

FijiFocus



FIJI MAKES
REMARKABLE
PROGRESS

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WORKS
FOR NORTH
HOSPITAL

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SPECIAL
SNEHA IS NO
ORDINARY GIRL

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Brave heart

12-YEAR-OLD AWARDED FOR COURAGE DURING TC WINSTON

AZARIA FAREEN

TEARS flowed freely as the mother of 12-year-old, Katarina Bubu, watched her daughter receive the Fiji Children's Award for being an exceptionally brave young Fijian hero.

Witnessing the moving ceremony at Nailuva District School in Rakiraki recently, Esita Lawaivalu could not hold back her tears as the event took her more than three years back to the day that led to her daughter's act of bravery.

Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar led a standing ovation for Katarina as she was recognised for her selflessness and act of bravery.

In the midst of the catastrophe caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston, Katarina, who was nine years old at the time, despite being severely injured showed immense strength and courage to seek help to rescue her injured family members which included her sister who died because of her injuries.

She suffered severe head injuries and joint misalignment in the face of the disaster and yet braved the heavy rain and strong winds to crawl a 45-metre cliff to her village to inform of the whereabouts of her mother and sister.

Speaking on behalf of her daughter, Ms Lawaivalu thanked Government and organiser Vision Fiji for recognising Katarina as a courageous and honest person.

"I am very happy and proud for the

celebration held for my daughter today; and my family and I thank Government for the much needed assistance."

Ms Lawaivalu recently received an all-terrain wheelchair from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services upon her request as she found it difficult to walk unaided and had to crawl to get around.

She had sustained serious injuries including severe knee fracture and a broken jaw and collarbone.

"We are here to celebrate how strong the survivors like Katarina are who did not care about their own life and went ahead to assist the people in need," Minister Akbar said.

"I hope you will continue with the true spirit of how people live in villages and settlements where you feel for each other and your neighbor is like a family and where children are loved and cared for," she added.

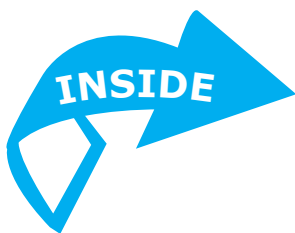
"We are rewarding one child, but I believe there are many children out there who show bravery, courage and honesty in their own way, in their daily lives that also deserve recognition."

"I must commend the parents and villagers for having such children in your village as they must be emulating someone's behaviour as it is you who have trained this girl who she is today so please continue to guide and support her."

Vision Fiji chair, Gazala Akbar said the organization looks for stories of unsung heroes among children whose extraordinary service to their families or communities would otherwise go unrecognised.



Katarina Bubu receives the Fiji Children's Award for her selflessness and acts of bravery from Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar at Nailuva District School in Rakiraki. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Jone Usamate

In our efforts to meet the target obligations under the Paris Agreement of holding a global temperature well below 2°C, the Fijian Government has introduced a number of national policies and strategies to address the issue of greenhouse gas.

Jone Usamate
Minister for Infrastructure,
Transport, Disaster
Management and
Meteorological Services

NUMBERS

190K+

Fijians have so far received electricity from Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) as of 2018. An increase of more than 4 per cent from 2018 which recorded 182,413.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum (@FijiAG)

At @FijiMissionUN, it was great to see my Pacific brother and fellow climate champion, Palau's President @TommyRemengesau. As Small Island States, we're family—and as family, we can find the required economies of scale (which we lack alone) to achieve #SustainableDevelopment

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Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the High Level Political Forum at the UN Headquarters. Photo: SUPPLIED

UN envoy: Fiji makes remarkable progress

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI has made remarkable progress in achieving its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) through the spectacular gains on education and health care.

Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (PRUN) in New York Dr. Satyendra Prasad said education Fiji had achieved 90 per cent completion rates for secondary education and had wiped out the gender gaps in enrolment rates between boys and girls.

In Fiji's context, Ambassador Prasad said through Government policies which were aligned to the SDGs, it had rolled out programmes that ensured no Fijian should be left behind which meant a child in Lagalaga, Vanua Levu, should have similar access to education as a child living in Salato Road, Namadi Heights.

"This also means that a young expecting

mother in Fulaga, Lau, should have the same access to primary health care as a mother in Malau, Rakiraki. All facets of development should reach all Fijians and the Voluntary National Review (VNR) shows that Fiji is making progress and as a country we are still trying to achieve more."

"The SDG targets which Fiji has signed up to as a UN member state allows us a time frame of 2030. No one has imposed these targets on Fiji or any other country. We have voluntarily agreed to this. We have another 10 years to achieve this at the minimum."

Ambassador Prasad said by the end of the next decade, Fiji should therefore have eliminated absolute poverty by way of its achievements in universal education through which it would position the Fijian economy and society on a more sustainable pathway.

"These are not the UN goals, these are Fiji's goals, they are part of our medium term

strategy and they are part of budget commitments. The VNR is the moment for self-check by a Government on where it is in achieving goals. Through assessment and evidence a country tracks its progress. The VNR is even more important for Fiji as it provides an opportunity for Fiji to learn lessons from other countries who may be trying to achieve these goals in different ways," Ambassador Prasad said.

"It is an opportunity for other countries to learn from Fiji as well."

He said there were great interest shown by other countries on Fiji's use of new financing instruments to implement some of its SDG programmes.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum presented Fiji's Voluntary National Review of SDGs during the High Level Political Forum at the UN Headquarters.

NGOs, private sector vital to SDG achievements

NANISE NEIMILA

NON-GOVERNMENTAL organisations and private sector participation is important in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (PRUN) in New York, Dr Satyendra Prasad said if Fiji was making progress on SDG's then the private sector must be growing, creating better jobs, employing more women, reducing pay inequalities, creating for sustainable products, paying more taxes, securing new climate and oceans friendly technologies and rearing a healthy working environment.

"In short the SDGs are equally about the private sector Fiji's private sector is a part of that story. Many private sector companies support the SDGs in direct ways-supporting to reduce non-communicable diseases (NCDs) or reduce violence against women."

"Many have developed Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes that are framed by the SDGs so for example each time you travel in Fiji Airways, a tree is being planted somewhere in the



Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (PRUN) based in New York, Ambassador Dr. Satyendra Prasad, with members of the civil society organisation. Photo: SUPPLIED

country.

These SDGs are about all Fijians—men and women, young and old, boys and girls, rural and urban.

"Civil society organisations provide a policy-maker insight, data, experiences, unique and specific challenges Fijians may be facing in general or unique ways. They help amplify government and private sector programmes and opportunity."

Ambassador Prasad said NGOs

helped give reality check in how much or little progress was being made in a specific area.

They are part of the SDGs, they provide inputs during the budget processes such as the priority investment areas for achieving SDGs since some of them track and report on implementation of certain commitment and programs in specialized areas.

"In several areas, civil society is also involved directly in imple-

mentation of SDG programmes, Fiji's civil society also helps to draw the Government's attention to good international practices and help to share international lessons. One thing is clear- the global goals, the SDGs are goals for all Fijians and people across the world that means governments and government agencies, private sectors, development partners, civil society and individuals are working together."



Seeto's demise 'great loss for industry'

AZARIA FAREEN

“MY friend Dixon Seeto was a proud patriot and a great Fijian beloved by all who were blessed to know him and an inspiration to every Fijian striving for the betterment of our country.”

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama made these comments as he delivered a eulogy at the late Dixon Seeto's Church Service held in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Suva on Monday.

“His advocacy for Fijian tourism has helped make grow the most important sector of our economy, helping more hard-working Fijians put food on the table for their families,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“And at a time when we looked to expand opportunity in education, Dixon's chairmanship of the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board (TSLB) helped empower tens of thousands of young Fijians to pursue their dreams of higher education.”

In an interview, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism's permanent secretary Shaheen Ali, who spoke fondly of the tourism icon, said he has been the face of Fijian tourism for a very long time and not only was his demise very sad but he is a great loss to the industry.

“He was a brilliant mentor, colleague and a friend who has left his mark on Fijian tourism and his loss is felt by each one of us as he used to work very closely with the tourism ministry,” Mr Ali said.

“Mr Seeto has been a pillar and a founding father of Fijian tourism, together with being a wonderful source of advice and guide,” he added.

He was not only a leader in the Fijian Chinese community but also part of Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation and a prominent business representative in the Fijian economy.

“We need to build on what he has left behind and also ensure that we adopt his philosophy and policy as he always portrayed that our tourism industry is second to none and Fiji is the best destination as far as tourism is concerned,” Mr Ali said.

“I think in this way we can honour him and ensure that his legacy continues as it is a loss that will take some time to overcome and I don't think he can ever be replaced.”

Mr Seeto was the long-serving member and President of Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association for the last 16 years.

Anti-corruption studies for school curriculum

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education has successfully designed anti-corruption aspects to be integrated into the curriculum for primary and secondary schools.

National Anti-Corruption Curriculum was piloted last year in 32 schools around the country and upon its roll out, will see students from Years Five to 13 undergoing moral values infused into anti-corruption education tailor-made to evoke critical thinking, analysis and a generation immune to corruption.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, in launching the curriculum, said “by having a curriculum within the education syllabus, we will be able to create that awareness and syntheitisation so that students can alert others to do the right thing”.

“You may not realize this but corruption is like cancer that eats away at your society and country and by having a curriculum in place we want an entire generation of Fijian who can stand up and deal with corruption,” the A-G added.

“We need to be able to address corruption through many avenues which includes the ability to prosecute, the ability to have proper laws in place, to be able to identify the corrupt activity in the first place and have a change in attitude in society.”

The A-G urged the two key partners to constantly review the curriculum and stressed that if laws and regulations become out of date then the law becomes irrelevant and it opens a room for corruption.

He also introduced FICAC's Anti-Corruption Youth Ambassador Program and awarded Nasinu Muslim College Year 12 students Waisea Nabobo and Nereo Seruliwaliwa for their honesty in returning a lost wallet containing \$1000 in it.

Mario Naidei, father of Year 12 student Nereo Seruliwaliwa said it was an honour for him to see his son receiving such a prestigious award firsthand.

“My expectation for my children has been low despite teaching them to be honest and trustworthy and when good things like this happen I am speechless,” he said.

“I am very happy and proud not only for myself but for the villagers who always contribute towards my sons upbringing.”

The acting deputy commissioner of FICAC, Rashmi Aslam said infusing integrity in the younger generation is the heart of the matter in bringing the National Anti-Corruption Curriculum into existence.

“Investing in the education of our future generation is a paradigm shift in the fight against corruption,” Mr Aslam said.

“There must be a national program that effectively and positively prepares our future generations to take our country to great levels of prosperity.”



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Pacific leaders during the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) in Nadi yesterday. Photo: ISAAC LAL

PIDF eyes Pacific solutions for regional problems

PRASHILA DEVI

FIIJI, as the incoming chair of the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), will re-invigorate its commitment to inclusivity through its partnerships with civil society and the private sector.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, who re-assumes the chairmanship of the regional body based in Suva, said there was a huge amount of white space in the Pacific that is being missed by other regional players which the PIDF must step in to fill.

Speaking at the Plenary Session on PIDF Governance and Institu-

tional Issues in Nadi yesterday, Prime Minister Bainimarama said issues such as the empowerment of women, young people and those living with disabilities; building up our regional tourism market; and combatting flows of drugs through Pacific waters are challenges Pacific islanders are demanding their leaders to address.

“At the moment, I'm concerned that Pacific Island countries are suffering from an insistence on implementing one-size-fits-all development approaches.”

“We're not doing a good enough of job of listening and learning

from each other's experiences. And we're certainly not doing a good job at actually putting forward innovative solutions ourselves,” he said.

Addressing leaders from member states including Nauru President Baron Waqa, Prime Minister Bainimarama said the PIDF needs to become a space where it's safe to put forward ambitious plans of action.

“At the moment, it too often seems as if we're all trying to bend the world's experiences to our own realities on the ground. But we must recognise: We are not the rest of the world.”

Furthermore, Prime Minister Bainimarama said there was a need to do a better job of leveraging the Pacific's own ingenuity and own experiences in formulating uniquely Pacific policy solutions.

“That is what real leadership entails. That is what this Forum must facilitate and empower its membership to achieve.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama also announced that Fijian diplomat, Solo Mara, will be succeeding outgoing secretary-general of PIDF, Francois Martel whom he thanked for strengthening the forum.



Rural community, chief praise Government support

AZARIA FAREEN

SCHOOL heads at Nailuva District School in Rakiraki were urged to fully utilise valuable resources which assists children not only to read and write, but to understand English to their full potential.

In receiving 40 packs of bags and stationery for the Early Childhood Education students in the district, Nailuva Village chief Ratu Daniele Saratia thanked Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar for being the first line minister to visit the village.

“Nailuva is in the boarder of Ra province, Ba and Naitasiri and it is always a hearty day and time in meeting new faces taking into consideration our remote school location,” Chief Seratia said.

“We have children from the nearby five villages attending this school and the contribution today from the honorable minister will greatly assist our children in their learning process.”

The ministry has partnered with char-

ity organization Vision Fiji for it’s “READ to LEAD Fiji” project which is a reading program aimed at raising the level of literacy in schools. Speaking during a talanoa session with the community members, Minister Akbar stressed on the teaching of conversational languages in schools to promote peace and unity in the country.

“When your children come to school and enter their classrooms they bring with them the values and discipline they have learned at home so teach them the best,” Minister Akbar said.

She highlighted that by 2020, all primary schools in Fiji should have relevant copies of books that are designed to teach English to students who speak other languages.

“Indeed these books are beautiful, fun, colorful, well researched, fiction/non-fiction, color coded and graded by its reading level or age and the exercises at each levels are loaded into FEMIS for students to access,” she added.



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar with Nailuva villagers in Ra. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Grant aids export packaging firm

PRASHILA DEVI

A SMALL agriculture based business will soon be able to comply with international standards and expand its export market after being awarded the National Export Strategy (NES), grant to buy new machinery.

Zonah United’s managing director, Naheeda Maqbool, the grant of over \$85,879 will enable her to acquire new machinery and hire permanent staff as she was previously only using casual staff.

The passionate entrepreneur, who is from Suva and still in her 20’s, began her business back in 2012 armed with a Bachelor in Commerce (BCom) degree and support from her family.

Today, Ms Maqbool’s company exports certain spices overseas and with the installation of the new machines she hopes to employ women in positions that are normally set aside for men.

“It’s been in our environment that certain jobs have just been men oriented and we want to change that, from loaders to truck drivers, staff in the factory, we want to it ladies.”

“Why can’t rural women do that? Behind our companies vision is women empowerment,” she said.

Ms Maqbool, explaining her cur-



Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Premila Kumar hands over the National Export Strategy grant to buy new machinery staff of Zonah United. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

rent operations, said Zonah United does its own small scale processing but to meet the basic international standard it will need the machinery so now they will be doing their own packaging, grinding and filling for “retail package of agricultural products that is going onto the shelves in markets overseas”.

Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Premila Kumar, as she handed over the NES to five local companies, said the assistance will be used solely for the upgrading of infrastructure, procurement of value adding machines, equipment and addressing storage problems.

“In addition, the grants will also enable the respective companies to reach out to grass root communities and villages who may have

goods, but have no market access because of transportation problems,” Minister Kumar said.

Ms Maqbool also has some advice for young Fijians.

“The thing with business, when they say you just need to have an idea and need to just work towards it- I would say you need the idea and the cash. In Fiji, for start-ups it’s not that easy to get funding so you need to know if you have the capability to take the risk to put down whatever you have earned into the business- whether it is going to be a failure or a success, you have to be ready for that. If you are ready for that, go for it but also, if you have family support, then well and good.”

Another sobering fact is, she ex-

plained, is that you don’t start seeing profits overnight.

“On your returns, when people say that they can recoup their investments overnight, it’s actually not true as far as my experience goes. In business, when I got into it I knew I won’t see the profits in three to five years. You need at least three years to establish yourself, you need to roll, you need to come across your expenses, you need to work towards it and this is where the rolling skill comes in, how you utilise the funds.”

On the assistance, she was advised by Investment Fiji and other Government officials on the availability of the facility.

Minister Kumar said as an ongoing exercise, the Ministry con-

ducted an impact assessment of 46 companies that were supported since 2015.

She said the assessment revealed that majority of the grant given to these companies, were well utilized.

“This is an indication that firms have been implementing their projects in a timely manner, thus the positive outcome. The export sales for the firms before being assisted was \$42.4 million. The export sales after being assisted by the Ministry increased to \$79.6 million.”

The other companies assisted were Bula Batiki Association, Civa (Fiji) Pearls Ltd, Paper Source South Pacific (PTE) Ltd and Tropical Aquarium Fish (Fiji).



Ministry works on health facilities upgrade

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services will focus on upgrading and modernising the services that is being offered at all health facilities.

Major upgrades at the various sub-divisional hospitals are underway as the ministry focuses on completing 2018/2019 capital projects.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete explained that some of these works will take time to complete while others are almost completed.

“Nakasi Health Centre has been completed and is working well serving the Northern Nasinu population. We are keen to separate Nasinu as sub-divisional hospital. So currently we have Suva sub-division which includes Lami Health Centre, Samabula, Raiwaqa, Tamavua and Nuffield Clinic, Valelevu and Makoi.”

“In the next financial year, we are looking at separating Nakasi health centre, Valelevu and Makoi. In the 2019/2020 we have an allocation to do consultancy that will see Valelevu as a separate sub-division hospital, we will have 30 beds and there is money allocated.”

Minister Waqainabete adds that these projects will take the ministry three to four years to complete. “One of the reasons we stagger the projects because we cannot close these hospitals, we need to continue with providing services.

“Hospital level buildings requires a special skill that is not available in abundance in Fiji and if I were to compare it, hospital buildings are like building hotels. As opposed to building houses that may have different costs from building five star hotels.”

“Hospitals need to have that special expertise with infection control, air conditioning and ensuring safety and this is why these projects need to be staggered and I think that needs to be factored in.”

Meanwhile, the Korovou Sub-division Hospital will undergo upgrade works that will be serving 25,000 from Rewa subdivision by realigning towards the Korovou Bridge.

“There has been funds set aside to undertake this work. We have also extended and renovated, Sawakasa taking into consideration the Lodon health centre which has been renovated and completed.

Minister Waqainabete adds that Rotuma Hospital is almost complete with an additional \$150,000 being pumped in by the Ministry of Economy for the purchasing of equipment.

Dialysis centre set to open next month

NANISE NEIMILA

KIDNEY treatment will be more cost effective and convenient for all Fijians once the new dialysis centre in Nadera becomes operational by next month.

As part of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services capital projects 2018/2019, the \$2million project will have a state-of-the-art equipment and specialised and skilled professionals.

The clinic is set to provide more than just services as it will also deliver cost effective treatment for those suffering from kidney diseases.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete said the ministry was tasked with achieving the Government’s vision of a more modern and affordable Fijian healthcare system. “The equipment will be arrive into the country by next month and normal operations should be-

gin, however, the delay is with the equipment as we need specialised people to setup these machines.”

“Kidney treatment for many Fijians has been costly but through this initiative the Government is not only subsidizing costs but also making the services accessible to all Fijians.”

Minister Waqainabete highlighted that normal dialysis treatment will cost a patient at least \$300 per session, however, the Government’s subsidized cost at \$75

per session will be more affordable for Fijians.

“While Government is putting extensive resources behind upgrading the nation’s healthcare network, it remains dedicated to keeping the out of pocket costs of healthcare borne by ordinary Fijians.”

“As we focus on improving health facilities around the country, we are urging Fijians to look after their health and to avoid contracting such renal diseases.”

\$3m renovation works for North hospital



Trainee nursing practitioner Joape Tuwai (left) with Nabouwalu Sub-divisional Hospital nurse manager George Dyer in front of the Nabouwalu Hospital. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

NANISE NEIMILA

THE newly-renovated \$3 million Nabouwalu Hospital that is expected to be completed later in the year will ensure that people of Vanua Levu access proper health facilities.

Established in 1993, the sub-divisional hospital has previously undergone minor maintenance and after 25 years then it will be renovated with state-of-art facilities ready to cater for the population in Vanua Levu.

According to the Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr. Ifereimi Waqainabete this facility will be able to accommodate the 20,000 Fijians living in the greater Bua area.

“Ensuring that Fijians access proper health facility is based on providing Universal Health Coverage on the tip of Vanua Levu with a lot of traffic coming in from Natovi to Nabou-

walu including the roll-on and roll off jetty.”

“Also considering the tourism industry in this area plus the agricultural activity being undertaken from the south of Macuata and Bua.”

Nabouwalu is the sub-divisional hub for Bua, which covers the western portion of Vanua Levu and four small outer islands.

Minister Waqainabete adds that this hospital should cater for the population and the traffic from Viti Levu coming through on a daily basis.

“We are also prioritising the construction of staff accommodation the renovation of the Nabouwalu hospital considering the fact that 67 per cent of our staff are female and we need to ensure they have access to proper and safe accommodation. I have visited the hospital on three occasions and work has been progressing well. Our evaluation and monitoring team have also been to the site accompanied by the team from the Ministry of Economy.”

Minister Waqainabete adds that one of the important factors to consider is the high costs of undertaking constructions away from the cities and towns.

“We need to consider the cost of materials, hiring special skilled contractors that are capable to undertake this major projects. The Government through the Ministry of Health and Medical Services has been able to absorb these costs and is very keen on ensuring that facilities are standardized to look after the people of Vanua Levu.”

Minister Waqainabete also reiterated that the renovations will include the renovation of the new look theatres which staff from Labasa will be utilising on a monthly basis.

“People in Nabouwalu will no longer have to travel to Labasa to undergo surgeries, however, the facility will be able to provide these services.”



Fiji part of Pacific Expo

FIJI has capitalised on opportunities at the Pacific Exposition 2019 in Auckland with the presence of over 100 companies and 400 invitees for one of New Zealand's largest ever corporate events.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs permanent secretary Ioane Naivalurua led the Fijian delegation and joined other dignitaries from Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and seven Pacific Island countries during the opening ceremony held at the Sky-city Convention Centre in downtown Auckland recently.

Mr Naivalurua emphasised on the importance of the exhibition as the platform to display "Made in Fiji" products at the Pacific Exposition.

The exhibition was set up by staff of the Fiji High Commission in Wellington, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and the Fiji Trade Commission in Auckland.

He said that such events enabled the Fijian Government to position itself as an important stakeholder in exploring untapped potential with



Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ioane Naivalurua at the Pacific Exposition 2019 in Auckland, New Zealand. Photo: SUPPLIED

the Indonesian market.

The expo was held from 12-14 July, 2019 and it offered cultural programmes and business meeting opportunities, presenting the diversity of the Indonesian and Pacific

economic and cultural landscape.

Indonesian Ambassador to New Zealand, Tantowi Yahya, stressed on the importance of engaging the Pacific and promoting opportunities for trade and tourism.

Ambassador Yahya has been instrumental in bringing the event to Auckland with the assistance of the New Zealand and Australian Governments.

-MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Fijian and Australian officials including Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia, Luke Daunivalu, (fifth from left), after a series of meetings in Victoria, Australia. Photo: SUPPLIED

Suva eyes stronger ties with Canberra

A RECENT visit by the Fijian High Commissioner to Australia, Luke Daunivalu, to the Australian State of Victoria has led to strengthened engagement.

Furthermore, it has helped the Fijian diaspora in promoting trade, investment and development opportunities in Fiji for Australian businesses.

During his visit, Mr Daunivalu led a Fijian delegation where they attended a series of meetings with the Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau, Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp, the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade, Martin Pakula, and many other prominent officials.

Key areas of collaboration identified between Fiji and Victoria included the sharing of information and knowledge transfer in smart cities, sports technologies, emergency services, climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as water management.

The visit brought to the fore existing established relationships between several Melbourne-based companies and Fiji with opportunities for expansion.

The Fiji mission together with the Fiji Trade Commission jointly organised a business networking event in Melbourne where Mr Dauni-

valu provided a political and economic update on Fiji and encouraged Australian businesses to consider Fiji as their next investment destination.

Robert Cromb, Managing Director of Kookai, a global brand name in women's fashion wear, shared a private sector perspective on investing in Fiji and provided an inspirational first-hand account of the multilayered returns and benefits to Fiji's economy over the years.

Participants at the networking event included senators, federal and Victorian State Parliamentarians, Victoria Chamber of Commerce, government officials, business people, and members of the Fijian diaspora.

With the support of Sydney-based staff from Fiji's Consul-General and Trade Commission to Australia, consular services were provided to the diaspora community in Melbourne during the two-day programme.

It is evident that many promising opportunities exists for strengthening cooperation between Fiji, the State of Victoria and Australia as a whole, which the Fiji High Commission and Fiji Trade Commission will progressively pursue in the coming months.

-MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia, Luke Daunivalu, with the Mayor of Melbourne, Sally Capp. Photo: SUPPLIED

New Delhi looks to shore up relations

ISAAC LAL

THE Indian Government and the people of India will continue to stand by Fiji on all fronts.

This was the assurance by Indian High Commission in Fiji's head of chancery, Sukanta Sahoo while addressing students of Penang Sangam College and Penang Sangam Primary School in Rakiraki at the re-opening of the schools.

The rebuilding of the two schools which were severely damaged by TC Winston in 2016 was funded by the Indian Government through the 'Adopt a School' programme of the Fijian Government.

"Fiji and India share a very close relationship and it is not only about the many similarities that we share as two countries, but it is more than that," he said.

"India values its relationship with Fiji and we will continue to foster stronger relations in technology, education, defense, agriculture, sugar and others wherever we can."

Mr Sahoo added that Fiji was a global leader on many fronts and India learns from Fiji.

"Whether it is peacekeeping, climate change, renewable energy or education, we will continue to work closely with the Fijian Government."

The total costs of rebuilding the two schools was \$3.2million, such was the ferocity of TC Winston.

The Indian Government adopted Dawasamu Secondary School, Gaunavou Primary School, Kocoma Primary School, Koronubu Sanatan School, Nakauvadra High School, Naviti District School, Navunisea District School, Nukuloa College, Nukuloa Sanatan Dham School, Penang Sangam High School, Penang Sangam Primary School, Rakiraki Public School, Ratu Apenisa Memorial, Sarava SD School, Shastri Memorial School, Somolevu Catholic School, Vunidawa SD Primary School, Vunisamaloa Sangam School, Wainibuka District Primary School, Wainibuka Junior Secondary School.

Of the 20 schools adopted by the Indian Government, 14 have been completely rebuilt, construction work in five schools are nearing completion while one school is under a re – tender evaluation process.

Fiji targets greenhouse emissions from ships

FELIX LESINAIVALU

FIJI has embarked on positive initiatives by championing the way forward for collaborations to reduce greenhouse gas from ships.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Jone Usamate at the welcoming ceremony of the Secretary-General for the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Kitack Lim at the Fiji Maritime Academy in Suva recently.

“In our efforts to meet the target obligations under the Paris Agreement of holding a global temperature well below 2°C, the Fijian Government has introduced a number of national policies and strategies to address the issue of greenhouse gas,” Minister Usamate said.

“Fiji’s Presidency of the COP23 has also been significant for the Pacific in driving the plans for a low carbon maritime transport sector.”

Minister Usamate said similar strategies has been taken by the IMO in the adoption of its greenhouse gas emissions from ships and setting out a vision to phase out emissions from shipping in this century.

“The approach of Fiji ports on energy management is also a perfect example of the possible immediate actions to transition towards greener ports in the Pacific.”

“These efforts are very important for Fiji and other Pacific Island countries as our future depends on adapting and mitigating the impact of



Secretary-General for the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Kitack Lim plants a tree at the Fiji Maritime Academy. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

climate change.”

Mr Lim said that the main threat to the Pacific was climate change and that after high level collaborations the IMO adopted a first comprehensive and initial strategy on how to tackle

climate change issues, which began in April last year.

“Now we are working on what kind of action plan should be taken on the initial strategies,” he said.



Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Forestry Pene Baleinabuli (sitting second from left) with religious leaders during the REDD+ Environmental Stewardship Inter-Faith Based Organisation Leaders Forum at the Pacific Regional Seminary in Suva. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Communities work to reduce carbon emissions

FELIX LESINAIVALU

COMMUNITIES have come together for the emissions reduction target to achieve a reduction of 2.5 million tons of carbon-dioxide over the next five years with the assistance of the Ministry for Forests.

Fiji Emalu REDD+ site community representative Ilaitia Leitabu said one of the best ways to create awareness within the community was to highlight how reforestation can benefit the village financially.

REDD+ is reducing emissions from deforestation and forest deg-

radation in developing countries.

“Activities such as the nursery for trees built by the Ministry for Forests helps the villages to raise seedlings and prepare the plants for potting to be used for reforestation, brings income for the family,” Mr Leitabu said.

He said besides the family income that is generated the village aims to increase the forest cover towards the rivers and creeks.

“When you plant trees or don’t cut them down, you will notice river waters are clean, but when you do soil starts to go into the river or

creeks which makes it dirty.”

“The villages around the area have to look out for how they farm, instead of clearing trees to make room for new agriculture plots there are already designated plots and land that is used for farming.”

Ministry’s permanent secretary, Pene Baleinabuli, said the Ministry aims to plant at least a million trees every year for the next four years.

While speaking at the REDD+ Environmental Stewardship Inter-Faith Based Organization Leaders Awareness Forum at Pacific Regional Seminary in Suva, Mr

Baleinabuli said part of the four millions trees plan was to get the communities involved and actively engage with them.

“The Ministry of Forests wants to establish nurseries around the country where we will invite members of the community to look after them.”

He said that the Ministry will build the nurseries and will also train the people to look after them.

“When the seedlings are ready, the Ministry will purchase those seedlings which would become a form of economic activity,” he said.

International Seabed Authority marks 25th year

“FIJI along with other countries looks to the wealth and resources of the oceans and the blue economy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.”

Attending the 25th anniversary of the United Nations International Seabed Authority (ISA) held at the ISA headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica, Fiji’s Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, Ambassador Dr Satyendra Prasad said, “Fiji seeks to build its prosperity by harnessing the vast resources of its oceans - we need to work with the ISA and the UN system to do this right”.

Ambassador Prasad is the non-resident Ambassador to Jamaica and Permanent Representative accredited to ISA and he attended the meeting on behalf of Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

He co-chaired a high level panel on “strengthening capacity-building opportunities and initiatives for developing states” alongside the President of Nauru, Baron Waqa.

Ambassador Prasad told the assembly that, “Finding the right balance between development and conservation, between growth and sustainability is fundamental to Fiji and to the future of the region as a whole”.

He said Fiji had a special relationship with the ISA as it had led the complex negotiations throughout the 1970’s that led to the adoption of the law of the sea on behalf of Pacific Island Countries at a time when the Pacific was not well represented at the UN.

The adoption of the UN Convention Law of Sea was a monumental step for Fiji and Pacific Island countries.

As a result of the adoption of this historic convention, Pacific Island countries were able to gain control over fish and sea bed resources across their respective 200 mile zones.

Ambassador Prasad told the Assembly that Fiji will support ISA in every way possible over the next 25 years and when it re-assembles to celebrate the 50th Anniversary, several significant international currents will come together.

-news@govnet.gov.fj



Minister's reading launch an instant hit on TV

The Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa, was an instant hit on television when she read the popular 'The Tortoise and the Hare' fable to young patients. She was officiating at the Fiji TV Get Set programme - Video Readings. The reading session was held in the colourful Ronald

McDonald Room at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva. The Ronald McDonald Room is intended for parents and families to use while their children are admitted at the CWM Hospital for treatment.

Photos: EMI KOROITANOVA



Govt, private sector work to support children with special abilities

Minister for Women, Children, Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa has applauded the efforts and contributions of the private sector to respond to the needs of children with special needs.

Speaking at the Amazing Frank Hilton Wheelbarrow Race 2019 held at Albert Park recently, Minister Vuniwaqa said the Government and the private sector would work together and would not leave any stone unturned to support

such a noble cause.

Albert Park was a sea of colours as various organisations took part in Frank Hilton Organisation's biggest fundraiser. Photos: HALITESH DATT



Dance performance reflects diversity

Performers from several schools who took part in the Fiji Link Dance Competition have been encouraged to embrace unity in Fiji.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while officiating at the event, praised the various dance performances displayed by the various secondary schools, saying they reflected Fiji's richness in diversity.

Marist Brother's High school are the new champions of the competition, scooping the Best Dance Group awards with Korovuto College in second place and Rishikul Sanatan College finishing third. A total of 19 secondary schools from around the country participated at the event.

Photos: EMI KOROITANOVA





While it has taken more than two years to rebuild close to 250 schools damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, Government is ensuring that these schools are built to withstand cyclones of similar strength to TC Winston which was a Category 5 – the highest in the scale of cyclone measurements. **PICTURED:** Minister for Education Rosy Akbar with students of Penang Sangam Primary after the reopening of the school. **Photo:** ISAAC LAL

Ministry decentralises decision making

ISAAC LAL

IN efforts to fast track assistance to Fijian farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture will from the next financial year decentralise its financial processes to the four divisions.

The ministry's permanent secretary David Kolitagane explained that it was prudent that for the Government's efforts towards a thriving agricultural sector, its incentives are fast tracked to ensure that farmers are assisted quicker.

"We want to create an efficient structure that can help us deliver a better quality of service on a timelier basis," he said.

"We are going to decentralize our financial processes, making procurement of goods and services timelier too. We will decentralize our human resources processes to make sure our divisions recruit on time to substantially improve extension services."

The agriculture ministry over the past years has not changed its organisational structures despite the increasing allocations for the ministry over the years.

"We have a strategic view of how the Ministry will be reshaped. Restructuring is necessary for us to enhance our business functions, work practices and improve services to all our key stakeholders, farmers and the Fijian people who use and depend on our services and our staff," Mr Kolitagane said.

"Our organization structure has not been revised for over two decades and has not changed despite the increasing budget of the Ministry and reforms in the sector."

The ministry has recruited an organisational restructure specialist who is assisting the management team develop a structure that would reflect this.

A farmer in Nadi, Kuar Singh, welcomed the decision saying it was a major win for farmers who would benefit from the move.

"This announcement from the agriculture ministry is welcomed and decentralising financial processes to the division would allow farmers a quicker turnaround of decision thus allowing them to further concentrate on their produce," Mr Singh said.

"The current structure is too time consuming and I thank the Government for its foresight in implementing its incentives which would now be fast tracked to farmers around the country especially in rural areas."

Govt, Australia praised for school rehabilitation

ISAAC LAL

THE Nasesevia school community has praised the Government for the 'Build Back Better' programme after witnessing first-hand the new building standard of its school which was severely affected by TC Winston in 2016.

This was conveyed to the Minister for Education, Rosy Akbar, and the Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, John Feakes during the full traditional iTaukei ceremony which was accorded to them during the opening of the two new buildings.

A member of the community, Alekula Seniceva, said the people of Nasesevia were grateful that despite the challenges, the Government continued to show its resilience in its implementation of the rebuilding programme.

gramme.

Mr Seniceva made the comments at the opening of two teachers' quarters at Nasesevia Secondary and its sisters primary school – Buruwa Youth Memorial Primary School.

"I must admit that at times the villagers have questioned the rebuilding of the schools after TC Winston, however, we are grateful today that the two quarters we see have been made to the highest building standards," he said.

"The community thanks Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama for his vision to ensure that our schools are built to the highest standards. We also thank the Australian Government who have partnered with its Fijian counterparts to complete the strongest buildings in Nasesevia."

The two quarters which are valued at

\$90,000 were opened recently by the Minister Akbar and Mr Feakes.

Minister Akbar thanked the Australian Government for its continued support towards the rebuilding of schools after TC Winston.

She added that the bilateral relations between the two countries remained strong.

"Australia and Fiji share a strong and enduring bilateral relationship. Australia's support to Fiji's education sector is implemented in close collaboration between the Ministry of Education, Australian Government's department of foreign affairs and the education programme."

Six schools including Nasesevia secondary and Buruwa Primary which were funded by the Australian Government through the Fijian Government's 'Adopt A School' programme have been completed.

School rebuilding to run into 2020

ISAAC LAL

GOVERNMENT will continue to rebuild schools in the 2019-2020 financial year in efforts to build back better, says Minister for Education Rosy Akbar.

Minister Akbar added that while it has taken over two years in rebuilding close to the 250 schools that were damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, Government was ensuring that these schools are built to withstand cyclones of similar strength to TC Winston which was a Category 5 – the highest in the scale of cyclone measurements.

"To date, over \$240m has been spent by the Government for rehabilitation works in our schools with over 400 new buildings



Minister for Education Rosy Akbar with a student of Penang Sangam Primary after the reopening. **Photo:** ISAAC LAL

constructed and 1,350 buildings upgraded," she said.

"The Fijian Government does not want to just rebuild schools but we want to build back better to elevate and heighten building standards to resist severe tropical cyclones in future."

In the 2019-2020 national budget, the Government has set aside \$35 million to complete the rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools affected by TC Winston, TC Keni, TC Josie and TC

Gita.

"I would also like to acknowledge the kind support of overseas donor countries, international and regional organizations, charitable organizations, local groups and agencies, parents, teachers, children, heads of schools and other individuals and organizations for their tremendous support in raising funds and adopting schools under the Government's rehabilitation programme."

The Ministry of Education, she

said, was also taking a proactive approach in ensuring that the sector was more disaster prepared.

"The ministry is strengthening its capacity to improve disaster preparedness and response strategies by reviewing School Maintenance Handbook, reviewing of the Education in Emergency (EiE) policy and adoption of the Build Back Better principle for all future construction," Minister Akbar added.

400 stalls set for market project

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE new Savusavu Market will encompass a total of 400 stalls which is an increase by 20 per cent when compared to the old structure.

This was highlighted in a report presented to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar, by the Savusavu Town Council during their meeting recently.

“The single storey steel structure building is designed to withstand a Category Five Tropical Cyclone.

“The new market is to replace the old wooden structure which was very susceptible to cyclones,” the report stated. “The building will cover a floor area of approximately 700 square meters and to accommodate about 400 stalls which is an increase of 20 percent.”

Speaking on the margins of the meeting, Minister Kumar said if weather permits they hoped to complete construction by March next year.

“At the moment, the vendors are operating from a make-shift building which is currently the Savusavu Market. I am very pleased because the vendors were happy with the arrangement, none of them complained, and it is in our interest to make sure that the building gets completed within the timeframe,” she said.

“The expected time is March next year but we also need to take into account the weather. We have a lead consultant and a supervisor on the site, they are recording the day it is raining, the days it is not raining and when the contractor comes up with the extension of time, this will all be taken into consideration.

“I am definitely mindful of the cyclone month in November and it would be really good if it gets completed earlier than that.”

While addressing the Savusavu Town Council staff, Minister Kumar said the municipal council staff need to be more proactive with the work that they do to ensure that the projects they carry out were done in a timely and proper fashion.

The project is funded by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, (UN Women), and Ministry of Local Government.

A total of \$1.1 million has been allocated towards the construction of the structure alone

Villagers enjoy 24-hour electricity

JOSAIA RALAGO

WE can now wash our clothes in the washing machine just like those living in the urban areas.”

These were the first words of a thrilled Aisea Rabitukoli of Bua, Lomanikoro, after his community received electricity.

“Years of dreaming and running around for our solar electricity has finally eventuated and it is something that we still deem as too good to be true,” Mr Rabitukoli said.

The former village headman said they were excited to hear from the Government that they would just

have to apply to get the solar systems.

“For years we used lanterns, then we started using the village generator provided by Government. However, even then there were disruptions because the engine would need fixing,” Mr Rabitukoli said.

“The solar systems that we started using by September last year has been consistent, free and sustainable,” he said.

Mr Rabitukoli said the villagers could now install electrical appliances in their homes like televisions sets, electrical fans and washing machines, which were once just a dream.



Aisea Rabitukoli inside one of the houses in the village, which now has electrical appliances. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

“Members of our community do not need to waste time on hand-washing clothes but instead focus their efforts towards other economic activity that would help uplift their livelihood like mat weaving from pandanus leaves and kuta reeds, fan making and many others.

“The solar lights allow them to weave even late into the night. This has caused an increase in the economic activity in the village.”

A total of 43 homes now have access to 24-hour electricity in Bua,

Lomanikoro.

Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport’s director Energy Mikele Belena said one of the main target of the Government was to have a 100 per cent access to electricity by 2021 and Solar Home System (SHS) projects were one of the form of electricity source implemented by Government for rural areas that do not have access to Electricity Fiji Limited grid.

“Government has installed more than 12,000 projects in all rural areas all over Fiji,” Mr Belena said.



Construction work underway at Nabouwalu Town. INSET: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar with Permanent Secretary for Local Government Dimity Fife at Nabouwalu Town. Photos: JOSAIA RALAGO

Work starts for North township

JOSAIA RALAGO

WORK has commenced on the much-awaited Nabouwalu Town which is expected to cater for the wider Bua area.

In her recent visit to the town development site, the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar said they had big plans for the town, one which included better facilities for boat travellers who get on or get off at the Nabouwalu Jetty.

Minister Kumar said Nabouwalu

was very important because of the economic potential it has.

“They have started developing the land, so they are in the construction phase. The scheme plans were done, the consultants are working with the developer and obviously the idea is to develop the satellite town because Nabouwalu is very important from an economic point of view,” she said.

It is understood that the land being developed will be subdivided into 44 commercial lots.

Minister Kumar said there were some changes that they needed to

include in the plan which encompassed proper facilities for boat passengers who pass through the satellite town. She said it had been brought to her attention that there was no proper place for boat passengers to sit so they were usually left to crowd the jetty.

“This is where most of the ships berth, and there are a lot of inter-island shipping passengers who come to Nabouwalu. From what I know, on a given day there are about 1000 passengers who get off and get on from Nabouwalu, and unfortunately when you look

at Nabouwalu we cannot offer much to the passengers,” Minister Kumar said.

“Particularly when there is a delay for the ship to leave, and because of the delay, the passengers are just walking around, there is no proper shelter, toilet facility, no proper eatery, so the intention is to develop all these facilities, so it is more convenient for the travelling passengers.”

The current population of Nabouwalu is 2000 with expectation for it to increase once the town is constructed.



Japanese passengers of The Peace Boat with Fijian youths after a clean-up campaign at Lomolomo Beach in Lautoka. Photo: SUPPLIED

Environment tops Peace Boat youths' priority

A JAPANESE boat that docked in Fiji recently, not only brought with it the important message of peace but also took part in an equally significant activity- keeping the environment clean.

Earlier this month, the Ministry of Youth and Sports welcomed 100 Japanese passengers from The Peace Boat to Fiji for a day-long programme focused on climate change and cultural exchange with Fijian youth.

This was the first time in 10 years that The Peace Boat, an international non-governmental organisation, based in Japan that takes peace ambassadors on a voyage around the world, had docked in Fiji.

Ministry permanent secretary Jone Nemani said the boat visit and its programmes strengthened the global consensus for action and by doing so, built a grand coalition for momentum—an informal coalition of young people at all levels, the private sector, community groups, NGOs, scientific institutions and others.

"This visit and its programme also aligns to the Ministry of Youth and Sport's new strategic direction and Fiji's National Development Plan's and Strategic Development Goals. Moreover it supports and enhances our commitment to the 2030 global sustainable development agenda," Mr Nemani told the youths at Lomolomo Beach.

"In the South Pacific region, Fiji has been taking a leading role in engaging with the SDGs. I am grateful that the 'Peace Boat' is a dedicated campaigner for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," he adds.

Students from the University of South Pacific – Lautoka Campus attended the event, in addition to students from Fiji National University, Tilak High School, Lautoka Andhra Sangam College, Lautoka Scouts Association and local youth groups in Lautoka.

The Ministry kicked off the day with a beach clean-up at Lomolomo Beach where Fijian and Japanese youth worked together to clean up the environment.

Lautoka youth Timaleti Vakamata said that communicating with the Japanese vis-

itors was an amazing experience and cleaning up the beach motivated her to spread the word about climate change.

"After today we have to go out to people and tell them how important it is to keep our environment clean," Ms Vakamata said. "We are going to suffer from climate change."

After the beach clean-up, the guests and Fijian youth travelled to Saint Thomas Primary School for a traditional Fijian meal and cultural exchange.

Many of the Japanese visitors enjoyed eating cassava, Fijian lovo and rourou for the first time.

"Fijians are such vibrant people and I can see positivity and joy coming from within and I really like that," said Shuhei Tashira, Japanese to English interpreter for The Peace Boat.

"Everyone is really friendly and enjoying their time here and this exchange with us."

Japanese passengers on The Peace Boat have been traveling around the world all summer and will conclude their travels at the end of August. So far, they've docked at the United States of America, Egypt, Australia and a dozen other countries around the world.

But for Mr Tashira, the happiness of Fijians stands out among other cultures.

"I was having a conversation with a Japanese man who has been living in Fiji for the past 14 years and we were having a conversation about happiness. He and I agree that there is a certain level of happiness here in Fiji," he said.

The Peace Boat donated sports equipment to the Ministry, which will be distributed to local youth groups throughout the Western Division.

Ro Ponipate, a student at USP-Lautoka Campus, learned a lot from the Japanese visitors and is hopeful that the programme



A Japanese youth performs a traditional Japanese dance called 'Yosakoi' at Saint Thomas Primary School in Lautoka.

Photo: SUPPLIED

will continue so that future generations are afforded this opportunity.

"It's important to get to know each other more and learn about other cultures and the similarities that we share," he said.

"Today was an amazing day; how we all came together to learn more about sustainable goals and how to work towards them was really meaningful."

Mr Tashira also believes that the visit was only the first step to building lasting relationships between Japanese and Fijian youth.

"For a lot of people this is their first time having this kind of exchange with either Japanese or Fijian people," he said.

"This will bring a spark within them when it comes to learning about different cultures and learning about themselves through a different culture. And those sparks will be the seeds for some great action for a better society and better relationships between people and cultures."

-MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS

Special Sneha is no ordinary girl



Sneha Singh (front) with her mother, Roshni Lata (right) and sister Rajmita Singh (left). Photo: HALITESH DATT

HALITESH DATT

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Sneha Singh is not just an ordinary girl.

She is her mother's 'heartbeat', her sisters' favorite sibling, a girl with so many aspirations, a child with a will so strong and one who is an inspiration to many.

Sneha has defied the odds since birth. She was born with a condition that impaired her backbone and affected the growth of her legs that made everyone doubt her ability to move around independently as she grew up.

However, she rose up against those odds as she keeps herself mobile by using her palms.

Looking back from the day Sneha was born, her mother, Roshni Lata, 47, is always ensuring she gets the best of everything.

"She is our heartbeat! She makes our life lively and keeps us going. She lights up my world. She is the reason I live every day," soft spoken Ms Lata explained when asked how special Sneha is to the family.

"Being a single parent, it has been a challenge. Sneha has high demands. She gets her monthly social welfare allowances."

Sneha is energetic, ambitious and intelligent. She keeps herself up to date with latest fashion trends with her favorite Indian wear and jewellery.

Her favorite subjects are Mathematics and English.

"She is a very smart girl especially with technology. She is a very brilliant student too," Ms Lata said.

"She competes with her sister who is a second year law student. She wants to be a detective, recently she is also saying that she wants to be a scientist. Whatever she wants to become, I will always support her."

One may also find it hard to believe that Sneha is a very good dancer and a table tennis player.

"She is an inspiration to many. If people say they can't do it, they should just see Sneha. They should see her dancing. Sneha has the energy to be awake for 15 hours. She loves to contribute towards household chores," Ms Lata said.

"They are the special members of our society who don't need money only. They need your time, your love and above all, they need you to accept them in the society," Ms Lata said.

While Sneha's family has sought every possible medical intervention, any operation could prove to be life threatening for her.

Sneha is multilingual as she speaks English, iTaukei and Hindi fluently. She has broken so many barriers since birth and continues to do so. She is just a normal child with special abilities.



Land ‘is an ATM in waiting’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

THE land is like an automated teller machine (ATM) and when you farm it you can withdraw money from it.

These are the sentiments of farmer Ravindra Goundar of Rakiraki.

Mr Goundar is a vegetable farmer and, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, a successful one after years of farming vegetable and supplying his produce to the main centres in Lautoka and Rakiraki.

His story is one of humility as he used to rent a house at the back of Rakiraki town and started his own backyard vegetable gardening to assist in paying his rent for seven years.

“I had been working overseas and returned to Fiji after many years of trying to make a living working in another person’s farm, but I can say

that Fiji is a beautiful country and it has got rich land,” he said while reminiscing about his days in New Zealand.

“I used to get \$100 a day working there but here I can make \$100 one morning selling 10 heaps to dhania (coriander) to a market vendor in Lautoka and that is how simple it is.”

“I plant lettuce, cucumber, okra, tomatoes, cabbage and other cash crops and make over more than what I used to get overseas,” he said.

“Today I am able to lease this 15 acre land and also build my two houses and one house for the head of the mataqali land which I am leasing.”

Mr Goundar extends his appreciation to the Government of the day for assisting the farmers and Fijians by uplifting their livelihood.



Ravindra Goundar at his farm in Rakiraki. Photo: VILIAME TIKOTANI



Torika Nasau at her farm in Burelevu, Ra. Photo: VILIAME TIKOTANI

Women are ‘good helpers, good farmers’

VILIAME TIKOTANI

WOMEN are not only good helpers to their husbands but are equally good in farming the land, says Torika Nasau of Burelevu in Ra.

Mrs Nasau, who is in her early sixties, is a vegetable farmer alongside her husband. She has made good use of their mataqali land planting vegetables, tomatoes, cucumber, lettuce, eggplant, pawpaw and pineapples.

The land which she has been toiling for the past 10 years was formerly a sugarcane farm and because of the changes and difficulties within the sugar sector, they had decided to switch to vegetable farming.

“I also reap a good harvest and also a good amount of financial return because these vegetables are good cash crops and are always in

demand in the market,” Mrs Nasau said.

“I have been doing this for the past 10 years and it has helped my family financially.”

Mrs Nasau is one of the successful agriculture farmers within the province of Ra and has been identified by the Ministry of Agriculture which had assisted her with machines and also manure and seedlings.

“I am thankful to Government for reaching out to the farmers and assisting them with new technology,” she said.

“I also wish to extend my appreciation to them for assisting in setting markets for our crops.”

Mrs Nasau said women should not only limit themselves within their home and should branch out into farming if they have land.

“In town and urban areas, life is very expensive and I have experienced it for myself and my family. I have five children and my husband and I spent seven years in Lautoka working and we found it hard due to high cost.”

“We returned to the village and started to use our land which was unused after sugarcane farming.”

“Now we are doing well and we have a range of crops to plant

and sell to the market and the Ministry officials assist us as well by providing us with a good market price.”

In town and urban areas life is very expensive and I have experienced it for myself and my family. I have a family and five kids and my husband and I spent seven years in Lautoka working and we found it hard due to high cost

Torika Nasau
Vegetable farmer,
Burelevu, Ra

Ministry warns on fish species ban

MEREANI GONEDUA

F IJIANS have been reminded that the seasonal ban on grouper fish species Donu and Kawakawa is still in place and will end on September 31.

The reminder comes after a few fishermen have been found selling this endangered species and have been penalized by the

Ministry of Fisheries officials.

Senior Fisheries Officer Central Saimoni Tauvoli, speaking during an awareness campaign, stressed the need to be aware of the ban as it will help the future generation.

Mr Tauvoli highlighted that officers not only conduct their inspections in fish markets but they visit villagers and communities that depend on fishing for their livelihood

to conduct awareness on the issue.

“Officers don’t just visit fish markets to inspect the fish that is caught we ensure that before fishermen go out to fish they know what to catch and sell,” he said.

Mr Tauvoli, in explaining the need for such a stand, said it was in order to stop the rapid decline and continued overfishing of these two highly targeted reef fish.

He stated that Kawakawa takes up to seven years to complete their life cycle while Donu is short lived meaning they complete their life cycle within 1-2 years, and they will still be releasing eggs after October and into the summer months.

He also stated that penalties were in place for those found selling or harvesting the two species.



Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar with Energy Fiji Limited (EFL), staff at the Nabouwalu Power plant.
 Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

Power supply for 190K Fijians

MEREANI GONEDUA

MORE than 190,000 Fijians have so far received electricity from Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) as of last year.

EFL System Planning and Design team leader, Samu Ratu, said that this was an increase of more than four per cent from the previous year which recorded 182,413.

In its 2018 annual corporate plan (ACP), EFL highlighted that the record-breaking customer base is made up of 28,517 prepay customers and 161,887 post-pay customers compared to 26,387 prepay and 156,026 post-pay customers in 2017.

The ACP also highlighted that the increase was mainly attributed to domestic and commercial customer growth. The growing customer base runs parallel to a growing national demand for energy.

Mr Ratu highlighted so far this year EFL has commissioned a total of 52 rural electrification projects benefitting a total of 1,306 households while in 2018 a total of 127 projects were commissioned as of December which benefitted a total of 2600 households.

“Some of these projects are on hold because we have yet to get approval from landowners with regards to the use of their land. This is something that we emphasize to those applying to get electricity.

“Before our works begin we need to have approval from landowners. One thing we need to know is that trying to get electricity across to a village is very expensive so when they apply for this they need to ensure everything is completed before they come to us,” Mr Ratu said.

“We should thank the Government for fully funding the supplying of electricity to all our homes, however, we need to also do our part when we fill in the forms, we need to ensure all the requirements are met and we need to be patient as well.”

He also stated that EFL only covers four islands which includes Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, Taveuni and Ovalau while the Department of Energy covers the rest of the islands and areas.

EFL has also successfully replaced 80 per cent of its aging and outdated electrical protection relays with more modern and reliable numerical protection relays.

The upgrade work continues this year to ensure that the grid is properly equipped to serve a growing population with growing demand for reliable energy.

Generators bring relief for villagers

JOSIA RALAGO

THE arrival of three generators in Nabouwalu last month has greatly improved electricity services in the satellite town and nearby communities.

This was revealed by the Provincial Administrator Bua, Peni Naqasenivanua, who said that now they enjoy 18 hours of uninterrupted electricity supply.

“Prior to this, the old generator would provide electricity from 5am to 12pm, it would then be turned off for two hours and then would

continue its service from 2pm till 11pm in the evening,” Mr Naqasenivanua said.

“Now, during weekdays, there is no disruption – it provides electricity from 5am in the morning till 11pm in the evening, except for the weekends, where it follows the old schedule.

“It has really assisted us in terms of the work that we have to do particularly for the civil servants here in Nabouwalu.

“The civil servants and the business community around here are happy about that and once

there are more businesses established here in the Nabouwalu Township then there will be a 24 hours electricity supply.”

The generator currently caters for 2600 people living within Nabouwalu and some nearby communities.

The Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar visited the site where these generators are kept.

Meanwhile, civil works at the Nabouwalu Town site has started with 44 lots expected to be created.

Crossing project transforms lives

ZAFIYA SHAMIM

“WE no longer have to wait for weeks for flood waters to recede to access basic services. It is such a relief.”

These were the words of Emuri Village headman Solomon Naba on the completion of the Emuri Crossing Project.

The village is located in the Tuva District, seven kilometers from Sigatoka town.

Mr Naba, 60, recalls how the villagers and their livestock faced numerous challenges because of frequent flooding because it was impossible to go to the other side.

“But this new crossing has completely transformed all our lives by reducing the burden of waiting for flood waters to recede, especially during emergencies such as getting the sick to the health centres. Now children can attend school and men and women are able to engage in their productive activities



Emuri villagers on the new crossing. Photo: SUPPLIED

ties on a daily basis. This is a great joy for us.”

Mr Naba said the new crossing allows easy passage for livestock, vehicles, pedestrians and even private buses to cross safely, which was not possible before.

FRA chief executive officer Jonathan Moore said their testimony provides them with further incentive to continue building resilient

infrastructure that helps and supports the rural communities by improving access to basic services and facilities.

“We want all Fijians, especially women and children to be able to move safely and continue to help promote inclusive economic growth.”

He said this was a commendable work completed by their contrac-

tor Fairdeal Earthmoving Contractors Ltd.

Emuri Crossing was part of FRA's Crossing Renewals Programme.

“The FRA has replaced five previously flood prone low-level crossings over the past 12 months with a new and more durable crossing that has already proven that it is less prone to flooding,” Mr Moore said.

Grant boosts corrugated iron hire business

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

UNDERSTANDING the need of a community and then developing a business to meet that has been beneficial for a recipient of Government's Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) initiative.

For Emosi Vakasawaqa, originally from Ono-i-Lau, hiring out corrugated iron has been a family business ever since his older brother retired from work in 2006 but the assistance from Government helped him to take it to another level.

"In a month I usually hire out my corrugated irons to eight events or function," Mr Vakasawaqa, who was the recipient of \$1000 grant in 2017," Mr Vakasawaqa said.

It's a tradition Mr Vakasawaqa continued when he retired from work at the Government Pharmacy in 2011 and more so, after the demise of his brother Apaitia Malani.

"In 2017 I heard people talking about this \$1000 grant from Government which was available to help those who wanted to start their small business and to boost those who are already engaging in small business. I saw this as an opportunity to boost our family business of hiring corrugated iron for *vakatunulua* or temporary shed for family gatherings and community events so I handed in my application. I am so thankful to the Government of the day for approving my application," Mr Vakasawaqa said.

"I am glad from that \$1000 grant I was able to buy a new set of 32 corrugated iron. Now I have two sets including the old set that was earlier bought by my brother."



Emosi Vakasawaqa with the corrugated iron and timber that he hires out for events and functions. Photo: SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Mr Vakasawaqa's business has the advantage in the price of hiring his corrugated iron when compared to the price charged by bigger scaffolding companies.

"Most people can't afford to hire form big scaffolding suppliers and that is where I saw my market because the demand is high."

He is proud to say that his price is for the grass roots as it is reasonably cheaper.

"For the old set of corrugated iron, I hire it out for \$60.50 for five days. The new set of corrugated iron I hire them out for \$80 for five days."

When asked how he markets his business Mr Vakasawaqa responded with; "It is so popular that I rely on word by mouth. For instance, today they all hired out one set in Valelevu and the other one to Makoi, it's that

popular".

Divulging further business principles, he said, "My secret is no credit, I don't give credit even if I know them I don't give credit".

"This indeed a very good business because in a month I usually hire my corrugated iron to eight events," said Mr Vakasawaqa.

Love for flowers leads to livelihood

NANISE NEIMILA

GROWING up between fragrant peonies, colourful hydrangeas and lilies, Reena Nandani felt her botanical garden was a haven of joy and somewhere she could escape to from all the worries of the world.

Married with two children, Mrs Nandani, who is now a professional florist, shares her story of how growing flowers just as a hobby turned into a "blooming" business which is the source of livelihood for her family.

Originally from Korowiri, Labasa, the 33-year-old shared her struggles of how her flower business flourished over the past five years.

"I specialise in planting *Kalanchoë*, this is a genus of about 125 species of tropical, succulent flowering plants in the family *Crassulaceae*, mainly native to Madagascar and tropical Africa."

"From my own experience in planting this particular flower when it begins to bloom I can clearly tell the colour of the flower."

"I have become accustomed to planting this flower and from my own experience a lot of people purchase this flowers for decorations purposes for their homes."

For *Kalanchoë* blooming season begins from April to November and during the off-season Mrs Nandani plants other flowers

like bougainvillea, palms trees, fruit trees, grafting

plants, roses, euphorbia and cactus.

"Hungry for more, I started teaching myself the craft of wild flower arranging. I learnt that wild flowers behave differently during its seasons."

"I simply wanted to spend more time in the garden as I became aware of what unique and wonderful flowers could be grown in our climate."

Mrs Nandani had been funding her own business until 2017 when she received grant from the Government under the Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) which enabled her to fund the construction of a nursery for her flowers.

"My contribution was \$12,000 worthn of materials. This includes gravel, sand amd labor and Government assisted me with \$1000. In total that was around \$13,000. We built a greenhouse to keep my flowers. This assistance included labour and materials to complete this project."

She hopes to expand her business to wholesale rather than selling at the markets which she says does not earn a lot.

"I am able to sell a lot when people place their orders and buy in bulk on daily basis I am able to earn close to \$800-\$900."

With more than 50 varieties of flowers in her farm, some of which were imported, Mrs Nandani plans to expand her business.



Florist Reena Nandani (right) at the recent Agriculture Show at Valelevu, Nasinu. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

FijiFocus

The battle for your mind

ART PIECE SCOOPS TOP PRIZE AT AWARDS

EMI KOROITANO

ART speaks where words are unable to explain.

This could not be more truer for the innovative Sam Young who scooped the 'Fiji Airways Art' award during the night of the 2019 Film Fiji Kula Awards event.

Mr Young, who is a Year 13 student of Natabua High School in Lautoka, said craft-work has always been his passion.

Titled 'The Battle for Your Mind', the art-piece is a 3-D replica of a human head piece sculpted from clay extracted from the Wainadoti river.

"The Kula Art Competition did not provide a theme for contestants, and coming up with my own theme was as difficult as it was liberating," the 18-year old said.

Mr Young said it had taken him about three months to complete his masterpiece.

"I did get help with the extraction of the clay from my cousins. My father also helped me fire-bake the finished sculpture," he said.

"This was my first time to try clay sculpting, and I am eager to continue trying more."

He shared that art is important and necessary in society as it allows for personal expression of ideas and feelings.

The Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while officiating at the Kula Film Awards, said expressive art provides socie-

ties and individuals with avenues for self-expression to talk about issues that they are most concerned about.

Budding artists like Mr Young were assured by the A-G of the Government's support for this industry.

"We're trying to work with the Ministry of Education to develop a better curriculum, in that respect, more arts teachers that can help nurture the talents of many students," he said.

"The Fijian Government is investing quite a lot of money both through sponsorships with the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade together with the 'Fijian Made' campaign that we have and of course the Fiji Airways."

Sharing the inspiration behind his art, Mr Young said, "I found that this was the perfect opportunity to inspire the public with my faith, with the Christian message behind my art-piece".

"The Battle for Your Mind' is based upon the bible scripture of 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 which reads, 'The weapons of our warfare are not physical but are mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.'"

"Art is indeed useful for generating income and beautification, but deeper than that, art should be encouraged to everyone as a mode of sharing ideas and emotions," he said.



Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the 2019 Film Fiji Kula Awards at Suva's Damodar City complex.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Natabua High School Year 13 student Sam Young (left) after he scooped the Fiji Airways Art award at Suva's Damodar City complex.

Photos: EMI KOROITANO





रारालेवू में
बनेगी गैस से
शव जलाने की
सुविधा

7



प्राकृतिक
विपत्तियों के
लिए हर वक्त
तैयार रहें

6



अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम के साथ हैं फीजी में निउज़ीलैंड के हाय कमिशनर जोनाथन के और अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्रालय की स्थाई सचिव मकरेता कोन्योते। फोटो: हलितेश दत्त

फीजी और निउज़ीलैंड के बीच छः मिलियन डोलर ग्रांट समझौता

वीरेंद्र लाल

फीजी और निउज़ीलैंड की सरकारों ने छः मिलियन डोलर लागत का एक ग्रांट फण्डिंग समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किया है।

फीजी की आर्थिक रूपरेखा में बदलाव का समर्थन करने, आर्थिक बढ़न्ती में व्यापारों को सहयोग देने और फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को और आगे बढ़ाने में सहायता प्रदान करने के

लिए पैसेफिक आयलैंड्स फोरम के दफ्तर में इस समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किया गया।

समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करते हुए अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने निउज़ीलैंड की सरकार तथा साथी अजेन्सीज़ एशियन डिवेलपमेंट बैंक और वोल्ट बैंक की सहराना की।

“इस ग्रांट से हमारे पूंजीपतियों के लिए एक अच्छा और स्पष्ट वातावरण कायम होगा।

इनवेस्टमेंट एक्ट पर पुनः विचार के लिए यह सही साबित होगा। संसद ने पब्लिक एनटाप्राइज़ एक्ट की अनुमति दे दी है जो लागू हो चुका है। निउज़ीलैंड की सरकार के साथ यह समझौता, पाँच मिलियन डोलर का डायरेक्ट बजट सपोर्ट और एक मिलियन डोलर ग्रांट, तकनीकी सहायता के लिए है,” सईयद खईयूम ने कहा।

फीजी के लिए निउज़ीलैंड के हाय कमिशनर जोनाथन के ने दोनो देशों के बीच अच्छे सम्बंध की दुहाई देते हुए कहा कि व्यापार, पूंजी और टुरिज़म के क्षेत्र में वे एक दूसरे के साथ मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं।

जोनाथन के ने बताया कि फीजी, निउज़ीलैंड का एक बड़ा व्यापारिक साझेदार है। पिछले साल आठ लाख (800,000) किविज़ फीजी आए थे।



प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के लिए हर वक्त तैयार रहें

वीरन्द्र लाल

समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के दौरान क्या हुआ था, हमें यह कभी नहीं भूलना चाहिए और प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के लिए हर वक्त तैयार रहना चाहिए।

शिक्षा मंत्री रौजी अक्बर वाईनिम्बुका डिस्ट्रिक्ट प्रायमरी और वाईनिम्बुका सेकेंडरी स्कूल के नए स्कूल बिल्डिंग का उद्घाटन करते वक्त बोल रही थी।

“हम फीजियन्स काफी हिम्मत हैं, हम हार नहीं मानते और हम यही अपने बच्चों को सिखाते हैं। जब प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों की चेतावनी दी जाती है, हमे इन्हें गम्भीरता से लेनी चाहिए क्योंकि प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से

काफी नुकसान होता है”।

शिक्षा मंत्री ने सामाज को भी धन्यवाद दिया खासकर अध्यापकों और माता पिताओं को जिन्होंने समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के बाद बच्चों की पढ़ाई जारी रखने के लिए काफी मुसबतों का सामना किया।

सन् दो हजार सोलह (2016) में समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के दौरान यह स्कूल गिर गए थे।

शिक्षा मंत्री ने भारतीय सरकार को भी धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने नए स्कूल बिल्डिंग के निर्माण में सहयोग दिया है।

इस अवसर पर भारतीय उच्चायुक्त महा महीम पद्मजा भी शिक्षा मंत्री के साथ उपस्थित थी।



शिक्षा मंत्री रौजी अक्बर, भारतीय हाई कमिशनर और अन्य अधिकारियों के साथ चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसीनईवालू

व्यापारिक सहायता के लिए सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया गया

रोनल देव

सरकार ने पिछले बारह सालों में निर्यात करने वाली स्थानिय कम्पनियों को चौदह मिलियन डोलर लागत की सहायता दी है।

पिछले सप्ताह और पाँच कम्पनियों को सहायता देती हुई इंडस्ट्री एंड ट्रेडिंग मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने जोर दिया कि नेशनल एक्सपोर्ट स्ट्रेटजी (National Export Strategy) से आर्थिक तौर पर बहुत फायदा होता है।

पाँच कम्पनियों को उनका व्यापार बढ़ाने के इरादे से छः लाख आठ हजार डोलर (\$608,000) से ज्यादा लागत की सहायता दी गई है जिनमें शामिल हैं, बूला बतिकी असोसिएशन (Bula Batiki Association), दीवा (फीजी) पेल्स लिमिटेड (Civa (Fiji) Pearls Ltd), पैपा सोस साउथ पेसिफिक लिमिटेड (Paper Source South Pacific (PTE) Ltd), ट्रोपिकल अक्वारियम फिश



ट्रेडिंग मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार के साथ सहायता प्राप्त करने वाली कम्पनियों के प्रतिनिधि चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

फीजी लिमिटेड (Tropical Aquarium Fish (Fiji) Ltd) तथा जोना युनाएटड (Zonah United)।

मंत्री ने कहा कि सन् दो हजार छः (2006) में नेशनल एक्सपोर्ट स्ट्रेटजी की शुरुआत देश के व्यापार और निर्यात व्यवसाय को बढ़ाने तथा देश के आर्थिक विकास को और मज़बूत करने के इरादे से की गई थी।

“हमारा लक्ष्य था क्षेत्रिय और अंतराष्ट्रीय बाज़ार तक निर्यात बढ़ाना, विदेशी मुद्रा में वृद्धि करना, नौकरियाँ उपलब्ध करना तथा देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में वृद्धि करना। इस सहायता से यह कम्पनियाँ अपने संसाधन में सुधार लायेंगी, मशीन तथा उपकरण खरीदेंगी तथा अपना सामान रखने की समस्या का सामाधान ढूँढ़ेंगी,” मंत्री कुमार ने

कहा।

सरकार को धन्यवाद देते हुए दीवा पेल्स लिमिटेड के मालिक क्लौड मिचल प्रेवोस्ट ने कहा कि उनका सपना है कि एक दिन फीजी, आर्थिक तौर पर अलग-अलग क्षेत्र में दुनिया में सबसे आगे होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि देश में सीमित मात्रा में सम्पति उपलब्ध होने के बावजूद, सरकार ने इन कम्पनियों पर भरोसा किया।

नेशनल रिसेच कौंसल की स्थापना

वीरन्द्र लाल

सरकार, शिक्षा मंत्रालय के जरिए, फीजी नेशनल रिसेच कौंसल की स्थापना पर काम कर रही है।

कौंसल का काम होगा, सभी वैज्ञानिक, व्यवसाईक, तकनीकी, सामाजिक और आर्थिक क्षेत्रों में अनुसंधान और विकास का बढ़ावा देना।

इसकी जानकारी शिक्षा मंत्री रौजी अक्बर ने युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी में इनटानेशनल कोनफ़ेंस ऑन फोर्ड लईबा: इनडेन्चड एन्ड पेसिफिक लईबा ट्रेडिंग के दौरान बोल रही थी।

मंत्री ने बताया कि कौंसल के बनने से, एक नेशनल रिसेच फण्ड की भी स्थापना की जाएगी जो नेशनल डिवेलपमेंट एन्ड सस्टेनैबिलिटी को और बढ़ावा देगा।

“फीजियन सरकार, अन्य संस्थाओं के साथ बात-चीत करके, फीजी चपटा ओफ़ द इनडेन्चड लईबा रूट प्रोजेक्ट (ILRP) की तैयारी पर ध्यान दे रही है और मुझे यह कहते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि आने वाले कुछ महिनो में फीजी चपटा ओफ़ द इनटानेशनल साईटिफिक कमिटी की इनडेन्चड लईबा रूट प्रोजेक्ट की ऐतिहासिक स्थापना पर साईन किया जाएगा”।

उन्होंने बताया कि लोगों को यहाँ और अन्य जगहों पर उनकी इच्छा के विरुद्ध लाकर, जबरजस्ती काम करवाने के कदम को ध्यान में रखते हुए इसकी स्थापना की जायेगी।

सन् दो हजार सत्तरह में शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने फीजी चपटा फोर ग्लोबल ओगनाएज़ेशन ऑफ़ पीपल ऑफ़ इन्डियन ओरिजिन (GOPIO) की स्थापना की थी। यह संस्था, भारत से बाहर रह रहे भारतीय मूल के लोगों की चुनौतियों पर गौर करती है।

इनडेन्चड लईबा रूट प्रोजेक्ट, गिरमिटियों और गिरमिटियों की संतानों पर गौर करेगा।

इस इनटानेशनल कोनफ़ेंस में इन्डियन ओशन, कैरिबियन और प्रशांत के क्षेत्रों से चालिस से ज्यादा देशों के प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया।

कमिटी, इनडेन्चा पर एक अंतराष्ट्रीय डाटाबेस तैयार करेगी जिसमें फिज़िकल साईड्स, आर्काइव्स और मिउज़ियम कोलेक्शन्स के अलावा, गिरमिटियों से जुड़े पारम्परिक गाने, कहानियाँ, नृत्य और अन्य ज़रूरी बातें रहेंगी।

शिशुओं में बीमारी कम करने के लिए नया अध्ययन



फीजी में नवजात शिशुओं में बीमारी की दर ज्यादा है। चित्र: सप्लाइड

वीरन्द्र लाल

सालों से स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय की सेवाओं में काफी विकास देखा गया है और अब तरिका ढूँढ़ना होगा जो हमें इस विकास से फायदा होने का मौका दे।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के प्रतिनिधि डाक्टर जर्डीम्स फोंग, मापई प्रोगेम के लॉच पर बोल रहे थे।

मापई प्रोगेम एक शोध है जिसकी अगुवाई मेलबन के मोडोक चिलर्स रिसर्च इन्स्टिट्यूट की पब्लिक हेल्थ पैडियाट्रिशियन प्रोफेसा फिओना रसल

कर रही हैं। प्रोफेसा रसल, डाक्टर जर्डीम्स फोंग और डाक्टर इलिसापेदी वेरेंति के साथ मिलकर काम कर रही हैं।

इस अध्ययन में प्रसव पीड़ा से गुज़र रही स्वस्थ महिलाओं को खाने के लिए एन्टीबायोटिक्स दिए जायेंगे। इसका लक्ष्य है नवजात शिशुओं में बीमारी कम करना।

प्रोफेसा रसल ने कहा कि फीजी में शिशुओं में बीमारी की दर ज्यादा है। उनके अनुसार इन बीमारियों में बौईल निकलना, बुखार लगना,

चमड़ी की बीमारी और अन्य प्रकार की बीमारियाँ जिस कारण से शिशुओं को इन्टेंसिव केरा में भेजा जाता है।

“महिलाएं बिना जाने अपने शरीर के विभिन्न अंगों में बीमारियाँ लेकर चलती हैं। हम इन बीमारियों का पता लगाकर उन्हें ठीक करने की कोशिश करेंगे, इससे पहले की यह बीमारियाँ, शिशु तक पहुँचें और शिशुओं की बढ़न्ती में बाधा करें”।

मेलबन के मोडोक चिलर्स रिसर्च इन्स्टिट्यूट, इस नए अध्ययन के लिए पैसे दे रहा है।

तम्बाकू के गैर-कानूनी व्यापार रोक जा सकता है

वीरन्द्र लाल

तम्बाकू के गैर-कानूनी व्यापार रोकने के लिए सरकार अन्य सेक्टरों से साथ मिलकर काम करने की माँग कर रही है। नांदी में स्ट्रेथनिंग टोर्बोको कोन्ट्रोल एनफोर्समेंट पर फीजी मल्टी सेक्टरल वोकशॉप में बोलते हुए स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरेडमी वांगाइनम्बेते ने बताया कि सरकार के लिए यह देखना ज़रूरी है कि सभी सेक्टर मिलकर काम करें ताकि गैर-कानूनी सामानों को देश लाने से रोक जाए।

फीजी में सिंगल सिगरेट रोल्लस भी बेचे जा रहे हैं जोकि गैर-कानूनी है। यहाँ हुक्का वाला तम्बाकू भी देखा जा रहा है। ई-सिगरेट्स और चवाने वाले तम्बाकू भी फीजी पहुँच चुके हैं। यहाँ काफी नकली तम्बाकू भी देखने को मिल रहे हैं जो हमारे कानून की ज़रूरतों का पालन नहीं करते हैं।

डाक्टर इफेरेडमी
वांगाइनम्बेते -
स्वास्थ्य मंत्री

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने बताया कि फीजी ने इस साल यह स्वीकार कर लिया है कि वह “प्रोटोकॉल टु एलिमिनेट इल्लिसिट ट्रेड इन टोर्बोको प्रोडक्ट्स” यानि तम्बाकू के उत्पादनों के गैर-कानूनी व्यापार खत्म करने की दिशा में काम करेगा।

मंत्री के अनुसार अन्य सेक्टरों के साथ जानकारी बाटने से, गैर-कानूनी व्यापार खत्म करने में मदद मिलेगी।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने विश्व स्वास्थ्य संस्था (WHO) के साथ मिलकर इस कार्यशाला की आयोजना की थी। इसका लक्ष्य है तम्बाकू के गैर-कानूनी उत्पादनों को फीजी आने से रोकना, एनफोर्समेंट अफसरों को देश के अन्य भागों में भेजना और तम्बाकू से पड़ने वाले विपरीत असर के बारे में लोगों को समझाना।

मंत्री वांगाइनम्बेते ने कार्यशाला में भाग लेने वालों से इस विषय पर खुलकर विचार करने और इस दिशा में एक दूसरे की मदद करने की माँग की।

उन्होंने बताया कि अन्य संस्थाओं से लोगों को इस तरह की कार्यशालाओं में भाग लेना ज़रूरी है ताकि वे विषय की गम्भीरता को समझ सकें और इसे सुलझाने में हाथ बटाएँ।



शिक्षा मंत्री रैजी अक्वर, टेस्ट एन्ड एन्टाप्राइज़ वीक के उद्घाटन के दौरान अध्यापकों और छात्रों के साथ। चित्र:एम कोरेईतानोवा

खुद का व्यापार शुरू करने का बढ़ावा

वीरन्द्र लाल

सरकार, सस्टेइअबल डिवेलपमेंट गौल फो के प्रति बचनबद्ध है जिसमें उच्च स्तर की शिक्षा की माँग है जिसके तहत स्कूल में सीखे गए हुनर काम में लाकर जीवन में आगे बढ़ने की व्यवस्था है।

शिक्षा मंत्री रैजी अक्वर, टेस्ट एन्ड एन्टाप्राइज़ वीक के उद्घाटन पर बोल रही थी जो मोन्फोट बोर्डिंग टाउन वर्डसारी लामी में हुआ था।

“हमारी कोशिश है बच्चों को ऐसे हुनर प्रदान

करना, जिससे वे अपना जीवन बसर करें और आगे चलकर इसी क्षेत्र में नौकरियाँ भी उपलब्ध करें”।

मंत्री अक्वर ने बताया कि सरकार केवल युवाओं के विकास को महत्व नहीं दे रही है बल्कि विकास के लिए ज़रूरी सम्पत्ति की भी व्यवस्था कर रही है।

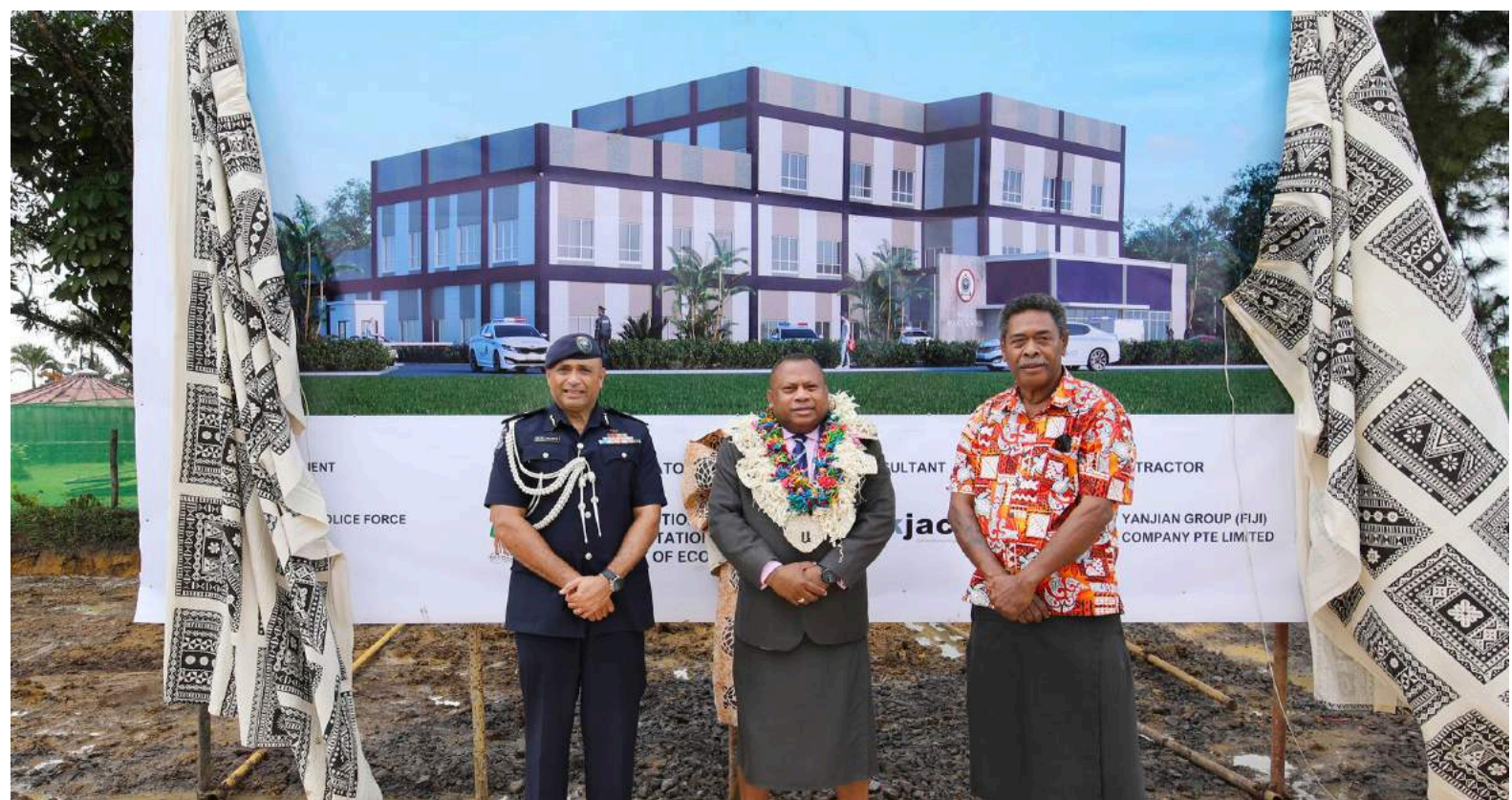
“हम नहीं चाहते हैं कि हमारे बच्चे केवल नौकरी ही ढूँढें, बल्कि हम चाहते हैं कि वे नौकरी उपलब्ध करें और खुद के लिए काम करें। सरकार इस के लिए व्यवस्था प्रदान कर रही है”।

उन्होंने बताया कि बच्चों का भविष्य, उनके खुद

के हाथों में है।

“माता पिताओं और अध्यापकों को बच्चों की काबिलियत पहचानकर उन्हें आगे बढ़ाने की ज़रूरत है”।

टेस्ट एन्ड एन्टाप्राइज़ वीक का लक्ष्य है, इनोवईटिवि स्किल्स फोर सस्टेइअबिलिटी यानि ऐसे हुनर प्रदान करना, जिससे वे अपना जीवन बसर कर सकें। यह वोल्ड यूथ स्किल्स डेय के साथ जुड़ा हुआ है। इस अवसर पर विभिन्न प्राथमरी और सेकन्ड्री स्कूलों के छात्र उपस्थित थे।



सुरक्षा मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु, पुलिस कमिशनर सिलिवेनी गिलिहो और एक अन्य अफसर के साथ। चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

नकासी नउसोरी में एक नया पुलिस स्टेशन

वीरन्द्र लाल

लोगों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के इरादे से सरकार ने नकासी में एक नया पुलिस स्टेशन बनाने का फैसला किया है।

पैंतीस मिलियन डॉलर (\$35m) इस योजना का नीव डालते हुए सुरक्षा मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु ने कहा कि लोगों की सुरक्षा को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने वहाँ एक पुलिस स्टेशन बनाना ठीक समझा।

“यह योजना पुलिस कमिशनर के पाँच सालों के रीस्ट्रक्चर प्लेन का भाग है। इसमें एक पुलिस बेरक भी शामिल है।

हम ऐसी व्यवस्था करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि पुलिस अफसर हर दिन असरकारक रूप से अपनी भूमिका निभा सकें।

नकासी और आस-पास के इलाकों में पच्चीस हजार (25,000) से ज्यादा लोग रहते हैं, और उन्हें सुरक्षा प्रदान करना ज़रूरी है”।

मंत्री सेरूईरातु ने बताया कि

नकासी पुलिस स्टेशन ने पिछले तीन सालों में अपराधिक मामलों में गिरावट रिकॉर्ड किया है लेकिन उन्होंने अफसरों से इलाके में लोगों का विश्वास बनाए रखने के लिए वहाँ लोगों और व्यापारों को अच्छी तरह से सुरक्षा प्रदान करने की माँग की।

“जबकि नकासी टिया वन पुलिस स्टेशन रहेगा, जो लोग नकासी में रहते हैं या वहाँ व्यापार करते हैं, यह आशा करेंगे कि नया पुलिस स्टेशन बनने से उन्हें अच्छी सेवा

प्रदान की जायेगी”।

सन् दो हजार चार (2004) में वहाँ पुलिस पौस्ट बनने से पहले, वाईनिम्बुक् पौस्ट के अफसर उस इलाके में सुरक्षा प्रदान करते थे।

सन् दो हजार सात (2007) में नकासी पुलिस पौस्ट को बढ़ाकर नकासी पुलिस स्टेशन किया गया जहाँ फिलहाल लगभग सत्तर (70) पुलिस अफसर सेवा प्रदान करते हैं। लौतोका में भी वर्तमान पुलिस स्टेशन की जगह पर एक नया पुलिस स्टेशन बनाया जाएगा।



स्कूलों का पुनः निर्माण

समुद्री औद्योगिक विस्तार से क्षतिग्रस्त हुए दो स्कूलों का पुनः निर्माण किया गया। पिनेना संगम स्कूल और वातुकुला आर्य स्कूल के नए क्लासरूम का उद्घाटन करती हुई शिक्षा मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने भारतीय सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया जिनकी आर्थिक सहायता से इन स्कूलों को फिर से बनाया गया। इस अवसर पर भारतीय हाई कमिशनर के अलावा अन्य कुटुंबनित्त वहाँ उपस्थित थे।



रारालेवू में बनेगी गेस से शव जलाने की सुविधा

रारालेवू शमशानभूमि में गेस से शव जलाने की सुविधा बनाने पर काम शुरू हो चुका है। हाल ही में इस योजना का नीउ डालने हुए एम्पलीएमेंट, युथ एण्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन कुमार ने लोगों से इस योजना के प्रति दान देने की मांग की। यह देश में इस तरह की दूसरी सुविधा रहेगी।



धान के किसानों की मदद

खेत तैयार करने में धान के किसानों की मदद करने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री दफ्तर ने हाल में पाँच ट्रैक्टर दिए हैं। ये ट्रैक्टर जापानी सरकार से दान में मिले थे। इन ट्रैक्टरों को देश के सभी विभागों में बाँटा गया है। प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण ने जापानी सरकार को किसानों के जीवन पर सकारात्मक असर डालने वाली योजनाओं का समर्थन करने और योगदान देने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।





मेलानिज़ियन स्पियाहेड ग्रुप (MSG) की तीसरी क्षेत्रीय सभा में भाग लेने वाले विभिन्न देशों के प्रतिनिधि। चित्र: सप्लाइड

तीसरी क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा सभा समाप्त हुई

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मेलानिज़ियन स्पियाहेड ग्रुप (MSG) की तीसरी क्षेत्रीय सभा सफलतापूर्वक समाप्त हुई। चार दिनों की यह सभा, इसी महिने के मध्य में फीजी में हुई थी।

एक सुरक्षित मेलानिज़ियन सामाज बनाने के इरादे से समय समय पर मेलानिज़ियन स्पियाहेड ग्रुप की सभा होती रहती है।

सभा की समाप्ति पर एम.एस.जी के डायरेक्टर

जेनरल एम्बेसडा अमेना याउवोलि ने सदस्य देशों को उनकी मेहनत के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। उन्होंने बताया कि एक आधार तय होने पर सदस्य देशों के लोगो, उनकी संस्कृति, सम्बंध, सम्पत्ति सब सुरक्षित होंगे। इस स्ट्रेटजी में मेलानिज़ियन मूल्य जैसे देश-भक्ति, राष्ट्रीय एकता, कानून, प्रजातंत्र, मानव सम्मान, सामाजिक न्याय और बराबरी शामिल हैं।

रीजनल सेकिउरिटी स्ट्रेटजी तैयार हो जाने पर सदस्य देश बोडा और मरीटाएम सेकिउरिटी,

साएबा सेकिउरिटी, प्राकृतिक विपत्ति और जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रति चुनौतियों का जवाब दे पायेंगे।

सभा की मेज़बानी करने के लिए डायरेक्टर जेनरल ने फीजियन सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया। फीजी के डायरेक्टर जेनरल, नेशनल डिफेन्स रिविउ, क्रेप्टन (Ret'd) तिमादी नतूवा की अगुवाई में सभा हुई और इसमें पापुवा निउ-गीनि, वनवातू, सोलोमन आयलेंड्स, फीजी और इनडोनिशिया के प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया।

आए.टी.यू के सेक्रेटरी जेनरल फीजी के दौरे पर



प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण इनटानेशनल टेलिकोमिउनिकईशन युनियन के सेक्रेटरी जेनरल होलिन जाव के साथ। चित्र: सप्लाइड

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इनटानेशनल टेलिकोमिउनिकईशन युनियन के सेक्रेटरी जेनरल होलिन जाव ने फीजी के अपने दौरे पर प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव योगेश करण से मुलाकात की।

यह श्री जाव का फीजी का पहला दौरा था और फीजियन सरकार के साथ आए.टी.यू का सम्बंध बढ़ाने के लिए वे फीजी आए थे। श्री करण के साथ अन्य विषयों के अलावा उन्होंने आए.टी इनफास्ट्रक्चर और फीजी में विकास पर बातें की।

श्री जाव ने बताया कि आए.टी.यू ने पहले फीजी में आए.टी से सम्बंधित कुछ योजनाओं पर काम किया है। उन्होंने बताया कि इस सम्बंध को वे जारी रखना चाहते हैं और अपनी सेवाओं को क्षेत्र के नज़दीक लाना चाहते हैं।

उन्होंने बताया कि इस साल आए.टी.यू टेलिकोम वोल्ड कोनफरन्स सप्टेम्बर में हंगरी में होगा और वोल्ड रेडियो कोमिउनिकईशन कोनफरन्स इजिप्ट में होगा। श्री करण ने उन्हें ई-प्लेटफोम में फीजी की पूंजी के बारे में बताया जिनमें ई-पासपोर्ट्स और ओनलाइन बिज़नेस रजिस्ट्रेशन शामिल हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव ने बताया कि क्षेत्र में फीजी ने आए.टी में काफी प्रगति की है लेकिन ओस्ट्रेलिया और निउज़ीलैंड जैसे विकसित देशों के साथ होड़बाज़ी करने के लिए, फीजी को इसमें सुधार करने की ज़रूरत है।

सरकार, डिजिटल कोनेक्टिविटी बढ़ाने के इरादे से, वर्तमान टेलिसेन्टज़ बढ़ायेगी और देश में नए टेलिसेन्टज़ खोलेगी। ऐसा करने से यहाँ व्यापार करने का अच्छा वातावरण हो जाएगा और इससे नए पूंजीपती आकर्षित होंगे।

सेना प्रमुख ने अमरीका में यू.एन कोनफरंस में भाग लिया

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युनायटड नईशन्स चीफ्स ऑफ डिफेन्स के तीसरे कोनफरंस में, शांति सेवा प्रदान करने के फीजियन सैनिकों के मौके बढ़ाने पर बातें हुई।

रिपब्लिक ऑफ फीजी मिलिट्री फोर्स के कोमान्डा रिया एडमिरल विलियामे नउपोतो ने युनायटड नईशन्स मुख्यालय निउयोक में हुए इस सम्मेलन में भाग लिया।

चीफ ऑफ डिफेन्स कोनफरंस में दुनिया भर के देशों के सेना प्रमुखों और उच्च डिफेन्स अधिकारियों ने भाग लिया था। एक सौ छः (106) सदस्य देशों के दो सौ छियान्वे (296) प्रतिनिधि और चौवन (54) सेना अध्यक्ष इस सम्मेलन में शामिल थे।

कोनफरंस जिसका थीम “जेनेरईटिंग कइपाबिलिटीज़ टु मीट हाय पेफोमन्स रिक्वायमेंट्स” था, में युनायटड नईशन्स पीसकिपिंग में सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों पर

ध्यान दिया गया। यह तय हुआ कि एक्शन ऑफ पीसकिपिंग (A4P) प्लेन लागू करने के लिए युनायटड नईशन्स और सदस्य देशों को लगातार बात-चीत करते रहने की ज़रूरत है।

सम्मेलन में शांति सेवा प्रदान करने में महिलाओं की भूमिका पर भी बातें हुई। युनायटड नईशन्स की योजना है कि शांति सेवा प्रदान करने में और महिलाओं को शामिल किया जाए।

रिया एडमिरल नउपोतो ने उच्च युनायटड नईशन्स पीसकिपिंग अधिकारियों से मुलाकात की और फीजियन सैनिकों के लिए उपलब्ध मौकों के बारे में बातें की।

फीजियन सैनिक, उन्नीस सौ अठहत्तर (1978) से विभिन्न युनायटड नईशन्स पीसकिपिंग मिशन में भाग ले रहे हैं। इनमें अफ्रीका, मध्य-पूर्व, युरोप और एशिया-पेसिफिक क्षेत्र शामिल हैं। फीजियन सैनिक अभी इराक, दक्षिण लेबानोन, सिरियन अरब रिपब्लिक और दक्षिण सुदान में युनायटड नईशन्स पीसकिपिंग मिशन में शामिल हैं।



सेना प्रमुख रिया एडमिरल विलियामे नउपोतो, युनायटड नईशन्स पीसकिपिंग के एक उच्च अधिकारी के साथ। चित्र: सप्लाइड

एक प्रमुख भारतीय राजनितिज्ञ फीजी आए

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भारत के एक प्रमुख राजनितिज्ञ श्री विजय जोली ने हाल ही फीजी का दौरा किया और प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर के स्थाई सचिव, योगेश करण से मुलाकात की।

श्री जोली, भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री माननिए नरेन्द्र मोदी की भारतीय जनता पार्टी के एक प्रमुख सदस्य हैं।

स्थायी सचिव के साथ सभा में श्री जोली ने

योगेश करण को भारत में फीजी का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए बधाई दी। स्थाई सचिव नियुक्त होने से पहले श्री करण, छः सालों तक भारत में फीजी के हाय कमिशनर थे।

श्री जोली ने बताया कि श्री करण के अच्छे काम के कारण फीजी और भारत के बीच सम्बंध और मज़बूत हुए हैं।

श्री जोली, उनिवर्सल पीस फेडरेशन (UPF) के अधिकारियों के दल के साथ फीजी आए थे। सभा में उनिवर्सल पीस फेडरेशन (UPF)

की योजनाओं पर बातें हुई जिनमें इन्टानेशनल असोसिएशन ऑफ पालियामेंटेरियन्स फोर पीस शामिल है।

यह विश्व स्तर की संस्था है जो दुनिया की समस्याओं को सुलझाने के तरिका ढूँढती रहती है। सभा में यह तय हुआ कि इस साल एशिया-पेसिफिक उनिवर्सल पीस फोरम नवम्बर में कम्बोडिया में होगा और अगले साल विश्व सम्मिट दक्षिण कोरिया में होगा।

इस साल फोरम में भाग लेने के लिए दल ने

प्रधान मंत्री वीरेंद्र बड़निमारामा को भी आमंत्रित किया है।

फीजी और भारत के बीच अच्छे सम्बंध हैं और फीजी को भारत से विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में काफी मदद मिल रही है। फीजी में छोटे व्यापारियों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हाल ही भारत की सरकार ने फीजी को आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान की है। सन् दो हज़ार चौदह में (2014) फीजी के अपने दौरे पर भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने फीजी को इस दिशा में सहायता पहुँचाने का वायदा किया था।

सोलह लोगों को सम्मानित किया गया

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राष्ट्रपति मईजा-जेनरल (Ret'd) चोची कोनुसी कोन्रोते ने सन् दो हजार सत्तरह/अट्ठारह औनज़ रोल के लिए इनवेस्टिचा सेरेमनी के दौरान सोलह लोगों को सम्मानित किया।
राष्ट्रपति कोन्रोते ने सम्मान प्राप्त करने वालों को बधाई देते हुए कहा कि यह केवल उनके लिए नहीं बल्कि उनके परिवार और दोस्तों के लिए भी खुशियाँ मनाने का समय है।
“ओडा ओफ् फीजी सम्मान उन लोगों को मिला है जो फीजी के विकास में लगातार योगदान देते आ रहे हैं। आज कुछ लोगों को उनकी सेवाओं और कुछ को उनकी बहादुरी के लिए सम्मान

दिया जाएगा। सरकार, राष्ट्र के निर्माण में लोगों के योगदान को मान्यता देते हुए, उनके अच्छे काम की सहराना और प्रशंसा करती है”।
सरकार ने सन् उन्नीस सौ पच्चाव्वे (1995) में ओडा ओफ् फीजी अवोड शुरू किया था।
अवोड्स इस प्रकार हैं:
कोम्पेनियन ओफ् द ओडा ओफ् फीजी (CF) माननिए मुरय स्टुवट मेक्कलि (Honourary) जोकि निउज़ीलैंड के भूतपूर्व विदेश और व्यापार मंत्री हैं।
ओफिसा ओफ् द ओडा ओफ् फीजी (OF) एन्थनी ब्रुस वितन मेम्बा ओफ् द ओडा ओफ् फीजी (MF) नेरन्द प्रसाद मेडल ओफ् द ओडा ओफ् फीजी

(MOF) लोरोसियो चोपे गिरियामो, लेपानी राईसोवालू, दया राम, रयमन्ड मुकेश मनो मनी रेड्डी, पास्टा रोदो लियो, कमेशवर प्रसाद, इसाईया साउकुरु, रजेश कुमार पटेल, प्रवीन चन्द्रा नईडू
ब्रैवरी मेडल - बहादुरी के सम्मान सामुएली साउतामाता रितोवा, साकारईया कोरोई, इमोसी देलाईम्बतीकि
ग्लोबल हेल्थ लीडाशिप अवोड - खास सम्मान
लेफ्टनन्ट केनल (Ret'd) इनोके लुवेनी।
इस इनवेस्टिचा सेरेमनी के दौरान विभिन्न देशों के राजदूत और उच्च सरकारी अधिकारी मौजूद थे।



राष्ट्रपति मईजा-जेनरल (Ret'd) चोची कोनुसी कोन्रोते, सम्मान प्राप्त कुछ लोगों के साथ। चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसीनईवालू

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कृषि मंत्रालय को चुनौति दी

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कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने अपने मंत्रालय के कर्मचारियों को चुनौति दी है कि वे देश के कुल उत्पादन में मंत्रालय के योगदान को बढ़ाना जारी रखें।
कृषि मंत्रालय देश के कुल उत्पादन में अभी दस प्रतिशत (10%) से ज्यादा योगदान दे रहा है और मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि इसमें और बढ़न्ती हो सकती है।
“दो हजार सोलह (2016) में समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के बाद से कृषि उत्पादन में हर साल अवसतम आठ प्रतिशत (8%) के हिसाब से वृद्धि हो रही है। पशु पालन में हर साल अवसतम बत्तीस प्रतिशत (32%) की वृद्धि हो रही है।”
मंत्री ने कहा कि इन आँकड़ों से पता चलता है कि कृषि मंत्रालय, देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में भारी योगदान दे सकता है। उनके अनुसार मंत्रालय को इन आँकड़ों को बढ़ाते रहने पर काम करते रहना चाहिए।
डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा कि फीजी केवल टुरिज़म पर निर्भर नहीं रह सकता।
उन्होंने बताया कि सन् दो हजार सत्तरह (2017) के मिलान में पिछले साल कसेरा, डालो, नारियल, यंगोना, अदरक, कुमाला और अनरस के उत्पादन में वृद्धि हुई है। उनके अनुसार चावल और शाकभाजी के उत्पादन में भी वृद्धि की जा सकती है।
“हमने हाल ही में दो नए किस्म के धान तैयार किए हैं जो वातावरण के अनुकूल हैं और इनकी बोवाई शुरू हो गई है। आलू की खेती भी शुरू हो गई है। किसानों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा ज़मीन खेती करने के लिए काम में लाना होगा।”
मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि इससे देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को योगदान मिलने के साथ साथ किसानों को भी व्यक्तिगत रूप से आर्थिक लाभ होगा।



रारालेवू शमशानभूमी में गैस से शव जलाने वाली सुविधा बनाने के लिए नीउ डालते हुए एम्पलोएमन्ट, युथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन कुमार। चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसीनईवालू

रारालेवू में बनेगी गैस से शव जलाने की सुविधा

रोनल देव

रारालेवू शमशानभूमी में गैस से शव जलाने की सुविधा बनाने पर काम शुरू हो चुका है।
हाल ही में इस योजना का नीउ डालते हुए एम्पलोएमन्ट, युथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन कुमार ने लोगों से इस योजना के प्रति दान देने की माँग की।
मंत्री के अनुसार रारालेवू शमशान भूमी कमिटी देश की पहली कमिटी है जो जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़े असर के खिलाफ कार्यवाई में सरकार

की मदद करने की कोशिश कर रही है। मंत्री कुमार ने कहा कि इससे वातावरण में कार्बन गैस की कमी होगी।
फीजी में इस तरह की यह दूसरी सुविधा होगी।
“यह देश की दूसरी कमिटियों के लिए एक उदाहरण है क्योंकि सभी जानते हैं कि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री विश्व मंच पर जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ लड़ाई की अगुवाई कर रहे हैं तथा ऐसी योजनाएं जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़े असर को कम करने में मदद पहुँचाएंगी।
लेन्ड्स मंत्री अशनील सुधाकर ने कहा कि इस

योजना के चलते लोगों को अब अंतिम संस्कार करने के लिए लकड़ियाँ नहीं काटनी पड़ेंगी।
“यह योजना असर में आने के बाद शव जलाने के लिए दोंगो और अन्य पेड़ नहीं काटने पड़ेंगे। वातावरण में कम धुँआ होगा जिससे नुकसान कम होगा,” मंत्री सुधाकर ने कहा।
रारालेवू सेमेट्री कमिटी ने लोगों से मिले दान में करीब दो लाख पचास हजार डोलर (\$250,000) तक इक्वेटा कर लिया है।
यह योजना अगले छः महीनों में पूरी होने की आशा है।

फ़ीजी फ़ोकस



रारालेवू में
बनेगी गैस से
शव जलाने की
सुविधा

7



प्राकृतिक
विपत्तियों के
लिए हर वक्त
तैयार रहें

6



फ़ीजी नौसेना ने मनाई चौवालिसवा सालगिरह

फ़ीजी की नौसेना ने हालही वालूबय सुवा स्थित
स्टेन्ली ब्राउन बर्ड्स पर अपनी चौवालिसवा
सालगिरह मनाई।
इस अवसर पर प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्ड्निमारासा
के अलावा अन्य मंत्री, कूटनितियों तथा
अनुशासन सेवा के उच्च अफसरों ने इसमें
हिस्सा लिया।
संसदीय स्पीकर रातु डपेली नईलातिकाउ
समारोह में मुख्य मेहमान थे।

असहाय महिला के लिए नया घर

रोनल देव

ओमकार रौड की एक असहाय महिला की
खुशियों का ठिकाना न रहा जब लेन्ड्स और
मिनरल रिसोसस मंत्री अशनील सुधाकर ने
उनके नए घर का उद्घाटन किया।
उनसठ (59) साल की प्रेम वति ने सरकार
को धन्यवाद दिया तथा अपने पड़ोसियों का

भी आभार व्यक्त किया जिन्होंने पिछले कई
सालों से उन्हें सहारा दिया है।

मंत्री सुधाकर ने कहा कि सरकार ने वति को
दो साल पहले ज़मीन के लिए निन्यान्वे (99)
सालों की लीस दी थी।

“प्रधान मंत्री ने घोषणा की थी कि जो लोग
कई सालों से स्क्वाटा सेटलमन्ट में रहते आए
हैं और उन्हें कोई उम्मीद नहीं है को बसने

के लिए उसी ज़मीन पर एक लोट मिल सकता
है। वति को ज़मीन मिलने के बाद पुराने घर
से नई ज़मीन में खिसक जाना था लेकिन
आर्थिक समस्याओं की वजह से वो अपना नया
घर नहीं बना सकीं। कई साल पहले उनके
पति का देहान्त होने के बाद वति बिल्कुल
अकेली हो गई हैं,” मंत्री सुधाकर ने कहा।
श्री सनातन धर्म प्रतिनिधि सभा फ़ीजी की रेवा

शाखा के अधिकारियों तथा ओमकार रौड के
एडवाएज़री काउन्सला रतनेश भवन ने आम
जनता तथा व्यापारियों से सहायता लेकर, वति
के लिए घर बनवाया। पड़ोसियों की मदद से
लगभग तीन दिनों में वति का घर बनकर
तैयार हो गया। वति जिनका जन्म तावुवा में
हुआ था, ब्याह कर नसीनू आई थी। उनके
पति के निधन हुए पन्द्रह साल हो गए हैं।

Noda Viti



Tara na tauni mai Nabouwalu

3

Uqeti na tei ni uvi ni Viti

7



Matanitu ena tokona na taledi

SA vakadeitaka na veitokoni ni matanitu ena nodra vakatoroicaketaki na taledi ni itabagone ena noda vanua. Oqo ena vuli sere kei na drama kei na cakacaka ni veivakamarautaki.

Oqori edua na yavu ni nodra

vakaraitaki ira na noda itabagone mera veitalanoataka eso na ulutaga edau mositi ira ena nodra bula vakalewenivanua.

Vosa tiko na Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena nodra soqo ni vakaraitaki itovo ni

veivakamarautaki vakayabaki nodra na gonevuli ena noda vanua ka vakayacani tiko na Kula Film Awards. Me vaka ni oqo era dau tabaki talega kina ena iyaloyalo vakaraitaki.

“Keimami sa cakacaka tiko

ke iratou na tabana ni Vuli merawa ni vakavinakataki kina na vuli ni nodra na gonevuli ena lesoni era taura ena vuli ni veivakamarautaki ena taledi ka mera tuberi ka laveti kina na taledi,” kaya ko Vunilawa Sayed-Khaiyum.

Ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei ira na gonevuli ena Kula Awards. iTaba: EMI KOROITANO

Tutaka na dodonu, tuberi ira vinaka

VILIAME TIKOTANI

O ira na lewenivanua ena noda vanua era sa matua e tiko vei ira edua na isolisoli ka rawa nira dau ni vakasala vinaka ka dusimaka talega na vanua mera muria na itaba gone ena gauna oqo.

Ka rawa ni ra vakaraitaka na dina ni ka ca na wainimate gaga ni veivakamatenitaki era sa basika tiko ena noda vanua ena gauna oqo.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita Teitei, Veiqaravi ni Veivaka-

torocaketaki ena taudaku ni tauni, Wai kei na Veikabula wavoliti keda, Dr Mahendra Reddy na tikina oqo vei ira na soqosoqo ni peniseni ena noda vanua, ka vakayacori na nodra boseka vakayabaki ena noda vanua.

Sa vakauqeti ira na leweni soqosoqo ko Minisita Reddy mera kua nira tarova na nodra vosa, se kacivaka na dina me baleta na waigaga ni veivakamateni taki, se baleta na itovo ni bula ni lewenivanua era sa luluqa tikoga mai ena gauna oqo.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Reddy vei ira na matua se peniseni ni koiri era sabau bula curuma mai e vica na taba tamata ka sa levu talega na yabaki ni nodra bula era sotava kina elevu saran a bolebole me vakatauvatani ira na tabagone ena gauna oqo.

“Ni tucake ka vosataka na dina ka vakauqeti ira na lewenivanua baleta na veika esa curuma tiko na noda bula na siga nikua, ni ca na waigaga ni veivakamatenitaki, ka mera qarauna na

itovo na lewenivanua ena tabagone,” kaya ko Minisita Reddy.

“E ca na waigaga ni veivakamatenitaki, me tarovi.”

Mai Nadi ena soqo ni Bula Festival ena 2019, era kacivaka talega kina na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua, Mereseini Vuniwaqa mera tutaka na goneyalewa na dina ka muria edua na gaunisala dodonu ka rawa nira vakamuria na muri mai.

“Au sa uqeti kemuni ka moni kaloumana ena no-

muni lakolako, na veika oni vulica ena soqo oqo ena vukei kemuni mai ena veivanua oni na gone kina.”

“Ni vakaraitaka edua na sabolo vinaka vei ira na tagabone, goneyalewa ena veiyasa ni noda vanua.”

Vakaraitaka talega ko Minisita Reddy ni sa lutu tiko vakalevu na itovo ni bula ni lewenivanua ka sa dodonu kina meda veitauriliga taka na nodra tuberi vinaka na itabagone, cauravou kei na goneyalewa.



Bose mai Niu Yoka na iliuliu ni Mataivalu



Ko Commander ni noda mataivalu, Viliame Naupoto ena bose mai Niu York.
iTaba: SUPPLIED

NANISE NEIMILA

Abose voli ena vale ni volavola ni Matabose kei Vuravura o Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto na Komada ni Mataivalu ni Viti.

Veivosakitaki kina kei na Matabose kei Vuravura na kena rawa ni vakalevutaki na vakaitavi nei Viti ena Veisaututaki e vuravura.

Lai tiko o Komada Naupoto ena bose oya ena Matabose kei Vuravura ena ika 11 ni Jiulai 2019.

Era bose vata kina kei ira na iliuliu ni veitabana ni veitaqomaki e vuravura kara lewe 296 taucoko kara mataka ira mai na 106 na vana e vuravura. Era tiko talega kina

e 54 na iliuliu ni mataivalu duidui e vuravura.

Na ikau ni bose levu oya na "Na kena vakavurei na iwalewale vou ena rawati kina na kilaka me sotava na levu ni gagadre ni veisaututaki e vuravura."

Na bose talega oya e veivosakitaki kina na bolebole e sotava na Matabose kei Vuravura ena Veisaututaki.

Veivosakitaki talega na iwalewale duidui ni kena sotavi na bolebole vovou ni gauna ni kua ka sotava tiko na Matabose kei Vuravura.

Vakabibi na itavi duidui ni veivana e vuravura kina cakacaka ni veisaututaki.

Vakakina na itavi bibi ni kena

vakalevutaki na nodra vakaitaviti ira na marama.

Sota talega ena bose oya o Rear Admiral Naupoto kei ira na vetai-cake ni veiliutaki ena mataivalu ni Veisaututaki ni Matabose kei Vuravura ka wasei kina eso na iwale ni bolebole ni veisaututaki e sotava tiko o Viti.

Se tekivu sara na vakaitavi nei Viti ena veisaututaki ena yabaki 1978 ena ruku ni Matabose kei Vuravura ena Tokalau e loma, Aferika, Urope, kei Esia-Pasifika. Ena gauna oqo ena veiqaravi tiko kina na lewe ni mataivalu ni Viti mai Iraki, Ceva kei Lapanoni, Siria Vakaraapea kei na Ceva kei Sudan.

Marautaka ko Mohini na nona makete

VILIAME TIKOTANI

Ko Mohini Ram edua na marama vada yabaki 43 na taukena tiko edua na teveli ena makete ena tauni ko Rakiraki.

Bula duadua voli ko Mohini kei ira na luvena lewe tolu me vaka ni sa mai yali na nodratou ta. I'a sa mai laveti na nona bula ena kena mai dolava edua na nona teveli ni volivolitaki kakana ena makete me vaka e veivuke kina na matanitu.

"Au sa qaravi ratou tikoga na luvequ me vaka ni sa mai yali na tamai keitou, ia na veivuke oqo ni matanitu esa dua na veivuke levu," kaya ko Mohini.

"Sa rawa kina veiau meu vukei ratou kina na noqu matavuvale vakauasivi oratou na luvequ ena vuli kei na kedratou kakana ena veisiga."

"Au sa vakavinaka kina vakalevu vua na matanitu ena kena vakarautaki tiko edua na ilavo vaka oqo mera solia wale vei ira na lewenivanua era dau sasaga voli vakai keitou na veitinani."

Ena noa teveli ni makete ko Mohini e volitaki kakana draudrau kei na vuata me vaka ni dau sau rawarawa ka rawarawa talega na rawati kina ni sede nidra volivoliga ena veisiga na lewenivanua me baleta na kakana.

"Au dau volitaka kece na noqui voli me vaka ni levu tu na kakana ena yasana ko Ra kau sega ni leqa na vaqara na kakana meu mai volitaka, eso au tea talega me vaka ratou veivuke kina na luvequ."

Veivoli ena mona livaliva

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Sa vakayacori tiko na bose me baleta na buturara ni veivoli ena mona livaliva e Viti se na ICT sector Digital Trade Standardization.

E kaya na Vunivola Tudei ni Veivoli e Viti o Shaheen Ali ni donu vinaka na gauna e bousei kina na mataqali veivoli vakaoqo ena mona livaliva.

Baleti ni gadrevi mera taqomaki vinaka kina na lewenivanua e Viti era via vakayagataka na buturara ni veivoli oya me kua nira lawakitaki kina vei ira na dau veidabui. Ia, na sala ni veivoli ena mona livaliva e vakarawarawataka na veivoli ka sega ni levu



Ko Vunivola tudei ni Bisinisi kei na Veivoli, Shaheen Ali ena bousei ni mona livaliva.
iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

na ogaoaga ni veilakoyaki nei koya e volivoli.

Ia na bolebole ga e tiko kina na kena sau levu ena vuku ni yawa ni vanua.

Era dau vakayagataka na yawa ni vanua na dau veivoli ena nodra ulubuletaka na yawa ni Pasifika. Kaya o Ali ni o Viti e se qai tekivu tiko ena buturara ni veivoli oqo.

E tukuna ni dikeva rawa na iSo-

qosoqo ni Veivoli ena noda vuravura (WTO) ni kena vakalailaitaki na isau ni veivoli ka vakalevutaki na rawaka e rawa ni vakalevutaka na veivoli ena misini vou ni mona livaliva ena 34 na pasede ena yabaki 2030.

"Qoka edua na sala e rawa ni rawa ni tubu kina o Viti ena veigauna se bera mai.

Gauna oqo ese bera keca ni roboti

Viti taucoko na sikinala ni mona livaliva.

"Me vakavinakataki me rawa nida qaravi kina vakatautauvata." Vakavinavinaka na ivukevuke ni mata nei Ositerelia kina noda matanitu o Anne Dorney ena rawa ni wasea vei Viti na kilaka oqo ni veivoli ena mona livaliva o Ositerelia.

Takete ni vuli uasivi cake

EMI KOROITANOVA

Sa yalodina tale tikoga na noda matanitu ena kena rawati na ika 4 ni takete ni Veivakatorocaketaki Lewai Matau (Sustainable Development Goal 4) oya na kena rawata na itagede ni vuli uasivi cake.

Qoka e kacivi kina na vakavinakataki ni itagede ni taledi ni vuli tara ena kena veikoronivuli me vakauqeta talega na kena tomani tikoga na vulici ni veika vou ena gauna vou ni kua.

Vakamacalataka na tikina oqori o Minisita ni Vuli Rosy Akbar ena nona vosa vei ira na gonevuli ni Monfort Boys Town ena dola ni nodra macawa ni TEST kei na Bisinisi ni 2019.

"Na gagadre ni Matanitu me vakavulici ira na gonevuli ena kena vakavinakataki nodra taledi kame yaco na gauna era dui vakaduri talega nodra dui bisinisi ena taledi oy aka vakavure cakacaka ki veira na vaqara cakacaka tiko," kaya o Minisita Akbar.

Kuria o Minisita Akbar ni sega walega ni kila tiko na Matanitu na bibi ni itabagone kei na nodra vakatorocaketaki, e vakabitaka talega na kena vakarautaki vei ira na iyaya se misini ni veiqaravi.

"Keitou sega walega ni gadreva mera vaqara cakacaka walega na itabagone keitou vakauqeti ira talega me yaco na gauna me ivurevure talega ni cakacaka. Ena rawa oya kevaka era duavata mai kina veikoronivuli ni vuli tara esa



Ko Minisita ni Vuli Rosy Akbar kei ira na gonevuli ni Monfort Boys town.
iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

veitokoni tiko kina na matanitu," kaya o Minisita Akbar. Kaya o Minisita Akbar ni e agadre me soli vei ira na gonevuli na iyaya eso mera rawa ni vakavure cakacaka kina ena vesiga ni mataka.

"Sa dodonu vei kemuni na itubutubu moni kila na taledi cava so e tiko vei ira na luvemuni."

Na ikau ni macawa oya mai Monfort sai koya na "Na taledi ni bulibulika Lewai Matau."



Macala ni
bose mai
Cakaunitabua

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

E vica na ulutaga vinaka era boseka ka vakadonua na vanua ko Cakaunitabua ena nodra bose ni yasana ena Jiulai 18 ni siga, 2019.

Vakaraitaka oqori na Roko Tui Bua o Aisake Nadumu.

“Sa tabaki ka veisoliyaki vei ira na lewe ni bose ni yasana na vei lewa sa vakayacori ena veivakatutu a kau cake mai ena nodra vei bose ni tikina,” kaya ko Nadumu.

“Keitou veitalanoataka talega na veika vakailavo ni vale ni volavola ni yasana ka qaravi kina na veiulutaga lelevu ni vakayagataki ilavo ni yasana mai na vei akauade duidui e qarava na vale ni volavola ni yasana ena kena sagai tiko me vakatorocaketaki na nodra veiqaravi.”

Edua na macala ni bose oqo ni na vakayacori tiko na Adi Bua ena Okotova 31 ka yacova na imatai ni Noveba ka tau ya \$40,000 edua na tikina. “Na inaki ni soqo ni Adi Bua mera dui volia na nodra lot na veitikina ena tauni e Nabouwalu. Mai na rua na yabaki sa oti sa mai vica na tikina eratou sa mai rawata. Sa mani nanumi me caka tale ena yabaki oqo,” kaya ko Nadumu.

Na yasana vakaturaga o Bua e koto kina e 9 na tikina ka 54 na koro. Ka ratou veiqaravi tiko kina e 3 na Roko Veivuke ka wasei vakatolu kina na veiqaravi me 3 na tikina dua na Roko Veivuke.

Tekivu na tara ni
tauni mai Nabouwalu



Na Provincial Administrator e Bua o Peni Qasenivanua rau sota tiko oqori kei na Vunivola Tudei ni Minisitiri ni Veitauni o Dimity Fifer ena vanua me tara kina na tauni mai Nabouwalu
ITaba: JOSIA RALAGO

JOSIA RALAGO

Sa tekivu na tara ni tauni mai Nabouwalu e Bua ena kena katavilataki ka sa lai dikevi vei ira na kena idinia ka veisiko talega kina na Minisita ni Veitauni o Premila Kumar kei na kena Vunivola Tudei o Dimity Fifer.

“Era sa cakacaka vata tiko na kenadau (consultants) kei ira na

vakatorocaketaki na tauni (developers) ena cakacaka oqo.

Tukuna o Minisita Kumar ni dua na vuna e digitaki kina k Onabouwalu ni isotasota ni lewenivanua dau veilakoyaki ka ivurevure talega ni vanua ni vaqara ilavo ni lewenivanua.

Na iwiliwili ni lewenivanua mai Nabouwalu nikua e sivia na 2,000. Sa lalawataka tiko na ma-

tanitu mena tara edua na ikelekele ni basi kei na dua na makete e Nabouwalu.

Sa gadreva na matanitu me makete kei na ikelekele ni basi e Seaqaqa.

Sa vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Veitauni o Premila Kumar ni gadreva na matanitu me tara na makete kei na ikelekele ni basi mai Seaqaqa.

Ka sa gadreva mena vakayacori vakatotolo na droinitaki na kena plan.

“Sa tiko talega na gagadre me tara talega na kena rara ni qito keina ikelekele ni keria.”

E kaya o Minisita Kumar ni oqo edua na sala ena vakalailaitaki kina na nodra gole kina koro lelevu an tu ena taudaku ni koro lelevu.



Oira na leweni matabose ni yasana vakaturaga ko Bua ena nodra boseka.
ITaba: JOSIA RALAGO

Levu na
taro mai
Bua

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Sa levu sara na vakatataro e koto ena vuku ni kena vakatorocaketaki na wainigunu, na livaliva vakakina na sewerage kei na vanua mena maroro kina na benu sara vakatataro kina na lewe ni bose.

Vakaraitaka na Roko Tui Bua ko Anasa Nadumu. “Ka ratou sa

kerei kina na Town and Country Planning meratou na qai biuta mai vakailavola ena veika eratou sa tuvatuva ka tiko kina me baleta na kauwai ni matabose ni yasana ena qaravi ni tauni e Nabouwalu,” kaya ko Nadumu.

Kaya o Roko Tui Bua ni sagai tiko me buli vinaka tale e dua na ituvatuva vou ni qaravi paini ena yasana o Bua.

“Na kena qaravi tiko na cakacaka ni tei yaqona e kauwai tikoga vakalevu na matabose ni yasana o Bua ena vuku ni makete. Ia eda vakavinavinaka ni sa tiko na Agro Marketing,” kaya ko Nadumu.

“Sa sagai talega mera sa veisautaka naka era vakabibitaka baleta ni levu era voli lori ka sega ni ra bau tara rawa nodra vale. Keitou sa veivakayadrati tiko na vale ni volavola ni yasana ena tikina oya. Me liu taumada naka e dodonu me liu taumada.”

“Ratou mai vakamacala talega o iratou na tabana ni Town and Country Planning ena vuku ni tauni e Nabouwalu. Na kena ituvatuva sa qaravi saka tiko ena gauna oqo kei na nodratou ituvatuva kei na nanamaki ni gauna mena qaravi vakaoti kina na cakacaka ni tara ni tauni vou e Nabouwalu.

Bosei na iwalewale vou ni tataqomaki ena gauna ni waluvu



Taba toka qori na Vunivola tudei ni minisitiri ni Veicakacaka lelevu, Veilakoyaki, Leqa Tubukoso kei na draki o Taitusi Vakadravuyaca ena boseka ni waluvu.
ITaba: FELIX LESINAVALU

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Era sa bosebeka tiko na vakaillesilesi ni tabana ni Draki kei na Minisitiri ni Veiqaravi lelevu, Veilakoyaki, kei na Leqa Tubukoso ena kena sagai me tuva na idusidusi vou ni veiqaravi ena gauna ni waluvu.

Veivakadeitaki ena bose oya na

Vunivola Tudei ni Minisitiri ni Veicakacaka lelevu, Veilakoyaki, Leqa Tubukoso kei na Draki o Taitusi Vakadravuyaca.

“Sa dina na idusidusi oqo ena vukea vakalevu na veiqaravi e dau vakayacori ena gauna e se bera ni yaco kina na waluvu kei na gauna esa yaco oti kina me taqomaka na lewenivanua raraba,” tukuna o

Vakadravuyaca.

“Na idusidusi vou oqo ena vakatokai na Fiji Flash-Flood Guiding System (FIJIFFGS).”

“Ena vukea talega na kena dau kaburaki taumada na ivakaro mai na tabana ni draki ni bera ni yaco na waluvu ka tukuni talega me kilai na ivakatakilakila ni kena vakarau yaco e dua na waluvu.”



Me semati na veiqaravi vei ira na marama: Minisita Vuniwaqa

Ena sega ni ciqomi vakarawarawa na rai kevaka eda tukuna mera na waraka na ituvaki vinaka ni bula ni rawaka vakailavo se vakatauvatanitaki na turaga kei na marama ena veigauna mai muri. Oqori na vosa nodra na Minisita ni Marama Mereseini Vuniwaqa ena boseka baleta na nodra veiqaravi ena bisinisi na marama. Era tokona na boseka ogo na Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura ena kena tabana ni veiqaravi ena rawaka vakailavo, bula raraba ena wasase na Pasivika kei Esia kei na matanitu ko Viti kei Canada ka veitokoni mai kina ko Women in Business edua na soqosoqo ni bisinisi ni vakamarama.

Na sasaga ogo edua ka tokoni ena Pasivika ka uqeti na veitokoni kei na cakacaka vata ni veitabana me rawati kina na tubu vakailavo ka semati na veika rawata na marama kei na turaga. Okoya etokona ka laveta talega na sasaga nodra na marama.

ITaba: PRASHILA DEVI

Me tei vakalevu na vunika: Baleinabuli

Kevaka eda na sotava vinaka ka botana na vakailaitaki ni ceburaki ni kasi ka vaka kina na kena rawati me vakalailaitaki mai ena 2.5 milioni na tani ni kasi gaga ena loma ni 5 na yabaki, sa dodonu meda teitei vunika vakalevu.

Oqori na rai nei Pene Baleinabuli na vunivola tudei ni Minisitiri ni Veikau Pene Baleinabuli ena boseka ni REDD+

ka vakayacori e Suva. Era lewena na boseka oqori na liuliu ni lotu kei na veimata vakabauta era veiqaravi tiko ena noda vanua. Na inaki meda tea rawa ko Viti e 4 na milioni na itei kau ena noda vanua ka me vaka edua na tiki ni noda bula ena veisiga na teitei.

ITaba: FELIX LESINAVALU



Bose ka pasivika

Era liutaka edua na boseka na Minisiter ni Teitei kei na Veika Bula wavaliti keda Mahendra Reddy me baleta veika bula wavaliti keda e vuravura. Era lewena na boseka oqori na veimatanitu ena Pasivika ka wilikina na veimatasoqosoqo ena taudaku ni matanitu mera raica vata edua na golegole mera vukei vata kina. Era lewena na veimatanitu me vakai

Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu are attending the Pacific ECV.

ITaba: LITIA VULAISIGADUA



Maroroi na itovo rogorogo

Na bula ni cakacaka ni liga edua ka veisemati ena noda bula na tamata, tikotiko, koro kei na veiyalo ni tamata. Vakaraitaka na tikina ogo na Minisita ni Vuli, Rosy Akbar ena nodra vulagi dokai ena valenivolavola nodra na Jain aka vakayagataki mera vakaraitaki cakacaka ni liga kina ena nodra bula na dauteitei.

Na vakaraitaki icakacaka ni iliga ogo e wilikina e 40 na droini mai vei ira e 40 na dauteitei mai Xiuzhou, Jiaxing. "Eda duidui kece na noda itovo kei na nodra rogorogo kei na nodra dau veimaroroi kina," kaya ko Minisita Akbar

ITaba: EMI KOROITANO



Tu vakarau ena leqa tubu

Sa dodonu meda tu vakarau ena veigauna kece sara me baleta na leqa tubu koso. Oqori na vosa nodra na Minisita ni Vuli Rosy Akbar vei ira na gonevuli mai Wainibuka ena gauna era laki dolava kina na nodra valenivuli vou.

Na koronivuli ogo ea vakacacani ena cagilaba levu ko Winston ena 2016 ka vakilai saraga ena nodra valenivuli na gonevuli e Wainibula district primary

school kei na secondary. "O ikeda na lewenivanua e Viti eda tamata kaukauwa ka rawa nida lako curuma na dredre ni bula ka dodonu meda kua ni dau soro ena veika eda dau sotava baleta ni ogo na noda itanoa," kaya ko Minisita Akbar. Era salavata kei na Minisita ni Vuli na Marama mata ni matanitu ko Idia ki Viti ko Mrs Padmaja.

ITaba: FELIX LESINAVALU



Matata ni Veiqaravi ni Baqe ni Qele

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

A veitalanoa na noda niusiveva ni Matanitu na 'Noda Viti' kei na Daireketa ni Land Bank se Baqe ni Qele ni noda Matanitu o Tarai-vini Ratumudu. Me matata kina vei kemuni na kena veiqaravi. Ni wilika sara yani.

Taro: A tauyavu vakacava na Land Bank, kei na vuna e tauyavutaki kina?

Ratumudu: Cakacaka e na ruku ni ka 6 ni duru (Pillar 6) ni People's Charter for Peace, Change and Progress – kena vakayagataki na qele e ra se lala tu me vukea na noda bula ni veivakatorocaketaki vakabibi vei keda na i taukei ni qele. Tauyavu na Land Bank (Baqe ni Qele) e na ruku ni Minisitiri ni Qele kei na i yau bula me raica na kena cakacakataki na Land Reform Programme e na ruku ni Land Use Decree 2010 ka sa mai veisautaki tiko e na gauna ogo me Land Use Act 2010 kei na Land Use Regulations 2011

Me vukei keda na iTaukei ena kena vakatoroicaketaki na noda qele era lala tu.

Na kena vakatoroicaketaki na qele ni Matanitu e tiko ena baqe ni qele me rawa i lavo vakalevu mai kina na matanitu

Taro: Na lawa cava so e tokona na veiqaravi ni Land Bank?

Ratumudu: Land Use Act 2010 Land Use Regulations 2011

Taro: Na cava eso na yaga ni Land Bank vei keda na lewei Viti?

Ratumudu: Na kena soveya taki na qele e biu mai ki na Land Bank



Na vakayagataki ni qele edua na ulutaga esa veivakayadrati tiko kina nikua na matanitu me vakaesa dolava kina edua na baqe ni qele me vukei kina na itaukei ni qele. iTaba: VILIAME TIKOTANI

e sa nona i tavi na matanitu.

Taukei ni qele e na rawa ni lisitaka ga na nodra qele e na gauna sa biu mai kina ki na Land Bank ka sa vakadonui vakalawa ni soveya na kena soveyataki na qele (approved survey)

Vakatoroicaketaki na qele era lala tu mai vakabalavu me rawa i lavo kina na itaukei ni qele.

Taro: E vica na mataqali itaukei ni qele e Viti era sa biuta na nodra qele kina Land Bank me yacova mai ni kua?

Ratumudu: E 92 na mataqali itaukei ni qele.

Taro: E vica taucoko na levu ni qele oya era sa biu kina Land Bank me yacova mai ni kua?

Ratumudu: E 10,565.576 na ekatea

Taro: Na cava so edau gadrevi vei ira na itaukei ni qele era dau

via biuta yani kina Land Bank na nodra qele?

Ratumudu: Veika e gadrevi: 60% ni lewe ni mataqali me ra saina ena fomu ni veivakadonui (Consent form) Yabaki 18 lako cake Volai ena i Volai ni Kawa Bula (VKB) Na qele me soli mai kina Baqe ni qele me qele galala sega ni lisitaki.

Taro: Na cava na balavu ni yabaki ena lisitaki kina ena Land Bank na qele?

Ratumudu: E tautauvata ga kei na balavu ni lisi e solia tiko na iTLTB. Na balavu ni lisi e rauta ni 3, 5 ki na 99 na yabaki. E vakatau ena mataqali lisi ni vakayagataki qele e taurivaki.

Taro: Na cava so na yaga ni nodra lisitaka na nodra qele kina Land Bank?

Ratumudu: i) Sa na soveya taki rawa na qele, sega ni dua na i

vakacavacava e lavaki vei ira na i taukei ni qele.

ii) Ena cakacakataki na i sau ni qele e na taurivaki e na i sau sara ga e tiko e na makete ni veivoli 100% ni sau ni lisi e vagolei vei ira na itaukei ni qele

Rawa ni ra vakacakacakataki na itaukei ni qele na vakatau e na veika e tiko e na veidinadinati ni lisi)

Taro: Ni cavuta mada na yacadra na veimataqali itaukei ni qele era sa vakila tu ni kua na vinaka ni lisitaki qele kina Land Bank se Baqe ni Qele?

- i) Mataqali Natogo, Tavua, Ba
- ii) Mataqali Nakorosago, Raki-raki, Ra
- iii) Mataqali Natusara, Ono, Kadavu
- iv) Mataqali Nabati, Namena, Tailevu
- v) Mataqali Vunilolo, Naselai,

Nuku, Tailevu vi) Nawailevu Bauxite – Mataqali. Naita, Mataqali. Nacobo, Mataqali. Noro kei na Mataqali. Nalutu

Taro: Na sala cava so era na kila kina na via mai caka bisinisi ena qele e Viti na qele e rawa nira kerea mera lisitaka ka tiko ena Land Bank?

Ratumudu: Gaunisala ni vakau i tukutuku ni Minisitiri e na mona livaliva.

- (www.lands.gov.fj)
- ii) Land Bank Investment dossier
- iii) Tabaki e na niusiveva (Fiji Sun) e na veivula tolu

Taro: Gaunisala e rawa ni kerekere mai kina:

Ratumudu: i) Vola kerekere ii) Vakaleweni ga na fomu vakaraautaki

Bisinisi ni volitaki kava nei Emosi



Ko Emosi ena nodra matanivale kei na vatavata e tara me maroroi kina na nona kava ena gauna e vakasukai mai kina. iTaba: SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Ko Emosi Vakasawaqa edua na turaga ni Ono-i-Lau, yabaki 63 ka vukei ena yabaki 2017 ena \$1,000 na grant ni Matanitu ena bisinisi lalai.

Ena 2011 ni oti nona veiqaravi ena vale ni wainimate e Suva se Government pharmacy sa mai vukei tuakana ko Apaitia Malani voli ena dua na bisinisi lailai ni hire taki ni kava ni vakatunuloa ena nodratou vale mai 190 Kanace road e Valelevu.

Nikua sa mai vakacegu ko tuakana ka sa tomara tikoga na bisinisi lailai ogo ko Emosi ka donui koya

na veivuke ni \$1000 nodra na bisinisi lalai ena 2017.

“Me yacova sara mai na siga sa mai soli kina vei au na \$1000 na grant. Na ilavo oya e yaga saraga vakalevu baleta ni sa mai voli rawa kina e 32 na tikini kava me sosomitaka na kava a yali ena yabaki yani imuri,” kaya o Emosi.

Bau sau vinaka toka na hire ni kava nei Emosi ka toka ena \$80 dua na 5 na siga ka kevaka e tosoa tale ena sauma e \$10 me yacova ni vakasukai na kava.

“E rua tiko na set ni kava dua esa kava makawa sa tekivu makawa mai. Mai yali na kena ikarua ni set. Na set ni kava makawa au sa hire-taka tiko me \$60.50 me 5 na

siga.

Ogo esa bau mamada saraga vei ira na lewenivanua me vaka nira lakova tikoga yani ena vei macawa.

“Dua na vula rawa ni mai kau vaka 8 na noqu kava na levu ni soqo sa caka wavoki tu ogo. Na noqu kava era sa dau veitalanoa-taka lako beka ga ena talevoni na kena maketetaki kina,” kaya ko Emosi

“Io na gauna ogo sa ra bailevu sara na vanua e dau hire takina na noqu kava ni vakatunuloa. Sa lai yaco sara yani ki Tovata vakakina ki Makoi.”

Vakavinavinakataka o Emosi na nanuma ni Matanitu mera vukei

na bisinisi lalai vakaoqo ena nodra tauyavu. Sa rawa niko qiriti koya ena 9211249 se 9211256 kevaka o gadreva na kava

Na nonai bole ko Emosi oya na tabu ni dinau ena bisinisi ka ivakasala levu vei ira kece na dau ni bisinisi lalai.

Nikua esa vakasaqara tiko ko koya medua na nona lori ka sa maroroi ilavo saratiko vakaukauwa me yacova edua na nona sau ni lori.

Ogo edua e raica okoya ni dau rawa ni vukea talega na kena ci-civaki na bisinisi ogo ni hire kava me usana se vanua cava e gadrevi kina.



Dau veivuke yaga talega ena iteitei

VILIAME TIKOTANI

Oira na mara-
ma era
dau ni veivuke
yaga talega ena
teitei ka semati
ga mai kina na



Ko Torika Nasau.

itavi ni veiqaravi
ena loma ni nodra vale. Oqori na
rai nei Torika Nasau na marama
mai Burelevu Ra ena nodra ita-
lanoa me baleta na cakacaka ni
veiqaravi ena teitei me vukea kina
na nodra liuliu ni matavuvale.

Ko Torika edua vei ira na dautei-
tei ka digitaka na Tabana ni teitei
me talanoataki na noda italanoa
ma baleta na mana ni veiqaravi
ena teivaki nu qele.

E tea tiko okoya kei na watina na
veimataqali kakana draudrau me
vaka na tomata, meleni, kiukaba
ka vaka kina na tavioka kei na
baigani.

Qoka e vicaa walega na itei ka tea
tiko me vukea kina na nodra mata-
vuvale. E volitaka tiko ena makete
ka levu na gauna era sa volitaki ga
vakadodonu vakataga vei ira na
dau volivoli taki ena makete. Dua
talega na itei oya na painapiu.

“Dodonu meda dau vukei ira na
watida me rawa ni yaga n aka eda
cakava tiko,” kaya ko Torika.

“Vinaka cake meda vakayagata-
ka na qele baleta ni da bula nikua
naka kecega e saumi ka sa yaga
cake me da lesu tale kina qele me
noda ivurevure I rawaka vakaila-
vo kei na bula ena veisiga.”

Vakaraitaka ko Torika ni lima
na yabaki nodra cakacaka tiko
mai Lautoka vakaveiwaitini ka
lima na nodrau isolisoli ka dua
na bula dredre veirau baleta nisa
tubu tikoga na isau ni bula ena
veisiga.

Esa vakavinavinaka kina na
matanitu vua na tabana ni teitei
ena veivuke ni cakacaka ni teitei,
na vakasala kei na kena soli tale-
ga na nodrau misini ni cukicuki
ka sega ni rau sauma. Ena levu na
gauna era sa vakayacora vinaka
ga na iteitei ka vakarautaki mai
veirau na makete ni volivolitaki.

“Vei ira na tiko mai tauni ka tiko
na nodra qele, sa vakalusi gauna
na tiko mai tauni sa dodonu meda
lesu mai kin a koro me mai va-
kayagataki na qele,” kaya ko To-
rika.

“Keirau tei weleti, kaveti, bean,
tomata, meleni, kiukaba ka sa
rawa sara tiko kina na bula.”

Vakavinaka kina na ma-
tanitu, ena veivuke levu
main a tabana ni tei-
tei ena maniuva nei rau
misini.

“Keirau volivolitaki vakarua
ena veimacawa, keirau vakacegui
ira naveiwekani era dau leqa mai
ka sa rawa vinaka tiko na bula.

Uqeti na tei ni uvi ni Viti

VILIAME TIKOTANI

Na itei na uvi edua na
itei e kilai vinaka na
kena yaga kei navinaka
ena noda bula na kawa itaukei.
Salavata kei na tukutuku oqori
nai vosavosa oya kevaka oseg
ni tei uvi oiko sega ni tamata
tagine. Oqori na vosa bolebole
nei Jone Madra edua na turaga
yabaki ono sagavulu ka dua vei
ira na dau tei uvi levu duadua
tiko maina nay asana vakaturaga
ko Ra. Vakaraitaka ko Madrai
ni dua n aka vinaka vua na tea
tiko na uvi baleta esa vakila kina
okoya na kena vinaka kei na
mana ena nona bula vakamata-
vuvale kei na tiko bulabula.

Vakaraitaka okoya ni sauma
rawa kina okoya na vuli nei
luvena ka vuli lawa tiko ena
vuli torocake main a Univesiti
ni Ceva kei Pasivika. Eda kila
vinaka ni sega ni saurawarawa
na vuli loya i0o ko Madrai esa
rawata rawa baleta na kaukauwa
ni ligana kei na mana ni nodra
teitei.

Nikua eratou sa mai voli uvi
vua na tabana ni teitei me rawa
ni vukei ira na dauteitei ena vei-
yasai Viti, ka sa wili na teitei nei

Madrai me vaka me supplier ni
tei ni uvi veiratou na tabana ni
teitei.

“Eratou vinaka e 10 na tonne
na tabana ni teitei me u vakarau-
taka vei iratou ka au sa sasaga
tiko kina. Seg ni wili kina na
kena au dau volitaka tiko ena
makete.”

“Mai na dua na tonne au rawa
ni rawata kina e 3000 ka levu
sara, io nikua keitou sa cakaca-
ka vata keina na tabana ni teitei
baleta na kena vakalevu taki na
itei ni uvi me baleta na veiva-
nua tale se koir na dauteitei era
vinakata mera tea na uvi.”

Ko Madrai ea winitaka na ico-
covi ni dau tei uvi ena noda va-
nua ka tukuna ni tei oqo edua
dina na itei tagine talega baleta
n aka esoli vein a yago.

“Sa rauta mera dau tea na noda
qase baleta ni tiko kina na ka-
kana vinaka kece egadreva nay
ago. Na kakana e tiko ena uvi
e solia na kaukauwa ena veise-
ma ni yago ka rawa taelga nida
cakacaka kaukauwa kina ka bu-
labula vinaka,” kaya ko Madrai.

“Au vakavinaka kina na vei-
vuke levu ni tabana ni teitei kei
na matanitu ena veiyabaki me
vaka esa 8 na yabaki oqo.”



Ko Jone Madrai ena nodra loga ni veiuvu.
iTaba: VILIAME TIKOTANI

Vakaraitaka ko Madra ni tei
uvi edua na isolisoli e soli mai
na Kalou meda vakayagataka ka
sa yaga meda cukita ka vakaya-
gataka.

“Na ivakarau ni teitei e yaco
tiko e na koro ena gauna oqo
evaka edau veimurimuri tikoga,

ia au dau kaya vei ira na gone
oya mera saga madaga mera tea
edua na itei ka meraa qarauna ka
maroroya vinaka me yacova na
gauna esa laurai kina. Ka sega
ni tukuni kina na kena vo ni tei
nida sega ni rawata.

“Sa tiko kina na bolebole.”

Kune vakacegu ena vakadrodroi ni wainigunu



Oqori mai na colo kei Ra ena koro ko Nativi ka sa yacovi ira yani na wainigunu savasava ena nodra matani vale.
iTaba: VILIAME TIKOTANI

VILIAME TIKOTANI

Na wai ni gunu savasava
edua na dodonu vakata-
mata kece sara ena
noda vanua ka sega ni vakuai
kina edua na tamata veitalia sara-
ga na vanua cava e vakatikotiko
kina. Era sa kune vakacegu kina
na lewenivanua ena tikina ko
Nalawa ena yasana vakaturaga
ko Ra ena nodra sa semati yani
ena veivakatorocaketaki ni bula
oqo. Me vaka nira tikina e tiko
ena colo kei yasana ko Ra ka dau
dredre vei ira na veiqaravi oqo.

Vakaraitaka ko Mikaele Qolali
yabaki 56 mai na koro ko Nasu-
kamai ena tikina ko Nalawa ni sa

vakadinadinataka okoya kei ira
na nona lewe nikoro na veivuke
levu oqo kina na nodra bula. Sa
vakarawarawataki kina na nodra
qaravi bula ena veisiga. Sa oti na
nodra taubale vakabalavu mera
lakitaki wai mai ena uciwai kei
na vakaso ni wai makawa baleta
ni sa yaco saraga yani kina nodra
loma ni vale.

“Na koro ko Nasukamai edua
na koro dredre me vaka ni dau
dredre na vakasaqarai ni wai, ia
nikua sa rawa me keimami sema-
ti ena vakadrodroi ni wai ni gunu
savasava ena loma ni neimami
vale,” kaya ko Mikaele.

“Era lewe 115 vakacaca na levu
ni vuvale ena koro oqo ka ra ma-

rautaka na kena vakarawarawa-
taki na wai ni gunu.”

“Era sa rawa ni savasava na
marama , vakasaga ka vakayaga-
taki wai na neimami gone ka sa
dua n aka vinaka sa tiko kina na
vakavinavinaka kivua na matani-
tu na tabana ni wai.”

Vakadinadinataka na tiko oqo
na marama ko Ioane Nadrugu ka
kaya ni sa dua na veivakacegui
levu ena nodra bula ni veiqara-
vi na marama ena loma ni koro
vakaturaga, me vaka ni tiko sara-
ga ena colo kei Ra na nodra koro.

E vakayagataka na tabana ni wai
e \$108,597 na ilavo me vakada-
vori kina nacakacaka oqo. Va-
karaitaka kina ko Tevita Tukana
main a tabana ni wai ena taudaku
nu koro lelevu ni cakacaka oqo
e salamuria tikoga na veiqaravi
vinaka ni matanitu me sauma
vakadua ka semati ira vakavole-
ka na lewenivanua kina veivaka-
torocaketaki ena loma ni tauni.

“E liu edau soli edua na katini
nai lavo ia nikua na lawa vou ni
matanitu mesa sauma kece ga,”
kaya ko Tukana.

Ena koro ko Nasavu ka taravi
Nasukamai e vakaraitaka kina ko
Iniakasi Valami ni sa oti e vica
na kawa tamata ena nodra koro
vakaturaga era qai vakadinadina-
taka na veivakatorocaketaki oqo.

Na isau ni veiqaravi oqo etiko
ena \$122,033 ka kovuta e 30 na
matavuvale.

Sa vakavinavinaka kina kin a
matanitu ena igu ni veiqaravi ni
veivakatorocaketaki sa vakaya-
cora tiko ena gauna oqo mera
vukei kina na lewenivanua era
tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu.

“Dua na gauna balavu keimami
dau taubale balavu, kau vokete
galoni me takosovi kina vakavi-
ca na uciwai me rawa ni kau
main a wai, ia nikua keimami sa
vakacegu sara vakalevu,” kaya
ko Valami.

“Ena gauna oya era dau kauta
na nodra isulu na marama kina
na uciwai mera laki savasava
kina ka dau bula dredre veiira na
marama.”

“Sa kerei kina vei keda meda
vakamareqeta na vakayagataki
nu wai ka me vakamaroroi vina-
ka na ivakaoso ni wai me baleta
na noda bula.”

Ena koro ko Nativi, Nalaba Ra e
vakaraitaka ko Lemeki Waqa na
turaga ni koro na bula vakacegu
era sotava tiko na lewenivanua
ena kena sa yacovi ira yani na
wai ni guni savsava ena nodra
loma ni vale.

Na kena isau vakailavo e tiko
ena \$218,470 ka kovuta e 63 na
matavuvale ena loma ni koro.

Noda Viti



**Tara na tauni
mai
Nabouwalu**

3

**Uqeti na tei
ni uvi
ni Viti**

7



Marau o Katarina

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Solia vei Katarina Bubu na goneyalewa yabaki 12 mai na koronivuli ko Nailuva district school e Rakiraki edua na icocovi ni yaloqaqa ena gauna ni Cagilaba ko Winston ka ravuta na noda vanua ena 2016.

Era laki solia na icocovi ni yalo qaqa ogo na Minista ni Vuli Rosy Akbar ka uqeti ira kina na gonevuli mera dau gone yaloqaqa ena nodra veiqaravi vaka gonevuli, ka vaka-bibi ena veitavi kece saraga edau vakaogai vei ira.

“Ogo edua na soqo ni marau ena nodra mai vakananumi na nona bula o Katarina Bubu kei na nona yaloqaqa ena gauna ni Cagilaba levu ko Winston,” kaya ko Minisita Akbar.

“Au kila ni levu tale na gonevuli era gone yalo qaqa ena veivanua era veiqaravi kina ena so na itavi edau vakacolati vei ira.”

Na icocovi ogo e solia na soqosoqo ni Fiji Children’s Award – ka dau soli ena vei yabaki rua vei ira na lewenivanua.



Ko Katarina Bubu kei rau na nona tubutubu kei na Minisita ni Vuli Rosy Akbar ena soqo ni soli ni nodra icocovi ni yalo qaqa.
ITaba: AZARIA FAREEN

Sega ni kau laivi mai koronivuli na italatala: PM

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Sa vakadodonutaka na turaga na Paraiminisita na itukutuku cala tabaki voli nira na kau laivi na italatala ni lotu Wesele mai na koronivuli ni Matanitu.

Vakadodonutaka na itukutuku cala oya na noda iliuliu ni Matanitu o Voreqe Bainimarama ena nona saumi taro tiko ena gauna ni “Noda Paraiminisita” ena Radio Fiji One.

“E sega ni tukuni mera vagalala-

taki na italatala mai na veikoronivuli vakamatani. E cala tiko na kena ciqomi na veitalanoa oya.”

“Era na tikoga. Ia me vakaga na veimatalotu tale eso, esana sauma na lotu wesele na nodra tiko.

Tekivu mai na kena itekivu ni gauna me yacoma ogo e sauma tu ga na matanitu.” Kaya o Paraiminisita Bainimarama me vaka nira dui sauma tikoga na nodra italatala na veimatalotu me vaka na musulomani kei na Idu ena dodonu vinaka me sauma talega na Lotu Wesele na kedra isau na

kena italatala ena veikoronivuli ni Matanitu.

“Na veimatalotu kece era dui sauma na nodra italatala.

Ko ira na musulomani, na idu kei na veimatalotu tale eso ena veikoronivuli vakalotu era dui sauma ga na nodra italatala ni veivakavulici.

“Sa qai laurai tiko ni kabi toka ga mai kina lotu wesele vua na matanitu na kena saumi tiko na kena italatala. Sa mani nanumi kina me sa vakatautauvataki ga yani na veitalanoa ogo kei na-

kena qaravi,” tukuna o PM Bainimarama. Kaya na turaga na iluliu ni noda Matanitu ni dodonu me liu tikoga ena veigauna kece na nodra vuli na luveda. Oya na vuna e dodonu mera vakavaletaki eliu na qasenivuli mera logaloga vinaka kina ena nodra qarav nodra itavi ni veivakavulici vei ira na luveda.

“Wili kina nodra veivakavale-taki, ena so na vanua sa sega madaga nira vakavaletaki na qasenivuli ralai vakavaletaki sara o ira na noda italatala.”

“Au nanuma me liu tiko madaga nodra qaravi o ira na luveda ena nodra vuli.”

“Dau levu na gauna eda tara koronivuli sega ni tara na nodra vale na qasenivuli.”

“Levu na gauna eda tara siteseni ni nasi sega tu ni tara nodra itiko-tiko na nasi, na vuniwai,” kaya o PM Paraiminisita Bainimarama, ka kaya ni veisau walega ena vakayacori oya mesa sauma ga na Lotu Wesele na kedra isau na nona italatala ena veikoronivuli ni lotu.

VOQA NI DAVUI

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

Vakarauwai
9pm (30 na miniti)
Radio Fiji One

Sigatabu
8.45pm (30 na miniti)
Radio Fiji One

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