

FijiFocus

Israeli scholarships for Fijians, praise for Govt, RFMF



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with President of the State of Israel, Reuven Rivlin at Pullman Resort and Spa in Wailoaloa, Nadi yesterday. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

DEEPER TIES

MEREANI GONEDUA

A TOTAL of 100 new scholarships for Fiji and the Pacific island countries has been announced by Israel President, Reuven Rivlin. President Rivlin, while making the an-

nouncement, highlighted that the new scholarships would begin in August this year for students interested in agriculture. "I am also proud to announce that Israel will open a centre of excellence and innovation for Pacific Island States in collaboration with the University of the South

Pacific. This collaboration will enable us to work together to apply Israeli innovation to pressing challenges such as food security, climate change, ocean rise and public health. President Rivlin said Fiji and Israel have cooperated in many fields apart from agri-

culture that has enabled their relationship to deepen over the years. While acknowledging Fiji's contribution towards peacekeeping, President Rivlin also

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

Walesi is a massive initiative by the Fijian Government to ensure Fijians can seamlessly watch television in any part of the country.

Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum
Attorney-General and Minister for Communications

NUMBERS

\$17m

is the total grant assistance from Japan in providing important materials to improve resilience against natural disasters.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama (@FijiPM)

Fiji isn't alone in enduring devastating climate impacts - this is a global emergency. If our planet keeps heating, no people will be spared from greater suffering. At #WUF10 we'll discuss cities' role in averting that future by urgently making urban living = sustainability.

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Work on common goals, minister urges PICs

AZARIA FAREEN

PACIFIC Island Countries (PICs) should work together towards their common goal despite challenges linked to changing climate, frayed international markets and threats to the multilateral trading system.

Stressing this while opening the Pacific ACP-Trade Ministers Meeting recently, Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Premila Kumar also encouraged the delegates to tap into their cultural knowledge and Pacific solidarity to design trade pathways for Pacific trading nations to transition from “surviving” to “thriving”.

“As administrators of regional trade policies, we all know that trade is important and will contribute to Pacific economies’ transition from surviving to sustainably thriving — thus delivering on our Leaders’ vision,” Minister Kumar said.

She added the effects of climate change are negatively impacting our economies and private sector,



Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Premila Kumar (middle) during the Pacific ACP-Trade Ministers meeting. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and with communities under threat we need to build resilient trading infrastructure that will enable quick business recovery after any natural disaster.

“The main concern for us, the Pacific ACP States, including the non-WTO Members, is the implications of the lack of progress on Fisheries Subsidies negotiations, to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals 14.6,” Minister Kumar said.

“Therefore, the PACP must continue to advocate strongly and collectively engage with like-minded

countries to secure our common position, and where needed, build coalitions to ensure that our interests are not compromised.”

Minister Kumar in chairing the meeting also highlighted the need to ensure mutual accountability and partnership of equals.

Pacific Islands Forum secretary general, Dame Meg Taylor said a lot has evolved globally and regionally since the last meeting four years ago.

“I am pleased that we have been able to convene here today as there are so many issues of importance for your consideration and decision,” she said.

“The Pacific ACP and border ACP Grouping are strong and strategic entities which realize an unprecedented collective voice on trade and investment including the multilateral trade negotiations arena and demonstrate the values of South-South Corporation.”

The theme for the 2020 Forum Trade Ministers’ Meeting - “Pacific Trading Nations: from Surviving to Thriving echoes the Forum Leaders’ aspiration for the Pacific region as “a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.”



Attorney-General and Minister for Communications Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with members of the public during the Walesi launch in the West. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Walesi initiative benefits Fijians

FELIX LESINAIVALU

WITH more than 400,000 app downloads and around 150,000 people already having the set top boxes, Walesi is reaching far and wide around Fiji.

While opening the Walesi Offices in Rakiraki, Ba, Lautoka and Sigatoka, the Attorney-General and Minister for Communications, Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum said Fijians can also get Walesi set top boxes for free if their household income is less than \$30,000 a year.

“Anybody with problems with their Walesi boxes can come and fix their problems here,” the A-G said.

“Walesi is a massive initiative by the Fijian Government to ensure Fijians can seamlessly watch television in any part of the country.”

“If you already have it, we want to urge other people to get it,

we want you to be informed by watching the news, parliamentary sessions and entertainment shows.”

Ben Kuruleca, a resident of Sigatoka who attended the opening of the office, said he is interested to join the Walesi initiative now that help is closer.

“I have more confidence that this office will help us whenever we need help in regards to Walesi.”

“My family does not have a Walesi set top box yet but now I think it’s about time we get one.”

Sarah Jale, 48, who lives in Rakiraki, said that it was a good initiative that the Government came up with in regards to Walesi.

“We always watch our rugby games at home so we can cheer on the boys that represent the country. The new office is an advantage because it is close by and we do not have to travel far to get help,” she said.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and his delegation during the Pacific Leaders' Summit in Nadi. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Deeper ties

FROM PAGE 1

stated that Israel would warmly welcome tourists and pilgrims from Fiji and it would be a pleasure to send Israeli youths to visit Fiji.

He then acknowledged the Fijian Government for hosting the Pacific Leaders' Summit as it would deepen Israel's relationship with other Pacific island countries as they would like to explore many new opportunities for Israel's involvement in the sustainable development of the region.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama highlighted that strong bonds between nations often trace back to affinities shared among leaders.

"I believe His Excellency and I are well on our way to a new friendship, as well as new horizons for the Fiji-Israel partnership.

"Despite our small size, Fiji and Israel have no qualms about using our voices in big ways to drive global conversations. Increasingly, we're uniting our voices on issues we know are critical to our future; climate change, sustainable development, smart agriculture, women and youth empowerment, health, education and other issues that demand our co-operation and commitments from the wider world.

PM Bainimarama highlighted that Fiji and Israel have a young, dynamic populations and its youth know the value of innovative, entrepreneurial thinking and they see the potential of partnerships to generate prosperity.

"My discussions with President Rivlin centred around empowering these future leaders to strengthen the ties that connect our societies and build a partnership that serves our people for generations.

PM Bainimarama also took the opportunity to invite Israeli students to study in Fiji and place themselves on the frontlines of the world-leading pursuit of oceans protection, climate action and cultural preservation.

PM, Israeli President hold bilateral talks



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama highlighted that discussions with President of the State of Israel, Reuven Rivlin centered on empowering future leaders to strengthen the ties that connect our societies and build a partnership that serves our people for generations. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama held a bilateral meeting with President of the State of Israel, Reuven Rivlin.

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President Rivlin is in the country to participate in the history-making Pacific Islands Leaders' Summit Meeting — the first ever to be held with the State of Israel.

Fiji and Israel began their diplomatic relations in 1970, and the first Israeli President to visit Fiji was Chaim Herzog in November 1986.

In the decades since, cooperation between Fiji and Israel has deepened, particularly in the areas of defense and security, agriculture, health, education, climate change, and disaster rehabilitation.

Speaking about the historic visit, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, Inia Seruiratu, said this development will further strengthen diplomatic relations between Fiji and Israel.

"From our peacekeeping efforts to exchanging expertise on agriculture and technology, there has long been a special relationship between Israel and Fiji," Minister Seruiratu said.

"There's much to be gained from channeling the power of multilateralism — so I look forward to welcoming President Rivlin another historic visit to Fiji, and to building on the progress that our two nations have achieved by working together in recent years." -news@govnet.gov.fj



Minister clarifies land deal requirements

EMI KOROITANO

It is important to note that at least 60 per cent of landowners need to agree first before a land legislation is passed.

The Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Ashneel Sudhakar, in making his ministerial statement on land bank in Parliament this week, said that landowners have the right to be consulted first before any legislation is passed and have the right to own and manage their own native land.

“If the land owning unit disagrees, the process stops there,” Minister Sudhakar said.

“In addition, after the landowners have given consent, the Prime Minister then designates the land before it finally goes into the Land Bank.”

Minister Sudhakar said the landowners of Fiji need to know that the State is not taking away or stealing their land.

“The landowners do not incur any administration fee like they do with iTaukei Land Trust Board. The TLTB takes its cut after it collects the lease money from the tenants and gives the remainder to the landowners. This cut pays for the TLTB administration.

“Therefore, landowners who lease their land to the Land Bank will receive more than those who would prefer to stay with TLTB.”

Furthermore, he made clarifications on a misconception that the Government had been using the Open Merit based Recruitment System (OMRS) to eliminate iTaukei staff, saying that this was wrong.

“The OMRS system, I can vouch for it, is a system that is designed to recognize the merits of the candidate –of an employee. It is designed to look at qualification, experience, it is not designed to look at a particular person’s race, ethnicity, religion, province or their gender.”

Minister Sudhakar said the sole purpose of it is merit, saying that his Permanent Secretary, Josefa Caniogo is an iTaukei as well as the Director and Deputy Secretary.



Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Ashneel Sudhakar said that landowners have the right to be consulted first before any legislation is passed and have the right to own and manage their own native land. Photo: SUPPLIED



Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Ashneel Sudhakar Acting Permanent Secretary Craig Strong with participants during the Geospatial workshop in Suva. Photo: SUPPLIED

Ministry plans to fast-track land reforms

EMI KOROITANO

THE Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources will continue to use the full potential of existing laws to fast track rural development and land reform.

The line Minister Ashneel Sudhakar highlighted this during his Ministerial Statement during the Parliament sitting this week.

“The Land use Division /land bank is a Government initiative programme designed to

make more land available for productive and socio-economic purposes,” Minister Sudhakar said.

“This underpins Government initiatives of stimulating economic activities in the utilisation of available resources and wider participation.”

Minister Sudhakar explained that the Government will provide services in a number of ways to fulfil the intent of the land reform initiative. He said it will undertake this through efficient

and effective surveying of land parcels deposited into the land bank, valuation of land at market value, efficient and effective rental collections and payment distribution and development of land parcels for optimal use.

“The Bainimarama Government will continue to channel maximum returns to the land Owning Unit through the development of their land and the protection of investor’s rights for setting up business on the land.”

Priority on landowner consultations

EMI KOROITANO

THE number of times landowners were consulted in Fiji has increased to 73 for this financial year.

The Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Ashneel Sudhakar, confirmed this during the Parliament sitting this week.

From August, 2019 to the month of February, 2020 saw approximately 30 landowners’ awareness/ consultations being held with 30 re-visitations and 50 roadshows conducted.

“It has been the priority for Land Use Division to always re-visit resource owners to keep them on par with the development of the Land Bank.”

“The success of these annual consultation workshops has helped bring forward proposals and views that reflect the wishes and aspirations of the resource owners, a two-way communication that encourages them to have a voice,” Minister Sudhakar said.

He said the participants expressed their individual evaluation response, their gratitude with the idea of involvement and community liaison promoted by the Government to reflect the very best in terms of inclusivity.

“The Fijian Government will ensure that any Land Owning Unit (LOU) which deposits their land into the Bank will reap the rewards handsomely.”

He added that one of the successful projects is the first premium the land rent payment to Mataqali Volivoli of Ketei Village in Savusavu for their 100 acres of land deposited in the Land Bank.

“The ministry, on 23rd December, 2019 presented a cheque of \$ 115,700 to the five of the 14 subsistence agriculture lots,” he said.

“The progressive payments for the remaining nine lots will be paid out as and when received. Each lot averages an area of six to eight acres for agriculture use, with premium payment ranging between \$20,000 to \$30,000 a yearly rental of about \$1,200 to \$1,800 a year.”

Employers ‘will be taken task for breaches’

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Employment Relations Act empowers the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations to ensure that justice is done and any employer that fails to comply with the provisions will face the full brunt of the law.

The line Minister Parveen Kumar highlighted this while addressing Members of the Parliament on the ministry’s Annual Report for the year 2014, 2015 and 2016 this week.

“My ministry is working towards recommendation in ensuring that we produce the pending Annual Reports 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 on time which will be tabled before the end of the 2019-2020 financial year,” Minister Kumar said.

“My Ministry has adopted the Civil Ser-

vice Standard Annual Cost Operational Plan template which now reflects links to the ministry’s development plan and the overall National Development Plan with clear performance indicators which are measured on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.”

Minister Kumar adds the Ministry has rectified the auditor’s recommendation to reverse the shared service revenue recorded in the OHS Trust Account and deposit it to the Consolidated Fund Account of the Government.

“My ministry is currently in consultation with the Technical Educational Skills Training Unit of the Ministry of Education in reviewing the life skills training package initially designed as part of the capacity building of unemployed registered clients with the National Employment Centre (NEC),” Minister Kumar said.

“My ministry continues to pursue overseas

employment opportunities in particular the participation of women and more such opportunities will be available under the age care and other new sectors under the Pacific Labour Scheme.”

Meanwhile, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Jone Usamate said Government does not rely on NEC to address employment but works in tandem with Fiji Higher Education Commission and Technical Colleges.

“The last findings of unemployment, youth unemployment in this country is only at 4.5 percent, the lowest unemployment rate that we ever had in this country,” Minister Usamate said.

“The rights of the workers in the country has always been protected and this Government has done it. The kind of increase in salary that is being done here has never been done before.”

Ministry rolls out business licensing reforms

AZARIA FAREEN

IN an effort to improve ease of doing business and business climate in Fiji, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and Local Government has rolled out new processes for business licensing and renewal of licenses.

Speaking in Parliament this week, the line Minister Premila Kumar said the launch of the bizFIJI portal has provided a one stop information on starting a business and obtaining construction permits with registration of companies being brought online and the launch of the personal properties register.

“With the business license reform in place, a start-up or existing business requires two documents – business registration and tax registration - in order to obtain a business license as opposed to eight documents previously,” Minister Kumar said.

“In addition, business license applications are assessed based on risk, which was previously measured with the same standard,” she added.

“Now businesses that are classified as low risk can start a business immediately and meet compliance with other ancillary legislations within six months. And if it is a high risk business such as food handling, manufacturing, use and disposal of chemicals or nightclubs then these businesses must obtain other licenses and permits before commencing business.”

Minister Kumar adds that reforms in the area of business licensing has led to streamlining and eliminating processes and reduction in time and cost to start a business.

“This reform is a real game-changer, which will lift Fiji’s ease of doing business and which has been able to reduce the time taken to start a business from forty days to approximately eight days,” she said.

“As we modernize the way Fijians interact with and access information on Government services, we will ensure that most up-to-date and accurate information is available in real time.”

Nausori Town Council has seen a 72 per cent increase in the issuance of 810 business licenses in January 2020 compared to the same period last year of 470 while 193 new business licenses were issued in Suva compared to 74 in January last year.

Furthermore, Suva City Council was able to issue a renewal of business licenses in less than 24 hours, whilst new business licenses met the 48-hour benchmark.

“These reforms are part of the larger reforms that the Fijian Government is undertaking to enhance the business environment and digitalization is a crucial component of improving processes and procedures,” Minister Kumar said.

“This year, the submission and approval for construction permits will be brought online and by September 2021, starting a business will be completely online,” she added.

“The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism is mandated to implement reforms in the “Ease of Doing Business”, to ensure business processes are revitalized and Fiji achieves a ranking of 50 from 102 by 2025 in Doing Business Report.”

Service delivery ‘at heart of Govt inclusivity’

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

“POLITICAL grandstanding is not a forte, service delivery is.”

This was the response given by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereiseini Vuniwaqa in Parliament in response to a motion that a Special Committee be set up to hold consultations in rural and maritime zones in terms of development challenges and service delivery to all Fijians.

“There are agencies within Government and outside of Government that provide critical services to Fijians all over the country, particularly targeting those areas in the maritime zones and rural areas.”

Speaking in particular of the programmes under her Ministry, Minister Vuniwaqa stated that under the REACH programme over 8, 000 individuals have been helped with more than 27,000 services that cuts across the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Legal Aid Commission, Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry, Fiji Revenue and Customs Services as well as non-governmental organisations that provide critical services to all Fijians.

Programmes such as the Special Protection Programme, the Poverty Scheme, the Care and Protection Allowance and the Disability Allowance has provided much needed assistance to Fijians all over the country.

“The Government believes that the best care an individual can get will be within the community that he or she lives in. Partnered with the Australia-Pacific Technical College taking out



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereiseini Vuniwaqa (right), says that that under the REACH programme, over 8000 individuals have been helped with more than 27,000 services that cuts across the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Legal Aid Commission, Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry, Fiji Revenue and Customs Services as well as non-governmental organisations that provide critical services to all Fijians. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

training for caregiving for people who live in maritime zones and rural communities to train them to look after their old in the communities that they have. They may not be able to access that particular training in town because it is so isolated, so we

go out of our way to take these services and training over to them where they live.”

Minister Vuniwaqa also stated that the Ministry has conducted caregiving training in maritime islands such as Yasawa and Lomaiviti.

“Service delivery – that lies at the heart of this Government inclusivity making sure that no one is left behind. And one only has to look at the programmes within my Ministry to know how true this is in relation to this Government.”



FELIX LESINAIVALU

THERE is a special place that our Pacific heritage has had in shaping our perspective, and that deep-seated cultural influence has fuelled our urgency in combatting climate change.

These were the words of Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the Special Session on Urban Culture and Climate Change Action in Abu Dhabi.

“In Fiji, we’ve embraced innovation to combat climate change and adapt to withstand its impacts.”

“We were the first emerging economy in the world to offer a sovereign green bond to fund resilient infrastructure, we’ve introduced a new bill that will rank among the world’s most ambitious climate change legislation, and we’ve instituted a cutting-edge environmental levy on targeted consumer spend that is wholly dedicated to funding adaptation projects.”

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama says that despite Fiji being a small island state, it is leading the world by example with very big ideas. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Embrace innovation, PM tells climate change talks

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that despite Fiji being a small island state, it is leading the world by example with very big ideas.

“It, above all else, has inspired every innovation and ambitious action that we as a nation have embraced.”

“To help restore the balance, we’ve put laws into place that formalise the sustainable habits that

once came naturally.”

“I’m of the belief that this regulatory reigning-in can apply across the globe, whether we’re speaking to fishing, or more broadly, to unbridled carbon emissions.”

“We need to rehabilitate that harmony. Whether that’s through restorative measures like replanting mangroves on our coastlines or vetiver grass on our riverbeds, or on a larger scale, engaging in car-

bon markets to offset emissions of highly-developed nations, we are increasingly returning to nature to stave off rising sea levels and global temperatures.”

Prime Minister said he hoped this expression of Fijian heritage would inspire nations of the world to look at each other, not as separate states defined by borders, but as a common people with a common fate.

Flagship concept launched at World Urban Forum

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama launched the UN Habitat’s Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor (RISE UP) flagship programme along the margins of the 10th Session of the World Urban Forum.

The RISE UP flagship programme aims to improve the social-economic prosperity of urban poor communities by reducing climate disruptions to livelihoods and protecting them from the monetary or social costs of climate disasters and enhancing service provision.

While launching the programme, the Prime Minister urged the international community to include the urban poor into the larger fabrics of the societies and cities.

“With more and more of the world’s citizens living in unsustainable informal settlements and with climate change worsening as global temperatures rise, the need to “rise up” is clear to address the sustainability of our urban poor,” he said.

“Fiji strives for that future every day. We do so for our sake, particularly for those of our most vulnerable ones. But we also do so knowing that our successes are shared by our fellow global citizens”

“Every problem we solve adds knowledge and experience that strengthens cities and communities across our region and around the world. That’s why I’m so glad to be here today to mark another milestone in our global cooperation, the launch UN Habitat’s flagship RISE-UP programme.”

Prime Minister added that urban poor isn’t a Fijian phenomenon but a global challenge.

“The increasing ferocity of climate-induced disasters alone makes them deadlier, but that threat is compounded further by rapid urbanisation,” he said.

Deputy Executive Director of the UN-HABITAT Victor Kisob shared similar sentiments, saying the international community must seriously join forces to come up with concrete solutions and strategies to address urban poverty.

He said there was also an absolute need for sufficient funding to help the urban poor communities.

“The level of funding is insufficient to help vulnerable communities to effectively predict, adjust and adopt appropriate measures to address climate change at all levels.

“UN Habitat can only achieve the objectives of the flagship programme through mobilisation and coordination of large infrastructure investments, improved livelihoods, empowerment and capacity- development and the integration into larger city-wide and national frameworks, to name a few.”

-news@govnet.gov.fj

PM: Climate change ‘a global emergency’

SONAM SAMI

FIJIAN Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has called devastating consequences of climate change as ‘a global emergency’.

While speaking at the opening of the 10th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi recently, Prime Minister Bainimarama urged every city and community to join Fiji in achieving net-zero carbon emission by 2050.

“Not because we rank among the world’s high-emitting countries, we are one of the lowest — but because we know that every percentage of emissions reduction matters”.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that Fiji is committed to becoming carbon neutral in another three decades’ time.

“It’s more efficient to supply services to 100 families in a single building than 100 houses spread out over several acres. Urban households — on average — emit less carbon and create less waste. And when we build up and not out, we limit environmental degradation”.

“Whether you are a Fijian living in our capi-



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama (middle), at the 10th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

tal, Suva, an Emirati in Abu Dhabi, or any of the 4.2 billion people who call cities home, our futures are all intertwined. Ultimately, I believe we can build sustainable cities because I believe in human cooperation, ingenuity, and resilience,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He added that the effort will be led by a new

recognition that people’s healthiest, safest, and most prosperous outcomes are only possible in a carbon-neutral world.

“May we go into this World Urban Forum embracing this recognition as critical for our cities, for our people, and for our future.”



Animal genetic diversity ‘key to development’

FELIX LESINAIVALU

ANIMAL genetic diversity is critical towards security and rural development when it comes to the livestock sector. While answering a question during the current Parliament sitting this week on climate change and the livestock sector, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy said, “The effects will be more pronounced in developing countries.” “Therefore we need to get our game up and get ready to deal with these challenges.” Minister Reddy added that it would also allow farmers to select stocks and develop new breeds in response to changing conditions including climate change. “Conserving indigenous animal genetic resources for future food security needs is an adaptation because they have adjusted to lo-



Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy while answering a question during the Parliament session on Monday regarding climate change and the livestock sector. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

cal conditions and survive better in times of drought and disaster than exotic breeds.” “The local breeds are imported for providing

a broad genetic pool to draw upon as we improve traits and characteristics under changing conditions.” Minister Reddy said that his Ministry is committed to its genetic conservation programme. “We have been undertaking cross between the chain pigs, the local wild boar and the imported pig. We are also undertaking crosses between local poultry, pre-arranged poultry which is more feed efficient and tolerant to local conditions with imported ones which has high yield.” “We are developing stocks of drought tolerant high yielding pasture, I must say that we have established close to 900 medium to large scale livestock farms.” “We have established close to 900 medium to large scale livestock farms. So, they have their own source. This drought tolerant high protein pasture which can also be kept for three months as silage.”

Ministry launches strategic development plan

SETTING strategic priorities to ensure that appropriate legislation and policies are aligned to support the effective management of waterways and to sustain our environment is paramount. This was highlighted by Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy while launching the five-year Strategic Development Plan for the Ministry of Waterways and Environment recently. Minister Reddy said the 2020-2024 Strategic Development Plan captured and emphasized on key objectives of the Ministry in order to meet National Development targets, setting precedence to key deliverables espoused within the five-year plan. He reiterated the goal of achieving a ‘Vision of Clean, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Waterways Management for a Sustainable and Resilient Fiji’, as the document would also guide the Ministry’s activities from 2020-2024. “The Strategic Plan reiterates that Waterways and Environment are central in contributing to the achievements of all the national development goals.” “It further reiterates the fact that, while sustainable waterways are central to flood mitigation, agricultural production and productivity and mitigation of climate change effects, a healthy, clean and productive environment is essential for sustainable development because it reflects the balance between the demand and supply of natural resources,” Minister Reddy said. He further reiterated the strategic plan draws the direction from the National Development Plan (NDP), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the Green Growth Framework, and other regional and global policy documents, to guide the Ministry meet its objectives. “The Ministry has developed strategic pathways to deliver services which are building resilience to climate change & waterways related hazards through irrigation, improved drainage, flood control, riverbank, and coastal protection, and to be a reliable environment regulator and trusted leader in environmental policy and practice. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Waterways and Environment website was also launched as part of this launching. -news@govnet.gov.fj

Villager relives wrath of Cyclone Winston

NANISE NEIMILA

SITTING in her makeshift home, 40-year-old Carol Maca from Nasau village on Koro Island still remembers the fateful day of February 20th, 2016 when Tropical Cyclone Winston ravaged the island with strong winds and heavy rain. “It was Friday-15th February, 2016 when we went to attend a family gathering in the village so after the ceremony we decided to stay for the night and then return to our home the next day. The next day we heard on the radio that there will be strong winds and heavy rain.” “My husband then went to our home which was away from the village to secure our home, not for long while returning to the village all he could see was flying roofing irons from the houses and most houses were already damaged. It happened with a blink of an eye and it was something that still haunts me.” Ms Maca recalls trying to escape with her two-year old daughter as water began to rush into the home that they were in and as she opened the door water gushed in. “I heard people crying, screaming for help from the houses, the whole village was covered with water and all I could see was people trying to save each other.” “I told my husband to hold our daughter while we looked for a house to take shelter in but even that was not helpful as every house standing that day was below water. We tried to escape to higher grounds because the water level just increased.” “I never cried so much in life, I heard children crying and it was not something that you would want to remember for the rest of your life,” Ms Maca said. “We then took all the children to the washroom so they could take shelter from the rising water levels.” Despite being affected physically and emotionally, she continues to thank God for her family because without his grace they would not have survived the Category 5 storm. Ms Maca still lives in the village and is yet to return to her home. She is one of the few who are slowly reconstructing their homes which were completely destroyed on that fateful day.

Carol Maca at her home in Nasau Village, Koro. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



Head of Government honours sporting personalities

Few things bring Fijians together more powerfully than cheering for Team Fiji on to victory – “that is why I love Fijian sport, because I love to see our people united”.

These were the words of Prime Minister while officiating at the 2019 Sports Awards Night. PM Bainimarama congratulated winners, Moana Wind, Jerry Tuwai, Ben Rova, Gareth Baber, Trisa Cheer, Patricia Vosayaco, Rebeca Johns, Daniel Shaw, the men’s Fiji 7s Team, and all of the other athletes, coaches and staff who helped make 2019 another banner year for Fijian athletics. PM Bainimarama said what makes Fijian sports work well is the fundamental principles of unity and teamwork that delivered last year’s Sevens World Series title.

Photos: VILIAME TIKOTANI



We want you to be informed, A-G to Fijians

Around 150,000 Fijians have received the Walesi set top boxes and are watching eight free to air television channels in their homes. While opening the Walesi Customer Care Center in Ba today, Attorney-General Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

said, “Walesi is a massive initiative by the Fijian government to ensure Fijians can seamlessly watch television in any part of the country.” “If you already have it, we want you to urge other people to get it, we want you to be informed by

watching the news, parliamentary sessions and entertainment shows.”

Photos: FELIX LESINAIVALU

A-G: Ensure access to legal services

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Legal Aid Commission has been urged to ensure that all Fijians are able to access the various legal services that they provide.

This was stressed by Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum at the Legal Aid Commission second annual national staff conference held recently at the Warwick Resort and Spa in Sigatoka.

The A-G highlighted that the commission's vision is to provide all Fijians access to justice through professional, efficient and quality legal aid services.

"You have to ensure that those that cannot afford it have accessibility to the law, which is legal aid funded, of course, by the State. You should be able to understand the critical role that this organisation plays.

"The critical role that all of you

play as individual.

"Like I have said to the support staff, they are no less important than the legal staff and the legal staff are no less important than the support staff.

"You must all work together as a team. I hope you appreciate the role that you are playing and appreciate the fact that you all have been given a constitutional provision, that you are constitutionally mandated to actually function

– you are the largest law firm in Fiji."

The A-G highlighted that issues of accessing the law was not only faced in Fiji but in some parts of the world as well.

He stated that there is a saying that said "only the rich can use the law and not the poor as some lawyers were too expensive".

"Think about what it is like for those Fijians who won't be able to afford that accessibility or have

access to that framework of legal assistance.

Where will they? How will they access the law? How will they be able to defend their rights or know their rights?

"So, this is why in the formulation of the 2013 Constitution, it was seen pivotal to ensure that people have access to legal aid, because that is the only way you can actually ensure that the rule of law is practically implemented."



Minister for Forestry Osea Naiqamu with 74-year-old Anaisi Bawaqa during the 30 million trees in 15 Years initiative consultations at Saru Village, Lautoka.
 Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Protect future generations, 74-year-old pleads

MEREANI GONEDUA

"WE need as many trees to be planted as soon as possible so our future generation can be protected."

This was the sentiment of 74-year-old Anaisi Bawaqa from Saru village in the province of Ba who has witnessed many floods that has destroyed and threatened her family's livelihood.

Mrs Bawaqa was present during Minister for Forests, Osea Naiqamu's consultation on the '30 Million Trees in 15 years initiative' and expressed her relief when she heard that the Fijian Government had

increased its tree planting initiative from 4m trees to 30m trees.

"I have seen many floods in my years when I was growing up in the Western division but nothing was as worse as Tropical Cyclone Winston and we need to do something in order to protect our environment and ourselves," she said.

"I think this initiative would help all of us in many ways and not only us but also our environment and will help conserve our environment for our future generation."

Mrs Bawaqa was one of the volunteers to provide land for the planting of trees and seed-

lings provided by the Ministry of Forests and acknowledged the Fijian Government for coming up with such an initiative that would not only benefit landowners financially but help the environment.

"I am very happy to be part of this initiative and I thank Government for such a great idea."

Meanwhile, Minister Naiqamu informed the villagers that the Ministry is committed to providing trees and seedlings to villagers that need them especially now when trying to address the issue of climate change.

He highlighted that teams

will be travelling to various villages to train and assist villagers on how to maintain their trees especially when planting sandalwood.

"My team will be traveling around after this consultation and everyone interested will be trained on how to maintain sandalwood up to the stage where they can sell sandalwood and be able to earn a living."

"I urge you to plant as many trees as you can as it will not only help our future generation, it will also address the ongoing climate change that we are experiencing."

Fight climate change, advocate tells youths

MEREANI GONEDUA

FIJI'S climate advocate Timoci Naulusala has called on all youths of Fiji to stand up and fight against climate change.



Timoci Naulusala.

Speaking at a recent launch of the Youth Action for Climate Change, the 15-year-old from Naivicula, Tailevu who has travelled the world advocating and calling on actions against climate change stressed the importance of fighting climate change to the more than 200 youths present.

"Friends, climate change is real. I have spent considerable time at global campaign for climate action as an advocate for this cause and I am glad that our country is a leading nation in the fight against climate change.

"Climate change is like a thief in the night. It not only steals, but kills and destroys. If we don't act now there might not be a future for the entire human race.

"We have witnessed far too many impacts of climate change not only in Fiji but in the Pacific region as well. As the number of natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and droughts increase in frequency and intensity so will the risks for us - the children, especially those of us living in hard to reach places who are the most vulnerable to these impacts.

Timoci acknowledged the youths for turning up in numbers to plant trees as it is one of the most important ways to address climate change.

"Trees as we all know are our source of oxygen and are a major player in the balance of our ecosystem. Trees are directly linked to life as their presence ensures our water source are protected and the diverse fauna that thrive in our forests also are a source of food for many of us.

"I therefore call on every young girl and boy to plant a tree each and support our leaders who lead the fight against climate change.

"We can do it. We just need to look around us to realise the man-made disasters happening in our forests. Let us help in the replanting process and support the Government's 30 million trees in 15 years initiative."

He also called on all Fijians to be responsible and ensure that the future is intact with the work Fijians do today.

Women's club provides much-needed service



Raravu Women's Club members at Udu Point, Vanua Levu .
Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

JOSIA RALAGO

TO be recognised is not just about voicing our opinions in public platforms but it is also about utilising abilities for the betterment of our communities.

This was the sentiment of the Raravu Women's Club President Asenaca Bau while speaking about the shop in the community that the club operates.

With their village located close to the tip of the Udu Point on Vanua Levu, this women's club operates a shop that sells a variety of goods to meet the need of the villagers.

"We sell school stationery, a variety of food items and so on, enabling Fijians in our village and from neighbouring communities to purchase what they need without having to go to Labasa," Mrs Bau said.

"It's expensive to get to Labasa with the cost of hiring a fibre to get to Qaranivai landing being \$150 one way. Prior to this shop, villagers faced a lot of difficulties in getting the goods they needed and this was why we thought of starting a shop."

The shop which started with basic goods has now expanded to selling more goods with the business growing by the day.

"The men in the village helped in the construction of this shop and I would like to thank them for always supporting us in our projects," she said.

"It is imperative that we work together to move our communities forward. I would like to urge women in rural and maritime areas that standing up for our rights is not just about voicing our opinions on public platforms but it's about the little contributions we make that would help members recognise that we are as important as they are in the community."

The group which was assisted by the Government to help start their business were recently visited by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa.



Kia District School students during their recess time at school. Teachers have been asked to plan well to avoid afternoon or Saturday classes for students. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

Use time wisely, Akbar tells teachers

JOSIA RALAGO

"IF we plan our time well and know the needs of our students, why then do we need Saturday classes?"

This was the question posed by the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar while addressing school heads of Bua and Macuata during her recent meet.

Minister Akbar called school heads to plan well.

"I have received requests for Saturday classes but you need to justify why we need it or even having evening classes?" she said.

"I have been a teacher for 25 years and it is all about planning well and our curriculum is from 8am and 4pm."

Minister Akbar said extra classes would also give rise to issues like bus fares, safety for children and lack of family time for teachers.

"Teachers will have to sacrifice their family time on Saturdays if they have to come in for classes and we will have bus fare issues as well," she said.

Minister Akbar has also reiterated that teachers are not to force parents to pay school levies.

"You will not put pressure on any parents to pay school levy because we provide grants for all schools," she said.

"If parents want to contribute then that's up to them but it is not mandated in the ministry policy."

"But if the school management and parents decide for any levy then it is between them and you are not to be part of the management decision to involve parents in any levy."

Solar freezer eases ice shortage woes



Roko Tui Bua Ratu Aisake Tuisese (with garland) checks out the new freezer at Yadua Island. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

JOSIA RALAGO

THE issue of ice shortage will now be a thing of the past for the Yadua Island fishing community following the handover of their new solar freezer. Yanulevu Fishers Association member Meli Rokobuli said the provision of a freezer solves one of the major issues they used to face on the island.

"With fishing as our main income earner and being far located from mainland, ice shortage affects our livelihood greatly," Mr Rokobuli said.

"There are times when even Nabouwalu or Nakadrudru has no ice supply and we have to go all the way to Labasa and that can be very expensive."

"The main issue for us is that most times fish goes bad or the quality is affected because there is no ice to preserve them."

"The presence of a freezer on the island is a relief."

Another villager, 51-year-old Makelesi Nabaya, shared similar sentiments saying, "We have been asking for a freezer and for us to be assisted by the Govern-

ment in this manner is truly appreciated."

Roko Tui Bua Ratu Aisake Tuisese, while officiating at the event, said that the Government assistance was a timely one and will improve the quality of fish they catch before it reaches the market.

"We understand that the main source of income for the island is mainly fishing and we believe that you will utilise Government assistance to its maximum to assist you better you in the future," Ratu Aisake said.

Have dreams, set aim, students urged

JOSIA RALAGO

YOU can have as many dreams as you want, as long as you have something that you are aiming for every day you go to school. These were the words of encouragement by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa while speaking to children of Nukusa Village in Macuata.

"You have schools for wisdom, for your future, that future needs to be in your mind when you're in school – something you're aiming to become," Minister Vuniwaqa said.

"These dreams will drive you in your work and in your studies. If you're going to school without any goals then you will not be putting any effort in your studies."

Speaking in the presence of children as young as pre-schoolers, she urged the senior students to look after the younger ones and to encourage one another.

"You are more matured than these young ones and you have a responsibility towards them. They are to be protected and loved," Minister Vuniwaqa said.

"If you are able to gather your siblings like this, maybe 30 minutes a day, share your stories with them of what you learnt in school and to keep them inspired especially during the school holidays."

She also emphasised on respect and love for each other to keep issues like bullying at bay. Minister Vuniwaqa added that education can and will open doors for them and urged the children to work hard towards fulfilling their dreams.

Knowledge ‘key to minimise disaster losses’

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services will continue to work on improving its goal to minimize the loss of lives in the event of a disaster.

While delivering the Ministerial Statement on the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Sarai and Tino during the current session of Parliament, the line Minister, Jone Usamate said they will continue to work with humanitarian partners and donors.

“We have conducted Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) training to more than 300 communities and we plan to continue this work.”

“When we do not have disasters, NDMO conducts working in an emergency operation center training with support from partners to government officials to ensure smooth operation of the emergency operation center in the event of a disaster.”

Minister Usamate added there were three positive outcomes from the work done pre and post TC Sarai and Tino.

“The decentralized approach that we have adopted with NDMO, working as a national coordinator controller, working in tandem with Rural and Maritime Development, the first responders, the National Disaster Management Council, clusters and other stakeholders.”

“The new National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) made a huge difference. We ap-

preciate our development partners that helped to make our new NEOC.”

Minister Usamate said it is clear and they recognize the benefits as to why NDMO and Meteorological Services were put under one ministry.

“We cannot stop natural disasters but we can only arm ourselves with knowledge so that many lives would not have to be lost, if there was enough disaster preparedness.”

TC Sarai affected an estimated population of almost 78,000 people with some seeking shelter in evacuation centers.

TC Tino reached Category 2 as in passed through the Fiji group with minimal infrastructure damage, however, the strong waves led to the partial wash out of the jetty in Rotuma.

Push for better opportunities for all Fijians

NANISE NEIMILA

WHEN Government creates infrastructure and the right environment it will boost economic development and activities.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs Inia Seruiratu while speaking during the current Parliament session this week.

Minister Seruiratu, in contribution to the debate on focusing more resources in the rural and maritime areas of Fiji, said in 2019 Government created the Integrated Rural Development Framework therefore the mechanism for rural development is already here.

“I agree that rural Fiji has a lot to contribute but Government is creating the environment and of course we look forward to more participation of our rural people meaningful activities not only socially but economically as well so it is already there.”

Sharing similar sentiments on the development of rural areas, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy said to protect the rural and maritime communities, the Ministry has come up with new programmes noting the issues and the challenges being faced now, which they did not face about four or five decades ago, issues through relating to Climate Change and natural disasters.

“Through the Ministry of Agriculture, a number of programmes have been designed to assist the rural and maritime communities. The programmes are divided into two categories, the demand-driven programme and the Non-Demand Driven Programmes.”

“Under the Demand-Driven Programmes for the rural and outer islands, they have got the Dairy Industry Support Programme with the Export Promotion Programme, we have got the Food Security Programme, the Rural and Outer Island Programme, we have got the Sigatoka Valley Development Programme all geared towards assisting and improving the livelihood of our rural communities in a sustainable manner.”

Minister Reddy highlighted that the assistance that are given to the rural and maritime community is to ensure that they are able to source their income in a sustainable manner so that they can grow on their own.

He said that it was really unfortunate that there were criticisms levelled at the Government that it is not doing enough to assist and improve the livelihood of the rural and maritime community.

Govt eyes state-of-the-art dialysis facility

FELIX LESINAIVALU

WITH the Government’s aim to establish a state-of-the-art facility to provide high level services to Fijians, the purchase of new dialysis machines is on hold till the facility in Suva is upgraded.

This was highlighted by Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete while answering a question posed during the current session of Parliament, on why the budget from 2017 of new dialysis machines have not been approved.

The provision for four new dialysis machines at the Lautoka Hospital and 10 new dialysis machines at the National Kidney and Research Center was announced in 2017.

Minister Waqainabete said given the time to prepare a state-of-the-art facility the purchase of the machines are on hold till the facility in Suva is upgraded, so they could purchase all the machines together.

“We have dialysis services currently being run at Labasa which is subsidised. We also have acute hemodialysis that happens at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital and Lautoka Hospital for those who are acutely ill and need acute dialysis. There is also provision of dialysis in Lautoka city by two private health facilities and in Suva, the Kidney Foundation and the Kidney Hub Centre.”

Minister Waqainabete added that measures were being undertaken to identify a suitable facility to house the machines and the search for qualified people who have been trained in using the machines was ongoing.

“We have procured 15 machines to cover our needs across the Ministry. We also have procured



Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete while answering a question posed during the Parliament session on Wednesday. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

other things that are needed such as emergency trolleys, portable suction machines, osmosis, water purification machines, monitor-

ing machines and that has been more than half a million dollars.”

Minister Waqainabete said in short the Ministry have bought 15

machines and they hope to take four or five machines to the West while 10 would be placed in the Nadera Facility.



Business confidence drives \$6m investment



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum (middle), during the Motorex Business Centre Inauguration in Nadi.

Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

FELIX LESINAIVALU

IN LIGHT of growing business confidence and government incentives, Motorex Business Centre director Basant Raj Banfal decided to come back to Fiji and invest more than \$6million into a new Motorex Business Centre in Nadi.

"This is my third development project in Nadi and the reason being is I am originally from Nadi and I thought to give back to the people of Nadi something such as small retail outlets with a very reasonable rent," Mr Banfal said.

"My first one was in Navo, Nadi, which had 24 shop outlets and after successfully leasing it out, we saw the demand so we decided to build a second one in Votualevu which was a 12 shopping outlets complex.

"After a year, we decided to move to the Nadi Back Road and this was one of the biggest that we had done."

He said growing business confidence and government incentives brought him back to Fiji.

While officiating at the Motorex Business Centre Inauguration in Nadi, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said, "What we require is that all Fijians to have an open mind to new ideas and adopting new ways of doing things".

"The Government is here to provide the right environment for you, please feel confident enough, we want to improve the level of services in the country."

The A-G said by offering multiple citizenships, it has allowed people like Mr Banfal, to come back to Fiji and share his skill set.

"These sorts of developments provide a huge level of impetus to any local community, in other words, it gets the community centered on these sorts of shops and businesses," he said.

"It gives opportunities to businesses and it is also growing businesses in and around Nadi."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Biausevu villagers after the official opening of the Village women's resource centre in Korolevu, Nadroga. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Village women benefit from resource centre

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE women in Biausevu Village will not worry about space and movement with the new Women's Resource Centre opened by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

Village representative, Amelia Nasorowale, said they have been requesting for a resource centre for a long time to benefit the women in the village.

"The women are grateful to the Government and especially the Prime Minister for fulfilling our request which will not only help the women, but everyone in the village as well."

"Now it will benefit us because we can make use of the resource centre, not only can we focus on just selling handicraft, we can also sell vegetables and food."

Mrs Nasorowale said they had been previously using the community hall which was an inconvenience because they have social and traditional functions which would require the women to move their merchandise around.

Village headman, Mikaele Sarogodradra, said that the resource centre would help the women in so many ways.

"Before tourist go to the waterfall they pass through this village,

and that is the time the women use to display their handicrafts."

"Tourist come and visit the waterfall every day, however, only when the weather is really bad then they do not come."

Mr Sarogodradra said they had requested for the Women's Resource Centre so that they could use the village hall for other matters.

While officiating at the opening, Prime Minister Bainimarama said, "For the women of Biausevu, it would be an anchor of your community, a centre of opportunity, entrepreneurship, and independence."

"Seeing the joy in your faces, I

can see that the Biausevu Women's Resource Centre is already proving to be more than a building indeed. By channelling today's excitement into those walls, that building will transform into a hive of economic activity and constructive dialogue."

"It will be a safe place for women in the community to congregate, sell their wares, and unlock their economic potential. And it will be a well-deserved home for the hardworking women and girls in Biausevu for years to come."

The resource centre cost around \$150,000 and was made possible through the Prime Minister's Small Grant Scheme.

Negotiation skills critical, says minister

JERRY LIGAIRI

"NEGOTIATION skills are critical."

Those were the words of the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa to participants of the Multilateral Negotiation Workshop of the Department of Women.

In a bid to improve the negotiation skills of Senior Officers of the Department of Women and various other female managers, the Ministry held a workshop to offer these women the chance to upskill themselves in order to furnish them with the confidence needed to perform and make an impact on both the local and international level. Minister Vuniwaqa told participants to learn as much as they could from the workshop facilitator Bindu Armstrong with the support of the New Zealand High Commission.

"This workshop is intended to equip you with knowledge and techniques for multilateral negotiation, protocols and negotiation etiquette, agreed language and research, consensus, coalition building and drafting outcomes documents," she said.

"I am sure by the end of the two days, you



Minister of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa with participants during the Multilateral Negotiation Workshop of the Department of Women. Photo: SUPPLIED

will have increased knowledge, confidence and skills to perform efficiently in both bilateral and multilateral working environments."

"Being able to effectively get the voices of our women heard at those levels is very im-

portant for us as the national women's machinery."

The workshop, which the participants hailed as a success, ended on Wednesday this week.



Minister assures residents on development work



Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Jone Usamate (right), during the commissioning of the extension grid at Tuvavatu Settlement in Rakiraki. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

NANISE NEIMILA

ONE of the main concerns raised by residents at Tuvavatu settlement in Rakiraki was the need to have proper bridges and road infrastructure.

While responding to queries raised by members of the community during a *talanoa* session, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Jone Usamate reassured the community that the Government is committed to providing better accessibility through roads and bridges that will connect people living in the rural sectors to better opportunities.

“At the moment we have 100 bridges to fix and some of these

bridges if we do not fix them very soon they might just collapse.”

“We also have 100 foot crossings to construct this year and our main priority is that we look at the ones we can construct for the year and the rest is done the following year depending on the availability of funds.”

Minister Usamate adds for the Western Division, there could be 100 crossings to be completed, however, Government can complete these projects depending on the budgetary allocation.

“The network of roads, bridges, jetty services are critical to both the well-being of the Fijian people and the nation’s economic development. As such Government is committed to ensuring

reasonable access to reliable infrastructure and essential service for every Fijian citizen.”

Minister Usamate also highlighted that for the past few weeks, they have been accompanying the Head of Government, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, for commissioning projects including roads, bridges, classrooms teachers’ quarters and school libraries in the North.

Minister Usamate has reiterated that the Government’s focus is to continue to ensure that they treat people equally.

“We provide equal opportunities for all, and ensure that in all services provided by the Government that the very best people are employed to serve you, the people of Fiji.”

Govt praised for bringing power to community

NANISE NEIMILA

THREE decades of using kerosene lamps, buying diesel for generators and candles have finally come to pass as residents of Tuvavatu in Rakiraki can now enjoy easy access to electricity with the touch of a switch.

This infrastructure will bring relief to residents of a farming community in the outskirts of Rakiraki town, easing the struggles and hardships they had to endure to ensure that their own families get the best of everything despite all the challenges.

Sharing her testimonial Urmila Wati, who earns a living from farming, spoke about the struggles of having to buy kerosene and diesel to access electricity.

“I use close to \$20 per week just to buy diesel for generators and given our income we are not that well-off so sometimes we have to forgo buying this. Lanterns too was costly because sometimes the prices would increase then decrease.”

“At times we would use two to three gallons when we have visitors and it would be very costly for a lot of us. Most families living around this area are not well-off so we resort to using candles especially for our children when they study at night, it’s a sacrifice that we have had to endure.”

Majority of the community members residing in Tuvavatu rely heavily on their farms as a source of income and the commissioning of their rural electrification project was just pure joy for all of them.

“We cried and struggled for the past 30 years, governments came and went but we are thankful to the Fi-

jiFirst Government for hearing our humble plea, not only for our benefit but the future of our children.”

An emotional Ms Wati thanked the Government for their continuous commitment towards providing Fijians with proper electricity.

The 33 households consisting of 165 people including the elderly, youths and children will directly benefit from this investment.

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Jone Usamate, while officiating at the event, said this commissioning symbolises the Government’s focus on ordinary Fijians and further demonstrates the commitment to ensure that all Fijians can access reliable electricity supply.

“Affordable and reliable electricity is a life changer for everyone in this country. It is critical pillar for development.”

Minister Usamate highlighted that the Government has provided funding to the tune of \$224million towards the energy sector in which 70 cents of every dollar spent in the sector have gone directly to rural electrification.

The Tuvavatu project is part of the Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) grid extension schemes funded by the Government with cost \$480,000.

This includes the money paid to EFL for grid extension and also the cost of house wiring.

To date more than 25,000 Fijian households have benefited from this program of rural electrification.



Urmila Wati, and her husband thank the Government for providing them with electricity. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Fiji, Japan pursue strong defence, security ties

There is great potential for Fiji and Japan to collaborate in areas of defence and security.

This was emphasised at a recent meeting held between the permanent secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister and acting permanent secretary for Foreign Affairs, Yogesh Karan and the Japanese State Minister of Defence Tomohiro Yamamoto.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Fiji and Japan to map the way forward in expanding the current cooperation that the two nations have in the areas of defence and security.

Mr Karan acknowledged the invitation extended to Fiji's Minister for Defence and Security to attend the Japan-Pacific Island Countries Defence Ministerial Forum in Tokyo, from 4th to 5th April 2020.

He also conveyed Fiji's appreciation for the support and assistance provided by the Japan Coast Guard to Fiji in the areas of maritime security, as well as cooperation in areas of training and capacity building.

The need for continuous capacity building and further development of onshore based surveillance technologies were also discussed.

Fiji's exemplary leadership and commitment by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama on the call for global action and urgency on climate was also recognised and commended by Japan.

Mr Yamamoto said Japan is committed to providing greater support to Fiji in its priority areas one of which is also the enhancement of defence and security.

Discussions also centred on the Blackrock project in Fiji, which is currently developed with the assistance of the Australian Government.

He stated that the efforts to build this dedicated, unique facility is a step in the right direction by Fiji to build regional and international collaboration in promoting global peace and prosperity through stronger engagements between countries on defence, security and beyond.

Whilst reiterating Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) strategy, Mr Yamamoto stated that Japan looks forward to Fiji's continued support for its principles.

Mr Karan met Mr Yamamoto, along the margins of the Senior Officials' Meeting for the 9th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (SOM9) in Tokyo, Japan held this month.

-MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote greets the Ambassador of Japan to Fiji, Omura Masahiro and his wife during the 60th birthday celebration of his Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Photo: EMI KOROITANO

EMI KOROITANO

Fiji can soon expect new grant assistance with the amount of \$17 million from Japan.

Ambassador of Japan to Fiji, Omura Masahiro, during the celebration of the 60th birthday of his Majesty the Emperor of Japan, said the assistance provides important materials to improve resilience against natural disasters.

Mr Masahiro said this new grant assistance is about to be approved by the Japanese cabinet. "Furthermore, Japan is supporting the Fijian Government in preparing assistance for flood

control in Nadi river," Mr Masahiro said.

"Regarding development cooperation, Japanese assistance in the area of disaster mitigation and recovery is very diverse."

Back in 2016, Japan provided Fiji with \$16m as a support for recovery and restoration after Cyclone Winston.

Meanwhile, Mr Masahiro has also reassured Fiji of Japan's strict quarantine measures to prevent the novel coronavirus from entering and spreading to other parts of the world, adding that there are currently 28 confirmed cases.

"The infected persons are kept in quarantine

and treated in medical facilities."

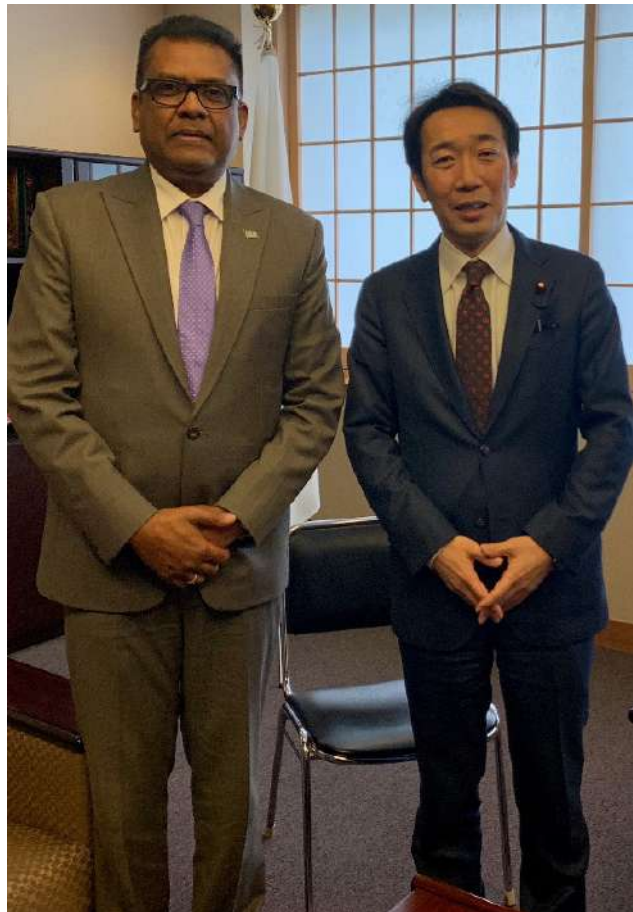
Each year, about 100 people from Fiji visit Japan on the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) training programmes.

"Japan will continue to respond to the Fijian people's trust in Japan," Mr Masahiro added.

He also touched upon the bilateral relationship between the two countries, saying this year marked 50 years of friendship between Fiji and Japan. "During the last 50 years, our bilateral relationship has developed greatly," he said.

"The exchange of visits by VIPs of our two countries is expanding."

Tokyo commends advancement of universal goals



Acting permanent secretary for Foreign Affairs, Yogesh Karan with Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Norihiro Nakayama. Photo: SUPPLIED

The Fijian Government's strong leadership in advancing the universal goals on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development has been commended.

This was conveyed to the permanent secretary to the Office of the Prime Minister and acting permanent secretary for Foreign Affairs, Yogesh Karan during his meeting with Norihiro Nakayama, the Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The meeting took place earlier this month in Tokyo along the margins of the Senior Officials' Meeting of the 9th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (SOM9) in Japan.

The meeting featured elaborate discussions on upcoming programs to expand opportunities for deepened cooperation between Fiji and Japan in social, economic and political areas of development.

Mr Karan conveyed Fiji's sincere appreciation to Japan and its people for their unwavering commitment and support which has enabled Fiji-Japan collaborations to grow from strength to strength.

He said the commemoration of 50 years of Fiji-Japan relations this year is a milestone achievement for the two nations, and that it is a testament of their unprec-

edented cooperation and great friendship.

He stated that a Japanese delegation is expected to participate at the upcoming Fiji Economic Mission scheduled in Fiji in February 2020 which is an outcome of the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8).

The relationship between the two nations will be further elevated following high-level meetings and greater levels of engagements between Fiji and Japan in 2020. These include:

- Proposed plans on initiating Fiji and Japan PM Bilateral Summit in Japan;
- Japan-Fiji Parliamentary Friendship League members are expected to visit Fiji to attend the 50th Independence Jubilee Anniversary celebration in recognition of the Fiji-Japan diplomatic relations;
- Provision of potential funding by Japan towards developing volunteer cooperation program and work training programs; and
- Japan has assured continued support for Fiji, in its preparation to host the 4th PALM Ministerial Interim Meeting in July 2020. It will be significant given that it would be the first time for such an important event, to be hosted outside Japan and in a Pacific island nation.

-MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FijiFocus

Head of Govt honours sporting personalities

P.M. Full of Praise

VILIAME TIKOTANI

FIJIAN sporting personalities got a return for investing in their country in the field of sports at the Annual 2019 Fiji Sports Awards.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, a cornerstone of sports and development of sports in Fiji, graced the occasion with wife Mary and congratulated sports stars for their hard work.

“If you want to win the game, or bring home a gold medal, or take a nation to new heights of progress, the same leadership mentality applies. Victory demands unity. It demands togetherness. It demands loyalty. It demands a clear vision, strategic preparation, and smart decision making.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said what makes Fijian sports work well is the fundamental principles of unity and teamwork that delivered last year’s Sevens World Series title.

“It’s why our sportsmen and women are respected so much on the world stage.”

“And because we’ve stuck by those same principles as a Government, anyone, from anywhere, can find success for themselves in the Fiji of today. So long as you work hard, prove your merit, and commit to teamwork, there’s a place for every hard-working Fijian on our nation’s winning roster.”

Few things bring Fijians together more powerfully than cheering for Team Fiji on to victory – “that is why I love Fijian sport, because I love to see

our people united”.

“Unity builds strong teams and strong nations alike. United in purpose, no victory is beyond our reach!” the Head of Government said.

PM Bainimarama congratulated winners at our 2019 Fiji Sports Awards night, Moana Wind, Seremaia Tuwai, Ben Rova, Gareth Baber, Trisa Cheer, Patricia Vosayaco, Rebeca Johns, Daniel Shaw, the men’s Fiji 7s Team, and all of the other athletes, coaches and staff who helped make 2019 another banner year for Fijian athletics.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Sportsman of the Year Seremaia Tuwai and Sportswoman of the Year Moana Wind during the 2019 Fiji Sports Awards
Photo: VILIAME TIKOTANI

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इज़राइली राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रेउवेन रिबलिन को नांदी हवाई अड्डे पर सैनिक सलामी दी गई चित्र: ननिसे नइमिला

इज़राइली राष्ट्रपति फीजी के दौरे पर

वीरेंद्र लाल

इज़राइली राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रेउवेन रिबलिन ने फीजी का दौरा किया। पेरिफिक आयलैण्ड्स लीडज़ सम्मिट में भाग लेने के लिए वे फीजी आए थे। पहली बार उन्होंने इस सभा में भाग लिया।

फीजी में राष्ट्रपति रिबलिन ने प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गे बड़िनमारामा के साथ द्विपक्षीय बात-चीत भी की। फीजी और इज़राइल के बीच कूटनीतिक

सम्बंध उन्नीस सौ सत्तर (1970) में शुरू हुआ था। राष्ट्रपति चर्डम हेरज़ोग फीजी आने वाले पहले इज़राइली राष्ट्रपति थे। वे उन्नीस सौ छियासी (1986) में फीजी आए थे।

राष्ट्रपति रिबलिन कल सुबह छः बजे के करीब नांदी हवाई अड्डा पर उतरे जहाँ उन्हें सौ सैनिक सलामी (100 person guard of honour) दी गई। हवाई अड्डा से उन्हें पुलमन

नांदी बय रिसोट एन्ड स्पा ले जाया गया जहाँ उनका पारम्परिक स्वागत किया गया। इसके बाद राष्ट्रपति रिबलिन ने पेरिफिक आयलैण्ड्स लीडज़ सम्मिट में भाग लिया और इसके बाद प्रधान मंत्री बड़िनमारामा के साथ द्विपक्षीय वार्ता की।

उन्होंने हमारे राष्ट्रपति मर्डजा जेनरल (Ret'd) चोची कोन्रोते के साथ रात का भोजन किया। वे आज सुबह

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के लिए रवाना हुए।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़िनमारामा ने राष्ट्रपति रिबलिन के साथ हुई बातचीत सफल बताया।

फीजी और इज़राइल कई क्षेत्रों में साथ मिलकर काम करते हैं खासकर सुरक्षा, कृषि, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, जलवायु परिवर्तन और डिज़ास्टा रिहैबिलिटेशन के क्षेत्र में।

सुरक्षा तथा विदेश मंत्री इनिया

सेरुईरातु ने कहा कि राष्ट्रपति रिबलिन के फीजी आने से, दोनों देशों के बीच सम्बंध और मज़बूत हुआ है। उन्होंने बताया कि इज़राइल से फीजी काफी कुछ हासिल कर सकता है।

इस महिने बाद में निउ-ज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जेसिन्डा आर्डन से भी फीजी आने की आशा की जा रही है। ऐसी आशा है कि सोमवार चौबीस से सत्ताईस फरवरी तक वो यहाँ रहेंगी।



मैला इधर उधर फेकने से रोकना, सब की जिम्मेदारी है



लिट्टा प्रिवेन्शन ऑफिसज़ के साथ वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर रेड्डी चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

वीरेंद्र लाल

मैला इधर उधर फेकने से रोकना और हमारे वातावरण को साफ रखना, हम सब की जिम्मेदारी है।

वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी नांदी में लिट्टा प्रिवेन्शन ऑफिसज़ ट्रेनिंग में बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने बताया कि मैला इधर उधर फेंकना एक राष्ट्रीय चिंता है और इसे रोकने के लिए सामाजिक और व्यक्तिगत लोगों को साथ आना ज़रूरी है।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने दोहराया कि सभी सामाजिक, विलजस और शहरों के सभी लोगों को देश को साफ रखने के लिए एक नेशनल मुवमेंट में शामिल होना चाहिए।

“वातावरण को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के प्रति हमें लोगों के विचार बदलने की ज़रूरत है। सभी लोगों को वातावरण साफ रखने की जिम्मेदारी लेनी चाहिए। देश को साफ रखना, इस देश के हर नागरिक की जिम्मेदारी है। इस समस्या का समाधान हमारे बीच है। कुछ लोग अपना मैला दूसरों के आँगन में फेंकते हैं, यह सही नहीं है।”

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने इस ट्रेनिंग में भाग लेने वालों को बताया कि एक इलाके में मैला से इसका असर दूर दूर तक लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर पड़ता है और इससे वातावरण के साथ साथ नदी नालों पर भी विपरीत असर पड़ता है।

मंत्री ने बताया कि मैला इधर उधर फेंकना, अपराध है और अगर किसी को ऐसा करते पकड़ा गया, उसके खिलाफ कदम उठाया जायेगा।

“मैला इधर उधर फेंकने वालों पर अभियोग लगाया जाएगा। मैला इधर उधर फेंकने से केवल देश की छवि खराब नहीं होती बल्कि इससे वातावरण को खतरा होता है और बीमारियाँ फैलती हैं। इससे नदी नाले ब्लोक होने से बाढ़ भी चढ़ती है,” मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा।

कुल मिलाकर तेरह अफसरों ने इस एक दिवसीय ट्रेनिंग में भाग लिया था। लिट्टा एक्ट 2008 वातावरण विभाग की निगरानी में आता है लेकिन पुलिस अफसर, लेण्ड ट्रांसपोर्ट अफसर, पब्लिक हेल्थ अफसर और अन्य पब्लिक अफसरों के पास यह अधिकार है कि वे यह देखें कि इस कानून का पालन किया जा रहा है।



मलेनेशियन विदेश मंत्रियों की सभा में फीजी के रक्षा तथा विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु नेताओं के समक्ष अपनी माँग रखते हुए चित्र: रोनल देव

क्षेत्रीय प्रतिक्रिया दल की स्थापना करने की माँग

रोनल देव

फीजी के सुरक्षा तथा विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु ने मलेनेशियन स्पीयाहेड ग्रुप के विदेश मंत्रियों से माँग की है कि वे एक ऐसे दल की स्थापना करने के कदम को प्राथमिकता दें, जो विपत्ति के समय जल्द से आगे बढ़कर सहायता पहुँचा सकता है।

सूत्रों में हुई विदेश मंत्रियों की सभा में मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने कहा कि फीजी ओस्ट्रेलिया और अन्य साझेदारों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहा है ताकि नान्दी स्थित ब्लेक रोक कैंप को एक सेंटर के रूप में विकसित किया जाए, जो शान्ति सेवा, मानवीय सहायता तथा विपत्ति के समय मदद पहुँचाने में आगे आए।

इसपर काम शायद अगले साल तक खत्म हो जाएगा।

मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने कहा कि हमारे लोग आए दिन किसी न किसी प्राकृतिक विपत्ति का सामना करते हैं जिनसे उनको नुकसान तो होता ही है, बल्कि हमारी सड़कें, पुल तथा अन्य संसाधनों को भी क्षति पहुँचती है।

“मुझे लगता है कि अगर हम एक साथ खड़े होंगे तो प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के बाद राहत सहायता प्रदान करने में हम और बहुत कुछ कर सकते हैं।

हर साल प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों की संख्या बढ़ रही है और यह ताकतवर होती जा रही है जिनका सामना हमारे देश कर रहे हैं।

इस बारे में हमें और भी गम्भीरता

से विचार करने की ज़रूरत है तथा उम्मीद है कि कोई सामाधान ज़रूर निकलेगा,” मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि जिस तरह प्रशान्तीय देशों ने ओस्ट्रेलिया के जंगलों में लगी आग के समय ओस्ट्रेलिया को सहायता पहुँचाई, इससे उन्हें बहुत गर्व महसूस हुआ। मंत्री ने कहा कि भविष्य में एक क्षेत्रीय दल की स्थापना करना हमारे बस में है तथा उन्होंने नेताओं को चुनौती दी कि वे इस काम को अंजाम देने की प्राथमिकता दें।

मंत्री के अनुसार पहले मलेनेशियन स्पीयाहेड ग्रुप को लेकर कई चुनौतियाँ हमारे सामने थी लेकिन भविष्य काफी उज्जवल दिख रहा है जिससे हम अपने पुर्वजों के सपनों को पूरा कर सकते हैं।

कृषि जनगणना से बेहतर योजना बनाने में आसानी होगी



कृषि जनगणना में शामिल कृषि मंत्रालय के कर्मचारी चित्र: कृषि मंत्रालय

रोनल देव

इस साल की कृषि जनगणना दस फरवरी से शुरू हुई है और कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी आशावादी हैं कि इस दौरान जो जानकारीयें इकट्ठा की जायेंगी, उनसे कृषि क्षेत्र के लिए बेहतर योजना बनाने में मदद मिलेगी।

मंत्री ने कहा कि इससे सरकार को मौका मिलेगा कि समय रहते वो इसके प्रभाव पर अमल करे और फैसला ले। सरकार राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर तथा आर्थिक स्थिति को बढ़ावा देने वाले, इक्कीसवीं सदी में कृषि क्षेत्र के बदलते रूप को लेकर काफी चुनौतियों का सामना कर रही है।

मंत्री रेड्डी के अनुसार कृषि क्षेत्र के द्वारा जबकि लोगों को भोजन मिलता है, पहनने के लिए कपड़े तथा बढ़ती आबादी के लिए समागी लेकिन चुनौती है लोगों को गरीबी से बाहर निकालना, पानी तथा ज़मीन के संसाधनों को

बचाना तथा जलवायु परिवर्तन के असर को कम करना।

मंत्री ने फीजिवसियों से माँग की है कि वे अपना समर्थन दे ताकि सही और ज़रूरी जानकारीयें बटोरी जा सकें।

उन्होंने कृषि क्षेत्र से जुड़े सभी लोगों से माँग की है कि वे इस दौरान अपना समय निकालकर जनगणना करने वालों को जानकारी प्रदान करें। तीन सप्ताह के लिए शाख-भाजी, पशुपालन, गन्ना, मछली व्यवसाय तथा वन विभाग की जनगणना की जायेगी।

यह जनगणना महीने के अंत तक होगी। इस अवधि से बाहर इकट्ठा की गई जानकारी स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। इस साल की फीजी कृषि जनगणना, देश में होने वाली पाँचवी जनगणना है जबकि पहले उन्नीस सौ अड़सठ (1968), उन्नीस सौ अठहत्तर (1978), उन्नीस सौ इक्यान्वे (1991) तथा दो हज़ार नौ (2009) में जनगणना हुई थी।

निउ ज़ीलैंड में फीजी ई-पासपोर्ट

वीरन्द्र लाल

वेलिंग्टन निउ ज़ीलैंड में फीजी हाय कमिशन ने वहाँ फीजियन नागरिकों को ई-पासपोर्ट देना शुरू कर दिया है।

वहाँ नया ई-पासपोर्ट किट बिठाने से हाय कमिशन के कर्मचारी लोगों के बायोमेट्रिक डाटा रेकॉर्ड कर सकते हैं। कार्डस्टचेर्च, ओक्लैंड, नईपिया और हईस्टिंग्स तक के फीजियन लोग वेलिंग्टन जाकर ई-पासपोर्ट बनवा रहे हैं।

वेलिंग्टन, दूसरा फीजियन डिप्लो-मेटिक मिशन है जिसे ई-पासपोर्ट एनरोलमेंट किट मिला है।

वहाँ फीजी के हाय कमिशन फिलिमोने वांगम्बादा ने बताया कि इस नई सिस्टम से फीजियन लोग, बड़निमारामा सरकार की डिजिटल स्ट्रेटजी से फायदा उठा सकेंगे।

“हम इस बात से खुश हैं कि नए ई-पासपोर्ट्स में काफी सेक्युरिटी फीचर्स हैं। इससे सफर करना सहज हो जाता है तथा पासपोर्ट और सुरक्षित हो जाता है। वेलिंग्टन में हमारे कर्मचारी डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ़ इमिग्रेशन के साथ मिलकर काम करते हैं जबकि अब सब कुछ ऑनलाईन होता है। हम हर दिन अवसतम लगभग पाँच से दस लोगों के ई-पासपोर्ट बनाते हैं। इस सेवा के बारे में हम और लोगों को बता रहे हैं और आशा करते हैं कि और लोग इससे फायदा उठावेंगे। अपना पासपोर्ट रिनउ करने अब लोगों को वापस फीजी नहीं जाना पड़ेगा।”

हाय कमिशन वांगम्बादा ने बताया कि कमिशन के कर्मचारी इस नई टेक्नोलॉजी के बारे में सीख चुके हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इस नई टेक्नोलॉजी का प्रयोग करके सरकार देश को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के साथ साथ देश को सामाजिक और आर्थिक प्रगति की ओर लेजाना चाहती है।

हाय कमिशन वांगम्बादा ने एनरोलमेंट किट प्रदान करने के लिए डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ़ इमिग्रेशन को धन्यवाद दिया।



अबु धाबी में प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गे बड़निमारामा वहाँ के शाही राजकुमार के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने अबु धाबी के शाही राजकुमार को फीजी आने के लिए आमंत्रित किया

वीरन्द्र लाल

प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गे बड़निमारामा ने अबु धाबी के शाही राजकुमार तथा युनायटेड अरब एमिरट्स आर्म्ड फोर्स के डेपुटी सुप्रीम कोमान्डा महामहीम शेइख मोहम्मद बिन जाएद अल नाहयान को फीजी आने के लिए आमंत्रित किया है।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने शाही राजकुमार से पिछले सप्ताह कास अल होस्न में मुलाकात की और फीजी में उपलब्ध कई मौकों से फायदा उठाने के लिए उन्हें आमंत्रित किया।

यह दूसरी बार प्रधान मंत्री शाही राजकुमार से मिले हैं। उनकी पहली मुलाकात पिछले महिने अबु धाबी सस्टेईनबिलिटी वीक के दौरान हुई थी।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने शाही राजकुमार को बताया कि फीजी, केवल क्षेत्र में ही नहीं बल्कि अंतराष्ट्रीय तौर पर यू.ए.ई की उपलब्धि पर नज़र रख रहा है और अच्छी नेतागिरी प्रदान करने के लिए प्रधान मंत्री ने शाही राजकुमार की सरहाना की।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने बताया कि फीजी, यू.ए.ई के साथ सम्बंध मज़बूत करने पर काम करेगा। उन्होंने सुवा में यू.ए.ई डिप्लोमेटिक मिशन खोलने के, यू.ए.ई के प्रस्ताव का खुले दिल से स्वागत किया।

दोनों नेताओं के बीच बात-चीत के दौरान फीजियन छात्रों को अबु धाबी स्थित निउ योक युनिवर्सिटी भेजने पर भी बात उठी।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि यह छात्र आगे चलकर देश के नेता होंगे और उन्होंने शाही राजकुमार

से फीजियन छात्रों के लिए और छात्रवृत्ति प्रदान करने की माँग की।

प्रधान मंत्री ने शाही राजकुमार के समक्ष इसकी भी व्यवस्था करने की माँग दोहराई कि यू.ए.ई जाने वाले फीजियन लोगों को विज़ा न लेना पड़े। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि नोन कमिशनड फीजियन अफसर, यू.ए.ई के कुछ स्ट्रेटजिक असेट्स गार्ड कर सकते हैं। इस सम्बंध में दोनों देशों के सैनिकों के बीच पहले से बात-चीत हो रही है।

अभी, फीजी के लगभग दो सौ पचास नागरिक यू.ए.ई में काम करते हैं। इनमें पायलेट्स, फ्लाईट अटेंडन्ट्स, नेसस, टीचर्स, ऐंयाकाफ्ट एनर्जिनियज़, एडमिनिस्ट्रैटिव और सेक्युरिटी अफसर शामिल हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री ने वोल्ड एबन फोरम में भाग लिया

वीरन्द्र लाल

प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गे बड़निमारामा आशावादी हैं कि शहर, लोगों के जीवन में सुधार ला सकते हैं और लोगों को अच्छे मौकों प्रदान कर सकते हैं।

वे अबु धाबी में वोल्ड एबन फोरम के दसवें सेशन (WUF10) के उद्घाटन पर बोल रहे थे।

“यह फोरम मौका प्रदान करता है कि मुसबतों से बचने के लिए शहरों की भूमिकाओं के बारे में विचार किया जाए। शहरों में जीवन स्तर काफी सुधरा है लेकिन इसके साथ साथ दुनिया का तापमान काफी बढ़ गया है। शहरी क्षेत्रों में आज दुनिया की लगभग आधी जनसंख्या रहती है और



प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गे बड़निमारामा अपने स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण के साथ अबु धाबी में वोल्ड एबन फोरम के दौरान चित्र: प्रदान किया

यह लोग सत्तर प्रतिशत (70%) कार्बन एमिशन के लिए ज़िम्मेदार हैं।” प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि फीजी सन् दो हज़ार पचास (2050) तक कार्बन निउट्रल होने की दिशा में काम कर रहा है और उन्होंने हर राष्ट्र, हर शहर और हर सामाजिक

सन् दो हज़ार पचास तक नेट-ज़िरो हासिल करने में शामिल होने की अपील की है।

“यह काम हम अगर अपने बच्चों और नाती-पोतों पर छोड़ते हैं, तो हमारे इकोसिस्टम्स और ग्लोबल क्लायमेट नष्ट होने का खतरा बना

रहेगा और एक बार नष्ट होने पर इन्हें सुधारा नहीं जा सकता।

भावी पीढ़ियों के लिए हम सब को साथ मिलकर काम करना चाहिए,” वीरेन्गे बड़निमारामा ने कहा।

फीजियन सरकार योजना बनाकर, शहरी कानून और मज़बूत करते हुए

तथा शहरी और ग्रामीण विकास में बराबरी लाते हुए लोगों को शहर आकर बसने और उससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों से निपटने की दिशा में काम कर रही है।

फीजी, सिंगापुर की सरकार के साथ एक एबन प्लेनिंग इनिशियैटिव पर काम कर रहा है जिसमें लौ एमिशन और क्लायमेट रिसेलियन्ट स्ट्रेटजीज़ शामिल हैं।

यू.एन हेबिटाटा का समर्थन करने के लिए यू.एन की अन्डा सेक्रेटरी जनरल तथा एग्ज़ेक्टिव डायरेक्टर, सुश्री मई मुनाह मोहम्मद शरीफ ने प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा को धन्यवाद दिया।

विडियो संदेश में संयुक्त राष्ट्र के महा मंत्री, महामहीम एनटोनियो गुटेरेस ने कहा कि वेशहरों, नगरों और सामाजों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, सस्टेईनबल डिवेलपमेंट गोलस पर काम करेंगे।

“यू.एन, स्थानिए और राष्ट्रीय नेताओं, व्यापारियों, सामाजिक संस्थाओं और अन्य हिस्सेदारों पर विश्व खतरों को लेकर सामाधान प्रदान करने के लिए निर्भर है,” श्री गुटेरेस ने कहा।



प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने अबु धाबी के शाही राजकुमार को फीजी आने के लिए आमंत्रित किया

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गो बड़निमारामा ने अबु धाबी के शाही राजकुमार तथा युनायटेड अरब एमिरेट्स आर्म्ड फोर्स के डेपुटी सुप्रीम कोमान्डा महामहीम शेइख मोहम्मद बिन जाएद अल नाहयान को फीजी आने के लिए आमंत्रित किया है। प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने शाही राजकुमार से पिछले सप्ताह कास अल होस्न में मुलाकात की और फीजी में उपलब्ध कई

मौकों से फायदा उठाने के लिए उन्हें आमंत्रित किया। यह दूसरी बार प्रधान मंत्री शाही राजकुमार से मिले हैं। उनकी पहली मुलाकात पिछले महिने अबु धाबी सस्टेनैबिलिटी वीक के दौरान हुई थी।

चित्र: प्रधान किए गए



पश्चिमी विभाग में वालेसी के और दफतर खुले

वालेसी सेवा के लिए लोगों को अब कहीं दूर नहीं जाना पड़ेगा। अटोनी जेनरल तथा कोमिउनिक्ईशन्स मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने लौतोका, वा तथा राकीराकी में वालेसी कस्टमा केया सेंट्रज का उद्घाटन किया। उन्होंने लोगों से वालेसी प्लेटफॉर्म से फायदा उठाने की मांग की है। वालेसी, सरकार की ओर से एक सेवा है जिसके तहत लोग मुफ्त में आठ टेलिविज़न चैनल्स देख सकेंगे। देश भर में लगभग एक लाख पचास हजार लोगों को वालेसी सेट टोप वॉक्सस मिला है।

चित्र: मेरियान गोनन्दुवा



व्यापार मंत्रियों ने माईडपेल फीजी का दौरा किया

फीजी में पॅसिफिक अई.सी.पी व्यापार मंत्रियों की सभा में भाग ले रहे सदस्यों ने वालेलवू स्थित माईडपेल फीजी का दौरा किया। प्रतिनिधिमंडल की अगुवाई फीजी की व्यापार मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार कर रही थी। इस दौर से विभिन्न देशों के व्यापार मंत्रियों को माईडपेल फीजी की कारवाईयों के बारे में जानने का मौका मिला।

चित्र: जेरी लिंगईरी



चीनी और वातावरण विभाग के अधिकारियों के बीच सभा हुई

चीनी और वातावरण विभाग के लोगों को साथ मिलकर काम करना चाहिए और एक दूसरे को प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए। कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी गराबाई पिंगेन कईन प्रोड्यूसर्स असोसिएशन की एक कार्यशाला में बोल रहे थे। यह कार्यशाला, वातावरण के विकास तथा मिट्टी और पानी के मैनेजमेंट, बायोडायवर्सिटी और वड्स्ट मैनेजमेंट के बारे में था। मंत्री रेड्डी ने दोनों संस्थाओं की अहमियत के बारे में बताया और कहा कि दोनों संस्थाओं को एक जुट होकर काम करना चाहिए जिससे वातावरण सुरक्षित रहे और गन्ने का उत्पादन भी बढ़े।

चित्र: प्रधान किए गए





कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी वाईमलिका नांदी में एगो-एक्सपोजिट पैकिंग शेड के उद्घाटन के दौरान
चित्र: मेरयानी गोनेन्दुवा

किसानी को व्यापार की तरह देखें-मंत्री रेड्डी

रोनल देव

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने किसानों से बड़ी सोच रखने तथा किसानों को व्यापार की तरह देखने की माँग की है।
वाईमलिका नांदी में हालही जी. गुप फीजी लिमिटेड के एक नया एगो-एक्सपोजिट पैकिंग शेड का उद्घाटन करते हुए डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा कि फीजी के कृषि क्षेत्र को एक अलग फायदा हो रहा है जहाँ तक मौसम, मिट्टी में उपजाऊपन तथा पानी का खर्च शामिल है।
उन्होंने इस पैकेजिंग शेड के उद्घाटन का स्वागत करते हुए कहा कि इससे नौकरियाँ पैदा होंगी और आगे चलकर देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को फायदा होगा।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने किसानों से बड़े पैमाने पर खेती करने की माँग की ताकि वे अपना उत्पादन निर्यात यानि एक्सपोर्ट भी कर सकें।
उन्होंने कहा कि देश को मेहनती तथा जोश से भरे किसान चाहिए। उनके अनुसार किसी भी किसान को सहायता पहुँचाने से पहले सरकार यह देखती है कि किसान के पास खेती को नई उँचाई तक लेजाने की नज़र और कितनी उत्साह है।
मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि इससे न केवल किसानों बल्कि पूरे देश को फायदा होगा क्योंकि ज़्यादा करके स्थानीय उत्पादनों का प्रयोग देश में होगा और बाहर से कम सामान मँगाया जायेगा।

पंद्रह सालों में तीस मिलियन पेड़ बोने का लक्ष्य



फॉरेस्ट मंत्री ओसेया नईगामू नम्बउतिनी में एक पौधा लगाते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

फॉरेस्ट मंत्री ओसेया नईगामू ने पश्चिमी विभाग में कोरोईबवे और नम्बउतिनी के कोरोवासियों को आश्वासन दिया है कि फीजी की सरकार पंद्रह (15) सालों में तीस (30) मिलियन पेड़ बोने वाला अपना लक्ष्य हासिल करने की पूरी कोशिश करेगी।
मंत्री नईगामू पश्चिमी विभाग के दौरे पर कोरोवासियों के साथ बात-चीत कर रहे थे। उन्होंने बताया कि उनकी टीम देश भर का दौरा करेगी और लोगों को पेड़ बोने में सहायता प्रदान करेगी।
“हमें पेड़ बोने के लिए ज़मीन चाहिए और ज़मीन मालिकों की सहमति भी ताकि मंत्रालय आपको बोने के लिए छोटे पेड़ तथा बीज दे सके,” मंत्री ने कहा।
मंत्री के अनुसार जिस ज़मीन पर पेड़ बोए जायेंगे वो ज़मीन, ज़मीन मालिकों की ही

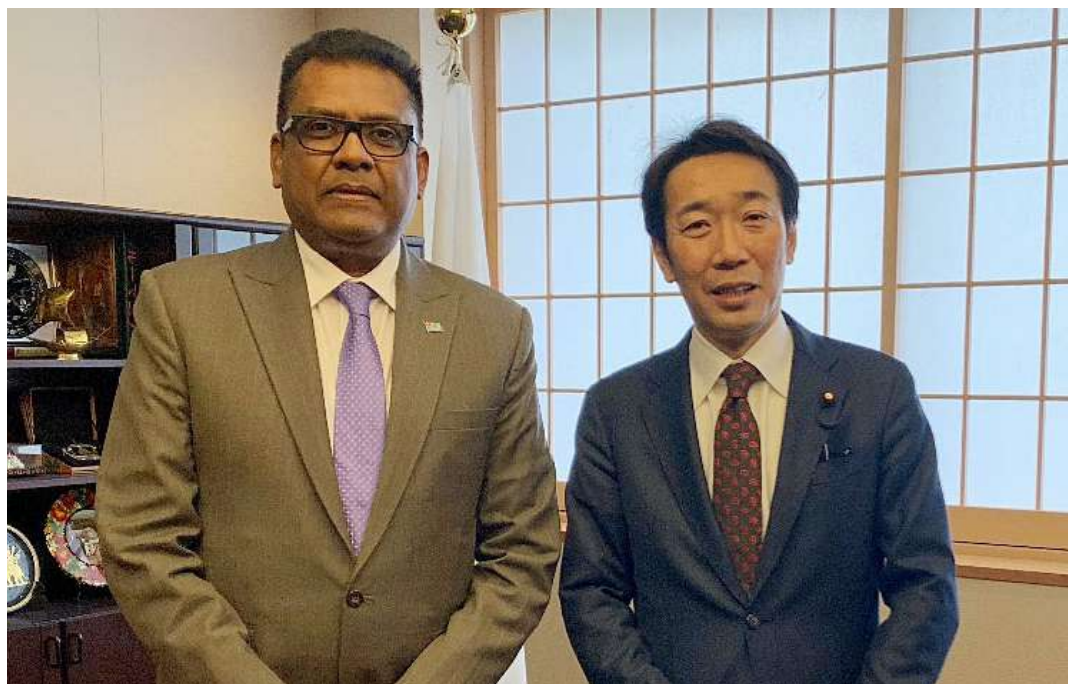
रहेगी तथा कोई और इसका दावा नहीं कर सकेगा।
उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि मंत्रालय, गाँव गाँव और कोरो कोरो में जाकर ट्रेनिंग प्रदान करेगा ताकि लोग सीख सकें कि चंदन जैसे पेड़ों को कैसे बोया जाए और उनकी देखभाल कैसे की जाए।
“इस बात-चीत के बाद मेरी टीम देश भर का दौरा करेगी और जो लोग इसमें दिलचस्पी दिखायेंगे, उन्हें ट्रेनिंग दी जायेगी ताकि वे सीखें कि चंदन के पेड़ों की देखभाल कैसे की जाए जबतककि पेड़ बड़े नहीं हो जाते,” मंत्री नईगामू ने कहा।
उन्होंने लोगों से ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा पेड़ बोने की माँग की जिससे न केवल आने वाली पीढ़ी को सहायता मिले बल्कि जलवायु परिवर्तन से निपटा भी जा सके जिसका सामना हम सब कर रहे हैं।

सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में फीजी, जपान के साथ और आगे बढ़कर काम करेगा

वीरेंद्र लाल

सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में फीजी और जपान और आगे बढ़कर काम कर सकते हैं। प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण ने जपानी सुरक्षा मंत्री तोमोहिरो यामामोतो के साथ सभा के दौरान ऐसा कहा।
टोक्यो में नवा पॅसिफिक आयलेण्डस् लीडर्स मीटिंग (SOM9) के दौरान हुई इस सभा में जपानी मंत्री ने फीजी के सुरक्षा मंत्री को जपान-पॅसिफिक आयलेण्ड कन्ट्रीज़ डिफेंस मिनिस्ट्रियल फोरम में भाग लेने के लिए आमंत्रित किया। यह सभा इस साल अईप्रल की शुरुआत में टोक्यो में होगी।
स्थाई सचिव करण ने इस आमंत्रण के लिए जपान को धन्यवाद देते हुए जपानी तट रक्षकों द्वारा फीजी को प्रदान की जा रही सहायता के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया। फीजी और जपान, ट्रेनिंग और कंपैसिटि

बिल्डिंग के क्षेत्र में भी मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं। इस क्षेत्र में मिलकर काम करते रहने और इसमें विकास करने के बारे में भी विचार किया गया।
जपान ने जलवायु परिवर्तन पर फीजियन प्रधान मंत्री वीरेंद्र बड़िनारामा की नेतागिरी को मान्यता देते हुए, इस दिशा में कदम उठाने की उनकी माँग को अपनाया है।
मंत्री यामामोतो ने कहा कि जपान फीजी को और समर्थन प्रदान करेगा खासकर सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में।
फीजी में ब्लैकरोक प्रोजेक्ट पर भी बातें हुई, जिसपर फिलहाल ऑस्ट्रेलियन सरकार की मदद से काम हो रहा है। जपान ने इस प्रोजेक्ट की सहराना करते हुए कहा कि इससे क्षेत्रीय और अंतराष्ट्रीय शांति का बढ़ावा मिलेगा। जपान अपना फी एन्ड ओपन इनडो-पॅसिफिक (FOIP) स्ट्रेटजी पर काम कर रहा है और मंत्री यामामोतो ने बताया कि फीजी के सही निर्णयों के लिए जपान उसे समर्थन करना जारी रखेगा।



प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण, जपानी सुरक्षा मंत्री तोमोहिरो यामामोतो के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

फीजी को फिसियो इक्वीप्मेंट से फायदा



फिसियोनेट यू.कै के सदस्य, फीजी भेजे जाने वाले फिसियो इक्वीप्मेंट के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

वीरन्द्र लाल

लण्डन में फीजी हाय कमिशन और फिसियोनेट यू.कै के बीच साझेदारी से फिसियो इक्वीप्मेंट फीजी भेजे जायेंगे जिससे यहाँ स्पायनल इनजरीज़ ओसोसियईशन को मदद मिलेगी।

इस महिने की शुरुआत में फिसियोनेट यू.कै ने फीजी हाय कमिशन के साथ मिलकर मेडिकल इक्वीप्मेंट के अपना सोलवा कोन्सई मेंट फीजी भेजा। स्पायनल इनजरीज़ ओसोसियईशन को सन् दो हजार दस से यह सहायता प्रदान की जा रही है।

लगभग ग्यारह हजार डोलर मूल्य के सामान फीजी भेजने के लिए कोनटईनर में लादते वक्त फिसियोनेट के संस्थापक और संरक्षक

पिटा थोमसन तथा यू.कै में फीजी के हाय कमिशनर जितोको ति-कोलेवू वहाँ उपस्थित थे। लगातार यह सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए श्री तिकोलेवू ने फिसियोनेट को धन्यवाद देते हुए कहा कि इससे फीजी में अपंग लोगों के जीवन में बहुत सुधार आयेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे दोनों देशों के लोगों के बीच सम्बंध और मज़बूत होता है। फिसियोनेट की स्थापना सन् दो हजार पाँच में हुई थी और इसका लक्ष्य है यू.कै भर से फिसियोथेरापी और चलने फिरने के औजार इक्वहट्टा करके, उन लोगों तक पहुँचाना जिन्हें इन औजारों की ज़रूरत है। फिसियोनेट, पूर्वी यूरोप, अफ्रीका, एशिया और प्रशांत देशों तक यह औजार पहुँचाता है।

दुगापातू राकीराकी के निवासियों को बिजली मिली



दुगापातू राकीराकी में बिजली योजना का उद्घाटन करते हुए इनफास्ट्रक्चर मंत्री जोने उसांमते, वहाँ के पण्डित जयंत महाराज के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

राकीराकी के दुगापातू सेटलमेंट के लोगों की ज़िन्दगी बदल गई जब सरकार ने वहाँ तक बिजली पहुँचाई।

तैंतीस (33) घर के एक सौ पैसठ (165) लोग जिनमें वृद्ध, माता-पिता, युवक तथा बच्चे शामिल हैं को चार लाख अस्सी हजार डोलर (\$480,000) की बिजली वाली इस योजना से बहुत लाभ होगा।

इस योजना का उद्घाटन करते हुए संसाधन मंत्री चोने उसांमते ने कहा कि बिजली की व्यवस्था से हर एक फीजीवासी का रहन-सहन बदल जाता है।

“सरकार ने एक राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्य रखा है कि अगले साल तक सभी फीजीवासियों के घर तक बिजली पहुँच जाए,” मंत्री उसांमते ने कहा। उनके अनुसार पिछले पाँच सालों में सरकार ने बिजली के क्षेत्र के लिए दो सौ चौबीस मिलियन डोलर निकाला है जहाँ क्षेत्र में इस्तेमाल होने वाला हर एक डोलर में से सत्तर सेन्ट्स, सीधे ग्रामीण बिजली योजना में लगाए जाते हैं।

दुगापातू के लोग पहले कंरोसीन वाली बत्ती और सोला पावा से चलने वाली बत्तियाँ काम में लाते थे।

ग्रामीण बिजली योजना से अभी तक पचीस हजार (25,000) से ज़्यादा लोगों को फायदा हुआ है।



एम्प्लोयमेंट मंत्री परवीन बाला, सहायक एम्प्लोयमेंट मंत्री एल्विक महाराज तथा सहायक यूथ मंत्री अलिपाते नन्गाता, यूथ अफसरों के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

युवाओं के विकास के लिए अफसर

वीरन्द्र लाल

उन्तीस (29) सहायक यूथ अफसरों ने पिछले सप्ताह यूथ ट्रेनिंग सेन्टा वालेलेवू में दो दिनों की एक कार्यशाला में भाग लिया। यह यूथ अफसर, युवाओं के लिए सरकार के राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्य हासिल करने में प्रमुख भूमिका निभायेंगे। इन युवाओं को सम्बोधित करते हुए यूथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला ने कहा कि देश भर में युवाओं के विकास में यह अफसर काफी मददगार साबित होंगे।

“सहायक यूथ अफसर का

आपका पद, फीजीयन युवकों के विकास में काफी ज़रूरी रहेगा। यह पद हमारे समाज, अर्थ-व्यवस्था और देश के अच्छे भविष्य के निर्माण में योगदान देगा। हम अपने आपको कैसे देखते हैं, उसी के आधार पर हम सेवा प्रदान करेंगे। अगर हम अपने आपको नौकर की तरह देखेंगे, तो हम लोगों को सुन पायेंगे और सब के साथ विनम्रता से पेश आते हुए यूथ अफसर के हैसियत से सब को सेवा प्रदान करेंगे। हमें युवकों को समझना ज़रूरी है। देश की जनसंख्या के

सत्तर प्रतिशत लोग युवा हैं”।

मंत्री ने युवाओं से इन नए अफसरों के साथ मिलकर काम करने की माँग की है। उन्होंने इन अफसरों से किसी के साथ जाति, लिंग या किसी अन्य आधार पर भेदभाव न करने की माँग की है।

“सभी की इज्जत करनी चाहिए और अपना काम, विनम्रता के साथ पूरी इमानदारी से करना चाहिए। फीजी में युवाओं की भलाई के लिए आप काम करेंगे, किसी को निराश मत करना”। एक अफसर हरनील प्रसाद ने

बताया कि अपनी नियुक्ति से वे खुश हैं लेकिन उन्होंने कहा कि उनका काम चुनौतियों से खाली नहीं रहेगा।

“पहले कुछ हफ्तों में हमे अपने इलाकों में युवाओं के साथ सम्बंध जोड़ना होगा। ऐसा होने के बाद फिर सब कुछ ठीक हो जायेगा। मैं मंत्री जी की इस बात से सहमत हूँ कि हम नौकर हैं और हमे बहुत प्यार से सेवा करनी चाहिए। मैं इसी रास्ते पर चलूँगा”। इन नए उन्तीस सहायक यूथ अफसरों ने सोमवार से अपने अपने इलाकों में काम शुरू किया।

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अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम, पिछले सप्ताह वोरिक रिज़ोट सिंगातोका में लीगल अईड कमिशन के एक सम्मेलन के दौरान लीगल अईड कमिशन के वकीलों के साथ सेल्फी लेते हुए चित्र: मेरेयानी गोनेन्दुवा

अपनी ताकत का गलत प्रयोग न करें-अटेनी जेनरल

रोनल देव

अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने लीगल अईड कमिशन से अपनी ताकत का गलत प्रयोग न करने की माँग की है।

स्थानापन्न प्रधान मंत्री के हैसियत से पिछले सप्ताह वोरिक रिज़ोट सिंगातोका में लीगल अईड कमिशन के एक सम्मेलन में बोलते हुए अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा कि किसी को भी, चाहे वो कोई

व्यक्ति हो या संस्था हो को अपनी ताकत का गलत प्रयोग नहीं करना चाहिए।

अटेनी जेनरल ने लीगल अईड कमिशन के सभी कर्मचारियों से माँग की कि वे अपनी भूमिकाओं के बारे में समझें और फीजीवासियों को कानूनी सलाह देकर उनकी मदद करें।

उन्होंने कहा कि लीगल अईड कमिशन की स्थापना से पहले, फीजी में लोग कानून की बात करते थे लेकिन उसका असली मतलब नहीं

जानते थे। पहले लोगों के मन में यह बात थी कि सिर्फ धनवान लोग ही कानूनी सलाह प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

“जो लोग कम पढ़े लिखे हैं शायद नहीं जानते कि कानून का प्रयोग कैसे किया जाए या किसी एक मामले में कानून का सहारा कैसे लिया जा सकता है। अगर कानून उनके खिलाफ हो तो लोग यह भी नहीं जानते कि अपना बचाव कैसे करें,” अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार इसलिए सन् दो हजार तेरह (2013) संविधान बनाते वक्त यह ध्यान में रखा गया कि कानून तक लोगों की पहुँच हो। यही एक तरीका है जिससे कानून लागू किया जा सकता है।

सईयद खईयूम ने जोर दिया कि लीगल अईड, फीजीवासियों को न्याय दिलाने के लिए बेहद ज़रूरी संस्था है और उन्होंने वकीलों से सभी को सेवा प्रदान करने की माँग की है।

Noda Viti



Kidavaki vakamataivalu na Persitedi ni matanitu levu ko Isireli ko Reuven Rivlin ena nona kele mai e Nadi International Airport ena noa. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Veisiko mai ki Viti ko Peresitedi ni Isireli

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

GAUNA marautaki vei keda nona sikovi Viti mai ena noa (Lotulevu, Veverueri 20, 2020) na turaga na Peresitedi ni vanua ko Isireli ko Peresitedi Reuven Rivlin. Ko Peresitedi Rivlin e sa ika rua ni Peresitedi ni Isireli me sikovi Viti mai. E tekivu na veiwekani vakamatanitu nei Viti kei Isireli ena yabaki 1970. Na isevu ni Peresitedi ni Isireli me sikovi Viti mai koya ko Peresitedi Chaim Herzog ena vula ko Noveba ena yabaki 1986. E marautaka sara na ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama me kidavaki Peresitedi Rivlin mai kina noda vanua ena kena vakarau eda kilai tani kina. Sa qai tarava sara yani nona laki vulagi dokai talega o Peresitedi Rivlin ena Bose ni Veimatanitu ni Pasifika e Nadi.

Talei vei ira na iliuliu ni Matanitu ena Pasifika me ra sota vata kei Peresitedi Rivlin ka ra veitalanoataka kina na veiwekani vakamatanitu nodra dui matanitu kei na matanitu ko Isireli. Era duavata ena sota kei Peresitedi Rivlin na vei liuliu ni matanitu eso ena Pasivika me vaka-taki Paraiminisita Jame Marape mai Papua New Guinea, Paraiminisita Tuilaepa Malielegaioti e Samoa, na ivukevuke ni Paraiminisita mai Tonga kei na ivukevuke ni Paraiminisita mai Tuvalu kei na Minisita ni Vanua tani e Solomon. E ka dokai talega vua na Peresitedi ni noda vanua ko Peresitedi Jioji Konusi Konrote me vakarautaka e dua na ivakayakavi kei Peresitedi Rivlin me ivakaraitaki ni veidokai ni noda vanua ena nona vesiko mai. Ena vuka tale tiko yani ki Ositerelia ko Peresitedi Rivlin ena siga ni mataka.

Vola itukutuku ni bula nei Peresitedi Rivlin

SUCU ENA:
Seviteba 9,
1939:

VULI: Hebrew
Univesiti,
Jerusalemi.

CAKACAKA:
*Loya,
*Dau ni politiki
ka lewena na iso-

qosoqo vaka-
politiki na Likud
party.
* 1978: Digitaki
kina Matabose ni
Siti o Jeruisalami
*2009- 2013- A
Sipika taumada
talega ni Knesset
mai na 2009
kina 2013
*Minisita

talega ni
Vakautukutuku.
*24 ni Jiulai
2014- E digi-
taki ki na itutu ni
Matabose Cecere
duadua elsireki
ka vakatokai na
Knesset.
E na 7 taucoko
na yabaki na ba-

lavu ni gauna ena
taura tiko kina
na itutu vakaPer-
esitedi ni bera
ni digitaki tale
edua.
Me tekivu mai
na 1949, o
Peresitedi Rivlin
oqo sa ika 10 ni
Peresitedi ni va-
nua o Isireli.



Laveti na tagede ni qele

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA ratou qarava rawa tale na Matabose ni Vakadidike ni Dovu ena noda vanua edua na siga me baleta na vakamaniu taki vinaka kina na qele. Me vukei kina na bula bula ni qele baleta ni ogo ena vukea na vuavuai vinaka ni tei.

Na Minisita ni Qele kei na Yau Bula, Ashneel Sudhakar era a sikova na nodra qele vakaitetei ko Jinendra Singh e Veisau, Ba

ka laki qarava kina na cakacaka ni vakavinakataki ni qele ena solvaraki ni maniuu.

Era tiko talega ena soqo oqori na rauta e 45 na lewe ni vanua, dauteitei kei ira na dau ni bisinisi mera vakavouia kina nodra kila baleta na qele.

Vakauqeti ira na dauteitei ko Minisita Sudhakar mera rogoca na vakasala ni Matabose ni Vakadidike ni dovua ka mera vakayagataka me vinaka kina nodra bu-

labula ni qele ma me na qai muria maina bulabula ni dovua.

Vakaraitaka Nazeea Bano edua na cakacaka mana na vakamaniu taki ni qele ni vukea na teitei and lewe2 vinaka ni qele.

Kuria ko Minisita Sudhakar ni matanitu esa sovaraka oti na milioni vakacaca ka kuria me tokona na sasaga me baleta na tei ni dovua kei na qaqi ni suka ka dua vei ira na ivakaraitaki oqori ni vaka maniuu vou

taki ni qele ka sa qai vo mera qarava nodra itavi.

Sa vakauqeti ira na dauteitei mera vakayacora na nodra itavi mera vakalevutaki kina na vua ni qele baleta ni veivuke ena vakatubuilavo kei na rawaka vakailavo ni matanitu.

Sa tomama tiko na nodra vunau na tabana ni bula me baleta tiko bulabula.



Na vunivola tudei vakatawa ni tabana ni qele ko Craig Strong kei ira na i vakalesilesi ena tabana ni qele ni oti na nodra vuli. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Vuli na ivakalesilesi vou ni tabana ni qele

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA mai toka ena dua na vuli me baleta na gacagaca ni matanitu oira na ivakalesilesi ni matanitu era veiqaravi ena tabana ni qele. Vakaraitaka vei ira na vunivola

tudei vakatawa ko Craig Strong na nodra vakavinavinaka me baleta na itavi era mai qarava rawa ena vuli.

Sa uqeti ira talega mera vakayagataka vinaka sara na vuli era sa vakayacora mai ka me yaga ena

nodra icakacaka.

“Au marautaka ni ko ni taleitaka na vuli, ni kauta lesu na vuli ogo ka mo ni vakayagataka vinaka ena nomuni vei siteseni ni veiqaravi vaka cakacaka.”

“Vakauasivi ena nomuni qarava

na nomuni cakacaka ena veisiga ka moni vakavou ni nomuni uqeta na veiqaravi vinaka kei na kena yalo dina ka mera qaravi vinaka kina na lewe ni vanua me vaka na tuvavuta ni tabana.”

Timi ni vakekeli tukutuku



Era sa maqusa na timi ni vakekeli itukutuku ni Fiji Geospatial Information. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERATOU sobu mai na yasana ko Ra na ivakalesilesi ni tabana ni Fiji Geospatial information me baleta na kena laki vakekeli taki mai na tukutuku me mai vakacurumi ena porokaramu ni veiqaravi ena monalivaliva ni tabana ni qele ka vakayacani ena Vanua GIS.

Ogo edua na walewale ni veiqaravi na veisemati ena mona livaliva ka vakarautaki me ra vakayagataka na lewe ni vanua ena vanua cava era sema mai kina. Era vakayagataka na veitabana ni matanitu me ra kila kina na veimataqali veiqaravi e vakayacori tiko ena veitiki ni qele. Rawa talega ni vukei kina na vakayagataki ni qele ke vaka edua na veiqaravi ni veivakatorocaketaki e tuvani ena vanua cava.

Na tabana ni mona livaliva ogo eratou vakayagataka talega na tabana ni veiqaravi ena gauna ni cagilaba kei na leqa tubu koso mera dau vukea kina na lewenivanua ka vakamuri talega kina na vanua esa yacova na veivuke ni matanitu me vaka e yaco ena gauna ni cagilaba ko Winston.

Na veitukutuku kece esa curu rawa tiko ena monalivaliva oq era wili kina na veivanua ni lotu mai Ra, vale ni wai, siteseni ena taudaku ni veiqaravi ni qele, kelekele ni basi kei na taxi, siteseni ni matanitu, taqe ni wai, tei ni dogo, vanua ni bisinisi, bulubulu, koronivuli kei na otela.

Na veivanua sa vakayacori tiko kina na veiqaravi ogo e wilikina ko ; Ba, Lau, Tailevu South, Nadroga/Navosa dua na yasai Rewa ka sa tiko na tuvatuva me baleti Beqa, Naitasiri, Tailevu North kei Levuka ena vula vica mai ogo.

Saa vakavinaka na tabana ni qele vua na valenivola ni yasana ko Ra vei ira na mata ni tikina kei ira na turaga ni koro ena nodra veivuke baleta na vakasokumuni ni tukutuku.

Kauwai baleta na keli ni qereqere vakaveitalia



Era vakarorogo tiko oqori na lewe ni vanua ena bosa e kauwaitaki kina na keli qereqere vakaveitalia. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA keli ni qereqere vakaveitalia ena vei gusuniwai edua na cakacaka sa kauwai sara kina vakalevu na matanitu. Sa sasaga tiko kina na tabana ni qele kei na yau bula me walia na leqa baleta ni sa levu sara tiko na leqa kei na veiba ka so era tini sara ena vale ni veilewai baleta ni sa sega tiko ni vakamuri vakavinaka na lawa mai vei ira na kabana kei ira na lewe ni vanua ena gaunisala era dodonu mera muria yani

Sa vakayacora tiko kina na boseka na tabana ni qele kei ira na lewenivanua, kabani kei na daunibisinisi ena sasaga ni rai ogo.

Sa vakacori kina na boseka mai na wasewase e loma. Mua ira kei na vualiku ka solia kina edua na gauna vinaka vei ira na lewenivanua mera vakataroga e levu na tikina me vaka na kena isau ni qereqere, sau ni laiseni kei na dredre eso e curuma tiko na veika ni bisinisi ogo.

Sa tiko talega na vakananau ena vei vula mai ogo me vakayacori edua na matabose ena noda vanua vakatokai na National Quarry Workshop.



Na Minisita ni Qele kei na Yau Bula ko Ashneel Sudhakar kei ira na i vakalesilesi ena Tabana ni Qele ni ratou sikova na veiyasai Viti ka vakadikava talega na vei tiki ni qele ka wili kina na tiki ni qele era se bera tiko ni vakatawani se vakayagataki ena kena inaki. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Vakalevutaki na vakayagataki ni qele

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA kena vakayagataki vakavinaka na qele ena noda vanua edua na ki ni veiqaravi ni matanitu ka vakacolati kina na tabacacacaka ni qele.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Qele kei na Yau Bau, Ashneel Sudhakar ni ratou sikova na vei yasai Viti ka vakadikava talega na vei tiki ni qele ka wilikina oira na tiki ni qele era sab era tiko ni vakatawani se vakayagataki ena kena inaki.

“Levu na tiki ni qele keitou sa savea taka oti era sa vakata title oti ia na kena vakayagataki era na vakatautaki ena kena kena soli vua na tabana ni Land Use me vakalawa taki kina ka sa na qai vakadonui mai na balavu ni lisi,” kaya ko Minisita Sudhakar.

Ena gauna eratou visiko kina na imatalawalawa nei Minisita Sudhakar eratou sa laki makatakikina na tiki ni qele ena wasewase me rawa ni vukei na gagadre levu me baleta na qele me baleta na veivakavaletaki.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Sudhakar na nodra kauwai me baleta na qele era sega tiko ni tawani se lisitaki me baleta na teitei kei na veivakavaletaki.

Kuria okoya ni mataqali qele vakaoqo era sa toqa toka nona ivakalesilesu me baleta na lisi.

“Sa tekivutaka na noqu minisitiri na cakacaka ogo me baleta na sasaga ni vakayagataki ni qele ena tekivutaki ni yabaki vakailavo ogo ka merawa ni vakavatukana kina na rai yawa ni matanitu ena tuvatuva ni veiqaravi veivakatorocaketaki lewa matau ena lima na yabaki.”



Tubu na sau ni kasi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kacivaka na Mata-bose ni dau volivoli kei na vesisivi ni sa tekivu tubu ena ika 12 ni siga ni Veverueri na isau ni kasi.

Yaco na tubu oqo ena kena dikevi vakatitobu na isau.

Sa tubu ena 91 na sede na tavaya kasi 4.5 kg mai na \$12.97 kina \$13.88.

Na tavaya kasi 12kg sa tubu enaa \$2.44 oya mai na \$34.58 kina \$37.02.

Na tavaya ni kasi 13kg sa tubu ena \$2.65 oya mai na n\$37.46 kina \$40.11.

Sa tubu na isau ni kasi Bulk ena 19 na sede oya mai na \$2.631 dua na kilo.

Na kasi ni motoka se Auto Gau sa tubu ena 13 na sede oya mai na \$1.63 dua na lita kina \$1.76 dua na lita.

Ka=ya na iliuliu ni FCCC o Joel Abraham ni vakila vakadodonu na isau ena kena makete e vuravura.

Ena qai dikevi tale na isau ni kasi ena imatai ni siga ni vula o Evereli.

Vakaraitaka na Tabana ni Bula ena noda vanua ni yacova mai na February 2 ni siga e sab era ni dua na mate oqo e bau laurai ena noda vanua, me vaka ni sa dewavi vuravura na kena I rogorogo ka so sara na vanua era dewa yani kina ka laki vakaleqai ira talega na kena lewenivanua.

Na Matanitu sa cakacaka voleka tiko kei ira na kena dau main a veitabana ni bula e vuravura mai na Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura.



Talei vei ira na marama ni Biausevu mera taba vata kei na turaga na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni sa dolava rawa na nodra vale ni cakacaka ni liga na marama. iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Totoka na vale ni marama e Biausevu

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA dolava o Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama na nodra vale na isoqosoqo ni marama e Biausevu ke kilai me Womens Resources Centre.

“E rauta ni \$150,000 na kena isau vakailavo.”

“Au vakabauta ni na vukea vakalevu na bula vakailavo ena loma saka ni koro oqo.”

“Ena qaravi kina na cakacaka me vakavurea na bisinisi ka veitalanotaki kina na kena tubu,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“E sa na vanua mo ni volitaka kina na nomuni cakacaka ni liga na marama. Ka mera na qai vakayagataka talega na goneyalewa ena veiyabaki mai muri.”

Kaya vei ira mai Biausevu o PM Bainimarama ni sa oti na gauna ni nodrai dau raici sobu na marama.

“Ena nomuni dau laki kerea na vale vakoro moni volivolitaki kina vei ira na saravanua era mai sarava na Baiusevu Waterfall. Sa dodonu moni yalo vakacegu ni sa tiko edua na vale me baleti kemuni ka sa nomuni.”

“Kemuni saka na wekaqu e Vusu sa dodonu mera votai vakatautauavata na marama kei na goneyalewa ena iyau ni koro kei na vuvale. Me kua ni qai nodra tuga na ivovo ni ka,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Ia ni gadrevi meda bula vakatautauvata ena yaga mera okati na marama ena ituvatuva taucoko ni koro.”

“O ira saka na marama sa matata vinaka tiko nira suitu ni vuvale kara kete ni vanua. Mo ni kila ni bibi ena Matanitu oqo na nomuni tatadra ka sega ni koni vakaduiduitaki mai vei ira na kena vo,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Gagadre me baleta yaqona



Vakamacala tiko oqori na Minisita ni Veivoli ko Premila Kumar (loma donu), me baleta na yaqona. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA vakadinadinataki ena Pasivika kei na vuravura levu na gagadre me baleta na yaga ni yaqona me wai ni veivakamoceri, veivakacegui kei na vakamalumu ni yago. Oqori edua na tikina era vakadeitaka na Minisita ni Veivoli mai na Pasivika ena nodra mai boseka voli ena noda vanua.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Veivoli ko Premila Kumar ni levu na matanitu era vakayagataka na yaqona me vukei ira na nodra lewe ni vanua me vaka ni sa qaqi me wainimate.

Era sa vakadonua vata talega na minisita mai na veimatanitu ena Pasivika na gagadre ni kena vakalevutaki nai tei kei na kena qaravi vakamatau na itei oqo me vaka ni sega tale ni dua na yasai vuravura e kunei kina me vaka na Pasivika. Ia na kena yaga kei na vinaka esa robota ka teteva yani na vuravura.

E sa vakadunoua talega na minisita me vakarautaki edua na uma i lavo me baleta na cakacaka ni veivuke ni veivoli ka me rawa ni tatara kina na veimatanitu ena Pasivika.

E vakadeitaka ko Minisita Kumar na gagadre e tiko ena loma ni soqosoqo me ra veitokoni ena bose levu ni World Trade Organisation Ministers meeting me baleta na qoliqoli kei na sasalu ni waitui.

E vakadonua talega na gagadre oya ni nodra sema veiwekani yani kei ira na matanitu ena taudaku ni veivoli vaka-Pasivika ena yasana ni veivoli kei na bisinisi.

Sureti mai ki Viti na Ravouvou e Abu Dhabi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA veisureti na turaga na iliuliu ni Matanitu o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama vua na Crown Prince mai Abu Dhabi ka ivukevuke ni Komada ni Mataivalu Cokovata mai Arapea o Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan me sikovi Viiti mai.

Kaya vua o PM Bainimarama ni gauna vinaka me mai vakayagataka kina na isolisoli levu e solia tu o Viti.

Kuria na iliuliu ni Matanitu ni Matanitu nisa tu vakarau o Viti me vaqacacotaka na veiwekani ni vanua e rua.

Tukuna vua o PM Bainimarama ni dau vakamuria tiko o Viti na ivakarau ni cavuisausau e vakayacora tiko na United Arab Emirates kei na matalia ni nona veiliutaki.



Rau lululu toka oqori na na Ravouvou se Crown Prince a Abu Dhabi ena nona veisiko kina ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Vosa tiko oqori na Vunivola Tudei ni Minisitiri ni Veikau ko Pene Baleinabuli dabe toka e yasana na Minisita ni Teitei o Dr Mahendra Reddy. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Sa tekivutaki wiliwili ni Tabana ni Teitei

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Era sa veiko tiko yani na dau wiliwili ena noda veiyasana me kumuna mai na iwiliwili ena tabana ni teitei, susu manumanu, suka, qoliqoli kei na veikau.

Oni sa vakauqeti na lewenivanua mo ni solia kece nomuni veitokoni ena iwiliwili oya.

Kaya na Minisita ni Titei o Dr Mahendra Reddy ni sa na vakayacori tiko na iwiliwili mai na ika 10-29 ni vila o Veverueri.

“Au sa vakauqeti keda kece meda tokona na sasaga oqo.”

“Na iwiliwili kece ena ciqomi ena ni oti na ika 29 ni vula o Veveruri ena sega ni okati ena wiliwili.”

Kaya o Dr Reddy ni wiliwili oqo ena vakayacori ena loma ni 3 na macawa.

“Qoka sa ika 5 ni wiliwili vakaoqo me vakayacori e Viti. Kena imatai ena yabaki 1968, 1978, 1991 keina yabaki 2009.



Semati na livaliva o Tuvavatu

ERA sa matalau na lewenivanua ena tikotiko o Tuvavatu mai Rakiraki nira sa bau semati mai kina vuravura ni veivakalivalivataki 165 taucoko na lewenivanua ka wilikina oira na matua era ciqoma na veivuke oqo ia a sega ni rawa ni vakarautaki vei ira baleta ni sa rui sau levu. Na kena isau vakailavotaki kina na matanitu e tiko ena \$480,000. Rauta ni 25,000 vakacaca na vuvale ena noda vanua era sa semati mai kina na vuravura ni veivakalivalivataki baleta na veivuke ni matanitu oqo. **ITaba: MEREANI GONEDUA**



Sota kei minisita ni veivoli mai Niusiladi

ni Veivoli mai Niusiladi, David Parker kei na Mata ni Matanitu, Jonathan Curr na noda Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum. Mai vakayacori na sota oqori ena gauna era mai boseka kina ena noda vanua na minisita ni veivoli mai na pasivika wili kina ko Australia kei Niusiladi. Era veitalanoa ena tabana **ITaba: NANISE NEIMILA**



Lagiti nodra cakacaka na sotia

NA nodra cakacaka kaukauwa ka vakavinaka na 54 na sotia ka ra laki veivuke ena cakacaka ni veivakasavasavataki mai Australia ni cava na kama levu mai kea esa vakavinakataki mai vei ira na lewe ni vanua mai kea. **ITaba: VAKARAUTAKI**



Soli icovi ni dau qito ni 2019

Marautaka ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama me laki solia na ulu ni icovi ni ni dau qito uasivi duadua ni yabaki sa oti. Soli vei Seremaia Tuwai na icovi ni tamata dau qito ena yabaki 2019 vei ira na tagane ka ciqoma ko

Moana Wind na icovi ni dau qalo vinaka duadua e Viti vei ira na yalewa Soli tale ga na icovi ni timi ni yabaki kina timi ni rakavi lewe ya vitu. **ITaba: VILIAME TIKOTANI**



Dola na vale ni qasenivuli

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

DOLAVA ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama e rua na vale ni qasenivuli ena Ratu Ilaisa Memorial School ena vanua o Tabanivono.

“Ni tiko na vanua Tabanivono, ni tiko na turaga na italatala au gusudra tiko na vakaillesilesi vakamatani ena vakavinavainaka ena veikidavakivakaturaga vakavanua keimami mai kidavaki tiko kina.”

“E daidai sa yaco mai na mata ni cagi ni veivakatorocaketaki ki Nadroga Navosa me mai dolavi e rua na vale ni qasenivuli ena Ratu Ilaisa Memorial School e Semo.

“Ena 2016 au mai vakataivi ena vakadrodroi ni wai savasava ena itikotiko e Navutu.

Au vakaraitaka kina niu na mai tara na vale ni qasenivuli eke,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Ni kua eda sa mai marautaka

na veika e veitalanoataki kina ena kena mai dola na vale ni qasenivuli eke.

“Sa vakamamadataki na itavi ni itubutubu ni sa sauma na matanitu na nodra icurucuru na gone kei na ivola ni vuli.

“Sa vakalailaitaki na sau ni ivodovodo. Saumi talega na sikolasivi ena veikoronivuli torocake me rawa nira laveta na itagede ni nodra vuli.

“Sa rui bibi kina mera tiko vinaka na qasenivuli ni na lai vakatau kina na nodra rawaka vinaka noda gone,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Era na yadra na qasenivuli ena veimataka ena yalo vinaka ka veisautaka vaka dua na ituvaki ni nodra rawaka vakavuli na gone.

“Kemuni ra gone na ibulibuli talei ni Kalou. Ni vuli sara vakaukauwa me rawa ni votu na nomu isolisoli.”



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na gonevuli kei na i vakalesilesi e Ratu Ilaisa Memorial School e Semo, Nadroga.
 iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU



Oqo na sitoa ni isoqosoqo cokovata ni veivoli na Lovia Co-operative e na koro ko Gusuisavu, Naitasiri. Ena yasana imawi e dabe koto kina na kena igunugunu ni benisini ka kele toka ena yasana imatau na nodra keria. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Teki isausau na Lovia Co-operative

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA yabaki 47 na kena cokaidrauna voli mai na bisinisi ni iTaukei mai na koro o Gusuisavu ena tikina o Viria ena yasana o Naitasiri na Lovio Co-operative.

Vakaraitaka na Turaga ni Koro mai Gusuisavu mai Naitasiri o Navitalai Matanawa ni isausau levu duadua ni bisinisi oya ni sa rawa ni vakacala na ivosavosa e dau tukuni tu ni ‘bisinisi ni iTaukei e duri ga me davo.’

“Keitou via tukuna e Viti ni kua ni bisinisi ni iTaukei e duri ga me toso ka tubu tikoga,” kaya o Matanawa.

“E daidai sa tiko na neimami bisinisi ni sitoa.

Tarava yani na neimami bisinisi ni lori.

Sa tiko talega na neimami bisinisi ni igunugunu ni benisini,” kaya o Matanawa.

“E daidai keimami taukena tiko e 4 na lori kei na 2 na twin cab, toso vinaka sara tiko na bisinisi ni lori kani gadrevi vakalevu ena vakua ivoli Naitasiri,” kaya Matanawa.

“Na kena sa tiko na nodra igunugunu ni benisini sa oti kina na lako vakayawa ki Sawani. Era sa mai gunu kece kina na lori ena yasayasa oqo.”

Kaya o Matanawa ni toso vinaka tale tiko na nodra bisinisi ni vavi madrai.

“Me vaka ni oqo na ivesu ni bisinisi ni vavi madra ena loma ni tikina. Sa dau gadrevi sara vakalevu ena veikoro volekati Gusuisavu.”

“A veivuke na Matanitu ena ruku ni IHRDP ena kena tara na vale ni vavi madrai ni Lovio Co-op,” kaya o Matanawa.

Kuria o Matanawa ni Lovio Co-operative e saumi ira e vei macawa na draiva ni lori kei na lewe 4 na dau vavi madrai keina vuvivola ni bisinisi.

Kaya o Matanawa nira sa tomana tikoga mai nodra ibole na tukadra kei na tamadra era tauyavutaka na bisinisi oya na Dina kei na Cakacaka vata.

“O ira neimami qase era tauyavutaka na bisinisi oqo ena musu ni drauni sogaga me tara kina na vale ka vakadoki mai ena bilibili.”

“Era tea ka volitaki jaina ena makete e Suva vakina ki vanutani.”

“Era musu kau me tara kina na ivesu ni sitoa.”

“Era voli bulumakau me dreta na tolo ni kau,” kaya o Matanawa.

Kaya o Matanawa nira sa tara rawa na

nodra sitoa ni isoqosoqo cokovata ni veivoli era sa qai kerei Marika Baleca me sogota na nona sitoa ka mesa tekivu na sitoa ni Lovia Co-operative.

Sa yaga talega vakalevu na bisinisi ni Lovia Co-operative mai Gusuisavu ena kena vakalivalivataki na veivale ena koro, saumi na idabedabe ni vale ni Lotu, saumi ni idini vou ni lori nei Talatala, voli na jersy ni gone ni Naqali District School, \$200 na soli ke dua na lewe ni isoqosoqo e mate, veitokoni ena tara ni vale ni soqo ni koro, vakakina na voli ni TV kei na SKY ni vale ni soqo.

E daidai ese bula tiko na ivesu ni jeameni ni Lovia Co-operative o Apimeleki Nabileca yabaki 86.

Vakakina na ivesu ni Vunivola ni bisinisi o Nemani Cakausese yabaki 76.

Kei na ivesu ni dau vakatawa sitoa ni Lovia Co-operative o Timoci Dokaimoivi sa yabaki 78.

E tolu na isoqosoqo cokovata ni veivoli kara kilai levu tu e Naitasiri ni ra se tauyavu ena 1970 vakacaca me vaka Naqali Co-operative, Lutu Co-operative kei na Lovia Co-operative mai Gusuisavu.



Era taba tiko oqori na idinia ni Mataivalu ni Viti ena kena solia wavoki tiko na kakana ni cagilaba.
 iTaba:??

Vakavinavinakataki na kakana ni cagilaba ki Lau

VILIAME TIKOTANI

VAKARAITAKA na turaga na Rokotuila o Maikeli Waqatabu ni veiyanyanu kece mai Lau eratou lai solia kina na kakana ni veivuke ni cagilaba sa duatani na levu ni nidra vakavinavinaka na itaukei ni yanyanu.

Veisoliyaki na kakana ni cagilaba kina yasayasa Moala kei Lau e Cake kara veivuke ena kena veiwaseyaki na lewe ni idinia ni Mataivalu ni Viti.

“Nodra veitomaniki ke veivuke na sotia ena veisoliyaki ni kakana ni cagilaba kina Yatu Lau sa vakarawarawataka sara vakalevu,” kaya o Roko Tui Lau.

Ko Josaia Rabila na Turaga ni koro mai Nasau Moce Lau.

“Vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena kena mai soli na keimami kakana ni cagilaba. Na kakana koya yaco mai vei keitou na raisi, na falawa, na samani, dhal vata kei na waiwai,” kaya o Rabila.

Vuabale na vakavinavinaka nei Malakai Vodowaqavuka e dua na turaga ni vanua mai Komo.

“Keimami vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena kena kau mau na keimami kakana ni cagilaba. Na sobu mai ni kakana ni kua keimamis a vakavinavinaka kina vakalevu vua na turaga na Paraiminisita kei kemun kece na vakaillesilesi vakamatani,” kaya o Vodowaqavuka.



Oqo na veimataqali sasalu ka vakatabuya tiko na Minisitiri ni Qoliqoli me kua ni volitaki se vakayagataki na kena e se lalai. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Valuti na siwati ni kawa ni sasalu gone

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA kena dau siwati vakawasoma na sasalu, ika kei na yau bula ni waitui ena gauna era se sega ni dodonu kina mera vakayagataki esa dua na kani kawai vua na tabana ni qoliqoli ena noda vanua.

E levu era sa sega talega ni ra kawai taka na kena bibi ni vakarau ni siwa se qolivi totolo ni sasalu oqo baleta ni sa nodra vurevure ni rawaka vakailavo.

Kevaka eda na lakova eso na makete ni volitaki kakana, makete ni volitaki sasalu ni waitui se ika eda na rawa ni dau vakadinata na tukutuku oqo me vaka era vakadinata ka tabaka edua na lewenivanua, ko Nylla Young ena nona drauniveva ena mona livaliva ena mataivola.

“Oqo edua na siga vakaloloma vei Viti ena noda waitui kei na veigauna sa bera mai. Ena loma ni vei makete ni ika ena noda vanua ni kua era davo kina ko ira na kawa ni ika gone, ka lalai talega, na vasua era se

gone ka bera ni dodonu mera se siwati se qolivi, na urau gone kei na vuqa tale na yau bula mai na waitui era volitaki tu,” kaya ko Young edua na lewe ni vanua itabagone ka dau kawai ena bula ni noda yau bula ena loma ni waitui.

“Au vakabauta ni dodonu me vakadavori edua na tuvatuva matau ni kena manidia-taki na vei yau bula eso ena loma ni waitui me veilutuki ka me kua ni siwati vakasivia kina se qolivi kina vakawasoma vakasivia talega na noda waitui.

“Na tuvatuva me ra manidia-taki kei na kena resenitaki na ika ena levu kina na ika kei na sasalu me baleta na veigauna ka sab era mai.”

“Ni dau siwati vakalevu na ika lalai se sasalu gone sad au kenai ivakaraitaki ni sa lailai nay au bula ena davo tiko ena loma ni waitui ke sega era sa goleva tale edua na vanua vou mera laki vakavalekina,”

Kuria ko Young ni dodonu mera cakacaka vata kei na tabana ni qoliqoli na lewe ni vana ka sa tuvakarau me soli nona veivuke,

Vakaraitaka na Tabana ni Qoliqoli ni ratou sa vakarau dikeva talega na vakatatabu eso me baleta na yau bula ena loma ni waitui me vaka na sucu walu ka sa vakatabui na kena qolivi me yacova na 2022 May.

Edua tiko na ka bibi ena vali ni caka-caka oqo oya ena kena vakasokumuni na itukutuku me baleta na yau bula ena waitui me gaunisala ni kena vakavinakataki na tuvatuva ena tabana ni qoliqoli.

Vakaraitaka ko Epineri Turaganivalu edua na ivakalesilesi ni tabana ni qoliqoli ka nona itavi me dau dikeva na makete ni volitaki ika ena vei yasai Viti ka vakakina oira na volivolitaki ena bati ni gaunisala.

“E ka bibi na veisemati vakaveiwekani vakacakacaka kei ira na dau qoli kei ira na dau volitaki ka vakakina na kena dau vakarautaki na itukutuku ena gauna donu me baleta na vei ika se sasalu ni waitui era dau volitaki ena veimakete ka vaka kina na kena ivakarau kevaka e kalevu, sa matua , sa dodonu me qolivi se sega,” kaya ko Turaganivalu.

“Na itukutuku kece oqori ena vakarautaki edua na kena ilavelave ka vakau veiratou na manidia ecake me ratou na mataqali cakacak se cava au sotava tiko ena cakacaka oqo.

Kuria ko Turaganivalu ni sega soti ni dau cakacaka rawarawa vua ena vuqa na gauna baleta na nodra dau vakavosavosa na dau qoli kei ira na dau makete ka vakakina oira na lewe ni vanua raraba.

“Io era sega ni kila ni neitou cakacaka e ka bibi saraga ena tuvatuva ni veika me baleta na Tabana ni qoliqoli ena nodra dau veilakoyaki na ika se veitokiyaki vakadua baleta ni dau rawarawa kina na vakatulewa taka na veika ma baleta na tiko bulabula ni waitui kei nay au bula era bula wavelita.”

“Baleta ni keitou vakarautaka talega na kedra balavu na ika kei na vei sasalu e qolivi ka sa tuvani me volitaki.”

Na gauna oqo e sa ratou 21 kece na lewe levu ni ivakalesilesi eratau sikovi ira na dau qoli, dau makete ka dikeva na sasalu era qoliva se ra volitaka.

Vakacagau na vakayagataki ni qele

VILIAME TIKOTANI

SA vakacagau sara tiko na vakayagataki ni qele ena so na qele vakateitei e Sigatoka me vaka eda vakadinadinataka ena bula nei Tevita Draunimasi edua na dau teitei ena vanua ko Emuri, Nadroga.

Tauyavutaka ko Draunimasi na teivaki vakalevu ni vuata draudrau se *vegetables* kei na vuanikau se *fruits* me vaka na weleti se *pawpaw*, papukeni se *pumpkin*, baigani kei na vuqa tale. Era laki tavoca na teiteivaki ni kakana vuata vakaoqo na Minisita ni Teitei Dr Mahendra Reddy ka vakauqeti ira na lewe ni vanua dauteitei me ra taurivaka talega na tei oqo ena nodra qele ni teitei.

Na kena tekivutaki na teivaki ni itei vovou ena vukea vakalevu saraga na vakalailaitaki ni ilavo ka sa vakayagataki tiko na matanitu me volia mai kina na kakana mai vanua tani baleta ni gradrevi

me laukana se me vakayagataki ena noda vanua qa kai sega tu.

Era sa vakauqeti kina na dau teitei ena noda vanua mera vakadeitaki ira ena nodra tea na qele ka mera vakalevutaki na kena teivaki na tei oqo.

Kuria o Minisita Dr Reddy ni ra gadreva na veitokoni ni dauteitei na matanitu me rawa ni vakatubuilavo talega kina.

Dua na ivakaraitaki vinaka oya ena kena sa tubu tikoga na voli ni paina piu ena noda vanua ka sa laki toka saraga ena \$10.7 na milioni. Laki vakadinadinataka talega ko Minisita Reddy na tukutuku oqo ena nodra laki tavoca edua na misini ni kena process se saga na kakana oqo na painapiu me yaco me laki tawa ni ena tini na kabana ni Food Processing limited. Na misini oqo eratou vakaraitaka na manidia ni FPL ni sa rawa ni tubu kina na sau ni rawaka mai na paina piu ena \$12m ka torocake sara kina \$25m ena loma ni lima na yabaki sa tu



Matadrede tu oqori o Tevita Draunimasi na dau teitei e Emuri e Nadroga. iTaba: VILIAME TIKOTANI

Noda Viti

\$4.4m taucooko

na caka ni gaunisala kei na itatakoso e Koro



NANISE NEIMILA

MARAUTAKA ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama nona laki butuka tale tiko na yanuyanu o Koro eLomaiviti.

“Sa ka lagilagi dina na noqu sa mai dolava e va na tatakoso me semata na veiwekani ka semata na yanauyana kina veiyasaia Viti.”

“E vakailavotaka na Matanitu na tara ni wavu e Nakodu, Waitabu, Nasoni kei Nasau.

E vakavinakataki talega na gaunisala ka rauta ni 600 na mita na kena balavu,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Ni na kila vinaka saka na lewenivanua o Koro na bibi ni kena tara vakavinaka ni veivalevale kei na gacagaca ni veivakatorocaketaki. O Koro e dua saka na imatai ni vanua au sikova ni laba oti na cagi o Winistoni ena 2016.”

“Eda kila vinaka saka na lewenivanua o Koro na bibi ni kena tara vakavinaka na veivalevale.

Sa nanamaki saka tiko kina na Matanitu ena kena dolavi tale na Kade Village School kei na Nakodu Mudu Primary School ka namaki tiko me vakacavari ena vica ga na macawa sa tu e matada,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Au rogoca ni sa vakacavari talega mai e va na Koronivuli e vakaitavi saka kina na Matanitu o

Ositerelia.”

“Au gadreva meu vakavinavinakataka saka na Matanitu o Ositerelia ena nona tara tale e vica saka na koronivuli ena nodatou yanuyanu.”

“Ni oti o Winsitoni edua na iwase levu ni gaunisala a kuitaki ki waitui.”

“Eda vakaraiatka na lewenivanua nida kaukauwa mai na vakacaca e vakayacora o Winsitoni.”

“Na gaunisala kei na wavu vou oqo sa rawa ni vakayagataki ena gauna ni draki ca. Vakabibi ni gadrevi me kau na na ivoli kina makete se mera vakayagataka na saravanua.”

“Na itatakoso oqo sa rawa ni ivurevure ni bula vei kemuni na lewenivanua.

Na isau saka ni wavu oqo e Nakodu e \$930,000. Vakatalega kina na isau ni wavu mai Waitabu. Nawavu e Nasoni e sivia toka na \$1m.

Na wavu e Nasau e tiko ena \$1.5m,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Kaya ko PM Bainimarama ni vakayagataki ga na tobu vakailavo ni Matanitu me qaravi kina na cakacaka oqo. Ka sega ni dua na veivuke mai vanuatani.

“Na isau vakailavotaucoko ni cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki oqo e Koro e tiko ena \$4.4m.”

“E daidai na siga marautaki e Koro eda marautaka na veika eda sa mai rawata.”

Dolava tiko oqori ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na i tatakoso vou e na koro ko Nakodu e na yanuyanu o Koro. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

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]