

FijiFocus

\$3M ROAD



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama officially commissions the Namata Road at Namata Village in Tailevu. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Villagers thankful for better access to services, outside world

NANISE NEIMILA

FOR decades people of Namata in Tailevu have had to walk for miles through rough terrain, cross flooded rivers to commute to

school, sell their produce at the market and even visit relatives.

With the opening of \$3 million road network by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama villagers of Namata will now be able to travel at their conveni-

ence as they will be able to access buses and other means of transportation right at their doorstep.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the new road extension will make life easier and safer for the children who

must use the roads to walk to school, and the farmers who need good roads to get their produce to the market and

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe
Bainimarama.

With over 330 days since our last community case of COVID-19 in Fiji, there's simply no excuse that they cannot find a safe way to do so. We have made it known, we will continue to make it known, that Fiji belongs in a quarantine-free regional travel arrangement for the Pacific.

NUMBERS

30,000 is the total number of cumulative COVID-19 cases in the Pacific as of March 12, 2021 **18,500** cases and over **40** deaths at French Polynesia **7500** cases and over **134** deaths at Guam and PNG recorded **37** deaths from **3700+** cases.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama@FijiPM

#VaccineMaitri has arrived to Fiji with 100k doses of life-saving COVID-19 vaccines. Vinaka to my friend, @narendramodi, for helping us take this giant step towards a post-pandemic future for Fiji and for the world.

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Use water wisely, Usamate urges

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“THE World Water Day celebration is a platform to advocate the importance of water in our lives. Let's use water wisely. Let's conserve water for us and for the future.”

This was the statement by the Minister for Infrastructure and Meteorological Services Jone Usamate at the World Water Day celebrations at Kshatriya Hall in Suva last week.

World Water Day, which is marked on March 22, 2021, focuses on what water means to people, its true value and how we can better protect this vital resource.

With the theme ‘Valuing Wa-

ter’, Minister Usamate added that World Water Day 2021 focuses on topics relevant to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, which is in line with Fiji's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) targets.

“The theme is aimed to encourage people all around the world to think about and realise the importance of water and what it means to them,” Minister Usamate said.

“Observing International Water Day is to inspire people all over the world to learn more about water related issues, to take action and to make a difference.”

Minister Usamate added the theme seeks to draw on people's understanding on the value of wa-



Students of St. Anne's Primary School were part of World Water Day celebrations participating in oratory contests and poster competition at Kshatriya Hall in Suva last week. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

ter, economically, socially, culturally and how it plays a role in their lives

He also highlighted that the Fijian Constitution guarantees the right for everyone to have clean and safe water, and the Fijian Government, the Water Authority of Fiji and other agencies are making sure that they can live up to that target.

“We must make sure we look after it well, we conserve it so it can bring benefits for the people of Fiji now and in the future. The Government does its best so it is up to the rest of us to do our best.”

World Water Day was celebrated with primary and secondary school students competing in oratory contests and a poster competition.

St. Anne's Primary School, Holy Trinity Primary School, Suva Methodist Primary School, Yat Sen Primary and Secondary School, Marist Brothers Primary and Secondary School, Jai Narayan College and Dudley High School joined the conversation about what water means to them, and highlighted how the value of water is about much more than its price.



Permanent secretary for Infrastructure and Meteorological Services Taitusi Vakadravuyaca, (left), and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Pacific representative Sheldon Yett with Holy Trinity Anglican School students during the World Water Day celebrations at Kshatriya Hall, Suva. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

The value of water is important because you use it to start and end the day.

Taitusi Vakadravuyaca
Permanent secretary for
Infrastructure and Meteorological
Services

‘Teach children value of water’

FELIX LESINAIVALU

F IJIANs need to teach children the value of water and also understand the importance it brings to their daily lives.

Ministry of Infrastructure and Meteorological Services permanent secretary Taitusi Vakadravuyaca highlighted this during the World Water Day celebrations at Kshatriya Hall in Suva.

“It is not only the responsibility of the Water Authority of Fiji, or the Department of Environment, it is the responsibility of every Fijian citizen to ensure that we give value to water.”

“In bringing the value of water home, we use rivers to get access to water and the Waimanu River is one of these rivers. However, the quality of the water has been degrading due to pollution from us, the people, natural disasters,

and climate change,” Mr Vakadravuyaca said.

He added that when water does not come through the pipes people will go looking for other sources of water, and it would not be safe for drinking.

“The value of water is important because you use it to start and end the day,” he said.

This year's theme is “Valuing Water” and brings attention to the 2.2 billion people living globally without access to safe water.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Pacific representative Sheldon Yett said; “Valuing and understanding the importance of water is critical to ensure equal access for all to clean drinking water.”

“We thank the Ministry of Infrastructure and Meteorological Services, and partners, for

joining us and using the World Water Day as an opportunity to take action on the issue of water security in the Pacific.”

Children from nine schools took part in contests organised by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Meteorological Services and UNICEF to mark the day.

The event was supported by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry for Lands and Mineral Resources, Water Authority of Fiji, Save the Children, Live and Learn, Pleass Global Limited, Rotary Pacific Water, Habitat for Humanity Fiji and Partners in Community Development Fiji.

\$3m Road

FROM PAGE 1

bring in the supplies and equipment they need.

“These projects are all connected because they each contribute to the modernisation of a stronger, more modern and more resilient road infrastructure. I remember when I first discussed the need for this road extension with you, the residents of Namata. I had come here to commission the Logani-Raralevu by-pass in 2017.”

“That is the way democratic Government is supposed to work: We listen to the people and try to provide what they need to make sure their communities thrive. We can’t deliver everything for all communities at once, but we make sure we hear every voice and understand the needs of every community.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama adds that the Government is building the national infrastructure strategically.

Under the Fiji Roads Authority’s Rural Roads Programme, some nine (9) access roads and by-passes have been completed recently or are under-way.

An emotional and delighted 52-year-old Ratu Jeremaia Sovea Halaiwalu, during the traditional ceremony (vakamamaca), thanked the Fijian Government for staying true its promise with the construction of the new bridge.

“For years, we have had to endure a lot of challenges from our young days crossing wooden planks to reach the other side. Crossing flooded rivers to reach school or even to assist our parents with produce to sell at the market.”

“Today we can attest to that the construction of the bridge will bring a new hope to the future generation of Namata. We cannot thank the Fijian Government for ensuring that we also access the same services as those in the urban areas.”

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Ministry of Health and Medical Services officials and frontliners after receiving the COVID-19 vaccination at Nadi Airport.
Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

China gifts Fiji \$1m in aid

THE Chinese Government donated US\$500,000 (FJ\$1million) in humanitarian aid to Fiji in support of the Fijian Government’s rebuilding and recovery efforts post Tropical Cyclones Yasa and Ana.

At the grant handover certificate signing program held this week at the Office of the Prime Minister, the cheque was formally presented to Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama from the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Fiji, Qian Bo.

In conveying appreciation on behalf of the Fijian Government, Prime Minister Bainimarama

acknowledged the People’s Republic of China for the timely assistance that will complement the Fijian Government’s efforts on economic recovery and building climate resilience.

He said this assistance affirms the strengthened collaboration between Fiji and the People’s Republic of China and it is a testament of China’s commitment to advance the levels of engagements with Fiji.

In response, Ambassador Bo said the assistance is a reflection of enhanced bilateral relationship between the two nations.

“China is ready to, together with the Fijian

side, constantly enhance mutual trust, continue to firmly support each other on issues concerning respective core interests, strengthened the synergy of development strategies to jointly facilitate cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

It is highly anticipated that 60 per cent of the grant could be allotted to the Ministry of Education, 20 per cent to the Ministry of Agriculture, and 20 per cent to the Ministry of Fisheries, since these three sectors were most affected by TC Yasa and TC Ana.

-news@govnet.gov.fj

6200 Fijians get COVID jab

NANISE NEIMILA

THE first batch of Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine has enabled the vaccination of 6278 Fijians around the country.

It was an excellent opportunity for the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to test their plan before the bigger vaccine deployment exercise happens this week.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said their vaccination teams were very efficient in making the most of this opportunity to vaccinate 105 per cent of our target population for 6,000.

“I am pleased to inform that a total of 4821 individuals have been



The first batch of Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine has enabled the vaccination of 6278 Fijians around the country. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

vaccinated in the Western Division, 1137 in the Central Division and 320 in the Northern Division.”

Minister Waqainabete said out of the 6278 there were no adverse event following immunisation.

“Some individuals developed mild side effects which were temporary and adequately managed

with symptomatic care which included antipyretics such as paracetamol and hydration.

Minister Waqainabete said they want to protect the most vulnerable aside the targeted population. These individuals are with comorbid conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiac issues, renal diseases, including persons

with disability.

Minister Waqainabete said they anticipate on vaccinating, at least, 145,400 individuals in the coming few months.

“While we focus on this target population, we are also working to ensure vaccination for all individuals above 18 years old in Fiji.

“This is required for at least 650,000 individuals, which equates to 1.3 million doses of the vaccine,” he said.

“Apart from COVAX support which covers an initial 20 percent of the population, Government is also actively involved in bilateral and multilateral discussion with partners who are willing to support Fiji in acquiring initial doses of vaccine for the rest of the population and also in places where Fiji will actually acquire using its own appropriation.”

Minister Waqainabete added the Fijian Government and the Ministry are following closely the processes for approval by WHO for the other vaccines in a not too distant future.



Second batch of pandemic vaccine in

MEREANI GONEDUA

A total of 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines arrived at the Nadi International Airport from India this week.

In receiving the vaccine, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama acknowledged the Indian Government and stated that this next batch of doses will go immediately towards protecting the remainder of our front-liners; our doctors, nurses, quarantine and hotel workers, and members of the disciplined forces. “It will also kick-start the second phase of our vaccine roll-out, which

will include the more vulnerable segments of our population. I have already registered to receive my COVID-19 vaccine.

“As we begin the next phase of the roll-out, I plan to be among those vaccinated in the doses from this shipment — but as we focus first on our most vulnerable citizens, I’ve signed up to wait my turn just like everyone else.”

PM Bainimarama acknowledged those Fijians who have already registered to be vaccinated and stressed the importance for those who are 18 years and older be registered to get their doses.

“That means we need to get the timing

right. When you register and receive your first dose, the Ministry of Health knows who you are and how to contact you to get dose number two.”

PM Bainimarama reiterated that the vaccines are safe and the Fijian Government has set up a dedicated helpline at number 158, as well as an online FAQ resource which Fijians can find on the Ministry of Health and Medical Services website and Facebook page.

“Our number one priority is keeping Fijians healthy — that’s been our same mission since day one,” PM Bainimarama said.

“The latest data on the AstraZeneca COV-

ID-19 vaccine show that it is both safe and highly effective. Fiji will accept nothing less.

“The world’s brightest minds went into creating and testing this life-saving vaccine, and as millions have gotten this shot, it’s safe to say many thousands of deaths have already been prevented,” PM Bainimarama said.

The vaccines have been produced by the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer, the Serum Institute of India.

PM Bainimarama also stated that another shipment of 90,000 doses is headed to Fiji in the coming weeks.



More than 230 local tests conducted daily

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI has conducted a total of 35,986 laboratory tests, with a daily average of 234 tests per day over the last 7 days, and a weekly average of 1609 tests per week over the last two weeks.

This was revealed by Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete while delivering his statement in Parliament during the March sitting.

Minister Waqainabete said Fiji's testing capability now stands at 484 tests per positive case diagnosed, with a ratio of 40 tests per 1000 population.

"We are seeing the continuing increase in testing ratio as our capacity to test continues to improve. Since my last update, we can now test for COVID-19 at the Lautoka Hospital and Labasa Hospital, in addition to the Fiji Centre for Disease Control at Tamavua."

"However, the good news is, a year down from our first case, Fiji still remains COVID-

19-contained.

"I note that a repatriation flight has been organised and I make a call for all Fijians who are in Papua New Guinea, if they are able to, to come back home to Fiji."

"There continues to be large community transmissions in those countries while Wallis and Futuna, like Fiji, has imported cases totalling 338 and two deaths. Just recently also, we have seen that New Caledonia which has had a fantastic COVID-19 containment period similar to Taiwan and Fiji, also had COVID-19 picked up within the community."

Minister Waqainabete further adds the Ministry continues to closely monitor the global and regional scene of the pandemic and regularly engages with experts in the country and abroad to ensure that we are well informed of developments.

"Over the last four weeks, there has been another surge globally in the number of cases with over 123 million cases of COVID-19 with more than 2.7m deaths reported to date. Cases



FACT BOX

As of, March 12, 2021, total number of cumulative cases in the Pacific was over 30,000 with the following countries continuing to be worst affected;

- French Polynesia with 18,500 cases and over 140 deaths;
- Guam with over 7500 cases and 134 deaths;
- Papua New Guinea recorded a 20 per cent increase from my last update with over 3700 cases and 37 deaths.

continue to increase with almost 400,000 cases and over 7,000 deaths reported over 24 hours. Daily case numbers range from 300,000 to 400,000 per day while daily deaths range from 7000 to 10,000 globally."

"For infectious diseases, every time there is community transmission the likelihood of the virus mutating increases."

Fiji hits COVID-19 record

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI is mostly probably the only country in the world to have had COVID containment for more than 330 days.

This was the statement made by Health and Medical Services Minister Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete while providing an update on COVID-19 operations undertaken by his ministry in Parliament recently.

Minister Waqainabete said the Ministry's attention is now focussed on the major vaccination campaign ahead of us.

"The COVAX Facility initiated by WHO has allocated to Fiji 100,800 doses early this year, a portion of the 20 percent which it has committed to Fiji. Of this, we received the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines on March 6, 12,000 doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine for two doses each for the targeted 6000 individuals."

"The months of April to May will see the additional 88,800 doses arriving. Thus, before June, we can anticipate that the country's frontliners and other vulnerable individuals with comorbid issues would have been vaccinated."

Fiji has developed and submitted its National Deployment and Vaccination Plan which had started in November last year.

Minister Waqainabete highlighted that this planning has taken place in all the four divisions with a significant amount of micro-plan-

ning specifically for the arrival and deployment of vaccines, to the monitoring.

"While this level of planning is taking place, a significant amount of work continues to instil preparedness and anticipation in our vaccination teams as we get closer to operationalising the deployment. The initial planning has involved non-government organisations (NGOs), faith-based organisations from all spheres and as we speak, we continue to develop relationships and work together with this one common goal of protecting all Fijians from COVID-19 when the borders open.

"Thus, as a Ministry, our targets are as high as more than 95 percent of all eligible individuals

which is individuals above 18 years of age.

Minister Waqainabete thanked the parliamentarians who have registered, showing leadership and responsibility as we move forward with the vaccination programme.

He adds the first 6000 frontline workers have been from Health, all of the Western Health Staff, other frontliners from the Central and Northern Divisions, including the Blue Lane personnel to start soon in Savusavu, those working in sea ports and airports, hoteliers, those working in quarantine facilities and a few other associated individuals who work closely at the ports of entry, including our defence forces.

UN praises Fijian Govt's efforts

NANISE NEIMILA

THE fact that Fiji and the Pacific has managed to handle the COVID-19 very well has been acknowledged by the United Nations representative to the Pacific.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete in Parliament during its March sitting.

"The Resident Coordinator for the UN, Sanaka Samarasinha, provided an excellent perspective of our efforts a few days ago when he said: Fiji and the Pacific's handling of COVID-19 is one of the best kept secrets that I know of."

"It really is an amazing story and in some ways I am not surprised, but I am disappointed that Fiji and the Pacific countries that have managed to contain COVID for so long have not got the credit and the people have not learnt their lessons from these countries, and look at us, we are able to walk around and not wear masks."

Minister Waqainabete said they were happy with "what we have achieved as a nation so far, but we are not resting on our laurels".

"We remain vigilant and focused and we will not lower our guards soon because the virus is still pandemic, the virus continues to mutate in countries that have never had mutation before, despite vaccination process underway," he said.

"There is some light at the end of the tunnel but the end of this pandemic for the world is still out of sight. Our experience so far have taught us that when we come together as a nation, we rally together, a whole of society and whole of government approach, and we commit to act together and respond in the same way with the same fervour and commitment, we can overcome this global threat and any other threat that stands in our way."

Minister Waqainabete acknowledged the Prime Minister, members of Cabinet, civil servants and many others in the community who are showing leadership and responsibility.

"I thank all Fijians for your effort in keeping Fiji COVID-19 contained, we cannot drop this ball, we must continue and I ask you to stay with us as we complete this difficult journey."



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete during Parliament session last week.
Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI



Take vaccine, Fijians urged

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services have vaccinated 6278 Fijians with the first batch of Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said the deployment of the first batch of vaccines has provided an excellent opportunity to test the plans in place, identify potential gaps in the processes and put measures in place to address systems and processes before the bigger vaccine deployment exercise commences.

“Our vaccination teams were very efficient in making the most of this opportunity to vaccinate 105 per cent of our target population for 6000. I am pleased to inform

that a total of 4821 individuals have been vaccinated in the Western Division, 1137 in the Central Division and 320 in the Northern Division.”

“I am also happy to report, that out of the 6278 there were no adverse event following immunisation. Some individuals developed mild side effects which were temporary and adequately managed with symptomatic care which included antipyretics such as panadol and hydration. As per our Vaccination Deployment Plan, the next batch of vaccines would target the rest of the health care workers, including Private Practitioners, across Fiji.”

Minister Waqainabete adds apart from these targeted population, the Ministry wants to protect the most vulnerable pop-

ulation which are those individuals with comorbid conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiac issues, renal diseases, including persons with disability.

“When you register on to the Online Registration Platform, it does ask you if you have any comorbid illnesses including, high blood pressure. You indicate that there and you may wish to actually put in your national health card number and what happens is that our staff (Data Managers) will go through that and pick out those who are in the vulnerable groups and then you will receive your invitation.”

“The Data Managers that are sitting behind go through the detail and identify the groups as they come next. So, as you may have seen in the papers recently we were

told that we were next on the list so we just went and had our vaccination done.”

Minister Waqainabete highlighted that apart from this, the Ministry was anticipating vaccinating 145,400 individuals in the coming few months.

“This is required for at least 650,000 individuals, which equates to 1.3 million doses of the vaccine,” Minister Waqainabete said.

“Apart from COVAX support which covers an initial 20 percent of the population, Government is also actively involved in bilateral and multilateral discussion with partners who are willing to support Fiji in acquiring initial doses of vaccine for the rest of the population and also in places where Fiji will actually acquire using its own appropriation.”

Sector consistent despite pandemic's effects

NANISE NEIMILA

FII'S building and construction sector has continued to maintain consistency despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy.

In order to improve this, it is important that certain legislative and regulatory processes are relooked at and improved.

This was highlighted by Minister for Commerce, Trade and Tourism, Transport Faiyaz Koya in response to a question posed in Parliament during the March sitting.

“As you can see, two ministries have actually answered the questions with respect to building permits today. Now, the establishment of the Building Permits Evaluation Committee is one of the pioneering reforms in the area of building permits.”

“This is actually vital to allow for a fast-tracked and streamlined approvals process for building permits. The Regulation of Building Permits Act 2017 allows for a fast-track approach for applications of permits for commercial and industrial projects that can be made through what we commonly know now as the “BPEC” which is the Building Permits Evaluation Committee.”

Minister Koya highlighted that BPEC actually has a mandate to process an application within 60 days as well as the authority to get an approval agency to provide endorsement should an application already have received the Committee's endorsement.

“This is the first ever Committee that brings together all the approval agencies and technical experts from the private sector and the Committee is actually chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Trans-



Minister for Commerce, Trade and Tourism, Transport Faiyaz Koya in response to a question posed in Parliament during the March sitting. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

port (Shaheen Ali).

“The application is actually received in a harmonised form which incorporates all the approval agencies requirements.”

Minister Koya explained that this essentially meant, a person does not actually have to run around to different entities.

“I think we have all come up against this and it has been a constant cause for concern where people have had to go to 20 different agencies to actually submit the same documents or fill about 20 or 30 different forms.”

“So basically what we do is, we submit the required documents once, unless there are any specific requirements by a

particular agency. The application form for that particular fast track can be found on bizFiji.com and the application is actually lodged at one single point and is lodged at the Doing Business Reform Unit at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport.”

“It is literally a one-stop shop. At the moment, the process is, we have to still deal with it manually, but that is only because COVID has delayed it slightly but the entire applications and approvals process will be done online.

“The digitalisation of the building process is part of the larger Government digitalisation plan which has already received great positive results.”

Ministry targets emergency services

SONAM SAMI

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services has been consistently working on improving the specialist field of emergency medicine in Fiji.

This was highlighted by Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete who also said this is to elevate the standards of services provided at the Emergency Department in hospitals, as well as the sub-divisional hospitals and health centres which deal with emergency cases on a regular basis.

While responding to a question during the recent Parliament session Minister Waqainabete said the Ministry focus has been on developing and up-skilling the workforce in emergency medicine, upgrading equipment, medical appliances and addressing the infrastructure requirements to effectively deliver the services.

“The collaboration with the Fiji National University for the establishment of the Post-Graduate Training in Emergency Medicine for specialist doctors exists because we believe that having local specialists will drive the development that is in vision for health,” Minister Waqainabete said.

The initial Post-Graduate programs that the Fiji National University offered was in the five main areas for surgery - anaesthesia, obstetrics, gynecology, internal medicine and pediatrics.

“Five doctors have just completed their Master's Degree in Emergency Medicine at FNU and are undergoing supervision for specialist registration. They have done the four years and they are doing another two or three years in terms of their supervision and peer review. At the moment, another 21 doctors are currently undertaking Post-Graduate training to become specialists in the field of emergency medicine in the near future,” Minister Waqainabete said.

“Training courses are also available for Emergency Department nurses and other support staff to upgrade their knowledge and skills in the care of patients in this department.”

Minister Waqainabete said the ministry is also upgrading emergency departments at the main divisional hospitals given their role as the main centres for specialist emergency medicine care.

“The Ministry has also invested in upgrading equipment and appliances and set aside the budgetary allocation each year to purchase and repair equipment and appliances for the department.”

Minister Waqainabete acknowledged the support of the Fijian Government to his ministry's vision of improving the specialist field of emergency medicine in Fiji.



NZ PM acknowledges Pacific islands' contributions

RONAL DEO

THE Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama attended the virtual event of the unveiling of the Pacific Islands War Memorial last week at the New Zealand High Commissioner's official residence.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern unveiled the new memorial to acknowledge the contribution of Pacific nations to military conflicts and the bonds shared with New Zealand.

"The Pacific Islands Memorial recognises the close relationship between Aotearoa New Zealand and other Pacific nations, acknowledging the region's contribution during times of conflict and the shared history that strengthens our bond today," Prime Minister Ardern said.

"Pacific Islanders and New Zealanders fought side by side during many conflicts, including the First and Second World Wars, although our history goes much deeper than that. As a Pacific nation itself, Aotearoa is connected to all our Pacific neighbours by history, culture, politics, people, language and shared interests."

The design depicts a bronze conch shell, a symbol deeply rooted in Pacific cultures.

The Pacific Islands Memorial is a joint initiative by the New Zealand Ministry for Culture and Heritage

The President of Fiji, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, Fijian Minister for Defence Inia Seruiratu, Speaker of the Fijian House of Representatives Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and other diplomatic corp. were also present at the event.

Govt has your back, PM tells sector

MAREANI GONEDUA

"YOUR Government has your back."

This was the assurance given by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama to every Fijian who has seen their livelihoods lost or severely impacted due to the pandemic, while officiating at the 23rd Annual ANZ Fiji Excellence in Tourism Awards in Nadi.

"Your Government has already directly paid out over \$118 million in unemployment benefits. That support has gone mostly to Fijians in the tourism sector, even those who have managed to secure work on the weekends. It will continue."

PM Bainimarama highlighted that no one was in this struggle alone, and that this was not the first time that an outsized opponent is being faced.

"We are the same people who proved ourselves stronger than Category 5 storms. The same people who pulled ourselves out of the global financial crisis and propelled ourselves into Fiji's longest ever economic expansion."

"So, while we may be down, we're not out."

We are a strong people, and we are a resilient people — we've proven it before, and we'll prove it again.

PM Bainimarama stated that Fijians are smart, determined and are dedicated.

"So, knowing that our most important element — our human capital — stands in waiting, we are continuing to find ways to ensure our tourism is ready to be kick-started as quickly and safely as possible."

"From our Blue Lanes for yachts to "Vacation in Paradise" VIP Lanes, to our ongoing support of the "Love Our Locals" campaign, we have showed the world that we are willing and able to innovate and adapt to support our vital tourism industry. But we all know we need something bigger, much bigger, to restore Fijian tourism as a driving force for our economy."

The PM reiterated that the Fijian Government will continue to push our regional neighbours like Australia and New Zealand to open their doors, and their hearts, to a travel bubble with Fiji, especially now that they've started vaccinating their citizens.

"With over 330 days since our last community case of COVID-19 in Fiji, there's simply no excuse that they cannot find a safe way to do so. We have made it known, we will continue to make it known, that Fiji belongs in a quarantine-free regional travel arrangement for the Pacific."

"That remains our best course towards getting your businesses — and the Fijians they employ — back to doing what they do best."

Meanwhile, the awardees labelled the ceremony as being a morale booster for them given the current situation the tourism industry is facing.

Fiji Pride Champion, Kinijioji Sarai who has been serving in the tourism industry for over a decade says tourism has been part of his life since childhood and having to receive the award is an honour and a motivator.

"This award has not only encouraged me to keep pushing forward even though the industry is facing challenges, I am sure that the skills I have can be used in other places where I can motivate people to keep striving for their goals."

Holi hailed as reward for decisive action

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJIANs are able to celebrate festivals like Holi as this is "the precious reward for the decisive action we took to spare Fiji from an outbreak of the coronavirus".

In his message to those celebrating Holi, the Hindu festival of colours, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said such festivities are a blessing as due to the global pandemic, the chances of safely celebrating this year cannot be taken for granted.

"In our COVID-contained country, Fijians can throw powder, enjoy delicacies, and share treasured time among friends and family. Drawing on that human connection, let us live the message of love, hope and renewal that Holi represents," the Head of Government said.

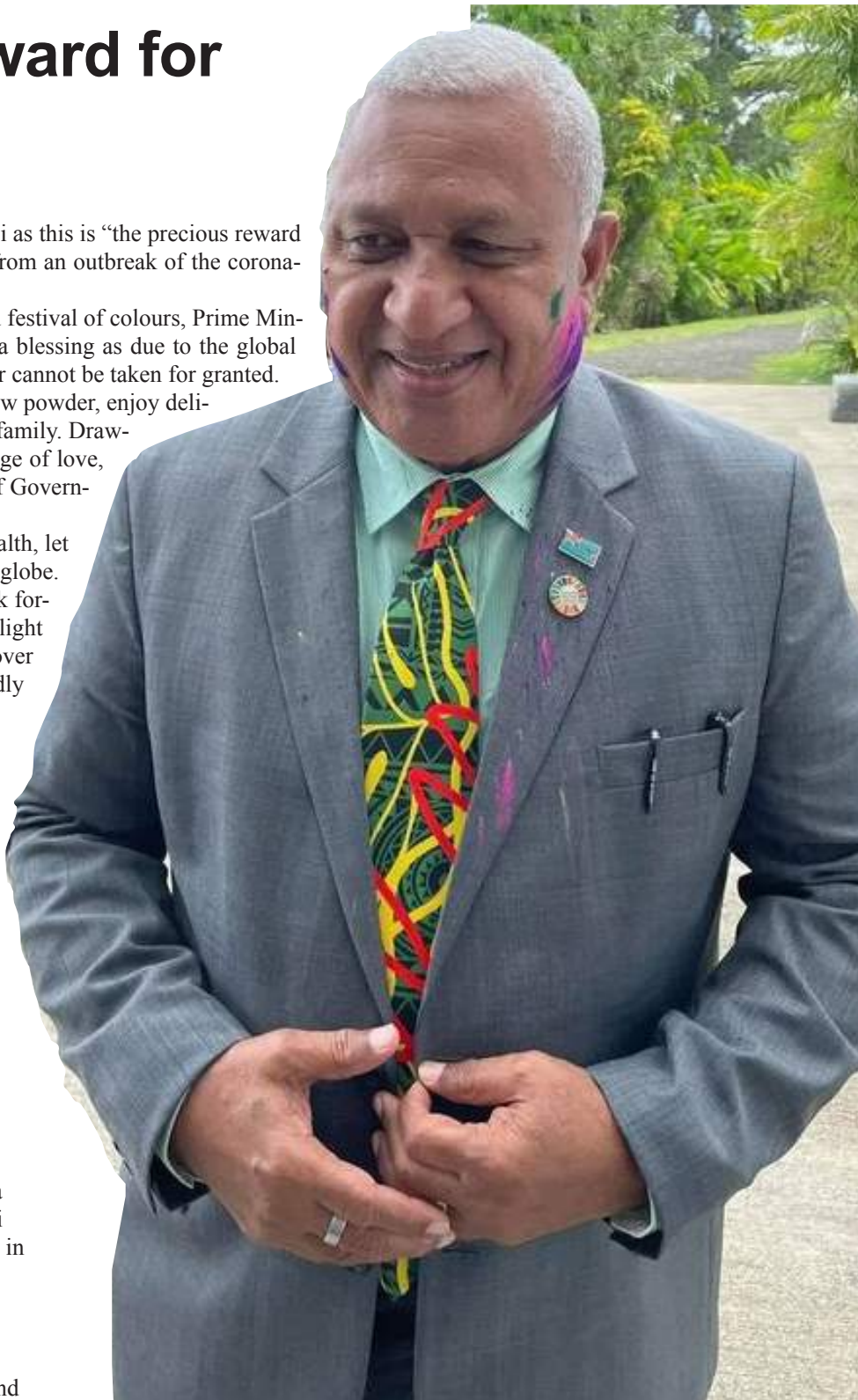
"As we celebrate with the good fortune of good health, let us pray for the wellbeing of all people across the globe. With the world's recovery within reach, we can look forward to the day when the light of humanity triumphs over the darkness of this deadly pandemic."

Holi was marked throughout the world by Hindus this week and schools that are managed by Hindu organisations were closed.

Minister for Education, Rosy Akbar also participated in the festivities as she attended a few of the celebrations held in some schools and her own Ministry.

Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Veena Bhatnagar celebrated Holi with the Brahma Kumaris in Pacific Harbour.

She said, "On this auspicious day, we should get rid of all the ill-feelings towards each other and spread happiness".



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama celebrates Holi during a break from the March sitting of Parliament last week. Photo: SUPPLIED



Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Veena Bhatnagar celebrates Holi with the Brahma Kumaris at Pacific Harbour, Deuba. Photo: SUPPLIED

Govt out to fix tsunami warning system

SONAM SAMI

THE Fijian Government is committed to improving the effectiveness of the tsunami warning system.

Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu highlighted this in Parliament recently.

Minister Seruiratu said the warning system was shared between the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre, the Mineral Resources Department, where they have the Seismology Observatory Team, and the Ministry of Rural Development and Disaster Management.

"We have about eight seismic stations in Fiji, in Dasamu; Nasinu Village; Nabukelevu i Ra; Yasawa i Rara; Mua in Taveuni; Tubou in Lakeba and Dogotuki in Vanua Levu.

"We also have three tide gauges, one in Lautoka Wharf, one in Suva Wharf and one in Vatia in Ba and Tavua area."

Minister Seruiratu said the detection and the communication of the information is where some of the challenges lies.

"But as I have said, it can be improved and Government is committed to make the improvements".

"Now we have about 13 sirens within the greater Suva area, starting from Nadawa to Lami. We have this concentration because that is the concentration of our economic activities as well and heavily populated too."

"We have also been able to secure some funding and that funding has been signed and confirmed that we will start this project in November this year where we will install an additional 26 sirens for Viti Levu."

Minister Seruiratu added the 26 sirens locations have been identified and it will start from the Kiuva, Tailevu area right up to Lautoka.

"The Ministry has conducted over 300 trainings in almost all the four divisions - training our people to manage their own disaster responses should they receive alert."

"It is effective for now but can be improved and, of course, Government is committed in making those improvements."

Youth back climate plan, 2020 Bill

AZARIA FAREEN

IT is imperative to engage young Fijians to actively participate as agents of change as they can positively influence their fellow peers to join the fight against climate change.

This was the important message shared by the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations and Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar as he highlighted on the first ever three day National Youth Climate Action Summit held in Suva recently.

This forum brought together about 200 young Fijians who deliberated on climate change issues affecting their daily lives and the nation as a whole.

"Youths play a vital role in the

decision-making process and their potential as key agents for social change, innovation and future leadership places them at the heart of building up resilience to worsening climate impacts," Minister Kumar said.

"The summit also gave considerations to the Healthy Environments for Healthy Children Global Programme Framework 2021 by UNICEF as the Committee on the Rights of the Child has identified climate change as one of the biggest threats to children's health and is urging states to place it at the centre of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies."

"The highlight of the Summit was the lively, innovative and robust discussions on Day 3 between youths on how the draft Climate

Change Bill can be improved and factors that it must consider to ensure that it is inclusive and truly representative of youth priorities," he added.

Minister Kumar said the discussion sessions not only provided youths an opportunity to voice their concerns and priorities relating to climate change but also delivered a guideline to create their own action plans outlining climate justice for their communities.

The youth participants recommended establishing a National Youth Climate Change Advisory Group to amplify the voices of young people which will contribute to the governance and oversight of climate change-related issues in the National Climate Change Coordination Committee.

"This will strengthen mechanisms, frameworks and financial support for the inclusion and active participation of Fijian youths irrespective of gender and abilities within all policy-making and planning processes at national, regional and international level including participation of young people in the official Government delegation," Minister Kumar said.

The Bill consolidates and supports the Ministry's approach in climate change programs such as Youth Coast Care clubs, Waste care and Management and Certificate I in Resilience program which covers Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation which will be implemented in the youth training centres in the new financial year.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with youth participants during the two-day National Youth Climate Action Summit at Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva. INSET: Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Minister for Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar at Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva. Photos: NANISE NEIMILA

You were born into a world in which words and phrases like "climate refugees" and "village relocation" — concepts that were unheard of when I was your age — are tragically common points of discussion in Summits like this one

Voreqe Bainimarama
Prime Minister



Learn, advocate climate woes, PM tells youth

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJIAN youths have been urged to be vocal about the effects of climate change by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently at the National Youth Climate Action Summit.

Over 200 youths from around the country converged at the two-day summit.

"You were born into a world in which words and phrases like "climate refugees" and "village relocation" — concepts that were unheard of when I was your age — are tragically common points of discussion in Summits like this one," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"I share your frustration. Nothing pains me more than seeing world leaders actively ignoring the existence of a crisis that they helped create a crisis that they won't live to see the consequences

of. Their inaction is infuriating. But where I find great frustration in my generation, I find great hope in yours."

Etonia Usa of Waitabu, Lakeba, felt that the summit is a very important one especially from his perspective since they come from a small island and the effect of climate change can be felt throughout.

"After this summit we will put together a plan to help our fellow villagers counter the effect of climate change. We truly felt this after the two cyclone that came earlier this year as there was a lot of coastal erosion and we wish to counter this after this summit," Usa said.

Youth participants were encouraged also to read the Climate Change Bill and its development defining piece of legislation.

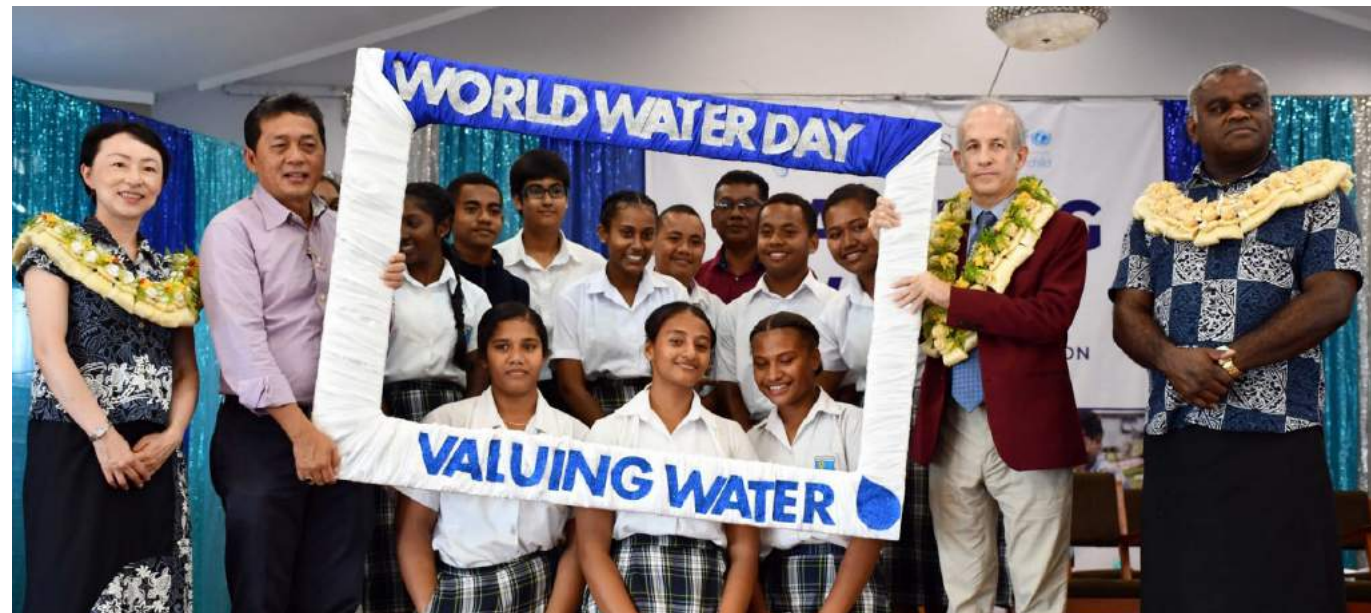
"I want you to know that your nation is leading on this issue. Fiji is committed to achieving

net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We are not a major emitter, we all know that. Fiji contributes around point zero, zero six percent of total greenhouse gas emissions.

"But that does not make us too small to make a difference. No nation is. And we have a groundbreaking Climate Change Bill in the consultation process that will keep us accountable to our net-zero ambition," Usa said.

Sitiveni Saveneca of Navatu, Cakaudrove said he hopes to be advocate for the fight against climate change and this summit will be a step forward in that direction.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Pacific Representative, Sheldon Yett said they were honoured about this collaboration to provide a platform dedicated to amplifying the voices of youth on the climate crisis.



Water Day inspires people to use vital resource wisely

"Observing International Water Day is to inspire people all over the world to learn more about water-related issues, to take action and to make a difference." This was the statement by Minister for Infrastructure, Jone Usamate at the World Water Day celebrations. With the theme 'Valuing Water', Minister Usamate added that World Water Day 2021 focused on topics

relevant to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, which is in line with Fiji's targets on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "The theme is aimed to encourage people all around the world to think about and realise the importance of water and what it means to them." Minister Usamate highlighted that the

right for everyone to have clean and safe water, and the Fijian Government, the Water Authority of Fiji and other agencies are making sure that they can live up to that target. World Water Day was celebrated with primary and secondary school students competing in oratory contests and a poster competition.

Photos: FELIX LESINAIVALU



\$3m road network a blessing for villagers

Crossing flooded creeks and traversing swampy areas is now a thing of the past for villagers of Namata, Tailevu, after Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama commissioned a \$3million road network recently. Prime Minister Bainimarama said the new road extension would make life easier and safer for the children who must use the roads to walk to school, and the farmers who needed good roads to get their produce to the market and bring the supplies and equipment they needed.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Fight for gender equality, law students told

RUPENI WAQAVONO

LAW students around the country have been urged to hold gender equality issues as the mainstay of their legal career.

While officiating at the Inter Tertiary Law School Moot Competition, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa, said the law is a key contributor to the advancement of gender equality and empowerment of women.

“I am pleased to know that the theme for this Inter Tertiary Law School Moot Competition is based exclusively on gender issues, especially on rights of young women in education, gender discrimination in workplaces and women’s economic empowerment.”

“Advancing gender equality requires the changing of mind-sets and this can be done

through advocacy, awareness programs, legal reform, settling legal issues through court cases, and indeed restructuring archaic social, economic, and legal systems and mechanisms which have entrenched patriarchy in its make up.”

Minister Vuniwaqa said that the spirit of winning this Moot competition must be the same for the law students when they go out and practice law in the gender context in the bigger world.

“In Fiji and across the globe, the economic impacts of COVID-19 are being disproportionately felt by women. Across the world, women and girls are facing increased domestic violence, unpaid care duties, unemployment and poverty.”

“Each fight for gender equality will be a fight worth fighting – not only for present times but for every generation that will follow.”

Minister Vuniwaqa also added that the Fijian Government recognised the gendered impact of COVID-19 and is prioritising the importance of gender responsive national recovery plans and the critical role that all women and girls play as leaders and in building resilience.

“Collectively, we can all pledge to create an inclusive and equal Fiji and act towards it. As students gearing to enter one of the most important fields in making Human Rights real, the responsibility to have gender lenses is extremely crucial and the fire to fight for justice, fairness and equality must always remain ignited within you.”

Minister Vuniwaqa also thanked the Inter Tertiary Law School Moot Competition organisers for basing this year’s Moot competition on gender-based violence to mark Internationals Women’s Day celebrations in Fiji.

Stop gender violence ‘before it starts’

RUPENI WAQAVONO

ANATIONWIDE consultation and dialogue has been undertaken this year to raise awareness on the development of the country’s first National Action Plan (NAP) to Prevent Violence against All Women and Girls.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa, while officiating at the Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality NAP Consultation in Lautoka.

Minister Vuniwaqa stressed that Fiji has widespread violence against women and girls in both public and private spaces and that violence against women and girls has become a national crisis.

“We have one of the highest recorded rates of violence against women and girls globally; with almost two out of three women who have been subjected to physical or sexual violence in their lifetime,” she said.

Minister Vuniwaqa said that Fiji is the first Pacific Island Country to start developing a national action plan to prevent violence against all women and girls.

“This is historic for our humble Pacific Island nation. I truly believe that with a whole of population, whole of government, evidence-based, inclusive and funded National Action Plan we will be better placed than ever before to prevent violence against all women and girls in Fiji.

Minister Vuniwaqa highlighted that last month over 50 personnel from various partner organisations (civil society, women rights and faith-based) and ministries participated in a 2-day orientation workshop for the Fiji NAP consultations.

“We are expanding our team of Facilitators who will assist the Fiji NAP consultations in our whole of population approach.

“The national consultations are targeting a minimum of 2500 participants across the nation, throughout the 13 key settings. And we are grateful to conduct the first round of consultations for the year, here in the western division,” Minister Vuniwaqa said.

Minister Vuniwaqa added that the Fijian Government recognises its obligation to prevent violence against all women and girls.

“Together we can put measures in place to stop violence before it starts, such as building safe spaces in schools and workplaces, promoting positive family relationships, encouraging women and girls’ empowerment, and teaching boys that strength comes from respect and integrity, not from violence.

The Minister added that it will take a holistic, comprehensive, and long-term approach however it can be done.



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa with women graduates at the Ba Women’s Forum Training Centre.
 Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

Women empowerment ‘critical’

RUPENI WAQAVONO

THE economic empowerment of women is one sure way to alleviate poverty and in the post COVID world, it especially holds immense strength to get economies back on their feet.

These were the sentiments made by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa while officiating at the graduation of the Ba Women’s Forum Training Centre.

“Women’s rights are human rights and the human rights case for gender equality is unarguable. The human development, economic and business gains from empowering women are substantial. Greater gender equality means a country is associated with better education and health, higher per capita income, faster and more inclusive economic growth, and greater international competitiveness.”

Minister Vuniwaqa stressed that issues

on adverse stereotypes and implicit biases in society must be addressed including the implementation of women friendly policies and projects to promote greater economic participation of women in national development.

“We must because the impact of women’s economic participation is life changing in most cases, especially when women are able to stand economically independent and reinvest their earnings in their families and households.

Minister Vuniwaqa said that unfortunately, success stories as such are often overshadowed by stories of persistent and grave human rights violations of women and girls.

In countries around the world, and our very own nation, women and girls continue to be viciously attacked or beaten, raped and even killed.

“Yet even out of these horrific events we can see that things are changing, that indifference is declining and voices are rising to

say, enough is enough.

“We need to dig deep - to patriarchal culture, discriminatory socio-cultural practices, unequal distribution of social, cultural and economic power and the economic disempowerment of women. We need awareness-raising, and education, and engagement of both men and women.

“I have said it many times, and I will say it again: we need to engage men and boys as partners in our efforts for gender equality; and on that note I take this time to thank the husbands/partners and male elders of the graduates’ families for accepting the change and for supporting these women to come out of their comfort zones and engaging in their growth as income earners, as contributors in the family, as equal partners in development within their homes, communities and ultimately the nation, as future entrepreneurs, and as role models for other women who have similar aspirations.”

Dr Reddy: No compromises on environment

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“A CLEAN and healthy environment is essential for the health and wellbeing of the public, as well as the natural ecosystems and their ability to continue to provide life-sustaining ecosystem services.”

These were the sentiments shared by Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy during his ministerial statement, which focussed on recycling and waste management, in Parliament recently.

Minister Reddy said a clean environment does directly affect the health status, playing a major role in the quality of life, number of years of healthy life lived and other health disparities.

“There are countries around the world who take great pride in marketing their country as a tourism destination by showcasing how clean their country is and no visitor wants to visit a country whose environment is not clean as it can be a health hazard.”

Minister Reddy said an average Fijian produces about 0.7 kilogramme of waste per day.

“Waste generated in the Central Division can be split into two major categories and these are household wastes brought in by municipal councils and commercial and industrial wastes brought in by waste managers.”

“We have continued to exceed the year-on-year 90,000 tonnes mark at Naboro Landfill since 2017 and this is a clear reflection of the growth in consumerism of the economy.”

However, Minister Reddy said it is also a reflection that people are still not concerned and not undertaking, at least, by choice, reducing waste or recycling waste.

“The urgent need for the hour is, while we continue to push for economic growth, we must not compromise on our environment.”

“We are custodians of our environment for our future generations.”

Minister Reddy stated the generations in the future have a right to enjoy the same level of natural resources and environment quality as we are enjoying now.

“We must make attempts to recycle waste, at least, those that are generated by us and allow others who are willing to recycle waste to pick up and use it.”

“The Ministry cannot do it alone. We need a national movement to protect our country, our environment, our natural resources, not only for ourselves but for future generations as well.”

More Fijians aided with home ownership scheme

About 334 families have been assisted under the scheme. A total of 184 families received the grant to construct their first home, 110 families received the grant to purchase their first home and 40 families received the grant to purchase their first land.

FELIX LESINAIVALU

OVER 300 families have been assisted under the Home Ownership Programme by the Fijian Government.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar said in Parliament recently that 334 families have been assisted under this programme through the First Home Purchase and First Land Purchase initiative.

Minister Kumar said what is more important is the level of economic activity this particular programme has created.

“The assistance provided under this Programme helped Fijians to borrow from financial institutions in excess of \$42 million. It simply means, we gave \$5m but they borrowed \$42m and by borrowing \$42m from the various financial institutions, definitely creates opportunities for economic activities.”

“The demand for the grant has been overwhelming, the Ministry has received a further 152 applications and this will require just over \$3m to service these applications,” Minister Kumar said.

Minister Kumar added that additional applicants have had their loans already approved to a sum of \$20m.

“Given the overall positive impact of this Programme on the Fijian economy, the good news is, the Minister for Economy will be redirecting additional funds to support these applicants who will be supported within this financial year. It is not only helping Fijians to build and own a home, but it is also contributing hugely to our financial sector as well as to our construction

industry and the supply chain.”

The Ministry of Housing and Community Development was set up in the Year 2018 to be a separate Ministry so that it can achieve the Government’s vision of increasing home ownership across the country.

The First Home Ownership Initiative was introduced in 2014 with an aim to provide affordable and quality housing for Fijians in the low- and middle-income category.

Since its inception, the Ministry has assisted a total of 2978 Fijian households with the total pay-out in excess of \$28.6m.

“The Ministry is continuing with its Home Ownership Initiative through First Home Purchase and First Land Purchase Programmes and providing interest rates subsidy to assist Fijians to purchase or construct their first home and there good news as the programme is going to continue in the next financial year and it will benefit a number of Fijians to realise their dream of owning their first home,” Minister Kumar said.

\$28.7m workers compensation paid out



AZARIA FAREEN

OVER a 10 year period, the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations has recorded a total of 11,558 workplace injury cases being investigated which comprise 86 per cent injury and 14 per cent death cases.

This was revealed by the line Minister Parveen Kumar in Parliament recently who noted that “a total of 4007 injury cases were paid out amounting to a sum of \$15,460,996.02”.

“This comprises 2941 private sector injury cases with a compensation payment of \$8,576,548.15 and 1066 injury cases for Government with a compensation payment of \$6,884,447.87,” Minister Kumar said.

“Over the same period there were a total of 563 deaths with a total compensation paid at \$13,296,413.76. It comprises a total of 65 death cases in the private sector with a compensation sum of \$1,510,185.44 paid compared to 498 deaths in the public sector with a total compensation payment of \$11,786,228.32.”

“I am pleased to report that over the 10-year period my Ministry managed to settle and close about 10,768 cases equivalent to 93 per cent of all the reported cases,” he added.

Minister Kumar added that in total over the same period and as of March 12, 2021, the total compensation payment of \$28,757,409.78 was made to the workers who were injured and to the dependents of the deceased workers.

“Workers Compensation is an important element

of the work of the Ministry to ensure that the rights of workers and employers in such instances are looked after under the ambit of the relevant legislations,” Minister Kumar said.

“It also ensures that we have in place regulations and implementation frameworks to ensure that rightful compensation is made where it is due.”

The reported compensation cases over the last five years revealed that the top four high risk industries where the majority of the reported workplace accidents occurred were the construction industry, wholesale and retail trade, restaurant and hotels, manufacturing and among statutory authorities.

Minister Kumar added that of the 790 pending cases, the Ministry has completed the process of 50 per cent of the cases and this comprises of 166 cases (21 per cent) for unlocated workers, 62 cases (8 per cent) awaiting medical reports from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, 133 cases (17 per cent)

are before the Employment Relations Tribunal for determination and 30 cases (4 per cent) are still on recovery period before the final medical assessment is carried out.

There are 50 per cent or 395 pending cases currently under investigation by the Ministry which have implemented the following measures to effectively clear these cases:

- Established a Task Force Teams in all Divisions from 27 February 2019 till to date
- Maintain close liaison with the Consultant Occupational Physician in conducting final medical assessment for injured workers to determine the percentage of permanent disability
- Continue to publish names of unlocated workers on my Ministry’s Facebook page

Minister Kumar further adds that the Ministry’s Workers Compensation Unit, as part of its proactive strategy is also targeting the top four most high risk industries with its OHS inspections and training to ensure compliance to the minimum workplace safety standards.



National plan boosts access to land

NANISE NEIMILA

THE National Development Plan is Fiji's most comprehensive long-term strategy which places priority on reforms that improve access to land.

This was statement made Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while speaking on the motion on Follow-up Audit on the Management of the Land Reform Programme during parliament held recently.

Prime Minister Bainimarama

said the productive utilisation of land was an important priority for any country.

"Fiji has always placed great emphasis on better utilisation of natural resources, while ensuring a sustainable future for all Fijians. Under this Government we have come far in appropriately managing the development of land."

"This includes the review of administrative processes, digitisation of land records and capacity-building to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of

land-use administration.

"The Land Reform Programme discussed today was first initiated in 2010 and has since evolved. We now have more Fijians benefiting from investing in their land than ever before."

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted the old leasing system would have seen only a select few benefit while the rest of the mataqali would only receive scraps.

"This has changed through this Government's commitment to equal distribution of lease mon-

ies for iTaukei landowners.

"If lands are held communally, then all must share fairly in the revenue those lands produce. A modern nation cannot tolerate a feudal system. Not only has this Government created more wealth for iTaukei Fijians, but we have also ensured that there is fair distribution of this wealth so that everyone can benefit.

"The audit is part of our ongoing need to continue improving and to ensure that the programme continues to produce increased benefits to landowners."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while contributing to the motion on the Follow-up Audit on the Management of the Land Reform Programme during the March sitting of Parliament. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

Govt spends \$4.7m on land buy-back scheme

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Government has expended over \$4.7million on the land buy-back scheme a project under the land reform programme.

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while contributing to the motion on the Follow-up Audit on the Management of the Land Reform Programme during the March sitting of Parliament.

The Head of Government said this amount was utilised to purchase 26 parcels of freehold land on behalf of the landowning units, and owners of three of the parcels have already repaid their debt and own the land free and clear.

Repayment as stipulated in the Sale and Purchase Agreement is for a period of 30 years.

"The Land Reform Programme holds many long-term opportunities for the country and

its people," PM Bainimarama told Parliament.

"It reflects this Government's commitment to equality for all Fijians: equality in law, equality of opportunity, equality of representation, and equality in the distribution of Government services.

"This Government has never shied away from making necessary changes for the benefit of all Fijians.

"The marked improvement compared to previous Governments is obvious to anyone, especially those directly benefitting from our more inclusive approach."

Prime Minister Bainimarama has reassured Parliament that the Government is doing its part to encourage landowners to use their land for maximum productivity.

Through the Ministry of Agriculture, 116 farmers in the Western Division were given their first payment as part of the 'Cash for

Cultivation' programme.

This is part of Government's effort to ensure food security and help our agriculture sector recover in the wake of Tropical Cyclones Yasa and Ana.

"This and other assistance are available through the Ministry of Agriculture to boost our agriculture sector, which is always critically important to Fiji but has become a mainstay of the economy over the last 12 months. Our land has great potential to provide for every Fijian.

"But it is essential that we seize the opportunity to realize real returns from land, now and in the longer-term.

"Self-interest is a powerful motivator, and if we can help our landowners raise their incomes by using their land more efficiently and by producing more, we will have created opportunity and served the entire nation well."

Land availability hampers development

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE growth of the agricultural sector and development has binding constraints – one of which is the availability of land.

This was the explanation given by the Minister for Agriculture Dr Mahendra Reddy on the question of land availability for agricultural development in the March sitting of Parliament.

Minister Reddy said modern Fiji and the status of its national development was due to the development in the agriculture sector and that is out of the normal for any developing country.

Expanding further, he said it can therefore be justly stated that Fiji's contemporary state of development was a result of the availability and supply of land for agriculture.

The process of land leases requires potential investors to look at the size of land, length of lease and the processing fee and rental rates.

"Had it not been for the availability and supply of land for agriculture, we would not have seen surplus creations in agriculture and we would not have seen transfer of that surplus for the development and expansion of the non-agricultural sector."

"It is normal that the surplus created by individual decision-making units will search for areas where returns are higher and the surplus will go to that particular area in pursuit of that higher return," Minister Reddy stated.

He also stated the importance of utilising Fiji's valuable resources to ensure that resource owners are able to generate a positive return.

"We are working very closely with the Deputy General Manager of iTLTB in assisting farmers. We get a lot of requests from investors within and outside Fiji to invest in the agriculture sector and they are looking for large parcels of land. We are working on that to see how we could work with iTLTB and identify to them that these are the large parcels of land.

"But we also need to be mindful of how we move land away from virgin forest and what will be the impact on climate change, how we need to manage that and have that critical balance," he said.

Minister Reddy reiterated that as the national economy grows, the surplus created will be distributed amongst participants in these sectors – beneficiaries will include landowners, owners of factors of production, labourers, households and farmers and other markets will benefit in the commercial sector.

Fiji eyes Pacific tourism market

MEREANI GONEDUA

PLANS are now progressing to look to the Pacific to boost Fiji's tourism industry.

Speaking in Parliament last week, Minister for Commerce, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya highlighted that based on its growing success for the 'Love our Locals' campaign, Tourism Fiji is now looking to the Pacific.

"The local tourism market will be part of Tourism Fiji's marketing strategies also even after the borders open, and based on the growing success of our 'Love Our Locals', we are now embarking on the Pacific as a key source market and the preliminary focus will be to capitalise on existing leisure segment with the outlook of developing meetings, conventions and events.

"Our preparation also includes harnessing our strengths and creating the actual sectoral linkages and we are looking at supporting our MSMEs

and including the requirement of having locally grown produce in the criteria for the funding and I think this was also mentioned earlier by the Minister for Agriculture about how we collaborate and get all of these things done.

"Since the launch of the local event fund, we have supported events including the Fiji Festival in Suva, the Namosi Marathon, Beach Beats and Eats, Leleuvia Ocean Swim, A Sustainable Fashion with a Purpose and the Fiji Super 7s Series. With the other part of it also as the Care Fiji Commitment (CFC) and CFC programme we actually received global recognition by the World Travel and Tourism Council."

"With this recognition, travellers can recognise destinations and businesses that are adopting health and hygiene protocols that are aligned with WTTC's Global Safe Travels Protocols.

"To date, we have registered nearly 200 wellness ambassadors across the

industry with about 400 businesses signed up and as I am updating this particular House, with the support, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, we are out actually conducting second round of the CFC roadshow.

It has now been over 330 days since last outside border case and much of the success is owed to the Fijian COVID Safe Economic Recovery Framework.

Minister Koya said under the framework the Government and relevant agencies have implemented safe entry for both leisure and non-leisure travel and to date about 103 yachts, 438 passenger and crew under the Blue Lanes initiative have been welcomed.

"To spread the associated economic activities, we are now working with relevant stakeholders also to see if we can designate Savusavu as an additional port of entry and as we all know Savusavu is a wonderful destination for yachters."



Minister for Commerce, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya says that based on its growing success for the 'Love our Locals' campaign, Tourism Fiji is now looking to the Pacific. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE COVID-19 pandemic caused major disruptions in the progress of the new Ba hospital and operations will now begin later this year.

In an update to Parliament last week on the hospital's progress, Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete stated that the public private partnership is the first of its kind and planning is vital before the operations begin.

"Under the Public Private Partnership Agreement, the Clinical Services would be provided which includes specialist outpatient services, emergency services, Dialysis, Cardiac Catheterisation, Cardiovascular Surgery, Adult Intensive Care, Paediatrics Intensive Care, High Dependency Care, Coronary Care, Neonatal Care, Chemotherapy, Medical Oncology, Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, Trauma Orthopaedic Stress Management, Gynaecology, Diabetes Care, Paediatrics, Burns and Plastic Surgery, to name a few. These services are tied to very specific key performance parameters.

"The COVID-19 pandemic caused major disruption, including the ability for them to actually begin last year as the chief executive officer and her staff were not able to come through.

"As such, operation details are currently being discussed with Government and Health Care Fiji and plans are in place to progress the project with the opening of the Ba Hospital Operation in the second half of 2021.

"This should be followed by the Lautoka Hospital. It is now equally important, that project design in corporate health standards are new trend driven by the COVID-19 concerns.

"The National Health Capability Development and capacity building will be at the forefront of the partnership.

"The presence of the Health Care Fiji Chief Executive Officer in the country is an indication that work has progressed and it just a matter of time when this project will be fully large and significantly uplift the provision of tertiary care in the country.



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete during Parliament session last week. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

Pandemic delays hospital's operations

Dr Waqainabete also highlighted that training and capacity building programmes will be implemented not only for the Health Care Fiji (HCF), staff but there will be opportunities for wider health community nurses, doctors and other health professionals.

"The intention of this company HCF is to develop training models with FNU and the learned medical colleges in Australia and New Zealand for post-graduate medical training. I hear that already discussions are happening with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in this respect."

The Minister highlighted that training will be conducted on a job through expatriates' clinical educators within this area.

"HCF has also signed an MOU with a major Australian university who would be bringing Australian students to Lautoka and Ba Hospitals for clinical placements in areas of general nursing, midwifery and para-medicine. In exchange for access to clinical placement, the university will provide on-site training to our staff and HCF nursing staff in addition to that by Health Care Fiji."

Dredging helps minimise flooding

MEREANI GONEDUA

TO overcome the issue of flooding in Ba, dredging works and the clearing off the Ba River is needed.

This is so that excessive water that comes downstream can be discharged in the shortest period of time.

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy, while responding to questions in the March sitting of Parliament, said the Ba River needs to be dredged five kilometres downstream from the Ba Bridge and 14 kilometres upstream from the Ba Bridge so a total of 19 kilometres.

Minister Reddy added Ba Town has been severely affected by recent floods and the contributing factor is the excessive rain that is happening in the catchment and downstream.

"Of course, there are certain processes that need to be followed which we, on our part are undertaking, for example, we are now undertaking scoping of the entire 19 kilometres of the Ba River," he said.

"We will be getting the fishing rights waiver, we will be going through the process with the Ministry of Lands to fulfil all the obligations and with their concurrence, we will be engaging a number of operators to dredge the Ba River."

It is estimated to cost around \$3 million with a total of 1.5 cubic metres of silt material that is needed to be dredged from the Ba River.

"The river mouth has an exclusive licence to the mining companies and we are in discussion with them through the Ministry of Lands to do the rightful thing, to move the machine and to open up the river mouth. If they do not do that then, we will have to relook at their contract because they cannot hold the Ba community at ransom."

He highlighted that a selection of companies will be done and engagement of a number of contracts with the private sector to do the dredging.



The Fiji National Kidney Centre at Nadera, Nasinu, has the capacity to serve up to 40 patients who are seen three times per week for dialysis. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Kidney centre revamps health outcomes

SONAM SAMI

THE new Fiji National Kidney Centre recently opened in Nadera aims to lead the way to a holistic, prevention and treatment of kidney diseases for Fijians in the Nasinu corridor.

The centre which was opened by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has the capacity to serve up to 40 patients who are seen three times per week for dialysis.

Consultant Nephrologist Dr Anis Ta'eed said the centre is currently running two nephrology clinics per week with 20 patient's being seen at a time which is forecasted to increase in the coming weeks and months.

"As of a fortnight ago we have started to dialyse a small group of patients which we know will increase steadily while ensuring that everything is working correctly," Dr Ta'eed said.

"There are two types of kidney diseases - acute kidney disease is when there is a rapid change in kidney function where we do acute dialysis. In the clinic we deal more with chronic kidney disease which has five stages - one being early stage and five being the end stage or kidney failure in a patient who are recommended for dialysis depending on their circumstances."

"Dialysis is only recommended on stage five and varies with individuals but in earlier stages the treatment that we provide is to try and prevent or slow the progression of kidney disease, try and maintain the kidney function for as long as they can so that they can avoid every recurring dialysis in the future," Dr Ta'eed added.

He adds that by far, the most common cause of kidney disease in Fiji is diabetes followed by high blood pressure, therefore, it is critical to ensure that these two causes are well controlled with strong emphasis on dietary intervention at the clinic.

"Patients examined by a doctor or a medical practitioner need to be referred to a specialist nephrologist if they believe they need special



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Consultant Nephrologist Dr Anis Ta'eed during the official opening of the Fiji National Kidney Centre at Nadera, Nasinu. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

input into their care in regards to kidney disease," he said.

"The national prevalence of kidney disease is between 13 to 14 percent of the general population but the 90 per cent of the public are unaware of having kidney disease as it doesn't result in any symptoms until the very last stage," he added.

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said the new clinic is a significant milestone on this ongoing journey towards improving the health outcomes in Fiji.

"We have been offering acute dialysis for a few years now in the Intensive Care Units in Lautoka and Labasa," he said.

"We now have the opportunity to offer chronic dialysis apart from the acute dialysis that is offered at the Colonial Memorial Hospital (CWM) for acutely unwell patients.

A few of those that are unwell at CWM have acute dialysis and quite a lot of them get better and don't need dialysis long term."

"The government subsidy for those who have a household income of \$30,000 or less is \$75 and those earning an income of more than \$30,000 pay \$150," he added.

The costs are borne by the government in terms of staffing, procurement of consumables and equipment and overall making sure that there are specialists on board looking after the patients with their teams to provide long-term support.

"People with kidney diseases can live the whole length of their life without needing dialysis so we begin with rescuing those that will actually tip overboard and then those that need dialysis and making sure that there are safe and efficient dialysis so that they are able to enjoy the quality of life as long as they

Youth are 'agents of change'

RONAL DEO

THE audio-visual industry is increasingly becoming a critical industry, especially in economic recovery post-COVID.

The Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya made these comments while launching the local movie 'Him - The Angry One' at Life Cinemas in Nakasi over the weekend.

Minister Koya said as a COVID-contained nation; "We have the freedom of movement, the freedom to safely resume opportunities like filming at a time where major economies still have the highest restrictions."

"We have put in place stringent quarantine protocols through the Fijian COVID Safe Economic Framework. It is important that all production adhere to the strict protocols for international arrivals. The procedures put in place have ensured that not only the film crew follow all the COVID quarantine procedures and that all Fijians are safe."

"Fiji's COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Taskforce has been working with relevant agencies such as Film Fiji, to set safe health and safety protocols. Today, this has enabled the US Survivor Series to begin shooting Season 41 and 42. The US Survivor has a budget of over \$91 million, and will be spending approximately \$30m. They will employ 400 Fijians during the production," Minister Koya said.

Speaking on the production, the Minister applauded the cast and crew, adding that through the real life experience based movie, the Director Rasika Reshma has tried to capture the struggle of a deportee and victim of substance abuse.

Minister Koya acknowledged the financial support of \$35,000 by Matrix Fiji, AP Legal, Life Cinema and Damodar Cinemas which made the production of the movie possible.

"Like never before, domestic film-makers should become empowered to become agile participants in economic activities. By investing in our film-makers, we are adding to their capacity to succeed."

"One of the best results of this production is that - through it - over 30 Fijians got jobs. And we all know how important securing employment is. I'm also glad to learn the production took place in the vicinities like Suva City, Vatuwaqa and Lami. This has opened up opportunities for more shootings to be held in these locations.

The Minister said he looks forward to more local movies being produced in the future.



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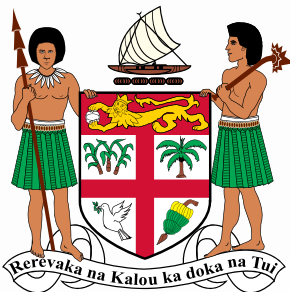
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FIJIANS PLANT 6.5M TREES IN TWO YEARS

AZARIA FAREEN

A FEW more numbers have been added to the six and a half million trees which have been planted to date under the Ministry of Forestry's 30 Million Trees in 15 Years initiative (30MT15Y).

This was after the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote participated in planting a chestnut tree (ivi tree) at the IVI Triangle and a few other plants at the State House in Suva to celebrate the International Day of Forests.

"In January 2019, I had the honour of launching Fiji's tree-planting revolution, which started off as four million trees in four years. Our new target now is 30 million trees in 15 Years (30MT15Y)," President Konrote said.

"This tree-planting and growing campaign is being implemented Fiji-wide, and I am pleased to announce that more than six million trees have been planted to date, and we will add a few more to that total this morning."

"This day celebrates and creates awareness on the importance of all types of forests and the need to preserve and care for the world's woodlands," President Konrote added.

"I invite all Fijians to participate in tree planting and growing to expand our forest areas and tree cover, even if this is just in your home gardens. When you plant a tree, you plant hope," he encouraged.

President Konrote was accompanied by the Ministry of Forestry permanent secretary, Pene Baleinabuli, Suva City Council chairman Isikeli Tikoduadua and key stakeholder representatives who took turns to plant a tree.

Mr Baleinabuli acknowledged and thanked President Konrote for championing Fiji's tree planting campaign and those working collectively to reach the 30MT15Y target.

"His Excellency is making a very good legacy for all Fijians, a legacy which will continue and we acknowledge your leadership," he said.

"Thank you for reminding us the importance of trees and nature to the environment in addressing climate change and its impact on humanity as well."

"We have been able to meet the current number due to collective efforts of all Fijians and visitors alike who believe in nature and who have come forward and led tree planting initiatives in the communities," he added.

President Konrote also launched a song composed and produced by PI and BillyBoy Productions, together with DJ WestSide titled "Voresi" which was inspired by the 30MT15Y campaign.

President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote (right), plants a chestnut tree (ivi tree) at the Ivi Triangle, Suva, to celebrate the International Day of Forests. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने चार
सौमिल दान किया

2

पानी की कीमत समझो
-मंत्री उसामाते

3

पीरिमिड स्क्रीम
गैर-कानूनी है

3

प्रधानमंत्री ने किडनी
सेन्टर खोला

6

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारासा, स्थानापन भारतीय राजदूत सर्दफ-उल्लाह खान, स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफिरैमी वेंगाईनवेते, रक्षा मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु, प्रधानमंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण के साथ स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव डाक्टर जईम्स फोंग भारत से मिले कोविड-19 दवा स्वीकार करने के लिए नान्दी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर चितः मेरयानी न्गोनेदुआ

कोविड दवा के लिए धन्यवाद

रेनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारासा ने भारत सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया है जिन्होंने कोविड-19 दवा की एक लाख (100,000) खुराक यानि डोज़स दान किया है। यह दवा इसी सोमवार की रात फीजी पहुँची।

“मैं अपने दोस्त प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदीजी तथा फीजी में भारतीय दूतावास को मानवता के लिए प्रतिबद्धता दिखाने के लिए धन्यवाद दे रहा हूँ। बहुपक्षीयता के लिए एक कमजोर वर्ष में, आपने दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी और सबसे अमीर देशों में महँगे टीके रखने वाली महामारी की राजनीति पर एक स्वागत योग्य ठहराव देने में मदद की है। आपका नेतृत्व भुलाया नहीं जाएगा,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

यह दवा, दुनिया के सबसे बड़े टीका उत्पादक सेरूम इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंडिया ने बनाई है। एस्ट्राज़ेनेका के साथ भारत में बने इन दवाओं के छः सौ मिलियन खुराक दुनिया भर में सप्तर

(70) से भी ज़्यादा देशों में बाँटे गए हैं।

विशेषज्ञों ने बताया है कि दुनिया में सभी लोग सुरक्षित तबही होंगे जब दुनिया के कोने-कोने तक यह दवा पहुँच जाएगी।

उन्होंने कहा कि यह वही दवा है जो कोवेक्स सुविधा के तहत फीजी को पहले मिली थी तथा यह एक और सुविधा है जो कड़ी मेहनत कर रही है ताकि हमारे लोग सुरक्षित हों। एस्ट्राज़ेनेका कोविड-19 दवा पर नवीनतम आकड़े दिखाते हैं कि ये सुरक्षित होने के साथ-साथ असरकारक भी है। फीजी इससे कम योग्य की दवा स्वीकार नहीं करेगा। दुनिया के होशियार दिमाग वालों ने जान बचाने वाली दवा बनाई और इसका परीक्षण किया जबकि कई मिलियन लोगों को इसके टीके लग गए हैं तथा हज़ारों लोगों को जान बचाई गई है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि इस दवा को विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन का मान्यता प्राप्त है तथा इसने फीजी के स्तर को भी पूरा किया है।

“मुझे यह कहते हुए गर्व महसूस हो रहा है

कि हमने सफलता पूर्वक कोविड-19 के छः हज़ार से ज़्यादा खुराक यानि डोज़स, सीमा पर तैनात कर्मचारियों, स्वास्थ्य मंत्री तथा मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव को लगा दिया है। कई मिलियन लोग जिन्हें यह टीके लग चुके हैं की तरह कुछ लोगों पर इसका विपरीत असर हुआ। इसकी उम्मीद पहले से की गई थी लेकिन कोई हादसा नहीं हुआ। इसका मतलब है कि शरीर अपने आपको इस वायरस से लड़ने की तैयारी कर रहा है।

मंत्रालय ने इसी वजह से 158 का हेल्प लाईन नम्बर रखा है ताकि लोगों को उनके सवालों का जवाब मिल सके।

भारत से मिले टीके सीमा पर बचे हुए कर्मचारियों, डाक्टरों, नर्सों, क्वारंटीन तथा होटल कर्मचारियों तथा सुरक्षाकर्मियों को लगेगें। मैंने रजिस्टर कर लिया है तथा कोविड के टीके लगवाने के लिए तैयार हूँ लेकिन हम पहले देश के कमज़ोर जनता को टीके लगाएंगे क्योंकि यह दवा जान बचाने और हमारे देश की अर्थ-

व्यवस्था को पुनःआरम्भ कर सकती है। हम अन्य लोगों की तरह कतार में इंतज़ार करेंगे जब मुझे और मेरे पूरे परिवार को यह सुईयाँ लगाई जाएंगी। प्रधानमंत्री ने उन हज़ारों फीजीवासियों को धन्यवाद दिया है जो रजिस्ट्रार हो चुके हैं। यह बेहद ज़रूरी है कि अद्वारह साल से उपर के लोग रजिस्टर हो क्योंकि इस दवा के दो खुराक लगाने की ज़रूरत है।

जब आप रजिस्ट्रार होंगे तो पहले खुराक के बाद स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के पास आपकी सारी जानकारी होगी कि दूसरे खुराक के लिए वे आपसे कैसे संपर्क करेंगे। सीमा के बाहर अभी भी लोगों को इस वायरस से खतरा है। हम अभी भी मुक्त नहीं हुए हैं इसलिए हमें अन्य देशों की तरह अपने आपको सुरक्षित करना है। यह टीके आधुनिक चिकित्सा में उपलब्धि के सबसे बड़े हिस्से हैं। आने वाले कुछ सप्ताह में कोविड दवा की नब्बे (9000) हज़ार खुराक यानि डोज़स फीजी पहुँच रहे हैं।



ग्रामीन तथा बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास तथा डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु, ऑस्ट्रेलियन राजदूत महामहीम जोन फिक्स से दान स्वीकार करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने चार सौमिल दान किया

रोनल देव

समुद्री आँधी आना के बाद सुधार के प्रयासों में फीजीयन सरकार को भारी समर्थन मिला है जब नेशनल

डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट ऑफिस के द्वारा ऑस्ट्रेलियन सरकार ने फीजी को चार पोटावल सौमिल दान किया है।

इन सौमिल्स की मदद से फोरस्ट्री मंत्रालय, गिरे हुए पेड़ों को घर बनाने

वाली लड़की में बदलेंगे ताकि असर पड़े समाज इनका उपयोग कर सकें। ग्रामीन तथा बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास तथा डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु ने कहा कि दान में मिले सौमिल सरकार की एक महत्वपूर्ण सम्पत्ति होगी जो सरकार की “बिल्डिंग बैक बेटा” वाली सुविधा में भारी सहयोग देगा।

“समुद्री आँधियों से घरों को लगातार नुकसान हो रहा है। समुद्री आँधी हेरल्ड के बाद हाउजिंग

मंत्रालय, फोरस्ट्री मंत्रालय तथा एन डी एम ओ ने गिरे पेड़ों से लकड़ियाँ निकालने की पहल की। मुझे यह जानकारी देते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि इस पहल के द्वारा चार सौ घर फिर से बनाए गए हैं,” मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने कहा। मंत्री सेरुईरातु के अनुसार एक लाख साठ हजार (160,000) से ज़्यादा लोगों का मूल्यांकन किया गया है, जबकि दो समुद्री आँधियों से पाँच हजार से ज़्यादा घरों पर असर पड़ा है। उनके अनुसार सरकार ने एक लाख तीस हजार (130,000) से ज़्यादा

भोजन राशन का पेक देश भर में बाँटा है तथा तीस हजार से ज़्यादा अन्य पेक्स बाँटे हैं जिनमें टेन्ड्स, शेल्टा टूल किट्स, टापुलिन, पानी साफ करने वाली गोलियाँ तथा वॉटर टेन्क्स वगैरह थे। “सरकार ने चार मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा खर्च किया है तथा वे असर पड़े समाजों की सहायता करना जारी रखेगी।”

ऑस्ट्रेलियन राजदूत महामहीम जोन फिक्स ने प्रकाश डाला कि फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच वूवाले साझेदारी के चलते यह सहायता देना सम्भव हुआ है। उन्होंने कहा कि फीजी की सेना ने ऑस्ट्रेलिया के जंगलों में लगी आग के समय छः हफ्तों तक वहाँ अपना योगदान दिया था जिसे हम कभी नहीं भूलेंगे।

“वूवाले साझेदारी को कायम रखने का यह एक प्रयास है जहाँ एक देश को अगर सहायता की ज़रूरत होती है तो दूसरा मदद के लिए खड़ा हो जाता है। ऑस्ट्रेलियन सरकार ने टूल्स के अलावा चार दशमलौ पाँच मिलियन डोलर (\$4.5million) लागत मानवीय सहयोग भी दिया है।

वातावरण के साथ कोई समझौता नहीं होना चाहिए -मंत्री रेड्डी

रोनल देव

आम जनता के स्वास्थ्य और भलाई के लिए एक स्वच्छ और स्वस्थ वातावरण आवश्यक है।

हालही संसद में अपने मंत्री भाषण में कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने ज़्यादा ध्यान रीसाईक्लिंग तथा कचरा अच्छी तरह नष्ट करने पर दिया।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा कि एक स्वच्छ वातावरण, स्वास्थ्य की स्थिति पर सीधा असर करता है, मुख्य भूमिका निभाता है कि जीवन कितना कुशल होगा, स्वस्थ जिन्दगी कितने सालों की होगी तथा अन्य स्वस्थ असमानताएं।

“दुनिया भर में कई ऐसे देश हैं जो गर्व के साथ टूरिस्टों को यह दिखाते हुए उन्हें वहाँ बुलाते हैं कि उनका देश कितना साफ है क्योंकि कोई भी ऐसे देश में घूमना नहीं चाहेगा जहाँ का वातावरण साफ न हो जबकि यह स्वास्थ्य के लिए खतरा हो सकता है,”

मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि हर दिन औसत एक फीजीवासी 0.7 किलोग्राम कचरा उत्पादित करता है।

“केंद्रीय विभाग में दो मुख्य तरह के कचरे निकलते हैं। घरेलू कचरा, टाउन और सिटी काउन्सिल के अधिकारी सम्भालते हैं जबकि व्यावसायिक तथा उद्योग संबंधी कचरा, वर्डस्ट मैनेजर्स ले जाते हैं। 2017 से नम्बोरो लेन्ड

फिल में हर साल नब्बे हजार टन से ज़्यादा कचरा फेंका जा रहा है जो दिखाता है कि देश में कई संस्थाओं ने अपने ग्राहकों के लिए सेवाओं में सुधार किया है।”

लेकिन डाक्टर रेड्डी ने यह भी कहा कि इससे यह भी साफ दिखता है कि लोग अभी भी अपनी मर्जी से वातावरण में कचरा डालने से बचने तथा इसे रीसाईकल करने पर ध्यान नहीं दे रहे हैं।

हम जबकि आर्थिक विकास के लिए आगे बढ़ रहे हैं तो ऐसे में हमें वातावरण के साथ कोई समझौता नहीं करना चाहिए। हम अपनी आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए अपने वातावरण के संरक्षक हैं। डाक्टर रेड्डी का कहना है कि भविष्य में हमारी पीढ़ियों के पास भी हमारी तरह प्राकृतिक संसाधनों तथा वातावरण के समान स्तर का आनन्द लेने का अधिकार है।

हमें कम से कम वो कचरा रीसाईकल करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए जो हमने उत्पन्न किए हैं तथा अन्य लोगों को मौका देना चाहिए जो कचरा रीसाईकल करना चाहते हैं कि वे ऐसे सामान उठाकर उपयोग करें।

मंत्री ने कहा कि मंत्रालय अकेले ऐसा नहीं कर पाएगा। हमें पूरे राष्ट्र के सहयोग की ज़रूरत होगी ताकि हम सिर्फ अपने लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि आने वाली पीढ़ी के लिए अपने देश के साथ-साथ वातावरण की सुरक्षा करें।

पानी की कीमत समझो - मंत्री उसामाते

रोनल देव

संसाधन मंत्री चोने उसामाते ने विश्व जल दिवस (वोल्ड वॉटर डे) के मौके पर लोगों से माँग की है कि वे हमारे जीवन में पानी की कीमत को समझें तथा इसका इस्तेमाल समझदारी से करें।

“आइए हम अपने लिए तथा भविष्य के लिए पानी बचाए,” इस साल का विश्व जल दिवस का मुख्य विषय था कि पानी लोगों के लिए क्या महत्व रखता है, उनकी कीमत तथा हम कैसे पानी के स्रोत को सुरक्षित कर सकते हैं।

मंत्री ने कहा कि इस विषय का लक्ष्य है दुनिया भर में लोगों को पानी के महत्व और पानी संबंधी विषयों को समझने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना ताकि वे बदलाव के लिए सही कदम उठाएँ।

मंत्री उसामाते के अनुसार फीजी के संविधान में अंकित है कि सभी देशवासियों के पास साफ और सुरक्षित पानी होने का अधिकार है तथा फीजीयन सरकार और वॉटा अथोरिटी ऑफ फीजी इस लक्ष्य को हासिल करने की कोशिश कर रही है।

“हमें ध्यान में रखना चाहिए कि हम पानी की देखभाल अच्छी तरह करें ताकि यह वर्तमान तथा भविष्य में भी फीजीवासियों के लिए लाभदायक हों। सरकार अपनी ओर से हर सम्भव प्रयास कर रही है तथा देशवासियों को भी ऐसा करना चाहिए।

वोल्ड वॉटर डे प्रायमरी और सेकन्ड्री स्कूलों में मनाया गया जहाँ विद्यार्थियों ने प्रतियोगिताओं में हिस्सा लिया।



संसाधन मंत्री चोने उसामाते पिछले हफ्ते संसद में चित्र: संसद भवन



रोज़गार तथा खेलकूद मंत्री श्री परवीन कुमार पिछले हफ्ते संसद में भाषण देते हुए चित्र संसद भवन

नौकरी पर दस हजार से ज़्यादा दुर्घटनाएँ और मौतों पर हरजाना भरा गया

रेनल देव

एम्प्लोएमेंट और इंडस्ट्रीयल रिलेशन्स मंत्रालय ने पिछले दस सालों में नौकरी पर दुर्घटना और मौत के दस हजार सात सौ अड़सठ (10,768) मामलों को लेकर हरजाना भरा है।

मंत्री परवीन कुमार का कहना है कि मंत्रालय ने इन मामलों के हरजाना के तौर पर अट्ठाईस दशमलौ सात मिलियन डोलर (\$28.7m) भर दिया है। संसद में दिए गए बयान में

मंत्री कुमार ने प्रकाश डाला कि चार सबसे ज़्यादा जोखिम वाले नौकरी के स्थान हैं, कोन्सट्रक्शन व्यवसाय, होलसईल रिटेल, रेस्टुरन्ट, होटल तथा मेनुफैक्चरिंग यानि उत्पादन व्यवसाय। मंत्री ने कहा कि सात सौ नब्बे (790) मामलों पर अभी कोई फैसला होना बाकी है। सन् दो हजार आठ (2008) और दिसम्बर इक्कीस सन् दो हजार अट्ठारह (2018) के बीच पाँच सौ तिरसठ (563) लोगों की मौत हुई। पब्लिक सेक्टर में चार सौ अट्ठान्बे (498) लोगों की जान गई तथा चाहने वालों को ग्यारह मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा का हरजाना भरा गया जबकि प्रायवट सेक्टर में पैसठ (65) लोगों की जान गई जिसके लिए एक दशमलौ पाँच मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा हरजाना दिया गया।

मंत्री वाला ने कहा कि इन दस सालों में रोज़गार मंत्रालय के पास ग्यारह हजार पाँच सौ से ज़्यादा मामलों की शिकायत की गई जिनपर छानबीन हुई। मंत्री ने कहा कि जितनी रिपोर्टें मिली हैं उनमें से छियासी 86 प्रतिशत चोट-चपेट लगने संबंधी थे जबकी चौदह प्रतिशत मौत से संबंधित थे। मंत्री ने कहा चोट-चपेट लगने के चार हजार सात 4007 मामलों को लेकर पंद्रह मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा हरजाना भरा गया है।

फीजी के राजदूत का स्वागत



भारत में फीजी के राजदूत श्री कमलेश शशि प्रकाश भारत के राष्ट्रपति महामहीम श्री राम नाथ कोविन्द के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रेनल देव

भारत में फीजी के राजदूत श्री कमलेश शशि प्रकाश ने हालमें एक वेचुएल समारोह में भारत के राष्ट्रपति महामहीम श्री राम नाथ कोविन्द को अपना परिचय पत्र दिया।

इस दौरान श्री प्रकाश ने समुद्री आँधी यासा और आना के बाद जल्द से फीजी को मानवी सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए भारत सरकार और वहाँ की जनता को धन्यवाद दिया।

उन्होंने फीजी को कोविड-19 के टीके प्रदान करने के भारत के फैसले की प्रशंसा की और कहा कि इससे वायरस से लड़ने के फीजी के प्रयासों को भारी सहयोग मिलेगा।

फीजी और भारत के बीच ऐतिहासिक संबंध पर प्रकाश डालते हुए श्री प्रकाश ने कहा कि दोनों देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय संबंध प्रजातंत्र और मानव अधिकारों, शान्ति और सुरक्षा के सार्वभौमिक सिद्धांतों पर मूल्यों और आकांक्षाओं पर आधारित हैं।

राष्ट्रपति कोविन्द ने परिचय पत्र स्वीकार करते हुए श्री प्रकाश को भारत में फीजी के हाई कमिशन में उनकी कूटनैतिक नियुक्ति के लिए उन्हें बधाई दी और कहा कि भारत फीजी के साथ अपने द्विपक्षीय संबंध को हर स्तर पर और आगे बढ़ाएगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि फीजी न केवल भारत के लिए

द्विपक्षीय, बल्कि इंडो-प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र में भी एक महत्वपूर्ण भागीदार रहा है।

कोविड-19 महामारी को काबू में रखने के लिए राष्ट्रपति कोविन्द ने फीजी की सराहना की और कहा कि इस महामारी को रोकने के लिए भारत कई देशों को कोविड-19 टीकों से सहायता प्रदान वाले वैश्विक प्रयासों में सबसे आगे है।

श्री प्रकाश भारत में निवास करके सेवा प्रदान करने वाले फीजी के छटे राजदूत होंगे।

फीजी और भारत ने उन्नीस सौ इक्कहत्तर घणभघ में अपने राजनयिक संबंध स्थापित किया और तबसे दोनों देशों के बीच हितों और प्राथमिकताओं के आपसी क्षेत्रों में जुड़ाव मजबूत हुआ है।

पाँच सौ से ज़्यादा फीजीवासियों को ऑस्ट्रेलिया में नौकरी मिली

रेनल देव

कोविड-19 के दौरान पिछले साल नवम्बर से जबसे लईबा मोबिलिटी कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत हुई है, तबसे अभी तक पाँच सौ फीजीवासियों को ऑस्ट्रेलिया में नौकरियाँ मिली हैं।

हालमें तीसरे दल के एक सौ बासठ (162) फीजीवासी ऑस्ट्रेलिया के लिए रवाना हुए। यह दल जो सोलह मार्च को रवाना हुआ में माँस काँटने वाले छियान्बे (96) लोग थे जिन्होंने मजदूर मालिक रिजनल वर्कफोस मैनेजमेंट से संपर्क किया था, दस कृषि कर्मचारी थे जो नए मालिक पाटाने प्रोड्रूज़ के साथ काम करेंगे, “फूटिको” के लिए चार सीज़नल कर्मचारी काम करेंगे जबकि कुछ कर्मचारी बूम ऑस्ट्रेलिया स्थित कईबल बीच रिज़ोट एन्ड स्पा में अतिथि-सत्कार का काम करेंगे।

हमारी सीमाएं बन्द होने के बाद दो सौ इक्कीस (231) कर्मचारियों को ऑस्ट्रेलिया पसिफिक लईबा स्कीम के नीचे काम करने के लिए भेजा गया।



रोज़गार तथा यूवा मंत्री परवीन कुमार चित्र: संसद भवन



राष्ट्रपति ने साई प्रेमा मेडिकल सेन्टर का दौरा किया

राष्ट्रपति महामहिम मेजा जेनरल चियेची कोनरोते ने हाल में नसेसे मुवा स्थित साई प्रेमा मेडिकल सेन्टर तथा प्रस्तावित चिलरन्स हार्ट होस्पिटल का दौरा किया। राष्ट्रपति ने साई प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन को फीजियन बच्चों की देखभाल करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। उन्होंने फाउन्डेशन को उनके सफर में सफलता के लिए शुभकामनाएं दीं। बच्चों के दिल का यह

प्रस्तावित अस्पताल फीजी के लिए ही नहीं बल्कि प्रशान्तीय द्वीपों के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बाल चिकित्सा इंद्रिय देखभाल केंद्र रहेगा

चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसीनईवालु



फीजी में और भी स्थानीय फिल्मों बनने की उम्मीद है-मंत्री कोया

फीजी में स्थानीय फिल्मों बनाने का व्यवसाय कठिन समय में भी एक महत्वपूर्ण व्यवसाय के रूप में सामने आ रहा है। हाल ही लाईव सिनेमस नकासी में "हिम- टी एन्गी वन" नामक एक स्थानीय फिल्म का विमोचन करते हुए स्थानापन अटोनी जेनरल तथा कोमेस, टूईड टुरिज्म तथा टान्सपोर्ट मंत्री फईयान् कोया ने कहा कि फीजी में जहाँ कोविड बीमारी को काबू में रखा गया है वहाँ लोग आज़ादी से घुमकर फिल्मों की शूटिंग कर सकते हैं। फिल्म का निर्देशन करने वाली रसिका रशमा ने असल ज़िन्दगी पर यह फिल्म बनाई है। इस फिल्म से तीस लोगों को नौकरियाँ भी मिलीं। फिल्म में पैनीस हजार लगाने के लिए मंत्री ने मेट्रोक्स फीजी, अर्डी पो लीगल, लाईफ सिनेमा तथा दामोदर सिनेमस को धन्यवाद दिया

चित्र: रोनाल टैव



बुराई पर अच्छाई की जीत: होली का मूल संदेश

शिक्षा मंत्री रैजो अकबर ने होली पर्व के मौके पर दिलक़शा नउसोरो स्थित सरसवति कोलज पर आयोजित एक समारोह में विद्यार्थियों से मौग की कि एक दूसरे के प्रति आदर-सम्मान और कड़ी मेहनत जैसे गुणों को अपनी ज़िन्दगी से कभी दूर न करें। मंत्री ने

कहा कि होली जैसे पर्व हमें ईश्वर में विश्वास करना, अपने अन्दर की बुराई को दूर करना, अच्छी सोच रखना, एक दूसरे का आदर करना, ज़रूरत में दो को मदद करना तथा एक दूसरे के साथ भेदभाव न करना सीखाते हैं। इसके सहायक महिला मंत्री बीना

भटनागर ने भी बहकमारी के साथ पें-सिफिक हावा में होली का पर्व मनाया। उन्होंने कहा कि होली का मूल संदेश है बुराई पर अच्छाई की जीत तथा यह पर्व एक दूसरे के लिए प्यार और दया दिखाना भी सीखाना है

चित्र: रोनाल टैव





भारत सरकार ने स्टोल बनाने के लिए सहायता दी

रोनल देव

भारतीय सरकार ने रास्ते के पास स्टोल बनाने के लिए सहायता दी है। फीजी में भारतीय दूतावास के मार्फित भारत सरकार ने फीजी के कोमेस और ट्रैडिंग मंत्रालय को बीस हजार अमरिकी डोलर यानि चालिस हजार फीजीयन डोलर से ज़्यादा की सहायता दी है ताकि किंग्स और क्वीन्स हाएवे पर दो स्टोल्स बनाया जा सके।

स्थानापन भारतीय राजदूत महामाहिम सुकन्ता चरण साहू से चेक स्वीकार करते हुए कोमेस, ट्रैडिंग, टूरिज़्म और ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्री फर्डिनांड कोया ने विक्रेताओं और किसानों की मदद करने वाली फीजी सरकार की पहल में सहयोग देने के लिए भारतीय सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया है।

“मंत्रालय ने जबकि पब्लिक-प्रायवट पाटनाशिप अवसर के लिए विज्ञापन निकाला था ताकि संस्थाओं और लोग रास्ते के पास

वाले स्टोल्स के लिए स्पॉन्सर कर सकें तो ऐसे में हम भारत सरकार की सहायता के बहुत अभारी हैं,” मंत्री ने कहा। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि मंत्रालय इस साल बाद में यह स्टोल्स बनाकर विक्रेताओं और किसानों को सौपना चाहता है।

फिलहाल, फीजी के भारतीय राजदूत महामाहिम सुकन्ता चरण साहू ने घोषणा की कि भारत सरकार भी बहुत जल्द फीजी को कोविड-19 से लड़ने के लिए दवाईयाँ प्रदान करेगी।



कोमेस, ट्रैडिंग, टूरिज़्म और ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्री फर्डिनांड कोया, भूतपूर्व स्थानापन भारतीय राजदूत महामाहिम सुकन्ता चरण साहू से चेक स्वीकार करते हुए चित्र: रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री ने किडनी सेन्टर खोला

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डिनिरामा का कहना है कि फीजी न केवल कोविड-19 के भारी खर्च से बचा है बल्कि यहाँ लोगों को पहुँचाई गई स्वास्थ्य सेवा में भी भारी सुधार हुआ है।

नयन प्लाज़ा नन्देरा में नया फीजी नेशनल किडनी सेन्टर का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने सामोआ से एक टेकनिशियन को फीजी लाने में कठिन प्रयास किया जबकि यह काम आसान नहीं था।

“इस टेकनिशियन ने हमारे कर्मचारियों को किडनी डायलिसिस मशीन तैयार करने, उसकी जाँच करने और चलाने की ट्रेनिंग दी। यह मशीन आज लोगों का इलाज करने के लिए तैयार है,”



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डिनिरामा हाल में नयन प्लाज़ा स्थित फीजी नेशनल किडनी सेन्टर का उद्घाटन करते हुए चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

यह सुविधा लम्बे समय की किडनी बीमारी ठीक कर सकती है जबकि यह कई फीजीवासी और किडनी मरीज़ों की देखभाल करने वालों के लिए चिन्ता का विषय बना हुआ है।

फीजी में यह पहला सेन्टर है जहाँ स्क्रीनिंग से लेकर इलाज करने तक एक स्पेशलिस्ट यानि विशेषज्ञ हमेशा सेन्टर पर रहता है।

यह सेन्टर एक सप्ताह में चालिस मरीज़ों का इलाज करेगा जहाँ

डायलिसिस के एक सौ अस्सी (180) सेशन होंगे और माँगे पूरी करने के लिए सेवाएँ बढ़ाई जा सकती हैं। सेन्टर, किडनी बीमारी के कारणों को लेकर जागरूकता भी फैलाएगा कि फीजीवासी कैसे इस बीमारी से बच सकते हैं।

पीरिमिड स्कीम गैर-कानूनी है

रोनल देव

देश में पिरिमिड स्कीम गैर-कानूनी है तथा जो लोग इस तरह के स्कीम आयोजित करते हैं या उसमें हिस्सा लेते हैं पर फीजियन कोम्पेटिशन एन्ड कोन्जुमा कमिशन एक्ट की धारा 87 A के तहत अभियोग लगाया जाएगा।

कोमेस, ट्रैडिंग, टूरिज़्म तथा ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्री फर्डिनांड कोया ने इस बात पर ज़ोर दिया जब पिछले कुछ दिनों में ऐसी रिपोर्टें सामने आ रही हैं कि फीजीवासी जल्द अमीर बनने वाली स्कीमों में शामिल हो रहे हैं।

मंत्री कोया ने आम किया है कि फीजी में पिरिमिड स्कीम को गिफ्ट सेकलर यानि कोमुनिटी गिफिटिंग का नाम दिया गया है।

“इस स्कीम में लोगों को आकर्षित करने के लिए लोगों को चालाकी से लुभाया जाता है कि इसमें शामिल होने का इरादा नेक है जिससे महिलाएँ, महिलाओं की मदद करेंगी, दोस्त-दोस्तों की मदद करेंगी तथा इस स्कीम को सीक्रेट सिस्टम कहा जाता है। हालांकि इसे गिफ्ट सेकलर नाम दिया गया है मैं ज़ोर देना चाहता हूँ कि यह गैर-कानूनी है,” मंत्री कोया ने कहा।

मंत्री ने सभी फीजीवासियों से माँग की है कि वे सतर्क और सावधान रहे जब लोग उनसे ऐसे स्कीम में शामिल होने को कहें।

“हम पैसे कमाने के लिए कड़ी मेहनत करते हैं ताकि हम अपना गुज़ारा कर सकें तो हम क्यों ऐसे स्कीम में शामिल होते हैं जो यह आश्वासन भी नहीं देता कि हमें पैसे वापस मिलेंगे तथा वो कमज़ोर लोगों को लुट रहा है जो पहले तंगी का सामना कर रहे हैं और वो जल्द पैसे कमाने की लालच में आ गए। यह स्कीम सरासर एक धोखा है तथा किसी भी फीजीवासी को इसमें हिस्सा नहीं लेना चाहिए।”

“मैं कोनजुमा काउन्सिल द्वारा पहले दी गई चेतावनी दोहरा रहा हूँ कि ऐसे स्कीम हमारे समाज को नष्ट कर सकते हैं। कई लोग पहले तो ऐसी धाँधलियों से प्रभावित होंगे लेकिन बाद में शिकायत करेंगे जब उन्हें पैसे वापस नहीं मिलेंगे। यह आम बात है कि जब हमारे दोस्त और रिश्तेदार हमें इस स्कीम के बारे में बताएँगे तो हम उनकी बातों पर भरोसा करेंगे और इसी कारण से पिरिमिड स्कीम बढ़ता है लेकिन यही लोग अपने चाहने वालों को दोष देंगे जब पिरिमिड के गिरने से उनका मेहनत से कमाया गया धन बरबाद हो जाएगा। यह अटल है कि ऐसा ही होगा,” मंत्री ने कहा।

उन लोगों को याद दिलाया जाता है कि वे कुछ लक्षणों की तलाश करें जो पिरिमिड योजनाओं की पहचान हैं जो इस स्कीम के बारे में जानते हैं या किसी ने उनसे पुँजी लगाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया है। इनमें शामिल है:

डाक द्वारा, ई-मेल, या शौशल मिडिया पर कोई आपको नकद या उपहार देने का वादा करता है।

• डाक द्वारा, ई-मेल, या शौशल मिडिया पर कोई आपको नकद या उपहार देने का वादा करता है।

• नए लोगों को स्कीम में शामिल करना इस कार्यक्रम का मुख्य लक्ष्य है।

• कुछ भी बेचा नहीं जा रहा है न कोई सेवा प्रदान की जा रही है।

• कोई लिखित समझौता या कोन्ट्रैक्ट नहीं है।

• यह कार्यक्रम बढ़ाई करता है कि कुछ लोगों ने इससे बहुत पैसे कमाएँ हैं।

• इस कार्यक्रम में बहुत सी गवाइयाँ तथा सफल लोगों की कहानियाँ हैं।

• स्कीम चलाने वाला आपको भरोसा जीतने के लिए आपको पहले थोड़े पैसे भरने को कहेगा ताकि आप ज़्यादा पैसा हासिल कर सकें। लेकिन बाद में वे आपसे भारी रकम भरने को कहेंगे।



CRMT

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Taskforce

फीजिवासियों द्वारा गैर-ज़रूरी सफर करने पर कोरनटीन के चार्जस

उन्नीस मार्च 2021: दुनिया भर से फीजी लौटने वाले फीजिवासियों का कोरनटीन संबंधी खर्च पिछले एक साल से सरकार सह रही है।

पिछले साल मार्च से बारह हजार आठ सौ से ज़्यादा फीजिवासी, फीजी के कोविड-सुरक्षा कोरनटीन प्रोटोकॉल के नीचे सुरक्षित फीजी पहुँचे हैं जिसके लिए सरकार ने सीधे रूप से अट्ठारह मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा खर्च किया है जिनमें उन लोगों के भोजन, ठहरने की व्यवस्था, परीक्षण के खर्च, यातायात और अन्य व्यक्तिगत खर्च भरे गए हैं।

फीजी ने सुरक्षित रूप से परिवारों को मिलाया है और समाज में कोविड-19 फैलने से रोका है। इसके साथ लोगों को कोरनटीन सुविधा के लिए बिल्कुल इंतज़ार नहीं करना पड़ता है जैसा कि अन्य देशों में देखा गया है। यह रिपोर्ट लगातार सामने आने के बाद कि लोग फीजियन सरकार द्वारा भरे गए कोरनटीन व्यवस्था से फायदा उठा रहे हैं, फीजियन सरकार ने फैसला किया है कि इसी महीने की उन्तीस (29) तारीख से सरकारगैर-ज़रूरी सफर करके फीजी आने वालों का कोरनटीन खर्च नहीं सहेगा। जो फीजिवासी व्यक्तिगत कारण जैसे कि दोस्तों-रिश्तेदारों से मिलने जाना चाहते हैं को चौदह दिन कोरनटीन में रहने का खर्च खुद सहना होगा।

यह चार्जस हमारे पड़ोसी देश जैसे कि ऑस्ट्रेलिया और निउ जीलेन्ड के अलावा अन्य विकसित देश के लागू करने के कई दिनों बाद फीजी में लागू किया जा रहा है।

यह नए चार्जस फीजियन पासपोर्ट रखने वाले सभी लोगों पर लागू होते हैं जिनमें वो फीजिवासी भी शामिल हैं जो विदेश में रहते हैं और उनके पास दो हरी नागरिकता है या अन्य देशों की स्थायी नागरिकता है। इन चार्जस में ठहरने और भोजन का खर्च शामिल है जो सीधे कोरनटीन की सुविधा में भरे जाएंगे। कितना चार्जस रहेगा, यह कोरनटीन की सुविधा पर निर्भर करता है और यह पूरे चौदह दिनों के कोरनटीन के लिए दो हजार दो सौ डॉलर के आस-पास हो सकता है। फीजी लौटने वाले सभी फीजिवासियों का कोविड-19 के कम से कम दो परीक्षण का खर्च, हवाई अड्डे से कोरनटीन सुविधा तक जाने का खर्च, निगरानी और साईट पर नज़र रखने का खर्च स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को भरना पड़ेगा।

इन चार्जस से छूट आसाधारण परिस्थितियों में सिर्फ उन्ही लोगों को दी जाएगी जिन्हें कोरनटीन अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी, जो कि स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के पेमनन्ट स्कंटेरी है के द्वारा स्वीकृति मिलेगी।

यह छूट तबही मिलेगी जब:

- * फीजियन नागरिक जो पिछले साल अट्ठाईस मार्च से पहले विदेश गए हैं और अब घर वापस लौटना चाहते हैं;
- * विद्यार्थी और उनपर निर्भर लोग जो सरकार द्वारा स्पॉन्सर या सर्मथन किए हुए छात्रवृत्ति पर पढ़ाई पूरी करके लौटना चाहते हैं;
- * फीजी के स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय की स्वीकृति से विदेशी चिकित्सा के लिए गए मरीज़ और उनके साथी फीजिवासी घर लौटना चाहते हैं;
- * फीजी के नागरिक जो फीजियन सरकार और अन्य सरकार के बीच समझौते के तहत विदेश नौकरी करने गए थे जैसे कि लईबा स्कीम के नीचे;
- * और घर लौटने वाले सैनिकों, फीजियन सरकार के अधिकारी, फीजी के राजदूत (जिनके साथ उनके पति या पत्नी और अट्ठारह साल से कम उम्र के बच्चे भी शामिल हैं) जो औपचारिक कारणों से विदेश गए थे।

आगे बढ़ते हुए फीजियन सरकार देश लौटने वाले फीजिवासियों के स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा को लगातार प्राथमिकता देती रहेगी और फीजी की कोरनटीन प्रणाली का दुरुपयोग रोकती रहेगी।

और जानकारी स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय प्रदान करेगा।
समाप्त।

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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प्रधानमंत्री का होली संदेश

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमारामा ने सभी फ़ीजीवासियों को होली पर्व के मौके पर अपनी शुभकामनाएं दी हैं।

उन्होंने मंगलकामना की कि होली के अलग-अलग रंग लोगों की जिन्दगी में खुशियों से रंग भरें।

श्री बर्डिनमारामा के अनुसार यह एक आर्शिवाद की तरह दिखता है जब अलग-अलग संस्कृति और धर्म के फ़ीजी वासी एक साथ मिलकर अनेकों त्योहार मनाते हैं।

कोविड-19 महामारी के बावजूद हम होली जैसे रंगों का त्योहार बड़े धूमधाम के साथ मना रहे हैं इसको लेकर हमें शुक्रगुज़ार होना चाहिए। “कोरोनावायरस को देश में फैलने से रोकने के लिए जो हमने प्रयास किए हैं यह उसका नतिजा है कि आज हम खुले दिल से ऐसा त्योहार मना पा रहे हैं। हमारा देश जहाँ कोविड को काबू में किया गया है में फ़ीजीवासी रंगों से खेल सकते हैं, पकवान वगैरह खा सकते हैं तथा दोस्तों और परिवार वालों के साथ कीमती वक्त बिता सकते हैं।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि हमें प्यार, उम्मीद और नयापन से अपनी जिन्दगी जीनी चाहिए जो कि होली त्योहार का मुख्य संदेश है।

“सौभाग्य से जैसे हम अच्छे स्वास्थ्य के साथ यह त्योहार मना रहे हैं तो हमें दुनिया भर में सभी लोगों की भलाई के लिए प्रार्थना भी करनी चाहिए।

पूरी दुनिया अब ठीक होने की पहुँच से दूर नहीं है तो ऐसे में हम उस दिन की प्रतीक्षा कर सकते हैं जब मनावता का प्रकाश इस घातक महामारी के अंधेरे पर जीत हासिल करेगा।

प्रधानमंत्री ने फ़ीजी और दुनिया भर में होली मना रहे लोगों को होली की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं दी हैं।



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमारामा होली संदेश देते हुए चित्र: प्रधानमंत्री दफ़्तर

Noda Viti



Uqeti ko ira
na marama me
ra sasaga

2



‘Veivuke na
dinau e na bula
vakailavo’

3



Na tei vanilla e
Naitutu, Tailevu

6



Ciqoma ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama e 100,000 na i cula ni tataqomaki mai na mate na COVID-19 ka sa vakagolea tale ga na vakavinavinaka ki vua na Paraiminisita e India ko Narendra Modi e na veivuke levu.

Ea tadu mai Nadi e na yakavi ni Moniti na 29 ni siga ni vula ko Maji na wainimate ni tatarovi ni mate go na COVID-19. E sa vakarautaka rawa na matanitu ko India e rauta ni 600 na milioni na i cula ni tatarovi ka vakarautaki mai na kabani ni wainimate levu taudua e vuravura



na Serum Institute of India kei na AstraZeneca ka sa ra vakau oti e na 70 na veimatani e veiyasai vuravura. E tokona na kena vakayagataki na i cula oqo na Soqosoqo Cokovata ni Bula e Vuravura se World Health Organization (WHO). iTaba: MEREANI GONEDUA

PM: Taqomaki na dodonu ni iTaukei

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA veivakacalai na vakadewa ratou kacivaka e Palimedi na ito ni veisaqa baleta na lawa ni vakayagataki qele se *Land Use Act 2020*

Qori na tikina e vakaraitaka ena Palimedi na turaga Paraiminisita ko Voreqe Bainimarama.

Kaya ko PM Bainimarama ni ratou tukuna tiko na ito ni veisaqa ni tu duadua ga vua na Paraiminisita na kaukauwa ni vakatulewa me

baleta na vakayagataki ni qele ni iTaukei ka sega ni rogoci kina na nodra vakatulewa na itaukei ni qele.

E saqata ko PM Bainimarama ni ratou sega ni vakaraitaka na ito ni veisaqa ni lawa ni qele oya e gadrevi kina nodra veivakadonui e rauta ni 60 na pasede na itaukei ni qele ni bera ni lisitaki yani edua na qele ni iTaukei.

Kuria ko koya ni sega ni rawa ni dua na qele e vakatulewa kina na Paraiminisita vakavo ga kevaka era sa solia nodra veivakadonui na 60 na pasede na lewe ni mataqali itaukei

ni qele. Vakabibitaka talega ko PM Bainimarama ni wase lima ni lawa ni vakayagataki qele e tukuni kina ni kena taukeni na qele ena tikoga e ligadra na itaukei ni qele.

“Na tabana e 11 ni lawa oya e vakamatataki tu kina ni lisi kece ni qele ni itaukei e soli e dodonu taumada me na vakaliuci kina na ka e baleti ira na itaukei ni qele.

“Na lawa ni qele koya e yavutaki kina na baqe ni qele se *land bank* me yaga ki na itaukei kece e okata kina na kena yaga vei ira na itaukei ni qele kei na bula vakailavo ni

noda vanua raraba. E sega walega ni soli vei ira na itaukei ni qele na kena saumi vei ira na isau dodonu ni kena redetaki na nodra qele, na kena makete e soli talega vei ira na dodonu, nodra kila na lawa ni kena soli na lisi, na balavu ni gauna me lisitaki, kei na cava ena vakayagataki kina na nodra qele kei na kabani ena mai listaka na qele oya.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni nodra taqomaki na itaukei ni qele ena lawa oqo e levu cake mai ena kena e tiko ena Matabose ni Qele Maroro ni iTaukei.



Na Vunivola Tudei e na Valenivolavola ni Paraiminisita ko Yogenesh Karan kei ira na marama ena Makoi Vocational Centre e Nasinu vata kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni isoqosoqo vakamusulomani na Fiji Muslim League Association. **Taba: VAKARAUTAKI**

Uqeti ko ira na marama me ra sasaga

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Evuabale na nodra marau e lewe 50 na marama ni oti na nodra tauri vola e na koronivuli ni veivakarautaki vei ira na marama e na Makoi Women's Vocational Training Centre e Nasinu.

Vakaraitaka ko Yogenesh Karan na Vunivola Tudei e na Valenivolavola ni Paraiminisita ni sa totoka na nodra sasaga ka sala muria sara tiko ga ituvatuva ni Matanitu me baleta na nodra vakaukauwataki e na kilaka na

marama kei na goneyalewa me ra rawa ni ra tu vakai ira e na buturara ni bisinisi.

E vauqeti ira na marama ko Karan me ra kakua ni yalo lailai ka ra muria ga na loma-dra kei na nodra dui sasaga.

“Na veitokoni ni Matanitu e sa tiko rawa kau sa kerei kemuni mo ni curuma yani na vei katuba e so me na rawa ni toso kina na nomuni sasaga ka me na rawa ni mana ki vei kemuni na vuli oni lewena voli mai,” e kaya ko Karan.

“Sa ka talei kina ni da raica na inaki ni

koronivuli ni veivakarautaki qo e Makoi ni dolava sara ga vei kemuni na marama na toso ki liu ka mai rawa tale kina na veise-mati kau vakabauta ni na yaga sara vakalevu ki vei kemuni yadudua.”

E vakacaucautaka tale ga na soqosoqo ni musolomani na Fiji Muslim League Association ko Karan ka kaya ni nodratou sasaga e sa vukea tiko na Matanitu e na kena sotavi e dua nai tuvatuva levu mai na soqosoqo cokovata kei vuravura me baleta na nodra vakatoroicaketaki na marama.

Toso na cakacaka e Viria

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Enamaki me na rawati na vakaso ni wai e Viria, Naitasiri e rauta ni 40 na milioni na lita na wai ka me ra na vakagunuvi kina e rauta ni lewe 300,000 na lewe ni vanua ka ra vakaitikotiko ena maliwa kei Suva kei Nausori.

Namaki me na vakacavari e na dua na gauna lekaleka mai qo na cakacaka e na kena vakarautaki na vakaso ni wai kei na kena vakadrodroi mai.

Vakaraitaka na vu ni lewa ni Tabana ni Wai o Barry Omundson ni sa vakayagataki oti e na rauta e \$270 na milioni na cakacaka levu qo ka sa isevu tale ga ni cakacaka levu me qaravi e na Tabana ni Wai.

Vukei na dauteitei e na Mua-i-Ra

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Era ciqoma e rauta ni lewe 16 na dauteitei ena Mua-i-Ra ni noda vanua na i matai ni sausami ki vei ira na dauteitei ka ra a vakaleqai e na cagilaba o ‘Yasa’ kei ‘Ana’.

E dodoliga tale ga e na veivuke oqo na soqosoqo ka veiqaravi vei ira na dauteitei mai na Soqosoqo Lotu ni Kavitu ka vakatokai vaka Peretania me ADRA se “Adventist Development and Relief Agency” ka ratou cakacaka vata kina kei na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei.

E lewe 52 vei ira na dauteitei e ra vukei oqori e ra vakayagataki qele voli e Ba ka ra tiko na vo ni lewe 64 na dauteitei e Rakiraki, Tavua kei Sigatoka.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Teitei ko Dr Mahendra Reddy ni veivuke oqo e vakagolei e na nodra vakacokotaki ni oti na vakacaca ni cagi, ka sa koto tale ga na vakanananu ni na vukei ira na dauteitei ena kena laveti cake na veika e so e na rawati mai na nodra dui teitei yadudua.

“Sa kena gauna vinaka tale ga me da sa na vakavakarau yani kie na kena dolavi tale na sala ni veitosoyaki e vuravura ka ni da sa na rawa ni sotava na gagadre ka vakalevutaka tale ga na veika e da vakauta ki vanua tani,” e tomana na Minisita.

E tokona na dairekata ni ADRA ko Iliapi Tuwai ka vakaraitaka ni veivuke qo e a bucini taumada me ra vukei kina na dauteitei e Vanua Levu ka sa mani vakadrodroi tale ga ki na yasayasa vaka-Ra ni oti na vakacaca ni cava ko Ana.

E veivuke tale ga e na kena vakailavotaki na sasaga oqo na matanitu ko Niusiladi.

Loloma ivaro ko Ositerelai vei ira na vakaleqai ena cava

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Eciqoma na Minisita ni Leqa Tubu Koso Inia Seruiratu e va na i varo ni kau se portable sawmill ka solia wale vakaloloma na matanitu ko Ositerelia

Qoka e tiki tiko ni veivuke ni matanitu ko Ositerelia e na veivakacokotaki ni cava ko Yasa kei Ana ka me vukea ira na vakaleqai e na kena varoti ka vakarautaki na kau ni nodra vale.

“E laurai ni veigauna kece e tarai Viti kina e dua na cava e dua na ka ga e vakaleqai vakalevu oya na noda veivale kei na kena dau babale na veivunikau e so. Au vakavinavinaka kina ni rawa ni dodoliga mai na matanitu ko Ositerelia ka ratou vakarautaka mai kina qo e va na i varo.”

“E na mai tokona sara vakalevu na va na i varo qo na i tuvatuva ni Matanitu e na kena tarai cake na vei vale vinaka ka rawa ni vorata na cava kei na kena vakayagataki na veikau e ra babale me kau ni vale,” e kaya ko Seruiratu.

Vakaraitaka tale ga o Seruiratu ni sa ra taleva oti e rauta ni 16,000 na lewe ni vanua ka sa tauri rawa ni sivia e 5000 na vale e ra vakacacani e na cava e rua.

E na nodra vosa na mata ni matanitu ko Ositerelia e Viti o John Feakes e kaya kina ni rawa mai na veivuke qo ena vuku ni kena sa tiko rawa na veiwekani vinaka e na matanitu e rua ka vakatokai tiko na ‘Vuale Partnership’.



Qoroya toka na Minisita ni Veitaqomaki kei na Leqa Tubukoso ko Inia Seruiratu na ivaro vou ka mai ciqoma vau na mata kei Ositerelia ki Viti ko John Feakes. Qo e dua vei ira na va na ivaro e solia vakailoloma na matanitu ko Ositerelia me veivuke vei ira na vakaleqai ena cava ko Ana kei Yasa. **Taba: VAKARAUTAKI**



Vukei ko ira na dau kere ilavo

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA taura rawa vakaitukutuku na Tabacakacaka ni Valuti ni Dravudravua na veika e so me baleta e rauta ni lewe 266 na dau kere ilavo era tu e na noda vei koro lelevu.

Ia e vakaraitaka tale ga na Minisita Veivuke ni Tabacakacaka o Veena Bhatnagar ni vuqa vei ira oqo e ra sega ni tiko ga vakadua e na dua na vanua ka ra veitosoyaki tiko e na vei koro lelevu e so me vakataki Suva, Nadi kei Lautoka.

“E vuqa vei ira e ra dau gole mai e na mataka lailai ka ra lesu ki vale e na yakavi ka so tale e ra sa bula voli ga e na loma ni koro lelevu, dina ga ni tu na nodra matavuvale kei na wekadra,” kaya ko Bhatnagar.

“E dina ni sotavi tiko e so na dredre e na kena sagai me ra vukei ia sa toso sara tiko na sasaga ka vica vei ira e ra sa tauyavutaka na nodra bisinisi ka so e ra sa vakacakacakataki me ivurevure ni lavo kei na bula ki vei ira.”

Tomana ko Bhatnagar ka kaya ni sa tiko tale ga e dua na tabana me qaravi ira vakatabakidua na dau kere i avo ka cakacaka veivolekati sara tiko na tabacakacaka oqo kei na veisoqosoqo lotu e so.



E dina ni sotavi tiko e so na dredre e na kena sagai me ra vukei ia sa toso sara tiko na sasaga ka vica vei ira e ra sa tauyavutaka na nodra bisinisi ka so e ra sa vakacakacakataki me ivurevure ni lavo kei na bula ki vei ira.

Veena Bhatnagar
Minisita Veivuke ni Tabacakacaka ni Valuti ni Dravudravua

Veivuke na dinau e na bula vakailavo: Koya

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Evukea na kena tavuloni na drakidrakita ni bula vakailavo e na noda vanua na veivuke vakadinai mai vanua tani.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita vakatawa ni Lavo o Faiyaz Koya ni dinau e mai tarova tale ga na kena vakamalumalumutaki na kaukauwa ni noda ilavo ia ke vaka e a mani yaco e sa na kauta ga mai e dua na leqa levu e na noda vanua.

Vosa tiko e Palimedi o Koya ka vakaraitaka ni mai sotava na gagadre ni Matanitu e na vei dinau e so e ra dodoliga mai kina na vei matanitu kei na baqe tu vakai koya e na veiyasai vuravura.

Tomana o Koya ka kaya ni inaki levu ni dinau qo sai koya me mai vueta cake na veiqaravi ni matanitu, veivuke e na veivakatorocake taki, vei qaravi raraba ka vakabibi na kena bucini cake e dua na i tuvatuva me na veivuke e na vakacokotaki na bula vaka i lavo e na noda vanua.

“Dua na i dusidusi levu e da siqema rawa e na nodra dodoliga mai na baqe kei na veimatani e so e na soli dinau sai koya na nodra vakabauti keda tiko ka rawa kina me ra loma soli ka se sega tale ga ni se bau calata e dua



Vosa tiko na Minisita vakatawa ni Lavo o Faiyaz Koya e Palimedi ena macawa sa oti.
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

na gauna ni sausaumi lesu na noda Matanitu.”

“Sa koto na ituvatuva tarava o ya na kena vakalutuki sobu na GDP me na veiraurau kei na noda rawa ka,” e kaya o Koya.

E tomana o Koya ka kaya ni bula tiko e

rauta e \$2.2 na milioni na ilavo bula se *foreign reserve* ka sa rawa me na veitauri tiko e na loma ni ono ki na walu na vula mai qo ka namaki tale tiko ga me na bulabula mai na bula vakailavo ni noda Matanitu.



Vosa toka na Minisita ni Veitaqomaki kei na Leqa Tubukoso o Inia Seruiratu e Palimedi ena macawa sa oti.
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Sasaga ena kena vakaduri ni misini ni ua loka

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Esa vakavakarau tiko na Matanitu na kena vakaduri e 26 na misini ni vakaro ni ua loka e Viti Levu.

Sauma tiko na vakatataro e Palimedi, na Minisita ni Leqa Tubu Koso o Inia Seruiratu ka kaya ni sa na tekivu tiko na cakacaka e na vula o Noveba e na veivanua digitaki e so.

Vakaraitaka o Seruiratu ni na yaga sara vakalevu na misini ni vakaro e ra sa duri rawa tiko ka sa tiko tale ga na ituvatuva me na vakavinakataki na veiqaravi.

E tomana o Seruiratu ka kaya ni sa vakayacori tale tiko na veitalanoa kei na kabani ni talevoni veikauyaki me baleta na kena dau talaucaki yani vakatotolo na itukutuku ni ua loka. E sa vakayacori oti tale ga e 300 na vuli vei ira na lewe ni vanua me baleta na vakavakarau e na gauna ni leqa tubu koso.

‘Kua ni okata na veivuke me yaragi vakapolitiki’

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Evakaraitaka na Minisita ni Veitaqomaki kei na Leqa Tubukoso o Inia Seruiratu ni sega ni dodonu ki vei ratou na ito ni veisaqa me ratou vakatoka tiko na i tuvatuva ni Matanitu me baleta na bula raraba me iyaragi vaka-

politiki.

E vosa tiko o Seruiratu e Palimedi ni oti na kena mai veivosakitaki na itukutuku vakayabaki ni tabacakacaka ni marama, gone kei na valuti ni bula dravudravua.

E saqata sara vakaukauwa ko Seruiratu na veika e vakaraitaka e dua na to ni veisaqa ko

Niko Nawaikula ni sa toso cake na iwiliwili ni lewe ni vanua e ra okati me ra dravudravua.

E vakaraitaka o Seruiratu ni rauta ni 35 na pasede na lewe ni vanua e ra okati me ra dravudravua e na yabaki 2002/2003 ni vakatautauvatataki kei na kena ena yabaki 2008 ka yacova na 31 na pasede kei na 28.1

na pasede ena yabaki 2013.

E na dua na vakadidigo ni tabacakacaka ni wili lewe ni vanua e laurai kina ni sa tiko e na 29.9 na pasede na na i wasewase ni lewe ni vanua e ra okati me ra dravudravua.

Oqo e na yabaki 2019 kei 2020 ka ni se bera tale ga ni tara mai na dredre e vakavurea

mai na mate na COVID-19.

E vakadreta o Seruiratu ni dodonu me da na raica vata tale ga na veicagilaba e tara na noda vanua ka oka kina na waluvu ni vanua lolovira.

Na vei leqa tubukoso oqo e tarai sara vakalevu na bula ni lewe ni vanua e ra dau mai vakaleqai kina.



Vakananumi na siga ni veikau e vuravura

E vakaitavi ko Peresitedi Jioji Konrote ena siga ni vakananumi ni Veikau e vuravura keira na ivakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Veikau.

Me vaka era laki tei kau kina
na ivakalesilesi ena vunilvi e na
taoni e Suva kei na vica na vanua
tale ena loma ni bai ni vale nei

Peresitedi.
Taba: AZARIA FAREEN



Dolavi vou na
valenibula ni kidney

Dolavi vou na valenibula ni kidney e Nadera,
Nasinu ena taba vale e cake ena sitoa ni volivoli
na Nayans Supermarket ena gaunisala o Ratu
Dovi Road.

Oqori edua na cavuikalawa ena sasaga ni vakatoroicaketaki ni tiko bulabula ena noda vanua. **iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA**



Vakananumi
na siga ni wai e
vuravura

Na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabacakakaka e qarava
na Wa ko Taitusi Vakadravuyaca kei na mata
mai na UNICEF ko Sheldon Yett ena soqo ni
vakananumi ni siga ni wai e vuravura.
Era soqoni yani na gonevuli ena veiyasa'i Suva
ka ra vakaitavitaki ira ena veisisivi vosa kei na
droini.
Oqo na kena vakabibitaki tiko ga na itukutuku
me baleta na bibi ni wai ena veiyasani bula
kecega. **iTaba: FELIX LEISAINAULU**



Uqeti ko ira na itabagone ena bose ni draki veisau

Ko ira na itabagone ena bose ni Draki Veisau nodra na itabagone ena noda vanua ka ra vakaitavi kina na gone vuli ka ra vakayaco boseka kina me baleta na

revurevu ni draki veisau kei na bolebole esa sotava
tiko na vuravura ena siga nikua.
iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA





Ko Sera Tuva ena nodra loga ni tei vanilla e Naitutu, Tailevu. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Veivakatorocaketaki na tei vanilla e Naitutu

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Era sega wale ga ni dauniveiqaravi e vale na marama ia e tiko tale ga vei ira na i solisoli me ra vakavure i lavo e na loma ni matavuvale.

O ya na rai nei Sera Tuva, e dua na marama dau vakayagataki qele e na koro ko Naitutu e na vualiku ni yasana ko Tailevu.

Vakayaloqagataki ira tiko na nona itokani marama ko Tuva e na siga lokuci e vuravura me ra dau nanumi kina na noda marama ena ika walu ni vula ko Maji.

E kaya ko Tuva ni vakayagataki qele e dua na sala vinaka e ra rawa ni taleva na marama me i vurevure ni lavo me vaka e sa vakadinadina taka o kaya kei ratou na lewe tini na nona i tokani marama e Naitutu.

“Au vakabauta ni noda veivale kece e na tiko kina e so na tiki ni qele lala e so ka na rawa me vakayagataki me teivaka kina e so na i tei ka me i vurevure ni lavo,” e kaya ko Tuva.

“Na senikau e dua na i vurevure ni lavo vinaka ka vaka tale ga kina na kakana draudrau e so.”

Ia e vakaitavitaki kaya tale ko Tuva e na i tavi vakavunivola e na soqosoqo ni marama dau vakayagataki qele e Naitutu ka vakatokayacataki toka me “*El Shaddai Women's Group*”.

“Keitou na isevu ni soqosoqo me tauyavu kina e dua na vanua ni bucibucini ni tei ni vanilla e Viti ka se tekivu mai na yabaki 2013,” e vakaraitaka o Tuva.

“E veivuke na kena vakarautaki na vale ni bucibucini na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei ka ratou solia vata mai e 77 na tei ni vanilla me keitou tauyavu kina ka sa dua na ka na neitou vakavinavina kei na marau.”

Ia e tomama ko Tuva ni via drakidrakita vakalailai na itekitekivu ni toso ka ni sega ni vuavuai vinaka sara na nodratou vanilla e na gauna ni tatamusuki e na yabaki 2016 me vaka ni taura tiko e tolu na yabaki me qai vua ka matua e dua na vu ni vanilla.

“Keitou via yalolilai ia keitou a digova rawa ni ra bulabula vinaka na vanilla e ra tei e taudaku ni vale ni bucibucini ka mani solia tale kina vei keitou e dua na yalo ni toso.”

“E dina ni sega soti ni vinaka na ka e tamusuki ia e rawa ilavo tiko ga na neitou tei ni vanilla me vaka ni volitaki tale tiko ga na kena i musumusumu me itei ka dua sara na neitou ivurevure ni lavo vinaka.”

Volitaka na isoqosoqo na vua ni vanilla e na i sau e \$500 ki na \$700 dua na kilokaramu ka volitaki na i musumusumu me i tei ena \$2 dua na mita.

E na yabaki veitaravi 2018 kei na 2019, e ratou tatamusuki tale kina na marama ia e sega ni vaka na ka e ratou namaka taumada.

“Keitou raica ni sega sara ni taucoko na neitou tatamusuki ia e na veika e rawa mai rawa kina me toso tale e dua na neitou sasaga sai kaya na kena vakavinakataki na neitou dui vale ni vakavakacegu,” vakaraitaka ko Tuva.

“Qo e dua na ka keimami dau leqa sara kina vakalevu na tu e na taudaku ni vei koro lelevu ka dau vure mai kina e vuqa na vei mate e so.

“Sa keitou nanuma kina vakaisoqosoqo ni na daumaka me keitou tekivu sara ga e na sasaga oya,” e kaya ko Tuva.

“Ni bula tiko vei keitou na vakanananu ni toso qori e laki vakavotukana sara e na neitou qarava na neitou teitei vakaisoqosoqo kei na teitei yadua ka sa rawa tale kina me keitou sotava tiko kina na gagadre ni neitou makete.”

E a veivuke na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei ki na “*El Shaddai Women's Group*” e na ruku ni tuvatuva ka vakagolei vakatabakidua ki vei ira na marama. Vakarautaka kina na Matanitu na uma ilavo e \$150,000 me qaravi kina na kena tauyavu na veisasaga e so me vaka na tei senikau, voivoi, masi kei na vanua ni bucibucini.

Tomani na qaravi ni vakavinakataki ni qele

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

E vakavinavinakataki o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na Matabose ka lesi me taleva na itu-tuvatuva ni Matanitu me baleta na veivakatorocaketaki kei na kena dikevi lesu na i tuvatuva ni Matanitu me baleta na qele.

E kaya ko PM Bainimarama ni tuvatuva levu ni Matanitu e umana e vuqa na ka, ka dua vei ira na kena raici na qaravi vina-ka ni qele.

“E ka bibi ki na Matanitu me raica na kena vakayagataki vakamatau na qele ka me nanumi tale tiko ga kina o ira na kawa kei Viti ni mataka.”

“Na kena dikevi lesu na vei lalawa e so me baleta na qele e vukea na kena vakavinakataki na vakasokumuni tukutuku kei na maroro ni tukutuku e na mona livaliva ka se vakateki-vutaki mai e na yabaki 2010.

“E sa raica rawa kina Matanitu ni sa vuqa sara na itaukei ni qele e ra sa vakaduri bisinisi ka rawa ka mai e na nodra qele,” vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama.

Tomana ko kaya ka kaya ni dua na veisau levu e vakayacora na Matanitu o ya na kena mai veisautaki ni iwalewale ni tauri lisi.

“Ni wase vakatautauvata na ilavo ni lisi, e kunei kina na bula sautu kei na nodra raici vakatautauvata na lewe ni vanua,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

E na ripote e vakarautaka na Matabose e vakaraitaki kina ni sa wali rawa e vuqa na dredre taumada e na tabacakacaka ni qele ni Matanitu ka sa tomani tiko na cakacaka ni kena vakavinakataki na vei qaravi.

Vakauqeti na itaukei ni qele ena vakayagataki na qele

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

E se bera vakadua ni vakasuka na matanitu e na kena vakaduri e so na lawa me na vukea na nodra tiko vinaka na lewe i Viti.

Vakaraitaka na ka oqo na ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama e Palimedi ka kaya kina ni veivakacalai sara tiko vakalevu na veika e ratou dou cauraka tiko mai na to ni veisaqa.

Tomana o Bainimarama ka kaya ni dua na veivuke e sa yaga vakalevu ki vei ira na i taukei ni qele sa i kaya na kena voli lesu na qele volivakadua (freedold) ka ra volitaki taumada e na taudaku ni kuila.

“E sa vakayagataki oti e rauta e \$4.7 na milioni e na i tuvatuva qo ka sa rawa kina

me vakasukai ki vei ira na i taukei ni qele na nodra qele.”

“Qori e vakaraitaki ni kauwai ni matanitu ka biuta vata kina na lalawa me raica na kena qaravi na qele se na Land Reform Programme,” e kaya ko Bainimarama.

E okati ena i tuvatuva qori na kena voli lesu e 26 na qele voli vakadua ka sa ratou sa bau vakila na kena vinaka e tolu na i taukei ni qele e na kena sa vakasukai yani ki vei ratou na nodratou qele.

Vakadeitaka o Bainimarama ni sa vakayacori tiko na nona i tavi na Matanitu me veivakauqeti ira na i taukei ni qele e na kena vakayagataki na qele me na rawa ka ki vei ira.



Edua na dau vakayagataki qele. Vakadeitaka o Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni sa vakayacori tiko na nona i tavi na Matanitu me veivakauqeti ira na i taukei ni qele e na kena vakayagataki na qele me na rawa ka ki vei ira.

iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Vakadonui e 100+ na iyota ena Blue Lane, Dola ko Savusavu na Parataisi Vuni me Curucuru ni iyota

22 ni Maji, 2021: E sa vakadonuya na Matanitu ni oti na kena vakadonui e 100 na iyota ena sasaga ni Laini Karakarawa me dolavi ko Savusavu, na Parataisi Vuni me ikarua ni curucuru ni iyota ena sagasaga Laini Karakarawa.

Na sasaga ni Laini Karakarawa e lamata cake mai ena tuvaturvaka baleta na COVID ena kena vakalesui na vakatubuilavo ni Matanitu ena yaloyalo levu ni tekivutaki vinaka na saravanua ena waitui. Ni oti na veitalanoa kei na lewenivanua raraba kei na nodra sa vakatalai na ivakalesilesi ena veiqaravi ena vualiku, esa tomani na ikelekele ni waqa e Savusavu kei na ikelekele ni waqa e Denarau ena inaki ni veiqaravi oqo baleta na curu mai ni iyota.

O Viti esa qarava na Pasifika ena sasaga ni saravanua ena waitui ena gauna donumaka na COVID-19 me vaka ni vakatara na sasaga oqo ni Laini Karakarawa na nodra veisautaki na kaimua ni iyota lelevu, nodra taqomaki vakavuniwai oira na na dau vakayataki iyota mera veilakoyaki kina se siko vanua, nodra vakavaletaki, taqomaki ka vakarautaki vinaka, kei na nodra vakavaletaki ena tataqomaki vakavuniwai oira na dau vakayagataki iyota mera vakayacora kina nodra veiqaravi vei ira lewenivanua ena gauna ni Cagilaba eda sotava.

Na veitokoni ni Blue Lanes esa vakauqeti ira na iota mai na veiyasai vuravura mera curu mai kina parataisi taqomaki nei Viti ena COVID.

Sa sivi e 330 na siga main a gauna a yaco kina e Viti nai otioi ni kisi ni coronavirus, esa vakadonui oti kina na nodra curu mai e 100 na waqa.

Na Blue Lanes nei Viti e dua na kena e taqomaki vinaka kina ka lewai vakamatau vinaka kina na saravanua e vuravura.

Era keke na iota ena ikelekele ni waqa mai Denarau, ka sa vakarau yani oqo mera keke talega e Savusavu, sa ivakaraitaki ni noda guta meda uqeta ka dinata me saravanua taqomaki vinaka mai na COVID,” kaya na Minisita ni Bisinisi, Veivoli, Saravanua, kei na Veilakoyaki ko Faiyaz Koya.

Me vaka ni sa okati na toba ko Savusavu me duna na ikelekele ni iota ni Blue Lanes, ena vakayacori talega kina na vei-vakadonui kei na veivagalalataki keina viqaravi vakavuniwai ena veitokoni ni Tabana ni Bula keina Tabana ni Veitaqomaki. Na pasidia kece ni iota era soko mai ki Savusavu e doodnu mera muria na ivakaro ni veivagalalataki kei na veiraqavi vakavuniwai. Oka kina na nodra vakataikitikitaki me 14 na siga e wasawasa kei nodra dikevi ena iyalayala ni noda curuvana.

Na toso oqo ena vakavurea na bula raraba kei na bula vakailavo nei Viti ena iwasewase na Vualiku,sa rawa kina vei ira na iota mera yaco yani kina vanua taleitaki o Savusavu keina veivanuynu volekata mevaka na iteitei nei Viti ko Taveuni.

Na kena muri na ivakaro me qarauni vinaka na tekivutaki tale ni veivoli kei na saravanua ena Vualiku ena gauna ni COVID-19, na CRMT esa tomana tiko kina na dikevi kei na vakayagataki ni iwalewale ni veivakauqeti ena ruku ni Fijian COVID Safe Economic Recovery Framework me uqeta na tubu ena bula vakailavo nei Viti ka me kauta lesu tale mai na nodra cakacaka era dau taleitaka na lewei Viti

Na vanua e rawa ni kunei kina na toba o Savusavu ena mape sa ira oqo:

NW 16° 46.440'S 179° 19.940'E

SW 16° 46.568'S 179° 19.933'E

S 16° 46.589'S 179° 19.986'E

N 16° 46.430'S 179° 19.998'E

Baleta na CRMT

Na timi e vakaroti me raica na vakalailaitaki ni ririko ni COVID-19 e oka kina o ira na Vunivola Tudei eso me vaka na Tabana ni iLavo (liutaka), Tabana ni Bula, Tabana ni Bisinisi, Veivoli, Saravanua kei na Veilakoyaki.

Veitokoni ena veiqaravi oqo na Tabana ni Tabana ni Bisinisi, Veivoli, Saravanua kei na Veilakoyaki, Veitaqomaki ena iyalyala ni Curuvana, na timi ni veiqaravi ni COVID-19 kei na timi mai na Mataivalu ni Viti.

Noda Viti

TUCAKE TALE O RYLAND

Vuqa na i talanoa ni vosota kei na sasaga e da rogoca ni oti na kena sotavi na dredre e vura vura ka vu mai na mate na COVID-19.

E dua vei ira ka bau vakaleqai tale ga na nona cakacaka ko Miriama Ryland e dua na marama yabaki 26 ka dau cakacaka voli e na vei qaravi vei ira na saravanua.

Taura na nona vakacagicagi ko Miriama me lai vakasucu ka mani takoso na COVID-19, mai kauta tani kina na nona cakacaka kei na i vurevure ni lavo.

Sega ni yalo lailai ko Ryland ka tovolea tale me dua na nona i vurevure ni lavo me vaka ni tiko vei koya na kila e na vei qaravi vei ira na saravanua.

Sasaga o Ryland ka mani ciqoma na nona vola kerekere ni cakacaka e na Tabana ni Saravanua ka sa dua tale kina na i tekitekivu vou ki vei koya.

E taba toka oqori ko Miriama Ryland kei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama.
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



‘Me bucini vinaka tale na veiwekani vou’

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

VAKARAUTAKA ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni na sega ni vakaibalebale na veisasa e so kevaka e da sega ni bucini cake tale e dua na veiwekani vou vakakawa tamata kei na noda vuravura e da bula voli kina.

Ena dua na boseka ni draki veisau, e tukuna kina ko PM Bainimarama ni sasaga nei Viti e sa vakavotukana e na kena vakavinakataki na vei korovuli e so ki na ivakatagedegede me na vorata na vei draki e so.

“Sa vakavinakataki tale ga na iwalewale ni soli vakaro e na gauna ni leqa kei na kena vakayagataki na veika e ra bula voliti keda me vaka na veidogo, na co na vetiva kei na vatu lelevu me ra i sasabai ni ua,” kaya ko koya.

“Sa tiko tale ga na i tuvatuva levu me baleta na kena teivaki e 30 na milioni na vunika e na loma ni 15 na yabaki kei na kena qaravi se yadravi vakamatau na noda wasa bula me yacova na yabaki 2030. Sa sa kena ibalebale oqori ni sa na rawa ki na noda vanua me da galala mai na kasi gaga ka vakavu leqa tiko e na noda maliwa lala.”

E vakadreta ko PM Bainimarama ni sa ka bibi na cakacaka vata me na rawa ni vakavotukana na sasaga raraba ni veimatanitu ka qali ki Peretania me baleta na draki veisau.

“Ni da cakacaka vata e sa i vakaraitaka ni noda duavata kei na noda nanumi ira na vei matanitu lalai ka ra sotava tiko na vakacaca ni draki veisau.”

E ra bulagoci tale ga na lewe ni bose e na cavu i kalawa ni noda vanua e na kena sasaga taki me tarai cake tale e dua na Viti vinaka kei na ituvatuva e so me baleta na kena valuti na draki veisau.

“E sa yaco tale ga mai na wainimate se i cula ni tatarovi me baleta na COVID-19 ka sa kauta tale ga mai e dua na nuinui vou ni sa cabe e dua na mataka vou.”

Gadrevi na duavata: PM

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

SA dodonu me ra vaqacaco taka na veimatanitu ka ra lewena na Matabose ni Veimatanitu ka qali ki Peretania na nodra valuta na draki veisau.

Vakadreta na noda Paraiminista o Voreqe Bainimarama ena dua bose ni draki veisau ena monalivaliva ni dodonu mera tutaka vakawaukauwa na sasaga me vakalailaitaki na kena benuci na noda maliwa lala.

Kuria ko Bainimarama ni vuqa sara na dredre e mai sotavi ka vakavuna na mate na COVID-19 kei na leqa e sa kauta tiko mai na draki veisau.

ID-19 kei na leqa e sa kauta tiko mai na draki veisau.

“E na gauna qo e sega ni dua na lewe i Viti e tauvi koya tiko na mate na Coronavirus. Keimami bulabula vinaka ia e sa mai vakaleqai ga e dua na i vurevure levu ni cakacaka sai koya na saravanua ka mai vakavuna tale ga na leqa ni bula vaka i lavo ka mai vakaleqa tale ga na sasaga ni matanitu e na kena valuti na draki veisau,” e kaya ko Bainimarama.

“E na kena mai tarovi na siko vanua kei na veitosoyaki e na yabaki sa oti e sala muria mai e tolu na cava ka vatokayacataki me ko ‘Har-

old’, ‘Yasa’ kei ‘Ana’. E vakila sara ga o Viti na tatara ni cava e tolu oqori ka mai kuria yani na dredre ni bula vaka i lavo e da bula donuya voli,” e varaitaka o Bainimarama “Ia keimami sega ni yalo lailai kina ka sa toso tiko ga na cakacaka ni veivakacokotaki me tarai cake kina na bula vaka i lavo kei na bula ni tamata yadudua.”

E tomana o Bainimarama ka kaya ni sa vakanamata ko Viti ki na nodra veitokoni na vei matanitu tani kei na kena tutaki na sasaga me rawa ni vakalesui tale mai na bula sautu.

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]