

# FijiFocus



## Way of the future

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama shows the digitalFiji App on his mobile after the launching in Suva. The App will allow Fijians to access Government services at the push of a button.

**INSET:** Prime Minister Bainimarama with Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum after the launching of the new digital application.  
**Photos:** ERONI VALILI



# APP ACCESS

## digitalFiji connects Fijians to Government

MEREANI GONEDUA

**F**IJIANS will now be able to access Government services at the push of a button, thanks to the launch of a new digital application.

The App was recently launched by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

Known as digitalFiji, the App

consists of a host of different mobile applications that aim to create a more efficient and effective way for the Fijian people to engage with their Government.

University of the South Pacific student Salman Raza, who is currently pursuing his Masters in Computer Science, says the new application would enable students like him to inquire about any gov-

ernment services.

"This is an advantage for us because we are part of the new generation because we are almost on our phones every day. It will help us connect with any government agency and will assist us with the queries that we have," Mr Raza said.

"I think the App is a very useful one, especially now that technol-

ogy is used by everyone in the country whether it be in the rural or urban areas, people still get to access a phone and can use this App if they need information.

"The services now available on this App will mean that we will not have to stand in long queues like we used to previously as information will now be available on our fingertips. I would like to

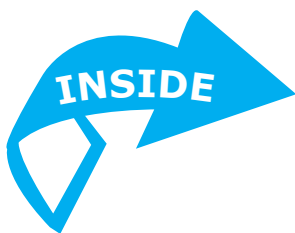
thank the Government for coming up with this initiative," he said.

PM Bainimarama highlighted that DigitalFiji was only one part of a wide-reaching partnership they have undertaken with the Singaporean Government.

"When it came to finding the right partner for this project, The

**CONTINUED TO PAGE 3**





CALL TO RAISE FNP  
DEDUCTIONS 15

CALL TO REVIVE LOST  
CULTURE OF READING 14

HIGH FOOD IMPORT  
RELIANCE A BIG WORRY 13

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

*Fiji has seen a big spike in government tenders as a result of the unprecedented slate of development projects taking place across the country.*

Attorney-General and Minister for Education  
Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

#### NUMBERS

**450**  
school  
libraries  
set up in **6**  
years

#### TWEET OF THE WEEK



MITT Fiji (@MITTFJ)

@FijiPM launches #DigitalFiji, a newly launched flagship program in Fiji's overarching #digitaltransformation, aimed at bringing Govt. services to the fingertips of all Fijians and creating more efficient and effective ways for the Fijian people to engage with their Govt.

#### CONTACT

Publisher: Sharvada Sharma  
Sub Editor: Prashila Devi  
Manager Vernacular: Villame Tikotani  
North office: Level 3 Macuata House, Labasa  
West office: Level 1 Ratu Nauliano House, Koroivalu

Contacts: Suva: 3301806 /  
West: 6700086 / 9905965  
North: 8811276 / 9905971  
Fax: 3305139/3304663  
[news@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:news@govnet.gov.fj)  
[www.fiji.gov.fj](https://www.fiji.gov.fj)  
@FijiRepublic  
Fijian Government  
visit us at [www.fiji.gov.fj](http://www.fiji.gov.fj)

## COP23 President at Petersberg Dialogue

PRASHILA DEVI

**F**IJIAN Prime Minister and president of the Conference of Parties 23, Frank Bainimarama is currently in Berlin, Germany, to participate in the 9th Petersberg Climate Dialogue.

The COP23 President is expected to make interventions during the two-day meeting where discussions will mainly focus on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the way forward.

The dialogue, which will be held in the scenic Axica Pariser Platz from June 18-19, has been organised by the German Federal Environment

Ministry and the Government of the Republic of Poland, which is the incoming COP24 president.

The meeting is being attended by ministers and representatives from 35 countries and will look into the implementation of the Paris Agreement and preparatory works for the next Climate Change Conference, which will take place in December in Katowice under Poland's Presidency.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will also attend the meeting on Tuesday where she will give a speech on climate policy.

The different sessions of the dialogue will weigh the pros and cons

of climate action such as the impact of delaying the climate action, transitioning into the goals set by the Agreement and other related issues like climate finance.

Fiji has been very vocal on providing climate vulnerable states access to climate finance and for states to come up with more ambitious nationally determined commitments (NDCs).

Prime Minister Bainimarama will be joined by his permanent secretary Yogesh Karan and Fiji's two climate spokesman, the COP23 Chief Negotiator Luke Daunivalu and Climate Ambassador and Head of Mission to the European Union, Deo Saran.

## Govt support for Fijians with albinism



Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and Fijians living with albinism during the International Albinism Awareness Day (IIAD) at Ratu Sukuna Park in Suva. Photo: ERONI VALILI

NANISE NEIMILA

**F**IJIANs suffering from albinism will get special attention from Government through the provision of support and resources that will enable them to function as normal people.

This was the reassurance by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum while launching the International Albinism Awareness Day (IIAD) last week.

With the theme "Shining our light to the world" organisers including Government, Non-Governmental organisation and the Fiji Albinism programme which focused on raising awareness on the stigmatisation, discrimination and isolation faced by persons with albinism in their everyday life.

The A-G said that earlier this year Parliament passed a Bill for an Act to make provisions for the recognition and protection for Rights of Persons with Disabilities in accordance with the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

He highlighted the role of the Fijian Government in contributing to a global process for promoting the rights of persons with albinism in Fiji.

"The idea of this day is to create awareness and ensure that just because a person has albinism, it doesn't mean

we discriminate against them," the A-G said.

"I want to highlight as Fijians we need to ensure that every single Fijian no matter what sort of disability they have, we need to bring them into the main fold of Fijian society."

The A-G highlighted that in 2017, the National Census report stated that there were 113,595 persons with disabilities in Fiji, which is 13.7 per cent of the population aged three and above.

Championing the rights of Albinism in Fiji, Australia-based Doctor Margot Whitfield acknowledged the Fijian government for their efforts in raising awareness and ensuring that people living with albinism are recognised equally in society.

"People living with albinism are special they may be different but they are normal people like any other person," she said.

"In the build-up to this launch there has been a lot of preparation and we have had carried out our own awareness. Sometimes we cannot control the discrimination but through such awareness and more education on this issue will ensure that people have more information."

The event is a collaboration between the Fiji Albinism Project and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

## App 'makes services transparent'

KELERA SOVASIGA

**T**HE digitisation of Government services has been a vision of the Fijian Government for quite some time because it will ensure equal access for all Fijians.

To this end DigitalFiji, the application that allows this is a timely initiative.

This was highlighted by Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the launch of the DigitalFiji application.

Mr Sayed-Khaiyum highlighted that this was another way Government would be able to learn more about what Fijians needed and what they were up to.

"The idea is to bring Fijians, their concerns and their ideas to the forefront of our development, in that way this programme will grow to become a pillar in our democracy of bridge between Fijians and their Government," he said.

"And the information and services that can in fact add real change that makes positive changes and differences to their actual everyday lives."

The A-G stated that according to the 2013 Constitution Government had to ensure that people had the right to access information and as part of the programme every ministry would now have a Chief Information Officer and their duties were to ensure that all information about their ministry was up to date.

Meanwhile, chief executive officer for Singapore Cooperation Enterprise [SCE] Kong Wy Mun acknowledged the Fijian Government for its partnership and highlighted that Fiji was the first Pacific island country that SCE is currently working with.

"This project will be a key in strengthening the delivery of public services, done through a four-year DigitalFiji Programme," he said.

"The DigitalFiji Programme aims to provide a holistic approach to support Fiji in realising its goal towards a digital Government.

"We believe that through this collaboration, we will forge stronger ties between Fiji and Singapore.



## DigitalFiji connects Fijians to Govt

FROM PAGE 1

Singaporean Government was the obvious choice. Much of our own national ambition and vision echo the incredible progress Singapore has experienced over the last half century.

“Our nations are natural partners. Though we may be small island states, our leadership and our achievements are enormous, even when compared with much larger nations around the world.

“And the Singaporean experience, taking a nation, a small island nation, making it strong and unified, and shaping yourselves into an international powerhouse; that is an experience that speaks to every Fijian, and our united Fiji can and must achieve.”

“We are a nation of under one million people, and my Government has brought a style of leadership to Fiji that listens and learns from Fijians - all Fijians, everywhere in the country.

“Fijians know that they can count on my Government to hear them out and respond to their concerns. And through DigitalFiji, Fijians will be able to access that style of leadership directly in the palm of their hands, and their voices can now affect change in their day-to-day lives more quickly and conveniently than ever before.

“Because the reality is that more Fijians are spending more of their time on the internet and on their phones, and that is where government services need to be offered, that is where services need to be immediately available to our people, wherever they may be, and whenever they may need them.”

He highlighted that Government was offering services in every corner of Fiji and is putting the right people in the right positions to deliver for the people, and through DigitalFiji, that agenda of lifting service delivery is being taken to an entirely new level.

Like many other maritime islands the actual travelling is another challenge and as Sisilia Seniyasi of Taveuni, who underwent an operation in Labasa recently, highlighted the vessel was much needed.

“The travelling cost from Taveuni to Labasa and return by boat is about \$60 and we have to think of accommodation. We are lucky to have relatives otherwise it’s an added cost but with the new vessel providing such services, it will be a great help to us,” she said.

“We are thankful to the Government for all they have done to provide these services on board the vessel.”

The vessel houses separate rooms for operations, minor procedures, consultations and recovery.

The ship is equipped with state-of-the-art tools such as ventilator machines and medical lasers to treat serious eye complications.

At the same event, PM Bainimarama officiated at the commissioning of the new \$3m Government Shipping Services new office space.

# Govt tender process goes electronic

THE Ministry of Economy is excited to announce that a new electronic tendering (eTender) Portal is now online, an easy-to-use online resource that massively streamlines the government tender process, giving registered traders a one-stop shop to view, submit and participate in government tenders.

The portal is available at [www.tenderlink.com/economyfiji/](http://www.tenderlink.com/economyfiji/)

The new online platform has been launched in partnership with TenderLink, a leading eTender provider in the Australasia region.

The launch of the eTender Portal is the latest in a string of achievements to bring greater transparency and accountability to the government tender process and cut down on the time and cost of submitting, reviewing and awarding paper-based tenders.

“Fiji has seen a big spike in government tenders as a result of the unprecedented slate of development projects taking place across the country,” said the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

### eTENDER PORTAL benefits

- View initiations for tender, expressions of interest and request quotations;
- Receive e-mail notifications of new opportunities published by the Ministry of Economy;
- Download and view all relevant documentation for new tenders, EOIs and quotations;
- Participate in questions and answer forums on the tender process; and
- Submit electronic bid responses directly online through our secure, e-tender box facility.

### eTENDER PORTAL How do Traders Register

- Suppliers and traders can register for the eTender Portal at [www.tenderlink.com/economyfiji/](http://www.tenderlink.com/economyfiji/) and can then immediately view, and submit tenders through the portal.
- The use of the portal is completely free of charge.

“So now, whether it be building new schools, purchasing high tech equipment, expanding services, or the important work to adapt our infrastructure to climate change, we now have an online tender system that gives Fijians a new level of transparency in the tender process, which safeguards against corruption, and that has the flexibility and efficiency we need to support the massive new development this Government is delivering for Fiji and the Fijian people.”

news@govnet.gov.fj

## First choice for PRB tenants

ISAAC LAL

FIJIANs living in Public Rental Board flats will be given first priority should they wish to purchase any land developed by the Housing Authority.

This was the announcement made by the Minister for Local Government and Housing Parveen Kumar during the ground-breaking ceremony for 36 new unit flats at Simla in Lautoka.

This means tenants of PRB flats around the country will be able to purchase land at the development sites to become owners of their land.

“Our current PRB housing situation has become a generation cycle. Once we get a flat we have it for the next three or four generations, but Government wants you to gradually move to owning your own homes,” he said.

“As such, all PRB tenants who wish to become owners of any



Minister for Local Government and Housing Parveen Kumar during the ground-breaking ceremony for 36 new unit flats under Public Rental Board at Simla in Lautoka. Photos: ISAAC LAL

housing developments undertaken by Housing Authority will be given first priority.”

This, he says, is part of Government’s plans to provide homes to as many Fijians as possible and a commitment Government remains steadfast in delivering.

As for the 36 unit new flats, Minister Kumar said it would provide an opportunity for new tenants in particular young families.

“This is an indication of Gov-

ernment’s commitment towards providing quality and affordable homes to Fijians by 2020,” Minister Kumar added.

The construction of the new block will take 12 months to complete and the project will be funded through a \$3million grant to PRB from Government.

PRB Acting general manager Patrick Veu thanked Government for the assistance saying that the project in Simla and

other projects around the country such as Suva and Savusavu has been possible through government’s assistance towards the housing sector.

“PRB has been able to add over 300 new flats around the country and this has only been made possible through Government assistance through grants or as a guarantor for our loan that we are able to access from the Exim Bank.”





The newly-renovated FMF Gymnasium. The gymnasium was established in 1979 since then this is its first facelift. Photo: ERONI VALILI

# \$1.5m invested in sports development

MEREANI GONEDUA

**T**he Fijian Government, through the Ministry of Youth and Sports, has invested approximately \$1,500,000 towards the construction of fields and hard courts from 2006 to 2018 around the country.

The ministry set aside \$500,000 in the 2017/2018 National Budget for rural sports fields including \$2,085,120 for sports complexes.

The two programmes implemented by the ministry, which contributes to the development of sports in the country include rural sports facilities and the rural sports complexes.

Since the provision of the first capital grant for rural playing fields in 1993, the ministry has developed more than 120 sports facilities and has a waiting list of more than 110 requests for support for rural sports facilities

from schools and communities.

Under the Rural Sports Complex Integrated Programme, the ministry has two sports complexes which have been constructed in phases and which are nearing completion. The first is the Vunisea Sports Complex in Kadavu and the second is Sawaieke Sports Complex in Gau.

The sports complex programme was initiated by the Prime Minister's Office and announced in the 2013 budget where Government's commitment and investment of \$2.7 million was highlighted to undertake a programme to set up new integrated sporting facilities in rural communities.

Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Youth and Sports Alison Burchell said that these programmes helped promote sports and physical activity in the country by providing safe and adequate facilities for communities, schools and youths to host tournaments at lo-

cal and provincial level.

PS Burchell said through these programmes communities and schools had access to an alternative source of income through the hiring of these sporting grounds and facilities.

"Also, they have helped combat non-communicable diseases by increasing physical activity in schools and neighbouring communities," she said.

"Furthermore, the sports complexes were developed to ensure that rural and maritime communities have access to amenities which are currently enjoyed by those living in urban centres. These sporting complexes can also be used as evacuation centres during times of natural disasters and in other times of need."

The ministry plans to request further funding in the new financial year as part of plans to construct five new sports fields.

## Bid to make sports inclusive

NATASHA BEGUM

**M**AKING sports more inclusive regardless of gender, age and condition of disability is one of the challenges the Ministry of Youth and Sports is working to combat.

The Permanent Secretary for Youth and Sports, Alison Burchell, said this was among issues the ministry was working on to further develop sports in Fiji.

"Sports generally has a focus on rugby and the ministry promotes all sports. All activities must include women and men as well as persons with disabilities," she said.

"Many activities become male focused so the ministry and Sports Commission are promoting sports and activities which are inclusive on the basis of gender, age and disability as well as making inclusivity a condition of support."

The PS said other challenges faced in terms of developing sports include the constraint of resources, but this could be rectified through an increased budgetary allocation with the end goal being the reduction of Non-Communicable Diseases.

"There is a great need, but limited resources available. Increased budgets will be supported by increased activity and reduced NCDs.

## Commitment to build 'an active' nation

NATASHA BEGUM

**T**HE Ministry of Youth and Sports, through its various programmes, is committed to promoting physical activity and wellness within Fijians.

This was highlighted by the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Alison Burchell, recently where she detailed a number of initiatives implemented by the ministry.

"There are five initiatives and these are to promote wellness and physical activity and they include equipment, rural sports facility development, sports complex, National Sports and Wellness Day and the Fiji National Sports Commission community outreach programs," she said.

"For the community outreach programmes, the Government - through the ministry to the Sports Commission - funds these programmes that provide opportunities to develop sportspersons, coaches, technical officials and sport administrators.

*Sports Commission undertakes schools and community outreach programmes to promote physical activity and national sports organisations' develop their sport across the country*

**P.S - Ministry of Youth and Sports, Alison Burchell**

"In addition, the Sports Commission undertakes schools and community outreach programmes to promote physical activity and national sports organisations' develop their sport across the country."

A special National Sports and Wellness Day holiday is dedicated in the national calendar for a more inclusive and healthier nation.



Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, his two sons and members of the public during the Outrigger Walk for Kids programme in Sigatoka. Photo: PRIYANKA LAL





Students and teachers of Nadroumai Primary School in Nadroga where visiting Pulse Energy Highlanders' star wing Waisake Naholo's is from. Villagers of Nadroumai have assured full support for their local hero with two buses confirmed to come down on game day.  
 Photos: SUPPLIED

# Govt rides on Super Rugby exposure

**This year the Pulse Energy Highlanders host the Gallagher Chiefs at the ANZ Stadium in Suva on June 30, with the game kicking off at 7.35pm**

THE Fijian Government, for the past two years, has successfully hosted a Super Rugby match at the ANZ Stadium in Suva.

The game has not only grown the Fiji brand, but also highlighted the ability the nation has of hosting top-tier international sporting events.

Working with broadcast partners marketing to more than 13 global markets across Europe, Africa and Asia, Sky Television has brought the Fiji brand a 27 per cent visibility account through 1948 seconds (32 minutes) of direct Fiji Tourism related brand exposure.

The Sky TV NZ interview of the Attorney-General last year generated additional quality exposure for Fiji during the half-time programme, which again focused the non-game content on the fixture destination of Fiji.

With a potential viewership of close to 1.1 billion viewers across the globe, the one annual Super Rugby match in Fiji has reached more than a tenth of the global audience.

From the lead-up to the main game, the interviews, the team coverage, the marketing, the sponsorships and especially the loyal fans to name a few, the Super Rugby game in Fiji is one that directly markets the Fiji brand and puts the nation on the map with 151 hours of global-television air time.

This brand exposure is also done through major advertising platforms including 3D Grass signage, Digital LED screens, Postcard image,

es, In-Broadcast TV graphics, overseas editorial coverage and visitor attendance.

From the markets that were monitored, the viewership has increased by 18 per cent over 2016 with 2.4 million viewers where the biggest broadcast audience came from the Sky Sports coverage in New Zealand with a reach to over 400K.

Live attendance at the match was approximately 14K-15K at the game itself with a significant number of international guests.

It is a game that impacts not only those that will be there for the main match, but also places the nation on the map in the context of hosting top-tier international sporting events.

This year the Pulse Energy Highlanders host the Gallagher Chiefs at the ANZ Stadium in Suva on June 30, with the game kicking off at 7.35pm.

The gates will open at 4pm with pre-match entertainment and the food stalls at the forecourt.

Fijians also have the opportunity to participate in a number of competitions to win tickets, merchandise and other prizes with details provided on the Fiji Sports Council social media platforms.

Also on game day, there will be opportunities for fans to meet the players from both teams.

When visiting Pulse Energy Highlanders' star wing Waisake Naholo's village, villagers of Nadroumai have assured full support for their local hero with two buses confirmed to come down on game day.

Tickets are available from the Fiji Sports Council Office in Suva, Post Fiji outlets nationwide and online at [www.ticketdirect.com.fj](http://www.ticketdirect.com.fj)  
**SUPER RUGBY SECRETARIAT**



Members of the Fijiana 15s team who are on a two-match tour of Australia. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Tale out to make a memorable tale

ERONI VALILI

It was a memorable tale that will forever be etched in Raijieli Tale's mind as the Fijiana 15s rugby team thrashed the Brumbies Women 15s team 33-7.

Ms Tale, who is originally from Nadoi Village in Rewa, is the youngest member of the side at 19 years of age. She plays at halfback.

Coach Ro Alifereti Doviverata summed it up best when he said, "They all were outstanding on the field".

Ms. Tale may be new to the code, but certainly not to the game.

She sees this opportunity as a challenge and a reward to her years of hard work and dedication to the sport.

"Even though I am new to the code I am honoured and privileged to be part of this wonderful team. Making the cut was not easy," Ms Tale said.

Ms. Tale plies her trade for the Stratus Club and the Rewa Provincial Club. She was part of the Youth Commonwealth Team to the Bahamas and Japan Okinawa 7s last year.

During the team's itatau presentation at Borron House, President Jioji Konrote congratulated the national 15s women's rugby team.

"This is an excellent opportunity to gain the necessary exposure into international competition, and to gain new knowledge and experience," he said.

"I encourage you to be great ambassadors for Fiji on and off the field. You are representing your country,



Raijieli Tale. Photo: SUPPLIED

the Fiji Rugby Union, your sponsors, and your respective families, so fly our flag with pride." President Konrote said.

Out of the 24 players, 10 will be making their debut.

The Fijiana side beat the Brumbies Women 33-7 on Monday and were to play the Newcastle Women's side when this edition went to press.





# PM opens the pride of Fiji

ISAAC LAL

THE opening of the renovated Nadi International Airport should bring pride to every Fijian, says Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

The newly-renovated airport, which was opened by the Fijian Head of Government, will play a crucial role in marketing Fiji to the world – some comments which he says received brought pride.

“Whether it is members of our diaspora community who are returning to Fiji, global leaders from the nations of the world or any Fijian leaving or returning home, I’ve heard countless times how impressed everyone is with this new airport,” he said.

PM Bainimarama said with the four-lane roads and other major developments carried out in and around Nadi the aim was to improve the experience of visitors to the country.

“That experience means a great deal for our tourism operators, because the investment in our infrastructure is an investment directly in their businesses.”

In 2017 more than two million passengers

passed through the largest airport in the country and this year, PM Bainimarama said that number would be surpassed.

“We are on track to record an even larger number this year and as that number grows, more money is spent in Fiji; that means jobs and that brings economic opportunity – especially if you’re working in tourism,” he said.

“And all of that growth and development is part of our vision, across every other aspect of our national effort to build a modern, dynamic 21st century economy, which is already on track to grow for the ninth year running.

“A vision and a record of achievement that this Government, alone, is capable of delivering.”

Fiji Airports executive chair Faiz Khan said the complete overhaul for the airport while remaining operational was the best part.

“To carry out a major project such as this and to remain open was a success in itself and should be a matter of pride for every Fijian.

“We continued to renovate and to not have complaints from our patrons who understand the reasoning behind the renovations was a success in itself,” Mr Khan said.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama unveils a plaque during the official opening of the renovated Nadi International Airport. Photo: ISAAC LAL



Prime Minister of Fiji and Minister for iTaukei Affairs Voreqe Bainimarama during the High-Level Pledging Conference for the Yavusa Navakavu. Photo: ERONI VALILI

## PM launches self-financing strategic plan

ERONI VALILI

PRIME Minister of Fiji and Minister for iTaukei Affairs Voreqe Bainimarama recently opened the High-Level Pledging Conference for the Yavusa Navakavu.

The Navakavu Revitalisation Strategy 2018-2022 provides a framework to support the Vanua 'o Navakavu's development and progress and its fundamental mission to improve the quality of life of the vanua.

The vision for this revitalisation strategy is building a “resilient Navakavu”

While opening the High-Level Pledging Conference for the Yavusa Navakavu, Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked the elders, leaders and members of the tribe

for their foresight, vision and planning.

“Your revitalisation plan is a culmination of your vision, your priorities and your wisdom, and it is an incredibly important document,” he said.

“Because real progress takes planning. Like any good team, you need a game plan. You need a guiding light and you need leadership that considers the long-term and that prepares your people for success, now and in the years ahead.”

Chairman for the Navakavu Development Trustees Committee, Seveci Naisilisili, said that the Navakavu Revitalisation Strategy was a five-year development plan of the Yavusa 'o Navakavu.

“It is committed on two key principles – The principle of

Alignment (Noda Sema) and the principle Partnerships (Noda Veitokani)”.  
“In this regard the plan is aligned to the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030(SDGs) through the Fiji Development Plan 2017-2021”, Mr Naisilisili said.

“The Navakavu Strategy demonstrates that Fiji’s National Development Plan goals reflect the connectedness to the vanua and community level”.

Mr Naisilisili added that the conference was also to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Navakavu Revitalisation Strategy, which was a pledge by the members of the landowning unit to conserve their marine environment.

## Village grateful for Govt assistance



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, turaga ni koro of Namuaimada Village Usaia Rawaidranu and Water Authority of Fiji officials during the PM's visit to the village in Ra. Photo: ERONI VALILI

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

A representative of one of the villages worst affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016 has thanked the Government for the various forms of assistance it received.

The turaga ni koro or village headman of Namuaimada Village in the province of Ra, Usaia Rawaidranu, personally thanked Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama for the various assistance successfully implemented in the village.

Mr Rawaidramu says it was with the Government’s timely assistance that the village was able to get back on its feet.

“Firstly we thank the Government and the Prime Minister for your housing rehabilitation after Cyclone Winston,” he said.

“Rehabilitation work on 54 fully damaged homes and 33 partly damaged homes by Tropical Cyclone Winston has been success-

fully completed and we thank the Government for that.”

Mr Raiwadranu told PM that the Department of Energy successfully carried out the wiring work on 40 houses in the village that faced the full brunt of the disaster.

The village headman of Namuaimada thanked PM Bainimarama for the funding of the two water projects in the village.

“This is the first time that the water system in my village will be upgraded since 1975 and it is fully funded by the Government,” Mr Rawaidranu said.

“The second water project, which started on April 26, is scheduled for completion by July this year. It will enable Water Authority of Fiji to channel water to nearby settlements. Government funded this project to the tune of \$61,800.”

The village of Namuaimada has 98 homes and a population of 475 people.





# President stresses ocean sustainability

PRIYANKA LAL

**P**RESIDENT Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote has called for more decisive action by all the nations of the world to save our oceans.

President Konrote made the call at the recent opening of the World Oceans Day Symposium in Suva where he stressed the importance of protecting the ocean for our very survival.

He urged all Fijians to make a difference by playing their part in protecting and learning more about our ocean for its health and sustainability.

“Let us take more action on plastics, to build on the Government’s initiative to put a price on the use of plastic bags by doing more. Do not use plastic bags, plastic straws or non-degradable plastic bottles and containers,” President Konrote said.

He highlighted the importance of sustainable fishing, supporting community initiatives to conserve and preserve marine areas and teaching young Fijians to respect the ocean and its resources for future generations.

Reiterating the link between climate change and the health of our oceans, President Konrote said next month’s Climate Action Pacific Partnership Event in Suva would help raise the Pacific ambition in the climate struggle.

“We must keep taking the message to the world that the current Nationally Determined



President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote with Pacific Community Deputy Director-General Dr Audrey Aumua during the recent World Oceans Day Symposium in Suva. Photo: PRIYANKA LAL.

Contributions (NDCs) arising from the Paris Agreement are woefully inadequate. They do not have a hope of meeting the Paris target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above that of the industrial age,” he said.

“On the contrary, they will produce warming of at least 3 degrees by the end of the century. And that would spell catastrophe for the whole planet and especially climate vulnerable na-

tions like our own and others in the Pacific region.”

Meanwhile, Pacific Community Deputy Director-General Dr Audrey Aumua said as custodians of 20 per cent of the world’s ocean space, Pacific Islanders must work together to “raise awareness about our oceans and improve ocean literacy across the globe.”

## Minister pushes no straw pledge

NATASHA BEGUM

**M**INISTER for Environment Parveen Kumar is urging Fijians to take on the fight against plastic pollution by embarking on a “No Straw” pledge.

He made the plea during the launch of the National Environment celebration to mark World Environment Day in Nasinu recently.

“To show our national commitment on addressing plastic bag pollution, I sincerely request that everyone pledges ‘No Straw’ to mark this global environment day celebration and campaign for the whole month of June,” Minister Kumar said.

“This could be done by ensuring that whenever we are ordering drinks from restaurants and retail outlets, we could politely request for a ‘no straw’ serve. Encourage your families and friends to take the pledge too.”

During the occasion, the Fijian Government signed the agreement on a solid waste management project with the Japanese Government known as the “Japanese Technical Co-operation Project for the Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Management in the Pacific Island Countries”.

“This programme basically promotes 3R’s (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) activities, including Home Composting Subsidy Programme and Clean Schools programme in the country, aimed at creating awareness on recycling plastic materials,” Minister Kumar highlighted.

This year’s World Environment Day theme is “Beat Plastic Pollution” with the month-long celebrations to be held around the country.

## Resort marine centre brings hope

ISAAC LAL

**A** new educational facility for tourists in Yasawa will allow them to not only appreciate underwater activities in the area, but also to know more about how to protect the ecosystem.

The “life under the sea” Marine Science and Education Centre was opened by Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya at Barefoot Manta Resort in the Yasawa Group.

The opening of the world’s first such centre, that will specifically target underwater fanatics, coincided with World Oceans Day.

In opening the centre, Minister Koya noted that findings of a recent study conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Society and Marine Ecology Consulting showed that the marine environment was a vital resource for Fiji’s tourism industry.

“At times the efforts of the industry and communities alike to conserve and improve it, go unrecognized, but the Fijian Government recognised this and I stand here today to thank you for your efforts in keeping our pristine marine environment,” he said.

“I have been informed that this Science and Education Centre has already attracted interest from



Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya after opening the “life under the sea” Marine Science and Education Centre at Barefoot Manta Resort in the Yasawa Group. Photo: ISAAC LAL

other resorts across Fiji and the Pacific Island countries with the view of replicating the facility to several more sites in the region.”

Turaga na Tui Naviti Ratu Kitone Vuluma, who was instrumental in the setting up of the centre, welcomed the move by Barefoot Manta Resort Director Peter Farrell.

“This centre will not only be an education facility, but it will be a beacon of hope for our people because it will provide our future generations the benefits from the

ocean as we and our forefathers have as well,” Ratu Kitone said.

“With 2018 being The International Year of the Reef and Fiji’s Presidency of COP 23, it is extremely important that we educate our communities on the importance of the reef system that surrounds us,” Minister Koya added.

Mr Farrell said the resort, which promoted itself as an environmentally-friendly holiday spot, needed to improve its conservation practices.

“Climate change is being felt

from the coastal waters to major oceans, therefore, education and awareness on the dangers of the many types of plastic, rubbish and chemicals that affect our marine life and coral reef, is critical,” Mr Farrell said.

“For this reason, the message and teachings must reach everyone of all ages in our communities and this facility will not only help the local community know about their ocean better, but will provide up-to-date data and training for guides (local guides) so

*Climate change is being felt from the coastal waters to major oceans, therefore, education and awareness on the dangers of the many types of plastic, rubbish and chemicals that affect our marine life and coral reef, is critical.*

**Barefoot Manta Resort Director Peter Farrell.**

they are able explain to our international guests better.”





# PM hails peacekeepers' bravery

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE bravery of Fijian men and women who have served and are serving in various peacekeeping missions around the world were commemorated around the country this week.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in his statement for the 40th anniversary of Fiji's peacekeeping operations with the United Nations said Fijian peacekeepers carried on a proud Fijian legacy that stretched as far back as the First World War.

"For more than a century, Fijians have answered the call of the vulnerable; bravely risking their lives for the sake of peace, wherever and whenever the need has arisen," he said.

"Driven solely by the pursuit of peace, Fijian soldiers have braved some of the most dangerous and volatile regions on Earth; their service spans both decades and continents.

"They have served in the Middle East, from the Sinai Peninsula, to Kuwait, Iraq, and Syria. In Africa, from Darfur to South Sudan, Liberia, and Namibia. From as far as Eastern Europe in Bosnia and Kosovo, to as near as our fellow Asia-Pacific nations like Cambodia, Timor-Leste, and the Solomon Islands. Fijian peacekeepers have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the finest military forces on the planet, working

to build a more harmonious future for the world's children to inherit."

PM Bainimarama highlighted that no matter how different the regions where Fijians served throughout the 40 years of service, one thing remained constant: "Our Fijian peacekeepers have sacrificed, they have persevered and they have brought immeasurable honour, glory and pride to our great nation.

"No matter where they have served nor what odds they have faced, our UN peacekeepers have been an unyielding shield that has protected the innocent from forces that would seek to destroy them. Through their sacrifice, they've brought peace to people in peril. They have helped heal regions of the world that have been deeply scarred by violence, terror and division. And they have shown the great strength of the Fijian spirit to the world through their courage, their discipline and their commitment to the mission of global peace and security."

He stated Fiji's legacy through its peacekeepers has continued to this day with the presence of nearly 900 peacekeepers serving around the world.

"That legacy has not been built without sacrifice, as we have paid a high price – especially for a nation of our size – for the sake of spreading peace around the world."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the 40th Fiji-UN peacekeeping symposium at Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva. Photo: ERONI VALILI



President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote paid tribute to the peacekeepers while officiating at the 40th Fiji-UN peacekeeping symposium at Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva. Photo: ERONI VALILI

## Ex-President tells of first UNIFIL deployment



Former President and commanding officer for the first Fiji battalion to serve under the United Nations in Lebanon, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, at Centenary Church in Suva. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

JENNIS NAIDU

"WE are going to Lebanon and we knew we would be up against one of the fiercest guerilla organisations in the world and some of us wouldn't be coming back."

There was total silence punctuated by low weeping of mothers, wives and children echoing around Suva's Centenary Church as this statement was made.

The emotional statement was among the many delivered by the former President and commanding officer for the first Fiji battalion to serve under the United Nations for Lebanon, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau.

He was addressing people attending the church service at the Centenary Church in Suva last Sunday to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Fiji's participation as a troop-contributing country to United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Ratu Epeli emphasised the assistance that the battalion received from the governments of Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom in training the officers during the World War II and for pre-deployment to UNIFIL.

"I remember as you do, those who are not here, I knew half of the officers in lift 1 and a good number in lift 2 who passed away and 40 years is a long time. You might not believe it if you look at me, but you know that's the reality of it and it's just like it was yesterday," Ratu Epeli said.

"I would like to emphasise that we would not have been able to have a successful deployment, and in fact before UNIFIL in Malaya and before that during World War II, without the assistance of the government, the defence forces of New Zealand and Australia as well as the United Kingdom who trained our officers, trained our men, helped with outfitting and I must mention them, Colonel Thorpe and Colonel Andrews."

Fiji has provided substantial contributions across the Middle East areas of operation, committing up to half of its national forces to UN peacekeeping missions.

## FIJI'S YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE UN roll of honour

- 1978 – 2002 UNIFIL (RFMF)
- 1979 – RHODESIA (RFMF)
- 1988 – 1993 UNAMA (RFMF)
- 1989 – 1990 UNTAG (FPF)
- 1988 – 1990 UNGOMAP (RFMF)
- 1991 – 2003 UNIKOM (RFMF)
- 1991 – 1994 UNGCI (FPF)
- 1992 – 1993 UNTAC (FPF)
- 1995 – 1996 UNAVEM (FPF)
- 1996 – 1998 UNTAES (FPF)
- 1998 – 2002 UNMIBH (FPF)
- 1999 – 2006 UNMIK (FPF)
- 2000 – 2005 INTERFET/UNTAET (RFMF)
- 2002 – 2005 UNMISSET (RFMF)
- 2004 – 2011 UNMIS (RFMF/FPF)
- 2004 ONGOING UNMIL (FPF)
- 2004 ONGOING UNAMI (RFMF)
- 2008 – 2011 UNAMID (FPF)
- 2011 ONGOING UNMISS (RFMF/FPF)
- 2013 ONGOING UNDOF (RFMF)
- 2014 ONGOING UNTSO (RFMF)
- 2014 ONGOING UNIFIL 2 (RFMF)



Ex-servicemen during the 40th anniversary of Fiji's contribution to peacekeeping under the United Nations



Soldiers during the Fiji-UN 40th anniversary parade in Labasa. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJIAN peacekeepers were saluted and praised for their contribution towards world peace while serving under the United Nations banner during peacekeeping duties.

President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote paid tribute to the peacekeepers while officiating at the 40th Fiji-UN peacekeeping symposium this week.

President Konrote said 40 years was a long time for a nation to be committed to the cause of global peace.

"I believe that the thinking behind this adage is that people gain significant wisdom

around 40 years. And so we could say the same for our service to global peace," he said

"We owe our thanks to the many individuals and parties who made these peacekeeping operations possible and who continued to cultivate this mission over the past four decades. "We thank our then national leaders in the 1970s who initiated the idea for Fiji to be involved in peacekeeping operations – they include our first Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara and his Government and Fiji's first local commander of the military Colonel Paul Manueli."

President Konrote paid tribute to the United Nations for affording Fiji the opportunity to

participate in peacekeeping.

"We thank the host countries where our troops stayed at and continue to be based in. We thank the families of the 56 servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of global peace," he said.

"We thank all the servicemen and women and the respective commanding officers for flying our national flag with pride."

President Konrote thanked former and current peacekeepers and their families who are helping our nation grow at the socio-economic front and in their respective communities in the four-corners of our nation.

He highlighted Fiji's experience gained from their contribution towards peacekeep-

ing.

"Internationally, the reputation as one of the best and effective peacekeeping troop contributing countries is well known throughout the world," he said.

"It is, to a large extent, on the backdrop of the international reputation our peacekeepers have earned for Fiji that we are able to secure the support of many UN-member countries in our ongoing efforts to develop and modernise our nation."

The one day symposium included stories shared from veterans and key speakers from Government and senior military officers.



Some of the ex-servicemen in Labasa. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO



Republic of the Fiji Military Forces' Samuela Cikaotoga lays a wreath at the plaque in remembrance of those who had passed on. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO



Retired servicemen and women were part of the parade at the celebrations in Lautoka. Photo: ISAAC LAL



Fiji Police Force female officers who served on peacekeeping missions abroad during celebrations in Lautoka. Photo: ISAAC LAL



Members of the Fiji Police Force who also served in peacekeeping missions abroad pay tribute during the parade at Churchill Park in Lautoka. Photo: ISAAC LAL





# Regional forecasters go high-tech

ISAAC LAL

TEN forecasters from around the region recently attended a training workshop in Fiji on the latest weather forecasting software that would improve the capability of their various centres.

Organised by the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the regional train-

ing was on “Analysis of Himawari Data with SATAID”.

The training aimed to allow the forecasters of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the South Pacific to maximise the benefit of Himawari-8, the Japanese meteorological satellite, for monitoring and forecasting severe weather in the region, such as tropical cyclones and heavy rains.

Himawari-8 is equipped with the

state-of-the-art imagers capable of multi-band, high-resolution and high-frequency observation. Himawari-8 data is most effectively used with SATAID, freely available analytical software provided by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

Director of Meteorology Ravind Kumar said the Fijian Government appreciated the long-standing co-operation with the Government of

Japan and in particular with JICA, which has been generously supporting the training programme.

“It is a pleasure to say that the World Meteorological Organization has a very high regard for the training activities carried out by FMS in collaboration with JICA since year 2015 in capacity building for the regional National Meteorological Services of the South West Pacific,” Mr Kumar said.

The forecasters were from the National Meteorological Services (NMSs) of Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Fiji.

The forecasters carried out case studies on Tropical Cyclones Gita, Hola, Josie and Keni with SATAID during the training to develop necessary skills in analysing and interpreting information.



Minister for Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy with stakeholders at the Sigatoka River bank.  
INSET: Second phase of dredging work in the Sigatoka River.  
Photos: NATASHA BEGUM

## Second phase dredging for river

NATASHA BEGUM

THE second phase of dredging work has started to minimise flooding in parts of the Sigatoka River.

This was commissioned last week by Minister for Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy.

Minister Reddy highlighted that Sigatoka experienced frequent flooding in the past 30 years with the 2009 floods being the worst in Fiji’s history.

In 2010, dredging works initially started at the Sigatoka River because of its shallowness and continuous flooding during cyclones.

“Incidents of unrelenting flooding caused by heavy downpour has caused vast crop damage and destruction to the ‘Salad Bowl of Fiji’ in Sigatoka, particularly to the export based agricultural commodities and this is estimated at \$39 million,” Minister Reddy said.

The Minister said Sigatoka Towa was the principal centre for Nadroga Navosa Province and Fiji’s coastal tourism belt – The Coral Coast – hosted many of the country’s leading hotels and resorts.

“Tourism accounts for a large number of employees and provincial development. Sigatoka, specifically the Sigatoka Valley

### also READ Govt working on solution

THE Ministry of Waterways is exploring options to find a solution for the erosion of the Sigatoka River, Minister for Waterways Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy has confirmed.

This after studies revealed that the River banks had eroded to up to 68 – 70 meters over the years.

He made the comments during a visit to the vegetable farming community of Nabitu in Nadroga on the East-bank of the Sigatoka River recently.

“Government has noted and studies done at the River over

the years has revealed that in some parts of the river, the erosion has been up to 68-70meters,” he said.

“This is a lot of land and given that the riverbanks continue to play a vital role in the nations agriculture sector, Government has already started working with our partners to find a solution to stop the erosion of the banks.”

Minister Reddy was in Nabitu to personally oversee the waterway works that were carried out in the area which was recently completed and took the opportunity to meet members of the community.

produces a high volume of the nation’s fruits, spices and vegetables for local consumption and export,” Minister Reddy said.

“The town provides an essential service point for hotel industry, hotel workers, farmers and so forth, in terms of provision of wholesale/retail goods, government services, police, utilities and administration and there is a need to protect it from flood and disaster.”

Turagi-ni-Koro of Nasigatoka Village Joveti Nakubu thanked the Government for their inter-

vention and said they looked forward to the second phase of dredging works.

“Since the first-phase of dredging works, villagers haven’t experience flooding at all. The positive side is less flooding and our villagers will not have to walk through contaminated water and septic waste because of flooding,” he said.

The Ministry of Waterways has budgeted \$4.65million for the second phase of dredging works and 750,000 cubic metres of sand will be dredged from the river.

## Leases secure families’ future



Sixty-seven-year-old sugarcane farmer Mariappa Goundar with his lease he received from Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya recently.  
Photo: ISAAC LAL

ISAAC LAL

A GROUP of families from Sigatoka, Nadi and Lautoka have expressed their thanks to the Government to granting them land leases which would secure the future of their children and grandchildren.

Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya had out the leases to about 50 families in an event in Nadi.

These leases are for current and new tenants who applied for either renewals or new leases on crown or state land.

In handing over the leases, Minister Koya reiterated Government’s commitment towards a secure Fiji for Fijians where they had the opportunity to secure land for their families.

“The handover of leases, is an indication of Government’s commitment to your well-being,” he said.

“We will continue to ensure that we deliver services to the best of our ability to allow all ordinary Fijians access to basic and essential amenities and infrastructure. All this and more is what encompasses the lease documents you will receive to-

day.”

Of the 50 leases handed over 22 are residential, 22 agricultural and six were civil/commercial leases.

Out of this 50 leases, 10 lessees have been identified and confirmed from Sigatoka, 18 from Lautoka and 22 from Nadi.

One of the lease recipients Mariappa Goundar, a sugarcane farmer of Velovelo, Lautoka, said they had been waiting for the lease renewal for a while.

“Today is the happiest day of my life,” said the 67-year-old.

“I can now go in peace knowing that my children and their children will be secured.”

He thanked Government for allowing people like him who toil the land for their daily livelihood and recognising their efforts by renewing the leases.

“I can’t thank Government enough. To not have a land lease would seem like there’s no roof over our heads and I am grateful to Government for the quick processing of our renewal. I can now live in peace knowing that my children and grandchildren and their home is secured.”



# Kumar: Change for a better Fiji



Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar and participants during the launch of the 2018 World Environment Day on the "Beat Plastic Pollution" Campaign.

Photos: JOSIA RALAGO

JOSIA RALAGO

**F**IJIANS in the Northern Division have been urged to make a change for a better Fiji.

Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar made the comment while addressing more than 300 people at the Labasa Civic Centre during the launch of the 2018 World Environment Day on the "Beat Plastic Pollution" Campaign.

"We need to treat every inch of

our islands and its environment with the same care and cleanliness we do in our homes," Minister Kumar said.

"As Fijians, we live in a beautiful country. Our lands are blessed in so many ways.

"At the same time our actions as Fijians have a negative impact on our beautiful islands."

He urged parents to listen to their children's pleas for the safekeeping of the environment, so the future generation could benefit.

"Our once healthy environment is now at a steady state of decline

because of industrialisation, deforestation, technical development, global warming and pollution, among other factors," Minister Kumar said.

"Therefore, we are here to take a collective and protect and defend our environment.

"It can only be done when we keep our eyes open and be active to bring some positive changes within ourselves and our environment."

He added that a part of this No Plastic campaign was the "No Straw" pledge.



Jane Nasilasila with two other participants during the Northern Division Youth and Sports Conference. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

## Be vocal, disabled activist pleads

JOSIA RALAGO

**A** transgender woman and human rights champion living with disability is calling on for youths to be more vocal.

In an interview during the Northern Division Youth and Sports Conference, 26-year-old Jane Nasilasila said youths needed to speak up about the challenges they faced because this was the only way their voices could be heard.

"You cannot let another person tell your story or the challenges that you go through. It is your narration so speak up," Ms Nasilasila said.

"They say we are leaders of tomorrow, but we are not just that, we're also leaders in our own capacities right now."

A representative for Youth Champs for Mental Health, she said most suicide victims in Fiji were youths and this was an important aspect, which showed the need to have a voice.

"Being a transgender youth has its barriers, but one should continue to tell their story. I

think more young women, members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community should take part in these gatherings."

She shared this point in line with the opening remarks made by Assistant Minister for Youth and Sports Ilesia Delana, who said young women, girls and LGBTI youths faced a lot of discrimination and were subjected to inequality and exclusion.

"All these challenges call for bold approaches to building a more just, peaceful and sustainable world," Assistant Minister Delana said.

"This is why we hold Talanoa sessions regularly with young people – to hear from you directly what you are thinking, your hopes and inspirations and where we can help."

He said the Ministry of Youths and Sports was determined to find ways and develop mechanisms to assist Fijian youths to evolve, given the resources they had.

## From classroom to farm with no regrets

JOSIA RALAGO

**K**RISHNEEL Vishal Anand of Qelewaqa, Labasa, worked three different jobs before leaving to be a farmer.

And, according to the 32-year-old father of two, this was all possible through the grants and pro-

grammes set up by the Government to assist farmers.

Decked in a green T-shirt and blue-basketball shorts, Mr Nand, a former teacher, was seated comfortably on a couch when a team from this newspaper visited him.

His wife served us a cup of tea, he smiled and said this was during one of his breaks during the day and this would not have been the case if he

was still a teacher.

"I would still be in the classroom teaching or working on my teaching lessons."

Mr Nand has been a sugarcane and livestock farmer for the past three years.

He said his passion for the land was passed on from his father when he was a child.

"I have always had my interest in farming, but it was the search for greener pastures that drove me to look for office jobs," Mr Nand said.

"I first worked at the Sangam College of Nursing and Health Care Education as a clerk, worked for the Fiji Police Force for two years and then taught Maths and Computer Science for six years.

"After being posted far from my family for a year, I finally decided to resign to be a full-time

farmer and I have not looked back since."

He was assisted by the Northern Development Programme (NDP) with a shed for his goats.

In fact, he said, life was so much better; he has more time to spend with his young family, start work early and rest whenever he wanted.

Mr Nand said compared with the past, the assistance now being provided by Government to farmers helped them get on their feet very fast.

"Apart from this, there are numerous courses and workshops made available to us as farmers to better our farming techniques and improve production," he said.

"I would like to urge the unemployed to make use of the opportunities being provided by the Government to help make a living for themselves and their families.

"And my utmost appreciation to the Government for its assistance and the continuous improvements being carried out to better the lives of Fijians across all sectors."



Krishneel Vishal Anand points to the shed where he shelters his livestock. This was made possible through the assistance of Northern Development Programme (NDP). Photos: JOSIA RALAGO





# Australians, RFMF build ties

HALITESH DATT

THE Republic of Fiji Military Forces will work closely with its Australian counterparts to provide targeted skill-set training for its officers, enlisted men and women.

RFMF Chief of Staff Brigadier-General Ro Jone Kalouniwai said the RFMF had and would con-

tinue to partner the Australian Defence Forces for capacity building programmes.

Brigadier-General Ro Jone made the comment after eight Fijian Navy officers and sailors took part in one of Australia's major regional exercises, the Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE) 18.

The IPE is a major annual maritime activity that delivers on the

promise of the 2016 Defence White Paper to deepen Australia's engagement and partnerships with regional security forces.

"It's a big learning curve for the RFMF, especially when we are trying to modernise our various capabilities that can help us in future," Brigadier-General Ro Jone said.

"It's all part of the defence co-

operation between the RFMF and ADF. It's all about us (RFMF) getting that exposure. We don't have this sort of exposure. The fact that they (ADF) are willing to help us is an indication of our co-operation"

Australian High Commissioner to Fiji John Feakes says such co-operation between the RFMF and ADF is an indication of strong re-

lationship between the two countries.

"This visit by HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Melbourne is about further strengthening the connective tissue that exists between Australia Defence Forces and Republic of Fiji Military Force. During exercises such as IPE, the aim is to enhance the interoperability between ADF and RFMF,



Royal Australian naval officers AB Michelle Vocea, (left), and AB Chelsey Patterson on board HMAS Adelaide in Suva. Photo: HALITESH DATT

## Sky is the limit for Fiji-born Navy sailors

HALITESH DATT

IT may be a dream for many, especially youths, to be part of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

However for two of Fiji-born lasses, that is a reality.

It was a dream come true for Michelle Vocea and Chelsey Patterson when the duo were selected to be part of the Royal Australian Navy in 2015 and 2014 respectively.

They were on board one of the largest warships of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), HMAS Adelaide that made a brief stopover in Suva during the Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE) 2018. IPE is one of the major regional engagement exercises for the ADF.

Vocea is an Able Seaman Communicator while Patterson is the Able Seaman Medic on board HMAS Adelaide.

"Being part of the Royal Australian Navy is definitely a really good career choice for me. I have learnt a lot of valuable lessons in the last three years of my career," AB Vocea said.

"I've worked with the Australian Army on HMAS Choules for exercise Talisman Sabre last year and again throughout my posting on Adelaide. The Navy gives me the opportunity to travel, look after my health and stay fit at the same time," she added.

AB Vocea has paternal links to Savusavu and lived with her family in Kinoya and Lami before migrating to Australia few years ago. Although settled well in Australia, Fiji is always close to her heart.

"My parents work and live in Fiji for most of the year, so I usually go and visit them every year. The best part of my job is meeting people from all different walks of life, whether they're people in the RAN or people I have met along the way in the job," she said.

Meanwhile AB Patterson has paternal links to Levuka. It was her love for sea voyaging and passion for navy that made her choose this career path.

"I was the head girl at Holy Trinity Primary School and then joined St. Joseph's and subsequently moved to Australia where I completed by high school," AB Patterson said.

Although the journey from Fiji to Australia and then to the Royal Australian Navy has been challenging, it has also been a rewarding one for AB Patterson.

"I joined the Navy to give back to Australia after migrating with my family, which I feel is the least I can do. I also love to travel, which is a really great part of being in the Navy," she said.

AB Patterson is currently studying a Bachelor of Medical Science through Victoria University.

## Female soldier relishes life in uniform



Staff Sergeant Kelera Seruitanoa who has spent 12 years serving with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and has been on three overseas peacekeeping missions says her career choice was one of the best decisions she ever made. Photos: SUPPLIED

MEREANI GONEDUA

LIFE in the military for a woman is not always easy because you have to be on top of your game every day.

This was the sentiment shared by 33-year-old Staff Sergeant Kelera Seruitanoa, who has spent 12 years serving with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces.

Sharing the story of her life as a soldier, Staff Sergeant Seruitanoa - who has been on three overseas peacekeeping missions - said her career choice was one of the best decisions she ever made.

"My first tour with the United Nations mission was in 2006 with the 6th battalion UNAMI in Iraq. I've been on three tours and my second tour was again to Iraq in 2010 and the other one was in Golan Heights in 2014," she said.

Staff Sergeant Seruitanoa, who is part of the Fiji-UN 40th anniversary commemoration, shared her experience while serving under the United Nations banner in Iraq.

"My first time on deployment was not always easy because there were less women compared with men, and we had to make do with what we had. However, we managed to overcome every chal-

*One of the reasons I wanted to join the army was to instill discipline within myself. I was always considered the 'black sheep' of my family and I wanted to try my best to change that.*

Thirty-three-year-old Staff Sergeant Kelera Seruitanoa

lenge we faced and I was always reminded of the oath that I took for my country and the passion that I have in serving people.

"While in Iraq we were able to overcome our challenges by speaking to our women counterparts from other countries who were on deployment as well. We would share our experiences with each other and that would assist us in carrying out our duties.

"Serving in the Middle East re-

gion was not always easy being in a male-dominated field, but what kept us going was the support we had back home and our daily devotions together.

"Sometimes we would hear gunshots, but as the days went by we managed to overcome our fear and treated it like another normal day in the office."

Staff Sergeant Seruitanoa highlighted that sometimes it would be hard being away from family especially serving in a foreign country and being surrounded by strangers. However her colleagues became her family as time went by.

"One of the reasons I wanted to join the army was to instill discipline thin myself. I was always considered the 'black sheep' of my family and I wanted to try my best to change that," said the youngest in a family of four siblings, whose parents were schoolteachers.

"I was able to do that while in the army and I encourage every female out there whether you are still in school or wherever you may be, if you have the passion to serve your country please come forward and join us."

Women personnel with the RFMF have been on UN deployment since 2000.





## Grant helps grass cutting business



Georgina Palu proudly shows the \$1000 grant she received from Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya in Navua. Photo: JENNIS NAIDU

JENNIS NAIDU

**G**EORGINA Palu, a strong-willed Nakaulevu resident of Navua, is thankful that the Government has given her a \$1000 grant to fulfill her entrepreneurial vision.

The 39-year-old, who is originally from Vanuabalavu, Lau, was among 554 recipients who received the Micro and Small Business Grant from the Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources, Faiyaz Koya, at Rampur College last week.

Mrs Palu will use the grant to start a door-to-door grass cutting business.

"All the people in my area are trying to cut grass, but they don't have any grass cutter so I made up my mind to start this business," she said proudly.

Mrs Palu home-based business will help run the household and cater to the needs of her four children, charging \$20 for small, and \$25-\$30 for bigger compounds.

"The ministry through its various business development support services will provide you with business-development training, advisory and hand holding services to ensure that you all succeed in your business ventures," Minister Koya said while addressing grant recipients.

The funding was disbursed to the successful recipients who will engage in various business ventures from handicraft, farming, baking, frozen-food sales and tailoring.

"I did not know that my grant would be approved today so I am very happy," Mrs Palu said.



Members of the Cakova Women's Club, Alumeci Ratakele, Viriseta Yavala, Kerry Farrell and Marica Mae inside the canteen, which they established with help from Government. INSET: A customer being served in the canteen at Cakova Village in Moala, Lau.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA

# Canteen project thrives

NANISE NEIMILA

**C**AKOVA Women's Group in Moala secured funding from Government to establish a canteen project in August last year.

This latest development came in the wake of a visit last year led by the Minister for Women Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa.

The Minister held talks with the women on the island after requests to the Government to fund income-generating projects.

Assistant shopkeeper Alumeci Ratakele said since the inception of the canteen it has managed to serve Cakova and other neighbouring villages on Moala.

"We are very glad that this is the first government that has come right down to us to address our bread and butter is-

sues," she said.

"We are grateful to the Government for coming right down to our doorsteps to sit with us and hear us out and identify development projects to improve our lives.

"This approach empowers us to take ownership of the solutions while addressing the challenges we face."

Minister Vuniwaqa said development projects such as women's centres would lead to women starting their own businesses and empower them to be financially independent.

"The ministry is reaching out to women in semi urban and informal settlements because they face financial difficulties and after fruitful discussions new projects such as women's centre would be opened to maximise economic opportunities for the women of Cakova," she said.

Minister Vuniwaqa adds the

*We are grateful to the Government for coming right down to our doorsteps to sit with us and hear us out and identify development projects to improve our lives.*

Assistant shopkeeper Alumeci Ratakele

ministry was glad to assist this community because it had shown sincere and genuine efforts to increase economic development by capitalising on the potential of women to max-

imise their business skills and opportunities.

Village headman of Cakova Village Apenisa Vuli acknowledged Government for providing a swift response to their request.

"We don't have to travel to Naroi Post office to purchase goods the canteen provides almost what we need on daily basis like the essentials for the week," he said.

"It's quite costly too some families to get goods from Suva, but with the canteen at their doorstep buying goods are cheap and efficient."

The goods sold at the canteen are purchased from Suva and it takes two weeks to reach the island. The group spends close to \$300-\$400 to purchase goods that is sold at the canteen.

Plans for the next three to four years include the purchase of a freezer to sell frozen goods.

# High food import reliance a big worry

NANISE NEIMILA

**A**GRICULTURE is critical in addressing the increased prevalence rate of Non-Communicable Diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes, many of which stem from high levels of obesity.

This was one of issue of discussion at the recent regional forum on Developing Pacific Local Food crops and Fisheries value chains held in Suva.

Director ACP-EU technical centre for Agriculture and Rural Co-operation Michael Hailu indicated that 75 per cent of adult deaths in the Pacific were related to NCDs.

"This epidemic can be blamed on increased reliance on imported highly-processed

foods, which are replacing more nutrient-dense traditional foods," Mr Hailu said.

"At the same time, chronic malnutrition remains a serious public health problem reflected in high levels of stunting in children under five years of age in a number of Pacific Island countries."

Mr Hailu said the double burden of malnutrition highlighted the need to diversify the food system and reverse public health problems with changes in diet and lifestyles.

In Fiji non-communicable diseases (NCDs) cause 80 per cent of deaths in hospitals. NCDs are a serious issue and put a lot of pressure on the country's health system.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar said NCDs could be prevented with proper diet and physical activity and

discipline when it came to getting regular checks and taking medication.

"NCDs have a major impact in the country, one of which is premature death," Minister Akbar said.

"More and more people are losing their limbs and this is because of the uncontrolled blood pressure and uncontrolled sugar levels.

Minister Akbar urged all Fijians to become champions of healthy living, saying it could be achieved if people had self-discipline.

In 2016, Fiji's agriculture trade showed a negative result of F\$453 million.

At the same time, Fiji exported crop and livestock products worth F\$193m, mainly fresh and chilled commodities such as Taro, Ginger, Cassava, Papaya and Kava as well

as other value-added products such as Coconut Oil.

Speaking at the forum, Assistant Minister for Agriculture Viam Pillay said during the same period Fiji imported F\$646m worth of basic commodities such as rice, potato, dairy, fresh and chilled meat.

"Linked to the increase in imported food products, Fiji has experienced a dietary shift away from traditional foods such as root crops and tubers, towards imported and processed foods," Mr Pillay said.

Mr Pillay adds that many of the challenges, such as small land sizes, dominance of subsistence farming, impacts of climate change, remoteness and lack of access to markets were not just pertinent to Fiji, but to the Pacific at large.





# Call to revive lost culture of reading

JENNIS NAIDU

**L**OOK around you. What do you see? Every individual, with an invisible string connected to a mobile electronic device, scrolling up and down.

Reading, but not in the traditional manner. A bright glare has replaced the old, musty smell. Tiny clicks are now the sound heard instead of turning pages. The essence of accumulating knowledge from books is lost in this era.

And it may stay that way unless a culture of traditional reading is not cultivated and revived.

Permanent Secretary for Education Allison Burchell urged students to read to improve their knowledge upon receiving the 4th shipment of book from the Fiji Water Foundation and Vision Fiji as part of the “Read to Lead”

## must read

Reading habits need to be instilled young, like all the others; once a reader always a reader.

A research study conducted by The Conversation in 2017 discussed that parents could encourage their children to read by

young. Reading out loud to your newborn child makes them familiar to the sound of their parents’ voice and tones of language develops as well.



Permanent Secretary for Education Allison Burchell, (standing far right), called for the cultivation and revival of the culture of reading during the “Read to Lead” programme at Nadi Primary School.

programme at the Nadi Primary School last week (June 6).

“Libraries are a major source of good books and we must always be willing to use the libraries because they are our window to the world of knowledge,” she added.

The Government, in its 2017-2018 National Budget, has made an inclusion of \$100,000 in their Library Scheme for braille books, audios, big print and hard books to be distributed in special schools and libraries.

“We can all read but we must learn to read first before we can read to learn,” PS Burchell told students of Nadi Primary School.

The Ministry of Education is responsible for library services of Fiji. The data under

the Annual General Report 2017 showed that there are 736 libraries, 180 secondary school libraries, five public libraries, including a partnership with three municipal libraries that are operational.

“I like reading stories, the characters teach me a lesson, I learn about different places and points of views as different behavioural patterns, it is a way to spend my time leisurely,” said Pranil Naidu, a second-year medical student at the Fiji School of Medicine.

Vision Fiji will distribute educational and entertaining reading books to over 700 primary schools around the country under the ‘Read to Lead’ programme.

## 450 school libraries set up in six years

MEREANI GONEDUA

**A** total of 450 school libraries have been established around the country after a 150 per cent budget increase in the past six years.

Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Education, Heritage, Arts, Library Services and National Archives Alison Burchell revealed this during the Pacific Libraries Summit.

“In 2016 there was a decision to open up library corners in every early childhood care centres and that’s being done in 300 areas in Fiji,” Ms Burchell said.

She added that 36 community libraries had been established and the number continued to increase, particularly in remote areas.

PS Burchell stated that there was a process of automating the four public libraries and ensuring that special schools had access to libraries.

“It’s about engaging with ideas, it’s about developing opinions and to some extent it’s about problem solving because the books - whether electronic or hard copy books - provide access to people asking questions and how to answer those questions in the problem solving component.”

Meanwhile, she highlighted that a Pacific Islands’ literacy and numeracy assessment would be carried out this year.

The assessment, according to PS Burchell, would be able to provide guidance in terms of what needed to be improved across primary and secondary schools.

## Facilities upgrade boost Nadi school

NATASHA BEGUM

**S**TUDENTS of Malamala Public School in Nadi can now study with ease after the construction of a school gate, classroom and provision of water supply.

Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport, Parveen Kumar opened the new facilities last week and congratulated the management and staff of the school for the developments.

“These are small, but important, steps to create the best learning and teaching environment in your school,” Minister Kumar said.

“As students of Malamala Public School you should be proud of the developments, both small and big, that makes

your school better and better.

“On that note let me remind all the students that as you are half-way through the school year, please strive for excellence in your exams and educational achievements for your school.”

Minister Kumar added that small schools such as Malamala Public School contributed tremendously to national development.

“Small, but vital, schools such as Malamala Public School are very important institutions for our rural communities,” he said.

“No matter at what level, you make contributions that have added positively to our national development.”

The cost of the project is estimated to be around \$14,000.

The school has a roll of 172 students



Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar commissions the tap water system at Malamala Public School. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM





## Call to raise FNPf deductions

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

CIVIL servants and workers have been encouraged to increase their deductions to their Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPf) accounts.

The encouragement came from FNPf's General Manager Member Services, Alipate Waqairawai, at the recent two-day Rewa Provincial Council meeting at Burebasaga Village.

"I am encouraging civil servants and workers around the country to realise the wonders of compound interest," Mr Waqairawai said.

"When you do that your retirement money will increase because we offer the highest interest in Fiji, which is 6.5 per cent."

Mr Waqairawai reiterated the words of the great German-born theoretical physicist Albert Einstein, who once said that compound interest was the eighth wonder of the world.

"Einstein once said; 'He who understands it earns it. He who doesn't pays it,'" he said.

"You understand that 10 per cent of your FNPf contribution is given by your employer and 8 per cent is deducted from you pay.

"You can deduct up to 12 per cent of your gross if want to increase your FNPf contribution."

Mr Waqairawai said FNPf collected between \$48m and \$50m annually through members' deductions.

"On top of that another \$27m to \$30m is gained every month from interest. FNPf is the best investment institution in Fiji. Your retirement funds are in good hands," he said.

Mr Waqairawai said the FNPf invested in several lucrative tourist hotels in Fiji, which included the Grand Pacific Hotel and the Momi Bay Resort.

Recently the FNPf added another investment package including the Marriot Denarau, Sheraton Resort, Westin Resort and the Denarau Golf Course and Development Land.

FNPf Chairman Ajith Kodagoda said: "This is a huge investment which the fund and our members can be proud of."

## Government prioritises rural road network

**\$60 million** is set aside by Government for the upgrading of rural roads programme.

NANISE NEIMILA

GOVERNMENT will focus on promoting economic growth and sustainable development through the Integrated Rural Development Framework for Fijians living in the rural and maritime islands.

This means that not only will Government focus on development, but it's the responsibility of every Fijian to contribute towards the development of their province or village.

One of the major issues highlighted at the recent Government Roadshow on Moala in the western Lau Group was the poor road network around the island.

Government set aside \$60 million for the upgrading of rural roads programme and this includes the upgrading and replacement of bridges.

Permanent Secretary for Rural and Maritime Development Meleti Bainimarama said Government made strategic investments in rural and maritime areas by establishing the foundation that would ensure rural communities were able to raise their standard of living to become financially independent.

"Most prominent of this is the improvement to the means of access such as roads networks and



Government will focus on promoting economic growth and sustainable development through the Integrated Rural Development Framework for Fijians living in the rural and maritime islands.

### Developments and projects

#### LAU GROUP

Fiji Roads Authority **\$22 million**

Road maintenance in Vanuabalavu, Cicia, Lakeba, Moala, Matuku and Totoya

Water Authority of Fiji **438** water tanks distributed to **49** communities

**\$77,000** two solar pumps

Ginger farming **\$10,000**

Government's investment for the supply of organic ginger seeds and other organic materials

Agriculture **\$66,000**

Ministry of Agriculture's investment towards Coconut Rehabilitation Programme

jetties. Government, through the Fiji Roads Authority, is primarily focused on ensuring that people are able to move freely within their province and to urban centres through maintenance and construction of road networks and jetties," Mr Bainimarama said.

"In the current financial year, FRA has conducted road maintenance in Vanuabalavu, Cicia, Lakeba, Moala, Matuku and Totoya. In addition FRA has undertaken major capital works amounting to more than \$2.2million in the province of Lau alone."

Commissioner Eastern Luke Moroivalu said there was potential in Moala to lift the economic base of communities and villages.

"Plans are in place with the relevant Government agencies and the private sector to try to explore and exploit the potential in Moala and the Lau Group. We have been working in some areas and looking at how best we can link this fisheries and agricultural products to the market," Mr Moroivalu said.

Mr Moroivalu commended the people of Moala for taking the lead role in ensuring that they had

a sustainable livelihood.

In Lau, accessing water has been a challenge in recent years and to resolve this Government has provided free water tanks.

The Water Authority of Fiji distributed a total of 438 water tanks to 49 communities in the province of Lau.

WAF installed two solar pumps in the last calendar year, which cost about \$77,000, to assist in the provision of safe drinking water to deprived communities.

The prospect for ginger in Lau has prompted Government to invest \$10,000 for the production of organic ginger through the supply of organic ginger seeds and other organic materials to sustain this initiative in selected communities in Lau.

Reviving the copra industry in Lau is an important statement in its quest to promote income generation.

The Ministry of Agriculture has invested a total of \$66,000 through the Coconut Rehabilitation Programme and the coconut development programme to ensure that this initiative continues to benefit the communities in Lau.



Senior Agriculture Officer Sanjay Narayan, Minister for Waterways Dr. Mahendra Reddy and Korokadi Advisory Councillor Mohammed Janif in Korokadi, Bua.

INSET: Minister for Waterways Dr. Mahendra Reddy and his team during an inspection on the drainage at Bua Loma ni Koro.  
Photos: JOSAI RALAGO

## Ministry wary of chemical use

JOSAI RALAGO

MINISTER for Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy says there is a need to look at ways to control the use of chemicals on farms next to waterways.

Minister Reddy made the comment during his recent visit to Vanua Levu, adding that the number of weedicides and pesticides used by farmers had increased substantially over the years.

"It is something that we need to examine. We need to also have provisions in legislations that allow us to monitor and minimise water contamination," he said.

"So far, we have taken for granted that the water from our waterways are safe. However, given that there are cases of water-borne diseases

and if you study the data on the usage of pesticides over the years, weedicides as well, you will find that the amount of pesticides and weedicides used in Fiji have increased over time.

"This means the number of waterways are constant while the amount of pesticides and weedicides have increased substantially."

He said this was an issue that they would address because it would consequently mean the contamination of waterways overtime.

"We should all be worried about these pesticides finding its way into our waterways and its implications on the downstream communities and on the reservoirs that we drink from," Minister Reddy said.

"So it is something that we have to start thinking about and take action on."



# FijiFocus



## HARRY, MEGHAN SET FOR FIJI VISIT

The recently married Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex (Prince Harry and Meghan Markle) (PICTURED) are set to visit Fiji in October this year as part of a four-country tour. This has been confirmed by Buckingham Palace. The royal couple will be in Sydney, Australia, during the Invictus Games and then visit New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama welcomed the visit and said it underlined the royal couple's interest in the Commonwealth and Fiji's historical ties with Great Britain and the Royal Family.

**INSET:** Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with the sixth in line to the English throne, His Highness Prince Henry of Wales, commonly known as Prince Harry, at Buckingham Palace on the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government's Meeting (CHOGM) in London in April this year.

Photo: ISAAC LAL

# Move praised

## MUMS WELCOME MATERNITY UNIT INITIATIVE

**KELERA SOVASIGA, EMI KOROITANOVA**

**E**XPECTANT mothers have praised Government move to extend the Colonial War Memorial Hospital maternity unit to a 200-bed facility, saying it will mean greater comfort and care for those admitted there. Two such mothers were Meremulo Dikete of Lomanikoro Village, Rewa, and Angelita Devi of Milverton Road, Raiwai, Suva. Ms Dikete, 28, who lives at Nakasi, Nasinu, is expecting her third child and says the an-

nouncement and ground-breaking means better services for mothers and newborns. "This Government initiative to extend the maternity ward would mean a great deal to us mothers because we will not have to worry about overcrowding and bed shortage when coming for delivery. It will be more healthy and hygienic for the mothers and their newborn babies," she said. Counting down her hours before she delivered her newborn, 23-year-old Ms Devi raised her concerns with the current state of facilities and service but was optimistic about what such a project

would bring and mean for future mothers and their newborns. She said with the current challenges faced when giving birth, it is good to know that health of and care for mothers and newborns was of substantial importance, was not taken lightly and that Government was ensuring that such facilities and services were being provided. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, who officiated at the groundbreaking ceremony, assured the public that this full service hospital would be one of a kind for women in Fiji. "It will be one that meets high

international standards and one that delivers a complete package of co-ordinated care designed specifically for women," he said. "It will be a one-stop shop catering to the physical and emotional healthcare needs of women patients, in a comprehensive facility unlike anything Fiji has ever seen before. "Every parent remembers those moments as you awaited the birth of a child; you remember how stressful a time that can be. "In those moments, you are putting your faith in our health system and in the doctors and nurses who are there to serve you.

PM Bainimarama said integrated clinical services would also be offered to Fijian women to a level that Fiji had never seen before. The new facility will include post ante and neonatal facilities; a first-stage delivery room; a post anaesthetic delivery unit; eight new delivery rooms; three new operating theatres; a palliative Care Ward; a High Dependency Unit; conference rooms; ultra-sound and X-ray capabilities, a family planning office, all built to a standard found in any hospital in developed countries.



# फीजी फोकस



## प्रधान मंत्री ने रा स्थित नासेयानी प्राथमरी स्कूल के लिए खोला नया डायनिंग होल

प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेन्गे बर्दिनमरामा ने रा के नासेयानी प्राथमरी स्कूल के लिए नए डायनिंग होल का उद्घाटन किया। इससे एक सौ से भी ज़्यादा विद्यार्थियों को फायदा होगा। पिछले साल स्कूल का उद्घाटन के समय तालानोआ के दौरान नासेयानी के निवासियों ने प्रधानमंत्री से डायनिंग होल की माँग की थी। प्रधानमंत्री के स्मोल ग्रान्ट स्क्रीम से इस योजना के लिए दो लाख चौबीस हजार डॉलर की सहायता की गई है। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि यह योजना इन बच्चों के भविष्य के लिए है। उन्होंने कहा कि वो आने वाली पीढ़ी के लिए लम्बे समय वाली पुँजी के लिए उत्साहित है फिर चाहे वो जलवायू परिवर्तन के खिलाफ अंतराष्ट्रीय मंच पर लड़ाई या फीजी में हमारे सभी बच्चों को मुफ्त में शिक्षा प्रदान करने की बात हो। उन्होंने कहा कि नया फीजी फलने फूलने के लिए बनाया गया है।

# ऐतिहासिक राष्ट्रीय बजट

रोनल देव

राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा जबकि अगले गुरुवार अक्टूबर जून को होगी तो ऐसे में अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री आईयाज़ सैयद-खैयुम ने जोर दिया है कि इस साल का राष्ट्रीय बजट फीजी के इतिहास में सबसे अधिक लोगों को लाभ देने वाला और सम्मिलित होगा।

माननीय अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि हर एक फीजीवासी के जीवन पर सीधा और सकारात्मक असर डालने वाले कार्यक्रमों को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी तथा वर्तमान योजनाओं के लिए पिछले साल जितने पैसे अलग करने की घोषणा की गई थी इस साल और पैसे निकाले जाएंगे तथा नई योजनाओं के लिए भी पैसे अलग करने को

प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी।

उनके अनुसार यह बजट भी अन्य बजट की तरह पूरी तरह समझदारी से संचालन करने तथा देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था और बढ़ाने पर ध्यान देगा। उन्होंने कहा कि सभी बजट की तरह यह बजट भी लोगों, खास करके हमारे समाज में कमज़ोर सदस्यों की सहायता करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करेगा।

माननीय सैयद-खैयुम का कहना है कि हमेशा से देश के वित्त का अच्छी तरह संभाल कर इस्तेमाल करना सरकार का नमूना रहा है, जिससे देश के इतिहास में सबसे लम्बे समय के लिए आर्थिक बढ़न्ती हुई है।

उन्होंने कहा कि आने वाले राष्ट्रीय बजट में कुछ बहुत ही रोचक नई नितियों तथा कार्यो

के लिए पैसे अलग किए जाएंगे। पिछले साल राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा के वक्त अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा था कि सन् दो हजार छः के मुकाबले सरकार की आमदनी तीन गुना बढ़ी है। सरकार की नितियों ने न केवल घरेलू बल्कि विदेशी पुँजी पतियों को फिर से आकर्षित किया है जो एक नई उँचाई पर पहुँच गया है।

सरकार का यह भी लक्ष्य है, सरकारी सेवा में भारी सुधार लाना, टेक्स यानि कर के बोज को बाँटना, और भी डाक्टरों, नर्सों तथा स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों को आकर्षित करना, शिक्षा के स्तर में सुधार लाना, जलवायू परिवर्तन को लेकर अंतराष्ट्रीय मंच पर और बड़ी भूमिका निभाना।

सरकार ने पिछले साल सबसे ज़्यादा पैसा देश में शिक्षा स्तर को सुधारने के लिए निकाला जहाँ लगभग नौ सौ चौसठ मिलियन डॉलर अलग किया गया था। इसमें से चार सौ नब्बे मिलियन डॉलर शिक्षा मंत्रालय को दिया गया। फीजी रोड्स अथॉरिटी को पाँच सौ सत्ताईस मिलियन डॉलर दिया गया था जिनमें से पाँच सौ मिलियन डॉलर योजनाओं के लिए था। जबकि शुगा मंत्रालय को सन् दो हजार सोलह के मुकाबले दुगुना पैसा साठ मिलियन डॉलर दिया गया था।

सन् दो हजार अक्टूबर और सन् दो हजार उन्नीस राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा इसी महीने की अक्टूबर तारीख को की जाएगी।





# नई विमन्स युनिट



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमरामा सी डबलू एम अस्पताल के लिए एक नई हेल्थ युनिट का न्यू डालते हुए।

रोनल देव

गर्भवती माताओं के लिए जल्द सूवा में अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर की एक नई हेल्थ युनिट बनेगी जिसमें खास करके महिलाओं की देखभाल की सुविधाएँ उपलब्ध रहेंगी। प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डिनमरामा ने सी डबलू एम सूवा की नई विमन्स हेल्थ युनिट की न्यू डाली। “हम सूवा के अलावा अन्य अस्पतालों के लिए और भी मोडर्न यानि अधुनिक उपकरण खरीद रहे हैं तथा हमने कुछ नई सुविधाएँ खोलने के अलावा पुराने स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं पर मरम्मत किया है जैसे

कि मकोई, बेन्गा, ताईलेवू, तावुआ, सिंगातोका और दूवू। इसके अलावा रेतुमा, नकासी, नवोसा, नंदूरी, म्वा तथा लौतोका अस्पताल में भी काम हुआ है,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा। उनके अनुसार सरकार स्वास्थ्य विषयों पर जागरूकता लाने पुँजी लगा रही है ताकि फीजीवासी स्वस्थ जीवन व्यतीत करें और अपने स्वास्थ्य की खुद ज़िम्मेदारी लें। नई सूवा विमन्स युनिट पूरी होने पर वहाँ शिशु को जन्म देने वाली हर सुविधा प्रदान करने के साथ-साथ, तीन औपरेटिंग थियेटर के अलावा अन्य सुविधाओं के लिए जगह उपलब्ध होगी जो

अन्य विकसित देशों के स्तर का बनाया जाएगा। यह एक सोची-समझी योजना है जहाँ सी डबलू एम माटेनिटी बोर्ड को बढ़ाकर दो सौ खाट वाली सुविधा बनाई जाएगी जिसमें वो सारी सुविधाएँ मिलने की उम्मीद है जो ऑस्ट्रेलिया और न्यू ज़िलेन्ड के अस्पतालों में मिलता है। उदाहरण के तौर पर सी डबलू एल अस्पताल में शिशुओं के जन्म की संख्या सन् दो हजार छः में छः हजार पाँच सौ से बढ़कर पिछले साल आठ हजार पाँच सौ हुई। सन् दो हजार दस में शिशुओं के जन्म लेने की संख्या सबसे ज़्यादा नौ हजार एक सौ थी।

## फीजी केयर सहायता पाने वाले अनुचित लोगों की माफी अवधी

रोनल देव

फीजी केयर की माफी अवधी के सिर्फ एक सप्ताह बाकी है। जिन फीजीवासियों पर समुद्री आँधी जोसी या केनी का असर नहीं पड़ता था लेकिन उन्होंने सहायता के लिए अर्जी लगाई थी और उन्हें केयर फोर फीजी कार्यक्रम के नीचे सहायता मिल गई है को अगले शुक्रवार पंद्रह जून तक का समय दिया गया है कि वे अपने एलेक्ट्रॉनिक कार्ड या किसी अन्य तरह की प्राप्त सहायता सरकारी अधिकारियों को लौटा दें। यह माफी अवधी फाम्स केयर, होम्स केयर, ई-ट्रान्सपोर्ट केयर, लीस-होल्डर केयर तथा शुगरकैन केयर के नीचे सहायता प्राप्त कर चुके अनुचित लोगों के लिए है। इस अवधी के दौरान अगर अनुचित लोगों ने एलेक्ट्रॉनिक कार्ड में पैसे खर्च कर दिए हैं तो उन्हें पूरे पैसे चुकाने होंगे।

सरकार की समुद्री आँधी का राहत पैकेज केयर फोर फीजी सिर्फ उन लोगों की मदद करने का इरादा रखता है जिनपर समुद्री आँधी जोसी और केनी का सीधा असर पड़ा था जैसा कि पहले भी कई बार कहा गया है।

विमन, चिलरन और पोवेटी अलेविशेशन मंत्रालय के मार्फत, फीजीयन सरकार, हज़ारों लोगों तक केयर फोर फीजी राहत सहायता लेकर पहुँची है, लेकिन देश भर में इसके गलत इस्तेमाल की कुछ रिपोर्टें सामने आई थी। अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्रालय की ओडिट टीम, सहायता प्राप्त करने वाले लोगों और घरों के बारे में जाँच-पड़ताल कर रही है तथा गलत इस्तेमाल के कुछ आरोपित मामले सामने आए हैं जिन्हें छानबीन करने के लिए फीजी पुलिस फोर्स के हवाले किया गया है।

केयर फोर फीजी कार्यक्रम के गलत इस्तेमाल में शामिल है, अर्जी वाले फॉर्म पर गलत जानकारी लिखना, एक ही घर से एक ही सहायता के लिए अलग-अलग रजिस्टर करना, सहायता वाली समाग्री फिर से बेचना या एलेक्ट्रॉनिक कार्ड्स किसी ऐसे व्यापारी के पास खर्च करना जिन्हें इसका अधिकार नहीं दिया गया है।

फाम्स केयर के नीचे मिले एलेक्ट्रॉनिक कार्ड्स देश में किसी भी कृषि दफ्तर को लौटाए जा सकते हैं। अन्य सभी केयर फोर फीजी एलेक्ट्रॉनिक कार्ड्स या किसी अन्य तरह की सहायता या पैसे देश में किसी भी सौशल वेलफेयर दफ्तर को वापस किए जा सकते हैं। एलेक्ट्रॉनिक कार्ड्स लौटाने वाले सभी सवाल केयर होट लाईन 2273 पर कोल करके किए जा सकते हैं। फीजीयन सरकार ने केयर फोर फीजी के नीचे सहायता हासिल करने वाले अनुचित लोगों से इस माफी अवधी से फायदा उठाने की माँग की है नहीं तो केयर फोर फीजी कार्यक्रम का गलत इस्तेमाल करने का नतिजा बहुत गम्भीर हो सकता है। फोल्स इनफोमईशन एक्ट 2016 के नीचे, अपने फायदे के लिए सरकार को किसी भी तरह की गलत जानकारी देना कानून के तहत अपराध है जिसके लिए फायदे की रकम लौटाने, बीस हजार डॉलर जुर्माना या दस सालों तक की जेल की सज़ा या सभी लागू हो सकते हैं।

## अस्सी हजार से ज़्यादा बच्चों को मेन सी टीके लगे

रोनल देव

राष्ट्रीय मेनिंगजोकोकल (मेन सी) टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम चौथे हफ्ते में जारी है जहाँ केन्द्रीय विभाग और रा सब-डिविज़न के अस्सी हजार (80,000) से ज़्यादा बच्चे जिनकी उम्र एक साल के उन्नीस साल के बीच है को टीके लगाए गए हैं। मंत्रालय के दल ने रा-सबडिविज़न में सभी स्कूलों जबकि केन्द्रीय विभाग में नवासी (89) प्रतिशत स्कूलों का दौरा कर लिया है। इस अभियान की अगुवाई स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय कर रहा है जिनकी सहायता, युनाएटड नईशन्स चिलरन्स इमेजेन्सी फन्ड तथा विश्व स्वास्थ्य संस्था कर रही है। इस मेन सी टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम का लक्ष्य है एक साल से उन्नीस साल के बीच देश भर में सभी बच्चों को स्कूलों, हेल्थ सेन्टर्स और नैसिंग सेन्टर्स में मुफ्त में टीके लगाना। यह कार्यक्रम पिछले महीने की चौदह तारीख को केन्द्रीय विभाग और रा-सब डिविज़न में शुरू हुआ जो इसी महीने की उन्तीस (29) तारीख तक जारी रहेगा। आने वाले महीने में यह अभियान



अस्सी हजार से ज़्यादा बच्चों को केन्द्रीय और रा-सबडिविज़न के है को राष्ट्रीय मेनिंगजोकोकल टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम के तहत टीके लगाए गए हैं। अभी भी कुछ शिशुओं तथा सेकन्ड्री स्कूल विद्यार्थियों को टीके लगाना बाकी है जबकि अभियान के दो हफ्ते ही बचे हैं।

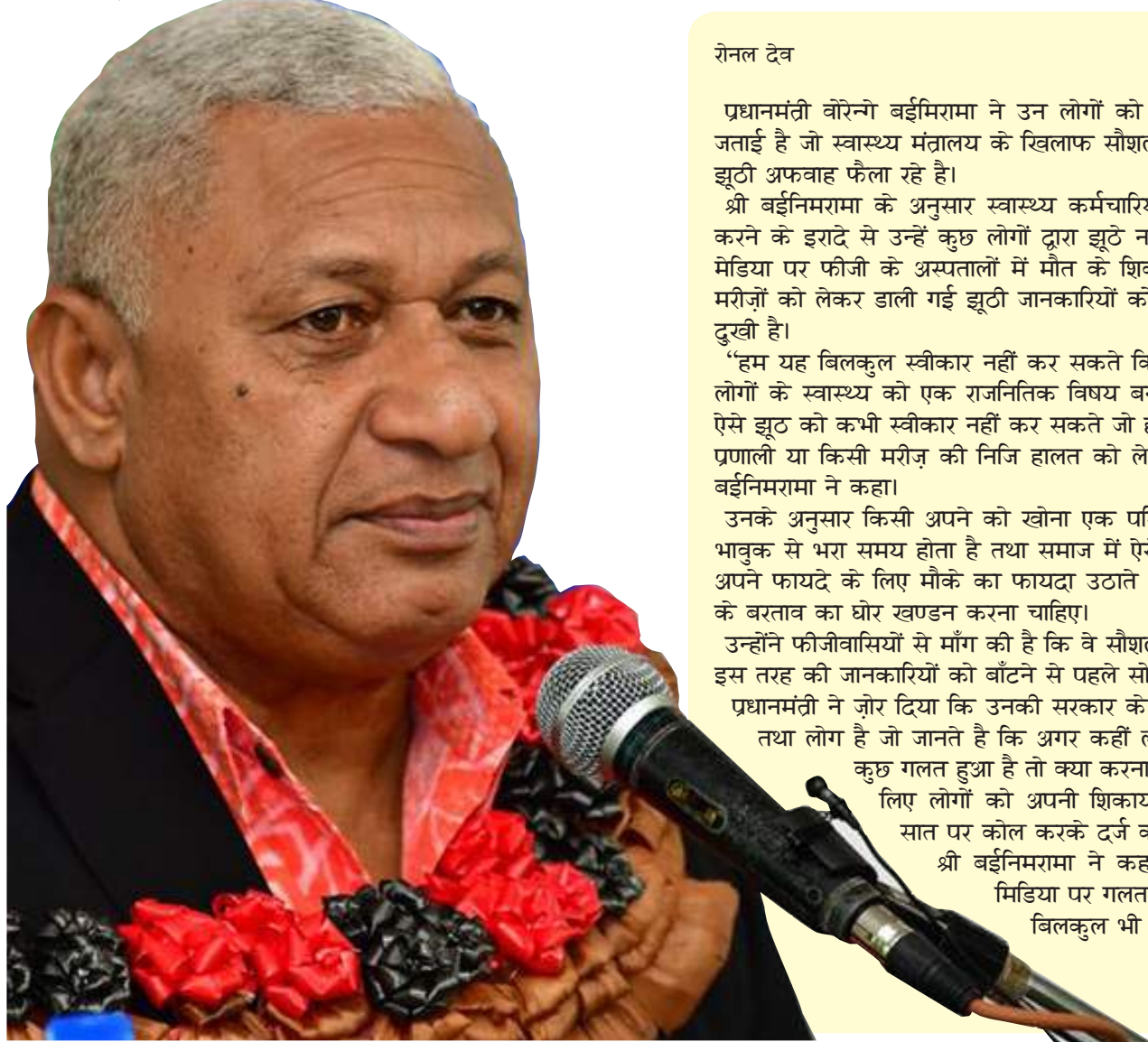
पूर्वी, उत्तरी और पश्चिमी विभाग में भी जारी किया जाएगा। दो लाख (200,000) डोज़्स का अगला शिपमन्ट इस बात का ध्यान रखेगा कि देश में एक साल से उन्नीस

साल के बीच तीन लाख बीस (320,000) हजार बच्चों को टीके लगाए जाएं। बच्चों और युवकों को मेन सी वाएरस की चपेट में आने का सबसे ज़्यादा खतरा है।

इस साल जो मामले सामने आए थे, उनमें अधिकतर उन्नीस साल से कम उम्र के युवक और बच्चे शामिल थे।



# झूठी अफवाह न फैलाओ



रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बर्डिमिरामा ने उन लोगों को लेकर चिन्ता जताई है जो स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के खिलाफ सौशल मीडिया पर झूठी अफवाह फैला रहे हैं।

श्री बर्डिमिरामा के अनुसार स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों पर हमला करने के इरादे से उन्हें कुछ लोगों द्वारा झूठे नाम से सौशल मीडिया पर फीजी के अस्पतालों में मौत के शिकार हुए कुछ मरीजों को लेकर डाली गई झूठी जानकारी को लेकर बेहद दुखी है।

“हम यह बिलकुल स्वीकार नहीं कर सकते कि कोई हमारे लोगों के स्वास्थ्य को एक राजनितिक विषय बनाए तथा हम ऐसे झूठ को कभी स्वीकार नहीं कर सकते जो हमारे स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली या किसी मरीज की निजि हालत को लेकर हो,” श्री बर्डिमिरामा ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार किसी अपने को खोना एक परिवार के लिए भावुक से भरा समय होता है तथा समाज में ऐसे लोग हैं जो अपने फायदे के लिए मौके का फायदा उठाते हैं। ऐसे लोगों के बरताव का घोर खण्डन करना चाहिए।

उन्होंने फीजीवासियों से माँग की है कि वे सौशल मिडिया पर इस तरह की जानकारियों को बाँटने से पहले सोचें।

प्रधानमंत्री ने जोर दिया कि उनकी सरकार के पास नितियाँ तथा लोग हैं जो जानते हैं कि अगर कहीं लोगों के साथ कुछ गलत हुआ है तो क्या करना चाहिए इस-लिए लोगों को अपनी शिकायत एक पाँच सात पर कोल करके दर्ज करना चाहिए।

श्री बर्डिमिरामा ने कहा कि सौशल मिडिया पर गलत बातें फैलाना बिलकुल भी ठीक नहीं है।

## उचित नौकरी पाना युवकों की चुनौती- एम्प्लोएमन्ट मंत्री

रोनल देव

एम्प्लोएमन्ट मंत्री चोने उसामाते का कहना है कि युवकों के लिए उचित नौकरी एक चुनौती है क्योंकि देश में ज़्यादातर यूवा लोग ही हैं।

जेनिवा स्वीटज़ालैन्ड में हालमें अंतराष्ट्रीय मज़दूर सम्मेलन के दफ्तर में हुए अईशिया पसिफिक ग्रुप मिनिस्ट्रीयल सभा के दौरान मंत्री उसामाते ने ऐसा कहा।

इस सभा में खास रूप से जनसंख्या की चुनौतियों और अवसरों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया और युवकों तथा उम्र बढ़ने वाली आबादी के लिए सभ्य नौकरियों को संतुलित करने पर ध्यान दिया गया। मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा कि विकसित देशों में उम्र बढ़ने वाली आबादी, फीजी जैसे युवा आबादी वाले देश को अवसर देता है कि वे वहाँ नौकरियों के अवसरों से फायदा उठाएँ।

मंत्री ने कहा कि फीजी में हमारे युवकों की उम्र अवसतम सत्ताईस साल है तथा हमारी आबादी के उनहत्तर प्रतिशत लोगों की उम्र चालिस से नीचे है। इसके अलावा ऐतिहासिक तौर से बेरोज़गारी चार दशमलौ पाँच प्रतिशत है जबकि युवकों में बेरोज़गारी अट्ठारह प्रतिशत है।

मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा कि इससे निपटना उनके लिए एक चुनौती है ताकि युवकों के लिए शिक्षा और समर्थन कार्यक्रम उपलब्ध की जाए। कुछ उदाहरणों में युवा लोगों के लिए व्यापारिक स्कीम, युवकों को नौकरी देने पर मज़दूर मालिकों को कर में छूट, किसानों के सहायता कार्यक्रम तथा छात्रवृत्ति के लिए आर्थिक सहायता देना शामिल है।

“इसपर और ध्यान देने के लिए ट्रेनिंग देने वाले और मज़दूर मालिकों के बीच नज़दीकी संबंध होना चाहिए ताकि युवकों का भविष्य सँवारा जाए, युवकों को प्रोत्साहित किया जाए कि उनके पास तकनीकी और आर्थिक हुनर हो और वे स्वयं रोजगार करें तथा नौकरी तलाशने वालों के लिए वर्क अटैचमन्ट रखें।

## नावुआ व्यापारियों को सरकार ने ग्रान्ट के द्वारा दिया सहारा

रोनल देव

नावुआ में लोगों को अपना नया व्यापार शुरू करने या वर्तमान व्यापार और बढ़ाने के लिए इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड और टूरिज़्म मंत्री, फईयाज़ कोया ने हाल में लोगों को रामपुर कोलज नावुआ में छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापार शुरू करने के लिए ग्रान्ट दिया है।

अर्जी लगाने वाले पाँच सौ चौवन लोगों को ग्रान्ट मिला है जिन्हें वे हाथ से बनाने वाले सामान, खेती-बाड़ी, बैकिंग, ठण्डा सामान बेचने तथा सिलाई के काम वगैरह में लगाएँगे। मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि मंत्रालय, व्यापार विकास में अन्य संयोगियों के मार्फित लोगों को ट्रेनिंग प्रदान करेंगे ताकि लोग अपने व्यापार में और सफलता हासिल करें।

सरकार ने अभी तक इस ग्रान्ट कार्यक्रम में बीस मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा लगा दिया है जबकि इस तरह के ग्रान्ट लौतोका, बा और नान्दी के अलावा नावुआ में बाँटे गए हैं।



हालमें शिक्षा मंत्रालय की पेमनन्ट सकेटरी एलिसन बर्चल ने नान्दी प्राथमरी स्कूल पर फीजी वोटर फाउन्डेशन और विज़न फीजी की ओर से किताबों का चौथा शिपमन्ट स्वीकार किया। विद्यार्थियों को बताया गया कि पढ़ने से वे विद्वान बनेंगे तथा उनकी भाषा के साथ-साथ शब्दकोश में भी भारी सुधार आएगा। पढ़ाई करना बच्चों की बेहतरि के लिए है।

## बच्चों पढ़ों, और विद्वान बनो-शिक्षा मंत्रालय

रोनल देव

शिक्षा मंत्रालय की पेमनन्ट सकेटरी एलिसन बर्चल ने विद्यार्थियों से माँग की है कि वे अपना ज्ञान बढ़ाने के लिए पढ़ें।

“रीड टू लीड” कार्यक्रम के नीचे फीजी वोटर फाउन्डेशन और विज़न फीजी से किताबों का चौथा शिपमन्ट स्वीकार करते हुए नान्दी प्राथमरी स्कूल के बच्चों से उन्होंने ऐसा कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि पढ़ने से न केवल भाषा का ज्ञान बढ़ता है बल्कि बच्चे गम्भीर रूप से सोचते भी हैं।

पेमनन्ट सकेटरी के अनुसार रोज़ पढ़ने से बच्चों का शब्दकोश भी सुधरता है।

“हम सब पढ़ सकते हैं लेकिन हमें पहले पढ़ना सीखना होगा

जिसके बाद हम सीखने के लिए पढ़ सकते हैं,” पेमनन्ट सकेटरी ने कहा।

लाएबरी यानि पुस्तकालय अच्छी किताबों का एक प्रमुख स्रोत है और हमें हमेशा पुस्तकालयों का उपयोग करने के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए क्योंकि वो ज्ञान के भण्डार की दुनिया में हमारी खिड़की है।

उन्होंने कहा कि अपने बच्चों को पढ़ने के लिए प्रेरित करने में माता पिताओं को प्रमुख भुमिका निभानी चाहिए।

“हम टेलिविज़न देखते हैं और रेडियो सुनते हैं, लेकिन माता पिता

होने के नाते जितना आप अपने बच्चों को पढ़ने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करेंगे, वो बच्चों के लिए उतना ही बेहतर होगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि घर पर छोटी सी लाएबरी यानि पुस्तकालय होना चाहिए, टेलिविज़न देखने के घण्टों को कम करना चाहिए और माता-पिताओं को भी बच्चों के साथ पढ़ना चाहिए।

“रीड टू लीड” कार्यक्रम के नीचे, विज़न फीजी, शिक्षाप्रद तथा रोचक किताबें देश भर में सात सौ प्राथमरी स्कूल में बाँटेगा।





## टुरिज़म फीजी की ब्रेन्ड एम्बेसडर, प्रसिद्ध अभिनेत्री इलियाना डी कूज़ पहुँची रामपुर प्राथमरी स्कूल



हाल में टुरिज़म फीजी की ब्रेन्ड एम्बेसडर और बॉलीवुड की प्रसिद्ध अभिनेत्री इलियाना डी कूज़ ने नावुआ के रामपुर प्राथमरी स्कूल का दौरा किया। इस दौरान वहाँ टुरिज़म मंत्री फर्डिनांड सिटिक कोया भी थे। अभिनेत्री डी कूज़ फीजी आई ताकि वो फीजी में अनोखी चीज़ें खुद देख सकें और भारत से फीजी आकर घूमने वालों की इसकी जानकारी दे सकें। मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि अभिनेत्री डी कूज़ को फीजी का ब्रेन्ड एम्बेसडर इसलिए बनाया गया है क्योंकि वो फीजी को अपने घर जैसा मानती है तथा विदेश में फीजी के बारे में बातें करती है। “वो हमेशा सोशल मिडिया पर फीजी को पोतसाहित करती है तथा दुनिया भर में उन्हें आठ मिलियन लोग फॉलो करते हैं। वो फीजी की युवा पीढ़ी के लिए प्रेरणा है,” मंत्री ने कहा।



## मंत्री रेड्डी ने शुरू करवाई गावा/सिंगातोका नदी में ड्रेजिंग काम

वोटर बैस मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने सिंगातोका तथा गावा नदी लम्बासा में ड्रेजिंग काम की शुरुआत कराई। डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा कि पिछले तीस सालों में सिंगातोका में कई बार बाढ़ चड़ी तथा सन् दो हजार नौ में फीजी के इतिहास में सबसे भयानक बाढ़ आई थी। सन् दो हजार दस में सिंगातोका नदी में ड्रेजिंग का काम शुरू किया गया था क्योंकि नदी बहुत गहरी और चौड़ी नहीं थी। दूसरे चरण के काम के लिए चार मिलियन डॉलर से ज्यादा निकाला गया है। इससे फीजीवासियों को बाढ़ से होने वाली क्षति से बचाया जाएगा। इसके अलावा मंत्री डाक्टर रेड्डी गावा नदी में ड्रेजिंग के काम करने की शुरुआत करने हालमें लम्बासा भी गए थे। यह काम गावा नदी के मुहाने पर होगा एक दशमलौ छः किलोमीटर इलाके को ड्रेज किया जाएगा।



## अटोर्नी-जेनरल ने फीजी एर्यावैस वनवोल्ड कोनेक्ट मेम्बाशिप की औपचारिकता की

अटोर्नी-जेनरल तथा मिनिस्टर ऑफ़ एविएशन मंत्री अर्थात् सैयद खैयुम हाल ही में फीजी एर्यावैस वनवोल्ड कोनेक्ट मेम्बाशिप की औपचारिकता की। फीजी एर्यावैस पहली हवाई कम्पनी है जो वन वोल्ड कोनेक्ट पाटनर की तरह शामिल हुई है। वनवोल्ड कोनेक्ट, एक नया तरीका है जिससे हवाई कम्पनियाँ दुनिया की प्रमुख एर्या लाईन गठबंधन में शामिल होती हैं ताकि उनके ग्राहक और भी सेवाएँ तथा लाभ से फायदा उठाएँ। यह समारोह फीजी मेरियट मोमी बय रिज़ोट पर हुआ था जिस दौरान अटोर्नी-जेनरल ने कहा कि फीजी एर्यावैस की प्रसंशा की कि वो लगातार अंतराष्ट्रीय तौर पर बढ़ने का हमेशा से प्रयास करते आए हैं।



## प्रधानमंत्री बर्दिनमरामा ने सुधारे गए नान्दी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे का किया उद्घाटन

प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरिंग बर्दिनमरामा ने सुधार किए हुए नान्दी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया। उन्होंने कहा कि यह इमारत अब अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर की बन गई है तथा प्रशान्तीय द्वीप में यह सबसे आधुनिक यानि मोडर्न और सबसे बड़ा हवाई अड्डा हो गया है। “फीजी प्रशान्तीय केन्द्र का हकदार है तथा इसका औपचारिक उद्घाटन करते हुए मुझे खुशी और गर्व महसूस हो रहा है,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा। उनके अनुसार उन्हें पता है कि हर एक फीजीवासी भी यही महसूस कर रहे होंगे। पहला और आखरी अहसास हमेशा याद रहता है तथा फीजी आकर घूमने वालों को यह शानदार नई सुविधा मिलेगी।







# देश में ज़मीन अब राजनितिक औज़ार नहीं

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बर्डिनिरामा का कहना है कि देश में अब पहले की तरह ज़मीन कोई राजनितिक औज़ार नहीं है तथा जैसा होना चाहिए वो देश में समृद्धि का स्रोत है।

हालमें नोबोटेल लामी में नावाकावू प्लेजिंग हाई लेवल सम्मेलन में श्री बर्डिनिरामा ने कहा कि सरकार अब ई-तउकई लोगों की ज़मीनें विकसित करके उन्हें ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा काम में लाकर और भी ज़्यादा ई-तउकई लोगों की मदद कर रही है ताकि उन्हें आर्थिक तौर से फायदा हो।

“फीजी में अच्छे के लिए सुधार हो रहे हैं। और मेरी सरकार ने जबकि हमारी सफलता के लिए अच्छी तरह योजना बनाई है, हम इस बात का ध्यान रख रहे हैं कि इसकी सफलता हर एक फीजीवासी तक पहुँचे जिनमें ई-तउकई भी शामिल है। सन् दो हज़ार तेरह संविधान के नीचे यह प्रतिबद्धता आश्वस्त है तथा इसके नीचे ई-तउकई ज़मीन सबसे ज़्यादा सुरक्षित है जिससे ई-तउकई लोग देश के इतिहास में सबसे मज़बूत स्थिति में हैं,” श्री बर्डिनिरामा ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार सरकार का काम है देश के सभी बच्चों को और अच्छी शिक्षा प्रदान करना,

जिससे और भी नौकरियाँ पैदा हो रही हैं तथा लोगों के वेतन बढ़ रहे हैं। और भी लोगों तक पानी, बिजली, स्वास्थ्य, मेडिकल सेवा, संपर्क तथा नई तकनीकी औज़ार पहुँचाए जा रहे हैं। इससे सभी फीजीवासी जिनमें ई-तउकई भी शामिल है को बढ़ावा मिल रहा है। इसलिए सरकार ने ई-तउकई ज़मीन विकसित करने के लिए दस मिलियन डॉलर और दिया है। इससे नए सबडिवाइड की हुई ई-तउकई ज़मीन में संसाधनों को विकसित किया जाएगा।

इसका मतलब है कि ई-तउकई ज़मीन मलिक अपनी ज़मीन लीस पर देकर और भी पैसे कमा सकेंगे।



## प्रधानमंत्री ने सभी फीजीवासियों का जीवन सुधारने के लिए तैयार



रोनल देव

बाहरी द्वीपों में बसे फीजीवासियों को और अच्छी स्वास्थ्य सुविधा प्रदान करने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बर्डिनिरामा ने आठ मिलियन डॉलर लागत एक जहाज़ एम एल सी वर्ड्युएटी का उद्घाटन किया है। यह जहाज़ बाहरी द्वीपों और ग्रामीण इलाकों में लगभग दस हज़ार मरीज़ों को सेवा प्रदान करेगा।

प्रधानमंत्री बर्डिनिरामा ने कहा कि इस नए जहाज़ में सभी तरह की स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ और उपकरण उपलब्ध हैं जिनमें शामिल हैं मामूली सेजरी, परामर्श और स्वास्थ्यलाभ के लिए एक अलग ऑपरेशन रूम। इस जहाज़ पर पूरी मेडिकल टीम समेत अट्ठारह लोग काम कर रहे हैं। जहाज़ का डिज़ाइन मलेशिया के युनाएटड शिप डिज़ाइन ने किया है। इस दौरान प्रधानमंत्री बर्डिनिरामा ने तीन मिलियन डॉलर लागत नए गवमन्ट शिपिंग सेविसस इमारत का भी उद्घाटन किया।

## मेन सी टीकाकरण बेहद ज़रूरी

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय आम जनता को याद दिला रहा है कि मेन सी टीकाकरण सुरक्षित और असरकारक है तथा यह जान बचाता है। इन्हें दुनिया भर में इसी तरह के टीके कार्यक्रमों में इस्तेमाल किए गए हैं।

जिन माता-पिताओं ने अभी तक मंजूरी नहीं दी है को याद दिलाया जा रहा है कि मेनिंगजोकोकल एक जान लेवा बीमारी है तथा यह बच्चों के हित में है कि उन्हें टीके लगाए जाएं। इस बीमारी है का असर दिमाग और रीढ़ की हड्डी पर होता है तथा इससे खून में ज़हर भी हो सकता है।



अटोनी जेनरल अर्दियाज़ सैयद-खैयुम, भारत के स्टेट फोर हेल्थ तथा फेमली वेलफेयर मंत्री श्री अश्विनी कुमार से एक दशमलौ सात मिलियन डॉलर का चेक लेते हुए। अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि इस सहायता से फीजीवासियों को अपना व्यापार आगे बढ़ाने में मदद मिलेगी तथा एक हज़ार डॉलर लागत सहायता से वे अपने जीवन में सुधार ला सकेंगे।

## छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारियों को भारतीय सरकार से मिली सहायता

रोनल देव

भारतीय सरकार लगातार फीजी के छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारियों को सहायता प्रदान कर रही है जहाँ फीजीयन सरकार को उन्होंने एक दशमलौ सात (1.7) मिलियन डॉलर का चेक दिया।

चार साल पहले फीजी के दौरे पर भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने ऐसा वायदा किया था।

अटोनी जेनरल माननीय अर्दियाज़

सईयद-खैयुम को भारत के स्टेट फोर हेल्थ तथा फेमली वेलफेयर मंत्री श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे ने चेक प्रदान किया। अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि इस सहायता से आम फीजीवासियों को अपना व्यापार आगे बढ़ाने में भारी मदद मिलेगी। एक हज़ार डॉलर की सहायता से वे अपने जीवन स्थर में सुधार ला सकेंगे।

फीजी में भारतीय राजदूत श्री विश्वास सपकल ने कहा कि

यह चेक, भारतीय सरकार की ओर से फीजी के छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारियों के दस मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा वाली सहायता का हिस्सा है। श्री सपकल ने कहा कि भारतीय सरकार ने ग्रांट के तौर पर चार मिलियन डॉलर प्रदान किया है जिससे चार हज़ार सात सौ बावन फीजीवासियों की मदद की गई है।

“इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड और टूरिज़्म मंत्रालय ने बहुत ही अच्छे तरीके से लोगों में ग्रांट बाँटा है तथा हमें खुशी

है कि हम फीजी में इस तरह के विकास का हिस्सा हैं,” श्री सपकल ने कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि भारतीय सरकार द्वारा और पैसे तब दिए जाएंगे जब इस बार दिए गए पैसे वितरित कर दिए जाएंगे।

फिलहाल, सूबा स्थित इंडियन कल्चरल सेन्टर का नाम बदलकर स्वामी विवेकानन्द सेन्टर कर दिया गया है।

## प्रधानमंत्री ने गन्ने के लिए की टोप अप पैमन्ट की घोषणा

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री, वोरेंगे बर्डिनिरामा ने पिछले साल के गन्ने के लिए छः डॉलर तीस सेन्ट्स प्रति टन के हिसाब से टोप-अप पैमन्ट की घोषणा की है।

हालमें समुद्री आँधी गीता, जोसी तथा केनी द्वारा गन्ने के खेतों को पहुँची क्षति तथा इस साल पेरार्ड वाले मौसम की तैयारी को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने छः डॉलर तीस सेन्ट्स प्रति टन का टोप-अप देने का फैसला किया है।

प्रधानमंत्री तथा शुगर मंत्री ने इस सप्ताह इसकी घोषणा की कि किसानों को मास्टर अवोर्ड के

तहत आठ डॉलर चौरासी (\$8.84) प्रति टन के हिसाब से चौथा कर्डन पैमन्ट मिलेगा जिसमें सरकार की ओर से छः डॉलर तीस सेन्ट्स प्रति टन के हिसाब से टोप-अप पैमन्ट किया गया है। इसके फलस्वरूप चौथा कर्डन पैमन्ट कुल मिलाकर चौथा कर्डन पैमन्ट पंद्रह डॉलर चौदह सेन्ट्स हो गया है।

उन्होंने कहा कि इस टोप-अप पैमन्ट से उन किसानों को राहत मिलेगी जिनकी फसलें बाढ़ के समय नष्ट हो गई थी और जिन्हें आने वाले गन्ने की कटाई वाले मौसम के लिए पैसों की सख्त ज़रूरत है। यह टोप-अप पैमन्ट, सरकार

द्वारा शुगाकईन केयर प्रोग्राम के नीचे प्रदान की जा रही सहायता के अतिरिक्त है। शुगाकईन केयर प्रोग्राम के ज़रिए छः हज़ार से ज़्यादा गन्ने के किसानों को गन्ने की बोवाई, मसाला, ड्रैनज, और खेत साफ करने में सहायता दी जाएगी। प्रधानमंत्री, आशावादी है कि हाल में आई बाढ़ के बाद सरकार की राहत सहायता से चीनी व्यवसाय को भारी फायदा होगा। श्री बर्डिनिरामा ने आशवासन दिया है कि उनकी सरकार, किसानों के बहतर जीवनस्तर के लिए उन्हें सहायता प्रदान करती रहेगी।



# ओमकार निवासियों की चिन्ता हुई दूर

रोनल देव

ओमकार रोड नरें के निवासियों को अब गम्भीर बारिश के समय अपनी जान-माल की हानि की चिन्ता नहीं करनी पड़ेगी। ओमकार की निवासी अड़सठ साल की खैरुन निशा और उनके पड़ोसी अब राहत की साँस ले रहे हैं जब नासिनू टाउन काउन्सल ने इसी साल पूर्व वहाँ नालों में सुधारकार्य तथा मरम्मतकार्य किया। काउन्सल के कर्मचारियों ने सेटलमन्ट के नालों में मैला रोकने के लिए लोहे के छड़ यानि ग्रेडिंग लगाए हैं ताकि उन्हें मैला साफ करने में आसानी हो तथा बाढ़ रोकने के लिए कुछ जगह रिटैनिंग वोल्स बनाए हैं। निशा ने बताया कि वो वहाँ इक्कीस सालों से रहती हैं तथा काउन्सल द्वारा वहाँ काम करने से पहले जब कुछ घण्टों तक गम्भीर बारिश

होती थी तो उनके पड़ोसियों के घर में बाढ़ का पानी चला जाता था, जिससे उनके घर और घर के बहुमूल्य सामानों को क्षति पहुँचती थी। “अब हम ऐसी समस्याओं का सामना नहीं करते हैं। पहले बाढ़ का पानी घर के नीचे तक पहुँच जाता था और मेरे बेटे के घर में भी चला जाता था। लेकिन अब नाले साफ हैं,” निशा ने कहा। “पिछले साल जब गम्भीर बारिश हुई थी, हमारे घर के पास वाले नाले में बाढ़ का पानी चढ़ गया था जो रात बारह बजे के बाद ही उतरा। एक पड़ोसी के टिन लकड़ी वाले घर को भी भारी नुकसान हुआ था। एक अन्य महिला को अपने एक साल के शिशु को लेकर अपना घर छोड़ना पड़ा। बहुत से कूड़ा-कर्कट नालों में फँसे थे जिससे हमारे इलाक़े में गम्भीर बाढ़ चढ़ी थी,” उन्होंने आगे कहा।

टाउन काउन्सल भी अब सोमवार से गुरुवार के बीच कूड़ा-कर्कट बटोर रही है ताकि लोगों को इधर-उधर मैला फेंकने से रोका जाए। एक अन्य निवासी पैतीस साल की आना वूला ने सरकार तथा नासिनू टाउन काउन्सल को धन्यवाद दिया जो उनकी सहायता करने के लिए आगे आए और सालों की उनकी तकलीफें दूर की। “मैं यहाँ बारह सालों से रह रही हूँ। नालों में जो लोहे की ग्रेडिंग लगी है से हमे भारी मदद मिल रही है तथा हम अब काफी सुरक्षित महसूस कर रहे हैं,” वूला ने कहा। “हम इस सरकार पर पूरा भरोसा है क्योंकि उन्होंने पिछले साल हमारी बहुत मदद की ताकि हमे ज़मीन के लिए लीस और टाइटल मिले। हम धीरे-धीरे नए और सुरक्षित घर बनाएंगे। अच्छी चीज़ें हो रही हैं जिसके हम बहुत अभारी हैं,” वूला ने आगे कहा।

## प्रधानमंत्री ने नावुआ निवासियों को प्रदान किए नौ स्टोल्स



नावुआ में हालमें रास्ते के किनारे शाख-भाली बेचने वालों को प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने मार्केट स्टोल्स प्रदान किया ताकि वे हर मौसम में अपनी फसलें बेचकर कमाई करें।

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने वाकाम्बालेया नावुआ में नौ मार्केट बिकरेताओं के लिए नौ स्टोल्स मुफ्त में प्रदान किया है जो रास्ते के किनारे अपनी फसलें बेचा करते हैं। श्री बईनिमरामा ने कहा कि अब यह मार्केट बिकरेता उच्च दर्जे के स्टोल्स पर अपना सामान बेच रहे हैं जबकि पहले वे पुरानी टिन-लकड़ी से स्टोल्स बनाते थे जो जल्द गिर जाते थे। इन नए स्टोल्स से उनका सामान क्वीन्स रोड इस्तेमाल करने

वाले गाड़ी-चालकों के लिए बहुत ही आकर्षक हो गया है। इनमें से कई बिकरेता अपना सामान बेचकर ही अपना घर चलाते हैं। उन्होंने जोर दिया है कि भले ही यह स्टोल्स मुफ्त में दिए जा रहे हैं लेकिन मार्केट बिकरेताओं को इंडस्ट्री ट्रेड, टूरिज़्म मंत्रालय के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करना होगा और उसके नीचे शर्तों का पालन करना होगा। इस योजना की शुरुआत में नावुआ में नौ स्टोल्स के अलावा देश भर में सरकार इसी तरह के बीस सेमी-

पेमनन्ट स्टोल्स तथा दस पोटावल वेन्डा स्टोल्स प्रदान करेगी। पोटावल स्टोल्स उन बिकरेतों को दिए गए हैं जो सप्ताह में कुछ दिन रास्ते के किनारे अपना सामान बेचते हैं। इसे वे लपेटकर अपने साथ घर लेजा सकते हैं। सेमी पेमनन्ट स्टोल्स हर दिन सामान बेचने वालों को दिया गया है जो वहीं स्थापित रहेंगे और उन्हें वहाँ से तबही हटाया जाएगा जब रास्ते पर सुधार का काम होगा या मौसम बहुत खराब होगा। हर साल इन स्टोल्स की संख्या में वृद्धि होने की सम्भावना है ताकि

मार्केट बिकरेताओं को वो सुविधा मिले जिससे वे अपना व्यापार सुरक्षित ढंग से कर सकें। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि ये स्टोल्स उच्चकोटी की समाग्री से बने हैं जो कंटग्री पाँच तक की समुद्री आँधी का सामना कर सकते हैं। इस शुरुआती योजना के नीचे देउम्बा से सिंगातोका के बीच, सिंगातोका से नान्दी, नान्दी से लौतोका, म्बा और तावुआ तथा तावुआ और राकीराकी के बीच इक्कीस और स्टोल्स को स्थापित किया जाएगा। इस तरह की योजना देश के कोने-कोने में बढ़ाए जाने की योजना है।

## छोटे व्यापारियों को योगदान के लिए सम्मानित किया गया

रोनल देव

फीजीयन सरकार ने हाल ही में छोटे व्यापारियों को नेशनल माएकोफाएनन्स अवोर्ड में उनके व्यापार के प्रति योगदान के लिए सम्मानित किया। सरकार देखना चाहती है कि स्थानीय व्यापारी विकास करें और देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में अपना योगदान दें। इस समारोह में इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड और टूरिज़्म मंत्रालय के पेमनन्ट सकेटरी शहीन अलि ने कहा कि फीजीयन सरकार का मुख्य लक्ष्य है कि स्थानीय व्यापार और बढ़े तथा देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में अपना योगदान दें। “फीजीयन सरकार ने कुछ ऐसी नितियाँ अपनाई हैं जिसके लक्ष्य हैं छोटे और सूक्ष्म व्यापारियों का समर्थन करना। यह हमारी पाँच साल और बीस सालों की राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना में भी अंकित है,” अलि ने कहा। इस समारोह में रिज़ेव बेन्क ऑफ फीजी के गवर्नर, अरिफ अलि ने भी व्यापारियों को अपने व्यापार की ओर प्रतिबद्धता दिखाने के लिए प्रशंसा की। उन्होंने कहा कि फीजी जैसे छोटे से देश में छोटे और सूक्ष्म व्यापार की योग्यता को कम मूल्यावान नहीं समझना चाहिए। चार श्रेणी में लोगों को पुरस्कार दिए गए थे। फिलहाल, सरकार छोटे और सूक्ष्म व्यापारियों को अपना व्यापार शुरू करने या वर्तमान व्यापार को बढ़ाने में मदद करने के लिए इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड और टूरिज़्म मंत्रालय लोगों को ग्रांट दे रहा है। सरकार का मुख्य लक्ष्य है कि इस सहायता से लोगों का व्यापार और पुँजी बढ़े तथा नौकरियाँ पैदा हों। सरकार ने सहायता हासिल करने वालों को सलाह दी कि वे कैसे अलग-अलग तरीके से अपने व्यापार को बढ़ाने के लिए इस ग्रांट का इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं। यह कार्यक्रम जो सरकार ने 2015 में शुरू किया था वर्तमान में बहुत सफल है जिससे हज़ारों लोगों की ज़िन्दगी में सुधार देखा गया है। इस कार्यक्रम के लिए 2017/2018 राष्ट्रीय बजट में 6.4 मिलियन डॉलर निकाला गया था। जो सूक्ष्म और छोटे व्यापार इस ग्रांट के हकदार होंगे, उनको अपना वर्तमान व्यापार बढ़ाने या नया व्यापार शुरू करने के लिए एक हज़ार डॉलर तक ग्रांट मिल सकता है। यह ग्रांट छोटे स्तर की आर्थिक गतिविधियों को प्रोत्साहित करता है और उन लोगों को लक्षित करता है जिनके पास कोई खास हुनर है जिनमें हैंडिकाफ्ट, मुर्गी पालन व्यवसाय, छोटे स्तर के फल और शाक-सब्ज़ी बेचने वाले, मधु-मक्खी पालन व्यवसाय और पशु पालन व्यवसाय तथा अन्य प्रगतिशील क्षेत्र शामिल हैं। इस ग्रांट के द्वारा सूक्ष्म और छोटे व्यापार अपनी आमदनी बढ़ाने के अलावा अपने उत्पादनों और सेवाओं के स्तर को और ऊँचाईयों तक ले जा सकेंगे। यह वित्तीय संस्थानों से अधिक धन सुरक्षित करने के लिए एक ठोस मंच भी प्रदान करेगा और समान व्यवसायों के अवसरों और विकास को भी प्रोत्साहित करेगा।



# फीजी फोकस

नई विमन्स  
युनिट की न्यू  
डाली गई

2



छोटे व्यापारियों  
को भारतीय  
सरकार की मदद

6



उपर: बाईं ओर से भुतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति, रातू इपेली नईलातिकाउ, राष्ट्रपति चियोची कोनरोते, प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेन्गो बईनिमरामा, सेना प्रमुख विलियामे नउपोतो के साथ दिग्गजों और अनुशासित बलों के सदस्यों।

## संयुक्त राष्ट्र शान्ति सैनिकों पर प्रधानमंत्री का संदेश

रोनल देव

संयुक्त राष्ट्र की शान्ति सेवा की चालिसवी सालगिराह पर प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बईनिमरामा ने ऐसा कहा।

प्रधानमंत्री के अनुसार पिछले चालिस सालों से फीजी के शान्ति सैनिकों ने दुनिया भर में खतरों और विवादों वाले देशों में बेकसूर नागरिकों और बच्चों की रक्षा की जिनकी सुरक्षा करने वाला कोई नहीं था।

“हमारे शान्ति सैनिकों को अपनी लम्बी विरासत पर नाज़ है जो प्रथम विश्व महायुद्ध के समय से चलती आ रही है। एक शताब्दी के अधिक समय से फीजीवासी, निर्वल लोगों की सहायता

करने के लिए अपनी जान जोखिम में डालकर हमेशा खड़े हुए। हमारे शान्ति सैनिकों ने मध्य पूर्व में साएनाए, कुवैत, इराक, सिरिया, दक्षिणी सूदान, लाएबेरिया, नमिबिया, बोसनिया और कोसोवो के अलावा केम्बोडिया, तिमोर-लेस्ते तथा सोलमन आइलैंड्स में शान्ति सेवा प्रदान की,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार अभी नौ सौ फीजीयन सैनिक, संयुक्त राष्ट्र के शान्ति सैनिक के रूप में दुनिया भर में शान्ति सेवा प्रदान कर रहे हैं। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि इन शान्ति सैनिकों ने अपने बलिदान के लिए बड़ी कीमत भी चुकाई है जहाँ साठ फीजीयन शान्ति सैनिकों ने अपने कर्तव्य का पालन करते हुए अपनी जान गवाई तथा उनके

अंतिम बलिदान ने अनगिनत लोगों को शान्ति और समृद्धि में रहने का मौका दिया है।

“फीजीवासी होने के नाते, हम हमेशा से एक दूसरे का ख्याल रखते आए हैं और मदद करने के लिए हमेशा तैयार रहते हैं। दुनिया में कई लोगों ने कभी फीजी देखा नहीं होगा लेकिन हमारे शान्ति सैनिकों ने उन्हें अपने बलिदान और शक्ति से सुरक्षा प्रदान की। इन शान्ति सैनिकों को अनेकों धन्यवाद है कि उनकी बदौलत अंतराष्ट्रीय समाज फीजी को इज्जत से देखता है। हमारे शान्ति सैनिकों के मार्फित, दूर-दूर के देश देख सकते हैं कि फीजीवासी अपनी सीमाओं से बहुत दूर देखने के इच्छुक और सक्षम हैं। वे देखते हैं कि फीजीवासी न केवल

अपनी भलाई बल्कि पूरी दुनिया की भलाई के लिए लड़ रहे हैं,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

श्री बईनिमरामा ने कहा कि एक छोटा सा देश होने के बावजूद, भविष्य की पीढ़ियों के लिए एक अधिक शान्तिपूर्ण, उज्ज्वल ग्रह की सुरक्षित करने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता किसी भी उपाय से छोटी नहीं है।

अंतराष्ट्रीय मंच पर फीजी को जो आदर सम्मान मिला है केवल हमें जलवायु परिवर्तन जैसे विषयों के खिलाफ अपनी आवाज़ उठाने में मुख्य भूमिका निभाने की ज़िम्मेदारी सौंपी गई है। हम सभी फीजीवासियों से माँग कर रहे हैं कि वे सभी शान्ति सैनिकों को अपनी प्रार्थनाओं में याद करें,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।



# Noda Viti

## Sotava ko PM Bainimarama na kerekere nei Vakalala



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei Maca Vakalala e na koro ko Namuaimada e Ra.  
iTaba: ERONI VALILI

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NI biu na koronivuli e Naseyani e Ra, e veisiko talega ko Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama ki vei Maca Vakalala e dua na marama ni Bua ka vasu ena koro ko Namuaimada, Ra.

Ko Maca e yabaki 78 ka a vakairogorogo ena nona a matataki Viti ena veitau cici ena yabaki 1958 me yacova na 1963.

Ea rawata na metali koula nei Viti ena qito ni 1963 ena 200 na mita ena qito ni British Empire Games ena ra kei Ositerelia.

“Ena 1962 au a biuti Viti kina au a laki qito ki na ra kei Ositerelia ena isevu ni qito ni British Empire Games au a vakaitavi kina ena 100 kei na 200 na mita.”

“Na 200 mita noqu kina na koula, na 100 na mita noqu kina na koula. Au rawata na metali varasa ena high jump.”

Vaka na tadra vei Maca na nona veisiko yani vua na turaga na Paraiminisita.

“Au marautaka vakalevu ni sa rogo na Kalou ni vunia na ka. Au a kerea vua na turaga na PM me baleta na kena vakalevutaki na noqu vale. Sa dua naka na levu ni noqu marau”

Ko Maca e qarava tiko e dua na luvena yabaki 49 ka sega ni taucoko na ituvaki ni nona vaksama ia e sega sara tu ga ni bau ciqoma na luvena nai ilavo ni veivuke ni bula raraba.

“Na veivuke nei turaga na PM ena kena rawati na ilavo ni peniseni me gole vua na luvequ. Au sa vakavinakinakataka vakalevu na nona veikauwaitaki”

“E liu dau noqu vurevure ni ilavo tu na voivoi ni dau tali na ibe ni lako ga mai ko Winston sa kauta laivi kece na voivoi.

E lima taucoko na luvei Vakalala, ka lewe 12 na makubuna.

Eratou lewe 12 talega na taci Maca Vakalala.



1. Era marau na gonevuli ni Naseyani Primary School e na nodra la'ki dolava na nodra vale ni kana vou ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena macawa sa oti. 2. Era tucake toka qori ko ira na gonevuli kei na nodra qasenivuli ena varada ni nodra vale ni kana vou. 3-4. Na vale ni kana vou ka a yalataka ko PM Bainimarama ni oti e dua na veitalanoa kei ira na taukei ni koronivuli me sosomitaka na vale ni kana makawa. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

# Marau levu

## VAKAVOTUKANATAKA KO PM NA VEITALANOA ENA YABAKI SA OTI

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

GAUNA marautaki dina vei ira na gonevuli, itubutubu, qasenivuli kei na itaukei ni koronivuli mai Naseyani Primary School e Ra, ni oti nona dolava ko Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama na nodra vale ni kana vou na gonevuli.

Vakaraitaka na marama manidia ni koronivuli ko Vasemaca Kuruitava ni sa na rawarawa sara na nodra vei qaravi me vaka ni sa na oti na vakasaqa ena buka.

Ni kua e matalia ni sa dabe tu na sitovu kasi ka na solia na vakacegu

vei ira na marama,” tukuna ko Kuruitava.

“E liu ni dau tau mai na uca e turu na vale ni kana ka sotavi kina dredre na gone ena gauna ni kana. Ia keimami vakavinavinaka ni sotava na Matanitu na neimami kerekere.”

Ko Selina Dakuwaqa, na marama qasenivuli liu, e gusudra na vanua e rua ko Malu kei Nakorosago ka kaya vakaoqo ne; “Au gusudra na lewe ni vanua, na vanua ko Malu kei Nakorosago na kawa bula na isausau vou era qaravi ena kena uma qele ena yakavi vinaka e daidai meu gusu veikidavaki kei na vakavinavinaka vei kemuni na turaga na iliuliu

ni Matanitu.” Vakaraitaka na turaga na Paraiminisita ni sa vakayacora na Matanitu na veitalanoa era a vakayacora kei ira na itaukei ni koronivuli ena yabaki sa oti.

“Au marautaka na kena sa vakavotukanataki ni kua na veika eda veitalanotaka ena ika 25 ni Julai ni yabaki sa oti.” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“E rawati na veivakatorocaketaki oqo ena veivuke mai na Small Grant Scheme ena noqu vale ni volavola na kena isau vakailavo e \$224,000.”

“Na inaki levu eda marautaka tiko ni kua sai koya na nodra veisiga ni mataka na noda gonevuli,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.





# Uqeti na vakatubu ilavo ena qele ni iTaukei

PRIYANKA LAL

**S**A vakauqeti ira na dau vakatubu ilavo mai vanua tani na manidia levu ni matabose ni qele maroroi ni iTaukei na iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB), ko Tevita Kuruvakadua me ra mai vakatubuilavo ena qele ni itaukei.

Baleta ni soli tiko kina na lisi ka ra ya 99 na yabaki ena teitei kei na sara vanua. A sauma tiko ko Kuruvakadua na vakatataro eratou a tarogi kina mai Malevani e Ositerelia.

“Na levu taucoko ni qele ni iTaukei e qarava tiko na TLTB e rauta ni 1.6 na milioni na ekatea, e dua na ikatolu e lisitaki tiko” kaya ko Kuruvakadua.

“Kena ibalebale oya ni gadrevi vei

kemuni na dau vakatubu ilavo mo ni gole yani ki Viti ka lisitaka na vo ni rua na ikatolu ni qele ni iTaukei me baleta na nodra bisinisi ni veivakatorocaketaki.”

“Ni kua sa rawa ni keitou solia na lisi lima na yabaki me yacova sara na 99 na yabaki. Vei kemuni na via qarava na lisi ni saravanua sa soli talega kina na lisi ka ra ya 99 na yabaki,” kaya ko Kuruvakadua.

Taroga na Manidia ni kabani ni isulu ka kila ena yaca na KOOKAI ko Rob Cromb baleta na bolebole era dau sotava ena balavu ni gauna e dau cakacakataki kina na nodra ivola kerekere.

Sauma ko Kuruvakadua ni sa vakavinakataki na veiqaravi ka sa sega ni

kania na gauna me vaka e liu ka ni sa rawa nira qaravi na dau vakatubuilavo mai vanua tani ena gauna totolo duadua.

“Na gauna keitou taura kina e dua na ivola kerekere ni lisi e liu e dau taura e ciwa kina 12 na vola ia, ni kua sa ono ga na vula na kena cakacakataki e dua na ivola kerekere.

“Sa sagai tiko ena gauna oqo me toso sobu tale kina tolu na vula kevaka esa tiko kece na pepa e gadrevi me soli yani,” kaya ko Kuruvakadua

Tukuna ko Kuruvakadua ni sa caka tale tikoga na nodratou website vou ka sana rawarawa sara kina vei ira na dau vakatubuilavo na raica na veimataqali qele e rawa ni ra lisitaka.

## Sevutaki na ituvatuva ni Yavusa ko Navakavu



Sa vakarau musuka tiko ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na keke ni vakananumi ni kena sevutaki na ituvatuva ni veivakabulabulataki ni 2018-2022 ni Yavusa Navakavu.  
iTaba: ERONI VALILI

MARICA CAUCAU

**E**RA mai sevutaka na Yavusa ko Navakavu na nodra tuvatuva ni veivakabulabulataki ni 2018-2022.

Sa doka kina vakalevu na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na yalo ni cakacaka vata kei na raiyawa esa mai vakavotukanataki ena tuvatuva oqo ni veivakatorocaketaki.

“E ka marautaki dina vei au me’u mai dolava na bose cecere qo ni kena sevutaki na iTuvatuva ni Veivakabulabulataki ni 2018 -2022 e Navakavu,” kaya ko PM.

“E dua ga na inaki levu ni noda mai soqoni nikua, oya meda sasagataka na veika me vinaka kina na vanua o Navakavu e na veisiga ni mataka.”

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni na vukei ira vakalevu ena veigauna sa tu eliu na sasaga oqo.

“Na nomuni ituvatuva qori ena vukei kemuni vakalevu ka na vukea talega na ituvaki vakailavo ni noda Matanitu. Sa dodonu meda vakaitavi taucoko e na kena taraicake na veivakatorocaketaki e na noda vanua,” kaya ko PM Bananimarama.

“Eda sa mai sevutaka qo nikua na iTuvatuva ni Veivakabulabulataki ni 2018-2022 e Navakavu, na ituvatuva qo e sema vakavinaka sara ga e na ituvatuva levu ni veivakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu e na lima kina 20 na yabaki.

“Na ituvatuva qo e via vakatakila e Viti raraba ni sa gadreva na Yavusa o Navakavu me sa cavukalawa ka vakavurea na veivakatorocaketaki e taucoko ka vinaka raraba vei keda.”



Dabe toka e loma na noda Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua ko Mereseini Vuniwaqa, ena imatau na mata nei Jaina e Viti ko Qian Bo.  
iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

## Veivuke ena teitei ko China

**E**a la’ki dolava na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Ddravudravua ka Minista

vakatawa ni Teitei ko Mereseini Vuniwaqa na vuli me baleta na gacagaca ni teitei mai na JUNCAO technology e China kei na sasaga ni kena vukei na rawati ni teitei lewa matau kei na yalayala ni veivakatorocaketaki lewa matau ena matanitu lalai ena Pasivika se SDG’S PSIDS.

Era lewena na vuli oqo na gole mai ena Pasivika ka nakiti tiko me vakalevutaka na

nodra kila ena vakayagataki ni JUNCAO technology ena veiqaravi ni teitei.

“Au nuitaka ni sasaga oqo ena vuli ena vukea na nodra bula na lewena mai na vuli ena kena vakatorocaketaki na kila ni veiqaravi ena tabana ni teiteiv vakabibi oira na noda mai na Pasivika,” tukuna ko Minista Vuniwaqa.

Na JUNCAO technology edua n itovo ni veiqaravi ena

rawati vinaka kina na sasaga ni teitei me baleta na rawaka vakailavo.

“Au sa uqeti kemuni kina mo ni vulica vinaka sara na veigacagaca lalai me baleta na itovo ni veiqaravi oqo se JUNCAO technology me rawa niko ni kauta lesu ena nomuni dui tikotiko se vanua ka vakayagataki mera vukei kina na lewe ni vanua.”

TABANA NI TUKUTUKU

## Sikovi Cakaudrove ko Reddy

JOSAIA RALAGO

**S**A laki sotava ka dikeva na sala e rawa ni wali kina na leqa ni kena dau luvu wasoma na veivanua mai Savudrodoro, Tuvurara kei Belegoa mai Cakaudrove na Minisita ni Salasala ni Wai ko Dr Mahendra Reddy.

“Ni yalo dei ni keitou na walia na nomuni leqa,” tukuna ko Minisita Reddy.

Vakamacalataka talega vei ira ko Dr Reddy na sala era rawa ni walia kina na nodra leqa ni kena dau luvuci wa-

soma na veivanua kaya.

Sikova talega ko Minisita Reddy na yasana ko Bua ka vakamacalataka vua na District Officer mai Bua ko Apisai Vularika ni sa tiko na ivola kerekere ni Adi Elaine Primary School e Wainunu, Bua District School, kei na lima na yanuyanu ena loma ni yasana.

Sa yalataka ko Dr Reddy nira na siko-va tiko na nona ivakalesilesi na veivanua keca oya.

A vakayacora talega na veitalanoa na minisita kei ira na dauteitei mai Vuni-

yalayala kei Boubale.

Veisiko talega ko Minisita Reddy ki Bua Loma ni Koro, Vunivau, Korokadi ka vaka kina na vanua ni tei raisi e Dreketi. Sikovi talega na Ra ni baravi kei Cakaudrove.

Nona visiko voli oqo ko Minisita Reddy ena Vualiku e la’ki veitalanoa kina kei ira na dau teitei e Labasa e Vuniyalayala kei Boubale.

Rogoca kina ko kaya na dredre eso era sotava tiko ena nodra veiqaravi ka sasaga talega me vukea nodra leqa.



1





## Sega ni na cava na sasaga ni Matanitu



Eratou mai tavoca na yavusa ko Navakavu na nodratou tuvatuva ni yabaki 2018-2022 ka wili kina na nodra bula ni veivakatorocaketaki. Vakaraitaka na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni sala vata tikoga na dusidusi levu ni sasaga ni Matanitu e na veivakatorocaketaki. "Sa toso tiko na veivakatorocaketaki vinaka, e na sega walega ni cava e ke ia e na tosoi tikoga me da umani vata vakatautavata e na bula ni veivakatorocaketaki, tukuna ko PM Bainimarama. Sa uqeti ira kina okoya mera qacoya na nodra sasaga baleta oqo esa na vukei ira talega ena sasaga ni rawaka vakailavo ka sa na vakarautaki ira talega kina na nodra isausau vou ena veisiga ni mataka. iTaba: **ERONI VALILI**



## 'Oqo e dua na ivola siga vei keimami'

Na dola ni seda ni vuli ni sainisi ena loma ni waitui mai Yasawa esa dua talega na ivola siga vei ira na lewe ni vanua mai Naviti mera raica cake ena veigauna mai muri. Oqori na nodra vosa na Tui Naviti Ratu Kitone Vuluma ena soqo ni dola ni seda ena Barefoot Manta Resort ka liutaka na kena cakacaka na kena manidia ko Peter Farrell. Oqo edua na sasaga ni veivakatorocaketaki ena buturara ni saravanua ka sa veivuke kina na otela kei na vanua ka sa dua na ka veivakaloumanataki baleta ni veiwekani voleka kei na veitalanoa kei na cakacaka ni draki veisau ena kena taqomaki ka maroroi na noda sasalu kei na yaubula ena loma ni waitui. iTaba: **ISAAC LAL**



## VALE NI KANA VOU E NASEYANI

Era veisiko ka la'ki dolava na nodra vale ni kana vou na gonevuli ni koronivuli e Naseyani Primary School, Ra, na turaga Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni tara ni vale vou oqo e vu mai edua na veitalanoa ka a vakayacori ena nona a veisiko voli e Naseyani ena yabaki sa oti ena dolavi vou ni koronivuli. "Oqo e baleta na nodra bula ni rawaka vinaka na gone ena siga ni mataka. Edua na sasaga ni Matanitu mera dau vakayagataki vinaka na iyau ni matanitu ena teiteivaki ni nodra bula na kawa kei Viti ni mataka." Na kena isau taucoko na cakacaka oqo e tiko ena \$224,000 ka saumi mai ena PM's Small Grant Scheme. iTaba: **ERONI VALILI**



## Sasaga na kena tokoni na wili vola

Ciqoma na vunivola tudei ni tabana ni vuli na ika va ni kaukau ni ivola ni wili vola ni Read to Lead Fiji Books e Nadi Primary School. Na ivola oqo era solia na Fiji Water Foundation ka ra na veiwasayaki ena vei koronivuli ena noda vanua me rawa ni vakauqeti ira na noda gone mera wilivola vakalevu. Vakaraitaka ko Alison Burchell ena nodra ciqoma oti na ivola ni oqo edua na sasaga ka tokoni kina na veiqravi ena tabana ni vuli ka sa uqeti ira kina na gonevuli mera dau vakayagataka na nodra vale ni wili vola se library mera vakalevutaka kina na nodra kila ka. iTaba: **RONAL DEO**







# Dolavi vou na rara ni waqavuka

ISAAC LAL

Ekadokai vei keda na vakavou ni Nadi International Airport ka dodonu me darautaka, kaya ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama.

Oqo edua na gacagaca ni veiqaravi ena maketetaki kei Viti kina vuravura levu.

Au sa rogoca vakawasoma na nodra taleitaka ko ira na lewe ni

vanua kei Viti era lesu tale mai ki noda, se ko ira na liuliu levu mai na matanitu ena vuravura, se ko ira na noda era biubiu mera vuka ki valagi,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Era marautaka saraga na vanua se na itagede ni veiqaravi sa yacova mai kei na talanoa se itukutuku me baleti keda sa kauta na veivakatorocaketaki vou oqo ki valagi.”

Kuria ko PM Bainimarama ni sega walega ni va na rara vou ni roro ni waqavuka kei na veivakatorocaketaki ena vanua o Nadi e sagai sara mera vakavinakataka na nodra veisiko mai na saravanua.

“Na gauna era curuma mai kina na vanua oqo ka ra dewa sara ki Denarau era na draiva ena noda gaunisala vou ka va na kena laini kei na Denarau bypass kei

na kawakawa vou mera yacova yani na otela lelevu kilai tani e vuravura ena saravanua.”

Ena yabaki 2017 esa rauta ni rua na milioni na levu ni pasidia era lako curuma mai na noda rara ni waqavuka, ka namaki me na tubu tiko ena yabaki oqo.

“Ni tubu na wiliwili oqo sa na tubu talega na ilavo ena vakayagataki ena noda vanua, ka vakalevutaka na cakacaka kei na rawa

ka vakailavo vakabibi vei ira na veiqaravi ena saravanua.”

Vakaraitaka na manidia levu ni matabose ni kabani ni waqavuka e Viti ko Faiyaz Khan ni dua na ka vinaka na nodratou digitaka me dola tikoga na veiqaravi ena rara ni waqavuka e Nadi ena gauna ratou vakavoutaka tiko kina na gacagaca ni veiqaravi kece sara.

## Matalia na waqa na ‘Veivueti’: PM



NANISE NEIMILA

Na waqa vou ni Matanitu na Marine Vessel ‘VEIVUETI’ ena laveta cake kina dua tale na itagede na veiqaravi ni soko ni waqa ni Matanitu kina noda veiyanyanu. E matalia na waqa vou oqo ni tiko kina na tabana ni veiqaravi vakavuniwai.

“Na waqa vou oqo ena dau veivakabulai vei ira na lewe ni noda vanua vakabibi ena veiyanyanu e Viti,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Sa yaga na yaco mai ni waqa vou oqo baleta me sotavi kina na levu ni draki veisau eda sotava tiko ka me dau veivuke ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso vakaoqo.”

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni waqa vou oqo e \$8m na kena isau ka 46 na mita na kena balavu ka rawa ni caka kina na veiqaravi

Cokaidrauna tu oqri na ni waqa vou ni Matanitu na ‘Veivueti’ ena kena tavo tiko e Suva ka vakaitavi kina na turaga na ililui ni Matanitu ko Voreqe Bainimarama.

vakavuniwai e gadrevi vakatotolo.

“Sa tukuni koya rawa tiko na yaca ni waqa oqo na ‘Veivueti’ me dau ni veivueti vei ira na gadreva na veivuke,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na waqa oqo e rawa ni usa kina e 200 na tani na kako kei na 300 na tani na wainigunu savasava mera qaravi kina na veiyanyanu e sega tiko kina na wai ni gunu.”

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni matalia tale-



ga na waqa na ‘Veivueti’ ni se qai isevu ni waqa vakaoqo me vakagataki e Viti.

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni waqa na Veivueti e rawa ni yaco kina na veiqaravi vakavuniwai me vaka na vakayacori ni x-ray, na dikevi ni mate na TB, na veicavu bati vaka kina na veiqaravi baleta na mavoa ni mata.

“Na waqa oqo ena vakayagataki ena veiqaravi ni **Public Health Programs** kei na sikovi vei koronivuli. Ena yaga vakalevu talega vei ira na dau ni veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula era tu ena veiyanyanu ciri yawa.

## Marautaki na veivakarautaki ni Matanitu

MEREANI GONEDUA

Sega ni cakacaka rawarawa na vakacivaki sitolo ni volivolitaki ena yasa ni gaunisala. E sega talega ni rawarawa na kau mai ni ivoli kina na sitolo ka me cicivaki na bisinisi ni rawaka vakailavo.

Oqo e taura kece na gauna balavu ka dau dredre na aua balavu kei na vosota balavu ena gauna dredre me vaka na gauna ni draki ca.

Mai veivuke kina na Matanitu vei ratou e lewe 30 na itaukei ni sitolo e Navakabalea e Navua.

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni oqo edua



Totoka qai rairai bulabula na makete vou mai Navakabalea e Navua ena bati ni gaunisala na Queens Road. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

na porokaramu tekivuna na matanitu ena yabaki oqo ka nakiti me laveti cake tale ena veiyabaki ena veiyasai Viti raraba me baleta na vukei ni nodra bula na dau volitaki kakana mera vakayagataka na sitolo tara vaka vinaka ka rawa ni bula curuma talega na cagilaba. Esa taqomaka nodra bisinisi

ka taqomaki ira talega na kena itaukei ena nodra vakacivaki bisinisi.

“Na sitolo oqo e buli mai ena iyaya vinaka ka toka icake na kena itagede, ka rawa ni bula curuma na cagilaba kaukauwa sara,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na sitolo oqo e soli wale vei

kemuni me nomuni io ena lisi taki vei kemuni mai na Minisitiri ni Bisinisi, Veivoli kei na Saravanua. Au sa uqeti kemuni mo ni wilika vinaka na ivola ni lisi ka muria vinaka.”

Eratou imatai ni solisoli oqo e lewe ciwa na lewe ni vanua mai Navakabalea.

## Laveti na cakacaka ena vuli tara

MEREANI GONEDUA

Na cakacaka e vu mai na vuli tara ena dolava tale edua na katuba ni sasaga vei ira na noda itabagone me ra rawa ka kina vakailavo, kaya ko Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito Laisenia Tuitubou.

Sa vakauqeti ira na matabose ni vuli tara me ra veitokoni ka solia na vakasala dodonu ena kena laveti na vuli tara me rawa ni vukei ira na noda itabagone era sa lutu mai ena vuli e koronivuli mera uqeti ena cakacaka ni vuli tara.

“Ena solia tale vei ira edua na katuba vou ni sasaga mera nira tovolea kina na vuli cakacaka ena kila vakacacaka, me rawa nira rawata kina edua na vurevure ni rawaka vakailavo,” kaya ko Minisita Tuitubou.

“Sa kena ibalebale oya ni ra na vuli eso na ka vou me vaka na cakacaka ni liga se screen printing, culacula, idinia, teitei, wili vola kei na vulici ni veika se itovo vanua”

Tomana na Minisita ni sa mai bula tiko ena noda vanua ena dua na gauna balavu na cakacaka ni vuli tara ka sa dodonu me laveti na veiqaravi ena tabana oqo me vaka na veitauriligataki ni cakacaka kei ira na itabagone.

“Sa vakadonuya na Matanitu na vola dusidusi me baleta na Vuli Tara ka sa dodonu me laveti cake na veiqaravi ena tabana oqo vei ira kece na itabagone, me ra wili kece kina na veitaba tamata duikaikai.

“Dodonu meda vakauqeti ira na sega ni cakacaka tu ia era sa biu vuli oti mai, ko ira na lewe ni vanua ena veitabana ni rawaka vakailavo kevaka e vakamatanitutuaki na nodra veiqaravi mera laveta cake ga na nodra kila ena porokaramu oqo.”





Ko ira na lewe ni mataivalu e wai ni Ositerelia na HMAS Adelaide ena loma ni vale ni lotu na Centenary e Suva ena vakananumi ni yabaki 40 ni veiqaravi ni mataivalu ni Viti ena veisaututaki ena Tokalau e Loma.  
iTaba: MEREANI GONEDUA

# Dokai na veiqaravi ni veisaututaki

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKARAITAKA na turaga na Paraiminisita ko Voreqe Bainimarama ni ka dokai vua me tiko ena kena vakananumi na yabaki 40 ni veiqaravi ni sotia ni Viti ena veisaututaki ena Tokalau e Loma kei na veiyasai vuravura tale eso.

“E dokai kina nodra soli bula na noda sotia ena veisaututaki ena ruku ni Matabose kei Vuravura,”tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Sa 40 na yabaki na balavu ni nodra veitaqomaki voli ena vuku ni veisaututaki na sotia ni Viti, kara taqomaki ira tiko kina na malumalumu, na lewe ni vanua kei na gone ena vuku ni taqomaki ni veisaututaki ena veivanua rerevaki eso.”

“Na nodra vakaitavi na noda sotia ni Viti e kauti keda lesu tale kina imatai ni ivalu levu kei vuravura.

“Sa sivi edua na drau na yabaki na nodra rogo kaci ena yalo doudou na noda sotia ena vuku ni veisaututaki ena veivanua era gadrevi mai kina,”tukuna ko PM Bainimarama

“Era yalo qaqa ena vuku ni tiko veisaututaki ka ra vorata kina na veigauna dredre e na veivanua sa robota na noda vuravura.”

“Era sa veiqaravi ena Tokalau e Loma, mai Sainiai ki Kuwait, Iraki kei Siria. Era veiqaravi talega mai Aferika, mai Darfur kina Ceva kei Sudan, Laiberia, kei Namibia. Ena tokalau kei Urope mai Bosnia, kei Kosovo, vakakina ki Asia Pasifika me vakataki Cambodia, Timor-Leste, kei na yatu Solomoni.

“Era sa veiqaravi na sotia ni Viti kei ira na veimataivalu rogo ni noda vuravura ena kena sagai na veisaututaki ena vukudra na noda solisoli kei na noda siga vinaka ni mataka,”tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

Na nodra soli bula na noda sotia sa mai cibi kina ko Viti ka sa mai noda kina na lagilagi ni kua ni oti e 40 na yabaki ni veiqaravi.”

“Na veivanua kece era veiqaravi kina na noda sotia era dau ni veitaqomaki vei ira na malumalumu.

“Era kauta yani na bula ni veisaututaki

kina lewe ni vanua era dau sotava voli na veivakarusai,”tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Era sa vukea na kena mavo na mavoa ni ivalu kei na tatawasewase e vuravura. Era vakaraitaka na yalo dina ni kai Viti ena nodra yaloqaqa kei na yalodina me rawati na bula veisaututaki ena noda vuravura.”

“Sa tomani tiko ni kua na veiqaravi vina-ka ni sotia ni Viti ka ra veiqaravi voli kina ni kua e rauta ni lewe 900 na sotia yaloqaqa ni Viti ena veisaututaki ni Matabose kei Vuravura ena veiyasai vuravura. Era tiki talega ni noda cavuikalawa ena ika 40 ni yabaki ni veiqaravi ni veisaututaki,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Mai rawati na cavuikalawa levu oqo ena soli bula, e dina ga nida vanua lailai, ni kua eda vakanumi ira talega kina na lewe 60 na sotia ni Viti era solia nodra bula ena vuku ni tiko veisaututaki.”

“Era sotava kina nodra matavuvale na losi ni nodra sa mai takali na wekadra ka ra dau lewe voli ni nodra vakananau ena veigauna,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Eda na dau nanumi ira ena nodra soli bula baleta ni sa mai rawati kina na bula ni veisaututaki ena noda vuravura.

“Na noda ivakarau na lewei Viti meda dau veikauwaitaki. Na veikauwaitaki oya eda sa vakaraitaka ki vuravura ni veitalia na kawa tamata cava era lewena se na vanua cava era tiko kina e dodonu mera bula marau ka veilomani tiko,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

Na dokai nei Viti e vuravura ena veisaututaki e vuravura sa rawa kina me dokai talega kina na rogo ni domoi Viti ena valuti ni draki veisau ena kena taqomaki na noda wasawasa kei na noda vuravura.

Au sa vakavinavinaka vakalevu sara vei kemuni kece na sotia ni Viti ko ni sa vakaitavi oti ena tiko veisaututaki ena ruku ni Matabose kei vuravura.

“E daidai au sa vakamasuti keda na lewe ni vanua e Viti meda dau nanumi ira na noda sotia ena qaqa ni noda masu.”

“Me vakalougataki ira na noda dau ni veisaututaki na Kalou Levu. Ka me vakaloumanataki Viti”



E rau sa cabe cake kina vale ni lotu levu na Centenary na turaga na iliului ni Matanitu ko Voreqe Bainimarama kei na turaga na Peresitedi ko Jioji Konrote ena lotu ni vakananumi ni yabaki 40 ni veiqaravi nei Viti ena veisaututaki ena Tokalau e Loma. iTaba: MEREANI GONEDUA

## Vakatovotovo na mataivalu ni Ositerelia, Viti kei Sri Lanka



Ko ira na lewe ni mataivalu e wai ni Ositerelia, Viti kei Sri Lanka ena nodra mai vakatovotova tiko ena toba ko Suva ka ra taba toka oqo ena dela ni manuwa ni Ositerelia na HMAS Adelaide. iTaba: HALITESH DATT

MEREANI GONEDUA

ERA mai vakatovotovo na sotia ni Ositerelia, Sri Lanka kei Viti ena koroturaga e Suva.

Oqo e salamura tikoga na nodra veiwekani vakasotia ka bucini mai ena veiwekani vinaka sa bucini oti mai ena veiya-baki sa oti.

Edua na tiki levu ni sasasa oqo na veivueti ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso ka vakatovolei kina na kila kei na tovo ni veiqaravi vakamataivalu ena gauna vaka-

oqo.

Na vakatovotovo oqo ena vukea talega na kila ni mataivalu nei Viti me baleta na veiqaravi ena gauna ni leqa tubukoso kei na gaunisala erawa ni dau veivuke kina vei ira na lewe ni vanua se matanitu era sotava na leqa.

Kele tiko mai e Viti na manua levu ni Mataivalu mai Ositerelia na HMS Adelaide ka kele siga tolu me baleta na vakatovotovo oqo. Erau lewe walu na noda sotia eratou vodo tiko mai ena HMS Adelaide.



# Noda Viti

## Uqeti na lewa matau

PRIYANKA LAL

**S**A uqeti ira na veimatanitu ena vuravura na noda Peresitedi Jioji Konrote baleta na nodra vakatulewa matau ena maroroi ni noda waitui.

Vosa tiko Peresitedi Konrote ena siga ni vakananumi e vuravura ni noda waitui ka tukuna kina na veiwekani ni maroroi vinaka ni waitui kina na noda bula na tamata.

“Me da tauri kalawa vinaka me baleta na palasitika, me vaka eda kila ni kua ni oqo na sasaga talega ni Matanitu me saumi na vakacavacava ni vakayagataki ni palasitika. Ni kua ni vakayagataka na palasitika se straw kei na tavaya buli mai na palasitika se bola ni kakana se container.

E vakadreta talega ko Peresitedi Konrote na bibi ni lewa matau ena siwati ni sasalu se ika e waitui; na kena tokoni na sasaga ni lewe ni vanua ena kena maroroi na noda iqoliqoli se ikanakana ka mera vakavulici tale ga na lewe ni vanua mera rokova na waitui kei na yau bula ena loma ni waitui me baleti ira na kawa ni mataka.

Na draki veisau kei na tiko bulabula, e kuria kina na Peresitedi ni sasaga ni Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) ka namaki me qaravi e Suva ena vula mai oqo ena vukea na pasivika ena sasaga levu ni draki veisau.

“Dodonu meda veivakananumi tiko ena tukutuku oqo kina na vuravura levu ka vakakina na iyalayala levu ni vakalailaitaki ni ceburaki ni kasi gaga vumai na veidinadinati mai Paris. Baleta ni sa lailai tiko mai na vakabauta e vuravura ni kevaka era na vakalailaitaka na nodra pasede ni ceburaki kasi gaga mai na 1.5 dikiri selisiesi.”

“Ia era na vakavuna edua na laveti ni katakata ena tolu na dikiri ena cava ni senituri oqo. Oqo edua na ka vakarevaki baleta ni ra na tarai keda kece na matanitu e vuravura ka vakabibi o keda na matanitu lalai ena pasivika eda sa vakila rawa tiko na revurevu ni veisau ni draki.”

Tokona ko Dr Audrey Aumua na ivukevuke ni daireketa ni Pacific Community na vosa nei Peresitedi Konrote ni tukuna ni dodonu meda cakacaka vata na lewe ni vanua se matanitu ena pasivika meda laveta na kena vakararamataki nai tukutuku baleta na waitui me rawa ni ra vulica na lewe ni vanua ena vuravura raraba na bibi ni ka eda sotava tiko.



## Yabaki 40 noda vei qaravi ena UN

Noda veiweikani ni vei qaravi ena matabose cokovata kei vuravura sa mai yacova na yabaki 40.

Tukuna kina na noda Peresitedi Jioji Konrote ni kilai tani o Viti ena vuravura ni veisaututaki baleti ira na noda sotia

ena yalo ni soli bula era vakaraitaka ena 40 na yabaki. “Sa mai vuavuai vinaka kina nodra bula vakamatavuvale ena rawaka vakailavo mai veisaututaki,” kaya ko Peresitedi Konrote. “Na irogoro nei Viti mai na

Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura esa vukea sara tikoga na cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki ena noda vanua lomani.” Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni vorosausau nodra na noda sotia ena buturara ni veisaututaki

e tomani tikoga ena siga nikua. E lewe 900 na noda sotia era vei qaravi tiko mai ena Matabose kei Vuravura ka rauta nil ewe 30,000 na noda sotia era sa vei qaravi oti ena 40 yabaki sa oti.

iTaba: ERONI VALILI

# Vakadonui

## 5 na itaukei ni qele e ciqomi na nodra kerekere

SOLO LEWANANVANUA

**E**lewe ni lima na itaukei ni qele era na vukei mai na ilavo ni Matanitu me vakatorocaketaki kina nodra qele me baleta na bisinisi kei na veivakavaletaki.

Ni oti na kena dikevi na ivola kerekere e ciqomi sa vakadonui vei ratou na itaukei ni qele oqo me na veivuke na Matanitu ena vakatorocaketaki ni nodra qele.

- Iliesa Cebaivalu Namuaira e Vuda;
- Manasa Naiceru Nasara e Tavua;
- Mataqali Matarisiga Trust e Lautoka;
- Josefa Uluvuda kei Makelesi Dibau

Davelevu e Lautoka;  
• Haravai Holding Trust mai Nadroga.

Oqo edua na tiki ni vei qaravi ni Matanitu sa vukea vakadodonu saraga na itaukei qele ka sala muria tikoga na ivola dusidusi levu ni Matanitu ena laveti ni vakategetege ni bula raraba ni Matanitu.

Sa vakadonuya na Matanitu me na vukei ira ena ilavo me tokona na kena vakayagataki na nodra qele ena bisinisi ni veivakavaletaki (residential) keina vakaduri bisinisi tale eso (commercial).

Na ilavo ena tokoni kina na nodra bisinisi e gole mai ena veivuke ni vakailavo ni Matan-

itu kina vakatorocaketaki ni qelel ni iTaukei se Government Grant Assistance for iTaukei Land Development.

Na tabana oqo se tauyavutaki sara ena yabaki 2015 kara vakauqeti kina na itaukei ni qele mera vakalevutaka caka bisinisi ena nodra qele.

Na ilavo ena veivuke kina na Matanitu ena sotavi kina na kena drodro yani na livaliva kei na wai kina nodra tiki ni qele, vakakina na ta ni gaunisala me yaco yani kina, keina na veikatale eso e gadrevi ma vakatorocaketaki taumada kina nodra qele me na vukea na mataqali bisinisi era via qarava kina na itaukei ni qele.