

FijiFocus

BRIDGE TO A BETTER FUTURE



Children from Waidra and neighbouring communities express their joy with the newly constructed \$3.3 million two lane Bailey-Bridge which was opened by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently Photo: AZARIA FAREEN.

AZARIA FAREEN

COMMUNITY members of Waidra have applauded the Fijian Government for prioritising infrastructure development in the area with the commissioning of a new \$3.3 million two-lane bailey bridge.

Nazim Ali, 46, who was born in Waidra said that people living in Waidra settlement previously travelled to the other side of the area by walking on the wooden bridge.

“It used to be so risky in particular during bad weather conditions and there have been accidents where people have lost their lives

in previous years,” Mr Ali said.

“This new bridge is a big advantage for farmers as most of them transporting their harvest to the market on trailers had to stop at the bridge to carry the produce from one side of the bridge to the other in order to meet the vehicle weight restriction.”

“Majority of chicken eggs are mostly supplied from Baulevu to its suppliers and the new bridge will ensure timely

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QUOTE OF THE
WEEK



Voreqe
Bainimarama.

"I hope we also know that geo-political point-scoring means less than little to anyone whose community is slipping beneath the rising seas, whose job has been lost to a pandemic, or whose family is impacted by the rapid rise in the price of commodities."

NUMBERS

"208,109"

minors registered in the VKB will benefit from the \$202.5 million lease money kept in Trust.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama
@FijiPM

The Pacific needs genuine partners, not superpowers that are super-focussed on power. At an excellent meeting with Minister Wang Yi, I've sought stronger Chinese commitment to keep 1.5 alive, end illegal fishing, protect the #BluePacific's ocean, and expand Fijian exports.

CONTACT DETAILS

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Main office: New Wing, Ground Floor, Government Buildings, Suva

North office: Level 3 Macuata House, Labasa

West office: Level 1 Ratu Nauliano House, Korovalu

Contacts: Suva: 3301806
West: 6700086
North: 8811276
Fax: 3305139/3304663
news@govnet.gov.fj
www.fiji.gov.fj
@FijianGovt
Fijian Government
visit us at www.fiji.gov.fj

'Fiji is truly back in business'

MEREANI GONEDUA

Fiji is truly back in business. THE President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, while opening the refurbished Sheraton Golf and Beach Resort in Denarau, Nadi last week, said, "Everyone here knows that tourism is one of the major drivers of Fiji's economic growth and our largest source of foreign exchange earnings and employment".

"The livelihoods of thousands of Fijians rely

on this vital industry, and it is rewarding to see our tourism workforce get back on its feet. As more international markets continue to open back up, we are certainly optimistic about the future."

"I want to especially acknowledge the timing of this investment during the COVID-19 pandemic. When our borders were closed and our economy was contracting, our commitment to this project created jobs, activity, and confidence in our tourism sector when Fiji needed it most, and we thank you," President Katonivere said.

vere said.

"Now, we can recovery together, and add to the tens of thousands of guests, across generations, who stayed here for the past three decades."

The Fiji National Provident Fund 100 per cent locally owned resort employs about 600 employees and offers innovative guest programmes, undertakes community engagements and contributes to sustainable efforts.



President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere with guests including Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission chief executive officer, Joel Abraham at the opening of the Sheraton Golf and Beach Resort in Denarau, Nadi. Photo: Mereani Gonedua

89,000 Social welfare recipients will be receiving \$50 top up

THE Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation has announced a one-off Payment to all Social Welfare Recipients.

As per the mini budget announcement in March, 2022, all existing social welfare recipients for the Social Pension Scheme, Poverty Benefit Scheme, Disability Allowance Scheme, Care and Protection Allowance and the Expanded Food Voucher for Rural Pregnant Mothers Program will receive a one-off payment of \$50 in the first week of June 2022.

This additional \$50 will be added to the normal monthly welfare payments. The payment will be directly made to the recipients' bank account, digital wallet or vouchers.

There is no application required for this \$50 top-up.

This top up is for the current and existing 89,000 social welfare recipients.

Ministry officials will monitor the implementation of the program. If you have any feedback or inquiries, please contact your nearest Social Welfare office or send a message via the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation's Facebook page.

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

EXTENSION OF VANUA LEVU UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

THE Fijian Government has extended the applications for Vanua Levu unemployment support of \$100 to Friday, 3 June until 5pm. This was to give ample time for people who have not applied to submit their applications.

Individuals who applied by the 31st of May are presently being processed, and payments will be made to successful candidates by the beginning of next week.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible individuals, 18 years and over in Vanua Levu can apply by dialling *161# and providing all of the following mandatory information:

1. Full name;
2. Birth registration number or citizenship number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Tax Identification Number (TIN);
5. FNPF number;
6. Voter identification number;
7. Home Address;
8. Declaration to confirm if the applicant has received both jabs of COVID-19 vaccine (YES or NO);
9. If YES, provide the place of vaccination;
10. Consent for Fijian Government to access applicants vaccination and SIM card registration details (YES or NO); and
11. Statutory declaration to confirm that all

information provided is correct.

Individuals whose employment income has not been affected, as well as those who receive other forms of Government assistance, are NOT ELIGIBLE for this income support.

This includes:

1. All civil servants;
2. All other employees in the private sector and statutory bodies whose employment income has not been affected and therefore FNPF contributions have been normal in the last one month;
3. All those on FNPF pension scheme;
4. All students on Tertiary Education Loan Scheme and Toppers scholarship receiving normal allowances;
5. All social welfare recipients; and
6. All those below the age of 18 years.

The Ministry of Economy will work in partnership with Vodafone, Digicel, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji Revenue and Customs Service, Fiji National Provident Fund, and Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board to verify and process the applications. For ease of access, funds will be deposited directly into MPAISA or MyCASH accounts for eligible recipients.

PM assures Lau of Govt support

PRASHILA DEVI

PRIME Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Voreqe Bainimarama has urged the people Lau to work with the Government to safeguard the sea that surrounds the islands in the Lau Group.

“We have committed to sustainably managing all of Fiji’s ocean, with 30 per cent declared as marine protected areas by 2030. And when I envision the future of Fiji’s sustainable blue economy — I see Lau’s more than 52,000 kilometres of ocean as its beating heart,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

Speaking to delegates at the Lau Provincial Council meeting in Suva on Wednesday this week, the Head of Government said, “When I go to the world on behalf of our people to speak in defence of our ocean — I do so for the sake of the over 500 fish species, 200 species of hard coral and all

the rich biodiversity that the more than 7,000 Fijians in your Province rely on for food and jobs and as a bastion of culture”.

He called on the province to work with and complement the work of the Ministry of Environment and other relevant stakeholders including the Climate Change Division in the Ministry of Economy.

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that the stakes could not be any higher as reckless exploitation combined with climate change could strip Fiji’s ocean of most of its life.

“Your leadership must protect this project’s original intention to preserve the precious resource that is our ocean. It is important for Lau; it is important for Fiji, and it is important for all the Fijians yet to be born who deserve to know the same oceanic bounty that we are blessed to have.”

On the issue of leadership, Prime Minister Bainimarama told the delegates that as the mantle of re-

sponsibility rests with them, they must work to fill Lau’s vacant chiefly titles.

“There are 13 Turaga iTaukei positions and only four are filled. Remember the old maxim: “when the vanua is stable, development will not be an issue”.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted the investment in the province which was to the tune of more than \$31 million since 2014.

“We spent \$8,832,236 on rural roads in Vanua Balavu, Lakeba and Moala. \$7,186,751 was spent on education through free education grants, and engine and boat assistance for your children to reach their classrooms. \$3,338,781 was spent on solar home systems and the Ministry of Fisheries spent \$2,781,041 on establishing the Moala and Cicia Fisheries Station and coastal development projects.”

“The Ministry of Forestry spent \$2,651,595 on timber treatment chemical and equipment, port-

able sawmills, and a wheel loader whilst the Ministry of Agriculture spent \$1,401,968 on rural outer island programmes, agriculture extension services, and coconut farming programme.”

The Prime Minister added that the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management spent \$1,153,811 on self-help programmes and

the Ministry of Youth and Sports spent \$1,148,909 on youth and sports grants, and youth training.

“Of course, all of these expenditures do not include the vast amounts of monies we have spent after natural disasters for rebuilding schools, health centers and other public infrastructure,” he added.



Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Voreqe Bainimarama with female delegates at the Lau Provincial Council meeting held in Suva on Wednesday. PHOTO: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

BRIDGE TO A BETTER FUTURE



FROM PAGE 1

transportation of the supply,” he added.

“The road contractor has done a good job on the new bridge. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in opening the Waidra bridge said that “development as such is already changing lives for the better in your communities”.

“The old single-lane timber bridge that crossed Waidra Creek was not suited to the ambition of your communities since during heavy rains, it would flood and become uncrossable,” he said.

“This new two-lane Bailey Bridge is a permanent fix to that problem. It represents a \$3.3 million investment in your communities — one which you sought and your Government delivered,” PM

Bainimarama added.

“This bridge is strong enough to support the weight of heavy trucks and it is safe enough to serve as a reliable connection between your communities and the rest of the nation because it is built to a climate-resilient standard.”

“Baulevu, Koroqaga and Waidra together represent Fiji’s second salad bowl — and now your agricultural produce such as ginger, vegetables, root crops, and poultry, can travel reliably on heavy trucks to markets in Nausori, to exporters, and municipal markets,” he said.

PM Bainimarama added that “no matter who you are, where you live, or your background, every Fijian is equally deserving of their Government’s total commitment”.

Mistakes do not define us

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“Our mistakes do not have to define us.” Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, speaking at the Nasinu Corrections Vocational Centre Graduation Ceremony last week, said, “A conscious decision to change for the better can lead to a fulfilling life. And that’s exactly what each of you graduating today are proving”.

Eight inmates at the Nasinu Corrections Centre graduated with a Level 1 Automotive Mechanical Engineering Certificate from the Nasinu Corrections Vocational Centre.

The eight inmates were Demesi Fuata, Jekemaia Rabonu, Tomasi Koroivosa, Taito Rawaqa, Vilame Mocevakaca, Mohammed Sagaitu, Waisake Loabure and Tausia Fabiano.

“I want to commend the Fiji Corrections Service on the vast range of courses offered — all accredited through the Fiji Higher Education Commission and certified under Fiji National University standards,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“This is evidence of the strong commitment of Fiji Corrections Service towards a high-impact rehabili-

tation programme.”

“It is a testament to the wide range of vocational skills on offer at Fiji National University which can benefit any Fijian looking to acquire skills that can secure high paying jobs or, as David has showed us, fuel an entrepreneurial spirit.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama, in congratulating the eight graduates, said change can happen in a corrections system.

“You stuck it out, even though I’m sure you experienced moments of doubt in yourself. As crucial as your determination and discipline have been in getting you here, there is one more thing that has led you to success today.”

“You realised very early on that change doesn’t have to wait until after a sentence is over.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that ample research and results show that education has a massive impact on lowering incarceration and crime rates.

“If someone in prison receives the opportunity to learn an industrial skill or acquire knowledge in a specialised field, not only do they rarely return to prison, but they also go on to start businesses, create jobs, and inspire their local communities.”



Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Voreqe Bainimarama with inmates graduating from the Nasinu Vocational Centre last week. Photo: Felix Lesinaivalu



PM meets Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama met with the newly elected Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Penny Wong.

This was Senator Wong's first official visit and Prime Minister, in formally welcoming her, said the timely visit to Fiji reinforces Australia's commitment to the Vuvale Partnership.

Prime Minister Bainimarama congratulated the Australian Labor Party for their victory in 2022 elections and Minister Wong for being elected as Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

He said the bilateral relations between the two nations had strengthened through the Vuvale Partnership and that this solidarity was important, now more than ever to overcome the unprecedented challenges and build a resilient and sustainable Pacific.

The Prime Minister acknowledged Australia's remarkable support to Fiji and the region, through expanded cooperation in various sectors including defence and security, health, education, gender equality, employment, humanitarian relief and disaster response, amongst others.

He expressed optimism that together the two nations will continue to work closely to overcome the common challenges, achieve shared aspirations and build a unified and stronger Pacific family.

Prime Minister commended the Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese for his strong mandate on climate change.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Penny Wong during her visit to Fiji last week. PHOTO FELIX LESINAIVALU

He said as Fiji prepares to host the Pacific Island Leaders Meeting in July this year, the first in-person meeting of Forum Leaders since 2019, an invitation would be extended to Prime Minister Albanese to attend meeting with the Pacific Leaders.

The Prime Minister welcomed the announcement made by Minister Wong on the Australian Government's pledge of AUD \$525 million (FJ\$811.93m) as part of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the Pacific over the next four years.

He reaffirmed Fijian Government's commitment to work closely with the Australian Government in addressing the common challenges, especially climate change and the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

The two leaders also discussed potential areas of cooperation with prospects in trade and investment, tourism, economy, Pacific Australia Labour Mobility, United Nations Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response.

The Prime Minister conveyed the Fijian Government's best wishes to Prime Minister Hon. Anthony Albanese and the people of Australia for their continued prosperity.

He extended his sincere appreciation to Minister Wong for her commitment to the Pacific family and assured her of the Fijian Government's support and wished her well for the new ministerial role.

Australia's Foreign Minister, Senator Wong, said she was delighted to arrive in Fiji on only her fourth day in office.

She wanted her visit to high-

light the importance Australia places on its relationship with Fiji and the Pacific region.

"I was delighted to meet with Prime Minister Bainimarama to strengthen Australia's commitment to the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership.

"I valued the opportunity to listen to the Prime Minister and learn from his important insights as a global leader on climate change," Senator Wong said.

"Regional unity has never been more important as we face unprecedented challenges with COVID, climate change and strategic contest. I look forward to working with Fiji and our Pacific family to ensure our Blue Pacific remains strong and prosperous," she said.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Fiji and Australia to strengthen its partnership on Labour Mobility Program

MINISTER for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Parveen Kumar, welcomed Senator Penny Wong on her first official visit to Fiji as the newly elected Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia.

In light of Senator Wong visiting Fiji less than a week after being elected into the position, Minister Kumar acknowledged the visit and the opportunity it presented to strengthen Fiji's labour mobility programs with Australia under the Vuvale Partnership.

The Australian Foreign Affairs Minister also thanked the Fiji Minister for Employment and also confirmed Australia's commitment to growing Fiji's numbers under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme (PALM) for long term workers and seasonal workers program.

Senator Penny Wong said the visit, in her first week as Foreign Minister, demonstrated the importance they place on the relationship with Fiji and on the Pacific engagement.

She was able to have a one-on-one talanoa session with some of the returning team leaders under the seasonal work program and their families.

Senator Wong was also surprised that a number of these workers were working in her home state of South Australia.

During her visit, Foreign Affairs Minister also met with selected Fijian workers that were undergoing their four days Pre-Departure Briefing before these workers leave for Australia this week.

Minister Kumar expressed appreciation to the Australian Foreign Minister for their assistance and continuous support.

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

Education Minister meets the new Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs

THE Minister for Education, Heritage & Arts and Local Government, Premila Kumar met the newly appointed Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Penny Wong on her first official visit to Fiji last week.

"I am indeed very delighted to meet you, and first and foremost, I wish to congratulate you for your recent election victory and being appointed as the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Coming to Fiji immediately after your appointment shows your commitment to strengthening the Australian - Fiji bilateral relationship," Minister Kumar said.

Australia and Fiji share a very long lasting friendship which began decades ago and that still stands strong.

The two leaders discussed the

current collaborations in education.

Senator Wong commended Fiji's response to COVID-19 to ensure learning and teaching progressed after containing the virus and opening its borders.

Minister Kumar also thanked the Australian Government for all the support given to the Ministry over the years.

Their discussion centered on how Australia can support professional development of our teachers to continuously develop capacity and leadership programmes for our school leaders.

Minister Kumar updated Senator Wong on the progress of rehabilitation work that was being done in the schools that were damaged by Tropical Cyclone Yasa.

Further discussions on the im-

pacts of climate change and the need to continue to work towards building resilience were held.

The meeting was also attended

by the Education permanent secretary, Dr Anjeela Jokhan and Ministry of Local Government acting permanent secretary, Shaheen Ali and Director

for Local Government, Bindula Devi.

(Source: Ministry of Local Government)



Minister for Local, Education, Heritage and Arts Premila Kumar with Australian Foreign Minister Senator, Penny Wong during her visit to Fiji

VISIT GUIDED BY MUTUAL RESPECT – PM



FELIX LESINAIVALU

“WE have a solid foundation on which to build Fiji’s friendship with China has helped develop infrastructure, train our people, and deliver essential medical supplies which accelerated our post-pandemic recovery.”

This was highlighted by Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama, during his statement at joint media conference with the State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi, at the Grand Pacific Hotel.

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that the visit was guided by mutual respect and the common interest of our people’s continued socio-economic progress.

“We all know that plenty of eyes have been on Suva during this visit.”

“I hope we also know that geopolitical point-scoring means less than little to anyone whose community is slipping beneath the

rising seas, whose job has been lost to a pandemic, or whose family is impacted by the rapid rise in the price of commodities.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama urged the media who have intensely covered this visit to rise above the political punditry and put a focus on how we can solve these challenges together.

“We have a solid foundation on which to build; Fiji’s friendship with China has helped develop infrastructure, train our people, and deliver essential medical supplies which accelerated our post-pandemic recovery.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that Fiji sought a stronger commitment from China on climate action.

“As we build back better and stronger, Fiji will continue to seek fertile ground for our bilateral relationships.”

“The challenges our people face will only intensify until collective solutions rise to meet them.”

Fiji-china discuss global challenges

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, in his meeting with the State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, Wang Yi, has sought stronger commitment from China on climate action.

In his remarks at the joint media conference that followed after the meeting, Prime Minister Bainimarama welcomed Minister Wang Yi to Fiji.

The Prime Minister said he had an excellent discussion with Minister Wang Yi, on strengthening partnership to take on the greatest threats faced in the Pacific.

“As I have done with every leader I meet, I sought a stronger commitment from China on climate action. As a global community, we remain woefully short of cutting emissions in line with the 1.5-degree Celsius target of the Paris Agreement — and I will continue to push for a phase-out of coal and other fossil fuels by all economies as quickly and practically as possible.

“Much has changed since 2018 when Minister Wang Yi last visited us. A pandemic has completely upended the world economy, climate impacts have intensified, and Russia’s war in Ukraine has sent food, fuel and freight prices skyrocketing.

“We cannot retreat from the field of multilateralism in the face of these multiple crises. Indeed, global co-operation and international law have never mattered more,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“Our meeting today was guided by mutual respect and the common interest of our people’s continued socio-economic progress. We have a solid foundation on which to build; Fiji’s friend-

ship with China has helped develop infrastructure, train our people, and deliver essential medical supplies which accelerated our post-pandemic recovery.

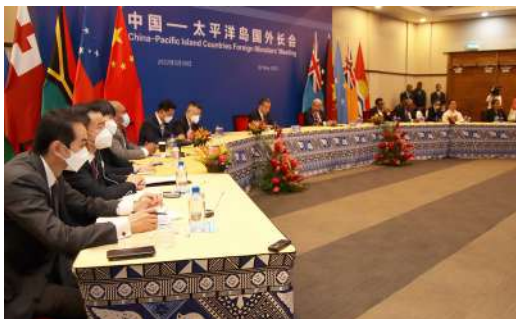
“We also discussed the importance of combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, opportunities to expand sustainable ocean management in the Pacific, and ways we help Fijian exporters land more of their high quality products and produce in the Chinese market,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

The Prime Minister said, “As we build back better and stronger, Fiji will continue to seek fertile ground for our bilateral relationships. The challenges our people face will only intensify until collective solutions rise to meet them.”

At the meeting, discussions centered on Fiji-China bilateral and multilateral areas of cooperation and evolving challenges of the post COVID era.

Following the meeting, State Councillor Wang Yi joined Prime Minister Bainimarama at the 2nd China-Pacific Island Countries (PICs) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



China-PICs convened 2nd Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“THE People’s Republic of China and Pacific Island Countries (PICs) convened the 2nd China-Pacific Island Countries (PICs) Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) and discussed opportunities for future collaboration, in the face of mounting global challenges this week.

The meeting convened with opening remarks by the Prime Minister and Pacific Islands Forum chair, Voreqe Bainimarama, and State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, Wang Yi.

Pacific leaders and representatives then deliberated on the national and regional priorities as well as common global challenges particularly climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, economic recovery and issues of shared interest.

In a joint press conference, following the 2nd China-PICs FMM, Prime Minister Bainimarama said, “After our bilateral meeting, I also had the privilege of co-chairing the 2nd China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers Meeting with Minister Wang Yi”.

“China is a Forum Dialogue part-

ner in the Pacific Islands Forum and is also an important bilateral partner to the 10 Pacific Island countries that met today. As always we put consensus first among our countries throughout any discussion on new regional agreements.

“I look forward to our continued engagement under existing arrangements and the upcoming 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, which will provide our guiding framework for Pacific partnerships in a rapidly changing world,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He further said that, “As we build back better and stronger, Fiji will continue to seek fertile ground for our bilateral relationships. The challenges our people face will only intensify until collective solutions rise to meet them.”

The meeting reviewed current areas of cooperation, while exploring opportunities for future cooperation. Pacific Island Countries (PICs) acknowledged the People’s Republic of China for its support towards the region’s COVID-19 response and economic recovery efforts.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



PM opens new Asphalt plant

AZARIA FAREEN

AROUND 50 people will be employed from the recent opening of the new Higgins state-of-the-art asphalt plant located in the industrial area of Laucala Beach Estate. The \$8 million plant is the second company under Higgins which specialises in roading and infrastructure and its Nadi office already employs 800 employees. In opening the plant, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said “asphalt is a critical component of our continued and long-term road infrastructure development”. “The Higgins asphalt plant will play a very concrete role in the Fiji Roads Authority Transportation Strategy – to make our communities more liveable, our society more connected, and our economy more inclusive,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said. “Climate change causes billions of dollars in damage to transportation infrastructure, like roads and producing a world standard road surfacing product locally is not a luxury for Fiji – it’s a critical need,” he stressed. “Stronger, more sustainable roads, built for a rapidly changing climate, are an important way we can

mitigate some of the crushing impacts of climate change on our people. Fiji’s new asphalt plant will support the upgrading of streets and roads in towns and cities, suburban areas across Fiji, and new tar-sealing projects, including the Queens and Kings Road upgrading projects.” “This state-of-the-art facility has the capacity to also produce a cold asphalt mix; one that can be transported to any part of Fiji and can be stored on-site for months,” he added. Higgins Fiji manager, Ray Edwards, said the plant produces the highest quality of asphalt concrete ejects minimum emission. “The plant has state-of-the-art technology which is fully automated and is expected to produce about 180 tonnes of asphalt per hour,” Mr Edwards said. “The impact to the environment is minimal as there will be no dust when asphalt is being produced,” he added.

duced,” he added. Cold asphalt can be purchased in smaller quantities at a reduced cost, and be available faster for smaller jobs like potholes or cracks, especially in rural and maritime communities. PM Bainimarama said that through the initial Environmental Impact Assessment, Higgins was able to demonstrate that the plant - using Ammann Zero Waste System technology - recycles any waste from its air emissions and redirects it back into the plant. “This cutting-edge design ensures the asphalt plant’s contribution to the existing air quality standard, around the Laucala Industrial Area, is negligible - another important win for our people and planet,” he said. This plant is one of only three in the world that is capable of a high continuous production of asphalt, without compromise on quality. This is achieved through expert technicians from Germany, Australia, Brazil and Switzerland being able to dial-in to monitor production quality, identify faults or even run the plant remotely.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with staff and management of Higgins opening of the new Higgins state-of-the-art asphalt plant located in the industrial area of Laucala Beach Estate.

Equal distribution brings greater benefit

PRASHILA DEVI

ATOTAL of 208,109 minors registered under the vola-ni-kawa-bula as landowners will benefit from the lease money of over \$202.5 million kept in trust from 2017 until 2021. Prime Minister and Minister of iTaukei Affairs, Voreqe Bainimarama, in a written response to a Parliamentary question, said once the registered vola-ni-kawa-bula landowner turns 18, he will be entitled to his portion of lease money he would have been entitled to if their Mataqali land was leased. Prime Minister Bainimarama said the decision by the Government to introduce the equal distribution of lease monies (rent and premiums) to all living members of a mataqali has been a notable initiative that has assisted a number of beneficiaries. “It has also relieved the burden from parents to fund the future educational expenses for their children. Various investment opportunities and aspirations have also opened up for young children and youth (both girls and boys) to pursue empowerment programs for their future growth and development,” he said. “From 2017, funds of members below the age of 18 were invested with HFC (Home Finance Company) Bank with an intention of earning returns. These returns (principal and interest) would then be payable to member once they turn 18,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said. Furthermore, he explained that the Government, in 2010, had amended the Native Land Trust Act (Cap 134) Section 14 which covered the provisions on the distribution of land rent and premiums (lease funds) to landowners. The amendment was: “After deduction of any sums in accordance with section 14 of the Act, the balance of any monies received by the Board by way of rents and premiums in respect of native land, including any monies received by the Board but not yet distributed at date of commencement of the Native Land Trust (Leases and Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, shall be distributed by the Board to all the living members of the proprietary unit, in equal proportion.” Prime Minister Bainimarama said since the amendment of the Native Land Trust (Leases and Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 kicked in, the equal distribution system of lease monies had benefitted a greater number of landowners including those under the age of 18 years.

No one left behind – PM Bainimarama

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“AS we see construction and development projects spring back to life, I am happy to witness a Fijian-owned company opening this beautiful building.” Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while opening of Sun Insurance Sun Centre-1 in Legalega, Nadi recently, said the \$15 million project that serves as a concrete testament to the market confidence of our local business community. “I am told that a twin building is being developed just next door – so by mid-2024, the construction phase of the Legalega twin towers will have provided employment for a total of 350 Fijians and simultaneously pumped millions of dollars into our local economy.” “I’m proud of what my Government’s investor friendly policies have helped create for Fiji: more jobs, more opportunity and more development.” Prime Minister Bainimarama added Fiji’s target is to maintain total investments at 25

percent of the gross domestic product. “In addition, we are focused on increasing private sector investments to over fifteen percent of GDP by 2036.” “We have put in place laws that ensure that investors are not the only ones reaping the rewards, by creating and safeguarding the employment opportunities of ordinary Fijians.” “As is our commitment to local landowners and their communities. All local and foreign investors are approved on the premise that they will be supporting Fiji’s inclusive and sustainable development.” Prime Minister Bainimarama said Government legislation now ensures the economic benefits from large-scale investments are positively impacting other Fijian micro,

small and medium enterprises, including those in the rural and maritime areas. “No one can be left behind.” “Our overall vision of “Transforming Fiji” is dependent on the key role that private sec-

tor companies - like SUN Insurance - play in driving economic development, and ultimately in improving the well-being of all Fijians.”



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with staff during the opening of the Sun Insurance Sun Centre-1 in Legalega, Nadi PHOTO FELIX LESINAIVALU



Minister Seruiratu meets with UNDSG

MINISTER for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu met with the United Nations Deputy Secretary General (UNDSG), Amina Mohammed.

The two met last week in a bilateral meeting held on the margins of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) conference in Bali, Indonesia where they discussed a range of issues relating to Fiji's work in the disaster space.

During the meeting, Minister Seruiratu updated the UNDSG on present development in the DRR space in Fiji and work on the review of Fiji's National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy which was launched by the Prime Minister in 2019.

Minister Seruiratu also briefly spoke on the review of the National Disaster Management Act to ensure relevance to post COVID-19.

He used the opportunity to discuss the work presently undertaken by the Ministry in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Governance for Resilience (Gov4Res) in the Pacific Project on the formulation of the Ministry's 10-Year Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and Fiji's move towards creating resilient and sustainable rural communities through the risk-informing of all projects completed by the Ministry.

Discussions during the meeting also focused on the intentions to upgrade Fiji's multi-hazard early warning system to align to the commitment recently made by the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, that within the next five years, everyone should be protected by early warning systems.

Minister Seruiratu also sought the assistance of UN partners in assisting Fiji in strengthening its multi-hazard early warning system as the nation is continuously on the forefront of increasingly extreme weather and climate related events.

Ms Mohammed highlighted, at the onset, the many challenges Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Fiji face due to climate change and disasters, and firmly stated that impacts were more than tripled when it came to SIDS.

She further reiterated the United Nations support towards Fiji and the region, especially with current partnerships forged between the Ministry and UN agencies in the disaster space.

Ms Mohammed also welcomed further discussions of how Fiji and the Pacific could be supported given the vulnerability to climate induced disasters and directed her advisers to have closer engagements with Fiji in effectively tackling the challenges before all of us.

(Source: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management)



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu met with the United Nations Deputy Secretary General (UNDSG), Amina Mohammed.

Fiji works to protect its biodiversity

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJI'S rich biodiversity contributes significantly towards food security, people's livelihoods, agriculture, tourism, shelter, climate adaptation and mitigation and the Fijian way of life.

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, speaking at the commemoration of the International Day of Biological Diversity 2022 in Nadiri, Nadroga last week, highlighted the value of this contribution to Fiji's economy.

"A study by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) in 2015 concluded that at national level, the value of seven environmental services (categorized as: subsistence food provision; commercial food harvesting; mineral and aggregate mining; tourism; coastal protection; carbon sequestration; and research and education) ranged from FJ\$2,200 to FJ\$2,239 million (US\$1,101m to US\$1,121m) per annum," Minister Reddy said.

He also expressed the need to protect Fiji's wealth of biodiversity in light of the fact that there are many species that are endemic to Fiji.

"Fiji records a high level of species endemism compared to most other Pacific Island groups with 70 per cent of ants; 50 percent of butterflies, 44 percent of locally bred birds and 80 percent of long-horned beetle (to name a few); including iguana species, two of Fiji's Frog species and four sub-species of bats are endemic to Fiji.

"Fiji also has a list of critically endangered species that are threatened with extinction and many of these key-stone species underpin the ecological health and connectivity of Fiji's natural environment," Minister Reddy said.

The Fijian Government, he said, has several programmes with its partners to address these threats such as the Jobs for Nature Rehabilitation Programme (J-NR) which intends to better the state of environment through the protection, restoration, restoration and rehabilitate degraded ecosystems.

"Another similar initiative of the Ministry of Waterways and Environment is the implementation of Nature based Solution (Nb-S) projects in Fiji to protect coastal and river bank communities."

The commemoration coincided with the launch of Nadiri Marine Biodiversity Park and a Biodiversity Awareness Workshop for 30 Communities in Nadroga, which was done in collaboration with the IUCN-BIO-DEV Project and the Ministry of Environment.

Seasonal ban comes into effect on June 15th

THE ban on harvesting and sale of Grouper (Kawakawa) and Coral trout (Donu) fish will come into effect on June 15, 2022.

The seasonal ban which was gazetted by Government in 2019 aims to protect all the species in the two families during their peak breeding months, which runs from June to September.

Minister for Fisheries, Semi Koroilavesau said that the ban was temporarily lifted for the two years to assist fishers in cushioning the effects of the COVID19 pandemic.

"We will now resume with the ban as we slowly recover from the negative effects of the pandemic. It is imperative that we protect these two vulnerable species and help them repopulate in our waters," Minister Koroilavesau said.

"We are very pleased with the support for the seasonal ban over the years

from the communities and people of Fiji along with partner agencies."

"However, we need everyone to come on board and assist by adhering to the ban. We must all be aware that the sustainable management of our grouper and coral trout resources is not a quick fix. So we will continue implementing targeted management measures to ensure that these iconic species are allowed to replenish and are able to be enjoyed by Fijians for generations to come," Minister Koroilavesau explained.

"It is important that we be reminded that factors such as climate change, frequent and more intense cyclones, flooding and other natural disasters, coupled with overharvesting have drastically affected our ocean resources. Therefore it is vital that we all support this important initiative for our sustenance."

The Ministry will continue to implement the seasonal ban through aware-

ness initiatives and consultations right through to enforcement, and strongly advises all fishers, restaurants, fish retailers and communities to comply with the provisions of the ban, and to continue to support the Ministry of Fisheries in the implementation of this important management measure.

"Anyone who fails to do so and is found with these species during the ban period will be treated as non-compliant and will face formal action."

"This is a four month sacrifice each year for benefits that can have impacts for generations for the people of Fiji, and we need the support of all Fijians to help us ensure that we get these important fisheries back to sustainable levels, and be enjoyed by our current and future generations," Minister Koroilavesau said.

(Source: Ministry of Fisheries)



Rural community welcomes construction of new sports facility from Government

The Minister for Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar took part in the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the Volleyball Court at Nailaga village in Ba last week.

The new facility, which is 24M x 15M in size, is worth approximately \$48,000 FJD and was being constructed by Core Builders and Furniture Ltd.

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

“The facility will also be an income generating opportunity for the youth and the community in hosting sports events,” he said.

Students of Ratu Rusiate Nabuta Memorial Primary School and the youth of Nailaga village will utilise this facility for sporting activities.

Photos: Supplied



President attends Her Majesty THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

The President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere attended Her Majesty the Queen's birthday party hosted by the British High Commissioner to Fiji, Dr Brian Jones last week.

The function was also attended by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, Speaker of the Parliament Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, members of the Parliament, Cabinet Ministers, Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Civil Society Organisation.

During Her Majesty's 70 years on the throne, Queen Elizabeth has seen 14 different British Prime Ministers and has visited Fiji six times during her reign.

Photos: Azaria Fareen



PM opens new bridge in Waidra

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama commissioned a new permanent two-lane Bailey bridge in Waidra, Nausori recently.

In acknowledging the latest development, PM Bainimarama said this infrastructure will change the lives of the community members for the better. “Over the years, my Government has steadily delivered infrastructure that connects the country and establishes a foundation for a modern Fijian economy,” he said.

"From here in Waidra, to the West, to Vanua Levu and the North, to the outer islands, to the highlands, and to rural parts of Fiji, our national infrastructure network is more robust, resilient, and reliable than it has ever been, and it is further developing."

Photos:
Azaria Fareen



PM visits factory, meets management and staff

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama took a tour of Lyndhurst Group of Companies garment factory at the Kalabu Tax-Free Zone in Vualevu last week. PM Bainimarama was accompanied by the company's Chief Executive Officer, Rokoseru Nabalarua and General Manager, John Barton.

The company is one of the largest fashion garment manufacturers in Fiji and exclusively produces for the renowned KOOKAI brand for Australia.

**Photos: Azaria
Fareen**





A-G acknowledge PFTAC for support



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Managing Director, Dr Bo Li, with officials after the meeting held on the margins of the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) Steering Committee meeting in Nadi recently. Photo- Mereani Gonedua

MEREANI GONEDUA

ATTORNEY-GENERAL and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, met with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Managing Director, Dr Bo Li, on the margins of the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) Steering Committee meeting in Nadi recently.

The A-G thanked the IMF and PFTAC for its support to Fiji during the COVID-19 period and reaffirmed Fiji's commitment to continue this valuable partnership with the Fund.

He shared Fiji's experiences during the pandemic, including the successful vaccination rollout, safe reopening of the economy, use of digital solutions to rollout the unemployment assistance to those affected by the pandemic and other strategies to revive the

Fijian economy and getting lives back to normalcy.

The A-G highlighted the Government's plan on economic diversification in areas such as business process outsourcing, medical tourism, retirement villages, light manufacturing, agricultural value addition and other niche areas with comparative advantage. He noted the need for structural reforms that will support greater private sector participation in the economic recovery and diversification process.

Dr Li acknowledged Fiji's decisive leadership during the pandemic and shared the positive feedback he had received from various stakeholders on Fiji's economic recovery.

He emphasised the need for the continuation of this growth momentum and how the multilateral institutions like IMF stand ready to further support Fiji.

He highlighted the challenges

posed by the Russia-Ukraine crisis and supply chain disruptions which was driving the unprecedented increase in the price of fuel, food and freight. While emphasising the need for fiscal consolidation, Dr Li agreed that targeted expenditure policies may be needed to cushion these inflationary pressures as small island developing countries like Fiji feel the brunt of these global supply shock.

The A-G and Dr Li also discussed other issues like climate change, infrastructure development, monetary policy and financial sector developments.

The meeting was attended by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji, Ariff Ali, Ministry of Economy permanent secretary, Shiri Gounder, and Fiji Revenue and Customs Service chief executive officer, Mark Dixon.

\$6.47m grant to strengthen Covid-19 response at airport

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum officiated at the signing of a \$6.47 million Fijian dollar grant with the Asian Development Bank for the Project on 'Enhancing Covid-19 Preparedness for Tourism Recovery' in Nadi this week.

The project, which is funded under the 'Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific', aims to support Fiji's tourism industry recovery by strengthening the Covid-19 responsiveness at Nadi International airport.

The A-G highlighted that such partnership would support major upgrades at the Nadi International Airport, setting our tourism industry on a sustainable path towards recovery.

The grant agreement was signed between the A-G and ADB's Regional Director for the Pacific Subregional Office in Fiji Aaron Batten, while Fiji Airways CEO Andre Viljoen and Fiji Airports CEO Isei Tudreu signed the project agreement with Mr Batten.

President acknowledges Bred Bank for continued confidence

The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere has acknowledged the BRED Bank group for its continuous confidence in investing in the Fijian economy.

Officiating at the opening of the Lautoka Branch, President Katonivere stated that despite the pandemic, BRED bank remained confident to invest and expand which represents the reality of the Fijian Government's ambition to foster economic and social advancement for all Fijians.

He stated that the \$2.6m development has improved the landscape of Lautoka and most importantly brings modern banking facilities with its suite of competitive products and services through various channels. It also marks the beginning of a fresh phase in the development of Lautoka city.

Rural schools now access Walesi platform

Students in the highlands of Ba will now be able to access educational channels after the Attorney-General and Minister for Communications recently handed over three Walesi setup boxes.

The A-G spoke about how important it is to connect all Fijians and have modern facilities accessible to all.

The A-G visited Navala Primary School, Namau Primary School, Koronubu Primary School and also held talanoa sessions with members of the various communities.

Compiled by Mereani Gonedua

New physiotherapy clinic in Nadi Town

"PHYSIOTHERAPISTS play a fundamental role in one's healthcare as a means of prevention and rehabilitation of functional disabilities."

THE Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts and Local Government, Premila Kumar, highlighted this while officiating at the new Physiotherapy Clinic in Nadi last week.

"Recovery does not necessarily end once someone is released after hospitalisation. There is a critical component of aftercare that can assist a person to walk or lift an arm or rehabilitate from a stroke," Minister Kumar added.

The populace of Nadi and Lautoka now have the availability of the Physiotherapy Clinic Fiji Pte Limited, situated in Nadi Town.

The clinic was ideally located and can be accessed easily by the Nadi and Lautoka residents.

"Over the last two years, health has been the greatest consideration in everything we did. It had to be. We had no option. But when we look at the health sector in its entirety, it is easy to overlook many aspects that contribute to the health and well-being of our people. Physiotherapy is one of them," Minister Kumar said.

The Ministry for Local Government has been working closely with the Nadi Town Council and stakeholders to promote Nadi as a destination for business, residential and recreation – apart from being an established tourism hub of the Pacific.

"The opening of this Physiotherapy Clinic shows business

confidence in the Nadi Economy. It reflects an entrepreneur's willingness to be part of a growing economy and contribute to the local economic development. Such investments have a reticulation effect. From a consumer's perspective, it means a service choice in close proximity," Minister Kumar said.

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a pivotal role in our Fijian Economy and have been certainly increasing.

"When COVID-19 crisis started, lockdowns reduced revenues of existing firms; cash flow turned negative for companies that could not cut operating costs. The pandemic also threatened the potential for innovation as access to capital and revenue became



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts and Local Government, Premila Kumar with staff of the new Physiotherapy Clinic in Nadi last week. Photo: Supplied.

scarce for business start-ups. As a result of a number of crucial and decisive actions of the Government we are now in a much better position, with our recovery now on track. Fijians are slowly bouncing back with the confidence that is needed to boost their businesses and the economy as a whole," Minister Kumar said.

The opening of the Physiotherapy Clinic Fiji's second branch operation in Nadi means more employment opportunities for the Physiotherapists, which may increase should the business grow.

(Source: Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts and Local Government)

Bua lauds Government for major development



Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs Voreqe Bainimarama opened the Bua Provincial Council Meeting last week.
Photo JOSAIA RALAGO

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE Bua Provincial Council has lauded the Government for its service delivery to their people.

Speaking at the provincial council meeting last week, council chair, Sitiveni Lalibuli, said they have witnessed life-changing developments provided for their people.

“On behalf of the district representatives and the chiefs of Bua – I would like to extend our appreciation to the Government for hearing our cries,” Mr Lalibuli said.

“The tar sealing of Nabouwalu Highway has been on the agenda of our provincial meetings for decades, at one point we were promised a road but then funds were diverted, much to the disappointment of our chiefs.”

“Thus, we are grateful for the eventuation of this project, which has enabled the people of Bua to easily access services they need.”

Mr Lalibuli said farmers in the province previously struggled to deliver their products to town, spending hours travelling and a fortune on carrier fares.

“When we reach Labasa, we are covered with dust

from the poor road condition that we travelled on, and the first thing we’d look for is a tap when we get off,” he said.

“Now we can travel with ease to Labasa, sell our crops and return on the same day.”

“The second major project is the development of Nabouwalu Town which is gradually becoming a reality, we are truly grateful for this.”

Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Voreqe Bainimarama, while opening the Bua Provincial Council meeting, said work on the Nabouwalu Town Project will continue from August this year.

“The Department of Town and Country Planning spent \$1.75 million on the Nabouwalu Township development and foreshore development, and we are not finished,” PM Bainimarama said.

“The Government is currently reviewing this project to adjust it where necessary.”

“We’ve taken our time preparing for this project because we know important it is that we get this development right from the beginning. And I am pleased to announce this morning that the Nabouwalu Township work will resume by August this year.”

500 households to benefit from de-silting project in the North

JOSAIA RALAGO

FARMERS living along Korotari River in Labasa will now face a lesser threat from flooding following the commencement of the Korotari river de-silting project.

Vunimoli farmer, Emori Rakaisau, said this was a much needed intervention as they have already experienced four major floods in the past two decades.

Mr Rakaisau said damage done by these floods have worsened over the years, posing a constant threat to their homes and livelihood.

“We are happy that the Government has decided to address this issue because flooding is one of our major concerns,” he said.

“It damages our farms, village and pose a risk to our lives. This is why we have gathered here today to witness the commissioning, to show that we really appreciate this initiative.”

Mr Rakaisau belongs to one of the 500 households residing along the Korotari River that would benefit from this work.

While commissioning the project, the Minister for Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, said this was one of the Ministry’s undertaking to mitigate effects of climate change.

Minister Reddy highlighted three factors that contribute to siltation and leads to the over spilling of waterways.

“Every waterway has a discharge capacity and 50 to 60 years ago they were serving its purpose by discharging its running excess water into the sea. But overtime due to build of silt, the discharge capacity is reduced, affecting the livelihood and activities of our communities,” he said.

“The second factor is that now, the volume of water we get from rainfall is much higher, therefore the existing waterway discharge capacity is not ready to handle this new volume of water.”

“The third factor is that because of excessive commercial, agricultural, and industrial activities, there is more run off water now than five to six decades ago. This eventually ends up in the waterways.”

Minister Reddy said there was a need to protect arable land as not to reduce the productivity of farmers.

“Farmlands have been washed off because of scouring of farmland – and progressively bit by bit we are addressing this issue and protecting our communities,” he said.



Members of the Bua Provincial Council with the Prime and Minister iTaukei Affairs Voreqe Bainimarama during the Bua Provincial Council meeting held last week.
Photo JOSAIA RALAGO

Villagers enjoy fruits of women empowerment

JOSAIA RALAGO

FIJIANS residing in the District of Udu in Macuata are now enjoying the fruits of women empowerment in their community. This was made possible through an all-female operated canteen in Cawaro village which has been catering for their daily needs since 2016. Villagers, who as a final resort had to swim to a neighbouring

island to buy basic food items, or travel 98 kilometres to Labasa to do their shopping, now enjoy the same service from the Vadrugu Store. Senivono Women’s Club president, Losalini Vadrugu, said the idea came up during one of their club meetings as they identified that the acquisition of goods was a challenge they faced on a daily basis. “Travelling to Labasa was not easy and it was quite expensive as well, so we thought of

starting a canteen,” Mrs Vadrugu said. The women, who first opened their canteen from a small room in 2016, now operate from a building of their own. While they had initially only intended to provide for their village and the neighbouring settlements, the business has grown in popularity and has been receiving customers from as far as Cikobia Island. “The price of items on our canteen is cheaper even in comparison to some shops in the

main urban centre of Labasa because we understand the difficulties that we face as villagers,” Mrs Vadrugu said. “Villagers from as far as Cikobia Island, who get off here to get to Labasa, prefer purchasing their items from our canteen, and the same goes for other neighbouring villages.”

It has exponentially grown from selling basic food items like sugar, flour and rice to some luxury goods.



Importance of spending quality time with children: Akbar

THE Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, hosted a special dinner treat for 16 children at the Saint Philomena Children's Home in Suva.

Minister Akbar said enjoying quality family time and meals together with these children and carers helps with bonding, developing healthy eating habits and discuss opportunities to improve service delivery. "When a family sits down together, it helps them handle the stresses of daily life and the hassles of day-to-day existence".

Minister Akbar informed the children that her Ministry will be working closely with the Saint Philomena Children's Home's Executives in improving activities for children at the homes and promoting the purpose of quality family time.

"In one family, quality family time might be the most important thing parents want to teach; in another, it might be communicating with one another, learning how to listen, and

learning to respect each other."

"I value what you do; I respect who you are and what you're doing; what you do is important to me and my Ministry."

Minister Akbar assured the children at the Saint Philomena Children's Home that her Ministry will continue to support the underprivileged children at the Homes and around Fiji.

The eldest of the children at Saint Philomena Children's Home said that her brothers and sisters are very grateful to Minister Akbar for hosting them with a special dinner treat and giving them word of encouragement and advice.

"We are delighted with the love and compassion we have received from Minister Akbar. We are also grateful for the Minister's assurance that the ministry stands ready to assist us in ensuring that best care is provided to all the children at the Home".

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



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, bonding with children from Saint Philomena Children's Home in Suva recently
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

New heavy machinery for Levuka Town Council

THE Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts and Local Government, Premila Kumar, expressed her gratitude to the Government of Japan for donating heavy machinery to the Levuka Town Council.

Minister Kumar also extended the Fijian Government's gratitude to the people of Japan for all the support provided to Levuka Town Council and other Municipal Councils till to date.

"Levuka Town Council has been hiring excavators from the mainland to carry out much needed development on the island including management of solid waste for dump pushing. This has been time consuming and costly to the Heritage Town. With the timely donation of the 9 tonne Tipper Truck and the 5.7 tonne Excavator, they will no longer need to hire machines and pay cartage across to Levuka," she said.

Minister Kumar added that Levuka Town Council with only 152 rate-payers has limited resources.

"When we are limited by resources, there is greater dependence on the national government, NGOs and other development partners.

"The total rates invoiced by the Levuka Town Council in 2021 stands at \$166,255. So far, a sum of \$134,571 has been collected. The revenue base is small and unlike other municipality, Levuka Town Council has no car park or a market to generate revenue."

"It relies on government support to deliver basic services to the people of Levuka. As you all know the Government is building a market for a sum of \$2 million to assist the council to financially sustain itself in the long run. Every year Levuka Town Council receives around \$200,000 from the Government to manage their operation," Minister Kumar said.

Providing Solid Waste Management services in the different municipalities come at a cost. This cost is borne by the city and town councils, which is subsidised by the Fijian Government.

Levuka Town Council was allocated a Waste Collection Subsidy of \$50,000 to service the Rural Delegated Areas in Ovalau, Lomaiviti and Lau.

"It is everyone's shared responsibility to contribute towards the management of waste. The health and wealth of the land we live from, the environment, the community, and the society we live in is our shared responsibility," she said.

(Source: Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government)

Govt funds the Vuci Methodist Primary School rebuild fire



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts and Local Government, Premila Kumar, at the cement pouring ceremony for the construction of new building for Vuci Methodist Primary School
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE Fijian Government has invested \$746,000 to construct a new building at Vuci Methodist Primary School to replace the building that was damaged in the 2019 fire.

The Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts and Local Government, Premila Kumar officiated at the first pouring of mix ceremony, where she reiterated the Government's commitment towards education.

The 2019 fire destroyed four classrooms, a newly built computer lab and a school library, necessitating the school to resort to temporary alternatives to ensure that learning and teaching of 700-plus students was not affected.

Whilst speaking at the event, Minister Kumar acknowledged the resilience shown by the school, including the teaching staff and children who braved the tough times and ensured that classes continued.

She also commended the community for as-

sisting the school during its trials and tribulations and in ensuring that children continued to be in school.

The project is expected to be completed in 30 weeks which will house four classrooms, a library, a computer room and a staffroom.

"I am calling upon the contractors, school management and project management team to ensure that the end product is fit for purpose and best for our children and teachers. We need to see that at the end we get a quality product which reflects the money spent," Minister Kumar said.

The project will be monitored by Construction Implementation Unit (CIU) of Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Education to ensure quality work and completion within the timeframe.

(Source: Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts and Local Government)



Minister for Education with staff of Vuci Methodist Primary School
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Minister commends Northern farmers for bumper harvest

RICE farmers in the Northern Division have been commended for their efforts in raising rice production.

In a recent visit to Vanua Levu where he met with rice farmers and distributed portable rice mills, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy congratulated them on this major accomplishment.

“I want to thank each and every farmer in Vanua Levu who has done a tremendous amount of work to see a bumper harvest this year.

“So to incentivize the farmers we are providing portable rice mills so that you don’t have to go long distances to mill your rice for your own consumption,” Minister Reddy said.

“Every household is consuming rice and we cannot continue to import that volume of rice that we are currently importing. All around the world now, there is a major crisis with regard to food security, we don’t want to have any major crisis here with regard to our food security, therefore our landowners, farm-

ers and farm households and labourers, all of them need to come together to ensure that we have enough food to consume,” he reiterated

Minister Reddy also informed the farmers that their rice would continue to be bought by Fiji Rice Limited and encouraged them to continue to plant rice for their own consumption to help reduce the rice import bill.

Meanwhile, Nagigi/Korovatu Rice Cluster president Jainend Prasad said their cluster would continue to plant rice as it had ensured their members no longer had to buy their rice from the shops.

“We are thankful to the Government for assisting us with the rice seeds and harvester and for providing the support we need to grow rice, now we have a portable rice mill too to help mill the rice at our home,” he said.

“I now have my own bag of rice at home, I planted my family’s rice and we have it at home, we don’t have to worry about buying 10 kilos rice from the supermarket anymore, I have maybe 30 bags at home and that



Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy delivered portable rice mills to farmers in Vanua Levu. He also commended the farmers for their efforts in raising rice production. **Photo: Supplied**

is enough for my family, we will continue to plant rice and I thank the Ministry for assisting us farmers here in Vanua Levu,” Mr Prasad said.

The Ministry of Agriculture handed over a portable rice mill to the Nagigi/Nararo Rice Farmers Cluster, Nagigi/Korovatu Rice Cluster, Namoli Rice Farmers Cluster, Qawa Vuni-

vau Rice Farmers Cluster, Nabekavu Rice Cluster, Vunivutu Nasoka Rice Farmers Scheme, Nakama Rice Cluster, Waidamudamu Rice Farmers Cluster, Nasoni/Waikisi Rice Farmers Cluster and the Vunimoli Rice Cluster respectively.

The portable rice mill was part of the European Union funded Pro-Resilient Fiji project which

was being implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to support the Ministry of Agriculture’s wider aim to ensure food and income security for Fijian farmers.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)

Ministry launches organic compost formulation

RESTORING degraded agricultural land to enable sustained production through organic practices to ensure healthy crops and food is a priority for the Ministry of Agriculture.

This was reiterated by Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, while launching the formulation and distribution of compost at Nabukadra Village in Nakorotubu, Ra recently.

“The Ministry will continue to work on composting of locally available materials and provide these to the villages and settlements in the interior and coastal areas and to continue to encourage farmers to venture into organic agriculture.

“Farmers in most parts of the country are being urged to revise their farming practices and progressively implement more environmentally friendly and organic farming practices.”

“Organic agriculture has been continuously promoted by the Ministry over the years which has led to the establishment of new initiatives such as banning of weedicides, setting up of compost sites and produc-



Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy during the launching of the formulation and distribution of compost at Nabukadra village, Nakorotubu in Ra. **Photo: Supplied**

tion of bacterium culture.

Minister Reddy also made reference to the preferential market that existed for fresh Fijian organic-branded agricultural produce in particular turmeric, which had surpassed the export earnings of ginger as he called on farmers to move towards more organic farming to nurture and exploit the export market where organic produce fetched better prices.

He also elaborated that the Ministry had developed a local liquid organic fertiliser, Bacterium Culture that could be applied directly to their farms or can assist in composting and later applied to their farms.

“In 2021, a total of 33 communities have been

supplied with 100 tons of finished compost during the COVID-19 lockdown period to assist them with the production of crops for food security,” Minister Reddy said.

“The Ministry is also providing Bacterium Culture and has distributed more than 11,000 litres to farmers. A total of 24 bacterium tanks and almost all of the agriculture stations in the Central and Western Divisions have received and installed their 500litre tanks to supply Bacterium Culture free of charge to our farmers, while 10 x 200L drums have been installed at Nakorotubu District to support clusters working on Organic Agriculture.

It has been envisaged that

the formulation and distribution of compost throughout Fiji, will guarantee better soils for a better life and future.

Organic agriculture refers to a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems, and people as it relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects.

The Ministry of Agriculture has been actively promoting its Organic Initiative, the main objective of which was to reduce the consumption of synthetic or chemical fertilisers in Fiji.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)

Young farmers in Namoli receive kava drying materials

THE Namoli Youth Group received kava drying shed materials to help boost the group’s kava farming by hastening the kava drying process.

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, while handing over the assistance on his most recent trip to the Northern Division, said the assistance should help boost their agricultural venture.

“We’re here to offer this kava dryer here, to offer you the entire frame materials to build your kava dryer and we hope that this fast tracks the drying of your kava for sale in the export and local markets,” Minister Reddy said.

“As you know, kava is the country’s top export earner for non-sugar agriculture and in 2021, kava exports were around \$43million, the highest ever amongst other crops exported, this is an indication of the potential in the kava industry and that is why we have brought these items to help with your youth yaqona scheme,” he added.

Minister Reddy also acknowledged the 30 participants of the recent Farming as a Business Training on Yaqona coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture’s Farm Management unit, highlighting that it was an opportune time for their farmers to treat their respective farming practices as a business.

Namoli Youth Group president Niko Vetaukula said the group had already set out a youth yaqona scheme that set a target of yaqona to be planted by the group’s individual members to help in the village’s development.

“I want to thank the Ministry of Agriculture for this kava dryer assistance, this will go a long way in assisting our 35 members who are part of our youth club to achieve our aim of contributing to our village and our families,” Mr Vetaukula said.

“Now we no longer have to worry about rain affecting our kava drying process because drying of kava takes a long time and we are fortunate to receive this assistance considering the number of other youth clubs out there that also request for the same type of assistance, thank you very much,” said Mr. Vetaukula.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)



Strong leadership crucial in DRR efforts: Minister Seruiratu

STRONG leadership at all levels will help break the silos approach that often choke our disaster operations.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu in his statement delivered at the opening ceremony of the 2nd Session of the Stakeholder Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, Indonesia last week.

Minister Seruiratu said to have a good system, “we must have strong leadership and vision right at the top of the decision making process in Government”.

“I must therefore first acknowledge the leadership and vision of our Honourable Prime Minister in all our DRR efforts in Fiji and in making decisive and bold actions both locally and internationally when it comes to disaster and climate change matters,” he said.

The Stakeholder Forum provided stakeholders the opportunity to work together, share experiences and promote an all-of-society approach for the successful implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which was the first key agreement of the post-2015 development agenda.

The events had also set the stage for the Global Platform for Dis-

aster Risk Reduction, held following this event, and provided a platform for participants to hear from a variety of representatives from the United Nations system, national Governments, local, private and community leaders about their engagements with stakeholders.

“I agree that in order to remove working in silos mentality in DRR we must have a robust governance and legal framework and supporting operational structure to be able to execute decisions made. A good legislative framework can be a conduit of good operations and better results and outcomes.”

“I also believe that the technical support from our peer disaster management offices, experts and donor partners play a critical role in ongoing review and continuous improvement. The support from our Pacific UN office have played a critical role in knowledge and best practice transfers to Fijians focusing on building local capacity,” Minister Seruiratu said.

“From policy development to project implementation, working in silos has never been a successful model in this constantly evolving DRR space. A whole-of-society community inclusive approach is a best fit for creating and prioritising DRR policies and strategies. It helps affected com-



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu, with volunteers at a side event during the 2nd Session of the Stakeholder Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, Indonesia last week. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

munities take ownership of their development priorities, builds confidence and strengthens partnership with an opportunity to better understand disaster risks for better DRR decision-making.”

In his statement, he also outlined Fiji’s engagements with civil society organisations (CSOs) in the disaster management space through the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) - the umbrella body for CSO coordination in Fiji.

He told the Forum that as leaders and disaster practitioners, they played a crucial role in bridging the gap between government, civil society and citizens.

“We must encourage participation of all sectors of society. During the COVID -19 pandemic, we all recognised that in this age of systemic risk we are not safe until we are all safe.”

“In the past 10 years, Fiji has experienced the brunt of over 14 tropical cyclones with cascading hazards amounting to more than \$3 billion in damage and 67 fatalities. To conquer these frequent disasters, our partnerships with the broader stakeholders particularly with civil society had a substantial positive contribution towards the successful implementation of humanitarian and DRR actions in Fiji.”

Minister Seruiratu also ac-

knowledgeed the invaluable roles that civil society play at the national, regional and international levels, in ensuring that ‘no-one is left behind’ in our development aspirations.

Another initiative is the development of the draft Fiji Disaster Volunteers Manual which aims to promote local knowledge and localised expertise and the adoption of Risk Informed Development (RID) projects at the local village and district levels to educate and mainstream DRR at community level.

(Source: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Disaster Management)

Access to disaster risk financing a challenge - Minister Seruiratu

“Access to adequate finance early in the recovery, determines our ability to deliver on our recovery objectives and developmental plans.”

Speaking during the Fifth Edition of the World Reconstruction Conference Pre – Disaster Recovery Planning at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, Indonesia last week, Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu, stressed that the lack of available financing was a critical factor in delaying the start of recovery.

“With the right support and access to finance, countries can indeed emerge stronger and more capable of seizing new opportunities,” Minister Seruiratu said.

“This access to finance is essential to protect the nation’s wellbeing and serves to shape the outcome of the recovery initiatives in sustaining our blue economy.”

Despite this, he said, Fiji continues to progress well in its recovery preparedness and planning efforts through ongoing investments in the public and private sectors to mainstream disaster risk reduction (DRR) principles into its policies, plans, programmes and projects.

“Fiji, through the National Disaster Management Plan has a strong and well supported structure that prevail during disaster operations which includes pre-disaster recovery planning. This is an integrated and inclu-

sive approach that involves all actors at the national and sub-national levels including civil societies, business leaders, faith-based organisations and the communities.”

Local leaderships and capacity at sub-national levels, Minister Seruiratu said there were also key elements of any disaster recovery and these have been embodied in the disaster management structures and plans which contribute to the national framework designed to support effective recovery in disaster-impacted communities.

Minister Seruiratu said standard-setting was also critical for the success of recovery planning.

“Fiji has strengthened building standards for recovery projects. Following devastation from Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, 32 schools were rebuilt to more resilient standards. These schools were again in the path of another Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Yasa in 2020 and required only limited repairs and were functioning within weeks.”

The Integration of DRR and climate change adaptation, he said, was also a critical challenge.

“There is a need to

break down the silos that exist around action on disaster risks and climate risks with particular emphasis on the links between disaster risk management and climate change adaptation policies.”

“Fiji is strengthening the governance arrangements at the local and community levels by formalising Disaster Risk Management Committees to support pre-disaster recovery planning. These levels include traditional authorities, community-based organisations, higher education institutions, cultural groups, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations and private sector entities that play various

roles in planning for recovery. This is done with the aim to empower and increased participation of local leaders in utilising their knowledge and experience in disaster management activities; thereby strengthening risk reduction in recovery at all levels.”

Minister Seruiratu added that one of Fiji’s recovery measures that have shown better recovery outcomes was our ongoing efforts to strengthen governance and regulatory framework.

“These includes the formulation and review of our policies, legislations and partnerships. Our Fiji’s National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (NDRPP) for the years 2018 – 2030,

enables delivery of priorities for reducing and preventing new disaster risks. Our ‘whole-of-government’ and ‘whole-of-society’ approaches to recovery planning makes it imperative that DRR does not remain centralised but ensuring engagement and participation of all stakeholders and communities at all levels. In Fiji’s context we work to strengthen our inclusive approaches at every level to improve recovery readiness.”

(Source: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management Office)



The Fiji delegation led by Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, Permanent Secretary David Kolitagane, Director Disaster Management Vasiti Soko and other senior Government officials who were part of a bilateral meeting with the UN Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Special Representative of the Secretary-General for DRR and Head of the United Nations Office for DRR, Mami Mizutori in Bali, Indonesia recently.

75th session of the World Health Assembly

THE 75th Session of the World Health Assembly held its first in-person session in Geneva following the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key issues that were discussed included the strengthening of World Health Organization's climate change and pollution response, the stretched and underfunded health system, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), lessons learnt of the deep connection of health system and the environment, frontline workers, primary health care and preventing future pandemics.

WHO needs global support and sustainable funding was a key issue in this year's assembly.

The theme this year was 'Health for Peace, Peace for Health.'

In opening the assembly, the United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres, underscored that 'health is hope' and insisted on Member States to invest in this hope.

Fiji headed by the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, started the session with an early morning 'Walk the Talk' event which was in line with the traditional annual run and walk before the opening.

Minister Waqainabete was ably supported by Chief Medical Advisor Dr Jemesa Tudravu and the staff of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the UN and Other International Organisations – Geneva.

Following the 'walk the talk', Minister Dr Waqainabete spoke at the surgery side event for the America's Region on the theme 'Strengthening Surgical Care' in the America's' coordinated by Ecuador in partnership with the Pan American Health Organisation (PANO), Global Surgery Foundation and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Minister Waqainabete was invited to share the Pacific's experience including the results of Fiji's National Surgical Obstetric and Anaesthesia Plan (NSOAP) guide which could be replicated in the other countries as in the America's region.

Fiji's address was in line with the urgent need to scale up surgical, anaesthesia and obstetrics (SAO) care and its integration into national health system plans in line with the SDG 2030 on Health and WHO's Universal Health Coverage.

Further, Minister Dr Waqainabete had a bilateral meeting with Dr Adriana Blanca, the Head of the Secretariat for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to review Fiji's implementation of the FCTC and how the Secretariat could provide further support.

The Assembly was highly intense in Geneva in the global pursuit to reforming the global health architecture to prepare the way ahead in the global health regime where WHO plays a critical role.

The Assembly concluded on Saturday May 28th, 2022

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Fiji takes "outsource brand" to Europe



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, with the host of the interactive session during the 22nd Shared Services and Outsourcing week held in Lisbon, Portugal last week. Photo: SUPPLIED

A FIJIAN delegation, led by Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, was in Lisbon, Portugal participating in the 22nd 'Shared Services and Outsourcing' (SSOW) week.

The annual expo is the largest shared services event in Europe. This year, it attracted over 400 attendees, including representatives from Microsoft, DHL, Tesco, and Lufthansa Airline.

The Fijian delegation included Outsource Fiji executive director, Sagufta Janif and Investment Fiji chief executive officer, Kamal Chetty and was supported by the Australian Government's Market Development Facility (MDF).

According to Minister Koya, the event provided immense opportunities to showcase what Fiji has to offer as a premier outsourcing services (OS) destination and amplify the Fijian brand, especially with the increasing interest from renowned businesses in Europe to explore alternative outsourcing markets.

"Fiji's outsourcing sector has adapted and innovated over the years. With the Fijian Government support, we are growing into a hub for outsourcing services. The immense growth of the sector in a relatively short period of time is testament to this," he said.

"Events like this provide an effective platform to build global aware-

ness of our Outsource Fiji brand. It also helps attract new investments essential for the sustainable growth of the industry and the jobs it creates for Fijians.

"We recognise that image, brand awareness, and perceptions are important components affecting investment location decisions, and this event gives us the chance to talk with global brands about Fiji's competitive advantage as an investment destination. In the last year, four new OS players have invested in Fiji, and we are currently working with five new potential investors," Mr Chetty said.

During the three-day expo, the Fijian delegation will have the opportunity to engage directly with potential companies and investors and will also co-host a roundtable with the Shared Service and Outsourcing Network on creating a customer centric service and how Fiji's outsourcing sector remained resilient during the pandemic with government's recognition of OS being essential service industry, Fiji's major advantage for the EU market is our time zone.

With an 11-hour time difference, Fiji can offer "round the clock" support to our clients. This also gives us an opportunity to learn the latest global trends in the sector, said Executive Director for Outsource Fiji, Sagufta Janif.

The SSOW 2022 was held from May 23-25, 2022.

(Source: Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport)

Fiji hosts interactive session at Europe's largest shared services event

THIRTY business representatives joined the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, for an interactive group discussion at the 22nd European 'Shared Services and Outsourcing' week, held in Lisbon, Portugal.

Global brands represented at the discussions included Shell, ISS, Takeda, Heineken, Philip Morris International and Kimberly Clark.

The programme, which was co-facilitated with Sid Vasili, the Shared Services and Outsourcing Network's Head of Marketing and Sales Strategy, focused on creating a customer centric service.

"Businesses today are embracing customer experience as one of the most important tools to drive sales, brand loyalty, and competitive differentiation. Fijians have hospitality in our DNA and providing clients with superior customer experience also yields significant benefits for businesses, including lower costs, improved self-service, and higher employee satisfaction," Minister Koya said.

During the three interactive sessions, he also highlighted the Fiji Government's commitment to supporting the growth of the country's outsourcing services (OS) sector through a number of incentives, including recognition of the industry as an essential service provider to allow for business continuity which proved vital for OS businesses during the height of the



The Fijian delegation to the 22nd "Shared Service and Outsourcing week (SSOW) with Sanjay Patel, Senior VP and Global Head from Takeda Business Solution in Portugal Photo: SUPPLIED

COVID-19 pandemic, and a highly educated and tech savvy workforce.

Following the interactive group session, ISS's Head of Service Management, Pawel Rowicki, said he was not as aware of Fiji's capabilities as an outsourcing destination prior to the interactive group discussions led by Minister Koya.

The ISS is a leading workplace experience and facility management company with over 40,000 customers across over 30 countries.

"We were considering obvious countries like Philippines, India or Malaysia and this is an eye-opener," Mr Rowicki, who is responsible for the company's global shared services strategy, said.

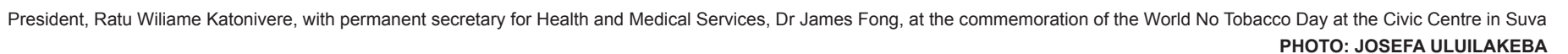
"Now if Fiji provides the services with five percent attrition in the industry and commits so

much to attracting the business that they send the government official, that means something. That is definitely a path we want to consider," he said, following today's interactive group discussion.

This is the first time that Fiji is participating at the European SSOW event. The Fijian delegation is led by Minister Koya and includes Outsource Fiji Executive Director, Sagufta Janif, and Investment Fiji Chief Executive Officer, Kamal Chetty, and is supported by the Australian Government's Market Development Facility (MDF).

The SSOW 2022 ended last week.

(Source: Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport)



SMOKING TAKES LIVES

President highlights economic burden

He also acknowledged the support of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office and WHO Fiji office for their technical and financial support.

Noda Viti

TOKONI NA TIKO BULABULA, VALUTI NI MATE KEI NA BASU LAWA



Noda Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na lewenivanua mai Wakanisila ena nodra siga ni taubale kei na tiko bulabula. ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI



ILISAPECI TUIVALE

ERA laki tokona na liuliu ni matanitu ko Viti, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na nodra sasaga na itabagone kei na lewenivanua ena itikitiko ena Wakanisila na uqeti ni tiko bulabula, valuti ni mate sureti kei na basu lawa. Vakaraitaka kina ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama na bibi ni nodra veitauriliga na lewenivanua ka mera qarauna na veika vaka na bolebole no mate sureti ena nodra bula ena



veisiga

Era soqo ni vata mai ena dua porokaramu ni taubale vakamataka lailai ka mai dewa yani ena nodra qito na itabagone ena kena uqeti tiko na tikobulabula kei na kena vakadreti tiko na valuti ni basu lawa. Na siga ni oqori eratou veitokoni mai kina na kabani ni yaya ni tara vale na RC Manubhai ka vakabibitaki kina na tiko bulabula. Kuria ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni sa dodonu me sa vakalesui tale mai na kena vakabibitaki na kania na kakana bulabula ka vakakina na kakana dra-



udrau kei na vuata ka me vakadreti talega na vakaukauwa ni yago ena veisiga. Oqo na taubale me 30 na miniti ena dua na siga ka me qarauni talega na kena vakayagataki na masima kei na suka ena gauna kece ni vakayagataki ni kakana tabusakayani. Vakabibitaki talega na nodra qarauni na itabagone ka vakavinakataki ira kina na tubutubu kei na dauniveisusu na liuliu ni matanitu nodra vakaitavitaki ira main a luvedra ena dua na porokaramu vinaka ka mera vakaduavataki tiko ena bula vakaitikitiko kei na vei bole-



bole eso mera valuta vata tiko. Vakaraitaka na jeameni ni veivakatorocaketaki ena itikitiko ko Wakanisila, Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki Lelevu ni Matanitu, Jone Usumate na nodra vakavinaka ena nodra yaco yani na Paraiminisita. Kuria okoya ni oqo sa qai ikarua ni gauna e vakayacori kina edua na sasaga ni siga ni tikobulabula, valuti ni mate sureti kei na basu lawa. Era kauti ira vata mai na lewenivanua duikaikai ena dua-vata ni sasaga bibi oqori.



Vukei ka tokoni na marama ena noda Viti

Mereani Gonedua

NA matanitu ena vakaqacotaka na nodra veiqaravi kei na sasaga ni nodra laveti cake na rawaka ni bula vakailavo ni marama ena noda vanua, wilikina na veimataqali porokaramu savukei ira tiko nikua. Na veimataqali porokaramu oqori esa vukea tiko nan a nodra rawaka vakailavo na marama mera vukei ira kina na nodra vuvale ka tokona talega na

veivakatorocaketaki ni lewenivanua ena veitikotiko eso. Era laki vakamatanitutaka na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua, Rosy Akbar edua na veiqaravi oqo ena Vadrai Womens group e Taillevu. Oqo ena vukei kina e 25 na marama mera vukea nodra vuvale. Vakaraitaka na liuliu ni soqosoqo oqo ko Nanise Buirokowaqa na nodra vakavinaka kina na minisita kei na matanitu ko Viti ena vuku ni veivuke oqo.



Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua ko Rosy Akbar ena soqo mai Taillevu. ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI

Veisiko ena Golden Manufacturers Ltd



Paraiminisita Bainimarama kei na boso ni GML Mr Razak kei na dua na ivakalesilesi ni kabani ena nodra veisiko ekeya. ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI

ERA laki sikova na vale ni buli kateni ni tawani yaya me volitaki ena veiyasai Viti ka tawani kina na yaya me vakau I vanua tani ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. Oqo edua vei ira na kabani rawaka sara vakalevu ena bisinisi ni vakauyaya ka vukea talega na

tubu vakailavo ni matanitu tabusakayani. Era laki sarava na liuliu ni matanitu na veimataqali misini ni buli yaya ena loma ni kena volau ni veiqaravi. E levu talega na kena tamata cakacaka ka sa vukea tiko na vakalailaitaki ni sega ni caka-caka ena noda vanua.

Vukei ka tokoni na marama ena noda Viti

ERA sa vakavinakataka na matanitu na kabani levu ni buli kakana ena noda vanua kei Pasivika ko Punja ena kaukauwa ni nodra veiliutaki kei na sasaga me vakatuburi tiko na bula vakailavo ni noda vanua. Era a veisiko voli ena kena volau ni buli kakana mai Lautoka na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe

Bainimarama kei Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum. Vakaraitaka na Paraiminisita na nodra vakavinaka vua na kabani ko Punjas ena nodratou mai vakatubulaivo ena bisinisi ena noda vanua vakakina ena vanua tani ka vakauasivi ena kena vukei na rawaka vakailavo ena noda vanua lomani.



Ko PM kei and Vunilawa ena kabani o Punjas ena nodra veisiko voli kina ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI

Wavu ni takoso vou e Baulevu, Waidra, Koroqaqa.



Ko PM ena dola ni wavu vou mai Waidra Baulevu. ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI

ERA laki dolava vou edua na wavu vou ni takoso mai Baulevu, Waidra kei Koroqaqa ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. Rau sota keina na ivakalesilesi ni UK Export Finance ka tomani Michael Treacy na liuliu

ni Mabey Bridge na kabani ka mai tara na wavu oqo. Erau vakavinakataka mai vua na liuliu ni matanitu. Tukuna na Paraiminisita ni kabani oqo edua veira na kena dau ena tabana ni vakatorocaketaki ni gaunisala, wavu ena wasewase vaka Urope.



Sega ni dua ena guilecavi: Paraiminisita Bainimarama



Ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama kei na dua na lewenivanua mai Dreketi ena gauna ni talanoa . ITABA: VAKARAIUTAKI

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

ERA veivakadeitaki na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama vei ira na lewenivanua mai na vualiku vakabibi ko oira na kena daunitei ni sega ni dua ena guilecava na matanitu ena nodra veiqaravi kei na veivuke. Mai Dreketi

e Macuata era a vosa veitalanoa kina na liuliu ni matanitu ka kaya kina nio matanitu ena tomana tikoga na nodra veiqaravi matau kei na veivuke vei ira na lewenivanua kece sara vakabibi oira na gadreva dina na veivuke. Ogo edua na gauna taleitaki baleta ni rawa nira laki veitalanoa talega ka vakamacalataka na veiqaravi sa vakayacora tiko

na matanitu ena gauna nikua. E levu na veivakatorocaketaki esa vakayacora tiko na matanitu me baleta na kena laveti cake na bula ni veiqaravi main a vualiku. Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni dodonu mera vakayagataka talega na valenivolavola ni matanitu, talai veivuke ena vualiku kevaka era dau sotava na dredre ni veivuke.

Rui bibi nodra taqomaki na gone

Nodra taqomaki vakavinaka na gone lalai edua na usutu ni veiqaravi ni matanitu ka sa vakalawataki kina na nodra dodonu kei na taqomaki na gone ena noda vanua. Oqori na nodra mala ni vosa na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua, Rosy Akbar.

Na kena vakadeitaki na lawa me baleta na nodra dau taqomaki na gone ena loma ni tabana me vakadeitaki edua na Tabana ni Veiqaravi ni Gone ka vakakina na kena vakadeitaki na lalawa ni yabaki me baleta na nodra taqomaki na gonevuli kei na nodra ciqoma ka dikevi na veitukutuku se ripote baleti ira na gone ena nodra cakacaka na ivakalesilesi ena tabana,kaya ko Minisita Akbar.

Eratou cakacaka vakaveivolekati tiko kina kei ira na UNICEF ka sa tiko kina na vakanuinui ni rawa ni vakadeitaki kece sara vakavinaka na veitikina eso me baleta nodra taqomaki na luveda.

Sa dua n aka talega na levu ni kisi ni nodra dau vakalolomataki na gone ka



Minisita Rosy Akbar kei Mr Veitch na liuliu ni UNICEF Pacific. ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI

vakakina nodra vakaloloma taki ena loma ni dua na veiwekani vakaveiwatini ka sa tiko kina na kauwai me vakalailaitaki talegha kina na leqa ogo.

Vakaraitaka na Mata ni UNICEF ena Pasivika ko Jonathan Veitch ni ratou sa tiko vakarau meratou na vukei Viti ena kena vakaqacotaki na tikina ogo.

Rauta ni 80.5% na gone ni Viti era sotava na leqa ogo ni veivakalolomataki se itovo lolovira se kaukauwa ka 1300 na levu ni kisi era sa ripotetaki mai.

Muduka na vaka tavako



ENA 31 ni siga ni vula o Me era veivakananumi kina na Tabana ni Bula ena vuravura ena bibi ni bula keina na leqa e kauta main a kana tavako. Na tavako se na kana tavako e kauta mai edua na ririko levu ni bula baleta ni semati voleka ena mate vu mai ena tauvimate sureti. Vakauasivi ena ate vuso ka ikava ni mate vakamate tamata ena noda vuravura nikua. Na kenisa talega e vu mai ena kana tavako. Ratou tukuna na Tabana ni Bula ni 16.6 na pasede ni lewenivanua ena noda Vitia era kania ena veisiga na tavako ka sa tubu talega na kena iwiliwili ena veisiga. Sa lutu sobu na yabaki bula ni tamata vakatavako mai na 22.2 kina 20.7. Na matanitu esa vakalawataka eso na tuvatuva me vukei ira na tamata ena nodra vakatabuya na tavako. Me sa rauta na kania na tavako!

Veisiko mai na Minisita ni Veika mai Vanuatani kei Jaina



Peresidedi Ratu Wiliame Katonivere kei na Minisita ni Veika mai Vanuatani mai Jaina,Wang Yi. ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI

ERA laki visiko ena tikotiko ni matanitu nodra na Peresidedi kei Viti, Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere na Minisita ni Veika mai Vanuatani

kei Jaina, Wang Yi. Era ikarua ni gauna mera veisiko mai kina noda vanua.Era vakavinakataki koya na Peresidedi kei Viti ena nodra siko-vi koya yani ena nodra vale.

VAKATULEWATAKI VINAKA NA VEIVAKATOROCAKETAKI

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Me tekivu mai na 2014, sa vakayagataka na matanitu e voleka ni \$250 na milioni na dola me vakatorocaketaki na yasana o Bua.

Na vei-vaka-torocaketaki qori kei na kena sa qaravi oti, e dabe toka ga ena rai ni matanitu – oya na kena kau mai vakavoleka vei kemuni na veiqaravi.

Qori e vica na ka e vakaraitaka na Paraiminisita ka Minisita ni Veika Vaka iTaukei o Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama e na nodra lai dolava na Bose ni Yasana o Bua e na siga Lotulevu na ika26 ni siga ni vula ko Me.

“Ena 2016, au a dolava kina na gaunisala

e Nabouwalu ki Dreketi — e rauta ni 70 na kilomita na kena balavu ka semata vata e 14 na wavu. E rauta ni \$228 na milioni na dola na kena isau vakailavo ka qaravi ga ena loma ni tolu na yabaki”, e kaya na Paraiminisita.

Na gaunisala ga qori, e veisautaka vakadua na ivakarau ni veiqaravi ena Vualiku ka semati Nabouwalu, Dreketi, Labasa ka yaco sara i Savusavu.

Tomana na Paraiminisita ka kaya ni matanitu e vakayagataka e 6 na milioni na dola ena porokoramu ni veivakalivalivataki e Nabouwalu.

“Na kena vinaka, era sa marautaka tu ena gauna qo na lewe ni yasana.”

E vakayagataki e \$5 na milioni na dola ena vakadrodroi ni wai savasava ka via

\$4 na milioni na dola e vakarautaki mera vukei kina na veikoronivuli.

“Na matanitu sa vakayagataka tale ga na nona isema i vanuatani me vukea na vuli. E dua na kena ivakaraitaki vinaka na matanitu o Ositerelia, ena nona mai tara na valenivuli ena Lekutu Secondary kei na Lekutu Primary,” e vakaraitaka na Paraiminisita.

Na porokoramu ni veivakatorocaketaki ena Vualiku (Northern Development Program) e vakayagataka e voleka ni 4 na milioni na dola me vukea kina na Yasana o Bua ka sivia na 3 na milioni na dola e vakatorocaketaki kina na valenibula e Nabouwalu.

“E rawati ga na veivakatorocaketaki qo ni vakatulewataka vinaka na matanitu na

bula vakailavo ka na vinaka ga na ituvaki ni bula ni lewenivanua kevaka e kaukaua na bula vakailavo ena noda vanua.”

Ra tomana ka kaya ni sa vakadinadinataki na tikina qo na veitabana vakailavo e vuravura, ka ra gole tale ga mai na daunibisinisi mera mai vakatubuilavo i Viti.

“Ni bera na Covid - a ciwa na yabaki veitaravi na tubu vakailavo ena noda vanua. Ia, me vaka ni mai sotavi keda na mate levu na COVID, sa tekivu me vakacokotaki tale na bula vakailavo ni matanitu.”

“Na vu ni kena mai kaukaua tu na bula vakailavo ena gauna qo, e baleta ni vakayavutaki ena lawa cecere duadua ena noda vanua oya na Yavunivakavulewa ni Matanitu Tugalala o Viti.”



Ko PM Bainimarama kei ira na sotia ena vei qaravi mai Lekutu. ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI



Ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama era laki dolava na bese ni yasana ko Bua ka vakara utaki vua na vei qaravi vakavanua. ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI

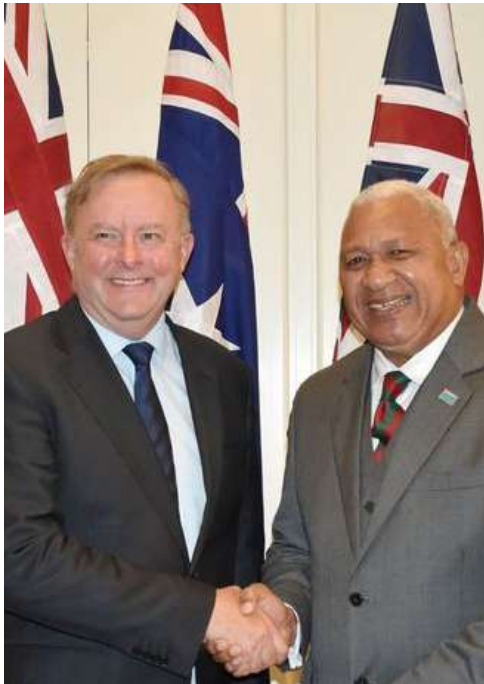
Vakauta nona vakanuinui vinaka ko PM Bainimarama

NANISE NEIMILA

ERA vakauta nodra vakanu-
inuivina na liuliu ni noda
matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe
Bainimarama

kivua na liuliu ni matanitu digitaki vou
mai Ositerelia Anthony Albanese MP, ni
oti na qaga ni nodra pati na Australian La-
bor ena veidigidigi levu mai keya.

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimara-
ma ni nodra wini na Australian Labor pati
sa ivakaraitaki ni nodra yalodei na leweni-
vanua e keya mera digia edua na matanitu
vou ena gauna dredre ka tiko yavavala e
vuravura. Vakacautaki Paraiminisita
Albanese o Paraiminisita Bainimarama
ena nodra dau tutaka na valuti ni drake
veisau ka sa tuvakarau me cakacaka vaka
voleka kei na matanitu vou oqo. Vakabibi
ena veiqaravi ni Vuvale partnership ena
kena valuti na bolebole edau sotavi.



Ko PM Bainimarama kei PM Albanese.
ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI

Sikovi na Lyndhurst kabani ni culaisulu



Ko PM ena nodra visiko ena vale ni culacula e Nasinu. ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI

ERA sikova na kabani ni cu-
laisulu ka dau vakau talega i
valagi na Paraiminisita Voreqe
Bainimarama ena kena volau
ni veiqaravi ena Kalabu Tax Free Zone e
Valelevu.

Vakaraitaka ko John Barton na kena ma-
nidia levu ni ratou dau vakau iyaya vaka-
levu I Ositerelia me vaka ni kena makete
levu oya. Na nodratou mataqali isulu
digitaki oya na Kookai ka ratou vaka-

cakacakataka e rauta ni 976 ka wilikina
e 88 na pasede na marama. Vakaraitaka
ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama na nodra
vakavinaka vua na kabani oqo me vaka
ni ra kacivaka ka matataka tiko na yacai
Viti ena vuravura ni culacula kei na vakau
isulu digitaki ena veiyasai vuravura. Dua
n aka levu na kena vakaitavi talega ena
kena laveti tiko na rawaka vakailavo ni
matanitu.

Dolavi na kabani vou nei HIGGINS ASPHALT PLANT me vukea na kena buli na gaunisala ena noda vanua.

ERA laki dolava
na kabani vou na
Higgins Asphalt
Plant ko Paraim-
inisita Voreqe Bainimarama.
Na kabana oqo e bulia na
kulutar ka dau yaga ena buli
ni gaunisala. Na kena levu
isau ni kabani oqo e tiko
ena \$8milioni ka nakiti me
na yaga sara vakalevu ena
veiqaravi ni buli gaunisala
ena noda vanua ena loma ni
tauni kei na vaigaunisala ena
veisaqata ni noda vanua ka
wili kina na Queens kei na
Kings Road.

Na kabani oqo e kaya na
liuliu ni matanitu ni na caka-
caka veivolekati sara ga kei-
na na kabani ni matanitu dau
ta gaunisala na Fiji Roads

Authority me baleta na
kena qarauni vakamatau na
gaunisala kece sara ena noda
vanua ka me vukea talega na
sasaga rai yawa ni matanitu
ena laveti na kaukauwa ni
rawaka vakailavo ena noda
vanua.

Na gaunisala talega e buli
ena gauna oqo e dodonu
me kaukauwa vinaka ka me
rawa ni vorata na kaukauwa
ni veisau ni draki ena cagi
kei na lagi.

Na kabani oqo ena nona
cakacaka me buli na asphalt
edua naka e dau gadrevi sara-
ga ena kena tagede vinaka
me vukea na buli ni gaunisala.
Ratou tiko mai Laucala na
kena volau ni veiqaravi.



Ko PM kei ratou na manidia ni kabani ena Higgins Asphalt. ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI

Marautaki na vakananumi ni yabaki 96 ni Ranadi kei Bolatagane



Na soqo ni vakananumi ni yabaki 96 ni marama Ranadi ka vakayacori ena vale ni mata kei Peritani ena noda vanua. ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI.

ERA laki vulagi dokai na Per-
esitedi kei Viti Ratu Wiliame
Maivalili Katonivere ena soqo
ni vakananumi ni siganicucu
nodra na marama na Ranadi kei Bolata-
gane ena yabaki 96 ka vakayacori ena 25ni
siga ni vulu o Me, 2022.

Era sureti kina na veimatanitu ka ra tiko
kina na kena vei mata mai na veimatanitu
ka wilikina na ivakalesilesi ni matanitu ko
Viti.

Vakaraitakina ko Dr Brian Jones na mata
ni matanitu ko Peritania ena noda vanua
ni soqo oqo esega walega ni vakaraitakina

na titobu kei na vutuniyau ni veiwekani ni
matanitu ko Viti kei Peritania, e vakaraita-
ka talega na kaukauwa ni veiqaravi kei na
veitokoni ka rawa ni qaravi ena Pasivika.

Vakaraitaka na liuliu ni veika ni veiqaravi
vakamatanitu ena matanitu ko Viti ko Jiko
Rasoqsoqo ni solia na nodra vakanuinuivi-
naka na matanitu ko Viti kei ira na kena
tamata vua na Ranadi kei na matanitu ko
Peritania ena siga marautaki oqo. Me vaka
ni sa balavu na veiwekani vakamatanitu,
vakavanua ka se tauyavu main a gauna ni
bula vakakoloni me yacova tiko mai oqo
ena veisau ni bula ena gauna oqo.



Rear-Admiral (Ret'd) Hon. J.V. Bainimarama, CF(Mil), OSt.J, MSD, jssc, psc
Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs

NODRA VOSA ENA LALAKAI

Ni sa bula vinaka na Turagabale, na Maramabale, ni bula vinaka tale ga na Turaga, Marama, Cau-ravou, Goneyalewa, kei kemuni na Luveda, oni dau taleitaka na vakarorogo ena noda gauna vakamacawa qo.

Ni bula vinaka tale ga na iLiuli ni noda Lotu e Viti kei Rotuma. Au sa vaka-vina-vinaka-taka vakalevu na itavi bibi oni qarava tiko ena cabori ni noda vanua vua na noda Kalou. Sa itakele levu ni noda sasabai na noda masulaka tiko na noda vanua. Me bula o Viti, me toso tiko ga i liu.

Ena macawa sa oti, a vosa mai Nadi o Sitiveni Rabuka ka se baci lasutaki ira tale na lewenivanua me baleta na qele ni itaukei.

Sa sega beka na itukutuku me vakaraitaka.

A vakaraitaka mada ena nona ivadi vakapolitiki mai Nadi, ni kena wasei vakatautauvata na lisi e sala ni nona taura na qele ni itaukei na matanitu – sa bau wacava tu na lasu.

E vakamacalataka na veidina-dinati era cakava na lewenivanua kei na Bole Levu Vakaturaga.

A sega ni dua na veidinadinati eda a vakayacora na lewenivanua kei na Matabose Levu Vakaturaga.

Na Bose Levu Vakaturaga e tauyavutaka na matanitu vakoloni me -- lewa -- ka vakamalumu-mutaka na lewenivanua.

E tauyavutaki na Bose Levu Vakaturaga me baleta na nodra vukei ga na sa rawati ira vina-ka tu.

Na Bose Levu Vakaturaga,

e vakatoka na lewenivanua mera “tamata wale ga”.

Au vakaraitaka na itukutuku qori baleta niu sa dabe oti ena Bose Levu Vakaturaga.

Ia, sa veisau na gauna, eda sa qaravi vakatautauvata na lewenivanua ka sa valuti na veivakadui-duitaki. Sa oti na gauna, meda ivakarau tu ga ni ka vei ira na turaga na lewenivanua.

Ena vinaka beka me cavuti vei keda nida “tamata wale ga”?

E vinaka beka meda bula tu ena iyala ni vanua ka da vakaivota-vota ena ivovo ni ka?

E dodonu beka meda ivakarau ni ka vei ira na sa rawati ira vina-ka tu me vakatoki ira na lewe ni BLV?

E sega ni dodonu ka na sega vakadua ni na yaco tale ena noda vanua.

E tiko na yavu e bokoci kina na BLV. Oni sa raica tu qo na vaka-

votukana ni ituvatuva vou e keitou vakarautaka. Ena tudei ka o n i na va-kila na k e n a v i n a k a n a

lewenivanua raraba.

E dua na kena ivakaraitaki vina-ka na wasei vakatautauvata ni lisi. Qo e votai vakatautauvata kina na iyau e taukena na lewenivanua.

Na nomuni matanitu sa qai raica na gagadre ni kena votai vakatautauvata na iyau ni vanua ka me vueta na bula ni itaukei.

E rawarawa sara na kena vakasama.

Ena 2010, au raica kina na gagadre “me kua ni dua e guilecavi”. Na Matabose kei Vuravura e qai biuta vakaituvatuva ena 2015 ka vakatokai vakavalagi na 2030 Agenda.

Sa oti na nona gauna o Sitiveni Rabuka kei na gauna ni BLV. Sa sega na nodrau tikina ena gauna vou eda sa bula tiko kina qo.

E vei-vakurubui-taki ni lai vakaraitaka tu na itukutuku qori ena loma ni yasana o Ba o Rabuka.

Na yasana a cavutu mai kina na turaga e a vuaviritaka ena 1987 o Dr Timoci Bavadra.

Ena gauna qo, sa suka tale o Rabuka ina yasana a vakalolomataka ena 1987 me lai rawai ira na kena lewenivanua mera tokona na nona ile vakapolitiki.

Sa dredre sara meda vakabauti koya.

E dredre meda vakabauta na itukutuku e lutu mai gusuna.

Ke mani lai vakacava soti na nona ivakamacala me baleta na qele ni itaukei, ena tukuna tiko ga na itukutuku lasu.

Na qele ni itaukei ena qele tiko ga ni itaukei – ka sega ni na qele ni matanitu.

Ia, o koya ena nona soqosoqo vakapolitiki na SVT a veisautaka kina na qele ni itaukei me qele volivakadua ka vakatokai vakavalagi me land swap.

Era na tukuna na dina ni itukutuku qori na lewenivanua o Nadi.

Au se bera vakadua ni lasutaki kemuni na lewenivanua me tekivu mai na imatai ni siga au liutaka kina na matanitu.

Au tu vata kei kemuni na lewenivanua oni vakatokai ena BLV moni “tamata wale ga”.

Au na vala tiko ena vukumuni me kua ni qai cadra tale na ituvatuva e vakabobulataki keda na lewenivanua.

E keitou na valuti ira na via vaka-bulabula-taka tale na itovo ni veivakabobulataki ena veigauna sa oti.

Moni qai vakasamataki ira na gone itaukei yabaki 18 kei na ivotavota vakailavo sa tu me bal-eiti ira.

Sa rawa nira tara na nodra vale.

Sa rawa nira vakaduria na nodra bisinisi.

Sa rawa nira sauma ga na nodra icurucuru.

Ia, ena rawa ni veisau kece na ituvatuva qori kevaka e liutaka tale na matanitu o Rabuka.

Au cavuta na “kevaka” baleta niu kila ni na sega tale ni liutaka o koya na matanitu.

Era sa vakadinadinataka na lewenivanua ni ituvatuva vou ni matanitu me baleta na qele ni itaukei sa vukea vakalevu na itaukei ni qele.

E dua na qaqa levu ni noqu matanitu oya na nona rawa ni caka-cakataka na iyaubula me vukei ira kina na kena itaukei.

Se qarava tiko ga na cakacaka qori na matanitu.

Au se qai qarava oti ga na vakasobuduru me baleta na vakatorocaketaki ni rua na tikiniqele mai – Vuda kei Tavua.

Era na vakila na kena vinaka na itaukei ni qele.

Era na votai vakatautauvata ena kena ivakayaga.

Era sega ni dau vakayacora na itavi qo na matanitu – ia na noqu matanitu e qarava na itavi qo moni vukei kina na itaukei ni qele.

Na matanitu e vakarautaka na ituvatuva qori me rawa ni vakayagataki kina na qele era lala tu.

E dau dredre me soli vei ira na itaukei ni qele na lisi ka qai dredre sara na nodra kunea na ilavo me vakatorocaketaki kina na kedra qele.

Sa rawa nira vukei ena ituvatuva qo.

Ka vakatorocaketaka na bula ni itaukei ni qele.

E keitou sa vakayacora vei ira eso na itaukei ni qele.

E rawa ni qaravi vei kemuni na itaukei ni qele oni vakarorogo tiko mai.

E sega ni na vakamuri eke na cakacaka vakavanua ka oni na vakuwai kina na itaukei ni qele.

E rawarawa sara.

Kevaka o gadreva, mo volayaca.

E keitou na vakatorocaketaka na kemu qele.

E keitou na solia suka tale yani vei iko.

Qori ga na ka mo cakava.

Kevaka oni nanumi ira na luve-muni, ni vakatorocaketaka na kemuni qele.

Ena qai muri iko tu na cakacaka o qarava.



Noda Viti

Tauyavu na soqosoqo baleta na valuti ni mate na Lupus



Ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei ira na vakalesilesi ni Lupus Foundation.
ITABA: VAKARAUTAKI

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Erui ka bibi me tauyavutaki edua na soqosoqo me vaka na Lupus foundation Fiji. Oqori na nodra rai na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Veika ni Lavo ni Matanitu, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena nodra vosa tiko ena dua na vakayakavi ni tau soli me baleta na kena valuti na mate oqo. Na Lupus oya edua na mate ka sa laurau ni veitauvi vei ira na noda ka vuvuce kina nodra sema ni yago, curumi ira na katakata ka tutubu na yagodra. Oqori eso na ivakaraitaki ni mate qo ka sa vakavinaka taki iratou na lewenisoqosoqo oqo na Vunilawa ena veivuke levu era sa vakayacori tiko ena nodra sasaga na lewenivanua era tauvi ira. Vakaraitaka ko Una Tuitubou na liuliu ni soqosoqo na nodra vakavinaka ki vei ira kece na lewenivanua era sa dau veivuke tiko mai veiratou baleta na valuti ni mate. Na ilavo e soqoni ena vakayakavi tau soli oqo ena tokona nodratou sasaga.



VOQA NI DAVUI

Radio Fiji One
Moniti - Tusiti
8.30pm [15 na miniti]

Radio Fiji One
Vukelulu - Lotulevu
8pm [30 na miniti]

Radio Fiji One
Siga Tabu
9.05am [30 na miniti]

कृषि मंत्री किसानों से प्रभावित हुए 2

खेलकूद की नई सुविधा उपलब्ध हुई 3

यंगोना की खेती को बढ़ावा देने की मदद 3

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फ़ीजी दर्पण

FRIDAY JUNE 3, 2022

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प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बाईनिमारांमा हालही में सूवा सिविक सेंटर में आयोजित गिरमिट दिवस के अवसर पर गिरमिटिया मजदूरों के वंशजों को सम्मानित करते हुए

चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

फ़ीजी-चीन ने विश्व चुनौतियों पर चर्चा की

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बाईनिमारांमा तथा चीन के विदेश मंत्री महामहिम वेन्ग ई के बीच हालही एक सभा हुई।

एक समाचार सम्मेलन के दौरान फीजी में मंत्री वेन्ग ई का स्वागत करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री बाईनिमारांमा ने कहा कि उन्होंने मंत्री के साथ प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र में सबसे बड़े खतरों का सामना करने के लिए साझेदारी को मजबूत करने पर एक श्रेष्ठ चर्चा की। “पिछली बार मंत्री वेन्ग 2018 में फीजी के दौरे पर आए थे और तबसे अभी तक काफी कुछ बदल चुका है। एक महामारी ने विश्व अर्थ-व्यवस्था को समाप्त कर दिया है, मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव का प्रभाव और भी तेज़ हो गया है, तथा यूक्रेन और रशिया के बीच चल रही लड़ाई की वजह से

भोजन, फ़ायल तथा माल ईधर-उधर लेजाने का खर्च आसमान छू रहा है।

“हम इन संकटों के सामने बहुपक्षवाद के क्षेत्र से पीछे नहीं हट सकते। वास्तव में इससे पहले वैश्विक सहयोग और अंतराष्ट्रीय कानून कभी भी अधिक मायने नहीं रखा,” प्रधान मंत्री बाईनिमारांमा ने कहा।

“हमारी बैठक आपसी सम्मान और हमारे लोगों की निरंतर सामाजिक-आर्थिक प्रगति के हित द्वारा निर्देशित थी। हमारे पास एक ठोस आधार है जिसपर निर्माण करना है; चीन के साथ फीजी की दोस्ती ने बुनियादी ढाँचे को प्रशिक्षित करने और आवश्यक चिकित्सा आपूर्ति प्रदान करने में मदद की है जिससे हमारी महामारी से उबरने में तेज़ी आई है।”

“जैसा कि मैंने अपने हर नेता के साथ किया है, मैंने जलवायु कार्यवाई पर चीन से एक मजबूत प्रतिबद्धता की माँग की। एक वैश्विक समुदाय के रूप में, हम पेरिस समझौते के घ.थ-डिग्री सेल्सियस लक्ष्य के अनुरूप उत्सर्जन में कटौती करने के लिए बहुत कम-और मैं सभी अर्थ-व्यवस्थाओं द्वारा जितनी जल्द हो सके कोयले और अन्य जीवाश्म ईंधन को चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त करने के लिए जोर देना जारी रखूँगा।

“हमने गैर-कानूनी, रिपोर्ट न की गई तथा अनियमित मछली पकड़ने का मुकाबला करने के महत्व पर चर्चा की, प्रशान्त क्षेत्र में स्थायी महासागर प्रबंधन का विस्तार करने के अवसर, और उन तरीकों से हम फीजी के निर्यातकों को उनके उच्च

गुणवत्ता वाले उत्पादों और चीनी बाज़ार में उत्पादन करने में मदद करते हैं,” प्रधान मंत्री बाईनिमारांमा ने कहा।

प्रधान मंत्री के अनुसार जैसे जैसे हम बेहतर और मजबूत होते जाएंगे, फीजी हमारे द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के लिए उपजाऊ ज़मीन की तलाश जारी रखेगा। हमारे लोगों के सामने आने वाली चुनौतियाँ तबतक और तेज़ होगी जबतक उनका सामना करने के लिए सामूहिक समाधान नहीं निकलेंगे। सभा में फीजी-चीन द्विपक्षीय और सहयोग के बहुपक्षीय क्षेत्रों और कोविड युग के बाद की चुनौतियों पर केंद्रित चर्चा हुई। सभा के बाद चीन के विदेश मंत्री वेन्ग ई ने प्रधान मंत्री बाईनिमारांमा के साथ चीन-प्रशान्तीय देशों के विदेश मंत्रियों की सभा में हिस्सा लिया।



प्रधान मंत्री ने योजनाओं की प्रशंसा की



प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमारांमा हालही वूँदा और तावुआ में ज़मीन मालिकों के समक्ष बोलते हुए

रिपोर्ट: शेनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमारांमा ने वूँदा और तावुआ के ज़मीन मालिकों द्वारा दो अलग-अलग योजनाएँ शुरू करने के लिए उनकी प्रशंसा की है।

हाल ही में दो नई योजनाओं का नींव डालते हुए श्री बईनिमारांमा ने तावुआ के मनासा नाईदेरू तथा वूँदा के श्री चोसेफा तथा श्रीमति माकेलेसी उलुईवूँदा की प्रशंसा की जिन्होंने राष्ट्रीय नेतृत्व के साथ हाथ मिलाते हुए साहसिक कदम उठाया।

“आज से हम ई-तउकई लोगों की संपत्ति से अमीर लेकिन दौलत से गरीब होने की धारणा समाप्त करने से एक कदम दूर है,” जैसा कि हमने देश के नौ अलग-अलग जगहों पर दिखाया है, यह नींव डालने का समारोह आने वाली महानता का वादा करता है। यह साधारण का समारोह साझेदारी, दृष्टि, पुँजी लगाने तथा नयापन जाहिर करता है। यह राष्ट्र को इस तरह विकसित करने के हमारे व्यवहारिक दृष्टिकोण का एक प्रमाण है जो सभी फीजीवासियों को सशक्त बनाता है। इसके अलावा यह उन समाजों को प्रेरणा देती है जो आपके नेतृत्व को मानते हैं,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा। 2013 में हमने एक ऐसा संविधान बनाया जहाँ ई-तउकई

ज़मीन को सबसे ताकतवर सुरक्षा दी गई है जो फीजी के इतिहास में कभी नहीं दी गई थी। हमने हमेशा के लिए एक-एक इंच ई-तउकई ज़मीन को उनके सही मालिकों को सौंपा है तथा वह विरासत जो फीजी में नब्बे प्रतिशत से ज़्यादा ज़मीन का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है, देश की सबसे बड़ी संपत्ति है। “आज हम वो जश्न मना रहे हैं जो सरकार तथा आम लोगों के बीच साझेदारी से सम्भव हुआ है। इसके अलावा प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि अन्य सबडिविज़न जैसे कि वूँदा, यंदुआ तथा नासोन्गोला में योजनाएँ खत्म हो गई हैं जबकि वाईरेबेतिया, सावेनी, विसेईसेई, हरावी तथा लौतोका में उसी तरह की योजनाएँ जारी हैं।

“जो कोई व्यापार चलाता है को पता है कि कभी कभी पैसे बनाने के लिए पैसे लगाने पड़ते हैं, इसीलिए जिस सरकार की मैं अगुवाई कर रहा हूँ ने हमेशा ज़मीन मालिकों का समर्थन किया है ताकि उनकी ज़मीन के उपयोग से उन्हें ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा फायदे हो और उनकी आने वाली पीढ़ियों का भविष्य सुरक्षित हो।

कृषि मंत्री, किसानों से प्रभावित हुए

रिपोर्ट: शेनल देव

देश में किसान बहुत सी चुनौतियों का सामना करते हैं लेकिन इसके बावजूद किसान आगे बढ़कर बाज़ार की माँग पूरी करते हैं।

हाल ही में कोरोलेवू सेटलमन्ट में नाईदिरी किसानों के दल को एक पोटाबल राईस मिल तथा सफल किसानों को छोटी नेसरी पैकज प्रदान करते हुए कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने स्थानीय किसानों के योगदान की प्रशंसा की है। उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि उत्तरी विभाग को धान की खेती के लिए जाना जाता था और इस साल उत्तरी विभाग में जितना चावल उत्पादित किया गया है वो पिछले साल से काफी ज़्यादा है।

“ 2019 में छः हजार पाँच सौ (6,500) मेट्रिक टन धान उधारा गया था जबकि पिछले साल दस हजार तीन सौ 10,300 मेट्रिक टन धान उत्पादित किया गया था जो ग्यारह प्रतिशत से बढ़ा है। इस दशक में यानि 2011 से 2021 के बीच पहली बार धान के व्यवसाय में दस हजार मेट्रिक टन से ज़्यादा स्थानीय धान उत्पादित किया गया है।” हालांकि देश की आबादी बढ़ने की वजह से चावल आयात

(import) में वृद्धि हो रही है, फीजी का चावल को लेकर खुद पर निर्भर होने वाला प्रतिशत पंद्रह से सत्ताह प्रतिशत से ज़्यादा हो गया है।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा कि पिछले तीन सालों से हमारी मेहनत का फल अब हमें मिलने लगा है। हम देश भर में किसानों को धान बोने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर रहे हैं - जो कम वक्त में तैयार हो जाए।

“हम चाहते हैं कि हमारे किसान ध्यान में रखें कि हमारे भोजन जैसे डालो, कसेरा, चावल और शाख-भाजी की माँग पूरी हो,” डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा। फिलहाल, कोरोलेवू सेटलमन्ट स्थित नाईदिरी राईस क्लस्टा के प्रधान साईजात अलि खान ने किसानों की मदद करने के लिए कृषि मंत्रालय को धन्यवाद दिया है।

“यह पहली बार है जब हमें कृषि मंत्रालय की ओर से इस तरह की सहायता मिली है; हम उनके कर्मचारियों के बहुत अभारी हैं जिन्होंने हमारी देखभाल की है तथा हमारे साथ तकनीकी शिक्षा भी बाँटी है। हम इन सारी सहायता को लेकर अनजान थे तथा हम इसके बहुत अभारी हैं।



कृषि मंत्री किसानों को खेती के उपकरण प्रदान करते हुए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

चुनौतियों से उभरने के लिए किसानों की प्रशंसा

रिपोर्ट: शेनल देव

खाने-पीने वाले सामानों के बढ़ रहे दाम का आप पर और आपके परिवार पर कम प्रभाव पड़ेगा अगर आप इसके लिए व्यवस्था करने को तैयार होंगे।

हाल ही में बाउलेवू स्थित कोरोगांगा फार्मस कौपरेटिव को एक पोटाबल राईस मिल प्रदान करते हुए कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने ऐसा कहा। उन्होंने आम किया कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र के फूड एन्ड अग्रीकल्चर ऑगनाइज़ेशन ने दुनिया भर में खाने-पीने वाले सामानों के बढ़ते दाम को लेकर हाल ही में एक रिपोर्ट निकाली है, लेकिन उन्होंने जोर दिया कि यहाँ फीजी में इसको लेकर कोई समस्या नहीं होगी अगर हम घर के आँगन में शाख-भाजी बोना तथा कृषि उत्पादन बढ़ाना जारी रखेंगे।

“हमें खाने-पीने वाले महँगे सामान जो बाहर से मँगाए जाते हैं के बदले सस्ते और स्वस्थ भोजन करना चाहिए,” डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा।

“यह बेहद ज़रूरी है कि परिवार बदलाव करना सीखें। उनकी शिकायत समझी जा सकती है कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान एक बन्डल बीन का दाम आठ डॉलर था। आपको सस्ते कृषि उत्पादनों को लेना चाहिए जो बहुत महँगे न हों। जब कोई महँगा सामान भारी मात्रा में बाज़ार में उपलब्ध होगा तो उसका दाम ज़रूर

गिरेगा, उस दौरान आप इसे खरीद सकते हैं,” मंत्री ने कहा।

“हम बहुत उत्साहित हैं क्योंकि इस समय जब कई देश खाद्य की असुरक्षा तथा दामों में वृद्धि को लेकर चिन्तित हैं तो वहीं हम अपना उत्पादन बढ़ाकर खाद्य सुरक्षा की रक्षा कर रहे हैं। हमें उन उत्पादनों को बढ़ाना है जिसमें हमें फायदे हैं तथा उन उत्पादनों में से एक है चावल। इस साल चावल का उत्पादन पिछले साल के मिलान में काफी ज़्यादा था।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने किसानों को उनकी कड़ी मेहनत के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

“हम निर्यात बढ़ाने में सफल रहे। 2020 में कृषि उत्पादनों के निर्यात से देश में पहली बार सौ मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा की आमदनी आई जो 106 मिलियन डॉलर थी लेकिन पिछले साल ये और बढ़कर एक सौ इक्कीस (121) मिलियन डॉलर हो गई,” मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा।

कोरोगांगा फार्मस कौपरेटिव के सकेटरी अभय सिंह ने कोरोगांगा तक धान की मिल पहुँचाने के लिए कृषि मंत्रालय को धन्यवाद दिया और कहा कि इससे धान की कटाई के वक्त किसानों को बहुत मदद मिलेगी।

“अब हमें राईस मिल की खोज करने की ज़रूरत नहीं होगी तथा धान के किसानों की मदद करने के लिए मैं सरकार को धन्यवाद दे रहा हूँ,” सिंह ने कहा।



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी कोरोलेवू सेटलमन्ट में नाईदिरी किसानों के दल को एक पोटाबल राईस मिल तथा सफल किसानों को छोटी नेसरी पैकज प्रदान करते हुए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सरकार ने ग्रामीण समाज में खेल-कुद की नई सुविधा उपलब्ध कराई

सोनम सामी



युथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन कुमार वाला निमांनकर्ता और समुदाय के लोगों के साथ चित्र : अज़ारिया फरीन

युथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन वाला ने अभी हाल ही नाईलांगा, वा में खेल-कुद की नई सुविधा के निर्माण का उद्घाटन किया। यह नई सुविधा जो चौबीस मीटर लम्बा और पंद्रह मीटर चौड़ा है, के निर्माण में अड़तालीस (48) हजार डोलर लगेगा जिसे कोर विल्डर्ज एन्ड फनिचर लिमिटेड बना रहे हैं। मंत्री परवीन वाला ने कहा कि इस नई खेलकूद वाली सुविधा से नाईलांगा समाज पर बहुत सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ेगा क्योंकि यह सुविधा वहाँ के लोगों के स्वास्थ्य और भलाई को बढ़ावा देगा और समाज में कुछ प्रतिभाओं की पहचान करने में सक्षम करेगा जो भविष्य में खेलों में फीजी का प्रतिनिधित्व करेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि यह सुविधा खेल आयोजनों की मेजबानी में युवाओं और समुदाय के लिए आमदनी कमाने का अवसर प्रदान करेगा। रातु रूसियाते नामबुता मेमोरियल स्कूल तथा नाईलांगा गाँव के युवा अपने खेल-कुद के कार्य के लिय इस सुविधा का इस्तेमाल करेंगे। इस विशेष अवसर पर सुविधा के शुरूवाती निर्माण चरण में स्कूल के अधिकारी, समाज के बुजुर्ग और युवा प्रतिनिधि और युथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन वाला शामिल हुए।

यंगोना व्यवसाय बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार ने सहायत दी



रूरल एन्ड मरिटाइम डिवलपमेंट तथा डिजासटा मेनेजमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरुइरातू ट्रान्समिशन युथ ग्रुप को यंगोना खेती के सामान सौंपते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

नाईतूतु गाँव के ट्रान्समिशन युथ ग्रुप को यंगोना की खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिय यंगोना के तीस हजार बीज और टार्पलिन दिए गए। रूरल एन्ड मरिटाइम डिवलपमेंट एन्ड डिजासटा मेनेजमेंट मंत्री इनिया सेरुइरातू ने अभी हाल ही ट्रान्समिशन युथ ग्रुप को ये सामान सौंपा। यंगोना के बीज ऑफिस ऑफ दी सेन्टल डिवज़िन ने दिए हैं। ट्रान्समिशन युथ ग्रुप के नेता अक्वीला रिवालाई ने कहा कि जो बीज दान में दिए गए हैं से युवाओं के उत्पाद में बढ़न्ती होगी। “फिलहाल अभी तक यंगोना के पैतालीस हजार पौधे लगाए गए है। इस दान से सत्तर और बीज लगाए जाएंगे जो इन युवाओं के परियोजना का हिस्सा है” रिवालाई ने कहा। टार्पलिन का उपयोग युवक रात को खेतों में डेरा डालने में करेंगे।

“हम इस सहायता के आभारी हैं, यह पहली बार नहीं है कि मंत्रालय ने हमारी मदद की है, हम नाइतूतु गाँव के युवाओं की तरफ से इस अच्छे कारण को मान्यता देने के लिय मंत्रालय की सराहना करते हैं” रिवालाई ने कहा। यंगोना के बीज सौंपते हुए मंत्री सेरुइरातू ने समूह से इस महान कार्य को जारी रखने और अपनी कृषि जमीन में खेती की क्षमता बढ़ाने का आग्रह किया जो वे कर रहे हैं। “मैंने हमेशा कहा है कि किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति को बदलना कठिन है जो बदलना नहीं चाहता। हम जो दान लाए हैं वह कुछ ऐसे है जो आपको अपने खेत में पहले से मौजूद चीजों को विकसित करने और बढ़ावा देने में सक्षम बनाएगा। आप अपने समुदाय और अपने व्यक्तिगत परिवारों को बेहतर बनाने के लिय अच्छा काम करना जारी रखे,” मंत्री सेरुइरातू ने कहा।

नाला साफ और चौड़ा करने से खेतों और बुनियादी ढाँचे को सुरक्षित रखा जा सकता है



वोटारैस मंत्रालय द्वारा नारिया रा में नदी को साफ और चौड़ा किया गया चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

वोटारैस मंत्रालय ने खेतों, घरों और बुनियादी ढाँचे को सुरक्षित रखने के लिय नाला साफ और चौड़ा किया है जिससे नारिया, रा में एक सौ पचास परिवारों को फायदा हुआ है। गाँव में एक हजार चार सौ मीटर लम्बा नाला साफ और चौड़ा करने का काम वोटारैस मंत्रालय ने ड्रेनज एन्ड फ्लड प्रोटेक्शन कार्यक्रम के नीचे किया जो बाढ़ होने वाले क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले फीजियासियों को राहत पहुँचाने वाले प्रयासों का हिस्सा है। एडवाएज़री काउंसला संजीव सिंह ने कहा कि नदी में मैला तथा गाद के कारण खेतों, नदी के तटों और बुनियादी ढाँचे को नुकसान होता है। उन्होंने कहा कि गाद निकालने से उन किसानों को राहत मिली है जहाँ बाढ़ से करीब बारह खेत और चार घरों पर असर पड़ा था। “हम मंत्रालय के आभारी हैं जिन्होंने समय पर आकर नाला साफ और चौड़ा किया,” श्री सिंह ने

कहा।

“इससे पहले नालों में भारी गाद भरने की वजह से बाढ़ चढ़ जाती थी जिसके कारण नदी का पानी बाँध तोड़ देता था,” श्री सिंह ने कहा। श्री सिंह ने कहा कि इससे बस्ती में खेती की गतिविधि प्रभावित हुई है क्योंकि नदी के किनारे कुछ खेत नष्ट होने लगे हैं। जलमार्ग, कृषि तथा वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्रा रेडडी ने कहा कि नाला साफ और चौड़ा करने से नारिया के समुदाय, घरों और बुनियादी ढाँचे को बाढ़ से सुरक्षित रखा जा सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि किसानों और समाजों में सिंचाई या पशुपालन के लिय स्वच्छ और सुरक्षित पानी भी मिलेगा। मंत्री डाक्टर रेडडी ने कहा कि मंत्रालय जलमार्गों को साफ करने में सतर्क रहना जारी रखेगा ताकि पानी का बहाव अच्छी तरह से हो और बाढ़ से बुनियादी ढाँचे और समुदायों को कष्ट न पहुँचे।



प्रधान मंत्री बईनिमारामा ने डूकेती के किसानों की चिन्ताओं पर गौर किया

प्रधान मंत्री बॉरिंगे बईनिमारामा ने हाल ही में डूकेती मद्दुआता के किसानों के साथ मुलाकात की और उन्हें आश्वासन दिया कि फीजियन सरकार हर एक फीजियानी की मदद इस मकसद से करेगी कि कोई भी पीछे न रह जाए। इस अवसर पर प्रधान मंत्री ने डूकेती में सरकार की कुछ मुख्य योजनाओं पर प्रकाश डाला जिससे वहाँ के निवासियों के अलावा वनूआ लेवू के अन्य भागों में लोगों की ज़िन्दगी में सकारात्मक बदलाव हुए हैं। इस तालानीआ बैठक के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री ने निवासियों को बताया कि वे औपचारिक तौर से अपनी चिन्ताएँ व्यक्त करने के लिए डिस्ट्रिक्ट ऑफिस, प्रोविन्शियल एडमिनिस्ट्रेटो के दफ्तर तथा कमिशनर नोटन के दफ्तर का उपयोग करें। प्रधान मंत्री ने समय निकालकर उनसे मिलने के लिए निवासियों को धन्यवाद दिया तथा माँग की कि वे समाज में और विकास लाने के लिए सरकार के साथ मिलकर काम करें। किसानों ने सीधे प्रधान मंत्री के सामने अपनी चिन्ताएँ रखीं, जिनमें शामिल हैं ग्रामीन डूलाकों में बिजली, पानी तथा स्कूलों बच्चों के लिए आर एम एल यातायात वाली समस्या तथा अन्य विषयों के साथ उनसे एक राईस हावेस्टा की भी माँग की गई।

चित्र: अज़ारिया फेने



अटेनी जेनरल ने फीजी फेक्ट प्रतियोगिता का उद्घाटन किया

अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ मईयट खईपुम ने लवोंगा पार्क सिंगातोका में इस साल वाले डिजिटल फीजी फेक्ट सीका दुनेमन्ट का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया। अपने भाषण में अटेनी जेनरल ने खेल को अपने करियर के रूप में विकसित करने के महत्व के बारे में बातें की तथा खेलों में महिलाओं को शामिल करने का आभार व्यक्त किया विशेष रूप से फुटबोल खेलने वाली महिलाओं का। उन्होंने सरकार द्वारा खेलकूद को स्थानीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय तौर पर बढ़ावा देने वाली कुछ पहलुओं पर प्रकाश डाला।

चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला



राष्ट्रपति ने प्रीफेक्ट्स से अच्छा उदाहरण बनने की माँग की

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातु विलियम कार्तानिवरे ने डडली इंटरमिडियट स्कूल के प्रीफेक्ट से एक अच्छा उदाहरण बनने की माँग की तथा जिस संस्था की वे सेवा कर रहे हैं उनकी इमानदारी तथा मूल्यों को बनाए रखें। इन प्रीफेक्ट्स का इंटरव्यू करते हुए राष्ट्रपति ने ऐसा कहा। “मेरा मानना है कि तीन मल्य जो बेहद ज़रूरी हैं वो हैं सम्मान, नम्रता और आत्मविश्वास जो दिल से आना चाहिए। हमें हमेशा ध्यान में रखना चाहिए कि हम नियमों, कानूनों, दायित्वों और दूसरों के लिए सम्मान, संस्कृति और परम्परा के लिए अपने आप में और अपने आस-पास के लोगों में विश्वास के लिए सब कुछ सोचते हैं, तथा नम्रता के साथ कार्य करते हैं। “ आपके स्कूल का आदर्श वाक्य “ईश्वर पहले” एक अच्छे नेता को ढालने की अच्छी शुरुआत है।” राष्ट्रपति ने कहा।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



चुनौतियों से घबराना नहीं-शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार की माँग

शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार हाल ही में तिलक हाई स्कूल लौतिका में इस साल वाले प्रीफेक्ट्स का इंटरव्यू किया। इस अवसर पर उन्होंने विद्यार्थियों का उत्साह बढ़ाने के लिए कुछ शब्द कहे। उन्होंने उन विद्यार्थियों को बधाई दी जिन्हें इस प्रसिद्ध स्कूल में अपनी सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए प्रीफेक्ट बनाया गया है। “आपके सामने चुनौतियाँ आएंगी लेकिन अपनी ड्यूटी निभाने के लिए आपको दृढ़, आत्मविश्वासी और निष्पक्ष होना चाहिए।” तिलक हाई स्कूल पश्चिमी विभाग का एक प्रसिद्ध स्कूल है जहाँ से कई प्रसिद्ध नेता पढ़कर निकले हैं जो कई संस्थाओं में सेवा प्रदान कर रहे हैं। शिक्षा मंत्री ने वहाँ उपस्थित माता-पिताओं से माँग की कि वे अपने बच्चों को अपने सपने पूरे करने का मौका दे फिर चाहे वे किसी भी क्षेत्र में नौकरी करना चाहते हैं। शिक्षा मंत्री ने प्रकाश डाला कि समाज में जबकि अष्टापक, डाक्टर, नर्स, इंजिनियर तथा वकीलों की ज़रूरत है तो वही समाज को नाचने-गाने वाले, मई काअ करने वाले, कापेन्टर तथा एलेक्ट्रीशियन्स की भी बहुत ज़रूरत है। मंत्री कुमार ने माता-पिताओं की जिम्मेदारियों पर जोर दिया और कहा कि कुछ भूमिकाएँ स्कूलों और अष्टापकों को नहीं सौंपी जा सकती।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया





जिन्दगी के अवसर व्यर्थ नहीं जाना चाहिए- मंत्री बाला



रोजगार मंत्री रोजी परवीन कुमार, विदेश में काम करने जा रहे फीजीवासियों को विदाई देते हुए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

एक सौ तीन फीजियन कर्मचारी जो विदेश जाकर काम करने के लिए चुने गए हैं को याद दिलाया जा रहा है कि वे इस अवसर को व्यर्थ नहीं गवाए। रोजगार मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला ने पिछले सप्ताह आयोजित चार दिवसीय प्रस्थान पूर्व ब्रीफिंग के समाप्ति के दौरान यह बात कही। मंत्री बाला ने कहा कि फीजियन सरकार और ओस्ट्रेलिया के संबंध ने इस चुनौतीपूर्ण समय में फीजीवासियों को इस सुनेहरे अवसर का लाभ उठाने

की जरूरत है।

“यह बहुत ही खास पल है क्योंकि आपको ओस्ट्रेलिया में रोजगार के अवसर हमारे बुवाले साझेदारी से प्राप्त हुआ है” मंत्री बाला ने कहा।

यह अवसर आपको इन चुनौतीपूर्ण समय में अपने परिवारों की जरूरतों को पूरा करने में मदद करेगा। कुछ कर्मचारियों को नौ महिनो के लिए सिजनल वर्क प्रोग्राम में लिया गया है जबकि अन्य को लम्बे समय, चार साल के लिए मास के काम और अतिथि सत्कार के लिए लिया गया है। मंत्री बाला ने चुने गए

फीजीवासियों से बुद्धिमानी से, पैसे बचाने और अपने परिवार को समर्थन देने की सलाह दी।

“अपने लक्ष्य को ना भूले” मंत्री बाला ने कहा। उन्होंने चुने गए फीजीवासियों से अपने बीजा का उल्लंघन न करने और दूसरों के बहकावे में आने से बचने की सलाह दी क्योंकि इससे फीजी की प्रतिष्ठा बनी रहेगी। यह कार्यक्रम पिछले कुछ वर्षों में और आगे बढ़ा है और पाँच हजार दो सौ से अधिक फीजीवासियों ने पसिफिक लैवा मोबिलिटी स्कीम और न्यूजीलैंड के रेकोर्गनाईस्ड सिजनल एम्प्लोयर स्कीम में भाग लिया है।

फीजियन सरकार महिला आर्थिक जागरूकता कार्यक्रम मजबूत बनाने के साथ समर्थन करेगी



सोनम सामी

फीजियन सरकार ग्रामीण महिलाओं को गरीबी से निकालने के लिए परियोजनाएँ तैयार करेगी जिसमें महिला आर्थिक जागरूकता कार्यक्रम भी रहेगा ताकि उन्हें आत्मनिर्भरता और गरिमा के जीवन का निर्माण करने का अवसर मिले।

यह आय समन्धी परियोजनाओं से महिलाओं के पास अपने परिवार और समुदाय की देखरेख के लिए पर्याप्त पैसे रहेंगे।

विमन चिल्लन और पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने अभी हाल ही ताएलेवु में वांडाई विमन्स ग्रुप को आय समन्धी परियोजना सौंपते हुए इस कार्यक्रम पर प्रकाश डाला।

उन्होंने कहा कि प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमारामा ने 2021/2022 के बजट में इस परियोजना के समर्थन करने के लिए प्रतिबद्धता जताई है। इस स्कीम से वांडाई विमन्स ग्रुप के पच्चीस सदस्यों को फायदा होगा।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि इस परियोजना को आर्थिक रूप से सशक्त बनाने और सक्रिय होने

के लिए महिलाओं और विकलांग व्यक्तियों को भी शामिल किया जाएगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि उसे यह देखकर खुशी हो रही है कि फीजियन महिलाएँ उपलब्ध अवसरों का फायदा उठा रही हैं और अपने कौशल, पारंपरिक ज्ञान, व्यवसाय करने की क्षमता और कलात्मक योग्यता का इस्तेमाल कर रही हैं।

“मुझे यह देखकर बहुत खुशी है कि महिलाएँ जो चाहती हैं वह बोल रही हैं और यह एक कला है”।

वांडाई की महिलाएँ इस समय पर मिली सहायता के आभारी हैं जिससे अपने और समूह के लिए आय इकट्ठा कर सकते हैं।

मंत्री अकबर ने प्रधान मंत्री को फीजी में महिला आर्थिक जागरूकता कार्यक्रम के प्रति उनके निरंतर समर्थन के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

यह आय बढ़ाने की परियोजना निश्चित रूप से महिलाओं को समुदाय के अंदर खानपान सेवाओं में सुधार के लिए ईश्वर द्वारा दी गई प्रतिभा दिखाने का अवसर प्रदान करेगा।

किसानों को नसरी के पैकज प्रदान किए गए

सोनम सामी

पुरे राष्ट्रीय में कृषि उत्पाद को बढ़ाने के लिए कृषि मंत्रालय ने सत्तर से किसानों और पाँच किसानी समूह को छोटे नसरी पैकज दिए।

छोटे नसरी कार्यक्रम के चलते ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने वाले सफल प्राप्तकर्ताओं को पैकज सौंपते हुए कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रड्डी ने कहा कि इससे किसानों के उत्पादन में बढ़नती होगी।

मंत्री रड्डी ने कहा कि पैकज को सौंपते हुए उन्हें खुशी हो रही है और उन्हें उम्मीद है कि इससे प्राप्तकर्ताओं का मनोबल बढ़ेगा, प्रेरणा मिलेगी और अपने उत्पादन का विस्तार करने में मदद मिलेगी।

उन्होंने बताया कि तीन हजार से ज्यादा अर्जीया छः सौ पैकज के लिए आई थी और एक सौ बीस अर्जीया

किसानी समूह पुरे फीजी भर से आई थी। उन्होंने प्राप्तकर्ताओं को ऑनलाइन अर्जी करने और चुने जाने के लिए बधाई दी।

छोटे नसरी कार्यक्रम में छः सौ व्यक्तियों और साथ में एक सौ बीस किसानी समूह को सहायता दी जाएगी।

हर एक व्यक्ति को पच्चीस मीटर शाएलोन कपड़ा, खोदने के लिए एक खुदाई के लिए फोर्क, एक छुड़ी, पानी का कन्टेनर, और बुवाई दे दिया जाएगा जबकि किसानी समूह को दस पानी का कन्टेनर, दस बुवाई टै, दस छुरी, खुदाई के लिए दस फोक, पचास मीटर शाएलोन कपड़ा दिया जाएगा ताकि नसरी तैयार किया जा सके।

यह पैकज बा, राकीराकी, कोरोवउ, ताएलेवु साउथ, रेवा के गाँव तथा नाईतासीरी, सेरूवा/नमोसी और नावुआ में दिए गए हैं।



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी किसानों को नसरी के सामान प्रदान करते हुए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



ख़्याल बदलने की ज़रूरत है

रिपोर्ट: रोनल देव

वोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी, वातावरण मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर जागरूकता फैला रहा है कि गंदा पानी बहने से वातावरण तथा लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर किस तरह के खतरनाक असर पड़ सकते हैं।

वातावरण मंत्रालय को उम्मीद है कि वोटा अथोरिटी के साथ उनका संबंध और मज़बूत होगा तथा वे जागरूकता फैलाने तथा ट्रेनिंग कार्यक्रम के द्वारा समर्थन प्रदान करेंगे तथा राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना के उद्देश्यों को पूरा करेंगे,” वातावरण मंत्रालय के पेमनन्ट सकेटरी जोशुआ वाएक्लीफ ने कहा।

वोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्यूटिव ऑफिसर डाक्टर अमित छनन ने भी यही बातें दोहराईं। वोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी के संचालन के लिए वातावरण एक प्रमुख प्राथमिकता है। वातावरण विभाग ने यह बताते हुए चिन्ता जताई कि अथोरिटी का एक मेनहोल से गंदा पानी निकल रहा था। वोटा अथोरिटी दोनों घरेलू तथा कोमेशल ग्राहकों के साथ जागरूकता फैलाने की सभाएँ करेगी ताकि वे इस समस्या का सामाधान कर सकें। वोटा अथोरिटी ने आम जनता से माँग की है कि वे ज़िम्मेदार बने और घरेलू कचरे को शौचालय, नाले और सिंक वगैरह में न फेंके क्योंकि ऐसा करने से वोटा सिस्टम में गंदा पानी रूककर बाहर बहने लगता है।

“अभी हालही में लौतोका सिटी काउन्सिल के कार पार्क वाले इलाक़े में छानबीन से पता चला कि वहाँ गंदा पानी का चैनल पुराने कपड़े, टावल, प्लास्टिक बेग, बोतल तथा हेन्ड बेग डालने की वजह से ब्लोक हो गया था और पानी बाहर बह रहा था।

इन समस्याओं को सुलझाना बहुत महंगा साबित होता है तथा इससे गंदा पानी लोगों के घरों, व्यापार तथा नदी-नालों में जा सकता है और जब ऐसा होता है तो वातावरण को बहुत नुकसान पहुँचता है,” डाक्टर छनन ने कहा।

फिलहाल, लोगों का ख़्याल बदलने के लिए वोटा अथोरिटी, वातावरण मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर काम करेगी ताकि वे आम जनता से मुलाकात कर सकें। वोटा अथोरिटी जाँच कर रही है तथा व्यापारियों को सलाह दे

रही है कि वे जहाँ तक हो सके कानून का पालन करें तथा व्यापारियों को चेतावनी भी दी जा रही है कि वे वातावरण की सुरक्षा को लगातार नज़रअंदाज़ न करें।

वोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी, सरकार के साथ मिलकर, कुड़ा-कर्कट कहीं भी डालने वाले लोगों की आदत बदलने के लिए अभी के कानून में बदलाव



करने के प्रयास को मज़बूत करने पर काम कर रही है, ताकि बार-बार यह अपराध करने वालों को ज़ुर्माना भरने को कहा जाए। गंदा पानी वाले विषय की रिपोर्ट करने के लिए कृपया वोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी को 3346777 या किसी भी नेटवर्क से शोटकौड 5777 के द्वारा संपर्क करें या contact@waf.com.fj पर ईमेल करें।

वनुआ लेवू में बेरोज़गार लोगों के लिए सरकारी सहायता की अर्ज़ी

रिपोर्ट: रोनल देव

फीजियन सरकार वनुआ लेवू में बेरोज़गार लोगों को सिर्फ़ एक बार, एक सौ डॉलर की सहायता प्रदान करेगी। अर्ज़ी लगाने की अवधि आज शाम पाँच बजे तक बढ़ा दी गई है। वनुआ लेवू में अट्ठारह साल से उपर के योग्य लोग *161# पर डायल करके अर्ज़ी लगा सकते हैं जहाँ उन्हें यह सारी ज़रूरी जानकारियाँ देनी होंगी:

1. अपना पूरा नाम
2. बेर्थ रेजिस्ट्रेशन नम्बर या सिटिज़नशिप नम्बर
3. जन्म की तारीख
4. टेक्स आइडेन्टीफिकेशन नम्बर इतन्त;
5. एफ एन पी एफ नम्बर
6. वोटा आए डी नम्बर
7. घर का पता
8. यह वर्णन करना होगा कि क्या अर्ज़ी लगाने वाले को कोविड-घश की दोनों सुई लगी है शहाँ या नहीं
9. अगर हाँ है तो बताए कि सुई कहाँ लगी
10. फीजियन सरकार को अनुमति दे कि अर्ज़ी लगाने के सुई लगने वाले कार्ड तथा सिम कार्ड के रेजिस्ट्रेशन के विवरण पर गौर करे (हाँ या नहीं)
11. एक घोषणापत्र इसकी पुष्टी करने के लिए दे कि दी गई सारी जानकारियाँ सही हैं

जिन लोगों की नौकरी पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ा तथा जिन्हें सरकार से अन्य तरह की सहायता मिलती है वे इस सहायता के हक़दार नहीं हैं। इनमें शामिल हैं:

1. सभी सरकारी कर्मचारी;
2. प्रायवट सेक्टर और अन्य संस्थाओं में काम करने वाले जिनकी आमदनी पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ा था तथा पिछले एक महीने से जिनके एफ एन पी एफ में समान्य तौर से पैसे जमा हो रहे हैं;
3. सभी लोग जो एफ एन पी एफ की पेंशन स्कीम के नीचे हैं;
4. सभी छात्र जो टेशरी एडुकेशन लौन स्कीम तथा टोपस स्कालाशिप पर हैं और उन्हें समान्य अलावन्स मिल रहा है;
5. सौशल वेलफेरा की सहायता पाने वाले;
6. अट्ठारह साल से कम उम्र के लोग।

यह ज़रूरी है कि अर्ज़ी लगाने वाले लोग *161# डायल करने से पहले सभी ज़रूरी जानकारियाँ इक्ठ्ठा कर लें। अधुरी अर्ज़ियाँ तथा जिन अर्ज़ियों पर गलत जानकारी होगी पर गौर नहीं किया जाएगा।

एक व्यक्ति सिर्फ़ एक ही सिम कार्ड से एक ही बार अर्ज़ी लगा सकता है तथा सिम कार्ड उनके नाम पर रेजिस्टर होना चाहिए। अर्ज़ी लगाने वाले योग्य लोगों को कम से कम दो सुई लगी होनी चाहिए। सरकार की बेरोज़गार वाली सहायता से एक से ज़्यादा बार फायदा उठाने की कोशिश करने वालों को भारी जुर्माना भरना पड़ सकता है।

अर्ज़ी लगाते समय सही और पुरी जानकारी देने वाले सफल लोगों को पैमन्ट किया जाएगा। अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्रालय, वोडाफोन फीजी, डिजिसेल, कोमुनिकईशन्स मंत्रालय, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय, विमन, चिलरन और पोवेटी अलेविएशन मंत्रालय, फीजी रेवन्यू एन्ड कस्टम्स सेविस, फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडन्ड फन्ड तथा टेशरी स्कालाशिप और लौन्स बोर्ड साथ मिलकर अर्ज़ियों पर गौर करके उन्हें परखेंगे।

अर्ज़ी लगाने वाले सफल लोगों के एम-पैसा या माएकेश के अकाउन्ट में पैसे डाले जाएंगे।

इसके अलावा सौशल वेलफेरा की सहायता पाने वालों को भी इस साल जून महीने के पहले सप्ताह में पचास डॉलर का एक पैमन्ट किया जाएगा जैसा कि राष्ट्रीय बजट में घोषणा की गई थी। यह पचास डॉलर, हर महीने उन्हें मिलने वाले वेलफेरा पैमन्ट से अलग दिया जाएगा। यह पैमन्ट सीधे सहायता पाने वालों के बैंक अकाउन्ट या डिजिटल वलट में जमा किया जाएगा। पचास डॉलर के इस टोप अप के लिए कोई अर्ज़ी लगाने की ज़रूरत नहीं है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने दो लईन का पुल खोला

रिपोर्ट: रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री तथा चीनी मंत्री वीरेनो बर्डिमारामा ने हाल ही में वाईझा नउसोरी में दो लईन के बैली पुल का उद्घाटन किया। इस नए विकास की प्रशंसा करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री बर्डिमारामा ने कहा कि इस नए संसाधन से समाज में लोगों की ज़िन्दगी सुधरेगी। “पिछले कुछ सालों से मेरी सरकार लगातार देश को जोड़ने वाली और आधुनिक फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था के लिए नीव स्थापित करने के लिए बुनियादी ढाँचा प्रदान किया है।

“वाईझा से लेकर पश्चिमी विभाग, वनुआ लेवू तथा उत्तरी विभाग, बाहरी द्वीप तथा पहाड़ी इलाकों से लेकर फीजी के ग्रामीन इलाकों तक हमारा राष्ट्रीय संसाधन नेटवर्क पहले से कहीं अधिक मजबूत और विश्वसनीय है जो और अधिक विकसित हो रहा है। पहले वाईझा नाले के उपर लकड़ी का पुल वहाँ

के निवासियों के लिए सुरक्षित नहीं था क्योंकि गम्भीर वर्षा होने के समय वहाँ बाढ़ का पानी चढ़ जाता था और पुल पार करना मुश्किल हो जाता था,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

प्रधान मंत्री ने आगे कहा कि दिन अच्छा होने के बावजूद, भारी ट्रक पुल पार नहीं कर पाते थे तथा किसानों को छोटे ट्रकों में अपना उत्पादन तथा मुर्गी-बत्ख वगैरह भरकर कई बार पुल पार करना होता था। लेकिन 3.3 मिलियन डॉलर के दो लईन का पुल बनने से इस समाज की समस्या हमेशा के लिए खत्म हो गई है, जिसकी माँग आपने की थी और सरकार ने पूरी की है।

“यह पुल मजबूत बनाया गया है ताकि वो भारी ट्रकों का वजन सह सके तथा समाजों को जोड़ने के लिए सुरक्षित भी है जबकि वो खराब मौसम का भी सामना कर सकता है।

कृषि मंत्री किसानों से प्रभावित हुए 2

खेलकूद की नई सुविधा उपलब्ध हुई 3

यंगोना की खेती को बढ़ावा देने की मदद 3

रा में नाला साफ करने की योजना पूरी हुई 3

किसानों को नेर्सरी के पैकज प्रदान किए गए 6

फीजी दर्पण

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अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज़ सैयद-खईयूम हाल ही में औस्ट्रेलिया की नई विदेश मंत्री माननीय पेनी वोन्ग से मुलाकात करते हुए

चित: प्रदान किया गया

औस्ट्रेलिया की नई विदेश मंत्री के फीजी दौरे से बूवाले साझेदारी और मजबूत होगी

रिपोर्ट: शेनल देव

औस्ट्रेलिया की नई विदेश मंत्री माननीय पेनी वोन्ग के औपचारिक फीजी दौरे से दोनों देशों की बूवाले साझेदारी तथा क्षेत्रीय समृद्धि और आगे बढ़ेगी। अटोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने औस्ट्रेलिया की विदेश मंत्री से मुलाकात की थी जब वो मंत्री चुने जाने के बाद पिछले सप्ताह पहले औपचारिक दौरे पर फीजी आई थी। दोनों मंत्रियों ने औस्ट्रेलिया द्वारा प्रदान की जा रही सहायता पर चर्चा की जिम्मे कोविड से उभरने के लिए मदद, साएबासुरक्षा के प्रयास तथा सरकारी सेवा में बदलाव शामिल है। यह चुनौतियों का सामूहिक रूप से सामना करने और एक मजबूत भविष्य बनाने और साझा आकांक्षाओं को प्राप्त करने के लिए हमारे प्रशान्त परिवार की एकजुटता की पुष्टि करता है जिनमें शामिल है मौसम में बदलाव, महासागरों का संरक्षण, रक्षा और सुरक्षा, आर्थिक तौर से मजबूत होना, महिला और युवा सशक्तिकरण, शिक्षा तथा स्वास्थ्य वगैरह। संसाधनों के विकास में

आर्थिक सहायता देने तथा भारी मात्रा में प्रायवट सेक्टर द्वारा पुंजी लगाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने पर भी बातें हुई। प्रधान मंत्री वोरिन्गे बईनिमारामा ने मंत्री वोन्ग का स्वागत करते हुए, औस्ट्रेलियन लईबा पार्टी को इस साल के आम चुनाव में जीत हासिल करने तथा उन्हें मंत्री चुने जाने के लिए बधाई दी। प्रधान मंत्री बई निमारामा ने कहा कि मंत्री वोन्ग का दो दिवसीय फीजी दौरा फीजी और औस्ट्रेलिया के बीच दोस्ती, ऐतिहासिक और द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को मजबूत करता है। फीजी और अन्य प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र को सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, लिंग समानता, बेरोजगारी, मानवीय सहायता तथा प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के बाद सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए प्रधान मंत्री बईनिमारामा ने औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार का आभार व्यक्त किया। उन्होंने मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव पर औस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधान मंत्री एनथनी एलबनीज़ द्वारा मजबूत आदेश देने को लेकर उनकी प्रशंसा की है। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि अगले महीने जबकि फीजी, प्रशान्ती नेताओं की सभा की मेज़बानी करने की तैयारी कर रहा

है जो कि 2019 के बाद पहली बड़ी सभा होगी तो ऐसे में अन्य प्रशान्तीय नेताओं के साथ प्रधान मंत्री एलबनीज़ को भी सभा में भाग लेने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया है। प्रधान मंत्री ने औस्ट्रेलिया की विदेश मंत्री द्वारा अगले चार सालों में प्रशान्त को औपचारिक विकास सहायता के रूप में पाँच सौ पचीस मिलियन औस्ट्रेलियन डॉलर की सहायता देने की घोषणा का स्वागत किया है। प्रधान मंत्री ने आश्वासन दिया है कि फीजियन सरकार, औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार के साथ मिलकर दोनों देशों द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों को सुलझाएंगी, खास करके मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव तथा महामारी से समाज पर जो असर पड़ रहे है। दोनों नेताओं ने सहयोग के संभावित क्षेत्र पर बातें की जैसे कि व्यवसाय, पुंजी लगाने, टूरिज़्म, अर्थ-व्यवस्था, प्रशान्त से औस्ट्रेलिया में काम करने के लिए जा रहे लोग, संयुक्त राष्ट्र की शान्ति सेवा तथा मानवीय सहायता और प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के बाद राहत सहायता प्रदान करना। औस्ट्रेलिया की विदेश मंत्री सेनेटा वोन्ग ने कहा कि

फीजी के दौरे पर आने में उन्हें खुशी हुई क्योंकि उन्हें मंत्री पद सम्भाले चार दिन ही हुए थे। मंत्री चाहती थी कि उनके इस दौरे से इस बात पर ज़ोर दिया जाए कि फीजी तथा प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र के साथ संबंध में औस्ट्रेलिया का स्थान कहाँ है। “मुझे प्रधान मंत्री बईनिमारामा से मुलाकात करते हुए प्रसन्नता हुई तथा फीजी और औस्ट्रेलिया के बीच बूवाले साझेदारी को और मजबूत किया जाए। मैंने प्रधान मंत्री को सुनने और मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव पर एक वैश्विक नेता के रूप में उनके अनुभव से सीखने के अवसर को महत्व दिया,” सेनेटा वोन्ग ने कहा। “क्षेत्रीय एकता कभी इतनी ज़रूरी नहीं थी क्यों कि हम कोविड, मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव और रणनीतिक प्रतियोगिताओं के साथ कई चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे हैं,” औस्ट्रेलियन विदेश मंत्री ने कहा।