

FijiFocus



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at the opening of the Tailevu Provincial Council meeting at Naisausau Village in Namara, Tailevu recently. Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

“Tailevu is now in a better place” – PM

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

IN response to the development aspirations for Tailevu, the Fijian Government has invested more than \$272 million between 2014 to 2021 into the province.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama highlighted this while opening the Tailevu Provincial Council meeting at Naisausau Village in Namara, Tailevu recently.

While addressing members of the council, representatives of various organisations and civil servants, the Prime Minister expressed his delight to be amongst members of his home province.

“What a pleasure it is to be in Tailevu. After 13 Council Meetings across the

country, it feels right to wrap up this journey in my home province,” he said.

“I am here in my role as Prime Minister to share the story I have shared all year at every meeting I have opened,” the Prime Minister told members of the provincial council.

“It is a story about the best years in Fiji’s history, the years in which we’ve transformed the country for the better, overcome the greatest challenges we’ve ever faced, and defined Fiji’s voice in the world like never before. It is a story we can and must keep writing by keeping to the course we’ve set together.”

The Prime Minister said that Tailevu had been part of the national journey every step of the way and received its fair share

of progress.

“Yes, Tailevu is my home Province. That has no bearing on why you have enjoyed such unprecedented levels of development.”

“In response to your development aspirations, from 2014 until 2021, the Government has invested more than \$272 million into Tailevu Province.”

“More than \$79.4 Million was allocated for social pension programmes, poverty alleviation initiatives, and disability programmes to protect those who have needed protection most.”

“Government has utilised \$31.5 million on infrastructure development, including upgrading the Waidalice Bridge, the Cautata-Waicoka Road, Kiuva-Kaba Road,

Nadali Bypass, Kasavu Road Rehabilitation, Natila Road, Visa and Anijioki Road, and Namata Village access road and crossings.”

“Government also recognises the need for improvements in our air services, and that is why \$54 million was used specifically for the renovation of the Nausori International Airport,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“Though costly, our commitment is firm – we will do whatever is necessary to connect our communities to the best available services. We will bring the Government and its services to you, the people of Tailevu,” he said.



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Rosy Akbar

"Let us be resilient, lift our voices and be an example to the global community by advocating for the use of clean and sustainable technology to mitigate the effects of climate change and improve the quality of life within our rural communities in Fiji."

NUMBERS

The Government has allocated **\$33 million** in transport assistance to students for the 2022/2023 financial year. Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama@FijiPM

Today marks one year since we welcomed the world back to Fiji. More than 520,000 visitors later, over 100,000 Fijians are back at work, doing what they love. Proud as I am of the plan that made this possible – I'm prouder of our people for their commitment to our recovery.

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Government extends harvest period for beche-de-mer

FOLLOWING numerous requests from the coastal communities, the Government has extended the harvesting and trading periods for beche-de-mer or sea cucumber.

In announcing the extension, Minister for Fisheries, Semi Koroiavesau, said the decision was based firstly on the numerous requests from the communities and the Ministry's assessment of the resources.

He said that continued monitoring of beche-de-mer population health, timely data reporting from the licensed harvesters and traders, proper data recording, management, analysis, enforcement, and compliance with scientific backing indicate that beche-de-mer populations remain healthy while \$17 million in direct cash transactions has gone to resource owners to build back better from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional economic benefits will be derived from the exports of processed beche-de-mer, which will be a significant boost to the Fijian economy.

The ongoing assessments have informed the Government's decision to extend the harvesting window to February 2, 2023.

The trade and export period will also be extended to 2nd April 2023. The size limit is 7.6 centimetres for all fully processed beche-de-mer species that are approved to be harvested.

Minister Koroiavesau said the Ministry will continue to review beche-de-mer population health and follow international best practices to ensure we keep to the path of sustainability.

(Source: Ministry of Fisheries)



Ministry of Fisheries has announced the extension of the harvesting and trading periods for beche-de-mer or sea cucumber. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls 2023–2028 ready

THE Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA) is pleased to announce the completion of the Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls 2023 – 2028.

This is the first action plan dedicated to the prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the Pacific and second in the world, after Australia.

"We have delivered what we committed to in 2020 – a whole-of-government, whole-of-population, inclusive, evidence-based, costed five-year plan with an emphasis on stopping violence before it starts. It is now finalised and ready for submission, and what better time to do it than during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign," said Rosy Akbar, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation.

A robust, comprehensive national consultation process was undertaken from November 2020 to September 2022, reaching 2,188 Fijians across all four divisions, including Lau and Rotuma.

MWCPA led the development of the NAP in partnership with a Secretariat comprised of MWCPA, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and UN Women, and a Technical Working Group composed of 14 key government ministries and civil society organisations who provided strategic and technical oversight and steered the consultations and validations.

"To address the alarming rates of violence, Fiji needed to take a bold step to accelerate prevention efforts already underway. I am happy to highlight that the 2023 – 2028 NAP is the first of two five-year plans intended to establish the foundations for the Government of Fiji's long-term commitment to preventing violence against all women and girls.

It is a blueprint for all women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, young girls, older women, women of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, and rural and maritime women," she added.

The NAP will work strategically across 13 key and influential settings to address VAWG holistically in all aspects of public and private life.

It will advance national strategies to address VAWG paired with a robust monitoring and evaluation framework.

"I thank every stakeholder and Fijian who informed the process and engaged with us. The NAP is for the people, by the people, and we look forward to implementing it together in 2023," Minister Akbar said.

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



Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation announced the completion of the Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls 2023 – 2028 after robust consultations held from November 2020 to September 2022. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fijian A-G meets regional counterpart



Attorney-General and Minister for Economic Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum met with the Tongan Attorney-General, Linda Folaumoetu, the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Solomon Islands, Rachel Subusola and the Samoan Attorney-General, Su'a Hellene Wallwork, between the sessions of the 24th Attorney-General's Conference. Ms Folaumoetu, Ms Wallwork and Ms Subusola are in the country to attend the 4th Annual Pacific Islands Law Officers Network Cybercrime Workshop. Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya and the Acting Permanent Secretary for Communications, Tupou'tuah Baravilala, were also present at the meeting.

Two-time gold medallist attributes discipline as key to success



Legendary rugby sevens player, Jerry Tuwai with Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and other guests at the 24th Attorney-General's conference held at Sheraton Resort in Denarau last week. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

AZARIA FAREEN

LEGENDARY rugby sevens player, Jerry Tuwai believes that great things can be achieved through hard work, perseverance and discipline. Mr Tuwai said this as he addressed the legal practitioners at the 24th Attorney-General's conference over the weekend. "I was born in Suva and raised in a suburb called Newtown settlement - an environment which has been known for criminal activities that the youths always engage in," he highlighted. "I was knocked into a different path until I found my passion. I started playing rugby in the under 9 grade to under 15 grade at Bishop Kempthorne Memorial School and went on to represent Nasinu at the Milo Kaji competition that year." "I fell in love with rugby and the value of the sport which changed my life and that's when everything changed forever," he added. Mr Tuwai relays that with a few years of sacrifice, discipline and hard work, he was picked to represent Fiji and every-

thing else just followed. "I made my debut in 2014 in the Gold Coast seven and have been fortunate enough to play in all the tournaments ever since except the Hong Kong Sevens and Dubai Sevens because I need three months rest after a long campaign for the Rugby World Cup," he said. "I have gone through the hardest struggle to the triumph of a lifetime for myself in the pinnacle of sports. Even my friends are motivated to change the way they see and do things in their life after I made my debut." "I have seen and experienced what good sports programs can do to a person and I'm thankful to all the clubs that I've played in and all the coaches that trusted me in their respective times as head coach of our nation," he added. "I would like to thank the Government for the support throughout our campaign to Fiji Rugby Union who have done a very good work on the development of players and union that has enabled us to send youths overseas with contracts to study, play and earn a living," Mr Tuwai further added. Mr Tuwai is now the only Sevens player in the world who

has two Olympic Gold medals, a World Cup Sevens title and multiple World Rugby Sevens Series under his belt. "Sports has a deep impact on people around the world especially in tournaments, we sit together with different races, share ideas and laugh at the game regardless of the result while having a bowl of kava as we always do with the New Zealand, Australian and the South African teams," he said. "Last week, I took more than 30 youths to the Warwick tournament where we engaged in social and team activities and also took part in the tournament where the women's netball team won but unfortunately my volleyball team lost in the quarter final." "I always tell my friends that this is not a loss because we always win in life through positive changes and I can already see that in my community as the crime rate has decreased and the youths are focusing on things that can change them and the community for the better," the two-time gold medalist added.

24th Attorney-General's Conference hears of Australia's support



The Australian High Commission's Chargé d'affaires, John Williams, at the 24th Attorney-General's Conference held Nadi last week.

The 24th Attorney-General's Conference held Nadi last week was bolstered by Australia ensuring its support through Fiji's electoral processes. In his remarks at the opening of the two-day conference, Chargé d'affaires for the Australian High Commission, John Williams, stated that Australia will continue to stand and learn from Fiji and bolster their democratic institutions and practices at home. Mr William pointed out that strong democratic governance was essential for the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders to face the existential threat of climate change, the long-term recovery from COVID-19 and strategic contest. "It goes without saying that we're committed to building on this close collaboration with Fiji with the Government that the people of Fiji elect into office on the 14th of December." "There's a lot of interest in your national elections, including in Australia, which is natural given Fiji's importance as a partner for us in regional and global affairs. And given an active and at times vocal Fijian diaspora in my country." Mr Williams also highlighted that they will be partnering with India and Indonesia to coordinate a Multinational Observer Group for the 2022 elections, which he believes was a valuable contribution. The first session of the conference focused on "Children and the Administration of Justice" which saw several key speakers.

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Ministry holds 16 days of activism against gender-based violence



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar with permanent secretary, Jennifer Poole and other officials as they marked the 16-days of activism campaign against gender-based violence recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

AZARIA FAREEN

THE victims and survivors of gender-based violence were acknowledged as the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation marked the 16-days of activism campaign against gender-based violence recently.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar said “this acts as a reminder to draw attention to the scope of gender-based violence globally and in our country, as well as the measures and efforts required to stop it before it starts”.

“It saddens me to say that two of every three women in Fiji have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate male partner in their lifetime,” Minister Akbar highlighted.

“One in five women have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace and one in three women in Fiji have experienced physical or sexual violence from a man who is not their partner.”

“While Fijian women and girls bear the brunt of the violence, the social, economic, physical, psychological and health costs cut more broadly across our society, ultimately harming everyone - this is unacceptable.”

Minister Akbar adds that there are service providers ready to help and provide protection, health and medical care, counselling, access to justice, and continued safety and security.

“By calling the Toll Free Helplines 1560 (for the Domestic Violence Helpline) and 1325 (for the Child Helpline) from any location, you can freely seek assistance from qualified professionals and receive pertinent support,” she said.

“The Fijian Government recognises its obligation to prevent violence against women and girls and the Ministry has facilitated the development of the Fiji National Action Plan (NAP) to Prevent Violence against all women and girls by working closely with all relevant stakeholders, particularly civil society organisations.”

“It focuses on preventing domestic violence, intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women and girls with a whole-of-government, whole of population approach while setting out short, medium- and long-term by challenging its underlying root causes,” Minister Akbar added.

The Fiji NAP (2023-2028) is completed and projected to be launched in early 2023, which should influence social norms, promote community leadership and set a much stronger culture of equal and respectful relationships between Fijian men and women, boys and girls.

“Global evidence confirms that we can collectively prevent violence against all women and girls,” Minister Akbar said.

She urged the survivors to come forward and share their stories, access services and ask for help, particularly those who are unable to do so due to feelings of shame, embarrassment, and trauma.

My future is still bright despite my disability

AZARIA FAREEN

SENIMELIA Seru, 36, in commending the Fijian Government’s effort in assisting people with disabilities shares her journey of overcoming trials and being independent through strong family support.

“I was sixteen- years-old and in secondary school when I got severely sick with flu. In visiting a private clinic, I was prescribed some medications which reacted adversely after I consumed them,” Ms Seru said.

“I found out I was allergic to the medication and was admitted to the hospital. I ended up being in a coma for three-months and when I woke up, I could not see anything,” she relayed.

“You are in a very dark place when you lose your vision and it took me about 10-years to accept what happened to me, which was a major challenge for me. Without the encouragement of my parents, I doubt that I would have been able to come out of it.”

“Someone referred my parents to take me to the Fiji Society for the Blind where they rehabilitated me back into society without the use of my vision by teaching me how to cook, wash and do laundry and look after myself,” she explained.

“I was encouraged to attend functions such as International Day for Persons with Disability followed by the White Cane Awareness Week and then I started engaging as a volunteer,” Ms Seru added.

She said the organisation was able to secure project funding under the Disability Rights Fund in coalition with the Fiji Disabled People’s Federation to build her

capacity to do project work with the use of Job Access With Speech (JAWS) – a software loaded on a computer to assist the visually impaired to do their work.

“I have been working at the United Blind Persons of Fiji since 2017 where I started off as a volunteer, later I took up the role of an assistant project officer, then project officer and now I am the office manager,” she said.

“People with disabilities are here to stay and to improve their living conditions, it cannot be possible without the handful of us who continue to do the work that has assisted us in making our lives better.”

The organisation does advocacy for people from grassroots to the Government level on any issues affecting those who are visually impaired as well as builds capacity for people with disability through economic empowerment programmes where they get to study business management and start them off with seed money to start their business.

“We also provide them with assistive devices such as white canes, talking watches, talking bibles and assist them to access services that are available to the general public such as housing and social welfare protection schemes,” Ms Seru said.

“I am grateful to the Government for providing me with a disability allowance scheme which supports my two daughters and elderly parents,” she added.

The social assistance programme under the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation has been ongoing since 2017 and supports those with a permanent disability.

“When you approach a person with disability, don’t pity us but be polite and con-

siderate as we read into people’s tone and also speak directly to us as we are our own person,” Ms Seru emphasised.

In celebrating the International Day for Persons with Disability, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar acknowledged those working tirelessly over the years to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

“According to the Fijian Census conducted in 2017, 13.7 percent of Fiji’s total population and about 113,595 Fijians have some form of disability,” Minister Akbar said.

“The Government and the disability sector in Fiji have been taking the lead role with the support of our donor partners and stakeholders in advocating the rights and welfare of our fellow Fijians living with

disabilities,” she added.

“The disability budgetary allocation includes grants to special schools, housing assistance, assistive devices and community rehabilitation programs, grants to organisations for persons with disabilities and disability service providers, disability allowance schemes, economic empowerment assistance, bus fare assistance, grants to the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, sports grants to persons with disabilities and tertiary scholarship for persons with disabilities.”

“We as citizens of this country must work together so that the realisation of rights for persons with disabilities must be visual and supported in our beloved nation,” she added.



Thirty-six-year-old Senimelia Seru (Left) celebrates International Day for Persons with Disabilities at the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons with her colleague **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**



PS Education attends Naivicula District School awards



Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts permanent secretary, Dr Anjeela Jokhan, attends the awards ceremony at Naivicula District School this week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts permanent secretary, Dr Anjeela Jokhan, attended an awards ceremony at Naivicula District School this week. Dr Jokhan acknowledged the high achievers in the school, as well as those students who have completed their primary school education and will move on to secondary school next year. She encouraged the students to keep their dreams alive and aim to achieve them through hard work, sacrifices and sheer dedication. Dr Jokhan highlighted that the event does not only celebrate the achievements of the students but also acknowledges the contributions of all those who were with them on this journey.

“Parents’ roles are important beyond the ‘school system’ as education begins at home, especially the moral inculcation in our children. We hope for similar support from you in future as well,” she added. She also thanked the teachers for their role in shaping the future of the country and making their students respected citizens of society.

“The Ministry aims to allow the continuity of building and strengthening the aspects of moral and civic education in students that they acquire from home.”

“This initiative will also promote moral development so that the students can prove themselves to be caring and disciplined individuals with the ability to make healthy life choices and assume their roles as responsible citizens,” Dr Jokhan said.

She reminded the graduating Year 8 students that high school will have many challenges, but the best way to overcome these challenges is to be adaptable and morally grounded.

“While in pursuit of formal education, I would like to encourage our children not to lose sight of the talents and gifts that they possess as these can lead one to have a far more successful and promising future such as sports arena, arts and creation to name a few,” Dr Jokhan said.

(Source: Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts)

Children vulnerable due to inappropriate education and lack of knowledge – Kumar



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar during the Samabula Primary School Annual Prize Giving Day held this week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

MINISTER for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar, reminded parents, guardians and teachers that without proper education and lack of knowledge, our children will be vulnerable. Minister Kumar, while attending the Samabula Primary School Annual Prize Giving Day this week, highlighted that there was a need for knowledge and to adapt to the work environment that was ever evolving due to technology. “It is my humble request and I would

like to urge all of you to take advantage of the free education provided by the Government to ensure that children have proper education and gain knowledge.”

“To our teachers, your role has never been more demanding than ever before, and today I thank you for your hard work and efforts in educating these children.”

“We all need to work together, parents, teachers, and students to ensure that our children achieve and fulfil their dreams and become successful in future.”

Minister Kumar congratulated all

students who are prize getters in this year’s prize giving, which is the result of their hard work and discipline and thanked those that have contributed towards this success.

He also acknowledged the effort of the school management in looking after the affairs of the school, the head teacher for his leadership, and teachers and support staff for their commitment and dedication.

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

Minister for Education attends Korovuto Primary School awards and graduation ceremony



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar, while officiating at Korovuto Primary School's Year 8 Awards and Graduation Ceremony at the Bayview Cove Resort in Nadi recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

SCHOOL award ceremonies are not just about praising students’ achievements but to set a positive example for them.

This was the message by the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar, while officiating at Korovuto Primary School’s Year 8 Awards and Graduation Ceremony at the Bayview Cove Resort in Nadi recently.

“Other students see that it is possible to reach these notable milestones because their fellow students are able to. Think of it as encouragement to work harder, to strive to stand shoulder to shoulder with your friends,” Minister Kumar said.

She stressed on the importance of

events such as these to as a way to celebrate a successful year and to wish the graduating students well as they move on to the next step in their education journey.

Minister Kumar added that the chosen theme for the event, “Pursuing Dreams and Fostering Resilience in the Face of Adversity”, was an appropriate one as it required determination and resilience to achieve one’s ambitions.

The Fijian Government recognises how critical primary school is in making education more accessible, as well as holistic and well-rounded.

The provision of the Free Education Grant, with free tuition, free textbooks, and transportation assistance, has shown positive impacts on student participation rates in primary schools which remains at approximately 100 per cent.

“Gender equity has also benefited, with girls’ participation at 48 per cent over the past 4 years in primary education and increases to 53 per cent in secondary. Early Childhood Education participation is at an all-time

high at 88 per cent and will further improve with the review of the ECE sub-sector,” Minister Kumar added.

The newly revised Literacy and Numeracy curriculum for years 1-4 builds strong foundations for literacy and numeracy, a curriculum that engages and inspires children to become life-long learners.

“Clear, concise, and easy to use for teachers, the newly revised curriculum draws on international best practices while being developed specifically for Fiji. It incorporates the principles of gender equality, disability inclusion and social inclusion, and supports differentiated learning and ways to support students with diverse learning needs,” Minister Kumar said.

He encouraged the graduates as they ended their primary school journey and look forward to starting secondary school education next year.

“Next year, you take your first step towards your dreams by starting secondary school, from there you move to tertiary learning which will be one of the final steps in achieving your dreams.”

(Source: Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts)



World Soil Day 2022 celebrated

THE Sugar Research Institute of Fiji (SRIF) for the first time organised “World Soil Day 2022, Soils: where food begins”, which is commemorated on annually on December 5th.

The event was officiated by the Ministry of Sugar Industry permanent secretary, Yogesh Karan, and attended by range of stakeholders including farmers, academics, government officials and primary and secondary school students.

World Soil Day was endorsed by the Food and Agriculture Organization in 2013 to recognise and raise awareness on the importance of maintaining and sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the growing challenges in soil management.

Mr Karan, speaking at the celebrations, said, “Soil is a precious resource whose health is very important to sustain life on earth. Healthy soil is the basis for improved and higher crop production”.

Furthermore, he mentioned that several environmental pollutions are directly or indirectly related to soil such as nutrients leaching from soils and indiscriminate use

of pesticides and weedicides and their impact on the environment.

Therefore, soil and its management are both paramount for quality of life on earth.

Mr Karan also highlighted the importance of soil in cane production and expressed concern that soil in the cane belt areas has become very acidic with pH mostly ranging from 3.2 to 6.0.

“About 83 per cent of soil in Viti Levu and more than 95 per cent of the soils in Vanua Levu are acidic, therefore, soil acidity should be managed well to achieve better result,” Mr Karan said.

He added, “As owners of this precious resource, we should play a significant role in sustaining soil health which will definitely help us to achieve our targeted sugarcane production in coming years. Remember Soil Health is Our Wealth”.

Mr Karan urged stakeholders to show commitment to the efforts of protecting the environment and promoting healthy soil by adopting simple techniques such as using mill mud, animal and poultry manures, composts, cover cropping and green manuring, among others.

He pleaded with the cane growers to work



Ministry of Sugar Industry permanent secretary, Yogesh Karan with guests at the Sugar Research Institute of Fiji (SRIF) organised “World Soil Day 2022, Soils: where food begins” celebrated on December 5, 2022. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

together in mitigating and avoid burning of cane farms during harvesting as it induces more costs to the environment, public infrastructures, destroys soil nutrients and affects the performance of the sugar industry. He acknowledged SRIF and Fiji Sugar Corporation’s efforts of initiating healthy soil and for conducting soil tests for cane growers at no cost.

Mr Karan acknowledged the Government

for providing subsidised fertiliser to growers and for allocating additional funding of \$700,000 for green manuring project.

He also commended SRIF for creating awareness and promoting healthy soil through schools and applauded the participation of students in the essay, poster and photography competitions.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

New walkway for Verata school



Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) recently commissioned and handed over a walkway to the management, teachers, students, and parents of Vunibokoi Primary School in Verata, Tailevu this week **Photo: Josefa Uluilakeba**

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

THE Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) recently commissioned and handed over a walkway to the management, teachers, students, and parents of Vunibokoi Primary School in Verata, Tailevu this week.

Funded under the Small Grants Scheme, the walkway cost slightly more than \$46,000 and will provide a safe and conditioned walkway for the students from the school drop-off point to their respective classrooms and other adjoining school blocks.

Addressing the students, teachers, and guests, OPM head of finance and administration, Moape Rokosuka, said the assistance supports the Government’s key priority area in promoting children’s right to health and an adequate standard of living, whilst also enhancing and motivating the young leaders as they proudly access the facilities.

“This walkway is here to help provide a conducive learning environment for you all.”

“Your health and well-being at school are very important as Government places a lot of emphasis on education so we can all build a better Fiji together.”

Mr Rokosuka further stressed that leaders of tomorrow are groomed today and education is the key to achieving it.

“Study hard in school and become leaders of tomorrow. One of you can become a Prime Minister or Minister, heads of departments in the civil service, teachers, doctors, and so forth but I urge you all to focus on your education for now and do well in school,” he said.

Head of school, Mereoni Batikavakava thanked the OPM for the timely assistance.

“This was a three-year project and today it has come to fruition with the commissioning of our new walkway,” Ms Batikavakava said.

“Many a time when we have unfavorable weather, the sight of our student coming to school brings sadness but behind it all the challenge to provide for them was stronger and today we can all say that we have turned that challenge to success.”

Vunibokoi Primary School with a roll of 142 students, caters to three villages in the district of Verata namely, Naivuruvuru, Navunimono, and Kumi.

Mr Rokosuka also officiated in the school’s prize-giving ceremony which was also held on the same day.

Students urged to study hard in school



Ministry of Sugar Industry's director Planning, Policy and Research, Reshmi Kumari with students from Nilsen College in Tavua during school's annual awards ceremony. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

STUDENTS of Nilsen College in Tavua have been urged to study hard in school and focus on their goals in order to be successful in life.

While officiating as chief guest at the school’s annual awards ceremony, Ministry of Sugar Industry’s director Planning, Policy and Research, Reshmi Kumari told the students that it was also vitally important to recognise their own gifts and unleash their talents.

“Remember you will fall, you will stumble many times but be patient. Get up, dust off your disappointments and start again. Never let go of your dreams, keep holding on to it.

“Work hard, be visible, people will notice you and you will be remembered.”

In highlighting the Government’s investments on the education sector, Ms Kumari said Fijian children were fortunate as education has been made free in the country.

She also encouraged those who may have not done well academically, to take

up Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to upgrade their knowledge and skills.

This, as there is a huge demand for professionals and trades people in the country and also for overseas employment.

School principal, Umendran Reddy, said since the inception of the school, they have been producing good results over the years.

Mr Reddy said the external exam results for the past five years had been great.

The average pass rate for Year 12 between 2017 and 2020 was 96 percent while the average for Year 13 for the same period was 93 percent.

Mr Reddy thanked the Government for its tremendous assistance through the provision of transport scheme and the tuition fee grant, among other important initiatives.

School Dux and head boy, Sunia Narakaba thanked his parents for the support throughout his high school life despite the many challenges he encountered along the way.

The Year 13 Tech Science student also acknowledged the school management for their investment in his educational journey.

Nilsen College was established in 1969 and has been serving its community for the past 53 years.

The secondary school currently provides education for up to Year 13 Level.

In addition, the school offers various facilities such as resourceful computer labs with internet facilities, library and a conducive learning environment.

Currently, the school roll stands at 214 with 25 full time academic staff and 2 ancillary staff.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Ovalau Agrophotovoltaic Project set to benefit farmers

THE Ovalau Agrophotovoltaic (APV Project is set to reduce the carbon footprint on Ovalau island and greatly benefit farmers on the maritime island in the Lomaiviti Group.

The Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) funded project is being implemented by Envelops Co. Ltd

APV is an innovative system which allows for solar power generation and agriculture to simultaneously co-exist on the same land, which otherwise would be in competition with one another.

While officiating at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Fiji-Korea Agrophotovoltaic Project at Bureta on Ovalau Island recently, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy said the conventional ground-mounted solar projects on the site would utilise the arable land and position agricultural potential to maximise yield.

“This came about when Ovalau Island was recommended in line with the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of reduction of global greenhouse gas emission goals set under the Paris Agreement, with Ovalau setting their localised NDC at 100 percent through the use of renewable energy on the Island,” Minister Reddy said.

“The Bureta site is ideal agricultural land and the community needed agricultural development for the island’s food security

and income generating activities, thus the agrophotovoltaic project was a perfect fit for both solar power generation and agriculture.”

The APV Agriculture Research and Development and Market Development components will cultivate root crops and vegetables under the tall APV solar panels.

Each solar panel will house/shade climate resilient, high-value crops for commercial agriculture such as paprika, tomato, cherry tomato, cabbage, string beans, lettuce, cucumber, eggplant, watermelon, capsicum and root crops.

In addition, Minister Reddy said the project will also establish a dedicated climate-centric agriculture research station near the project site which will be operated by the Ministry of Agriculture’s Research and Crop Extension staff.

The office will include processing sheds, garage, cool storage, a three-tonne truck and a tractor with implements.

KOICA’s grant contributed a sum of US\$4 million (FJ\$8.82 million) to purchase the five megawatt hour Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for the solar photovoltaic component of the project and the other US\$4 million (FJ\$8.82 million) is provided as KOICA development assistance project for the Ministry of Agriculture.

“The APV project is expected to yield over 100,000 kilograms of crops in a year – feeding, employing and earning an



Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy with officials at the ground-breaking ceremony of the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) funded Ovalau Agrophotovoltaic Project in Bureta, Ovalau recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

income for Fijians living in Bureta and across the island’s 27 communities.”

The project is focused on making Ovalau island 90 per cent renewable energy efficient whereby solar panels would be constructed over seven hectares of agricultural land in Bureta.

The project will use the land sharing concept and help reduce heat damage to the

crops by blocking access to sunlight and reduce damages from drought by minimising solar moisture evaporation.

The project is valued at US\$10 million (FJ\$22.05m) and will be co-financed by the Green Climate Fund and KOICA.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Environment)

Consultation held on addressing challenges of human mobility due to disasters



Delegates at the regional consultation on addressing challenges of human mobility due to disasters held in Nadi recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

A REGIONAL consultation delving into how to strengthen efforts to address the challenges of displacement, migration and other forms of human mobility in a changing climate was held in Nadi recently.

Government representatives from the region, experts and representatives from international organisations, regional bodies and national civil society actors met to share lessons learned and effective practices on averting, minimising and addressing displacement in the context of disasters and climate change.

In opening the consultation, Ministry for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Permanent Secretary, Salaseini Daunabuna said while the Pacific was “living” the climate crisis daily, preventing and responding to disaster displacement would require tailored approaches to confront specific challenges that were compounded by the impacts of poverty and inequality, the climate and biodiversity crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Internal displacement and planned relocation demand greater resource mobilisation, an improved enabling environment through targeted legislation and policies; and strong institutional and governance arrangements. Ensuring that the concerns of the Pacific and best practices are shared with other members states and development partners is important in leveraging the work of countries in this space,” Mrs Daunabuna said.

People and communities are affected by the impact of disasters and the adverse ef-

fects of climate change, and recent trends and projections point to an increased risk of displacement in the future.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), disasters triggered 13.7 million internal displacements in East Asia and the Pacific in 2021, the highest figure since 2016 and above the annual average for the last decade of 11.6 million.

Fiji became a member of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) - a State-led initiative working towards better protection for people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change - after our leadership at the COP23 meeting in Bonn, Germany.

Since assuming leadership last year, Fiji formulated several priorities to implement during its chairmanship and led global advocacy regarding addressing the challenges of disaster displacement and outreach alongside work at the regional and national levels.

The consultation was hosted by the Fijian Government and co-organised with the PDD the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and partners of the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCC-MHS) Project.

It was funded by the European Union and the German Government.

(Source: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management)

Fiji hosts regional consultation



Government representatives from the region, experts and representatives from international organisations, regional bodies and national civil society actors who will be part of the 2-day Regional Consultation on Promoting a Regional Approach to Human Mobility in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change in the Pacific at Tukuraki Village in the interior of Ba recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

AS the outgoing chair of the Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD), Fiji is committed in promoting global advocacy regarding the challenges of disaster displacement and outreach at the national and regional levels.

Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management permanent secretary, Salaseini Daunabuna, gave this reassurance and acknowledged the support of PDD, the International Organisation on Migration (IOM), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in convening this important regional dialogue concerning climate mobility.

She said this had been critical in ensuring preparedness as a region to handle displacement brought on by climate change and natural disasters.

“I also recognise our strengthened partnership with the Platform on Disaster Displacement over the years. We wish to also reassure the incoming Chair from the European Union (EU) of our continued support

in this regard,” Mrs Daunabuna said.

Ahead of the opening of the consultation, the delegates made a field trip to the Tukuraki Village Relocation Project to interact and listen to the stories of the survival and resilience of the villagers.

“I am positive that some of you would have come away with a broadened perspective, seeing first-hand how relocation can affect whole communities, who are forced to move because of climate change and natural disasters. Although a sad story, it stresses the realities that we all face as a region, above all it shows our resilience,” Mrs Daunabuna added.

The two-day consultation held in Denarau, Nadi was hosted by the Fijian Government of Fiji and co-organised with the NRC and partners of the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCCMHS) Project.

It was funded by the European Union and the German Government.

(Source: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management)



Students of Waidamudamu Learning Centre visit President

Six students, teachers and parents from Waidamudamu Learning Centre, Koronivia visited the State House as part of their field trip recently.

The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, urged the students to be diligent in their schoolwork and listen to their parents, teachers and older siblings. He wished them well for their future.



24th Attorney-General's conference concludes on a high note



Provision of a free Wi-Fi Hotspot and Walesi TV

Following the provision of a free Wi-Fi Hotspot and Walesi TV at the Nadi, Namaka, Suva and Labasa markets, the Ba market now has access to a free Wi-Fi hotspot and Walesi TV after the launch by Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum recently.

This is part of the Fijian Government's \$14.6m budget that was allocated to Walesi to fund the completion of the country's digital switchover project, as well as the continuation of installing free Wi-Fi hotspot access and community connectivity to Walesi TV.

The A-G highlighted that progressively more municipal markets and public spots will have free Wi-Fi hotspots and Walesi TV to allow Fijians access to e-services, information and entertainment.



President receives courtesy call from MOG

The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere received a courtesy call from the Multinational Observer Group (MOG) secretariat at the State House recently.

During the meeting, President Katonivere welcomed the delegation and extended the greetings of the Government and the Fijian people. The MOG secretariat consisted of Deputy Observer Coordinator of the MOG Secretariat Mr Andrew Edgar, Political and Elections Advisor MOG Secretariat, Mr Xander Burns and Media Advisor MOG Secretariat, Ms Kirsten Storey.

Photos : SHEENAL CHARAN





MoU to sustain fisheries resources

DIPESH KUMAR

THE World Trade Organization (WTO) has commended the Pacific Island Countries on their united front to ensure that fisheries resources are protected and developed sustainably for the long-term benefit of the people.

This was highlighted by the WTO director general, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the WTO during a ministerial conference.

The MoU undertakes the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies which was adopted at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) on 17 June 2022 and countries such as Fiji and other Pacific members have been a beneficiary of the activities organized between PIFS and the WTO.

The signing of the MoU marks 22 years of cooperation between the two organisations and its renewal for the fifth time.

WTO Director General, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala highlighted that the Ministerial conference was fruitful and it gave WTO and the Pacific countries a chance to discuss sustainable methods of fishing.

“Our central point is that the WTO trade should be part of the solution to some of the challenges that have been faced here. And to that effect, the fact that the fisheries

economy is so important to all the Pacific Island countries, and they were instrumental in the fishery subsidies agreement that we were able to make in June at the WTO where all 164 members signed on to agreement to curb \$22 billion a year on harmful fishery subsidies to stop illegal unreported and unregulated fishing on a high sea. This is critically important.”

In signing the MoU, chair of the conference, Fijian Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya highlighted that the visit of the director general of the WTO to the Pacific region demonstrates her dedication to hearing the views and voices of all WTO members, especially the most vulnerable.

He highlighted that the region would continue to work in solidarity to further its collective objective of supporting the Pacific Economic and Social Development.

“Today the WTO has a better understanding of the realities of the Pacific Economies and our priorities. Following these

meetings, we are hopeful that the Pacific will have a stronger presence in the multi-lateral trade system.”

The meeting was successfully concluded where Ministers from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu reflected on the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference outcomes including the most important to the Pacific Fisheries subsidies.



World Trade Organization (WTO) director general, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Fijian Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya in Nadi recently. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

Need for more collaboration to combat cybercrime



Ministry of Communications acting permanent secretary, Tupou'tuah Baravilala, speaking at the 4th Annual Pacific Islands law officers Network **Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA**

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE need for more collaboration and information-sharing to combat cybercrime has been highlighted as a priority amongst the Pacific Island law officers Network (PLON).

Ministry of Communications acting permanent secretary, Tupou'tuah Baravilala, while speaking at the 4th Annual Pacific Islands law officers Network (PLON) stressed Government's continued commitment to ensure that people have access to meaningful connectivity in a secure cyberspace and, to utilise the vast opportunities that the internet provides.

She also highlighted the need for closer collaboration in the collective fight against cybercrime.

With the theme 'Combating cybercrime: Trends and Tools in a Changing World, Ms

Baravilala highlighted that digital technologies continue to accelerate, and with it, cybersecurity risks continue to become more evident.

“The shift to online spaces has presented a challenge - the attack surface area has increased. Digital technologies continue to accelerate, and with it, cybersecurity risks continue to become more evident. We have seen emerging and evolving threats which are transboundary in nature, and which have an impact on international peace and security and thereby, placing cybersecurity as a priority,” Ms Baravilala said.

She emphasised the need to ensure that cybersecurity measures are robust and agile, have stronger protection tools in place so that recovery can be swift and business operation disruptions are minimised should an attack succeed.

Ms Baravilala also called for the need to create a culture of cyber hygiene practices amongst the people.

“It requires all of us, proactively synergising our efforts, and implementing cyber security safeguards and measures. Only then, can we turn the tide on these cyber threat actors which are a threat to peace, security, prosperity and the well-being of our people,” Ms Baravilala said.

She then urged participants at the workshop that in order to improve cybersecurity capabilities and readiness across the Pacific, everyone needs to collaborate and make the most of existing regional networks such as this PILON, the Pacific Cybersecurity Operational Network and the Pacific Transnational Crime Network through collaboration and information-sharing between these networks.

FNU hopes to strengthen the business sector



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar speaking at the International Conference on Business, Hospitality and Tourism **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

DIPESH KUMAR

THE Fiji National University (FNU) held its first ever International Conference on Business, Hospitality and Tourism to allow stakeholders to discuss strategies on how to further strengthen and develop the business sectors post pandemic.

FNU's College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) organised the first-ever conference with the theme “Post-Pandemic Resilience: A Sustainable Approach”.

Speaking at the conference, the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar, highlighted that the conference was a perfect opportunity for the academia and practitioners to discuss sustainable approaches towards post-pandemic recovery.

Minister Kumar said that the theme was also appropriate given the fight of the business and the tourism sector against the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our borders were closed and our

economy suffered, but it was our resilience and the brave Fijian spirit that got us through this dark period in our nation's history, and here we are getting back on our feet once again – showing the world that Fiji is open and ready for business once again,” she said.

“We may have overcome the pandemic but we need to talk about the biggest threat to our tourism industry and the Pacific today – not just climate change but also the impacts of slow-down in global economic growth caused by geo-political tensions, supply chain issues, high freight costs, increase in interest rates, shortage of skilled workers and the frequency and intensity of natural disasters.”

Speaking at the conference, FNU's Vice-Chancellor Professor Lyn Karstadt highlighted that the conference has brought together academics and practitioners to debate a long-term strategy to post-pandemic resilience.

She said that as a national university, FNU seeks to ensure that the students are provided with the best knowledge and experience to be ready for the workforce.

“We also strive to provide our students with the best possible experience that allows them to develop personally, morally, and spiritually as well as intellectually, and to thrive, learn, question, and succeed as global citizens.”

She said that FNU was looking forward to providing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to number of students in the coming year.

Fiji Barefoot College for rural women

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE availability of women's economic empowerment programmes and technical support for the identified women's groups are a step in the right direction.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, during a recent visit to the construction site of the Fiji Vocational Barefoot Vocational Training College in Nadogo, Macuata.

Minister Akbar said that the institution was the first of its kind in the Pacific to train rural women on solar engineering.

"This college will also champion the fight against climate change which Fiji is facing as a small island country and will bring communities much closer to energy independence and sustainability," she said.

"Let us be resilient, lift our voices and be an example to the global community by advocating for the use of Clean and Sustainable Technology to mitigate the effects of climate change and improve the quality of life within our rural communities in

Fiji."

Minister Akbar said that the Fiji Barefoot College which was a solar electrification training centre has been jointly supported by the Government of India and the Fijian Government.

"This is a great investment made by the Fijian Government, to the Ministry of Women, to improve as well as support the economic empowerment of our women in our rural communities," she said.

With construction of the facility expected to be completed next year, Minister Akbar said they're planning to have three semesters at the college where 20 women would be enrolled each semester for solar engineering training.

She added that the college has capacity for other trainings like sewing, beekeeping and others, in the hopes that the institution would benefit rural women and rural communities.



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, during a recent visit to the construction site of the Fiji Vocational Barefoot Vocational Training College in Nadogo, Macuata
Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

Walesi and WiFi hotspots for Labasa Market

JOSAIA RALAGO

LABASA Municipal Market vendors will no longer miss out on the 'infotainment' that many markets around the country now enjoy after the launch of Walesi TV and Wi-Fi Hotspot in their market recently.

This was part of the Fijian Government's \$14.6m budget that was allocated to Walesi to fund the completion of the country's digital switchover project as well as the continuation of installing free Wi-Fi hotspot access and community connectivity to Walesi TV.

Serving at the Labasa market as a vendor for the past 35 years, Amrika Prasad said this would ensure that they could watch the news and sports from the comfort of their tables.

"I have been a vendor here for 35 years and for the first time, I can see that the Government has greatly assisted us through the provision of the Walesi and Wi-Fi hotspot here at the market to ensure that we remain connected with the rest of the world," the 65-year-old said.

"The free Wi-Fi hotspot would ensure that we could do business online especially when dealing with people in Suva or Lautoka, who we usually sell grog to.

"These two initiatives will greatly benefit ven-

dors at the Labasa Market and I would like to thank the Government for including us in this program."

Similar sentiments were also expressed by fellow vendor, Mereseini Veilewayaki, who said that the provision of Walesi TV and Wi-Fi ensures that they were not left behind in a progressing technological era.

"Since everything is online and in order to be up to date with current affairs, we need to be watching the news and this incentive ensures that we could do this from our market tables," Ms Veilewayaki said.

"Some of these vendors would leave their tables early to go watch the games at their homes, but now they could conduct business while doing watching the games."

Attorney-General and Minister for Communications, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while officiating at the launch, highlighted that progressively more municipal markets and public spots would have free Wi-Fi hotspots and Walesi TV to allow Fijians access e-services, information and entertainment.

A total of 11 television sets were installed at the Labasa Market.



Vendors at the Labasa Municipal Market during the launch of the Walesi TV and free WiFi Hotspot.
Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

Rural woman hail internet satellite system



Sereana Ratolo of Dawara Village in Cakaudrove has hailed the Government for allowing internet access in her village. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

JOSAIA RALAGO

INTERNET connectivity is an important tool for development and that is why we are happy with the provision of the satellite system in schools by the Government.

This has allowed villages surrounding the school to access internet, a fact that 42-year-old Sereana Ratolo of Dawara village, which is located in the interior of Cakaudrove, along with other villagers have wholeheartedly welcomed.

The villagers have been able to get better internet connectivity for over a year.

Ms Ratolo said prior to this, internet connection was only accessible after a hike to elevated areas which were not always reliable due to weak signal.

"We are located in on the border of Cakaudrove and Bua, and in an interior location where telecommunication has always been a barrier, the introduction of the satellite system for Dawara District School, has allowed us access the internet to communicate with loved ones, contact medical officers for emergencies, submit reports, fill out forms online instead of travelling to urban areas and be kept abreast with the rest of

the world," she said.

"This initiative has not only benefitted students and teachers at the school, but the community as a whole.

"I think it is an essential part of today's society because of the technological era that we now live in."

The mother of three recently graduated with an Entrepreneurship Certificate through the collaboration between the Nai Soqosoqo Vakamarama ITaukei Cakaudrove and the United States Embassy Economic Recovery Project, with 60 other participants from the province.

"The classes were held over zoom in a span of 11 months and it's completion was only made possible by the internet satellite system present in the school," Ms Ratolo said.

"This Government incentive has opened doors for us rural women, we are able to learn new things, use the internet as a marketing tool for our products and to continue learning through courses like this - and we are able to conduct all these from the comfort of our homes.

"This also ensures that no one is left behind in the country and I would like to thank the Government, and organisations who work tirelessly to ensure the empowerment of rural women."



Naceva women work towards bettering lives



Divisional Commissioner Eastern, Vitale Varo, handing over the equipment and commissioning the home-based solar system on Cicia Island recently.
PHOTO: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

A DESIRE to be self-reliant and to contribute to worthy causes was the main reason for 15 women of Naceva Village on Cicia Island forming a women's group for income generation.

Known as the Nakorolevu VCO Women's Group, the outfit specialises in manufacturing Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO).

Group secretary Sotia Kacimaiwai, while describing their beginning, said the women were all driven to find a source of income.

"That was in 2013 and just as well a team

from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) was in Cicia to conduct VCO workshops and training," Ms Kacimaiwai said.

"We attended one of the trainings and learned a lot which only furthers our determination to be successful."

The women began their VCO business from that training and started generating income for the group and their families.

"We initially marketed our VCO locally and later through relatives in Suva but we knew we will get there."

"Life on the island is hard. The boat visits only once a month and stock normally are just about depleted when the boat from Suva calls in and the cycle starts again."

"We also feel obligated towards our children and to meet their educational needs as we deem their education paramount and must remain a priority for us mothers," Ms Kacimaiwai explains.

With the group generating revenue and their focus set on bigger things, the women decided that a working house will be their next project and the winds of success were behind them all along.

The women were able to build a house of their own and operated from it for some time until a hindrance became obvious.

"We can only work during the day and

the night fuel for our lamps is limited," Ms Kacimaiwai said.

"We thus turned to the island-based agriculture field officer, Cama Tuidalevodra, and discussed ways the ministry can assist with our project. By now it is two fold; one is for new VCO equipment and the second, solar power for our working house."

She further said it was crucial to have a well-lit building as it ensures cleanliness and better products can only be made when they have quality, clean raw materials and are well equipped.

Mr Tuidalevodra was all praise for the Naceva women.

"I've always advised farmers on the island and groups such as the Naceva women that Government will assist those who have taken steps to develop themselves and, in this instance, the women have not only started a business but have also formed a cooperative with the idea to diversify their business," he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture intervened and the women received VCO equipment worth \$5,000 and a few months later their house was equipped with solar-powered electricity.

Divisional Commissioner Eastern, Vitale Varo, recently handed over the equipment and commissioned the home-based solar

system with Government funding to the tune of \$10,000.

"The Government fully supports the development of women and has an initiative in place to support women venture into business," Mr Varo said.

"What we are witnessing here today is the result of a vision that was put into plan and worked to become a reality."

"The move by the women of this village will rekindle business opportunities by establishing a cooperative and diversified into the sales of frozen goods thus bringing a much-needed service to their very own doorstep."

"This is also one way of luring your fellow villagers who have moved to urban centres in search of economic opportunities to return to the village and venture into businesses of their own."

Ms Kacimaiwai further added, "It won't end here though as we have plans to diversify further and become a one-stop shop".

Naceva is one of the five villages on Cicia with the four others being Tarukua, Mabu-la, Naceva, and Lomaji.

Cicia was declared an organic island in 2013 with a monitoring program in place to ensure strict adherence to the initiative.

Paintball Pacific turns into a reality with YES



Dhirish Kumar (second from right) poses for a photo with a group of eight enthusiastic participants ready for battle at the Paintball Pacific arena in Vatuwaqa. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fijian Government's vision of encouraging Fijians towards becoming job creators continues to be a success since the launch of its Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) under the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport (MCTTT).

In commending the initiative and receiving \$30,000 in grant, recipient of YES, Dhirish Kumar, said "the MCTTT found my idea to be innovative, viable and provided me with the grant to assist my business".

"I found out about YES during my tertiary education where I used to research a few business ideas and applied for assistance twice previously with different proposals which were unsuccessful," Mr

Kumar said.

"I had few options and researched on some ideas and during the COVID-19 pandemic my sibling used to play a lot of tactical games which gave me the idea of doing this in Fiji and which brought the business "Paintball Pacific" to Life."

"We have guns, paintballs and masks which are imported while the chest guards are made locally and we are trying to see how we can manufacture something like this in Fiji, in particular the paintball," he added.

Paintball Pacific is a mock battleground where teams can shoot at each other using a gun which shoots paintballs.

"I refined my business idea for two-years and after getting the grant, I managed to set-up the playground within two-weeks on land with a three-year lease which we plan to extend," Mr Ku-

mar said.

"Students play video games such as Garena Free Fire, Far Cry, Call of Duty and PUBG on their phones a lot so we are trying to do something similar except instead of using bullets, we use paintballs."

Paintball Pacific is situated in Vatuwaqa and has been attracting a lot of people since it opened four-months ago and where players enjoy taking part in a fast combat session.

The former teacher encourages people to find out how this game is played and take advantage of discounts through their social media platforms, do the necessary bookings and participate with their family or friends. The minimum number of participants is eight so there are four people per team.

"The paintball game is particularly for

the working people as it gives them an outlet to destress which in turn increases their productivity," he said.

Expanding on future plans, the 30-year-old added, "Our new play area is situated in 10-miles, is eight times bigger than the Vatuwaqa area and where players can take their time to do target practice and also snipe as we will have a sniper tower situated in a jungle and warzone themed playground".

"I encourage the budding entrepreneurs to stick to one idea and keep polishing it until you are satisfied and then apply for grants to set up your business," Mr Kumar advised.

To apply for the YES grant, applicants need to be between the age of 18 to 40 years to qualify for up to \$30,000 to start or expand their original business concepts.

Government ends water woes for Malomalo villages



Minister for Infrastructure and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate with Malomalo and Naidiri villages in the Tikina of Malomalo, in Nadroga after the commissioning of the improved water reticulation system. Photo: SUPPLIED

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

MORE than 80 households in both Malomalo and Naidiri villages in the Tikina of Malomalo, in Nadroga, are grateful to the Government for an improved water reticulation system.

Commissioned by the Minister for Infrastructure and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate, recently, the new water system cost the Government \$737,000 and includes a 90,000-litre water storage tank to cater for both villages.

Minister Usamate told villagers that the supply of clean and sustainable water to each household was one of the Government's top priorities.

"Water also contributes to national development and our personal growth," he said.

"When we have good clean water in our homes and communities, it is also our stepping stone to improved hygiene and better health."

Minister Usamate said that the right to safe and clean drinking water in adequate quantities was enshrined under Section 36 of the 2013 Fijian Constitution.

"To achieve this, Government has set a target under the country's five-year to 20-year National Development Plan for all Fijians to have access to safe and clean drink-

ing water by 2030," he added.

The new metered water system was a project of the Water Authority of Fiji and helps in fulfilling the Government's stance to leave no one behind in the overall development of our nation.

Malomalo village headman, Semi Tanikili, was thankful to the Government for the provision of clean and safe water.

"The women raised the issue during one of our village meetings, expressing concern about the hardship they face in finding water every day," Mr Tanikili said.

"We formally requested Government assistance for a new and improved water supply system through the Provincial Administrator's office, and the Government heard us."

"Naidiri village was also included in the infrastructural development and we are happy that our water woes are now a thing of the past."

Also expressing her delight, Asinate Navahua of Naidiri village, said the daily search for water was now over for women of both villages.

"Water is part of our daily lives, and this new metered system by the Government is a blessing for us all as we now can access piped clean water within the confines of our homes."

Plans in place to make Suva Handicraft Centre a tourist destination

SHEENAL CHARAN

PLANS are in place to make the Suva Handicraft Centre a tourist destination.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Local Government, Premila Kumar while visiting the Suva handicraft centre recently.

She said the cruise liners had started coming to the Suva Port and it was imperative that stakeholders are prepared to receive the tourist and to promote Suva as a destination.

Furthermore, Minister Kumar said the Suva City Council had carried out an assessment of the market space and they were now working on a number of activities to promote Suva Handicraft Centre as a tourist destination, particularly the tourists coming out of cruise liners.

This includes the:

- Re-introduction of Lali Beat programs during berth

- of Cruise Liners at the Suva Port.

- Light entertainment at the market during berth of Cruise Liners at Suva Port.

- Designing and distribution of brochures, both hardcopies and digital.

- The formation of a joint committee that includes the Curio Vendors Association, Suva City Council

- and the Fiji Police, to support and promote Suva as

- a destination.

- Installation of CCTV cameras, which will commence in the coming week for the whole area, funded by the council to mainly improve the security and safety of the place.

Minister Kumar assured the vendors that her line Ministries- Ministry of Local Government and Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts- will work collectively on the creative industry and see how they can develop it to the extent that it was well recognised as one of the economic arm in terms of creating jobs and making the families financially sustainable.

"It is important to promote and protect our cultural heritage so I think it's a win-win situation where we protect our cultural heritage, but at the same time, you're able to make extra money by creating new products and more products for trading," she said.

Minister Koya urges crafters to add recognition to products

SHEENAL CHARAN

THE Fijian Government's priority is to raise the productivity of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by investing in capabilities needed for the future.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, while presenting business training certificates to 19 participants at the Fiji Arts Council office recently.

While acknowledging the crafters for their efforts, Minister Koya encouraged them to register their businesses under the 'Fijian Made - Buy Fijian' brand.

"Entrepreneurship, particularly women entrepreneurs, in Fiji has shown promising progress over the years -- this is due to the proper business environment and support provided to MSMEs," Minister Koya said.

"With your creative talents that allure one's attention, it needs to be recognised and acknowledged that it is locally made," he said.

"Most importantly, with the increase of cruise ships on our shores, it is your opportunity to showcase

your talent with the added recognition of the Fijian crafted emblem on your product.

"With the emblem onto your product, it represents your hard work and effort in achieving economic empowerment. With commitment, partnership and a lot of national pride, we have the ability to produce world-class products and enhance the Fijian Made brand and what it represents."

He added till date, the Ministry has registered over 700 businesses and approximately 6,000 products were registered under the brand.

Minister Koya said they were hoping to roll out more similar trainings in the Western and Northern Divisions, focusing on crafters.

Minister Koya acknowledged the role crafts play in carrying culture- "most treasured parts of our identity"- forward.

Apart from providing a series of business training on business costing, cash flow and marketing plan, the Ministry also looks after the 'Fijian Made-Buy Fijian' Brand - a national brand that businesses can leverage.



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, presents business training certificates to 19 participants at the Fiji Arts Council office recently Photo: SUPPLIED



Mobility devices for differently-abled children



The Ministry of Education permanent secretary, Dr Anjeela Jokhan, during the handover of mobility devices for use by differently-abled Fijian students, together with Ministry of Health and the Frank Hilton Organisation. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

THE Ministry of Education has commended Frank Hilton Organisation for supporting children with disabilities, as well as their efforts in the special education sector through the Hilton Early Intervention Centre and the Hilton Special School.

Ministry Permanent Secretary, Dr Anjeela Jokhan, who was part of the handover of mobility devices for use by differently-abled Fijian students, together with Ministry of Health permanent secretary, Dr James Fong, also thanked other various corporate organisations.

The assistance in the form of basic and intermediate wheelchairs, costing over \$72,000 were received, which will greatly assist children afflicted with Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Delayed Development, Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

This acquisition of the devices was made possible by the generous donations by Bluewater Real Estate, Goodman Fielder, Standss South Pacific Zaggles Investment and Pacific Customs Agencies Ltd-Logistics.

Dr Jokhan thanked Frank Hilton for caring for the needs of some of the most vulnerable young Fijians.

"I assure you the smiles that you will bring to these faces holds true value and knowing that you have helped change many lives is fulfilling indeed," she said.

In the past five years, the Frank Hilton Organisation has supported 174 children.

The wheelchairs will be fitted according to prescription for children being referred through special schools, hospitals, and identified in the community, at no cost.

"Mobility devices open up vistas for differently abled students with access to education and extracurricular activities in school, providing a holistic learning experience and fulfilling our vision of leaving no Fijian child behind," Dr Jokhan said.

"Special and inclusive education has always been a priority of the Government and the Ministry of Education. There are 17 special education schools in the country with 1082 students and 46 special and inclusive education schools with around 365 students."

Frank Hilton provides a range of early detection and intervention programmes through their five key departments - the Audiology, Physiotherapy and Speech Pathology, Positive Behaviour Support and Community Support Departments.

Joep Liloma, a wheelchair technician, said the mobility devices will provide clients with better postural support, assist in moving around and most of all, recipients will get to enjoy life.

(Source: Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts)

Education Ministry invites applications for transport assistance for

The Ministry of Education has called for applications for Transport Assistance for Students for the 2023 Academic Year.

All students in Years 1-13 whose parents'/guardians' combined household income is \$16,000 or less, are eligible to apply for transport assistance.

The Ministry will be piloting an optional online transport assistance application process for students in Years 10-13 for the 2023 Academic Year where parents/guardians can register and apply for transport assistance using a new online Parent/Guardian portal.

This was in line with the Ministry's modernisation strategy which includes the increasing use of online platforms.

The online Parent/Guardian portal will offer a more streamlined application process for families and schools and provide improved communication to parents/guardians on the status of their children's transport applications.

The online Parent/Guardian portal can be found at studentparentportal.edu.gov.fj. Instructions for applying online can be found on the portal, together with the information on the documents that are required to be uploaded with the application.

It is recognised that some families with students in Years 10-13 will not have internet access and/or email addresses to register and apply online. Therefore, it will still be possible for these families to submit a paper application for transport assistance.

Parents/Guardians for students in Years 1-9 for the 2023 Academic Year are required to only submit paper applications for transport assistance to schools.

The online transport application process will be offered to students in Years 1-9 at a later stage.

Parents/Guardians must ensure that they submit an online application or paper Transport Application to their child's school with all the required supporting documentation by 9 December 2022.

More details on the application process for the 2023 application process can be obtained from your child's school.

The Government is providing \$33m in transport assistance to students for the 2022/2023 financial year. The free transport initiative is an attempt by the Fijian Government to reduce the financial burden on parents who are unable to afford the transportation costs involved in sending their children to school.

This will ensure equal access to quality education for all Fijian students from Primary, Secondary and Vocational Schools.

For further queries, please contact the Transport Assistance Helpdesk at email ta.helpdesk@govnet.gov.fj

(Source: Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts)

Children are the leaders of tomorrow: Minister Akbar

MINISTER for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, has urged parents and guardians to be a positive force in the lives of their children.

Speaking at the Ratu Ravuama Vunivalu Kindergarten graduation in Mokani Village, which provides access to quality education for 41 children from seven nearby villages, Minister Akbar said children were "a precious gift from God" and it was very important that parents, guardians and communities provide them with the necessary love and care.

"I am a mother and a grandmother as well as a Minister. We, as parents and grandparents, are such a key and positive force in the life of a child, and I applaud you all for coming here today to celebrate the steps of your children in life's journey".

Minister Akbar said that the Fijian Government has been consistent through the national budgetary process, investing millions into the education sector.

"Education goes a long way and investing in education is one of the most important ways in which we can improve our world. Access to quality education leads to a

reduction in poverty, increases income and economic growth, and increases the chances for one to have a healthy life."

"Having access to education can provide children, who have been marginalised by poverty, ethnicity, disability, location or gender, with the means to engage in academia. Early childhood education is a critical step in the development and learning of a child, preparing them for their future."

She added that graduation ceremonies are important because they allow our children to reflect on their outstanding achievements and celebrate a year of friendship and learning.

"The Fijian Government upholds your right to education therefore, I would like to encourage you all to strive always for your dreams and what you believe in."

"I encourage everyone present here that we need a collective effort in building our children through good values as the children present here are the foundations of our beloved country. Teaching them to behave respectfully towards each other and their parents and teachers, to embrace diversity, and to solve problems through thoughtful negotiation, is critically im-



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar with a student from Ratu Ravuama Vunivalu Kindergarten in Mokani during their graduation ceremony held recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

portant for social cohesion and a peaceful future for Fiji."

"Children are the leaders of tomorrow. Let us ensure we give them all the skills they need to lead their families and Fiji forward," Minister Akbar said.

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



International Volunteer Day acknowledges contribution to society

THE humane impulse to assist and empower others that motivates volunteers rebounds back to them in the form of an enriched life.

While speaking at the opening of the International Volunteer Day celebrations held at Holiday Inn Suva recently, the Ministry of Youth and Sports permanent secretary, Rovereto Nayacalevu, said volunteers offer life skills while expanding their own know-how.

“They empower communities while earning a sense of personal fulfilment at having made a difference in our world”

Mr Nayacalevu said

International Volunteer Day, which was celebrated on December 5 annually, recognises and promotes the tireless work, not just of UN Volunteers, but of volunteers across the globe.

He said that volunteers are the lifeblood of the communities and there was incredible diversity in the community and voluntary sector.

They provide an array of services and activities

that are vital to the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Fiji and the Pacific.

“When an earthquake destroys homes, volunteers prove that human solidarity is shatterproof. When looters aim for cultural property, volunteers safeguard community treasures. When development is lagging, volunteers help enable people to lift themselves out of poverty.”

He added that volunteers provide so many vital services to support communities both individually and in organisations working on specific issues or with population groups such as young people, older people or people with disabilities.

He said the Fijian Government recognised that volunteers are found in wide-ranging spheres of activity.

The 2022 International Volunteer Day celebrated the theme: “Solidarity through Volunteering”.

The campaign “Together, act now” encourages unity and urgent action and drives outreach aimed at promoting, mobilising and advocating for volunteerism as well as recognizing the invaluable contribution of volunteers worldwide.

Also in attendance was the Resident Representative of UNDP Pacific Levan Bouadze.

(Source: Ministry of Youth and Sports)



Ministry of Youth and Sports permanent secretary, Rovereto Nayacalevu with other participants during the commemoration of the International Volunteer Day held at Holiday Inn Suva recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

40 selected Fijian workers urged to focus on goals and create job opportunities



The new group of 40 selected Fijian workers selected for work under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM scheme) with staff of the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations. Photo: SUPPLIED

A NEW group of 40 selected Fijian workers were urged to be dedicated and focused on their work to achieve their set goals and to provide opportunities for other potential Fijian workers to participate under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM scheme).

This advice was given by Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations director for National Occupational Health and Safety Service, Tomasi Kama. “When setting your goals, remember the people that you are leaving behind and who are counting on you to provide for them,” Mr Kama said.

“Your vanua, your Government and your families have faith in you, that you will perform your work to the best of your abilities and also that you will abide by your contractual agreements that you have signed.”

“When you perform your best and fulfil what is required by your employer, you are creating more

opportunities for other potential Fijian workers,” Mr Kama said.

“You, being selected today is due to the good performance of the previous Fijian groups deployed under the scheme, therefore you must do the same for others who have registered and are waiting in the work ready pool,” Mr Kama added.

Mr Kama, on behalf of the Fijian Government, expressed deep appreciation to the returning five approved employers namely Fruitco, SW Labour Solutions, Pickers and Pruners, Labour Solutions Australia (LAS) and Plant Grow Pick (PGP) for having faith in Fijian workers and believing in our people as well as the opportunity to assist Fijians through employment opportunities under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme.

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

FLE Pacific Conference addresses gender issues

LACK of access to sexual and reproductive health services contributes to gender inequalities, discrimination, violence and disempowerment.

This was highlighted by Ministry of Youth and Sports permanent secretary, Rovereto Nayacalevu, while officiating at the opening of the Annual Family Life Education Pacific Conference held at the Warwick Fiji Resort last week.

The two-day conference was aimed at consolidating gains made in advancing Family Life Education (FLE), also referred to as Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), through sharing good practices, innovations, evidence-based approaches and strengthening of its monitoring and evaluation.

Mr Nayacalevu said there was a need for a comprehensive sexuality education roadmap and gender-responsive and rights-based healthcare.

“But we also need to improve the legal and justice system, the education system,

the political system, and the labour market and financial system to deliver for young people,” he said.

“Delegates and all participating stakeholders, I hope that we use the next two days to share our respective experiences and deliberate extensively on key issues around CSE and agree together with all relevant stakeholders on key issues that will need to form the basis of benchmarking the next steps forward in this process,” he said.

“It is my hope that you take back key learnings that we could all utilise in updating our respective agencies’ strategic development plans and align this to National Development Plans.”

He said Comprehensive Sexuality Education was gender sensitive therefore gender equality, women’s rights and women’s empowerment were central to the discourse.

The conference, which was organised by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), brought together 70 participants from eight Pacific countries namely Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia,

Republic of Marshall Islands, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Kiribati.

It also saw participation of regional technical and development partners including the European Union as the main donor along with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

UNFPA director for the Pacific, Iori Kato, said that FLE or CSE was so much beyond just sexuality or sex as it prepared the young people to go through the transition from adolescence into adulthood, when their bodies also goes through lots of changes physically and mentally, in a

safe and healthy and manner, so that they become civic, responsible, productive, and happy adults when they grow up and make meaningful contributions to the socio-economic development and poverty reduction of their family, community, and the entire country.

“The scope and potential of FLE is enormous and so important.”

(Source: Ministry of Youth and Sports)



Participants at the Annual Family Life Education Pacific Conference held at the Warwick Fiji Resort last week. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fiji Focus

President reminds officers of RFMF values



The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, inaugurated the new Republic of Fiji Military Forces Memorial Chapel at the RFMF Force Training Group at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks in Nabua recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

PRASHILA DEVI

“OUR constitutional role is clear and for you to carry out your constitutional role you must position yourselves in an elevated position having a peripheral view of the situation at hand.”

The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, while inaugurating the new Republic of Fiji Military Forces Memorial Chapel at the RFMF Force Training Group at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks in Nabua recently, reminded officers that

in terms of elevation, the RFMF represents truth, integrity and uprightness.

“We have journeyed through some of Fiji’s toughest times and the RFMF has consistently stood by these institutional values,” the Head of State said.

President Katonivere said the new Chapel signifies essential areas of focus - which are change, newness and elevation – these are a change in mindset, priorities, perspectives and importantly, in spirituality.

“Its newness, allows for the introduction of new ideals and philosophies which can be chal-

lenging as it goes against the status quo.”

He also touched upon the RFMF’s five-year strategic plan which stresses the introduction of a new and reformed RFMF that charts a new direction and navigates the course of the organisation during these challenging times.

The role of the Methodist Church of Fiji in the provision of pastoral care to the RFMF since World War 1 was also commended by President Katonivere.

“The deployed chaplains that were within the ranks of the RFMF provided spiritual guidance for the men and women of the service during

deployment, I, personally relied on this spiritual guidance during my deployments until today,” he said.

The old chapel was built in the late 1980’s and the foundation of the old chapel has become the platform on which this new chapel sits.

The new chapel also serves as a memorial for members of the force who passed on and those that served in the various missions overseas through the two world wars and other regional and Middle Eastern conflicts.

Noda Viti

VINAKA NA TUVAKI NI BULA E TAILEVU: PM BAINIMARAMA



Marautaki na Veivuke ki na Vunibokoi District School.

E ra marautaka na nodra sala ni taubale ka vakavaletaki na gonevuli e na Vunibokoi District School e na Tikina o Verata o Tailevu ka vakailavo taka na nodra Valenivolavola na Liuliu ni Matanitu. Vakaitavi e na kena lai soli vakamatanitu na ivakalesilesi liu e na nodra Valenivolavola na Liuliu ni Matanitu o Moape Rokosuka. Tiko na isau vakailavo ni veivakatorocaketaki qo e na 46 na Udolu na Dola ka sa dua dina veivuke levu vei ira na 142 na gonevuli.



JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

E sa dolava oti e 13 na Bose ni Yasana na noda Liuliu ni Matanitu o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ka sa ka ika14 na Bose ni Yasana vakaturaga o Tailevu ka vakayacori e na koro o Naisausau e na Tikina o Namara e na ika24 ni siga ni vula ko Noveba. Vakaraitaka kina na noda Paraiminisita sa

levu sara na cakacaka ni vei-vaka-torocake-taki sa qaravi ena loma ni Yasana o Tailevu me vaka ga na veiyasana kece e Viti. “E dina ni’u gone ni Yasana, ia na vei-qaravi ni nomuni Matanitu e sega ni vakaduiduitaka e dua na uma-tamata se dua na mata-vanua,” e kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama. “Mai na 2014 me yacova na 2021, sa sivia na \$272 na Milioni na Dola sa vaka-

torocake-taki kina na yasana o Tailevu.” “E keitou na raica me yacovi kemuni taucoko na lewenivanua o Tailevu kei na veivanua e Viti na vei-qaravi ni Matanitu.” “Sa levu na vei-qaravi ni Matanitu, ia na tikina ga au gadreva moni kila oya na yasana o Tailevu sa vaka-dinadina-taka na vei-vaka-torocake-taki e qarava na nomuni Matanitu,” e kaya na Liuliu ni Matanitu. “Sa vinaka sara na ituvaki ni bula me

vakatau-vatani ena veigauna sa oti.” Na nomuni Matanitu e rogoca na domomuni, ke rawa ni qarava, ena yalataka me cakacaka-taka ena gauna yalataki. “E sega ni cala vakadua na ivosavosa ka vaka – “e dua ena vakabauti ga ena cakacaka e qarava, ka sega ena levu ni vosa e tukuna”. “Qori na yavu ni noqu vei-qaravi vaka-Paraiminisita.”



Vakadeitaki na veiliutaki vinaka.



Era veivakadeitaki taki tale na noda Liuliu ni Matanitu o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ki vei ira na lewe ni matabose ni yasana vaturaga o Ra ni dei tiko na veiliutaki e na matanitu ka na rogoca na domodra e na veigauna kece sara.

Vosa tiko na noda Liuliu ni Matanitu e na nodra lai dolava na bose ni yasana ka kaya ni sa vakayagataka oti e 74.5 na Milioni na Dola na matanitu e na cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki e na loma ni yasana ka tokoni tiko kina na kena laveti cake na tagede ni bula e na loma ni yasana.

“E toso na cakacaka ni veivakalivalivataki ka tiko na kena isau vakailavo e na 16 na Milioni na Dola ka semati kina na veivanua e se sega tu ni yacovi ira yani na livaliva.”

“Qo e dua na cakacaka ka qai mai qarava

ga na matanitu qo ka ra na vakadinadina-taka na lewe ni vanua e Waimecia, Navesau, Tokaimalo, Delaiyadua kei Namarai,” e kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

Tomana na Paraiminisita ni na vakadodonu taka tale ga na matanitu na iyala ni yasana ka mai veisautaki e na vica na yabaki sa oti.

“Na bose edaidai, meda mai vei-talanoa-taka ga na ituvatuva tarava ni Yasana.”

Ra tomana ka kaya sa da tiko qo na dua na Viti vou. Sa tudei na Matanitu ka ra sa vakila na bula sautu na lewenivanua.

“Ena gauna qo, na Matanitu e qarava na lewenivanua — e sega nira veiqaravi na lewenivanua.”

“Na nodra ciqoma vaka-taucoko na lewenivanua na veisau qori, e ivakarai-taki ni donu na vanua e mua kina na Matanitu.”

Na Draki Veisau kei Cakau



Oira na lewe ni yasana ko Cakaudrove

Ena siga Lotulevu na ika 25 ni Noveba kei na Vakaraubuka na ika26 ni Noveba 2022, era a maqusa na lewe ni yasana o Cakaudrove ena kena sagai me vakavotukana na tatadra ni Komiti ni soqo ena kena sagai mera sarava na itovo ka rogoca na vosa ni vanua e kilai tani o Cakaudrove.



E ulutaga tiko ni soqo siga rua qo na Dra`i Veisau `ei Ca`au se na Draki Veisau kei Cakau. Na iulutaga e vakanamata kina na Yasana ena sasaga ni kena maroroi, taqomaki vakavinaka na iyaubula vakauasivi na kena cibitaki na itovo ni vanua. Qori tale ga na iulutaga era a veisisivi kina vakatikina ena Serenivanua, Vucu, Meke, Vosa, Serekali, vaka tale ga na veisisivi Buiniga, iSulusulu vakavanua, Cakacakani-liga kei na Vakatonuloa e ukutaki matau ena veika era dui divi kina.

Eda raica votu na nodra marautaka na soqo qo nira ucu mai vakatikina e loma ni rara mera mai vakaraitaka na nodra Meke ni va-

nua, Buiniga kei na kena isulusulu vaka kina na serekali kei na vosa. Era veisolevuti vakavanua vakaveiwekani, eda qoroya na nodra vqaqacotaka ka vakadeitaka tiko na isema ni nodra veiwekani Vakadra na lewe ni yasana.

Ni mai cava na siga rua ni soqo, sa qai soli na nodra icocovi na veitikina era a qaqa ena veisisivi. A vakarautaka e via na icocovi na Tabacakacaka ni iTaukei me sala ga ni nodra vakavinavinakataki ena nodra vakabulabulataki tiko ka maroroya na veika era kilai tani kina. Na solevu vaqo ni yasana e dua na tiki ni veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei ka sala ni kena vakabulabulataki na itovo kei na vosa ni vanua.

Na Draki Veisau kei Cakau ka iulutaga ni soqo ni yasana ena yabaki qo 2022 me vaka e rogoci tiko ena vosa kei na serekali, sa nuidei na Tabacakacaka iTaukei nida na mai duavata ena sasaga ni kena Vakacokotaki na vuvale iTaukei, ina Viti vinaka!



Tabana ni Vosa kei na Ilovo Vakaviti

VULAINUQALAILAI

via veidonui kei na Diseba

E vanua, bulabula tiko na were, keli na uvi taumada, vakabibi na vurai. Tei na vurai. Matua na uto. Dreu na maqo, kavika, dawa, vainaviu. Se na nuqanuqa, sinukakala, sekoula – senikau ni siga ni sucu. Dreu na misimisi. Mai baravi, se nasinu, sucu na bulubulu (luveniqlio), kata na qio. Kata tale ga na namu.

Sa ya na lairo me lai dereneke, vakabibi na lairovula. Vakasucu na gogo (tokō), laukana na kena yaloka. Mai wai, toni na wea, koko ena ba na ki, nuqa, cucu, tanabe, cebe (kaikai). Vakaluvani na keteleka, saqa, walu, ikalelevu. E so na vanua sa ta tale kina na balolo.

Meke ni Yavusa Toga



Na meke qo, a bulia e dua na turaga ni Nakorolevu, o Vatiliai Warai Bakalevu mai na mataqali Natavea, Tokatoka Naivonovono, Yavusa Toga.

Ena Lotulevu (24/11/22) ni macawa sa oti, a kidavaki vakavanua kina na iLiuliu ni Matanitu, Voreqe Bainimara ena idola ni Bose ni Yasana o Tailavu a vakayacori e Naisausau, Namara. Ena soqo ni veikidavaki qo, a dodo tale ga kina na matameke iwau ni yavusa o Toga e Nakorolevu me veivakamarautaki.

Na meke qo, a bulia e dua na turaga ni Nakorolevu, o Vatiliai Warai Bakalevu mai na mataqali Natavea, Tokatoka Naivonovono, Yavusa Toga. E tukuni ni meke vou, buli vakatabakidua ena inaki qo.

Ena rua na macawa ni vakavakarau, era yalovata, duavata na lewenikoro ena nodra sasaga me votu na irairai ni meke; e solevaki na kena vakarautaki, ka sega nira tu vakasuka na bati mera qarava na itavi era sa lesi kina.

E iyaunivanua na Meke, ka basika votu na irairai ni yalo ni vanua, ni guilecavi na duidui, me votu na veilomani, duavata, ina kaci ni domo ni vanua, me sa ia na colaivua. Era vakaitavi na lewenikoro kece ena kena vakacokotaki na meke; ka sa idivi kei Namara, ni a buli e dua na kena meke me baleta vakatabakidua na isevu ni Bose ni Yasana me qaravi e Namara, ka kidavaki kina vakavanua na ilakolako vakamataniitu.

Na meke iwau qo, era dui lesi kina na lewenikoro ina nodra itavi; o ira na cauravou era mata ni meke, na marama ena vakarautaki ni ukukuku ni meke kei na ivaqa, o ira na turaga ena vuku ni vakatara kei na veiqaravi raraba, bau kina na

gone ena nodra lai tokona ka sarava na irairai ni meke vou e sa tuva.

Ni qai tudonu na matanisiga ena Lotulevu 24 ni Noveba, sa ucu na matameke i rara mai Naisausau, nira sa wavu tu na bati, sa rogo na bole me voqa ena loma ni vanua. E vakarorogo na matanitu, me sarava na itovo vakavanua matalia qo, nira sa bole na gone bati “...Qarivatu!!!”

O cei tale me tu vakasuka, ni sa voqa cake na iucu ni meke, ka tu vakadua na vanua me rogoca na kaci, me sarava na iyaunivanua mai matanataki qo –na meke.

Me qai tini na meke, era sa marau, ni sa cava na itavi era vakavakarau tiko mai kina; sa ciqoma na vanua na isoli-soli levu era mai vakaraitaka ena nodra meketa na ilakolako vakamataniitu, na turaga paraiminisita, me luva na kena vesa, ni sa cava na itavi; me sauvaki tiko kina na itikitiko vakaturaga i Toga, nodra vanua na Rokotuiveikau.

Sa vakavinavinaka na Tabacakacaka iTaukei ina vanua ena vuku ni veisureti me maroroi ka vakabulabulataki na iyaunivanua talei qo; sa tu na vakanu-inui nina susugi me vakavurea na bula ena vanua, ka basika kina na tiko veisaututaki.

Vinaka Saka Vakalevu Namara.

Ula ube ni vudi meu kerei – qo e dua na vosavosa vakaviti; me vakaibalebale ina qaravi itavi ni vanua, ni rogoci ga na kaci ni vanua, sa ia na colaivua, sega tale nira dau kerei.



Vakaraitaki Cakacakaniliga ni Soqosoqo ni Marama ni Tikina Onoilau

Ni bula
Sa yabaki 50 vakacaca na tauyavu ni soqosoqo vakamarama ni tikina o Onoilau. Ena lotulevu 24.11.2022, era vakaraitaki cakacakaniliga na marama ni tikina mera vakananuma na kena tauyavu na nodra isoqosoqo. E vakananumi na nodra bula na marama lewe ni soqosoqo, ira na sa liu yani, kei ira era se colaivua tiko ena sauvaki ni vanua Naduruvesi vua na goneturaga na Tui Ono.

E talanoataka na iliuliu ni soqosoqo vakamarama o Lavenia Draunivasa na nona dau vakaraici ira na marama mai nakoro ena nodra dau vakaraitaki cakacakaniliga, ra sureti na vakailesilesi vakamatanitu mera lai sarava. Era talitali me qaravi ga kina na vanua. Ia ena gauna qo, sa votu na nodra sasaga na marama nira bucina na kena voli na vale na ONOILAU HALL ka toka e Nadera. Sa vanua ni nodra soqo, mera qarava kina na nodra inakinaki, ka ivurevure tudei ni ilavo ni sa bisinisitaki.

Na vakaraitaki cakacakaniliga, e kune kina na maqosa kei na totoka ni ligadra na marama ni Ono. Na tabukaisi, e tali vakamatailalai ka kulati vakamatau; na ikedre (iroqo ni gone), na so-

lofua, gatu, coco, vakabaji, ibe duadua, delana ena kena veimataqali kei na kena iserau. Bau kina na kesakesa, na waiwai, sasa, na ioro, sulu ni vakamau, bilo ni su kei na kato ni volatabu; na salusalu ena kena dui roka. Sa vakaraitaka na nodra vakavakarau vakavinaka na marama ina nodra siga ni Vakaraitaki Cakacakaniliga.

Ena itukutuku ni ibe (tabukaisi), a tukuni ni a vakayacana o Ratu Sukuna ena nona gade i Ono. Dau kulati ena vau. Ni sa tevu, ena sega tale ni dua na ivakamalumu me davo e delana. Na tura-ga Tui Nayau sa Bale, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, nira raica na ibe qo, era tukuna ni “sega ni ibe me butuki, ia e veiganiti ga me davori.”

Sa Vakavinavinaka na Tabacacaka iTaukei ina vanua Naduruvesi vua na Turaga Tui Ono ni nanumi me dua na nodra siga ni vakaraitaki cakacakaniliga na marama, ena nodra guta mera maroroa na nodra ibe ni vanua, na Tabukaisi.

Sa nuitaki nina vakadewataki na kilaka ni tali ibe tabukaisi veiira na marama e Ono, me bula tiko kina na cakacakaniliga ni vanua qo.

Vinaka Saka Vakalevu.



Na cakacaka ni liga nodra na marama ni Onoilau

Tokoni na tuvatuva ni vakatabui ni qoliqoli



Ko ira na marama ni yasana ko Lau

Eciqomi na veitokoni ni 4 na Tikina e na Yatu Lau e na vuku ni tuvatuva sa navunavu tiko kina na matanitu me baleta na vakatabui ni 8.26 na pasede na qoliqoli e na wasawasa vaka Lau.

Ni oti na veivakararamataki ka vakayacori ena 4 na Tikina o Lomaloma, Mualevu, Cicia kei Nayau e laurai ni sa qai mata ki vei ira na lewe ni vanua na veivanua eso e na sa navuci koto me na vakatabui.

Vakaraitaka na turaga na Tui Cicia o Ratu Metuisela Lutu ni marautaka vakalevu na veivosaki e lai qaravi yani e na koro o Tarukua ni dolava na nodra rai e na veika sa tuvatuva ka kina na matanitu.

“Taumada au marautaka vakalevu ni ra liutaka sara tiko ga mai na ilakolako na turaga na Talai Veivuke kei ira na ivakalesilesi liu e na veitabana vakamatanitu ka matata vinaka na veika e mai vakaraitaki ki vei keimami.”

“Na yanuyan o Cicia e sa vakatokai tu me ‘organic’ ka keimami dei tiko ni vaka-

tatabu qo, dina ni na vakayacori e na daku ni tuba, e na mai vakilai e na neimami qoliqoli ka keimami dau kana mai kina,” e kaya na turaga na Tui Cicia.

Tokona na rai ya o Nacanieli Vulii e na koro o Levukana e Vanua Balavu ka kaya gauna e rogo taumada yani kina ki vei ira na irogorogo o ya e ra nuiqawaqa ka ni nodra qoliqoli e vurevure ni kakana ki vei ira.

“E dua na ka vinaka e ra mai vakayacora qo na ivakalesilesi ka ni dolava na neimami rai na lewe ni yanuyan ko Vanua Balavu ka sa tokoni kina na sasaga yaga qo,” e kaya ko Vulii.

E vaka tale ga kina na rai nei Koresi Ledua e na koro o Narocivo e Nayau.

“I mada e keimami sega sara ni namaka me na vaka qo na kena irairai.”

“Kevaka e da nanumi ira dina na wekada, o ira na luveda e ra na muri keda mai, sa kena gauna vinaka I me da tokona na vakasama vinaka e sa tuvatuva ka kina a weta matanitu.”

Toso na sasaga nei Daniele



E lai dolava na vanua ni gade vei ira na saravanua e Navunikabi e na yasana o Namosi na Minisita ni Saravanua o Faiyaz Koya.

Taukena na vanua ni veiqaravi e Navunikabi o Daniele Sovatabua ka marautaka na veika e dodoliga yani kina na matanitu ka tiko na kena isau vakai lavo e na 24 na Udolu na Dola. Sa rawa kina me toso tale na veiqaravi e Navunikabi e na nodra qaravi na dau saravanua.

Digidigi ena Siga ni Veidigidigi Tiseba 14

NA tiki ni siga ni veidigidigi ena Tiseba 14m ni 2022 e siga namaki veikeda kece na lewenivanua e Viti. Baleta ni oqo na siga namaki kina meda veidigidigitaka kina na noda mata kina Bose Lawa levu kei Viti, ka vakakina na kena digitaki na liuliu vou ni noda matanitu me vaka na kena ivakarau ni oti e va na yabaki ni veiliutaki vakamatanitu. Era sa veivakananumi tiko kina na liuliu ni tabana ni veidigidigi ko Mohamed Shaneem meda maka taka na Tiseba 14 ni siga ni veidigidigi.

Na veika edodonu mera vakarautaka na tabana oqo era sa vakayacora kece sara vakamatau me baleta na siga namaki oqo. Esa na qai vo walega na itavi ni lewenivanua mera vakayacora nodra itavi, yaco yani vakalewevu ena vanua ni veidigidigi era sa volai kina ka mera laki tauca na nodra digidigi.

Era sa kacivaka talega na liuliu ni tabana ni veidigidigi, Mohamed Saneem na nodra

dui naba ni veidigidigi na mata mai na veisoqosoqo vakapolitiki era sa vakacuruma main a yacadra ka sa vakadonui mera vakaitavi talega ena veidigidigi.

Sa namaki talega nira na solia na nodra veitokoni na veimata soqosoqo ni politiki vua na tabana ni veidigidigi ena kena vakamuria vakavinaka sara ba law ani veiqaravi ena veidigidigi me vaka esa vauci tu vakalawa ni noda vanua.

Sa tiko talega na vakanananu kei vakamasu vei ira lewenivanua kece saraga mera na dau vakamuria Vinaka ka rokova talega na nodra itutu na ivakalesilesi ni tabana ni veidigidigi era na veiqaravi tiko ena siga bibi oqori.

Era na veiqaravi veivolekati talega kina na tabana ni ovisa ena kena yadravi vakavina-ka na tuvatuva kece sara ni veidigidigi me yacova na kena mai vakacavari Vinaka.



Vakabulabulataki ni Tali ibe Kula Voivoi

Ena ika24 ni siga ni vula o Okotova a vakayacori kina na vuli ni Vakabulabulataki ni Vuku iTaukei ena koro o Nasesara, na tikina o Moturiki ena yasana o Lomaiviti. Na inaki ni veiqaravi qo oya na kena sagai me vakawaci na vuku ka taukena na vanua.



Bose ni yasana ko Tailevu



REKI O MALOMALO E NA VEIVAKATOROCAKETAKI NI WAI

Era soqo e na reki kei na marau na lewe ni koro e rua o Malomalo kei Naidiri e na tikina o Malomalo e Nadroga e na kena sa dola vakamatanitu na nodra veivakatorocaketaki ni wai ka dodoliga yani kina na matanitu.

Vakayacori na soqo qo e na siga Varaubuka na ika 2 ni siga ni vula qo ka a vakaitavi kina na Minisita o Jone Usamate.

Tiko na kena isau vakailavo ena vitu na drau ka tolu sagavulu ka vitu na udolu na dola (\$737k).

“Na cakacaka levu ka mai dolavi nikua ena nodatou koro vakaturaga e vagunuva e rauta ni onosagavulu (60) na vuvale ka wili kina na kena tara e dua (1) na so ni wai ka tawana e ciwa sagavulu na lita na wai (90,000 liters).” e kaya ko Minisita Usamate.

“Au gadreva talega meu vakadreti keda me kua ni vakasabusabu taki na wai.”

“Sa itavi ni matanitu na kena kau mai na wai ena nodatou koro vakaturaga – ka sa noda itavi o keda me da yadrava ka qarau-na me vakayagataki vaka gumatua na wai ka me kakua ni lusi.”

“Na vakadrodroi se gunuvi ni wai savasava e tiki ni noda veivakatorocaketaki na lewenivanua ka bau kina na noda kawa ena

siga ni mataka.”

Tomana na Minista ka kaya ni noda semati kina wai savasava e sega walega ni kawakawa ni bula ni veivakatorocaketaki ia e yavu dei talega kina bula sautu.

“Ena rai oqo, e cakacaka vakaukauwa sara tiko na nomuni matanitu ena kena vakavotukanataki na lalawa se na ituvatuva levu ni vakadrodroi ni wai savasava vei keda kece.”



na lewenivanua ko Malomalo era marautaka na tavoci ni nodra wai ni gunu savasava



OTI NA LEQA NI WAI E KADE

E sa oti vakadua na leqa ni wai e rad au sotava tiko na lewe ni koro o Kade e na yanuyanu o Koro.
Qo ni oti na nodra lai solia vakamatanitu na veivakatorocaketaki ni wain a Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki e na Taudaku ni Veikoro Lelevu o Inia Seruiratu.
E na nodra vosa na Minisita e vakabibi taka kina na cakacaka vata ka vakaraitaka kina ni wali ni leqa ni wai e Kade e rawa ga e na nodra cakacaka vata na veisoqosoqo e na taudaku ni matanitu vata kei na Matanitu.

“Qo e sa tekitekivu ni dua na ilakolako vou,” e kaya ko Minisita Seruiratu.
“Rawati na cakacaka qo e na duavata ni veisoqosoqo e so kei na matanitu ka sa vakavinavina taki tale ga na veitokoni nil ewe ni koro e na kena qaravi na cakacaka sa rawa kina me da mai vakadinadinataka tu nikua na wai ka sa vakagunuva tiko na koro o Kade.”
E vakailavo taka na vakavinakataki ni wai e Kade na Minisitiri ni Veivakatorocaketaki e na Taudaku ni Veikoro Lelevu, na VaiWai na lotu na LDS ka qarava na cakacaka na Rotary Pacific Water for Life Foundation.

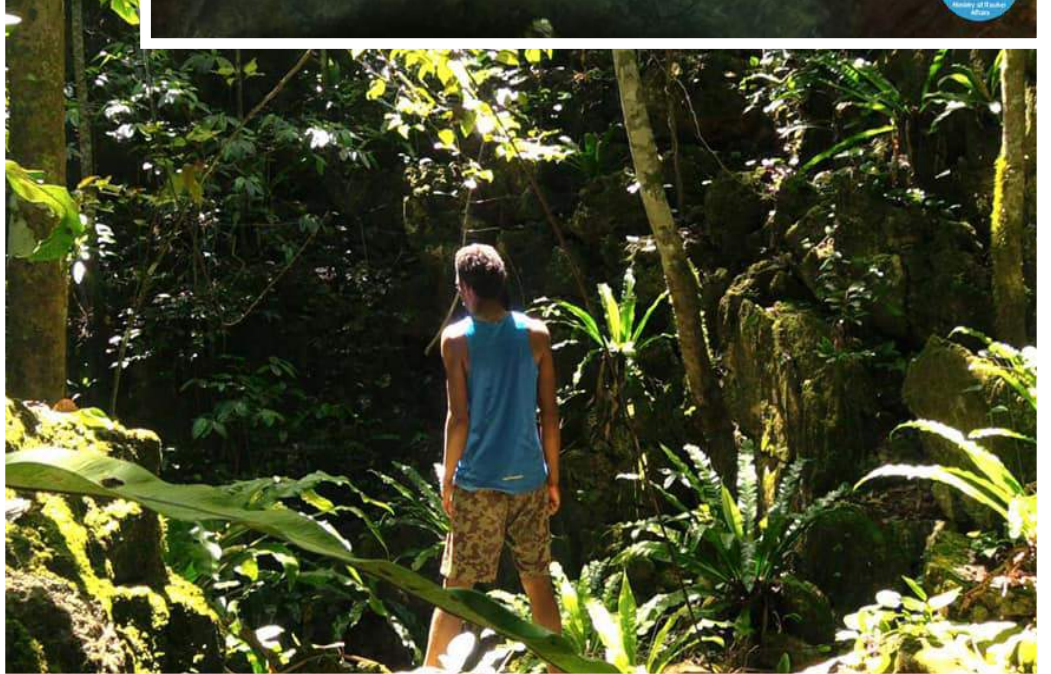
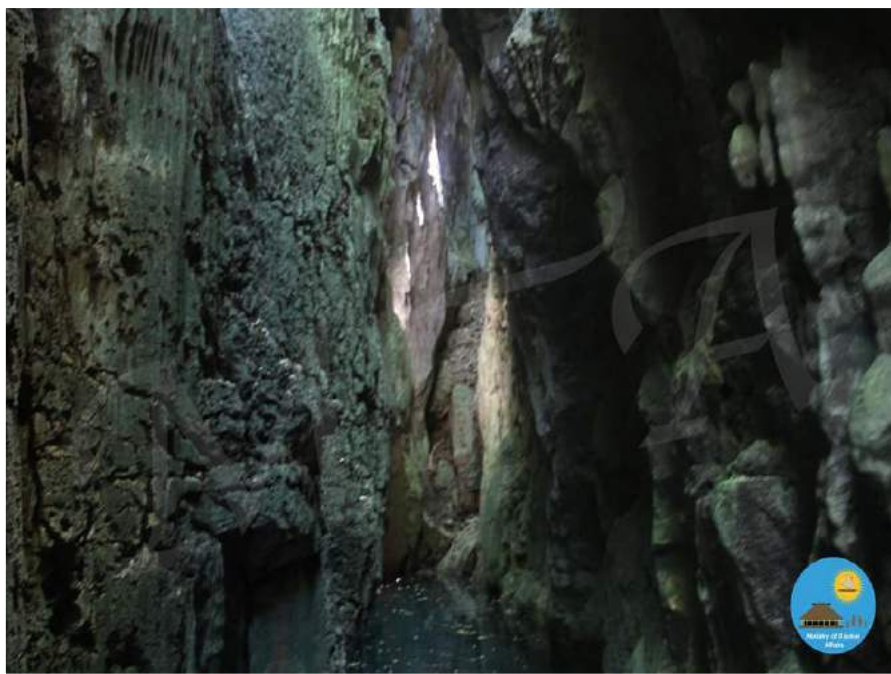


Era marautaka na lewenivanua ni koro o Kade na dolavi ni medra wai ni gunu savasava.



Noda Viti

NA VANUA - NA ISOLISOLI NI KALOU



Siga Lagilagi nodra mai kacivaka na Peresitedi na tiki ni siga ni veidigidigi. Era tab ana Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni matabose ni veidigidigi.

Na Qara Ni Kawakawa

Na noqu itaukei – e sega ni noqu digidigi, ia ni yaco vakakina – au kalougata vakalevu niu okati ena dua na vanua, vakasuluma vata kaya na dauniveibuli na veika e tu wavaloti au meu vakatawa. Na vanua e okati kina na qele, iqoliqoli, veika bula, tamata, bau kina na itovo kei na kena veiwekani.

Na irairai ni vanua e tukuni keda, eda na dui sakitaka ga ni keda idivi ena veivanua duidui eda cavutu mai kina. E okati me noda iyau – e cibi na yaloda ke kacivaki, e mosi tale ga na yaloda ke vakatanitaki mai na yavu era vakamenemenea kina na noda qase.

Sa rogolevu na italanoa ni urabuta mai Vatulele e Nadroga/Navosa, sa sarava o

vuravura na kena talei ni talevi vakawa-soma vei ira na dausaravanua. E bau tale ga kina mai Naweni e Savusavu ena urabuta, na vonu kacivi mai Nacamaki, Koro kei na ceva ni vanua kei Viti mai Kadavu – era okati me noda isakisaki.

Eda na sikovi Vanuavatu tale mada meda na rogoca tale ga e dua na itukutuku matanidavui, e vica ga era kila – oya na Qara ni Kawakawa. Ena veivakadonui nei Joji Mate na kawa ni Bete ena yavusa Nau-luvatu – itokatoka Ligaulevu, mataqali o Korokula, eda na vakacakulea mada se cava na italanoa ni Qara ni kawakawa ena yanuyanu o Vanuavatu.

Na Qara ni Kawakawa qo - e toka ena ceva

ni yanuyanu, 1300 na mita vakarivirivi mai na koro era tiko kina nikua. E toka ena baravi, vakatokai o Nukuleka ena nodratou kovukovu na mataqali Rukunikoro, na Tui Vanua.

E 3 na ivakatawa ni Qara ni Kawakawa - kawakawa vula, Uradamu kei na Gata Sivi. Na Kawakawa vula, e sega ni vaka na Kawakawa ni wasawasa, e vulavula ka rawa ni laurai ni nawa tu vakayawa. Na ura damu - e via tautauvata kei na noda iqaqalo na kena levu. Na gata sivi – e gata caga rua, sega ni bula e vanua, e bula ga e wai.

E vakaitovotaki na Veisiko – eda na tama ka duidui na vanua e tamaki – na kena ika-tolu, nida sa donuya yani na gusuni qara. E

rua na kena tabu, kena imatai na isulu da-mudamu, na kena ikarua, oya na vakatatabu ni dusia na ka o raica kevaka era sa vura mai eloma ni qara. Sa vuqa na vulagi era sa talevi Vanuavatu oti - sa nodra italanoa lesu na Qara ni kawakawa kei na kena ituvaki.

Ena veivanua era tu kina na lewei Nau-luvatu – qo na nodra isakisaki, e lagataki ka seretaki me tukuni tiko ga na veisemati ni Tamata kei na nona iYaubula. E sega ni vakabekataki ni tiko ga ena loma ni vuvala vakaBete na kena lewa meratou imamaro-roi ni veiyaubula eso. Eso e kaya ni rawa ni vakavure iyau vei ratou – ia ena qai tukuna ga o gauna na kena matata.

फीजी दर्पण

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9, 2022

18 PAGES | ISSUE 16 VOL 13 | WWW.FIJI.GOV.FJ

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प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमारामा, ताईलेवू प्रांतिए काउन्सिल की बैठक का उद्घाटन करने के बाद कोरोवासियों के साथ

चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर

“ताएलेवू अब एक बेहतर स्थान है” पी एम

सोनम सामी

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमारामा ने अभी हाल ही नामारा, ताएलेवू के नईसाउसाउ कोरो में ताएलेवू प्रांतिए काउन्सिल की बैठक का उद्घाटन किया।

वहाँ मौजूद विभिन्न प्रतिनिधियों तथा सरकारी कर्मचारियों से प्रधान मंत्री ने अपने गृह प्रांत के सदस्यों के बीच होने की प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की।

उन्होंने बताया कि पूरे देश में तेरह काउन्सिल की बैठक करने के बाद इस यात्रा को अपने गृह प्रांत में समाप्त करना

अच्छा महसूस हो रहा है।

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमारामा ने कहा कि वह अपनी कहानी साझा करने आए हैं जो उन्होंने पूरे साल अपनी हर बैठक में बयान किया है।

उन्होंने कहा कि यह फीजी के इतिहास में सबसे अच्छे वर्षों के बारे में एक कहानी है, जिन वर्षों में हमने देश को बेहतर बनाने के लिए बदलाव किया और बड़ी से बड़ी चुनौतियों का सामना किया। यह एक ऐसी कहानी है जो हमें लिखते रहना चाहिए और इसे जारी रखना चाहिए।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि ताएलेवू हर कदम पर राष्ट्रीय यात्रा का हिस्सा रहा है और उसे

प्रगति का अवसर भी मिला है।

उन्होंने बताया कि फीजियन सरकार ने 2014 से 2021 तक ताएलेवू प्रांत में \$272 मिलीयन डोलर की पूंजी लगाई है। \$79.4 मिलीयन डोलर से ज्यादा सौशल पेंशन कार्यक्रमों, गरीबी दूर के पहलों और विकलांग लोगों के लिए कार्यक्रमों में लगाया गया है ताकि उन लोगों की रक्षा की जा सके जिन्हें सुरक्षा की सबसे ज्यादा जरूरत है।

सरकार ने \$31.5 मिलियन डोलर आध्यात्मिक संरचना विकास कार्यों में लगाया है जैसे वाईदालिदे पुल, दाउताता-दाईदोका रास्ता, किउवा-कांबा रोड, नांदाली बाएपास,

कसावू रास्ते पर मरम्मत, नतीला रोड, विसा-अनिजिओकी रोड तथा नमाका कोरो का एक्सेस रोड पर बढ़नती के कार्य हो रहे हैं।

प्रधानमंत्री ने बताया कि सरकार हमारी हवाई सेवाओं में सुधार की आवश्यकता को पहचानती है और इसीलिए नौसोरी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के नवीनीकरण के लिये \$54 मिलीयन का उपयोग किया गया है।

उन्होंने कहा कि हालांकि यह बहुत महंगा है पर हमारी प्रतिबद्धता दृढ़ है- हम अपने समुदायों को सर्वोत्तम सेवाओं से जोड़ने के लिए हर संभव प्रयास करेंगे।

बेसहारे को शरण



विमन चिलरन और पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्रालय, सेंट विन्संट डी पोल होम्स चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

विमन, चिलरन और पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्रालय तथा सेंट विन्संट डे पोल होम्स ने एक समझौता तैयार किया है जहाँ वे फीजी में बेघर और सड़क पर रहने वालों के लिए शरण प्रदान कर रहे हैं।

सेंट विन्संट डे पोल होम फीजीयन सरकार के साथ इस सेवा के मंच पर सालों से मिल कर काम कर रहा है। विमन, चिलरन और पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने कहा कि सेंट विन्संट डे पोल होम के पेशेवर प्रबंधकों को इस वित्तीय वर्ष इन निवासियों की देखभाल के लिए अनुबंधित किया गया है।

इस समझौते के मुताबिक सेंट विन्संट डे पोल होम को \$100,000 डोलर नय अनुदान के चलते 2022-2023 वित्तीय वर्ष में मनो-समाजिक और सड़क पर रहने वालों की सहायता के लिए दिया गया है।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि फीजीयन सरकार ने एक समग्र दृष्टिकोण अपनाया है और कमजोर लोगो, सड़क पर भीख माँगने वालों और सड़क पर रहने वालों को निवारक और उत्तरदायी प्रदान करने वाले सामाजिक कल्याण कार्य कर्मों को रणनितियों और कार्यक्रमों से गरीबी कम करना और लगातार मजबूत बना रहा है।

संगठनों को यह अनुदान मनो-समाजिक और सड़क पर रहने वालों की सहायता के लिए नया पहल है जो हर एक फीजी वासियों की गुणवत्तापूर्ण सामाजिक सेवाओं और आजीविका गतिविधियों तक पहुंच सुधार होगा। मंत्री अकबर ने बताया कि हमे अपने परिवार के कमजोर लोगो की जिम्मेदारी लेनी चाहिए। जबकि सुविधा तत्काल समाधान के लिए एक आधा घर हो सकता है, यह हमारे समाज में इस सामाजिक मुद्दे से निपटने में मंत्रालय, गैर-सरकारी संगठनों, व्यापार भागीदारों, विश्वास आधारित संगठनों और समुदाय के सदस्यों जैसे भागीदारों के साथ सहयोग करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

ग्रामीण इलाकों की गर्भवती महिलाओं के लिए फूड वाउचर

सोनम सामी

जिन माताओं को यह सहायता मिल सकती है में शामिल है:

- वो महिलाएं जो ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य सुविधा बच्चे के जन्म से पहले और जन्म के बाद रोजाना देखभाल के लिए जाती हो;
- अगर कोई भारी खतरे वाला मामला आ जाए तो गर्भवती महिलाओं को जन्म से पहले उनके इलाके से शहरी अस्पताल में दाखिल कर दिया जाएगा;
- आमदनी वाली कोई श्रेणी लागू नहीं की जाएगी;
- सरकारी कर्मचारी इस फूड वाउचर सहायता के योग्य नहीं हैं;
- कितनी महीने वो अस्पताल जाती है के आधार पर उन्हें दस वाउचर दिए जाएंगे;
- यह सहायता उन माताओं को दी जाएगी जो बच्चा हो ने से पहले नौ महीने तक और बच्चा होने के एक महीने बाद तक अस्पताल जाती हैं।
- सिर्फ वही माताएं योग्य हैं जो गर्भवस्था की स्थिति में हैं और बच्चा होने के बाद एक महीने तक अस्पताल जाती हो;
- स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रम के चलते यह सहायता सिमित तौर से तीन बार प्रदान की जाएगी;
- एक ही परिवार से एक से ज़्यादा लोगों को सहायता मिल सकती है;
- सहायता पाने वाले को सौशल वेलफेयर सहायता नहीं मिलनी चाहिए। यह जाँच MSWWPA मुख्यालय द्वारा की जाएगी; तथा
- फूड वाउचर के बदले, नकद वाउचर और बैंक डिपोजीट भी किए जा सकते हैं अगर MSWWPA समझौते के तहत भोजन वाले विक्रेता उपलब्ध नहीं है।

अर्जी लगाने के लिए इस लिंक पर क्लिक करे <http://www.mwcpa.gov.fj/images/folders/Form.pdf> या किसी भी ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य सुविधा जाए।

चालिस कर्मचारी चुने गए

सोनम सामी

चालिस नए व्यक्तियों को पेरिफिक औरस्ट्रेलिया लैबा मोबिलिटी कार्यक्रम के चलते औरस्ट्रेलिया जाकर काम करने के लिए चुना गया है।

रोजगार मंत्रालय के डायरेक्टर ओकुपेशनल हेल्थ एंड सेफ्टी श्री तोमासी कामा ने कर्मचारियों को अपना लक्ष्य बनाने और फीजी में अन्य संभावित कर्मचारियों को भाग लेने के अवसर प्रदान करने की माँग की है। उन्होंने इन चालीस कर्मचारियों को बताया कि वे अपना लक्ष्य बनाते समय यह ध्यान में रखे कि वे उन लोगों को पीछे छोड़ कर जा रहे हैं जो उनपर निर्भर हैं।

“आपके गाँव के लोग, सरकार और आपके परिवार को आप पर भरोसा है कि आप अपने सर्वश्रेष्ठ क्षमता से काम करेंगे और अपने कोनट्रेक्ट समझते का

पालन करेंगे,” श्री कामा ने कहा।

उन्होंने कर्मचारियों को समझाया कि अगर वे अपने नियोक्ता के दिए हुए काम अच्छी तरह से करते हैं तो वे अन्य लोगों के लिए भी रास्ता बना रहे हैं।

उन्होंने कर्मचारियों को याद दिलाया कि आज वे चुने गए हैं क्योंकि इससे पहले के कर्मचारियों ने अपना अच्छा काम दिखाया था और अब उनसे भी यही आशा की जा रही है।

श्री कामा ने फीजीयन सरकार की ओर से पाँच नियोक्ताओं जिनमें फरूटको, एस डब्लू लैबा सोलूशन्स, पिकर्स एंड प्ररुनर्स, लैबा सोलूशन्स औरस्ट्रेलिया और प्लांट गो पिक को धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने फीजी के लोगों को मौका दिया और फीजी के कर्मचारियों पर भरोसा किया कि वे पेरिफिक औरस्ट्रेलिया लैबा मोबिलिटी कार्यक्रम के चलते काम करेंगे।



चालिस फीजीवासियों को औरस्ट्रेलिया में नौकरी मिलने की खुशियाँ बाँटते हुए

प्रदान किया गया

मंत्री कोया ने कारिगरों के काम की सराहना की



कोमस, ट्रैड, टूरिज्म तथा ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्री फईयाज़ कोया, कारिगरों को पुरस्कार देने के बाद

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

फीजियन सरकार की यह प्राथमिकता रही है कि भविष्य को बेहतर बनाने के लिए उत्पाद को माएकरो, स्मोल, मीडियम एन्ट्राप्रायस में लोगों की क्षमताओं में निवेश करने की जरूरत है।

यह कहना है कोमर्स, ट्रैड, टूरिज्म तथा ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्री फईयाज़ कोया का जिन्होंने अभी हाल ही में कुछ कारिगरों को फीजी आर्ट्स काउंसिल ऑफिस में व्यवसाय प्रशिक्षण सर्टीफिकेट प्रस्तुत किया। कारिगरों के काम की सरहाना करते हुए मंत्री कोया ने उन्हें प्रोत्साहित किया कि वे अपना व्यवसाय फीजियन मेड-बाए फीजियन ब्रैंड के नीचे रजिस्ट्रार करें।

उन्होंने वहाँ उपस्थित लोगों को बताया कि उनके पास

ऐसा हुनर है जो लोगों को आकर्षित करता है और इसकी सरहाना और पहचान की जरूरत है जबकि यह स्थानीय रूप में बनाया गया है। मंत्री कोया ने उन्हें बताया कि जबकि कई टूरिस्ट बोट फीजी आ रहे हैं तो यह अच्छा मौका है फीजियन प्रतीक कारिगरी को दिखाने का। और इस प्रतिबद्ध, साझेदारी और राष्ट्रीय गौरव को पेश करने का तथा फीजी में बने ब्रैंड को बढ़ाने और दिखाना कि यह क्या दर्शाता है।

उन्होंने बताया कि अभी तक सात सौ व्यवसायों ने रजिस्ट्रार किया है जबकि छ हजार उत्पादों को ब्रैंड के नीचे रजिस्ट्रार किया गया है।

मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि इस तरह के ट्रेनिंग पक्षिशन और उतरी विभाग में करने की आशा कर रहे हैं जो कारिगरो पर केंद्रित होगा।

हर एक बूंद कीमती है



इन्फस्ट्रक्चर एंड मिटीयोरोलोजिकल सेविसस मंत्री चोने उसामाते नमाता प्रायमरी स्कूल के बच्चों के साथ

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

नंड़ोन्गा के नमाता प्रायमरी स्कूल में अभी हाल ही लेन्ड्स एन्ड मिनरल रिसोसास, इन्फस्ट्रक्चर एन्ड मिटीयोरोलोजिकल सेविसस मंत्री चोने उसामाते ने \$83,000 डोलर लागत का बोहोल परियोजना का उद्घाटन किया जिससे तिहत्तर (73) विद्यार्थियों और पाँच शिक्षकों को लाभ होगा।

विद्यार्थियों और शिक्षकों से बातें करते हुए मंत्री ने उनके धैर्य के लिए उन्हें धन्यवाद किया।

पर्याप्त मात्रा में सुरक्षित और स्वच्छ पीने वाला पानी हमारे 2013 संविधान धारा 36 के तहत हमारा हक है और इसे पाने के लिए हमने फीजी की पाँच साल से बीस साल की राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना के तहत सभी फीजीवासियों के लिए

शिक्षा मंत्रालय छात्रों को 2023 साल के ट्रान्सपोर्ट सहायता की अर्जी लगाने की मांग कर रहे हैं

सोनम सामी

शिक्षा मंत्रालय 2023 शैक्षिक वर्ष के लिए छात्रों की ट्रान्सपोर्ट सहायता की अर्जी लगाने की मांग कर रहे हैं। ईया एक से तेरह के विद्यार्थी जिनके माता-पिता की घरेलू आमदनी सोलह हजार से कम है इस ट्रान्सपोर्ट सहायता की अर्जी लगाने के लिए योग्य हैं।

मंत्रालय ने एक नया पोर्टल तैयार किया है जहाँ ईया दस से तेरह छात्रों के माता-पिता ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रार होकर ट्रान्सपोर्ट सहायता की अर्जी लगा सकते हैं।

यह मंत्रालय के अधुनिकरण रणनीति का हिस्सा है ताकि ऑनलाइन मंच का ज्यादा इस्तेमाल हो सके। यह मंच माता-पिताओं को खुद इसे भरने की अनुमति देगा, और उनके बच्चों की ट्रान्सपोर्ट सहायता के दर्जा का संचार भी उपलब्ध रहेगा।

यह पोर्टल studentparentsportal.edu.gov.fj पर मिलेगा और अर्जी के साथ अपलोड किए जाने वाले आवश्यक दस्तावेजों की जानकारी के साथ ऑनलाइन अर्जी करने का निर्देश पोर्टल पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

हम समझते हैं कि कुछ ईया दस से तेरह छात्रों के माता-पिताओं के पास इन्टानेट या इमेल एड्रेस नहीं है ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रार होने के लिए इसिलिय आप पैपर पर अर्जी भी लगा सकते हैं।

ईया एक से नौ छात्रों के माता-पिता से माँग की जा रही है कि वे ट्रान्सपोर्ट सहायता की अर्जी स्कूल में पैपर पर लगाए। ईया एक से नौ छात्रों के ऑनलाइन अर्जी का पोर्टल बाद में तैयार किया जाएगा।

माता-पिता से माँग की जा रही है कि वे ऑनलाइन या पैपर पर ट्रान्सपोर्ट सहायता की अर्जी सहायक दास्तावेजों के साथ नौ डिसेम्बर 2022 तक पूरा कर ले। इस पर और जानकारी आपके बच्चे के स्कूल से भी प्राप्त हो सकती है।

2022/ 2023 वित्तीय वर्ष में सरकार ने ट्रान्सपोर्ट सहायता के लिए \$33 मिलीयन डोलर प्रदान कर रहा है। यह मुफ्त में ट्रान्सपोर्ट सहायता सरकार द्वारा उन माता-पिता पर वित्तीय बोझ को कम करने का एक प्रयास है जो उन्हें अपने बच्चों को स्कूल भेजने में असमर्थ हैं। इस सहायता से सभी बच्चे जो प्रायमरी, सेकन्डरी और वोक्शेनल स्कूल में हैं को गुणवत्ता शिक्षा प्राप्त होगी। और जानकारी के लिए आप ट्रान्सपोर्ट सहायता हेल्पडेस्क पर इमेल करें ta.helpdesk@govnet.gov.fj

2030 तक सुरक्षित और स्वच्छ पीने वाला पानी तक पहुंच बनाने का लक्ष्य रखा है।

उन्होंने वहाँ के लोगों को बताया कि अब से वे न केवल स्वच्छ पानी का आनंद लेंगे, बल्कि इससे उनके जीवन में सुधार होगा क्योंकि उनके पास अब गुणवत्तापूर्ण पानी की बेहतर, विश्वसनिय और पर्याप्त आपूर्ति है।

मंत्री उसामाते ने स्कूल के संचालकों को अपने पानी की स्रोत का प्रबंध करने और बारिश होने पर जल इकट्ठा करने के लिए आगाह किया।

उन्होंने बताया कि पानी को दुषित होने के किसी भी संभावित कारणों से संरक्षित किया जाना चाहिए और अच्छी तरह से प्रबंधित किया जाना चाहिए और किसी भी छोटी मोटी समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए यह अंतिम स्रोत के रूप में इस्तेमाल नहीं करना चाहिए।

मंत्री उसामाते ने विद्यार्थियों और शिक्षकों से आग्रह किया कि सरकार ने उनके दरवाजे तक पीने का साफ पानी लेकर आई है और यह सुनिश्चित करना उनकी जिम्मेदारी है कि इसका सदुपयोग हो।

पानी का हर एक बूंद कीमती है। आप इसकी कीमत को समझिए।



अटोनी-जेनरल का सम्मेलन

अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने पिछले हफ्ते नान्दी स्थित शराटन फीजी रिज़ोट एन्ड स्पा में आयोजित चौबीसवें अटोनी जेनरल सम्मेलन में वकीलों को याद दिलाया कि वे ध्यान में रखें कि कोई भी न्याय से वंचित न हो। उन्होंने बताया कि कुछ साल पहले सरकार ने युनिसेफ के साथ मिलकर देश के कानूनों में खामियों की पहचान की थी ताकि किसी के भी अधिकारों को कुचला न जाए। उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि देश में बहुत कम काउन्सलर हैं तथा स्कूलों में अद्यापकों की भी भूमिका निभानी पड़ रही है। “हम लोगों को काउन्सलर बनने के लिए छात्रवृत्ति प्रदान कर रहे हैं ताकि इस कमी को पूर्ति हो सके।

चित्र: ननिस नईमिला



शिक्षा हासिल करने और अर्थव्यवस्था में सहयोग का अवसर

फीजी नेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी की सरहाना करनी चाहिए जो शहरी और समाजों में प्रशिक्षण के तरीकों से फीजीवासियों को कुशल और बाजार में आने के लिए तैयार करने के अवसर प्रदान करती है। “फीजियन सरकार का आदर्श वाक्यांश “किसी को पीछे न छोड़ें” प्रावधान सभी के लिय एक समान है और मुझे खुशी है कि लोग इस अवसर का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।” यह कहना है विमन, चिल्वन और पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर का जिन्होंने अभी हाल ही तरह प्रतिभागियों को माँस के व्यवसाय में प्रशिक्षण लेने के बाद सर्टीफिकेट्स प्रदान किया। यह ट्रेनिंग फीजी नेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी द्वारा आयोजित किया गया था। चित्र प्रदान किया गया



कोरोवूतो प्राथमरी स्कूल का ग्रेजुएशन

शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार अभी हाल ही में नांदी के बैवओ कौव रिज़ोट में कोरोवूतो प्राथमरी स्कूल के ग्रेजुएशन समारोह में मुख्य मेहमान थी। उन्होंने बच्चों को बताया कि इस तरह के आयोजन उन्हें प्रोत्साहित करते हैं ताकि वे और आगे बढ़ें। मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने बताया कि जो विषय चुना गया है वह है कि अपने सपने को साकार करने के लिए परिस्थितियों में लचीलापन देना जो कि ज़िन्दगी में आगे बढ़ने के लिए आवश्यक है।



चीन के राष्ट्र दूत मेडल से सम्मानित हुए

फीजी के राष्ट्रपति महामाहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे ने अभी हाल ही सरकारी भवन में आयोजित एक खास सम्मान समारोह में चीन राष्ट्र दूत महामहीम कियान बो को सम्मानार्थ अधिकारी के मेडल से उन्हें सम्मानित किया। राष्ट्रपति रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे ने महामहीम कियान बो को धन्यवाद देते हुए कहा कि उन्होंने दो हजार अटठारह में शुरू हुए उनके कार्यकाल के दौरान बड़ी उपलब्धियाँ हासिल की है। उन्होंने बताया कि महामहीम कियान बो ने चीन गणराज्य के राजदूत के रूप में सेवा का गौरवपूर्ण रिकॉर्ड कायम किया है। उनकी अगुवाई में चीन और फीजी का संबंध कठिन परिस्थितियों में और भी मज़बूत हुआ है।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान क्या करना है

1. विषयवशनीय स्त्रोत से जानकारी

प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान:

जानकारी लेते रहे और रेडियो या टी वी पर नवीनतम जानकारी सुनते रहें

मौसम और स्थिति पर जानकारी के लिय www.met.gov.fj या एन डी एम ओ के फेस बूक पेज पर जाए

अपने फोर्न का इस्तेमाल ठीक तरह से करे ताकि बैटरी बच सके

यह जरूरी नंबर ध्यान में रखे: पुलिस/एम्बुलेन्स के लिय 917, आग के लिय 910, ई-एफ-एल के लिय 913, वोट्टा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी के लिय 5777, और कोविड से जुड़ी जानकारी के लिय 158

मिट्टी भसकने और जमीन पर फिसलन के लिय 917 या 910 पर कोल करे

तैयार रहे, सुरक्षित रहे

यह जानकारी एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है जिसे यूनिसेफ अपना समर्थन दे रहा है।

2. आपतकालिन किट

प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान:

देखे कि आपकी आपतकालीन किट अच्छी तरह से तैयार है

किट में यह होना जरूरी है:

फेस्ट अईड किट

जरूरी दवाईयाँ

पूरे परिवार के लिए मास्क

हाथ धोने के लिए साबुन या हेन्ड सेनिटाइज़र

जरूरी दास्तावेज, मोमबत्ती और वैक्सीनेशन कार्ड

बोतल या उबला हुआ पीने का पानी

टिन वाला भोजन

बैटरी वाला रेडियो

टोर्च

बैटरी

मौसम और स्थिति पर जानकारी के लिय www.met.gov.fj या एन डी एम ओ के फेस बूक पेज पर जाए

तैयार रहे, सुरक्षित रहे

3. सुई लगवाना और स्वास्थ्य से जुड़ी टिप्पणी

अगर आप प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान जगह खाली कर रहे है तो जितनी जल्द हो सके चले जाए

अपना इमेजेन्सी किट और जरूरी समान साथ लेकर जाए

पहले से बीमार परिवार के सदस्यों को अपनी विपत्ती योजना में शामिल रखे और सुनिश्चित करे कि उन्हें पूरी तरह सुई लगी हो

अगर नहीं तो आज ही सुई लगवाए

और जानकारी के लिय www.met.gov.fj या एन डी एम ओ के फेसबूक पेज पर जाए

तैयार रहे, सुरक्षित रहे

यह जानकारी एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है जिसे यूनिसेफ अपना समर्थन दे रहा है।

4. आस-पास सुरक्षित रखे

प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान: अपना घर सुरक्षित रखें, नुकसान पहुंचाने वाले बड़े पेड़ की डाल काँटे, उन चीजों को समेट कर रखे जो गम्भीर हवा उड़ या बाढ़ में बह सकते है

समुद्री तटों पर घूमने वालों को सलाह दी गई है कि वे अपने नाव और बहने वाले चीजों

को समेट कर रखे जो नुकसान पहुंचा सकते हैं

सुनिश्चित रखे कि आपके पालतू जानवर सुरक्षित है, उन्हे दिन के समय कोई उँची जगह ले जाए

और जानकारी के लिय www.met.gov.fj या एन डी एम ओ के फेसबूक पेज पर जाए

तैयार रहे, सुरक्षित रहे

यह जानकारी एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है जिसे यूनिसेफ अपना समर्थन दे रहा है।

5. घर पर तैयार रहे

प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान:

पर्याप्त भोजन और पीने का पानी भर ले।

पानी को उबालकर रखें।

टोर्च और मोमबत्ति तैयार रखें

फोर्न और पावा बेन्क चार्ज कर लें

घर पर बुजुर्गी, विकलांग और अपने पड़ोसियों का ध्यान रखें। बच्चों को घर के अन्दर रखें।

देखें कि आपके पास पर्याप्त दवाईयाँ हो

और जानकारी के लिय www.met.gov.fj या एन डी एम ओ के फेसबूक पेज पर जाए

तैयार रहे, सुरक्षित रहे

यह जानकारी एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है जिसे यूनिसेफ अपना समर्थन दे रहा है।

कोविड-19 सर्दभ

1. ढीले प्रतिबन्धों के साथ

अगर आप प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान जगह खाली कर रहे हैं तो मास्क पहनना और एल कोहोल से बनी हेन्ड सेनिटाइज़र साथ रखना याद रखे।

अपने ही बबल में रहे और ऐसे कमरे में रहे जहाँ अच्छी तरह हवा आती हो और देखे

कि क्या आपको कोविड-19 के ये लक्षण दिखाई दे रहे है

साँस लेने में तकलीफ, छाती में दर्द, सिर दर्द, उलझन, जागने या सोने में असमर्थ होना और चमड़े, होंठ और नाखून ग्रे, पीले या नीले हो तो घथय पर कोल करे

यह जानकारी एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है जिसे यूनिसेफ अपना समर्थन दे रहा है।

2. आस-पास सुरक्षित रखे

प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान:

देखे कि आपका घर और संपत्ति गिरे हुए पेड़ों से सुरक्षित है

या बिजली के गिरे तार से दूर रहे जो आपके परिवार को नुकसान पहुंचा सकते हैं

सुनिश्चित रखें कि आपके पालतू जानवर सुरक्षित है

समाचार सुनते रहे और जगह खाली करने के लिय तैयार रहे

यह जानकारी एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है जिसे यूनिसेफ अपना समर्थन दे रहा है।

3. खबर रखें

प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान:

बैटरी वाले रेडियो का इस्तेमाल करे ताकि प्राकृतिक विपत्ती पर जानकारी और सार्वजनिक सेवाओं की घोषणाएं मिलती रहे

अपने फोर्न का इस्तेमाल ठीक तरह से करे ताकि बैटरी बच सके

हमेशा खबर रखें कि आपके परिवार कहाँ हैं

मौसम और स्थिति पर जानकारी के लिय www.met.gov.fj

या एन डी एम ओ के फेसबूक पेज पर जाए



बेटरी वाले रेडियो का इस्तेमाल करे ताकि प्राकृतिक विपत्ती पर जानकारी और सार्वजनिक सेवाओं की घोषणाएं मिलती रहे।
अपने फोन का इस्तेमाल ठीक तरह से करे ताकि बेटरी बच सके।
हमेशा खबर रखें कि आपके परिवार कहाँ हैं।
मौसम और स्थिति पर जानकारी के लिय www.met.gov.fj या एन डी एम ओ के फेसबुक पेज पर जाए।

यह जानकारी एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है जिसे यूनिसेफ अपना समर्थन दे रहा है।

4. भोजन सुरक्षित रखें

लेप्टोस्पाइरोसिस, टाइफाइड, डेंगी और डायरिया के प्रसार को रोकें
भोजन और पीने का पानी ढाँक कर रखे या बंद बर्तन में रखे
पीने का पानी उबाल ले और अच्छी तरह से रखे
बासी भोजन ना खाए और इसे तुरत फेंक दे
सुनिश्चित करे कि आपका परिवार पौष्टिक भोजन करें
स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं को अपने बच्चों को स्तनपान कराते रहना चाहिए
सभी कच्ची सब्जियों को खाने से पहले धो ले

यह जानकारी एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है जिसे यूनिसेफ अपना समर्थन दे रहा है।

5. अच्छी स्वच्छता का अभ्यास करे

प्राकृतिक विपत्ती के दौरान:
भोजन छूने से पहले, शौचालय जाने के बाद या सफाई का काम खत्म करने के बाद
याद से हाथ धोए
सभी कचरे को ठीक तरह से समेटे
सुनिश्चित करे कि आपके बच्चे हर समय अच्छी स्वच्छता का अभ्यास करें

6. भावनात्मक सहारा

विपत्ति के बाद लोग शायद उलझन में दुखी या निराश हो सकते है, बच्चें, विकलांग लोग, महिलाएं तथा बुजुर्ग लोग अकेला या डरे हुए महसूस कर सकते है
कई लोगों ने शायद अपनी संपत्ति या जीवन भर की जमा पूँजी खो दी हो अब सही समय है पीड़ित लोगों के लिए समय निकालने के लिए। उनकी ज़रूरतों का ध्यान रखें।
ध्यान में रखें कि उन लोगों को चिकित्सा की सहायता मिले जिन्हें इसकी ज़रूरत है
विपत्ति की प्रतिक्रिया पर और जानकारी के लिए फीजी नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमन्ट ओफिस के फईसबुक पईज पर जाए
यह संदेश एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है तथा युनिसेफ भी इसका समर्थन कर रहा है

7. संकेत और लक्षण

किसी भी प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के बाद बीमारियाँ जैसे कि लेप्टोस्पाइरोसीस, टाइफाइड, डायरिया तथा डेन्गी की महामारी होना आम बात है।
याद रखें कि आप बीमारियों को फैलने से रोकने के लिए हमेशा अपने हाथों को साबुन पानी से धोते रहे।
अगर आप या जिन्हें आप जानते हो, बीमार है और उन्हें यह लक्षण दिखाई देते है जैसे:
तेज़ बुखार
गम्भीर रूप से डायरिया
उलटियाँ आना
शरीर में दर्द
लाल दाने दिखे तो जल्द से जल्द नज़दीकी अस्पताल जाए और जानकारी के लिए फीजी नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमन्ट ओफिस के फईसबुक पईज पर जाए

यह संदेश एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है तथा युनिसेफ भी इसका समर्थन कर रहा है

8. साफ सफाई और मरम्मत

किसी प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के बाद यह ज़रूरी है कि आस-पास के वातावरण को साफ रखा जाए।
कुड़ा-कर्कट को सावधानी से हटाए। पानी के स्रोत को सुरक्षित करें अगर उसे नुकसान पहुँचा हो।
बिजली के तारों से दूर रहे और गिरे हुए तारों की शिकायत के लिए ई एफ एल को 913 पर कोल करें।
मच्छर पैदा होने वाले सभी स्थानों को नष्ट करें
अपने और अपने परिवार की सुरक्षा के लिए घर के कुछ भाग पर मरम्मत कर ले या एक अस्थाई घर बनाए
उन लोगों तक पहुँचे जिन्हें शायद ज्यादा सहायता की ज़रूरत है जैसे कि अगर कोई बी मार हो, बच्चे, बुजुर्ग, महिलाएं तथा विकलांग लोग।
और जानकारी के लिए फीजी नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमन्ट ओफिस के फईसबुक पईज पर जाए।

यह संदेश एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है तथा युनिसेफ भी इसका समर्थन कर रहा है।

9. अच्छी स्वच्छता अभ्यास

किसी प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के बाद याद रखें कि कोई भी बीमारियों से पीड़ित हो सकता है।

लेकिन आप, फैल रही बीमारियों से अपने आप, अपने बच्चों और चाहने वालों की सुरक्षा रख सकते है।

यह सब केवल भोजन तैयार करने से पहले या पाखाना इस्तेमाल करने या साफ सफाई के बाद साबुन और पानी से हाथ धोने से शुरू होता है।

पीने वाले पानी को उबालकर अच्छी तरह सम्भालकर रखें

माताओं को अपने शिशुओं को स्तनपान कराना जारी रखना चाहिए

और जानकारी के लिए फीजी नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमन्ट ओफिस के फईसबुक पईज पर जाए

यह संदेश एन डी एम ओ की तरफ से है तथा युनिसेफ भी इसका समर्थन कर रहा है।

हम अब औपचारिक रूप से समुद्री आँधी के मौसम में प्रवेश कर गए है। लोग इन तरीकों से समुद्री आँधी के लिए अपने घरों को सुरक्षित कर सकते है:

- अपने घर की छत सुरक्षित कर लें, डीले स्कूस तथा रूफिंग आईन पर मरम्मत करें
- घर की छत में लगे जंग तथा आम टूट-फूट की जाँच करें
- पेड़ों तथा डालियों को छाँटे हगहगह
- गटर तथा डाउन पाईप साफ करें
- उन सामानों को सुरक्षित के ले जो तेज़ हवा में उड़कर नुकसान पहुँचा सकते है
- खिड़कियों की सुरक्षा के लिए उनपर शटस लगाए
- पहचान कर लें कि पानी, बिजली और गैस की सप्लाई कैसे बन्द होगी
- पहचान कर लें कि घर का कौन सा कमरा सबसे मजबूत है जिसमें ज़रूरत पड़ने पर आप शरण ले सकते है

* गम्भीर वर्षा की वजह से नीचले इलाके तथा जहाँ बाढ़ चढ़ने का खतरा रहता है तथा आएरिश क्रोसिंग में अचानक से बाढ़ चढ़ सकती है।

जो लोग इन इलाकों में रहते है को सलाह दी जा रही है कि वे सतर्क रहें और सावधानी बरते।

अगर आपको घर से निकलने की ज़रूरत आन पड़े तो दिन के उजाले में ही सुरक्षित जगह जाए।

इसके अलावा गम्भीर वर्षा के दौरान रास्ता साफ नहीं दिखता है जिस कारण से ट्रैफिक भी जाम रहता है।

* गाड़ी चालकों तथा नाव चालकों से माँग की गई है कि वे खराब मौसम के दौरान अधिकारियों की सलाह माने क्योंकि इससे समुद्र में तथा ज़मीन पर मार्ग साफ दिखाई नहीं देगा।

आम जनता को सलाह दी गई है कि वे:

- अचानक से बाढ़ का पानी चढ़ने पर नज़र रखे
- घर के सामानों को उँचे स्थानों तक खिस्का दे और ऐसी चीज़ों को सुरक्षित कर दें जो पानी के उपर तैरकर नुकसान पहुँचा सकती है
- बाढ़ चड़ी नदी-नालों में न तैरे
- पीने वाले पानी को प्लास्टिक के बन्द कोनटईनर में भरकर रखें क्योंकि पानी की सप्लाई में बाधाएँ पहुँच सकती है
- अगर किसी इलाके में बाढ़ चढ़ जाए तो पदयात्रियों तथा गाड़ी चालकों को सलाह दी जा रही हैकि वे उन सड़कों, फुटपाथ तथा नदियों को पार करने की कोशिश न करें जिनपर बाढ़ का पानी चड़ी हो
- जिस इलाकें में मिट्टी भस्की हो वहाँ जाने से बचे।

आपातकालीन समय में नीचे दिए गए नम्बरों पर संपर्क करें:

पुलिस को 917 पर,
नेशनल फायर अथोरिटी को 910 पर,
एनेजी फीजी लिमिटेड को 913 पर,
फीजी रोड्स अथोरिटी को 5720 पर,
वोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी को 5777 पर

ग्रामीण इलाकों की
गर्भवति माताओं
के लिए सहायता 2

बेसहारा लोगों को
सहारा मिला 2

पानी का हर एक बूँद
कीमती है 3

कारिगरों के काम की
सराहना की गई 3

प्राकृतिक विपत्ति की तैयारी
करें 6

फ़ीजी दर्पण

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9, 2022

18 PAGES | ISSUE 16 VOL 13 | WWW.FIJI.GOV.FJ

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अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम बा मुनिसिपल मार्केट में वालेसी की मुफ्त वाए-फाए होटस्पोट तथा वालेसी टी वी का उद्घाटन करने के बाद मार्केट विक्रेताओं के साथ

चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

मार्केट में सुविधाएं सुधरी

सोनम सामी

अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम ने अभी हाल ही बा मुनिसिपल मार्केट में वालेसी की मुफ्त वाए-फाए होटस्पोट और वालेसी टी-वी का उद्घाटन करके नांदी, नामाका, और लम्बासा को देश का डिजिटल बाज़ार बना दिया है। उन्होंने कहा कि फीजीयन सरकार सभी मुनिसिपल मार्केट को डिजिटल बाज़ार बनाना चाहती हैं ताकि हर एक फीजीवासी

की सेवाओं और सूचनाओं तक पहुंच एक सामान प्राप्त हो। यह पहल फीजीयन सरकार की \$14.6 मिलीयन का हिस्सा है जिसे देश को डिजिटल करने के साथ-साथ मुफ्त वायालेस इंटरनेट होटस्पोट को जारी रखने की ज़िम्मेदारी वालेसी को दी गई है। जनता को मुफ्त में वाए-फाए होटस्पोट और वालेसी टेलिविजन जैसी डिजिटल कोनेक्टिविटी को बेहतर बनाने और डिजिटल से लोगों को जोड़ने में मदद करता है।

इक्कीस जुलाई दो हजार अटठरह से पूरे राष्ट्र में मुफ्त वाए-फाए होटस्पोट की सुविधाएं प्रदान की जा रही है और इस 2022-2023 राष्ट्र बजट में 53.8 मिलीयन डोलर डिजिटल कोनेक्टिविटी में सुधार के लिय अलग किया गया है। वालेसी सेट-टोप बॉक्स और 43-एलेमन्ट यू-हच-एफ एन्टेना से नौ अलग चैनल आप मुफ्त में देख सकते हैं और अगर आप के पास वालेसी एप है तो आप दुनिया में कहीं भी हो हमेशा जुड़े रह सकते हैं।

वालेसी सेवाओं को बढ़ावा देने के अलावा यह लोगों के लिए एक साथ आने का अवसर था-ऐसा स्थान बनाने के लिय जहाँ सभी फीजीवासी जानकारी हासिल कर सकें। डिजिटल फीजी और कोमयूनिकेशन्स मंत्रालय के नेतृत्व में इस तरह के डिजिटल पहल होते रहेंगे ताकि कोई भी फीजीवासी अपने लिंग, इलाके तथा किसी और कारण से पीछे न छुटे।