

FijiFocus



Greetings Prime Minister

Residents of Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, welcome Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama on his arrival there for the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) hosted by his Japanese

counterpart Shinzo Abe. PM Bainimarama was accompanied by a Cabinet minister and senior officials for the two-day meeting, where he took the opportunity to call for support in the fight against climate change,

in his capacity as COP23 President. He held a private meeting with Mr Abe after being accorded a Guard of Honour. More on pages 3,7,8,9
Photo: NATASHA BEGUM

CALL to ASIA

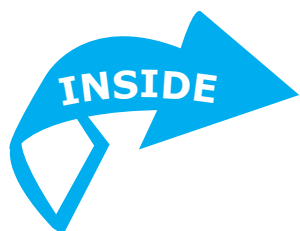
PM: Step up for Climate Change Fight

NATASHA BEGUM

FIJIAN Prime Minister and 23rd session of Conference of Parties President, Voreqe Bainimarama, has called on the “giants of Asia” to step forward with more ambitious plans to reduce greenhouse gases. As he concluded his visit to Japan where he was invited by his Japanese counterpart, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to attend the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8), Prime Minister Bainimarama,

while delivering his statement at the meeting, reiterated his call to big nations for action on climate change. “The greatest common interest we have today - amongst ourselves and with the rest of the global community - is to reduce the impact of climate change as much as is humanly possible,” he said. “We Pacific islanders are doing all that we can, but we contribute little to global warming. We are looking to lift our ac-

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REFURBISHED WARD **15**

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

What is really important about this Bill is not just about the individual accessing information. Everyone will need to ensure that there is transparency. This is the implication of this Bill and I believe this is very empowering for individual citizens of our country.

Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

NUMBERS

55.29m
has been used
for assistance for
those affected by
the recent floods
and cyclones
under the CARE
for Fiji program

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama (@FijiPM)

held an excellent meeting with Prime Minister Abe in Tokyo where we discussed many important ways to strengthen relations between Fiji and Japan. We are all looking forward to the reopening of direct air travel on @FijiAirways between Nadi and Tokyo in July! #Fiji #TeamFiji pic.twitter.com/Fgyuxxcumj

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Hardware firms faces Government probe

ISAAC LAL

A MAJOR investigation of hardware companies that were part of the Tropical Cyclone Winston rehabilitation programme will soon be carried out.

This follows complaints to the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum by Ra villages that they are yet to receive their materials to rebuild their home, two years since TC Winston made landfall in Fiji.

The A-G who was in Ra recently for the handing over of 10 schools by the Australian Government under its Access to Quality Education Programme (AQEP)

through Government's Adopt-A-School programme held talanoa sessions with the community of Ra.

He was told that hardware companies had still not supplied the materials for the homes under the Government funded assistance.

Sikeli Nasagatoro of Mataso said despite numerous promises, these companies have still not carried out their duty.

"There are over 300 homes in Nakorotubu that needs to be rebuilt but these hardware companies despite promising us next month, next month have yet to send the materials," he said.

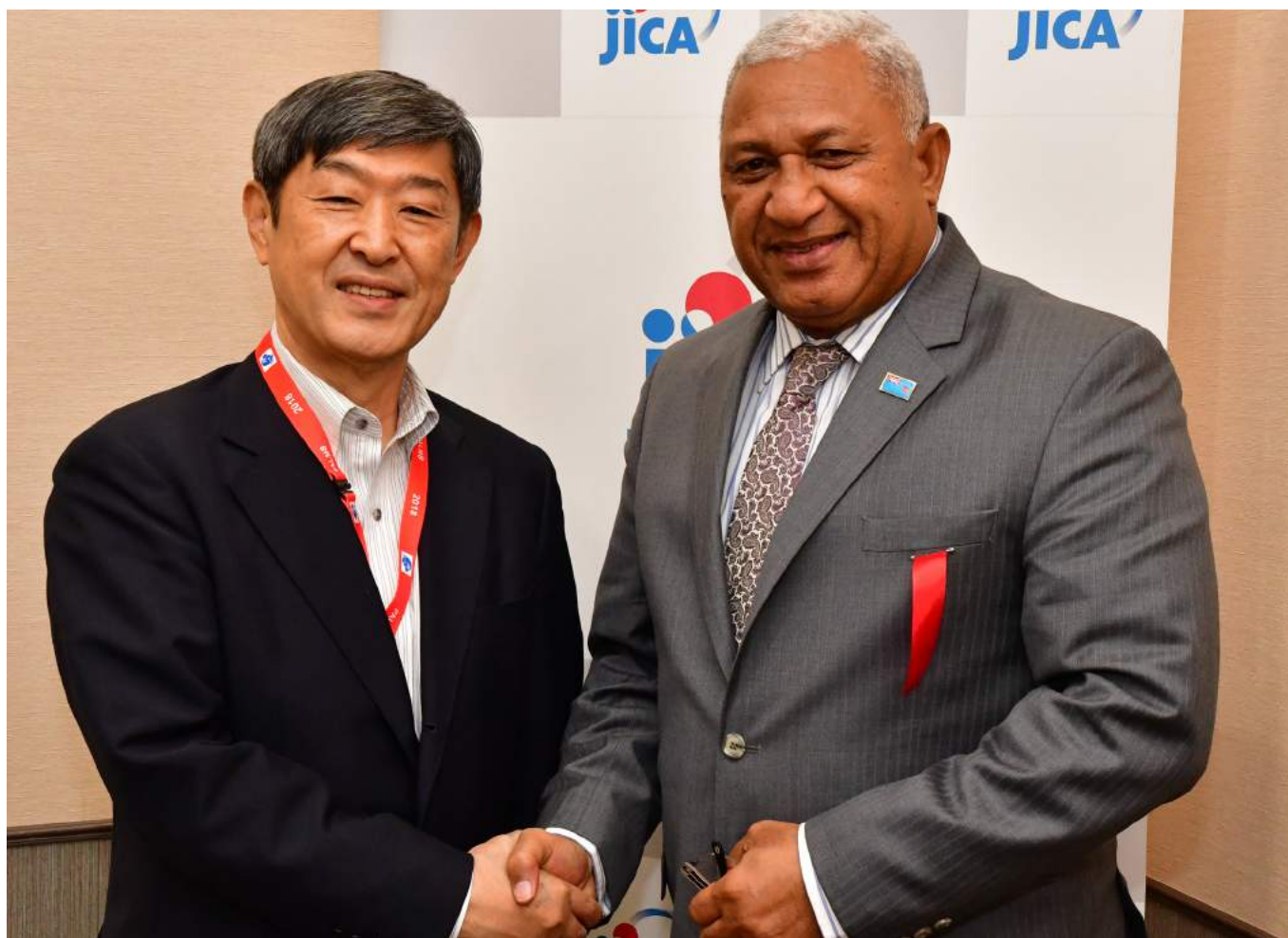
"This is why there are some people still living tents, it is not the Government's

fault but these hardware companies."

The A-G said a team from the Government would visit the district (Nakorotubu) to get all the details of those who are still waiting for the materials.

"We will take all details down and take them to these hardware companies because all materials needed to have been given, its two years now and while we (government) understands that there were shortages of materials due the devastation this should have not dragged on for this long," the A-G said.

"Please give us all the details and we'll take the hardware companies to task on why they have not followed through with the materials."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during his meeting with Japan International Cooperation Assistance (JICA) President Shinichi Kitaoka at the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) in Iwaki, Japan. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM

JICA President applauds Fijian PM

NATASHA BEGUM

THE Japan International Cooperation Assistance (JICA) President Shinichi Kitaoka has applauded Fiji for its strong leadership in the international sphere and its "essence of success".

This commendation was conveyed to Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during his meeting with Mr Kitaoka in Iwaki, Japan, which was also the venue for the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) that the Fijian Head of Government

attended.

Technical cooperation between Fiji and JICA, including ongoing development cooperation programs and key projects currently undertaken by the development aid agency in Fiji were the basis of discussion.

These projects include the Nadi River project and the construction of the Tamavua-i-wai bridge.

Prime Minister Bainimarama acknowledged JICA's technical assistance and Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) that continues to provide valuable

assistance through technical training, human resources and project development in various sectors in Fiji.

Mr Kitaoka commended Fiji's leadership as a remarkable one, adding that Fiji was very visible on the international scene.

He further said Fiji, as a Pacific Island country, was bonded by the Pacific Ocean which shared common responsibility to maintain our ocean.

Mr Kitaoka said Fiji was a good partner to Japan and showed the essence of success.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fiji being the hub of the Pacific was keen to ensure the development of infrastructure and ports of entry.

One such development has resulted in the commencement of direct flights from Nadi to Tokyo in July.

Ongoing cooperation programs in Fiji by JICA include Social Economic Infrastructure Resilience, Islands and Remote Areas Education Support Program, Pacific Islands Health and Medical, Environment Management and Disaster Risk Reduction.



Leaders from Pacific Island Countries (PICs) during the seminar on Japan/Pacific Island Economic Relations in Tokyo, Japan. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM

Trade tops Tokyo talks

Call to Asia

NATASHA BEGUM

FIJI and Japan share common interests in security in the Pacific, health of the ocean, trade and investment and the need to build prosperity in the region.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, speaking during the Seminar on Japan/ Pacific Island Economic Relations in Tokyo last week, touched upon the areas of cooperation between Fiji and Japan especially on the contribution of the latter towards Fiji's development.

The seminar, attended by leaders from Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and more than 20 Japanese companies was aimed at exchanging views on investment and trade between the two countries.

"As one of the world's largest and most advanced economies, Japan is in a unique position to help us secure these interests," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"Indeed, Japan has made significant contributions towards Fiji's development and has come to our aid time and again in recent years to help us recover from se-

vere storms and reinforce our infrastructure against future severe weather events."

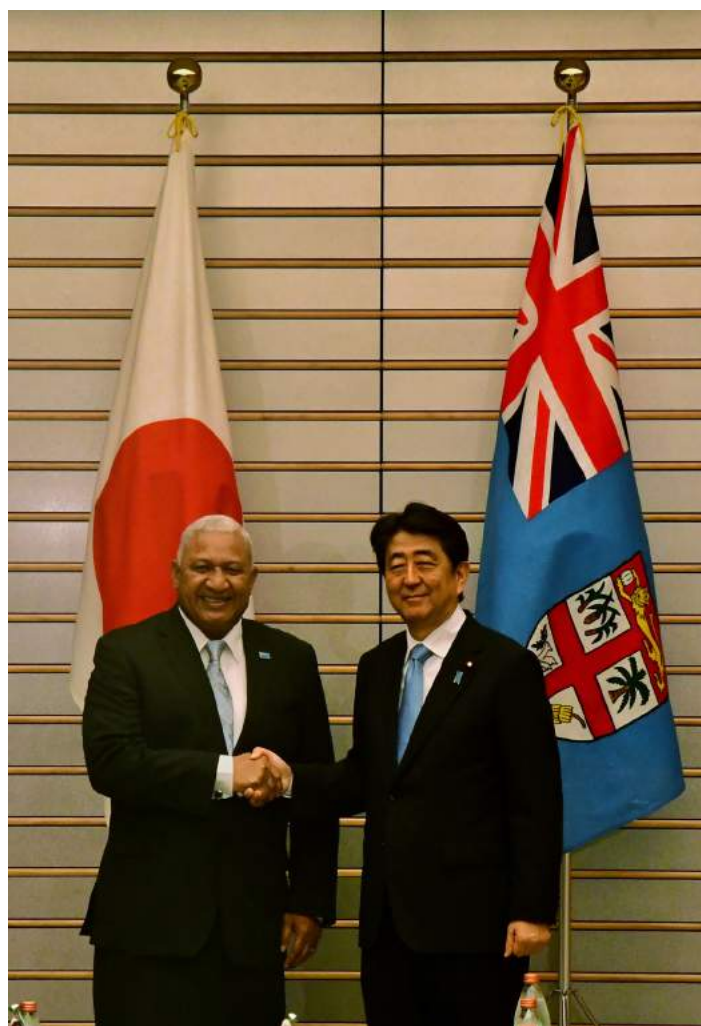
Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted the Japanese Government's effort in boosting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Pacific were promising.

"Emerging Japanese SMEs can be an excellent fit for Fiji and our Pacific neighbours and an insurance scheme led by the Japanese Government to provide some cover for their direct investment and other costs that go into entering a new market will go a long way toward encouraging Japanese SMEs by reducing their risk."

He also added that Fiji must redouble its efforts to export goods where it held an advantage as mineral water, beauty and health-care products, virgin coconut oil, noni and noni juice, tropical fruits and vegetables and sugar.

Prime Minister Bainimarama indicated that with direct air service between the two countries commencing in July, new possibilities would enter the doorway.

Japan is the world's third-largest economy.



Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe, in Tokyo, Japan. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM

FROM PAGE 1

tion and ambition but we need the giants of the world—including the giants of Asia—to step forward with more ambitious plans to reduce greenhouse gases."

In the same vein, Prime Minister Bainimarama said adaptation to the effects of climate change was not enough and called for countries to raise their ambition.

"Adaptation is simply not enough and there are limits to what we can adapt to. We must raise and intensify our ambition to reduce the rate and extent to which this planet is warming," the Fijian Head of Government said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama acknowledged Japan's commitment in being a valuable partner to Fiji.

"Japan has been a valuable partner to Fiji in our Presidency of COP23. Japan has the economic and political weight—but most importantly, the moral authority—to lead and inspire us toward greater ambition," he said.

Landmark law on royalty sharing

PRASHILA DEVI AND JOSIA RALAGO

AS the first law that complies with the provisions of the Constitution on royalties, the Fair Share of Mineral Royalties Bill 2018 will now result in landowners getting the lion's share of mineral royalty.

The royalties will be from exploration of minerals, in most countries belongs to the State, which then gives a mining licence to the miner.

The Government, which pushed for the Bill to be passed in a one-stage sitting of Parliament rather than be referred to a Standing Committee or any other Committee of Parliament, will now pay out 80 per cent of the royalties to landowners while it retains 20

per cent.

Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, who brought the motion to the House, said, "We are saying that 80 per cent of all the royalties will go to the landowners, only 20 per cent will be retained by the State as provided by the Constitution".

Reaction to the Bill was swift and welcomed by these stakeholders.

Tui Macuata Ratu Wiliame Katonivere said this Bill was long overdue and "what should have been done".

"The passing of the Bill is in the right direction and a good thing for future generations," Ratu Wiliame said.

"Thinking about our future generations, I know we are going to have a good future tomorrow. We are empowering them and we

are setting the trend for them.

Mata ni Tikina ko Mali Seru Moce said the Bill was "a good thing".

"It ensures that resources owners also have a royalties share," Mr Moce said.

The A-G informed Parliament that since the Constitution has been put in place, the Government has kept aside the royalty in trust and currently it has royalty of approximately \$1 million from mining that is taking place in Vanua Levu.

"We have kept the royalties in trust, the moment that this Bill becomes an Act of Parliament, we will then be able to distribute those royalties to the members of the landowning unit through equal distribution and will give them 80 per cent royalties.



\$55.29m spent on CARE for Fiji help

MEREANI GONEDUA

A TOTAL of \$55.29million has been used for assistance for those affected by the recent floods and cyclones under the CARE for Fiji program.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum updated Parliament this week on the CARE for Fiji program that was announced the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama last month to assist the affected Fijians in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Keni and TC Josie.

The A-G said the first initiative on e-Transport CARE had assisted a total of 202,368 Fijians which included 183,836 adults receiving \$50 top-up and another 18,542 students topped up with \$25.

“So far Government has spent \$9.65million in this assistance,” the A-G said.

He stated that 23,896 households have been assisted under the Home-CARE initiative at a cost of \$29.17million.

“Only 56 households were actually eligible for the \$7000 payout as their homes were either destroyed or suffered severe structural damage. A further 1613 households received \$3000 for partial structural damage. It also included homes that were not severely damaged but all or most of their possessions were lost and damaged by floodwaters.”

“Apart from this, 3428 households under the vakavanua arrangements were assisted with \$1500 where their homes were either severely destroyed or severely damaged because obviously

we cannot give the full amount because they have the vakavanua arrangements.”

Under the Farms-CARE a total of 30,697 farmers have been assisted with the total cost of \$15.3million. Out of this 601 fully large scale commercial farmers were assisted with prepaid cards.

For the Sugarcane-CARE, a total of 5678 forms have been assessed and the Fiji Sugar Corporation and the Ministry of Sugar industry have conducted a few verifications of 4212 farmers.

The Welfare-CARE under the Ministry of women, children and poverty alleviation have been provided an additional one month top-up to 13, 165 social welfare recipients who were affected by the cyclones and the floods.

“A total of \$1.14million has been used for the assistance.”

National minimum wage review starts

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE review of the National Minimum Wage rate of \$2.68 an hour has commenced and a result will be known once the review is completed.

This was highlighted in Parliament by Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum where he said that for any review to be credible, it needs to be independent, not to have input from people who have already prejudged the matter.

“So, obviously any review has to be completely independent, has to be through all stakeholders. Of course anyone can appear before the review Committee and make their submissions.”

The A-G highlighted that the 10 sectoral wage council also had a review and none of them get paid below the minimum wage.

He said for trainees in the garment sector, it was a different category altogether but all have attained sectorial wages whereby a review was undertaken and all of them had increases with salary rates at more than \$2.68 an hour.

“In fact they range from \$2.78 to \$5.57 an hour, in the case of building foreman the market range rate is \$10 to \$15 an hour, qualified electrician \$8 to \$10 an hour.”

He stated that these are the market prevailing rates and the information given to the Government is that all of the 10 sectorial wages had increased too. The minimum wage only applies to people who fall in the unskilled sets bracket.

Police target violence trends

KELERA SOVASIGA

MINISTER for Defence and National Security Ratu Inoke Kubuabola has given assurance that the Fiji Police Force was taking steps to address the increasing trend of violence against women and children in Fiji.

Speaking in Parliament last week, Ratu Inoke said, “Fiji Police Force have corporate Key Performance Indicators [KPIs] that have been tagged to women and children related crimes and in reducing violence against women and children by 10 per cent”.

Recent statistics on reported cases of violence against women and children supplied by the police revealed a substantial increase from 358 cases to 777 cases within the last five years.

Ratu Kubuabola said a partnership between stakeholders,

such as Judiciary, Corrections, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, will help enhance the responses and investigative abilities in tackling such issues.

Other internal strategies and initiatives that were highlighted included the DUAVATA Concept implementation through village and school visitations, awareness, tikina meetings, victim support and many more. Fiji Police has empowered the Sexual Offences Unit and Juvenile Bureau to streamline women and child related investigations through dedicated and well trained women officers.

“The Fiji Police anticipates with interest the development and enactment of the Sexual Offenders Registration Bill which shall further empower the organization in the enforcement and creation of a safer society for our women and children,” Ratu Inoke said.



Minister for Defence and National Security Ratu Inoke Kubuabola.
Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

Taxi plate colour coding ‘enhances transparency’

PRIYANKA LAL

THE introduction of colour-coded taxi number plates will ensure transparency and assist enforcement officers.

Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar highlighted this in the recent Parlia-

ment sitting, saying the plates would enable enforcement officers to easily identify and monitor taxis operating within a zone.

Minister Kumar said the initiative was part of the recent taxi industry reform in line with the amendment to the Land Transport Public Service Vehicle Regulation 2017.

“This reform includes the demarca-

tion of 34 identified transport zones developed with the intention of improving transport access to meet the increasing customer demand for efficient and reliable taxi services,” Minister Kumar said.

He said the transport zoning was aimed at improving customer services.

“We have a lot of cases where taxi

operators are operating in other areas well away from their bases, thus depriving their customers an accessible and reliable taxi services.

“Furthermore, the taxi services will be better managed and be able to meet the demand present in each zone as permits will be distributed based on the zone population.



Women's groups back Online Safety Bill

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE passing of the 2018 Online Safety Bill in Parliament has attracted a lot of support from some women's group in the North.

Waita Curuvale, of the Batiri Women's Club in Wailevu West, Cakaudrove, emphatically said, "I support it! I strongly support it because this ensures safety for online users."

"The use of internet is widespread and our children's usage of social media like Facebook is a major concern as they are young and vulnerable.

"This (Bill) could be a way

to hold people responsible for what they put up online," the mother of four said.

Mrs Curuvale said Facebook was used by everybody and it was not just the adults or teens but quite young children using it as well.

"We really cannot stop people from using Facebook because it is their right, but the introduction of such law would ensure that people use the internet responsibly," she said.

The Then India Sanmarga Ikya (TISI) Sangam for women, Marthar Sangam Labasa branch secretary, Litiana Reddy said the Bill came at the right time.

"We are living in an age

where almost everyone uses the internet and we need some rules to regulate its utilisation."

Sekina Women's Group President Marica Naikomu of Drawa Village, Cakaudrove, located in one of the most interior parts of Vanua Levu, said that the use of Facebook has been an issue of concern for them.

"Our children are using it and we are in an isolated rural area and yet almost everyone has an account.

"A few weeks ago, we heard in the news about a young girl whose naked pictures were going viral on Facebook. This was an issue of discussion amongst our

group as concerned mothers," Mrs Naikomu said.

"We support this Bill.

We continue to talk to our children about the dangers of Facebook and this regulation would help protect our children."

Through the passing of this Bill, an Online Safety Commission would be set up to promote online safety as this would be an avenue where members of the public could lodge complaints against a number of offences listed in the Bill.

This includes the spreading of hate speech or the sharing of explicit images to name a few.

A-G tells of ADB concessional grant access need

PRIYANKA LAL

FIJI has reiterated the need for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to consider allowing middle income countries to access concessional grant in the aftermath of climatic events.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum stressed this while updating the Parliament this week on the 51st Annual Meeting of the ADB, which was held in Philippines from 3 – 6 May, 2018.

He said the meeting provided an avenue for discussion of financing options that suited the development priorities and economical financial needs in member countries.

Fiji and the Pacific Development Member Countries (PDMCs) made a request to further increase minimum allocation consistent with other multilateral development partners like the World Bank.

"This would benefit our small and most vulnerable member countries that access ADB funds," the A-G said.

He highlighted that Fiji did not qualify for the Asian Development Fund Grant funding due to its 'borrower' status under the Ordinary Capital Resources (OCR).

"As raised by Fiji in many other international forums, the PDMCs governor reiterated the need for ADB to look at what we call 'trigger-based mechanisms' where countries can access concessional grant financing for climatic events as part of Strategy of 2030.

"What we have been pushing for the past two or three years, and it is getting attention, is that there should be certain trigger-based mechanism so if you have an intense cyclone that damages your GDP up to a certain value or in excess of the percentage of the value, then you should be able to access concessional funding," the A-G explained.

Meanwhile, the A-G spoke on Fiji being host of the 52nd ADB Annual Meeting in May next year that will see the attendance of more than 4000 international and regional participants.

He said it would be the first time for any Pacific developing member country to host the annual meeting.

"We want to see it more as a Pacific event to be able to hone in as to what are some of the funding requirements in the Pacific Island Countries on what we can do in respect of climate vulnerability initiatives."

The theme for next year's ADB Annual Meeting was 'Prosperity through Unity'.

Bill gives Fijians access to information



Assistant Minister for Youth and Sports Iliesa Delana with Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

MEREANI GONEDUA

ANEW Information Bill that gives access to information to Fijians was passed in Parliament this week.

Tabling the Bill Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum highlighted the Bill was the first step towards what can be called 'democratisation of information.'

"That is giving people access to information regarding themselves. It is also giving them the ability to correct information about themselves," the A-G said.

"This particular Bill gives unprecedented access to individual members of our society, ordinary Fijians access to information that they will otherwise not get or indeed have not received the level of accessibil-

ity."

The A-G highlighted a few examples of what information can be accessed through this Bill and stated that people will now be able to access information made about them.

"What is really important about this Bill is not just about the individual accessing information. The people who are making decision about Fijians will now have to be cautious because they can be pulled up," he stated.

"Everyone will need to ensure that there is transparency. This is the implication of this Bill and I believe this is very empowering for individual citizens of our country."

"This has never happened before and once it comes into place, it will open up a new chapter altogether."



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Attorney-General
Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum



Fiji's new Permanent Representative to the UN General Assembly (PRUN) based in New York, United States of America, Dr Satyendra Prasad and his wife, Kushma Ram, with President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and First Lady Sarote Konrote.



Dr Prasad hails from Vanua Levu where his schoolteacher parents were posted to many parts of the island, from Nasarawaqa, where he was born, to Lagalaga, Waiqele. Seen here with Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.



Dr Prasad has been working internationally for past 18 years. Seen here with President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote.

Long road from Lagalaga to New York

PRASHILA DEVI

FROM the fields of Lagalaga in Vanua Levu to the highest international decision-making bodies in the world - the United Nations, Dr Satyendra Prasad's journey has not been without its challenges.

Fiji's new Permanent Representative to the UN General Assembly (PRUN) based in New York, United States of America believes those challenges are part and parcel of the learning curve of life.

Dr Prasad hails from Vanua Levu as his school teacher parents were posted to many parts of the island, from Nasorowaqa where he was born to Lagalaga, Waiqele and eventually the town itself but has moved in the international circles for many years.

"I have worked in countries as diverse as India, Serbia, Kenya, Afghanistan, Nepal to Bosnia, Armenia, Albania and Eastern Europe with most recent being Papua New Guinea," he said.

"It has been an exciting journey. Behind every journey there is always hard work and pain as well but that is part of the excitement of the journey."

As a highly successful individual who has changed his



Dr Satyendra Prasad with Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at the PM's Office in Suva.

MUST READ

Dr Prasad named Fijian envoy to UN

Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Dr. Satyendra Prasad, a Governance and Public Sector Management Specialist, took up his post recently.

Prior to the appointment, Ambassador Dr. Prasad was the chief executive officer for Papua New Guinea Governance Facility from 2016.

Ambassador Dr. Prasad has over 15 years of management and policy reform experiences in large-scale whole of government, center of government and

government performance, ministry and civil service reform, capacity building and other systems for senior officials of the Fijian Government.

Ambassador Dr. Prasad did his Ph.D. Sociology-Development Studies from the Warwick University, United Kingdom.

In New York, he is accompanied by his wife, Kushma Ram, who is an accomplished handweaving designer, and their daughter Nehali Anupriya, a post graduate student.

career path many times and taken on the challenge of learning about these new areas, Dr Prasad believes there is one key advice he would give to young people.

"The world is no longer a place where once you decide on a particular career and you continue on that until retirement. We need to constantly stretch ourselves, develop new interests and change careers as we go."

"We don't stay in one career anymore and this is how I progressed. I was a school teacher to begin with but then I ventured out to do other things," Dr Prasad said.

With each of these changes, came with its own hurdles but as the new Ambassador is a testimony, we never stop learning from cradle to the grave.

"At the age of 40, I had a career change when I ventured into development where I had to learn new things. I did not go back to university but I did a lot of training, had to learn things like public finance management, how to identify, finance and implement a good project that would give citizens the best results and best value for money," he said.

The diplomat, who has been working internationally for

last 18 years, does not feel like he ever left Fiji. He has been in and out of the country throughout this time and even extending a helping hand towards the civil service reform while working for the World Bank.

This time he has gone for yet another career change, working for the Fijian Government as its top diplomat at the UN.

He is deeply passionate about reversing impacts of climate change and improving the health and management of the oceans.

These, he says, are the challenges and Fiji needs to work collaboratively with the rest

of the world.

"I am passionate about influencing international opinion and international practice on trying to redress the harmful impacts of climate change and to give Fiji and other small island states a fighting chance."

"I really feel for our country, our communities. We make progress and every few years our progress is derailed by catastrophic cyclones and floods. We build and we rebuild. We need to work with other countries in finding a way through this" Dr Prasad said.

He pointed out that as a country surrounded by the ocean, and for someone who loves being at sea, pollution, overfishing have far reaching consequences on our communities and on us as a country.

"We need to work with our neighbours and we need to work with other countries - smartly, skilfully and diplomatically."

Another area Dr Prasad feels deeply about is assisting developing countries overcome their economic challenges. He pointed out the role Fiji's peacekeeping efforts through the UN has had on the country.

"Our peacekeeping efforts have not only raised the profile of our country but helped the men and women from the military and police to uplift their lives and that of their families and communities."

Fiji's top diplomat, "hopes to, through diplomacy, contribute to Fiji's social and economic development efforts and ambitions. Fiji is punching well above its weight already in international forums".



UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa (second from left), Fijian Prime Minister and COP23 President Frank Bainimarama (third from left) with two other delegates during a talanoa session at the 6th dialogue meeting on the action for Climate Empowerment in Bonn, Germany. Photo: ERONI VALILI

G20 support sought for climate talks



Fijian Prime Minister and COP23 President, Voreqe Bainimarama has urged his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe, who will chair the G20 summit in June next year to help garner support on the urgent issue of climate change. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM

NATASHA BEGUM

FIJIAN Prime Minister and COP23 President, Voreqe Bainimarama has urged his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe, who will chair the G20 summit in June 2019, to help garner support on the urgent issue of climate change.

Prime Minister Bainimarama, who met with Prime Minister Abe in his office in Tokyo, Japan, asked him to use the G20 platform “to bring the urgent issue of climate change to the Leaders’ attention as well as the importance of adhering to pledges made under the Paris Agreement”

The Fijian Head of Government also provided an update to the Japanese leader on Fiji’s progress in climate change discussions.

Prime Minister Bainimarama

was in Japan last week to attend the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) held in Iwaki, Fukushima.

After the bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Abe, he said discussions held were very fruitful and covered many important issues aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between Fiji and Japan.

He reassured Prime Minister Abe of Fiji’s continuous prosperous bilateral relations with Japan.

“Fiji acknowledges the many developments in the various areas of engagement with Japan since our last meet in 2015 which has significantly contributed to Fiji’s socio-economic development,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“I commend Japan for its efforts to assist the Pacific region in addressing their vulnerabilities and

acknowledge its commitment under the framework of the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting in order to realise our collective regional development priorities.”

The Prime Minister also discussed areas of natural disaster resilience, Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) Strategy, potential areas of cooperation on Trade in Services for Fiji, and visa exemption arrangement for all Fijian passport holders.

“As the Fijian Prime Minister, I acknowledge the generous assistance the Japanese Government has given to Fiji over the years.”

“We can look forward to advancing the relationship between Fiji and Japan now and into the future. I am confident that as a result of today’s meeting, the Fiji-Japan bilateral relations will now be elevated to another level.”

COP23 delegates take to talanoa concept

KELERA SOVASIGA, JENNIS NAIDU

FIJIAN Prime Minister and 23rd session of Conference of Parties President, Frank Bainimarama has welcomed the way in which the Talanoa Dialogue concept has been embraced in climate change discussions.

Speaking to delegates from all over the world to the 6th dialogue meeting on the action for Climate Empowerment, he said it was delightful to see the new addition to the climate agenda being positively embraced.

“Dialogue is merely an important staging post on the journey toward decisive action. It is by telling our stories, and listening to the stories of others, that we can learn how to tackle the climate change more effectively,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

Highlighting on some issues, he addressed the lack of awareness that has been continually emerging in the views held by certain developed countries hence climate change action not being as great as it should be.

Two important areas that Prime Minister Bainimarama stressed on was the importance of empowering young people and women and of their great contribution to the discussion.

“Our young people are powerful agents for change and we are mobilizing them as agents for action in our schools, community groups and through the media.”

At the closing of the dialogue, Prime Minister Bainimarama acknowledged the inclusion of non-party stakeholders during the discussions.

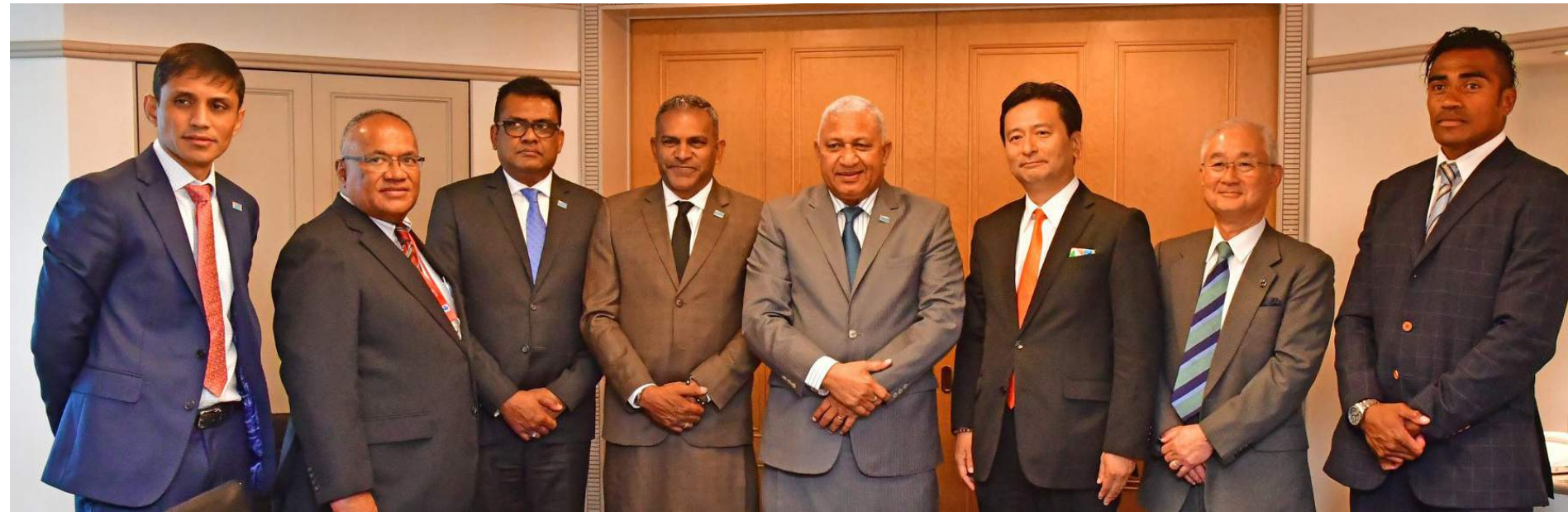
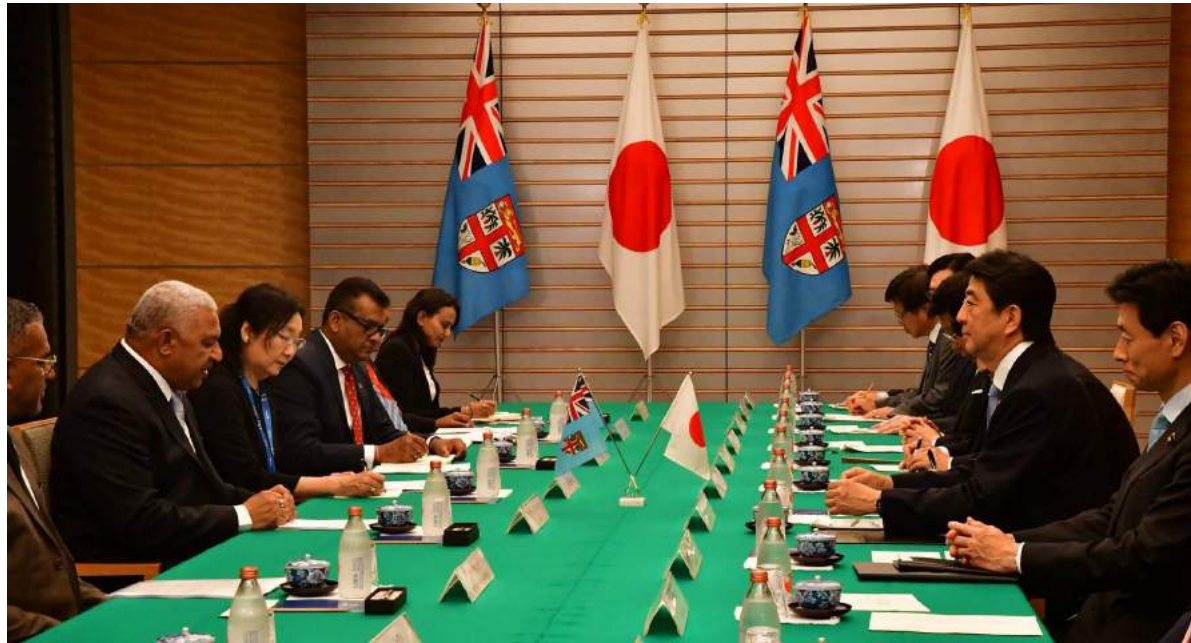
“The inclusion and participation of non-Party stakeholders in the Dialogue has opened up this process and brings us a fresh opportunity to draw on a wider range of experiences,” he said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also highlighted to the delegates the devastating after-effects of Cyclone Keni and Josie, and how the category one cyclone had the capability of taking eight lives as well as flooding several main towns.

“We do what we can, as a Government, to alleviate the suffering of our people and I am pleased to say that our Care for Fiji Program, which we formulated in record time after Josie, is already making a huge difference,” he said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama emphasised on the need to complete the Implementation Guidelines of the Paris Agreement on time, including the need for Talanoa Dialogue to lead to more ambition in their NDCS.

“The Talanoa Dialogue has created a space to share stories, build empathy and trust, and inspire action,” the COP23 President said.



PM Bainimarama takes climate fight to PALM8



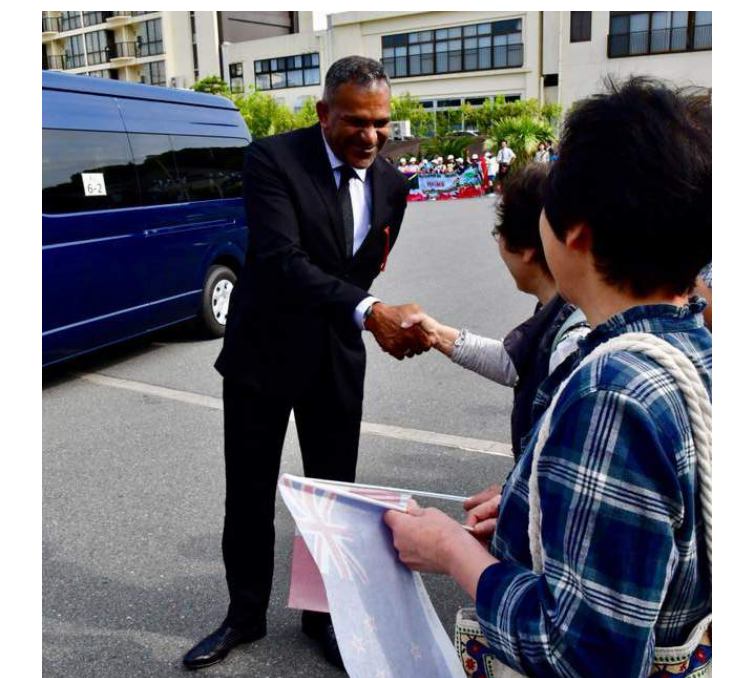
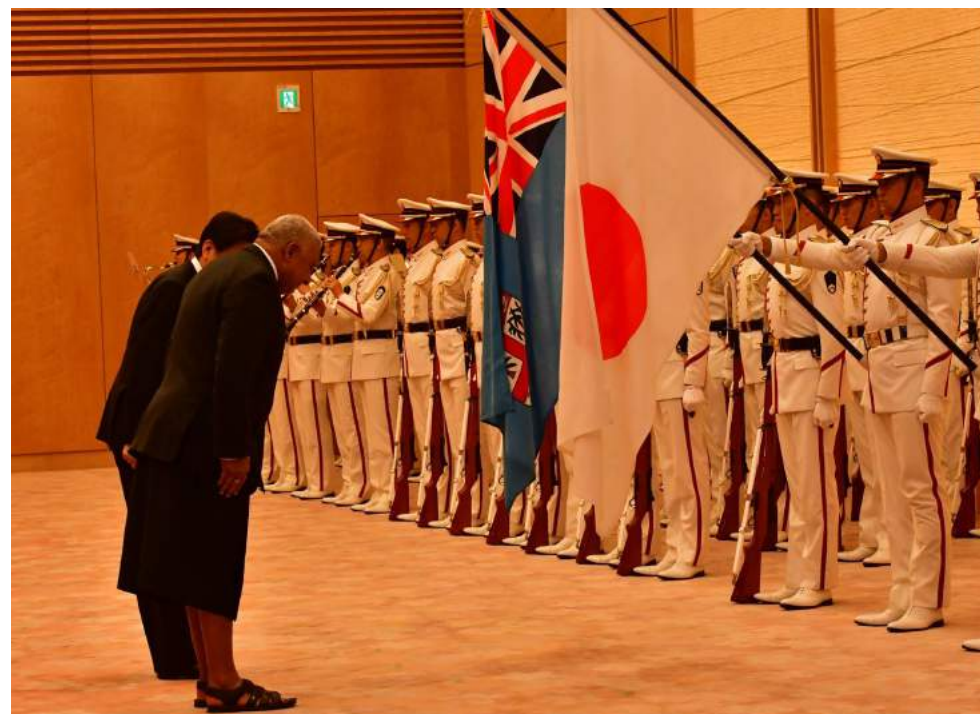
PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama is leading the Fijian delegation to the Pacific Islands Leader Meeting (PALM8) being held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture, north of Japan's capital, Tokyo.

On arrival in Japan, PM Bainimarama was one of two Pacific leaders to have a private meeting with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe after being accorded a Guard of Honour by the Japanese Self Defence Forces. During the discussions, PM Bainimarama urged Mr Abe to take up the climate change fight when he hosts the G20 meeting next year. Discussions also focused on trade and Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy

He later joined other leaders to meet Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. From Tokyo, the delegates travelled north to Iwaki city for the two-day meeting. Delegates were also given the opportunity to tour parts of the area devastated after the 2011 tsunami that left more than 15,800 people dead.

PM Bainimarama was accompanied by Minister for Tourism, Trade, Industry, Lands and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya, the permanent secretary in the PM's Office Yogesh Karan and the permanent secretary for Tourism, Trade and Industry Shaheen Ali.

Photos: NATASHA BEGUM





Cyclone-hit schools open for classes

ISAAC LAL

TEN primary schools in Ra were officially opened recently following rehabilitation after being badly damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016.

The rehabilitated schools were Madhuvani Sangam Primary School, Bureiwai District School, Bucalevu Primary School, Namuniwaqa Village School, Liwativala Primary School, Nasau District School, Tokaimalo District School, Bayly Memorial Primary School, Navunibitu Catholic Primary School and Naroko Primary School.

The schools were reconstructed with support from the Australian Government, in partnership with the Fiji Government's Adopt-A-School scheme.

The Attorney-General and Minis-

ter responsible for Education, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, and Australia's High Commissioner to Fiji, John Feakes, officiated at the opening which was held recently at Madhuvani Sangam Primary School.

Mr Feakes said what was achieved at the schools in Ra is an excellent example of a community working together to recover from tragedy.

"Education is a key pillar of Australia's aid program and we recognise that access to quality education is every child's right. We also believe that contributing to quality education for all is a means to achieve economic growth and improve the wellbeing of society."

As part of its \$53 million response and recovery program to TC Winston, Australia committed to repairing or rebuilding 34 schools and in 2016 alone,

16 schools were repaired.

A further 18 schools which required extensive rehabilitation work in Ra and Koro island, are now either complete or in the process of being completed.

Through the Australian Government's Access to Quality Education Program (AQEP), all repaired school buildings have met Fiji's National Building Code and have been issued Cyclone Certification by the Fiji Institute of Engineers.

At each school, one building is designed and built to withstand extreme Category 5 wind speeds.

Madhuvani School's Head Teacher, Hemish Chandra, said the reopening of the schools marked an historic day and served as a reminder that communities can indeed build back better following disasters such as TC Winston.

Remote infant school set for construction

ISAAC LAL

INFANTS from Nadevo Village will now be able to attend kindergarten school right at home, thanks to a project that will commence in the coming weeks, Commissioner Western Manasa Tagicakibau has confirmed.

Nadevo Village is one of the most remote villages in the highlands of Ba close to the borders of Navosa and Naitasiri.

Students here board to be able to attend school at a very young age in the nearby villages.

"We send our children to Nasivikoso, Bukuya and Nadrala to attend school and these are very small children who need care and love to be able to concentrate better in school," villager Ropate Naraba said.

"To have a school in the village would not only allow for protection and study closer to home but also would improve parents' engagement in the education of their children."

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama who recently met with villagers of Nadevo said it was wrong to have children as young as five and six years old of having to leave home for weeks to be able to attend school.

"These are the most precious moments of our children's education when they start school and need to be closer to home to be able to feel secured in the classroom environment," PM Bainimarama had said following his meeting.

"I for one am not supportive of having children travel great distances to attend school and we need to ensure that this is not done especially to children that young."

Mr Tagicakibau said the request for an infant school 'Natukatuka Infant School' had been received and construction would begin in the coming weeks.

"We understand the plight of the parents and villagers and due to most of the construction companies engaged in the TC Winston schools' rehabilitation programme, this was the reason for the delay," Mr Tagicakibau said.

"That said construction of the new infant school will begin in the coming weeks."



Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Civil Aviation, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with guests from Beqa Island on board the aircraft that was named after the island. Photo: ISAAC LAL

Fiji Airways unveils Island of Beqa

ISAAC LAL

FIJI Airways recently welcomed the newest addition to its fleet. The Airbus A330-200 was named the 'Island of Beqa' in a ceremony officiated by Fijian Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Civil Aviation, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

Speaking at the naming ceremony, the A-G congratulated the national carrier for the addition to the fleet and the people of Beqa for having an aircraft named after their island.

"Fiji Airways is at the forefront of marketing Fiji," the A-G said.

"This is the only company from Fiji that people in all these major cities (which Fiji Airways flies to) will see."

Arriving from Abu Dhabi recently, the aircraft will be ready for commercial operations soon with 18 Business and 233 Economy Class seats, and features personal inflight entertainment screens in both cabins.

The aircraft named is after the Island of Beqa located in Central Fiji off the coast of Pacific Harbour. The

island is rich in tradition and folklore, and is home to the famous Fijian firewalkers, who have the unique ability to walk on white-hot stones.

"Our aim is to create as much awareness, and bring as much global attention as possible to the many unique features of Fiji," Mr Viljoen said.

"With this aircraft flying all over our network, thousands of people will see the 'Island of Beqa' name flying proudly alongside the Fijian flag. It will arouse curiosity among visitors and Fijians alike about the many special

attributes of Beqa."

The aircraft is on a short-term lease of four years, while Fiji Airways evaluates its future wide body fleet requirements. It will allow Fiji Airways to start direct flights to Tokyo starting July 3rd, and increase frequency to existing routes like Singapore and San Francisco.

The Fiji Airways jet fleet now increases to 10, with five A330s and five Boeing 737 aircraft.

Its subsidiary Fiji Link has three ATR and four DHC-6 Twin Otter aircraft.



Govt praised for rural development

JOSAIA RALAGO

“WE are grateful to the Government for what they have done to develop our district, says the mata ni tikina Kubulau, Bua Paula Kolikata.

Mr Kolikata said this during the Bua Provincial Meeting while expressing his gratitude for the improvements they have experienced in their lives in recent years.

The district is one of the far flung and remote areas in the province with a distance of 79.3 kilometers from the next town of Savusavu where they get most of their goods and previously, Government services as well.

“Today I would like to thank the Gov-

ernment for the great development that has been taking place in our district,” Mr Kolikata said.

“Before, district representatives and village headmen would have to pay a lot of money to travel to Savusavu and return to visit Government offices so issues within their communities could be addressed. But all these have changed; now we have a Government Station and this has greatly assisted us.”

He added that students of Kubulau District School, which was badly affected during Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, now have a quality learning environment with two new classrooms, and two renovated ones.

“There are also five newly structured teachers’ quarters, a dorm for the students, a kitchen and a brand new hall that came with this improvement,” Mr Kolikata said.

“Also, seven villages within the district had intermittent water supply because of a problem with their source but now, they have boreholes that ensures quality and consistent water supply.

“A lot has been done and continues to be done within this once ignored district and one of them is the road improvement works to Nabouwalu that is being carried out.”

There are ten villages within the district.

Landfill project for Garden Island

JOSAIA RALAGO

A NEW landfill site has been located for Taveuni, the Provincial Administrator Kalivati Rabuka told the Cakaudrove District Meeting last week.

Mr Rabuka said that the project was at its initial stages where talks were being held between the relevant stakeholders.

“The new site will be located close to Nawiwi and talks are currently underway between the Roko Tui Cakaudrove, the District Officer Taveuni’s office and the landowners for the initiation of this project,” he said.

“The old landfill used to be located close to Naqara and it was a disadvantage because it was too close to the Central Business District.”

This landfill will cater for rate-payers around the island.

The issue of a proper dumping site was also raised at the Bua Provincial Council Meeting earlier at the Naulumatua House on Tuesday.

While giving an update on the Nabouwalu Town project, Town and Country Planning officer Manasa Tuilau called on the council’s cooperation for the identification of a proper dumping site.

Mr Tuilau said that this was very important towards the development of Nabouwalu to be a town.

He said a proper dumping site would mean the classification of garbage and not one where all waste materials were dumped together.

Mr Tuilau said that about \$5million was being used towards the Nabouwalu Town Project.



Kinivilame Vavalagi with his family members after graduating from the Technical College of Fiji with a Certificate in Plumbing and Sheet Metal. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

Graduate lauds free-education initiative

JOSAIA RALAGO

A FATHER of one from Biaugunu, Saqani in Cakaudrove shed tears of joy as he received his Technical College of Fiji Certificate in Plumbing and Sheet Metal.

Kinivilame Vavalagi received his certificate during the three Northern Technical College graduations in Labasa last week Thursday.

Mr Vavalagi was a Year Eight dropout more than a decade ago and had lost all hopes of attaining further qualification.

“Today is an emotional day because I am finally on my way to achieving my dreams and that is to be a professional carpenter,” he said.

“When I left school, I thought that was it for me and any possible future jobs, until I was enrolled at the Naduna Technical College.”

The fifth child of ten siblings said he faced a lot of difficulties with his subjects and it got to a point where he just lost all interest in school when he was just 14 years old.

“I gave up on the school, I came to the village, assisted my parents and years later got married to my wife,” Mr Vavalagi said.

Depending on yaqona farming as a source of livelihood for many years, he said he yearned to pursue his education in his field of interest.

“I have the Government to thank for helping me achieve my dream. I always wanted to be a carpenter so I could build my own dream house and I have had some practice during my years in the village,” Mr Vavalagi said.

“I did not have to pay for my fees and I learnt a lot of things. This paper will enable me to find formal employment and I look forward to my first job as a certified carpenter.”

Officiating at the event, the Divisional Education Officer Northern Selema Drokamaisau urged the students that the graduation was not an end in itself.

“It is instead a part of a larger journey of life. Life is a journey, and all accomplishments you achieve during its course should be taken as starting points for further achievements,” Mr Drokamaisau said.

A total of 291 students graduated from Macuata-i-Cake Technical College, Ratu Epeli Ravoka Technical College and Naduna Technical College at the Evangel Temple Church in Labasa.

Village rewarded for conservation work

JOSAIA RALAGO

DRAWA village in the interior of Vanua Levu committed towards the conservation of their virgin forests more than a decade ago.

This commitment was to ensure the preservation preserve their natural resources and to fight against climate change.

Eight landowning units in Drawa, Cakaudrove who form the Drawa Block Community Cooperative, were also the first community to receive payments to the tune of \$20,700 for the sale of carbon units.

This payment was made possible through the Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation programme or REDD Plus which attends to conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

Commissioner Northern Jovesa Vocea said with deforestation contributing close to 20 percent to the global emission, this was a good example of Fiji’s commitment towards safeguarding the environment.

“Fiji through our national REDD+ programme and through the milestone achievement set by the Drawa Block programme indicate the level of commitment Fiji is making towards the 2030 Sustainable Goals and the Paris Agreement,” Mr Vocea said.

“As the President of the Conference of Parties (COP) 23, Fiji has a lead role to ensure that the voice of the vulnerable is heard.

“We are campaigning for collaborative efforts towards engaging absolute dedication towards meeting a target of 1.5 degree Celsius.”

Drawa Block Community Cooperative chairman Peni Maisiri said they were thankful to their elders and other stakeholders for steering them in the right direction.

“We are really happy because of today’s occasion and the conservation of our forests began with our elders.

“This not only safe keeps our natural environment but is also our contribution to our fight against climate change,” Mr Maisiri said.

The Drawa Forest Block site covers 1,549.29 hectares which is part of the regional Nakau Programme and coordinated within Fiji by Live and Learn.



Rotuma Hospital nears completion

VILIAME TIKOTANI

PEOPLE of Rotuma can expect to use their new hospital by the end of November this year.

A government delegation headed by the Assistant Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Joeli Cawaki were told of the chal-

lenges being faced by the ongoing developments with capital projects on the island.

Construction works on the Rotuma Hospital were hindered due to the non-arrival of building materials.

RFMF engineers reported to the government delegation that the setback was on the shipping of building materials from mainland Viti Levu to the

island of Rotuma which is two days away by sea.

Upon inspection, Asst Minister Cawaki discovered the construction works has reached beam level with the remaining works expected to be completed by November this year.

"The Government has invested over \$7million for the new hospital in Rotuma which will certainly assist everyone on

the island to have easy access to modern medical facilities. It would mean that services normally provided in Suva will be offered on the island as well," he said.

"Now, a Better Fiji for All basically means equal opportunities and equal access to services"

"It is the role of the Government to ensure equal access

to services such as education, electricity, water, better health, better roads and better communication through infrastructure development.

"I am happy to see that infrastructure development has gradually progressed on Rotuma and that this Government is fully aware of its role in providing the platform for basic services to the people."

Farmer of the year challenges youths

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NEWLY-crowned Rotuman Agriculture farmer of the year award winner Rupeti Tivao has challenged youths around the country to make use of their time wisely.

The 39 year old villager from Pepjei district on the western side of Rotuman has had humble beginnings filled with challenges and obstacles.

"I used to drink a lot of grog and alcohol as a young man. I wasted a lot of time," he said.

"Later I decided to change my life with new goals and ambitions. I then thought to take up farming and not just for the sake of it," he said. "The first thing I did was to stop my late night grog sessions. It was a challenge because there was a lot of peer pressure but I was committed and that is how I was able to overcome it," he said.

"Today I have been awarded the farmer of the year award because of the changes I was able to bring about in my life and I am thankful to the Ministry of Agriculture for the support they have given me which has played well in my life as young farmer."

The Ministry of Agriculture show in Rotuma was held in conjunction with annual Rotuma Day celebration and the annual yam and dalo competition.

"The annual yam and dalo show is a tradition to Rotu-



Assistant Minister Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Joeli Cawaki with the Rotuman Agriculture farmer of the year Rupeti Tivao. Photo: VILIAME TIKOTANI

mans. It is an avenue where we show our ingenuity and skills especially in the utilisation of land on the island," Mr Tivao said.

"Today is a celebration in many ways for Rotuma and for us farmers in bringing to show the fruits of our toil."

"I am thankful that I can use the opportunity as a platform to challenge our youths here on the island and maybe youths in Fiji about the significance of using the land for agricultural purposes."

Tivao owns dalo, yam and yaqona farms including poultry farms. He was given a trophy and cash prize by the Ministry.



Assistant Minister Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Joeli Cawaki inspecting works carried out at the Rotuma Hospital site. Photo: VILIAME TIKOTANI

Assistant Minister inspects island road upgrade

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ASSISTANT Minister Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Joeli Cawaki believes farmers will greatly benefit from the works carried out on Rotuma Central Road.

The Assistant Minister was part of the Rotuma Day Celebrations on the island last week.

He inspected the works on the road that cuts through the

island that was mostly used by farmers to transport their produce to the market or to the capital city via the Oinafa Wharf.

"I am glad that road conditions have also vastly improved in Rotuma over the years. The Government is also aware of the opportunities that proper roads can offer for social and economic development for the people on the island," he said.

"To this end, the Government has invested a total of \$4.4

million for the construction of the Rotuma Central Road which will be completed in the current calendar year."

Asst. Minister Cawaki said the Government has an inclusive and a holistic approach towards the development of maritime and outer islands.

On his inspections of the roads the Asst. Minister was also taken to visit some of the successful farmers on the island and most of whom have used new technology to assist with their farming.



Rotuman farmers showcase yam and dalo during the agriculture show on Rotuma. Photo: VILIAME TIKOTANI



Village women take up climate change role

NANISE NEIMILA

THE challenge posed to gender equality in the context of climate action is too great to be accomplished by governments alone.

With this in mind, women of Cakova Village in Moala, Lau have decided to actively participate in mitigation and adaptation projects beginning with the building of a seawall for their village to protect their boundary from rising sea-level is an accomplishment to combat climate change.

Cakova Women's Group president Kerry Farrell (pictured in the middle), said the construction of the seawall was built back in 2011 in the face of the encroaching sea that leads to the village being inundated with seawater.

She said the seawall will ultimately to protect the future generation.

"We decided to fundraise and each women in the village contributed \$50 towards this project and so far it has been useful in protecting our village from flooding," Ms Farrell said.

"We managed to buy cement and then the men were able to construct the seawall. We are thankful to the men for their support and we even managed to construct footpath."

She adds that traditionally women have not been seen as important in our communities but the women of Cakova are changing that perception with the view that women can do anything.

Ms Farrell adds that women have been a driving force towards the development of the village, today you can see a product of our hard work the seawalls.

Provincial Administrator Lau Eliko Masa said climate change has a greater impact on those sections of the population, in all countries, that are most reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods and who have the least capacity to respond to natural hazards, such as droughts, landslides, floods and hurricanes.

"Women commonly face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situations of poverty, and the majority of the world's poor are women."

"Women's unequal participation in decision-making processes and labour markets compound inequalities and often prevent women from fully contributing to climate-related planning, policy-making and implementation."

"Women's participation at the political level has resulted in greater responsiveness to citizen's needs, often increasing cooperation across party and ethnic lines and delivering more sustainable peace. At the local level, women's inclusion at the leadership level has led to improved outcomes of climate related projects and policies."

The village of Cakova has total of 30 households with main source of income for villagers are sourced from weaving mats and also subsistence farming.



Women of Cakova Village in Moala, Lau, have decided to actively participate in mitigation and adaptation projects beginning with the building of a seawall for their village to protect their boundary from rising sea level. They say it is an accomplishment in the fight to combat climate change.

Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Govt help for special needs kids

PRIYANKA LAL

A STRONG focus on early intervention is pivotal to ensuring that people with disability enjoy life to the fullest.

Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum emphasised this key fact at the recent opening of two new classrooms and the launch of the Paediatric Mobility Devices Service at the Hilton Early Intervention Centre in Suva.

The two new classrooms were constructed through a government grant of about \$120,000.

A new walkway was also constructed that would provide sheltered access from the classrooms to the Multi-Disciplinary Unit at the centre.

The Frank Hilton Organisation also acquired 100 mobility and postural support devices worth about \$48,000 donated by the Fulton Hogan Hiways Joint Venture.

The A-G said as stipulated in the 2013 Constitution, the rights of persons of disabilities were paramount and it was something to celebrate.

"It also places a particular duty and obligation on the Government to ensure that we do not leave out people with disabilities on the periphery of our society. Any society is as good as how well we look after those on the margins of our society," the A-G said.

Fiji recently ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and passed a disabilities law to ensure



Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with kids during the launch of the Paediatric Mobility Devices Service at the Hilton Early Intervention Centre in Suva.

Baby Jedidiah Teitiatoa tries out his new paediatric device.

Photos: PRIYANKA LAL

that those with special needs were well looked after.

"There are many challenges faced by individual human beings but with the right intervention at the right time, they will not only be able to live with dignity and self-worth but be productive members of our society," the A-G added.

Meanwhile, Vilsoni Inia, the father of a young recipient of a new postural device, said the assistance by Government and other donors would help his son lead a more comfortable life.

"My one-year-six month old son, Jedidiah, is not able to move around like other able-bodied



children. We are grateful for the postural device because it will support his posture, his feeding and digestion which is a challenge for my wife and I," Mr Inia said.

The new ground-level wheelchair for Jedidiah would allow him a lot of freedom in terms of positioning and it is good for indoor use with limited space as well as durable.



West outreach a success

ANSHOO CHANDRA

SEVERAL communities in the Western Division have commended the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services for its intensified outreach to the public through health advocacy programme.

Minister Akbar and her team from the Environmental Health Unit visited Bila settlement in Lautoka, Nakula settlement in Sabeto, Saravi, Nawaka and Matavouvou settlements in Nadi last week.

During this visit, the health team in partnership with UNICEF distributed WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) kits to the communities. These hygiene kits offer first line of defence against spread of illness that are mainly communicable diseases. The team has also provided disinfectant spray-

ing, cleaning up of debris, awareness on prevention of communicable diseases and general health checks as some of these communities tried to rebuild their lives after TC Josie.

Minister Akbar said that Ministry's strengthened partnership with the communities have been instrumental in ensuring that there was no major diseases outbreaks experienced after the series of flooding in west.

"I was impressed with the response by these communities to work with the Ministry through clean-up activities. One of the things they appreciated was the WASH kits, the content is very valuable. The support that the public health team has within these communities is reflected in the positive responses we have gathered through my visit and the fact that we didn't have any major outbreak after

TC Josie," Minister Akbar said.

Speaking on behalf of the Matavouvou settlement, Julie Maiwai commended Minister Akbar for the timely visit.

"In all these 13 years we have been living here, Minister Akbar is the first Minister to visit us. We appreciate this strengthened support with the ministry to help raise awareness on the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

"We were in particular delighted to hear that government has got the vaccine for the prevention of Meningococcal disease. Our children will benefit from this free vaccination rollout and we are grateful that we have a caring government that has ensured that these vaccines have come in time for our children"

"No other government in the past

years has visited us, Minister Akbar is the first women leader to visit us and speak to us about the issues we face and we thank the government for assisting us through, health, social welfare and education programs," Mrs Maiwai elaborated.

Expressing similar sentiments, Save-naca Sanoko the Turaga-ni-koro for the Bila settlement acknowledged the support provided by the Health Ministry for the development of his community.

"There is ongoing support from the health team in terms of providing us with regular visits, to provide information on health and free medical check-ups and wash kits. These have built our confidence to work together as a community to improve our livelihood," Mr Sanoko said.

Minister Akbar visits settlement, hears concerns

ANSHOO CHANDRA

IT was a unique opportunity for the people of Saravi settlement in Nadi to raise their concerns directly with the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar.

Minister Akbar's visit to this community that largely depends on fishing and subsistence farming as their source of livelihood was timely as it faced the full brunt of TC Keni.

The Health Ministry has been assisting the severely affected communities through public health awareness programs, clean-up activities, disinfectant spraying, health checks and distribution of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) Kits.

Minister Akbar's visit provided an opportunity to for the community to have first-hand discussion on ways they can seek government assistance for the development of their community.

Tevita Buli, the turaga-ni-koro thanked the health officials for their reach out to informal settlements.

"We were appreciative of the visit by Minister Akbar and we are happy that we were able to seek clarification on ways to address some of the challenges we faced. We are hopeful that the Ministry will be able to take these concerns up to the relevant authorities.

"It is through Government's assistance we have been able to get electricity in our community. I have been here for the last 25 years, and finally our prayers have been an-



Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar with residents of Bila Settlement in Lautoka. Photo: ANSHOO CHANDRA



We were appreciative of the visit by Minister Akbar and we are happy that we were able to seek clarification on ways to address some of the challenges we faced. We are hopeful that the Ministry will be able to take these concerns up to the relevant authorities.

Turaga-ni-koro, Saravi Settlement, Tevita Buli

swered when seven of the houses have started to receive



Children of Saravi settlement in Nadi greet Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar during her visit. Photo: ANSHOO CHANDRA

electricity as of last year

"We are also appreciative of the educational assistance given to our children. We thank the Government for reaching out to us and helping us with programs to uplift our livelihood," Mr Buli said.

In a similar visit to Nakula

settlement in Latuoka, Minister Akbar met with the community to advocate on the health programs and distribute WASH kits.

Nakula Settlement representative, Mrs Uniasi Rokodamu thanked the Government delegation for the visit. They were

pleased with the interactive discussions with Minister Akbar not only on health issues but other issues relative to the growth of the community.

Minister Akbar thanked the communities for their ongoing support to the Health Ministry.



Three-pronged effort to combat invasive species

PRIYANKA LAL

GOVERNMENT is working in partnership with the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to address the issue of invasive species in the country.

The Fiji Invasive Alien Species Project document was signed this week at the UNDP Pacific Office in Suva by the Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, UNDP country director Bakhodir Burkhanov and BAF acting chief executive officer Hillary Kumwenda.

While speaking at the signing, the A-G said the project document would strengthen capacity building in Fiji to manage and curb the Giant Invasive Iguana on Taveuni, Qamea, Laucala, Matagi and throughout the country.

“Can you imagine if we have some of the giant iguanas swimming around in Denarau and what it would do to our tourism industry where the bulk of the hotels are. We need to be aware of the enormity of the impact of such species in terms of the integrity of our biodiversity,” the A-G said.

The Fijian Government successfully accessed a grant of about \$7.3 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for this project, which was being utilised by BAF.

“We need to strengthen capacity building at BAF as the organisation has a lot of work on its hands. We need to inject more resources into BAF and ensure law enforcement,” the A-G said.

The project would also help strengthen Fiji’s border controls, early detection and rapid response capabilities.

“We have had people at border control who previously turned the other way when people have brought in species into the country.

“Whether it’s corruption or because they know the person, it needs to stop,” the A-G added.



Minister for Youth and Sports, Laisenia Tuitubou with participants during the Eastern Division Stakeholder Consultation Workshop in Suva. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM

Youths urged to help NCD battle

NATASHA BEGUM

YOUTHS have been urged to become the voice in the fight against Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and climate change.

Minister for Youth and Sports, Laisenia Tuitubou made the comment while opening the Eastern Division Stakeholder Consultation Workshop in Suva adding that youths had the ability to bring about new ideas into the society.

“Youths are the leaders. You bring about positive changes in society. We need to

help you build your capacities and enhance your abilities to become entrepreneurs, to become the voice in the fight against NCD’s and climate change,” he said.

“Such workshops provide us with an opportunity to understand, appreciate and utilise the existing skills and talents of our youths – that can be used for far greater economic return.”

Minister Tuitubou highlighted that participants would have the opportunity to voice their concerns, opinions and give

stakeholders a chance to respond, share best practices and business ideas, and achievements to motivate young people.

Youth representative of Lau Urban, Isimeli Koro said with youths making significant chunk of the society, it was important that they be involved in decision making processes.

“We are the future of tomorrow and we need to be involved in decision making process as what we do today affects our tomorrow,” he said.

Akbar opens newly-refurbished ward

NATASHA BEGUM

THE newly-refurbished Oncology Ward at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital will provide cancer patients a comfortable and homely environment to recover harmoniously.

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar while opening the ward thanked the ANZ Staff Foundation for their unwavering commitment and generosity in undertaking the renovation works at the ward.

“The ANZ Staff Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services has completed a number of refurbishments and we mark another one with the CWM Oncology Ward. These are wonderful changes that create a comfortable environment where

cancer patients can receive counselling, treatment and recover harmoniously,” Minister Akbar said.

“This has given a new look and image to the ward that will be appealing to both the patients and their families who will access this ward.”

Minister Akbar took the opportunity to highlight that cancer was one of the life threatening diseases in Fiji with cases steadily rising.

“The Oncology Ward serves 10 to 15 patients in a day and as we all know that cancer is one of the life threatening

diseases. It has become a global epidemic and affects people of all ages. Support through the corporate sector will go a long way in ensuring that proper care and treatment is provided to those who reach out to our Oncology Unit.”



Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar while opening the ward thanked the ANZ Staff Foundation for their unwavering commitment and generosity in undertaking the renovation works at the newly-refurbished Oncology Ward (INSET) at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. Photos: NATASHA BEGUM

FijiFocus

Equal voice

GIRMITIYAS ‘DESERVE TO BE RECOGNISED’

PRASHILA DEVI and
MEREANI GONEDUA

AS the 139th anniversary of the first arrival of the ship carrying indentured labourers was marked, Fijians of all descent have been urged to learn each other’s history and the struggles that their forefathers had to undergo.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said there was immense toil that our forefathers had to undergo but not much of this has been brought under spotlight or in the mainstream.

“Since the colonial days, we have not spoken openly about the struggles that our forefathers had to undergo, the whipping and hardships that the girimitiyas had to withstand or the outbreak of measles that claimed the lives of thousands from the iTaukei community,” the A-G said

“These stories need to be talked about openly and not only that, we should look at how they overcame these struggles, how the indentured labourers, who were mostly uneducated yearned for a better life for their descendants and established schools in some of the remotest parts of the country.”

The A-G was speaking at ‘Remembering Fiji’s Girmit Heritage’ celebrations held in Suva.

In Parliament last week, he told Members of Parliament that a century ago advocates in the Girmitiya community made very clear that all they wanted was equality; all they wanted was an equal voice and equal stake in our national life.

“The dream for common and equal citizenry Fiji have been a dream deferred for more than a



The dream for common and equal citizenry Fiji have been a dream deferred for more than a century until this Government finally made it happen; until this Government realised the dreams of A.B. Patel, S.B. Patel, Pundit Vishnu Deo and all those indentured labourers brought to our shores those many years ago along with their descendants

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

century until this Government finally made it happen; until this Government realised the dreams of A.B. Patel, S.B. Patel, Pundit Vishnu Deo and all those indentured labourers brought to our shores those many years ago along with their descendants.”

“Over the past 12 years, our progress has shown that a united Fiji and an equal Fiji, is a very strong Fiji.”

“We have shown that when we empower every member of our society, we will succeed: young Fijians, our landowners, our civil servants, Fijian women, Fijian youths, Fijians living with disabilities will all succeed,” the A-G said.



A-G, Fiji Airways welcome Island of Beqa

Attorney-General and Minister responsible for Civil Aviation Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum was on hand with the senior management and staff of Fiji Airways and invited guests from Beqa Island to welcome the newest addition to its fleet, an Airbus A330-200 named “Island of Beqa”.

Speaking at the naming ceremony, the A-G congratulated the national carrier for the addition to the fleet and the people of Beqa for having an aircraft named after their island. “Fiji Airways is at the forefront of marketing Fiji,” he said.

“This is the only company from Fiji that people in all these major cities (which Fiji Airways flies to) will see.”

Arriving from Abu Dhabi recently, the aircraft will be ready for commercial operations soon with 18 Business and 233 Economy Class seats, and features personal inflight entertainment screens in both cabins.

The Fiji Airways jet fleet now increases to 10, with five A330s and five Boeing 737 aircraft. More details on Page 10.

Photo: ISAAC LAL



हाल ही एलबर्ट पार्क सूवा में आयोजित गिरमिट दिवस के दौरान स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री तथा अर्टोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम का कहना है कि यह बेहद ज़रूरी है कि फीजी में क्या हुआ था का इतिहास और अन्य यादगारों की जानकारी खुलकर बताई जाए। सैयद खैयुम ने गिरमिट प्रथा के नीचे आए लोगों द्वारा सामना की गई मुश्किलों तथा उपलब्धियों पर प्रकाश डाला।

देशभर में गिरमिट दिवस

रोनल देव

स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री तथा अर्टोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम का कहना है कि यह बेहद ज़रूरी है कि फीजी में क्या हुआ था का इतिहास और अन्य यादगारों की जानकारी खुलकर बताई जाए।

हालमें एलबर्ट सूवा में आयोजित, गिरमिट दिवस समारोह में सैयद खैयुम ने गिरमिट काल में आए लोगों द्वारा सामना की गई मुश्किलों तथा उपलब्धियों पर प्रकाश डाला।

उन्होंने कहा कि एक राष्ट्र होने के नाते यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है कि लोग फीजीवासियों के इतिहास को पहचानें

जिनमें गिरमिटियों के अनुभव भी शामिल है।

उन्होंने कहा कि पहले फीजी मियुज़ियम में गिरमिट के विषय पर बहुत कम जानकारी थी, लेकिन अब मियुज़ियम के द्वारा गिरमिट इतिहास पर बहुत से बातें बताई जा रही हैं।

हमें इस समारोह को इस तरह देखना चाहिए कि कुछ आम इंसान एक अनजान देश में आए, उसे अपनाया, उनके वंशजों ने भी इसे अपनाया तथा उनके वंशज फीजी छोड़कर किसी अन्य देश को अपना घर नहीं मानते हैं। यह लोग बेशक अब फीजीवासी कहे जाते हैं,

पहले भी वो फीजीवासी थे लेकिन अब कानूनी तौर से वे फीजीवासी हैं क्योंकि उन्हें अब ऐसा अधिकार दिया गया है।

फिलहाल, तेम्बारा ट्रान्सपोर्ट के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर, सत्तासी 87 साल के ईश्ट देव महाराज को भी एलबर्ट पार्क सूवा में आयोजित गिरमिट दिवस के दौरान सम्मानित किया गया। उन्होंने बताया कि समारोह का कार्यक्रम देखकर उन्हें अपने आज्ञा स्वर्गीय राम रतन महाराज की बताई गई गिरमिट कहानियों की याद ताज़ा हो गई। श्री महाराज ने कहा कि उन्हें याद है कि उनके आज्ञा उन्हें बताते थे कि वो 1909 में संगोला नम्बर

ती नामक जहाज़ में भारत से फीजी आए थे। उन्होंने कहा कि गिरमिट काल के बाद उनके आज्ञा एक सफल गन्ने के किसान हुए, 1930 में उनके पिताजी को एक छोटी गाड़ी खरीदकर दी और फिर तेम्बारा ट्रान्सपोर्ट का व्यापार बढ़ने लगा। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारे युवकों को हमारे पूर्वजों के बारे में यह जानना ज़रूरी है। सैयद खैयुम ने यह भी कहा कि अगले साल, गिरमिट काल में आए भारतीयों के आखरी दल के एक सौ चालिस साल पूरे हो जाएंगे तथा सरकार ने देश भर में समारोह धूमधाम से मनाने की योजना बनाई है।



बस में सिर्फ ई-टिकट ही इस्तेमाल होगी

रोनल देव

स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री तथा अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयुम का कहना है कि वोडाफोन फीजी जगह-जगह पर वेन्डिंग मशीन्स रखने पर गौर कर रहा है ताकि लोग इन स्टेशन्स से अपनी ई-टिकटिंग टोप अप और डिस्पोसाबल ई-टिकटिंग काड्स खरीद सकें। संसद में इस सप्ताह उन्होंने ऐसा कहा

जब सवाल किया गया कि पर्याप्त रिचार्ज स्टेशन न होने की वजह से लोग अभी भी पैसे से बस का भाड़ा भर रहे हैं। सैयद-खैयुम ने जोर दिया है कि बसों में सफर करने के लिए कार्ड ही इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा और लोगों को पैसे भरकर सफर करने का मौका नहीं दिया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि बस संचालकों ने पहले पाया था कि जब यात्री बस का

भाड़ा पैसे द्वारा देते थे तो बस ड्राइवर एक दिन की एक तिहाई कमाई अपने घर ले जाते थे। स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि ऐसा लग रहा है कि अब कई बस ड्राइवर ज़रूरतों का पालन कर रहे हैं लेकिन कुछ यात्री कानून तोड़ रहे हैं, जो बस में चढ़ते ही ड्राइवर पर कोईन फैंककर अन्दर चले जाते हैं। उन्होंने दोहराया है कि अगर बस में

लगी मशीन काम नहीं कर रही है या डिस्पोज़बल काड्स उपलब्ध नहीं हैं तो यात्री बस में मुफ्त सफर कर सकते हैं। अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि एल.टी.ए और पुलिस नज़र रखेंगे ताकि सभी कानून का पालन करें। उन्होंने जोर दिया है कि ड्राइवर सिर्फ डिस्पोज़बल कार्ड के लिए ही पैसे ले सकते हैं जो यात्री द्वारा खरीदे जाने के बाद मशीन में टैप किया जाएगा।

ओकलेन्ड से फीजी के लिए राहत सहायता

रोनल देव

पश्चिमी विभाग में जिन लोगों पर हालमें बाढ़ का बुरा असर पड़ा था के लिए न्यु ज़िलेन्ड में बसे फीजीयन समाज की ओर से जल्द सहायता मिलेगी।

ओकलेन्ड में फीजी के राजदूत श्री हरिश लोधिया ने राहत सहायता जुटाई है जो बीस फीट वाले दो कोनटेनर में भरकर ओकलेन्ड से फीजी भेजा गया है।

“ओकलेन्ड में बसे लोग तथा स्वयंसेवकों की गजब की सहायता मिली है तथा ऐसा लगता है कि दो कोनटेनर से ज़्यादा सहायता फीजी भेजी जाएगी,” श्री लोधिया ने कहा।

यह राहत सहायता, नेपचून शिपिंग, फीजी सिनिया सिटिज़न ग्रुप तथा फेन्ड्स रिचिंग आउट के संयोग से पहुँचाई गई जिन्होंने फीजी में बाढ़-पीड़ितों की दशा सुधारने के लिए लगन से काम किया।

ओकलेन्ड के एक व्यापारी जशदीश पुन्जा ने राहत सहायता बटोरने में तथा दो कोनटेनर भरने में स्वयं सेवकों की मदद की।

वेलिंगटन में फीजी का दुतावास, अपने सौशल मेडिया तथा मेल की सूची पर लोगों से राहत सहायता देने की माँग कर रहा है। वो सूवा में विदेश मंत्रालय से भी न्यु ज़िलेन्ड से आ रही सहायता के लिए कस्टम्स ड्यूटी की छूट की माँग कर रहा है।

इन कोनटेनर में नए-पुराने कपड़े, नए प्लास्टिक टब और बालटियाँ, ऐसे भोजन सामान जो जल्द खराब न हो जैसे कि, आटा, टिन वाले बैक बीन, खाना बनाने वाले तेल, बोतल वाला पानी, चावल तथा अन्य सामान शामिल हैं।

ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा राहत सामान बा के असर पड़े परिवारों तक पहुँचाए जाएंगे।



लौतोका की एक माँ प्रीती प्रितिका चन्द अपनी बेटी जानवी के साथ। जानवी के दिल का ऑपरेशन साई प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन तथा स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के संयोग से हुआ।

बच्ची के जीवनदान से माँ अभारी

रोनल देव

एक माँ के दिमाग में पिछले साल हज़ारों सवाल पैदा हुए जब उन्हें पता चला कि उनकी कुछ महीनों की एकलौती बेटी को गम्भीर दिल की बीमारी है।

बवान्द्रा लौतोका की छत्तीस साल की माँ प्रीती प्रितिका चन्द ने हमारी साथी प्रियन्का लाल के साथ एक भेंटवार्ता में कहा कि उनके लिए बुरे वक्त की शुरुआत हुई जब वो सोचने लगी कि उनकी बेटी जानवी जिसका चन्द के इलाज के लिए पैसे कहाँ से आएँगे, डाक्टरों का चुनाव कैसे होगा, इलाज के लिए सही जगह, परिवार की देखभाल कैसे होगी तथा आने वाला कल उनकी बच्ची के लिए कैसे होगा वगैरह सवाल उनके मन में थे।

बेटी के दिल की बीमारी की खबर ने उन्हें जबकि हिला दिया था लेकिन प्रीती को भरोसा था कि उनकी राजकुमारी का इलाज ज़रूर होगा तथा वो अन्य बच्चों की तरह

सामान्य ज़िन्दगी जीएगी। माँ की खुशियों का ठिकाना न रहा जब जानवी के दिल का ऑपरेशन साई प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन तथा स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के संयोग से हुआ।

पिछले साल पाया गया कि जानवी को पैदाईशी दिल की बीमारी है जो अब तेरह महीने की हो गई है।

“हमें जानवी का स्कैन कराने के लिए एक कागज़ात मिला था जहाँ हमें बताया गया कि जानवी के दिल में सूरख है। उसी दिन से हम जानवी को लगातार डाक्टर के पास लेजाने लगे और उस दिन का ई तज़ार किया कि कब उनकी सेजरी होगी,” प्रीती ने कहा। छः महीने तक इंतज़ार करने के बाद उसकी हालत में कोई सुधार नहीं देखा गया। एक साल बाद डाक्टरों ने कहा कि और ढेर इंतज़ार न करो क्योंकि आगे चलकर बच्ची और भी गम्भीर समस्या का सामना कर सकती है। उन्होंने आशवासन दिया कि ऑपरेशन के बाद बच्ची ठीक हो जाएगी।

प्रीती ने कहा कि साई प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन का कार्यक्रम ज़िन्दगी का तोहफा, उनके लिए चमत्कारी साबित हुआ।

उनके अनुसार इस तरह के मौके नहीं मिलते तथा हमारी किस्मत अच्छी थी कि उनकी बच्ची का इलाज यहीं मुफ्त में हुआ नहीं तो भारत जाकर इलाज कराना उन्हें बहुत महंगा साबित होता।

“मेरे पति घर में अकेले कमाते हैं। अगर यह सहायता नहीं मिलती तो हम शायद अभी भी तकलीफ में जी रहे होते। मुझे बेहद खुशी है कि मेरी बच्ची का इलाज हुआ तथा वो अब बिलकुल स्वस्थ है जैसे कि वो कभी बीमारी थी ही नहीं,” प्रीती ने कहा। उनके अनुसार फाउन्डेशन तथा फीजीयन सरकार ने जो पहल की है वो उन परिवारों के लिए आर्शिवाद साबित हुए जिन्होंने ऐसी तकलीफों का सामना किया।

इसी साल मार्च में भारत के साई संजीवनी अस्पताल के डाक्टरों ने यहाँ आकर औपन हार्ट सेजरीस की।



सी.डब्लू.एम अस्पताल के मटे- निटी बोर्ड में भारी विकास की तैयारी

रोनल देव

सी.डब्लू.एम अस्पताल की मटेनिटी सेवाओं में भारी सुधार लाने के लिए जल्द ही एक बड़ी योजना शुरू होने वाली है।

इस योजना में वाईमानू रोड और एक्सटेन्शन स्ट्रीट के कोने पर स्थित वर्तमान मटेनिटी यूनिट में भारी सुधार लाने और ठीक बगल में पाँच मंजिली नए अस्पताल का निर्माण शामिल है।

आम जनता को सुचित किया जाता है कि इस निर्माणकार्य की वजह से वाईमानू रोड, एक्सटेन्शन स्ट्रीट और ब्राउन स्ट्रीट में ट्रेफिक वाली भारी समस्या रहेगी तथा उन्हें सोच-समझकर इन रास्तों का इस्तेमाल करना होगा। निर्माण में शामिल कर्मचारी अस्पताल में चलते-फिरते रहेंगे इसलिए वहाँ आम जनता की उपस्थिति सिमित रखी जाएगी जो अपने चाहने वालों को देखने जाएंगे। निर्माणकार्य के दौरान पार्किंग पर भी असर पड़ेगा। आम जनता को सलाह दी जा रही है कि वे अस्पताल के प्रांगण से बाहर गाड़ी खड़े करे अगर वे अपनी गाड़ियों में अस्पताल जाएंगे।



उत्तरी विभाग में स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं में भारी सुधार

रोनल देव

स्वास्थ्य और मेडिकल सेविर्सस मंत्रालय ने उत्तरी विभाग में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को सुधारने की कोशिश में सुविधाओं के संसाधनों को सुधारना जारी रखा है।

सहायक स्वास्थ्य मंत्री एलेक्स ओ-कोना ने हालमें उत्तरी विभाग के पचीस 25 हेल्थ सेन्टर और नेसिंग स्टेशन्स का दौरा किया और देखा कि सुधार का कुछ काम पूरा हो गया है जबकि कुछ काम अगले कुछ हफ्तों में खत्म होगा।

मंत्रालय ने अपने सुधार वाले काम पर

नज़र रखा है ताकि निर्धारित समय के अन्दर काम पूरा हो। कुछ हेल्थ सेन्टर तथा स्टाफ कोटस को सुधारने पर काम जारी है। सहायक मंत्री ने कहा कि इस सुधार की बहुत ज़रूरत है जिससे कर्मचारियों तथा मरीजों को और अच्छी सेवा मिलेगी।

उत्तरी विभाग में स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों से मुलाकात करते हुए श्री ओ कोना ने ग्रामीन और बाहरी द्वीपों में सेवा प्रदान करने में अपनी भूमिका निष्ठा से निभाने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

“हम स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं में सुधार लाते

रहेंगे ताकि स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में सुधार होने के साथ-साथ स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारी और भी सुखद वातावरण में काम करे। स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय, देश भर में स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं में सुधार लाया जा रहा है ताकि स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में भारी सुधार लाया जाए,” श्री ओ कोना ने कहा।

श्री ओ कोना के दौरा ने उत्तरी विभाग में स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों का उत्साह बढ़ाया जहाँ उन्हें मौका मिला कि वे अपनी चुनौतियों तथा उत्तरी विभाग में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को और सुधारने पर सहायक मंत्री से बातें कर सकें।



स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी मेनिंगोकोकल वाली दवा की जाँच करते हुए। स्वास्थ्य तथा मेडिकल सेविर्सस मंत्री रोजी अखबर ने कहा कि यह दवा सुरक्षित और असरकारक है।

मेन-सी की दवा देश में आई

रोनल देव

इसी महीने की चौदह तारीख से मेनिंगोकोकल बीमारी के खिलाफ टीकाकरण का बहुत बड़ा राष्ट्रीय अभियान शुरू हुआ है।

इस अभियान में केन्द्रीय और रा सबडिविज़न में एक साल के बच्चों से लेकर उन्नीस साल के बीच के लोगों को मेनिंगोकोकल बीमारी से लड़ने वाली सुईयाँ लगाई जाएंगी।

इस अभियान में दस मिलियन

डोलर का खर्च बैठा है जो 333,876 बच्चों के लिए है। स्वास्थ्य तथा मेडिकल सेविर्सस मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने ज़ोर दिया है कि यह मेन सी दवाई, सुरक्षित और असरकारक है तथा इसे 1900s से कनेडा, युनाएटड किंगडम तथा औस्ट्रेलिया में इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है।

“यह अभियान तबतक चलता रहेगा जबतक एक साल से उन्नीस साल के बीच के सभी लोगों को टीके न लगाए जाए,”

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा। मंत्री अकबर ने सभी माता-पिताओं तथा बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों से माँग की है कि वे इस बीमारी से लड़ने के लिए मंत्रालयों के प्रयासों का समर्थन करें।

“जो बच्चें किंडागाडन, प्रायमरी स्कूल या सेकन्ड्री स्कूल जाते हैं को स्कूल में सुई लगाई जाएंगी। लेकिन जिन बच्चों को स्कूल में सुई नहीं लगेगी को अपने नज़दीकी हेल्थ

सेन्टर जाकर सुई लगवाने की माँग की गई है।

मंत्री अकबर ने कहा कि जो लोग देशरी संस्थाओं में पढ़ाई

करते हैं या घर पर रहते हैं जो उन्नीस साल से कम उम्र के हैं, भी अपनी नज़दीकी हेल्थ सेन्टर में टीके लगवा सकते हैं।

इस खतरनाक बीमारी से बचने के लिए एक साल से उन्नीस साल के बीच लोगों को इस सप्ताह से जून अंत तक टीके लगाए जाएंगे क्योंकि इसी उम्र के लोगों में यह बीमारी ज़्यादा पाई गई है।



शिक्षा मंत्री ने रा में दस स्कूल दोबारा खोले

स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री तथा शिक्षा मंत्री अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयुम ने हालमें रा में उन दस प्रायमरी स्कूलों का औपाचारिक उद्घाटन फिर से किया जिन्हें समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन में भारी क्षति पहुँची थी। इन स्कूलों को सरकार के अडप्ट अई-स्कूल स्कीम के द्वारा ऑस्ट्रेलियन सरकार के समर्थन से दोबारा बनाया गया है। सैयद खैयुम ने ऑस्ट्रेलियन सरकार को इस मदद के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार इस बात का ध्यान रख रही है कि ग्रामीन और शहरों के स्कूलों के बीच अंतर को कम किया जाए।



रईवाँगा हेल्थ सेन्टर का फन डे

रईवाँगा हेल्थ सेन्टर के कर्मचारियों ने हालमें तीस 30 युवकों को फिल्में दिखाई जो दिल की बीमारी से पीड़ित हैं। यह टल विलज 6 के बाहर मिले, इस बीमारी के साथ जीने के अनुभव को बाँटा तथा बोक्स ऑफिस पर हिट फिल्म अवेन्जस इनफिनिटी वोर देखी। रईवाँगा हेल्थ सेन्टर की ऑफिसाईन चार्ज डाक्टर एरम समरीन का कहना है कि युवा लोगों को हर महीने टीके लगाने में कई बाधाएँ होती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि वो युवा लोगों को कुछ मनोरंजन प्रदान करना चाहते थे ताकि वे एक दुसरे से अपनी कहानियाँ बाँटें और फिल्म का मज़ा लेने के साथ-साथ उन्हें कुछ स्वास्थ्य संबंधी संदेश भी प्राप्त करने का अवसर मिले जिससे वे अपनी हालत में कुछ सुधार कर सकें।



गिरमिट समारोह

हालमें एलबर्ट सूवा में आयोजित, गिरमिट दिवस समारोह में स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री तथा अटोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम का कहना है कि यह बेहद जरूरी है कि फीजी में क्या हुआ था का इतिहास और अन्य यादगारों की जानकारी खुलकर बताई जाए। सैयद खैयुम ने गिरमिट प्रथा के नीचे आए लोगों द्वारा सामना की गई मुश्किलों तथा उपलब्धियों पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने कहा कि एक राष्ट्र होने के नाते यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है कि लोग फीजीवासियों के इतिहास को पहचानें जिनमें गिरमिटियों के अनुभव भी शामिल हैं।



पहले श्राद्धघाट का स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री ने किया उद्घाटन

सरकार ने नौ धार्मिक संस्थाओं के साथ मिलकर नौ लाख \$900,000 डोलर से ज्यादा लागत का पहला श्राद्धघाट वतुवांगा सूवा में बनाया है। स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री तथा अटोनी-जेनरल, अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम ने इस योजना का उद्घाटन करते हुए कहा कि यह सुविधा सरकार के सामान्य फीजीवासियों को अपने संवैधानिक दायित्व को पूरा करने के प्रयास का हिस्सा है। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार का विश्वास है कि सभी फीजीवासियों के साथ एक जैसा बरताव किया जाए इसलिए अंतिम संस्कार के लिए पहले श्राद्ध घाट वाली ऐसी सुविधा की व्यवस्था की गई है।





दो बस्तियों को औपचारिक बनाने पर काम

रोनल देव

सरकार वुनिवाउ लम्बासा में दो अनऔपचारिक बस्तियों को औपचारिक बनाने की दिशा में काम कर रही है। लोकल गवमन्ट, हाउज़िंग, वातावरण, संसाधन तथा यातायात मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला ने हालमें वुनिवाउ अई और वुनिवाउ बी में निवासियों के साथ बातचित के दौरान कहा कि कुछ समय पहले उस इलाके के दौर पर एक निवासी ने उनसे ऐसी मांग की थी जिसके बाद ऐसा कदम उठाया गया। “उस सभा में मैंने वुनिवाउ के लोगों को आश्वासन दिया था कि वो टी.एल.टी. बी के द्वारा मतंगाली से बातें करेंगे और उनसे साझेदारी की मांग करेंगे ताकि

वे इस इलाके में विकास ला सके तथा सभी को 99 सालों का लीस दे सके। मैं आपको बताने आया हूँ कि अब आपको हमारी टीम के साथ मिलकर काम करना है। वे सर्वेक्षण करने के लिए वहाँ रहेंगे,” मंत्री बाला ने कहा। मंत्री के अनुसार सरकार ने ज़मीन-मालिकों को प्रिमियम भर दिया है तथा निवासियों को ई-तउकई लेन्ड ट्रस्ट बोर्ड को ज़मीन का किराया भरने की ज़रूरत नहीं है जबतक कि उनके 99 सालों की लीस पर आखरी फैसला नहीं हो जाता। निवासियों ने इसका स्वागत किया और सरकार को उनकी चिन्ताओं पर ध्यान देने तथा उन्हें सुलझाने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। एक निवासी छियासठ

66 साल की तारा वती ने कहा कि उनके और उनके परिवार के लिए बहुत ही अच्छी खबर है क्योंकि वे सौशल वेलफेयर की सहायता तथा इधर-उधर काम करके अपना घर चलाती है। “मुझे खुशी है कि हमें अब किराए के तौर पर हर साल पाँच सौ डोलर नहीं भरना पड़ेगा तथा हमें पता चलेगा कि हमारे आँगन की हद कहाँ तक है। 99 सालों की लीस हमारे बच्चों के हित के लिए है तथा अब विकास के और मौके रहेंगे। मैं सरकार की इस सहायता की बहुत अभारी हूँ,” वती ने कहा। वुनिवाउ अई सेटलमन्ट में चार सौ पंद्रह 415 और वुनिवाउ बी में तीन सौ अट्ठावन 358 घर है।

नावुआ में आलू की खेती में विकास

रोनल देव

कृषि मंत्रालय ने नावुआ जिले में आलू विकास कार्यक्रम को जारी रखा है। वहाँ पर ठण्डे गोदाम की सुविधा बनाई गई है तथा हालमें आलू के खेत दिवस भी पूरा किया गया। इस आलू विकास कार्यक्रम के नीचे छब्बीस 26 हज़ार डोलर लागत ठण्डे गोदाम की सुविधा का निर्माण किया गया जिसमें सेरूआ और नमोसी प्रांत के किसानों के लिए बीज तथा खेती-बाड़ी के उपकरण रखे जाएंगे। उच्च कृषि अफ़सर तथा आलू के राष्ट्रीय कोडिनेटर, मोहम्मद कादिर खान का कहना है कि यह सुविधा वहाँ के डिविज़नल कृषि अफ़सर के हवाले किया गया है जो उस इलाके के किसानों के लिए है। “यह ठण्डे गोदाम का कमरा नावुआ के कृषि स्टेशन पर स्थित है जिसके बीच में सरकार पड़ गई है जिससे हमारे किसानों और सरकारी विभागों को ठण्डे वातावरण में बोवाई का उपकरण रखने में सहयोग देगा,” उन्होंने कहा।

“आलू के बीज पाँच महीनों तक रखे जाते हैं जिसके बाद इन्हें फिर बोया जाता है, इसलिए यह गोदाम वाली सुविधा स्थानीय किसानों, बोवाई करने वालों तथा मंत्रालय की बोवाई वाले सामान तथा बीज रखने के लिए उपलब्ध रहेगी जो सेरूआ और नमोसी प्रांत के लिए है क्योंकि आलू की बोवाई, फसल काटने के पाँच महीने बाद होती है,” उन्होंने कहा। इस सुविधा में एक समय में दस टन बोवाई के सामान रखे जा सकते हैं।

फिलहाल, आलू की खेती पर किसानों का ज्ञान बढ़ाने के लिए वाकाबलेया के किसानों को हालमें एक दिन के लिए आलू के खेत का दौरा कराया गया था। खान ने किसानों को उनकी उपस्थिति के लिए उन्हें धन्यवाद दिया और आलू की खेती करने की ज़रूरत पर जोर दिया। सरकार को कृषि मंत्रालय के द्वारा मालूम है कि विदेश से आलू मँगाने में कितने पैसे खर्च होते हैं इसलिए 2010 में आलू विकास कार्यक्रम की स्थापना हुई थी। सेरूआ और नमोसी में इस साल दस एकड़ ज़मीन में आलू की खेती होगी।



राष्ट्रपति चियोची कोनरोते ने हालमें एक अवकाश प्राप्त अद्यापिका श्रीमति शकुन्तला सिंह को एक खास अवोर्ड से सम्मानित किया। श्रीमति सिंह ने कहा कि उनके पास विकलांग बच्चों को पढ़ाने का एक खास हुनर है जो सुन नहीं सकते थे। उन्होंने बच्चों को कई तरह के हुनर सिखाए जैसे कपड़े की सिलाई करना, खाना बनाना, स्क्रीन प्रिन्टिंग करना शामिल है ताकि वे आमदनी कमा सकें। कई लड़कियाँ अब कपड़ों की सिलाई करके अपना घर चलाती हैं।

अवकाश प्राप्त अद्यापिका को मिला सम्मान

रोनल देव

एक अवकाश प्राप्त अद्यापिका श्रीमति शकुन्तला सिंह जो विकलांग बच्चों को पढ़ाती थी को राष्ट्रपति चियोची कोनरोते ने खास अवोर्ड से सम्मानित किया।

अवोर्ड लेने के बाद हमारी साथी नताशा बेगम के साथ एक भेटवार्ता में श्रीमति सिंह ने कहा कि उनके पास विकलांग बच्चों को पढ़ाने का एक खास

हुनर है जो सुन नहीं सकते थे। उन्होंने बच्चों को कई तरह के हुनर सिखाए जैसे कपड़े की सिलाई करना, खाना बनाना, स्क्रीन प्रिन्टिंग करना शामिल है ताकि वे कुछ आमदनी कमा सकें। कई लड़कियाँ अब कपड़े सिलाई करके अपना घर चलाती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि उनके लिए बहुत गर्व और खुशी की बात थी जब उन्होंने विकलांग लोग जो सुन नहीं सकते को गाड़ी

चलाना सिखाया। उनके द्वारा सिखाए हुए विद्यार्थी पहली ही परीक्षा में सफल हुए, कोई भी असफल नहीं हुआ जिन्हें ड्राई विंग लाएसन्स मिला। वे अब नौकरियाँ करके अपने परिवार वालों की देखभाल कर रहे हैं और एक खुशी भरी जिन्दगी जी रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि उनके काम में बहुत धर्य रखने की ज़रूरत है। उन्होंने कहा कि दो विद्यार्थियों को उन्होंने उनके अपने घर

पनाह दी जो विकलांग थे तथा उनमें से एक बहुत गरीब थी तथा दुसरे के रिश्तेदार उनकी देखभाल नहीं करना चाहते थे। दोनों विद्यार्थी अब बेहद खुश हैं तथा एक अच्छी जिन्दगी जी रहे हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि ज़रूरतमंदों की सेवा करने में उन्हें बहुत खुशी मिलती है। श्रीमति सिंह ने कहा कि उन्हें पता नहीं था कि राष्ट्रपति उन्हें उनके काम के लिए सम्मानित करने वाले हैं।



कई परिवार कृषि गतिविधि में शामिल

रोनल देव

देश में एक लाख (100,000) से ज्यादा परिवार किसी न किसी तरह की कृषि गतिविधि में लगे हुए हैं जैसे कि फसल उधाना, पशुपालन, मछली मारना या शुद्ध पानी में जीव-जन्तुओं को पालना। सहायक कृषि मंत्री, वीयम पिल्ले ने हालमें ग्रैंड पेसिफिक होटल सूवा में आयोजित एक कार्यशाला में कहा कि इन परिवारों को किसान नहीं कहा जा सकता लेकिन यह आकड़े दिखाते हैं कि ग्रामीण या शहरों से बाहर वाले इलाकों में कृषि गतिविधि अभी भी कई परिवारों का सहारा है। “इस बात पर ध्यान देना ज़रूरी है कि इनमें से कई परिवार अपने घर के लिए उत्पादन कर रहे हैं जो प्रकाश डालता है कि देश में खाद्य सुरक्षा के लिए कृषि गतिविधि कितनी

ज़रूरी है,” श्री पिल्ले ने कहा। “सच तो यह है कि हालमें कृषि मंत्रालय ने जिन 51,029 किसानों के साथ भेंटवार्ता की थी में से केवल चार प्रतिशत किसानों को व्यवसायिक किसान कहा जा सकता है। इसके अलावा इसी सर्वेक्षण में यह भी पाया गया कि लगभग पैसठ 65 प्रतिशत किसान एक हेक्टर या उससे कम में खेती करते हैं,” सहायक मंत्री ने कहा। श्री पिल्ले ने कहा कि फीजी में कई किसानों के लिए स्थिति और खराब है क्योंकि वे भीतरी इलाके या बहुत दूर जैसे बाहरी द्वीप या पहाड़ी इलाके में रहते हैं। इसी वजह से भीतरी इलाकों में संसाधनों की सुविधा न रहने के कारण से बाज़ार और सामान पहुँचाने के तरीकों का संबंध नहीं होता। “फीजी बाढ़, तूफान और सूखे जैसे खराब

मौसम का सामना करता है जिससे हमारे स्थानीय भोजन उत्पादन तथा खाद्य सुरक्षा पर असर पड़ता है जैसा कि समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन, जोसी और केनी के दौरान हुआ था। फीजी ज़्यादा कृषि उत्पादन देश से बाहर भेजने के मुकाबले देश में मँगाता है। 2016 में 193 मिलियन डोलर लागत ताज़ा और ठण्डे गोदाम में रखे गए उत्पादन जैसे टैरो, अदरक, कसेरा, पपीता तथा यंगोना के अलावा नारियल का तेल भी बाहर भेजा गया। लेकिन टज़घध में देश से बाहर भेजे गए और मँगाए गए कृषि उत्पादनों का अंतर चार सौ तिरपन 453 मिलियन डोलर का था। फिलहाल, इस कार्यशाला में यह बात भी उठ आई गई कि उच्च रक्तचाप तथा मधुमेह जैसी गैर-संक्रामक बीमारियों के बढ़ते प्रसार से निपटने में कृषि महत्वपूर्ण है।

रा में दस स्कूल दोबारा खुले

रोनल देव

स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयुम ने रा में कल उन दस प्राथमरी स्कूलों का औपाचारिक उद्घाटन फिर से किया जिन्हें समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन में भारी क्षति पहुँची थी। इन स्कूलों को सरकार के अडप्ट अई-स्कूल स्कीम के द्वारा औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार के समर्थन से दोबारा बनाया गया है। सैयद खैयुम ने औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार को इस मदद के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार इस बात का ध्यान रख रही है कि ग्रामीण और शहरों के स्कूलों के बीच अंतर को कम किया जाए। शिक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि सरकार एक योजना पर काम कर रही है ताकि देश भर के सभी स्कूलों में वाए-फाए हो। इस योजना पर अभी एक दल काम कर रहा है।

स्कूलों में वाए-फाए होने से वहाँ के समाज के अलावा खास करके हाई स्कूल के विद्यार्थी अपना अध्ययन कर सकेंगे। जलवायु परिवर्तन ने तूफानों की संख्या और उनकी ताकत बढ़ा दी है इसलिए हमें ऐसी सुविधाएँ और संसाधन बनाने की ज़रूरत है जो ऐसे तूफानों का सामना कर सकें,” सैयद-खैयुम ने कहा।

उन्होंने उन माता-पिताओं को धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने ध्यान में रखा कि उनके बच्चे लगातार स्कूल जाएं हालांकि उन्हें कुछ महीनों तक अन्य स्कूलों में जाकर पढ़ना पड़ा जब उनके स्कूल फिर से बन रहे थे।

सैयद-खैयुम ने जोर दिया कि शिक्षा किसी भी देश के लिए बहुत ही ज़रूरी अंग है। उन्होंने आम किया कि स्कूलों में पढ़ाए जा रहे कुछ विषयों को सुधारने पर काम चल रहा है। फीजी में औस्ट्रेलियन राजदूत जोन फीक्स ने कहा कि यह एक अच्छा उदाहरण है, कि किस तरह किसी विपत्ति से उभरने के लिए समाज ने साथ मिलकर काम किया।

जिन स्कूलों को फिर से बनाने के बाद फिर से शुरू किया गया है में मधुवनी सं गम स्कूल, बुरईवाई डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल, बुदालेवू प्राथमरी स्कूल, नमुआनिवांगा विलज स्कूल, लिवातीवाले प्राथमरी स्कूल, नसाउ डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल, तोकाई मालो डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल, बएली मेमोरियल स्कूल, नवूनीबितू कैथलिक प्राथमरी स्कूल तथा नरोको प्राथमरी स्कूल शामिल हैं।



वा स्टेशन के सात अफसरों को लौकल गवमन्ट मंत्री, परवीन कुमार ने बहादुरी के सर्टिफिकेट्स दिए हैं जिन्होंने समुद्री आँधी जोसी के दौरान बा की सत्ताईस साल की स्वास्तिका अरचना नाईडू की जान बचाई थी जब वो अपने बच्चे को जन्म देने वाली थी। इस माँ ने आग बुझाने वालों की बहादुरी की तारीफ की।

एक माँ आग बुझाने वालों की अभारी।

रोनल देव

बा की सत्ताईस 27 साल की स्वास्तिका अरचना नायडू ने म्बा नेशनल फायर अथोरिटी के आग बुझाने वाले अधिकारियों को धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने समुद्री आँधी जोसी के दौरान पिछले महीने उनकी जान बचाई थी जब वो अपने बच्चे को जन्म देने वाली थी। तीन बच्चों की माँ ने कहा कि उन्हें बचाने की कोशिश में आग बुझाने वालों की योग्यता और देखरेख काबिलेतारीफ है। आग बुझाने वाले इन अधिकारियों को हालमें एक खास समारोह में लौकल गवमन्ट मंत्री परवीन कुमार बाला ने पुरस्कार दिया। इसी दौरान श्रीमति राजू ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला। मंत्री बाला ने कहा कि बहादुरी दिखाने के लिए इन आग बुझाने वाले अधिकारियों को सलाम करना चाहिए। “दूसरों की सहायता करने प्रयास

की कदर ज़रूर की जाएगी तथा इन्हें पुरस्कृत किया जाएगा। पहली बात तो यह है कि तकलीफ में लोगों की मदद करना अपने आप में इनाम और मान्यता के हकदार बना देता है,” मंत्री बाला ने कहा। म्बा स्टेशन के जिन सात अफसरों को बहादुरी के सर्टिफिकेट्स मिले हैं में शामिल हैं सब-ऑफिसर, सिमियोने गियोलेवू, लीडिंग फायर फाएटर-किनीचोची दकोम्बाउ, लीडिंग फायर फाएटर-रशीद अलि, कोलिफाईड फायर फाएटर इनोके रलेम्बा, फायर फाएटर कालावेती वतुईनरूकू, फायर फाएटर चोसईया वाकालाला तथा फायर फाएटर चोसेफा वांगाबादा। मंत्री बाला ने कहा कि इन आग बुझाने वाले अधिकारियों के कदम ने ज़िन्दगी बचाने में चमत्कार का काम किया है तथा खुशी की बात यह है कि दो माताओं ने सफलता पूर्वक अपने शिशुओं को जन्म दिया।



बा नेशनल फायर अथोरिटी के एक फायर फायटर उस शिशु के साथ जिसकी माँ की जान बचाई गई थी।

अवकाश प्राप्त
अद्यापिका को
मिला सम्मान

6



बच्ची के
जीवनदान
से माँ अभारी

2



SUNDAY MAY 20, 2018 | ISSUE 10 - VOL 9

फ़ीजी फ़ोकस



स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री तथा अटोनी-जेनरल, अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम ने नौ लाख \$900,000 डोलर से ज़्यादा लागत का पहला श्राद्धघाट का उद्घाटन किया। सरकार ने नौ धार्मिक संस्थाओं के साथ मिलकर वतुवांगा सूवा में यह योजना पूरी की। सैयद-खैयुम ने कहा कि यह सुविधा सरकार के सामान्य फीजीवासियों को अपने संवैधानिक दायित्व को पूरा करने के प्रयास का हिस्सा है।

श्राद्धघाट का हुआ उद्घाटन।

रोनल देव

हिन्दू धर्म के मानने वाले अपने प्रियजनों के अंतिम संस्कार के बाद वाली कीया एक सुविधाजनक और सम्मानित तरीके से पूरी कर सकेंगे जबकि फीजीयन सरकार द्वारा देश में पहली श्राद्ध घाट की योजना बनाई गई है। इससे कई लोगों की तकलीफें दूर हुई हैं तथा कई सालों का सपना भी पूरा हुआ है।

सरकार ने नौ धार्मिक संस्थाओं के साथ मिलकर नौ लाख \$900,000 डोलर से ज़्यादा लागत का पहला श्राद्धघाट वतुवांगा सूवा में बनाया है। स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री तथा अटोनी-जेनरल, अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम ने इस योजना का उद्घाटन

करते हुए कहा कि यह सुविधा सरकार के सामान्य फीजीवासियों को अपने संवैधानिक दायित्व को पूरा करने के प्रयास का हिस्सा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार का विश्वास है कि सभी फीजीवासियों के साथ एक जैसा बरताव किया जाए इसलिए अंतिम संस्कार के लिए पहले श्राद्ध घाट वाली ऐसी सुविधा की व्यवस्था की गई है।

“फीजीयन सरकार इस बात पर ध्यान दे रही है कि इस तरह की सुविधा देश भर में बनाई जाए। हम इसी तरह की सुविधा लौतोका, नान्दी तथा एक वनुआलेवू में बनाना चाहते हैं। नउसोरी में भी इसी तरह की एक योजना पर काम चल रहा है,” स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री सैयद-खैयुम ने

कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि हिन्दुओं की कीया इस तरह की सुविधा के बिना पूरी नहीं हो सकती क्योंकि अग्नी संस्कार के बाद और भी कीयाएँ पूरी करनी होती हैं। स्थानापन प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि महान व्यक्ति धर्म के द्वारा दोस्त बनाते हैं लेकिन छोटी-सोच वाले लोग धर्म को लड़ाई का औज़ार बनाते हैं।

लेकिन अगर हम सब अपने धर्म का अच्छी तरह पालन करेंगे तो वेशक हम अन्य धर्मों के मानने वालों के साथ अच्छे संबंध कायम करेंगे क्योंकि सभी धर्म एक ही चीज़ सिखलाते हैं, और वो है दूसरों से प्यार और दया की भावना रखना। लोग जो अपने धर्म पर विश्वास रखते हैं को ईश्वर

से प्यार करना सीखना ज़रूरी है और जो ईश्वर से प्यार करते हैं को आम इनसानों से भी प्यार करना सीखना चाहिए,” सैयद-सैयुम ने कहा।

इस दौरान सभी हिन्दु-धार्मिक संस्थाओं ने मिलकर वतुवांगा फिउरल राईट्स कमिटी बनाई है जो इस सुविधा की देखभाल करेगी।

इन हिन्दू धार्मिक संस्थाओं ने सुविधा बनाए रखने तथा इसकी देखरेख के लिए एक-एक हजार डोलर भी अलग किया है। कमिटी के प्रधान, सदासीवन नाएकर ने कहा कि जिन सामाजों को इस सुविधा का इस्तेमाल करने की ज़रूरत होगी मुफ्त में इसका इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं।

Noda Viti

Tomani tiko na talanoa

LAISIASA KUBU
E BONN, GERMANY

ENA tomani tiko na Talanoa me baleta na draki veisau me yacova yani na bose ka tarava mai Poladi ena ika 29 ni Okotova, Oqori na veika e vakaraitaka na turaga na Paraiminisita ka Peresit-edi talega ni COP23 ko Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ni cava tiko na veitalanoa mai Bonn e Jamani ena macawa sa oti.

“Me yacova yani na gauna koya au sa vakauqeti kemuni moni tomana tiko na nomuni bose vata monic au kina kina buturara ni veitalanoa oqo.”

“Na italanoa koni wasea oni na wasea vata ena ripote na IPCC Special Report baleta na 1.5 na Degrees- ena yavutaki kina na vakarautaki kece ni ripote,”tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Ena lewena na isau ni taro eso –me vaka na vanua eda sa tiko kina, evei na vanua eda via lako kina, eda na yaco ki kina vakacava, mera raica na Minisita.”

“Sa bibi kina ena vica na vula sa koto e matamuni moni raica na mataqali veitalanoa vakacava ko namaka mena vakayacora na nomu Minisita se na mataqali ulutaga vakacava ena vosa kina,”tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Au sa vakauqeti kemuni ni ko ni yaco yani ki na nomuni vanua moni vakauqeti koya nanomuni Minisita me vakarau ena kena vakayacori na veitalanoa.

“Sa gadrevi vakalevu na yalodinataki ni veiqravi oqo. Ena sega tale ni dua na kena gauna ena loma ni lima na yabaki ka tarava. Ena gauna oya esa rawa ni rui bera.”



Oqo na gauna dokai ni nodrau veitalanoa na iliuliu ni matanitu e rua, na Paraiminisita e Viti ko Voreqe Bainimarama kei Shinzo Abe na Paraiminisita ni matanitu ko Japani. iTaba: NATASHA BEGUM

Qaqaco na veimaliwai

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

S A qaqaco vinaka sara na veimaliwai nei Viti ki Japani. Vakaraitaka na tikina oqo na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodrau veitalanoa kei na Paraiminisita ni Japani o Shinzo Abe.

Ni laurai na tukutuku ni veivoli nei Viti kei Japani me tekivu mai na noda tuvakataki keda me yacova mai na yabaki 2015 na levu ni veivoli nei Japani e Viti e 5,636 na milioni na Yen e volekata na F\$105.79m.

Ko Japani e volia tiko na ivoli nei Viti me vaka na suka, , na ika, na koula, na kauvaro, na waiwai niu , na ginger, na isulu kei na falawa.

Sa cau talega ko Japani ena ena ilavo ni veivuke veivakatorocaketaki se grants me yacova mai na yabaki 2015 sa vakayagataka oti ko Japani e Viti na ilavo levu ena 27,796 e volekata na F\$521,488m.

Sa veivuke talega vakalevu ko Japani ena sikolasivi ni nodra lai vuli kina na lewe ni noda vanua ena Japanese Government Scholarship.

Me tekivu mai na yabaki 1990 sa dau veivuke tiko mai kina ki Viti ko Japani ena 335 GPP (Grants Assistance of Grassroot Human Security Projects na veivakatorocaketaki kece oqo na kena isau vakailavo e F\$47.4m.

Vakavinavinakataka ko PM Bainimarama na veitokoni nei Japani ena veivakatorocaketaki e Viti ena veiyabaki sa sivi me yacova mai ni kua.

“Sa rawa nida vakanamata yani ki liu ena toroicake tale ni ni nodrau veimaliwai ko Viti kei Japani,”tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na bose ni kua kei sa rawa ni talave cake kina na veimaliwai nei Viti kei Japani kina dua tale na ivakatagedegede.”

‘

Sa rawa nida vakanamata yani ki liu ena toroicake tale ni ni nodrau veimaliwai ko Viti kei Japani. Na bose ni kua kei sa rawa ni talave cake kina na veimaliwai nei Viti kei Japani kina dua tale na ivakatagedegede.

”

Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama



MAI NA IMAWI: Na Vosa Vakadua ko Anthony Gates, Peresitidi Konrote kei na Turaga ni Lewa vou ko Lisiata Fotofili.



MAI NA IMAWI: Na Vosa Vakadua ko Anthony Gates, Peresitidi Konrote kei na Turaga ni Lewa vou ko Timoci Qalinauci.

Vukei na bisinisi ni itabagone

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA veivuke na Minisitiri ni iTabagone kei na Qito kei na Matanitu ko Jaina ena \$10,000 me voli kina nodra iyaya na itabagone me vukea nodra bisinisi.

Na iyaya ni bisinisi ena voli oya e oka kina na speakers, na ikoti ni co, kei na teveli ni tatavu kei na vuqa tale.

La'ki solia na veivuke oya vua na ni Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito ko Laisenia Tuitubou na Mata nei Jaina e Viti ko Gu Yu.

“Sa tomana tikoga na Matanitu na nodra vukei na noda itabagone e Viti mera tadolava yani na vuravura ni bisinisi, Era vakavulici ena veimataqali vuli tara kei na bisinisi me vukea nodra bula,” kaya ko Minisita Tuitubou.

Vakavinavinakataka ko Minisita Tuitubou na veivuke nei Jaina.

“Era marautaka vakalevu na itabagone ni itikotiko ni veivakavaletaki e Vakatora ni iyaya ni bisinisi oqo era na vakila na kena yaga na nodra dui matavuvale,” kaya ko Minisita Tuitubou.

Vakaoqo e dua na mala ni vosa ni mata nei Jaina e Viti ko Gu Yu.

“Na mataqali veivuke vakaoqo e sega walega ni kauti ira na itabagone kina vuravura ni bisinisi e rawa talega ni vakayagataki kina na veika era sa vulica oti mai,” kaya ko Gu

Vosa bubului e rua na Turaga ni Lewa vou

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Erau sa curu vou kina Tabana ni Lawa e Viti e rua na Turaga ni Lewa vou se Resident Magistrate.

Oya ko Timoci Qalinauci kei Lisiata Fotofili, rau sa laki vosa bubului e matana na turaga na Peresitidi ni noda vanua ko Jioji Konusi Konrote.

Ko Qalinauci e rawata na ivola ni Post Graduate Diploma in Legal

Practice kei na Bachelor of Law ena Univesiti ni Ceva ni Pasifika.

A curu kina cakacaka vakaloya ko Qaliniuci ena yabaki 2008 ka veiqa-avi kina vaka loya ni Mataveilewai e Cake ka Senior Legal Officer ni Vale ni Volavola ni Dau Veibeitaki ni Matanitu ena yabaki 2013.

Ko Fotofili e rawata na ivola ni Post Graduate Certificate in Corruption Studies ena Univesit mai Hong Kong ka rawata na Post Graduate Diploma

in Legal Practice keina Bachelor of Law ena Univesiti ni Ceva ni Pasifika.

Sa 12 na yabaki na nona cakacaka tu vaka dau ni veibeitaki ka loya e qarava na cala bibi ena Vale ni Volavola ni Dauveibeitaki ni Matanitu.

E rau a tiko talega ena soqo ni nodrau bubului na Turaga ni Lewa e rua oqo na Vosa Vakadua ko Anthony Gates kei na Chief Registra ko Yohan Liyanage

Vuli ni itabagone ni iwasewase ena Tokalau

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKARAITAKA na Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito ko Laisenia Tuitubou nira mai vuli vata na itabagone ni Rotuma, Lau, Kadavu kei Lomaiviti baleta ni duidui na yanuyanu era dui tiko kina.

Era mai vakaitavi ena caka vuli oqo na veitabana ni vuli tara, ko ira na dau ni bisinisi, kei ira na dau teitei me rawa ni veisautaka na nodra rai na itabagone.

“Me vukici na nodra itovo ni rai vata na nodra vakasama kina nodra iyaubula. Era mai vakaraitaki ira eso era sa cici tu mai vakabisinisi, ra cici tu mai vaka dau teitei, me rawa ni veisautaka na nodra rai me



Ko Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito ko Laisenia Tuitubou kei ira na itabagone ni iwasewase na Tokalau.

ivurevure ni ilavo na iyau bula e tiko vei ira,”kaya ko minisita Tuitubou.

“Me rawa ni toroi cake kina nodra ivakatagadegede ni bula se nodra livelihood.

Na teitei me rawa tu kina na kana kei na teitei me rawa kina na ilavo.”

“E ratou mai caka vuli tiko oqo na tabana mai na FNTC kei na FNU, dua na marama

e vakabisinisi Virgin Coconut oil tiko mai Matuku. Sa tauyavu tiko na nona bisinisi mai Matuku,”tukuna ko minisita Tuitubou.

“Mera vakarautaki mera

dau teitei mera vakayagataka na iyaubula e tu wavoliti ira me nodra ivurevure ni ilavo. Koya na inaki ni vuli macawa dua vei ira na iwasewase na tokalau.”



\$10K vei Cikamatana

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

S A solia na Minisitiri ni iTa-bagone kei na Qito e e \$10 na udolu vei Eileen Cikamatana na goneyalewa yabki 19 ka rawata na metali koula vei Viti ena Commonwealth Games ena lave ka bibi. Solia na ilavo oqo ko Minisita Laisenia Tuitubou vei tinai Eileen Cikamatana ko Maria Makitalena.

“Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu kina Matanitu ena nona loloma, ko Eileen e tiko sara qoka mai New Caledonia tereni tiko me baleta na Oceania Games ena vula mai oqo. Oti ga oya ena la’ki qito sara ena Junior Championship. Na ilavo oqo ena veivuke vakalevu ena nona vakavakarau,” tukuna ko Makitalena. Soli talega \$5 na udolu vei Apolonia Vaivai ena nona rawata na metali

varasa ena lave ka bibi. E soli talega e \$5 na udolu vei Winston Hill ena nona rawata na metali varasa ena veivacu. “Oqo sa dua na tamani veivuke levu sa na yaga sara vakelevu vei iratou na noqu matavuvale,” tukuna ko Vaivai. Tukuna ko Minisita Tuitubou ni ilavo oya sai vakamalua ni nodra rawa metali ka na vakauqeti ira mera rawa metali tiko vakalevu vei Viti.



Ko Eileen Cikamatana.

Qaravi vinaka na siga kei Rotuma

VILIAME TIKOTANI

VAKARAITAKA na District Officer e Rotuma ko Osea Ravukivuki ni qaravi vinaka sara na Siga kei Rotuma. “Na siga kei Rotuma dau donuya tiko na ika 13 ni siga ni vula ko Me ena veiyabaki. Ena yabaki oqo sa mai nanumi me mai vakayacori ena siga vakaraubuka na ika 11 ni siga me vaka ni siga tabu tiko na ika 13 ni siga.” “Sa mai qaravi sara vakavinaka ra mai sureti kina na turaga na ivukevuke ni minisita ena taudaku ni koro lelevu ko Hon. Joeli Cawaki,” tukuna ko Ravukivuki. Tomana ko Ravukivuki ni gauna oqo e tolu na veivakatorocaketaki lelevu e vakayacori tiko e Rotuma.



Vakaisalusalutaki toka ko District Officer e Rotuma ko Osea Ravukivuki. iTaba: VILIAME TIKOTANI

“Kenai matai na kena mai vakalevutaki na iroro ni waqavuka. Ka nanumi ni sa na rawa ni ro mai Rotuma na waqavuka levu ka na veivuke ena nodra usani na lewenivanua vakina na ivoli ena kena kauyani e Viti Levu kei na veiyanyanu voleka e Rotuma,”

kaya ko Ravukivuki. “Na ikarua beka ga na gaunisala ni teitei takosova tiko na yanuyanu ko Rotuma me vukea na kena vakalelevi mai na ivoli kei na veika me vakau kina makete.” Tomana ko Ravukivuki ni ikatolu ka usutu levu oya na

nodra vukei na tabana ni bula na kena mai vakadaberi vou e dua na valenibula levu e Rotuma. “Na veiqaravi e qaravi ena valenibula mai Suva sana mai qaravi talega ena yanuyanu ko Rotuma,” kaya ko Ravukivuki.

Vakavakarau e na dola ni valenibula

VILIAME TIKOTANI

ERA sa nanamaki na lewe ni vanua e Rotuma ena dola ni valenibula vou e kea ena vula ko Noveba oqo. Sikova na yanuyanu ko Rotuma ena macawa sa oti na iVukevuke ni Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro lelevu kei na Veiyanyanu ko Joeli Cawaki kei ira na vakalesilesi vakamatani. Dikeva rawa ko Minisita Cawaki edua na bolebole ni tara valenibula oqo na sega ni waqa me kauta mai na iyaya ni taravale.

Sa vakasalataki na Divisional Planing Officer ko Viliame Kaiyabia ko Minisita Cawaki me vakabibitaka na vakavodoki ni iyaya ni tara valenibula ena waqa kei Rotuma. Raica rawa ko Minisita Cawaki ni sa yaco toka ena isa ni vale na tara valenibula oya ka namaka mena dola na valenibula ena vula ko Noveba ni 2018.

“Na Matanitu e sa vakatubuilavotaka e \$7m ena tara ni valenibula vou oqo ka na qaravi kina na veiqaravi kece e caka tiko ena valenibula mai Suva,” kaya ko Minisita Cawaki. “Au vakabauta ni itavi ni Matanitu me raica nodra qaravi vakatautauvata na lewe ni vanua ena gaunisala, wai, livaliva, tiko bulabula kei na sala ni veitaratara. Au raica ni sa duamaka sara ko Rotuma ni vakatauvatani noqu a veisiko mai ena tolu na yabaki sa oti.”



Ko ira na tiko ena vuli ni veiqaravi vei ira na matua se caregiver kei na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua ko Mereseini Vuniwaqa kei na Univola Tudei Dr Josefa Koroivueta.

Vakalevutaka nomu sasaga

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

S A bolei ira na lewe 700 na tauri ivola ena Technical College of Fiji, ena muaira na Minisita ni Veivakacacacataki ko Jone Usamate mera vakalevutaka na nodra sasaga ena veika lelevu era via rawata ena nodra bula. “Ni vakalevutaka na takete ko

ni via rawata ka vatubura na kilaka sa tiko rawa moni vuku sara. Ko ira na tamata rawaka e vuravura era lako curuma na dredre mera rawata na veika era taketetaka,”kaya ko Minisita Usamate. “Au vakauqeti kemuni moni yaco mo ni ivurevure talega ni veivakacacacataki ka moni tovolea na porokaramu ni Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES). Na porakaramu oqo koni vakauqeti kina na itabagone

yabaki 18 kina 30 ka sa vakacavara na nomuni vocational se technical diploma se degree moni bulia mai e so na vakasama vou ka rawa ni vakavure cakacaka.” Tomana ko Minisita Usamate ni gadrevi tiko ena gauna oqo na kenadau se trade people kei na technicians ka gadrevi mera tarai cake na kenadau vaka oqo e Viti. “Sa gadrevi me uqeti na kilaka e Viti ena rawati ena vuli cakacaka ena koronivuli ni

vuli tara ni TVET(Technical and Vocational Education and Training),” kaya ko Minisita Usamate. “Sa gadrevi vakalevu me tubu na trade sector, me vakayagatiki na ilavo vei ira na tamata e rawa nira cakava ka sega ni vosa walega.” Era sa vakacavara e 5353 na gonevuli ena Technical College of Fiji ena vuli leleka ena 2017 ka sa tubu talega na iwiliwili ni gonevuli mai na yabaki 2015-2017.



Soqo ni Siga kei Rotuma

Era Sinai yani ena itikitiko ni Matanitu mai Ahau e Rotuma na lewe ni vanua ena yanuanu ciri yawa oya ena kena marautaki na Siga kei Rotuma ni 2018. Era tiko talega kina na vakalesilesi vakamatanitu ka liutaki ira yani na ivukevuke ni Minisitani ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni koro lelevu kei na veiyanyanu ko Joel Cawaki. Vakayacori talega kina na vakaraitaki vuaniquele me vaka na dalo na uvi kei vuaniquele tale eso.

ITaba: VILIAME TIKOTANI



Taleitaki na Government Roadshow e Moala, Lau

Sa dua na gauna marautaki vei ira na lewe ni yanuanu ko Moala mai Lau na kena la'ki vakayacori yani na soqo ni vakaraitaki Cakacaka ni Matanitu ena macawa sa oti. Sa kau vakavoleka yani kina nodra matanikatuba na veigaravi kece ni Matanitu me vaka na Tabana ni Teitel, na Tabana ni caka TIN naba, na Tabana ni caka Ivola ni Sucu, na Tabana ni Soko, na Tabacakacak iTaukei, Tabana ni Veivakalivalivataki, Tabana ni Veivakavaletaki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, Tabana ni Leqa Tubukoso, kei na veitabana ena taudaku ni

Mataniu. A vulagi dokai kina na Vunivola Tudei ni vevakavakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu kei na veiyanyanu ko Meleti Bainimarama. Mo sarava sarava mada yani na itaba ni soqo lagilagi oya ena koro vakaturaga mao Naroi e Moala ena yasana ko Lau.

ITaba: NANISE NEIMILA



Vakabulabulataki na tei koko

Era sa vakauqeti na dau tei koko ena noda vanua ena nodra soqo ka vakarautaka na Minisitiri ni Teitei mai Korovou mai Tallevu. A vulagi dokai kina na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabana na Teitei ko David Kolitagane. Sa lalawataka na Matanitu me vakabulabulataki tale na ite ogo na koko ka ni tu na kena makete ena noda vanua kei vuravura. Mo sarava sara mada yani na kena itaba era koto oqori.

ITaba: VILIAME TIKOTANI





Toso cake na kila ka vakacakacaka

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA nodra tauri ivola e 152 na marama kei na turaga mai na koronivuli na Australia-Pacific Technical College era sa cau kina kena tosoi ni tamata cakacaka kilaka ena noda vanua.

Oqori na ka e vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua ko Mereseini Vuniwaqa.

Era tauri ivola na ilawalawa oqo ena vakatagedegede ni Ositerelia ena cakacaka duidui ka vulici ena koronivuli oya.

“Na APTC esa cau vakalevu ena kena vakalevutaki na kilaka vakacakacaka e Viti. Era sa vakavulici oti kina e 3700 me tekivu mai na 2007,” tukuna ko Minisita Vuniwaqa.

“Era vakavulici ena veimataqali kilaka vakacaka na lewenivanua e Viti ka wili kina ko ira na vakaleqai tu na ituvaki ni yagodra.”

Vakavinavinaka ko minisita Vuniwaqa kina matanitu ko Ositerelia ena nona veivakavulici tiko vei ira na lewei Viti. Sa sotavi tiko na gagadre ni noda vanua me baleta na veisiga ni mataka. Ka veisisivi kina ko Viti kei na kilaka vakacakacaka



Ko Minisita ni Yalewa, Gone kei na Valuti ni Bula Dravudravua Mereseini Vuniwaqa, kena Vuniola tudei Dr Josefa Koroivueta kei ratou na dau ni veivakavulici se APTC facilitator ena vuli ni dauveiqaravi ni vuva (Family Caregivers) e Ovalau, Levuka.

ni veivanuatani.

“Au doka na itavi esa vakayacora na APTC ni sa vukeyi ira e levu na lewe ni noda vanua mera vulica na veikilaka vovou eso. Sa rawa talega kina nira kune cakacaka, ka vuavuai kina na noda vanua,” tukuna ko Minisita Vuniwaqa.

“Na minisitiri oqo esa cau talega ena nodra vakatorocaketaki na marama e Viti ena porokaramu ka vakatokai na Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program.”

Vakavinavinaka talega ko Minisita Vuniwaqa kina matanitu ko Ositerelia ena nona solia mai e \$300m kina veivanuyanu ena Pasifika me sotavi kina na draki veisau ena Green Climate Fund.

Vakacaucautaka talega ko Minisita Vuniwaqa na rawaka ni veikoronivuli torocake e Viti baleta ni na vakatau kina na bula vakailavo nei Viti kei na toso ni bula raraba. Vakauasivi na nodra vakatorocaketaki na tamata cakacaka e Viti mera tamata cakacaka kilaka.



Ko ira na cauravou tauri ivola ni sere idini ena vanua ni Veivakadodonutaki mai Levuka Ovalu.

Tauri ivola ni sere idini lalai

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA sa tauri ivola e lewe 27 na curu tu ena Tabana ni Veivakadodonutaki vakina e 17 na kena ovisa mai Levuka mai Ovalau.

A laki solia nodra sivikiti ni oti na vuli sereidini lalai na ivukevuke ni Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito ko Iliesa

Delana ka solia vata kei na nodra dui kato ni iyaya cakacaka se tool box kei na iyaya ni qito.

Tukuna ko Vukevuke ni Minisita Delana ni minisitiri e yalo dina me vakavulici ira kece na itabagone.

“Na vuli ni sereidini lalai e kena inaki me solia vei ira na itabagone na kilaka e rawa nira tekivutaka kina e

dua na nodra sala ni bisinisi nira suka mai na vanua ni veivakadodonutaki,” kaya ko vukevuke ni Minisita Delana.

“Na ministiri e tokoni ira kece na itabagone mera dui rawata nodra dui bisinisi.”

Ko Timilai Siga e dua na lewe ni vuli oqo e vakavinavinaka ni vulica na sereidini lalai ka vakavinavinaka kina Matanitu ena kena vaka-

rautakia na vuli oqo.

“Oqo se qai isevu ni gauna meu curuma kina e dua na vuli vakaoqo,” kaya ko Siga.

Dua tale na lewe ni vuli ko Titoko Metui, e kaya vakaoqo ne; “Au sa qai kila ena vuli oqo na cava na idini, na iyaya me vakayagataki, kei na kena vakavinakataki kevaka e leqa, Sa dua na dina na vuli vinaka.”



Na dau teitei ni yabaki 2018 ena yanuyanu ko Rotuma ko Rupeti Tivao ka mai ciqoma tiko na nona icovi mai vei Minisita Joeli Cawaki. iTaba: VILIAME TIKOTANI

Dau teitei ni yabaki ni Rotuma

VILIAME TIKOTANI

QOQOTA na icovi ni dau teitei ni yabaki ena yanuyanu ciri yawa mai Rotuma ko Rupeti Tivao e dua na cauravou yabaki 39 mai na koro ko Pepjei.

Sa dua bulu ga na nona ivakasala vei ira na itabagone e Viti kei Rotuma mera vakayagataka vinaka na nodra gauna ena kena vakayagataki na nodra qele.

Vakamacalataka ko Tivao na bolebole e sotava ena nona bula keina rawaka e rawata.

“Na gauna ni noqu cauravou au dau gunu yaqona kei na yaqona ni valagi vakalevu kau vakaoti gauna voli kina, eratou nanuma noqu matavuvale niu sana sega ni rawa ni veisau,” tukuna ko Tivao.

“Au sa mani vakatulewataka meu sa veisautaka na noqu bula kau sa tekivu meu sa teitei meu vakayagataka kina noqu gauna galala.”

“Au sa nanuma meu sa teitei ga e veisiga au sa mani tuvana e dua na noqu ituvatuva,” kaya ko Tivao.

“Matai ni ka au cakava meu sa muduka na mateni kei na gunu yaqona sivia ena bogi baleta ni levu na veitemaki vakaitaba vata.”

“Nikua au sa mai taura na icovi ni dau teitei ni yabaki ena yanuyanu ko Rotuma. Au vakavinavinaka kina kina Tabacakacaka ni Teitei.”

Na soqo ni vakaraitaki vua ni qele vakabibi na dalo kei na uvi sala vata kei na marautaki ni Siga kei Rotuma.

E taukena ko Tivao na nona loga ni uvi kei na dalo mai Rotuma qoqota o koya na nona icovi oya na ilavo kei na dua na trophy



Ko Minisita ni Veivakacakakataki, Vuavuai kei na Veimaliwai Vakacakaka Jone Usamate kei ira na noda cauravou era cakacaka tiko ena iteitei mai Niusiladi.

Veivakacakakataki e na NEC

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Veitalanoa na niusiveva na Noda Viti kei na Minisita ni Veivakacakakataki, Vuavuai kei na Veimaliwai Vakacakaka ko Jone Usamate me baleta na veivakacakakataki sa vakayacora tiko na National Employment Centre (NEC). Wilika sara mada yani.

Noda Viti: E vica taucoko era sa mai rawa cakacaka ena veitokoni ni National Employment Centre (NEC) mai na gauna a tauyavu kina?

Minisita Usamate: Na neitou wiliwili sa yacova sara tu na 56, 000 ko ira era sa mai rejisita. Ena loma ni vula rua ga sa oti oqo a sagai mera tarai kece o ira sa mai rejisita oti ka ra sa rawa cakacaka tu ena gauna oqo.

Keitou raica na kena iwiliwili mada ga vei ira na sa veitaratara lesu mai nira sa rawa cakacaka sa yacova yani oqo na 7751 oya na iwiliwili koya ra mai tukuna lesu tale vei keitou nira sa rawa cakacaka. Eso era sa la'ki rawata nodra cakacaka e sega nira veitaratara lesu mai.

Noda Viti: Turaga Minisita na yabaki ni bula cava e rawa ni rejisita kina edua ena National Employment Centre (NEC)?

Minisita Usamate: Na lawa ni National Employment Centre e biu tiko kina ni rawa

ni rejisita e dua e yabaki 15 ka lako cake. Au kila ni Matanitu e vakabibitaka tiko na gone kece e yabaki 15 kina 18 o ira kece mera lai vuli.

Tiko e so sa ra biuta beka na koronivuli sa sega tu nira vuli o ira talega oqo e vakatarai vei ira mera mai rejisita ena National Employment Centre. Kena ibalebale oya ni yalayala ni yabaki e 15 lako cake e sega ni dua na kena iyalayala e cake. Eso sa yabaki 79 era dau mai rejisita vei keitou sera vinakata ga mera cakacaka e sega ni dua na kena iyalayala. E vakatarai tu vei ira mera lako mai era mai rejisita.

Noda Viti: Na lawa cava e vakarota mera rejisita kece na sega ni cakacaa ena noda vanua ena National Employment Centre?

Minisita Usamate: E tiko sara ga na lawa ni tabana oqo na National Employment Centre Act 2009. E virikotori kina mera mai rejisita se vakalewefomutaki ko ira kece na vaqara cakacaka. Dua me matata kina kina Matanitu na iwiliwili vei ira era vaqara cakacaka tiko. Kena ikarua me rawa ni kunei e so na sala eso erawa nira vukei kina mera kunea na cakacaka mera rawata kina nodra bula ena nodra veisiga ni mataka.

Noda Viti: Na cava so edodonu mera kauta tiko yani me rawa ni donu vakavinaka kina na

nodra mai rejisita.

Minisita Usamate: Kevaka e dua e via rejisita se vakalewefomu e dodonu me dua na turaga se marama se cauravou se goneyalewa e sega tiko ni cakacaka qoka e sega ni wili kina ke se gonevuli tiko. E vinakati sara o koya se vaqara cakacaka.

E vica na ka mera kauta tiko mai dua na nodra ivola ni sucu, dua na itaba musu se *passport size photo*, e vinakati talega na ilavelave ni *TIN letter*, me matata tiko noda sa rejisita oti kina FNPF kei na FIRCS kei na dua na ilavelave ni ivola tukutuku ni vuli baleta nira na vinakata mera kila na itaukei ni cakacaka na veika osa vulica oti na veivanua osa cakacaka oti kina.

E so na kilaka vakacakacaka sa tiko vei keda kei na noda ivola tukutuku kece ni veitarogi eda sa rawata mai. Na itukutuku kece oqo ena qai mai volai kece ena neitou *database* se na neitou computer. Nira taro mai na itaukei ni cakacaka ena qai vakamacalataki yani vei ra nna ivakamacala kece oqo. Me yadua talega na ilavelave ni sitivikiti yadua. Ena veivuke sara ke kau kece mai na ilavelave ni sitivikiti oqori me tu rawa vei keitou me qai vakaraitaki yani vei ira na itaukei ni cakacaka.

Noda Viti: E lewe vica taucoko na lewei Viti era sa vakacakakataki ena iteitei

mai vavalagi.

Minisita Usamate: Na veivakacakakataki ena vanua ni teitei mai Ositerelia kei Niusiladi a qai tekivu tikoga ena 2015. A tekivu tadola na porokaramu oqo ki vei ira na veimatanitu ena Pasifika mai 2007- 2008.

Kedatou e Viti tou qai curu tikoga yani mai na 2015. Mai na 2015 oya tou tekivu tiko vakamalua ga na nodatou iwiliwili ena gauna sa viaia yacova na 11273. Era lewe 490 era sa laki cakacaka ki Ositerelia, ki Niusiladi e lewe 783.

Sasaga levu tiko ni Matanitu na kena sagai me toso cake tiko na iwiliwili oqo.

Na toso cake ni iwiliwili ena vakatau ena levu ni kabani mai Ositerelia kei Niusiladi era vaqara tamata cakacaka mai kei na karua na kedra irogorogo ko ira na sa liu tiko oqo. Kevaka era lai rogorogo vinaka ena vinakata na kabani me levu na kaiviti me lako yani. Kevaka era lai rogorogo ca ena yaco sara ga na kena veibasai. O ira na lako tiko oqo e rawa ni ralai dola katuba ka rawa talega nira lai sogo katauba tale.

Au sa bolelira tiko na vakaillesilesi me sagai me yacova mada na 1000 na iwiliwili ni cakacaka ki Ositerelia. Ko Niusiladi e yalani tikoga na iwiliwili ko Ositerelia e sega ni yalana.

Noda Viti: Na katuba cava

eso sa tadola mai vanuatani e rawa nira lai cakacaka kina na noda?

Minisita Usamate: E levu na noda era sa cakacaka tu mai vanua tani ena qito kei na veiqaravi vei ira na matua keitou sega ni veivosakitaka nodra lai cakacaka.

Mai Amerika Varanise Japani kei Urope eso talega na nasi era sa cakacaka tu ena veiyasai vuravura e sega nira curuma mai na neitou veiqaravi. Ia na neitou tabana e veivuke tikoga vakaevu oqo ena iteitei e Ositerelia kei Niusiladi.

E tiko na veidinadinati ni matanitu e Viti kei na matanitu mai Ositerelia kei Niusiladi. Gauna oqo sa tekivu lako talega ko ira na laki cakacaka ena saravanua e Ositerelia kei Niusiladi vaka kina na la'ki cakacaka vaka-matai ki Niusiladi.

E dola tale tu ga ena gauna oqo vei ira na cakacaka vakamatani era sa yacova na yabaki 55 so vei ira na qasenivuli sara vakacegu oqo eso era sa tiko mai Nauru eso era tiko mai Tuvalu kei na Yatu Masela so talega na nasi sara cegu mai ena cakacaka vakamatani era sa cakacaka tiko na gauna oqo mai Tuvalu. Sa gadrevi tale tikoga na veiqaravi vei ira na matau se Aged Care mai Japani, Ositerelia, Niusiladi, Ko ira kece oqo era vaqara tu na tamata mera la'ki cakacaka yani kina.

Noda Viti



E ratou taura tu ogo na yaca ni soqo ni vakaraitaki cakacaka ni Matanitu se Government Roashow ena loma ni rara ena koro vakaturaga ko Naro, Moala e Lau e tolu na marama ni Moala. Era a sota vata yani e Naro na lewe ni koro e walu ko Naro, Nasoki, Keteira, Vunuku, Cakova, Vadra, Maloku kei Muaikacuni me baleta na soqo ogo. iTaba: **NANISE NEIMILA**

Laveti ko Lau

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA levu sara tiko na kalawa ni veivakatorocaketaki e vakayacora na matanitu ena yasana ko Lau. Oqori na ka e vakaraitaka na vunivola tudei ni minisitiri ni veivakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, Meleti Bainimarama ena soqo ni vakaraitaki veiqaravi ni matanitu mai Naro, Moala.

“Sa tiko na lalawa ni Matanitu ena kena vakavinakataki na ivurevure ni memuni wai me vaka ni ogo edua na bolebole levu ka levu na noda yanuyanu e sotava tiko,” kaya ko PS Bainimarama.

“Sa koto saka na ituvatuva ni tabana ni wai ena nomui vukei ena tani ni wai ena gauna e tau kina na uca ka yacana

saka tiko na free water tank program. Ka solia tiko na tani na tabana ni wai na Water Authority of Fiji.

“Ena yabaki sa oti a solia kina na tabana ni wai e 438 na tani ena 49 na itikotiko ena nodatou yasana vakaturaga.

Sa cakava talega e rua na solar pump ka tiko saka na kena isau vakailavo ena \$77,000 ena kena nanumi moni gunu wai vinaka me vaka e virikotori tiko ena noda Yavu ni Vakavulewa.”

Sa vakadonuya saka na Matanitu na ituvatuva ni veivakalivalivataki ni Matanitu ena 2018-2018 vakatokai tiko na kana vakailavotaka na Matanitu ena nomuni vei tikotiko.”

“Sa vakailavotaka oti na Matanitu e 65 na projects ena yasana ko Lau ka sa vakayagataki oti kina \$685,000 ena

kena vakavinakataki na diesel generators kei na solar,” tukuna ko PS Bainimarama.

“Ena yabaki vakailavo saka ogo e qarava saka tiko na matanitu na kena vakavinakataki ni gaunisala mai Vanua Balavu, Cicia, Lakeba, Matuku , Totoya kei na kena ogo e Moala.”

“Sa koto saka talega na vakanananu ena kena dolavi na icurucuru mai Vanua Balavu na kena vosa vakaperitani na boat of entry. Mai vei ira na iyota kara gole saka tiko mai na veiyasai vuravura mera sarava na totoka ni noda vei baravi era sa cakacaka tiko kina vakaveivolekati na veitabana vakamatani ka liutaka tiko na sasaga ogo na noda iliuliu ni Matanitu kei na noda vale ni volavola ni iwasewase na Tokalau.

“Au vakabauta ni ogo e dua na ikalawa vinaka ni kena vakatorocaketaki na vakavure ilavo ena saravanua me vakavinakataka na vakavure ilavo kei na rawaka.

Ena Tabana ni Teitei sa tiko na ituvatuva ni Matanitu me vakayagataki e \$330,000 ena Rural Outer Island Program (ROI) me baleta na virgin coconut oil kei na vueti ni itei ni niu.

Ena itei na ginger sa tiko me vakayagataki e \$10,000 e Lau ka sa koto saka na lalawa me na tara na vale ni volavola ni qoliqoli ena yanuyanu ko Cicia kei Moala. Sa tiko talega na ituvatuva ni veivuke ena kato ni wailiwa se solar powered refrigerators.

Veira na na itaukei ni paini kei na yasi sa tiko talega na tuvatuva me baleti ira.

VOQA NI DAVUI	Moniti - Tusiti	<i>Radio Fiji One</i>	Vakarauwai	<i>Radio Fiji One</i>
	8.30pm (15 na miniti)		9pm (30 na miniti)	
	<i>Radio Fiji One</i>	Vukelulu - Lotulevu	<i>Radio Fiji One</i>	Sigatabu
		8pm (15 na miniti)		8.45pm (30 na miniti)