

FijiFocus



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at the ground breaking ceremony in Vuda, Lautoka. He termed the two subdivision projects by two landowning units in Vuda and Tavua, as “one step closer to ending the notion of the iTaukei people being ‘asset rich and cash poor’”.
PHOTO: NANISE NEIMILA

PM applauds land development

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has termed the two subdivision projects by two landowning units in Vuda and Tavua, as “one step closer to ending the notion of the iTaukei people being ‘asset rich and cash poor’”.

At the ground breaking ceremonies for the two projects on Wednesday, Prime Minister Bainimarama praised Manasa Naiceru of Tavua and Josefa Uluivuda and his wife Makelesi Uluivuda of Vuda for taking such a bold step ahead hand-in-hand with national leadership.

“As we’ve shown at the nine other sites throughout the country, this ground-breaking is a promise of greatness to come. This simple ceremony stands for partnership, vision, investment and innovation. It is a testament to our practical approach to developing the nation in a manner that empowers all Fijians.

And it is an inspiration to all those communities who stand to benefit from following your

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



INSIDE

KNOWING HISTORY OF THE
GIRMIT ERA VITAL: PM
- 5

FARMERS TAKE UP EQUITY
PACKAGE
- 13

WATER PROJECT ENDS
PROLONGED WATER WOES FOR UDU
RESIDENTS
- 11

MORE COCONUT FARMS
NEEDED IN WESTERN DIVISION
- 10

QUOTE OF THE
WEEK



Voreqe
Bainimarama.

*"There is no aspect of
Fijian society today that
the girmitiya and their
descendants have not
made better in some
fashion".*

NUMBERS

"238,599"

households were provided seed
packages and there was an
average increase by 19.8 per
cent in vegetable production."

Minister for Agriculture,
Environment and Waterways,
Dr Mahendra Reddy.

TWEET OF THE WEEK

Frank Bainimarama
@FijiPM

*Today's amendment to the
State Lands Act is a win for
the many Fijians seeking
proper lease titles. Rather
than live with uncertainty,
they will be provided
with the opportunity to
safeguard their families
and ensure their future
generations' prosperity
#NoOneLeftBehind*

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, Kororivalu

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

PM's NATIONAL YOUTH AWARD ASSISTS YOUTHS

Azaria Fareen

THE first ever Prime Minister's National Youth Awards function organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport has positively touched the lives of nine individuals in their effort to build a career for themselves.

A leg up in the form of \$5,000 grant by various private sector sponsors and the major award of \$15,000 has boosted the confidence of budding entrepreneurs who are now able to grow their business with the monetary award.

In receiving the \$15,000 'Entrepreneur Award', Sarvesh Chetty, who is the owner of Filter Supplies Pte Ltd applauded the award initiative and stated that it has created a platform to inspire all the youths to do something with their lives.

"I dropped out of school to help my dad with the business some 17-years-ago. We used to operate out of a residence and I remember that it was difficult to raise funds to start exporting products we needed for business," he said.

"Currently we have more than 40 employees. We have invested quite a bit of money in the area of Information and Technology as we want to transition to digitalisation and this grant will assist in that as well as expanding the infrastructure."

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, in commending the winners, said "this is the chance to recognise the achievements that your purpose has produced".

"Your personal and professional achievements took vision, self-belief, creativity, and some damn hard work with long nights, early



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya and the permanent for MCTTT, Shaheen Ali at the first ever Prime Minister's National Youth Awards held at Grand Pacific Hotel last week. **PHOTO: AZARIA FAREEN**

mornings and time away from friends and family which you dedicated to your business or your craft," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"Now more than ever we must stay firm in our commitment to unleash this generation's potential — as innovators, as experts, as entrepreneurs and as leaders," he stressed.

Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya said youth are often looked at as leaders of tomorrow but today they are being looked at as leaders of today.

"The Awards recognises outstanding youth in the categories such as Entrepreneurship, Sports, Music and Dance, Fashion, Arts and Creativity, Inspirational Leadership, Digital Innovator, Community Champion, and Eco-

Champion," he said.

"The MCTTT received applications of 157 individuals nominated by either their families, friends or colleagues and looked at the different attributes and their contribution to different fields," he added.

"You are doing exceptional things in the fight against climate change, supporting a creative economy, giving the nation recognition by excelling in sports, creating businesses that help diversify the economy, driving a change and breaking the bias by being the voice of the collective."

"This Government carries the vision of 'Transforming Fiji'. In Fiji — the youth are the architects of social inclusivity," he added.

PM acknowledges company's move towards clean energy

PRIME Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama visited the Coca-Cola Europartners Fiji (CCE) main manufacturing and distribution site at Laucala Beach in Suva recently.

The CCE has been operating for over 40 years supplying a range of non-alcoholic beverage range under the Coca-Cola family of products, such as Sprite, Fanta, Schweppes, Powerade, Pure Drop, Mother, Frubu and Minute maid Pulpy and Jucy.

The company also supplies under their alcohol portfolio, Fiji Gold, Fiji Bitter and other spirits from Paradise Beverages.

Prime Minister Bainimarama acknowledged the company's "Mission Pacific" program and thanked them for their contribution to protecting the environment.

Mission Pacific is a recycling program that was initiated by Coca-Cola Amatil (Fiji) Pte Ltd (CCAF) in 1999. Since its ini-

tiation, the program has recycled over 200 tons of PET bottles and cans annually.

The bottles and cans are collected by members of the general public as well as representatives from the local municipalities.

PET bottles and cans brought in for recycling are exchanged for cash with every kilogram of bottles and cans returned earns a dollar.

The Head of Government acknowledged the company's contributions in the fight against the impact of climate change, with their use of the first solar power plant in the Pacific.

Forty per cent of energy used to power the manufacturing and distribution factory in Suva was sourced through solar energy.

The Prime Minister also applauded the company for its resilience through the pandemic and for continuing to provide jobs for approximately 290 employ-



Prime Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama visited the Coca-Cola Europartners Fiji (CCE) main manufacturing and distribution site at Laucala Beach in Suva recently. **PHOTO SUPPLIED**

ees throughout Fiji and supplying over 3,488 customers and distributing to 8 export markets.

As part of its corporate social responsibilities, the company provides financial support to several major sports and events such as

the Coca-Cola Games, Netball Fiji, Fiji Rugby Union, Coke Zero Deans Rugby, Basketball Fiji, Fiji Gold Open and the Vodafone Hibiscus Festival.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Govt taking responsible step through amendment, says PM

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Government has been providing opportunities for Fijians to not only own their own homes through its First Home Purchase Programme but to also regularise informal tenants who reside on certain land.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said this was the reason the Government had brought through the amendment to the State Land Act, as it saw a need to reform the archaic legislation that hindered socio-economic development and facilitate support measures for those affected.

In making his contribution to the amendment in Parliament last week, Prime Minister Bainimarama said if the Government was irresponsible, it could have just allowed tenants to settle in informal settlements and to have an insecure future but “as everyone knows, that is not my Government”.

“We do things the right way by ensuring that Fijians not only have homes and formal leases, but can also access financial systems and proper services, such as electricity, clean water, footpaths and roads.”

The Head of Government said the amendment will allow Fijians who are currently residing on State land and have obtained informal approval from the lawfully registered lessee to formalise these arrangements.

He highlighted that in many cases, the initial registered lessee cannot be located or simply does not have the capacity to be

able to subdivide the land which was sold without consent many years prior.

Prime Minister Bainimarama added the Government also wants to ensure that properties are built to quality standard since improper leasing creates a lot of uncertainty for occupants which was then reflected in the types of houses they built.

He said these structures are more often than not unable to withstand the ferocity of national disasters and the best approach for any disaster is to be prepared by building resilient infrastructure.

“In essence, this Bill ensures the very important and fundamental right of every Fijian. According to Section 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji, Government must take reasonable measures

within its available resource to achieve the progressive realisation of the right of every person to access adequate housing and san-

itation,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

The amendment was passed in Parliament.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in Parliament last week. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

State land amendment enacted

THE amendment to the State Lands Act of 1945 was much needed as many Fijians are living without a secure tenure.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while bringing the Amendment Bill to Parliament last week which was later passed, said through the change proposed, the Director of Lands will now have the powers to cancel lease for lessees who no longer occupy State land.

Explaining the rationale behind the amendment, the A-G said under the current provisions, most State leases have a condition in that if a state lease was obtained, the lessee will need the consent of the Director of Lands to subdivide the land, sell the land or sell part of the land.

However, over the past 30 or 40 years informal arrangements have been struck between lessees and others who needed land as they had nowhere else to go.

“In particular after 1987, a lot of people who were dispossessed of their land, the leases that they had or whose leases were not renewed, essentially became refugees in their own country in terms of displaced people, so a lot of farmers or people who owned State land made arrangements with them.”

The A-G said such arrangements were found in certain parts of the country like Nadi - in Naidovi, Navo, Nasau, Solovi, Malolo Transmitter Road (vast areas), but the occupants do not have security of tenure.

“They do not build permanent homes because they think that they may be booted out at any time so they do not actually go to the banks to build a nice concrete home.”

He explained that the Director of Lands, under the current arrangements under the law, had to give notice to the person who had the lease in terms of them breaching it.

The A-G said, “The notice either cannot be served because the person is nowhere to be found or it has to be passed on”.

He said during consultations held over a few months, many of these groups made various submissions and some of them were extremely frustrated as they have been there for decades without any proper title being issued to them.

“The Director of Lands, her hands are tied. She cannot move on it because the current law does not allow her to do so. A lot of the people who actually sold them the land, they are nowhere to be found or they have passed on.”

He said a system that has been put in place in the amendment that provides for a Committee chaired by the permanent secretary for Housing and Community Development, and consists of the permanent secretary for Lands, Solicitor-General and anyone else such as the Town and Country director.

“Once they have actually established that in this particular area so and so had actually sold off their land to these people, albeit illegally under the law technically speaking, and they have been occupying this land now for the past 30 to 40 years, then they will be able to then cancel the original lease and be able to then issue them with the leases and the Director of Lands can actually do that,” the A-G said.

The amendment was passed in Parliament and has now been enacted.

PM applauds land development



FROM PAGE 1

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Attorney-General, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with landowners at the ground breaking ceremony in Tavua. PHOTO: NANISE NEIMILA

lead,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“In 2013, we ratified our Constitution which introduced the most powerful protection of iTaukei land in Fijian history.”

“We entrusted every inch of iTaukei land to our landowning communities for all time and that inheritance which represents over 90 per cent of land in Fiji is the greatest wealth-creating asset in the country.

“Today we celebrate the great things that Government can do when it partners with the people,” Prime Minister Bainimarama added.

In addition, the Head of Government said works had completed on other subdivision projects in Vuda as well as projects in Yadua and Nasoqela with works on similar projects also underway in Wairebetia, Saweni, Viseisei, Haravi and Lautoka.

“Anyone who runs a business knows that sometimes it takes money to make money

so, on the foundation of security we built, the Government I lead has supported landowners to maximise their land for their financial benefit and for the security and prosperity of their future generations.”

Attorney General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, who was also present at the ground breaking ceremony, highlighted the cost of development at these sites.

“In Wairebetia we are doing this subdivision that’s in tune of over \$1.5 million for 17 residential lots. What we are doing in Wairebetia and also in Saweni is trying to make them climate resilient which means that everything like electricity, water and communication lines will be underground.”

“In Saweni the Petina Property Investments, it costs us \$2million and there’s about 34 residential lots there.”

“Here in Vuda, Alipate Tavai from the tokatoka Nakelo developed his land and is on an escarpment the project costs Government \$5m and in Yadua, the Namara Trust there’s 13 residential lots costing about \$2.7 million.”

“The Nasoqela project in Tailevu has 15 residential lots and one commercial lot and the cost is about \$2.8 million and again it’s climate resilient and this one in Vuda has 15 residential lots with amazing views and it will cost Government over \$600,000 and the Tavua project which has 34 residential lots, three commercial lots and a civic area and the project cost is about \$2.7 million.”

The A-G further said that as an added service Government has also valued the lots which protects the project owners from being offered lower prices for their lots apart from their actual value.



Let's acknowledge the contribution of Girmityas in Fiji

"I AM glad to say that the descendants of the Girmityas have finally become Fijians and it took 97 years after the last arrival of the Girmityas for the citizens of these islands – no matter what their background – to finally gain a common identity, equal citizenry and a common name."

"A great nation is neither built in a day, nor is it built easily. It takes a lot – and I am proud to say that our forefathers had a huge part to play in the lot that it took to build our beautiful home Fiji".

These were the sentiments shared by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar while officiating at the closing of Telecom Fiji's 143rd Year Girmit Carnival which was held in Nausori last week.

Minister Akbar said, "Today, the 14th of May is an important date for Fiji, it is about reflecting on history and we celebrate living in a country that was carved through the blood, sweat and tears of those Girmityas. It is with immense appreciation towards the Girmit era that we can attribute the early years of our economic progress as a nation, to the great sacrifices made by our indentured laborers. And it is a fact that nothing will ever erase from our history".

She stated that one of the main investments of the Girmityas and their descendants was undoubtedly, education – because they knew soon that just like the conditions of the Girmit, anything could change and be taken away from them – everything except their education.

"They persevered for the establishment of schools for their descendants, and today there are



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar at the closing of Telecom Fiji's 143rd Year Girmit Carnival which was held in Nausori last week.

about 180 schools, universities and a nursing institution set up by the girmitya descendants," she said

"As a proud descendant of the Girmityas, I wish to take this time to say to my fellow Fijians that we must always hold the sacrifices, struggles and contributions of our Girmityas close to our hearts. Their blood, sweat and tears; their struggles and sacrifices; their pain and sufferings; and their triumphs and resilience are ingrained in our history and we must honor that always because they were indeed a massive part of building the Fiji we know. I pay my outmost respect to my Girmitya ancestors.

"We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the Girmityas. We all have our individual stories about the Girmitya experience passed down to us over the decades through our own families. For

all of us – the direct descendants of the Girmityas – today is a day of solemn reflection. To remember our forefathers," she said

"For me personally it's an emotional moment, especially to recall the struggles of our own families. The sacrifices and the suffering. But also the good times - of decent, hardworking men and women finally finding their feet in their new land and adjusting to their changed circumstances. It is emotional because I'm also filled with immense gratitude for the life our ancestors left behind for us despite the circumstances being so excruciatingly painful for them. They paved a way for better opportunities, for a better Fiji, and a better home. It may have taken a century but today we have an identity that resonates with the period of our existence in Fiji," Minister Akbar added.

"History is important because it can help us understand the present. History can help us get a better grasp of issues we face now and it can reinforce our appreciation of who we are as a people, and as a nation. As much as we will want to focus on moving forward, we must get our bearings through history and take care never to repeat mistakes committed in the past," she said

"And it is this history that must be repeatedly discussed with our younger generation. My hope is that every descendant of the Girmityas feels the same pride and gratitude that I feel whenever the Girmit is discussed – or whenever the Girmityas are talked about – whenever their story is told or whenever we see a glimpse of their belongings and images. We owe it to them".

Minister Akbar acknowledged all the schools and organisations that have organised their own events, mufti day, concerts, character parades, literature reviews, cultural events and competitions. to commemorate the 143rd year of the arrival of the indentured laborers in Fiji.

"Indeed this is one of the best ways to continue telling the stories of our ancestors and ensuring that today's generation and the generations that will follow will continue to learn and understand this massive part of our history". she added

Minister Akbar also acknowledged the Nausori and Nasinu Town Council executives, event committee members, event sponsors, the people of the Rewa, Tailevu and Naitasiri for supporting the event.

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

Honour the legacy of the Girmityas- Minister Koya

AZARIA FAREEN

THE stories of the Girmityas – is one of the untold history of difficulties and calamity – at the same time one of the greatest periods of fortitude and resilience.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya while commemorating the arrival of indentured labourers from British India 143 years ago.

"The Girmityas were the architects of the society we live in, who were lured as a decoy for a better life in a foreign land not far away whilst others were tricked into boarding the ship – without a clear direction on what tomorrow will present," he said.

"What greeted them was the exact opposite of the promises made - life in inhumane conditions, nominal remuneration, corporal punishment, sexual abuse including suicide and they lived through rainy days with crushing tasks at hand and the constant threat of illness and disease."

"The main message that I want to communicate is that Girmityas have been a meaningful and inspiring part of our nation's development and this is a recollection to be retold because of its relevance to our present day and future," he added.

Minister Koya said that the Girmityas were a shining example of survival, solidarity, sacrifice and service to the nation – a case in point for each one of us to practice in everything we do.

"Today, we hold a common identity as a nation – so this is a celebration of its own and a wonderful achievement and we are truly blessed to be living harmoniously, irrespective of color, religion or status," he said.

"I urge all of us to honour the legacy of the Girmityas by remembering their struggles, whilst it was a journey of trials and tribulations, we must take home with us the teachings of resilience, perseverance and the teachings of being practical, capable and flexible."

"But more importantly, do not take the opportunities presented to you for granted. Persevere equally on the educational, entrepreneurial or whatever opportunity life presents to you," he added.





Knowing history of the Girmit era vital: PM



From left: Indian High Commissioner to Fiji, Shri Palaniswamy Subramanyan Karthigeyan with Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama celebrated the 120th anniversary of the first Ram Leela presentation in Fiji with a member of the organising committee in Navua. **PHOTO AZARIA FAREEN**

AZARIA FAREEN

HUNDREDS of people turned up in Navua to be part of the celebration of the 120th Anniversary of the first Ram Leela presentation in Fiji.

The event was portrayed through a moving role-play performance which attracted people from all over Fiji.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said that “for generations, the traditions brought by the Girmitya to Fiji have added layers to our cultural fabric”.

“Not only in the form of celebrations, but by strengthening the shared values that matter for every Fijian and this festival is the perfect example,” he said.

“The story of Rama’s life carries lessons and ideals that any worthy child, sibling, student, spouse, friend, or leader should strive to emulate,” he added.

“The history of the Girmit era was never properly taught to the nation and it is a history we are still coming to terms with. Thanks to the hard work of descendants, activists and historians, first-hand accounts of girmitya have also been recorded for all to read.”

“To truly get a feel of what life was like at the time - to see through the eyes of the girmitya - I encourage all Fijians, regardless of age, ethnicity, or background, to take the time to read them,” he encouraged.

Prime Minister Bainimarama stressed its importance noting that we must know all of history, the good and the ugly, the triumphs as well as the injustices.

“They performed the hardest work of building the colonial economy, working cane fields, farming copra, laying brick, and carving out roads while earning wages too meagre to fund a return home to British India,” he highlighted.

“It was our good fortune that they remained because they made the best out of

those circumstances through wonderful contributions to the nation in agriculture, education, medicine, and literature.”

“They founded schools and started businesses, their food, festivals, and traditions added richness to our cultural fabric. So much of what we think of as “Fijian” - including roti and curry - was introduced by the girmitya.”

PM Bainimarama said that Fiji has come a long way since the Girmit era; a long way since 1987; and a long way since 2000.

“At the heart of this change, sits the 2013 Fijian Constitution which enshrines the government’s unwavering commitment to protect the rights and freedoms of every Fijian - equally,” he emphasised.

PM Bainimarama adds that it delivered recognition that was decades overdue by declaring every citizen of this country to be a Fijian with equal votes of equal value, equal protection under the law and united by a common purpose of building a better Fiji.



Actors depicting the journey of the indentured labourers (Girmityas) to Fiji and their struggles over the years followed by a performance of Ram Leela which celebrates Lord Rama’s victory over Ravana and to give out the message that good always triumphs over evil.



PM celebrates Girmit Day



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama met with the descendants of the Girmityas during the commemoration of 143rd Girmit day celebration followed by the viewing of a moving play which portrayed the struggles of the indentured labourers.



THE arrival of the ship Leonidas started the Girmit era 143 years ago, and to mark the occasion recently, Girmit Day was commemorated with much fun and flare through visual displays and role-plays around the country.

While participating in the ceremony, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama relayed on how the indentured labourers were misled with false promises and had their hopes preyed on for a better life.

“They were systematically lied about the nature of work, the duration of work, and the likelihood that any indentured worker would ever return home,” PM Bainimarama said.

“Girmitya, as they came to be known, endured years of back-breaking labour under brutal conditions that meet the definition of slavery that we hold today,” he highlighted.

“They performed the hardest work of building the colonial economy, working cane fields, farming copra, laying brick, carving out roads, worked under the whip and lived under constant threat of abuse and sexual assault.”

“The conditions were so terrible that it was not uncommon for labourers to be driven to suicide,” he added.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that Fiji became their home once the terms of their indenture ended and they made the best out of those circumstances through wonderful contributions to the nation in agriculture, education, medicine, and literature.

“But despite their making enormous contributions to the country, their struggle did not end with indenture, as the colonial government never accepted the girmitya as equal human beings, much less as full Fijians,” he said.

“The British colonial government maintained its power by drawing and deepening lines between different ethnic communities and to maintain the European position of prominence, they made a scapegoat of the Indo-Fijian population, painting them as outsiders who were undeserving of a full place in Fijian society.”

“No matter how much an individual achieved in a lifetime of work and study, they were always of lesser value because of their ethnicity and the injustice is almost impossible for us to comprehend in today’s Fiji,” he lamented.

“The history that began on this day, 143 years ago may be a history of injustice and brutality, but its totality over nearly a century and a half is a story of great hope, resilience and great capacity of human beings to overcome hardship and do great things,” he added.

PM Bainimarama adds that “there is no aspect of Fijian society today that the girmitya and their descendants have not made better in some fashion”.



Family praises Fijian Govt's education assistance

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Shalvi Darshana of Wailoaloa in Nadi conveyed her sincere gratitude to the Fijian Government for assisting her with her higher education studies in the field of medicine.

The second-year MBBS student could not contain her excitement when she received confirmation from the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Services (TSLS) recently that she was one of the National Toppers Scholarship recipients.

Her father, Dinesh Dutt expressed the family's appreciation to the Prime Minister and the Government for the golden opportunity.

"As a small business owner with financial difficulties, this assistance has come at the right time as I was struggling to pay for my daughter's tuition fees. Our family's hope has been restored as this education assistance through TSLS has reassured and encouraged my daughter to study hard and be suc-



MBBS student Shalvi Darshana with her father Dinesh Dutt. PHOTO- SUPPLIED

cessful in life."

"Her mark in Year 13 at Nadi Sangam College is 373 out of 400. When Government reopened the Topper Scholarship for students studying medicine, we were so

happy about it. My daughter applied and recently TSLS conveyed the good news via email regarding my daughter's scholarship."

Mr Dutt further added that his daughter's education was his fam-

ily's priority and with the Toppers scholarship, he felt that the burden on his shoulders have been removed.

"I have two daughters and I know their future looks bright.

The Government's investment on education is tremendous and I sincerely thank the Prime Minister for his sound leadership and wise decisions which has paved the way for better and quality education for our children," he said.

**Thank
you
again for your
generosity and
support.**

Dinesh Dutt
Father

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Peace and prosperity highlighted for Europe Day

Azaria Fareen

THE President, Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere and Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama attended the 2022 Europe Day celebrations recently.

The function which was hosted by the Ambassador of the European Union to the Pacific, Sujiro Seam, and Mrs Jane Seam at their residence saw attendance from cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, civil society organisations and friends.

In acknowledging the presence of the guests, Ambassador Seam shared the significance of the celebration, noting peace and togetherness to be a key achievement.

"I would like all of us to count our blessings because this is a rare opportunity considering COVID-19 pandemic taking a heavy toll on the world and the Pacific," he said.

"I would also like to remember those who are less fortunate, starting with our friends in Ukraine – the victims of this Russian invasion, which is unprovoked and unjustified and the Europeans have done everything we could to help them and we have been very fortunate to count on our friends in Fiji for being steadfast in calling for the end of the war."

"As we celebrate the day

of Europe, I want to recommit to the Pacific, to the fight of the shared values we have for peace and democracy to pursue our current priorities to fight climate change, to protect the oceans, to achieve sustainable development and remind the rest of the world that we are friends," Ambassador Seam added.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in his congratulatory message to Charles Michel extended his best wishes to the people of Europe and the European Union Member States.

"We celebrate alongside our friends and allies in the European Union this special day, marking the anniversary of the historic Schuman Declaration and the values of peace, cooperation among States, in Europe," he said.

"Fiji is proud of its longstanding relations with the European Union, and I look forward to the next chapter of our friendship, marked by the New Partnership Agreement that will pave the way for our enhanced political, economic and development cooperation over the next 20 years."

Prime Minister Bainimarama acknowledged and praised the European Union Member States, and its people for their enduring strength and resolve amidst the current crisis and conveyed warm wishes for their continued success and pros-

PM receives courtesy call from honorary consul of fiji in LA

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has conveyed his appreciation to the Fijian diaspora in United States, Canada and around the world, who continue to give back to Fiji and support the nation's development aspirations.

The Head of Government said this as he received a courtesy call from the Honorary Consul of Fiji in Los Angeles Vinod Bhindi last week.

The meeting enabled discussions on the current areas of cooperation between Fiji and United States, the way forward to strengthen partnership in trade and investment, tourism and economy.

Prime Minister Bainimarama acknowledged Mr Bhindi for his commitment towards Fiji and assured the Fijian Government's support to work closely with him to elevate levels of cooperation.

In response, Mr Bhindi commended Prime Minister Bainimarama for his strong and decisive leadership in taking the nation forward during the most challenging times, and for demonstrating Fiji's solidarity and strength as a leader at the global and regional levels.

Mr Bhindi said he was happy to meet the Prime Minister and have discussions on the potential areas of cooperation in the post pandemic era.

During the meeting, he outlined a number of initiatives which are currently being explored to complement the Fijian Government's ongoing work in the areas of economic recovery, trade and tourism, and building resilient infrastructure.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Honorary Consul to Fiji in LA, Vinod Bhindi. Photo- Azaria Fareen

Mr Bhindi said the timely cooperation with Fiji Airways and Fiji Tourism in promoting Fiji's lucrative tourism industry in the United States and Canada.

During his visit to Fiji this week, Mr Bhindi has been consulting Fijian stakeholders on promoting our local businesses abroad for increased export opportunities and marketing of Fijian made products in the United States and Canada.

He said with Fiji reopening its borders and with the resumption of

tourism, there is a great investment environment, and by using his networks in San Francisco and Washington, Mr. Bhindi is keen on bringing in new investors to scope areas of investment in Fiji, especially in tourism and trade.

Mr Bhindi is a Southern California-based businessman who was born and raised in Fiji. He migrated to North America in 1975.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Fiji launches national climate finance strategy

BY NANISE NEIMILA

THE Fiji National Climate Finance Strategy will fulfill the requirement of the recently enacted Climate Change Act in order to develop and implement a national climate finance strategy.

Secondly, the strategy outlines the priority policies, interventions, targets, and projects in 12 sectors that will require climate finance and keep us on track to meeting our ambitions and establishing ourselves as a role model for carbon neutrality and sustainable development.

Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, said Fiji has a clear idea of where we're heading as a country.

"As you are all aware, we have no shortage of strategies on how to address climate change. With help from many of you in recent years, we have set out our adaptation needs in the National Adaptation Plan and the Climate Vulnerability Assessment."

"Our mitigation strategies can be found in the Low Emissions Development Strategy, NDC Investment Plan, and the NDC Implementation Roadmap. On top of that, the National Development Plan includes extensive climate priorities, as do many of the line ministries' strategic plans."

The A-G stressed that the National Climate Finance Strategy integrates the policies, interventions, targets, and projects from all of these strategies, prioritising them according to the numerous consulta-

tions we've undertaken with most of you.

The strategy will be the starting point for anyone interested in helping the country finance its climate ambitions.

The strategy provides details on three important adaptation topics that are often overlooked and underfunded: gender and social inclusion, relocation, and human health.

Additionally, the A-G emphasised that women, children, and other marginalised groups are among the most vulnerable to climate impacts but given the right resources and opportunities, they can become innovative leaders in climate adaptation.

"This strategy includes concept notes for 24 mitigation and adaptation projects that are priorities for immediate funding and implementation."

"This includes 10 national and regional mitigation and adaptation projects that could be submitted to the Green Climate Fund and 14 mitigation and adaptation projects that are priorities for the Ministry of Economy."

The A-G added climate-vulnerable countries are calling climate finance "development finance" although "small island developing states like Fiji are competing for paltry amounts of funding that are not sufficient to address the scale of the climate crisis".

"Our nearly century-old global finance architecture cannot stand the heat of our warming world. It needs reform now, otherwise these policies and strategies will remain well intentioned pieces of paper rather than blueprints for the sweeping actions we require."



Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with staff members of the Climate Change Unit during the launch of the National Climate Finance Strategy at the Fiji National University (FNU) last week.

PHOTO NANISE NEIMILA

A-G highlights MPA goals



Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum speaks on Fiji's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in Parliament last week. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

PRASHILA DEVI

ACHIEVING the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) target is no longer a policy or global commitment by the Government but a legal requirement.

Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said Fiji's Climate Change Act on Part 13, Section 81(2) puts into law the designation of 30 percent of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as MPAs by 2030.

In response to a question posed during the May sitting of Parliament last week, the A-G explained that the Government had the foresight to create a conducive environment to ensure the enforcement of climate ambitions and determine feasible and achievable long term targets and short term goals.

"Government of course has not limited itself to simple commitments but has allocated significant resources and time to ensure the realisation of the 30 percent marine protected areas," he said. Elaborating further, the A-G high-

lighted that in 2021 the Ministry of Economy along with the Ministry of Environment with Ministry of Fisheries signed a memorandum of understanding with the Blue Prosperity Coalition to operationalise the elements of the National Ocean Policy, particularly the 100 percent sustainable management of the EEZ, of which 30 percent will be designated as MPAs. He said as for the status of MPAs in Fiji, they are rapid expanding to inshore areas. "Approximately 78 percent of inshore areas are under some form of locally managed marine areas or LM-MAs (locally managed marine areas). Currently, there are only four gazetted MPAs within the inshore areas while the rest are managed under the iTaukei traditional protocol of taboo areas."

However, the A-G pointed out that the overall issuance of MPAs are equivalent to 1.8 percent of Fijian waters, which meant that Fiji will not be able to meet its 30 percent of MPA commitment from inshore areas alone.

"Given the existing marine practices inshore, there is a need for significant expansion towards Fiji offshore waters outside of the iqoligoli areas to cover the remaining 28.2 percent of the MPAs." To this end, the A-G said that in 2020 through a robust and systematic 10-step process approved by Cabinet, a draft map was presented and discussed in the first round of public consultations and made available for stakeholders review. The A-G said more consultations are being organised in May or June this year for possible announcement and update on commitments, in time for the next UN Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon in late June 2022.

Ministry launches Fiji's First Eco-friendly Electric Car

FIJI has been spending 19 per cent of its total merchandise bill on fuel alone and the use of electric vehicles will greatly assist to bring this expenditure down.

This is needed now more than ever given the rising fuel costs that all sectors of the economy are facing.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, while launching Fiji's first ever eco-friendly electric vehicle at Palas Autohouse in Vatuwaqa, Suva recently.

"While every country wants economic growth to deliver on to its development objective, we must ensure that this growth are pegged on sustainable parameters. It must not compromise the quality of our environment. In this regard, technological development and innovation is key. Today we are gathered here to embrace a new technology for Fiji, the introduction of eco-friendly electric vehicles which is a significant step in the direction of carbon neutrality," Minister Reddy said.

"I am also informed that in over a year, just an electric car on the roads would save up to 1.5 million grams of carbon dioxide. It is further estimated that, the road transport accounts for around 30 per cent or more of air pollution in many towns and cities around the world - depending upon the populace. It was estimated a few years ago that

the annual ridership within the Nausori - Suva Corridor alone was close to 16 million. Electric Vehicles will play a major role in reducing carbon emissions."

He further added, "These vehicles also reduce the noise pollution - as electric cars are far quieter than the conventional vehicles. Therefore, by driving these vehicles, not only we eliminate emissions into the atmosphere, we also provide a more peaceful environment especially in crowded towns and villages".

"The vehicle we are all witnessing today is, the new MG ZS EV is the family friendly electric car, designed for those who want all the advantages of a zero emissions vehicle without compromising on practicality or style. I am informed that the vehicle provides the experience of a true electric acceleration, and can enjoy a driving range of up to 263 kilometers from a single charge. Charging can also be done overnight at your home on a 7kW fixed wall charger, taking an estimated 7 hours to fully charge," Minister Reddy added.

He assured the corporate sector that the Government will continue to support and promote the uptake of electric vehicles and other low-emission transport options.



Minister for Environment and Waterways, Dr Mahendra Reddy at the launch of Fiji's first ever eco-friendly electric vehicle at Pala's Autohouse in Vatuwaqa . Photo: Supplied

"These vehicle options will not just reduce climate damaging emissions but will also seriously reduce harmful air pollution. Programs as these will support the Government's overall drive towards a pollution free and of course carbon neutral economy. Our Government will continue to consider additional measures to increase the uptake of such low emissions vehicle options."

Source: Ministry of Environment



Leadership is about listening and respecting others: Minister Kumar

Newly inducted student prefects at Lovu Sangam School have been reminded that leadership is about bringing positive changes to individuals and the institution as a whole.

While officiating at the prefect induction ceremony held at the school in Lautoka, the Minister for Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar said one can never be a good leader if they are not good with their fellow colleagues.

He said leadership was about listening and respecting others as opposed to abusing one's power.

From a total of 690 students, about 99 students were elected as school prefects.

School headteacher, Sumintra Chand, said the badge was not for show but rather a responsibility to uphold.

"You will work closely with teachers to move forward positively," Ms Chand said. "Remember a prefect is surely not a boss but rather a guide and an extra helping hand."



Photos: SUPPLIED

Fijians celebrate Europe Day

The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere and Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, attended the 2022 Europe Day celebrations held last week. The event was hosted by Ambassador of the European Union to the Pacific, Sujiro Seam, and Mrs Jane Seam at their residence in Suva.

Also attending the event were cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, and civil society organisations.

Photos: Azaria Fareen



A-G at the FCS passing out parade

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum officiated at the Fiji Corrections Services passing out parade held in Naboro last week.

The A-G acknowledged the 68 corrections officers for their empathy and compassion to serve and commended them for their hard work, endurance, and commitment during the 14 weeks of training.

He told the young men and women that their roles as corrections officers is critically important and without their professionalism, Fiji would not have proper corrections services to rehabilitate Fijians.

Photos: Nanise Neimila



President opens BRED Bank Lautoka branch

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.

Photos: Mereani Gonedua





Ba town commemorates 143rd Girmmit remembrance day



how the COVID 19 pandemic has affected our lives and sadly killed hundreds of Fijians, and millions worldwide. In the same manner, but on a local level the measles epidemic of 1875 was estimated to have led to the death of between 40-60,000 iTaukei. This along with wars, negative European influences like alcohol, and other diseases, led to a marked decline in the iTaukei population that would last well into the 1900s.”

He added that this relationship is on

a very strong personal level – as it the story of the survival of a race of people. Despite the enforced nature of the means, the end result was that the Girmmitiyas played a crucial role in arresting the population decline of the iTaukei, and no doubt their economic contributions also contributed to the continued growth of the iTaukei into a strong, stable and proud indigenous society.

The Telecom Fiji Limited (TFL) was the major sponsor of the event.

(Source: Ministry of Youth and Sports)

THE streets of Ba town were an array of colours as young men and women amassed in their traditional Indian attire, costumes and floats, marching through town in honour of the 143rd Girmmit Remembrance Day.

Exactly 143 years ago on May 14, 1879 the Leonidas sailed into Levuka Harbour.

On board were the first allotment of indentured labourers brought from British India to work the economy of the British Crown Colony of Fiji.

While officiating at the event held at the Ba Multipurpose Bure recently, the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar said the treatment of the first lot of workers intended for the plantations of Fiji, was not one of welcome, but one of quarantine on the small island of Yanucalailai, near Levuka.

“Indeed, it marked the beginning of the harshness of Girmmit, which forced them to call the period “Narak” or hell,” Minister Kumar said.

He said the arrival of the Leonidas marked the beginning of a trade in indentured labour that was to change the shape of our history in these beautiful islands.

“We must remember that apart from the economic reasons for the Girmmitiyas being brought to Fiji, there was the important consideration that the Girmmitiyas were to allow for iTaukei to be made exempt from such enforced labour on the plantations,” he said.

He said it is well documented by early Governors like Gordon and Thurston among others and historians that the migration of Girmmitiyas in Fiji was to safeguard the iTaukei and to stop their decline in population.

“During the past two years, we have seen



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar lights up the Diya at the 143rd Girmmit Remembrance Day celebration.



Small nursery packages delivered to farmers

MORE than 70 farmers and five farming clusters recently received small nursery packages from the Ministry of Agriculture as part of efforts to boost agricultural production nationwide.

While handing over the packages to these successful recipients who had applied online for the Small Nursery Programme, Minister for Agriculture Dr Mahendra Reddy said the packages should allow the farmers to increase their production.

“We’re pleased to be handing out these packages and hope that this will boost your morale, motivate you and also support you to expand your production,” Minister Reddy said.

“You have been chosen from a very competitive process, there were over 3,000 applications for 600 individual packs and there are 120 cluster groups who are receiving this throughout Fiji, I want to congratulate you for applying online and for being selected to receive this small nursery package.”

“I do hope that you will not take this and fence your garden, it is not for that purpose, the shylon cloth is to establish a small nursery, either for your pot plant or you want to grow lettuce or cabbage or you want to grow some seedlings and we will also be giving out seed packs which are free of charge so I hope that this will incentivize and motivate you and also accelerate your

agricultural activity and expand your agricultural output,” Minister Reddy added.

Under the Small Nursery programme, 600 individuals are being earmarked to be assisted, alongside 120 farming clusters. The individual recipients will receive 25 meters of shylon cloth, one digging fork, one knife, one jerry can, and one sowing tray, while the farming cluster will receive 10 jerry cans, 10 sowing trays, 10 knives, 10 digging forks, and 50 meters of shylon cloth to help construct a small nursery.

The nursery packages were given out to farmers in Ba, Rakiraki, Korovou, Tailevu South, Villages in Rewa and lower Naitasiri, Serua/Namosi and Navua.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)

More coconut farms needed in Western division

THE ageing coconut trees in the Western Division need to be replaced urgently and even greater urgency was needed in establishing coconut plantations in the West.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy while meeting with villagers of the five villages, Uto, Waqadra, Vunamoli, Nawaqadamu and Logi recently.

He said that the bulk of coconuts (copra) produced in Fiji was taken mainly from the Northern Division, particularly from the province of Cakaudrove with a large production specifically from the island of Taveuni.

Minister Reddy said the Ministry of Agriculture would provide the needed support to interested farmers who had land available to plant coconut trees and establish a fully commercial coconut plantation, but the onus remained on farmers to show their intent.

“We’ve brought coconut seedlings, Malaysian Dwarf, Hybrid and Fiji Tall, these three varieties are to be given to each village, and each village will be getting 100 coconut seedlings each. Of course, you have coconut trees but it is time that we replace the ageing coconut trees.”

“If you want to have a coconut farm, we are happy to develop it and to give you that level of support, whether you want 1,000 seed nuts or 2,000 or 4,000 seed nuts we will give you all of this at no cost but we want you to get ready, get your land ready and tell us,” said Hon. Reddy.

“In the Western Division, we are desperately wanting to establish coconut farms at the moment, currently, scattered trees are growing around us, we could have 10 coconut trees growing here and another 10 coconut trees growing over there but what we don’t have here in the West are coconut farms or plantations like we have in Vanua Levu, Cakaudrove, and particularly in Taveuni,” he added.

Minister Reddy also shared that the increase in the price of copra, which was at its highest at the moment, was due to the product being exported and this had led to healthy competition in the copra industry.

“So this is the time we need to establish coconut farms, we are now establishing coconut farms in the Western Division and our offer stands for this area and each village, if you establish five acres in each village or 10 acres, our offer stands, tell us and we will get you the seed nuts.”

The Coconut Programme had an allocation of \$150,000 in the 2021-2022 Budget to help promote coconut farming in the Western Division through the provision of seed nuts to farmers, supporting the Ministry’s objective of expanding the establishment of coconut plantations within the division.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)

24 Government officials now certified Psychological First Aiders

JOSAIA RALAGO

IN Government's bid to better prepare for Natural Disasters, the Ministry of Rural, Maritime and Natural Disasters hosted a Psychological First Aid Training (PFA) for Government officials in the North.

The training facilitated by Empower Pacific equipped its attendees on how to offer support to survivors of crises like natural disasters.

Officiating at the conclusion of the workshop, Divisional Commissioner Northern, Uraia Rainima, said the training of Government officials in such aspects was instrumental in natural disaster preparedness.

"We know that disaster operations take half of the year as our cyclone season starts in November and ends in April every year, so a lot of our time is taken doing this," Mr Rainima said.

He said in previous operations, officials responding to crises would encounter fatalities involving civilians, triggering trauma for some officials and affecting their performance while on the field.

"When we are equipped with this kind of knowledge; we will be of help to our team members instead of having to wait for external help," Mr Rainima said.

"Whatever we have gained from here will not only help us in our work environment, but most importantly our families and other



Psychological First Aid Trainees with the Commissioner Northern Uraia Rainima Josaia Ralago

organisations we are a part of."

Facilitator and Empower Pacific team leader, Shobna Indal, said this training was important especially for first responders to

catastrophic events.

"It is a humane and practical assistance to fellow human beings who recently suffered exposure to serious stressors," Mrs Indal

Yalimailalati said.

A total of 24 officials from various Government Departments participated in this training.

said.

"The basic principles of PFA are to look, listen and link. PFA training equips them with the knowledge on how to handle survivors, understand how it affects individuals differently and protecting them from further harm."

Tatatau Yalimailalati, representing the Ministry of Infrastructure, said serving communities during natural disasters was a challenging experience for civil servants who were expected to not only steer them to safety but to offer comfort to survivors.

"The training we had will help us move forward with a better service as far as natural disaster and other crises are concerned," Mr

Water project ends prolonged water woes for Udu residents



Apisai Masiasa, 79, of Wailevu Settlement, in Udu, Macuata now have access to safe drinking water in his home. Photo_ JOSAIA RALAGO

JOSAIA RALAGO

APISAI Masiasa, 79, opened the tap in his home with a smile as he felt the water seep through his fingers.

Mr Masiasa filled a mug and lifted it to drink the cool, clean drinking water that they now have access to.

For more than 40 years, residents of Wailevu settlement, in Udu Macuata have had to fetch water by hand from a nearby stream for daily use.

"This was a strenuous activity especially for our women and children who would sometimes slipped and sustained injuries in the process," Mr Masiasa said.

"For the past few years, our household was fortunate enough to have acquired water pump to extract water from the stream to our tank.

"However, it would get faulty from time to time and it had to be taken to Labasa Town for servicing which would take a few days."

He said it was due to this issue that led to farmers cultivating their crops upstream but their water source would dry up, affecting the supply of water for daily use.

"There were also growing concerns on the quality of water that we were consuming as it would sometimes get contaminated from the farming activities upstream," Mr Masiasa said.

The Government's Cawaro Water Project helped address the water issue for the 30 residents that make up this community.

"We now have access to safe, quality and clean drinking water right in our homes, and the women now do their laundry in the comfort of their homes," an elated Mr Masiasa said.

Cawaro Village headman, Solomon Waqa, said more than 200 Fijian now enjoyed water access in their homes 24/7.

"We are grateful to the Government for attending to our request and ensuring that we too in the rural parts of the country have access to quality drinking water," Mr Waqa said.

New Road brings better opportunities for Fijians



Waqa Sarai from the Department of Lands in Labasa received her certificate from the Commissioner Northern Uraia Rainima. PHOTO- JOSAIA RALAGO

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE need for a road has existed in the Udu District for more than a decade, says their Mata ni Tikina Aisake Galodamu.

The district comprises of five main villages and other settlements located on the Northern tip of Vanua Levu.

It was in 2019 that a road was finally constructed by the Government, and they have been experiencing life changing opportunities ever since.

"The need for a road has been our priority since the colonial days. We would like to thank the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama for making this a reality," Mr Galodamu said.

"We have been making this request to previous Governments but to no avail."

"The presence of this road has improved our contribution to the economy, brought bus services to our door steps and has improved our standard of living."

Mr Galodamu said if it were not for this de-

velopment, they would still be paying hundreds of dollars just to get to town as they usually travelled by fiberglass boat to town.

"With the current increase in the price of fuel, we would have suffered greatly as we would be paying a lot of money for transportation," he said.

"This road has also opened doors of opportunities to villagers.

"For instance, the Agro Marketing Authority (AMA) has been coming to us to buy fish, so we do not have to travel all the way to town, and many more."

He said they had set their eyes on income generating projects to raise the standard of living and to contribute to our economy.

"In the near future we can focus on eco-tourism and we have set our eyes on other projects that can be developed, which would now be possible with a new road," Mr Galodamu said.

"A team recently visited again to survey the continuation of the road from the school to Nukusa, with plans to continue the road to reach the last village of Vunikodi."

Fiji Navy taking bold steps in Maritime Safety

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

“MARITIME security initiatives currently being implemented by the Fiji Navy are designed to combat transnational crime including trafficking of drugs, human trafficking and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as well as emerging threats to the region.”

This was highlighted by the Minister for Minister Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu, while providing an update during the Parliament sitting on the Maritime Security Initiatives conducted by the Naval Unit of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces.

The Fiji Navy, Minister Seruiratu explained, was responsible for surveillance of Fiji’s 1.3 million square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and it achieves this through monitoring and coordinating maritime search and rescue operations for Fiji and regional search and rescue area of responsibility, ensuring that consistent operation of the critical Suva 3DP Coastal Radio Station and conducting hydrographic surveys and services for mariners who traverse Fiji’s waters, amongst other maritime security initiatives.

“The Fiji Navy enhances its support to border security agencies in the space of combatting transnational crime through information sharing and resource support. For cases of interest,

its increased and meaningful collaboration with partner agencies, has resulted in the successful apprehension of two foreign vessels since January, 2022. In addition, for the year 2021, the Republic of Fiji Navy fleet successfully conducted 89 boarding of vessels of which 19 were joint operations with regional partners who provided support in terms of aerial surveillance or at sea boarding.”

“The RFMF’s naval division continues to develop information sharing mechanisms whilst maturing with technological advancements to support the synthesising and assessing of maritime security threats based on a holistic view of the maritime domain. This is done to prioritise where to focus our limited maritime assets,” he said.

Minister Seruiratu also assured Parliament that these security measures will continue to develop as the naval division is preparing for the launch and opening of the Maritime Essential Services Centre in 2024, a project that undertaken with Fiji’s Vuvale partner – Australia.

It was also highlighted by the Minister that “the naval division is continuing to formalise technical agreements and operational framework that encompass cross-border support, capacity-building, information-sharing and



Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Inia Seruiratu, while providing an update during the Parliament sitting on the Maritime Security Initiatives conducted by the Naval Unit of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

development around search and rescue particularly with the New Zealand and Fiji Agreement signed in 2021”.

In 2021, a total of 53 search and rescue cases were coordinated by the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC), and of this number 147 lives rescued and 15 lives were lost.

The RCC has already coordinated 25 search and rescue cases this year.

Fiji’s kava export goals

PRASHILA DEVI

IN the first five months since Australia opened the kava pathway through the Kava Pilot Programme, Fiji has exported 30.4 metric tonnes of kava, earning around \$3.4 million.

Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Waterways, Dr Mahendra Reddy, in response to a question posed during the Parliament sitting last week, said in December 2021 the Australian Government through its Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade launched a Kava Pilot Programme under the Vuvale Partnership.

Prior to this kava was not allowed to be exported to Australia.

“So they allowed a pilot programme for export of commercial kava consignments into Australia and several of our local exporters took advantage of the opportunity,” Minister Reddy said.

“Considering the short duration we note that this is a substantial gain that we have made. There are a total of 146 exporters and Fiji is not the only country, there are other countries who are exporting kava. Out of the total of 146 exporters, 94 of these exporters are from Fiji.”

Minister Reddy said Fiji was exports most of the requirements of that market despite the stringent requirements, adding that this year Australia has also allowed other variants of kava such as kava root chips, kava root powder and whole kava root to be exported into the country.

“Despite the challenges of labelling, we have got good uptake that we have made in the first five months. Our exporters have been learning along the way and making sure that all requirements are met and there are very limited obstacles to exploring this new kava market and a massive market,” he said.

Minister Reddy said there was a large population in Australia who are from the Pacific, particularly from Fiji, who are consuming kava and Fiji wants to ensure that it can provide for a large chunk of that market, if not all, so it needs to get ready at the ground level.

He said Fiji wants to capture this market because if it does not, Vanuatu will come in but so far local suppliers are doing extremely well on this.

“I want to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for establishing this Vuvale Partnership which is, this opening of the kava market is a response of the Vuvale Partnership that was established between the two Prime Ministers,” Minister Reddy added.

Government continues to assist sugar industry: PM

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fijian Government has continued to provide higher levels of support to cane growers, than at any point in Fijian history.

This was relayed by the Prime Minister and Minister for Sugar Industry, Voreqe Bainimarama, during the Parliament sitting last week, where he highlighted that the cane growers have always been assisted in their need, particularly in the area of climate change.

“We have assisted with fertiliser and weedicide subsidies, cane top-up payments, cane-cartage transportation payments, cost for Penang Mill area growers and assistance with the renewal of leases through top-up payments to landowners,” he said.

“This includes upgrading of cane access roads covering one-third of the cost of purchases for the mechanisation of cane harvesting with the purchase of cane lorries

and incentives for new growers to enter the industry and for growers to boost cane production.”

“From 1st April, 2022, the price of fertiliser has gone up in access of \$80 per bag, yet the Government has continued to subsidise the entire difference of that increase so that growers still pay the same price of \$20 per bag,” he highlighted.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that a strong emphasis was being placed on the improvement of soil health through initiatives

such as fertiliser uptake, application of aglime and intercropping.

“The sugar industry is expected to achieve its target of two million tonnes of cane this year and with the current sugar price in the domestic and export markets, sugar revenue will increase,” he said.

“As announced in the revised budget of 2021-2022, the government has allocated \$500,000 to support cane growers who seek to convert their sugarcane leases to agricultural leases to plant other crops or for residential purposes,” he said.

“We are helping mechanise the industry but not all terrain can be harvested by machines. Some require manual labour, and to fill the labour shortage we are also working with the Fiji Corrections Service to supply labour to the industry,” he added.

“Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) will continue to carry out product, development and diversification and grow the market for its sugar of Fiji product and work on improving the packaging machines and distribution channels and acquire international certifications that would open doors to new markets.”

PM Bainimarama said that there is a potential for FSC to generate good revenue through bulk sugar and molasses exports which will help lift some of the financial burden of the government as a percentage contribution towards the guaranteed price of \$85 per tonne.



Prime Minister and Minister for Sugar Industry, Voreqe Bainimarama highlights on assistance provided to sugar industry in Parliament last week. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

Increasing production, becoming self-sufficient target: Minister Reddy



Minister for Agriculture,
Dr Mahendra Reddy
PHOTO SUPPLIED

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJI'S agricultural sector, in the last few years, has increased production and reduced imports, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In highlighting the impact of the Ministry of Agriculture's Direct Initiatives to Farmers in Parliament last week, Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Waterways, Dr Mahendra Reddy, highlighted that vegetable production increased at an average rate of 19.8 percent.

Furthermore, Minister Reddy said this in turn has led to reduced vegetable importation by 2.6 per cent in volume and 3.2 percent in value.

"First of all, to deal with the (COVID-19) pandemic and the fear of food insecurity, we provided seed packages to 238,599 households. These packages consisted of five individual seeds, the basic vegetables, such as, eggplant, tomatoes, cabbages and beans, so differ-

ent packages will have different combination of five seeds pack," he said.

Minister Reddy said on an average, 9,000 households per year benefitted from 2019.

"In that way, we were able to deal with lots of household members who lost their jobs and their food security was under threat. So, we really mobilised the entire urban households in Fiji and got them to start planting vegetables for their households."

On the substantive crops being targeted to boost agricultural production,

Minister Reddy said they were looking at a few such as mushroom which has a niche market with the growing demand for mushroom by upper income households, tourism sector as well as export market

"We have to-date, trained 2,000 interested farmers in mushroom production, and we have established five commercial farmers in mushroom production."

He said there was a commercial mushroom production outlet launched in Votualevu, Nadi and the outcome in the last three years, mushroom production had increased by 39.5 percent, with the total volume at the moment of 20 metric tonnes.

"Simultaneously, by doing that, we have reduced importation from 46 metric tonnes

in 2020 to 32 metric tonnes in 2021, with the value of \$325,000 in 2020 down to \$299,000 in 2021."

Another crop was copra, Minister Reddy said, which remains one of the most traded commodities in the country and currently 25,000 farmers, with the support of the Ministry, are replanting and replacing the existing senile trees.

There were two dedicated research stations, the Mua Research Station and the Dobuilevu Research Station, he said, where the Ministry was establishing coconut seed nuts for distribution to farmers.

"As we speak, we are doing extremely well from 2019

to 2021. Fiji exported to New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia and other Pacific Island Countries fresh coconuts and coconut products worth \$14.8 million, which is supported by nine percent growth in the coconut industry."

The other crop, Minister Reddy said, that was being focused on not for exports but to reduce importation, was rice to increase Fiji's self-sufficiency especially now that rice had become a staple diet for every Fijian household.

"Under our 'We Rice Up' Programme, we have supported farmers in the sugar industry by asking them to plant at least one acre of rice."

"I must say that from 2019, we have made substantial inroads in increasing production. We have raised our self-sufficiency from 15 percent in 2019 to 17.5 percent in 2021, and for the volume of production this year, I have a feeling we would reach 22 percent of self-sufficiency by the end of this year," he said.

Kava and dalo were the other two important crops.

"Kava production increased from 12,000 tonnes in 2019 to 14,000 tonnes in 2021. Last year, our export of kava was \$42 million, the highest ever."

"Dalo production increased from 51,000 tonnes in 2019 to 54,000 tonnes in 2021, with last year's export being the highest



Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Waterways, Dr Mahendra Reddy met with villagers of the five villages, Uto, Waqadra, Vunamoli, Nawaqadamu and Logi recently where he called for old senile coconut trees to be replaced. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Farmers take up equity package

PRASHILA DEVI

SEVEREN commercial farmers have taken by the Commercial Farmers Equity Package (CFEP) offered by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Fiji Development Bank.

Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Waterways, Dr Mahendra Reddy, while delivering a ministerial statement in Parliament last week, said the CFEP initiative was to boost commercial agriculture development.

"This initiative and with collaboration of Fiji Development Bank for the first time, any farmers who want to take loan from FDB, let us say to construct a warehouse or to buy a tractor or an excavator, the Ministry will contribute 20 percent of equity to the grant of that loan," Minister Reddy said.

"For example, if the farmer wants to take \$100,000 loan from FDB,

the Ministry will provide \$20,000 as an equity contribution and farmers does not have to pay upfront that particular deposit as a grant."

Minister Reddy said as of now, there were seven commercial farmers had taken up the initiatives with one farmer in Lautoka taking a loan of close to a quarter million dollars from FDB and the Ministry has contributed 20 per cent as an equity contribution.

He said for the current financial year, the Ministry has implemented another eight initiatives to scale up ongoing programmes and these include support to women in agriculture, establishment of hydroponic systems, protected agriculture, irrigation kits, Orchard Development Programme, Small Farming Equipment Programme, Land Clearing Farming Programme and provision of fencing kits to livestock farmers.

To ensure transparency and accountability on the selection of recipients considered, Minister Reddy

said the Ministry has considered that online process in order to select the appropriate beneficiaries in order to get them to apply.

The benefit of the online portal ensures that:

- Everyone gets the opportunity to apply, no matter where they are, whether they are in Kadavu, Cicia, and so on as long as they have access to internet connection.
- The process of update is you enter the data on the online portal, the data immediately on real time is received at the Headquarters.
- Application data is transferred without any delays.

He explained that previously the application form would be left with the Agriculture Extension Office and then went through several different Government offices and at times it got misplaced so having the online system has helped address this.



Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Waterways, Dr Mahendra Reddy

Minister Reddy added that seeing that there might be some farmers who do not access the internet, officers from the Ministry with tablets to help them to apply online are on

the ground and there are officers at the Agriculture Extension Office to assist those who do not know how to fill in the application.

Restoration works for world heritage site



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar, says the Ministry has been working with the Levuka Town Council the restoration of heritage sites. See here, a heritage building in Levuka Town. Photo: Azaria Fareen

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE Fijian Government has been supporting the improvement and renovation of the historical sites in Ovalau since 2013, after the listing of Levuka as a World Heritage Site.

In response to a question in Parliament last week, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar, added that the Ministry was working with the Levuka Town Council on the upgrading of the Deed of Cession site, the restoration of the Pigeon Foundation and the improvement of the UNESCO (United Nations

being damaged by TC Winston. About \$2.3 million was invested into five heritage schools; Levuka Public School, Marist Convent School, Saint James Anglican School, Delana Methodist Primary School and Delana Methodist Secondary School,” Minister Kumar said. In collaboration with the Construction

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) World Heritage Site Commemoration Plaque in Levuka Town and upgrading of the European War Memorial Site.

“TC Winston in 2016, damaged majority of the buildings, including the sea wall and the historical sites in Levuka. The collapse of the sea wall resulted in the huge waves crushing into the town. The Government instantly invested \$300,000 to rebuild the sea wall to ensure that our only heritage town does not get further damage and lose its essence.”

“The Government also injected funds to rehabilitate the heritage schools after

Implementation Unit, the Department of Heritage undertook a rapid damage assessment of heritage structures in Levuka after TC Winston, and the Levuka Heritage Register of Building was used as baseline for this assessment.

“There was a need to engage the services of a lead consultant to assist in identifying and assessing each heritage listed building. A report was compiled, recommending way forward for each building in accordance with the heritage by-laws. The first phase of the project was mainly to assess structural and heritage significance of the 76 buildings which were identified by the Department of Heritage.”

From this assessment, two buildings were selected to be restored first – the Levuka Community Hall and St. John Church in Cawaci.

Restoration and strengthening works will be by July this year.

“Despite the setback caused by several cyclones and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, together with Levuka Town Council are working together to improve and restore historical buildings, sites and monuments to maintain Levuka on UNESCO World Heritage List,” Minister Kumar said.

Continuous improvements: Minister Kumar



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar, speaks in Parliament last week Photo: Supplied

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“THE education sector requires continuous improvements in policies and curriculum to meet the needs of the learners and the workforce.”

This was highlighted by Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government, Premila Kumar, while speaking on the current status of the Curriculum Advisory Services with respect to the development of curricula to meet the needs of children during the Parliament sitting last week.

The Curriculum Advisory Services was restructured in 2020 and is now called Curriculum Development and Advisory Unit.

opment and Advisory Unit.

The CDAU has the role of developing, implementing and reviewing the relevant curriculum with appropriate learning and teaching resources.

Minister Kumar added the Fiji National Curriculum Framework sets the education philosophy, structure, content and guiding principle for the unit. “Over the past several months, the Curriculum Development Advisory Unit has been working on a number of curriculum revisions. In 2021, the new Year 11 Life Maths curriculum was trialled in the four divisions.”

“We are also in the process of revising social science and history curriculum. This is to ensure that our history curriculum is relevant with more emphasis on Fiji’s history.”

Minister Kumar added that unfortunately children tend to learn more about other country’s history than Fiji’s history and the Ministry wants to change that.

“The Curriculum Development Advisory Unit has been working on Primary School Literacy and Numeracy curriculum over the past couple of years. Currently the Years 1-4 curriculum is being trialled in 90 schools across the country.”

“This also involves the training of champions in these schools who would lead the implementation using new pedagogies in teaching these subjects and this is for the first time that special information is prepared for parents who would like to guide their children at home in the area of numeracy and literacy.”

Minister Kumar said going forward, the Fijian Government wants to ensure that they revise all the curriculum, modernise the pedagogies and create curriculum that could be used to create online learning resources and allow students to take charge of the learning hence, meeting the needs of our children.

SPEC supports economic growth – Minister Koya



Minister for Commerce Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya in Parliament last week. Photo: Supplied

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Skilled Professionals Evaluation Committee was formed to support Fiji’s economic growth and it is not there to displace employment for locals, says Minister for Commerce Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya.

In response to a question posed in Parliament sitting last week, Minister Koya said there have been many misconceptions but the committee was set up to address the skill shortage as Fiji moves towards new and emerging industries.

“SPEC’s role has been acknowledged just as promoting competitive behaviour in certain professional fields for instance the medical profession which previously dictated the labour market,” he said.

“The Fijian labour market, demands the availability of skilled professionals. Into this end, SPEC

conducted a skill gap analysis to gather the needs across all the sectors.”

Minister Koya further added the consultations with the public and private sector entities revealed that Fiji’s skilled gap was a repercussion of a persistent mismatch between demand and supply in the Fijian labour market and the years of the mass brain drained the causes of which are very well-known.

“In the wake of the pandemic, SPEC’s function has become more critical than ever before and skills are needed in furthering Fijians to a modern skilled based economy to build the nation back stronger.”

“As the economy grows, especially in new and emerging sectors in order to ensure that we are able to actually capitalising opportunities will need those of appropriate skills.”

Minister Koya added that SPEC will play an important role in making the transition to a new and modernise economy and continues to do so.

“We will be enhancing this particular platform for specialised skills to enter Fiji for a short period of time and with the skills gap analysis, our work will be targeted and focus on ensuring that the critical sectors have the required skills.”

Dr Fong calls for healthier lifestyle

PRASHILA DEVI

NON-COMMUNICABLE diseases (NCDs) continue to be the number one killer of Fijians in the last two years despite the COVID-19 pandemic having grabbed more headlines. This as 6600 Fijians in 2020 and 5800 in 2021 died as a result of NCD related diseases.

Ministry of Health and Medical Services permanent secretary, Dr James Fong has cautioned “not to be fooled by the slight decrease” in numbers.

“This was only the case because Fiji was in the middle of battling a global pandemic. While we don’t technically list them NCDs, NCDs were a contributing factor to many deaths caused by COVID-19,” Dr Fong said.

He said the number of deaths caused by NCDs or diseases like heart disease, cerebral vascular disease, hypertension, cancers, chronic lower respiratory disease, kidney disease and mental health illness was staggering for a population of less than a million.

Dr Fong explained that these are complex diseases that differ in very important ways but they share risk factors as “they are often caused by the overconsumption of foods that are high in cholesterol, fat and salt and by a lack of physical exercise”.

“Smoking and high alcohol intake also aggravate these diseases. You don’t have to be a doctor to see the pattern here.”

Without mincing his words, Dr Fong said “our eating and our lifestyle habits are killing us” but that this message was not to place blame or evoke shame among anyone.

“On the contrary, what we want is to raise an alarm bell, a heartfelt plea to every single Fijians to pause and reflect on your life right now.”

He said what’s more worrying was the pervasive nature of poor eating habits as it can be passed on to the next generation.

Highlighting some of the lifestyle changes that can reverse this trend, Dr Fong advocates decreasing intake of fatty oily fried foods, including eating large amounts of butter and ghee, red meat, fast food, foods that are high in salt, sugary drinks and foods; high carbohydrate and starchy foods and alcohol.

Reiterating the call for more healthy foods like fresh vegetables and fruits, he said this was not only abundantly available in the markets and supermarkets but can also be grown in backyard gardens.

“If you’re living with an NCD currently make sure you to schedule your regular consultations with your doctor to ensure that you’re managing your condition well and staying on top of medication. Make a commitment now to clean up your diet.”

Furthermore, Dr Fong has encouraged that a simple weekly exercise plan or at least 45 minutes of brisk walking every day was incorporated into the lifestyle of every Fijian.

Absconding is not an option, Kumar reminds selected Fijian workers



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar, (top, left) and the Deputy Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, Paul Wilson, (top, right) during the farewell function held in Suva recently. Photo: Supplied

MORE than 200 selected Fijian workers were reminded that absconding is not an option under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Program.

Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar, during the farewell last week highlighted that the Fijian and Australian governments have worked tirelessly to make this opportunity a reality for all selected Fijians for improved

living standards.

“Make use of this opportunity and don’t get swayed by outside influence.”

“Abstain from doing things that can change Fiji’s impression negatively as this will affect other potential Fijians in future,” said Bala.

“Put your community, family and nation first in all things that you do.”

The Fijian Government has established and have grown into this labour mobility program to ensure sustainable and ongoing work for more Fijians.

“Use this employment opportunity as an incentive to work smart, save more and contribute to your Vuvale back in Fiji,” added Bala.

These selected workers are expected to leave our shores in batches from this week for employment opportunities in Australia in the aged-care, horticulture and meat industries.

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

Japan's Foreign Minister's visit to Fiji



JAPAN'S Minister for Foreign Affairs Hayashi Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, recently visited Fiji.

JAPAN'S Minister for Foreign Affairs Hayashi Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, recently visited Fiji.

Mr Hayashi was the second Japanese Foreign Minister to visit Fiji recently, following the historic visit of the former Japanese Foreign Minister, Kono Taro in 2019, which marked the first visit to Fiji by a Japanese Foreign Minister in over 32 years.

During his first official visit to Fiji and the region, Minister Hayashi met the Fijian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Voreqe Bainimarama.

The bilateral meeting provided an opportunity to discuss current areas of partnership and areas of future cooperation between Fiji and Japan.

Minister Hayashi also visited the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services Centre (FPBS).

Minister Hayashi's visit to Fiji signified the strengthened bilateral relations between Fiji and Japan over the years which has been marked by unprecedented commitment and collaboration in areas of mutual interests such as resilient recovery and sustainable socio-economic development.

Fiji and Japan established diplomatic relations in 1970 and celebrated a 50 year anniversary in 2020.

Bilateral relations have been further strengthened through reciprocal visits at the Ministerial and Senior Officials levels as well as people-to-people exchanges and business ties.

Fiji and Japan continue to share a strong and enduring relationship, with mutual cooperation for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” which reflects the depth, breadth and warmth of partnership that has paved the way for people to people cultural exchanges, empowerment of communities, socio-economic development, trade and connectivity.

Recently, Japan's assistance to Fiji has extended to the COVID-19 pandemic recovery, disaster recovery and rehabilitation and economic revitalisation.

Japan's development assistance has been based on the vision of promoting a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” in the region.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

FijiFocus

Fiji Hottest Destination for 2022



The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere meets visitors to Fiji and hotel staff after opening the 2022 Fijian Tourism Expo held at the Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort last week. Photo: Mereani Gonedua

PRASHILA DEVI

“WE have steadily and responsibly made it safer and easier to travel to Fiji in line with international best practices.”

The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, speaking at the opening of the 2022 Fijian Tourism Expo last week, said Fiji was back and has become one of the most coveted destinations in 2022.

President Katonivere said “we continue to hear from our trade partners that Fiji is the ‘hottest’ destination of the year”.

He said when he hears that, he thinks of more jobs for Fijians and feels confident that the entire tourism industry was more than ready to keep this recovery going

strong and share “our beautiful home with our friends around the world”.

Speaking of Fiji’s recovery efforts, the Head of State said, “against all odds, we kept true to our vision and revived this industry together; returning our people to the jobs they love. I am confident that our tourism industry’s remarkable resilience and competitive spirit will continue to support Fiji’s ongoing economic recovery”.

“Every tourism industry representative and operator in this room dedicated and committed their time and resources to train their staff and prepare their property to welcome visitors back. We did this together as a team, and we succeeded as a team.”

He said as the country heads into the peak of the tourism season, the forward booking numbers for Fiji for this month through

to July and beyond was looking extremely positive.

“Our next great challenge is to set this industry on a more sustainable path of growth. Through this Fijian Tourism Expo, the Tourism Fiji team has put in place a range of initiatives to make this event the most sustainable yet, one step toward making this commitment a reality is the move to go paperless.”

All paperwork for the expo was shared through the Fijian Tourism Expo App.

President Katonivere said this was part of Tourism Fiji’s overall goal to adopt more sustainable practices in the way it conducts business and urged other stakeholders to keep innovating, keep listening, and keep implementing new ways to make the industry more sustainable in the years ahead.

Also addressing the industry at Expo, the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, acknowledged efforts such as the Blue Lane and “Love Our Locals” initiatives that helped fijians keep jobs.

“Today, we have a lot to be thankful for. And we must pay special tribute to first; the Fijian tourism industry and our people – who are our biggest draw card. And second; to our guests – who I’m sure have come with renewed enthusiasm to take Fiji to the world.”

Also present at the Expo was Fiji Airways managing director and Tourism Fiji board chairman, Andre Viljoen, and Tourism Fiji chief executive officer, Brent Hill.

Noda Viti

VAKATOROCAKETAKI NA QELE E VUDA KEI TAVUA



O ira na turaga kei na marama e Tavua kei na noda Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ITABA: NANISE NEIMILA

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

E marau ka vakacaucauataka na nodrau sasaga e rua na taukei ni qele e na Yasayasa Vaka-Ra na noda liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama.

Qo e na nodrau sa ladeva na vuravura ni veivakatorocaketaki ka me rau sa vidavida na nodrau dui qele me yaga ena veivakavaletaki vou

Laki vakaitavi e na soqo ni vakasobu duru e Vuda e na tiki ni qele nei Josefa Uluiyuda kei na marama watina o Makelesi Uluiyuda ka vaka kina na qele nei Manasa Naiceru e Yasiyasi, Tavua.

“E daidai e dua na siga lagilagi ka siga marautaki e Viti baleta nida mai vaka-dinadinata na cakacaka-vata ni Matanitu kei kemuni na lewenivanua,” e kaya na Paraiminisita.

“Me vaka e keitou sa vakaraitaka e na ciwa tale na vakasoburu sa vakayacori oti e na veiyasai Viti, na soqo nikua e sa itekitekivu ni veika vinaka ki vei kemudou. Dina ni soqo lailai ia e boroya tiko e dua na iyaloalo ni duavata, na rai matua, kei na sasaga. E vakaraitaki ni sasaga ni matanitu e na kena qaravi na veivakatorocaketaki me ivakayaga ki vei keda na lewe ni vanua qo.”

“Ena 2013, a sevutaki kina na Yavu ni Vakavulewa ni Matanitu Tugalala o Viti, na Yavu

ni Vakavulewa ka taqomaka na qele ni itaukei me tawa-mudu. E via 90 na pasede na qele e taukena na itaukei, qori na ivurevure levu ni bula vua na itaukei ni qele ka ivurevure ni kalougata kina vanua o Viti.”

Tomana na Paraiminisita ka kaya ni sa vakacavari na cakacaka ni kena wasewasei na qele e Vuda, mai Yadua kei Nasoqela ka sa ra na lisitaki na tiki-ni-qele, saumi na lisi ka ra na wasea na itaukei ni qele na ilavo ni lisi.

Sa qaravi talega na cakacaka vaka oqo mai Wairebetia, Saweni, Veiseisei, Haravi kei Lautoka.

“Na cakacaka oqo e sega walega ni vukea na nodra bula na itaukei ni qele, e vaka-

cakacaka-taki ira na itaukei ni bisinisi era vidavida na qele, e vaka-cakacaka-taki ira na lewenivanua, ka tara-cake na bula vakailavo ni noda Matanitu.”

“Eda kilai tu na itaukei “nida vutuniyau ena iyaubula ia eda dravudravua.” Na cakacaka eda mai qarava edaidai, sa na vakacalai kina na ivosavosa oqori,” e kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

“Na veigauna vinaka kei Viti sa tu oqo e matada. Meda namaka na cakacaka ni veivaka-torocake-taki. Ena taraicake na bula ka da toso-vata ena kena rawati e dua na Viti vinaka vei keda kece.”



Oira na tinada era tiko ena loma ni utoda



KO Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua, Rosy Akbar kei ira na matua ena nodra valenibula.

Ilisapeci Tuivale



ERA laki sikova edua na valenibula nodra na matua kei na malumalu na Minisita Ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua, Rosy Akbar ena Golden Age Home e Labasa. Era laki vakarautaka talega edua na kedra kei na medra vakasigalevu na matua ekeya.

Vakavinakataka ira saraga ko Minisan Akbar ena nodra bula baleta nira marama era vakasucuma na gone kei na bula vou ena vuravura ogo ka ra manidia taka na vuva ena dua na gauna ka bibi kina nodra itavi na marama tina. Oira na marama tina era dau dredre nira vakaisosomitaki baleta nira dau toka voleka ga ena nod-auto.

Vakananuma na tauni o Ba na gauna ni Qirimiti

Mereani Gonedua

ENA 147 na yabaki sa oti era a tadu mai ena noda vanua na imatai ni lakolako vaka Qirimiti ena waqa na Leonidas ena sasaga kei na lakolako ni cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki ni gauna vaka Koloni. Era soqovaka na tauni o Ba na veivakananumi ni gauna oqori ka sega toka ni gauna se kilai me vinaka. Vakaraitaka ko Minisita ni Veitauni Parveen Kumar Bala ni gauna era yaco mai kina na imatai ni lakolako oqori era

sega soti ni ciqomi vinaka. Me vaka nira mai biu toka ena dua na yanuanu tuvaka galala. Na imatai ni waqa e ta kasa mai Levuka ena 14 ni Me 1879 ka tukuna ko Minisita Bala ni ogo edua na gauna rarawa dina vei ira na lewena mai na waqa ogo. Era vakatikori vakatikitiki ena yanuanu ko Yanucalailai e Levuka. Ogo talega sa tekivu kina na cakacaka ni tei dovu ena veiqaravi ni rawaka vakailavo ni koloni, ka mera kua ni vakaicakacakataki kina na itaukei

Ogo na tauni ko Ba ena nodra vakananuma na siga ogo.



Ko Minisita ni Tauni, Gone kei na Qito, Parveen Bala ena soqo ni vakananumi ni gauna ni Qirimiti kei ira na lewenivanua kena kawa mai Ba.



PM ena nodra valenibula ni uto na gone lailai ena Pasivika.

Valenibula ni uto nodra na gone ni pasivika

Azaria Fareen

NA kena mai dolavi vou edua na valenibula ni uto nodra na gone ena pasivika e Muanikau Nasese esa dua na veivakatorocaketaki vinaka.

Vakaraitaka na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni ogo e imatai ni veivuke vakaoqo me veina dua na soqosoqo ena taudaku ni noda matanitu ka vakayagataki kina e \$25milioni.

Na valenibula ogo e tara na Sai Prema Foun-

dation Fiji, edua na soqosoqo ena taudaku ni veiqaravi vakamatunitu me vukei ira na lewenivanua era dau sotava na dredre ena qaravi ni nodra bula na gone ena tauvimate ni uto.

Vakavinakataka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni tauyavutaki na valenibula ogo ena loloma kei na qaravi ni bula ni tamata dina ga ni sotavi tiko e vuravura na leqa ni tauvimate ni COVID-19 ia ratou sasaga ka rawata na veiqaravi oqori ka kauti ira main a kena dau mai USA, Canada, Europe, Singapore, Australia kei New Zealand.

Ciqomi na veisiko mai Finland vua na Paraiminisita



PM kei na mata ni matanitu ko Finland ena nodra a visiko mai ka mai boseka kei na noda matanitu.

Felix Lesinaivalu

NA mata ni matanitu ko Finland kina noda vanua, Her Excellency Satu Mattila-Budich era mai visiko voli ena noda vanua ka mani laki sotava saran a noda liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. Marautaka na visiko oqori na noda Paraiminisita

ka vakacaucautakana mata ko Satu Mattila-Budich ena nodra sa digitaki me qarava na noda vanua. Vakabibi ena veivuke me baleta na mate na COVID-19 ka tukuna kina ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama nit u vakarau ko Viti me vukea na sasaga ni Matabose ni matanitu cokovata kei Europe kei Finland ena sasaga ni drake veisau, veivoli, teitei kei na veivakatorocaketaki lewa matau

Meda lagita na cau ni gauna vaka Qirimitiya

Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua, Rosy Akbar ni dodonu me lagiti na vanua ko Viti kei ira na lewenivanua na cau levu sa ra mai qarava na kawa vaka Qirimitiya ena gauna era yaco mai kina me yacova mai nikua.

Sa oti ogo e 97 na yabaki esa qai kunei e Viti na nodra sa vakatau-

vatani na kawa vaka Qirimitiya kei ira na lewenivanua e Viti. Kaya ko Minisita Akbar ena nodra soqo ni yabaki 143 ni vakananumi ni Gauna vaka Qirimitiya. Na itini kava ni siga ni vula ko Me edua na siga namaki veu Viti baleta erai lesuvi kina na noda bula ni dua na matanitu kei na vanua ka ra tauyavutaki ena nodra dra, buno kei na tagi na Qirimitiya,

kuria ko Minisita Akbar. E kaya ko koya ni kevaka era sega ni ra gole main a Qirimitiya kera sega ni tiko edua ni dua. Sa tiko ogo erauta ni 180 na koronivuli kei na vuli torocake ka levu saran a veiqaravi era a vakayacora ena noda vanua main a gauna oya me yacova nikua.

news@govnet.govt.fj



Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua ko Rosy Akbar kei ira na lewenivanua



Gadrevi talega me levu era vuli tara na cakacaka

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

Ko Viti nikua esa duidui sara mai na Viti ena gauna eliu baleta ni sa gadrevi vakalevu mera vulica na veimataqali cakacaka e kilai na noda gone mera rawa ni veisosomitaki ena gauna e gadrevi kina ka vakauasivi ena gauna e sasag tiko kina na matanitu me vakatubura se me laveta na kaukauwa ni rawaka vakailavo ena noda vanua. Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na Minisita ni Bisinisi, Veivoli, Saravanua

kei na Veilakoyaki Faiyaz Koya. Era vosa tiko ena palimedi me baleta na sasaga ni matanitu me sotava na lailai ni tamata kila na cakacaka ka ni sa toso tiko ko Viti ena veimataqali bisinisi vou. Tukuna ko Minisita Koya ni levu tiko na veivakacalai me baleta na tikina oqo. Oya ni matanitu esasaga tiko ena raiyawa ni vakaitorocaketaki ni rawaka vakailavo ka sa tiko kina na rai ni oira na noda ena dodonu mera tiko veiira na veimataqali kila e ganiti ka kena tokoni na sasaga levu ni matanitu. Oya na raiyawa ka tiko ena kena tauya-

vutaki na Skilled Professional Evaluation Committee me tokona na rawaka vakailavo ni matanitu kasega ni inaki me vakuai ira na noda. Eratou vakayacora edua na vakadidike me baleta na gagadre ni kila vakacacaka e sa tiko ena noda vanua. Sa laurai talega ni tiko na galala ena kila vakacacaka kei na gagadre e tiko ka laurai talega ni levu na noda gone era gole ki valagi baleta na nodra kila vakacacaka e gadrevi kina. Oqo e yaco talega ka vakilai vakalevu ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso ena COVID-19



Minisita ni Bisinisi, Veivoli, Saravanua kei na Veilakoyaki Faiyaz Koya ena nodra vosa e Palimedi.

Laveti tikoga na itagede ni veivakavulici

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

Na tabana ni vuli ena gadreva me laveti cake tikoga na ivola dusi-dusi kei na lesoni me rawa ni sotava ka veiganiti kei ira na gonevuli kei na tamata cakacaka. Oqori na mala nodra na Minisita ni Vuli, Premila Kumar ena nodra vosa taka tiko na nodra lesoni vakarautaki na gonevuli ena noda vanua mai Palimedi. Na nodra lesoni vakarautaki na gonevuli ea veisautaki ena 2020 ka laurai vakakina na kena vakayagataki na veimataqali itovo kei na iyaya ni qaravi ni vuli ena gauna oqo ka sa vei ganiti tu kei na gagadre vakavuli nikua. Eratou sa cakacaka sara tiko kina

vakamatua na Tabana ni Lesoni Vakarautaki ni Vuli me vaka ni sa ratou sabolo taka kina na lesoni vakarautaki ni vuli ni fika ni Yabaki ni Vuli 11 ena 2021. Ka sa vakayacori talega ena vei lesoni vakarautaki eso ena vuli ni talanoa ni veika sa oti ka laurai tiko ni ko Viti oira na gonevuli era kila vakavinaka cake na itukutuku se italanoa baleta na veika ea yaco ena veiyasai vuravura eso ka lailai nodra kila na veika se tukutuku baleta n aka ea yaco ena noda vanua. Oqo saraga n aka e gadrevi me veisautaka o Viti kei na tabana ni vuli ka wilkina na kena uqeti nodra bula ni veiliutaki na gonevuli ena kalasi 1 kina 4 ka vakakina ena vulici ni fika kei na wilivola.



Minisita ni Vuli, Premila Kumar ena nodra vosa e Palimedi.

Uqeti vakabibi nodra vakaitavitaki na itabagone



Ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena soqo ni Vou mai Nadi.

Na nodra dau vakaitavitaki na itabagone ena veiqaravi ena veisiga se cava ga erawa ni ra vakaitavitaki kina e rui bibi saraga, baleta nira vaka itaukei taki ira kina ena veiqaravi. Oqori na mala ni nodra vosa na Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena nodra laki tiko ena soqo ni tabagone ka ratou vakarautaka na Vou Hub Circus mai Nadi



Ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei dua na gonevuli ni oti na soqo ni nodra vakatikori ena veiliutaki.

Qaravi na soqo ni soli masu ka gole kina ko Vunilawa



Ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei ira lewenivanua e Solovi mai Nadi

E ka bibi na veiliutaki

Nanise Neimila

ERA vakabibitaka na Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum na ulutaga ni veiliutaki vei ira na gonevuli e Mulomulo Muslim School. Oqo ena soqo ni nodra digitaki ka vakatabui

na liuliu ni gonevuli ka laki vulagi dokai kina ko koya. Era laki vakarautaka talega na gonevuli oqori edua na ivakananumi ni veiqaravi ena Eid me vaka ni sa cava ena vula oqo. Era a veitalanoa talega kei ira na lewenivanua ena veimataqali ulutaga era dau sotava ena veisiga ni veiqaravi.

Nanise Neimila

ERA laki vakabibitaka na Vunilawa ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum na loloma kei na veikauwaitaki ena nodra soqo ni soli masumasu na Hindi vakatokai na Marriamman Pooja ena tikotiko ko Solovi ena taudaku ni tauni ko Nadi.

Vakauqeta kina ko Sayed-Khaiyum na bibi loloma kei na veikauwaitaki vakalewenivanua ka vakakawa tamata. Wilikina nodra vakamacala talega ena nodra bula yaga na Qirimitiya kei na veika momosi, lolovira era lako curuma me vakadeitaka na noda veivakatorocaketaki vakadua na matanitu se vanua.



MARAUTAKI NA YABAKI 143 NI NODRA TADU MAI NA QIRIMITI

E RA laki vulagi dokai ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena soqo vakayabaki ka marautaki kina na yabaki 143 ni nodra tadu mai ki Viti na Idia me vaka era a gole mai ena inaki ni gauna vaka Koloni. Ia nikua era sa mai wili vaka lewenivanua ena noda vanua ka ra sa vakaitavi saraga vakalevu ena loma ni 143 na yabaki ena veivakatorocaketaki ena noda vanua me vaka eda kila vinaka noda a mai tei

dovu ka vakayagataki sara vakalevu na nodra kawa tamata ena kena rawaka vakailavo na matanitu ko Viti ena volitaki ni dovuni ka buli kina na suka ki vanua tani. Na gauna dredre oqori esega ni guilecavi rawa kina nodra a vakalolomataki talega na gone mai Idia ena nodra lasutaki vei ira na liuliu ni Koloni baleta na inaki ni nodra gole mai. Oqori edua na vuli levu eda kila vinaka ena siga nikua.



Ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama era a laki vulagi dokai ena soqo ni marau kei na vakananumi ni gauna vaka Qirimitiya ena noda vanua. Ka laki sotavi ira na lewenivanua vuaga vei ira era sa matua saraga.



Bibi na itavi ni ovisa ni veivakadodonutaki

NA itavi era qarava na ovisa ena vale ni veivakadodonutaki ena noda vanua e dua na itavi bibi ka itavi levu talega ni da raica na kena yaga ena nodra vakadodonutaki na lewenivanua era cala. Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

ena nodra laki vulagi dokai ena siga ni nodra tuvaitutu na ovisa era qai curu vou ena veiqaravi ni veivakadodonutaki mai Naboro. Sa gadrevi kina mera dau laveta cake tikoga na nodra veiqaravi ena veigauna kece sara baleta ni na vukei ira talega na lewenivanua era cala mera vulica totolo nodra itavi



Ko Vunilawa ena soqo ni veiqaravi ni tuvaitutu nodra na ovisa ni veivakadodonutaki mai Naboro.



Rawa ni ra sara yaloyalo ena Walesi ena colo kei Nadi

Nanise Neimila

ERA sa rawata mera na sarava na iyaloyalo ena raitio yaloyalo na gonevuli mai Nasesevia Secondary School ena colo kei Nadi. Oqori ena kena a laki solia ko Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Vakautitukutuku ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum edua nodra Walesi setup box ena gauna era a veisiko kina ekeya.

E ka bibi na nodra semati na lewenivanua ena veiyasai Viti ka tukuna ko Vunilawa ni oqo e inaki ni matanitu ka yalataka nira na ciqoma talega eso na gacagaca ni veiqaravi e ganita na gauna nikua me vaka ni tiko e colon a koronivuli oya. Era vakayaco veitalanoa talega kei ira na lewenikoro mai keya baleta na veika era dau sotava se bolebole kina nodra bula ena veisiga. Era rogoca talega na veitalanoa ni qele kei na leqa ni gaunisala.



Ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei ira na gonevuli ena Nasesevia Secondary school.

Qarauna na ka o kania; Vuniwai Fong

Josefa Uluilakeba

ENA loma ni rua na yabaki sa oti e vakayali kina na nodra bula e 12,400 na wekada - ka vu tiko mai na vei mate e so okati me mate sureti.

Varaitaka o Vuniwai James Fong na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula kei na Veiqaravi Vakavuniwai ni sa dua dina na wiliwili levu ka sa veivakauqeti kina me sa da lewa matau na veikakana e so e da vakayagataka e vale.

“Me vakalailaitaki na kakana qaqi e so dau levu tu na kena uro, na masima kei na suka ka me vakalevutaki tale ga na vakaukauwa yago,” e kaya ko Vuniwai Fong.

Kena sa tekivu me sa sevau yani na mate na COVID e sa da mai veirai matalevu tale tu yani kei na mate sureti ka ra kaya kina na Vunivola Tudei ni dua dina na leqa levu vakavuniwai e tara tiko na noda vanua e na gauna qo.

“Okati toka e na matesureti na vei mate me vaka na mate ni uto, mate ni suka, na kena vakaleqai na drodro ni dra ki na noda mona, Tubu ni Dra, Kenisa, na taqa ni cegu, Mate ni Ivi ka oka tale ga kina na leqa ni vakasama.”

E tomana ko Vuniwai Fong ka kaya ni vabauta ni da kila kece na vei mate oya ka da kila e dua na wekada se noda itokani e veitauvi tiko kina na mate sureti.

“E na yabaki 2020, e ra vakaleqai e 6, 600 na lewe ni vanua e na mate sureti. Yabaki sa oti e ra vakaleqai e 5,800 na lewe ni vanua. Ia me da kua ni rawai e na kena lutu na i wiliwili baleta ni da valuta tale tiko ga na mate dewa na COVID e na yabaki sa oti.”

Na nodra mai vakaleqai e vuqa na wekada e na COVID, e laurai rawa vakavuniwai ni dua tale ga na vuni kena rawai ira na mate ni sa tiko rawa na mate sureti.

Io sa dua dina na wiliwili levu ka sa tukia sara tiko ga na noda mata ni katuba ni sa dodonu me vaqacaco taki na kena vunauci tiko na bibi ni noda dau yadrava na kakana e da vakayagataka, na noda dau vakaukauyago kei na noda yadrava na noda vakasama me dau tuvaki vinaka tu e na veigauna kece sara.

Na leqa qo e sega wale ga ni tarai ira na taba qase se o ira na matua, ia e sa vei rawai sara tale ga vei ira na tabagone kei na uabula. Vuqa e ra sa leqa kina ka vuqa tale e vakaleqai na nodra ivi, nodra uto se musu na yavadra ka vu tiko gona mai na mate sureti.

Sa veibolei sara kina vakalevu na Tabacakacaka ni Bula kei na Veiqaravi Vakavuniwai baleta ni 62 na pasede ni lewe ni vanua e tiko na nodra yabaki ni bula mai na 35 ka lako sobu.

E rawa me da veisautaka ya. O keda yadudua ga e vatau ki vei keda.

ROGOCI NA NOMUNI KAUWAI: PM

Josefa Uluilakeba

ETosoya tiko ga na matanitu na cakacaka ni veivakatorocake taki e na veiyasana ka douvaka na nodra kacivaka na turaga na Paraiminisita o Josia Voreqe Bainimarama e na noda dolava e Va na bose ni yasana sa vakayacori oti mai vula ko Evereli ki na vula ko Me.

Vakaraiaata kina na noda Paraiminisita ni sa vakayagataka oti na matanitu e na yasana o Serua e \$49,192,716 ena kena vakatorocaketaki na yasana. E na yasana o Namosi sa vakayagataka oti na matanitu e na yasana o Serua e \$46,800,000 ena kena vakatorocaketaki na yasana, na yasana o Cakaudrove e \$79,000,000 kei na yasana o Nadroga/Navosa e volekata e \$75,000,000.00.

“Ena noqu lewena na matanitu,

sa toso o Viti. Sa tuvai na ituvatuva me vakacokotaki kina na noda vanua – me rawa ni vakaitavi ena vuravura ni veika vakailavo, me ra qaravi vakatautauvata na lewenivanua ka vakavinakataki na bula ni veisiga,” e vakaraitaka na noda Paraiminisita.

E ra tomana ka kaya ni sa qarava na matanitu me vinaka kina o Viti kei ira na kena kawa ka rogoca na veika oni vakaraitaka mai na lewenivanua.

“Sa rogoci na nomuni kauwai kei na nomuni gagadre ka keitou sa cakacakataka. Sa levu na veivakatorocaketaki, tara vale, ta gaunisala kei na wavu ka ra sega ni dau vakabibitaka na veimatanitu sa oti.”

“E daumaka tiko na noda veiwekani kei ira na veimatanitu e vuravura ka ra tokona tiko na noda vanua,” e ra vakadeitaka na Liuliu ni Matanitu.



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra vosa tiko e Palimedi.

Wainigunu savasava e Udu

Josefa Uluilakeba

ERa malaude the leweni tikotiko ena Wailevu mai Udu Macuata ena nodra sa semati ena wainigunu savasava ka sa vakacegui ira main a ogaoga levu ni vakasaqarai wai ni gunu ena veisiga.

Ko Apisai Masiasa edua ka sa yabaki 79 nikua ka sa donua mai na 40 na yabaki sa oti nodra dau laki qiva mai na medra wai mai na uciwai voleka ena nodra koro. Nikua e marautaka ko koya na kena sa dolava na paipo ni wai ni gunu savasava ka sa tosoro mai ena liga kei na maliwa ni qaqalu ni liga na wai batabata, savasava ka guni vinaka.

E dau cakacaka dredre ka vakacauoca vei ira na lewenikoro vakauasivi oira na marama kei na gone ena veisiga. Ena so na gauna era dau vakavu mavoa talega vei ira nira dau sisi ka drakusi na durudra se yavadra.

Dua na gauna era sa bau vakayagataki taqe

ni wai ka ra vakayagataka na pamu ni wai me pamu mai ena uciwai ka laki tawani saraga ena taqe. Ia ena so na gauna talega edau leqaleqa na pamu ni wai ka mani dau dede na gauna eratou laki ripea mai kina e Labasa.

Io baleta nira sa dewa na teitei ena vanua oqo esa vaka e kania na gunugunu ni wai na teitei ka sad au maca ena vuqa na gau-na. Sa tiko talega na nuiqawaqawa ni ran a vakacacana se dukara na wai oira na teitei mai colo. Io nikua nodra sasaga vaka tikotiko ena Cawaro water project esa vukei sara kina nodra gagadre. Ka sa ra semati ena wainigunu savasava ka ra sa rawa ni savasava na marama ena nodra siqi ni vale. Vakaraitaka ko Solomone Waqa na turaga ni koro ni rauta e 200 na lewenivanua era vakayagata vata tiko na wainigunu savasava oqo. Sa vakavinakataki kina na matanitu ena veivuke levu baleta na kena semati na koro oqo ena wainigunu savasava.



Ko Apisai Masiasa mai Udu sa dolava toka na paipo ni wai ni gunu savasava.



Marautaki ni Eid



Josefa Uluilakeba

ERA laki tiko ena soqo ni kanavata ni oti nodra lolo na wekada na musulomani ena veisureti ni mata ni Matanitu ko Malaysia ena noda vanua ka noda Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere. Era lewena talega na veisureti raraba oqori na vei soqosoqo ni veiqaravi vakacacacaka ka vakakina ko Minisita ni Bisinisi, Veivoli, Saravanua kei na Veilakoyaki Faiyaz Koya. Na veisureti oqori era dau vakayacora na vakabauta vaka Islam mera sureti ira kina nodra itokani, vuvale kei ira na nodra weka veivolekati mera mai kana vat aka marau taka vata na ivakayakavi.



Veivukei vakailavo ni Draki Veisau ena vukei keda

Josefa Uluilakeba

NA veivuke vakailavo ni ilavo ni draki veisau ena vukei keda na matanitu lalai ka na sotava na revurevu ni drake veisau me rawa nida qarava noda bula ena gauna oqo. Oqo e wilikina na veitokitaki ni tikotiko ka vakakina na vei gagadre eso edau yaco mai ena gauna e tatara kina na revurevu oqo ni drake. Na matanitu esa tiko rawa na kena ilavo ni nodra dau tokitaki na koro se itikotiko. Sa ratou dikevi ka lokuci tiko e 43 na koro meratou na wiliki ena porokaramu ni toki. Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Veivuke vakailavo ni Draki Veisau, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena dua na nodra veivosaki ena palimedi.



Noda Viti

SA KA BIBI ME DA DUAVATA: SAYED-KHAIYUM



Ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum mai nadi kei ira na marama tubutubu dauniveisusu ITABA: NANISE NEIMILA

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

E vakadreta na Vunilawa o Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum na bibi noda veirokorokovi vaka mata tamata ka me kua na veivakaduiduitaki ka vu mai na noda matalotu kei na noda itovo.

E vosa tiko o Sayed-Khaiyum e na soqo ni veivakatikori vei ira na gonevuli veiliutaki e na Mulomulo Muslim Primary School ka vakaraitaka kina na bibi ni veil-iutaki vinaka.

“Ni o veilitaki vakavinaka e korovuli, o sa bucina sara tiko ga mo dua na tamata vinaka mai muri,” e kaya na Vuni Lawa.

Veisiko voli mai na Muaira ni noda vanua na Vuni Lawa ka vakadreta voli ga na duavata e na noda vanua.

Sala muria tiko qo e na nodra a vosa tiko e Palimedi ka ra kaya tiko kina ni dua na vuna

levu e sega ni taladrodoro vinaka kina na cakacaka ni veivakatorocake taki e na noda tabana ni teitei ni a tu e dua na ka e vakalatilati ka ra vakaduidui taki kina na liganisau e na noda vanua.

“I liu na lisi e dau soli tu e 99 na yabaki ki vei ira na veibisinisi, na lisi ni vale ia me dua e lisi baleta na teitei e soli ga kina e 30 na yabaki,” e kaya o Sayed-Khaiyum.

“E kuri ni dredre ni toso vei ira na dauteitei ni dredre tale ga na nodra soli veivuke vakailavo na vei baqe e so.”

Tomana o Sayed-Khaiyum ka kaya ni gauna qo e sa veivuke vakalevu sara na Baqe ni Veivakatorocaketaki (FDB) ki vei ira na dau ni vakayagataki qele ka sai tavi tiko ni matanitu e dua na iwase ni kena vakacavacava.

Sai tavi tale ga kina ni matanitu me vorolaka na veika e wasei keda tu vaka o ya me rawa ni na toso i liu e na ika21 ni senituri qo.

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]

स्कूलों को वालेसी
सेटअप बॉक्स प्रदान
किए गए 2

नावुआ में एक नया
आश्रम खोला गया 3

मंत्री अकबर बेसहारा
बच्चों से मिलने गई 3

ऑस्ट्रेलिया को और
मजदूरों की तलाश है 3

लौतोका में ब्रेड बेन्क का
नया दफ्तर खुला 6

फ़ीजी दर्पण

FRIDAY MAY 20, 2022

| 8 PAGES | ISSUE 4 VOL 11 | WWW.FIJI.GOV.FJ

@FijianGovt

Fijian Government



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

चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

रिपोर्ट: शेनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बईनिमारांमा ने गिरमिटिया मजदूरों द्वारा सामना की गई मुश्किलों का सामना करने की हिम्मत की प्रशंसा की है।

गिरमिट दिवस के एक सौ तिरालिसवी (143rd) सालगिराह तथा पहली राम लीला की एक सौ बीसवी (120th) सालगिराह के अवसर पर, प्रधान मंत्री नावुआ में मुख्य मेहमान थे। देश भर से आए कई सौ की संख्या में लोगों से बातें करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने गिरमिटिया मजदूरों की दुर्दशा पर प्रकाश डाला।

“यह कहानी उसका हिस्सा है जो 1897 में लेवूका के तट से शुरू हुई थी। कई पीढ़ियों से गिरमिटिया मजदूरों द्वारा अपने साथ लाए गए परम्परा हमारी संस्कृति से जुड़ते रहे हैं।

“यह उत्सव न केवल एक समारोह का उदाहरण है बल्कि यह उन सभी मूल्यों को मजबूत करता है जो हर एक फीजीवासी के लिए मायने रखता है। श्री राम के जीवन की कथा, सबक और आदर्शों को दर्शाता है जो किसी भी बच्चे, भाई-बहन, विद्यार्थी, पति-पत्नी, दोस्त तथा नेताओं को अपनाना चाहिए।

“गिरमिट काल का इतिहास कभी भी देश में अच्छी तरह से नहीं पढ़ाया गया और यह एक ऐसा इतिहास है जिसके बारे में हम अभी भी सीख रहे हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।

“गिरमिटिया मजदूरों के वंशजों, कार्यकर्ताओं और इतिहासकारों को उनकी कड़ी मेहनत के लिए धन्यवाद है जिन्होंने गिरमिटिया के प्रत्यक्ष खाते भी दर्ज किए हैं और मैं सभी फीजीवासियों को



प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बईनिमारांमा हालही में गिरमिट दिवस के मौके पर बच्चों के साथ

चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

प्रोत्साहित करता हूँ कि वे समय निकालकर इन्हें पढ़ें, चाहे वे किसी भी उम्र, जाति या समाज से आते हों,” उन्होंने आगे कहा। यह पढ़ना हर वक्त आसान नहीं होगा लेकिन यह ज़रूरी है क्योंकि हमें अपने इतिहास के बारे में जानना ज़रूरी है, कि देश में क्या-क्या अच्छाई हुई, बुरे वक्त कब थे, जीत तथा अन्याय हुए।

इस बारे में उस वक्त से हमारे स्कूलों में पढ़ाना चाहिए था जब फीजी आज़ाद हुआ। देश में भारी योगदान देने के बावजूद गिरमिटियों का संघर्ष गिरमिटि प्रथा खत्म होने के साथ समाप्त नहीं हुआ। हालांकि उन्हें अपना जीवन अपने तरीके से जीने की आज़ादी थी, उस वक्त की सरकार गिरमिटिया मजदूरों को बाकी इनसानों जैसा नहीं मानती थी न ही उन्हें फीजीवासियों का दर्जा मिला। गिरमिटियों ने तो उस वक्त दुख झेला लेकिन उनके वंशजों को उससे भी दर्दनाक दुख का सामना करना पड़ा था जब फीजीवासी होते हुए भी उन्हें इसकी पहचान नहीं दी गई। देश में जाति और धर्म के नाम पर धीरे-धीरे नफरत के बीज बोया जा रहा है। सिर्फ कान बन्द करने से विभाजन लाने वाली आवाज़ बन्द नहीं होगी, हमें इसका घोर खण्डन करना होगा। क्योंकि जब हम इतिहास की तरफ देखते हैं तो हमें पता चलता है कि विभाजन पैदा करने का इरादा रखने वाले कितने खतरनाक हो सकते हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री ने उन कलाकारों की भी प्रशंसा की जिन्होंने एक नाटक के द्वारा गिरमिटिया मजदूरों की याता तथा संघर्ष को दर्शाया।



उँदू निवासियों की पानी वाली समस्या खत्म हुई



उँदू पोईन्ट के भश साल के एक निवासी अपिसाई मसियासा पहली बार साफ पानी का उपयोग करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रिपोर्ट रोनल देव

उत्तरी विभाग के उँदू मटुआता के निवासियों की पानी वाली समस्या अब खत्म हो गई है तथा उन्हें अब पीने के साफ पानी ढूँढने के लिए बाहर नहीं जाना पड़ेगा। सरकार की पानी वाली एक योजना के तहत वाईलेवू सेटलमन्ट, उँदू मटुवाता में लोगों के घरों में नल का पानी उपलब्ध हो गया है।

पहले निवासियों को पास के नाले से पानी भरकर लाना पड़ता था जो बच्चों और महिलाओं के लिए खतरों से भरा होता था क्योंकि वे फिसल कर गिरते थे जिससे उन्हें चोटें भी लगती थी।

79 साल के कोरोवासी अपिसाई मसियासा की खुशियों का ठिकाना न रहा जब उन्हें अब साफ पानी के लिए इधर-उधर भटकना नहीं पड़ेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि कुछ साल पहले उनके परिवार ने एक बड़ा पम्प खरीदा जिसकी मदद से वे नाले से पानी खींचकर अपने टेन्क में भरते थे। लेकिन कभी-

कभी पम्प बिगड़ जाता था और उसपर मरम्मत करने के लिए उसे लम्बासा शहर लेजाना पड़ता था जिसमें कुछ दिन लगते थे।

मसियासा ने आगे कहा कि कुछ किसानों ने जबसे नाले के उपरी हिस्से में खेती शुरू की तबसे उनके कोरों के पास नाला सूखने लगा तथा उन्हें मुश्किल से दिन भर के लिए पानी मिलता था। उनके अनुसार खेती-बारी की गतिविधियों के चलते कोरोवासी मैला पानी मिलने के कारण चिंतिता भी थी।

द्वारों पानी वाली योजना से इन तीस परिवारों की मुश्किलें खत्म हो गई हैं। कोरोवासियों को साफ और सुरक्षित पानी उनके घरों में मिलने लगा है तथा महिलाएं भी अब अपने घर पर ही बर्तन और कपड़े धो सकती हैं।

द्वारों कोरों के मुख्या सोलोमोने वांगा सरकार के बहुत अभारी हैं जिन्होंने उनकी मांगें सुनीं और उन्हें भी अब देश के अन्य इलाकों की तरह पीने के लिए साफ पानी मिलने लगा है।



तावेयुनी का एक सफल किसान जय पाल अपने मजदूरों के साथ

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

पाल की मेहनत रंग लाई

रिपोर्ट: कृषि मंत्रालय

परिश्रम और विश्वास ऐसी जड़ी बूटियाँ हैं जो एक बार धोलकर पी लेता है वह चाहने पर भी मृत्यु को भी पीछे धकेल देता है।

विश्वास का एक कोरा छल्लांग श्री जय पाल के जीवन में सही साबित हुआ जब उन्होंने तईस (23) साल पहले लम्बासा से निकलकर तावेयुनी में जाकर बसने को सोचा।

1999 में जय पाल के पास खुली हाथों के सिवा कोई सम्पत्ति नहीं थी केवल आँखों में सपने थे। लेकिन आज उनके पास डश एकड़ ज़मीन है जिसे वो लीस पर देता है। इतना ही नहीं उन्होंने एक लाख पचास हजार डॉलर लागत का अपना घर बनाया है और खेतों के सामान को ढोने के लिए एक नई गाड़ी भी ली। उन्होंने लम्बासा में भी एक संपत्ति खरीदी है ताकि उनके बच्चों को पढ़ाई के दौरान कहीं रहने में कोई समस्या न हो।

शुरुआती दौर में उन्होंने अपने मजदूर साथियों के साथ गन्ने के खेतों में काम किया। सात साल की कड़ी मेहनत के बाद उनके लिए यह सोचना सम्भव नहीं था कि वो कभी डालो के एक किसान हो सकते हैं। डालो की किसानों से पहले, जय पाल रास्तों का निर्माण करने वाली एक कम्पनी में बावर्ची का काम करते थे।

“मैं काम करने के लिए इतना बेताब था कि मैंने रसोईया बनने का प्रस्ताव भी स्वीकार कर लिया जबकि मुझे ठीक तरह से खाना बनाना भी नहीं आता था। चखने के बहाने, मैं खुद खाना खा जाया करता था जबकि डालो की खेती में दिलचस्पी से पहले मुझे ऐसे अनुभव बहुत पसन्द थे। मेरे एक चाचा ने मुझे तावेयुनी द्वीप पर खेती करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। मैंने मौके पर चौका मारा और मेरी तकदीर पलट गई।

पाल ने अपने पड़ोसियों से लिए गए कर्ज तथा खेती करने की समाग्री से खेती शुरू की। पाल के खेत तक पहुँचने के लिए दो घण्टें उबड़-खाबड़ इलाके में गाड़ी चलाना, लेकिन वहाँ पहुँचने पर आगे का नज़ारा अनमोल है। वहाँ का नज़ारा शब्दों में बयान नहीं किया जा सकता।

अन्य मेहनती किसानों की तरह, जय पाल तड़के सुबह उठकर खेत में काम शुरू करते हैं और शाम पाँच बजे घर लौटते हैं।

इक्यावन (51) वर्षीय जय पाल अब

एक अनुभवी डालो और यंगोना के किसान हैं जो अपने बेटे और तीन मजदूरों के साथ शाख-सब्जि भी उगाते हैं। उनके पास यंगोना बोन के लिए भी नौ एकड़ ज़मीन है, जो चार सालों में तैयार होने के करीब है। डालो सात महीने में तैयार हो जाता है जिसके लिए उनके पास बारह एकड़ जमीन है। उनका अनुमान है कि यंगोना बेचकर वो लगभग एक लाख अस्सी हजार (180,000) डॉलर तक कमाएंगे जबकि डालो से उन्हें साठ हजार (60,000) डॉलर तक प्राप्त हो सकता है।

उन्हें निश्चित रूप से ज़मीन पर मेहनत करने से फल भी मिल गया है। उन्होंने न केवल अपनी ज़मीन में फिर से पुँजी लगाई है बल्कि कर्ज चुकाकर घर और गाड़ियाँ खरीदीं। मछली मारने के लिए उन्होंने एक फायवर ग्लास नाव भी खरीदी है। पाल की तकदीर ने एक बार फिर उनका साथ दिया जब उनके यंगोना के पाँच हजार पौधे समुद्री आँधी विन्स्टन के प्रकोप से बच गए जिससे शायद उनको बहुत बड़ा झटका लगाता।

“मुझे कोई घमण्ड नहीं है। मैं दूसरों को प्रोत्साहित करने और दिखाने की कोशिश कर रहा हूँ कि खेती आपको क्या लाभ दे सकती है। शुरुआती दौर में मेरे बेन्क अकाउन्ट में एक भी पैसा नहीं था। मैं उन लोगों को प्रेरित करना चाहता हूँ जो अभी भी दोराहे पर खड़े हैं और जोखिम लेने से घबरा रहे हैं। खुद पर विश्वास और कड़ी मेहनत आपको ज़रूर सफल बनाएगी।”

कड़ी मेहनत के बावजूद, चोरी और खेत में घुसने वाले जानवरों के कारण नुकसान, कुछ ऐसे विषय हैं जिनका सामना जय पाल जैसे किसानों को करना पड़ता है।

“हम अपनी उपज योजना के तहत ही बोते हैं लेकिन कुछ खुदगर्ज़ लोग, हमारी मेहनत की कमाई को चोरी करने से नहीं चूकते।”

पाल सामाजिक कार्यों में भी योगदान देते रहते हैं जैसे कि सामाजिक कार्यों के दौरान अपने खेत से ज़रूरतमंद परिवारों के लिए भोजन उपलब्ध करना तथा इलाके में सड़क को सुधारने में सहायता देना। वो अपने उत्पादन में सुधार के लिए एक सिंचाई प्रणाली स्थापित करने और लम्बासा मार्केट में अपनी उपज बेचने के लिए एक टेबल किराए पर लेने की योजना के साथ खेती जारी रखने की उम्मीद करते हैं।

स्कूलों को वालेसी सेटअप बॉक्स दिए गए

रिपोर्ट रोनल देव

पश्चिमी विभाग के कुछ स्कूलों को इस सप्ताह अटेनी जेनरल तथा कोमुनिकईशन्स मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खैयूम ने वालेसी सेटअप बॉक्स प्रदान किया जिससे विद्यार्थी अब बिना किसी बाधा के एडुकेशनल चैनल देख सकेंगे।

सईयद खैयूम ने नान्दी के पहाड़ी इलाकों में स्थित नासेसेविया सेकन्ड्री स्कूल को सेटअप बॉक्स प्रदान किया और कहा कि यह बेहद ज़रूरी है कि देश भर के सभी फीजिवासी इससे जुड़े रहे, उन्हें अच्छी सेवा मिले तथा उन्हें भी आधुनिक सुविधा का लाभ हो।

सईयद खैयूम ने कहा कि मुल्लोमुल्लो मुस्लिम प्राथमरी स्कूल, पैसठवाँ (65th) ग्रामीन तथा बाहरी द्वीपों में स्थित स्कूलों

में से एक है जो वालेसी से जुड़ गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि नासेसेविया स्कूल को भी सेटअप बॉक्स मिलने से वहाँ के विद्यार्थियों की ज़िन्दगी बदल गई है।

“एडुकेशन चैनल के अलावा, संसद, फीजियन डूवा के खेल, देश-विदेश के समाचार के अलावा सभी फीजिवासी नवीनतम जानकारीयों तथा मनोरंजन का भी मज़ा लेंगे। देश में अभी भी कई स्कूल हैं जिनके पास लाईव टेलिविज़न नहीं है।

क्या आपको पता है कि वालेसी फीजी ने देश भर में सात सौ कोरों तथा विलज होल में मुफ्त वालेसी सेटलाईट किट तथा मुफ्त में टेलिविज़न प्रदान किया है। यह कोरों देश के ग्रामीन और भीतरी इलाकों में है तथा उन्हें देश के अन्य लोगों की तरह भी डिजिटल टी वी देखने का हक है।



पश्चिमी विभाग के स्कूलों को हाल ही में सरकार द्वारा वालेसी के सेटअप बॉक्स दिए गए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

मानव विकास के लिए नावुआ में नया आश्रम



राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवेरे मानव विकास के लिए नावुआ में एक आश्रम का उद्घाटन करते हुए वहाँ के सदस्यों के साथ चित्र : अज़रिया फरीन

सोनम सामी

राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवेरे ने अभी हाल ही रोवोडू नावुआ में एक बहु आस्था आश्रम का उद्घाटन किया जिसे साई प्रेमा फाउंडेशन फीजी ने मानव की उन्नति, प्रेम और सेवा के लिए खोला है।

साई प्रेमा फाउंडेशन फीजी के लिए यह एक और उपलब्धि है जो मानव विकास, प्यार और सेवा को बढ़ावा देगा। यह आश्रम समुद्र के किनारे स्थित है।

दो हजार सोलह में अपने औपचारिक लोन्च के बाद साई प्रेमा फाउंडेशन फीजी ने गरीब, वंचित और जरूरतमंद लोगों को चिकित्सा सेवा, शिक्षा सेवा और समुदायिक सेवा प्रदान की है और एक प्रमुख गैर सरकारी संगठन के रूप में अपने आप को महान बनाया है।

महामहिम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवेरे ने कहा कि फाउंडेशन की यह पूँजी वसीयत है, खासकर के श्री सत्या साई संजीवनी बच्चों का अस्पताल जहाँ विशेषज्ञ, उन बच्चों का इलाज करते हैं जिन्हें जन्म से हृदय का रोग होता है।

यह आश्रम आने वाले दिनों में एक हब के रूप में बढ़ेगा जो विभिन्न मानवीय मूल्यों की कार्यशालाओं, ध्यान और योग में आत्म-विकास कक्षाओं के साथ-साथ मानव श्रेष्ठता और वैश्विक शांति पर केंद्रित रहेगा और अंतराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन आयोजित करेगा।

एक और ओस्ट्रेलियन व्यापारी फीजी में मांस-मजदूरों की तालाश में



ओस्ट्रेलिया में मांस के क्षेत्र में काम करने के लिए चुने गए कुछ फीजीवासी चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

मंत्री अकबर दिलकुशा होम बच्चों से मिलने गईं



महिला तथा सौशल वेलफेयर, पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर नउसोरी स्थित दिलकुशा होम में भाषण देती हुई चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

सोनम सामी

“आप फीजी में सभी राज्य गृहों में बच्चों के माँ की तरह हैं।”

यह कहना है नौसोर के दिलकुशा होम के बच्चों का जहाँ अभी हाल ही वंचित बच्चों से मातृ दिवस के अवसर पर मुलाकात करती हुई विमन चिल्लन और पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने सौशल वेलफेयर विभाग की ओर से बाल शोषण और बेपरवाही अभियान के चलते पुस्तकालय की किताबें प्रदान की जो कि औपचारिक तौर से उन्नीस नवंबर को मनाया जाएगा।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि यह पुस्तकालय की किताबें सरकार की ओर से फीजी के बच्चों की देखभाल और सहायता करने के लिए दिए जा रहे हैं। “यह बच्चे हमारे समाज का हिस्सा हैं और मेरा मंत्रालय उन्हें वो प्यार, परवरिश और समर्थन देना चाहता है।

मंत्री अकबर ने बच्चों को बताया कि किताबें बहुत खुबसूरत तोहफा हैं। कहते हैं कि जिस कमरे में पुस्तक नहीं, वह आत्मा के बिना शरीर की तरह है,

इसीलिय जीतनी ज्यादा किताबें, उतना ही अधिक भावपूर्ण आपका स्थान है। मैं एक बार फिर कहना चाहती हूँ कि किसी व्यक्ति के जीवन में पढ़ना बहुत जरूरी है। इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं कि जो बच्चा पढ़ता है वह स्याना होता है और यह कहा भी गया है कि “आज जो पढ़ता है वह कल का नेता बनता है”

सामान्य से उपर उठने के लिए पढ़ना आवश्यक है। “आप न केवल कल्पना की दुनिया में जाएंगे, बल्कि आप नई चीज़ें सीखेंगे, आप जो भाषा पढ़ रहे हैं उसपर बेहतर शिक्षा हासिल करेंगे और खुद के लेखन/पढ़न में बढ़ती होगी जो कि इस जीवन में जरूरी है”।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि बच्चों को हमारे प्यार, देखभाल और स्नेह की जरूरत है और हम इसे नजरअंदाज़ नहीं कर सकते।

उन्होंने बच्चों और वहाँ के कर्मचारियों को प्रोत्साहित किया कि वे चाइल्ड हेल्पलाइन को बढ़ावा दें तथा बच्चों के प्रति दुर्यवहार और बेपरवाही मामलों पर सलाह या परामर्श के लिए 1325 पर कॉल करें।

सोनम सामी

ओस्ट्रेलिया में मांस का व्यापारी, हार्वी वीफ ने फीजी में राष्ट्रीय रोजगार केंद्र (नेशनल एम्प्लोएमेंट सेंटर) के नीचे काम देने के अवसरों के लिए पॅसिफिक ओस्ट्रेलिया लेबर मोबिलिटी (पी आई एल एम) के तहत कुछ फीजीवासियों से भेंटवार्ता की।

हार्वी मीट्स जो पर्थ, पश्चिमी ओस्ट्रेलिया में स्थित है के दो प्रतिनिधि अभी हाल ही पहली बार फीजी आए ताकी वे साठ फीजीयंस को मांस-मजदूरी करने के लिए ओस्ट्रेलिया लेजा सकें जो इस महिने के अंत या अगले महिने की शुरूवात में रवाना होंगे।

अस्सी उम्मीदवार चुने गए थे जिन्हें भेंटवार्ता के दौरान अपने हुनर का प्रदर्शन देना था और चुने गए साठ लोगों को पश्चिमी ओस्ट्रेलिया में चार सालों के लिए काम दिया जाएगा।

रोजगार मंत्रालय के परमनंट सेक्रेटरी ओसेआ

दावारू ने ओस्ट्रेलिया के व्यापारी से मुलाकात की और उनके प्रतिबद्धता और पहली बार फीजी से मजदूर चुनने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

व्यापारियों ने अपनी यात्रा का उद्देश्य बताया और साथ ही कहा कि मजदूरों को हवाई जहाज और वीज़ा का खर्चा नहीं देना पड़ेगा।

परमनंट सेक्रेटरी ओसेआ दावारू ने कहा कि यह फीजीयन सरकार के लिए अच्छी खबर है खासकर के उन मजदूरों के लिए जिन्हें इस काम के लिए चुना गया है।

हार्वी मीट्स के व्यापारियों ने फीजीयन सरकार तथा राष्ट्रीय रोजगार केंद्र (नेशनल एम्प्लोएमेंट सेंटर) को उनकी मित्रता और भेंटवार्ता आयोजित करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

दावारू ने कहा की उन्हें विश्वास है कि इस संबंध से पॅसिफिक ओस्ट्रेलिया लेबर मोबिलिटी (पी आई एल एम) योजना से ओस्ट्रेलिया और फीजी दोनों सरकारों को लाभ होगा।



सालाना मरियम्मन पूजा में प्रेम और दया की भावना रखने की मांग की गई

अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने हाल ही में सोलोवी नान्दी में सालाना मरियम्मन पूजा में भाग लिया और धर्म प्रेमियों से मांग की कि वे अपने साथी फीजीवासियों के साथ प्रेम और दया की भावना रखें। उन्होंने गिरमिट तथा गिरमिटिया मजदूरों के बारे में कुछ शब्द कहे कि उन्होंने देश के निर्माण में क्या-क्या दुख झेले, बलिदान दिया तथा कड़ी मेहनत की। उन्होंने कहा कि यह जरूरी है कि इस इतिहास को स्कूलों में पढ़ाया जाए ताकि हमारे देश के युवकों को भी मालूम हो कि उनके पूर्वजों ने देश की प्रगति के लिए क्या कुछ नहीं सहा ताकि आज हम उनके वंशज देश में आराम से रह सकें। वे पढ़े लिखे नहीं थे लेकिन देश के विभिन्न जिलाओं में हमारे लिए स्कूलों का निर्माण किया ताकि हम पढ़ लिखकर देश की प्रगति में हाथ बँटा सकें। हमें अपने पूर्वजों के बलिदान को नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं करना चाहिए।

चित्र: ननिसे नहींमला



अटेनी जेनरल ने एकोनोमी मंत्रालय के कर्मचारियों के साथ ईद मनाई

अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम हाल ही में ईद के जश्न में शामिल हुए जो एकोनोमी मंत्रालय ने आयोजित किया था। अटेनी जेनरल ने ज़ोर दिया कि जो धार्मिक उत्सव हम देश में मनाते हैं, फिर चाहे वो किसमय हो, ईस्टर, ईद या दिवाली हो, हमें खुद अपने पर विचार करना चाहिए।

उन्होंने कहा कि इन अवसरों का लाभ उठाते हुए हम हर साल अपने आप में व्यक्तिगत सुधार लाना चाहिए क्योंकि खुद से सच बोलना ही एक

अच्छे ईसान की पहचान है। उन्होंने मंत्रालय के कर्मचारियों की कड़ी मेहनत की प्रशंसा की और कहा कि कोविड महामारी के बावजूद सभी सरकारी मंत्रालयों का संचालन जारी रहा। उन्होंने कर्मचारियों को याद दिलाया कि नौकरी पर एक दूसरे के काम का आभार व्यक्त करना कितनी जरूरी है। मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव श्री गाउन्डर ने कर्मचारियों की कड़ी मेहनत का आभार व्यक्त किया।

चित्र: ननिसे नहींमला



सहायक महिला मंत्री ने ब्रह्म कुमारियों के साथ मात्र दिवस मनाया

सहायक महिला मंत्री वीना भटनागर ने हाल ही सूबा में स्थित ब्रह्म कुमार के राजयोग मेडिटेशन सेंटर पर वहाँ के सदस्यों के साथ मात्र दिवस मनाया। मंत्री ने कहा कि माँ की ममता में हर तरह का प्रेम शुरू और खत्म होता है। माँ शब्द भले ही छोटा सा शब्द है लेकिन इससे जुड़ा अहसास और महत्व बहुत ही बड़ा है। किसी को भी यह अहसास नहीं है कि अपने बच्चे के चहरे पर मुस्कान देखने के लिए माँ कितना बलिदान देती है तथा ज़िन्दगी में माँ के अहसानों को चुकाना मुमकिन नहीं है।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



राष्ट्रपति ने व्यापारी विनोद भिंडी को सम्मनित किया

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातु विलियम कातोनिवे ने हालही में सरकारी भवन पर फीजी के एक भूतपूर्व व्यापारी श्री विनोद भिंडी को फीजी की आज़ादी की पचासवी सालगिराह के अवसर पर एक मेडल से सम्मानित किया। रातु कातोनिवे ने श्री भिंडी द्वारा पचास सालों तक सोने के व्यापार, ज़मीन विकसित करने और देश में रियल एस्टेट व्यवसाय में योगदान देने के लिए प्रशंसा की। श्री भिंडी जो अभी अमेरिका में निवास करते हैं, अभी हाल ही में एक हफ्ते के लिए फीजी में थे जहाँ उन्होंने अपने परिवार के साथ इस समारोह में भाग लिया। यह स्मारक मेडल उन

लोगों के प्रति आभार व्यक्त करने का तरीका है जिनहीं ने पिछले तीस से पचास सालों के बीच विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के द्वारा फीजी में अपना योगदान दिया। पिछले दो सालों से फीजी की आज़ादी की पचासवी सालगिराह के मौके पर कई सौ की संख्या में फीजीवासियों को सरकारी भवन में मेडल से सम्मानित किया गया है। इन लोगों ने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में देश के विकास के लिए भारी योगदान दिया था तथा सरकार ने इस मौके पर उनका आभार व्यक्त करने का विचार किया।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया





लौतोका में ब्रेड बैंक का नया दफ्तर

सोनम सामी

राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू विलियामें कातोनिवरे ने लौतोका में ब्रेड बैंक का नए दफ्तर का उद्घाटन किया जिसके साथ बैंक की दसवीं वर्षगांठ भी मनाया गया। यह \$2.6 मिलियन की पूंजी जिसमें रिटेल की शाखा नीचे है और कोर्पोरेट व्यवसाय पहली मंजिल पर है। इससे स्पष्ट रूप से पश्चिमी विभाग और देश में आर्थिक विकास होगा और लौतोका शहर में सुधार होगा तथा सबसे जरूरी विभिन्न उत्पादों और सेवाओं से अपने आधुनिक बैंकिंग सुविधाओं में बदलाव भी लाएगा। राष्ट्रपति महामहिम कातोनिवरे ने कहा कि इस महामारी ने हमारे जीवन के तरिके, हमारे व्यवसाय और हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था को बुरी तरह से प्रभावित कर दिया था

और हमें स्थिरता के लिए अपनी चुनौतियों और कठिनाइयों से परे देखने के लिए मजबूर कर दिया था।

इन सब के बीच, ब्रेड बैंक ने अपनी सेवा जारी रखी और फीजिवसियों के लिए आर्थिक और सामाजिक उन्नति को बढ़ावा देने की सरकार की अभिलाषा कायम की।

ब्रेड बैंक ने अभी हाल ही फीजी की अर्थव्यवस्था में अपनी प्रतिबद्धता और विश्वास दिखाते हुए अपने फीजी परिचालन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अपनी पूंजी को दोगुना कर दिया है।

महामहिम कातोनिवरे ने ब्रेड बैंक को उनकी फीजियन अर्थव्यवस्था पर निरंतर विश्वास और निवेश के लिए धन्यवाद दिया जिससे लौतोका शहर का आधुनिक और विकास बढ़ाएगा।



वाहरी द्वीपों की जरूरी सेवा वाला नया सेन्टर बनाने में औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार का भारी योगदान है जिसके लिए फीजी की सरकार बहुत ही



गिरमित दिवस के मौके पर बा शहर में लोगों ने विभिन्न पोशाकों में मार्च किया चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

बा शहर ने एक सौ तैंतालीस गिरमित दिवस मनाया

सोनम सामी

एक सौ तैंतालीस (143) गिरमित दिवस के अवसर पर बा शहर की सड़कें रंगों से भरी हुई थी जब बा के युवा, पुरुष और महिलाएं अपने पारंपारिक भारतीय पोशाक, और वेशभूषा में तैयार होकर एक साथ मार्च पर निकले। चौदह मई, 1879 में एक सौ तैंतालीस वर्ष पहले लेवुका में पहली बार हमारे पुर्वज लियोनिदास नामक जहाज में बैठकर फीजी मजदूरी करने के लिए ब्रिटिश सरकार द्वारा लाया गया था। अभी हाल ही बा मल्टीपर्स होल में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में भाग लेते हुए रोजगार मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला ने कहा कि फीजी के खेतों में काम करने के लिए जिस तरह समूह को लाया गया था वहाँ उनका स्वागत नहीं बल्कि लेवुका के पास एक छोटा द्वीप यानुदालाईलाई पर उन्हें एकांत में रखा गया था। उन्होंने कहा कि वास्तव में, यह गिरमित की कठोरता की शुरुआत थी जिसने उन्हें तरक कहने

पर मजबूर किया। लियोनिदास के आगमन ने गिरमितिया मजदूरों के व्यापार की शुरुआत की है जिसने इन खूबसूरत द्वीपों में हमारे इतिहास के आकार को बदला है।

“हमें याद रखना चाहिए कि गिरमितियों को फीजी में लाए जाने के आर्थिक कारणों के अलावा, इस बात पर जरूरी विचार किया गया था कि गिरमितियों को ई-तौकई को खेतों में काम करने से छूट देने की अनुमति देनी चाहिए थी”। उन्होंने कहा कि यह रिश्ता बहुत मजबूत व्यक्तिगत स्तर पर है क्योंकि यह लोगों की जाति को जीवित रहने की कहानी है। प्रकृतिक साधनों के बावजूद, अंतिम नतिजा यह था कि गिरमितियों ने ई-तौकई की जनसंख्या में गिरावट को रोकने में महात्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है और इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि उनके आर्थिक योगदान ने ई-तौकई की निरंतर वृद्धि से एक मजबूत, स्थिर, गर्व तथा स्वदेशी समाज बनाया है।

शिक्षा क्षेत्र में सुधार की आवश्यकता- मंत्री कुमार

सोनम सामी

“शिक्षा क्षेत्र को शिक्षार्थियों और कार्यबल की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए नीतियों और पाठ्यक्रम में लगातार सुधार की आवश्यकता है”।

हाल ही में संसद में शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने बच्चों की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए पाठ्यक्रम के विकास के संबंध में पाठ्यचर्या सलाहकार सेवाओं की वर्तमान स्थिति पर प्रकाश डाला।

दो हजार बीस में पाठ्यचर्या सलाहकार सेवाओं-करिकलम एडवायज़री सेविसस का पुनर्निर्माण किया गया और अब इसे करिकलम डिवलपमेंट एडवायज़री युनिट के नाम से जाना जाता है और पढ़ने लिखने के साधन को आगे बढ़ाना, पाठ्यक्रम की समीक्षा को लागू करना इसकी भूमिका है।

शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने कहा कि फीजी राष्ट्रीय पाठ्यचर्या की रूपरेखा है कि वह करिकलम डिवलपमेंट एडवायज़री युनिट के लिए शिक्षा दर्शन, संरचना, सामाग्री और मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांत निर्धारित करे। पिछले कुछ महिनो से, करिकलम डिवलपमेंट एडवायज़री युनिट कई पाठ्यक्रम संशोधनों पर काम कर रहा है। दो हजार इक्कीस में ईया ग्यारह में लाइफ

मेथस पाठ्यक्रम की शुरुवात चारों विभागों में की गई। उन्होंने कहा कि वे सामाजिक विज्ञान और इतिहास (सौशल साईंस और हिस्टरी) पाठ्यक्रम को संशोधित करने की प्रक्रिया पर काम कर रहे हैं जब कि यह पाठ्यक्रम फीजी के इतिहास पर अधिक जोर देना सुनिश्चित करेगा।

मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि दुर्भाग्य से फीजी में बच्चों को अन्य देशों का इतिहास पढ़ाया जाता है हालांकि फीजी का इतिहास नहीं पढ़ाया जाता जबकि मंत्रालय अब इसे बदलना चाहता है।

करिकलम डिवलपमेंट एडवायज़री युनिट पिछले कुछ सालों से प्रायमरी स्कूल की लिटरसी और न्यूमसी करिकलम पर काम कर रही है जिसे देश भर के नव्वे स्कूलों में ईया एक से चार पाठ्यक्रम का परिक्षण किया जा रहा है।

मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि आगे चलकर फीजी सरकार चाहती है कि वे सभी पाठ्यक्रम को संशोधित करें, शिक्षाशास्त्र में नयापन लाएं और पाठ्यक्रम तैयार करें जिसका उपयोग ऑनलाइन किया जाए और छात्रों को ऑनलाइन पढ़ने लिखने में सक्षम बनाएं जिससे हमारे बच्चों की जरूरतें पूरी हों।

कुशल पेशेवरों का पता लगाने वाली समिति (एस पी ई सी) आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देती है

सोनम सामी

फीजी में नय और उभरते हुए व्यवसायों में निपुण पेशेवरों की कमी की समस्या को संभोधित करते हुए कोमर्स, ट्रेड, टुरिज़म तथा ट्रांसपोर्ट मंत्री फैयाज़ कोया ने कहा कि कई गलतफ़हमिया फैली हुई हैं।

अभी हाल ही संसद में सवाल का जवाब देते हुए मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि स्कील्ड प्रोफेशनल्स डेवेलुएशन कोमिटि (एस पी ई सी)कुशल पेशेवरों का पता लगाने वाली समिति आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देती है न कि स्थानीय लोगों की नौकरी हटाने के लिया।

(एस पी ई सी) की भूमिका है कि प्रतियोगितात्मक व्यवहार को बढ़ावा देना है जैसे चिकित्सा पेशा जिसने पहले श्रम बाजार को नियंत्रित किया था।

फीजियन श्रम बाजार निपुण पेशेवरों की माँग करता है और इस मौके पर (एस पी ई सी) ने सभी क्षेत्रों में जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए एक कौशल अंतर विश्लेषण तैयार किया है।

मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्र की संस्थाओं के साथ परामर्श से पता चला है कि फीजी में निपुण पेशेवरों में कमी फीजी के श्रम बाजार में माँग और आपूर्ति के बीच के अंतर का नतीजा है और वर्षों से बड़े पैमाने पर प्रसिद्ध है।

इस महामारी के बाद एस पी ई सी का काम पहले से कहीं ज्यादा महात्वपूर्ण हो गया है और देश को फिर से मजबूत बनाने के लिए फीजी को एक आधुनिक पेशेवरों से भरी अर्थव्यवस्था बनानी होगी।

जैसे आर्थिक विकास बढ़ता है, खासकर के नय और उभरते हुए व्यवसायों में हमें यह सुनिश्चित करना जरूरी है कि हम अवसरों को पाकर कैसे अपने कौशल का इस्तेमाल करते हैं।

मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि एस पी ई सी एक नई और आधुनिक अर्थव्यवस्था में परिवर्तन में महात्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगा और ऐसा करना जारी रहेगा।

गिरमित दिवस

रिपोट: रोनाल देव

एक सौ तिरालिस (143) साल पहले गिरमित काल में अंग्रेजों के द्वारा हमारे पुर्वज, शर्तबन्द मजदूर के रूप में फीजी लाए गए थे।
उस वक्त फीजी और भारत, ब्रिटन के आधीन थे जब गुलामी की प्रथा दुनिया भर में चल रही थी तब अंग्रेज़ी हुकुमत ने यहाँ गन्ने के खेतों में काम करने के लिए भारत से मज़दूरों को लाने का फैसला किया।
हमारे पुर्वजों को कलकत्ता से अलग-अलग जहाज़ में भरकर फीजी लाया गया था। उस वक्त उन्हें बताया गया था कि यहाँ मिट्टी खोदने पर उन्हें सोना मिलेगा। गिरमितिया मज़दूर जिन्हें जहाजी भी कहा जाता था को फीजी के अलावा मोरिशस, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, ट्रिनिडाड और टोबैगो, सुरेनाम तथा जमईका में काम करने के लिए लेजाया गया था।
अंग्रेज़ों ने भारत के अलग-अलग हिस्सों से हमारे भोले-भाले पुर्वजों को अपनी बातों से लुभाया कि उन्हें भारत के नज़दीक किसी देश में नौकरी करने से थोड़े ही समय में बहुत पैसे मिलेंगे। उन्हें बताया गया था कि पाँच साल काम करने के बाद वे अपने खर्च पर भारत लौट सकते थे और जो दस साल काम करेंगे उनके लौटने का खर्च ब्रिटिश सरकार सहेगी। उन्हें रविवार को छोड़कर हर दिन नौ घण्टे काम करना होता था और शनिवार को उन्हें बहुत कम वेतन मिलता था। इतने कम पैसे में उन्हें भोजन-राशन तथा दवाईयाँ खरीदनी होती थी और घर के लिए भी पैसे बचाने होते थे। उनके दिन की शुरूआत सुबह चार बजे होती थी तथा दिन भर कड़ी धूप में उन्हें काम करना होता था। उनके घर

इंसानों के रहने लायक नहीं थे जिन्हें कूली-लाईन्स कहा जाता था।
भारतीय मज़दूरों को कोड़े मारे जाते थे जब वे दिन में काम करते हुए थक जाते थे और आराम करना चाहते थे या जब अंग्रेज़ उनके काम से खुश नहीं होते थे।
इतिहास गवाह है कि गिरमितिया मज़दूरों ने उस वक्त अपनी मातृभूमि भारत को त्यागकर, एक उज्ज्वल भविष्य की तलाश में फीजी आए थे। उस वक्त उनके दिलों में कुछ कर दिखाने का जूनून था।
चौदह मई, 1879 को पहला जहाज़ लियोनिदास में पहले भारतीय, हज़ारों किलोमीटर का समुद्र लाँगकर तीन महीने से ज़्यादा की कठिन यात्रा करते हुए फीजी पहुँचे। इस दौरान जहाज़ में हमारे पुर्वज बीमार पड़े तथा कुछ की मौत भी हुई। अंत में यह जहाज़ लेवूका में आकर लगा जो कि उस समय फीजी की राजधानी थी। इसी तरह घयभश से घशघध के बीच बयालिस (42) जहाज़ों में लगभग साठ हज़ार (60,000) भारतीय जो अलग-अलग धर्म, वर्ण के थे फीजी लाए गए। भारत में अलग-अलग जगह से आने की वजह से वे अलग-अलग भाषा बोलने वाले थे लेकिन फीजी आकर उन्होंने फीजी हिन्दी के द्वारा एक दूसरे से वार्तालाप किया।
हमारे पुर्वज पढ़े-लिखे नहीं थे लेकिन उन्होंने अपने बच्चों के लिए देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में कई स्कूलों का निर्माण किया जिससे आज हम पढ़ लिखकर इस देश में और विदेश में भी अपने पुर्व जों का नाम रोशन कर रहे हैं।
पढ़े-लिखे न होने की वजह से वे अंग्रेज़ी शब्द



अंग्रीमन्ट को गिरमित कह रहे थे और बाद में हमारे पुर्वजों को गिरमितिया कहा जाने लगा। इस कठिन और जटिल यात्रा में वे अपने साथ तुलसीदासकृत रामचरितमानस, श्रीमद्भगवत गीता, हनुमान चालीसा के साथ हिंदी भाषा और संस्कृति को भी यहाँ लेकर आए और थोड़े ही समय में फीजी, एक छोटे-से “भारतवर्ष” के रूप में अपनी नई पहचान बना चुका था। सैतीस (37) साल बाद जब गिरमित प्रथा 1921 में खत्म हुई तो सिर्फ पचीस हज़ार (25,000) भारतीय ही भारत लौटे जबकि बाकी ने फीजी को ही अपना घर बना

लिया। गिरमित समारोह को हमें इस तरह देखना चाहिए कि कुछ आम इन्सान एक अनजान देश में आए, उसे अपनाया तथा उनके वंशज आज फीजी को अपनी मातृभूमि मानते हैं। कहते हैं न, कि हर अमावस्या की काली रात के बाद पूर्णिमा आती है, ठीक उसी प्रकार भारतीय संस्कारों, संस्कृति, हिन्दी, और असीम आत्म-बल से धनी हमारे पुर्वजों ने कड़ी मेहनत से देश को ही सोना बना दिया।
हम सबको अपने पुर्वजों पर गर्व होना चाहिए।

पी सी एन को भरे गए पैसे वापस हासिल करने की अज़ी



ग्रन्थम रोड सूवा में स्थित लाँगोलांगी हाउजिंग के नए युनिट्स

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनाल देव

ऑस्ट्रेलिया के गवना जेनरल महामहीम डेविड हेली ने उनका, उनकी पत्नी लिन्डा हेली तथा पूरे ऑस्ट्रेलियन प्रतिनिधिमण्डल का अतिथी-सत्कार करने के लिए फीजियन सरकार तथा फीजिवासियों का आभार व्यक्त किया है।
यह एक एतिहासिक राज्य दौरा था जहाँ पहली बार वनुआ लेवू में भी एक कार्यक्रम हुआ।
फीजी के अपने दौर पर गवना हेली ने कहा कि वृवाले साझेदारी की खुशियाँ मनाई गई। यह साझेदारी यह मंच प्रदान करता है जहाँ दोनों राष्ट्रों के बीच सहयोग, परामर्श तथा दोस्ती और भी गहरी हुई है जबकि हम एक सुरक्षित, स्थिर और समृद्ध प्रशांत क्षेत्र स्थापित करने के एक ही लक्ष्य की दिशा में मिलकर काम करते हैं।
“मेरी पत्नी लिन्डा और मुझे बेहद खुशी है कि हमे फीजी के राष्ट्रपति विलियामे कातोनिवेरे तथा उनकी पत्नी ने हमे फीजी का राज्य दौरा करने के

लिए आमंत्रित किया तथा हम उन सभी लोगों के अभारी हैं जिन्होंने इस दौर को यादगार बनाने में सहयोग दिया जिससे हमारी साझेदारी की चौड़ाई और गहराई पर प्रकाश डाला गया है।
नन्दूरी वनुआलेवू में राष्ट्रपति के घर पर एक दिन बिताने के मौके से साझेदारी की भावना को मज़बूत हुआ है तथा इस अवसर की यादों को मैं और मेरी पत्नी कई सालों तक संजो कर रखेंगे।
गवना जेनरल हेली ने कहा कि फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच साझेदारी सफल होने तथा इसमें प्रगति होने पर ऑस्ट्रेलिया को गर्व है।
फीजियन सरकार ने इस राज्य दौर को यादगार बनाने में सहयोग देने वाले साझेदारों तथा फीजिवासियों को धन्यवाद दिया है।
1993 के बाद ऑस्ट्रेलिया के किसी गवना जेनरल का यह पहला फीजी दौरा था।
फीजी और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के बीच दोस्ती तथा वृवाले समझौता पहले के मिलान में बहुत ही मज़बूत हुआ है।

स्कूल को नई नाव और इंजिन

रिपोट: रोनाल देव

वुनिसेया कन्दावू स्थित बुलौ दोलेले मेमोरियल स्कूल को एक नई नाव और इंजिन दी गई है।
हाल ही में वाईसोमो हाउस सूवा में स्कूल के मुख्य अद्यापक तथा मेनेजमन्ट को शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने नाव और इंजिन प्रदान की। इस स्कूल में साठ श्रद्धांजलि विद्यार्थी पढ़ाई करते हैं तथा इस नाव के द्वारा उन्हें स्कूल आने-जाने में काफी सहुलियत होगी।
मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि यातायात की सहायता प्रदान करना, फीजियन सरकार द्वारा दी जा रही कई सुविधाओं में से एक है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि शिक्षा हासिल करने में विद्यार्थी यातायात वाली चुनौतियों का सामना न करें।
“लोगों को शायद यह पता नहीं होगा कि विद्यार्थियों को यातायात वाली जो सहायता हम प्रदान करते

हैं, वो केवल बस के भाड़ा तक सिमित नहीं है। जो विद्यार्थी बाहरी द्वीपों में रहते हैं, हम उनके स्कूलों को नाव देते हैं तथा उन्हें अवसर प्रदान करते हैं कि वे उन्हें मिले शिक्षा वाले मुफ्त ग्रान्ट से नाव तथा इंजिन के लिए फि़यूल और मरम्मत का खर्च निकालें। अगर बाहर का कोई यह सेवा प्रदान करता है तो हम उन्हें आर एस एल का वाउचा देते हैं,” मंत्री ने कहा।
मंत्री कुमार ने स्कूल के मेनेजमन्ट को आशवासन दिया है कि सरकार, बच्चों की शिक्षा के लिए हमेशा खड़ी रहेगी तथा वे हमेशा यूवा फीजिवासियों की शिक्षा के लिए जो कुछ ज़रूरी होगा उसके लिए माता-पिताओं, बच्चों की देखभाल करने वाले तथा स्कूल मेनेजमन्ट को सहायता पहुँचाती रहेगी।
मंत्री ने अंत में नाव के द्वारा सुरक्षित विद्यार्थियों को स्कूल आने-जाने के लिए अपनी शुभकामनाएं दी।



शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार वुनिसेया कन्दावू स्थित एक स्कूल के लिए नाव प्रदान करती हुई।
चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

उंदू निवासियों की पानी वाली समस्या खत्म हुई 2

फीजी में मांस मजदूरों की तलाश जार 3

मंत्री अकबर दिलकुशा हौम बच्चों से मिली 3

मानव विकास के लिए नया आश्रम खुला 3

लौतोका में ब्रेड वेन्क का नया दफ्तर खुला 6

फीजी दर्पण

FRIDAY MAY 20, 2022

| 8 PAGES | ISSUE 3 VOL 11 | WWW.FIJI.GOV.FJ

@FijianGov Fijian Government



प्रधान मंत्री तथा चीनी मंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डिनमारामा संसद में चीनी व्यवसाय को जीवित रखने की योजना आम करते हुए

चित्र: संसद भवन

चीनी व्यवसाय को जीवित रखने की योजना

रिपोर्ट: रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री तथा चीनी मंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डिनमारामा ने संसद में चीनी व्यवसाय को पुनः जीवित करने की योजनाएं आम की।

“देश के इतिहास में मेरी सरकार पहली है जिसने गन्ने के लिए पचासी श्यथन डॉलर प्रति टन का दाम तय किया फिर चाहे विश्व में दाम कुछ भी हो,”

उन्होंने कहा कि यह दाम तय होने से न केवल किसानों को सुरक्षा और स्थिरता मिली है बल्कि उनकी आमदनी को भी सहायता दी है। चीनी मंत्री ने कहा कि उनकी सरकार अन्य सरकारों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रही है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि चीनी विदेश भेजने के लिए डूटी गिराई जाए या

डूटी पूरी तरह से हटाई जाए ताकि फीजी, चीनी निर्यात करने वाले अन्य देशों के साथ अच्छी तरह से होड़बाजी कर सकें।

उनके अनुसार हाल ही में स्थानीय बाजार में चीनी के दाम पर पुनः विचार करने से किसानों को मिलने वाला दाम और मजबूत होगा तथा इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाएगा कि फीजी शुगा कौपेरेशन अपने उत्पादनों पर सही दाम लगाए और आमदनी कमाने के साथ-साथ गन्ने के फसलों की पैदाईश बढ़ाने, मिल्कों का संचालन सुधारने तथा उत्पादन में परिवर्तन करने के लिए सही तरह से पुंजी लगा सकें।

बर्डिनमारामा ने कहा कि चीनी व्यवसाय, किसी अन्य व्यापार की तरह है, जहाँ उन्हें सही मात्रा में

फसल बोने का लक्ष्य हासिल करने, सही मात्रा में चीनी बनाने तथा सही दाम तय करने की ज़रूरत है ताकि व्यापार चलता रहे।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि यह चुनाव वाला साल है तथा वो बिल्कुल भी हैरान नहीं हैं कि विरोधी दल एक बार फिर गन्ने के व्यवसाय को लेकर राजनितिक चाल चल रहे हैं।

उनके अनुसार उनकी सरकार में कोई भी तानाशाह नहीं है बल्कि उनकी सरकार में मजबूत निर्णायक नेतृत्व है।

“लेकिन हमेशा की तरह मैं गन्ने के किसानों से व्यवसाय की हालत को लेकर सीधी बात करता हूँ। कोई झूठ नहीं, कोई झूठे वायदे नहीं, सिर्फ सच्चाई,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार सच्चाई यह है कि वे गन्ने के किसानों को लगातार उच्च स्तर की सहायता देना जारी रखे हुए हैं जो देश के इतिहास में पहले कभी नहीं दिया गया था। इनमें शामिल है मसाला और घास मारने वाली दवा के लिए सब्सिडी, कैन टोप अप पैमन्ट, गन्ना मिल तक लेजाने वाले यातायात की सहायता, लीस नया करने तथा गन्ना निकालने वाले रास्तों पर मरम्मत करने में सहायता देना शामिल है। लेकिन प्रधान मंत्री ने स्वीकार किया चुनौतियाँ हैं, लेकिन गन्ने के किसान जब मसीबतों से गुजरते हैं तो सरकार आगे बढ़कर उनकी सहायता करती है।