

## Govt works with private sector on deadly virus



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar during the open discussion on the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on businesses. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

# COVID-19 WATCH

AZARIA FAREEN

**B**USINESS leaders, policy makers and member of the Fiji Chamber Of Commerce and Industry met this week for an open discussion on the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on businesses in Fiji.

Speaking during a panel discussion, Minister for Economy and Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said businesses need to think strategically and come up with a unified approach.

“What we really want to hear specifically about your individual sectors as a whole are the challenges being faced by you and areas that will help grow your business in particular the supply chain,” the A-G said.

“We are using this supplementary budget to be able to address all the fundamental issues now and not necessarily wait for the full financial year because the situation is changing by the hour as reported by the

World Health Organization especially with the phenomenal statistics coming out from different countries.”

The A-G said the Government is open to assist and look at some form of subsidization for business sectors which will be directly impacted upon that has enormous ramification upon the country’s economic growth and foreign reserves.

“More than 30 hotel properties are now working together with Fiji Airways to offer some fantastic deals and they have managed to keep the yields relatively reasonable as we have seen in other jurisdictions,” he highlighted.

“The yields are relatively stable and you can get some great deals such as very good return airfares combined with accommodation and children can come for free because our hospitality industry is focused on the family market.”

“The great thing about it is that if you purchase it now then you can defer your holi-

day as many times you like and this in fact is a creative way of having money coming in the country which would help businesses meet their cash-flow and continue with their mortgage payments among others,” the A-G added.

A number of recommendations was put forward from the various business sectors on how to cushion the blow from COVID-19 which should have a ripple effect towards the economy in the coming months.

Ministry of industry, Trade and Tourism Premila Kumar said main purpose of the forum was to discuss specific issues instead of general suggestions so that Government can strategize and find solutions.

Minister Kumar says business leaders are expected to return to their drawing boards, discuss their challenges and constraints sector wise and come up with specific proposals on how Government can assist them.

“It is in the hands of business associations and sectors to come up with specific sug-

gestions that will drive the businesses and that in turn will drive our economy,” she said.

“It is better for the Ministry of Economy to receive submissions that are more meaningful for the specific sector then to receive submissions which are very broad and general.

“For any budget, it is important to have consultations to understand the current issue or challenges faced by any business and how the Government can assist them, and because COVID-19 is a deadly virus it will definitely have adverse effect on life, health sector, businesses and the economy as a whole.”

Business houses are advised to send in their submissions to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism which will then be forwarded to the Ministry of Economy to be incorporated in the supplementary budget to be delivered on the 26th of this month.



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe  
Bainimarama

As of the 15th of March at 5pm, Fiji remains coronavirus-free — and it is on that basis that we've developed these measures. If and when we see our first case, far more stringent measures will immediately come into effect to aggressively prevent the spread of the disease, as other nations have done, such as bans on local gatherings.

Voreqe Bainimarama  
Fijian Prime Minister

## NUMBERS

2219905

CENTRAL DIVISION

2219906

EASTERN DIVISION

2219907

WESTERN DIVISION

2219908

NORTHERN DIVISION

These are the contact numbers for the Health Ministry in the four divisions in Fiji if you're feeling unwell or know someone who is feeling unwell in respect of COVID-19.

## TWEET OF THE WEEK



UN GA President (@UN\_PGA)

As we mark #IWD2020 let us celebrate all women who work tirelessly to not only support their families but uplift their entire communities. Privileged to have spent time in #vusama and see how local women are reviving salt-making traditions to build a better future.

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# Reforms help ease of doing business

HALITESH DATT



Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar during the Speaking at the Speed Networking Dinner with the members of the Fiji- Australia Business Council in Suva. Photo: HALITESH DATT

THE Fijian Government has embarked on ambitious reforms that will ease doing business in Fiji.

Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar is spearheading these reforms and has set her target to achieve a ranking of 50 in next five years in the 2025 Doing Business Report.

"bizFiji portal launched mid last year, has removed impediments and is a one-stop-shop for an entrepreneur. By just making information available on a single platform, we have been able to reduce time by up to 40 per cent. Businesses do not need to run from pillar to post to get simple information to start a business," Minister Kumar said.

Speaking at the Speed Networking Dinner with the members of the Fiji- Australia Business Council in Suva last week, Minister Kumar said the Fijian Government recognises the importance of private sector in driving the economy forward and will ensure there are impetus for growth for businesses in the country.

The Fijian Government is working with the World Bank Group and Singapore Co-

operation Enterprise to implement these reforms.

One of the major strides towards this ambition is the streamlining of business licensing processes where business licenses can now be obtained within just 48 hours.

"The results of the reform are evident through the various improvements noted around Fiji. For instance, Nausori Town Council has seen a 72 per cent increase in issuance of business licenses in January 2020 compared to same period last year, that is, 810 business licenses were issued in January 2020, compared to 470 in January 2019."

"In Suva, 193 new business licenses were issued, compared to 74 in January 2019. Suva City Council was able to issue renewal of business licenses in less than 24 hours, whilst new business licenses met the 48-hour benchmark. All Municipal Councils have been able to successfully roll out the new process."

In order to coordinate the reforms undertaken and to achieve set targets, the Cabinet has endorsed the establishment of the Ease of Doing Business Taskforce and has empowered it to cut red tape, eliminate bureaucracy and remove superfluous procedures.

# Fiji 'acknowledges Commonwealth values'



President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with representatives from Commonwealth-member countries during Commonwealth Day celebrations at State House in Suva. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

NANISE NEIMILA

Fiji acknowledges the principles and the values of the Commonwealth and the mutual bond we share with other member states.

It is a bond that is cemented by our historical ties with Britain, and is the foundation upon which our diplomatic, aid and trade relations are built.

This was the message shared by the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote while speaking during the Commonwealth Day celebrations held at the State House.

President Konrote said the shared history and bond of all member states is both the legacy and the strength of the Commonwealth.

"This year's celebration is particularly significant as we reflect on 50 years as an independent nation state. The Commonwealth has journeyed with us and is an important part of our history."

"Today, the Commonwealth continues to support Fiji's efforts on priorities important to Fiji; through the wealth of expertise and knowledge available within its shared historical, legal and administrative traditions."

"Through the Commonwealth Blue Charter the Commonwealth is working with member states to ensure that it effectively responds to the climate change crisis and oceans and to advance the interests of Small Island Developing States."

President Konrote adds as the world becomes increasingly interconnected, new and emerging threats have also increased and have become much more challenging. Climate change, world

hunger, scarcity of resources, the spread of highly infectious diseases is now an everyday concern.

"These are issues which can be resolved through international cooperation and collective action. This year marks the beginning of the decade of progress development and implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda. It also marks the decade of Oceans sustainable development."

He further added that Fiji has played a leading role in advocating for the effective implementation of the sustainable development goals in particular for climate change and oceans.

"We will continue to lead the way to support and strengthen the mechanism to garner Commonwealth solidarity and cooperation in these areas."

## Ministry names new divisional commissioners

THE Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development today announced the appointments of Mesake Ledua as Divisional Commissioner Western and Vitale Varo as Divisional Commissioner Eastern.

These are senior management appointments within the Ministry and two out of four Divisional Commissioner positions across government.

Inducting the new Commissioners, Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, Dr Mahendra Reddy, informed of the Prime Minister's endorsement of the appointments and his expectations that the Commissioners will align to the Government's priorities for rural development in meeting basic needs and provision of essential services.

Speaking to the new Commissioners today in the presence of other senior management team members, Minister Reddy said, "The structure of this Ministry which includes the Commissioners is very important in rural development and disaster risk management".

"People's priorities are our priorities. These are in the areas of water, sanitation, roads, education, health, and electricity."

Minister Reddy added that the Divisional Commissioners needed to fast track development in these priority areas without compromising quality of service to their rural and agricultural customer base.

As Divisional Commissioners, Mr Varo and Mr Ledua will play an integral role in the mainstreaming of the Integrated Rural Development Framework and in coordinating disaster operations of Government at divisional level.

Mr Ledua brings 30 years of experience through various positions he has held and has obtained a degree in land management and a Master's Degree in Business Administration, both from the University of the South Pacific

Mr. Vitale Varo, has had 23 years of extensive experience in various roles at the Ministry of Health and has an undergraduate degree in environmental health from the Fiji National University and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Management from the University of Western Sydney.

They will provide leadership in the development and implementation of Divisional Development Plans and performance targets across sectors aligned to the National Development Plan.

Mr Ledua has commenced duties as Commissioner Western from March 16, 2020 whilst Mr Varo will assume his role as Commissioner Eastern from March 24, 2020.

-[news@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:news@govnet.gov.fj)



Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy with the newly-appointed divisional commissioners. Photo: SUPPLIED

# Govt works on COVID-19 response budget

## STATEMENT FROM THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, AIYAZ SAYED-KHAIYUM

THE latest reports estimate the net losses to the world economy will be upwards of two trillion dollars this year, with global growth dramatically slowing to half of one percent.

The recent oil price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia has upended global energy markets, throwing another wrench into an already-volatile environment. Nations of all sizes are already facing the spectre of economic recession.

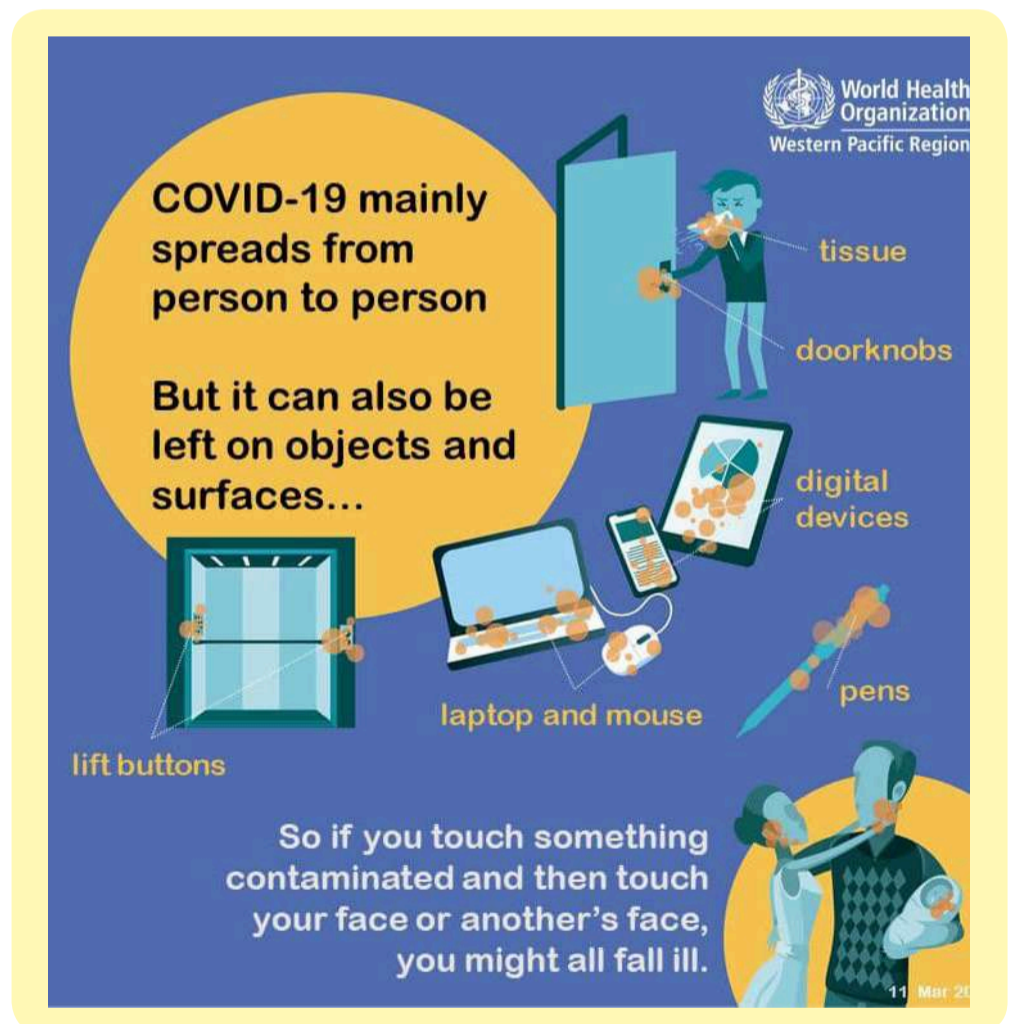
The world economy has not seen a threat of this scale since the global financial crisis. But let's remember, back in 2008, it wasn't trade wars, tariffs or unilateralism that pulled the world economy back from the brink.

What proved successful was an unprecedented, internationally-coordinated effort to refuel and re-spark global growth. Once again, we must achieve the highest levels of global cooperation and goodwill if we are to succeed in bringing badly-needed stability back to our markets and economies.

Here in Fiji, our situation demands extraordinary actions to minimise the brunt of the global economic downturn. We cannot risk waiting until the close of the financial year to re-evaluate our spending priorities and take stock of our revenue streams.

There are key expenditures that must be made to ensure the protection and continuation of the Fijian way of life, that includes our people's health, their jobs, their businesses and their food security. Fiji is fortunate to counter this crisis from a position of historic financial strength on the back of our longest-ever economic expansion. It is clear the time to act is now, that is why we'll be announcing a new COVID-19 Response Budget on 26 March.

We've already allocated a number of unbudgeted expenditures to support our preparatory efforts, including ordering thermal scanners to install at our ports-of-entry.



Tourism and travel-related industries can be the hardest hit by a viral outbreak. Fear surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak has meant many people are not travelling. Accordingly, Fiji's tourism numbers are down, and we can expect them to remain muted for some time. This will have a serious short-term impact, as tourism is the single-largest contributor to our GDP.

Over the past several weeks, we have been meeting with business and industry leaders to understand exactly how they are affected by and coping with this global slowdown and supply-chain disruptions, and how we – as a team – can work together, explore possible fiscal initiatives, remain resolute, and ride this through.

As we've already told many of you in-person, your government's ears are open to listen and our support is steadfast and assured. The

team at the Ministry of Economy has been in overdrive preparing a COVID-19 Response Budget. As we prepare, if anyone would like to contribute to our planning, the Ministry of Economy will be accepting electronic submissions over e-mail at Budget Consultation "at" [economy@gov.fj](mailto:economy@gov.fj).

Business leaders must recognise their role in our economic resilience. Keep your people employed. So long as it is safe and sustainable to do so, keep your businesses running. This is a test of our perseverance that we must prove strong enough to endure — but know that your government will work with you in close collaboration to support you and the Fijians you employ.

We look forward to sharing more in-depth details on the measures we'll be taking to respond to this situation in Parliament on 26 March.



# Akbar: Be good role models

AZARIA FAREEN

MINISTER for Education Rosy Akbar is strongly condemning bullying in all places and urging parents to take a lead role in instilling discipline in their children.

Minister Akbar expressed her sentiments during the margins of celebrating International Women's Day recently and relayed experiences of her childhood of witnessing domestic violence inflicted first-hand on a close family member.

"If we do not teach our boys how to respect women in the house - their own grandmothers, mothers and sisters - they will never be able to

respect their wives and daughters and see them as equals," she stressed.

Minister Akbar adds the solution lies within the home as the children attending schools bring along the teaching, values and behaviour which is inculcated within their homes and the communities.

"As parents, especially us as mothers or whatever relationship we have with children, we need to teach them the values that it is not okay to resort to violence and be good role models to our children," she said.

"I need cooperation from families to please talk to your children and relook at the teachings we impart to them because if we don't break the cycle of domestic violence then we will never

be able to address the issue of abuse."

"We have over 500,000 parents out there so imagine the impact the parents can have on the behaviour of our children," Minister Akbar added.

"Teach our boys to respect girls and vice-versa because if we don't have that relationship in our homes then it is clearly communicated to the children that it is alright to be disrespectful and violent."

Minister Akbar further added that children need to be taught it is not okay to suffer emotional abuse and physical violence in silence and urged those facing emotional trauma of any sort to come forth and discuss.

## A day to reflect on significant role of women

MARICA CAUCAU

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day is an opportune time to reflect on women that play a significant role in our lives.

This was part of the message by the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar while celebrating IWD with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Movement recently in Flagstaff.

Minister Akbar said that women should reflect on the lives of their mothers and the female members of their family.

"We need to realize the important role of families and the role that we play as women in raising our children," she said.

"We need a change in mindset. Women need to realize that they play an important role in the family, whether you're a house wife or a working mother, you are a leader in your home."

The Education Minister also called on women that were present at the event to be support systems for other women.

"If you cannot support 10 women, at least support one. You should begin first by supporting women in your household - your mothers, sisters and sisters-in-laws."

She also highlighted the importance of dialogue and the need to have discussions on public forum for both men and women with relation to gender equality and violence against women.

"Men and women openly talking and finding a solution together is the way forward," Minister Akbar said.

She thanked the members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Movement for organizing the event which included a variety of women



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar during the International Women's Day celebrations at Post Fiji Limited in Suva. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

# Empowerment 'key to equality'

AZARIA FREEN

"I strongly believe that equality can be achieved through empowerment and that is something we should continue to fight for."

"One of the main reasons why we have lack of empowerment is due to lack of education opportunity, but here in Fiji we give women and girls equal opportunities to education," said Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar while speaking at the International Women's Day celebration held at Post Fiji Limited recently.

"It takes a collective effort of the government and society in creating equal opportunities for education, particularly when education in Fiji is free and accessible to all despite age, race and gender," she added.

"Our enrolment rates in primary, secondary and university level is accelerating and we have more women graduating out of universities than boys. But we have to understand that it's not about power play between our male colleagues, we are just striking a balance."

Minister Akbar says "we need to strive for mutual respect in relationships in order to maintain equality through shared responsibility".

She further stresses that there is a need for people to change their mentality and break the archaic



Minister Akbar says it takes a collective effort of the government and society in creating equal opportunities for education, particularly when education in Fiji is free and accessible to all despite age, race and gender. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

patriarchal view that a woman's place is at home - to bear and raise children and taking control of their household.

"Identity is not limited to being someone's mother or being someone's wife. The world is now bowing to your own identity. You have reached the high pedestal on your powers so give yourself some credit for your success. Women make up 49 percent of the world's population, perform 66 percent of the work, produce 50 percent of the food but earn only 10 percent of the income and own one percent property," Minister Akbar highlighted.

"Fiji's statistics ranks very high in the Pacific - 74 percent according

to the last survey - of women and girls suffer domestic violence by the hands of their intimate partners, men who was supposed to love and care for them," she added.

"Women need to step up and realize their self-worth, if you do not put a claim over your destiny, no one else will. For the men, I urge you to be a loving and supporting husband, partner or child as a happy woman is a healthy woman."

Post Fiji chief executive officer Anirudha Bansod said gone are the days where there used to be disparity between males and female.

"The culture that is inbred in males is very strong - especially in the rural areas - because they still

feel that since they are stronger physically they are better than women, which needs to change," Mr Bansod said.

"The only difference between men and women is biological and the rest - the talent, skills and creativity are the same or even better with women. Today women are getting more educated and creating their own space to earn which is a very strong point for all women to move forward as well."

"A lot of women have great jobs, their productivity is good, they are cleaner than the men, they are well groomed and overall they put a lot of positive energy in this organization," he added.

If you cannot support 10 women, at least support one.

Rosy Akbar  
Minister for Education



# Ministry steps up support for elderly, rural dwellers



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa celebrates International Women's Day. Photo: SUPPLIED

THE Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation continues to support and provide relief to women, children and the marginalized in the community. The following programmes continues to uplift their livelihoods even as the Ministry fine tunes its processes to serve its clients better.

## FOOD VOUCHER FOR RURAL PREGNANT MOTHERS

### When was the scheme implemented?

This scheme was implemented in 2014 and this was to encourage women, especially in rural areas to attend clinics in the early stages of their pregnancy because it was then highlighted by MHMS that many women were missing their early pre-natal clinic visits, and women would come in the later stages of their pregnancy which could lead to risks during childbirth. Early registrations help the health workers identify areas that may need attention, for example, proper nutrition, NCDs (diabetes, high blood pressure) so that it can be monitored to avoid these complications at later stages of pregnancy.

The second reason was to enable these mothers to procure nutritious food items during their term of pregnancy to help in the development and wellbeing of the baby and as well as the mothers themselves. Again, this was information derived by MOH whereby they have noticed that babies born in these rural settings tend to be undernourished.

Thus, this program was established in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) whom is responsible for the distribution of forms to the mothers once they come into the Health Facilities to register, after which these Forms are forward to the Department for the printing of vouchers which is send to the originating Health Facilities to be issued to these mothers.

Expanded Food Voucher for Rural Pregnant Mothers	2014	2015	2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	20-19 - 2020	TOTAL
Total No. of Beneficiaries	1673	2899	1499	2846	2619	3747	1722	17,005
Annual Budget Allocations	\$1,300,00	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,502,510	\$727,357	\$900,000	\$6,429,867

The above table reflects the amount of budget that had been allocated to this program since its inception. It has a total of \$6,429,867 and a total of 17,005 women assisted through this program in the last seven years.

If a woman registers in the first month of her pregnancy she is eligible to receive the total 9 months of her pregnancy and another month after birth, a total of 10 months altogether. The assistance is \$50 per month.

### What was the reason behind starting a scheme like this?

The objective of the Food Voucher Program is to improve maternal health and reduce child mortality by incentivizing early access to reproductive healthcare, particularly for rural women.

### How has this made lives better for pregnant rural women?

With the introduction of this program we have seen an increase in the number of rural mothers attending clinics in the early stages of pregnancy and following it up right through until childbirth.

## SOCIAL PENSION SCHEME

### How has this scheme changed over the past few years?

The Social Pension Scheme (SPS) is for elderly persons in Fiji who have attained the age of 65 years and have never been a recipient of Government Pension, Ex-Serviceman Funds or FNPf pension or any other superannuation.

SPS started in 2013 after the World Bank Review, commencing with the age of 70 at the amount of \$30, then in 2015 the amount went up to \$50 and the age came down to 68. In 2017, the age came down again to 65 and the amount went up to \$100.

Currently there are 45,429 beneficiaries under this scheme; the monthly allowance paid to a recipient is \$100. This allowance is directly credited into a recipient's designated bank account (joint bank account is not accepted) once a month. With the exception of those recipients who live in areas that do not have access to banking facilities, the monthly allowance will be remitted in the form of vouchers.

A person can apply in person in any of the nearest Welfare Offices in Fiji or through mail or third party, provided that they submit the completed application form with their birth certificate and copy of their ID Cards (Voter ID, Passport, TIN card etc.).

## CARE & PROTECTION ALLOWANCE

The Care & Protection Allowance is an assistance given by Government especially to assist underprivileged children so that they can be given the proper care and protection. It is paid to the care giver on monthly basis through electronic banking or vouchers for those who reside in areas that do not have

access to banking facilities. This assistance can be given until the child/children turns 18 years after which the allowance will be terminated without notification.

The categories whereby assistance can be issued are as follows:-

- Single parent
- Deserted spouses
- Death of breadwinner
- Prisoner's Dependent
- Foster parents/guardians
- Children under the care of the State living in approved Institutions or residential homes

The criteria are that:-

- Primary caregiver must be a Fiji Citizen
- Child/Children must be under the age of 18
- School age children must be attending school
- There is no source of income or child maintenance.
- Family living in destitution.

Currently, there are 8265 households assisted through this program with a budget of \$8,000,000.

**-MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**



## RFNS Savenaca joins Navy fleet

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Fiji Navy has added to its fleet as Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama officiated at the handing-over of the new guardian class patrol boat, RFNS Savenaca, in Perth, Australia.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the new vessel could not enter the ranks of the Fiji Navy at a more pressing time.

“International criminal networks are hitting the Pacific hard – particularly with the drug trade. Most of the narcotics passing through our waters are bound for lucrative markets — Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland, and other hubs in Australia and New Zealand — but the inevitable spill-over makes this an issue far larger than any one market or nation.”

“It’s on all of us to band together to keep these criminals out of our waters and keep

hard drugs out of our people’s hands – particularly young folks. With the RFNS Savenaca in the ranks of our fleet, our capacity to combat drug smugglers will be further bolstered for the benefit of our people and our society at large.”

PM Bainimarama said it’s not only drug traders we’re worried about. The crew of this vessel, alongside the Fijian Navy Fleet, will combat illegal fishing, dumping, and human trafficking as well and none of these are Fijian threats alone.

“In fact, the one thing criminal operators, massive piles of trash, and swimming schools of tuna all have in common is a disregard for national oceanic boundaries.”

“The lines divvying up our seas exist only in our minds – in reality, the reckless abuse of any one square kilometre of ocean impacts us all.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama adds Fiji stands ready to put its fleet to work to secure a safer Pacific.

“But we can’t limit our ambition to our region and lose sight of the larger, global challenges to oceans health and security.”

“This June is the second United Nations Oceans Conference. And as a region home to some of the world’s largest ocean states, it’s vital that Pacific nations – along with Australia and New Zealand – press our campaign to save our oceans from the devastation of over-fishing, climate change and pollution.”

PM Bainimarama paid homage to his fellow seaman Savenaca Naulutuma who served during the Second World War.

The patrol boat has been named after him to honour his courage and sacrifice during his mission to serve the Fijian people and all the people that call the Pacific their home.

## PM farewells ‘proud son of Fiji, Pacific’

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“EVERY time we sail our waters and harvest oceanic bounty, we’re reminded of his generational contribution to our people’s prosperity.”

This was highlighted in Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama’s message on the passing of the late Ambassador Satya Nandan.

“In honouring his legacy, I pledge to keep the Pacific’s voice on the frontlines of the global campaign to defend our oceans and the life they sustain, and I ask everyone who knew him to make that same pledge. I know he’d expect nothing less of us.”

“Through his work at the UN, Ambassador Nandan paved a path of diplomacy that left Fiji, and the planet, a better place.”

Ambassador Nandan was elected as the first Secretary-General of the inter-governmental body in March 1996 and re-elected in March 2000.

Ambassador Nandan also served as Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Fiji.

He was a representative of his country at the United Nations in New York (1970-1976 and 1993-1995) and was Fiji’s Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (1976-1980).

Prime Minister Bainimarama added, “The voices of Fijians, and indeed, all Pacific Islanders, are more powerful, thanks to him, echoing far beyond Suva or New York, resounding in every corner and crevice of the globe.”

“In his time representing Fiji, he proved himself a true global citizen, a defender of our oceans, and a fierce advocate for Island nations, laying the foundation for the international respect and authority Fiji commands today.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said he will remember him as a wise mentor, a humble servant of the Fijian people, and a man of unmatched integrity.

“I find myself reflecting often on the many lessons in life Satya shared with me personally over the years, particularly when representing Fiji on the world stage.”

“He was, and forever will be, a pioneer, a patriot, and a proud son of the Pacific.”

# Disease testing lab boosts medical facility

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Fijian Government has pursued yet another medically-sound pathway to protect Fijians after the launch of the new molecular laboratory at the Fiji Centre for Disease Control in Tamavua, Suva.

The new lab will have the capabilities to test for virus directly in Fiji rather than spending time and money shipping samples for testing overseas.

While officiating at the opening of the new lab, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said Government is acting with urgency to protect Fijians by ensuring that medical facilities are fully capable of aggressively identifying, isolating and treating any case of the COVID-19 in Fiji.

“Our borders remain closed to all foreign nationals who have been present in mainland China, Italy, Iran or South Korea within 14 days of their intended travel to Fiji – each of these travel blocks have been carefully considered following rapid upticks in COVID-19 cases in these nations.”

“These bans have bought us precious time — for every day Fiji has remained coronavirus-free, we have had another vital day to prepare. We are constantly reviewing the WHO’s latest case numbers and we will not hesitate to introduce new and more stringent restrictions when necessary.”



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama checks out the new facilities during the opening of the new lab at Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva, that will assist in identify COVID-19 or Coronavirus in Fiji. Photos: FELIX LESINAIVALU



Prime Minister Bainimarama adds that travel bans are only one piece of the COVID-19 response plan.

“By working closely with international carriers — especially our national carrier, Fiji Airways — we’ve tremendously stepped up our screening of international air passengers from all countries. After undergoing strict medical and travel checks, passengers are screened with hand-held temperature scanners the moment they land. And we’re actually in the process of installing thermal scanners at our international airports as well.”

“I’ve explained in detail before what’s happening for travellers at sea. As a reminder, all cruise ships are required to make first berth in either Suva or Lautoka, where all crew and passengers are then thoroughly screened.”

“Never before in Fijian history has such a comprehensive, nation-wide response plan been implemented so effectively or so quickly. Every time a suspected case of the virus has arisen, it has been tested. All test results to-date have returned negative.”



Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy with staff during the launch of A Dollar Saved Is worth More Than a Dollar Earned brand in safeguarding the environment, saving energy and in the bargain extending value for the dollar.

## Minister calls for movement to protect waterways

THE conservation of waterways is essential for sustainable fresh water supply, flood mitigation, agricultural activity and Fijian households.

Its protection is equally important for future generations, ensuring the longevity of the benefits provided by waterways to plants, animals and humans continues and is preserved.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy during the 2020 International Day of Action for Rivers at Bilalevu in Sigatoka recently.

"I urge all of you, to understand the importance of protecting our riverbanks. It's our home. It's your home to take responsibility of, the Government is here to assist you, but you need to take the initiative yourselves.

"We now have to start a National movement on how we can protect our waterways not only for ourselves, but also for our future generations as our entire activities are dependent on waterways," he said.

Minister Reddy added the individual contribution from communities and settlements would be vital as major primary activities such as agriculture was dependent on waterways.

"The Ministry cannot do it alone but we will develop frameworks, protocols and policies but it will need to be implemented by individuals. You all need to take ownership in protecting our waterways," he said.

Minister Reddy further reiterated human activities such as cultivation was the major contributor towards damage on waterways.

Members of the public are also being urged to practice sustainable management practices and to consider nature based solutions to protect waterways.

As part of the celebration, Hon. Reddy launched the 50km river bank protection project, using the nature based solution - vertiver grass, which will be planted across the country to protect riverbanks from erosion.

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# Ministry launches 'a dollar saved' campaign

"YOU may not be able to hugely influence and take control of what you earn, but you can certainly control what you spend."

The Ministry of Waterways and Environment has taken up an innovative approach to protecting the environment by saving its resources at the workplace.

A very bold pathway to safeguarding the environment, saving energy and in the bargain extending value for the dollar, a special brand "A Dollar Saved Is worth More Than a Dollar Earned", was placed as a challenge for staff to implement and practice throughout the Ministry and its offices.

While addressing the staff at the launching of the brand recently, the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy alluded to the importance of saving through working smarter.

Minister Reddy reiterated the importance of savings from the existing resources as doing businesses smartly and saving resources will result in protecting the environment as well.

"One aspect of the smart business is to see how we can save, and how we can do better bio-engineering solutions to deal with this problem that is contributing towards climate

change and our activities such as agricultural practices," he said.

Minister Reddy further reiterated the several exemplars adopted and the success behind sharing resources across multiple projects had so far not only added value to the project but also helped in the efficiency, speed and reliable outcomes of the project (typical examples he chose to observe were the "Hop-Skip-n-Jump - 52-bridge, Emergency River de-silting, and the much-needed farm roads projects—all of these had saved millions of dollars in taxpayer money in the last year alone).

Minister Reddy also directed his staff to act and think smart

in saving energy and to look at recycling means within the Ministry.

In line with this, the Ministry announced two major programs to be launched for the Ministry of Waterways and Environment concerning the "Zero-Waste" entity Program and, "A paperless Ministry Ambition" to be abided by the staff.

"By undertaking all this, we not only save dollars but also think and act socially responsible, just imagine what it would feel like to be called the "First Zero Waste Ministry". It is very much achievable," Minister Reddy said.

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## Back sustainable development, Fiji urges UN

NANISE NEIMILA

F IJI has optimised on the opportunity it got to lobby on areas of discussion on how the United Nations can support Fiji's effort in achieving sustainable development around the Pacific too

This was the discussion with the President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Tijjani Muhammad-Bande during his recent visit to Fiji.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said in its 75-year history, Fiji upholds the role of the UN as more important than ever.

"History tells us that the answer to humanity's greatest challenges always lies in the power of human co-operation. No single leader, nation, nor region of the world holds all the answers to every question, only the sum total of our knowledge, ingenuity and experiences can deliver our greatest possible future. That was true in 1945 — and it is true today."

"As we usher in a new decade, 2020 b The A-G highlighted that

discussions were centred on vital importance of the health of our oceans, and how Fiji and the UN can more actively collaborate to use our seas as a component of sustainable development.

"Fiji and our fellow Pacific Island nations are already seeing devastating climate impacts. It's clear it will require much deeper international cooperation to build our resilience to the severe storms, rising seas and changing weather patterns at our doorsteps. On the mitigation front, 2020 is a defining year. The clock is ticking until COP26 — where it is absolutely imperative we see more ambitious commitments towards a net-zero future, zero excuses."

The A-G has reassured the UN that Fiji is prepared to lead by example in building a world as it should be; resilient, vibrant, inclusive and sustainable.

Mr Muhammad-Bande commended the Fijian Government for their commitment to taking the lead role of fighting climate change locally and taking the lead role in the region.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Tijjani Muhammad-Bande during his recent visit to Fiji.



## Latest addition to Navy fleet targets illegal fishing, drugs and human trafficking

The new Fiji guardian-class patrol boat, RFNS Savenaca, will help the Fiji Navy to fight international criminal networks engaged in the illicit drug trade in the Pacific region. Speaking at the handover ceremony for the RFNS Savenaca at Austal shipyard in Perth, Western Australia, recently Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said most of the narcotics passing through our waters are bound for lucrative markets such as Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland and other hubs in Australia and New Zealand, but the inevitable spill-over made this an issue far larger than any one market or nation.

The new addition to the Fiji Navy fleet further enhances the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership. The RFNS Savenaca is the sixth out of 19 patrol boats built by Austal in Australia. With room for 23 crew and a 3000 nautical mile range, the ship is named after ordinary seaman Savenaca Naulumatua who served in World War II. The RFNS Savenaca is the first of the two patrol boats gifted to Fiji under the Pacific Maritime Security Programme, the second of which will be delivered in 2023.

Photos: SUPPLIED



## Services will be provided to all Fijians, A-G assures

The Fiji Government has assured Fijians living in small towns that the same services offered in big towns and cities will be provided to them. This assurance was made by Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum while opening the \$3m Cuvu complex in Cuvu, outside Sigatoka. The A-G highlighted that their job as a Government was to create an enabling environment for everyone and provided examples of development happening around the country which creates a little community and a centre of trade.

"As a result of this you will see a lot of trade happening here. From a national perspective, you don't have to travel longer distance so you save on fuel, you have less carbon-footprint when you burn less fuel our carbon-footprint is much lower," he said. "So overall it helps in the wellbeing of the community and the country." The A-G acknowledged local investors for having confidence in the country and for their continuous investment.

Photos: MEREANI GONEDUA



## Respect, empower women, Minister Akbar urges at international celebration

Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar believes that equality can be achieved through empowerment. Speaking at the International Women's Day celebration organised by Post Fiji Limited, Minister Akbar said the main reasons for lack of empowerment could be attributed to the struggling

female literacy rates, the current average standing at 42 per cent. "Despite our growing literacy rates, there is no data to suggest that educated and economically-empowered women do not suffer violence and abuse," she said. "I strongly believe that this forum today is going to

massively impact the lives of score of women who make up 49 per cent of the world's population, perform 66 per cent of the work, produce 50 per cent of the food, but earn only 10 per cent of the income and own one per cent property."

Photos: AZARIA FAREEN

# Demand for sandalwood rises

MEREANI GONEDUA

THERE has been an increase in demand for sandalwood in the country.

This has been highlighted by the Minister for Forests Osea Naiqamu while conducting consultations around the country on the '30 Million Trees in 15 Years Initiative'.

"We have received a lot of positive feedbacks from the commu-

nity during our consultation on the new '30 Million Trees in 15 Years Initiative' and I am grateful to all Fijians who are part of this worthy cause.

"Ever since our consultation we have seen an increase in demand in sandalwood trees and the Ministry will look into supplying those who request for it."

Minister Naiqamu stated that they have contacted suppliers of sandalwood and they have been

assured that the demands would be met.

He stated the demand came after farmers realized the benefits and financial advantage of planting sandalwood trees.

"We have been informing farmers to plant trees that would also benefit them financially and sandalwood tree is one of those that would give back a much greater return."

Meanwhile, Tui Vitogo Ratu Wil-

iame Sovasova highlighted that the village of Vitogo would support the new initiative by the Fijian Government.

"I think it's about time that we address the issue of trees, planting trees in our communities and Vitogo will support this initiative as our own."

Ratu Wiliame highlighted that villagers have shown interest in planting more trees in their land and with the assistance provided

by the Ministry of Forests they would be able to do more planting.

"We have requested assistance in terms of training and the Ministry has agreed to come back to hold training sessions with villagers on how to plant and maintain our trees especially sandalwood trees. We have heard a lot of stories about how many Fijians are benefitting from sandalwood trees and we would also like to try it out."



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with kids during the opening of the new Cuvu complex at Naidovi, Nadroga.  
Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

## Stroke survivor sets example for youth



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar with Vitila Vuniwaqa during the launch of the Youth Action for Climate Change at her farm in Nadi.

MEREANI GONEDUA

"LIFE will always move on and we should never give up on trying to achieve our dreams."

This was the sentiment made by 45-year-old Vitila Vuniwaqa a former flight attendant with the then Air Pacific who suffered from a stroke in 2010 and now owns a 12-acre farm in Nadi.

Ms Vuniwaqa provided a piece of her land for a climate change project organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Forests.

With over \$90,000 of investment in the property situated in Wailoko Road, Sabeto, Ms Vuniwaqa highlighted how she had struggled to get where she is today.

"In February 2010, I was running errands after coming back from the company office and was at my friends place in Naisoso when I collapsed," Ms Vuniwaqa said.

Life after she collapsed was a struggle for her as she learned how to walk again but she managed to pull through after she kept telling herself that she would do something with her life.

"I was determined to do something and the first thought was looking to grow some organic produce."

"I bought this land for \$8000 in January 2015 with two honey bee boxes to begin my business."

She later planted cassava, lemon grass, lemons, watermelons, kumala, passionfruit, pineapples and Rotuman coconuts.

"I acknowledge the Government for providing Fijians like me with opportunities to be able to grow our local business. I had heard about the climate change project during a workshop and I offered my piece of land because I knew it would help me in the future."

"I also want to encourage every Fijian out there that there is always light at the end of the tunnel and we should never give up when times get rough."

The launch of the Youth Action for Climate Change at Ms Vuniwaqa's farm enabled Fijian youths to plant more than 200 sandalwood trees.

Speaking at the event, Minister for Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar acknowledged Ms Vuniwaqa for stepping out and addressing the issues of climate change.

"Every Fijian can do this! Fiji is taking the lead on climate change and every Fijian youth can also make a difference. So be a climate warrior yourself. Help save Fiji and help save our precious Planet Earth."

## 'Investor confidence soars'

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE continuous investment made by local investors in Fiji indicates the level of confidence they have in the Fijian economy.

Officiating at the opening of a new \$3 million Cuvu complex, Sigatoka, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum acknowledged local investors such as Western Homes Limited for their continued confidence in the Fijian economy that would not only benefit them but all Fijians.

"Fiji now has more satellite towns. The Government's job is to provide the same services available in the major towns to small satellite towns like this one.

"That's why we have installed streetlights and proper roads in places like this."

"Our job is to create an enabling environment for everyone and these types of development create little communities and centers of trade. As a result of this you will see a lot of trade happening here.

"From a national perspective, you don't have to travel longer distances so you save on fuel, and you have less carbon-footprint when you burn less fuel so our carbon-footprint is much lower.

"Overall it helps in the well-being of the community and all of Fiji. The continuous investment by local investors in initiatives like this also shows the level of confidence they have in Fiji.

Meanwhile, Western Homes Limited chief executive officer Bobby Khan highlighted that they have many more development plans ahead in the country.

Mr Khan who owns several property developments in Nadi stated that the opening of the Cuvu complex was another investment made by his company because of their continued confidence in the economy.

He stated that the new investment was to create more business opportunities for the people in Sigatoka.

Mr Khan also acknowledged the Fijian government for the continued support shown to local investors to be able to assist them in creating more opportunities in the country.

## Sports development key grassroots priority

NANISE NEIMILA

**S**PORTS development at grassroots level has been mandated and will be a focus area for the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

This was reassurance made by the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar during a consultation with youth groups in the Northern division.

Minister Kumar said Fiji is a sporting nation; the Sports Unit also envisages delivering more into sporting activities and development that will enhance sports tourism as a way of promoting sustainable development in Fiji.

“The unit also actively support efforts toward the reduction of non-communicable diseases in Fiji and on behalf of the Ministry contributes to policy formulation and reviews coordinated by the Ministry of Health and Medical Service.”

“The unit responsible for the policy making of national sports and physical activity policy and MOU for Fiji and international and Pacific neighbouring country and monitoring of appropriate sports policies to promote and develop sports in Fiji.”

Minister Kumar also highlighted key areas of the unit this include the facilitation of development and upgrade of rural and urban sporting facilities and promote active participation of all Fijians through introducing recreational and leisure activities.

The unit also assists statutory bodies like the Fiji Sports Commission and one of their key responsibilities conducting training to all youth and interested persons in sports and programs.

“Also distributing government funding assistances Grant to our national sporting Organisation in international event where host or guest.”

“Training of Trainer, Sports Outreach, Educate the Educator, Wellness, Kids in Community Program and also Disability Sports Program. Talents identified by coaches in these clinics are recommended to their national federations for eg. a former netball player, Vasiti Vatureba was identified from a clinic in Navosa and was recommended to Fiji Netball where she attended the trials and was selected to represent Fiji in 2011.”



Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Mahendra Reddy during the handing over of fencing materials at Vunivau Primary School, Bua. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Youth encouraged to capitalise on programmes



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar and Assistant Minister for Youth and Sports Alvick Maharaj during a consultations with young people in the Northern Division. Photo: SUPPLIED

NANISE NEIMILA

**Y**OUTHS in the Northern Division have been encouraged to take advantage of the Duke of Edinburgh International award programme.

This follows the consultations spearheaded by the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar.

Minister Kumar said over 3000 young people have gained an award with approximately 50 schools, youth clubs and organisa-

tions.

“Globally, there are eight million participants taking part in the program in 140 countries. Nearly 600 people take up the award each year with over 100 Award Volunteers actively participating in the program.”

“Participants design their own program by selecting their own activities that interest them and setting and achieving their Goals through the minimum Requirement.”

Minister Kumar encouraged the youths present at the consultation that the program will add to their achievements and opportunities for

job search in the future.

Youths within the age group of 14-24years have been encouraged to register for the program and this has been dubbed a life changer to young person’s life.

Meanwhile, other issues that were highlighted at the consultations was the need for youth groups to register in order to access Youth and Sports Grant.

Minister Kumar told youths that the application is open to sports clubs, uniform groups, faith-based and non-governmental organisations working with youths.

**T**HE agriculture sector’s potential can only be realized if a shared common vision to effectively utilise available resources is put into practice.

This was the message by the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra

Reddy while handing over 56 fencing material assistance packages to smallholder farmers of Macuata and Bua last week.

Minister Reddy said Fiji imported approximately 85 percent dairy products and was heavily dependent on imported rice to meet local demands, with vast tracts of land remaining idle.

“I urge you all, farmers and land owners, to put your land into good use to raise the agriculture sector to new heights, whereby agriculture can be the defining sector for Fiji’s economy.”

Additionally, Minister Reddy said farmers needed to treat agriculture as a business, and to dismiss the misconception that the Ministry of Agriculture was a lending institution, continuously returning to request for more assistance.

“We really need to pull up our socks and utilize our available resources; that is why we are here today to give you that startup capital - the fencing material so that the 10 goats or sheep that you have can develop your paddock and expand your production,” Minister Reddy said.

“We want to thank you for your interest in Agriculture, this year is renowned for livestock farming, Bua is very renowned for livestock farming and we want you to grow and develop. We are here today to give you this assistance,” he reiterated to Bua farmers.

Farmers were advised to use the fencing material in a timely manner to ensure the development of the livestock sector.

-[news@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:news@govnet.gov.fj)



# FRCS launches Taxpayer Online Services

THE Fiji Revenue and Customs Service launched its Taxpayer Online Portal (TPOS) in December after 24 months of development and testing work.

Following the launch of this service, Individuals or Business who have a Tax Identification Number (TIN) will be able to access their tax information online which includes registering, filing and payments.

For those who do not have a Tax Identification Number (TIN), the good news is you no longer have to visit an FRCS office you can register online on the portal website <https://tpos.frcs.org.fj/taxpayerportal>

Some of the benefit of TPOS are as follows:

1. Ability to register and file returns online
2. Fully integrated tax portal with multiple self-service features
3. 24x7 access to services reducing visits to tax offices
4. Optimized user interface for ease of navigation and accessibility

From a Tax Administration Assessment perspective in terms of global best practice, the introduction of the online portal will also assist with:

1. Maintaining the integrity of the Registered taxpayer database

2. Effective risk Management
3. Support voluntary compliance
4. Aid in the timely filing of tax declaration and timely payment of taxes
5. Ensure accurate reporting of declarations
6. Manage effective tax dispute resolutions
7. Ensure efficient revenue management
8. Enhance accountability and transparency of the Tax office

Ultimately the online portal will enhance the customer experience. The first phase of the online portal will allow the following registration, filing and payment for the following services:

1. Environment & climate Adaptation Levy (ECAL) plastic bag levy
2. Environment & climate Adaptation Levy (ECAL) Prescribed services
3. Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT)
4. Service Turnover Tax
5. Telecommunications Levy
6. Value Added Tax (VAT)
7. Joint Electronic Identification card /TIN card application
8. New Tax Identification Number (TIN) registration

With the full roll out of the online portal taking a phased approach, each phase will

expand capabilities, optimize services and enhance the customer experience.

## One-time Log-in Code

To access the online portal, every user will need to sign up and obtain a One-time Login Code first.

The One-time Login Code is a unique code issued by FRCS to an existing taxpayer to be used along with TIN when doing Sign Up. The code is made up of alpha numeric characters and is only issued after FRCS has verified the identification of the existing taxpayer.

The code provides an additional layer of security ensuring that the combination of TIN and One-time Login Code matches when doing Sign Up. The tax office urges all existing taxpayers to ensure that their One-time Login Code is kept confidential and should not be shared with any other person(s) before the actual sign up. All existing taxpayers are required to visit any of our FRCS offices Fiji wide to obtain a One-time Login Code before Sign Up.

For more information please email us on [info@frcs.org.fj](mailto:info@frcs.org.fj)

-Fiji Revenue and Customs Services

## Minister updates residents on settlement upgrade

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

FIIJANS living in the Sakoka Informal Settlement received a visit from the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar where she addressed the residents on the update of the Sakoka Informal Settlement Upgrading Project.

Residents expressed their gratitude for this upgrading assistance they are receiving from the Government as Sakoka Settlement was one of the six settlements selected for preparatory work out of the 250 informal settlements around the country.

She assured the residents that work was progressing smoothly and that the budget allocated for the project has been utilised in the different development stages.

“Work is going smoothly as we have done the scheme plan and topography plan. The scheme plan has been passed by TLTB and now the next step would be the engineering plan. Of course environmentalists would also have to come to have a look at this place.

“Our target is to commence the construction work in the next budget, so we have to complete the engineering plan from March till July,” Minister Kumar said.

Once the engineering plan is completed, tenders will be called for construction companies to place their bid for costs. Construction work will commence once costing has been finalised.

Minister Kumar also reminded the residents that patience was vital for quality development.

“We are progressing. It is not something that can be done overnight because there is a whole process involved. Construction work takes time – making the roads, drainage and proper sewerage system takes time.

“This is not a private sector development, this is the Government trying to assist the community so that you can get a better development of life,” Minister Kumar stated.

Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar during the Holy Celebrations at Rishikul Sanatan College. **Photo: SUPPLIED**



## Faith ‘strongly advocated’ in national curriculum

PRASHILA DEVI

FAITH is one of the strongly advocated values addressed in Fiji’s National Curriculum Framework.

Minister for Education, Rosy Akbar, in her message during the ‘Holi’ celebration marked recent-

ly, she pointed out the role faith plays in nurturing young minds while satisfying their creative streak at the same time.

“Such festivals help children freely bring out their cultural identity and showcase the richness and diversity of our unique heritage. This embodies the philosophy of

education advocated by the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) that education is value based, recognising that no education is culture free or value free,” Minister Akbar said.

She said the myths and legends presented to children help to increase their knowledge and under-

standing of why a particular group celebrates this festival.

“The mission of the Ministry is to ensure that children appreciate fully their inheritance which includes knowledge of arts thus this celebration sheds light on the origin of this festival, brought to Fiji by the ‘girmitiyas’ from the

artistic nation of India.”

Minister Akbar said the significance of getting everyone immersed in one colour is to show that there is no difference of race and religion and humanity is a rainbow of thoughts and ideas taking Fiji into the envisioned national direction.

## Fijians 'have equitable, accessible health services'

MINISTER for Health, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete has assured all Fijians of the Government's intent to provide every citizen with equitable and accessible health services.

While speaking at the launch of the Ministry of Health's Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 held at the Ministry's headquarters in Suva, Minister Waqainabete said, "Government has a vision that everyone in Fiji has access to health and receives fair and equitable health services".

"Our strategy is closely aligned to the National Development Plan that emphasizes inclusive socio-economic development to improve the social well-being of all Fijians so that no one is left behind."

"The vision of a high quality health system where medical services are raised to international standards is also implemented in the strategic plan."

Minister Waqainabete added that the strategic priority would set the pace in progressing towards universal health coverage while maintaining the national sustainability goal by ensuring that no one is left behind.

"This is further supported by system strengthening at all levels to raise the quality of health services delivered throughout all our facilities."

"Interaction with staff and people provide the platform to work toward the completion of the design code. The strategic framework has been developed after extensive situation analysis to gauge where Fiji is in terms of global health indicators."

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Let us think about how we influence our own families, communities, schools and workplaces in making healthy choices.

Joji Konrote  
President of Fiji



Northland Farmers' Co-operative Ltd chairman Hirday Lakhan (first from right), with staff at their shop. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

EMI KOROITANO

FROM humble beginnings, come great things and greatness indeed it has been for the fortunes Northland Farmers' Co-operative Ltd that has been amassed since their inception more than a decade ago in Fiji. Northland Farmers' Co-operative Ltd supplies goods to dairy farmers and operates a store in Tailevu.

Chairperson of the co-operative Hirday Lakhan said when the cooperative first started in 2006, its pioneer members started off with a mere \$350 in the cooperative's bank account.

However, it has achieved more than a million dollars' worth of gross sale in the

last financial year.

"The real success about it is not that we made a sale but we asked the question -where did that money come from, it came from our poor members," Mr Lakhan said.

"The source of that money was Northland, it has made profit in Northland and it will be useful in Northland."

He explained that a mere \$350 might have been a very small amount compared to today's standard.

"But we in the cooperative were saying that's a huge seed money for us, it was a big seed," Mr Lakhan said.

"And today, they might have more than hundred times that amount in the bank. So

that money, that seed has really grown."

Furthermore, the co-operative like many other businesses endure hurdles and challenges.

"Challenges will always be there, one of the challenges is we are new and some of the areas where we have challenges in is competition," he said.

"The competitions are coming from organisations that are much older, much bigger than us. How do you compete with RC Manubhai, or Vinod Patel? Those are big competitors," he shared.

However, he said though the co-operative faces such hurdles, its biggest strength stems from its desire to help its members.

# President: NCDs control helps resilience



President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote said with Fiji's successful measles response and the current COVID-19 response, both of which involved the nation coming together, can guide the nation toward a planned strategy for the promotion of health and wellbeing to fight NCD.

Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

FELIX LESINAIVALU

EFFECTIVELY controlling non-communicable diseases (NCDs) will help prepare the nation to become healthier and more resilient in the face of global outbreaks and pandemics.

This was the advice from the President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote while opening the Multisectoral Health and Wellness Forum in Pacific Harbour recently.

"I applaud the emphasis on partnership and collaboration as a major part of health systems strengthening. I have noted with great interest the link between NCD and the current global threat of COVID-19. I think we should all be interested in the evidence before us," President Konrote said.

"I would like you in this forum to think about how to change the narrative, how to create a tide of health and wellness, helping people to understand that it starts with every one of us."

"Let us think about how we influence our own families, communities, schools and workplaces in making healthy choices."

Ministry of Health's permanent

secretary Bernadette Welch said responsibility to address NCDs starts with everyone.

"The purpose of this forum is to think of innovation and create new purpose that fit Fiji, based in ideas, research and data collection and experience from near and far."

"We are making sure that we got the right people in the room to create the commitment that we need to take this forward, we want to create a multi-year, multi-sector strategy that's implementable, monitored and assessed."

President Konrote said with Fiji's successful measles response and the current COVID-19 response, both of which involved the nation coming together, can guide the nation toward a planned strategy for the promotion of health and wellbeing to fight NCD.

"It is now up to you to take advantage of this opportunity and truly come together beyond this forum to develop an effective multi-sector strategy for addressing the curse of NCD in Fiji."

"The Ministry of Health and Medical Services has set the scene by bringing you all together. It is up to you to move this forward."



# Fiji sets measures to battle COVID-19

## PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON COVID-19

**T**HE COVID-19 global outbreak has recently been declared a pandemic by the WHO, and our teams have been reviewing the situation on an hourly basis. The virus is now present in the majority of nations and territories on Earth, with over 140,000 cases confirmed.

As of 5pm today (March 15, 2020), Fiji does not have a confirmed case of COVID-19. We should all be grateful for the diligence and vigilance of those on the ground working to buy us vital time to prepare. We must take advantage of this precious time we have been blessed with by acting now to reduce the chance of this virus spreading when it arrives in Fiji.

Our travel restrictions on Italy, Iran, South Korea and mainland China remain in full effect, as do the stringent screening measures at our international airports. We plan to install thermal scanners at our international airports. From tomorrow, cruise ships will be banned from berthing anywhere in Fiji. Also from tomorrow, international events will not be allowed in Fiji and local events will be closed to all guests coming in from overseas.

Ministers, civil servants, Permanent Secretaries and staff of statutory bodies will be restricted from travelling overseas barring exceptionally critical circumstances.

We also highly discourage all Fijians from travelling overseas. If you do choose to travel anywhere outside of Fiji, you may be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon your return to Fiji, even if you are not displaying symptoms of COVID-19. This, of course, is already mandated for Fijians arriving home from nations on our restricted travel list.

These measures will all be subject to review as the global situation evolves.

We already have secure isolation facilities up and running throughout Fiji, with the Central Division being served by Navua Hospital, the Western Division served by the Nadi Hospital, and Labasa Hospital serving the Northern Division.

As we monitor the situation, more isolation units will be established as the need arises in accordance with our expansion plan.

As of the 15th of March at 5pm, Fiji remains coronavirus-free — and it is on that basis that we've developed these measures. If and when we see our first case, far more stringent measures will immediately come into effect to aggressively prevent the spread of the disease, as other nations have done, such as bans on local gatherings.

While we may not yet have a case, now is the time to begin changing the ways we go about our day-to-day lives to strengthen our resilience to an outbreak.

The single most important thing anyone can do is to wash your hands with soap and water on a regular basis. The combination of soap and water kills COVID-19 dead in its tracks. I'm asking everyone watching to help me carry that message to every man, woman and child in Fiji.

A thorough and effective hand-washing takes 20 seconds — and with this simple act, you may very well be saving a life. We'll also need to break the habit of shaking hands, hugging and sharing takis and bilos. Instead, simply share a "bula" from a safe distance and limit in-person contact as much as possible.

This isn't just about protecting yourself, this is about responsibility — your responsibility to the well-being of the countless Fijians who you cross paths with every day. Do it to protect the elderly woman you walk by at the market, the man with a pre-existing heart condition who rides the bus with you, or the grandparent who you look after.

While the steps we can take as individuals are critical, to be effective, the preparations for COVID-19 must be society-wide. We need everyone aware of the risks and actively participating in our nationwide response.

Because the sobering reality is that, while we have yet to see a case in our country, our population



So far, children and adolescents have been far less affected by COVID-19 and their symptoms have almost always been mild.



### Protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a bent elbow. Wash hands after.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Keep 1m distance away from others.



is already vulnerable to coronavirus. Those with preexisting conditions and NCDs — like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer — are at a higher risk of death by COVID-19. So, I encourage all Fijians to use this moment to make lasting lifestyle changes to improve your health — by doing so, you are guarding yourself and those you love from communicable viruses, like COVID-19, and non-communicable disease alike.

To maximise our larger prevention and containment efforts, we'll continue to work closely with our hotel and tourism partners to help identify, isolate and treat any visitors who may be experiencing symptoms of the virus. With our flows of tourism under close supervision, we will continue supporting the tens of thousands of Fijian families who depend on the tourism sector for their livelihoods.

As we work hand-in-hand with our tourism operators and other business leaders to combat the coronavirus, we hear their very serious worries about the impact the situation will have on their business. As the outbreak worsens and travel restrictions heighten, people are travelling less. Supply chains

as well are seeing major disruptions. As a result, many nations of all sizes will likely see their economies contract.

This is not a time for panic, but a time for prudence. We've already made a number of critical unbudgeted expenditures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. But it's clear we need to reassess our spending priorities for the remainder of the financial year.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy will announce a COVID-19 Response Budget on the 26th of March — where we'll lay out our financial game plan for protecting our people and supporting Fijian businesses and livelihoods through what will undoubtedly be a difficult period. Ahead of that response budget, he'll be sitting down with the FNPF and banks to discuss ways to mitigate the impact the COVID-19 global economic slowdown is having — and will continue to have — on individual Fijian workers and their families.

Let's remember, when it comes to our people's wellbeing, our economic security and the preservation of our way of life, we are all in this together. Do not politicise

this pandemic. Do not stigmatise or discriminate against any of your fellow citizens. Do not sensationalise information. Do not spread fake news at the expense of public health, the economy and the jobs and livelihoods of our people.

We are one team, united in one, common mission to keep Fiji strong, safe and healthy. Do your part by washing your hands and covering your mouth and nose if you cough or sneeze.

If you are feeling unwell, or know someone who is feeling unwell, immediately contact the Health Ministry on one of these numbers:

Central Division call 2219905;  
 Eastern Division call 2219906;  
 Western Division call 2219907;  
 Northern Division call 2219908.

As always, all of us should rely only on the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and the World Health Organisation as trusted sources of information.

We will regularly update the public with the best information available and take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of every Fijian always comes first.



## Take charge of your health, President urges

AZARIA FAREEN

“IN promoting Government’s Wellness Programme, my staff and I set the pace by “running the talk”, in fact; we lead by example by ensuring that we are fit and well at all times.”

The President Major-General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote relayed his personal commitment to tackling non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as he opened a conference on “Turning the tide on NCDs” organised by the South Pacific Society of Lifestyle Medicine in Pacific Harbour recently.

“It is time we give this crisis the attention it so urgently deserves by playing our part in focusing our attention on prevention and becoming advocates for healthy behavior,” President Konrote said.

He is Fiji’s lead advocate and national champion in the campaign to address the prevalence of NCD related ailments such as hypertension and Diabetes in Fiji.

Public Health Nutrition Advisor at the Pacific Community (SPC), Elisiva Na’ati in her presentation highlighted obesity having taken the lead as being the most risky in NCDs.

“Results from the Pacific has shown that we have really high prevalence of NCDs and for some countries it goes up to 80 percent, which is very alarming,” Ms Na’ati said.

“International Diabetes Federations 2019 statistics states that approximately 463 million adults aged between 20-79 years were living with diabetes globally and by 2045 this will rise to 700 million. Additionally, 79 percent of adults with diabetes were living in low-and middle-income countries.”

World Health Organization Coordinator Pacific NCD & Health, Dr Wendy Snowden presented that while a lot has been done to combat the prevalence of NCDs, it is not enough as there is still a continual rise of the illness.

“In order to meet the target, we will have to accelerate programs on tackling this key risk factor – tobacco use, misuse of alcohol, poor diet and physical inactivity - and do better in managing people who already have one of these factors of NCDs.”

The Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) program provided by the organization centres on a whole-food, plant based eating pattern which can lead to rapid and meaningful reductions in chronic disease risk factors.



Speaker of Parliament and Champion of HIV-AIDS Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with medical students at the newly-refurbished Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinic in Suva. Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

# Clinic targets best health care after facelift

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE opening of the newly-refurbished Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinic in Suva will ensure that those suffering from certain illnesses receive the best treatment possible.

Speaking at the opening of the clinic, Minister for Health Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said that the Government does not believe in discrimination and isolation. Minister Waqainabete acknowledged the hard work of health professionals and ANZ Bank for its assistance in the refurbishment of the clinic.

“As a Government, we believe that everyone is equal, and that no one should be discriminated. Those who may have issues with HIV/AIDS are very important people within the

community and we must show compassion and our commitment to them as we do with others,” Minister Waqainabete said.

Much like the uproar that COVID-19 is causing around the world right now, the Minister reminded those present at the event that HIV/AIDS caused similar panic around 30 years ago when it was looming over the world.

It is vital that those living with HIV/AIDS and STIs receive the adequate medical treatment, love and acceptance that they need.

“This is the way to look after them; we bring them into our hearts and embrace them. Give them a place that they can call home to feel comfortable enough to come in and be looked after, and be treated the best way they can.

“That is a promise that we as a government have. We will not isolate anyone to a far flung

island left with their own devices. We will ensure that we will provide the best in terms of all the layers that we have in place,” the Minister stated.

Providing support for those living with HIV/AIDS is one of the normative forms within the Ministry of Health.

“I’m very grateful that the Honorable Prime Minister and the cabinet has made sure that there is supply of significant resources within Government to ensure that our normative functions continue as normal, and that we have support for the extra normative functions that we have to be able to do as the Ministry of Health.

“By doing that, we ensure that we provide good help to those who have illnesses that need to be treated including HIV/AIDS and STIs,” Minister Waqainabete said.

## Europe Fijians pick up e-passports

F IJIANs living in Europe can now lodge applications for an electronic Fijian passport following the establishment of the electronic passport processing services at the Fijian Embassy in Brussels, Belgium, this week.

This latest development follows the introduction of the new electronic passports by Fiji’s Immigration Department in September 2019.

The new electronic passports or e-passports will consolidate security requirements at Fiji’s borders and ease travel for Fijian passport holders at ports of entry around the globe. Fiji’s Ambassador to Belgium, Ambassador Deo Saran said that establishing this new system at the Fiji Embassy will bring relief to those Fijians living in Europe and allow them to apply for the e-passports directly at the Embassy through submission of their biometric details.

“The Embassy is inviting Fijians



Second Secretary at Fiji’s Embassy in Brussels Taniela Gavidi assists former New Zealand rugby player Joe Rokocoko in processing his e-passport. Photo: SUPPLIED

living in Europe to take advantage of this new service and to contact the Embassy for the application guidelines and processes,” Ambassador Saran said.

“We are pleased that the Immigration Department recognises that this new service will benefit the Fijian diaspora living here in Europe”, said Ambassador Saran who is accredited to 10 other European countries.”

Former New Zealand rugby union player and current coaching consultant in Paris, Joe Rokocoko, was the first Fijian to apply for a replacement e-passport at the Fiji

Embassy and thanked the Government and the Embassy for providing this service.

“It’s perfect especially for Fijian families living in France and near to Belgium. Fijians living in Europe have been asking for a place to lodge their passport applications and this is a positive thing for us and positive for the other families that will be coming soon to lodge their applications,” said Mr Rokocoko.

In encouraging other Fijians to take advantage of the new system at the Embassy, Mr Rokocoko said that “there’s no excuse of delay for

those families that need to apply for new passports or to renew existing passports.

Fijians living in Europe who are interested in learning more about this new service are encouraged to contact the Embassy on email [info@fijiembassy.be](mailto:info@fijiembassy.be) to find more information on the application guidelines.

With the rollout of the new passports, Fiji officially joins the ranks of 54 other countries from around the globe that have already integrated such technology within their passports.

-[news@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:news@govnet.gov.fj)

# FijiFocus



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete briefs Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama (middle) on the progress of the isolation facility at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH) in Suva as Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Jone Usamate and Medical Superintendent CWMH Dr James Fong look on. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

# Govt takes steps on COVID-19

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Government is proactively preparing isolation facilities should Fiji record a case of COVID-19 (2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS). Ahead of these contingency plans and preparations, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama led a delegation of cabinet ministers, senior health officials to see first-hand

the progressive works that is currently underway. The isolation facilities in the Central Division include; Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWM) and Navua Hospital. The Head of Government while visiting Navua Hospital facility had the opportunity to commend health workers for their commitment towards providing necessary health care to all Fijians especially during the out-

break of diseases such as measles. “I have never had the opportunity to thank all of you for your efforts in taking over the measles program during those hard and trying times.” “We were fortunate that we had vaccines ready and available for measles but unfortunately there is no vaccine yet for Coronavirus,” he said. Prime Minister Bainimarama also visited

the Nadi Hospital and Lautoka Hospital that will cater as isolation facilities for COVID-19 cases. He has encouraged all Fijians to practice basic hygiene that is washing of hands with soap and water on regular basis. The isolation facilities will be available for suspected cases of COVID-19 to arrest the spread of the virus.

“स्वास्थ्य का बढ़ावा देने के लिए मिलकर काम करें” 2

फीजी के द्वीप पर स्पेशल रेपाटुवा ने मानवाधिकार पर रिपोर्ट दी 6

होली पर शिक्षा मंत्री का संदेश 7

आई जी ने और गहरा अंतराष्ट्रीय सहयोग की मांग की 3

# फीजी दर्पण

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18, | 8 PAGES | ISSUE 5 VOL 11 | WWW.FIJI.GOV.FJ

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## कोरोना वायरस के लिए फीजी में टेस्ट उपलब्ध

प्रधान मंत्री फ्रैंक बडिनमारां ने कोविड-19 को ध्यान में रखते हुए सभी फीजियन्स से माँग की है कि जहाँ तक हो सके वे विदेश न जाएं

चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसिनईवालू

वीरेंद्र लाल

कोरोना वायरस को लेकर सरकार ने अपना नवीनतम और सबसे आधुनिक उपकरण का स्वागत किया है। प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगो बडिनमारां ने पिछले सप्ताह तामावुवा में मोलेकुला लेबोरेट्री एंड द फीजी सेन्टा फोर डिजीज़्स कोन्ट्रोल का उद्घाटन किया।

“इस नए लेब का मतलब है कि फीजी में हम इस वायरस के लिए टेस्ट कर सकते हैं। हमें सामपल्स विदेश भेजने में समय और पैसे खर्च नहीं करने पड़ेंगे।”

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि कोरोना वायरस जिस तेज़ी के साथ फैल रहा है, फीजी घोषणा होने का इंतज़ार नहीं करेगा।

“अपने लोगों को बचाने के लिए हम जल्द कदम उठा रहे हैं, हमारे पास अब यह क्षमता है कि इस वायरस से पीड़ित किसी व्यक्ति की पहचान हम कर सकते हैं, उन्हें अलग रखकर फीजी में उनका इलाज भी कर सकते हैं,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

फीजी, प्रशांत में चार में से एक देश है जहाँ अब कोरोना वायरस के लिए टेस्ट

किया जा सकता है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कोविड-19 को लेकर रविवार को एक ब्यान निकाला जिसे हम आप के लिए प्रस्तुत कर रहे हैं।

“फीजियन्स को स्वस्थ रखने और लगातार जानकारी प्रदान करते रहने और आज मेरा साथ देने के लिए मैं स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरैमी वांगार्डिनम्बेते, विश्व स्वास्थ्य

संस्था की कन्द्री डायरेक्टा डाक्टर कोरिन कपुवानो और स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के कोविड-19 इनसिडेंट मैनेजमेंट टीम के जेनरल मैनेजर डाक्टर जर्ईम्स फोंग को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। कोविड-19 को हाल ही डब्लू हर्डिच औ ने महामारी घोषित कर दिया है और हमारी टीम में हर घण्टे पर स्थिति पर पुनः विचार कर रही हैं। यह वायरस अब विश्व के कई राष्ट्रों में पहुँच चुका है और एक लाख पचास हजार (150,000) से ज्यादा मामलों की पुष्टि हो चुकी है।

आज शाम पाँच बजे तक फीजी में कोविड-19 के एक भी मामले की पुष्टि नहीं हुई है। हमें उन लोगों को धन्यवाद देना चाहिए जो कड़ी मेहनत करके हमें इससे बचाने

में जुटे हुए हैं। हम सब को अभी से तैयारी करनी चाहिए ताकि जब यह वायरस फीजी पहुँचे, हम इसे फैलने का मौका न दें।

इटली, इरान, दक्षिण कोरिया और चीन आने जाने पर हमारा प्रतिबन्ध लगू है। हमारे अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डों पर सभी को स्क्रीन किया जा रहा है। हम हमारे अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डों पर थेमल स्कैनज़ बिठाने की योजना बना रहे हैं। कल से कूज़ शिप्स को फीजी में कहीं पर भी रुकने नहीं दिया जाएगा। कल से फीजी में इनटानेशनल इवेन्ट्स पर प्रतिबन्ध लगेगा और स्थानिए इवेन्ट्स में विदेश से किसी को आकर भाग लेने का मौका नहीं रहेगा।

मंत्रियों, सरकारी कर्मचारियों, पेमानेंट सेक्टोरीज़ और अर्ध-सरकारी संस्थाओं के कर्मचारियों को विदेश जाने पर प्रतिबन्ध रहेगा।

हम सभी फीजियन्स से भी माँग कर रहे हैं कि जहाँ तक हो सके वे विदेश न जाएं। अगर आप को फीजी से बाहर जाना पड़ा, तो वापस आने पर आपको चौदह दिनों के लिए अलग रखा जा सकता है भलेही

आपमें कोविड-19 का कोई चिन्ह न हो। प्रतिबन्ध लगे देशों से वापस आने पर तो आपको चौदह दिनों के लिए अलग रखा ही जायेगा।

इन स्थितियों पर विश्व स्थिति को ध्यान में रखते हुए पुनः विचार किया जाएगा। फीजी भर में हमारे पास लोगों को अलग रखने की सुविधाएं हैं - केन्द्रिए विभाग के लोगों को नावुवा अस्पताल में, पश्चिमी विभाग के लोगों को नांदी अस्पताल में और लम्बासा अस्पताल में उत्तरी विभाग के लोगों को रखा जाएगा। हम स्थिति पर नज़र रखेंगे और ज़रूरत पड़ने पर इस तरह की और सुविधाएं उपलब्ध की जायेंगी।

पन्द्रह मार्च की शाम पाँच बजे तक फीजी में कोरोना वायरस का एक भी मामला नहीं है और इसी आधार पर हमने यह कदम उठाने का फैसला किया है। अगर ऐसा कोई मामला सामने आया तो हम स्थानिए लोगों को भी इकट्ठा होने पर प्रतिबन्ध लगा देंगे ताकि इस बीमारी को फैलने से रोका जाए।

शेष अगले पृष्ठ पर



राष्ट्रपति मईजा जेनरल (Ret'd) चोची कोन्रोते, पॅसिफिक हाबा में साउथ पॅसिफिक सोसाईटी ऑफ लाईफस्टाएल मेडिसन के सम्मेलन में प्रशांत और मल्टीलईट्रल संस्थाओं जैसे (WHO) और (SPC) के उच्च अधिकारियों के साथ चित: फिलिक्स लेसिनईवालू

# “स्वास्थ्य का बढ़ावा देने के लिए मिलकर काम करें”

वीरन्द्र लाल

“जबतक मैं राष्ट्रपति रहूँगा, जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होनी वाली बीमारियों को खत्म करने की दिशा में काम करता रहूँगा।” राष्ट्रपति मईजा जेनरल (Ret'd) चोची कोन्रोते, पिछले सप्ताह पॅसिफिक हाबा में साउथ पॅसिफिक सोसाईटी ऑफ लाईफस्टाएल मेडिसन के सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करते वक्त बोल रहे थे। “जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होनी वाली बीमारियों की जब बात उठती है, तो प्रशांत में हम सब की समस्या एक ही है, वही मोटापा, खान-पान का एक ही तरीका। इस तरह के सम्मेलन से हम मिलकर समस्याओं का समाधान निकाल सकते हैं, ऐसे समाधान जिनसे जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होनी वाली बीमारियाँ कम हों, हमारे समाज मज़बूत हों और लोगों के जीवन बचें।” राष्ट्रपति कोन्रोते ने कहा कि इन बीमारियों से कैसे बचा जा सकता है, उसपर ध्यान देकर हम अपनी भूमिका निभा सकते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होनी वाली बीमारियों

से मरने वाले लोगों की संख्या लगभग दो तिहाई कम हो सकती है अगर लोग तम्बाकू नहीं पीयेंगे, स्वस्थ भोजन करेंगे, कसरत करेंगे, शराब का सेवन नहीं करेंगे और साफ वातावरण में रहेंगे। “इन मौतों को रोका जा सकता है अगर हम मिलकर काम करेंगे और अपने समाजों की सोच बदलेंगे। रातों रात तो ऐसा नहीं हो पायेगा लेकिन इसका यह मतलब नहीं कि हम भी आशा छोड़ दें।” राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि हमें एक स्वस्थ समाज के निर्माण की दिशा में काम करते रहना चाहिए। “सभी को साफ पानी, पौष्टिक भोजन, साफ हवा और अच्छी शिक्षा मिलनी चाहिए। हम सब को अच्छा इनसान बनना चाहिए।” राष्ट्रपति कोन्रोते जोकि नेशनल चैंपियन ओफ फीजी हैं, ने लोगों से इन बीमारियों से बचने की माँग की है। तीन दिनों के इस कोन्फंस में प्रशांत और मल्टीलईट्रल संस्थाओं जैसे वोल्ड हेल्थ ओगानाएजर्इशन (WHO) और साउथ पॅसिफिक कोमिउनिटी (SPC) के उच्च अधिकारी शामिल थे।

## जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होने वाली बीमारियाँ जोरों पर

वीरन्द्र लाल

जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होने वाली बीमारियाँ विश्व भर में जोरों से बढ़ रही हैं और हर्डिच.आय.वी/अईड्स के अलावा यह दूसरा स्वास्थ्य विषय है जो संयुक्त राष्ट्र की विषय सूचि में आया है।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वांगाईनम्ब्वेते सूवा में जापान इनटानेशनल कोपरईशन अजेन्सी (JICA) के साथ एक सेमिनार के समापन पर बोल रहे थे। यह सेमिनार “शेयारिंग प्रोजेक्ट एक्सपिरियन्सस ओफ वेलनस सिस्टम इन फीजी” पर था।

मंत्री ने बताया कि राष्ट्र के रूप में हमारे पास जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होनी वाली बीमारियों की अपनी समस्या है।

“इन बीमारियों से निपटने के लिए हमारे पाटनज़ की सहायता से काफी कुछ किया गया है। विश्व में एन सी डीज़ से मरने वालों की संख्या बढ़ रही है। दो हजार सोलह (2016) में मारे गए अनुमानित लगभग साठ मिलियन (56.9 million) लोगों में से, चालिस दसमलव पाँच मिलियन (40.5 million) जोकि मारे गए लोगों के इक्वत्तर प्रतिशत है (71 percent), की मृत्यु जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होने वाली बीमारियों से हुई थी।” मंत्री ने लोगों से अपने खान-पान में बदलाव करने की माँग की है।

इस अवसर पर बोलते हुए फीजी में जापानी राजदूत मासाहिरो ओमुरा ने आशा व्यक्त की कि स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय, जायका के वेलनस सिस्टम से फायदा उठायेगा।

“मिलजुलकर काम करने की जोश के साथ हमें यह देखकर खुशी होगी अगर फीजी क्षेत्र में जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होने वाली बीमारियाँ खत्म करने की दिशा में आगे बढ़कर काम करेगा।”

राजदूत ओमुरा ने बताया कि स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने दो हजार पन्द्रह (2015) में जायका के साथ प्रिवेन्शन एन्ड कोन्ट्रोल ओफ नोन कोमुनिकबल डिज़िज़स योजना पर काम शुरू किया था और यह योजना इस साल समाप्त होगी।

जायका, जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होने वाली बीमारियों पर काबु पाने में सरकार और मेडिकल इनस्टिटुशन्स को तक-नीकि सहायता प्रदान कर रहा है। वह एक सिस्टम तैयार कर रहा है जिससे इन बीमारियों पर नज़र रखी जा सके।

इस सेमिनार का लक्ष्य था, वेलनस इन फीजी के लिए, एन सी डी प्रोजेक्ट के परिणाम के बारे में चर्चा करना और वेलनस क्लीनिक सिस्टम तथा वेलनस कारवाईयों से होने वाली चुनौतियों के बारे में विचार करना।

# कोरोना वायरस के लिए फीजी में टेस्ट उपलब्ध

पहला पृष्ठ का शेष  
रोका जाए।

अभी जबकि यह बीमारी फीजी में नहीं है, हमें अपने दैनिक जीवन के तरीकों में बदलाव लाना चाहिए ताकि हम इस बीमारी को फैलने से रोकने में सक्षम रहें।

सब से ज़रूरी काम जो हम सब कर सकते हैं, वो है समय समय से अपने हाथ साबुन पानी से धोना। साबुन पानी मिलने से कोविड-19 किटाणु मारे जाते हैं। जो भी यह सुन और पढ़ रहा है, मैं आप सभी से यह संदेश फीजी में हर पुरुष, नारी और बच्चे तक पहुँचाने में मेरी मदद करने की माँग कर रहा हूँ। हाथ धोने में बीस सेकन्ड्स लगते हैं और यह सरल काम करके आप एक जान बचा सकते हैं। हमें हाथ मिलाना, दूसरों को गले लगाना और दूसरों का झूठा पीना बन्द करना होगा। हम किसी को बिना छुए, दूर से ही नमस्कार कर सकते हैं।

यह अपने आपको सुरक्षित रखने के बारे में नहीं है, यह ज़िम्मेदार होने के बारे में है, उन हज़ारों फीजियन्स को स्वस्थ रखने की ज़िम्मेदारी आपकी है जिनसे आप हर दिन मिलते हैं। उन महिलाओं को सुरक्षा प्रदान कीजिए जिनसे आप बाज़ार में मिलते हैं, उन

लोगों को बचाईए जिनके साथ आप बज़ में सफर करते हैं या उन वृद्ध लोगों की रक्षा कीजिए जिनकी आप देख-भाल करते हैं।

जो कदम हम व्यक्तिगत रूप से उठा सकते हैं, ज़रूरी है लेकिन इसे असरकारक बनाने और कोविड-19 के लिए तैयारी करने की खातिर, सभी को ऐसा करना होगा। सभी को कोविड-19 के खतरों के बारे में जानना चाहिए।

भलेही इस बीमारी का एक भी मामला अभी फीजी नहीं पहुँचा है, हमारे लोगों को यह बीमारी बहुत जल्द पकड़ सकती है। जिन लोगों को जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होने वाली बीमारियाँ जैसे मधुमेह, दिल की बीमारी और केन्सर है, कोविड-19 से उनकी मौत होने का ज्यादा खतरा है।

मैं सभी फीजियन्स से माँग करता हूँ कि वे इस अवसर को काम में लाकर अपने स्वास्थ्य में सुधार करें। ऐसा करके आप अपना तो बचाव करेंगे और साथ साथ उन लोगों की भी कोविड-19 और जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होने वाली बीमारियों से रक्षा होगी जिनसे आप प्यार करते हैं।

हम होटल और टुरिज़म पार्टनज़ के साथ भी मिलकर काम करेंगे और उन टुरिस्टों की पहचान करने में मदद करेंगे जिनमें इस वायरस का

कोई चिन्ह होगा। हम इन टुरिस्टों को अलग रखकर इनका इलाज करेंगे। हम टुरिज़म इनडस्ट्री पर नज़र रखे हुए हैं। हम उन दसियों हज़ार फीजियन परिवारों का समर्थन करना जारी रखेंगे, जो अपने जीवन बसर के लिए टुरिज़म व्यवसाय पर निर्भर हैं।

कोविड-19 पर काबु पाने के लिए हम टुरिज़म ओपर्टिज़ और अन्य व्यापारियों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं और हमें यह सुनने को मिल रहा है कि इस बीमारी के कारण उनके व्यापार पर काफी असर पड़ रहा है। आने जाने पर प्रतिबन्ध के कारण माल के सप्लाय में बाधा हो रही है और फलस्वरूप आर्थिक संकट खड़ी हो रही है।

यह घबड़ाने का समय नहीं है, बल्कि विवेकी होने का समय है। कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण हमने कुछ ऐसे खर्च किए हैं जो बजट में नहीं था। इस फायनेंसियल ईया में बचे समय के लिए हमें अपने खर्च को फिर से असेस करने की ज़रूरत है।

अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री छब्बीस मार्च को कोविड-19 रेस्पॉन्स बजट की घोषणा करेंगे जहाँ हम अपने लोगों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने और फीजियन व्यापारियों का

समर्थन करने तथा मुश्किल समय में लोगों को सहायता प्रदान करने की अपनी योजना पेश करेंगे। इससे पहले हम एफ एन पी एफ और बैंक्स के साथ विचार करेंगे कि कोविड-19 के कारण वैश्विक आर्थिक मंदी का सामना कैसे किया जाए।

याद रहे जब हमारे लोगों के जीवन, हमारी आर्थिक सुरक्षा और हमारे जीवन के तरीकों पर सवाल उठता है, तो हम सब इसमें साथ हैं। इस महामारी से राजनीति मत खेलिए। किसी भी नागरिक के साथ भेद-भाव मत कीजिए। जानकारी बढ़ा-चढ़ा कर मत बताईए और गलत जानकारी मत फैलाईए।

हम एक टीम हैं, हमारा लक्ष्य है फीजी को मज़बूत, सुरक्षित और स्वस्थ रखना। आप अपना भाग अदा कीजिए, हाथ धोईए और खाँसते वक्त मुँह पर हाथ रखिए। अगर आप बीमार हैं या आप जानते हैं कि कोई बीमार है तो स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को नीचे दिए गए किसी एक नम्बर पर तत्काल सम्पर्क कीजिए:

केन्द्रिए विभाग में 2219905 पर कोल कीजिए;  
पूर्वी विभाग में 2219906 पर कोल कीजिए;  
पश्चिमी विभाग में 2219907 पर कोल कीजिए; और

उत्तरी विभाग में 2219908 पर कोल कीजिए।

हम सब को सही जानकारी के लिए हर वक्त स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय और विश्व स्वास्थ्य संस्था पर निर्भर रहना चाहिए। हम जनता को समय समय से उपलब्ध जानकारी प्रदान करते रहेंगे और ऐसे कदम उठायेंगे जो लोगों के हित में होगा क्योंकि हर फीजियन की सुरक्षा हमारी प्राथमिकता है। ईश्वर की कृपा आप सब पर रहे, धन्यवाद।”

फिलहाल स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वांगाईनम्ब्वेते ने सभी फीजियन्स को आश्वासन दिया है कि सरकार हर नागरिक को अच्छी स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदान करना चाहती है। मंत्री, मंत्रालय के दो हजार बीस से दो हजार पच्चीस (2020-2025) तक के स्ट्रेटजिक प्लेन के लॉच पर बोल रहे थे।

“सरकार यह देखना चाहती है कि फीजी में सभी को अच्छी स्वास्थ्य सेवा मिले। हम नेशनल डिवेलप्मेंट प्लेन के आधार पर काम कर रहे हैं और सभी फीजियन्स के सामाजिक और आर्थिक स्तर में सुधार करना चाहते हैं। हम यह देखेंगे कि कोई पीछे न रह जाए।”

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने बताया कि हम अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर की स्वास्थ्य सेवा लागू करना चाहते हैं।



# प्रधान मंत्री ने सांत्वना पुस्तक पर हस्ताक्षर किया



फीजी के एक राजनयिक स्वर्णिग राजदूत सत्या नन्दन के लिए सांत्वना पुस्तक पर हस्ताक्षर करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसिनईवालू

वीरेंद्र लाल

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा ने पिछले सप्ताह फीजी के एक अग्रणी राजनयिक, स्वर्णिग राजदूत सत्या नन्दन के लिए सांत्वना पुस्तक पर हस्ताक्षर किया। राजदूत नन्दन, उन्नीस सौ सत्तर के सालों में (1970s), संयुक्त राष्ट्र में फीजी के पहले प्रतिनिधि थे। उनकी अनुवाई में युनायटेड नेशन्स कोन्वेंशन ऑन द लव ऑफ द सी (UNCLOS) ड्राफ्ट किया गया था। प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि राजदूत नन्दन, “कूटनीति का शीर्षक” थे।

“सत्या का विरासत, फीजी के स्वतंत्रता इतिहास से सीधा जुड़ा है। उन्हें एक सच्चा वैश्विक नागरिक, एक बुद्धिमान गुरु और प्रशांत का गर्व से भरा एक बेटे के रूप में याद किया जाएगा”। सुवा स्थित राजनयिक कोर के सदस्यों ने भी सांत्वना पुस्तक पर हस्ताक्षर करके राजदूत नन्दन के प्रति श्रद्धांजली अर्पित की। उन्होंने युरोपियन युनियन, बेलजियम, फ्रान्स, इटली, लेक्सम्बर्ग तथा नेदालेन्ड्स में फीजी के राजदूत का पद सम्भाला था। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि स्वर्णिग नन्दन की वजह से अंतराष्ट्रीय मंच पर फीजी और प्रशान्तीय देशों की आवाज़ और बुलन्द हुई है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि स्वर्णिग नन्दन ने उनके साथ अपने व्यक्तिगत अनुभव भी बाँटे थे जो कुछ उन्होंने अपनी ज़िन्दगी से सीखा था खास करके जब उन्होंने अंतराष्ट्रीय मंच पर सम्मान, विनम्रता और पेशेवर स्तर पर फीजी का प्रतिनिधित्व किया था। प्रधान मंत्री ने आगे कहा कि उन्हें उनकी सच्चाई और इमानदारी के लिए हमेशा याद रखा जायगा। तिरासी (83) वर्षीय राजदूत नन्दन की मृत्यु पिछले महिने की पच्चीस तारिख को निउयोक् अमरीका में एक छोटी बीमारी के बाद हुई।



अटेनी जेनरल, डा. टिज्जानी बान्दे को उपहार भेंट करते हुए चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

## अई जी ने और गहरा अंतराष्ट्रीय सहयोग की माँग की

वीरेंद्र लाल

जबकि फीजी और अन्य प्रशांत देश जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़े असर से जूझ रहे हैं, अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने और गहरा अंतराष्ट्रीय सहयोग की माँग की है।

इस महिने की शुरुआत में संयुक्त राष्ट्र जेनरल असेम्बली के प्रधान डाक्टर टिज्जानी मोहम्मद बान्दे ने फीजी का दौरा किया था और उनके साथ एक सम्मिलित समाचार सम्मेलन में बोलते हुए सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि मौसम के रंग में बदलाव होने से हमें और गहरा अंतराष्ट्रीय सहयोग की ज़रूरत पड़ेगी।

“फीजी एक मज़बूत समाज, जो आँधी तूफानों का सामना कर सके, बनाने में अगुवाई कर सकता है। हम दो हज़ार तीस (2030) अजेन्डा की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। और महिलाएं स्कूल में हैं, हम अपना सोशल वेल्फेयर नेटवर्क बढ़ा रहे हैं, सरकारी सेवाएं लोगों के नज़दीक लेकर जा रहे हैं”।

सईयद खईयूम ने बताया कि फीजी केवल अपने फायदे के लिए अल्पकालिक समाधान स्वीकार नहीं करेगा।

डाक्टर मोहम्मद बान्दे ने बताया कि उन्होंने हमारे समुद्र के स्वास्थ्य के महत्व पर काफी बातें की हैं।

“आने वाली अपनी सभाओं में हम फीजी और अन्य प्रशांत देशों के साथ नज़दीक से मिलकर काम करने की आशा करते हैं”।

डाक्टर मोहम्मद बान्दे ने कहा कि पिछले साल संयुक्त राष्ट्र के महा मंत्री एनटोनियो गुटेरेज़ की फीजी यात्रा काफी काम की रही और इस यात्रा के बाद से संयुक्त राष्ट्र अब फीजी के साथ करीब से मिलकर काम कर रहा है।

“दो हज़ार बीस (2020) फीजी के लिए बहुत ज़रूरी साल है जबकि फीजी इस साल स्वतंत्रता का पचासवां वर्ष (50th) मना रहा है जबकि संयुक्त राष्ट्र अपना पचहत्तरवां साल (75th) मना रहा है”।

डाक्टर मोहम्मद बान्दे बृहस्पतिवार पाँच मार्च को फीजी पहुँचे और रविवार आठ मार्च को वापस चले गए।

इस दौरान उन्होंने राष्ट्रपति मईजा जेनरल (Ret'd) चोची कोन्रोते से मुलाकात की और राष्ट्रपति भवन के प्रांगन में एक वृक्ष लगाया। उन्होंने फीजी स्कूल फोर द ब्लाइंड और सुवा मुनिसिपल मार्केट का दौरा किया और यू एस पी में यू एन 75 डायलॉग में भाग लिया।



सुरक्षा तथा विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु, अई पी एस सी के उच्च अधिकारियों और उच्च सरकारी अफसरों के साथ चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसिनईवालू

## अई पी एस सी टीम ने मंत्री सेरुईरातु से मुलाकात की

वीरेंद्र लाल

ऑस्ट्रेलिया पॅसिफिक सेकुरिटी कोलज (APSC) से एक दल ने इस महिने की शुरुआत में सुरक्षा तथा विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु से मुलाकात की।

इस सभा में मंत्री को बताया गया कि अई पी एस सी, किन क्षेत्रों में सुरक्षा मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर काम कर सकती है। इनमें फीजी में नेशनल

सेकुरिटी स्ट्रेटजी (NSS) लागू करना शामिल है। पिछले साल फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच हुए बुवाले पार्टनशिप के तहत ऐसा हो रहा है जिसका लक्ष्य है फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच सम्बंध मज़बूत करना।

अई पी एस सी, ऑस्ट्रेलियन नेशनल युनिवर्सिटी (ANU) केंब्रा में स्थित है और अई पी एस सी डायरेक्टर प्रोफेसा

मेग कीन तथा डेपटी डायरेक्टर असोसिएट प्रोफेसा रोबट स्टाएल्स, दो हज़ार अट्ठारह (2018) में नाउरू में पॅसिफिक आयलैंड फोरम लीडज़ द्वारा हस्ताक्षर किए गए बो डिक्लेरईशन के तहत, क्षेत्र में देशों के साथ काबिलियत बढ़ाने वाली योजनाओं पर काम कर रहे हैं।

मंत्री के अलावा अई पी एस सी के इन दोनों उच्च अधिकारियों ने

फीजी में अन्य उच्च अधिकारियों से मुलाकात की जिनका विचार प्रस्तावित एन एस एस में शामिल करना ज़रूरी है। एन एस एस का लक्ष्य नेशनल डिवेलपमेंट प्लेन से लिया गया है।

नेशनल सेकुरिटी एंड डिफेंस कौंसिल (NSDC) ने प्रस्तावित एन एस एस स्वीकार कर लिया है और अंतिम फैसले के लिए इसे मंत्री-मंडल के समक्ष रखा जाएगा।



## स्वास्थ्य का बढ़ावा देने के लिए मिलकर काम करें: राष्ट्रपति

"जबतक मैं राष्ट्रपति रहूँगा, जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होनी वाली बीमारियों को खत्म करने की दिशा में काम करता रहूँगा।" राष्ट्रपति मईजा जेनरल (Ret'd) चौथी कोचिंग, पिछले सप्ताह पैसिफिक हावा में साउथ पैसिफिक सोसाइटी ऑफ लाईफस्टाइल मेडिसिन के सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करते वक्त बोल रहे थे।

चित्र: फिलिक्स लेमिर्नईवाल्



## महिलाओं के लिए मौके उपलब्ध करें: मंत्री कुमार

व्यापार मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार का कहना है कि दो साल पहले आईशियन डिवेलपमेंट बैंक के सर्वेक्षण से पता चला कि: छत्तीस (36) प्रतिशत महिलाएं व्यापार शुरू करने के लिए फीजी नेशनल प्रॉविडेंट फंड से पैसे निकालती हैं जबकि चौवालिस (44) प्रतिशत पुरुष अपनी जमा पूंजी इस्तेमाल करते हैं। मंत्री फीजी चेम्बा ऑफ कॉमर्स द्वारा आयोजित एक कार्यशाला में बोल रही थीं।

चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन



## उदाहरण बनने की माँग: शिक्षा मंत्री

शिक्षा मंत्री रैजी अक्बर ने स्कूलों के मुख्य अध्यापकों तथा मैनेजमेंट से माँग की है कि वे एक उदाहरण बनकर ही स्कूलों का संचालन करें। लैतीका में पिछले सप्ताह संगम हेड ऑफ स्कूल तथा मैनेजमेंट सेमिनार में शिक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि मुख्य अध्यापकों को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए कि वे अपने अध्यापकों के साथ समय बिताने के अलावा कक्षा में भी समय बिताना।

चित्र: मेरयानी गोनेन्दुवा





# सभी फीजीवासियों को सेवा प्रदान की जाएगी

रेनल देव

सरकार ने छोटे शहरों में बसे फीजीवासियों को आशवासन दिया है कि उनको भी वहीं सेवाएं प्रदान की जाएंगी जो बड़े शहरों के निवासियों को मिलती हैं।

दूबू सिंगातोका में पिछले सप्ताह दूबू कोम्प्लेक्स का औपचारिक उद्घाटन करते हुए अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयट खईयूम ने कहा कि उनका काम है सभी के लिए ऐसा वातावरण पैदा करना और उदाहरण देना कि देशभर

में विकास कैसे हो रहा है। इस तरह का विकास मारो और सिंगातोका के आस-पास के इलाकों में हो रहा है।

“इसके फलस्वरूप आप वहाँ पर कई तरह के व्यापार देख सकते हैं। आपको दूर सफर करके नहीं जाना पड़ता है जिससे फियुल का खर्च कम होता है और कम फियुम इस्तेमाल करने से वातावरण को भी नुकसान नहीं होता। इससे समाज और देश दोनों की भलाई होती है।

अटेनी जेनरल ने स्थानीय पुँजीपतियों को देश पर भरोसा करने और लगातार पूँजी लगाने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी किसानों को तार लगाने के सामान प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: मेरियानी गोनेन्दुवा

## बुवा, मटुवाता और सिंगातोका के किसानों को तार लगाने के सामान मिले

वीरन्द्र लाल

बुवा, माटुवाता और सिंगातोका के छोटे किसानों को कृषि मंत्रालय की ओर से भेड़ बकरी पालन में मदद करने के लिए तार लगाने के सामान मिले हैं।

शीप डिवेलपमेंट प्रोग्राम के तहत इन किसानों की मदद की गई है ताकि वे आगे चलकर व्यापारिक किसान बन सकें।

लवांगा सिंगातोका में ग्यारह (11) किसानों को सहायता सामान देते हुए कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने कहा कि वे कृषि क्षेत्र का विस्तार करना चाहते हैं।

“इसका लक्ष्य है आपको छोटे किसान की श्रेणी से निकालकर, मध्यम और बड़े किसान की श्रेणी में रखना। हम इस क्षेत्र को बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। आपको जानवरों को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए तार लगाने की जरूरत है और इस दिशा में हम आपकी मदद कर रहे हैं। बकरे आप बेच सकते हैं लेकिन बकरियाँ न बेचें क्योंकि इनसे संख्या बढ़ेगी,” कृषि मंत्री ने कहा।

मंत्रालय ने किसानों को चारा प्रदान करने कि दिशा में मदद करने के बारे में भी कहा है।

बुवा और मटुवाता में छप्पन (56) किसानों को यह सामान दिए गए हैं।

सामान देते हुए कृषि मंत्री ने किसानों से अपनी ज़मीन का सही उपयोग करने की माँग की है।

“फीजी पचासी प्रतिशत (85%) डईरी समान आयात करता है और घरेलू खपत के लिए हम चावल आयात करते हैं जबकि यहाँ भारी मात्रा में ज़मीन खाली पड़ी है। मैं आप से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि खाली ज़मीन काम में लाकर देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को सहयोग करें। आपको खेती किसानों एक व्यापार की तरह करनी चाहिए। हमें मेहनत करनी होगी और उपलब्ध सम्पत्ति का सही उपयोग करना चाहिए। हम आपकी मदद करने आए हैं ताकि तार लगाकर आप और भेड़ बकरी पालें। कृषि व्यवसाय में आपकी दिलचस्पी के लिए हम आपको धन्यवाद दे रहे हैं”।

कृषि मंत्री ने किसानों से मेहनत करके आगे बढ़ने की माँग की है।



जिनिवा स्थित संयुक्त राष्ट्र में फीजी की स्थाई प्रतिनिधि राजदूत नज़हत शमीम के साथ है मानवाधिकार पर स्पेशल रेपाटुवा प्रोफेसा डेविड बोएड चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

## फीजी के दौरे पर स्पेशल रेपाटुवा ने मानवाधिकार पर रिपोर्ट दी

वीरन्द्र लाल

मानवाधिकार पर स्पेशल रेपाटुवा प्रोफेसा डेविड बोएड ने जिनिवा में हिउमन राईट्स कौंसिल को अपनी सलाह रिपोर्ट दी है।

रिपोर्ट में सुरक्षित, साफ और स्वस्थ वातावरण के अधिकार लागू करने पर ध्यान दिया गया है। इस रिपोर्ट में फीजी और नार्वे के अपने दौरे के बारे में भी उन्होंने लिखा है।

फीजी पर रिपोर्ट में प्रोफेसा बोएड ने बताया कि फीजी यह प्रयास कर रहा है कि वातावरण को जलवायु परिवर्तन के असर से बचाया जाए और कार्बन एमिशन रोकने पर फीजी काम कर रहा है।

“लेकिन फीजी पर जलवायु परिवर्तन से काफी असर पड़ा है। इस कारण से मानवाधिकार के भी उलंघन हुए हैं। वुनिदोंगालोवा में बढ़ता सुमद्र स्तर के कारण लोगों को खिसकना पड़ा है, वहाँ पीने वाला पानी नमकीन हो गया है और खेतों में समुद्र के पानी जाने से फसलें नष्ट हो गई हैं। दो हजार सोलह (2016) में समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन से फीजी में लोग मारे गए थे, काफी लोग बेघर हो गए थे और सम्पत्ति की भारी नुकसानी हुई थी”। प्रोफेसा बोएड ने फीजी और नार्वे से उनके सुझावों को लागू करने की माँग की है और बताया कि वे दोनों

देशों के साथ मिलकर काम करते रहेंगे।

जवाब में जिनिवा स्थित संयुक्त राष्ट्र में फीजी की स्थाई प्रतिनिधि राजदूत नज़हत शमीम खान ने स्पेशल रेपाटुवा प्रोफेसा बोएड को धन्यवाद दिया। उन्होंने बताया कि रिपोर्ट में यह कहा गया है कि फीजी के नेशनल एनवायरमेंट पोलिसी, कैसे असरकारक ढंग से लागू की जा सकती है। वातावरण लक्ष्य हासिल करने के लिए तकनीक विशेषज्ञ, मानव सम्पत्ति और आर्थिक योग्यताओं पर प्रोफेसा बोएड की चिन्ताओं पर भी उन्होंने गौर किया। राजदूत शमीम खान ने प्रोफेसा बोएड की टिप्पणियों का स्वागत किया है।

“हम प्रोफेसा बोएड से सहमत हैं कि मानवाधिकार का पालन करने से वातावरण सुरक्षित रहता है। फीजी में वातावरण पर जानकारी जनता को उपलब्ध है और निर्णय लेने में जनता को शामिल करके इस दिशा में और भी हासिल किया जा सकता है”।

राजदूत शमीम खान ने बताया कि फीजी की सरकार, वर्तमान और भविष्य की पीढ़ियों की सुरक्षा चाहती है। उन्होंने कहा कि वातावरण की देख-भाल में सरकार जनता को शामिल करना चाहती है जिससे वातावरण साफ और सुरक्षित रहे।

## मंत्री ने वाईदामुदामु/सकोदा में विकास योजना का आश्वासन दिया

वीरन्द्र लाल

वाईदामुदामु इनफोमल सेटलमेंट अपग्राइडिंग प्रोजेक्ट के बारे में विचार करने के लिए लोकल गवर्मेंट एंड कोमिउनिटी डिवेलपमेंट मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने इस महिने की शुरुआत में वाईदामुदामु का दौरा किया।

“एकत्रित की गई जानकारी के आधार पर हम यह कह सकते हैं कि दो सौ पचास (250) से ज्यादा इनफोमल सेटलमेंट्स हैं। हमारे पास अब

यह जानकारी है कि हर इनफोमल सेटलमेंट में कितने लोग रहते हैं”।

मंत्री कुमार ने वाईदामुदामु के लोगों को आश्वासन दिया कि सभी की भलाई के लिए इनफोमल सेटलमेंट्स में सरकार का काम जारी है।

लोकल गवर्मेंट मंत्री ने इस महिने की शुरुआत में सकोदा का भी दौरा किया और वहाँ रह रहे लोगों के साथ सकोदा इनफोमल सेटलमेंट अपग्राइडिंग प्रोजेक्ट के बारे में बात-चीत की।

“सरकार ने इस योजना के शुरूआती काम के लिए पैसा दिया है और स्कीम प्लेन तथा टोपोगफी प्लेन पर काम शुरू हो चुका है। टी एल टी बी ने स्कीम प्लेन पास कर दिया है। इसमें ढेर सारा काम है और कई प्रणालियों का पालन करना है। यह रातों रात तो नहीं होगा”।

मंत्री कुमार ने बताया कि अगले फायनैशियल इया में निर्माण-कार्य शुरू होने की आशा की जा रही है।

फिलहाल सरकार द्वारा ऐसे कदम उठाए गए हैं जिनसे फीजी में व्यापार करना सहज हो गया है।

पिछले सप्ताह फीजी-ऑस्ट्रेलिया बिज़नेस कौंसिल को संबोधित करती हुई व्यापार मंत्री कुमार ने बताया कि डिजिटल फीजी के तहत बदलाव लागू करने के लिए सरकार वॉल्ट बैंक ग्रुप और सिंगापो कोपरेशन एनटाप्राइज़ के साथ मिलकर काम कर रही है। “पिछले साल के मध्य में लॉन्च किया

गया बिज़फीजी पोर्टल, वन स्टोप शॉप हो गया है। एक सिंगल प्लेटफोम पर जानकारी उपलब्ध करने से हम चालिस प्रतिशत (40%) समय बचा सकते हैं। साधारण जानकारी के लिए व्यापारियों को इधर उधर भागने की जरूरत नहीं है”।

मंत्री कुमार ने बताया कि बिज़नेस लायसेन्सिंग में अब केवल दो प्रणाली हैं और अड्डालिस (48) घण्टों में लायसन्स मिल जाता है।

## एक डोलर बचाने की कीमत, एक डोलर कमाने से ज़्यादा है

रोनल देव

अपनी कमाई पर काबू रखना शायद आपके बस में न हो लेकिन खर्च पर काबू पाना आपके बस में है।

वोटावर्डज़ तथा वातावरण मंत्रालय ने एक अभियान शुरू किया है ताकि वातावरण की रक्षा करते हुए मंत्रालय के दफ्तरों में बचत की जाए।

मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्रा रेड्डी ने मंत्रालय के कर्मचारियों से बातें करते हुए कहा कि वातावरण की रक्षा करने के लिए बहुत ही साहसिक रास्ता है उर्जा की बचत करना इसलिए कर्मचारियों के आगे चुनौती रखी गई है कि वे मंत्रालय के हर एक दफ्तर में इसे लागू करें क्योंकि एक डोलर बचाने की कीमत एक डोलर कमाने से ज़्यादा है।

अभियान का विमोचन करते हुए मंत्री रेड्डी ने कर्मचारियों को होशियारी के साथ काम करते हुए बचत करने के महत्व समझाया।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने उदाहरण दिया कि संसाधनों का प्रयोग अच्छी तरह करने से मंत्रालय को कैसे सफलता मिली और कई योजनाओं को जल्द से जल्द पूरा किया जा सका। उन्होंने पुल बनाने वाली कुछ योजनाओं का जिक्र किया।

मंत्रालय देश भर में बावन (52) पुल बनाना चाहता है। खेतों वाले रास्तों पर मरम्मत करके पिछले साल कई मिलियन डोलर बचाए गए हैं।



होली के शुभ अवसर पर शिक्षा मंत्री रैजी अक्वर, रिषिकुल सनातन कोलज नसीनू के एक छात्र को रंग लगाती हुईं

चित्र: विलियामे तिकोटानी

## होली पर शिक्षा मंत्री का संदेश

वीरेंद्र लाल

सच्चाई एक न एक दिन सामने आयेगी। शिक्षा मंत्री रैजी अक्वर होली के अवसर पर अपने संदेश में बोल रही थी।

मंत्री का संकेत उस घटना की ओर था जहाँ एक छात्र को स्कूल में उसके साथियों ने पीटा था।

उन्होंने बताया कि गलत काम करके कोई कभी बच नहीं सकता। उन्होंने बताया कि पिछले साल घटी इस घटना से वह दुखी हुई हैं लेकिन लोगों को यह समझना चाहिए कि सच्चाई कभी न कभी प्रकट हो ही जायेगी।

मंत्री ने कहा कि फीजी को उसकी विविधता पर गर्व है और वह अपने समृद्ध विरासत को मान्यता देता है तथा प्रशांत क्षेत्र और अन्य देशों की

संस्कृतियों को गले लगाता है जिनसे हमारा जीवन समृद्ध बनता है। उन्होंने कहा कि साथ मिलकर रहने का यही मतलब है, ऐसे विविधता को अपनाना जो बच्चे अपने साथ स्कूल लाते हैं।

शिक्षा मंत्री ने भारतीय संस्थाओं द्वारा संचालित स्कूलों को होली मनाने के लिए बधाई दी। इन स्कूलों में होली के दिन छुट्टी रहती है। होली के दिन लोग साथ मिलकर फाग गाते हैं, खुशियाँ मनाते हैं, मिठाईयाँ बाँटते हैं और एक दूसरे पर रंग छोड़ते हैं। वे अपने गले शिकवे भूलकर एक रंग में रंग जाते हैं।

मंत्री ने कहा कि फीजी जैसे बहु-सांस्कृतिक, बहु-जातिए और बहु-भाषी देश में हम एक दूसरे के साथ प्यार बाँटते हैं और शांति से एक दूसरे के साथ

एकता में रहते हैं जोकि एक स्थिर राष्ट्र के लिए बहुत ज़रूरी है। मंत्री ने कहा कि ऐसे त्योहारों में बच्चे खुलकर अपनी पहचान दर्शाते हैं और हमारी अद्वितीय विरासत की समृद्धि और विविधता दिखाते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि यह शिक्षा के दर्शन का प्रतीक है जो यह मानता है कि शिक्षा मूल्यों पर आधारित है। उन्होंने कहा कि इन त्योहारों से जुड़ी कहानियों से बच्चों का ज्ञान भण्डार बढ़ता है और वे समझने लगते हैं कि क्यों कुछ लोग यह त्योहार मनाते हैं। होली का त्योहार गिरमिट के ज़माने से फीजी में मनाया जा रहा है। इस त्योहार का यह संदेश है कि बुराई पर अच्छाई की जीत होगी, असत्य पर सत्य की विजय होगी, अन्याय पर न्याय की जीत होगी और ईश्वर सदा अपने भक्तों की रक्षा करता है।

## सरकारी कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षण

वीरेंद्र लाल

सरकारी मंत्रालयों से उच्च सरकारी कर्मचारियों ने सूवा में तीन दिवसिए एक प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया।

इस प्रशिक्षण का लक्ष्य था उच्च अधिकारियों को हुनर प्रदान करना ताकि वे अंतराष्ट्रीय मंच पर फीजी की प्राथमिकताओं को आगे बढ़ाएं और क्षेत्रिए तथा अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर फीजी का प्रतिनिधित्व करें।

इस प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में भाग लेने वालों को संबोधित करती हुई सिविल सेविस की स्थाई सचिव सुज़न किरण ने कहा कि कूटनीति की गहराई समझने और एहसान मानने के बारे में समझाने के लिए इस कार्यक्रम की आयोजना की गई थी।



एक प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में भाग ले रहे उच्च सरकारी कर्मचारी, सिविल सेविस की स्थाई सचिव सुज़न किरण और जापान में फीजी के राजदूत इसिकेली मताईतोंगा के साथ  
चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

“देश के प्रतिनिधि के नाते यह ज़रूरी है कि आपके पास ज़रूरी हुनर हों ताकि आप देश की राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताओं को अंतराष्ट्रीय मंच पर असरकारक रूप से आगे ले जा सकें। आपको उपलब्ध सम्पति और मौकों के अंदर ही देश की दिलचस्पी को विश्व मंच तक

बढ़ाना होगा।”  
स्थाई सचिव किरण ने बताया कि प्रशिक्षण में भाग लेने से वे अच्छे मध्यस्त बनेंगे और दूसरे दलों से अच्छी तरह से बात-चीत करके फीजी के लिए और मौके उपलब्ध करेंगे।  
“आप फीजी की घरेलू स्थिति

अच्छी तरह से समझेंगे और फीजी की विदेशी नीतियों को महत्व देंगे। इस तरह से फीजी का प्रशांत और दुनिया के अन्य देशों के साथ सम्बंध मज़बूत होगा। आप देश की आर्थिक, सामाजिक और राजनैतिक विकास के बारे में भी जानेंगे।”  
स्थाई सचिव किरण ने सभी तीस

प्रतिभागियों से मौके से ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा लाभ उठाने और जानकारी बाँटने की माँग की है।  
इस प्रशिक्षण की व्यवस्था करने के लिए उन्होंने जापान में फीजी के राजदूत इसिकेली मताईतोंगा को धन्यवाद दिया।

“स्वास्थ्य का बढ़ावा देने  
के लिए मिलकर काम करें” 2

फीजी के द्वीप पर स्पेशल रेपाटुवा  
ने मानवाधिकार पर रिपोर्ट दी 6

होली पर शिक्षा मंत्री  
का संदेश 7

आई जी ने और गहरा अंतराष्ट्रीय  
सहयोग की मांग की 3

# फीजी दर्पण

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## कोविड 19 के जवाब में बजट

वीरन्द्र लाल

कोरोना वायरस महामारी के कारण सरकार अगले सप्ताह एक सप्लिमेंट्री बजट की घोषणा करेगी।

अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने बताया कि इस महामारी के कारण दुनिया भर में हो रही आर्थिक गिरावट का सामना करने के लिए ऐसा किया जायेगा। इस मिनी बजट की घोषणा छव्वीस मार्च को की जाएगी।

सईयद खईयूम ने व्यापारियों से सरकार के साथ मिलकर काम करने की मांग की है ताकि देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर इस महामारी का कम से कम असर पड़े और अर्थ-व्यवस्था को सही दिशा में आगे बढ़ाया जा सके।

मिनी बजट के कारण संसद की बैठक टाली गई है। संसद की बैठक अब जब छः अईप्रल को जारी होगी, तब इस मिनी बजट पर बहस की जायेगी।

इस वायरस के कारण दुनिया भर में आर्थिक मंदी छा गई है जबकि काफी देशों ने चीन से सामान आयात करना बन्द कर दिया है जहाँ से इस वायरस की शुरुआत हुई है।

नवीनतम आँकड़ों के अनुसार, ऐसा अनुमान है कि इस वायरस के कारण विश्व की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को दो ट्रिलियन डॉलर से ज्यादा का नुकसान होगा।

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने बताया कि दो हजार आठ में ग्लोबल फायनेंशियल कायसिस के बाद से विश्व अर्थ-व्यवस्था को इस तरह का खतरा नहीं हुआ है।

“फीजी पर इसका असर कम करने के इरादे से मिनी बजट की घोषणा की जायेगी। खर्च पर पुनः विचार करने के लिए हम साल खत्म होने का इंतज़ार नहीं कर सकते। हमें यह देखना होगा कि फीजियन तौर तरीका जारी रहे जिसमें हमारे लोगों के स्वास्थ्य, उनकी नौकरी, उनके व्यापार और सुरक्षित भोजन शामिल है”।

सईयद खईयूम ने बताया कि इस वायरस का सब से बुरा असर टुरिज़म व्यवसाय पर पड़ रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि वायरस फैलने के डर से लोग इधर उधर नहीं जा रहे हैं और फलस्वरूप टुरिस्टों की संख्या गिरती जा रही है। टुरिज़म हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था को सब से ज्यादा योगदान देता है और टुरिज़म में गिरावट के कारण राष्ट्रीय अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर विपरीत असर पड़ रहा है।

अटेनी जेनरल के अनुसार हमारी राष्ट्रीय विमान कम्पनी पर भी इस वायरस के कारण बुरा असर पड़ रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि फीजी ऐरवाइज़ को काफी अंतराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों को बन्द करना पड़ा है।

सईयद खईयूम ने बताया कि अर्थ-व्यवस्था बनाए रखने के लिए सरकार से जो कुछ बन पायेगा, वह करेगी।

एक सौ अड़तालिस (148) देशों में एक लाख सड़सठ हजार उन्नीस (168,019) से ज्यादा लोग इस वायरस के शिकार हुए हैं और इसे वैश्विक महामारी घोषित कर दी गई है।

यह बीमारी फीजी न पहुँचे, इस कारण से चीन, इटली, इरान और साउथ कोरिया से फीजी आने वाले यात्रियों पर प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया गया है। देश के सभी पोर्ट्स ऑफ एन्ट्री पर स्क्रीनिंग बढ़ा दी गई है।

प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण ने बताया कि ज़रूरत पड़ने पर और देशों से आने वाले यात्रियों पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाया जाएगा।

# Noda Viti



Sa keke tu mai dakudra na lalai kei irau na turaga oqori e dua na waqa ni saravanua ka ra marautaka na gone ni Yasawa me dua na kedrai itaba. Na yabaki 2019 na yabaki vinaka duadua ni saravanua e Viti ni levu duadua kina era gade mai kina ki Viti. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

## Teki sausau ena SARAVANUA 894,389 na vulagi e ra gole mai e Viti ena yabaki 2019

### SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Sa mai tekia toka e dua na isausau levu ni saravanua o Viti ena yabaki sa oti 2019 ni levu duadua kina na vulagi saravanua era gade mai kina e noda vanua. Rawata talega kina o Viti na ilavo levu duadua ni saravanua ni vakatauvatani kei na ilavo e rawata ena veiyabaki ena maliwa ni 2012 kina 2019. Ena 2019 a qoqota kina o Viti na ilavo levu duadua ena ikatolu ni vula 4 oya e \$648.90 na milipni na dola ni Viti. Na isausau sa mai tekia toka ogo o Viti ena yabaki sa oti era a siko mai kina e 894,389 na

vulagi saravanua. Sa mai cavu kina na isausau ni yabaki 2018 oya e 870,309 na vulagi saravanua. Sa mai tekia kina o Viti e dua na isausau vou ni sa tubu ena 2.8 na pasede na iwiliwili ni vulagi saravanua ni vakatauvatani kei na iwiliwili ni yabaki sa oti. Levu taudua na noda vulagi saravanua era gole mai Ositerelia oya 367,020 ka tarava yani o ira na noda vulagi saravanua mai na vanua ni o vulavula balavu o Aotearoa se o Niusiladi. Tubu tikoga na levu ni saravanua era gole mai Japani ena veiyabaki. Yabaki sa oti atubu ena 24.9 na pasede.

Yabaki sa oti talega e yabaki e lewe levu duadua kina na vulagi saravanua mai Niusiladi (205,998) kei Amerika (96,968) ena dua na yabaki. Kacivaka na Tabana ni Wili Lewenivanua se Fiji Bureau of Statistics ni laurai na iwiliwili ena dua na siga e tautauvata ni 1,006 na vulagi ni Ositerelia ena dua na siga ka 564 na vulagi saravanua ni Niusiladi. Ni dikevi na inaki ni nodra veisiko mai e ku-nei ni o ira na vulagi era mai vakayagataka nodra gauna ni gade era lewe 655,247. E ra lewe 92,026 era mai sikovi ira na nodra itokani kei na dui wekadra. O ira na veisiko mai vaka bisinisi era lewe

29,882. E ra lewe 116,232 e duatani tale na vu nodra veisiko mai ki Viti. Tubu ena 2,336 o ira veisiko mai ena gauna nodra gade. Tubu talega na levu ni saravanua era mai sikovi ira nodra tokani se wekadra ena 11,585. E ra lewe levu duadua na vulagi saravanua era veisiko mai ena vula ko Jiulai oya e 96,376 na vula e levu duadua kina na saravanua era yaco kina ki Viti. Tarava sara o Okosita e 88,834 kei na vula o Jiune era lewe 85,652 kina na noda vulagi saravanua.



Sa sainitaka tiko oqori na ivola ni lolosi me baleti Satya Nandan na mata nei Viti kina Matabose kei vuravura ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena vale ni Tabacakacaka e Suva.  
 iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

# Yavutaka o Nandan noda EEZ: PM

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**L** OLOSITAKA o Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama na nona sa mai takali e dua na tuwawa ni veimataki nei Viti e vuravura o Satya Nandan na noda mata vakacegu kina Matabose kei Vuravura.

“O koya na iverseu ni noda mata kina Mabose kei Vuravura ni oti noda tugalala ena 1970. E iverseu ni lewenivanua yalodina ni Viti ka dua na luve ni Pasifika dokai.”

“E na dau nanumi ena ivolatukutuku ni vei-gauna e Viti na nona valataka na wasawasa nei Viti (EEZ) ena Matabose kei Vuravura.”

“E na mataka ni tugalala nei Viti ena 1970 sa rabailevu kina na iyalayala ni wasawasa (EEZ) nei Viti ena 50,000 na maile vakarivirivi.”

“E na 1980 vakacaca sa vaka 20 taki na levu ni noda wasawasa sa robota e 1 na milioni na maile vakarivirivi ni noda vuravura.”

“Sa vakadeitaka kina ni dua na wasawasa levu wili tiko e Viti.”

“E vakavuna saraga na kaukauwa ni veitalanoa nei Satya Nandan na vakadeitaki ni noda wasawasa,”kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Kuria o PM Bainimarama ni a liutaka talega o Nandan na vakayagataki ni UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ka yavutaki na taqomaki ni noda wasawasa me yacova mai ni kua.”

Kaya o Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni nona mai takali o Nandan esa vakayalia o Viti e dua nona tuwawa ni veimataki.

“Sa levu sara na lesoni vinaka e dau vakavulica vei au o Satya ena veiyabaki sa oti.”

Vakausivi ena noqu dau matataki Viti ena buturara ni vauravura au na dau nanumi koya ni noqu dau ni vakasala vuku.”

“E dua na dau veiqaravi kina lewei Viti yalo vinaka ka matalia na nona yalo dina.”

“E kune votu mai na iverseu ni gauna e biuta

kina ena teveli ni Matabose kei Vuravura o Viti na nona vakatutu,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“E matataka na noda vanua ena vakarokoroko kei na itagede ni veiqaravi cecere ka idusidusi ki vei ira na dau vakaitavi ena veimataki nei Viti. E dau valataki keda sara vakaukauwa na veivanuayanu lalai ka vakadavora na yavu mera doka kina na lewei vuravura na itutu nei Viti edaidai.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni o Ambassador Nandan e caramaka na sala ni veimataki nei Viti me rawa ni yaco noda vuravura me vanua uasivi cake. Sa kaukauwa cake na domoda na veivanua ena Pasifika eda vakavinavinaka sara kina vakalevu vua.”

“Na voqa ni domoda sa siviti Suva na vanua e rogo yani kina sa yaco sara ki Niu Yoka. Ka sa voqa yani ena tutu e va ni noda vuravura.”

## Uqeti na vuli vinaka e Nasinu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**E** RA vakauqeti ira na qasenivuli ena koronivuli ni vakabauta vaka mu-solomani era tiko mai Nasinu na Minisita ni Vuli, Rosy Akbar mera kua walega ni tokoni na dua na drau na pasede na pasi vei ira na gonevuli ia mera qacoya na pasi vinaka ni gone.

Oqori mera kua walega ni pasitaka nodra veitarogi me vaka na inaki ni veitarogi ia mera raica ni ra vakila na gone na bibi ni nodra pasi ena kena raici na vuli ena yaloyalo levu.

Oya nira na rawa ni ra toso kina vuli torocake ka san a rawa kina mera dua na tamata vinaka ka lewenivanua e dau muria vinaka na lawa ni vanua ka lomana na wekadra ka qarava vinaka na nodra bula.

Vosa tiko vakabibi ko Minisita Akbar baleta ni lewe vuqa na koronivuli ena veiyasai Viti era sa qacoya walega mera pasi na nodra gone vuli mera dewa yani ena kalasi e tarava se kina vuli torocake ka mani sega ni vakaibalebale vinaka tu vei ira na gone oqori na vu ni nodra tuberi vinaka kei na nodra gadrevi mera vuli mera pasi.

Tomana ko Minisita Akbar ni bolebole e sotava tiko na tabana ni vuli vei ira na gone vuli e tiko saraga ena ligai ira na qasenivuli, tubutubu kei ira na gonevuli. Na iwali oqori esega ni tiko ena tabana ni lawa se ena nodra mokuti ira na gone baleta ni sa vakatabui vakalawa.

Ia na iwali oqori etiko ga ena nodra cakacaka vata.

## Moce mada Teleni

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**E** RA sinaita yani na vale ni lotu Wesele e Suva na Centenary ena ika 10 ni siga ni Maji e sivia na drau na lewenivanua, veitokani vakacakacaka, kei na veiwekani voleka ena lotu ni vakasuka qele vua na noda mata ni Pasifika sa mai vakacegu o Esala Teleni.

E ra tiko talega ena lotu ni veitalatala oya na turaga na iliuliu ni Matanitu ko Voreqe Bainimarama. Tiko talega ena lotu ni vakasukaqele oya na Vunilawa o Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei ira na lewe ni Bose Lawa, ira na lewe ni Tabana ni Veitaqomaki, Mata ni Veivanuatani kei na Sipika ni Palimedi o Ratu Epeli Nailatikau.

E nona vosa ni lolosi ena gauna ni lotu e kaya kina o Paraiminisita



Sa mai talaci vakadua e dua na dau ni veiqaravi yalo dina vei Viti ka mata vakacegu ni Pasifika ko Esala Teleni. E ra duavata kei iratou na nona veitinani na nona itokani vakacakacaka ni Matanitu ena kedra itaba oqo ena siga ni vakasuka qele mai Lovonilase e Suva. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Bainimarama ni Ambassador Teleni e levu na vanua e sa veiqaravi oti kina.

Oya ena tabana ni veitaqomaki, tabana ni ovisa kei na tabana ni veimataki nei Viti.

“E na nona bula ni veiqaravi e Viti, o Esala e vakaliuca na ivakarau. Au sa rogoca oti ni tukuni ni kevaka o via kila vinaka na nona ivakarau ni bula e dua na tamata ia meda raica n aka e vakayacora

ena gauna ni dredre ka sega ena gauna ni rawarawa.”

“Na ivakarau e vakaliuca oya e vakadinadinataka kina ni cibitaka ni dua na luvei Viti yalodina.”

“E vakadinadinataka ni duri kau-

kauwa tu ena yasana e gadrevi kina na Viti ni duavata,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

E se bula tiko na nona lewe ni vale o Mere Latu kei rau na luveno o Josefa kei Rebecca Teleni.



# Namaki ituvatuva vakailavo ni COVID-19

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**S**A namaki me na kacivaka na Minisita ni Bulavakailavo ka Vunilawa talega o Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena ika 26 ni Maji 2020 e dua na ituvatuva vakailavo meda qaqarauni yani kina ena vuku ni matetaka na *Coronavirus se Covid-19*

Kaya ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum ni sa tagutuva o Viti na nodra veisiko mai na

gole mai Jaina. Itali, kei na Ceva kei Korea ka toroicake na itagede ni nodra dikevi na tamata era gole mai ki Viti ena veivanua ni curuvanua me vaka na rara ni waqavuka lelevu kei na wavu lelevu.

“Keitou sa vakailavotaka na kena voli eso na iyaya ni tataqomaki me tokona noda qaqarauni oka kina na voli mai ni thermal scanners kara sa vakadaberi ena noda rara ni waqavuka levu.”

Kaya o Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum ni sega ni sa rui sivia na vakararavi nei Viti kina makete ni Jaina ka tiko tale e vica na makete ni saravanua ena vakabibitaki na kunei ni iwalewale eso me tokona na saravanua ka veivakauqeti vei ira na dau saravanua.

“Ni yalodei tiko ni keitou na laveta na veisala kece ni tubu keitou rawata me dei tiko kina na noda bula vakailavo, mera caka-caka tikoga kina noda lewe ni vanua, ka

me vakacagau tikoga kina na caka bisinisi, vakaliuci tikoga kina na nodra bula vinaka na noda lewenivanua,” kaya o Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum.

Sa dola tiko na katuba vei keimuni na gadreva mo ni solia yani nomuni vakatutu me baleta na ituvatuva vakailavo vou oqo moni vakauta yani kina email [BudgetConsultation@economy.gov.fj](mailto:BudgetConsultation@economy.gov.fj).

## Vakacerecerei na veiliutaki nei Viti ena bose ni wasawasa



Na Peresitedi ni UN o Dr Tijjani Muhammad-Bande matai ena mawi kei na Vunilawa o Sayed-Khaiyum kei na rua na vakaillesilesi ena soqo ni nona kidavaki o Dr Tijjani.

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**V**AKACERECEREA ko Peresitedi ni Matabose kei Vuravura Dr Tijjani Muhammad-Bande na veiliutaki nei Viti ena boseba baleta na wasawasa.

Kaya o Dr Tijjani ni sa namaka tiko na UN me cakacaka vata kei Viti ena vei ulutaga eso ni wasawasa.

“Na taro levu duadua ena yabaki 2020 sai koya na cava na ibolebole e bole kina o Viti me baleta na taqomaki ni veika e tu wavoliti keda ena loma ni 50 na yabaki ni nomuni tugalala.”

E vakatalega kina na ka e tukuna na Paraiminisita Vakatawa ka Vunilawa o Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

“Ni marautaka o Viti na yabaki 50 ni noda tugalala e marautaka vakakina na Matabose kei Vuravura na nona yabaki 75, na yabaki 2020 sa yabaki ni nodrau cavuisausau ruarua.”

“Sa matata eke ni nodrau cakacaka vata esa tadolova yani e dua na gauna vou.”

“Vakatalega kina nodrau sa vakadigova eso na gaunisala vou erawa ni solia kina nona veitokoni na Matabose kei Vuravura.”

“Me rawa ni tokoni kina na noda sasaga ni veivakatorocaketaki lewai matau e Viti kei na Pasifika raraba,” tukuna o Sayed -Khaiyum.

Rau veitalanoataka na iliuliu e rua na veisala eso e rawa ni vakayagataki me taqomaki kina na veikabula e loma ni wasawasa.

### Cabe vua noda Peresitedi na Peresitedi ni UN

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**C**ABE vua na turaga na Peresitedi ni noda vanua o Jioji Konusi Konrote na Peresitedi ni Matabose kei Vuravura o Dr. Tijjani Muhammad – Bande ka lai vakaraitaka na nona veidokai ni sa butuka mai na noda vanua lomani o Viti.

Gauna talei talega vua ni rawa ni laki tea e dua na vu ni iri-masei ena itikotiko ni Matanitu.

A taura talega na gauna me sarava kina na loma ni vale kei na kena tautuba ka marautaka me sainitaka na ivola ni vulagi me vakatakila vei ira na qai muri mai ni sa mai butuka oti na noda vanua.

Mai siga tolu voli e Viti o Dr. Tijjani ka vica na usutu ni nona veisiko me vaka na draki veisau kei na noda rawa ni bula mai ena kena revurevu, na taqomaki vina-ka ni veikabula e loma ni noda wasawasa, na nodra vakaukauwataki na itabagone keina Marama.

Vakauasivi na noda tokoni e Viti meda rawata na tekete ni Veivakatorocaketaki lewai matau ena yabaki 10 oqo.



Totoka na kedrau itaba na Peresitedi ni Matabose kei Vuravura ko Dr. Tijjani Muhammad – Bande kei na Peresitedi ni noda vanua ko Jioji Konrote ena tikotiko ni Peresitedi ena Vale Levu e Suva.  
ITaba: NANISE NEIMILA



### Qaqaco na sema nei Viti kei na UN

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

“NONA sikovi Viti mai na Peresitedi ni Matabose kei Vuravura (UN) e vakatakila ni qaqaco ni veiwekani nei Viti kei matabose cecere oya.”

Vakaoqori e dua na mala ni vosa ni noda Paraiminisita Vakatawa ka Vunilawa talega o Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum.

“Na veisiko oqo e vakadeitaka tiko mai kina na Matabose kei Vuravura ni rokova na cau nei Viti kina veisaututaki kei na valuti ni revurevu ni draki veisau ena noda vuravura ni kua.”

“Sa dolava talega vei Viti na katuba ni bula vuavuai ena veisiga ni mataka,” kaya na Vunilawa.

E na nona vosa tiko ni veikidavaki vua na Peresitedi ni Matabose kei Vuravura o Dr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, a kaya kina na Vunilawa ni kila vinaka o Viti ni sega ni rawa ni vorata duadua na dredre ni draki veisau.

Kaya na Vunilawa ni levu na bolebole e gadreva tiko kina o Viti na veitokoni ni Matabose kei Vuravura me vaka na draki veisau, na vakacacani ni veikabula e wasawasa, na cakacaka vata vakakawata-mata, kei na taqomaki ni noda bula vakailavo ena noda vakalailaitaka na voli iyau mai vanuatani kei nodra via mai vakataubuilavo.

“Meda qarauna na levu ni nod veiwekani kei na veimatanitu me rawa ni yaco na vuravura eda bula tiko kina oqo me uasivi cake,” kaya na Vunilawa



## Dolava ko PM Bainimarama na rumu ni dikevi COVID-19

Voreqe Bainimarama na isevu ni rumu ni vakadidikebaleta na matetaka na COVID-19 se coronavirus e Tamavua. Mo sarava e vica na kena itaba era toka oqori.  
ITaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU



## Moce mada Teleni

Sa mai talaci vakadua ena ibulubulu mai Lovoniase na noda mata vakacegu kina Pasifika ka Komisina ni Ovisa vakacegu talega o Esala Teleni. Sa tiko oqori eso na kena itaba mo sarava sara yani.  
ITaba: NANISE NEIMILA



## Dolava na vuli bulabula vinaka ko Peresitedi Konrote

A vulagi dokai na turaga na Peresitedi o Jioji Konrote ena soqo ni Tabacakaka ni Bula ka kilai me Multisectoral Health & Wellness Forum.  
ITaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU





# Qaqarauni ena COVID-19



Sa tosoya cake o Viti nona qaqarauni ena noda rara ni waqavuka vei ira na dau curuvana mai meda taqomaki kina na mai na Covid 19. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

## SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**N**A Matanitu o Viti esa yadrava vinaka tiko na veitauvi ni matetaka na Covid-19 se coronavirus.

Sa vakalevutaka na iwiliwili ni vanua e vuravura e vakatabui nodra curu vanua mai ki Viti.

Oya ni vo e 14 na siga ni bera ni yacova na tiki ni siga era lalawataka mera yaco Mai kina ki Viti.

Me tekivu ena ika 7 ni siga ni vula o Maji Sana vakatabui nodra curu vanua mai ki Viti na vulagi era lako mai Jaina, Itali, Irani kei na ceva kei Korea ni vo e 14 na siga me ra yacova na siga era via butuki Viti mai kina.

Ko ira kece na gole mai vanua tani era sa dau ilovi taumada ena hand held scanner ni bera ni ra

curu mai ki Viti.

Sa lalawataka me na vakarau vakayagataka na thermal scanners ena noda rara ni waqavuka.

Sa sivia e 95 na udolu na lewei vuravura e na 85 na vanua vuravura eda tauvi it's na Covid-19.

Me yacova Mai na ika i tekitekivu ni vula oqo se sega ni dua e mate e Viti ena Covid-19.

O ni sa kerei vabibi na lewei Viti mo ni kakua ni veisiko ki Jaina, ceva kei Korea, Itali kei Irani. Sa kerei tale ga na lewei ninoda vanua ko ni veisiko ki vavalagi mo ni qarauna vinaka sara na nomuni bula me kakua ni dewa vei kemuni na mate Covid-19. Ni savata vinaka na ligamuni ena sovu kei na wai. Kakua ni tara na matamu, ucu mu se gusumu kevaka o se bera ni savata na ligamu. Kakua ni

tarai ira era tauvi ira tiko mate-taka oqo.

Sa cakacaka vakavoleka tiko na noda matanitu kei na veikabani ni waqavuka me ra kakua ni vodo mai na vulagi e siqemi se vakabauti ni tauvi ira tiko na mate oqo. Sa wanonova matua tale tiko ga na noda matanitu na dewa ni mate oqo e vuravura ka rawa ni tosoya cake na no noda qaqarauni ke gadrevi vaka kina. E na itukutuku tale eso me baleta na mate oqo na Covid-19 me da vakararavi vakatabakidua ki na vei tukutuku e tabaka na World Health Organization (WHO) kei na noda matanitu.

Na itukutuku tale eso ko na rawa ni raica e na monalivaliva na <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>.

## Tei oti e 192,969 na kau: Naiqamu



Sa tea tiko oqori o Minisita ni Veikau ko Psea Naiqamu edua na kau mana koro ko Naviago, Lautoka, ka veitokoni ena imawi na turaga na Tui Vitogo kei na dua na tale na lewe ni koro ena imatau.

## SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**V**AKARAITAKA vei ira mai Naviago kei Vitogo e Lautoka na Minisita ni Veikau o Osea Naiqamu ni yacova mai ni kua esa tea oti na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau e 192,969 na veikau.

Vakananumi ira na lewe ni koro na minisita nisa tekivutaki na cakacaka ni tei kau ena loma ni bai ni Peresitidi.

“Au sa uqeti kemuni moni tea na kau kecaga na kau vuata meda kania, na kau me kauvaro, na kau me buka, na kau me vakarurugi

keda mai na katakata ni matanisi-ga kei na kau me tarova na sisi ni qele.”

“Taumada nanuma na Peresitidi ena yabaki sa oti meda teivaki e 4 na milioni na kau ena 4 na yabaki.”

“Yabaki sa oti ena bosa ni draki veisau mai Amerika sa laki vakaraitaka kina na turaga na iliuli ni noda matanitu ni sana tosoya cake o Viti na nona takete kina na 30 na milioni na kau me teivaki ena loma ni 15 na yabaki,” kaya o Minisita Naiqamu.

“Na ituvatuva ni 30 na milioni sa tekivutaki ena yabaki oqo.”

Kaya vei ira mai Naviago o Minisita Naiqamu ni levu duadua na qele eda taukena na itaukei e Viti kasa dodonu kina meda loma levu ka teivaka na noda qele ena veikau.

“Na kau e teivaki ena nomudou tikoga na itaukei ni qele.”

“Oqo e dua na gauna vinaka e veitokoni kina vei keda na Matanitu meda teivaka vakalevu na kau,” kaya o Minisita Naiqamu.

Sa uqeti ira talega mai Naviago kei Vitoga o Minisita Naiqamu mera tea vakalevu na kau na yasi ni sau levu ena kena makete edaidai.



Sa vakarau dolava tiko oqori na turaga na iliuli ni noda Matanitu ko Voreqe Bainimarama e dua na vale ni qasenivuli vou mai Navuakece District School e Naitasiri. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

## Talei nodra vale na qasenivuli e Navuakece

### SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**E**na siga Moniti na ika 2 ni siga ni Maji 2020 ena dua na siga guigilecavi dredre vei ira na qasenivuli, gonevuli keina itubutubu ni koronivuli mai Navuakece.

Oya ena nona sa lai dolava yani kina na turaga na iliuli ni Matanitu o Josia Voreqe Bainimarama na veivale vou eso ni qasenivuli ka tara vou na matanitu.

“E na sega beka ni yacova na milioni na isau ni nodra vale ni qasenivuli ena loma ni tikina, ia au kila vinaka na bibi ni nodra vakavaletaki vakavinaka na qasenivuli.”

“E na sega saka ni rawa nida biuta edua na isau vakailavo ena nodra tiko vinaka na lewenivanua vakabibi ena nodra bula na qasenivuli kei na itavi levu ni veivakatavulici e vakacolati saka vei ira. Ni na raica ni tara sara ena ivakatagedegede vinaka mera taleitaka na qasenivuli na kena ta-

wani.”

“Oqo e dua talega na sala me vakavinavinakataka kina na Matanitu na nodra solia tu na nodra gauna na turaga kei na marama qasenivuli,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Eda vakavinaka saka e Navuakece na bibi ni kena tara ena itagede vinaka na vale vakabibi ni oti na cagilaba o Winisitoni ena 2016.”

“Na cagilaba kaukauwa o Winisitoni ena 2016 a mai ravuta e va na vale ni qasenivuli e Navuakece District School mai Naitasiri.”

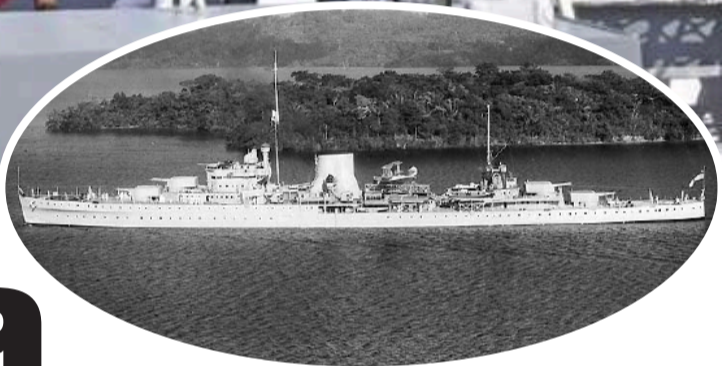
“Ia na Matanitu sa vulica me tara vou na vale me tara vakaukauwa ka tara ena itagede era ni vorata kina na cagilaba kaukauwa ena yaco mai,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Na Tikina o Navuakece e tiko kina e 6 na koro o Navutu, Nawaqabena, Korovou, Vatuili, Delaiwamale kei Waisa.

Na icavuti ni turaga e kea na Vunivalu e Navuakece.



Totoka dina na manua vou na 'RFNS Savenaca' ka rawa ni ko raica eke ni ra tucake tu kina na lewe ni mataivalu e wai ni Viti kei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama mai Perth e Ositerelia. **TABA E LOMA:** Na manua na HMSNZF Leander ka bale mate kina ko Savenaca Naulumatua ena karua ni valu levu mai na Yatu Solomoni. **iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI**



# Manua vou na 'RFNS Savenaca'

## SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAVINAVINAKA vakalevu ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kina Matanitu mai Ositerelia ena isolisoli levu, na manua vou ni Viti ka yacana na 'RFNS Savenaca'.

A tiko mai Ositerelia ena vica na siga sa oti o PM Bainimarama me lai ciqoma na manua vou oqo.

Na 'RFNS Savenaca' e toka ena itagede ka vakatokai me Gurdian Class Patrol Boat ka tiko na kena totolo ena 37 na kilomita ena 1 na aua.

Na levu ni kena kai waqa e tiko ena 23. E rua na kena idini diesel ka tiko na kena kaukauwa ena 4000 na kilowatts.

E matalia na kena idini ni lailai na kena kana waiwai.

Na balavu ni 'RFNS Savenaca' e 29.5 na mita.

Na isevu ni manuwa vata oqo ni Ositerelia a soli ki Papua Niukini ena Veverueri ni yabaki sa oti na kena ikarua a soli kina Tabacakacaka ni Ovisa mai Tuvalu ena Evereli ni yabaki sa oti.

Na manua vou ni Viti oqo na 'RFNS Savenaca' e vakatokayaca vua edua na cauravou ni Yasawa yaloqaqa o Savenaca Naulumatua a bale mate e na gauna a kacabote kina na manua ni Niusiladi na HMSNZF Leander ena ikarua ni ivalu levu ena ivalu mai Kalobangara mai na Yatu Solomoni. E bale mate vata o Savenaca kei ira na lewe 25 tale na lewe ni mataivalu e wai ni Niusiladi.

Era mai bale mate na lewe ni HMSNZF Leander ena gauna a vanataka mai kina e dua na topita na kai Japani ena mataka caca ni ika 13 ni Jiulai 1943.

E rau lewe rua na cauravou ni Viti rau a lewena voli na manua ni Niusiladi na HMSNZF Leander

erau a bale mate ena siga oya o Savenaca Naulumatua mai Yasawa kei Timo Puamau mai Lau.

Ko irau na cauravou yalo qaqa ni Viti oqo e rau a lewena taumada na Fiji Naval Volunteer Force, ena gauna sa tekivu kina na ikarua ni ivalu levu rau sa mani laki lewena na manua ni mtaivalu e wai ni Niusiladi na HMSNZF Leander

Namaki me sa na qai kele tiko mai ki Viti na 'RFNS Savenaca' ena vula ka tu mai.

Nona vosa tiko vei ira na lewei Viti era sa vakaitikotiko tiko mai Perth e Ositerelia e kaya kina ko PM Bainimarama ni nona Matanitu ena tomana tiko na laveti ni ivakatagedegede ni bula ni lewei Viti.

Kaya na ililiu ni noda Matanitu ni manua vou oqo e kalasi tani e vuravura ka na ma yaga ena yadravi ni qolivi ni vakasivia ni noda wasawasa, yadravi ni benuci ni noda wasawasa, kei na tobo ni vakau mai vakailoa ni wai gaga ena iyalayala ni noda wasawasa.

Vakavinavinakataki ira talega na noda cauravou lewe ni mataivalu e wai nodra laki vakavula tiko ki Niusiladi ena nodra laki vulica tiko na iwalewale ni kena vakayagataki na manua vou oqo na 'RFNS Savenaca'.

Vakauasivi ena nodra solia nodra dina ena itavi oya kara vosota na tu veiyawaki mai vei ira na lewe ni nodra matavuvale ena loma ni 2 na vula.

E na daumaka mo ni wilika mada na qaqa ni sere makawa ni matasere na Miramira ni Katudrau mai Gau ena kedrau sere na cauravou yaloqaqa e rua ni Viti o Savenaca Naulumatua mai Yasawa kei Timo Puamau mai Lau me vaka na sere a vola na dau ni bulisere rogolevu ena gauna oya o Kavetani Ismeli Loga mai Vadravadra mai Gau e kaya vakaoqo ne na qaqa ni sere oya;

Kacabote na vula ko Jiulai  
e kaukauwa na vala e wai.  
Walesi levu lei ni kacivaka toka mai.  
Na 'Leander' qori e vakaloloma voleka sara ga me laki voca.  
Rua na wekada rau sa yali moni rogoca.  
Ni vakarorogo meu serelaka nodrau leqa voli na wekada.  
Rau vala voli e lomani wasawasa.  
Ni lai moce kecekece sara neirau bula sa mai yala.  
Keirau sana lesu tale vei tamada.  
Ni rogoca meu talanoataka na gauna e yaco kina na vala.  
Nodratou vale kei na waqa ni Jiavana.  
O Puamau o Savenaca rau mai leqa e loma ni waqa.  
Na dakai levu lei ni rau lai vanataka.  
Oti na vala mera sa wili rau sa yali na gone Viti.  
Ra vakaloloku lei me vica na miniti.  
Kau ni walesi e taqiri na itukutuku me sa cowiri.  
Walesitaki mai me kilai e Viti.  
Na manua meu tukuna mada na 'Leander' dina qori na yacana.  
Rau vala kei na manuwa ni Jiavana.  
O Puamau o Savenaca rau mani mate vakadua sara.  
Rau ciba koto ena yacai Viti raraba.  
Ia oilei o laugasau berabera tu na vosa ni tatau.  
Sega ni rau volavola vei tinadrau.  
Yawa o Yasawa yawa ko Lau rau sa mate tu a veitau.  
Rau bulu koto ena vuso ni biau.  
Rau buli koto ena vuso ni biau.

# Noda Viti

## Dola na rumu ni dikevi COVID-19



E ra taba vata tu oqori kei na turaga na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na ivakaillesilesi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena dola ni Molecular Laboratory e Tamavua, Suva. iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

NANISE NEIMILA

Ena ika 11 ni siga ni vula o Maji sa mai dolava kina na turaga na iliuliu ni noda Matanitu o Josai Voreqe Bainimarama na rumu ni dikevi COVID-19 se coronavirus mai Tamavua.

E kilai na vale ni vakadidike oqo me Molecular Laboratory ka kaya o Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni vakailavotaki ena ituvatuva vakailavo ni Matanitu ena yabaki sa oti.

Ena noda ituvatuva vakailavo ni yabaki sa oti eda vakatubuilavo kina kina tara na National Health Laboratory e Tamavua.

Sa caramaki kina na sala ni kina tara na molecular Laboratory oqo kasa taqomaki vinaka o Viti mai na COVID-19.

“Na kina dola na molecular lab vou oya sa rawa ni dikevi ga e Viti e 20 na lewenivanua ena loma ni 6 kina 8 na aua.”

Sa vakavinavinaka talega o Paraiminisita Bainimarama vei ira kece era veivuke kina Matanitu ena kina tara na Lab oya me vaka na World Health Organisation kei na Matanitu o Ositerelia.

“Sa na totolo ka rawarawa sara kina na vakadeitaki ni sa tiko vua e dua na mate na COVID-19 se sega. Sa na sega ni vakaoti gauna kei na ilavo ena kina laki vakadeitaki sara tiko mai vavalagi,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Me yacova mai na siga na ika 11 ni siga ni Maji sa yaco kina 100 na vanua e vuravura na matetaka oya ka sa vakadeitaki kina 110,000 na kisi ni COVID-19.”

Kaya na noda iliuliu ni Matanitu ni totolo ni kina veitauvi na matetaka oya esa levu cake tiko na nona roboti vuravura tiko yani ena veisiga.

“E sega ni waraka o Viti me kacivaki mai na itukutuku oya me qai yavala. Eda sa yavala rawa vakatotole mera taqomaki na noda lewenivanua kada vakadewataka ni rawa nida toboka, vakatikitikitaka, ka qaravi koya e tauvi koya na COVID-19.”

Kaya o Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni se sogo tikoga na noda veivanua ni curuvanua ki vei ira kece mai vanuatani era lesu mai Jaina, Italy, Irani kei Ceva kei Korea ni vo 14 na siga mera yacova na siga era

via butuki Viti mai kina.

“Na vakatatabu ni curuvanua oqo esa so-lia veikeda na gauna vinaka – ni se bera ga ni yaco mai Viti na mate oqo. Eda sa vakavakarau ga e veisiga.”

Kuria na iliuliu ni noda Matanitu ka kaya ni sa vakayacori tale tikoga ena gauna ena noda veirara ni waqavuka na vakadaberi ni iwalewale vou ni veilovi se vakarutaki katakata ni yago ka vakataokai na thermal scanners.

“Me vaka au sa vakamacalatak e liu o ira talega na vulagai e ra vodo waqa mai era na dikevi ena gauna era kele mai kina e Suva kei Lautoka, kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Se sega vakadua ni dua na gauna ena itukutuku ni veigauna e Viti me yaco kina edua na qaqarauni ni tabana ni bula e yaco ena dua na gauna totolo ka mana vakalevutlaga me vaka na kina sa yaco tiko ena gauna oqo. Na gauna a siqemi kina edua esa dikevi saraga vakatotole ka vakadeitakai se tauvi koya dina ni se sega. Me yacova mai ni kua se sega ni dua e vakadeitaki mai ni sa tauvi koya tiko na mate oya.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni vakavinavinakataki ira na vakaillesilesi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula e Viti raraba ena uasivi ni nodra vei qaravi ni tataqomaki me yacova mai na gauna oqo.

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni nodra cakacaka vinaka sa bokoca na yamayame ni buka era utura tiko mai na dau ni politiki era via vakayalolailaitaki kemuni tiko kei na nomuni veivakabulai vei ira na lewei Viti.

“Sa kalougata nida galala mai na matetaka oya, ia me vaka ni levu na vanua mai Urope era ripotetaka tikona kisi ni matetaka oya, sa dodnu meda vakavakarau tikoga sena mani yaco mai se sega na matetaka oya. Oya na vuna au sa vakauqeti keda keca kina na lewei Viti meda meda vakaliuca na tiko savasava me tarova na dewa ni mate oya.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni kina sa mai dola oqo na Lab ni vakadidike oqo- sa tu vakarau kina o Viti me sotava na kisi kece ni COVID-19 ka meda bula vinaka mai kina.