

FijiFocus

407

REMOTE HOUSEHOLDS TO GET ELECTRICITY **6**



DON'T USE RELIGION AS A WEAPON **10**



PM DELIVERS WAKE-UP CALL AT CLIMATE TALKS **7**

'ALL EQUAL'

PM: Constitution Day theme reflects spirit of document



Fijians in Labasa clamoured for a chance to shake hands with Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the 2018 Constitution Day celebration at Subrail Park in Labasa. People from all walks of life, even children, were eager to meet with the Head of the Government to take selfies with him. **Photo: ERONI VALILI**

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Constitution Day 2018 theme “A Constitution for Every Fijian Family” reflects the message that is en-

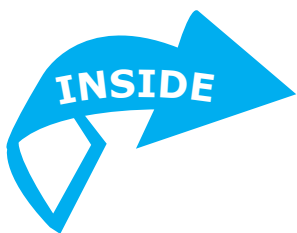
shrined in the Constitution that all Fijians are equal under the law, regardless of race, ethnicity and religious belief. This was message by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during

the celebrations held at Subrail Park in Labasa. “It’s been a wonderful day for the Constitution Day celebration held in Labasa. We have always had celebrations in Suva and the

Western Division,” he said. “The Government brought the celebrations to the North so that the people in the North can feel the emotions of how we can celebrate as a nation the law of the

country.” Prime Minister Bainimarama emphasised the importance of the day and called on all Fijians to en-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



WILLPOWER, FAMILY STEER
MUM-OF-FOUR TO THE BAR 15

PROJECT REACHES
FAR-FLUNG ISLANDS 12

A FATHER'S LOVE KNOWS
NO BOUNDS 5

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



It's so good to come out to the islands and see how the various women's groups generate income for themselves, for their families and for their communities.

Mereseini Vuniwaqa
Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

NUMBERS

407 is the total number of households in some of the most remote villages in the highlands of Viti Levu to get electricity

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama (@FijiPM)
Today we made history - hosting our national #ConstitutionDay celebration in the North for the very first time. Vinaka vakalevu to everyone who came out to celebrate our Constitution and the vast array of rights it guarantees for every Fijian #TeamFiji #Fiji

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Celebrations historical



School students from around Labasa during the march from Y-Corner to Subrail Park to celebrate 2018 Constitution Day. Photo: ERONI VALILI

NANISE NEIMILA

NATIONAL holidays are reserved to commemorate, celebrate and pay respect for the most important and sacred issues and entities that our nation holds dear and this certainly applies to our Constitution.

These were the sentiments of the President, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, as he led the celebration at the 2018 Constitution Day in Labasa last Friday.

"I realise that when you are thinking of a document, a celebration may not be appropriate according to your natural instinct; without considering its proper context, you may find it hard to perceive and regard the Constitution as important or exciting," he said.

"That is why we have Constitution Day in the first place — to take a moment to reflect on the immense intent and value of our Constitution and to show appreciation for the rights that it affords and grants to all Fijians."

President Konrote was joined by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, Cabinet ministers and Members of Parliament in Labasa.

"I can tell by the thousands of smiles, by the patriotic outfits you all are proudly wearing and by the positive energy felt in the air this morning that those of you in attendance, especially those young students who have travelled from across Vanua Levu to be here, will remember this extraordinary occasion for the rest of your lives," President Konrote said.

"The fact that so many Fijians, including the highest echelons of Government and the diplomatic corps, have made the journey to the North to be with you all today is proof of the commitment that all of us share in uniting our beloved nation as one Fijian family."

President Konrote said as patriotic Fijians we should accept and be comfortable with our Constitution, but often "we tend to forget that it is even there".

"One of those Constitutionally-enshrined rights, the fundamental right to education, is

the very reason that we are graced with the presence of hundreds of students here today," he said.

"I must acknowledge and say it is such a joy to see so many young faces here today with their patriotism and Fijian spirit and pride on full display."

Prime Minister Bainimarama made special mention of the three finalist of the essay competition organised for schools in the Northern Division.

"The three girls reading their essays today was very touching. What was more important was bringing the celebrations, so Government will be looking into including the Northern and Western divisions to host major events and celebrations for this kind of events," he said.

"Most of the people will not forget today, especially the children. It's a good day, especially with the good weather."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Tui Labasa Ratu Jone Qomate during the opening of the new Labasa Meteorological Services Office. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

\$1.2m facility boosts Govt weather services

JOSIA RALAGO

THE new Labasa Meteorological Services Office is all a part of Government's move to reduce the impact of high intensity natural disasters.

And, while officiating at the opening of the office, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said the facility would better prepare Fijians for oncoming natural disasters, protecting them from sustaining extensive damage.

"When it comes to disaster preparedness, every minute matters; even an extra second of warning ahead of a storm can save a life," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"That is why we have not spared any expense in delivering this new \$1.2million facility, which is designed to give us the latest possible window to prepare for any storms that may be headed in our direction."

Prime Minister Bainimarama said

the new facility offered the best and latest technology in weather forecasting in the Government's attempt to step up our resilience to the realities of climate change.

He added, however, that not even the best technology would always get predictions spot on.

"Sometimes, a serious cyclone warning may go out, but all we will experience is the light rain of a low depression. Other times, storms may intensify over a very short time," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"That is why every Fijian needs to always treat warnings issued by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Meteorological Services extremely seriously."

Prime Minister Bainimarama said while the new facility would work in co-ordination with the Nadi Forecasting Centre and the Suva Meteorological office, it also provided services for Fiji's neighbouring island countries.



PM: Constitution Day theme reflects spirit of document

FROM PAGE 1

joy Constitution Day because the Constitution looked after every citizen, irrespective of race or religion.

Tui Macuata Ratu Wiliame Katonivere commended the Government for bringing the 2018 Constitution Day celebrations to the North for the first time.

Speaking at the celebration, he said, “Today is special day for the people in the North and I speak on behalf of everyone in the Vanua Levu that this will go down in the history books and I am thankful to Government for giving us the opportunity to host such events”.

“The sea of blue and white children from all around Labasa and those who have travelled from Taveuni, parents, teachers and people of races speak for itself.

“It depicts unity among all Fijians. It also showcases their support towards Government and the development undertaken in the North.”

Ratu Wiliame highlighted the major development projects that have been brought to the North, which boosted the Northern economy and spoke volumes of the Government’s commitment.

“People have begun to change their mindset towards development. It has become positive and this is encouraging,” he said.

“Not only are we contributing towards the economy we are also sharing the same vision as the Government that is to have a modern Fiji for all.

“The development of an area will directly impact on the families living there positively and this will mean more jobs created within the country.”

Ratu Wiliame stressed to all Fijians that this year’s Constitution Day should be a reminder that we live in an inclusive society.

Northerners flock to big celebration

JOSAIA RALAGO

SEVENTY-two-year-old Salanieta Kolivuso of Vunivutu, Nadogo in Macuata had to wake up at 5am to make it in time for the first bus to come to Labasa for Constitution Day celebrations.

The celebration, which attracted a crowd of more than 3000 people, was the first of its kind to be held in the Northern Division.

“This is the first time for me to celebrate Constitution Day in such a grand manner and I had been looking forward to it ever since we were told that it was going to be held in Labasa,” Mrs Kolivuso said.

“The Constitution is the law of the country, one that protects us and it ought to be celebrated.” She caught the Vunivutu bus with her three grandchildren at 7am so they too could witness the celebrations at the ground and at the same time get educated on the Constitution.

“My grandchildren wanted to come and see President Major General (Ret’d) Jioji Konusi Konrote and Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama so I brought them here. This was also a chance for them to learn about the Constitution,” Mrs Kolivuso said.

“I am grateful to the Government for bringing the celebration closer to us.”

A 73-year-old Verenaisi Gi of Banikea Village in Bua echoed those sentiments, saying the Constitution was an integral part of gov-



Salanieta Kolivuso (closest to camera) with her family and friends during the 2018 Constitution Day celebrations at Subrail Park in Labasa. Photo: ERONI VALILI

ernance.

“It is imperative that we understand the contents and what the Constitution stands for so we know the rights we are entitled to,” Ms Gi said.

“We looked forward to this celebration and we are so happy to be here. We have learned a lot and we are thankful to the Government for considering us in Vanua Levu by having the celebrations here.”

President Konrote applauded Fijians in the North for turning up in large numbers.

“The Fijian Constitution is the guiding light that drives all of Government’s actions and deeds. It is the blueprint by which all progress is achieved. It guarantees each of us with rights and equality and ensures that our nation is always moving forward and never reverting to the past,” he said.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Mary Bainimarama at Subrail Park in Labasa. Photo: ERONI VALILI



I am thankful to the Government for bringing this national celebration to the North. This is the first time for us to be part of this historic event and it's a blessing. The march through the city was really colourful and the RFMF band was an added bonus. Never in the history of the Labasa have we had this crowd and it's really overwhelming.

Mereani Dakai
Labasa

Sea of white, blue as Fijians mark special day

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Northern Division was sea of blue and white as thousands flocked to Subrail Park in Labasa to join the 2018 Constitution Day celebrations.

Students from schools in the North, including Labasa and Taveuni, marched through the streets of Labasa to commemorate the na-

tional event.

Marika Niumataiwalu, 10, travelled with his parents to witness the live entertainment and to get glimpse of the President, Major General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote.

For Marika being physically challenged did not deter the youngster from enjoying the programme and being part of this historic occasion.

His mother, Mereani Dakai, said

to have this national celebration in the Northern Division would be written in history books.

“I am thankful to the Government for bringing this national celebration to the North. This is the first time for us to be part of this historic event and it’s a blessing,” she said.

“The march through the city was really colourful and the RFMF

band was an added bonus. Never in the history of the Labasa have we had this crowd and it’s really overwhelming.”

For nine-year-old Peni Ravula his understanding of the Constitution is that it is the law of the land.

“I am proud to be a Fijian and thankful that we can celebrate a legal document that governs our country,” he said.

“I love watching the march and live band performing today including being able to see the President, Prime Minister and other ministers. We only see them on television, but to see them face to face is a blessing.”

With the theme “A Constitution for Every Fijian Family!” the 2018 Constitution Day was celebrated for the first time in Labasa.



Motivation, perseverance for farming family

NANISE NEIMLA

PEOPLE are motivated and challenged through incidents, experiences and acquaintances.

This was the experience for Bivedna Maharaj and her farming family for the past 30 years.

The soft-spoken 29-year-old Ms Maharaj said she proudly called herself a farmer's daughter who had seen how the fruits of hard work led to the success of her own business.

"I can proudly say that farming has been my inheritance because I am the third generation," she said.

"First my grandparents, then it came down to my own parents and I'm proud to be one of the off-

springs of this family inheritance.

"I wanted to give back to my farming background so straight after high school I went to study farming in New Zealand and that's how I was able to start my own export business in local vegetables."

According to Bivedna she saw potential in exporting local produce overseas and this motivated her to start her business called "Farmer's Daughter".

Starting this venture was quite a challenge, she had to establish markets and acquire capital.

"I thank my Mum and Dad for supporting me financially and my husband, who lives in New Zealand. At the moment I have established markets in New Zealand and Australia," Ms Maharaj said.



Horticulturist Bivedna Maharaj with her parents at their flower garden in Kuku, Tailevu. **INSET:** Bivedna saw a potential in exporting local produce overseas and this motivated her to start her business called "Farmer's Daughter". **Photos: ERONI VALILI**

"I export bele, bora bean, bhindi and long bean, so at the moment I am exporting this but then there is interest in Canada and US."

Bivedna is in the process of acquiring funding from Government to help her further her business.

She claims that farming is something that young entrepreneurs should venture into given the richness of wealth we have in the land.

Sharing similar sentiments on farming, her 59-year-old mother Sunita Maharaj she proudly said

there was gold in the land and if the heart and passion were there then young people would reap sweet benefits.

"I was market vendor for the past 30 years and because of my health I was not able to sit at the market, so I decided to assist my husband in horticulture," she said.

"Horticulture was new for me and I had to learn more on how to look after plants, especially orchids which this is one of the expensive flowers. I never regretted learn-

ing this business and I can say that farming has allowed my family to achieve what we have today."

In 2016 Government assisted her business with the provision of material for construction of green house, plastic buckets and gardening tools to the tune of \$18,847.88.

Sunita is currently one of the suppliers of horticulture at Kuku, Bau, where she resides and she is thankful to the Government for giving her the opportunity to venture into this business.

Resort to land, farmer urges youths

NANISE NEIMILA

LIKE any other family living in the rural area, education is one avenue people rely on for a better future.

For Eparama Adralai one thing he reminds his children is that if they are not able to excel academically then they can resort to the land as another path to a better life.

Mr Adralai manages a 10-acre integrated farm land outside of Korovou town in Colata, Tailevu, with his family and says he enjoys his work because it takes care of his family.

"I did not finish school, I only reached Class 4," he said.

"From then until today I have been farming, which has allowed me to look after family.

"On this farm we plant vegetables such as eggplant, bele, bhindi and tomatoes. We have fruits such as watermelon and pineapple.

"We need to utilise the land, we cannot see it lying idle so this was turning point for me to resort to the land and help my family."

Mr Adralai said starting his small integrated farm was a challenge because he had to use axe and knives to clear land, instead of using modern tools.



Eparama Adralai on his 10-acre integrated farm land at Colata, Tailevu. **Photo: ERONI VALILI**

"The mentality of Fijians nowadays is that Government will provide assistance all the time, but it does not work like that," he said.

"We need to help establish ourselves first and then seek assistance if required.

"In 2016 I decided to ask the Government to assist in the fencing my boundary because I was also planning raise cattle after I saw the opportunity in cattle farming. At the moment I have at least 40 cattle."

Mr Adralai plans to have a small piggery and this will depend on how well he saves

this year.

In 2016 the Government, through the Commissioner Central's office, assisted Mr Adralai with fencing materials worth \$9000.

"I want to show youths today that farming has future, but it comes with hard work, not everyone excels in school but another alternative to securing a better future is through toiling the land."

Mr Adralai was able to build a house in his village where his father and mother live while his family resides with him on the family farm.



Paras Ram in front of his newly-constructed tractor shed at Koronivia, Nausori. **Photo: ERONI VALILI**

Tractor shed help for farmer

EMI KOROITANOVA

THE assistance in the form of a newly-constructed tractor shed for Koronivia Vegetable Farmers' Co-operative has helped them increase efficiency of agricultural production.

President of the co-operative Paras Ram said that they had received the provision of building materials to build a shed for their tractor with an assistance of \$1,514.24 from the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade.

"Our machinery and tractor were just parked outside for about eight or 10 years, left to the mercy of the weather," he said.

Mr Ram said that due to the tractors exposure to harsh weather conditions, the tractor had to undergo constant maintenance work.

"We had to paint, repaint, again and again every year," he said.

"Which cost us a lot of money, so with this garage, our tractor will be safe."

He added that being a co-operative made it easy to liaise with the Government, compared with individual farmers trying to do so.

The Koronivia Vegetable Farmers' Co-operative currently consists of 14 members and was registered in 2011.

Have Your Say

Do you think Fiji can bridge the trade imbalance gap that exists as a result of importing more food items from overseas rather than having more locally-grown fruits and vegetables?

Madhusudhan Premal, Nadi

Yes, Fiji can improve the trade imbalance by ensuring better quality local production so there isn't a reliance on imported food.



Mable Whippy, Nadi

Yes, Fiji can improve the trade imbalance by encouraging more use of locally-grown fruits and vegetables. Prices of local produce could be lowered to open more doors for hotels and restaurants. We can import less and export more local produce.



Voggie Steriner, Tuatua, Labasa

Yes we can. We have abundant land and resources at hand that could certainly cater for this.



Melania Dinasomi, Kioa Island

Fiji has the ability to do so. We might just need help with seedlings and training on how to cultivate for maximum productivity, but we have the ability to offset this trade imbalance.



Viliame Gauna, Navua

Yes we can. With the initiatives that the Government has undertaken in the agricultural sector, people need to utilise the assistance to the best of their ability and make use of the land that is available to them.



Veena Wati, Suva

Yes, Fiji can improve by growing a variety of fruits and vegetables which we can sell locally and export because imported fruits and vegetables are at times unhygienic and consists of chemicals.



Many people in this business fail because they do not understand how to take care of bees. It takes three months before the actual harvest.

Maciu Meru
69-year-old farmer



Sixty-nine-year-old farmer Maciu Meru in front of his bee boxes. When Mr Meru started this business he found out it raked in good income. He was getting close to \$300-\$450 for every 20 litres of honey. Photos: ERONI VALILI



A father's love knows no bounds

NANISE NEIMILA

As the saying goes “no love is greater than that of a father towards his son”. Well this is true for 69-year-old Maciu Meru, originally from Tailevu, who feels that it is his duty to prepare his son for the future.

What is so inspirational about this story is that it shows a father's love towards his children and it speaks volumes when he channels this love by trying to build a better future for them.

Mr Meru has already accomplished so much for his children because he owns and operates a bee farm.

He entered the apiculture business in 2009 when he bought two double-storey beehives and the Government stepped in last year when it assisted him with an additional of 25 beehives.

“I retired in 2008 as a Food and Beverage Manager and in 2009 I purchased my first two beehives at a cost of \$260 per case. This includes two suits with different machinery and smoker,” Mr Meru said.

“When I started this business I found out that it actually rakes in good income. I was getting close to \$300-\$450 for every 20 litres of honey. I did not have enough capital to buy some more cases so I requested Government funding.”

Upon receiving assistance from Government, Mr Meru made it his business to attend workshops to assist him with his thriving business.

He proudly attributes this to his success because it gave him a fair idea of how to make money out of honey.

“Many people in this business fail because they do not understand how to take care of bees. It takes three months before the actual harvest.”

For Mr Meru raising his two children with that as the only source of income was initially difficult.

However, he never gave up because he knew it was his responsibility as father.

“Since the market price is low I rather have my own clients and we want to get good returns so in order to have this there are clients who actually come to the farm or I just drop it



Upon receiving assistance from Government, Mr Meru made it his business to attend workshops to assist him with his thriving Bee-farming business. Photo: ERONI VALILI

off with them,” Mr Meru said. “We have to understand the bees, their life cycle and work cycle when we breed bees. “I prepare beehives according to the customer's demand.”

At the moment he has no plans for export given the low market prices abroad.

Mr Meru not only has beekeeping as a source of income. He has branched out into livestock farming and in the future plans to dabble in fish and sheep farming.

With all that, he hopes that one day when passes on the fruits of labour to his children, it will set them for life so that they will be able to continue his legacy.

Provincial administrator Tailevu Joseva Rokonai said the Government aimed to encourage members of the community to improve themselves through creating self-employment, food growing or providing themselves with shelter.

The Government, through the Commissioner Central's office, is assisting people through its

self-help programme with income-generating projects.

“Previously there used to be social projects which were assisted through the Commissioner Central's office, but that has stopped,” Mr Rokonai said.

The Government now provides income-generating projects for people who apply.

“These income-generating projects will allow the owner to be able to harvest, sell and run the business sustainably on their own rather than providing it as a social project,” he said.

Social projects include assisting with footpaths in the village, village halls or building toilets, which have been discontinued.

“Instead we are assisting people with income-generating projects that they are able to do on their own; we help start it with them and give them funds in the beginning.”

The cost of the project is \$12,322.50 with supply of 25 double story beehives and three ventilated bee suits.



Fiji, Samoa united on common challenges

Electricity for 407 remote households

ISAAC LAL



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with his Samoan counterpart, Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva. Photo: ERONI VALILI

HALITESH DATT

FIJI and Samoa will stand side-by-side to address challenges of common interest facing the two nations.

The commitment towards this ambition was further affirmed by the both countries after a three-day State visit by the Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi to Fiji.

Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while welcoming his Samoan counterpart, said Fiji would build new and stronger bridges of co-operation between the two economies and its people.

“Our trade ties are strong, and we’re looking to build on that success through improvements to the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement, along with the signing of the “Development Co-operation Agreement” between our countries, which I believe is the best next step to realising the untapped potential of our political and economic engagement,” PM Bainimarama said.

Given the unique similarities and challenges, he said both countries could do more bilaterally, especially when it comes to the fight against climate change.

Samoa was one of the countries that supported Fiji’s bid for Conference of Parties 23

(COP23) presidency.

“The Paris Agreement is of vital importance to our region and there can be no backward steps taken in achieving its most ambitious goals.

“Your support of my presidency and of that mission has been critical,” PM Bainimarama said.

Samoaan PM’s visit to Fiji was to promote the necessity of all Pacific island countries working together on the issues of priority.

“I believe Fiji has much to contribute towards pursuing our common goal. We look forward to its continuing leadership and support,” PM Malielegaoi said.

WORKS are underway to provide electricity to 407 households in some of the most remote villages in the highlands of Viti Levu that had been left out altogether in the past.

This was made known during a talanoa session between the elders of the district of Navatusila and Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama who visited the village of Sauvakarua recently.

“It hurts me to see that many of our villages in remote areas have not been included in the national development plan of past governments, however, my Government is ensuring that no Fijian is left behind,” he said.

“Work on the extension of the grid from Nadarivatu towards Navosa will commence shortly to ensure that all villages and settlements have electricity to allow for children to study better and our women to be able to do their chores in the bright lights.”

The Government has allocated \$5million in the 2018/2019 national budget that would involve over 10 villages and farming settlements connected to the electricity grid.

These villages include Nabuabua, Nabutautau, Mare, Tokoni, Nanoko, Tuvavatu, Delai Navaga, Navaga, Sauvakarua and others.

Three schools that are located in the district are also included in the project.

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted that not all villages and communities would be connected to the electricity grid as there is provision also for solar power to be provided to villages where it is conducive.

“The Government remains committed to ensuring that all the villages and settlements in the Navatusila district have electricity before July 2019,” Prime Minister Bainimarama added.

Sauvakarua village headman Filipe Lauroko said the announcement couldn’t have come at a better time.

“For so many years we have waited, we had been promised by past governments and it did not come to fruition however, we are grateful that through this government, we have been assisted and we have seen development,” Mr Lauroko said.



*Safety of persons travelling on these trucks must always be paramount
We already are a small nation of less than a million people and I would not want to see accidents on our roads*

Voreqe Bainimarama
Prime Minister



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with villagers of Sauvakarua, Navosa. Photo: ISAAC LAL

PM warns rural carrier drivers

ISAAC LAL

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has warned carrier drivers to be mindful of the number of people they load

during trips for their safety.

PM Bainimarama made the comments in the highlands of Navatusila after villagers complained of being booked by the Land Transport Authority for overloading.

He noted that there were no scheduled bus services for the villages in the upper reaches of Navosa, Ba, Ra and Naitasiri which had seen a rise in trucks for transportation.

“I understand that many of our

country men and women do not have proper bus services in the highlands however that does not mean that we overload carriers,” the Head of Government said.

“Safety of persons travelling on these trucks must always be paramount and we do not want to see lives lost on our roads.”

He urged drivers to ensure that they work within the laws to protect them and their passengers and to ensure safety.

“We already are a small nation of less than a million people and I would not want to see accidents on our roads – this is most painful as the leader of the country to see lives that could be saved lost on our roads because of someone’s mistake,” PM Bainimarama stressed.

“Let us work within the law and there will be no booking, less damage to our vehicles and a safer road for our road users.”

EFL plans solar plants for clean energy targets

HALITESH DATT

ENERGY Fiji Limited (EFL) will establish four solar plants of about five megawatts each in the next two to three years.

Speaking during the Fiji Chamber of Commerce Business Forum 2025, EFL's chief executive officer Hasmukh Patel said this would not only result in a significant reduction in our reliance on fossil fuels to produce electricity, but also further advance Fiji's ambition of producing 80 per cent electricity generated by using renewable energy sources by 2021.

Fiji has committed to this in its five-year National Development Plan (NDP).



Solar power is an intermittent supply. While the price of the solar panels has come down, battery prices have not come down substantially. So we are still waiting for the prices of the battery to come down, then it will be really effective

Hasmukh Patel
Energy Fiji Limited (EFL)
chief executive officer

"We have started the planning process for the first project and hopefully we should commission it in the first half of next year," Mr Patel said.

He told the key players of the private sector that EFL is thoroughly planning these projects that will ensure maximum benefit to Fijians and the economy.

"Solar power is an intermittent supply. While the price of the solar panels has come down, battery prices have not come down substantially. So we are still waiting for the prices of the battery to come down, then it will be really effective"

"Nevertheless, we are still getting on with the solar projects," Mr Patel said.

EFL is also encouraging the independent power producers to partner with the utility company and supply electricity to the national grid.



Prime Minister and COP23 President Frank Bainimarama speaks at the Climate Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. Photo: OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

PM delivers wake-up call at climate talks

PRIME Minister and COP23 President Frank Bainimarama wasted no time delivering his message to the climate negotiators gathered for an extra session to make progress on the Paris Agreement Implementation Guidelines.

Speaking at the Climate Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, the Fijian Head of Government dispensed with the usual formalities and went straight to the point.

"In three months, we will be in Katowice and, frankly, we are not ready. I think we all know that we have not progressed far enough, which is why we are here in what we are calling an "additional" negotiating session. But it is not just an additional session; it is an urgent session," Mr Bainimarama said.

"Without Implementation Guidelines that everyone can live with, we risk chaos at Katowice and the possibility of yet another delay in the urgent work of combatting climate change.

"Our main task at COP24 is to agree on a package of decisions that will ensure the full implementation of the Paris Agreement.

"Our work in COP23 and throughout this year is essential to that goal. It is our responsibility—and I use that term purposely—to agree on Implementation Guidelines," the Prime Minister explained.

However, the Prime Minister spoke plainly about the additional effort needed to turn good intentions into action.

"In our global effort to confront climate change, tens of millions of words have been spoken, and nearly as many promises have been made to the people we represent. If all the noble intentions of all the good people who have built this process since 1992 could be converted to clean energy, we could resolve the crisis now. But intentions are not actions," he said.

"Every nation now needs to make decisions that might be politically difficult. But that is why we were chosen to lead—because leaders do the hard work, make the hard decisions for the common good, and defend them."

With words of encouragement, Prime Minister Bainimarama urged the negotiators to rediscover the spirit of leadership, co-operation and compromise that led to the historic Paris Agreement in 2015.

"Work in good faith with each other. Reach



Prime Minister and COP23 President Frank Bainimarama wasted no time delivering his message to the climate negotiators gathered for an extra session to make progress on the Paris. Photo: OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

must read

The Implementation Guidelines, referred to by some as the "Paris Rulebook," are the details that will determine how the Paris Agreement works in practice.

They address how countries will communicate, report, review, and strengthen climate action in line with their capabilities, in a way that is transparent and accountable to the international community.

In 2015, countries agreed that they would be completed by COP24. However, that deadline is quickly approaching with much work still to do to produce a draft negotiating text that can be reviewed and finalised by ministers.

out across natural divides. Find common ground," he said.

"Let us keep our eyes firmly on the common

good. And then let us come together to reach consensus.

"If we do all those things, we will leave Bangkok proud that we have come closer to fulfilling our responsibility."

Prior to the opening session, the Prime Minister, in his capacity as COP23 President, chaired the COP Bureau meeting.

Meetings of the bureau are convened by the COP President and are usually held on a regular basis during COPs and two or three times between to discuss important matters related to the Conference of Parties.

During its meeting in Bangkok, the bureau discussed strategy, joint efforts and initiatives to help reach a coherent and balanced draft negotiating text by the end of the session.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Prime Minister met with the incoming Polish President of COP24, Michal Kurtyka.

The Prime Minister extended his support to the COP24 President designate and said that the COP23 Presidency stands ready to assist in any way it can.

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GRAND CELEBRATION AS NORTH MARKS CONSTITUTION DAY

It was a celebration on a grand scale with a difference as Labasa turned into a sea of blue and white for Constitution Day celebrations last Friday. People travelled from as far as Bua and Taveuni, including remote parts of Macuata and Cakaudrove, to be part of

the celebrations. This was the first time it was being held in Labasa. Chief guest at the celebration and Fijian President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote said Constitution Day was a time to take a moment to reflect on the immense intent and value of our

Constitution, and to show appreciation for the rights that it affords and grants to all Fijians. He thanked those who travelled far and wide to attend the celebrations. Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said the document being celebrated ensured

that all Fijians, irrespective of race, religion or creed, were equal. Cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, senior civil servants and members of the public took part in the celebrations. **Photos: ERONI VALILI, AZARIA FAREEN**





Don't use religion as a weapon: A-G

ISAAC LAL

ATTORNEY-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum has urged residents of Raviravi in Ba not to be swayed by political parties who use religion to divide Fijians.

The A-G made the comments after being asked by Hindu followers at the Raviravi Sangam Mandir about a few politicians who visited their area for their campaign.

He was in Raviravi to celebrate the Hindu festival Krishna Janamastmi and was taken aback by a question posed to him.

"I would like you to reject all politicians who use religion as a weapon to divide Fijians. Religion must be used as a unifying vehicle, especially in a country such as ours where there are a lot of various religions," he said.

"We can learn a thing or two from every religion and practice it in our lives because no matter what religious beliefs each of us follow, they all teach us to love one another whether it be the Holy Bible, the Holy Quran, the Bhagvad Gita or the Ramayan."

After being posed the question, the A-G held a talanoa session with residents from the area including residents of other faiths who had gathered to celebrate Krishna Janamastmi at the venue.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the Hindu festival Krishna Janamastmi celebration at Raviravi, Ba. Photo: ISAAC LAL

He responded to questions pertaining to the economy, and various sectors including the sugar industry, infrastructure, water and land issues and elections.

"Elections cannot be held any later than

November 21st, 2018.

Elections will be held on a Wednesday, however, the dates will be announced by His Excellency the President when he signs the Writ of Elections."

Vuniwaqa makes case for anti-domestic violence measures

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa has called for a relook at cultural, religious and other social barriers that perpetuate domestic violence against women and children.

While officiating at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new women's shelter in Natabua, Lautoka, she made an impassioned plea for men to contemplate their roles and behaviour towards women and their families.

"If their culturally interpreted role leads them to be bullying and controlling of their wives and children, then it is time to talk about and rethink this aspect of culture," she said.

"A culture must never be allowed to be used as a justification and must never be used as a platform to perpetuate domestic violence in our homes. We need to take care of our traditional and cultural family values to not impact adversely on the human rights of another."

Citing statistics from the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, she noted that 64 per cent of Fijian women experienced physical and sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime and 64 per cent of Fijian women suffer from domestic violence from the hands of their spouses or those who are in de facto relationships.

Research by the Fiji Women's Rights Movement showed an upward trend in the number of women who are victims of domestic violence in all the divisions in Fiji from 2012-2016 and that women and girls are the main victims of sexual offences; rape, attempted rape, sexual abuse of children under 17 years of age and of indecent assault for the same period.

"Men and women in Fiji cannot continue to accept men's privileges and entitlement just because they're men. Obliteration can take place and this is where the domestic violence begins to take hold. We need to question our own definition of masculinity and what a man should be so we can eliminate these disrespectful behaviours against women that have been ingrained in the fabric of our society."

Minister Vuniwaqa said violence and violent perpetrators were a product of rigid adherence to patriarchal interpretations resulting in gender stereotype and that it time to take a stand and rework on mechanisms for tangible outcomes.

"Men need to share fairly their earnings, recognising that everyone likes to make choices as to how family income is spent."

With the inception of Paternity Leave for working fathers, she said this encouraged and recognised the role of men in raising their children.

Wheelchair brings tears of joy

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

IN an area of scenic Matacawalevu Village in the Yasawa Islands, the family of Ateca Adikula wept as she was helped into her new wheelchair.

Officials from the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MWC-PA) delivered the equipment to her doorstep with Director Social Welfare, Rupeni Fatiaki during a recent tour of Nacula District.

And while wheelchairs may be prevalent on the mainland, they remain a novelty for far-flung maritime communities such as Matacawalevu.

"She's 75, is diabetic and became an amputee in March this year," said her daughter, Renivani Nene.

"We are so happy with this new wheelchair because her old one was brought from a hotel dumpsite and had to be repaired before the wheels broke again. That had discouraged my mother and she said her time to pass was nearing so there was no point in replacing it. But now this new wheelchair will give her

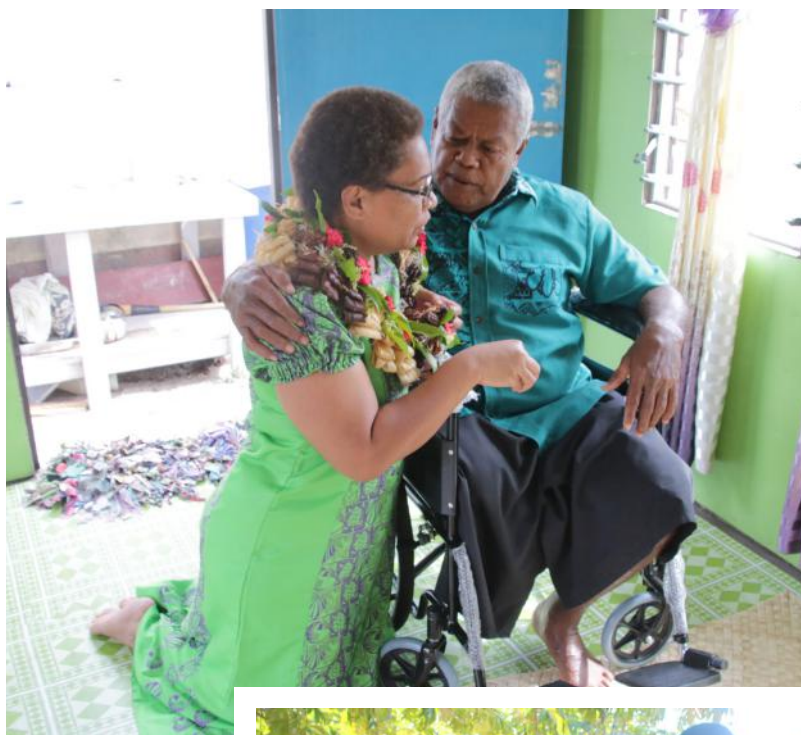
mobility, once more."

A native of Tamasua Village in Yasawa Island, Mrs Adikula was also assisted with social welfare applications and was one of several wheelchair recipients during the ministerial tour of Nacula District.

"This is our ministry's visit for the first time to the Yasawas to bring the REACH Programme, which has been very instrumental in getting our services out to members of the public, especially those living in rural areas, which is the main aim of REACH," noted Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation.

"It's good to see that it's been appreciated here in the Yasawas - not all the Social Welfare aspect of our services but also our stakeholder services, particularly Legal Aid, Medical Services Pacific and the others with us on this trip."

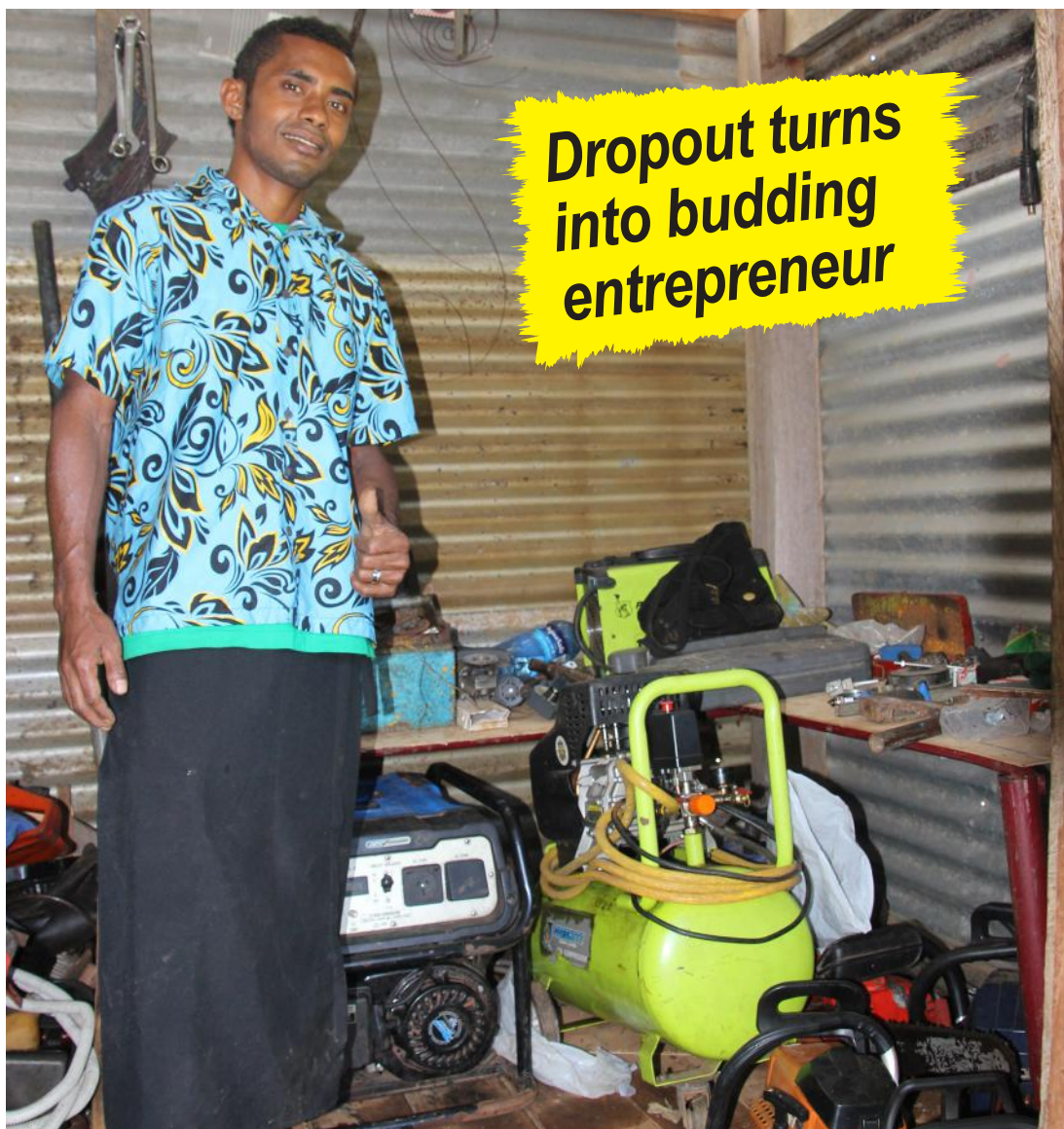
As line Minister Mereseini Vuniwaqa highlighted, challenges vary in different communities but her ministry is steadfast in addressing their needs.



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa shares a candid moment with Alivereti Vuluma, a shark attack survivor who received a new wheelchair from the ministry at Tamasua Village in Yasawa. Photos: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

Matacawalevu villager, Ateca Adikula with staff of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation after receiving her new wheelchair in Yasawa.





Manueli Pita inside his workshop at Kilaka Village in Bua. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

JOSAIA RALAGO

DECIDING to leave school at Year Eight a decade ago, Manueli Pita of Kilaka, Kubulau in Bua thought that was it for him and any opportunity he would have had to find formal employment.

Unknown to this well-spoken Kilaka, Kubulau, villager in Bua a decade later he would be operating his own business from his village, as one of the most sought after mechanics in the three districts of Kubulau, Wainunu and Wailevu West.

"I was always academically weak so when I was in Year Eight I decided to leave school and help out my parents in the village with farming," the 25-year-old said.

After spending five years in the village, Mr Kilaka was approached by one of his uncles to attend the Youth Training Centre in Savusavu and enhance his knowledge in his field of interest - which was mechanical works.

"I was a bit hesitant at first but then my uncle said I had to because I had also realised that

staying in the village was not as easy as I had thought it would be, I would need a stable source of income," he said.

"So I went to school and it was one of the best decisions I have made so far. After I finished from the center six months later, I decided to be an assistant to my teacher, often following him wherever he went to conduct trainings.

"And when I knew I had learnt all I could, I decided to return to the village."

It was at his village when he made a request to the Minister for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou for the provision of some equipment to start his workshop.

"I made the request in 2016 and last year I received my set of equipment and so I set up my workshop in my village. Ever since then, I have been travelling around these three districts, village to village helping those who needed mechanical assistance," Mr Pita said.

"I would hire a private car from my village to another with transportation costs accounting up to

\$100 a day."

He said he could earn up to \$600 a day from the work that he does, helping attend to his family needs, traditional duties and also feed into two savings accounts for rainy days.

"Just last week, a bus driver brought his bus here to have its engine repaired because he said it was too far to go to Savusavu. I said I would fix it, moments later I was able to attend to the issue and successfully repaired it," Mr Pita said.

"This would not have been possible if it were not for the incentive by the Government to assist youths through the Youth Training Centres around the country.

"I am grateful to the Government through the Ministry of Youth and Sports for helping me realise my dreams even when the odds were against me."

When asked to give a word of advice to his peers around the country, Mr Pita said, "Utilise your talents to the best of your abilities. There are avenues that the Government has provided to help us so we should take advantage of this."

Islanders thank Govt for new homes



Seventy-year-old Kelera Tekini outside her new home on Yacata Island. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

JOSAIA RALAGO

SEVENTY-year-old Kelera Tekini of Yacata Island in Cakaudrove is one of the many Tropical Cyclone Winston victims assisted by the Government through the Help for Homes scheme.

During a recent visit, the mother-of-three sitting in her newly-built home after her initial dwelling was swept away by waves on February 20, 2016.

Decked in a green bula dress, Ms Tekini said this was the only piece of clothing she had as she made a run for safety on that fateful morning.

"And this dress is also the lone piece of clothing that I was able to save after TC Winston tore through our village. I was running for safety to another home where other villagers were seeking shelter, when a big wave came and swept my home away," she said.

"The way the country and the world responded to the ordeal is an assurance that humanity is not all lost.

"We would like to thank the Government for the construction of our homes, assistance in terms of water, school is being constructed for the children and so on. We are truly grateful to the leaders in Government for helping us out and ensuring that we are not left helpless and homeless."

Memories of the event still brings tears and as Ms Tekini recounts, even the home where they were evacuated, when a strong wind blew it took the roof off with it and left them at the mercy of the rain that drenched their clothes as they waited for the wind to subside.

We are truly grateful to the leaders in Government for helping us out and ensuring that we are not left helpless and homeless

Kelera Tekini
Seventy-year-old woman of Yacata island, Cakaudrove

"We huddled together for what seemed like eternity and when we finally came out six hours later, most of the homes were gone and our village resembled a battlefield," she said.

And the rest as they say is history, but two years on the villagers on this far-flung island in Cakaudrove have picked up from where they left off through the assistance by the Government.

This has come in the form newly-constructed homes, businesses back in operation and fresh crops and vegetable from their farms.

"We were also assisted by the nearby resort, Kaimbu that helped us by transporting us to Suva in their private plane after the cyclone. We received relief supplies from Government and other stakeholders," she said.

A total of 34 homes on Yacata were completely damaged, 22 of which have been constructed with 13 structures left to be built.



Minister for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou with youths of Kilaka Village. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO



From left: Minister for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou with student Emeri Liga, his mother and Foundation ambassador Samu Kerevi. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

Tuitubou commends foundation programme

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

MINISTER for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou has commended the inception of a new educational programme that fosters technical innovation for young learners.

The STEM Programme integrates science, technology, engineering and mathematics and is incepted by Australian educational and public benevolent NGO, Reach 4 Your Future (R4YF) Foundation, which Minister Tuitubou recently launched in Nadi.



Lavenia Naivalu of Nacula Village speaks about the challenges of climate change.

This programme enables us as students to actually construct the devices and check if it actually is able to convert the sun's energy successfully.

Emeri Liga.
Mount St. Mary's
Primary School captain

The foundation has already carried out philanthropic projects around the country, including the construction of suspension buildings and reconstructive efforts towards buildings damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016.

"We see for ourselves the

amount of projects they have done across the whole of Fiji and I'm very grateful, to be working behind the scenes and coming out with those projects, it's just phenomenal," Minister Tuitubou said.

The STEM project is being implemented in institutions such as Mount St. Mary's Primary School in Nadi, where

students are working on solar devices that will be sent to disadvantaged communities in parts of the South Pacific and Africa.

School captain Emeri Liga noted the tactful way that STEM has complemented their curriculum.

"In the school curriculum, we learn about solar energy and

the importance of it, but we do not know how to construct a device that can actually harvest solar energy," he said.

"This programme enables us as students to actually construct the devices and check if it actually is able to convert the sun's energy successfully.

"The construction of the lights will enable my friends and me to actually understand how the solar system works and the importance of using the solar energy.

"This does not only rely on our knowledge of the sun but also the correct position of the solar panels on the light so that maximum energy can be converted into electricity. Solar panels will charge the battery and store the energy as part of its potential energy. Once the need arises, the stored energy will be used to light up the darkness around us."



The solar devices that students work on as part of the STEM Programme.

Project REACHes far-flung islands

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

THE provision of social welfare benefits for elderly villagers and Vola ni Kawa registrations are just some of the necessities that recently reached the doorsteps of villagers in the districts of Nacula, Naviti and Yasawa-i-Rara.

The Rights, Empowerment and Cohesion (REACH) Programme spent three weeks touring the Yasawa Islands, with a week-long tour of Nacula District personally led by Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa, a key programme partner, and the Legal Aid Commission.

Minister Vuniwaqa shed light on the new provisions of the National Budget 2017/2018, such as the Parenthood Assistance Payment, Family Care Leave and Paternity Leave and the free bus-fare schemes for people aged over 60 years that has been well received by villagers, many of whom are employed by Yasawa's famous cradle of resorts and backpacker properties.

The REACH Program included teams from the MWCPA, the Legal Aid Commission, Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM).

"I work here in the village and try to take all our issues to resolve on the mainland, but the presence of REACH has saved time and money," attested Yaqeta village headman Moape Seuseu.

In Yaqeta, over 30 people were able to get their birth certificates issued while over 30 applied for registration in the VKB, Fiji's main registry of indigenous landowners.

Mr Seuseu said consultations with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs had been particularly vital as foreign investors seek to lease land owned by one of Yaqeta's land-owning units (mataqali) for a resort development.

"Assessments have been done on the old village site, especially on the old church and graves by the Fiji Museum for their report to the investor from the Netherlands, as some sites are reserved. It is our old village site so discussions are taking time and the sessions held by the REACH team have been very helpful."

Assistant Roko Tui Ba, Josefo Vereivalu confirmed that through the REACH tour of the Yasawas, the Native Lands Commission had just registered a group for the VKB, with more due.

Villagers have been given much awareness from the MWPA and its Child Protection Programme, Legal Aid and the FCCC, which has been making inspections to ensure that prices of goods are compliant and to advise canteens and shop owners on price control and those wanting co-operatives," he noted. Additionally, the DO's Office has also issued shop and retail licences and ensured the compliant operations.

"Once nominations forms are finalized by the, we will go out into communities for social welfare recipients to nominate their beneficiaries, especially maritime areas such as the Yasawas, where information is harder to access," confirmed Director Social Welfare, Rupeni Fatiaki.

Deputy Director Legal Aid, Seremaia Waqainabete noted the vitality of public awareness, particularly on amended laws, and is confident that through the impact of REACH, community members will be better obliged to lodge reports, adding that the Commission's partnership with the programme had enabled more holistic services and saved time on inter-agency referrals.



Island women's labour of love

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

HALF the beauty of isolated, beachfront villages is witnessing its local labour of love.

Along the shores of Nacula's main island in the Yasawa Group, women of Navotua craft and create a variety of beauty products and edibles sourced from surrounding coconut, breadfruit, noni and plantain trees.

These backyard provisions are a staple income source for the village's creative women, who cleverly produce virgin coconut oil, lotions, soap, dishwashing paste, noni oil and crisps that are packaged onsite and sold to tourists.

A recent tour to the village by Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa gave women the opportunity to present and discuss their enterprises.

"This started in 2015 with assistance from Australian business volunteers and today, hotels can order 20-30 bottles at a time, depending on how much their guests want," shared Sesarina Nawaitavou.

Her fragrant skincare products are retailed under the banner of the family-owned Nawaitavou Virgin Oil Company, which are noted to have high levels of antioxidants and glides with no heating and mechanical extracts.

Their Yasawa Paradise Virgin Coconut Oil retails at \$10 per bottle, alongside Navotua Noni Juice and other goods.

The process involved in the creation of these products can be lengthy and includes sunning and fermentation, but provides a sus-

tainable source of income with a steady tourism market to cater to and quality control overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Likewise, the production of Navotua Breadfruit Chips is quality-managed and retails as 50-gram packages that are sold to visiting tourists.

The initiative began in 2017 and the women have recently built a kitchenette that the Ministry of Women plans to expand for more storage space.

"It's so good to come out to the islands and see how the various women's groups generate income for themselves, for their families and for their communities," Minister Vuniwaqa said.

"And like the women of Malolo, the good thing about the women of the Yasawas is that they have a market readily available to them - which is one of the main challenges for us as a ministry- and sustainable markets for income-generating projects that women undertake in their various communities.

"Here, they have the market on their doorstep on a daily basis. As a ministry, we see it as one of our priorities now to work with the women to diversify the products that they're already producing. Here in Navotua, they're already at that level with coconut oils, noni products, soap and chips, so it's good that they're using natural resources within their communities to earn income for themselves and their families."

As Minister Vuniwaqa noted, women of Navotua have empowered themselves through their enterprises.



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa admires the traditional Yasawa mats at Nacula Village. **INSET:** Minister Vuniwaqa and Sesarina Nawaitavou at Navotua Village in Nacula, Yasawa. **Photos:** LITIA VULDAUSIGA

Visits highlight issues affecting women

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

Tranquil and serene, the Yasawa Islands have long been a centrepiece of Fiji's flourishing tourism industry - the country's largest source of employment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contributor.

The hospitality trade is a key source of livelihoods for the districts of these remote isles and as a recent tour by the Rights, Empowerment and Cohesion (REACH) Programme and Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation noted, challenges face in these villages do vary, with climate change among them.

During a programme session, women of Nacula (Lomanikoro) highlighted the necessity of a new boat to assist their women and youth groups with the transportation of mangrove seedlings to replant along their foreshore.

"We want a boat to help us go to the other side of the island and transport mangrove plants and seedlings near Naisisili Village - the sea now so close to the village and at the health centre, even passes its fence," said Lavenia Naivalu from Nacula.

"This is the second year of our replanting pro-

gramme and we have to keep it consistent because not all mangroves grow. Each month we make inspections and make sure a new row is planted and this carried out by both women and youths."

Other women of the district also cited sea transport as a means to alleviate their challenges, such as to transport school students at Naisisili, Malakati and Matakawalevu villages, where current school boats are overladen and risk non-compliance of maritime safety regulations.

Women of Vuaki hope to revive a communal bakery business and establish a piggery business while at Malakati, their women's group seeks the provision of computers to assist their home stay business and ministerial reports on programmes.

"We want to expand our home-stay and computers will help us be more active on the internet so tourists can make bookings. It will also be easier to get access to information and provide reports when necessary," said Malakati Women's Group member Sera Bogileka.

Nacula's far-flung villages present a series of respective challenges, but women of this district are keen to forge ahead and improve their livelihoods with assistance from the Government.

Govt collection, distribution centre for islands

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

A COLLECTION and distribution centre will soon be built at the Government station at Kese village, Naviti in the Yasawa Islands.

This innovative programme will give women of this maritime region a seamless means of supplying produce to resorts and backpacks in this densely tourism area, and curb the laborious task of having to sell their crops at municipal markets on mainland Viti Levu.

Blue Lagoon Cruises' Yasawa Trust Foundation (Vinaka Fiji) leads the initiative and is actively working with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (MITT) and the Ministry of Agriculture on

this innovative programme.

Foundation manager Elenoa Nimacere said women of Naviti District had already begun planting crops, fruit, vegetables and resilient produce for the centre.

"They already have started planting on their one acre land, where the women raise seeds and plant vegetables and the men plant resilient crops, and upon harvesting, will go to the centre," she said.

"A lot of women still go to the Lautoka Municipal Market, and are away from their children and families for so many days and find it difficult to compete with usual market vendors and those with daily stalls. Women come back with minimum money to pur-

chase a few items before returning home. With the collection centre, they can take their produce there and go home daily," Ms Nimacere said.

The collection centre is for Naviti district's villages, covering Soso, Kese, Gunu, Somosomo, Marou, Muaira and Malevu and, aside from farmed food, will also receive other produce prepared by villagers.

"It's not only for crop and vegetables, but also for virgin coconut oil, nama (sea grapes), fish, honey and poultry. All these will be taken to the centre and be vetted and have a quality assurance team look into the produce and from there be taken to resorts or

sold to villagers."

Ms Nimacere explained that the foundation is working with the MITT for the collection centre and the Integrated Human Resources Development Programme (IHRDP) at the Commissioner Western's Office for the distribution programme.

"It will mainly be fruit and vegetables, and root crops. Our boat, the Yasawa Flyer brings in a lot of fruit and vegetables from the mainland. With this, they will be proud that their people around the area and landowning units are getting their supplies."

"I've been talking with them on an ad hoc basis and they're all ready. Now it's a matter of getting

the villages ready to be able to provide consistent supply of food to the resorts, which is what they wanted."

Additionally, women of Naviti have also collaborated with the foundation as a district cooperative to supply produce towards Senikai Spas and its Essence of Fiji Rejuvenation Centre in Nadi.

This entails the retail of five bags of nama from the villages of Gunu and Somosomo weekly, and a monthly supply of 80 litres of virgin coconut oil from Kese Village, and as well as bee farming for Senikau Spas' pharmaceutical and beautification products.

The company is seeking the supply of lemon grass and aloe vera.



Minister for Health Rosy Akbar with officials and children from all over Vanua Levu attending the three-day Juvenile Camp in Labasa. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

Japanese scholarship boosts health worker's goals

DIPESH KUMAR

A Government official who aims to minimise the disparities in our health system feels fortunate to be awarded a scholarship funded by the Japanese Government.



Adi Arieta Latianara.

Adi Arieta Latianara, a community health worker in the Ministry of Health and Medical services, has been offered a Masters Scholarship in International Development under the Pacific Leaders' Educational Assistance for Development of State (Pacific-LEADS) programme for two years.

When asked why the interest in International Development, Adi Arieta responded that she'd like to ensure that everyone has access to health services.

"I plan to study international development and focus on public health because when I come back I'd like to see how we can minimise the disparities that's existed in our health system and to ensure that everyone has access and equal rights to health services not just the rich or the closest (to medical facilities). We ensure that our health services reach all regardless of race, geographical location and income."

Adi Arieta said she was happy to be given a lifetime opportunity and she would use it to learn the cultural and historical aspects of the Japanese culture.

"I feel very fortunate, at first I couldn't believe that I have received the scholarship and now that I have, I feel very fortunate, it just really means a lot. It's like a reminder that I have to work hard," she said.

"It gives me once in a lifetime opportunity and it's an eye opener also whereby I will not only learn from Japan, but also learn from other international recipients and also build networks between Fiji and Japan".

Ms Latianara is one of the 20 successful recipients from other regional countries who have been given the scholarship.

'Instil values early in kids'

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar, is calling on medical officers, parents and senior members of the community to instill values of good health to their children.

Minister Akbar said this message was prompted by the high number of Fijians falling victim to Non-Communicable Diseases every year which also includes young children.

"The youngest person living with Type 1 Diabetes is 10 years old, while the youngest for Type 2 is a 19-year-old," she said while speaking at the Juvenile Northern Camp at Bethel Primary School in Labasa.

She said it was easy to mould and guide young people down the right path when they were young compared with adults.

"We need to ensure that our children do not get into these (unhealthy lifestyle) habits. Of course there are some sicknesses that come naturally, but that is a different story, we can cure that through medication," Minister Akbar said.

"But lifestyle habits from smoking, overeating or undereating, these are things which are within our control and we can change them. So I think we can as medical professionals, as adults, and as parents, influence a change in the behaviour of our children."

She said through this children could be ambassadors of good health, adding that people should

be responsible for their health.

"Some of us do not realise the importance of being healthy until we become sick. We take it for granted often saying, "Oh we will never get sick" or we will deal with it when we get to it," Minister Akbar said.

"But when we actually get sick, it scares the life out of us and then we rush to the health centres and hospitals and sometimes it is too late, and when this happens we start this blame game."

The Government has allocated a total of \$8.1million towards public health to address the rise in NCDs and strengthen preventative/outreach programmes relating to NCDs, HIV/AIDS, family health, adolescent health, child health, environmental health and mental health.

Civil servant pursues Masters dream

EMI KOROITANOVA

L AISA Matagi's previous visit to Japan inspired her to return to Fiji and apply for the Pacific- Leaders' Educational Assistance for Development of State scholarship.

This year, the 28-year old's dream came true after she was successfully selected to pursue her master's degree at the University of Tsukuba in Japan.

Ms Matagi, who is originally from Rukua Village on Beqa island, is part of the third batch of Pacific-LEADS recipients.

She is joining a total of 20 successful recipients from other regional countries such as Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

In the previous year, a total of 16 recipients from Fiji had been accepted into the programme, but this year only two will be getting the opportunity.

"So they really cut down the list



Laisa Matagi (left) and Adi Arieta Latianara pursuing their studies at the University of Tsukuba in Japan.

this year and I feel blessed being given this opportunity," Ms Matagi said.

She added that her research mainly focused on policy research for waste infrastructure.

"So I'm looking into the set-up of the system and how I can better improve the policies that are currently in place in."

The send-off ceremony for Pacific LEADS Programme participants was held recently at the Japan International Cooperation Agency of-

fice in Suva.

Japan's Ambassador to Fiji, Masahiro Omura, said the programme was one of the commitments made by the leaders at the 7th Pacific Islands Meeting (PALM7).

This commitment, Mr Omura said, was to provide an opportunity for young government officials in the region to pursue postgraduate studies in Japan, undergo job training at central government agencies and local governments.

Furthermore, the Minister for

Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar said they were honoured for the tremendous assistance.

"This will greatly boost the capacity building not only for Fiji but other Pacific nations as well."

Ms Matagi, a technical officer at the Ministry of Waterways and Environment, and the second recipient Adi Arieta Latianara from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, departed Fiji's shores in mid-August to undertake their two-year Master's programme.



Jovilisi Liganivai with his father Alusio Liganivai.

Liganivai does his village proud

DIPESH KUMAR

JOVILISI Liganivai wants to use his law degree and his admission to the Bar for the betterment of his village.

The 26-year-old of Mokani Village, Bau, Tailevu, is the first from his village to attain such a qualification.

Mr Liganivai was overjoyed after being admitted to Bar recently.

“I am actually very happy, it’s been a very long journey just in terms of studying Law and just completing a Professional Diploma in Legal Practice (PDLP) so it’s not only been long, but it’s also been a really tough journey as well,” he said.

Mr Liganivai acknowledged the financial assistance by the Government to enable him to complete his studies.

“It’s a really huge responsibility on my shoulders, not just setting the standard for my village but also in terms of just helping people out and that’s what I wanted to do when I started studying law,” he said.

He said having a qualification put him in a better position to “give back to my community”.

Mr Liganivai also encouraged upcoming lawyers and students to build a good character as they follow their dream.

“Anyone can have a degree in Law, but the main thing that makes the difference between one student and the other is character. Character really shows a lot when it comes to work in the legal field, so just be honest with yourself, parents, friends and your work.”

The budding lawyer shared some of the challenges he faced while thanking the Government, through which he was able to attain his degree.

“Most of the challenges were basically in terms of commitment and time management. It’s just trying to stay up late at night and studying and also in terms of finances, I was privileged enough to be sponsored by the Government for my studies,” Mr Liganivai said.

Mr Liganivai thanked his parents for the love and support they have given him and called on younger people to respect their parents.

“My parents gave in a lot of their time, energy and money into my studies,” he said.

“They are more excited than me in terms of what I have accomplished, but I’m thankful to them for all they have done and I’m just really excited.”

Mr Liganivai has a degree in Psychology, Politics and Law.

Willpower, family steer mum-of-four to the Bar

DIPESH KUMAR

“I DO not want to be one of those people in the graveyard who didn’t give it all while they were still alive,” said mother-of-four Laisa Satala.

Mrs Satala was admitted to the Bar as a new legal practitioner in Suva recently and exemplifies the balancing act that many women in our society carry out to fulfil their dual roles, a mother and a career woman.

“There were a lot of challenges, I am a mother of four children, and in the duration of my studies I had to leave and go to Vanuatu. In that time my husband was the person who was taking care of the children, of course with the help of my in laws.”

She is the wife of former Fijian 7s and 15s rugby representative Viliame Satala.

The University of the South Pacific student thanked her family and friends for the love and support that they gave her as she shared some of her challenges.

Mrs Satala attributes her Christian faith as a contributor to her views that will impact how she will practice the principles instilled in her as a lawyer.

“I think I’ve always had an interest in the ethical aspect of life,” she said.

“I didn’t realise that it would eventually lead into joining the legal fraternity and as we’ve been told that this is the noble profession. It deals with access to justice and



Former Flying Fijian Viliame Satala and his wife Laisa Satala with a family member following her admission to the bar as a new legal practitioner in Suva.

therein lies where I’d like to work helping people access justice, especially the vulnerable of our community.”

Mrs Satala has encouraged the future generation to pursue their dreams regardless of the challenges.

“I’ve had my share of responsibilities, but

you know if you have dream and you have the desire to pursue it then there is nothing that can stop you. You can actually achieve it like I have,” she said.

Mrs Satala was among 38 other lawyers who were newly admitted to the Bar as legal practitioners.



Baadal Prasad Sharma (middle), and his parents after being admitted into bar as a legal practitioner.

Brother’s death spurs legal eagle to success

KELERA SOVASIGA

DEATH is inevitable because it comes in different ways and at times in the most unpredictable way.

For 24-year-old newly appointed legal practitioner Baadal Sharma, having to lose his

brother in a car accident in April this year is something he will never forget.

“My brother and I were passengers in a vehicle that was driven by a 29-year-old man. The man driving the vehicle was speeding despite being told not to do so several times by both of us. The driver lost control of the vehicle, which veered off the road and went under the one-way wooden Koronivia Bridge. My brother died after the accident,” Mr Sharma said.

Having graduated earlier this year with a Bachelors Degree in

Law from the University of the South Pacific, Mr Sharma used his pain to motivate himself to finish what he started and to make his late brother proud.

“After I got discharged from CWM (Colonial War Memorial) Hospital, I managed to complete my Professional Diploma in Legal Practice (PDLP) with the assistance and support from my parents, PDLP co-ordinator, PDLP staff and friends,” he recounted.

Proud parents Sashi Prasad and Sugani Prasad sat in the audience with admiration for their

son’s accomplishment as he was admitted to the Bar together with 38 newly-appointed legal practitioners.

“It was my dream to become a lawyer hence, I ventured into this field and I am really happy to be admitted to the Bar,” he said.

Mr Sharma is continuing with his studies for a Masters of Law at USP and is a part-time tutor as well.

Working hard is an advice he has dispensed to other students who wish to venture into the legal field.

FijiFocus

407

REMOTE
HOUSEHOLDS
TO GET **6**
ELECTRICITY



DON'T USE
RELIGION
AS A
WEAPON **10**



PM

DELIVERS
WAKE-UP
CALL AT
CLIMATE **7**
TALKS

\$16m FIX

Savusavu cable to bring better connectivity

JOSAIA RALAGO

FIJIANS in the Northern Division can now experience much faster internet services after the recent opening of the Savusavu Cable Landing Station by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

The Head of Government, who opened the facility, emphasised that this milestone achievement that came at a cost of \$16 million was in line with the Government's move to provide Northerners the same services as those offered to people in other parts of the country.

"It has taken long-term vision, bold initiative and takes considerable economic means to make a reality," he said.

"Luckily, those are the hallmarks of my Government's leadership, and that is how this \$16m investment has been made possible.

"This landing station is the connection point for a massive underwater fibre optic cable that stretches from where we are standing right now, 270 kilometres across the sea to Viti Levu.

"Up until today, data has been transmitted from Viti Levu to Vanua

Levu through microwave technology.

"Microwave technology works well over land, but is less efficient over large stretches of ocean.

"So while we've been able to provide data and online connection to Vanua Levu, it's been at lower speeds and lower reliability; but all of that changes today."

He said this was all a part of the Government's massive investment to expand access to telecommunications.

"Better data also means a safer and more secure Fiji," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"Anyone who has ever managed a national disaster response can tell you: fast and reliable communication is absolutely critical.

"With this rock-solid submarine connection in place, our ability to maintain communications during serious national disasters has been taken to an entirely new level," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

He said this project gave way for another major investment in the Vanua Levu through the stretching of the fibre optic cable from the station to Labasa.



WELCOME TO LABASA MR PM

A young Fijian greets Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during the 2018 Constitution Day celebration at Subrail Park in Labasa last Friday.

The Northern Division was a sea of blue and white as thousands flocked to join the celebrations. **Photo: ERONI VALILI**

Noda Viti



Ko Peresitedi Jioji Konrote kei ratou na gonevuli eratou mai ciqoma na nodratou dui icovi ena vakananumi ni Siga ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa e Labasa.
iTaba: ERONI VALILI

Me da vakila na bibi ni Siga ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa

NANISE NEIMILA

NA kena kau mai na soqo ni marautaki ni Siga ni Vakananumi ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa kina na Vualiku e baleta ni vinakati me ra vakila talega na lewe ni vanua ena Vualiku na bibi ni siga oqo kei na yalo ni veivakaduavatataki e kauta vata mai.

Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na liuliu ni matanitu ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nodra vakamacalatataka tiko na i balebale ni soqo oqo.

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni eliu era da vakayacori ga e Suva na soqo vaka oqo ka vinakati me ra vakila talega na lewe ni vanua mai na veiyasana ni noda vanua na bibi kei na yalo ni veivakaduavatataki ekauta mai vei keda kece sara na lewe ni vanua na Yavu ni Vakavulewa.

“Levu vei ira lewe ni vanua oqo era a tiko e na marautaki ni siga bibi oqo era sega ni guilecava rawa na siga ni kua vakabibi ko ira na gonevuli kei na lalai,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Oqo edua na siga vinaka vei keda na lewe ni vanua e na Vualiku me vaka ni cila vinaka mai na kena siga e Labasa.”

“Au via tukuna vei keda na lewe ni vanua kece sara ena noda vanua mera marautaka na siga oqo baleta na Yavu ni Vakavulewa ena taqomaki keda kece sara.”

Marautaka na Tui Macuata ko Ratu Wiliame Katonivere na soqo ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa ka vakayacori ena tauni ko Labasa.

“Taumada au via vakavinavina kina na Matanitu ena kena mai vakayacori na soqo ni vakananumi ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa ena Vualiku, ka mera gole kece mai na yara qele ni Matanitu.”

Kuria ko Tui Macuata ni solia na vakavinavina ena vukudra na lewe ni vanua e na Vualiku raraba me vaka ni solia vei ira edua na roka vou ka duatani baleta ni levu era laki veisotari kina vakamataveiwekani, dui taba tamata ka kauta yani na marau.

‘Veisau na nomu rai’

VAKABIBITAKA KO PERESITEDI KONROTE NA BIBI NI SIGA NI VAKANANUMI NI YAVU N VAKAVULEWA

NANISE NEIMILA

NA noda Yavu ni Vakavulewa oya na cina ramase ka cicivaka na cakacaka kei na gagadre kece vakamatanitu ena noda bula ni veisiga na lewe ni vanua e Viti.

Oqori edua na nodra mala ni vosa ko Peresitedi Jioji Konrote ka vosa tiko kina e Labasa ena soqo ni Siga ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa kei Viti.

Oqo sa ikatolu ni yabaki me vakananumi kina na siga bibi ni oqo.

“Na Yavu ni Vakavulewa esa vakadeitaki Viti me vanua dei ka vinaka ka me da wiliki vata kece kina na vei taba tamata.

“E Viti ni kua e dua na ka me yali kina na duidui vakatabatamata se vakayasana

se duidui ni rawaka vakailavo se duidui ni tuvaki ni yago.”

“Oqo sara ga na usutu ni veiqaravi e kauta mai na Yavu ni Vakavulewa ka sega ni vakaduiduitaki keda se vakacava na vanua eda lako mai kina se bula eda curuma mai.”

Vakaraitaka ko Peresitedi Konrote ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa e vakadeitaki keda ena veivuke baleta na dodonu ni vuli, tiko bulabula, kei na lawa, na wai ni gunu savasava kei na vaivakavaletaki.

“E solia vei keda na dodonu ka vakaduavatataki keda me vaka edua na vuvale.”

Ia e kaya talega ko Peresitedi ni dodonu meda vakabibitaka na siga ni vakananumi ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa ka me da maroroya na vakabauta kei na yalo ka kauta vata mai ena noda bula ena veisiga.

“Na olodei vakamatanitu ena noda vanua edau vakarautaki keda me da vakananuma kina edua na ka yaga ka bibi ena noda bula na lewe ni vanua. Vakauasivi na noda vanua ka sa dodonu me da doka na kena yaga vei keda vaka kina na siga ni vakananumi ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa oqo.”

“Ni da vakaraica vinaka na tikina oqo me baleta na yavu ni vakavulewa oqo eso ena nanuma ni sega ni yaga soti meda marautaka io kevaka o sega ni raica na kena yaga kei na yalo ni veivakaduavatataki e kauta mai vei keda ena dredre me da ciqoma.”

Kuria ko Peresitedi Konrote ni levu era dau vakawalena na rai oqo ka sa bolei ira kina ko koya me ra veisautaka nodra rai ka raica votu na bibi ni siga oqo.



Vosa ena vukuda na kai Pasivika ko Viti

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA vosa kece e dau vosa kina ko Viti e vosa tiko ena vukuda kece na lewe ni vanua ena Pasivika.

Oqori e dua na mala ni vosa nei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na iliuli ni COP23 ena nodra veitalanoa kei na Paraiminisita mai Samoa ko Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi.

“Na gauna e erau veiliutaki kina ena vuravura ko Viti kei Samoa. Se na veigauna kece erau kidavaki ira kina na mata mai mata ni veivanua e vuravura keirau vosa tiko en vukui Viti, Samoa, Toga, Tuvalu, Yatu Solomoni, kei na vukudra na marama kei na gone kece ni Pasivika,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Dua na kena ivakaraitaki vinaka na veiliutaki nei Viti ena COP23 au sa tekivu



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei na Paraiminisita e Samoa ko Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi ena nona veisiko mai ena noda vanua ena macawa sa oti. iTaba: **ERONI VALILI**

cakacakataka mai na kena itekivu me yacova mai ni kua.”

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama nira kila na lewe ni matabose ni Veidinadinati mai Parisi e bibi kina noda iwase ni vuravura oqo ka sega ni

rawa nida suka ki muri ena kena sagai me rawati na takete eda guta tiko oqo.

Vakacautaka ko PM Bainimarama na cakacaka esa qarava kina na matanitu ko Samoa.

“Au vakavinavinaka vei

Samoa kei na ivukevuke ni Paraiminisita ni Samoa ena nomuni cau kina Climate Action Pacific Partnership Event e Suva ena vula sa oti,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

Vakalailaitaki na cagi duka e Viti

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA qaravi ni kena vakalailaitaki na cagi duka e Viti se Low Emission Development Strategy (LED) e dua na iyaragi kaukauwa me vakalevutaki kina na cau ni noda vanua ena sasaga ni kena vakalailaitaki na cagi duka ena noda vuravura ni kua. Sema sara kei na veidinadinati mai Parisi.

Vakamatataka na tikina oqo na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabana ni Teitei ko David Kolitagane ena nona dolava na kena vuli e Suva ena GPH.

“Na LEDS e Viti e dua na iyaragi kaukauwa e rawa nida vakayagataka me vaqacotaka na NDC ni salavata sara ga kei na cakacaka sa qarava tiko ko Viti baleta na veidinadinati mai Parisi,” tukuna ko Kolitagane.

“Na italanoa ni LEDS e noda italanoa e Viti me vakauqeti keda ka vakauqeti ira na veivanua se qai vakatorocaketaki tiko mera vakayacora talega vakakina.”

Tukuna ko Kolitagane ni cakacaka ni LEDS a tekivu ena vula ko Veverueri ni yabaki oqo.

“Era bosebose vata kina na veitabana ena vula ko June kina Julai era bose kina na cau ni veitabana vakailavo na nodra cau kina sasaga oqo,” tukuna ko Kolitagane.

Kuria ko Kolitagane ni LEDS esa vakadinadinati ni dua na uqe levu ni noda vanua ka gadrevi kina na cau vakailavo raraba.

“Eda rawa nida dikeva na cau ni ni veitabana vakailvo ena noda vanua ena kena vakalailaitaki na cagi duka eda kaburaka tiko ki macawa,” tukuna ko Kolitagane.

“Na cakacaka vata era qarava tiko na veitabana esa toso cake tikoga meda rawata kina na 1.5 na degree ka sagai tiko me vakalailaitaki kina na cagi duka eda kaburaka tiko ki maliwa lala.”

Vakavinavinakataka talega ko Kolitagane na Climate Change and International Cooperation (CCICD) kei na Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) ena nodrau vakarautaka na ikatolu ni vuli baleta na ulutaga oqo.

“Ena vuku ni Matanitu e Viti, au taura na gauna oqo meu vakavinavinakataka kemuni yadua ena nomuni tiko rawa ni kua.”

Gadrevi me rawati na 1.5 degree



Na Minisita ni Leqa Tubukoso kei na Teitei ko Inia Seruiratu ena Talanoa e vakayacori tiko e Latin America kei na Caribbean.

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA gadrevi mera rawata kece na takete 1.5 na degrees celsius na veimatanitu lelevu ena vuravura mera na qai bula kina ne veivanua era sotava tiko na leqa ni draki veisau eadaidai.

Oqori na nona vakamamasu na Minisita ni Leqa Tubukoso kei na Teitei ko Inia Seruiratu ena Talanoa e vakayacori tiko e Latin America kei na Caribbean.

“Meu tekivu ena noqu sauma vakatotolo e rua na taro- Ena ikarua ni taro – E vei na vanua eda via lako kina? E matata na itukutuku nei koya na Peresitedi. Meda taketetaka na 1.5 na degree celsius,” tukuna ko Minisita Seruiratu.

“Sa rui bibi na tikina oqo baleta ni na

vakatau kina nodra bula na noda veivanuanu lalai kei na veivanua era sotava tiko na leqa e vuravura ni kua. Meda vakaitavi kece ena kena vakalailaitaki ni katakata. Ia, eda na yaco vakacava ki kea?”

Tukuna ko Minisita Seruiratu ni nisa dodonu meda veisautaka na ivakarau ni noda qarava na bisinisi oqo. Meda taiki kina sala ena vakalailaitaka na katakata me yacova ni sa saiva ni bera ni veimama na senitiuri.

“Meda vaqacotaka na kena rawati na takete balavu ni veidinadinati mai Parisi.”

Tukuna ko Seruiratu ni Talanoa ena kauti ira vata mai oqo me rawa nira kila na iwali ni leqa e sagai tiko oqo.

“Na talanoa oqo e Marrakech ena inaki

me kaiuti ira vata mai mera veisolivakasama ka wasea nodra kilaka me rawa nira veikilai vinaka,” tukuna ko Seruiratu.

“Keitou nuitaka ni yalo ni Talanoa kei ne veidokai ena tiki ni bula ni veimatanitu e vuravura. E dina ni na laki cava ki Poladi ena COP24 na me kua ni cava na yalo ni Talanoa!”

“Au vakavinavinakataka Uruguay ena nona cicivaka tiko na Talanoa bibi oqo me baleti Latin America kei na Caribbean.”

“Qoka na mataqali soqo moni kauta yani kina vei ira na dau ni politiki nomuni sasaga. Au nuitaka moni ni koni vakatotolotaka na tikina oqo ena nomuni italanoa,” tukuna ko minisita Usamate.



Taqomaka na noda veikau: Naiqamu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA vakamamasu na Minisita ni Veikau ena noda vanua ko Osea Naiqamu me da yalovinaka ka taqomaka na noda veikau. A vosa tiko na Minisita ni Veikau vei ira na lewe ni koro e Suweni mai Cakaudrove. “Sa levu na noda musu kau ka da guilecava tiko me da vakaisosomitaka na vei kau kece eda tamusuka.” “Au sa kerei kemuni mo ni teivaka tale na nomuni veikau. Au kila ni sa kila tiko na leqa levu ni draki veisau kei na kena revurevu,”

tukuna ko Minisita Naiqamu. “Na sala duadua ga e rawa nida valuta kina na leqa ogo sai koya meda teivaka tale na noda veikau.” Tukuna ko Minisita Naiqamu ni qoka e sala vata kei na rai yawa ni Matanitu ena kena teivaki vakalevu na kau me baleti ira na noda kawa ni mataka. Sala vata tiko kei Minisita Naiqamu ko Pita Rokobiau na manidia ni Extention ka kerei ira na lewe ni koro me ra qarauna na revurevu ni kena sega ni teivaki tale na kau e dau musu. “Kevaka ko ni sega ni qarauna na nomuni

veikau koni na rawa ni vakayalia talega na nomuni uciwai ena veisiga ni mataka,” tukuna ko Rokobiau. “Na kena sa sega ni teivaki na vei kau e rawa ni vakavuna na maca ni wai ka sa rawa niusa wai tale mai kina na lori ka sauma na Matanitu. Loma ni yabaki rua sa sivi sa lutu sara vaka levu na itagede ni wai e Navakuru. E dolava na matai keimami ka vakavulici keimami talega na veitalanoa e mai cakava ko Minisita Naiqamu,” tukuna ko Ko Ratu Qiqiq-moce e dua na turaga yabaki 78 ni Sulaki.

Vakadewa vaka Jaina ko Arieta Tavele

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

“Ni soli mo lai vuli ki Jaina kua ni vakalai-va, taura matua. Sa yawa sara ko Jaina ka ni vanua vakaitamera” Oqori na vosa ni veivakauqeti nei Arieta Tavele na goneyalewa yabaki 27 ni Wailevu Dreketi mai Savusavu ka vuli yabaki lima mai Jaina ka sa rawata mai kina na nona koro ni International Economics kei na Veivoli. E rauta ni tolu na vosa e rawa ni vosataka ko Tavele, oya na vosa vakaiTaukei, vosa vaka-Pereitania kei na vosa vakaJaina. E dua na ka e gadrevi niko lai vuli ki Jaina oya mo kila na vosa vaka-Jaina. Sa mani laki vulica ko Tavele ka sa kila vinaka sara ena loma ni lima na yabaki nona vuli voli mai kina. E dau ni vakadewa vosa vaka-Jaina voli ko tavele vei ira na kai Jaina era mai caka vuli tiko vei ira na na marama ni Noco e Rewa me ivurevure ni nodra ilavo. “Au marautaka noqu mai veivuke ena vakadewa vosa vakaJaina ena vuli ni tali basikete ogo,” tukuna ko Tavele. “Na vosa vaka-Jaina e bau dua toka na vosa dredre meda vulica.” “Ia oya e dua na ka e totoka kina nida kai Viti me vaka era dau tukuna na kai Jaina, “*Fijian people are very smart*”. “Ia au kila ni sega ni dua na ka e dredre; au kila talega ni dodonu meu vulica vinaka na vosa vaka-Jaina ka gadrevi talega meu vosa vakavalagi ena noqu vuli sa totoka dina nida kila tu e tolu na vosa,” tukuna ko Arieta. Sa veivakauqeti ko Arieta vei kemuni na gonevuli e Viti mo ni tovolea mo ni kila e tolu na vosa mo ni vukea kina nomuni bula ka vukea talega kina na Matanitu. “E vakadua ga na gauna ni sikolasivi oya ena gauna o fomu 6 se fomu 7 kina, au raica ni a tabaki ena niusiveva kei na TSLB website me baleta na vuli ki Jaina,” tukuna ko Tavele. “Au via tukuna vei kemuni na vanua o Jaina e dua na vanua vinaka ka sa liu sara vei keda.” “Na noqu ivakasala vei kemuni mo ni kerea na sikolasivi ni vuli ki Jaina ka tovolea mo ni laki vuli ki kea.” Sa vakarau biuti Viti tale tiko ko Tavele me laki tomana na nona vuli ki Jaina ena dua na gauna lekaleka ga ogo me rawata kina nona



Ko Arieta Tavele (mataua), na goneyalewa yabaki 27 ni Wailevu, Dreketi e Savusavu ka vuli yabaki lima mai Jaina ka sa rawata mai kina na nona koro ni International Economics kei na Veivoli .

Vakasala vakalevu o Viti baleta na veiyacovi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA noda vanua lomani ko Viti eda rawa ni tukuna ni sa dau vakasalataki keda vakalevu na lewe ni vanua me baleta na veiyacovi. E dua na kena ivakaraitaki na kena dau soli na ivakasala me baleta na veisala eso e rawa ni yalani se tarovi kina na vakaluvuni se *family planning options*. Na Tabana ni Bula esa dau cakacaka vata kei na UNFPA ena nodra vakavulici na vakaisilesi kece ni Tabana ni Bula ena iwalewale dui-duiti ni tarovi ni vakaluvuni kei na nodra dau vakasalataki na yalewa. Qoka e okati kina na itavi me ra dau vakaitavi kina na nasi me vaka na vakacurumi ni *jadelle* ena nodra vanua ni veiqaravi ka sa rawa ni kua kina nodra vale ni wai ma qaravi kina e va na iwalewale vou ni tarovi ni vakaluvuni. Na itatarovi ni vakaluvuni sa tiko ena veisiteseni kece ni veiqaravi ni nasi me rawati kina na sasaga ni vuravura mera vakasalataki na yalewa era sa yacova na yabaki ni vakaluvuni. Oqori eso na itukutuku e vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Marama ko Rosy Akbar ena bose ni Pasivika me baleta na bula ni veiyacovi. “Sa dikevi ena macawa sa oti na Antiretroviral Treatment Guideline and the Sexually Transmitted Infection Management Guideline,” tukuna ko Minisita Akbar. “Ni tiko na idusidusi me da vakayagataka vakaoqo ena vakarawarawataka na veiqaravi me baleta na itatarovi ni vakaluvuni.” Na veiqaravi me baleta na tiko bulabula ni tagane kei na yalewa e tiki bibi ni veiqaravi ni tiko bulabula kei na bula raraba vaka kina na bula ni matavuvale,” tukuna ko Minisita Akbar. “Na Tabana ni Bula e dau vakailavotaka tiko na taba ni veiqaravi ogo ena \$200,000 ena veiyabaki ka okati vata kina na nodra vakavulici na kena ivakailesilesi.” “Sa tiko talega e so na sala ni ilavo e rawa ni vakagolei mai kina tiko bulabula ni lewe ni vanua ka na dau yaga vei ira na yalewa kei na gone ena noda vanua.”



Veisiko mai na PM e Samoa

Vakaqacacotaki na veiwekani vakamatanitu ni vanua e rua ko Samoa kei Viti ena nodra tadu mai vakaveisiko na Paraiminisita mai Samoa ena noda vanua.

Ko PM Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malilelegaoi edua na liuliu ni matanitu mai Samoa kei na Pasivika ka balavu duadua na nodra veiqaravi ni se tekivu veiutaki mai ena 1998. Rau mai sota kei na Peresiditi Jioji Konrote ka vaka kina na liuliu ni noda matanitu, Voreqe Bainimarama.

Dua na gauna vinaka vei rau baleta ni talanoa taki kina na cakacaka ni veiutaki ne Viti ena COP23 kei na nodra sasaga me baleta na matanitu ena Pasivika baleta na drake veisau. Vakaraitaka talega ko PM Bainimarama ni sema donu tu ko Viti kei Samoa.

iTaba: ERONI VALILI



Veisiko ki Lutu o Bainimarama

Era visiko na koro ko Lutu Naitasiri na liuliu ni Matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena macawa rua sa oti. Laki veitalanoa ko PM Bainimarama kei ira na lewenivanua mai kea ka rogoca kina na nodra gagadre ni veivakatorocaketaki me vaka na gaunisala, na valeni wai, koronivuli.

Ogo e tiki tikoga ni nodra veiqaravi na PM me vaka e tiko ena nona valenivolavola na veiqaravi ni nodra vukeyi na lewenivanua raraba ena noda vanua me vaka e vakailavotaka na matanitu.

iTaba: ERONI VALILI



Veisiko ko PM e Sauvakarua

Ea laki veisiko na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kina na vanua ko Nasau-vakarua ena colo kei Navosa.

Era marautaka na lewenivanua na nodra veisiko yani na liuliu ni matanitu baleta nira tiko sara ena loma ni colo kei Navosa.

Era veitalanoa na liuliu ni matanitu kei ira na lewenikoro me baleta eso na veivakatorocaketaki kei na gagadre etiko ena nodra vanua me baleta na gaunisala, na ikawakawa, na vakaitu-kutuku, veivakatorocaketaki ena tabana ni tiko bulabula, vuli kei na tara vale.

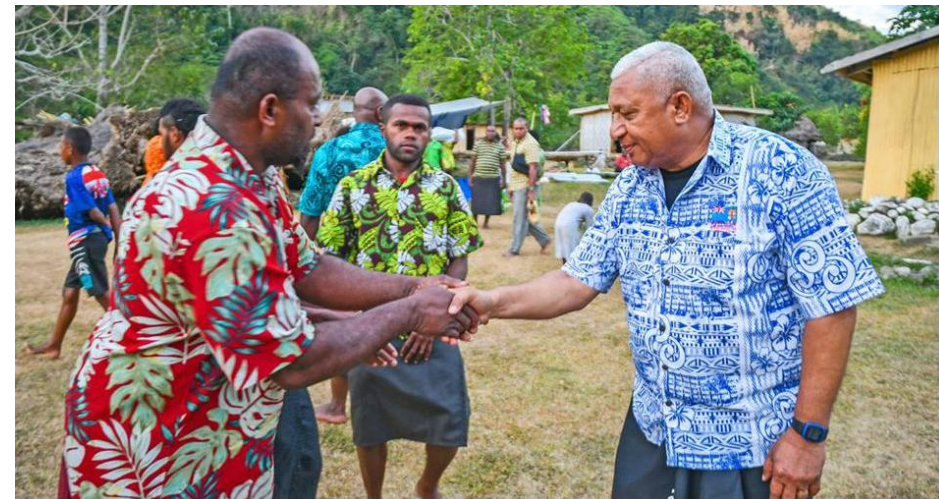
Vakaraitaka na Paraiminisita na nodra marau ena nodra veisiko rawa mai kina vanua dredre ogo me vaka ni sega ni vinaka tiko na gaunisala ka ra qai taubale balavu ka ra takosova talega na uciwai

mera yacova na koro.

Ko ira na lewenivanua era dau vodo vakabalavu me lima na aua mai Nadi curu ena gaunisala kina Nausori highlands ka mera yacovi Sauvakarua. Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita ni ogo edua na vuna levu sa uqeta kina na matanitu na nodra vukeyi na lewenivanua ena taudaku ni veikoro levu kei na vakavolekati yani na gacagaca ni veiqaravi ni matanitu ki vei ira lewenivanua.

Talanoataka ko PM Bainimarama na kena vakarau tara edua na sova ni vuli me nodra na gonevuli me vaka nira dau taubale vakabalavu ena gaunisala mera yacova nodra koronivuli.

iTaba: ISAAC LAL



Dikevi vakavoleka na dredre baleta salaniwai kei na kelikeli ni wai

SA vakarota na Minisita ni Wai kei na Uciwai Dr Mahendra Reddy vei ira na nodra ivakalesilesi ni ministiri, idinia kei na tamata veiqaravi ena tautuba mera vakadikeva vinaka na leqa kei na bolebole era sotava tiko na lewenivanua mai na veiyasana ni noda vanua.

Vakayaco boseka tiko na minisita ni wai me tekivu mai na Viti Levu kina Vanua Levu ni noda vanua me vaka ni ministiri vou ka qai kuria ni levu na leqa ni waluvu ka yacova tiko noda vanua e vumai ena duka kei na osooso ni sala ni wai se drekeni wai.

Macawa sa dromu etiko main a mua ira ni noda vanua ko Minisita Reddy kei ira nodra ivakalesilesi ka tomana tiko kina na nodra boseka ena yasana

ko Nadroga

Vosa tiko vei ira mai na lewenivanua ko Yako, kaya ko Minisita Reddy na bibi ni kena qaravi vinaka na salaniwai kei na kelikeli baleta ni veiwekani voleka saran a cakacaka ogo kei na veiqaravi ni teitei kei ira na vakavale tiko ekeya.

“Na bose ogo ebaleta keitou via kila vinaka na leqa e tarai kemuni tiko ena veiqaravi tabana ni wai ena kelikeli ni wai kei na salasala ni wai.”

“So na bolebole ogo esa makawa toka na kena tarai kemuni tiko mai sa dodonu kina me dikevi kka qarauri tale vakavinaka na sala ni wai kei kelikeli ni wai ka vakakina na uciwai lai kece.”

iTaba: ISAAC LAL





Mata kei Viti ki South Korea ko Lalabalavu

NANISE NEIMILA

ERA sa digitaki ko Peniana Lalabalavu me noda mata ni matanitu ki South Korea ka mai vakamatani na veilesi ogo na noda Peresitedi Jioji Konrote.

Ko Ambassador Lalabalavu edua vei ira na vakalesilesi ni matanitu ka veiqaravi vakabalavu sara tumai ena matanitu ni noda vanua ko Viti.

Taura na vosa ni bubului ena matani Peresitedi ena nona bubului taka na nona veiqaravi kina matanitu ka sainitaka talega na nona bubului vakacacaka.

Otioti ni nona itutu vakamatani ni bera ni mai digitaki me mata ni matanitu kei Viti, ea Vukevuke ni Vunivola Tudei ena Valenivolavola ni Paraiminisita ni noda vanua.



Na mata ni matanitu ki South Korea ko Peniana Lalabalavu kei Peresitedi Konrote kei na nodrau dui lewe ni vale.

Tauri na wiliwili ni ika ena yasana ko Lau

ERATOU sa laki vakadabera na Tabana ni Qoliqoli e va na nodratou misini ni wili ika kei na sasalu ena noda waitui ena yasana ko Lau. Veisiko voli ena yasana ko Lau na Minisita ni Qoliqoli ko Semi Koroilavesau.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Koroilavesau vei ira na lewe ni vanua e Lau ni misini ni wiliwili ni ika kei na sasalu ni waitui ogo ena vukei ira vakalevu na lewe ni vanua.

Me vaka ena lailai kina na nodra vakayagataki waiwai se benisini ni idini ni waqa ena gauna era siwa kina.

“Na misini ogo ena vukei kemuni ena siwati ni Tuna, Pakapaka kei na Walu me vaka ni ra na voleka yani kina na ika,” kaya ko Minisita.

“Ko ni na vakabula ilavo kina ena saumi ni waiwai me baleta na benisini ni idini.”

Era salavata kei na Minisita na ivakalesilesi ni tabana me ra laki vakayaco vuli ena veikoro.

TABANA NI QOLIQOLI

Vakacagau na tei nama e Naviti

ERA sa maqusa na marama lewe ni koro e Naviti ena yatu Yasawa me baleta na porokaramu ni tei ni nama me vaka era qarava tiko na na Gunu Womens club.

Era lewe 40 na lewe ni soqosoqo ni marama ka ra qarava na sasaga ogo me vukei ira ena nodra rawaka vakailavo ena veisiga ka me ikuri ni nodra volivolitaki sasalu.

Ena vula ko Maji 2018 era vukei mai na soqosoqo taudaku ni matanitu na *Awesome Adventures* kei na *Blue Lagoon cruises* ka yacana na *Vinaka Fiji* ka uqeti kina na marama mera vakaitavi ena sasaga ogo.

Ena lomani ni ono na vula ena nodra sasaga era rawata kina na marama e \$500 ena dua na macawa ena ivoli ni nama. Era rawata e lima na taga nama ena dua na macawa ka \$100 edua na taga.

Ogo eda dua na sasaga vinaka ka vukea nodra bula na marama e Naviti.

TABANA NI QOLIQOLI

Tobu ni maroroi ni vonu

SA mai tavoci edua na tobu ni nodra maroroi na vanu ena otela na Mana Island Resort and Spa ena mamanuca.

Ogo ena sasaga ni kena vakalevutaki na kedra i wiliwili na vonu ena noda vanua.

Na volivoli *pond* se tobu ogo ena sugi kina na veimataqali kawa ni vonu me vaka na *hawksbill turtles* kei na veimataqali vasua kei n'aura.

Vakaraitaka na vulagi dokai ka itaukei ni otelo ko Osamu Ide ni otela esa vakabibitaka na kena susugi ka maroroi na vonu me vaka ni dua talega na ka e vusuki ira yani na vulagi.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita ni Waitui Semi Koroilavesau ni ogo edua na sasaga vinaka me baleta na qarauni kei na maroroi ni noda yau bula ena loma ni waitui.

“Ogo e dua na kalawa vinaka me rawa ni qaravi na sasaga ogo baleta na vonu,” kaya ko Minisita Koroilavesau.



Tobu ni vonu ka rau sarava tiko ogo ko Minisita ni Veikau, Osea Naiqamu kei na Minisita ni Qoliqoli, Semi Koroilavesau.

Vukei na veiyanyanu ena wai ni gunu

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA kena vakilai tiko na draki mamaca eda donuya tiko ogo era sa vakila tale tikoga na kina na leqa ni medra wainigunu e rauta ni 17 na veiyanyanu ena yasana ko Lau, Lomaiviti, Bua, vakakina e Malolo kei Yasawa.

Sa vakadinadinataka kina na noda Matanitu ni nodra vagunuvi na lewenivanua e Viti ena waini-

gunu savasava e dua na dodonu ka virikotori ti ena noda Yavu ni Vakavulewa.

Sa vakavuna mera cakacaka vata kina na Tabana ni Soko ni Matanitu kei na Minisitiri ni Veivakatoroketaki ena Tauadaku ni Koro lelevu kei na Veiyanyanu ka sa tekkivutaki kina ena mua ni vula ko Okosita na usa yani ni medra wainigunu ena yanuyanu ko Makogai.

Vakaitavi ena usa wainigunu ki Makogai kei Batiki na waqa ni Ma-

tanitu na MLC Sigavou.

Ena vula ogo ko Seviteba sa tekevutaki kina na usa yani ni medra wainigunu ena yanuyanu ko Nairai kei Moturiki.

A qaravi talega na usa ni medra wai ena Yatu Lau kina yanuyanu ko Avea kei Cikobia volekati Vanua-balavu ena macawa sa oti.

Ena mua ni vula ko Okosita a soko talega yani kina na waqa ni matanitu na MLC Vunilagi ki Yadua kei Yaqaga mai Bua.

Sa tekevutaki talega na usa ni wai ki Galoa kei Tavea mai Bua ena itekivu ni vula ogo ko Seviteba.

Sa vakacagau talega ena macawa sa oti na usa wai kina yanuyanu ko Yaro, Mali kei Druadrua ena Yasana vakaturaga ko Macuata.

Sa kau talega ena waqa ni Matanitu na MLC Vatulawa na medra wainigunu mai Malolo, Waya, Waya Levu kei Naviti mai Yasawa ena macawa sa oti me sotavi kina na draki mamaca era sotava tiko.



‘Vakarautaki ira vinaka na itabagone’

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

EA laki tavoca ko Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito, Laisenia Tuitubou edua na nodra yavu vou ni sasaga na itabagone ka yacana tiko na *Reach 4 Your Future Foundation* ena yanuyanu ko Denarau mai Nadi ena mua ni macawa sa oti.

Na yavu oqo e kena Peresitedi ko Ganesh Sen ka kena mata ko Samu Kerevi na gone ni yasana ko Ba ka qito voli ena matatimi ni rakavi ni Ositerelia ka yacana talega na Wallabies.

Vakacautaka ko Minisita Tuitubou na sasaga ena yavu ni veiqaravi oqo me baleta na nodra tuber cake na itabagone ena sainisi, idinia, teknoloji kei na fika se maths.

Oqo edua na porokaramu ena vakauqeti ira na itabagone mera dau sasaga me vaka ni sa vakayacori tiko na vuli oqo ena koronivuli ena St. Mary e Nadi. Na yavu ni veiqaravi oqo esa cakacaka vakavoleka sara kei ira na itabagone mai Koro kei ira na veiyasai Viti ka namaki me vakatetei yani ki Vanuabalavu, Lau ena yabaki oqo ena porokaramu ni vuli kei na sasaga ni siga ni sucu ni turaga Karisito.

Yaga na vale ni wili vola

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ETukuna vaka oqo ne e dua na dau vola ivola kilai levu baleta na yaga ni wiliwili ko Linton Weeks;

“Na levu ni itukutuku e kuitaki tiko mai ena noda vuravura me vaka edua na Tsunami sa yaga kina na vale ni Wiliwili me noda ivudevude me vakavulici keda ena qalo.”

E 5 taucoko na ulutaga ni veisiga e vakayagataki e Suva ena marautaka ni Macawa ni vale ni Wiliwili se National Library Week ni yabaki 2018 mai na Moniti naika 3 ni siga ni Seviteba kina ika 8 ni siga ni Seviteba 2018 ena Ratu Sukuna Park e Suva.

Siga Moniti na kena ulutaga “Mareqeta na bula ni Wiliwili”.

Vakabitaki kina na nodra itavi na marama. A vulgai dokai kina ko Dr Lavinia Tiko e dua na dau ni veivakavulici ena Univesiti ni Ceva.

Vakayacori talega kina na veisisivi vosa me baleta na yaga ni wiliwili. Na siga Tusiti a kena ulutaga kina “Yadra cake mo Wiliwili”. A vulgai dokai kina ko Elizabeth Fong na iliuli ni Vale ni Wiliwili ena Univesiti ni Ceva ni Pasivika.

Vakayacori talega kina na veisisivi vosa me baleta na yaga ni wiliwili.

Na siga Vukelulu a vulgai dokai kina ko Laviana Taba. Ulutaga ni siga Vukelulu na noda semata na

noda duidui. Tavoci talega kina e dua na ivola ka vakatokai na; “Volavola kei na Tabaivola e Viti”.

Vakayacori talega kina na veisisivi vosa me baleta na yaga ni wiliwili.

Na siga Lotulevu a kena ulutaga kina na “Nomu vakayacori e dua na veisau ena nomu itikotiko” A vulgai dokai kina ko Rebecca Archer –Knepper na Regional public Affairs Officer ni Valenivolavola ni Mata nei Amerika e Viti.

Na Siga Vakarauwai na ika 8 ni Seviteba e kilai e vuravura me “*International Literacy Day*”. E Suva a vakaueti kina nodra yaco yani vakalewe levu kina Ratu Sukuna Park na vematavuvale kei na gonevuli.

E vulgai dokai kina na Peresitedi ni FLA ka vakayacori kina e 20 na taro ni kilakila mada vei ira na gone ka yavutaki ena ivola ni wiliwili.

Era osota yani na one na siga oqo ni vakayacori kina e levu sara na veivakamarautaki.

Dua talega na yaga ni macawa ni wiliwili e Suva na nodratou tiko kina ena veisiga na vakaillesilesi ni tabana ni bula baleta na nodra vakasalataki tiko na cauravou kei na gaoneyalewa me baleta na mate dewa ni veiyacovi se na STD.

Dua talega na yaga ni macawa ni wiliwili e Suva na nodratou tiko kina ena veisiga na vakaillesilesi ni tabana ni bula baleta nanodra vakasalataki tiko na cauravou kei na gaoneyalewa me baleta na mate dewa ni veiyacovi se na STD.

Vakaleleka NI ROGO



Tabana ni veivakacacacataki

Esa laki vakayacora tale tiko na Minisita ni Veivakacacacataki, Jone Usamate na boseka ena Vualiku me veitalanoa kina kei ira na taukei ni vale ni cakacaka e Savusavu me vaka esa kavicaki ena tuvaka ni lavo ni 2018-2019.

Na veilutaga oqo era wilikina na siga ni livi me baleta na vakasucu vei ira na marama ka vakakina oira na turaga, na livi vakacacacaka me baleta na qaravi vuvale ena gauna ni leqaleqa ka vakakina na 300 na pasede na vakacavacava e musuki mai ena kabana ke vaka era na vakacacacataki ira na lewenivanua era sega tuvaki vinaka tu na yagodra.

Vakaraitaka ko turaga minisita na bibi ni kena dau vakarautaki na gacagaca ni veivakamayautaki ka vakakina na OHS se na qarauni ni tiko bulabula kei na marorori vinaka na tamata cakacaka ena nodra veiqaravi e valeniacakacaka.

Laki sikovi ira talega na lewenivanua mai Korotasere, cakaudrove ka ra sa qai lesu mai ena veiqaravi ni veivakacacacataki mai valagi se overseas workers scheme.

Tabana ni Veikau

Veisiko voli talega ena vualiku na Minisita ni Veikau Osea Naiqamu ena koro ko Navakuru, Cakaudrove me ra laki vakararamataki kina na lewenivanua ena bibi ni nodra taqomaka na nodra veikau.

Nodra vosa tiko na minisita era uqeti ira kina na lewenivanua mera vakalailaitaka na nodra musukau ka mera vakaisosimitaka ena teivaki tale ni nodra kau.

Tomana na minisita ena nodra vosa vei ira na lewenivanua ni ra rawa ni vukea na valuti ni vakacaca se revurevu ni draki veisau ka sa vakavuna na waluvu kei na leqa tubukoso talega eso ena noda vanua.

Veisiko voli na minisita ena tikina ko Kubulau, mai Bua me vakayacora tiko kina nodra bosa.

Vakaduavatataki na minisitiri vou

Na Tabana ni Tauni, Veivakavaletaki kei na veivakatorocaketaki ni lewenivanua eratou sa veiqaravi veivolekati tiko kei ira na matabose ni veitauni ena noda vanua.

Oqo ena kena taraicake edua na Viti vinaka ka kaukauwa na nodra rawaka vakailavo ena tauni kei na siti, ka ulutaga levu talega ni nodra veitalanoa ena mua ni vula sa oti.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita Parveen Kumar Bala ni yaga ni nodra sotasota ena bosa oqo kei ira na vakalesilesi ni tabana oya mera dikeva kina na veigacagaca baleta na idusidusi ni tuvaka vakailavo ni tabana kei na veika vovou ka sa votai mai ena tuvaka vakailavo vou ni 2019.

“Au a kerea na bosa oqo me baleta na kena vakamatatataki ni veika vakailavo me vaka esa tuvaka mai kina na matanitu ka me laurai kina na nodatou tabana kei na noda itavi vakacacaka keina vanua esa na vakanaulu kina oqo,”kaya ko Minisita Bala

Sa tiko kina na vakanuivunaka ni na vakaqacacotaka kina na veiqaravi ena tauni kei ira na taudaku nu koro lelevu.

“Na veiqaravi oqo ena uqeta na vakaukauwataki ni veiqaravi kei na veitokoni vei ira kece na lewenivanua ena noda vanua ena veivanua duidui era tiko kina.” -VILIAME TIKOTANI



Sa gadrevi talega me vakabibitaki na nodra itavi na marama, itabagone, dau susu manumanu kei na dau teikau Baleta na teitei sai vurevure levu ni rawa ilavo ena taudaku ni koro lelevu ka nuitaki talega ena noda bula vakailavo.

Minisita ni Teitei ka jabeni talega ni draki veisau ko Inia Seruiratu

Uto ni veiqaravi na teitei

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA teitei e dua na uto ni veidinadinati levu e cavuikalawa tiko kina ko Viti ni kua.

Oqori na mala ni vosa nei Minisita ni Teitei ka jabeni talega ni draki veisau ko Inia Seruiratu.

E tukuna ko Minisita Seruiratu ni



Na teitei sai vurevure levu ni rawa ilavo ena taudaku ni koro lelevu ka nuitaki talega ena noda bula vakailavo .
ITaba: SOLO LEWANAVANUA

dau vei ira na veidinadinati lelevu oya na 2030 Sustainable Development Goals kei na Veidinadinati mai Parisi.

“E sega walega ni sotavi kina na noda gagadre baleta na kakana, kei na veika tale eso, sai ivurevure talega ni bula vei ira na tu ena taudaku ni veikorolelevu,” tukuna ko Seruiratu.

“Kena ikuri ni teitei e laki manata na noda vakayagataka na qele, na wai kei na veikabula e ra tu wavokiti keda kei na nodra qaravi.”

E cavuta na veitikina oqori ko koya ena bosa e Suva me baleta na Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture and Community Resiliency.

“E levu na veivakatorocaketaki ni teitei esa vakavuna na veiveisau vinaka ni rawa kakana.”

“Ia, na toso edau sala vata mai kei na kena isau ni bula raraba kei na vakacacani ni veika e tu wavoliti keda,” tukuna ko Minisita Seruiratu.

“Koya gone ena daumaka me vakalevutaki na rawaka , ka me vakabibitaki na bula raraba kei na vakacacani ni veikabula kei na kedra taqomaki,” tukuna ko Minisita Seruiratu.

“Sa gadrevi talega me vakabibitaki na nodra itavi na marama, itabagone, dau susu manumanu kei na dau tei kau.”

“Baleta na teitei sai vurevure levu

ni rawa ilavo ena taudaku ni koro lelevu ka nuitaki talega ena noda bula vakailavo.”

“Dua talega na tikina bibi ena Taban ni Teitei oya na vakadidike,” tukuna ko Minisita Seruiratu.

“Sa na gadrevi talega me vakavinakataki na qele ka me vakayacori naka e vakatokai na carbon sequestration na vakalailaitaki ni leqa ni kakana, na taqomaki ni veikabula, keina dikevi ni draki veisau.”

“Sa qai kena ilutua na vakayagataki ni iwalewale makawa ni teitei me vaka na vuki veisau ni vanua ni teiteie, na tei veimaliwai ni itei, keina kena vakatabui ni vakayagataki wainimate ena iteitei,”tukuna ko Minisita Seruiratu.

Noda Viti



Ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei na liuliu ni baqe na ANZ group ena noda vanua ko Saud Minam. iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN

Tosoa na ivalu ni drake veisau ko Bainimarama

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA la'ki tosoa na ivalu ni drake veisau na Peresitedi ni COP23 ka Paraiminisita kei Viti, Voreqe Bainimarama ka vakayagataka kina na bose mai Bangkok, Thailand me vakananumi ira tale kina na liuliu ni vei matanitu me baleta na sasaga oqo.

“Me da sa valuta na revurevu kei na vu ni leqa ni drake veisau oqo, meda na viritaki keda yani ena sasaga oqo ka kua ni maroroa na nodra kaukauwa, baleta ni lomana na nodra vuravura kei na veikabula era bula tu kina.”

“Eda sarava ka wilika ena volaitukutuku ena nodra rai vakasainisi ena veiyasai vuravura, na vakacaca ka sa matata tikoga mai ni sa tubu cake tiko. Esega ni dua na matanitu se yasana ena vakavo ka vakilai na revurevu kei na vakacaca oqo ena veiyasana.”

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni NDC's se nodra yalayala na veimatanitu me baleta na vakalailaitaki ni kasi gaga kaburaki ena vuravura ena sega ni veiraurau kei na yalayala mai Parisi ka sa dodonu me vakaraitaki na sasaga oqo ka kua walega ni ka ni vosa.

“Na veiyalayala oqo e vukea na veimatanitu me ra vakaitavitiaki ira me vaka ena Pasivika ka me laurai kina vakamatailalai na cava e dodonu me vukei kina na vuravura levu,” kaya ko PM.

“Na dusidusi matata oqo ena vakalevutaka na noda kilaka na cava me caka. Ena vakalevutaka na noda kaukauwa yalodei meda rawata na sasaga oqo, ka vakaukauwataka kina na noda duavata.”

Vakaraitaka ko PM Bainimarama ni oqo e cakacaka kaukauwa ka sa dodonu kina mera vakatulewa vinaka na liuliu ni veimatanitu baleta ni sega ni ka rawarawa. Kuria ko koya ni oqo na vuga era dau vakatulewa matau kina na liuliu baleta na lewe ni vanua raraba.

Cavuikikalawa na Matanitu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA na oti vakadua na kena vakayagataki na ivakarau makawa ni vakayagtaki ni ivola ni jieke ni ena veisaumi kei na veisau ilavo ni Tabacakacaka ni Vuli e Viti.

Oqo ni oti na nona sainitaka na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Vuli ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum na veidinadinati kei na baqe na ANZ ena ka e vakatokai na Transactive Agreement.

Qoka na vakayagataki ni sala ni mona livaliva se electronic transaction ena veisaumi kei na veisau ilavo vakakina na volivoli ni Tabacakacaka ni Vuli.

Tukuna ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum ni Ta-

bacakacaka ni Vuli e dua na tabana vakaitam-era ni Matanitu. Ka sa gadrevi me dau totolo ma kena veiqaravi.

E kaya tale ga ko koya ni rauta ni 150 na veisau ilavo ni tabacakacaka ni vuli e qaravi tiko ena jieke ena veisiga .

Na kena sa vakayagataki oqo na sala ni veisaumi kei na veisau ilavo ena mona livaliva ni baqe na ANZ se Transaction esana vakatotototaka na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni vuli,” tukuna ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum.

Tukuna ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyumni oqo e tiko tikoga ni Electronic reform ka vakayacora tiko na matanitu ni kua.

“Sa na vakatotototaka na veiqaravi ni Ta-

bacakacaka ni vuli kani jieke eso na gauna edau volia cala ka taura na gauna me qai dau macala,” tukuna ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum.

E tukuna na Minisita ni Vuli ni taqomaki vinaka na ilavo ena Transaction ni ANZ ka rawarawa sara ka na vukea vakalevu na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni vuli.

“Sa kena ibalebale ni veisaumi keina sau-saumi kece e dau cakava na Tabacakacak ni vuli ki Viti raraba sana vakayagtaki kina na mona livaliva kara na taleitaka vakalevu na vakaillesilesi kei ira na lewe ni vanua e Viti era qaravi tiko mai na Tabacakacaka ni Vuli,” tukuna ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum

फीजी फोकस



उपर चित्र में: प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डनिमरामा शुक्रवार को सुबैरल पार्क लम्बासा में संविधान दिवस में भाग ले रहे विद्यार्थियों से मुलाकात करते हुए। उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें खुशी है कि पहली बार इस तरह का समारोह विति लेवू के अलावा उत्तरी विभाग में आयोजित हुआ।

बाई ओर चित्र में: वॉरेनोले कोलज की छात्राएँ संविधान दिवस समारोह के दौरान लम्बासा शहर से सुबैरल पार्क तक मार्च करती हुई।

संविधान दिवस समारोह

रेनल देव

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चियोची कोनरोते ने देश की जनता से माँग की है कि उन्हें एक देश भक्त और अच्छे नागरिक होने के नाते देश के संविधान को एक अच्छे दास्तावेज़ के रूप में देखना चाहिए जो कि एक मज़बूत संविधान का संकेत है जिसे हमें स्वीकार करना चाहिए और इससे सुख-सुविधा पाना चाहिए।

संविधान दिवस पहली बार बड़ी धूमधाम के साथ शुक्रवार को लम्बासा के सुबैरल पार्क पर मनाया गया जिसमें कई सौ की संख्या में लोगों ने हिस्सा लिया।

“आपको संविधान को महत्वपूर्ण या रोमांचक रूप में समझना और सम्मान करना मुश्किल हो सकता है जबकि असल में अक्सर, कुछ ऐसा ही हम महसूस करते हैं। अक्सर हम भूल जाते हैं कि संविधान जैसा कोई दास्तावेज़ है,” राष्ट्रपति ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार संविधान दिवस मनाने का यही कारण है कि हमारे संविधान के अत्याधिक इरादे और मूल्य पर प्रतिबिंबित करने, संविधान के नीचे सभी फीजीवासियों को प्रदान सभी अधिकारों के प्रति प्रशंसा दिखाई जाए।

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि हमारे संविधान ने फीजी को एक निष्पक्ष और समावेशी समाज बनाया है, एक ऐसा समाज जिसे जातीयता और प्रांतीयता की नज़र से नहीं देखा जाता।

उन्होंने कहा कि उन संवैधानिक रूप से स्थापित अधिकारों में शिक्षा का मौलिक अधिकार, समान न्याय और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल शामिल है। राष्ट्रपति ने जोर दिया कि संविधान हमें साफ पानी और रहने के लिए उचित घर में रहने का अधिकार देने के अलावा एक समावेशी सिद्धांत जो सभी लोगों के लिए बराबर के मौके देने के साथ-साथ एक फीजीयन परिवार के रूप में हमें एक साथ

बाँधता है। इस मौके पर राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि राष्ट्रपति के रूप में दोबारा नियुक्त होने से वो धन्य महसूस कर रहे हैं तथा सभी फीजीवासियों के लिए वो इमानदारी से कड़ी मेहनत करेंगे।

उधर, इस साल वाले संविधान दिवस पर निबन्ध लिखने के लिए आज सुबैरल पार्क पर तीन विजेताओं को इनाम दिए गए। पहले इनाम में देकेंती सेन्ट्रल कोलज की छात्रा प्रिया दर्शनी करन को सिडनी की वापसी यात्रा के लिए दो टिकट दी गई है, दूसरे इनाम में नडलेम्बा कोलज की विद्यार्थी जोसलीन नेहा मनी के हाथ एक एस 9 मोबाईल फोन लगा है जबकि तीसरा इनाम दुआवाता सेकन्ड्री स्कूल की छात्रा मिलिका लुईसा को मिला जिन्हें एक जए 5 प्रो मोबाईल फोन और एक वालेसी सेटअप बॉक्स दिया गया। इस साल संविधान दिवस का मुख्य विषय यानि थीम था सभी फीजीयन परिवार के लिए संविधान।

आपको संविधान को महत्वपूर्ण या रोमांचक रूप में समझना और सम्मान करना मुश्किल हो सकता है जबकि असल में अक्सर, कुछ ऐसा ही हम महसूस करते हैं। अक्सर हम भूल जाते हैं कि संविधान जैसा कोई दास्तावेज़ है

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चियोची कोनरोते।



सूखे का प्रकोप

रोनल देव

बोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी के बोर्ड डायरेक्टर्स, सरकारी दल तथा बोटा अथोरिटी के उच्च अधिकारियों ने देश भर में पानी वाली स्थिति और सूखे के मौसम की वजह से हो रहे असर पर दुसरी सभा की है।
बोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी चेयर-

मेन भवेश कुमार ने पानी के स्तर और उठाए गए कदम पर सरकारी दल को जानकारी दी। देश भर में अथोरिटी के पैतालिस (45) पानी वाले स्रोत में से लगभग चालिस प्रतिशत खतरे के स्तर तक पहुँच गए हैं। असर पड़े लोगों तक पानी पहुँचाने के लिए कई तरीके अपनाए जा रहे हैं।

आम जनता से माँग की गई है कि वे जितना हो सके पानी बचाए, गाड़ी वगैरह तथा ड्राईव वए कम धोए तथा खेतों और बगीचों में कम पानी डालें। ग्रामीन इलाकों में पानी बाँटने के लिए समय निर्धारित की गई है

तथा लोगों से माँग की गई है कि वे अपने इलाके की सूची पर गौर करें। नान्दी मौसमी दफ्तर के डायरेक्टर रविन कुमार ने भी देश पर असर कर रहे सूखे के मौसम पर अपनी ओर से जानकारी दी।

बोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी के जेनरल मेनेजा कस्टामा सेविसस सेकोवे उलुईनयाउ का कहना है कि अथोरिटी पानी बाँटकर असर पड़े ग्राहकों की मदद कर रही है।

“अगस्त महीने में बोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी ने देश भर में ग्राहकों को चालिस मिलियन लीटर से ज़्यादा पानी बाँटा। केन्द्रीय विभाग में

तीन दशमलौ पाँच मिलियन लीटर, पश्चिमी विभाग में सबसे ज़्यादा बाई स मिलियन लीटर तथा उत्तरी विभाग में चौदह दशमलौ पाँच मिलियन लीटर पानी बाँटा गया,”श्री उलुई नयाउ ने बताया।

असर पड़े कुछ इलाकों में बोटर टेन्क्स भी रखे गए हैं ताकि लोगों तक पानी पहुँचाई जा सके। असर पड़े ग्राहक अगर चाहते हैं कि उनतक पानी पहुँचाया जाए तो वे बोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी को टोल फ्री लाईन (1507) पर कोल कर सकते हैं या ईमेल waterhelp@waf.

com.fj पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। फिलहाल, जिन ग्राहकों को मीटर के द्वारा पानी मिलता है को सलाह दी गई है कि वे पीने और खाना बनाने के लिए उतना पानी

इकट्ठा करके रख ले जो कम से कम दो दिनों तक सके। ऐसा इसलिए क्योंकि पुराने पाईप्स वगैरह बदलने की वजह से पानी सप्लाई में बाधाएँ पहुँच सकती हैं।

अंत में अथोरिटी आम जनता से माँग कर रही है कि वे अथोरिटी के पास तज़वीर और विडियो भेजकर रिपोर्ट करें अगर उनके आस-पास लोग पानी बरबाद कर रहे हैं।

फीजी के प्रधानमंत्री ने के COP24 प्रधान से की मुलाकात

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री तथा COP23 के प्रधान फेन्क बईनिमरामा ने इसी सप्ताह बेन्कोक थाईलेन्ड में अयोजित बातचित के एक सत्र के दौरान COP24 के प्रधान मिचल कुर्त्यका से मुलाकात की।

प्रधानमंत्री ने COP24 के प्रधान को आशवासन दिया कि फीजी उनकी हर तरह से मदद करने की कोशिश करेगा।

इस बातचित के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री बईनिमरामा ने कहा कि कई सरकार इसी साल दिसम्बर में COP24 के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं हालांकि जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ लड़ाई के लिए देश के नेताओं ने कई मिलियन शब्द बोले तथा अपने लोगों से उतने ही वायदे किए थे।

जलवायु परिवर्तन का असर गम्भीर होता जा रहा है। कोई भी देश या क्षेत्र इससे बच नहीं सकता तथा किसी एक क्षेत्र पर जब

जलवायु परिवर्तन का असर पड़ता है तो इसका प्रकोप अन्य क्षेत्रों पर भी होता है।

विभिन्न सरकारों से एक-दुसरे के साथ अच्छे विश्वास के साथ काम करने, प्राकृतिक विभाजनों तक पहुँचने और आम ज़मीन खोजने की माँग की गई थी।

“हमें अपनी-अपनी भूमिका निभाने की ज़रूरत है ताकि हमारे महासागरों को कूड़ा डालने का मैदान न समझा जाए। इसी तरह हमारे नदी-नाले, खाड़ी, समुद्री तट तथा पूरे फीजी के लिए समझा जाए। कचरा रास्ते के किनारे से शुरू होता है जो वहकर समुद्र में जाता है। बिना सोचे-समझे जो कचरा फेंका जाता है, उसी तरह के गलत फैसले बढ़ते जा रहे हैं तथा इसके फलस्वरूप हमारा वातावरण, हमारी समुद्री जीव-जन्तु, हमारी आर्थिक सुरक्षा तथा हमारे लोगों की सलामती पर खतरा भी बढ़ रहा है।



प्रधानमंत्री तथा COP23 के प्रधान फेन्क बईनिमरामा इस सप्ताह पूर्व बेन्कोक में COP24 के प्रधान मिचल कुर्त्यका से मुलाकात करते हुए।

औवाटाएम पय अनिवार्य

रोनल देव

एम्पलोएमेंट मंत्री चोने उसामाते ने ज़ोर दिया है कि सभी कर्मचारियों को किसी भी औवाटाएम काम के लिए सही वेतन मिलना चाहिए तथा दो डोलर अडसठ सेन्ट्स \$2.68 का राष्ट्रीय मिनिमम वैज का पालन होना चाहिए।

हालही में नान्दी सिविक सेन्टर में आम जनता से बातें करते हुए श्री उसामाते ने कहा कि अगर लोग एक सप्ताह में नौ घण्टे काम करते हैं तो एक दिन में ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा वे नौ घण्टे काम कर सकते हैं और उन्हें समान्य वेतन मिलना चाहिए।

अगर कोई सप्ताह में पाँच दिन काम करता है तो हर दिन नौ घण्टे या सप्ताह में छः दिन काम करता है तो हर दिन आठ घण्टे वे काम कर सकते हैं। इन कर्मचारियों को सार्वजनिक छुट्टी के लिए वेतन मिल सकता है। अगर कोई एक दिन में ज़्यादा घण्टे काम करता है तो औवाटाईम का दर टाएम एन्ड हाफ होना चाहिए। उदाहरण के तौर पर अगर आपका समान्य वेतन चार डोलर प्रति घण्टा है तो औवाटाईम छः डोलर प्रति घण्टा होना चाहिए।

उनके अनुसार यह बहुत ज़रूरी है क्योंकि उनकी मुलाकात बहुत लोगों से हुई है जो स्कूलों में हेन्डीमेन की तरह काम करते हैं, कुछ लोग सुबह छः बजे से शाम छः बजे तक काम करते हैं तथा उन्हें एक ही दर का वेतन मिलता है जो कि गैर-कानूनी है।

श्री उसामाते ने कहा कि देश में कई ऐसे मामले सामने आए जहाँ लोगों को एक डोलर या एक डोलर पचास सेन्ट प्रति घण्टा का वेतन दिया गया जबकि लोगों को दो डोलर अडसठ सेन्ट्स (\$2.68) से कम वेतन नहीं दिया जा सकता है। इस सप्ताह पूर्व उन्हें पता चला कि कुछ सिक्युरिटी ऑफिसस को दो डोलर चालिस सेन्ट्स प्रति घण्टा का वेतन दिया जा रहा है जो कि गैर-कानूनी है।

“हमारे मंत्रालय को ऐसे मामलों की जानकारी होनी चाहिए ताकि हम कदम उठा सकें और ध्यान में रखें कि लोगों को उनका हक मिले,” श्री उसामाते ने कहा।



अटोनी जेनरल तथा पब्लिक एन्टाप्राईसस मंत्री माननीय अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम ने एनेजी फीजी लिमिटेड (EFL) के कर्मचारियों को बोनस मिलने की घोषणा पर उनके साथ खुशी बाँटते हुए।

ई एफ एल कर्मचारियों के लिए बोनस

रोनल देव

अटोनी जेनरल तथा पब्लिक एन्टाप्राईसस मंत्री माननीय अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम ने एनेजी फीजी लिमिटेड (EFL) के सात सौ बनयान्बे (792) कर्मचारियों के लिए एक दशमलौ नौ मिलियन डोलर लागत बोनस की घोषणा की है।

काम करने के आधार पर कर्मचारियों को बोनस देना तीसरे साल में जारी है तथा यह जो बोनस है वो पिछले साल कम्पनी के अच्छे काम का नतिजा है।

“यह आपके हिस्से पर काफी हद तक एक उपलब्धि है और यह आपके योगदान के बिना हासिल नहीं किया जा सकता था। यह विचार किया गया ताकि सभी कर्मचारी, मेनेजमन्ट तथा बोर्ड के सहयोग के प्रयास हो।

अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि सरकार ने सन् दो हज़ार अट्टारह और उन्नीस राष्ट्रीय बजट में लोगों के घरों तक बिजली पहुँचाने के लिए पचास मिलियन डोलर अलग किया है। जनाब सैयद खैयुम ने कहा कि यह लगातार तीसरी बार है जब

अच्छा काम करने के लिए ई एफ एल अपने कर्मचारियों को बोनस दे रहा है। ई एफ एल बोर्ड चेयरमेन दकेश पटेल का कहना है कि कर्मचारियों को उनके अच्छे काम के लिए इनाम देने का अच्छा तरीका है और लगातार तीसरे साल में कम्पनी द्वारा कर्मचारियों को बोनस देना यह दिखता है कि कर्मचारियों ने कितना बेहतर काम किया है। कम्पनी ने पुष्टी की है कि एक दशमलौ नौ मिलियन डोलर का बोनस जल्द से जल्द कर्मचारियों में बाँटा जाएगा।

रियल एस्टेट अईजेन्सीयों को दिया गया कड़ा संदेश

रोनल देव

रियल एस्टेट अईजेन्सीयों तथा इनसे जुड़ी संस्थाओं से माँग की गई है कि वे कानून के अन्दर रहकर काम करें तथा ध्यान में रखें कि इस व्यवसाय में बई मानी न हो।

इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड मंत्री माननीय फईयाज़ कोया ने हाल ही में पेरल रिज़ोट में रियल एस्टेट वाले एक समारोह में ऐसा संदेश दिया।

“व्यवसाय से जुड़े लोगों को यह समझना और अपनाना चाहिए कि उन्हें अपने व्यापार को और आगे बढ़ाने के लिए कौन-कौन से गुण और नैतिक जिम्मेदारियाँ हासिल करनी हैं। रियल बी और फीजी कोन्जुमा एन्ड कोम्पिटिशन कमिशन (FCCC) संपूर्ण रूप से संपत्ति उद्योग में भ्रामिक और भ्रामिक व्यवहार को लक्षित करने के लिए बारिकी से काम करेंगे,” मंत्री कोया ने कहा।

उन्होंने इस समारोह में प्रतिभागियों को उद्योग व्यवसायियों के रूप में वे संभावित विशेषज्ञों और जनता को उनकी विशेषज्ञ सलाह के माध्यम से बड़े पैमाने पर सच्ची और सही जानकारी प्रदान करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

“मैं यह देखना चाहता हूँ कि रियल एस्टेट व्यवसाय से जुड़े सभी लोग और संस्थाएँ साथ मिलकर काम करें, संपत्ति लेनदेन से संबंधित परिचित नियमों और प्रक्रियाओं को देखना चाहता हूँ और यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहता हूँ कि उपभोक्ता के अधिकार सुरक्षित हैं,” मंत्री कोया ने कहा।

उन्होंने व्यवसाय से जुड़े सभी लोग और संस्थाओं के काम की सराहना की और कहा कि इस व्यवसाय की बढ़न्ती का नज़दीकी संबंध देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था के प्रदर्शन से है।

दो दिवसीय इस समारोह में, आचार संहिता और व्यावसायिक ग्राहक देखभाल, संपत्ति लेनदेन को समझना, रियल एस्टेट एजेंसी के काम से संबंधित कानून पर गौर किया गया।



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा, अटोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खैयुम, लेन्ड्स मंत्री फईयाज़, प्रधानमंत्री दफ्तर के पेनमन्ट सकेटरी योगेश करण, वुनिलोलो ज़मीन मालिकों के साथ।

वुनिलोलो ज़मीन मालिकों को प्रधानमंत्री ने दिया चेक

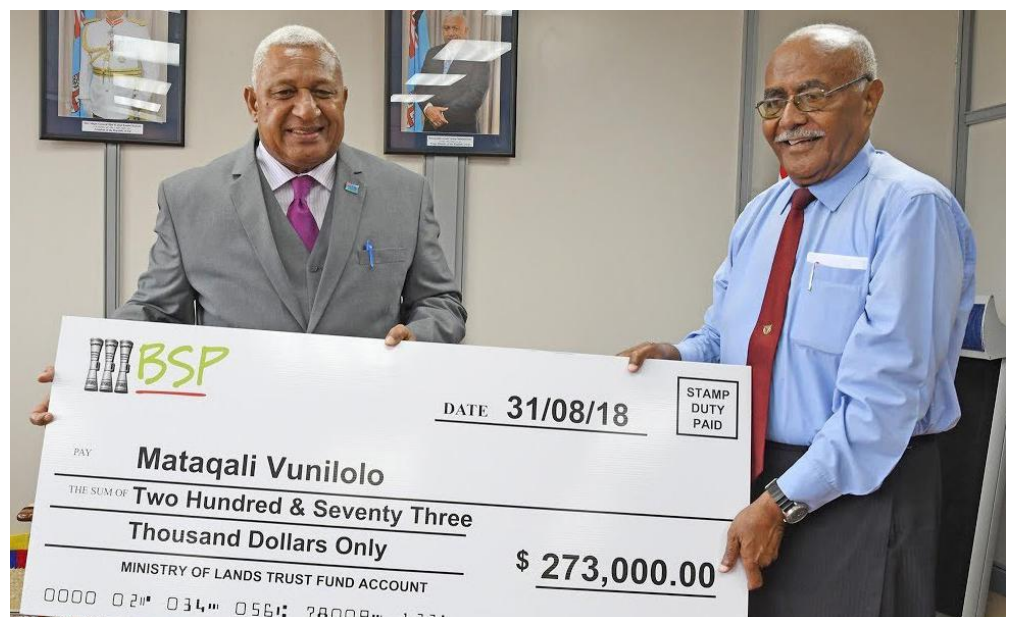
रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने ताईलेवू स्थित नुकु कोरो के मतन्गाली वुनिलोलो को दो लाख तिहत्तर हज़ार \$273,000.00 डोलर लागत का चेक दिया। ऐसा तब हुआ जब मतन्गाली ने अपनी ज़मीन लेन्ड बैंक को लीस पर दी ताकि फीजी एयरपोर्ट्स को स्वीकृति मिले कि वे इस ज़मीन का इस्तेमाल करके नउसोरी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा को और बढ़ाए।

प्रधानमंत्री ने समर्थन के लिए ज़मीनमालिकों को धन्यवाद दिया और कहा कि इस साझेदारी से वे फीजी को आधुनिक बनाने में सरकार की मदद कर रहे हैं।

अटोनी जेनरल तथा सिविल अविज़ेशन मंत्री जनाव अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम ने भी यह बात दोहराई और कहा कि दोनों पक्षों के लिए यह ऐतिहासिक मौका है क्योंकि ज़मीन इस्तेमाल करने की स्वीकृति मिलने से नउसोरी इलाके में आर्थिक गतिविधि बढ़ने में भारी योगदान दिया जाएगा।

नउसोरी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे का रनवे वर्तमान में 737 विमानों के लिए काफी छोटा है। वे सिर्फ़ सिमित मात्रा में वजन ढो सकते हैं लेकिन इस लीस समझौते के बाद रनवे को बढ़ाकर दो हज़ार एक सौ मीटर किया जाएगा।



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा, ताईलेवू स्थित नुकु कोरो के मतन्गाली वुनिलोलो के एक प्रतिनिधी को दो लाख तिहत्तर हज़ार डोलर का चेक देते हुए।

इसका मतलब है कि फीजी एयरपोर्ट्स लिमिटेड रनवे को बढ़ाने के लिए साठ (60) मिलियन डोलर इस्तेमाल करेगा। यह अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर का होगा जिससे और भी हवाई जहाज़ और भी ज़्यादा

सुरक्षित ढंग से वहाँ उतर सकेंगे।

नउसोरी हवाई अड्डे का टेमिनल भी नए नान्दी अंतराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे की तरह बढ़ाया जाएगा।

बच्चों को स्कूल न भेजने का कोई बहाना नहीं चलेगा



एम्पलोएमन्ट मंत्री चोने उसामाते ने हालही में तावेयुनी में नावाकावउ कोरो के माता पिताओं तथा बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों से माँग की कि वे ध्यान में रखें कि उनके बच्चें उच्च से उच्च शिक्षा हासिल करें ताकि उन्हें अच्छी नौकरियाँ मिलें।

यह माता-पिता और बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों की सामाजिक और कानूनी ज़िम्मेदारी है कि वे ध्यान में रखें कि उनके बच्चों को अच्छी अनुशासन में रखा जाए तथा उन्हें अच्छी शिक्षा मिले क्योंकि यह उनका अधिकार है। बच्चों को स्कूल के घण्टों में स्कूल में ही होना चाहिए न कि अपने परिवार के कल्याण पर बोझ होना चाहिए

एम्पलोएमन्ट मंत्री चोने उसामाते

रोनल देव

बच्चों को स्कूल न भेजने का कोई बहाना नहीं चलेगा जबकि सरकार ने मुफ्त शिक्षा वाली प्रणाली के नीचे देश में सभी परिवार वालों की मदद की है। एम्पलोएमन्ट मंत्री चोने उसामाते ने ऐसा कहा जब उन्हें तावेयुनी में नावाकावउ कोरो के लोगों से रिपोट मिली कि कई बच्चें स्कूल छोड़ चुके हैं और वापस स्कूल नहीं जाना चाहते हैं।

“यह माता-पिता और बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों की सामाजिक और कानूनी ज़िम्मेदारी है कि वे ध्यान में रखें कि उनके बच्चों को अच्छी अनुशासन में रखा जाए तथा उन्हें अच्छी शिक्षा मिले क्योंकि यह उनका

अधिकार है। बच्चों को स्कूल के घण्टों में स्कूल में ही होना चाहिए न कि अपने परिवार के कल्याण पर बोझ होना चाहिए,” मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा।

सरकार ध्यान में रखेगी कि माता-पिता अपने बच्चों को स्कूल भेजे नहीं तो उन्हें कानून का सामना करना पड़ेगा।

मंत्री उसामाते ने सभी माता-पिताओं और बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों से माँग की है कि वे ध्यान में रखें कि उनके बच्चों को अच्छी से अच्छी शिक्षा तथा प्रशिक्षण मिले ताकि उन्हें अच्छी नौकरियाँ मिलें, अपना खुद का व्यापार करें या आगे चलकर अच्छे नेता बनें।



आग पर चलने वाली सालाना पूजा में ए जी

अटोनी जेनरल माननीय अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम ने हाल ही में हवल रोड समझूला स्थित टी आए एस आए राज महा मरियम्मन मंदिर में खास मेहमान के रूप में आग पर चलने वाली सालाना पूजा में हिस्सा लिया। उन्होंने इस पूजा में भक्तों के साथ मुलाकात की। दस दिनों तक बर रखने के बाद कई भक्तों ने आग पर चलने वाली पूजा में हिस्सा लिया। इस पूजा को देखने के लिए एक हज़ार से ज़्यादा लोग वहाँ इकट्ठा हुए थे। टी आए एस आए संगम सूवा शाखा की यह बनयान्वे (92nd) आग पर चलने वाली सालाना पूजा थी। यह मंदिर देश में अन्य बड़े मंदिरों में से एक है। यह समारोह दक्षिण भारत में शुरू हुआ था और आज इसे फीजी के कोने-कोने में मनाया जा रहा है। देश भर के अन्य मंदिरों में भी आग पर चलने की पूजा होती है। ऐसी मान्यता है कि अगस्त महीना बहुत ही शक्तिशाली होता है जो माता के पूजन के लिए उपयुक्त है।



माननीय अटोनी जेनरल ने कृष्णजन्माष्टमी में भाग लिया

अटोनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री माननीय जनाब अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम ने हाल ही में कृष्णजन्माष्टमी का पर्व मना रहे लोगों से मुलाकात की। उन्होंने भगवान कृष्ण द्वारा कहीं कुछ बातों पर गौर किया और कहा कि कैसे लोगों को अपनी जिम्मेदारियों और कर्तव्यों का पालन करना चाहिए। “श्री कृष्ण ने सिखाया है कि चाहे हम गरीब हो या धनवान हम सभी को पुरी निष्ठा के साथ अपने कर्तव्यों का पालन करना चाहिए। कर्म करो फल की इच्छा मत करो। यह सब श्री कृष्ण की शिक्षा है,” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा। उनके अनुसार लोगों को सिर्फ रसम रिवाज़ में ही नहीं वह जाना चाहिए बल्कि इसके पीछे कारण समझना चाहिए।



महिलाओं के नए शेल्टर के लिए न्यू डाला गया

परिवारिक हिंसा और दुर्व्यवहार के परिणामस्वरूप संकट में घिरे महिलाओं और उनके बच्चों को सुरक्षित वातावरण प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार नतम्बुआ लौताका में एक शेल्टर बना रही है। इसका नींव डालते हुए विमन, चिलरन और पोवेटी अलैविगेशन मंत्री मेरिसईनी बुनिवांगा ने कहा कि इस तरह की दर्दनाक घटना के बाद होने वाले आघात, धावों और मानसिक नुकसान की देखभाल की जानी चाहिए। इम इसे पीठ दिखाकर दूर नहीं कर सकते हैं न ही हम इसके बारे में चुप नहीं रह सकते, हम अलग रहकर महिलाओं और बच्चों के खिलाफ हिंसा को संबोधित नहीं कर सकते हैं।



मंत्री कोया कृष्णजन्माष्टिमी समारोह में



लेन्ड्स मंत्री फईयाज़ सिदिक कोया ने हालही नकासी में कृष्णजन्माष्टिमी समारोह में मुख्य मेहमान के रूप में हिस्सा लिया। मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि फीजी एक बहुसंस्कृतिक समाज है तथा सरकार यही संदेश देती है कि लोगों को फीजी में सभी धार्मिक उत्सव को साथ मिलकर मनाना चाहिए। उन्होंने अपने भाषण में भगवान कृष्ण श्रीमद्भागवत गीत के द्वारा अर्जुन को दिए गए कुछ ज्ञान को दोहराया कि अपने जीवन को सफल बनाने के लिए क्या करना चाहिए। हिन्दू धर्म में मेहमान भगवान के समान माना गया है। जनाब कोया का हिन्दू परम्परा के साथ स्वागत किया गया जहाँ उन्हें तिलक लगाया गया, आरती उतारी गई और माला भी पहराया गया।





हमारे वनों की रक्षा करो: नईगामू

रोनल देव

फॉरेस्ट मंत्री ओसेया नईगामू ने दकाउन्ड्रोवे स्थित सूवेनी के कोरोवासियों से उनके वनों की रक्षा करने के लिए उनके समर्थन की माँग की है।

मंत्री नईगामू ने कहा कि वहाँ पेड़ों को काटने की इच्छा बहुत थी लेकिन पेड़ दोबारा बोने का कोई प्रयास नहीं किया गया।

उन्होंने वहाँ के कोरोवासियों से उनके जंगल को बचाने के लिए उनकी सहायता माँगने

की विनती की और कहा कि उन्हें यकीन है कि कोरोवासी जलवायु परिवर्तन तथा हमारे वातावरण पड़ होने वाले नकारात्मक प्रभावों से बचीफू है। लेकिन हमारे वनों और जंगलों को बचाने के साथ हम इसके खिलाफ लड़ने में मदद कर सकते हैं।

मंत्री नईगामू ने कहा कि सरकार चाहती है कि हमारी भविष्य की पीढ़ी के लाभ के लिए अधिक से अधिक पेड़ लगाए जाएं।

मंत्री के दल के साथ फीजी पाईन ट्रस्ट

मेनेजा एक्सटेन्शन सेविसस पीटा रोकोबियेवो ने कोरोवासियों से अपने कार्यों पर ध्यान देने की माँग की क्योंकि इससे भविष्य की पीढ़ी पर असर पड़ेगा। उन्होंने कोरोवासियों को बताया कि कि वो अपने जंगलों को संरक्षित नहीं करते हैं या यदि आप इसे बुद्धिमानी से इस्तेमाल नहीं करते हैं तो नदी जो उनके गाँव के बगल में बह रही है जिसपर वे निर्भर हैं वह निकट भविष्य नहीं रह जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसा भी समय आ सकता है जब

कोरोवासियों को पानी के लिए पानी सप्लाई करने वाले ट्रकों पर निर्भर होना पड़े अगर वे अपने जंगलों की सुरक्षा करने में सफल नहीं हुए।

उनके अनुसार पिछले दो सालों में नावाकुरु में पानी का लेवल बहुत कम हुआ है। फिलहाल, वहाँ के एक बुजुर्ग कोरोवासी ने कहा कि वो अभारी है कि उन्हें इस विषय पर शिक्षित किया गया तथा यह उनके लिए एक अनोखा अनुभव था।



मेन सी टीका कार्यक्रम के दौरान स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी जो एक साल से उन्नीस साल के बच्चों को टीके लगाने के लिए तैयार। एक लाख से भी ज़्यादा बच्चों को टीके लगाए जा चुके हैं।

मेन सी टीका कार्यक्रम अब पूर्वी विभाग में

रोनल देव

राष्ट्रीय मेनिंगजोकोकल (मेन सी) टीका कार्यक्रम जो पश्चिमी और उत्तरी विभाग में जारी है अगले हफ्ते से पूर्वी विभाग में शुरू होगा।

स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों के टीके लगाने का एक दल इसी रविवार को एम एल सी वर्ड्युएती नामक जहाज में पूर्वी विभाग जाएगा। इस जहाज का विमोचन अभी हाल ही में हुआ है जो कि फीजी का पहला मोबाइल अस्पताल का जहाज है। यह दल पहले लेवूका लोमाईविति ग्रुप जिनमें कोरो, गाउ, बतिकी, मोतुरिकी, नाईराई, कन्दावू, रेतूमा तथा लकेंम्बा जाएगा जिसके बाद लाउ ग्रुप के अन्य द्वीपों तक भी यह दल जाएगा।

इस कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत इसी साल चौदह मई को केन्द्रीय और रा सब्डविज़न से हुई थी जिसके तहत अभी तक एक लाख से भी ज़्यादा बच्चों को टीके लगाए जा चुके हैं जिनकी उम्र एक साल से उन्नीस साल के बीच है।

पहले चरण में केन्द्रीय और रा सब्डविज़न के एक लाख चौबीस हजार नौ सौ बीस (124,830) बच्चों को टीके लगाए गए हैं। दूसरे चरण में दो लाख (200,000) डोसस उपलब्ध किए गए थे और पश्चिमी तथा पूर्वी विभाग में चौरन्वे हजार बच्चों को टीके लगाए गए हैं। पूर्वी विभाग में एक साल से उन्नीस साल के बीच बीस हजार बच्चों को अगले हफ्ते तीसरे स्कूल टर्म की शुरुआत में टीके लगाए जाने की उम्मीद है।

स्वास्थ्य और मेडिकल सेविसस मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने न्यु ज़िलेन्ड के विदेश और व्यवसाय मंत्रालय, विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन तथा औस्ट्रेलिया के विदेश तथा व्यवसाय मंत्रालय को समर्थन दिखाने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। उन्होंने न्यु ज़िलेन्ड सरकार का आभार व्यक्त किया जिन्होंने राष्ट्रीय मेनिंगजोकोकल (मेन सी) टीका कार्यक्रम के लिए एक मिलियन न्यु ज़िलेन्ड डॉलर का योगदान दिया है।

मंत्री अकबर ने उन माता-पिताओं तथा बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों को धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने बच्चों को टीके लगाने की स्वीकृति दी साथ ही साथ अद्यापको तथा समाज को भी मेन सी टीका कार्यक्रम का समर्थन करने के लिए उनकी सराहना की।

आम जनता को याद दिलाया जा रहा है कि मेन सी टीका बच्चों के लिए ज़रूरी है जो सुरक्षित, असरकारक और जान बचाने वाला है। मेन सी बीमारी का जल्द पता चलने पर इलाज हो सकता है इसलिए इस बीमारी को कोई भी चिन्ह दिखने पर लोगों को जल्द नज़दीकी हेल्थ सेंटर या अस्पताल जाना चाहिए।

मंत्रालय ने माता-पिताओं से माँग की है कि वे अपने बच्चों को टीके लगाने की स्वीकृति दें तथा स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने ज़ोर दिया है कि मेनिंगजोकोकल (मेन सी) एक जान लेवा बीमारी है तथा यह बच्चों के हित में होगा अगर उन्हें टीके लगाए गए।

महिलाओं, बच्चों के लिए बनेगा शेल्टर



विमन, चिलरन और पोवेटी अलेविषन मंत्री मेरेसईनी वुनिवाँगा महिलाओं और बच्चों के लिए नए शेल्टर का नींव डालते हुए।

रोनल देव

परिवारिक हिंसा और दुर्व्यवहार के परिणामस्वरूप संकट में धिरे महिलाओं और उनके बच्चों को सुरक्षित वातावरण प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार नतम्बुआ लौतोका में एक शेल्टा बना रही है। इसका नींव डालते हुए विमन, चिलरन और पोवेटी अलेविषन मंत्री मेरेसईनी वुनिवाँगा ने कहा कि इस तरह की दर्दनाक घटना के बाद होने वाले आघात, घावों और मानसिक नुकसान की देखभाल की जानी चाहिए।

इम इसे पीठ दिखाकर दूर नहीं कर सकते हैं न ही हम इसके बारे में चुप नहीं रह सकते, हम अलग रहकर महिलाओं और बच्चों के खिलाफ हिंसा को संबोधित नहीं कर सकते हैं। यह शेल्टा महिला मंत्रालय और गोल्डन अईज होम ट्रस्टीस तथा सोरोप्टोमिस्ट इंटरनेशनल साउथ वेस्ट पेसिफिक की साझेदारी से बनेगा।

शेल्टर को बनाने का खर्च सोरोप्टोमिस्ट इंटरनेशनल

साउथ वेस्ट पेसिफिक सहेगा जबकि महिला मंत्रालय इसके संचालन की देखभाल सरकार में और उसके बाहर के विशेषज्ञों के साथ साझेदारी से करेगा।

संकट के समय महिलाएँ और बच्चें आपातकालीन सेवाओं के लिए इन शेल्टस पर जा सकेंगे जहाँ वे सुरक्षित महसूस करेंगे। इस सुविधा में लोग सुरक्षित महसूस करने के अलावा, आराम से समर्थन वाले कार्यक्रम, सेवाएँ हासिल कर सकेंगे जैसे कि काउन्सलिंग, शिक्षा कार्यक्रम तथा बच्चों के लिए एक शेल्टर भी उपलब्ध रहेगा।

मंत्री वुनिवाँगा ने कहा कि शेल्टर बनने के बाद यह महिलाओं और बच्चों को रहने के लिए सुरक्षित जगह प्रदान करने के अलावा उन्हें सहारा देगा कि वे अपनी ज़िन्दगी फिर से शुरू कर सकें। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि हमे सही अधिकारियों को घरेलू हिंसा वाले मामलों को लेकर चौकन्ना करना चाहिए ताकि महिलाओं और बच्चों के खिलाफ घरेलू हिंसा और यौन अपराध के चौकाने वाले आकड़े कम हो सकें।



विमन, चिलरन और पोवेटी अलेविषन मंत्री मेरेसईनी वुनिवाँगा साजेदारों के साथ शेल्टर का नींव डालने की खुशियाँ बाँटते हुए।

सामोआ के प्रधानमंत्री का हुआ भव्य स्वागत



प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेन्गो बर्डनिमरामा, सामोआ के प्रधानमंत्री तुईलाएपा अईओनो सईलेले मालि-ऐलेगा-ओई का स्वागत करते हुए।

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डनिमरामा ने फीजी और सामोआ के स्वतंत्र राज्य के बीच मजबूत सांस्कृतिक, ऐतिहासिक और व्यापार संबंधों को स्वीकार किया है। सामोआ के प्रधानमंत्री तुईलाएपा अईओनो सईलेले मालि-ऐलेगा-ओई (Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malilelegao) का स्वागत करते हुए श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने कहा कि फीजी दोनों देशों के बीच आर्थिक स्तर को दूसरे स्तर पर लेजाने की उम्मीद कर रहा है।

“फीजी और सामोआ जब भी वैश्विक नेतागिरी सम्भालते हैं, विश्व की बड़ी सभा में हिस्सा लेते हैं या वैश्विक मंचों में बातें करते हैं, तो वे हमेशा फीजीवासी, सामोआन, तोंगन, तुवालुआन तथा सोलोमन आइलैंड्स के लिए बोलते हैं तथा प्रशान्त की हर एक महिला-पुरुष और बच्चे के लिए बातें करते हैं,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ लड़ाई में फीजी का समर्थन करने और योगदान देने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री

बर्डनिमरामा ने सामोआ की सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया।

“राष्ट्रमण्डल के सदस्य होने के रूप में, जलवायु परिवर्तन और महासागर संरक्षण के चैंपियन होने के नाते क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा और विकास में प्रतिबद्ध भागीदारों के रूप में हमारी सफलता

सामूहिक है और हमारा भविष्य साझा किया जाता है,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार इन्हीं कारणों के अलावा अनेक और कारण हैं, जिसके लिए उन्हें पता है कि दोनों राष्ट्र हमेशा एक दूसरे की सफलता के लिए पूरी तरह से प्रतिबद्ध रहेंगे।

हमारे बीच हुई बातचित ने यह सुनिश्चित करने में मदद की है कि भविष्य में जो भी हो, हमारी आवाजों तथा हमारे दृष्टिकोण बाकी दुनिया, जोर से, स्पष्ट रूप से और एक साथ हम उन चुनौतियों का सामना करेंगे और हम अपने लोगों और हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्थाओं को जोड़ने के लिए सहयोग के नए और मजबूत पुलों का निर्माण करेंगे।

“हमारे व्यापार संबंध मजबूत हैं, और हम अपने देशों के बीच “विकास सहयोग समझौते” के संकेत के साथ प्रशांत द्वीप देश व्यापार समझौते में सुधार के माध्यम से उस सफलता पर निर्माण करना चाहते हैं, जो मुझे विश्वास है कि यह सबसे अच्छा अगला कदम है हमारी राजनितिक और आर्थिक जुड़ाव की क्षमता महसूस करने का। हम द्वीपक्षीय आधार पर भी अधिक कर सकते हैं, जैसा कि हमने फीजी एयरवेज और सामोआ एयरलाइंस के बीच सफल संबंधों में देखा है,” प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने कहा।



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डनिमरामा ने हाल ही में नवोसा प्रांत में स्थित नसाउवाकारूआ कोरो का दौरा किया और देखा कि वहाँ के लोग किन-किन तकलीफों से गुजरते हैं। श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने निवासियों की चिन्ताओं पर भी गौर किया।

प्रधानमंत्री का आश्चर्यचकित दौरा

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डनिमरामा ने हाल ही में नवोसा प्रांत में स्थित नसाउवाकारूआ कोरो का दौरा किया।

श्री बर्डनिमरामा इस इलाके का दौरा करने वाले पहले प्रधानमंत्री हैं।

इस इलाके तक पहुँचने में लगभग चार घण्टे लगते हैं, तीन घण्टे नान्दी से नउसोरी हाएलेन्ड्स तक केरिया में जाने में लगते हैं और फिर वहाँ से एक घण्टा नदी नाले पार करके नसाउवाकारूआ तक पैदल जाना पड़ता है।

प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने इस इलाके का दौरा इसलिए किया ताकि वे कोरोवासियों से मिलकर खुद जान सकें कि वे प्रतिदिन किन समस्याओं का सामना करते हैं।

जबकि कोरोवासियों के लिए प्रधानमं

त्री का दौरा और उनसे मुलाकात आश्चर्य की बात थी तो वहीं कोरोवासियों ने प्रधानमंत्री बर्ड निमरामा और उनकी सरकार को देश के भीतरी और ग्रामीन इलाकों में रहने वाले लोगों के प्रति ठोस सहयोग और समर्पण के लिए उन्हें धन्यवाद दिया।

“इसलिए देश के विकास पर ध्यान देते हुए मैं सरकारी कर्मचारियों से हमेशा माँग करता हूँ कि वे ग्रामीन इलाकों में रह रहे लोगों तक सेवा पहुँचाने को प्राथमिकता दें,” प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने कहा।

प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने कोरोवासियों के साथ बातचीत में उनकी समस्याओं पर गौर किया जिनमें शामिल है यातायात, सरकारी सेवाओं की उपलब्धि, कोरो से बाहर संपर्क करने की सुविधा, रास्ते, बिजली, पानी सप्लाई, स्वास्थ्य सेवा

और शिक्षा।

उन्होंने कोरो में एक किन्डागार्डन के निर्माण पर भी ज़ोर दिया ताकि वहाँ के बच्चों को दूर तक सफर न करना पड़े। श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने लेन्ड ट्रान्सपोर्ट अथोरिटी को यह भी आदेश दिया कि वे कोरोवासियों के बच्चों को उनके स्कूल तक लाने-लेजाने के लिए तीन केरिया चालकों को लाईसेन्स प्रदान करें।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि दस साल पहले उन्हें नवातुसिला डिस्ट्रीक्ट के लोगों की तकलीफों के बारे में बताया गया था जिसके बाद वहाँ के रास्ते में सुधार और अन्य सुविधाओं में विकास हुआ था।

फिलहाल, वोटर अथोरिटी ने कोरो में पानी वाले और पाईप्स बिठाने की योजना बनाई है।

नए औस्ट्रेलियन प्रधानमंत्री को मिली बधाई

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डनिमरामा ने औस्ट्रेलिया के नए प्रधानमंत्री स्कॉट मोरिसन को अपनी शुभकामनाएँ भेजी हैं जिन्हें उनकी लिबरल पार्टी के सदस्यों ने इस पद पर चुना है।

औस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधानमंत्री को लिखे गए एक खत में श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने कहा कि दोनों देशों

के बीच व्यवसायिक संबंध बहुत ही मजबूत हैं तथा पुँजी भी लगातार लगाई जा रही है।

कोप 23 के प्रधान होने के नाते श्री बर्ड निमरामा ने औस्ट्रेलिया द्वारा जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ लड़ाई में प्रतिबद्धता दिखाने के लिए उनकी प्रशंसा की। श्री बर्ड निमरामा को विश्वास है कि आगे चलकर जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ लड़ाई में औस्ट्रेलिया की

प्रतिबद्धता और भी मजबूत होगी। प्रधानमंत्री का कहना है कि वह आपसी सम्मान और समझ की नई नींव को मजबूत करने की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं जो दोनों देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय संबंधों का समर्थन करता है।

उन्होंने कहा कि फीजी और औस्ट्रेलिया ने हाल के वर्षों में एक नई दिशा को अपनाया है और साथ में हमने साझेदारी की है जो फीजीयन और

औस्ट्रेलिया के लोगों के साथ घनिष्ठ संबंधों से मेल खाता है, जो एक दूसरे के साथ लम्बे समय से बाँट रहे हैं। श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने कहा कि औस्ट्रेलिया के भूतपूर्व प्रधानमंत्री मेलकम टेर्नबुल के साथ दोस्ती की वजह से संबंधों में काफी सुधार आया और इससे दोनों देशों के बीच रिश्ते को आगे बढ़ाने की अच्छी शुरुआत हुई।

फीजी फोकस

ई एफ एल के लिए बोनस की हुई घोषणा स्कार

2



महिलाओं/बच्चों के शेल्टर के लिए नींव डाली गई

6



अटोनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री जनाब अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम, कृष्णजन्माष्मी के दौरान पदमलाला रोड नमान्दी हाईट्स, सूवा स्थित तामावुआ रामायण मण्डली के मंदिर में महिलामण्डल और बच्चों के साथ।

“अपना कर्तव्य निभाओ”

रोनल देव

अटोनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री माननीय जनाब अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम ने हाल ही में नकासी स्थित गोपाल साधू हनुमान गढ़ी मंदिर, पदमलाला रोड नमान्दी हाईट्स स्थित तामावुआ रामायण मण्डली के मंदिर तथा रावीरावी म्बा स्थित मंदिर में कृष्णजन्माष्मी का पर्व मना रहे लोगों से मुलाकात की।

उन्होंने भगवान कृष्ण द्वारा कहीं कुछ बातों पर गौर किया और कहा कि कैसे लोगों को अपनी ज़िम्मेदारियाँ और कर्तव्यों का पालन

करना चाहिए।

“श्री कृष्ण ने सिखाया है कि चाहे हम गरीब हो या धनवान हम सभी को पुरी निष्ठा के साथ अपने कर्तव्यों का पालन करना चाहिए। कर्म करें फल की इच्छा मत करो। यह सब श्री कृष्ण की शिक्षा है,” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार लोगों को सिर्फ रसम रिवाज़ में ही नहीं बह जाना चाहिए बल्कि इसके पीछे कारण समझना चाहिए।

“सबसे ज़रूरी बात है कि इन रसमों रिवाज़ों को अपनी ज़िन्दगी में हम कैसे उतारे इसपर गौर करना चाहिए। अगर हम सिखाए गए इन

बातों को अपनाते हैं तो आपका संबंध आपके परिवार, समाज और जिनसे भी आप मिलेंगे से काफी बेहतर हो जाएगा। ऐसा इसलिए क्योंकि धर्म मानव होने की मूल से उपर उठने के बारे में है।” जनाब सैयद खैयुम ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार इस तरह के समारोह जो हर साल आते हैं हमें इस दौरान सिखाई गई बातों से अपना जीवन सुधारने का मौका देते हैं।

धर्म प्रेमियों के साथ बातचित में अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री ने राष्ट्रीय बजट पर कुछ झलकियाँ पेश की तथा जोर दिया कि सरकार देश की युवा पीढ़ी पर ज़्यादा खर्च कर रही है क्योंकि देश में

युवा लोगों की संख्या सबसे ज़्यादा है। उनके अनुसार सरकार ने शिक्षा के क्षेत्र के लिए एक बिलियन डोलर अलग किया है।

इस दौरान अन्य विषय जो उठाए गए में, नई इन्शूरन्स स्कीम, पहली बार घर खरीदने या बनाने के लिए हाउजिंग ग्रांट स्कीम तथा ज़मीन की समस्या शामिल है।

फिलहाल, मंदिर के प्रधान विजेन्द्र प्रकाश ने सरकार के काम की सरहना की और कहा कि किस तरह सरकार द्वारा प्रदान किए गए सुविधाओं से फीजीवासियों का जीवन सुधरा है।