

FijiFocus

PM BAINIMARAMA COMMISSIONS WATER PROJECT



RIGHT: Ranadi Waqanitavuki fills a cup of water from the newly-installed tap water at Tavuki Village in Kadavu.
BOTTOM: Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the commissioning of the new water project on Kadavu Island. Photos: NANISE NEIMILA

NANISE NEIMILA

FOR many women like Ranadi Waqanitavuki of Tavuki village in Kadavu accessing clean and safe water will be beneficial for her family and village too.

Having to carry water in buckets over the past few years will be a thing of the past for villagers in Tavuki after the commissioning of their new water project.

“We are grateful to the government for facilitating the completion of this new water piped system that will not only ease the burden for us villagers but women in particular.”

“There were frequent water cuts in the past and for us women we depend on water for cooking, fetching drinking water for children but now it will be easy with

the new piped water system.”

With the commissioning a \$189,803 water project by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama last week, the head of government is reassuring all Fijians that Government is working towards achieving its Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 by ensuring that Fijians have access to clean water and sanitation.

The 160 villagers will now have access to a clean, safe and properly piped water system.

While commissioning the fully-funded Government project, PM Bainimarama said villagers will now be able to access clean and safe drinking water from the comfort of their own homes.

Prime Minister Bainimarama

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3





INSIDE

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL
DIVIDE -14

DAKUITOGA AWARDED
FOR HIS SERVICE -13

PATTERSON DEDICATES
MEDAL TO THE PEOPLE OF
LEVUKA -11



Voreqe
Bainimarama

As a blue economy, we depend on the Fiji Hydrographic Service to allow ships to safely navigate our ocean and keep Fiji at the cutting-edge of ocean science. For thousands of years the ocean was Fiji's only bridge to the world. Even as we've embraced the modern might of large-scale commercial air travel, shipping for Fiji is more critical today than ever.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Prime Minister

NUMBERS

80K

Is the number of **20** foot
containers imported in a year.

On top of that **400K**
tonnes of loose cargo is also
imported in a year.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama @FijiPM

Welcome back to the fight, @JohnKerry. I remember the optimism of 2016, when you and I had the privilege of signing the #ParisAgreement. Nearly five years on, I look forward to working with you again to deliver young people in Fiji and around the world a climate-secure future.

CONTACT

Sub Editor: Prashila Devi
Manager Vernacular: Vilame Tikotani
Virendra Lal
North office: Level 3 Macuata House, Labasa
West office: Level 1 Ratu Nauliano House, Korovalu

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

'The ocean - a piece of who we are'

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“THE ocean is more than Fiji's bridge to the world, it represents a precious piece of who we are as a people. It feeds us.”

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the Fiji Hydrographic Service (FHS) golden jubilee reception held recently at the Royal Fiji Yacht Club. “As a blue economy, we depend on the FHS to allow ships to safely navigate our ocean and keep Fiji at the cutting-edge of ocean science. For thousands of years the ocean was Fiji's only bridge to the world. Even as we've embraced the modern might of large-scale commercial air travel, shipping for Fiji is more critical today than ever.”

“In a usual year, we import more than 80,000 of those massive twenty-foot containers we see on the cargo ships in our major ports. On top of that we import another 400,000 tonnes of loose cargo,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He added that without well-mapped ports, all that food and those supplies, construction materials, vehicles, and other vital goods we rely

on to run our modern economy would never arrive to Fiji, and many of our Fijian-made exports would never ship throughout the world.

“Instead, we can rely on maritime charts of properly surveyed waters to navigate throughout our 1.3 million square kilometres of Fijian ocean. That matters a great deal in normal times and in times of crisis, when vessels must urgently ship relief supplies to isolated regions.”

“I know we're here to celebrate a half century of service given by the FHS to Fiji. But tonight, I want to speak about the future of the vast ocean Fijians are entrusted with protecting.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the ocean regulates the climate and actually helps stop global warming from becoming worse but even the ocean is beset by devastating challenges.

“Overfishing, pollution, and climate change all threaten to strip our ocean bare, putting the future of every Fijian, along with every other person on Earth, at risk.”

Fiji has been a strong advocate on the global stage for the preservation of ocean health.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the Fiji Hydrographic Service (FHS) golden jubilee reception at the Royal Fiji Yacht Club Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with the Cuvulaca family outside their newly-built home at Tavuki Village on Kadavu. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Cuvulaca lauds assistance in building family home

NANISE NEIMILA

IT was an emotional day for Tarisi Cuvulaca and her family after they received the keys for their newly-built home which was constructed under the Community Learning Alternative programme.

Under this programme, 100 youths from the 75 villages in the nine district of Kadavu will be building homes that have been affected by the Tropical Cyclone Harold.

The programme will upskill youth in carpentry, solar panel installa-

tion, maintenance of small engine repairs and plumbing and is a joint partnership between the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Fiji National University (FNU) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The Cuvulaca family were one of those whose homes were destroyed during TC Harold and they have been living in a tent. However, with assistance of the programme, villagers were able to build their new home within six weeks only.

“After the destruction of our home during TC Harold, I didn't

know where to get the money to construct another home,” Mrs Cuvulaca said.

“My husband is partially blind and my son is physically disabled.”

“I am thankful to the Fijian Government, the Fiji National University and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for introducing such programmes to benefit families like us.”

“I would also like to acknowledge the village elders for their assistance to the youths to ensure that we were able to stay in a home that can withstand category 4 cyclones

and be safe from in the future.”

While commissioning the newly-built home, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama highlighted that programs as such would promote socio-economic development by creating opportunities for investment.

The Head of Government said that through such programmes youths can access the appropriate skills and knowledge for disaster rehabilitation and contribute to the National Development Plan through Inclusive Socio-Economic Development and Transformational Strategic Thrusts.

PM commissions new water project

FROM PAGE 1

adds that the Government has done their part in providing a reliable system which would supply water to them but the onus was on the villagers to utilise this resource wisely.

“A broken water system is a health disaster waiting to happen. Water must be kept pure and safe, and that requires us to constantly monitor and assess the systems that are in place. We need to be sure that the systems are resilient and will continue to function through storms and other natural disasters. But we need to be sure that they continue to function properly even when they are not under stress.”

“This new system was tested during Tropical Cyclone Harold, and it emerged with only minor damage. Harold did not take your water because it had been secured through better infrastructure. As any of us who have reached a certain age knows, everything breaks down just a little over time. I wish I could do all the things I could do when I was 25 years old, but I can’t.”

The Head of Government highlighted that water systems age, too, and when they do, we need to fix them.

“The difference between water systems and people is that we can actually make water systems like new again. That is what the Water Authority of Fiji has done here. For years you have had to suffer intermittent water supply. You never knew when you could draw water and when you couldn’t.”

Families grateful for relocation assistance

NANISE NEIMILA

SEVEN families of Narikoso Village in Kadavu became the third successful relocation project in Fiji for those affected by the adversities of climate change.

The \$1.2 million initiative, which was fully funded by the European Union and German Agency for International Cooperation and Development, will ensure the families are not affected by rising sea levels.

It is also one of the 48 relocation projects identified by the Fijian Government as the most vulnerable.

Thirty-eight year old Siteri Vuidreu was emotional and grateful to the EU and GIZ in partnership with the Fijian Government for their support and assistance towards her family’s relocation.

“Every time there was a surge in the tide our home would be half submerged in water and we would have to swim out,” Ms Vuidreu said.

“I am so happy that we can now relocate and start a new beginning. This is a testimonial for future generations that climate change is real and has affected the way we live.”

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama commended the EU and its donor partners GIZ and said the homes are made to withstand category-4 cyclones.

“Narikoso is the third village we have relocated and every successful relocation gives hope and encouragement to the remaining villages.”

“It is the Government’s job to support the efforts of the people in this village and others to have a better life today, to look to a



Siteri Vuidreu with her husband and two sons in front of their newly-constructed home. They are one of the seven families who are part of the relocation project at Narikoso Village, on Kadavu Island. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

more prosperous future and to contribute to the economy of the country.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said; “In Fiji, when we build back, we build back better as it is not enough to simply move a village.

“The new structures in Narikoso are built to withstand a category-4 storm. We pray that your homes will never be called on to resist those kinds of winds. But if those winds come, these houses will remain standing. In the sunlight of the next day, your village will be here, just as it was,” he said.

“But it also means we build back better with an integrated approach to economic development. When we relocate a village—or part of a village—we want that village to thrive

in the future, not merely to exist as a dot on a map. The people will always be here in Narikoso. But when they gaze across their village, they must not only see a village; they must see a better future.”

In addition, the Integrated Human Resource Development Programme (IHRDP) will provide economic opportunities for Narikoso villagers through a \$27,000 allocation to the Matanarua Co-operative.

Through the program the villagers will receive 200 laying hens, 100 chickens for meat, plus feeding equipment from Pacific Feed, a 1000 litre cooler and 500 litre freezer from Brij Lal and an outboard engine and a generator from ASCO Motors.

Village safe from sea-level rise with new sea-wall

NANISE NEIMILA

VILLAGERS of Namuana Village in Kadavu have lauded Government’s assistance with the construction of 150 metres of geo-systemic SandBag protection and another 100 metres of Boulder protection.

An emotional and delighted Lavenia Viono who is part of the 50 families that make up the Namuana village community thanked the Fijian Government for their assistance in constructing their village seawall.

“Before the construction of this seawall during high-tide or storm surge, water encroaches into the village causing flooding.”

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while commissioning the seawall, said the worsening storms, longer droughts, heavier rains and rising seas together represent the greatest threat we have ever faced as a country.

Here on Kadavu’s coast in Namuana Village, the encroaching tides have inflicted a heavy cost.

With a cost of a little over \$600,000, PM Bainimarama added that the seawall represents an effort at “climate adaptation, basically, Fiji’s ability to

adapt to how our planet is changing due to climate change.

“These investments are critical for Fijian communities’ long-term ability to remain safe and productive. Fiji will endure whatever is thrown at us and we will adapt to the new normal of a warming world. We will not grin and bear this struggle, we will act to save ourselves.”

“Abroad, we are leading the world towards a better, more sustainable path; a future of net-zero carbon emissions. At home, we are adapting to the climate-fuelled devastation at our doorstep.”

Since 2014, the Government has invested over \$5million in protecting over 2,200 kilometres of vulnerable coastal areas in Fiji through a mix of artificial and nature-based solutions.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama also reassured the villagers of Namuana that the Government builds to cyclone resilient standards.

“When we build, we build to cyclone resilient standards, when communities are in need, we build seawalls and we relocate communities. And when we rebuild a strong Fijian economy, we build a stronger and safer Fiji. It’s that simple.”



Namuana villagers on Kadavu have lauded Government’s assistance with the construction of 150 metres of geo-systemic SandBag protection and another 100 metres of Boulder protection. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



'Beware of what your kids see on the internet'

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar has called on parents to be aware of what their children see on the internet.

Officiating at the graduation ceremony for the Conservatorium of Dance in Nadi recently, Minister Akbar highlighted the changing times and how social media has become a huge influence in every person's lives especially children.

She highlighted that students spend most of

their time in school but has called on parents to ensure safety while children are out of school.

"There are a lot of things that happen that affects our children and the gadgets we talk about are phone access to the internet and non-supervision of how your children use this device is causing all these social problems that we have.

"We must protect our children. Parents we must be very vigilant and mindful on how they use their mobile phones.

"What do they do there, what do they surf on

the net. Do we ever bother to find out?"

Minister Akbar called on parents to relook at how they are raising their children and ensure that children are always kept safe.

She stressed that the primary role of a parent is to be aware of what their children are doing, where they go to and who they are friends with.

The Minister also called on the graduates to inspire other young Fijians everywhere they go and also urged them to become job creators as they move on with their lives.

New facility will set educational standards for all Fijians

NAISE NEIMILA

THE accomplishments and achievements of the Gujarat Education Society was recognised for setting the standard for education in our country.

While commissioning the \$5million state of the art education facility at Mahatma Ghandi Memorial School in Suva, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said this new facility will set a standard for education in the country.

"We need to set high standards for our children, and we need to set high standards for ourselves—for the quality of our instruction, for the way we design and equip our facilities, and for the example we set."

"What our children absorb from their teachers is as important as what they are taught at home. Teachers may impart knowledge and information through instruction. They may help children develop critical-thinking skills, analytical ability and problem-solving. They may help children develop perseverance by challenging them with new assignments. They may teach leadership, teamwork and collaboration through sports and group projects and extracurricular activities."

However, Prime Minister Bainimarama added that children can absorb values and behaviours from their teachers, just as they do from their parents and grandparents.

"If their teachers are just and fair, the children will learn justice and fairness. If their teachers are patient and kind, the children will learn patience and kindness."

With more than 900 students expected to benefit from this new investment, Gujarat Education Society of Fiji President Kamlesh Kumar says the complex includes new labs with modern equipment as well as a new library and extra classrooms for technical drawing and other classes.

Mr Kumar says with the additional classrooms, the school will be able to place an additional stream of classes in the future which would increase the student capacity at the school.

He adds the completion of this project was a major challenge for them where the biggest obstacle was funding.

Japanese exhibition on display

AZARIA FAREEN

THE opening of the 'Japanese Design Today 100', Moving Exhibition, is another fine opportunity to appreciate contemporary Japanese culture through Japanese design whilst strengthening diplomatic relations between Fiji and Japan.

In opening the exhibition, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar highlighted "the 100 product designs on display in this exhibition, give us an insight into Japanese culture, which we are rather fortunate to experience, particularly under the travel restrictions of this current COVID-19 pandemic".

"I know that there are only 100 product designs on display today and this is not exhaustive of the tremendous design and innovation that Japan is globally respected for in the technology, automotive, medical and educational sectors," Minister Akbar said.

"I understand that 89 of these product designs are available in Japan today and the remaining 11 represent Japanese product designs over the last few decades."

"When we do travel to Japan, I believe the sheer vastness and uniqueness of the architecture and the cultural experience will overwhelm our imagination in ways that this exhibition can only ignite in our minds," she added.

Japan's Ambassador to Fiji, Omura Masahiro said the exhibition was first organised in 2004 and has been touring the world for the last 10 years.

"It is now here at MHCC, Suva in Fiji, with its newly organized version, in the year of Fiji's 50th independence anniversary as well as the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Fiji," Mr Masahiro said.

"Japanese Design Today100" features 100 of the finest examples of Japanese design with a focus on everyday products. The design of household products acts as a mirror, reflecting the life of our society and the personal lifestyles of individuals."

"By looking at these designs, it is possible to get an overall picture of Japanese life today which also shows a vivid picture of the hopes and dreams of the people who use the products, and the designers and corporations who create them," Mr Masahiro added.



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar with Japan's Ambassador to Fiji, Omura Masahiro during the opening of the 'Japanese Design Today 100', Moving Exhibition. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Fiji Ports staff receive bonus, dividend payout

FELIX LESINAIVALU

OVER 150 employees of Fiji Ports Corporation Limited (FPCL) and Fiji Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Limited (FSHIL) received a bonus and Dividend pay-out amounting to \$203,210.

Chair of Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd and Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Shaheen Ali, speaking to the 159 staff during the pay-out, said each and every employee of FPCL has contributed one way or another to the achievements of the company and are the pillars that have made FPCL the strong organisation it is today.

“You may not realise it, but the work you do, your contribution – in whatsoever role – the minute you enter our gates, or doors, makes a huge difference and it is your commitment that has brought us here today.”

Mr Ali said 2020 has been one of



Fiji Ports Corporation Limited (FPCL) chairperson and Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Shaheen Ali with FPCL and Fiji Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Limited (FSHIL) staff. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

the most challenging years they have had and they are reminded of the important role they play in Fiji’s economic recovery by creating a modern and vibrant trading port.

“The decision of the Fijian Government four years ago, to enter into a Public Private Partnership (PPP) by divesting shares to Fiji National Provident Fund and to an overseas specialised port operator,

Aitken Spence, is giving results.”

“The divestment secured the partnership of long-term investors in FPCL that has contributed to the development of FPCL’s asset base and continues the improvement of Fiji’s sea ports, including its expansion, modernisation and development of specialised facilities.

Mr Ali added that one of the key

deliverables of their strategic plan is the reallocation of the existing Suva Port.

FPCL chief executive officer Vajira Piyasena said in 2019 the financial performance of FPCL continued to be strong with high returns to their shareholders.

“The achievement was made possible due to having a committed team. We were able to deliver

the highest ever profitability in the history of FPCL in 2019.”

Mr Piyasena said as a leading organisation in the private partnership they have increased shareholder value and as a result their staff will share a part of the success by receiving the bonus payment while they will pay over \$16 million to their shareholders.

Students urged to forge a future with obedience

NANISE NEIMILA

“PLEASE, don’t spend your school days as a bully or as a disobedient student. Don’t spend your time looking down on others.”

“Don’t waste your life pretending you are superior to anyone due to circumstances of birth, or any other superficial reason.”

This was the message by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while officiating at the opening of Ratu Kadavulevu School Stakeholders Workshop in Tailevu earlier this month.

Prime Minister Bainimarama did not mince his words when he addressed students, teachers, old scholars and the school committee members adding that “this workshop will not take us backwards – let me be clear on that”.

“There is an old stigma of privilege and entitlement around this institution that serves no one and must be shed. This is the start of something new; the beginning of a better, more inclusive, and even more impressive RKS community; a school where our students are focussed solely on their studies, their sports, and on how they can honour this institution’s long and proud legacy of service to Fiji.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted the need for students to learn as much from their teachers as they do at home maybe more. And the example set by teachers can set students on a course that defines their life, for good or for ill.

“Today it is your task at this workshop to determine how RKS can play its role in that national effort; that unending journey to build a better nation, a stronger nation, a Fiji for all Fijians.”

RKS acting Principal Naisa Toko thanked the Government for its continuous support in funding the campus with the new dining hall, kitchen, and boilers including biology labs and the dormitories.

Mr Cama also acknowledged the Prime Minister’s vision for ensuring that all Fijians access quality and affordable education around the country.

Govt initiative hailed



Minister for Commerce Trade Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya with Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) concessional loans recipients in Nadi. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

RUPENI WAQAVOINO

THE Fijian Government’s Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) concessional loans have been widely acknowledged especially by Fijians who have benefitted from the scheme.

With up to \$15million worth of loans disbursed so far, the initiative aims towards aspiring entrepreneurs – including those who may have been laid off, but have particular skills to start their own business.

The concessional loans also gives the recipients working capital needs that will assist them with their business.

For Ranjeeta Sharma, the loan has been a dream come true as the idea of losing her business and closing down shop begun haunting her since COVID-19 reached our

shores a few months ago.

“Most of our income comes from tourism, COVID-19 has had a bad impact on our industry so we almost went bankrupt because we are depending on the tourist dollar,” Ms Sharma said.

While seeing businesses like hers that depend on tourism collapse, she counts herself lucky to be injected with a \$7000 capital to revive her business.

“These MSME concessional loans have been very helpful to me like buying my stocks and paying my rent here at the Nadi handicraft centre. It is very timely and today I want to thank the Fijian Government for its assistance”

Fellow handicraft centre vendor Tokasa Ravonu also received \$7000 to assist her business during these hard times.

“At the moment I have noticed that there are only three items that are selling out fast in the market, that is the ‘masi’, mats and the traditional Fijian fan (*iri ni Daku*). Those are the three main items I will invest in using this loan.”

The Minister for Commerce Trade Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya during his visit in Nadi met with the recipients at the Nadi handicraft centre to see how the loans have assisted them.

Mrs Ravonu thanked Minister Koya and the Fijian Government for having faith in small businesses in the tourism sector.

“We really found hardship during this first five months because our customers are mainly tourists. Today we have to change our products and things that we are selling to suit the local market.”



Fijians reminded of true spirit of diwali

NANISE NEIMILA

AS the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, Fiji has been a shining light for humanity with this momentum. Fijians around the country are reminded to commemorate the festival of lights as triumph of good over evil.

This was the message by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama as he delivered his Diwali message to all Fijians during the annual celebration.

“This Diwali, our people are safe—and they are safe because Fijians summoned the light within them to sacrifice and to

live in solidarity with their fellow Fijians, to cooperate for the common good.”

“It has been a noble undertaking for this nation, and we should be proud. We truly looked out for each other—and that is the ultimate expression of light and goodness.”

“Diwali calls on us to strengthen our bonds and reaffirm our commitment to family, friendship, goodwill and a brighter future for our country.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama reaffirmed Governments’ commitment though the Fijian Constitution guaranteeing every Fijian the right to practise their faith free from the yoke of discrimination. Through our embrace of religious freedom, the many faiths

of our people have become a source of harmony among Fijians.

“Celebrations like Diwali have become national celebrations, where families openly share their festivities with their friends and neighbours, enriching our national character with the universal values and age-old wisdom found in every faith.”

“All those who seek to share in Diwali celebrations should do so – light candles, illuminate your houses, enjoy the fireworks, join in the feasts of your friends and neighbours as they celebrate, and show the world yet again that we are a people of light and learning and goodness.”



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama officially opens the new audiology room at Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH). Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

First ever audiology room for Fiji

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE new audiology room at Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH) will give our medical professionals the ability to spot hearing problems early and to manage treatment in an efficient way.

Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama, while commissioning the first ever audiology room in Fiji, said, “We will now have a much better ability to spot hearing impairments early and treat them effectively thanks to this modern audiology room, which has been funded completely by the Republic of Korea through the Korea International Co-operation Agency.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama added any Fijian who suspects they have ear and hearing problems can receive a free hearing test at the CWMH.

“Until now, there was no hearing-test facility in public hospitals, so parents had to pay for treatment in private facilities.”

“I believe that hearing is so basic to a person’s quality of life that the Government must provide the means to detect hearing loss as early as possible.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said this is in keeping with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 which gives all persons with disabilities the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health, the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes, the right to special health care designed to minimise and prevent further disabilities, and the right to health services as close as possible to their own communities.

He also commended the work CWM has done to provide comfortable and peaceful space for patients and their visitors.

“For many years, hospitals were austere and forbidding places for family members, and even a bit frightening to patients. But today, hospitals are making great efforts to maintain a cheerful and welcoming environment.”

I believe that hearing is so basic to a person’s quality of life that the Government must provide the means to detect hearing loss as early as possible.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Fijian Prime Minister



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Qian Bo cut a cake to mark 45 years of diplomatic relations between Fiji and the People’s Republic of China. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Fiji marks 45 years of diplomatic relations with China

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“FIJI has benefitted greatly from the cooperation and partnership with People’s Republic of China.”

Speaking during a dinner commemorating the 45th year of diplomatic relations between Fiji and the People’s Republic of China, acting permanent secretary for Foreign Affairs Yogesh Karan said that the friendly relations between Fiji and the People’s Republic of China, reflects on the premise of mutual respect for sovereignty and cooperation.

“As we celebrate 45 years of friendly relations between our two countries, we must also reflect on the premise on which our strong and steadfast relations was forged.

“Fiji has benefitted greatly from our cooperation and partnership with China in various fields including Agriculture, Infrastructure, Defence, Health, Trade & Investment, people to people exchange, Sports, Education and most recently, the provision of medical equipment and supplies to tackle COVID-19.

“China has helped us while you battled your own challenges at home. This is testament to your staunch commitment to Fiji and our common aspirations. China has keenly supported our development and progress including efforts to attain our Sustainable Development Goals,” Mr Karan said.

He stated that Fiji welcomes China’s Five-Year Plan for 2021–2025, now being drafted, which may contain concrete measures to help realise climate ambitious targets.

Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama, Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Qian Bo and the officials from the Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the commemoration event.

Mr Bo commended the China and Fiji relations as being the best in history and it being the model for relations between China and Pacific Island Countries.

“Both countries are strong supporters of multilateralism, UN Peace-keeping operations and tackling of global climate change, playing important and constructive role on the world stage.”



Acting permanent secretary for Foreign Affairs Yogesh Karan during a dinner commemorating the 45th year of diplomatic relations between Fiji and the People’s Republic of China.



Fiji committed to blue recovery, sustainable future

AZARIA FAREEN

FIJI has been commended for being a regional and global leader on ocean management and climate change at the National Stakeholder Workshop on Fiji's National Ocean Policy recently.

In highlighting this, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Program Coordinator Andrew Foran said "Fiji is also leading on the home front, recognising that 98 percent of this nation is sea, and understanding the vital role the ocean plays in the culture, the lives and the livelihoods of its citizens".

"This national leadership is strongly seen through Fiji's long standing commitment to protect 30 percent of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in an ecologically representative network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)," he said.

"And in 2019 the Fijian Government made further commitment to sustainably manage 100 percent of Fiji's Ocean, including its internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial seas, and the exclusive economic zone."

Fiji's leadership on Ocean management is also highlighted by its commitment to the development of an integrated, holistic Ocean Policy, and these national consultations are a very important component of this development.

Speaking at the event, the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said Fiji's National Ocean Policy will be legislated through the Fijian Government's upcoming Climate Change Bill.

"This policy highlights elements from existing national legislation such as the Environment Management Act, the Marine Spaces Act and the Offshore Fisheries Management Act amongst others," the A-G said.

"This National Ocean Policy builds upon existing legislature and streamlines implementation through a more effective and efficient allocation of resources. Fiji may indeed be a large ocean state, but we should be mindful that our patch of the Pacific is still only one small part of a much larger, connected blue economy."

The A-G said the goal of this policy is to build a stronger, bluer, and more sustainable Fijian economy that helps build a wave of momentum that lifts our ocean, our climate, and the world economy onto a more sustainable path.

"Effective implementation of sustainable ocean management must occur from the feet up, where every ordinary citizen should be armed with the same working knowledge as ocean experts which should guide the way they run their businesses and also encourage them to be more environmentally friendly," the A-G said.

"In the face of these new and worsening threats, this national ocean policy will serve as our compass towards sustainable oceans management – at home through action and abroad through advocacy," he added.

"Though small island economies like our own have been hardest hit by this pandemic, we remain committed – now more than ever – to a blue recovery and a sustainable future by making space for innovative solutions, including the use of blue bonds, which we believe can play a key role in our economic comeback."

Plastic pollution a global concern

ADDRESSING the global plastics pollution is not only an environment concern but one that also requires looking at the trade dimensions of plastics.

This was the key message delivered at the virtual meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE).

The Government of Fiji in collaboration with the Government of the People's Republic of China facilitated the virtual informal dialogue during the November session of WTO Committee on Trade and Environment meeting on November 17, 2020 to examine the role of trade in supporting global efforts to address plastics pollution.

The dialogue engaged with experts from the United Nations Environment Pro-

gramme (UNEP), World Economic Forum (WEF), WTO and academia, included 237 participants from around the world who had an interest on trade and environment sustainability.

Representing Fiji at this virtual dialogue, Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan highlighted that the informal dialogue provides the impetus to examine how the WTO can contribute to efforts to reduce plastics pollution, support a more environmentally sustainable plastics trade and transition to a more circular economy.

The dialogue received a wide range of support from WTO member countries who indicated that it is now time to scale up efforts and enhance coherence of global action to ensure that actions are comple-

mentary and focused on reducing plastics pollution and support environment sustainability.

Key discussions also included strategies for improving transparency, monitoring trade trends, strengthening policy coherence, identifying the scope for collective approaches and most importantly close collaboration with other international processes and efforts.

The dialogue was supported by the WTO secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Economic Forum (WEF) in reaffirming that there will be greater collaboration with current global efforts especially under UNEP's global leadership on addressing plastics pollution.

-news@govnet.gov.fj



The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and participants during the launch of the second round of public consultations on the revised draft of the National Climate Change Bill. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Second round of climate change bill consultation underway

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum launched the second round of public consultations on the revised draft of the National Climate Change Bill.

The A-G speaking at the press conference last week highlighted that this effort to develop legislation intended to improve the co-ordination and coherence needed to minimise the impact of such threats on our people and economy was underway well before COVID-19 became a household term.

"The revised draft of the climate change bill, which is now available online, is the result of an effort that has been refocused and reinvigorated by the confluence of threats that now bear down upon us," the A-G said.

"In this draft, we considered views contained in hundreds of submissions received from the public through social media platforms, formal feedback from international partners, inputs from cross government consultations, and findings from research into international best practice - the result is a draft climate change bill that is unique in its scope and implications."

"It is the first piece of legislation globally to include provisions that recognise and set out a legal process for considering planned relocation of communities as a legitimate form of climate change adapta-



The A-G stresses that as a vulnerable island nation, we must continue to champion and demonstrate legitimate and evidence-based action drawing on our intimate understanding of the risks we face. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

tion," the A-G said.

This is also the first piece of legislation drafted by a small island state that integrates provisions to support our ability to achieve our net-zero 2050 target.

"This is alongside a framework to advance adaptation objectives and help ensure climate change impacts do not circumvent our ability to achieve the 2030 sustainable development goals," the A-G said.

"The bill creates new requirements of the Government to ensure that decisions, investments, budget submissions, proposals, and infrastructure plans account for and

clarify strategies to minimise Fiji's exposure to climate change risks," he added.

"The provisions of the bill focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions are tailored to both our ambition and our capacity to achieve that ambition by focusing on improving sector-specific emissions data, setting cumulative national carbon budgets, and increasing incentives for low-carbon transition."

The A-G stressed that as a vulnerable island nation, we must continue to champion and demonstrate legitimate and evidence-based action drawing on our intimate understanding of the risks we face.



PM Bainimarama visits Kadavu Island

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama visited Kadavu Island last week to commission Government projects. During his three day tour Prime Minister Bainimarama commissioned the Tavuki water project with the cost of \$189,803.00. About 160 villagers will now have access to a clean, safe and properly piped water system. The head of Government also opened the Kavala Government station with a cost of \$1.2million. The station is an investment that the Government has provided for the people of Kadavu to access services like birth registration, marriage registration and

services offered by Justice of the Peace for witnessing documents. On his last day of tour, Prime Minister Bainimarama commissioned the village relocation project that was fully-funded by the European Union and German Agency for International Cooperation and Development (GIZ). Seven families of Narikoso Village in Kadavu became part of Fiji's third successful relocation project for those affected by the adversities of climate change. The \$1.2 million initiative, will ensure that the families will no longer be affected by rising sea levels.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Fijians, 172, leave for Australia under Pacific Labour Scheme

About 172 Fijians will now be able to provide for their family's needs during these difficult times.

This was made possible after selection for employment opportunities through the Vuvale Partnership with Australia. Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Parveen Kumar said the pandemic has dramatically impacted on many Fijians including Fiji's labour force and this window of opportunity during these challenging times, is a blessing. While at the closing of the Pre-Departure Orientation Training for Pacific Labour Scheme Workers and presentation of PDO certificates, Minister Kumar added

that, "Regional Workforce Management (RWM) has been impressed with Fiji's professional and efficient processing of workers for recruitment and the performance of many of our Fijian workers, resulting in their representatives returning to Fiji for further recruitments in January and February 2020." These selected candidates have been scheduled to depart for Australia today. Also present at the event was the Australian Deputy High Commissioner to Fiji, Ms Anna Dorney and the Permanent Secretary for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Osea Cawaru.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Children need to be protected: Akbar

"Domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape and abuse of children at home must stop." Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar, shared this sentiment during the World Children's Day celebrations at Nehru Primary School, Suva. "We have legislations and policies where our children are protected, our Constitution guarantees you the right to protection." "The Ministry of Education does

not allow child abuse within our schools and no office staff employed by the Ministry will inflict corporal punishment or be involved in any activity that brings harm to the children in school." Minister Akbar added that it is mandatory that teachers report to the police if a child comes to school showing indications of any form of abuse or violence.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



One way street will be reviewed: Usamate

RUPENI WAQAVONO

THE Fijian Government has revealed that the one-way street on main street road in Nadi town will be reviewed.

This was the statement made to business communities by the Minister for infrastructure Jone Usamate after numerous concerns were raised during a recent meeting in Nadi.

Minister Usamate, who was accompanied by the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar, Minister for Transport Faiyaz Koya, heard that the one-way street had too many issues which included congestion that affected many businesses in town.

The issues with regards to the traffic congestion faced in the main street in Nadi Town was

discussed among stakeholders.

Minister Usamate said that whatever solution they come up with must meet the needs of the movement of the masses (buses), owners of cars and businesses.

“We want to ensure that there is traffic flow and find out whether the one-way had in fact impacted businesses.

“Only then can we address the issue of businesses being impacted negatively,” Minister Usamate said.

“As a Minister I expect FRA to come up with a solution and recommendation to the problem. When we see a problem, we think the solution is apparent, everything that we do has intended consequences and unintended consequences.”

“When we plan it out you make sure we try to identify all those unintended consequences

as much as possible and mitigate against that. That is what I expect FRA to do, a review of all of this.”

“Many government services are filtered through the municipal councils to our local communities, the ratepayers and business people,” Minister Usamate said.

“It is important to note that there are a number of interagency issues that can be addressed by different government agencies or statutory bodies. For example FRA can address the grievances relating to one way traffic in Nadi Town. There are overlapping responsibilities which requires collaboration with other institutions,” he said.

Minister Usamate has also called for patience among stakeholders as they work to progress on how better they can address the issue.

Maintain consistency, Koya urges farmers

MEREANI GONEDUA

FARMERS in the Western Division have been urged to maintain consistency in their supply.

In opening the 2020 Western Division Agriculture show, Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya highlighted the importance of maintaining consistency of supply and quality of produce in order to enable Fiji to maintain the existing markets and explore new ones.

“Our agriculture exports continue to grow, in the first half of 2020, exports of fresh and chilled commodities grew by 15 percent when compared to 2018.”

“For the past five years, agriculture’s contribution to the GDP has averaged around 4.2 percent. In 2019, agriculture (only Crop and Livestock) contributed around \$725.8 million.”

“Agriculture will remain an important sector for the generation of economic activities and also for access to fresh, healthy and nutritious Fijian grown produce,” Minister Koya said.

“I am told this is the third and final Agriculture Show for this year, with similar shows being hosted in the Central and Northern Divisions.

“The event here in Nadi, brings the total number of farmers who will participate in the exhibitions to 28,000,” Minister Koya said.

He said food security is critical for a healthy and productive nation.

“We need to encourage our farmers to plant more and supply more Fijian grown food for our local and international markets,” Minister Koya said.

“The Agriculture Show is the best meeting point to establish this relationship.”

Minister Koya also reminded the farmers of the “Fijian Made – Buy Fijian” initiative.

“The Fijian Made brand provides opportunities, especially for farmers, to get brand recognition locally and globally.”

“Being licensed as Fijian Made or Fijian Grown provides leverage to marketing your produce in the Fijian and global market.”

This year’s theme for the three-day 2020 Agriculture Show is “Grow, Nourish, Sustain, Together – Our Actions are Our Future.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with members of the public during the official opening of the Grace Field service station in Nadi. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

\$10m investment brings relief despite pandemic

RUPENI WAQAVONO

THE timely \$10 million investment by Grace Road Group in Nawaicoba, Nadi during this pandemic has been acknowledged by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

Officiating at the opening of the Grace Field service station recently, PM Bainimarama stated that of all the towns and cities in Fiji there is no place where Fijians can feel the crunch of the COVID-19 pandemic like in the West.

“Nadi is also the hub of Fijian tourism, and it is thriving local economy that employs tens of thousands of Fijians, including in surrounding areas like Nawaicoba. However due to the travel restric-

tions caused by COVID-19, this great gateway is closed. So, we are especially proud to celebrate this new hub of local economic activity.

“The construction of this new complex supported 40 jobs in construction. With its doors opened, it is providing steady employment for the staff in these stores. But we know this complex is more than its physical structure, today it also stands as a mighty sign of confidence in this division’s future; confidence that this local economy will not only roar back to life, but comeback stronger than ever.

“We look to our partners in the private sector to help us write that story of Fiji’s economic recovery. By taking opportunities for invest-

ments and development today, you position yourselves for success the day this pandemic eventually loses its strangle-hold on the world economy.

“But let me be clear: even an economic crisis like COVID-19 is no excuse for complacency. We expect development in our country to always meet high standards. We expect our partners in the private sector to play by the rules, respect our laws, and act in good faith.

“When we do, together, we can do great things; we can build great things – even with our borders virtually closed, we can celebrate the great confidence we share in our future.”

PM Bainimarama highlighted

that there is much to be said about the sophistication of the beautifully integrated service complex.

“With a supermarket, petrol station, service station, and restaurant all rolled into one, this is the sort of modern, functional, and attractive space we love to see in Fiji.

“But especially so in the surrounding communities of our more urban areas, such as Nawaicoba, where we are steadily looking to land more development that makes these communities better, safer, and more fulfilling places to call home.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also called on companies and entrepreneurs to start seeking innovative ways to better serve their customers.

Fiji rice opens new warehouse

PRASHILA DEVI

FOOD security is very important and more so after COVID 19 pandemic which has brought to light the need to be self-sufficient.

This is the reason the Government has not only continued to allocate funds towards agriculture but has in fact increased the budgetary allocation in this financial period.

This was the message by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum to rice farmers in Dreketi, Bua, as he officially opened the new warehouse facility for Fiji Rice in Dreketi.

The A-G said; "In Fiji, we import more rice than we produce as rice is a staple food which every Fijian eats."

"So there is an opportunity for

local producers and that is why the Government is working with Fiji Rice to ensure its success."

In the 2020-2021 budget, Government has allocated \$800,000 to be paid to farmers directly for their paddies.

Fiji Rice chairman, Raj Sharma said since the past two years farmers had been wanting a storage facility which the company has been able to deliver through the assistance of Government which contributed \$100,000.

"In the last eight years, Government has provided \$5.2 million as a grant subsidy to the farmers which has been used to pay them for their paddies," Mr Sharma said.

In addition, he said, the Government has also provided \$688,000 as a capital grant to Fiji Rice and there has been an upgrade of infrastructure worth \$1.5m.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with a rice farmer in Dreketi, Bua, after the official opening of the new warehouse facility for Fiji Rice in Dreketi. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

The event was also significant as Fiji Rice signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with HFC Bank to provide farmers with loan packages of about \$3000 to \$10,000 with an interest rate of five percent.

The A-G applauded the bank, which along with Fiji Development Bank had come on board to assist farmers because as he

pointed out, if the lending portfolio of banks were scrutinised, the farming sector has been ignored by commercial banks.

"It is good to see a 100 per cent Fijian Bank is working with our Fijian farmers."

He also handed a certificate to Fiji Rice for employing one person under the Government's "Stronger Together" Job Support Scheme.

Revival of Batiri, exploring new grounds

PRASHILA DEVI

THE Fijian Government wants to ensure it delivers sustainable livelihoods, food security and at the same time is able to create jobs by strategically assisting organisations like Food Processors Fiji Limited.

And it is further enhancing this by working with the private sector.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, speaking at the Food Processors Fiji Limited's Batiri outlet, told the farmers to work together and that by doing so "not only do you help improve food security in Fiji but also in its sustainability".

"There are a lot of people who have lost their jobs overnight as a result of COVID 19 and while the Government is assisting them directly with the budgetary allocation of \$100 million, it is also investing in companies like Food Processors which is 100 per cent Government owned but operates independently with its own board," the A-G said.

He encouraged farmers to contribute towards the products of Food Processors as the company has had a turnaround over the past few years from running at a loss to one making moderate returns.

Since Food Processors is wholly owned by Government, the A-G was also on hand to receive the preliminary report on the company's solar farming project.

He said that while Fiji was not contributing much to the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, it was still doing its bit by exploring renewable energy sources such as solar.

Food Processors board chairman, Raj Sharma, said the company was eyeing the revival of its processing plants and citrus juice machines which Batiri was famous for around the country.

There are a lot of people who have lost their jobs overnight as a result of COVID 19 and while the Government is assisting them directly with the budgetary allocation of \$100 million.

Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum
Attorney-General and
Minister for Economy

A-G meets with farming communities

PRASHILA DEVI

F IJIANs in rural Vanua Levu interacted with the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the *talanoa* sessions held in their communities.

The A-G, together with officials from various agencies, recently met with residents of Lagalaga, Kulukulu, Naikilikoso and Bocalevu, in the outskirts of Labasa.

The common thread that ran through most of the issues raised was water, electricity, farm and cane access roads and accessing assistance provided by the Government for their farms and businesses.

After the initial discussions with the Lagalaga community, which consists mainly of sugarcane growers that had raised the issue of not having enough labour to harvest sugarcane two weeks ago, the Commissioner of Fiji Corrections Service, Commander Francis Kean accompanied the A-G to meet with the community this week.

Commander Kean assured them that FCS will be able to assist from this season itself and more extensively as they do in the Western Division from next harvesting season with the minimal cost attached which the farmers agreed to pay.

In Lagalaga, Kulukulu and Naikilikoso, the Water Authority of Fiji's chief executive officer, Barry Omundson got to hear first-hand the challenges the communities faced in accessing water.

Mr Omundson highlighted some of the temporary measures that WAF will undertake to provide relief while it works out the longer term solution.

WAF's Manager Infrastructure and Service



The A-G, together with officials from various agencies, recently met with residents of Lagalaga, Kulukulu, Naikilikoso and Bocalevu, in the outskirts of Labasa. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Delivery, Samuela Rokovaleusa, who accompanied the delegation and met with the communities, will be on hand to assist these communities as he will be in charge of looking after the Northern water supply.

Similarly, staff from Energy Fiji Limited took note of how certain homes in these communities did not have electricity due to miscommunication and that certain areas will require further work done.

The A-G told these communities that while in a lot of instances, it's a matter of putting requests in writing and following up, there are some that will require a lot more work and more budgetary allocations.

"However, you will see that the Government has continued to invest in rural com-

munities and the Ministry of Agriculture is the only Ministry that not only did not receive a reduction in budget after COVID-19 but we have in fact increased the budget."

He emphasised to the officials accompanying him during the tour that in most of the instances all these communities need is to be kept informed.

"It is very critical to have the communication channel open even when they won't be able to be assisted immediately, they should at least know that because from our discussions, it is apparent that many are frustrated with the lack of response."

More communities in other parts of Vanua Levu were met with during similar *talanoa* sessions.



Patterson dedicates medal to the people of Levuka

NANISE NEIMILA

OPERATING for the past 93 years and providing shipping services to Fijians travelling from Natovi to Ovalau, Levuka Patterson Brothers Shipping Limited is a household name for Fijians.

Recognised for helping meet the needs of Fijians requiring shipping services, George Patterson was humbled to receive the commemorative medals for Fiji's 50th anniversary of Independence from the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote during a special investiture ceremony held last month in Levuka.

An emotional, Mr Patterson paid tribute to his forefathers and his family for their commitment and hard work throughout the years of service that the company had endured to be able to provide shipping services to the people of Fiji.

"I would like to thank the Government and particularly the President for recognising and honouring the company for the services it has provided all this years."

"I would like to thank my grandparents, my parents and particularly my brothers and sisters and my extended family. I would also like to thank the people of Ovalau and the Lomaiviti Group for always supporting the company over the years."

With the increasing competition of commercialised shipping companies, Mr Patterson adds this has not changed the way or affected the way the company has continued to provide the required services for the people of Ovalau.

"Right from the days we were travelling



President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote pins the commemorative medal for Fiji's 50th independence anniversary on George Patterson in Levuka. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

from gravel road from Natovi into Suva, Nabouwalu into Labasa we have had to endure those years of hardship when the roads were bad. During cyclones and not only that even when there were civil unrest in the past. We are still here and we will continue to provide your shipping needs."

President Konrote, while congratulating the recipients, added that as they can understand that, inevitably, the present COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on the national plan to commemorate this important milestone in Fiji's young history, resulting in a somewhat scaled down overall national celebrations programme.

"But this did not dampen our "Fijian Can Do" spirit nor did it affect the manner in which we celebrated the occasion for within a period of half a century since Independence, our young and developing nation has evolved into an acceptable level of universal socio-political and economical maturity that we should all be proud about in today's unpredictable and uncertain global environment that we live in."

"Furthermore, with our typically famous Fijian friendly, positive and 'Can Do' attitude to life, we are proclaiming to our citizens and

our wider global community and the Fijian diaspora that, "This Is Who We Are – We - Are - Fiji!"

"A small and developing independent sovereign state which despite the COVID-19 pandemic is determined to celebrate a worthy cause and is continuing to "punch above its weight" in leading the world community by passionately addressing some global problematic issues like today's, - Present, Real and Serious Threat to the survival of Humanity – Climate Change and the Preservation and Protection of our Oceans," President Konrote said.

Singh: Teach your kids good values

AZARIA FAREEN

IAM overjoyed to have been rewarded for my service to the Government for the past 36-years with this commemorative medal and I attribute this honour to my family, in particular my late husband who was my rock.

This was the sentiment shared by 59-year-old Anuradha Singh who has served at the Fiji Corrections Services (FCS) as the Chief Corrections Officer after receiving Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence Commemorative Medal at a ceremony at the Fiji Corrections Centre in Naboro with more than 70 other officers.

"I joined the FCS in 1981 and worked at the Women's Correction

Centre for 15 years and then got transferred to the Men's Corrections Centre in Suva and I have immensely enjoyed the task assigned to me," Mrs Singh said.

"The inmates would share their hardships and grief with us and we would provide them with counselling services so that they can reform into a better person in order for their family and society to accept them back," she added.

"I came across lots of women and girl inmates with children and family of their own and I used to advise them that this prison is not for them. I used to visit their families as well and while providing counselling to them they would cry knowing that life is not easy in prison."

Mrs Singh proudly states that



Fifty-nine-year-old Anuradha Singh with her son receiving the commemorative medal for Fiji's 50th independence anniversary in Naboro. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

through the FCS rehabilitation programs, the families of the inmates understood what they were going through and welcomed them back as a changed person.

"I am so grateful that I had a supportive family who were always understanding of my working hours and actually encouraged me to continue to fulfil my career path," Mrs Singh said.

"My advice to all the parents is to keep your children safe and teach them good values so they don't follow the wrong path and if they make a mistake then be kind to them and correct them instead of kicking them out and disowning them because without guidance this will only lead them astray and

maybe lead them to even prison."

In congratulating the awardees for their unwavering commitment and fortitude in the performance of their duties, the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote acknowledged them for remaining resolute and loyal in supporting the Fijian Government and its people over the years to this historical and important milestone since "Independence in our history as an Independent Sovereign State".

"As members of the Discipline Forces we must maintain the trust and confidence of our People at all times and as your President and Head of State I charge you with this responsibility," President Konrote said.

I came across lots of women and girl inmates with children and family of their own and I used to advise them that this prison is not for them. I used to visit their families as well and while providing counselling to them they would cry knowing that life is not easy in prison.

Anuradha Singh
Former Chief Corrections Officer

"Nominations that have been received to this day, the College of Honour Team have been very particular and diligent in their work to ensure that this special and historic commemorative medal is presented to deserving members of the Public/Private Sectors and Civil Society."

"We have shown the world community that we are; a resilient people, a strong people, a caring people, a united people who are collectively confident that with Almighty God's continued guidance and blessings, Fiji is destined to achieve more great things in the next 50 years," the Chancellor of the Order of Fiji added.



President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and First lady Sarote Konrote with Josaia Rabele Dakuitoga and his wife after receiving the commemorative medal for Fiji's 50th independence anniversary at State House, Suva. Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

"My former teammates in 1992, the late Etuate Waqa and the late Nemani Matirewa were players that we started rugby league together before we were banned for life from rugby union. The late Ilaisa Tagitupou and the late Peni Musunamasi are the reason why rugby league is alive in Fiji today because they believed Fijians represent the game of rugby league."

Josaia Rabele Dakuitoga
 Fiji Bati head coach

Dakuitoga awarded for his service

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

JOSAIA Rabele Dakuitoga, otherwise known as "Joe Dakuitoga" is no stranger to Fijians who love the game of rugby league.

The Fiji Bati head coach represented Fiji in the 1995 Rugby League World Cup that was held in the United Kingdom and joined international rugby league clubs during his playing days.

Twenty five years later, October, 2020, was extra special for Mr Dakuitoga because he was among 31 recipients of the commemorative medal for Fiji's 50th independence anniversary awarded by the President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote at the State House.

Mr Dakuitoga said that he was surprised to receive a call in-

forming him that he was being awarded with the medal for his long and dedicated service to the development of rugby league in the country. He was one of the pioneers of the sport in Fiji.

Mr Dakuitoga dedicated the medal to the men who have played vital role in the progress of the sport.

"My former teammates in 1992, the late Etuate Waqa and the late Nemani Matirewa were players and we started rugby league together before we were banned for life from rugby union. The late Ilaisa Tagitupou and the late Peni Musunamasi were the reason why rugby league is alive in Fiji today because they believed Fijians represent the game of rugby league," Mr Dakuitoga said.

When asked of the challenges

faced in the early days of the sport, he said that financial restraints was the biggest factor they had faced for six years because there was no sponsorship for rugby league in Fiji.

"Back then we did whatever we could because for the sport there was no financial support. But now with financial support, we have managed to keep the development of rugby league at a high level and we can say that development is going in the right direction."

Plans are also in place to extend rugby league awareness and development to the outer islands and rural areas.

Mr Dakuitoga said the Fiji Bati team's goal is to reach the final of the 2021 Rugby League World Cup and to win the 2025 Rugby League World Cup.

Dr Ali shares experience of first deployment to Lebanon

NANISE NEIMILA

AFTER graduating from New Zealand as a dental specialist in 1978, Dr Mansoor Ali was rather surprised when he received a call to travel on first deployment to Lebanon.

Not knowing what he was in for, Dr Ali said "I had to go because they needed a dentist for the first deployment".

"I went to Lebanon not knowing what was going to happen, a lot of people thought that enlisting into the army would mean that anything could happen."

"Everywhere we went there were corpses lying around considering Lebanon as a war-torn country and I used to see a lot of people covering their nose because of the smell but for me it was a different experience because I would look at the different muscles on the body and



President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and Speaker of the Fijian Parliament Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with Dr Mansoor Ali and his wife after receiving the commemorative medal for Fiji's 50th independence anniversary at State House, Suva. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

identify them."

Dr Ali said that he learned a lot during his first deployment as dentist to Lebanon.

"I learned a lot and it was very educational because in joining the army we had to learn a lot of things for the very reason that I was not a soldier."

"Since I was not a soldier the most interesting thing I learnt was that I had to have training there.

Go into the bush and shoot, when I take a pistol, we have a target to shoot. When I shot the target did not fall, I fell down backward. They call it backfire.

"At that time our very own President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote was looking at me so he came and offered to assist me. He was part of Company C and Captain, I was in Company B so he came to me and told me that he

would show me how to shoot. He taught me how to hold the pistol, how to use my elbow to support the pistol whilst shooting."

Dr Ali recalls that after their shooting exercise, they would gather and have a few drinks. It was called the Officer Group party and they used to have a lot of drinks served.

"For me I never liked drinking so they never offered me anything

rather I had orange juice. But it was a memorable tour for me and to experience a lot of things that our peacekeepers go through during missions overseas.

Former President and Speaker of the House of Parliament Ratu Epeli Nailatikau was the Commander of the Fiji Battalion who also shared some memories of serving alongside Dr Ali.

"I can clearly remember him reading from the Koran where he surprised devotees at the Mosque when he read through and he even surprised all of us but those were some sweet memories."

Dr Ali was amongst the 32 recipients who were awarded the 50th Anniversary of Independence Commemorative Medal at the State House.

"Today is very special to me because whatever criteria was used to nominate people for this investiture ceremony, I am grateful to have been recognised for the service that I have given to the nation."

Originally from Lautoka, Dr. Ali paid tribute to everyone that has been part of his career journey and to his wife and only daughter who resides in New Zealand.



Acting permanent secretary for Communications Tupoutua'h Baravilala briefs relevant stakeholders in the Information, Communication and Technology sector on issues of infrastructure sharing and connecting the unconnected as Attorney-General and Minister for Communications Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum looks on. Photo: RONAL DEO



It is not only about getting everybody connected to voice and data just for the sake of it but a lot of government services have been rolled out. We want people in the remote islands and in the low populated areas to be able to access all those services.

Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum
Attorney-General and
Minister for Communications

Bridging the digital divide

RONAL DEO

THE Fijian Government met with relevant stakeholders in the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) sector on issues of infrastructure sharing and connecting the unconnected.

In addressing the Joint ICT Stakeholders meeting, the Attorney-General and Minister for Communications Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said that the way forward is for the service providers to have their transmitters tap onto a single tower on a hill rather than installing five different towers on a site and thus ensuring better use of resources.

This would require a collaborative and innovative multi stakeholder approach to address the remaining unconnected areas which makes up about five percent of Fijians.

He further added that there is also an opportunity for mobile phone companies to share infrastructure that the Government has invested into such as the Walesi towers as it will ultimately give Fijians a much better reach and connectivity.

The A-G highlighted some of the issues that have been kept in mind when developing sites or expanding connectivity.

"There are of course issues like access to land, ownership of lease, who has the key for the gate, who maintains the road leading to the site, who maintains the tower, should there be any cyclone is

there any insurance for that, what is the premium cost, etc. You of course make money not by putting up towers but by providing services to the consumers. That is not the way to go," the A-G said.

"It is not only about getting everybody connected to voice and data just for the sake of it but a lot of government services have been rolled out. We want people in the remote islands and in the low populated areas to be able to access all those services. How can they do that if there is no mobile broadband connectivity," he explained.

He said there have been a number of sites that have been identified in the Government's effort of connecting the unconnected project and this is why the Government will be facilitating a series of meetings with all stakeholders to deliberate on the identified sites.

The A-G emphasised that ensuring that someone in Lau has the same internet connectivity as someone in Suva cannot be done by Government alone but needs a collective effort between the government and the relevant stakeholders.

He stressed that the Fijian Government does not want people in the maritime areas to lose out on services compared to someone in Suva who has high speed connectivity which will create a lot of inequality in the society itself.

Over the past few years, the Government has made great strides in ensuring a smooth transition from the analogue broadcast methods to digital broadcast

methods so that all Fijians can have access to a better television service.

This is through the Walesi platform which now has about 22 sites out of which 17 are bigger sites.

"Walesi will also get into FM space so all radio service providers will have the opportunity to use this FM space. We are very keen on that because in times of cyclones and other natural disasters, in getting the messages out across to the remote parts, it is critically important to have radio in the FM signal too," the A-G said.

He further said that the Universal Service Funds can be utilised to assist the mobile operators to bridge the connectivity gaps that still persists.

"We have about US \$1.625 million (FJ\$3.47m), left over funds from the World Bank to connect Vanua Levu to the Southern Cross cable building a pipe off the cable that comes from Samoa to Vatuwaqa. So, we want to utilise these funds as announced in parliament to connect the nursing stations and schools in the Northern Division to get internet connectivity," the A-G said.

The service providers who participated in the meeting included Telecom Fiji Limited, Vodafone Fiji Limited, Digicel Fiji Limited, Fijian Broadcasting Corporation, Communications Fiji Limited, Fiji Television, Mai TV, Walesi, Telecommunications Authority of Fiji, Fiji International Telecommunications Pte Limited and Amalgamated Telecom Holdings Limited.



Attorney-General and Minister for Communications Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum addresses stakeholders. Photo: RONAL DEO



Participants during the Joint ICT Stakeholders meeting. Photo: RONAL DEO



careFIJI

An initiative by



Supported by

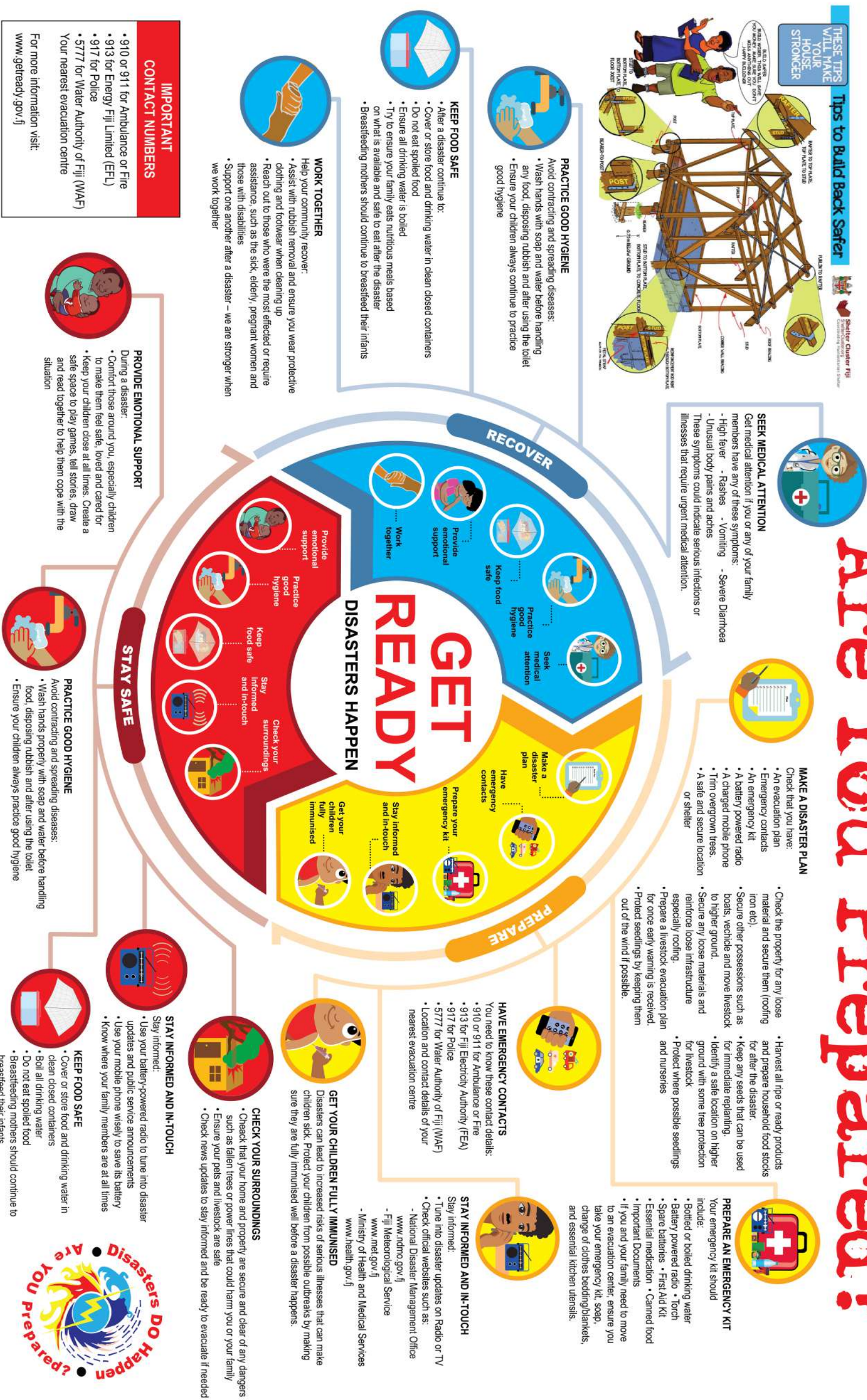


DOWNLOAD NOW!



www.carefiji.digitalfiji.gov.fj

DISASTERS DO HAPPEN Are You Prepared?



Fiji Focus



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama pays his respect at the new War Memorial Plaque at Colonial War Memorial (CWM) Hospital's Peace Garden during Remembrance Day in Suva Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Fijians honoured

Memorial Plaque built to remember service, sacrifice

FELIX LESINAIVALU

MORE than 300 medical personnel have served with Republic of the Fiji Military Forces until today in combat, peacekeeping, humanitarian relief and disaster response.

And in 2020 these medical personnel stepped up most notably in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic this year.

This was highlighted by Fijian Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama while unveiling the new War Memorial Plaque at Colonial

War Memorial (CWM) Hospital's Peace Garden in Suva recently.

According to Prime Minister Bainimarama, the War Memorial Plaque was built to remember the 123 Fijian and British soldiers who left our shores with their comrades in arms more than a century ago to fight in what was called The Great War and did not return.

"We could never bring those boys back, but we can dedicate ourselves to saving lives, curing sickness and keeping people

healthy, in their name and for the good of all the people."

"And we can do so in the name of all the Fijians who have answered the call to service when it came, in the Second World War, in Korea and in United Nations Peacekeeping operations around the world."

CWM opened its doors to the public in 1923 with 108 beds and a staff of 27, 10 of whom were local nurses and there were only two doctors.

"Today we have more than 500 beds and a

staff of around 2,000. We are a modern nation, a growing nation, and we need a modern flagship hospital."

"So we come today in pilgrimage to this hospital, as we do each year, to acknowledge and thank that generation for their example of selflessness and courage."

Prime Minister Bainimarama said they set a standard that has endured and has lived in the way Fijians have answered the call in all those other conflicts over the 102 years since the armistice

प्रधान मंत्री ने एम जी एम स्कूल की नई इमारत का उद्घाटन किया 2

कोविड-19 का कोई मामला नहीं 3

फीजीयन्स काम करने ओस्ट्रेलिया जाएंगे 6

यह जानना जरूरी कि बच्चे इनटानेट पर क्या देखते हैं 7

फीजी दर्पण

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2020 | 8 PAGES | ISSUE 18 VOL 11 | WWW.FIJI.GOV.FJ

@FijianGov Fijian Government



प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा, एम जी एम स्कूल टीचर्स के साथ, स्कूल की एक नई इमारत का उद्घाटन करने के बाद चित्र: ननिसे नडिमिला

पर्वों में एकता का संदेश

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा ने सभी फीजीवासियों को दिवाली की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ देते हुए कहा कि जबकि हम प्रकाश का उत्सव मनाते हैं तो हमें याद रखना चाहिए कि बुराई पर हमेशा अच्छाई की जीत होती है, रोशनी से अंधकार मिटता है तथा ज्ञान से अज्ञानता दूर किया जाता है। “दीवाली हमें अपने बंधन मजबूत करने और हमारे देश, परिवार, दोस्ती, सद्भावना और एक उज्ज्वल भविष्य के लिए एक अवसर प्रदान करती है। कोविड-19 महामारी की वजह से यह एक

ऐसा साल है जो एक घातक अंधेरे द्वारा परिभाषित किया गया है लेकिन फीजी मानवता के लिए एक चमकदार रोशनी रहा है,” श्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा।

प्रधान मंत्री के अनुसार हमारे लोग सुरक्षित है क्यों कि अच्छाई को सहयोग देने के लिए फीजीवासियों ने अपने साथी फीजीयन्स के साथ बलिदान करने और एकता में रहने के लिए उनके अन्दर के प्रकाश जाग्रित किया है।

“यह इस देश के लिए एक महान कार्य रहा है, और हमें गर्व होना चाहिए। हमने सही मायने में एक-दूसरे की देखभाल की है तथा यही प्रकाश

और अच्छाई प्रकट करता है। फीजी का संविधान हर एक फीजीवासी को यह अधिकार देता है कि वह बिना किसी भेदभाव के अपने धर्म के प्रति विश्वास का अभ्यास करें। धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता की वजह से अलग-अलग विश्वास रखने वाले लोग, फीजीवासियों के बीच मधुर संबंध का स्रोत बने हैं।”

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि दीवाली जैसे त्योहार अब राष्ट्रीय उत्सव बन गए हैं जहाँ परिवार खुले आम अपने दोस्तों तथा पड़ोसियों के साथ जश्न मनाते हैं जिससे हर आस्था में पाए जाने वाले सार्वभौमिक मूल्यों और सदियों पुराने ज्ञान के साथ हमारे

राष्ट्रीय चरित्र को समृद्ध करता है।

“जो लोग दिवाली के उत्सव में हिस्सा लेना चाहते हैं, उन्हें मोमबत्तियाँ जलाकर, घर आँगन को रोशन करके, आतिशबाजियों का आनन्द लेकर तथा अपने दोस्तों और पड़ोसियों का निमंत्रण स्वीकार करके उनके साथ दिवाली मनाना चाहिए। हमें दुनिया को फिर से दिखाना चाहिए कि हम प्रकाश और सीखने तथा अच्छाई को अपनाने वाले हैं। हमें सभी को धन्यवाद देना चाहिए और कई लोगों के लिए एक आशीर्वाद ही काफी है।”

प्रधान मंत्री ने सभी फीजीवासियों से साथ मिलकर रहने की माँग की है।



फीजी भर में दो दसमलव छः मिलियन पेड़ और तिड़ीतिड़ी बोए गए

वीरन्द्र लाल

फीजी में पिछले बाइस महिनो में दो दसमलव छः मिलियन पेड़ और तिड़ीतिड़ी बोए गए हैं।

इसकी जानकारी फॉरेस्ट मंत्री ओसेया नाईगामु ने पिछले सप्ताह लौतोका में लो-लोलो नेसरी का उद्घाटन करते वक्त दी। मंत्री ने बताया कि मंत्रालय ने पन्द्रह सालों में तीस मिलियन पेड़ बोने का लक्ष्य तय किया है और इसी लक्ष्य की दिशा में काम किया जा रहा है।

“फीजी को दुनिया भर में इस बात के लिए इज्जत दी जा रही है कि वह वैश्विक विषयों जैसे जलवायु परिवर्तन पर आवाज उठाता है। इसके लिए मैं हर फीजियन को धन्यवाद देता हूँ क्योंकि यह लोग सरकार के ट्री प्लांटिंग इनिशियेटिव का समर्थन करते हैं। आपके सहयोग के बिना जलवायु

परिवर्तन के खिलाफ हमारी लड़ाई कहीं की भी नहीं रहेगी। हम चाहते हैं कि आगे की पीढ़ियों का भविष्य भी अच्छा रहे”।

मंत्री ने बताया कि लोलो नेसरी के खुलने से, पेड़ बोने की सरकार की योजना को सहयोग मिलेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि योजना के लिए अभी पश्चिमी विभाग में दो नेसरीज़ से पौधे मिलते हैं।

रिज टु रीफ प्रोजेक्ट अगले साल अक्टूबर में खत्म हो जायेगा।

नेसरी बनाने में चालीस हजार डॉलर खर्च हुए हैं और वहाँ पचास हजार तक पौधे बोने की जगह है। फॉरेस्ट मंत्रालय के दफतर लौतोका में पहले से पैंतीस हजार बीज हैं।

इस योजना के लिए सेक्रेटेरियट ऑफ द पेरिफेरिक कोमिउनिटी (SPC) और युनाइटेड नैशनल्स डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम (UNDP) से पैसे मिले हैं।



फॉरेस्ट मंत्री ओसेया नाईगामु लौतोका में लोलो नेसरी के उद्घाटन के दौरान चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



प्रधान मंत्री वीरेनो वडिनमारामा एम जी एम स्कूल की नई इमारत के उद्घाटन के दौरान चित्र: ननिसे नडिमिला

प्रधान मंत्री ने एम जी एम स्कूल की नई इमारत का उद्घाटन किया

रोनल देव

हमारे अध्यापक हमारे बच्चों को एक जिम्मेदार, देखभाल करने वाले और अच्छे नागरिक बनने में भारी मदद करते हैं।

महात्मा गांधी हाई स्कूल में नई इमारत का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वीरेनो वडिनमारामा ने कहा कि बच्चे स्कूल में अपने अध्यापकों तथा अपने माता-पिताओं के मूल्य और व्यवहार अपनाते हैं।

“अगर अध्यापक पक्षपाती नहीं हैं, धीरज रखने वाले और दयालू हैं तो बच्चे भी न्याय

और पक्षपाती न होना, धीरज रखना तथा दया दिखाना सीखेंगे।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि हम महात्मा गांधी जी को कई कारणों से याद रखते हैं तथा सबसे प्रमुख कारणों में से एक यह है कि उन्होंने शिक्षा को मानवता के उच्च आदर्श के मार्ग के रूप में देखा।

“सिर्फ पढ़ना-लिखना आना कोई शिक्षा नहीं है, न तो शिक्षा की शुरुआत है और न ही अंत”।

उन्होंने कहा कि गुजरात एजुकेशन सोसाइटी को अपने आप पर गर्व होना

चाहिए जो उन्होंने अपने स्कूलों के द्वारा हासिल किया है।

“महात्मा गांधी मेमोरियल हाई स्कूल का नया कोम्प्लेक्स ताज में हीरी की तरह है। इसमें आधुनिक क्लासरूम, साइन्स लेब तथा अध्यापकों के लिए अच्छी सुविधाएं हैं। यहाँ बच्चों के इक्वटा होने के लिए भी सुखद जगह है,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

स्कूल में अभी नौ सौ विद्यार्थी पढ़ाई करते हैं तथा इस कोम्प्लेक्स में भविष्य में आने वाले विद्यार्थियों के लिए भी जगह उपलब्ध है।

मानवाधिकार की मुख्या ने समझौते को आगे बढ़ाया



प्रधान मंत्री दफतर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण के साथ सुश्री अलेफ्सन और एक अन्य अधिकारी चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

वीरन्द्र लाल

फीजी और क्षेत्र में मानवाधिकार की दिशा में काम करने के लिए, ऑफिस ऑफ द युनायटेड नैशनल्स हाय कमिशन फॉर ह्यूमन राइट्स (OHCHR) फीजी सरकार के साथ पहले हुए समझौते को आगे बढ़ाने पर राजी हुआ है।

ऑफिस ऑफ द युनायटेड नैशनल्स हाय कमिशन फॉर ह्यूमन राइट्स की हाल ही नियुक्त हुई क्षेत्रीय प्रतिनिधि, हईक अलेफ्सन ने हाल ही प्रधान मंत्री दफतर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण से मुलाकात की और यह शुभ समाचार सुनाया।

श्री करण ने सुश्री अलेफ्सन को उनकी नियुक्ति के लिए बधाई दी और फीजी की बेहतरी के लिए साथ मिलकर काम करने का वायदा किया।

उन्होंने बताया कि ऑफिस ऑफ द युनायटेड नैशनल्स हाय कमिशन फॉर ह्यूमन राइट्स ने फीजी और क्षेत्र में मानवाधिकार को लेकर काफी काम कर रहा है।

“फीजी सदस्य देशों के साथ मिलकर जलवायु परिवर्तन पर काम कर रहा है और अगले साल वह प्लेटफोम इन डिज़ास्टा डिस्पलैस्मेंट (PDD) की सभापति की जिम्मेदारी लेने की ताक में है”।

स्थायी सचिव करण ने बताया कि फीजी इस पर गौर कर रहा है कि युनिवर्सल ह्यूमन राइट्स स्टैंडर्ड्स का पालन किया जाए और इस दिशा में फीजी काम करता रहेगा।

फीजी, युनायटेड नैशनल्स हाय कमिशन फॉर ह्यूमन राइट्स में शामिल होने वाला पहला प्रशांत देश है।

देश में कोविड-19 सक्रिए नहीं

वीरेंद्र लाल

कोविड-19 का एक नया बोडा क्वारंटीन मामला सामने आया था मगर देश में अब कोविड-19 का कोई सक्रिए मामला नहीं है। तिर्पन वर्षिए यह मरीज़, फीजी का नागरिक है और पाँच नवम्बर को निउज़ीलैंड से फीजी आया है। यह व्यक्ति अमरीका से निउज़ीलैंड गया था। विदेशों से आए यात्रियों को, स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों और सेना की कड़ी निगरानी में अनिवार्य रूप से चौदह दिनों तक क्वारंटीन में रखा जाता है। यह व्यक्ति जब फीजी पहुँचा तो इन्हें यह बीमारी होने का कोई चिन्ह नहीं था लेकिन दो

दिनों बाद चिन्ह सामने आए।

इसको लेकर फीजी में इस बीमारी के पैतिस मामले सामने आए लेकिन फिलहाल फीजी में इस बीमारी का कोई सक्रिए मामला नहीं है। व्यक्ति को लौतोका अस्पताल के आयसोलईशन बोर्ड में रखा गया था। जो बोडा और क्वारंटीन कर्मचारी इस मरीज़ के सम्पर्क में आए थे, का परिक्षण किया गया है और उनपर नज़र रखी जा रही है।

हमारे बोडा प्रोटेक्शन कर्मचारी, बोडा क्वारंटीन और इनफेक्शन कंट्रोल प्रोटोकॉल्स का बाखूबी पालन कर रहे हैं और फलस्वरूप आम जनता को कोई खतरा नहीं है।



स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर डफेरइमी वंगईनम्बेते, मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

जल्द तैयारी करना ज़रूरी है

वीरेंद्र लाल

ऐसा अनुमान लगाया गया है कि आँधी तुफान के इस मौसम में एक से तीन आँधियाँ, फीजी से होकर गुज़रेंगी और रूरल एन्ड

मेरिटाएम डिवेलपमेंट तथा डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु ने लोगों ने जल्द इसके लिए तैयारी कर लेने की माँग की है।

मंत्री ने कहा कि जबकि हर साल फीजी पर आँधी तुफान का प्रकोप पड़ता है, यह ज़रूरी है कि लोग इसके लिए तैयार रहें।

“हमारी ओर से लोगों को यही संदेश है कि वे तैयारी करना शुरू कर दें। जल्द तैयारी कर लेने से, तुफान आने पर हम ज्यादा नुकसानी होने से बचा लेंगे। तैयारी करना बहुत ज़रूरी है खासकर हमारे लिए जबकि हमें जानकारी दे दी गई है कि फीजी पर आँधी तुफान का असर पड़ने की सम्भावना है।”

मंत्री ने बताया कि अजेंसियों और सेवा प्रदान करने वालों को भी इस बारे में बात-चीत शुरू कर देनी चाहिए।



मेरिटाएम डिवेलपमेंट तथा डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु, मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

उन्होंने कहा कि वे मंत्रालय में अं दरूनी तैयारी पर भी गौर करेंगे। सेरूईरातु के अनुसार वे यह देखना चाहते हैं कि क्या वे ओपरेटेशनल रूप से तैयार हैं।

“हमारे लिए यह जानना ज़रूरी है कि किस हद तक हम तैयार हैं, कौन सी ज़िम्मेदारी किस को दी गई है, कौन से इलाकों में क्या ज़रूरत है और कौन से अन्य विषय सामने

आने वाले हैं।” मंत्री ने बताया कि अपनी ओर से वे पहले से सभी तैयारियाँ कर लेना चाहते हैं। फीजी में नवम्बर से अईप्रल तक आँधी तुफान का मौसम रहता है।

आँधी की चपेट में आय लोगों को और सौ डोलर मिलेंगे

वीरेंद्र लाल

सोशल वेलफेया से सहायता प्राप्त करने वाले जो लोग समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड की चपेट में आए थे, को समान्य सहायता के अलावा इस महिने अतिरिक्त सौ डोलर दिए जायेंगे।

युनायटड नईशन्स वोल्ट फूड प्रोग्राम (WEP) और विमन, चिल्लन एन्ड पोवटी अलेविअईशन मंत्रालय के बीच एक साझेदारी के कारण ऐसा हो पायेगा।

युनायटड नईशन्स वोल्ट फूड प्रोग्राम के पेंसिफिक मल्टी-कन्द्री ऑफिस डायरेक्टा जो पिलग्रिम ने बताया कि देश भर में दस हजार से ज्यादा लोगों को समान्य सहायता के अलावा इस महिने सौ डोलर अतिरिक्त दिए जायेंगे।

“हम यह देखना चाहते हैं कि इलाके में भोजन की सुरक्षा बनी रहे। युनायटड नईशन्स वोल्ट फूड प्रोग्राम इस बात से खुश है कि वह विमन, चिल्लन एन्ड पोवटी अलेविअईशन मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर, फीजियन लोगों को समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड से पड़े असर से निकलने में मदद कर पा रहा है,” श्री पिलग्रिम ने कहा।

मंत्रालय की स्थाई सचिव जेनिफा पूल ने बताया कि जो लोग मंत्रालय के पोवटी बेनेफिट स्कीम, केया एन्ड प्रोटेक्शन अलावन्स, डिजाबिलिटी अलावन्स और सोशल पेंशन स्कीम में शामिल हैं तथा जिनपर समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड का विपरीत असर पड़ा है, इस अतिरिक्त सहायता के हकदार होंगे।

“हम आशा करते हैं कि इस वन ओफ टोप अप से इन परिवारों को समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड से हुई नुकसानी से उभरने और इस तुफानी मौसम के लिए तैयारी करने में मदद मिलेगी”।

स्थाई सचिव ने कहा कि मंत्रालय इस बात से खुश है कि वह नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमेंट ऑफिस के साथ मिलकर, युनायटड नईशन्स वोल्ट फूड प्रोग्राम से सहायता प्राप्त करने में सफल रहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि इस सहायता से ज़रूरतमंद लोगों को कुछ राहत मिलेगी।

नसीवी नदी साफ किया गया

वीरेंद्र लाल

समाजों को बाढ़ के प्रकोप से बचाने के लिए वोटावईज़ और वातावरण मंत्रालय ने नसीवी नदी के कुछ भाग को साफ करवाया है।

तावुवा बड़ली ब्रिज और तामुवा एफ एस सी टेम्पलाइन ब्रिज तक नदी को साफ किया गया है और इसमें लगभग सात हजार डोलर खर्च हुए हैं।

वोटावईज़, वातावरण और कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने बताया कि जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण ज्यादा बाढ़ चढ़ने लगे हैं और ऐसे में काफी नुकसानी होती है।

उन्होंने बताया कि आगे चलकर जल्दी जल्दी बाढ़ चढ़ने और बाढ़ की तीव्रता और तेज़ होने की सम्भावना है।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि समाजों की भलाई

के लिए नदी साफ किया गया ताकि लोगों की सम्पत्ति को ज्यादा नुकसानी न हो। उन्होंने बताया कि वे यह काम जारी रखेंगे ताकि ज्यादा से ज्यादा पानी इधर उधर न जाकर नदी के ज़रिए सीधा समुद्र में जाए।

तावुवा कोरो के माता नि तीकिना फिलिमोनी दाउदाउ ने मंत्रालय के इस कार्य का स्वागत किया है।

“यह करना बहुत ज़रूरी था जबकि आँधी तूफान का मौसम आ गया है। निचले इलाकों में बाढ़ जल्द चढ़ जाता है क्योंकि नदी में ज्यादा मैल होने के कारण पानी सीधा नहीं बहता पाता है।”

श्री दाउदाउ ने बताया कि मंत्रालय के इस कार्य से पूरे तामुवा शहर, तामुवा कोरो और निचले इलाकों को बहुत फायदा होगा। आम जनता को कोई खतरा नहीं है।



वोटावईज़, वातावरण और कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी नसीवी नदी के पास डिगा ड्रायवर के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



शहीद सुरक्षा कर्मियों के सम्मान में दिवस

रिमेम्बरन्स डे के अवसर पर उन सुरक्षा कर्मियों को याद किया गया जिन्होंने डिउटी पर अपनी जान गंवा दी। फीजी के कई सुरक्षा कर्मी विदेशों में भी सेवा प्रदान कर रहे हैं। चित्र: अज़रिया फरीन



औडियोलोजी सेन्टर से फायदा होगा

रिमेम्बरन्स डे के अवसर पर सी डब्लू एम अस्पताल में एक औडियोलोजी सेन्टर खोला गया है जहाँ कम सुनाई देने वाले लोगों का बेहतर इलाज किया जाएगा। इसका उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि देश के लगभग अस्सी हजार लोग अच्छी तरह से सुन नहीं पाते हैं जोकि फीजी की जन-संख्या के लगभग दस प्रतिशत हिस्सा है। चित्र: फिलिक्स लेमिन्डैवाल्



मंत्री कुमार ने पूजा करने के अधिकार पर प्रकाश डाला

फीजी तो धन्य है कि यहाँ लोगों को एक साथ मिलकर धार्मिक उत्सव मनाने का मौका मिलता है। गेज़गार तथा युवा मंत्री परवीन कुमार ने बा में आयोजित दिवाली समारोह के मौके पर कहा कि हम सब सीभाग्यशाली हैं कि हम फीजी जैसे देश में रहते हैं जहाँ हमें पूजा-पाठ करने की स्वतंत्रता मिली है। “हम बचपन से कथा सुनते आए हैं कि हम दिवाली इसलिए मनाते हैं क्योंकि इसी दिन प्रभु श्री राम चौदह सालों का वनवास काटकर अयोध्या लौटे थे। मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि हम कीसमस के नज़दीक हैं जब हम यीशु मसीह के जीवन का जश्न मनाएंगे। मंत्री ने ग्यारह नवम्बर को याद किए गए स्मरण दिवस को स्वीकार करते हुए कहा कि यह उन फीजीवासियों को याद करने का दिन है जो शान्ति की लड़ाई के लिए विदेश गए थे।

चित्र: प्रदान किए गए



अई जी का उत्तरी विभाग का दौरा

अटेनी जनरल तथा अर्थ व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने हाल ही उत्तरी विभाग का दौरा किया जहाँ उन्होंने फीजी राईस लिमिटेड के वेयाहाउज़ का उद्घाटन किया, सड़कों के किनारे समान बेचने वालों को स्टोल प्रदान किया और किसानों से मुकालात की। अटेनी जनरल ने लांगालगा, रेकेति और कई अन्य इलाकों में किसानों के साथ सभाएं की और उनकी समस्याओं के बारे में पूछा। अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने किसानों से साथ मिलकर काम करने की मांग की। उन्होंने किसानों से धान के उत्पादन बढ़ाने की मांग की जिससे विदेशों से कम चावल आयात किया जाए।

चित्र: अज़रिया फरीन





चीनी राजदूत लौकल गवर्नमेंट मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार को नब्बे हजार डॉलर का चेक प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सिंगातोका शहर में विकास करने के लिए सहायता मिली

वीरेंद्र लाल

सिंगातोका शहर में नदी के पास बैठने की जगह बनाने के लिए लौकल गवर्नमेंट मंत्री को चीनी सरकार से नब्बे हजार डॉलर की सहायता मिली है।

चेक स्वीकार करते हुए मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने बताया कि सिंगातोका शहर को और संदर करने का उनका प्रयास जारी रहेगा। उन्होंने

बताया कि सिंगातोका टाउन कौंसिल के फीजी 50 सेलेब्रिटीशन्स के तहत मेलरौज़ पुल पर बत्ती लगाई गई है और सिंगातोका स्टेलियन स्टेचू बिठाई गई है।

“एक सौ सीट वाली बैठका पर काम शुरू हो चुका है। इसे अच्छी तरह से बनाया जाएगा ताकि सभी मौसम में इसका प्रयोग किया जा सके। इससे करदाता, टुरिस्ट और यात्री

आकर्षित होंगे। यहाँ पर लोग सभाएं कर सकेंगे, कोन्सर्ट होंगे, नदी में होने वाले इवेन्ट्स बैठकर देख सकेंगे और आराम कर सकेंगे तथा समय बिता सकेंगे।”

मंत्री ने बताया कि इस पैसे से नया मिशन रौड कार पार्क को सेमेंट किया जाएगा।

उन्होंने बताया कि बैठका के पास एक कैफे और वशरूम की भी व्यवस्था रहेगी।

“बो-हौल से राहत मिली”

वीरेंद्र लाल

यह कहना है लतीका कुमारी का जब सरकारी अधिकारी उस बो-हौल का दौरा करने गए जहाँ से कुमारी का परिवार पानी पीता है।

कुमारी अपने परिवार के साथ चार साल पहले माते एन्ड रौड से सलोवे, मलोलो नांदी बसने चली गई थी। उस वक्त उन्हें कुछ दूर से कुवाँ से पानी भरना पड़ता था और सूखे के मौसम में जब कुवाँ सूख जाता था, उन्हें सरकार ट्रकों में पानी बाँटती थी।

लेकिन यह सब बन्द हो गया जब पिछले साल सरकार ने वहाँ एक बो-हौल खोद दिया। रूरल एन्ड मेरिटाएम डिवेलपमेंट तथा डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमेंट मंत्रालय ने वहाँ दस हजार लिटर वाला एक बोटा टैंक बिठाया, हर एक घर तक पाएप बिठाया और ई एफ एल गिड से बिजली कोनेक्ट किया। इन कार्यों में सोलह हजार डॉलर से ज्यादा खर्च हुए।

इस योजना से वहाँ के नौ घर के लोगों को बिना कोई मुसिबत के नल का पानी मिलता है।

बो-हौल खोदने के लिए ललीता कुमारी ने सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया।

“हम बहुत खुश हैं क्योंकि हमें सुबह जल्द जागकर कुवाँ से पानी भरने नहीं जाना पड़ता है। सरकार ने हमारे बारे में सोचा और हमारी मदद की, इससे हम बेहद खुश हैं,” लतीका कुमारी ने कहा।



ऑस्ट्रेलिया में काम करने जा रहे फीजी के एक सौ बहत्तर युवा, मंत्री प्रवीन कुमार के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

फीजियन्स काम करने ऑस्ट्रेलिया जायेंगे

वीरेंद्र लाल

एक सौ बहत्तर (172) फीजियन्स आज ऑस्ट्रेलिया के लिए रवाना होंगे जहाँ वे फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच हुए बुवाले पार्टनशिप के तहत नौकरी करेंगे।

एमप्लोयमेंट, प्रोजेक्टविटी एन्ड इनडस्ट्रियल रिलीशन्स मंत्री प्रवीन कुमार ने बताया कि कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण कई फीजियन्स पर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ा है और चुनौति के इस समय में, विदेश जाकर काम करने का मौका मिलना, एक आशिर्वाद है।

पेसिफिक लईवा स्कीम वोकज़ के लिए प्रि-डिपॉजिट ऑरियन्टेशन के दौरान पी डी औ सेटिफिकेट्स प्रदान करते हुए मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि रीजनल वोकफोस मेनेजमेंट (RWM), जिस तरह से फीजी में विदेश काम करने जाने के लिए कर्मचारियों का चुनाव होता है, और फीजियन कर्मचारियों की कार्यक्षमता से बहुत प्रभावित है। उन्होंने बताया कि फीजियन कर्मचारियों के काम देखकर, विदेशी मज़दूर मालिक और फीजियन कर्मचारियों की माँग करते हैं। इस अवसर पर ऑस्ट्रेलिया की डेपुटी हाय कमिशनर सुश्री अना डोर्नी और एमप्लोयमेंट, प्रोजेक्टविटी एन्ड इनडस्ट्रियल रिलीशन्स मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव ओसेया द्वारू उपस्थित थे।



यूथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री प्रवीन कुमार नांदी में नवाका विलज में खेती करने वाले समान प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

खेती वाली योजना से युवकों की मदद की गई

वीरेंद्र लाल

एक हजार दो सौ सत्तर से ज्यादा (1,273) युवकों ने खेती वाली योजना से फायदा उठाया है।

इसकी पुष्टी यूथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री प्रवीन कुमार ने नांदी में नवाका विलज में खेती करने वाले समान प्रदान करते वक्त की।

“यह युवा लोग खेतों में फसले बोयेंगे और इन्हें बेचकर आमदनी

कमायेंगे।”

मंत्री ने बताया कि यूथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्रालय इस साल जुलाई से खेती करने के लिए रेजिस्टर्ड युथ क्लब्स को ग्रांट प्रदान कर रहा है।

“यह लोग सीखेंगे कि कैसे व्यापार किया जाता है और परिवार की देखभाल करने के लिए वे कैसे आमदनी कमा सकते हैं। पश्चिमी विभाग में खासकर नांदी

में कई लोग टुरिज़म पर निर्भर थे और कोविड-19 का सब से बुरा असर इस व्यवसाय पर पड़ा है”।

मंत्री कुमार ने बताया कि ज़मीन-मालिक इन युवकों को ज़मीन प्रदान कर रहे हैं और सरकार इन्हें बोटा टैंक्स, तार लगाने के सामान, शाक-सब्जी के बीज और खेती करने के लिए अन्य ज़रूरी सामान प्रदान करके इनकी मदद कर रही है।

“इस योजना का लक्ष्य है, फीजी के उन युवाओं की मदद करना, जिनकी नौकरी पर कोविड-19 महामारी से बुरा असर पड़ा है। उन लोगों की मदद की जाती है जिनकी नौकरी छूट गई है या जिनके काम करने के घण्टे काम हो गए हैं,” मंत्री ने कहा।

नांदी में छः युथ क्लब्स को सहायता प्रदान की गई है। अन्य इलाकों में भी मदद मिली है।

बतिरी का पुनः प्रवर्तन

वीरन्द्र लाल

सरकार यह देखना चाहती है कि लोगों का जीवन अच्छा रहे, उन्हें भोजन की सुरक्षा मिले और साथ साथ नौकरी भी उपलब्ध हो।

अटेनी जनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम फूड प्रोसेसिंग फीजी लिमिटेड के बतिरी औटलेट का दौरा करते वक्त बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने किसानों को बताया कि साथ मिलकर काम करने से केवल भोजन की सुरक्षा में सुधार होने में मदद नहीं मिलेगी बल्कि भोजन की स्थिति भी बनी रहेगी।

“बहुत लोग कोविड-19 के कारण अपनी नौकरी खो चुके हैं। सरकार ने उनकी मदद करने के लिए सौ मिलियन डोलर अलग किया है। सरकार फूड प्रोसेसिंग फीजी लिमिटेड जैसी कंपनियों में भी पूंजी लगा रही है। यह कंपनी सरकार की अपनी है लेकिन स्वतंत्र रूप से संचालन करती है, उसके खुद का बोर्ड है”।

अटेनी जनरल ने किसानों से फूड प्रोसेसिंग को अपने उत्पादन प्रदान करने की मांग की जबकि कंपनी पहले के मिलान में अच्छा करने लगी है।

जबकि फूड प्रोसेसिंग सरकार की अपनी कंपनी है, अई जी को कंपनी के सोला फार्मिंग प्रोजेक्ट पर रिपोर्ट दी गई।

उन्होंने बताया कि सरकार रि-नउअवल एनेजी की ओर भी बढ़ रही है।

फूड प्रोसेसिंग बोर्ड चेयामेन राज शर्मा ने बताया कि कंपनी अपने प्रोसेसिंग प्लांट्स और सिट्रस जूस मशीन्स का भी फिर से संचालन करना चाहती है।

“हम ट्रैक्टर और अन्य मशीन्स वापस खेतों में उतारना चाहते हैं”।

श्री शर्मा ने कंपनी का समर्थन करने के लिए सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया। उन्होंने बताया कि दुरूका के उत्पादन में वे और पूंजी लगाना चाहते हैं जहाँ से ज्यादा आमदनी होने का अनुमान है।

अटेनी जनरल ने किसानों के साथ कई अन्य विषयों पर बात-चीत की।

उन्होंने एक ट्रैक्टर हेन्ड-ओवा किया और दुरूका फार्म का उद्घाटन किया।

अटेनी जनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम, व्यापार मंत्री फईयाज़ कोया तथा सहायक मंत्री एल्विक महाराज स्टेन्डाडाईज़ड रौडसाईड स्टोल्स इनिशियेटिव के तहत विक्रेताओं को स्टोल प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

यह जानना ज़रूरी कि बच्चे इनटानेट पर क्या देखते हैं

वीरन्द्र लाल

शिक्षा मंत्री रौज़ी अक्वर ने माता-पिताओं से यह जानने की मांग की है कि बच्चे इनटानेट पर क्या देखते हैं।

नांदी में पिछले सप्ताह

कोन्सेवटोरियम ओफ डेन्स के शिक्षा समापन समारोह में बोलती हुई मंत्री ने कहा कि बदलते समय को ध्यान में रखते हुए यह जानना ज़रूरी है कि बच्चे इनटानेट पर क्या देखते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि सोशल मिडिया लोगों के खासकर बच्चों के जीवन पर बहुत असर कर रहा है।

शिक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि बच्चे ज्यादातर समय स्कूल में बिताते हैं लेकिन माता-पिताओं को जानना चाहिए कि स्कूल के बाहर बच्चे क्या करते हैं।

“बहुत कुछ होता है जिनसे हमारे बच्चों पर असर पड़ता है और जब वे इनटानेट काम में लाते हैं, उनपर नज़र रखने की ज़रूरत है। हमें अपने बच्चों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करना चाहिए। क्या हम पता करते हैं कि वे किस वेबसाइट पर जाते हैं? क्या हम जानते हैं कि वे मोबाईल पर किससे बात करते हैं?”

मंत्री अक्वर ने माता-पिताओं से इसपर पुनः गौर करने के मांग की कि किस तरह से हम अपने बच्चों की देख-भाल करते हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि माता-पिताओं को यह जानना चाहिए कि उनके बच्चे क्या करते हैं और किन लोगों से मिलते जुलते हैं। मंत्री ने नए ग्रेजुवट्स से अन्य युवा फीजियन्स को प्रोत्साहित करने की मांग की और नौकरी उपलब्ध करने को कहा।

“हमें अपने बच्चों की सुरक्षा करने की ज़रूरत है,” शिक्षा मंत्री ने कहा। इस दौरान मंत्री ने नए ग्रेजुवट्स को सर्टिफिकेट भी प्रदान किया।



शिक्षा मंत्री रौज़ी अक्वर कोन्सेवटोरियम ओफ डेन्स के शिक्षा समापन समारोह के दौरान भाषण करती हुई चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



उत्तरी विभाग में सड़क के किनारे स्टोल

वीरन्द्र लाल

सड़क के किनारे स्टोल बनाकर सामान बेचकर कई लोग अपनी जी-विका चलते हैं और स्थानिए अर्थ-व्यवस्था में योगदान देते हैं।

कोमेस, ट्रैड, टुरिज़म एन्ड ट्रांसपोर्ट मंत्री फईयाज़ कोया ने उत्तरी विभाग में उन्नीस विक्रेताओं से मुलाकात की जिन्हें सड़क के किनारे स्टोल रखने के लिए लीस अग्रीमेंट्स, दिए गए हैं।

मंत्री कोया, अटेनी जनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम के साथ उत्तरी विभाग के दौरे पर थे जब उन्होंने इन विक्रेताओं से मुलाकात की और उनके अनुभव के बारे में जानकारी हासिल की।

उन्नीस में से एक लीस अग्रीमेंट किसी और को दिया गया है जबकि अट्टारह अग्रीमेंट रिनउ किए गए हैं। यह योजना दो हजार अट्टारह में

शुरू की गई थी जब प्रधान मंत्री वीरिन्गे वडिनमारामा ने बीस सेमि-पेमानेंट स्टोल्स और दस पोटाबल वेन्डा स्टोल्स लोगों को हेन्ड-ओवा किया था। उन्होंने कहा था कि यह केवल शुरुआत है और हर साल स्टोल्स की संख्या बढ़ने की आशा की जा रही है।

सरकार, स्टेन्डाडाईज़ड रौडसाईड स्टोल्स इनिशियेटिव (Stan-

dardised Roadside Stalls initiative) के तहत, शहरी इलाकों से बाहर और ग्रामीण इलाकों में लोगों को सड़कों के किनारे अपने सामान और उत्पादन बेचने का मौका प्रदान करती है।

इन दो सालों में देश के विभिन्न इलाकों में एक सौ एक स्टोल्स हो गए हैं।

मंत्रालय ने एक विज्ञापन के ज़रिए, फीजियन व्यापारियों, संस्थाओं और

लोगों से एक पब्लिक-प्रायवट पाटनाशिप में होकर सड़कों के किनारे स्टोल्स में पैसे लगाने की मांग की है जिससे आम लोगों के विकास में मदद मिले।

सड़कों के किनारे स्टोल्स स्पॉन्सा करने के लिए, पब्लिक-प्रायवट पाटनाशिप पर और जानकारी आप मंत्रालय के वेब-साइट www.mctt.gov.fj से हासिल कर सकते हैं।

फीजी दर्पण

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2020 | 8 PAGES | ISSUE 18

| WWW.FIJI.GOV.FJ

@FijianGovt Fijian Government



फीजी राईस ने नया वेयरहाउस खोला

रोनल देव

कोविड-19 महामारी के आने के बाद से भोजन की सुरक्षा और भी ज़रूरी हो गई है जबकि इस महामारी ने लोगों को आत्मनिर्भर होना सिखाया है। ड्रेकेंती में फीजी राईस के नया वेयरहाउस का उद्घाटन करते हुए अटेनी जनरल ने ड्रेकेंती के धान के किसानों को यह संदेश देते हुए कहा कि यही एक कारण है कि क्यों सरकार ने न केवल कृषि क्षेत्र के लिए इस राष्ट्रीय बजट में पैसे अलग किए हैं बल्कि उसमें वृद्धि भी की है।

उनके अनुसार फीजी में जितना चावल उत्पादित होता है उससे कहीं ज़्यादा बाहर से माँगा जाता है क्योंकि फीजी के हर घर में लोग चावल खाते हैं।

“स्थानीय उत्पादनकर्ताओं के लिए यह एक अवसर है तथा सरकार फीजी राईस के साथ मिलकर काम कर रही है ताकि फीजी राईस की सफलता का ध्यान रखा जाए।”

राष्ट्रीय बजट में सरकार ने आठ लाख डॉलर अलग किया है जो किसानों को सीधे उनके धान के लिए भरे जाएंगे।

फीजी राईस के चेयरमैन, राज शर्मा ने बताया कि पिछले दो सालों से धान के किसान अपना उत्पादन रखने के लिए जगह की माँग कर रहे थे तथा सरकार की एक लाख डॉलर की सहायता से कम्पनी यह वेयरहाउस बनाने में सफल रही।

“पिछले आठ सालों में सरकार ने ग्रांट सब्सिडी के रूप में पाँच दशमलव दो मिलियन डॉलर दिया है जो किसानों से धान खरीदने में खर्च हुआ है। इसके अलावा सरकार ने कैपिटल ग्रांट के रूप में फीजी राईस को छः लाख अस्सी हजार डॉलर से ज़्यादा दिया है तथा संसाधनों में एक दशमलव पाँच मिलियन डॉलर लागत सुधारकार्य किया गया है,” शर्मा ने कहा।

इस मौके पर फीजी राईस ने हर्डिच एफ सी बेन्क के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किया जिससे बेन्क किसानों को तीन हजार से दस हजार डॉलर तक कर्ज़, पाँच प्रतिशत ब्याज पर देगा।

फीजी डिवेलपमन्ट बेन्क भी किसानों को सहायता प्रदान कर रहा है तथा अटेनी जनरल ने इन बेन्कों की प्रशंसा करते हुए कहा कि अगर इनके द्वारा दिए गए कर्ज़ पर छानबीन की जाए तो पता चलेगा कि कृषि क्षेत्र को हमेशा अनदेखा किया गया है।

“यह देखकर अच्छा लग रहा है कि फीजी का एक व्यापारिक बेन्क किसानों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहा है।”

अटेनी जनरल ने फीजी राईस को एक सर्टिफिकेट से सम्मानित भी किया जबकि सरकार की स्ट्रोंगा ट्रोगेदर जोब सपोर्ट स्कीम के तहत कम्पनी ने एक व्यक्ति को नौकरी दी।



अटेनी जनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अर्इयाज़ सईयद खईयूम, धान के एक किसान को सर्टिफिकेट प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

Noda Viti



E ratou marautaka toka na soqo ni vakawaqa cina ko iratou na ilala goneyalewa oqo ena kena marautaki ka vakananumi tiko na Diwali ena macawa sa oti. iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN

Soqo ni cina rarama me seavu kina na butobuto: PM

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA vakadeitaka e Viti raraba na turaga na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni soqo ni kena marautaki na Cina Rarama se na Diwali e vakananumi keda ni kauta mai na rarama me seavu kna na butobuto. “Meda vakananumi talega kina ni

dodonu me qaqa tikoga na vinaka ka lusi tikoga na tevoro. Na kilaka me kauta laivi na lecaika, baleta ni oqo na yavu e ra yavutaki kina na veivanua era sa cavuisausau tio e vuravura edaidai.” Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni Diwali e kacivi keda meda vaqacotaka na keda isema ka vakadeitaka tale na noda yalodina kina noda matavuvale, noda veitokani, noda

vakanuinui vinaka, kei na veimataka rarama ni noda vanua. “E na loma ni dua na yabaki e tarai keda mai kina na butobuto ni mate – ni matetaka na Covid-19 – o Viti sa cina serau ni kawa tamata.” “Na ivakarau ni noda vakayagataka na iwalewale vaka sainisi me sotavi kina na matetaka oqo e ku-nei ni da teki isausau tale kina na noda kilaka.”

“E na Diwali oqo era taqomaki vinaka kina na noda lewenivanua. E ra taqomaki vinaka baleta ni ra vakayagataka na rarama mera soli bula kina ka dei kina nodra veimaliwai vaka lewenivanua ka cakacaka vata kina dua na inaki e vinaka raraba vei keda,” kaya o PM Bainimarama. “Na veiqaravi oqo e doka vaka-levu na noda Matanitu ka dodonu

meda cibitaka.” “E da veikauwaitaki dina, sai koya sara oqo na ivakadinadina ni rarama kei na vinaka.” “Na noda Yavu ni Vakavulewa e vakadeitaka na galala ni nodra dui qarava nodra dui vakabauta vakalotu na noda lewenivanua kara galala mai na veivakaduiduitaka.”

Laveti na itagede ni valuti ni draki veisau

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA laveti cake tale na itagede ni valuti ni draki veisau ena yasana ko Kadavu. Oqo ni oti na nodra laki dolava edua na bai ni ua vou mai Namuana na matanitu ka tiko na kena isau ena \$600,000. Na veivakatorocaketaki oqo e oka kina edua na 150 na meter na geo-systemic sand bag kei na 100 na meter na boulder protection E vakaraitaka na liuliu ni matanitu, ko

Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni teki-vu mai na yabaki 2014, sa sovaraka kina na Matanitu e \$5na milioni me vukea na taqomaki ni 2200 na kilometer na veiyanyanu lalai ena noda vanua. “Ni kua e Namuana, esa mai laveta cake tale na matanitu na sasaga ni valuti ni draki veisau oqo ka vukea talega kina na sasaga na yasana ko Kadavu,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama. Na bai ni ua oqo e Namuana ena vukea na kena valuti na draki me vaka nida kila ni sa veiveisau vakatotolo tikoga ka vakareveva-

ki na kena revurevu ena veiyasai vuravura wilikina na Pasivika. Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni ko Viti ena latia rawa na revurevu ni draki veisau oqo me vaka nida kila nida sa yadrayadrayaki tiko kina ka sa da veisemati tiko kina ena kena laveti ni noda veiqaravi vakamatani ka semati yani ena nodra bula ena veisiga na veikoro. Oqori na nodra vosa ni veivakayaloqaqatani ena nodra laki dolava na nodra bai ni ua vou. “O Viti e tiko ena muailiu ni veisau ca sara

ni draki. Na cagilaba esa qai ca tikoga, na vula balavu, na katakata ni uca, kei na wasawasa sa tubu cake tiko me matataka na veivakarerei levu duadua eda se qai sotava oti me vaka e dua na vanua kei na kena eke ena baravi kei Kadavu ena koro o Namuana, na encroaching tides e sa vakavurea e dua na isau bibi, “a kaya ko PM “Ia ni sa mai vakatovolei na noda yalava ena revurevu ni draki, ena sega ni voroki.” A tomana “ni da tara tale e dua na ivakarau ni bula kaukauwa; eda tara cake e dua na kaukauwa cake ka taqomaki Viti.



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena soqo ni veivakananumi ni nodra bula na sotia ena veiyasai vuravura.

‘Kua ni guilecavi ira’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

Esivia na drau na lewenivanua oka kina na turaga na Peresitedi ni noda vanua o Jioji Konusi Konrote, na turaga Paraiminisita o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, o ira na sotia vakacegu, o ira na dui wekadra na sotia era a bale mate ena ivalu era sinaita yani na ivakananumi ni ivalu mai Nasese ena Remembrance Day sena Siga ni Vak-anumi ni Bale mate ena iValu.

Kaya ena nona itukutuku me baleta na Siga ni Vananumi ni Bale mate ena iValu na turaga na iliuliu ni noda matanitu PM Bainimarama ni sa rui bibi meda dau vakanuma na siga oya ena yalo e lokomi kei yalo e veidokai.

“Sa bibi kina meda tokara tiko na ivakatak-ilakila ni senikau na Popi ka bula vakalevu ena buca ni ivalu mai Flanders, na vanua era bale mate kina e levu cauravou sotia ena ivalu levu.”

“Sa bibi gona kina meda vakananuma tiko e veigauna na siga oqo o keda kece na lewenivanua oqo baleta na nodra soli bula ena ivalu na noda sotia,”kaya o PM Bainimarama. vakaibalebale cake sara vakalevu ni vakatauvatani kei na kedra ivakananumi eda dau tara.

“Au nanuma ni noda vakananumi ira vata vakaqo, ena yalo lokomi kei na vakarokoroko kei na ivakarau ni veidokai eda matanataka kei na noda masu,kei na ivakatakilakila eda

tokara era bula kina e utoda na cauravou eda vakananumi ira tiko oqo.”

“E ra dusimaka edua na ivakarau ni bula era sa vakadadamuria tiko ena gauna oqo na sotia ni Viti ena npdra rogo kaci ni ivalu kei na veisututaki ena loma ni 102 na yabaki sa sivi me tekivu mai na gauna e tekivu vakananumi kina na siga bibi oqo ena ika 11 ni siga keina 11 na kaloko ena 1918.”

Na Remembrance Day se Siga ni Vak-anumi ni Bale mate ena iValu e kilai talega me siga ni senikau damudamu na Popi, era dau vakanumi kina na cauravou sotia era soli bula ena ivalu ena veimatanitu qali ena dua na gauna ki Pereitania.



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na gonevuli e Mahatma Gandhi Memorial High School. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Vakamatanitutaki na vale ni vuli vou e MGM

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA laki vakamatanitutaki na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama edua na vale ni vuli vou ni koronivuli na Mahatma Gandhi Memorial High School.

Vakaraitaka kina ko PM Bainimarama ni tagede ni vuli ni noda gonevuli ena vakatautaki ena itagede vinaka eda soli vei ira. Oqo mai na nodra tuberi, vakasalataki

ka vakarautaki ena veiqaravi ni nodra vuli. E kuria ko PM Bainimarama ni ko ira na gone era na rawa ni ciqoma vakarawarawa na veitavulivi kece e vinaka se ca ka bibi cake na nodra tuberi vinaka mai vale ni bera ni ra mai vakata-vulivi ena koronivuli.

“O ira na qasenivuli era vakata-vulici ira na gone na lesoni ena nodra vosa kei na veidusimaki ena veimataqali tabana ni vuli era

gadrevu na gone,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Ia era na ciqoma na nodra vakatavuvuli na gonevuli ka vakabibi ena nodra itovo kei na yaga ni nodra vakatavuvuli me vaka talega mai vale ni oqo na vanua e tekivu kina na nodra vuli.”

Vakavinakataka na koronivuli kei iratou na komiti ena nodratou sasaga ka dusimaki ena vakavu-vuli nei Gandhi edua ka tutaka

vakalevu na vuli ena nodra gauna ni veiliutaki kei na nodra yalo vinaka ka raiyawa.

Era vakavinakataka talega na soqosoqo ni vuli na Gujarat ena sasaga ni nodra laveta cake na veiqaravi ni vuli ena noda vanua.

Vakaraitaka na nodra liuliu ni qase ni bure ko Lavenia Tiare ni valenivuli vou oqo ena vukei ira mera tosocaketale nodra qaravi vuli.

Sasaga na kena vakaqacotaki na itabagone

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA matanitu esa tu vakarau me tokona tikoga na nodra vakaqacotaki na itabagone ena noda vanua ena veitabana ni veiqaravi kece sara.

Nodra veisiko ki na yanuyanuci yawa ko Rotuma na Minisita ni Itabagone kei na Qito Praveen Kumar, era vakaraitak kina ni matanitu ena tomana tikoga na nodra veiqaravi baleta na nodra bula vinaka ka vakarautaki vinaka na itabagone ena veitabana ni nodra bula mera rawa ni vakaqacotaka talega kina na veiqaravi ni matanitu ena veigauna satu eliu.

Oqori ena kena laveti cake na rawaka vakailavo kei na vakatubuilavo ni matanitu ka me rawa ni valuti kina na dravudravua ka vakatauvatani kina na bula yadua ni lewenivanua.

Era laki sogota na nodra vuli na itabagone mai Rotuma na Minisita ka yavutaki ena ulutaga na Tiko Bulabula kei na Tiko Vinaka ka vakakina ena nodra kila ni maroro ilavo kei na iyau.

Era laki solia talega na nodra iyaya ni veiqaravi ena itetei e ono na soqosoqo ni itabagone mai keya ena Losa Youth Club, Itumuta Youth Club, Hapmafau Youth Club, Motusa Youth Club, Hapmak Youth Club kei Oinafa Youth Club.

“Na sasaga oqo ena vukei ko ira na itabagone me ra teivaka na qele ka vakayagataka me ra rawa ka kina vakailavo,” kaya ko Minisita.

Era lewe 100 kece na lewenivanua era na vukei mai ena sasaga ni matanitu ka liutaka na Minisitiri ni iTabagone.

Oira na qasenivuli era vakatavulici ira na gone na lesoni ena nodra vosa kei na veidusimaki ena veimataqali tabana ni vuli era gadrevu na gone. Ia era na ciqoma na nodra vakatavuvuli na gonevuli ka vakabibi ena nodra itovo kei na yaga ni nodra vakatavuvuli me vaka talega mai vale ni oqo na vanua e tekivu kina na nodra vuli.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Paraiminisita



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira nai vakalesilesi kei na gonevuli e Ratu Kadavulevu School.

‘Ni gumatua ena vuli’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NI yalovinaka, kakua ni vakayagataka na nomu veisiga ni vuli me dauveivala se vaka gonevuli talaideredre. Kua ni wasea na nomu gauna ena raici ira sobu na tani.

Oqori evica na mala ni vosa nodra na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra laki vosa ena dua boseka ena koronivuli ni veivakarautaki o Ratu Kadavulevu mai Lodonu Tailevu

“Ni kakua ni vakayagataka nomu gauna ena rai niko vinaka cake mai vua na nomui toka-

ni baleta na vuvala beka iko sucu mai kina,” kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

“E gadrevi iko na nomu matanitu mo na lewenivanua vinaka.”

“O ni gonevuli ni dua na koronivuli torocake ka tiko na kena itukutuku ni rawaka levu. Na veika yaga o bula tiko kina vakalesui mai na kena irogorogo vinaka ena itikitiko ni veivakarautaki oqo, era na vakananumi na nomu matavuvale, kei na nomu itikitiko.”

Vakadreti ira na gonevuli na liuliu ni matanitu mera vakaukauwa.

“Kevaka o vakamura tiko na yavunibula cecere, kevaka o cakacaka vakaukauwa ka

vakayagataka na madigi sa tu matamu, o kemuni yadua – vata kei ira na gonevuli kece mai na vekoronivuli kece ena noda vanua – sa tiko kina na vakanuini e cake sara ni kemuni edua na kawa tamata cerecere sara ena noda vanua,” kaya ko okoya.

“Nikua o ni gonevuli. Ia ena dua na siga o ni sa na tagane ni RKS. Veitalia na ka o cakava ena nomu bula, sa rawa mo kila ni ko na vinaka cake mai na nomu vulica mai vei ira na qasenivuli vinaka duadua, ka na levu cake na nomu rawa-ka ena dua na isoqosoqo ni bula rawati koya.”

Gadrevi me vukei kemuni na Matanitu

VILIAME TIKOTANI

E gadrevi na nomuni matanitu me vukei kemuni na lewenivanua mo ni rawata na nomuni bula ka me vakarautaka vei kemuni na bula ni rawaka lewa matau, taqomaki kina na kakana, ka vaka kina na kena vakarautaki ka buli eso na ivurevure ni rawaka vakailavo vinaka.

Vakaraitaka na Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ni oqori na vuna levu edau vukea kina na kabani na matanitu me vaka na Food Processors Fiji Limited baleta ni ra levu kina na tamata cakacaka ka levu talega na vanua ena rawa ni vukei ira kina na lewenivanua. Vakadreti ira kina na dauteitei ena sitoa ni Fiji Food processors mai Batiri na Vunilawa mera cakacaka vat aka mera vukea na kena taqomaki na kakana ena noda vanua ka vaka kina na kena vakayagataka lewa matau.

“E vuqa na lewenivanua era sa vakayalia na nodra cakacaka baleta na COVID-19, ia ni sa vukea tiko na matanitu na nodra bula ena ilavo e \$100miloni, na matanitu esa vakatubuilavo talega ena kabani me vaka na Food Processors Fiji Limited me vaka ni itaukena e 100 na pasede na matanitu ia era manidiataka edua na nodra matabose ka galala mai na matanitu,” kaya ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

Vaka uqeti ira na Minisita mera dau tokona talega na kabana me vaka ni oqo edua na bisinisi ka totolo sara na kena vakalesui se tubuilavo ena loma ni vica na yabaki sa oti ka sa tubu tikoga.

Era laki ciqoma na Vunilawa na nodra ripote ni kabani me baleta na nodra vakayagataka na solar me vukei ira ena teivaka ka kakana.

Kuria na Vunilawa ni dina ni o Viti esega soti ni kaburaka vakalevu na kasi gaga ena maliwa lala ia esa vakaraica talega evica na katuba ni rawati ni kaukauwa ni livaliva vure mai yaubula savasava me vaka na solar.

Vakaraitaka na jeameni ni Food Processors, Raj Sharma ni ratou namaka me tekivu tale na nodratou loba na moli mai Batiri me vaka nidua na ivoli vinaka tiko vei ratou.

“Sa keitou veivuke iko oqo ena kena vakaiyayataka na teitei oqo ena kena misini, lori kei na veika e ganita.”

Vakaraitaka ko Raj na nodra vakavinaka kivua na matanitu ena kena veisautaki na nodra dinau me wili vaka sea ka rawa ni vakatubuilavo taleyani ena so na bisinisi vou me vaka na teivaki kei na tawaitinitaki ni duruka

Laki solia talega na Vunilawa edua na tractor vou ni teitei duruka

Era rawa ni vakabulaivo kina na matanitu.



Na Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito Praveen Kumar kei ira na itabagone e Navola.

Udolu na itabagone era sa vukei ena teitei

VILIAME TIKOTANI

Era lewe 1273 na itabagone era sa vukei ena porokaramu ni teitei ka vakatokai Youth Farm Initiative Project.

Vakadeitaka na itukutuku oqo na Minisita ni iTabagone kei na qito o Parveen Kumar ena non alai solia tiko na iyaya ni teitei mera vukei kina na itabagone

mai Nawaka e Nadi ena macawa sa oti.

“Sa na rawa vei ira na itabagone oqo mera rawa ilavo ena kena volitaki na ka era tea,” kaya o Minisita Kumar.

Me tekivu ena Jiulai ni yabaki oqo sa soli iyaya ni teitei tiko kina vei ira na itabagone na Tabacacacaka ni iTabagone me vukea nodra iteitei.

“Era na vulica na cicivaki ni nodra bisinisi ke vukea nodra vuvala – baleta ni levu vei ira qo era dau vei qaravi tu e liu ena tabana ni saravanua.”

Era veitokoni na itaukei ni qele ena project oqo ena kena soli na qele ni teitei ka qai solia na Matanitu na iyaya ni teitei vakakina na itei na bai na taqe ni wai keina vuqa tale na iyaya ni teitei .

“Na inaki ni project oqo me vukei ira na itabagone era sa vakayalia nodra cakacaka ena vuku ni COVID-19.”

Na 6 na isoqosoqo ni itabagone era vukei oqo mai Nadi oka kina na Yavusa Nadi Youth club, Bajinareba Youth Club, Ilovaravara Youth Club, Israel Light Youth Club, Yaboyabonia Youth Club, kei na Nacavacola Youth Club.



Sikova na vanua o Nacolase ko PM Bainimarama

ERA laki sikova na yasana vakaturaga ni vanua o Nacolase e Kadavu na ililuli ni matanitu, Paraminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ka laki dolava kina e vica na veivakatorocaketaki ni matanitu me vaka na bai ni ua mai Namuana, vakamatanitutaki ni veivakavaletaki mai Narikoso ka Dolavi ka tikotiko ni matanitu e Kavala.

"E lailai mai na 100 na kilomita na veiyawaki ni vanua o Kavala mai na taoni levu o Suva. Ia, na waitui-bula e toka e na kedrau maliwa e tautauvata ga na bula ni wasawasa levu na Pasivika. Sa vinaka sara na veivakatorocake-taki sa qaravi tiko e Suva, ia e Kavala kei na le

vu tale na vanua e Kadavu era sega soti ni vakila na vinaka ni veiqaravi oqori," kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni sega ni vakabauta ni dodonu meda vakuwai mai na veiqaravi eso e na vuku ni veiyawaki ni yanuyanu.

"E sega talega ni dodonu moni gole yani kina tauni lelevu -- moni vodo waqa, ka laki tiko vei ira na wekamuni e Viti Levu, me rawa ni oni qaravi kina vaka-matanitu. Au sega ni vakabauta ni itikotiko ni Matanitu e Vunisea e na rawa ni qaravi kemuni kece e Kadavu, vakabibi na i ka 4 ni yanuyanu levu e na noda vanua. Oqori na vuna e vaka-





Vesiko ko Vunilawa ena Vualiku



Ko Vunilawa Sayed-Khaiyum ena nodra veisiko ena Vualiku. iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA visiko voli ena vualiku ni noda vanua na Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum mera laki dikeva na veivakatorocaketaki eso ka qarava tiko na matanitu.

Ena gauna oqo e tolu na veiqaravi lelevu ka vakayacora tiko na matanitu eratou wilikina na Wainikoro Government Station, Fiji Barefoot College kei na kena vakavou na Golden Age Home

mai Labasa.

Eratou qarava tiko na tabana ni Construction Implementation Unit(CIU) na kena manidiataki na cicivaki ni veivakatorocaketaki oqo me vaka nira vakarurugu ena Minisitiri ni Veika ni Vakaturubulo ni matanitu.

Era laki dikeva ka rogoca talega eso na italanoa baleta na veika esa vakayacori tiko ka vaka kina eso na bolebole kei na gagadre ni veiqaravi.



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei na mata ni matanitu ko Jaina ko Qian Bo ena soqo ni kena marautaki na yabaki 45 ni veiwekani ni matanitu e rua.

Lagiti na 45 na yabaki ni veiwekani kei Jaina

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA laki tiko ena soqo ni marautaki ni yabaki 45 ni veiwekani nei Viti kei Jaina na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama.

Oqo edua na gauna marautaki vei rau na matanitu erua me vaka ni sa balavu sara na nodra bukia na isema ni veiwekani ka tekevutaki mai na yabaki 1975. Era tauyavutaka nodra valenivolavola ni mata na vanua ko Jaina ena noda vanua ena yabaki 1976 ka dolava ko Viti na nona va-

lenivolavola ni mata mai Jaina ena yabaki 2001.

Vakaraitaka na Vunivola Tudei ni Valenivolavola ni Veika ni Vanua tani ko Yogesh Karan ni donu meda vakila ka maruataka na noda isema ni veiwekani na matanitu erua ni oti oqo e 45 na yabaki me vaka ni qaqaco vinaka tu.

“Na vanua eda vakadeitaki keda kina oya ena veirokovi vakamatani vakakawatamata kei na veitokoni,” kaya ko Karan.

Vakaraitaka ko Karan ni o Jaina edua na matanitu ka tokona sara

vakalevu na noda cavuikalawa vakamatani ena veivakatorocaketaki lewa matau ka vukei kina na bula ni lewenivanua ena veisiga.

Erau qai marautaka vata ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama kei na Mata ni Vanua ko Jaina ena noda vanua ko Qian Bo ena soqo oqo ena kena musu edua na keke ni vakananumi ni veiwekani.

Era lewana talega na soqo oqo na ivakalesilesi mai na valenivolavola ni veika ni vanua tani kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni valenivolavola ni mata nei Jaina i Viti.



Na Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito Praveen Kumar kei ira na gonevuli ena koronivuli ni gone sega ni taucoko na ituvaki ni yagodra e Lautoka Special School.

Laveti na sasaga ni matanitu me baleti ira na luveda

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA laveta cake tale na Minisita ni Itabagone kei na Qito, Parveen Kumar na sasaga ni matanitu ko Viti me baleta na nodra bula na luveda era sega tu vinaka na nodra bula, ena

ituvaki ni yagodra.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Kumar ni matanitu edau tutaka vakalevu na vuli ni noda lewenivanua ka vakauasivi oira na luveda era dau sotatava na dredre ni nodra bulabula.

Solia kina na matanitu edua na iwase ni lavo vinaka me baleta na veiqaravi ena vuli ka dua tale vei ira na votavota levu ena tuvatuva ni matanitu.

Era laki vulagi dokai na Minisita ena soqo ni yabaki 50 ni nodra veiqaravi na koronivuli ni veivakarautaki ena Lautoka Special School ka vakaraitaka kina ko

koya ni veivuke ni matanitu ena tabana ni vuli oqo esa tokoni sara-tiko vakalevu.

“Ena wase 42 ni noda Yavu ni Vakavulewa kei na kena vakalawataki ena 2018 na kena taqomaki na nodra dodonu kei na gagadre na tamata kei na lewenivanua e sega ni taucoko na ituvaki ni yagodra

Na koronivuli oqo ena Lautoka Special School era tauyavutaki ena yabaki 1970 mai vua na isoqosoqo ni Gone Lokiloki ena noda vanua.

Era laki vulagi dokai na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena soqo oqo ka ku-

Ciqomi na metali ni yabaki 50



Ko Peresidedi Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote kei ira na vuvale ni sotia e Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Nabua.

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA soqovaka na mara- ma kei na turaga era veiqaravi ena cakacaka ni taqomaki ni noda vanua na yabaki 50 ni tugalala ni vanua o Viti. Oqori ena kena laki solia na Peresidedi Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote na nodra metali ni vakananumi ni yabaki 50 e 133 na ivakalesilesi marama kei na turaga ni noda mataivalu. Vakayacori na soqo ena keba ni mataivalu mai Delainabua.

Vakaraitaka ko Peresidedi Konrote ena nodra vosa vei ira na ivakalesilesi oqo ni sa vakamawe na veiqaravi nei Viti ena veiqaravi ni veisaututaki ka ra vakaitavi kina na mataivalu. Era sa vakadreti ira na turaga Peresidedi na leweni mataivalu ena gauna nikua mera maroroya vinaka na irogorogo vinaka kei na tagede

ni vanua sa yacova ko Viti ena vuravura ni veiqaravi ena veitaqomaki.

“Au marautaka me vaka na nomuni Peresidedi ka Chancellor ni Order of Fiji meu mai tiko ena soqo nikua meu mai marautaka vata kei kemuni na nomuni rawaka vinaka ena vukui Viti. Oqo ni oti vinaka edua na vula na kena mai marautaki na soqo ni yabaki 50 ni noda vanua meu mai solia kina na nomuni metali ni vakananumi na lewenivanua ni veiqaravi ena mataivalu,”kaya ko Peresidedi Konrote.

Vakaraitaka ko Peresidedi Konrote ni vakaraitaka ko Viti ena vuravura ni okeda eda tamata rawaka vinaka ka sega ni dau vakasuka, eda tamata qaga ka dau veikauwaitaki talega. Eda qarava na Kalou Levu ka namaka meda na tosocake tale ena loma ni 50 na yabaki sa tu e matada.



Era taba tiko oqo na dauteitei ni dovū. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Na veiqaravi ni tabana ni vakadidike ni suka

NA itavi ni Tabana ni Vakadidike baleta na Suka (Dovu) se Sugar Research Institute of Fiji.

Veitalanoa na Voqa ni Davui na porokaramu ni walesi ni Tabacacaka ni iTukutuku kei na vakaillesilesi ni Tabana ni ni Vakadidike baleta na Suka e na vale ni volavola ena Mua-i-Ra o Ilisoni Vorelevu me vakamacalataka mada na itavi ni Tabana ni Vadidike baleta na Suka e Viti ka kilai me Sugar Research Instute of Fiji (SRIF).

Mo wilika sara mada yani ena noda niusive-va ni Matanitu na itaukei na 'Noda Viti'.

Taro: Ni vakamacalataka mada na itukutu makawa ni kena tauyavutaki na Tabana ni Vakadidike ni Suka (Dovu) ka kilai na Sugar Research Institute of Fiji (SRIF)

Vorelevu: A mai tauyavutaki na Tabana ni Vakadidike ni Suka (Dovu) ena yabaki 2006 ni oti na kena vakadonui ena Palimedi ena ika 22 ni Seviteba ena 2005.

Taro: Kena ibalebale e Tabana vou?

Vorelevu: Sega na Tabana oqo eliu e dau tiki tu ga mai ni kabani levu ni Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC). Ena 2006 sa qai tawase kina me sa cici ga me sa dua ga na Institution vakataki koya.

Taro: Na cava sara mada na inaki ni kena tauyavutaki na Tabana ni Vakadidike oqo?

Vorelevu: Na inaki ga ni kena tauyavutaki na Tabana ni Vakadidike oqo sai koya na vakasokomuni ni so na itukutuku me rawa ni vakavinakataka cake noda rawaka na dau teidovu kei na rawa tubu kei na kena vakayagataki talega eso na iwalewale ni tei dovū me rawa ni kauta mai vakalevu vei ira na dau teidovu na tubu sena veika eso era vinakata.

Taro: Ni vakamacalataka yadudua mada na itavi duidui eso dou dau vakaitavitaki kemudou kina na SRIF?

Vorelevu: E 5 tiko na iwasese duidui ni veiqaravi ni SRIF. Kena imatai ga na Crop Improvement se na kena vakavinakataka ni

itei sa koto ena gauna oqo. Qoka e wili kina na kena bucini eso tale na ite ni dovū vou.

Ena gauna madaga oqo sa yacova tiko na 19 na kawa ni dovū vou e Viti sa bucina rawa ni SRIF. Na ka levu ga e qaravi tiko na kena laurai e dua na kawa ni dovū vou e vinaka cake mai na kena era tiko ena gauna oqo.

Baleta na veika e kauta mai na Draki Veisau sa levu talega na veisau e kauta mai me vaka na mate ni dovū ka vakavuna na kena lutu tikoga mai na

Na inaki gone ni Crop Improvement sai koya me rawa ni bucina eso na kawa ni dovū vou me rawa ni vorata na veika eso e kauta mai na Draki Veisau sada sotava tiko ena gauna oqo.

Taro: Na cava na ika 2 ni nomudou itavi na SRIF?

Vorelevu: Na ikarua ni neitou itavi na Crop Management ena kena sagai ma qarauni na ite ni dovū. Koya oqo e lako mai kina na ivakasala se mataqali ivakabulabula ni qele cava mera vakayagataka o ira na dau teitei. Dau lai kau main a sabolo ni nodra qele kei na sabolo ni nodra dovū qai mai dikevi me kilai kina se mataqali vakabulabula ni qele cava e ganita. Me rawa kina ni levu na ka era rawata mai.

Taro: Na cava na ika 3 ni itavi ni SRIF?

Vorelevu: Na ika 3 ni neitou itavi e vakatokai na Crop Production se na kena maroroi na dovū. O iratou qo eratou raica na kena dikevi na veimate eso e rawa ni curuma na dovū sena veimanumanu vuka eso ka rawa nira vakacacana na veidovu. Era dau vakasalataki kina na dau teidovu ena veika eso mera cakava me rawa kina nira vorata na veika e kauta tiko mai na Draki Veisau sada sotava tiko ena gauna ni kua.

Taro: Na cava na ika 4 ni itavi ni Tabana ni Vakadidike oqo?

Vorelevu: Na ika 4 ni netou itavi e vakatokai tiko na Outsource se na kena vakateitei yani na liga ni veiqaravi vei ira na dau teidovu na kena sagai me dikevi nodra qele se na kena lai tei nodra dovū caka talega eso na ivakata ni wai kera vinakata.

Taro: Na cava na ika 5 ni nomudou itavi?

Vorelevu: Na ika 5 ni neitou itavi e vakatokai na *Technology Transfer* oya na kena soli yani vei ira na dau teidovu eso na veika vinaka sa dikevi ni rawa nira vakayagataka ka rawa ni rawa vakalevu kina na veika era vinakata mera rawata.

Taro: Ni tukuna tiko ni sa 19 taucoko na kawa ni dovū sa tiko e Viti e daidai. Na kawa ni dovū cava dou raica ni uasivi sara na itagede ni suka e solia?

Vorelevu: Na dovū e duidui toka na gauna era dui matua kina. Dua na kena ivakaraitaki na kawa ni dovū oqo na 'Mana' oya ra tea vakalevu tiko na dau tei dovū. E dau tiko sara e cake na itagede ni kena suka ni sa varau lai cava na gauna ni musu dovū.

Kena ibalebale na gauna ni dola ni iqaqi na suka se tiko sara era. Dua tale na kawa ni dovū vou na 'Viwa' na 'Qamea' se qai vakayagataki ga ena vica na yabaki sa oti o rau ni dola na iqaqi e tiko sara e cake na itagede ni nodrau suka.

Na ivakatagedegede ni rawaka baleta na suka e viavia tautauvata kece ia na gauna ga e tiko kina ecake na itagede ni suka ena duidui kawa ni dovū e duidui talega.

Kena ibalebale ke vinakati me rawati vakalevu na suka e dodonu mera tea toka e rua se tolu na kawa ni dovū ena dua na gauna. Mera tea toka edua nakawa ni dovū e matua e liu , ni voleka ni sogo na iqaqi mera qai musuka na dovū koya dau tiko e cake na kena itagede ni suka ni vakarau cava na qaqi suka.

Taro: Na cava dou cakavaka sara tiko e veisiga ena gauna oqo me vukea na ivakatagedegede ni dovū?

Vorelevu: E na gauna saraga oqo e rua na porokaramu e rau cici tiko oqo oya na kena sagai me vakalesui mai na bulabula ni qele. Ni gauna oqo sa balavu na gauna era vakayagataki tu mai kina na qele.

Dau oti ga vaqo na musu dovū biu na ivakabulabula ni qele na NPK.

E sega ni vukea na kena bulabula na qele. Koya gona keitou sa teivaka eso na ite me vaka na bean oti e 3 na vula sa qai tei tale na dovū. O koya e vukei na bulabula ni qele. Ni

biu tikoga na manure e tosoya cake na acidity ni qele. Ni curu na green manuring ena vakalesuya tale mai na bulabula ni qele kina kena itutu e liu.

Dua tale na kena sagai me vakateitei yani na kena teivaki e 2 se 3 na kawa ni dovū ena dua na loga ni dovū.

Taro: Levu na iTaukei ni sa mai cava nodra lisina Idia era sa via teivaka ga nodra qele sa cicivaki beka vaka Trust au kila ni dua na kena ivakaraitaki o iratou na Tokatoka Savutorotoro mai Korovuto na veivuke cava oni dau soia vei ira?

Vorelevu: Vinaka. Kevaka sa cava na lisi sa via teivaki vou tale. Sana yaga mona kerea mada edua nomu Contract Number mai vei FSC sema rawa ena dua na sector.

Oti oya sa qai sema mai vei keitou keitou na qai vakasalataki kemuni se iwalewale cava ni vakayagataki qele oni rawa ni taurivaka me rawa ni oni rawata kina n aka oni vinakata. Keitou rawa talega ni dola katuba vei kemuni ena so na veivakatorocaketaki ena bisinisi ni Suka.

E rawa ni keitou dola katuba se dusimaka vei kemuni na gaunisala eso ni rawa ni muria me rawa ni oni sotava kina eso na veivuke e koto ena loma ni Minisitiri ni Suka.

Taro: Dua na ivakasala raraba vei ira na dau teidovu e Viti?

Vorelevu: Vinaka na ivakasala ga vei kemuni na dau teidovu moni kila ni sada yacova yani qoka na drake suasua. Dua ga na ivakasala saikoya na kena qarauni ga na savasava ni dovū.

Baleta na Draki Veisau eda sa lako curuma tiko da sega ni lewa na mataqali draki e kauta mai na mataqali manumanu meca ni ite. Kei na veimataqali mate eso e tarava mai.

Koya gona keo tei dovū sa yaga mo qarava vinaka na kena samaki qarava vinaka nomu iteitei. Nida sa yacova tiko mai na drake suasua meda dau qarauna talega na noda ivakata ni wai. So na gauna sa dau lai tao sa vua mai na wai mai tu dede tu e loga ni dovū sa dau vakacacana talega na ite. Noda inaki kecega meda rawaka vinaka ena noda dui teitei.

Noda Viti



Ko Peresitedi Jioji Konrote kei Mera Vakasura, yabaki 103, kei na nona vuvale.
iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

SIKOVI KO VAKASURA, YABAKI 103

ERATOU sega ni kinoca rawa na nodratou marau kei na luluvu na vuvale nei Mera Vakasura edua na marama yabaki 103 ena nodra laki veisiko yani kina na Turaga Peresitedi Jioji Konrote kei ira na ivakalesilesi mai na vale ni veiqaravi vakamatanitu.

Era cavu tu mai Naigani e Batiki ena yatu Lomaiviti ka ra laki sikovi koya na Peresitedi ena nodra vale mai Namadi ka soli kina vua eso na nodra iloloma na Radini Peresitedi Sarote Konrote. Era vakavinakataki ira na nodra vuvale na Peresitedi ena nodra qarauni koya vinaka ena nodra bula ka sa dua na dusidusi vinaka ni bula vei keda na leweiviti ena nodra dau qarauni ka taqomaki na matua ena noda bula.

Ko Kasanita Qeretabua edua vei ira na luvena na marama ogo ka tukuna ni ko tinana edua na marama edau lotu ka mamarau ena nona bula ena veisiga.

Eratou vakavinakataka na Valenivolavola nei Peresitedi ena nodratou sasaga meratou mai visiko vua na marama na tinadratou me vaka ni dua na yabaki bula levu sa tiko kina ogo ko koya.

“Keirau kurabui ena neirau ciqoma na itukutuku ni sa lako mai o Peresitedi me laki sikovi tinaqu. Eda sa vakavinavinaka vakalevu ka vakavinavinakataki Peresitedi Konrote, na iMatai ni marama kei ira na vakalesilesi ena nodra kauwaitaki na italatala qase ena noda itikotiko raraba.”

Cavuikakalawa Vou

DOLA NA TABANA NI DIKEVI DIDIVARA KEI BURE NI SAUTU ENA COLONIAL WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

FELIX LESINAIVALU

CAVUIKALAWA tale na Matanitu ena veiqaravi ni Tabana ni Bula ena nona sa mai dolava na noda iliuliu ni Matanitu o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ena vica na siga sa oti na iseve ni Tabana ni dikevi mate ni daliga ena noda vanua ena vale ni bula levu e Suva,

Sa dola talega kina na vei bure lalai mera dau gadiva ka laki veitalanoa kina ena yalo vakacegu na

tauvimate, dui wekadra kei ira na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula.”

E namaki na kena dola ogo na taba ni veiqaravi vou ogo ena noda vanua ena vukei ira na nasi kei na vuniwai mera kila nisa didivara tiko e dua ka qaravi sara yani me rawa nira rogorogo tale.

Kaya kina o PM Bainimarama ni tabana vou oya ena levu cake sara na kena yaga ni vakatauvatani kei na kena isau vakailavo.

“Me yacova mai edaidai a sega tu ni dua na vanua ni dikavi ni

mate ni didivara ena noda veivalenibula, oaya na vuna era dau gole kina na itubutubu mera lai sauma na veiqaravi ni valenibula bisinisitaki ena taudaku ni matanitu me wali kina na mate ni didivara,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Ena veiyabaki sa oti na vale ni bula evaka edau ivakarere tu ka vanua tab utu vei ira na lewe ni noda veimatavuvale, ia edaidai esa veisau era saga na tabana ni bula me vanua eda kidavaki kina ena marau na tauvimate.”

“Sa qai kunei nira sa qai dou-dou kina na tauvimate kei ira na nodra matavuvale ka vukea talega na nodra bula totolo mai na tauvimate.”

“Sa tara kina e so na bure lalai mera dau gadiva ka laki veitalanoa kina ena yalo vakacegu na tauvimate, dui wekadra kei ira na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula.”

Vakanumi ira talega ena siga oya o PM Bainimarama na lewe 123 na sotia ni Viti kei Peritania era a bale mate ena ivalu levu. Na vale-

bula na CWMH a tara me kedra ivakananumi.

“Na yacadra na bale mate ena ivalu levu oya e tabaki tiko volekata na rumu nei dau ciqo talevoni ena CWMH.”

A cereki talega e dua na ivakananumi ena “Loma ni bai ni kune vakacegu”mera vakananumi kina na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula era vakaitavi ena imatai ni ivalu levu kei ira na bale mate ena imatai ni ivalu levu kei ira na veiqaravi ena veisaututaki.

VOQA NI DAVUI

Radio Fiji One
Moniti - Tusiti
8.30pm [15 na miniti]

Radio Fiji One
Vukelulu - Lotulevu
8pm [30 na miniti]

Radio Fiji One
Siga Tabu
9.05am [30 na miniti]