

# FijiFocus

## PM tells of heartbreak, outrage over bullying video



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Navuakece Primary School students during the opening of the school's teacher's quarters on Monday. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

# 'PROTECT THE VULNERABLE'

NANISE NEIMILA

“TEACHERS alone can't stop abuse. This is a breakdown in our social values, and we need to fight it at every level from Government, school and at home.”

This was the message from Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while opening the teacher's quarters at Navuakece Primary School in Naitasiri during the week.

PM Bainimarama shared his outrage on the video from last year at Ratu Kadavulevu School that has been circulating online, showing a student being brutally beaten and bullied by his classmates.

“It broke my heart, I saw my own children and grandchildren in him, as I'm sure all parents did. While Police are investigating the matter, let me be clear: Fiji should have zero tolerance for this merciless behaviour.”

“Never mistake cruelty for normal child's play. Students don't view this vulnerable as any easy target for picking on or beating. That comes from speaking out, standing up, and protecting those who need it most.”

PM Bainimarama stressed to parents the need to know that abuse too often starts from home, and on the need to make it clear that wherever their children are, they must treat all Fijians with kindness and respect.

“Teachers, I plead that you work to cre-

ate a culture of trust and love in your classrooms that combats this behaviour before it starts.”

The Ministry of Education has condemned the recent alleged cases of violence and stated clearly- “zero tolerance policy on any form of violence or abuse in schools”.

There has been an uproar on social media with many calling for strict action and the matter has been referred to that Fiji Police as to be investigated.





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### QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Jacinda Ardern

We are contributing to the establishment of Fiji's Climate Relocation and Displaced Peoples Trust Fund for Communities and Infrastructure, launched in September – a world first initiative that aims to sustainably and sensitively manage the relocation of Fiji's communities.

Jacinda Ardern  
New Zealand Prime Minister

### NUMBERS

**\$98 million**

The standby loan facility secured by Fiji from Japan for assistance in disaster recovery and rehabilitation.

### TWEET OF THE WEEK



Premila Kumar (@PremilaKumarMP)

As said by Hon @FijiPM we're getting there, one new road, one new school and one new market at a time. The new Namaka market accommodates close to 300 Fijians and I'm esp pleased amongst these are strong, independent women.

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# Look after yourselves, minister tells nurses

PRASHILA DEVI

HEALTH professionals have been encouraged to look after themselves and take out time for themselves.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete has heaped praise on the work of nurses and midwives in the country

Minister Waqainabete, who was speaking at the celebration to mark the International Year of Nurses and Midwives at Nausori Primary School last week, called on nurses to look after themselves even if they are busy.

“Make sure that you make time to exercise, make sure you have the opportunity to rest when you need to and live in a way that is healthy so that you can live long.”

“Even though we may be doctors and nurses or health professionals, we are still human beings, we are not superman or superwoman,” he said.

Minister Waqainabete also emphasised the importance of look-



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete with staff nurses during the International Year of Nurses and Midwives at Nausori Primary School last week. Photo: VIRENDRA LAL

ing out for each other.

“It is imperative and incumbent on us that we look after ourselves and one good way is by develop-

ing health groups. Please don't forget to tap someone on the shoulder and ask them how they are doing and whether they need

support.”

Minister Waqainabete said that support can be needed in many ways- “maybe medical, maybe mental or social” so it was important to look out for each other.

He said despite numerous challenges, the health professionals were much better off now than ever before with more numbers on the ground.

The Government, Minister Waqainabete said, wants the nurses to grow within the profession and this is already happening with nurse practitioners leading many of the Ministry's programs.

“We as a Government want to empower, strengthen and support you to grow within the Ministry into whatever roles that you choose that you want to grow into later on.”

Minister Waqainabete relayed to those present at the celebration that Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama was always concerned about the nurses and had told him to look after them including having places open for new graduates.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the official opening of the foot crossing at Emuri Village in Nadroga. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

# \$1.73m crossing brings benefits for villagers

NANISE NEIMILA

THE recently commissioned Emuri crossing is a direct investment by the Fijian Government to uplift lives for all Fijians and provide them an opportunity to tap into their full potential.

This was comment by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while commissioning the \$1.73million crossing in Emuri Village in Nadroga last week.

PM Bainimarama highlighted that before the Government built this crossing, the families who lived in the rural communities had a very

different life — “lives that were unpredictable, and all too often, unsafe”.

“A strong storm would bring floodwaters rushing through, which sometimes took weeks to recede — leaving you stranded and unable to access essential services and loved ones on the other side without risking a dangerous journey across the rapids.”

“But my friends, those days are over for Emuri. You can now sleep easy, knowing that — even in heavy rainfall — your children can now cross safely to school, your livestock and produce can make it to market, and you can access healthcare if you get sick.”

PM Bainimarama encouraged the community members to take advantage of this renewed commitment made by Government in ensuring that all Fijians have access to equal services.

“My friends, I want you to take full advantage of this opportunity. By doing so, this 30-metre crossing can be more than a bridge to the other side of the river — it can be a bridge to a new future for yourselves, your families, and your communities.”

“Let today inspire people to engage in our economy like never before, and let this crossing mark a new beginning for the most fulfilling and prosperous chapter of your lives.”





## Defence minister meets security college team

A team from the Australia Pacific Security College (APSC) met with the Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs, Inia Seruiratu, yesterday.

This meeting was to brief him on possible areas of continued collaboration between the APSC and the Ministry of Defence & National Security which will be linked to the implementation of Fiji's first ever National Security Strategy (NSS).

The collaboration, which began last year (2019), stems from the Fiji – Australia bilateral agreement - the Vuvale Partnership, which aims at strengthening ties between Fiji and Australia.

The APSC is based at the Australia National University (ANU) in Canberra and the two person team consisted of the Director of the APSC, Professor Meg Keen and the Deputy Director of APSC, Associate Professor Robert Styles. The APSC is working with countries across the region in capacity building initiatives under the Boe Declaration signed by Pacific Island Forum Leaders in Nauru in 2018.

Whilst in Fiji, the team from the APSC met with other key stakeholders who are crucial in the progression of Fiji to realize the Vision of the draft NSS, which is drawn directly from the National Development Plan.

The draft NSS, which has been endorsed in principle by the National Security & Defence Council (NSDC), is at its final stages of vetting before it is tabled in Cabinet for endorsement.

-news@govnet.gov.fj

# Ministry has zero tolerance on bullying

THE Ministry of Education strongly condemns violence in any form, and in view of the recent cases reported by the media, would like to reiterate and reinforce that there is a zero tolerance policy on any form of violence or abuse in schools.

Children who are victims of bullying often suffer from long-term trauma beyond the initial incident, including low self-esteem, behavioral problems and an inability to concentrate and perform to their full potential at school.

In some tragic cases, it can cause lifelong mental health issues and lead to self-harm. And it's important to realise that bullying isn't limited to physical violence; often, verbal attacks and emotional suffering are just as dan-

gerous.

The Fijian public must work together to break the stigma around reporting bullying, and recognise that doing so is an act of courage.

We encourage children who witness or experience bullying to come forward and report acts of physical or verbal abuse to their Head of School, or dial the Child Help Line service (1325), which allows them to remain anonymous if they choose.

Once an incident is reported, it is mandatory for Heads of Schools to report the matter to the Fiji Police Force, take the student(s) for medical examination, and duly inform the parent(s) of the concerning children.

The Heads of Schools are tasked by the Ministry to take up such responsibilities and own-

ership. Any incident that is in breach of the Disciplinary Policy should be reported by the Heads of Schools to the Ministry within the first hour of the incident.

The Ministry recognizes that such behavior cannot be stopped by teachers alone, and is calling on parents, students, community leaders and all members of the public to work together in combatting bullying for the sake of our children and our society as a whole.

To those students suffering from bullying, please know that while the pain sometimes feels like too much to bear, your lives will get better, and thousands of parents, teachers, and student stand behind you with love and compassion. We are here to support you.

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From left: Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, Mrs Mary Bainimarama, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Clarke Gayford at Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva last week. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

## Fiji, NZ 'have shared values'

PRASHILA DEVI

THE kinship between Fijians and New Zealanders has endured over decades, fostered through family connections, education and sporting links, trade, investment and tourism.

This was the gist of the message by the New Zealand and Fijian Prime Ministers Jacinda Ardern and Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama after they met and renewed their commitment to continue to strengthen Fiji-New Zealand relations on a foundation of shared values and equal partnership.

The two leaders met for a bilat-

eral meeting during Prime Minister Ardern's recent visit to Fiji which was packed with important and symbolic activities.

"We held a wide-ranging discussion on how our surging partnership can deliver greater good in the lives of Fijians and New Zealanders alike," Prime Minister Bainimarama said after the bilateral talks.

"New Zealand is Fiji's second largest regional trading partner. Every year, tens of thousands of Kiwis visit our shores, and Fijian and New Zealand businesses send flows of goods, services and investments across our borders that

sustain and create jobs within our economies."

Prime Minister Ardern assured the Fijian Head of Government that New Zealand will continue to support Fiji's economic reform ambitions, as both countries continue to grow the trading relationship.

She congratulated Prime Minister Bainimarama as Fiji marks its 50th year as a proud, independent nation. The two Prime Ministers recognised that 2020 also marks the anniversary of 50 years of diplomatic relations between Fiji and New Zealand.

In a statement the two Prime Ministers stated that they recognised

the importance of New Zealand and Fiji's people-to-people relations and strong institutional links and that they "undertook to explore and facilitate further opportunities for individuals and organisations with mutually-beneficial skills and resources to contribute to each country's development".

The Prime Ministers also affirmed that they look forward to continuing the strong and positive trajectory of the relationship, finding new ways to jointly improve the health, wellbeing and resilience of Fijian and New Zealand communities, and addressing the existential threats facing the Pacific region.

*New Zealand is Fiji's second largest regional trading partner. Every year, tens of thousands of Kiwis visit our shores, and Fijian and New Zealand businesses send flows of goods, services and investments across our borders that sustain and create jobs within our economies.*

Jacinda Ardern  
New Zealand Prime Minister





# \$11m boost for police force

PRASHILA DEVI

**I**N a move that will boost the efforts of the Fiji Police Force, the New Zealand Government will invest \$11 million in the next three years.

This initiative will see the two countries joining forces to combat transnational organised crime and enhancing investigative skills.

The announcement came as part of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's visit to Fiji late last month

The programme will see:

- New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) support to the Fiji Police forensic laboratory to ensure successful prosecutions following drug seizures.

- Enhancing Fiji Police leadership and capability through provision of technical assistance to the Proceeds of Crime Unit and provision of New Zealand Police trained tracker dogs.

- The roll out of the UNDP "First Hour" programme in Fiji

"Cooperation to reduce crime in the Pacific, especially around drug trafficking, is a priority for both the New Zealand and Fijian Governments," PM Ardern said.

"The New Zealand Government will be investing \$11 million over three years into the programme which will enhance the capability of the Fijian Police while helping to disrupt drug trafficking in our region.

"In the same way we cooperate on issues that affect the whole Pacific like climate change,

Fiji and NZ will work together to combat transnational crime and drug trafficking, which are having an increasingly negative impact across the region.

Fijian Minister for Defence and National Security, Inia Seruiratu, in welcoming the move, said of course there was a need for the two countries to work together given the changing environment and the lack of capacities and capability of some Pacific Island Countries including Fiji.

"For Fiji these are the new opportunities that we would want to fully utilise because we need to be on par in terms of our service delivery and the use of modern technology so that we can be able to cope with challenges and the opportunities that come our way," Minister Seruiratu said.

## Fiji, NZ commit to climate change action

FELIX LEINAIVALU

**F**IJI and New Zealand will work together to respond to the challenges posed by climate change, on oceans, and in the sustainable management of our fisheries.

This was highlighted by New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden during the State Dinner hosted by the Fijian Government during her official visit to Fiji.

"New Zealand and Fiji are both committed to ambitious action on climate change."

"I commend Fiji on the leadership role you have played on climate change, in the Pacific and internationally."

"We welcome Fiji's participation in the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability, and look forward to working with you as these ambitious negotiations progress."

Prime Minister Arden added that New Zealand and Fiji will partner together in responding to challenges to regional security.

"I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution that Fiji makes to global peacekeeping. This morning we paid our respects to the Fijian service people who have lost their lives serving their country, as New Zealand service people have done over the years."

"We are intensifying cooperation in the areas of border security and policing. This will support our efforts to combat threats such as transnational organised crime and drug trafficking."

Prime Minister Arden said promoting social wellbeing is another important aspect of the relationship between New Zealand and Fiji.

"New Zealand and Fiji are countries that care deeply about our most vulnerable groups, and ensuring that no one is left behind."

"Fiji's leadership on gender equality is demonstrated by the growth in the representation of women in Fiji's parliament."

"Fiji should be proud that, at twenty percent, its rate of women's representation is the highest in the Pacific. Supporting growth in this representation across the region is a priority for New Zealand."



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern plants a tree as President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote looks at the State House grounds. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

## NZ PM plants fan palm at State House

FELIX LESINAIVALU

**D**URING the four-day official visit to Fiji, New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern made time to plant a tree at the State House grounds during her courtesy call with the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote.

On the second day of her visit, President Konrote received the courtesy call from Prime Minister Ardern at the State House for talks before exchanging gifts. Prime Minister Ardern and President

Konrote then proceeded to plant a fan palm tree at the State House Grounds.

Before proceeding to her next stop at the National War Memorial Site in Veiuto, Prime Minister Ardern signed the visitor's book at State House.

After bilateral talks with the Fijian Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister Ardern was then hosted to a state dinner by the Fijian Government where she shared how the Fiji-New Zealand relationship is warmer, stronger and more productive than

it has ever been.

"We are friends and natural partners. We have a relationship based on mutual respect and shared values. Any yet, we can go further."

"We are committed to working with you to ensure that our strong ties endure another fifty years; to further strengthen our multifaceted cooperation; and to make sure that the Pacific, our Pacific, is prosperous, stable and resilient."

Prime Minister Ardern added New Zealand and Fiji have a shared interest in addressing the environmental challenges that our

countries and region face.

"Both our nations take our responsibilities as kaitiakitanga, or guardians, of our lands, resources and oceans, seriously."

Prime Minister Ardern was farewelled at the Nausori Airport by Prime Minister Bainimarama then departed for Nadi where she visited a Mosque to pay respects to Fijians who lost their lives in the Christchurch terror attacks, at the Lautoka Mosque and opening the Fiji Women's Crisis Center in Nadi branch.





# NZ PM recognises efforts to curb gender violence

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Fijian Government has been recognized as the first Pacific country to adopt an all of government approach to preventing violence against women and girls grounded in strong, evidence-based policy.

This acknowledgement came from the New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

Officiating at the opening of the new Nadi Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC), PM Ardern highlighted that this national approach to address the root causes of gender-based violence through policy action will further support the mandate and impact of civil society partners such as the FWCC.

PM Ardern stated that this year is the fifth

anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals with 10 years until their culmination.

"Whilst goal five focuses on gender, the fact is that women's equality and empowerment is integral to all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development. In short all the SDGs depend on the achievement of gender equality."

"The call for action for gender equality and women's empowerment is therefore even more urgent and remains one of the most pressing development issues in the Pacific."

"Developing strong Pacific positions on key areas related to gender equality and women's empowerment continues to be critical to ensuring the voice of the Pacific is heard on the international stage."

PM Ardern highlighted that at the bilateral

level, Fiji and New Zealand's principles and approach to gender equality and empowerment are aligned.

"Last year we saw this alignment translate into real partnership with the preparation for the Beijing +25 platform for Action review and the 64th session of the Commission on the status of women."

PM Ardern acknowledged the work of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and highlighted that she looks forward to more partnership that will support the role of the Ministry as the Fijian Government's core policy coordinating unit for promoting gender equality in Fiji and will contribute to the development of the National Action Plan.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with his New Zealand counterpart Jacinda Ardern at Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.  
Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

## Fijian PM thanks NZ for help to Fijian community

NANISE NEIMILA

"THEY are us."

"Those few words helped unite a nation and inspire the world. And behind the words stood a remarkable story of resilience, compassion and action that, I believe, set a new benchmark for how any leader can help a wounded nation heal."

This were the comments made by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while hosting his counterpart New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern at the welcoming dinner during her visit to Fiji last week.

Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked the people of New Zealand for their support towards the terror in Christchurch last year and said with a sizable diaspora community in Christchurch "needed that healing comfort here on the ground as we learned that three Fijians whom were among the fallen".

"In a moment clouded by darkness, New Zealand harnessed the power of national unity — allowing the best of humankind to shine through. Those three words — "They Are Us" — embody an ideal which I have pursued for the Fijian people since my first day as Prime Minister. Jacinda sees what I see: That being a Fijian or being a New Zealander is not about who you are, what you look like, or what religion you follow; it is about the love you hold in your heart — love for your country, and love for your fellow citizens."

"When we tap into the fabric of nationhood that binds our people together, there is no challenge we cannot overcome."

Prime Minister Bainimarama acknowledged the PM Ardern's unwavering support towards the Pacific Island Countries' plea in combating climate change at the international stage.

"The respect she has shown for our way of life, and her sincere empathy for our suffering through a changing climate, will not be forgotten."

"In my eyes, the humility, and the subtle strength, shown by the Prime Minister at PIF (Pacific Islands Forum) — despite representing the second-largest nation in the room — has proven to be one of two defining moments in Jacinda's time in office to date."

## Terror victim's wife thanks New Zealand government for support

RONALD DEO

"THEY just want to help me to move forward."

Those were the words of Saira Bibi Patel while thanking the New Zealand Government for all the support after her husband late Imam Hafiz Musa Patel was slain in the terror attack in Christchurch last year with two other Fijians.

As we approach the first anniversary of the terror attack in Christchurch against New Zealand's Muslim community, we are filled with deep emotion. While I will never know your pain, I carry with me many memories from that day, and the days that followed.

Jacinda Ardern  
New Zealand Prime Minister

Mrs Bibi said she was very touched by the meeting with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern last Thursday who she met together with other family members at the Lautoka Mosque.

Mrs Bibi is very thankful to the New Zealand Government for all the assistance, support and encouragement provided to her since her husband's death.

"They are always concerned



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern meets Saira Bibi at the Lautoka Mosque last week. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

about my whereabouts, how am I keeping myself occupied whether I have taken any course, how am I moving on and how are my children treating me," she said.

Mrs Bibi said upon being asked she told Prime Minister Ardern that she now resides in Melbourne Australia with her children.

She informed the Prime Minister that following her husband's death the New Zealand Immigration gave her permanent residence and she now has all the benefits and privileges.

Ms Bibi added that the New Zealand Victim Support encour-

aged her to reside in New Zealand whereby she will be given all the privileges, support and care.

However, she said all her five children were residing in Australia and none of them have made their mind to move to New Zealand.

While meeting the family members of late Imam Patel, late Ashraf Ali Razat, and late Ashraf Ali, Prime Minister Ardern got emotional.

"As we approach the first anniversary of the terror attack in Christchurch against New Zealand's Muslim community, we are filled with deep emo-

tion. While I will never know your pain, I carry with me many memories from that day, and the days that followed," PM Ardern said.

"I want to place on record our deep appreciation for the many messages of support and sympathy we received from Fiji following the March 15 attacks. It gave us strength to know that you stood in solidarity with us. And you sent those messages so swiftly. You were amongst the first."

"But it was especially moving to receive those messages knowing that you faced your own grief."





# Praise for women ruggers

PRASHILA DEVI

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has paid homage to the efforts of female ruggers especially the balanced approach they take despite the challenges they face.

The Head of Government not only highlighted efforts of the Fijian sports women but their social conditions as well as he acknowledged that “Fiji is still not an easy place to be a woman”.

“I’m proud of the work we’ve

done to build a better, safer and more inclusive society, but that work is nowhere near finished. We are still plagued by dangerously high rates of domestic violence and mentalities among men that women are somehow “less” than they are. That’s rubbish, we know that. But too many men still don’t,” he said.

The Fijiana team has secured their qualifications for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the 2021 Women’s Rugby World Cup in New Zealand. While handing over awards at

the Fiji Rugby Union Awards 2020 in Suva recently, Prime Minister Bainimarama said on the Olympic and World Cup qualifying teams are single mothers who dominate on the field and then go home to raise children on their own.

He asked the boys and young men present at the awards to join him in the “campaign to empower the women of this country to be the Fijians they each dream of becoming”.

“Lift them up with your words and your actions. Involve the

women of your community in athletic activity. Invite them onto the field. And go further, by inviting them to the decision-making table in your communities,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“For me personally, watching our Fijiana teams surge to greatness in 2019 was what made last year a truly special year for Fijian rugby.”

“I’m not only talking about the victories and the thrill of the in-game action. I’m talking about the passion and the sacrifices the players have given to this game off the

field as well,” the Head of Government said.

And, he added, there are Fijians who work full-time jobs and still carve out the time to train, there are Fijians who have given up promising careers in pursuit of their rugby dreams, Fijians who live overseas and who return home just to train with Team Fiji.

“Fijians who love this game, who love their country and who are proving – one win at a time – they deserve to rank among the greatest women’s rugby players on Earth.”



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Fiji, Qian Bo with Lokia Village Kindergarten students. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

## PM praises community for kindy development

NANISE NEIMILA

CHILDREN of Lokia Village, Rewa will no longer have to attend classes in their village hall after the commissioning of their new kindergarten.

With an investment of \$20,000, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama commended the community for their shared passion for education at all stages of life and recognise its immense value in shaping towns, society, and the nation.

“Through this ECE Centre, the journey of learning will start even earlier for young Fijians who are getting their start here.”

“Who knows where that journey will take them. But one thing is for certain — the opportunities at their feet are greater than at any point in Fijian history. Now more than ever, they can choose their own path for-

ward, create a life for themselves, and be whatever they’d like to be.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said it’s refreshing to see Fijians of all walks of life seeing this value, and investing in their children by supporting their dreams.

“It’s even more encouraging to see consensus like that of your Lokia — embodied by this ECE Centre — knowing that these very young years of a child’s life are formative in shaping their future.”

“Children here will develop essential life skills that they will carry with them throughout primary school, secondary school, tertiary studies, and beyond. This isn’t just about learning ABCs and 1-2-3s; it is about setting Fijian out on the right foot, and laying a foundation of knowledge that they will build upon for the rest of their lives.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said these centres are about more than empowering young people through learning; they can empower entire communities.

“Mothers, in particular, are able to dedicate themselves to their own economic empowerment while their children are at school, creating a culture of independence and allowing hard-working parents to earn an income and tap into their true potential.”

Village headman Ulaiasi Tuikoro thanked the Government for their passion and commitment towards ensuring that all Fijians have access to education.

“I would like to thank Government for the provision of free school fees, textbooks and busfares for our children. It has assisted a lot of parents especially those in the rural areas,” he said.

## Residents commended for education commitment

NANISE NEIMILA

COMMUNITY members of Nadali in Nausori were commended for their commitment towards ensuring their children access better and affordable learning facilities.

This after the commissioning of a new kindergarten with cost of \$30,000 an investment made by the community to ensure their children have good learning facilities.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in acknowledging the community said your passion for your children’s education is nothing short of an inspiration.

“Fijian communities who share my Government’s commitment to educating our children play a vital role in our nation’s development.”

“Throughout their development, particularly in their formative years, Fijian children benefit immensely from parents and community members who invest in their success as students, and I applaud each of you for showing the foresight to prepare your students for their educational careers.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama adds that within the walls of this building, the children of the community will be gifted an invaluable start to their education.

“When they go on to primary school, secondary school and beyond, they will enjoy my Government’s total commitment to their success.”

“Their education will be free, their textbooks will be free and – for those students who need it – we will subsidise their transportation to school. And, for those who one day dream of higher education, they can access record funding given to tertiary loans and scholarships to pursue a professional degree.”

“They say it takes a village to raise a child. Through your support of this kindergarten, it’s clear that you are committed to that old expression, and to raising your children right.”

Turaga ni Mataqali Luke Narabe thanked Prime Minister Bainimarama for his vision in ensuring all Fijians have access to affordable education.



# Fiji secures \$98m loan facility

EMI KOROITANOVA

**F**IJI has boosted support from Japan for assistance in disaster recovery and rehabilitation after securing a standby loan worth more than FJ\$98 million (5 Billion Japanese Yen).

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, who recently signed this standby-loan agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), said this facility places Fiji in a state of readiness for any natural disaster to strike.

“This facility will ensure that we have a standby facility there that we can immediately tap into,” the A-G said.

“Off course getting access to these funds means we have to have a certain level of technical preparedness and as highlighted in Cabinet has put in place various disaster risk reduction policy that was approved by Cabi-

net recently.”

The A-G said that pivotal to all of this was that the Japanese government endorsed the fact that managing of finances well is contingent upon macro-economic and public finance management of the Fijian Government.

Furthermore, the JICA Fiji Resident Representative Yukari Ono said this loan also aims to strengthen the capacity to mitigate a disaster impact to implementing the policy reaction which aligns to the priority actions for a disaster risk reduction.

“This loan has a condition of 0.01 per cent interest rate and 40-year payment period including 10-year grace period which minimizes the impact of debt management of Fijian Government sound and sustainable fiscal management,” she said.

“This is the first loan agreement with the government of Fiji after 22 years since we signed the loan agreement for Nadi-Lautoka regional water in 1998.”



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum (right), after signing a standby-loan agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Photo: EMI KOROITANOVA

## NZ gives \$2m for climate relocation programme

EMI KOROITANOVA

**N**EW Zealand is making a \$2 million dedicated investment, under the Pacific-focused climate change assistance program, to support Fiji's management for the displacement of communities.

Delivering her speech to the University of the South Pacific (USP) students during her four-day visitation to Fiji recently, the Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern said “while we must do all we can to mitigate and prevent the full frontal assault of climate change, we must also prepare”.

“And that's exactly what's happening here in Fiji,” Prime Minister Ardern said.

Last year, New Zealand had announced a \$150 million package for Pacific-focused climate change assistance at the Pacific Islands Forum.

“Out of that \$150 million, we have already approved projects worth \$98 million in areas such as water security and invasive species.”

New Zealand is also looking to invest at least \$300 million globally in climate-related assistance over the next three years.

“We are contributing to the establishment of Fiji's Climate Relocation and Displaced Peoples Trust Fund for Communities and Infrastructure, launched in September – a world first initiative that aims to sustainably and sensitively manage the relocation of Fiji's communities.”

PM Ardern said with five community relocations under way or completed in Fiji and a further 40 identified, this is an issue for the here and now.

“I once said climate change was my generation's nuclear free moment. That was a reference to how the generation before me had fought for and won nuclear free status for New Zealand, a position that we also fought for in the Pacific, especially supporting Pacific nations in their opposition to French nuclear testing here.”

Addressing the students at USP, she posed the question on what climate change meant to them.

“What injustices that you see now will motivate you to act and achieve more than what is currently being achieved.”

“And most importantly what can you do to help bring the Pacific together as we address these challenges,” she added.



Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern while addressing students at the University of the South Pacific Laucala Campus during her three day visit in Fiji last week. Photo: EMI KOROITANOVA

## Fijian delegation at Malaysia IALA conference

**T**HE Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate, led Fiji's delegation to the International Association of Marine AIDS to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) Diplomatic Conference.

The meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur from 25-28 February 2020.

The Conference was significant as Member Countries concluded negotiations which started 10 years ago on a draft Convention that would transition IALA from a Non-Government Organisation to an Inter-Governmental Organisation.

Minister Usamate was amongst the few speakers who delivered remarks at the opening of the Conference.

He highlighted the significance of IALA to Fiji as a coastal and maritime community, as it relates to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

He also underscored IALA's importance to Fiji's climate change strategies and how it would contribute to Fiji's maritime transport sector, and in achieving the sustainable development goals.

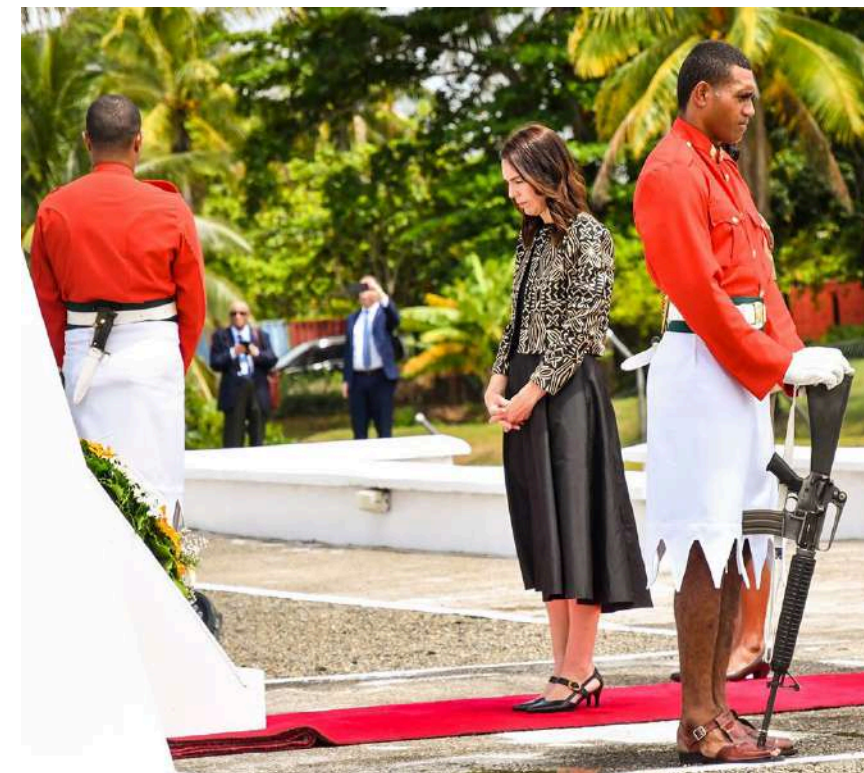
On the margins of the Conference, Minister Usamate had a bilateral meeting with Malaysia's Ministry of Transport Secretary-General, Dato' Isham Ishak.

Recalling the longstanding relations between Fiji and Malaysia, Minister Usamate expressed Fiji's desire to deepen engagements with Malaysia in the maritime transport sector, including through capacity building. Both sides agreed to develop an MOU to cover the areas of cooperation under a mutually beneficial arrangement.

The Conference successfully concluded on 28 February with the adoption of the Convention that would, among other things, establish IALA as an Inter-Governmental Organisation. Member Countries, including Fiji, signed the Final Act.

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## NZ PM visits Fiji

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern capped off her four-day visit to Fiji with a successful bilateral meeting with the Fijian Government, signalling more concessions and financial assistance for the Pacific region.

PM Ardern met her Fijian counterpart Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama after being accorded full traditional ceremonies of welcome and immediately made an impression with her strength in humility. During a visit to launch the RISE project at Tamavua-i-Wai Village, a little more than five kilometres from Suva, she left her seat and sat with village women, chatted and laughed with them.

PM Ardern visited the University of the South Pacific Laucala Campus, hosted women leaders and paid tribute to fallen heroes at the National War Memorial. Upon arrival and departure she was accorded full military parade and salute, cementing Fiji, New Zealand relations for years to come.

Prime Minister Bainimarama hosted his New Zealand counterpart for a State dinner before she visited families of fallen victims of last year's Christchurch shooting and met NZ High Commission staff.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA, AZARIA FAREEN, JEREMAIAH LIGAIRI, FELIX LESINAIVALU





# Municipal market set to extend opening hours

MEREANI GONEDUA

**T**HE Ba Municipal Market will soon extend its opening hours.

The announcement was made by the Minister for Local Government, Housing, Community Development, Industry, Trade and Tourism Premila Kumar during a recent visit to the Western divi-

sion. Minister Kumar highlighted that her team held various meetings with market vendors from Ba and she was pleased with what was discussed.

"We went to the Ba market, had meetings with the vendors and we had a very successful meeting," Minister Kumar said.

"We talked about the opening hours for Ba Municipal Market to

be increased and they are happy to go along with that.

"It was a session where we had to compromise on a number of issues where I had to give in and they had to give in. And at the end we found a common path as a way forward."

Apart from the Ba market, the Minister also visited Rakiraki, Lautoka and the Namaka market.

"The main purpose of my visit it

to see how well we were getting on with our projects. We have a number of developments for this financial year and as you know June and July are not very far away.

"I also wanted to know why there are delays in some projects and how other projects are moving on."

Minister Kumar highlighted

that her visits were to establish what really was happening on the ground so she would better analyse every situation.

"There are a few steps that still needs to be done. From my perspective I'll be very happy when we complete those steps. We may not get the final product but it is a positive sign we are working towards the end of the projects."



## State-of-the-art classrooms bring big smiles

MEREANI GONEDUA

**T**HE new state of the art classrooms in Veisaru Sanatan Dharam School worth more than \$2 million has brought smiles among Fijians living in Veisaru, Ba.

For 50-year-old Savenaca Vitogo, memories of the old school and how its students were affected after the school was badly damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016 is still fresh in his mind.

"The school was one of those that was badly damaged. Students were learning in damaged classrooms and some were really affected by what they saw."

"We want to thank the Government for its assistance in helping rebuild the school. It took them sometime but now the school is finally completed and we are so happy with the outcome," Mr Vitogo said.

"I am not sure if you would find a school that has projectors inside its classrooms and this is what we are so happy to see. The repairs and renovations are done so well that its boosted our children's morale in learning."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while officiating at the opening, highlighted that in his mission to bring high-quality education into the life of every Fijian child, he has worked with countless community partners over the years who share the passion for education.

"Through the pursuit of that mission, we've expanded access to schooling at all levels, from kindergarten to tertiary institutions and everywhere in between, and we have worked relentlessly to eliminate cost as a barrier to opportunity — whether that means subsidising tuition, bus fares or textbooks.

"And we will continue to support our teachers and students in every way possible; because investing in education is investing in the Fiji of today and the Fiji of the future."

"But now, by putting your head down and studying hard, and by taking school seriously, anything is possible. You can create any future you want for yourself, and choose the life you want to live. Never before has Fiji been so filled with potential, so I urge you to take full advantage of it.

## PM announces free business licences for market vendors

MEREANI GONEDUA

**N**AMAKA market vendors will be granted a free business licence for the next year.

This was announced by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while officially opening the new Namaka market in Nadi.

PM Bainimarama highlighted that the opening of the new market will enable vendors to sell their produce in comfort as the market includes 40 beds for women who travel from afar to sell their produce.

"With two floors of colourful selling space and offices, 288 vendor stalls, and 40 beds, this new Namaka Mar-

ket is more than Nadi's latest landmark, it is a new engine of economic empowerment for Nadi town — already, one of the Pacific's most dynamic local economies.

"We've also designed this Market with sustainability in mind, with an open ceiling that allows for natural light, and a clever rain harvesting roof system, that captures water we can use to keep the space clean. And — following our ban on single-use plastics — I'm happy to hear local women's groups will be selling cloth reusable bags to keep shopping in Namaka sustainable."

"But let's be clear: This building is much more than a

market. It's a tourism destination — with a new bus bay to ferry visitors from hotels and cruise ships. And it's a one-stop centre for business needs, with a Nadi Town Council Sub-Office on level two where Fijians can pay rates, answer questions and lodge business and development applications."

PM Bainimarama stated that this is only one piece of a larger and bolder agenda to build Fijian communities, towns and cities catered to a future-facing, modern economy — and everyday Fijians, like the many vendors, are at the heart of that vision set out by the Fijian Government.

"I truly believe that Fiji will

be this century's next great story of human achievement. We're getting there, one new road, one new school and one new market at a time. And my friends, the Namaka Market is the latest step on this journey of progress — it's a very big step indeed."

"For you — our hard-working Fijians — this market is more than a building; it is a symbol of economic mobility, a place where opportunity can be found and where hard work can deliver big rewards. Because while this facility is no doubt impressive, what truly impresses me most is the energy and endeavour of the Fijian people who fuel our economic engine."



## Nature-based solutions 'address climate issue'

**B**UILDING resilience to climate change and the use of nature-based solutions to arrest problems caused by nature was reiterated to stabilize riverbank and to address soil erosion.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy while commissioning the "Training on the Applications of Vetiver System Technology for Erosion and Sediment Control, Slope Stabilization and Environmental Protection" at Vunimoli community hall in Labasa recently.

Minister Reddy further reiterated implementation of climate-resilient infrastructure is vital as some effects of climate change are irreversible in some cases.

"Hard engineering solutions are not a suitable solution to deal with problems caused by nature," said Minister Reddy.

"A sustainable solution to a problem caused by nature should arise by nature itself and therefore soft engineering works with nature-based to protect riverbank and soil erosions is vital such as using vetiver green technology to protect our waterways for the safeguard of our communities, infrastructure and other sectors linked to waterways," Minister Reddy added.

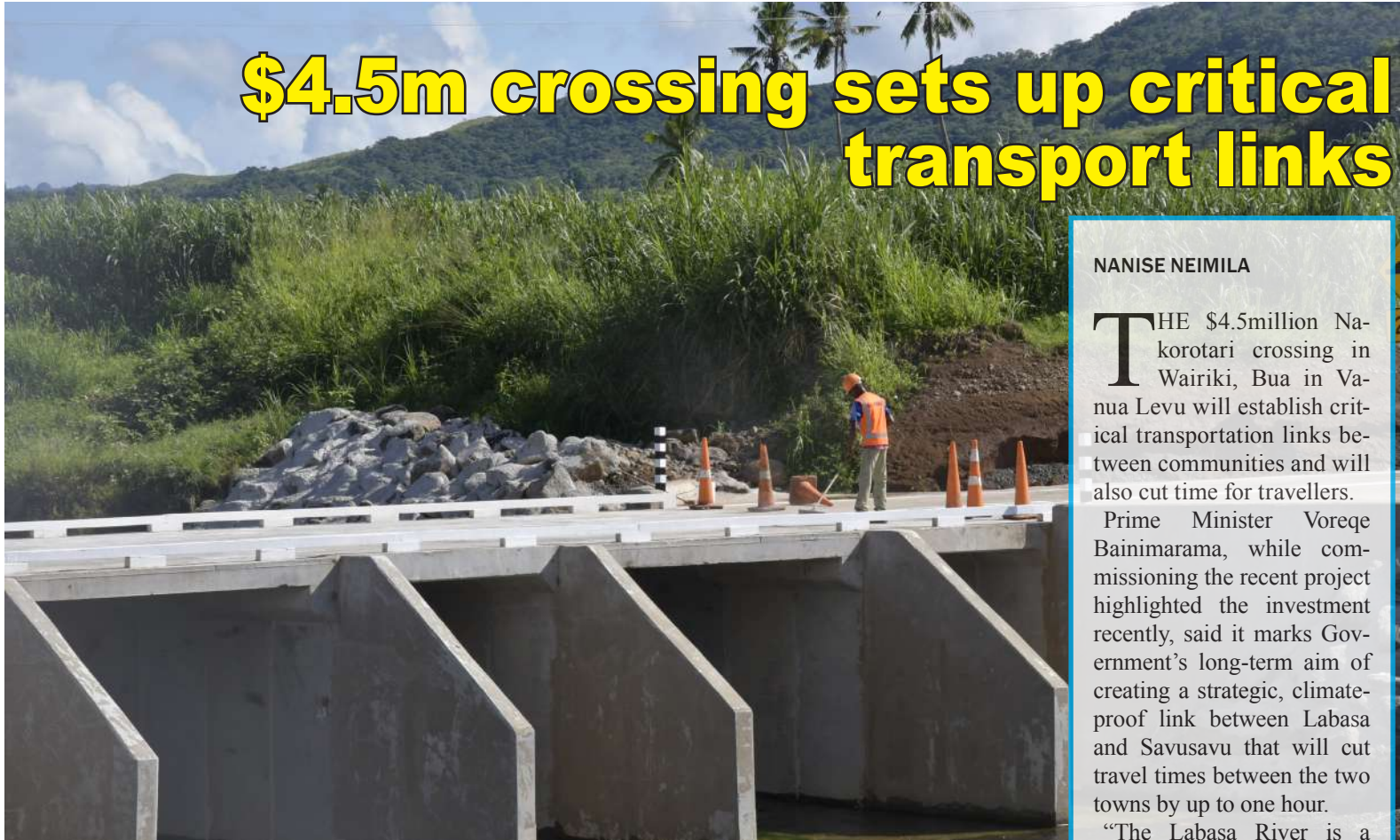
The Ministry of Waterways & Environment is committed to its vision of resilient Fiji, and in doing so the Ministry has implemented various activities to assist low Fijians to overcome the obstacles of climate change.

"Our riverbanks are eroding, putting critical infrastructure and lives at risk and to address this, the Ministry of Waterways and Environment is encouraging ecosystem-based adaptation measure, that is the use of Vetiver Grass to prevent erosion along coastal and river banks.

Minister Reddy stated that the Fijian Government would continue its unwavering battle to address Climate Change and strengthen Fiji's resilience through strategic investments in interventions that would increase the adaptive capacity of all Fijians.

Meanwhile, there were more than 30 participants attending a three days' workshop on Applications of Vetiver System Technology for Erosion and Sediment Control, Slope Stabilization and Environmental Protection' conducted by Dr Paul Truong, a Senior Technical Director, for vetiver organization from Brisbane, Australia.

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Community members from the districts of Wailevu, Wairiki, and Labasa, will all feel the benefits of the \$4.5million Nakorotari crossing in Wairiki in Bua. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

## \$4.5m crossing sets up critical transport links

NANISE NEIMILA

**T**HE \$4.5million Nakorotari crossing in Wairiki, Bua in Vanua Levu will establish critical transportation links between communities and will also cut time for travellers.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while commissioning the recent project highlighted the investment recently, said it marks Government's long-term aim of creating a strategic, climate-proof link between Labasa and Savusavu that will cut travel times between the two towns by up to one hour.

"The Labasa River is a powerful force of nature, with six rivers merging together at a single location. That has made the communities which surround this river increasingly vulnerable to the stronger cyclones that have been striking Fiji in recent years."

"Because of climate change, severe weather events that used to hit us once every few years are now hitting our country several times in a single season. When those storms strike, water levels swell, and key transit points along Fijian rivers can become flooded."

PM Bainimarama adds in cases of the pedestrian suspension bridge on Siberia Road in times of heavy rainfall, children were blocked from their journey to school.

"Today, we end that difficulty for your young people, because we cannot -- we will not -- allow our changing climate to limit our nation's progress or the opportunities afforded to young Fijians."

"The new crossing being commissioned is a two-lane structure constructed of solid steel piles. This project meets the high bar of quality mandated by my Government; it is built to a cyclone-resilient standard with a design life of 100 years. Community members from the Tikinas of Wailevu, Wairiki, and Labasa, will all feel the benefits of this new investment, as it can be used as an alternative route around Labasa."

PM Bainimarama encouraged the community members to utilize the new crossings with the hope that the new project will make life better, more secure and more convenient for more of our people.

## Minister checks on census processes, field staff



Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy addresses the enumerators and field supervisors the Northern Census Operation Centre. Photo: SUPPLIED

**T**HE Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy visited the Northern Census Operation Centre to witness first-hand the operating procedures of the Census exercise.

Minister Reddy while addressing enumerators and field supervisors at the Ministry of Agriculture office in Labasa, reiterated the importance of their combined efforts for the timely completion of the

Census.

He further highlighted the importance of accurate data collection and record-keeping to guide the development of the agriculture sector.

Minister Reddy noted a total of 36 districts in the Northern Division in the province of Macuata, Bua and Cakaudrove with the total number of households expected to be counted being 20,574 as per the 2016 Census household survey report. He urged enumerators to

work collaboratively, in terms of resource sharing for the successful completion of the 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census activity in the North.

Minister Reddy said the exercise would establish a baseline database on the structure of Fiji's agriculture sector and would improve Fiji's agriculture and rural statistics system capacity to generate quality agriculture data.

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Permanent Representative of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations in Geneva Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan (second from left) during a discussion in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on finding durable solutions to addressing plastic pollution. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Fiji, China talk up solutions to plastic pollution

**T**HERE is a growing consensus that international trade plays a central role across the life cycle of plastics.

Fiji in joining the global effort to reduce the use of single use and other forms of plastics, co-sponsored with China a discussion in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on finding durable solutions to addressing plastic pollution.

This discussion attempts to coherently examine the role of trade and trade policies in supporting both

domestic and international efforts in transitioning to more resource efficient and sustainable plastics economy.

This initiative by Fiji and China, is part of our ongoing efforts to protect our environment and oceans for sustainable development.

Co-chairing the meeting with the Ambassador of China, Ambassador Xiangchen Zhang, Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan, Fiji's Permanent Representative to Fiji, said that for Fiji and the Pacific, plastics

were a threat to the ocean, to fish, and to tourism, and that this was a chance for the global trading community and the WTO, to be on the right side of history.

Ambassador Khan said that the WTO 12th Ministerial Conference, to be held in June this year in Kazakhstan, was an ideal opportunity to launch an initiative to save our environment from plastic pollution caused by environmentally unfriendly trade practices.

She said that the meeting was a re-

sult of the work of Dr Carolyn Birbeck of the Graduate Institute of Geneva, the WTO, and China, and that she was very pleased that Fiji was leading the consultations with China.

A follow up meeting is planned for this month, to coincide with the meeting of the WTO Committee on Trade and the Environment, with a planned event for the Ministerial Trade Conference in Kazakhstan in June.

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## Japanese investors urged to consider Fiji

**J**APANESE investments in Fiji over the past five years has been worth \$4.5million.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Local Government and Community Development Premila Kumar while opening the two-day 2020 Japan Trade and Investment Mission at the Japan-ICT Centre at the University of the South Pacific, Suva recently.

Minister Kumar encouraged Japanese investors present at the two-day seminar to consider outsourcing their business processes to Fiji thereby taking advantage of the infrastructure and talented workforce available.

"We strongly believe there is potential to increase this further, especially with the resumption of the direct flights between Fiji and Japan."

"I encourage the Japanese entrepreneurs to explore investment opportunities in sectors such as light and green manufacturing, commercial agriculture, tourism, ICT, BPOs, amongst other areas you may have in mind."

Minister Kumar also encouraged investors to partner with the municipal councils on a number of development projects.

"There is potential for joint venture projects, such as, sporting facilities, community infrastructure, shopping arcades, waste management infrastructure, to name a few.

Meanwhile, two-way trade between Fiji and Japan in 2018 was approximately \$428.2 million, out of which Fijian exports to Japan accounted for \$161.5 million while imports from Japan were around \$266.6 million, resulting in trade deficit of \$105.1m.

"From Fiji's perspective we need to increase our exports. Thus, events such as this Trade and Investment Mission, forms a foundation for us to move towards elimination of this trade gap

"I would urge our private sector to network and discuss how this could be done. It will also be in our interest to source investments from Japan either through joint ventures or entirely through foreign direct investment."

"Our experts, no doubt, will highlight the potentials that Fiji has in terms of exportable products and areas where investment is welcomed."

"Our bilateral links extend to development and education assistance, increase in people-to-people links and of course at the diplomatic level."

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# Organic turmeric exporter corners USA, NZ niche

**A**SHWIN'S Exports & Imports Private Limited received plaudits and praise for identifying a niche high-end market for organic turmeric.

This was relayed by Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy while commissioning the export company's processing facility at the Namaka Industrial Zone in Nadi recently.

Ashwin's Exports & Imports PTE Limited exports organic turmeric to the United States of America and New Zealand and exports ginger only to New Zealand.

Minister Reddy highlighted that an integral strategic advantage that Fiji had with regards to agricultural production was the potential for large scale organic crop production.

"The most important strategic advantage has been picked up by this firm here as they've tapped into the organic market, they're tapping into a very high-end value market, very good. Excellent," he said.

Minister Reddy acknowledged the business and also pledged the Ministry's support for the venture because it supported the Ministry's main strategic priority of export-oriented commercial agriculture.

"I want to congratulate Mr Patel for really tapping into that segmented high-value organic market.

Minister Reddy elaborated that the next step would require them to establish certified organic farms



Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy takes a look at the organic turmeric during the commissioning of Ashwin's Exports & Imports Private Limited processing facility at the Namaka Industrial Zone in Nadi Photo: SUPPLIED

to guarantee a consistent volume of organic turmeric

"The next important aspect is that he has picked up and grown into the market, a product, which otherwise wouldn't have been picked up, we would've lost out on it.

"I want to thank you for that, thank you for doing that or else we would've lost out on this opportunity, so it was very important that he had gone and picked up that particular commodity and he is here at this establishment, a processing plant, value-adding it, processing it and that's what differentiates this outfit from the others," he said.

Minister Reddy also highlighted

the importance of the venture as it opened up another commodity market for farmers to choose from in regards to commercial agriculture.

"We're opening up another commodity market for our farmers to choose from when it comes to commercial agriculture. We're talking about commercial rice production, commercial duruka production, and other commodities which will stabilize and grow our foreign reserves, very important for a country like Fiji where we look at agriculture as a sector which will support and build foreign reserves," Minister Reddy said.

"I am sure that this is going to grow and there is no limit to expanding this facility, as long as in the backward sector he is able to expand that and we need committed farmers. We are willing to assist him in this area.

"We look forward to him expanding into the other few crops that he has mentioned, drumstick and ginger, and I want to assure you that we're here to support you to make this bigger, better, and to be a strong player in the Ministry of Agriculture export-oriented commercial agriculture strategy," he added.

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## Indonesia gives ministry hand-held tractors



Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy gets a feel of one of the

# Priority on co-operatives, returns for farmers

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fijian Government has prioritized the development of cooperatives in the country and the five and 20-year national development plan in place has identified the need to strengthen cooperatives' in an official capacity.

As such, a 14 member co-operative is aiming to achieve a common target in providing for their families, maintaining a healthy livelihood, creating employment while contributing towards the growth of the Fijian economy.

Koronivia Vegetable Farmers Co-operative Treasurer, Satish Kumar said the many challenges faced by farmers in the area enabled them to set-up an association which would assist them in the long run collectively.

"We formed this cooperative with the help of our farm advisors and came up with a five-year business plan then liaised with Provincial Administrator of Rewa and Commissioner Central to form a cooperative in 2010," Mr Kumar said.

"We started off with 28 members but were able to last with only 14 members due to the co-operatives subscription fees," he said.

Mr Kumar said the members tried to help all the farmers that were not included by assisting them in ploughing of their land and supplying them with seedlings.

"Initially, we used horses and bullocks and hired tractors from the Ministry of Agriculture but it was not timely and the income we were generating would be used in costs and did not yield any profit," he said.

"We then were assisted with a new tractor by the Commissioner Centrals Office and started to operate

on farms and help the cooperative farmers at \$30 per hour compared to other tractor costing us \$50 an hour which helped us a lot in mechanization," he added.

"We have solved lots of problem with this assistance as now the farms are prepared on a timely basis, the ridging and cumber beds were prepared with this tractor and high value produce were harvested with all the farmers benefitting from this tractor."

Mr Kumar highlighted that the quality of seedling as a major problem for the farmers of Koronivia and the co-operative is planning to purchase seedlings in bulk and distribute it to our farmers at a concession price.

"We used to have problems in finding a market for our produce but now we are supplying to supermarkets, hotels and other renowned areas with some of our members selling along Suva-Nausori corridor and municipal markets," Mr Kumar said.

"We are planning towards having organic farming which should help with non-communicable diseases which continues to increase in numbers. We are very concerned about this as a group and leading by example by controlling the amount of pesticides used on the vegetables to minimize risks."

"I would like to thank my field advisors who have been with us since we were facing problems in forming the association, the former directors of Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM), who implemented proper drainage system," he said.

"I would also like to acknowledge the Provincial Administrator of Rewa, Integrated Human Resource Development Program and the Government as a whole for providing us with much needed assistance. I would also like to acknowledge the members as if our foundation was weak then there wouldn't be a cooperative."

THE Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy received five hand-held tractors from the Indonesian government recently.

While officially receiving the tractors from the Indonesian Ambassador to Fiji Ambassador Raden Mohammed Benyamin Scott Carnadi, Minister Reddy acknowledged the Indonesian Government's support towards enhancing the Ministry's objective of commercialising the agriculture sector.

Minister Reddy said it would also add to food security and boost crop production, subsequently contributing to the development of Fiji's national economy.

"Fiji through the Ministry of Agriculture has signed a series of Agreements with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia since 2004. These sequence of successful collaborations between our Governments have established a platform for us to continue to work together for the betterment of Fiji's agriculture sector.

In 2004, Fiji through the Ministry of Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Republic of Indonesia that enabled the distribution of ten hand-held tractors to rice farmers in Vanua Levu.

Another agreement was signed with the Republic of Indonesia in 2014 for the provision of another ten hand-held tractors to Fijian farmers to boost their production.

"In 2017 Fiji through the Ministry of Agriculture signed an MOU with the Republic of Indonesia on Agriculture Co-operation. This engagement would allow for exchange of technical information, exchange of specialists, transfer of technology and training, and promotion of joint ventures in marketing agricultural commodities," Minister Reddy said.

The Ministry signed a separate agreement in 2018 for the procurement of 40 hand-held tractors during the first phase, with the cost of around FJ\$800,000.00 to be distributed to Fijian farmers.

Minister Reddy said the Ministry has had other areas of engagement with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia as part of the ongoing collaboration.

In 2019, the Ministry through its Research Division engaged experts from Indonesia as consultants to conduct trainings for the Crop Extension and Research staff to enable them to be trainers in their specific areas of work.

The Government of Indonesia had also assisted Fiji through the engagement of an expert in 2015, who worked with staff at the Ministry's Koronivia Research Station on the area of product development.

Over the years, Ministry staff have also had the opportunity to attend short courses and trainings offered by Indonesia.

The Minister said Fiji and Indonesia have had an excellent record of reciprocal support to each countries positions in the International fora and this successful relationship has had a spill-over effect into our bilateral development cooperation especially on the positive development of Fiji's agriculture sector.

"I'm anticipating that through the use of this equipment, farmers will be able to boost their productivity, develop better farming skills and reduce their operating costs."

"This assistance is a reflection of Indonesia's goodwill and friendship to the Government and people of the Republic of Fiji, which will contribute immensely to the productivity of our farmers. I am confident that these equipment will definitely boost our farmer's capacity in achieving a lot more out of their specific crop activities," Minister Reddy said.

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Tevita Draunimasi at his farm in Emuri, Nadroga. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

## Squash farmers urges others to join programme

MEREANI GONEDUA

**F**IJI'S first squash farmer has urged farmers around the country to venture into commercial farming and look into joining the Ministry of Agriculture's squash program.

Tevita Draunimasi, 56, from Nabau in Nadroga owns a 32-acre land in Emuri, Nadroga, was handpicked by the Ministry of Agriculture to lead Lomawai farmers in planting the new veg-

etable. "This is the first time I will be planting this crop and I want to thank the Ministry of Agriculture for assisting me into trying this new crop. Like any other vegetable it will need a lot of work which I plan to undertake in order for this venture to be successful," Mr Draunimasi said.

He said he has always urged farmers in his area to look to the future and always try and seek

assistance from the Government since it is always available for farmers.

"I could compare this crop to planting melon or pumpkin and I will try my best to work as hard as I can so that every farmer can see the benefit."

Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Environment and Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy, while launching the squash program, high-

lighted the importance of venturing into commercial farming as it will benefit everyone in the long run.

Minister Reddy also explained that researchers would be working closely with farmers and would monitor the progress of the new program.

Squash production is projected at around \$5million this year and is expected to increase further in the future.

## Ministry targets water-related diseases



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr ifereimi Waqainabete during the WISH Fiji Project Overview.

Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

FELIX LESINAIVALU

**T**HE Watershed Interventions for Systems Health (WISH) is focused on reducing the incidence of water-borne diseases; typhoid, dengue, and leptospirosis in Fiji.

While delivering the closing remarks during the WISH Fiji Research Project Overview, Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said the main cause of outbreaks of typhoid and other water-related diseases, were the water sources that was accessible to the people.

"The WISH Fiji partnership is working with national and local government, with rural communities and the local sector for a healthy life for Fijians."

Minister Waqainabete said outbreaks are common in Fiji and are amplified by environmental factors related to climate change, land use and changing social conditions.

"The project has received endorsement from key ministries, the Centre for Disease Control, the National Drinking Water Quality Committee, the WHO and UNICEF."

Chief Investigator for the WISH programme, Dr Aaron Jenkins said there is a need to make sure that Fijians and the Government is engaged from day one in this programme.

"We need to be making sure that all our interventions within the communities provide a solution on the risk factors, in particular, typhoid, leptospirosis, dengue and other water related diseases."

Dr Jenkins added that the WISH foundation is not only focused on Fiji but the Pacific region as well.

The project seeks to optimise water, sanitation and catchment management, improve outbreak response and minimise the impact of water-borne diseases.

Minister Waqainabete added saying, "We have had 20 typhoid outbreaks from 2005 with the last two being at the beginning of last year with cases in the Namosi Highlands and in Naitasiri".

"We did a simple project and put two 10,000 litres water tanks and we also made sure there were water sealed toilets in the households."

"Last year I visit around 300 villages and around 100 informal settlements, it's not all bad, there are a lot of villages out there who are doing it right."

# FDB determined to meet SME obligations

VIREDRA LAL

**N**O one will be left behind in our business endeavours for Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SME) to succeed and prosper.

The President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, while speaking at the Fiji Development Bank's 2019 National Small and Medium Enterprise awards last week in Suva, said the FDB's National SME awards was a major stepping-stone in meeting its obligations by helping in addressing vulnerabilities of our SME sector.

"I am so thankful for FDB and its hardworking staff for highlighting some of the personal struggles of these entrepreneurs and how they would inspire their

peers in managing risks and reducing their vulnerability to shocks."

The President congratulated the 11 FDB 2019 National SME award winners for withstanding and successfully overcoming their vulnerability.

The awards were divided in different sectors such as agriculture, tourism, manufacturing as well as wholesale and retail and there were several categories.

The FDB's 2019 National SME of the Year awarded to Green Lodge while others were awarded in the different categories.

The recipients were: Agriculture award given to Eden's Farm, FDB's 2019 National SME Awards in Wholesale & Retail to Bakewell Cakes, FDB's 2019 National SME Awards in Tour-

ism Green Lodge and FDB's 2019 National SME Award in Manufacturing to Labasa Farm Fresh.

Some of the other awards included FDB's 2019 National SME Awards Impact Awareness SMEs- Green SME of the Year awarded to the Beehive Resort and Risk Conscious SME of the Year won by Organic Valley.

Another category focused on empowerment where the Rookie Youth Entrepreneur of the Year was awarded to Indulge Designer Cakes, Youth Entrepreneur of the Year awarded to Ace Kava Exporters and the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year, which was sponsored by Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, awarded to Vines Travels Financial Enterprise.



President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote with the Rookie of the year awardee. Photo: VIREDRA LAL





## Dairy industry restructure 'vital for future'

SONAM SAMI

THE restructure that started in 2010 of the dairy industry was vital to the future of those farmers who relied on this commodity for their livelihood, says Minister for Agriculture Dr Mahendra Reddy.

He explained that Rewa Co-operative Dairy Company Limited was involved in collection, processing, marketing of milk and dairy products in Fiji.

It also supported farmers by supplying tools, machinery, farm houses, dairy sheds, farm chemicals and supplementary livestock feed.

Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy, while making his ministerial statement in Parliament during the February sitting, said the company suffered from mismanagement, weak governance, inefficiencies and outdated infrastructure and technology which led to debt.

"Its financial losses were such that if left unchecked it would have threatened the future of Fiji's dairy farmers and industry. The process of restructure was a culmination of a long process and was timely".

Minister Reddy said the Government had to step in to revitalize and modernize.

"The products of these reformed are entities that are able to provide specialized services along the value chain".

He said 20 percent of FDL is owned by farmers through Fiji Dairy Cooperative Limited (FDCL).

Despite the Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis in the cattle industry, FDL managed to payout farmers' dividend of \$1.2million annually through FDCL.

"Restructure process was not only about taking responsibility and driving concerted action in a private business, but it is also about providing opportunities to farmers to be better served," Minister Reddy said.

"Ministry has a Pacific programme dedicated towards the rehabilitation. The key areas of the Dairy Industry Support Programme is to assist the farms in terms of getting the feed, organizing supplementary feed and also nutritional aspect of the dairy farm."

Minister Reddy acknowledged the support from the New Zealand Government for the assistance in developing Fiji's dairy industry.



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete and Permanent Secretary for Health and Medical Services Bernadette Welch with members of the Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team. Photo: SUPPLIED

# No one left behind, Dr Waqainabete assures



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete during the recent parliament sitting. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

FELIX LESINAIVALU

FIJIANS have been assured that in times of an emergency or disaster, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services now has the capacity to ensure that 'no one is left behind'.

These were the sentiments of the line Minister Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, in a ministerial statement in Parliament during the February session, while giving an update on the Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team (FEMAT).

"FEMAT comprises of a group of health professionals that have been highly trained and equipped to provide services to a population affected by an emergency or natural disaster."

"When storms strike and inflict life-threatening injuries on our people, we need to get these affected Fijians the urgent care they need as soon as humanly possible."

Minister Waqainabete added that sometimes making the journey to a health centre, especially in rural and maritime regions, can be painful, difficult and even impossible.

"That's where FEMAT comes in, a specialized team of medical professionals who can go directly into affected communities and provide services that save lives."

"We're grateful for the support of our development partners, but let's be clear: FEMAT is a Government initiative."

Minister Waqainabete said the FEMAT team will work closely with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).

"Today, I'm proud to say that our FEMAT Team is a WHO verified International Type 1-fixed EMT which can provide response and services equivalent to a Health Centre in Fiji, and Fiji can also assist other countries in the region when needed."

"Fiji is the first developing country, the first small island state and the first country in the Pacific to have an International EMT. In fact, we're the ninth country in the world to have done so."

"With FEMAT, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services now has a world-class disaster response system that can assist with organizing and managing the National Health Emergency Operations Centre."

## 'Transparent process in youth council selection'

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

MEMBERS of the Fiji Youth Council were selected through an open and transparent process to ensure that the right youth leaders who matched the requirements of the role were appointed.

This was highlighted in Parliament during the February session by the Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar.

"The establishment of the Fiji Youth Council is aligned to the National Youth Policy. As such, an open and transparent process was followed in its establishment. The appointment of the Fiji

Youth Council members was done through an Expression of Interest published in the Fiji Sun and on the Ministry's website. Interested individuals were given four weeks to apply directly to the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Youth and Sports."

Principles for selection, amongst other requirements – although not limited, included applicants to be within the age of 15 to 35 years and must be involved in youth or sports development work in their communities.

Minister Kumar also stated that it was very encouraging to see that there was a lot of interest from

individuals and for a big national youth body with a limited number of positions, only the best of the best from amongst the youths that applied were chosen to be part of the council.

"My Ministry had applied the best approach in a transparent manner, in ensuring that we appointed the right youth leaders, who match the requirements of the role to be the members of the new Fiji Youth Council."

"The National Youth Council bio data and their achievements are impressive, to say the least, and this means that they had been selected from a wider range of applicants,

who all had merit but as the council composed of a set membership to ensure that their operational and logistical capacity is at the optimum, we could not accommodate all the applicants."

Minister Kumar commended officials of the Ministry for working hard in putting together the requirements for the applications in order to ensure that only the best are chosen to be part of the council.

"We look forward to this select group of Fijian youth leaders to lead the way forward as we see to broaden horizons and better place our youths as leaders of our future."



# FijiFocus



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with awardees during the Fiji Rugby Union Awards night in Suva last week. Photo: VIRENDRA LAL

## RISING STAR

VIREND LAL

ANY time our citizens depart our shores to represent our nation, they serve as Fiji’s global ambassadors.

Speaking at the recent Fiji Rugby Union Awards night in Suva recently, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said, “Any time our citizens depart our shores to represent our nation, whether they’re wearing a Military uniform or a Team Fiji jersey, they serve as Fiji’s global ambassadors”.

“For good or for ill, their conduct and actions define the Fijian identity in the minds of all those they encounter.”

The Head of Government attributed Fiji’s rising star on the global stage to the high character of countless Fijians over the years, including Republic of Fiji Military Forces Engineers who had recently spent five weeks to assist neighbours Australia in PM Bainimarama included many of the ruggers represented at the awards for getting the spotlight and glory for Fiji.

“Throughout your careers, you have rucked,

tackled and dummied your way into the hearts of sports fans all across the world and – thanks to your achievements – you made 2019 another great year to be a supporter of Fijian rugby.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama heaped praise on the participation of women in sports.

“By the end of 2020, all 24 Provincial Rugby Unions will field a women’s 15s team.”

“As fans – and as patriotic Fijians – we need to match these women’s passion by getting fully behind their success. It’s not enough to simply watch the games and maybe post a nice status on Facebook cheering them forward. Each of us need to honour what these teams and these athletes really stand for: Strong, courageous Fijian women who are boldly pursuing their dreams,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

Meanwhile, some of the big winners of the night included Jerry Tuwai who was named the Fiji 7s Player of the Year while Raijeli Daveua received the 2019 Fijiana 7s Player of the Year award.

Fiji Latui coach Senirusi Seruvakula received the 2019 Coach of the Year Award.

### PM praises Fijian character on global stage



Mereani Tuwai receives an award on behalf of her husband, Fiji 7s rugby player, Seremaia Tuwai from Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the Fiji Rugby Union Awards night in Suva last week. Photo: VIRENDRA LAL



# फीजी दर्पण

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प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा, निउज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जेसिंडा आडन को फीजी के उनके दौर पर उपहार प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

## फीजी और निउज़ीलैंड का सम्बंध गहरा हुवा

वीरन्द्र लाल

फीजी के दौर पर आई निउज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जेसिंडा आडन और प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा के बीच कई विषयों पर द्विपक्षीय वार्ता हुई।

दोनों प्रधान मंत्रियों ने यह स्वीकार किया कि फीजी और निउज़ीलैंड के लोगों के बीच रिश्तेदारी के कारण सालों से दोनों देशों के बीच अच्छा सम्बंध है।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने बताया कि इसी रिश्तेदारी के कारण शिक्षा, खेल-कूद, व्यापार, पूँजी और टुरिज़म के क्षेत्र में दोनों देश एक दूसरे के साथ मिलकर काम करते हैं।

“चाहे जलवायु परिवर्तन को लेकर बात हो, अच्छा घर प्रदान करने का विषय हो, हमारे शहरों को सुधारने पर बात हो, खेती-बाड़ी या फिशरीज़ सम्बंधी विषय हो, शिक्षा या प्रशिक्षण

को लेकर बात हो, व्यापार का विषय हो, हम पहले एक दूसरे की ओर देखते हैं,” प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा।

दोनों राष्ट्रों की दोस्ती पर बोलती हुई प्रधान मंत्री आडन ने पिछले साल क्राईस्टचेर्च में घटी बन्दूक वाले हमले की चर्चा की।

“जैसे हम पन्द्रह मार्च के करीब आ रहे हैं, मैं फीजी को घन्यवाद देना चाहती हूँ। फीजी ने उन काले दिनों में हमारी ओर दोस्ती का हाथ बढ़ाया था जबकि इस घटना में फीजी के अपने लोग भी मारे गए थे।”

प्रधान मंत्री आडन पिछले सप्ताह सोमवार को अपने पति और निउज़ीलैंड के अन्य उच्च अधिकारियों के साथ निउज़ीलैंड ऐया फोस विमान से नांदी पहुँची। नांदी से फीजी लिंक के ज़रिए वो नउसोरी हवाई अड्डा गई जहाँ प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा और अन्य उच्च सरकारी अधिकारियों ने उनका स्वागत किया।

हवाई अड्डे पर सैनिकों ने प्रधान मंत्री आडन को सलामी दी और अगली सुबह ग्रेन्ड पेंसिफिक होटल में उनका पारम्परिक स्वागत किया गया। प्रधान मंत्री आडन ने फिर राष्ट्रपति मईजा जेनरल (Ret'd) चोची कोन्रोते से मुलाकात की और इस दौरान राष्ट्रपति भवन के प्रांगण में एक वृक्ष लगाया। इसके बाद वो लड़ाई में मारे गए सैनिकों के प्रति श्रद्धांजली अर्पित करने नेशनल वो मेमोरियल पहुँची। फिर इसके बाद उन्होंने प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा के साथ द्विपक्षीय वार्ता की और दोनों प्रधान मंत्रियों ने एक सम्मिलित समाचार सम्मेलन बुलाया। मध्यान के भोजन के बाद उन्होंने विरोधी दल के सदस्यों के साथ बातचीत की। रात के भोजन की व्यवस्था फीजी सरकार ने ग्रेन्ड पेंसिफिक होटल में की थी।

बुधवार को समाचार माध्यमों के साथ साक्षात्कार के बाद उन्होंने निउज़ीलैंड हाय कमिश्नरी के निवास पर मध्यान का भोजन

किया और फिर तामावुवा-ई-वाई में एक राइज़ (RISE) योजना का दौरा किया। फिर उन्होंने साउथ पेंसिफिक विश्व विद्यालय में भाषण किया।

अगली सुबह नांदी के लिए रवाना होने से पहले, नउसोरी हवाई अड्डे पर उन्हें सैनिक सलामी दी गई। नांदी पहुँचने पर समाचार माध्यमों से बातचीत के बाद प्रधान मंत्री आडन लौतोका मस्जिद गई जहाँ उन्होंने स्थानिए मुस्लिम समाज से मुलाकात की। इसी मस्जिद के पेश-ईमाम पिछले साल क्राईस्टचेर्च में घटी बन्दूक वाली घटना में मारे गए थे। इसके बाद उन्होंने फीजी विमन्स कायसिस सेन्टा की नांदी शाखा का उद्घाटन किया। मध्यान के वक्त नांदी हवाई अड्डे पर पूरे सम्मान के साथ उन्हें विदा किया गया।

प्रधान मंत्री आडन का यह फीजी का पहला औपचारिक दौरा था।





# प्रधान मंत्री आडन ने फीजी को दो मिलियन डोलर देने की घोषणा की

वीरेंद्र लाल

जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़े असर के कारण सामाजों को खिस्काने में मदद करने के लिए निउज़ीलैंड की सरकार ने फीजी को दो मिलियन डोलर देने की घोषणा की है।

फीजी के दौरे पर आई निउज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जसिंडा आडन ने युनिवर्सिटी ओफ दी साउथ पेसिफिक लौदाला कैम्पस पर एकत्रित लोगों को सम्बोधित करते वक्त यह जानकारी दी।

“जलवायु परिवर्तन के असर से बचने के लिए, हमसे जो कुछ बन पा रहा है, हमें करना चाहिए। हमें इसके लिए तैयारी करनी चाहिए और फीजी यही कर रहा है। हम फीजी के क्लायमेट रिलोकईशन एन्ड डिस्पलईस्ड पीपल्स ट्रस्ट फण्ड फोर कोमिउनिटीज़ एन्ड इनफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के लिए पैसे दे रहे हैं जिसकी स्थापना सितम्बर में हुई थी।”

प्रधान मंत्री आडन ने बताया कि यह विश्व की पहली संस्था है जिसकी स्थापना फीजी के सामाजों को खिस्काने में मदद करने के लिए की गई है।



निउज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जसिंडा आडन यू.एस.पी में एकत्रित लोगों को सम्बोधित करती हुई चित्र: एमि कोरोईतानोवा

## मानवाधिकार संस्था फीजी के साथ मिलकर काम करेगी



विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु, श्री मार्क लौकोक को सहायता के लिए धन्यवाद देते हुए चित्र: ननिसे नडमिला

वीरेंद्र लाल

संयुक्त राष्ट्र के मानवाधिकार मामलों के जिम्मेदार अंग के एमेजेन्सी रिलीफ कोडिनईटा मार्क लौकोक ने पिछले सप्ताह सुरक्षा तथा विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु से मुलाकात की।

इस दौर से फीजी को युनायटेड नईशन्स ओफिस फोर द कोडिनईशन ओफ ह्यूमनटेरियन अफेयज़ (OCHA) के साथ सम्बंध मज़बूत करने का मौका मिला। फीजी को सहायता पहुँचाने और फीजी के साथ मिलकर काम करने का वायदा करने के लिए मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने संस्था को धन्यवाद दिया।

“फीजी का औ सी हईच आई के साथ लम्बे समय से सम्बंध है। पिछले सालों में प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के समय संस्था ने फीजियन सरकार को सहायता प्रदान की थी। हमारा सम्बंध बढ़ता जा रहा है। हमें पूर्ण विश्वास है कि हमारी हिस्सेदारी मज़बूत होती जायेगी। आज की सभा ने हमें आगे की योजनाओं के बारे में विचार करने का मौका दिया,” मंत्री सेरुईरातु ने कहा।

फीजियन सरकार, ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार के साथ हुए “बुवाले पार्टनशिप” के तहत, नांदी में एक पीसकिपिंग एन्ड ह्यूमनटेरियन असिस्टन्स एन्ड डिज़ास्टा रिलीफ केम्प की स्थापना करने पर गौर कर रही है।

कहा गया है कि अंतराष्ट्रीय और क्षेत्रीय मानवाधिकार संस्थाएं इस फेसिलिटी को काम में लायेंगी और औ सी हईच आई इसकी देखभाल में मदद कर सकता है।

श्री लौकोक ने बताया कि मंत्री के साथ बातचीत काफी सफल रही।

“हमने विचार किया कि किस तरह से फीजी और क्षेत्र के साथ सम्बंध मज़बूत किया जाए जिससेकि ज़रूरत पड़ने पर हम तैयार रहें। बातचीत से बहुत सारी जानकारी सामने आई है और यह मौका हमारे लिए काफी लाभकारी सिद्ध हुआ है। हमने कई विषयों पर बातें की जैसे प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से किस तरह का असर पड़ सकता है, इनसे कैसे निपटा जाए और इसके लिए पैसे कहाँ से आएंगे इत्यादि,” श्री लौकोक ने कहा।

औ सी हईच आई, युनायटेड नईशन्स सेक्रेटेरियट का भाग है।



प्रधान मंत्री वीरेनो बडनिमारामा जापान के विदेश मामलों के लिए पालियामेन्ट्री वाईस मिनिस्टा नाकायामा नोरिहो से मुलाकात करते हुए चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

## प्रधान मंत्री ने जापानी सहायता को मान्यता दी

वीरेंद्र लाल

जापान के विदेश मामलों के लिए पालियामेन्ट्री वाईस मिनिस्टा नाकायामा नोरिहो ने पिछले सप्ताह प्रधान मंत्री वीरेनो बडनिमारामा से मुलाकात की।

श्री नोरिहो, जापान-फीजी ट्रईड एन्ड इनवेस्टमेंट सेमिना में भाग लेने फीजी आए हुए थे।

दोनों देशों के बीच अच्छे सम्बंध को मान्यता देते हुए प्रधान मंत्री बडनिमारामा ने फीजी के सामाजिक और आर्थिक विकास में जापान के सहयोग की भी सहराना की।

“मैं जापानी सरकार को डिज़ास्टा

रिकव्यरी एन्ड रिहेबिलिटेशन के लिए प्रस्तावित स्टेन्ड-बाय लौन की व्यवस्था करने के लिए भी धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। इस समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने से किसी प्राकृतिक आपदा के बाद माँग करने पर फीजी को तत्काल पैसे मिलेंगे।”

प्रधान मंत्री बडनिमारामा ने बताया कि जापान की सहायता से नांदी नदी चौड़ा करने पर काम हो रहा है और तामावुवा-ई-वाई पुल बनाया जा रहा है।

फिलहाल यू एस पी में हुए दो दिनों के ट्रईड एन्ड इनवेस्टमेंट सेमिना में पूंजीपतियों से जापान और फीजी के बीच व्यापारिक सम्बंध मज़बूत करने

की माँग की गई।

सेमिना में बोलती हुई व्यापार मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने कहा कि फीजी, जापान के पूंजीपतियों में दिलचस्पी दिखा रहा है।

“फीजी के पास काफी क्षमता है। हम सामान निर्यात कर सकते हैं और लोग इस क्षेत्र में पूंजी लगा सकते हैं। हमारा द्विपक्षीय सम्बंध विकास और शिक्षा सहायता से आगे, लोगों से लोगों तक और सरकारी स्तर तक है,” मंत्री कुमार ने कहा।

दो दिनों के सेमिना में फीजी में पूंजी लगाने के मौकों के बारे बताया गया।



## शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में समाज की भूमिका प्रमुख है

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फीजियन समाज जो शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में काम कर रहे हैं, देश के विकास में प्रमुख भूमिका निभाते हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गे बड़िनारामा, नन्दाली नउसोरी में एस.डी.आई किंडागाडन के उद्घाटन पर बोल रहे थे।

उन्होंने बताया कि फीजियन बच्चे उन माता पिताओं और समाज से बहुत लाभ उठाते हैं जो बच्चों की शिक्षा में पूंजी लगाते हैं।

इस किंडागाडन में इलाके के बीस बच्चे पढ़ेंगे और इसके निर्माण के लिए पैसा एस.डी.आई चर्च ने खर्च किया है। प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि उपहार के रूप में हमें बच्चों को अच्छी शिक्षा देनी चाहिए।

“शिक्षा की चोरी कोई नहीं कर सकता। जीवन के हर स्तर पर हमें शिक्षा हासिल करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए। इससे हम अपने शहर, समाज और देश को सही दिशा दे पायेंगे।”

और लोकिया विलज रेवा में एक ऐली चाएल्डहूड एजुकेशन सेन्टा का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि इससे बच्चे जीवन अच्छी तरह जीने सम्बंधी हुनर सीखेंगे।

“यह हुनर प्रायमरी स्कूल, सेकेंडरी स्कूल, टेशरी शिक्षा और जीवन भर उनके साथ रहेगा। यह केवल आई, बी, सी या एक, दो, तीन सीखने के बारे में नहीं है, यह बच्चों को सही दिशा दिखाने के बारे में है, ज्ञान का नीव डालने के बारे में है”।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि इस तरह के सेन्टज़, शिक्षा के ज़रिए युवा लोगों को सशक्त करेंगे और युवा लोग फिर पूरे समाज को राह दिखायेंगे।

उन्होंने कहा कि शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में पूंजी लगाना, सही कदम है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में समाज के योगदान की सराहना की है। उन्होंने बताया कि सरकार शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में पैसे लगाती रहेगी।



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी बुनिकाविकालोवा राकीराकी में किसानों को ट्रैक्टर प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: मेरियानी गोनेन्दुवा

# कृषि मंत्रालय को पाँच हेन्डहेल्ड ट्रैक्टर दिए गए

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कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने इनडोनेशिया की सरकार से मिले पाँच हेन्डहेल्ड ट्रैक्टर स्वीकार किया।

फीजी में इनडोनेशिया के राजदूत रदेन मोहम्मद करनादी से ट्रैक्टर स्वीकार करते हुए डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कृषि मंत्रालय के लक्ष्य हासिल करने में इनडोनेशियन सरकार के योगदान की सराहना की।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि वे किसानों व्यापार की दिशा में ले जाना चाहते हैं जबकि इससे कृषि उत्पादन में वृद्धि होगी और फलस्वरूप देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

“दो हजार चार (2004) से फीजी ने कृषि मंत्रालय के ज़रिए इनडोनेशिया की सरकार के साथ कुछ समझौतों (Memorandum of Understanding - MOU) पर हस्ताक्षर किया है।

इन समझौतों के तहत दोनों देश फीजी के कृषि क्षेत्र के बढोत्तरी के लिए मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं,” कृषि मंत्री ने कहा।

दो हजार चार में इनडोनेशिया से दस हेन्डहेल्ड ट्रैक्टर मिले थे। यह ट्रैक्टर वनुवालेवू में धान के किसानों को दिए गए थे। दो हजार चौदह (2014) में एक समझौते के तहत इनडोनेशिया से इस तरह के और दस ट्रैक्टर मिले थे।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि दो हजार सत्तरह (2017) में दोनों देशों के बीच एगरीकल्चर कोप्रैशियन पर एक समझौता हुआ था जिसके तहत दोनों देशों के बीच तकनीक जानकारी और विशेषज्ञों के अदला बदली की व्यवस्था है।

दो हजार अठारह (2018) में हुए एक समझौते के तहत इनडोनेशिया को फीजी को आठ लाख डॉलर (\$800,000) मूल्य के चालिस (40) हेन्डहेल्ड ट्रैक्टर देने थे।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि अन्य क्षेत्र में भी वे

इनडोनेशिया के साथ मिलकर काम करते हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि पिछले साल इनडोनेशिया से कुछ विशेषज्ञ, कोप एक्सटेंशन एन्ड रिसर्च स्टाफ को प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने आए थे। दो हजार पन्द्रह (2015) में इनडोनेशिया के एक विशेषज्ञ, कोरोनविषा रिसर्च स्टेशन में प्रोडक्ट डिवेलपमेंट के क्षेत्र में काम कर चुके हैं। सालों से इनडोनेशिया, कृषि मंत्रालय के कर्मचारियों को शोट कोज़स और ट्रेनिंग्स में भाग लेने का मौका प्रदान करता आ रहा है।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने आशा व्यक्त की कि किसान ट्रैक्टर काम में लाकर, किसानों करने के अच्छे हुनर अपनाते हुए, उत्पादन बढ़ायेंगे और उत्पादन खर्च कम करेंगे।

इस सहायता के लिए डाक्टर रेड्डी ने फीजी के लोगों और फीजी की सरकार की ओर से इनडोनेशिया की सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया।

## प्रधान मंत्री आडन ने कार्डिस्टचेच में मारे गए फीजी के लोगों के परिवारों से मुलाकात की

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हिंसा से दूर रहने के लिए आप में दयालूपन का होना ज़रूरी है।

निउज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जसिंडा आडन, कार्डिस्टचेच में मारे गए फीजी के लोगों के परिवारों से लौतोका मस्जिद में मुलाकात करते वक्त बोल रही थी।

“जैसे हम कार्डिस्टचेच में मुस्लिम समाज के खिलाफ हुए हमले के एक साल होने के करीब पहुँच रहे हैं, हम भावुक हो रहे हैं। मैं फीजी के इमाम हाफिज़ मुसा पटेल, अशरफ अलि रज़ात और अशरफ



निउज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जसिंडा आडन लौतोका मस्जिद में सार्इरा बीबी पटेल से मुलाकात करती हुई चित्र: शेनल देव

अलि को याद करना चाहती हूँ जो इस घटना में मारे गए थे।”

प्रधान मंत्री आडन ने बताया कि इस घटना में मारे गए फीजी के लोगों के परिवारों से मिलना, उनके

लिए बहुत महत्व रखता है।

“हम मारे गए लोगों के परिवारों को व्यक्तिगत रूप से धन्यवाद देना चाहते हैं। निउज़ीलैंड के साथ सम्बंध बनाए रखने,

आपकीसमझदारी और समर्थन के लिए हम आपको धन्यवाद देना चाहते हैं और फीजी तथा निउज़ीलैंड के मुस्लिम समाजों के बीच सम्बंध को हम मान्यता

देते हैं।” प्रधान मंत्री आडन ने बताया कि इस घटना के बाद फीजी तथा निउज़ीलैंड के मुस्लिम समाजों के बीच सम्बंध और मज़बूत हो गया है।





## फीजी लक्ष्य हासिल करने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ेगा

स्मॉल और मिडियम व्यापारों के मालिक जो आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं, में से किसी को भी पीछे नहीं छोड़ा जाएगा। राष्ट्रपति मैट रैटल (Ret'd) चौथी कोनोलेट पिछले सप्ताह शुक्रवार को ग्रेड पेरिफेरिक होटल युवा में फीजी डिवेलपमेंट बैंक के नेशनल एस एम ई अवॉर्ड्स में बोल रहे थे। इन छोटे व्यापारियों को मदद करने और उन्हें प्रोत्साहित करने

के लिए राष्ट्रपति ने एफ डी बी और उनके मेहनती कर्मचारियों को धन्यवाद दिया। राष्ट्रपति ने पिछले साल के सभी ग्यारह एफ डी बी नेशनल एस एम ई अवॉर्ड विजेताओं को मेहनत करने के लिए बधाई दी।

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## किसानों को सरकार से सहायता मिली

राकीराकी के कुछ किसानों को धान की खेती करने के लिए सरकार से ट्रैक्टर और खेती करने के औज़ार मिले हैं। कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने बुनिकाविकोलावा और मधुवनी में किसानों को ट्रैक्टर दिया जबकि कुछ किसानों को भेड़ बकरी पालने के लिए ज़मीन धरने का तार दिया गया। ट्रैक्टर प्रदान करते हुए डाक्टर रेड्डी ने किसानों को बताया कि सरकार देश में चावल व्यवसाय को सहायता प्रदान करना जारी रखेगी। धरतू खपत के लिए फीजी अभी पचासी प्रतिशत (85%) चावल आयात करता है।

चित्र: मेरियानी गोनेन्दुवा



## प्रधान मंत्री ने बा स्थित वर्डिसारू सनातन धर्म स्कूल के नए क्लासरूमस् का उद्घाटन किया

स्कूल को समुद्री औंधी विन्स्टन से काफी क्षति पहुँची थी। स्कूल के पुनः निर्माण में दो मिलियन डॉलर से ज्यादा पैसे लगे हैं (\$2.06m)। प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि दो हजार सोलह (2016) में अब तक फीजी पर लगभग एक दर्जन से ज्यादा औंधी तूफानों का असर पड़ा है और इस कारण से निर्माणकार्य में विलम्ब हुआ है। वहाँ चार नए क्लासरूमस्, एक स्टोरज रूम और एक ई सी ई एवलूशन ब्लॉक बनाया गया है। पाँच क्लासरूमस्, लायब्ररी, कॉम्प्यूटर लेव, स्टाफ रूम और ऑफिस पर मरम्मतकार्य किए गए हैं। स्कूल फंस पर भी मरम्मतकार्य किए गए हैं और एक सौ पचास मिटर (150m) नया फेंस लगाया गया है और एक नया वॉक्वय बनाया गया है।

चित्र: मेरियानी गोनेन्दुवा



## नेसस अपना काम अच्छी तरह से कर रही हैं

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने देश में नेसस और बच्चे पैदा करने में माताओं को मदद करने वाली कर्मचारियों के काम की सराहना की है। मंत्री शनिवार को नउसोरी प्रायमरी स्कूल पर इनटानेशनल ईया ऑफ नेसस एन्ड मिडवाइव्स् मनाने के लिए आयोजित समारोह में बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने बताया कि स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारी कई चुनौतियों का सामना करते हुए लोगों को सेवा प्रदान करते हैं। मंत्री ने स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों से खुद के स्वास्थ्य का भी खयाल रखने को माँग की है।

चित्र: वीरेन्द्र लाल







# एन जेड की प्रधान मंत्री ने राईज़ (RISE) योजना का नींव डाला

वीरेन्द्र लाल

“हमें ऐसे समाज बनाने हैं, जो प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों का सामना कर सकें”। यह शब्द हैं निउज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जेसिंडा आडन के जो तामावुवा-ई-वाई सुवा में

राईज़ (Rising Informal Settlements and the Environments) योजना के शिलारोपन समारोह में बोल रही थी।

“हम जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़ने वाले असर का सामना कर रहे हैं और फीजी इस बारे में अच्छी तरह से जानता है। अभी प्रशांत की आवाज़ अंतराष्ट्रीय मंच के लिए बहुत ज़रूरी है। अन्य विश्व नेताओं को हमें बताना है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन से वातावरण पर किस तरह का असर पड़ता है। आप की आवाज़ तो पहले से अंतराष्ट्रीय मंच

तक पहुँच चुकी है,” प्रधान मंत्री आडन ने कहा।

इस सहायता के लिए निउज़ीलैंड की सरकार को धन्यवाद देती हुई हउज़िंग एन्ड कोमिउनिटी डिवेलपमेंट मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने कहा कि इस तरह की सहायता से फीजी अपने संसाधनों में सुधार करेगा।

“इस तरह की योजनाओं से हमारे वर्तमान हउज़िंग प्रोग्राम्स को सहयोग मिलेगा। जलवायु परिवर्तन से जल्द असर पड़ने वाले इलाकों में हम यह प्रोग्राम चला रहे हैं जिससे लोगों को राहत मिले,”

मंत्री कुमार ने कहा। राईज़ प्रोजेक्ट, अव्यवस्थित इलाकों (informal settlements) में रह रहे लोगों द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं को समाजिक तथा प्राकृतिक तरीकों से सुलझाने का प्रयास करेगा।



निउज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जेसिंडा आडन तामावुवा-ई-वाई में राईस प्रोजेक्ट के शिलारोपन के दौरान वहाँ के लोगों के साथ चित: रोनाल देव



जिनीवा में फीजी की स्थाई प्रतिनिधि राजदूत नज़हत शमीम के साथ डाक्टर कैरोलिन बर्कबेक चित: प्रदान किया गया

## फीजी और चीन, प्लास्टिक की जगह कुछ और काम में लाने पर काम कर रहे हैं

वीरेन्द्र लाल

विश्व व्यापार संस्था (WTO) की सभा में फीजी और चीन मिलकर यह बात रखेंगे कि प्लास्टिक से हो रही समस्या को सुलझाया जाए।

इसपर विचार किया जाएगा कि व्यापार और व्यापारिक नीतियाँ किस हद तक प्लास्टिक का प्रयोग न करने के धरेलू और अंतराष्ट्रीय प्रयासों का समर्थन कर रही हैं। समुद्र और वातावरण को बचाने के इरादे से प्लास्टिक का प्रयोग न करने की माँग की जा रही है।

जिनीवा में फीजी की स्थाई प्रतिनिधि राजदूत नज़हत शमीम और चीन की राजदूत जियांगचेन ज़ेंग ने बताया कि प्लास्टिक से समुद्र, उसमें जीव जन्तुओं और दूरिज़म पर विपरीत असर पड़ता है और उन्होंने अंतराष्ट्रीय व्यापारिक समुदाय

और विश्व व्यापार संस्था (WTO) से इसपर विचार करने की माँग की है।

विश्व व्यापार संस्था (WTO) का बारहवाँ मिनिस्टेरियल कोन्फरन्स इस साल जून में कज़ाख़स्तान में होगा और इस दौरान वातावरण को प्लास्टिक से बचाने का अभियान शुरू करने की बात रखी जाएगी।

राजदूत शमीम ने बताया कि जिनीवा के ग्रेजुवट इनस्टिट्यूट की डाक्टर कैरोलिन बर्कबेक ने काफी काम किया है और इस काम में चीन फीजी का साथ दे रहा है।

इसपर और बातचीत इस महीने बाद में विश्व व्यापार संस्था की व्यापार और वातावरण कमीटि के साथ होगी और इसे जून में संस्था का बारहवाँ मिनिस्टेरियल कोन्फरन्स में कज़ाख़स्तान में उठाया जाएगा।

## आए एल औ के डायरेक्टर ने अपना प्रमाण पत्र पेश किया



प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण, श्री माटिन करिम्ली से मुलाकात करते हुए चित: रोनाल देव

रोनाल देव

प्रशान्तीय द्वीपों के लिए अंतराष्ट्रीय मज़दूर संगठन के डायरेक्टर माटिन करिम्ली ने प्रधान मंत्री को अपना प्रमाण पत्र दिया है।

इस नियुक्ति से पहले श्री करिम्ली अज़रबैजान गणराज्य के उप लईबा तथा सौशल प्रोटेक्शन मंत्री थे।

अंतराष्ट्रीय मामले में श्री करिम्ली के पास सत्तरह सालों का अनुभव है। उन्होंने रक्षा मंत्रालय में इंटरनेशनल कोर्पेरेशन ऑफ़र्स की हैसियत से काम शुरू किया था और विदेश मंत्रालय में प्रमुख पदों को भी सम्भाला।

सन् दो हज़ार बारह (2012) में उन्होंने टेक्स वाले मंत्रालय में डायरेक्टर ऑफ़ इंटरनेशनल रिलेशन्स का पद सम्भाला और बाद में उप लईबा तथा सौशल प्रोटेक्शन मंत्री बने।

श्री करिम्ली प्रशान्त में आए एल औ (ILO) दफ्तर की अगुवाई कर रहे हैं तथा प्रशान्त के बाईस देशों

में समाजिक न्याय और सम्भ कार्य को बढ़ावा देने के ज़िम्मेदार भी होंगे।

आए एल औ मज़दूरों में सुधार तथा फीजी के लिए समाजिक न्याय पर विकास करने में बहुत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। यह संगठन फीजी को तकनीकी सहायता भी प्रदान करता है।

फीजी को लगातार सहयोग देते हुए आए एल औ तथा रोज़गार मंत्रालय, दस सालों के अन्दर मज़दूरी से काम करने, आधुनिक रूप से गुलामी करने तथा मानव तस्करी बन्द करने वाले लक्ष्य की दिशा में काम करेंगे। अगले पाँच सालों में बाल मज़दूरी से भी निपटा जाएगा।

प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण ने श्री करिम्ली को उनकी नई नियुक्ति पर बधाई दी और फीजी में आए एल औ के कार्य आगे बढ़ाने में लगातार सहयोग करने के अवसर प्रदान करने के कदम का स्वागत किया।



## किसानों को सरकार से सहायता मिली

वीरिन्द्र लाल

राकीराकी के कुछ किसानों को धान की खेती करने के लिए सरकार से ट्रैक्टर और खेती करने के औज़ार मिले हैं। कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने बुनिकाविकालोवा और मधुवनी में किसानों को ट्रैक्टर दिया जबकि कुछ किसानों को भेड़ बकरी पालने के लिए ज़मीन धरने का तार दिया गया।

ट्रैक्टर प्रदान करते हुए डाक्टर रेड्डी ने किसानों को बताया कि सरकार देश में चावल व्यवसाय को सहायता प्रदान करना जारी रखेगी।

“हम भारी माता में बाहर से चावल आयात करना जारी नहीं रख सकते। भोजन की सुरक्षा खतरे में है और हम चावल का बढ़ावा देना चाहते हैं। हम खुद का अपना चावल बोना चाहते हैं। मैं सलाह देना चाहता हूँ कि आप लोग धान की खेती करें,” कृषि मंत्री ने कहा।

घरेलू खपत के लिए फीजी अभी पचासी प्रतिशत (85%) चावल आयात करता है।



वईसारू बा में जिनेंद्र सिंह के खेत पर फिल्ड डय के दौरान लेण्डस् मंत्री अशनील सुधाकर किसानों के साथ चितः प्रदान किया गया

# मिट्टी की क्षमता सुधारने के लिए जाँच जारी

वीरिन्द्र लाल

गन्ने के किसानों से माँग की गई है कि वे ज्यादा से ज्यादा खेत काम में लाएँ और गन्ने का उत्पादन बढ़ाएँ।

लेण्डस् मंत्री अशनील सुधाकर वईसारू बा में जिनेंद्र सिंह के खेत पर फिल्ड डय के दौरान बोल रहे थे जहाँ वे मुख्य मेहमान थे।

फिल्ड डय में गैर-रसायनिक पदार्थ डालकर मिट्टी की क्षमता सुधारने पर ध्यान दिया गया। लगभग पैतालिस किसान मिट्टी के स्वास्थ्य

सम्बंधित अपनी जानकारी बढ़ाने के लिए वहाँ उपस्थित थे। शुगा रिसेच इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ फीजी ने इस फिल्ड डय की आयोजना की थी। मिट्टी के स्तर में सुधार होने से उत्पादन में बढ़न्ती होती है।

मंत्री सुधाकर ने किसानों से शुगा रिसेच इंस्टिट्यूट के सुझावों का पालन करने की माँग की जिससे खेतों की मिट्टी में सुधार हो और फलस्वरूप उत्पादन में वृद्धि हो।

उन्होंने वहाँ उपस्थित किसानों को बताया कि सरकार चीनी व्यवसाय में करोड़ों डोलर लगा

रही है और गन्ने की खेती का बढ़ावा देने के लिए किसानों को मसाला, दवाई पर छूट प्रदान कर रही है, खेत तैयार करने और कटाई तथा मेकैनिकल हायवेस्टज़ के लिए ग्रांट प्रदान करने के अलावा कई अन्य तरिकों से किसानों की मदद कर रही है जिससे कि व्यवसाय बना रहे।

मंत्री सुधाकर ने किसानों से अपनी ज़मीन का ज्यादा से ज्यादा प्रयोग गन्ना बोने में काम में लाने की माँग की जबकि इससे देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को फायदा होगा और इससे विदेशी मुद्रा हासिल करने में मदद मिलेगी।



निउज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जेसिंडा आडन निउज़ीलैंड हाय कमिशनार के निवास पर देश की महिला नेताओं के साथ चितः ननिसे नइमिल

## प्रधान मंत्री आडन ने महिला नेताओं से मुलाकात की

वीरिन्द्र लाल

विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की महिला नेताओं ने निउज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जसिंडा आडन के साथ मध्यान का भोजन किया। इस भोज की आयोजना निउज़ीलैंड हाय कमिशन ने किया था।

प्रधान मंत्री आडन ने फीजी की संसद में महिलाओं की उपस्थिति की सराहना की। उन्होंने महिलाओं को सशक्त करने के महिला

मंत्रालय के कार्यक्रमों का भी स्वागत किया।

“हम फीजी के विमन, चिल्लरन एन्ड पोवटी अलेविअईशन मंत्रालय और मंत्री के साथ मिलकर काम करते हैं। आप जो भी काम कर रहे हैं जैसे महिला पुरुष भेद-भाव मिटाना, महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ हिंसा खत्म करने की राष्ट्रीय योजना बनाना, इनको हम मान्यता देते हैं। इन क्षेत्रों में हम आपके साथ मिलकर काम करना जारी रखेंगे”।

प्रधान मंत्री आडन ने कहा कि साथ मिलकर काम करने से बहुत कुछ हासिल किया जा सकता है।



मानवाधिकार संस्था फीजी के साथ मिलकर काम करेगी 2

कृषि मंत्रालय को पाँच हैंडहेल्ड ट्रैक्टर मिले 3

मिट्टी की क्षमता सुधारने के लिए जाँच जारी 7

फीजी और चीन, प्लास्टिक की जगह कुछ और काम में लाने पर काम कर रहे हैं 6

# फीजी दर्पण

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## नमाका मार्केट का उद्घाटन

नमाका मार्केट के उद्घाटन के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गे बड़िनमारामा, एक विक्रेता के साथ मज़ाक करते हुए चित्र: मेरेयानी गोनेन्दुवा

वीरेन्द्र लाल

नमाका मार्केट बनाना, राष्ट्र को आगे बढ़ाने में सरकार की ओर से एक बड़ा कदम है।

प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्गे बड़िनमारामा पिछले सप्ताह नमाका मार्केट के उद्घाटन पर बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि लोग अब मार्केट के अन्दर सभी सुविधाओं के साथ आराम से बैठकर अपने सामान बेच सकेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि मार्केट खुलने से वहाँ लोगों को व्यापार करने के और मौके मिलेंगे।

मार्केट में दो सौ अट्ठासी (288) स्टोल्स हैं और चालिस (40) खट हैं जहाँ लोग रह भी सकते हैं। वहाँ होस्टल फेसिलिटीज़ भी है जहाँ लोग नहा धोकर काम पर जाने के लिए तैयार

हो सकते हैं। मार्केट बनाने में सरकार के चार दसमलव आठ मिलियन डोलर (\$4.8m) लगे हैं जबकि यू.एन विमन के ज़रिए ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार से चार लाख डोलर (\$400,000) मिले थे।

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि यह मार्केट, केवल मार्केट न रहकर टुरिस्टों के लिए एक आकर्षण रहेगा।

“यहाँ नया बज़ बय बना है और होटल्स तथा कुज़िशिप्स से टुरिस्ट यहाँ आयेंगे। व्यापार के लिए यह वन स्टोप सेन्टर रहेगा। लेवल 2 पर लोग नांदी टाउन कौंसिल सम्बंधी प्रयमेट्स कर सकेंगे और व्यापार से सम्बंधित जानकारी भी हासिल कर सकेंगे।”

प्रधान मंत्री बड़िनमारामा ने लोगों से मार्केट

का प्रयोग करके अपने जीवन में आगे बढ़ने और देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में योगदान देने की माँग की है।

फिलहाल प्रधान मंत्री ने बा स्थित वर्ड्सारू सनातन धर्म स्कूल के नए क्लासरूम का भी उद्घाटन किया।

स्कूल को समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन से काफी क्षति पहुँची थी। स्कूल के पुनः निर्माण में दो मिलियन डोलर से ज्यादा लगे हैं (\$2.06m)।

प्रधान मंत्री ने बताया कि दो हजार सोलह (2016) से अब तक फीजी पर लगभग एक दर्जन से ज्यादा आँधी तूफानों का असर पड़ा है और इस कारण से निर्माणकार्य में विलम्ब हुआ है।

“जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण विंस्टन जैसी

आँधियाँ आगे चलकर जल्द जल्द आने लगेंगी और हमारा यह कर्तव्य है कि हम अपने छात्रों को इन आँधी तूफानों से बचाएं। इसके लिए हमें पहले से योजना बनानी होगी। आज के मिलान में आगे चलकर काफी कुछ बदलने वाला है और हमें यह देखना होगा कि कहीं हम पीछे न छूट जाएं,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

वहाँ चार नए क्लासरूम, एक स्टोरज रूम और एक ई सी ई एबलूशन ब्लॉक बनाया गया है। पाँच क्लासरूम, लायब्ररी, कंप्यूटर लेब, स्टाफ रूम और ऑफिस पर मरम्मतकार्य किए गए हैं। स्कूल फेंस पर भी मरम्मतकार्य किए गए हैं और एक सौ पचास मिटर (150m) नया फेंस लगाया गया है और एक नया वोक्वय बनाया गया है।



# Noda Viti



Rau matadredredre toka oqori na liuliu ni matanitu e rua ko Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama kei na nona itokani marama e Niusiladi ko Jacinda Ardern ena nodra vakayavi vata e Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva ena macawa sa oti.  
ITaba: NANISE NEIMILA

## Veitokoni ko NIUSILADI

**Soli e \$2**  
**na milioni**  
**me baleta**  
**na sotavi ni**  
**revurevu ni**  
**draki veisau**

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**S**A yalataka na Paraiminisita mai Niusiladi o Jacinda Ardern me solia vei Viti e \$2m me baleta na sotavi ni revurevu ni draki veisau.

Yalataka oqori o PM Ardern ena nona a vosa tiko mai na Univesiti ni Ceva.

“Na draki veisau e se levu tikoga na kena re-

vurevu vei keda na lewenivanua ena Pasika.”

“Sa sisi tikoga na qele ni baravi, tubu tikoga na iyalayala ni wasawasa, sa drava tiko mai noda wasawasa,” kaya o PM Ardern.

Na ilavo oya ena veivuke ena nodra tokitaki na veikoro era luvuluvu rawarawa.

Na ilavo oqo e tiki ni veivuke ni \$150m kina Pasifika nei Niusiladi.

Sa tekivuna o Viti ena Seviteba sa oti na

tobu ni ilavo ni veitokitaki – na isevu ni tobu ni ilavo vakaoya ena vuravura.

Me yacova mai edaidai era sa tokitaki oti e 5 na koro e Viti ka 42 tale era sa tiko nodra ivola kerekere.

Kaya o PM Arden ni a ciqoma na kerekere nei Viti mai vei PM Bainimarama.

A sikova o PM Ardern e dua na itikotiko mai Tamavua –i-wai ka rau veivuke kina na

vakailavo o Niusiladi kei Ositerelia.

“E kani marau vei au meu yalataka ni kua na veivuke nei Niusiladi vei Viti ena tobu ni ilavo ni veitokitaki ena kena sotavi tiko na revurevu ni draki veisau,” kaya o PM Ardern.

Vakavinavinaka vakalevu o PM Bainimarama kin a yalo ni veinanumi ni Matanitu o Niusiladi kei na koya na marama Paraiminisita o Jacinda Ardern.





# Voleka ni yacova na 100%

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA sa volekata sara na dua na drau na pasede na ivakalesilesi ni vakasokumuni ni tukutuku ni teitei ena noda vanua na qaravi ni nodra cakacaka.

Ko ira na ivakalesilesi oqori era curuma na veitulunivanua, qakilo, ka ra sokota n veiyanyanu baleta na inaki ilevu ni matanitu baleta na tuvatuva.

Era seruta na vei tikina mai Vanua Levu wilikina o Dreketi, vakakina na yasayawa

vakaRa mai na tikina o Nalawa, Naroko kei Navolau.

Era sotava na draki veisau sa curuma tu na noda vanua ka vakakina na ua ena veiyanyanu ka vakakina na Yasawa me rawa ni ra wiliki kina vaka vinaka na

dauteitei ka vakasokumuni kina na veitukutuku kecekece baleta ira ena National Agriculture Census. Na kena ikau tiko na cakacaka oqo e vaka oqo ne:”YOUR VOICE, YOUR FUTURE” WEST “BE COUNTED.”



Oqo oira na kena dau ni tiko bulabula, vuniwai kei na ivakalesilesi ni tabana ni bula. iTaba: JEREMAIAH LIGAIRI

## Kua ni biuti ira na vakaloloma: Dr Waqainabete

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA sa veivakauqeti na Minisita ni Bula Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete vei ira na dau vakadidike me baleta na tabana ni bula mera taurivaka na raiyawa ni matanitu nei Paraim-

inisita Bainimarama oya mera kauwaitaki ira na vakaloloma.

Vakaraitaka o koya ena dua na soqo ni tabana ni tikobulabula ni marama kei na gone ni dodonu mera ciqoma ka bula taka na raiyawa ni matanitu me kakua ni

dua e guilecavi se vakacava na itu-vaki ni nodra bula.

Kuria ni kaya ni oqo edua na yavu ni tekivu vinaka me baleta na kena raici vaka matua na tabana ni vakadidike ni bula ka mera laveti cake talega na veiqaravi ni tabana

ni bula vei ira na lewe ni vanua.

Uqeti talega oira na vuniwai era qai vakaitavi vakadua ena bese oqo mera veisemati vinaka ena veiqaravi oqo ka mera raica vaka matua na raiyawa ni matanitu baleta na veiqaravi raraba.

## Lima na vale ni qasenivuli mai Veisaru Sanatan



Duri tu ena loma ni dua na vale ni vuli vou ni koronivuli ko Paraimisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama e Veisaru Sanatana Dharam School e Ba.

iTaba: MEREANI GONEDUA

MEREANI GONEDUA

SEGA ni ra kinoca rawa nodra marau kei na matadredredre na qasenivuli kei na gonevuli e Veisaru Sanatana Dharam School, Ba, na nona laki dolava ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama e lima nodra vale ni qasenivuli ena macawa sa oti.

Na koronivuli oqo a vakarusai ena cagilaba kaukauwa ko Winisitoni nena 2016 ka toka ena \$2.06m na kena tara.

Kaya ko PM Bainimarama ni maliwa ni yabaki 2016 me yacova mai e daidai sa viavai dua na daseni na levu ni cagi kaukauwa e liwavi Viti ka vakaberaberataka tiko na vakacoko.

“Oya sa ivakatakilakila ni rerevaki ni revurevu ni draki veisau. Sa uqeta talega na Matanitu me raiaca me tara na vale e rawa ni vorata na cagilaba kaukauwa eso,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Keitou sa kila vinaka ni mataqali cagilaba me vakataki Winisitoni ena yaco vakalevu ena veigauna mai muri, sa noda itavi meda taqomaki ira mai kina na noda gonevuli.”

“Oya kemuni na noqu itokani na ka keitou vakatoka me raiyawa. Nida kila tiko ni na yaco mai na veisau, meda rai tiko ki liu meda kua ni biu tu mai,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Sa dolava talega ena siga oya o PM Bainimarama edua na ECE Ablution Block, dua na vanua ni wilivola, dua na computer lab, dua na rumu ni qasenivuli, dua na valeni volavola, vakabai wavoki na koronivuli, ka dua talega na vanua ni taubale voun simedtaki ka ruru-gu vinaka nodra na gonevuli.



Oira na dauteitei era vakatovolea na misini ni cuki. iTaba: MEREANI GONEDUA

## Ciqomi na i yaya ni cukicuki

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA ciqoma na nodra misini ni cukicuki vou na lewenivanua era vakaitikotiko ena tikotiko ni teitei mai Vunikavikaloa kei Madhuvani me vukei ira ena nodra cakacaka ni vakayagataki qele.

Laki solia na nodra misini ni cukicuki oqori na Minisita ni Teitei Dr Mahendra Reddy e Bainisogosoqo.

Vakaraitaka kina ko Minisita Dr Reddy ni sa kena gauna mera sa vakayagataka na tabana ni teitei kei ira na dau teitei na misini baleta ni na vukea na nodra vakayagataki ni qele ka vukea sara talega na vua ni qele teivaki baleta ni sa vakilai tiko main a veivanuatani ni vakalevu-

taka talega na itei.

Era sa vakauqeti ira na rua na tikotiko ni teitei oqo mera vakayagataka na misini kei na kena yaga dina ka mera vakaraica talega vakavinaka, dau samaka ka maroroya. Vakabibitaka ko koya na kedra dau dredre na vakaqarai ni ilavo me baleta na voli ni misini ni teitei ka sa nodra itavi na tikotiko ni teitei erua merau vakasoqona toka eso na ilavo baleta na misini oqo.

Na misini ni cukicuki taurivaki ena liag oqori eratou mai solia na matanitu mai Indonesia me baleta na veivuke ena tabana ni teitei ena noda vanua ka sa kani marau na nodra mai ciqoma na lewenivanua ena tikotiko erua me baleta ni ganita saraga na nodra qaravi tavi.

## Bibi me vakayagataki na veivuke: Reddy



Ko ira na Minisita ni Teitei Dr Reddy kei ira na ivakalesilesi kei na dauteitei. iTaba: MEREANI GONEDUA

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA VAKASALATAKI e tolusagavulu na dauteitei lai mai tikina ko Rakiraki, yasana ko Tavua kei Ba mera dau vakamatautaka na vakayagataki ni veivuke vakamatani ena kena gauna donu.

Oqori na nodra ivakamacala na Minisita ni Teitei, Veivakatorocaketaki ena koro kei na yanuyanu, Wai kei na Vanua wavoliti keda, Dr Mahendra Reddy.

Laki vosa tiko oqori okoya ena soqo ni soli ni yaya ni vakarautaki ni bai vei ira e tolusagavulu na vuvale dau teitei ena yasayasa na muaiRa.

Vakadreta na turaga Minisita vei ira na dauteitei mera vakarautaka vinaka na nodra teitei ka vakabaina vinaka na nodra manumanu me vukea talega nodra bisinisi lai.

Kuria kevaka era sega ni vakayagataka ena nodra teitei kei na susu manumanu ia ena ratou na laki vesuka tale mai ka soli yani vei dua na tamata e gadreva tale tuga na veivuke oqori.

“Ni kakua ni kauta ka laki vakawelea voliga ena nomudrau vale,” kaya ko Minisita.

E 54 kece na nona me ka 26 na wiliwili ni sipi. Era laki solia talega na Minisita na iyaya oqori vei ira na dauteitei susumanumanu mai Sigatoka, Nadi kei Lautoka.





# Doka ko Ardern na cavuikalawa nei Viti



Na marama Paraiminisita e Niusiladi ko Jacinda Ardern kei na Minisita ni Gone, Yalewa kei na Valuti ni Bula Dravudravua e Viti ko Mereseini Vuniwaqa. .  
iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

VILIAME TIKOTANI

MAI lagita na matanitu ko Niusiladi na sasaga nei Viti me laveta ka vakatauvatana na veiqaravi ena tabana ni veiqaravi baleti ira na marama kei na gone. Vakabibi ena tabana ni nodra dau vakalolomataki na marama kei na gone.

Vakaraitaka tiko na tikina oqori na Paraiminisita Jacinta Ardern na nodra vakavinaka kina na matanitu me baleta na cavuikalawa sa vakayacori mai ena vica na gauna sa oti me yacova mai nikua.

Era laki dolava kina na valenivolavola vou ni veiqaravi nodra na marama mai Nadi se women crisis centre ka tukuna kina okoya ni sasaga ni matanitu kei na nodra tokoni na soqosoqo vakamararama ena nodra veiqaravi baleti ira na marama ena wali ni nodra leqa ena tabana vakalawa esa dua na cakacaka vinaka ka raiyawa.

Era lagita talega na tabana ni marama kei na gone ena nodra veitauriligataka kei ira na soqosoqo ena taudaku ni veiqaravi vakamataniu mera laveta cake na bula nodra na marama kei na gone.

# Tokona ko Niusiladi na sasaga nei Viti

VILIAME TIKOTANI

TAVOCI na sasaga baleti ira na lewenivanua era tara vale tu vakailoa ena ena qele vaka Tamavua-i-wai mera vukei mai na matanitu ka vakakina na nodra veika bula bula wavoliti keda.

Era vaka vulagi dokai kina ena nodraa visiko voli na noda vanua o Paraiminisita Jacinta Ardern mai Niusiladi ka vakaraitaa kina na nona kauwai kei na kauwai ni matanitu ko Niusiladi me laveta na bula ni tamata yadua.

Vakavinakataka na Minisita ni Veivoli, Bisinisi, Saravanua, Matabose ni Tauni kei na Veivakavaletaki Premila Kumar na veivuke ni matanitu ko Niusiladi me tokona mai edua na sasa-

ga baleta na nodra vakavaletaki vinaka na lewenivanua.

Na veivyuke oqo esa na rawa kina vei Viti me tauyavutaka na sasaga oqo ka vekadewa yani ena veiyasai Viti ka vaka kina na Pasivika oya ena vakadavori ni paipo ni wai, ta ni gaunisala, semati ena livaliva kei na wai ni so na lewenivanua era sotava tiko ba bula ena itikotiko vakaoqo.

Kuria ko Minisita Kumar ni oqo na veika eratou sasaga tiko ka veivuke talega ena draki veisau.

Vakaraitaka ko PM Ardern mai Niusiladi ni dodonu melaveti na bula ni lewenivanua me vinaka cake. Kuria ni rui bibi na domo ni lewenivanua ena Pasivika ena rai ni veisau ni draki.



Marautaka ko ira na lewe ni vanua e Nadi na kena mai dolava ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na makete vou e Namaka, Nadi, ena macawa sa oti. iTaba: MEREANI GONEDUA

# Dola na makete vou e Namaka

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

TOTOKA na makete vou mai Namaka sa dolava o Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ka vakalavotaka na Matanitu ena \$4.8m.

Veitokoni talega mai kina na matanitu o Ositerelia ena \$400,000.

Kaya o Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni 288 na stall ni volivolutaki e tiko e loma vakakina na 40 na loga kei na vanua ni nodra sisili na marama, sa matalia kina e Nadi na makete vou Namaka.

“Sana vaka edua na idini vou ni veivakabulabulataki vakailavo ena tauni mai Nadi.”

“O ira na noda vulagi saravanua kara se qai butuki Viti vakadua nira via kila na veika e kune dina e Viti sa nona ivakasala mera tekivu ena dua ga na noda makete,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“E sega tale ni dua na vanua e kune kina na kakana e vakayagataki dina e Viti me vaka na kena

e kune ena noda veimakete.”

“Na boisareguregu, na veimataqali vua ni qele, na cakacaka ni liga totoka ena kune kece ena veimakete ena noda vanua me vakataki Suva, Labasa, Ba, vakakina e Nadi.”

Kaya o Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni makete vou oya ena yaga sara vakelvu vei ira na lewei nadi era gole mai vakayawa ena loma ni vanua mera mai volitaka na nodra ivoli.

“Vei ira na dau volitaki ika sa vakarataki tu na misini ni buli waicevat e rawa nira vakayagataka me bulabula tu kina nodra sasalu.”

“Sa na lailai kina na lusi ni ivoli kana levu cake kina na ilavo e lako kina nodra taga na dau volivolitaki.”

“Era na volitaka talega kina na soqosoqo nu marama na taga ni volivoli moni vakayagataka ena volivoli ena makete vou iya na lewenivanua,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.



Na marama Paraiminisita e Niusiladi ko Jacinda Ardern kei ira na gone lalai ena nona vesiko voli e Tamavua-i-wai ena macawa sa oti. iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN





## Dolavi na makete e Namaka

SA dola vou na nodra makete na lewenivanua era tiko voli ena vanua o Namaka voleka na rara ni waqavuka levu mai Nadi. Laki vulagi dokai kina ko Paraminisita Bainimarama ka sa dua na siga marautaki vei ira na dau volitaki kakana baleta ni rawa vei

ira mera vakavaletaki vinaka ena gauna era volitaki kakana kina. Sa tiko talega kina nodra vale ni vakacegu kei na moce kevaka era dau ruku mai vakamataka mera mai volitaki kakana.

ITaba: MEREANI GONEDUA



## Tauri cocovi ni Fiji Rugby Union

Era mai soli icocovi na Fiji Rugby Union se matabose ni rakavi unioni ena noda vanua ena mua ni macawa sa oti. Mai taura kina na icocovi ni dau qito rakavi tini

kalmia ko Semi Radradra ena noda vakasakavi ni qito ena qito rakavi ni vuravura

ITABA: VIRENDRA LAL



## Suka mai Ositerelia na noda mataivalu

ERA suka bula kece mai na sotia qaqi ni noda vanua ena nodra a laki vakaitavi ena veiqaravi ni veivakacokotaki mai Australia ni oti na kama levu duadua ka yacova na vanua levu oya. Era vukataki lesu mai ena nodra waqavuka levu na mataivalu mai Australia na Royal Australia Air Force aircraft ka mai tavaki ira na

Commander ni Mataivalu ena noda vanua Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto kei na Mata ni matanitu ko Australia ena noda vanua ko John Feakes. Sa vakamuduo tiko yani na lewenivanua mai Australia ena itavi levu eratou mai vakayacora rawa oiratou na 54 na sotia ogo ena yalo ni veivukei vata vaka vuvale.

ITaba: VAKARAUTAKI







# Tokoni na noda tei kau

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAIBALEBALE vakalevu na no lai teivaka e dua na vunika ena itikotiko ni Matanitu se State House ka ni vakaraitaka na kena bibi na lalawa ni sotavi ni draki veisau e Viti me teivaki e 30 na milioni na vunika ena loma ni 15 na yabaki. Taumada a tekivutaketaki me rawata o Viti e 4 na milioni na vunika ena 4 na yabaki kasa veisau edaidai kina 30 na milioni na vunika ena 15 na yabaki. Me vaka a tukuna na Minisita ni Veikau o Osea Naiqamu ni kena sa toso cake ogo na iwiliwili ni kau e taketetaka o Viti me tea sa vakaraitaka e dua na dina.

“Na dina sai koya ni diana tiko o Viti me laveti cake na yaga ni veikau keina kena bibi kina noda bula e vuravura keina tara cake ni noda vanua kei na veikabula era tu kina,” kaya o Minisita Naiqamu.

Ni da raica lesu na teikau etekivuna e Viti eda tea rawa e 1 na milioni na kau ena 10 na vula.

Vakavinavinaka na turaga na Peresitedi o Jioji Konusi Konrote vei PM Arden ni vakai-balebale vakalevu na nona tea na kau oya kina sasaga vou nei Vti,

Erau vakavinavinaka talega o Peresitedi Konrote kei Minisita Naiqamu ni teikau sa vakayacori tiko ogo e Viti era sa veitokoni talega mai kina na 14 na yasana ena noda vanua.



Rau lululu toka ogo ko Peresitedi Jioji Konusi Konrote kei na marama Paraiminisita ni Niusiladi ko Jacinda Ardern ni ot na nona tea na vunika ko Paraiminista Ardern ena itikotiko ni Matanitu mai Vale Levu ena macawa sa oti. iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

## Nanumi ko ira na bale mate ena ivalu



Vakaraitaka toka oqori na marama Paraiminisita e Niusiladi ko Jacinda Ardern na nona vakarokoro kei na veidokai ena nona mai vakananumi ira toka na noda lewe ni mataivalu ka ra sa bale yani ena National War Memorial e Suva ena macawa sa oti.. iTaba: JEREMIAH LIGAIRI

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAITAVI talega na marama Paraiminisita ni Niusiladi o Jacinda Arden ena nona vakatorora e dua ivutu senikau ena ivakananumi ni cava ni ivalu mai Veitu. Ni cila katakata tu na kena sig aka mudre malua tu na kena cagi sa voqa mai na ivakatagi ni matanitu. Tarava sara nona sa yabe cake yani na marama Paraiminisita ni

Niusiladi ka laki vakatora e dua na ivutu senikau mera nanumi kina na bale matae ena imatai keina karua ni ivalu levu.

Sa qai tarava sara yani na voqa ni ni ivakatagi ka vakatokai na ‘Last Post’ ka vaciriloloma dina na kena rorogo.

Ena ikarua ni ivalu levu era dua-vata kina na matavalu ni Viti, Niusiladi kei Ositerelia.

E Viti era dau vakananumi kina 109 na sotia e bale mate ena ivalu ena imatai kei na ikarua ni ivalu levu.

Mai Niusiladi era vakaitavi kina e 140,000 na sotia ni Niusiladi kara bale mate kina e 11,928 na sotia ni Niusiladi.

Na ibulubulu ni mataivalu e Suva era bulu tiko kina e 31 na sotia ni Niusiladi.

Ena 1941 kina 1967 a dau tu voli mai Laucala na vanua era dau ro kina na waqavuka ni Niusiladi dau ro e wain a Sunderland Flying Boats.

Sa tiko e dua na kena ivakananumi ena Univesiti ni Ceva edaidai.



Rau matadredredre toka oqori na liuliu ni matanitu e rua ko Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama kei na nona itokani marama e Niusiladi ko Jacinda Ardern vata kei na dui watidrau ko Mrs Bainimarama kei Clarke Gayford ena nodra vakayakavi vata e Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva ena macawa sa oti. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

## Veitalanoa ko Ardern kei Bainimarama

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAOQO na lewe ni nodrau veitalanoa na iluliu ni Matanitu e rua o Viti kei Niusiladi ena Grand Pacific Hotel e Suva.

Vakaraitaka vei PM Arden ko PM Bainimarama ni ka marautaki dina vua me kidavaki koya mai ki Viti ena isevu ni nona veisiko vakamatanaitu.

Mai na Matabose ni Vuravura kina Matabose ni Pasifika.

“Sa rawa ni daru sota kina ena levu na vanua ni bose ena loma ni rua na yabaki sa sivi.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni rau duidui vakalevu o Tuvalu kei Manhattan. Na ka yaga sara kina vakalevu na noda bose vata e liu kani levu na ivakarau eda tautauvata na kai Viti kei na kai Niusiladi.

“Ka serau mai ena veidinadinati eda vakayacora. Veitalia kevaka eda dabe tiko ena vale cecere mai Niu Yoka. Se da tucake tu ena baravi ni yanuyanau mai Funafuti,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Au yalodei ni ivarau kece eda tautauvata kina eda yaga ni vakaduavtataki ira na noda lewenivanua me rawa ni da bula ena dua na vuravura e vinaka cake mai na kena eda kunea.”

“Oqori ena uto ni noda bose vata edaidai. Me vakadinadinataki

kina ni nomuni veisiko mai ki Viti e teki kina e levu na isausau ena veisiga ena loma ni macawa.”

“Na veisiga satu e matada au sa vakanamata ni na tomani tiko na veiwekani vinaka sa yaco tiko ena vanua e rua ena nomuni gauna ni veiliutaki ka me rawa ni o vakila kina na ivakarau dina ni veikauwaitaki ni kai Viti keina neimami yalovinaka ni Bula keimami rorogolevu kina,” kaya o PM Bainimarama

Sauma na veikidavaki oya na marama Paraiminisita mai Niusiladi ka kaya Bulu vinaka ka vakabula talega vaka Maori ka vakavinakataka talega na totoka ni yalo ni veikauwaitaki nei Viti mai na gauna e yaco mai kina vakiali talega ni se bera ni sobu mai ena waqavuka.

“Na yalo ni veikauwaitaki e kilatani kina kai Viti ena nomuni dau kidavaki keimami. Vinaka vakalevu sara vakabibi na veikidavaki vakavanua vakaturaga e tarai au vakalevu vakakina vua na noqu lewenivale o Clarke,” kaya o PM Arden.

Oti sa qai solia talega o PM Bainimarama edua na iloloma oya edua na Tanoa ka solia talega o PM Arden edua na iloloma vei PM Bainimarama oya e dua na siqeleli ni qito ni timi ni rakavi lewe yavitu ni All Blacks ni Niusiladi.





# Vakauqeti na lewe ni bose ni Yasana o Ra

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAUQETI ira na lewe Bose ni Yasana o Ra na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei o Meleti Bainimarama mera vakalewena vakaoti na nodra lalawa ni veivakatorocaketaki ni koro se Integrated Village Development Plan kevaka era gadreva tale eso na veivakatorocaketaki.

Vakavinavainakataki ira o PS Bainimarama nira sa vakacavara na imatai ni itagede ni kena volai na village profiling exercise.

Kaya PS Bainimarama ni oya e 2 na uliutaga bibi mera vakayacora taumada na veikoro kece e Viti me rawa ni matata kina na nodra veivakatorocaketaki.

Sa uqeti ira talega na lewe ni bose ni yasana o Ra o PS Bainimarama mera vakauqeti ira na

itabagone mera vakayagataka na nodra iyau bula.

Kaya o PS Bainimarama ni kevaka era taura na imatai ni kalawa na itabagone ena veitokoni yani vei ira na Matanitu.

Sa vakauqeti ira talega na turaga ni vanua ena yasana vakaturaga o Ra na bibi ni nodra buli na na veiliutaki ena veimataqali kei veiyavusa me tawani na itutu vakavanua era lala tu.

## Dola na wavu e Emuri

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Ni kua au mai maliwai kemuni e Emuri Nadroga ena dua tale na cavui-sausau ni Matanitu na kena mai dola saka tiko nomudou wavu se itatakoso.

“E ratou a se tekivu tara tiko na FRA ena yabaki sa oti ka se qai mai vakamatanitutaki saka tiko oqo.”

“Na isau saka vakailavo ni kena tara na wavu oqo e \$1.73m,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“E tara me laveta na nomuni bula na lewenivanua.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni matata saka tiko e eliu ni bera ni tara na wavu oqo ni waluvu na uciwai e dau vakarerevakai saka na takosova.

“E dau waraki me lutu na wai me qai caka na takoso.”

“Ena so na gauna e dau taura 2 na macaw aka vakadredretaka



Taubale toka oqori ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na lewe ni koro ni oti na nona mai dolava na wavuena koro ko Emuri e Nadroga.

saka na bula ni matavuvale.”

“Na kena sa mai davo saka na wavu vou oqo sa vakanadakui na gauna oqori,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Sa dodonu moni yalo vakacagu saka kina ena gauna ni draki ca

baleta na wavu oqo e tara me veiganiti kei na gauna ni waluvu.”

“Ni kua sa rawarawa na gole kina makete se vale ni bula ke taubi na uca se waluvu,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

“Au rogoca ni 2 saka beka se 3

na waluvu sa sivi e taura vinaka tiko na kaukauwa ni wavu na kaukauwa ni wai.”

Sa uqetu ira o PM Bainimarama me ra vakayagataka sara vakavinaka na wavu oya mera vakayagataka me laveta na nodra bula.



Era taba toka oqo na director ni marketing kei communication, Fiji National university, Ms. Jenies Mudiliar, Vulagi dokai, Peresitedi Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote, Dau ni caka bisinisi gone duadua, Mr. Rohit Singh, boso ni Indulge Designer Cakes kei FDB Board Director, Mr. Rajesh Patel. iTaba: VIRENDRA LAL

## Dau ni bisinisi lalai gone duadua

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA gagadre ni nodra via veivuke lesu ena nona itikitiko mai Ba ka me vakarautaka eso na imataqali kakana kei na keke edua na vuna levu nodra lesu tale qo Rohit Singh me laki vakaduri bisinisi kina ki Ba.

Dolava tiko okoya na Indulge designer cakes me vaka ni oti e 10 na yabaki nodra cakacaka vaka dau caka saqa ena otela kei na bisinisi ni saravanua.

Dua na bolebole levu vua baleta bisinisi ni kakana vaka idia kei na jaina ia edua n aka vinaka balea ni kauta mai edua na ka vou ena makete ni vakasaqa kakana kei na volitaki kakana saqa e Nadi, Tavua, kei Lautoka.

Era taba toka oqo na director

ni marketing kei communication, Fiji National university, Ms. Jenies Mudiliar, Vulagi dokai, Peresitedi Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote, Dau ni caka bisinisi gone duadua, Mr. Rohit Singh, boso ni Indulge Designer Cakes kei FDB Board Director, Mr. Rajesh Patel.

Marautaka ko Naresh Kumar Shankaran nona winitaka na daunibisinisi lalai ni 2019 me vaka e vakailavotaka ko Fiji Development bank. Qaqa na nona kabani na Green Lodge ena icovi oqo.

Oqo edua na bisinisi ni saravanua kei na teitei ka vakarautaki kina na vanua ni vakacegu kei na moce me vaka na saravanua. Era-tou vakarautaka talega na kakana.

## Siga ni vosa ni vanua

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ENona dolava na siga ni vosa ni vanua a tusanaka kina na ivukevuke ni Minisita ni iTaukei o Selai Adimaiatoga akaya kina vakaoqone; “Na Vosanivanua e iVakadei ni Veivakatorocaketaki, Bula Sautu kei na Veivakaduavataki.”

“Nida vakasamataka vakatitobu na ulutaga sa soli mai qo, eda rawa ni umana vata ena dua ga na vosa, oya na Loloma.”

“Ena qai mana ga na ulutaga kevaka e bula vakaidina e lomada na loloma. Na vosa e ka bula, ia kevaka e vosataki ena yalo loloma, ena qai vakavotukana ka vakavuavuai vinaka na veika eda cakava.”

Au gadreva meu moica ga vakalailai na ulutaga sa tiko rawa, oya “na vosanivanua e yavutaki ena loloma ena ivakadei ni veivakatorocaketaki, na bula sautu kei na veivakaduavataki,” kaya o Minisita Adimaiatoga.

“Kemuni na veiwekani, kevaka eda vakabauta ni isolisoli ni Kalou vei keda na noda vosanivanua, sa dodonu me iyaragi levu duadua ni veivakaduavataki, vakabibi na duavata vakamatamata e Viti.”

“Sa dodonu meda raica tiko na Kalou ena veimala ni vosa tau-coko eda tauca, ni qori sa iyavu dei ni nona inaki na Kalou vei keda,” kaya o Minisita Adimaiatoga.

“O keda na kawa itaukei, ena taucoko ga na noda soqo kevaka eda na veidovitaka e dua na buku ni tapioke se da gunu vata ena dua na bilo. Au gadreva meu vakavinavinakataka na Tabana ni Vosa kei na iTovo Vakaviti ena kena navuci

Kemuni na veiwekani, kevaka eda vakabauta ni isolisoli ni Kalou vei keda na noda vosanivanua, sa dodonu me iyaragi levu duadua ni veivakaduavataki, vakabibi na duavata vakamatamata e Viti.

“Sa dodonu meda raica tiko na Kalou ena veimala ni vosa taucoko eda tauca, ni qori sa iyavu dei ni nona inaki na Kalou vei keda,” kaya o Minisita Adimaiatoga.

“Au na gadreva meu vakavinavinakataka na vakatulewa matau me baleta na siga nikua. O keda na kawa itaukei, ena taucoko ga na noda soqo kevaka eda na veidovitaka e dua na buku ni tapioke se da gunu vata ena dua na bilo.”

“Au gadreva meu vakavinavinakataka na Tabana ni Vosa kei na iTovo Vakaviti ena kena navuci meda mai rogoca vata na noda vosanivanua, sarava na kena meke ka tovolea tale ga na kena kakana,” kaya o Minisita Adimaiatoga.



# Noda Viti

## Doka ko Ardern na veiqaravi vakavanua



E gunuva toka oqori na yaqona vakaturaga na marama Paraiminisita e Niusiladi ko Jacinda Ardern ena nona kidavaki vakavanua e na Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva ena macawa sa oti. E siga tolu na nona veisiko voli ko PM Ardern ena noda vanua. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

NANISE NEIMILA

**E** da kilai tani na itaukei e Viti ena noda veikidavaki ni veiqaravi vakavanua vakaturaga.

Doka vakalevu na marama Paraiminisita ni Niusiladi o Jacinda Ardern Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ni rawa ni mai vakayacori vua na veikidavaki vakavanua vakaturaga ni noda vanua.

“Kia ora koutou katoa” (veikidavaki va-

ka-Maori)

“Turaga na Paraiminisita Bainimarama kei Mrs Bainimarama, vinaka vakalevu sara na veikidavaki vakavanua vakaturaga.”

“Au vakila na nomuni yalo ni veiciqomi ena gauna au yaco mai kina eke.”

“Sa ka dokai dina vei au kei na noqu lewe ni vale o Clarke meu mai kidavaki vakavanua vakaturaga keirau doka sara vakalevu,” kaya o PM Arden.

Kuria na marama na Paraiminisita ni Niusiladi ni vakila na veiciqomi ena gauna e ciqoma kina na kamunaga.

“Au rawa ni raica na kaukauwa ni veikauwaitaki ni kai Viti ena gauna au ciqoma kina na kamunaga.”

“Na iyau oni solia me vaka ibe me baleti ira na soko mai wasawasa.”

“Na nomuni vakarautaka na kakana vei ira na lako vakayawa mai me sotava nodra via kana.”

“Na nomuni vakarautaka na yaqona se na wai me vakaotia na nodra karamaca.”

“Sa ivakaraitaki ni nomuni vakabibitaka na itovo ni veikauwaitaki ka keimami vakila na nomuni yalo vinaka keimami wasea talega yani,” kaya o PM Arden.

Era vakaitavi ena veiqaravi vakavanua vua na Paraiminisita ni Niusiladi ena otela na Grand Pacific Hotel e Suva na cauravou mai na keba ni mataivalu mai Delainabua.

**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]