

FijiFocus



CALL
FOR AWARENESS
ON GENDER
VIOLENCE **16**

MOD BENEFITS
15K
INFORMAL
SETTLERS **7**

TALANOA
DIALOGUE TO
CONTINUE TO
COP24 **9**

PAY RISE

400 LTA staff share \$2.4m increment

RONAL DEO

ABOUT 400 staff members of the Land Transport Authority will receive pay increments to the tune of \$2.4million effective from this Friday.

While making the announcement early last week, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said after the implementation of the job evaluation exercise carried out by the LTA board, the salaries were benchmarked and brought up to where it should be.

The A-G said there was a need to get rid of the culture in civil service, State-owned enterprises and statutory bodies that promotions should be based on how many years a staff member had been in the service.

“Under the Open Merit Recruitment System, we have seen an increase in the number of females who are getting appointed because generally as we have found in the civil service, that it tends to be very gender specific or there used to be very patriarchal notions

where women tend to get marginalised,” he said.

The A-G highlighted that during the budget announcement last year, they set aside funding for LTA to carry out a job evaluation exercise and to be able to facilitate within its own budget allocation to allow for any pay rises.

He stressed that the LTA board decided to pay workers 100 per cent of what the market was paying.

The A-G said that going forward all LTA staff would be assessed individually on their own performance and then have the potential to be able to get higher pay rises.

“Provisions will be made that where ever there is any recognition of their service delivery and individual performance, the LTA has enough funding to pay for that,” he said.

“The Government’s objective is that in every single entity in Fiji wherever the Government has any relationship with or provides funding to we will make sure that the right amount

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



A-G JOINS FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, joined hundreds of Fijians during the Holi celebrations at My Suva Picnic Park last Sunday.

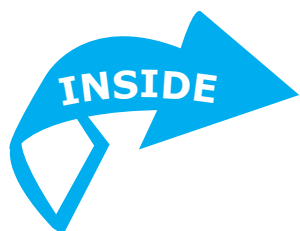
Holi, also known as the “festival of colours”, is a Hindu spring festival celebrated all across India and Nepal and among Hindus in Bangladesh and Pakistan as well as in countries with large Indian subcontinent diaspora such as Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and

Tobago, South Africa, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Mauritius, and Fiji.

It signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, end of winter and for many a festive day to meet others, play and laugh, forget and forgive, and repair broken relationships.

Speaking at the celebrations, the A-G urged all Fijians to celebrate and recognise the new beginnings ahead.

Photo: ERONI VALILI



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



The zero tolerance violence free communities is a very important programme in our ministry because of our efforts as a nation to eradicate violence against women.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa

NUMBERS

15K
informal settlers benefit from MoU

WESTERN DIVISION

14 development leases processed
4250 people will benefit

CENTRAL DIVISION

7 settlements issued developed leases
8800 people will benefit

NORTHERN DIVISION

5 settlements issued developed leases
2300 people expected to benefit

TWEET OF THE WEEK

Mere Vuniwaqa (@vuniwaqa_mere)

The Economic empowerment of women is critical to inclusive development at national level. Fijian women continue to contribute to this national aim through participation at craft shows #PressforProgress pic.twitter.com/IF6ZNYETPZ

CONTACT

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

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



Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar with student nurses during the 2018 Nursing Interns Induction programme at Studio 6 Apartments conference centre in Suva. Photo: PRIYANKA LAL

Bid to improve nurse-patient ratio

PRIYANKA LAL

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services is working to improve the nurse-to-patient ratio to enhance service delivery in the health sector.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar, speaking at the opening of the 2018 Nursing Interns Induction programme in Suva a week ago, said the current ratio stood at about 38-40 nurses per 10,000 patients, which was far from sufficient.

Minister Akbar said this was an indication that more work needed to be done to achieve quality health care for all Fijians.

"We need to have close to 5000 to 6000 nurses for the existing population," she said.

Minister Akbar said in the next five years, the ministry hoped to add another 1350 nurses to the health sector.

"On that note, a paper will go to Cabinet shortly so that we can start our quota from 2019. The 200 nurses per year that we were expected to add for the past five years, we have completed that," she added.

There were 3300 nurses in the health system.

Minister Akbar reminded the 244 nursing interns to be service-oriented and work as a team to provide the best health care services to all Fijians because they were front-liners at the health facilities around the country.

She told the nursing interns that they would be held accountable for their actions and encouraged them to seek assistance from their seniors.



Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar, speaking at the opening of the 2018 Nursing Interns Induction programme. Photo: PRIYANKA LAL

Home ownership attitude 'must change'

PRIYANKA LAL

THERE is a need for Fijians to change their attitude towards home ownership and understand that doing so will increase their wealth, says Attorney-General and Minister for Public Enterprises, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

He made the comment at the recent bonus payout announcement for Housing Authority staff in Nasinu.

The A-G said with one of the lowest rates of home ownership and home insurance in Fiji, the Housing Authority played a pivotal role in providing housing to ordinary Fijians.

"Only 10 per cent of the properties were actually insured when Tropical Cyclone Winston hit Fiji in 2016. We



SELFIE MOMENT ... Attorney-General and Minister for Public Enterprises, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with a staff member of Housing Authority during the recent bonus payout announcement in Nasinu.. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

have expanded \$125million in the Help for Homes initiative and some people are still rebuilding their homes," he said.

The A-G said young Fijians had to be encouraged to invest in their own homes and have access to assets.

"We must change the way of thinking and in order to do that we must make available to young people a housing

stock," he added.

Highlighting the development work undertaken by the Housing Authority, board chairman Umarji Musa said the projects were in line with the authority's commitment to the Government's vision of providing affordable, decent and quality housing to those in the low to middle income groups.

"A number of developments

FACTBOX

HOUSING AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENTS

- Nepani, Nasinu – 175 lots;
- Davuilevu, Nasinu – 730 lots;
- Matavolivoli, Nadi – 400 completed lots;
- Tavakubu, Lautoka – 530 lots;
- Koronisalusalu, Tavua – 119 lots;
- 620 lots proposed for Veikoba, Nasinu; and
- Strata projects earmarked for Nepani and Wainibuku with 550 and 176 lots respectively.

have been undertaken simultaneously at unprecedented pace and we would like to thank the Fijian Government for its unwavering support," Mr Musa said.



PM flays commission bid

RONAL DEO

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has stressed that the Government does not intend to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission because Fijians already stand more united than ever before.

While highlighting this during the Parliament sitting last week, Prime Minister Bainimarama said there was no need for such a commission because today there was more unity than at any other point in Fiji's history, which was because of the unprecedented state of civil, political and socio-economic rights enshrined in the Constitution.

He said unlike past governments in Fiji, this Government knew that the only true path to unity was through equality.

The Prime Minister said belief and

commitment both defined everything Fiji achieved under his leadership.

"In the very Preamble to the Fijian Constitution, it clearly states that we are all Fijians, united by common and equal citizenry. Our Constitution, for the first time in our history, says we are all equal in the eyes of the law and united in common purpose," the Head of Government said.

"Also because of our Constitution, every Fijian knows that their vote and voice matter the same and that all of our citizens have an equal say regardless of their ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, gender, physical ability or where they live in Fiji."

Prime Minister Bainimarama said this was the truth that every Fijian deserved and this was the truth that his Government was able to make a reality.

He added the Fijian Constitution recognised the rights of the iTaukei and the Rotuman people.

"It guarantees the ownership and protection of their land and their unique culture, customs and language," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"Under the same Constitution every Fijian has equal access to justice through the Courts or Tribunals, Executive and Administrative justice, freedom of speech, expression and publication, freedom of assembly, freedom of association, the right to fair employment practices, the right to equality and freedom from discrimination.

"Freedom from compulsory or arbitrary acquisition of property, the right to reasonable access to transportation, the rights of children and the rights of persons with disabilities."

Modern technology 'for our roads'

RONAL DEO

ATORNEY-GENERAL and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum has assured that a high standard of workmanship can be seen in the construction and maintenance of Fiji's road network.

Speaking during the Parliament sitting last week, the A-G said Fiji Roads Authority was ensuring the high standard of workmanship and especially so in light of changing weather patterns.

He said there was a demand for the sealing of roads.

"We cannot tarseal all the roads in Fiji, but we need to ensure that the roads that are not tarsealed are maintained regularly. We have a programme for that," the A-G said.

"We do have a plan. We cannot do all the roads at once, we have limited budget and they will be addressed. Of course, the new methodologies in terms of building roads, rehabilitation of roads, we do not want to do what was done previously - simply come and just grade the road and do not do any drainage."

The A-G said there were many kilometres of roads in Fiji that had not been maintained for years, plus bridges and crossings that were built to substandard or could no longer handle the volume traffic currently generated.

He pointed out that the number of vehicles in Fiji had almost tripled compared with a few years ago, so a lot more stress was placed on this infrastructure.

"One of the challenges, of course, is that many of the roads in Fiji currently tarsealed were built decades ago," the A-G said.

"When we have a seal on the top of the roads, the water should not go through the seal. Of course, the water goes through and what kind of drainage system there is underneath the road, the base course, that obviously is very critical too."



From left: First Lady Sarote Konrote, President, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa during the International Women's Day Celebrations at Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.

Photo: ERONI VALILI

President relates effects of violence

RONAL DEO

THE President, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, has highlighted that violence against women hurts everyone.

Speaking at the International Women's Day Celebrations in Suva, the Head of State said violence against women did not hurt only the victim because when women experienced violence, families, communities and the

entire country were affected emotionally, psychologically and it even had an implication on the nation's economy.

During the event, President Konrote launched the Fiji National Service Delivery Protocol and the 4th National Women's Expo, which will be held from June 21-23, 2018 at the National Gymnasium.

He said through the National Women's Expo, Fijian women artisans were connecting to a platform that helped them tap into domestic and international markets, leading to better livelihoods for them and their families as well as the economy.

"Both initiatives will bring positive changes to society so that Fijian women can enjoy a life free of violence and abuse. The development of these initiatives is a testament that the multi-sectoral involvement of key stakeholders is highly efficient, empowering and a collaborative approach to tackle violence against women and children," President Konrote added.

The Head of State said this year the celebration came on the heels of unprecedented global movement for women's rights, equality and justice.

"Cases of sexual harass-

ment, violence and discrimination against women have captured headlines and public discourse, propelled by a rising determination for change, with evidences like statistics from the Fiji Police Force for the year 2017 revealing that there were 886 reported cases of domestic violence against women and children," President Konrote said.

"What better way to celebrate this day then to launch a tool meant to set a guideline for responding to cases of gender-based violence that has no place in Fiji, yet is continually consuming our society like a terrible disease."

Pay rise

FROM PAGE 1

of money is made available so those organisations so

that they can look after their staff."

Pay increment categories:

- The pay rise to be divided into four different categories of percentage increases
- Some staff to receive an increase of as much as 86 per

cent and six staff to receive more than 51 per cent increment

- Vehicle examiners to receive 47 per cent increment and infringement processing officers 49 per cent
- Call centre reps, driving

examiners, senior vehicle examiners, senior public transport officers, public service vehicle officers and customer service and road safety officers to receive an increment of between 21-30 per cent

- Around 145 staff will re-

ceive below 20 per cent

- Only 34 staff will not get an increment because their salaries were already aligned to the benchmark, but they had an opportunity of recognition during the individual review of their performance.



Taveuni grid extension works ongoing

PRIYANKA LAL

THE ongoing grid extension works from Somosomo Hydro Power Station on Taveuni will soon result in more than 1600 homes having access to electricity supply for the first time.

Attorney-General and Acting Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum confirmed this in Parliament last week, saying the grid extension works

at the hydro power station was carried out in three phases.

The A-G said the hydro power station had an in-store capacity of 700 kilowatts and the current peak demand on Taveuni was about 230 kilowatts, which was sufficiently met by the project.

“The Government is able to save about \$1.9million per annum in diesel fuel imports and it affects the Fiji Electricity Authority’s (FEA) bottom line too,” the A-G said.



FACT FILE

TAVEUNI POWER GRID EXTENSION

■ Phase I of the grid extension was completed last year, which included the construction of a 10-kilometre transmission line from Waileqe to Wairiki benefiting about 1086 homes;

■ Phase II works include the extension of grid to Tagimoucia Settlement, Waileqe, Qila, Vunidawa, Nabuloni Settlement, Vuniwai, Naqara Settlement, Niusawa Methodist School, Loloi, Waiyevo, Naiyalala and Nalele settlements;

■ The Government committed an additional \$2m in the 2017/2018

National Budget for phase II. The extension includes an additional 515 homes, thereby increasing the number of households with electricity supply to more than 1601 homes. The house wiring will cost around \$515,000 and benefit about 8000 people; and

■ Phase III will be proposed in the 2018–2019 National Budget under the Rural Electrification Programme. It includes the grid extension to communities and settlements at Naselesele, Matei Airport, nearby hotels and from Wairiki to South Taveuni School in Vuna.

More benefit from project

RONAL DEO

A TOTAL of 822 Fijians have benefited from the commissioning of eight boreholes around the country in the past six months alone.

“Villagers of Vatani in Kaba Peninsula, Tailevu; four villages in Kubulau, Bua; Navatu, Nasasaivua and Waisa in Natokala including the Navasua government station. In addition, Yavuna Village in Nadi Town and Tai District School which has a total roll of 131 students, five staff quarters, those ones were also done,” said Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya.

This was brought to the attention of Parliament during its sitting last week.

“All previous governments forgot about them, but we have not. This Government has not.”

Minister Koya highlighted that reticulation work had been completed and ready for commissioning seven other boreholes, which would benefit a total of about 115 households.

Villages that will soon benefit include Nakana-cagi in Macuata and Nagasauva in Udu point, Qwali settlement and Narata Village in Nadroga, including Ratu Litanara School, Nairukuruku Primary School in Nadroga, which has a total of 991 students and 27 staff quarters.

“An additional four boreholes on Cikobia Island in Lau, Qerelevu and Nakavika in Ba and Votualailai in Serua have been successfully drilled and further reticulation works to be conducted shortly,” Minister Koya said.

He said the ministry recently purchased supporting drilling equipment to help improve ground water service delivery because groundwater development was a nationwide focus and ran complementary to the Water Authority of Fiji.

A-G: Vulnerability assessment ‘critical’



Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum in Parliament last week. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

NANISE NEIMILA

CLIMATE change vulnerability assessment remains critical and important for defining the risks that it poses because it provides information to identifying adaption measures.

This was highlighted by the Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum in Parliament last week.

The A-G highlighted to Members of Parliament that climate change vulnerability assessment enabled practitioners and decision makers to identify the most vulnerable areas sectors and social groups within society.

“This in turn means climate adaption options targeted and specified contracts are now developed and implemented. This, of course, is our approach to development and you know, the National Development Plan, which we will be talking about later in the week,” he said.

“What is really interesting and some of the results that come out of it is the enormous financial implications in order for to be able to build resilience in our infrastructure and our people. Of course, using the right technology to be able to ensure that we are able to withstand the now enormous increase in frequency of climatic events.

“The climatic events, one example being

Tropical Cyclone Winston and we recently had TC Gita in this part of the world. There are more insidious implications of climate change which includes ongoing issues like the slow but in fact fast, one may argue, sea level rise.”

Three villages have been relocated to higher ground, an assessment has been made and there are more villages that are subject to being inundated by rising sea levels.

The A-G added that for all these projects there were cost implications for these villages.

“Their access to livelihoods is very much an implication which needs to be considered,” he said.

\$8.5m for landowners

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources has derived more than \$8.5million as lease proceeds for landowners, says line Minister Faiyaz Koya.

This was revealed by in Parliament last week, where Minister Koya highlighted that the amount was expected to increase before the end of the financial year.

“Aligned to the objectives of the Land Use Act, the Land Use Division, has derived a total of \$8,535,046.68

as lease proceeds for the landowners to date,” he said.

From August last year to February this year, the unit conducted 17 landowner awareness consultations, 23 landowners’ revisitations and five roadshows.

“The consultation is an integral component of the Land Use Division operations and the welfare of the resource owners is always and always be a priority,” Minister Koya said.

“Another phenomenal achievement executed by the division for this financial

year is the survey of 1415 acres of customary land, covering five parcels in the Central and five in the Western Division.”

Minister Koya said the accomplishment would benefit landowners and investors economically in terms of sustainable development.

Providing an update on the valuation division, he said the division continued to carry out all valuation needs of Government and undertook all land acquisition projects for all public purposes, carried out rating evaluation for

local municipalities, assessed and reassessed ground rental for all State leases and managed 556 active states leases on State land.

Minister Koya said the ministry worked in collaboration with other government agencies through acquiring properties that are required for projects and in turn process the payment of compensation to affected landowners.

“The ministry through this division has paid a total of \$1,934,638.06 to all the 13 municipal councils at government rates,” he said.

\$100m for elderly, disadvantaged

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE Government is stepping up its assistance to the elderly, disabled and the disadvantaged in communities through the allocation of more than \$100million for their protection in the 2017/2018 National Budget.

This was highlighted by Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while providing an update on the Fijian economy in Parliament last week.

The A-G added that the Government had taken it upon itself to take care of individuals who did not have social protection through the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF).

“There are many, many women in Fiji who have never worked for anybody and so when they get old they have no form of social protection whatsoever, in terms of pension,” he said.

“There are many villagers, farmers, there are many wives and daughters of farmers, wives of villagers who have never worked for anybody, so they did not have FNPF and these people today are looked after by us.”

The A-G said that our economy was on track to realise its ninth year of economic growth.

FACT FILE

Government assistance for elderly, disadvantaged

■ More than \$100m allocated in 2017/2018 National

Budget to protect the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged for the social protection programs;

■ \$6m allocated in 1999, \$19m in 2006, \$31m in 2011 for same programme;

■ Social pension introduced from 2013 for those 70 years and above receiving \$30 per month. Bar was dropped to 65 years and people now receive \$100 per month; and

■ Allowance introduced for people living with disability at \$90 a month as well as food voucher programmes rural pregnant mothers.



Datasets made available to us in our preparatory work show that 54 per cent of the civil service workforce are women.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa

In the area of education, the secondary school retention rate for females is higher than it is for males for the year 2017.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa in Parliament last week.
 Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

Women’s issues ‘being addressed’

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE legal and socio-economic position of Fijian women has never been so well addressed under any other Government than it has been under the leadership of the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

The Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa made this statement in Parliament while providing an update on Fiji’s status on

the implementation of the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Minister Vuniwaqa said that women now made up of 54 per cent of the civil service in the country and made up 14 per cent of parliamentarians, which was a first for Fiji.

“Datasets made available to us in our preparatory work show that 54 per cent of the civil service workforce are

women. The introduction of the open merit recruitment system (OMRS) by the Ministry of Civil Service in our view is an important step in getting rid of the gender barriers and gender stereotypical attitudes which have existed for so long,” she said.

“In the area of education, we can say that the secondary school retention rate for females is higher than it is for males for the year 2017.

“This means that girls are

staying in school longer than boys. This translates to the higher proportion of females taking up the Tertiary Education Loan Scheme and the National Toppers Scheme for the past four years in totality and further translates to the higher proportion of female graduates out of universities.

She added that the progressive realisation of women’s rights that was made available in Fiji would boost women’s contribution in the political and public place.



Food rations delivered to Vatoa villagers in Lau.. Photo: ERONI VALILI

Supplies handed out, survey completed

AFTER the recent impact of Tropical Cyclone Gita, a Government response team delivered essential relief supplies and conducted damage assessments in Southern Lau recently.

The multi-sector team, led by the Office of the Divisional Commissioner Eastern, was deployed on board the MV Iloiloivatu for one week to the islands of Ono-i-Lau, Vatoa, Ogea, and Fulaga.

Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Disaster Management, and Meteorological Services permanent secretary Meleti Bainimarama said that the two-fold objective of the team was accomplished and the focus now was on recovery and returning to normality.

He said, “They were deployed firstly to ensure that lives were sustained through the provision of essential relief supplies and secondly, to conduct damage assessments that could provide government with a framework for long-term recovery in Ono-i-Lau and Vatoa specifically”.

“These assessments indicate that Ogea and Fulaga were not impacted by the cyclone. While there were a few houses damaged on Vatoa, we can conclude that Ono-i-Lau bears most of the damage in shelter and agriculture,” Mr Bainimarama said.

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Islanders’ preparedness for TC Gita commended

ERONI VALILI

MINISTRY of Agriculture officials praised Doi villagers for their preparedness, which helped minimise damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Gita in Southern Lau last month.

Senior agriculture officer Nimilote Waqabaca said the assessment carried out on the 28 farms in Doi Village indicated that villagers prepared themselves well before the cyclone struck on February 12, 2018.

“We concluded that our awareness programmes for farmers before any natural disaster were effective. This is a good sign and I thank the villagers for their co-operation,” Mr Waqabaca said.

The level of damage caused by TC Gita to the agriculture sector, including livestock and crops, stood at 60 per cent although there was no damage to root crops.

The main sources of income for villagers of Doi are coconuts and fish.

In the village of Doi a total of six houses were partly damaged while six were completely damaged while in Matokana Village, three houses completely damaged and three partly damaged.

Three other villages on Ono-i-Lau, Lovoni, Nukuni and Motokana, have sustained damage to homes and root crops.

In Nukuni Village a classroom was uprooted while five houses were partly damaged and five completely damaged.

At Motokona Village, homes and root crops were affected as well as coconut trees that are a source of income for the villages.

Vatoa Village was mainly spared except for one house being partly damaged.

Meanwhile, a team from Fiji Red Cross, which accompanied the assessment team, assisted a total of 93 households on Ono-i-Lau.

Disaster officer Itu Josaia said relief supplies included cherry water tanks, first aid kits, kitchen kits, tents and medical supplies.

A team from Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport was also part of the Government assessment team.

Timely gift for island children

ERONI VALILI

ATOTAL of \$2500 worth of school stationery was distributed to the three schools in southern Lau — Doi, Onolevu and Vatoa District Schools.

The assistance provided by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation included school bags, exercise books and pens.

Onolevu District School chairman Rasolo Cama said the assistance would help the children who are still trying to recover from the memory of Tropical Cyclone Gita, which brushed past the island a month ago (February 12).

Mr Cama said although TC Gita did not leave much destruction on the island, the children were somehow affected mentally.

He said they were grateful to the Government for providing much-needed assistance that would enhance the students’ learning skills.

“Schools are now cleared and classes have begun. The villagers helped clean the classrooms that were used as evacuation centres during and after TC Gita,” Mr Cama said.

Lau provincial administrator Eliko Masa led a Government assessment team to Southern Lau, which also distributed food rations to these islands by the National Disaster Management Office.

Also part of the team were officials from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Telecom Fiji Limited, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forests and other government statutory bodies.



Kitione Vakatawa, 52, offloads rations at Matokana Village in Lau. Photo: ERONI VALILI

FACTBOX LAU ASSESSMENT TOUR

- Relief supplies distributed by Government included food rations and shelter materials. Humanitarian partners such as Red Cross provided other relief items such as tents, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, and dignity kits;
- The Department of Social Welfare with Empower Pacific conducted psychological first aid and provided psycho-social support in various villages;
- The Ministry of Education assessed school structures and replaced damaged water tanks;
- Given salt-water intrusion into current water supply and damages of water pumping systems in Ono-i-Lau, the Water Authority of Fiji and Government Shipping Services discharged 120,000 litres of fresh water to tanks located in schools and village centres;
- As a precaution, a public health team from the Ministry of Health conducted mosquito spraying to reduce risks to diseases while a team of dieticians visited families with advice on nutrition; and
- To address food security, the Ministry of Agriculture accompanied food rations with seedlings and deployed officers to assist families with planting.



‘Accept change’

SERUIRATU URGES FIJIANS, PACIFIC ISLANDERS TO ADAPT, ADOPT

MEREANI GONEDUA

FIJIANS and Pacific islanders have been urged to accept changes happening around them by Fiji’s Climate Champion and Minister Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management Office Inia Seruiratu.

Speaking to Anglican Church members from around the Pacific in the presence of Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Portal Welby, during a *talanoa* session, which focused on the outcomes of the 23rd session of the Conference of Parties (COP23), Minister Seruiratu stressed that countries needed to change their attitude about climate change.

“We should accept the new norm, we should adapt and adopt and make the necessary changes,” he said.

“The new norm is that disasters are going to happen and it will always happen, but the severity of these disasters has gone to a new level.”

“Our way of thinking, the way we see things, our paradigm must shift because if we take it lightly we will pay the price.”

Minister Seruiratu said that climate change was real and was being experienced in the Pacific, but that weather warnings were still being taken lightly.

He highlighted that after the recent destruction caused in Fiji by Tropical Cyclone Winston, Fijians are now taking

weather warnings seriously.

“If we take it lightly, we are going to pay the prices and it is going to be costly. This is reality for us; this is the new norm, Category 4 or category 5, intense rainfall within a short period of time. The way we see things must change and we must prepare better,” Minister Seruiratu said.

He called on all stakeholders to think twice about the decisions they made today so that future generations were not affected.

“Let’s always be cautious of the social implications and, of course, let’s always look at the environment implications as well,” Minister Seruiratu said.

Talanoa dialogue to continue to COP24

MEREANI GONEDUA

FIJI’S talanoa dialogue will be a centrepiece of this year’s 24th session of Conference of the Parties 24 (COP24) meeting when Poland takes over the presidency from Fiji in December.

This was highlighted by Prime Minister and COP23 president Voreqe Bainimarama, who said in Parliament last week that Fiji would continue to preside over the talanoa dialogue in partnership with Poland, even after Fiji’s presidency.

“We are all aware that talanoa is a word used not only in Fiji, but in Tonga and Samoa to describe a very Pacific way of decision making by consensus and agreement, of sharing stories and best practices with the view of reaching decisions that are inclusive, devoid of figure-pointing and are in the common good,” he said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted that the global community embraced the concept as the way to reach agreement on what needs to be done to reach consensus on global climate change mitigation goals.

“For each nation to do more, to reduce the heat trapping emissions of greenhouse gases that are causing global warming and because the talanoa concept was Fiji’s idea, we will continue to lead and shape that dialogue moving forward and in a way that no Pacific nation has ever had to the opportunity to do before.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said through the talanoa dialogue the grand coalition for climate action that has always been at the centre of Fiji’s COP presidency was marshalled into action, but in a manner that was inclusive, respectful and recognised the fundamental truth that Governments alone could not solve the crisis.

“So we are bringing together all the members of the coalitions, Governments at every level, nations, states and cities plus civil societies, the private sector and the scientific community in a genuine engagement with one overriding purpose; to urgently raise ambition to reduce carbon emission through our Nationally Determined contributions (NDCs).”

A-G, church head talk climate change

NANISE NEIMILA

ATTORNEY-GENERAL and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum met the senior bishop and principal leader of the Church of England, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Portal Welby, during the Global Foundation roundtable discussion held in Suva last week.

The A-G briefed Archbishop Welby on Fiji’s presidency of the 23rd Session of the Conference of Parties (COP23) and how it created an opportunity to foster the partnership between the private sector, non-governmental organisations and faith-based groups with aim of tackling climate change.

“In a comprehensive manner we need to lay the foundation and ensure that the core of discussions and the implementation of policies are centred on sustainability,” the A-G said.

“Many countries around the world do not realise the effects of this global phenomena. However, we need to work together for common goal in addressing climate change and how we can mitigate its replicating effects.”

The A-G thanked parish leaders and members of the Anglican Diocese for the opportunity to address them on climate change and for the issue to be addressed at the



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Portal Welby, during the Global Foundation roundtable discussion held in Suva last week. Photo: ERONI VALILI



FACT FILE - Archbishop of Canterbury

■ The Archbishop of Canterbury is the senior bishop and principal leader of the Church of England, the symbolic head of the worldwide Anglican Communion and the diocesan bishop of the Diocese of Canterbury.

■ The current archbishop is Justin Welby, who was enthroned at Canterbury Cathedral on March 21, 2013. Welby is the 105th in a line which goes back more than 1400 years to Augustine of

Canterbury, the “Apostle to the English”, sent from Rome in the year 597;

■ Before being ordained and joining the clergy, Archbishop Welby worked for 11 years in the oil industry, five of them for the French oil company Elf Aquitaine based in Paris. In 1984 he became treasurer of the oil exploration group Enterprise Oil plc in London, where he was mainly concerned with West African and North Sea oil projects. He retired from his executive position in 1989.

VIEWS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

■ **Asked about his views on climate change, Archbishop Welby wrote in the New York Times last year,** “Of course, hurricanes, monsoons and other types of extreme weather are a part of life on earth for many. The trouble is that climate change is loading the dice by intensifying storms and making rain patterns less predictable. Climate change is the human thumb on the scale, pushing us toward disaster. It is not a distant danger — it is already with us. As we continue to burn fossil fuels, its effects will only grow”.

community level.

Archbishop Welby thanked the Fijian Government for its commitment towards addressing climate change at regional level and, more importantly, in the global com-

munity.

“We need to get this message of climate change across to all spheres of the community, at national level, regional level and the international community.”

Archbishop Welby was in the country for a three-day visit and held meetings with NGOs and civil society organisations centred on climate change and how we can address it in our communities.



PM notes road concerns

ISAAC LAL

VILLAGERS of Nalawa district in the interior of Ra Province had their plea heard by the Government after their request was made directly to Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in Rakiraki recently.

The request came from 12 villages in the district.

"The roads to the 12 villages are really bad and despite our requests to Fiji Roads Authority, it does not seem to be improving," Nasau villager Epineri Tavuya said.

"There are two schools in the district yet our children have encountered uneven roads to get to and from school, our trucks break down along the way and most of the time our children cannot reach school or home because of breakdowns."

Prime Minister Bainimarama noted the concerns from the vil-

lagers and added that the conditions could have been better if not for the rain over the past two months, but assured them that work would begin soon.

"We cannot control the weather, but we can ensure that the work we do is able to withstand and is resilient to our climatic conditions including our roads, bridges and other infrastructure," he said.

"I ask FRA to ensure that these rural roads be given priority because Government is investing a lot in education and infrastructure and we need to ensure that our children are able to get to school on good roads, so they are neat and tidy when they arrive in school and not have dust all over them which could lead to them getting sick."

Mr Tavuya later said he was grateful that the Prime Minister was able to make the decision on the spot and looked forward to having improved roads.



A Nasau villager raises an issue during Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama's public consultations in Rakiraki recently. . Photo: ISAAC LAL



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with sugarcane cutters in Ra recently. Photo: ISAAC LAL

Health centre dream a reality soon

ISAAC LAL

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has directed the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to speed up processes for the construction of a health centre for Nasomo in the interior of Vatukoula.

The Head of Government gave the directive recently in Tavua after it was brought to his attention that residents had to travel more than 12 kilometres to access healthcare facilities.

Nasomo villager Iliami Nasoni said the health centre in Vatukoula

that provided services to nearby villages was closed by Emperor Gold Mines because of its deteriorating condition.

"It becomes a hassle for our elderly and children and pregnant or breastfeeding mothers who have to endure the bumpy ride all the way to Tavua," he said.

"Add to that the unscheduled bus services because of the weather when we have flash floods during the rainy season and dusty roads during the dry season. We feel for our mothers and wives especially."

Prime Minister Bainimarama reassured the villages and residents

of the larger Vatukoula district that a new health facility would be fast tracked.

"I apologise to our mothers and sisters and the children who have had to endure so much over the years because of this issue, but I will ensure that work on building a new health facility will be fast tracked," he said.

The health facility will cater for villages such as Nadalei, Nasomo, Waikubukubu, Vatukoula and the farming community in the district.

Mr Nasomo said the villages were willing to give a piece of land for the facility.

CBUL initiative 'a success'

ISAAC LAL

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has assured the Government's continued support to the Committee for the Better Utilisation of Land (CBUL) because it has become a major success.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Government would provide further financial incentives for landowners through the CBUL initiative, which was set up in 2010 to assist farmers in the renewal of their land leases.

Speaking during a recent visit to the Western Division, he said, "Government will continue to support the CBUL initiative, which while assisting farmers is also at the same time, providing incentives to landowners to give their unutilised land for leasing".

"CBUL has turned out to be a clear win-win relationship for not only our farmers and landowners, but also the Fijian economy."

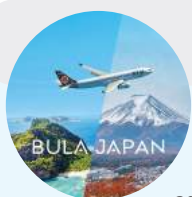


FACTBOX CBUL INITIATIVE

- Established in 2010;
- Since its establishment, landowning units have over the past seven years received more than \$50million directly from the programme;
- The Government, recently, released a CBUL payment of \$3.72m to the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) to be distributed to a total of 1479 land-owning units and 138,899 individual members' bank accounts, at Yavusa, Mataqali and Tokatoka level, after giving their consent to renew agricultural leases under the CBUL initiative; and
- This most recent pay-out adds to more than \$50m and the impact is clear as the renewal rate of agricultural leases has increased from 47 per cent just seven years ago to over 80 per cent as of December 2017.



Attorney-General and Minister for Civil Aviation Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with Japan's Ambassador to Fiji, Masahiro Omura, after formalising the Amendment of the Route Schedule Annexed to the Air Services Agreement between Fiji and Japan.
 Photo: AZARIA FAREEN



FACT FILE

- An air transport agreement (also sometimes called an air service agreement or ATA or ASA) is an agreement which two nations sign to allow international commercial air transport services between their territories;
- The bilateral system has its basis under the Chicago Convention and associated multilateral treaties. The Chicago Convention was signed in December 1944 and has governed international air services since then;
- The convention has a range of annexes covering issues such as aviation security, safety oversight, airworthiness, navigation, environmental protection and facilitation (expediting and departure at airports).
- Fiji Airways now flies three times a week to San Francisco as well as Singapore, every day to Los Angeles and five times a week to Hong Kong;
- With the resumption of direct flights to Narita, Tokyo, initially three per week when it commences in from July this year, Fiji's national carrier would be connecting to all continents that rims the Pacific except South America; and
- Japan and Fiji originally signed the Air Services Agreement (ASA) in 1980 and amended it in 1993.

MOU benefits informal settlers

RONAL DEO

THE Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment and the iTaukei Land Trust Board sealed a memorandum of understanding to address the issue of informal settlers in the country.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Parveen Kumar, while speaking at the Local Government Forum recently, said the ministry — in partnership with TLTB and landowners — have processed 14 development leases in the Western Division through which 4250 people will benefit.

WESTERN DIVISION

14 development leases processed
4250 people will benefit

CENTRAL DIVISION

7 settlements issued developed leases
8800 people will benefit

NORTHERN DIVISION

5 settlements issued developed leases
2300 people expected to benefit

In Central Division, development leases for seven settlements have been issued and about 8800 people will benefit and as for the Northern Division development leases have been issued for five settlements with 2300 people expected to benefit.

Minister Kumar said the upgrading programme would include proper roads, electricity reticulation, water and sewerage and drainage.

Minister Kumar added that the issuance of development leases would enable TLTB and the ministry to meet one of the national objectives of the Government, which was to provide affordable houses and land lots to those who did not have access to residential land and proper leases.

“Informal settlers in the past were referred to as squatters. In past we have found out that majority of the settlement has been on the basis of vakavanua arrangement between the landowners and tenants,” he said.

“Furthermore, there was an understanding by the parties that the ministry shall pay fair and equitable rent and premium to TLTB for the benefit of the members of landowning units.”

Fiji, Japan seal amended air deal

PRASHILA DEVI

“CONNECTIVITY has the ability to move people between countries a lot more easily and frequently,” said Attorney-General and Minister for Civil Aviation, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum. He made the comment after formalising the Amendment of the Route Schedule Annexed to the Air Services Agreement between Fiji and Japan.

The agreement was signed in Suva

with Japan's Ambassador to Fiji, Masahiro Omura, who expressed optimism that the resumption of direct flights will increase Japanese tourist arrivals in Fiji.

The A-G said the agreement would result in the establishment of a more robust type of Air Service Framework for the resumption of direct flights between the two countries.

He encouraged people to take advantage of the \$999 return ticket to Japan being offered by Fiji Airways.

“We look forward to Japanese participation not just in tourism but in other areas like commerce, trade and investment,” the A-G said.

“The (Fijian) Government will be making announcements in the next few months that will give advantage to Japanese businesses to invest in Fiji.”

He encouraged Japanese tourists to use Fiji as a springboard to visit other Pacific Islands countries and Fiji was happy to facilitate.

Assessment for education needs

PRIYANKA LAL

THE Ministry of Education has been carrying out an assessment to determine the areas in need of better educational facilities.

Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum highlighted this recently while responding to a question from Viria, Naitasiri, resident Raj Kumar during a talanoa session at Naqali District School.

Mr Kumar, 50, requested that a high school be built in the area to cater for students from Naqali, Nawaqabena, Viria, Savu and Vanuakula in Naitasiri.

The A-G noted Mr Kumar's request and informed him that the priority for Government now was to ensure existing schools around the country had enough classrooms, proper computer and science laboratories and ablution blocks.

“Naqali District School has



Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum says more classrooms need to be built because of increases in the school rolls as a result of Government's free-education initiative. Photo: ISAAC LAL

raised an issue with me to build some new classrooms, so that will be given priority. We are doing an assessment on where there is a need to build more high schools, where there is a need to build more classrooms in primary schools and so on,” the A-G said.

Mr Kumar raised concerns that students from Viria and surrounding areas were not

able to get admission at secondary schools in Nausori in a timely manner.

“Most of our students go for placement at high schools in Nausori, but they are told to go to their nearest schools. By the time school begins, classrooms are full and our children are left behind. This happened this year so we are requesting if we could get one high school here. It will

benefit our children,” he requested.

The A-G said while the assessment would take about six to nine months to complete, the objective was to do it properly.

He highlighted that more classrooms needed to be built because of increases in the school rolls as a result of Government's free-education initiative.



Sugar ministry ‘more responsive’

VILLIAMETIKOTANI

THE Ministry of Sugar has become more responsive to farmers complaints and concerns through the new toll free lines. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama made the comment as he held consultations with sugar industry stakeholders in the Western Division recently. “We’ve made the ministry more responsive to farmers’ complaints and concerns through the establishment of toll-free lines and the FSC can be reached at

0800-6661972,” he said. “My Government has continued to pay the Sugar Levy to the Sugar Cane Growers Council, taking the burden off farmers by covering all of the council’s administrative costs. And – as we promised – we covered the entire cost for all cane that was transferred from the Penang Mill area to the Rarawai Mill,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said. He said no farmer was unable to supply their cane — despite some very bold and very false claims from the Opposition.



FACTBOX GOVT ASSISTANCE FOR CANEGROWERS

- New \$6.3million Weedicide Subsidy programme aimed at helping cane farmers maximise the yield of their harvest through assistance in paying for the herbicides that are necessary to protect crops;
- Farmers paying only 45 per cent of the total price of weedicides;
- Through its Sugarcane Rehabilitation and Small Grant Scheme (SRSGS), the

Government has set aside \$1 million for supplies like fencing materials, pumps and water tanks;

- The SRSGS will allow smaller sugar farms to keep pace in a rapidly-changing industry; and
- Government continues to pay the Sugar Levy to the Sugar Cane Growers Council, taking the burden off canegrowers.

IN Brief



VAKEISA TO BE CONNECTED IN MAY

THE farming community in Vakeisa, Tagitagi, Tavua will be connected to electricity in May, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama heard. This was made known during a visit by the Prime Minister to Tavua recently where residents highlighted the need for electricity. Resident Maraia Ratu said they are only two kilometres from the grid and connecting to the grid would allow them to invest in improving their farming community.

WATER FOR NAWAMAGI VILLAGERS

NAWAMAGI villagers now have tap water in their homes, thanks to a Government project through a solar-powered borehole that supplies water to every home in the village. Villagers personally thanked Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and the Government for bringing an end to their years of drinking from unsafe sources. “Our decade old problem has now been solved as we now have clean and safe drinking water in our homes,” Seru Matanisiga said. “The homes in the village now have started constructing flush toilets and hygiene is now very part of our lives because we now have water. It has urged us to better our living standards in the village.”

FARMER GRATEFUL FOR HELP

MATALEVU, Tavua sugarcane farmer Ashok Kumar said farmers needed to be grateful for all the assistance provided to them by Government through various programmes and initiatives. These programmes include; Cane replanting programme, grant for cane-access roads, weedicide subsidy, fertiliser subsidy, mechanical harvesters, and other mechanical assistance. “We cannot and should not always be relying on handouts and the amount of assistance provided to cane farmers by this government cannot be understated – we need to start thinking about how we also need to improve our yields to ensure these initiatives are sustainable so there is a win-win situation for everyone,” he said.

- ISAAC LAL



Emmanuel Guiheneuf and Assistant Minister for Rural and Maritime and National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Joeli Cawaki cut the ribbon during the commissioning of the refurbished Tavua emergency operations centre. Photo: ISAAC LAL

Minister Cawaki opens refurbished EOC

ISAAC LAL

ASSISTANT Minister for Rural and Maritime and National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Joeli Cawaki opened the refurbished Tavua emergency operations centre last week. The newly refurbished office, which plays a critical part during disaster operations in the area, will improve the planning, co-ordination and management of operations during emergencies and disasters, thus providing swift response to the public. “The Tavua EOC will efficiently and effectively maintain services to the people continue when there are disruptions,” Asst. Minister Cawaki said. “The new office will further enhance Fiji’s efforts in building resilient people and strengthen disaster preparedness and management.” The refurbishing was a result of the partnership between the Fijian Government and the European Union through the Pacific Community (SPC) under its Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP) project. The project (BSRP) will help build resilience to disaster and climate change for communities, governments and countries across the Pacific region and the initiative supports Sendai Framework Priority 4; “Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better”

in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.” The growth of disaster risk means there is a need to strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events and ensure capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. “The recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase is a critical opportunity to build back better, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures,” Asst. Minister Cawaki said. The EOC will be used as a training room during normal times where Disaster Management training and other related capacity building programmes will be conducted as well as meetings and workshops.



THE REFURBISHMENT WORK AT THE TAVUA EOC COST \$F49,300 AND INCLUDES:

- Emergency Operations Centre (EOC);
- Planning Room;
- Communications Room;
- Kitchen;
- Customer Service Area; and
- the District Co-ordinators Office

Industry ‘at the heart of economy’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SUGAR industry stakeholders have been reassured by Prime Minister and Minister for Sugar Industry Voreqe Bainimarama of Government’s support and commitment. Prime Minister Bainimarama made a similar reassurance at the sugarcane farmers and landowner consultations held in the Western Division recently. “Make no mistake, our game plan for our sugar industry is about keeping our cane industry at the heart of our economic growth,” he said. “And our work with our iTaukei landowners is about giving you the tools you need to develop your land and get the most out of your land resources. “So that all of you, our farmers and our landowners, can have the assurance and stability you need to do well by yourselves and your families. Prime Minister Bainimarama met cane farmers and landowners and discussed how best they could help build Fiji’s growing economy. “I have come here today to talk face-to-face with our cane farmers and with our landowners, to discuss how we can work together to find new ways to help build our growing economy,” he said. Prime Minister Bainimarama said his commitment extended beyond any one industry because it drove the Government’s entire agenda to give our people an equal shot at doing well in our growing economy.



Craft shows empower rural women

JOELI VUETI

MORE than 200 women from the provinces of Bua, Macuata and Cakaudrove recently participated in one of the biggest divisional craft shows in Savusavu.

The three-day craft show, held at Savusavu Market Fore-shore and opened by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa, resulted in an influx of artisans from the rural parts of the Northern Division.

It was jointly organised by the ministry in partnership with the Fiji Arts Council as a build up to the 4th Fiji National Women's Expo, which will be held from June 21-23, 2018.

Minister Vuniwaqa said the main focus of this year's expo was for artisans to produce quality products that were a level up from the last National Women's Expo and to build a new business culture among rural women artisans so that their products could connect to the growing market here in Fiji and abroad.

She emphasised that the initiative would keep traditional knowledge and skills, which are our own identity and heritage, alive.

Minister Vuniwaqa said the competitive platform would bring the very best women entrepreneurs so that their hard work could bring economic benefits and financial independence and these would alleviate poverty in various communities.

"Fijian women can enjoy a financial lift to meet their own needs and in pursuing a better livelihood for their own families and communities," she said.

Eighty exhibitors will be selected from the Northern Division Craft Show to participate at the 2018 National Women's Expo in Suva, based on their ability to meet market demands and the quality of their products.

Sumintra Lal, 47, from Nabekavu in Labasa said she was anticipating earning an estimated income of \$300 from the craft show.

Mrs Lal, who sells curtains, jewellery and homemade curry powder, said the money she earned would help her family because her husband was sickly and thanked the Department of Women staff for assisting her over the past four years at the National Women's Expo in Suva.

Minister praises reforestation program

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE Minister for Forests Osea Naiqamu, has applauded northerners for their commitment towards reforestation of barren lands.

Speaking at his first divisional tour to Vanua Levu this year, Minister Naiqamu said there had been growing interest from landowners in the North to be a part of tree planting programmes run by the ministry.

This comes after numerous commitments by northerners to replant trees on their land, including Mali islanders in Macuata who are working towards planting 200 hectares of native trees.

"On behalf of Government, I was thank-

ing them. Not only them, but other communities around who are participating in the replanting," he said.

Minister Naiqamu said there was a huge gap between the number of trees planted and the ones felled annually and this was something that the ministry was working towards addressing.

"It is a challenge to the ministry. We have been harvesting a lot, but not much effort has been put on replanting. That is where this ministry comes in. It is to encourage all landowners to plant more trees," he said.

Minister Naiqamu said the Government was looking at increasing incentives to repay communities who pledged their sup-

port for this cause.

"Government is assisting on that, especially the Reducing Deforestation Management project where Government pays some incentive to resource owners to encourage them to plant and protect their forest," he said.

Minister Naiqamu added they have been discussing ways to best take advantage of the climate change assistance fund for incentives.

"We are working on that. So we can seek some financial assistance to really increase our plantation size."

He visited sawmillers and other communities in the North during his four-day visit from the 20th to the 23rd of last month.



Graduates with their certificates after the week-long training at Vuniwai, Saqani in Cakaudrove. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

Training for village business owners

JOSAIA RALAGO

VILLAGERS of Vuniwai and Lakeba in Saqani, Cakaudrove, are now better equipped to operate their businesses after a financial literacy and small business management training workshop by the Northern Development Program (NDP).

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Government for recognising and delivering what they needed so they could raise their standard of living.

Vuniwai Village headman Akaripa Rokolewasika said most of the participants were non-graduates and some only reached high school, but were operating businesses.

"This is something that we needed and we thank the NDP and the Government of the day for bringing this training to us," Mr Rokolewasika said.

"It has truly opened our eyes, and with the business opportunities that have been made easier to us through the Micro and Small Busi-

ness Grants and so on, so we can put this knowledge to good use."

Lakeba Village canteen operator Luisa Leluwai said the training helped her acquire the knowledge she needed to advance her business.

"I am so thankful for this opportunity and I will definitely apply what I have learnt here to my canteen business," she said.

Officiating at their graduation, the NDP program manager Waisale Tuidama urged the villagers to invest in businesses because there were abundant resources in the area.

"Why are we poor? You can be rural billionaires all you need to do is take the first step. Why do you need to go to urban areas to make a living when you can do it here," Mr Tuidama said.

"You just need to be passionate about what you do on a daily basis and to use money wisely."

He added that their office handed out grants for northerners who wished to start their businesses.



FACT FILE

The Northern Development Program (NDP) is a Government funded program that provides equity assistance through grants to enterprises to improve the livelihoods of the people of the Northern Division.

The program also provides business and technical training to help businesses improve performance.

The specific objectives of the Northern Development Program is to:

- increase the participation of people of the Northern Division in economic development;
- support the development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs);
- raise the level of investment and economic production;
- increase the volume & value of trade;
- generate increased employment opportunities.

The Northern Development Programme (NDP) has spent a total of \$18 million on 2200 small businesses in the North over the past ten years.



Anglican Church head visits Fiji

THE most senior Bishop and principal leader of the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Portal Welby, ended a three-day visit to Fiji on the first week of this month during which he met senior Government ministers, church clergy and representatives of civil society groups.

Archbishop Welby was accorded traditional iTaukei ceremonies of welcome at Borron House when he arrived on March 2.

He had talks with acting Prime Minister and Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the Global Foundation roundtable discussion held in Suva where the A-G briefed him on Fiji's presidency of the 23rd Session of the Conference of Parties (COP23) and how it created an opportunity to foster the partnership between the private sector, non-governmental organisations and faith-based groups with aim of tackling climate change.

Archbishop Welby thanked the Fijian Government for its commitment towards addressing climate change at regional level and, more importantly, in the global community. "We need to get this message of climate change across to all spheres of the community, at national level, regional level and the international community," he said.

Photos: ERONI VALILI, NANISE NEIMILA



President praises initiatives to help women

President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote has praised two Government initiatives, which he says are aimed at positioning Fiji to ultimately achieve gender equality.

Speaking at celebrations for Interreligious Women's Day in Suva, President Konrote said the initiatives were the National Service Delivery Protocol and the 4th National Women's Expo.

"This is consistent with Fiji's 2013 Constitution which provides an unprecedented and broad range of rights for all Fijians, including women, girls and children. Both initiatives will bring positive changes in society so that Fijian women can enjoy a life free of violence and abuse," he said.

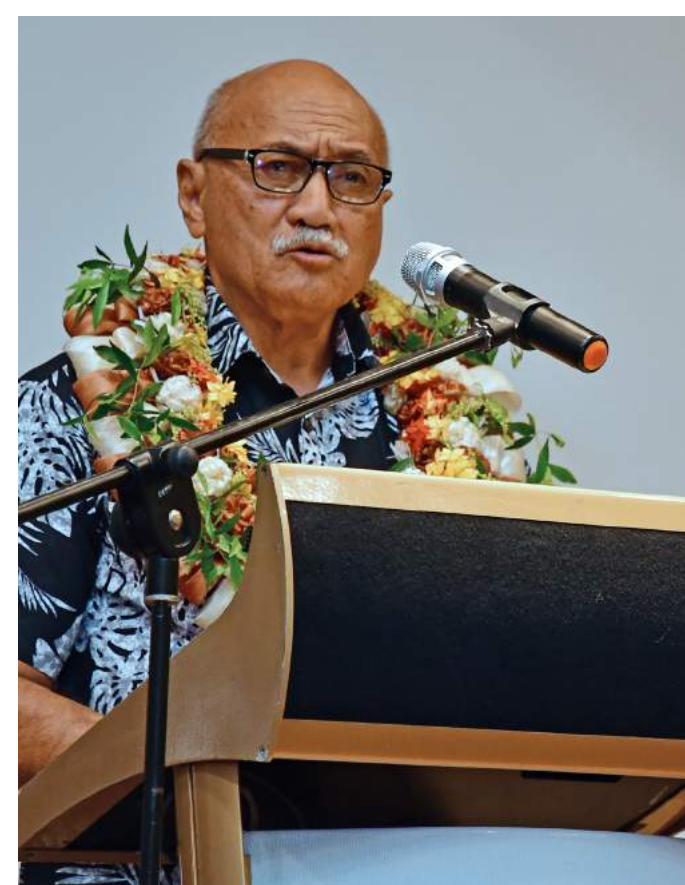
"Additionally, through the National Women's

Expo, Fijian women artisans can benefit from a connecting platform to domestic and international markets that could provide the means towards a sustainable livelihood for themselves, their families and the national economy."

"The development of these initiatives is a testament that the multi-sectorial involvement of key stakeholders is highly efficient, empowering, and a collaborative approach to tackle violence against women and children."

"International Women's Day is celebrated widely across the world. The UN Theme for International Women's day 2018 is "Time is Now: Rural and Urban Activists Transforming Women's Lives."

Photos: ERONI VALILI





President launches FBEA logo

PRASHILA DEVI

“IT takes a national commitment to build a nation and improving national productivity is no different,” says the President, Major-General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote.

President Konrote made the comment while launching the new logo for the Fiji Business Excellence Awards 20th Anniversary in Suva.

He said all nations irrespective of size, location and endowments, shared the dream of creating more wealth and improving socio-economic conditions for their people.

“By striving for self-improvement and recognition, any business that applies for these awards is a win-

ner. By striving for growth and success, you are bettering not only yourselves and your businesses, you are bettering Fiji,” President Konrote said.

He commended the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for its contribution to the “socio-economic development of the Asia-Pacific region through the promotion of productivity”

“For over 34 years, Fiji has received a great deal of support from the APO including training and development in many areas that have helped raise the performance of managers, technicians and CEOs alike in both the private and public sectors,” President Konrote said.

The awards are administered by

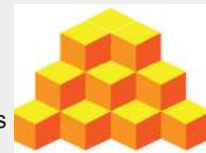
the FBEA Secretariat and the National Training and Productivity Centre of the Fiji National University supports and promotes business excellence and productivity in Fiji.

FNU vice chancellor Professor Nigel Healey said over the past 19 years 238 awards were presented to 116 applicants.

APO secretary-general Dr Santhi Kanoktanaporn urged those attending the launch to regard business excellence holistically, to remember that it was less about recognition and more about the improvement of processes and systems within organisations to improve performance.



- The Fiji Business Excellence Awards, previously known as Fiji Quality Awards, began in 1998
- FBEA was the brainchild of the 1995 Round Table Conference where the representatives of unions, employers and Government met to draw up a roadmap for Fiji’s Productivity Movement
- FBEA framework is similar to the Malcolm Baldrige Framework in the United States of America
- Fiji has been a member of the Asian Pacific Organisation, which has 20 member countries, for over 34 years



President Major General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote with members of the Chinese community during Chinese New Year celebrations in Suva. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Fiji ‘a changed, strong nation’

MEREANI GONEDUA

“Fiji is a changed nation. We are stronger than ever,” says President Major General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote.

He was speaking during Chinese New Year celebrations in Suva where he acknowledged the long-standing relationship between Fiji and China.

President Konrote highlighted that China had been a very close ally of Fiji for decades extending back to the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1975 and strengthening even further in the recent decade.

“As we stand here today after journeying through a full 12-year cycle, I ask you to reflect on the progress that we have made together and of the changes we have witnessed all around us. The nation we see around us today is unlike any-

thing we have seen before in Fijian history,” he said.

“Our system of governance is free and fair, giving equal rights to all Fijians. Our students are more educated, more skilled, and more prepared to enter the workforce — a workforce with more career options, and higher-quality career options, at their feet than ever. Our deep rural and maritime communities have a higher quality of life and access to more resources. And our voice on the global stage is louder and prouder than it has ever been. We have witnessed eight straight years of economic growth, and our unemployment rate is at a 30-year low.

“As a result of expanding Fiji-China relations, Fiji has, since then, continued to experience a surge in growth opportunities in the areas of social development, trade and investment, as

well as a renewed commitment of support towards Fiji’s stand on climate change and its aspiration to successfully achieve the targets within the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs.

“Recognising the Fijian Government’s infrastructural development needs in our urban and rural sectors, the People’s Republic of China has continued to respond with viable solutions that have resulted in real-time benefits for the people of Fiji.”

The President acknowledged the Chinese Government, through its Embassy in Suva, for its diplomacy through humanitarian assistance, the most recent being the financial support extended to the Fiji Government and the people of Fiji after the devastation of Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016.

“I also acknowledge the Peo-

ple’s Republic of China’s unwavering support of the United Nations Climate Change negotiations and of Fiji’s presidency of COP23,” he said.

President Konrote noted an important part where both countries benefitted with chartered flights from Hangzhou, China, bringing Chinese tourists into Fiji.

“With our tourism industry leaning increasingly towards niche markets, Fiji has established a capacity to better target the discerning international traveller,” he said.

The Head of State highlighted the strengthening of ties between the two countries with the establishment of the Confucius Institute at the University of the South Pacific.

He said the institute not only fostered the learning of the Chinese language, but bridged the cultural gap between our

two countries through country-to-country exchanges and cultural programmes.

Chinese Association of Fiji president Jenny Seeto echoed the same sentiments as she acknowledged the continued relationship between the two countries and highlighted the active role the Chinese community played in building Fiji’s economy.

“We are happy to see the continuing co-operation between Fiji and China. China takes centre stage globally as the world continues to follow its rapid progress with much interest,” she said.

“The Chinese Association of Fiji is the co-ordinating body for major Chinese events and festivals. We play an active role in the welfare of our community and businesses and we are the main point of contact and coordination with the



Japan, Nasinu seal grant contract



Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Parveen Kumar, Nasinu Town Council special administrator Mosese Kama and Ambassador of Japan Masahiro Omura during the signing of the grant contract in Suva. Photo: PRIYANKA LAL

PRIYANKA LAL

A GRANT contract signed between the Nasinu Town Council and the Embassy of Japan will enable the acquisition of a two nine-tonne garbage compactor trucks to supplement the current fleet of trucks.

Council special administrator Mosese Kama and Ambassador of Japan Masahiro Omura signed the

contract at the Ministry of Local Government in Suva last week.

Mr Kama said the financial assistance by Japan would help the council improve waste management operations in the municipality by providing an efficient, hazard free and timely waste collection service to the residents.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Parveen Kumar was present at the event.

Indian govt renews support for MSBG

RONAL DEO

THE memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed for the second phase of Indian Government assistance for the Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) initiative will assist close to 6000 individuals.

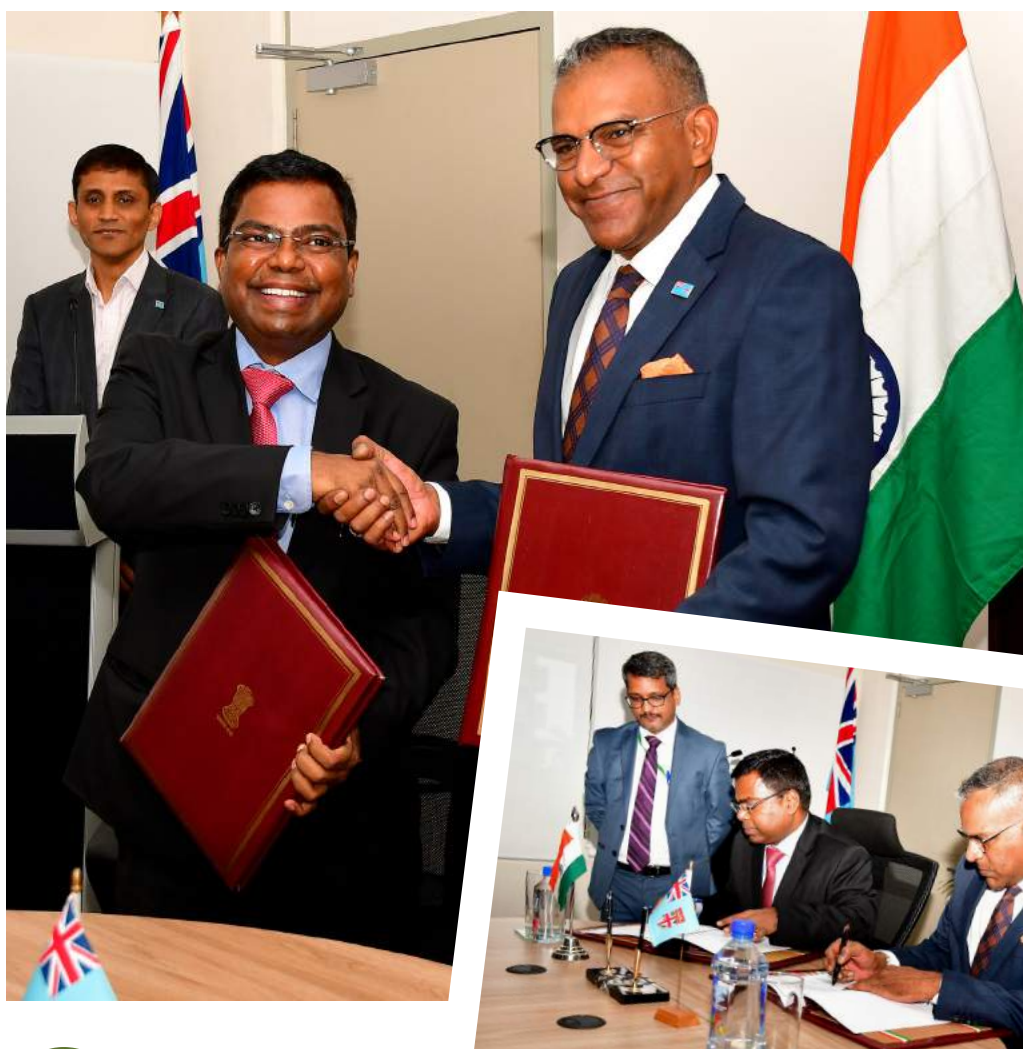
Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya recently signed the MOA with the Indian High Commissioner to Fiji, Vishvas Sapkal, in Suva.

"While the Fijian Government has invested a significant amount of funds in this initiative, it has been the support of the Indian Government that has given a tremendous boost to this particular programme," Minister Koya said.

"I must tell you that this year we have even more creative business ideas."

High Commissioner Sapkal said the signing represented India's close partnership in the development of communities and Fiji as a whole.

"We are happy to be part of this scheme and will continue to provide such assistance. Our relations in all spheres are going well and this is an important aspect of these relations," he added.



Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya with the Indian High Commissioner to Fiji, Vishvas Sapkal during the signing of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the second phase of Indian Government assistance for the Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) initiative will assist close to 6000 individuals. in Suva. Photo: PRIYANKA LAL



FACTBOX MICRO AND SMALL BUSINESS GRANT

- Under the second phase of the MOA, the Indian Government has provided financial support of \$5.9 million to boost the MSBG initiative;
- The MSBG initiative began in 2014 and since then the Fijian Government

has supported more than 17,970 micro and small entrepreneurs. This support has directly impacted the lives of about 89,750 Fijians;

- Under the first phase of the support \$4.67m provided in 2016;
- Under this initiative, a grant of

\$1000 each was provided to small and micro enterprises; and

- These businesses include farming, poultry, beekeeping, livestock farming, piggery, market vending, retail, florist, bakery, sewing, roadside stalls, tailoring and handcraft.

Investment policy, Act under review

PRIYANKA LAL

THE Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism is working on the review of the Investment Policy and Act in collaboration with the World Bank Group/International Finance Corporation.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya at the opening of the Stakeholder Workshop on Investment Policy and Act Consultations in Suva.

Minister Koya said the aim of the re-

view was to develop a new and modern investment law and regulation, which would be able to adapt to the changing investment environment and provide a reform action plan.

"Therefore, one key outcome of the reform map is having a comprehensive Investment Act that provides rights, protection and obligations to both domestic and foreign investors. The Investment Reform Map (IRM) identifies the need to clearly define roles of the investment promotion agency and the regulatory agencies," Minister Koya added.



FACTBOX INVESTMENT IN FIJI

- The Fijian economy has been experiencing unprecedented levels of growth, an average growth of 4.5 per cent was achieved over the past five years with 5.6 per cent in 2014 being the highest recorded for decades;
- Investment accounts for more than 25 per cent of GDP, with private sector investment pegged at 15 per cent;
- The review process has started

with an Investment Reform Map (IRM), which highlights areas of strength, gaps and weaknesses in the existing legal and policy framework for foreign investment, and identified reform action plan; and

- The IRM identifies what Fiji's development vision entails, to ensure that resources are channelled towards attracting the right kind of investment and investors.



Call for awareness on gender violence

NATASHA BEGUM

MINISTER for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa has reiterated on the need for more awareness on the eradication of violence against women in Fiji.

Minister Vuniwaqa made these comments while declaring Rukuruku and Nukutocia villages as Zero Tolerance Violence Free Communities during her tour of Ovalau recently.

“The zero tolerance violence free com-

munities is a very important programme in our ministry because of our efforts as a nation to eradicate violence against women,” she said.

“One of the biggest challenges we face is the lack of awareness on our programmes specifically the zero tolerance against violence.

“We find that it’s mostly women who are part of this discussion and that’s missing the point because we don’t find men in numbers.”

Minister Vuniwaqa added that with the ministry’s new approach, it was now in-

volving churches and religious organisations to raise awareness.

“With our new approach to actively involve the churches and the vanua in running the first commitment phase we are now seeing more men than women being part of discussions,” she said.

“The ministry’s strength lies in its partnership with stakeholders and religious organisations because they are a very strong component in eradicating violence against women and I believe it’s a step in the right direction.”



Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources, Faiyaz Koya (INSET) during the launch of the Pacific Geographical Information Systems & Remote Sensing Council (PGRSC) in Suva.

Pacific GIS & Remote Sensing Council launched

PRIYANKA LAL

THE newly-launched Pacific Geographical Information Systems & Remote Sensing Council (PGRSC) will promote and help support further developments of GIS and RS tools in the region.

It was launched recently by the Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources, Faiyaz Koya, in Suva.

Minister Koya commended the staff of the Ministry of Lands and its partners at the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) for their foresight in the creation of the council.

“A key objective of the council is to ensure connectivity and robust linkages with other GIS, remote sensing and scientific bodies regionally and globally,” Minister Koya said.

The council has three trustees; the permanent secretary of Lands and Mineral Resources Malakai Finau, a former Director of South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission Dr Russell Howarth and a Commissioner for Oaths Rajendra Singh.

Dr Wolf Forstreuter serves as board chair and the board members consist of GIS and RS specialists from the Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Forestry, USP and SPC.



FACTBOX

PGRSC KEY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the council are:

- To promote the development of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing data, technologies, methods and services for the Pacific region;
- To enable collaboration and share lessons learnt across regional agencies and commercial parties;
- To discuss and establish methods in building adaptation for the Pacific environment for solutions working already well outside the region;
- To manage the distribution, publication and awareness of conference outcomes; and
- To establish robust links with other Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing and scientific bodies regionally and globally.

Push to promote investment, growth

RONAL DEO

“THE growth of our towns and cities are in the hands of the municipal leaders,” says Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Parveen Kumar.

He made the comment at a recent Local Government Forum on how and why municipal councils needed to strengthen their roles as development partners with the national government.

“The Government has put in levels of investment through annual grants and funding for our towns and cities that has never been seen before. This has been seen as an incentive for private investments,” Minister Kumar said.

“I have encouraged responsible and sustainable partnerships with private entities with municipal councils. We need to have proactive and prudent partnerships that benefit all parties.”

Minister Kumar said this needed to tie in with innovation and careful assessment of local resources, needs and with appropriate risk management to ensure local growth that tied in with national development policies and aims.

“Apart from investment in economic activities, we need to invest in our people from the local government perspective, in areas such as civic pride and responsibilities. This is a cornerstone of nation building,” he said.

Minister Kumar said municipal councils should involve and inspire residents of towns and cities to act responsibly in their care for public property and amenities and particularly for the environment.

He added that they would have a cleaner, greener Fiji with better amenities and public facilities and infrastructure.

Plan for Local Govt Act review

RONAL DEO

MINISTER for Local Government, Housing and Environment Parveen Kumar has outlined the Government’s intent to review the outdated

Local Government Act 1972.

He said the Act could not and did not address Fiji’s current needs, which was why these developments were taking place.

“Based on the terms of reference drawn up by the Local

Government Committee after extensive consultations, a Local Government Act Review Committee will be appointed with five members. This Local Government Act Review Committee will complete the review process of the Local

Government Act,” Minister Kumar said.

He said that it was important to understand that the review would not address the electoral system of municipal councils, but there were other Acts that needed to look into

it.

Some of these legislations include Public Health Act, National Building Code; Land Transport Act; Subdivision of Lands Act, Town Planning Act, Litter Act.

फ़ीजी लोकस



माई सूवा पार्क में आयोजित होली समारोह के अटोनी जेनरल ने सैकड़ों लोगों के साथ मिल कर इस पर्व का आनन्द लिया।

अटोनी जेनरल ने लिया होली समारोह का आनन्द

संगीता लाल

हाल ही में माई सूवा पार्क में आयोजित होली समारोह के अटोनी जेनरल और अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने सैकड़ों लोगों के साथ मिल कर इस पर्व का आनन्द लिया। होली, जिसे “रंगों का त्योहार” भी कहा जाता है, हिंदुओं का एक वसंत (Spring) त्योहार है जो पूरे भारत और नेपाल, बंगलादेश और पाकिस्तान में बसे हिंदुओं और साथ ही उन देशों जहाँ पर हिंदुओं की बड़ी डायस्पोरा (diaspora) जनसंख्या है जैसे सूरीनाम (Surinam), गयाना (Guyana), ट्रिनिडाड और तबैगो (Trinidad and Tabago), दक्षिण अफ्रीका (South Africa), मलेशिया (Malaysia), यूनाइटेड किंगडम (United Kingdom), अमरीका, कैंनेडा, मोरिशस और

फ़ीजी में मनाया जाता है।

यह बुराई पर अच्छाई की विजय, वसंत की शुरुआत, ठंड की समाप्ति का प्रतीक है, और कई लोगों के लिए एक दूसरे से मिलने, हंसने और खेलने, भूलने और क्षमा करने और बिखरे रिश्तों को समेटने का समय है।

इस समारोह के दौरान अटोनी जेनरल ने सभी फ़ीजीवासियों से मांग की कि वे खुशियाँ मनाएँ और आने वाली नई शुरुआत को पहचानें।

“फ़ीजी एक ऐसा देश है जो बहुत भाग्यशाली है क्योंकि यहाँ हमें हर धार्मिक कार्यक्रम मनाने का अवसर मिलता है चाहे वह दिवाली, ईस्टर, पैगम्बर मोहम्मद का जन्मदिन, क्रिस्मस, ईद या होली हो,” अटोनी जेनरल सैयद-खैयूम ने बताया।

“इस तरह के समारोहों के साथ हमें यह सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता है कि

समझदारी और समृद्धि की संस्कृति सभी जातियों, धार्मिक समूहों और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पूरे राष्ट्र को एकजुट करेगी।”

फ़ीजी स्थित भारतीय उच्चायुक्त, महामहिम विश्वास सपकल ने कहा कि होली हमें प्रेम के बारे में शिक्षा देती है।

उन्होंने कहा कि यह हमें ये याद दिलाता है कि भले ही हम अलग-अलग वर्ग से आते हैं हम एकजुट हैं और एक रूप में ढल जाते हैं।

“आज का यह अवसर यही संदेश दोहराता है और मैं आप सभी को एक साथ मिल कर होली मनाने के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ,” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा।

इस उत्सव पर भारत के मनिपुरी नृत्य समूह और अन्य स्थानीय समूह द्वारा प्रदर्शन भी किया गया।

अनौपचारिक बस्तियों में सुधार की आशा

संगीता लाल

हाल में सिंगातोका में आयोजित एक सार्वजनिक परामर्श (public consultation) के दौरान लोकल गवर्नमेंट मंत्री, परवीण बाला ने कहा कि देश भर के उन उन्नीस अनौपचारिक बस्तियाँ जो शहर के सीमा के अन्दर हैं, को जल्द ही उचित लीस दिए जाएँगे। “हाल ही में लोकल गवर्नमेंट मंत्रालय द्वारा देश भर में अनौपचारिक बस्तियों जिन में कछ औपचारिकता की आवश्यकता है, का सर्वेक्षण किया गया,” मंत्री ने कहा।

“लोकल गवर्नमेंट मंत्रालय वर्तमान में टाउन और सिटी काउन्सिल तथा लैंड्स मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर काम कर रही है ताकि इन अनौपचारिक बस्तियों और वहाँ रहने वाले लोगों को उचित लीस की अनुमति दी जाए।” मंत्री बाला ने यह भी कहा कि इन अनौपचारिक बस्तियों को उचित लीस प्रदान करने से वे आर्थिक सहायता प्राप्त करने में सक्षम

होंगे अपने जीवन स्तर में और सुधार ला सकेंगे।

“लीस प्राप्त करने पर ये लोग कर्ज ले कर अपने जीवन स्तर और अपने घरों में सुधार कर सकेंगे और हम उन्हें पाइप का पानी और उचित सड़कें भी प्रदान कर सकेंगे,” मंत्री ने कहा।

67 वर्षीय राम मूर्ति, जो ओलोसारा सिंगातोका में एक बस्ती में रहते हैं, ने सरकार के इस कदम का स्वागत किया।

“हम अनौपचारिक बस्ती में हमेशा रहते, लेकिन 42 परिवार आभारी हैं कि सरकार ने हमें अपनी योजनाओं में रखा है और मैं इस जानकारी का स्वागत करता हूँ कि हमें उचित लीस दिए जाएँगे,” श्री मूर्ति ने कहा।

ओनो-ई-लाऊ में समुद्री आँधी गीता से \$324,162 की क्षति

संगीता लाल

समुद्री आँधी गीता से ओनो-ई-लाऊ के मातोकाना, नुकूनी और लोवोनी कोरो को \$324,162 लागत क्षति पहुँची है।

इसकी पुष्टि नेशनल डिज़ास्टर मैनेजमेंट दफ़्तर के उन अधिकारियों द्वारा की गई है जिन्होंने ओनो-ई-लाऊ द्वीप पर आकलन (assessment) किया है।

लोवोनी कोरो में \$45,915, नुकूनी कोरो में सब से ज्यादा क्षति दर्ज की गई है जो



समुद्री आँधी गीता से ओनो-ई-लाऊ द्वीप पर \$324,162 लागत क्षति पहुँची है। लाऊ के मातोकाना, नुकूनी और लोवोनी कोरो के लिए राहत सामान।

\$63,998 है जबकि मातोकाना कोरो में \$8,755 लागत क्षति हुई है।

समुद्री आँधी गीता द्वारा अरुई या यैम (yam) के खेतों में लगभग \$13,000 लागत क्षति

दर्ज की गई है जबकि केले के खेतों को लगभग \$8,755 लागत क्षति पहुँची है।

मातोकाना में कुल मिला कर छः घरों पर असर पड़ा है। तीन घर पूरी तरह नष्ट हुए हैं और

तीन घरों के कुछ भाग को क्षति पहुँची है।

नुकूनी में आठ घर नष्ट हुए हैं और छः घरों के कुछ भाग को क्षति पहुँची है।



प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने देश भर के गन्ने के किसानों को यह चुनौती दी है कि वे उनके कैन रिप्लान्टिंग कार्यक्रम (Cane Replanting Programme) से लाभ उठाएँ।

प्रधान मंत्री ने दी किसानों को चुनौती

संगीता लाल

प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने देश भर के गन्ने के किसानों को यह चुनौती दी है कि वे उनके कैन रिप्लान्टिंग कार्यक्रम (Cane Replanting Programme) से लाभ उठाएँ।

सरकार द्वारा इस प्रोग्राम के लिए \$16 मिलियन प्रदान की

जा रही है, किसान अपने खेतों में नए गन्ना बोने के लिए इन पैसों को प्रोत्साहन (incentive) के रूप में काम में ला सकते हैं। इस वृद्धि से 2017 में 5,671 हेक्टेयर गन्ना उगाया गया था जबकि 2016 में सिर्फ 3,900 हेक्टेयर गन्ना उगाया गया था। “हम गन्ना उत्पादन को बढ़ा रहे हैं और विस्तार सेवाओं

(एक्स्टेंशन सर्विसज़), परिवहन (transportation) और कटाई (harvesting) में सुधार ला रहे हैं और हमने किसानों के लिए नई और बेहतर तकनीकों को स्थानांतरित (transfer) करने में मदद की है,” उन्होंने कहा।

“लेकिन हमारी रिपोर्टों से संकेत मिलता है कि हमारे पास 30,000 हेक्टेयर ज़मीन है जो खाली हैं या कम-उपयोग की जाती है, इसलिए मैं आप सभी को प्रोत्साहित करता हूँ कि इस अनुदान या ग्रांट का लाभ उठाने

हुए और अधिक गन्ना उगाएँ।” उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि मज़दूरों की कमी के कारण गन्ने की कटाई सरकार के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र है।

“हमने 21 सहकारी समिति या कोरपरेटिव (cooperatives) को मेकेनिकल हार्वेस्टर डिपॉजिट (deposit) के लिए

\$90,000 प्रदान की है और पहले से ही, हमने गन्ने की कुल प्रतिशत में मेकेनिकल हार्वेस्टर के द्वारा आठ प्रतिशत से अट्ठारह प्रतिशत वृद्धि की है,” प्रधान मंत्री बईनिमरामा ने कहा।

2009 में शुरू किए गए फर्टिलाइज़र सब्सिडी के द्वारा सरकार ने किसानों के लिए दाम को और कम कर के \$20 प्रति बस्ता (बैग) कर दिया है। इस से पिछले साल जनवरी से विक्री में करीब 40 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है।

“हमने टोल-फ्री लाइन्स की स्थापना के माध्यम से किसानों की शिकायतों और चिंताओं के लिए मंत्रालय को और अधिक संवेदनशील (responsive) बना दिया है। इस के अलावा किसान एफ एस सी के समक्ष 0800-6661972 पर अपनी शिकायत और चिंताएँ व्यक्त कर सकते हैं,” प्रधान मंत्री

चीनी व्यवसाय के प्रति सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता

संगीता लाल

प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने हाल ही में पश्चिमी विभाग के अपने सार्वजनिक परामर्श के दौरान सिंगातोका, नान्दी, लौतोका, बा, तावुआ और राकीराकी के गन्ने के किसानों के समक्ष चीनी व्यवसाय के प्रति सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को दोहराया है। उन्होंने इस क्षेत्र के लिए लघु, मध्य और दीर्घकालिक लक्ष्यों (short, medium and long term goals) को उजागर किया।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि किसानों को सशक्त बनाने के उद्देश्य से विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों और पहलों की शुरुआत की गई है।

“जब हम उत्पादन के खर्च को कम करते हैं, तो क्या हम इस व्यवसाय को और अधिक स्थायी, और अधिक लाभदायक भविष्य के लिए एक वास्तविक रास्ते पर ला सकते हैं यही कारण है कि मेरी सरकार ने एक व्यापक सहायता प्रदान की है जो आपकी खर्च को गंभीरता से कम कर रहे हैं। सरकार ने इस वित्तीय वर्ष एक नया \$6.3 मिलियन लागत वीडिसाइड सब्सिडी कार्यक्रम (Weedicide Subsidy Program) शुरू किया है जिसका लक्ष्य है गन्ने के किसानों को सहायता करना ताकि वे अपने उपज को बढ़ाने के लिए कम दाम में घासनाशक दवा खरीद सकें,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

प्रधान मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि अन्य नई पहल जैसे कि शूगरकैन रिहेबिलिटेशन और स्मोल ग्रांट स्कीम के द्वारा किसान इस तरह के सप्लाय खरीदने में पैसों का उपयोग करने में सक्षम हैं जैसे फेन्स लगाने वाले सामान, पम्प और पानी के टैंक। यह गन्ने के किसानों को अनुमति देता है कि वे तेज़ी से बदलते व्यवसाय की गति को अपना सकें। सरकार ने शूगरकैन ग्रवर्स काउन्सिल को शूगर लेवी (sugar levy) भरना जारी रखा है, जिसमें काउन्सिल के सभी प्रशासनिक खर्च (administrative costs) भी शामिल हैं।

“हमने इस वित्तीय वर्ष में पूंजी कार्यक्रमों या कैपिटल प्रोग्राम (capital programmes) के लिए अभूतपूर्व धन (unprecedented funding) अलग रखा है। कुल मिलाकर, चीनी व्यवसाय के बजट को \$60 मिलियन तक बढ़ाया गया है जो पिछले साल के बजट के मिलान में लगभग दोगुना ज़्यादा है और हमारे समर्थन से, 2018 में गन्ना उत्पादन लगभग दो लाख टन तक पहुँचने का अनुमान है।”

अन्य प्रोत्साहनों में शामिल हैं फर्टिलाइज़र सब्सिडी और किसानों को एक सहकारी आधारित दृष्टिकोण (cooperative based approach) के माध्यम से सहायता प्रदान करना ताकि किसानों के पास खुद के मेकेनिकल हार्वेस्टर हो सकें और जल्द ही फीजी शूगर कोर्पोरेशन के माध्यम से किसानों को ट्रैक्टर प्रदान किए जाएंगे।

पेराई से पहले सभी मरम्मतकार्य समाप्त हो जाएंगे

संगीता लाल

फीजी शूगर कोर्पोरेशन (एफ एस सी) द्वारा यह घोषणा की गई है कि गन्ने की पेराई शुरू होने से पहले देश भर में गन्ने की खेती वाले इलाकों में गन्ना ढोने वाली सभी सड़कों (cane access roads) पर मरम्मतकार्य पूरा हो जाएगा।

एफ एस सी के चीफ ऑपरेटिंग ऑफ़िसर, श्री नवीन चन्द्र ने हाल ही में प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा द्वारा पश्चिमी विभाग में किए गए एक सार्वजनिक परामर्श के दौरान राकीराकी के एक किसान, नरेन्द्र महाराज के सवालों का जवाब देते हुए यह घोषणा की।

“मौसम की स्थिति की वजह से गन्ना ढोने वाली सड़कों के रखरखाव अब एक बड़ी समस्या है लेकिन हमने टेंडर और कोन्ट्रैक्ट दिया है इसलिए आने वाले हफ्तों में यदि मौसम ने साथ दिया तो काम शुरू होने की संभावना है,” उन्होंने कहा।

“हम सभी किसानों को सूचित करना चाहते हैं कि हम यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहते हैं कि सभी ठेकेदार एक निश्चित स्तर के लिए काम पूरा करेंगे क्योंकि पहले,



एफ एस सी द्वारा यह घोषणा की गई है कि गन्ने की पेराई शुरू होने से पहले देश भर में गन्ने की खेती वाले इलाकों में गन्ना ढोने वाली सभी सड़कों (cane access roads) पर मरम्मतकार्य पूरा हो जाएगा।

पैसा प्राप्त करने के बावजूद हमें access roads की स्थितियों पर शिकायतें मिली हैं इस प्रकार यह सुनिश्चित करने का कारण है कि हम कोन्ट्रैक्ट उन कंपनियों को दें जो अच्छा काम करते हैं,” श्री चन्द्र ने

कहा।

राकीराकी के लिए श्री चन्द्र ने पुष्टि की है कि 389 cane access रास्ते जो कुल 44 किलोमीटर हैं, पर मार्च में काम शुरू होगा।



शिक्षा का आकलन जारी

संगीता लाल

शिक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा वर्तमान में एक आकलन (assessment) किया जा रहा है ताकि उन क्षेत्रों को निर्धारित की जा सकें जिन्हें बेहतर शिक्षा-संबंधी सुविधाओं की आवश्यकता है।

हाल ही में नंगाली डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल पर एक तलनवा सेशन के दौरान अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने वीरिया नौसोरी के एक निवासी, राज कुमार के सवाल का जवाब देते समय यह आम किया।

पचास वर्षीय श्री कुमार ने उस इलाके में एक हाई स्कूल बनाने की मांग की ताकि नंगाली, वांगाम्बंगा, वीरिया, सावू और वनुआकूला नई तासीरी के बच्चे वहाँ पढ़ाई कर सकें।

अटोनी जेनरल ने श्री कुमार के अनुरोध को नोट किया और उन्हें यह बताया कि वर्तमान में सरकार की प्राथमिकता है यह देखना कि देश भर में मौजूदा स्कूलों में पर्याप्त कक्षाएँ, उचित कोम्प्यूटर और साईन्स लैब तथा ऐब्लूशन ब्लॉक्स (ablution-blocks) हों।

“नंगाली डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल द्वारा मुझ से कुछ नए कक्षाओं का निर्माण करने की मांग की गई है जिन्हें प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। हम आकलान कर रहे हैं कि कहाँ और अधिक हाई स्कूल बनाने की आवश्यकता है और कहाँ प्राथमरी स्कूलों में और अधिक कक्षाएँ बनाने की आवश्यकता है,” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा।

श्री कुमार ने चिंता जताते हुए कहा कि वीरिया और आस पास के इलाकों के छात्रों को समयसीमा के अन्दर नौसोरी के स्कूलों में दाखिला (admission) नहीं मिल पाता है।

“ज़्यादातर हमारे बच्चे अपनी हाई स्कूल की शिक्षा के लिए नौसोरी के सेकन्ड्री स्कूलों में जाते हैं लेकिन उन्हें अपने नज़दीकी स्कूल में जाने के लिए कहा जाता है। स्कूल शुरू होने तक, कक्षाएँ पूरी तरह भर जाते हैं और ये बच्चे छूट जाते हैं। ऐसा इस साल हुआ इसलिए हम अनुरोध कर रहे हैं कि यहाँ एक हाई स्कूल का निर्माण हो। इससे हमारे बच्चों को लाभ होगा,” श्री कुमार ने अनुरोध किया।

अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि जबकि आकलन पूरा होने में लगभग छः से नौ महीने लगेंगे, उद्देश्य है इसे ठीक से करना।

उन्होंने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि सरकार की मुफ्त शिक्षा पहल (free education initiative) के कारण स्कूल रोल में वृद्धि हुई है इस वजह से और कक्षाओं का निर्माण आवश्यक है।

“इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि मुफ्त शिक्षा पहल के कारण अब स्कूलों में ज़्यादा बच्चे हैं। बहुत सारे माता पिता अब अपने बच्चों को स्कूल भेजने के फायदे देख रहे हैं। पहले बहुत ज़्यादा स्कूल ड्रॉपआउट्स (dropouts) हुआ करते थे।”

2020 तक आयात को कम करना सरकार का लक्ष्य

संगीता लाल

सरकार का यह लक्ष्य है कि 2020 तक फल और शाक सब्जियों के आयात को \$80 मिलियन से कम किया जाए।

हाल ही में आयोजित एक्स्पोर्टर्स सिम्पोज़ियम के दौरान कृषि मंत्रालय के स्थायी सचिव, डेविड कोलितंगाने ने कहा कि कृषि व्यवसाय ने 2016 में \$453 मिलियन का नकारात्मक परिणाम दिखाया है - जिसका अर्थ है कि आयात (import) निर्यात (export) से कहीं अधिक था।

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि निर्यात का मूल्य जिसमें फसल और पशु दोनों शामिल थे जिसमें मुख्य रूप से प्रमुख ताज़ा और ठंडा वस्तुओं का निर्यात किया गया था जैसे डालो, अदरक, कसेरा, पपीता और यंगोना तथा अन्य मूल्यवर्धित उत्पाद (value added products) जैसे नारियल का तेल। “कुछ लोग कह सकते हैं कि यह अवास्तविक है, लेकिन हमें विश्वास है कि अगर हम बेहतर तरीके खोजने और अपनी समस्याओं का समाधान ढूँढने में अपने सभी प्रयासों को एक साथ रखते हैं तब सब कुछ

संभव है। मेरा मानना है कि यह सिम्पोज़ियम कृषि व्यवसाय से संबंधित बातचीत और उन व्यवसाय विशेष रूप से हमारे निर्यात तक पहुँचने के लिए उस मंच को प्रदान करने की पहल का समर्थन करती है,” श्री कोलितंगाने ने कहा।

उसी वर्ष \$646 मिलियन लागत वस्तुएँ आयात की गईं जिनमें शामिल हैं चावल, आलू, डैरी, ताज़ा और ठंडा मांस, इत्यादि। उन्होंने कहा कि कृषि उद्योग के लिए अब चुनौती है गैर-चीनी निर्यात को \$100 मिलियन तक बढ़ाना।



सहायक कृषि मंत्री, वियम पिल्ले ने ड्रेकेती स्थित वनुआ लेवू राइस फार्मर्स कोरपरेटिव की वार्षिक आम सभा के दौरान किसानों को बताया कि और अधिक मशीन जिन में शामिल हैं राइस हार्वेस्टर, पावर टिलर और “एल” के आकार वाले रोटोवैटर्स (rotavators) लाने की योजनाएँ हैं।

धान की खेती के लिए और अधिक मशीन की योजनाएँ

संगीता लाल

उत्तरी विभाग में ड्रेकेती के धान के किसानों से मांग की जा रही है कि वे चावल उद्योग (rice industry) के विकास के लिए आपस में तथा कृषि मंत्रालय के साथ मिल कर काम करें। सहायक कृषि मंत्री, वियम पिल्ले ने ड्रेकेती स्थित वनुआ लेवू राइस फार्मर्स कोरपरेटिव की वार्षिक आम सभा के दौरान देश में चावल की आयात को कम करने की

सहायता के लिए किसानों को उनकी भूमिका याद दिलाया। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि फीजी राइस लिमिटेड द्वारा पिछले वर्षों में चावल की उत्पादन में वृद्धि देखी गई है जो स्पष्ट रूप से यह दर्शाती है कि किसान इस उद्योग में सरकार के निवेश और सहायता को अच्छी तरह से काम में ला रहे हैं। कुछ किसानों ने सहायक कृषि मंत्री के समक्ष ड्रेकेती अग्रीकल्चर स्टेशन पर उचित मशीनों की कमी पर अपनी

चिंताएँ व्यक्त की जिस पर मंत्री ने उन्हें आश्वासन दिया कि और अधिक मशीन जिन में शामिल हैं राइस हार्वेस्टर, पावर टिलर और “एल” के आकार वाले रोटोवैटर्स (rotavators) लाने की योजनाएँ हैं। वार्षिक आम सभा के दौरान दस सदस्यों का एक वर्किंग ग्रुप भी बनाया गया ताकि किसानों और कृषि मंत्रालय के बीच बेहतर तालमेल (coordination) हो सके।

छोटे और मध्यम स्तर के व्यवसाय के लिए सहायता

संगीता लाल

भारत सरकार द्वारा प्रदान की जा रही छोटे और मध्यम स्तर के व्यवसाय के लिए सहायता (Micro and Small Business Grant [MSBG]) के दूसरे चरण के समर्थन के लिए समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर से लगभग 6000 लोगों को लाभ होगा।

हाल ही सूबा में इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड, टूरिज़्म, लैंड्स और मिनरल रिसोर्सस मंत्री, फईयाज़ कोया और फीजी के लिए भारतीय उच्चायुक्त (High Commissioner), महामहिम विश्वास सपकल ने इस समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किया। भारतीय सरकार ने \$5.9 मिलियन लागत आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान की है।

“एम एस बी पहल की शुरुआत 2015 में हुई और तब से सरकार ने 17,970 से अधिक छोटे और मध्यम स्तर के व्यापारियों का समर्थन किया। इस समर्थन ने 89,750 फीजीवासियों के जीवन को सीधे रूप से प्रभावित किया है। जबकि फीजीयन सरकार ने इस पहल में एक महत्वपूर्ण राशी का निवेश किया है, इसमें भारत सरकार का भी समर्थन रहा है जिसने इस विशेष कार्यक्रम को काफी बढ़ावा दिया है। समर्थन का पहला चरण 2016 में उपलब्ध \$4.67 मिलियन था,” मंत्री कोया ने कहा।

इस पहल के तहत, प्रत्येक छोटे और मध्यम स्तर के व्यवसाय के लिए \$1000 का अनुदान (ग्रांट) प्रदान किया जाता है।

उच्चायुक्त सपकल ने कहा कि हस्ताक्षर समुदायों और पूरे फीजी के विकास में भारत की करीबी भागीदारी का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है। “हमें खुशी है कि हम इस तरह की योजना का हिस्सा हैं और हम इसी तरह सहायता प्रदान करना जारी रखेंगे।”



वह सब कुछ जो फीजी में हो रहा है

email: news@govnet.gov.fj;
@FijiRepublic;
Fijian Government;
visit us @ www.fiji.gov.fj
phone: 3301806



अटोनी जेनरल ने लिया होली पर्व का आनन्द

हाल ही में माई सूवा पार्क में आयोजित होली समारोह के अटोनी जेनरल और अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने सैकड़ों लोगों के साथ मिल कर इस पर्व का आनन्द लिया। इस समारोह के दौरान अटोनी जेनरल ने सभी फीजीवासियों से मांग की कि वे खुशियाँ मनाएँ और आने वाली नई शुरुआत को पहचानें।



राष्ट्रपति कोनरोते ने किया कैंटरबरी के आर्चबिशप का स्वागत

राष्ट्रपति मेजर जेनरल (retired) चियोची कोनरोते ने हाल ही में बोरन हाउज़ पर कैंटरबरी के आर्चबिशप, योर ग्रेस द मोस्ट रेवरेण्ड एंड राइट ओनरबल जस्टिन पोर्टल वेल्बी (Archbishop of Canterbury, Your Grace The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Portal Welby) का स्वागत किया। फीजी पुलिस फोर्स के अफसरों द्वारा एक पारम्परिक स्वागत समारोह किया गया। इस समारोह में स्थानापन्न प्रधान मंत्री और अटोनी-जेनरल, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम, मंत्री मंडल के सदस्यों और विभिन्न संप्रदायों के धार्मिक नेताओं ने भाग लिया।





न्यु ज़ीलैंड के मंत्री ने लौतोका आंध्र स्कूल के टेलीसेन्टर का उद्घाटन किया

न्यु ज़ीलैंड के एथनिक कोम्यूनिटीज़ मंत्री, माननीय जेनी सेलेसा ने हाल ही में लौतोका आंध्र सेकन्ड्री स्कूल के नए टेलीसेन्टर का उद्घाटन किया। फील्ड 40 में उद्घाटन किए गए इस टेलीसेन्टर से समुदायों को डिजिटल युग के बारे में सीखने और लाभ उठाने का अवसर प्राप्त होगा।



फीजी ड्राइविंग स्कूल्स असोसिएशन का 2018 ए जी एम का

लोकल गवर्नमेंट, हाउज़िंग, एन्वायरन्मेंट, इन्फ्रस्ट्रक्चर और ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्री, परवीण कुमार वाला ने हाल ही में स्पोर्ट्स सिटी में आयोजित फीजी ड्राइविंग स्कूल्स असोसिएशन की 2018 वार्षिक आम सभा का उद्घाटन किया। मंत्री वाला ने कहा कि ड्राइविंग स्कूलों को सुरक्षित ड्राइवर तैयार करने की ज़िम्मेदारियाँ बढ़ रही हैं क्योंकि अब हमारी सड़कों पर बड़ी संख्या में गाड़ियाँ, नई तकनीक वाली गाड़ियाँ, सड़कों की स्थिति में सुधार और अब और ज़्यादा लोग ग्रामीण इलाकों से आकर शहरों में बसने लगे हैं।





जलवायु परिवर्तन के लिए \$9.3 बिलियन की ज़रूरत

संगीता लाल

अगले दस वर्षों में फीजी को \$9.3 बिलियन की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी ताकि जलवायु परिवर्तन जिसका असर हमारे अर्थ व्यवस्था पर है, की गति को स्थापित रखा जा सके। अटोनी जेनरल, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने संसद में सरकारी संसद सदस्य, मताईयासी निउमाताईवालू के सवाल कि बोन जर्मनी में कोप23 में फीजी के जलवायु अरक्षितता आकलन (Fiji's Climate Vulnerability

Assessment) पर कार्यों की ज़रूरत (actions needed) के जवाब में कहा। “इस जलवायु अरक्षितता आकलन (Climate Vulnerability Assessment) में, नवीन विश्लेषण और कार्य-प्रणाली (innovative analysis and methodology) भी है उदाहरण के तौर पर, यह खराब और असमानता पर जलवायु आपदाओं के प्रभाव की जाँच करता है ताकि सरकार जोखिम प्रबंधन (risk management) निर्णय ले सके जो गरीबी के प्रभाव से सूचित किए जाते हैं न कि

सिर्फ कुल खर्चों के आधार पर,” अटोनी जेनरल सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा। जनाब सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा कि बहुत ज़्यादा आर्थिक अनुमान हैं और बुनियादि ढाँचे में तथा फीजीवासियों के बीच लचीलापन का निर्माण करने के लिए, सही तकनीक का उपयोग करना ज़रूरी है। “यह तकनीक जलवायु की घटनाओं की आवृत्ति (frequency) में भारी वृद्धि का सामना करने में मदद करेगी,” अटोनी जेनरल ने बताया।

कोप23 के लिए फीजी की अध्यक्षता एक विरासत छोड़ रही है: प्रधान मंत्री

संगीता लाल

प्रधान मंत्री और कोप23 के अध्यक्ष, वॉरेनो बर्डनिमरामा ने संसद में जलवायु कारवाई (climate action) पर फीजी की अध्यक्षता जो महान प्रगति है, पर एक मिनिस्टीरीयल बयान दिया। प्रधान मंत्री ने फीजी की उपलब्धियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि हम अपने वजन से ज़्यादा बोझ ढो रहे हैं और विरासत वस्तुओं से सिर्फ फीजी को ही नहीं बल्कि सबसे कमज़ोर देशों के नागरिकों को भी लाभ होगा।

“इन में शामिल हैं जलवायु युद्ध में कृषि पर ऐतिहासिक समझौते, महिलाओं के साथ साथ आदिवासी लोगों और समुदायों के महत्व, जलवायु के कारण कमज़ोर देशों के लिए अधिक सस्ती बीमा तक पहुँच प्रदान करने और फीजी के ओशन पाथवे इनिशिएटिव (Ocean Pathway Initiative) का जलवायु परिवर्तन और हमारे महासागरों के स्वास्थ्य के बीच



प्रधान मंत्री और कोप23 के अध्यक्ष, वॉरेनो बर्डनिमरामा ने संसद में कहा कि फीजी के ओशन पाथवे इनिशिएटिव (Ocean Pathway Initiative) का जलवायु परिवर्तन और हमारे महासागरों के स्वास्थ्य के बीच गहरा संबंध है।

अतुलनीय लिंक,” प्रधान मंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने कहा।

प्रधान मंत्री ने अधिक से अधिक कारवाई सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आगे के काम और अधिकतम

महत्वकांक्षाओं के महत्व पर भी विस्तार से बताया।

उन्होंने बताया कि फीजी के कोप23 की सफलता का हिस्सा जलवायु की वार्ता के महत्वपूर्ण

विशेषताओं में से एक था तलनोआ वार्ता (Talanoa Dialogue) जिसमें फीजी फ्लेयर के साथ कई पहल को अनुकूलित करने की क्षमता थी।

एम एस बी जी के पहले चरण से 4,752 व्यवसायों को लाभ

संगीता लाल

भारत सरकार द्वारा छोटे और मध्यम स्तर के व्यवसायों के लिए सहायता (Micro and Small Business Grant [MSBG]) के पहले चरण के समर्थन से लगभग 4000 से अधिक लोगों को लाभ हुआ। एम एस बी जी ग्रांट के पहले चरण के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा \$4.67 मिलियन आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान की गई।

हाल ही में भारत सरकार के दूसरे चरण के समर्थन के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करते समय इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड, टूरिज़्म, लैंड्स और मिनरल रिसोर्सस मंत्री, फर्डियाज़ कोया ने कहा कि एम एस बी जी पहल छोटे से छोटे व्यवसायों के लिए है या फिर उन लोगों के लिए है जिनके पास व्यवसाय हैं और वे इसे और विकसित करना चाहते हैं या फिर जो एक व्यवसाय शुरू करना चाहते हैं।

“पहले चरण में भारत सरकार द्वारा प्रदान किए गए पैसों से कुल मिला कर 4,752 व्यापारियों को अपने सपनों का एहसास हुआ। इन व्यवसायों में शामिल हैं: खेती, मुर्गी पालन, मधुमक्खी पालन, पशुपालन, सूअर पालन, मार्केट वेन्डिंग, शीटल, फूलों का व्यवसाय, बैकरी, सिलाई, सड़क के किनारे स्टोल और हैंडिकाफ्ट, आदि,” मंत्री कोया ने कहा। मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि उनके पास सकारात्मक परिणाम हैं, क्योंकि जिन व्यवसायों को पहल के माध्यम से सहायता प्रदान की गई है वे विकसित हो रहे हैं और कुछ अपने कारोबार को और विस्तार कर रहे हैं।

2014 में पहल की स्थापना के बाद से, सरकार ने 17,970 से अधिक छोटे और मध्यम स्तर के व्यवसायों का समर्थन किया है।

भारतीय रेलवे विशेषज्ञों ने फीजीयन रेलवे नेटवर्क का आकलन शुरू किया

संगीता लाल

भारतीय रेलवे विशेषज्ञों की एक टीम द्वारा हाल ही फीजी रेलवे नेटवर्क का आकलन किया गया और उन्होंने नेटवर्क को अपग्रेड करने के लिए एक प्लान ऑफ एक्शन की सलाह दी ताकि अधिक से अधिक भाड़े का माल (freight) और यात्री सफर कर सकें।

हाल में नई दिल्ली, भारत में आयोजित विश्व सतत विकास शिखर सम्मेलन (World Sustainable Development Summit) के दौरान अटोनी जेनरल और अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम

और भारतीय रेल मंत्री (Minister for Railways), माननीय पीयूष गोयल के बीच बैठक के बाद भारतीय रेल मंत्रालय ने इस दल को भेजा था। तकनीकी टीम 27 फरवरी 2018 को फीजी पहुँचे और इसमें शामिल हैं जेनरल मैनेजर फोर स्पेशल प्रोजेक्ट्स, श्री प्रेम रंजन कुमार, जेनरल मैनेजर रोलिंग स्टोक, श्री अकिलेश मिश्रा और जेनरल मैनेजर गोर ट्रान्सपोर्ट एंड इकोनोमिक्स, श्री स्कीरकांत कानबधू।

तकनीकी दल बा स्थित रारावाई चीनी मिल के साइट का दौरा कर चुके हैं और वे पश्चिमी विभाग में साइट का दौरा

करना जारी रखेंगे।

अटोनी जेनरल, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने सूवा में आयोजित एक बैठक में फीजी आने के लिए दल का स्वागत किया जहाँ उन्होंने फीजी में रेलवे बुनियादि ढाँचे के अपग्रेड के भारी लाभ पर बल दिया।

अधिक से अधिक माल भाड़े को समायोजित (accomodate) करने के लिए हमारे रेलवे को अपग्रेड करने से हमारे किसानों जिनमें गन्ने कके किसान भी शामिल हैं, पर तत्काल प्रभाव पड़ेगा जो और अधिक गन्ना ढो सकेंगे और अपने कार्टेज के खर्च को कम कर सकेंगे तथा अपने लाभ सीमा में वृद्धि कर सकेंगे,”

अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा।

“और नए तरीकों से यात्रियों के सफर (पसेन्जर ट्रेवल) भी खोले जाएँगे जिससे टूरिज़्म, कृषि, परिवहन (transportation) और हमारी बढ़ती अर्थ व्यवस्था के कई अन्य क्षेत्रों को लाभ होगा।”

“हम इस परियोजना पर भारत सरकार के साथ भागीदारी करने के लिए बहुत उत्सुक हैं और उनके तकनीकी दल के आकलन के पूरा होने के बाद, पूरी सिफारिश (recommendation) प्राप्त करने के लिए तत्पर हैं,” अटोनी जेनरल ने बताया।

एफ ई ए करेगी दूसरी बिजली ग्रिड का निर्माण

संगीता लाल

ऐसी आशा है कि फीजी इलेक्ट्रिसिटी अथोरिटी दूसरी बिजली ग्रिड का निर्माण करेगी ताकि यह सुनिश्चित की जा सके कि बिजली गिरने पर (when lightning strikes) वीती लेवू में अंधेरा न हो। अटोनी जेनरल और स्थानापन्न इन्फ्रस्ट्रक्चर मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा कि ऐसा अनुमान है कि प्रमुख कैपिटल प्रोजेक्ट का कुल खर्च लगभग \$200 मिलियन है। इस

परियोजना को अगले पाँच वर्षों में विकसित किया जाएगा। “मुख्य ग्रिड, मोनासावू से आने वाली रेखा, बूढ़ा जाती है, सूबा जाती है, अगर खराब मौसम की आवृत्ति (frequency) के कारण बिजली गिरती है, उदाहरण के तौर पर वीती लेवू के मध्य में बहुत ज़्यादा बिजली गिरती है, इसे रोका नहीं जा सकता है,” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा। “हालांकि दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण बात यह है कि भले ही हमारे पास कोई निरर्थकता नहीं है, हमारे पास केवल एक लाइन है, यदि उस

लाइन पर बिजली (lightning) गिर जाएगी तब बिजली (electricity) कट जाती है।” “दुनिया के अधिकांश देशों में आपके पास एक अतिरिक्त है, यदि एक चला जाए ता दूसरा चालू हो जाता है। अब दूसरा लाइन बनाने के लिए हमें US \$100 मिलियन खर्च बैठेगा।” “अब निश्चित रूप से एक कैपिटल प्रोजेक्ट्स योजना है और हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि अगले पाँच सालों में इस लाइन का निर्माण होगा।” “आज के वक्त में US \$100

मिलियन लगभग \$200 मिलियन फीजीयन है, एफ ई ए में इस तरह के कैपिटल सहयोग की आवश्यकता है ताकि किसी भी तरह बिजली गिरने से हमें बिजली मिलना बन्द न हो,” सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा। संसद में उठाए गए सवाल कि पावर ब्लैकआउट के दौरान क्यों एफ ई ए जेनरेटर बिजली की मांग को पूरा करने में असमर्थ हैं के जवाब में अटोनी जेनरल ने ऐसा कहा। जनाब सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा कि पावर ब्लैकआउट के तुरन्त बाद

एफ ई ए जेनरेटर नहीं चालू हो जाते हैं क्योंकि उन पर बहुत अधिक भार रहता है यही कारण है कि इसे शुरू करने में कुछ घंटे लग सकते हैं। नसीनू के लिए 620 लोड्स प्रस्तावित किए गए हैं और इन पर काम जल्द शुरू होने की उम्मीद है। “हमारे पास कुछ परियोजनाएँ निर्धारित किए गए हैं जिन में शामिल हैं नेपाली के लिए 550 और वाईनिम्बूकू के लिए 176 लोड्स। दोनों परियोजनाओं पर काम जल्द ही शुरू होने की उम्मीद है,” श्री मूसा ने बताया।

आप का विचार

नैटिव ज़मीनों का इस्तमाल अब फिर से गन्ने के किसानों द्वारा किए जा रहे हैं। इस पर आपका विचार क्या है?

सुरेन्द्र प्रसाद, 45, सावूसावू



यह बहुत अच्छी बात है क्योंकि कई ज़मीने खाली पड़ी थी जिनको अब गन्ने की खेती के लिए काम में लाया जा सकेगा।

सुषमा वती, 42, लजोनिया



इससे गन्ने के किसानों के साथ साथ ज़मीनमालिकों को भी लाभ हो रहा है।

विमु विकास, 35, नरें



ज़मीन एक ऐसा संसाधन है जिसके इस्तमाल से देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में सुधार होगा।

उर्मिला देवी, 50, लकेना



गन्ने की खेती के लिए और ज़्यादा ज़मीन उपलब्ध करने से गन्ने के उत्पादन में वृद्धि होगी।

विनोद प्रसाद, 55, नवेन्डामू



ये बहुत खुशी की बात है कि अब रिज़र्वड ज़मीन का उचित उपयोग हो रहा है तथा इससे न केवल किसानों और ज़मीनमालिकों बल्कि पूरे देश को फायदा होगा।



हाल में सूवा में आयोजित 2018 नर्सिंग इंटरन्स इंडक्शन प्रोग्राम (Nursing Interns Induction Programme) के दौरान हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विस्ज़ मंत्री, रोज़ी अकबर ने लगभग 250 नए नर्सों से मांग की कि वे सभी फीजीवासियों के लिए सर्वोत्तम सेवा प्रदान करें।

2018 नर्सिंग इंटरन्स इंडक्शन

संगीता लाल

हाल ही में सूवा में आयोजित 2018 नर्सिंग इंटरन्स इंडक्शन प्रोग्राम (Nursing Interns Induction Programme) के दौरान हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विस्ज़ मंत्री, रोज़ी अकबर ने लगभग 250 नए नर्सों से मांग की कि वे सभी फीजीवासियों के लिए

सर्वोत्तम सेवा प्रदान करें और एक टीम के रूप में काम करें। मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि नर्स स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के हृदय हैं। और उनसे मांग की कि वे स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के मूल्यों को बरकरार रखें। उन्होंने 244 नर्सिंग इंटरन्स को बताया कि अपने कार्यों के लिए वे खुद उत्तरदायी रहेंगे, और उन्हें अपने सीनियरों (Seniors) से सहायता प्राप्त

करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। मंत्री अकबर ने शांत और धैर्य रखने के महत्व पर जोर दिया यहाँ तक कि अनुचित और तर्कपूर्ण मरीज़ों या उनके परिवारों के साथ पेश आते वक्त भी। चार दिनों का यह इंडक्शन प्रोग्राम शुक्रवार 9 मार्च, 2018 को समाप्त हुआ।

पानी की पाइप के कारण सड़कों के मरम्मतकार्य में मुश्किलें

संगीता लाल

सूवा उपनगरों (suburbs) में निर्माण किए गए कुछ पुराने सड़कों में उचित ड्रेनज न होने के कारण वर्तमान में की जा रही रास्तों की मरम्मत में मुश्किलें उत्पन्न हो रही हैं। अटोनी जेनरल, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने लोकल गवर्नमेंट, अर्बन, हाउज़िंग और एन्वाइरन्मेंट मंत्री के रूप में संसद को बताया कि 1940 के दशक में निर्माण किए गए सड़कों पर ड्रेनज की कमी वर्तमान में सड़कों की खराब हालत के प्रमुख कारण है। उन्होंने कहा कि जहाँ सड़कें हैं, वहाँ पानी के पाइप भी बनाए गए थे जो अब

पुराने हो चुके हैं और रिस रहे हैं। “इन में से कुछ पाइप एक्सेस्टोस का उपयोग करके बनाए गए थे। तो जब ये पाइप से रिसाव होता है, तब यह नीचे सड़क को नरम बना देता है,” जनाब सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा। “अगर आप देखें, तो वे वास्तव में नीचे उचित ड्रेनज की व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं। यही कारण है कि हम इसे हर जगह नहीं कर रहे हैं।” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि शहर के आस पास के सड़कों के अपग्रेडिंग इसी वजह से लम्बा वक्त ले रहा है। वे विपक्षी पक्ष के सवालियों का जवाब दे रहे थे कि कैसे सरकार यह आश्वासन कर

सकती है कि फीजी रोड्स अथोरिटी द्वारा सड़कों पर निर्माण या मरम्मतकार्य का उच्च स्तर बरकरार रखा जाए। उन्होंने संसद को यह भी बताया कि सरकार फीजी के सभी सड़कों को टार-सील करने में सक्षम नहीं है। “हम फीजी के सभी सड़कों को टार-सील नहीं कर सकते हैं लेकिन हमें यह सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता है कि वे सभी सड़क जिन्हें टार-सील नहीं किया जा सकता है, को नियमित रूप से मरम्मत किया जाए। और नियमित रूप से उनकी मरम्मत की जाएगी क्योंकि इसके लिए हमारे पास एक कार्यक्रम है,” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा।

धान की खेती
के लिए और
अधिक मशीनें

पृष्ठ 19



2018 नर्सिंग
इंटर्न्स
इंडक्शन

पृष्ठ 23



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फीजी फोकस



ग्रेन्ड पैसिफिक होटल सूवा में आयोजित अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चियोची कोनरोते, श्रीमती सारोते कोनरोते, फर्स्ट लेडी और महिला मंत्री, मेरेसेडनी वुनिवांगा केक काटते हुए।

घरेलू हिंसा सभी को तकलीफ देता है

शेनल देव

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चियोची कोनरोते का कहना है कि महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा न केवल पीड़ित महिला को बल्कि सभी को दर्द देता है।

ग्रेन्ड पैसिफिक होटल सूवा में आयोजित अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस समारोह में मुख्य मेहमान के रूप में राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि जब कोई महिला हिंसा के शिकार

होती है तो उसका परिवार, समाज और पूरे देश पर भावनात्मक, मानसिक तथा आर्थिक असर पड़ता है।

इस साल के अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस में महिलाओं के लिए समान अधिकार और न्याय की माँग की गई है।

“महिलाओं के खिलाफ यौन शोशन, हिंसा तथा भेदभाव ने दुनिया भर में सुर्खियाँ बटोरी है और समाज में भी यह बात उठाई गई है,” राष्ट्रपति ने कहा।

“फीजी पुलिस फोर्स द्वारा निकाले गए आकड़े दिखाते हैं कि पिछले साल देश में महिलाओं और बच्चों के खिलाफ आठ सौ छियासी (886) मामलों की रिपोर्ट हुई हैं।”

“हमारे खूबसूरत देश फीजी में इस तरह के हिंसा के लिए कोई जगह नहीं है लेकिन वह फिर भी हमारे समाज में एक बीमारी की तरह फैली हुई है,” राष्ट्रपति कोनरोते ने बताया।

इस दौरान राष्ट्रपति ने फीजी नेशनल

सेर्विस डिलिवरी प्रोटोकॉल तथा चौथे नेशनल वीमन्स एक्स्पोजे का भी विमोचन किया जो इसी साल जून इक्कीस से तेईस (21-23) तारीख तक नेशनल जिमनेज़ियम में होगा।

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि दोनों सुविधाओं से समाज में सकारात्मक बदलाव आएंगे तथा देश की महिलाएँ ऐसी जिन्दगी जी सकें जिसमें हिंसा और बुरा व्यवहार न हो।



**‘VEIMAMA
NI LEWEI
VITI ERA
YALEWA’**

2

**VAKACOKO
NI CAVA
KO GITA**

7



VULA I KELI

SIGA TABU, 11 NI MAJI 2018 - KA 5 NI TABANA

Noda Viti

Ko Vunilawa ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena nona vosa tiko e Palimedi ena macawa sa oti. Vakabibitaka na Vunilawa ni levu cake na ka meda vakabibitaka na tabana ni wili lewe ni vanua ka sega ni okati kina na mata tamata eda lewena.

**iTaba:
PALIMEDI
KEI VITI**



‘Levu na ka e bibi cake’

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKABIBITAKA ena Palimedi na Vunilawa ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ni levu cake na ka me da vakabibitaka na tabana ni wili lewe ni vanua ka sega ni okati kina na mata tamata eda lewena. “Ena yaga cake me taroga mai vei keitou na iliuliu ni ito ni veisaqa; se ratou vakaraitaka na tabana ni wili lewenivanua se lewe vica na leweni-

vanua dravudravua era tu ena noda vanua?” tukuna na Vunilawa.

“E vica na vuniwai ena noda vanua?”

“E vica na lewenivanua e tiko na kedra isau ena itagede oqo?”

“Na yabaki ni bula cava era lewe levu duadua e Viti?”

“E vica na lewenivanua era vaka akaude ni baqe?”

“E vica na lewenivanua era vaka mobile phone? E vica na lewenivanua e yacovi ira na livaliva, wai kei na

gaunisala?”

“Qoka na mataqali taro e yaga me tarogi ka sega ni vakabibitaki kina na mata tamata,” tukuna na Vunilawa. Tukuna na Vunilawa ni bibi talega na tiko bulabula, na vuli kei na bula raraba e sega ni vakabibitaki kina na mata tamata.

“E vakabibitaki kina na veimataqali vei qaravi. E veirauti beka na iwiliwili ni vuniwai? E levu beka era kena dau? “Sa veirauti li na levu ni yaga vaka-

vuniwai?”

“Sa veirauti beka na itikitiko ni tiko bulabula?”

“E vakaevei na veikoronivuli era vakaiyayataki vakavinaki li?”

“E sa veirauti tiko beka na levu ni qasenivuli era kena dau?”

“E lewe vica beka era tiko ena ruku ni dravudravua?”

“Na cava beka e kauwaitaki kina na kawa tamata?” a tukuna na Vunilawa.



Sagai me levu na nasi

PRIYANKA LAL

SA saga tiko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula kei na kena Minisita ko Rosy Akbar me vakalevutaki na kedra iwiliwili na nasi e Viti.

Vakasavuya na itukutuku oqo ko Minisita Akbar ena nona vosa tiko vei

ira na 244 na nasi vou e Suva ena macawa sa oti.

“Ni kua era veiqaravi tiko 38 kina 40 na nasi kina 10,000 na tauvimate ka sega ni veiraurau. Sa gadrevi kina vakatoto me vakalevutaki na iwiliwili ni nasi e Viti,” tukuna ko Minisita Akbar.

Vakabauta na minisita ni Bula ni loma

ni lima na yabaki ka tu mai mena tubu ena 1350 iwiliwili ni nasi mera veiqaravi ena tabana ni bula.

“Ko Viti ni kua e gadarevi mera veiqaravi kina e 5000 kina 6000 na nasi me veiraurau kei na keda lewe levu. Ni kua se qai yacova tiko ga na 3300 na levu ni nasi e Viti.”



Ko Peresitedi Jioji Konrote, nona radini vale Sarote Konrote, na Minisita ni Marama ko Mereseini Vuniwaqa kei na nona ivukevuke ni minisita ko Veena Bhatnagar ena vakananumi ni Siga ni Marama e Grand Pacific Hotel e Suva. iTaba: **ERONI VALILI**

Veimama ni lewei Viti era yalewa: Peresitedi Konrote

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Eveimama ni keda iwiliwili na lewe ni vanua e Viti era yalewa se marama.”

Oqori e dua na tikina e vakabibitaka na turaga na Peresitedi ko Jioji Konusi Konrote ena nona vosa tiko

ena vakananumi ni Siga ni Marama ena noda vuravura qaravi ka qaravi e Suva ena itekivu ni vula oqo.

“Era cau vakalevu ena bula ni noda veimatavuvale, noda itikotiko, noda vanua kei na noda vuravura.”

“Era gadreva dina na noda veitokoni na lewei Viti,”

tukuna ko Peresitedi Konrote.

Tukuna ko Perestedi Konrote ni siga ni marama e vuravura e bibi mera sasaga kina kina takete naba va kei na lima ni Veivakatorocaketaki lewai matau ni Matabose kei Vuravura ka gadrevi meda rawata ni bera

na yabaki 2030.

“Na takete naba va laveti na itagede ni vuli, kei na takete naba lima mera raici vakatautauvata na tagane kei na yalewa kara tokoni na marama kei na gone yalewa,” tukuna ko Peresitedi Konrote.



Ko ira na turaga ni vanua kei na turaga ni koro mai Kadavu kei na ivukevuke ni Minisita ni Teitei ko Viam Pillay ena mata ni vale ni bose e Tavuki mai Kadavu. iTaba: **TABANA NI ITEITEI**

Tuvana me matau: Pillay

TUKUNA vei ira na dauteitei ni yaqona mai Kadavu na vukevuke ni Minisita Viam Pil-

lay mera tuvana vakamatau na nodra volitaka na nodra yaqona.

Veisiko tiko na Minisita ki Kadavu ka sotavi ira na dauteitei ka vakaraitaki kina vua na leqa ni nodra ite ni yaqona ena koro o Natumua ena gauna e sikova kina nodra vale ni bucibucini.

Sauma tiko nodra vakatataro na dauteitei ka vakaraitaka

kina vei ira na bibi ni nodra manidia taka vakavinaka na nodra tei kei na gauna era tamusuka kina.

“Dodonu moni tuvana vinaka na nomuni teitei kei na gauna oni sa nanuma kina me tamusuki ka vakakina na gauna oni sa nanuma moni volitaka kina baleta na kena teivaki vou tale na yaqona.

“Sau vinaka tiko na yaqona

ena gauna oqo ka dodonu me yalomatua taki na kena volitaki baleta na ka sa me maroroi tale mai.

“Au sa vakasalataki ira na dauteitei ni dodonu mera tuvana vinaka na nodra ite baleta ni oqo ena vukei ira talega ena veisiga ka vakakina na gauna eliu.”

TABANA NI TEITEI

Tekivuna ko Seruiratu na vakatovotovo ni ualoka

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA tekivutaka na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudakuni Koro lelevu kei na Veianuy-anu, kei na Qarauni ni Leqatubukoso ko Inia Seruiratu na nodra vakatovotovo na gonevuli e Suva baleta na ualoka se tsunami.

Nona vosa tiko vei ira na gonevuli ni lima na koronivuli e Suva e kaya kina ko Minisita Seruiratu ni Tsunami e rerevaki sara ni rawa ni vakaleqa e dua na iwase levu ni lewenivanua e Viti.

Sa oti oqo e 65 na yabaki na kena yaco e Suva na Tsunami sa dodonu meda vakarautaki keda vinaka na gonevuli na qasenivuli kei na itubutubu ena leqa tubu koso oqo na Tsunami

Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudakuni Koro lelevu kei na Veianuyanu, kei na Qarauni ni Leqatubukoso ko Inia Seruiratu

Era vakaitavi ena vakatovotovo oqo na veikoronivuli era tiko voleka e Laucala Bay kei Nasese.

“Na ka e vakadodmobula kina na tsunami ni rawa ni cabeti keda ena gauna eda sega ni namaka baleta ni dau vakasauri na kena yaco,” tukuna ko Minisita Seruiratu.

“Sa bibi kina meda dau vakavakarau e veiguna kece. Ni matata noda vakavakarau eda na sega ni leqa ena gauna e laba mai kina na Tsunami,” tukuna ko minisita Seruiratu.

Vakananumi ira talega na 5000 na gonevuli e Suva ko minisita Seruiratu ni otioti ni Tsunami me cabeti Suva oya ena 1953.

“Sa oti oqo e 65 na yabaki na kena yaco e Suva na Tsunami sa dodonu meda vakarautaki keda vinaka na gonevuli na qasenivuli kei na itubutubu ena leqa tubu koso oqo na Tsunami.”

Namaki mera na vakaitavi e levu tale na gonevuli kei tamata cakacaka ena vakatovotovo ni tsunami ka tarava.



Daumaka na vakavakarau

RONAL DEO

VAKARAITAKA na Talai Veivuke ena iwasewase na Tokalau ko Luke Moroivalu ni daumaka sara na nodra vakavakarau na lewenivanua ena Ceva kei Lau ena itukutuku ni cagilaba ko Gita era rogoca ni kaburaki tiko

yani ena walesi. Vakaraitaka na nona vakavinavina ko Moroivalu ena nona vakatarogi tiko ena porokaramu ni Voqa ni Davui ni Tabana ni tukutuku ni Matanitu ena vale ni walesi. “Sa matata vei keda na nodra vakavakarau kau vakavakavinavina vakalevu ni sega so ni

levu na vakacaca se vakaleqai nodra bula baleta nira sa rogoca tiko ena walesi kara sa vakavakarau voli kina na noda veiyanyanu,” tukuna ko Moroivalu. “Ni vakatauvatani kei na vakavakarau ena veiyabaki sa oti yani na kena ogo e daumaka sara vakalevu. Au vakavinavi-

naka vakalevu ki vei ira na turaga ni vanua na turaga ni koro mai Lau ena nodra vakavakarau me maroroi kina na bula kei na iya eda taukena.” E Suva e vakacautaki talega na nodra vakatovotovo na kena gonevuli ena vakarautaki ni leqa me vaka na Sunami. Era a vakaitavi kina na e 5000

gonevuli e Suva mai na 5 na koronivuli e Suva kei na 150 na qasenivuli kei ira na vakaillesile-si ni Tabana ni Leqa tubukoso. Kaya ko Anare Leweniqila mai na DISMAC ni taura walega e 5 kina 7 na miniti na totolo ni nodra vuli ena vakavakarau na gonevuli e Suva ena baravi kei Nasese.

Vakacokotaki ni cagilaba ena Ceva kei Lau

ERONI VALILI

ERA sa veitokoni tiko ena veiqaravi ni matanitu me baleta na veivakacokotaki ena ceva kei Lau na veitabana ni veiqaravi ena taudaku ni matanitu. Ogo e wilikina na nodra Soqosoqo ni kauveilatai damudamu kei ira na vei matasoqosoqo tale era dau veivuke ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso kei na Cagilaba. Era tou sa vakayacora talega na veiqaravi ni vakadidike na Tabana ni Leqa tubukoso ni matanitu ka ratou. Oqori na tukutuku era vakaraitaka mai na lewenikoro era vakila na vakacaca ni Cagilaba ko Gita ena vula sa oti. Era sa vakamuduo kina liga ni veiqaravi kei na yalo ni veikauwaitaki ka sa yaco tiko yani kina nodra veikoro ena gauna e vakanadaku kina na Cagilaba ko Gita. Vakaraitaka ko Viliame Ledua mai Ono-i-Lau ni ra sa vakarau vinaka saraga ena Moniti nib era main a laba ni cagi ko Gita ena tini-na-kaloko ena mataka ni Tusiti. “Keimami sa tokitaki ira kece na lewenikoro ena Moniti kina neimami drodro ni cagi laba ka keimami vakila na kaukauwa ni cagi ena bogi ka mataka cake ni Tusiti. Ko Turaga-ni-koro ena koro ko Doi, Mataika Pasi, e tukuna ni sa qai du talega na cagicagi kaukauwa era vakila ena gole yani ni Cagilaba ko Gita. “Otioti ni Cagilaba ka labati Doi mai oya ena 2010 ko TC Tomas ka sa oti oto e walu vinaka na yabaki sa qai dua tale na cagi vaka na kena kaukauwa me yacovi keimami mai,” kaya ko Pasi. “Keimami sa vakavinavina na keimami vakarautaki keimami vinaka ena cagi ogo. Keimami sa vakarorogo talega ena reitio me baleta na cagilaba ogo.” “Sa vakamuduo kina matanitu kei na veitabana era sa mai rai tiko ka sa ra mai vukei keimami tiko ena neimami vakacokotaki, me vaka ni levu saga na keimami teitei kei na kakana era mai vakaleqai.”



Ko Peresitedi Jioji Konrote kei na Ajibisovi ni Canterbury Justin Portal Welby e Borron House e Suva. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

Veikidavaki ko Peresitedi vei Ajibisovi

VILIAME TIKOTANI

EMARAUTAKA na Peresitedi ko Jioji Konrote me kidavaki Ajibisovi ni Canterbury ko Justin Portal Welby mai kina noda vanua e Suva. Vakaoqo e vica na mala ni nona vosa na turaga na Peresitedi. “Ena vukudra na lewei Viti au doka vakalevu na nomuni tadu mai kau kidavaki kemuni mai ki Viti ena marau. Keimamai sa kalougata ena nomuni yaco mai.” “Au marautaka ni na tekivu na nomuni veiqaravi siga tolu e Viti ena nomuni na sota kei ira na vakaillesilese e cake ni Matanitu.” “Au kila niko ni kendau ena vika e baleta na draki veisau me vaka ko ni dau kauwai voli kina.”



Vosa tiko ko Ajibisovi ni Canterbury Justin Portal Welby ena nona kidavaki vakavanua e Borron House e Suva. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

“Au kila nio ni jabeni talega ni levu tale na ulutaga baleta na kauwaitaki ni veikabua e tu wavoliti keda. E marautaki nanomuni kauwai me vakatiki Viti.” Vakadindintaki oqori ena neimami laki liutaka na COP23 ena matabose kei vuravura. Me vaka na itukutuku oya ni dua vata na waqa eda

vodo tiko kina na lewei vuravura. “Na nomuni tiko e Viti ni kua e vakananumi keimami tale ena ibuki ni veiwekani keimami bukia vata kei na itikotiko vakatui mai Bolatagane me tekivu mai na 1874 kina tuvakataki koya nei Viti ena 1970. Vakakina na yaco mai ki Viti ni isevu ni Bisovi

Bolebole levu me levu cake noda ivoli

RONAL DEO

EDUA na bolebole levu nei Viti ni kua, oya me vakalevutaka na vua ni qele e volitaka ki vavalagi (agriculture exports). Vakauasivi nai ivoli ena taudaku ni suka (no-sugar products)

Me rawa ni lailai cake na kakana e volia tiko mai vavalagi (agriculture imports) Oqori na vakamamasu nei Vunivola Tudei ni Tabana ni Teitei ko David Kolitagane ena nona dolava tiko nodra soli vakasama na dau volitaki vua ni qele ki vavalagi ena Tanoa Plaza e Suva ena

ika 28 ni siga ni Veverueri. “Ena yabaki 2016 eda volia mai e F\$646 million ena pateta,raisi, sucu, lewe ni manumanu kei na so tale mai vavalagi,” kaya ko Kolitagane. “Eda volitaka ka rawata walega e F\$193 millioni mai vavalagi ena yabaki oya mai



Vakatovotovo ni vakavakarau ena gauna ni yaco ni ualoka

Sa tekivutaka na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudakuni Koro Lelevu kei na Veiyanyanu, kei na Qarauni ni Leqa tubukoso ko Inia Seruiratu na nodra vakatovotovo na gonevuli e Suva baleta na ualoka se tsunami. Era vakaitavi kina e limana koronivuli e Suva ena baravi kei Nasova, Nasese.

iTaba: RONAL DEO



Veisiko na Ajibisovi e Canterbury kina na noda vanua

Ciqomi ira na Arch-bishop mai Canterbury Your Grace The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Portal Welby ko Peresitedi Jioji Konrote ena vale mai Borron ena macawa sa oti. Cabori vua edua na veiqaqaravi vakavanua ka ra veiqaqaravi kina na bani ni ovisa. Liutaka na ilakolako ni matanitu ena soqo oqo na Vunilawa ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei ira na Minisita ni Matanitu ka wilikina oira na liliu ni lotu main a veisoqosoqos ni vakabauta ena noda vanua. Vakavinavinaka na Peresitedi vua na Arch-bishop ena nodra veisiko ki na noda vanua. Dua na ulutaga levu ni nodra mai vakayaco bose kei na veisiko ena noda vanua oya na draki veisau.

iTaba: ERONI VALILI, NANISE NEIMILA





Vinaka Viti: Andrews

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAVINAVINAKATAKI Viti na Minisita ni Vuli Tara ni Ositerelia ko Karen Andrews and vuku ni cakacaka vinaka ni nodra tara vakavinaka na veivale ni vuli era a vakacacani ena cagilaba ko Winston.

Cavuta na vakavinavinaka oqori ko minisita Andrews ena nona a laki dolava tiko na vale ni vuli vou ena Vunisamaloa Sangam School mai Ba.

Na koronivuli oqo era vuli tiko kina e 98 na gone okati kina ko ira na vuli ena sova ni vuli, a vakacacani na veivale ni vuli ena koronivuli oqo ena cagilaba ko

Winston ena Veverueri ni 2016.

Tukuna ko Minisita Andrews ni ka dokai ka marautaki vua me mai dolava na vale ni vuli vou oya.

“Au se qai yabaki 9 au sa vakila na rerevaki ni cagilaba au vakavinavinaka kina kina Matanitu e Viti ena nona veivuke ena tara tale ni vale era vakarusai,” kaya ko Minisita Andrews.

Vakavinavinaka talea ko Minisita Andrews kina veivuke levu ni nona Matanitu ko Ositerelia ena vakailavotaki ni cakacaka ni vakavinakataki ni vei-koronivuli e Viti.

“Sa noda itavi meda raica mera kila na luveda na wilivola me rawa nira kune

cakacaka kina ena siga ni mataka,” kaya ko Minisita Andrews.

“Au sa vakauqeti kemuni telega na gonevuli mo ni vakayagataka vinaka na nomuni gauna e koronivuli me rawa ni o ni tubu cake ena kilaka.”

Vakavinavinaka talega ko qasenivuli liu Rohit Kumar kina Matanitu ena kena mai tara rawa na valenivuli ka koto ena \$800,000 na kena isau.

Marautaki na kena tara rawa e ciwa na vale ni vuli dua na sala ni taubale kei na dua na vale ni sova ni vuli, na veika kece oqo a vakacacani ena cagilaba ko Winston.

Dikevi vakailavo na vakacaca nei Gita

ERONI VALILI

ETIKO ena \$324,162 na isau vakailavo na vakacaca ka vakayacacora na Cagilaba ko Gita ena Ceva kei Lau ka wilikina na koro e tolu ko Lovoni, Nukuni kei Motokana.

Eratou vakadeitaka na valenivolavola ni leqa tubu koso ni oti na vakadidike ni matanitu ni tiko na vakacaca mai Lovoni ena \$45,915 ka wilitiko kina na vakacaca ena vale kei na teitei.

E tiko ena \$13,000 na isau ni vakacaca ena nodra teitei ni uvi.

Ena koro ko Nukuni na isau ni vakacaca e tiko ena \$63,998. Cauraki kina e dua na valenivuli ka vakacacani kina e 10 na vale.

Na vakacaca ena nodra loga ni vejaina e tiko ena \$14,250.

Ena koro ko Motokana, na vakacaca e tiko ena \$8,755 ka wilikina na nodra loga veiniu, nodra vale kei na nodra iteitei.

Mai Vatoa edua ga na vale e vakacacani ena Cagilaba ko Gita ka wilikina na nodra iteitei.

Eratou veivuke talega na soqosoqo ni kauveilatai damudamu ena 93 na matavuvale mai na Ceva kei Lau ka wili kina na koro ko Nukuni, Lovoni kei Motokana.

Vakaraitaka na ivakalesilesi ni leqa tubu koso ko Itu Josaia ni ratou sa wasea rawa na nodra taqe ni wai, yaya ni veiqaravi ena leqa tubu koso, nodra valelaca, yaya ni vakasaqa kei na nodra yaya ni veiqaravi vei ira na tauvimate kei na mavo.



ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ki na iliului talega ni Matabose e cake ni Qele Marorori kei na Manidia ni Qele Maroroi ko Tevita Kurudua.

Bubuluitaki na qele kovu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERATOU sa laki bubuluitaka tiko na veiqele kovu e Lomaiviti, Navosa, Ra, Tailevu, Macuata kei Rewa na Mata Veivaqakai ni Qele Kovu ni Matabose ni Qele Maroroi ni iTaukei (TILTB).

Macawa oqo eratou sa laki

tekivu ena tikina ko Cawa kei Mudu ena ika ono ni siga ni vula ko Maji ena yanuyanu ko Koro e Lomaiviti.

Namaki mena laki qaravi talega na tikina na tikina ko Levuka ena ika 23 ni siga ni vula ko Maji.

Ena tarava oya na kana laki bubuluitaki eso na qele kovu

ena yasana vakaturaga ko Navosa ena tikina vakaturaga ko Noikoro ena ika 12 ni siga ni Maji.

E ratou na laki bubuluitaka talega eso na qele kovu ena yasana vakaturaga ko Ra ena tikina ko Nakorotubu, Burei-wai, Rakiraki kei Lawaki.

Ena yasana ko Tailevu ena laki bubuluitaki na qele

kovu ena tikina ko Nailega, Verata ena ika 15 ni Maji, kei Nausori ena ika 16 ni Maji.

Ena qai laki bubuluitaki na qele kovu mai natikina ko Dogotuki kei Mali e Macuata ena ika 26 ni Maji.

Tarava sara na tikina ko Labasa e Wailevu ena ika 27 ni siga ni Maji.

Veitokoni ko Japani kina ono na Palimedi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

S A sainitaka na matanitu ko Japani e dua na US\$5.2m ena dua na veidinadinati kei na United Nations Development Program (UNDP) me vakatorocaketaki kina e ono na Palimedi ena Pasifika.

Na veitokoni oqo ena 3 na yabaki me tekivu ena yabaki oqo 2018.

Ko ira na Palimedi ni Pasifika era na vukei ena ilavo oqo okati kina ko Sa-



Marautaka na marama Sipika ni noda Palimedi ko Vuniwai Jiko Luveni na sainitaki ni veidinadinati me vakatorocaketaki kina e ono na Palimedi ena Pasifika..

moa, Yatu Masela, Yatu Maikoronia, Yatu Solomone, Vanuatu kei Viti.

Marautaka na marama Sipika ni noda Palimedi ko Vuniwai Jiko Luveni na veidinadinati oqo.

“Sa vuable na neimami vakamudua

kina matanitu ko Japani ena veivuke yaga oqo,” tukuna ko Vuniwai Luveni.

“Era sa vakila talega na cakacaka ena Palimedi na veitokoni vinaka ni UNDP kei na veimatani-tale eso me

vakataki Ositerelia, Niusiladi kei Japani.”

“Na veivuke kece oqori e laveta na itagede ni nodra veiqaravi na tamata cakacaka ena vei Palimedi ena Pasifika,” tukuna ko Vuniwai Luveni.



IVakalesilesi ni Fiji Red Cross Society e Motokana : iTaba: ERONI VALILI

Toso vinaka na vakacoko ni cava ko Gita

VEITALANOA na noda niusiveva na Noda Viti kei na Talai Veivuke ena iwasewase e loma ko Luke Moroivalu me balet na veivuke ni cagilaba sa qaravi tiko kina ko Ono-i-Lau ena vuke ni vakacaca ni cagilaba ko Gita ena yanuyanu oya ena Ceva kei Lau. Ni wilika sara mada yani.

NODA VITI:E vaka beka evei na nodra vakavakarau na veivanua e donuya na sala e ciciva yani na cagilaba o Gita?

MOROIVALU: Sa matata vei keda na nodra vakavakarau kau vakavakavinavina vakalevu ni sega so ni levu na vakacaca se vakaleqai nodra bula baleta nira sa rogoca tiko ena walesi kara sa vakavakarau voli kina na noda veivanuy-anu.

Ni vakatauvatani kei na vakavakarau ena veiyabaki sa oti yani na kena oqo e daumaka sara vakalevu.Au vakavinavina vakalevu ki vei ira na turaga ni vanua na turaga ni koro mai Lau ena nodra vakavakarau me maroroi kina na bula kei na iyau eda taukena.

NODA VITI: E vakaevei na levu ni vakacaca e tara na dela ni vanua mai Ono-i-Lau?

MOROIVALU: E dikevi rawa ni vakacacani vakalevu na vale, vakakina na vale ni veiqaravi ni Matanitu, ka vakaleqai talega kina na veika era tea tu ena nodra iteitei, me vaka era mai ripotetaka na vakaillesilesi era

a gole yani mera lai dikeva na vakacaca ni cagilaba.

NODA VITI: Na veivuke cava sa soli taumada ki na yanuyanu ko Ono-i-Lau?

MOROIVALU: Sa nana na tabana ni leqa tubukoso mera sa votai mada mai Ono-i-Lau ena kakana nira vakaitavai tiko ena vakacoko. Na kakana oya ena tauri ira toka ena loma ni dua na vula nira ia tiko na veivakacokotaki.

NODA VITI: E vakaevei na kena tomani ena veivuke tale eso?

MOROIVALU: Ena kena tomani ena gauna oqo au na sega ni rawa ni tukuna baleta mena kau caka mada kina bose yaco me laki raica rawa ni bera ni qai soli yani vei kemuni na dau vola itukutuku.

NODA VITI: Na koro cava so e vakilai kina vakalevu na vakacaca ni cagilaba ko Gita?

MOROIVALU: E vakilai na vakacaca mai Lovoni, Nukuni, kei Matokana ka galala kina ko Vatoa ka ni sega ni dua kina na vakacaca.

NODA VITI: Ni tinia mada ena dua tale na ka o via tukuna turaga na Talai Veivuke?

MOROIVALU: Au via vakavinavina vakalevu vei ira na lewe ni veikoro mai Ono-i-Lau ena totolo ni nodra vakacoko kara sega ni via waraka me yaco yani na veivuke era qai tekivu sa dua dina na ivakaraitaki vinaka.



Veiwaseyaki na kakana e na koro ko Motokana e Ono-i-Lau. iTaba: ERONI VALILI



Kitione Vakatawa, 52, ka vakasobu kakana tiko e na koro ko Motokana e Ono-i-Lau. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

Noda Viti

Tomani na Talanoa ena COP24

MEREANI GONEDUA

Ena tomana tiko na Matanitu ko Viti na Talanoa ena COP24 ena gauna e sana taura kina na tutu ni Peresitedi na matanitu ko Poland.

Vakaraitaka na itukutuku oqo na turaga na Paraiminisi-ta ko Josia Voreqe Bainimarama ena loma ni Palimedi.

“Eda kila vinaka ni vosa na Talanoa e sega ni vakayagataki walega e Viti e vakayagataki talega mai Toga kei Samoa mei vakaraitaki ni ivakarau ni kena yaco na vakatulewa vaka Pasifika, ka yaco kina na duavata kei na vakameaua ka sega kina na veidusi kara duavata ena dua na ulutaga e vianaka kece vei ira,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni ra sa duavata na veivaua e vuravura ena mataqali talanoa vakaoqo mera dau duavata kina ena vei ulutaga ni draki veisau.

“Me rawa kina ki na veivaua mera vakalailaitaka na katakata se kasi gaga era ceburaka tiko ki maliwa lala,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na Talanoa e vakasama nei Viti ka keitou na tomana tiko na kena vakayagataki meda toso kina ki liu baleta ni se qai imatai ni gauna me vakayacora ki vuravura na Pasifika.”

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni Talanoa e vakavuna me yavala kina na inaki ni Peresitedi ni COP ena dua na kena iwalewale e kune kina na veidokai ka vakadinati kina ni sega rawa ni dua walega na Matanutu e walia duadua.

“Oya na vuna keimami kauti ira vata kece mai kina na veimatanitu, veisoqosoqo, na veisiti lelevu kei na veivanu lalai mera mai vakavuna na vakalailaitaki ni kasi duka e ceburaki tiko ki maliwa lala.”

E vakabibitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni sa dodonu meda cakacaka vata me vakalailaitaki na kasi gaga.



Ciqoma na Ajibisovi ni Canterbury ko Justin Portal Welby na iloloma ni matanitu ko Viti mai vei Peresitedi Jioji Konrote e Borron House e Suva. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

Sikovi Viti na Ajibisovi ni Canterbury

NANISE NEIMILA

KIDAVAKI vaka Matanitu ka kidavaki talega vakavanua ena noda vanua ena macawa sa oti na ika 105 ni Ajibisovi mai Canterbury ka iliuliu talega ni Bisovi ena lotu Jaji se Church of England.

Na turaga oqo ko Ajibisovi Justin Portal Welby a sucu ena ika 6 ni Janu-eri, 1956. O koya enodra iliuliu kece

na lotu Anglican ena noda vuravura.

A cakacaka e liu ko Ajibisovi Portal ena bisinisi ni waiwai me 11 na yabaki ni bera ni vakila na veikacivi ni Kalou me sa laki vuli Bisovi ena St Johns College mai Durham. Sa qai digitaki me Bisovi ni Durham ena 2011.

Ena ika 21 ni Maji 2013 e buli kina me Ajibisovi ni vanua ko Canterbury ko Ajibisovi Welby.

Sa oti vinaka e 40 na yabaki me qai

dua tale na Ajibisovi ni Canterbury me sikovi Viti mai.

E tadu mai ki Viti ena itekivu ni vula oqo ka mai veisiko ena noda vanua me rauta ni tolu na siga. Era kidavaki koya ena rara ni waqavuka mai Nausori na vakaillesilesi e cake ni Matanitu.

E vakayacori ena nodra loma ni bai na turaga Peresitedi na veikidavaki vakavanua vua na Ajibisovi ni Canterbury.

Tubu na isau

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA dua na itukutuku rogo vinaka vei ira na tamata cakacaka ena Matabose ni Veilakoyaki e vanua mamaca se Land Transport Authority (LTA).

Tukuna na Vunilawa ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum mai rawa oqo ni oti na qaravi

dikevi ni nodra cakacaka na tamata cakacaka se Job Evaluation Exercise ni matabose e cake ni LTA.

Tukuna na Vunilawa ni na dikevi na ivakarau ni nodra cakacaka na tamata yadua.

“Eso na tamata cakacaka ena tubu na kedra isau ena 86 na pasede, eso e 51 na pasede, eso ena 31-50 na pasede eso

ena 21-30 na pasede ka so tale ena tubu ena 20 na pasede,”tukuna na Vunilawa.

E kaya ni 34 na tamata cakacaka ena sega ni tubu na kedra isau baleta nira sa yacova tu na isau e gadrevi ena makete.

Era lewe 430 taucoko na tamata cakacaka ni LTA.

Ena vakayagataki e \$2.4m ena tubu ni kedra isau oqo.