

FijiFocus



"My government is not satisfied simply with being the first to provide free, compulsory education for every child. We have always said that every Fijian student must have access to an equally high standard of learning, no matter where they live, whether in a city or in a rural maritime community,"
- Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

PM Bainimarama speaks on development at Naitasiri Provincial Council Meeting

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

WE have invested more than \$105.5 million into developing the rural regions of Naitasiri from 2014 until last year, says Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

PM Bainimarama highlighted this as he opened the Naitasiri Provincial Council meeting in Kalabu Village last week.

In his address, Prime Minister Bainimarama deliberated on some of the major projects and developments that have been carried out in

the province by the Fijian Government.

These developments include the construction of bridges and roads, upgrading of schools, agricultural support, improvement of medical services, social welfare assistance, and the supply of water and electricity to vil-

lages. Many have also been able to enjoy the experience of attending university through the Tertiary Education

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Fiji attends 114th OACPS council of Ministers meets

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe Bainimarama.

"Fiji is the Pacific hub of trade, travel, telecommunications, and finance, and our capital is the one-stop-shop for all multilateral matters. In one trip to one city, our region's Leaders can make connections and coordinate engagement with each other and the world."

NUMBERS

The Fijian Government had delivered

\$126.3 million in development and services to Lomaiviti from 2014 until 2021.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama @FijiPM

Today, in true talanoa spirit, we took an important step toward re-uniting our Pacific family. Our new reform package contains commitments that deepen trust and cohesion across the region, and Fiji fully supports its adoption at the next @ForumSEC meeting.

CONTACT DETAILS

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Main office: New Wing, Ground Floor, Government Buildings, Suva

North office: Level 3 Macuata House, Labasa

West office: Level 1 Ratu Nauliano House, Korovalu

Contacts: Suva: 3301806
West: 6700086
North: 8811276
Fax: 3305139/3304663
news@govnet.gov.fj
@FijianGovt
Fijian Government
visit us at www.fiji.gov.fj

Rural and maritime islands a priority for Govt

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE far-flung locations of rural and maritime areas will not hinder the Government from reaching out to develop their communities.

These were the sentiments expressed by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, during his recent visit to the Nabubu Village seawall construction site in Namuka, Macuata.

Located 84 kilometres away from Labasa Town on the upper Northern coast of Macuata, the villagers say they now feel protected following the construction of a nature-based seawall.

Nabubu villager, 49-year-old Dilosalini Masirewa said they once lived in constant fear

as the waves continued to erode the village beachfront, and started to reach into their village.

"Anything could happen, we felt unsafe as sea-level rise affected us as it had reached the line-up of houses next to the beach," Mrs Masirewa said.

"We experienced the worst of this during Tropical Cyclone Yasa when the tidal waves hit our village, leaving sand and debris in the village in its wake."

"This was terrifying for us because we realised that we were within the sea's reach and it posed a direct threat to our children, to us and to our community."

She said they were grateful to the Government for hearing their cries and assisting them with what they needed the most as a commu-

nity.

Minister Reddy, while addressing the villagers, reiterated that while climate change was real, the Government continued relentlessly to come up with solutions to protect Fijian communities.

"This is a nature-based solution that consists of mangrove as first line up, the second line of defense being boulders, third a clay soil wall and the fourth one being vetiver grass planted on the soil wall," Minister Reddy said.

He said nature-based solutions were one of the best ways to counter climate change and it was also cost efficient.

Minister Reddy reiterated that one of Government's priorities was to grow and develop interior communities.



The Nabubu village seawall is a nature-based construction which comprises of boulders, soil clay and vetiver grass. PHOTO: NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

MAKING OUR RECOVERY COUNT

CALL FOR NATIONAL BUDGET SUBMISSIONS AS FIJIAN ECONOMY HEADS FOR DOUBLE-DIGIT ECONOMIC GROWTH

Fiji is open, jobs are returning, our children are learning, and our economy is set towards record-breaking double-digit economic growth in 2022. Ahead of the 2022-2023 National Budget, the Ministry of Economy is calling on all Fijians to send their ideas and input in support of a bold and wide-reaching recovery. The recent Revised 2021-2022 Budget introduced a suite of policy measures designed to cushion families and businesses from the price-increase crisis and put momentum behind Fiji's economic recovery. The upcoming National Budget, which will be announced on 15 July, will continue to support Fiji's economic comeback with a focus on private sector-led growth, combatting the price-increase crisis, diversifying the economy, building climate resilience, unlocking ocean-based growth, and strengthening macro-fiscal stability.

The Ministry of Economy invites all Fijians, including civil society and non-governmental organisations, women, youth, senior citizens, those living with disabilities, other grassroots organisations and representatives from the private sector to voice their views and opinions on the 2022-2023 National Budget.

Fijians can make written submissions which can be posted, hand-delivered or e-mailed by 30 June 2022 to the following addresses:

Postal Delivery
"Budget Consultations 2022-2023"
Ministry of Economy
P. O. Box 2212
Government Buildings
Suva

Hand Delivery
"Budget Consultations 2022-2023"
Ministry of Economy
Level 10, Ro Lalabalavu House
Victoria Parade
Suva

Email
Subject: "Budget Consultations 2022-2023"
budgetconsultation@economy.gov.fj

We look forward to your participation and contribution towards the 2022-2023 National Budget.

(Source: Ministry of Economy)

\$1.5 MILLION PAID IN UNEMPLOYMENT SUPPORT TO VANUA LEVU

The Fijian Government has paid approximately \$1.5 million to around 15,000 affected individuals in Vanua Levu as part of the first batch of payments.

More payments will be made soon with the verification process currently underway.

Payment will be made directly to the beneficiaries' MPAiSA or MyCASH accounts.

Please call on the following numbers for any clarifications:

1. 9980 311
2. 9980 324
3. 9927 383
4. 9927 386

(Source: Ministry of Economy)

PM Bainimarama highlights need for stronger climate commitments

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama met with the Minister for Tourism of Saudi Arabia, Ahmed Aqeel Al-Khateeb, last week in Suva.

The Prime Minister welcomed Minister Al-Khateeb on his first visit to Fiji and the Pacific.

Minister Al-Khateeb's visit aimed to strengthen bilateral cooperation and diplomatic relations between the two nations, which were established in 2015.

The Prime Minister said Fiji was working closely with its development partners to advance a sustainable and resilient recovery that builds back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of Fiji's vast potential as the hub of the Pacific, the Prime Minister spoke on opportunities for strengthened regional cooperation with Saudi Arabia, particularly in areas of socio-economic development.

The Prime Minister also affirmed Fiji's support for Saudi Arabia's bid to host the World Expo 2030.

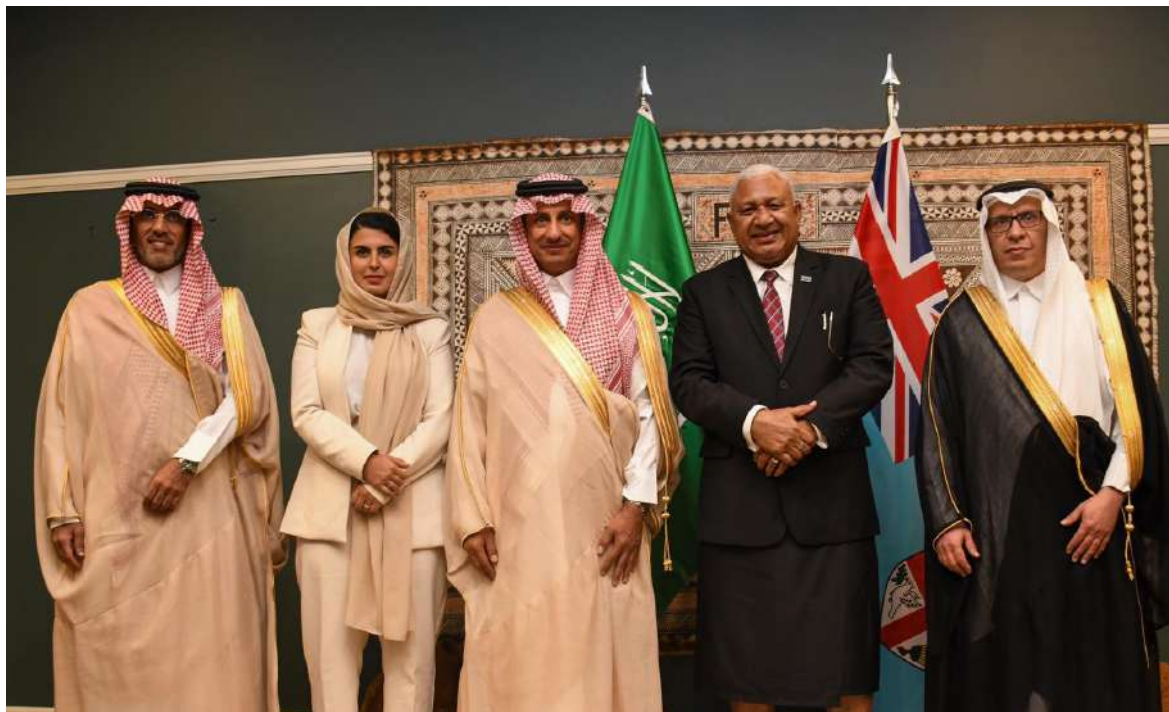
During the meeting, potential cooperation in the tourism sector, trade and investment, green energy and technology were also discussed.

There was also an exchange of views on advancing shared aspirations, particularly in accelerating climate actions, ocean conservation, and initiatives promoting sustainable development.

In handing over a Fijian tanoa to the Minister, the Prime Minister Bainimarama expressed that: "Pacific people gather around a tanoa to blamelessly discuss any issue — no matter how difficult. At a meeting with the Saudi Arabian Minister for Tourism and the Head of the Saudi Development Fund, I stressed how much our nations can do together on the way to a net-zero future."

The Prime Minister thanked Mr Al-Khateeb for his visit to Fiji and for the opportunity to promote dialogue on areas of enhancement of relations between the two nations.

In response, Minister Al-Khateeb expressed his sincere appre-



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama met with the Minister for Tourism of Saudi Arabia, Ahmed Aqeel Al-Khateeb, last week in Suva. PHOTO FELIX LESINAIVALU

ciation to Prime Minister Bainimarama for the opportunity to meet in person and the kind hospitality accorded to him during his visit to Fiji this week.

He commended the Prime Minister for his strong leadership and

commitment to the global issue of climate change.

He said the visit to Fiji and the region is to seek stronger partnership opportunities in the post-pandemic era, particularly as nation's worldwide work collectively to

build resilience and rebuild from the pandemic and the worsening impacts of climate change.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

PM Bainimarama opens Naitasiri Provincial Council Meeting



FROM PAGE 1

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at the Naitasiri Provincial Council meeting last week. Photo: Ilisapeci Tuivale

Loans Scheme — a burden that has been lifted off many parents.

He highlighted that a total of 21 grid extension projects have been commissioned from 2012 to 2021 in the province, benefitting close to 700 households.

"We also extended our assistance to ensure that you access electricity. We invested over \$8.6 million in rural electricity projects. This included grid extensions in Lomaivuna, Boteinaulu, and Sawanikula villages. We also connected Nawaqabena to Naduna village and Qiolevu Settlement. Electricity is something we take for granted in modern, urban societies. Now we have lit up most of Naitasiri, and soon, rural electrification will cover the whole province," he said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also spoke about the dangers brought by climate change that has caused riverbank erosion, an issue being experienced by some villages in the province. The Fijian Government has assisted some villages such as Wainawaqa and Gusuisavu, along the Waidina River through many riverbank protection projects.

"Livelihoods are restored and food security is ensured through

the protection of riverbanks. Our Government is also working with non-governmental organisations to provide nature-based solutions to protect against the effects of climate change. We have collaborated with the Fiji Ridge to Reef to implement projects such as planting vetiver grass for erosion control along the Waimanu River. We thank the people of Vuniniudrovu for partnering with us. This is a marvellous, low-cost solution that allows us to control flooding and erosion without massive engineering projects that fundamentally alter the landscape. It uses the resources that nature has given us."

Attendees of the meeting were reminded of the importance of filling vacant chiefly titles. Of the 615 chiefly and customary titles in Naitasiri, only 340 are filled, leaving 275 titles vacant.

"It is the enduring legacy of my Government — that Fiji is a much better place to live than it has ever been before, and that it has improved by leaps and bounds in the last 15 years. It is more connected. Our economy is stronger. Our communities are becoming more resilient," PM Bainimarama said.

Saudi Arabia's Minister for Tourism in Fiji

AS the Pacific's hub, Fiji has proudly served as Saudi Arabia's Minister for Tourism, Ahmed Aqeel Al-Khateeb's home base for his visits to Tonga, Kiribati, Palau, and Vanuatu over the past three days. During a meeting with the Attorney-General, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, he said that he had wonderful meetings across the region and also built Pacific-wide support for Saudi Arabia's bid to host Expo 2030.

During the meeting, the two men spoke on where the Saudi Development Fund can make the biggest difference in the Fijian people's lives, from tourism,

to infrastructure development and MSME support.

The meeting included Permanent Secretary for Economy, Shiri Gounder, Governor of Reserve Bank, Ariff Ali, Fiji Development Bank Chief Executive Officer, Saud Minam and Head of Treasury at the Ministry of Economy, Nemia Dawai.

The Minister later met Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

He also visited the Solomon Islands on his way back to Saudi Arabia.

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Stakeholders meet to discuss Valelevu shuttle bus pilot program



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and members of the Ministry of Economy and Land Transport Authority met in Suva recently to discuss the Valelevu shuttle bus pilot program. PHOTO: NANISE NEIMILA

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and members of the Ministry of Economy and Land Transport Authority met with bus operators to discuss the Valelevu shuttle bus pilot program.

This programme is expected to serve the Greater Nasinu area, the most densely populated area of the country, including Davuilevu and Nakasi.

The shuttle services is intended to promote the use of public transport over private vehicles by making it more convenient, flexible and reliable.

In terms of promoting electric buses in the country, the A-G stated that a station with electric charging stations will be built to coincide with the construction of a suburban bus transit line at Valelevu.

provide an opportunity to obtain new technical skills in EVs to meet future demand, reduce reliance on high-cost fuel imports, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and demonstrate Fiji's Climate leadership on the global stage.

The project will assist in meeting Fiji's climate targets which is to reduce emissions 30 per cent by 2030, achieve 100 per cent renewables by 2036 and Net-zero by 2050.

With construction of the Valelevu Terminal beginning at the end of this month, shuttle buses of 21-25 seats and 7-meters will be used for the operations.

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Pacific re-set must see women as co-lead

PRASHILA DEVI

THE Pacific is primed and ready for a regional development “reset” that will not only see women participate more fully but have the region co-led by them.

Addressing the Pacific Islands Forum’s Women Leaders Meeting held at the PIF Secretariat in Suva last week, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama emphasised that for “us to even come close to meeting our 2030 SDG targets - a Pacific development reset must be underscored by a gender-inclusive recovery”.

Highlighting the challenges that women face to make their place in the workforce and in leadership roles, Prime Minister

Bainimarama said seeing the determination of women to change the narrative for the women and girls they now lead, was “not only praise-worthy, but deeply inspiring”.

“It should go without saying that, without the full inclusion of women in decision-making roles, we have zero hope of achieving effective, practical solutions to the myriad of 21st century challenges we face,” he said.

“Yet, it has taken us decades to convene a women-centered political forum, despite the data telling us of the multiple barriers our girls and women are up against.”

This, Prime Minister Bainimarama, against a backdrop that sees up to 60 percent of women

and girls in the region experiencing violence at the hands of partners or family members.

“The Inter-Parliamentary Union reports that globally, women comprised 25.5 percent of national Parliamentarians as of January 2021, but the percentage of women in Pacific Parliaments was around 6.4 percent,” he said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said as a father of five hardworking daughters – “these numbers alarm me”.

He said the UN continues to warn that the pandemic has had a dis-proportionate impact on women and threatens to roll back decades of hard-won progress on the fight against inequality.

“Women’s employment fell

globally by 4.2 per cent in 2020 compared with three per cent for men as sectors in which women tend to work more – such as tourism – were ravaged by necessary restrictions used to curb the spread of the virus.”

Mentioning the areas that need targeted attention as Fiji recovers post COVID-19, Prime Minister Bainimarama said there was a need for Green-Blue recovery, a Digital recovery and a recovery that prioritises science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

“Giving women equal opportunities to pursue and thrive in STEM careers, helps narrow the gender pay gap, enhances women’s economic security and ensures a diverse and talented workforce,” he said.

Women Leaders Meet Opens 2022 for Pacific Islands Forum

A MILESTONE moment for the Pacific gender agenda as the inaugural Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders meeting convened virtually last week.

Forum Ministers for Women examined the role of women and girls in Pacific futures, with a focus on impacts of the COVID19 pandemic, the climate change crisis and disaster risk responses and the 2050 strategy for the Blue Pacific continent.

A major review of the 2012 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, set to go before Forum Leaders, will also be presented and discussed by the PIF Women Leaders Meeting.

Fijian Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, as head of delegation for the host country, chaired the meeting.

The virtual event delivered outcomes and recommendations to the Forum Leaders for their 51st Forum meetings in 2022.

“It is vital that the voices and vision of our Pacific women, in all their diversity and experience, shape the futures of their communities, nations, and our one Blue Pacific continent—without that inclusive approach, sustainable development is impossible. I know we are all looking forward to getting to the heart of the challenges impacting our communities through and beyond COVID and sharing solutions and ideas to ensure the dream for our Pacific future is a dream for all Pacific people,” Minister Akbar said.

Forum Secretary General, Henry Puna, said the Women Leaders meeting ensures “we keep the spotlight on gender equality commitments such as the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration”.

“It’s also an important opportunity for our secretariat to ensure we work smarter and better with all regional organisations on the regional and global gender agenda.”

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)

Promoting gender equality and inclusion for the Blue Pacific Continent

THE inaugural Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting held in Suva last week establishes high-level regional accountability mechanism for gender equality and inclusion for the Blue Pacific continent

PIF Women Leaders Meeting chair and Fijian Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar highlighted this as she welcomed all Pacific women leaders during the virtual meeting that was held at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Office in Suva.

Minister Akbar said through this mechanism, the Pacific women leaders will discuss and act on challenges facing Pacific women and girls to continue advancing gender equality.

She said, “I ask you to also reflect on the many gains we have made in the region. I commend the efforts by our governments in adopting gender-responsive policies, laws, and practices to address gender inequalities”.

“Most of our countries have legislation addressing the pressing social issue of domestic violence. Women are also making progress in other sectors.”

Minister Akbar added, “This is evident in the private sector’s progress on women in business leadership. The Asian Development Bank’s Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative report found that the region exceeds the global average for women’s representation in business leadership”.

“Pacific women hold 31 per

cent of CEO positions compared to the global average of 4.4 per cent. However, much remains to be done in the areas of access to finance for trade, including using online platforms to market and promote their businesses and products.”

Minister Akbar added that there needs to be greater recognition and support for women and girls, in all their diversity, and this meeting will provide a platform for strengthened political voice and collective action on women and girls’ issues in

the region.

“While the region has made significant progress, the Pacific still has the lowest percentage of women’s political participation globally and violence against women and girls in the region is among the highest in the world. These challenges are further exacerbated by climate change and COVID-19 – with women often on the frontlines and most impacted by crises.”

Minister Akbar said it was an honour to chair the first meeting that recognises the impor-

ance of an enduring focus on achieving gender equality in the Pacific.

She urged the women leaders to draw on their collective strength to ensure improved gender equality makes a significant contribution to creating a prosperous, stable, safe, and secure Blue Pacific Continent for current and future generations.

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar with Assistant Minister, Veena Bhatnagar and the PIF Secretary-General, Henry Puna at the inaugural PIF Women Leaders Meeting.

PM opens first ever Cook Islands High Commission in Fiji



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Cook Island's Prime Minister Mark Brown and a guest at the opening of the Cook Islands High Commission in Suva recently. PHOTO: FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE establishment of the Cook Islands High Commission in Suva, symbolises a landmark achievement in the 24 years of diplomatic relations between Fiji and the Cook Islands.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama joined his counterpart, Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown, in opening

the mission.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that Fiji's regional relationships, such as that between Fiji and the Cook Islands, matter for every Fijian.

"Fijians and Cook Islanders know what it means to live with the threat of the rising sea. We are sea-faring people and we will go to any lengths to protect our ocean for

coming generations."

He said as a Pacific family, we know we share more than challenges - we share a future and that is why we can work together in earnest to find solutions.

"Fiji and the Cook Islands' 24-year-old partnership is quite young by most standards. To me, that says the best is yet to come. This opening of your High Commission in Fiji is a testament to that. It is quite literally a solid foundation on which we can build."

"You're in very good company here in Suva. Increasingly, our capital has become a community that includes all major international institutions. Fiji is the Pacific hub of trade, travel, telecommunications, and finance, and Suva is the one-stop shop for all matters multilateral. In one trip to one city, our region's leaders can make connections and coordinate engagement with each other and the world," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He further stated that, "a more connected Pacific is a more secure Pacific, and as a major producer of food and manufactured goods, Fiji is ready to play a much larger role to support regional nutrition security, shipping, trade, and human capital".

"There are already around 800 Fijians

employed in the Cook Islands' private and public sector who contribute significantly to both our economies. Prime Minister Brown, when our borders were closed during the pandemic, neither of us sat back and wished for the best. We pushed hard to re-open our region and ensure that any regional travel bubble reached further than the Tasman Sea."

In turn, Prime Minister Brown commended Prime Minister Bainimarama for the support towards the establishment of the Cook Islands High Commission.

He said Fiji was the regional hub for commerce, trade, education, diplomacy and home to many regional and international multilateral organisations.

"I am confident the close cooperation over many years between our officials on the bilateral and regional matters will ensure we deliver critical benefits to support our respective recovery efforts in the months ahead."

"Be assured our opening of this mission, in the aftermath of the economic and financial upheaval caused by COVID19, is a testament to the potential Fiji offers and our determination to expand cooperation across the full spectrum of our shared areas of interest in the months ahead."

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

PM welcomes new Samoan High Commission



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Samoa's Prime Minister, Fiam Naomi Mata afa during the opening of the new Samoan High Commission at Clarke Street in Suva recently. PHOTO: FELIX LESINAIVALU

FELIX LESINAIVALU

"Your new High Commission shows how serious Samoa is about building its friendship with #Fiji and ramping up its regional engagement."

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the opening of the new Samoan High Commission at Clarke Street in Suva recently.

"Fiji is the Pacific hub of trade, travel, telecommunications, and finance, and our capital is the one-stop-shop for all multilateral matters. In one trip to one city, our region's Leaders can make connections and coordinate engagement with each other and the world."

Prime Minister Bainimarama stated that a more connected Pacific is a more secure Pacific.

"Samoans began this month by celebrating their 60th Anniversary of Independence. We're grateful to help you celebrate this evening with another milestone for your diplomatic engagement."

"I look forward to Samoa's quick recovery as you prepare to open your borders and normalise international travel this August, as I look forward to continuing to work closely with you."

The Prime Minister also welcomed Samoa's first female Prime Minister, Fiam Naomi Mata'afa to Fiji, and said he is looking forward to working closely with her to advance bilateral relations, and deliver the Blue Pacific agenda.

"At a time when our region is host to a contest of competing interests, our bond as Pacific nations has never mattered more. Climate action, ocean preservation, and nutrition security are the causes we choose because it is obvious, they will determine our destiny."

"Most of our citizens live within shouting distance of a shoreline. They are threatened by the same storms and the same rising sea."

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that for the people's sake, we must speak with one voice, work with one resolve, towards the one future that guarantees

Reform package to deepen trust and political cohesion

PRASHILA DEVI

A REFORM package for the Pacific Islands Forum that contains commitments that deepen trust and political cohesion across the Pacific region has been established.

Fijian Prime Minister and the current chair of the Forum, Voreqe Bainimarama, said Fiji fully supports the adoption of the reforms at the next Forum Leaders meeting to be held in Suva at the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting on 12 -14 July, 2022.

Prime Minister Bainimarama, together with the Prime Ministers of the Cook Islands and Samoa, met on June 6-7, 2022 with President of Federated States of Micronesia and the Palau, and the Special Envoy of the President of the Marshall Islands to discuss a way forward through the current political impasse in the Pacific Islands Forum.

"I am also pleased that the Presidents of Nauru and Kiribati were able to hold discussions with the Members of the Micronesian Leaders that were here over the last two days," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"Our two days of discussions have reaffirmed the value and importance of our talaanoa in our Pacific Way, and represented

an important first step towards re-uniting our Pacific family."

Prime Minister Bainimarama said "he was pleased with the progress that has been made and the recognition shared among my fellow leaders, that our Forum Family is strongest together".

However, he said there was some more work that was to be done but that commitment was there to see this resolution through and ensure its endorsement as a collective when all Forum Leaders meet in Suva next month.

Meanwhile, the Pacific leaders, from Micronesia and Polynesia, were in Suva recently to further enhance the spirit of the Pacific vuvale and to strengthen partnerships for the advancement of shared aspirations and regional solidarity

The Pacific Leaders included the President of Palau, Surangel Whipps, Jr, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, David Panuelo, the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Mark Brown, Samoan Prime Minister, Fiam Naomi Mata'afa, and the Special Envoy for the President of the Marshall Islands, John Silk.

In a traditional welcome ceremony for these leaders, Prime Minister Bainimarama was joined by the Speaker of Parliament, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, and other dignitaries.



Fijian Prime Minister and the current chair of the Forum, Voreqe Bainimarama with leaders from Polynesia and Micronesia during their welcome ceremony at the Grand Pacific Hotel. PHOTO: FELIX LESINAIVALU



We serve because we care: PM



Assistant Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Adi Selai Adimaitoga with women attending the Lomaiviti Provincial Council Meeting held in Levuka recently. PHOTO: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA.

PRASHILA DEVI

“**W**E serve because we care. We want to help people through development that improves their lives.”

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while opening the Lomaiviti Provincial Council meeting in Levuka last week, said “we want to unite people in love for their country and in the knowledge that the future can always be better and we want to see Fiji take a leading role in our region”.

With inclusive growth as its mandate, Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Government had delivered \$126.3 million in development and services to Lomaiviti from 2014 until 2021

The Head of Government said when they go the world to make Fiji’s voice heard on critical issues — like climate change — it was done so to give every Fijian community a fighting chance at their best future. On Ovalau, he said, one of the best examples of how Fiji’s global leadership can produce real benefit at the grassroots will be seen soon.

“Not far from here, a new agro photo-voltaic project will soon generate food, energy, and livelihoods all from the same piece of land. I see Fiji’s future in projects such as this, and I see your province’s future,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said. “And with our development partners, we will continue to support sustainable and resilient livelihoods that your people can depend on for generations to come.”

Expanding further on its plans, Prime

Minister Bainimarama said millions had been spent to fund the free education grant and transportation assistance in the Lomaiviti Province which “has meant more children can attend our schools”.

Another \$24m has been spent on the roads in Ovalau, Koro and Gau, thereby improving the road network.

“The Water Authority of Fiji has spent \$3.79 million in Lomaiviti, including on the Moturiki Water Project and the rural water schemes in Gau, Nairai, Batiki, Koro and Ovalau,” he said.

“I understand that the Moturiki Water Project will be completed by the end of this month. And the Department of Energy has spent \$4.44 million on solar home systems for over 1,600 homes throughout the Province.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Government’s commitment to protecting those most vulnerable saw \$4.2 million spent in Lomaiviti alone to fund the social pension scheme, poverty benefit scheme, and disability scheme.

Highlighting another project of the Government, he said the Government had aside \$2 million for the new Levuka Market Project and secured another \$600,000 in funding from United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

“Again, this project is testament to the philosophy behind our development agenda. Not only is it a massive boost for your local economy and for women, who make up most vendors, it also puts your Province on par with the market infrastructure in the more urban areas of Fiji.”

Fijian Govt prioritises education

THE education of Fijians youths in all parts of the country has always been the Government’s greatest priority.

This was highlighted by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while commissioning the new Ratu Simione Matanitobua College in Navua this week.

The \$2.1 million new school will now cater for the children from Lobau, Wainadoi, Nabukavesi, Mau, Wailoaloa, Qilai, Vunisoco, Vacoko, Nakavu and Veivatuloa Villages.

“I want to emphasise that my government is not satisfied simply with being the first to provide free, compulsory education for every child. We have always said that every Fijian student must have access to an equally high standard of learning, no matter where they live, whether in a city or in a rural maritime community,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“Please never forget how important your education is to you, your family and for Fiji. Especially in this day and age, when we have made it free for all students at the primary and secondary levels, and when so many avenues are now available to you, whether that is the sciences, academics, hospitality, a technical endeavour, or any other path you choose for yourselves.”

The new school will also serve the surrounding areas and stop students from having to travel to Suva to attend school every day.

Ratu Simione Matanitobua College will now be equipped with an industrial arts workshop; a computer lab; a science lab and a home economics lab.

The construction of a library, school hall and more classrooms are also in the pipeline.

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that these are world-class facilities that enable every student to grow to their fullest potential and preparing them to be valuable Fijians and global citizens.

For this, the Head of Government conveyed his sincere appreciation to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Red Crescent Society for its development efforts and assistance towards the new school.

The UAE Red Crescent Society together with the Fijian Government, under the Fiji Schools Project post TC Winston, have embarked on a collaboration to construct three schools, one of which was the Ratu Simione Matanitobua College.

The UAE Red Crescent Society Head of Delegation, Hamoud Aljneibi, said these significant projects reflects the UAE’s keenness to support Fiji’s development efforts especially, in the education sector.

He said the assistance confirms their global mission of helping fellow mankind.

School acting principal, Denzil Goundar, thanked the UAE Red Crescent Society for its great assistance which will undoubtedly, provide a safe and secure learning environment for students in the area.

He also acknowledged the Fijian Government’s continuous support and in ensuring that no Fijian children was left behind.

Meanwhile, the school will accommodate two Year Nine streams and one Year 10 stream with a total school of 100 students and 11 teachers.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama commissioned the new Ratu Simione Matanitobua College in Navua last week. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

New gym set for Nasamila rugby club

RUGBY performance for the Nasamila Rugby Club in Kiuva, Bau, Tailevu will be further enhanced after the players received new set of gym equipment from the Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama.

For this, the club members have applauded the Fijian Government’s assistance and in recognising youth empowerment through sports.

As part of the Government’s continued commitment in empowering the youths, the donation of a new gym set to the club plays a pivotal role in the development of sports at the community level.

Coach of the Nasamila Rugby Club, Ilaitia Koroi, in acknowledging the Government’s assistance, said it will certainly develop rugby skills for the players.

“We would like to sincerely thank the Fijian Government for the timely assistance that will certainly boost the boys’ morale. The Nasamila Rugby club consists mainly of youths who reside in the village, and this timely assistance will contribute in

the team’s preparation with club games in the Rewa Rugby Union.”

“Before, we used to make use of resources available as we did not have the proper gym equipment. We used logs, tyres and sand bags as part of our physical training. We had formally requested for this equipment and we are truly grateful that our pleas have been heard.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that the Government recognises the potential of youths and stated that the new gym set was an investment for the youths of Nasamila to develop their skills and unleash their potential.

He added that the development of sports in the community level was one of the many important ways the Government supports national development.

The new gym equipment was fully funded by the Office of the Prime Minister under the Small Grants Scheme at a total cost of \$17,861.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the handing over of gym equipment at the Nasamila Rugby Club. PHOTO- SUPPLIED



500-million-year-old eco-systems could be lost in single generation

PRASHILA DEVI

“BEFORE we even reach 2030, we could lose coral reefs across the entire equatorial region, destroying 500-million-year-old eco-systems in a single generation.”

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while virtually addressing the Stockholm +50 International Meeting held recently, said Fijian lives are connected to nature as the forests support livelihoods and the rivers connect the communities.

“And I know I speak for every Fijian who makes their living fishing, farming, or preserving forests when I say that we need our environment far more than it has ever needed us,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He added that with the loss of coral reefs, the tuna stocks could flee “our waters for cooler climates and priceless troves of biodiversity could be erased”.

Prime Minister Bainimarama, who was the 2020 United Nations Environmental Programme’s Champion of the Earth, said it takes humility to understand humanity’s place in one and connected global eco-system.

“It was in that spirit that leaders convened in Stockholm 50 years ago to begin this global effort to defend the natural world. A half century on, it falls to us to take sober stock of the state of nature.”

“Due to three planetary crises — climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss — we can count the years to ecological collapse on a single hand. The latest science tells us we have a 50-50 chance of passing 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming within the next five years,” he said.

In calling for a change in attitude, Prime Minister Bainimarama stated the need to end plastic pollution through an international instrument.

The meeting came up with 10 recommendations for actions to accelerate implementation which included;

- place human well-being at the centre of a healthy planet and prosperity for all
- recognise and implement the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- adopt system wide change in the way our current economic system works to contribute to a healthy planet
- strengthen national implementation of existing commitments for a healthy planet
- align public and private financial flows with environmental, climate and sustainable development commitments
- accelerate system-wide transformations of high impact sectors, such as food, energy, water, buildings and construction, manufacturing, and mobility
- rebuild relationships of trust for strengthened cooperation and solidarity
- recognise intergenerational responsibility as a cornerstone of sound policy-making

The meeting also recommended taking forward the Stockholm+50 outcomes through reinforcing and reenergising the ongoing international processes, including a global framework for biodiversity, an implementing agreement for the protection of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, and the development of a new plastics convention.

The recommendation further sets the tone to engage with the relevant conferences, such as the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, High Level Political Forum, the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Summit of the Future.

Beach clean-up to mark World Oceans Day

THE ocean produces 50 per cent of the planet’s oxygen and is home to most of earth’s biodiversity.

It presents a great diversity in wealth and supports an assemblage of marine and ocean resources including beaches, mangroves, sea grass, kelp forests, coral reefs and seamounts.

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, highlighted this while speaking at the commemoration of the World Oceans Day 2022 at Wailoaloa Beach in Nadi.

The theme for this year’s World Oceans Day 2022 is “Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean”.

The World Oceans Day is marked each year on June 8 as a platform to celebrate our connection to the sea and to raise awareness on the vital importance of our ocean supporting humanity’s existence and sustenance.

“This year, we are commemorat-

ing World Oceans Day with one such tangible action of protecting the ocean and marine species through the Ocean Beach Clean Up here at Wailoaloa Beach. This action dwells on the knowledge that any amount of discarded wastes that we collect in Wailoaloa Beach today will make a difference in protecting our ocean and safeguarding marine life from land based pollution,” Minister Reddy said.

“The Ministry of Environment has also declared the Great Sea Reef locally known as Cakaulevu or Qoliqoli Cokovata, Macuata as a RAMSAR site of significant international importance. It is the third largest reef system in the southern Hemisphere and has rich marine biodiversity.”

“In addition to declaring the RAMSAR site, the Ministry in its efforts to protect coral reef ecosystems in Fiji has put in place a Coral Reef Policy that was launched in May 2020

to help guide the Ministry in strategic priorities and interventions at global and national levels. Fiji’s coral reef system comprises five reef types distributed over 10,020 square kilometres of marine inshore area of which Fijians rely upon for their livelihood, food source and cultural value.”

Stakeholders involved in the Wailoaloa Beach clean-up included the Fiji Military Forces, Fiji Police Force, Pacific Flying School, Nadi Town Council, Biosecurity Authority of Fiji and staff from the Department of Environment.

To mark the World Oceans Day, the Ministry awarded cheques to 12 Jobs for Nature Rehabilitation (J-NR) Recipients from the Tuva Catchments, who were selected to receive the J-NR Awards based on the criteria in line with the J-NR Policy.

(Source: Ministry of Waterways and Environment)



Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy took part in the clean-up at Wailoaloa Beach as part of the World Oceans Day 2022 commemoration in Nadi. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

We have “Only One Earth”

PRASHILA DEVI

THE adoption of “Only One Earth” as the World Environment Day 2022 theme emphasises that it is time to urgently restore the balance between people and nature, says Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy.

Speaking at the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Roundtable on Climate Resilient Infrastructure held at the Novotel Hotel, Nadi recently, Minister Reddy said the focus was on living sustainably in harmony with nature.

“The evidence that the Earth is facing a “code red” is all around us, and it’s getting bleaker by the day. Climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution are the three planetary crisis that we need to deal with urgently. We must take the steps now from damaging the

world to healing the world,” he said.

Minister Reddy said “Only One Earth” was a global movement that promotes collaborative, transformational action to celebrate, protect, and restore our planet.

He added the good news was that solutions and technology exist, and they are becoming increasingly affordable.

“Infrastructure networks are being impacted by climate variability. As a result, all new infrastructures should be prioritised, strategically designed, constructed, and operated to account for climate change during their lifespan,” he said.

One such initiative, Minister Reddy said, was the need to retrofit existing infrastructure.

“Our economy is at a “fork in the road”, and it is responding to the necessity to use locally available resources in the face of rising costs and transportation of raw materials im-

ported from other nations. Everyone in this room must band together to make sustainable living — the default option for our one and only earth,” Minister Reddy said.

He said the roundtable emphasises the critical role of the public and the private sector in reforming consumption, production, infrastructure, investment, and land use to enable sustainable living.

Minister Reddy added that there was still time to avert the worst effects of the climate crisis and halt the biodiversity loss.

“We can mend our relationship with nature, we can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, we must move quickly and diligently to bring about the much needed change.”



A-G attends International Albinism Awareness Day

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum attended the International Albinism Awareness Day held at the Twomey Hospital in Suva last week.

Photos: Nanise Neimila



Launch of the Cyber Food Mobile App

The Attorney-General and Minister of Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum attended the launch of the Cyber Food Mobile Application at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva recently.

The A-G commended the Cyber Food team for their persistence in creating an effective digital tool that allows customers to order food from the comfort of their homes.

The A-G stated that there has been an exponential growth in the digital space, particularly during the height of the pandemic, and a huge shift in the way business is done, including the types of services that are needed.

The mobile app was co-funded by the Australian government and UNCDF Pacific Economy Programme (PDEP)

Photos: Nanise Neimila



Ministry launches gender transformative report

The Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar officially launched the Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) Knowledge Product, and the phase one completion report at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.

While delivering her address, Minister Akbar highlighted the overall goal of ICD is to create an enabling environment to ensure integration of all women and girls' needs, interests, concerns, contributions and perspectives into policies, programs and budgets across government with investing in institutional and coordination structures, technical knowledge, evidence based and context specific knowledge products, gender statistics as well as skills, and capacity in transformative gender mainstreaming across government

Photos: Supplied



President attends Indonesian Cultural Night

The President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, and First Lady Filomena Katonivere attended the Cultural Night Commemoration of the Foundational Philosophy of Indonesia (Pancasila) at the Indonesia Ambassador's Residence in Tamavua on Wednesday last week.

Pancasila is the philosophical basis for the foundation of an independent Indonesia, which consists of five principles.

Photos: Felix Lesinaivalu



More than \$4m education investment for Nadrau

Former fijian businessman acknowledged

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, attended the opening of the 'All in One' restaurant in Nadi, and commended Suren Raju, a former Fijian returning home to invest.

The A-G stated that the opening of the 'All in One' restaurant would create jobs for locals as well as increase investor confidence in the economy.

He also discussed the Fijian Government's initiative to allow multiple citizenship which has resulted in a number of former Fijian returning home to live and invest.

The A-G added that establishing these businesses would ensure that Fiji remains on the path to recovery from the onslaught of COVID 19, ensuring that we get back on the path of prosperity and sustained livelihoods.

Restaurant owner Mr Raju highlighted that it was always his dream to return to Fiji and build his business.

"I am grateful for the initiatives given by the Fijian Government that would enable former Fijians like myself to return home and start our own business."

Mr Raju also acknowledged his family members for their support and called on fellow Fijians abroad to return home and invest.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama officially opened their newly built and renovated school facilities of Nadrau Primary School recently. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

MEREANI GONEDUA

STUDENTS of Nadrau Primary School were all smiles after the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently opened their newly built and renovated school facilities recently.

The school which was destroyed by Tropical Cyclone Winston has now been built to be category five cyclone resilient and will benefit 91 students in four villages in the Tikina of Nadrau.

Prime Minister Bainimarama stated that the rehabilitation cost

the Fijian Government in excess of \$4.3 million

"I want every child here to know that I believe your futures are worth every dollar of that investment.

"And for that same reason, we pay for free textbooks and subsidise transportation to school for those who need it.

"You are our future, and we believe you deserve every measure of support we can afford to give."

School manager Mosese Nayavaki acknowledged the Fijian Government for its investment.

"I want to thank the Government of the day for keeping to



its promise and for not forgetting those of us in the highlands."

Meanwhile the newly built facilities include the school dormitories, school hall, triplex quar-

ters, lavatory block, footpath and driveway while renovations were made on the classroom block, teachers' quarters and the kindergarten.

PM commissions Sigatoka school facilities

DIPESH KUMAR

ONE hundred and seventy students of Sigatoka Methodist College will now have a safe learning environment after the commissioning of their school facilities last week.

At the commissioning, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama highlighted that the \$2.1 Million new KuluKulu wing for Sigatoka Methodist College was part of efforts to relocate the school due to its vulnerability to flooding and lack of room for expansion.

"The students of Nadroga can now look forward to enjoying the safe, secure education

they deserve -without having to worry about rising water levels when it rains."

"I want to emphasise that my Government is not satisfied simply with being the first to provide free, compulsory education for every child. We have always said that every Fijian student must have access to an equally high standard of learning, no matter where they live - whether in a city or in a rural maritime community."

PM Bainimarama also acknowledged the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent delegation for their support in building a secure future for the students.

UAE Red Crescent So-

ciety Head of Delegation, Hamoud Aljneibi, said this project was one of the many global mission in its efforts to develop the education sector.

School manager, Jacob Pau, acknowledged the various support rendered to the school, stating that this was a great blessing and an opportunity they will take advantage of.

"There are a lot of opportunities for development on this new land. The Government has also played a big role in the making of this school."

The school now has a new Industrial Arts Workshop; a Computer Lab; a Science Lab and a Home Economics Lab.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama joined the UAE Red Crescent Society Head of Delegation, Hamoud Aljneibi, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar and students of Sigatoka Methodist College during the opening of the new facilities. PHOTO: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Cane farmers expect increase in tonnage this season

JOSAIA RALAGO

FARMERS in the Northern Division are expecting a boost in cane production this year following a major drop last year.

This was a result of the Tropical Cyclones Yasa and Ana accompanied by floods that ravaged the Northern Division, affecting yield.

As highlighted by 51-year-old Ali Hussein of Seaqaqa, Macuata, the flooding of the nearby Batiri River has wreaked havoc in the area and has not spared his two farms.

“We lost a lot and we are still recovering from the effects of the floods and as a result, cane production dropped to an all-time low,” Mr Hussein said.

“Even though we are still recovering from the devastation, we are hopeful that our yield this year would see an increase.”

A generational cane farmer who has been involved in the cane industry for the past 28 years, Mr Hussein said they were grateful to the Government for the assistance rendered to farmers.

dered to farmers.

“The help Government gives through fertiliser assistance, among many others, has enabled us to survive in the industry, and to continue supplying cane to the mills,” he said.

While officiating at the opening of the 2022 crushing season for the Labasa Fiji Sugar Corporation Mill, the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere has called on all stakeholders to continue in their joint efforts to move the sugar industry onward.

“The 2022 season looks very promising in Labasa with an expectation of 678,000 tonnes of cane to be crushed by the mill,” President Katonivere said.

“The sugar industry has had its fair share of hurdles in the past and I urge all stakeholders to join hands to move this industry forward.

“Our cane farmers are an important asset to this industry, and we must all ensure that they continue to operate their farms as a business and sustain the supply of cane each year.”



The President (second from left) and the First Lady Filomena Katonivere (third from left) with employees of the Fiji Sugar Corporation Labasa Mill employees. Photo JOSAIA RALAGO



Employees of the Fiji Sugar Corporation Labasa Mill at the opening of the 2022 crushing season. Photo JOSAIA RALAGO

Govt works towards Fijians owning homes

JOSAIA RALAGO

FIJIANS owning their own homes has been one of Government's priorities.

The Government has been working towards ensuring more Fijians their own homes.

This was highlighted by the Attorney-General and Minister for Housing and Community Development, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while officiating at the recent ground breaking for the Covata Residential Subdivision.

The A-G said that there has been a significant rise in the number of Fijian owning their homes as a result of Government commitment to this.

Apart from the initiatives available to first home owners, Government continues to work with landowners for the leasing of land for residential purposes.

The A-G said housing formed a crucial part of any economy and there was a need for land and well developed land lots to accommodate this.

He said that the Housing Authority of Fiji has further contributed to Government's agenda to ensure that more Fijians own their own homes.

Authority chief executive officer, Ritesh Singh said first homes owners would be prioritised for the leasing of lots at the Covata residential subdivision in Labasa.

“Our segment is for the average and for the lower income level – this is one of the subdivisions where we will have underground cabling and the best of road construction,” Mr Singh said.

He said they expected the blocks to be completed at the end of the year and interested parties would need to apply through an expression of interest advertised, three months to completion.

“We are targeting first home owners - that will be the criteria that we will be looking at - and once we do an expression of interest, we will go through due process, and then we will help them come up with their dream home,” Mr Singh said.

He thanked the mataqali Navurevure of Nasekula, Labasa for agreeing to lease their land to the Housing Authority of Fiji, making this initiative possible.

The Covata subdivision will include 106 residential lots, one commercial lot and one civic lot that was expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Rice farmers receive harvesters

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE provision of three harvesters by the Government has boosted the morale of rice farmers in Dreketi, Macuata.

The harvesters handed over by the Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy, to the Matasawalevu Land Purchase Cooperative, Malawai Stage 3 Farmers Cooperative and Naibulu/Nacagi Farmers' Cooperative are all valued at over \$60,000 each.

Malawai Stage 3 Farmers Cooperative president, Ravendra Autar, said they were very happy to receive the rice harvester as this would not only make harvesting easy but also assist them to maintain the quality of rice.

“Prior to this, we would depend



The Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy with Dreketi Rice farmers during the handover. PHOTO: JOSAIA RALAGO

on the harvester from the Ministry of Agriculture which would cater for all these rice farmers, and we would have to wait for quite some time before we accessed it,” Mr Autar said.

“While waiting, the rice would over-mature and therefore affected the rice quality,

and our income would also be less. “This has really encouraged us to work hard and increase our rice production.”

Matasawalevu Land Purchase Cooperative secretary, Dharmendra Naresh, said this would put an end to the manual harvesting they have been practicing for years.

Mr Naresh said what would normally take three to four weeks of manual harvesting would now only take a few days.

“We are so grateful to the Government for their timely assistance and for listening to our requests.” The farmers of Matasawalevu had put forth a request for a rice

harvester to the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during his most recent visit to the North.

In handing the harvesters, Minister Reddy urged farmers to take advantage of the opportunities being provided to them, to boost rice production and ensure food security for Fijian households.

He said mechanisation was the way forward for the agriculture sector in the country, in terms of addressing productivity, efficiency and in increasing production.

The cooperatives had paid for a third of the total price and the Government paid off the remaining balance.



The new rice harvesters has boosted the morale of farmers. PHOTO: JOSAIA RALAGO



A-G attends Blue Talks panel

THE Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum participated in the Blue Talks panel discussion on promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean economies in small-island developing states (SIDS).

This was part of the lead up to the United Nations Ocean Conference 2022. During the discussion, the A-G remarked that the health of the ocean was not only determined by what was being done domestically but also by what was being done on a regional and international scale.

He added that as SIDS, it was important to work together to create cross-cutting initiatives to manage the ocean using a sustainable and programmatic approach.

The United Nations Ocean Conference will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June to 1 July with the theme “Scaling up the ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”.



Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with UN Resident Representative Sanaka Samarasinha during the Blue Talks panel. PHOTO: NANISE NEIMILA

news@govnet.fj

New employer in Fiji to recruit Fijian workers

A NEW employer from Australia has expressed interest in employing Fijians.

This was after Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, permanent secretary Osea Cawaru met with a new employer from Australia, Agri Labour Australia Pacific Labour Manager, John Strain recently to discuss employment opportunities for Fijian workers in the meat works industry.

Agri Labour Australia provides specialist recruitment and workforce optimisation solutions exclusively for the agriculture industry around Australia with its founders from Goondiwindi in Country Queensland.

“The general good reputation of Fijian workers working for meat works industry in Australia and along with Agri Labour Workers Ambassador Mr Lote Tuqiri’s engagement with the Australian

community has made us look up Fiji,” Mr Strain said.

He confirmed that this was the first time Agri Labour was in Fiji to conduct interviews and recruit Fijians.

“We are here in Fiji to recruit 100 Fijian workers to work for Agri Labour for the meat processing plant that will be based in Grantham, Brisbane. Thank you to the Fijian Government for allowing us to come and recruit from Fiji,” Mr Strain said.

He also said the company will recruit in three phases with the first phase was done last week with the remaining phases in the near future.

“We offer trainings for our workers on financial literacy, awareness on financial scams that come through SMS, nutrition training on how to cook, and we also encourage workers to take up other training opportunities,” Mr Strain

said.

Mr Cawaru expressed appreciation towards the employer for choosing Fiji to recruit its workers.

“On behalf of the Fijian Government, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Agri Labour Australia for choosing Fiji and we look forward to your many visits in future,” he said.

Mr Cawaru also extended the Fijian Government’s appreciation to the Australian Government and Agri Labour Australia for believing in the people of Fiji to work under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme through the Vuvale Partnership Agreement.

(Source: Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations)



Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations permanent secretary, Osea Cawaru, met with a new employer, Agri Labour Australia Pacific Manager, John Strain. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

New matewale bridge restores hope for 18 villages

ZAFIYA SHAMIM

IN the next few months, more than 18 villages will benefit from the new Matewale Bridge in Nadroga/Navosa province.

Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) chief executive officer, Kamal Prasad said the new bridge was an important transportation link between Sigatoka town and the upper Sigatoka Valley which will connect more than 1800 people from 18 villages to the main centres.

“The old low-level Matewale Crossing gets flooded and washed away during frequent wet weather events, causing great difficulties in transporting people and goods to Keyasi, Sigatoka and Nadi, especially during emergencies. The villagers have to wait for several hours or even days for floodwaters to recede before the crossing is reinstated.”

He said the old Matewale Crossing

was one of the priority projects identified by FRA needing immediate replacement.

“The FRA aims to build resilient infrastructure that improves access for rural communities to essential services and facilities. The bridge has been designed and constructed to be 8m above the existing crossing level.”

Mr Prasad said the Matewale Bridge will be completed before the starting of the next rainy season.

“This and work on other five more critical bridges in the Western Division are currently in progress which has been planned for completion by the end of the year.

He said these bridges are Tavua-levu Bridge, Korovou Bridge, Vuniyasi Bridge, Bulu Bridge and Yaqara Bridge.

(Source: Fiji Roads Authority)



The new Matewale Bridge has been designed and constructed to be 8m above the existing crossing level. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

Fiji attends 114th OACPS council of Ministers meeting

A FIJIAN delegation attended the 114th Session of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (OACPS) Council of Ministers which took place in Brussels recently.

The delegation was led by Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador Luke Daunivalu.

At this meeting of the Council, Ministers responsible for OACPS matters from 79 Member States deliberated and adopted decisions on the work undertaken by the five departments of the OACPS on ongoing projects financed by the European Development Fund (EDF).

These covered issues in the areas of trade, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as negotiations with the European Union over its list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions and that of third countries.

Another important area of concern to Ministers was the state of play of the new OACPS-EU

Partnership Agreement, the ongoing restructuring of the OACPS Secretariat and the upcoming 10th Summit of OACPS Heads of State and Government, which is to take place in December 2022 in Luanda, Angola.

Ambassador Daunivalu participated in the deliberation and debate of a spectrum of administrative, financial and strategic work of the OACPS.

He emphasised the need for prudent financial management of the organisation for its long term financial sustainability and stability and its aspiration of becoming a pillar-compliant organisation.

He called for greater geographical diversity and distribution on recruitment of the staff members of the organisation especially from the Pacific region. He also called for international cooperation on engagement with the OACPS Diaspora in recognition of the huge contribution made by diaspora towards the socio-economic development of their countries through remittance and invest-



Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland Ambassador Luke Daunivalu at the 114th Session of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Council of Ministers in Brussels, Belgium last week. **Photo: Supplied**

ment.

Fiji is a founding member of the OACPS, which is an organisation created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. As part of the Organisation, Fiji benefits from various development programmes and projects administered and implemented by the OACPS through its part-

nership with the European Union.

The Council of Ministers is the main decision-making body for the OACPS.

It is the supreme body responsible for implementing the guidelines laid down by the Summit. The Council is composed of a member of Govern-

ment from each Member of the OACPS or a government-designated representative and meets twice annually.

First Secretary Shanil Dayal provided support to Ambassador Daunivalu in Brussels.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Education Minister participates in 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Education Ministers' Conference

The Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar attended the 2nd Asia - Pacific Regional Education Minister's Conference (APREMC-II) in Bangkok, Thailand recently.

Minister Kumar also took part at the high-level opening ceremony which was officiated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand.

"It was an opportune time for me to meet my counterparts from Asia-Pacific Region as the two-day conference was expected to allow Ministers to discuss on learning recovery and transforming education and its systems to ensure that the Asia Pacific Regional achieves its SDG4 targets," she said.

Minister Kumar also attended and spoke at the Ministerial Roundtable discussion where she stressed that Education Transformation should not just allow students to attain degrees but to also provide opportunities for students to venture into other areas.

She stressed the need for the ICT in learning and teaching especially after the recent pandemic.

Minister Kumar emphasised the importance of return on investment in education,



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar at the 2nd Asia - Pacific Regional Education Minister's Conference (APREMC-II) in Bangkok, Thailand held recently. **Photo: Supplied**

something to ponder upon in particular in Fiji's case where free education grant was provided to schools.

"All in all, transformation in education should also provide what learners want and require and not just what we want."

While deliberating at the Ministerial roundtable dis-

cussions, Minister Kumar said that Fiji was not just committed to education through financing in terms of free education grant but also has stringent measures to monitor finance utilisation for optimum outcome and will continue to strengthen to see best return.

She also emphasised on the

importance of quality of education.

Minister Kumar had side meetings with relevant stakeholders on issues pertaining to education.

(Source: Ministry of Education)

Fijian Ambassador presents credentials in Geneva

FII'S new Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Offices in Geneva, Switzerland, Ambassador Luke Daunivalu, has officially taken up his appointment.

This was after he presented his credentials to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva on this month.

Ambassador Daunivalu was appointed to his new role by the Fijian Government following the departure of Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan in March this year for the International Criminal Court.

He previously served as Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia.

While Ambassador Daunivalu's immediate past role required his focus on strengthening bilateral relations between Fiji and Australia, his new assignment demands a much wider scope of engagement with UN Member States and other international organisations in Geneva.

Having served at Fiji's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York on two separate occasions in the past, Ambassador Daunivalu was well acquainted to the rigors of multilateral work.

In addition to dealing with the UN and other international organisations in Geneva, the work of the Fijian Mission in Geneva has expanded in the past year to cover the responsibilities formerly undertaken by the Embassy in Brussels.

With the support of four other Diplomats, the Mission in Geneva has been able to effectively discharge its task over the past years.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



\$200,000 allocated by the Government to incentivise General Practitioners

To bring the life-saving services of doctors closer to the Fijian people, Government has allocated a sum of \$200,000 in the Revised 2021-2022

Budget to incentivise Private General Practitioners (“GPs”) to establish new clinics in densely populated peri-urban and rural areas such as but not limited to Nawaicoba, Malolo, Naidovi, Drasa, Sabeto, Seagaga, Dreketi, Nasarawaga, Korolevu and Pacific Harbour.

New clinics in these communities will grant faster and easier access to the services made available to the public through the “Free GP Scheme” launched last year.

Under the scheme, the Government directly subsidises GPs to set up and operate medical clinics in densely populated peri-urban and rural areas.

It has long been the commitment of the Government to enlist the private sector in delivering high quality healthcare to the Fijian people - including through the decentralization of selected clinical services.

Under this initiative, GPs can receive a grant up to \$10,000 (depending on the locality) towards the start-up costs (purchase of medical equipment, rental including any internal fit-outs, purchase of office computer, printer and other office essentials) of a new clinic.

Application forms to-apply for the assistance including the detailed guideline will be made available online at: www.economy.gov.fj

All required documents stipulated in the application form and the guideline must be provided.

For further clarification, please contact:
Mr. Kamal Gounder on phone: 9906974 or email: kamal.gounder@economy.gov.fj
Mr. Laurie Singh on phone: 9981776 or email: laurie.singh@economy.gov.fj

(Source: Ministry of Economy)

General Practitioner’s Scheme

The Fijian Government is enabling greater access to quality healthcare and medical services through the expansion of the ongoing General Practitioner’s (GPs) Scheme. An additional 23 GPs have been selected to provide free medical services to the general public, particularly those who are fully reliant on the public health system, including civil servants.

With the inclusion of the additional 23 GPs, there will now be 38 private GPs (in total 40 outlets) throughout the nation, providing medical services to ordinary Fijians, with all costs borne by the Fijian Government. GPs have been selected in the following locations – Korovou, Nausori, Nakasi, Nadera, Suva, Navua, Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Labasa and Savusavu.

The initial list (six) of approved medical services includes: Consultation, Review, Referrals, Injections, Dressings, and Other minor dressing.

The following additional (six) medical services will also now be accessible through the GP Scheme: Multi-urine Dipstick, Electrocardiogram (ECG), Nebulizer, Oxygen Supply, Ultrasound Scan, and Simple sugar prick test.

Also, the GPs will be providing the following services:

- (i) Sugar level;
- (ii) Complete Blood Count (CBC);
- (iii) Basic metabolic panel (basic electrolyte panel);
- (iv) Cholesterol (lipid profile) level;
- (v) Glycated hemoglobin (Hemoglobin A1C);
- (vi) Liver function; and
- (vii) Renal function.

Private Medical Laboratories Scheme

To advance Government’s commitment to providing accessible, high-quality health care services, the Fijian Government will engage private medical laboratories (ML) for laboratory analysis of blood samples (blood tests), referred by GPs engaged under this scheme.

The engagement of MLs will ensure that GPs participating in this scheme have reliable access to affordable and high-quality laboratories, an essential component for the successful prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illnesses. Approved ML testing services under the scheme are for the following:

In recognising the importance of quality patient care and informed diagnosis, the Fijian Government has selected five (5) medical laboratories with outlets in Tavua, Ba, Lautoka, Nadi, Suva and Labasa to provide laboratory services for patients referred by participating GPs. The costs of laboratory tests will be fully borne by the Fijian Government.

Private Dental Practitioners Scheme

Private dental practitioners (DPs) will also be engaged to improve the oral health of all Fijians, including school-aged children, through government-funded access to private dental care for those who were fully dependent on the public health system for dental services and are not existing paying clients of private DPs. A total of four (4) DPs have been selected in Nakasi, Nabua, and Suva to provide free dental services to Fijians.

Approved dental services under the scheme are:

- (i) consultation / oral examination,
- (ii) extraction,
- (iii) temporary filling, and
- (iv) permanent filling.

All the above services will be rolled out from Monday, 20 June 2022.

Service Provider, Fiji Care Insurance Limited

The Ministry of Economy has also engaged a Service Provider, Fiji Care Insurance Limited, to oversee the Scheme on behalf of Government. Upon receipt of the claims with the patient consultation forms (PCF), the Service Provider conducts its necessary assessments of the claims and provides acquittals to the Government for payment.

Moreover, the Service Provider is in the process of establishing an online platform to allow the GPs to submit their claim for payment with the necessary Patient Consultation Forms which are expected to be rolled out by end of the Month.

For further information, visit the Fijian Government Facebook page.

news@govnet.gov.fj

Ministry of Health receives Rapid Antigen Test Kits



THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services was this week given 266 Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) kits that will boost Fiji’s testing capacity for COVID-19.

Asian Development Bank Pacific Sub-regional Office Regional Director, Aaron Batten and UNICEF Representative, Jonathan Veitch handed over the kits to the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, and Fiji’s Permanent Secretary for Health, Dr James Fong, at the Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services Centre in Suva.

Fiji appoints new Trade Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand



Fiji's new Trade Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand, Daniel Stow.
Photo: Supplied

The Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport has announced the appointment Daniel Stow as Fiji's Trade Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Stow has been with the Trade Commission for the past four and half years and brings with him extensive experience in international trade, development and digital technology.

He was previously held the position of Manager Trade and Investment.

Since being appointed as Officer-in-Charge in mid-2019, Mr Stow has overseen nearly \$150 million in registered investment projects and over \$120 million in facilitated exports in Fiji

"It's an honour and a privilege to be appointed to the role of Trade Commissioner. This is also accompanied by an overwhelming sense of duty and obligation to use this responsibility to help create greater economic opportunities for Fijians and further contribute to Fiji's economic recovery and development aspirations," he said.

The Australia and New Zealand Trade Commission is responsible for trade and investment promotion to attract high quality foreign direct investment into Fiji while facilitating new market access opportunities for Fijian export products.

"Throughout the pandemic, we have also undertaken market research and analysis to identify opportunities for Fijian products and engaged in capacity building training around digital literacy and e-commerce to elevate SMEs into a better position than they were pre-COVID-19," Mr Stow added.

He also has experience in international trade development and training projects in Indonesia, India and Central America.

(Source: Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport)

Encourage production of climate-friendly goods and services



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, speaks at the "Multilateral Cooperation on Trade and Climate Nexus" at the World Trade Organization.

"CLIMATE discussions often focus on trade as a major contributor to global warming but with the right policy mix, we can encourage clean production and trade in climate-friendly goods and services."

Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, speaking at the dialogue on fostering "Multilateral Cooperation on Trade and Climate Nexus" at the World Trade Organization recently, said this was where trade can become part of the solution.

Minister Koya spoke on how

Fiji took the leap when opportunity was provided to become a party to the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS).

Fiji was amongst the six countries currently negotiating the ACCTS, alongside Costa Rica, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland.

"The ACCTS draws nexus between trade, climate and environmental policy with sustainability at its core," Minister Koya added.

He further provided an update on Fiji's domestic actions in fulfilling commitments under the Paris Agreement such as, the en-

actment of the Climate Change Act 2021.

"The Act requires the Fijian Government to put in place a detailed Transport Decarbonisation Implementation Strategy and a National Ocean Policy. We are committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and we aim to harness nature-based and technological solutions to build our climate resilience," stated Minister Koya.

Participants were also informed of the Fijian Investment Policy Statement and Fiji's new Investment Act 2021, which provides for linkages between trade, investment and climate change.

"The Fijian Investment Policy Statement sets the overall vision for Fiji in terms of areas of targeted investment — including — green technology, clean and green manufacturing, renewable energy, climate resilient building and construction, to name a few," Minister Koya highlight.

The dialogue was also attended by Canada, China, Ecuador, the European Union, Kenya, New Zealand and the United States.

(Source: Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport)

Fiji's new Trade Commissioner to North America



Fiji's Trade Commissioner to North America, Alika Cooper.
Photo: Supplied

THE Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport has announced the appointment of Alika Cooper as Fiji's Trade Commissioner to North America.

Mr Cooper has over 15 years of experience in agribusiness in the private and development sectors in Fiji, alongside establishing local and international fresh and frozen produce trade and agribusiness development.

"As a Fiji born national, my enthusiasm for agribusiness ignited at a tender age, having grown up on a small family farm in Fiji. As an active advocate of local producers and promoting Fijian Made products, being appointed to the role of Trade Commissioner will enhance my undertaking on creating market linkages and opportunities available for Fiji in North America," Mr Cooper said.

Prior to assuming his new role as the Fijian Trade Commissioner to North America, Mr Cooper put into service over four years at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) as an Agribusiness Specialist, supporting major projects in Fiji, including the agriculture-tourism linkage component of IFC's Fiji Tourism Project 2020 and championed the promotion of greater use of local fresh produce in Fijian Hotels.

"It is a source of pride to be appointed to the role of Trade Commissioner. This is a window of opportunity to leverage and harness Fiji's economic opportunities," he said.

(Source: Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport)

Fiji welcomed in Paris by IPEF members

F IJI was welcomed by the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) members at the informal dialogue hosted by the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Katherine Tai, in Paris recently.

This was the first engagement of Fiji under IPEF since Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama accepted the United States President's invitation to join the IPEF.

Fijian Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Shaheen Ali, recognised IPEF's potential of becoming "a trailblazing agreement" that could be the answer to "present day challenges, including those faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS)".

Mr Ali acknowledged that this is the first time a large negotiating bloc has taken a decisive step to include a small nation like Fiji, an "actual" Pacific nation.

During the briefing, Mr Ali delivered a statement on behalf of Fiji, informing IPEF members of the challenges faced by SIDS, such as access to global markets and integration to international trade.

He also emphasised the inherent challenges faced by Fiji and



Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Shaheen Ali, was welcomed at the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) members in Paris. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

the ever present threat climate change poses to sustainable development.

"The United States and the founding parties of IPEF must be commended for connecting countries, of diverse economic characteristics, dispersed across a vast geography, in order to galvanise regional cooperation in vital areas of trade, digitalisation, decarbonisation, and fostering resilience in supply chains and sustainable inclusivity," he said.

Mr Ali said that Fiji looked forward to discussing how these hurdles could be overcome through innovative solutions.

"After all, other Pacific Island Nations and SIDS of the Indo-Pacific Region would be closely watching Fiji in these negotiations."

Mr Ali said, "As the first Pacific Island joining the IPEF, Fiji looks forward to contributing, with the key focus on climate-conscious engagements in the four negotiating pillars of the Framework".

The informal IPEF briefing was attended by Fiji, Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

FijiFocus



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates officials, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar and the staff of Muaira Methodist College in Lautoka. PHOTO: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Fijian students must access high standard of learning

PRASHILA DEVI

ENSURING students in the rural areas receive the same amenities as those from urban centres, three more schools are now built better and equipped with \$6.3 million spent towards this.

The new Ratu Simone Matanitobua College, Sigatoka Methodist College and Muaira Methodist College in Lautoka were part of a series of schools funded by the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates as their support towards the education sector in the country.

The upgrade and new equipment for each of the three schools cost around \$2.1m.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama accompanied by UAE Red Crescent Society Head of Delegation, Hamoud Aljneibi, joined the students in opening the upgraded facilities in these three schools.

In addressing the students and teachers, Prime Minister Bainimarama laid out the intent of Government behind the improvements being witnessed.

“I want to emphasise that my Government is not satisfied simply with being the first to provide

free, compulsory education for every child. We have always said that every Fijian student must have access to an equally high standard of learning, no matter where they live – whether in a city or in a rural maritime community,” the Head of Government said at Muaira Methodist College in Lautoka.

The college commenced operation in 2021 and has a total roll of 136 students as it currently caters for Years 9 and 10 only but with plans for further expansion.

Furthermore, the school will now be equipped with an Industrial Arts Workshop; a Computer

Lab; a Science Lab and a Home Economics Lab. I know that a Library, School Hall, and more classrooms are also in the pipeline.

“This \$2.1 Million-Dollar new school will now cater to students in the greater Lautoka-Nadi corridor and is expected to accommodate more than 500 children in the next two years.”

“These are world-class facilities that enable every student to grow to their fullest potential; preparing them to be valuable Fijian and global citizens.”

More on page 6, 10

Noda Viti

\$6.3milioni na veivuke nei Arapea ena vuli ni noda gone



Na matanitu e solia edua na ivota levu ni ilavo ena kena qaravi na vuli ni noda gone.

SA mai vakaqacotaki tale na veiwekani ni matanitu erua ko Viti kei na United Arab Emirates (UAE) ena kena vakailavotaki main a tara ni 3 na koronivuli ena noda vanua. Solia main a matanitu ko UAE e \$6.3milioni ka vakailavotaki kina na koronivuli ko Sigatoka Methodist college-Kulukulu wing, Muaira Methodist, Ratu Simione Matanitobua Memorial School. Vakaraitaka na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni dua na veivuke e vakarautaka na matanitu UAE oya nodra vakaqacotaki na koronivuli me rawa nira curuma na gauna ni leqa tubu koso se drake veisau me vaka na waluvu. Marautaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni ra sa vakadinata tiko na gonevuli na sasaga ni matanitu me baleta na nodra vakarauta-

ki ena vuli veitalia na vanua era tiko kina. Kuria ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni oqori edua na veivuke ni koronivuli ka bau kilai tani toka ena kena vakaiyayataki vinaka ena iyaya kilai e vuravura tani ka sa vakavinaka kina vua na matanitu ko UAE. Vakaraitaka na liuliu ni imatala-walawa ni UAE Red Crescent Hamoud Aljneibi ni oqo na veivuke ni matanitu veira na lewenivanua era vakaleqai main a leqa tubukoso.

Na liuliu ni qasenivuli ena Sigatoka Methodist, Timaima Katonivualiku era vakavinakataka na veivuke sa qaravi tiko me baleta na nodra vuli na luveda.

Dola vou na Muaira Methodist college

NA matanitu nei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama esa karoni sara tikoga na nodra susugi vakavinaka na luvei Viti ni mataka na sausaouvou ni nodra vanua ena kena vakarautaki tiko na vale nodra vuli na gone. E kila vinaka tu na liuliu ni matanitu ni uto ni sautu kei na rawaka vakailavo vinaka ni nodra vanua ena tekivu saraga mai ena nodra qaravi ka susugi vinaka na gone ena veisiga. Ena macawa oqo era visiko vou

na liuliu ni matanitu ena wasewase ena MuaiRa noda vanua ka laki dolava vou kina edua na koronivuli ena Muaira Methodist College e Lautoka. Na koronivuli eya tauyavutaki veiqaravi ena 2021 ka tiko na wiliwili ni gone era qaravi kina ena 136 ka vuli tiko kina na Year 9 kei na 10 se fomu 3 kei na 4. Oqo e tiki tikoga ni veivuke ni Red Crescent society mai na matanitu na United Arab Emirates se UAE ena tabana ni vuli.



Fijian Government Expands Access for Private Doctors for Free Medical Services in Communities				
No.	Clinic Name / Medical Centre	Name of Doctors / GP(s)	Address	Location(s)
Suva / Nasinu / Nakasi / Nausori				
1.	Koroi's Surgery	• Dr. Netani Philip Koroi	254 Waimanu Road, Suva	Suva City
2.	Bayhealth Clinic	• Dr. Sarika Shalini Chandra	193 Rodwell Road, Bayly House, Suva	Suva City
3.	Pacific Specialists Healthcare Pte Limited	• Dr. Sanson Fousaga • Dr. Voi Solomone • Dr. Gurpreet Kaur	107 Foster Court, Foster Road, Walu Bay, Suva	Suva City
4.	Om's Medical Centre Pte Limited	• Dr. Om Prasad	10 Luke Street, Nabua	Nabua
5.	Makoi Health Care	• Dr. Lalita Devi • Dr. Keshwan Nadan • Dr. Attishay Prasad	Ground Floor, Lot 2, Natasau Road, Makoi, Nasinu	Nasinu
6.	Rubina Medical Clinic and Research Center Pte Limited	• Dr. Mohammad Wahed Ali • Dr. Roy Farrales	Lot 67, Qarase Street, Nadera, Nasinu	Nasinu
7.	Sen's Medical Centre	• Dr. Shanita Devi Sen	Lot 40, FNTC Road, Narere	Narere
8.	Positive Vibe Health Clinic	• Dr. Meena Devi • Dr. Praneel Krishna • Dr. Joji Malani	Lot 9, Extension Street, Kidney Foundation Building	Suva City
9.	Friendly Medical Centre	• Dr. Keshwan Nadan	119 Amy Street, Toorak	Suva
10.	Oceania Hospitals Pte Ltd	• Dr. Mabel Mei Nui Fong • Dr. Bale Kurabui • Dr. Ame Ralulu Nasokia • Dr. Taranaivini Seru Wasiyaroi • Dr. Esira Batisoso • Dr. John Jeffery • Dr. Josefa Dakuinamako • Dr. Josese Vuki • Dr. Anoshia Nhazi	120 Amy Street, Toorak	Suva
11.	MIOT Pacific Medical	• Dr. Rayneel Ricky Singh • Dr. George Villame Uluilakeba	98 Amy Street, Toorak	Suva
12.	Maharaj Medical Centre	• Dr. Rajeshwar Maharaj • Dr. Dianne Lidise • Dr. Melvina Naicker • Dr. Rajesh Sharma	• Lot 12, Vesivesi Street, Laucala Beach Estate • Flagstaff Plaza, Suva	Laucala Beach, Nasinu Flagstaff, Suva
13.	Premium Care Medical Centre Pte Limited	• Dr. Roman Chute • Dr. Losana Burua • Dr. Niko Bakani • Dr. Manasa Baleinamau	• Shop 4, Prime Plaza, Nadera • Shop 3, Rups Nakasi Complex	Nadera Nakasi Nausori
No.	Clinic Name / Medical Centre	Name of Doctors / GP(s)	Address	Location(s)
			• Shop 13, Nausori Town Council Complex	
14.	Nine Miles Medical Centre	• Dr. Ram Prasad Lochan	Level 1, Highway Plaza, 9 ½ Miles	Nakasi
15.	Dr Sharma's Medical and Diagnostic Centre Pte Ltd	• Dr Ana Veivuke Grace Tugia • Dr. Monita Sharma	• Clinic 1 – Suite 1 Tebara Plaza Complex, Nakasi • Clinic 2 - Suite 3 Lot 22 Mokosoi Lane, Ratu Dovi Road, Nasinu	Nasinu Nakasi
Korovou				
16.	Tailevu Family Medical	• Dr. Attishay Chandrika Prasad	Shop 8 Jawahir Lal & Sons Building, Main Street Korovou, Tailevu (Upstairs Opposite Korovou Market)	Korovou
Navua				
17.	Riverside Medical Centre	• Dr. Toaia Corcoran • Dr Komal Ram	• Clinic 1 - Shop 3, B. Prasad Building, Navua • Clinic 2 - Grace Complex, Nakavulevu	Navua
Sigatoka				
18.	Sigatoka Medical Centre Limited	• Dr. Dharendra Lal • Dr. Sheenal Sonika Singh	Main Street, Sigatoka	Sigatoka Town
19.	Gerona Medical and Surgical Clinic	• Dr. Aida Gerona	Gerona Building Valley Road (Town End) Sigatoka	Sigatoka Town
20.	Doctor Naidu's Sigatoka Medical Centre (Coastal Medical Investment)	• Dr. Komal Sapna Singh	36 Mission Road, Sigatoka	Sigatoka Town
Nadi				
21.	Health Masters Pte Limited	• Dr. Ahmed Shakeel Shariff • Dr. Sudiksha Singh • Dr. Rohitesh Kumar	Lot 2 Shop 2 Bulawai Subdivision Votualevu, Nadi	Votualevu, Nadi
22.	Ace Medical Clinic	• Dr. Kanna Goundar • Dr. Nahina Naaz	Shop 1G1, RB Jetpoint Complex, Martintar, Nadi	Martintar, Nadi
23.	Coastal Medical Investments Pte Ltd trading as Dr Ashank Naidu's Nadi Town Medical Centre	• Dr. Ashank Naidu • Dr. Komal Sapna Singh	Lot 3 Sagayam Road, Nadi Town	Nadi Town
24.	Family Medical Clinic	• Dr. Saras Nandan	69 Sagayam Road, Nadi	Nadi Town
25.	Zen's Medical Centre Limited	• Dr. Zen Min Low • Dr. Ravinesh Goundan • Dr. Sailasa Misimisi • Dr. Alexander Cunanan • Dr. Ryan Shankar • Dr. Kaleli Nacika • Dr. Karalaini Bataba	40 Lodhia Street, Nadi	Nadi Town
No.	Clinic Name / Medical Centre	Name of Doctors / GP(s)	Address	Location(s)
		• Dr. Tupou Raqona		
26.	Diagnostic & Specialist Medical Centre (DSM)	• Dr. Ram Raju	Lot 2 Lodhia Street, Nadi Town	Nadi Town
27.	Arti Medical Centre	• Dr. Arti Naidu	18 Lodhia Street, Nadi	Nadi Town
28.	Ali Medical Centre	• Dr. Muhammad Ali Qureshi	Shop 6 Nagin Lilladhar Building, Namaka, Nadi	Namaka, Nadi
Lautoka				
29.	Zen's Medical Centre Limited	• Dr. Arnold Samy • Dr. Agnes Boyd	15 Drasa Avenue, Corner of Nacula Street, Lautoka	Lautoka
30.	Ba Medical Centre	• Dr. Dur Samy • Dr. Nadeem Farooq	Ravouvou Street, Lautoka	Lautoka
31.	PolyMedical Centre	• Dr. Maria Lilia Seeto	1st Floor, Sarju Prasad Building, Vakabale Street	Lautoka
Ba				
32.	Doctor Singh's Medical Centre	• Dr. Diva Kamlesh Singh	10 Bank Street, Ba	Ba Town
33.	AL-Shifa Medical Centre	• Dr. Muhammed Saiyad Riyaz Ud Dean	3 Vaturu Street, Yalalevu, Ba	Ba Town
34.	Puritan Medical Centre	• Dr. Aashna Shabnam Rafiq	Corner of Bank, Ganga Street, Ba	Ba Town
35.	Zen's Medical Centre Limited	• Dr. Priyanka Chandra	Opposite Westpac Bank, Beside Wellcare Clinic, Ba	Ba Town
36.	Prestige Medical Centre	• Dr. Rodolfo Doton	J S Singh Building, Tabua Place, Ba Town	Ba Town
37.	Mid Town Medical Centre	• Dr. Sanjesh Sailendra Singh	Ganga Singh Building, Ganga Singh Street Ba Town	Ba Town
Tavua				
38.	Wellcare Medical Centre	• Dr. Bayani S. Dragon	Nasivi Street (opposite National Fire Authority)	Tavua Town
Labasa				
39.	Singh's Medical Clinic	• Dr. Pardeep Singh	4 Savilla House, Jaduram Street	Labasa Town
Savusavu				
40.	Savusavu Medical Centre	• Dr. Ishaque Mohammed	Lot 1, Hotsprings Road, Nakama	Savusavu

Private Medical Laboratories for Laboratory Analysis on Blood Samples (Blood Tests), Referred by GPs under the GP Scheme

No.	Laboratory Name	Managing Director(s) / Director(s)	Contact Person	Phone Contact	Address	Location(s)
1.	HealthPlus Diagnostics Pte Ltd	Ms. Keshvi Sukul	Lab Manager: Keshvi Sukul (keshvi@healthplus.com.fj) Lab Quality Officer: Preeti Singh (preeti@healthplus.com.fj)	3380021 / 9487379	Level 1, Nands Mall, 550 Ratu Mara Road, Nabua	Nabua
2.	Pacific Laboratory Specialist Pte Ltd	Mr. Josese Mailulu Mr. Shailendra Prasad	Laboratory Scientist: Josese Mailulu (mailulu.pls@gmail.com) / PLSFiji@gmail.com)	7673637 / 9368879	Office 4 - Unit 19, Level 1, Garden City, Raiwaqa	Raiwaqa
3.	Western Medical Laboratories	Mr. Mohammed Shaheed Khan	Mohammed Shaheed Khan (m_shaheed_khan@yahoo.com)	7422667 / 8443152	Shop 14, Upperdeck Investments Pte Ltd Building Main Street, Ba	Ba
4.	Medicor Laboratory Diagnostic Pte Ltd	Mr. Rajinay Kumar	Rajinay Kumar (medicordiagnostic@gmail.com)	9209143	Head Office: Ram City Building 26 Namoli Avenue Lautoka Ph: 9209143 Nakasi Branch: Shop 11 Tebara Plaza Nakasi Ph: 2779300 Nadi Branch: Lodhia Street Nadi Ph: 2721806	Nakasi Nadi Lautoka Ba Tavua
No.	Laboratory Name	Managing Director(s) / Director(s)	Contact Person	Phone Contact	Address	Location(s)
					Ba Branch: Ganga Singh Building Ba Ph: 9581161 Tavua Branch: Nasivi Street Tavua Ph: 9589232	
5.	Vanualevu Medical Diagnostics Limited T/A VanMed Labs	Mr. Arveen Chandra	Director / Scientist: Arveen Chandra (arveen@vanmedlabs.com)	9412559	Suva City: Epworth Clinic 234 Waimanu Road Suva City Ph: 8911180 Samabula: President Plaza 164 Rt Mara Road Samabula Ph: 8911180 Nadi: 30 ATS Subdivision Namaka Lane Namaka, Nadi Ph: 9021044 Lautoka: 1 Yawini Street Lautoka Ph: 9489213 Labasa: 17 Jaduram Street Labasa Ph: 9021045	Suva City Samabula Nadi Lautoka Labasa
No.	Laboratory Name	Managing Director(s) / Director(s)	Contact Person	Phone Contact	Address	Location(s)
6.	Health Masters Pte Limited	Dr. Ahmed Shakeel Shariff Dr. Sudiksha Singh	Lab Manager: Ravnit Chandra (fd.healthmasters@gmail.com)	8626563 / 7292969	Lot 2, Shop 2, Bulawai Subdivision, Votualevu, Nadi	Nadi

Type of Blood Samples (blood tests) offered:

- 1) Sugar
- 2) Complete Blood Count (CBC)
- 3) Basic metabolic panel (basic electrolyte panel)
- 4) Cholesterol (lipid profile)
- 5) Glycated hemoglobin (Hemoglobin A1C)
- 6) Liver function
- 7) Renal function

Private Dental Practitioners

No.	Clinic Name	Name of Dental Practitioner(s)	Location
Suva			
1.	Daily Care Dental	• Dr. Penioni Ravunawa • Dr. Mehar Ali	Shop 34 South Mall, Rodwell Road, Suva
Nabua			
2.	Stunning Smile Dental	• Dr. Manisha Vandhana	Nand's Shopping Mall, 550 Ratu Mara Road, Nabua
Nakasi			
3.	Makoi Dental Clinic	• Dr. Umesh Chand	Shop 24, Tebara Plaza, Nakasi
4.	Nakasi Dental Clinic Pte Ltd	• Dr. Dharshita Naidu • Dr. Sonika Sharma	Lot 3, Corner of Adi Davila and Kings Road, Nakasi

Dental services offered:

- Consultation / Oral Examination
- Extraction
- Temporary Filling
- Permanent Filling



Misini ni tamusuki ni raisi



Na nodra qaravi vinaka na dauteitei ena noda vanua edua na kauwai ni matanitu nei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama me vaka nida nida ni sa vukei tiko kina oira na dauteitei me ra vakalevutaka nodra itei.

E RA laki ciqoma na dautei raisi mai Matasawalevu e Macuata edua na nodra misini ni tamusuki ni raisi mai vua na Minisita ni Teitei, Dr Mahendra Reddy. Era laki vakairaitaka talega na Minisita na bibi ni kena dau vakarautaki na tei ni raisi vei ira na dauteitei ka mera

tea vakalevu ena vukui ira na lewenivanua era dau vakaravitaka nodra kana ena raisi. Ogo e isosomi vinaka talega ni kena dau vakau mai na raisi mai valagi me vaka nida kila ni ogo edua na bili levu ena matanitu na voli ni kakana mai valagi. Vakairaitaka na liuliu ni co-operative ogo e Matasawa-

levu ko Dharmendra Nar-esh nira ciqoma ka taleitaka na veivuke ni matanitu me vaka nira na vukei kina ena gauna ni tamusuki ni raisi. Era sauma rawa e \$20,000 ena ilavo era vakasokomuna rawa vakaira. Na kena vo e qa vakaoti na 2 na I katolu na matanitu.



Ciqomi na iyaya ni veidikevi ni COVID-19



Era veivuke tiko Baqe ni Veivakatorocaketaki e Esia ena iyaya ni valuti ni COVID-19 me vaka eda raica nira ciqoma tiko na Minisita ni Bula Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete

E RA ciqoma na tabana ni bula eduana iwase ni iyaya me baleta na veidikevi ni COVID-19. E rauta ni 266 na levu na rapid antigen testing kits ena vukea na veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula ena kena valuti tiko na mate dewa ogo na COVID-19. Era mai solia na iyaya ogo na daireketa ena pasivika ni tabana ni baqe ni veivakatorocaketaki kei Esi, Jonathan Veitch vua na Minisita ni Bula Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete.

Dua na tractor ni koro ko Nabua



Era marautaka na nodra tractor vou na leweni koro ko Nabua me vaka ni ogo edua na tuvatuva levu ni matanitu nei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama mera qaraunuio ka vukei na dauteitei veitalia na vanua era vakaitikotiko voli kina baleta nira vukea na vakalevutaki ni kakana teivaki ena noda vanua.

E RA marautaka na dautei raisi ena koro ko Nabua, Koroalau, Cakaudrove na nodra tractor vou ni tei raisi. Laki solia vei ira ko Minisita ni Teitei, Dr Mahendra Reddy. Kuria ko Minisita ni matanitu ena sega ni vinakata me dua na lewenivanua era guilecavi ena veiqaravi vakamataniitu veitalia walega na vanua era tiko kina. Na sauna ni tractor oqori e itiko ena \$7,000. Sa ra sauma na veitalanoa ogo ena dua na ikatolu me nodra

cau kina sasaga ogo. Na matanitu ena qai sauma na rua na ikatolu ni sau ni tractor ogo me vaka ni ogo ena vukea talega na vakatubuilavo ni matanitu ena tabana ni teitei. Ni tei vakalevu na raisi me baleta na gagadre e tiko ena noda vanua ena rawa ni vakalailaitaka talega na volivoli e vanuatani. Ni tei vakalevu na kakana ena noda vanua ena vukea na levu ni kakana ka rawa ni vukea na kena volitaki talega na kakana ena veivanua tani me vukea na rawaka vakailavo ni matanitu.



Mata ni matanitu ki geneva, Switzerland



Luke Daunivalu, na mata vou ni matanitu ko Viti ena valenivolavola ni Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura

E RA sa laki sotava na Daireketa General ni United Nations se Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura na mata vou ni matanitu ko Viti ki Geneva Switzerland, Luke Daunivalu ena ika 7 ni Jiune, 2022.

Veisosomitaki vei Nazhat Shameem Khan ko Daunivalu me vaka nira sa laki veiqaravi ena International Criminal Court. Ko Daunivalu eya mata tu ni matanitu ena vanua ko Ositerelia ka vakaukauwataki kina na veiqaravi ni matanitu kei na kena veiwekani vakamataniitu. Nikua sa nodra itavi me vakaqacotaka na veiwekani nei Viti kivei ira na lewe ni matanitu

cokovata ka vaka kina oira na veimatabose kei na soqosoqo ena loma ni matabose cokovata kei vuravura. Segi ni ka vou vei Daunivalu na veiqaravi oqori me vaka nira sa veiqaravi oti ena valenivolavola ni mata ni matanitu ko Viti ena Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura mai Niu Yoka Amerika ka vakakina na kena veiqaravi ena veimataqali vanua kei na veitagede ni bula ni veiqaravi vakamataniitu. Era tou veiqaravu veivuke kei Daunivalua e 4 talega na ivakalesesi ni matanitu ko Viti ka ratou na veiqaravi vata kaya ena valenivolavola ni mata ena vanua ko Geneva Switzerland.



Veisureti na mata ni matanitu ko Indonesia vua na Peresitedi.

ERA sureta na Peresitedi ni noda vanua Ratu Wiliame Katonivere na mata ni matanitu ko Indonesia kina noda vanua mera laki nodra vulagi ena soqo ni veivakamarautaki ni nodra itovo na vanua ko Indonesia se Cultura night



Dolavi ni Sigatoka Methodist College.

ERA laki dolava na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na koronivuli vou mai Sigatoka ka vakailavotaka na UAE. Era marautaka na lewenivanua e Sigatoka na veiqaravi ni veivakatorocaketaki oqo.



E da tautauvata kece na lewei viti; PM Bainimarama

E da sa tautauvata kece na lewei Viti e na gauna qo ka sa sega ni dodonu me vakalati keda tiko na noda duidui vaka kawa tamata.

Qori na ka e vakaraitaka na noda Paraiminisita o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama e na nodra lai dolava na Bose ni Yasana o Lomaiviti ka vakayacori e na Valenivolavola ni Yasana e Nasova, Ovalau e na siga Vukelulu na ika 8 ni siga ni vula qo.

Ra kaya ni nodra vakaitavi tiko e na dola ni vei bose ni yasana e dua tiko ga na kena inaki, me ra lai vakamacalataka ena yasana o Serua, Namosi, Cakaudrove, Nadroga-Navosa, Bua, kei Lau na cakacaka ni vakacoko sa qarava tiko na matanitu ni oti na rua na yabaki ni kena dewa na mate na COVID kei na cagilaba a tara na noda vanua.

“Kevaka a sega ni vakatulewataka donu na matanitu na iwalewale ni kena valuti na dewa ni mate, ke a ca sara na kena revurevu ena noda vanua.”

“Sa vakadinadinataki tu ena gauna qo, ni a donu na iwalewale keitou a taurivaka ka sa namaki me vakaruataki na tubu vakailavo

ena yabaki veitaravi mai qo.

Tomana na Paraiminisita ka kaya ni Matanitu e sa vakayagataka na matanitu e \$126.3 na milioni na dola me baleta na veivakatorocaketaki ena yasana o Lomaiviti mai na yabaki 2014 ki na yabaki 2021.

“E vakayagataka e \$24 milioni me vakavinakataka na gaunisala e Ovalau, Koro, kei Gau, na Tabana ni Wai sa vakayagataka e \$3.79 na milioni e Lomaiviti, qo e oka kina na dodo ni paipo ni wai i Motoriki ka namaki me na vakacavari ena mua ni vula qo.”

“E qaravi tale ga o Gau, Nairai, Batiki, Koro kei Ovalau. Na tabana ni livaliva sa vakayagataka e \$4.44 na milioni me vakalivalivataka e 1,600 na vuvale, qo ena ivurevure ni livaliva savasava se sola.”

Vakaraitaka tale ga na Paraiminisita ni sa biu tiko vakatikitiki e \$2 na milioni me baleta na makete vou e Levuka ka ratou veivuke vakailavo tale ga kina na UN Women.

“Au via vakadeitaki kemuni na tiko nikua ni noqu matanitu e na sega ni guilecava e dua na kai Lomaiviti – e da na toso vata tiko e na ilakolako qo.”



Na bose ni yasana ko Lomaiviti era laki vulagi dokai kina na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama.



BIBI NA TAQOMAKI NI YAUBULA E LAU



Era taba toka na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na lewe ni matabose ni yasana ko Lau.

E ra dolava na Bose ni Yasana ko Lau e na siga Vukelulu na imatai ni siga ni vula ko Jiune na noda Paraiminisiat o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ka vakaraitaki kina ki vei ira na lewe ni bose na veika e sa vakaitavi tiko kina na noda matanitu e na kena vakatorocake taki kina na yasana. Ra kaya na noda Liuliu ni Matanitu ni marautaka vakalevu na nodra mai tiko maliwai ira na lewe ni Yasana o Lau ena siga ni

bose.

“Ena sasaga me rawati na Viti vinaka, na noda Matanitu kau liutaka tiko, ena sega ni guilecava e dua na lewenivanua. E dei, ena sega ni yavalati, ena tutaki kemuni tikoga na lewenivanua,” e kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

E kaya ni sa kaukauwa na revurevu ni draki veisau kei na vaka-sabusabu-taki ni iyaubula ka sa dodonu meda walia na leqa.

“Qo na vuna e siro mai kina vei kemuni na Matanitu meda mai

veitalanoa, e sega ni dodonu me caka tikoga na vaka-tulewa e loma ni Valenivolavola. Na mana ni tuvatuva ni Matanitu, e dodonu me vakilai ena yanuyanu taucoko ena loma ni Yasana o Lau.”

Ra tomana na Paraiminisita ka kaya ni yasana o Lau e vutuniyau ena iyaubula e wasawasa – “ka dau votu vei au na matamuni na 10,000 vaka-caca na lewe ni Yasana, na 500 na mataqali ika kei na 200 na vei-mataqali lase.”

“Sa dodonu me taqomaki na

iyaubula baleta ni ivurevure ni bula levu duadua ena loma ni Yasana.”

E namaka tiko na Matanitu me vakatabui e 30 na pasede ni iqoliquoli ena yabaki 2030.

“Me vaka ni vaka-bibitaka na Matanitu na kena lewai matau na wasawasa, sa dodonu moni taqomaka na lewe ni Yasana na 52,205 na kilomita vakarivirivi (kilometers squared) na wasawasa ena yatu Lau baleta ni oqori na uto ni cakacaka bibi oqo.”

Tomana na Paraiminita ka kaya ni Valenivolavola ni Yasana e dodonu me cakacaka sara vakavoleka kei na Lau Seascape.

“E dodonu talega me tiko na isema ni veiwekani vaka-cakacaka kina veitabana tale eso, me vaka na Tabana ni Draki Veisau ena Tabacakacaka ni iLavo kei na Tabacakacaka ni Veikabula.”



Ko ira na marama ni Lau ena bose ni yasana era taba toka kei Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

Noda Viti

ISA MERA NANUMI NA NODA MATUA



Era taba toka ogo na liulu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra laki dolava na bose ni yasana ko Naitasiri.

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Isa mera nanumi na noda lewenivanua matua ka mera dau vakamareqeti, rokovi ka qaravi vakavinaka. Oqori beka na kaci ni matanitu ena veiyasai vuravura ena soqo ni vakananumi kei na veivakararamataki ena vuravura baleta na nodra dau vakalolomataki na matua. Vakaraitaka kina na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua, Rosy Akbar ni sa kena gauna vei keda kece sara ena noda matavuvale meda qarauna na nodra dau qaravi ka rokovi na lewenivanua qase kei na matua me vaka ni sa tiko na itukutuku bula ni nodra dau vakalolomataki ena itovo lolovira ka tawa kilikili ena yabaki ni bula era sa yacova. Qoka e wilikina na nodra dau vakalolomataki na lewenivanua qase cake ena yasana ni iyau vakailavo, nodra vakalolomataki ka sega ni kauwaitaki se qaravi vinaka. Na itukutuku bula e tiko nira dau vakalolomataki mai vei ira saraga na wekadra dina vakavuvale, luvedra kei ira na wekadra me vaka nira sa ripote taki mai ni yaco tiko ena loma saraga ni nodra vale. Sa kilai talega ni dau vakayacori tiko na veika se itovo ca

ogo ena veivale kei na itikotiko nodra na malumalu kei na matua. Ogo edua na bolebole ni bula ena gauna ogo ena vuravura ka sa gadrevi kina mera qaravi na veivakararamataki ena ulutaga bibi ogo me rawa ni valuti ka tarovi talega kina. Sa kerei talega kina na veitokoni ni lewenivanua kece saraga ka rawati kina na kena tarovi. Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Akbar ni keda na lewenivanua e Viti eda vauci tu ena noda itovo ni veirokovi eda vakavulici mai kina meda dau rokovi ira na qase cake vei keda meda rokovi ira na matua. Se mani vakacava na draki ni bula eda sotakaya tu se da curuma. Oira na lewenivanua matua se qase cake ogo era sa tiko talega ni noda vakatoroicaketaki mai na vanua o Viti nikua kei ira na kena kawa tamata. Sa dodonu ka kilikili kina meda rokovi ira, ka maroroi ira ka qaravi ira vakavinaka ena doka kei na rokova keina vakauasivi ena loloma. Na matanitu nei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama era sa vakarautaka e \$55.3 me baleta nodra vukei ka qaravi na matua me saumi kina nodra veivuke ena peniseni. Era vukei rawa kina e 49,99 na matua ka ra vakarautaki talega nodra ilavo na yabaki 65 ka lako yani kei ira na sega ni dua nodra vurevure ni ilavo veivuke.

स्कूलों को वालेसी
सेटअप बॉक्स प्रदान
किए गए 2

नावुआ में एक नया
आश्रम खोला गया 3

मंत्री अकबर बेसहारा
बच्चों से मिलने गई 3

ऑस्ट्रेलिया को और
मजदूरों की तलाश है 3

लौतोका में ब्रेड बेन्क का
नया दफ्तर खुला 6

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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गिरमिट दिवस

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमारामा हालही में सूवा सिविक सेंटर में आयोजित गिरमिट दिवस के अवसर पर गिरमिटिया मजदूरों के वंशजों को सम्मानित करते हुए

चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

रिपोर्ट: शेनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमारामा ने गिरमिटिया मजदूरों द्वारा सामना की गई मुश्किलों का सामना करने की हिम्मत की प्रशंसा की है।

गिरमिट दिवस के एक सौ तिरालिसवी (143rd) सालगिराह तथा पहली राम लीला की एक सौ बीसवी (120th) सालगिराह के अवसर पर, प्रधान मंत्री नावुआ में मुख्य मेहमान थे। देश भर से आए कई सौ की संख्या में लोगों से बातें करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने गिरमिटिया मजदूरों की दुर्दशा पर प्रकाश डाला।

“यह कहानी उसका हिस्सा है जो 1897 में लेवूका के तट से शुरू हुई थी। कई पीढ़ियों से गिरमिटिया मजदूरों द्वारा अपने साथ लाए गए परम्परा हमारी संस्कृति से जुड़ते रहे हैं।

“यह उत्सव न केवल एक समारोह का उदाहरण है बल्कि यह उन सभी मूल्यों को मजबूत करता है जो हर एक फीजीवासी के लिए मायने रखता है। श्री राम के जीवन की कथा, सबक और आदर्शों को दर्शाता है जो किसी भी बच्चे, भाई-बहन, विद्यार्थी, पति-पत्नी, दोस्त तथा नेताओं को अपनाना चाहिए।

“गिरमिट काल का इतिहास कभी भी देश में अच्छी तरह से नहीं पढ़ाया गया और यह एक ऐसा इतिहास है जिसके बारे में हम अभी भी सीख रहे हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।

“गिरमिटिया मजदूरों के वंशजों, कार्यकर्ताओं और इतिहासकारों को उनकी कड़ी मेहनत के लिए धन्यवाद है जिन्होंने गिरमिटिया के प्रत्यक्ष खाते भी दर्ज किए हैं और मैं सभी फीजीवासियों को



प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमारामा हालही में गिरमिट दिवस के मौके पर बच्चों के साथ

चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

प्रोत्साहित करता हूँ कि वे समय निकालकर इन्हें पढ़ें, चाहे वे किसी भी उम्र, जाति या समाज से आते हों,” उन्होंने आगे कहा। यह पढ़ना हर वक्त आसान नहीं होगा लेकिन यह ज़रूरी है क्योंकि हमें अपने इतिहास के बारे में जानना ज़रूरी है, कि देश में क्या-क्या अच्छाई हुई, बुरे वक्त कब थे, जीत तथा अन्याय हुए।

इस बारे में उस वक्त से हमारे स्कूलों में पढ़ाना चाहिए था जब फीजी आज़ाद हुआ। देश में भारी योगदान देने के बावजूद गिरमिटियों का संघर्ष गिरमिटि प्रथा खत्म होने के साथ समाप्त नहीं हुआ। हालांकि उन्हें अपना जीवन अपने तरीके से जीने की आज़ादी थी, उस वक्त की सरकार गिरमिटिया मजदूरों को बाकी इनसानों जैसा नहीं मानती थी न ही उन्हें फीजीवासियों का दर्जा मिला। गिरमिटियों ने तो उस वक्त दुख झेला लेकिन उनके वंशजों को उससे भी दर्दनाक दुख का सामना करना पड़ा था जब फीजीवासी होते हुए भी उन्हें इसकी पहचान नहीं दी गई। देश में जाति और धर्म के नाम पर धीरे-धीरे नफरत के बीज बोया जा रहा है। सिर्फ कान बन्द करने से विभाजन लाने वाली आवाज़ बन्द नहीं होगी, हमें इसका घोर खण्डन करना होगा। क्योंकि जब हम इतिहास की तरफ देखते हैं तो हमें पता चलता है कि विभाजन पैदा करने का इरादा रखने वाले कितने खतरनाक हो सकते हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री ने उन कलाकारों की भी प्रशंसा की जिन्होंने एक नाटक के द्वारा गिरमिटिया मजदूरों की याता तथा संघर्ष को दर्शाया।



उँदू निवासियों की पानी वाली समस्या खत्म हुई



उँदू पोईन्ट के भश साल के एक निवासी अपिसाई मसियासा पहली बार साफ पानी का उपयोग करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रिपोर्ट रोनल देव

उत्तरी विभाग के उँदू मटुआता के निवासियों की पानी वाली समस्या अब खत्म हो गई है तथा उन्हें अब पीने के साफ पानी ढूँढने के लिए बाहर नहीं जाना पड़ेगा। सरकार की पानी वाली एक योजना के तहत वाईलेवू सेटलमन्ट, उँदू मटुवाता में लोगों के घरों में नल का पानी उपलब्ध हो गया है।

पहले निवासियों को पास के नाले से पानी भरकर लाना पड़ता था जो बच्चों और महिलाओं के लिए खतरों से भरा होता था क्योंकि वे फिसल कर गिरते थे जिससे उन्हें चोटें भी लगती थी।

79 साल के कोरोवासी अपिसाई मसियासा की खुशियों का ठिकाना न रहा जब उन्हें अब साफ पानी के लिए इधर-उधर भटकना नहीं पड़ेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि कुछ साल पहले उनके परिवार ने एक बड़ा पम्प खरीदा जिसकी मदद से वे नाले से पानी खींचकर अपने टेन्क में भरते थे। लेकिन कभी-

कभी पम्प बिगड़ जाता था और उसपर मरम्मत करने के लिए उसे लम्बासा शहर लेजाना पड़ता था जिसमें कुछ दिन लगते थे।

मसियासा ने आगे कहा कि कुछ किसानों ने जबसे नाले के उपरी हिस्से में खेती शुरू की तबसे उनके कोरों के पास नाला सूखने लगा तथा उन्हें मुश्किल से दिन भर के लिए पानी मिलता था। उनके अनुसार खेती-बारी की गतिविधियों के चलते कोरोवासी मैला पानी मिलने के कारण चिंतित भी थे।

द्वारों पानी वाली योजना से इन तीस परिवारों की मुश्किलें खत्म हो गई हैं। कोरोवासियों को साफ और सुरक्षित पानी उनके घरों में मिलने लगा है तथा महिलाएं भी अब अपने घर पर ही बर्तन और कपड़े धो सकती हैं।

द्वारों कोरों के मुख्या सोलोमोने वाँगा सरकार के बहुत अभारी हैं जिन्होंने उनकी माँगे सुनी और उन्हें भी अब देश के अन्य इलाकों की तरह पीने के लिए साफ पानी मिलने लगा है।



तावेयुनी का एक सफल किसान जय पाल अपने मजदूरों के साथ

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

पाल की मेहनत रंग लाई

रिपोर्ट: कृषि मंत्रालय

परिश्रम और विश्वास ऐसी जड़ी बूटियाँ हैं जो एक बार धोलकर पी लेता है वह चाहने पर भी मृत्यु को भी पीछे धकेल देता है।

विश्वास का एक कोरा छल्लांग श्री जय पाल के जीवन में सही साबित हुआ जब उन्होंने तईस (23) साल पहले लम्बासा से निकलकर तावेयुनी में जाकर बसने को सोचा।

1999 में जय पाल के पास खुली हाथों के सिवा कोई सम्पत्ति नहीं थी केवल आँखों में सपने थे। लेकिन आज उनके पास डश एकड़ ज़मीन है जिसे वो लीस पर देता है। इतना ही नहीं उन्होंने एक लाख पचास हजार डोलर लागत का अपना घर बनाया है और खेतों के सामान को ढोने के लिए एक नई गाड़ी भी ली। उन्होंने लम्बासा में भी एक संपत्ति खरीदी है ताकि उनके बच्चों को पढ़ाई के दौरान कहीं रहने में कोई समस्या न हो।

शुरूआती दौर में उन्होंने अपने मजदूर साथियों के साथ गन्ने के खेतों में काम किया। सात साल की कड़ी मेहनत के बाद उनके लिए यह सोचना सम्भव नहीं था कि वो कभी डालो के एक किसान हो सकते हैं। डालो की किसानों से पहले, जय पाल रास्तों का निर्माण करने वाली एक कम्पनी में बावर्ची का काम करते थे।

“मैं काम करने के लिए इतना बेताब था कि मैंने रसोईया बनने का प्रस्ताव भी स्वीकार कर लिया जबकि मुझे ठीक तरह से खाना बनाना भी नहीं आता था। चखने के बहाने, मैं खुद खाना खा जाया करता था जबकि डालो की खेती में दिलचस्पी से पहले मुझे ऐसे अनुभव बहुत पसन्द थे। मेरे एक चाचा ने मुझे तावेयुनी द्वीप पर खेती करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। मैंने मौके पर चौका मारा और मेरी तकदीर पलट गई।

पाल ने अपने पड़ोसियों से लिए गए कर्ज तथा खेती करने की समाग्री से खेती शुरू की। पाल के खेत तक पहुँचने के लिए दो घण्टें उबड़-खाबड़ इलाके में गाड़ी चलाना, लेकिन वहाँ पहुँचने पर आगे का नज़ारा अनमोल है। वहाँ का नज़ारा शब्दों में बयान नहीं किया जा सकता।

अन्य मेहनती किसानों की तरह, जय पाल तड़के सुबह उठकर खेत में काम शुरू करते हैं और शाम पाँच बजे घर लौटते हैं।

इक्यावन (51) वर्षीय जय पाल अब एक अनुभवी डालो और यंगोना के किसान हैं जो अपने बेटे और तीन मजदूरों के साथ शाख-सब्जि भी उगाते हैं। उनके पास यंगोना बोन के लिए भी नौ एकड़ ज़मीन है, जो चार सालों में तैयार होने के करीब है। डालो सात महीने में तैयार हो जाता है जिसके लिए उनके पास बारह एकड़ जमीन है। उनका अनुमान है कि यंगोना बेचकर वो लगभग एक लाख अस्सी हजार (180,000) डोलर तक कमाएँगे जबकि डालो से उन्हें साठ हजार (60,000) डोलर तक प्राप्त हो सकता है।

उन्हें निश्चित रूप से ज़मीन पर मेहनत करने से फल भी मिल गया है। उन्होंने न केवल अपनी ज़मीन में फिर से पुँजी लगाई है बल्कि कर्ज चुकाकर घर और गाड़ियाँ खरीदीं। मछली मारने के लिए उन्होंने एक फायवर ग्लास नाव भी खरीदी है। पाल की तकदीर ने एक बार फिर उनका साथ दिया जब उनके यंगोना के पाँच हजार पौधे समुद्री आँधी विन्स्टन के प्रकोप से बच गए जिससे शायद उनको बहुत बड़ा झटका लगाता।

“मुझे कोई घमण्ड नहीं है। मैं दूसरों को प्रोत्साहित करने और दिखाने की कोशिश कर रहा हूँ कि खेती आपको क्या लाभ दे सकती है। शुरूआती दौर में मेरे बेन्क अकाउन्ट में एक भी पैसा नहीं था। मैं उन लोगों को प्रेरित करना चाहता हूँ जो अभी भी दोराहे पर खड़े हैं और जोखम लेने से घबरा रहे हैं। खुद पर विश्वास और कड़ी मेहनत आपको ज़रूर सफल बनाएगी।”

कड़ी मेहनत के बावजूद, चोरी और खेत में घुसने वाले जानवरों के कारण नुकसान, कुछ ऐसे विषय हैं जिनका सामना जय पाल जैसे किसानों को करना पड़ता है।

“हम अपनी उपज योजना के तहत ही बोते हैं लेकिन कुछ खुदगर्ज़ लोग, हमारी मेहनत की कमाई को चोरी करने से नहीं चूकते।”

पाल सामाजिक कार्यों में भी योगदान देते रहते हैं जैसे कि सामाजिक कार्यों के दौरान अपने खेत से ज़रूरतमंद परिवारों के लिए भोजन उपलब्ध करना तथा इलाके में सड़क को सुधारने में सहायता देना। वो अपने उत्पादन में सुधार के लिए एक सिंचाई प्रणाली स्थापित करने और लम्बासा मार्केट में अपनी उपज बेचने के लिए एक टेबल किराए पर लेने की योजना के साथ खेती जारी रखने की उम्मीद करते हैं।

स्कूलों को वालेसी सेटअप बॉक्स दिए गए

रिपोर्ट रोनल देव

पश्चिमी विभाग के कुछ स्कूलों को इस सप्ताह अटेनी जेनरल तथा कोमुनिकईशन्स मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खैयूम ने वालेसी सेटअप बॉक्स प्रदान किया जिससे विद्यार्थी अब बिना किसी बाधा के एडुकेशनल चैनल देख सकेंगे।

सईयद खैयूम ने नान्दी के पहाड़ी इलाकों में स्थित नासेसेविया सेकन्ड्री स्कूल को सेटअप बॉक्स प्रदान किया और कहा कि यह बेहद ज़रूरी है कि देश भर के सभी फीजिवासी इससे जुड़े रहे, उन्हें अच्छी सेवा मिले तथा उन्हें भी आधुनिक सुविधा का लाभ हो।

सईयद खैयूम ने कहा कि मुल्लोमुल्लो मुस्लिम प्राथमरी स्कूल, पैसठवाँ (65th) ग्रामीन तथा बाहरी द्वीपों में स्थित स्कूलों

में से एक है जो वालेसी से जुड़ गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि नासेसेविया स्कूल को भी सेटअप बॉक्स मिलने से वहाँ के विद्यार्थियों की ज़िन्दगी बदल गई है।

“एडुकेशन चैनल के अलावा, संसद, फीजियन डूवा के खेल, देश-विदेश के समाचार के अलावा सभी फीजिवासी नवनिर्गत जानकारी तथा मनोरंजन का भी मज़ा लेंगे। देश में अभी भी कई स्कूल हैं जिनके पास लाईव टेलिविज़न नहीं है।

क्या आपको पता है कि वालेसी फीजी ने देश भर में सात सौ कोरों तथा विलज होल में मुफ्त वालेसी सेटलाईट किट तथा मुफ्त में टेलिविज़न प्रदान किया है। यह कोरों देश के ग्रामीन और भीतरी इलाकों में है तथा उन्हें देश के अन्य लोगों की तरह भी डिजिटल टी वी देखने का हक है।



पश्चिमी विभाग के स्कूलों को हाल ही में सरकार द्वारा वालेसी के सेटअप बॉक्स दिए गए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



मानव विकास के लिए नावुआ में नया आश्रम



राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे मानव विकास के लिए नावुआ में एक आश्रम का उद्घाटन करते हुए वहाँ के सदस्यों के साथ चित्र : अज़रिया फरीन

सोनम सामी

राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे ने अभी हाल ही रोवोडू नावुआ में एक बहु आस्था आश्रम का उद्घाटन किया जिसे साई प्रेमा फाउंडेशन फीजी ने मानव की उन्नति, प्रेम और सेवा के लिए खोला है।

साई प्रेमा फाउंडेशन फीजी के लिए यह एक और उपलब्धि है जो मानव विकास, प्यार और सेवा को बढ़ावा देगा। यह आश्रम समुद्र के किनारे स्थित है।

दो हजार सोलह में अपने औपचारिक लोन्च के बाद साई प्रेमा फाउंडेशन फीजी ने गरीब, वंचित और जरूरतमंद लोगों को चिकित्सा सेवा, शिक्षा सेवा और समुदायिक सेवा प्रदान की है और एक प्रमुख गैर सरकारी संगठन के रूप में अपने आप को महान बनाया है।

महामहिम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे ने कहा कि फाउंडेशन की यह पूँजी वसीयत है, खासकर के श्री सत्या साई संजीवनी बच्चों का अस्पताल जहाँ विशेषज्ञ, उन बच्चों का इलाज करते हैं जिन्हें जन्म से हृदय का रोग होता है।

यह आश्रम आने वाले दिनों में एक हब के रूप में बढ़ेगा जो विभिन्न मानवीय मूल्यों की कार्यशालाओं, ध्यान और योग में आत्म-विकास कक्षाओं के साथ-साथ मानव श्रेष्ठता और वैश्विक शांति पर केंद्रित रहेगा और अंतराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन आयोजित करेगा।

एक और ओस्ट्रेलियन व्यापारी फीजी में मांस-मजदूरों की तालाश में



ओस्ट्रेलिया में मांस के क्षेत्र में काम करने के लिए चुने गए कुछ फीजीवासी चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

ओस्ट्रेलिया में मांस का व्यापारी, हार्वी वीफ ने फीजी में राष्ट्रीय रोजगार केंद्र (नेशनल एम्प्लोएमेंट सेंटर) के नीचे काम देने के अवसरों के लिए पॅसिफिक ओस्ट्रेलिया लेबर मोबिलिटी (पी आई एल एम) के तहत कुछ फीजीवासियों से भेंटवार्ता की।

हार्वी मीट्स जो पर्थ, पश्चिमी ओस्ट्रेलिया में स्थित है के दो प्रतिनिधि अभी हाल ही पहली बार फीजी आए ताकी वे साठ फीजीयंस को मांस-मजदूरी करने के लिए ओस्ट्रेलिया लेजा सकें जो इस महिने के अंत या अगले महिने की शुरूवात में रवाना होंगे।

अस्सी उम्मीदवार चुने गए थे जिन्हें भेंटवार्ता के दौरान अपने हुनर का प्रदर्शन देना था और चुने गए साठ लोगों को पश्चिमी ओस्ट्रेलिया में चार सालों के लिए काम दिया जाएगा।

रोजगार मंत्रालय के परमनंट सेक्रेटरी ओसेआ

दावारू ने ओस्ट्रेलिया के व्यापारी से मुलाकात की और उनके प्रतिबद्धता और पहली बार फीजी से मजदूर चुनने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

व्यापारियों ने अपनी यात्रा का उद्देश्य बताया और साथ ही कहा कि मजदूरों को हवाई जहाज और वीजा का खर्चा नहीं देना पड़ेगा।

परमनंट सेक्रेटरी ओसेआ दावारू ने कहा कि यह फीजीयन सरकार के लिए अच्छी खबर है खासकर के उन मजदूरों के लिए जिन्हें इस काम के लिए चुना गया है।

हार्वी मीट्स के व्यापारियों ने फीजीयन सरकार तथा राष्ट्रीय रोजगार केंद्र (नेशनल एम्प्लोएमेंट सेंटर) को उनकी मित्रता और भेंटवार्ता आयोजित करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

दावारू ने कहा की उन्हें विश्वास है कि इस संबंध से पॅसिफिक ओस्ट्रेलिया लेबर मोबिलिटी (पी आई एल एम) योजना से ओस्ट्रेलिया और फीजी दोनों सरकारों को लाभ होगा।

मंत्री अकबर दिलकुशा होम बच्चों से मिलने गईं



महिला तथा सौशल वेलफेयर, पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर नउसोरी स्थित दिलकुशा होम में भाषण देती हुई चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

“आप फीजी में सभी राज्य गृहों में बच्चों के माँ की तरह हैं।”

यह कहना है नौसोरी के दिलकुशा होम के बच्चों का जहाँ अभी हाल ही वंचित बच्चों से मातृ दिवस के अवसर पर मुलाकात करती हुई विमन चिल्लन और पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने सौशल वेलफेयर विभाग की ओर से बाल शोषण और बेपरवाही अभियान के चलते पुस्तकालय की किताबें प्रदान की जो कि औपचारिक तौर से उन्नीस नवंबर को मनाया जाएगा।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि यह पुस्तकालय की किताबें सरकार की ओर से फीजी के बच्चों की देखभाल और सहायता करने के लिए दिए जा रहे हैं। “यह बच्चे हमारे समाज का हिस्सा हैं और मेरा मंत्रालय उन्हें वो प्यार, परवरिश और समर्थन देना चाहता है।

मंत्री अकबर ने बच्चों को बताया कि किताबें बहुत खुबसूरत तोहफा हैं। कहते हैं कि जिस कमरे में पुस्तक नहीं, वह आत्मा के बिना शरीर की तरह है,

इसीलिए जीतनी ज्यादा किताबें, उतना ही अधिक भावपूर्ण आपका स्थान है। मैं एक बार फिर कहना चाहती हूँ कि किसी व्यक्ति के जीवन में पढ़ना बहुत जरूरी है। इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं कि जो बच्चा पढ़ता है वह स्याना होता है और यह कहा भी गया है कि “आज जो पढ़ता है वह कल का नेता बनता है”

सामान्य से उपर उठने के लिए पढ़ना आवश्यक है। “आप न केवल कल्पना की दुनिया में जाएंगे, बल्कि आप नई चीज़ें सीखेंगे, आप जो भाषा पढ़ रहे हैं उसपर बेहतर शिक्षा हासिल करेंगे और खुद के लेखन/पढ़न में बढ़ती होगी जो कि इस जीवन में जरूरी है”।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि बच्चों को हमारे प्यार, देखभाल और स्नेह की जरूरत है और हम इसे नजरअंदाज़ नहीं कर सकते।

उन्होंने बच्चों और वहाँ के कर्मचारियों को प्रोत्साहित किया कि वे चाइल्ड हेल्पलाइन को बढ़ावा दें तथा बच्चों के प्रति दुर्यवहार और बेपरवाही मामलों पर सलाह या परामर्श के लिए 1325 पर कॉल करें।



सालाना मरियम्न पूजा में प्रेम और दया की भावना रखने की मांग की गई

अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने हाल ही में सोलोवी नान्दी में सालाना मरियम्न पूजा में भाग लिया और धर्म प्रेमियों से मांग की कि वे अपने साथी फीजीवासियों के साथ प्रेम और दया की भावना रखें। उन्होंने गिरमिट तथा गिरमिटिया मजदूरों के बारे में कुछ शब्द कहे कि उन्होंने देश के निर्माण में क्या-क्या दुख झेले, बलिदान दिया तथा कड़ी मेहनत की। उन्होंने कहा कि यह जरूरी है कि इस इतिहास को स्कूलों में पढ़ाया जाए ताकि हमारे देश के युवकों को भी मालूम हो कि उनके पूर्वजों ने देश की प्रगति के लिए क्या कुछ नहीं सहा ताकि आज हम उनके वंशज देश में आराम से रह सकें। वे पढ़े लिखे नहीं थे लेकिन देश के विभिन्न जिलाओं में हमारे लिए स्कूलों का निर्माण किया ताकि हम पढ़ लिखकर देश की प्रगति में हाथ बँटा सकें। हमें अपने पूर्वजों के बलिदान को नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं करना चाहिए।

चित्र: ननिसे नहींमला



अटेनी जेनरल ने एकोनोमी मंत्रालय के कर्मचारियों के साथ ईद मनाई

अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम हाल ही में ईद के जश्न में शामिल हुए जो एकोनोमी मंत्रालय ने आयोजित किया था। अटेनी जेनरल ने ज़ोर दिया कि जो धार्मिक उत्सव हम देश में मनाते हैं, फिर चाहे वो किसमय हो, ईस्टर, ईद या दिवाली हो, हमें खुद अपने पर विचार करना चाहिए।

उन्होंने कहा कि इन अवसरों का लाभ उठाते हुए हम हर साल अपने आप में व्यक्तिगत सुधार लाना चाहिए क्योंकि खुद से सच बोलना ही एक

अच्छे इंसान की पहचान है। उन्होंने मंत्रालय के कर्मचारियों की कड़ी मेहनत की प्रशंसा की और कहा कि कोविड महामारी के बावजूद सभी सरकारी मंत्रालयों का संचालन जारी रहा। उन्होंने कर्मचारियों को याद दिलाया कि नौकरी पर एक दूसरे के काम का आभार व्यक्त करना कितनी जरूरी है। मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव श्री गाउन्डर ने कर्मचारियों की कड़ी मेहनत का आभार व्यक्त किया।

चित्र: ननिसे नहींमला



सहायक महिला मंत्री ने ब्रह कुमारियों के साथ मात्र दिवस मनाया

सहायक महिला मंत्री वीना भटनागर ने हाल ही सूबा में स्थित ब्रह कुमार के राजयोग मेडिटेशन सेंटर पर वहाँ के सदस्यों के साथ मात्र दिवस मनाया। मंत्री ने कहा कि माँ की ममता में हर तरह का प्रेम शुरू और खत्म होता है। माँ शब्द भले ही छोटा सा शब्द है लेकिन इससे जुड़ा अहसास और महत्व बहुत ही बड़ा है। किसी को भी यह अहसास नहीं है कि अपने बच्चे के चहरे पर मुस्कान देखने के लिए माँ कितना बलिदान देती है तथा ज़िन्दगी में माँ के अहसानों को चुकाना मुमकिन नहीं है।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



राष्ट्रपति ने व्यापारी विनोद भिंडी को सम्मनित किया

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातु विलियम कातोनिवरे ने हालही में सरकारी भवन पर फीजी के एक भूतपूर्व व्यापारी श्री विनोद भिंडी को फीजी की आज़ादी की पचासवी सालगिराह के अवसर पर एक मेडल से सम्मानित किया। रातु कातोनिवरे ने श्री भिंडी द्वारा पचास सालों तक सोने के व्यापार, ज़मीन विकसित करने और देश में रियल एस्टेट व्यवसाय में योगदान देने के लिए प्रशंसा की। श्री भिंडी जो अभी अमेरिका में निवास करते हैं, अभी हाल ही में एक हफ्ते के लिए फीजी में थे जहाँ उन्होंने अपने परिवार के साथ इस समारोह में भाग लिया। यह स्मारक मेडल उन

लोगों के प्रति आभार व्यक्त करने का तरीका है जिनहीं ने पिछले तीस से पचास सालों के बीच विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के द्वारा फीजी में अपना योगदान दिया। पिछले दो सालों से फीजी की आज़ादी की पचासवी सालगिराह के मौके पर कई सौ की संख्या में फीजीवासियों को सरकारी भवन में मेडल से सम्मानित किया गया है। इन लोगों ने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में देश के विकास के लिए भारी योगदान दिया था तथा सरकार ने इस मौके पर उनका आभार व्यक्त करने का विचार किया।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया





लौतोका में ब्रेड बैंक का नया दफ्तर

सोनम सामी

राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू विलियामें कातोनिवरे ने लौतोका में ब्रेड बैंक का नए दफ्तर का उद्घाटन किया जिसके साथ बैंक की दसवीं वर्षगांठ भी मनाया गया। यह \$2.6 मिलियन की पूंजी जिसमें रिटेल की शाखा नीचे है और कोर्पोरेट व्यवसाय पहली मंजिल पर है। इससे स्पष्ट रूप से पश्चिमी विभाग और देश में आर्थिक विकास होगा और लौतोका शहर में सुधार होगा तथा सबसे जरूरी विभिन्न उत्पादों और सेवाओं से अपने आधुनिक बैंकिंग सुविधाओं में बदलाव भी लाएगा। राष्ट्रपति महामहिम कातोनिवरे ने कहा कि इस महामारी ने हमारे जीवन के तरिके, हमारे व्यवसाय और हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था को बुरी तरह से प्रभावित कर दिया था

और हमें स्थिरता के लिए अपनी चुनौतियों और कठिनाइयों से परे देखने के लिए मजबूर कर दिया था।

इन सब के बीच, ब्रेड बैंक ने अपनी सेवा जारी रखी और फीजिवसियों के लिए आर्थिक और सामाजिक उन्नति को बढ़ावा देने की सरकार की अभिलाषा कायम की।

ब्रेड बैंक ने अभी हाल ही फीजी की अर्थव्यवस्था में अपनी प्रतिबद्धता और विश्वास दिखाते हुए अपने फीजी परिचालन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अपनी पूंजी को दोगुना कर दिया है।

महामहिम कातोनिवरे ने ब्रेड बैंक को उनकी फीजियन अर्थव्यवस्था पर निरंतर विश्वास और निवेश के लिए धन्यवाद दिया जिससे लौतोका शहर का आधुनिक और विकास बढ़ाएगा।



बाहरी द्वीपों की जरूरी सेवा वाला नया सेन्टर बनाने में औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार का भारी योगदान है जिसके लिए फीजी की सरकार बहुत ही



गिरमित दिवस के मौके पर बा शहर में लोगों ने विभिन्न पोशाकों में मार्च किया चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

बा शहर ने एक सौ तैंतालीस गिरमित दिवस मनाया

सोनम सामी

एक सौ तैंतालीस (143) गिरमित दिवस के अवसर पर बा शहर की सड़कें रंगों से भरी हुई थी जब बा के युवा, पुरुष और महिलाएं अपने पारंपारिक भारतीय पोशाक, और वेशभूषा में तैयार होकर एक साथ मार्च पर निकले। चौदह मई, 1879 में एक सौ तैंतालीस वर्ष पहले लेवुका में पहली बार हमारे पुर्वज लियोनिदास नामक जहाज में बैठकर फीजी मजदूरी करने के लिए ब्रिटिश सरकार द्वारा लाया गया था। अभी हाल ही बा मल्टीपर्स होल में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में भाग लेते हुए रोजगार मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला ने कहा कि फीजी के खेतों में काम करने के लिए जिस तरह समूह को लाया गया था वहाँ उनका स्वागत नहीं बल्कि लेवुका के पास एक छोटा द्वीप यानुदलाईलाई पर उन्हें एकांत में रखा गया था। उन्होंने कहा कि वास्तव में, यह गिरमित की कठोरता की शुरुआत थी जिसने उन्हें तरक कहने

पर मजबूर किया। लियोनिदास के आगमन ने गिरमितिया मजदूरों के व्यापार की शुरुआत की है जिसने इन खूबसूरत द्वीपों में हमारे इतिहास के आकार को बदला है।

“हमें याद रखना चाहिए कि गिरमितियों को फीजी में लाए जाने के आर्थिक कारणों के अलावा, इस बात पर जरूरी विचार किया गया था कि गिरमितियों को ई-तौकई को खेतों में काम करने से छूट देने की अनुमति देनी चाहिए थी”। उन्होंने कहा कि यह रिश्ता बहुत मजबूत व्यक्तिगत स्तर पर है क्योंकि यह लोगों की जाति को जीवित रहने की कहानी है। प्रकृतिक साधनों के बावजूद, अंतिम नतिजा यह था कि गिरमितियों ने ई-तौकई की जनसंख्या में गिरावट को रोकने में महात्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है और इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि उनके आर्थिक योगदान ने ई-तौकई की निरंतर वृद्धि से एक मजबूत, स्थिर, गर्व तथा स्वदेशी समाज बनाया है।

शिक्षा क्षेत्र में सुधार की आवश्यकता- मंत्री कुमार

सोनम सामी

“शिक्षा क्षेत्र को शिक्षार्थियों और कार्यबल की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए नीतियों और पाठ्यक्रम में लगातार सुधार की आवश्यकता है”।

हाल ही में संसद में शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने बच्चों की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए पाठ्यक्रम के विकास के संबंध में पाठ्यचर्या सलाहकार सेवाओं की वर्तमान स्थिति पर प्रकाश डाला।

दो हजार बीस में पाठ्यचर्या सलाहकार सेवाओं-करिकलम एडवायज़री सेविसस का पुनर्निर्माण किया गया और अब इसे करिकलम डिवलपमेंट एडवायज़री युनिट के नाम से जाना जाता है और पढ़ने लिखने के साधन को आगे बढ़ाना, पाठ्यक्रम की समीक्षा को लागू करना इसकी भूमिका है।

शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने कहा कि फीजी राष्ट्रीय पाठ्यचर्या की रूपरेखा है कि वह करिकलम डिवलपमेंट एडवायज़री युनिट के लिए शिक्षा दर्शन, संरचना, सामाग्री और मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांत निर्धारित करे। पिछले कुछ महिनो से, करिकलम डिवलपमेंट एडवायज़री युनिट कई पाठ्यक्रम संशोधनों पर काम कर रहा है। दो हजार इक्कीस में ईया ग्यारह में लाइफ

मेथस पाठ्यक्रम की शुरुवात चारों विभागों में की गई। उन्होंने कहा कि वे सामाजिक विज्ञान और इतिहास (सौशल साईंस और हिस्टरी) पाठ्यक्रम को संशोधित करने की प्रक्रिया पर काम कर रहे हैं जब कि यह पाठ्यक्रम फीजी के इतिहास पर अधिक जोर देना सुनिश्चित करेगा।

मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि दुर्भाग्य से फीजी में बच्चों को अन्य देशों का इतिहास पढ़ाया जाता है हालांकि फीजी का इतिहास नहीं पढ़ाया जाता जबकि मंत्रालय अब इसे बदलना चाहता है।

करिकलम डिवलपमेंट एडवायज़री युनिट पिछले कुछ सालों से प्रायमरी स्कूल की लिट्रसी और न्यूमसी करिकलम पर काम कर रही है जिसे देश भर के नव्वे स्कूलों में ईया एक से चार पाठ्यक्रम का परिक्षण किया जा रहा है।

मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि आगे चलकर फीजी सरकार चाहती है कि वे सभी पाठ्यक्रम को संशोधित करें, शिक्षाशास्त्र में नयापन लाएं और पाठ्यक्रम तैयार करें जिसका उपयोग ऑनलाइन किया जाए और छात्रों को ऑनलाइन पढ़ने लिखने में सक्षम बनाएं जिससे हमारे बच्चों की जरूरतें पूरी हों।

कुशल पेशेवरों का पता लगाने वाली समिति (एस पी ई सी) आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देती है

सोनम सामी

फीजी में नय और उभरते हुए व्यवसायों में निपुण पेशेवरों की कमी की समस्या को संभोधित करते हुए कोमर्स, ट्रेड, टुरिज़म तथा ट्रांसपोर्ट मंत्री फैयाज़ कोया ने कहा कि कई गलतफ़हमिया फैली हुई हैं।

अभी हाल ही संसद में सवाल का जवाब देते हुए मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि स्कील्ड प्रोफेशनल्स डेवेलुएशन कोमिटि (एस पी ई सी)कुशल पेशेवरों का पता लगाने वाली समिति आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देती है न कि स्थानीय लोगों की नौकरी हटाने के लिया।

(एस पी ई सी) की भूमिका है कि प्रतियोगितात्मक व्यवहार को बढ़ावा देना है जैसे चिकित्सा पेशा जिसने पहले श्रम बाजार को नियंत्रित किया था।

फीजियन श्रम बाजार निपुण पेशेवरों की माँग करता है और इस मौके पर (एस पी ई सी) ने सभी क्षेत्रों में जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए एक कौशल अंतर विश्लेषण तैयार किया है।

मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्र की संस्थाओं के साथ परामर्श से पता चला है कि फीजी में निपुण पेशेवरों में कमी फीजी के श्रम बाजार में माँग और आपूर्ति के बीच के अंतर का नतीजा है और वर्षों से बड़े पैमाने पर प्रसिद्ध है।

इस महामारी के बाद एस पी ई सी का काम पहले से कहीं ज्यादा महात्वपूर्ण हो गया है और देश को फिर से मजबूत बनाने के लिए फीजी को एक आधुनिक पेशेवरों से भरी अर्थव्यवस्था बनानी होगी।

जैसे आर्थिक विकास बढ़ता है, खासकर के नय और उभरते हुए व्यवसायों में हमें यह सुनिश्चित करना जरूरी है कि हम अवसरों को पाकर कैसे अपने कौशल का इस्तेमाल करते हैं।

मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि एस पी ई सी एक नई और आधुनिक अर्थव्यवस्था में परिवर्तन में महात्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगा और ऐसा करना जारी रहेगा।

गिरमित दिवस

रिपोट: रोनाल देव

एक सौ तिरालिस (143) साल पहले गिरमित काल में अंग्रेजों के द्वारा हमारे पुर्वज, शर्तबन्द मजदूर के रूप में फीजी लाए गए थे।

उस वक्त फीजी और भारत, ब्रिटन के आधीन थे जब गुलामी की प्रथा दुनिया भर में चल रही थी तब अंग्रेज़ी हुकुमत ने यहाँ गन्ने के खेतों में काम करने के लिए भारत से मज़दूरों को लाने का फैसला किया।

हमारे पुर्वजों को कलकत्ता से अलग-अलग जहाज़ में भरकर फीजी लाया गया था। उस वक्त उन्हें बताया गया था कि यहाँ मिट्टी खोदने पर उन्हें सोना मिलेगा। गिरमितिया मज़दूर जिन्हें जहाजी भी कहा जाता था को फीजी के अलावा मोरिशस, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, ट्रिनिडाड और टोबैगो, सुरेनाम तथा जमईका में काम करने के लिए लेजाया गया था।

अंग्रेज़ों ने भारत के अलग-अलग हिस्सों से हमारे भोले-भाले पुर्वजों को अपनी बातों से लुभाया कि उन्हें भारत के नज़दीक किसी देश में नौकरी करने से थोड़े ही समय में बहुत पैसे मिलेंगे। उन्हें बताया गया था कि पाँच साल काम करने के बाद वे अपने खर्च पर भारत लौट सकते थे और जो दस साल काम करेंगे उनके लौटने का खर्च ब्रिटिश सरकार सहेगी। उन्हें रविवार को छोड़कर हर दिन नौ घण्टे काम करना होता था और शनिवार को उन्हें बहुत कम वेतन मिलता था। इतने कम पैसे में उन्हें भोजन-राशन तथा दवाईयाँ खरीदनी होती थी और घर के लिए भी पैसे बचाने होते थे। उनके दिन की शुरूआत सुबह चार बजे होती थी तथा दिन भर कड़ी धूप में उन्हें काम करना होता था। उनके घर

इंसानों के रहने लायक नहीं थे जिन्हें कूली-लाईन्स कहा जाता था।

भारतीय मज़दूरों को कोड़े मारे जाते थे जब वे दिन में काम करते हुए थक जाते थे और आराम करना चाहते थे या जब अंग्रेज़ उनके काम से खुश नहीं होते थे।

इतिहास गवाह है कि गिरमितिया मज़दूरों ने उस वक्त अपनी मातृभूमि भारत को त्यागकर, एक उज्ज्वल भविष्य की तलाश में फीजी आए थे। उस वक्त उनके दिलों में कुछ कर दिखाने का जूनून था।

चौदह मई, 1879 को पहला जहाज़ लियोनिदास में पहले भारतीय, हज़ारों किलोमीटर का समुद्र लाँगकर तीन महीने से ज़्यादा की कठिन यात्रा करते हुए फीजी पहुँचे। इस दौरान जहाज़ में हमारे पुर्वज बीमार पड़े तथा कुछ की मौत भी हुई। अंत में यह जहाज़ लेवूका में आकर लगा जो कि उस समय फीजी की राजधानी थी। इसी तरह घयभश से घशघध के बीच बयालिस (42) जहाज़ों में लगभग साठ हज़ार (60,000) भारतीय जो अलग-अलग धर्म, वर्ण के थे फीजी लाए गए। भारत में अलग-अलग जगह से आने की वजह से वे अलग-अलग भाषा बोलने वाले थे लेकिन फीजी आकर उन्होंने फीजी हिन्दी के द्वारा एक दूसरे से वार्तालाप किया।

हमारे पुर्वज पढ़े-लिखे नहीं थे लेकिन उन्होंने अपने बच्चों के लिए देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में कई स्कूलों का निर्माण किया जिससे आज हम पढ़ लिखकर इस देश में और विदेश में भी अपने पुर्व जों का नाम रोशन कर रहे हैं।

पढ़े-लिखे न होने की वजह से वे अंग्रेज़ी शब्द



अंग्रीमन्ट को गिरमित कह रहे थे और बाद में हमारे पुर्वजों को गिरमितिया कहा जाने लगा। इस कठिन और जटिल यात्रा में वे अपने साथ तुलसीदासकृत रामचरितमानस, श्रीमद्भगवत गीता, हनुमान चालीसा के साथ हिंदी भाषा और संस्कृति को भी यहाँ लेकर आए और थोड़े ही समय में फीजी, एक छोटे-से “भारतवर्ष” के रूप में अपनी नई पहचान बना चुका था। सैतीस (37) साल बाद जब गिरमित प्रथा 1921 में खत्म हुई तो सिर्फ पचीस हज़ार (25,000) भारतीय ही भारत लौटे जबकि बाकी ने फीजी को ही अपना घर बना

लिया। गिरमित समारोह को हमें इस तरह देखना चाहिए कि कुछ आम इन्सान एक अनजान देश में आए, उसे अपनाया तथा उनके वंशज आज फीजी को अपनी मातृभूमि मानते हैं। कहते हैं न, कि हर अमावस्या की काली रात के बाद पूर्णिमा आती है, ठीक उसी प्रकार भारतीय संस्कारों, संस्कृति, हिन्दी, और असीम आत्म-बल से धनी हमारे पुर्वनों ने कड़ी मेहनत से देश को ही सोना बना दिया।

हम सबको अपने पुर्वजों पर गर्व होना चाहिए।

पी सी एन को भरे गए पैसे वापस हासिल करने की अज़ी



ग्रन्थम रोड सूवा में स्थित लाँगोलांगी हाउजिंग के नए युनिट्स

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनाल देव

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के गवना जेनरल महामहीम डेविड हेली ने उनका, उनकी पत्नी लिन्डा हेली तथा पूरे ऑस्ट्रेलियन प्रतिनिधिमण्डल का अतिथी-सत्कार करने के लिए फीजियन सरकार तथा फीजिवासियों का आभार व्यक्त किया है।

यह एक एतिहासिक राज्य दौरा था जहाँ पहली बार वनुआ लेवू में भी एक कार्यक्रम हुआ।

फीजी के अपने दौर पर गवना हेली ने कहा कि वृवाले साझेदारी की खुशियाँ मनाई गई। यह साझेदारी यह मंच प्रदान करता है जहाँ दोनों राष्ट्रों के बीच सहयोग, परामर्श तथा दोस्ती और भी गहरी हुई है जबकि हम एक सुरक्षित, स्थिर और समृद्ध प्रशांत क्षेत्र स्थापित करने के एक ही लक्ष्य की दिशा में मिलकर काम करते हैं।

“मेरी पत्नी लिन्डा और मुझे बेहद खुशी है कि हमे फीजी के राष्ट्रपति विलियामे कातोनिवेरे तथा उनकी पत्नी ने हमे फीजी का राज्य दौरा करने के

लिए आमंत्रित किया तथा हम उन सभी लोगों के अभारी हैं जिन्होंने इस दौर को यादगार बनाने में सहयोग दिया जिससे हमारी साझेदारी की चौड़ाई और गहराई पर प्रकाश डाला गया है।

नन्दूरी वनुआलेवू में राष्ट्रपति के घर पर एक दिन बिताने के मौके से साझेदारी की भावना को मज़बूत हुआ है तथा इस अवसर की यादों को मैं और मेरी पत्नी कई सालों तक संजो कर रखेंगे।

गवना जेनरल हेली ने कहा कि फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझेदारी सफल होने तथा इसमें प्रगति होने पर ऑस्ट्रेलिया को गर्व है।

फीजियन सरकार ने इस राज्य दौर को यादगार बनाने में सहयोग देने वाले साझेदारों तथा फीजिवासियों को धन्यवाद दिया है।

1993 के बाद ऑस्ट्रेलिया के किसी गवना जेनरल का यह पहला फीजी दौरा था।

फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच दोस्ती तथा वृवाले समझौता पहले के मिलान में बहुत ही मज़बूत हुआ है।

स्कूल को नई नाव और इंजिन

रिपोट: रोनाल देव

वुनिसेया कन्दावू स्थित बुलौ दोलेले मेमोरियल स्कूल को एक नई नाव और इंजिन दी गई है।

हाल ही में वाईसोमो हाउस सूवा में स्कूल के मुख्य अद्यापक तथा मेनेजमन्ट को शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने नाव और इंजिन प्रदान की। इस स्कूल में साठ श्रद्धालु विद्यार्थी पढ़ाई करते हैं तथा इस नाव के द्वारा उन्हें स्कूल आने-जाने में काफी सहुलियत होगी।

मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि यातायात की सहायता प्रदान करना, फीजियन सरकार द्वारा दी जा रही कई सुविधाओं में से एक है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि शिक्षा हासिल करने में विद्यार्थी यातायात वाली चुनौतियों का सामना न करें।

“लोगों को शायद यह पता नहीं होगा कि विद्यार्थियों को यातायात वाली जो सहायता हम प्रदान करते

हैं, वो केवल बस के भाड़ा तक सिमित नहीं है। जो विद्यार्थी बाहरी द्वीपों में रहते हैं, हम उनके स्कूलों को नाव देते हैं तथा उन्हें अवसर प्रदान करते हैं कि वे उन्हें मिले शिक्षा वाले मुफ्त ग्रान्ट से नाव तथा इंजिन के लिए फि़यूल और मरम्मत का खर्च निकालें। अगर बाहर का कोई यह सेवा प्रदान करता है तो हम उन्हें आर एस एल का वाउचा देते हैं,” मंत्री ने कहा।

मंत्री कुमार ने स्कूल के मेनेजमन्ट को आशवासन दिया है कि सरकार, बच्चों की शिक्षा के लिए हमेशा खड़ी रहेगी तथा वे हमेशा यूवा फीजिवासियों की शिक्षा के लिए जो कुछ ज़रूरी होगा उसके लिए माता-पिताओं, बच्चों की देखभाल करने वाले तथा स्कूल मेनेजमन्ट को सहायता पहुँचाती रहेगी।

मंत्री ने अंत में नाव के द्वारा सुरक्षित विद्यार्थियों को स्कूल आने-जाने के लिए अपनी शुभकामनाएं दी।



शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार वुनिसेया कन्दावू स्थित एक स्कूल के लिए नाव प्रदान करती हुई।
चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

उंदू निवासियों की पानी वाली समस्या खत्म हुई 2

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फीजी दर्पण

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प्रधान मंत्री तथा चीनी मंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डिनमारामा संसद में चीनी व्यवसाय को जीवित रखने की योजना आम करते हुए

चित्र: संसद भवन

चीनी व्यवसाय को जीवित रखने की योजना

रिपोर्ट: रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री तथा चीनी मंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डिनमारामा ने संसद में चीनी व्यवसाय को पुनः जीवित करने की योजनाएं आम की।

“देश के इतिहास में मेरी सरकार पहली है जिसने गन्ने के लिए पचासी श्यथन डॉलर प्रति टन का दाम तय किया फिर चाहे विश्व में दाम कुछ भी हो,”

उन्होंने कहा कि यह दाम तय होने से न केवल किसानों को सुरक्षा और स्थिरता मिली है बल्कि उनकी आमदनी को भी सहायता दी है। चीनी मंत्री ने कहा कि उनकी सरकार अन्य सरकारों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रही है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि चीनी विदेश भेजने के लिए डूटी गिराई जाए या

डूटी पूरी तरह से हटाई जाए ताकि फीजी, चीनी निर्यात करने वाले अन्य देशों के साथ अच्छी तरह से होड़बाजी कर सके।

उनके अनुसार हाल ही में स्थानीय बाजार में चीनी के दाम पर पुनः विचार करने से किसानों को मिलने वाला दाम और मजबूत होगा तथा इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाएगा कि फीजी शुगा कौपेरेशन अपने उत्पादनों पर सही दाम लगाए और आमदनी कमाने के साथ-साथ गन्ने के फसलों की पैदाईश बढ़ाने, मिल्कों का संचालन सुधारने तथा उत्पादन में परिवर्तन करने के लिए सही तरह से पुंजी लगा सके।

बर्डिनमारामा ने कहा कि चीनी व्यवसाय, किसी अन्य व्यापार की तरह है, जहाँ उन्हें सही माता में

फसल बोने का लक्ष्य हासिल करने, सही माता में चीनी बनाने तथा सही दाम तय करने की ज़रूरत है ताकि व्यापार चलता रहे।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि यह चुनाव वाला साल है तथा वो बिल्कुल भी हैरान नहीं हैं कि विरोधी दल एक बार फिर गन्ने के व्यवसाय को लेकर राजनितिक चाल चल रहे हैं।

उनके अनुसार उनकी सरकार में कोई भी तानाशाह नहीं है बल्कि उनकी सरकार में मजबूत निर्णायक नेतृत्व है।

“लेकिन हमेशा की तरह मैं गन्ने के किसानों से व्यवसाय की हालत को लेकर सीधी बात करता हूँ। कोई झूठ नहीं, कोई झूठे वायदे नहीं, सिर्फ सच्चाई,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार सच्चाई यह है कि वे गन्ने के किसानों को लगातार उच्च स्तर की सहायता देना जारी रखे हुए हैं जो देश के इतिहास में पहले कभी नहीं दिया गया था। इनमें शामिल है मसाला और घास मारने वाली दवा के लिए सब्सिडी, कैन टोप अप पैमन्ट, गन्ना मिल तक लेजाने वाले यातायात की सहायता, लीस नया करने तथा गन्ना निकालने वाले रास्तों पर मरम्मत करने में सहायता देना शामिल है। लेकिन प्रधान मंत्री ने स्वीकार किया चुनौतियाँ हैं, लेकिन गन्ने के किसान जब मसीबतों से गुजरते हैं तो सरकार आगे बढ़कर उनकी सहायता करती है।