

Relief for vendors as PM opens Rakiraki Market



Market vendors in the new Rakiraki Market after Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama officially opened it yesterday. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

\$6.3M BOOST

MEREANI GONEDUA

FOUR years after Tropical Cyclone Winston ravaged through the Rakiraki Market, the opening of the new

\$6.3 million facility yesterday has brought smiles of relief to over 300 vendors.

Rakiraki Market Vendors' Association president Varanise Maisamoa acknowledged the Fijian Government and its stake-

holders for investing in the lives of market vendors.

"Thank you for your investment in the lives of market vendors. Thank you for your commitment and passion to raise the

standards for the market vendors in Fiji," Ms Maisamoa said.

She highlighted that after several initia-

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Osea Naiqamu.

In the midst of the pandemic, and with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government is coordinating a "cash for work or cash for tree-planting programme", geared especially towards the workers in the tourism industry who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19.

Osea Naiqamu
Minister for Forests

NUMBERS

1.9m

The number of trees planted so far after the Ministry of Forests launched an initiative **15** months ago, initially to plant four million trees in four years.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama @FijiPM

This #PKDay I pay tribute to the thousands of Fijian peacekeepers — including our #womeninpeacekeeping — whose bravery and sacrifice has upheld the cause of global peace. In doing so, they have shown the very best of Fiji to the world. Vinaka, and God Bless.

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Govt sets support packages for MSMEs

MARICA CAUCAU

THE Government recently announced concessional and financial support packages for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) for Fijians that have been affected due to COVID-19.

These concessional packages will be available from June 7, 2020.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while announcing the package in Suva recently, said the Government will be offering micro enterprises a concessional loan of \$7,000 with a 0.5 interest rate on a five year loan term.

The A-G said that an ad-hoc organisation 'Business Assistance Fiji' comprising of accredited members from the Fiji Institute of Accountants, Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation, Women in Business and the MSME (under the Ministry of Commerce) will carry out assessments on eligibility.

Business Assistance Fiji will also



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the press conference announcing the concessional and financial support packages for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) for Fijians that have been affected due to COVID-19.

Photo: MARICA CAUCAU

be able to assist newcomers to the micro-enterprises industry in meeting the necessary requirements in order to be eligible for the concessional loan.

"We recognise that there are quite a few people now who are unemployed but have very good skill sets. They will be able to utilise that," the A-G said.

For small enterprises, the Government is offering working capital of up to \$14,000 with a one per cent interest rate.

Small enterprises eligible for this

assistance will also be assessed by Business Assistance Fiji.

Repayments in this regard will not be similar to bank loans.

"We will simply set out the amount of money that they need to pay in a year and it is up to them how they carry out the repayments. As long as they are able to make repayments within one year of the amount that is stated."

For medium enterprises, the A-G announced that maximum funding eligibility of \$21,000 will be made available for them at an interest

rate of 1.5 per cent and a five year loan term with a grace period in the first year.

In addition, under a MSME credit guarantee scheme through the Reserve Bank of Fiji, the Government has announced that it will guarantee up to 60 per cent of the default amount for loans up to \$60,000.

Entrepreneurs in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector will also be assisted with government guarantee of up to 75 per cent of the principal outstanding on the defaulted loans of up to a limit of \$75,000 per business.

"In order to encourage women's role in driving our economic road to recovery, and to support the development of agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sector, government will now guarantee up to 75 per cent with the principal outstanding on the defaulted loans up to a limit of 75,000 per business," the A-G said.

The A-G also announced that the waiting period for businesses to lodge claims will now be reduced from 180 days to 120 days.

Aust, NZ travel bubble feedback 'positive'

AZARIA FAREEN

“THE travel bubble does not just mean tourism but also other types of commercial and financial opportunities being open for us considering the advantage of our hub status.”

This was emphasised by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum while updating the Parliament on the travel bubble negotiations with Australia and New Zealand.

"We found that the talk coming out from Wellington and Canberra was that they have discussed about the Pacific being included in the bubble," the A-G said.

"The feedback so far has been very positive but as we know there is a number of issues pertaining to Australia itself as different states are treating each other differently and I think they need to be able to resolve that before New Zealand actually agrees to it," he added.

"We are very keen of course to have this travel bubble open up but as we mentioned yesterday that there will be a number of conditions that will be placed and we need to be concerned too because in comparison on the phase of it, we are much safer from the COVID-19 perspective than those two countries."

The A-G highlighted that the risks have to be managed as it has a huge impact on the Fijian economy with the inability of travel between those two countries, taking into consideration that the two countries provide nearly 70 per cent of the tourism arrivals.

"The different countries in the Pacific have different experiences pertaining to COVID-19 and different capacities pertaining to the ability to track the spread of COVID-19."

"We are the only Pacific Island country that ac-



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum in Parliament last week. Photo: SUPPLIED

tually has a World Health Organization certified COVID-19 testing laboratory with no fatalities to date," he stressed.

"We have to ensure that we are in the right track plus there is a huge uptake regarding the launch of the COVID-19 contact tracing programme - CareFIJI app - because it provides people with reinsurance," the A-G said.

He adds a study has come out of England that states contact tracing gives people a lot of confidence and the ability of the Ministry of Health officials to very quickly get to the contacts of people who may actually be COVID-19 posi-

tive.

"The uptake of contact tracing is critically important because a lot of countries will adopt it and we hope they do so too," the A-G said.

"Any visitor arriving into Fiji needs to upload the app which will help them to help us to be able to contain the spread of the virus really quickly in terms of the contact tracing capacity," the A-G added.

He said the extra precautions are also being taken to ensure that Fiji is included in the travel bubble and that there is no threat of COVID-19 being imported into the country.



\$6.3m boost

FROM PAGE 1

tives like markets for change introduced to vendors by stakeholders such as the United Nations Women they are now more knowledgeable on how to be resilient and on how to address issues with market management.

“We are now confident to run our business, we are now more aware of our rights and responsibilities as market vendors.”

In opening the Market, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama stated that when they broke ground on the new market in 2017, they saw a glimpse of the stronger and more resilient Fiji that would rise from TC Winston’s devastation.

PM Bainimarama highlighted that for decades many vendors travelled for long hours to get to the market, however, with the opening of this new market this would be a thing of the past.

“With 320 stalls, 30 beds, and ample washrooms and showers, this market was designed not just as a more attractive, well-lit space for customers to shop, but as a second home for our vendors in the hours before it opens and after it closes.

“By providing a hygienic environment, reliable services and a safe place for vendors who have travelled long distances to rest their heads, this market will do more than support livelihoods — it will uplift lives.”

“This market does more than grant vendors a secure night’s sleep in clean facilities; it is a powerful platform for empowering Fijian women. It helps women vendors not only to start new small businesses, but tap into the full potential of their ventures through on-site training and mentoring.”

“Across Fiji, we’re building an entire network of modern marketplaces, including markets and mini-markets that lifts Fijian commerce to the same operating standard found in advanced economies.

“As these new facilities open, we must close the door on the old ways of informal selling. The vendors already selling within the walls of this market should be commended, the remaining vendors in the Rakiraki area must end their selling in informal stalls and make the move to this new facility. It’s not safe, it’s not hygienic, and it’s not legal. Instead, put this market to use; it is where your business ought to run in a modern economy.”

“And by formalising your livelihood into a small business, you’ll also be eligible for easily-accessible government assistance, opening up new opportunities for growth that you may have never thought possible — so I urge you to seize this chance to tap into your full economic potential.”

PM Bainimarama also urged all Fijians to work hand in hand in order to move the country forward.

“Our progress must press onwards. In the face of this latest crisis, our support for our vulnerable must strengthen. That is why we’re working with FNPF to support impacted Fijian families in a sustainable manner that grants them stability today and without compromising their financial security, years later when they retire.

“We must look within ourselves for innovation, and look inwards within our economy for new sources of prosperity.”

Environment ‘everyone’s responsibility’

PROTECTING, leaving a safer and healthier environment for a future generation can be attained through a collaborative partnership and individual responsibility and involvement to deliver the common environmental vision.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy while recently launching a one-week-long pro-

gram that aims to gather environmentalists including the private sector to jointly address issues of Environmental Challenges that the world is facing.

Minister Reddy reiterated that while legislation’s and guidelines are being discussed and implemented by the environment experts, the responsibility to deal with environmental problems and protecting our environment should also be ad-

hered to for the accomplishment of the legislation.

“While we have legislation’s to push us to conduct ourselves in a defined manner, the urge to protect our environment may come from within and not because you are required to conduct in a certain manner by an external party,” he said.

“We must self-regulate ourselves and we are happy to, over the next six months, publish

several self-regulating guidelines on every aspect of one’s interaction with the environment. Be it, littering, our waste or foreshore development.”

Minister Reddy said while a national movement and individual responsibility is vital to address environmental threats, global involvement and collaboration is also vital especially for developing countries.

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Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Disaster Management, Rural and Maritime Development Inia Seruiratu and his staff receive root crops from members of the Rotuman Community as part of their assistance towards the Fijian Government TC Harold relief efforts. Photo: SONAM SAMI

Sectoral approach for TC Harold assistance

NANISE NEIMILA

A TOTAL of \$3.6 million was utilised for Phase I of response to deliver immediate lifesaving emergency food and water assistance as well as non-food items.

Restoration of critical infrastructures, such as communications, water and power supply, were also initiated immediately.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Disaster Management, Rural and Maritime Development Inia Seruiratu while responding to queries on the Tropical Cyclone Harold management operations that was raised in Parliament last week.

Minister Seruiratu said those efforts were followed by Phase II of TC Harold operations which involved a second round of food, water distribution and early recovery efforts. Another \$1.2m was used for the implementation of Phase II of the TC Harold response.

“For the first time, Government also deployed a desalination plant to assist with the emergency water carting and at the same time, provide safe drinking water to affected communities.”

“The sectoral impact of TC Harold was estimated at over FJ\$100m based on the

Government’s coordinated Detailed Damage Assessment (DDA) exercise that was carried out from 13th April, 2020 to 28th April, 2020. The exercise was combined with resource based preliminary rehabilitation initiatives and other sectoral recovery works.”

Minister Seruiratu adds that damage to the agriculture sector has been estimated at around \$27.8m with 90 per cent of crops destroyed in the worst affected areas and much of people’s subsistence crops ruined.

This is quite significant, as subsistence agriculture plays an important role in food security and the livelihoods of these Fijians.

“Based on the DDA data, a total of 2,227 houses were partially damaged and a total of 961 houses have been fully destroyed in the four Divisions, worth \$24.4m. Despite the swift response by Government in the form of tents and tarpaulins as temporary shelters, the number of affected houses is quite significant and will require a major reconstruction effort.”

“For the first time, the Ministry of Forestry in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Community Development and the National Disaster Management Office, developed a strategy to utilise salvaged logs to be considered as one-third contributions

for the reconstruction of damaged homes in Kadavu and Lau.

Significant damage were also recorded for the infrastructure sector, with damage to Cicia, Koro and Moala Jetties, and a number of road slips in the Central Division.”

The Water Authority of Fiji also recorded damage in the Central Division, Western and Eastern Divisions and likewise, for the energy sector. Damage to the infrastructure sector has been estimated at \$27.1m

“Our education facilities in the Central, Eastern and Western Divisions have sustained heavy damage at an estimated cost of \$10.7m.”

“The fisheries and forestry sectors have also sustained damage worth \$8.1m. This is largely driven by the damage to the Kadavu and Matuku Pine Schemes and damage to fishing equipment and facilities in the fisheries sector.”

Damage to community infrastructure, particularly for health facilities has been estimated at \$2.6m, disrupting the delivery of services to communities and will require quick repair or replacement, given that the restoration of such services is critical, not only for the wellness of the people but also, in terms of mitigating the risks of COVID-19.



Rise in demand for fruit trees

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Ministry of Forestry is continuing its effort to empower communities to establish and raise fruit trees as well as livelihood trees such as Sikeci, Tavola, and even coastal trees like Dilo and Dogo.

These trees will in turn could generate returns in a shorter time.

Speaking in Parliament during the May sitting last week, the line Minister Osea Naiqamu said people turning to backyard gardening and subsistence farming has increased the demand for fruit trees like breadfruit, ivi, tarawau, kavika, dawa, cumquat, avocado and guava among others.

“The Ministry is liaising with the Ministry of Agriculture to purchase seedlings from these communities for establishment in areas requiring food security and rehabilitation,” Minister Naiqamu said.

“We are also working with over 150 community nurseries, and plan to establish more. I had the privilege of opening two nursery distribution centres for Rewa and Tailevu this past Friday and can



Fifty Labasa residents at Naseakula Village received their backyard gardening packages from Assistant Minister for Agriculture Alipate Sigarara earlier this year. They can now do household farming to produce and consume healthier and nutritious crops. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

already see a bright future for the communities involved.”

The Ministry of Forestry in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports has employed numerous youths to assist in nursery production and tree-planting in the Western Division and collectively they helped plant over 100,000 trees in the past four months.

“We are also collaborating with the Ministry of Women to actively engage women’s groups in establishing nurseries where materials for building nurseries and training in raising seedlings will be provided to women and youths in both rural and urban areas,” Minister

Naiqamu said.

“In the midst of the pandemic, and with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government is coordinating a “cash for work or cash for tree-planting programme”, geared especially towards the workers in the tourism industry who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19.”

“This new programme is additional to the UNDP-coordinated Global Environment Fund Ridge to Reef Project on Reforestation of Degraded Areas and the Ministry is actively engaging resource-owners to plant trees in the specifically identified watershed areas,”

he said.

“While our Pine Scheme communities are committed to re-planting trees that have been felled, it is encouraging to note that stakeholders in the sector have also been re-strategizing to ensure they sustain the jobs of most workers.”

He adds the Pine Group of Companies had to temporarily close the Tropik Mill, however, it has continued to engage workers by re-deploying them to re-planting and restoring harvested land.

The Ministry of Forestry intends to ensure that the forests and ecosystems we leave behind contribute to achieving our people’s dreams and aspirations.

Minister tells of agriculture sector’s vitality

FELIX LESINAIVALU

NEVER before has Fiji seen such unprecedented level of activity at household level in growing their own food supported by the Ministry of Agriculture.

These were the words shared by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy while updating Parliament during the May sitting last week as to how the agriculture sector has responded in the wake of COVID-19 and the effects of Tropical Cyclone Harold.

“It is through a clear and united national response that the agriculture sector has also been working tirelessly and vamping up our efforts to ensure food security and develop our vital agriculture sector to support the Fijian economy.”

“For agriculture, it has provided us the opportunity to re-settle and re-energise agriculture focusing on the basics.”

“Under the Home Gardening Programme which is aimed at all households, urban and peri-urban areas around Fiji, as at the end of last week (Friday) within less than two months since the launch of this package, we have distributed 36,495 seed packages to households across the four Divisions of Fiji, implemented across four waves in a relative short window.”

Minister Reddy added they are now seeing Fijians proudly showing off the fruits of their labour through the assistance provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.

“Under the Farm Response Package, the Ministry is providing seeds and planting materials to farmers around Fiji at no cost to boost production of crops.”

“There are two elements to this initiative. Firstly, it is demand-driven. Farmers select the seeds they require from a range of food, staple and nutritious crops such as taro, seeds and planting materials, taro, cassava, kumala, duruka, rice, vegetables, maize, bitter gourd, pigeon peas and cowpeas to name a few.”

Minister Reddy said that all these are open-pollinated seeds, hence farmers can produce their own planting materials after the first assistance is given to them.

Ministry helps to rebuild cyclone-damaged homes

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Ministry of Forestry has deployed portable sawmills to the islands to harvest the fallen trees which are being treated and re-purposed to re-build houses damaged during Tropical Cyclone Harold.

Line Minister Osea Naiqamu highlighted this in Parliament during the May sitting last week where he stated that the initiative was being done in collaboration with the Fiji Pine Trust, the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and the Ministry of Housing and Community Development.

“In Kadavu alone, a total of 300 homes were completely destroyed and a further 586 homes were partially destroyed,” Minister Naiqamu said.

“We have also extended assistance to Matuku, Vatulele and Ono-i-Lau through the provision of portable sawmills, training and capacity-building to empower communities to salvage blown-over pine for their housing needs. Our intention is not to leave anyone behind.”

In addition to rebuilding homes, the Government, through the Ministry of Forestry, is continuing discussions with the resource owners to purchase the fallen trees and deliberating paying them stumpage, providing timber to build their homes and trading any surplus timber or to share the proceeds from timber sales.

“We are grateful to the retailers who have in-



A staff of Ministry of Forest operates a portable sawmill donated by the Fiji Pine Trust to help residents of Yaroi Village, Matuku, Lau, rebuild their communities. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

dedicated their willingness to purchase the surplus timber from the islands,” Minister Naiqamu said.

“What this means is that there should be enough timber available for our domestic needs and we could even consider exporting,” he added.

Minister Naiqamu highlights that the Ministry has been consulting with stakeholders to understand their challenges and help address all issues together.

“Our consultations have, for instance, afforded the Ministry an opportunity to enhance its facilitation processes without compromising standards

that will ensure the sustainable management of our forest resources,” he said.

“At the same time, the Ministry is continuing Fiji’s tree-planting initiative and have planted over 1.9 million trees and mangrove until date since its launch 15 months ago, with trees having been mapped and we now have a live dashboard,” Minister Naiqamu added.

He further adds the Ministry is continuing to plant trees within the COVID-19 social distancing measures with an aim to progress in earnest in the new fiscal year.



Fiji 'not alone' in adapting to post-pandemic world

FELIX LESINAIVALU

MINISTER for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya has emphasised that Fiji will not be alone in having to adapt to a post COVID-19 (corona virus pandemic) world.

In delivering his maiden speech in Parliament during the May sitting last week, Minister Koya added, "But our challenge is greater than most, because of our smallness, our vulnerability to the climate change and geographical isolation."

"Being away for about 16 months from Parliament has given me a unique perspective and I have had the opportunity to reconnect with Fijians especially those at the grassroots and business community," Minister Koya said.

"I have made an effort to gauge the pulse of the nation and what Fijians needed for a better Fiji."

While speaking on the COVID-19 pandemic Minister Koya said, "this will not go away easily or in a short span of time. It will require tenacity, it will require hard work and it will require new ideas and there will be no return to what we may have known as business as usual".

"We therefore need to develop strategic and



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya in Parliament last week. Photo: SUPPLIED

in-depth approaches to human development, to regional integration, digitisation, industrialisation, economic diversification and international solidarity," he said.

"The Fijian Government has implemented a number of measures and economic stimulus packages to support Fijians."

Minister Koya added this was done by lifting certain financial burdens from the shoulders of those who are most vulnerable.

"We are also re-doubling our efforts and working tirelessly to engage with stakeholders through the help of technology," he said.

"At present industries such as medical services, biotech, agriculture, food production and delivery and information technology are growing."

Minister Koya said businesses in these sectors are seeing stronger demand and hiring more people.

Housing aid part of COVID-19 relief package

NANISE NEIMILA

A TOTAL of 277 applications were received by Housing Authority and 205 applications have been approved while 14 applications were declined and another 58 applications are still being reviewed.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar while responding to queries on the COVID-19 Relief Provided by Housing Agencies in Parliament during the May sitting last week.

Minister Kumar said the debt relief assistance package offered by the Housing Authority of Fiji is for its customers who are facing financial difficulties in servicing their loans as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This includes loss of income arising out of redundancies, reduced working hours, leave without pay and closure of small and medium businesses by those who are self-employed.

"Under the Relief Scheme, affected customers can apply for various options as prescribed by the Consumer Credit Act, Section 66, such as repayment holiday, extension of loan term for a period of up to six months interest only repayment, extending the term of the loan and reducing the repayment amount. All fees have been waived on the restructure of loan accounts under this Relief Scheme."

"The Public Rental Board (PRB), is also providing assistance to its tenants who are affected by COVID-19. PRB is offering rent deferment for three months. At the end of the rent deferment period or when the tenants are in a position to pay rent, they will enter into an agreement on the repayment of the deferred rent. This will be based on the household income and the level of disposable income.

Minister Kumar also briefed Parliament on other initiatives that the ministry is undertaking to assist particularly those Fijians who work in informal settlements and live in HART.

"Rent charges for HART tenants are dependent on their weekly income and this can vary from subsidised rates ranging from \$1 to \$10 per week. Rent payment for all HART residents have been put on hold from 20th March of this year and will continue to be so amid the COVID-19 pandemic."



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya has reassured Parliament that shipping services provided to maritime islands are efficient and the vessels are providing safe services to Fijians living in the maritime zones. Photo: SUPPLIED

Govt focuses on efficient shipping services

NANISE NEIMILA

THE FIJIAN Government will now ensure that shipping services provided to maritime islands are efficient and the vessels are providing safe services to Fijians living in the maritime zones.

This was the reassurance given by the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya in Parliament during the May sitting last week where he further emphasised the need to maximise the use of these particular vessels which at present are only really operating at about 30 per cent capacity.

"The Ministry is working on implementing an approved 15-year contract duration for Government shipping franchise schemes. What this will do, its 20 years for the coastal trading licence of vessels. This will provide collateral for re-finance and re-fleeting of custom-built vessels by the private sector through the GSS vessel replacement scheme."

"This will sufficiently incentivise further investment into the industry and especially with the uneconomical routes and in addition it will encourage re-fleeting of people's fleets already and using newer vessels, et cetera."

Minister Koya added that an-

other important component that forms an integral part of this whole equation was the need to be compliant in terms of the climate so the vessels are environmentally friendly.

Meanwhile, Minister Koya reflected on the Government's current five-year and 20-year National Development Plan on Government's commitment to the shipping industry in the next five years.

"Most paramount is the safety at sea which is an absolute key priority and one of the other considerations is actually environmental concerns. So, these are two places initially where the investments

are but there are eight others."

"We rely on private sector investment and with private sector investment, we are looking to continuous investment through vessels that have been used by the private sector companies who provide inter-island services like Goundar Shipping, Interlink, Patterson Shipping and South Sea Shipping."

Apart from investment venture, Minister Koya further highlighted the need for infrastructure upgrade which also is a collaborative effort through FRA and the success of Fiji's development is dependent on.



Islanders praised for post-cyclone resilience

NANISE NEIMILA

PEOPLE of Vatulele have been commended for their resilience following the destruction and damages the four villages suffered during Tropical Cyclone Harold.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while visiting the island recently, reassured the villagers that Government will prioritise rehabilitation works for those islands that were affected by TC Harold.

"I had been visiting Lau and Kadavu groups with aim of ensuring that rehabilitation works are on track for those that have been affected. Government officials has also undertaken the various assessment work."

"I would like to acknowledge the efforts of those Fijians that have assisted through donations of food, water and shelter. Government will continue with its rehabilitation works and we are grateful for all the relief efforts that have come through."

PM Bainimarama provided an update of the relief work that has been carried out by the Government particularly in the agricultural sector.

He urged the villagers to utilise the seedlings that have been distributed by the Ministry of



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during his recent visit to Vatulele island. Photo: SUPPLIED

Agriculture that will boost their source of food.

PM Bainimarama also highlighted the effect of COVID-19 to the Fijian economy particularly the global economy, Fiji in particular is on its way to having a 100 percent of being COVID-19 free.

However, he emphasised that this will depend on "how we as Fijians ensure adherence to all health warnings".

"I would like to urge parents and guardians to ensure that our children are monitored in light of the closure of schools."

"Only if Fiji is free from COVID-19 then we

can open all schools because our concern is that when our children begin to move around there is high-risk of spreading the disease."

"We still have three cases and according to the Minister for Health and Medical Services; they are recovering well. We still have a few in our quarantine facilities in Nadi that have to undergo the normal isolation period of 28-days. These are Fijians that are coming from India, Australia, New Zealand and some Asian countries."

PM Bainimarama briefed the villages of the continuous restrictions that are still in place to ensure that all Fijians are safe from COVID-19.

Fund promotes iTaukei culture, traditions, values

NANISE NEIMILA

THE iTaukei Trust Fund Board (ITTFB) plays a pivotal role in ensuring the advancement of the iTaukei and Rotuman communities by promoting initiatives that will better their standard of living and enhance appropriate cultural traditions and values.

This was highlighted by Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs Voreqe Bainimarama in Parliament during the May sitting last week while responding to queries on the review of the report on Trust Fund Board.

PM Bainimarama said in the TTFB Annual Report, 2017 had been a good year for the board in terms of fulfilment of its legislated objectives, particularly the various projects on language, culture and heritage developed in that year.

"Some of these programmes, such as the research on some of traditional funeral practices, focussing on the impact of these practices on the cultural, economic and religious wellbeing of indigenous Fijians.

Other practices have been translated into "Vosa Vaka Viti" and submitted to the iTaukei Affairs Board for dissemination and awareness."

"The curriculum on traditional leadership and governance titled, "Sauvaki ni Vanua", has been approved and registered by the Fiji Higher Education Commission as a Certificate III level course," the Head of Government informed Parliament.

"The 14-week course is written and taught in the iTaukei language. The offering of the course at the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development (CATD) at Nadave started in November."

The program has attracted interest and had its first class of 23 students from Tailevu and Rewa provinces.

A cohort of students made up of schoolteachers and a number of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs staff, undertaking the Diploma in Vernacular Studies continued with a total of six courses.

PM Bainimarama also adds that in collaboration with the iTaukei Institute of Language and Culture, two new comics of Fijian folktales - "Drevula Kata" and "O Dimailagi" are being illustrated as comic print productions, and Illustrator, Tuilevuka Ledua, was retained for the work.

PM joins global call for post-COVID-19 financing

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama joined the UN Secretary General António Guterres in calling for global leadership to secure financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond.

The UNSG together with the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica co-convened urgent virtual discussions to draw attention to the financing needed to respond to the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on developing countries.

The Secretary General told 50 World Leaders and the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund that the "World needed to act decisively and with great urgency to meet this human crisis".

The virtual discussions between world leaders and heads of multilateral institutions were focused on six pressing issues:

- The need to maintain financial stability to safeguard SDG development gains;
- The need to address debt vulnerabilities for developing countries;
- The need to create a space in which private sector creditors can proactively engage;
- Prerequisites for enhancing external finance for inclusive growth;
- Measures to foster domestic resource mobilization;



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during a virtual meeting with world leaders on COVID-19 crisis. Photo: SUPPLIED

- Ensuring a sustainable and inclusive recovery.

Prime Minister Bainimarama drew the attention of the world leaders to the unique challenges that small states faced; the standstill in whole sectors of the economy such as tourism; the collapse of remittances and the deepening uncertainties in supply chains hit the smaller island states much harder.

Prime Minister Bainimarama told the UN meeting that the COVID-19 crisis "is not of our own making, and again, our economies are bearing the brunt of its consequences. Financial constraints and debt vulnerabilities risk widening the gap between the developed and developing worlds, between North and South. This time, the enemy we face is not climate change, but contagion. And neither one rests for the other".

"Fiji quickly rolled out strict di-

rectives to eliminate the coronavirus within our borders, and we've now gone over one month without a new case. But this pandemic's economic consequences have proved far beyond our capacity to constrain. With up to 40 per cent of our GDP dependent on tourism, our road to economic recovery winds long and runs steep".

"Just as a global health recovery cannot be confined to those who can most afford a possible new vaccine, a global economic recovery cannot be limited to those large economies who can unilaterally inject trillions into social and economic stimulus because of a superior position in the global financial system. Our global COVID-19 recovery must be bold, it must be coordinated, and inclusive".

"Developed nations have injected \$8 trillion dollars into their own economies, with more yet to come.

If even the equivalent of one half of one per cent of this was dedicated to all the world's Small Island Developing States, it would provide us with the vital support we need. But to get there, we will need far greater creativity on the part of the IMF, World Bank, regional development banks, and most importantly, international solidarity among the world's large economies".

Prime Minister Bainimarama called for international solidarity that gives SIDS the "fiscal space to maintain and expand social protections, while maintaining economic stability and sustained economic growth. We need international solidarity that provides us with grant and concessionary financing on a scale that allows us to repurpose existing economic sectors and build new ones that are fit for a post-COVID era".

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Powerful platform for environmental advocacy

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“WORLD Environment Day became a powerful platform for environmental advocacy to help accelerate, amplify, and engage communities.”

WITH the theme “Biodiversity” for World Environment Day 2020, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy said Fijians will gain insight into why they need to take urgent action to protect the environment.

In launching the Environment Week in Suva this week, Minister Reddy hopes every country in the world works together to find a solution to stop the extinction of plants and animals and the eventual collapse of the ecosystems.

“We have been working with nations around the globe and will continue to take leadership to ensure that global action is meaningful and nations take action to address envi-

ronmental challenges that affect the globe.”

“We are looking at ways to address the impact of climate change and immediate actions to save the planet we call home.”

Minister Reddy added that he hoped through various organised events throughout this week, Fijians will gain insight into why we need to take urgent actions to protect the environment.

“This rapid decline in biodiversity has made the Environment Day this year far more special as it focuses on the crucial role biodiversity plays at this critical point and the immediate action that is required to save the species and planet.”

“Environment for us in small island states means quality of life, it means our survival, and our livelihood.”

Minister Reddy urged Fijians to build resilience to help protect and enhance the environment.



Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy during the launch of Environment Week. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Framework protects endemic, threatened species

SONAM SAMI

F IJ I has committed to a number of conservation global frameworks to guide its conservation work on endemic and threatened species.

International Day for Biological Diversity was marked with a week-long program under the theme of “Our Solutions are in Nature” launched with the aim of creating more awareness in communities on the importance of protecting our natural environment.

This was highlighted by Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy, while delivering his Ministerial Statement in Parliament during the May sitting last week.

Fiji’s forests comprise 85.3 per cent of natural forests and continue to support the vast majority of the country’s endemic fauna and flora.

“Our forests have been identified as one of the most highly threatened ecosystems in the Pacific mainly due to conversions to land-use and development,” Minister Reddy said.

“Biodiversity supports our current efforts to reduce the negative effects of climate change, through carbon sequestration.”

Fiji is home to some 250 endemic species with more than 56 per cent having reported as threatened and 32 as critically endangered.

Common threats attributed include habitat loss, increase in invasive species, and the changing climate, affecting species population, distribution, resilience abil-

ity, vulnerability status, and biological characteristics.

According to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2020-2025 and recent studies, Fiji has; 50.1 per cent of its plant species of endemic status, 35 of the 166 birds in Fiji are endemic to Fiji which includes the Fiji Petrel; 14 out of the 32 endemic terrestrial reptile species; 6 known species of bats are the only mammal’s endemic to Fiji, Two known frogs, (the Fiji Ground Frog and the Fiji Tree Frog, both endemic to Fiji)

The Ministry has adopted Global Environment Funds Ridge to Reef project and with recently launched initiatives at the Ministry, it was creating innovative ‘green corridors’ in national biodiversity hotspots, aimed at addressing climate

change and preventing the loss of endangered species by protecting and restoring habitats that have been threatened by our activity in past.

Minister Reddy said, “These ‘green corridors’ are areas, where we work communities to do afforestation, plant fruit trees, plant native species timber”.

“To boost our current efforts, the Ministry will establish a robust field survey protocol and regime for the Iguana habitat conservation and also protect these species from illegal trade.”

Furthermore, the Ministry in collaboration with the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji will develop a National Invasive Species Strategic Plan (NISSP) and develop Biosecurity protocols in support of native biodiversity within Fiji.

Biodiversity, climate change ‘two sides of same coin’

SONAM SAMI

IMPLEMENTATION of nature based solutions such as the use of Vetiver grass for riverbank erosion and mangroves for coastal protection from storm surge, help us mitigate disasters.

This was highlighted by Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy while delivering his Ministerial Statement in Parliament during the May sitting last week.

“We have the most amazing coral systems in the world. Distributed over 10,020 square kilometres of Fiji’s marine inshore areas, it hosts a rich and diverse marine ecosystem. These reefs contribute immensely to our livelihood, food source, cultural values, and our nation’s economy through tourism”

The Ministry launched the Policy on the Conservation and Management of Fiji’s Coral Reefs on Vorovoro Island aimed at promoting the conservation and protection of Fiji’s coral reefs and associated ecosystem.

Additionally to protect the coral reefs, the Ministry recently signed a letter of commitment that details the terms of engagement between the Ministry of Environment and Vulcan Inc. to collaborate on the use of the Allen Coral Atlas in Fiji for coral reef monitoring and management.

The Ministry through other national projects including Global Environment Fund Ridge to Reef, is getting various other government agencies including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, waterways, and infrastructure, and other sectors that use the land and that often are the primary drivers of biodiversity loss, implement projects to reverse biodiversity loss.

Such projects include, reforestation programme, strengthening locally managed marine protected areas, promoting nature based solutions and Vetiver for riverbank stabilization.

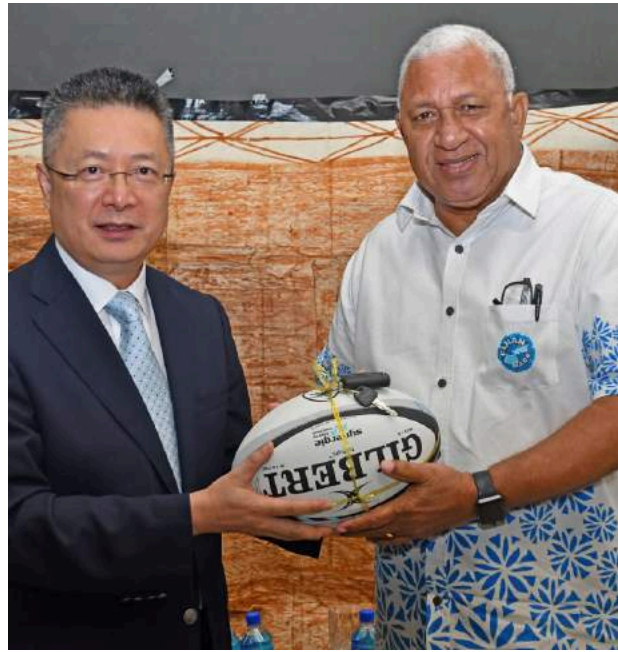
“Biodiversity supports our current efforts to reduce the negative effects of climate change, through carbon sequestration. Moreover, conserving in-tact ecosystems, such as mangroves, helps reduce the devastating impacts of climate change such as coastal inundation and storm surges”.



Our forests have been identified as one of the most highly threatened ecosystems in the Pacific mainly due to conversions to land-use and development.



Dr Mahendra Reddy
Minister for Agriculture,
Waterways and Environment



China donates buses to help Fiji Rugby Union

The Fiji Rugby Union received a major boost to its transportation fleet last month with the donation of two brand new buses that will lighten the annual cost of transporting the women's and men's 7s and 15s teams to training tournaments.

While officiating at the handover, Prime Minister and President for Fiji Rugby Union Voreqe Bainimarama acknowledged the People's Republic of China for its donation towards the development of rugby in the country.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Nursery distribution centres set up for Rewa, Tailevu

Villagers living in Rewa and Tailevu now have alternative sources of livelihood. This follows the opening of the Rewa and Tailevu nursery distribution centres by the Minister for Forestry, Osea Naiqamu.

"The nurseries will be utilised to store trees such as fuel wood, sandalwood, fruit trees and native or indigenous trees," Minister Naiqamu said.

The nurseries will cater for all seedlings that are bought from the six International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) community nurseries. The nurseries are co-funded by the Fijian Government through the Ministry of Forestry and the ITTO with the aim to control coastal erosion and degradation.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Conservation policy will protect Fiji's endangered iguana species

The Ministry of Environment, in commemorating International Biodiversity Day 2020, launched a "Conservation and Protection Policy to protect Fiji's endangered Iguana Species".

The policy sets objectives to provide legal guidance and policy support for the conservation of the four native endangered iguana species of Fiji.

It sets a plan to instil public pride and improve public knowledge on the threats to the endangered iguanas of Fiji and prioritises collaboration efforts for species recovery and management plans for the native iguana species of Fiji.

Photos: SUPPLIED



FSC aims to produce 200K tonnes of sugar

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC), is looking to produce between 195,000 to 200,000 tonnes of sugar during the 2020 cane crushing season.

FSC chief executive officer Graham Clark, while providing an update on the sugar industry during the launch of the rice planting initiative for canefarmers highlighted that out of this, FSC will export 170,000 tonnes to its major markets in five bulk shipments between July and December along with 80,000 tonnes of molasses in bulk exports from August to December.

Mr Clark stated that the remaining 30,000 tonnes would be for the regional markets as well as for local consumption.

The three mills are expected to begin crushing from this month with the Labasa mill beginning on June 10, Rarawai on June 23 and Lautoka on June 24.

Mr Clark said the total sugar cane production has now been placed at around 1.85 million tonnes with total sugar export earnings expected to be approximately \$150 million which is 10 per cent short of the estimated two million tonnes forecasted at the beginning of the year.

“The drop in the crop estimate was due to Tropical Cyclone Harold. This ravaged cane farms in Sigatoka, Rakiraki and the North, most of which were inundated with floodwaters.”

While acknowledging the Ministry of Agriculture for its swift action in providing rice seeds to the 12,000 sugarcane farmers, Mr Clark highlighted that they have a role to play in ensuring that the rice planting



From left; Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy, Permanent Secretary for Agriculture Ritesh Dass, Permanent Secretary for Sugar Industry Yogesh Karan, Fiji Sugar Corporation chief executive officer Graham Clark and Assistant Minister for Agriculture Viam Pillay during the launch of the rice planting initiative for sugarcane farmers at the Sugar Research Institute of Fiji in Drasa, Lautoka. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

initiative is a success.

Meanwhile, the fourth cane payment was given out to farmers on May 15 at \$17.78 per tonne of cane with a deduction of 67 cents.

Mr Clark explained the process of how the cane payments are made.

“All the cane payments that are made in Fiji are made in terms of the Sugar Industry Master Award. It’s a document that’s been around for a long time. It has legal standings amongst FSC and growers and we follow this to the letter.

“The fourth cane payment is governed by Clause 19.24 which requires that sugar proceeds up to the end of April are distributed to growers as soon as possible. Sometimes these payments are made around the end of May and this particular year with the trouble that everyone has been experiencing with the COVID-19 pandemic we

were very pleased to be able to make the payment of the 15th of May. No more than two weeks from the month end.”

Mr Clark highlighted that farmers would have received before their own personal deductions of \$13.06.

“So the deductions in question are two. Again, the Master Award provides for situations where there are certain costs that are either grower costs or miller costs that are Arbitrated by the Sugar Industry Tribunal, certified and a certificate is issued and only once the certificate is issued can anything happen in terms of the cane payment process.

“This deduction of 67 cents was comprised of two deductions. The first one was the 2019 contribution of the farmers to the Sugar Research Institute of Fiji and that is governed in terms of the SRIF Act which is in turn incorporated into the Master Award

and that was via an amendment made to the Master Award back in 2009.”

“So, we are guided by Section 21.1.4 of the Master Award which requires that on the production of a certificate from the Tribunal, the grower’s contribution to the Sugar Research of Fiji Institute need to be deducted. That is equivalent to 50 cents per tonne of cane.”

“Secondly, there was a small deduction of 17 cents which is a sugar cost adjustment that relaxed to the reprocessing of sugar last season which is now being certified. So together 67 cents of the total certified deductions. I think the issue is the disclosure of the deduction on the grower’s statements.”

He also stated that for the first time FSC had decided to try and push for more transparency and better accountability for growers so that they can track their payments.



Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources Jone Usamate during the distribution of the seventh pay-out of mineral royalty fair share to the landowners at Nasomo Village in Vatu-koula. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Landowners commend Govt’s commitment

MEREANI GONEDUA

MORE than 100 villagers of Nasomo in Vatu-koula were all smiles after receiving their pay-out of mineral royalty fair share despite the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Village headman Viliame Rokoraiba acknowledged the Government for always keeping its promises especially while the country was dealing with coronavirus.

“We are so thankful that we were not forgotten especially at such a difficult time and we thank the Fijian Government for keeping its promises,” Mr Rokoraiba said.

He stated that even though many of them were not directly affected by the pandemic, they would ensure that they support those that they know were affected.

“Most of us here are farmers and some also work in the mines and we thank the Government for every assistance that has come our way as it has helped us a lot.”

Meanwhile, Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources Jone Usamate while distributing the seventh pay-out to the landowners stressed the need to utilise and manage their funds wisely.

“I am greatly encouraged by the decision made by Trust members to contribute a portion of their funds to the Nasomo Community Development Fund. I urge the Trust to utilise this fund transparently for community development that will bring in tangible benefits for the current and future generation of Nasomo.”

Minister Usamate stressed the need for Fijians to

look out for each other especially during this difficult time when some have been without work for quite a while.

“We are living in unprecedented times as the impact of COVID-19 continues to decimate the global economy. In Fiji, such impacts have been further exacerbated by TC Harold, which wreaked havoc across the country coupled with the prolonged wet spell that has severely affected our economy.

“We must all unite in this fight against COVID and play our part in helping with the Government’s efforts to rehabilitate and rebuild our economy. The path to recovery will be not easy but I am confident that with our resilience and perseverance which Fijians are known for, we will get there together.

“Today’s event is also a reflection of your Government’s foresight in ensuring continuous socio-economic empowerment of landowners and landowning units who contribute to national economic development by supporting mineral development projects undertaken on their land.”

The pay-out is the result of the gold and silver mined from beneath Nasomo land for the period December 2019 to February 2020 with approximately \$66,665 to be equitably distributed or shared amongst 123 Nasomo Landowners Trust members.

This pay-out is in accordance with Section 5 of the Fair Share of Mineral Royalties Act 2018 which states that 80 per cent of mineral royalties be given to landowning units or customary fishing rights holders and 20 per cent retained by the State.

Policy protects endangered iguana species

THE Ministry of Environment in commemorating International Biodiversity Day 2020, launched a “Conservation and Protection Policy to protect Fiji’s endangered Iguana Species”.

This sets out the objectives to provide legal guidance and policy support to the conservation of the four native endangered iguana species of Fiji.

It further sets out a plan to instil public pride and improve public knowledge on the threats to the endangered iguanas of Fiji, and to prioritise the collaboration efforts towards species recovery and management plans for the native iguana species in the country.

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy, while launching the policy document at Yadua Island in Bua recently, said the policy will guide the establishment of protocols, guidelines and standard operating procedures for the protection and conservation of endangered and endemic species.

Minister Reddy said that the launch of the special policy document signifies the level of commitment and support that the Environment Ministry has towards protecting and preserving the endangered species for now and in the future.

“This policy is geared towards not just protecting the species but to enable it to multiply and flourish and sets out the management of the species while development takes place,” he said.

“This document further sets out the institutional mandate and of course Fiji’s international obligations including the Convention on International Biodiversity which will act under the scope of the Environment Management Act and the Endangered and Protected Species (EPS) Act.”

Minister Reddy further alluded that the policy not only provides guidelines for research and reporting needs but also initiates to stop illegal trade of the species and the management of invasive species.

“We will continue to support ongoing research and any translocation initiative in the effort to safeguard and protect the endangered iguana species in Fiji as this policy document is a living document that will be reviewed regularly to match our changing times in Biodiversity,” Minister Reddy said.

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Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy, during the launch of the policy document at Yadua Island in Bua. Photo: SUPPLIED

French help with cyclone relief



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu receives a donation of 200 tents from Ambassador of France to Fiji Jean-François Fitou. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fijian Government received about 200 tents from the Government of France for occupants of the 961 homes that were totally destroyed by Tropical Cyclone Harold.

Speaking at the handover ceremony recently, Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu said that “as Fiji recovers from the devastation of TC Harold, we are also in solidarity with the international community in addressing the deadly COVID 19 pandemic”.

“The impact of the COVID-19

crisis extends beyond the sickness and death caused by the virus itself and demands a concerted global effort,” Minister Seruiratu said.

“As you may have witnessed, Fiji like many other countries has imposed drastic social and economic restrictions, shutting schools and businesses and imposing lockdowns and curfews - which is much more than a health crisis; lives and livelihoods have been affected,” he added.

“Fiji, like other small island developing states, is trying to confront this threat in the most challenging of circumstances but this has stretched our scarce resources to the limit, and therefore, we

are grateful for the support of France and like-minded development partners.”

Ambassador of France to Fiji Jean-François Fitou acknowledged French citizens living in Fiji and thanked Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, Cabinet Ministers, the health workers and all the COVID-19 frontliners.

Ambassador Fitou stressed this handover by the French Government was not a gift but simply an exchange and a way of giving back to help Fijians.

“My sincere hope is that people living in the islands and other Fijians that have been affected will benefit from these tents,” he said.

Public-private partnership ‘integral for ministry’

THE role of Public-Private Partnership in the component of the flood mitigation measures plays an integral role while protecting communities against the growing threat of flooding.

This was relayed by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy while Commissioning the Emergency Desilting work of Korovatu Floodgate Outlet and Bucaisau River, in Korovatu Labasa, recently.

Minister Reddy said such collaboration extends beyond government and includes the roles played by the communities and the private sector in managing waterways to allow the free flow of water during the heavy downpour.

He also acknowledged the Private Sectors involvement as well as the civil contractors who will be carrying out the Emergency Creek De-silting works for the flood mitigation purpose around the country at a free of cost who will be taking away the De-silted Materials

Minister Reddy further alluded that it is the responsibility of the Fijian Government to keep Fijians safe from flash flooding and socio-economic damages, irrespective of their location.

“Be cautious where you dispose your rubbish as rivers and creeks are not part of the dumping grounds.

The government will continue to provide services within our mandate to ensure that Fijians are safe from flooding and waterways are clear for the free flow of water during heavy down-pour,” Minister Reddy said.

Meanwhile, the de-silting of the Korovatu Floodgate Outlet and Bucaisau River will further increase the storage capacity of the drainage area increasing the conveyance capacity-discharge channel of the floodgate.

It will also allow for the increased duration for the opening of floodgate, hence increased discharge of water and increase channel conveyance, reducing water levels and small floods.

The de-silting work of approximately 1,000m is contracted to Hussein’s Hire Plant at free of cost which will comprise removal of rubbish, excessive silts, and sediments, and disposal of any debris.

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'Children continue home studies'

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Ministry of Education could not afford to become paralysed with fear and even before COVID-19 arrived in Fiji, our Ministry had started to plan strategically to counter this pandemic."

In a Ministerial statement in Parliament last week, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar said "after Fiji's first case of COVID-19, we announced the closure of all schools Fiji-wide, bringing the Term 1 School holiday forward from 23 March, 2020 to 3 April, 2020".

"Schools remained closed for another two weeks until 17th April, 2020 and the term holidays have also been extended until 12 June, 2020," Minister Akbar noted.

"The health and safety of our

children and our teachers was one of the highest priorities of our Government and these past few months have been difficult for our children, parents and teachers, who are filled with uncertainty when it comes to the future," Minister Akbar said.

"We knew we had to adapt, evolve, and think of innovative ways to ensure our children were not deprived of any form of education and one of our new strategies was the supplementary home-based educational support mechanisms to ensure students are engaged and continue learning while they were still at home and safe," she said.

Minister Akbar highlighted that children can now watch and learn on a new educational channel on Walesi which was launched recently, and will allow students to



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar in Parliament last week.

Photo: SUPPLIED

continue learning while at home and also enable parents to be part of their children's education.

The Ministry had prepared and uploaded the first round of worksheets on its website on March 21, 2020 for all levels from Early Childhood Education (ECE) to secondary schools and as of May 27, 2020, a total of 169,167 worksheets had been downloaded from the website.

An average of 100 daily email queries and 250 weekly phone calls were recorded in regards to the worksheets loaded on to the website.

"This indicates a high level of parental engagement which we have experienced at the Ministry in the last two months and, of course, this is commendable," Minister Akbar said.

"Radio broadcasts for four hours per day, three hours daily on two different stations, totaling 23 hours per week, started from 6 April, 2020 and as of today, we have aired a total of 66 Vernacular Lessons - 33 Hindi and 33 Vosa Vaka-Viti; and 116 Literacy and Numeracy Lessons through these radio stations," she added.

Employers 'have to rethink operational strategies'

NANISE NEIMILA

EMPLOYERS and corporates have been urged to think of ways and means of continuing or re-configure their operations as COVID-19 continues with no concrete timeline of returning to normalcy given.

This was highlighted by Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar while delivering his ministerial statement in Parliament last week.

Minister Kumar said there is a need to continue to re-think how to do business and to create lines of employment that work within the health realities and guidelines currently in place.

"We have in place useful examples from our neighbours in Australia and New Zealand to create new lines and products to meet the pandemic needs. It is important that we continue to innovate within the ambit of current health regulation and the realities of COVID-19 pandemic."

"As supply chains open, it is important that we continue to re-think and think forward towards new and expanded market opportunities regionally among our Pacific Island neighbours for manufacturing and value-added goods. We already have an established pathway in this area and we should now look to expand this."

While the current survey is to provide data to meet current needs for planning during this COVID-19 pandemic, Minister Kumar adds that Fiji is not limiting it to just that.

"The survey will also provide the basis moving forward towards better planning for other crises dictated periods as this crisis has shown us that we can be better prepared in a range of areas in the workplace. For a start, we have already had to re-think how OHS regulations will work in pandemic situation."

"We know that while we have better chance, happier times are ahead, we will always have to deal with bad times as well and this survey provides an opportunity to be prepared for all that cases."

This nation-wide workplace survey will also assist in updating the employers' base figures which is currently at 24,169 and how COVID-19 has affected this base figure.

The exercise involves the door to door survey of workplace establishment for 30 days.

Fijians encouraged to be job creators

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Business License Reforms aims at the streamlining business in Fiji and encourage Fijians to be job creators.

This was highlighted by Minister for Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar during the May sitting of Parliament last week while providing an update on the Business License Reforms that came into effect on January 1, 2020.

The act of streamlining business processes aims to increase an organization's efficiency by simplifying tasks, bypassing unnecessary steps and cutting waste, all by using the most modern process modelling techniques.

Minister Kumar said by aggressively pursuing more streamlined businesses in Fiji they are encouraging more Fijians to become entrepreneurs which in turn attracts foreign business to invest in Fiji.

"By doing so, we aimed not only to increase Fiji's standing in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking, but bring real and meaningful change that would help encourage new entrepreneurs and formalise existing ones," she



From left, Assitant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Veena Bhatnagar, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar and Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services Alex O'Connor in Parliament last week.

Photo: SUPPLIED

said.

"Amid the economic uncertainty of COVID-19, I think we can all agree, these steps to streamline Fijian business are more crucial than ever, particularly when we are encouraging Fijians to be job creators."

"Firstly, we prioritised standardisation. Previously, the processes in

place around the country differed, with different requirements and timelines."

Minister Kumar said thanks to the newfound standardisation, any Fijian who wishes to obtain a business license can now expect a decision within 48 hours of lodging their application.

"Now, under the new system, a

business licence is issued to low-risk businesses that can start business and then have six months to ensure full legal compliance."

"This means that individual regulatory authorities will be directly accountable for their service turnaround time, adding efficiency and accountability across both, Government and the private sector."



Govt answers residents' 20-year plea

MEREANI GONEDUA

WORRYING about how to cross a creek in the area to get to work or school will now be a thing for the past for residents of Field 4 in Waiyavi, Lautoka.

This is after the opening of a \$40,000 crossing which has been a plea by residents for almost 20 years.

Jope Sadranu, 70, who has been living in the area for nearly 50 years could not hide emotions as he acknowledged the Fijian Government for its tremendous assistance.

"I have lived here for almost 50 years and this area is always flooded. Sometimes we had to cross this creek while it was flooded because we had to get to our destination due to emergency," Mr Sadranu said. School children and workers would suffer because every time there would be a heavy downfall they would not go to work or school.

"There was only a few piece of wood put together so we would be able to cross the river, however, now with the new crossing, we will be able to reach our destination. This crossing has been a long time coming and we thank the Government of the day for keeping its promises to us."

Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development Viam Pillay, while commissioning the crossing, highlighted that providing infrastructure for ordinary Fijians is one of Government's top priorities.

Asst. Minister Pillay highlighted that residents of Field 4 will no longer worry about crossing the creek as the old structure was not stable enough and was classified as not safe and during wet weather the old crossing would cause injuries to some residents as it was slippery.

"This occasion is a manifestation of the Fijian Government's manifesto and promises it has been conveying to the people in providing better infrastructure.

"The Government is here to serve the Fijian people and this day marks an important phase in serving the needs of the people.



Assistant Minister for Agriculture Viam Pillay (with garland), with Field 4 residents during the opening of their crossing at Waiyavi, Lautoka. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Ministry helps villagers to fight LTDD



ILISAPECI TUIVALE

VILLAGERS of Nasavu Village and Naocosaga Settlement of Nabaitavo Village in the province of Naitasiri, expressed their gratitude for the assistance they received in terms of latrines for their restrooms.

The Government through the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, in partnership with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) and Field Ready Organisation has allowed some villages in Naitasiri to have access to proper, sanitised restrooms with the installation of plastic pit latrines under the ROTA MOLD Project.

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete while officially opening the projects informed the villagers that this

project was an initiative to assist villages in the fight against water-borne diseases such as dengue fever, typhoid and leptospirosis.

"The Ministry of Health and Medical Services, in collaboration with organisations such as UNICEF and Field Ready Organisation is working towards ensuring that every Fijian has access to proper sanitised restrooms to avoid the spread of water-borne diseases," Minister Waqainabete stated.

He also stated that his Ministry will continue lifting the standard of its service by working with organisations and communities to ensure that such basic sanitary needs are available for the health and safety of all Fijians.

For Titilia Bolakoro, 60, of Naocosaga Settlement, the assistance could not have come at a better time as they have had cases of leptospirosis within members of their settlement.

China gives supplies to battle pandemic

FELIX LESINAIVALU

FIJI and China will be learning from each other to combat COVID-19 and future pandemics.

These sentiments were shared by the People's Republic of China's Ambassador to Fiji, Qian Bo while handing over medical supplies to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

"I want to assure our friends in Fiji that China will continue to work in Fiji in combatting the Pandemic. What is more important is that we are focusing to further deepen the cooperation in areas of medical services," Ambassador Bo said.

"I am very happy that these goods have finally arrived because we have been waiting a very long time for those supplies to come," he said.

The supplies included more than 1,000 test supplies from the Chinese Central Government and 1,000 surgical masks, 20,000 medical masks, 5,000 medical protection disposable clothing and 5,000 disposable gloves from the Chinese Local Government, Guangdong Province.

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete assured that supplies given by China to Fiji will go to the medical personnel working in the frontlines against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Over the last few months, we have received support from the People's Republic of China in terms of the protective equipment and we have also seen assistance provided in other areas facing the threat of the pandemic."

Minister Waqainabete added that the Fiji will continue to be grateful for the support from the Government of China.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete during the official commissioning of the sanitised plastic pit latrines project at Nabaitavo Village in Naitasiri. Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

"We had two cases of leptospirosis in 2018 and this is the first assistance that we have received of this sort. We are elated and grateful that our community was among one of the many chosen to have these pit latrines installed for our restrooms. These plastic latrines are easy to clean and we are adamant that this will help us in the fight against water-borne diseases.

"For that we extended our gratitude to the Government and the organisations involved in bringing this assistance to our homes."

Fifteen pit latrine restrooms have already been commissioned, with 1000 more on the way to be produced by ROTA MOLD, and installed by Field Ready Organisation, in partnership with UNICEF.

One of the aim of this project is to ensure that Fijian children and families have access to proper toilets and hygiene facilities.



US-based family gives relief items worth \$F766K

A timely collaboration between the Fijian Diaspora in United States and Fiji's Mission in Washington D.C in United States has unlocked opportunities to support Fiji's national efforts in containing COVID-19.

The assistance further aids the rebuilding livelihoods of the Fijian communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Harold.

Former Fijians, Satya Narayan and his son Sajal Narayan living in Amherst, Virginia handed relief supplies worth US\$344,971 (FJ\$766,229) to the Fiji Embassy in Washington D.C. as their contribution in recognition of the Fijian Government's swift response to contain COVID 19.

The donation is also targeted towards the recovery of communities affected by Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold which made land-fall in Fiji in April.

The Narayan family, originally from Nasorawaqa, Bua said that they were emotionally moved when they read about double catastrophe of COVID-19 and the impact of TC Harold in Fiji.

Although the Narayan family immigrated to the United States in 2000, they have always had Fiji's interests and the wellbeing of their fellow Fijians at heart thereby aspiring to assist through provisions of timely donations.

In 2018 during cyclone Tropical Cyclones Josie and Keni, the Narayan family also donated more than US\$25,000 (FJ\$55,528.51)



Vice president of Narayan Properties LLC Sajal Narayan (left), with acting First Secretary Jaljeet Kumar with relief supplies at the Fiji Embassy in Washington D.C. Photo: SUPPLIED

worth of relief items to Fiji.

In commending this great assistance, the Fiji Embassy in Washington D.C. has expressed sincere appreciation and acknowledgement to the Narayan family for their kind and compassionate assistance that greatly complements the Fijian Government's commitment towards uplifting livelihoods of the Fijian communities that have been affected by the global pandemic COVID-19 and TC Harold.

The Embassy also conveyed Fiji's gratitude

to the Narayan family for raising Fiji's visibility in the remote part of Virginia through their business connections.

The Narayan Properties LLC is the only 100 percent owned family business by former Fijian in East Coast and in State of Virginia.

They operate businesses that range from gas stations, convenience stores, motels, a trucking company, car dealerships and rental properties in Amherst, Virginia.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Timely donations help WOWS Kids Fiji

Fiji's Embassy in Korea and Korean based international non-government organization (NGO) "International We Love' U Foundation" has unfolded opportunities for the benefit of the Fijian families in Fiji.

Through a partnership that they have formed, assistance of 10 Million Korean Won (FJ\$18,000) has been provided by the International We Love'U Foundation to the WOWS Kids Fiji (WKF) Walk On Walk Strong, in recognition of the support they provide for the children living with cancer in Fiji.

While presenting the donation in Pangyo city, foundation chairwoman Zahng Gil-jah, reflected on the pillars of the foundation which is unconditional love of a "mother" that extends beyond nationality, race, language, and culture.

Ms Zahng highlighted the importance of sharing resources between neighbours that would help towards achieving good health and wellbeing to address poverty around the world.

In accepting the donation on behalf of WOWS Kids Fiji, Fiji's Ambassador to Korea Peniana Lalabalavu thanked Ms Zahng for the generous contribution provided to the WOWS Kids Fiji.

Also featured at this event was the formalisation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Ambassador Lalabalavu and Ms Zahng with the aim to deepen collaboration towards the implementation of cooperation projects in Fiji.

This includes strengthening co-operation in areas that the Foundation is already providing assistance to other countries, namely in education, climate action, reducing poverty and hunger, disaster prevention response and reconstruction, and humanitarian assistance.

The foundation, which started as a movement in the 1990's and was officially launched in 2001, is an international organization associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (UNDGC), having more than 155,000 members in 105 regions and a presence in 51 countries.

WOWS Kids Fiji team leader, Viola Lesi, applauded the foundation for its generosity in providing this timely assistance.

Ms Lesi also expressed appreciation to the embassy for its swift response in facilitating the consultation process to secure assistance for WOWs Kids Fiji.

"We are incredibly humbled by the generosity of International We Love'U Foundation in providing the much needed support for children living with cancer in Fiji and their families. This assistance has come just in time when we are not able to do much fundraising activities due to the challenges which are a direct result of COVID19 pandemic."

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

China praises Fiji's efforts against pandemic

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE People's Republic of China's Ambassador to Fiji, Qian Bo, commended the Fijian Government in its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19.

During a handover ceremony of 7500 facemasks at Civic House, Ambassador Bo said, "We are very happy to see that the Fijian Government has done a great job in coping with COVID-19 and I would like to give credit to the Government of Fiji and the Prime Minister himself for his strong leadership".

He added that the diplomatic corps in Fiji feel safe and comfortable and will continue to work with the Government.

"China is always there, we are ready to send expertise and provide much needed assistance to Fiji when there is a need," Ambassador Bo said.

"COVID-19 has created enormous challenges for both China, Fiji and across the world."

"China is trying to do more for international cooperation, we believe this is part of our responsibility to build a shared future for mankind particularly to work with our friends from the de-

veloping world."

While receiving the facemasks Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar reassured the health and safety for Fijians in their respective work places.

"On behalf of the Fijian Government, I wish to thank the Chinese Government most sincerely for the kind gesture in providing face mask supplies that will allow my Ministry to ensure the health and safety of Fijian workers."

"This handing over also marks another milestone in both our countries relationship where our engagement has been progressive."

Minister Kumar added the handover was a timely one as the Ministry is currently engaged in a nationwide workplace survey.

"The purpose of the workplace survey is to gauge the impact of COVID-19 in Fiji's workplaces."

Minister Kumar said he believes that all assistance and support provided by China demonstrate the longstanding and productive partnership enjoyed between the two countries.



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar receives a donation of 7500 facemasks from People's Republic of China's Ambassador to Fiji, Qian Bo at Civic House, Suva Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

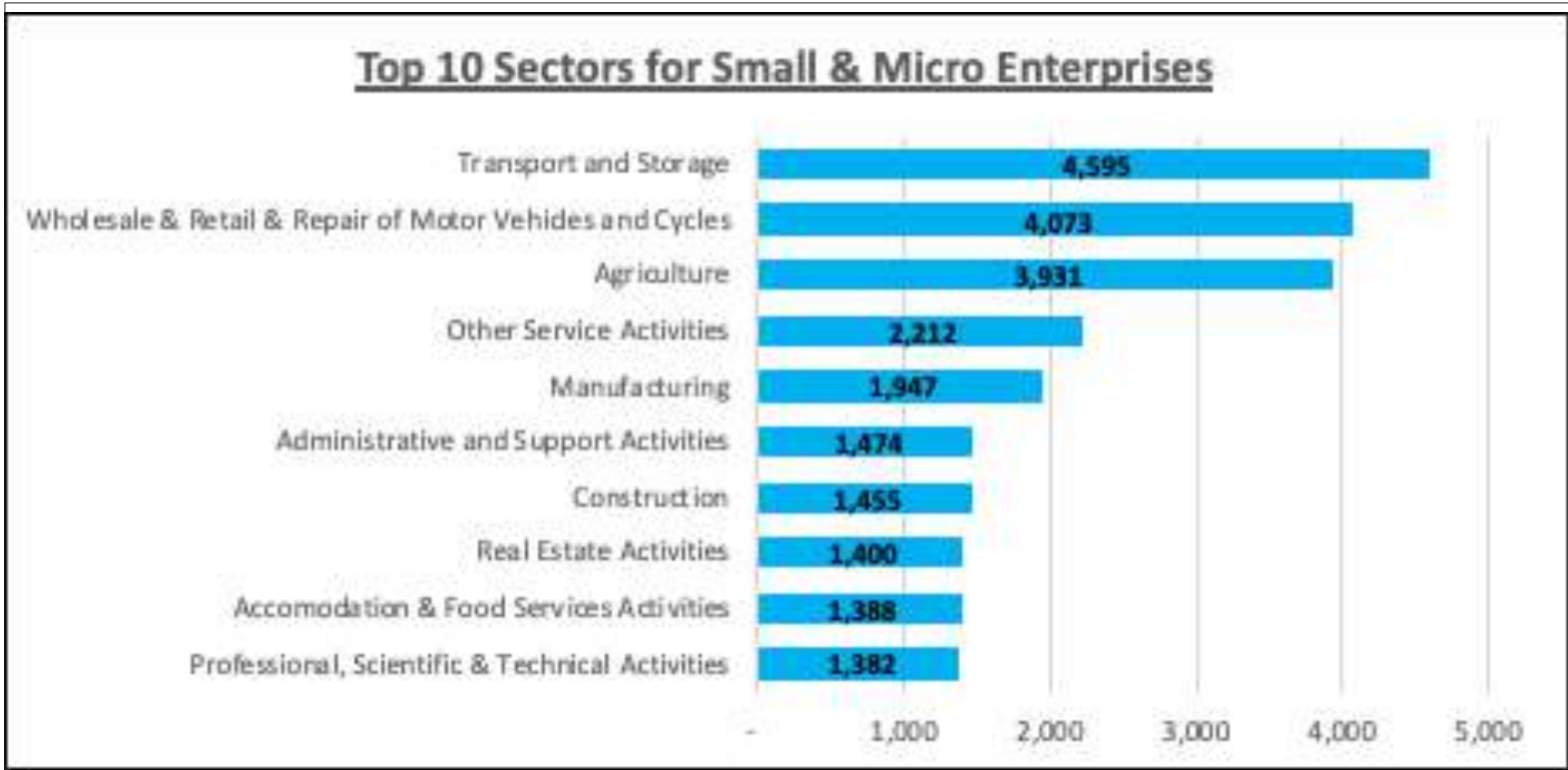
SMEs benefit from Govt initiatives

IS your business earning an income less than FJ\$500,000 per annum?

If so, then it is a Small and Micro Enterprise (SME) for tax purposes and can enjoy a number of benefits that many SMEs have been enjoying through the incentives provided by the Fijian Government.

The Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) has 28,984 registered SMEs in its database and in the last three years (2016 to 2018), these businesses have contributed \$378,763,052 in taxes towards the Fijian economy.

Transport and storage sector is the largest SME sector in Fiji with 2,740 registered businesses, followed by Agricultural sector with 2,213 businesses and Wholesale and Retail sector with 2,143 registered businesses respectively.



Incentives for SMEs

From 2016 to 2018, a total of 13,283 SME operators benefitted from the various incentives and duty concessions provided by the Fijian Government worth \$98.6 million. Out of the 13,283 SME operators that benefitted from these incentives, 13,226 are sole traders and 57 are companies with turnover of less than \$500,000 per annum.

Some of the incentives currently provided to the SME sector are Stamp Duty concession under the Stamp Act 1920, tax concession under the Income Tax Act 2015, and relaxation of taxable period under the VAT Act 1991. It is important that SME business owners know about these incentives so that they can utilise the opportunities of growth provided to them by the Fijian Government.

Stamp Duty exemption for SMEs

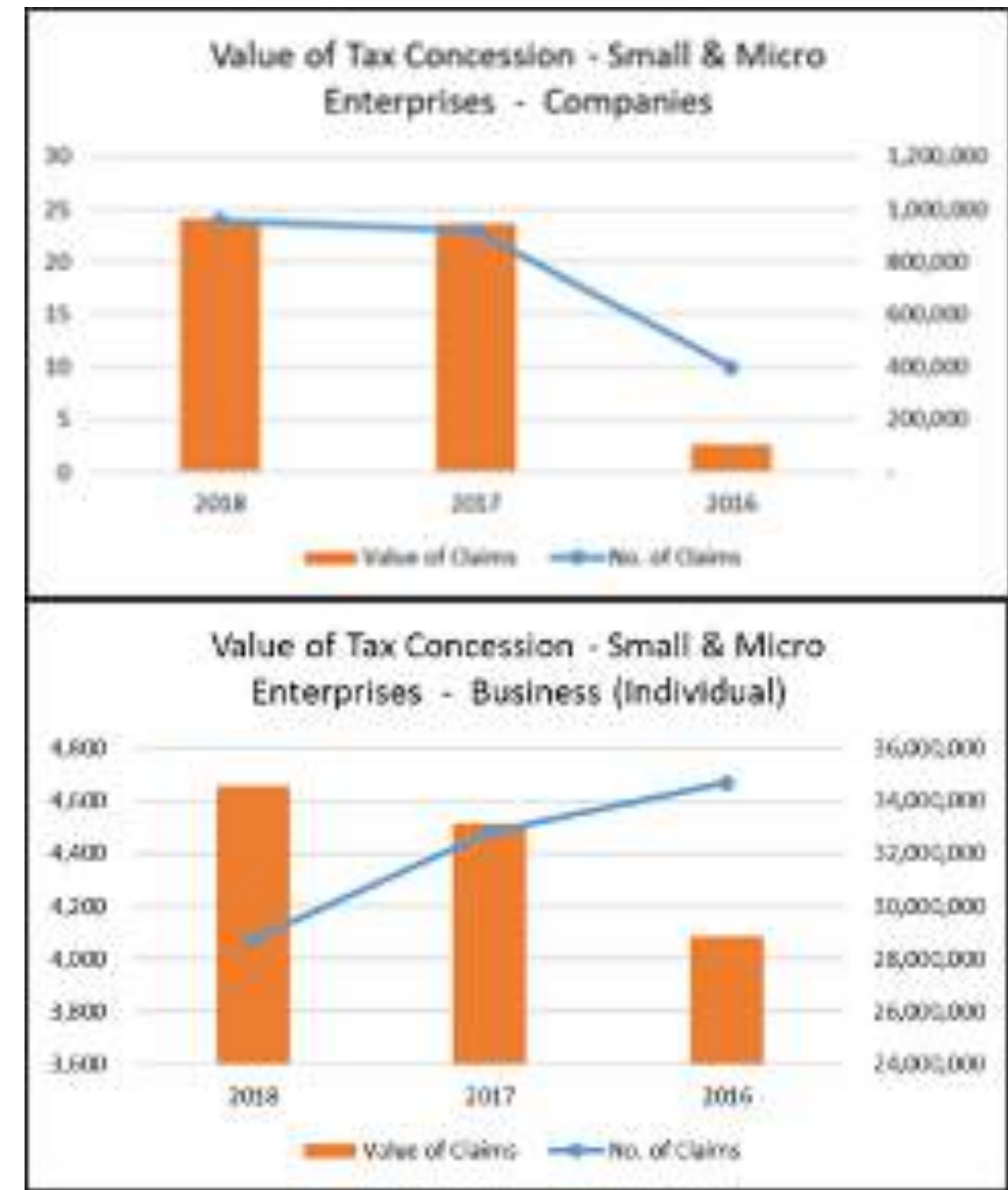
The Fijian Government announced the waiver of stamp duty on all instruments or written documents for SMEs effective from January 1, 2016.

Under the Stamp Duties Act, this waiver is available to any business that has an annual gross turnover or sale not exceeding \$500,000, provided it is a registered business with a valid business license, are tax and customs compliant and will be required to provide a Statutory Declaration confirming a gross turnover not exceeding \$500,000.

These businesses must provide copies of financial statements where applicable. The policy intention for this incentive is to assist the SMEs. Post assessment audits will be conducted to verify declarations. Penalties will be imposed where taxpayers make false declarations or scheme to evade this tax.

VAT Registration for SMEs

SMEs with turnover of \$300,000 or less per annum and are registered for VAT, also qualify to file



VAT returns annually instead of filing it monthly under the VAT Act 1991.

The intention of this policy is to give flexibility to SMEs to save cost and time associated with filing returns with accountants or Tax Agents as some may not be able to pay accountants and tax agents every month to make and file returns on their behalf

EFD/VMS Assistance to SMEs

Announced in the 2019-2020 National Budget, all entities with an annual turnover of less than \$500,000 will be granted a free VAT Monitoring System (VMS) application software and a free smart card reader from FRCS. This has been effective from August 1, 2019 and to date there have been 729 successful SME assistance applicants for this.

Tax exemption to SMEs in the Agricultural Sector

All SMEs with an annual turnover is \$500,000 or less per annum and are involved in the agricultural sector qualify for Income Tax exemption under the Income Tax Act 2006 provided that their business income is only derived from the Agricultural activities.

However, the business will have to file the yearly tax returns stating the income derived and the subse-

quent profits generated. All those SMEs that are purely agricultural based and deal with raw and unprocessed materials (produce supplier) like dalo and kava also have the option of not registering for VAT regardless of their annual turnover.

In cases where businesses choose to voluntarily register for VAT, then they will have to charge and pay VAT to FRCS. However, if the SME is not registered for VAT then they cannot charge VAT on their supplies.

Dedicated SME Support Centre

FRCS has a one stop shop dedicated to the SMEs where all relevant Information are provided to ensure that this important business sector is enabled to better understand its tax obligations including registration, filing and payment obligations as well as to assist SME to meet its reporting requirements.

Some of the advisory services available through the SME Support Centre located at the FRCS Head Office in Nasese includes:

- ☐ Business registration
- ☐ Lodgement of Tax Returns
- ☐ Payments
- ☐ VAT registration and filing
- ☐ Record keeping
- ☐ Customs duty concession available for SMEs
- ☐ Tax and Customs incentives
- ☐ New budget policies and its tax implications
- ☐ Registration and use of Electronic Fiscal Device/VMS

In addition to this, the SME Support Centre also processes Tax Clearance applications for amounts below FJ\$20,000.

FRCS encourages SME operators to visit the SME Support Centre for advisory and services provided. For more information please email us on info@frcs.org.fj

-FIJI REVENUE & CUSTOMS SERVICE

FijiFocus



Prime Minister and Fiji Rugby Union (FRU), president Voreqe Bainimarama and FRU board members and players with Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Qian Bo after receiving the donation of two buses from the People's Republic of China's Guangdong Province.
Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

BIG GIFT

Chinese province's bus aid eases FRU's woes

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Fiji Rugby Union (FRU), received two buses provided by the People's Republic of China's Guangdong Province which will lighten the \$0.5 million annual cost of transporting the women's and men's 7s and 15s sides. Transportation plays an integral role in FRU's operations as it ferries the players to and from training and tournaments and is equally important for the FRU staff who work behind the scene. While receiving the donation, Prime Minister and FRU president Voreqe Bainimarama said as part of Fiji's response to the corona-

virus, rugby and other contact sports aren't being played and, globally, international competitions are on hold. "We all know these buses aren't hitting the roads tomorrow. But I wanted to be here today to give everyone an update on where we stand on getting athletes at all levels back in action here in Fiji." "Fiji's acted decisively to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus and our campaign has won incredible success. We locked down at-risk regions of the country, banned gatherings, implemented a nationwide curfew, closed high-risk businesses and health screened hundreds of thousands of Fijians."

"We've now gone 33 days without a new case of the virus, making us one of the few countries on Earth poised to completely eradicate community-based transmission of COVID-19." "As soon as we decide there's a manageable risk to resuming recreational contact sports, I'll be the one to let you know. And, when it's safe to do so, we'll resume full-scale sporting tournaments in a way that puts the well-being of our fans and athletes first. I know how vital sport is for many Fijian businesses, along with the coaches and staff who make a living supporting teams across the country. I know how difficult it is for athletes to put their careers on hold

and put the income they earn from competing aside. And I know how important sport is for ordinary Fijians — particularly when our national spirit needs lifting." PM Bainimarama commended heroes on the frontlines of the campaign against COVID-19. "I'm speaking of the Doctors, Nurses, Healthcare workers, Police Officers and RFMF Personnel, along with our disaster Officials, who are helping win the war against this virus, even throughout our response to Cyclone Harold. It will be, thanks to their efforts that these buses will one day start running and our athletes will resume competing."

फीजी रग्बी यूनियन
को दो बजें मिली

2

फेंच सरकार से राहत
सहायता मिली

3

कावाकावा और दोनू मछली
मारने पर प्रतिबन्ध

6

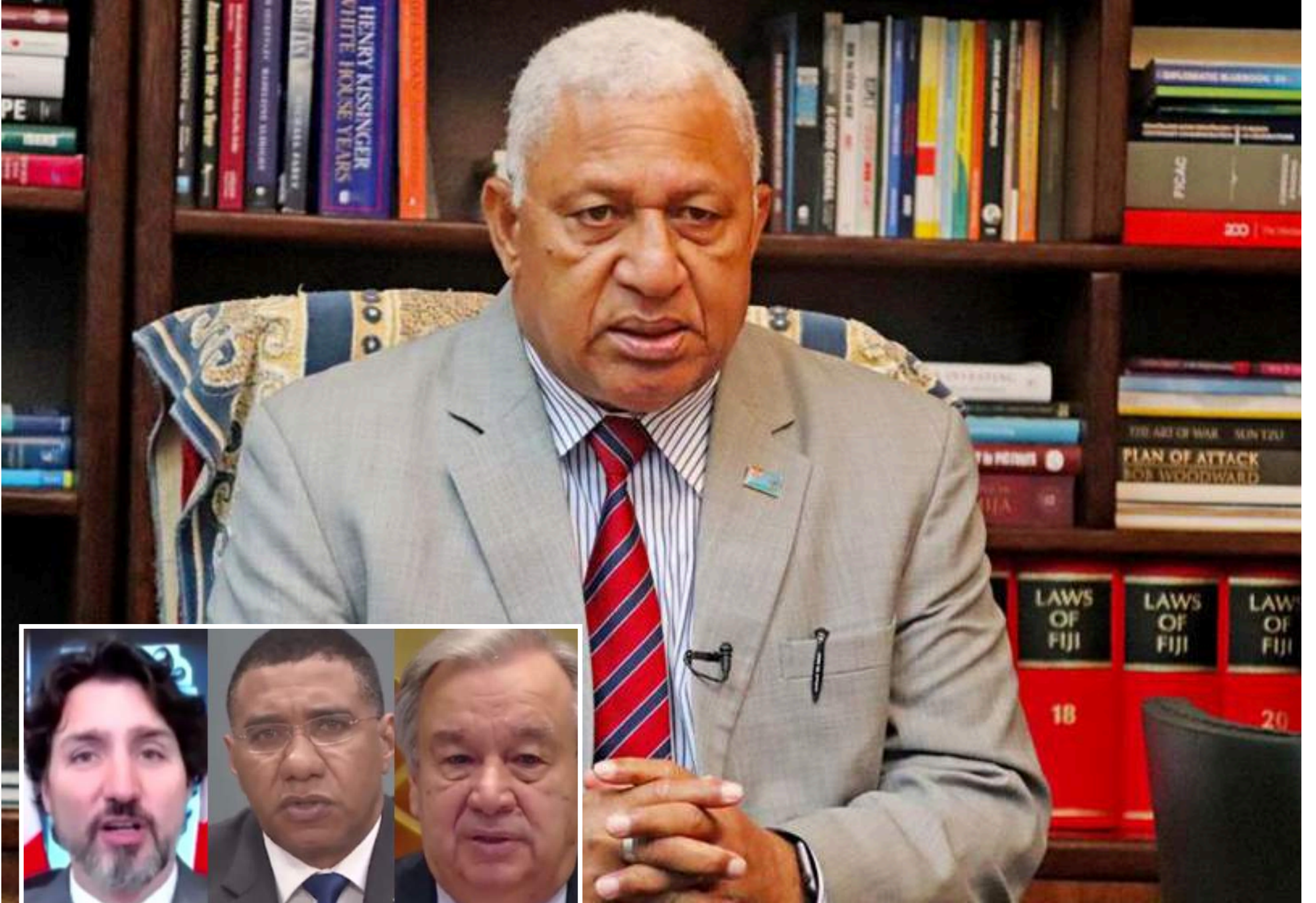
एम्प्लॉयमेंट रिलीशन्स
कानून में बदलाव

3

फीजी दर्पण

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प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा अपने दफ्तर में और उनकी तस्वीर में नीचे बाएं ओर से हैं कनेडा के प्रधान मंत्री जस्टिन ट्रूडो, जमईका के प्रधान मंत्री एन्ड्रू होल्सन् और संयुक्त राष्ट्र के महा मंत्री महामहीम एन्टोनियो गुटेरेज़ चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर

बहुपक्षीए और वैश्विक रूप से काम करने और सोचने की ज़रूरत

वीरेंद्र लाल

कोविड-19 को लेकर हमें बहुपक्षीए और वैश्विक रूप से काम करने और सोचने की ज़रूरत है।

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा ने बताया कि इसके लिए नेताओं के बीच एकता की ज़रूरत है।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कोविड-19 को लेकर कनेडा के प्रधान मंत्री जस्टिन ट्रूडो और जमईका के प्रधान मंत्री एन्ड्रू होल्सन् के साथ साथ संयुक्त राष्ट्र के महामंत्री महामहीम एन्टोनियो गुटेरेज़ से बातें की हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने बताया कि कोविड-

19 को लेकर दुनिया भर में बहुत बुरा असर पड़ा है और ऐसे में सभी देशों के नेताओं को साथ मिलकर काम करना चाहिए।

फिलहाल पाँच सौ से ज्यादा स्थानिए व्यापारियों ने संकेत दिया है कि अगर कोविड-19 महामारी अगले छः महिनो तक जारी रही, तो उनका दिवालिया निकल सकता है।

कोमेस एन्ड ट्रैड मंत्री फर्डिनांड कोया ने पिछले सप्ताह संसद में इसकी जानकारी दी। वे, उनसे पूछे गए सवाल कि व्यापारों पर सर्व करने की क्या ज़रूरत है, का जवाब देते वक्त बोल रहे थे।

मंत्री कोया ने बताया कि इस सर्व में देश भर के सभी क्षेत्रों के तीन हजार पाँच सौ से ज्यादा

व्यापारों ने भाग लिया जिनमें ज्यादातर छोटे व्यापार शामिल थे।

व्यापार मंत्री के अनुसार सर्व में भाग लेने वाले इक्वितर प्रतिशत (71%) व्यापारों ने बताया कि कोविड-19 महामारी से पहले वे बहुत अच्छा कर रहे थे लेकिन अब व्यापार करने का पूरा ढाँचा बदल गया है।

“केश फ्लव में भारी गिरावट देखी गई है। अब जितने पैसे आते हैं, कर्ज़ भरने या व्यापार के संचालन में खर्च हो जाते हैं। व्यापार बड़ नहीं रहा है जबकि व्यापार करने के घण्टे कम हो गए हैं। क्रेडिटल वोक्स में विलम्ब हो रहा है, ग्राहकों और कर्मचारियों को बाँध रखने में दिक्कत हो रही है। कच्चा माल आने

और उसके खर्च को लेकर चिन्ता है”।

मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि व्यापारों ने कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण भारी घाटा होने का संकेत दिया है।

“एक हजार दो सौ व्यापारियों ने बताया है कि वे अपनी आमदनी में पचहत्तर प्रतिशत (75%) की गिरावट होने का अनुमान लगा रहे हैं और अगर कोविड-19 महामारी अगले छः महिनो तक जारी रही, तो लगभग पाँच सौ बारह (512) व्यापारों का दिवालिया निकल जाएगा”।

व्यापार मंत्री ने बताया कि इस महिने के अन्त तक इस सर्व पर पूरी रिपोर्ट तैयार हो जायेगी। ऐसे संकेत मिले हैं कि देश में छियासठ (66) व्यापार कोविड-19 के कारण बन्द हो चुके हैं।



प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंको बड़निमारामा, चीनी सरकार से दान में मिली बड़े स्वीकार करते हुए चित: ननिसे नइमिला

फीजी रग्बी युनियन को दो बजें मिली

वीरेंद्र लाल

फीजी रग्बी युनियन को दान में दो बजें मिली हैं। इन बजों को खिलाड़ियों को ट्रेनिंग और टुनामेंट्स में लेजाने के लिए काम में लाया जाएगा।

प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंको बड़निमारामा जोकि फीजी रग्बी युनियन के प्रधान हैं, ने बजों को स्वीकार करते हुए

चीनी सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया और बताया कि इस दान से देश में रग्बी के विकास को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने यह भी बताया कि नवेल कोरोना वायरस के फैलने के खिलाफ अभियान में फीजी को भारी सफलता मिली है।

“हमने देश के कुछ भागों में आने जाने पर रोक लगा दी थी, ज्यादा मात्रा में लोगों को इकट्ठा होने

पर प्रतिबन्ध है, देश भर में कर्फेउ लागू है, जिन व्यापारों से यह बीमारी फैलने का ज्यादा खतरा है, उन्हें बन्द कर दिया गया है और लाखों की संख्या में लोगों को स्क्रीन किया गया है।”

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि जब यह सलाह दी जायेगी कि यह बीमारी खत्म हो गई है और इसे फैलने का अब कोई खतरा नहीं है, तब सभी

टुनामेंट्स सामान्य रूप से शुरू कर दिए जायेंगे।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कोविड-19 के खिलाफ अभियान की अगुवाई करने वालों जिनमें डाक्टर, नर्स, स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारी, पुलिस अफसर, आर एफ एम एफ के अधिकारी और डिज़ास्टा अधिकारी शामिल हैं, को कड़ी मेहनत करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया है।

छोटे छोटे व्यापारियों की मदद की जाएगी - आई जी

रोनल देव

कोविड-19 से असर पड़े फीजीवासियों की मदद के चलते सरकार ने छोटे-छोटे व्यापारियों को कर्ज के रूप में रियायती और आर्थिक सहायता देने की घोषणा की है।

अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने इसकी घोषणा करते हुए कहा कि सरकार छोटे-छोटे व्यापारियों को 0.5 प्रतिशत व्याज पर सात हजार डोलर रियायती कर्ज देगी जो उन्हें पाँच सालों में लौटाना होगा।

एक संस्था बिज़नेस असिस्टन्स फीजी, जाँच करने के बाद तय करेगी कि किन-किन व्यापारियों को सहायता मिलनी चाहिए। इस संस्था में फीजी इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ अकाउन्टन्ट्स, फीजी चेम्बा ऑफ कोमेस एन्ड इंडस्ट्री, फीजी कोमेस एन्ड एमप्लोयस फेडरेशन, विमन इन बिज़नेस तथा कोमेस मंत्रालय के नीचे माएको स्मोल एन्ड मिडियम एन्ट्राप्राईस के सदस्य होंगे। बिज़नेस असिस्टन्स फीजी उन व्यापारियों की भी मदद करेगी जिन्होंने हाल ही व्यापार शुरू किया है ताकि वे भी कर्ज लेने वाली हर ज़रूरतें पूरी कर सकें।

अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा कि उन्हें पता है कि लोगों की नौकरियाँ चली गई हैं लेकिन उनमें अच्छे हुनर भी हैं जिसका वे उपयोग कर सकते हैं।

कुछ छोटे व्यापारियों को सरकार एक प्रतिशत व्याज पर चौदह हजार डोलर तक कर्ज देगी। इसका



अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम छोटे-छोटे व्यापारियों के लिए सहायता की घोषणा करते हुए चित: मरीदा दउदउ

रिपैमन्ट, बैंक से लिए गए कर्ज की तरह नहीं होगा। व्यापारियों को बता दिया जाएगा कि उन्हें एक साल में कितने पैसे वापस भरने हैं और यह व्यापारियों पर है कि वे बारह महीने के अन्दर इतना पैसा कैसे चुकाते हैं।

मध्यम व्यापारियों को इक्कीस हजार (21,000) डोलर कर्ज 1.5 प्रतिशत व्याज पर मिल सकता है

तथा उन्हें यह कर्ज पाँच सालों में चुकाना पड़ेगा। पहला साल उनको ग्रेस पिरियड यानि छूट की अवधी मिलेगी। यह सहायता सात जून से प्रदान की जाएगी।

कृषि, मछली और फॉरेस्ट्री क्षेत्र वाले व्यापारियों के लिए अच्छी खबर है जो पचहत्तर (75,000) हजार डोलर तक कर्ज ले सकते हैं। इसका पचहत्तर (75) प्रतिशत, लौटाने की गारंटी सरकार देगी।

पशु पालन में शामिल किसानों की मदद की जाएगी

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कृषि मंत्रालय, जेफ स्टा फीजी रिज टु रीफ योजना (GEF STAR Fiji Ridge-to-Reef (R2R) Project) के तहत पशु पालन में शामिल पाँच सौ अट्ठाईस (528) किसानों को तार लगाने के सामान प्रदान करेगा।

लेंगालेंगा रिसेच स्टेशन पर इसकी घोषणा करते हुए कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने बताया कि ज्यादातर किसानों की ज़मीनों में तार नहीं लगे हैं और इस कारण से उनके जानवर चरने के लिए दूर जंगल-झाड़ियों और नदी-नालों के पास चले जाते हैं।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने बताया कि यह खुले जानवर काफी समस्याएं खड़ी कर देते हैं और दूसरों की ज़मीनों में जाकर फसलें बर्बाद करते हैं।

तार लगाने का काम बा, लम्बासा, रेवा/वाईदीना, तु-नोलोआ, तूवा और वुनिविया में किया जाएगा। इस योजना के तहत पश्चिमी विभाग के दो सौ छब्बीस (226), उत्तरी विभाग के दो सौ छब्बीस और केंद्रीय विभाग के छिहत्तर (76) किसानों की मदद की जाएगी। हर किसान को दस कोईल फेंसिंग वाया, दस कोईल कठईया तार, बाईस पाईन पौस्ट, चार किलोग्राम निला और बाईडिंग वाया दिया जाएगा।

नवाईदोम्बा नांदी के विवेन चन्द्रा सिंह को इन सामानों से मदद की गई है और उन्होंने ने इसके लिए सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया है।

“हम इस सहायता से बहुत खुश हैं। हमारे जानवरों की बड़न्ती के लिए यह बहुत ज़रूरी है और साथ साथ वातावरण को भी सुरक्षा प्रदान किया जाएगा।”

श्री सिंह ने बताया कि जबकि सरकार आगे आकर किसानों की मदद कर रही है, तो ऐसे में किसानों को भी अपनी ओर से मेहनत करनी चाहिए और खेती बाड़ी तथा पशु पालन बढ़ाने के साथ साथ वातावरण की भी देख-भाल करनी चाहिए।

इस योजना में खर्च होने वाले छः लाख पचास हजार डोलर (\$650,000.00), जेफ स्टा फीजी रिज टु रीफ योजना के तहत दिए जायेंगे।

सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए मंत्री रेड्डी ने जेफ, यू एन डी पी और आर टु आर प्रोजेक्ट को धन्यवाद दिया।

फीजी एयावर्डज़ के लिए 455 मिलियन डोलर कर्ज़

रोनल देव

सरकार फीजी एयावर्डज़ के लिए चार सौ पचपन (455) मिलियन डोलर कर्ज़ की गरन्टी देगी।

इस संबंध में संसद में अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम का एक प्रस्ताव पास हुआ।

स्थानीय तौर पर 191.1 मिलियन डोलर कर्ज़ लिया जाएगा जबकि विदेश से एक सौ सत्ताह (117) मिलियन अमरिकी डोलर कर्ज़ लेने की योजना है।

इस साल तीस मई से अगले तीन सालों तक यह असर में रहेगा।

सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडन्ड फन्ड तिरपन दशमलव छः (53.6) मिलियन डोलर कर्ज़ देगा, रिज़र्व बेन्क ऑफ फीजी, एक्सपोट फायनन्स फसिलिटी लौन के द्वारा फीजी डिवेलोपमन्ट बेन्क को पचहत्तर (75) मिलियन डोलर देगा जो फिर फीजी एयावर्डज़ को कर्ज़ के रूप में दिया जाएगा क्योंकि रिज़र्व बेन्क सीधे कर्ज़ नहीं दे सकता है। यह कर्ज़ तीन प्रतिशत व्याज पर दिया जाएगा। अई एन ज़ेड बेन्क बावन (52) मिलियन डोलर देगा जबकि ब्रेड बेन्क दस दशमलव पाँच (10.5) मिलियन डोलर देगा।

अईशियन डिवेलोपमन्ट बेन्क भी पचास मिलियन अमरिकी डोलर देने को तैयार है लेकिन अई.डी.बी से कर्ज़ तबही लिया जाएगा जब यह स्थिति अगले साल तक इसी तरह बनी रहेगी।

मंत्री ने कहा कि फीजी एयावर्डज़ कुछ भी आमदनी नहीं कमा रहा है लेकिन इसके बावजूद वो हर महीने कर्ज़ के भुक्तान के तौर पर अड़तीस (38) मिलियन डोलर भरता है, विमा खरीदने के कर्ज़ के तौर पर बीस मिलियन डोलर तथा अन्य खर्च के रूप में छः मिलियन डोलर भरता है।

मंत्री ने कहा कि फीजी एयावर्डज़ की उड़ानें सस्पेन्ड और रद्द होने की वजह से उन्हें उपभोगताओं से लिए गए पैसे वापस करने पड़ रहे हैं क्योंकि सेवा बिलकुल भी प्रदान नहीं की जा रही है।



अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम संसद में एमप्लोयमेंट रिलईशन्स कानून में बदलाव पर बोलते हुए

एमप्लोयमेंट रिलईशन्स कानून बदला गया

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एमप्लोयमेंट रिलईशन्स कानून में बदलाव करने वाले बिल पास करते हुए संसद को बताया गया कि मज़दूरों को काम से निकालने के लिए मज़दूर-मालिकों को यह साबित करना पड़ेगा कि उनके व्यापार पर कोविड-19 महामारी से असर पड़ा है।

बिल में बदलाव लाया गया है कि अगर मज़दूरों के पास काम नहीं है, या कोविड-19 के कारण अगर वे सेवा नहीं प्रदान कर पा रहे हैं, तब मज़दूर मालिक उन्हें घर भेज सकते हैं।

विश्व स्वास्थ्य संस्था ने कोविड-19 को महामारी घोषित किया है और बिल में बदलाव करके महामारी को भगवान का कार्य बताया गया है।

अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने बताया कि मज़दूर मालिकों को कानून की इस व्यवस्था से फायदा उठाकर कर्मचारियों को घर नहीं भेजना चाहिए।

“उदाहरण के तौर पर अगर व्यापार अच्छा चल रहा है, व्यापारी बिना कारण के मज़दूरों को घर नहीं भेज सकते। अगर वे बतायेंगे कि महामारी के कारण उन्हें लोगों को काम से निकालना पड़ रहा है, तब उन्हें यह साबित करना पड़ेगा,” अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा।

कानून में बदलाव करके, कोविड-19 के दौरान, फेमिली केया और पटेनिटी लीव्य, पाँच दिनों से घटाकर दो दिन कर दिए गए हैं।

अटेनी जेनरल ने बताया कि इस महामारी के समाप्त होने पर सब कुछ समान्य हो जायेगा यानि फेमिली केया और पटेनिटी लीव्य, फिर पाँच दिन हो जायेंगे।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को सफाई के सामान मिले

वीरन्द्र लाल

कोविड-19 के खिलाफ सरकार के अभियान के समर्थन में स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को पचास हजार डोलर मूल्य के सफाई के सामान मिले हैं। स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वांगाइनम्बे ने फीजी केमिकल्स से मिले इन सामानों को स्वीकार करते हुए कम्पनी को धन्यवाद दिया और बताया कि यह सामान बहुत सही समय पर दिए गए हैं जबकि अभी पूरी दुनिया कोविड-19 महामारी का सामना कर रही है।

“सरकार पूरे रूप से मंत्रालय की सहायता कर रही है और यह देखकर अच्छा लगता है कि संस्थाएं और फीजी केमिकल जैसी कम्पनियाँ भी मदद करने के लिए सामने आ रही हैं। यह हेन्ड सेनिटाइज़र, बीमारी फैलने से रोकने में मददगार साबित होंगे,” मंत्री ने कहा।

फीजी केमिकल्स डायरेक्टा डेरन फिशो बेन्टली ने बताया कि वे इस बात से बहुत खुश हैं कि मुसिबत के ऐसे समय में, स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारी देश को बहुत बड़ा योगदान दे रहे हैं। “यह बहुत चुनौती भरा समय है और हम फीजी के सभी डाक्टर, नर्स और स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों के काम की सराहना करते हैं। इन सामानों का दान करके हम इन लोगों को उनके ज़रूरी काम के लिए धन्यवाद दे रहे हैं,” श्री फिशो बेन्टली ने कहा।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने बताया कि इन सामानों को देश भर में हेल्थ सेन्टर और अस्पतालों में बाँटा जाएगा। दान किए गए सामानों में एक सौ बीस लिटर हेन्ड और सेफस सेनिटाइज़र और कोमिशियल लौडरी केमिकल्स शामिल हैं।



डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु फ्रांस के राजदूत जॉ फ्रांस्वा फितव से टेंट्स स्वीकार करते हुए चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

फेंच सरकार आँधी के बाद सहायता पहुंचाई

वीरन्द्र लाल

फीजियन सरकार को फेंच सरकार से लगभग दो सौ टेंट्स मिले हैं। समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड से नौ सौ इक्सठ (961) घर नष्ट हुए थे और इनमें से कुछ घरों के मालिकों को यह टेंट्स दिए जायेंगे। फ्रांस के राजदूत जॉ फ्रांस्वा फितव से टेंट्स स्वीकार करते हुए डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु ने बताया कि हम समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड के साथ साथ, अंतराष्ट्रीय समाज के साथ मिलकर कोविड-19 महामारी से भी जूझ रहे हैं।

“आपने देखा होगा कि कई अन्य देशों की तरह फीजी ने भी सामाजिक और आर्थिक प्रतिबन्ध लगा रखा है। स्कूल बन्द हैं, कई व्यापार बन्द हैं, कर्फ़ीउ लगा हुआ है - यह एक स्वास्थ्य समस्या से कहीं ज्यादा है।

जीवन और जीने के तरीकों पर असर पड़ा है। फीजी एक छोटा विकासशील देश है और इन परिस्थितियों का सामना करने में हम चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे हैं। ऐसे में फ्रांस की मदद का हम तह दिल से स्वागत करते हैं,” मंत्री ने कहा।

चुनौतियों का डटकर सामना करने के लिए फ्रांस के राजदूत जॉ फ्रांस्वा फितव ने प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गे वइनिमारामा, मंत्री मंडल के सदस्यों, स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों और कोविड-19 में आगे बढ़कर काम करने वालों को धन्यवाद दिया। राजदूत फितव ने बताया कि यह सहायता, फीजियन लोगों के जीवन फिर से संवारने में मदद करने के लिए है। उन्होंने आशा व्यक्त की कि इस सहायता से लोगों को कुछ राहत मिलेगी।



प्रधान मंत्री ने वतुलेले में राहत सामान बाँटा

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बडिनमारां ने वतुलेले द्वीप का दौरा करते हुए वहाँ के निवासियों को राहत सामान के अलावा भोजन सामान बाँटा जिनपर समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड का असर पड़ा था। आँधी से वतुलेले के चार कोठे में इक्कीसी (81) घर नष्ट हुए जबकि एक सौ अस्सी घरों को कुछ नुकसान पहुँचा था। प्रधान मंत्री बडिनमारां ने वतुलेले के लोगों को धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने समुद्री आँधी के बाद फिर से अपना घर बनाया।

चित्र: ननिसे नडिमिला



फईस मास्क दान में मिले

एमप्लॉयमेंट, प्रोडक्टिविटी एंड इनडस्ट्रीयल रिलेशनस मंत्री परवीन कुमार को दान में सात हजार पाँच सौ (7500) फईस मास्क मिले हैं। कोरोना वायरस महामारी के कारण देश में फीजियन्स की सुरक्षा को ध्यान में रखते हुए, चीनी सरकार ने फईस मास्क दान किया।

है। मंत्री कुमार ने इस दान के लिए सरकार की ओर से चीनी सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया और कहा कि इससे दोनों देशों के बीच सम्बंध में और मजबूती आएगी।

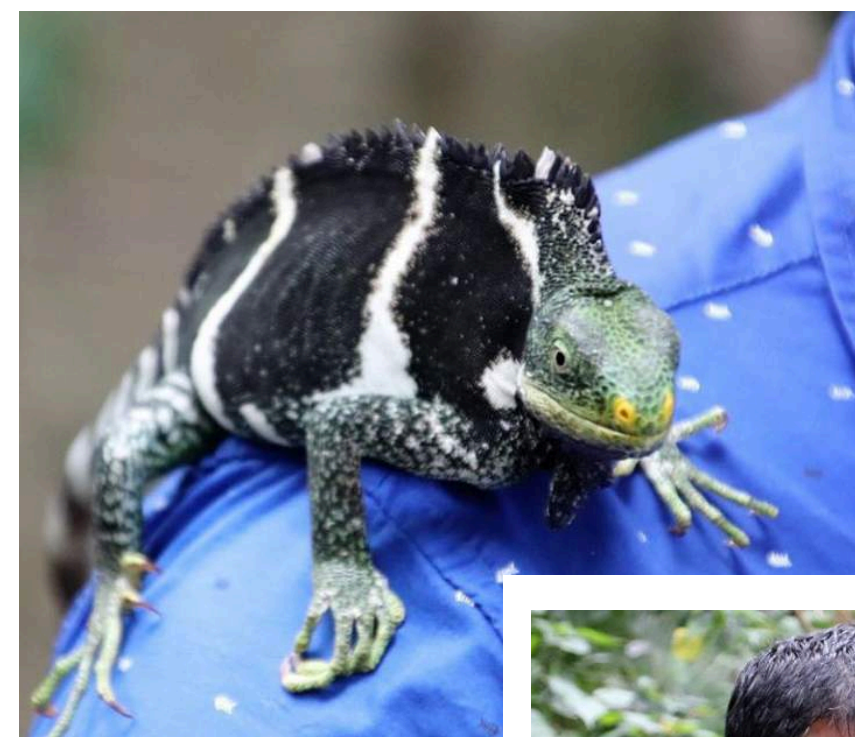
चित्र: फिलिक्स लेमिनईनालु



फीजी रग्बी युनियन को दो बजें मिली

फीजी रग्बी युनियन को दान में दो बजें मिली हैं। इन बजों को खिलाड़ियों को टूर्निंग और टुनामेंट्स में लेजान के लिए काम में लाया जाएगा। प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बडिनमारां जोकि फीजी रग्बी युनियन के प्रधान हैं, ने बजों को स्वीकार करते हुए चीनी सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया और बताया कि इस दान से देश में रग्बी के विकास को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

चित्र: ननिसे नडिमिला



लुप्त इग्वाना प्रजाति की रक्षा के लिए संरक्षण नीति तैयार की गई

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने मंत्रालय के उच्च अधिकारियों के साथ होकर हाल ही में यन्दुआ द्वीप का दौरा करते हुए वहाँ इग्वाना की चार प्रजातियों की रक्षा के लिए संरक्षण नीति का विमोचन किया। इस नीति का लक्ष्य है आम जनता में उन इग्वाना के प्रति ज्ञान बढ़ाना है जो संकट वाली स्थिति में हैं और कैसे उनकी रक्षा की जा सकती है। एक अंतराष्ट्रीय दिवस के मौके पर मंत्रालय ने यह कदम उठाया।

चित्र: कृषि मंत्रालय





कावाकावा और दोनू मछली मारने पर प्रतिबन्ध लग गया

वीरेंद्र लाल

जनता को याद दिलाई जा रही है कि इस साल पहली जून से कावाकावा और दोनू मछली मारने पर प्रतिबन्ध लग गया है।

सरकार ने पिछले साल जून में यह कानून लागू किया था। यह प्रतिबन्ध जून से सप्टेम्बर तक रहेगा। इस दौरान इन मछलियों का अन्डा देने का समय रहता है और इन मछलियों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के इरादे से यह प्रतिबन्ध लागू किया गया है।

फिशरीज़ मंत्री सेमी कोरोईलावेसाउ ने बताया कि

इन मछलियों की संख्या बढ़ाने के इरादे से यह कदम उठाया जा रहा है।

“यूनायटेड नईशन्स् औशन कोन्फरन्स में फीजियन सरकार ने समुद्री जीव-जन्तुओं को बचाने और समुद्र की देख-भाल करने का वायदा किया है। कावाकावा और दोनू मछलियों की संख्या कम हो रही है और इन्हें बचाने के इरादे से हम ऐसा कर रहे हैं।

आँकड़ों के अनुसार समुद्र में एक सौ पचास से ज्यादा प्रकार की मछलियाँ हैं और प्रतिबन्ध के दौरान कावाकावा और दोनू छोड़कर लोग अन्य मछलियाँ मार सकते हैं।”

मंत्री ने बताया कि सालों से उन्हें फीजी के लोगों से इस प्रतिबन्ध को लेकर समर्थन मिलता रहा है और इस साल भी वे लोगों से यही आशा करते हैं।

कोरोईलावेसाउ ने यह भी बताया कि जलवायु परिवर्तन और अन्य प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से समुद्री जीव-जन्तुओं पर विपरीत असर पड़ रहा है और इस कारण से यह ज़रूरी है कि समुद्र और समुद्री जीव-जन्तुओं की देख-भाल की जाए।

मंत्रालय यह देखेगा कि प्रतिबन्ध का पालन किया जाए और ऐसा न करने वालों के खिलाफ कदम उठाया जाएगा।

किसानों को जानवरों की नई नसलें मिलेंगी

शेनल देव

देश में मध्य और बड़े पैमाने पर पशुपालन करने वाले किसानों को सहयोग देने के लिए, कृषि मंत्रालय उन्हें पशुओं की नई नसलें प्रदान करेगा।

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने हाल में घोषणा की कि पशुपालन का बढ़ावा देने के लिए यह बेहद ज़रूरी है।

मंत्रालय का उद्देश्य है, फीजी में बकरी, भेड़, गौमाँस और दूध से बने उत्पादनों का उत्पादन बढ़ाना।

“मंत्रालय गाय, बकरी तथा भेड़ों के लिए नई नसलें तैयार कर रहा है और यह नई नसलें कम बच्चों पैदा करने वाली नसलों की जगह लेंगी जो समय के साथ संख्या बढ़ाने के मूल लक्ष्यों को खो चुकी हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए नई नसल के ब्रीडा बैल, बकरे और भेड़ बहुत सस्ते में किसानों को दिए जायेंगे जिन्हें किसान बेच नहीं सकते न ही उनका सेवन कर सकते हैं।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि ऐसा करने से फीजी में माँस और दूध का उत्पादन बढ़ेगा और हमें विदेशों पर निर्भर नहीं होना पड़ेगा।

उनके अनुसार लोगों को भूलना नहीं चाहिए कि फीजी के पास दुनिया भर में माँस निर्यात करने की क्षमता है।

अगले एक महीने के अन्दर एक और योजना शुरू होगी जहाँ आने वाले तीन महीनों में मंत्रालय लगभग छः सौ किसानों को तार यानि फेन्स लगाने का सामान देगा ताकि वे अपने पशुओं को उसमें रखें और उनकी संख्या बढ़ाने में उन्हें कुछ मदद मिले। फेन्स न होने की वजह से कुछ किसान जिनके पास भारी संख्या में पशु हैं, वे इन्हें बाँध नहीं सकते तथा उन्हें काबू में भी नहीं रख सकते।

इस साल के अंत में छः सौ और किसानों की मदद की जाएगी तथा यह चलता रहेगा जबतक पशुपालन करने वाले सभी किसान जिनके पास ज़मीन है, की मदद नहीं हो जाती। इसके लिए मंत्रालय को छः लाख (\$600,000) डोलर दान मिला है।

पिछले बारह महीनों में इस तरह से चार सौ किसानों की मदद की गई है।

इसके अलावा जो लोग मुर्गी पालन करना चाहते हैं को हर चार महीनों पर मुफ्त में मुर्गी के छः से बारह बच्चे भी दिए जायेंगे ताकि लोग इनकी संख्या बढ़ाकर अपने घर में आमदनी ला सकें।

नसोमो ज़मीन मालिकों से समझदारी से पैसे खर्च करने की माँग की गई

शेनल देव

वातुकौला स्थित नसोमो ज़मीन मालिकों से माँग की गई है कि वे अपना पैसा समझदारी से खर्च करें।

लेन्ड्स और मिनरल रिसोसस

मंत्री चोने उसामाते ने नसोमो ज़मीन

मालिकों को मिनरल रोयलटी फेंया

शेया का सातवा पैयमेंट करते हुए

ऐसी माँग की।

“मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि ट्रस्ट के सदस्यों ने इस पैसे का कुछ हिस्सा नसोमो कोमिउनिटी डिवेलप्मेंट फंड में जमा करने का फैसला किया। ट्रस्ट से माँग की गई है कि वे इन पैसे का उपयोग समाज के विकास के लिए पारदर्शी तरीके से करें जिससे नसोमो के वर्तमान और भावी पीढ़ी को ठोस लाभ होगा,” मंत्री ने कहा।

पिछले साल दिसम्बर और इस साल फरवरी के बीच नसोमो ज़मीन से सोना की खोदाई होने के कारण ज़मीन मालिकों को छियासठ हज़ार, छः सौ पैसठ (\$66,665) डोलर दिए गए हैं जो एक सौ तईस (123) ज़मीन मालिकों के ट्रस्ट सदस्यों के बीच बाँटा गया। मंत्री उसामाते ने ज़ोर दिया कि मुश्किल की इस घड़ी में फीजवासियों को एक दूसरे की देखभाल करनी चाहिए जबकि कुछ लोगों के पास काफी समय से नौकरी नहीं है।

“हम असाधारण समय में जी रहे हैं जबकि कोविड-19 विश्व अर्थ-व्यवस्था को लगातार नुकसान पहुँचा रहा है। समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड की वजह



लेन्ड्स और मिनरल रिसोसस मंत्री चोने उसामाते नसोमो ट्रस्ट फंड की एक सदस्या को चेक प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: मेरयानी गोनेन्दुवा

से फीजी में इसका असर और भी बढ़ गया है जिससे हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर भारी प्रभाव पड़ा है।”

मंत्री ने कहा कि हमें एक साथ होकर

कोविड-19 के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़नी चाहिए और हमें सरकार के प्रयासों में मदद करनी चाहिए।

उन्होंने बताया कि सरकार अर्थ-

व्यवस्था का पुनःनिर्माण करने की कोशिश कर रही है लेकिन यह मार्ग आसान नहीं है। उनके अनुसार साथ चलने से रास्ता आसान हो सकता है।

राहत वोट सप्लाय के लिए डिसेलिनईशन प्लांट

वीरेंद्र लाल

मिनिस्ट्री ओफ़ रूरल एन्ड मेरिटाएम डिवेलप्मेंट को एक मोबाएल डिसेलिनईशन प्लांट दान में मिला है जिसकी मदद से समुद्र के पानी साफ करके पीने योग्य बनाया जा सकता है।

“सी मेसी फीजी” ने एक साल के लिए मुफ्त में यह प्लांट दिया है जिसके साथ एक लाख डोलर मूल्य का जेनरेईटा है। यह प्लांट एक दिन में पचास हज़ार लिटर समुद्र का पानी साफ करके पीने योग्य बना सकता है।

प्लांट देते हुए सी मेसी फीजी के प्रतिनिधि नील टौना ने बताया कि वे इस बात से खुश हैं कि वे सरकार के साथ मिलकर लोगों को सेवा प्रदान कर पा रहे हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि समुद्र से घिरे द्वीपों में यह प्लांट काफी मददगार साबित होगा।

प्लांट स्वीकार करते हुए रूरल एन्ड मेरिटाएम डिवेलप्मेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु ने दोहराया कि सरकार हर फीजियन को साफ और सुरक्षित पानी प्रदान करने की दिशा में काम करती रहेगी।

उन्होंने बताया कि पिछले तीन सालों में मंत्रालय ने

अपने एमेजेन्सी वोट सप्लाय प्रोग्राम के तहत समुद्र से घिरे द्वीपों और सूखा पड़े इलाकों में पानी बाँटने में एक दसमलव दो मिलियन डोलर खर्च किया है। मंत्री के अनुसार इस प्लांट के आने से यासावा, लाउ और कन्दावू में पानी बाँटने के खर्च से बचा जा सकेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इस तरह की योजनाओं से लोगों की ज़रूरतों की पूर्ती की जा सकेगी।

यह प्लांट ड्रावूनि और नन्गारा भेजा गया है जहाँ अगले बारह महिनो तक लोग इससे फायदा उठा सकेंगे।

अग्रीकल्चर माकेटिंग अथोरिटी में सुधार हुआ

रोनल देव

अग्रीकल्चर माकेटिंग अथोरिटी में सुधार लाया गया है जहाँ नया बोर्ड और नए चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव ने अथोरिटी की कुर्सी सम्भाली है। कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने बताया कि अथोरिटी देश भर में तेरह (13) नए कोलेक्शन सेन्टर्स बनाना चाहती है। उन्होंने कहा कि किसानों के साथ कोन्ट्रैक्ट तैयार किया जायगा जहाँ अथोरिटी, किसानों के खेत से उनका उत्पादन खरीदेगी या किसान कोलेक्शन सेन्टर तक अपना सामान पहुँचा सकते हैं।

अथोरिटी किसानों से दुरूका, मिर्च, दाल, हल्दी तथा बीन जैसे उत्पादन खरीदेगी।

उत्पादन के लिए दाम पहले से तय किए जायेंगे। मंत्री ने कहा कि यह एक नई योजना है और नान्दी के एक सौ किसान कोन्ट्रैक्ट पर खेती करने के लिए अग्रीकल्चर माकेटिंग अथोरिटी के साथ समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर कर चुके हैं। उनके अनुसार इन किसानों की यह चिन्ता दूर हो गई है कि उनका उत्पादन कौन खरीदेगा। समझौते में साफ लिखा है कि उनका उत्पादन अथोरिटी खरीदेगी।

मंत्री के अनुसार किसानों को तुरन्त उनका पैसा दे दिया जाएगा और उनका उत्पादन बेचने के लिए बाज़ार लेजाया जाएगा।

अथोरिटी के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव एल्विन शर्मा ने बताया कि जो किसान अथोरिटी के साथ कोन्ट्रैक्ट पर हस्ताक्षर करेंगे, को खेत तैयार करने या मशीन खरीदने के लिए, उनकी फसल के हिसाब से पैसे पहले दिए जा सकते हैं। शर्मा ने बताया कि कोरोनावायरस की महामारी के दौरान जब लौतोका और सूवा में लोकडाउन हुआ तो अथोरिटी ने विभिन्न किसानों से पाँच लाख डॉलर (\$500,000) लागत के सामान खरीदकर मार्केट तक पहुँचाई थी।

उधर, कृषि मंत्री ने जोर दिया है कि अभी कृषि व्यवसाय में जितना अवसर प्रदान किया जा रहा है वो फीजी के इतिहास में कभी प्रदान नहीं किया गया था।

उन्होंने कहा कि वे चाहते हैं कि किसान कृषि व्यवसाय को एक व्यापार की तरह देखें, मेहनत करें तथा पुरे समय के लिए किसान बनें क्योंकि कृषि मंत्रालय उनकी सहायता के लिए खड़ा है। उनके अनुसार साथ मिलकर कृषि व्यवसाय को देश का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण व्यवसाय बनाया जा सकता है।

लोगों से सही जानकारी प्रदान करने की माँग - मंत्री कुमार

वीरन्द्र लाल

हाउजिंग एन्ड कोमिउनिटी डिवेलपमेंट मंत्रालय, वेईलोमानी फूड बैंक सहायता के लिए अर्ज़ी लगाते वक्त लोगों से सही जानकारी प्रदान करने की माँग कर रहा है।

सप्ताह अंत फूड पेक्स बाँटते हुए मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने पाया कि एक परिवार जिसके पास खुद के कुछ टेक्सी हैं, ने सहायता के लिए अर्ज़ी लगाई थी। कुछ ऐसे लोगों से भी अर्ज़ियाँ मिली थी जिनके पास अच्छी खासी नौकरी है और जो खुद की देख-भाल करने की स्थिति में हैं।

सही जानकारी देने पर जोर देते हुए मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने कहा कि यह दुख की बात है कि कुछ

लोग इस सहायता से फायदा उठाते हुए उन लोगों को सहायता प्राप्त करने से वंचित कर रहे हैं, जो इस सहायता के असली हकदार हैं।

“वेईलोमानी फूड बैंक उन लोगों की मदद करने के लिए है जिन्हें इस सहायता की ज़रूरत है और हम तभी अच्छी तरह से ऐसा कर पायेंगे जब लोग सही जानकारी प्रदान करेंगे। मैं लोगों से उन गरीब परिवारों के बारे में सोचने की माँग कर रही हूँ जो आर्थिक मुसिबतों का सामना कर रहे हैं,” मंत्री कुमार ने कहा।

मंत्रालय ने अभी तक सुवा, लामी, नसीनु, दवूईलेबु, कोरोनिविया, वालेलेबू, निउटाउन हाट, वाईदामुदामु सेटलमेंट, कर्निंगहम स्टर्डज वन, खालसा रौड और वेईला में अड़तीस (38)

परिवारों को सहायता प्रदान की है।

जो लोग वेईलोमानी फूड बैंक के ज़रिए सहायता चाहते हैं, वे हाउजिंग मंत्रालय गोरी स्ट्रीट जाकर फोम भर सकते हैं या 3309918 पर कोल करके अपनी जानकारी दे सकते हैं। पश्चिमी और उत्तरी विभाग के लोग वहाँ स्थित फीजियन कोम्पटिशन एन्ड कोनज़िउमा कमिशन के दफ्तर जाकर अपने बारे में बता सकते हैं।

लोगों को फूड पेक्स प्रदान करने के लिए, वेईलोमानी फूड बैंक को ब्रिटन, निउज़ीलैंड, ओस्ट्रेलिया, अमेरिया तथा जपानी दुतावासों के अलावा एस्को मोटोज़, ओडिता जेनरल के दफ्तर, फीजी डिवेलपमेंट बैंक और अन्य संस्थाओं और लोगों से मदद मिली है।



वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव और हुसेन हाया प्लांट के अधिकारियों के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

पब्लिक-प्रायवट पार्टनरशिप की सराहना

वीरन्द्र लाल

बाढ़ चढ़ने के खतरों को कम करने के लिए पब्लिक-प्रायवट पार्टनरशिप बहुत ज़रूरी है।

कृषि, वोटार्वर्ड तथा वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी कोरोनावातु लम्बासा में कोरोनावातु फ्लडगार्ड औटलेट और बूटईसाउ नदी गहरा करने की कारवाई का उद्घाटन करते हुए बोल रहे थे।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने बताया कि ऐसी

कारवाइयों में सरकार के अलावा, सामाजों और प्रायवट सेक्टर को भी यह देखना चाहिए कि गम्भीर वर्षा के दौरान पानी नदी और समुद्र तक बहने में कोई रुकावट न हो।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने नदी नालों को गहरा करने में शामिल सिविल कोन्ट्रैक्टर को धन्यवाद दिया।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने यह भी कहा कि फीजियन्स को बाढ़ और उससे होने वाली क्षति से बचाना, सरकार की ज़िम्मेदारी है।

“यह देखें कि आप मैला कहाँ फेंक रहे हैं। नदी नाले डम्पिंग ग्राउन्ड्स नहीं हैं। सरकार सेवाएं प्रदान करना जारी रखेगी और हमें भी ज़िम्मेदारी से पेश आनी चाहिए”, मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा।

कोरोवातु फ्लडगार्ड औटलेट और बूटईसाउ नदी गहरा करने का काम हुसैन्स हाया प्लांट मुफ्त में करेगा। देश के अन्य भागों में भी नदी नालों को गहरा किया जा रहा है ताकि बाढ़ चढ़ने से रोका जाए।

फईस मास्क दान में मिले - चीन से



एमप्लोयमेंट मंत्री परवीन कुमार, चीनी राजदूत गियान बो से फईस मास्क स्वीकार करते हुए चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसिनईवालू

वीरन्द्र लाल

एमप्लोयमेंट, प्रोडक्टिविटी एन्ड इनडस्ट्रीयल रिलईशन्स मंत्री परवीन कुमार को दान में सात हजार पाँच सौ फईस मास्क मिले हैं।

कोरोना वायरस महामारी के कारण देश में फीजियन्स की सुरक्षा को ध्यान में रखते हुए, चीनी सरकार ने फईस मास्क दान किया है। मंत्री कुमार ने इस दान के लिए सरकार की ओर से चीनी सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया।

“इससे दोनों देशों के बीच सम्बंध में और मज़बूती आएगी,” मंत्री कुमार ने कहा।

फीजी में चीनी राजदूत गियान बो ने मंत्री को यह सामान प्रदान किया।

वातुंदोवा पुल बनकर तैयार हो गया

वीरन्द्र लाल

लम्बासा से नम्बउवालु जेटी जाने वाले रास्ते में वातुंदोवा पुल अब बनकर तैयार हो गया है।

फीजी रौड्स अथोरिटी ने जानकारी दी है कि पुल पर अब किसी प्रकार के प्रतिबन्ध नहीं हैं कि कितने वजन लेकर गाड़ियाँ पुल पार कर सकती हैं। पहले बीस टन से ज्यादा वजनदार गाड़ियों को पुल पार करने की अनुमति नहीं थी।

बीस मिटर लम्बे इस पुल को पूरे नए रूप से बनाया गया है। इसमें दो मिटर चौड़ा सिमेंट जमाया गया है।

पुल पर फुटपाथ और सुरक्षा के लिए रईलिंग लगे हैं।

एफ आर अई की उत्तरी टीम की निगरानी में फुलटन होगन ने यह पुल बनाया है।



लम्बासा से नम्बउवालु जेटी जाने वाले रास्ते में वातुंदोवा पुल अब बनकर तैयार हो गया है चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

फीजी रग्बी यूनियन
को दो बजें मिली

2

फेंच सरकार से राहत
सहायता मिली

3

कावाकावा और दोनू मछली
मारने पर प्रतिबन्ध

6

एम्प्लॉयमेंट रिलीशन्स
कानून में बदलाव

3

फीजी दर्पण

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अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम कोविड-19 को लेकर फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडन्ड फण्ड के दूसरे दौर की सहायता की घोषणा करते हुए चित्र: ननिसे नइमिला

कोविड-19 को लेकर एफ एन पी एफ के दूसरे दौर की सहायता

वीरेन्द्र लाल

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने कोविड-19 को लेकर फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडन्ड फण्ड के दूसरे दौर की सहायता की घोषणा की है। पहले दौर की सहायता पिछले महीने की उन्नीस तारीख को समाप्त हुई और दूसरे दौर की सहायता जल्द शुरू होगी।

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने बताया कि दूसरे दौर की सहायता में उन लोगों की भी मदद की जायेगी जिन्हें पहले दौर में सहायता मिल चुकी है और इस दौरान अगर कोई बेरोज़गार हुआ है। उन्होंने बताया कि कुछ बेरोज़गार लोगों ने सहायता के लिए अर्जी नहीं लगाई थी।

अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने बताया कि दूसरे दौर की सहायता के तहत जो लोग बेरोज़गार हैं, वे एफ एन पी एफ से एक हजार एक सौ डोलर निकाल सकते हैं। मंत्री ने बताया कि अगर कोई सदस्य के जेनरल अकाउंट में इतने पैसे नहीं हैं, सरकार अपनी ओर से मिलाकर उन्हें इतने पैसे देगी। यह पैसे पाँच इनस्टोलमेंट्स में यानि हर दो सप्ताह में दो सौ बीस डोलर दिए जायेंगे।

अटेनी जेनरल के अनुसार जिन बेरोज़गार लोगों ने सहायता के पहले दौर के दौरान सहायता के लिए अर्जी नहीं लगाई थी, वे एक ही बार में एफ एन पी एफ से एक हजार एक सौ डोलर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि अगर उनके अकाउंट में इतने पैसे नहीं हैं, सरकार अपनी

ओर से मिलाकर उन्हें इतने पैसे दिलवायेगी।

अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने जानकारी दी कि एफ एन पी एफ के जिन सदस्यों के अकाउंट में पैसे नहीं बचे हैं, या जिन सदस्यों के अकाउंट में पैतीस (\$35) डोलर से कम हैं, उन्हें पहले दो सप्ताह में दो सौ बीस डोलर दिए जायेंगे।

“इन लोगों को हमारे पास या एफ एन पी एफ जाकर कोई फोम भरने की ज़रूरत नहीं पड़ेगी क्योंकि हम जानते हैं कि उनके अकाउंट में पैतीस (\$35) डोलर से कम पैसे हैं और उनके बैंक अकाउंट में दो सौ बीस डोलर जमा कर दिए जायेंगे। लगभग बीस हजार लोग इस सहायता के हकदार हैं,” अर्थ व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा।

सरकार इन बीस हजार लोगों (20,000) को चार दशमलव चार मिलियन डोलर (\$4.4 m) दे चुकी है।

फिलहाल पहले दौर की सहायता के दौरान एफ एन पी एफ के अठहत्तर हजार पाँच सौ उन्नीस (78,519) सदस्यों को उनचास दशमलव सात मिलियन डोलर (\$49.7 m) दिए गए हैं। अट्ठारह हजार पाँच सौ चालिस (18,540) सदस्यों को छः दशमलव आठ मिलियन डोलर (\$6.8 m) सरकारी सहायता मिली है। अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने बताया कि बाकी सदस्यों ने अपने एफ एन पी एफ अकाउंट से ब्यालिस दशमलव नौ मिलियन डोलर (\$42.9 m) निकाले हैं।

Noda Viti



Ciqomi na veivuke vakailavo

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA ciqoma tiko na liuliu ni Matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na veivuke vakailavo mai vei ira na vei soqosoqo, kabani kei na bisinisi era cau tikomai kina veivuke me baleta na leqa tubu koso oqo na COVID-19. Me yacova mai

nikua esa bera tikoga ni dua na iwali ni leqa oqo me vaka ni mate dewa veitauvi oqo esa vakaleqai ira na udolu ena veiyasai vuravura. Me yacova mai nikua e rauta ni 6.23 na milioni na lewenivanua e na veiyasai vuravura era sa tauvi mate oqo. Era sa bula mai na mate oqo e 2.67milioni ka ra vakeleqai e 374,000 ena vuravura. Io ena noda vanua e waraki tiko oqo e lewe tolu na lewenivanua eratou se qaravi tiko vakavalenibula me ratou bula vinaka mai ena mate oqo. Edua na

kabana se imatalawalawa ni kalavo ni motoka ka vakayacani ena Xplizit Car Club eratou mai cau ena \$4,000 me soli ena tobu ni veivakacokotaki ni Paraiminisita me veivuke vei ira na lewenivanua era sotava na dredre baleta na leqa tubu koso oqo. Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama na nodra vakavinaka kivua na liuliu ni kalavo oqo ena nodratou nanuma meratou cau mai dina ga ni ratou kalavo lailai walega. Vakaraitaka ko Kavita Kumar na nodratou liuliu ni ratou soqona

na ilavo oqo ena dua na vakatubuilavo ena vula ko February ni yabaki oqo. Sa veivuke talega main a kabana ni waiwai na Pacific energy me vakagolea e 2 na sede maina vei volivoli kece ni waiwai me gole ena tobu ni veivakacokotaki nei PM.

E ratou mai solia na lewe ni Xplizit Car Club e dua na dodoliga ni veivuke vakailavo vua na tobu ni veivakacokotaki ni leqa tubu koso ena valenivolavola ni Paraiminisita.
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

PM: Gadrevi na veivuke vakailavo

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA dodonu me dua na veivuke vakailavo me baleta na COVID-19 ena vuravura mai vei ira na veimatani lelevu. Oqori na vosa ni veitokoni nei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra tokona na liuliu ni Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura, Antonio Guerres ena nona kacivaka na tukutuku oqo vei ira na veimatani lelevu ena vuravura. Na bisinisi ni saravanua era vakila saraga na leqa ni COVID-19 baleta na vakatatabu ni veilakoyaki kei na veisiko. Era veitalanoa na liuliu ni veimatani e vuravura ena monalivaliva mera bosea kina na

tuvatuva ni veiqaravi vakailavo me vukei ira na matanitu era sa vakila na dredre ka vu mai ena COVID-19. Vakaraitaka na liuliu ni Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura vei ira na 50 na liuliu ni matanitu, liuliu ni Baqe Kei Vuravura ni dodonu mera vakatulewa vakavinaka me baleta na leqa oqo baleta ni tara na lewenivanua raraba ena vuravura. Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama na bolebole era sotava na veimatani lalai ena noda vuravura me vaka ni ra sega tu ni vakarautaka na COVID-19 ka ra sa vakila nodra ituvatuva vakailavo, nisa tekivu me dredre mai na bula ena yanuyanu lalai. Kuria ko koya ni COVID-19 e sega nira

vakavuna, era mai tauca na vua ni kena isau ka vakila na noda tuvatuva vakailavo. E kaya nira sa mai wasea tiko na na yanuyanu lalai na kena revurevu. Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni veiyawaki ni leqaleqa kei na ririko ni bula vakailavo ena veimatani lelevu kei na lalai kei ira na vakatorocaketaki kei ira na bera-bera nodra vakatorocaketaki esa qai tubu cake tiko ka sa sega ni rawa ni beitaki walega ena draki veisau. O Viti esa vuki totolo me taqomaka nona vanua kei na nona curuvana mai na mate dewa ka ra sa lako tiko oqo ena dua na vula ka sega na kena kisi vou. E kaya o koya me vaka ga na kena vakalesui

mai na bula e vuravura raraba vei ira era na rawa ni rawata e dua na wainimate vou, sa na sega ni rawa ni yalani na vakalesui mai ni ilavo e vuravura raraba vei ira na vakailavo lelevu. “Ena nodra nalai vulica na veikatawakilai me baleta na noda wasawasa kei na Veiveisau e yaco tiko kina -na veitokoni ka tiko na kena isau vakailavo ena Ono na Milioni na dola.” “Na veiwekani vou oqo, mai na Univesiti ni Ceva ni Pasifika kei na University of Bergen e Norway, ena bucini cake kina na kawa tamata mera veiliutaki baleta na wasawasa – mera kumuna vata kina nodra kilaka kei ira na kena dau e vuravura me baleta na wasawasa kei na draki,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.



Dokai na soli bula e na UN: Bainimarama

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

KAYA o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni Siga ni Veisaututaki e Vuravura ni Matabose kei Vuravura se International Day of UN Peacekeeping — edua na siga era dokai kina na noda sotia kei na vakaillesilesi era s alai cakikaci ni cagi ena veivanua era veiqaravi kina ena veisaututaki ni Matabose kei Vuravura.

Kaya na turaga na Paraiminisita ni nodra yaloqaqa kei na solibula esa rawati kina na veisaututaki e vuravura ena sivia na 70 na yabaki.

Era okati kina na cauaravou yaloqaqa ni Viti era sa laki bale mate ena veivanua rerevaki duadua ena noda vuravura.

Era laki tu ena yatu eliu ni veiraravui kei ira na dau vakacaca ka yawa sara mai vei ira na nodra dui mata ni vale. Era vakaraitaka na yalo qaqa ni kai Viti.

Ni ikau tiko ni siga oqo ena ya-



Era mai veisoli tiko oqori na Liuliu ni Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura Antonio Guterres kei na Mata ni Matanitu ko Viti kina Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura Dr Satyendra Prasad ena dua na soqo ni veivakananumi baleti iratou na nodra sotia ka ra vakayalia na nodra buli ena buca ni valu ka veiqaravi kina na Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura. iTaba: **VAKARAUTAKI**

baki oqo na ‘Marama Dau veisaututaki’

Ena 1988 a vakaitavi kina na isevu ni marama kina veisaututaki ni Matabose kei Vuravura.

Kaya o Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni ena vula o Veverueri, a vakadinadinataki kina ni rawa nira veiuliutaki na noda marama me vaka digitaki kina po Inspec-

tor Rusila Cakacaka me isevu ni lewei Viti me laki veiqaravi kina vanua vaka Abyei ena maliwa ni Vauliku kei na Ceva ni vanua o Sudan.

Sa vakanuini na noda Paraiminisita vei ira na noda gone yalewa lalai era vakarorogo tiko mai mera kila ni sega ni dua na buturara ni veiuliutaki e sega ni rawa

nira veiuliutaki kina.

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni siga nai vakananumi ni veisaututaki sa gauna vinaka meda nanuma ira lesu kina na lewei Viti era solia nodra bula ena veisaututaki e vuravura.

Sa vakanuini vinaka kina o PM Bainimarama ni na sobuti Viti na loloma ni Kalou.

Taqomaki na veikau, manumanu

VILIAME TIKOTANI

Edua na tikina ka rui bibi kina na noda taqomaka na noda veikau e Viti ni rawa ni taqomaki vinaka talega kina na veimanumanu matalia kara bula tu kina.

E dua na kena ivakaraitaki vinaka sai ira na lewenivanua mai Emalu baleta ni taqomaki ni nodra veikau sa lai taqomaki vinaka talega kina na nodra manumanu ka vakatokai na Nanai.

E rauta ni 7,400 na ekatea na qele e maroroi tu kina na nodra veikau ena ruku ni porokaramu ni Fiji National REDD+.



Ko Minisita ni Veikau Osea Naiqamu kei ira na lewenivanua mai Kadavu ena nodra veisiko ni oti na cagilaba ko Harold. Era laki vukei ira na lewenivanua ena nodra tara vou nodra vale mai na paini ka vakabalea ko Harold, ka kauta kina eso na ivaro kau. iTaba: **VAKARAUTAKI**

Bibi nodra bula na marama, goneyalewa



Ko Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua, Mereseini Vuniwaqa kei ira na soqososo vakamarama. iTaba: **VAKARAUTAKI**

VILIAME TIKOTANI

Edua dina na bolebole dina na qaravi vakavinaka ni nodra bula na marama kei na yalewa ena gauna era tauvimate kina vakavula.

Na bolebole oqo ena kaukauwa sara ena loma ni vanua kei na taudaku ni koro lelevu ka sega ni taucoko tu na vakadrodovi ni wainigunu savasava kei na veiqaravi ni wai me baleta na vale ni vakacegu.

Edau vakatau talega na vinaka ni nodra volia na iyaya ni tataqomaki se i tatarovi ni marama kei na yalewa ena rawaka vakailavo, sau ni yaya, kena vakarautaki vakairawarawa kei na itovo ni bula ena vakamuria ena itikitiko.

Oqori eso na nodra mala ni vosa na marama na Minisita Ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua, Mereseini Vuniwaqa ena siga ni vakananumi kina nodra tauvimate

vakavula na marama kei na yalewa ena mua ni vula sa oti.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Marama, ko Mereseini Vuniwaqa ni vakalevutaka na ibolebole oqo ena noda vanua oya na noda vakabauta na itovo vakavanua ni veivanua ka so edau vakatabui kina me veivosakitaki kina na turuvi ni dra nodra na marama se mate vakavula.

“Oqo edau vu mai kina na rai ni nodra mate vakavula na marama edua na da me dau madua taki. Oqo edau tarova na nodra kila vakavinaka na marama kei na yalewa na itukutuku e veiganiti kei na kena itukutuku bibi me baleta na ivakarau ni yagadra. Oqo e tara na nodra bula, vuli kei na veidokai,” kaya ko Minisita Vuniwaqa.

Mai vakananumi tiko na nodra siga ni tiko bulabula na marama me baleta nodra bula ni tauvi mate vakavula ena siga ka 28 ni Me, 2020.

Vakaleleka NI ROGO

Sega nira veitarogi na Kalasi 6,8 kei na 10

ERA na sega ni dabeca nodra veitarogi levu ni kalasi 6, 8 kei na 10 na gonevuli ena yabaki oqo.

Vakadeitaka na tikina oqori na Minisita ni Vuli, Rosy Akbar ena veitalanoa e Palimedi ena loma ni macawa sa oti. Tukuna kina okoya nira na veitarogi walega oira na kalasi 12 kei na 13.

Oira na kena vo ni kalasi era na veitarogi ga ena loma ni kalasi ena veitarogi lalai ka sega ni vakayabaki ka vuna levu talega ni sega ni dua na vuli e se caka rawa baleta na COVID-19.

Kuria na Minisita ni Vuli ni kevaka ena Dolavi tale na vale ni vuli mera tekivu tale nodra vuli na gone ena taura edua na gauna ni veitalanoa vinaka kei ira na veitabana baleta ni bibi tikoga na nodra bula na gone kei na nodra taqomaki vinaka.

Taqomaki noda vuravura

Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Veika Bula waveliti keda ko Dr Mahendra Reddy ni nuitaka ni veimatanitu ena vuravura era na cakacaka vata merawa nira walia se kunea edua na iwali ni kena tarovi na yali vakadua ni kau se manumanu main a dela ni vuravura.

Oqo ena rawa talega ni vakaleqa na veika bula era bula veivolikati me vaka na kakana kei na wai kei na vuanikau ena dela ni qele kei ira na loma ni wai.

Vakaraitaka na tikina oqori na Minisita ena nodra tavoca na siga ni vakananumi na veika bula waveliti keda. Kuria ko Minisita Reddy nira sa cakacaka tiko vakaukau tiko na veimatanitu kei ira na vei liutaki ena vuravura me baleta na tikina oqo vakabibi na kena taqomaki na bula ni vuravura me vaka nida tiko kina na tamata.

Laurai talega kina na revurevu ni draki veisau kei na veiwali eso esa vakarautaki.

Vulici ni tei ni civa

ERA tekivu vinaka edua na nodra vuli ni bucini ni tei ni civa oira eso na itabagone ka vakayacani tiko na Viani Youth Group.

Na vuli oqo e vukea na kena bucini ka sugi na civaka me vukea na nodra talega na nodra rawaka vakailavo na itabagone oqo me vaka era sa vakayacora tiko ena veiyasai Pasivika.

Era sa tovolea sara tiko na leweni itabagone na nodra kila vou ni veiqaravi ena civa me baleta na cakacaka oqo.

Era vakavulici taumada ena yabaki 2017, ka ra tatamusuki kina na wasewase ni civa ka fra vulica talega mera teivaka talega na civa ena loma ni rua na yabaki ka ra veivuke kina na kenadau mai Australia ka veivuke kina na matanitu ko Viti.

Na kena teivaki na civa ena noda vanua e dua na bisinisi ka sa tubu sara tikoga vakalevu me vaka ni dau yaga vakalevu ena vuqa na , me vaka na saravanua, iyaya ni sasa uni, taube, mama, sau kei na vuqa tale naka.

Levu vei ira na saravanua era dau gole mai ki Viti era mai volia saraga na civa ni Viti me vaka ni duidui mai vei ira na kena tale era teivaki ena veiyasai Pasivika.

Na sasaga levu e tiko oya nodra sureti mai na dau ni vakatubuilavo mai vanua tani mera mai vukea na kena vakaduri na bisinisi oqo ka vaka vurea na cakacaka vei ira lewenivanua raraba ka laveti kina nodra bula ni veiqaravi ena veisiga.

Veivuke ena veika bula

ERA lesuva na lewenivanua mai Vatulele na nodra veikabula bula waveliti keda mera vukei ira kina ena kena tara na nodra vale ni oti na vakacaca ni TC Harold.

Ena gauna dredre eda curuma tiko oqo me baleta na COVID-19 qai kuria main a TC Harold oqo vei ira na lewenivanua era vakila na vakacaca oqo era sa marautaka vakalevu na veivuke ni matanitu me baleta na kena tarai cake tale na nodra bula.

Era sa yalataka tale tu ga me ra vakatubura vakalevu cake na veivunikau me taqomaki kina na draki, vakavinakataka cake na nodra bula ni vakavakarau ena veigauna sa bera mai.

VILIAME TIKOTANI



Tabu na siwa donu, kawakawa

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA tekivu vakatabui na siwati ni donu kei na kawakawa ena matai ni JUNE me vaka e kacivaka na matanitu me yacova yani na Seviteba.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita ni Qoliqoli Semi

Koroilavesau ni inaki levu oya na kena manidiatiki vinaka ma iyaubula ena loma ni waitui.

“Sa vakamauria vinaka tiko na matanitu e 17 na veidinati ena kena taqomaki ka manidiatiki na iyau bula ni waitui ena boseka ni

waitui ena 2017. Oqo edua vei ira na veidinati ka me maroro na donu kei na kawakawa me vaka esa lutu tikoga na kena iwiliwili e vuravura.”

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Koroilavesau ni ra tokona vakalevu na raiyawa oqo baleta ni o

Viti e tiko ena wasa pasika ka levu kina na waitui. Kuria okoya ni cagi laba kei na draki veisau esa mai veisautaka vakalevu na itu-vatuva ni yau bula ena waitui ka sa dodonu kina me manidia taki vakavinaka nay au ena loma ni waitui.

Dola nodra vale ni bucini itei



Ko Minisita Ni Veikau Osea Naiqamu ena nodra laki tavoca na vale vou ni bucini ni itei e Rewa kei Tailevu. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA sa kunea edua nodra ivurevure ni rawaka vakailavo vou na lewenivanua ni yasana ko Rewa kei Tailevu ena bucini itei.

Oqori me vaka ni laki tavoca edua rua nodra vale ni bucini itei na Minisita ni Teitei Osea Naiqamu ena macawa sa oti.

Na vakanananu e tiko oqori ena vakatubuilavo vei ira ka vukei ira talega ena nodra bula ena veisiga

Era na vakayagataka na vale ni bucini itei oqori mera qarava kina na itei ni yasi, tei ni vuata, tei ni kau vakaviti kei na tei ni kau me vakayagataki me buka.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita ni Veikau, Osea Cawaru ni vei teikau era na bucina na kena itei oqo ena rua na yasana lelevu ena Vit Levu ena vakayagataki me itei ena veivanua eso ena noda vanua ka uasivi ni na vukei ira ena yasana ni rawaka vakailavo.

Era veivuke na matanitu ko Viti ena kena vakailavotaki na cakacaka oqo kei na Tabana ni Veikau kalaki tara na vale ni bucini itei oqo ena koro ko Nasali mai Rewa kei Vunivivi mai Tailevu.

Na vale ni bucini itei oqori ena vukea na sasaga ni matanitu ena kena teivaki na 30 na milioni na vunika ena loma ni 15 na yabaki lako mai.

Tei sosomitaki na paini e Tiliva

SOLO LEWANAVANUA



Era vakasobura tiko oqori na itei ni kau na ivakalesilesi vakamatani ena lakolako ni veivakacokotaki i Kadavu. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

VEIVAKAUQETI na nodra sa kila na lewenivanua e Tiliva, Nakasaleka e Kadavu na bibi ni kena tei veisosomitaki na nodra paini era sa mai bale ena Cava o Harold.

Kune votu oqo ena nodra sa maqusa ena kena laki kau mai na nodra itei ni kau mai loma ni waqa ni matanitu na ‘Vunicagi’.

Qoka e dua na tiki ni veivakacokotaki ni Tabacakacaka ni Veikau mera tara cake tale na nodra vale ena kena vakayagataki na veikau esa mai bale ena Cava o Harold.

Ena gauna vata oya mera sana tei vakaisosomitaki tale na veikau kece oya.

Namaki mera na tara vou tale e 886 na vale mai Kadavu kara na cakacaka vata kina na itaukei ni paini kei na Matanitu me sa nodra 1/3 ni kena tara vou tale na nodra vale.

Rau a veisiko ki Kadavu na Minisita ni Veikau o Osea Naiqamu kei Semi Koroilavesau na Minisita ni Qoliqoli.



Na tomi ni benu e dua na cakacaka era veiqaravi kina vakavoleka na veitabana ni Matanitu ena loma ni tauni ena veiyasai Viti.

Talei na duavata ni valuti ni LTDD

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA dua na ka talei ni da raica na nodra cakacaka vata na veisoqosoqo kei na veitabana ni noda vanua ema sasaga ni kena vakasavasavataki na noda veisagata me tarova na veitauvi ni mate me vaka na coka, na minimanu, kei na taifote (LTDD).

E dua na kena ivakaraitaki vinaka na nodratou sa duavata na vakailesilesi ni WISH Fiji kei na Fiji Centre for Communicable Disease me vakasavasavataki na loma ni bai ni valenibula ni mate ni vakasama na St Giles Hospital mai Nauluvatu.

Veitokoni sara vakalevu na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena cakacaka vinaka oya.

E tiki ni kena valuti na LTDD ena noda vanua lomani o Viti.

Toso tiko na veivuke

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA vakadeitaka tikoga mai na matanitu ko Australia vei Viti na nona na kuria tikoga mai na veivuke me baleta na leqa ni mate veitauvi tiko oqo ena vuravura ka yacana tiko na COVID-19.

Vakaraitaka na veivakadeitaki ni nona matanitu ko John Feakes na mata ni matanitu ko Australia kina na noda vanua.

Kuria ni na tomana tiko na nona veitokoni ena kena valuti na veidewavi ni mate oqo ena noda vanua ka salamuria tikoga na sasaga kei na raiyawa ni vuvale vakamatani ko Viti kei Australia.

Era laki solia na Mata ni Matanitu ko Australia John Feakes e dua na wasewase ni 3d face shields se ubi ni mata vua na Minisita ni Bula Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete – oqo na imatai ena Pasivika kei Viti.

Eratou bulia na Skyward Industries ka vukea kina vakailavo na Market Development Facility ka vakabauti ni na vukei kina na veiqaravi ni bula nei Viti ena tataqomaki mai na #COVID19 pandemic.

Yaga na cakacaka vata ni bisinisi kei na lewenivanua

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA cakacaka vata ni bisinisi kei na lewenivanua e vukea na tarovi ni waluvu.

Oqori e dua na mala ni vosa nei Minisita ni Wai kei na Veika e tu wavoliti ked o Dr Mahendra Reddy.

Qoka ena nona a lai vakamataniutaka tiko na qarauni ni sisi ni qele ena bati ni uciwai mai Korovatu kei Bucaisau mai Labasa.

Cakacaka vata kina na bisinisi ni

rede taki misini na Hussein Hire Plant ka solia wale nona misini me vukea na kau laivi ni benu duka mai loma ni uciwai.

Na keli ni uciwai kei na kau laivi ni benu ena vukea me taladrodro vinaka na wai kana sega ni luvu kina na veivanua volekata ena gauna e coka kina na dobui sa taubi na uca.

E ratou na veiqaravi na ena 1000 na mita na vanua ni kelikeili na kabani nei Hussein ena cakacaka oqo.



Laurai toka oqori na katavila ena kena vakalevutaki na loma ni uciwai me tarova na waluvu mai Rakiraki, oqori edua na veivuke nodra na daunibisinisi kivei ira na lewenivanua ka ratou cakacaka vata kina kei na Matanitu.



***Marautaki na nodra
bula na matua***

ERA laki dodoliga na leweni
mataivalu ena noda vanua
ena vale ni nodra taqomaki
na malumalumu e Suva,
ka ra laki vakamarautaki
ira tale ena dua na soqo
lekaleka.
Soli kina eso na kedra kei na
medra.
Oqo e tiki talega ni veiqaravi
ni veivakamarautaki ni

mataivalu mera dau sikovi
na lewenivanua ena vale
ni malumalumu kei na
valeni bula ka mera laki
laveti cake na yalodra ena
veivakamarautaki kei na
lasa me vaka ni levu na
gauna era sad au guilecavi
tu main a lewenivanua..

iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



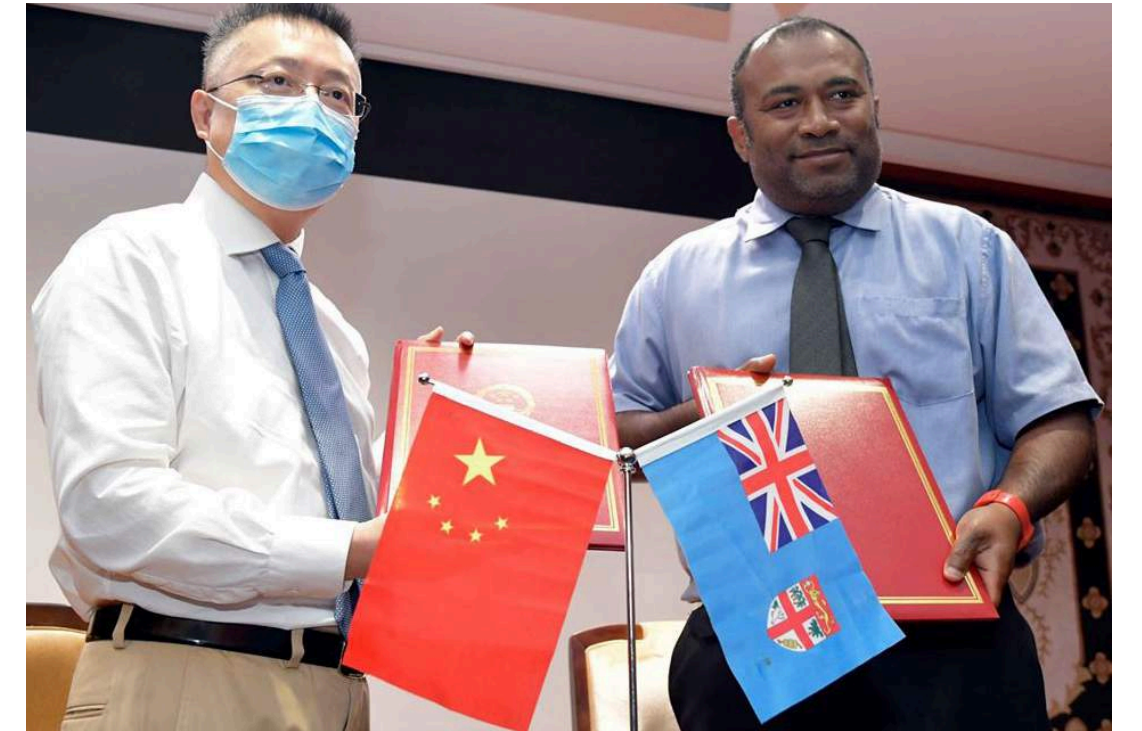
Veivuke mai ko Jaina

Ciqoma na minisitiri ni bula ni noda vanua na veivuke ni matanitu ko Jaina me baleta na nodra iyaya ni cakacaka na ivakalesilesi ni tabana ni bula era vei qaravi ena mua i liu ni COVID-19.

Laki ciqoma kina na Minisita ni Bula Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete na iyaya oqo mai vua na Mata ni Matanitu ko Jaina kina na noda vanua/ Vakavinaka taka na Minisita ni Bula na Veivuke nei Jaina ena matanitu ko Viti.

Na iyaya oqo e wili kina e 1000 na test supplies, 1000 na surgical masks, 20,000 na medical masks, 5000 na medical disposable protection clothing kei 5000 na disposable gloves mai na matanitu ko Guangdong Province.

ITABA: FELIX LESINAIVALU



***‘Vakabula na noda
vuravura’***

Nuitaka na Minisita ni Teitei Dr Mahendra Reddy ni ra na cakacaka vata na lewenivuniga ena noda vuruvura mera taqomaka na noda vuruvura. Ogo me taqomaki talega na kakana, vaniunika kei na manumanu. Nona tavoca na siga ni vakananumi ni veikabula bula vavoliti keda tukuna ko Minisita Reddy ni sa dodonu me vakalevutaki na sasaga me baleta na taqomaki ni noda vuruvura. Vakabibi ena rai yawa ni draki veisau kei na noda tiko bulabula ena vuruvura go..

iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI





Kunei talega na vakacacani na ni wavu mai Cicia, Koro kei Moala vakacaca ni sisi ni qele a gaunisala ena iwase-wase eloma. Na isau ni vakacaca oya e esitimetaki ni yacova na \$27m.

Inia Seruiratu
Minisita ni Leqa Tubu Koso



Totoka na itaba ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama, na Minisita ni Bula Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete kei ira na cauravou, turaga ena nona veisiko yani ko PM Bainimarama e na yanuyanu o Vatulele. iTaba:VAKARAUTAKI

Qaravi rawa e 182K

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ME yacova mai edaidai na veivuke e sa vakayacori vei ira era vakacacani ena cava ko Harold esa yacovi yani e rauta ni 182,000 na lewei Viti.

Vakaraitaka na itukutuku oqo na Minisita ni Leqa Tubu Koso, ko Inia Seruiratu ni ivacaca ni cava ko Harold, ni dikevi vakaiwasewase lelevu na isau ni vakacaca, e esitemetaki sivia na \$100 na milioni.

Kaya o Minisita Seruiratu ni yavutaki na

vakadidike taumada ni Matanitu a qaravi ena 13 kina ika 28 ni Evereli.

Na vakacaca ena tabana ni teitei e esitimetaki me tiko ena \$27.8m ka vakacacani kina e rauta ni 90 na pasede ni itei.

“Esitemetaki talega ni 227 na vale e vakacacani vakatikina ka 961 na vale e vakarusai vakadua ka tiko na kena isau ena \$24.4m. Ena isevu ni gauna e rau cakacaka vata na Tabacakaca ni Veikau kei na Minisitiri ni Veivakavaletaki kei na veiqaravi vakatikotiko kei na Vale ni Volavola ni Leqa Tubukoso ratou

raica vata na kena vakayagataki vinaka na veikau sa mai vakabalea na cagilaba me varo ka me okatai me nodra cau se 1/3 na lewenivanua ena kena tara vou tale na vale era sa vakacacani mai Kadavu kei Lau, kaya o Minisita Seruiratu.

“Kunei talega na vakacacani na ni wavu mai Cicia, Koro kei Moala vakacaca ni sisi ni qele a gaunisala ena iwase-wase eloma. Na isau ni vakacaca oya e esitimetaki ni yacova na \$27m.”

\$62m sa vakayagataki ena drodro ni wai e Viti

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKASAVUYA ena Palimedi na Minisita ni Qele o Jone Usamate ni sa vakayagataka oti na Matabose ni Wai (Water Authority of Fiji- WAF) e \$62m ena vakadrodro ni wai savasava ena veikoro vakavalagi kei na veikorovakaviti ena loma ni vanua, baravi kei na veiyanyanu. Qoka ena lima na yabaki ni nona veiqaravi

A vosa taumada o Minisita Jone Usamate ena imatai ni vakatutu ni komiti me baleta na kena tawani na itutu vaka CEO ni WAF.

Me baleta na kena vakatawani na itutu vaka C.E.O ni Water Authority of Fiji e kaya kina o Minisita Usamate ni digitaki ena vula Tiseba ni 2019 o Mr Berry Omundson ka levu na vanua ni qaravi wai e tiko kina na nona kila ka sa veiqaravi oti mai kina.

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni sa solia nona veivakabauti na Matabose e Cake ni Wai vei Omundson ni na rawa ni kauta yani na WAF



Vosa tiko oqoqri na Minisita ni Qele ko Jone Usamate ena loma ni Palimedi. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

kina dua tale na itagede ka laveta cake na kena veiqaravi.

Na ikarua ni vakatutu ni komiti ke rawa vua na WAF me vakadonuya na veiveisau vou me vakayacori me vakauqeta na nodra kila na nodra itavi na kena ivakailesilesi kara sa bulia tiko ni kua na nodra navunavu ni 2020 kina 2025. Sa bulia talega na gaunisala ni mape me muri kei na veiveisau e gadreva mena vakayacori.

Kaya na Minisita ni Wai ni gadrevi kina WAF me qarauna nona iyau bula sai koya na wai droka kei wai duka.

“Sa gadrevi talega kina WAF me iveisautaka nona ivakarau ni

cakacaka me totolo ka uasivi cake kina na veiqaravi.”

“Sa gadrevi talega me veisautaka na iwalewale ni kena ripotetaki na nona itukutuku vakailavo me salavata kei na FMIS ni Minisitiri ni Bula Vakailavo,” kaya o Minisita Usamate.

Kaya ena Palimedi o Minisita Usamate ni sa gadrevi talega me vakalevutaki na kera iwiliwili na marama era cakacaka tiko ena WAF e daidai.

“E daidai sa 12 na pasede na marama era cakacaka tiko ena WAF ia sa toso tiko na sasaga me levu tale na marama era vakacakacataki.”

Kaya talega o Minisita Usamate ni sa vakadidikeva tiko ena gauna oqo na Tabana ni Wai na ivurevure vou ni wai ena noda vanua me vaka na Wainikavika mai Navua, vakia kna na Nawaicoba Akil Dam mai Nadi, qo e dua na ka sa cakava tiko edaidai na WAF.

“Dua tale na tikina e vakabibitaka na komiti na kena dau dikevi vinaka na itagede ni wai se sabolo ni wai ena veimacawa rua. Era sa vakacakacataki eso na dai dikevi wai ena gauna oqo.”

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni sa gadrevi talega me yadaravi vakavinaka na ni yau bula kei na OHS ni Tabana ni Wai sa vakasamataki tiko na kena dabe ba CCTV me yadrava na iyau bula ni tabana ni wai.

Kuria o Minisita Usamate ni sa dabe e 4 na desalination plant se na misini ni veisautaki waitui me waidranu

“Sa levu talega na kena veisoliyaki na taqe ni wai me tavulona na wai ni uca. Sa vakayagataki talega na mobile desalination plant mai Dravuni kei Buliya.”

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni dua talega na gagadre sai koya na kena vakayagataki na misini sena automation me vakatotototaki na veiqaravi.

“Na kena vakavinakataki na veiqaravi se customer service kei na kena saumi na bili ena mona livaliva se e-billing.”

Vakaroti na ituvaki ni leqa tubukoso

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKARAITAKA na Minisita ni Leqa Tubukoso, Inia

Seruiratu ni dua na vuna levu era sa nanuma kina na matanitu me vakaroti na ituvaki ni leqa tubu koso vu mai na cagilaba ko Harold oya ni oti na wavoki kei na sarasara ena waqavuka ka veitaba mai kina na matanitu ni Niu Siladi.

“Na itukutuku a kumana vata na komiti vakatotototaki ena ika 9 ni Evereli ka vakatura me sa vakaroti na ituvaki ni leqa tubukoso ena noda vanu se na State of Natural Disasters.”

“Sa mani vakadonuya na vakatutu oya na turaga na Paraiminisita sa mani tabaki kina ena Gazette na State of Natural Disaster, ena ika 12 ni Evereli me 30 taucoko na siga.

Sa mani wasei vakarua kina na veivuka ni vakacoko ni cagilaba ni Cava o Harold, ni oti ga e 5 na siga na nona lako siviti Viti na Cava o Harold,” kaya o Minisita Seruiratu.

“Qoka e vuna na kena sa yaco tiko na sogosogo e Suva se na Lockdown sa mani vakavuna mera laki kau main a vakailsilesi vaamatanitu ena taudaku ni vanua ni sogosogo.”

Kaya o Minisita Seruiratu ni imatai ni iwase-wase ni vakacoko (Phase 1) a vakayagataki kina \$3.6m. Oya ena kena soli yani na veika e gadrevi vakatotolo me vaka na wai na kakana, kena so tale na iyaya gadrevi vakatotolo

“Vakavinakataki talega na sala ni vakautututuku a vakacacani, na wainigunu kei na livaliva. Tarava sara mai oqori na ikarua ni wasewase ni vakacoko tekivutaki tale kina na ikarua ni wavoki ni soli kakana, wai kei na iyaya tale eso e gadrevi vakatotolo.”

Ena ikarua ni wavoki ni vakacoko se Phase 2 a vakayagataka kina na matanitu e \$1.2m ena ikarua ni wavoki ni vakacoko me baleta na Cava o Harold.

Kaya o Minisita Seruiratu ni isevu talega ni gauna me vakarautaka kina na Matanitu edua na mobile desalination plant se na misini ni veisautaki waitui me waidranu ka rawa kina na wainigunu savasava kina veivanua e gadrevi kina vakatotolo.

“Ni oti e 6 na macawa e kaya o Minisita Seruiratu ni sa tekivu me qaravi kina na veivuke ni cagilaba ki vei ira era gadreva vakatotolo.”



341 na laiseni vou ni bisinisi mai na 2018

VILIAME TIKOTANI

KACIVAKA ena Palimedi na Minisita ni Veivoli o Faiyaz Koya ni tekivu mai ena yabaki 2018 sa soli kina e Viti e 341 na laiseni vou ni bisinisi ena ruku ni sasaga ni buli iyaya ga e Viti kei na vakauqeti ni iyaya e buli ga e Viti. Kaya na Minisita ni Veivoli ni

kena ibalebale oya ni levu kece ni laiseni ni bisinisi sa tiko ena noda vanua esa yacova na 686.

Tukuna na Minisita ni Veivoli ni sa tubu talega na iwiliwili ni ivoli e buli ga e Viti.

“Sa 3482 na levu ni ivoli buliga e Viti era sa rejisitataki me tekivu sara mai na yabaki 2011.”

“E 69 na pasede ni bisinisi era sa rejisitataki era okatai vaka bisinisi

lalai, kei na kena era toka ena vei-mama se Small and medium.”

“E 53 na pasede ni vei bisinisi kece oqori era sa vakalaiseni ni iyaya era buli ga e Viti.”

Kaya o Minisita Koya ni sa vakarawarawataki talega na vakaduri bisinisi vei ira na marama dau ni bisinisi e Viti ena taudaku ni koro lelevu kei na vei yanuy-anu.



Qoka na mataqali ivoli kara buli ga e Viti ka laki vakaraitaki ena dua na soqo ni vakaraitaki ivoli mai vavalagi. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Rawa ni o raica oqori na veivakavaletaki ni Public Rental Board mai Raiwai. Sa rawa ni oni kerea yani me kua ni saumi ena tolu na vula nomuni reda kevaka o sotava tiko na bula dredre ni sega ni cakacaka se musu na yaua ni nomu cakacaka ena vuku ni COVID-19. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Ko ira kece era rede tiko e na PRB ka ra sotava na dredre ena vuku ni mate vei tauvi na COVID 19. Esa toka qori era na kena dui vakataiqedeqede era na soli vei ira na galala me ra se kua mada ni saumi rede me rauta ni tolu na vula:

1. cegu mai na cakacaka,
2. musu nodra yaua ni cakacaka
3. Era livi ka sega ni saumi
4. Ke sa sogo na kabani era cakacaka kina ka sa sega tale ni dua na vurevure ni ilavo

Premila Kumar
Minisita ni Veivakavaletaki

Tolu na vula cegu na saumi rede: Public Rental Board

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SACIVAKA na Minisita ni Veivakavaletaki o Premila Kumar vei ira na sotava tiko na dredre ena vuku ni COVID-19 ena vuku ni sega ni cakacaka se na kena sa musu nodra aua ni cakacaka ni sa rawa nira kerea yani na veivuke ni Public Rental Board mera kua ni saumi rede ena tolu na vula.

Vaka kina vei ira na dinau tu ni veivakavaletaki ena Housing Authority ni rawa nira kerea yani me se cegu toka mada nodra sausaumi.

Sa mani veitalanoa kina na noda niusiveva na Noda Viti kei na C.E.O ni Public Rental Board o Patrick Veu, mo wilika sara yani.

Noda Viti: Sa kacivaka na Minisita ni Veivakavaletaki o Premila Kumar ni sa rawa nira kerea yani na rede tiko ea PRB mera se tei cegu mada ena saumi rede ena loma ni 3 na vula sa tu e matada. Na cava na kena inaki?

Veu: Ko ira kece era rede tiko e na PRB kara sotava na dredre ena vuku ni mate vei tauvi na COVID 19. Esa toka qori era na kena dui vakatagedegede era na soli vei ira na galala me ra se kua mada ni saumi rede me rauta ni tolu na vula:

1. cegu mai na cakacaka,
2. musu nodra yaua ni cakacaka
3. Era livi ka sega ni saumi
4. Ke sa sogo na kabani era cakacaka kina ka sa sega tale ni dua na vurevure ni I lavo

Noda Viti: Ke sa sega ni saumi na rede ena tolu na vula ocei ena qai sauma, ena sauma na matanitu se sa sega sara ga ni saumi?

Veu: Na PRB ena qai dikeva tale ni oti e tolu na vula na vei kisi yadua. Kevaka era sa cakacaka tale era na qai sauma mai na rede vata kei na rede ni tolu na vula koya a ra sega ni sausaumi tu mai kina ena qai vidavidai ena na lomani ciwa na vula me ra sausaumi mai vakalalai me yacovi na kena saumi oti vakadua.

Noda Viti: Era sa vakauqeti na rede tiko ena vale ni PRB mera vakayagataka naivola kerekere ena mona livaliva se online application me tarovi kina nodra dau lai laini tu yani ena valenivolavola. Ni cavuta mada na yaca ni website e rawa ni tauri kina na online application form?

Veu: Sa kerei mera vakayagataka na PRB website www.housing.com.fj/prb. Vaka lewena na fomu qai vakauta mai vei na PRB ena email info@prb.com.fj se ena rawa nil ai biu vua na dua neitou tabana ni veiqaravi mai na yasayasa vaka ra ena Hector Eyre St, Natokowaqa , na vualiku ena Y-corner se ena Grantham Rd e Raiwaqa.

Noda Viti: Kena ibalebale oqo ni o ira ga na kerekere yani ena cegu ena 3 na vula nodra rede , o koya e sega ni kerekere

yani ena saumi rede tikoga ena 3 na vula oya?

Io, o ira era sega ni kerekere mai ena soli vei ira na notisi kevaka sa lutu na nodra sausaumi ni vale. O ira ga era sa vakadonui nodra kerekere sa matata tiko vei keitou nira na sega ni saumi rede ena loma ni 3 na vula.

Noda Viti: E vica taucoko na vuvale era rede tiko ena Public Rental Board me yacova mai na gauna daru veitalanoa tiko kina oqo?

Veu: E tiko e 1653 na vale rede vaka macawa
Central – 1053
West – 396
North – 204

Noda Viti: E vica taucoko na flats ni PRB koya sa redetaki tiko edaidai?

Veu: Na vale kece ni PRB sa tawa taucoko ena gauna qo.

Noda Viti: E vei na vanua sa tara vale tiko kina edaidai na PRB ka vica na flats e namaki ena veivanua oya?

Veu: Sa tara tiko oqo e 36 na flats mai Simla Lautoka kenai sau vaka ilavo e \$3.6m ka vakailavo taka tiko na Matanitu. E nanumi me na cava e na mua ni yabaki oqo na tara vale.

Noda Viti: E vica na isau ni rede ena dua na vula vei PRB e toka beka ena vica na drau na dola?

Veu: Na rede ni vale ena PRB e tiko ena \$23 - \$50 dua na macawa. Na matanitu e vukea (Subsidy) rawa ni ra ceguva na sau ni vale ko ira na leweni ni tikotiko era sega so sara ni Vinaka nodra rawa ka vaka ilavo se ra sau lalai.

E tiko talega e so na vale ni PRB mai na Kia project \$69, Mcfarlane Project \$92 kei na Raiwai project e \$99 kei na \$111 dua na macawa era tiko ga kina o ira era rawa ni sauma na vei vale oqo. E tiko vakalailai icake na kena isau ni keitou sausaumi tiko kina Exim Bank ni tauri mai kina na dinau ni matanitu. Keitou vakavinavinaka ni a veivuke mai na matanitu ena kena veivosakitaki na dinau oya.

Noda Viti: Me dua mada ga nomui vakasala vei ira na rede tiko ena PRB ena vuku ni veivuke oqo me baleti ira na sotava tiko na dredre ena vuku ni COVID-19?

Veu: Sa vinaka vei kemuni na sotava tiko na dredre sa kaivaki oti tu moni vakalewena mai na fomu ni ivola kerekere sana vakadonui kevaka oni sotava na dredre. Kemuni ese rawa tikoga ni oni sausaumi au kerekere mo ni sauma tiko mada ga mai nomuni rede.

Noda Viti



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama vata kei ira na lewe ni vanua ena ikarua ni wavoki ni vakacoko ni Cava o Harold ena Vatoa ena ceva kei Lau. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Sivia e \$100m na vakacacaca ni Cava

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

KACIVAKA ena Palimedi na Minisita ni Leqa Tubukoso, Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu kei na Veivanu, kei na Veitaqomaki o Inia Seruiratu ni isau taucoko ni vakacaca ni Cava o Harold e sivia na \$100m.

Vakavinavinakataki rau taumada o Minisita Usamate kei Minisita Mahendra Reddy ena nodra a qarava taumada tiko na na veimainisitiri e sa mai taura edaidai.

E kaya o Minisita Seruiratu ni da kila kece ni na noda sotava na revurevu ni TC Harold esa dua na bolebole levu vei keda.

“Baleta na rabailevu ni veivanua e tatara yani kina na Cava.Qai sala-vata na bolebole levu ni vuravura me baleta na COVID-19. E vakadredretaka na veitosoyaki ni lewenivanua kei na veisoliyaki ni iyaya ni cagilaba.”

“Ia, e sega ni vakataotaka na kena sa vakacavari vakavinaka na veivotaki

ni iyaya ni cagailaba kina veivanua e gadrevi vakatotolo kina sala vata tiko noda muria na ivakaro ni tabana ni bula.

Ni oti na cagilaba o Winston ena 2016, sa qai dua tale na cagilaba kaukauwa ena Ceva ni Pasifika,” kaya o Minisita Seruiratu.

“E da kila vinaka ni Ceva ni yatu lau

kei Kadavu e rau sa sotava veitaravi na cagilaba ena loma ni rua na yabaki na Cava o Gita, kei na Cava o Josie, Cava o Keni sa vakavuna me rawarawa sara na nona vakila na kaukauwa ni cagi.”

Sa ikatolu ni Cava o TC Harold me tara mai na veivanua oya ni oti na cava o Sarai ena yabaki sa oti.

VOQA NI DAVUI

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

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

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