

# FijiFocus



'BAN ON THINNER PLASTIC BAGS NEXT YEAR'

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## CANE CRUSHING SEASON OPENS

Prime Minister and Minister for Sugar Voreqe Bainimarama and Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC), chief executive officer Graham Clarke with FSC staff at the opening of the new crushing season in Lautoka Sugar Mill. Photo: ISAAC LAL

# 'Fijians fuel boom'

## PM thanks country for economic growth

NANISE NEIMILA

THE "Bainimarama Boom" made possible through the decade long economic growth has been "carried on the shoulders of the hardworking Fijian people".

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, pointed this out in his response to the 2019/2020 National Budget, where he told Parliament that "economies are not built by politicians — they are built by the people".

"From the Minister for Economy and his team, who work so tirelessly every year to put these budgets together, to every Fijian shopkeeper, hotel worker, engineer, farmer, IT professional, teacher, fisherman, banker, taxi

driver, businessperson, garment-maker, police officer, artist, nurse, factory worker, electrical lineman, clerk, and civil servant — I thank you, as your Prime Minister, for bringing Fiji to the position of strength where we sit today."

"Over the past decade, we have known when to expand, and when to contract. We have known where to strategically invest, and when to do it."

Prime Minister Bainimarama adds that Fiji's economy has soared through the best of times and endured through the worst of times - "we've faced down international headwinds and even the global financial crisis head-on,

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

*I think people will be making a huge mistake by assuming that just because the budget has dropped for any ministry, in fact all the ministries budget decreased, it would no longer perform to whatever they were doing. We are just looking at working smarter.*

Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum  
Minister for Economy

## NUMBERS

\$565K

is the total  
cost of the  
new grid  
extension  
at Qiolevu  
Settlement in  
Naitasiri

## TWEET OF THE WEEK



António Guterres (@antonioguterres)

*The climate emergency is the battle of our lives. We need #ClimateAction. Now.*

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# Department starts work on e-Passport

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJI is working on the transition from paper-based passports to state-of-the-art e-Passports with contact-less chips containing security features in compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization standards.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said the Department of Immigration — under his purview — will undertake sweeping new initiatives to strengthen border control services.

“These include the introduction of e-Passports for easier border entry, the implementation of new e-Gates at the Nadi International Airport, closer integration with Interpol, building out our IT and intelligence capacity, and engaging in a comprehensive review of all current laws, regulations and processes for all immigration services,” the A-G said.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while announcing the 2019/2020 National Budget said, in line with the Government’s commitment to a more secure Fiji, these e-Passports will make it more difficult for people to illegally enter the country, and easier for Fijians travelling overseas to use e-Passport gates to speed through airport immigration queues.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the launch of the Fiji Revenue and Customs non-intrusive inspection x-ray technology at the Suva Ports. Photo: ERONI VALILI

tion queues.

“We’re not only making Fiji safer, we’re making travelling easier and setting Fiji up for wider visa-free status around the world. We’ll be progressively issuing these new e-passports throughout the next financial year,” the A-G said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also acknowledged the allocation made to the Ministry of iTaukei

Affairs whereby, over the next year, the Ministry will do more with less.

“We will work toward our strategic objectives — namely, enhancing leadership training; documenting our culture and traditions; and building resilience in the midst of an increasingly globalised world,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He said since 2010, the Ministry

has branched out from cultural preservation alone, to now look at the broader socio-economic issues that affect our iTaukei communities, including child protection; sustainable environment; sustainable farming; and conservation, to name just a few.

The Department of Immigration has received a budgetary allocation of \$5.7m for the next financial period.

## PM assures sugarcane growers of Govt support

AZARIA FAREEN

PRIME Minister and Minister for Sugar Industry, Voreqe Bainimarama, has assured sugarcane farmers that the Government’s commitment to the industry, even in a period of fiscal consolidation, has not stalled or retracted.

“The \$70.4 million — an addition of \$8m from last year — allocated to the sugar industry in the 2019-2020 budget will continue to fund the sweeping range of support Government has introduced to assist farmers, as part of our strategic game plan for achieving long-term viability for this Industry.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama, while speaking in Parliament on the 2019-2020 Appropriation Bill 2019 this week, said this allocation will continue to subsidize a guaranteed cane price in Fiji of \$85 dollars per tonne.

“The forecasted market price of



Prime Minister and Minister for Sugar Voreqe Bainimarama during the opening of the crushing season in Lautoka. Photo: ISAAC LAL

sugar is currently hovering around \$56 dollars per tonne - so that’s around extra \$30 dollars per tonne that the Government is covering - all for the benefit of our cane farmers, and that price is guaranteed through this year and next year,” he said.

“Fiji cannot influence trends in a global market as large as sugar, nor can we predict where price of sugar will head but what we can do is protect our cane farmers from these ebbs and flows of the international markets and shield them from dramatic swings in world prices.”

“The budget also includes allocation to weedicide and fertilizer where the cost has risen to \$25.59 per tonne and through a comprehensive mechanization push, we’re outfitting the industry with dozens of harvesters, tractors and six-wheeler trucks,” he highlighted.

Prime Minister Bainimarama expects to receive a report soon from the Indian Government outlining the blueprint for a massive upgrade of the national railway systems and once the new network is in place, transportation of much larger loads of cane on the rail sys-

tem will be possible and will also reduce cane cartage costs even further.

“Even in a period of fiscal consolidation, our commitment to this Industry has not stalled or retracted but it has strengthened and we will continue to keep faith of the Fijians who make up this industry by giving our farmers the support they deserve,” he said.

The PM adds the sugar sector can be a more competitive producer by modernizing the industry and making it more efficient; lessen the input costs on the farmers and widening their profit margins.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum while announcing the 2019-2020 in Parliament . Photo: PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

## 'Fijians fuel boom'

FROM PAGE 1

still came out on top. As we enter into a new age of uncertainty abroad, today is no different."

He added that the Government, in bringing about these changes, will build a business-friendly environment while recognizing the need to bring in the skillsets required in a modern, thriving and sophisticated economy.

Prime Minister Bainimarama reiterated that the budget was grounded on five pillars; Strengthening law and order; Protecting our natural environment; Empowering young Fijians; Embracing technology and innovation; and Building certainty in an uncertain world.

"The 2019-2020 National Budget is strong. This budget is responsible. It will streamline our businesses, and build confidence — not erode it. And it will care for our people in way that continues our booming decade of economic prosperity."

In a move to target certain sectors that sets out to improve the lives of Fijians, the Government made major allocations to Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts with a \$467.65m budget followed by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services with \$349.77m and the Ministry of Agriculture with \$78.72m.

In a bid to improve law and order situation in the country, the Fiji Police Force has been allocated \$177.8m and Republic of the Fiji Military Forces has been given \$95.9m.

As a continuation of its policy of investing into infrastructure the Fiji Roads Authority has been allocated \$419.43m while the Water Authority of Fiji has been given \$258.7m.

# A-G: Rebuild ends, reductions made

RONAL DEO

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum has shed light on the reason behind the reduction in budget for many ministries.

The A-G says there has been reduction in budget because the rebuilt programs have been completed and many other projects have come to an end.

"Some of the capital projects have been completed or nearing completion. I think you should look at the budget from that perspective. Now that the vast majority of cyclone rehabilitation has ended, we can sustainably shift our economy back onto the path of fiscal consolidation — a commitment first announced by this government back in 2017," the Economy Minister added.

The A-G stressed that it is a budget that secures a sustainable future for the nation, with every dollar of new expenditure dedicated to support one of the five fundamental pillars of modernity including, strengthening law and

order, protecting our natural environment, empowering young Fijians, spurring technology and innovation and lastly building certainty in an uncertain world.

"I think people will be making a huge mistake by assuming that just because the budget has dropped for any ministry in fact all the ministries budget decreased, does not mean that they will no longer perform to whatever they were doing. We just look for essentially getting the mission to work smarter, getting the ministries to make sure that they cut out the fat. So it is working sort of smarter, doing more with less," the A-G explained.

One of the major reduction in Ministry of Economy is the grant allocation to Fiji Revenue and Customs Service and they are discussing with them, where are the areas they can significantly cut.

"A vision that prioritises the prosperity of our people today and protects the wellbeing of generations to come. A vision set out by the Prime Minister and set in motion by the

responsible and practical management of our economy," the A-G said.

That vision enters its second evolution, led by a future-facing budget that builds on the unprecedented achievement of the Fijian economy and looks ahead with confident expectations and ambitious aspirations.

"It is a budget that paves the way towards even greater triumph, for our economy, for our businesses, and for our people — and ensures resilient progress in a changing climate and a changing global market."

The total budget for the 2019/2020 financial period stands at \$3.84 billion against an estimated revenue of \$3.49b, bringing the budget deficit to \$349.23 million and the net deficit as a per cent of GDP to 2.7 per cent.

This is a decrease from the 2018/2019 National Budget, which had by comparison, a total expenditure of \$4.65b against an estimated revenue of \$4.24b with a higher estimated net deficit of \$414.15m and a net deficit as a per cent of GDP at 3.5 per cent.

## Projects allow ministry to serve better

EMI KOROITANOVA

THE Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete says his ministry is better able to serve Fijians now with its allocated funds of \$3.2 million for the refurbishment of health facilities.

The Refurbishment project focuses on a number of additional health facilities around the country, including the emergency departments at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital and the Nausori Health Centre, the upgrade and extension of Rotuma Hospital, in addition to the specialized

Tamavua Twomey Hospital and sub-divisional hospitals in Vunisea, Savusavu and Nabouwalu.

Minister Waqainabete, who was pleased with the allocation, said, obviously we're very grateful that that's been appropriated for, that's happened because a great need to be able to expand our emergency services within CWM".

"If you see the emergency department in Lautoka it is completely different. It's nice and very big and that's the model of emergency departments nowadays around the world," Minister Waqainabete said.

Furthermore, his ministry has now seen an increase in its overall allocated budget of \$349.8 million.

This is a \$14.8 million increase from the previous allocated budget of \$335 million.

Minister Waqainabete said that despite the global challenges in the financial markets, the extensive provisions the Government uses on the health sector is evident of how much it is a priority of the Fijian government.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while announcing the

budget, also touched upon the allocation of approximately \$53.4 million for the commencement of the Lautoka and Ba public private partnership (PPP) Project which will transform the quality of medical services in Fiji, including a wide range of tertiary medical care.

"These medical services will provide opportunities in aged care and retirement villages and we have also introduced a very attractive tax incentive for retirement villages and aged care facilities," the A-G said.



# National security remains top priority

NANISE NEIMILA

**T**HE Ministry of Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs has commended the 2019/2020 National Budget in providing the necessary funding to uphold national security within our country.

Minister Seruiratu said for economic security we need national security we have made significant progress economically in the last nine to 10 years.

“This needs to be maintained and we need to create that environment to invest in our

defence and national security.”

“I am happy with the allocations that have been provided in the budget because this addresses the challenges and priorities that we have.”

Minister Seruiratu adds that in every financial year there are unforeseen circumstances and therefore funding are sometimes re-prioritised but pointed out that some of the projects that were not implemented are rolled over to the next financial year so that capital work projects can continue.

The Ministry has received a total budget of

\$16.5million with major initiatives including the Fiji Serviceman’s Aftercare Funds which has been transferred from the Ministry of Economy.

Other areas of focus include the National Security and Defence Review (NSDR) covering operational funding for the secretariat and strengthening its capacity to implement Fiji’s National Security Strategy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received \$43.42m for its operations in the next financial year.

## Ministry targets legislations, regulations

EMI KOROITANO

**W**ITH funds from the 2019/2020 National Budget, the Ministry of Forestry is aiming to support the enforcement of forestry legislation, policies and regulations for the sustainable development of Fiji’s forests.

This was highlighted by the line Minister Osea Naiqamu during his response on the 2019/2020 Appropriation Bill 2019 in Parliament.

“\$1.3 Million has been allocated for the Ministry’s policy administration while \$452,900 has been allocated for economic policy, planning and statistics under Programme 1,” Minister Naiqamu said.

He said the ministry will review the Forest Act and subsequent legislations and policies to ensure the conservation of forestry resources, transparency and fairness in issuance of forest harvesting licenses and provide efficient and effective extension support services to stakeholders.

“An additional \$2.3 Million is allocated under supportive administration in Programme 2, and \$4.45 Million is allocated for monitoring, control and surveillance of harvesting and logging operations.”

The Ministry, Minister Naiqamu says, will continue to reposition its professional and technical personnel in the forested areas around the country especially to improve the working relationship with the forestry industry and help them understand the forest laws and regulations.

He further added the repositioning will also enable the Ministry to better monitor harvesting and sawmilling operations to ensure compliance with licensing conditions.

“Including the Harvesting Code and the Environment Management Act through the conduct of Environmental Impact Assessments,” he said.

“It will also ensure that correct information is obtained on the changes to our forests including the volume of trees harvested and the output of all sawmills.”

Fairness and equitable distribution of revenue from Fiji’s forest resources is a key component of this initiative as part of Fiji’s social justice and security measures.

## Minister sets sights on land monitoring

ROMEKA KUMARI

“THE 2019-2020 budget is a responsible one which looks after the land leases and the concession on duty on machineries.”

The Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources Ashneel Sudhakar, while speaking on the 2019/2020 National Budget, said one of allocations that would be helpful to the Ministry was for land monitoring.

“We have been allocated \$130,000 in the 2019-2020 budget to do land monitoring so that action is taken against those who are misusing leases and are going against the land laws,” he said.

The Ministry has also been providing relief by digging boreholes in many drought affected areas of Fiji.

“Whatever ground water management works we do such as boreholes, we had brought rigs for it and we have been given some help so that we are able to dig boreholes in areas where people are affected by drought,” Minister Sudhakar said.

The Ministry is responsible for policy formulation, monitoring and implementation of programmes in the areas governing Fiji’s state land administration, its mineral sector, and its groundwater resources as this plays a distinct role in Fiji’s economy.

The Ministry has received a total of \$29.6 million to carry out its operations in the 2019/2020 financial year.



Minister for Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau(middle), speaking in Parliament on the 2019/2020 Appropriation Bill 2019 this week, said the Ministry is focusing on three main objectives that will allow them to contribute effectively towards Fiji’s GDP. Photo: ERONI VALILI

## Fisheries works to raise GDP contribution

ROMEKA KUMARI

**T**HE Ministry of Fisheries will focus on increasing aquaculture, coastal and offshore fisheries productivity thereby heightening the fisheries sector’s contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP).

Minister for Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau, speaking in Parliament on the 2019/2020 Appropriation Bill 2019 this week, said the Ministry is focusing on three main objectives that will allow them to contribute effectively towards Fiji’s GDP.

“The first objective of the Ministry is to optimize our service delivery to the people of Fiji, through our 32 service centers. The second is to maximize operational efficiency

and the third is to drive fiscal efficiency,” Minister Koroilavesau said.

He said the Ministry also wants to decrease the negative socio-economic impacts that results from non-compliance to Fiji’s fisheries regulations in the inshore and offshore fishery.

He said the increase in the provision for freshwater aquaculture of \$400,000 will increase farm productivity through extension services focusing on training and research.

“The Ministry currently provides fishing communities with ice through 24 ice plants from far east as Lakeba, to the far north as Rotuma. Plants under this year’s budget provision, will greatly assist

these communities’ contribution to the blue economy,” Minister Koroilavesau states.

“Climate change and depleting fish stocks further underscores the importance of research for our ocean governance”

He added that over the past few years there has been a substantial work done in ensuring the sustainability of coastal resources.

The Ministry continues to provide licensing and advisory services for fishing communities, which includes the establishment of fishermen associations, technical advice and training along with monitoring, control and surveillance.

The Ministry has been allocated \$17.1 million in the 2019/2020 fiscal year.



## Akbar: Ministry can work with \$800m allocation

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts will be able to work within its budget of \$800million that was recently announced for the new 2019/2020 financial year.

These were the words of the line Minister Rosy Akbar after the Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum announced the budget for the next financial year in Suva recently.

The Education Ministry will receive \$800m this year compared to the \$1billion allocation which was allocated to them in the previous budget.

“We expected the budget allocation for our Ministry to decrease and we would be able to manage. This only calls for a more prudent financial management for the next financial year,” Minister Akbar said.

“Some of the strategies that we will have to put in place will actually be prioritizing quality education, quality teachers and quality delivery.”

The A-G during his address highlighted that there would be some changes as they have noted a lot of abuse from students and institutions.

“Following the historic investment towards TELS in the past two budgets, we’re making an important change to the programme to reduce class sizes for our students’ benefit. Essentially, if an area of study is offered where an incoming student currently resides, that student will be required to “study where they live” and attend classes at that nearby campus.”

The A-G stressed that some students have been abusing the current system, relocating themselves to new cities to pursue degrees that were available at their local campuses, with taxpayer funds going to support their room, board and meal allocations.

“We won’t tolerate taxpayers’ hard-earned money funding those unnecessary expenses any longer. We’re taking a hard look at the pathways towards higher education and taking some key steps to ensure students are entering higher education on a level playing field. We’re checking that no one is cutting corners or getting preferential treatment, in order to ensure that everyone gets a fair shot at success.”

“We will also no longer be allowing students who study in USP’s (University of the South Pacific) Technical Colleges to fund their education through TELS, given the current programme’s exclusionary policy of not permitting the cross transfer of credits to and from other universities.”



School students will not be allowed to use their subsidised e-transport cards after 4.30pm on a school day. Photo: SUPPLIED



Free milk and weetbix initiative for Year One students will now be only provided to rural and maritime schools Photo: SUPPLIED

# Limits set on school bus cards, free milk scheme

MEREANI GONEDUA

STUDENTS will not be allowed to use their subsidised e-transport cards after 4.30pm on a school day.

The announcement was made by Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the 2019/2020 national budget address where he revealed that there have been some serious issues of abuse relating to buses.

The A-G highlighted that they have seen a tremendous rise in truancy after they allowed

students to ride on any bus to and from school. “We wanted to give some flexibility to students and be a bit more liberal about their travel restrictions.

“Unfortunately, we’ve seen an unacceptable rise in truancy as a result. Some students are choosing to taking buses anywhere but to school,” he said.

“But even worse, we actually have parents of students who are taking their students’ blue subsidised bus cards and using them to travel around the country on half or fully-paid fares. They’ll simply slide the card into their wallet,

or even into their phones and tap it against the bus payment machines undetected.

“A parent taking a student’s card – a student who should be travelling to school – to abuse government assistance is a level of immorality that we, frankly, could not predict.”

Apart from this restriction, the Minister has also announced that the free milk and weetbix initiative for Year One students will now be only provided to rural and maritime schools.

The A-G said this is because they have found that in many urban schools, many students are using milk for more creative purposes.

## Transport aid for disabled children’s parents



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa .

EPARAMA WARUA

PARENTS and guardians of children living with disabilities will be assisted through the allocation made in the 2019/2020 National Budget.

A total of \$10 million has been allocated to the Department of Social Welfare towards transportation assistance, including the subsidization of bus fares for parents and guardians who travel with their disabled children to school.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa said this assistance aims to make transportation and access to education easier for the vulnerable and less privileged in our society.

Part of this assistance is a monthly allowance of \$90 for people with total physical and mental disability, which is an ongoing assistance by the Ministry.

“We look after certain bus fare subsidiaries under our ministry, and I’m encouraged that there is a new subsidy for care-givers, parents of children living with disabilities, and I’m glad and happy that it has been addressed,” Minister Vuniwaqa said.

“It is a great need for care giv-

ers, and this is a big plus,” she added.

In regards to this new initiative, Minister Vuniwaqa said that her ministry will ensure that those who are receiving assistance are the ones that are intended recipients of the assistance in the first place.

“We will undertake, to ensure that those beneficiaries who are already receiving assistance under the Social Welfare Protection System are indeed eligible for it,” she said.

With the aim to assist people living with disability and their livelihood, the Department is ensuring all programs and initiative that they are budgeted for are actually delivered to the people.

There is a total of 83,907 recipients receiving social welfare benefits to date, including 2,851 recipients under the Disability Allowance Scheme.

The Ministry has been allocated a total of \$127.7 million to run its various programmes in the next financial such as the Poverty Benefit Scheme, the Child Protection Allowance, the Food Voucher Program, the Social Pension Scheme and the Bus Fare for the elderly and people living with disabilities



# Police better equipped on war against drugs

NANISE NEIMILA

**T**HE Fiji Police Force will now have access to proper equipment and materials to combat transnational drug traffickers and drug peddling locally.

This was made possible through the separate allocation of \$800,000 in the 2019/2020 National Budget which was allocated by the Government to assist the force in this area of work.

Acting Police Commissioner Rusiate Tudravu commended the Government for recognizing this key priority area for the Fiji Police Force in their efforts to combat the fight against hard drugs.

What we had projected for was met by this budget. Some of the priority areas are the second phase of reforms and restructure in which we will enlist 995 special constables into the regular force so the budget has been provided."

"The other one is the special operations, this is Fiji Police Force war against drugs and special funding has been given for that area. Some on-going capital projects in terms of Police stations are the newly built one and one that have gone on major renovations."

Mr Tudravu adds the organization had requested for improvement to its capabilities out



Acting Police Commissioner Rusiate Tudravu with Republic of Fiji Military Forces Commander Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto during the 2019-2020 National Budget announcement in Parliament. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

at sea, similar to its land capabilities in terms of vehicles.

"Now we have been given our specialized boats to assist the Fiji Police in intercepting and this will also speed up our movement in the sea for those transporting drugs if they want to use boats in the inter-island."

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said the Government

had provided this funding to create a stronger effort to combat drug trafficking with dedicated staff tasked with finding and rooting out networks of hard and synthetic drug dealers and suppliers.

"We have also allocated \$720,000 towards the purchase of four new intercept boats for the police to strengthen law enforcement's presence on the seas.

## FRA sets focus on public safety

MEREANI GONEDUA

**T**HE Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) will be focusing its efforts on public safety and repairing damaged assets in the next financial year.

These were the words of FRA chief executive officer Jonathan Moore after the announcement of the 2019/2020 national budget in which FRA was allocated \$416.4m.

Mr Moore said that even though they were hoping for more allocation he was confident that they would be able to achieve their targets for the new financial year.

"Whatever we do our focus is public safety whether it is footpaths, crossings, roads, bridges, jetties. There is such a degradation in our network right now so a lot of our allocation will go to public safety to make sure everything is safe."

FRA is responsible for the country's entire surface-transportation network which, due to unprecedented funding allocations in recent years, has been massively expanded and upgraded to provide new levels of access and far greater mobility to the Fijian people.

According to the 2019/2020 budget estimate from the \$419.4m allocated, \$19.7m is for operating expenditure and \$399.8m is for capital expenditure.

Out of the total \$60m has been allocated for an ongoing maintenance programme which will enable FRA to continue with proactively preserving Fiji's road assets.

A sum of \$36.1m is for renewals and replacement of roads, while \$62.4 million is allocated for the upgrade and replacement of bridges and crossings.

Another \$26.4m is provided to relieve congestion and improve road capacity projects, \$33.5m for a community programme to improve the quality of roads and enhance pedestrian safety through the construction of footpaths and bus shelters, a key part of Government's efforts to improve quality of life for people living in peri-urban and urban areas.

A total of \$8.7m is allocated to the Streetlight and Traffic Signals Improvement Programme while \$52.3m has been allocated for rural roads.

An allocation of \$5m has also been allocated for the design and construction of a four lane road from Nasoso Junction to Lautoka.



The Infrastructure and Transport Ministry has been allocated \$89.6million in the 2019/2020 budget which is a drop of \$75.6million when compared to the \$165.2million allocated in the previous fiscal year. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Ministry eyes development plan

MEREANI GONEDUA and SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**T**HE Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport will re-look at its operations and will focus on achieving its 5-10 year development plan.

The line Minister Jone Usamate while commending the 2019/2020 national budget highlighted that even though his Ministry's budget has been decreased, they will ensure that all their main projects are carried out on a timely basis.

The Infrastructure and Transport Ministry has been allocated

\$89.6million in the 2019/2020 budget which is a drop of \$75.6million when compared to the \$165.2million allocated in the previous fiscal year.

"Obviously when the budget is reduced, you need to be more decisive and am quite confident that given the overall things that needs to be done, we will be able to deliver as much as possible."

"Electricity, we want everyone to have access to electricity by 2021. We have fixed targets on when we want everyone to have sources of secure water, target of I think 2036, around 70 percent of people

will have access to centralized sewage. So all these targets are already in our Strategic Development Plan."

"We have been engaging in expansionary budgeting for some years now. It's time to revise and make the budget suitable to the national and international status quo."

"The Government will now try and consolidate all its development it has been budgeting in the past."

"We will make sure that we work according to budget and money has been used effectively. We are

going to make sure that money used should bring out the best result to the community or the people concern."

"We will continue all developments we have been doing and more concentration will be on the results of these development," Minister Usamate said.

The Ministry has a few statutory bodies which includes the Land Transport Authority (LTA) that received an operating grant of over \$23m and a capital grant of over \$3m while the Maritime and Safety Authority (MSAF) received an operating grant of over \$3m.



## Business owner praises eco-friendly stance

AZARIA FAREEN

“I AM very proud of the Prime Minister and the policy of his government leading charge on global environment. If you want to live a legacy behind for your future generations, you have to seriously do what you can now.”



Mark Halabe.

These were the words of Mark One Apparel Director Mark Halabe who is urging everyone to be serious about the sustainability of our living environment and be proactive as individuals, society, organizations, government and as a global environment.

“This Government with its great policies is certainly leading other countries in what needs to be done. It is something that I feel strongly about environment and I try to find ways of not using plastic and also go paperless within the organization because it is economically better,” Mr Halabe said.

“As part of my legacy, I have solar panels on my business structure, I drive an electric car, and the leftovers from the papers which we use for sublimation and cutting are given to South Pacific Waste Recyclers where they turn the waste into a pulp and recycle it to toilet tissues.”

“Our factory, our environment and management style has changed over the 30 years we have been in business and we have built a strong reputation. Our customers see us as a bedrock and they know that the product they get back is made in a solar factory that is green.”

Mr Halabe commended the 2019-2020 National Budget noting the Government’s ability to allocate funds to each ministry according to its priority with core focus being on the environment, businesses being efficient and making sure they are viable.

“The budget is pragmatic and the allocation is used well. It is really a budget worthy of this Government and this country,” he said.

“For my business, it is a good budget and it has certainly solved some problems which became apparent to us in the last financial year,” Mr Halabe added.

“The big gain for us as employers is that we are now allowed a 100 per cent of FNPF (Fiji National Provident Fund) tax reduction and for such a big employer such benefits gives us further impetus to be able to compete in the future.”



The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum has urged bus owners to play an active role in cutting down plastic pollution in the country including PET bottles. Photo: PRASHILA DEVI

# ‘Ban on thinner plastic bags from next year’

RONAL DEO

HIGH density or thin plastic bags will be banned from 1st of January next year as it is a matter of paradox.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said that the low density or thicker plastic bags will obviously continue but consumers will have to pay 50 cents instead of 20 cents for each plastic bag.

“In the future the Government will look at putting in place some other measures to be able to find out some replacements. To carry some heavier things, alternatives available in Fiji are not best options as there are issues in that respect.”

The A-G said the most responsible way to deal with plastics was to never use them in the first place as even products branded as “biodegradable plastics” can take up to 300 years to actually decompose.

He added that Fiji does not have a recycling plant at the moment and the associated carbon emissions of shipping plastic overseas will do far more harm than good.

“That is why we’ll be establishing a tax-free zone in Naboro for waste management businesses.”

Companies operating in the zone will be granted income tax exemption for capital investments of under \$1million, \$2m and more than \$2m for periods of five years, seven years and 13 years, respectively.

“We’re granting an import duty exemption on raw materials, plant machinery and other equipment needed to run a recycling and waste management business. Land will also be made available at a concessional rate.”

The Naboro Landfill, as well, will be entering phase two of construction, funded to the tune of \$5m. As announced in the national budget, there are manufacturing companies in Fiji that have invested in the technology to

put in place alternative bags.

The A-G said he had spoken to a businessman who told him that he was bringing in machinery to replace styrofoam.

He said that plastic is not the only scourge to the natural environment with styrofoam containers – also composed of fossil fuels – are just as bad, taking up to 1,000 years to decompose.

“We have announced a complete phase-out of Styrofoam containers by January 1, 2021, and we will be carrying out a nationwide consultation and awareness campaign to give ample notice to restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores and convenience stores to prepare for that transition,” the A-G said.

He said the Government wants to see alternatives to plastic in every supermarket, in every restaurant, and in every market stall.

“So, we’re also placing zero duty on all non-plastic food packaging, straws, containers and cutlery.”

## Government expands scope of ECAL

PRASHILA DEVI

IN the 2019/2020 National Budget, the Government has expanded the scope of the Environment and Climate Change Adaptation Levy which has collected over quarter billion in revenue since its inception.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while announcing the budget, said the initiative, which began in 2017, has “emerged as one of the effective financial tools at our disposal in building a better, cleaner and more sustainable nation”.

“ECAL has funded schools that

have sheltered our young people during severe weather events; solar panning that is increasing our share of renewable power; new technologies that are giving advance warning of incoming storms; tangible assistance for Fijians affected by climate impacts; farms that produce more climate-resilient crops; and a range of other climate and environmental protection initiatives across the country,” the A-G said.

He said the revenue generating initiative had collected \$120 million in the current financial period alone and this work must continue hence the application of ECAL to a few new items.

“We’ll be applying ECAL to a few new items that are proven to worsen pollution through high usage of electricity and the emission of chlorofluorocarbons, including vehicles, smartphones, microwaves, washing machines, televisions, and other commercial appliances or “white goods”,” the A-G said.

This will see the introduction of 10 per cent ECAL on smart phones, air conditioners, freezer/refrigerator, television, washing machines, dryers, dishwashers, electric stoves, microwaves, electric lawn mowers, toasters and electric jugs.

To curb the issues of traffic con-

gestion, accidents, infrastructure damage and loss of time and productivity, a 10 per cent ECAL will be imposed on motor vehicles- to both hybrid and non-hybrid vehicles.

Furthermore, the A-G said this will lead to more Fijians using public transportation as it had been observed after the hike in vehicle ownership that during the peak traffic hours, many cars carried only one passenger.

To improve the standards, the concessionary duty incentive for public transportation, including taxis, buses and inter-island shipping, has been extended for another two years.



## Artisans praised for hard work at 5th National Women's Expo

500 women artisans have been praised for their perseverance, hard work and determination for being part of the three-day 5th National Women's Expo at the FMF Gymnasium in Suva. Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa praised the women who travelled from all parts of the country to be part of the event as she officiated at the closing. Minister Vuniwaqa said the National Women's Expo with the theme "think equal, build smart and innovate Fijians" is aligned with the UN theme for

the International Women's Day has been successful beyond expectations. Meanwhile, 76 local artisans who were part of the expo received their Fijian crafted licences from Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Premila Kumar, who encouraged them to get their business registered formally to sustain and grow in the future. Minister Kumar told the women that it is artisans like them who could provide those visiting Fiji with Fiji made products.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



## PM officiates at birth registration app West rollout

FUJIAN parents in the Western Division now have the complete convenience of organising birth certificates from the comfort of smart phones, with the launch of digitalFUJI's new birth registration app by the Head of Government. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said by doing this the Government was, "saving your families valuable time - time that can be much better spent meeting the many demands of parenthood". Launched in Suva two months ago, the app now allows mothers in the Western Division to register the

births of their new-born babies with ease from home - allowing them more time taking care of other important matters. Now all Fijian babies born on or after June 3rd of this year at any hospitals in the West can register via the app. Come July 5th, these new-age services will be extended to Savusavu, Labasa, and Taveuni, and by August 9th, the same services will extend to Rakiraki and Nausori.

Photos: ISAAC LAL



## Department starts monitoring air quality as part of celebrations

The Department of Environment will start monitoring air quality in the coming months to ensure it is safe and within standards.

This operation was revealed by Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy when he launched the 45th World Environment Day at Albert Park recently.

"The World Environment Day is held every year on June 5 to espouse

worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment," he said. "The theme for this year's World Environment Day is "Beat Air Pollution", a call to action combating one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. This year's World Environment Day is hosted by China. We congratulate China for showing tremendous leadership in tackling air pollution domestically."

Photos: ERONI VALILI





# Employers back FNPf provision

AZARIA FAREEN

EMPLOYERS can now breathe a sigh of relief as next year would provide them with an opportunity to claim 100 per cent of their contribution to Fiji National Provident Fund. While speaking in Parlia-

ment, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said the increase from 50 per cent to 100 per cent is effective from 1st January 2020 and this move will improve employer compliance level.

The announcement has been received well by the Fiji Commerce

& Employers Federation as its President Sandeep Chauhan notes it to be a very good incentive to ensure that all employers get registered and take advantage of the tax benefits.

"This is in line with the accounting principles of claiming expenses incurred by the business in

generating revenue," Mr Chauhan said. "It is a very well thought out budget and benefits not only businesses but the people as well. There are tax incentives provided for businesses of various types and segments."

"We are also particularly happy that incentives have been pro-

vided for businesses wanting to enter the sphere of "green business" and setting up of recycling plants," Mr Chauhan added.

He urged the young entrepreneurs to take advantage of the various incentives that have been provided for them to assist in their business start ups.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Fiji Sugar Corporation chief executive officer Graham Clarke at the opening of the new crushing season in Lautoka Sugar Mill. Photo: ISAAC LAL

## Stakeholders praise policy consistency

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

SUGAR stakeholders have lauded the National Budget 2019/2020 and its \$30 million allocation for the Sugar Stabilisation Fund.

The Ministry of Sugar Industry has guaranteed a minimum price of \$85 per tonne, with the Fund's budget being a generous subsidy of nearly \$30 over current market rates, to give sugarcane farmers peace of mind amidst volatile global price swings.

"This is in addition to assistance in the forms of fertiliser and weedicide, which was once a very costly burden for our cane farmers, and bold investments in mechanisation and innovation that will streamline the way farmers plant, harvest, process, and transport their sugarcane, including a \$5.9 million allocation to purchase cane trucks," announced Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

Fiji Sugar Corporation chief executive officer, Graham Clark said the national budget is again characterised by consistency in policy.

"Fiscal support remains for the programs to assist farmers and in particular reinforces a guaranteed cane price to protect farmers in a volatile commodity environment," Mr Clark noted.

"Our work to support cane farmers will continue with this ongoing commitment from Government. We are very grateful for that," he said.

Sugarcane Growers Council chief executive officer, Sundresh Chetty thanked the Government for its support, particularly its guaranteed cane price from the 2018 season to 2020, despite low world market prices and stiff competition from other sugar-producing countries.

"The growers are very happy with the commitment by the Government to pay \$85 per tonne for 3 years. This will definitely boost the confidence of the growers going forward," Mr Chetty said.

"The unprecedented support through fertilizer, weedicide subsidies, cane planting grant, maintenance of cane access roads, cartage cost for Penang Mill area growers together with other initiatives as announced in the 2019/2020 Budget should make positive impact in increasing the cane production."

Farmers will also benefit from the reduction of five to zero percent of duty on cane knives, and a new \$800,000 program to upgrade access roads to farming communities, as well as a \$900,000 allocation for land clearing and \$900,000 for mechanisation and equipment.

The Fijian Consumer and Competition Commission (FCCC) will also be regulating prices for cane lorries.

## Sugar tribunal welcomes allocation rise

ISAAC LAL

THE Sugar Industry Tribunal has welcomed an increase in the budget for the sector saying the \$8million increase would mean better services to the farms, says Industrial Commissioner and Registrar of the tribunal Timothy Brown.

The Government, recently, in the 2019/2020 National Budget allocated \$70.4m to the industry.

"This is a huge bonus for the farmers and would mean improved services such as better maintenance of cane access roads, continuation of subsidies on fertilizer, modern machinery among others," Mr Brown said.

"This despite that the budget entered a period of fiscal consolidation and it speaks volumes of the commitment of Government towards the industry."

Prime Minister and Minister for Sugar Voreqe Bainimarama recently while launching the 2019 crushing season said through the budget, various initiatives put in place would continue including other new initiatives that were announced in the Budget.

"We will continue the fertiliser subsidy which has gone up by 50 per cent since from 2016 to 2018 and this year, we're making that subsidy even more generous by raising it to \$25.59 per tonne. Our funding towards the weedicide fertilisers will

continue as well," PM Bainimarama said.

"We've allocated \$3m to continue upgrading cane access roads."

The Head of Government also highlighted that they were in talks with international developments partners to harness various sections of the industry.

"We look forward to receiving the report from the Indian Government to massively upgrade our railway systems to accommodate higher loads of freight, reducing cane cartage costs for cane farmers, all for the benefit of your profit margins."

"The European Investment Bank has also demonstrated interest in this project, and we'll have more announcements to make on that project soon."



## Informal settlers tell of improvements

JOSAIA RALAGO

A LOT has changed in informal settlements in the country and we are thankful to the Government for rendering their support in this which is reflected in this budget.



Ana Ciriya

This was the comment from Ana Ciriya, a resident at one of Namara Settlement in Labasa, while giving her views on the 2019/2020 National Budget.



Ashneel Prasad

"We moved here in 2001, and when we came there was no water and no electricity supply. It wasn't until a few years later that we got water," the 26-year-old said.



Laisiasa Rokocibi

"I can vividly remember returning from school in 2008 and being able to switch on the lights in my room, giving me access to study any hour of the night. It was on that day that we finally had to do away with kerosene lamps."

"Though I haven't been living here for the past few years, coming in and out because of studies and work – I can honestly say that there has been a lot of improvement."

"The Government's commitment to improving living standards in these settlements around the country is commendable."

One of her neighbours, Ashneel Prasad who has been living at the settlement since 1997, shared similar settlements saying a lot has been done to better their standard of living.

Yet another resident of the same settlement, 23-year-old Laisiasa Rokocibi said what stood out for him was the first home owners grant by the Government especially for family with a low income.

"This is really good for young people because it would increase our chances of owning our own homes."

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while announcing the budget, said \$300,000 was allocated to exploring nature-based solutions to development through the Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments, a programme which works at the intersection of health, environment, water and sanitation to build the resilience of informal settlements.

"It is the constitutional right of every Fijian to be provided accessible and adequate housing," the A-G said.

# Chamber welcomes budget initiatives

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE 2019/2020 National Budget has been welcomed by the Labasa Chamber of Commerce stating that it was expected to boost businesses in the northern town.

Association President Satish Kumar said this was one of the best budget yet.

"The fact that corporate tax, income tax and Value Added Tax did not increase is a positive move that should boost businesses here," Mr Kumar said.

"Even though we have a few hikes here and there as in the case of second hand car dealers,

now they would have to pay a little bit more, the non-increase in VAT and tax is ideal."

While making this announcement in Parliament, the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said the Government was looking at revenues of around \$3.491 billion, with tax revenue passing the three-billion-dollar threshold for the first time.

"And we'll be collecting that historic figure in tax revenue without raising VAT, without increasing corporate taxes and without increasing personal income tax," the A-G said.



Satish Kumar

Mr Kumar said what also stood out for him in the budget was the introduction of a process where companies and businesses would be able to lodge an online application to make basic changes to their business.

These changes include a name change, a change in business type or updates to their directorships which will all can be done online.

Mr Kumar said this change would save a lot of time and hassle for business owners when this used to be done manually.

"In general, this budget is set not only to benefit businesses but also consumers in the country."



While announcing the budget, Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said the Ministry of Agriculture is looking at ways to better serve Fijians who grow and sell fruits, vegetables. PICTURED: Katarina Marina at her stall at the Labasa Municipal Market. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

## Farmers seek stringent measures over grants

JOSAIA RALAGO

SOME farmers in the North are calling for more stringent measures to be put in place to ensure fairness in the distribution of grants.

This was the reaction from farmers on the incentives that were announced in the 2019/2020 budget.

Gyan Chand, a vegetable farmer in Korotari outside Labasa Town, said from what he had seen the budget was intended to invest more in farmers and their produce but highlighted the need for more awareness on how to access these assistance.

"We know that there are many forms of assistance provided but due to lack of awareness many of us are not able to access. This has been the case with us as for the

past years, we have been running around trying to access some of these assistance but it has been unsuccessful," Mr Chand said.

"The budget is good and hearing about how much Government is investing in the Agriculture Ministry especially for vegetable, fruit, livestock and other sectors, should be encouraging.

Mr Chand reiterated the call made by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama for civil servants in the rural areas to ensure that Government assistance reaches the right people.

"In some cases, many of us do not get this assistance. I am requesting if there are more awareness on how we can access these and if there could be a measure to ensure that all farmers benefit from it, and not just some."

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while announcing the budget, said in efforts to better serve the many Fijians who grow and sell fruits, vegetables and livestock, the Ministry of Agriculture will carry out a number of initiatives.

This will include an expansive \$800,000 upgrading of access roads to the farming communities, \$900,000 for land clearing, \$900,000 in support for mechanisation and equipment, and a \$900,000 investment in developing agribusiness in our rural and maritime communities.

"A \$700,000 initiative will also be rolled out to promote the export of Fijian produce, and other programmes will be targeted at key agricultural growth areas that

are primed to take off with the proper support, with significant investments in the production of Fijian ginger, rice, cocoa, vanilla, and other crops, in addition to a million-dollar infusion into our domestic goat meat industry," the A-G said.

He said while the on-the-ground support was vital, to succeed, the Ministry needs to be well informed and reliable data was key which was the Ministry will be spending \$4.5 million on the 2020 National Agriculture Census.

This will be a comprehensive accounting of Fiji's rural and peri-urban farming areas that will allow Government to more efficiently and effectively focus the financial support and educational programming needed by Fijian farmers in the years ahead.

# A step forward to prosperity, development

ROMEKA KUMARI

“THE overall, 2019-2020 budget is forward looking and will definitely promote socio-economic development and bring prosperity to all Fijians”.

This was the assessment made by the Consumer Council of Fiji's chief executive officer, Seema Shandil after the announcement of the 2019-2020 budget in Suva on Friday 7, June 2019.

“The good news is that, the government has maintained Value Added Tax and the Income Tax threshold ensuring that consumers purchasing power remains the same,” Ms Shandil says.

She said every parent of the disabled children will now be supported by the Government in terms of transportation.

“Ordinary consumers will continue to enjoy

the benefits of free government schemes, while the introduction of subsidized bus fares for parents and guardians who travel with their disabled children to school, will further assist the needy.”

Ms Shandil has confirmed that the Government's commitment to consumer protection can be seen clearly in this budget after the huge decrease on fiscal duty set by the Government.

“The reduction of fiscal duty on batteries for laptops, tablets, cellular mobile phones and power banks (from 32 per cent to five per cent) and also on new ready-made clothing for children (from 32 per cent to five per cent) will make these products more affordable for consumers,” Ms Shandil said.

Furthermore, she said the decrease in the imported fiscal excise duty will assure bus companies to improve their service.

“The Government's decision to draft new laws to improve standards of service by inter-island shipping companies will ensure that they are held accountable for any unscrupulous practice. These changes will in turn ensure consumers are provided a more comfortable, safe and environmentally friendly public transport experience,” Ms Shandil said.

She adds that the Government's intention to expeditiously increase the supply of affordable housing in Fiji was a positive step taken.

“The Government has already given assistance to first home buyers through the First Home Owners grant and this commitment, coupled with the incentives for affordable housing for multi-storey developments which will greatly increase accessibility of affordable housing,” Ms Shandil added.

## Closure of missions 'is normal practice'

NANISE NEIMILA

REVIEWING the status of Fiji missions abroad is normal practice with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs Inia Seruiratu while responding to the closure of two of Fiji's missions overseas- Ethiopia and Brazil.

“There are missions that needs to be closed, missions that need to be strengthened and even missions that need to be added.”

“As the external environment changes we need to review our systems and processes and this is why we are looking at options for most of the missions including India.”

Minister Seruiratu adds the closing and opening of the missions are done on an ad hoc basis and there is a due process that needs to be undertaken.

The closure of the missions in Brazil and Ethiopia that came as result of a team that was sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last year in December to evaluate the missions.

“There are key considerations in establishing missions, it's not only political gains we have to look out for bilateral, multi-lateral issues including economic benefits and so forth. If we are pulling out from Ethiopia within the proximity to handle the workload in addition we have facilities to have special envoys, roving ambassadors. There are options in place.”

“In the Pacific we have the Vuvale concept with Australia and the New Zealand –Pacific reset that involves a lot of activities. We need to look at the resources, we chair of PSIDS, Fiji is vice-president of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and this situations arise we need to manage.”

Minister Seruiratu also welcomed the opening of the new embassy in India, he added Fiji and India have a long standing relationship and this new venture should further enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

“Fiji and India already have a strong relationship that goes way-back and we continue to build on the relationships that we have.”

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum highlighted the importance of expanding Fiji's presence in India.

“Government has allocated \$500,000 to establish a new trade commission- Fiji's capability to host prestigious regional and international events has emerged as one of the most powerful tools for our engagement with the rest of the world.”



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the opening of the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) office in 2018. Photo: ERONI VALILI

## FCCC becomes self-funding entity

ROMEKA KUMARI

“THE Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) will begin operations as a self-funding entity by charging fees to industries and organisations who hire their services in pursuit of policy reforms.”

The Attorney General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said this while announcing the 2019-2020 budget.

“FCCC operates as a fiercely independent institution. And through this budget, we're fully

recognising that independence by shifting their functions from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism to the Independent Commission head,” the A-G said.

“The financial independence of the FCCC is a critical next step for our planned changes to price controls. We're modernising the price control modules to consider changes in the prices of different inputs, and businesses interested in seeking adjustments to price controls that can now pay the FCCC directly to review and recommend changes to the price ceilings on specific items.”

He said this newfound self-

sufficiency will allow the FCCC to continue to build out its many case studies, from its Lagilagi housing project investigations to its crackdown on unethical practices by traders to the lowering of prices of everyday goods like groceries, toothpaste, and baby formula.

FCCC chief executive officer Joel Abraham welcomed the move.

“The independence is good because till now FCCC was independent legally but our funding was given by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism so in this, the only changes made is of

our funding. Some of our funding will come from the government and FCCC will now also get a chance to earn money by ourselves.”

Mr Abraham said by becoming a self-funding entity there will not be any kind of pressure put on FCCC by the Government or any other businesses.

“Previously, when the budget was given, we were doing the jobs of the regulated industries for free but now we will be charging fees on the regulated industries. They will be paying for their regulations and we will earn money through this,” he said.



## Govt goes full steam ahead with mechanisation

ISAAC LAL

ONE hundred and seventeen (117) new six-wheeler trucks have been acquired by the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC), to ease cane carting to the mills, Prime Minister and Minister for Sugar Voreqe Bainimarama has announced.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said this step was taken to facilitate the requests from farmers for more transportation to cart cane.

"These trucks will be put to use transporting cane from farms to the mills and we won't hesitate to assist any farmers whose harvest is being held up for any reason," he said.

"Our campaign to mechanise this industry is pressing onwards, full-steam ahead. The 30 new tractors we received last year have been deployed in cane fields across the country in addition to 72 mechanical harvesters, with another three on the way to Fiji."

He added that Government had confidence in the sugar industry and would continue exploring new initiatives through mechanising the industry and providing subsidies where applicable to offset the volatile international trading market.

"Here in Fiji, we're shielding our cane farmers from those ebbs and flows of the global market, we're defraying your input costs, we're mechanising this industry and we're guaranteeing a price that is nearly \$30 higher than the forecasted price of sugar, bringing our farmers stability and giving this industry time to adapt to remain competitive," PM Bainimarama said.

"The short version, is that this mill and this industry as a whole, are better suited than ever to produce high amounts of high-quality Fijian sugarcane. In the face of changing global markets, this industry is changing as well, becoming more modern and more capable of reaching new buyers.

Sugarcane Growers Council chief executive officer Sundresh Chetty welcomed the initiatives by the Government adding that it would greatly assist farmers.

"As we currently the practice for cane harvesters, the regulating of the prices for cane lorries would further protect our farmers from price hikes," Mr Chetty said.

# Online payments can be made via digitalFIJI

LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA

FIIJIANs can now use their digitalFIJI profiles as a new e-payment platform to pay for Government services online.

As announced by Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama, as of June 14, visa debit, credit cards or M-PAiSA accounts can be used for payments, instead of queuing up at cashiers.

"With your new e-profiles, you are now armed with a single gateway to all of our present and future e-services, including information relating to the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service

and the Fiji National Provident Fund, as well as companies searches," he said.

Fijians can also organize reprints of birth certificates electronically through the new Birth Registration App, pay and schedule a pick-up time at Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) offices.

"For the next one year, Government will be covering all associated card or M-PAiSA service fees on electronic payments for government services,— yet another reason to join on to this future-facing platform," the Head of Government announced.

These innovations are by digitalFiji platform, which successfully rolled out Walesi last year, giving Fijians the chance to watch a range of television channels on their smart phones.

"In fact, when we were playing the sevens in London, in that weekend alone, we had up to 250,000 users.

"What this means is that over the weekend, about 250,000 people had watched the games on their phones through the Walesi app," the Prime Minister added.

More initiatives for Fiji's digital transformation will be announced in the coming weeks.



Albino students at the launch of the International Albinism Awareness Day at Ratu Sukuna Park, Suva. **INSET:** Thirty-year-old Mere Tadu with her sons Asaeli aged five, Amos aged two and infant Ian aged one in Suva. **Photos: AZARIA FAREEN**

## Ministry launches global albinism day celebration

AZARIA FAREEN

GOVERNMENT is working closely with key stakeholders to ensure that services, health education and programs for Persons with Albinism continue seamlessly.

And to mark the celebration of the International Albinism Awareness Day, a unique theme was chosen - "Still Standing Strong" - illustrating that despite being stigmatised, isolated and often discriminated in their everyday lives, persons with albinism are still standing strong.

While launching the event, Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services Alexander O'Connor

highlighted the challenges faced by people with albinism and the assistance provided by the Government.

"The Fiji Albinism Project has registered over 200 persons with albinism including more than 60 students in mainstream schools," Asst. Minister O'Connor said.

"Persons with albinism are very sensitive to the changing climate particularly to sun exposure and heat as it can cause blisters and sun burn which can lead to skin cancer," he said.

Asst. Minister O'Connor added that regular skin and eye clinics are being conducted at the Pacific Eye Institute and Twomey Hospital.

The ministry has established an albinism program at Twomey Hospital and procured sunscreens in March this year for targeted distribution through various health centers and persons with albinism are encouraged to use this service.

Meanwhile, it has been a daunting experience for 30-year-old Mere Tadu, who has three children who are born with albinism.

"When I gave birth the first time, I was fearful how to look after my child as I was not aware of anything relating to albinism and no one in my family had this condition," Mrs Tadu said.

The mother of three who resides

in Qamea Island said it was a great test for her over the years as she had to be really careful of her children's needs.

"With some tests done, I later came to know that my husband's second grandmother had albinism. It is only when I came to Suva that I received better in-depth explanation on the skin condition and I am so happy and grateful to the Government for recognizing and providing assistance towards the well-being of my children."

"Parents who face the same challenge should be patient with their children and seek more information from the relevant authorities," Mrs Tadu added.



Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate with Nasukamai villagers after the commissioning of clean water supply at their village in Ra. . Photo: LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA

# Villagers rejoice over rural water project

LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA

AS CLEAN, clear water trickled down their faces, students of rural Buruwa Primary School exemplified the communal gratitude for this rural water project in the highlands of Nadi.

Along with Nasesevia Secondary School and Nawaqadamu Village, they join the ranks of Fijians who increasingly have access to clean drinking water- once considered a novelty in their remote community. “We are very happy with this water project

by the Ministry of Infrastructure because it will improve health and brings many benefits,” said village headman, Kurotari Vesikuru.

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate noted that the construction of two new dams and two 45,000 litres cement tanks for the village and the school. “No family should wake up wondering where the water they need will come from,” he said.

“No family should be forced to make a

long, arduous journey in times of drought. In our rural communities, we are putting in place a solid foundation of essential services so that ordinary men and women can go about their lives without worrying about finding water, keeping the lights on at night or staying connected with the rest of our nation through better road network. This project is part of that vision.”

The Fijian Government’s rural water project in Nawaqadamu benefits 52 households, 10 teachers’ quarters and the two schools covering 327 people.

## Online portal processes building permits

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Ministry of Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development will be launching its online portal where permits for building construction will be processed online.

This was announced by the line Minister Premila Kumar while opening the Construction Industry Council Trade Show recently where 22 exhibitors, contractors, consultants, designers, manufacturers, academia and researchers, presented to showcase their methods and products that addressed the theme - “Building Solutions that Work”.

This announcement was welcomed by all the council members who noted it to be very convenient for business.

“The Ministry will be taking the construction permit approval processes entirely online, with extensive work scheduled in the next financial year to prepare for that transition,” Minister Kumar said.

“This is important as it will reduce time taken to obtain permits. As we speak, the Approval Agencies are working in collaboration with the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise to revisit their systems and processes and re-designing the application forms. This process will help reduce the current approval time by 20 to 30 per cent.”

The online platform is to provide the entrepreneurs a better environment of doing business, making processes easier and moving towards a digital platform.

## Joyous occasion as Minister Akbar commissions school

LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA

FROM scraps to splendour, the reconstruction of Nawaqavesi Primary School in Rakiraki was a joyous ending after its destruction from Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016.

“It was really a sad and disheartening day when we saw our school destroyed by the ferocious TC Winston; all the classrooms, office and teacher’s quarters were badly damaged and contents fiercely destroyed,” said teacher, Salesni Kumar.

Three years on, the Government’s \$749,375 investment has expanded the reach and quality of the school’s 95 students and 10 kindergarteners.

Minister of Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar commissioned new classroom blocks, the school’s main administration block, the construction of two new teachers’ quar-

ters and refurbishment of their early childhood education centre.

“The Ministry of Education has successfully upgraded and rebuilt the vast majority of schools, some with assistance from foreign governments, which were destroyed and damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016; 434 schools sustained various levels of damage from TC Winston across our country,” she said.

“As we progress into the third year post-TC Winston, a significant amount of work has been done. Some projects are in the process as we have had to spread the budget over three financial years due to significant costs.”

The Fijian Government has spent over \$240m to rehabilitate schools affected by TC Winston around the country.



Minister of Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar at the commissioning of the new classroom blocks, the school’s main administration block, the construction of two new teachers’ quarters and refurbishment of their early childhood education centre at Nawaqavesi Primary School in Rakiraki. Photo: LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA

# Mum-of-three shows passion for aquaculture

EPARAMA WARUA

**R**UNNING a fish farm requires hard physical work and can be stressful at times as it calls for close management. This is the life of Katarina Senabu.

Growing up in a family with a aquaculture farming background, with eight sisters and four brothers, Ms Senabu was determined to one day have her own fish farm at a much larger scale than her parents.

Now at 48 years old, the mother of three is one of the few farmers in Suva with a hatchery and producing more than 22,000 Tilapia fry every month.

With a passion for farming that was developed at a young age, Ms Senabu is now supplying Tilapia not only in Viti Levu but also in the outer islands, selling her tilapia at \$30 per kilogram.

"I always thank my parents for their upbringing, in teaching me all that I need to know and for making me who I am today. The height I have reached today I think has passed our family heights and I am thankful to the SPC (The Pacific Community) and the Ministry of Fisheries for making that happen," she said.

Following her passion Ms Senabu studied agriculture in 1987 at the Koronivia Agriculture School.

In 2012, she was fortunate enough to be part of a program to learn about breeding Tilapia eggs on a hatchery, for which she was sent to Thailand in 2015 to enhance her



Katarina Senabu at her fish farm in Nakasi. With a passion for farming that was developed at a young age, Ms Senabu is now supplying Tilapia not only in Viti Levu but also in the outer islands, selling her tilapia at \$30 per kilogram. **Photos: EPARAMA WARUA.**

knowledge on Tilapia farming and keeping a hatchery.

In each harvest, the Wailutu, Savusavu native collects 40,000 tilapia fries. The smaller ones are sold at 10 cents, while the slightly bigger ones are sold at 20 cents.

"While collecting the eggs, we need to collect them in stages, from stage one to stage five. From there we'll store them in the hatchery system and leave it for seven days using the system, then from there, once hatched, it will be taken back to the pond. In the pond, we have to keep it fed for 21 days and in another two months it will be ready for the market," Ms Senabu said.

The tilapia fish is sold particularly to other farmers and also at the local market around Viti Levu and the outer islands as well.

Ms Senabu's only challenge is water but she manages this by using groundwater and the rain for her aquaculture.

"In here, I don't have any water source, but I am planning to buy a borehole to help me with my aquaculture, other than that, I'll just depend on these water sources that I have for now," she said.

Apart from tilapia farming, Ms Senabu also integrates farming by planting fruits and vegetable alongside her fish ponds, including pineapples, vanilla and beekeeping.

She advises people to take up farming and make use of the land around us.

"There is money in the land. I would like to



advise everyone who owns a land to make use of the resources they have and use the land to generate revenue. Let's use our land, let's use our time and give it our all."

## Gau villager among best foreign worker role models

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**F**IFTY-TWO year old Gau Islander Mosese Tagivetaua is one the best role model in Fiji's Foreign Employment Services under the National Employment Centre (NEC).

Mr Tagivetaua used to be just a simple farmer on his wife's traditional land at Bilo Settlement, Lami, but turned his fortunes through the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Australian Government programme, the Pacific Labour Scheme.

Inspiringly, he has been a returning seasonal worker to Queensland, Australia for the third time.

Mr Tagivetaua recounted his amazing story as he met with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne during her recent visit to Fiji.

The two met and discussed returning and potential seasonal workers at the Government Train-



Mosese Tagivetaua and Manjula Devi during a short meeting with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne at the Centre for Training and Development in Nasese, Suva. **Photo: RONAL DEO**

ing Centre in Nasese.

"When I was chosen by NEC to go and work in Australia in 2016 I was so glad and considered myself lucky to be chosen amongst those recruited from various provinces in Fiji.

"I was part of the first five Fijians recruited by the NEC's Foreign Employment Services to go to one of Queensland's big-

gest kumala (sweet potatoe) farm called the Akers Farm in 2016 for six months."

"The owner of the farm was really impressed by the work we did that he recruited another five Fijians. Thus in the second year our numbers increased to 10."

"After the second year another 10 were recruited as replacement for those that had completed their

six months' contract."

Mr Tagivetaua said that the owner of the Akers farm kept in contact with him because he liked the quality of work he did on his farm.

"That is why I have been a frequent returning worker at Akers farm in Queensland."

"Recently, the NEC asked me to speak to the next lot of new Fijian

workers for Akers Farm of which I was so happy to do.

Mr Tagivetaua is grateful to the Government that he has been able to achieve a lot of his aim during his contracts at the Akers Farm.

"Today I have my own vehicle, I have my farming tools, chainsaw and brush cutters I bought from Australia and I now own four market stalls managed by my wife and I am also starting a cleaning business," he said.

While meeting Minister Payne, he expressed his appreciation to the Australian Government for making his dreams come true.

She in turn congratulated him for being an outstanding Fijian worker and being a role model for future seasonal workers to Australia.

Mr Tagivetaua's advice to future seasonal workers from Fiji is "stick to your initial aim of coming to work, avoid any temptation, give your very best in your work, save a lot of your income".

# FijiFocus



'BAN ON THINNER  
PLASTIC BAGS  
NEXT YEAR'

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**MORE ON 2019-2020**



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Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with parents of a new born baby during the launch of the Birth Registration app in Nadi. Photo: ISAAC LAL

## West App Launch

**PM tells parents of birth registration convenience**

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

**F**IJIAN parents in the Western Division now have the complete convenience of organising birth certificates from the comfort of smart phones, with the launch of Digital Fiji's new birth registration app by the Head of Government.

"App development is a complex business, so to have such a streamlined and wide-reaching expansion in such a short time after launch is a huge accomplishment in itself — one that can be largely attributed to

the partnership that we have struck with our trailblazing strategic partners," noted Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama while officiating at the launch.

"With the extension of the Birth Registration App, we've done away with some of the stress faced by you and other new parents of newborns who are living in the West, making the days and weeks following the birth of a child less of a hassle by bringing the birth registration process online. By doing so, we're saving your families valuable time — time that can be much better spent meet-

ing the many demands of parenthood."

Kelera Ratuenatavi was amongst the pioneering mothers from the West to register her three-month old daughter via the app.

"It's so convenient because we don't have to come into the Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) office; we register our details on the app and collect the birth certificate later. The app is easy to use and saves time on travelling," she attested.

Kritesh Goundar shared similar sentiments, as he and wife, Arishma Reddy easily organized their four-week old daughter's

birth certificate.

The Prime Minister said the app's services also extend to all Western Division hospitals for all Fijian babies born on or after June 3, 2019. It will soon be extended to Savusavu, Labasa and Taveuni by July 5th and by August 9th, to Rakiraki and Nausori.

Mothers at the app launch also received paperwork for parenthood assistance payments, adding to over 7,000 families benefiting from the ambitious new Fijian Government initiative.



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बड़निमारामा लौतोका में एक नवजात शिशु की माँ के साथ बर्थ रजिस्ट्रेशन एप की लॉन्चिंग के दौरान। यह सेवा आगे चलकर देश के अन्य भागों में भी लागू हो जायेगी।  
फोटो:रूपेनी वोगावोनोवोनो

# बर्थ रजिस्ट्रेशन एप

प्रधानमंत्री ने पश्चिमी विभाग के लिए बर्थ रजिस्ट्रेशन एप की शुरूआत की

वीरेन्द्र लाल

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बड़निमारामा ने पश्चिमी विभाग की माताओं के लिए बर्थ रजिस्ट्रेशन एप की शुरूआत करने के कदम को कार्यरूप दिया। सुवा में दो महीने पहले यह एप

लॉन्च किया गया था और अब इसकी शुरूआत पश्चिमी विभाग में की गई है ताकि माताएं अपने नवजात शिशुओं का रजिस्ट्रेशन, घर बैठे कर सकें। इसका मतलब है कि माताएं अब अपने नवजात शिशुओं के साथ ज्यादा

समय बिता पायेंगी और अन्य जरूरी कामों पर ज्यादा ध्यान दे सकेंगी। इस साल तीन जून के बाद पश्चिमी विभाग के किसी भी अस्पताल में पैदा हुए बच्चों का रजिस्ट्रेशन, इस एप के ज़रिए किया जा सकता है।

पाँच जुलाई से यह सेवा सावुसावु, लम्बासा और तविउनी के लोग प्राप्त कर सकेंगे और नौ अगस्त से राकीराकी और नउसोरी के लोगों को भी यह सेवा प्राप्त होने लगेगी। इस नए एप के ज़रिए लोग अपने

नवजात शिशुओं को ऑन-लाईन रजिस्टर कर सकेंगे। रजिस्ट्रेशन के बाद, लोग बताए हुए निर्धारित समय पर बर्थसू, डेथ्स एंड मेरिजस दफ्तर जाकर बच्चे की जन्म पत्ती प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।



# लांगीलांगी के निवासियों ने की सरकार की प्रशंसा



लांगीलांगी हाउजिंग योजना जिसे सरकार ने अपने आधीन ले लिया है। फोटो: सप्लाई किया गया

सोनम सामी

जितु एस्टेट सेटलमेंट सूवा के निवासियों ने सरकार द्वारा लांगीलांगी हाउजिंग योजना में हस्तक्षेप करने के कदम का स्वागत किया है। फीजियन कोम्पटीशन एंड कॉन्ज्युमर कमिशन ने इस योजना पर छानबीन की थी जिसके बाद सरकार ने लांगीलांगी हाउजिंग योजना को अपने हाथों में ले लिया।

इस इलाके में रह रहे लोगों ने पीपल्स कोम्युनिटी नेटवर्क पीसीएन (PCN) के खिलाफ शिकायतों की थी कि पीसीएन (PCN) ने उन्हें कम दाम में घर प्रदान नहीं किया हालांकि इसके लिए पैसे भर दिए गए थे।

एक निवासी पुष्पा वती जो चालीस साल से अधिक समय से वहाँ रह रही हैं, ने कहा कि वहाँ

रहना आसान नहीं है लेकिन उन्होंने अभी तक लांगीलांगी हाउजिंग में घर मिलने की उम्मीद छोड़ी नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें पहले मौका मिलना चाहिए था जब पहले दल को घर मिला लेकिन उन्हें इन्तज़ार करने को कहा गया।

वती ने कहा कि उन्हें खुशी है कि अब सरकार ने इस परियोजना का बेड़ा उठाया है क्योंकि अब उन्हें उम्मीद है कि उनका सपना सच ज़रूर होगा। फिलहाल, लोकल गवमन्ट, हाउजिंग तथा सामाजिक विकास मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने वहाँ के लोगों को आशवासन दिया है कि सरकार, फीजी के लोगों की भलाई के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है और उनकी मदद करने के तरीकों पर लगातार ध्यान देगी।

उन्होंने कहा कि मंत्रालय को लांगीलांगी हाउजिंग छानबीन की छः सौ पैंतीस (635) पन्नों की विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मिली है।

उन्होंने कहा कि रिपोर्ट में दफ्तर के दुरुपयोग के मामले अंकित किए गए हैं।

मंत्री कुमार ने इस बात पर भी जोर दिया कि लांगीलांगी हाउजिंग प्रोजेक्ट का संचालन अब पीसीएन नहीं कर रहा है और सरकार ने इसे अपने हाथों में ले लिया है।

सरकार अब उन सत्तर (70) से अधिक निवासियों को घर प्रदान करने का प्रयास करेगी जिनसे घर देने का वायदा किया गया था। यह लोग अभी भी घर मिलने का इंतज़ार कर रहे हैं।

फीजियन कोम्पटीशन एंड कॉन्ज्युमर कमिशन, लोगों की शिकायतों को अदालत तक लेजाएगा और तीन सौ सत्तर (370) शिकायतों की व्यक्तिगत जाँच आगे बढ़ाने के लिए फीजी पुलिस फोर्स फोड युनिट के साथ काम करेगा।

## राष्ट्रीय बजट का लक्ष्य

रोनल देव

2019/2020 राष्ट्रीय बजट में हमारे वातावरण की सुरक्षा को ध्यान में रखते हुए कई सुविधाओं, सरकारी खर्च कम करने तथा लगातार ग्यारह (11) सालों तक आर्थिक बढ़न्ती के लक्ष्य की घोषणा की गई है।

एन्वायरमेंटल एंड क्लायमेट एडप्टेशन लेवी (Environmental and Climate Adaptation Levy) बढ़ाई गई है। यह लेवी पुरानी हायब्रिड गाड़ियाँ या जो गाड़ियाँ हायब्रिड नहीं हैं, पर लागू होंगी। इस साल फिर सलाना तीस हज़ार (30,000) डोलर से कम कमाने वाले सरकार को कर नहीं भरेंगे। वेल्यू एड्ड टैक्स (VAT), तथा कम्पनियों के टैक्स में कोई वृद्धि नहीं की गई है।

देश में ट्रेफिक जेम वाली समस्या से निपटने के लिए दस (10) प्रतिशत एन्वायरमेंटल एंड क्लायमेट एडप्टेशन लेवी सभी पुरानी हायब्रिड गाड़ियों या ऐसी गाड़ियाँ जो हायब्रिड नहीं हैं, पर लागू होंगी। एर्या कोन्डीशनर, फ्रीज़र/ रिफ्रिज़रेटर, टेलिविज़न, वॉशिंग मशीन, ड्राया, डिशवॉशर, एलेक्ट्रिक चूल्हा, मायक्रोवैव तथा इलेक्ट्रिक लौन मौवर देश में लाने के लिए दस (10) प्रतिशत लेवी चार्ज की जायेगी। इस साल अभी तक केवल इस तरह की लेवी के रूप में एक सौ बीस (120) मिलियन डोलर बटोरे गए हैं।

इस के अलावा पुरानी हायब्रिड गाड़ियाँ देश में मँगाने के लिए इम्पोर्ट डिउटी बढ़ाई गई है।

राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा करते हुए अर्तौनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री, अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने कहा कि अगले साल पहली

जनवरी से सुपरमार्केट में इस्तेमाल होने वाले प्लास्टिक बेग्स पर प्रतिबन्ध लागू कर दिया जायगा। जो प्लास्टिक बेग्स मज़बूत हैं का दाम अगले साल पहली जनवरी से बीस (20) सेन्ट्स से बढ़ाकर पचास (50) सेन्ट्स कर दिया जायगा।

पहली जनवरी 2021 तक धीरे-धीरे स्टायरोफोम कोन्टेनर के इस्तेमाल पर भी रोक लागू की जायगी विदेशों से बच्चों के कपड़े मँगाने की इम्पोर्ट डिउटी बत्तीस (32) प्रतिशत से घटाकर पाँच (5) प्रतिशत कर दी जायगी। विदेश से मँगाई जा रही मुर्गियों पर दस (10) प्रतिशत डिउटी लागू होगी ताकि लोगों को स्थानीय मुर्गियाँ खरीदने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाए। तम्बाकू और शराब के दाम में कोई वृद्धि नहीं होगी क्योंकि इनपर लागू डिउटी या “कर” नहीं बढ़ाए गए हैं।

मज़दूर मालिक अपने कर्मचारियों के लिए फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडन्ड फन्ड में जो पैसे डालेंगे, से भी सौ प्रतिशत टैक्स काटा जायगा। नए ट्रक्स मँगाने के लिए कोई डिउटी नहीं लगेगी और नई बसों पर से डिउटी, बिलकुल हटा दी गई है।

## बजट में ज़रूरी क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान

रोनल देव

यातायात यानि ट्रान्सपोर्ट सहायता के लिए दस (10) मिलियन डोलर अलग किये गए हैं।

मिनि बज़ के लिए ई-ट्रान्सपोर्ट अगले साल शुरू होगा।

देश के मुख्य स्थानों पर डय केयर सेन्ट्स की स्थापना होगी। यह भी योजना है कि सभी कर्मचारियों को वेतन देते समय हाथ में नकद देने के बजाय पैसे उनके बैंक अकाउन्ट में डाले जाए।

टूरिज़्म फीजी को 29.8 मिलियन डोलर दिए गए जो टूरिज़्म फीजी मार्केटिंग ग्रांट के द्वारा फीजी को एक उच्च टूरिज़्म आकर्षण के रूप



सूवा बस स्टेशन जैसा नकासी और नसीनू में भी बस स्टैंड बनाने की योजना है।

में दुनिया भर में प्रचार करेगा। नकासी और नसीनू में नए बज़ स्टैंड्स बनाने की योजना है। देश के हाए वए में जगह-जगह पर पार्खाना बनाने के लिए चार लाख (400,000) डोलर निकाले गए हैं। लौतौका में एक स्वीमिंग पूल का निर्माणकार्य पूरा करने के लिए

चार दशमलौ एक (4.1) मिलियन डोलर दिये गए हैं। मिनि मार्केट बनाने के लिए दो लाख पचास हज़ार (250,000) डोलर अलग किये गए हैं। न्यायपालिका मंत्रालय को (54.4) चौवन दशमलौ चार मिलियन डोलर दिये गए हैं। नसीनू कोर्ट के पास चार

नए कोर्ट रूम होंगे।

फीजियन कोम्पटीशन एंड कॉन्ज्युमर कमिशन अब उन कम्पनियों तथा संस्थाओं को पैसे चार्ज करेगा जो उनकी सेवाओं के लिए उन्हें हायर करेगी। कमिशन अब एक स्वतंत्र संस्था हो गई है।

## राष्ट्रीय बजट का हुआ स्वागत

रोनल देव

चीनी व्यवसाय से जुड़ी संस्थाओं ने राष्ट्रीय बजट में शुगा स्टेबिलाइजेशन फंड (Sugar Stabilisation Fund) के लिए तीस (30) मिलियन डॉलर अलग करने के सरकार के कदम का स्वागत किया है।

चीनी मंत्रालय ने गन्ने के लिए कम से कम पचासी (85) डॉलर प्रति टन के हिसाब से दाम तय किया है, जहाँ फंड, किसानों को बाज़ार के वर्तमान दाम के अतिरिक्त, तीस डॉलर प्रति टन की सब्सिडी देगा। इससे किसानों को इस बात की चिन्ता करने की ज़रूरत नहीं होगी कि विश्व बाज़ार में चीनी का दाम कितना होगा।

“मसाला और कीड़े मारने वाली दवाओं की सहायता के अलावा फंड और तरह से मदद कर रहा है जिससे गन्ने के किसानों पर से खर्च का बोझ कम हो। खेतों में इस्तेमाल होने वाली मशीनों में पूँजी लगाने से गन्ने की बोवाई, कटाई और मिलों तक पहुँचाने में आसानी होगी। गन्ना ढोने वाली लोरियाँ खरीदने के लिए भी करीब छः मिलियन डॉलर अलग किये गए हैं,” अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अर्दियाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने कहा।

फीजी शुगा कोपरेशन के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्यूटिव अफसर, ग्रेहम क्लार्क का कहना है कि किसानों को सहायता देने वाले कार्यक्रमों में सरकार लगातार पैसे लगा रही है तथा वे इस बात के लिए आभार व्यक्त कर रहे हैं कि किसानों की सुरक्षा के लिए गन्ने का दाम तय कर लिया गया है।

शुगा कर्ईन ग्रीव्स कौन्सिल के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्यूटिव अफसर सुन्दरेश चेट्टी ने सरकार को किसानों का समर्थन करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया खासकर पिछले साल की फसल का दाम पचासी डॉलर प्रति टन तय करने के लिए, हालांकि विश्व बाज़ार में चीनी का दाम कम है तथा चीनी बनाने वाले अन्य देशों से सक्क होड़बाज़ी है। उन्होंने कहा कि गन्ने के किसान बहुत खुश हैं तथा भविष्य के लिए किसानों का भरोसा और दृढ़ हो गया है।

गन्ना काटने वाली छुरियों पर पाँच प्रतिशत डिउटी घटाकर शून्य कर दिया गया है और किसानों के लिए एक नई व्यवस्था की गई है जिसके तहत किसानों की बस्तियों में रास्ते के लिए आठ लाख डॉलर (\$800,000) अलग किए गए हैं। इसके साथ साथ ज़मीन की सफाई के लिए नौ लाख डॉलर (\$900,000) और मशीनें तथा उपकरण के लिए नौ लाख (\$900,000) डॉलर अलग करने से किसानों को बहुत फायदा होगा।

फीजियन कोम्पटीशन एंड कॉंज्यूमा कमिशन, गन्ने ढोने वाली लोरियों के लिए, गन्ने ढोने का दाम तय करेगा।

# चीनी मंत्रालय की चुनौतियाँ

रोनल देव

चीनी मंत्रालय कई चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है लेकिन व्यवसाय में भारी विकास देखा गया है। तीन साल पहले समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन से व्यवसाय को भारी नुकसान हुआ था।

चीनी व्यवसाय में लगातार पैसे लगाने से वो दोबारा अपने पैरों पर खड़ा हो गया है। सन् दो हजार सोलह में एक दशमलौ अड़तीस (1.38) मिलियन टन गन्ने उत्पादित किये गए थे जो पिछले साल बढ़कर 1.69 टन हो गया। अनुमान है कि इस साल गन्ने की उपज 1.9 मिलियन टन तक पहुँच जाएगी।

सरकार बहुत जल्द चीनी व्यवसाय की नीति पर विचार करेगी जिसके ज़रिए व्यवसाय अगले पाँच सालों में तीन दशमलौ पाँच (3.5) मिलियन टन गन्ना उत्पादित करने के अपने लक्ष्य की ओर बढ़ेगा।

गन्ने के किसानों को और सहायता देने के लिए फीजियन सरकार, अगले दो सालों तक उन्हें चीनी के लिए निर्धारित, पचासी डॉलर प्रति टन के हिसाब से दाम देगी ताकि व्यवसाय में भरोसा और लगन बनी रहे। इसके लिए 2019/2020 राष्ट्रीय बजट में तीस (30) मिलियन डॉलर अलग किए गए हैं। 2019/2020 राष्ट्रीय बजट में चीनी व्यवसाय के लिए सत्तर दशमलौ चार मिलियन डॉलर (\$70.4) निकाले गए हैं।

नए ट्रक खरीदने के लिए 5.9 मिलियन डॉलर अलग किए गए हैं, खाद्य-मसाला में छूट के लिए पन्द्रह मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा, गन्ना निकालने वाले रास्ते के लिए तीन मिलियन डॉलर, कीड़े मारने वाली दवाओं में छूट के लिए एक मिलियन डॉलर, नए किसानों को सहायता देने के लिए पाँच लाख डॉलर अलग किए गए हैं जबकि युरोपियन यूनियन ने ग्रामीण इलाकों में किसानों का जीवन सुधारने के लिए दो मिलियन डॉलर अलग से दिया है।



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी व्यवसाय से जुड़े अन्य लोगों के साथ। फोटो:सप्लाए किया गया।

## सरकार धान की खेती जगाने पर तुली

रोनल देव

कृषि मंत्रालय देश में चावल उद्योग बढ़ाने पर काम कर रहा है। मंत्रालय प्रयास कर रहा है कि देश में चावल का उत्पादन बढ़ाया जाए और लगातार सर्वेक्षण

हो रहे हैं ताकि फीजी में चावल का उद्योग आत्मनिर्भर होने के साथ-साथ जीवित रहे। कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने हालही नम्बउवाल् बुआ के दौर पर धान की खेती करने वाले किसानों से मुलाकात की। मंत्री ने कहा कि देश में धान की खेती करने पर ध्यान दिया जायगा जिससे ज़्यादा फसल उत्पादित हो तथा व्यवसाय और भी मज़बूत हो।

“हम पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि धान की खेती पूरे देश में हो, जिसमें वितिलेवू के पश्चिमी विभाग शामिल है जबकि देश भर में इसकी खेती करने की दिलचस्पी देखी गई है।”

केन्द्रीय और उत्तरी विभाग में चावल विकास योजना के दूसरे चरण में अभी चीन, फीजी की मदद कर

रहा है जहाँ नौ विशेषज्ञ चावल का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के साथ-साथ फीजी के चावल उद्योग में बढ़न्ती करने पर काम कर रहे हैं। चावल वाले उद्योग को व्यवसाईक बनाने वाली योजना पर भी प्रकाश डाला गया जिसके लिए मंत्रालय, धान की खेती करने वाले किसान तथा व्यवसाय से जुड़े लोगों को साथ मिलकर काम करना होगा।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने धान की खेती में दिलचस्पी दिखाने के लिए, किसानों की प्रशंसा की और नम्बउवाल् इलाके में धान की खेती बढ़ाने के लिए उन्हें प्रोत्साहित किया। उन्होंने ज़ोर दिया कि किसानों को खेती से होने वाले मुनाफे को भी खेतों में लगाना चाहिए। कृषि

मंत्रालय की तकनीकी सहायता से नम्बउवाल् में पहले मौसम में आठ अक्कड़ में धान की खेती हुई। इस कोरो के सामन्त बुली रावीरावी, रातु सेमी रमाताई ने सरकार को इस तकनीकी सहायता तथा धान की खेती करने में कोरोवासियों की मदद करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि कोरोवासियों ने पहले कभी धान की खेती नहीं की थी तथा सरकार की मदद से ही यह सम्भव हो पाया है।

उन्होंने कहा कि यह केवल शुरूआत है तथा निकट भविष्य में वे धान की खेती और बढ़ाने की योजना बना रहे हैं क्योंकि उन्हें अब अपनी आमदनी के लिए धान की खेती करने का तरीका मालूम हो गया है।



सिंगातोका के एक किसान भेड़-बकरियों को चारा डालते हुए। फोटो:रोनल देव

## भेड़-बकरियों की माँग बढ़ी

वीरन्द्र लाल

बाज़ारों में भेड़ बकरियों के मांस की माँग बढ़ रही है और ऐसे में किसानों के लिए यह मौका जागा है कि वे भेड़ बकरियों के पालन में पूँजी लगाएं। अभी चालिस मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा मूल्य के भेड़ा के मांस और लगभग एक मिलियन डॉलर लागत के बकरी के मांस आयात किया जाता है।

हाल ही एक प्रोजेक्ट प्लेनिंग कार्यशाला में बोलते हुए कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने कहा कि देश में बढ़ती जन-संख्या के कारण मांस की ज़्यादा खपत हो रही है और टुरिस्ट भी यह मांस पसन्द करते हैं।

“फीजी में भेड़ा और बकरी पालन एक खास उद्योग है। काफी लोग इसपर

निर्भर हैं और अच्छी कमाई भी कर लेते हैं। फीजी में काफी छोटे किसान, अपना शौक पूरा करने के लिए भेड़ा और बकरी पालन करते हैं।”

इस कार्यशाला की आयोजना ऑस्ट्रेलियन सेन्टा फो इनटानेशनल एगरिकल्चरल रिसेच ने की थी। पिछले साल लगभग दो सौ टन्स बकरी के मांस और एक सौ टन्स से ज़्यादा भेड़ा के मांस उत्पादित किया गया था।

“फीजी और सामुवा में अभी छोटी मात्रा में भेड़ा और बकरी पालन किया जा रहा है लेकिन इसपर और ध्यान देने की ज़रूरत है” मंत्री ने कहा।

फीजी में अभी एक हजार पाँच सौ से ज़्यादा गौउट फाम्स और लगभग सात सौ शीप फाम्स हैं।



## ग्रामीण महिलाओं की प्रशंसा हुई

इस साल वाले नेशनल विमन्स एक्सपोजे में हिस्सा लेने आई ग्रामीण महिलाओं की कड़ी मेहनत की प्रशंसा की गई है। इन महिलाओं से मुलाकात करने के लिए राष्ट्रपति चॉची कोन्रोते की पत्नी सरोंते कोन्रोते तथा महिला मंत्री मेरिसईनी बुनिवोंगा भी गई थी। इन उन्नीस महिलाओं ने खुद बनाए गए उत्पादनों की प्रदर्शनी की थी।  
फोटो: नविस नईमिल



## एक्स-रै तकनीक का प्रयोग होगा

देश को कानून तोड़ने वाले स्थानीय और विदेशी लोगों से बचाने के लिए एक्स-रै तकनीक का विमोचन हुआ है। युवा बंदरगाह पर इस उपकरण का विमोचन करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बड़िनमारामा ने कहा कि जहाँ तक हमारी सरकार की सुरक्षा का सवाल है तो हम गैर-कानूनी सामान देश में आने, ख़ास करके ख़तरनाक नशीले पदार्थों से अपने लोगों की सुरक्षा करना चाहिए।



## बाल मज़दूरी के खिलाफ विश्व दिवस मनाया गया

सूबा में पिछले हफ्ते बाल मज़दूरी के खिलाफ विश्व दिवस मनाया गया। इसका मुख्य विषय था, “बच्चों को अपने सपनों

पर काम करना चाहिए न कि नौकरी करनी चाहिए”। राजगार मंत्री परवीन कुमार ने प्रकाश डाला कि सरकार फीजी के सभी

बच्चों की शिक्षा को प्राथमिकता दे रही है।  
फोटो: मेरयानी वीनोटुजा



## स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने गैर-संक्रामक बीमारियों के खिलाफ ज़ोर दिया

सरकार ने युवा मंत्रालय तथा स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के मॉर्फत खेलकूद के लिए अपने राष्ट्रीय बजट में पैसों खर्च किए हैं ताकि गैर-संक्रामक बीमारियों के खिलाफ कदम उठाया जा सके।  
सूबा स्थित नेशनल होक्की सेंटर में आयोजित युवा विज़नस हाउस फुटसल सोका लोग के दौरान बोलते हुए स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफिरमी वगाईनवेते ने ऐसा कहा।  
फोटो: बेन्डा दाउडाउ



# बिजली वाली योजना से आशा की नई किरण-मंत्री उसामाते

रोनल देव

साम्बेतो नान्दी स्थित वुनायावा सेटलमेन्ट के बच्चों को अब रात में पढ़ने के लिए तकलीफें नहीं होंगी जबकि हालही में संसाधन मंत्री चोने उसामाते ने वहाँ बिजली वाली एक योजना का उद्घाटन किया।

“ग्रामीण समाज में सरकार, ज़रूरी सेवाओं के लिए मज़बूत नींव स्थापित कर रही है ताकि आम जनता बिना चिन्ता किए अपनी ज़िन्दगी सामान्य ढंग से बिताए। उन्हें अब चिन्ता करने की ज़रूरत नहीं है कि वे पानी कहाँ से लायेंगे, रात में बिजली की व्यवस्था कैसे करेंगे या देश के अन्य हिस्से से कैसे जुड़े रहेंगे। यह योजना भी उसी लक्ष्य का हिस्सा है,” मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा।

तिरानवे हज़ार डोलर (\$93,000) लागत की इस योजना से सेटलमेन्ट में अट्ठारह घरों को लाभ होगा।

मंत्री उसामाते ने वुनायावा सेटलमेन्ट साम्बेतो नान्दी के निवासियों से कहा कि यह योजना लम्बे समय से सोच-विचार कर तथा सरकार द्वारा लगातार पूँजी लगाने से सम्भव हुआ है।

“पिछले पाँच सालों में सरकार ने उर्जा क्षेत्र में दो सौ चौबीस मिलियन (\$224 million) डोलर की पूँजी लगाई है। खर्च हुवा हर एक डोलर में से सत्तर सेन्ट्स, ग्रामीण इलाकों में बिजली वाली योजना में लगाए गए हैं। अभी तक पचीस हज़ार (25,000) परिवारों को ग्रामीण बिजली योजना से फायदा हुआ है।

(2018/2019) राष्ट्रीय बजट में ग्रामीण बिजली योजना के लिए साठ (60) मिलियन डोलर अलग किए गए हैं।



मंत्री चोने उसामाते साम्बेतो नान्दी स्थित वुनायावा सेटलमेन्ट के निवासियों के साथ बिजली वाली योजना के उद्घाटन के दौरान। फोटो: हलितेश दत्त

## मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने भारतीय राजदूत से मुलाकात की

रोनल देव

इंडस्ट्री, टर्इड, टूरिज़्म, लौकल गवमन्ट, हाउजिंग तथा सामाजिक विकास मंत्री, प्रेमिला कुमार ने हालही में फीजी के लिए नई नियुक्त भारतीय राजदूत महामहीम श्रीमति पद्मजा जी से मुलाकात की।

मंत्री कुमार ने श्रीमति पद्मजा को उनकी नियुक्ति के लिए बधाई दी और भारतीय सरकार को फीजी की सहायता करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया खास करके छोटे व्यापारों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए। मंत्री कुमार ने भारत के पूर्व राजदूत श्री विश्वास सपकल के सहयोग की भी प्रशंसा की।

जवाब में भारतीय राजदूत श्रीमति पद्मजा ने फीजी और भारत के बीच नज़दीकी संबंध पर प्रकाश डाला और कहा कि व्यापार, पूँजी, फिल्म बनाने तथा टूरिज़्म वगैरह से इसे और मज़बूत किया जा सकता है।

भारतीय राजदूत ने कहा कि भारत में फीजी के मिन्नरल वोटर तथा सौंदर्य उत्पादन की माँग बहुत ज़्यादा है जबकि शादी-शुदा नई जोड़ियाँ तथा कई युवा लोग फीजी आकर अपनी छुट्टियाँ बिताना चाहते हैं। उन्होंने दोनों देशों के बीच संस्कृति और कला की अदलाबदली करने का प्रोत्साहन दिया। राजदूत ने कहा कि दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापारिक संबंध में और भी मज़बूती आने की क्षमता है तथा वे ध्यान में रखेंगी कि यह संबंध



मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार भारत की नई हाए कमिशनर के साथ। फोटो: सप्लाई किया गया।

नई उँचाईयों तक पहुँचे। मंत्री कुमार और भारतीय राजदूत ने कृषि, तकनीकी विशेषज्ञ, क्षमता निर्माण, संस्कृति तथा अन्य विषयों पर भी बातचीत की।



ऑस्ट्रेलिया की विदेश मंत्री, फीजी के रक्षा मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु के साथ। फोटो: सप्लाई किया गया।

## ऑस्ट्रेलियन विदेश मंत्री का फीजी दौरा

रोनल देव

फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच द्विपक्षीय संबंध और भी उँचाई तक पहुँचा जबकि इस महिने की शुरुआत में ऑस्ट्रेलिया की विदेश तथा महिला मंत्री सेनेटर मारिस पर्ईन, तीन दिवसीय दौर पर फीजी आई थी।

हालही ऑस्ट्रेलिया में हुए आम चुनाव में दोबारा मंत्री नियुक्त होने के बाद यह उनका पहला फीजी दौरा था।

मंत्री सोमवार को फीजी आई और बुधवार तक देश में थी। मंत्री पर्ईन ने इस दौरान प्रधानमंत्री, फ्रेन्क बड़िनमारामा, विदेश, सुरक्षा तथा राष्ट्रीय

रक्षा मंत्री इनिया सेरुईरातु तथा अन्य मंत्रियों से भी मुलाकात की।

इस दौर ने फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच बुवाले साझेदारी को और मज़बूत करने के लिए दोनों देशों की नए सिरे से प्रतिबद्धता को मान्यता दी जिसकी घोषणा इसी साल जनवरी में ऑस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधान मंत्री स्कोट मोरिसन के फीजी दौर के समय की गई थी।

ऑस्ट्रेलिया, फीजी के सबसे बड़े व्यापार और पूँजी वाले साझेदारों में से एक है और दोनों देश, विश्व व्यापार संगठन, राष्ट्रमण्डल और प्रशान्तीय द्वीप समूह फोरम के साथी सदस्यों के रूप में मिलकर काम करते हैं।

# बजट में डिउटी की गिरावट

रोनल देव

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा कि बज्र व्यवसाय को यह संदेश दिया गया है कि डिउटी में गिरावट के बाद पुरानी बजें रास्तों से हटानी होगी। यह कस्टम्स और इम्पोर्ट डिउटीज़ में गिरावट, बजट की घोषणा के एक दिन बाद लागू हो चुकी है। मंत्री ने पुष्टी की कि जो नई गाड़ियाँ युरो 4 का पालन नहीं करेंगी को देश में लाने की अनुमति नहीं होगी। युरो 4 का पालन करने वाली गाड़ियों से कम धूँआ निकलता है तथा फीजी में कुछ गाड़ियाँ हैं जो युरो दो स्तर की हैं।

देश में फिल्म बनाने वाली कम्पनियाँ स्थापित करने के लिए कर में दो सौ प्रतिशत की छूट दी जायगी।

अगर कोई वेयरहाउस बनायगा, तो उसे पचास प्रतिशत इन्वेस्टमन्ट अलावन्स दिया जायगा।

गन्ने के किसानों को पचासी (85) डोलर प्रति टन के हिसाब से गन्ने का दाम देने के लिए तीस मिलियन डोलर अलग किए गए हैं।

अर्टोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि देश भर में प्लास्टिक बोतल बटोरने के लिए कोलेक्शन सेन्टर बनाने पर कानून बनाए जायेंगे तथा बोतल पहुँचाने के लिए लोगों को हरजाना दिया जायेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि फीजी को एक स्थानिय वर्डस्ट मेनेजमन्ट कम्पनी की ज़रूरत है। नम्बोरो को टेक्स फी इलाका बनाया जायगा जहाँ वर्डस्ट मेनेजमन्ट कम्पनियों की स्थापना हो सकती है।

यह भी घोषणा की गई है कि अलग-अलग व्यापार और संस्थाएं, हाएवर्डज़ में साफ सफाई करने के लिए इसे अपनाएंगे तथा उन्हें साईन लगाने की अनुमति होगी।

प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों का सामना करने वाले सेटलमन्ट्स फिर से बसाने के लिए तीन लाख डोलर (300,000) अलग किये गए हैं।

नाँदी नदी चौड़ा करने वाली एक योजना अगले साल शुरू होगी जिसके लिए करीब आठ मिलियन डोलर निकाले गए हैं। अगले साल से सभी फीजीयन स्कूलों में नेशनल गार्डनिंग प्रतियोगिता शुरू होगी जहाँ अच्छी तरह स्कूल गार्डन रखने के लिए स्कूलों को पुरस्कार दिया जायगा। स्कूलों में गार्डन रखने का चलन फिर से शुरू करने के लिए ऐसा किया जायगा।

यंग एन्टाप्रेन्यूआशिप कार्यक्रम या येस जारी रहेगा जिसके लिए आधा मिलियन डोलर अलग किए गए हैं। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र के लिए आठ सौ मिलियन डोलर दिये गए हैं।

सरकार ने ज़ोर दिया है कि सभी को अपना कर भरना चाहिए ताकि सरकार सभी सुविधाएं लोगों तक पहुँचा सके। अभी वृद्ध लोगों को हर महिने सौ डोलर तक अलावन्स मिलता है, अपंग लोगों के लिए भी इस तरह की व्यवस्था है, गर्भवति माताओं के लिए भी सरकार ने यह सुविधा उपलब्ध की है और नौजात शिशुओं के लिए हजार डोलर अलग किए गए हैं।



स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने और अच्छी सेवा तथा सुविधाएं प्रदान करने की योजना बनाई है। फोटो: सप्लाए किया गया

# स्वास्थ्य और हाउजिंग बजट

रोनल देव

राष्ट्रीय बजट में मुख्य स्वास्थ्य संसाधन योजनाओं के लिए बारह दशमलौ सात मिलियन डोलर निकाले गए हैं।

यह सूवा के सी.डबल्यू.एम अस्पताल की मटेनिटी युनिट बढ़ाने, नवोसा में नया सब-डिविज़नल रिजनल अस्पताल बनाने तथा लम्बासा, नउ-सोरी, कोरोवउ तथा वालेलेवू अस्पतालों में कुछ सुधारकार्य करने के लिए है। इसके अलावा सी.डबल्यू.एम अस्पताल के एमेजेन्सी विभाग तथा नउसोरी हेल्थ सेन्टर में विकासकार्य के लिए तीन दशमलौ पाँच मिलियन डोलर अलग किये गए हैं। रोनुमा अस्पताल में सुधार लाने तथा उसे बढ़ाने तथा तामावुआ सब-डिविज़नल अस्पताल के लिए भी पैसे अलग किए गए हैं।

खेलकूद वाले विदेशी दौरों के लिए चार मिलियन डोलर अलग किये गए हैं। 15s रग्बी वोल्ड कप तथा टोक्यो ओलिम्पिक खेल के लिए पैसे निकाले गए हैं। हमारी 15s रग्बी टीम को रग्बी वोल्ड कप

की तैयारी करने के लिए छः लाख पचास हजार डोलर मिलेंगे जबकि ओलिंपिक्स में हिस्सा लेने वाली हमारी पुरुष और महिला 7s रग्बी टीमों के लिए दो दशमलौ एक (2.1) मिलियन डोलर हैं।

हाउजिंग क्षेत्र के लिए भी बजट में कुछ सुविधाओं की घोषणा की गई है। इनमें शामिल हैं, सही तरह से समझौता तैयार करना तथा सेटलमेन्ट्स में ज़रूरी सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था करना। पहली बार घर खरीदने वाले कार्यक्रम में कुछ रद्दोबदल किया जायेगा। इस कार्यक्रम से अभी तक तीन सौ फीजीवासियों ने फायदा उठाया है जिन्होंने अपना घर या तो बनवाया है या खरीदा है। इसके लिए दो मिलियन डोलर निकाले गए हैं जहाँ किसी घर में अगर सालाना आमदनी पचास हजार डोलर से कम है, तो उन्हें प्रथम घर खरीदने के लिए दस हजार डोलर या प्रथम घर बनाने के लिए पन्द्रह हजार डोलर ग्रांट मिल सकता है।

सौशल हाउजिंग सहायता भी जारी रहेगी जिसके लिए एक मिलियन डोलर दिये गए हैं। यह ग्रामीण

और बाहरी द्वीपों में घर बनाने वाली सुविधा है जिसके लिए सरकार कुछ खर्च सहती है। पब्लिक रेन्टल बोर्ड वाली सर्विसिडी जारी रहेगी जिसके लिए एक दशमलौ छः मिलियन डोलर निकाले गए हैं।

हाउजिंग तथा सामाजिक विकास मंत्रालय को सत्तरह दशमलौ दो मिलियन डोलर दिये गए हैं।

उधर, डिजिटल फीजी एप की मदद से किसी के जन्म का रेजिस्ट्रेशन बिना दफ्तर जाए हो सकेगा। यही नहीं अन्य सरकारी सेवाओं के लिए भी आप डिजिटल फीजी एप के ज़रिए पैमन्ट कर सकेंगे। और भी सुरक्षित फीजी के लिए ई-पासपोर्ट जल्द लाया जायगा। लोग विदेश जाने के लिए ई-पासपोर्ट गर्ड्ट का इस्तेमाल कर सकेंगे।

चौदह जून से डिजिटल फीजी एप पर रेजिस्ट्रार ओफ कम्पनीस की सेवाएं चौबीसो घण्टें उपलब्ध रहेंगी। दस जुलाई से बिज़ फीजी सुविधा भी शुरू होगी जिसमें नया व्यापार शुरू करने की सारी जानकारियाँ होंगी। दिसम्बर 2021 तक नेशनल आए डी कार्ड सिस्टम लागू होगी।

# शिक्षा बजट

रोनल देव

इसकी भी पुष्टी हुई है कि जो विद्यार्थी टेशरी एजुकेशन लौन स्कीम (TELS) के तहत पढ़ाई करते हैं, को अपने घर के नज़दीक वाली युनिवर्सिटीज़ में पढ़ाई करनी पड़ेगी।

अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा कि यह देखा गया है कि कुछ विद्यार्थी, करदाताओं के ज़्यादा पैसे खर्च करते हैं जब वे अपने घर से दूर जाकर वही पढ़ाई करते हैं जो उनके घर के नज़दीक वाली युनिवर्सिटी में उपलब्ध है। (TELS) के ज़रिए यू एस पी टेक्निकल कोलजस में पढ़ाई करने की अनुमति नहीं दी जायगी क्योंकि यह युनिवर्सिटी कोस ट्रान्सफा का मौका नहीं देती है। फीजी नेशनल युनिवर्सिटी, कोस ट्रान्सफर का मौका देती है इसीलिए विद्यार्थी (TELS) के ज़रिए एफ एन यू में पढ़ाई जारी रख सकते हैं।

केवल ग्रामीण और बाहरी द्वीपों में कक्षा एक के विद्यार्थियों को मुफ्त में दूध देने वाला कार्यक्रम जारी रहेगा और इसपर कड़ी नज़र रखी जायगी। ऐसी रिपोर्टें हैं कि शहरी इलाकों में विद्यार्थी दूध का दुरुपयोग करते हैं।



शिक्षा के लिए सरकार ने आठ सौ मिलियन डोलर निकाला है। फोटो: सप्लाए किया गया

अर्टोनी-जेनरल ने कहा कि बज्र का भाड़ा मुफ्त करने वाले कार्यक्रम में भी कुछ बदलाव होंगे क्योंकि पाया गया है कि कुछ विद्यार्थी इस स्कीम का गलत इस्तेमाल करते हैं। इसपर भी प्रकाश डाला गया कि कुछ माता-

पिता अपने बच्चों के बज्र काइस इस्तेमाल करते हैं। अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने कहा कि फी बज्र फेया स्कीम के तहत सफर करने पर भी कुछ पाबन्दी लगाई जायेगी जहाँ घर से स्कूल और स्कूल से घर लौटने के

लिए विद्यार्थियों को सिर्फ शाम साढ़े चार बजे तक ही बज्र कार्ड इस्तेमाल करने का मौका रहेगा।

फाउन्डेशन लेवल के विद्यार्थियों को अब नेशनल टोपस स्कोलाशिप पर पढ़ाई करने का मौका नहीं रहेगा।

# फीजी फोकस



बिजली वाली  
योजना से  
आशा की  
नई किरण

6



भेड़  
बकरियों  
की माँग  
बढ़ी

3



लौतोका चीनी मिल में पेरार्ड के मौसम की शुरुआत करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा व्यवसाय से जुड़े अन्य लोगों के साथ।  
फोटो:रूपेनी वांगावोनावोनी

## सरकार चीनी व्यवसाय की मदद करती रहेगी - प्रधानमंत्री

रेनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री तथा चीनी मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़निमारामा ने लौतोका चीनी मिल में इस साल वाले गन्ने की पेरार्ड के मौसम का विमोचन किया।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने दोहराया कि सरकार, लगातार चीनी व्यवसाय की सहायता कर रही है।

राष्ट्रीय बजट में जबकि व्यवसाय के लिए नई

सुविधाओं की घोषणा की गई है तो ऐसे में ऐसी उम्मीद है कि इस साल चीनी व्यवसाय खास करके गन्ने के किसानों के लिए बहुत ही सफल रहेगा।

श्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि लौतोका चीनी मिल में भारी पूँजी लगाई गई है तथा उम्मीद है कि इस साल मिल का संचालन बहुत ही अच्छी तरह होगा। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि इस साल

लौतोका चीनी मिल पर और भी सुधारकार्य होंगे ताकि गन्ने के रस को बहने से रोका जा सके। बिजली वाले कोन्ट्रोल सिस्टम के लिए एक मिलियन डॉलर खर्च हुए हैं ताकि समय और पैसों की बचत हो जबकि पहले कर्मचारी खुद इसे कोन्ट्रोल करते थे। युरोपियन युनियन द्वारा छः लाख पचास हजार डॉलर (\$650,000) लागत के चौदह कईज बिन्स प्रदान किए गए हैं। प्रधान

मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि इससे लौतोका चीनी मिल की चीनी उत्पादित करने की क्षमता और बढ़ जायेगी। पिछले मौसम में लौतोका चीनी मिल ने छः लाख तीस हजार (630,000) टन गन्नों की पेरार्ड की थी तथा प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि इस साल इससे भी ज्यादा गन्ने पेर जाने की उम्मीद है क्योंकि चीनी मिल को अद्युनिक बनाया गया है।

# Noda Viti



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei na iliului ni Fiji Sugar Corporation Graham Clarke e Lautoka Sugar Mill. iTaba: ISAAC LAL

# Vakavoutaki na misini ni bisinisi ni dovu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**S**A vakavoutaka tiko na Matanitu na misini eso edau vakayagataki me daumaka kina na qaravi ni bisinisi ni suka.

Oqori ena nona sa tekivutaka ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na vakayagataki ni 40 na qiqi ni usa dovu era dau dretna na sitima ni usa dovu. Na isau taucoko ni kava ni usa dovu oya e \$650,000.

Ena vakarawarawataka na usani ni dovu kina iqaqi ka vakalevutaka na dovu e qaqi ena iqaqi ni dovu mai Lautoka.

“Sa cuqena tiko vakalevu na Matanitu na vakayagataki vakalevu ni misini ni bisinisi ni Suka.”

“Yabaki sa oti sa mai ciqomi kina e 30

na tractor vou mera na vakayagataki ena veiloga ni dovu ena noda vanua.”

“Qoka sa ikuri ni 72 na misinisi ni musudovu kei na tolu tale sa voleka ni yaco mai ki Viti,” tukuna o PM Bainimarama.

Kaya ko PM Bainimarama ni itukutuku levu duadua ena yabaki oqo oya na kena yaco mai Viti e 117 na lori lelevu yava-ono ka mera na vakayagataki na kabani ni qaqi suka na Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) ena veiyasai Viti.

“Na lori lelevu kece oqo era vakayagataki ena kena usani na dovu kina iqaqi. Kana dau vukei ira na dau teidovu era gadreva mera vukei ena usani ni nodra dovu kina iqaqi.”

“Sa rawa ni vakadeitaka na veimisini vovou oqo ni na laki levu ka daumaka caka

kina na itagede ni suka me rawata na FSC.”

“Ni veisau tiko na makete ni vuravura sa veisau talega vakakina na bisinisi ni suka ena noda vanua ena kena vakavoutaki na kena misini me rawa ni levu tale na vanua vou e volitaki yani kina na noda suka,” tukuna o PM Bainimarama.

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni gauna ni qaqi sukasa oti eda rawata kina e sivia na 613,000 na tani dovu.

“Yabaki oqo sa vakanamata tiko na FSC me sivita na iwiliwili ni tani oya.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni yabaki vakailavo oqo esa votai kina kina bisinisi ni suka e \$70.4m oya sa tubu ena \$8m mai na kena ena yabaki sa oti.

“E dina ni sa lutu na ilavo ni iTuvatuva Vakailavo ni Matanitu ena yabaki oqo, e

sega ni lutu na ilavo e votai kina bisinisi ni Suka.”

“Na ilavo kece oya ena vakailavotaki kina na isau ni dovu me dei tiko ena \$85 dua na tani, mera yalodei kina na dau teidovu.”

“E dina ni isau ena makete edaidai e \$50-keitou sa vakuria ena \$30 ena vukumuni na dau teidovu.”

“Yabaki oqo ena tomani na kena vakailavotaki na veivuke sega ni saumi lesu baleta na dovu me vaka era sa vukei kina ena yabaki 2018 era lewe 4,500 na dau teidovu.”

Kuria o PM Bainimarama ni yabaki oqo keitou marautaka me keitou tosoya cake na subsidy kina \$25.59 dua na tani. Vakakina na kena tomani tikoga na veivuke ena wainimate ni coca kei na ivakabulabula ni qele.



# Tomani na rai yawa ni rawaka vinaka vakailavo

VILIAME TIKOTANI

**S**A na tomani tiko ga na rai yawa ni rawaka vinaka vakailavo ena tuvaka ni vakayagataki ilavo ni matanitu ena 2019-2020.

Oqori na nodra mala ni vosa na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Veika Vakailavo Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum.

E \$3.434 na bilioni na levu ni ilavo sa vakarautaka na matanitu me na kadavakina na tuvatuva kece ni veiqaravi ena yabaki vakailavo ni 2019-2020.

Kuria ko Vunilawa Sayed-Khaiyum ni tuvaka vakailavo ogo ena

laveta cake take na ivakatagede ni veiqaravi ena noda matanitu kei na vanua ko Viti.

Vakabibi ena bisinisi, rawaka vakailavo ka vakadeitaki keda ena revurevu ni leqa tubu koso kei na drakiveisau.

Na tuvaka ogo ena vakadeitaki keda me baleta na veigauna saba mai ena lima na yavu dei ni veiqaravi me vaka na lawa kei na veitaqomaki, noda bula veimaliwai keina na veika bula, vakaqacotaki ni noda taba tamata, vakaukauwataki ni rawaka kei na kilaka ena cakacaka buli, kei na veiqaravi lewa matau ena vuravura ni veisau ogo.



Na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena nona kacivaka voli na ituvatuva ni veika vakailavo ni yabaki 2019-2020 ena Palimedi ena tekitekivu ni vula ogo. iTaba: PALIMEDI KEI VITI

## 12.7 na pasede na tubu ena yabaki ogo

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**N**A tubu ena namaki ena vakatubu ilavo ni matanitu ena yabaki vakailavo ogo ena tiko ena 12.7 na pasede.

Oqori na navunavu ni noda na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Veika Vakailavo Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

Edua na vakamacala ekaya kina ni Bainimarama Boom oya na nodra na tubu veitaravi tikoga na bula vakailavo ni matanitu ena gauna era veiliutaki tiko kina ko Voreqe Bainimarama.

Sa tini vinaka mai na yabaki ka sa laki vinaka kece mai kina na ituvaki ni gagaga vakailavo ni noda vanua.

Vakaraitaka ko Vunilawa Sayed-Khaiyum nibera nira tou veiliutaki mai ena matanitu edau so na gauna e vinaka na ituvaki vakailavo ena so na gauna e lutu sara ka ca sara ena ena so.

Ia niratou mai veiliutaki eratou tubera vinaka na waqa ko Viti ka moica mera rawa ni tubu veitarataravi ni yacova mai ogo e 10 na yabaki. Sa tagutuvi kina na veiliutaki ca ena veiyabaki sa oti yani.

Kuria okoya ni sa lewa matau kina na matanitu ko Viti me baleta na cavuikalawa vakailavo ena vakayacora tiko ena noda dela ni gauna.

Ena nodra veiliutaki vinaka na noda Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama eda sa tubu tikoga kina vakailavo, vakamatani, ka vakaliuci kina na lewa matau kei na gumatua ni veiqaravi vinaka.

Tekivutaki mai na 2009 na tubu ogo ka sa tubu vinaka tikoga me yacova mai nikua ka sa dua na aka vinaka vei keda na lewe ni vanua, sa tubu kina e 100,000 na cakacaka vou e buli ena noda vanua.

Sa kena ibalebale ogo ni 100,000 na marama kei na turaga era sa rawa ni vakai-cakacaka, sa lutu kina na sega ni cakacaka mai na 20 na yabaki kina va poidi lima na pasede.

Kuria ko Vunilawa Sayed-Khaiyum ni tubu ogo era sa vakilai tiko ena veiyasai Viti ena levu ni tara vale kei na sitoa vou sa dola ka sa dua na toso vinaka dina baleta eda raica kina na veiqaravi vinaka ni cakacaka vaka matai kei na idinia.

## Qaravi e 15 na Technical College ena Fiji National University

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**S**A kacivaka na Minisita ni ilavo ni noda Matanitu ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ni sa votai ena ituvatuva Vakailavo ni Matanitu e \$6.9m mera qaravi kece kina na 15 na Technical College e Viti ena ruku ni Fiji National University (FNU).

Kaya na Minisita ni Vuli ko Rosy Akbar ni sa na tekivu ena vula ko Okosita ni yabaki ogo na nodra sana vakarurrugu kece na 15 na Technical College e Viti ena ruku ni FNU.

Na veikoronivuli ni vuli tara kece ogo era tiko ena veitauni ka so talega era tiko ena taudaku ni veitauni kei na veiyanyanu.

Kaya ko Minisita Akbar ni tekivu ena yabaki 2016 me yacova mai ni kua era sa tauri ivola oti ena Technical College of Fiji e lewe 4466 na lewe ni vanua.

Tukuna ko Minisita Akbar ni koronivuli ni vuli tara se Technical College e nakiti mera vuli kina na gone biu vuli dole me rawa ni cilavi ira na rarama vinaka ni veisiga ni mataka.

E kaya ni vuli tara vaka ogo esa dolava edua na gaunaisala vua ena gauna era lai tao kina na gone mai na secondary kei na vuli torocake.

Na ivola era rawata ni cava na vuli tara ena Technical College e rokovi e vuravura raraba ka dola katuba ni cakacaka e Viti kei vuravura.



Ratou Mai marautaka toka oqori na veitinani na kena Mai waqa na livaliva ena nodratou itikotiko. iTaba: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

## Semati na livaliva e Vunayawa

VILIAME TIKOTANI

**D**UA na cavuikalawa bibi ka marautaki vei ira na lewe ni vanua ena itikotiko ko Vunayawa e Sabeto, Nadi, oya kena mai semati na nodra veivale ena veivakalivalivataki ni matanitu.

Laki tiko ena soqo ni veiqaravi ogo na Minisita ni Cakacaka, Veilakoyaki kei na Draki Veisau ko Jone Usamate.

Era na vakalivalivataki kina na 18 na matavuvale ka sa rawa kina

mera vakayagataka na iyaya ni vale kei na gagaga ni veiqaravi vakailivalivataki ka vakauasivi ena kena rawa ni ra vakayagataka na gone na livaliva ena bogi mera vuli leseni.

“Na kaukauwa ni kena rawati na veivakalivalivataki edua vei ira na yavu dei se duru ni veivakatorocaketaki ni matanitu ena dua na vanua ka sega ni duidui mai kina ko Viti, ke vaka ni nodra dodonu na lewenivanua kece ena noda vanua mera vakayagataka ka marautaka na veisau vinaka ekau mai ena se-

mati ni veivakalivalivataki.”

Na veisemati ni veivakalivalivataki e Vunayawa e tiko na kena isau vakailavo ena \$75,000 ka rawa nira vukei kina e 100 na lewe ni vanua ka kenaisau ni cobari na wa ni livaliva ena dua na vale ena \$18,000.

Era 25,000 vakacaca na lewenivanua ena noda vanua era sa semati rawa ena veivakalivalivataki ni matanitu ena taudaku ni koro vakavavalagi ka 6623 talega era sa wawa toka mera semati talega ena veivakalavotaki ni matanitu ni 2019/2020.

## Vakamatanitutaki na koronivuli e Navoli

VILIAME TIKOTANI

**S**A mai dolava ka vakamatanitutaka na koronivuli e Navoli na Minisita ni Vuli, Itovo kei na Cakacaka ni Liga ko Rosy Akbar.

Na Navoli Sangam primary school e tiko mai Ba ka mai tavoci ena vakailavotaki ni matanitu ka vumai ena cagilaba ko Winston me vaka ni ya edua na koronivuli ka vakacacani ena cagilaba vakar-

erevaki ogo.

E tiko na kena isau vakailavo ena \$400,000 ka wili tiko kina na nodra rumu ni vuli na gonevuli lewe 51 kei na nodra vale ni vuli na gone muri vuli.



# \$3m baleta na sala ni tei dovu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**S**A vota na Matanitu e \$3m me vakavinakataka kina na gaunisala kina vanua ni tei dovu.

Vakaraitaka na itukutuku oqori na turaga na iliuliu ni Matanitu o Voreqe Bainimarama ena nona a vesiko kina muaira.

“Sa kacivaka talega na matanitu ni sa lutu na tosoi sobu na ivakacavacava ni isele kava kasa saiva ni kua.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni sa kerea na matanitu kina matabose e cake ni bisinisi kei na veisisivi vakabisinisi me qarauna mera taqomaki na dauteidovu main a tubu

ni isau ni lori.

“Keitou sa vakanamata tiko oqo ena kena dikevi na ripote ni matanitu ko Idia baleta na kena vakavinakataka na sala ni sitima ni vanua me rawa ni yaco me levu cake nai usana e vodo ena sitima ni vanua ka tosoi sobu na kena isau, mera rawa tubu kina na dau teidovu.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama nisa tukuna talega mai na European Investment Bank nina via vakaitavi talega ena veivakatorocaketaki oqo. Namaki mena kacivaki ena dua na gauna lekaleka oqo na veivakatorocaketaki oqo.”

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni kena irairai

ni dua na gauna ni musu dovu vuavuai ena bisinisi ni suka eda sa nanamaki yani kina oqo. Vakauasivi kina muaira.

“Na vuna ni ra sa duavata na dau teidovu, na dau musu dovu, na kei na nomuni matanitu me vula ono vuavuai sa tu e matada.”

“Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu vei kemuni kece na vakaitavi kina.”

“Vei kemuni na dau usa dovu, sa vakamatatataki oti tiko yani ena veiyabaki sa sivi na iyalayala ni bibi ni lori me rokovi.”

“Sa soli tale oqo erua na yabaki moni vakamuria kina na iyalayala ni bibi oya. Na gauna ni musudovu oqo na iyalayala e cake ni bibi ni lori yavai ono e 16.5 na tani. Yabaki

vou sana lutu kina 15.5 na tani. Ni oti oy asana qai tekivu vakayayagtaki na lawa ni LTA kei na FRA.”

“Na revurevu ni usa bi sa vakamawe tu ena levu ni qara era kune ena noda gaunisala. Era vakavuna na dau voroka tiko na lawa ni bibi. Sa lai vakavuna talega na vakacalaka ena nodra via levea na tolili na qara era tu ena noda gaunisala.”

Sa kacivaki ena ituvatuva vakailavo ni matanitu esa lutu kina saiva na ivakacavacava ni lori vovou sa lutu talega na ivakacavacava ni lori vakayagataki oti ena 15 na pasede kina 5 na pasede.

## Veiganiti na ituvatuva vakailavo: Usamate

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**V**AKARAITAKA na Minisita ni Cakacaka, kei na Veilakoyaki ko Jone Usamate ni veiganiti na ituvatuva vakailavo ni yabaki vou vakailavo oqo kei na vanua eda sa yacova.

“Au raica toka na ituvatuva vakailavo e veiganiti sara ga kei na vanua eda sa toka kina ena gauna ni kua.

“Sa oti mai e vica na yabaki ni dau vakatokai tu vakavalagi ni expansionary budget. Gauna oqo eda vakila na bula vakailavo ni vuravura via malumalumu vakalailai moica talega kina vakalailai na matanitu nona ituvatuva vakailavo ni matanitu me veiganiti kei na vanua eda sa tiko kina ena gauna oqo e vuravura e Viti talega.

“Au raica ni sagai me mau ka dei na veivakatorocaketaki sa dau yaco tiko mai ena veiyabaki sa oti ka na sagai me omani tikoga yani na veiqaravi me kakua ni tubu vakasivia me vaqacacotaki me dei naka sa vakayacori oti ni bera ni tomani tale yani.

“Keimami duavata sara ga kina na budget keimami vakaitavi tiko mai kina vakalevu na kena veivosakitaki,” tukuna ko Minisita Usamate.

Kaya ko Minisita Usamate ni ituvatuva oqo e veiriti kei na ituvatuva vakailavo ni yabaki sa oti.

“E rau lako vata tale tikoga na budget ni yabaki oqo kei na budget ni yabaki sa oti.

“Kena ibalebale oya ni sega ni levu n aka e veiveisau vakasauri.

“Oya au tokona tiko kina vakalevu na ituvatuva vakailavo oqo,” tukuna o Minisita Usamate.

E kaya ni na tomani tikoga na veiqaravi me vaka eliu.

“Na veiqaravi ni noqu Minisiti ena tomani tikoga ena yabaki vakailavo vou oqo. Dina ni lutu sobu na ilavo kina vei minisitiri kece.



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na itubutubu ni gone sucu vou ena tavo ni e-Birth Registration App e Nadi. iTaba: ISAAC LAL

## Yaco ki na Mua-i-Ra na mona livaliva ni volai ni sucu

ISAAC LAL

**S**A vakarawarawataki vei ira na lewe ni vanua ena Mua-i-Ra ni noda vanua na volai ni nodra ivola ni sucu na gone sucu vou ka sa na toto cake sara ni vakayagataki ga kina na monalivaliva se *e-Birth registration app*.

E tekivutaka ne veiqaravi oqo na turaga na iliuliu ni noda Matanitu ko Voreqe Bainimarama me vaka a yalataka taumada ena isevu ni

kena vakayagataki e Suva.

“Au nanuma vinaka tiko na noqu a tekivuna na vakayagataki ni *app* ni taba ivola ni sucu kei ira na marama tina kei na dui luvadra e Suva. Au a yalataka kina ni na tetevi Viti yani na veiqaravi oqo. Au marautaka ni oti ga e rua na vula au sa mai tekivuna e Lautoka na veiqaravi vou oqo.”

“Sega walega me baleta na vale ni bula e Lautoka e okati talega kina na vale ni bula mai Nadi , Ba kei Sigatoka.”

Kaya ko PM Bainimarama ni sa rawa vei ira kece na gone era sucu ni oti na ika 3 ni siga ni Jijune mera vakaivola ni sucu ena kena vakayagataki na kena *e-Birth registration app*.

“Keitou na sega ni yaco ga e ke. Baleta ni ika 5 ni siga ni Julai sa yaco talega yani na veiqaravi vou oqo ki Savusavu, Labasa, kei Taveuni. Oti ena lai sevutaki talega vei ira mai Rakiraki kei Nausori ena ika 9 ni siga ni Okositasi.”

Tukuna o PM Bainimarama ni bisinisi ni apps e vereverea toka, na kena rawa ni yaco ena dua na gauna lekaleka sai vakaraitaki ni veitokoni uasivi ni veitabana era kena dau kina.

“Na e-Birth Registration app e dua tale na cavuikalawa vou ni matanitu ka veitokoni mai kina na matanitu o Singapore kei na Digital Fiji ka kauta mai na veisau matalia eso ni veiqaravi vakamatanitu kina lewe ni vanua.”

## \$1.5 na milioni kina Land Bank

VILIAME TIKOTANI

**S**A kacivaka na Minisita ni iLavo o nisa na votai tiko na Land Banka ena \$1.5m ena ituvatuva vou vakailavo oqo ni 2019-2020.

Na Matanitu e vakarautaka na Land Bank mo ni lisitaka kina na nomuni qele ka me dola vei ira na via caka bisinisi kina mera qai lisi kina Land Bank.

Na lisi kevaka e balavu sara e rawa ni yacova na 99 na yabaki.

Me yacova mai ni kua era sa lisitaki tiko ena Land Bank e 113 na tiki ni qele ni itaukei ka kedra levu taucoko e 10,564 na ekatea.

Na levu kece ni ilavo ni lisi esa saumi oti ki vei ira na itaukei ni qele e \$9.4m.

Na Matanitu edau veivuke ena kena sveataki vakavinaka na nodra qele na itaukei era via lisitaka kina Land Bank.

Me yacova mai ni kua sa savetaka oti na Matamitu e 78 na tiki ni qele ka solia e 46 na lisi.

Me matata kina na veiqaravi oqo esa vakarautaa na Matanitu na Bio-Data Profile handbooks ena lisi kece.

Sa kacivaki talega ni Matanitu esa vukei vakailavo mai na Baqe ni Veivakatorocaketaki ma vakadeitaka ni saumi tiko na rede ena kena isau dina ena makete.



### Soqo ni vakaraitaki cakacaka ni liga

Sa mai cava toka ena dua na ulunivanua cecere na ika 5 ni soqo siga tolu ni vakaraitaki ivoli se cakacaka ni liga ni marama e Viti ka vakatokai ena vosa vakaperitania me National Womens Expo ka vakayacori ena loma ni vale ni qito na FMF National Gymnasium vakakina ena kena ikekelekele ni motoka mai Laucala e Suva.

Vakavinavinakataki ira kina na lewe 500 na marama liga maqosa ni Viti na Minisita ni Marama o Mereseini Vuniwaqa.

Kacivaka na minisita ni marama ni volitaki cakacaka ni liga ena loma ni 3 na siga sa mai cava ena Vakaraubuka era qoqota kina na marama na ilavo levu e sivia na 4 na drau na udolu na dola. Sa tubu kina ena 2.8 na pasede mai na ilavo era rawata ena yabaki sa oti.

iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA



### Siga ni veika bula wavoliti keda na tamata

Mai tavoci ena noda vanua ena ka lima ni June na ivakananumi ni siga ni veika bula wavoliti keda na tamata. Vulagi dokai ena soqo levu oqo na Minisita ni Teitei Mahendra Reddy.

Ka vakayacori ena Albert park e Suva. Na ikau levu ni siga oqo ena yabaki 2019 oya sai koya na Beat Air Pollution se vakabalebale tiko ena noda sasaga me vakalailaitaki na ceburaki ni cagi duka se kasi gaga ena maliwa lala. Vakayagataka na siga oqo na Minisita me tokarua taka kina na sasaga ni matanitu ena bula raraba me baleta na tikobula kei na qarauni ni veika bula wavoliti keda na tamata ena noda vanua me na vakayacora edua na vakadidike me baleta na cagi ena noda vanua me baleta na kena laveti ka vakadinati na iyalayala ni noda matanitu me vakalutumi na itagede ni kasi gaga.

iTaba: ERONI VALILI



### Tei edua na vuni dilo

Era tea edua na vunidilo ena loga veisenikau maroroi e Suva na Minisita ni Veika ni Vanuatani mai Ositerelia ko Marisa Payne ena gauna eya veisiko voli mai kina ena noda vanua lomani. Oqo edua na porokaramu ka salamuria tiko na tuvatuva levu ni matanitu mera teivaki kina e van a milioni na kau vakaviti ena loma ni 4 na yabaki tumai oqo.

Era tiko talega ena teikau oqo na Minisita ni Veika mai Vanuatani ni noda matanitu Inia Seruiratu, Vuniola tudei ni Veika mai Vanuatani loane Naivalurua, Vuniola Tudei ni Minisitiri ni Veikau Pene Baleinabuli keira na ivakalesilesi ni valenivolavola ni mata nei Ositerelia ki Viti. Na dilo edua na kau ka dau teivaki voleka na baravi ena noda vanua ka rawa ni

vakayagataka na kena wai me buli kina na waiwai ni yago boi vinaka, sovu ni sisili kei na vuqa tale na iyaya ni sausauni, ka rawa ni vakadewataki talega me buli kina na wainimate me vaka era vakayagataka tiko me dau sui kina na mata.. Na vuna na kau oqo eda vakayagataka me ta kina na waqa ni sokoyaki, yaya ni vale kei na vakayagataka me tara kina na vale. E kune ena dilo edua na ivakarau nui masima kei na cagi vinaka ka rawa ni bula curuma na cagi kei na waitui ka dua talega nai tatarovi vinaka ni ua me vaka eda raica ena kau na dogo me dau taqomaka na koro ena cagi kei na ua. Na kau oqo na dilo e kunei vakalevu na kena vuvale kau ena matanitu ko Ositerelia, Tokalau kei Afrika, Idia kei Malesia.

iTaba: ERONI VALILI





# Qoroï na cakacaka ni liga ni marama

MEREANI GONEDUA

ERA sa vakacautaki na dau bulia na iculacula ni sulu ni marama era cavutu mai na noda vei delaniyavu ena soqo ni vakaraitaki cakacaka ni liga ni marama se Womens Expo e Suva. E vulagi dokai ena nodra vakaraitaki iculacula ni sulu se Fiji's Rural Women's Fashion Show e Suva na Radini Paraiminisita ko Mary Bainimarama.

Kaya ko Radini Paraiminisita ni taleitaka vakalevu na taledi ni iculacula ni isulu ni marama era kena dau kina na marama mai na noda veidelaniyavu.

Vakavinavinaka talega na Radini Paraiminisita vei ira kece na veitokoni ena soqo oya.

Vakauqeti ira talega na marama na Radini Paraiminisita mera kua ni galuvaka na veivakalomatiki e vakayacori vei ira vakauasivi nakena dau tukuni yani na nodra dau kucuvu na marama.

“O keda na marama eda kaukauwa nida tuvata meda kua ni guilecava oya. Nida veivukei na marama e vakila ko vuravura na kena yaga, baleta nida itini ni veisau kina noda matavuvale, itikotiko keina itovo ni bula.”

Era lewe 19 na marama era vakaitavi ena vakaraitaki iculacula ni isulu ni marama gole mai delaniyavu se Fiji's Rural Women's Fashion Show.



Ko radini Paraiminisita Mary Bainimarama, Minisita ni Marama Mereseini Vuniwaqa kei ira na mata ni soqosoqo vakamarama mai na veiyasai Viti ena soqo ni National Womens Expo e Suva e na macawa sa oti. **ITaba: SOLO LEWANAVANUA**

## Vakila o Dravuni na revurevu ni draki veisau

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ENA veigauna e liu era dau vakararavi na lewe ni koro o Dravuni ena tikina ko Ono mai Kadavu ena iyaubula mai wasawasa kei na dela ni qele.

Edaidai era sa veisautaka – era sa vakararavi ena saravanua kei na lewai matau ni nodra iyau bula. Sa mai yaco na veisau nira sa vakila na revurevu ni draki veisau ena iyau bula mai wai vakakina e vanua.

Vakaraitaka na itukutuku oqori na vakaillesilesi ni veivakatorocaketaki ena koro ko Dravuni ko Iliesa Bula.

E vakamacala tiko ko Bula vei rau na minisita e rua ko Minisita ni Veikau Osea Naiqamu kei Minisita ni Qoliqoli Semi Koroilavesau ena nodrau a veisiko ki Kadavu.

Ko Bula e dua na ovisa vakacegu e vakavinavinakataki rau na minisita ena nodrau solia nodrau gauna me rau sirovi ira yani na lewenivanua ena tikina ko Ono mai Kadavu.

“E daidai kemudrau na minisita sa drava mai na neimami wasawasa a sega ni dau vaqo e liu.”

Kaya o Bula nira lewe 200 na lewe ni koro o Dravuni ka ra vakatawana tiko na 46 na vale ena koro. E liu era dau vakararavi ena tei yaqona, ia ni kua era sa digitaka mera tei kau vakalevu.”

“Era sa tekivuna ena vula sa oti na itabagone yabaki 18 lako cake mera teivaka e 5 na kau dua na itabagone tekivu ena vula sa oti. Sa toki talega na neimamai vakararavi kina saravanua kei na veivakamarautaki me ivurevure ni bula ena koro. Gauna vata oya keimami sa qarauna tiko na veikabula e wavaloti keimami.”

E na loma ni tolu na siga e rau wavoki kina na minisita erua e e Dravuni, Naqara, Nukuvou, Tiliva, Nakoronawa, Nakau-nasele kei Vunisei vakakina ki Tawava.

Vakauqeti ira mai Kadavu ko Minisita Naiqamu mera veitokoni ena sasaga ni noda vanua me rawati na teivaki ni 4 na milioni na vunika ena 4 na yabaki me vaka sa tavoca ena ika 7 ni Janueri na turaga na Peresitidi ni noda vanua ko Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote.

Me yacova mai edaidai sa tea oti na Minisitiri ni Veikau e 262,00.

E sa veivakauqeti talega na Minisita ni Qoliqoli ko Semi Koroilavesau me ra rokova na tabu ni ika na kawakawa kei na donu me yacova sara yani na ika 30 ni Seviteba.



Ko Minisita ni Cakacaka, Veilakoyaki, kei na Draki ko Jone Usamate kei ira na lewe ni koro e na dola ni wai ni gunu e na koro ko Nasukamai, Ra.

## Dola na wai ni gunu e Nasukamai

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA dolava na Minisita ni Cakacaka, Veilakoyaki, kei na Draki ko Jone Usamate na medra wainigunu savasava na koro ko Nasukamai ena yasana ko Ra.

Na isau kece ni kena qaravi na medra wainigunu e \$125,000.

Vakabibitaka kina vei ira o Minisita Usamate ni sasaga ni Matanitu me kua ni dua e guile-

cavi ena veivakatorocaketaki.

“Na lewei Viti kece e dodonu me marautaka tiko na bula ka rawa duadua ni tiko na wainigunu savasava. Ni sega na wai sa leqa kece sara ga na bula ka logalogaca ka rawa ni vakavuna sara na tauvimate.”

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni loma ni 5 na Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) e sivia na \$4.5m ena qaravi ni wainigunu ena loma ni yasana ko Ra ka qaravi rawa kina

e 68 na veivakatorocaketaki ni wai.

“Na kena vinakati me taladrodoro na wai sa dau tara kina na ivakaso ni wai kei na taqe ni wai kei na kena duri na standpipe.”

“Na veivakatorocaketaki oqo e Nasukamai sa mai coba vou tale kina e 15 na paipo kina veivuvale sa toso cake kina na iwiliwili ni era vukei kina 450,” tukuna o Minisita Usamate.

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni itu-

vatuva vakailavo ni 2019-2020 esa votai mai kina \$11.3m me vakacobaru kina e 32 na veivakatorocaketaki ni wai ena taudaku ni koro lelevu e Viti.

Kena ikuri na Rainwater Harvesting Scheme ni WAF ka sa veisoliyaki tiko kina e 11,400 na taqe ni wai.

Vakaraitaka o Minisita Usamate ni namaki me yabaki 2030 me sa yaco na wai kina veimatavuvale kece sara e Viti.



# Yaga na saravi ni uciwai kei na qara e Sigatoka

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA sa vakila sara tiko vakalevu na 15 na koro ena 4 na tikina ena bati ni uciwai na Sigatoka na yaga ni nodra dau vakasarasarataki yani ni vulagi saravanua mai na kabani ni saravanua na Sigatoka River Safari.

Usutu ni veivakasasarataki oqo na nodra vodo ena jet boat ni kabani ka dau vaka e siri na saku na kena totolo ni siviti cake ni muria cake uciwai na Sigatoka River.

Vaka kina na nodra vodoka na kena landrover ka sarava na kena veikoro me yaco sara nira lai curuma na qara levu duadua e Viti na Naihehe Cave mai Naqalimare. Era na dau qoroya nira vakila ni qara levu oya e 170 na mita na kena balavu.

Kaya na na vakaisilesi ni kabani ni saravanua na Sigatoka River Safari ko Josh Ratukuna ni marautaka na kabani na cakacaka vata kei ira na veikoro mai kea.

“Keitou vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena nodra veitokoni tiko na 15 na koro era dau lai sarasara yani kina na neitou saravanua na neimami cakacaka vata sa rogo kina e vuravura na kabani ni saravanua qo,” kaya o Ratukuna.

Duavata ena yaga ni cakacaka e qarava tiko na kabani ni saravanua oqo na Roko Tui Nadroga o Semi Kuru ka kaya vakaoqo ne;

“Na saravanua oqo esa yaga sara vakalevu kina 4 na tikina oqo na tikina o Namataku, na tikina o Naqalimare, tikina o Bemana vata kei na tikina o Mavua.

“Sa sotavi tiko nodra veivakatorocaketaki ena ilavo e rawati tiko yani oqo ena kabani na Sigatoka River Safari. Qai kena ilutua ni dei tu nodra veilitaki vakavanua ka sega ni vakakuna na veisei na ilavo ni saravanua. Na ilavo levu e rawa ni rawati ena veikoro oqo ena dua na vula e rawa ni tiko sara ena 20 na udolu na dola kevaka e levu na

saravanua e rawa ni vakayagataki tiko e 3 se 4 sara tiko na waqa mera saravi tiko na veikoro,” tukuna o Roko Tui Nadroga o Semi Mako.

Kaya na turaga ni koro e Mavua e Nadroga ko Ilikimi Tulalevu.

“Na landrover ni saravanua era dau curuma mai na loma ni ni koro o Mavua. Na landrover oqori e dua kauti ira sara na saravanua ki Hautabu e tiko mai kina e dua na qara mai Naqalimare kara laki sarasara kina. Era dau vakarautaka na marama na kakana ga e keimami dau kania ena veisigga mera kania talega na saravanua. Sa yaga vakalevu sara na kabani ni saravanua oqo ena kena dau musu tuko e dua na ilavo me gole kina vei koro kece e 15 era dau vakasarasarataki kina na saravanua,” tukuna o Turaga ni Koro e Mavua.

“Ena vukudra na veikoro kece oqo keimami sa vakavinavinaka vakalevu sara vei Jay Whyte kei na nona kabani ka ni sa dua na ivurevure vinaka ni neimami ilavo na saravanua oqo.”

Kaya na ivakaisilesi ni kabani na Sigatoka River Safari Tour ko Josh Ratukuna ni sa yaga talega na kabani ena veivakacakacakataki.

“O ira na saravanua era dau lai volia talega nodra cakacaka ni liga na mamara ena veikoro oqo kara dau marautaka vakalevu na marama. Keitou a tekivu ga ena lewe 3 na tamata cakacaka me yacova mai ni kua sa sivia na 50 na tamata era vakacakacakataki tiko ena Sigatoka River Safari,” tukuna o Ratukuna.

Na kabani ni saravanua oqo na Sigatoka River Safari a tauyavuka e dua na cauravou yabaki 15 ni Ositerelia o Mr Jay Whyte ena 2006.

“Ena yabaki 2012 sa qai mai tekivuna talega kina o Mr Jay White na Off-Road Caves Safari oya na nodra vakasarasara taki talega na saravanua ena nodra vodo land rovers yani kina veikoro ka lai sarava talega na qara levu duadua e Viti na Naihehe Cave,” tukuna o Ratukuna.



Era vakila sara tiko vakalevu na 15 na koro ena 4 na tikina ena bati ni uciwai na Sigatoka na yaga ni nodra dau vakasarasarataki yani ni vulagi saravanua mai na kabani ni saravanua na Sigatoka River Safari.



Usutu ni veivakasasarataki oqo na nodra vodo ena jet boat ni kabani ka dau vaka e siri na saku na kena totolo ni siviti cake ni muria cake uciwai na Sigatoka River.

# iDusidusi ni cakacaka e valagi ko Tagivetaua

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

KO Mosese Tagivetaua e dua na turaga ni Nacavanadi mai Gau yabaki limasagavulu karua sa dua na idusidusi vinaka ni mataqali tamata cakacaka e Viti e gadreva tiko na National Employment Centre mera laki cakacaka ki valalagi.

A dau teitei voliga ena tiki ni qele ni mataqali nei watina e Bilo ena tikina o Suva. Veivakauqeti dina nisa lesu vaka 3 mai ena cakacaka ena iteitei mai Queensland e Ositerelia. Marautaka o Mosese me talanoataka na vu ni nona cavuisausau kina niusiveva vinaka oqo na Noda Viti.

“Na gauna sa tukuna kina vei au na NEC ena yabaki 2016 ni sa vakadonui noqu kerekere ni cakacaka ivalagi sa dua na levu ni noqu marau. Au vakavinavinakataka na veivuke levu ni Matanitu noqu mai tauyavu.

“A bau maliwai ira na imatai ni lewe 5 na digitaki mai na veiyasana e Viti me ivesu ni tamata cakacaka vaka konitaraki vula ono ena kina loga ni tei kumala levu na Akers Farm mai Queensland e Ositerelia.

“Vakasakiti dina vua na itaukei ni Akers Farm na neitou cakacaka na ivesu ni gone ni Viti, sa mani digitaki ira tale yani e 5 tale na tamata cakacaka. Sa mani lai toso cake kina



Ko Mosese Tagivetaua (ikarua mai na imawi) kei na Minisita ni Vanuatani ni Ositerelia ko Marise Payne kei na Vunivola Tudei ni Minisitiri ni Veivakacakacakataki ko Osea Cawaru (matai Mai na matau).

mesa 10 na keimami iwiliwili ena ikarua ni yabaki.”

Ni oti na ikarua ni yabaki era lewe 10 tale era veisosomitaki mai vei ira sa cava nodra konitaraki.

Tukuna o Mosese ni gauna e dau mai cegu vula ono e Viti, e dau veitaratara tuga mai vei au na itaukei ni Akers Farm baleta ni sa tamata nuitaka sara vakalevu ena iteitei oya mai Queensland.

“Oya na vuna e wasoma kina noqu lai cakacaka ki Queensland. Noqu lesu mai oqo ena ika 3 ni gauna ratou a qiriti au yani na NEC me mai dua noqu vosa ni vakasala vei ira na digitaki vou mera lai cakacaka ena Akers

Farm kai marau meu soli ivakasala kina.

Vakamuduo o Mosese kina Matanitu ena ni sa vakavatukana kece na veika e taketake me rawata ena nona lai cakacaka oya e valagi.

“Ni kua au sa volia edua na motoka me veivuke na kena usa na ivoli kina makete, au sa taukena tiko e 4 na teveli ena makete ka civaka tiko o watiq. Au sa volia talega mai Ositerelia na noqu iyaya ni teitei kei na ivaro ni kau vakina na ikoti ni co. Sa tekivu tiko e dua na noqu bisinisi ni sasamaki,” kaya o Mosese.

Marautaka talega o Mosese nodrau mai sota kei na Minisita ni Vanuatani ni Ositer-

elia o Hon Marise Payne.

“Au vakavinavinakataka vua na veitokoni ni Matanitu ko Ositerelia nona sa vakavotukanataka vei au na noqu tadra.

Vakacaucautaki Mosese na marama Minisita ni Vanuatani ena taleitaki ni itagede ni nona cakacaka mai Ositerelia ka kaya ni sa dua o koya na idusidusi vinaka vei ira na lewei Viti era na dau digitaki mera lai veitomaneni ena cakacaka ki kea.

Qoka na ivakasala nei Mosese vei kemuni na via lai cakacaka ena iteitei mai valagi.

“Dei toka ga ena nomu inaki ni lako. Yalo dina ena cakacaka. Mamaroya vinaka nomu ilavo,” kaya o Mosese.

# Noda Viti



Ko iratou na marama ka matataka na yasana ko Nadroga ena soqo Levu ni 2019 National Women's Expo ka vakayacori e na FMF National Gymnasium, Suva ena macawa sa oti. iTaba: SOLO LEWANAVANUA

## Tauri laiseni e 76 na marama

**Rawa e sivia e \$400,000 ena soqo ni vakaraitaki cakacaka ni liga**

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**S**A dua na gauna marautaki vei ira na lewe 76 na marama ena nodra sa taura na nodra laiseni ni volitaki cakacaka ni liga ka buli ga e Viti.

Vakayacori na soli laiseni oqori ena macawa sa oti ena soqo levu ni National Women's Expo e Suva.

Vakabibitaka vei ira na marama ogo na Minisita ni Vakaduri Bisinisi Veivoli, kei

na Saravanua kei na Matabose ni Veitauni, Veivakavaletaki kei Veivakatorocaketaki eni itikotiko ko Premila Kumar ni rui bibi mera vakadeitaka tiko na marama ni tiko e cake na itagede ni ivoli era volitaka ena veigauna kece.

“Ni uasivi na itagede ni nomu cakacaka ni liga ena vakadeitaka na kena maketetaki.”

“Au sa kerei kemuni talega moni rejisitataka na nomuni bisinisi me sega walega ni laurai kina na nomuni yalodina me rawa

talega ni vakadeitaki kina na nomuni na rawa tubu tik ena veisiga ni mataka.”

Vakadeitaka talega vei ira na marama o Minisita Kumar ni nona Minisitiri ena vakadeitaka tiko na kena kacivaki se maketetaki na nodra ivoli na marama vei ira na saravanua ena noda vanua kei na veivanuatani.

Me yacova mai edaidai era sa rejitataki oti e 252 na marama dau ni bisinisi kara vakalaiseni mera volitaka na ivoli e buli ga e Viti se Fijian Made.

Na soqo siga tolu oya ni Marama e Viti a dolava na Radini Peresitedi o Sarote Konrote ena ika 12 ni June ka sogota na Minisita ni Marama ko Merewalesi Vuniwaqa.

Kacivaka ko Minisita Vuniwaqa ni volitaki cakacaka ni liga ena loma ni tolu na siga sa mai cava ena Vakaraubuka era qoqota kina na marama na ilavo levu e sivia na \$400,000.

Sa tubu kina ena 2.8 na pasede mai na ilavo era rawata ena yabaki sa oti.

**VOQA NI DAVUI**

Moniti - Tusiti  
8.30pm (15 na miniti)  
*Radio Fiji One*

*Radio Fiji One*  
Vukelulu - Lotulevu  
8pm (15 na miniti)

Vakarauwai  
9pm (30 na miniti)  
*Radio Fiji One*

*Radio Fiji One*  
Sigatabu  
8.45pm (30 na miniti)