dua

talega na sasaga levu ni Matanitu meda vakalivalivataki kece na veivanua e Viti ena yabaki 2021.

“Me qai yabaki 2030 me sa vakalivalivataki kece na noda vanua ena ivurevure ni livaliva savasava. E tukuni vei au ni veivakalivalivataki e Namosi e oka kina na dodoni livaliva ni EFL mai Namosi ki Wainimaku, kei Nakavu ki Vunadevo.”

“E na qai tarava yani oya na dodo ni livaliva ni EFL ki Namuamua, Wainiyavu, Wainilotulevu, Nasoso kei Nukusere,”

kaya o Minisita Usamate.

Kaya talega o Minisita Usamate ni sa vakabibitaka talega na Matanitu na kena yacovi keda yani na gaunisala.

“E na Yasana o Namosi ena yabaki vakailavo oqo, vei qaravi levu ni ta gaunisala e yacova sara na \$2 na milion na kena isau vakailavo oya mai Wainiyavu-Wainilotulevu vakakina mai Nukusere ki Namuamua kei Nakavu kana vakayagataka kina e \$4.6 na milioni,” kaya o Minisita Usamate.

‘Galala mai na dravudravua’

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA ika 17 ni Okotova ena veiyabaki e siga ni vakawabokotaki ni bula dravudravu e vuravura.

Tekivutaki na siga oqo mai Paris ena yabaki 1987 mera vakanuni kina na bula dravudravua, vakalolomataki kei na via kana.

Valaraitaka na itukutuku oqori na Vunivola Tudei ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni bula dravudravu o Jennifer Poole.

“Oya talega na vanua a sainitaki kina ena yabaki 1948 na Dodonu ni Tamata Yadua ena vuravura.”

“E ra tusanaka kina ni bula dravudravua e voroki kina na dodonu ni tamata ka gadrevi me dokai na dodonu oya.”

“Yabaki oqo esa ika 27 ni yabaki ni kena vakanumi tiko na siga oqo.”

“Sa ika 30 talega ni yabaki ni kena taurivaki na dodonu ni gone lalai.”

“Na nona sotava e dua na gone na bula dravudravua era na beitaki kina na nona itubutubu kei ira era veiliutaki.”

“Na takete ni Matanitu me tosoi sobu a iwiliwili ni bula dravudravua ena yabaki 2035 me vaka e virikotori ena lalawa ni yabaki 5 kina 20 ni noda vanua.”

“Sa vakadeitaki talega ena lawa ni dodonu ena noda Yavu ni Vakavulewa na dodonu ni lewe Viti me galala mai na bula dravudravua,” kaya o PS Poole.

Kaya o PS Poole ni yabaki oqo e sema kei na ituvatuva ni noda vanua ni minisitiri ena veiveisau me laveti kina na itagede ni nodra bula noda lewenivanua.



Jennifer Poole.

Rawa ni kau e va na kilo na yaqona ki Ositerelia

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

MAI mana nodrau veitalanoa o Paraiminisita ni Ositerelia Scott Morrison kei na noda Paraiminisita e Viti o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama. Baleta ni sa vakadonui mesa tubu mai na 2 na kilo kina 4 na kilo na levu ni yaqona o rawa ni kauta ki Ositerelia.

Tekivu sara ga na veisau vou oqo ena yabaki vou 2020.

Mai yaco na veivakadonui oqo ni levu era gadreva me toso cake na levu ni yaqona era dau kauta ki Ositerelia vei ira na wekadra era tu mai kina.

Sa mani veitalanoa kina o PM Bainimarama kei PM Morrison sa mai vakavotukana sara ni sa tosoi cake kina va na kilo dua na tamata.

Sa namaki talega me tekivutaki ena yabaki 2020 e dua na porokaramu ni voli yaqona nei Ositerelia se commercial kava imports.

Kaya o PM Morrison ni sa na tekivutaka o Ositerelia na ise vu ni porokaramu ni voli yaqona ena Pasifika ena yabaki 2020.

Sa vakasalataki talega o Vanuatu kei na veivanua dau tei yaqona ena ena veitiki kece oqo. Kaya o PM Morrison ni rau wini ruarua o Ositerelia kei Pasifika ena veitalanoa oqo.

Kuria o PM Morrison ka kaya ni sana rawarawa kina n I kune na yaqona e Ositerelia

vakausivi ena kena dau gadrevai ena soqo vakavanua se soqo vakavuvale ni lewe ni vanua ena Pasifika. Kena ilutua ni na vinaka sara vei ira na dau tei yaqona kei na dau volitaki yaqona ni vakalevutaka na tubu ni nodra bisinisi.

Kaya o PM Morrison ni na caka vakamatau na kena veitalanoa kei na kena dikevi.

Sa tu vakarau talega o Ositerelia me okata na nomuni vakasama na lewenivanua ena Pasifika kei na veibisinisi oni via okati ena porokaramu ni voli yaqona oqo.

Ena dikevu na porokaramu oya ena gauna ena cava kina na kena vakatovototaki ena yabaki 2022.



Vakatabui na paraquat ena yabaki vou

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kacivaka na Minisita ni Teitei o Dr. Mahendra Reddy ni sa na tekivu vakatabui na kena volitaki e Viti ena yabaki vou na wainimate e rua, oya na wainimate ni coca na Paraquat kei na wainimate ni manu-manu somidi na Imdacloprid.

Sa kaya o Minisita Reddy ni rau sa vakatabui na wai ni mate e rua ena vuku ni rau sa rui dau vakacaca vakalevu. Rau vakatabui talega ena vuku ni kena ririkotaki na ka erau dau vakayacora eso na tamata mera gunuva mera tinia dole kina na nodra bula.

Rau vakavuna talega na kama ni kuli ni yago

na kama ni mata na dra ni ucu kei na loga-logaca ni veitiki ni yago tale eso.

“Sa kacivaka na Matabose ni Bula e Vuravura (WHO) na paraquat e kalasitaki ma kalasi rua ena vuravura ia e levu era vakabauta ni rawa ni kalasi dua ea kena rerevaki.

“Ni vakalailai wale madaga na kena tara e dua ena gauna ni gone sa rawa sara ni lai vakavuna na kenisa ka rawa ni lai vakaleqa na vakasama.”

Qai kena ilutua e Viti e kunei kina ni Paraquat sai karua ni wainimate e vakayagataki vakalevu ena muduki dole ni bula. E 114 na kisi ni gunu Paraquat me muduka na bula ena maliwa ni yabaki 2014-2018 ena noda vanua.



Sa kaya ko Minisita Reddy ni rau sa vakatabui na wai ni mate e rua ena vuku ni rau sa rui dau vakacaca vakalevu

Waqa vou kina iwasewase e loma

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NI da sa roro volekata tiko yani na vulai cagilaba mai na Noveba kina Evereli sa yaco donu mai na iloloma waqa kei na kena idini kina iwasewase e loma.

Oqori na iloloma ni kabani na China Village Investors ka kena isau e \$25,000 lai soli vua na Talai Veivuke ena iwasewase e loma o Josefa Navuku.

Na waqa oqo mena veivuke ena gauna ni veivuetai kei na vakacoqo ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso vakabibi ena yasayasa vaka Nausori.

Nona ciqoma tiko na iloloma oya a kaya kina na Talai Veivuke ena iwasewase e loma o Josefa Navuku ni sa vakavinavinaka vakalevu vua na Manidia Daireketa ni China Village Investors o Jacky Fung ena nona solia mai na iloloma waqa oya.

Kaya o Navuku ni iloloma oya esa vaqacotaka tale na veiwakani kei na kabani ni Jaina na China Village Estate Development (Fiji) Pte Ltd ka vakauqeta na kabani me vakayagataka nona itavi kina bula raraba e Viti ena vakatorocaketaki ni iwasewase e loma.



Rau sa lululu tu oqori na Talai Veivuke ena iwasewase e loma o Josefa Navuku kei na Manidia Daireketa ni China Village Estate Development (Fiji) Pte Ltd o Jacky Fung nona sa solia tiko na iloloma waqa ka volia mai na nona kabani.

Vakatovotovo ni cabe ni ualoka e Taveuni

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAVINAVINAKATAKA o Minisita ni Leqa Tubukoso o Jone Usamate na nodra yalodina na lewei Taveuni ena kena vulici na veika mera cakava ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso me vaka na cabe ni Ualoka.



Na ka me da vakabibitaka tiko e Viti ena gauna oqo me da raica na vale me kaukauwa. Me rawa ni vorata na leqa tubu koso e lako tiko mai.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Paraminisita kei Viti

“Au vakavinavinaka ni mai caka rawa na macawa ni tu vakarau kina leqa tubu koso.

Au kila sa da yacova tiko yani oqo na vulai cagilaba.”



Era sa veiwaraki toka oqori na ovisa me vakarau tekivu na vakatovotovo ni cabe ni ualoka mai Taveuni.

“Dau caka tiko e veiyabaki, qoka se qai matai ni gauna me mai caka kina e na taudaku ni koro lelevu.”

“Mai caka na kena vuli e Taveuni vei ira na Turaga ni koro na mata ni tikina.”

“Era sa mai vakatovotovotaka na cava mera cakava ke yaco mai e dua na Ualoka.”

“Na ka me da vakabibitaka tiko e Viti ena gauna oqo me da raica

na vale me kaukauwa.”

“Me rawa ni vorata na leqa tubu koso e lako tiko mai.”

“Au vakavinavinaka ni ra lako mai na gonevuli ra mai sarava tiko nodra vakaraitaki vukivuki tiko na tabana ni kauveilatai damudamu kei na tabana ni bokobuka.”

“Mera raica na veika meda cakava ena gauna eda sotava kina

na leqa tubu koso.”

“Au kila ni oti na macawa oqo era sa kila vinaka na lewei Taveuni na vakavakarau cava edodonu mera cakava ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso.”

“Bibi talega na sala ni veitarata- ra ena gauna ni leqa tubukoso na talevoni kei na gaunsala tale eso me vakayagataki vakavinaka,” kaya o Minisita Usamate.

Vukei na Copra Millers e Savusavu

JOSAIA RALAGO

SA lai veivuke na Minisitiri ni Teitei kina Copra Millers Fiji Limited mai Savusavu ena misini ni sua niu kei na sau niu keikena draya ni vakamama-cataki niu.

Laki solia na iloloma oqori na Minisita ni Teitei keina susu manu-manu o Dr. Mahendra Reddy.

“Na misini kece sa lolomataki oqo kina kabani ni buli waiwai ni niu ena vukea na rawati ni waiwai ni niu e rawa ni vakayagataki ena vakasaqa.”

“O Viti e volia tiko mai vavalagi e 17,000 na tani na waiwai ni kakana ka buli mai ena kakana draudrau eso ka saumi tiko kina ena veiyabaki e \$20 na milioni na dola.”

Na kena sa taketetaki ni rawa ni vakayagataki na waiwai ni me caka kina na vakasaqa sa rawa ni vakalailaitaki na voli waiwai ni kakana voli mai vavalagi ena lima na pasede,” kaya o Minisita Reddy.

Liu ko Serua ena kumuni ni itukutuku ni veikoro

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAVINAVINAKATAKA na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei o Meleti Bainimarama na nona sa liu na Yasana o Serua ena ituvatuva ni veikoro se Village Profiling Exercise.

“Au tauca na noqu vakavinavinaka levu ena loma ni Yasana ena vuku ni kena tokoni saka tiko na veiqaravi ni Matanitu.”

“Sa vakavinavinakataki saka tiko na veivuvale taucoke ena loma ni Yasana ena kena dolavi na veimatanikatuba me sokomuni na itukutuku ni veikoro vakatokai vakaperitani na Village Profiling Exercise.”

“Sa mai vakacavari vakavinaka sara na cakacaka oqo ka sa isevu saka talega ni Yasana me qaravi vakaoti kina na cakacaka oqo.”

“Tinikava na Yasana e Viti ia na Yasana Vakaturaga o Serua sa cavuikalawa sara ena ituvatuva saka oqo ni veivakatorocaketaki e veiganiti ena veikoro na Intergrated Village Development Plan.

“E bibi kina Tabacakacaka iTaukei na itavi e rua oqori baleta ni tiko saka kina na itukutuku kei na fika me vakayavutaki kina na noda vakatorocaketaki ena noda loma ni veikoro.”

A vosa tiko o Vunivola Tudei Bainimarama ena nona dolava tiko na Bose ni Yasana vakaturaga o Serua kara tiko talega kina na turaga na Vunivalu o Ratu Peni Latianara.



49 na yabaki ni tu vakagalala kei Viti

Yabaki oqo sa ika 49 ni yabaki ni noda tugalala mai vei Preitania. E dua na gauna taleitaki ni noda gade vakamatavuvale ka mai sarava na nodra tayabe na lewe ni noda mataivalu, mataivalu ewai kei ira na noda ovisa. Vakayacori na kena soqo ena Albert

Park e Suva, Nasau Park mai Levuka, kei na Subrail Park mai Labasa. Ni sarava mada yani eso na kena itaba ni soqo ena Albert Park e Suva.

iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA, FELIX LESINAIVALU, EMI KOROITANO



205 na ovisa vou

E ra sa tauri ivola e 205 na ovisa vou me vaka a vulagi dokai kina mai Nasova na Minisita ni Veitaqomaki o Inia Seruiratu. Sa vakasalataki ira kina ni isulu

ni ovisa era tokara e sala vata kei na itavi-oya na itavi ni dau vei qaravi. Ni sarava sara mada yani na itaba ni soqo lagilagi oya. iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU





Sikova ko PM Morrison na keba mai Blackrock



Rawa ni laurai vinaka eke na nona vakadikeva wavoki tiko na vanua e tara tiko kina na koronivuli ni vVeisaututaki kei na veivueti (HADR Camp) mai Blackrock e Nadi na Paraiminisita ni Ositerelia ko Scott Morrison ka vakasarasarataki koya voli kina na noda Minisita ni Veitaqomaki ko Inia Seruiratu. iTaba: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA isevu ni gauna me qai sikova kina o Paraminisita ni Ositerelia Scott Morrison na keba ni mataivalu ka gadrevi tiko me tara kina na koronivuli ni vuli Veisaututaki kei na Veivueti ni Pasifika na keba na Blackrock mai Nadi.

“Talei niu mai raica ni sa toso vinaka sara tiko na cakacaka ni kena vakarautaki tiko na vanua me tara kina koronivuli ni vuli Veisaututaki kei na Veivueti ni Pasifika e Blackrock e Nadi ka yavutaki ena neirau veitalanoa kei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama me vaka keiru a veitalanoa kina mai Canberra,” kaya o PM Morrison.

A veitavaki mai vei PM Morrison ena veisiko oya ena macawa sa oti na noda Minisita ni Veitaqomaki o Inia Seruiratu ka rawa talega kina vei PM Morrison me sota kei ira na noda sotia lewe 183 era vakatavulici tiko kina ni bera nodra lai veiqaravi vula ono ena veisaututaki mai Iraki.

Na veitokoni nei Ositerelia ena tara ni koronivuli ni Veisaututaki kei na Veivueti (HADR Camp) oya e tiki ni nona laveta cake na veiqaravi ena Pasifika.



Era sa taubale mai oqo na lewe ni vanua e Taveuni ena vakatovototaki ni drotaki ni ualoka. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Talei na vakatovotovo ni ualoka

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA taleitaka na lewenivanua mai Taveuni na kena laki vakayacori ena nodra yanuyanu na vakatovotovo me baleta na cabe ni ualoka ena nodra vanua.

Vakaraitaka na nona vakavinavinaka na Turaga ni Koro e Dreketi o Iliesa Tuiloma.

“Keimami sa taura sara ga vakabibi na vakatovotovo oqo baleta ni rui bibi na taqomaki ni neimami bula ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso.”

“Oya na vuna keimami solia kece kina neimami dina me keimami rokova na ivakaro ka me keimami kila na ka me keimami vakayacora ni yaco na cabe ni ualoka.”

“Nai otiti ni gauna a cabeti keimami kina na ualoka oya ena koro o Somosomo ena yabaki 1953 oya sa dua na gauna balavu sa oti,” kaya o Tuiloma.

“Na gauna oya e sega ni caka na vakavakarau kina leqa tubu koso ni kua sa duatani saran a levu ni vakavakarau.”

“Sa mai vakavuna me keimami sa dui tauyavutaka na neimami dui komiti ni leqa tubu koso ena neimai vei koro,” kaya o Tuiloma.

“Na cagilaba o Winisotoni e vakacacani sara kina vakalevu na neimami iteitei kei na iyau tudei eso.”

Vakaraitaka o Noa Tokavou na dau ni vakasala ni SPC ni yaga sara vakalevu na 2 na siga ni vakatovotovo e Taveuni.

“Sa vakauqeti sara kina vakalevu na nodra tauyavutaka na veikoro na nodra veikomiti nit u vakarau ena leqa tubu koso,” kaya o Tokavou.

Era vakaitavi ena vakatovotovo oya e 4 na koro o Dreketi, Nasarata, Somosomo kei Lamini.

“Uasivi talega nira vakaitavi kina e 397 na gonevuli oka kina na gone lalai kei na matua.”

Qai kena ilutua na nodra veisisivi vosa na gonevuli e Taveuni me baleta na tu vakarau ena leqa tubu koso.

Tei kau ena Vualiku ko Peresitedi Konrote

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

TOMANA na nona cakacaka yaga ni tei kau ena Vualikuna turaga na Peresitedi o Jioji Konusi Konrote.

Qoka ena tokoni ni 4 na milioni na kau ena noda vanua ena 4 na yabaki.

Laki tea na kau oqori o Peresitedi Konrote ena qele e tiko kina na Bure ni Peresitedi ena Vualiku.

E ratou veitokoni vakalevu vua na Peresitei na vakaillesilesi ni Minsitiri ni Veikau ena noda vanua.



Sa cabori tiko oqori na masu me baleta na kau elaki teivaka na turaga na Peresitedi Jioji Konusi Konrote ena vualiku mai Labasa. iTaba: JOSIA RALAGO

Vakavinavinakataki na lewei Taveuni: Usamate



Vosa tiko oqori o Minisita Jone Usamate ena tavo ni macawa ni tu vakarau ena leqa tubu koso mai Taveuni. iTaba: JOSIA RALAGO

JOSIA RALAGO

SA vakaraitaka nona vakamuduo kei na vakavinavinaka vei ira kece na lewenivanua mai Taveuni era vakaitavi ena vakatovotovo ni cabae bi ualoka me vaka e veitokoni kina na Tabana ni Leqa Tubu koso o Minisita Jone Usamate na Minisita ni Tabana ni Leqa tubu koso.

“Au vakavinavinaka ni mai vakayacori rawa na tavo ni macawa ni tau vakarau ena leqa tubu koso na kena isevu ena taudaku ni koro lelevu.”

“Au marautaka nira mai vakavulici tiko kina na mata ni tikina kei na turaga ni koro e Taveuni,” kaya o Minisita Usamate

“Sa mai qaravi rawa na vakatovototaki ni cabe ni ualoka me rawa nira kila na cava mera

cakava ni cabe na ualoka se na leqa tubu koso cava ga e yaco e Taveuni.”

“Sa vunautaki tiko me tara na vale me kaukauwa me vorata na ivakatagedegede e cake ni cagilaba.”

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni vakavinavinaka nira tiko rawa na veigonevuli e Taveuni sivia na 300 vakacaca era mai sarava na vakaraitaki ivukivuke ni tabana ni kauvelatai damudamu, tabana ni ovisa kei veitabana tale eso ni matanitu.

“Ni oti kece oqo era sana kila na lewei Taveuni na cava e dodonu mera cakava ni yaco na leqa tubu koso me vaka na cabe ni ualoka.”

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni itukutuku ga vei keda na lewei Viti ni sada kila ni sa voleka na gauna ni cagilaba sa dodonu meda sa vakavakarau.



Reveni dromodromo, iteitei kei na susu manumanu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VEITALANOA na noda niusiveva ni Matanitu na iTaukei na ‘Noda Viti’ ena Tabana ni Tukutuku ni Matanitu kei Turaga ni Ovisa Waisale Waqalevu na Chief Officer ni Tabacakacaka ni Veivakadodonutaki ni Viti se Fiji Corrections Services, me baleta na nodra bisinisi ni teitei, kei na susu manumanu ko ira na vakacalai vakalawa ka ra curu tu ena ruku ni porokaramu ni Reveni Dromodromo se Yellow Ribbon.

TARO: Na cava na inaki kei na yaga ni teitei vakabisinisi era qarava tiko na cauravou era curu tiko ena tabana ni veivakadodonutaki?

WAQALEVU: Na inaki levu kei na navunavu a biuta na Tabacakacaka ni Veivakadodonutaki ena gauna a kau mai kina na porokaramu ni reveni dromodromo se Yellow Ribbon Program na kena gadrevi me veisautaki na bula vei ira na curu tu e loma. Mera qai suka mai sa rawa nira lai tauyavutaka e dua na bula evakaivakarau rawa nira lai bulataka e taudaku rawa ni rai lai vakayacora na veika era vulica yani ena tabana ni veivakadodonutaki. Me ra lai tauvutaka kina na nodra bisinisi me rawa talega nira lai lewenivanua vinaka kina ena veisiga ni mataka. Vakauasivi ena kena gadrevi tiko vakalevu mera sa kua tale ni qai lesu mai kina loma ni veiqaravi ni tabaa ni veivakadodonutaki.

TARO: E veivakuqeti sara tiko nodra sa vakaitavitaki ira tiko na curu tu e vale ni veivakadodonutaki ena bisinisi ni teitei kei na susu manumanu. Daru liu mada ena tabana ni teitei na ivoli cava so era sa teivaka tiko na cauravou kei na kabani cava e maketetaki kina na nodra vua ni qele?

WAQALEVU: Tabacakacaka ni Veivakadodonutaki ena veiqaravi ena yasana ni teitei vakabisinisi keitou teivaka tikoga na dalo vata kei na kena tavioka vata kei na kena kakana draudrau kece. Dua na gauna keitou a teivaka tiko na cago (ginger) keitou sa lako tani mai kina baleta na vuku ni makete. Keitou raica ni dalo vata na tavio-ka kei na kakana draudrau edua na ka e golevi sara tiko vakalevu ena noda vanua na ivoli kece oqo.

TARO: Vakaevei ena tabana ni susu manumanu?

WAQALEVU: E na tabana ni susu manumanu keimami susu bulumakau, na vuaka, na sipi, na me, tiko talega na toa dau vakalutuyaloka oya na veimataqali susu manumanu era qarava tiko na cauravou era vakarautaki tiko.



TARO: Ni tukuna mada na levu taucoko ni qele e teteve yani nomuni teitei vakabisinisi kei na susu manumanu na Tabacakacaka ni Veivakadodonutaki?

WAQALEVU: Na levu taucoko ni qele e teteve yani na teitei vakabisinisi kei na susu manumanu era qarava tiko na cauravou era curu tiko ena tabana ni veivakadodonutaki e tiko sara ena loma ni bai ni 70 sagavulu na eka.

TARO: E ra lewe vica kece na curavou era dau lesi mera cakacaka ena iteitei kei na vanua ni susu manumanu ena dua na gauna?

WAQALEVU: E na vuku ni qaravi ni manumanu o ira na cauraviu kei na kena turaga era vakarautaki kina era veiqaravi tiko ena loma ni 7 na siga me vaka nira qarava tiko na ka bula. O ira na cakacaka tiko ena tabana ni teitei era cakacaka tikoga ena loma ni 5 na siga Moniti yaco kina Vakaraubuka.

TARO: Me yacova mai na siga kua sa vica taucoko na levu ni dalo era sa teivaka tu na nomudou cauravou?

WAQALEVU: Na levu ni dalo sa teivaki tu ena gauna oqo esa yacova sara tiko na 77,000. E na kena gadrevi me kau lesu tale mai na ilavo kina loma ni bai ni Matanitu. Sa tiko talega na lalavaki sena isausau me keimami dau rawata se tea e 10,000 ena veivula. Dau levu na gauna dau sivia toka na iwiliwili oqo na 77,000.



Rau cakacaka voli na cauravou ena loga ni kakana draudrau e Naboro. ITaba: VAKARAUTAKI



TARO: E vica taucoko na levu ni toa dau vakalutuyaloka era susuga tiko na cauravou ena tabana ni veivakadodonutaki?

WAQALEVU: Na gauna daru veitalanoa tiko kina qoka e tiko sara ena 6,000 na levu ni toa dau vakalutuyaloka era susuga tiko na cauravou. Keitou susuga tikoga na toa era vakalutuyaloka. Keitou sega ni susuga na toa me volitaki me laukana. Keitou se qai vakarau ladeva tiko yani na makete ni kena vakarautaki talega na toa me volitaki me laukana.

TARO: E vica beka na levu ni yaloka ni rawa ni rawata ena dua na siga?

WAQALEVU: E na 1 na siga keitou rawa ni rawata tiko e 200 kina 250 na tere e tiko e loma e 30 na yaloka. Rabailevu tale tikoga na vanua e ciciva tiko baleta na vanua e tiko kina na neitou makete.

TARO: E vica na levu ni vuaka e susuga tiko ena nodra bai ni vuaka na cauravou ni kua kei na vanua e dau maketetaki kina?

WAQALEVU: Gauna oqo e sivia tiko na 900 na levu ni vuaka era susuga tiko na cauravou. Dua na gauna keitou se vaqara makete keitou dau maketetaka tiko kina Fiji Meats Limited. Ni kua keitou sa sega ni rivarivabitaka na neitou makete baleta nira sa cicivi keitou tikoga mai ena gauna oqo. Baleta talega na uasivi ni ivakarau ni veiqaravi e vakayacori tiko ena loma ni tabana ni veivakadodonutaki.

TARO: Vei ira na via voli vuaka e vica tu beka na isau ni vuaka dou volitaka?

WAQALEVU: Na isau ni vuaka keitou volivolitaka tiko ena \$200 oya na neitou isau era. Keitou volivolitaki tiko ena \$13.50 dua na

kilokaramu. Kevaka sa toso cake na bibi ni vuaka ena rawa ni toso cake sara na \$9.50 dua na kilokaramu na kena sa lelevu sara.



TARO: Ni tukuna mada na veika vinaka era sa vakila na cauravou era sa lako curuma oti na tabana oqo ni veivakadodonutaki?

WAQALEVU: Mai na 2009 na gauna a tauyavu kina na Reveni Dromodromo (Yellow Ribbon) ena kena cici vaka bisinisi. Na ka keitou raica rawa ni sa levu sara era s alai vakayavutaki ira ka vaka-deitaki ira na nodra sa suka yani mera lai tekivutaka na nodra iteitei, susu manumanu, kei na veika tale eso vakabisinisi ena gauna sara suka kina. Ia na gauna era tiko kina eke era vakavulici sara ga ena veika mera tekivu kina me yacova sara na gauna era sa tata-musuki ka vaqarai talega vei ira na nodra makete.

Keitou kauta talega mai so na vuli vei ira ena so na tabana vakabisinisi era sega ni oka kina matanitu mera mai veivuke vei ira na cauravou mera tuberi ena cicivaki ni bisinisi lalai (micro-business). Mera kila na cicivaka na bisinisi ena gauna era sa yaco kina ki taudaku.



TARO: E vei beka na veivanua eso e rawa nira lai volia kina na nodra ivoli na cauravou oni vakamacalataka tiko oqo?

WAQALEVU: Na gauna oqo e 6 tiko na neitou bisinisi. E cici kece tikoga vakadua mai Naboro. Tiko kina na kena vale ni volavola. Kevaka o ni via volivoli e rawa ni oni tarai keitou yani ena neitou vale ni volavola e Naboro. Tiko talega

nan aba ni talevoni rawa ni veitaratarata mai kina. Mobile 9905044 ena kena gadrevi na veika eso ni gadreva moni na vukeyi kina moni mai volia na vei iyau eso era vakarautaka na curavou era vakarautaki ena tabana ni veivakadodonutaki.



TARO: Vakacaca sara ena dua na yabaki e rawa ni vica na ilavo e rawati ena bisinisi ni teitei kei na susu manumanu ena tabana ni veivakadodonutaki?

WAQALEVU: Dau tiko na neitou navunavu me keitou dau rawata e \$750,000 ena dua na yabaki me dau vakasukai kina Matanitu. Na veika vakailavo e rawati tiko ena bisinisi oqo e sivia sara tiko na takete oya. Vakacaca rawa ni keitou qoqona tiko mai e \$1 na milio-ni na dola ena dua na yabaki. Oya nib era na kena dau mai musu na ilavo koya e lako ena veika keitou dau vakayagataka me mai vukeyi na cici ni bisinisi.

Ia ni tauri na yasana ni sa musu oti keitou dau vakabula tiko kina e loma ni \$700,000 kina \$800,000 ena dua na yabaki.

TARO: Dua nomuni itatau vei ira na dui wekadra na cauravou era curu tiko ena tabana ni veivakadodonutaki kara lako curuma tiko na porokaramu oqo ni Reveni Dromodromo ena gauna sarana curu yani kina ki tuba me ra laki cici vaka nanodra bisinisi era sa vulica mai loma?

WAQALEVU: Kemuni saka na noda veituraga bale kei na marama bale ena noda veiyasana era cavutu mai kina na noda era vakarautaki tiko ena vanua ni veivakadodonutaki. Keimami kerea mera ciqomi o ira na sa suka yani ena veiqaravi oqo mera laki lewenivanua vinaka keitou gadreva na nomuni veitokoni ena nodra vukeyi na nodra tarai cake mera dua na lewe ni vanua vinaka ena gauna mai muri.

Noda Viti

Vakatabui na paraquat e na yabaki vou

3



Reveni dromodromo, iteitei kei na susu manumanu

7



Rawa ni kau e va na kilo na yaqona ki Ositerelia

2



E ra taba tiko oqo na marama veiliutaki ena Politiki ena Pasifika ena nodra bose vata kei na Minisita ni Marama o Mereseini Vuniwaqa ena otela na Novotel mai Lami. iTaba: LITIA VULAIDUSIGA

Levu na marama ena politiki

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA nodra sa lewe levu cake na marama era vakaitavi ena veiliutaki esa ivakaraitaki ni sa mana tiko na noda raici vakatautavata.

Tukuna na itukutuku oqori na Minisita ni Marama kei Gone kei na valuti ni bula dra-

vudravua o Mereseini Vuniwaqa ena bose me baleti ira na marama ena Politiki ka vakayacori ena otela na Novotela mai Lami.

“E na loma ni 20 na yabaki sa sivi sa tubu na iwiliwili ni marama era vakaitavi ena Politiki ena noda vuravura oya mai na 11.8 na pasede kina 23.8 na pasede.”

“Me yacova na June ni 2019 esa 11 na

marama era liutaka na Vanua ka lewe 12 era iliuliu ni Matanitu.”

“O keda ena Pasifika esa balavu sara na nodra vakaitavitaki ira tiko mai ena Politiki na marama”

“E ra lewe 14 era a digitaki kina Politiki ena Pasifika kara taura na itutu ni veiliutaki me vaka na Peresitedi, ivukevuke ni Parai-

minisita, Sipika ka ivukevuke ni Sipika, Minisita ka ivukevuke ni Minisita, “ kaya o Minisita Vuniwaqa.

Na inaki ni nodra bose vata oya me vakatilai kina vei ira na lewenivanua na veika me vaka na marama kei na Politiki ka dolava vei ira na veikatuba vou tale eso ena veisiga ni mataka.

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]