

# Fiji Focus



**BUSINESS  
IMPLEMENTS  
“NO PLASTIC”  
POLICY**

**7**



**NO  
SUBSTITUTE  
FOR HARD  
WORK**

**12**



**FIJI HOSTS  
PARLIAMENTARIAN  
FORUM ON GLOBAL  
HEALTH**

**15**



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with participants of the Traditional Leadership Curriculum Programme for Nadroga/Navosa at the Centre for Appropriate Technology Development (CATD) in Nadave this week.  
Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

## Foster Unity and Togetherness PM tells Traditional leaders

AZARIA FAREEN

**L**EADERSHIP is not only for those at the helm of Government but also for traditional heads, and good leadership will foster unity and togetherness among people in a village or community.

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama as he spoke to 40 participants of the Traditional Leadership Curriculum Programme for Nadroga/Navosa at the Centre for Appropriate Technology Development in Nadave this week.

Nadroga and Navosa is the third province to be part of the training which has already seen about 40 participants graduate from Rewa and Tailevu province whereas 39 traditional title holders including youths and women were part of the training for the Province of Ba.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the well-being of the people depends on good leadership thus this kind of workshop for future chiefs is very much relevant for the future.

“Development and changes have brought many challenges to the way we lead our people and we have forgotten parts of our traditional knowledge,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“The aim of this traditional leadership workshop is for our future chiefs to understand the changes that we are going through and find solutions to these challenges based on sustainable decisions, honesty and integrity.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that it is vital to have strong leadership in the family which will contribute towards good leadership with the clan and the tribe, as it will foster unity amongst the vanua.

He also encouraged the participants to have the foresight

for growth and development in their respective villages and also to become strong traditional leaders with sound judgment.

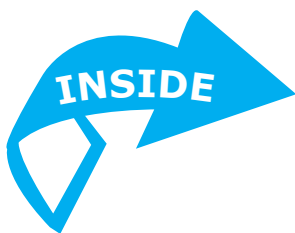
The Traditional Leadership Curriculum, also referred to as the Vuli Ni Sauvaki ni Vanua has six modules that are grounded on leadership development strategies and underpins resource management skills for iTaukei Leaders.

The curriculum is modelled on Adult Training Approach with the use of facilitation skills that include quizzes, group discussions, role plays as well as field trips.

With efforts for accreditation through the Fiji Higher Education Commission, the curriculum is now recognized as Trade Certificate III.

The 40 participants will undergo a six-week intensive training on traditional leadership, among other related activities.





- FIJI HOSTS  
PARLIMENTARIAN FORUM **15**
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- NEW BURELEVU CROSSING  
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#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Jacinda Ardern

*We have said that we don't believe we can sustain more than 1.5 degrees (Celsius) of warming...that is where we have sided.*

New Zealand Prime Minister  
Jacinda Ardern

#### NUMBERS

**\$2m**

for Koroipita Model Town Trust to extend program to 140 vulnerable families

#### TWEET OF THE WEEK



Peter Thomson (@ThomsonFiji)

*In any #Fijian market you can find ota (nutritious edible ferns) - delicious with coconut, lime & chili. But look at the beautiful biodegradable packaging - banana leaf. 34% of the world's plastic goes uncollected & only 8% is recycled. Think about it.*

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# Religious leaders urged to advocate

AZARIA FAREEN

MINISTER for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa has called on faith based organizations to play a prominent role in advocating for poverty alleviation and the elimination of family and gender based violence.

Minister Vuniwaqa highlighted this as she addressed hundreds of members of the church congregation at the New Methodist Christian Fellowship Global Conference 2019 held at the ANZ National Stadium recently.

"As members of civil society, religious congregations like yourselves are often actively engaged in supporting people living in poverty with short-term responses," she said.

"In addition to providing direct service, faith based communities can be great advocates at the local, state, and national levels for the poor, working for equitable and just policies that provide a safety net for society's most vulnerable people," Minister Vuniwaqa added.

"If all religious leaders in the country took a leading role, we will be able to take great strides in our fight against violence."

Empowerment, inclusiveness and equality are cornerstones for building a better Fiji and Government has taken great strides in legal,

political, electoral and socio-economic reforms.

"Fiji is accountable as a signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of the Child," Minister Vuniwaqa highlighted.

"These are key human rights treaties that my Ministry directly reports on to stay on track with our commitment to inclusive development, equality and the empowerment and protection of rights of women, children and the disabled."

Minister Vuniwaqa commended all faith based organizations for their attention to the economic empowerment of their women members through capacity building initiatives and seed funding programs for income generating initiatives.

"As a government and ministry, we pledge to continue to deliver services to inculcate the removal of violence against women and the empowerment of the vulnerable in society," she said.

"But all this programs and initiatives will be useless if there is no change in the mentality of our citizens," she added.

Minister Vuniwaqa further added that reli-

gious leaders are presented with unique opportunities which they should fully utilize to mould the mind-set of their congregation and contribute towards a constructive change.



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa addresses hundreds of members of the church congregation at the New Methodist Christian Fellowship Global Conference 2019 held at the ANZ National Stadium recently. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

# Don't be afraid to try new things

LITIA VULDAIDUSIGA

"DON'T be afraid to try new things."

This mantra by Sikeli Naivalurua put him on a flight to Australia, among the latest batch of seasonal Fijian meat-workers recruited under the Australia-Pacific Labour Scheme.

For the 29-year old, it's a step forward in providing for his young family.

"I was also encouraging my former workmates because our objectives are the same; we are here to support the family and it shouldn't be a stumbling block for everyone to try out new things," Mr Naivalurua said.

A native of Tavuki Village in Kadavu, the Nausori resident was employed at Goodman Fielder's processing plant.

"My cousin told me about the PLS and we have both been recruited. I went to the recruitment drive and it was a three-week interview process. I was working and called to attend the first interview. They shortlisted the first lot. So, I attended the first- and second-week interviews in July and am now travelling with my cousin. Our families are pleased and I would really encourage youths and those looking to work abroad to check out any National Employment Centre office around the country. Just register your interest and there might be something there for you."



Sikeli Naivalurua (far left) with fellow meat workers before departing for Australia under the Pacific Labour Scheme. They were farewelled by Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Parveen Kumar. Photo: LITIA VULDAIDUSIGA

The father of two departed with 18 others for Naracoorte in South Australia on Monday, while today, a further batch of 11 leave for Rockhampton, joining four Fijians who are already based there.

A further group of 30 meat workers leave next month. They join the ranks of four Fijian meat workers stationed to Biloela, Queensland, 10 in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales and three Commis chefs on Hayman Island.

Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations,

Parveen Kumar said mobility schemes such as PLS strengthened close relations between Fiji and Australia, while providing financial and vocational benefits to Fijian families.

"On top of meat workers, Fiji is also exploring opportunities in Australia's aged care, hospitality and agricultural sectors. When workers return home after their time in Australia, they bring with them new skills and savings which can be used to start local businesses, build new houses and

support the development of Pacific economies. This has a positive impact on communities."

This week, through the PLS, the InterContinental Group is recruiting Fijian staff at the NEC office in Namaka, Nadi.

The hotel company is seeking room attendants, kitchen stewards, public area attendants and Commis chefs for their property on the Hayman Islands, where several Fijian chefs are already based. Fiji signed onto the PLS in April this year.





## Tuvalu meet finds common ground

PRASHILA DEVI

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama attended the first Pacific Islands Forum's Meeting in over a decade with high hopes to find common ground on climate change.

The Fijian Head of Government, who attended the 50th PIF in Tuvalu recently, said he was greeted with an emotional display by a group of Tuvaluan children, wading in a pool of water "stressing the need to combat sea-level rise in the atoll nation".

"Climate Change is not a political issue for Pacific Island Countries but a matter of survival," he said during a press conference at the end of the meeting.

"It is also good to see that issues that were on the fringes of climate change discussions has been mainstreamed into this dialogue."

He said he was saddened by Australia's failure to recognise climate change for what it is - a global crisis.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the leaders spent 12 hours debating on the language of the communique and pointed out the feeling of being in harmony with other PICs for which he labelled the PIF meeting invaluable.

He said this was a new era where both Australia and New Zealand are attempting to engage with the PICs in a "more respectful and inclusive manner".

*We applaud the effort they are making to improve relations with Fiji and other Pacific Island countries, especially the support both countries are providing to enable Pacific people to meet the threat of climate change including provision of significant climate finance.*

Voreqe Bainimarama  
Prime Minister of Fiji

On the issue of coal mining, Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fiji recognizes that coal has always been an important part of the Australian economy.

"I think the whole Pacific recognizes that- its role as a foreign revenue earner or for energy security and it gives them the means to support our region."

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that he together with other Pacific Heads of Government will continue to "push the region's largest carbon emitter to transition from coal to clean energy, and continue to be a voice for all climate-vulnerable peoples".

# FNPF acquires 20 percent shares in EFL



The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with management and board members of the Fiji National Provident Fund and Electricity Fiji Limited as well as consultants Photo: ERONI VALILI

PRASHILA DEVI

THE Fiji National Provident Fund's 20 per cent stake out of the 44 per cent shares offered by the Energy Fiji Limited has been described as a "phenomenal step in the energy sector".

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, in welcoming the move, said it was a wise decision from FNPF to take an ownership stake in EFL - "it was a tough negotiation and your Board drove a pretty hard bargain, but we're all happy with the end result".

"With this signing, we've successfully granted the Fijian people ownership over EFL on two fronts, as the number of Fijian shareholders in EFL has surged from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands now that we've brought on board FNPF's nearly

430,000 beneficiaries," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while officiating at the Special Announcement and Signing Ceremony for the Partial Divestment of Shares in EFL, said after many hurdles and tough negotiations, the sale of 20 per cent of the shares, with the value of \$220 million, was secured by the FNPF which means "the opening up of the capital market and bringing in private sector investment".

"Out of the 500 million shares that EFL has issued, the FNPF will own 100 million shares after today's signing and of course, 25 million of those shares are held by domestic account holders. FNPF will now have one board member on EFL board as long as they own 15 per cent shares."

FNPF board chairman, Ajith Kodagoda, thanked the Fijian Government for the opportunity to be a shareholder and added that "we trust that we will bring the value that you expect us to bring in, we will grow EFL to become a regional model for utility".

EFL chairman, Daksesh Patel, in welcoming the new investor, said the real challenge is to see where EFL can be taken to in the "renewable energy space".

Mr Patel said the board was given the freedom to run the affairs of EFL by the Government and in the last three years, the value of shares have doubled.

From six bidders that were shortlisted, FNPF was the successful bidder and the A-G has encouraged greater private sector participation as 24 per cent shares was still available.

## We must be committed to transform Fiji- Minister Kumar

FII needs to maintain and strengthen its status as the hub of the Pacific, in terms of trade, investment, tourism, logistics, communications and research and development.

While speaking at the Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business Summit 2019 at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva this week, Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar challenged the public and private sector to be committed towards transforming Fiji.

"We need commitment to the overall vision to "Transform Fiji", as set out in the 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP). We must foster a culture of can-do and work in areas that need support to grow," Minister Kumar said.

With the theme "Lessons from recent cases" the forum was intended to serve as a platform for healthy discussions with government and



Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Premila Kumar speaks during the Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business Summit 2019. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

relevant stakeholders.

"We want to hear from you and at the same time, answer your questions to help you better understand why certain rules and regulations are in place."

"As much as the private sector wants progress, you need to ask yourselves, how you can work with the Fijian Government and its relevant bodies to achieve this."

Minister Kumar adds the private sector needs to work with the Government machinery in their efforts to improve business pro-

cesses.

Following the seminar the Fiji Chamber of Commerce Industry (FCCI) also launched their new look website and logo.

The new branding presents a modern and progressive look to the Fiji Chamber of Commerce as the peak body of all Chambers around Fiji and the liaison between private sector business and Government as policy makers.

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# Agriculture package to encourage commercialisation



Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Dr Mahendra Reddy meets with farmers during his Central Division tour. Photo: ERONI VALILI

AZARIA FAREEN

**T**HE Government has made a commitment to the community members living in Noimalu district of the upper area of Naitasiri by offering them assistance towards commercial agricultural farming.

Minister for Agriculture and Rural and Maritime Development, Dr Mahendra Reddy, while visiting the rugged region, proposed an agricultural package to farmers to fully utilize their vacant land through the formation of cluster farms.

“We want you to form a cluster of farms and we will provide you with chainsaws for basic land clearing and also

provide training to the village members,” Minister Reddy said.

“The most important sector is agriculture and we need to ensure that we develop this in the rural area because you are endowed with a very arable, fertile and productive land that can only provide positive returns if you put it to good use.”

The Agriculture ministry is working closely with the Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA) to reach out to farmers and facilitate the purchase, sale and exportation of agro and aqua produce.

The ministry made the move after identifying obstacles

to farmer’s venture into commercialization being often related to lack of market, limited land size, capacity, and access to capital and finance.

“Your children and mothers have aspirations - they want education, better health facilities, better housing and you have the most important asset – land to utilize and allow the entire community to mobilize and grow together,” Minister Reddy said.

“We will get an excavator and do drainage works, provide you with planting material, do farm road, and if you give consent then we can also clear the gravel so that water can flow out – all at our cost.”

Minister Reddy said the ministry will assist in the first year to fully develop farming potentials of the villagers by providing them with planting materials such as dalo and cassava cutting to grow the community.

“We want you to open bank accounts so we can do direct deposit of your sales within three days and also set up a Farmers Trust Account where we will deduct 15 per cent from your total proceeds,” he added.

“The deducted amount will be kept under the farmers name in the trust account so that you have money to pay for labour; fertilizer or farming tools come next season which will enable you to continue farming every year without having to worry about your expenses.”

“Once you start selling your produce we want to make all the farmers aged below 50-years to be members of the Fiji National Provident Fund and have a farmer’s registration ID card in order to be treated as an entrepreneur and an agriculture business person,” he further added.

Narokorokoyawa Village chief, Ratu Josaia Qereqeretabua in applauding the proposal said this initiative was exactly what they needed and they look forward to work with the ministry.

“A big vinaka vakalevu to the Government. This is the first time to have such a delegation in my village and we are happy to know our people are excited to expand their farms and relieved in getting their items from Sawanikula right to Tabarua,” he said.

## Arif takes farming in his own strides



Mr Abdul Arif at his chicken shed during a visit to his poultry farm Photo: ERONI VALILI

EMI KOROITANOVA

**I**T was not many years ago when Abdul Arif knew he wanted to see change and progress for the better, so he did what he had to by taking matters into his own hands.

Mr Arif, who is married with three kids, did this by constructing a slaughter house for his own poultry farm which cost him \$30,000 back in 2014.

His farm was then officially opened by the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture.

“Apart from poultry farming, I also do vegetable and goat farming,” the 54-year old farmer said.

He feels he has benefited in a myriad of ways, saying he is not answerable to anyone now that he has become an employer himself.

“This business is booming at the moment

as less people are into this farming. I urge farmers to also start doing poultry farming at a small scale and they will surely benefit from it,” he said.

“The Government assisted me in building a chicken shed. I constructed a slaughter yard myself and I will seek government assistance to build another chicken shed as the business is growing.”

He shared he believe this business will grow even further in this country as the demand for ducks, chickens and goats are very high.

“I have about 2000 chickens in stock as a bulk of it has been sold to local supermarkets. The male duck is sold at \$30 and female ducks are sold at \$17,” he added.

“I have a shop in Nadera where I sell them at a higher price. The neighbours are also buying ducks from my farm. It very difficult to meet the demand.”

The Ministry of Agriculture saw that his farm had been operating on a small scale and advised him to supply ducks and chicken to supermarkets.

He was later assisted through the Food Security Programme with the procurement of a broiler shed material, day old chicks, water tank, feeds, drinkers and feeders worth \$15,085.

Another farmer, Deo Dutt of Baulevu received Government assistance of about \$15,000 worth of machineries and plant

materials.

Mr Dutt, who owns a five acre vegetable farm in Baulevu, received a fertilizer, weedkiller and rotovator machine from the Ministry of Agriculture.

This came after the 59-year old lost his egg-plant plantation to a virus.

“From last year till May this year for about eight months, I did not grow anything on that land,” he said.

With the assistance he has been given now, however, he has begun to see improvement in his vegetable farm.

“My son is working outside and this is how we are surviving,” he added.

He said he wishes to now carry out egg-plant farming on a larger scale and thanked the Government for all their assistance.”

The Minister for Agriculture Dr Mahendra Reddy, during a consultation with farmers of Baulevu, informed them of the ministry’s intent to actively promote commercial agriculture, emphasizing their role in advancing the sector by utilizing Government’s available resources, and to work collaboratively with the Ministry to implement initiatives.

“I must commend you all for the effort that you tirelessly put into your farms, whether it be livestock or crops, you play an important role in feeding the nation and contributing to the country’s Gross Domestic Product,” Minister Reddy said.



## Commercial farmer encourages youths to take up farming

NANISE NEIMILA

COMMERCIAL farming is being encouraged as a career pathway by the Government through its incentives to engage more youths in the rural areas.

For 33-year-old Baulevu villager Vinal Deo, after completing his secondary education, he decided to continue with his family tradition of farming.

“As a young farmer I would like to advice other youths looking for employment to go into farming. I have completed my studies and for other youths if they also complete their education they can use that knowledge and earn more from farming.”

“My family has been into farming for generations and I will never leave their land idle. The cost of doing farming has gone up but still it is profitable.”

Mr Deo shared his experience as a new farmer.

“I started by assisting my father in the farm. We have a dairy farm and also do dalo farming on a big scale, with kumala and other vegetables.”

“This is how my father, grandfather and great grandfather used to earn a living. We have twelve acres of land near our home on which we do dairy farming and the vegetable farm is about 10 acres which is further away from home.”

Mr Deo said the normal practice was to export and sell vegetables in the Suva market.

“Vendors give orders for vegetables and we take our produce to the market twice a week. Overall we are able to able to earn enough for our families.”

Last week the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment organized a two-day tour to meet with farmers in Baulevu.

This was an opportunity for the Baulevu community to express their concerns to the line Minister Dr Mahendra Reddy.

Concerns raised by the farmers ranged from drainage issues since the areas are prone to flooding, better farm access roads and assistance with farming tools.

Mr Deo praised the Government for its efforts in visiting farmers and commended the ministry for organizing talanoa sessions with farmers.

“Our farm road have deteriorated and we are seeking assistance from the Government to do a survey and do necessary maintenance so that it gets more convenient for us to take our vegetables to the market. We have also asked the ministry to assist us in fertilizer and weedicide.” Minister Reddy assured the farmers that the ministry will look into the issues of drainage, farming equipment and facilities.

# Jitendra shares his success in farming



Jitendra Prasad of Baulevu, Naitasiri shares his success of farming. Photo: ERONI VALILI

NANISE NEIMILA

FOR farmers like Jitendra Prasad of Baulevu Naitasiri being in the business of farming and continuing with his family's line of work is something he never regrets doing.

Being a descendent of Girmitya, Jitendra shared his struggles and passion for farming and how this has been source of income for his family for the past 20 years.

“I grew up in a farming community so you

can see why I love this work so much because during the younger days we would toil the land in order to survive.”

“On my farm we plant dalo, okra and kumala. I supply my crops to Navua and the Western Division, I have few different breeds of dalo- they are nigger, jabeni, Rewa and Tausala.”

Mr Prasad also supplies his dalo to Sigatoka and Nadi markets and uses his own transport to do so.

“This saves a lot of costs especially when we have to hire transport, however, being able to save money and time I utilize the resources that I have in place.”

“From farming I was able to send my children to school, build a better home for my family, I am looking after my father and mother and I would not have asked for more.”

Mr Prasad adds that reaping the benefits of your own hard work is like “sweet success” but it takes a lot of sacrifice and perseverance to be able to achieve.

“The market prices for dalo varies, sometime its \$1.60 a kg or maybe it goes up \$2 and in a year I can sell up to 60-70 kilograms of dalo in Navua and Western division.”

“I have requested the Minister for accessibility of good farm road that will assist in our production and proper drainage but we have learnt to work smart because we are living in flood prone.”

Currently he owns a tractor, bulldozer and Ford ranger including a carrier that he uses to

transport his farm produce.

Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy, while visiting farms in the greater Nausori area, reassured the farmers of Government support towards the agricultural sector.

“As farmers the Ministry's intent to actively promote commercial agriculture, I would like to emphasize your role in advancing the sector by utilizing Government's available resources, and to work collaboratively with the Ministry to implement initiatives.”

“I must commend you all for the effort that you tirelessly put into your farms, whether it be livestock or crops, you play an important role in feeding the nation and contributing to the country's Gross Domestic Product.”

Minister Reddy reassured the farmers that the ministry is committed to boosting the sector to another level to increase agricultural production through commercial farming.

“We will provide you with a package in terms of farm roads, it may not be done in a week's time or in a month but we want to do it by December.”

“Another alternative for your farm roads is that we will bring our machines, drainage will be done along the farm roads and if there is gravel somewhere which affects waterways from having free flow of water and thus contributes to flooding, we can clear the waterways and at the same time use that material for your farm road,” he said.

## Pratap thrives as independent farmer



Janson Poultry Limited owner, Jaywant Pratap shows Minister Reddy around during the consultations with farmers. Photo: EMI KOROITANO

EMI KOROITANO

MANY years ago, Jaywant Pratap was stricken with an epiphany that he would be living beneath his privileges if he continued to carry out subsistence farming, casually growing food crops in his backyard to feed himself and his

family.

Mr Pratap knew ‘change’ was undeniably crucial at this point, so he sought out to turn his subsistence farming into a commercial one, investing in sheer hard work, dedication and commitment to what later transpired into Janson's Poultry Limited.

Today, the 62-year old who is married with

five kids, stands as the proud owner of Janson's Poultry Limited in Koroqaga, a farm that has been independently thriving without any assistance for the past 30 years.

“Farmers should also work hard for themselves rather than depending on handouts from the Government,” he said.

“The customers are demanding fresh products and I do delivery of eggs on a daily basis to meet their demands.

There are no complaints from my customers.”

Currently, Mr Pratap has a five layer shed producing almost 600 tray of eggs per day.

To meet the increasing cost of production, the poultry has invested in its own feed mills, with a capacity to produce feeds for his own farm. It also sources day old chicks directly from New Zealand.

Mr Pratap also carries out dalo farming on his seven acre leased land in Koroqaga where he has planted six acres of dalo supplying it to the Fiji Agro Marketing.

Minister for Agriculture Dr Mahendra Reddy, during a consultation with farmers in Naitasiri, urged the farmers to take good care of planting materials they have been given to avoid being too dependent on the Government assistance.

Minister Reddy said in past years, the ministry had given planting materials to farmers only to find the same recipients the following year asking for the same assistance again.

He has stressed to farmers that this sort of culture needed to stop as government is trying to promote an independent agriculture sector.





# NZ sides with Fiji, Pacific

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with his New Zealand counterpart, Jacinda Arden at the 50th Pacific Islands Forum in Funafuti, Tuvalu. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

RUPENI WAQAVONO

NEW Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden has sided with Fiji and the Pacific in challenging Australia to respond to Pacific Island Countries (PICs) demands for more action on climate change.

Speaking at the Pacific Islands Forum in Funafuti, Tuvalu recently, PM Arden backed Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in urging Australia to take tangible steps in its part to limit global greenhouse emissions.

“Australia has to answer to the Pacific but that is a matter for them,” she said.

“We have said that we don’t believe we can sustain more than 1.5 degrees (Celsius) of warming...that is where we have sided.”

“Like our Pacific island neighbours, we will continue that international call, we will continue to say that New Zealand will do our bit and we have an expectation that everyone else will as well, we have to.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama had during the PIF Summit urged his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison to take tougher action on climate change, citing its heavy reliance on coal-fired power.

“I want to say this to the Australians in par-

ticular about the issue of coal in relation to our collective quest for a carbon-free future: Fiji recognises that coal has always been an important part of the Australian economy, as an export revenue earner and for your national energy security. It has enabled you to build a strong economy that also gives you the means to support our region,” PM Bainimarama said.

“I appeal to Australia to do everything possible to achieve a rapid transition from coal to energy sources that do not contribute to climate change. That transition should be just for your own people and just for us here

in the Pacific, where we face an existential threat that you don’t face and challenges we expect your governments and people to more fully appreciate. You are already providing leadership in renewable energy investment and are leading in research and development across many aspects of it. Please do more. And we would all benefit from that effort.”

Low-lying Pacific islands are on the front-line of global climate change, battling rising sea levels and related disasters that have forced some residents to relocate entire villages by moving to higher ground.

## Marape back Fiji on deep sea mining

RUPENI WAQAVONO

PAPUA New Guinea’s Prime Minister James Marape has backed the call by his Fijian counterpart Voreqe Bainimarama to support a 10-year moratorium on seabed mining.

Prime Minister Bainimarama, during his statement at the Pacific Islands Forum ‘Sautalaga’ in Tuvalu informed leaders of Fiji introducing its own Climate Change Act, through which the country will push an ambitious proposal for both its national and regional moratorium on seabed mining.

“I ask you all to join in this ambitious venture and also support a 10-year moratorium on seabed

mining from 2020 to 2030 which would allow for a decade of proper scientific research of our economic zone and territorial waters,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

To this, Prime Minister Marape said that the PNG Government would support a proposed regional moratorium on seabed mining, adding that he fully supported PM Bainimarama’s proposal after a recent ‘failure’ of PNG’s Nautilus Solwara 1 project.

Prime Minister Marape said until a proven viability of deep-sea mining is backed with scientific evidence, he was full backing the call by Prime Minister Bainimarama.

“As a nation we have lost over K300 million (FJ\$192.57million) in a concept of deep-sea mining and until that deep-sea mining technology is environmentally sound and takes care of our environment at the same time we mine it, then at this point in time, I support the call made by the Fijian Prime Minister, we just need to have the best technology available,” Prime Minister Marape said sternly.

“If there is an opportunity for deep-sea mining, so long as it is



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama (middle) with Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape (left) and Tongan Prime Minister 'Akilisi Pohiva at the 50th Pacific Islands Forum in Funafuti, Tuvalu. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

environmentally friendly and the harvest of resource is done in a sustainable manner then we can give considerations to this, but right now it is a show. We don’t have the

luxury of that informed decisional research.”

“This is because that technology is not proven anywhere and in PNG we burnt almost K300 million in

that Nautilus (Solwara) 1 project on a concept that someone told us it can work, but it is a concept that is a total failure as I speak,” PM Marape said.



## 11,450 Water tanks distributed nation wide

FELIX LESINAIVALU

**I**N the days before the installation of a water project at Sawakasa village, the villagers relied on the rainwater harvesting system and water from creeks and wells for their daily activities.

This was highlighted by the Sawakasa village headman Vuniani Rokotuibau during the commissioning of the Water Project at the village.

“It was still a challenge especially when we had events happening in the village and we still needed more water.”

Mr Rokotuibau said the tanks assisted the villages especially when there was no water left in the wells and they normally asked Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) to fill it up the five tanks in the village.

“I would like to thank the Government for the initiative in assisting the Sawakasa village by providing water through the Water Project Scheme.”

The emotional village headman said that for a very long time they had no clean and safe drinking water provided for the village and school.

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate, while commissioning water project, said WAF through its rainwater Harvesting Scheme was distributing water tanks to non-metered areas.

“WAF has distributed over 11,450 water tanks nationwide of which 338 were distributed to the north-end of the Tailevu Province.”

Minister Usamate said in the new financial year, a budget of \$3 million has been allocated to continue this scheme.

“The completion of these projects including the one we are commissioning today is a step closer towards meeting the national 100 per cent water access target.”

According to the Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (ECAL) report it has been highlighted that in 2019 \$3,323,633 will be utilised to reimburse 70 per cent of residential households this year in regards to rainwater harvesting.

WAF corporate communications officer Peni Shute said the rainwater harvesting scheme helped people who require clean and safe drinking water in the form of water tanks.

He said before the tank was issued, WAF has to inspect that the house has proper guttering system in place and a base for where the tank will be placed.

“Tanks are usually given to drought stricken areas and where there is no immediate water supply.

Mr. Shute said the applicants have made good use of these tanks, it is an assistance by government for to help the people of Fiji with its everyday needs.

## Kavula Villagers enjoy efficient electricity

NANISE NEIMILA

**V**ILLAGERS of Kavula in Bua District will no longer use lanterns and candles after the successful implementation of solar projects in the their village earlier this year.

Losalini Seinikuba, 53, thanked the Government for their commitment in ensuring that all Fijians access sustainable electricity.

“Gone are the days where we use lanterns and candles as a source of light, our children will no longer have to study in the dark under lanterns. It’s a great opportunity for our children to be part of the new development.”

Ms Seinikuba shared her story as a young person back in the days they would complete household’s chores before it gets dark.

“In those days when kerosene was expensive and sometimes we would use candles.”

“Our children will be part of another era of change and we would expect a lot of positive changes in their school work because when we access electricity there is another world of opportunities for the younger generation.”

“The solar systems that we started using since September last year has been consistent,

free and sustainable,” she said.

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

Sharing similar sentiments, village headman Jone Ledua said it was new era of opportunities for the people of Kavula in Bua as they now have the opportunity to improve their lives.

“This project is timely because we used a lot of money to buy fuel for our generators and this was very costly. Most of the families are unable to afford this but this new assistance will greatly benefit the people of Kavula.” Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport’s director Energy Mikaele Belena said the Government’s main target was to have a 100 per cent access to electricity by 2021 and Solar Home System (SHS) projects was one of the form of electricity source for rural areas that do not have access to Electricity Fiji Limited grid being promoted by the Government.

“These mostly include villages in the interior of Viti Levu and maritime islands. Currently the Government has installed more than 12000 projects in all rural areas all over Fiji.”



Turaga ni Koro Kavula Village Jone Ledua pointing to the solar panel next to their chief’s house. He said they were grateful for the assistance. Photo JOSIA RALAGO

“One of the Government’s target too is to have 100 per cent renewable in energy mix by 2036 and SHS projects have been implemented to replace those village assisted with diesel generators.

Mr Belena said one of the chal-

lenges the department face is the locality.

“Most are in very remote places in Vanua Levu, Taveuni, Ba and Rotuma. Resources and manpower - works are contracted out to a local company.”

## Business implements “no plastic” policy

EMI KOROITANO

**W**ITH Fijians working towards completely phasing out the single-use plastic bags, Weta Coffee has taken “the bull by the horns” and implemented a “no plastics” policy within their business.

The café, which opened in the heart of Suva located inside ‘Mobil on The Go’ on Victoria Parade earlier this year, chose to use Ecoware packaging for serving food and drinks to their customers.

Operated by locals Darran and Mue Fisher, they use paper EcoBowls, wooden cutlery, kraft paper food trays, bin liners and more, which are all plant-based alternatives designed for composting.

‘Weta Coffee’ takeaway cups are a more sustainable alternative, made from responsibly sourced paper and lined with Ingeotm bioplastic – an innovation that is 100 per cent plant-based and sourced from field corn.

Weta Coffee director, Mue Fisher commended the move by the Government in reducing Fiji’s reliance on plastic.

“I think it’s a step in the right direction,” Mrs. Fisher said.

“There are many more steps that are needed to be taken but never the less Government should be applauded for taking these bold steps.”

“We’re also really happy that the last budget passed a zero percent duty on this sort of



Weta Coffee owners (far right), Darran and Mue Fisher, with their staff at the café. Photo: EMI KOROITANO

packaging,” she added.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, during the announcement of the 2019/2020 National Budget, said the Fiji needs a “whole-of-society” approach.

“One that is guided by government actions and commitment, but that inspires ordinary people to take ownership over the protection of our natural environment, we’ve been steadily promoting the usage of locally-pro-

duced, reusable plastic bags,” the A-G said.

“To spur that emerging industry, the duty on materials used to manufacture non-woven bags will be dropped to zero.”

“And to protect our budding local reusable bag manufacturers, fiscal duty will be raised to 32 per cent on imported reusable non-woven bags,” he added.

The café has pledged to maintain strict eco-friendly practices.





## Non-resident heads of missions plant trees

As part of the visit of Non-resident Heads of Missions from Canberra and Wellington, the delegates took part in a tree planting programme at the Colo-Suva Forest Park recently. They were joined by the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Forestry, Pene Baleinabuli who officiated at the event. PS Baleinabuli said it was a good opportunity to promote the

ministry's "4 Million Trees in 4 Years" initiative. The Non-resident Heads of Missions were in the country for the purpose of exploring various opportunities for cooperation, and to identify areas of mutual interest that would enhance bilateral relations between Fiji and their respective countries.

PHOTOS: EMI KOROITANOVA



## Pm receives courtesy call from commander of the Japanese naval training squadrons

Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama received a courtesy call from the Commander of the Japanese Naval Training Squadrons, Rear Admiral Daisuke Kajimoto this week. Commander Kajimoto was accompanied by the Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Fiji Mr. Masahiro Omura and a few of the members of the naval ship. The Training Squadron led by the Commander Kajimoto was conducting the overseas training

cruise in the Pacific on board two Japanese Naval ships JS KASHIMA and JS INAZUMA. As part of the visit, the Squadron was involved in a number of exchange programs to promote Fiji- Japan friendship. As a token of appreciation, PM Bainimarama presented a gift to the Commander Japanese Naval Training Squadrons.

PHOTOS: ERONI VALILI



## Non-resident heads of missions hosted to an official dinner

"We are in an era where sustainable development is the buzz word for our national economy and the international communities." Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Inia Seruiratu, while speaking at the official dinner in honour of the Non-Resident Heads of Missions from Canberra and Wellington in the country for a familiarisation visit, provided invaluable insight on how Fiji views the way forward. "As comprehensive and challenging the

sustainable development goals 2030 are for all of our nations, there is an equal assurance to feel in the realization that we have close allies, friends and indeed partners who are able and willing to assist us achieve those goals." The first ever familiarisation program with the theme "Nurturing Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development," was held from 19th to 22nd of August, 2019.

PHOTOS: EMI KOROITANOVA

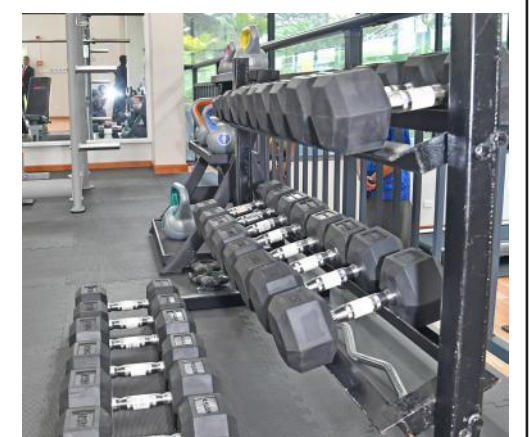


## President receives wellness centre

The President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote was handed over the State House Wellness Centre by the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Fiji H.E. Qian Bo last week. The State House Wellness Centre was funded by the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government and constructed

by the Guangzhou Zhonghong Construction Engineering Co. Ltd. In attendance at the handing over were Permanent Secretaries and other government officials.

PHOTOS: EMI KOROITANOVA







# A-G opens inaugural legal aid conference

## Youths take on Climate Change

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

**F**IJIAN youths are taking on a greater role in climate change action, with 10 youth coast care clubs being implemented in the Western Division.

The first was launched in Namatakula, Nadroga as the Ministry of Youth and Sports focuses on engaging youths to rehabilitate and restore respective coastal zones to their natural functions and beauty.

"Climate change is real and its effect lasting, thus it is only proper that we take measures to mitigate against its effect," Ministry's permanent secretary, Maritino Nemani told Namatakula youths.

Mr Nemani said the project would complement years of efforts, with the regeneration of marine life. The youth clubs are also part of a joint project by the ministry and Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA Fiji), to strength youth participation in climate change projects.

"Since they have been here OISCA have established the community coral regeneration program, then the mangrove was introduced for coastal rehabilitation activity. That initiation was part of the reef restoration and rehabilitation program that allows community to be actively involved in the adaptation program and this is positively ensuring that your village will be safeguarded against storm surges and tidal waves in the future."

The clubs are expected to intensify existing OISCA programs, as youths learn various sustainable practices of managing their coastal areas, and ownership of their environmental heritage.

Its target group covers youths aged 15-35 in coastal villages and respective community members.

The ministry and OISCA's climate related projects are part of a climate change module for youths enrolled in the Organic Agriculture Program at the Youth Training Centre in Nasau, with activities including reforestation in the Navosa highlands, waste management, a children's forest program for primary school students and community forest program for specific communities along the Nadroga and Ra coastlines.



Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum speaks during the opening of the inaugural Regional Legal Aid Conference at Intercontinental Hotel, Natadola.

Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

**T**HE Attorney-General, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum opened the inaugural Regional Legal Aid Conference in Natadola and called upon private practitioners to help develop a culture of legal assistance. "It is critically important for us to understand that to be able to address the legal aid and access to justice is that the legal practitioners who are not part of legal aid must actually play a critical role," the A-G said. "And for those of you in the different juris-

dictions in the Pacific who are developing a legal aid culture, I would urge you to right from the beginning and draw in the private part.

Unfortunately in Fiji we have not been able to develop that culture."

He also urged Pacific jurisdictions to develop their legal aid capacity.

"I think it is important to understand that independence is critically important and adequate funding is equally important also and that of course instils a lot of confidence with the members of the public."

Legal Aid Commission acting director, Shahin Ali said they want to introduce concepts and principles to define what constitutes a functioning legal aid system and promote early access to justice and legal aid in the criminal justice system.

"We must highlight good practice in delivering legal aid both locally and globally, and in particular on how to reach vulnerable populations in rural areas."

The three-day conference drew international speakers and legal officers from across the Pacific.

# UK minister lauds rural electrification

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

**O**N Vio Island, the Fiji Rural Electrification Project remains a stellar example of solutions to address climate change impacts while improving the lives of Fijians.

Residents of the island in Lautoka recently welcomed the United Kingdom's new Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific, Heather Wheeler, for what was her first overseas visit in her new ministerial role.

"Life here may be different in many ways from where I live in South Derbyshire, in the heart of England but I know from my conversations with people there and elsewhere that essentially, we all have the same concerns and the same needs," Ms Wheeler told Vio islanders.

"We want happy, healthy, and fulfilled lives for our-

selves and our families, and we want to ensure a secure and prosperous future for our children and grandchildren. That is why it is so important not only to have access to electricity in order to cook, study and access the internet, but also to ensure that the electricity we use is clean, affordable and renewable."

The UK has been instrumental in taking action on climate change.

"We are proud to work alongside the Fijian Government, which is also placing a greater focus on these vital issues, including by leading the Ocean and Climate Change Action Group of the Commonwealth Blue Charter, and by working to eradicate plastics. It is by working in partnership – including with communities like yours here in Vio – that we can meet the challenges of climate change and build a sustainable, prosperous and secure

future for us all," Minister Wheeler said.

She was accompanied by the Fijian Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Jone Usamate, and expressed her keenness to explore how her Government could work with Pacific Island leaders to both tackle existing effects and to limit further global warming.

"Renewable energy will be a key part of the solution.

That is why I was so keen to visit Vio. I know that you have waited a long time for electricity, but with your clean solar energy you are now global trend-setters – all of us who have been lucky enough to have electricity for some time are going to be following in your footsteps and switching to renewable sources."

Minister Usamate noted the positive life change of the rural electrification project and level of community engagement as a result.





## Farmers advised to cultivate specific crops



Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy speaks during his recent visit to the Northern Division. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

JOSAIA RALAGO

FARMERS have been advised to cultivate certain products which would be purchased at their farm gates.

This was announced by the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy during his recent visit to the Northern Division.

Minister Reddy said this was an attempt to promote commercial farming and encourage farmers to become agriculture entrepreneurs by maximising production.

He said the Government will work with the farmers by taking care of capital costs like building farm roads, drainage and providing mechanical assistance to help cultivate the specified crops in the list.



*These are all the products that we want you to grow - plant cassava, yellow dalo, uro ni vonu (purple dalo), yams, dalo ni tana, yaqona, coconuts and rice.*

Dr Mahendra Reddy  
Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment

“We will buy all these commodities from your farm gate, you don’t have to come to Labasa Town with your products, hire a vanet cetera – we will pick it up from here,” Minister Reddy said.

He said farmers are not restricted from cultivating other crops, but if they do, they would have to find their own markets.

“You start growing, show us the output and we will tell you when we will come to pick the crops,” Minister Reddy said.

He said they would expand the list later on but at the moment this was what they were advising farmers to cultivate.

Minister Reddy said that there was a need to boost activities in the agricultural sector as it had the potential to achieve more than it currently does.

# Ministry of Fisheries beefs up enforcement



Fishermen and vendors during the Northern Fisheries Forum. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE Ministry of Fisheries has beefed up on their operations to ensure that bans are being adhered to by fishermen and vendors.

Speaking during the Northern Fisheries Forum, the Ministry’s senior fisheries officer, Kolinio Naivalu, said their officers were present in major markets like Suva every day because of this.

Mr Naivalu said that in most cases, fishermen who broke this ban would sell it to only certain individuals who provide them the market.

In recent months, the Ministry has confiscated banned fish, turtles and other marine

organisms which were illegally caught.

It is understood that processes, like proper documentation, are followed before the fishermen or vendors are penalised.

Fisheries officer Navneel Singh said a survey carried out last year showed that 63 per cent of fish vendors surveyed agreed their sales were not affected by the Kawakawa and Donu seasonal ban. Mr Singh said 96 per cent of consumers were aware of this but only 65 per cent of vendors agreed to the ban.

He said the supply of these species have been decreasing at an alarming rate thus the need to manage these resources sustainably.

“Fishermen interviews also indicate that these fish are harder and harder to catch in their fishing grounds, we are losing these

prized fish at alarming rates,” Mr Singh highlighted.

While the Kawakawa and Donu bans are seasonal, there is an indefinite ban on the sale of sea-cucumbers to allow time for restocking.

“This is an ongoing ban at present and will remain until the Ministry research indicates that the stock has recovered to allow for managed harvest,” Mr Singh said.

“A management plan has been drafted that may allow for sustainable limited harvest but this needs to be based on good information.”

Other protected species include sea turtles, Hump-Head wrasse (varivoco), Giant Triton Shell (Davui), Giant Helmet Shell (Sici Cabe), Giant Clams (Vasua), Bump Head

## Navatudua Women’s Club

JOSAIA RALAGO

WOMEN have the potential to be conduits of development and we must utilise this to move our communities forward.

These were the words of Navatudua Women’s Club president Kinisimere Namere of Raviravi Village, Macuata during an interview on the club’s achievements.

Located on the coasts of Macuata province, the 23 member club is involved in half-pearl farming that has funded some of their community projects.

“We were introduced to pearl farming in 2005 and it was going well till Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016. The destruction caused by the cyclone greatly affected our pearl farm,” Mrs Namere said.

“After this, it took a while to set-up again but we were not discouraged because we know that the funds collected from this activity is very important for our projects in the village.”



Members of the Navatudua Women's club with some of their handcraft. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

“Since it takes a longer time to harvest pearls, we decided to venture into half-pearl farming.”

The half-pearls or Mabe are harvested, processed and used to make handicrafts such as necklaces, bracelets and earrings.

Members of the Club were trained on how to cut and make jewellery from half pearls and pearl shells by an expert from

Papua New Guinea last year.

This was a result of collaborative work between the club, Australian Centre and the Ministry of Fisheries.

“The funds collected from our sales have been used to renovate our community hall which was run down, assisted in an electrification project for the village and we have funds set aside to assist

our children who go into tertiary education apart from other minor projects,” Mrs Namere said.

“We would like to also thank the men for helping us out with our farm, for we must all work together to help fight poverty in our respective communities.”

They are expecting their next harvest in December this year.





# No substitute for hard work

VILIAME TIKOTANI

**T**HERE is no substitute for hard work and man has to continue to work harder everyday whether it is on a farm or a career in whatever path one chooses.

“Our bodies will only get stronger if we continue to work hard every day, and there is no substitute for it,” says Ram Latchman of Nagana, Ra.

The successful 70-year-old farmer, who was brought under the spotlight by the Ministry of Agriculture, has been toiling the land all his life and speaks of his experience of getting to where he is today.

“It’s only through hard work because I work hard every day,” Mr Latchman said.

“I used to farm sugar cane back in the days and switched to vegetable farming because of the difficulties I encountered with my laborers. I didn’t have a good source for electricity and water and it was difficult for me. When I gave my workers three meals a day and pay, they still didn’t stay back with me so I had to make a decision,” he said when asked about the secret to his success in vegetable and fruit farmer.

Mr Latchman is a descendant from the sugarcane belt and took over the farm from his parents.

He had studied mechanical engineering and has a small garage in Rakiraki town but his venturing into farming came about because of many reasons.

The first reason was the continuation of the family legacy of sugarcane farming.

“I tried sugar cane farming for 17 years and experienced the shift and difficulties within the sector because the leases expired and so forth, with the laborers not coming to help in the farms because they had found a better or easier way to make a living,” Mr Latchman said.

This was when he gave it a good thought and observed the situation which led him to making the difficult decision.

“I had to work hard to move on with my life, it was not an easy road. I had to inspire myself again and to do that I had to find motivation.

I watched this movie about a vegetable farmer and I saw myself in it,” Mr Latchman said.

“But I still had to work hard and finding a proper land was the main thing and I am happy to say that I have not looked back since. Nothing comes in easy and I am still working



“I have planted about 100,000 pineapple plants because I can harvest it nine times after planting it once, says 70-year-old Ram Latchman.” Photo: VILIAME TIKOTANI

hard every day.

I wake up and work in the farm in the morning and I can feel in my body that I am still strong because I keep working hard.”

Mr Latchman first planted watermelons and pineapples after sugarcane and left the garage business to his son to manage.

“My first watermelon harvest was \$18,000 and I bought a new truck from it and then moved on to pineapple where I made \$16,000 in one harvest,” he said.

“Now I have planted about 100,000 plants of pineapple and because it is one plant that

I only plant once and can harvest nine times.

So I just make sure that the plants are cleared and that it is not destroyed by insects or my animals.”

Mr Latchman owns a fair amount of livestock, chickens, sheep, and goats and even some layer birds.

One challenge this inspirational farmer faces, but is not daunted by, is that his farms is situated on one of the top hillside above Rakirako Town and here the farm road has not been maintained.

Upon visiting his farm, agriculture officers

made note of the poor road conditions.

Mr Latchman is appreciative to the Government of the day for the assistance it had given to the people especially farmers.

“I make at least \$3,000 a month from my harvest but there are other things that I pay like manure and other stuff to maintain my farm but I thank Government for helping us farmers with all the equipment, water tanks etc.,” he said.

“However my advice to people is that we have to work hard because that is the only way, no substitute for hard work.”

## New Burelevu crossing eases hardships

ZAFIYA SHAMIM

**F**ACING problems to reach basic services, the villagers of Burelevu, in seeking alternatives, had to arrange for a bilibili – a Fijian bamboo raft to get across during heavy rain.

This step had been the solution as the old crossing used to get flooded easily.

Burelevu Crossing is located approximately 20km South West of Rakiraki Town in the Province of Ra.

Tikina Representative Peni Naqaco, 62, says a single crossing has changed the lives of thousands of villagers.

“Given the challenging old infrastructure, the crossing was impassable during heavy rain and we had to wait for several weeks for the floodwater to recede.”

During emergencies, Mr Naqaco said they had to carry the sick and elderly in a bilibili to get

across which was a risk especially for women and children.

“With the new crossing, we are now able to transport goods and services at ease, especially since there are a lot of farmers, the children are also motivated to attend school, we are very grateful.”

Fiji Roads Authority chief executive officer Jonathan Moore said they have prioritized the development of old infrastructures which needed immediate replacement and they were determined to make a difference in the lives of all Fijians.

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

The project was completed by Lomanitoba Company Limited.



Tikina Representative Peni Naqaco with the children of Burelevu and Fiji Roads Authority representative are all smiles at the new crossing. (Inset) The new and improved Burelevu Crossing in Ra. Photos: SUPPLIED





## Timor Leste calls for more support to fight climate crisis in the Pacific

NANISE NEIMILA

THERE is need for multi-sectoral approach and support from the Pacific Island nations in fighting climate crisis in the region.

These were the comments made by the outgoing non-resident Republic of Timor Leste Ambassador to Fiji, Abel Guterres, during the first ever familiarization program hosted by the Fijian Government for Heads of Missions and Non-resident Ambassadors accredited to Fiji.

Ambassador Guterres commended Fiji's Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama for his commitment and vision towards the fight against climate change.

"Timor Leste is a growing country and this familiarization program organized by the Fijian Government is a great opportunity to discuss areas of interest in the tourism, agriculture and fisheries sector."

"This meeting provides a platform for countries to pursue bilateral discussions on important issues of mutual significance that will foster further economic, trade and international relations between the countries."

Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs Inia Seruiratu encouraged Heads of Missions to explore opportunities that exist for strengthening cooperation bilaterally in various sectors such as trade, investment, sports, tourism and multilateralism.

"Fiji welcomes your partnership in these areas and others, such as higher education and skills training, technological innovation, infrastructure development, environmental conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, just to name a few."

"We are looking to strengthen bilateral cooperation with both developing and developed economies through facilitative arrangements that are mutually beneficial."

Minister Seruiratu adds the global trading system has benefited immensely from the advent of the internet, e-commerce and new technology, enhancing people-to-people links and pounding easier cross-border access.

"To that end, Fiji has been and is pursuing visa exemption arrangements with partners that are willing to do so. We all know how vital this is, to fostering stronger relationships and enduring partnerships."

"There are opportunities available for our countries to jointly support development in the Pacific region. Fiji is committed to working in partnership with your countries to deliver targeted assistance to our regional neighbours. A key and obvious priority for the Pacific island countries is tackling climate change."

# Japanese Training Squadron visits after 16 years



Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs, Inia Seruiratu was accorded the guard of honour by the Japanese Training Squadron at the Kings Wharf, Suva. (Inset) Minister Seruiratu inspects the guard of honour. Photos: ERONI VALILI

PRASHILA DEVI

IT has been 16 years since Fiji last received a port call by the Japanese Training Squadron of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, the training ground for newly commissioned naval officers.

Japanese naval ships, JS KASHIMA and JS INAZUMA, docked in Suva last Friday and was welcomed by the Minister for Defence and National Security, Foreign Affairs, Inia Seruiratu.

Japan's Ambassador to Fiji, Masahiro Omura, while speaking at welcoming ceremony at the Kings Wharf in Suva, told the officers that they have arrived in a place often referred to as 'paradise' and labelled the visit as one of the highlights of his term as

ambassador.

"I believe the visit of the training squadron is very timely and makes an excellent contribution towards building closer relations between our two countries," Ambassador Omura said.

"In the past two years, I have observed Japan has been making successive initiatives to enhance relations with Fiji," he added while making reference to the recent visit by the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono to Fiji.

The 580 crew members including 190 newly commissioned naval officers participated in diverse exchange programmes which Ambassador Omura said would lead to new friendships- "channels of cooperation will be revitalized between our countries".

The highlight of the engagements was a joint musical concert by the training squadron and the members of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF).

The purpose of the visit by the squadron, led by the Commander Rear Admiral Daisuke Kajimoto, was to provide to practice the newly commissioned naval officers on board in the practical maritime environment and allow all crew members to study foreign naval forces as well as to develop their global awareness and to build additional friendly relations with visited nations.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force has conducted the overseas training cruise annually since 1957 and the last port call to Suva by the training squadron was in 2003.

## Drugunalevu's hopes come to light

FELIX LESINAIVALU

AFTER close to 50 years, clean water has reached the villagers of Sawakasa in Tailevu and it is a development for the ages.

This was seeped by a thankful 73-year-old Tirisa Drugunalevu of Sawakasa Village who grew up witnessing her people rely on untreated water from wells to drink and carry out their household chores.

"Before water from the wells tasted salty as seawater sipped into our water source, however, we are thankful for this development as we can now easily carry out work such as drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning from the comfort of our homes," Ms Drugunalevu said.

She said when she was a little girl she had always hoped that clean and safe drinking water reached her village.

"Now I see every house around Sawakasa Village having their own access to safe drinking water."

She said that she was very thankful and glad that the village finally had access to safe drinking water.

Sawakasa Village Water Committee chairman Lepani Leka said this development was

essential as the old water system could no longer cater for the growing population of the three villages, community and the school.

"Our old water system had been around since 1972 and we are truly thankful to the Government and the Water Authority of Fiji for investing their money, time and effort into this water project."

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate commissioned the joint rural water scheme project at Sawakasa Village, in Tailevu.

"The Government will not rest on its laurels until every single household has access to safe clean drinking water."

"The completion of the project costed Government \$179,000, and is an investment that we are happy to make," Minister Usamate said.

"Fiji through its 5 Year and 20 Year National Development Plan has set an ambitious target of having 100 per cent access to safe drinking water by 2030.

Minister Usamate said it is Government's intent that no one is left behind and that every Fijian deserves to live with the security and happiness that only clean water can provide "Currently 78 per cent of Fiji's population

have access to safe, clean water and the Government is optimistic that this target will be achieved as planned."

The new water supply system is a joint scheme which benefits more than 800 Fijians in Sakawasa Village, Waivou Settlement, Lodon Village and Lodon Primary School.



73-year-old Tirisa Drugunalevu of Sawakasa Village is a happy woman after the commissioning of the water project in Sawakasa village Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU





# PM visits Gau Secondary



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama addresses students of Gau Secondary School during his surprise visit to the school. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE students and teachers of Gau Secondary School were surprised when Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama visited their school between commissioning two solar powered nursing stations. Acting Principal Unaisi Cagainavanua said it was while they were having their lunch before their ‘meke’ practice when they saw the line of cars appear. “The students all ran, though we were prepared, we still couldn’t believe he was coming. We had arranged to sing a song at the assembly area for him,” Ms Cagainavanua said. She said the teachers and the students had been praying for the Prime Minister to visit

the school. Ms Cagainavanua escorted the Prime Minister around the school, showing the classroom blocks and the teachers’ quarters during the visit. “It was the talk of the school when he left, the students were eager to know if the classrooms and dining rooms were going to be repaired.” “The Prime Minister discussed with me that during the holidays the repairs will begin and we are looking forward to that.” She said the school was also being maintained by the villagers who also helped in keeping the school clean. “There are 164 students in the school and we ask the community to help cut the grass and do some farming.”

“We give back to the villages by sharing our harvest.” Prime Minister Bainimarama, while addressing the students, said they wanted to follow up on the military’s work on upgrading the school property including the teachers’ hostel. “The wellbeing of the school children is one of the main priorities of my Government because the children of today will be the future leaders of tomorrow.” The Prime Minister then thanked the school children and encouraged them to keep working hard to achieve their dreams. “But all this can only be achieved through education and it is our job to monitor the wellbeing of the school children.”

## You reap what you SOW

FELIX LESINAIVALU

HARD work and determination will always pay off. These were the words of the Sawaieke Village youth leader, Viliame Laigailua after the handover ceremony of the community hall and evacuation centre from the youths to the village elders of Sawaieke. According to Mr Laigailua the plan for the new community hall and evacuation center came into play three years ago after Tropical Cyclone Winston. “The hall is also an evacuation center to keep the villagers safe during a cyclone.” Mr Laigailua said around 60 youths from Sawaieke village came together for the building and fundraising of the community hall. “By believing in each other and working together was the way the hall was built. You reap what you sow.” Mr Laigailua thanked his fellow youths for helping him and the entire village for the assistance. Senidawadawa Women's Club representative, Taina Ravutu, said the women of Sawaieke worked equally hard as the men in the making of the new community hall. “The women of this village have really done a lot in building of the community hall, where they helped in providing meals for the men and the young boys and weaved many mats for the new hall.”

“They gave a lot of their time and were fully committed to the work done for the new community hall.” Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama commissioned the new village hall/evacuation centre prior to the Lomaiviti Provincial Council Meeting in Sawaieke village. Prime Minister Bainimarama acknowledged the youths of Sawaieke for taking the lead role in raising the funds and constructing the youth hall. The village hall worth around \$170,000 has been made possible through the youth’s generous financial contributions and manpower assistance. The youths, who are mainly yaqona farmers, contributed part of their hard-earned income towards the construction of the hall. They were able to build the hall with the guidance of Nacanieli Waqairadovu, a retired Buildings Supervisor with the then Public Works Department. Prime Minister Bainimarama was accompanied by his wife Mary Bainimarama, Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr. Ifereimi Waqainabete, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Jone Usamate and the Minister for Fisheries, Semi Korolavesau.

## Solar powered project to improve services

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE people of Gau will have better health services following the commissioning of the solar systems at two nursing stations by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during his visit to Gau Island. District Nurse of Nawaikama, Lynn Savuwala, said that the solar projects will help the nursing station in Nawaikama by powering up devices that need more power than what the generators can give. “Before we use to have asthmatic cases and we had to send them across to Qarani to get nebulized but now we can look after them in the station because we have the electricity from the solar system available on a 24 hour basis.” “Normally I look after the villagers, the primary and secondary school students and teachers with majority of my patients being from the boarding school.” Ms Savuwala said she is the only nurse at the nursing station and in cases of an emergency, the patients will need to be sent to Qarani which is at least 30 minutes away from the nursing station. Medical Officer of Gau, Nairai and Batiki, Doctor Erima Raikoti said she was really happy with the solar projects on Gau. “We have an equipment that couldn’t be



District Nurse Lynn Savuwala explaining how the nursing station operates to Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Minister for Health Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

powered by normal generators, with this system set up we don’t have to take the patients to Qarani anymore but treat them at the station.” Dr Raikoti thanked the Government for providing Nawaikama Nursing Station and Norocake Nursing Station with solar powered electricity. “It has helped the nursing stations, but Gau as a whole as it has improved our services provided to the community.” The projects were made possible through the Office of the Prime Minister's Small Grant

Scheme with a total funding of \$72,163.20. The project will significantly improve the delivery of health services to patients. The proposed assistance reaffirms Government’s vision and key priority objective in the provision of electricity for the rural and outer island with more focus on renewable energy sources such as solar, mini hydro, bio-fuel generators and wind systems. It will also assist in reducing carbon-dioxide emissions and make a small contribution in mitigating climate change.





## Govt incentives to encourage home ownership

PRASHILA DEVI

**P**RIVATE Public Partnership (PPP) on rental housing to encourage private sector investment in a multi unit rental housing development is a Government initiative aimed to curb the increasing dependency on informal housing.

The Government's initiative towards PPP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Premila Kumar highlighted, was targeted mainly towards providing affordable and better housing for those living in informal settlements through Strata (individual ownership of part of a property) apartments.

"The only way to reduce demand for informal renting is increasing the housing stock for rental market and to encourage home ownership," Minister Kumar said.

To put its intent into action, in the 2019/2020 National Budget the Government announced several tax and duty concessions targeted specifically towards potential investors in the housing sector including for PPPs with the provision of income tax holiday for the duration of the PPP Agreement.

The incentive for PPPs will only be available to multi-storey development where each storey will have at least 15 per cent units below the price ceiling of \$300,000. "The Koroipita Model Town Trust will receive funding assistance of \$2 million in this new financial year to extend their housing program to 140 vulnerable families. This includes widows, abandoned families, mentally ill and disabled," Minister Kumar said.

She said the Government assisted in acquisition of land and provision of electricity for the settlement.

Furthermore, Minister Kumar said more investment will be made in the upgrade and formalization of informal settlements which involved the upgrading and development of informal settlements on State and iTaukei land by providing basic infrastructure with security of tenure through long term leases

The Government is encouraging home ownership through assistance initiatives such as First Home Purchase, First Land purchase and survey grants and interest rate subsidy to assist Fijians to purchase or construct their first home.

"The Social Housing Assistance also provides assistance in the construction of homes in rural and maritime areas on a cost-sharing basis (one third cash or in-kind contribution by applicants)," Minister Kumar said.

# Fiji hosts parliamentary forum on global health



President, Major-General (Retired) Jioji Konrote with attendees of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health. Photo: LITIA VULDAUSIGA

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

**F**IJI became the first Pacific Island country to host the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health (APPFGH).

The President, Major-General (retired) Jioji Konrote, speaking at the opening of the forum, reminded the regional stakeholders of the importance of their deliberations.

"Fiji like the rest of our friends in the Pacific are experiencing and witnessing the adverse impact of climate change on the way and how we live our lives," President Konrote said during the forum in Nadi last week.

"I'm speaking to you not only in my capacity as President and Head of State, but as national

champion in the fight against non-communicable diseases and related ailments. Sadly, we are losing too many of our people and the impact of climate change is going to make it more difficult and more challenging."

He said the forum would help draw regional and global attention to climate change impacts.

"Our Government leaders met in Funafuti to talk about the same issues and we've taken it further; we're now going to address how it impacts on health."

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau chaired the APPFGF Fifth Meet and noted the existential threat of climate change to clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food, secure shelter and – in the Pacific- rising sea water.

"The global health agenda is now getting the priority it deserves – because the evidence from the media and public health communities has been building for many years," Ratu Epeli said.

The Speaker noted that unfortunately, only a fraction of the international finance for climate change adaptation is for projects that aim specifically to protect human health and least developed countries and Small Island Developing States would see only a small fraction of that.

This was one of the key concerns that Fiji had called for during the Fijian presidency of the 23rd session of the Conference of Parties (COP23) in 2017.

## Ministry to address 'slumlord' issue



Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar at Veivauceva Settlement during a talanoa session last month. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

PRASHILA DEVI

**T**HE Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Community Development will develop the Housing Act to address issues like 'slumlords' which have become prevalent as 55 per cent of Fijians now reside in urban centres.

The line Minister, Premila Kumar said the issue of 'slumlords' and informal settlements were complex as it was extremely difficult to monitor and register slumlords.

She said these 'slumlords' were increasingly popular as Fiji was becoming highly urbanised due to the rural-urban drift with estimations that by 2030, two in three Fijians will be residing in cities and towns.

To address these housing issues, the Ministry

will work on a holistic solution through the Act, which in its current state only covers the operations of the Housing Authority.

"In reality, we don't have a register for legal landlords so registering of slumlords is even more difficult. The Ministry for Housing and Community Development will develop the Housing Act to address some of these issues," Minister Kumar said.

"A Housing Sector Policy Advisor with the assistance of New Zealand is expected to commence work with the Ministry by October this year to review and formulate a robust legal framework to address issues relating to housing that also includes informal settlements," she explained.

Furthermore, Minister Kumar said the Ministry will conduct socio-economic surveys

with assistance from the United Nations-Habitat Fiji, after which a database for informal settlements in Fiji will be developed.

She said over the years the Ministry had received numerous complaints from tenants residing in informal settlements who were being charged exorbitant rent by landlords who have illegally built houses on land that do not belong to them.

"The surveys for some of these settlements have been carried out at the time of signing the development leases but the fresh surveys will cover a wider scope," Minister Kumar said.

At the same time, the Ministry will collect information on the tenancy arrangements that squatters may have with the so called "landlords".



# FijiFocus



**BUSINESS  
IMPLEMENTS  
“NO PLASTIC”  
POLICY**

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**NO  
SUBSTITUTE  
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**FIJI HOSTS  
PARLIAMENTARIAN  
FORUM ON GLOBAL  
HEALTH**

**15**



Fiji Airways Drua team with team officials after presenting the iTatau to President Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote at the State House. Photo: ERONI VALILI

## Drua Team reminded of challenges ahead

NANISE NEIMILA

**T**HE President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote reminded the Fiji Airways Drua team that representing the country is a challenge and as team they are expected to perform to the best of their ability.

The Fiji Drua team presented their iTatau ahead of the National Rugby Championship competition that will be held in Brisbane next week.

President Konrote welcomed the team

and conveyed the nation's well wishes to the team members for being selected into the Fiji Airways Drua national team.

"I am often reminded of the Biblical phrase: "Many are called but only a few are chosen" and you are the chosen ones of the many who vied for a spot to represent Fiji. "I know and understand that being selected to represent our beloved nation in any international sporting competition has always been very challenging indeed because you will be expected to perform to the best of your abilities as ex-

pected of you by your coaches, colleagues, families and friends, and a rugby mad Fijian community here at home together with the members of our wider global communities."

President Konrote reminded the players to remain focused, listen to their coaches, play as a team and look after one another, be great Ambassadors, on and off the field and always display good sportsmanship by accepting victory with humility and defeat graciously.

Fiji Airways Drua coach Senirusi Seru-

vakula said the selection sees a good combination of experienced and young players who have either represented the Flying Fijians, Fiji Warriors and Fiji Rugby Unions Provincial competition locally.

"I am confident that the selected team will perform well in their first two matches of the competition"

The team will have their first match against Brisbane City at Ballymore stadium in Brisbane, when the season kicks off next Saturday.



# Noda Viti



Wainigunu savasava e Sawakasa

3

Vakasala ni soko ena waqa lalai

7



Cavuikalawa tale na Matabose ni ilavo Musuki ni tamata cakacaka na FNPF ena nona sa volia e 20 na passade ni sea ena kabani ni livaliva na EFL ka kena isau e \$220m. E na imawi na iliuliu ni Matabose ni EFL ko Daksesh Patel, e loma donu na Minisita ni Bulavakailavo ka Vunilawa ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, ena imatau na iliuliu ni Matabose ni iLavo Musuku (FNPF) ko Ajith Kodagoda. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

## Volia e \$220m na sea na FNPF

VILIAME TIKOTANI

**S**A volia na Matabose ni iLavo Musuki ni tamata cakacaka e 20 na pasede ni sea ena kabani ni livaliva na Energy Fiji Limited ka koto ena \$220m.

Nona vosa tiko ena kena sinitaki na veivoli ni sea ni EFL kaya kina na Minisita ni Bula Vakailavo ni noda vanua o Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ni oqo sa dua tale na cavuikalawa vei irau na bisinisi ni veiqaravi e rua.

E tiko ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum ena soqo oqo me veisosomitaki Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama.

Vakaraitaka kina ko Sayed-Khaiyum ni dua na veitalanoa vianaka a vakayacori ka rawa ni vasa-

gavulu na sea ni EFL me volitaki.

Sa taukena edaidai na FNPF e 100 na milioni na sea a volitaki ena kena makete mai na 500 na milioni na sea a volitaki ka tiki ni veika a veivosakitaki.

“Na FNPF esa dabe ena Matabose e Cake ni EFL ka ni dabe ena matabose oya e dua nan a mata ni FNPF ena veigauna kece eratou taukena tiko kina e 20 na pasede ni sea ni EFL. Na EFL ena tomana tiko nona itavi ena taudaku ni bisinisi, ia ena maroroya na isau e \$22m na isau ni nona veiqaravi ena taudaku ni bisinisi ena 2018.

Kaya o Sayed-Khaiyum ni oqo e dua na ikalawa levu ni tabana ni vakavure livaliva kana dolava na makete me vakalevutaki na vakatubuilavo ni veitabana vakabisinisi.

Vakasavuya na iliuliu ni FNPF Board chair Ajith Kodagoda na voli ni sea oya sa tukuna tiko na levu ni cavuisausau ni FNPF ena loma ni vica na yabaki e da lako sivita.

“Keitou vakabauta ni rawa ni keiotou kauata mai isau oni namaka me keitou kauta mai, keitou na vakatubura na EFL me yaco me dua na ivakaraitaki dina niken rawa ni tubu ena gauna kecega. Me ivakaraitaki vinaka na EFL ni bisinisi yaga vakalevu, sa levu talega ni katuba ni caka binisini, tukuna talega o Minisita ni levu na katuba ni bisinisi sa tadola mai ena taudaki kei Viti.”

Kaya o Kokodaga ni na tomani tiko nodtaou vaqara na veibisinisi balavu e so me yaga vei ira na meba ni FNPF.





# Tei dogo ena baravi e Namatakula



Tei tiko oqori na dogo e Namatakula kei Vunivola Tudei Mritino Nemani iTaba: LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA

## SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**S**A tekivuna na Vunivola Tudei ni Minisitiri ni iTaBgone kei na Qito o Maretino Nemani ena ika 8 ni siga ni Okosita na qarauni ni baravi e Namatakula mai Nadroga.

Rau cakacaka vata kina na Minisitiri ni iTaBgone kei na OISCA Fiji.

Kaya o Nemani ni cakacaka vata oya ena vukei ira na lewenivanua mai Namatakula ena qarauni ni nodra baravi kara na bulabula vinaka kina na sasalu ni baravi.

“E ka dina na Draki Veisau kei na kena re-urevu, sa dodonu ga meda vakarautaki keda

yani kina,” kaya o Nemani.

“Na teivaki ni veidogo eke ena solia na bula vinaka ni veiika bula e baravi nina vakila na kena vinaka ena vica na yabaki ki liu.”

Vakavinavinakataka o Nemani na cakacaka vata ni OISCA Fiji kei na ira na lewe ni koro o Namatakula me tekivu sara mai na yabaki 2006.

“Me tekivu ena gauna eratou cakacaka vata kina sa tekivu taumada na nodra vakabulai tale mai na lase.”

“Qai tarava na teivaki ni veidogo.”

“Me taqomaki kina na koro o Namatakula mai na vakacaca ni ualoka keina draki ca,” kaya o Vunivola Tudei Nemani. Dua na vei-

dinadinati ni yabaki 5 sa tekivutaki ena isevu ni Youth Coast Care Club (YCCC) e Namatakula. Sana tekivutaka na Minisitiri ena tauyavutaka na Youth Coast Care Clubs ena nodra vakayagataki na itaBgone ena kena vakasavasavataki ka vakarairai vinakataki na nodra baravi.

Vakavinavinakataka na iliuliu ni Yavusa Vusu o Emori Batibasaga na veitokoni ni Minisitiri.

“Keitou kalougata ni keitou okati ena veivuke vakailavo ni matanitu ni 2019-2020 kasa ivakaraitaki ni nona dinata na matanitu na neitou sasaga,” kaya o Batibasaga.

## Sota o Minisita Kumar kei Carrie Lam

### SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**R**AU sa lai sota mai Hong Kong ena vula oqo na noda Minisita ni Veivoli, Saravanua, kei na Veivakavaletaki o Premila Kumar kei na marama kilai levu ka CEO ni siti levu o Hong Kong o Carrir Lam.

Vakakina na Vunivola ni Bisinisi keina Bula Vakailavo o Dr. Bernard Chan.

Rau sota talega kei na Minisita ni Vanuatani ni Jaina o Xie Feng.

Vakaraitaka kina o Minisita Kumar ni dau vakamuria tiko vakavinaka o Viti na ‘One China Policy’ ni Jain aka doka vakalevu na ‘One Country, Two Systems’ nei Hong Kong.

Vakavinavinakataki Hong Kong talega o Minisita Kumar ni vana e rogo levu kina na yacai Viti ena buturara ni qito lewe ya 7 ena noda vuravura.

Sa veisureti talega o Minisita Kumar ki vei ira na dau saravanua kei na dau ni bisinisi mai Hong Kong mera gade mai ki Viti.

Rau sota kei na ivukevuke ni turaga ni koro ni siti levu o Shenzhen mai Jaina o Wang Lixin qoka na siti ni levu ni bula vakailavo e Jaina ena loma ni 40 na yabaki sa oti.

Qoka na ika tolu ni siti levu duadua mai Jaina ka tekivu ga ena dua na tauni ni dau teitei ena gauna makawa. Ia edaidai sa rogolevu na siti oya ena ICT, na caka bisinisi ena mona livaliva keina buli iyaya torocake.

## 100 na pasede na veivakalivalitaki ena 2036

### SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**S**A lalawataka na Matanitu me 100 na pasede na veivakalivalitaki e Viti ni cava na yabaki 2036.

Vakaraitaka na vakatalalawa oqori ko Jone Usamate na Minisita ni Veilakoyaki kei na Veicakacaka lelevu ena bose ni vuravura baleta na ivurevure ni livaliva savasava.

Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni sega ni rawarawa na rawati ni vakatalalawa koya vei keda ena veiyanyanu ena Pasifika baleta ni dau mudu wasama na drodro ni livaliva savasava vei keda.

Vakakina na kena dau sau levu na kena cakacaka. Sa gadrevi me caka vakalevu na kena vakadidike. Kaya o Minisita Usamate ni sa vakabibitaki e Viti na vakayagataki vakalevu ni livaliva ka rawati mai ena wai kei na rara ni matanisiga.

Ia ena gauna vata oya ese tomani tiko na cakacaka ni kena vakayagataki na bio-fuel sena livaliva ka rawa mai na veikabula e wavolitaki keda.

# Duavata kei Viti o Niusiladi



Ena imawi na Paraiminisita mai Niusiladi o da Arden kei na noda Paraiminisita o Voreqe Bainimarama ena Bose ni Pasifika mai Funafuti e Tuvalu. iTaba: RUPENI WAQAVONO

## RUPENI WAQAVONO

**S**A duavata kei Viti na Paraiminisita ni Niusiladi o Jacinda Arden ena kena bole ni Ositerelia me vakayacora na gagadre ni veiyanyanu ena Pasifika baleta na vakalailaitaka ni kasi gaga keina vakayagataki ni coal.

A vosa tiko ena tikina oya PM Arden ena Bose ni Pasifika mai Funafuti e Tuvalu ka vakauqeti Ositerelia me vakayacora na gagadre ni Pasifika me baleta na draki veisau.

“Sa dodonu vei Ositerelia me sauma na vakatataro ni Pasifika, ia oqori ena qai vakatau vua,” kaya o PM Arden.

“Keimami sa kaya oti ni sega

ni rawa ni sivia na 1.5 na degree celcius na ivakarau ni katakata...oya keimami sa duavata kina.”

“Keimami na duavata tiko keina veiyanyanu ena Pasifika ena vakauqeti ni veivanua e vuravura mera tokona sasaga oqo.”

Kacivaka ena Bose ni Pasifika o Paraiminisita Bainimarama vua na Paraiminisita ni Ositerelia o Scott Morrison me levu cake na nona vakalailaitaka na kasi gaga e ceburaka tiko ki maliwa lala.

“Au sa kerea vua na PM ni Ositerelia o Scott Morrison me vakalailaitaka na vakayagataki ni coal me tokona kina na sasaga oqo,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.





# Bose ni lewe ni Palimedi ni Esia kei na Pasifika



Era taba vata na lewe ni Palimedi e Esia kei na Pasifika kei Presitedi Jioji Konusi Konrote ena nodra ika 5 ni bose. iTaba: LITIA VULANIDAUSIGA

## SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Era a bose vata tiko mai Nadi na lewe ni Palimedi mai na 20 na veimatanitu e Esia kei na Pasifika ena ika 5 ni nodra bose vata. Kidavaki ira na turaga na Peresitedi o Jioji Konusi Konrote ka kaya ni bibi na ulutaga ni draki veisau ena veivosakitaki kina ni tarai ira kece. “Sa tekivu tiko mai Tuvalu na kena veitalanoa, ia na kena oqo ena dua tale na ikalawa baleta ni na veivosaki taki kina

revurevu ni draki veisau ena tiko bulabula ni tamata.” “E na noqu itutu vaka iliuliu ni noda vanua ka jabenii talega ni vorati ni mate sureti se NCD au via tukuna ni kani rarawa ni levu na lewe ni noda vanua era sa mai takali ena vuku ni mate sureti. Ia na revurevu ni draki veisau sana qai kuria sara vakalevu na leqa,” kaya o Peresitedi Konrote. Tiko talega ena bose oya na Peresitedi ni matabose o Keizo Takemi vakakina na Daireketa ni WHO ena Pasifika o Dr. Takeshi Kasai. Liutaka na bose levu oya na Sipika ni Bose Lawa e Viti

o Ratu Epeli Nailatikau. Na bose oya e rawa kina vei ira mera veisolivakasama, vakakina na veitokoni vakapolitiki, ka vaqacacotaki na vaqarai ni iwali me baleta ni veimate eso e dau yaco ena gauna ni draki veisau. Vakayacori na bose levu oya ena Pullman Nadi Bay Resort & Spa. Vakavinavinaka talega o Peresitedi Konrote ki na vanaua vakaturaga o Navatulevu e Nadi ena nodra veikidavaki vakaturaga vakavanua kara kidavaki kina na lewe ni bose.

## Laveta na bisinisi ni marama mai Ogea ko Koto

JOELI VUETI

“Ni ko tea na sorenikau vinaka me yaga vei ira na wekamu, ko na seva talega na kau vina-ka.” Oqori na ivakasala nei Sulueti Koto na Peresitedi ni Seniteteve Womens Group ena yanuyanu ko Ogea mai Lau. Sa yabaki 75 o Koto ka marama ni Waciwaci e Lakeba mai Lau. E dau kacivi ena yaca ‘Pu Buna’ ka iliuliu ni isoqosoqo ni marama mai Ogea. Sa levu na veivakatorocaketaki ni marama e liutaka e Oge o Koto. Me vaka na tiko savasava ena koro, na boro ni veivale ena koro, na kumuni ni ilavo ena kena volitaki na nodra ibe. Na ilavo ni nodra bisinisi sa voli kina na iyaya ni vale ni nodra italatala. Qai kena ikuri ni sa cicivaka talega o Koro na nodra sitoa na marama ni Ogea me tekivu mai na 1996. Na sitoa oya sa rawa kina nira volia edua na nodra waqa, kato ni wai liliwa, ivaro, lawa ni qoli, idini ni livaliva, keina 20 na panel ni solar. Sa vukeya talega na bisinisi oya na tara ni nodra vale e Suva. Era dau volitaka talega na tanoa kei na ika ni waitui vakakina na urau enamakete e Suva.

## Wainigunu savasava e Sawakasa



Marau na turaga na Ratu mai Sawakasa (sote karakarwa) ni sa dolava na medra wai savasava ko Minisita Usamate. iTaba: FLEIX LESINAIVALU

## FELIX LESINAIVALU

Sa vakamatanitutaka na Minisita ni Veilakoyaki kei na Veicakacaka lelevu o Jone Usamate na drodro ni wainigunu savasava kina 3 na koro ena tikina o Sawakasa, dua na itikotiko vagalala kei na dua na koronivuli e Tailevu. “Vinaka vakalevu na kena maroro vakavinaka tu na noda ivala-va na itaukei keitou kidavaki kina ni kua.” “Au marau meu mai vakamatani- tutaka na project ni wainigunu kana gunu tiko kina e 3 na koro

ena yasayasa oqo, dua na itiko- tiko vagalala kei na dua na ko- ronivuli eke.” “Na wai e dua na ka yaga vaka- levu duadua ena noda bula na itaukei.” “Na veikabula kece e delai vu- ravura e gadreva na wai me bula kina.” “Ni sega na wai esa sega talega ni rawa ni bula na veikabula e vura- vura.” “Dua tiko na bolebole levu tiko vua na matanitu kevaka eda vakaraica lesu tale noda yavu ni vakavulewa e tiko kina noda do- donu vakalawa.” “E dua na noda dodonu oqo na

dodonu ni noda gunu wai savasa- va.” “Na takete levu ni Mataniu me yacova yani na veivuvale yadud- ua kece sara e Viti me yacovi ira yani na wai savasava.” “Sagai meda rawata oya ena ya- baki 2030 mesa gunu wai savasa- va na veivuvale kece e Viti. Ena gauna oqo e 78 na pasede ni noda lewenivanua era sa gunu wai savasava tiko. Ena veiya 10 na vuvale e 8 na vuvale oya e Viti sa yacovi ira tiko yanai na wai savasava. Ena veiya 10 na vuvale e 2 na vuvale se bera ni yacovi ira yani na wainigunu savasava.”

“Sa bibi tiko na wai ni sega ni kaga ni gunu ena veisiga saka talega ni noda tiko bulabula.” “Ni sega na wai savasava ena muria ga mai na mate duidui eso me vaka na taivote.” “Na inaki levu ni Matanitu me kakua ni dua me guilecavi ena wai savasava.” “Ena loma ni 5 na yabaki sa sivi sa vakayagataka oti na Ma- tanitu e 3.5 na milioni na dola ena vakadrodroi ni wainigunu savasava ena loma ni yasana o Tailevu.” “Sa qarava oti kina e 33 na pro- jects in wai e Tailevu.” Ena yabaki vakailavo 2019-2020 sa soli tale mai kina e 11.3 na mil- iona na dola ena kena vakadro- droi na wai ena veitadaku ni koro vakavalagi. “Sa veisoliyaka yani na WAF na taqe ni wai ena veivanua e sega ni vakamita.” “Sa veisoliyaki kina e sivia na 11, 450 na taqe ni wai kina vei- yasai Viti. E 338 ka soli yani kina vualiku kei Tailevu.” “Ena yabaki vakailavo vou sa soli tale mai kina e 3 na milioni na dola me baleta na voli ni tani ni wai e Viti me baleta na tavu- loni ni wai ni ica se Rainwater Harvesting, Au sa nuitaka na kena mai vakadrodroi vakavina- ka na wai eda sa nuitaka nida na karona ka taqomaka vinaka me kua ni vakasabusabutaki,” kaya o Minisita Usamate.





## 800 na lewenivanua era vukei

NA vakadrodroidi ni wainigunu savasava ena koro ko Sawakasa edua talega na cavuilakawa vinaka ni noda bula ni veivakatorocaketaki. Sa yaga kina me da uqe ka gu tikoga me baleta na nodra na noda vuva. Era qaravi talega ena semati ni wai ogo ko Lodoni primary kei na secondary.

iTaba: FELIUX LESINAIVALU



## Boseka ni ACP Pacific

ERA lewena na boseka ni African Caribbean Pacific ka vakayacori mai Tuvalu na noda Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama. Era lewena na vei Paraiminisita main a veimatanitu ena Pasivika kei ira na mata ni veimatanitu main a ACP.

iTaba: RUPENI WAQAVONO



## Boseka ni liuliu ena Pasivika

ERA laki lewena na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na boseka ni liuliu ni matanitu ena Pasivika ka vakayacori mai Tuvalu. Dua na ulutaga levu ni veitalanoa oya na drake veisau kei na vakalailaitaki ni ceburaki ni kasi gaga kei na kena buli mai na veimatanitu lelevu ka dau buli yaya ena nodra vanua

iTaba: RUPENI WAQAVONO



## Sevusevu vei PM Bainimarama

ERA kidavaka na lewenivanua kei Viti era sa cakacaka tu ena vanua ko Tuvalu na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei na nona imatalawalawa era gole kina boseka ni Pacific Leaders Forum. Ogo edua

na gauna marautaki me vaka ni levu vei ira ogo era gole vakacakacaka mera laki vukei ira na lewenivanua mai Tuvalu.

iTaba: RUPENI WAQAVONO





# Tavo na ituvatuva yabaki 5 ni teitei



Ko Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy kei ira na vakaillesilesi e cake ni iTaba: TABANA NI TEITEI

## SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA ituvatuva ni veivakatorocaketaki yabaki 5 ni tabani ni teitei e vaka na moto saissai me vaka ni vuqa saran a ulutaga e coka. E vakakoto oqori na nodra mala ni vosa ko Minisiter Mahendra Reddy ena nodra laki tavoca na porokaramu ena macawa sa oti. Na kena inaki me sotavi kina na gagadre ni kena makete kei na vakayagataki ni mataqali teitei ka rawa ni bula ena draki kecega me vakadeitaka na noda bula vakailavo kei na nodra vakani na

lewenivanua kece Viti. E vakabibitaki kina mena vakavotukana na idusidusi e muri. Vakakina na kena dau yadravi ke vakadeuci na itavi keca e qaravi ena Minisitiri kei na vua ni veiqaravi kece. Kaya o Minisita Dr. Reddy ni rawa kina Tabacakacaka ni Teitei mera wasea vata edua na raiyawa kei na sala me rawati kina na veika era gadreva na itokani ni veivakatorocaketaki. “Na ituvatuva yabaki 5 oqo e sema vakadodonu kei na iTuvatuva Levu ni Veivakatorocaketaki ka taketetaki kia na tubu

lewai matau e veiyabaki oya me 5 na pasede me vakavataki kina na tubu ni nona rawai lavo e dua na dau teitei me yacova yani na yabaki 2036. Vakakina na kena vinakataki me tubu ena 25 na GDP sena levu ni ivoli e rawati ena dua na yabaki.” Na 5 na inaki oqo me vakavinakataki na nodra vakani na lewei Viti, laveti na rawaka vakailavo ni dau teitei, vakavinakataki na lewai matau ni vakayagataki ni iyaubula, na teitei e rawa ni bula ena draki kecega, vakavinakataki na teitei vakabisinisi, vakavinakataki na ivurevure ni ilavo

me qarava kina nona veiqaravi na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei kei na vakavinakataki ni veiqaravi kina lewenivanua. Vakabibitaka talega kina o Minisita Dr. Reddy mera okata na teitei me dua na bisinisi baleta ni oya erawa ni lesu tale kina na Tabana ni Teitei kina itutu vaka ivurevure ni ilavo naba dua nei Viti. “Ena dua na gauna e rawata tiko kina Tabana ni Teitei e sivia na 20 na pasede ni noda GDP esega ni dua na ulubale esega ni rawa ni rawati tale kina na fika oya,” kaya o Minisita Dr. Reddy.

## Qiva na ivurevure ni wai e vanua dravuisiga

### SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Levu na veivanua ena Muaira kei Vitilevu era dau vakila vakalevu na leqa ni wai ena gauna ni draki mamaca ka dau vakavuna na dravuisiga ni dela ni vanua. Oya na vuna erau sa cakacaka vata tiko kina na Tabacakacaka ni Wai kei na Tabacakacaka ni Qele me qiva na wai ni gunu ena veivanua vaka koya.

Sikova edua na vanua vaka koya o Minisita Dr. Mahendra Reddy e Rada kei Marasa mai Nadi ka raica rawa na gagadre ni wai me baleta na teitei keina wai me baleta na bula e veisiga ni matavuvale.

Kaya o Minisita Dr. Reddy ni nona sa vakamatanitutaka na Minisita ni Qele, o Ashneel Sudhakar na misini ni qivaqiva ena vukea na kena rawati na ivurevure ni wai.

“Au na veitalanoa kei ira me kilai kina na isau ni kena ipamu ni wai kei na kena paipo vakakina na kena taqe.”

Sikova talega o Minisiter Dr. Reddy na veivanua dravuisiga mai Tavua kei Ba.



Keitou gadreva me vakayagataki na iyaya e tu ena Minisitiri ni Qele me rau cakacaka vatakina keina Tabacakacaka ni Wai me kunei vakatotolo na ivurevure ni wai oqo ena taudaku ni koro lelevu. E levu ena ivurevure ni wai e tu ka gadrevi me qiva.

Dr Reddy  
Minisita Ni Teitei

Vakabibitaka na Minisita ni ivurevure ni wai oqo e sega ni baleta na tamata yadua e baleta ira kece era vakaitikotiko ena dua na vanua se itikitiko.

“Dua na itikotiko e rawa ni tiko kina e 6 kina 10 na matavuvale. Sana vakayagataki kina na Minisitiri ni Qele na nona misini vou eso ni qivaqiva baleta ni kua sa lewai matau na usa wai ena lori.”

Na Tabacakacaka ni Wai sa tekivutaka na kena vakayagataki na nona iTuvatuva ni Veivakatorocaketaki Lewai Matau ni yabaki lima ka okati kina lewai matau ni kena iyau bula kei vakavututaki ni teitei ni raici vata kei na draki.

## Kila na inaki ni bouse ni yasana



Vakamacala tiko oqori vei ira na mata ni tikina kei na turaga ni koro e Lomaiviti na vakaillesilesi ni Matabose ni Veikavakaitaukei o Waisake Tuisese mai Sawaieke e Gau iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

## SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAMATATAKI na inaki ni Bose ni Yasana ena vuli ni mata ni tikina kei na turaga ni koro ena yasana ko Lomaiviti mai Sawaieke mai Gau karatou caka vuli kina Tabacakacaka iTaukei. A vakaitavi kina na vakaillesilesi e cake ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei o Waisake Tuisese. “Taumada sa yaga moni kila taumada na inaki na lewe ni bouse

na inaki ni kena tauyavutaki na matabose ni yasana.” “Moni kila talega na iwali ni leqa me vaka na yavu ni veilutaki matau se good governance e dusimaka ka vakamatataka na veigaunisala me muri me mua donu tale kina na waqa ni veiqaravi ni matabose ni yasana.” “Na gagadre ni Matanitu me digitaka na iliuliu kina Matabose ni Yasana me takivu mai na 2013.” “Oqo e dusimaka tiko vei keda meda sa tutaka na iwalewale ni

veiliutaki matau me vukea na veiqaravi matau ni matabose ni yasana.”

“Mo ni kila na cava e tukuna tiko na lawa itaukei. Na kauwai ena gadrevi na iyau tudei ni yasana. Na lawa vakacacacaka e kovuta na veiqaravi. Kei na yavu ni veiwekani ni tabana vakacacacaka ni matanitu ka sega kina na veiqaravi ni matabose ni yasana.” “Sa la bibi meda kila tiko na mata ni tikina na veilawa eso ka vodo ska tiko kina na nodatou veiqaravi.”

“Me qarava na matabose ni yasana na veika e dodonu me qarava. Na matabose ni yasana kei na matabose mera qarava ga na veika e yavutaki mai kina na kena tauyavutaki. Me veiraurau kei na veisau sa gadrevi tiko ena gauna oqo.”

“Me dikevi lesu na veika esa rawata na matabose ni yasana ni cava e dua na yabaki ni veiqaravi. Na lewe ni bouse ni yasana mera dau raica na inaki bibi e tauyavutaki kina na bouse ni yasana. Na kena dau digitaki vinaka na gaunisala me muri me vakavain-

akataki kina na nona veiqaravi.

Na lewe ni bouse ni yasana me vinaka talega vei ira na lewenivanua kei na veimatabose era veitokoni kina,” kaya o Tuisese.

Kaya o Tuisese ni bibi me cakacaka tiko na matabose en loma ni bai ni yavu ni veiqaravi.

“Sa bibi kina na cakacaka vakasavasava kei na gugumatua. Na matabose ni yasana me tutaka na nodra vakavinakataki na veiwekani vakacacacaka na lewe ni bouse. Ena rawata na matabose ni yasana na veitikina oqo kevaka e ; 1) e raica na matabose ni yasana mera lewe ni bouse o ira tiko vei ira na kilaka vakacacacaka ka dau cakacaka vakagugumatua. 2) Raica mera lewe ni bouse o ira e tiko talega vei ira eso na kila matua me rawa nira qarava na veitavi ni matabose ni yasana me vaka e gadrevi ena ruku ni lawa. 3) Tuberi ira na lewe ni bouse ena kilaka vakacacacaka 4) Veikilaitaki vakavinaka na veiwekani vakacacacaka. 5) Me dikevi wasoma ni sa vinaka tiko na veiqaravi kei na veiwekani ni matabose.”





# Vakasala ni soko ena waqa lalai



Captain Hill

Era vakaiqaloqalo na vakaillesilesi ni matanitu ena soko mai Lau. Era era taba toka kina na mataqali boto se waqalalai ka vakasala tiko kina na MSAF. Itaba : VAKARAUTAKI

## SOLO LEWANAVANUA

**V**EITALANOA na noda niusivava ni Matanitu na 'Noda Viti' kei na Liuliu Vakacacaka se CEO ni Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji o Captain Philip Hill ena noda qacarauni na dau vodo ena waqa lalai. Mo wilika sara yani.

**Taro:** Ni rawa ni vakamacalataka mada na mataqali laiseni vakacava e dodonu me tiko vei ira na itaukei ni waqa lalai ma vaka na firbre glass boat?

**Captain Hill:** E 3 tiko na iwasewase ni soveataki ni waqa. Kevaka e nomu waqa ga vakaitaukei ena rauta tiko ni 3 na yabaki na sitivikiti ena soli tiko vei iko. Kena ibalebale oya na nomu waqa vakaitaukei ona vakayagataka toka ga o iko kei ira nomu lewe ni matavuvale. E sega ni saumi na veitosoyaki ena waqa vaka oya. Kena ikarua na waqa era qoli se siwa me volitaki. E yabaki dua tiko na laiseni e soli vei ira. Kena ibalebale oya ena veiyabaki ni ko qoli tiko ona saga mona maroroya tiko yani na nomu ilavo me rawa nio sauma tale na kena soveataki tale ni oti na yabaki dua. Kevaka o vakayagataka tiko nomu waqa me usapasidia kara sauma tiko nodra ivodovodo sera dau charter-taki mera lakoi veiyanyanu, levu na soqo dou caka e veiyanyanu dau vakayagataka tu kina o ira na boto lalai oqo. Oya e dodonu me soveataki na nomu waqa ena veivula ono. Ena bibi kina me tiko kece kina na gacagaca ni taqomaki ni bula. Na iqaloqalo se life jacket, na inima, na ikara, na ivoce, na veigacagaca ni waqa e vinakati me maroroi tiko kina na bula vakatalega kina na waqa kevaka e mani lai leqa na idini se dua na vakacalaka e yaco ewai.

**Taro:** Tolu na iwasewase ni waqa lalai oni vakamacalataka oqori, kena ibale bale e duidui kece na laiseni se sitivikiti e dodonu meratou taukena na 3 na iwasewase oqo?

**Captain Hill:** Dina taucoko oqori. Na nomu waqa vakaitaukei na laiseni e vinakati kina na Boat Master Licence. Na Boat Master Licence oya e rawa ni kauti iko kina veivanua kecega ovia lako kina. E sega ni yalani na vanua o lako kina. Ia kevaka o vinakata me toso cake nomu vuli me tosocake nomu kila na vakauwaqa e vinaka cake mo

lai taura na Restricted Master Engineer Class 6. Veikemuni na waqa vakacici bisinisi, kevaka o vaka Boat Master walega ona cici wavokita tikoga na yanuyanu. O na sega ni rawa nio takoso. O na tikoga wavolita na cakau e tiko ena yanuyanu, keo tiko ena taudaku ni cakau ena 500 tikoga na mita mai na taudaku ni cakau.

Ia, kevaka o vaka Restricted Master Engineer Class 6, o rawa ni soko mai na dua na yanuyanu kina dua tale. Me kakua ni sivia e 15 na maile.

**Taro:** Vakevei na ilakolako ni kena rawati edua vei ratou na lasieni oqo?

**Captain Hill:** Na laiseni oqo e dua na laiseni ni waqa, ka dua na laiseni nei koya e vakaciciva tiko na waqa. Na laiseni ni soveataki ni waqa na kena fomu sa tu ena neitou vale ni volavola kece. Oya e Suva, Lautoka, Taveuni, Pacific Harbour, Rakiraki, Nabouwalu Savusavu, Labasa, kei na neitou vale ni volavola talega e Natovi e caka kina na veitaratara me qai kau yani kina na fomu. Oya me baleta na soveataki ni waqa. Oni na vakalewena na fomu oya e tiko kina na veika e baleti itaukei ni waqa vata kei naka e baleta na waqa. Ni sana keitou ciqoma na fomu oya keitou sana qai tala yani e dua na sovea mai lai sovetaka nomu waqa. Na gauna sa pasitaka kina nomu waqa na sovea oya sana qai soli vei iko e dua na sitivikiti. Vakatau se waqa ni qoli se waqa vakaitaukei, se waqa vakacici bisinisi. Na kena ikarua na laiseni ni vakau waqa, keitou dau vakacicivaka tiko na vuli vei ira kece na tiko ena veiyanyanu. Me vukei tiko kina na nodra rawa ni rawata na laiseni mera kauta tiko na waqa e lako vata tiko na neitou lawa. Oqo e sau rawarawa sara kevaka e via caka na Boat Master e tauya \$500 me caka madaga na vuli. Ia sa qai tiko na nomuni isau ni laiseni vata kei na nomuni medical koya kemuni na qai sauma ga na kena isau. Io kevaka e caka na Class 6 Master Engineer Restricted ena \$1000 tiko vakacaca me caka na vuli. Oya na administrative cost ga, sa qai tikoga na isau ni nomu sauma nomu laiseni. Koya beka ga oya na vuli koya rawa ni caka. Veikemuni na tu ena veiyanyanu oni via vuli rawa ni oni volavola mai vei keitou se ra volavola kina nodra vale ni volavola

ni yasana me qai gole mai vei keitou.

**Taro:** Na cava e tukuna na lawa ni soko baleta na kena vakayagataka ni iqaloqalo se life jacket ena veiwaqa lalai oqo?

**Captain Hill:** Na iqaloqalo se life jacket oqori o koya sara ga ena maroroya tiko nomu bula ke mani osa lutu iwai se tavuki nomuni waqa nisa sega ni rawa ni vodo tale kina ena maroroya tu nomuni bula na iqaloqalo. Io vei ira na waqa lalai na veisitivikiti kece keitou dau solia e volai tiko kina moni dara tiko na life jacket ni se bera ni toso na waqa. Baleta loma walega ni dua se rua na sekodi e rawa ni yaco kina na vakacalaka. Ona qai vaqara nomu life jacket sa bera. Rawa talega ni dua naka o coqa o qai ciba ka rawa ni vakavuderi iko toka na iqaloqalo oya. Gauna o qai vakilai iko tale kina se o bula tiko sega nio luvu. Koya dau vakabibitaki kina me coba tiko na life jacket me vaka na beleti ni idabedabe ni motoka. Me coba tiko na life jacket se bera ni toso na waqa.

**Taro:** Na cava nodra itavi ni Turaga ni Koro ena waqa kece e dau biuta na koro me soko vakayawa?

**Captain Hill:** Na itavi bibi e tiko vei ira na Turaga ni Koro mera dau raica tiko na veitosoyaki e loma ni koro. Nodra itavi mera tarova na soko kevaka era raica ni sa draki ca. Sa noda dui itavi yadua meda dui qarauna na noda bula. Meda dau doka na vakatulewa ni Turaga ni Koro. Keda veidokadokai tiko vaka oya ena vinaka vei keda nida na taqomak tiko kina na noda bula.

**Taro:** Vakaevai na vakatulewataki ni soko ni raici vata kei na ituvaki ni draki?

**Captain Hill:** Vei keda na dau vakauwaqa se kerei tikoga yani meda dau rogoca na itukutuku ni draki sa kerei tikoga moni doka na itukutuku ni draki. E rawa ni vakadaroi e so na soko kevaka e draki ca. Eso na draki ca oqo e balavu sara e dau tukuni tu na bogi walu. Na bogi walu qo ena so na gauna sa dau lai bogi tinikava tiko. Sa sega ni tautauvata na noda dau wilika tiko na draki e liu sa veiveisau tiko mai na draki.



# Noda Viti



E ra vakaraitaka tu oqori na nodra sitivikiti ni vuli bisinisi lalai na tarama susu gone duadua ena porokaramu ka veitokoni kina na Minisitiri ni Marama ka bilai me 'Solo Mums Project'.  
iTaba: FELIX LESINAIVALU

## Mera vukei tikoga na noda marama

VILIAME TIKOTANI

NA nodra vukei vinaka na noda marama edua na cakacaka ni nodra qaravi vinaka ka vakaukauwataki na nodra dodonu me rawa ni ra rawaka vakailavo ka vakatulewa vinaka me baleta na nodra bula kei na bula ni nodra matavuvale. Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Qito, Mereseini Vuniwaqa ena soqo ni nodra tauri vola e 52 na marama tina susu gone duadua se single moms. Edua na porokaramu oqo eratou veitauriliga taka vata na lotu, na matanitu kei na soqosoqo na International Needs Fiji ena nodra vakavulici se tuberi na gone marama tina era veisusu duadua vei ira na luvedra. Vakaraitaka kina na Marama Minisita ena nodra mala ni vosa ni dodonu ni marama mera rawaka vakailavo

vinaka ka soli vei ira na galala mera vakatubuilavo. Kuria ko Vuniwaqa ni oqori edua na gaunisala ka rawa ni valuti kina na bula dravudravua ka vukei kina na vakatubuilavo kei na rawaka vakailavo ni matanitu, me vaka na vunau ni 2030 Sustainable Development Goal me kua ni dua e guilecavi. Oira na nodra marama era sa suitu ni veiqaravi ena loma ni vuvala kei na tikotiko baleta saraga na cakacaka era dau cakava ena taudaku ni cakacaka veisau-mitaki. Oira na marama era veiqaravi voliga e vale, meimei vei ira na gone, qaravi ira na matua ka mera vakatarai ira kina na nodra turaga mera galala ka rawaka kina vakalevu me baleta na nodra matavuvale. Sa dodonu mera vukei vinaka na marama baleta oira na kaukauwa ni veivuvale, tikotiko ka yaco kina na veiqaravi ni matanitu, lotu kei na vanua.

Era sa tauri ivola e 52 tina susu gone duadua ena vuli ni caka bisinisi lalai ena porokaramu ka kilai me 'Solo Mums Project' me vaka e vakarautaka na International Needs Fiji. Kaya na kena Executive Director o Tomasi Raiviu ni 3 na vula na nodra vuli kara vulica kina na bisinisi ni vakasaqa, vavavi icoi ni ti, culacula, caka ukuuku ni marama, keina cakacaka ni liga. "Tolu na vula oya era sa vulica kina na taledi duidui eso vakaoaya mera na lai vakaduria kina na nodra bisinisi vakataki ira." Kaya o Raiviu nira na vukei ena nodra tauyavutaka na nodra bisinisi lalai, oya kevaka era yacova na itagede era gadreva na veivakavulici. Kuria o Raiviu ni levu na tina ni gone oqo era sa teki-vuna nodra dui bisinis ka levu era sa vukea tiko na bula vakailavo ni nodra dui matavuvale.





फ़ीजी अई.  
बी.यू. असेम्बली  
हौस्ट करेगा

2



नए स्टोल्ल्स के  
लिए सरकार  
की प्रशंसा

6



तुवालू में पॅसीफिक आयलैंड्स फोरम मीटिंग के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बड़निमारामा, तुवालू के प्रधान मंत्री एनेले सोपोआंगा के साथ चित्र: सप्लाइड

## जलवायु परिवर्तन को लेकर फ़ीजी अटल

वीरेन्द्र लाल

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बड़निमारामा का कहना है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण तुवालू जैसे निचले द्वीपों को बढ़ते समुद्र तल से बचाने के लिए, फ़ीजी से जो कुछ हो पायेगा, वह करेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि ज़रूरत पड़ने पर फ़ीजी, तुवालू के लोगों को रहने के लिए जगह भी प्रदान करेगा। प्रधान मंत्री ने इस तरह का वायदा किरिबास के लोगों से भी किया है।

तुवालू में पॅसीफिक आयलैंड्स फोरम मीटिंग के दौरान साउतालागा इवेंट में बोलते हुए प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा

कि विश्व को तुवालू, किरिबास और अन्य प्रशांत देशों को उनके हाल पर अकेले नहीं छोड़ना चाहिए जो जलवायु परिवर्तन से पड़े असर का सामना कर रहे हैं।

“मुझे यह कहते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि फ़ीजी, यू.एन. सेक्रेटरी जनरल द्वारा रखी गई चुनौतियों को स्वीकार करते हुए, ग्रीनहाउज़ गैस एमिशन कम करने की दिशा में काम कर रहा है। मैं सभी पॅसीफिक पार्टनर से भी ऐसा करने की माँग कर रहा हूँ”।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने क्षेत्रीय नेताओं से माँग की कि वे छोटी सोच न रखें क्योंकि जलवायु परिवर्तन दृष्टि, नेतृत्व और नई खोज या कुछ नया करने की माँग करता है।

निउज़ीलैंड की प्रधान मंत्री जेसिंडा आर्डन भी प्रधान मंत्री

बड़निमारामा से सहमत हुई और कहा कि उनकी सरकार भी गैस एमिशन कम करने की दिशा में काम कर रही है।

फुनाफूती तुवालू में प्रशान्तीय नेताओं की पचासवी सभा में फ़ीजी के प्रधान मंत्री ने क्षेत्र को चुनौती दी है कि वे क्षेत्र भर के लिए पब्लिक-प्रायवट पहल पर ध्यान दें जो एक क्षेत्र को पूरी तरह बदल सकता है, हमारे लोगों की जिन्दगी बेहतर बना सकता है तथा यह लोग विश्व स्तर के उत्पाद बना सकते हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा ने कहा कि प्रायवट सेक्टर, अर्थ-व्यवस्थाओं की इंजिन है जो जलवायु परिवर्तन के खतरों के वास्तविक समाधान प्रदान कर सकता है।





# फीजी अई.बी.यू जेनरल असेम्बली हौस्ट करेगा

नालों की सफाई और खेत जाने वाले रास्तों पर काम जारी

वीरन्द्र लाल



एज़िया पेसीफिक ब्रोडकास्टिंग युनियन के सेक्रेटरी जेनरल डाक्टर जावेद मोटाधी के साथ प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमारामा और अटोनी जेनरल सईयद खईयूम

वीरन्द्र लाल

एज़िया पेसीफिक ब्रोडकास्टिंग युनियन के सेक्रेटरी जेनरल डाक्टर जावेद मोटाधी ने फीजी आकर प्रधान मंत्री वीरेन्तो बड़निमारामा से मुलाकात की।

अटोनी जेनरल तथा मिनिस्टा फोर कोमिउनिर्कईशन्स अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने भी सेक्रेटरी जेनरल के साथ सभा की और अगले साल होने वाले रोबोकोन इवेंट और दो हजार इक्कीस (2021) में होने वाले एज़िया पेसीफिक ब्रोडकास्टिंग युनियन जेनरल असेम्बली और सम्बंधित सभाओं के बारे में बातें की जो फीजी में होने

को है।

सेक्रेटरी जेनरल ने बताया कि पहली बार रोबोकोन इवेंट और एज़िया पेसीफिक ब्रोडकास्टिंग युनियन जेनरल असेम्बली, प्रशांत में होगा। अटोनी जेनरल ने बताया कि फीजियन सरकार इस बात से खुश है कि अगले साल होने वाले रोबोकोन इवेंट और दो हजार इक्कीस (2021) में होने वाले एज़िया पेसीफिक ब्रोडकास्टिंग युनियन जेनरल असेम्बली और सम्बंधित सभाओं की मेज़बानी वह करेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि रोबोकोन इवेंट से सेकन्ड्री स्कूलों और युनिवर्सिटीज़ में पढ़ाई कर रहे युवा लोगों को बहुत फायदा होगा जबकि इसमें एशिया पेसीफिक क्षेत्र के बीस (20)

से ज्यादा देशों के युनिवर्सिटी स्टूडेंट्स एक साथ आयेंगे।

“दो हजार इक्कीस (2021) में होने वाले एज़िया पेसीफिक ब्रोडकास्टिंग युनियन जेनरल असेम्बली और सम्बंधित सभाओं में एशिया पेसीफिक के ब्रोडकास्टिंग क्षेत्र से लगभग तीन सौ पचास (350) लोगों से भाग लेने की आशा की जा रही है और इससे केवल फीजी के ब्रोडकास्टर्ज़ को ही नहीं बल्कि क्षेत्र के ब्रोडकास्टर्ज़ को एक दूसरे से सीखने का मौका मिलेगा”, अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा। नेशनल टीम इस महिने मंगोलिया के लिए रवाना हुई जहाँ वह इस साल के रोबोकोन इवेंट में भाग लेगी।

वोटावएज़ और वातावरण मंत्रालय, ग्रामीण इलाकों में नालों की सफाई और खेत जाने वाले रास्तों पर काम जारी रखेगा।

कृषि तथा वोटावएज़ और वातावरण मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने मुवानिवेनी के अपने दो दिनों के दौर के दौरान ऐसा कहा। शांतिनिकेतन पाठशाला पर किसानों से बातें करते हुए डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा कि वोटावएज़ और वातावरण मंत्रालय, किसानों को उनकी खेतों में विकास करने में मदद करना जारी रखेगा।

“वोटावएज़ मंत्रालय ग्रामीण इलाकों में नालों की सफाई करेगा जिससे खेत सूखने पर खेती करने के लिए किसानों को और ज़मीन उपलब्ध हो। हम उन रास्तों को भी बनायेंगे जिन्हें एक से ज्यादा किसान काम में ला रहे हैं। लेकिन नालों की सफाई हमारी प्राथमिकता है। पहले किसानों को ड्रैनज लेवी भरना पड़ता था लेकिन अब सरकार ने सभी ड्रैनज लेवी हटा दी है”।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने बताया कि सरकार सभी फार्म एक्सेस रौड्स पर सुधार-कार्य करना जारी रखेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि भीतरी इलाकों में एक्सेस रौड्स बनाने में किसानों की मदद की जायेगी।

डाक्टर रेड्डी ने दो दिनों के दौर के दौरान नईतासीरी और ताईलेवू इलाकों में किसानों से मुलाकात की और उनके साथ बात-चीत की कि किस तरह से उत्पादन बढ़ाए जा सकते हैं।

इन इलाकों के किसानों ने अपनी चुनौतियाँ मंत्री के समक्ष रखी जिन्हें सरकार सुलझाने का प्रयास करेगी।

## ज़मीन का सही प्रयोग करें-कृषि मंत्री

रोनल देव

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने फीजिवासियों से माँग की है कि वे उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए खाली पड़ी उपजाऊ ज़मीनों का प्रयोग अच्छी तरह करें।

हालमें उत्तरी विभाग के दौर पर मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि ज़मीन एक ऐसा प्राकृतिक संसाधन है, जिससे आर्थिक तौर पर बहुत फायदा हो सकता है लेकिन इसका कम उपयोग हो रहा है।

“अगर आप फीजी भर में घूमकर देखें तो आपको पता चलेगा कि हमने अपनी ज़मीनों का प्रयोग अच्छी तरह नहीं किया है। मैंने देखा है कि

बहुत सी ज़मीनें जिनपर कुछ बोया जा सकता है, खाली पड़ी हैं तथा हमें इनको काम में लाना चाहिए। कोई भी पूँजी जिससे सकारात्मक फल नहीं मिलता वह अच्छी पूँजी नहीं है, और हम अपने राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्य के लिए अपने देश के साथ अन्याय कर रहे हैं, हमें अपनी प्राकृतिक पूँजी को उत्पादन प्रक्रिया में लाना होगा,” मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार यह बेहद ज़रूरी है कि किसान प्रतिबद्ध हो तथा कृषि क्षेत्र में पूँजी लगाए ताकि कृषि क्षेत्र को और उँचाई तक लेजाया जा सके।

“काफी लम्बे समय से हमने कृषि को ग्रामीण निवासियों के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा मंत्रालय के रूप में माना है। हमने वास्तव में कृषि के संरक्षण को अर्थ-व्यवस्था का आधार बना लिया है और अब हम अपने राष्ट्रीय हितों की सहायता के लिए इस महत्वपूर्ण उद्देश्य की ओर मुड़ रहे हैं,” डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा। उनके अनुसार फीजी को अगर



अपने दौर पर लोगों से बातें करते हुए कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी चित्र: एमी कोरोईतानोआ

विकसित होने का मौका दिया गया तो यह राष्ट्र के हित में होगा। “यह सुनिश्चित करें कि हम

विकास करेंगे। विकास प्रक्रिया में हम सभी को भाग लेना है, और अगर अर्थ-व्यवस्था बढ़ती है तो

सभी को लाभ होगा, क्योंकि हम चाहते हैं कि हर कोई विकास प्रक्रिया में भाग ले,” मंत्री ने कहा।





## प्रधान मंत्री ने डब्लू.हेच.औ डायरेक्टा जेनरल से मुलाकात की

वीरन्द्र लाल

विश्व स्वास्थ्य संस्था (WHO) ने यह ज़िम्मेदारी ली है कि प्रायमरी हेल्थ केया के क्षेत्र में क्षेत्रीय स्वास्थ्य कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने के लिए फीजी की स्थिति को वह मज़बूत करेगा।  
तुवालू में पेसीफिक आयलैंड फोरम लीडज़ मीटिंग के दौरान फीजी के प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बड़िनमारामा के साथ हुई सभा के बाद डब्लू.हेच.औ डायरेक्टा जेनरल डाक्टर टेडरोस गेबरियसस ने ऐसा कहा।  
सभी सामाजों में स्वास्थ्य के स्तर में सुधार लाने के लिए डब्लू.हेच.औ एक ताकतवर प्रायमरी हेल्थ केया सिस्टम तैयार करना चाहता है।  
प्रधान मंत्री बड़िनमारामा ने डाक्टर गेबरियसस की इस घोषणा का स्वागत किया।  
जवाब में डाक्टर गेबरियसस ने जलवायु परिवर्तन और क्षेत्र पर असर कर रहे अन्य विषयों का डटकर सामना करने के फीजी के कदम की सहानुभूति की।



क्लायमेट चर्ज को लेकर फीजी ने अच्छी नेतागिरी दिखाई है। पेसीफिक के हब होने के नाते फीजी के लिए यह ज़रूरी भी है और मैं प्रधान मंत्री को फीजी और क्षेत्र के लिए उनकी दूरदर्शिता के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ

डाक्टर टेडरोस गेबरियसस  
डब्लू.हेच.औ डायरेक्टा जेनरल

प्रधान मंत्री बड़िनमारामा ने फीजी में जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होने वाली बीमारियाँ (NCD's) और गैर-कानूनी नशीले पदार्थों के इस्तेमाल पर चिन्ता व्यक्त की।  
डब्लू.हेच.औ डायरेक्टा जेनरल के अनुसार जीवन जीने के तरीकों से होने वाली बीमारियाँ (NCD's), डब्लू.हेच.औ के लिए प्राथमिकता है। उन्होंने बताया कि लोगों को स्वास्थ्य के बारे में बताने के लिए शिक्षा के क्षेत्र को इसमें शामिल होना चाहिए।  
पेसीफिक आयलैंड फोरम लीडज़ की पचासवी सभा तुवालू में हुई और इस मीटिंग में क्षेत्र में विकास योजनाओं पर बातें हुई। सभा में संयुक्त राष्ट्र और राष्ट्रमंडल के प्रतिनिधि भी शामिल थे।

# लांगालांग प्रायमरी स्कूल की सालगिरह - 75th



वनुआलेवू स्थित लांगालांग प्रायमरी स्कूल की पचहत्तरवी (75th) सालगिरह के मौके पर अटोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम कार्यक्रम में भाग लेते हुए चित्र: जोसईया रलांगो

रोनल देव

अटोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने हालही में वनुआलेवू स्थित लांगालांग प्रायमरी स्कूल की पचहत्तरवी (75th) सालगिरह के मौके पर स्कूल की स्थापना करने वालों को श्रद्धांजलि दी।  
अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा कि इन लोगों की दूरदर्शिता की वजह से आज इस समाज के युवा लोग पिछले पचहत्तर सालों से प्रायमरी स्कूल की शिक्षा हासिल कर रहे हैं। उनके अनुसार तीन-चार

पीढ़ी के लोगों ने इस स्कूल से शिक्षा हासिल की होगी। “यह बेहद ज़रूरी है कि हम इस स्कूल की स्थापना करने वालों के बलिदान तथा शिक्षा के प्रति दिए गए योगदान को समझें,” सईयद खईयूम ने कहा।  
सरकार उन स्कूलों के साथ मिलकर काम करने में गर्व महसूस कर रही है जिनकी स्थापना कई साल पहले समाज ने मिलकर या धार्मिक संस्थाओं ने की थी। सरकार इस दिशा में और सहायता दे रही है जहाँ प्रायमरी और सेकन्ड्री

स्कूल के बच्चों को स्कूल फीस नहीं देना पड़ रहा है, पढ़ने वाली किताबें मुफ्त हैं, स्कूल तक आने-जाने के लिए भाड़ा भी नहीं लगता, तथा बच्चे जो सेकन्ड्री स्कूल के बाद टेशरी संस्थाओं में पढ़ाई करना चाहते हैं, को भी सरकार मदद कर रही है।  
अटोनी जेनरल ने यह भी घोषणा की कि अगले साल मार्च तक लांगालांग के सभी घरों तक बिजली की सेवा पहुँच जाएगी जबकि इसपर अभी एनेजी फीजी लिमिटेड काम कर रहा है।

## सूखी ज़मीनों के लिए पानी

वीरन्द्र लाल

पश्चिमी विभाग में सूखे के मौसम को ध्यान में रखते हुए मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ़ वोटावएज़ और मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ़ लेण्ड्स एण्ड मिनिरल रिसोसस ने सूखे से असर पड़े इलाकों में बो-होल्स प्रदान करने की योजना बनाई है।  
वोटावएज़ मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने नांदी में रांदा और मरासा इलाकों का दौरा किया और पाया कि वहाँ खाने पीने और खेती के लिए पानी की कमी हो गई है।  
उन्होंने बताया कि लेण्ड्स मंत्री अशनील सुधाकर ने जो नए मल्टि-ड्रिल रिग्स का कमिश्निंग किया है, इससे इन इलाकों में पानी प्रदान किया जा सकता है।

“हम उनके साथ बात-चीत करेंगे, पम्प बिठाने और खुदाई का खर्च हम सह सकते हैं। हम नए मल्टि-ड्रिल रिग्स काम में लाकर लोगों को राहत प्रदान करना चाहते हैं”।



सूखे से असर पड़े इलाकों का दौरा करते हुए कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी चित्र: आयज़ेक लाल

मंत्री ने तावुवा और बा में भी सूखे से असर पड़े इलाकों का दौरा किया। उन्होंने बताया कि पानी की यह सुविधा व्यक्तिगत लोगों के लिए नहीं रहेगी।  
“हम सामाजों के लिए यह करेंगे,

छः से दस घरों का एक ग्रुप होगा। मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ़ लेण्ड्स नए मल्टि-ड्रिल रिग्स, बो-होल्स के लिए काम में लायेगा। बाकि विषयों पर हम बो-होल एक्सपेक्ट्स से बातें करेंगे”।

कृषि मंत्रालय ने हाल ही पाँच सालों की अपनी विकास योजना “five-year Strategic Development Plan (SDP)” का लोकार्पण किया।





## फीजी ने संसद सदस्यों के क्षेत्रीय फोरम की मेज़बानी की

राष्ट्रपति मइजा जेनरल (Ret'd) चोली कोनुसी कोन्सोले ने नादी में ग्लोबल हेल्थ पर पाँचवा एशिया पैसिफिक पॉलियामेटेरियन फोरम में भाग लेने वाले प्रतिनिधियों का स्वागत किया।

फीजी इस फोरम की मेज़बानी करने वाला पहला प्रशांत देश है। फोरम में बाइस (22) देशों के प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया।  
चित्र: आयज़ेक लाल



## रिनीउबल एर्नेजी पर जानकारी बाँटने की माँग

लोगों से रिनीउबल एनेजी पर जानकारी बाँटने की माँग की गई है। नादी में रिनीउबल एनेजी, वातावरण और जलवायु परिवर्तन पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय विचार गोष्ठी में बोलते हुए इनफोस्ट्रक्चर मंत्री चोने उसामाते ने कहा कि रिनीउबल एनेजी को लेकर

काफी काम हो रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि फीजी में अब हायड्रो इलेक्ट्रिसिटी, सोला और वायो फिउल्स पर बातें हो रही हैं।

चित्र: ललितिया वुलाईसिंगन्दुआ



## परिचय के इरादे से दौरा की आयोजना

फीजी के लिए चुने गए अन्य देशों के प्रतिनिधियों को फीजी में व्यापार, पूंजी, खेल-कूद और टूरिज़्म के क्षेत्र में उपलब्ध मौकों के बारे में बताया गया। पिछले सप्ताह पहली बार सुवा में परिचय कराने के इरादे से एक सेमिनार की आयोजना की गई थी।

इसमें भाग लेने वालों का स्वागत करते हुए सुरक्षा तथा विदेश मंत्री इनिया सेरूडी रातु ने कहा कि फीजी में कई क्षेत्रों में मौके उपलब्ध हैं।

चित्र: एमि कोरेईतानोवा/ननिसे नडिमला



## मंत्री रेड्डी ने केन्द्रीय विभाग में खेतों का दौरा किया

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने पिछले सप्ताह केन्द्रीय विभाग के किसानों को बताया कि सरकार देश में किसानों की समस्याओं का सामाधान दृढ़ता से करेगी। बाउलेवू में किसानों से बातें करते हुए, मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि सरकार, किसानों की समस्याएँ सुलझाने के लिए उनके साथ मिलकर काम करेगी तथा उन्होंने कृषि क्षेत्र में कुछ जगहों पर सुधार लाने की जरूरत पर प्रकाश डाला। मंत्री ने किसानों को प्रोत्साहित किया कि वे खेतों को एक व्यापार की तरह देखें तथा वे दूसरों पर निर्भर न रहें।

चित्र: एरोनी बलीलो







# मंत्री रेड्डी ने केन्द्रीय विभाग में खेतों का दौरा किया



नउसोरी इलाकों में खेतों और पोल्ट्री फार्मस का दौरा करते हुए किसानों के साथ कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी चित्र: ननिसे नडमिला

रोनल देव

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने इसी सप्ताह केन्द्रीय विभाग के किसानों को बताया कि सरकार देश में किसानों की समस्याओं का समाधान ढूँढने की पूरी कोशिश करेगी।

दो दिनों तक खेतों और किसानों की योजनाओं का दौरा करते हुए मंत्री रेड्डी को, केन्द्रीय विभाग के किसानों की समस्याओं पर बात-चीत करने का मौका मिला।

वाउलेवू में किसानों से बातें करते हुए, मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि सरकार, किसानों की समस्याएं सुलझाने के लिए उनके साथ मिलकर काम करेगी तथा उन्होंने कृषि क्षेत्र में कुछ जगहों पर सुधार लाने की ज़रूरत पर प्रकाश डाला। मंत्री ने किसानों को प्रोत्साहित किया कि वे खेती को एक व्यापार की तरह देखें तथा वे दूसरों पर निर्भर न रहें।

“किसानी एक बेहतर रोज़गार है, और किसानों को खेती करने के तरीकों को बदलने की ज़रूरत है।

आपका खेत, आपका व्यापार है, हम नहीं चाहते हैं कि आप अपनी आमदनी किसी के साथ बाँटे, हम चाहते हैं कि किसान आगे बढ़ें, उत्पादन बढ़ाएं तथा व्यवसायिक कृषि की ओर बढ़ें,” मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने किसानों को आश्वासन दिया है कि मंत्रालय, सभी किसानों की मदद करता रहेगा खास करके उन किसानों की जो अपने खेतों को व्यापार की तरह संचालन करने में दिलचस्पी दिखा रहे हैं।

अगर किसान किसी उत्पादन की

खेती छोटी मात्रा में करना चाहते हैं तो वे अपने खर्च पर और अपने निजी समय में कर सकते हैं तथा मंत्रालय लगातार ऐसे किसानों के पीछे नहीं भाग सकता। देश के हित में है कि किसान, कृषि को एक व्यापार की तरह देखें,” डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने मंत्रालय के उच्च अधिकारियों के साथ केन्द्रीय विभाग में मुर्गी-पालन, डालों की खेती तथा अन्य कृषि उत्पादन करने वाले किसानों से मुलाकात की।

## लोगों से साथ मिलकर काम करने की माँग की गई

वीरन्द्र लाल

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरैडमी वांगान्म्वेते देश में स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं का दौरा कर रहे हैं ताकि स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में सुधार किया जाए और अपने आप को स्वस्थ रखने के प्रति लोगों को उनकी ज़िम्मेदारी से अवगत कराया जाए।

अपने दौरे पर मंत्री लोगों के साथ विचार विमर्श करते हैं कि किस तरह से लेप्टोस्पायरोसिस, टायफोइड और डेंगी जैसी बीमारियों पर काबु पाया जा सकता है।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री लोगों से अपने स्वास्थ्य तथा साफ और सुरक्षित वातावरण के लिए सभी से साथ मिलकर काम करने की माँग करते हैं।

“जबतक हम मिलकर इन विषयों को नहीं सुलझाएंगे, हम अपना लक्ष्य हासिल नहीं कर पायेंगे। मैं सभी से माँग करता हूँ कि मिलकर काम करें तथा एक साफ और सुरक्षित वातावरण कायम करें। जैसाकि कहावत है, “आप वही काटोगे जो बोगे,” तो सबको स्वस्थ रहने की दिशा में काम करना चाहिए”।

मंत्री लोगों से जीवन जीने के तरीकों में बदलाव करने की माँग कर रहे हैं जिससे उनके जीवन स्वस्थ रहे।

और स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने डाक्टरी सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए साईं मेडिकल टीम की कड़ी मेहनत को मान्यता देते हुए टीम को धन्यवाद दिया है।

साईं मेडिकल टीम कुछ सालों से फीजी का दौरा कर रही है और यहाँ मरीजों का मुफ्त में इलाज करती है।

## नए स्टोल्स के लिए सरकार की प्रशंसा

रोनल देव

एक नया मार्केट स्टोल मिलने से सावूसावू की एक वृद्ध महिला अब अच्छी सुविधा का आनन्द लेती हुई साग-भाजी बेच रही है।

लेवूका विलज की सालोते साउनाबुलु ने कहा कि पहले वो एक पुराने बस स्टोप पर सामान बेचा करती थी तथा गर्मी और मौसम खराब होने पर उन्हें बहुत सी मुसीबतें होती थी।

“चालिस साल पहले शादी के बाद से मैं रास्ते के पास साग-भाजी बेच रही हूँ तथा मैं बता नहीं सकती कि नया स्टोल मिलने से हम कितने खुश हैं,” साउनाबुलु ने कहा।

आठ बच्चों की इस माँ ने कहा कि उनके पति एक किसान हैं तथा पिछले कई सालों से वे साग-भाजी बेचकर अपना घर चलाने में अपने पति की मदद कर रही हैं।

हर सुबह उन्हें अपने घर से स्टोल



सरकार ने देश भर में जगह जगह पर इस तरह के स्टोल बनाकर लोगों को दिया है ताकि लोग अपने सामान आसानी से बेच सकें

तक आने में पंद्रह से बीस मिनट तक पैदल चलना पड़ता है तथा वो छः घण्टें अपने स्टोल पर बिताती हैं। रविवार को छोड़कर सप्ताह में छः दिन वो यही काम करती हैं।

“नया स्टोल मुझे तेज़ धूप तथा वर्षा से बचाएगा तथा इसके लिए मैं अन्य महिलाओं जिन्हें इस तरह

की सहायता मिली है की ओर से सरकार को धन्यवाद देना चाहती हूँ,” साउनाबुलु ने कहा।

इंडस्ट्री, टूरिज़्म और टूरिज़्म मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने कहा कि विक्रेताओं को अपना सामान बेचने के लिए उचित जगह देने के इरादे से नए स्टोल बनाए गए हैं।

“हम विश्वास करते हैं कि यह विक्रेता हमारी देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में योगदान देते हैं तथा उन्हें बेहतर स्टोल देने से यह लोग अपने लिए कमाने के साथ-साथ देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में योगदान देना जारी रखेंगे,” मंत्री कुमार ने कहा।

“मैं आयोजकों और स्वयं-सेवकों का स्वागत करता हूँ और उन्हें धन्यवाद देता हूँ। यह बहुत पुण्य का काम है। अपना समय निकालकर ज़रूरतमंदों को सेवा प्रदान करना, कोई मामुली बात नहीं है”।

डाक्टर इफेरैडमी वांगान्म्वेते स्वास्थ्य मंत्री

जब भी साईं मेडिकल टीम फीजी आती है, हर बार पाँच सौ (500) के आस-पास मरीजों का मुफ्त में इलाज़ करती है।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय अस्पतालों और हेल्थ सेन्टज़ में सुधार कर रहा है और बीमारियों के इलाज करने में तेज़ी लाने पर काम कर रहा है।



## चार लाख पेड़ बोए गए

रोनल देव

इस साल जनवरी से अभी तक चार लाख (400, 000) से ज्यादा पेड़ बोए गए हैं। जनवरी में राष्ट्रपति मइजा जेनरल (Ret'd) चोची कोन्रोते ने चार सालों में चार मिलियन पेड़ बोने वाली योजना का विमोचन किया था। फॉरेस्ट मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव, पेने नोनू बलई-नु-बूली ने हालही नान्दी में प्रशान्तीय नेताओं के पेड़ बोने वाले समारोह में इसकी घोषणा की। प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बइनिमारामा तथा नउरू के राष्ट्रपति बेरोन दिवावेसी ने पेड़ बोने में अन्य नेताओं की अगुवाई की तथा पर्मनन्ट सर्कटरी ने कहा कि इससे यह पता चलता है कि प्रशान्तीय नेता जलवायु परिवर्तन से लड़ने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। उन्होंने कहा मंत्रालय इस अभियान में समाज को भी शामिल करना चाहता है।

जनवरी में अभियान के विमोचन के बाद से फॉरेस्ट मंत्रालय के आकड़ों के अनुसार चार लाख (400, 000) से ज्यादा पेड़ बोए गए हैं जिनमें मेनगोव, देशी पेड़ तथा फल वाले पेड़ शामिल हैं।

उनके अनुसार मंत्रालय उन संस्थाओं, कोरो और समाज के लोगों को बीज देने के लिए तैयार है जो इन्हें बोना चाहते हैं। उन्होंने मुख्य अध्यापकों, प्रिंसीपल्स तथा अन्य सामाजिक नेताओं से माँग की कि वे विभिन्न फील्ड अफ़्सरों तथा मंत्रालय को संपर्क करें अगर वे इस योजना में शामिल होना चाहते हैं।

# भारत के आज़ादी दिवस पर प्रधान मंत्री ने दी बधाई



भारत के अपने दौर पर प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बइनिमारामा के साथ भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी चित्र:सप्लाईड

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बइनिमारामा ने पंद्रह अगस्त को भारत के तिहत्तरवी (73rd) आज़ादी दिवस के मौके पर भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी को बधाई का संदेश भेजा। प्रधान मंत्री बइनिमारामा ने बधाई के अपने संदेश में कहा कि यह सालगिरह, पूरी दुनिया के प्रजातंत्र के लिए गर्व का

दिन है जबकि भारत एक और मुकाम तक पहुँचने के लिए सबसे आगे चल रहा है। हमेशा की तरह लाल किले पर तिरंगा लहराते हुए प्रधान मंत्री मोदी ने राष्ट्र के नाम भाषण किया। प्रधान मंत्री बइनिमारामा ने कहा कि फीजी और भारत के बीच बहुत ही मजबूत रिश्ता है जोकि न केवल इतिहास में अंकित है बल्कि सहयोग और मजबूत संबंध की एक ठोस नींव

पर बनाया गया है। “फीजी और भारत के बीच व्यापार, पूँजी, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, शिक्षा, खेल, जलवायु परिवर्तन, नवीकरणीय उर्जा और संसाधन आधारित क्षेत्रों में सहयोग रहा है,” प्रधान मंत्री बइनिमारामा ने कहा। प्रधान मंत्री ने देश के छोटे-छोटे व्यापारियों की आर्थिक मदद करने के लिए भारत को धन्यवाद दिया जिससे कई आम फीजीवासियों की ज़िन्दगी में

सकारात्मक बदलाव हुए हैं। प्रधान मंत्री बइनिमारामा ने श्री मोदी को अपना समर्थन देना जारी रखने की पुष्टी की और कहा कि दोनों देशों के बीच साझा किए गए मूल्यों को मजबूत करने के लिए वे तत्पर हैं। भारत राजनीतिक संवाद के स्तर को बढ़ाने और फीजी-भारत के मजबूत रिश्ते के लिए निकट सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए, एक ठोस मंच के रूप में काम करना जारी रखेगी।

## विकलांग लोगों की बेहतरी के लिए काम करें-स्वास्थ्य मंत्री

रोनल देव

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वागाइनम्बेते ने जोर दिया है कि फीजीवासियों को साथ मिलकर समाज में पिछड़े हुए तथा विकलांग लोगों का समर्थन करते हुए उनके हित में काम करना चाहिए। वतुवांगा स्थित फीजी फामासिउटिकल्स एन्ड बायोमेडिकल सेविसस पर फी वीलचेयस फाउन्डेशन से वीलचेयर स्वीकार करते हुए मंत्री ने ऐसा कहा। “वीलचेयर की मदद से विकलांग लोग बिना किसी की मदद के इधर-उधर जा सकेंगे तथा उन्हें भी ज़िन्दगी जीने का अवसर मिलेगा। हम वीलचेयर फाउन्डेशन के अभारी हैं,” स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने कहा।



फी वीलचेयर फाउन्डेशन के सदस्यों से वीलचेयर स्वीकार करते हुए स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफेरईमी वागाइनम्बेते चित्र: सप्लाईड

वीलचेयर फाउन्डेशन ने स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को एक सौ दस (110) वीलचेयर दान में दिया है। स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने वीलचेयर फाउन्डेशन के काम की सहराना की और इसका स्वागत किया कि

संस्था ने स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर देश में वीलचेयर की ज़रूरत को पहचाना है। सन् दो हज़ार बारह (2012) से अभी तक वीलचेयर फाउन्डेशन, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को पाँच सौ

पचास (550) वीलचेयर दान में दे चुका है। सभी वीलचेयर देश भर में अलग-अलग हेल्थ सेन्टर, नर्सिंग स्टेशन तथा अस्पतालों में बाँट दिये गए हैं।





अटोनी जेनरल तथा इकोनोमी मंत्री अईयाज़ अईयद खईयूम माल्डीव्स के अटोनी जेनरल इबराहिम रिफथ से मुलाकात करते हुए। दोनों मंत्री हालही नतन्दोला में क्षेत्रिय लीगल अईड सम्मेलन में शामिल हुए थे चित्र: ललितिया वुलाईदाउसिंगा

## बच्चों पर बहुत दबाव न डालें - अई.जी

शेनल देव

माता-पिताओं से माँग की गई है कि वे अपने बच्चों पर उन क्षेत्रों में नौकरी करने के लिए दबाव न डालें जिनमें बच्चों की कोई दिलचस्पी नहीं है।

हालमें वोडाफोन लांगालांगा फामस कानिवल के दौरान अटोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने सभी माता-पिताओं से माँग की कि वे हर दिन अपने बच्चों के स्कूल के काम में मदद करने के लिए उनके साथ कम से कम दस मिनट बिताएं। “उन्हें अपना काम करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करें, सेकन्ड्री स्कूल, टेक्निकल कोलज या

युनिवर्सिटी जाने के लिए उन्हें प्रोत्साहित करें।

इसकी फीस सरकार भर रही है तथा हम जानते हैं कि अगर माता-पिता अपने बच्चों को प्रोत्साहित करेंगे तो वे और अच्छा काम दिखायेंगे,” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा।

“सभी लोग क्लास में पहला स्थान तो हासिल नहीं कर पायेंगे लेकिन उनके पास कुछ सीखने का जोश होगा।

माता-पिता होने के नाते उन्हें अपने बच्चों पर यह दबाव नहीं डालना चाहिए कि वे डाक्टर, वकील या इंजिनियर बनें। अगर आपके बच्चे सिलाई, कापेन्ट्री, प्लमिंग, बुनाई करने या कोई अन्य काम में माहिर हैं तो आपको उन्हें प्रोत्साहित

करना चाहिए कि वे अपना काम बेहतर ढंग से करें। इस तरह से हर एक फीजीवासी अपने पेशे में दिल लगाकर काम करेंगे।” सईयद खईयूम ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार यह ज़रूरी है कि युवा फीजीवासी, सरकार की मुफ्त शिक्षा सुविधा से फायदा उठाएं। इसके अलावा सरकार मुफ्त में टेक्स बुक्स दे रही है, तथा स्कूल तक आने-जाने के लिए भाड़ा भी मुफ्त है।

सरकार चाहती है कि बच्चे प्रायमरी स्कूल के बाद, सेकन्ड्री स्कूल और फिर टेशरी शिक्षा भी हासिल करें।