

FijiFocus

FIJI PINE DEBT FREE



Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama, after handing over the 2022 Fiji Pine lease security bonus payment to landowners in Drasa, Lautoka recently. PHOTO: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Pays bonus to landowners

AZARIA FAREEN

FOR the first time in its history, the Fiji Pine Group is debt-free after making a lump sum payment of \$2.2 million to the Fijian Government to repay a loan taken out in the 1990s. This was highlighted by Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama, while handing over the 2022 Fiji Pine lease security bonus payment to landowners in Drasa, Lautoka recently. “Profits in the 2021 financial year were the highest ever — coming in at \$41.88 million and over \$867,000 was paid in stumpage to landowners in Nasarawaqa,” PM Bainimarama said. “We add another \$6 million to the tens of millions of dollars that have been paid

to landowners since Fiji Pine introduced lease security bonuses — making for \$36.5 million in dividend payments to landowners over nine consecutive years,” he added. “Even after the worst cyclone that Fiji has ever endured, Fiji Pine delivered you these dividends, and even in a year defined by a global pandemic, when the world economy was at its knees, this industry stood tall and you have shared the benefits — millions of more dollars are going into your pockets to support your families and develop your communities in recognition of your partnership with Fiji Pine.” “We planted 4,236 hectares of pine — a new single-year record. We have planted a total of 21,230 hectares of pine since 2011, and this year, we are committed to planting another 7,200 hectares of pine,”

PM Bainimarama said. He said that after a concerted effort to revive forest stations, stations within all six forest areas now manage their operations and are fully equipped with tools, technology and human resources to offer reliable and quality services to landowners. A new nursery with a seedling capacity of one million was also set-up opposite this factory. Two years ago, a Landowner Consultation Division was set-up that has deepened and broadened consultations with the communities. “Since we introduced the Landowner Community Development Fund (LCDF) last year, we’ve funded training programs as well as water projects, solar installations and other development initiatives in landowning communities and Kubulau

Villages is the latest to receive solar power,” PM Bainimarama said. “A lease premium of \$20 per hectare is paid at the time of leasing land, \$14 is paid per hectare in annual rent, and stumpage of 12 per cent is paid when trees are harvested in addition to benefits through the LCDF and operational costs that Fiji Pine covers itself.” “The Pine Group is also making investments towards operating its own logging, roading and cartage machinery to guarantee supply chain security and lend greater efficiency,” he added. Fiji Pine plans to diversify its global customer-base in the year ahead and looking at potential markets closer to home, particularly in Australia, New Zealand, and in the Pacific.



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe
Bainimarama.

"I want to thank everyone who got vaccinated. It is because of your co-operation, your dedication and faith that Fiji is back, our economy is growing, our students are back in their classrooms, and our athletes can finally compete on this national stage.."

NUMBERS

Approximately

\$18 million

will be paid to more than 90,000 social welfare recipients and around 8,000 Government pensioners and After Care Fund recipients."

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama@
FijiPM

President @JoeBiden's new climate law is the USA's most important show of solidarity to the Pacific since its re-entry to the Paris Agreement. While we still seek even greater ambition from the world's largest economy and historic emitter, Fiji welcomes this win for the planet.

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CONSULTATION ON NAVUA MARKET RELOCATION



Minister for Local Government, Premila Kumar, speaks with the Market Vendors and relevant stakeholders in Navua

THE Minister for Local Government, Premila Kumar, met with the Market Vendors and relevant stakeholders to deliberate on the proposed Navua Market.

Navua is an emerging miniature town that needs development and has been identified under the five-year and 20-year National Development Plan (NDP) as one of the centres for new-town development. According to the NDP, miniature models will be developed for Navua, Korovou, Nabouwalu, Keyasi, Vunidawa, and Seaqaqa. "Market activity has been identified as a major contribution to economic growth and Navua has been considered a prospective growth area as per the Urban Growth Management Plan for the Greater Suva Area," Minister Kumar said.

The market activities have been continuously increasing, which in-

cludes the permanent vendors and casual vendors.

"The Lami Town Council receives requests for open market space on Saturdays at the Navua Market, but is having difficulty accommodating these requests.

Unfortunately, the requests for lock up stalls and other forms of micro business activity are not considered due to lack of space at the current market," Minister Kumar said.

The challenges cited include the road location, the market building constructed along the river bank with nominal structural integrity, and limited space.

The facility does not meet Occupational Health and Safety standards, and the vendors' associated facilities need major upgrade.

A site visit by the Ministry of Local Government and Lami Town Council revealed that the best

place to relocate the existing Market will be the current Navua Police Station.

"The proposed location is close to the Navua Jetty and the Beqa Shelter, thus making it easier for Beqa farmers to access the market. The Navua Police Station would be located at the old Navua Hospital. The Commissioner of Police and the Lami Town Council support the proposed relocation," Minister Kumar stated.

The Fijian Government has set aside \$200,000 to commence works on planning Market Relocation Project:

- Acquisition of the proposed site;
- Environment Impact Assessment;
- Survey works;
- Traffic Impact Assessment; and
- Concept Design.

The Lami Town Council has been delegated specific duties in relation to the relocation in the Navua

district area.

Relevant stakeholders and developers will discuss funding for project development and facility construction. The initial exercise will include project scoping.

The Ministry of Local Government has consulted the Ministry of Economy, Office of the Solicitor General, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the Fiji Police Force, Ministry of Lands, Department of Environment and Department of Town and Country Planning in relation to the proposed relocation.

(Source: Ministry of Local Government)

Government committed to build facilities for Fijians

AZARIA FAREEN

THE groundbreaking of a multi-purpose court to the tune of \$163,500 marks an important milestone in the development for the communities of Rakiraki.

Speaking at the event, the Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar said it was the vision and commitment of the Fijian Government under Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, which has made such community sporting projects possible.

"Over the past eight years, I have personally overseen many projects here in Rakiraki undertaken by the Fijian Government," Minister Kumar said.

"This has included roads, bridges, new fire stations, roadside stalls and markets, rebuilding of schools and

homes after natural disasters, relief during COVID-19 and infrastructure such as the new Rakiraki markets, and much more."

"The Fijian Government had a program of building facilities for its people in urban areas, peri-urban and rural areas such as yours so that no one is left behind," he added.

Minister Kumar said that the new sports facility will have a great positive impact on the community as it will promote health and wellbeing for the community and identify some talents in the community who will in future, be representing Fiji in Sports.

"The facility is intended for sports like volleyball, basketball, tennis, netball, futsal and will also be an income generating opportunity for the youth and the community in hosting sports events," he added.



Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar with students of Tataiya Memorial School during the groundbreaking of the multi-purpose court. Photo: SUPPLIED

Seventh Heaven latest investment in tourism

FIJI'S newest tourism products-Seventh Heaven Fiji shares the ethos of what the tourism industry is built on – the care of our pristine environment, says Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya.

Speaking at the launch of the latest investment in the tourism industry, Minister Koya said Seventh Heaven, which took five years to complete and cost \$4 million, used recycled plastics, wherever possible and will operate on solar power.

“Recently Seventh Heaven as part of its Eco initiatives, began their Coral planting programme with ADE Fiji (Aquaculture Development for the Environment). That’s a commitment of planting 14,000 new corals this year,” he said.

“Seventh Heaven opened its doors in April and it took almost five years of hard work to make this 4-million-dollar investment.

They are adding to the growth of the Fijian economy and more importantly – supporting the livelihoods of thirty-six Fijians and dozens of suppliers by creating jobs.”

Minister Koya also highlighted that Fiji has so far received 284,167 visitors – which was 56.4 per cent of arrivals in the same period in 2019.

“I’m told future bookings are healthy for Seventh Heaven with huge demand and forward bookings well into 2023.”

The Minister said Fiji was expected to make full recovery by 2024 and further encouraged domestic tourism as the locals want to see more of their home.

He also applauded proprietors of Seventh Heaven and the tourism industry for the continued investment despite the setback caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which brought home the importance of tourism to the Fijian economy, including employment it provided.



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya launched Fiji's new tourism products-Seventh Heaven Fiji. Photo: Dipesh Kumar

Fijians urged to partake in Our Constitution Challenge



The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere. FILE PHOTO

OUR Constitution forms the basis of our common and equal citizenry and cements our identity as Fijians into law.

The rights that it enshrines guide your Government’s mission to empower all Fijians and improve the quality of life of everyone, no matter who they are or where they live in the country.

President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere highlighted this recently while making an announcement on “Our Constitution Challenge” theme which includes a number of prizes to be won.

With the United Nations General Assembly declaring that access to clean and healthy environment is a universal human right last month and Fiji continuing to face the impacts of climate change, Fijians are urged to define what this means for the society through the challenge.

“As a steward of Fiji’s Great Sea Reef, our Constitution’s right to a clean and healthy environment for all Fijians means an enormous amount to me personally,” President Katonivere said.

“Fijians of all ages, including students, can submit short videos — which can be anywhere from few seconds to up to three minutes in length — making a pledge telling

us how they plan to help uphold every Fijian’s constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment.”

“What you share is up to you entirely — you can tell us about nature-based solutions to economic development, the importance of climate action or cleaning up communities, or the protection of our reefs and ocean ecosystems,” the Head of State added.

The competition which closes on September 5, 2022, include prizes such as an Eco Retreat Package worth up to \$5,000, an Ocean Adventure Package worth up to \$3,000, and a River Safari Package worth up to \$2,000.

All prices can be exchanged for their full cash value.

Videos can be posted directly onto the Our Constitution Day 2022 Facebook page or emailed on ourconstitutionday2022@gmail.com with your personal details and where you are submitting your video from in your posts with your contact details.

Participants are also welcome to e-mail or mail written answers to: P.O.BOX 2211, Government Buildings, Suva.

For queries please contact Zaman Khan on 9184048 / 7264313 or email on zaman.khan@govnet.gov.fj.

Fiji Port pays bonus to staff

THE bonus pay-out of \$758,000 to 343 staff of Fiji Ports Terminal Limited (FPTL) after the company recorded a net profit was in sync with the Government’s belief in investing in the most valuable asset- the workers.

In his remarks, Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said it was important to look after the workers and this was in line with the Government’s stance of investing in the human capital which was the reason for free education for all Fiji from early childhood all the way to high school.

On the company’s performance, the A-G highlighted that even though the pandemic and global and economic downturn posed numerous challenges on global supply chains, trans-shipping has increased by 29 percent, indicating that international shipping companies have recognised Fiji as a hub of the Pacific because of the efficient services that are available at our ports.

“What that basically means that shipping companies are now looking at this (Suva) port or maybe Lautoka port as a hub for transhipment. And nor-

mally companies tranship because they feel a particular port is efficient, or that the turnaround times are pretty good or the customer service provided is pretty good,” he said.

The A-G said Fiji Ports had “seen significant changes in the way that cargo is handled, the turnaround times, the fact that they used to have a levy charged on containers that used to come to Fiji because of the inefficiency that existed and those levies have now been removed, efficiency has increased and Fiji has become a lot more attractive”.

The A-G also highlighted the need for companies to invest in human capital, technology and equipment because that will in turn boost production and efficiency within the workplace.

Fiji Ports Terminal has invested \$4.5 million for the procurement of additional container handling machines, consisting of two units of reach stackers and two units of empty container handlers.

news@govnet.gov.fj



Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with staff of the Fiji Ports Terminal Limited (FPTL). Photo: Nanise Neimila



Fiji - The Investment destination of Choice

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Fijian Government has been progressively striving towards branding Fiji as an investment destination of choice.

Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, while opening the Fiji-Korea Business Forum at the Grand Pacific Hotel last week, said, "The total trade between Fiji and Korea over the past five years has been \$165,224,328 on average."

"In the past five years, Koreans have

invested a total of \$34,973,579 worth of projects in Fiji."

Minister Koya added there are many untapped trade and investment opportunities; for instance, Fiji's budding industries such as manufacturing, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO), green energy, health, maritime, and infrastructure development.

"The speakers today will expound further on these revised procedures that have been put in place to make Fiji more conducive for investment and businesses."

"I encourage the audience to seek clarity during the sessions when needed for an impactful engagement."

Minister Koya acknowledged efforts of the co-organisers - Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism & Transport, Investment Fiji and Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency - KOTRA, in setting this platform around a very apt theme "Building a Post COVID-10 Resilient Economy and Creating New Business Opportunities".

"The pandemic has triggered economic

disruptions at an escalating pace. The erosion of human capital through lost work and school hours; fragmentation of global trade and supply linkages; food security issues and looming threats of economic recession."

"Despite the challenges, Fiji remains attractive to investors and witnesses a growing number of innovative businesses being established."

The Republic of Korea shared long-standing diplomatic and economic ties with Fiji since 1970.



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya with stakeholders at the Fiji-Korea Business Forum held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva last week. PHOTO: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Inflation Mitigation Assistance support for social welfare beneficiaries

THE Inflation Mitigation Measures announced in the 2022-2023 National Budget reflects compassion and care for every Fijian especially to our most vulnerable Fijians through the various social protection platforms within the Ministry.



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar highlighted this in relation to the 2022-2023 National Budget.

"This Inflation Mitigation Measures will shield our vulnerable families, children, persons living with disability and our senior citizens from the rapid price increases in food and other essentials due to imported inflationary pressures".

Minister Akbar highlighted that the social welfare assistance allowances, in most cases, are the main support income for destitute families and individuals and the Fijian Government has paid particular attention to ensuring that these sole sources of income were not taken away or reduced for those dependent on it.

Even when Fiji suffered its greatest economic blow amidst the crisis.

"In fact, top ups were provided as a means to meet ends for thousands of Fijian families. These Inflation Mitigation Measures will continue to protect and serve the most vulnerable and contribute to Fiji's poverty alleviation strategy".

Minister Akbar stated that all social welfare recipients will receive a direct additional top-up of \$180 to their accounts on 5 September 2022 aligned to their next welfare allowance payment date.

"Approximately \$18 million will be paid to more than 90,000 social welfare beneficiaries (recipients under the Social Pension Scheme, Poverty Benefit Scheme, Expanded Food Voucher for Rural Pregnant Mothers, Disability Allowance and Care and Protection Allowance) and around 8,000 Government pensioners and After-care recipients".

No applications are required for our social welfare recipients.

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)

Social Welfare payments now available via M-PAiSA



Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation permanent secretary Jennifer Poole signs the M-PAiSA agreement with Head of Vodafone eCommerce and Digital Financial Services, Shailendra Prasad recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation have entered into a partnership agreement that opens up Vodafone's M-PAiSA platform for social welfare beneficiaries to receive their monthly payments.

Making the announcement, line Minister Rosy Akbar said, "we are aware, how efficiently and effectively government was able to use the M-PAiSA platform to process the COVID-Cash assistance directly on beneficiary mobile phone all over the country during the lockdown.

By entering into this partnership with Vodafone, our Ministry is opening up the M-PAiSA option for interested social welfare beneficiaries to receive their monthly payment directly onto their mobile phones. We hope this new option will assist our clients".

Interested social welfare beneficiaries may contact the Ministry or call Vodafone customer care who will be able to assist in the signup process.

Head of Vodafone eCommerce and Digital Financial Services, Shailendra Prasad said "we continue to work with government as part of its greater digital and financial inclusion drive to make government services more accessible and less challenging for the public.

The benefits of receiving the social welfare payments into a M-PAiSA account are manifold.

There is no account maintenance fee for keeping an M-PAiSA account which means if you receive \$100 and do not use for the whole year, your money remains intact with no deductions.

Furthermore, there is no requirement to keep a mini-

mum balance in your account which means you can use up to the last cent to pay for goods and services.

For social welfare beneficiaries many who are retired senior citizens or physically challenged, the comfort of receiving their allowance directly on their phone wherever they may be is much more convenient than standing in lines at banks or at ATM's.

Social welfare beneficiaries receiving payments into M-PAiSA will immediately be formed via a SMS message that their money has reached M-PAiSA without the need for them to check balance at ATM to confirm receipt of payment.

With over 2400 business outlets now accepting M-PAiSA payment Fiji wide, beneficiaries can make cashless payments conveniently to pay for goods and service without the need to withdraw cash.

The money is also safe in the M-PAiSA account with PIN code. So you only use what you need at any point in time rather than carry cash in wallets which can be at risk of loss or theft.

Water and electricity bills are also easily paid through M-PAiSA with no additional fee and charges and with increased bus fare and fuel costs, most essential payments could be made from home thus saving travel costs.

Vodafone will partner with the Ministry to help customers regarding the use and options of the M-PAiSA service.

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)



Refurbished Flagstaff Mini Market Welcomed by vendors

SHEENAL CHARAN

THE refurbished Flagstaff Mini Market in Suva has brought much needed relief to the market vendors.

The facelift of the market includes a public convenience and parking space costing around \$294,000.

Marika Kaloulia, 30, recalled the times when his family had to travel home to use the restroom.

“About 10 years ago, we had to go home to use the washroom because then the Suva City Council had constructed one washroom but now we have two,” Mr Kaloulia said.

“We don’t have to run back home to use the washroom anymore, even the facility itself will attract customers.

“We would like to thank the Government for thinking about its

people. It is humbling to see this type of change. I never thought they would upgrade the Flagstaff market but they did.”

One of the five vendors, Sachin Chand, 37, who is the only breadwinner in his family was grateful to start his business at the refurbished market.

“This is the first time for me to start a market business, before I used to do construction jobs and drive taxis,” he said.

“The COVID-19 pandemic had impacted my job so I decided to apply for a stall at this market. I want to thank the Government and the Suva City Council for providing me a stall here during the COVID-19 pandemic when finding a job was difficult.”

“I like the facility here and I am hopeful that my business will be good and I will be able to cater for my family. The Government has done a lot of good things before

too and I would like to thank them for this opportunity as well.”

While officiating at the re-opening of the mini market, Minister for Local Government, Premila Kumar, said this was an addition to seven other market facilities that the Government had improved over the years.

“This includes Laqere main market, Namaka market, Rakiraki market, then we had an open shed created for Ba Municipal Market, Nausori Women’s Accommodation Centre, plus improving the ventilation and light features at Lautoka Municipal Market,” she said.

Minister Kumar said the Government, along with municipal councils were focusing on decentralising markets and intend to develop many more markets and mini markets.

“There are other projects that have been planned for Suva City.

Two other markets, the informal market in Raiwaqa should be converted into a good main market that will serve the people of that whole area,” she said.

“And another mini market is planned for Mead Road and Tamavua area. Again, the design is complete, there are other tweaking that needs to be done and we’ll be ready to launch those two projects.”

Minister Kumar urged the vendors to look after the facility and promote hygiene and sanitation.

“We have created ample parking space for a small mini market so consumers can shop around in their own comfort and not park the vehicles on the roadside and create traffic issues.”

The other markets that are under construct are as follows:

Levuka main market is under construction at a cost of \$1.7 million. The completion of this

market is expected at the end of this year.

Savusavu market is expected to commence the construction soon as it has been allocated \$1M in the 2022-2023 National Budget

The Ministry of Local Government received a sum of \$750,000 in the National Budget towards the construction of the farmers market in Nakasi

The ministry also has two other projects, which includes the satellite markets for Dreketi and Taveuni. The Taveuni satellite market is at the planning stage.

Land for Labasa Main Market which will be in Nayaca has been acquired. The design of the market will be unique taking into consideration that Labasa is an agriculture hub.

The ministry has also been allocated \$200,000 for the Navua market, which is a new project currently in the planning stage.



E-Commerce charts way forward: Minister Koya

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“THE shift towards e-commerce underlines the need for businesses to continually innovate to stay competitive.”

This was shared by Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya during the launch of the Pacific E-Commerce Portal at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat recently.

“The Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap charts the way forward to boost digital trade.”

“It does so by recommending 54 Regional Measures. When implemented, these regional actions will help achieve the level of ambition set out by the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Con-

tinient - both in the Thematic Area of Technology and Connectivity, and in Area of People-Centered Development.”

Minister Koya added for some services, e-commerce can all but eliminate the tyranny of distance facing our Pacific Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

“For example, today a good consultant from a remote Pacific Island Country can easily connect to global teleworking platforms such as, “Upwork”, and compete on par with graphic consultants who reside in megacities such as Sydney or New York.”

“When implemented, these regional actions will help achieve the level of ambition set out by the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent - both in the thematic area of technology and

connectivity, and in the area of people-centered development.”

“The portal that we are launching provides detailed information on such efforts. This information will not only benefit members who may seek support from certain technical agencies, but will also provide the foundation to monitor overall implementation of our Regional E-commerce Strategy.”

Minister Koya also acknowledged the graduates of the E-commerce Disciplines for Policy Makers course, for successfully completing the important e-training.

“For those of you who wish to also up skill yourselves on e-commerce policymaking, a self-paced course is also available on the portal for you to take advantage from.”





Classroom presents new ray of hope



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with students of Lekutu Secondary School. Photo JOSIA RALAGO

JOSIA RALAGO

LEKUTU Secondary School was a sea of colours as people gathered to witness the commissioning of two new classroom blocks for the school.

These were completely destroyed at the peak of Tropical Cyclone Yasa as Lekutu was on the cyclone's path when it hit on that fateful day two years ago.

School manager, Ovini Baleinamau was moved to tears as he expressed his gratitude towards the Fijian Government for ensuring that their students' needs were prioritised.

"This is a day of celebration for the people of Lekutu and Navakasiga Districts whose students attend this school, presenting a new lease of life to our children to strive for academic success," Mr Baleinamau said.

"Some of our children cried as they saw the havoc wrecked by the cyclone that brought their classrooms to the ground; it was not easy for us and especially for them.

"I would like to thank the Fijian Government and the Australian Government for their foresight in

helping ensure our children's future through this initiative and it has given us a boost to give our all in the education of our children."

Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama, while commissioning the classrooms, said it was a historic event for Fiji as it was the first time that an entire contingent was deployed to work on a project where four different forces worked together.

These were the Australian Defence Force, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, the New Zealand Defence Force and the French Defence Force.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said it was the belief of Government that education was the greatest investment for the future as it made us more resilient by making us create solutions that we once could not imagine.

He expressed the Government's gratitude towards the Australian Government for their support through the Tropical Cyclone Yasa response and the Vuvalu Partnership exercise.

The two blocks consisting of three classrooms each, built at a cost of \$500,000, would benefit 230 students.

PM Bainimarama calls on leaders to work together to improve sugar industry

AS decision-makers, we need to work together to maintain and improve sugarcane yields despite these here-and-now impacts on our growers."

While officiating at the 60th International Sugar Organization (ISO) workshop in Lautoka recently, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama highlighted that this can happen through multi-disciplinary approaches, such as the development of new sugarcane cultivars using breeding and molecular biology, refining best management practices, and improving technology transfer.

"Improving the resilience of sugarcane production systems to climate change, in particular, requires stronger protection of our precious natural resources like water and soil. And to ensure long-term financial sustainability, we should also become more ambitious and pursue new uses for sugarcane products such as ethanol, cellulosic biofuel, and other co-products that can open new revenue streams."

PM Bainimarama stated that the ISO is the convening entity for sugar-producing countries and is a platform for discussion; a safety net for those most vulnerable; and a research body at the cutting edge of solutions. The theme for this year's Workshop is a timely one — "Resilience — a way for a sustainable sugar industry".

"Make no mistake, the resilience of every cane grower is being tested as we speak. The price of fertilizer is up almost double that before the pandemic. Russia's senseless and bloody invasion of Ukraine is spurring the

largest commodity shock since the 1970 — throwing fuel on the fire of an input-price crisis that is made worse by sanctions on Belarus and the export restrictions imposed by China, the largest exporter of di-ammonium Phosphate fertiliser."

"Farmers aren't only paying more for their inputs — they live under the spectre of a single climate disaster erasing entire acreages overnight. Every year, these risks will rise," PM Bainimarama added.

"For this among countless other reasons, Fiji is consistently resolute in calling for climate action. And as leaders who represent cane growers, I demand that you defend their interests by cutting the carbon emissions that we know are responsible for the storms, rising seas, and changing weather patterns that threaten the livelihoods of every farmer on Earth — cane growers included."

PM Bainimarama highlighted that the Fijian economy's reliance on sugar is not what it was 30 or 40 years ago and that is a natural progression as cane growing has given way to other growing sectors of our diversifying economy.

"But through that transition, our commitment to the farmers behind this industry has never wavered, nor will it ever — in fact, in terms of raw support, our commitment to the success of our growers has never been worth more.

Additionally, PM Bainimarama encouraged member countries to continue sharing resources, funding, knowledge, and know-how.

New Biometric machine for San Francisco



Fiji's Trade Commissioner to North America, Alika Cooper with passport holder Daiana Racumu and a staff from the Fijian Immigration Department. Photo: SUPPLIED

THE Fijian Diaspora in San Francisco has commended the Fijian Government for its timely assistance in installing a state-of-the-art e-passport biometric equipment at the Fijian Trade Commission in San Francisco.

A promise made two weeks ago by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama to the diaspora unfolded last week with the first renewal of a Fijian passport in San Francisco.

Passport holder, Daiana Racumu could not contain her excitement when she received her new passport.

A team from the Fijian Immigration Department was at the Fiji Trade Commission to provide passport services to those Fijians in the West Coast in need of such services.

Ms Veremalua conveyed her sincere gratitude to the Prime Minister, the Permanent Secretary of Immigration, Director of Immigration and the Fijian Government for attending to the plight of Fijians in the United States of America.

"I sincerely thank them all for their contribution in expediting the establishment of a passport biometric equipment

here in San Francisco."

"This will certainly alleviate immigration issues that the Fijian community are experiencing here. Thank you Fijian Government for assisting us."

Prime Minister Bainimarama, on his recent visit to the US, assured the Fijian diaspora that passport services to Fijians will commence at the earliest possible time.

This, after he witnessed first-hand the challenges faced by Fijians in the U.S with passport renewals and other immigration services.

Now, Fijians in California and nearby states won't have to travel all the way to Washington D.C, sometimes for days by road to have their passports renewed or to apply for new passports.

The immigration officials will be in San Francisco for three weeks.

The officials have installed an e-passport biometric equipment, and have begun facilitating e-passport applications. They will also train the Trade Commission and Fiji Mission staff on how to operate the new equipment.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Vetiver Grass Nursery commissioned for Western communities

A NEW Vetiver grass nursery has been commissioned to help mitigate climate change factors for the vulnerable communities in the Western Division.

While commissioning the nursery at the Legalega Research Station in Nadi recently, the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy said the onus to protect communities against riverbank erosion remained a key priority for the Government.

Minister Reddy said a large number of communities living adjacent to the riverbanks and in the coastal areas are now threatened by coastal and river bank erosion, and these communities need immediate assistance.

“Climate change is a reality, those aspects of nature where we found comfort some five decades ago in which our lifestyle was intertwined are no longer seen in that light. The natural resources that were seen to protect us are now becoming a threat to our livelihood,” he said

“To protect these communities, through the Ministry of Waterways and Environment we have taken several Successful Nature Based Solution Projects to mitigate river bank and coastal erosion through the use of vetiver grass technology.”

“The nursery here at the Legalega Research Station will serve to provide vetiver grass planting materials not only for river bank and coastal protection, but also for other projects such as stabilising tree crops, protecting irrigation canals, bridges, and other infrastructure exposed to soil erosion,” Minister Reddy said.

Meanwhile, a 65-year-old farmer from Tunalia, Nadi, Nur Shah has acknowledged the Ministry of Waterways for establishing the vetiver nursery.

“This nursery will provide us with the vetiver planting material which we used to go and look around to plant along the creek which is eroding in our area,” Mr Shah said.

The newly commissioned vetiver grass nursery will be the primary source of vetiver grass supply for the Ministry of Waterways Nature Based Seawall projects in the Western Division.

Members of the communities in the Western Division are also encouraged to request the vetiver grass should there be a need in combating coastal or river bank erosion.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Environment)

Fiji experiences \$500m asset loss?

PRASHILA DEVI

F IJI has on average experienced asset losses worth an estimated \$500 million annually due to natural disasters.

Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport permanent secretary, Shaheen Ali, in explaining the steps that the Fijian Government was taking to make structures- homes, schools and other buildings- resilient to natural disasters, highlighted the findings contained in the National Communication Report published by the Ministry of Economy in April 2020.

Mr Ali was speaking at the recently held Information Session on Wind Loads Standards, which the Ministry intends to adopt through the Trade Standards Advisory Council.

“Climate change will continue to be one of Fiji — and the world’s greatest challenges and the impact is worsening every year,” he said.

“As a result, the structural demands on

buildings continue to increase. The severity of damage and community disruption due to the tropical cyclones, Winston, Harold and Yasa have been extensive — with exorbitant rebuild costs.”

Mr Ali said Fiji has experienced 14 Cyclones since TC Winston, each one causing damage to property and impacting lives.

He highlighted that the Pacific nations have contributed less than 0.03 per cent of the world’s total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions but are amongst the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The relatively small GHG emission, Mr Ali said, was attributed to the transport sector, deforestation and land use, the emissions growth expected from economic development and energy use but it was enough to demand mitigation responses.

To this end, the Ministry was working to create standards and guidelines to address the challenges of climate change hence the series of standards that have been either updated or adopted as Fijian

Standards, in the efforts to have climate resilient buildings.

“The Wind Load Standards is an additional policy instrument that aids in future-proofing our buildings and homes, it provides the procedures to determine the loads on specific structures in specific locations for specific conditions and needs.”

Mr Ali explained the guide, which was used by designers, builders and manufacturers of building materials, assists in determining the design of the building to allow it to withstand cyclones, and in Fiji’s case, Category 5 cyclones.

“The Fijian Wind Loads Standards will ensure that the design loads are appropriate for the anticipated cyclonic winds compatible with climate change models and will be codified in Fiji National Building Code (FNBC) to ensure compliance with the requirements and that we have disaster resilient buildings,” he said.

Experts from James Cook University were part of the session providing technical expertise in creating the Fijian version



Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport permanent secretary, Shaheen Ali, with participants and facilitators at the Information Session on Wind Loads Standards held recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

Collective 2050 Strategy vital in strengthening regional cooperation

AZARIA FAREEN

“THE Pacific Island Leaders’ endorsement

of the 2050 Strategy sets out our long-term vision and aspirations and our approach to work together collectively is critical to our long-term survival.”

This was stressed by the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya during his participation in the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting held in Port Vila, Vanuatu recently.

Speaking on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, Minister Koya said,

“The 2050 Strategy sets out our long-term approach to work together and frames our regional cooperation around seven key thematic areas”.

“This includes political leadership and regionalism, people-centred development, peace and security, resource and economic development, climate change and disasters, ocean and environment with technology and connectivity,” he said.

“Each thematic area has its own ‘2050 ambition’ in support of the vision area; while there are 10 Leaders Commitments and key strategic pathways to guide our broad trajectory over the short, medium and long term.”

“The thematic area of resources and economic development is of particular relevance to Forum Economic Ministers as its focus includes accelerating the region’s economic growth,” he added.

Minister Koya highlighted that this was through strengthened ownership and development of the region’s natural and human resources which includes diversifying investment portfolios.

“It also includes increasing the role of the private sector in key areas such as fisheries, agriculture, forestry, mining and tourism, and cultural industries, and through strengthened trade facilitation; as well as leveraging our collective

solidarity and voice to continue to access climate and development finance, as well as to engage with financiers on debt issues.”

“Allow me to acknowledge our leaders, our officials, CROP agencies, private sector, civil society and faith-based organisations, and our student and youth population - all of whom have contributed to the Strategy’s development and finalisation,” Minister Koya added.

He added that while taking the strategy forward, it was important that Economic Ministers’ consider how they can drive these aspirations forward in support of the 2050 Strategy.



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, speaks at the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Photo: SUPPLIED



2022 Coca-Cola Games after two years

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama closed the Coca-Cola Games 2022 at the HFC Stadium where he hailed the students for their efforts in preparing for the games.

PM Bainimarama said some of the athletes who participated came as far as Rotuma, Lau and Kadavu.

"Let me give a special welcome and thank you to all the competitors who crossed oceans and mountains, to our most rural and maritime regions to be here."

"Our country has truly never been more connected," PM Bainimarama said.

Meanwhile, the Games was opened by the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar, who opened the games, said having competitions like this was made possible through the result of our bravery and our strategy to beat the COVID-19 pandemic.

She thanked all Fijians for assisting in the vaccination campaign.

Photos: Felix Lesinaivalu



40 aged-care pilot workers farewelled

A total of 40 aged care pilot workers who initially graduated from institutions on caregiving and individual support were farewelled by the Permanent Secretary for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Osea Cawaru during the closing of the Pre-Departure Briefing last week.

In collaboration with APTC, these workers have completed the course duration of 4 months to 1 year and were chosen to 'pilot' through their upskilling of their qualifications/ training to meet the Australian standards.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Fiji's pristine environment an asset



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, at the International Windsurfing Tournament: Fiji Pro Invitational which he opened recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Prashila Devi

VISITORS to Fiji must get the experience of its pristine environment as Fiji's tourism industry gets back on its feet post COVID-19 pandemic. To this end, Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, has welcomed events like the International Windsurfing Tournament: Fiji Pro Invitational which he opened recently.

I understand this event will contribute to the Great Sea Reef Trust to restore coral reefs around Cloudbreak and put in place measures for emissions offset

Minister Faiyaz Koya
Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport

"This will contribute to our vision of a 'bluer' Fijian tourism industry."

He said one of the Fijian Government's shared commitments with the tourism industry was to build back more sustainably, more inclusively to ensure resilience and this requires partnership.

Minister Koya explained that Fiji, like many other developing states, generates significant revenue from its natural assets — tourism alone was 40 per cent of Fiji's gross domestic product (GDP) pre-COVID.

"As a Government, sustainability, and the resilience it creates, are a major focus."

He added that by protecting ecosystems, from the reefs to the forests, "we can keep Fiji a pristine destination and continue to reap the benefits of a prosperous tourism sector".

"We want visitors to come to our islands to see these assets, and leave with a better understanding of how vital they are to our people."

Meanwhile, Minister Koya highlighted that Fiji's tourism was fast recovering to the pre-COVID levels.

"As of July 2022 – we've already recovered 56.4 per cent tourism numbers from the same period in 2019. July arrivals were 82 per cent of the same month pre-pandemic," he said.

Minister Koya said at least 500,000 visitors are expected to visit Fiji this year – and a "full recovery by 2024".

Govt commended for mining licence renewal

MEREANI GONEDUA

The renewal of mining license with Lion One Metals Limited's Tuvatu Alkaline-Gold project in Sabeto, Nadi indicates to the world that Fiji is open to public markets which can provide critical capital for responsible mining projects.

This was highlighted by Lion One Metals Limited CEO Walter Berukoff at a celebration of their license renewal recently.

"We are very pleased to have been granted this extension after the rigorous assessment process that factored not only the geological and economic potential of Tuvatu, but our environmental risk management strategy, and local landowners and community relationships," Mr Berukoff said.

"This milestone demonstrates the tremendous support the Fiji Government has for both Lion One and its mining industry as we continue our commitment to the communities that we operate in to provide direct employment opportunities and peripheral economic stimulus."

Mr Berukoff highlighted the Company's policy and main priority on training locals and offering them a stable employment.

Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum who was also present during the celebrations commended Mr Berukoff for his perseverance in getting the project to where it is today, 17 years after it began.

The A-G spoke about Fiji's commitment to responsible mineral resources development and highlighted that with the renewal of the license, the company will now have the confidence to approach investors and offer investments.

He also explained that under the 2013 Constitution, the Fijian Government began sharing royalties with landowners, and that everyone would benefit from the mine's success, since it benefits landowners, the Government, and investors alike.

Small business owner looks to expand upon Govt assistance



Fiji's first ever goat milk soap produced by local company MESOVU. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

DIPESH KUMAR

Having to startup a business is not an easy task to do however with the right support, assistance and positive attitude anything can be possible.

This was evident for MESOVU founder and small business entrepreneur Beatrice Nast as she continues to strive to change the mindset of local goat farmers to remain constant in their supply of products.

For Ms Nast, the idea of manufacturing Fijis first ever goat milk soap came about during her time in Yasawas however she is facing milk supply shortages to cater for the growing demand.

The Fijian-Made certified manufacturer makes soap out

of local organic ingredients, the goat milk soap not only has health benefits but it is also famous among the locals.

"I had a few assistance from the Agriculture ministry however it was difficult trying to get through to goat farmers as the idea of making soap from goat milk was very new to everyone.

Nast said that after facing several difficulties she now supports female goat farmers and has three full time goat milk suppliers.

"I'm now supporting female goat farmers and farmers which are now changing their complete farm concept from meat goats into milk goats. And they're raising the herds in order to support the product, which is great."

With three years since the business startup Nast is looking at new products to venture into.

While MESOVU provides a total of four original goat milk soap products, Nast is also working together with several bee farmers for her new product called Honey Goat Milk Soap.

"I'm also now telling the ladies to do other products so they already looking into goat milk cheese. I bought a filler machine as I'm looking into lotion, basically the soap is just the stepping stone and all this turned out to hopefully

create a whole new industry in the agriculture sector."

Ms Nast highlighted the Fijian-Made brand has also helped her a lot in tapping into new markets.

"We received the certificate from the government for Fiji and the new packaging will also have the future product stamp on it. And so this is very popular for conferences in fact events, weddings, Tourism Fiji is taking it to Australia for the expos. So yeah, very excited to present Fiji and definitely looking forward for some trade and put Fiji on demand."

"We've had a lot of support from the Fijian Government through MITTT and Ministry of Agriculture is trying to help and I think we just have to have more awareness about this products.

With a total number of two employees and a workspace in the garage, Nast is optimistic that one day she will move into a warehouse and employ more locals.

She hopes that more farmers will venture into goat milk farming as she believes her business has the capacity to earn three folds of the income which she is earning currently.

The 'Fijian Made- Buy Fijian' Brand was launched in 2011 in conjunction with the enactment of the Industry Emblem Act 2011. The 'Brand' comprises 9 emblems and has its individual set of compliance criteria. The 9 industry emblems are: 'Fijian Made', 'Fijian Product', 'Fijian Packed', 'Fijian Crafted', 'Fijian Grown', 'Fijian Assembled', 'Fijian Designed', 'Fijian Sewn', and 'Fijian Organic.'



Refurbished Flagstaff Mini Market Welcomed by vendors

SHEENAL CHARAN

THE refurbished Flagstaff Mini Market in Suva has brought much needed relief to the market vendors.

The facelift of the market includes a public convenience and parking space costing around \$294,000.

Marika Kaloulia, 30, recalled the times when his family had to travel home to use the restroom.

"About 10 years ago, we had to go home to use the washroom because then the Suva City Council had constructed one washroom but now we have two," Mr Kaloulia said.

"We don't have to run back home to use the washroom anymore, even the facility itself will attract customers.

"We would like to thank the Government for thinking about its

people. It is humbling to see this type of change. I never thought they would upgrade the Flagstaff market but they did."

One of the five vendors, Sachin Chand, 37, who is the only breadwinner in his family was grateful to start his business at the refurbished market.

"This is the first time for me to start a market business, before I used to do construction jobs and drive taxis," he said.

"The COVID-19 pandemic had impacted my job so I decided to apply for a stall at this market. I want to thank the Government and the Suva City Council for providing me a stall here during the COVID-19 pandemic when finding a job was difficult."

"I like the facility here and I am hopeful that my business will be good and I will be able to cater for my family. The Government has done a lot of good things before

too and I would like to thank them for this opportunity as well."

While officiating at the re-opening of the mini market, Minister for Local Government, Premila Kumar, said this was an addition to seven other market facilities that the Government had improved over the years.

"This includes Laqere main market, Namaka market, Rakiraki market, then we had an open shed created for Ba Municipal Market, Nausori Women's Accommodation Centre, plus improving the ventilation and light features at Lautoka Municipal Market," she said.

Minister Kumar said the Government, along with municipal councils were focusing on decentralising markets and intend to develop many more markets and mini markets.

"There are other projects that have been planned for Suva City.

Two other markets, the informal market in Raiwaqa should be converted into a good main market that will serve the people of that whole area," she said.

"And another mini market is planned for Mead Road and Tamavua area. Again, the design is complete, there are other tweaking that needs to be done and we'll be ready to launch those two projects."

Minister Kumar urged the vendors to look after the facility and promote hygiene and sanitation.

"We have created ample parking space for a small mini market so consumers can shop around in their own comfort and not park the vehicles on the roadside and create traffic issues."

The other markets that are under construct are as follows:

Levuka main market is under construction at a cost of \$1.7 million. The completion of this

market is expected at the end of this year.

Savusavu market is expected to commence the construction soon as it has been allocated \$1M in the 2022-2023 National Budget

The Ministry of Local Government received a sum of \$750,000 in the National Budget towards the construction of the farmers market in Nakasi

The ministry also has two other projects, which includes the satellite markets for Dreketi and Taveuni. The Taveuni satellite market is at the planning stage.

Land for Labasa Main Market which will be in Nayaca has been acquired. The design of the market will be unique taking into consideration that Labasa is an agriculture hub.

The ministry has also been allocated \$200,000 for the Navua market, which is a new project currently in the planning stage.



E-Commerce charts way forward: Minister Koya

FELIX LESINAIVALU

"THE shift towards e-commerce underlines the need for businesses to continually innovate to stay competitive."

This was shared by Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya during the launch of the Pacific E-Commerce Portal at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat recently.

"The Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap charts the way forward to boost digital trade."

"It does so by recommending 54 Regional Measures. When implemented, these regional actions will help achieve the level of ambition set out by the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Con-

tinent - both in the Thematic Area of Technology and Connectivity, and in Area of People-Centered Development."

Minister Koya added for some services, e-commerce can all but eliminate the tyranny of distance facing our Pacific Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

"For example, today a good consultant from a remote Pacific Island Country can easily connect to global teleworking platforms such as, "Upwork", and compete on par with graphic consultants who reside in megacities such as Sydney or New York."

"When implemented, these regional actions will help achieve the level of ambition set out by the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent - both in the thematic area of technology and

connectivity, and in the area of people-centered development."

"The portal that we are launching provides detailed information on such efforts. This information will not only benefit members who may seek support from certain technical agencies, but will also provide the foundation to monitor overall implementation of our Regional E-commerce Strategy."

Minister Koya also acknowledged the graduates of the E-commerce Disciplines for Policy Makers course, for successfully completing the important e-training.

"For those of you who wish to also up skill yourselves on e-commerce policymaking, a self-paced course is also available on the portal for you to take advantage from."





Empowering women a priority- Minister Akbar

AZARIA FAREEN

WOMEN'S economic empowerment is a huge priority for the Fijian Government and the National Women's Machinery, which is life changing, not only for the women but also for the countries that believe in this concept.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, while handing over kitchen utensils and cooking equipment worth \$6,474.64 to Naimalavau Women's Group in Nakelo, Tailevu recently.

Minister Akbar noted that Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama had made a commitment to support this project in the 2021/2022 budget allocation considering the determination of the women to generate their own income.

"Economic empowerment is about women being confident about themselves, to be able to earn an income and manage their own finances, build their financial security and increase their influence over the household budget," she said.

"The Fijian Government has in place various policies and programs that directly or indirectly support women's economic empowerment and this is one of those commitments that has brought us here today," she added.

"I'm glad to see that as a women's group, and as a community Naimalavau has embraced the economic empowerment of women and I must say, you are on the right track to progress and develop as a community."

"Economic empowerment is about women claiming and

holding the power to make their own decisions, to stand up for their rights and say no to violence, discrimination and harmful traditional practices," she added.

Minister Akbar notes that economic empowerment was also about women making their own decisions such as when and who to marry; if and when to have children — and how many; be able to leave a violent relationship and how to save or spend their money.

She encouraged everyone to start saving well as "far too often we spend every single penny we earn — but we must adopt the culture of saving and teach our children young too".

"The men here are also encouraged to continue supporting the women in being economically active, in saving and in progressing and diversifying their business,"



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, handing over kitchen utensils and cooking equipment worth \$6,474.64 to Naimalavau Women's Group in Nakelo, Tailevu recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Minister Akbar said.

"I also urge you to respect the independence and decision making of the women's group. Join hands with the women and help them, especially at the home front so that they can effectively engage in their economic activities — just like they help you," she added.

Incorporate technology into teaching methods- Minister Kumar



Students pose for a photo at Rabi Island. Minister for Education Premila Kumar says students now days associate better with technology and it should be incorporated into learning in schools. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE education system needs to start shifting away from traditional teaching methods, says the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar.

Speaking to students at Rabi Island, Minister Kumar said one of the aim of the Fijian Government was focusing on building a knowledge-based society and for this to happen there was a need for innovative, tech savvy students who can portray their creativity.

"We strongly believe that we need to move with time which simply means that we have to make the classroom more towards an e-learning centre," Minister Kumar said.

"We have to incorporate technology into our teaching and learning and I know schools have started using technology in teaching and learning.

"It is not for us to teach our children the traditional way and we make our children bored and they become naughty in the class and then truancy and other behavioural problems emerge."

Rabi High School manager, Tokanuka Tumairang, said they fully supported the message by Minister Kumar saying that technology was one of the best ways for children to learn nowadays.

Mr Tumairang said they had installed internet services at the Rabi Council Library for student learning purposes and believed that all students on the island should learn through this.

"In regards to technology, we are trying to cope with technology and we want our children to learn through this, because we know we lack the facilities and having those small computers and proper internet server will help the people of Rabi and especially the children of Rabi for their studies," he said.

Minister Kumar called on school management and administration to start investing in this area of learning.

"We need to embark in this area and ensure that our children, learn through technology and that is the era that they're born in and they're able to associate with very well," Minister Kumar said.

The Minister handed over Samsung Tab-

Women rise out of poverty through skill based training

AZARIA FAREEN

A TOTAL of 56 women hailing from peri-urban and rural communities of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu graduated after completing sewing, cooking and pastry making courses at the Makoi Women's Vocational Training Centre recently.

The Makoi Women's Vocational Training Centre recognises and leverages a woman's crucial role as the "trainer" and a "catalyst" of a family by offering a plethora of skill-based vocational training geared at enlightening, educating and equipping women.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, while handing over certificates to the 24th batch of students since the establishment of the institution.

Speaking to the graduates and guests, Minister Akbar said that the centre, which was a project of Fiji Muslim League has graduated over 1400 women since 2015.

"The centre offers skill based developmental opportunities to the underprivileged women of our society which includes widows, single mothers and women with little or no education regardless of their race, religion and ethnicity."

"This enables marginalised and destitute women to have access to income generating activities by offering them training in areas such as cooking and

pastry, tailoring and embroidery, hydroponics and caregiving with a capacity of 100 women," Minister Akbar added.

"The centre has catered to women of various racial, ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds in all these years and will continue to do so. We cannot progress as a nation leaving anyone behind and I thank the Fiji Muslim League for ensuring this in this area of work."

"The highest number of graduates from Makoi have been of deserted mothers followed by widows and divorcees while some of the graduating women have had no formal education at all or have had only primary school education," she added.

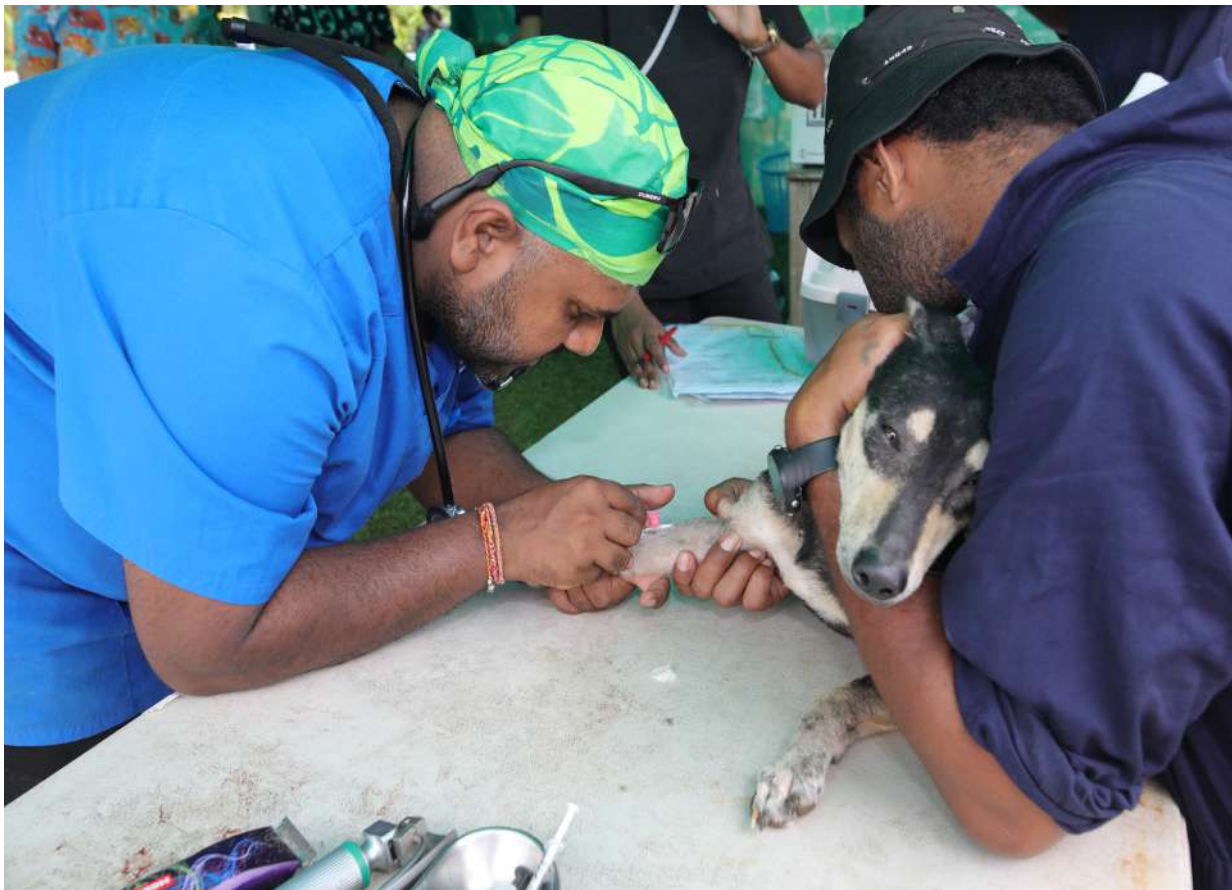
Minister Akbar said that such institutions are here to benefit women, to help them better their economic participation and "I call on other Fijian women who aspire to do something in their lives to come on board".

The centre has now achieved the Approval of Registration by the Fiji Higher Education Commission and is now registered as a 'Higher Education Institute' to operate and issue recognised certificates to the graduating students in Aged Care and Community Care.

Minister Akbar said when women are empowered, they immeasurably improve the lives of everyone around them-their families, their communities, and the country.



De-sexing campaign a success



Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Clinic and Shelter manager and CLAW local coordinator Shanil Narayan administers anesthesia to a pet during a de-sexing clinic. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) recently partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Suva City Council, Dogs Trust Worldwide (DTW) and the Suva City Council in a de-sexing campaign for cats and dogs.

SPCA Clinic & Shelter Manager and CLAW Local Coordinator, Shanel Narayan said that SPCA had a goal to have clinics in different parts of Suva and started with the campaign in 2019 but had to stop due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The first year was a very successful campaign as we de-sexed close to 2000 animals,” Mr Narayan said.

“This is the second campaign for the year and we have had a very good response from the areas we held the clinic at. Since this is an intensive clinic, we targeted Nabua and Vatuwaqa first.”

“Our team had surveyed locations in Suva and found out that the highest stray dogs’ problem was in these two areas,” he added.

Mr Narayan said that the next big intensive clinic will be in October and there are plans to have more campaigns and clinics later in the year and next year depending on the survey data.

“We will continue to do small campaigns and clinics in the interim months and continue to advertise on the SPCA website, Facebook page and other social media pages, so those who are not able to afford to get their pets de-sexed,” he added.

The clinic which was set up in Nabua for a week saw de-sexing, vaccination, and ‘defleaing’ of a total of 335

animals in five days.

Veterinarian for small animals, Kimberley Khodakha, who also specialises in outreach shelter events and is the co-founder of CLAW, travelled from New York, United States of America to participate as a volunteer at the clinic.

“We developed CLAW program in 2018 because we found that a lot of communities were not taking advantage of the vaccine and de-sexing surgeries at the SPCA Hospitals so we wanted to come into the communities so we could start helping impact the animal population by de-sexing and vaccination to prevent diseases and educate pet owners,” Ms Khodakha said.

“We had a good participation over the week and we also had people bringing their pets from other areas. I just hope the pet owners will follow up with the SPCA or we can get the clinic to come out here.”

“I think a lot of awareness on deworming, fleas, ticks and vaccinations is needed for pet owners as these are fundamental things a pet needs,” she added.

Ms Khodakha said she will be returning to Fiji to participate in the big clinic from October 24-28, 2022 and the target areas will be the settlements, especially those who cannot afford to take their pets to the clinic can be served.

The campaign was possible under the DTW Communities, Legislation and Animal Welfare (CLAW) outreach program.

CLAW aims to coordinate teams of international volunteer veterinarians to visit target villages and settlements, providing wellness checks, deworming, vaccinations and de-sexing of dogs and cats.

MOU to benefit Fiji and Pakistan

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“THERE is potential to grow trade between Fiji and Pakistan and this memorandum of understanding is establishing the business-to-business link to kick start the economic relations.”

Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, made this statement during the virtual signing of the MOU between Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce (FPCCI) and Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI).

The MOU will form the basis of greater mutually beneficial economic and trade links between the two countries.

“Through this MOU both FPCCI and FCCI will combine efforts in promoting economic activities as well as identifying opportunities for trade, industry, services, investment whilst safeguarding the interest of the domestic stakeholders, such as the micro small and medium enterprises and infant industries,” Minister Koya said.

He said this was the first step to growing relations between the two countries and believed more can still be done to take the mutual relation to another level through focusing on various degrees of enhancing trade and commerce and exploring the way forward.

“As the trade, transportation and communications hub of the Pacific, Fiji continues to strive towards transforming into a vibrant, dynamic, internationally competitive economy.”

“As Fiji promotes economic diversification, our well-established and emerging outsourcing industry provides untapped opportunities.”

“Fiji’s outsourcing industry has grown significantly over the past decade, and Fiji is now positioned as the leading outsourcing offshore destination for the Pacific region.”

Minister Koya added that the MOU marks a remarkable day as the business communities in Fiji and Pakistan form a collaboration to build bilateral trade and economic relationships between the private sector, government and various stakeholders.



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, with officials from the Fiji Chamber of Commerce after the signing of the MOU between Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce (FPCCI) and Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI). **Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU**

Ministry welcomes grant for organisations assisting psycho-social, street dwellers

THE Fijian Government has taken a holistic and consistent approach in strengthening social welfare programmes that provide preventative and responsive measures to the vulnerable members of society.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, has welcome budgetary allocation for the vulnerable, including street beggars and street dwellers, as it attends to the implementation of strategies and programmes to reduce poverty and vulnerability in Fiji.

“The Grants to Organisations Assisting Psycho-Social and Street Dwellers, is a new initiative targeted to ensure that

every citizen of Fiji has improved access to quality social services and livelihood activities.”

Minister Akbar stated that the Fijian Government has allocated \$100,000 on the 2022-2023 Budget Allocation for the Department of Social Welfare to include this special grant.

“Specifically, the grant will support the vulnerable women and men that are psychologically challenged and are forced to be on the street due to non -acceptance back into their community or families”.

Minister Akbar said the recent baseline on beggars profiling has validated that there are 33 psychologically challenged

beggars on the street, while 38 are in the three Aged Care facility settings.

“It is on this premise that the Fijian Government, through the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, is securing a budget allocation for the new grant,” Minister Akbar said.

The Ministry will go into partnership with the service provider, to administer service needs in for the care of the vulnerable cohort which is inclusive of the:

- psychologically challenged;
- street dwellers;

“Everyone has to take responsibility for their vulnerable family members. While the facility may be a halfway Home for

the immediate solution, it is committed to working with partners (non - government organisations, business partners, faith based organisations and community members) to work together with the Ministry in tackling this social issue in our society.”

With this new facility provision, Minister Akbar also encouraged family members and the young generations to take care and support their senior citizens and persons living with disability in their respective communities.

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)



Businesses urged to strive for excellence



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya with staff and management of Comfort Home Furnishing at the King Koil Product launch and reception held in Grantham Road, Suva.
Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

FELIX LESINAIVALU

ALL Fijian businesses must strive for excellence as Comfort Home Furnishing has and ensure that our position as the regional trade, transportation and communication hub is being strengthened.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya during the King Koil Product launch and reception at Grantham Road recently.

“As a champion for the Fijian Made

Brand, I am pleased to see the strides Comfort Home has made over the years whilst carrying the “Fijian Made” emblem on its products.”

“The impact of the second wave of the pandemic was felt by all, including Fijian businesses. The Fijian Government had a responsibility to find a balance between essential industries and ultimately Fijian livelihoods and health and safety of every Fijian including our visitors.”

Minister Koya added that these protocols were the first steps towards confronting the pandemic with every available re-

source which was spearheaded by a highly successful vaccination drive.

“One can only agree how proud we feel as Fijians when we see Fijian products on shelves overseas. I’m sure our diaspora in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga feel happy to see Comfort Homes products away from home – it’s a special sense of belonging.”

Minister Koya said Comfort Home has also ensured that their staff are upskilled, nurtured and provided with the necessary capacity building to manufacture to international standards in Fiji.

“Comfort Home has taken the national brand to the international market. They have also ensured that their staff are up-skilled, nurtured and provided with the necessary capacity building to manufacture to international standards in Fiji.”

“As I have said many times, our common goal is to raise productivity, Comfort Home is just doing that.”

Minister Koya said the collaboration between Comfort Homes and King Koil was an example of the domestic and foreign partnership that can deliver new and innovative products right here in Fiji.

SLS Legal breaks barriers for female lawyers



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya officiating at the cocktail launch of the new “Shirley Lavenia Susan Legal” – or SLS Legal in Flagstaff, Suva recently. PHOTO: FELIX LESINAIVALU

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“LAW and faith in justice are fundamental pillars on which a democratic society and communities thrive.”

“This is why the Fijian Government remains committed to providing every Fijian greater and equal access to justice and legal support as embedded in our constitution.”

This was the sentiment shared by the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya while officiating at the cocktail launch of the new “Shirley Lavenia Susan Legal” – or SLS Legal in Flagstaff, Suva recently.

SLS Legal, a law firm owned by three women, Susan Serukai, Lavenia Bogitini and Shirley Tivao aspires to place high priority on family values together with fulfilling the oath of their law profession and service to the community.

In congratulating the three women, Minister Koya said, “Lawyers have an obligation towards society, to demonstrate competence

and honesty in everything they do. Whilst young law graduates have a range of opportunities to choose, the journey of these three ambitious women as entrepreneurs signifies that they have broken barriers in society where young women may not have been given the support that they deserve, to make a name in the legal fraternity.”

“In every respect, democracy is the centre-piece of our society – and over the years we have provided Fijians better access to justice – by investing in improving our legal and judicial infrastructure, laws and processes.”

Minister Koya said lawyers have an obligation towards society, to demonstrate competence and honesty in everything they do.

“Whilst young law graduates have a range of opportunities to choose, the journey of these three ambitious women as entrepreneurs signifies that they have broken barriers in society where young women may not have been given the support that they deserve, to make a name in the legal fraternity.”

Fiji takes a step forward in building and strengthening Early Childhood Education

THE Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts (MEHA) is progressing the development of the National Early Childhood Education Policy by holding workshops and engaging stakeholders. Following a recent national Early Childhood Education (ECE) diagnostic and planning workshop to support the development of a National Policy for ECE, divisional consultations were held recently to review the findings and engage stakeholder voices in strengthening ECE in Fiji.

The policy is expected to prioritise making equitable access to quality early learning a reality for all five-year-old children across Fiji.

The national policy is being developed as part of broader ECE subsector reforms led by MEHA, which include development and implementation of ECE curriculum, teacher training, and quality standards.

The consultation workshops in Labasa and Nadi, organised by the Ministry with support from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), helped to identify key policy priorities and strategies for ECE that are to be addressed in the Policy.

“Early childhood education needs to focus on total development of a child’s social, physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual skills for lifelong learning and wellbeing,” Ministry permanent secretary Dr Anjeela Jokhan said.

“This is why we want to review the status of ECE to ensure our children receive the best education during the critical time of learning that takes place before they enter primary school.”

“The foundations for learning established in early childhood set the stage for all future learning,” said UNICEF Pacific’s Chief of Education, Anna Smeby.

“UNICEF is proud to be working with the Fijian Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, as well as our partners, in this process to develop the National Policy and plan that will guide how systems, services and programmes will better provide for our children in Fiji as well as give them the best possible start in life.”

The National Policy will embody the overall vision for the ECE sub-sector and support the implementation of quality ECE at the national and sub-national levels.

The policy will aim to ensure ECE services reach broader populations and diverse locations, and that these efforts are sustained.

The Ministry will review the outcomes from these robust consultations to ensure these contribute to shaping the national priorities for ECE in Fiji.

news@govnet.gov.fj

Fijian workers in demand under the Aged-Care Sector in Australia

AN information session for the aged-care sector in Australia for more than 60 employers revealed that Fijian workers are in demand under the industry.

This was highlighted by the Pacific Labour Facility Skills Development manager, Brett Thomson during a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations permanent secretary, Osea Cawaru recently.

“The number of employers or services that have contacted us since the visit by the Australian Government delegation to Fiji that was led by the Prime Minister has been astronomical.”

“These employers are very keen to get hold of Fijian workers and the workshop has generated a lot of interest,” Mr Thomson said.

He added that the first Australia Pacific Training Coalition aged-

care pilot group was expected to complete their training soon and will be ready for mobilisation in the next 10 days, whereas the second group of the pilot program will kick start in mid-September.

“I must say that the aged-care sector in Australia looks forward to receiving this pilot group as they are looking at what Fiji is doing very well.”

“Fiji is at the forefront of aged-care training at the moment,” Mr Thomson added.

Mr Cawaru welcomed the sentiments shared by Mr Thomson and expressed appreciation to the Australian Government for acknowledging the positive contribution of our Fijian workers that will have an impact on the Aged-Care Industry.

(Source: Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations)



Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations permanent secretary, Osea Cawaru with Pacific Labour Facility Skills Development manager, Brett Thomson (second from left) and officials during a courtesy call to the Ministry.. **Photo- SUPPLIED**

Australian approved employer to recruit more Fijians



Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations permanent secretary, Osea Cawaru, meets with officials from an approved Australian employer, JBS Australia (Tasmania Site) recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

DEMAND for Fijian workers under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme is growing.

This is after an Australian approved employer, Jose Sobrinho, visited Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Permanent secretary, Osea Cawaru for more recruitment of Fijians under the PALM Scheme.

The JBS team comprised of PALM coordinator for JBS Australia, Faamita Faalava; JBS Australia (Tasmania site) Human Resources Manager, Rachael Pulford; Primo Foods (Wacol site, Queensland) Human Resources Business Partner, Paul Dimaculangan; and Primo Foods (Chullora site, New South Wales) Recruitment Coordinator, Stanton Jaftha.

The JBS Australia (Tasmania Site) human resources manager, Ms Pulford thanked Mr Cawaru for his time to meet with the team and also provided a brief update on the purpose of their visit to Fiji.

“We are here to interview 50 registered Fijians for the Meat Works Industry following the good performance of 40 Fijian workers who are currently

deployed with us,” she said.

“These workers joined us in June this year and have displayed excellent and amazing job performance.”

“We are a beef processing plant and in need of more labourers due to some major upgrades where we will need to produce 600 beef a day compared to our current production of 550 beef a day,” Ms Pulford said.

“We’re glad to be here in Fiji to conduct face-to-face interviews for the first time for our third cohort,” she added.

On behalf of the Fijian Government, Mr Cawaru thanked the JBS team for visiting Fiji to recruit potential Fijian workers for employment opportunities in Australia.

He highlighted that the Ministry continued to review its standard operating procedures to match the market demands and in ensuring that Fiji supplies the best labour to overseas employers.

Mr Cawaru further added that it was the overseas employers that do the selection of workers and not the Ministry.

(Source: Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations)

24 Selected Fijian Workers to Leave Under the PALM Scheme

THE first group of 12 workers from the 24 that completed their four days Pre-Departure Briefing (PDB) left last Sunday for Cable Beach Resort in Broome, Australia under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme.

These selected workers were farewelled by the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations permanent secretary, Osea Cawaru last week.

During the farewell, Mr Cawaru reminded these workers to maintain positive personal values, which are vital in lifting and maintaining the Fijian brand.

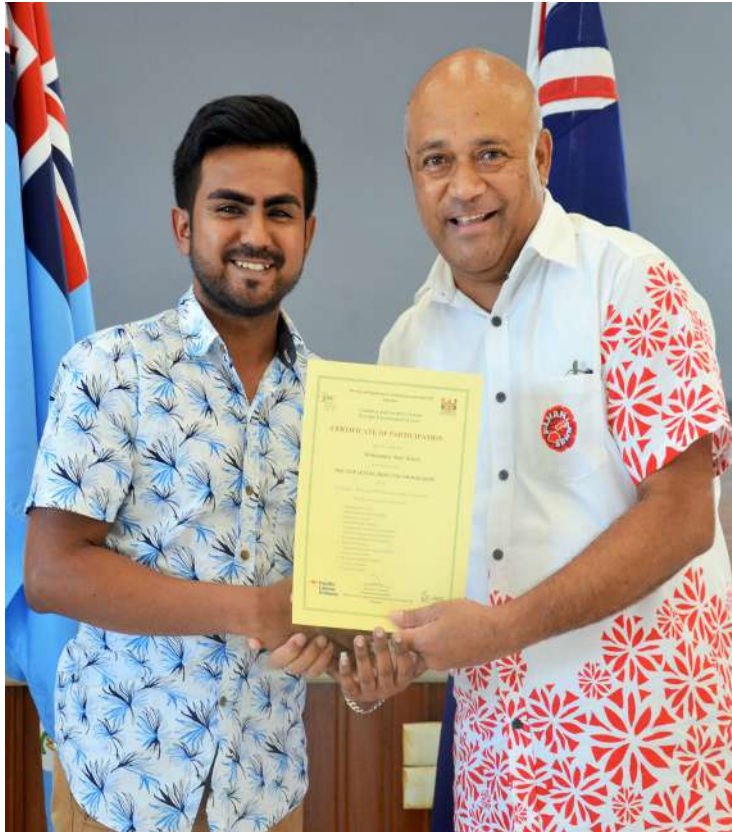
“Having positive values will overcome various challenges faced and will allow you to focus on your set goals and purpose of you joining the program and also your selection.”

“These values will enable employers to provide positive feedback to the Ministry that will result in more employers visiting Fiji for more recruitment and selection of more Fijian citizens.”

“Your respective ‘vanua’, Government and your families have faith in you, that you will perform your work to the best of your abilities and also that you will abide by your Contractual Agreements that you have signed.

“Those who are married, respect those vows - always remember your children back home, your spouse who is here in Fiji - they all have high hopes for you.”

“Be honest, transparent, hardworking and work as a team - these are all moral values, therefore it is important that you live them. This journey is similar to our other Fijian citi-



Mohammed Buksh receives his certificate of participating in pre-departure training from Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations permanent secretary, Osea Cawaru. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

zens playing sports such as rugby where it requires all team members to work together and support each other in order for the team to win. There are rules to be followed and penalties if rules are not followed or cards flashed for disciplinary issues,” Mr Cawaru urged.

He acknowledged the selected workers and their Australian approved employers for their continued support and confidence towards the recruitment of Fijians under the PALM scheme.

The 24 selected workers will be absorbed with Cable Beach Resort and the Double Tree Hilton in the Hospitality & Accommodation Industry on nine month contracts before returning to Fiji.

(Source: Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations)

Fiji Focus



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with students of Suva Grammar School during the closing of the Coca-Cola Games 2022 at the HFC National Stadium recently. PHOTO: FELIX LESINAIVALU

VAX success: Coca-Cola Games after 2 years

YOU don't need to leave here with a medal to not be proud of what you have accomplished

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the closing of the Coca-Cola Games 2022 at the HFC National Stadium recently.

"Making it to this stage is a huge achievement.

You made your parents proud, you made your schools proud, you made your country proud and together you have made history as part of the largest Coca-Cola games that has been held."

"Some of our young people competing this week travelled from as far as Rotuma, from Lau to Kadavu."

Prime Minister Bainimarama added Fiji has truly never been more connected.

"I also want to thank everyone who got vaccinated. It is because of your co-operation, your dedication and faith that Fiji is back, our economy is growing, our students are back in their classrooms, and our athletes can finally compete on this national stage."

"Girls and boys, families and friends it has been three long years since we hosted the Coca-Cola Games. We cannot forget our students who missed out on participating during the pandemic."

PM Bainimarama added that "they deserved to

compete here as much as anyone" and he knows many of them are here today to cheer their younger school mates.

"That is what I love most about these games. This Coca-Cola Games is about our schools and the communities they represent. From the students, to the cheer squads, to the coaches, staff and teachers, and the old scholars."

"Each of you made this game something special to witness," PM Bainimarama added.

While opening the 2022 Coca-Cola Games, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar, said it was through the result of the bravery and strategy to beat the COVID - 19 pandemic that competitions like the Coca-Cola Games became possible.

"Through the vision and leadership of our Prime Minister, our vaccination strategy enabled us to keep our people safe," she said.

"And ultimately, we can now host events such as this, which we all know are integral to the

growth of our young people.

"I thank all Fijians for assisting us with the vaccination campaign. Your efforts have made Fiji safer for all of us and that's why we can sit next to one another and watch this game."

Minister Kumar encouraged the athletes to continue showing good sportsmanship.

"The Fijian spirit is renowned all over the world. The Fijian spirit means that we don't give up and it means that first and foremost, we care for each other," she said.

"This is who we are as a country. How many times have we seen our rugby and soccer players helping an opponent when they are injured? Humble in victory, gracious in defeat, as they say."

Noda Viti



Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Katonivere kei Prince of Wales Prince Charles ena nodrau sota mai Lodoni.

UQETI NA TIKO SAVASAVA



Minisita ni Bula, Dr Waqainabete kei ra na lewenivanua e Vuna

E kauwai na Tabacakacaka ni Bula kei na Veiqaravi Vakavuniwai e na kena dau dewa na mate ka vu mai na noda sega ni dau qarauna na noda tiko savasava.

Vakaraitaka na veika oqori na Minisita ni Bula ko Vuniwai Ifereimi Waqainabete e na nona veisiko ki na koro ko Vuna e Taveuni ka kaya ni sa dodonu ki na lewe ni vanua yadudua me da qarauna na kena savasava na noda veitikotiko kei na koro ni sa vua tale ga ni noda bulabula vakayago ka vakayalo tale ga.

Kauwai tiko na Minisita e na macala ni nodra dau veisiko na ivakalesilesi ka laurai kina ni vuqa na vanua e tu na vale ka sega tu na kena vale ni vakacegu se me dua na vale e tiko e loma e rua se tolu na mata-vuvale.

“Dina ni dua tiko na leqa, i’a vei keitou na Tabacakacaka ni Bula e vauqeti keitou me keitou siko wasoma e na veikoro kei na veitikotiko me raici na tikina qori,” e

kaya ko Vuniwai Waqainabete.

“Ni dewa na mate vaka na taifote, na coka kei na deqi e dua na vuna levu sai koya na noda sega ni dau maroroya na savasava.”

“Na Tabacakacaka e na gauna qo e vakaitavi tiko e na dua na ituvatuva ni bula e na veikorokoro o ya na kena vakadaberi na vale ni vakacegu se vale lailai e na veivale e sega tu na nodra,” tomana ko Vuniwai Waqainabete.

Kuria o Vuniwai ka kaya ni tomana tiko ga na Tabacakacaka na kena laveti na itagede ni veiqaravi e na vei valeniwai e so se Health Centres e na noda vanua kei nodra lesi na Vuniwai me ra veiqaravi kina.

“Na kena inaki levu na cakacaka qori oya na kena kau yani vakavoleka na veiqaravi ki vei kemuni na tu e na taudaku ni veikoro lelevu ka dredre na nomuni dau gole kina valenibula levu se o ni yawa sara mai kina.”



Marautaki na bisinisi ni isulusulu e Viti



Oira na gone marama era vakairataki vukivuki ni isulusulu ena soqo ni Lautoka fashion show.

NA bisinisi ni isulusulu e Viti era vakaicakacakataki kina edua na iwase levu ni lewenivanua main a veitabana mai na kena teki-vutaki vavakasama, maketetaki ka vakakina na kena laki cula ka volitaki ena veisitoa ena noda vanua ka vakakina ena veivanua e valagi. Vakairaitaka na Minisita ni Veivoli, Bisinisi, Saravanua kei na Veilakoyaki, Faiyaz Koya ni ka bibi kece na veitaba ni veiqaravi ena bisinisi oqo ni isulusulu se Fashion ena vosa vakaperetania. Vosa tiko okoya ena soqo ni Lautoka Fashion Show ka vakayacori ena Great White Sharks Swimming club.

Oira na veibisini era sa veiqaravi vinaka tiko ena tabana oqo ena gauna oqo oya ko House of Mausio, Tracey Farrington, Hupfeld Hoerder, Laboriel, Cinnamon Girls, Temesia, Samson Lee, Lavalani, Hefrani, Anton Conway Wye, Kuiviti kei 8Mountains. Era laki vakairataki cakacaka ni liga ena soqo oqo me rawa ni vukea na kena soqoni na ilavo me baleta na timi ni veitau qalo era laki vakaitavi ena veisivi ena Pan-Pacific

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Koya na nodra vakavinaka kivei ira na bisinisi oqo ena nodra veivuke ena sasaga ni timi ni veitauqalo oqo.

Siga ni veivukei vakatamata

ERA osota yani na bai ni koronivuli mai na Nadave ena Centre for Appropriate Technology Development (CATD) na lewenivanua main a veitaba ni bula ena kena laki marautaki na vakananumi e vuravura ni siga ni veivukei vakatamata se World Humanitarian day celebration.

Oqo vakatabakidua kina na nodra nanumi na lewenivanua medra dokai ena noda dinata na nodra veiqaravi, nodra yaloqaga kei na solibula ena veisiga merawa ni soli tiko kina na bula vinaka ena lewenivanua ena gauna edau sotavi kina na dredre se leqa tubukoso me taqomaki na bula ni tamata yadua.

Na siga oqo era veitokoni kina ena Tabana ni Leqa Tubu Koso ni matanitu o Viti National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) na Matabose ni Veimatanitu Cokovata e Vuravura ena ena tabana ni veivukei vakatamata se coordination of Humanitarian affairs (UNOCHA). Era veivuke talega kina na Matabose ni Veimatanitu Cokovata ena Tabana ni WiliLewenivanua United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA).

Vakaraitaka kina ko Minisita Inia Seruiratu na nodra veivakananumi vei ira na veisoqosoqo eso ena nodrai tavi yadua.

Na ikau ni yabaki oqo oya na It takes a Village se E Taura edua na koro ena kena laurai na veiqaravi ena gauna ni leqa me rawa ni vukei kina na bula ni tamata era gadreva na veivukei.

Oqo edau laurai votu ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso ni sa yacova edua na leqa kei na veivuke era dau vakayacora kina na lewenivanua. Na soqo oqo esasagataki talega kina na vakaqacacotaki ni veiqaravi ena loma ni koro kei na loma ni vanua ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso me veisotari kei na sasaga se tuvaka esa vakayacori tiko ena tabana ni veiqaravi ni matanitu, soqosoqo ena taudaku ni matanitu ka vakakina oira na soqosoqo veivukei era dau dodoliga mai ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso.

Na kena tautavutaki ena veikoro na sasagataki ni tuvatuva oqo esa ivakaraitaki vinaka ni sa yacovi ira mai mai kauwai oqo ka mera vakaqacacotaki ira kina.



Siga ni veivukei vakatamata ka vakayacori na kena soqo ena koronivuli ni veivakarautaki e Nadave

\$5.87 milioni me vukei kina veiqaravi vakamatani



Na veiqaravi ni matanitu esa tete sara tiko kina veiyanyanu kei na koro ena taudaku ni tauni

NA matanitu esa lavaka tiko ena gauna oqo erauta ni \$5.87 million me saumi kivei ira na veiqaravi vakamatani era biu vanua ni cakacaka mera toki kina dua na koro se veiqaravi kina na yanuyanu se loma ni vanua. Oqo ena vukei ira na tamata

cakacaka vakamatani ka tiko ena 5,000 na kedra wiliwili ena 954 na veisiteseni ni veiqaravi ena noda vanua. Era na ciqoma oira na sa bera ni vakamau e rauta ni \$1,200 dua na yabaki ka oira sa vakamau era ciqoma e \$1,800 per annum.

Lailai na vakacavacava



Sa musuka na matanitu na ivakacavacava me vei ganiti kei na isau ni bula ena gauna nikua

NA matanitu oqo edua na matanitu ka sa lailai vakadua na ivakacavacava me lavaki me saumi ena gauna era veiqaravi tiko kina. Vakairaitaka na tikina oqori na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra vosa ena Palimedi me tokona kina na tuvaka vakailavo ni matanitu ena 2022-2023.

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni nodra matanitu e veisereki vei ira na lewenivanua ena kena saumi na vakacavacava ka veivuke talega ena kena saumi na livaliva kei na wai vei ira na matavuvale era sega ni rawaka vakavinaka sara

Na matanitu esa veivuke talega ena nodra veiqaravi na dau volivolitaki ena kena sega ni saumi na vakacavacava se sauna volivolitaki ena makete. Vakateitei na veivuke oqori ve ira na draiva ni taxi, keria kei na basi mera kua ni sauma nodra vakavou ni laiseni ni draiva ena kena tabana ni veilakoyaki ena vanua.

Wili talega ena veivuke oqori oira na lewenivanua era gadreva na veivuke ni vola ni sucu kei na tabaki ni vola ni veivakagalalataki mai na ovisa. Wilikina oira na veivuke ni laiseni ni siwa.

- Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama 2022-2023 National Budget Address.

Digitaki e 24 na gone ena cakacaka



Oira na itabagone era sa digitaki mera lewena na ilakolako vakacacaka era taban toka kei na Vunivola Tudeim Osea Cawaru.

ERA sa biu biu mera sokowasa na imatani ni wasewase ni 24 mera laki cakacaka ena Cable Beach Resort e Broome, Western Australia ena ruku ni Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM).

Era digitaki kina e 12 na imatai ni wasewase ni 24 mai vua na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabana ni Veivakacacakatiki Osea Cawaru.

Vakananumi ira ko Mr Cawaru mera qarauna

nodra cakacaka ka mera tutaka na cakacaka vinaka kei na vanua era lako yani kina me vaka na Fijian brand na kena kilai tani ena vuravura.

Na cakacaka vinaka kei na maka vinaka ena solia vua na Minisitiri edua na sikinala vinaka ni rawa nira tauri tale eso na tamata e Viti

Ni rokova na matanitu, vanua kei ira na nomuni vuvale era solia nodra veivakabauti vei kemuni ena nomuni vakau mo ni laki vaka-

Sau levu na leqa tubukoso ena tabana ni suka

NA Cagilaba kei na leqa tubu koso esa solia vua na matanitu edua na isau ni bili levu dua dua main a yabaki 201 kina 2020 baleta na vakacaca ena tabana ni suka. Rauta ni \$200milioni taucoko na kena isau vakacaca. Na levu ni suka erawa mai ena vica na yabaki oqori esa lutu talega me yacova e dua na ikatolu. Oqori ebaleta ni sa cegu na vei qaravi ena iqaqi ka vakakina ena kena

sega ni vinaka na teitei kei na veika era sema ena tabana ni vei qaravi. Ia na matanitu esa sasaga tiko vakaukauwa mera vakavinakataka na veika esa leqa ka sa vakakina na vakailavotaki eso na vei qaravi me rawa ni laveti tale na vei qaravi ena tabana ni suka. Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni matanitu esa qarava tiko na itavi ka sa raica tiko vakamatua na vei qaravi oqo mai na qaqi ka vakakina ena kabani me yacova na kena maketetaki ka volitaki sara.



KO PM kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni tabana ni suka

56.4% rawati ena saravanua – Minisita ni Saravanua



Oira na lewenivanua saravanua kei Minisita Koya ena soqo ni veisisivi ni vakasisisi ena waitui.

NA saravanua ena noda vanua esa tubu totolo ka sa sivia na 56.4% me vaka eya sotavi ena 2019. Oqori na nodra vosa na Minisita ni Saravanua, Faiyaz Koya ka tukuna ni yacovi na takete oqori ena vula o Jui lai.

Ka naka okoya na Minisita ni Saravanua na veika oqori ena nodra laki tavoca edua na veisisivi ni vakasisisi ena waitui ka yacana na International World Surf tournament 2022 ena tauni ko Nadi. Kuria ko koya ni laurai ena vula ko Jui lai ni 82% na saravanua era sa yaco mai ena noda vanua ka sa ivakaraitaki ni sa

tubu totolo sara tikoga na noda makete ni saravanua ka vakakina na kena vakacagau sara tikoga na misinisi ni saravanua kei na kena veitabana ena noda vanua.

Na qito oqori ni vakasisisi ena dela ni waitui edua na qito era dau soqova mai na saravanua ena noda vanua baleta na waitui kei na sig aka vakakina na saravanua vinaka ena noda yasa ni vuravura ka kilai tani kina ko Viti.

Na matanitu esa tu vakarau medau tokona na veimataqali qito ena kena dau mai vakayacori ena noda vanua ka vukea talega kina na bisinisi ni saravanua.

Veisisivi ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa



KO Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere

NA dodonu ni tamata ena yavu ni vakavulewa e na noda vanua etiko kina na dodonu ni kena vakarautaki vei iko edua na vanua savasava, ka vanua bulabula me vaka eda gadreva kece vaka lewenivanua.

Ena yabaki oqo me vaka ni ikau ni veisisivi ni Yavu ni vakavulewa era sa bole keda kina na Peresitedi ni noda vanua se meda vakamacalataka na vinaka ni kena vakarautaki vei keda edua na vanua bulabula ka savasava

Ena rawa kina veikeda kece sara na lewenivanua meda vakacuruma eso na video recording leleka me yacova na 3 na miniti ka meda yalataka kina na ivakarau ni noda na taqomaka na noda dodonu ena yavu ni vakavulewa oqo me dua na noda vanua bulabula savasava

Ena rawa niko wasea na cava ko nana me baleta na taqomaki ni noda

iyau bula wilikina na veika bula wavoliti keda na bibi ni draki veisau, na savasava ni tikotiko kei na taqomaki ni noda cakau kei na noda yau bula ena waitui.

Na vuravura ena gadreva me rogoca na nomudrau dodonu me baleta na veika bula wavolitu keda ena kena bibi merawa nira vakamura talega.

Na icovi ni veisisivi oqo ena dua na Eco Retreat package me rauta ni \$5,000, edua na gade e waitui ena \$3,000, kei na dua na gade ena uciwai ena \$2,000. Na icovi oqo ena rawa ni veisautaki me soli walega na ilavo.

Ena rawa niko vakauta mai na video ena Our Constitution Day 2022 facebook ka rawa ni email mai ena ourconstitutionday2022@gmail.com.

Ena soqo na veisisivi oqo ena 5th September, 2022. Taro ena rawa vei Zaman Khan ena 9184048 / 7264313 se email ena zaman.khan@govnet.gov.fj.

56.4% na tubu ena saravanua



Edua na veivakatorocaketaki vinaka sa vakayacora tiko na matanitu ena kena tara na vale nip o se vakacegu ena veikoro taudaku ni tauni me vukea na tiko savasava kei na bulabula.

NA matanitu esa vota vakailavo e rauta ni \$7,000 na ilavo levu se \$2,000 me vakayagataki ena kena laki tara na vale ni vakacegu ena veikoro vaka Viti ena taudaku ni tauni. Me baleta na kena saga na laveti cake ni tiko bulabula ena taudaku ni tauni. Oqo esa na tara kina na flush toilets ena yacana vakaperitania vei ira na lewenivanua era sega ni tuvaki vinaka tu nodra bula ena veiyasai Viti.

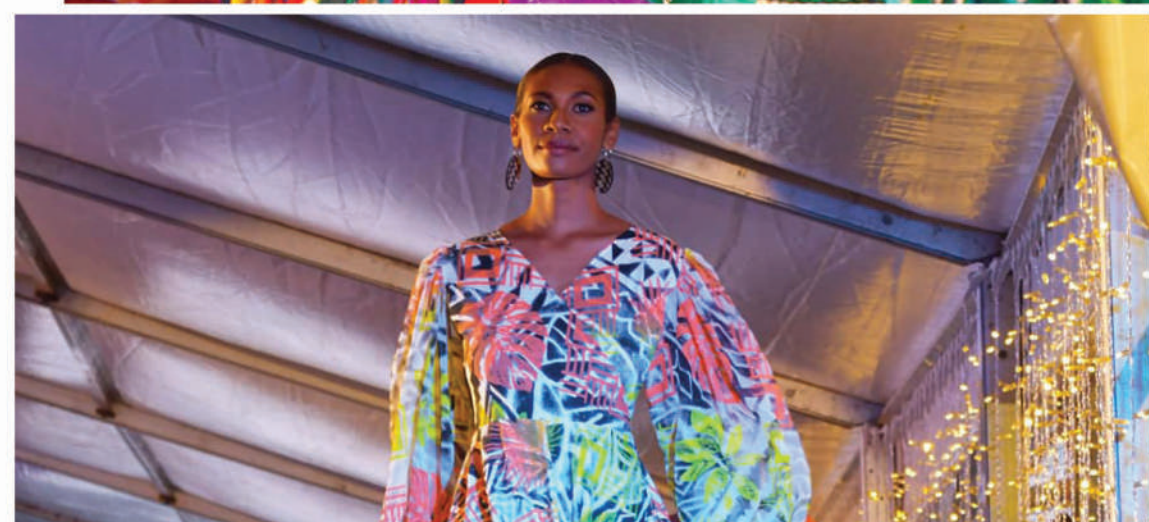
Esa na lavaki walega vei ira na lewenivanua ena veitotikotiko oqo oya na

- Tamata se liga ni cakacaka
- Na veiyaya ni taravale nuku, ruver gravel kei na kau
- Oira na tiko ena veivanua ena taudaku ni koro ni cakacaka ena rawa ni kerea na veivuke oqo. Ena laurai talega na kerekere e ganiti ira na lewenivanua matua se koiria era sega ni buli vinaka nma yagoga kei ira na tina ni gone duadua
- Oqo eso n aka ena gadrevi ena sasaga ni kerekere oqori:

- Kerekere mai vua edua na lewenivanua
- Veivakadonui mai vei Turaga-Ni-Koros se District Advisory Council member.
- Soli ni qele
- Ripote mai Tabana ni Bula
- Ripote mai Tabana ni Wai se Water Authority of Fiji (WAF)

Rawa ni tauri na ivola ni kerekere oqori ena monalivaliva ena link oqo:
<https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/tSdcDf6e>
 Qirita na Minisitiri ena 3316163 or email ena development.mrmd@gmail.com

Oira na marama gone yalewa ena soqo ni Lautoka Fashion show ka lagi dolava ko Minisita ni Veivoli, Bisinisi, Saravanua kei na Veilakoyaki, Faiyaz Koya.



Sikovi ira na gone vuli ko PM ena Cokes games



Minister Kumar kei ira na itabagone era tauri vola kei ira na wekadra.

Vakavinakataki oira na gonevuli dauqito ena Coke Games 2022

ERA laki vakavinataki ira na gonevuli ena nodavanua era vakaitavitaki ira ena qito ni Cokes Games 2022 na Paraiminisita, liuliu ni matanitu, Voreqe Bainimarama. Era a qito ena HFC Stadium ena siga tolu ena macawa ni Okosita 18-20. Oira na gone dauqito oqori, eso era gole sara mai e Rotuma, Lau kei Kadavu ka

sa solia kina na bolebole ena qito vei ira kece na koronivuli ena veiyasai Viti Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni veisemati ni noda vanua esa dua n aka vinaka ena gauna ogo baleta ni so era gole mai vakayawa ena yanuyanu erawa nira mai vakaitavi talega ena qito oqori.



Dolavi na Vunivutu Evac Centre e Nadogo

Na dola ni drodro ni cagilaba ena Vunivutu mai Nadogo era na vukei kina e 360 na lewenivanua era kaya ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na liuliu ni matanitu.

Era dau warolaki tuga ena gauna ni cagilaba baleta ni donu na sala ni cagi me vaka era vakila ka curuma ena gauna ni TC Yasa Keimami sa marautaka na kena sa

mai tara era kaya na lewenivanua kaya ko marama ni koro ko Vunivutu Ranadiniceva Raluga "Sa oti e 15 na yabaki ka sa kerei kina ko Paraiminisita mera tara na

mataisau ni mataiavalu ka vinaka nira sa mai vakayacora vinaka na kerekere," kaya ko Raluga. Oqo edua na veivuke levu sara vei kei mami kece sara.



Rawa ni vakayagataki na ilavo ni grant

ERA laki sikovi ira noda sotia ena Sinai na Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, ka vakayacori vua edua voleni vakaivalu 100 na sotia era vakaitavi kina.

Era laki ciqomi koya na Kovana mai Sauca kei Sinai, Major General Khaled Fouda.

Era laki vakaraitaka kina na vakarau sa vakayacori tiko me baleta na 27th Conference of the Parties, ka namaki me vakayacori e Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from November 7th to 18th.

Era laki vosa talega na Peresitedi vei ira na sotia ni Viti.



Paraiminisita Bainimarama ena dua na veisiko ena taudaku ni tauni kei ira na ivakalesilesi.

600 na itei ni coral

KO Viti e kilaitani baleta na nodra veimatasawa balabalavu, nuku serau ka vakakina na kena cakau balabalavu ka sega ni tuku ni rawa ni levu ni sasalu kei na yau bula ni matanitu era bula sautu voli kina. Ia ena gaunaesa mai tarai keda tiko kina na revurevu ni draki veisau kei na kena sa katataka sara tikoga vakalevu na vuravura mai na levu ni kasi gaga ka sa ceburaki tiko ena loma ni maliwa lala era sa vakila na noda veikabula wavoliti Viti na leqa oqo. Oqo esa vakarerevaki sara ka sa ririko taki ni rawa ni vakaleqa na noda vakanuini ena yau bula ni waitui me baleta na noda bula ena

veisiga. Ean macawa sa dromu era tea rawa kina na lewenivanua, itabagone kei ira na saravanua e rauta ni 600na itei ni lase se coral ena yacana vakaperitania. Mai Daliconi Marine park e Vanua Balavu, Lau era sa tea kina me sabai ira main a veigauna mai muri.

Sa dua n aka ni marau vei ira oqo baleta nira sa digitaka saraga mera tekivuna na cakacaka ni sabai me baleta na nodra bula ena veisiga na kakana kei na sautu ni bula ena waitui ka vakakina ena vanua ka vakauasivi ena noda vanua me vaka ni yanuyanu ciri toka ena yatu Pasivika.



Na itei ni coral se lase me vukea na sabai ni noda vanua



Na veivuke ni matanitu ena kena teivaki na veitiver grass.

Volau ni itei vetiver ena muaira

ERA sa laki tavoca na Minisita ni Teitei, Dr Mahendra Reddy edua na volau vou ni bucini ni tei na vetiver grass se itei ni icon a veitiver ena muaira ni vanua ko viti levu.

Na inaki levu ni volau oqo oya me vukea na kena taqomaki na vanua main a waluvu se tubu ni wai ka dua na tuvatuva ni matanitu oqo.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Teitei, Dr Reddy ni levu ni na itikotiko era toka ena yasani wai se uciwai ka levu era dau sotatava na sisi ni qele s aka levu kina na kauwai mera vukei.

Kuria ko Minister Dr Reddy ni leqa oqo era qai mai sotava talega na draki veisau ka sa dodonu kina me sabai tale ena dua na tuvatuva vinaka. Baleta n sa vakacacani tiko na sala ni wai kei na vanua lomani vanua kei na nodra teitei kei na kakana.

Sa dodonu mera taqomaki ira vinaka ka sa yaga kina mera na tea na vetiver baleta na taqomaki ni qele kei na vanua mai na sisi.

Era sa lagita na sasaga oqo na dauteitei mai Tunalia Nadi ena kauwai ni Minisitiri. Na siteseni e legalega ena veivuke ena sasaga oqo baleta ni rui bibi sara.



Na veiqaravi ena tikina ko Koro ena yasana e Lomaiviti ena vukea sara tikoga na lewenivanua.

Laveti na bula ni veiqaravi e Koro

ERA sa maqusa na lewenivanua ena tikina ko Koro ena yasana Lomaiviti ena kena laveti cake tale na bula ni veiqaravi ena veisiga ena koro. Me vaka eda sarava tiko ena itaba na nodra veivuke na soqosoqo ni veivuke vei ira na lewenivanua ni Lotu Kavitu na ADRA.

Ena loma ni 3 na yabaki ni nodra veivuke na ADRA mai Jamani kei Austria ena valuti ni revurevu ni drake veisau esa laurai na mana ni cakacaka

Oqo ena koro ko Tuatua, Naqaidamu, Vatulele kei Nacamakani ka tiko talega kina na pokoramu ni vanua se qoliqoli taqomaki kei na kena era vukei mera bulabula tale.

Dua na sabolo oya na soqosoqo vakamarama e Vatulele era vakabula rawa e \$5,000 mai na nodra tobu ni bisinisi ni solar freezer se kato ni waililiva mera sasaga mera dewa yani ena bisinisi ni saravanua ni ra yacova na takete ni \$15,000.

Era dau volitaki sasalu me vaka era veivuke kina na matabose cokovata ni veimatanitu ena Europe ena Pasivika

Oqo esa veivuke tiko ena nodra bula ni veiqaravi ena veisiga na lewenivanua e Koro ailadi kei na rawaka vakailavo ka vakatubuilavo ena yanuyanu raraba.



VUKEI NA SOQOSOQO NI TABAGONE E SAWA

E ra marautaka na tabagone e na koro ko sawa e na tikina o Verata e Tailevu na I solisoli ni matanitu ki na nodra isoqosoqo ka tiko na kena isau vakailavo e na sivia e 5 na udolu na dola.

Veivuke kina vei ira na Tabacakacaka ni Tabagone kei na Qito ka vakaitavi e na kena soli na Minisita ni Tabagone kei na Qito o Parveen Kumar Bala ena siga Tuisiti na ika23 ni siga ni vula qo.

E na nodra vosa e kaya na Minisita ni sa dua na ka na levu na soqosoqo e dodoliga kina na matanitu e na kena segati me vakatoroicake taki na nodra bula vakabibi vei ira na tu e na taudaku ni veikoro lelevu.

“Au nuitaka ni na tokona tiko na nomudou sasaga na veivuke qo ka sa dou uqeti tale ga me dou na vakayagataka vaka matau me i vurevure tale ni veika vinaka vei kemudou e na na nomudou veisiga ni mataka.”

“Na matanitu e tokoni kemuni na tabagone ni vanua lomani qo o Viti me vaka ni o kemuni na tabagone na inuinui kei Viti e na noda veisiga ni mataka.”

Varaitaka na iliuliu vakatawa ni soqosoqo o Are Sauliga ni ra marauraka vakalevu na tabagone na veivuke levu ni matanitu ni na tokoni kina na nodra sasaga.

“E dua na vurevure ni lavo ki vei keimami na kotikoti kei na teitei ka ra tokoni kemimami kina na nemimami qase ka ra so ilia e 20 na eka na qele me keimami teivaka na tabagone,” e kaya ko Sauliga.

“Ni yaco mai na veivuke qo e solia vei keimami e dua tale na igu ni toso ki veikaitou na lewe ni soqosoqo qo na Sawa Youth Club.”



Oira na tabagone e Sawa

Tavoci vou na Lekutu secondary

DUA saka na gauna talei ka marautaki na kena mai Dolavi vou na koronivuli e Lekutu Secondary school kaya ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama.

Era veiqaravi kina na sotia mataisau ni matanitu ko Viti ka vakakina edua na imatalawalawa mai na mataivalu ko Ositerelia, Niusiladi kei Varanise. Oqo esa dua na vorosausau ni matai ni gauna me vaka kina oqo.

Na vuli ekuria ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni dua na usutu levu ni veiqaravi ni matanitu me baleta na tuberi na bula ni itabagone isausau vou kei Viti ni mataka.

Ena vuvale partnership vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama nira vakavinakataka na vei vuke oqo ni mai cava ko TC Yasa.

Sau ni rua na block oqo e tiko ena \$500,000, mera vuli kina e 230

Uqeta na teiteivaki ko Peresitedi

E vakauqeti ira na noda gone e tu mai na matanitu e rua o Igiladi kei Ailadi na turaga na Peresitedi o Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere me ra teiteivaki lesu mai e na noda vanua ka me ra vakavure bisinisi dina ni ra tu yawa tu.

Vosa tiko vei ira e na nodra veisiko e na vula sa oti e kaya kina ko Peresitedi Katonivere ni nodra teiteivaki e na dua na bisinisi e na noda vanua e na vukea na bula vakailavo ni noda vanua ka tokona tale ga nodra vurevure ni lavo e s toka rawa tiko.

“Vuravura levu ni sa bula tu kina qo i’a au kerei kemuni mo ni kakua ni yalana na nomuni rai e na vurevure ni lavo sa tiko rawa qo ki vei kemuni.”

“Ni sasaga taka mo ni tauyevu taka e dua na nomuni bisinisi e na noda vanua ka me nomuni vurevure ni lavo e Viti ka me vukea tale ga na noda vakaitavi na bisini na kawa itaukei’ e kaya na Peresitedi.

“Sa vakavinaka taki tiko na nomuni dau tokoni ira na wekamuni mai vanua e na nomuni dau vakau ilavo yani ki vei ira ka sa lai vuke tiko na bula vakailavo ni noda vanua.”

E vakadeitakai ira tale ga ka kaya ni daumaka tu na bula e Viti ka me ra kua ni kutika itu e na irogorogo e

na mona livaliva me vaka ni vuqa na gauna e sa vakayacori tug a na veivakacacani.



Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Katonivere kei nodra lewenivale era visiko talega ena tokalau e loma mera sotavi ira na lewenivanua e Viti era veiqaravi tu mai kea.



Paraiminisita ena nodra visiko voli ena vualiku

Noda Viti



Ko Parainiminita Bainimarama kei ira na vuvale nei Selita Leba, luvena ko Varanisese ena nodratou vale ena Apia Settlement.

Talei na veiqaravi e Macuata

NA veiqaravi ni veivakatorocaketaki sa vakarautaka rawa na matanitu ena yasana vakaturaga ko Macuata esa kani marau ka talei. Vakaraitaka toka na tikina oqori na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra a visiko voli ena yasana. Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni

tekivu mai na 2014 na matanitu era sa sovaraka e \$42 na milioni ena veiqaravi ni veivakatorocaketaki lelevu me vaka na ta ni gaunisala, wavu me rawa ni semati vinaka kina nay asana. Rauta ni 66,250 na vuvale era sa rawa ni vakadrodroi vei ira na wai ni gunu savasava ena paipo. E 128 na itikotiko esa semati ena veivaka livaliva

taki ka vka kina e 23,000 era sa semati ena livaliva sucu ena solar.

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni ra laki sikovi ira na gonevuli, qasenivuli kei na lewenivanua ena Navakasiga primary school, Lekutu secondary ka laki Dolavi kina na nodra valenivuli vou kei na vale ni qasenivuli ka sa dua na ka marautaki vei

ira na lewenivanua.

Kuria ko PM Bainimarama ni ra sotavi ira talega na dauteitei ka solia kina eso na veivuke vei ratou na Laqere Tabia Co-operative kei Muanidevo Central Farmers' Co-operative. Era bibi nodra itavi na dauteitei baleta nira vakania na lewenivanua.

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]

लौतोका में बगीचे के साथ
कोफी शोप

2

दूध के व्यवसाय के लिए
स्मोल होल्डा डायरी सपोर्ट
स्कीम

2

प्रधानमंत्री ने मटुआताके किसानों
को राइस हावेस्टर दिया

3

सौशल वेल्फेयर भुगतान अब
एम-पैसा द्वारा मिल सकता है

3

फीजियन मेड ब्रेड में कोम्फर्ट होम
का नाम जुड़ा

6

फीजी दर्पण

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प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेंगे बर्डनिमारामा ने इन्टानेशनल शुगा ओगनाएजेशन (आए एस ओ) वोकशोप में वचुपल तरीके से भाग लिया

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

प्रधानमंत्री ने चीनी व्यवसाय में सुधार पर नेताओं से मिलकर काम करने की माग की

सोनम सामी

निर्णय लेने वालों के रूप में हमें अपने उत्पादकों पर यहाँ बनाए रखने और अभी के प्रभावों के बावजूद गन्ने की खेती को बनाए रखने और सुधारने के लिए मिलकर काम करने की जरूरत है।

अभी हाल ही लौतोका में इन्टानेशनल शुगा ओगनाएजेशन (आए एस ओ) वोकशोप का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेंगे बर्ड निमारामा ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि विभिन्न अनुशासनिक तरीकों के जरिए ब्रिडिंग और मोलेक्यूल बाएलोजी का उपयोग करके गन्ने की नई खेती में विकास, सर्वोत्तम प्रबंधन प्रथाओं को इस्तेमाल करने से इसमें सुधार हो सकता है।

उन्होंने बताया कि जलवायु परिवर्तन के लिए गन्ने के उत्पादन प्रणालियों के लचीलेपन में सुधार के लिए, विशेष रूप से, हमारे कीमती प्राकृतिक संसाधनों जैसे पानी और मिट्टी के मजबूत संरक्षण की आवश्यकता है।

लम्बे समय की वित्तीय स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए हमें महत्वकांक्षी बनना चाहिए और गन्ने के उत्पादनों के नए उपयोगों के लिए हमें एथानोल, सेल्यूलोसिक बायोफ्यूल और अन्य सह-उत्पाद की मदद से आमदनी आने के अवसर बन सकते हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेंगे बर्डनिमारामा ने कहा कि आए एस ओ चीनी बनाने वाले देशों के

लिए एक मात्र जगह है और चर्चा के लिए एक मंच है; कमजोर लोगों के लिए एक सुरक्षा कवच है और सामाधान टूटने का अनुसंधान है।

इस साल के वोकशोप का विषय है - लचीलापन-एक स्थायी चीनी व्यवसाय को बनाए रखना।

“कोई गलती न करे, जबकी हम यहाँ बातें कर रहे हैं, हर एक गन्ना उत्पादक के लचीलेपन का परिक्षण लिया जा रहा है। महामारी के पहले से फटिलाइजा के दाम दोगुना हो चुका है”, इसी तरह अनगिनत अन्य कारणों की वजह से फीजी जलवायु कार्रवाई का आवहन करने में दृढ़ है” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

प्रधान मंत्री ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि फीजी की अर्थव्यवस्था तीस या चालीस साल पहले चीनी पर निर्भर था और यह एक प्राकृतिक प्रगति है क्योंकि गन्ने की खेती ने हमारी विविध अर्थव्यवस्था के अन्य बढ़ते क्षेत्रों को अवसर दिया है।

“उस दौरान किसानों के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता कभी कम नहीं हुई, और न ही कभी होगी-वास्तव में, प्राकृतिक समर्थन के मामले में, हमारे उत्पादकों की सफलता के लिए हमारी प्रतिबद्धता कभी अधिक मूल्यवान नहीं रहा है”।

इसके अतिरिक्त, प्रधान मंत्री ने भाग ले रहे देशों को संसाधनों, फंडिंग, पूँजी और जानकारी साझा करने को जारी रखने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया।



टेशरी स्कालाशिप लौन्स सेविसस के अधिकारी अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज मैयन-खैयुम के साथ

चित्र: नानीसे नईमिला

टैल्स का नया हेन्डबूक

सोनम सामी

टेशरी स्कालाशिप लौन्स सेविसस ने अभी हाल ही एक कार्यशाला के दौरान समुदायिक जागरूकता हेन्डबूक और उनके संशोधित लोगो का शुभारंभ किया है।

इस हेन्डबूक में सभी इच्छित छात्रों और समाज के लोगो के लिये 2023 शैक्षणिक वर्ष के विभिन्न स्कालाशिप स्कीम्स और पढ़ाई के लौन पर जानकारी दी गई है।

टेशरी स्कालाशिप लौन्स सेविसस हेन्डबूक और उनका संशोधित लोगो का उद्घाटन करते हुए अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज मैयन-खैयुम ने विभिन्न

हितधारकों पर जोर दिया कि विभिन्न कैरियर क्षेत्रों की पहचान करना महत्वपूर्ण है, जिनके बारे में छात्र भावुक थे और यह सुनिश्चित करना कि उनके भविष्य के करियर पथ को विकसित करने के लिये सही वातावरण बनाया गया था।

टेशरी स्कालाशिप लौन्स सेविसस के सी ई ओ डाक्टर हस्मूख लाल ने कहा कि यह समुदायिक जागरूकता हेन्डबूक एक उपलब्धि है और इस बात पर जोर दिया कि इसकी स्थापना के बाद से कई महत्वपूर्ण विकास हुए हैं।

इसके अलावा डाक्टर हस्मूख लाल ने फीजियन सरकार को 2022-2023 बजट में दिए गए हिस्से के लिये धन्यवाद दिया।

प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमारामा ने भारत के 76वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर शुभकामनाएं दी



प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमारामा भारत के प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के साथ

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमारामा ने भारत के प्रधानमंत्री माननिय श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी को 76वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर शुभकामनाएं दी जो सोमवार पंद्रह अगस्त को मनाया गया।

अपने बधाई संदेश में प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमारामा ने कहा कि फीजी भारत के साथ घनिष्ठ साझेदारी की सराहना करता है जिससे दोनों देशों को हमारे साझा मूल्यों और आकांक्षाओं के आधार पर मित्रता के संबंध का आनंद लेने में सक्षम बनाया है।

प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमारामा ने कहा कि फीजी उन सहायता का आभारी है जिसे भारत ने फीजी के विकास के लिये प्रदान किया है जिसने फीजी के लोगों को बहुत प्रभावित किया है।

फीजियन सरकार के प्रमुख ने भारत गणराज्य के लोगों की निरंतर सफलता, शांति और समृद्धि के लिये फीजी की ओर से शुभकामनाएं दी।

लौतोका में नए बगीचे के साथ कोफी शोप



शिक्षा और लोकल गवर्नमेंट मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने लौतोका में नए बगीचे और कोफी शोप बनाने का उद्घाटन किया

चित्र: मेरिआनी गोनेदुआ

सोनम सामी

“हम ऐसा वातावरण बनाना चाहते हैं जो सिर्फ मजे करने के लिये नहीं, बल्कि जो फीजीवासियों के कुशलता को बढ़ाए”।

यह कहना है लोकल गवर्नमेंट मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार का जिन्होंने अभी हाल ही लौतोका में नया पेड़ और फूलों का बगीचा बनाने का उद्घाटन किया।

बोटानिकल गार्डन के अलावा यहाँ एक कोफी शोप भी खोला जाएगा ताकि जो लोग बोटानिकल गार्डन में घूमने आए वे कोफी शोप भी जाए जिसे कुछ आमदनी आ सके।

इस परियोजना से न केवल फीजी और ट्रिस्टों के खाने पीने वाले जगहों और कोफी संस्कृति में बढ़नती होगी बल्कि यह अन्य विकल्प प्रदान करेगा ताकि काउन्सिल के लिये और आमदनी पैदा हो।

फीजियन सरकार ने दान और पैसों की सहायता

से चीनी बनाने वाले शहर में निवेश करना जारी रखा है।

इस वित्तीय वर्ष में \$520,000 अलग किया गया है ताकि चर्चल पार्क को बढ़ाया जाए और फ्लड लाइट लगाया जाए। यह इस्लिय किया जा रहा है ताकि और खेल हो सके और इन्हे रात में किया जा सके, न सिर्फ अंतराष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम, बल्कि स्थानीय कार्यक्रम भी यहाँ अयोजित किया जा सके।

कोफी शोप के डिजाइन में उदाहरण के लिये मुख्य और टिकाउ विशेषताएं शामिल हैं, जैसे मजबूत डिजाइन, स्थानीय रूप से उपलब्ध सामग्री का इस्तेमाल, ग्रीन हाउज का अवधारणा किया गया है ताकि मौजूद बोटानिकल गार्डन वातावरण के साथ मिश्रण हो सके।



प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बर्डिनमारामा ने मटूआता में राइस हावेस्टर प्रदान किया



प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बर्डिनमारामा मटूआता के कोपरेटिव्स और धान के किसानों के साथ

चित्र : जोसाईया रालांगो

सोनम सामी

प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बर्डिनमारामा ने अभी हाल ही मटूआता के कोपरेटिव को धान काटने के लिए हावेस्टर प्रदान किया। प्रधानमंत्री ने जोर दिया की सामाज में लचीलापन बनाने के लिए प्राकृतिक और मानव निर्मित दोनों आपदाओं के प्रभावों के खिलाफ खुद को जितना हो सके उतना मजबूत बनाना इतना अधिक महत्वपूर्ण नहीं रहा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि कमी के कारण कीमत में वृद्धि के अलावा, वैश्विक स्तर पर महंगाई आसमान छू रही है, साथ ही आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में दुविधा के कारण कमी पैदा हुई जो महामारी के दौरान शुरू हुई। प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बर्डिनमारामा ने कहा कि फीजियन सरकार अपने उत्पाद और मूल्य श्रृंखला को सुरक्षित करके प्रत्येक फीजी किसान के जीवन और खाद सुरक्षा सामान्य रखने

पर केंद्रित है। प्रधानमंत्री ने लंगेर/ताबिया कोपरेटिव और मूआनिदेवो सेन्ट्रल फार्मस कोपरेटिव को राइस हावेस्टर दिए जबकि उन्होंने मशीन के कीमत का एक तिहाई हिस्सा दिया और सरकार ने बाकी रकम चुकाया। उन्होंने ड्रेकेती के वुनियेया गाँव के सबुरोंगोयावा विमन्स क्लब को खाना बनाने और खाना खाने की सामग्री भी प्रदान की।

स्मोल हौल्डा डायरी सपोर्ट स्कीम



दूध का व्यवसाय करने वाले किसानों को स्मोल हौल्डा डायरी सपोर्ट स्कीम में भाग लेने का मौका चित्र: प्रदान किया

सोनम सामी

स्मोल हौल्डा डायरी सपोर्ट स्कीम से दूध का व्यवसाय करने वाले किसानों को फायदा होगा और स्थानीय मांग को पूरा करने के लिए दूध के उत्पाद को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

दूध का व्यवसाय करने वाले बाइस किसानों को नया डायरी शेड, उन्नत घास और पौधों से ढकी जमीन जो जानवरों को चराने में मदद करेगा, मौजूद शेड को बढ़ाना और क्षमता निर्माण की ट्रेनिंग दी जाएगी।

जो सहायता दी गई है कुल बारह हजार डोलर लागत की है।

योग्य होने का स्तर:

-पहले से दूध का व्यवसाय करने वाले किसान

-नय किसान जो दूध का व्यवसाय करना चाहते हैं के पास कम से कम तीस एकड़ जमीन का सबूत देना होगा

-पहला मौका उन किसानों को दिया जाएगा जिन्हें पिछले पाँच वर्षों में कोई सहायता नहीं मिली है

-जो एक दिन में तीस लीटर से ज्यादा दूध प्रदान करते हैं और दस से ज्यादा प्रजनन गाएँ हैं

-फार्म जो टी बी के अनुरूप है और जो फार्म टी बी परीक्षण गतिविधियों को करने में इच्छा रखते हैं

-डायरी फार्मिंग में पहली बार आने वालों को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी

इस सहायता के लिए इन दस्तावेजों के साथ ऑनलाइन अर्जी लगानी होगी:

-लीस या जमीन की सहमति

-टी बी का परीक्षण परिणाम ब्रैंड प्रमाणपत्र

-दूध लेने वालों की साप्ताहिक दूध विवरण

इस स्कीम पर और जानकारी के लिए कृषि मंत्रालय के ऑफिस को 3384 233 पर कोल करे या agrihelp@govnet.gov.fj पर ई-मेल करे।

चार अगस्त से इकतीस अगस्त तक अर्जी लगाने का समय है।

लेकुतू सेकन्डरी स्कूल में दो नए क्लासरूम ब्लोक का उद्घाटन किया गया



प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बर्डिनमारामा लेकुतू सेकन्डरी स्कूल के विद्यार्थियों के साथ

चित्र: जोसाईया रालांगो

सोनम सामी

प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बर्डिनमारामा ने अभी हाल ही बुआ के लेकुतू सेकन्डरी स्कूल में दो नए क्लासरूम का उद्घाटन किया।

उन्होंने कहा कि फीजी के लिए यह एक ऐतिहासिक मौका है क्योंकि यह पहली बार थी जब एक परियोजना पर काम करने के लिए चार अलग अलग बलों को एक साथ काम करने के लिए लाया गया था।

ये थे अस्ट्रेलियन डिफेंस फोर्स, रिव्लिक ऑफ फीजी मीलिटरी फोर्स, न्यूजीलैंड डिफेंस फोर्स और फेंच डिफेंस फोर्स।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि यह सरकार का विश्वास है कि शिक्षा भविष्य के लिए सबसे बड़ी पूंजी है क्योंकि इसने हमें ऐसे समाधान तैयार करके अधिक लचीला बनाया है जिसकी हम कभी कल्पना भी नहीं कर सकते थे।

उन्होंने अस्ट्रेलियन सरकार को प्राकृतिक विपत्ती यासा प्रकिया और बुवाले पार्टनशिप अभ्यास के माध्यम से उनके समर्थन के लिए सरकार का आभार व्यक्त किया।

इन दो ब्लॉक्स में तीन क्लासरूम हैं जिसे बनाने में \$500,000 लगा है और इससे दो सौ तीस विद्यार्थियों को फायदा होगा।



शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने 2022 कोका-कोला गेम्स का उद्घाटन किया

“हमारे छात्र अपना सर्वश्रेष्ठ देने जा रहे हैं और हम सभी को लचीला फीजी भावना का सही अर्थ दिखाने जा रहे हैं”। शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने अभी हाल ही हैच एफ सी स्टेडियम में 2022 कोका-कोला गेम्स का उद्घाटन करते हुए इसपर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने कहा कि फीजी का साहस पूरी दुनिया में प्रसिद्ध है। फीजियन साहस का अर्थ है कि हम हार नहीं मानते और सबसे पहले और जरूरी बात कि हम एक दूसरे की परवाह करते हैं, और इस प्रतियोगिता के जरिए हमें खेल की अच्छी भावना दिखानी चाहिए। मंत्री कुमार ने सभी एथलीटों, छात्रों और समर्थकों को उनकी सुरक्षा और फीजी की सुरक्षा के लिए हर समय अनुशासन बनाए रखने को याद दिलाया।



2022 कोका-कोला गेम्स की समाप्ति

2022 कोका-कोला गेम्स की शुरुआत अठाहरा अगस्त को हैच एफ सी स्टेडियम में हुआ। प्रधानमंत्री वोरेंगे बर्दिनारामा ने हैच एफ सी स्टेडियम में बीस अगस्त को 2022 कोका-कोला गेम्स की समाप्ति की और एथलिट्स को बधाई दी। उन्होंने कहा कि कई एथलिट्स दूर दूर से गामीण और समुद्री क्षेत्रों से आए हुए थे, जैसे रेतुमा, लाउ और कंदावू से आने के लिए महासागरों और पहाड़ों को पार किया। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि हमारा देश वास्तव में इससे अधिक कभी नहीं जुड़ा था। चित्र: फीलिल्स एन्थनी

पेन पसिफिक प्रतियोगिता के लिए तैयारी



फीजी फैशन क्षेत्र उत्पादन से लेकर डिजाइन और मार्केटिंग तक सभी चरणों में लोगों के एक बड़े समूह को नियुक्त करता है- लेकिन वे सभी जो वर्तमान में फैशन के बारे में लिखना, छान-बीन करना, शूट करना, टिप्पणी करना और ब्लॉग लिखना जारी रखे हुए हैं। आप सभी इस रोचक व्यवसाय के लिए आवश्यक हैं। ग्रेट वाइट शार्क स्वीमिंग क्लब फैशन शो में लौतोका में भाग लेते हुए कोमर्स, टैड, टूरिज्म और ट्रांसपोर्ट मंत्री फैयाज कोया ने अपना विचार दिया। अच्छी तरह से स्थापित फीजी फैशन डिजाइनर जैसे हाउस ऑफ मौशिओ, ट्रेसी फेरिंगटन, हपफ्लेड होएडर, लवोरियल, सिनमन गल्स, तेमिसिया, सेमसन ली, लावालानी, हेफरानी, एन्टन कोन्वे वय, कुडिविती और अइट माअंटन्स ने अपना डिजाइन्स प्रदर्शित किया ताकि तेरने वाली टीम के लिए धन इकट्ठा हो सके और वे पेन-पसिफिक प्रतियोगिता में भाग ले सकें। “एक व्यवसाय के रूप में आपका समर्थन हमारे बच्चों के लिए हावाई में पेन-पसिफिक प्रतियोगिता और न्यूजीलैंड या ऑस्ट्रेलिया में स्कूल में तेरने वाली प्रतियोगिता में अगले साल पाठ लेने में मदद पहुंचाएगा। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

फेनका सिल्वा जुब्ली डिना



अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज सैयद-खैयुम ने पचीवी फीजी, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड, कनेडा, यू.एस.आई (FANCA) सिल्वा जुब्ली डिना में भाग लिया जो नान्दी के सोफिटेल रिजोर्ट में स्थित था। अभी हाल ही नान्दी के प्रिन्स चार्ल्स पार्क में अयोजित फीजी, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड, कनेडा, यू.एस.आई (FANCA) सिल्वा जुब्ली वॉलड कप चैम्पियनशिप में भाग लिया जहाँ कुल पाँच हजार लोग मौजूद थे। लगभग दो हजार टूरिस्ट खेल देखने के लिए ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड, कनेडा, और यू.एस.आई से आए थे। फेनका राष्ट्रीय चैम्पियनशिप कप हर दो साल में अलग अलग देशों में अयोजित किया जाता जिससे फीजी को सामाजिक और खेल के दौरान अपने परिवार और दोस्तों के साथ फिरसे जुड़ने का अवसर मिलता है। 2020 में इसे रद्द कर दिया गया था जब न्यूजीलैंड को मेजबानी करनी थी। फेनका के अध्यक्ष, मोहम्मद युसूफ ने इस वर्ष के आयोजन पर प्रकाश डाला और कहा कि टीमों में बढ़नती होने की उम्मीद थी क्योंकि चार देशों के विभाग से उन्नीस टीम प्रतियोगिता में भाग ले रहे थे और इन देशों से टूरिस्ट भी खेल का मज़ा लेने आए थे। चित्र- नानीसे नईमिला



ओस्ट्रेलिया में वृद्ध-देखभाल क्षेत्र में फीजियन कर्मियों की मांग



पसिफिक लैबा फसीलिटी स्किल्स डिवलपमेंट मनेजा श्री ब्रेट थोम्सन, रोजगार मंत्रालय के परमनन्त सेक्रेटरी ओसेआ दावारू अन्य नियोक्ता के साथ

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

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एक सूचना स्त्रोत से पता चला है कि ओस्ट्रेलिया में साठ से ज्यादा नियोक्ता वृद्ध-देखभाल करने वाले क्षेत्र में फीजियन कर्मियों की मांग कर रहे हैं। अभी हाल ही पसिफिक लैबा फसीलिटी स्किल्स डिवलपमेंट मनेजा श्री ब्रेट थोम्सन ने अपने दौर के दौरान रोजगार मंत्रालय के परमनन्त सेक्रेटरी ओसेआ दावारू से मुलाकात की और इस पर प्रकाश डाला।

रोजगार मंत्रालय के परमनन्त सेक्रेटरी ओसेआ दावारू ने कहा कि प्रधान मंत्री के नेतृत्व में ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार के प्रतिनिधिमंडल द्वारा फीजी की यात्रा के बाद से संपर्क करने वाले नियोक्ताओं या सेवाओं की संख्या बढ़ी है। श्री थोम्सन ने कहा कि ओस्ट्रेलियन नियोक्ता फीजी के कर्मियों को काम देने के लिए बहुत उत्सुक हैं और कार्यशाला से बहुत रुचि भी पैदा हुई है।

उन्होंने बताया कि पहला ओस्ट्रेलिया पसिफिक ट्रेनिंग कौलेशन (APTC) वृद्ध-देखभाल करने वाला समूह इस हफ्ते ट्रेनिंग खत्म करके अगले दस दिनों में काम करने वाला है जबकि दूसरा समूह का कार्य कम सितंबर के मध्य में शुरू होगा। परमनन्त सेक्रेटरी दावारू ने कहा कि ओस्ट्रेलिया में वृद्ध-देखभाल क्षेत्र इस पायलट समूह को प्राप्त करने के लिए उत्सुक है क्योंकि वे देख रहे हैं कि फीजी बहुत अच्छा कर रहा है।

फीजी इस समय वृद्ध-देखभाल ट्रेनिंग में सबसे आगे है। परमनन्त सेक्रेटरी ओसेआ दावारू ने पसिफिक लैबा फसीलिटी स्किल्स डिवलपमेंट मनेजा श्री ब्रेट थोम्सन की भावनाओं को साझा किया और हमारे फीजी कर्मियों के सकारात्मक योगदान को स्वीकार करने के लिए ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार की सरहाना की जिसका वृद्ध-देखभाल व्यवसाय पर प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

दाम में वृद्धि के असर को कम करने के लिए सौशल वेल्फेयर पाने वालों को सहायता



पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर

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2022-2023 राष्ट्रीय बजट में चिजों के दाम में वृद्धि को मिटाने पर विमन, चिल्लन और पोर्वटी अलिविएशन मंत्रालय ने विभिन्न सामाजिक सुरक्षा मंचों के माध्यम से प्रत्येक फीजीवासियों के लिए खास कर के सबसे कमजोर लोगों की सहायता और देखभाल की आयोजना की है। मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि चिजों के दाम में वृद्धि को मिटाने के इस उपाय से हमारे कमजोर परिवार, बच्चे, विकलांग और बुजुर्गों की रक्षा होगी।

उन्होंने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि ज्यादातर मामलों में सौशल वेल्फेयर पाने वालों की यह मुख्य आमदनी होती है और फीजियन सरकार ज्यादा ध्यान दे रही है कि यह उनसे वापस नहीं लिया जाए या कम नहीं किया जाए क्योंकि कई

लोग इस सहायता पर निर्भर हैं। यहाँ तक कि जब संकट के बीच फीजी को अपना सबसे बड़ा आर्थिक झटका लगा था।

इस समय भी हजारों फीजियन परिवारों को मदद पहुँचाई गई थी। यह चिजों के दाम में वृद्धि को मिटाने का उपाय जारी रहेगा ताकि सबसे कमजोर लोगों की रक्षा और सेवा करना जारी रहे और फीजी में गरीबी कम करने की रणनीति में योगदान होता रहे।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि पाँच सितंबर से सौशल वेल्फेयर पाने वालों के अकाउंट में सीधे \$180 डाल दिया जाएगा।

सौशल पेंशन स्कीम, पोर्वटी बेंचफिट स्कीम, गामीण में गर्भवती माताओं के लिए एक्पेन्डड फूड वाउचा, विकलांग के लिए सहायता, तथा स्थायता और देखभाल के लिए कुल अट्ठारह मिलीयन डॉलर नब्बे हजार लोगों को दिया गया है जबकि आठ हजार सरकारी पेंशनर्स और अफटा-केयर वालों को सहायता मिली है।

सौशल वेल्फेयर पाने वालों को कोई अर्जी लगाने की जरूरत नहीं है।

सौशल वेल्फेयर भुगतान अब एम-पैसा के माध्यम से उपलब्ध है



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विमन, चिल्लन और पोर्वटी अलिविएशन मंत्रालय ने वोडाफोन फीजी के साथ साझेदारी का समझौता कर लिया है जहाँ सौशल वेल्फेयर पाने वालों को महीने का भुगतान अब एम-पैसा के जरिये प्राप्त होगा।

घोषणा करते हुए विमन, चिल्लन और पोर्वटी अलिविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने कहा कि हम जानते हैं कि लोकडाउन के दौरान सरकार एम-पैसा के जरिए कितनी कुशलता और प्रभावी ढंग से कोविड-केश सहायता पूरे देश में लोगों के मोबाइल फोन पर भेजा था।

वोडाफोन के साथ साझेदारी के बाद हमारा मंत्रालय अब इच्छुक सौशल वेल्फेयर पाने वालों के लिए एम-पैसा के जरिये उनका पैसा सीधे उनके फोन पर डालेगा।

“हमें आशा है कि यह नया विकल्प हमारे ग्राहकों की सहायता करेगा,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा। इच्छुक सौशल वेल्फेयर पाने वाले मंत्रालय को संपर्क कर सकते हैं या वोडाफोन कस्टमर केयर

को कॉल कर सकते हैं जो आपको साइनअप करने में मदद करेगा।

एम-पैसा में केश प्राप्त करने के कई लाभ हैं जैसे, यदि आपके पास एक सौ डॉलर है और पूरे वर्ष आप उसका इस्तेमाल नहीं करते हैं, तो अपना पैसा बिना किसी कटौती के बरकरार रहेगा।

इसके अलावा, आपके खाते में कम से कम रकम रखने की जरूरत नहीं है, जिसका अर्थ है कि आप वस्तुओं और सेवाओं के लिए पूरा रकम इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं।

कई सौशल वेल्फेयर पाने वाले वृद्ध हैं या शारीरिक रूप से विकलांग हैं, ऐसे में ए टी एम या बैंक में लम्बे लाइन में खड़े होना और पैसे निकालना कठिन हो जाता है तो यह पैसा सीधे आपके फोन में प्राप्त होगा चाहे आप कहीं भी हों।

एम-पैसा में भुगतान आने के बाद आपको बैलन्स नहीं देखना होगा क्योंकि जब भुगतान आएगा, आपको मैसेज मिल जाएगा कि आपके खाते में पैसा आया है।

दो हजार चार सौ से ज्यादा व्यवसाय अब एम-पैसा इस्तेमाल स्वीकारने लगे हैं तो अब सामान और सेवा के लिए पैसा निकाल कर नकद इस्तेमाल करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

एम-पैसा से अब पानी और बत्ती का बिल बिना किसी अन्य खर्च के भरा जा सकता है जबकि अभी के समय में बस के भाड़े और फ्यूल में वृद्धि हो रही है तो आप घर पर बैठे अपने बिल्स भर सकते हैं।

एम-पैसा सेवा के इस्तेमाल और विकल्पों के संबंध में ग्राहकों की मदद करने के लिए वोडाफोन मंत्रालय के साथ साझेदारी करेगा।

फीजियन मेड ब्रैंड को मान्यता देना

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“फीजियन मेड ब्रैंड के लिए एक समर्थक के रूप में, मुझे यह देखकर प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि कम्फर्ट होम ने अपने उत्पादों पर “फीजियन मेड” प्रतीक को लेकर इतने वर्षों में बहुत प्रगति की है”।

यह कहना है कोमर्स, ट्रेड, टूरिज़्म, और ट्रांसपोर्ट मंत्री फैयाज कोया का जिन्होंने अभी हाल ही कम्फर्ट होम के नय किंग कोइल उत्पादन के उद्घाटन समारोह में भाग लिया।

“फीजियन सरकार की यह जिम्मेदारी थी कि आवश्यक उद्योगों, खासकर के फीजी की आजीविका और टूरिस्टों सहित उनकी स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखना,” मंत्री कोया ने कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि ये प्रोटोकॉल हर उपलब्ध संसाधन के साथ महामारी का सामना करने की दिशा में पहला कदम था, जिसकी अगुवाई सफल सुई लगाने वाले अभियान के बाद पूरा हुआ था।

एक इस बात से सहमत हो सकता है कि जब हम फीजी के उत्पादों को विदेशों में अलमारियों पर देखते हैं तो हम कितना गर्व महसूस करते हैं।

मुझे यकीन है कि पापुआ न्यू गिनी, वनुआतु, समोआ, अमेरिकन समोआ, और तोंगा में हमारे प्रवासी घर से दूर कम्फर्ट होम्स में उत्पादों को देखकर खुश होते होंगे - यह अपनेपन की भावना दर्शाता है। मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि कम्फर्ट होम ने यह सुनिश्चित



कोमर्स, ट्रेड, टूरिज़्म, और ट्रांसपोर्ट मंत्री फैयाज कोया, कम्फर्ट होम के कर्मचारियों के साथ चित्र: मेरेआनी गौनेदूआ

किया है कि उनके कर्मचारी की कौशल को बढ़ाया, अपनाया और फीजी के अंतराष्ट्रीय मानकों के साथ निर्माण के लिए आवश्यक क्षमता निर्माण के साथ प्रदान किया जाए।

प्रधानमंत्री ने मुआनिदेवो के किसानों को नया राइस हावेस्टर दिया



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेगे बर्निमरामा फार्मस कोर्पोरेटिव लिमिटेड के कोर्पोरेटिव तथा मुआनिदेवो के किसान के साथ चित्र: जोसाईया रालांगो

सोनम सामी

नया राइस हावेस्टर मिलने के बाद ड्रेकेती के मुआनिदेवो के किसानों को धान की फसल काटने में सुधार होना तय है। मुआनिदेवो सेन्ट्रल राइस फार्म स कोर्पोरेटिव लिमिटेड के प्रेसिडेंट शलेन्द्र प्रसाद ने कहा कि इस प्रोत्साहन से उनके चौवालीस किसानों का मनोबल बढ़ेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि वे इस सरकार और कोर्पोरेटिव के आभारी हैं कि वे साथ मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं और उन्हें यह मशीन दी जो उनकी मदद करेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि धान की कटाई बहुत जरूरी है और हम इस प्रक्रिया में नय तकनीक का इस्तेमाल करें। “ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि जो उपदा किसम का धान हम काट रहे हैं वह पारंपरिक किसम की नहीं है जहाँ हाथों का इस्तेमाल किया जा सके,” अब हम जिन उन्नत कीसम की खेती करते हैं, वे धान की फसल काटने वालों द्वारा कटाई

के लिए उपयुक्त है, क्योंकि इसे कठिनाइयों का सामना किए बिना और उपज की बर्बादी के बिना हाथों से काटा नहीं जा सकता”। प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेगे बर्निमरामा ने राइस हावेस्टर सौंपते हुए कहा कि प्राकृतिक और मानव निर्मित दोनों आपदाओं के प्रभाव के बावजूद समुदाय-स्तरीय लचीलापन बनाने और जितना हो सके खुद को मजबूत करने के लिए यह कभी इतना जरूरी नहीं रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि फीजियन सरकार अपने उत्पादन और मूल्य श्रृंखला को सुरक्षित करके प्रत्येक फीजी किसान की आजीविका और खाद सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने पर केंद्रित है। प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेगे बर्निमरामा ने एक राइस हावेस्टर लंगेरे/ताबिया को-र्पोरेटिव और मुआनिदेवो सेन्ट्रल फार्म स कोर्पोरेटिव को दिया जहाँ उन्होंने मशीन के लिए एक तिहाई हिस्सा दिया और बाकी सरकार ने भरा।

सेन फन्सिसको में फीजियन लोगों ने सरकार को पासपोर्ट बायोमेट्रिक उपकरण के लिए धन्यवाद दिया



सेन फन्सिसको में फीजी ट्रेड कमिशन के अधिकारियों के साथ डायना रदुमू अपना पासपोर्ट नवीनीकरण कराते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया

सोनम सामी

सेन फन्सिसको में रहने वाले फीजीवासियों ने फीजियन सरकार की सराहना की जब अभी हाल ही अत्याधुनिक ई-पासपोर्ट बायोमेट्रिक उपकरण की स्थापना फीजी ट्रेड कोमिशन में हुई। प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेगे बर्निमरामा ने सेन फन्सिसको में रहने वाले फीजीवासियों से वादा किया था और वादे अनुसार पहला पासपोर्ट नवीनीकरण किया। पासपोर्ट पाने वाली डायना रदुमू ने अपना नया पासपोर्ट प्राप्त करके बेहद खुश थी। फीजी इमिग्रेशन विभाग की एक टीम अभी फीजी ट्रेड कोमिशन में स्थित है ताकि वेस्ट कोस्ट में उन फीजीवासियों को पासपोर्ट सेवाएं प्रदान की जाए जिन्हें इन सेवाओं की आवश्यकता है। प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेगे बर्निमरामा ने अभी हाल ही यू-एस के दौरे पर, सेन फन्सिसको में रहने वाले फीजीवासियों को आश्वासन दिया की फीजी के

लिए पासपोर्ट सेवाएं जल्द से जल्द शुरू होंगी। यह, जब उन्होंने पहली बार यू-एस में फीजीवासियों के सामने पासपोर्ट नवीनीकरण और अन्य इमिग्रेशन सेवाओं के साथ चुनौतियों का सामना किया। अब केलिफोर्निया और नजदिकी इलाकों में रहने वाले फीजीवासियों को अपने पासपोर्ट नवीनीकृत करने या नए पासपोर्ट के लिए वाशिंगटन डी.सी तक नहीं जाना पड़ेगा। प्रधानमंत्री के दफतर तथा इमिग्रेशन के परमनन्ट सेक्रेटरी श्री योगेश करण ने कहा कि इमिग्रेशन विभाग के अधिकारियों ने ई-पासपोर्ट बायोमेट्रिक उपकरण की स्थापना कर दिया है और ई-पासपोर्ट अर्जियों की सुविधा शुरू कर दी है। वे फीजी ट्रेड कोमिशन और फीजी मिशन के कर्मचारियों को भी प्रशिक्षित करेंगे कि नए उपकरणों को कैसे संचालित किया जाए।

लौतोका में बगीचे के साथ कोफी शोप

2

दूध के व्यवसाय के लिए स्मोल होल्डा डायरी सपोर्ट स्कीम

3

प्रधानमंत्री ने मटूआता में राइस हावेस्टर दिया

3

सौशल वेल्फेयर भुगतान अब एम-पैसा द्वारा मिल सकता है

6

फीजियन मेड ब्रेड में कोम्फर्ट होम का नाम जुड़ गया

6

फीजी दर्पण

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अभी हाल ही नान्दी के प्रिन्स चार्ल्स पार्क में आयोजित फीजी, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड, कनेडा, यू.एस.आई (FANCA) सिल्वर जुबली वॉल्ड कप चैम्पियनशिप में भाग लिया जहाँ फीजी ने चार हजार डॉलर के साथ FANCA टूर्नामेंट जीता चित्र:नानीसे नईमिला

फेनका सिल्वर जुबली वॉल्ड कप चैम्पियनशिप

सोनम सामी

अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज सैयद-खैयुम ने अभी हाल ही नान्दी के प्रिन्स चार्ल्स पार्क में आयोजित फीजी, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड, कनेडा, यू.एस.आई (FANCA) पच्चीसवें सिल्वर जुबली वॉल्ड कप चैम्पियनशिप में भाग लिया जहाँ कुल पाँच हजार लोग मौजूद थे। अपने बयान में अई-जी ने सभी भाग ले रही

टीम, उनके परिवारों, दोस्तों को धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने पाँच दिवसीय प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेने के लिए विदेशों से यात्रा की थी। लगभग दो हजार टूरिस्ट खेल देखने के लिए ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड, कनेडा, और यू.एस.आई से आए थे। अटोनी-जेनरल सैयद-खैयुम ने पचीस साल पहले फेनका के वेनर के निचे पहला टूर्नामेंट आयोजित करने के लिए संस्थापकों के

दृष्टिकोण की सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि वह एक कारण जो हर एक टीम को साथ लेकर आया वह था फीजी के साथ उनका संबंध और जुड़ाव। प्रतियोगिता के अलावा, टूर्नामेंट ने सभी के लिए, विशेष रूप से विदेशी प्रतिभागियों को मित्रों और परिवारों के साथ फिर से जुड़ने और फीजी के उन हिस्सों का दौरा करने का एक शानदार अवसर प्रदान किया जहाँ से वे

मूल रूप से आए थे। फीजी टीम ने चार हजार डॉलर के साथ FANCA टूर्नामेंट जीता, जबकि उपविजेता न्यूजीलैंड को एक हजार डॉलर मिला। अन्य खेलों में न्यूजीलैंड मास्टर्स ने फीजी को 3-0 से पराजित किया जबकि फीजी ने कनेडा 5-0 से पराजित किया और वेटरन्स का खिताब हासिल किया।