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PM pays surprise visit to Northern Division students



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama shares a moment with a student of Dama District School in Bua. Prime Minister Bainimarama paid a surprise visit to various schools in Vanua Levu as students resume classes this week. Full details: Inside. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Classes back on

FELIX LESINAIVALU

AS Fijian students in the North headed back into their classrooms this week, they had a surprise visit from Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama who encouraged them to stay focused on their education. Quality education is the foundation for a better livelihood and the Government through the Ministry of Education has prioritised getting the students in the North back into the classroom despite the disruptions

caused by the natural disasters over the past two and half months. Prime Minister Bainimarama is currently revisiting the North together with Cabinet Ministers assessing first-hand the damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Ana that followed in the wake of TC Yasa. This is coinciding with the delivery of relief supplies and the school visits which is a means to boost the

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe
Bainimarama.

In this day and age, we simply cannot meet the needs of our people and our region—or even our needs as sovereign nations—alone. Our strength lies in our solidarity as a region. This I firmly believe.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Prime Minister

NUMBERS

\$4.3 million

is the total cost of digital radiography machines purchased specifically for sub-divisional hospitals

TWEET OF THE WEEK

300! Today we invited frontline workers to join us in Parliament to mark Fiji's 300th day without a local case of #COVID19.

Next up: Securing vaccines. Not only to keep Fijians safe, but to prevent the gap between the developed and developing worlds from widening any further.

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Amendment to criminal procedure bill 2021 enacted in Parliament

AZARIA FAREEN

The Parliament of the Republic of Fiji in its last sitting debated and passed an amendment to the Criminal Procedure Bill 2021, which should abolish the practice of engaging Lay Assessors in criminal cases in the judicial system.

In putting the motion forward, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said “this amendment removes the assessor system and have the judges, like in many other jurisdictions in the world, actually make the decision themselves”.

“The amendments have been made with a lot of thought, process and a lot of consultations and if anything, it will enhance the rights of ordinary Fijians,” the A-G said.

“A number of consultations was

made with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption, Legal Aid, Office of the Solicitor-General, the Judiciary and the Office of the Prime Minister.”

“You cannot have a criminal justice system, in particular, when you try to address issues such as gender issues that will have a dual system; we need to have consistency,” he stressed.

“You either have the decisions of all the assessors always adhered to like a jury system or you actually do not have the assessors where their decisions can sometimes be followed and other times cannot be followed,” he added.

The A-G highlights it is critically important to bring about the level of consistency, not in just the decision making, but in terms of the development of jurisprudence in

Fiji. The list of assessors for Suva contained over 100 published names in the 1950s and in 1988 the list of assessors in the Western district contained almost 600 published names, however, by the late 1990s, the assessor list was reduced to a handwritten, unpublished name in the Judiciary binder. At present, Lautoka only utilises around 50 active assessors and the Assessor Systems for Suva and Labasa have each been known to utilise approximately 30 to 40 persons in constant rotation.

The A-G said a lot of Lay Assessors are sourced from members of the public without specific legal training on a lot of sophisticated matters and the potential for unconscious bias in persons who are not legally trained to approach matters through the lens of the justice system is a fundamental flaw within the assessor system

itself.

“The societal views of lay assessors may often be in direct competition with the progressive views of modern law which is most often seen in sexual assault or what is commonly known as “rape cases”,” he added.

“In practise, certain judges are not willing to overturn decisions of lay assessors even when those decisions are clearly uninformed or heavily influenced by patriarchal ideals and we have seen that,” the A-G further added.

“It is also important to note that lay assessors are not common in the region as Fiji and Vanuatu are the only countries in the Pacific that utilize mandatory assessors under the British model, while some of the other Pacific Island countries have different ways of dealing with it including some who have a full on jury system.”



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, Speaker of Parliament, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and Cabinet Ministers with frontline healthcare workers. Photo: SUPPLIED

Awareness taken to combat outbreak of diseases

SONAM SAMI

PUBLIC health awareness has been the Health Ministry's main tool in trying to prevent an outbreak of leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue and diarrhoea in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Tropical Cyclone Ana.

Speaking in Parliament recently Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said it was common for outbreaks as these diseases are climate sensitive.

“In the flooding of 2012, we had more than 40 deaths from Leptospirosis alone. We have had dengue in some years that were up to 30,000 of our community in Fiji and about 10 to 15 years ago, up to 30,000 had dengue”.

Minister Waqainabete said before Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasa, there had been strong public health awareness in the media along with Divisional Commissioners, *Turaga ni Koros*, Roko's, PA's, DO's and also the District Advisory Counsellors on a daily basis, around the awareness campaigns that were being done.

“What we intended to do was to work very

hard with the NDMO during these times of emergencies that have been declared, to try and obliterate all the possible outbreaks from happening”.

He also highlighted that in the middle of last year in between the lockdowns there was also Tropical Cyclone Harold and the many clean up campaigns that have happened, since Tropical Cyclone Yasa, concentration was on the North but comprehensive work was done all throughout Fiji.

“The other thing was actually working with the community leaders in identifying hot-spots, getting it sprayed so our health inspectors did spraying. We also talked with them about what we wanted in terms of moving forward, in terms of reducing the sources of leptospirosis, typhoid and dengue”.

Minister Waqainabete said as we are still in the cyclone season he has reminded all that it may seem like a never-ending fight but we must not lose hope.

“Though we have these climate sensitive diseases, though we are faced with climate change and the disturbances that it brings us, we must work together to ensure that we keep

these climate sensitive diseases obliterated as much as we can.”



In the flooding of 2012, we had more than 40 deaths from Leptospirosis alone. We have had dengue in some years that were up to 30,000 of our community in Fiji and about 10 to 15 years ago, up to 30,000 had dengue.

Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete
Minister for Health and Medical Services



Classes back on

FROM PAGE 1

morale of students. During the Prime Minister's visit to the various schools, students, teachers, parents and guardians from the schools greeted the delegation and took the opportunity to raise issues.

Headteacher of Lekutu Primary School, Maciu Kaulotukiono, has expressed his appreciation for the relief supplies that was delivered during Prime Minister Bainimarama's visit to the school. Mr Kaulotukiono said that the assistance provided will help the students focus more on their studies.

Prime Minister Bainimarama urged children to keep working hard despite the challenges they faced after Tropical Cyclones Yasa and Ana.

In a social media message PM Bainimarama addressed students and said, "Vinaka to the students of Bua College, Dama District School, Cobo Sanatan Primary School, Waibunabuna Primary School, Lekutu Secondary School, Muanidevo Primary School, Maramarua District School, and Nabala Secondary School! Your resilience is an inspiration to all of your fellow Fijians".

During his visit to the nine schools the Prime Minister took the opportunity to encourage the students to "work hard" in school for a brighter future and for the betterment of their livelihoods.

Nasarawaqa Primary School treasurer, Alfred Williams, said he was thankful to the Fijian Government for the support.

"I feel really happy that the Prime Minister came around to see all the development since the destruction of our school during TC Yasa, and after all that it is nice to see someone (referring to PM) behind us and who really cares for us."

PM also delivered relief supplies for 11 hostel students at Waibunabuna Primary School and assistant headteacher Sumit Krishna thanked Government, the Education Ministry and Republic of Fiji Military Forces personnel for the timely help provided.

"We are thankful for Government's support and the things they have given for the school hostel students," Mr Krishna said.

Dama District School teacher Pratima Chand, while talking about students returning to school said, the students do not act like they have been through a disaster because they are still very eager to learn.

Ms Chand said students felt like that because of Government's quick response to TC Yasa and Ana and the different aid they received from various agencies.

A total of 66 schools that were affected by TC Ana and TC Yasa were given the all-clear to resume classes after damage assessments were done and clearance issued by the Ministry of Health & Medical Services officials on the ground.

PM Bainimarama also commended the work carried out by the RFMF Engineers in the comprehensive rebuilding of damaged schools following the two recent tropical cyclones.

The Prime Minister in his visits handed over relief supplies such as food rations, blankets, mosquito nets, hygiene packs, towels, school sandals to the assist those students in boarding schools, whose homes were affected from TC Yasa and TC Ana.

PM Bainimarama has been accompanied by Minister for Rural, Maritime Development and Disaster Management and Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Infrastructure and Meteorological Services and Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Jone Usamate and Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar.

'Fiji's immunisation system is stable'

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI has a strong immunisation system which is comparable to developed countries, recording 95 per cent coverage from its latest coverage survey.

This was the reassurance highlighted by Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete while providing an update on COVID-19 in Parliament last week.

Minister Waqainabete said immunisation is a global health and development success story, saving millions of lives every year.

"The world now has vaccines to prevent more than 20 life-threatening diseases, for all ages to live longer and healthier. It currently prevents 2-3 million deaths every year from diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, measles and the list goes on."

"Immunisation is a key component

of primary health care and an indisputable human right, critical to the prevention and control of infectious disease outbreaks."

Minister Waqainabete adds this is by far the best health investment money can buy in the effort to strengthen global health security and will be a vital tool in the battle against antimicrobial resistance.

"Vaccination work by training and preparing the body's natural defences, the immune system or soldiers of the body to re-orientate its defences to specifically target an existing pathogen."

"After vaccination, if the body is exposed to these pathogens, the immune system will immediately respond to kill off the disease-causing pathogens and prevent significant illness for the individual."

He added that Fiji has a strong immunisation system which is compara-

ble to developed countries, recording 95 percent coverage from its latest coverage survey.

"Fiji was also the only country in the world that introduced three new vaccines, Rotavirus, Pneumococcal, and HPV at once in 2012/2013, through the support of our, "Vuvale(s)," the Australian Bilateral Aid Program."

"This remarkable achievement was tweeted immediately in 2012 by Mr Seth Berkley, the CEO of the Global Vaccine Alliance, who is now leading the COVAX Facility with WHO and UNICEF."

With the leadership and ownership of the Fijian Government, we now cover all vaccine costs to what Australia started.

These vaccines have significantly reduced the burden of pneumonia, diarrhoeal diseases and cervical cancer prevention in the targeted populations.

Minister for economy on covid-19 vaccine

AZARIA FAREEN

SO far, 191 countries including Fiji and most recently the United States have signed up to participate in the COVAX Facility and Fiji is part of a group of around 92 countries that are eligible for donor-funded doses.

This was highlighted by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum while emphasising Fiji's economic recovery through the procurement of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

"Fiji must secure its place in the world's economic comeback by securing vaccines as soon as we can, otherwise, our people will be made more vulnerable than they have ever been; exposed to infection; economically-disadvantaged; and left behind as the rest of the world races ahead," the A-G stressed.

"We're working on a bilateral basis with our development partners to secure financial resources to buy vaccines now, as well as secure shipments of the vaccines themselves. So far, Australia and India have stepped-up with direct funding and shipment support."

"We're also keen to make direct purchases from the companies producing viable vaccines and if you consider our eligible population in Fiji, we're looking at around 1.3 million doses. In the USA, they are vaccinating at a rate of 1.43 million doses per day – so this is a marginal number of vaccines," the A-G highlighted.

He said there are currently more than 50 COVID-19 vaccine candidates in trials with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine being the first to have been listed on the Emergency Use List by the World Health Organization and several country regulatory bodies have approved the Pfizer, Moderna and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines through their stringent



The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum while emphasising Fiji's economic recovery through the procurement of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

regulatory authorities.

"Once a vaccine is medically trialled and deemed safe and effective by reputable country medical boards, such as Australia or the United States, we can then consider them as options on the table," the A-G said.

"Unlike many larger nations whose rollouts are suffering from inconsistent implementation, Fiji can and should be able to vaccinate our population quickly and more efficiently," he added.

"Our medical staff are battle-tested in vaccination campaigns, and we will lean heavily on their vast experience but due to the nature of COVID-19 vaccines, this will be a far more data-focused and technologically-intensive campaign."

The A-G highlights that the COVID-19 vaccines are all stored at extremely cold temperatures and most require two doses, and should the Pfizer vaccine (which needs to be stored in minus 80 degrees Celsius) be made available to Fiji, we have the required high-degree cold chain facilities including the capacity to manufacture dry ice to allow storage of up to 30 days.

"Our COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign will cover all individuals above the age of 18 years, as all clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines were conducted on this age group," the A-G said.

"Given our unique status as a COVID-Contained country, our priority group for Phase 1 will be our front-liners: all individuals in border control at air and sea ports; front-line health care and hotel workers, and their immediate family members," he added.

"Phase 2 will cover vulnerable persons: including but not limited to those with pre-existing comorbidity issues for example: diabetes, hypertension, and cardiac including rheumatic heart diseases, etc. Phase 3 will cover all those above 60 years of age, followed by any other person above the age of 18."

The COVID-19 vaccines are expected to arrive in phases throughout 2021, starting in the first quarter with the vaccination campaign being implemented in phases according to the schedule of vaccine supplies and deployed in order of priority.



Need to harmonise solar finances

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE International Solar Alliance (ISA) aims to provide a dedicated platform for cooperation amongst solar resource-rich countries with the global community, bilateral and multilateral organisations, corporate organisations, corporate industries and other stakeholders that can make positive contributions to assist and help achieve a common goal of increasing the use of solar energy.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved a motion in Parliament last week for Fiji to accept the Amendments to the Framework Agreement of the Paris Declaration on the International Solar Alliance (ISA) of 30th November, 2015.

The ISA was officially launched through the Paris Declaration by the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and French President, Francois Hollande, at that point in time, on the margins of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP) in Paris.

The A-G said that there is a need to also harmonise, not just this technology but also the solar finances and the innovative capacity across all the different countries.

"These amendments actually now cater for a wider group of people and a number of parties and a number of members to this particular Agreement, and therefore we seek the ratification of that which we are glad the Committee had agreed."

Minister for Infrastructure and Meteorological Services and Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Jone Usamate who supported the motion said Fiji has been a member of the ISA for some time and because of the leadership of the Prime Minister in terms of issues relating to climate change, this has led to calls around the world to move towards renewable energy.

"The International Solar Alliance was initially conceived to be an Alliance of those countries that are within the two tropics because they have a lot of sunshine but now is being opened up to all the member-countries of the United Nations so it gives an opportunity for all the parties that want to move this agenda for renewable energy to become involved in this phase."

"In Fiji's case, we have particular targets to do with renewable energy and that is we should be approaching 100 percent renewable energy by the Year 2030 which means moving more of our power-generation away from fossil fuel and more towards hydro and solar."

A-G: Laws need to be enforced

MEREANI GONEDUA

"WE need to ensure that the laws are in place and the laws, in fact, get enforced."

Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while speaking in Parliament last week on the ratification of the Optional Protocol - Convention on the rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, stated that this ratification will again send a signal to the rest of the world that Fiji is willing to participate in the enforcement of these particular rights.

"I think it would be from one perspective and abomination, if

anyone actually objected to the ratification of this Optional Protocol. In Fiji, apart from the fact that legally, we oblige to follow the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as a society, we are very much in the protection of children. Children are very much part and parcel of our society."

"We, of course, have recently seen a number of instances where children have been put in very vulnerable situations where they have been exploited also and we need to be able to address that as a society. "We need to ensure that the laws are in place and the laws, in fact, get enforced."

The A-G highlighted that the

2013 Constitution under Sections 10 and 11, guaranteed all Fijians freedom from slavery, servitude, forced labour and human trafficking and freedom from cruel and degrading treatment.

"Furthermore, Section 41 of the 2013 Constitution of the Republic of Fiji recognises the right of every child to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, any form of violence, inhumane treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour.

He explained that Sections 226 and 227 of the Crimes Act 2009, respectively provide that the selling and buying of minors under the age of 18 years from prostitution, illicit sexual intercourse, or for any unlawful or immoral purposes, are criminal offences.

"Divisions 5 and 6 of the Crimes Act 2009 respectively create offences with respect to slavery, sexual servitude and deceptive recruiting and trafficking in persons and children which also have extended jurisdiction whether or not the conduct constituting the alleged offences occurs in Fiji.

The A-G highlighted that because of the laws that have now been put in place where there is a lot more liberal approach to dis-

cussing these issues it has now brought forward a number of individuals or their families who have actually come forward and brought things like sexual exploitation of children, sexual assaults on children as they feel a lot more confident with the law and therefore, they are bringing them a lot more forward before the law.

"I think that is critically important to note. At the same time, we should not use that as an excuse or a reason to say "well, they are only doing it now because the law has been put in place."

"We need to also try and curb any new offences and that of course comes about through strategies put through the respective Ministries, different agencies through the Police, through of course our faith-based organisations and the society as a whole.

"But we also need to be able to adopt new international standards that can be, of course, followed by our judiciary, law enforcement agencies, our families, our communities, NGOs at large become sensitised towards and in fact are able to then fulfil the requirements not just under the Convention itself but also the Optional Protocol that we are agreeing to ratify."



Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while speaking in Parliament last week on the ratification of the Optional Protocol - Convention on the rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

Individual notices, better performance

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum has emphasised in Parliament that individuals in the National Toppers Scheme (NTS) need a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3 in order to maintain their scholarship.

According to the A-G, a Topper (an individual under NTS) has to maintain a Grade Point Average or a GPA of 3 and if a Topper goes below that, the Topper is then put on a notice to say, "we are going below 3, please perform well other-

wise you will be suspended" and if they do not perform, then they are suspended.

"When they are suspended, then they go onto the Tertiary Education Loan Scheme (TELS). If they perform when they are on TELS, they can come back to Toppers," he explained.

The A-G said students argued that if they had been given individual notices, they would have performed better.

The Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board (TSLB) had sent a

blast message, which means the message was sent to a large group of people all at the same time, in which the A-G said "was administratively unfair to do".

"That was why we said that anyone that was suspended as a result of been given a blast message, they no longer will be suspended, they will be given the opportunity to carry on and all these Toppers will be given the opportunity to individually liaise with the management team."

The other issue that was raised

was that the two universities currently have different GPA systems.

"For example, the maximum GPA for the University of the South Pacific is 4.5 whereas Fiji National University's grading scale is 5.0.

"So if you say that 3 is applicable to everyone, then those whose maximum GPA is 5, obviously in a way is benefitting."

The A-G said that this was one of the issues that the TSLB Board has been asked to look into in bringing about some equity or level playing field.

Counselling to continue: Minister Akbar

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar has recently reiterated in Parliament that the ministry's psycho social support had commenced well before the start of the school year.

This, Minister Akbar said, is normally expected after disasters and traumatic events and Tropical Cyclone Yasa had triggered the ministry to activate its psycho social support, particularly in the North-

ern Division.

"The reason why we do that is to bring about a sense of normalcy, a sense of safety for our people, calming our people down, creating that social connectors that are needed and of course providing them with hope," she said.

"While the families tried to put their lives back together, we, the Ministry concentrated on the traumatic impact on the children which probably would have gone unnoticed and as a Government, we coordinated with the National Disaster Management Office, Commissioner's Office and a lot of Non-Government Organisations and individuals to assist families with foods and rebuilding."

"As a Ministry, it was our responsibility to ensure that our children got the support in dealing with the trauma so they had some normal-

cy in their lives and their learning was not seriously hampered," she added. Minister Akbar highlighted that the Ministry had engaged with the Substance Abuse and Advisory Council, Medical Services Pacific and Empower Pacific, the Fiji Corrections Service and the seven recently trained counsellors in the North to conduct counselling support program in the Northern Division from 18th to 29th January this year for teachers and students.

She said there were various methods used by these organisations and the children were very quick to respond to the counselling tactics.

"The program was conducted in 22 northern schools which included 16 primary schools, 5 secondary schools and one special school. Our counsellors attended to about 1,938 students and 207 teachers in the TC Yasa affected areas," she

highlighted.

"The Ministry, for the first time, collaborated with the Australian Government and provided 35 teachers from the Central, Western and Northern Division an opportunity to undertake and graduate with a Diploma in Counselling course delivered by the Australian Pacific Training College (APTC)."

These counsellors have joined the esteemed 15,000-strong network of APTC Alumni from 14 Pacific countries that hold internationally recognised Australian qualifications through training provided by APTC.

"We are currently working with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to run a pilot programme in the Northern Division as soon as the North is open," Minister Akbar said.

"With our recently graduated

counsellors and trained psychologists based at DFAT, they have helped us prepare a counselling kit which includes materials such as toys, counselling aid and postures for our students which will be distributed to selected schools as part of the Student Support Service Pilot Program. Counselling will need to continue for some time and we intend to put our seven trained counsellors in clusters and reduce the teaching loads so they can attend to students and teachers from the schools in their cluster," she added.

A total of 350 heads of schools have also undergone training and counselling and are expected to take a lead role in providing support to their students and teachers while the ministry also plans to conduct further training for all its heads of schools.



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar responding to a question posed to her regarding the schools damaged during the tropical cyclones and the contingency plans in place. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

Remote learning during a pandemic

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts is working in partnership with Walesi in trialling the provision of internet services using the Very-Small-Aperture Terminal (VSAT) in a two rural schools.

Line Minister Rosy Akbar stated in Parliament last week that if the trial is successful and is cost effective, progressively technologies will be engaged to enable more remote schools to have internet access and connectivity.

"To date apart from the 1,000 plus schools we have, 33 have intermittent internet access while 115 are still without internet access."

Changes had to be made in the education system to enable students to continue effective learning and engagements with their teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Worksheets, study guides and study notes were distributed to students for revision purposes.

Secondary school students were also engaged with 750 lesson videos that was placed on the educational channel through Walesi, and teachers for students with special needs did home visitations on a voluntary basis.

Lessons were also aired on FBC radio and teachers ventured into social media platforms to further engage with the students.

"Globally the education sector moved very quickly to remote learning which is a developed online resource as you teach, this was for the lockdown. We are mindful that creating learning resources is very costly so it is critical that we create affordable and equitable, flexible delivery options for our students should we go into another COVID-19 lockdown, which I think we all should pray that it does not happen."

"A modern knowledge-based society thrives on the ability of its people to be ICT literate. The Ministry is mindful though that learning resources particularly those brought from external sources put significant financial burden and do not necessarily provide effective learning. This is why learning resources need to be created that are contextualised, cost effective and sustainable and we have the local capacity to do that," Minister Akbar stated.

Minister Akbar said in order for the country to use more current technology-based learning resources for students, there is a need to invest further in providing equitable internet access to schools and a need for teachers to use e-learning tools effectively.

"We are mindful that creating learning resources is very costly so it is critical that we create affordable and equitable, flexible delivery options for our student should we go into another COVID-19 lockdown."

Damaged schools rehab underway

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE Ministry of Education has so far completed the rehabilitation of 27 out of the 30 schools that needed to be quickly fixed post Tropical Cyclones Yasa and Ana.

Two were currently in progress and one was deemed to be completed throughout the week.

This was highlighted in Parliament by the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar in response to a question posed to her regarding the schools damaged during the tropical cyclones and the contingency plans in place.

It was highlighted in Parliament that about 126 schools were damaged by TC Yasa in the Northern, Eastern and Western Divisions which resulted in the direct distress of 12,400 students

and 890 teachers. The 23 Early Childhood Centres, 11 standalone EC centres, 73 primary schools, 90 secondary schools and some teachers' quarters were damaged during TC Yasa.

However, the survey and assessment carried out showed that apart from Yadua Primary School which was built in 2018, many of the school buildings affected by TC Yasa were old structures that were not suitable to withstand the gust winds of the category 5 cyclone.

"The initial assessment was carried by the NDMO with the assistance of the Commissioner Northern and his team and the Ministry's own officers based in North and of course the Construction Implementation Unit (CIU) of the Ministry of Economy. We have identified 59 schools sustaining more significant damage than the others.

This included 41 schools in Vanua Levu, 17 in the Lau Group and one in the Lomaiviti Group.

"We are continuing to carry out assessments. While we were doing that, TC Ana came. TC Ana did not do any structural damage but we had floods; 17 high schools in the Northern Division were impacted by the heavy rainfall during TC Ana," Minister Akbar stated.

Minister Akbar thanked organisations and individuals who have assisted in getting Fijian students' education back on track through donations.

More than 9000 students received school bags and a full set of stationery.

She also assured that despite the current progress of water and electricity restoration and road accessibility, especially in the North, children's studies will not be affected.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Naqali villagers in Naitasiri during his visit around various places in the Central Division that were affected by Tropical Cyclone Ana earlier this month. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Stay safe, stay vigilant

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“STAY safe, stay vigilant, we are almost through this and please keep children out of flooded rivers or streams” This was the message emphasised by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while visiting areas in the Central Division that were affected by Tropical Cyclone Ana earlier this month. Prime Minister Bainimarama visited Naqali Village in Naitasiri and Wailotua Village in

Wainibuka on the first day and the villages of Naveicovatu, Nabouva, Nasautoka and Nailega in Wainibuka, Tailevu on the second day. These villages were not spared in the wake of TC Ana which wreaked havoc on their homes and plantations. The village headman of Naveicovatu, Nabouva, Nasautoka and Nailega briefed the Prime Minister upon his arrival into their villages and identified recovery needs for rebuilding their homes

and agricultural livelihoods following the damage caused by TC Ana. Prime Minister Bainimarama also visited evacuation centres at Nasautoka District School and Nailega District School on the second day. The evacuees were delighted at the opportunity to seek advice and take a few photos with the Prime Minister. During his tour, Prime Minister Bainimarama emphasised the need for parents and children to

exercise safety, highlighting the dangers of Leptospirosis, Typhoid, Dengue and Diarrhoea, particularly in flood prone areas. “Wailotua in Wainibuka saw serious flooding throughout the weekend and whilst TC Ana is almost out of our waters, her sister storm, TC Bina, has thankfully downgraded to a tropical depression.” “But with water levels already high in TC Ana’s wake, expect more serious flooding in low-lying areas.”

Climate change continues to impact the sugar industry: PM

NANISE NEIMILA

“THIS is a tough time for cane growing. Our climate is changing, and that has had serious impacts through stronger storms, longer droughts, and flooding.” This was the statement made by Prime Minister and Minister for Sugar Industry Voreqe Bainimarama, while responding to a question in Parliament last week on what measures Government is taking or has taken recently to reduce cane production costs and improve yield per hectare. Prime Minister Bainimarama said it is evident that poor drainage has led to waterlogged farms which has depleted soil health due to rising soil salinity. Of the 13 cyclones which have struck since 2016, six have directly impacted sugarcane farms; Tropical Cyclone Winston, TC Keni, TC Josie, TC Harold, TC Yasa and TC Ana. “Apart from TC Ana for which the damage assessment is not yet completed, the five cyclones have caused a total damage and loss of \$255 Million to the Sugar Industry. Of this, the total sugarcane crop loss was over \$85 million.” “The sugarcane industry isn’t changing as quickly as the climate; but we have made progress. Specifically, we have managed to improve yield. So, when times are good we get more out of our farms.”

PM Bainimarama adds that from an average yield of 38 tonnes per hectare in 2016, the yield has increased to 46 tonnes per hectare in 2020 which is an increase of 21 percent. “The total cane production has also increased from 1.39 million tonnes in 2016 to 1.81 million tonnes in 2019 (1.73m tonnes in 2020); an increase of 30 percent. Following category five TC Winston, my Government has provided direct assistance to build resilience by increasing cane yield and cane production.” Prime Minister Bainimarama further added that over the past five years, nearly \$100million worth of assistance has been provided to support cane planting grants, weedicide and fertiliser subsidy programs for inputs. This was backed by cane planting grant assistance, a total of 18,821 hectares of cane was planted over the past five years. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Sugar Industry has also assisted growers with \$40,000 each to procure a total of 25 tractors, along with implements, to assist them in land preparation. Another 239 growers were assisted with farm equipment and implements.

‘Today’s challenges are more complex, more costly, more threatening’

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) members must take the opportunity to reflect on their achievements together as one collective through the PIF and celebrate those achievements. This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the official opening of the reconstructed Pacific Islands Forum Fale recently. “Today we are 18 full members, plus associate members and partner states. Our success, however, is not just measured by our membership, because this is not a club; it is measured by our accomplishments, because we are a forum of sovereign nations confronting serious challenges in our region.” “We have grown, and many of the challenges and opportunities we now face have evolved with us. Some have gathered force over time like a cyclone moving over a warming sea. “Today’s challenges are more complex, more costly and more threatening. If we had not already been united, they would have impelled us to come together and form the strong part-



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the official opening of the reconstructed Pacific Islands Forum Fale recently. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

nership we have today. “In this day and age, we simply cannot meet the needs of our people and our region—or even our needs as sovereign nations—alone. Our strength lies in our solidarity as a region. This I firmly believe.” Prime Minister Bainimarama added with the support from the larger countries of Australia and New Zealand and other partner states and organisations, Pacific Island states have boldly

and unashamedly asserted our interests and exercised our rights as sovereign nations through this forum. “We have never assumed that our size should relegate us to a back seat in determining the future of this region—or indeed, the world. And we never will.” This year marks 50 years since the formation of the Pacific Islands Forum.



Climate change a real threat to the Pacific: PM

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in a powerful statement at the opening of the Virtual Pacific Regional Consultation on Internal Displacement said that climate change contributes to mass-migration in the region.

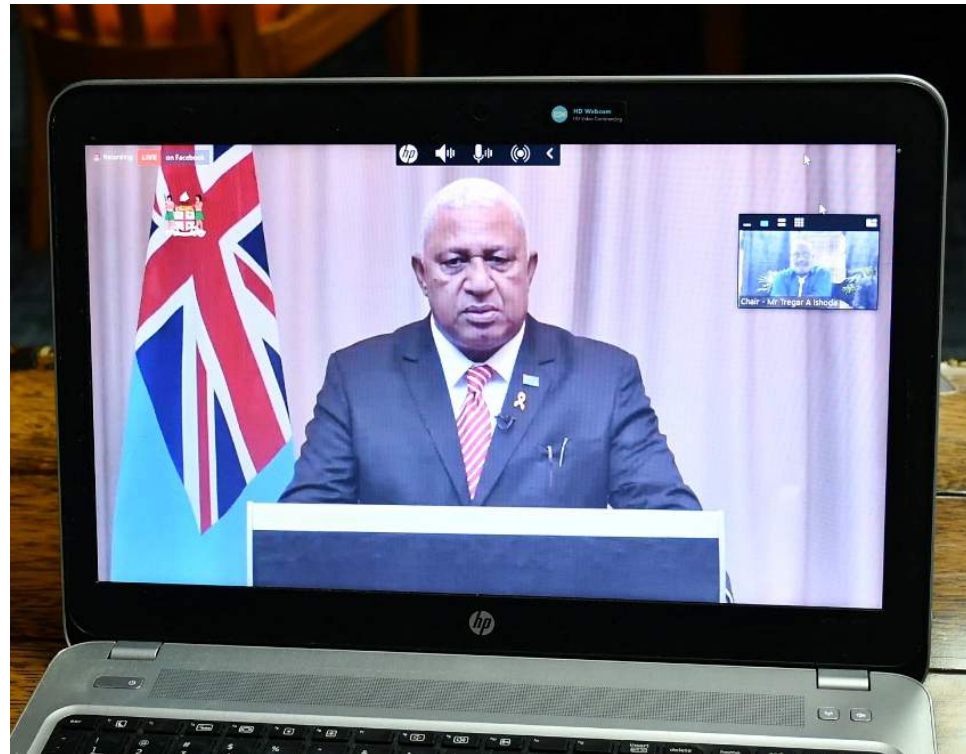
Prime Minister Bainimarama said that every year, more of our citizens will be forced to leave their homes to escape stronger storms, rising seas, and swelling rivers brought by climate change.

“It is a crisis we did not cause but the consequences of which we bear nonetheless. Some of our lower-lying neighbours face an existential threat. At the current rate of emissions, the displacement of their people won’t be internal but external, across borders, as their entire nations slip beneath the rising seas.”

For this reason, the Prime Minister said Fiji has offered permanent settlement to the citizens of Tuvalu and Kiribati should they need it.

On the home front, Prime Minister Bainimarama said that we’re focused on the complex challenge of relocating vulnerable Fijian communities, with 43 already identified.

“You can bet that number will rise. Six communities have been fully or partially relocated so far. Moving a community and doing it sustainably; ensuring Fijians can live



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at the opening of the Virtual Pacific Regional Consultation on Internal Displacement.

with both security and the dignity of good jobs and access to essential services – that is how we can spark a sense of ownership among people who have endured the trauma of leaving the land they knew as home, the

land where their ancestors are buried and which they hoped their children would inherit,” he added.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also highlighted at the virtual consultation, Fiji’s

milestone achievement in launching the world’s first Planned Relocation Guidelines at the COP24 and the launch of a relocation fund for people displaced by climate change in 2019.

“Our National Adaptation Plan also maps out a multi-billion-dollar effort to strengthen our climate resilience and we’re looking to nature to fortify communities and create sustainable sources of income.

“Climate-driven displacement isn’t some distant doomsday proposition. It is happening right now. In response, we have to change and adapt as quickly as the climate. To do that, we need the support of the rest of the world and as the Chair for the Platform of Disaster Displacement, Fiji looks forward to leading alongside our development partners and organisations, like the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security, not by talking – but by doing.”

The virtual consultation presents an opportunity for Pacific government officials to exchange their country experiences in addressing climate and disaster-induced internal displacement.

Recommendations from the consultation will be submitted to the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.

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Fiji a first to enter into carbon trade

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fijian Government recently signed a landmark agreement with the World Bank and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) on the Fiji Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA).

This is a five-year agreement which marks Fiji’s entry into carbon trading.

This programme will unlock up to US\$12.5 million (FJ\$25.36m) through 2.5 million tons of ERs in results-based payments for reducing emissions and boosting climate resilience.

The Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum speaking at the event said “carbon markets and carbon trading are aimed at correcting the costly market failure that has prioritized degradation over the preservation of these ecosystems”.

“Rather than cutting down forests to keep people employed, it means that people are paid to maintain and expand carbon sinks in recognition of the service they provide the planet and all of humanity,” he highlighted.

“This five-year arrangement with the FCPF represents more than a decade of preparatory work by the Fijian Government through the REDD+ programme, which supports the sustainable management for



From left; Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, World Bank Resident Representative for Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu Lasse Melgaard and Minister For Forestry Osea Naiqamu after signing a landmark agreement with the World Bank and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) on the Fiji Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA).

forests; meaning sustained financial returns for resource owners.”

“Having met key deliverables of the REDD+ programme, Fiji is now ready to engage in a result-based payment system that will quantify the emissions reduction potential of Fiji’s forests and provide periodic payments based on the amount of carbon emissions reduced,” the A-G said.

Fiji is one of the 19 participating countries accepted for funding by the Carbon Fund and the only Small Island Developing State in the Pacific region to enter into carbon trade under this arrangement.

The emission reduction program area includes over 37,000 hectares spread over 20 districts on the islands of Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni, with the potential to expand to other areas that express interest.

The A-G adds that the contracted volume of greenhouse gases that Fiji is expected to sequester from these forest activities in

the next five years is 2.5 million tonnes, for which a result-based payment of USD \$12.5 million will be paid upon verification by the World Bank.

“The programme covers a number of activities; including the forest protection and the planting of forests on degraded land, the sustainable management of designated timber production forests, the incorporation of trees into farming and agricultural systems and the promotion of forest-based livelihood ventures as an alternative to forest extraction such as eco-tourism, bee keeping, agro-forestry, aquaculture, resin tapping and nurseries of high valued native species.”

“As a nation with ambitious climate commitments, this partnership is a key facet of our future-focused development agenda as we’re committed to cutting carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2030 and achieving net-zero by 2050, committed to planting

30 million trees and to sustainably manage all 1.3 square kilometres of our ocean,” the A-G added.

World Bank Resident Representative for the South Pacific, Lasse Melgaard said “these interventions will also ensure clean air, water, reduced siltation and flash floods, as well as improving livelihoods.”

“The program therefore not only helps address deforestation and forest degradation, it also paves the way for Fiji to earn critical income via the global carbon offset market by protecting its natural forest reserves,” he said.

“The emissions reductions will be achieved through large scale afforestation and reforestation, sustainable forest management, native forest conservation, community-led climate smart agricultural practices and agro-forestry.”

To ensure that participating stakeholders are fairly recognised and rewarded for their role in reducing emissions, an inclusive Benefits Sharing Plan has been developed through an extensive stakeholder consultation process at village, divisional and national levels,” he added.

The FCPF is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and indigenous peoples’ organisations focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, activities commonly referred to as REDD+.

Since its launch in 2008, the FCPF has worked with 47 developing countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, along with 17 donors that have made contributions and commitments totalling \$1.3 billion.



PM pays a surprise visit to students in the Northern Division

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama urged children to keep working hard despite the challenges they faced after Tropical Cyclones Yasa and Ana. Prime Minister Bainimarama is currently touring the Northern division to visit various schools. He visited the students of Bua College, Dama District School, Cobo Sanatan Primary School, Waibunabuna Primary School, Lekutu Secondary School, Muanidevo Primary School, Maramarua District School, and Nabala Secondary

School. Students, teachers, parents and guardians from the schools greeted the Prime Minister with joy and took the opportunity to have a chat and take pictures with him. PM Bainimarama said that their resilience is an inspiration to other Fijians. The Head of State visited the schools to deliver relief supplies and see sites that were affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Tropical Cyclone Ana.

Photos: FELIX LESINAIVALU



Stall fee waiver for cyclone affected vendors

RUPENI WAQAVONO

VEGETABLE farmers, root crop farmers and fruit sellers affected by the recent floods in Ba and Labasa markets have been exempted from paying stall fees for a month.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar while visiting municipal markets affected by the floods in the western division.

Minister Kumar stated that discussions were made with the Special administrators and chief executive officers after vendors requested a fee waiver after losing most of their produce during TC Yasa and TC Ana.

"I've decided to visit these places and meet with the vendors and see how we can assist them."

"Ba market was underwater and there was a lot of damage, the vendors had lost their produce because they didn't take it home. They requested if the municipal council can consider fee waiver and we have given them the fee waiver."

"But grog sellers and spice sellers will continue to pay their stall fee," she said.

The Minister also visited Lautoka market and met with the Lautoka Vendor Association where other issues concerning the vendors were discussed.

Minister Kumar then reassured them that the Fijian Government would always ensure that their interests are taken care of and also called for patience among vendors as municipal councils work towards ensuring that every vendor and farmer is accommodated.



Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar visited municipal markets in the West recently.

Lautoka Market Vendors Association President, Filomena O'Neil said that its always welcoming to see the Minister visit and meet the vendors in Lautoka.

"Its good when she comes down so that other vendors who are not members of the association can raise issues directly to the Minister," Mrs. O'Neil said

"The association also has some issues and it was raised to the Minister. We need proper facilities in some areas of the market that could be developed so that we can sell in a proper environment," she said.

The Lautoka Market Vendors Association have 318 active members and it caters for farmers from as far as Navosa to Wainibuka.

Minister Kumar assures vendors of Govt support

MEREANI GONEDUA

MARKET vendors in Rakiraki and Tavua have been assured of the Fijian Government's support post Tropical Cyclone Ana.

This is after Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar visited municipal markets in the West recently.

At Rakiraki and Tavua municipal markets, Minister Kumar told the vendors that the Fijian Government through her Ministry would ensure that any issues faced by vendors in terms of supply of vegetables and other matters would be addressed.

She stated that they would be working alongside other government agencies to ensure that supply of vegetables is provided to those who were affected.

She also acknowledged the two municipal councils for ensuring that the town was clean and ready for use post TC Ana.

Minister Kumar stated that she was surprised to see how quick the cleanup was done.

"I want to acknowledge all of you for the tremendous work done after the flooding. When I came in I could not even see any tree lying around or even see any mud left from the flooding experienced earlier.

She stated that this clearly shows the cooperation among workers and commended all officials involved during and after TC Ana.

"I acknowledge the Fiji Police Force for ensuring safety including the National Fire Authority of Fiji for it's part in the cleaning process."

Minister Kumar also visited Vunitogoloa village where she met NFA officials hard at work cleaning up the village after it was flooded during TC Ana.

Viliame Tiki, 45, from Vunitogoloa village expressed how grateful the villagers were for the assistance provided to them.

"Our village was flooded and we thank officials from the various authorities for being here and helping us clear debris and cleaning our homes.

"This is not the first time this has happened however we are thankful because we know that the Fijian Government and its officials will always be ready to assist us."

Penisoni calls on fellow Fijians to utilise their time

MEREANI GONEDUA

"LIFE is never easy, however, it is up to us to make use of what we have around us in order to achieve what we want in life."

These were the sentiments of 31-year-old Penisoni Cabota who is one of the market vendors selling pineapple at the Rakiraki market.

Mr Cabota, who hails from Ra, highlighted how life in his village was hard while growing up but he was always determined to utilise things around him.

"While attending school I was always someone who would love to play around our farm and planting was always my hobby and I had always dreamt of owning my own farm."

Mr Cabota, who now owns a pineapple farm and regularly sells his pineapple at the market, stated that it was a difficult time for him trying to plant in his farm, however, he was grateful to his family and the Fijian Government for continuously supporting him.

"I managed to get my pineapple

cuttings and other seeds for my plantation through assistance from the Government and I am truly grateful."

Even though he does not have that many helpers while farming his land, Mr Cabota said he was always grateful because every sweat was worthwhile since his pineapple harvest would always bring him enough income to cater for his family's needs.

"I am encouraging those of you who have a piece of land, please utilise it as it would generate you an income that would not only assist in your daily needs but for your family as well.

Meanwhile Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar visited the Rakiraki market vendors and assured them of the Government's continuous support.

Minister Kumar heard a few issues such as spaces available for fish vendors inside the market.

The Minister then told the vendors that every space will be allocated fairly without any discrimination on anyone.



Penisoni Cabota at his stall in Rakiraki Municipal Market.
 Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA



While attending school I was always someone who would love to play around our farm and planting was always my hobby and I had always dreamt of owning my own farm.

Penisoni Cabota
 Market vendor

Sugarcane farmers to be assisted

A TOTAL of 3360 cane farms with an area of 10,197 hectares were damaged during Tropical Cyclone Yasa in Vanua Levu.

To assist affected farmers with rehabilitating their farms, Government has approved a Crop and Rehabilitation Plan worth more than \$4 million which was rolled out earlier this month.

Ministry of Sugar Industry permanent secretary, Yogesh Karan said the damage sustained by the sugar industry following the devastation caused by TC Yasa were significant and these include damages to cane crop, infrastructure and livestock belonging to cane growers.

“The total estimated crop loss is around 244,400 tonnes of the initial forecast of 690,000 tonnes of cane for Labasa Mill,” Mr Karan said.

“The Government, as part of its commitment to supporting the Sugar Industry, has endorsed this recovery plan to allow room for rehabilitation and further development on affected cane farms in Vanua Levu. Mr Karan highlighted that under the plan, there are five main activities which include the supply of fertilisers, weedicides and slashing of damaged crops.

“Affected farmers will be supplied with 34,236 bags of Blend C fertilisers and 26, 104 litres of Amine and 26,104 kg of Diuron weedicides. Such assistance will be provided at no cost to the farmers,” he said.

“Also, the provision of slashing 50 hectares of land to clear damaged crops will be provided to assist farmers in their farms.”

Mr Karan said the recovery plan also focused on drainage assistance and replanting activities.

“Farmers will also be assisted with in-field drainage works and replanting of crops which will be done in two stages,” he said.

“Under the replanting activity, the first stage will begin from next month to October and the second stage will be from August to October 2021. This initiative will greatly enhance cane production.”

Mr Karan has advised all affected farmers to contact the Fiji Sugar Corporation and the Sugarcane Growers Council for assessment and verification purposes.

“The damages will be verified first by the Fiji Sugar Corporation and the Sugarcane Growers Council before the assistance is provided to the farmers,” he said.

“We are requesting the cooperation of all stakeholders to ensure that timely assistance is provided to the cane farmers. For the farmers in the West, the FSC team is also carrying out assessments to ascertain the damages caused by TC Ana on the cane farms. Once the assessments are done, we will then decide on the type of assistance to be provided to the farmers there.”

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New desks and chairs for northern schools



MORE than 200 desks, chairs and other school furniture pieces donated to the Ministry of Education recently will be distributed to 16 schools affected by Tropical Cyclone Ana in the Northern Division.

The furniture pieces were donated by the charitable arm of Punjas & Sons Pte Ltd – the Punjas Charitable Trust – to the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar. This was shipped across to Fiji with the assistance of Swire Shipping Limited.

Minister Akbar said the donation was timely, noting that one of the needs in cyclone-stricken schools in the North were furniture pieces.

“With 16 schools affected by TC Ana in the North, we need more than 500 furniture. We do not want children to report to school and be disappointed that there are no furniture so this donation could not have come at a much better time,” she said.

In addition to the furniture pieces donated by the Trust, the Ministry will procure another 250.

Punjas & Sons Pte Ltd’s Manager Operations Nandu Naidu said they were thankful to two schools in Auckland, New Zealand who donated the furniture

pieces to the Trust who then shipped the items to Suva.

“We were sending some donations to Fiji and this time, we thought, why not donate some furniture so we got in touch with these schools,” Mr Naidu said.

The Trust had also previously donated towards Government’s relief efforts post TC Harold last year.

Speaking during the handover ceremony in Suva, Director National Disaster Management

Office Vasiti Soko said the donation would greatly address the needs gathered from schools on the ground.

“We will ensure to work within the timelines of the Ministry of Education so that children in affected communities in the North are able to resume classes on Monday,” Ms Soko said.

The furniture pieces were shipped to the North last week in time for the resumption of school.

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From left: A Swire Shipping commercial manager Pacific Islands Iain Stewart, Punjas & Sons Pte Ltd’s manager operations Nandu Naidu, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar, Director National Disaster Management Office Vasiti Soko. Photo: SUPPLIED

MRD assesses boreholes, carry repair works

TWO teams from the Mineral Resources Department (MRD) were sent to conduct borehole assessment and reticulation works in the cyclone affected areas in the north earlier this month.

Both teams have completed most of the borehole assessments and repair on ground water reticulation works in Bua, Macuata and Cakaudrove Province.

Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Jone Usamate said the teams have been doing a great job on the post TC Yasa restoration works.

He also commended them for standing up to the call of the nation, sacrificing Christmas and New Year’s celebration with their families.

TC Yasa had damaged several pump house structures, solar structures and panels, water tanks, broken pipelines, connection issues and borehole contamination.

The restoration works undertaken include: the installation of new controllers for the solar system, replacement of broken pipelines, rebuilding pump house, repairing and replacement of tanks and borehole flushing using the compressors.

In addition, pressure tests on all the ground-water reticulation sites were carried out in order to ensure that water supply is back to normal especially for those communities who



Mineral Resources Department (MRD) teams were sent to conduct borehole assessment and reticulation works in the cyclone affected areas in the North. Photo: SUPPLIED

rely on boreholes as their main water source.

The teams had successfully repaired 13 boreholes and restored water supply for Ratu Emeri Primary School, Navasua Government Station, Kiobo village, Waisa village, Nasaisaivua village, Wailailai settlement, Natokatau village, Raviravi village, Navatu village, Kubulau District School and Lekutu Government Station in Bua and Navukebuli village in Macuata.

The teams also travelled to Druadrua and Kia island to carry out borehole assessments.

The Australian Defense Force (ADF) air-

lifted the compressor to these islands which are used to flush the boreholes.

The borehole at Yaro village on Kia Island was decommissioned because a two-meter wooden log was in the borehole and could not be removed.

Minister Usamate also highlighted that reticulation works at Qelemumumu in Macuata is still pending as the teams await the restoration of electricity.

The Ministry is working towards identifying new borehole sites for Kia Island, in Macuata.

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Commit to the improvement of the capability: Seruiratu

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“I TAKE this opportunity to acknowledge the Fiji Police Force, Republic of Fiji Military Forces and the National Fire Authority for their commitment during Tropical Cyclones Yasa and Ana.”

Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu shared these sentiments in Parlia-

ment while responding to questions on the work done by Fiji Police Force during TC Yasa and TC Ana.

“The Police is one of the key stakeholders when it comes to our response during emergency operations and, of course, TC Yasa and TC Ana and the rest is not an exemption.”

“We are guided by the Police Act Cap. 81 – the key responsibility is the maintenance of law and order and protect life and property.”

Minister Seruiratu said he was appreciative of the establishment of community police posts apart from the major police stations throughout Fiji.

“These community police posts and police stations allow easy access by the community to the Fiji Police Force so that they can respond to the situation, not only in terms of law-and-order issues, but of course for the protection of life and property as well.”

“The Fiji Police Force also as-

sists by providing resources, not only manpower, but their vehicles, boats, they also provide escorts and the manning of check points as I have already alluded to.”

Minister Seruiratu further added the normal investigative work continues and all the other normal police work, whether it be prosecution or administrative work so that law and order, and protecting life and property carries on.

He also took the time to thank the government of Japan for assisting

the Fiji Police Force in terms of capability and assets in the event of natural disasters.

“We have new boats currently unloaded at the Fiji Police Force in Nasinu (former Mobile Base), and that is something that we will see online come the next one. We continue to commit to the improvement of the capability so that they can maintain effectiveness and efficiency in performing their roles.”

Ministry plans to rehabilitate farmers

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Ministry of Agriculture is considering the implementation of an intensive response plan to ensure farmers are fully rehabilitated.

Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy, while making his ministerial statement in Parliament in the February sitting, highlighted that this is because farmers in the Northern division were the worst affected during the two cyclones and such plans would ensure farmers are fully rehabilitated.



Root Crop farms in the Central Division were also badly affected by flooding in low lying areas with farmers experiencing more than 80 percent damage to their crop.

On TC Yasa, based on the findings from the IDA, the Ministry, after 72 hours, recommended the provision of 3 months food ration to NDMO for households in Zone 1 and 2.

Dr Mahendra Reddy
 Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Waterways

Minister Reddy stated that teams were already deployed on the ground carrying out detailed damage assessment which would form the basis of their response.

“With TC Ana, further damage was caused, including greater Viti Levu this time around. The Ministry’s desktop estimates considering its impact, damages of around 10 per cent to vegetable farmers in the Sigatoka lower valley area and about 60-80 per cent for vegetables farmers in Ba and Nadarivatu.

“Root Crop farms in the Central Division were also badly affected by flooding in low lying areas with farmers experiencing more than 80 percent damage to their crop.

“On TC Yasa, based on the findings from



Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy, while making his ministerial statement in Parliament in the February sitting. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

the IDA, the Ministry, after 72 hours, recommended the provision of 3 months food ration to NDMO for households in Zone 1 and 2.

“In addition, MoA commenced the immediate food security response which included distribution of vegetable seed packages for home gardening, root crop cuttings, and other planting materials targeting household in Zones 1 and 2, which is estimated to be 23,725 households.”

“As part of the Ministry’s immediate response within 6 weeks post TC Yasa, MoA provided to over 19,000 affected households home gardening seed packages. Over 7,000 households have received kumala and bele cuttings and 2,000 households with cassava cuttings. In addition, the Ministry distributed live chicks, starter and growers to more than 1000 poultry farmers and over three metric tonnes of sugar to 190 bee farmers to assist in rehabilitation of their stock.

Minister Reddy also highlighted assistance provided to farmers post TC Yasa and TC Ana which included the immediate food security plan that targeted over 23,000 households which saw the distri-

bution of seed packages, kumala and bele cuttings; the life-saving rehabilitation plan which seeks rapid recovery of our rural productive sector by targeting almost 14,000 agriculture households and prioritizes subsistence and semi-commercial farmers that lost 75 per cent or more of their stock.

“It consists of six components – Provision of planting material and tools, land clearing and preparation, rehabilitation of infrastructure and repair to farm roads. The plan also highlight Fisheries and Forestry area of priorities and I know my colleagues Hon Ministers for Fisheries and Forests will share with you these details.

“The Ministry launched its Rice Rehabilitation programme in the Northern Division. The initiative was formulated to expand Rice Industry in the Northern Division after TC Yasa and aims at improving immediate rice production. It includes land preparation work for rice farmers within three months after the cyclone. Through this programme, farmers will only have to pay a subsidised rate of \$15 for one hour to contracted machinery owners and operators.

Zero balance for FNPF members is not new- A-G

NANISE NEIMILA

THE number of members with zero balance currently stands at 59,751, 6.6 percent more than what was reported in 2002.

This was highlighted by Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum while responding questions in Parliament last week on the status of accounts of Fijians that have zero balance in their superannuation account.

The A-G said to put this into context, there are generally two main reasons behind the zero balance for people who are actively working.

“Firstly, the bulk of the 76 percent of these accounts are due to inconsistent contributions where members make perhaps, you know, only one or few contributions then leave the formal workforce. Sometimes, you know, the employers would ask them to get an FNPF number and they work for them for one year and then they leave.”

“All members of FNPF are covered for the special death benefit where \$35 is deducted annually for \$8,500 death benefit cover. Over time, of course, if somebody has only made contributions of say a \$100 or \$200, with the deduction of that then the amount will get depleted.”

“The second reason, the balance of the 24 percent of those with zero balance accounts of members that registered and have made absolutely no contributions towards their accounts so for example, you have sometimes voluntary members, somebody may come along as a volunteer and may say, “I want to open up an account”, they start out with \$50 and then they do not come back again and we have seen that happen.”

The A-G further stated in terms of age, 40 percent of 23,136 with zero balance accounts are over 55 years old.

“About 18,000 members of the 59,571 members have had no transactions in their accounts for over 10 years or more. There is a high probability that some members are no longer in employment and may have migrated or some could have potentially died and the records have not been kept up-to-date.”

“It is also important to note that the FNPF only closes a member’s account when he or she comes forward to fully withdraw from the Fund.”

He added in light of this the FNPF Board is currently looking at related policy intervention to address the issue of zero balance and will explore options.



\$4.3m for the purchase of digital radiography machines

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Government has invested \$4.3million for the purchase of 22 Digital Radiography (DR) machines specifically for sub-divisional hospitals.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete while informing Parliament in the February sitting on the advantages of the recently commissioned digital radiology.

Minister Waqainabete said the machines were stationed in main hospitals namely Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH), Lautoka and Labasa but this was used as a pilot to be able to see what needs to be done to enable continuous strengthening of the imaging diagnostic services.

"I also take my hat off to our Medical Imaging Technologists, almost all of them graduated with Bachelors from FNU and they provide a very important part of our service. We wanted to be able to roll out these digital radiology machines and digital X-rays also to the sub-divisional hospitals."

In the ministry's bid to ensure that they continue to digitalise its services, Minister Waqainabete highlighted that the ministry had initially started with Laboratory Management Information System that they have for the laboratory scientist.

"The Ministry wants to thank the Prime Minister and the Government for this investment in our digital radiology machines and this is a cutting-edge technology that complements the digital radiology that we currently have with the CT scanner, the MRA machines and the ultrasound machines. These 22 new portable radiology machines changes the landscape of radiology services in Fiji and these are the reasons. One, the x-ray images will be analysed and transferred from the detector to the workstation within five seconds. With that quick turnaround time, it means a much-reduced waiting time for patients and the general public."

This digital radiology is also climate resistant and the Radiology Department's picture archives and communication system, is currently being installed.

"So far we are putting about \$1 million worth of server and infrastructure in CWM alone then all these units will be connected into the main facilities at CWM, Lautoka and Labasa."

Meanwhile, Minister Waqainabete also provided an update on the current development in regards to integrating Patient Information System and the Radiology Information System.

"When this is done, the difficulty in information sharing and imaging and sharing of radiology across facilities will be a thing of the past. We have also decided there will be equitable distribution of the resources and to that end, we have put one in Taveuni, Savusavu, Nabouwalu in the North and because of the population size, we have installed one in Seaqaqa, Wainikoro and Rabi."

Fiji-Solomon agree on maritime boundaries

AZARIA FAREEN

A MOTION on the signing of an Agreement between Fiji and the Solomon Islands on the overlapping of Maritime Boundaries was presented and passed in Parliament last week.

Speaking to the Members of the Parliament, Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya said "the Agreement will not have any financial implication or place any financial obligations on Fiji".

"The endorsement and execution of this Agreement will contribute to improving governance, security, law enforcement, and management of the marine resources within Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)," he said.

"It is worth noting from the report of the Standing Committee, as submitted by the Maritime Affairs Coordinating Committee, that there were no disputes between Fiji and the Solomon Islands on their Maritime

boundaries, hence, the need to agree."

"Maritime Boundaries demarcates the sea into different sectors from the baseline to a country's maritime zones, such as the territorial sea (12 nautical miles from the baseline), the contiguous zone (24 nautical miles), the EEZ (200 nautical miles), and to some extent the continental shelf."

"In measuring the 200 nautical miles for Fiji's EEZ boundary, it was eminent that this was overlapping with nearby coastal states, like the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Wallis and Futuna and New Caledonia," Minister Koya said.

Fiji has concluded negotiations and signed maritime boundary agreements for its EEZ with Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna and New Caledonia with negotiations ongoing for the conclusion of maritime boundary agreements with Tonga and Vanuatu.

Minister Koya highlighted the Standing Committee report also alluded to sovereign rights and sovereignty, as indicated in the re-

port are two distinctive rights in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

"The application of sovereignty or sovereign rights is also dependent on the type of Maritime Zone - sovereignty means that a coastal state exercises control over the territorial sea and no other state can exercise a concurrent sovereignty, unless international law or UNCLOS prescribes," he said.

"As opposed to Sovereign rights, UNCLOS provides that a coastal state has sovereign rights in the EEZ for the purposes of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources whether living or non-living," he added.

"The overlapping EEZ boundary between Fiji and Solomon Islands is settled through the equidistance principle, (equal distance from both countries EEZ), through a median line, which is calculated from the base points of the respective countries and there is no dispute concerning this demarcation."

Minister Koya on micro, small, medium enterprises



AZARIA FAREEN

THE Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport will be processing applications for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through the Northern Development Plan and releasing funds in particular to the Northern Division.

Line Minister Faiyaz Koya, speaking in Parliament in the February sitting, said the ministry has been proactive and partnered with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to conduct a business impact survey post Tropical Cyclone Yasa.

"Based on the preliminary results from more than 1,500 respondents, it is estimated that businesses suffered more than \$25 million in losses and damages," Minister Koya said.

"Despite our hard times, we remain positive and forward looking and with the right support in targeted areas, we continue to create an enabling environment for MSMEs and the wider business community to thrive."

Minister Koya highlighted that the ministry has a number of reforms that will continue to improve the business environment, especially for MSMEs

and is working on the finalisation of the MSME Act, Investment Bill and amendments to the Co-operatives Act.

"The Ministry plans to submit more project proposals in conjunction with the International Aid Division of Ministry of Economy to donor agencies, emphasising the role of MSMEs in tourism and agriculture," Minister Koya said.

The Fijian Government, for the first time, offered loan packages to MSMEs at concessionary rates ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 percent which fills the void left by commercial banks, and offers much needed cash injections of up to \$21,000.

The loan packages were also offered to Fijians who were laid off due to COVID-19 and wished to venture into entrepreneurship, which brought together the public and private sectors.

"The private sector experts

provided the much-needed commercial input in the assessment process, whilst the Government provided the funding and I thank the members of Business Assistance Fiji who labored for free to ensure our MSMEs remain afloat," Minister Koya said.

"From the 9,000 plus loan applications received, approximately 98 percent have been assessed with close to \$30 million loaned by the Fiji Revenue and Customs Services - that's \$30 million direct cash injection into the economy - a positive and remarkable achievement," he added.

"In addition to the concessional loans, my Ministry through various MSME programmes has funded over \$830,000 MSMEs projects in various sectors and offers business savvy training through the MSME Fiji and Co-operatives teams, which has

helped more than 2,000 businesses in understanding their costs, pricing, business planning, forecasts and post disaster business recovery. And we will continue providing mentoring and guidance."

"We have also set up a dedicated MSME Helpline 998 6014, to allow public access to MSME related information and advice, in addition, a business-related guide is available on the bizFiji portal," he added.

Minister Koya highlights the ministry continues to remain engaged with the MSMEs on a daily basis through routine visits and has recently registered a women-based Co-operative that processes virgin coconut oil and will diversify into retail soon.

"We hope to further assist this Co-operative by welcoming them to the Fijian Made family to provide greater market access," Minister Koya said.



NZ will continue to work with Fiji

FELIX LESINAIVALU

NEW Zealand will continue to work with the Fijian Government and civil society organisations on recovery efforts in communities most affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Ana.

High Commissioner of New Zealand to Fiji, Jonathan Curr highlighted this during the Waitangi Day reception hosted at the High Commissioner's residence.

"So far, we have committed over FJ\$5 million in assistance. As we grapple with the scale of the damage and increasingly move from response to recovery that figure will only increase."

"Working together to confront shared challenges is essential, whether that is bilaterally, regionally, or globally," Mr Curr said.

"We are all blessed to live in the



From left: Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the Waitangi Day reception at the New Zealand's High Commissioner's residence.

Pacific - a region that has seen successful COVID-19 preparedness and response. Our communities are safer than nearly anywhere else in the world at this moment.

"New Zealand and Fiji's respons-

es to the pandemic have been first class, and rank among the most effective globally."

Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in his congratulatory message for the occasion of the

181st anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi said this symbolic event represents New Zealand's commitment towards the principles, values and aspirations that Fiji and New Zealand

share.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the strength of Fiji and New Zealand's bilateral relations has been increasingly evident during these unprecedented times in which the need for deeper cooperation and partnership is even more important.

The Head of the Fijian Government has also conveyed Fiji's appreciation to New Zealand for their support and assistance to Fiji in its rebuilding and recovery efforts from COVID-19 and TC Yasa.

The President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, Speaker of Parliament Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and Members of Parliament, members of the diplomatic corps attended the event.



Permanent secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister and acting permanent secretary for Foreign Affairs, Yogesh Karan with Fiji's Head of Mission to Indonesia Amena Yauvoli.

Ministry conveys best wishes to new Fijian envoys

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) conveyed their best wishes to Ambassador Amena Yauvoli as he recently took up his new diplomatic posting as the Head of Fiji's Mission in Indonesia and Ambassador Naipote Katonitabua as the new Head of Fiji's Mission in United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Before their departure to Jakarta and Abu Dhabi, both the Ambassadors met with the MFA Team and they had the opportunity to briefly share their plans on advancing Fiji's interests through the Fiji Missions in Indonesia and UAE. On behalf of Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Voreqe Bainimarama, the Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and acting permanent secretary for Foreign Affairs, Yogesh Karan congratulated Ambassador Yauvoli and Ambassador Katonitabua on their new diplomatic role and conveyed the Fijian Government's best wishes as they headed for their respective Missions in Indonesia and UAE.

Mr Karan said Ambassador Yauvoli and Ambassador Katonitabua have vast experience and great leadership capabilities which will guide the work of the Fiji Missions in Indonesia and UAE to progressively maximise returns on investment for Fiji and the region.

He said Fiji Missions operations are strategically realigned with the Fijian Government's priorities and Fiji's development needs and "results oriented" deliverables are at the core of the bilateral and multilateral engagements



Permanent Secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister and acting permanent secretary for Foreign Affairs, Yogesh Karan with Fiji's Head of Mission in United Arab Emirates (UAE) Naipote Katonitabua.

pursued by the Fiji Missions.

In reaffirming their commitment to the role, Ambassador Yauvoli and Ambassador Katonitabua thanked Prime Minister Bainimarama for having confidence in their abilities to lead the Fiji Missions in Indonesia and UAE.

Both Ambassadors said that they are proud to represent Fiji and they will work to the best of their abilities to further the areas of cooperation and enhance Fiji's visibility.

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A teacher's work key for a nation moving forward

FELIX LESINAIVALU

"YOU are at the forefront of this nation moving forward because your work will help our young ones to grow up and be responsible, highly qualified and educated."

These were the sentiments shared by the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote to the teachers in the Northern Division during his recent visit to areas that were affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasa.

During President Konrote's visit to the various schools he advised children to keep safe during these times and to remain vigilant.

"You are the leaders of tomorrow and it is crucial that you have a safe and healthy learning environment."

President Konrote visited Bua District School, Galoa Island Primary School, Lekutu Secondary School, Dreketi Central College and Maramarua Primary School in the Northern Division.

President Konrote also reminded teachers that their role is to not only teach but to also nurture the leaders of tomorrow.

Dreketi Central College Principal Emosi Kuli was thankful to the Fijian Government for the assistance in the rehabilitation of the school.

"It has enabled our students to come to school and I am really surprised by the turnout of students since classes began."

Bua District School Head Teacher, Nitya Narayan also said that on the behalf of the children of Bua District School and the community of Bua, he would like to thank the Fijian Government for being supportive during these trying times.

"We do understand that there have been many challenges that our country has been going through since TC Winston, the COVID-19 pandemic and again TC Yasa but we have never felt that our government is not with us."

"Seeing the President of Fiji and hearing words of encouragement from him would be good energy for the children to overcome the challenges they are facing after the destruction from TC Yasa."

Mr Narayan said it was indeed a blessing for the children to see the President of Fiji, have the chance to take a picture and to talk with him.

While addressing President Konrote, Mr Narayan said, "Your presence here today has given us the strength and given us more confidence to keep moving forward".



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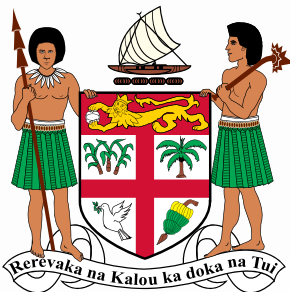
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Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama joins the Chinese Community marking the Chinese new year at the Yat Sen Hall in Suva. Photo: SUPPLIED

PM: FIJIAN, NOT OTHERS

Chinese community celebrates Year of the Ox

RONAL DEO

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has stressed that our Chinese community in Fiji are not others – they are Fijians.

As he joined in the Chinese New Year celebrations at the Yat Sen Hall in Suva, the Prime Minister said,

“All fellow citizens can celebrate the Chinese New Year, as we all recognise, respect and celebrate other important days—such as Diwali, Christmas, Eid-al-Fitr and others”.

“Here in Fiji, we are safe from the coronavirus. And we are blessed to be able to celebrate with our family and friends, and we

can appreciate and recommit ourselves to unity in our communities and to the values that we all share,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He added that as we embrace the Year of the Ox, this is a year that will be marked by those qualities we associate with the ox—steadfastness, strength, hard work and perseverance.

“Most importantly, oxen work best in teams, and we will all need to pull together and work together as we rebuild our economy,” Prime Minister Bainimarama added.

He further added that the COVID-19 vaccines Fiji needs, are coming out of the laboratories and into the manufacturing phase.

“Many are already being administered, and we are making sure that Fiji will get its fair share and be able to vaccinate our people as soon as possible. We will not wait meekly in line to receive this shot of life for our economy,” he said.

“We were slapped with a pandemic, but we stopped it at our border. We have to rebuild our economy better, but we have protected our people. And we are hard at work to overcome the challenges of climate change. In all of this, we will win,” PM Bainimarama added.

“How we respond to events over the coming months, particularly the vaccination efforts, is important. It will shape the future of

this nation moving forward.

“We want to ensure that Fiji is stronger and safer, opening up our borders, and that our people are not left behind from the world’s recovery,” the Prime Minister said.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Community in Fiji contributed \$15,000 towards the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund.

Chinese Association of Fiji President Jenny Seeto said in times of difficulties the spirit of humanity must prevail.

She said the Chinese community had also provided relief assistance to the affected Fijians soon after the recent Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Ana.

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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जलवायु परिवर्तन एक वास्तविक खतरा

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गे बड़निमारामा ने एक शक्तिशाली बयान दिया है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन न प्रशान्त के लिए एक वास्तविक खतरा है।

एक वेबुएल प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्रिए परामर्श के दौरान श्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि जलवायु परिवर्तन की वजह से हमारे क्षेत्र में भारी

संख्या में लोग इधर से उधर जाकर बस रहे हैं। प्रधानमंत्री के अनुसार हर साल हमारे और भी नागरिकों को मजबूर होकर अपना घर-बार छोड़ना पड़ेगा ताकि वे जलवायु परिवर्तन की वजह से ताकतवर तूफान, बड़ रहे समुद्र और नदियों से दूर जा सकें।

“यह एक ऐसा संकट है जो हमारी वजह से सामने नहीं आया है लेकिन हमें इसका नतिजा भुगतना पड़ रहा है। हमारे पड़ोसी देश जहाँ ज्यादातर नीचले इलाके हैं वर्तमान में खतरे का सामना कर रहे हैं। जिस तरह से वहाँ समुद्र बढ़ रहा है वहाँ के नागरिकों को सीमा पार किसी और देश में शरण लेनी पड़ेगी क्योंकि धीरे-धीरे पूरा देश समुद्र की गोद में जा रहा है।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि इसी वजह से फीजी ने तुवालू और किरिबास के नागरिकों के सामने प्रस्ताव रखा है कि अगर वे चाहे तो फीजी में आकर बस सकते हैं।

जहाँ तक फीजी का सवाल है तो प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि देश जटिल चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है जहाँ खतरे का सामना कर रहे फीजीवासियों को सुरक्षित जगह खिसकाने पर काम हो रहा है जबकि तिरालिस (43) समुदायों

की पहचान हुई है।

“आप शर्त लगा सकते

हैं कि यह संख्या ज़रूर

बढ़ेगी। अभी तक छः

समुदायों को पूरी तरह

या उनका कुछ भाग

खिसकाया गया है। इस

बात को ध्यान में रखकर

समुदायों को खिसकाया

जा रहा है कि नई जगह

पर यह लोग अच्छी

नौकरी पाने के साथ-

साथ ज़रूरी सेवाएं प्राप्त

कर सकें। ऐसा करके

हम लोगों में विश्वास जगा

सकते हैं कि यह नई जगह उनकी अपनी है

क्योंकि उन्होंने अपनी पुरानी ज़मीन छोड़ने में

भारी दुख का सामना किया है जिसे वे सालों

से अपना घर मानते आए थे, जिस ज़मीन पर

उनके पूर्वजों को दफनाया गया है तथा वे

उम्मीद कर रहे थे कि यह ज़मीन उनकी आने

वाली पीढ़ियों को विरासत में मिलेगी,” उन्होंने

ने कहा।

प्रधानमंत्री ने प्रकाश डाला कि फीजी ने एक

बहुत बड़ी उपलब्धि हासिल की जब COP24

में विश्व का पहला प्लेन्ड रिलोकईशन

गार्डलाइन का विमोचन हुआ तथा (2019)

में उन लोगों के लिए रिलोकईशन फंड का

भी विमोचन किया गया जिन्हें जलवायु परिवर्त

न की वजह से खिसकना पड़ता है।



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गे बड़निमारामा हालही संसदीय बैठक के बाद संसद भवन से निकलते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



उत्तरी विभाग के गन्ने के किसानों को सहायता



चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

वनुआलेवू में जिन गन्ने के किसानों के खेतों को समुद्री आँधी यासा से नुकसान हुआ है को इस साल पाँच फरवरी से सहायता मिलने लगी है। मंत्रीमण्डल ने चार मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा लागत एक कोप रिहैबिलिटेशन और रिकवरी प्लेन की स्वीकृति दी है जिसके तहत यह सहायता पहुँचाई जाएगी।

शुगा मंत्रालय के 2020-2021 राष्ट्रीय बजट जिसे मंजूरी दी गई है से इस योजना के लिए पैसे निकाले जाएंगे। प्रधानमंत्री दफ्तर तथा शुगा मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण का कहना है कि इस योजना के लिए पाँच मुख्य गतिविधियाँ हैं जिनमें शामिल है, चौतीस हजार दो सौ छत्तीस (34,236) बेग ब्लेन्ड सी मसाला,

छब्बीस हजार लीटर से ज़्यादा अमाईन, छब्बीस हजार लीटर से ज़्यादा घास नाशक दवा तथा पचास हेक्टस में किसानों की मदद की जाएगी जिनकी फसलें नष्ट हुई हैं। श्री करण ने कहा कि लगभग दो लाख मीटर तक खेतों में नालें बनाने तथा फसल दोबारा बोने के लिए दो चरण में काम होंगे जो कि योजना का हिस्सा है।

गन्ना फिर से बोने वाली गतिविधि का पहला चरण अगले महीने से अक्टूबर महीने के बीच होगा तथा दूसरा चरण अगस्त से अक्टूबर महीने के बीच रहेगा। इस काम के लिए किसानों को उच्च दर्जे के गन्ने की बीज तथा अन्य पैदावान की व्यवस्था खुद करने की ज़रूरत होगी।

श्री करण ने कहा कि फीजी शुगा कौपेरेशन तथा शुगागईन गोवस काउन्सिल को जाँच करके साबित करना होगा कि नुकसान हुआ है जिसके

बाद किसानों की सहायता की जाएगी। स्थाई सचिव श्री करण ने सभी साझेदारों से माँग की है कि वे साथ मिलकर काम करें ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि किसानों को समय पर सहायता दी जाए। वर्तमान समय में फीजी शुगा कौपेरेशन की टीम पश्चिमी विभाग में समुद्री आँधी आना से गन्ने के खेतों को हुए नुकसान आँक रही है।

इसके बाद फैसला किया जाएगा कि इन किसानों को किस तरह से सहायता पहुँचाई जाएगी,” श्री करण ने कहा।

फिलहाल, वनुआ लेवू में कुल चौदह हजार दो सौ दस (14,210) हेक्टर ज़मीन में गन्ने बोए गए हैं जिनमें से तीन हजार तीन सौ साठ (3,360) किसानों के दस हजार एक सौ (10,197) से ज़्यादा हेक्टर में गन्नों को क्षति पहुँची।

देश में पेनाडोल उपलब्ध है

रोनल देव

आम जनता को सलाह दी जा रही है कि देश भर के हेल्थ सेन्टर और अस्पतालों के दवाखानों में पारासिटमोल या पेनाडोल की सप्लाई उपलब्ध है जबकि संसद में विरोधी दल ने गलत बयान दिया था।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के फीजी फार्मास्युटिकल और बायोमेडिकल सेविसस मेनेजमन्ट और कर्मचारी इस बात का ध्यान रख रहे हैं कि पेनाडोल और अन्य ज़रूरी दवाईयाँ और चिकित्सा उत्पादन मरीज़ों के उपयोग के लिए दवाखानों और हेल्थ सेन्ट्स तथा अस्पतालों में उपलब्ध रहे हालांकि विश्व भर में कई देशों के सप्लाई चैन कई चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफ़ेरैमी वाँगाईनवेते ने आम जनता से माँग की है कि बीमार होने पर वे अस्पताल ज़रूर जाए क्योंकि हेल्थ सेन्ट्स और अस्पताल के कर्मचारी अपने डिविज़नल और नेशनल सेन्ट्स के लगातार संपर्क में हैं ताकि लोगों को ज़रूरत पड़ने पर स्वास्थ्य सेवा और चिकित्सा उत्पादन दिया जाए।

मंत्रालय, हालही सावूसावू अस्पताल में एक मरीज़ की मौत पर भी जवाब देना चाहता है जिसके बारे में सौशल मिडिया में लिखा गया है। जिस दिन सक्त बीमार इस व्यक्ति को अस्पताल में भर्ती किया गया था, स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों ने उनकी अच्छी देखभाल की जो उनके बस में था हालांकि उस वक्त मौसम बहुत खराब था।

मंत्री ने कहा कि स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी लगातार इस व्यक्ति के अंतिम साँस तक उनके परिवार वालों को उनकी हालत पर जानकारी दे रहे थे। उन्होंने आम जनता से माँग की है कि वे व्यक्ति के चाहने वालों को मौका दें कि वे शोक मनाएं।



रोज़गार मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला हाल में उन परिवारों से मिलने गए थे जिनपर प्राकृतिक विपत्ति का असर पड़ा है चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

मंत्री बाला रा में दुखित परिवार से मिलने गए

रोनल देव

उन लोगों तक पहुँचना सरकार की दृष्टि है जहाँ तक कोई और नहीं पहुँचा है।

हाल ही में कोरोताले सेलटमन्ट रा में एक परिवार से मुलाकात करते हुए रोज़गार मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला ने ऐसा कहा जिनके घर-सम्पत्ति को ज़मीन भसकने के कारण नुकसान पहुँचा है।

समुद्री आँधी आना के दौरान इस परिवार का आधा घर, सभी सामान, उनकी गाड़ी और पशु मिट्टी के नीचे दब गए थे।

मंत्री बाला बाढ़ चड़ी नदियों को पार करते हुए इस परिवार से मिलने गए ताकि उनकी कुछ मदद हो सके।

“यह दुख की बात है कि इस परिवार का घर और बाकी सामान मिट्टी भसकने के कारण क्षतिग्रस्त हुए लेकिन सौभाग्य से परिवार के सात सदस्य बाल-बाल बच गए,” मंत्री बाला ने कहा।

उधर, घर के एक सदस्य मुनेश्वर गाउन्डर ने कहा कि वो अभारी है कि सरकार का कोई प्रतिनिधी आगे आकर उनके परिवार की मदद करने के लिए हाथ बढ़ा रहा है। उनके अनुसार दो सप्ताह पहले शनिवार को वो अपने घर में अपनी माँ, पत्नी, तीन बेटे और बेटी के साथ घर में था जब मिट्टी भस्की।



आँधी से क्षति पहुँचे अपने घर के बाहर खड़े एक व्यक्ति चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

आँधी यासा के बाद तईस हज़ार से ज़्यादा परिवारों को मदद की सक्त ज़रूरत थी

रोनल देव

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी का कहना है कि समुद्री आँधी यासा के बाद लगभग तईस हज़ार सात सौ पचीस (23,725) परिवारों को मदद की सक्त ज़रूरत थी।

मंत्री ने संसद को जानकारी दी कि समुद्री आँधी यासा और आना के बाद किस तरह से सहायता पहुँचाई गई।

उन्होंने कहा कि समुद्री आँधी यासा से हुए नुकसान की शुरूआती जाँच पर जानकारी सामने आने के बहत्तर (72) घण्टे बाद मंत्रालय ने नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट ऑफिस को ज़ोन 1 और ज़ोन 2 में तीन महीने का भोजन राशन देने का सुझाव दिया था।

“इसके अलावा मंत्रालय ने सब्जियों के बीज, जड़ वाले भोजन की कटिंग तथा बोने वाली अन्य समग्री इन

इलाकों में परिवारों को बाँटा।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि समुद्री आँधी यासा के बाद कृषि मंत्रालय के छः हफ्ते की सहायता के तहत उन्नीस हज़ार से ज़्यादा परिवारों को घर-आँगन में बोने के लिए बीज दिए गए, सात हज़ार परिवारों को कुमाला और बेले के कटिंग मिले तथा दो हज़ार परिवारों को कसेरा के कटिंग दिए गए थे।

“इसके अलावा मंत्रालय ने मुर्गी

पालन करने वाले एक हज़ार से ज़्यादा किसानों को मुर्गी के बच्चे, स्टाटा और गोवा बाँटा तथा मधुमक्खी के एक सौ नब्बे किसानों के स्टोक वापस भरने के लिए उन्हें तीन मेट्रिक टन चीनी बाँटे गए।

समुद्री आँधी यासा के कारण कई पशु मारे गए या घायल हुए इसलिए मंत्रालय के लाईव स्टोक डिविज़न से जानवरों के डाक्टरों को मोबाईल क्ली-

निक के ज़रिए पशु पालन करने वाले किसानों को मुफ्त सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए भेजा गया जहाँ जानवरों का इलाज हुआ।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने आम किया कि यह पहली बार था जब मंत्रालय ने समुद्री आँधी यासा का डीटेल डेमज असेसमन्ट का आकड़ा ऑनलाईन कोबो टूलबोक्स सोफ्टवेयर के ज़रिए हासिल किया।

उत्तरी स्कूलों को दान में नए मेज़ और कुर्सियाँ मिली



शिक्षा मंत्री रैज़ी अकबर, एन डी एम ओ की डायरेक्टर वसिती सोको, पुँजा एन्ड सन्स के उच्च अधिकारियों के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

शिक्षा मंत्रालय को दो सौ से ज़्यादा नए मेज़, कुर्सियाँ और अन्य फेनिचर दान में मिले हैं जो उन सोलह स्कूलों में बाँटे जाएंगे जिनपर समुद्री आँधी आना का असर पड़ा है।

पुँजा एन्ड सन्स लिमिटेड की दानी संस्था पुँजस चेरिटबल ट्रस्ट ने शिक्षा मंत्री रैज़ी अकबर को यह फेनिचर सौंपा। मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि सही समय पर यह सामान दान में मिले है जबकि उत्तरी विभाग के जिन स्कूल को आँधी से क्षति पहुँची थी को फेनिचर की ज़रूरत है। यह फेनिचर स्वाया शिपिंग की मदद से जहाज़ द्वारा फीजी लाया गया है।

“उत्तरी विभाग के सोलह स्कूलों को समुद्री आँधी आना से क्षति पहुँची थी तथा हमें पाँच सौ और फेनिचर की ज़रूरत है। हम नहीं चाहते कि बच्चे जब स्कूल जाए तो निराश हो कि वहाँ फेनिचर नहीं है इसलिए यह दान सही समय पर किया गया है,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा।

ट्रस्ट द्वारा फेनिचर दान करने के अलावा शिक्षा मंत्रालय दो सौ पचास फेनिचर खरीदेगा।

पुँजा एन्ड सन्स लिमिटेड मैनेजा औपरेशन्स श्री नन्दू नाईडू ने कहा कि वे ओकलेन्ड निउ ज़ीलेन्ड के दो स्कूलों के शुक्रगुज़ार है जिन्होंने ट्रस्ट को यह फेनिचर दान में दिया है जिन्होंने फिर यह सामान जहाज़ के द्वारा सूवा भेजा।

“हम अन्य सामान फीजी भेज रहे थे फिर हमने सोचा कि

क्यों न इस बार कुछ फेनिचा दान में दिया जाए इसलिए हमने इन स्कूलों से संपर्क किया,” श्री नाईडू ने कहा।

ट्रस्ट ने पिछले साल समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड के बाद सरकार के राहत कार्यों में हाथ बँटाया था।

नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट ऑफिस डायरेक्टर वसिती सोको ने इस सहायता से ज़रूरतमंद स्कूलों को भारी राहत मिलेगी। हमने इस बात का ध्यान रखा कि शिक्षा मंत्रालय के समय सीमा के अन्दर काम किया जाए जिससे उत्तरी विभाग के बच्चे सोमवार को वापस स्कूल लौटें हैं।

शिक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि हालही आई दो समुद्री आँधियों से जिन स्कूलों को क्षति पहुँची थी पर रात-दिन काम किया गया ताकि कक्षाएँ बच्चों का स्वागत करने के लिए तैयार होने के साथ-साथ बच्चों को पढ़ाई करने का उचित वातावरण मिले।

उत्तरी विभाग में स्कूलों को बन्द किया गया था ताकि स्कूल के मुख्य अध्यापकों, प्रिन्सीपल्स तथा डिविज़नल एडुकेटर्स अफ़सर्स, अध्यापकों तथा स्कूल मैनेजमन्ट को स्कूलों को समुद्री आँधी आना से हुई क्षति पर काम करने का मौका मिल सके।

“उत्तरी विभाग के कई इलाकों में बिजली, पानी की सेवा सामान्य हो गई है तथा रास्ते भी खुल गए हैं। कुछ इलाकों में यह सेवाएँ सामान्य होने में समय लगेगा। जिन स्कूलों में अभी तक पानी नहीं है तो वहाँ तक पानी बाँटने के लिए बोटा अथोरिटी ऑफ फीजी के साथ व्यवस्था की गई है। जिन स्कूलों में बिजली नहीं है को जेनेरेटर्स दिए गए हैं।



फीजी के लिए निउ ज़ीलेन्ड राजदूत महामहीम जोनाथन के, मंत्री इनिया सेरूइरातु को औपचारिक रूप से यह सहायता सौंपते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

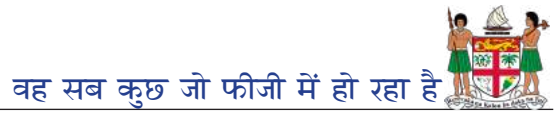
सरकार को निउ ज़ीलेन्ड से सहायता मिली

रोनल देव

निउ ज़ीलेन्ड की सरकार ने पिछले शुक्रवार को फीजी को और राहत सहायता प्रदान की है। एक कोंसाइनमन्ट जिसमें बारह टन राहत सामान है से उन फीजीयन सामाजों को राहत मिलेगी जिनपर समुद्री आँधी यासा और समुद्री आँधी यासा से असर पड़ा है। इन सामानों में बोटा पिउरिफिकेशन दवा, वोटर पम्प, डीफोजस, वोटर ब्लेडस, कोलेप्सीबल वोटर कोन्टईनर, फेमली हाएजीन किट, माँ तथा शिशुओं के लिए किट्स तथा टापूलीन शामिल है। फीजी के लिए निउ ज़ीलेन्ड राजदूत महामहीम जोनाथन के ने रूरल तथा मेरिटार्इम डिवेलोपमन्ट और डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट मंत्री इनिया सेरूइरातु को औपचारिक रूप से यह सहायता सौंपी। फीजीयन सरकार की ओर से आभार व्यक्त करते हुए, मंत्री सेरूइरातु ने निउ ज़ीलेन्ड को धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने कुछ महीनों पहले भी समुद्री आँधियों के शिकार लोगों की मदद करने में सरकार के राहतकार्य में हाथ बँटाया था। उन्होंने कहा कि सहायता कई तरह से पहुँचाई गई थी जिनमें शामिल है निउ ज़ीलेन्ड से आपातकालीन मानवीय राहत सप्लाई, हवाई मार्ग से क्षति पहुँचे इलाकों का

मूल्यंकन करने में सहायता, कमिश्नर नोटन के वेयरहाउस तथा उत्तरी विभाग के स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं पर मरम्मत, प्रधानमंत्री के रिलीफ और रिहेबिलिटेशन ट्रस्ट अकाउन्ट में धन से सहायता तथा अन्य गैर-सरकारी संस्थाओं और नागरिक समाज को सहायता देना जो सरकार के साथ मिलकर ज़रूरतमंदों की मदद कर रही है।

“हम वेशक कोविड-19 के असाधारण समय में जी रहे हैं तथा लगातार ताकतवर आँधियों का प्रकोप भी पड़ रहा है जिससे हमें पर्याप्त स्तर के सहयोग और सार्थक साझेदारी की ज़रूरत है। मैं जोर देना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे चुनौतीपूर्ण समय में हाथ बँटाने के लिए फीजीयन सरकार, निउ ज़ीलेन्ड की जनता तथा सरकार की अत्यंत प्रशंसा करते हैं,” मंत्री सेरूइरातु ने कहा। निउ ज़ीलेन्ड के राजदूत ने कहा कि शुक्रवार को जो दान दिया है वो हाल के आँधियों के लिए फीजी की आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया के लिए निउ ज़ीलेन्ड के योगदान का प्रदर्शन किया है। उनके अनुसार असर पड़े फीजीवासियों की और मदद करने के लिए रोयल निउ ज़ीलेन्ड एर्या फोर्स का एक और विमान जल्द और राहत सामान लेकर आएगा।



लेप्टोस्पायरोसीस क्या है?

एक आम बीमारी है जो जानवरों से मानव तक फैलती है

लेप्टोस्पायरोसीस कीटाणु से पीड़ित होने पर यह बीमारी होती है

ज्यादातर यह गर्म और नम वाले मौसम वाले देश जैसे फीजी में होती है जो शहर या गाँव में भी हो सकती है

लेप्टोस्पायरोसीस पकड़ने की अवधि पाँच से चौदह दिन है

* यह अवधि कीटाणु के संपर्क में आने और पहला लक्षण नज़र आने के बीच की है



चिन्ह और लक्षण



यह कैसे फैलता है?

यह लेप्टोस्पायरोसीस कीटाणु से फैलता है जो कीटाणु पीड़ित जानवरों के पेशाब में पाया है जिनमें, चूहे, पालतू जानवर, पशु तथा जंगली जानवर हो सकते हैं।



जब यह कीटाणु वातावरण में आता है तो यह मिट्टी और पानी में कई सप्ताह या उससे लम्बे समय तक जीवित रह सकता है।

जानवरों के सीधे संपर्क में आने से लोग पीड़ित हो सकते हैं, या जिस मिट्टी और पानी में पीड़ित जानवर ने पेशाब किया है के संपर्क में आने से वे बीमार हो सकते हैं।

यह बीमारी एक व्यक्ति से दूसरे तक नहीं फैलती है।



अपने आप को लेप्टोस्पायरोसीस से बचाए



यह कहाँ पर आम है?

फीजी में लेप्टोस्पायरोसीस दोनों ग्रामीण और शहरी इलाकों में पाए जाते हैं।

ग्रामीण इलाकों में जहाँ लोग खेतों में या उसके पास या पशुओं के नज़दीक रहते हैं में यह आम है।

लेप्टोस्पायरोसीस बीमारी में वृद्धि के कारण है, गम्भीर वर्षा, बाढ़ चड़ना, प्राकृतिक विपत्ति, सफाई की घटिया व्यवस्था, लोगों की आबादी बढ़ना और शहरों में लोगों का बढ़ाव होना

अगर आपको लेप्टोस्पायरोसीस का कोई चिन्ह या लक्षण दिखें तो आप तुरन्त अपनी नज़दीकी हेल्थ सेन्टर को संपर्क करें

और जानकारी के लिए www.health.gov.fj पर लोग ऑन कर



लेप्टोस्पायरोसीस

आपको क्या जानना ज़रूरी है



डेन्गी बुखार क्या है?

• एक बहुत ही दर्दनाक और दुबला करने वाली बीमारी जो डेन्गी वायरस लेकर घूमने वाले मच्छरों से फैलती है।

• हर साल दुनिया भर में कई मिलियन लोगों को पीड़ित करती है जो जानलेवा भी हो सकती है।

• डेन्गी का कोई विशिष्ट इलाज नहीं है

• डेन्गी ज़्यादा करके उन देशों में पाई जाती है जहाँ का मौसम साल भर गर्म और नम रहना है, खास करके शहरों और उससे बाहर वाले इलाकों में

• डेन्गी वायरस वाले मच्छर काटने के चार से दस दिनों में लोगों को इसके लक्षण दिखाई देते हैं

* यह अवधि आपको मच्छर काटने और पहला लक्षण नज़र आने के बीच की होती है।

डेन्गी के लक्षण



यह कैसे फैलता है?

एक पीड़ित व्यक्ति को काटने के बाद मच्छर में वायरस आ जाता है

जीवन भर के लिए मच्छर में यह वायरस रहता है जो किसी दूसरे को काटते समय वायरस फैलाना जाता है

डेन्गी बीमारी फैलाने वाले मच्छर ज़्यादा करके शहरी इलाकों में लोगों द्वारा बनाए गए कोनटेनर्स में पाए जाते हैं जैसे कि टायर और ड्रम्स बगैराह में



मच्छर पैदा होने वाले स्थानों को नष्ट करें



अपने आप को मैं डेन्गी बीमारी से कैसे बचा सकता हूँ?



अगर आपको डेन्गी बुखार के लक्षण और चिन्ह दिखें तो आप अपनी नज़दीकी हेल्थ सेन्टर जाएं

और जानकारी के लिए www.health.gov.fj पर जाएं



डेन्गी ब्रोशर

मच्छरों के 'काँटने' से बचे

डेन्गी को रोके





हाई कोर्ट में असेसस प्रणाली खत्म

रोनल देव

संसद ने हाई कोर्ट के मुकदमे में असेसस की प्रणाली हटाने वाला बिल पास कर दिया है।

इसका मतलब है कि हाई कोर्ट के मुकदमे में असेसस उपस्थित नहीं रहेंगे। बिल में किमनल प्रोसिजरा एक्ट 2009 में संशोधन करने का प्रस्ताव रखा गया था। बिल पर बिना किसी विलम्ब के बहस हुई।

संसद में बिल पर बोलते हुए अटेनी

जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि वर्तमान समय में अदालती कार्यवाई में कम संख्या में असेसस है जिनका उपयोग मुकदमे में एक से ज़्यादा बार हो रहा है।

सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि कम संख्या के असेसस का बार-बार उपयोग करने से प्रणाली में भ्रष्टाचार हो सकता है। उन्होंने ज़ोर दिया कि सच तो यह है कि जज के पास असेसस के फैसले को पलटने का अधिकार है। उन्होंने

आगे कहा कि असेसस को आम जनता से चुना जाता है जिनको कोई खास कानूनी ट्रेनिंग नहीं दी जाती है तथा उनके विचार और फैसले उनकी अपनी राय पर निर्भर करती है।

बिल के अनुसार एक सौ साल से ज़्यादा का समय बीत गया है जब असेसस की प्रणाली देश में शुरू हुई थी और तबसे लेकर अभी तक फीजी की न्यायपालिका तथा अदालती प्रणाली में भारी बदलाव हो चुके हैं।

बिल कहता है कि यह स्पष्ट है कि न्यायपालिका को अब कई खामियों से लदे एक पुरानी प्रणाली के उपयोग की ज़रूरत नहीं है। इससे समस्याएं भी खड़ी हो सकती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि सिर्फ फीजी और वनूआतू में इस प्रणाली का उपयोग हो रहा है।

मुकदमे में विलम्ब होता है, कभी-कभी सही समय पर असेसा के लिए कोई योग्य व्यक्ति मिलता नहीं है। किसी मुकदमे का आखरी फैसला जज

के हाथों में रहता है असेसस के नहीं। अटेनी जेनरल ने प्रकाश डाला कि एक जाने-माने वकील दविनेश शर्मा जिन्होंने कई मुकदमे लड़े हैं ने 2017 में कहा था कि उनका मानना है कि असेसस की प्रणाली हटा देनी चाहिए। उनके अनुसार इस आधुनिक युग में असेसस को निर्धारित नहीं करना चाहिए कि कोई व्यक्ति दोषी है या बेकसूर जो कि व्यक्ति को जातीय आधार पर देखेंगे।

कोविड के टीके सुरक्षित करने की ज़रूरत

रोनल देव

फीजी को कोविड के टीके सुरक्षित करने की ज़रूरत है। यह कहना है अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम का जिन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि कुछ देश जहाँ पूरी दुनिया की आबादी का सोलह प्रतिशत ही लोग रहते हैं ने विश्व के वैकसीन सप्लाई का साठ (60) प्रतिशत सप्लाई खरीद लिया है।

कोविड-19 के टीके अमीर देशों की दौड़ की तरह होनी लगी है। इसी वजह से विकासशील और विकसित देश, छोटे और बड़े देशों के बीच दूरियाँ पहले के मिलान में बहुत ज़्यादा बढ़ रही हैं।

“इसका मतलब है कि कुछ देशों पर ज़्यादा ध्यान दिया जा रहा है कि वहाँ बीमारी ठीक होने से पूरी दुनिया सुरक्षित होगी लेकिन ऐसा नहीं है। हम सभी जानते हैं कि सभी देश तबतक सुरक्षित नहीं रहेंगे जबतक सभी देश सुरक्षित नहीं हो जाते,” सईयद खईयूम ने कहा।

उन्होंने ज़ोर दिया कि फीजी को विश्व की आर्थिक हालत सुधारने का हिस्सा बनने के लिए दुनिया के अन्य देशों के साथ वैकसीन यानि टीके सुरक्षित करना होगा न कि अन्य देशों के बाद महीनों इंतज़ार करना चाहिए।

उनके अनुसार अगर ऐसा हुआ तो हमारे लोग बहुत पीछे रह जाएंगे, बीमारी के संपर्क में आ सकते हैं, आर्थिक रूप से वंचित रह जाएंगे जबकि बाकी दुनिया हमसे बहुत आगे निकल जाएगी। अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा कि हमारी सफलता, टीके सुरक्षित करने के समय पर निर्भर करता है।



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमारामा, देश में चीनी समुदाय से रिलीफ फंड के लिए पंद्रह हज़ार डोलर का चेक स्वीकार करते हुए

चित्र: रोनल देव

चीनी समाज ने पंद्रह हज़ार डोलर दान किया

रोनल देव

देश के चीनी समाज ने प्रधानमंत्री के रिलीफ फंड को पंद्रह हज़ार डोलर का दान दिया है।

सूवा स्थित गेट सेन होल में चीन

के नए साल के समारोह के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री को पंद्रह हज़ार डोलर का चेक दिया गया।

चेक स्वीकार करते हुए श्री बईनिमारामा ने इस सहायता के लिए

चीनी समाज को धन्यवाद दिया।

चाएनीज़ असोसिएशन ऑफ फीजी की प्रधान जेनी सीतो ने कहा मुश्किल के समय में मानवता की भावना सबसे ज़रूरी होनी चाहिए। उनके अनुसार

चीनी समाज ने हालही देश में आई अँधियों के तुरन्त बाद असर पड़े समाजों को राहत सहायता दी थी और फिर वे बाद में पंद्रह हज़ार डोलर भी बटोरने में कामयाब रहे।

चीनी समाज बाहर के लोग नहीं है-प्रधानमंत्री

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमारामा ने ज़ोर दिया है कि देश में चीनी समाज के लोग फीजीवासी हैं, बाहर के लोग नहीं।

सूवा स्थित गेट सेन होल में आयोजित चीन के नए साल के समारोह में बोलते हुए श्री बईनिमारामा ने कहा कि चीनी समाज के लोग उसी तरह अपने नए साल की खुशियाँ मना सकते हैं जिस तरह से हम दिवाली, कीसमस, इर्द और अन्य त्योहारों को मनाते और सम्मान देते हैं।

“हम फीजी में कोरोनावायस से सुरक्षित हैं तथा हमारे लिए यह आर्शिवाद से कम नहीं है कि हमें अपने परिवार वाले और दोस्तों के साथ उत्सव मनाने का अवसर मिलता है तथा हम अपने समुदायों में और मूल्यों के लिए एकता की सराहना कर सकते हैं,”

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार जब ईया ऑफ दी ओक्स का स्वागत हुआ है तो यह एक ऐसा साल जो उन गुणों द्वारा चिह्नित किया जाएगा जिन्हें हम एक बैल के साथ जोड़ते हैं जैसे दृढ़ता, शक्ति और कड़ी मेहनत। सबसे ज़रूरी बात यह है कि बैल टीमों यानि दलों में अच्छा काम करते हैं तथा हमें साथ मिलकर अपने देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था का पुनःनिर्माण करने की ज़रूरत



चीन के नए साल के समारोह के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमारामा, चीनी समाज से मिलते हुए

चित्र: रोनल देव

होगी।

प्रधानमंत्री ने आगे कहा कि फीजी के लिए कोविड-घश की दवा बन रही है। कई देशों ने अपना प्रबंध कर लिया है तथा सरकार इस बात का ध्यान रख रही है कि फीजी को भी अपना उचित हिस्सा मिला जाए ताकि हम जल्द से जल्द अपने लोगों को टी के लगाएँ। हम अपनी अर्थ-व्यवस्था के लिए नम्रता से कतार में खड़े होकर इस दवा का इंतज़ार नहीं करेंगे।

“फीजी पर महामारी का असर हुआ था जिसे हमने

अपनी सीमा पर ही रोक दिया है। हमें अपनी अर्थ-व्यवस्था को और मज़बूत बनाना है जबकि हमने अपने लोगों को सुरक्षित कर दिया है। हम जलवायु परिवर्तन से लड़ने में चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे हैं लेकिन हम ज़रूर जीत हासिल करेंगे,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार हम आने वाले महीनों में घटनाओं पर कैसे प्रतिक्रिया देते हैं, विशेष रूप से टीकाकरण के प्रयास महत्वपूर्ण हैं। यह आगे चलकर देश के भविष्य को आकार देगा।

किसानों को स्टोल फीस भरने से छूट मिली

रोनल देव

बा और लम्बासा में शाख-भाजी, जड़ वाले भोजन तथा फल वाले किसान जो मार्केट में बेचते हैं को एक महीने के लिए स्टोल फीस भरने से छूट दी गई है।

हाल में पश्चिमी विभाग में चड़ी बाढ़ से असर पड़े मार्केट का दौरा करती हुई लोकल गवमन्ट मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने प्रकाश डाला। मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि मार्केट विक्रेताओं ने फीस हटाने की माँग की थी जब समुद्री आँधी आना के दौरान उनकी

अधिकतर फसलें नष्ट हो गई थी तथा इसको लेकर स्पेशल एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर्स तथा चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव्स से बातचीत हुई।

मैंने इन जगहों का दौरा करने तथा विक्रेताओं से मिलने का फैसला किया ताकि हम देख सकें कि हम उनकी मदद कैसे कर सकते हैं। बा मार्केट में बाढ़ का पानी चढ़ गया था तथा वहाँ बहुत नुकसान हुआ जहाँ विक्रेताओं ने अपनी उपज खो दी थी क्योंकि वे उन्हें घर नहीं ले गए थे। उन्होंने काउंसिलिंग से फीस माफ करने की माँग की थी तथा हमने फीस माफ की है। लेकिन यंगोना और मसाला वगैरह बेचने वालों को स्टोल फीस भरना जारी रखना चाहिए,” मंत्री कुमार ने कहा।

मंत्री कुमार ने लौतोका मार्केट का भी दौरा किया तथा लौतोका वेन्डा असोसिएशन से मुलाकात की।



रोनल देव

हालही आई समुद्री आँधी से उत्तरी विभाग में जिन स्कूलों को क्षति पहुँची को फिर से बनाने में मदद करने के लिए टेलिकोम फीजी ने शिक्षा मंत्रालय को दो लाख डॉलर का दान दिया है।

असर पड़े विद्यार्थियों को और सहायता देने के लिए टेलिकोम एक साल के लिए उत्तरी विभाग के बीस स्कूलों को मुफ्त में इंटरनेट की सेवा प्रदान करेगा।

शिक्षा मंत्री रौजी अक्बर ने टेलिकोम फीजी को धन्यवाद देते हुए कहा कि पिछले कुछ महीनों से जो ताकतवर आँधियाँ हमारे खूबसूरत देश को भारी क्षति पहुँचा रही हैं, वो मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव का भयानक उदाहरण है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह अनुचित प्रभाव जो हमारे द्वीप पर पड़ रहा है के लिए हम बहुत कम ज़िम्मेदार हैं।

“यह हमें याद दिलाते हैं कि

शिक्षा मंत्री रौजी अक्बर, मंत्रालय की स्थाई सचिव एंजिला जोखन हालही टेलिकोम फीजी के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव ऑफिसा चार्ल्स गाउन्डर से चेक स्वीकार करते हुए फोटो: ??

टेलिकोम फीजी ने स्कूल दोबारा बनाने के लिए दान दिया

जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ हमारी लड़ाई जारी है तथा इस लड़ाई के महत्व को और मज़बूत करता है जिसका नेतृत्व हमारे देश के प्रधानमंत्री अंतराष्ट्रीय मंच पर कर रहे हैं। ऐसे समय में एकता और दया दिखाना तथा फीजीवासियों को उपर उठाना ज़रूरी है। हमें टेलिकोम फीजी को धन्यवाद देना चाहिए जो मुश्किल के इस समय में एक बार फिर खड़े हुए हैं। टेलिकोम का योगदान, स्कूलों का निर्माण दोबारा करने में भारी सहयोग देगा। यह ज़रूरी है कि बच्चों की शिक्षा में हो रही बाधाएँ को कम किया जाए,” मंत्री अक्बर ने कहा।

टेलिकोम फीजी के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव ऑफिसा चार्ल्स गाउन्डर का कहना है कि फीजीयन होने के नाते सहायता प्रदान करना उनका कर्तव्य था।

“इन समुद्री आँधियों का बुरा असर हजारों लोगों की जिन्दगियों पर हुआ है तथा एक स्थानीय कम्पनी होने के नाते हमने मुश्किल की घड़ी में साथी फीजीवासियों की मदद करने का फैसला किया जब बात बच्चों की आई,” श्री गाउन्डर ने कहा।

“टेलिकोम, मंत्रालय के काम की सराहना कर रहा है जिन्होंने क्षति पहुँचे स्कूलों को फिर से बनाया ताकि असर पड़े इलाकों के बच्चों की पढ़ाई

बिना किसी बाधा के जारी रहे।”

श्री गाउन्डर के अनुसार लगातार समुद्री आँधियों का प्रकोप फीजी पर पड़ने की वजह से हमें स्कूलों का निर्माण और मज़बूती से करने की ज़रूरत है जो ताकतवर आँधियों का सामना कर सके। समुद्री आँधी यासा की वजह से उत्तरी विभाग में टेलिकोम की

संपत्तियों को भी क्षति पहुँची थी तथा दिन-रात काम करने के बाद जल्द से जल्द सेवाएँ सामान्य की गई।

इसके अलावा टेलिकोम ने समुद्री आँधी के बाद एक सौ छब्बीस परिवारों को राहत सामान बाँटा जिनमें ज़रूरी

शिक्षा मंत्रालय को फीजी पोर्ट्स टर्मिनल से मदद मिली



शिक्षा मंत्री रौजी अक्बर, फीजी पोर्ट्स टर्मिनल लिमिटेड के चेयरमैन हसमुख पटेल और कम्पनी के अन्य सदस्यों के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

समुद्री आँधी से असर पड़े विद्यार्थियों की सहायता करने के लिए शिक्षा मंत्रालय को फीजी पोर्ट्स टर्मिनल लिमिटेड ने पचीस हजार डॉलर का चेक दिया है।

इन पैसों से विद्यार्थियों के लिए स्कूल बैग और अन्य स्कूली सामान खरीदे जाएंगे।

चेक स्वीकार करती हुई मंत्री रौजी अक्बर ने कहा कि वो फीजी पोर्ट्स टर्मिनल की बहुत आभारी हैं जिन्होंने ऐसे मुश्किल समय में योगदान दिया है। उनके अनुसार इससे न केवल उन विद्यार्थियों की सहायता होगी जिन्हें स्कूली सामान की वास्तव में ज़रूरत है बल्कि माता-पिताओं के काँध से बोझ कम होगा।

“हमारे पास आकड़े हैं कि

कितने विद्यार्थियों पर समुद्री आँधी यासा का असर पड़ा लेकिन हालही समुद्री आँधी आना के बाद और भी विद्यार्थियों को सहायता की ज़रूरत होगी। मंत्रालय एक और सर्वेक्षण करेगा तथा एक नई सूची तैयार करेगा।

फीजी पोर्ट्स टर्मिनल लिमिटेड के चेयरमैन हसमुख पटेल का कहना है कि समुद्री आँधियों से हमारी जीविका पर असर पड़ रहा है तथा यह ज़रूरी है कि सही समय पर सहायता की जाए तथा इस सहायता से असर पड़े बच्चों की जीवन में स्थिरता ज़रूर आएगी।

आने वाले सप्ताह में मंत्रालय, स्कूलों के मुख्य अद्यापकों तथा प्रिन्सीपल्स के साथ मिलकर काम करेगा ताकि उन विद्यार्थियों की पहचान हो सके जिन्हें मदद की ज़रूरत है।

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम हालही संसद में देश की आर्थिक हालत पर जानकारी देते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

अर्थ-व्यवस्था नौ सालों में पहली बार गिरी

रोनल देव

अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने संसद में 2020/2021 आर्थिक साल के पिछले छः महीने में देश की आर्थिक हालत पर जानकारी दी।

उन्होंने कहा कि अभी तक लोग आर्थिक मंदी के बारे में जान गए होंगे।

“एक सदी में एक बार आने वाले कोडिड-घश महामारी की वजह से देश की आर्थिक हालत को भारी झटका लगा है जिससे पिछले साल इसमें

उन्नीस प्रतिशत की गिरावट हुई और जी डी पी को दो बिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा का नुकसान हुआ,” अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा।

फ़ीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था पिछले नौ सालों से लगातार उपर जा रही थी लेकिन इस बार इसमें 0.4 प्रतिशत की गिरावट देखी गई है।

समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के बाद देश की हालत काफी सुधर गई थी लेकिन अनुचित मौसम की वजह से और अधिक संकट पैदा हो रहा है। देशों की सीमाएं लम्बे समय तक बन्द रह सकती हैं तथा समुद्री आँधी यासा और आना तथा अन्य

प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के कारण बहुत नुकसान हो रहा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि यह क्षति तथा भविष्य में हालत कैसी होगी इसको लेकर कुछ यकीन से कहा नहीं जा सकता है, इसीलिए इसको देखते हुए हमारे देश को कोरोनावायरस से पहले वाली हालत तक पहुँचने में कम से कम तीन साल लग सकते हैं।

कई क्षेत्रों में व्यापार की हालत बहुत खराब है जबकि सबसे भारी झटका टूरिज़्म को लगा है। पिछले साल टूरिस्टों की संख्या चौरासी (84)

प्रतिशत से गिरी तथा लगभग 147,000 टूरिस्ट फ़ीजी आए थे। यह संख्या 1990s में हुआ करते थे।

लेकिन इस साल की शुरुआत वाले आकड़े, उन्नीसवीं सदी की तरह हैं। टूरिज़्म क्षेत्र में गतिविधी न होने की वजह से देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर असर पड़ा है। सरकार की योजनाओं में धीमापन आने के अलावा कुछ बड़ी कोन्सट्रक्शन योजना भी रुकी हुई है। औपचारिक और अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र में एक लाख (100,000) से ज़्यादा नौकरियों पर असर पड़ा है।

Noda Viti

‘US\$210m mai na Baqe ni Vuravura’

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kacivaka ena Palimedi na Minisita ni iLavo ka Vunilawa o Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ni sa yalataka na Baqe ni Vuravura nona veitokoni vei Viti. Na nodrau cakacaka vata oqo kei Viti e

edua na veitokoni vakacakacaka. Kaya o Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum ni veitokoni oqo ena vakarautaka kina na Baqe ni Vuravura e \$1 na bilioni . Mai na ilavo oya ena tikici mai kina e US\$210m me okati vaka dinau nei Viti. “Na dinau oqo ena vagolei kina noda

taqomaki keda mai na COVID-19.” “Vakakina na noda taqomaki keda mai na draki veisau.” “Vakatalega kina na vakatorocaketaki ni saravanua mai Vanua Levu,” kaya o Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum. Kaya na Minisita ni ilavo ni ratou saga

tale tikoga na veitokoni ni Baqe ni Vuravura kina International Development Association (IDA). Na IDA e lavaka e 0.75 na pasede ka me saumi lesu ena 40 na yabaki ka okati kina na sega ni saumi na kena tubu ena loma ni 10 na yabaki.



Sa kacivaka ena Palimedi na Minisita ni Bula o Vuniwai Ifereimi Waqainabete ni sa vakadonuya na iSoqosoqo ni Bula e Vuravura se na World Health Organisation (WHO) e 3 na icula ni COVID-19. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

CULA MO BULA: WAQAINABETE

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kacivaka ena Palimedi na Minisita ni Bula o Vuniwai Ifereimi Waqainabete ni sa vakadonuya na iSoqosoqo ni Bula e Vuravura se na World Health Organisation (WHO) e 3 na icula ni COVID-19. Na kena imatai na Pfizer rawa ni bula kina e 95 na pasede ni leweni-

vanua. Na kena ikarua na Moderna e rawa ni bula kina e 94.5 na pasede. Na ikatolu ni icula oya na AstraZeneca ka rawa ni bula kina e 82.4 na pasede ni lewenivanua. Kuria na Minisita ni Bula ni veitokoni ni COVAX esa yalataka me na solia mai vei Viti e 100,800 na icula ena imatai ni vula 4 ni yabaki oqo.

Na kena vo mena qai solia mai ena ikarua ni vula va na yabaki oqo. Na icula na AstraZeneca a buli mai na kabani ni Okosifote Peritania kei Sweden. Na imatai ni matanitu me vakadonuya na icula oya o Peritania kara sa vakadeitaka na kena dau ni taqomaki vinaka kina na bula mai na COVID-19. Kaya na Minisita ni Bula ni sau

vinaka talega na icula na AstraZeneca. Kaya na Minisita ni Bula ni sa sivia na 100 na milioni na lewei vuravura era sa cula oti baleta na COVID-19. “Na iwiliwili levu duadua era sa cula oti oya o Preitania, USA, kei Urope. Mai Isireli era sa cula oti e 60 na pasede ni lewenivanua,” kaya na Minisita ni Bula.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita ni Bula ni ko Viti edua na matanitu esa vakilai tiko kina na yaga ni sasabai vakamatanitu ka taqomaki ira na lewenivanua ka tekivutaki mai na iyalaiyala ni vanua. Ena gauna oqo e 16 na pasede ni lewenivanua e vuravura era sa volia e 60 na pasede na icula e vuravura.



3000 na kenisa ena 5 na yabaki

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA itukutuku matanidavui ni loma ni 5 na yabaki e kune kina e Viti e 3776 na kisi ni kenisa vei ira na yalewa kei na tagane.

E na yabaki 2020 mada ga a kunei kina e 1487 na kisi ni kenisa ena noda vanua. Era

mate kina e lewe 825.

Na iwiliwili oya esa rui levu ni veiduataki vata ni vanua lailai no ga o Viti.

Sa dodonu kina meda cakacaka vata na vanua o Viti me vakabereberataka se me tarova sara ga na vmate na kenisa ena noda vanua.

Na taro eda na taroga eda na rawata

vakacava na tatadra oqo?

E na rawati ga kevaka eda vakayacora vica walega na veisau rawarawa sara ena noda bula ena veisiga me vaka oqo:

Mo vakadeitaka se qarauna ni donu tiko na kemu bibi ni vakatauvatani kei na kemu balavu.

Mo dau vakaukauwa yago e veigauna.

Mo kania na kakana e bulabula vinaka kina na yago.

Qarauna na kuli ni yagomu mai na rara ni matanisiga.

Meda doka na Siga ni Kenisa ni Vuravura ena noda veivakararamataki ena kena itukutuku oqo.



Oqori o ira na vakalesilesi e cake ni Tabana ni Vuli, Tabana ni Ovisa, LTA kei ira na itaukei ni kabani ni basi ena nodra boseka e Suva keina Minisita ni Vuli ko Rosy Akbar.

Sasaga me taqomaki, qarauni ko ira na gonevuli

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA bose vata kei na Minisita ni Vuli o Rosy Akbar na veitabacacaka me vataki ratou na Ovisa, o ira na itaukei ni Basi, kei na Matabose ni Veilakoyaki (LTA) ena kena qarauni nodra bula na gonevuli.

E ra bosea vata kina na vei ulutaga bibi eso era okati tiko kina na gonevuli kei na itubutubu e Viti.

Me vaka na nodra taqomaki ena vodo basi mai vale ki koronivuli ena veisiga ni vuli.

“Au vakavinavina kina nodra

isoqosoqo na itaukei ni basi ena nodra veitokoni tiko vei ira na gonevuli ena gauna bolebole oqo.”

“Au sa vakauqeti kemuni na itaukei ni basi moni vakavinakata na ituvaki ni nomuni veiqaravi ena nodra vakavodoki ka vakasoburi ena kena gauna dodonu na gonevuli vakabibi o ira na vuli tiko ena koronivuli ni Primary.

“Au marautaka ni mai yaco neimami veitalanoa oqo kei ira na vei Tabacacaka oqo baleta ni duavata tikoga na neimami inaki oya nodra vakavodoki yani ena bula vinaka ki koronivuli kara lesu tale ena bula

vinaka ki na nodra veivale na gonevuli,” kaya o Minisita Akbar.

Leqataka vakalevu na Tabacacaka ni Vuli na nodra bula na gone lalai baleta ni sega ni yaco yani ena kena gauna na nodra basi e dau vakavuna nidra veilecayaki.

Me tekivu yani oqo era sana cakacaka vata na Ovisa kei na kabani ni basi mera taqomaki vinaka na gonevuli nira vodo tiko ena basi.

“Baleta ni sa levu na kisi e ripotetaki mai nira dabe tiko ena mata ni katuba ni basi kei na katuleka ni basi na gonevuli. Sa na dau vakasauri na nodra na curu yani na Ovisa mera ra-

ica na ivakarau ni nodra dabe e loma ni basin a gonevuli,” kaya o Minisita Akbar.

E kaya na Minisita nira sana yadrava taiga na Qasenivuli liu me kua nira veitosoyaki tiko na gone vakavo saraga kevaka e laki tomiki ira yani edua na nodra itubutubu.”

Nisa kerei moni veitaratara yani kei na Tabana ni Ovisa keva e kunei ni dua na gonevuli e wavoki voli e tauni ena gauna ni vuli ena naba 990 5296.

Kevaka esa yali vakadede mai koronivuli edua na gone ka sega ni dua na kena ulubale vinaka ena vakayacori na veisiko kina nona itikotiko.

Kua ni benuca na uciwai: Reddy

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

KURABUITAKI na levu ni benu eda sovaraka tiko kina noda vei uciwai, na vei drano, na vei lolowai, kei na noda veivasawasa.

Oqori na mala ni vosa nei Minisita Dr Mahendra Reddy na Minisita ni Wai, kei na Veika e wavoliti keda, ena vakananumi ni Siga ni Veiciwai 2021.

E kaya ni dina ga nida dau vakananuma e veiyabaki na siga oqo e Viti, e kurabuitaki ni levu noda benu e laki tini tikoga e na veiciwai kei na wasawasa.

“Meda saga e dua na kena iwali ena noda cakacaka vata.”

“Sa voleka ni yacova na 1 na milioni na keda iwiliwili, na lewenivanua oqo ena 330 na kena yanuyanu.”

“Eda vakararavi vakalevu ena uciwai kei na wasawasa ni tiko kina na ivurevure ni keda kakana, meda wainigunu, kei na veikabula era tu kina,” kaya o Dr Reddy.

E kaya Dr Reddy ni rawa nida walia na bolebole oqo kevaka eda vakayagataka na 3 na ‘R’ oya na

Reduce, Reuse kei na Recycle. “E dina ni levu na yaga ni veiciwai ena vuku ni veikabula era bula kina kei na ivurevure ni noda ilavo – esa seavu tiko yani vakatotolo na kena vinaka.

E tukuna na Vunivola ni Bose ni Ramsar ni 90 na pasede ni veiciwai e vuravura era sa mai seavu tekivu ena yabaki 1700 na vo ni 10 na pasede esa seavu totolo sara tiko yani – e vakatolutaki na kena seavu ni vakatauvatani kei na veikau.

Qai kuria ni 25 na pasede ni noda veikabula e uciwai esa voleka ni kawaboko.

Kuria o Minisita Reddy ni vakabauta ni 300 ki na 400 na milioni na tamata e vuravura era bula tikiva na veiciwai kara vakararavita na kedra kakana ena veisiga ena veiciwai.

Sikovi ira na sotava na sisi ni qele o Bala

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

EDUA na ibole e dau cibitaka na noda Matanitu mena vakayacora oya na nodra yacovi yani na tu ena veivanua dredre ka yawa.

Matanataka na ibole oqori na Minisita ni Veivakacacakataki, Vuavuai kei na Veimaliwai Vakacacaka, iTabgone kei na Qito o Parveen Kumar Bala.

E na nona sikovi ira na veimatauvuale mai na itikotiko ni vagalala e Korotale ena Yasana o Ra a sisi na qele ena nodra itikotiko.

Yaco na sisi ni qele oya ena taubi ni uca e kauta mai na Cava o Ana ka tabulu kina e veimama ni nodra veivale oka kina na iyaya era tu e loma bau kina na nodra

motoka keina manumanu.

Bolea o Minisita Bala me takosova na uciwai ni kui tu wai me sikovi ira na veimatauvuale era gadreva dina na veivuke ena vuku ni sisi ni qele.

E kani rarawa ni sa mai vakacacani na nodra vale kei na iyaya e kurabuitaki ga ni ratou bula na vuvale lewe vitu oya.

Kaya o Munesh Wargoundar ni marautaka ni dua mai na Matanitu e mai sikovi ira na lewe ni nodratou matavuvuale era gadreva sara tuga na veivuke ena gauna oya.

A tiko vata e vale kei tinana, na watina, kei luvena tagane kei luvena yalewa ena gauna a sisi yani kina na qele ena Vakarauwai ni macawa sa sivi.



Oqori o Minisita Bala kei ira eso na lewe ni vei matavuvuale mai Rakiraki.



Gu na tabana ni bula me tarova na mate dewa

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA tekivuna na Tabacakacaka ni Bula na veitimi ni vakadidike ni kenadau me ikuri ni dau veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula ena veivakararamataki e Sigatoka, Rakiraki, Navosa, Nadarivatu, Nabouwalu kei Savusavu.

O ira na veitimi oqo era na vakayacora na veivakararamataki kina lewenivanua ena iwalewale ni kena vakalailaitaki na veitauvi ni veimate eso me vaka na Leptospirosis se Minimanu, na Typhoid Fever se Taifote, keina Deqi. Sana vaqacacotaka na kena tarovi rawa ni mate oya kei na veimate dewa tale eso ena nodra qaqarauni taumada na lewenivanua.

Tukuna na itukutuku ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni leqa tubu koso era a mai ravuti keda oqo esa mai vakalevutaka na veitauvi ni veimate dewa eso ena noda veivanua kasa solia voli mai na nona igu na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me tarovi na dewa ni veimatataka oqo.

Na kena veitauvi tiko ena gauna oqo e kunei ni:

1. Leptospirosis se mi ni manu esa sivita na itagede a namaki me yacova ena gauna oqo e Viti raraba.

2. Na Deqi e se koto era naitagede e sa yacova e Viti raraba vakavo ga mai Levuka. E ririkotaki na tubu ni kisi ni Deqi vakabibi ena Vualiku, ni gauna ga esa na vakamalua kina na tau ni uca sana levu na tobu wai ena tawaka tu vakadua.

3. Na Taifote se Typhoid ese koto era na kena itagede ena gauna oqo – vakavo ena so na vanua ni veiqaravi ni Tabana ni B

Sa vakadeitaka na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni sa 160 na kisi ni Leptospirosis se minimanu e viti raraba oya e tautauvata ni 18 na kisi ena vei 100,000 na lewenivanua. E lewe 5 esa vakadeitaki nira sa mate e Leptospirosis se minimanu.

Sa vakadeitaki talega mai ni sa lewe 335 tautoko na kisi ni Deqi ena noda vanua. E tautau vata oya ni 23.6 na kisi ni deqi ena vei ya 100,000 na lewenivanua. E dua bulu ga na lewenivanua e sa vakadeitaki mai ni sa mate ena Deqi.

Sa vakadeitaka talega mai na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni 53 na kisi ni Taifote e Viti raraba. E tautauvata oya ni 5.9 na kisi ena vei ya 100,000. E dua bulu talega na lewenivanua esa vakadeitaka mai na Tabacakacaka ni bula ni sa mate ena Typhoid fever se Taifote.

Sa veivakasalataki tiko yani na Tabacakacaka ni bula vei kemuni na vakarorogo tiko mai moni qaqarauni tiko ena veimatetaka oqo kamoni vakamura vinaka na ivakasala era dau solia tiko yani na kena dau me baleta na LTD.

Na veitimi ni vakadidike ni kenadau era sana lesu vakamalua tale tiko yani kina veivalenibula era veiqaravi kina, era na qai tomani tiko yani na vo ni nodra itokani dau veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula na cakacaka vei ira na lewenivanua mera tavulona ka qarauna na veikumuni ni kisi sa kunei rawa.

Tukuna na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni gadrevi vakalevu meda qarauna toka na ririko e rawa ni vakavuna na LTD nida vakarau tiko yani ena veicula me baleta na COVID-19 ena yabaki oqo

\$4 na milioni na vakacoko ni dovu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

KO ira e vakacacani ena cagilaba o Yasa na nodra veiloga ni dovu era na vukeyi ena \$4m na ilavo ni vakacoko sa vakadonuya na Bose Yaco ena ika 5 ni siga ni Veverueri 2021.

Na ilavo oya ena vidai mai ena ilavo ni Tabacakacaka ni Suka ni yabaki 2020-2021.

Kaya na Vunivola Tudei ni Vale ni Volavola ni Paraiminisita o Yogesh Karan ni na vidai vakalima na ilavo oya.

Matai me voli kina e 34,236 na taga ivakabulabula ni qele se Blend C, 26,104 na lita na Amine.

Kena ikarua me voli kina e 26,104 na kg na Diuron se wainimate ni co ca.

Kena ikatolu me baleta na 50 na ekatea na qele mera vukeyi kina na dau teitei ena tamusuki ni nodra dovu sa vakacacani.

Kenai kava me vakavinaktaki kina ikeli se ivakata.

Kena ika lima me teivaki tale ni dovu kana rua na kena iwasewase.

Na kena imatai ena tekivu ena vula katu mai me yacova na Okotova, na kena ikarua ena tekivu ena vula ko Okosita me yacova na Okotova 2021.

Sa vakayacora talega na FSC na vakadidike ena leqa ni loga ni duvu ena muaira mera na vukeyi talega ena veivuke oqo.

E ra lewe 3,260 na dau tei dovu era tiko ena 10,197 na ekatea ni dovu a vakacacani. Na levu ni qele era tei tu kina na dovu mai na Vualiku e 12,210 na ekatea.



E ra na vakacokotaki na itaukei ni loga ni dovu e vakacacani na nodra dovu ena Cagilaba o Yasa kasa vakadonuya na Bose Yaco me wasei ena vakacoko oya e \$4m.

\$25,000 na iloloma ni ports terminal

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA ciqoma na Matanitu na iloloma ilavo levu mai na kabani ni ikelekele ni waqana noda vanua se Ports Terminal Fiji Limited ena siga ni yavi oya e \$25,000.

Oqo na iloloma ni kabani me voli kina nodra iyaya ni vuli na gonevuli e vakaleqai nodra koronivuli ena cagilaba o Yasa kei na Cava o Ana.

Qoka me vakamamadataka na nodra icolacola na itubutubu ena itekivu ni vuki ni yabaki oqo.

Kaya na Minisita ni vuli ni sa volai vakamatata tiko ena vakadidike ni Tabacakacaka ni Vulinacadra kece na gonevuli era gadareva na veivuke ni oti na cagailaba o Yasa.

Kaya na Jeamenni ni Matabose ni kabani na Fiji Ports Terminal o Hasmuk Patel ni cagilaba e kauta mai na gagadre ni veimatavuvale ka dodonu mera vukeyi ena gauna donu ena vukudra na luveda.

Ena cakacaka vata na Tabacakacaka ni Vulinacadevuli liu me kilai kina o ira na gone era gadreva dina na veivuke.

Loloma nei Telecom e \$200,000

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA ciqoma talega na Matanitu na iloloma ni kabani na Telecom Fiji ki vei ira era sotava na ravuravu ni cagilaba o Yasa kei na Cava o Ana.

Sa ciqoma na isolisoli levu mai na Telecom Fiji e \$200,000 na Minisita ni Vulinacadevuli o Rosy Akbar.

Kaya na Minisita ni vuli ni veivuke ni Telecom Fiji ena gole vakatabakidua kina kena tara cake tale na koronivuli na Lekutu Secondary School mai Bua.

Kaya na iliuliu ni kabani na Telecom o Charles Goundr ni ratou marautaka ni vakayagataka nodratou iloloma kina kena tara cake tale na veikoronivuli era vakacacani ena cagilaba o Yasa.

Kuria na CEO ni Telecom ni sa lolomataka talega na Telecom kina 20 koronivuli era vakacacani, na nodra veiqaravi soli wale ena internet.

Kaya na Minisita ni Vulinacadevuli ni 21 na kronivuli esa tara vou tale mai na 30 na koronivuli a vakacacani.

Vuli ni dau raibula baleta na wai

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA veitokoni kina Tabacakacaka ni Bula na isoqosoqo na WISH Fiji (Watershed Interventions for Systems Health in Fiji) ena nodra vakavulici na dau raibula ena Vualiku.

Na vuli oqo e tiki ni nodra taqomaki na lewenivanua ena Vualiku ena veimate eso ka dau vu mai na wai duka ni oti na cagilaba o Yasa.

Era vakavulici ena ivakarau ni kena dik-

evi na itagede ni duka e loma ni wai, ka vakayagataka kina na Wagtech Potalab.

Na Wagtech Potalab edua na misini ni vakadidike ka rawa ni veikauiyaki kina loma ni vanua kei na veikoro yawa eso.

Na misini oya e vakayacora na dikevi ni itagade ni wai ka rawa ni tukuna se itagade ni wai oya e vinaka me gunuva na tamata se sega.

E tukuna talega na vu ni kena duka tiko na wai.

Na misini oya e vakatura takega naka me

caka me vakalailaitaka na ririko ni kena veitauvi na mate ka vu mai na wai duka.

Tukuna na manidia ni WISH FIJI o Timoci Naivalulevu ni sega walega ni nodra inaki me soli tiko na wainigunu savasava kina lewenivanua, ia sa noda itavi vata talega me qarauni me kua ni veitauvi kina na mate edau dewa ni duka na wainigunu.

“Dua na kena ivakaraitaki na veitauvi ni Minimanu, Deqi kei na Coka ena yasana o Bua ni oti na cagilaba o Yasa.”

“Qoka e dua na tikina bibi baleta ni kilai

na itagede ni wai sa rawa ni tarovi rawa kina veitauvi ni veimate vaka oya,” kaya o Naivalulevu.

Na WISH Fiji esa vakacavara e rua na veiqaravi levu ni wai oya ena koro o Tavulomo ena tikina o Dama mai Bua kei na tikina o Bureta mai Ovalau e Lomaiviti.

Veitokoni ena veiqaravi ni WISH Fiji na Bloomberg Philanthropies kei na Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security.



Vakavinakataki na wai qiva e Vanua Levu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

MARAUTAKA na Minisita ni iYaubula e loma ni Qele o Jone Usamate na maqosa ni vei qaravi era vakayacora tiko na mata timi ni vakavinakataki ni wai qiva ena veivanua a laba kina na cagilaba o Yasa mai na Vualiku.

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni 2 na timi era a vei qaravi tiko ena yasana o Bua Macuata kei Cakaudrove kara sa qarava oti e levu sara na cakacakacaka ni kena vakavinakataki ni wai qiva.

Na cagilaba o Yasa e vakacacana e levu na panel ni solar, na taqe ni wai kei na paipo e dau drodro mai kina na wai qiva.

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni o ira na mata timi oqo mai na Tabana ni iYaubula e loma ni qele era solia nodra gauna ni siganisucu kei na tawase ni yabaki mera vei qaravi kina vei ira na lewenivanua ni oti na cagilaba o Yasa.

Na mata timi e rua oqo era sa vakavinakataka rawa e 13 na wai-



Vakavinavinakataka o Minisita Usamate na nodra vei qaravi na vakaillesilesi ni kena vakavinakataki na wai qiva ni oti na cagilaba o Yasa mai Vanua Levu.

qiva, kasa drodro tale kina na wai kina koronivuli na Ratu Emeri mai Bua, na koro o Waisa, Nasaisaivua, na itikitiko ni vagalala mai Wailailai, Natokalau, Raviravi, Navatu, keina koronivuli mai Kubulau vakakina na itikitiko ni Matanitu mai Lekutu e Bua vakakina na koro

o Navukebuli mai Macuata.

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni mata timi oya era a laki qarava talega na vakavinakataki ni wai qiva ena yanuyanu o Druadrua kei Kia.

A veivuke na waqavuka ni sotia ni Ositerelia ena kena laki tala na Compressure se ipamu ni wai kina

yanuyanu e rua oya.

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni sa dikevi tiko na vanua me keli kina na wai qiva ena yanuyanu o Kia mai Macuata me sosomitaka na kena esa mai sogo ni tao tu eloma e dua na tolo nikau ka dredre ma cavaraki laivi mai.

*Bose vata
baleta na
revurevu ni
cagilaba*

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

RAU liutaka e dua nodra bose e 100 na mata ni veitabana o Vunivola Tudei David Kolitagane keina Daireketa ni Leqa Tubu Koso o Vasita Soko.

Na ivakasala nei Soko vei ira ni dodonu mera cakacaka vata ena nodra vukei na sotava na bula dredre ena vuku ni Cava o Ana.

Sa vakasalataki ira talega o Soko mera cakacaka vata kei na Tabana ni Leqa Tubukoso.

Nira vakayacora oya sa na qai rawa nira yavalata kina na veivuke me vakayacori.

Era sa vakauqeti mera veivuke kina veisoqosoqo me vaka na Shelter, WASH, Food Security, keina Tataqomaki kei na Vuli.

Tukuna vei ira o Soko ni lawa ni leqa tubukoso ni oira-tou ga na Tabana ni Leqa Tubukoso kei na Tabacakacaka ni Matanitu era na vakayacora na vakadidike taumada.

Na macala ni vakadidike oya ena qai dau wasei yani vei ira na veitabana tale eso.

Kerei ira o Kolitagane mera dau solia main a itukutuku matailalai me vukea na tuvuvaka ni Matanitu baleta na vakacaca ni Cava o Ana.

Sa kerei talega kina NDMO me ratou dau wasea na itukutuku kece me baleta na Minimanu, na Taifote, na Coka kei na Deqi.

Sa kerei ira talega na veitabana o Kolitagane ni oira na dau laki vei qaravi mera daramaka na sulu ni cakacaka e taqomak na yagodra ka taqomaki ira talega mai na veitauvi ni matetaka.

Vakavinavinaka na Aspire Network kina nodra vei qaravi na vakaillesilesi ni Matanitu era vei qaravi tiko ena veivanua a vakacaca kina na cagilaba.

Vakavinavinaka talega na isoqosoqo vakamarama kina Matanitu kei na Tabana ni Leqa tubukoso ena nodra vei qaravi ni vakanadaku na Cava o Ana.

\$20,000 na cau ni Walesi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA lolomataka na kabani na Walesi e \$20,000 kina tobu ni ilavo ni vakacoko ni cagilaba ni Paraiminisita.

Mai soli rawa na iloloma ni kabani na Walesi ena nodrau cakacaka vata kei na kabani ni Sigapore na - Conversant Solutions Pte Limited.

A ciqoma na iloloma oya ena vuku ni Matanitu na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni ilavo o Aiyaz – Sayed-Khaiyum ka vakavinavinakataka na Walesi ena nodratou yalo loloma.

Tukuna o Kong Wai na iliuliu ni Conversant Solutions ni tuburi ratou na yalo loloma ena itukutuku ni kena yaco veitaravi tiko na cagilaba e Viti sa vakavuna meratou cau mai kina.

Veikemuni na via vakatataro se gadreva na vei qaravi ni Walesi e rawa ni oni qiri kina naba ni talevoni sega ni saumi oya na 1525.



Mai soli rawa na iloloma ni kabani na Walesi ena nodrau cakacaka vata kei na kabani ni Sigapore na - Conversant Solutions Pte Limited me vukea na tobu ni vakacoko ni cagilaba ni Paraiminisita.

Sikovi Rakiraki o Minisita Kumar

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SIKOVA na veitauni a luvuci ena waluvu ni taubi ni ucabi a kauta mai na Cava o Ana me vakataka na tauni mai Rakiraki.

Vakavinavinakataka o Minisita Premila Kumar na totolo ni nodratou sasamaki na vakaillesileis ni

tauni o Rakiraki ni vakanadaku na cava o Ana.

Kaya na Minisita ni Kurabuitaka na totolo ni sasamaki eratou vakayacora ka ni sega ni raica tale edua na taba ni kau ramusu ni davo vakaca atu eloma ni tauni.

Kaya o Minisita Kumara ni oya sa ivakaratakai ni nodra cakacaka

vata nan a vakaillesilesi.

Vakacauacataka talega o Minisita Kumar na nodratou veitokoni na tabana ni ovisa kei na tabana ni bokobuka ena sasamaki mai Rakiraki.

Sikova talega o Minisita Kumar na koro o Vunitogoloa a waluvutaki talega ena cava o Ana.



Marautaka na Minisita ni Matabose ni Veitauni o Premila Kumar na totolo ni sasamaki e vakayacori ena tauni mai Rakiraki ni oti na waluvu keina uca bi e kauta mai na Cava o Ana.



iSevu ni noda marama ena RNZN

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

KONaval Officer Mereseini Sokoilagi e cavutu mai na koro o Naloto ena tikina vakaturaga o Verata ena yasana vakaturaga o Tailevu. E vasu o Sokoilagi kina koro o Mualevu ena yanuyanuo Vanua Balavumai Lau.

Sa mai tekia e dua na isausau o Sokoilagi ni isevu ni marama ni Viti me vakacara taucoko nona vuli ivalu kei na vuli marama ni ivalu ni mataivalu e wai ena Royal New Zealand Navy ka sa rawata kina na itutu vaka Ensign ni mataivalu e wai.

A curu taumada o Sokoilagi kina koronivuli na Adi Cakobau School ni bera ni dewa yani kina Fiji National University.

E na yabaki 2018 sa qai curu yani kina o koya kina Mataivalu e Wai ni Viti oti oya sa laki vuli marama ni ivalu sara ni mataivalu ewai ena Royal New Zealand Navy ena yabaki 2019.

Ni oti e 2 na yabaki sa rawata kina o Sokoilagi na nona Officer of the Watch Course tarava sara nona sitivikiti ni Bridge Watchkeeping.

Vakacautaka na teki isausau nei marama ni ivalu Sokoilagi na Komada ni Mataivalu ni Viti o Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto ena soqo ni nona vakadeitaki ena itutu vaka Ensign ena mataivalu e wai ni Viti ni oti nona vuli mai na Royal New Zealand Navy.

“Gauna mada ga oqo na marama oqo esa isevu ni marama ni ivalu ni mataivalu e wai baketa ni kei-



Oqori o Ensign Mereseini Sokoilagi kei ira na nona i lala vakacakaca ena soqo ni nona ciqomi me sa taura na itutu vaka marama ni ivalu ni mataivalu e wai se Ensign ni oti na nona vuli mai ena Royal New Zealand Navy. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

mami sa mai talaca oti na itokani sa mai takali o marama ni ivalu ni mataivalu e wai Lieutenant Commander Silipa Kubuabola ena rua na macawa sa oti eda nanumi koya talega ena mataka edaidai au kila ni na cibitaka o koya na tauri ivola nei marama ni ivalu Sokoilagi ena siga edaidai.”

Vakadeitaka vei Ensign Sokoilagi kei ira na tiko ena voleni oya mera

taqomaka na yavu e 3 ni veiqaravi ni mataivalu e wai.

“Mo dinata na Mataivalu e Wai, me yalo qaqa ni o sotava na dredre, ma o yalo dei ena nomu caka vina-ka tiko.”

“Na yavu e 3 oqori ena tosoya na nomu ilesilesi ki liu, ki muri se kina tu vakadua. E na vakatau ena daumaka ni vakatorocaketaka ka karona na 3 na yavu oya ena nomu

veiqaravi ena mataivalu e wai.”

Na soqo lagilagi oya erau a tiko talega kina na itubutubu nei Ensign Sokoilagi kei ira na lewe ni nona matavuvale.

Sa lesi o Ensign Sokoilagi kina manua na FRNS Savenaca ena itavi vaka Assistant Navigating Officer.



Sa cavu mai oqori na yaqona e vakacacani ena cagilaba o Yasa ena noda loga ni yaqona na cauravou ni Sawaikeke mai Gau e Lomaiviti. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Vakacacani vakalevu na yaqona, dalo, tavioka, me, sipi, kei na oni ena cagilaba o Yasa

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kacivaka ena Palimedi na Minisita ni Teitei kei na Susu manumanu o Dr Mahendra Reddy ni sa lalawataka kina na Tabacacacaka me wase vaka 3 na vakacoko mena vakayacori kina ena vakacaca e yaco ena iteitei kei na susu manumanu.

Dikevi rawa ena vakadidike ni vakacacani vakalevu kina na yaqona, na dalo, na tavioka, na meleni, keina rokete.

Dikevi talega ni vakaleqai ka mavoa talega kina vakalevu na manumanu me vaka na sipi, na me, bulumakau, keina ose vakakina oni.

Na levu taucoko ni vakacaca ena Tabacacacaka ni Teitei e koto ena \$147m, e 94 na pasede na vakacacani ni iteitei, 5.4 na pasede na vakacacani ni manumanu, ka 0.6 na pasede na vakacacani ni gaunisala ni teitei keina ikawakawa.

E kaya ni Zone 1, e kunei ni levu duadua kina na vakacaca ni koto kina mawe ni cagilaba, na vanua ni teitei e 50 na pasede na levu ni vanua e vakacacani ka \$5.2m na isau ni manumanu era mate e koto ena \$5.2m.

Na macaka ni vakadidike oqo sa gadrevi me wali totolo ka qaravi vakamaqosa me vakadeitaki kina nodra bula vinaka na lewei Viti,” kaya o Dr Reddy.

E kuria ni nona Tabacacacaka ni veiqaravi eliutaka na qarauni me tiko

na keda kakana keina noda bula vinaka, ena tabana ni teitei, susu manumanu, qoliqoli kei na veikau ni oti na cagilaba o Yasa.

Oya na vuna sa lalawataki kina me wase vaka 3 na veiqaravi.

“Na imatai ni iwasewase me robota na 6 na vula, okati kina na vakadeitaki tale ni kakana ka taketataki kinaa e 23,000 na matavuvale.”

“Sa okati vata tiko eke na veivuke a soli taumada ni oti ga vakalailai na cagilaba o Yasa me ni a soli kina na ite eso ni kumala kei na bele.”

Kaya o Dr Reddy ni Phase 1 e tiko kina na lalawa ni vakacoko, kara na vukei kina e 14,000 na matavuvale ni dau teitei kara vakayali kina nodra ivoli e 75 na pasede ni dau teitei kei na dau susu manumanu.

“E okati kina e 6 na iwasewase – na iyaya ni teitei, iyaya ni werewere, iyaya ni vakavakara, keina vakavinakataki ni gaunisala kei na ikawakawa keina vakavinakataki ni gaunisala ni teitei.”

“Na lalawa oqo e vakabibitaki talega kina na Tabana ni Qoliqoli keina Tabana ni Veikau.”

E kaya na Minisita ni ikatolu ni iwasewase e lalawataki kina na noda bula tale mai na dau teitei keina dau susu manumanu me vakadeitaka kina ni sa vakarautaki koya o Viti kina vei leqa tubu koso ena yaco mai muri.”

Noda Viti



Na veisau ni draki e kauta mai na dredre ni bula vei ira na lewenivanua. Me vaka eda raica ena itaba ogo ena koro o Nayarabale ena nodra sasaga na lewenikoro mera vakavinakataka na ikawakawa me rawa nira takoso kina. Eda raica ogo ena itaba mai Korosomo ena gaunisala ka sisi ena kaukauwa ni uca ena TC Ana.

PM: Draki veisau na bolebole levu ni Pasifika

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAVOQATAKA o Paraiminisi-ta Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama na bolebole levu ni draki veisau ena Pasifika sai koya nodra na tokitaki na lewe ni kena veiyanyanu.

Na ririko levu ogo e vakaraitaka ena nodra bose vata ena mona livaliva na iliuliu ni veimatanitu ena Pasifika.

“Na leqa ogo eda sega ni vakavuna, ia eda sana sotava ga. E so na noda veiyanyanu lalai era sa sotava sara tikoga ena gauna ogo na leqa ogo.”

“E na itosotoso ni kaburaki cagiduka ki maliwa lala ena gauna, na luvu ni nodra yanuyanu ena vakavuna na nodra toki kina vanua vou eso ena takosova nodra iyalay-

ala ni vanua ni sana luvuci yani ena ruku ni waswasa na nodra vanua,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

E na vuku ni leqa ogo e kaya o PM Bainimarama ni o Viti esa solia edua na iwali tudei vei ira na lewenivanua mai Tuvatu kei Kiribati. Ia e Viti vakataki koya e sotavi tiko kina na bolebole ni kena gadrevi mera tokitaki e 43 na koro era sa dau luvu wasoma ena gauna ni ualoka kei na cagilaba.

“Sega ni vakabekataki ni na tubu na iwiliwili oya. Era sa tokitaki e 6 na koro ka so era tokitaki vakalalai.”

“Nodra tokitaki e lewai vakamatau e nani talega na ivurevure ni nodra bula ena veisiga keina nodra sana biuta na vanua era dau vakamareqeta na tukadra kara bulu koto kina na wekdra voleka ena veiyabaki

sa sivi,” kaya o PM Bainimarama

Vakaraitaka talega o PM Bainimarama ena bose oya na tekiisaisau nei Viti ena iseve ni lalawa ni veitokitaki ena COP24 keina tekivutaki ni ilavo ni veitokitaki me baleti ira era tokitaki ena vuku ni draki veisau ena yabaki 2019.

“Na lalawa ni sotavi ni bolebole ogo e Viti ekoto ena Milioni vaka milioni na dola me taqomaki kina na bula ni tamata ena revurevu ni draki veisau.”

“Na veitokitaki ka vakavuna na draki veisau e sega ni vakavuna na vakatutu ni sa vakarau rusa o vuravura. Sa yaco sara tikoga ogo. Sa dodonu meda raica totolo na kena iwali.”

“Sa dodonu kina meda tokoni ira na vo ni veivanua e vuravura ena noda itutu vaka

iliuliu ni Buturara ni Veitokitaki baleta na leqa tubukoso ni draki veisau,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Sa vakanamata o Viti kina nona na liutaka na noda veitokani vakaisoqosoqo me vaka na Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security – sa sega ni vakavosa walega – sa caka sara ga.”

Na ndra bose vata oya ena mona livaliva na iliuliu ni veimatanitu ena Pasifika sa rawa kina ni veisoli vakasama ka veiwa-seitaka na veika esa vakayacora tiko na nodra dui vanua baleta na draki veisau keina nodra tokitaki na sotava tiko leqa ogo.

Na veika era sa duavata kina ena bose ogo ena vakauri cake vua na Vunivola Levu ni Matabose kei Vuravura ena bolebole baleta na veitokitaki