

# Fiji Focus



## VILLAGERS hooked up to the outside world

inside



## STRONGER schools bring joy

inside



## BOAT enhances Govt services

4



## FIJIAN WELCOME FOR TOP UN OFFICIAL

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, was accorded traditional ceremony of welcome by the Fijian Government on arrival in Suva. The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, was present at the event held the Grand Pacific Hotel. Mr al-Hussein is a Jordanian career

diplomat who played a central role in the establishment of the International Criminal Court, and was elected the first president of the Assembly of State Parties of the International Criminal Court in September 2002. He served as a political affairs officer in UNPROFOR, in the former Yugoslavia, from 1994 to 1996. He served as Jordan's Permanent

Representative to the United Nations from 2000 until 2007, when he was appointed as Jordan's Ambassador to the United States and non-resident Ambassador to Mexico. He was reappointed Permanent Representative in 2010 and served until 2014, resigning shortly before his selection as High Commissioner. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

# Climate Threat

## A-G: Greatest collective challenge humanity faces

NANISE NEIMILA

THE threat climate change poses to the entire world is undoubtedly the greatest collective challenge humanity has ever faced, says Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum. He made the comment while speaking at the 4th Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in Nadi last week. The A-G, who delivered a speech on

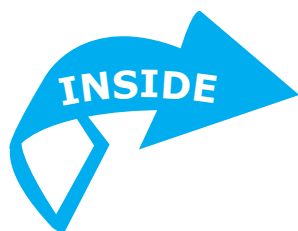
behalf of the Prime Minister and Conference of Parties 23 (COP23) president Voreqe Bainimarama, stressed to journalists from the Asia-Pacific region specialising in climate change and disaster news how natural disasters posed a threat to vulnerable nations everywhere, including those in the Asia-Pacific region. "It is an unprecedented crisis that we must face together - every single person on earth helping to reverse the damage to our planet that we have all inflicted with our lifestyles. And replacing the current culture of abuse with a culture of

preservation and care," he said. "As my team and I preside over the global negotiations to reduce net carbon emissions to zero as soon as possible, you in the media have a critical role to play. "And I ask you all to focus your complete attention this week on what you can do - individually and collectively - to assist your own nations, our region and the world to confront this challenge head on." The A-G stressed that Fiji was totally focused on delivering these outcomes, not only for Fijians but vulnerable peo-

ple everywhere. "Fiji is certainly not resting on our laurels after our success in Bonn. The Fijian-led negotiations will continue right up until we hand over the presidency to Poland in December. And we intend to work closely with our Polish friends at COP24 to make sure we deliver maximum ambition and momentum," he said. "We are doing this with our joint stewardship of what the world has agreed to call the Talanoa Dialogue. It is a process

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Rosy Akbar.

*Climate change presents an increasingly existential challenge to people in the Pacific region. Over the coming decades, large numbers of Pacific people — and in some cases entire nations — face displacement from their homes and livelihoods.*

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar

## NUMBERS

**\$1.002m**  
is the total amount of funds provided by UN Women for Namaka and Nausori markets accommodations

## TWEET OF THE WEEK



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum (@FijiAG)

*It's overwhelming to receive and be received with the generosity of these two ceremonies representing the kindness and traditions of the people of Fiji towards those who are their guests" - @UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein at the welcome ceremony. pic. [twitter.com/KZRXU2gkBN](https://twitter.com/KZRXU2gkBN)*

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President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote with awardees during the Fiji Development Bank's 2017 National Awards for Small and Medium Enterprises in Suva. . Photo: RONAL DEO

## Awards for small, medium enterprises

RONAL DEO

TEN Fijian companies were rewarded for their efforts and accomplishments at the Fiji Development Bank's 2017 National Awards for Small and Medium Enterprises.

The President, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, handed out these awards at the Grand Pacific Hotel last Friday.

Major winners Devesh and Bharos Farms scooped four awards, which were the 2017 National SME of the Year, Special Awards, Responsive SMEs and Value Adding SMEs Category.

President Konrote said small and medium entrepreneurs or SMEs of this country are the engines of our economy.

"The income you generate from your businesses and the jobs you create contribute to the economic development of our nation. You certainly contribute to rural development, poverty alleviation, empowerment of our youths and women, and the diversification of our agricultural, industrial and commercial sectors. You are, without a doubt, all winners," he added.

The President said he was proud to note that FDB's National SME Awards had been strengthened this year to contribute towards progressing global goals such as Sustainable Development and Climate Change as reflected in FDB's Strategic Plan.

The Head of State added that these awards strongly promoted inclusivity and green sustainable development.

All businesses must integrate strategies in their operations that uphold practices that contribute to achieving inclusivity and green sustainable development of our economy.

The President encouraged SME manufacturers to excel in their sectors with more value addition and expansion into new areas of manufacturing.

He said Fijians were excited and proud whenever they saw Fijian-made products in stores, here at home and abroad.

"We have a very forward-looking National Development Plan, which is designed to ensure that all Fijians realise their full potential as a nation and are empowered to contribute towards building a fast growing, resilient economy that is inclusive and progressive," President Konrote said.

## Fiji names envoy to Indonesia

NANISE NEIMILA

THE President, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, commissioned Fiji's new Ambassador-designate to Republic of Indonesia, Seleima Veisamasama, at Borron House last week.

Ambassador Veisamasama took the oath of allegiance and oath of execution of office before President Konrote.

Senior government officials and members of the ambassador-designate's immediate family witnessed the commissioning ceremony.

Prior to her diplomatic appointment, Ambassador



President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and First Lady Sarote Konrote with Fiji's new Ambassador-designate to Republic of Indonesia, Seleima Veisamasama, and her family at Borron House, Suva. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Veisamasama was a school-teacher with 38 years of experience in the education sector.

She is passionate educator for the fight against substance abuse, awareness of HIV and AIDS and the prevention of teenage pregnancy in Fiji.

Ambassador Veisamasama also worked with non-government organisations including World Wildlife Fund

in 2006.

She attained a Bachelor of Science and Diploma in Education as well as a Certificate in Diplomacy and International Relations from the University of the South Pacific (USP), where she has also been pursuing a Post Graduate Certificate in Governance.

Ambassador Veisamasama has three sons and two daughters.

## A-G launches 'Keep Green' programme

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum commended Gospel High School for introducing the "Keep Green Program" which supported the Fijian Government's presidency for COP23 last year.

The "Keep Green Program" focus on the 3Rs - reduces, reuse and recycle, part of the program will be the planting of mahogany and sandalwood trees around the school.

The A-G said it was encouraging to see that schools were supporting the Fijian Government's efforts in raising awareness on the effects of climate change.

"Climate change had significant bearing on our schools, especially during the wrath of Tropical Cyclone Winston and every aspect of education had been affected, even for students and the community," he said.

"We need to understand the effects of climate change and this is another way of raising awareness through our school systems and giving students the opportunity to learn more about this."

The A-G highlighted Government's role and Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama lead role as President of COP23.

Gospel High School Principal Immanuel Prasad said the institution would support Government efforts in raising awareness on climate change.

"Climate change is real and we need to start from somewhere and this is another way we can raise awareness and teach our children how to look after the environment," Mr Prasad said.

Mr Prasad added that children were the agents for change and this program was not only about the 3Rs, but how it affected the globe in terms of climate change and global warming.

"The aim of the Clean Schools Program was to introduce a 3R centric system to schools with the following objectives — to give the opportunity for students to start proper waste management and to target children in creating awareness on the concept of waste minimisation at schools, home and in their communities."





# Climate Threat

FROM PAGE 1

that I hope will urgently raise ambition in the Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs that each country is making to reduce its own carbon emissions. “The Talanoa Dialogue is vitally important for

all members of the Grand Coalition we are building for decisive action take part at all governments’ level, civil society, the private sector and ordinary men and women.”

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) has issued an advisory for all Fijians to take the necessary precautions in light of the forecasted track of Tropical Cyclone Gita, currently a Category 2 system, which may pass close

to the south of Fiji in the next few days from Tongan waters.

As of last night, the Fiji Meteorological Services forecast that TC Gita posed no direct threat to Fiji, but given that cyclone paths could defy forecasts it was important to remain prepared at all times.

The system has already caused massive damage in Samoa and American Samoa and was expected to pass through Tongan waters.

Fijians are advised to prepare for any eventuality by securing their property and livestock while not taking any unnecessary risks because lives have been lost in the past because of negligence.

All mariners have been asked take heed of the strong wind warning, especially for small fishing boats to avoid venturing into fishing activities because rough seas and heavy rain will be experienced.

## Your safety is paramount: Qiliho

NANISE NEIMILA

**P**OLICE Commissioner Brigadier General Sitiveni Qiliho has reaffirmed the commitment of the Police Force in protecting every Fijian’s right to practice any religion of their choice.

Commissioner Qiliho made this assurance while answering queries from the members of the community during a forum organised by the Shree Gopal Sadhu Hanumaan Gadi Mandir in Nakasi recently.

“I have directed my officers to set up a taskforce to investigate this crimes and as we speak 20 officers have been assigned to investigate the desecration of temples around the country,” he said.

“Be assured that we will not rest until we arrest those who have benefited from these crimes and those who are behind these crimes.”

Commissioner Qiliho issued a stern warning to those opportunists intending to commit such crimes, saying that the police would not tolerate these acts and perpetrators would have to face the full brunt of the law.

He highlighted that the 2017 policing landscape had its fair share of external and internal challenges. However, despite these hurdles, the police still managed to reduce the overall crime rate by nine per cent.

“There are a number of factors that have contributed to this reduction, and while it may seem contrary to media and social media reports of a Fiji riddled with crime, I can categorically state, that 2017 was a much safer year for Fiji when compared with 2016,” Commissioner Qiliho said.

“The 2017 crime statistics take into account the actual crimes committed during the reporting period from the 1st of January to the 31st of December.”

Commissioner Qiliho added that out of the 20,565 cases reported last year, 18,154 were committed in 2017 while 2412 cases were committed in previous years.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum urged all Fijians to work with the police and to report any incidents that they thought were illegal or against the law.

“The Government will continue to support the efforts of the Fiji Police Force and since this Government came into leadership there has been a restructure within the force,” he said.

“We have improved the resources, increased the budgetary allocation to the Fiji Police Force with pay increases for all those in the force.”



## A-G urges prefects to be honest

Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum officiated at the prefects induction at Naqali District School in Naitasiri.

The A-G reminded the prefects to be honest at all times and help their teachers maintain discipline in the school.

Prefects inducted included leaders from kindergarten and Year 1 to Year 8.

The head boy for 2018 is Josua Veikoso while Cema Boteivanua is the head girl. Naqali District School has a roll of 186 students with eight teachers.

Photos: AZARIA FAREEN

# Govt ‘guarantees religious freedom’

NANISE NEIMILA

**T**HE Government will protect the religious freedom of every Fijian and will not tolerate acts of temple desecration around the country, says Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

The reassurance was given by the A-G during a public forum at the Shree Gopal Sadhu Hanumaan Gadi Mandir at Nakasi, Nasinu, organised to address the increase in desecration of temples around the country.

The A-G said the Fijian Constitution guaranteed religious freedom in the country and the perpetrators involved in temple desecrations would face the full brunt of the law.

“We are a secular state; a nation where every Fijian can choose their own religion and no one – I repeat, no one – can

force one denomination or faith on anyone or prevent anyone from following the religion of their choosing,” he said.

“It saddens me greatly that we’ve seen a recent escalation of religious vilification in Fiji. Unfortunately, it is even more widespread than these attacks on temples.”

The A-G added that some people were trying to turn fellow Fijians against each other on the basis of Hindu against Muslim, one Christian denomination against another, iTaukei against Fijians of Indian descent, North Indian against South Indian, Arya Samaj against Sanatan Dharam Sabha, this province against that province and this confederacy against another.

“I’m here to tell you that we need to move away from that backward way of thinking. Otherwise we will never progress as a country,” the A-G said.

He told community members that an at-

tack on our temples was an attack against every Fijian and every religion in Fiji and attacks against our Constitution and secular state.

The A-G thanked the Methodist Church President, the National President of the Shree Sanatan Dharm and the National President of the Fiji Muslim League for condemning intolerance in the Fijian society as per media reports.

Police Commissioner Brigadier General Sitiveni Qiliho said the police dedicated a taskforce of 20 officers to look into the escalation of crimes, such as temple desecration and damaging of religious places.

“We need to work together to curb these crimes and I can assure that the police will work hard to get this perpetrators,” Commissioner Qiliho said.

Other Cabinet ministers and Members of Parliament were part of the forum.





# Timely aid for women's groups

**W**OMEN'S groups in Naitasiri received a timely boost for their income-generating programs from the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa.

Minister Vuniwaqa visited Nadakuni and Naqara villages and distributed sewing machines to these groups to assist in diversifying their businesses.

These income-generating projects will strengthen the commitment between the ministry and women's groups in working together for the empowerment of rural women.

The groups manage brush-cutting and canteen projects as part of their income-generation program.

During the visit, Minister Vuniwaqa acknowledged the support shown by the vanua towards their women's aspirations.

"The ministry is happy to provide income-generating projects to registered women's group in Fiji to alleviate poverty by economically empowering women," she said.

Naqara Women's Group president Timaima Vakadragusu acknowledged the Ministry of Women for visiting them. The vice president, Melaia Duacakau, shared the same sentiments and said they were very happy to have the



A member of Nadakuni Women's Group receives sewing machine from Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa.

minister visit them and share words of encouragement on how to operate their income-generating projects.

"We will sew clothes and uniform, so we can sell it and the money earned will assist the operation of our women's group," Mr Duacakau said after receiving new sewing machines.

The ministerial week-long visit to Naitasiri identified ways and means to

further assist these women's groups in the sustainable development of their income-generating programs.

The ministry believes in investing in women's economic empowerment because it sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth.

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## Feedback received on health helpline

ANSHOO CHNADRA

**M**ORE than 3500 people contacted the Health Customer Care Centre helpline 157 from June 2016 to January 2018.

Of this, there were a total of 3011 calls, 149 emails and 430 SMS received with all calls acknowledged within 24 hours and referred to ministry staff to be investigated and addressed.

The helpline has been able to assist the ministry in identifying gaps and having these addressed in a prioritised manner.

It has created opportunities for the Health Ministry to work with the Ministry of Civil Service in organising customer care training for clinicians, which will be facilitated by Fiji National University as a strategy to improve customer services within the health system.

It has enabled the ministry to monitor and enhance its resource/equipment operations.

From June 2017 to January 8, 2018, there were several calls commonly received through the helpline.

People raised concerns via the Customer Care Centre about a variety of issues such as long waiting times, staff attitudes and delays in obtaining results and reports.

There has been no single standout issue, but surprisingly there have been a number of calls relating to environmental health issues (drainage, garbage).

On the positive side, there have been a number of calls from people wishing to comment on improvements in services offered by doctors and nurses.

Prank calls have been noted and these are usually from callers who are not owners of the mobile numbers registered in the database when SMS or calls were received.

There were general inquiries such as whether the health centres are open during weekends and public holidays or whether a certain doctor was on duty.

Other feedbacks received are not health related, but customers are advised to call the appropriate government agencies for their issues to be addressed.

There have been complaints about staff attitude and unsatisfactory treatment about clinicians-nurses and doctors equally.

Hence, the Health Ministry with the Ministry of Civil Service are now looking at providing customer service training to clinicians with the objective of empowering service providers to be customer friendly and focused in improving customer-oriented services.

Other complaints include the unavailability of services – equipment breakdown.

The helpline has become a real-time medium that responds and registers all customers accessing 157 via calls or sms or even through emails.

The helpline has been linked to a database that notifies the health service providers such as Risk Managers and Sub-Divisional Medical Officers, Medical Superintendents, Divisional Medical Officers and other departmental heads on feedbacks from customers.

## Boat enhances Government services

**T**HE Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa, and the chiefs of Lomaiviti launched the 'Seda Kei Viti' recently in Levuka.

The boat will be an addition to the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation's fleet and will boost the Government's aim of decentralising service delivery - delivering government services to Fijians wherever they live.

While launching the boat, Minister Vuniwaqa said, "Accessibility to services is a challenge for most villages and islands in the Lomaiviti Group, so the boat will be used primarily by ministry staff to deliver services around the remote islands on Lomaiviti".

The Seda Kei Viti, which



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa and chiefs of Lomaiviti during the launch of the Seda kei Viti in Levuka.

is the third boat to be commissioned by the ministry, will improve service delivery especially for the two departments - Women and the Social Welfare - as well as other official stakeholders who provide services in the Lomaiviti Group and will be used to reach Fijians on the islands.

Minister Vuniwaqa said the provision of the boat to these departments was an extension of the outreach program the people, in particular those from Gau,

Wakaya, Batiki, Koro and Moturiki.

She said the vessel would provide much-needed assistance to the people of Lomaiviti and these services included easier access to financial assistance for the underprivileged, quicker response to child protection and family issues, more awareness programs and availability of advice for the locals.

The chiefs of Lomaiviti who were at the launch included Ratu mai Bureta

Ratu Jone Davila, Turaga na Rokotakala Ratu Peni Boila and Reverend Jiuta Volau.

In thanking the Government for considering the challenge they faced in accessing Government services, they acknowledged the huge positive impact that infrastructural developments and social benefits provided by Government made in the lives of their people.

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





ISAAC LAL

CANE planting for the 2017/2018 season has been a very positive improvement for canegrowers, with the Fiji Sugar Corporation's extension team increasing engagement with farmers.

FSC chief executive officer Graham Clark said this was encouraging news for the industry because a higher cane crop would result in an increase in sugar production.

"We are encouraged and optimistic by the current planting trend. We are very grateful to all industry stakeholders, notably the Government for its financial support. The objective of rebuilding a robust and bigger sugar industry has clearly been accepted by all stakeholders. Everyone is working together and at this juncture, this is crucial and rewarding," Mr Clark said.

"There is a spirit of excitement and renewed enthusiasm in the air."

Two growers within the Lautoka sector confirmed that this year's planting had been better than the previous year, aided by the Government grants and good technical support from another key industry stakeholder, the Sugar Research Institute.

Rajnish Naicker, 39, a commercial grower of Lovu sector, on the outskirts of Lautoka, hopes to increase his harvest this season.

"Last season, I had 4.5 acres covered by cane. This season that has grown to seven acres and I am looking forward to at least 500 tonnes of sugar harvest this year," he said.

The Government's assistance to growers this season has been fundamental in assisting planting efforts.

As Mr Naicker said the "incentives from the Government and support from FSC field operations, complemented with good technical advice from the Sugar Research Institute has assisted me greatly".

"I am new to farming and I learn as much as I can. And the direction being given to me by these entities has really boosted my cane planting efforts," he said.

Mr Naicker, an accountant by profession, left a lucrative career to pursue commercial agricultural farming.

"I have no regrets in pursuing sugarcane farming," he said.

Government assistance to sugarcane

Lisala Kubu, an iTaukei grower of Naviago Village, Lautoka, owns a 3.9 acre sugar farm.

INSET: Rajnish Naicker, 39, a commercial grower of Lovu sector, on the outskirts of Lautoka, hopes to increase his harvest this season.

*Last season, I had 4.5 acres covered by cane. This season that has grown to seven acres and I am looking forward to at least 500 tonnes of sugar harvest this year.*

Rajnish Naicker, 39, a commercial grower of Lovu sector

## FSC upbeat on cane planting progress

growers includes incentives such as subsidies for weedicides and fertiliser.

The response to these initiatives has resulted in significant increases in volume usage of fertiliser and weedicides.

FSC planting records confirm noteworthy growth in all sectors with over 5800 hectares planted in November and December 2017 alone.

In Ba, Tavua and Rarawai, several sectors increased planting area by more than double compared with last year.

There has been good rainfall at the right time is season throughout the cane belt.

The rains enhanced cane growth prospects although extreme weather patterns in the past three to five years have had a negative bearing on the crop, but this season the rainfall has bolstered growers' determination.

Lisala Kubu, an iTaukei grower of Naviago Village, Lautoka, owns a 3.9 acre sugar farm.

He started farming again after a lapse of a few years.

"I was motivated by the incentives in the industry and I am happy that I ventured into cane farming again. I started off with a 1.4-acre farm, but now I have

close to four acres and I am still looking to add three more acres. My father was a sugarcane farmer but I only took it up in 2015," Mr Kubu said.

Like Mr Naicker, Mr Kubu looks forward to a good harvest this season.

In comparison with last season, sugarcane planting has been above target by 136 per cent for sectors aligned to the Rarawai Mill.

Sectors aligned to Lautoka Mill have achieved 76 per cent of target to date, Labasa Mill sectors 86.2 per cent and Penang Mill 72 per cent respectively.

"Of the 38 sectors, 15 sectors have doubled their planting targets. This is a positive direction for the future of the industry and just general good news all around," Mr Clark added.

"While planting for the 2018 season has been concluded, planting for new seed cane for use in 2019 continues. Barring any extreme weather disturbances, this season's crop should be a much-needed increase in cane production compared with the previous season, and will contribute toward much-anticipated stability required to deliver a turnaround for the sugar industry."

## Fertiliser, weedicide grant subsidies signed

PRIYANKA LAL

TWO grant agreements signed on fertiliser and weedicide subsidy between the Ministry of Sugar and South Pacific Fertilizers Limited will ensure canefarmers maximise their sugarcane yield.

The grant agreements were signed between the permanent secretary for the Ministry of Sugar, Yogesh Karan, and SPFL board member Sundresh Chetty in Suva recently.

While speaking at the signing, Mr Karan said Government subsidised fertiliser costs since 2009 to encourage and ensure that growers applied the recommended quantity of fertiliser in cane fields.

"Ever since 2009, the total price of 50kg bag of fertiliser was \$45.59 and the Government was subsidising fertiliser cost with a subsidy of \$14.09 while growers paid \$31.50 per 50kg for Blend A, B and C fertiliser," he said.

The Government further increased the subsidy from \$14.09 to \$25.59 per 50kg bag of fertiliser and increased the fertiliser subsidy budget allocation from \$9.7million (2016-2017) to \$15.35m under the Ministry of Sugar Industry for 2017/2018 financial year.

This, Mr Karan said, was an increase of 82 per cent in subsidy by the Government when compared with the 2016 fiscal year.

"Now the farmers are paying \$20 per 50kg bag of fertiliser, which is 44 per cent of \$45.59 per 50kg bag. Government pays \$25.59, which is 56 per cent of price for 50kg fertiliser," he added.

Mr Karan said Government backdated the new fertiliser subsidy rate to January 1, 2017, instead of August 1, 2017.

While speaking on the weedicide grant, Mr Karan highlighted that the Government introduced the weedicide subsidy programme with a budgetary allocation of \$6.3m in the 2017/2018 financial year.

"From 1 August, 2017, the Government provides 55 per cent subsidy while growers pay 45 per cent of the price of the four recommended weedicide on sugarcane fields. These are Diuron WDG80, Valpar King, Glyphosate and 2D Amine 270," he said.

SPFL general manager Ashween Ram said 13,000 to 15,000 cane farmers who were registered under the programme benefited from the grant agreements.

"With the government assistance, we have been able to improve our performance and we need to keep up the momentum in terms of providing support to the growers to increase cane yields," Mr Ram said.





Participants during the 4th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction at the Sheraton Resort and Spa on Denarau.  
 Photo: ERONI VALILI

# Climate change affects health sector

NANISE NEIMILA

CLIMATE change continues to affect all aspects of humanity and, in particular, it undermines the environmental determinants of health.

These determinants include clean air and water, sufficient food and adequate shelter with the changing climate leading to increased risks and infectious disease. This was highlighted by the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar, during a presentation 4th Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Media Summit: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in Nadi last week.

“Although all populations are at risk,

some are more vulnerable than others. Small Island Developing States are in the frontline, encompassing the range of acute to long-term risks, from more extreme floods and storms, to increased risks of water-borne and food-borne infectious diseases, to sea-level rise threatening healthcare facilities situated in coastal areas,” Minister Akbar said.

“Pacific island countries are working hard to address the escalating realities of climate change, including the impact on land, livelihoods and on the food and water security of their most vulnerable communities.”

Minister Akbar added that the need for accessible, predictable, adequate and ap-

propriate financial support to meet the climate crisis in developing countries was urgent and growing.

“Access to climate finance is a matter of global justice. Those who have contributed the least to the causes of climate change are typically the most vulnerable to its impacts and have the least resources to respond,” she said.

“Climate change presents an increasingly existential challenge to people in the Pacific region.

“Over the coming decades, large numbers of Pacific people — and in some cases entire nations — face displacement from their homes and livelihoods.”

## Minister stresses climate partnership

NANISE NEIMILA

“THERE is need to incorporate climate change projects into disaster risk management administration,” says Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management Office and Fiji’s Climate Change champion Inia Seruiratu.

This was his message to participants at the 4th Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction last week.

Minister Seruiratu said the Pacific had in place the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, otherwise known as the FRDP.



FROM LEFT: Minister for Agriculture, Rural & Maritime Development, and National Disaster Management and Fiji’s High Level Climate Champion, Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Forests Osea Naiqamu and Minister for Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau during the 4th ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction at the Sheraton Resort and Spa on Denarau. Photo: ERONI VALILI

“The FRDP provides high-level strategic guidance to different stakeholder groups on how to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters, in ways that contribute to and are embedded in sustainable development,” he said.

Minister Seruiratu said to support the implementation and monitoring of the FRDP, a guiding tool to incorporate risk resilient development across all sectors, the Pacific Resilience Partnership was

established last year.

“Meanwhile, the final stages of consultations on the draft National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2018-2030 are underway.

“The draft policy is aligned to the Sendai Framework by ensuring consistency in the indicators and targets between the two documents to streamline the reporting and monitoring of implementation and achievements,” Minister Seruiratu said.

Minister Seruiratu added

that the draft Disaster Risk Reduction Policy emphasised the need to integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions, and the need for alignment and co-ordination among various sector policies, legislations and plans.

“The Fiji COP23 presidency recognises the need to strengthen the linkages between climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development,” he said.

## Ministry looks into risk action plan

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services will provide a leadership role in the area of Climate Change for Health and Disaster Risk Management in Health.

This will be done through a unit responsible for putting into action the Climate Change and Health Strategic Action Plan as well as the Health Emergency and Disaster Management Action Plan.

Minister for Health and Medical Rosy Akbar highlighted this during a presentation at the 4th Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Media Summit in Nadi last week.

Minister Akbar said under the climate change and health strategic action plan a departmental steering committee reviewed and implemented health activities and proposals related to climate change.

“My ministry is committed in its continued effort to build capacity of its workforce in climate change and health through training, capacity building and infrastructure related support,” she said.

“Ministry of Health & Medical Services Fiji is working towards the adoption of ‘green health care facilities’ concept acknowledging the health co-benefits of climate mitigation. The proposal for Fiji’s first ‘green HCF’ is now with KOICA for funding and if approved the town of Nadi will be the home of our first ‘green health care facility’.

“Moreover, health co-benefits from reduction of fossil fuel use in cooking and incineration within our health sector and other sectors can address pollution problems that cause respiratory and skin allergies.”

Minister Akbar added that promoting wellness through physical activity (walking, running) and healthy eating led to reduction of dependency on motor vehicles and fast foods and this impacted on carbon emission, increased healthiness and supported the quality of life for our citizens.





President Major General Joji Konrote, third from left, and USP vice-chancellor and president Professor Rajesh Chandra, fourth from left, during the launching of USP's 50th anniversary celebrations in Suva. Photo: RONAL DEO

# President commends USP's contribution

NATASHA BEGUM

THE President, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, has commended the University of the South Pacific (USP) for being a steadfast partner to the Government in advancing the education system. President Konrote made these remarks while launching the USP's 50th anniversary celebrations in Suva recently, stating that the past 50 years had been a period of tremendous change for the university and all of

Fiji. He said the USP had played a vital role in producing a competitive and talented workforce. "Our young people today enjoy more opportunities in education than ever before in our history," President Konrote said. The Head of State highlighted that the Fijian Government's tertiary education scheme paved the way for young Fijians to pursue further and quality education. "The generation of young Fijians

entering USP today are among the many in recent years who have benefitted from the Government's free education initiative. And now that they have gone to university, they have access to a wide range of merit-based scholarships and affordable Tertiary Education Loan Scheme," he said. President Konrote congratulated the university on its milestone achievement and acknowledged the legacy of the institution surrounding leadership, Pacific co-operation and educational achievement.

## President opens time capsule

NATASHA BEGUM

A TIME capsule was opened by President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote to mark the launch of the University of the South Pacific's 50th anniversary celebrations. A time capsule contains a historic cache of goods or information typical of the said time that is buried and opened later to mark an occasion. The time capsule outside the Australia-Pacific Lecture Theatre was sealed on 20 August 1997 by the then Australian Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, and the then Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rajesh Chandra to mark the commencement of construction of the Australia-Pacific Lecture Theatre. Items in the capsule con-



President Major General (Ret'd) Joji Konrote opens the time capsule as USP pro vice-chancellor Winston Thompson looks on. Photo: RONAL DEO

tained USP publications, a video cassette from 1997 and a note stating the opening of the capsule on the university's 50th anniversary, which was read by Professor Chandra during

its opening. The USP will prepare a time capsule to be sealed in December to preserve for future generations to review the essence of 2018. Present during the opening

were USP Pro-Vice Chancellor Winston Thompson, Australia's High Commissioner to Fiji, John Feakes, and USP Vice Chancellor Professor Rajesh Chandra.

## New protocols for ministry

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Education, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, has announced a range of new protocols for the Ministry of Education to address a number of systemic issues affecting Fijian teachers.

He set out clear expectations for the role of ministry officials in supporting Fiji's teachers in their important work educating young Fijians.

■ The Ministry of Education has discovered that some teachers received incorrect information from some divisional education officers and education officers in Suva and were told they did not need to sit for examinations to receive a contract. Those teachers who were given that incorrect information will be granted one-year contracts, but they will need to sit proficiency examinations to determine their order of merit so they can be appropriately placed in schools. All teachers who were given incorrect information and did not yet sit for an exam will be required to sign a statutory declaration stating the circumstances around their situation.

■ The Ministry of Education is in the process of assessing appropriate school locations to best accommodate teachers seeking transfers. Teachers who have been given representations by ministry officials that they will be transferred, but who have not yet been transferred, will have their claims properly verified. Once verified those pending teacher transfer requests will be processed in the next two weeks.

■ Teacher shortages are being addressed on an ongoing basis. The past practice of ministry officials touring the country to assess teacher shortages has been ended. School heads have now been granted greater autonomy and responsibility, and will be required to submit forms requesting additional teaching personnel and facilities if required. Ministry officials will then verify the need for additional teachers and facilities. Forms will be made available by the end of this week. The ministry will be placing priority on filling secondary school vacancies, mainly in the subject areas of maths, physics, industrial arts and office technologies.

■ For those interested teacher candidates who were not previously available to take exams, new exam times would be advertised on this coming Saturday, 3 February 2018.

■ Civil Service Reform Unit Director Jane Curran will chair an independent investigation into issues of non-performance, deliberate giving out of wrong information and leaks of teachers' personal information. Assurances were made that those found responsible would be held accountable.

■ There has also been misinformation spread about teacher compensation; it was clarified that, because school started in the middle of a fortnight, some teachers were paid for three days' work before a new fortnight began. All teachers would be paid in full for the next fortnight upon its completion.

Any questions can be referred to the teacher hotline at 162 (between the hours of 8am and 8 pm) or by e-mail at [Csrmu.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:Csrmu.enquiries@gmail.com)





# Govt pushes sports tourism

NANISE NEIMILA

THE reopening of the FMF Gymnasium and the new Fiji Sports Council headquarters will cement the Government's commitment to promote sport tourism within Fiji and internationally.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said the Government knew how to grow the economy because for eight straight years there had been positive growth.

"The Government knows how to create jobs because unemployment in Fiji stands at the lowest rate in 30 years.

And we know how to make sports tourism work for Fiji, whether it be the Fiji International or the Super Rugby series, we are realising our great potential as a premier destination for sport and we are putting Fiji on the map for sports fans around the world," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"Later this year, we will be hosting the Pan-Pacific Swimming Championships in Fiji, then in 2019 we will host the IWF World Junior Weightlifting Championships and, in 2021, the INF World U20 Netball Cup. Bringing us even more great opportunities to solidify our reputation as a sporting destination."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the reopening of the FMF Gymnasium and the new Fiji Sports Council headquarters in Suva. Photo: ERONI VALILI

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted that all across Fiji, economic success enabled the Government to invest in gyms, parks and sporting facilities for Fijians.

"Giving more Fijians more opportunity to get moving, get healthy and take positive steps towards living healthier lifestyles," he said.

"This year alone, we are spending \$2.1million to com-

plete the long-awaited Vunisea Sports Complex in Kadavu and the Sawaieke Sports Complex in Gau and continue construction of the Vunidawa Sports Complex in Naitasiri."

"We are currently constructing a 10-lane Olympic competition size pool in Lautoka, a new Valelevu sports stadium and a new public swimming pool in Nasinu, along with dozens of rural sports fields

throughout the country. And, just down the road, we plan to refurbish the Vodafone Arena."

Fiji National Sports Commission executive chairman Peter Mazey thanked the Government for providing opportunities for local athletes to enjoy the new facilities.

"The reopening of the FMF Gymnasium will ensure that our local athletes access the



On behalf of the Fijian Government and Fijian people, I extend our deepest condolences to all those who have lost loved ones and friends aboard the MV Butiraoi.

It is a particular tragedy for a nation the size of Kiribati, and the thoughts and prayers of every Fijian are with you at this time. May Almighty God take those who have lost their lives into his loving arms, and provide comfort to their families and all who knew them.

As you know, Fiji was able to render whatever assistance we could with the rescue effort, and we also stand ready to provide whatever assistance you may need with the investigation into the sinking.

This tragedy has struck a deep chord with Fijians and other Pacific Islanders. We are acutely aware of the vulnerability of all of us in the vast stretches of ocean that separate our islands, and we must all work together to ensure that our means of transport across the seas meet the highest safety standards.

I extend to you the solidarity and friendship of the Fijian people, and our assurance that you can always rely on Fiji— especially in times of need.

Yours sincerely,  
Voreqe Bainimarama  
Prime Minister of Fiji







## Unscrupulous traders a problem

NATASHA BEGUM

THE Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) received a total of 242 complaints of unfair trading practices in 2017.

This, the commission highlighted, was becoming a problem, but it successfully resolved 90 per cent of the complaints received.

Commission chief executive officer Joel Abraham said FCCC was committed to shielding consumers by way of law from unethical business practices while still promoting market competition.

“The 242 complaints received in 2017 surrounded misleading advertisements, bait advertising, false representation, hoarding of goods and the sale of unmerchantable goods,” Mr Abraham said.

“While the FCCC is mandated to promote effective competition and informed markets and encourage trading. It is also mandated to protect consumers from unscrupulous traders. This is important to ensure consumer rights are protected and they get value for their money.”

Mr Abraham urged consumers to break the culture of silence and speak up against unfair market prices to ensure that such cases was minimised.

“Consumers are advised to initially contact the business or service provider concerned in order to seek an amicable solution to their concern. Should they be unsuccessful then consumers are encouraged to lodge their complaints with the FCCC by visiting an outlet closer to them,” he said.

“The FCCC will continue to safeguard consumer interests by enforcing the FCCC Act 2010 for the betterment of all Fijians. Where traders fail to comply with the laws in place FCCC, having the enforcement powers, will step in to take appropriate action.”

Other complaints received by the Commission include rent increase despite the rent freeze order, unfair eviction and non-refund of bond money.

The FCCC Act 2010, Sales of Goods Act and the Consumer Credit Act are currently under review.

# Minister overseas for seasonal work talks

TALKS were held recently with the Australian Government on how to improve work conditions and increase the number of workers deployed under the Seasonal Work Programme (SWP).

This as the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Jone Usamate met Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells,

Senator Zed Seselja and executives of

the National Farmers Federation in Canberra last week to discuss matters related to the Seasonal Work Programme (SWP).

Their discussions focused on improving conditions and increasing the number of workers deployed to Australian farms under the SWP and current issues that have been addressed by the Employment Ministry.

Minister Usamate had the opportunity to meet a group of Fijian workers who were employed with Dahegam Fresh

Produce in Canberra, Australia.

He emphasised the importance of working as a team so that they could maximise the benefits of the work opportunities.

He thanked the workers and the employer and wished them well.

Minister Usamate was accompanied by the ministry’s deputy secretary, Vilimone Baledrokadroka, and Labour Standards Service director Atish Kumar.

news@govnet.gov.fj

## Initiative for women market vendors

PRIYANKA LAL

RURAL women market vendors in Nadi and Nausori will soon have access to accommodation and resource centres to ensure they have improved working conditions.



*Very soon women market vendors will be able to enjoy accessible and secure facilities in a secure two-storey accommodation and resource centre.*

United Nations Women representative Aleta Miller

This is part of efforts between the Ministry of Local Government, United Nations Women’s Markets for Change programme and the Australian Government.

Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar received a cheque for more than \$400,000 last week for accommodation centres for Namaka and Nausori markets from UN Women representative Aleta Miller in Suva.

Minister Kumar thanked UN Women and the Australian



Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar receives a cheque for more than \$400K from United Nations Women representative Aleta Miller in Suva. Photo: PRIYANKA LAL

Government for their continuous support towards rural women market vendors and municipal councils around Fiji.

“Very soon there will be a ground-breaking ceremony for the accommodation centre for the women of Nausori. When the new Nausori market was built, there were surplus spaces available but if you go now, there is not even a single space. There is a demand that we have to meet,” Minister Kumar said.

“Namaka market needs expansion. Other municipal markets need this kind of development and we will work to ensure the facilities are provided.”

Ms Miller said Markets for

Change initiative aimed to ensure that market places in rural and urban areas in Fiji were safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory, promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment.

“The total amount of funds provided by the UN Women for the two projects is \$1.002million. The Nausori market project will result in the construction of a new accommodation and resource centre for women market vendors. Very soon women market vendors will be able to enjoy accessible and secure facilities in a secure two-storey accommodation and resource centre,” Ms Miller said.

“On the ground floor, a

resource centre will house training and meetings for market vendors and on the top floor, an accommodation centre will offer a safe place to sleep for female market vendors, many of whom are rural women. The new Namaka market will receive an accommodation centre.”

Both markets places would have disability access, including in the accommodation centres.

Funds for the construction works at the Namaka and Nausori markets will be released in phases as works progress.

The factory, a subsidiary of the Buderim Group, was refurbished at a cost of about \$300,000.





# Head boy thanks Govt

ISAAC LAL

TEIDAMU Primary School head boy Ryan Sharan feels that the rebuilding of their new, stronger classrooms by the Government has inspired the students to put in more effort in their education.

Speaking at the reopening of the school, which has a roll of 82 students, Mr Sharan, 14, said he would never forget his days attending classes in tents after Tropical Cyclone Winston blew off the entire school.

“We are a very small school, but for the Government to build back our school and that too stronger and durable is very much appreciated and we are thankful for that,” he said.

“Teidamu Primary School is very grateful for the visionary leadership and tremendous work that this Government is doing,” the youngster said.

“We were devastated when our school was destroyed, but now we have these



Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum meets students of Teidamu Primary after the school's reopening. of a new computer lab, a library and three classrooms. Photo: ISAAC LAL

strong and very good building and for that we want to say thank you to the minister and to the Government.”

The school suffered massive structural damage after being hit by Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016.

No longer having to worry about the

durability of their classrooms has come as a huge relief for the other managements and teachers of schools in the West that had some of their classrooms officially reopened by the Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

## Acknowledge role of teachers

ISAAC LAL

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Education, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, has reiterated his call for the need for Fiji as a nation to acknowledge the vital role played by teachers.

The A-G made the comment while reopening four schools that were severely damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston.

“I would like to reiterate the comments I’ve been making for the past few days and that is in respect of how the various teachers contribute to the education system in Fiji,” he said.

“We, as a community and as a nation, need to acknowledge the hard work of teachers and ensure we give them proper conditions.”

The A-G urged school heads to inform the Ministry of Education if they needed more teachers.

“We’ve asked the schools, we’ve asked the headteachers and principals, forms have already been sent out to them and they need to tell us if there are shortages and if there are then we’ll be able to address that,” he said.

“We need to ensure that there are enough teachers so our students actually get taught properly and there is less pressure on those who are already teaching.”

He said during the reconstruction phase of schools, they would rebuild and renovate some teachers’ quarters.



Attorney-General and Minister for Communications Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the launching of the Walesi digital platform at Rabulu Village in Ra. Photo: ISAAC LAL

## Villagers hooked up to the outside world

ISAAC LAL

TWO villages in the Western Division now have a much wider selection of content and better quality television through the Walesi Digital Television platform launched recently.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Communication, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, launched the digital platform at Drauniivi Village and Rabulu Village in Ra had in the past only relied on radio

and paid television to be connected to the outside world.

Rabulu Village elder Naimua Henry said the launching of Walesi for their village was a positive sign and would benefit the villagers.

“There are 42 households in Rabulu, but only seven homes have paid television so we relied heavily on radio. The arrival of Walesi has given us a new window to the world and we are all very grateful to the Govern-

ment for blessing us with Walesi,” he said.

Similar Sentiments were echoed in Drauniivi by villager Saimoni Vunirewa who said the 813 homes in Drauniivi now were on equal footing with the rest of the nation.

“Previously we had television, but it was not clear, but the arrival of Walesi with eight free-to-air channels is welcomed,” Mr Vunirewa said.

Speaking to villagers, the

## Stronger schools bring joy

ISAAC LAL

FOUR schools in the Western Division that sustained significant damage after Tropical Cyclone Winston have resumed classes in proper learning facilities.

Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum commissioned the various school facilities in Tavua and Lautoka recently.

TEIDAMU PRIMARY SCHOOL	
A new computer lab, library and three classrooms.	<b>\$800K</b>
DRASA SECONDARY SCHOOL	
A revamped vocational training block	<b>\$400K</b>
BALATA COLLEGE	
Five new classrooms	<b>\$319K</b>
TAVUA DISTRICT SCHOOL	
A new kindergarten block	<b>\$183K</b>

While addressing the communities during the ceremonies, the A-G relayed a shared message to all about the importance of investing in education.

“These young children will be adults in the blink of an eye and they’ll be the future leaders of Fiji,” he said.

Balata College vice-principal Sudeshna Kumar said the Tavua school had to move students to tents and specialist rooms after classrooms were damaged in 2016.

“We are grateful that five new classrooms have been built and students will be in a more conducive learning environment,” Ms Kumar said.





## Villagers reassured on Help for Homes initiative

NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, has reassured recipients of the Help for Homes initiative in Taveuni that their building materials are on the way.

The A-G said the 60 tonnes of building materials still outstanding for Taveuni would be delivered because the delays with the hardware companies had been cleared.

“In the span of three weeks all the 60 tonnes will be delivered through the shipping franchise. We understand that RC Manubhai was the only supplier left to deliver the materials,” he said.

“We’re giving you confirmation that it will be delivered in three weeks.”

During a talanoa session at Navakawau Village questions were raised on the delay in the re-construction of Navakawau Catholic School.

The A-G said there are about 225 schools initially damaged during cyclone Winston.

“I wish to highlight - to put it into perspective - all these schools are being built from scratch. Some of them the walls are fine, but the roof was taken away,” he explained.

“We need to ensure that we build schools to a particular standard to withstand any tropical cyclone. About 95 per cent of all the schools that we’re re-building did not have the architectural plan or the engineering plan and that is why it collapsed quite easily.

“Due to the effects of climate change there will be a lot of cyclones, so we have to build schools properly and it will take time.

“There is a huge construction boom in Fiji and there is shortage of contractors in Fiji and in fact in Viti Levu we have contractors from the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Indonesia,” the A-G said.

“Welders in Suva are getting \$16-\$17 per hour and bricklayers around \$8-\$9 an hour because there is a huge shortage of people.

“Some of the works that has been called for tenders, we knew it will approximately cost around \$1.5-\$2million. The contractors are trying their luck because of the shortage they will say \$5million only then we will do it.”

The A-G said despite all these challenges the Government remained committed to build better schools and infrastructure for all Fijians.

## Northerners welcome Walesi platform

NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

THE Walesi Digital Television platform has come online in Vanua Levu, allowing those in rural and remote communities to watch free-to-air television for the first time.

The new Walesi Digital Television platform, an initiative by the Government, now provides television service to the whole of Fiji.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama launched the Walesi platform in various parts of Vanua Levu during his Northern tour for 2018, including Taveuni.

He launched it in Korovou Village, Bouma Village, Naselesele Village, Lamini Village and in Tukavesi Village and Drekeniwai in Cakaudrove.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the launch of Walesi TV at Naselesele Village on Taveuni. Photo: ERONI VALILI

Mikaele Turagacati, 62, of Bouma Village in Taveuni said the Walesi platform was a big benefit for them.

“This will bring a lot of change to the village because we will be updated with national news, particularly on the developments, policies by Government and many more,” Mr Turagacati said.

“Most of the time we’re left out and we have to do a lot of catch up on what is happening around us and we

want to thank the Government for this initiative.”

Villagers from Naselesele, Lamini, Tukavesi and Drekeniwai echoed similar sentiments.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said through terrestrial and satellite networks the Walesi signal was now available everywhere in Fiji.

“We’re well on our way to broadcast free-to-air Digital television into every home in the country,” he said.

“This is a major victory for Fiji and major milestone in my Government’s mission to give every Fijian regardless of the socio-economic status or their location and access to more and better information and entertainment.”

The Walesi platform has eight channels including FBC, FBC 2, FBC Plus, Fiji TV, Channel 2, Mai TV, Hope Channel and Parliament channel with more expected in the near future.

# Project empowers Wanikoro residents



NEMANI TURAGAIVIU

THE Boca community of Wainikoro in Nadogo, Macuata, now has a steady supply of electricity after decades of using lantern lights.

This after the Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya recently commissioned the Boca/Wainikoro electrification project.

Boca/Wainikoro advisory councillor Narendra Pratap thanked the Government, on behalf of the Boca community, for delivering the project.

“We stand with pride as the Government has helped us from darkness to light. This is an exciting time for the people of Boca,” Mr Pratap said.

“Gone are the days of the use of the kerosene lanterns, purchasing diesel oil for our generators and the use of candles.”

He said the community was grateful that the Government-funded project did not put additional burden on the families, which greatly helped to them.

Minister Koya said the commissioning of the electrification project was an exciting way to welcome the new year because the community now enjoyed the comfort, security and convenience of reliable and affordable electric power.

“The electrification project has been

completed at the cost of \$94,313 and will provide a new and reliable supply of electricity to 17 families of the Wainikoro settlement 24 hours a day,” he said.

“This programme is part of the massive Rural Electrification Programme that the Fijian Government is funding throughout the country and this year alone \$42.6million has been allocated to electrify homes in the rural areas across Fiji.”





# NCDs 'killing people at younger age'

RONAL DEO

**M**INISTER for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar has raised concern that younger people are now suffering from non-communicable diseases.

While speaking to students of Suva Muslim College about healthy living, Minister Akbar said because of NCDs, Fiji was losing a lot of young people in their produc-

tive years of life.

"Some decades ago only elderly citizens would have diabetes and high blood pressure, but if you check the age of family members and who's suffering from what, you will see the age for people suffering from NCD has come down," the minister said.

She said Fiji and the Pacific had a very high rate of NCDs.

"I want young people to be champions

of healthy living. We must go back to our traditional foods because they are very healthy and rich in nutrients. Please be mindful of your health and be champions of healthy eating. Avoid eating junk and unhealthy foods," Minister Akbar added.

The minister called on the students to make a rule at home to have at least one meal with family members because lifestyles and commitments meant this had become a problem now.

## Prefects urged to be humble

RONAL DEO

**M**INISTER for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar has called on prefects of Suva Muslim College to always be humble when dealing with students and making decisions for the school.

While officiating at the college's prefects induction programme, Minister Akbar highlighted to the young leaders that the badge was given to them as a symbol and reminder of who they represented.

"Power has been bestowed upon you and power can also be taken away from you should you fail to perform. Anybody who has been given the responsibility to lead, to make decisions for others has



Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar badges a form captain at the Suva Muslim College prefects' induction. **Photo: RONAL DEO**

to do with utmost responsibility and humility," she advised the prefects.

Minister Akbar said the badge symbolised the school, it signified the teachers and students who placed their trust in the prefects to uphold the rules and laws.

"You must at all times inculcate religious tolerance in your leadership skills.

To all other students, if the prefects speak out to you and say that something is against the school rules, you are not doing it right, then take it positively," she said.

School head girl Faizaah Ali said it was a great achievement and honour for her to be selected for the role.

Ms Ali said the biggest responsibility for her would be to manage her time wisely and to be approachable by the fellow colleagues.

## Farewell for US envoy

NANISE NEIMILA

**M**INISTER for Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau has thanked the United States Government for its co-operation and assistance towards the fisheries sector, especially the tuna industry.

Minister Koroilavesau said this as the ministry accorded traditional ceremonies of welcome to the outgoing US Ambassador to Fiji, Judith Cefkin.

"We appreciate the assistance that has been given to the ministry over the years and this year we will be looking at improving the aquaculture programmes and we intend to utilise the funding given by the US Government," he said.

"We have yet to identify the various places around the country that will support the aquaculture programme for fish and shrimp farming."

Minister Koroilavesau added that the development of aquaculture in the country would help offset the pressure on our reefs and coastal areas.

Ambassador Cefkin thanked the Fijian Government for its co-operation in bilateral trade.

"The United States will continue to support the Pacific and other neighbouring countries to maintain the wellbeing of the ocean. We need to sustain our fisheries industry and ensure that we protect this reserve."

Ambassador Cefkin served in Fiji for the past three years.



Minister for Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau and outgoing US Ambassador to Fiji Judith Cefkin during traditional farewell ceremonies for the envoy, who leaves after a three-year diplomatic posting. **Photo: ERONI VALILI**

## Waste management grant contract signed

PRIYANKA LAL

**T**HE Lautoka City Council's (LCC) waste management efforts received a timely boost after the signing of a grant contract between the council and the Embassy of Japan.

The Government of Japan would provide assistance worth up to \$161,009 to the LCC through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme for the purchase of a five-tonne garbage truck.

The grant contract was signed between LCC chief executive officer Jone Nakauvadra and Ambassador of Japan Masahiro Omura at the Ministry of Local Government in Suva last week.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Parveen Kumar, who was present at the event, said the assistance by Japan would help the LCC improve waste management operations by providing an efficient, hazard free and timely waste collection service to the people of the Lautoka.

Minister Kumar said the Government was determined to address littering around the country and soon skip bins would be provided to villages and settlements.

"We will form a committee that will be responsible for the skip bins. Once the bins are full, they will be given a common number whereby the contractor will go and collect the bins," Minister Kumar said.

Mr Nakauvadra said like other municipalities in Fiji, LCC had solid waste management activities recorded as high, regular and demanding service.

"For the LCC, the people of Japan have assisted in the upgrade of the aerobic landfill site through technical advice, providing a weighbridge and an office, donating a digger, a multipurpose truck and a shredder," Mr Nakauvadra said.

Ambassador Omura said the project would further strengthen the friendship between the people and governments of Fiji and Japan.

Meanwhile, 358 projects had been implemented under the GGP Programme to date amounting to more than





# Bureau analyses census findings

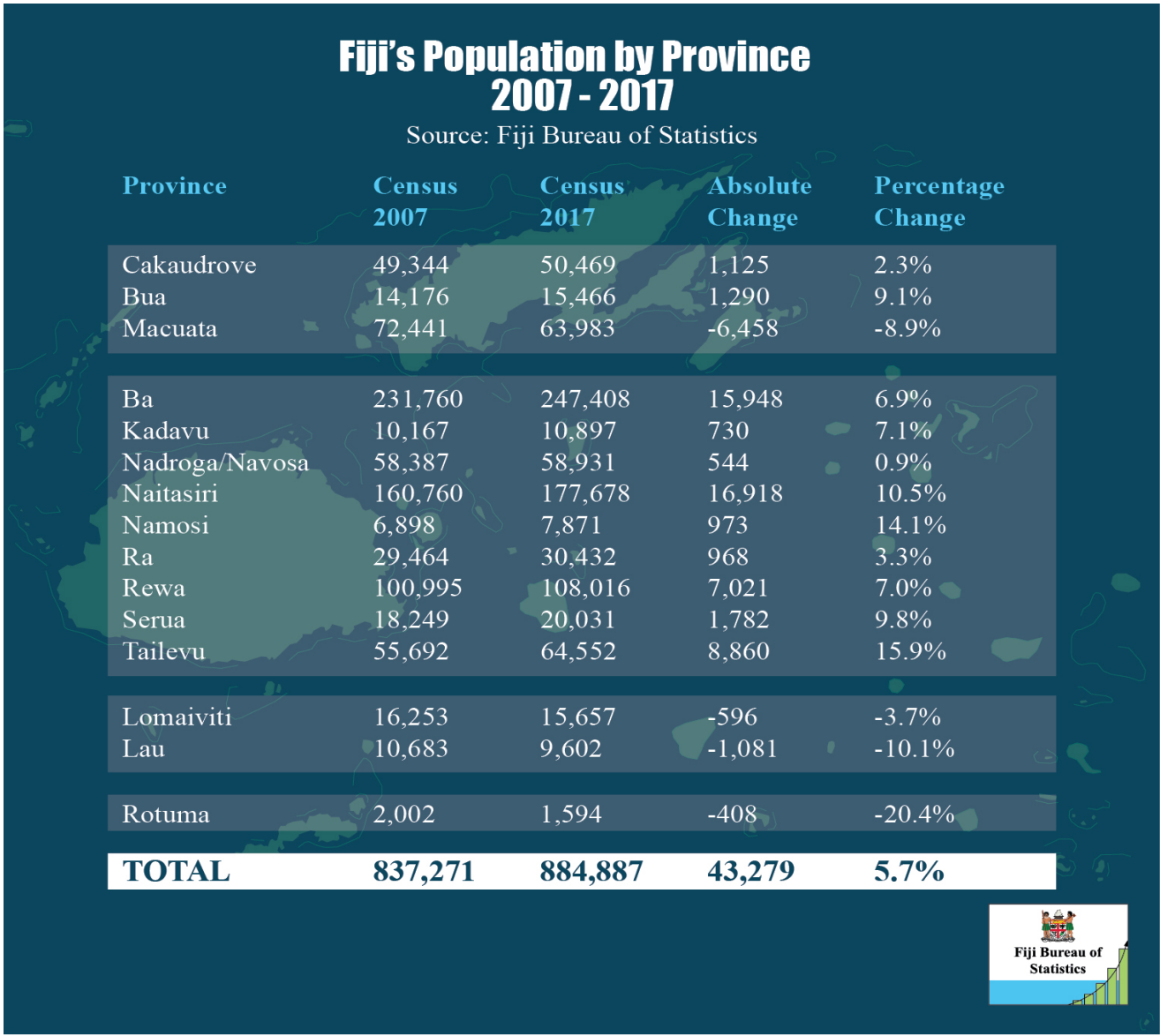
THE 2017 Population and Housing Census figures where 884,887 persons were enumerated has been further analysed by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics.

In its analysis, the bureau carried out a breakdown to better understand and interpret the data collated and compiled after the national count in September last year.

A population breakdown has been done according to gender and province among various factors, such as growth of the population since the last count in 2007.

According to the bureau, data indicates that around 99.5 per cent coverage was done in the 2017 census and it was found that the count was 5.7 per cent (47,616) higher than the 837,271 persons enumerated in 2007.

- The average annual rate of population growth over the decade up to September 2017 was 0.6 per cent.
- The annual rate of population growth has been decreasing, that is from two per cent in 1986, 0.8 per cent in 1996 and 0.6 per cent in 2017. The decline is mainly because of lower birth rates and out migration.
- The median age of the population is 27.5 years, which means that half of Fiji's population is below that age.
- The median age for males is 27.2 compared with 27.8 for females. Males accounted for slightly more than half (50.7 per cent) of the population with the sex ratio of 102, that is 102 males for every 100 females.
- A total of 392,148 persons aged 15 and above were reported to have a bank account. The number equates to a rate of 62.7 per cent with males at 68.5 per cent, while females had a rate of 56.8 per cent
- There is a significant gender differential in the labour force participation rates, that is 76.4 per cent for males and 37.4 per cent for females



A census breakdown of the number of people living in each of Fiji's 14 provinces.

# Ba is most populous province

THE 2007 and 2017 population numbers by province shows Ba is the most populous province, with its 247,708 residents accounting for 28 per cent of Fiji's population.

The second-largest province, Naitasiri, recorded the highest inter-censal population increase of 16,918 (10.5 per cent) with 177,678 persons counted.

Tailevu and Rewa recorded significant population increases of 8860 (15.9per cent) and 7021 (7.0 per cent) respectively.

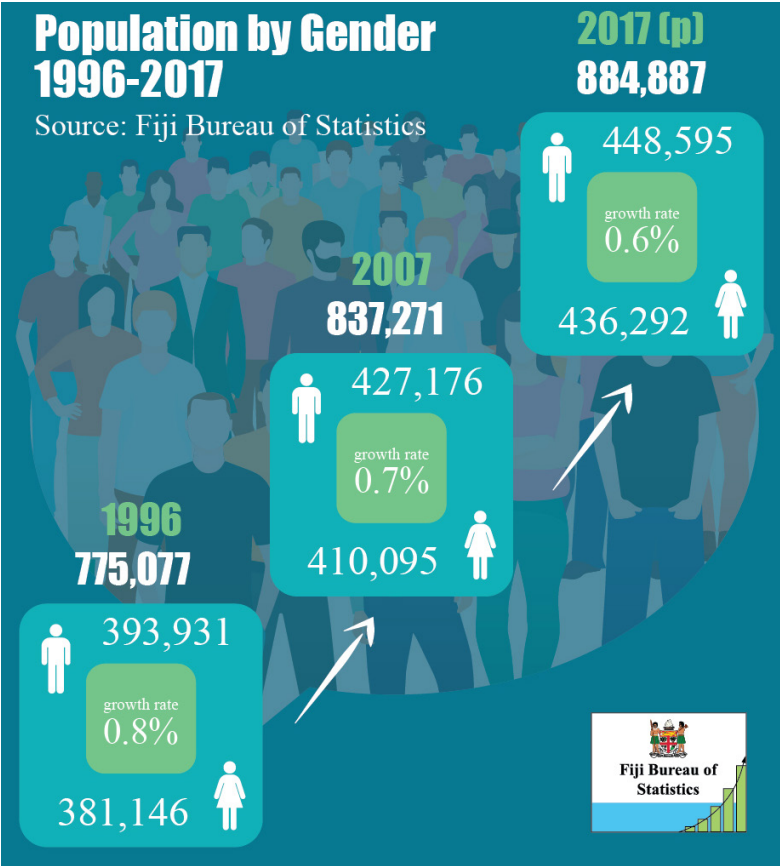
The Northern Division

provinces of Bua and Cakaudrove recorded population increases of 9.1 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively, while the population of Macuata continued to decrease.

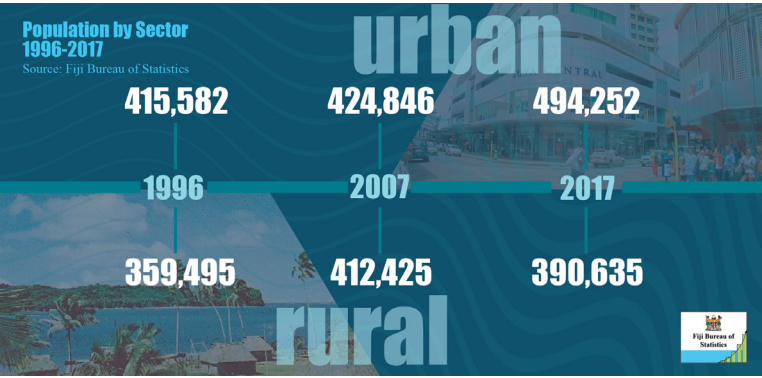
Macuata's census count of 65,983 was 6458 (8.9 per cent) lower than a decade ago, continuing the trend that was first observed during the inter-censal period of 1996 and 2007.

The population of Lau and Lomaiviti recorded declines of 10.1 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively.

**FIJI BUREAU STATISTICS**



A gender breakdown comparing the 1996, 2007 and 2017 census results.



A census breakdown of the number of people living in rural and urban areas in 1996, 2007 and 2017.





Assistant Minister for Agriculture Viam Pillay, (sitting fifth from left), has urged farmers to remain committed to their endeavours despite the rise in natural disasters, adding that the ministry was ready to provide assistance.

# Plea for farmers' commitment

FARMERS of Balevuto and Toge in Ba have been urged to remain committed to their farms and farming endeavours despite the occurrence of natural disasters.

Assistant Minister for Agriculture Viam Pillay, while responding to issues brought up by farmers regarding flooding, stressed the need for farmers to remain dedicated to their farms because natural disasters were inevitable.

"Natural disasters are a natural occur-

rence and we will continue to face the impacts of flooding in these areas, but after these have passed we should continue to farm because farming should not stop.

"Do not let natural disasters dishearten you from farming because ministry officials are always on hand to assist you to return your farms to its initial state," he said.

"The ministry is aware of the impacts flooding has on your individual farms

because our officials have already visited flood-affected areas and we will work accordingly to see how best we can assist you," Asst Minister Pillay added.

He reassured farmers that issues raised during the informal discussion would be addressed and he requested that they continue farming because the ministry would then provide the necessary assistance.

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

## Farmers trained on silage production

LIVESTOCK farmers and agriculture stakeholders were recently trained on silage production as a feed reserve.

The silage production training, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture at its Koronivia Research Station, was conducted particularly for key agriculture stakeholders and small-holder farmers involved in livestock farming.

Speaking at the training, Ministry of Agriculture's Director Animal Health and Production Tomasi Tunabuna said silage was forage conserved with other agricultural by-products and preserved through anaerobic fermentation in airtight enclosures.

Mr Tunabuna said most livestock farms in Fiji were pasture based and the seasonality of growth of pastures affected continuity of available feed to livestock.

"Our farmers usually face



Livestock farmers and Ministry of Agriculture officials during the training on silage production at the Koronivia Research Station.

difficulty in maintaining pastures during the dry season and this silage can be used as a supplementary feed for livestock during these times," he added.

"The process of making silage is called ensiling and during the process of fermentation, lactic acid is produced, reducing the pH of the ensiled forage and

preventing decomposition."

Training participants were told that silage was prepared to build up feed reserve for use during periods of feed deficiency, allowing for routine feed supplements to increase productivity of animals and utilised excess growth of pasture or fodder for better management and utilisation

to store and enable extended use of potentially-unstable material.

Farmers have been urged to prepare silage in their farms for their livestock because it is helpful during natural disasters and times when farms run short of feed.

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## Workshop looks at unsustainable land use

THE need to address increasing cases of land degradation because of unsustainable land use practices in the agriculture and forestry sectors in Fiji was raised at the Land Care Preparedness and Long Term Planning Workshop.

The workshop, which was opened by the Assistant Minister for Agriculture Viam Pillay at the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development (CATD) at Nadave, Tailevu, was organised to strengthen partnership between relevant stakeholders for the sustainable management of land resources in Fiji at all levels.

"The expansion of commercial cropping and forestry into marginal lands, cropping on fragile soils without conservation measures in place, deforestation through uncontrolled logging and burning of grassland are causes of land degradation, lower crop and pasture yields and growing food insecurity and rural poverty," Asst Minister Pillay said.

"Land degradation is currently addressed in a sectoral and ad hoc basis, but should be tackled in a participatory and holistic manner to reduce or minimise its effects."

He said it was integral at the community level for resource owners and users to organise and be empowered to plan and manage their resources in order to provide the necessary input for interactive resource management.

"Land care approach is conducive to Fiji's social structure where communities could work together in an integrated way to minimise land degradation, but it needs a very strong and focussed Government support to strengthen this approach," Asst Minister Pillay said.

The workshop, which was jointly organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and the iTaukei Affairs Board, is being attended by conservation officers, middle level decision makers and land administrators.

The workshop was being held to create awareness and educate participants on better land use management technologies as well as creating awareness on Government's recently adopted Rural Land Use Policy.

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## वैस्ट मैनेज्मन्ट संचालन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर

संगीता लाल

लौतोका सिटी काउन्सिल (LCC) और जापानी दूतावास (एम्बसी ऑफ जापान) के बीच एक अनुदान अनुबंध (grant contract) पर किए गए हस्ताक्षर से अब नगर पालिका (municipality) के वैस्ट

मैनेज्मन्ट प्रयासों को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। जापानी सरकार अपने Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) के तहत लौतोका सिटी काउन्सिल को लगभग \$161,009 तक की सहायता प्रदान करेगी।

लोकल गवर्न्मन्ट मंत्रालय पर लौतोका सिटी काउन्सिल के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव अफ़्सर, चोने नकाऊवांड्रा और जापानी राजदूत, महामहिम मासाहीरो ओमूरा के बीच ग्रांट कोन्ट्रैक्ट पर हस्ताक्षर हुआ। इस अवसर पर लोकल

गवर्न्मन्ट, हाऊज़िंग, एन्वाइरन्मन्ट, इंफ़स्ट्रक्चर और ट्रान्स्पोर्ट मंत्री, परवीण कुमार बाला भी उपस्थित थे। जापान द्वारा दी गई ये आर्थिक सहायता लौतोका सिटी काउन्सिल को एक पाँच टन का गार्बज ट्रक (garbage truck) खरीदने में मदद करेगी जिससे काउन्सिल के कचरा प्रबंधन कार्यों (waste management operations) में सुधार होगा। और लौतोका सिटी काउन्सिल लौतोका शहर के लोगों को कुशल, खतरे से मुक्त और समय पर वैस्ट कोलेक्शन सेवा प्रदान करेगी।

# धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता का आश्वासन

संगीता लाल

हाल में नकासी स्थित श्री गोपाल साधु हनुमान गढ़ी मंदिर पर आयोजित एक सार्वजनिक फोरम के दौरान अटोनी जेनरल और न्याय मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा कि सरकार प्रत्येक फीजीवासी की धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता की सुरक्षा करेगी और देश भर में मंदिरों की अपवित्रता के कार्यों (acts of temple desecration) को बर्दाश्त नहीं करेगी।

अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि फीजी का संविधान देश में धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता की गारंटी देता है और मंदिर को दूषित करने में शामिल अपराधियों पर पूरी कानूनी कारवाई की जाएगी।

“हम एक धर्मनिरपेक्ष राज्य (secular state) हैं; एक ऐसा देश जहाँ हर एक फीजीवासी अपने धर्म का चयन कर सकते हैं, और कोई भी नहीं – मैं दोहराता हूँ कोई भी किसी पर एक संप्रदाय या धर्म को अपनाने के लिए दबाव नहीं डाल सकता है या किसी को अपने चुने हुए धर्म का पालन करने से रोक सकता है,” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा।

“मुझे यह देख कर बहुत दुख होता है कि हाल में फीजी में धार्मिक तिरस्कार में वृद्धि हुई है। दुर्भाग्य से, मंदिरों पर इन हमलों की तुलना में यह और भी अधिक व्यापक है।” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि कुछ लोग फीजीवासियों को एक दूसरे के खिलाफ करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं जैसे हिंदु को मुसलमान के खिलाफ, एक ईसाई संप्रदाय (denomination) को दूसरे के खिलाफ, ईतउकेई को फीजी के भारतीयों के खिलाफ, उत्तर भारतीयों को दक्षिण भारतीयों के खिलाफ, आर्य समाज को सनातन धर्म सभा के खिलाफ, इस प्रांत को उस प्रांत के खिलाफ और इस संघ (confederacy) को दूसरे के खिलाफ।

“इन में से कोई भी सही नहीं है और न ही कोई स्वीकार्य है।”

“मैं आपको यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि हमें सोचने के उस पिछड़े तरीके से दूर जाने की ज़रूरत है अन्यथा हम एक देश के रूप में कभी प्रगति नहीं करेंगे,” अटोनी जेनरल



श्री गोपाल साधु हनुमान गढ़ी मंदिर पर आयोजित एक सार्वजनिक फोरम के दौरान अटोनी जेनरल और न्याय मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने बताया कि सरकार प्रत्येक फीजीवासी की धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता की सुरक्षा करेगी।

सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा। पुलिस कमिश्नर ब्रिगेडियर जेनरल, सितीवेनी गिलिहो ने नकासी के समुदाय के सदस्यों को आश्वासन दिया कि पुलिस ने 20 अधिकारियों के एक कार्यबल को समर्पित किया है ताकि मंदिरों की अपवित्रता और धार्मिक स्थानों को पहुँचाए जा रहे नुकसान जैसे अपराधों में हो रही वृद्धि पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जाए।

“इन अपराधों को रोकने के लिए हमें एक साथ काम करने की आवश्यकता है और

मैं यह आश्वासन देता हूँ कि पुलिस इन अपराधियों को पकड़ने के लिए कड़ी मेहनत करेगी,” कमिश्नर गिलिहो ने कहा। इस फोरम का आयोजन देश भर के मंदिरों की अपवित्रता में वृद्धि को संबोधित करने के लिए की गई थी। अपने प्रश्नों और सुझावों के लिए समुदाय के सदस्यों ने एक तलनवा सेशन (talanoa session) में भी भाग लिया। मंत्री मंडल और संसद सदस्यों ने भी इस फोरम में भाग लिया।

## किसानों से प्रतिबद्ध रहने की मांग

संगीता लाल

सहायक कृषि मंत्री, माननीय वियम पिल्लय ने हाल में बालेवूतो और तोंगे वा के किसानों से मांग की है कि वे प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के बावजूद अपनी खेती किसानों के प्रति प्रतिबद्ध रहें।

किसानों द्वारा बाढ़ चढ़ने वाली समस्याओं पर उठाए गए सवाल का जवाब देते हुए सहायक मंत्री ने ज़ोर दिया कि जबकि प्राकृतिक विपत्तियाँ कभी भी आ सकती हैं तब ऐसे में किसानों को अपनी खेती-बाड़ी के प्रति समर्पित रहने की ज़रूरत है।

“प्राकृतिक विपत्तियाँ प्राकृतिक घटनाएँ हैं और इन इलाकों में बाढ़ का प्रकोप जारी रहेगा और हमें इनका सामना करना पड़ेगा परन्तु बाढ़ के बाद हमें अपनी खेती-बाड़ी जारी रखना होगा क्योंकि खेती को रोकना नहीं चाहिए,” सहायक कृषि मंत्री पिल्लय ने कहा।

“प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों को आपको खेती करने के लिए निराश मत करने दें क्योंकि मंत्रालय के अधिकारी आपको फिर से खेती शुरू करने में सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए हमेशा तैयार हैं।”

“आपके खेतों पर बाढ़ के प्रभाव के बारे में मंत्रालय को जानकारी है क्योंकि हमारे अधिकारी पहले से ही बाढ़ से क्षतिग्रस्त खेतों का दौरा कर लेते हैं और हम परिस्थिति के अनुसार काम करेंगे ताकि हम यह देख सकें कि हम कैसे आपकी सहायता कर सकते हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।

सहायक कृषि मंत्री पिल्लय ने किसानों को आश्वासन दिया कि अनौपचारिक वार्ता के दौरान उठाए गए विषयों को संबोधित किया जाएगा।

उन्होंने किसानों से अनुरोध किया कि वे अपनी खेती जारी रखें क्यों कि मंत्रालय अब उन्हें आवश्यक सहायता प्रदान करेगा।





# शिक्षा मंत्रालय में है पारदर्शिता की आवश्यकता

संगीता लाल

अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने शिक्षा मंत्रालय के लिए कई नए प्रोटोकॉल की घोषणा की ताकि फीजी के शिक्षकों को प्रभावित करने वाले कई प्रणालीगत मुद्दों (systemic issues) को संबोधित किया जा सके।

उन्होंने युवा फीजी को शिक्षित करने में फीजी के टीचरों के महत्वपूर्ण कार्य के लिए मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों की भूमिका के लिए स्पष्ट अपेक्षाएँ भी की।

अटोनी जेनरल ने एक समाचार सम्मेलन में निम्नलिखित की घोषणा की:

- शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने पाया है कि कुछ शिक्षकों को विभागीय शिक्षा अधिकारियों और सूवा के शिक्षा अधिकारियों से गलत सूचना मिली और उन्हें बताया गया कि उन्हें अनुबंध या कोन्ट्रैक्ट प्राप्त करने के लिए परीक्षाओं के लिए बैठने की ज़रूरत नहीं थी। जिन शिक्षकों को यह गलत जानकारी प्राप्त हुई थी, को एक साल का कोन्ट्रैक्ट दिया जाएगा लेकिन उन्हें योग्यता के अपने आदेश को निर्धारित

करने के लिए प्रवीणता परीक्षाओं (proficiency examinations) के लिए बैठने की आवश्यकता होगी ताकि उन्हें स्कूलों में उचित रूप से रखा जा सके। सभी शिक्षक जिन्हें यह गलत जानकारी दी गई थी और अभी तक परीक्षा के लिए नहीं बैठे हैं, उन्हें अपनी परिस्थिति बताते हुए एक वैधानिक घोषणा पर हस्ताक्षर करना होगा।

- शिक्षा मंत्रालय उपयुक्त स्कूल स्थानों का आकलन करने की प्रक्रिया में है ताकि स्थानान्तरण (transfer) करने वाले शिक्षकों को उचित स्कूल दिए जाएँ। जिन शिक्षकों को मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों द्वारा अभिवेदन (representations) किया गया है कि उन्हें स्थानान्तरित (transfer) किया जाएगा, लेकिन जो अभी तक स्थानान्तरित नहीं हुए हैं, उनके दावों को ठीक से सत्यापित (verify) किया जाएगा। सत्यापित होने पर, उन अपूर्ण (pending) अनुरोध (requests) को अगले दो हफ्तों में संसाधित (process) किया जाएगा।

- शिक्षकों की कमी पर निरंतर ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। पहले मंत्रालय के अधिकारी

शिक्षकों की कमी का आकलन करने के लिए देश का दौरा करते थे जो अब समाप्त हो गया है। स्कूल के अध्यक्षों को अब और अधिक ज़िम्मेदारी दी गई है और आवश्यकता पड़ने पर अतिरिक्त शिक्षा कर्मियों और सुविधाओं के लिए उन्हें फॉर्म भरना होगा। मंत्रालय के अधिकारी तब सत्यापित (verify) करेंगे कि अतिरिक्त शिक्षकों और सुविधाओं की आवश्यकता है या नहीं। मंत्रालय सेकन्ड्री स्कूल के वैकेंसी को भरने पर प्रथमिकता देगा, मुख्य रूप से मैथ्स, फिज़िक्स, इंडस्ट्रियल आर्ट्स और ऑफिस टेक्नोलोजी।

- जो शिक्षक परीक्षा लेने के लिए उपलब्ध नहीं थे, नए परीक्षा के समय का विज्ञापन शनिवार, तीन फरवरी वाले अकबार में रहेगा।

- सिविल सर्विस रिफॉर्म यूनिट के डायरेक्टर, जैन क्यूरन (Jane Curan) काम न कर पाने के मुद्दों, जानबूझ कर गलत जानकारी देने और शिक्षकों के व्यक्तिगत जानकारी के लीक की स्वतंत्र जांच की अध्यक्षता करेंगी। यह आश्वासन दिया गया है कि ज़िम्मेदार लोगों को उत्तरदायी ठहराया जाएगा।

## फर्टिलाइज़र और घासनाशक दवाओं पर सब्सिडी

संगीता लाल

चीनी मंत्रालय और साउथ पसिफिक फर्टिलाइज़र्स लिमिटेड (एस पी एफ) के बीच दो अनुदान (ग्रांट) समझौतों, फर्टिलाइज़र और घासनाशक दवाओं सब्सिडी पर हस्ताक्षर किए जाने से यह सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा कि गन्ने के किसान अधिक से अधिक उपज तैयार करें।

अनुदान समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर चीनी मंत्रालय के स्थायी सचिव, योगेश करण और साउथ पसिफिक फर्टिलाइज़र्स लिमिटेड के बोर्ड मेंबर, सुन्देश चेट्टी के बीच हुआ।

हस्ताक्षर के दौरान स्थायी सचिव करण ने कहा कि सरकार 2009 से फर्टिलाइज़र के खर्च के लिए सब्सिडी दे रही है ताकि उत्पादकों को प्रोत्साहित और सुनिश्चित की जा सके कि वे गन्ने के खेतों में उचित मात्रा में फर्टिलाइज़र का प्रयोग करें।

“2009 के बाद से, फर्टिलाइज़र की 50 kg बैग की कुल कीमत \$49.95 थी और सरकार फर्टिलाइज़र की कीमत पर \$14.09 की सब्सिडी दे रही है जबकि किसान ब्लेंड ए, बी और सी फर्टिलाइज़र के लिए 50 kg पर सिर्फ \$31.50 भर रहे हैं,” स्थायी सचिव करण ने कहा।

सरकार द्वारा बाद में \$14.09 की सब्सिडी को बढ़ा कर \$25.59 प्रति 50 kg बैग के लिए कर दी गई और 2016-2017 बजट में सब्सिडी बजट अलोकेशन को \$9.7 मिलियन से बढ़ा कर 2017-2018 बजट में \$15.35 मिलियन कर दिया गया।

स्थायी सचिव करण ने कहा कि 2016 वित्तीय वर्ष की तुलना में सरकार द्वारा सब्सिडी में 82 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की गई थी।

“अब किसान \$20.00 प्रति 50 kg फर्टिलाइज़र के लिए भरते हैं जो फर्टिलाइज़र की 50 kg बैग की कुल कीमत \$49.95 का 44 प्रतिशत कीमत है। सरकार \$25.59 भरती है जो 50 kg फर्टिलाइज़र की 56 प्रतिशत कीमत है,” उन्होंने कहा।

स्थायी सचिव करण ने कहा कि सरकार ने फर्टिलाइज़र के नए सब्सिडी दर को भी पहली अगस्त 2017 के बजाय पहली जनवरी 2017 तक बैक-डेट कर दिया था।

घासनाशक दवा के ग्रांट पर उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार ने वीडोसाइड सब्सिडी प्रोग्राम (Weedicide Subsidy programme) शुरू किया है और 2017-2018 वित्तीय वर्ष में इसके लिए \$6.3 मिलियन बजट प्राप्त हुआ है।



वीमन, चिल्ड्रन एंड पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री, मेरेसेडनी बुनिवांगा द्वारा हाल में लेवूका के विभिन्न प्राथमरी स्कूलों को पढ़ाई करने वाले सामान दिए गए।

## ज़रूरतमंद छात्रों के लिए शिक्षण सामग्री

संगीता लाल

वीमन, चिल्ड्रन एंड पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री, मेरेसेडनी बुनिवांगा द्वारा हाल में लेवूका के विभिन्न प्राथमरी स्कूलों को पढ़ाई करने वाले सामान दिए

गए।

मंत्री ने इन स्कूलों के बच्चों को अपनी कार्रविलियत पहचान कर भविष्य में अपने सपने को साकार करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया।

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि सरकार

शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में विभिन्न तरह के रिफॉर्म कर रही है ताकि सभी बच्चों को लाभ हो।

“स्कूलों द्वारा उन बच्चों की पहचान की गई थी जिन्हें स्कूल शुरू होने के बाद भी पढ़ाई वाले सामग्री की ज़रूरत थी,” मंत्री

बुनिवांगा ने कहा।

शिक्षण वाले कुछ सामग्री मंत्रालय द्वारा खरीदी गई है और बाकी सामग्री न्यू ज़ीलैंड के कैंटरबरी बैंक्स (Canterbury Banks) टाउन काउन्सिल द्वारा दान की गई है।





## शिक्षा मंत्री ने दी छात्रों को शुभकामनाएँ

संगीता लाल

अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने सभी छात्रों को नए स्कूल वर्ष के लिए शुभकामनाएँ दी।

एक समाचार सम्मेलन में मंत्री ने माता पिताओं को अपने बच्चों को सरकार के सव्सिडी वाले बस किराए से लाभ उठाने के लिए राष्ट्रव्यापी ई-ट्रांसपोर्ट रोडशो में अपने बच्चों को रजिस्टर करने के लिए सराहना की।

“अभी तक 63,000 छात्रों को रजिस्टर किया जा चुका है और हमने कई माता पिताओं से सुना है कि वे नई व्यवस्था से खुश हैं, क्योंकि उन्होंने अपने बच्चों के लिए स्कूल की यात्रा को और आसान बना दिया है,” शिक्षा मंत्री सैयद-खैयूम ने कहा।

जनाब सैयद-खैयूम ने यह भी कहा कि उन्होंने सिस्टम में दुरुपयोग के विषयों को संबोधित किया है, हालांकि उन्होंने इस प्रणाली में संशोधन किया है ताकि छात्रों के लिए यह कुशल और जवाबदेह (efficient and accountable) हो सके।

“आप को याद दिला दें कि सभी छात्रों के ई-ट्रांसपोर्ट कार्ड का उपयोग केवल सोमवार से शनिवार तक सुबह पाँच बजे से शाम सात बजे तक किया जा सकता है। टर्म की शुरुआत में, कई छात्रों को अपने ई-कार्ड टोप अप करने की आवश्यकता होगी और अगर उन्होंने नहीं किया है या फिर नए कार्ड के लिए रजिस्टर नहीं हुए हैं तब वे अगले दो सप्ताह तक स्लूल में भी ऐसा कर सकते हैं।”

उन्होंने कहा कि मंत्रालय 23 रॉविंग (roving) टीमों को तैनात करेगा जो सहायता करने में सक्षम होंगे।

इसके अलावा, जो माता पिता पात्र हैं, उन्होंने उन सभी से मांग की है कि वे अपने बच्चों को स्कूलों में रजिस्टर करें।

“हमने बस कंपनियों के साथ भी व्यवस्था की है कि यदि छात्रों के पास पहले दो सप्ताह तक कार्ड नहीं है, तो बस कंपनियाँ बिना कार्ड के उन्हें बसों में सफर करने की अनुमति देंगे। लेकिन सभी माता पिता तथा छात्र कृपया ध्यान दें, कि स्कूल के शुरुआती दो सप्ताह के अन्दर ही आपके पास कार्ड हो जाना चाहिए।”

अटोनी जेनरल ने शिक्षकों को स्थानापन्न पदों के बारे में भी आश्वासन दिया कि उन्हें उनके अलावन्स (allowance) का भुगतान दिया जाएगा और कहा कि उन्हें उनके कामों के लिए उचित मुआवज़ा दिया जाएगा।

“जैसा कि हम सिविल सर्विस रिफॉर्म (civil service reform) और मेरिट बैसड रिक्रूटमेंट (merit based recruitment) स्थापित कर रहे हैं हम यह स्पष्ट करना चाहते हैं कि कोई भी शिक्षक कम वेतन नहीं प्राप्त करेगा। चारों ओर अफवाह थी कि टीचरों के वेतन को कम किया जाएगा - यह बिल्कुल सही नहीं है।”

“वे सभी स्कूल टीचर जिन्हें फिर से काम पर लिया गया है, को जोब इवैल्यूएशन एक्सर्सिस (job evaluation exercise) से पहले जो वेतन प्राप्त होता था उससे ज़्यादा वेतन दिया जाएगा और नए ग्रेजुवट को उनके काम के आधार पर ज़्यादा वेतन दिया जाएगा। एक महत्वपूर्ण बात यह भी है कि नए ग्रेजुवट्स के साथ-साथ उन्हें भी उनके काम के आधार पर उच्च वेतन के लिए अधिक अवसर प्राप्त होंगे,” शिक्षा मंत्री सैयद-खैयूम ने बताया।

# नारिया प्रायमरी स्कूल का पुनःउद्घाटन



अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल में रा स्थित नारिया प्रायमरी स्कूल का पुनःउद्घाटन किया।

संगीता लाल

अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल में रा स्थित नारिया प्रायमरी स्कूल का पुनःउद्घाटन किया।

यह स्कूल जहाँ मुख्यता राकीराकी के बाहरी इलाकों के कृषि समुदाय के छात्र पढ़ने जाते हैं, राकीराकी विलज से लगभग तीन किलोमीटर दूर कोरोवु की ओर किंग्स रोड पर स्थित है।

समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के दौरान स्कूल पूरी तरह से क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया था और उसके छत को लगभग अस्सी प्रतिशत क्षति पहुँची थी।

2018 की शुरुआत के बाद से, स्कूल के 187 छात्र अपनी कक्षाओं में वापस लौट आए हैं।

स्कूल के उद्घाटन के दौरान अटोनी जेनरल ने स्कूल पर काम पूरा होने में देरी के लिए माफी माँगी लेकिन उन्होंने दोहराया कि पुनर्निर्माण के लिए स्तर (standards) बरकरार रखने की आवश्यकता होती है जो आँधी तूफानों का सामना कर सके।

“अब हमारे पास एक ऐसी इमारत है जो आँधी तूफानों का सामना कर सकती है और इसे उच्चतम स्तर (high standards) तथा इंजीनियरिंग सर्टिफिकेट के साथ बनाया गया है और हमारे बेहतरीन इंजीनियरों द्वारा ढाँचे को स्वीकृति दी गई है,” उन्होंने कहा।



ऊपर: अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल में गोस्पल हाई स्कूल के प्रीफेक्ट्स इन्डक्शन समारोह का उद्घाटन किया।  
अन्दर: अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम गोस्पल हाई स्कूल की एक छात्रा, दिवोशा राव को सर्टिफिकेट प्रदान करते हुए।

## गोस्पल प्रीफेक्ट्स इन्डक्शन

संगीता लाल

अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल में गोस्पल हाई स्कूल के प्रीफेक्ट्स

इन्डक्शन समारोह का उद्घाटन किया।

स्कूल के 96 प्रीफेक्ट्स से बातें करते हुए अटोनी जेनरल ने युवा नेताओं को ईमानदार, विनम्र और अपने कर्तव्यों के प्रति ज़िम्मेदार होने की आग्रह की।

“आज आपको ज़िम्मेदारियाँ सौंपी गई है और मैं यहाँ उपस्थित हर किसी से आग्रह करता हूँ कि एक नेता होने के लिए और अधिक ज़िम्मेदारियों की आवश्यकता है,” अटोनी

जेनरल ने कहा।

“जैसा कि आप अपने नेतृत्व में प्रगति करेंगे आपको विनम्र होना चाहिए और उन लोगों के प्रति नम्रता दिखाना है जिनकी आप सेवा करते हैं।”

अटोनी जेनरल ने ईमानदारी के बारे में भी बातें की और छात्रों से मांग की कि वे अपने जीवन में जो भी कार्य करें उन सभी चीज़ों में ईमानदारी दिखाएँ।

“युवा नेता होने के रूप में ईमानदारी सफल होने का

मार्ग है और यह एक अच्छा नेता होने का महत्वपूर्ण गुण है।”

अटोनी जेनरल ने छात्रों को सलाह दी कि वे ऐसी कैरियर (career) का चुनाव करें जिसको लेकर वे भावुक (passionate) हैं और उत्कृष्टता (excellence) के लिए प्रयास करना जारी रखें।

गोस्पल हाई स्कूल में इस वर्ष लगभग 810 छात्र भर्ती हुए हैं।





वह सब कुछ जो फीजी में हो रहा है

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## गोस्पल हाई स्कूल प्रीफेक्ट्स इन्डक्शन

अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल में गोस्पल हाई स्कूल के प्रीफेक्ट्स इन्डक्शन समारोह का उद्घाटन किया। स्कूल के 96 प्रीफेक्ट्स से बातें करते हुए अटोनी जेनरल ने युवा नेताओं को ईमानदार, विनम्र और अपने कर्तव्यों के प्रति ज़िम्मेदार होने की आग्रह की।



## अटोनी जेनरल ने किया बलाता हाई स्कूल का पुनःउद्घाटन

अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल में तावुआ स्थित बलाता हाई स्कूल का पुनःउद्घाटन किया। यह पुनःउद्घाटन समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के बाद सरकार के रिहैबिलिटेशन प्रोग्राम का हिस्सा है। स्कूल के पुनर्निर्माण का खर्च लगभग \$400,000 है।







## अटोनी जेनरल ने किया द्रासा सेकन्ड्री स्कूल का उद्घाटन

अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल में द्रासा सेकन्ड्री स्कूल में एक वोकेशनल ट्रेनिंग सेंटर (Vocational Training Centre) का उद्घाटन किया।



## नारिया प्राथमरी स्कूल का पुनःउद्घाटन

अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल में रा स्थित नारिया प्राथमरी स्कूल का पुनःउद्घाटन किया। समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के दौरान स्कूल पूरी तरह से क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया था और उसके छत को लगभग अस्सी प्रतिशत क्षति पहुँची थी। 2018 की शुरुआत के बाद से, स्कूल के 187 छात्र अपनी कक्षाओं में वापस लौट आए हैं।







# गैर संक्रामक बीमारियों से बचें

संगीता लाल

हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विसज़ मंत्रालय द्वारा लोगों से आग्रह किया जा रहा है कि वे गैर संक्रामक बीमारियों (नोन कम्यूनिकबल डिज़ीज़ या एन सी डी) के प्रति लापरवाही न बरतें।

फीजी में गैर संक्रामक बीमारियाँ बहुत आम हैं और इस से बहुत ज्यादा लोगों की मौत हो रही है। एन सी डी से बचा जा सकता है; कोई बहाना न बनाएँ और इंतज़ार न करें नहीं तो बहुत देर हो जाएगी। आप खुशनसीब हैं कि आप

के पास चलने फिरने के लिए पैर हैं परन्तु कई ऐसे लोग हैं जो आज पछता रहे हैं क्योंकि इस बीमारी के कारण वे अपने पैर खो चुके हैं। मंत्रालय का कहना है कि एक ऐसे देश जहाँ पर अस्सी प्रतिशत मौत एन सी डी से संबंधित है वहाँ

फीजीवासी स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों द्वारा दिए गए चेतावनी को अनदेखा नहीं कर सकते हैं। हमें अपनी सोच और अपने तरीके को बदलने की ज़रूरत है, स्वस्थ भोजन तथा सही मात्रा में भोजन करने की और व्यायाम करने की

ज़रूरत है।

मंत्रालय द्वारा लोगों से मांग की जा रही है कि हर किसी को अपने स्वास्थ्य के प्रति खुद ज़िम्मेदार रहना चाहिए और यह आश्वस्त करना चाहिए कि वे स्वस्थ भोजन और व्यायाम करें।



हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विसज़ मंत्री, रोज़ी अकबर द्वारा हाल में नान्दी अस्पताल में स्पेशल आउटपैशन्ट विभाग (Special Outpatient Department [SOPD]) का उद्घाटन किया गया।

## कैंसर की स्क्रीनिंग जल्द कराएँ

संगीता लाल

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय द्वारा लोगों से मांग की जा रही है कि वे अपने नज़दीकी अस्पताल जा कर कैंसर की स्क्रीनिंग कराएँ।

कैंसर की जाँच जल्द कराना बहुत ज़रूरी है क्योंकि तब इस का इलाज सफलतापूर्वक हो सकता है।

फीजी में मृत्यु का तीसरा मुख्य कारण कैंसर है। आँकड़ों के अनुसार महिलाओं में स्तन (ब्रेस्ट [breast]), ग्रीवा (सर्विक्स [cervix]), गर्भाशय (यूटरस [uterus]), अंडाशय (ओवरी [ovary]) और मलाशय (रेक्टम [rectum]) कैंसर आम हैं।

जबकि मर्दी में प्रोस्टेट (prostate), लीवर (liver), मलाशय (रेक्टम [rectum]) और फेफड़ा (लंग [lung]) कैंसर मौत के प्रमुख कारण हैं।

सरकार की भावी योजना है अंतरराष्ट्रीय दानदाताओं के साथ मिल कर एक कैंसर अस्पताल का निर्माण करना। प्रस्तावित अस्पताल में आवश्यक रेडियोथेरेपी (radiotherapy) सुविधा रहेगी जिस से विदेशों में इलाज कराने की संख्या में कमी आएगी और मरीजों तथा सरकार के खर्चों में भी कटौती होगी।

## नान्दी में खुला स्पेशल आउटपैशन्ट विभाग

संगीता लाल

हेल्थ और मेडिकल सर्विसज़ मंत्री, रोज़ी अकबर द्वारा हाल में नान्दी अस्पताल में स्पेशल आउटपैशन्ट विभाग (Special Outpatient Department [SOPD]) का उद्घाटन किया गया।

विभिन्न सुधारकार्य या नई सुविधाएँ फीजी के लोगों के लिए सरकार के समर्पण का संकेत है क्योंकि उनके स्वास्थ्य और देखभाल मंत्रालय की प्राथमिक चिंता है। “हालांकि, हम सेवा प्रदान करते हैं और यह सुनिश्चित करना आपकी ज़िम्मेदारी है

कि आप अपने स्वास्थ्य की देखभाल करें। नई सुविधाओं का निर्माण करने का अर्थ यह नहीं है कि आप अपने स्वास्थ्य को लेकर लापरवाह रहें,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा। इस विभाग द्वारा प्रदान की जाने वाली सेवाओं में शामिल होंगे:

- मधुमेह की व्यापक देखभाल (Diabetic comprehensive care)
- मानसिक स्वास्थ्य (Mental health)
- उच्च रक्तचाप (Hypertension)
- अस्थमा क्लिनिक (Asthma Clinic)
- चिकित्सालय (Medical Clinic)

- शल्य चिकित्सा क्लिनिक (Surgical Clinic)
- सकीए रूप से आउटरीच गतिविधियों का संयोजन करना (Coordinate outreach activities by actively following defaulters)
- मरीजों की शिक्षा और परामर्श (Patient education and counselling) नान्दी अस्पताल में \$2 मिलियन लागत मरम्तकार्य भी अगले महीने के अंत तक शुरू होगी और ऐसा अनुमान है कि इस पर काम नवम्बर 2018 तक समाप्त होगी।

## एन.सी.डी. परिवारों और राष्ट्र के लिए आर्थिक बोझ

रोनल देव

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री, रोज़ी अकबर का कहना है कि गैर-संक्रामक बीमारियाँ परिवारों और पूरे देश के लिए आर्थिक बोझ बन गया है क्योंकि हर साल मंत्रालय को कई लोगों को विदेशी इलाज के लिए भेजना पड़ता है, जिनमें दिल के मरीज भी शामिल हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले साल मंत्रालय ने 106 मरीजों को विदेशी इलाज हासिल करने में मदद की तथा उनमें वे लोग भी शामिल थे जिनकी हालत बहुत खराब थी और उन्हें जोखिम वाले दिल की सर्जरी (surgery) की सख्त ज़रूरत थी। विदेशी सर्जन (surgeon) ने छियालिस (46) मरीजों की ओपन हार्ट सर्जरी (Open Heart Surgery) की

जिसमें \$265,560.00 खर्च हुआ। मंत्री ने कहा कि इस आर्थिक बोझ का वजन कम करने के लिए सरकार, गैर-सरकारी संस्थाएँ, धार्मिक तथा अन्य संस्थाओं को साथ मिल कर काम करना चाहिए। मंत्री रोज़ी अकबर ने प्रकाश डाला कि पिछले साल 587 पैर काटे गए जिन्हें डायबीटीस थी, जिन्हें किसी तरह चोट

लगी या जो सड़क दुर्घटना में शामिल हुए। मंत्री ने कहा कि अपने परिवार के लिए हम स्वस्थ जीवन का चुनाव करते हैं, एक अच्छे स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के अलावा यह भी ज़रूरी है कि हम खुद अच्छी ज़िन्दगी जीएँ और अपने बच्चों को भी अच्छी ज़िन्दगी दें।





# बोदा के लोगों के लिए इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन प्रोजेक्ट

संगीता लाल

दशकों से लालटेन का उपयोग करने के बाद अब नंदोंगो, मदुआता में वाईनीकोरो के बोदा समुदाय के पास अब स्थिर रूप से बिजली की सप्लाई है क्यों कि अभी हाल में इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड, टूरिज्म, लैंड्स और मिनरल रिसोर्सज़ मंत्री, फ़ैयाज़ कोया ने बोदा/वाईनीकोरो इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन प्रोजेक्ट को

चालू किया।

बोदा/वाईनीकोरो के एडवाइज़री काउन्सलर, नरेन्द्र प्रताप ने बोदा समुदाय की ओर से इस परियोजना के लिए सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया।

“हमे गर्व है क्योंकि सरकार ने हमे अन्धेरे से प्रकाश तक लाने में सहायता की है, यह बोदा के लोगों के लिए एक रोमांचक समय है,” श्री प्रताप ने कहा।

“केरोसीन लालटेन का उपयोग करने, हमारे जेनरेटर के लिए डीज़ल तेल खरीदने और मोमबत्तियों को इस्तेमाल करने के दिन चले गए हैं।” उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार ने इस परियोजना को फंड किया है और उनके परिवारों पर अतिरिक्त बोझ नहीं डाला है जिससे उनको बहुत राहत मिली है।

मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि

इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन प्रोजेक्ट को चालू करना नए साल का स्वागत करने का एक रोमांचक तरीका था क्योंकि समुदाय अब जा कर आराम, सुरक्षा और सुविधा का आनन्द उठा रहा है। “इस समुदाय को अब जा कर विश्वसनीय और सस्ती बिजली प्राप्त करने का अवसर मिला है,” मंत्री कोया ने कहा। “इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन प्रोजेक्ट का कुल खर्च \$94,313 है और

यह वाईनीकोरो के 17 परिवारों को चौबीसों घंटे विश्वसनीय रूप से बिजली सप्लाई करेगी।” “ये परियोजना सरकार द्वारा देश भर में फंड किए जा रहे रूरल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन प्रोग्राम का हिस्सा है और अकेले इस साल फीजी के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में घरों में बिजली की व्यवस्था करने के लिए \$42.6 मिलियन अलग किया गया है,” मंत्री कोया ने बताया।

## आप का विचार

क्या आपको लगता है कि सरकार को बुनियादी ढांचे में और अधिक निवेश करना चाहिए और क्यों?

अविशेक प्रसाद, 19, लम्बासा

सरकार ने मूलभूत संसाधनों में काफी सुधार किया है परन्तु अभी भी कई ऐसे इलाके हैं जहाँ पर इन सुविधाओं की आवश्यकता है।



अमरीता नन्द, 29, किनोया

जी हाँ, क्योंकि अभी भी कई ग्रामीण इलाकों में बिजली, पानी और रास्तों की समस्या है।



जय करण, 53, वोउम्बाली

सरकार को देश के हर एक कोने में मूलभूत संसाधनों में सुधार लाना चाहिए।



ज्योतिका राय, 47, नाबुआ

जो लोग दूर-दराज़ इलाकों में रहते हैं वे अक्सर अच्छे रास्तों, बिजली और पानी की व्यवस्था से वंचित रह जाते हैं इसलिए यह ज़रूरी है कि सरकार देश भर में मूलभूत संसाधनों में और सुधार लाए।



जितेन प्रसाद, 38, नकामा

देखा जाए तो पहले के मिलान में अभी सरकार ने देश के कई ग्रामीण और देहाती इलाकों में अच्छे रास्तों, बिजली और पानी की व्यवस्था की है परन्तु अभी भी कई ऐसे इलाके हैं जहाँ इन सुविधाओं की ज़रूरत है।



अटोनी जेनरल और जलवायु परिवर्तन के लिए ज़िम्मेदार मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल में नान्दी में आयोजित 4th Asia Broadcasting Union Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management का उद्घाटन किया।

## जलवायु परिवर्तन पर चौथा ए बी यू मीडिया समिट

संगीता लाल

अटोनी जेनरल और जलवायु परिवर्तन (climate change) के लिए ज़िम्मेदार मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल में नान्दी में आयोजित जलवायु परिवर्तन और आपदा जोखिम प्रबंधन पर चौथा एशिया ब्रोडकास्टिंग यूनियन मीडिया समिट (4th Asia Broadcasting Union Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management) का उद्घाटन किया।

तीन दिवसीय इस कार्यशाला में लगभग 50 प्रतिभागी (participants) शामिल थे और केंद्र के कुछ क्षेत्र स्वास्थ्य पर आधारित था।

अटोनी जेनरल ने प्रधान मंत्री, वोंरेंगे बर्ड निमरामा की ओर से कहा कि यह खतरा जो जलवायु परिवर्तन की ओर से पूरी दुनिया पर लागू है निस्संदेह चुनौती का

सबसे बड़ा आपदा या विपत्ती (disaster) है जो मानवता को सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

“राष्ट्रीय आपदा (disaster) का नतीजा हर कमज़ोर राष्ट्रों के लिए एक खतरा बन गया है जिसमें हम सब शामिल हैं जो एशिया पसिफिक में रहते हैं,” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा।

“फीजी के प्रधान मंत्री और कोप23 के अध्यक्ष के रूप में कार्वन डाइऑक्साइड (Carbon Dioxide) के उत्सर्जन को कम करने के लिए चल रही संयुक्त राष्ट्र वार्ता इन घटनाओं को चला रही है। तीव्र मौसम की स्थिति जैसे आँधी-तूफान और सूखे का प्रकोप जो हमारे लोगों और सरकार के लिए जोखिम पैदा करती है।”

अटोनी जेनरल ने वहाँ उपस्थित समाचार माध्यमों के कर्मचारियों से मांग की कि वे इस फोरम का उपयोग करें और कार्यवाई के लिए सरकार के संदेशवाहक

बनें।

“2018 पसिफिक मीडिया पार्टनर्शिप सम्मेलन डिजिटल युग में अनुकूलन और ब्रोडकास्ट की सेवाओं की पहुँच को चौड़ा करने के लिए अपने ध्यान को केंद्रित करते हुए फीजी को विशेष महत्व भी देता है।”

एशिया ब्रोडकास्टिंग यूनियन के महासचिव (General Secretary), जोवाद मोटाघी (Javad Mottaghi) ने फीजीयन सरकार को कोप23 की अध्यक्षता में उनकी भूमिका के प्रति उनकी प्रतिबद्धता के लिए सराहना की।

विभिन्न सरकारी एजेंसियों और गैर सरकारी संगठनों के प्रमुख वक्ताओं ने स्वास्थ्य, खाद्य सुरक्षा (भोजन की सुरक्षा) और विकास के क्षेत्र में जलवायु परिवर्तन किस तरह से हमारी जीविका को प्रभावित करता है जैसे विषयों पर प्रकाश डाला।

## सीज़नल वर्कर्स ने की सरकार की प्रशंसा

संगीता लाल

न्यू ज़ीलैंड द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त सीज़नल एम्प्लोयर स्कीम (New

Zealand Recognised

Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme), के तहत काम कर के लौटने वाले सीज़नल वर्कर, जोशुआ वाईनिंगसाऊ ने सरकार द्वारा प्रदान किए गए इस अवसर की सराहना की।

दकाउन्ड्रोवे स्थित वातूलेले कोरो के इक्कीस वर्षीय श्री वाईनिंगसाऊ चालीस सदस्यों वाले एक दल के हिस्सा थे जिन्हें

न्यू ज़ीलैंड के बोस्टोक, होक्स बै में काम करने के लिए भेजा गया था, पिछले साल के अंत में फीजी वापस लौटे।

वे कंपनी के साथ सात महीनों के लिए सेब और अंगूर तोड़ने के लिए अनुबंधित थे।

श्री वाईनिंगसाऊ ने आर एस ई वर्क स्कीम (RSE work scheme) के तहत इस कार्यक्रम में भाग लेने और

अपने निर्धारित लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में सक्षम होने के लिए सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया क्योंकि सरकार के द्वारा ही उसे यह अवसर प्राप्त हुआ था।

अपने वापसी पर, वे \$18,000 बचाने में सक्षम थे जिसका प्रयोग उन्होंने एक हार्डवूड गाड़ी खरीदने के लिए किया। इस गाड़ी को वे अपने परिवारिक व्यवसाय और अन्य प्रतिबद्धताओं को

सहयोग करने के लिए काम में ला रहे हैं।

एम्प्लोयमन्ट, प्रोडक्टिविटी और इंडस्ट्रीयल रिलेशन्स मंत्री, चोने उसामाते ने वाईनिंगसाऊ को अपने परिवारिक व्यवसाय को समर्थन देने में उनकी

उपलब्धियों के लिए और साथ ही दूसरों के जीवन स्तर को सुधारने के लिए रोज़गार के अवसर पैदा करने के लिए सराहना की।



# फीजी फोकस

गोस्पल हाई स्कूल  
का प्रीफेक्ट्स  
इन्डक्शन

पृष्ठ 19



बोदा के लोगों के  
लिए इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन  
प्रोजेक्ट

पृष्ठ 23



अटोनी जेनरल, कोम्यूनिकेशन्स और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने हाल में कोरोबेम्बे, साम्बेतो और नंगांदो नान्दी में वालेसी डिजिटल टेलिविज़न प्लेटफॉर्म का विमोचन किया जिससे इन इलाकों के लोगों को भी उसी तरह की सेवाएँ मिल सकेंगी जो शहरी इलाकों के लोगों को मिलती है।

## कोरोबेम्बे और नंगांदो में वालेसी का विमोचन हुआ

संगीता लाल

हाल में अटोनी जेनरल, कोम्यूनिकेशन्स और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयूम ने कोरोबेम्बे, साम्बेतो और नंगांदो नान्दी में वालेसी डिजिटल टेलिविज़न प्लेटफॉर्म का विमोचन किया जिससे इन इलाकों के फीजीवासियों को भी अब उसी तरह की सेवाएँ मिल सकेंगी जो शहर और आस-पास के इलाकों के निवासियों को

मिलती है।

अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि इस तरह की सेवा प्राप्त करना हर एक फीजीवासी का अधिकार है।

“सरकार ने सभी फीजीवासियों और उनके बच्चों को और सामर्थ्य बनाने के लिए यह कदम उठाया है। आप सभी को नवीनतम घटनाओं के बारे में सूचित रहने की ज़रूरत है,” उन्होंने कहा।

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि टेलिविज़न पर

दिखाई जाने वाले शिक्षा कार्यक्रमों से बच्चों को बहुत फायदा होगा।

“फीजीवासी लाइव संसदीय बैठक देख सकेंगे और आप नवीनतम बहस भी देख सकेंगे।”

“हम इसे फीजी में सभी को उपलब्ध कराना चाहते हैं,” अटोनी जेनरल ने बताया।

पिछले कई सालों से ग्रामीण और बाहरी द्वीपों में रहने वाले लोगों को बाहरी

दुनिया से संपर्क करने का मौका नहीं दिया गया था लेकिन वालेसी डिजिटल टेलिविज़न प्लेटफॉर्म के विमोचन के बाद अब यह सम्भव हो सकेगा।

वालेसी एक सेट-अप बॉक्स है जिसके जरिए सभी समाज में फीजीवासी आठ फ्री-टू-एयर (8 free-to-air) टेलिविज़न चैनल्स का मज़ा ले सकेंगे जिसके साउन्ड और पिक्चर की क्वालिटी बहुत साफ है।