

FijiFocus



Payout delights

Josaia Driso, 63, of Nailaga, Ba, receives his share of payment from Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama. Mr Driso, a member of one of the 40 clans, shared \$7million in the Pine Lease Security

Bonus payout by Fiji Pine, at which PM Bainimarama recently officiated. Confined to a wheelchair, Mr Driso said the lease money and lease bonus payments were now being put to good use in terms

of improving their homes and sending their children to tertiary institutions. More on Lease payout on pages 5 and 10.

Photo: ISAAC LAL

‘TIME TO DELIVER’

PM makes wake-up call after concerns over projects

NANISE NEIMILA

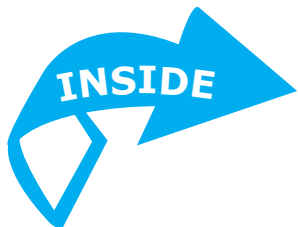
PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has directed Government officials in all divisions to ensure that all ongoing projects and pending government projects are completed on time.

This is after concerns raised during the talanoa session held at the recent Tailevu Provincial Council meeting at Nauluvatu Village, Nakelo, Tailevu. Prime Minister Bainimarama told the people of Tailevu to be firm as Government was working on improving people’s lives and would continue

to ensure development for Fijians around the country. “On the issues affecting our people, it is you who are on the frontlines helping realise our national priorities. Whether it is the health of Fijians, the management of our resources, an issue of economic empowerment, or

any issue relating to development, you are looked to as leaders,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said. “You must keep yourselves informed, you must carry important messages to every Fijian you repre-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



NEC CLIENTELE
UP TO 56K 15

LEASES SECURE
SETTLERS' FUTURE 13

WOMEN TRAINED TO FIX
SEWING MACHINES 12

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

Education is a very special and dear thing to the Government. We have made education free in Fiji. We now have access to tertiary education and we have subsidy for transportation amongst others. But the special schools also need special attention.

Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

NUMBERS

1443+
cases of injury
had been reported
to the Ministry
of Employment
in **2017** which
equals to **4329**
lost days for **2017**
or **361** lost days
per month.

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Stephen P. Groff (@spgroff)

Chair of 52nd Annual Meeting @ FijiAG invites all Governors to #ADBfiji 2019. First IFI annual meeting in a Pacific Island country. Bula vinaka! #ADBManila pic.twitter.com/QKFp9A6e7s

CONTACT

Publisher: Sharvada Sharma
Sub Editor: Prashila Devi
Manager Vernacular: Viliame Tikotani
North office: Level 3 Macuata House, Labasa
West office: Level 1 Ratu Nauliano House, Koroivalu

Contacts: Suva: 3301806 /
West: 6700086 / 9905965
North: 8811276 / 9905971
Fax: 3305139/3304663
news@govnet.gov.fj
@FijiRepublic
Fijian Government
visit us at www.fiji.gov.fj

Minister urges public safety focus

NATASHA BEGUM

PUBLIC Service Vehicle (PSV) drivers have been urged to put public safety at the forefront of their businesses.

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar sounded this reminder to all present at the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Fiji Van and Carrier Operators' Association in Nakasi last Wednesday.

Minister Kumar said the Government was committed to providing the best services and infrastructure to advance Fiji's public transport sector.

"Safe and reliable transportation system is critical to Fiji's economy ensuring that goods and people are transported in a safe manner,"

he said.

"Fiji has more road users that ever before and your Government is investing heavily in Fiji's infrastructure as part of its determination to grow our economy, and fulfil our vision for Fiji becoming a truly modern state."

On the same note, Minister Kumar highlighted that it was the responsibility of all Fijians to look after the facilities provided for the benefit of everyone.

"Play your own part of looking after infrastructure for the benefit of all users. We have also found that people are damaging government property such as signage and bus shelters and we will come down hard on those that are found doing so," he said.

Fiji has more road users that ever before and your Government is investing heavily in Fiji's infrastructure as part of its determination to grow our economy, and fulfil our vision for Fiji becoming a truly modern state.

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Parveen Kumar



National Adviser Family Health Dr Torika Tamani with Ministry of Health staff checking out supplies of the Men-C vaccine that arrived in the country last week. Photos: NANISE NEIMILA

Ministry procures Men-C vaccine

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Ministry of Health has procured more than 124,000 vaccines to vaccinate Fijians aged 19 years and below for prevention against the deadly meningococcal (Men-C) disease outbreak.

Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar said of the more than 124,000 vaccines procured at this stage, 63,000 Men-C doses arrived in the country, while the other 61,830 would arrive today and May 9 respectively.

With venues for the mass vaccination not confirmed yet, Minister Akbar said with the arrival of the vaccines,

immunisation campaign was planned to start on May 14.

"This (procurement) has been an intensive process, complicated by the fact that access to this stockpile is usually prioritised for outbreaks of meningococcal disease in the African Meningitis Belt, and for low-income countries (based on gross national income per capita – GNI) which Fiji is not," Minister Akbar said.

She said supplies of Men-C vaccines were limited on the world market and it would have been extremely difficult, and much costlier, to procure this massive amount of vaccine by any other means.

"The conjugate monova-

lent Men-C vaccine is safe and effective; it has been licensed for use in countries like Canada, United Kingdom and Australia since the late 1990s."

National Adviser Family Health Dr Torika Tamani said the decision by the ministry to roll out the mass vaccination for one to 19-year-olds was based on the consultations, extensive review of the international best practice for response to outbreaks of meningococcal disease.

This vaccination programme has the following objectives;

1) Protecting those most at risk of disease (children under the age of five, and teenagers);

2) Protecting those most at risk of dying from the disease (children under the age of five); and

3) Reducing spread of the disease by lowering the amount of people in the community that carry the bacteria, causing what is known as herd immunity.

Dr Tamani said the vaccination was not compulsory but the Ministry was urging parents utilise this assistance and ensure that their children were vaccinated.

"This vaccine is safe, like any vaccination programme injections will be just like any other injections given, child may have fever and redness around the injection areas."



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama shares a light moment at the recent Tailevu Provincial Council meeting held in Nauluvatu Village, Nakelo. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Fiji champions climate change battle

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI will lead the fight against climate change as champions for those vulnerable countries that have succumbed to the catastrophic phenomena.

This was message by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while speaking to people of Tailevu at the recent Tailevu Provincial Council meeting held in Nauluvatu Village, Nakelo.

Prime Minister Bainimarama spoke about his recent trip to London to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting.

He said the world needed to know what was happening in Fiji and how climate change was affecting our country and Small Island States in the Pacific.

“The world needed to be told what was happening in Fiji. They needed to know of the devastation we suffered from these most recent cyclones.

“They needed to be told of the experiences of our fellow Fijians who took a big hit during these storms, and of those we lost, and they needed to see the human face of climate change and the reality we face here in Fiji,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“They needed to know these things be-



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while speaking to people of Tailevu at the recent Tailevu Provincial Council meeting held in Nauluvatu Village, Nakelo.

Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

cause, unfortunately, the experts tell us storms like Cyclones Evan, Winston, Josie and Keni are only going to become stronger in the years ahead because of the worsening effects of climate change. So, no matter how well we respond to these storms the threat we face is only becoming more severe.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fiji would lead from the front on climate

change.

“It isn’t only thinking about what happens tomorrow. It’s about considering what will happen years, even decades from now, and doing what needs to be done honestly and with a vision to make sure our people are ready for what is to come, ready for the challenges on the horizon and ready for the opportunities coming our way.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama urged the members of the council to serve the people of Tailevu and not to dwell on their own personal gains.

“Here in Tailevu, we’ve battled back from the devastation brought by Cyclone Winston two years ago, we’ve opened new roads and infrastructure, the Government has extended important government services, we’ve brought the great benefits of electric power to more communities and we’ve laid a foundation for future development that will support the ambitions of your province for years to come.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama stressed this to the council members who wielded great influence on their communities and were very important partners of the Government.

*PM:
Time to
deliver*

FROM PAGE 1

sent, you must speak up, you must always speak the truth and always reject lies. It is in this spirit of talanoa, Government is here to listen, we are here to learn from the lessons and experiences you’ve acquired and we are here to deliver for you and your people.” Divisional Commissioner Central Setaresi Tale told the leaders present at meeting that all issues discussed at the provincial meeting should be followed up and for them to not wait for the next meeting to take action.

“The Government will continue to provide the services and the work on the projects that has been earmarked for the province,” Mr Tale said.

“We cannot bring issues from the last meeting to this year’s meeting, we cannot dwell on last year’s projects. It’s your duty as leaders to follow on the projects of your villages.”

Mr Tale reminded the leaders that Government was working to build a better Fiji where the whole of Tailevu and all Fijians around the country will have an equal opportunity in growing the economy.

The issues brought up during the talanoa session ranged from water problems, upgrading of roads, footpaths being constructed in the village and other assistance.

Major facelift for health facilities

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services has continued with infrastructural refurbishments for health facilities in the Northern Division in a bid to enhance its services.

This was highlighted by the Assistant Health Minister Alex O’Connor as he continued visits to 25 health centres and nursing stations in the Northern Division last week.

Assistant Minister O’Connor observed that while some ren-

ovation works had been completed, others were nearing completion before the end of the fiscal year.

The ministry continues to monitor its renovation work to ensure that anticipated maintenance work is achieved within the set timelines.

Some of the refurbishment work undertaken includes maintenance work for health centres and staff quarters.

Assistant Minister O’Connor said that the much-needed

maintenance works would boost health care services for staff and patients.

While meeting Northern Division health staff, he thanked them for their dedication to their roles in providing the health services for rural and maritime areas.

“We will continue to work towards improving the health facilities so that the healthcare services are lifted and the staff can work in a more conducive environment,” he said.

“The Health Ministry remains fully committed to enhance the quality of the health services through the ongoing maintenance and renovations work to refurbish the health facilities around Fiji.”

The visit motivated Ministry of Health staff in the Northern Division and they had the opportunity to discuss the challenges they faced and way forward to improve the health services.

news@govnet.gov.fj



Grant sews way to success

ISAAC LAL

YOUNG Esther Joy Frances has been helping her mother in her tailoring business run from home since completing school but the mother-daughter duo can now advance their small business.

This expansion will be done through the assistance of the Government's Small and Micro Enterprise (SME) grant.

The young woman from Lomolomo Village in Lautoka said with the grant she would be able to purchase a new sewing machine and other accessories to be able to further expand her mum's business.

"I applied for the grant and am so grateful to the Government for having listened to my prayers and for assisting me," she said.

"Now I will be able to buy another machine, materials and other items and I will open a

shop for me and mum soon to extend our business."

Ms Frances said since leaving school she had been helping her mother, Susana Nagale, who sews in the village.

"As I continue helping my mother, I realised that we could run a successful business if we team up."

She was one of the 539 successful applications who received the \$1,000 grants from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism recently which was handed over by line Minister Faiyaz Koya.

In handing over the grants to the recipients, Minister Koya said the Government remained committed to the SME sector and will continue to assist Fijians who want to become business entrepreneurs.

"The scheme also serves as a platform for graduating informal micro and small operators into the formal sector and this will assist Government policy mak-

ers in formulating policies that will ensure growth in our SME sector," he said.

"Your Government is working overtime to increase the MSME sector's contribution towards the Fijian Gross Domestic Product. Pro-growth initiatives such as the MSBG are catalyst to boost the MSME sector's contribution to the GDP."

The SME sector, Minister Koya reiterated was a critical sector in every country's economy as the sector is a vital contributor towards job creation, linkages to larger industries and generates economic activities in communities and the nation as a whole.

Another recipient, Darren Gibson, 48, has been fishing and also selling fish for the upkeep of his family.

He is well known around the Fisheries Wharf in Lautoka and plans to buy a chest freezer to bolster his business.



Esther Joy Frances is one of the 539 successful applications who received the \$1000 grants from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism recently which was handed over by line Minister Faiyaz Koya.
Photo: ISAAC LAL



Relief aid delights farmers

Sixty-one-year-old Tota Pratap of Malolo Transmitter Road in Nadi, says his farm is near the river and because of debris and silt, most of his sugarcane crops and vegetable farms on his six-acre piece of land suffers major damages. Photo: PRIYANKA LAL



I have seen a lot of floods, tropical cyclones and other natural disasters and have seen response of other governments. We are pleased with the response of this government as the ration distribution and other assistance by the Government have been very timely.

Sixty-one year-old famer, Tota Pratap

PRIYANKA LAL, RONAL DEO

"THIS is the first Government to my knowledge which has attempted to provide quick assistance to the farmers to greatly assist them to get back on their feet."

This was the comment by 61-year-old Tota Pratap of Malolo Transmitter Road in Nadi, who was reacting to the announcement made by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama on a comprehensive relief package - the Cyclone Assistance Relief Effort for Fiji or CARE for Fiji - to assist Fijians recover from the effects of Tropical Cyclone Josie and

Ken.

"I have seen a lot of floods, tropical cyclones and other natural disasters and have seen response of other governments. We are pleased with the response of this government as the ration distribution and other assistance by the Government have been very timely," Mr Pratap said.

He said his farm was near the river and because of debris and silt, most of his cane crops and vegetable farms on his six-acre piece of land suffered major damage.

"Last year I harvested almost 200 tonnes of sugarcane. This year I was hoping the same. However, because of flood-

ing, the cane crop and vegetable farm were damaged," Mr Pratap said.

He has lauded the Government's effort where vegetable farmers who lost 90 per cent of their crops would be assisted through the Ministry of Agriculture.

He said all farmers affected by these cyclones would be provided with new seedlings and dry seeds, along with dalo tops and root crop suckers for free.

Mr Pratap added that another piece of good news was that the Government would pay 12 months of due lease payments for those affected Fijians who are leasing iTaukei or State

land for residential or agricultural purposes.

He added they are feeling relieved that under the Sugarcane Care the Government would directly assist cane farmers affected by these storms by covering the cost of replacing fertiliser that was washed away for all cane that was planted between November of last year until now.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Sugar has issued a directive to all sugar stakeholders including Fiji Sugar Corporation, Sugarcane Growers Council, Sugar Research Institute of Fiji, Sugar Industry Tribunal to give a report to the ministry on the extent of the damages.

Ministry permanent secretary Yogesh Karan said the initial reports they received shows that many uprooted trees, debris and silt ended up in the farms.

This blocked rivers, streams and drains near the farms.

He said an initial approximate assessment showed that because of Tropical Cyclone Josie five per cent of cane crops were damaged while TC Keni caused 10 per cent damage.

Mr Karan said these figures would change after they received the full reports from sugar stakeholders.



Payout delights landowners

JOSAIA RALAGO

SEVENTY-THREE-year-old Peni Bolatini was one of the many elated landowners who gathered at Vesidrua Village in Seaqaqa, Macuata, to receive their bonus payout from the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

More than 300 people from the provinces of Bua and Macuata, who represented their Mataqali to receive their bonus payout, were present at the event last week.

Mr Bolatini of Mataqali Naicobo, Nawailevu village in Bua said this money would be distributed within their Mataqali, most of which they invest for various agricultural activities that includes livestock farming and the purchasing of land for farming.

“We are grateful to the Government for this as it would help us improve our livelihood. Our Mataqali has engaged in this pine venture when it started in Vanua Levu and this is one of the largest payout we have received,” he added.

And while addressing the recipients, the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said that there has been a lot of improvement witnessed in the pine industry for landowners.

He said this included the hike in their bonus payout per hectare which used to be 50 cents per hectare compared to the \$168 rate they now enjoyed.

Prime Minister Bainimarama applauded the chairman and the Board of Directors of the Fiji Pine Group for their wise management of the

institution.

He said the institution was now debt free as of 30th April, 2018 after they made their last loan payment of \$4.4 million dollars to a financial institution.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also urged these landowners to continue engaging in this venture as it was a good source of income for their families and their Mataqali.

Fiji Pine Group chairman Faiz Khan said that approximately \$2.8 million dollars were handed out to various landowning units in the provinces of Bua and Macuata.

A total of 259 cheques were handed out.

Prime Minister Bainimarama was on a two-day visit to Northern Division last week.

We are grateful to the Government for this as it would help us improve our livelihood.

Our Mataqali has engaged in this pine venture when it started in Vanua Levu and this is one of the largest payout we have received

Seventy-year-old Peni Bolatini

PM directs bridge repair



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with members of the public living in Korotari, Labasa. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

JOSAIA RALAGO

MEMBERS of the public living in Korotari, Labasa, will soon be able to use their suspension bridge after it was partly damaged during Tropical Cyclone Keni last month.

This was confirmed to the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and residents by the Fiji Roads Authority during a field inspection by the Head of Government and his delegation.

Korotari Advisory Councilor Satish Chand said travelling to town and back has been really difficult for the 1200 people that use this facility after it became inaccessible for members of the public.

The delegation was also informed by the FRA chief executive officer Jonathan Moore that they planned to construct a

bridge for the vehicles and people as a permanent solution for their travelling issues.

This was received well by the community who has applauded the Government for continuing to address their needs.

“We would like to thank you for being here, for thinking of us and for listening to our grievances,” Mr Chand told the Prime Minister.

Prime Bainimarama while at the site, advised the Fiji Roads Authority to attend to the suspension bridge as soon as possible because students used it to get to school.

An engineering team from the FRA was expected to be in Labasa to scout the work that needed to be done.

Prime Minister Bainimarama was on a two-day visit to Northern Division last week.



Fiji Roads Authority chief executive officer Jonathan Moore with Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during a field inspection by the Head of Government and his delegation. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has commended the Sai Prema Foundation for sharing the Government's vision in providing Fijians the tools and resources to enjoy healthier and happier lives.
Photo: PRIYANKA LAL

PM extols foundation's work

PRIYANKA LAL

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has commended the Sai Prema Foundation for sharing the Government's vision in providing Fijians the tools and resources to enjoy healthier and happier lives.

The foundation recently opened its \$1.5 million medical facility, the new Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Medical Centre in Nasese, Suva.

While speaking at the opening, Prime Minister Bainimarama said the organisation was an invaluable partner to the Fijian Government as it assisted the underprivileged and needy in accessing expensive health care services for free.

"Through your Gift of Life programme in August 2016, you provided critical surgeries to 23 Fijian children here in Fiji, and were able to send another three overseas to undergo other surgical procedures. You've also brought an international team of doctors to Fiji in April who carried out free cardiac surgeries for 27 children," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

In the past 18 months, the Sai Prema Foundation assisted 40 children through free heart surgeries which cost more than \$4 million.

Other major initiatives of the foundation included medical scholarships to train Fiji-based doctors, serving the rural Fijian population through

regular free medical camps, free food and clothing to poor families, blood collection drives, looking after the needs of orphaned children as well as disaster or need response initiatives.

The new medical centre, built on a piece of land donated by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, will be managed by the Foundation's medical director Dr Krupali Tappoo.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said such public-private partnerships in the health sector will help expand the reach of medical services for Fijians.

"We are also pursuing a public-private partnership at the moment to massively develop and upgrade the Ba and Lautoka Hospitals.

"That PPP project alone will bring

higher quality health services to around 380,000 Fijians. We are also very excited that it will make open heart surgeries available 24/7 right here in Fiji," PM Bainimarama added.

Sai Prema Foundation chairman and founding trustee, Mahendra Tappoo also announced the establishment of a children's heart hospital next to the newly-built medical centre.

"Immediate planning and development of a children's heart hospital next to the medical center will offer heart surgeries for the children of Fiji and the South Pacific free of cost," Mr Tappoo said.

The project would be undertaken in association with the Sai Sanjeevani Hospital in India.

Gift of life for mum, son

PRIYANKA LAL

KAVITA Karishma is a single parent who works part-time as a house help to earn a living and barely makes ends meet.

So when the news of her son suffering from a serious heart defect was relayed to her, it struck her down. The last thing on her mind was to lose her only hope, her son.

These days, the 33-year old from Narere on the outskirts of Suva City could only recount her tears of joy after her son was given a new lease of life following a successful heart operation.

Her six year old son, Ansh was diagnosed with congenital heart defect in 2013 and was one of the 27 children from Fiji who received medical treatment through the joint efforts of Sai Prema Foundation and the Fijian Health Ministry.

Both Kavita and Ansh are now able to live a normal life like the other 26 families

assisted through this cooperation that saw doctors from India undertake free heart surgeries at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital.

"I came to know about Ansh's heart condition when he was one year six months old. He was playing at home and fainted so we brought him to the CWM Hospital children's ward and the doctor informed us that he had a hole in his heart and lungs. His valves were also not functioning well," Kavita said.

"An overseas doctor came and said Ansh was underweight and anaemic, and they would not be able to do the surgery. He said this could lead to heart failure but God answered my prayers when the Indian doctors came and did the operation."

Kavita adds that the Gift of Life initiative of the Sai Prema Foundation was nothing less than a miracle.

"Collecting \$37,000 for the surgery was impossible for me because I don't have that

kind of money. The doctors from India assured me not to lose hope and that they would bring back my son after the surgery.

"I am very happy to see my son play and be happy like other children, especially after doctors informed of his 50 per cent chance of survival and that he would die of heart failure at any time," Kavita added.

Children between the ages of two months and 14 years had undergone open heart surgeries last month per-

formed by the doctors from Sai Sanjeevani Hospital in India.



Kavita Karishma with her son, Ansh, at the newly-opened Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Medical Centre at Nasese, Suva Photo: PRIYANKA LAL



Fijian high-level Climate Champion and Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Inia Seruiratu (middle) shares his story during the opening plenary session for the Talanoa Dialogue in Bonn, Germany, as UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa and COP23 chief negotiator Luke Daunivalu look on. Photo: ERONI VALILI

A tale of vulnerability

PRASHILA DEVI

EXPOSURE to the devastating Tropical Cyclone Winston and a series of cyclones has resulted in a heightened sense of vulnerability among our people. Fijian high level Climate Champion and Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Inia Seruiratu told the opening Plenary for the Talanoa Dialogue in Bonn, Germany, last week the story of how Fijians have become better versed in coping with

disasters. Minister Seruiratu, while speaking on the devastation natural disasters bring to a small nation like Fiji and other Pacific Island States, brought to the fore the changing attitude of Fijians towards protecting themselves from these catastrophes. “In the past years, it sometimes took convincing to have people leave their homes. But this is not so much the case now,” he said. “When cyclone warnings were broadcast across the islands early this year, families in threatened areas quickly organised themselves

and moved to evacuation centres.” Minister Seruiratu said another dimension of vulnerability becomes obvious when boys and girls, men and women coming together under one roof in an evacuation centre, subject to open communal living. “While families are protected from the elements outside, we also have to ensure their safety and security under such conditions. This is just one example of the multifaceted impacts such disasters cause,” he said. Minister Seruiratu said two years after TC Winston, which caused damage and

devastation costing one third of the annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and took the lives of 44 citizens, Fijians continue to grapple with the effects of natural disasters that defy the definitions and expectations. “Early last month Category 1 Cyclone Josie swept through parts of the Fiji, bringing with her torrential rain, in volumes greater than the Category five Cyclone Winston in 2016,” he said. “(TC) Josie struck Fiji less than a month after Cyclone Gita grazed our islands, and was followed closely by cyclone Keni just eight days later.”



Fijian Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Jone Usamate with other Pacific island leaders during the Secretariat of the Pacific Community’s High-level Gathering on Biodiversity and Climate Change in Noumea, New Caledonia Photo: SUPPLIED

Emission cuts ‘inadequate’

PRASHILA DEVI

THE current Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) towards achieving the targets set out in the Paris Agreement are inadequate, says Fijian Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Jone Usamate. He says the world needs “deeper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions- much deeper” to be able to address the gravity of the threat climate change brings with it. Speaking at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community’s

High-level Gathering on Biodiversity and Climate Change in Noumea, New Caledonia, last Friday, Minister Usamate said this was why Fiji was taking its Talanoa dialogue to push for tougher stance. “The commitments that have been made under the Paris Agreement, the Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs, to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, fall woefully short of the mark,” he said. “Instead of limiting the rise of global temperature to 1.5 degrees, they could in fact allow warming of at least 3 degrees by the end of the century. And that would spell untold suffering for our planet. For humans, animals, plants ... all living things.” Minister Usamate said this

was why the link between biodiversity, climate change and the health of the oceans was important as they were “inextricably linked and we need a holistic approach to confronting the magnitude of the challenge we face”. He said it was well known that in the Pacific the coral reefs are dying and this happened even at the current level of warming of one degree so imagine when the world was three degrees warmer by the 2100. “Human beings would regularly suffer heat stress, more illness and food and water shortages. Indeed, more nations would go to war in the struggle for food and water,” Minister Usamate said. “And vast numbers of cli-

mate refugees would be created, posing a direct threat to the global economic and social order.” He said while a country like Fiji was striving to build its own resilience to the frightening new era, it was also addressing the root causes of these events through its leadership of the global climate negotiations, 23rd sessions of the Conference of Parties (COP23). “We very much see this as a Pacific Presidency, and the Prime Minister has asked me to again appeal to you all to join Fiji in our collective struggle to draw global attention to the importance of the fight against climate change,” Minister Usamate said.



PROMOTING THE HUMAN RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE ACTION

INCLUSIVITY is a critical component in global climate action program, says the 23rd session of Conference of Parties chief negotiator Ambassador Luke Daunivalu. Speaking at a side event on Promoting the Human Right to Participation in Climate Action in Bonn, Germany, Mr Daunivalu said the Fijian Presidency has stressed from the very start the critical importance of inclusiveness in the global climate action program. “We are all in the same canoe, and an effective response to climate change must involve every single person on earth. All ages, all nationalities, all backgrounds. Because only by working together, as one world, can we confront the magnitude of the task before us.” Mr Daunivalu highlighted that the Talanoa Dialogue gave everyone a genuine voice in this climate process as it promoted the human right to participation.

GENDER ACTION PLAN

THE COP23 Fijian Presidency Team places great priority in the Gender Action Plan as women are a critical and important part of the solution when it comes to climate change. COP23 Presidency representative, Timaima Vakadewabuka made this remark during the Gender Breakfast hosted by Fiji in Bonn, Germany last week. “We have a fundamental belief in leaving no one behind and that is the basis of all our policies in Fiji and everything we pursue in our relations with the world at large. While every single person on the planet is affected by climate change, we know that women must be a critically important part of the solution because of our role as powerful agents for change in our societies.”

SUVA EXPERT DIALOGUE ON LOSS AND DAMAGE

Fiji places great importance on the issue of loss and damage for the sake of our people, our Pacific neighbours, and the billions of other climate vulnerable people throughout the world. COP23 chief negotiator Ambassador Luke Daunivalu, speaking at the Suva Expert Dialogue on Loss and Damage in Bonn, Germany, said Fiji was on the front line of climate threat. Mr Daunivalu had urged those present to focus on how they, as a global community could respond effectively to extreme weather events, along with rising seas, changes to agriculture and other increasingly unavoidable impacts of climate change. “The Fijian Presidency places high importance on what is happening here today, which builds on the achievements at COP23 relating to loss and damage. “These include the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer and the InsuResilience Global Partnership, generously supported by Germany and the UK, which aims to bring affordable insurance and other financial protection to millions of vulnerable people around the world. This was a great achievement, but we need to do more.”

- news@govnet.gov.fj



International Symposium on Sustainable Infrastructure

President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote officiated at the International Symposium on Sustainable Infrastructure held at the Grand Pacific Hotel last week. Speaking at the opening ceremony, President Konrote said because of changing climatic conditions experienced around the globe, today's infrastructure was widely affected.

The symposium involved more than 300 participants from more than 30 countries covering Africa, Europe, Asia and the Pacific.

President Konrote shared Fiji's experience of Tropical Cyclone Winston displacing close to 45,000 Fijians with \$3billion spent after the devastation.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Outrigger Walk for Kids fundraising drive



Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum was at the recent Outrigger Walk for Kids fundraising drive to collect money for projects at the Sigatoka School for Special Education and Conua District School in Sigatoka. The projects entail the purchase of a four-wheel drive vehicle needed for the special school's rural outreach programme and the construction of teachers' quarters at Conua District School. "Education is a very special and dear thing to the Government. We have made education free in Fiji. We now have access to tertiary education and we have subsidy for transportation among

others. But the special schools also need special attention," the A-G said. Sigatoka School for Special Education head teacher Asenaca Sukunatabua said the assistance would help them address transportation problems for the students. "The new vehicle will allow us to visit students from the highlands who are not able to come to school. Last year, we raised \$15,666 and this year Outrigger wants to finish off the payment of \$72,000," Mrs Sukunatabua said.

Photos: AZARIA FAREEN





Praise for Govt, Fiji Pine



Josaia Driso, 63, of Nailaga, Ba, waves to the crowd during the distribution of Pine Lease Security Bonuses by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama. Photo: ISAAC LAL

ISAAC LAL

THE Government input in the Fiji Pine Limited Group has not gone unnoticed and landowners have openly applauded its role in the turnaround the industry has undergone in the past seven years.

Nailaga, Ba, villager Josaia Driso, 63, said, "From the brinks of being bankrupt to a sustainable and profitable company in seven years is a remarkable achievement".

Mr Driso was a member of one of the 40 clans who shared \$7million in Pine Lease Security Bonus payout by Fiji Pine in which Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently officiated.

"There was a time when landowners were hesitant to lease our land to Fiji

Pine because there were no benefits, but this has changed over the last few years as we are now seeing real progress in the industry," he said.

"This positive progress by the company has seen landowners get what they deserve and now we are happy that our land is being utilised well."

He thanked the management of Fiji Pine, adding that good leadership has seen unwavering support from landowners.

"We are happy with Government and I thank the Prime Minister for putting together a wonderful board and management together that we are now seeing the fruits off," Mr Driso said.

Mr Driso who is now restricted to a wheelchair said the lease money and

lease bonus payments were now being put into good use.

"We are now improving our homes in the village and are able to send our children to tertiary institutions. We are able to invest in businesses and have kept aside a portion for our future generations."

Fiji Pine executive chair Faiz Khan said the turnaround by the industry would not have been possible without Government assistance.

"Landowners we hope that these returns are put to good use for your communities as a whole.

"We have set up a number of booths at the back that offer you some options to invest your monies for long term returns. Choose your investments and expenditure wisely."

Workplace injuries a concern

ISAAC LAL

INJURIES sustained at workplaces around the country continue to be a key area of concern as the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations recorded more than 1400 such cases in 2017.

The line Minister Jone Usamate made the revelation at the World Occupational Health and Safety Day celebrations in Lautoka recently.

"Workplace injuries continue to be a concern for my Ministry with a total of 1443 injury cases reported to the ministry in 2017 which equals to 4,329 lost days for 2017 or 361 lost days per month," he said.

"My Ministry continues to work with all stakeholders, such as employers, workers and government departments to ensure that we all strive to reduce accidents in the workplace and make it safe and health-oriented."

He urged workers and employers to further ensure and actively participate and promote better reporting of fatal and non-fatal injuries which would assist the Ministry in facilitating resources.

Minister Usamate also raised the issue of workplace fatalities which was seven in 2017, a decrease from nine in 2015.

"Even though health and safety working conditions and standards has undergone a lot of improvements following the introduction of the reformed OHS (Occupational Health and Safety) law, there are still areas of challenge for my Ministry," he said.

"These challenges are in the areas of promoting and educating on OHS at the enterprise or workplace level and we have encouraged owners of workplaces to ensure early resolution of OHS issues and complaints to reduce serious accidents and fatalities in the workplace and implement risk control measures early."

\$1m river rehab project

ISAAC LAL

A MAJOR rehabilitation project for Sigatoka River adjacent to Sigatoka Town has begun in an effort to mitigate the erosion threat to the town.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Parveen Kumar officiated at the ground breaking project of close to \$1million that would reduce flooding of the town.

"The Government has identified this as a potential environmental threat," Minister Kumar said.

"The erosion of the Sigatoka River has posed a significant threat to the town and the erosion had contributed to significant flooding over the years," he said.



Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Parveen Kumar during the ground-breaking ceremony of the rehabilitation project near the Sigatoka River. Photo: ISAAC LAL

Minister Kumar said with the recent extreme weather patterns affecting Fiji over the past few years, flooding would increase in most parts of the country.

"The Sigatoka River bank

project is part of the action on the ground to mitigate against such events."

The project would result in the protection and enhancement of approximately 200 metres of river bank.

"The project will begin from the old bridge, moving upstream to the creek besides the Tappoos building."

The project is fully funded by Government with a budget of \$890,000.



Praise for pilots' retrieval

JOSAIA RALAGO

“THE recovery of the bodies of the two deceased aviators was not an easy feat and I salute these officers for their bravery.”

Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar

while commending firefighters who responded to the Cessna plane crash rescue earlier this year.

Pacific Flying School instructor Iliesa Tawalo and student 20-year-old Merelesita Lutu were flying the ill-fated Cessna 172 when the incident occurred.

“When I was briefed about the rescue I realised how

brave these officers were,” Minister Kumar said.

“It was no easy task and I salute the rescue team and in recognising these officers, I also pay tribute to their training and to their commanding officers.”

Minister Kumar said these heroes responded beyond the call of duty and successfully carried out their work.

One of the officers, Norman Francis, who lifted the bodies from the wreckage, said it was an experience that still haunts them to this day.

“I am grateful to the Government for recognising our sacrifices and our efforts.”

The six officers were each given a certificate of recognition.



Minister for Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy toured Labasa and inspected floodgates that were undergoing renovation works. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

Families praise flood mitigation efforts

JOSAIA RALAGO

FAMILIES living in flood-prone areas in Labasa praised the Ministry of Waterways for the improvements they experienced through their works.

Residents of Qelewaqa, Soasoa and Vunika have testified to the impact of the work done that has kept their homes and farms flood free in recent wet weather.

In his most recent tour to the Northern Division, the line Minister Dr Mahendra Reddy visited these areas to check on the projects and to get feedback from the residents.

Gyan Wati, 68, of Qelewaqa was all smiles as she greeted the team and lauded them for improving the drainage systems next to her house.

Ms Wati said she appreciated the work that the Ministry had done because her compound which was usually inundated with flood waters during rainy spells was now flood free.

Nirmala Wati of Soasoa echoed similar sentiments saying that the widening



Minister for Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy inspects a floodgate at Wailevu. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

of the drain next to their home has kept compounds and homes safe from flood waters for residents in the area.

“Whenever there is a heavy rain, it is a must we will get flooded but we are thankful to the Ministry of Waterways for ensuring that we are not as vulnerable to floods as we used to be,” Ms Wati said.

“It is great to see that some of the problems that we have been facing for more than a decade getting addressed by this Government,” Surend Chand of Siberia, Labasa said.

Mr Chand said their area was one of the worst hit areas during flood but a lot of improvement has been experienced after the Ministry attended to the drainage. Minister Reddy said that for the past three months and two parliamentary sessions, massive amount of awareness have been raised and peoples thinking has now changed.

He said people were using the term “waterways” and recognised the importance of the work that they carried out.

Minister Reddy was in Labasa for two days.

Litter leads to drainage problem

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE Minister for Waterways Dr Mahendra Reddy has expressed his concern on the amount of household rubbish and debris that accumulates at floodgates causing damage to the infrastructure.

Minister Reddy, who was on Vanua Levu last month, visited some of the floodgates in Labasa that were going under some renovation works and called on members of the public to be more responsible.

He said it was rubbish and debris that damaged the floodgates, requiring renovation works which costs \$6,000 to \$7,000 per floodgate to repair.

“Going forward we will develop measures, punitive as well as find ways to change the behaviour of households, to avoid throwing rubbish in rivers, creeks and drains. This is not only confined to this area, we have noticed these kinds of behaviour in the Western Division as well,” Minister Reddy said.

He also visited the main floodgate in the Soasoa area which was badly littered.

“This is a very costly exercise, a floodgate of this size (Soasoa floodgate) to repair costs us close to \$60,000 to \$70,000. We cannot do this every year or on a quarterly basis just because of carelessness and irresponsible behaviour of households.”

Minister Reddy said they would not be able to address flooding issues if people continued to throw rubbish into the creeks, drains and rivers.

He added said it was also because of this that they have blocked access to some of the roads leading to floodgates to members of the public who did not need to be in the area.

Minister Reddy said even people who use these catchments for fishing often left the floodgates open using timber, causing saltwater intrusion to nearby farms during high tide.

He added that they would also try to find measures that held these people responsible and would ensure that they face the full brunt of the law.

Wailevu cane farmer, Shri Krishna said these exercises ensured that he has a better yield next year.

“I have a farm of 25 acres, and four acres in total would be affected every year from the saltwater that seeps into my farm. I am grateful to the Ministry of Waterways for carrying out this work as it would mean a better yield,” Mr Krishna said.



Expo empowers women

PRASHILA DEVI

THE women's expo has given a boost to women's economic empowerment because it helps them realise the monetary value of their labour.

With the 4th Fiji National Women's Expo around the corner, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa said providing such platforms to women helps them in their economic empowerment but ultimately it is much more than just about the money.

"It is about women who until expo came about were just doing these activities- these artwork- for customary obligations, which was fine as she was doing that for her family but having a

dollar value attached to that has empowered these women," Minister Vuniwaqa said.

"It would empower anyone who knows that your work has that dollar value that is so important in the economy."

She highlighted how in the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Report under the Gender Inequality Index (GII) Fiji still has some work to do in terms bridging the gap because on a scale of zero to one, it still sits on 0.4.

"We know we have some work to do on that so the women's expo is very important in that aspect as well- boosting the economic empowerment of our women," Minister Vuniwaqa said.

This year the expo will be held at the FMF National Gymnasium from June

21-23, 2018 with more than 300 artisans and craftswomen expected to provide a wide selection of items including bric-a-brac, fruit preserves, mats and tapas at a reasonable price.

Minister Vuniwaqa said the expo had grown from "strength to strength" since its inception in 2014 due to the massive support from customers who have turned up in numbers over the years which resulted in close to \$500,000 being collected in sales last year.

"It is economically empowering but we are also bringing them out of their comfort zones to Suva where we run financial literacy programmes for them. We bring in the banks and some of them we even open their bank accounts because some of them never even had a bank account," she said.

Must Read

GII shows the loss in potential human development due to disparity between female and male achievements in two dimensions, empowerment and economic status, and reflects a country's position relative to normative ideals for the key dimension of women's health. Overall, the GII reflects how women are disadvantaged in these dimensions.

(Source: UNDP)

Women trained to fix sewing machines

KELERA SOVASIGA

THE woman behind it all. Timaima Pita, originally from Bua, Vanua Levu, could not hold back her excitement as she witnessed 33 enthusiastic women from around Fiji walk through the doors of the Pacific Theological College to attend a three day workshop on Sewing, Pattern Drafting and Sewing Machine Maintenance.

Being a retired Home Economics teacher, the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation has laid its trust and support in her to run and manage the Sewing Machine Project for the past 13 years.

"Most of these women have little skill knowledge on sewing machine maintenance which becomes expensive for them when they have to get it fixed by professional technicians, so this upskill training will equip them to have sufficient skills to maintain these sewing machines by themselves and help teach other women in their individual communities," Ms Pita said.

The participants were given the opportunity to be trained so as to venture into income generating projects that will at the same time empower Fijian women into a livelihood program through their registration with the Ministry.

"Being the only Project trainer in the whole of Fiji, I am pleased that the Ministry has introduced such initiatives in which trainers teach trainees who will then be able to impart these skills to the rest of the

women in their communities hence earn money for themselves and their families," Ms Pita said.

The line Minister Mereseini Vuniwaqa said, "This workshop is to basically train women to be able to train other women in empowering them to fix and maintain sewing machine which is a challenge the Ministry is currently facing".

She highlighted how such initiatives provide an opportunity for women to develop project management skills and embark on social entrepreneurship whereby they are able to employ other women with them in their income generating programs.

Maca Vakasigaleka, a participant of the workshop, had travelled all the way from Domoikavu village, in Cakaudrove to be part of this workshop.

"I have sewing skills but I know very little about the maintenance of the machine when it needs repairing so I believe this training will boost our skills not only for us women here today but those back in our communities who we will share this knowledge with," Mrs. Vakasigaleka said.

A mother of one, she also runs a sewing business back in her village that rakes in about \$70 on a daily basis and is willing to teach women who are interested in learning about sewing and the maintenance of the sewing machines.

Her message to other women is to not to shy away from their skills which can be a good source of income for their individual families.



Maca Vakasigalevu and Mesela Vave during the three-day workshop on Sewing, Pattern Drafting and Sewing Machine Maintenance. Photo: JOELI VUETI



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa at the Sewing, Pattern Drafting and Sewing Machine Maintenance workshop. Photo: JOELI VUETI

This workshop is to basically train women to be able to train other women in empowering them to fix and maintain sewing machine which is a challenge the Ministry is currently facing.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa



Nineteen-year-old Raylin Mario with President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote during their itatau presentation at Borron House in Suva. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Equality through sports

NANISE NEIMILA

THE involvement of women in sport often defies gender stereotypes, fostering a healthy lifestyle and inclusivity, while transcending race, religion, sexuality and nationality.

Rugby — traditionally a male dominated sport—is starting to make strides in the Pacific towards gender equality, with a record number of women's teams taking their talents to the field and joining the rugby workforce.

This is where young women like 19-year-old Raylin Mario find their niche in life.

Ms Mario believes that society is slowly realising that women participation in sports can create that transition and also promoting women participation in the sports since it's known as male-dominated sport.

"Playing rugby is challenging because we all know its male dominated sport but with the help from our manager and developing office this is an opportunity for women like us to be recognised in the field of sport," she said.

Originally from Rotuma,

Raylin comes from a sporting family where she enjoys participating in other sports namely netball, hockey, touch rugby and athletics.

"I have been engaged in sports while growing up, I have basically played all sports and this is encouraging because we are able to develop our learning skills on and off the field."

"My dad is a sports officer, he owns his athletics academy and I can say that I get my sporting genes from my father not so much of my mother. But I'm thankful to

Playing rugby is challenging because we all know its male dominated sport but with the help from our manager and developing office this is an opportunity for women like us to be recognised in the field of sport

19-year-old Raylin Mario

the both of them for supporting me this far."

Representing Fiji at the recent Oceania Under-18 7s Tournament in Australia held last month, Raylin hopes to learn more while competing internationally and maybe secure sporting scholarship overseas.

"It's easy to spot talent and hard work and when talent

fails then hard work will always fall through. I thank God for this talent and if you are passionate about what you do then no doubt you can achieve whatever you have set your mind and goals too."

According to the Oceania Rugby, there is growing commitment to gender equality, in line with World Rugby's new plan to accelerate the global development of women in rugby.

This was also reflected at the Oceania Rugby Sevens Championship, which had a record number of women players and an increase in female coaches, managers and workforce staff.

The involvement of women and girls, men and boys, more equally in rugby is central to the strategic goals of Oceania Rugby.

Minister for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou said that what many Fijians fail to comprehend was that sports development was vital in keeping our communities and nation healthy.

"As highlighted the Commonwealth Federa-

tion is pushing for more Gender equality with the various events and also for participating officials at the games," Minister Tuitubou said.

"Team Fiji made its 16th appearance at the recent Commonwealth games held in Gold Coast Australia from April 4-18, 2018. More than 6000 athletes and team officials travelled from 71 Commonwealth nations and territories competed in 275 events. In the 2000 Gold Coast featured the largest gathering in sports," he said.

Fiji's recent participation at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast produced positive results. Fiji is ranked 23rd out of the 71 Commonwealth nations and territories competing in 275 events.

Minister Tuitubou said for the first time the competition had new inclu-

sions like women's rugby 7s and beach volleyball.



First lady Sarote Konrote is flanked by Raylin Mario (left) and another Fijian Under-18 female rugby player. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



Nineteen-year-old Raylin Mario. Photo: SUPPLIED



Focus on special schools

PRIYANKA LAL

THE historic free education initiative is something special and dear to the Fijian Government.

Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum highlighted this at the recent Outrigger Walk for Kids fundraising drive to collect money for projects at the Sigatoka School for Special Education and Conua District School in Sigatoka.

The projects entail the purchase of a four-wheel drive needed for the special school's rural outreach programme and the construction of teachers' quarters at Conua District School.

The A-G stressed that while the Government remained committed to ensuring that Fiji's young people had equitable access to high quality education at all levels, special schools needed additional attention.

"Education is a very special and dear thing to the Government. We have made education free in Fiji. We now have access to tertiary education and we have subsidy for transportation amongst others. But the special schools also need special attention," the A-G said.

"We have also recently ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We now have a disabilities law in Fiji that makes it mandatory upon Government and other actors within the State to carry out various responsibilities to ensure that we are able to cater for those with special needs."

The A-G called on all Fijians to have that level of acceptance and tolerance and dedicate themselves to those with special needs.

Sigatoka School for Special Education head teacher, Asenaca Sukunatabua said the assistance would help them address transportation problems for the students.

"The new vehicle will allow us to visit students from the highlands who

are not able to come to school. Last year, we raised \$15,666 and this year Outrigger wants to finish off the payment of \$72,000," Mrs Sukunatabua said.

She also commended and thanked the Government for their continued support through increased grant for students with special needs.

"Government has increased the amount of grant given to each child and we are able to carry on with the smooth running of the school. The grant amounts to \$500 per child per term, which is a huge assistance to the 63 students here," Mrs Sukunatabua added.



Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar speaks with residents of the informal settlement at Vunivau, Labasa.

RIGHT: Tara Wati of Vunivau, Labasa.
Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO



Vehicle boosts waste care effort

PRIYANKA LAL

THE Nasinu Town Council's (NTC) effort to enhance waste management in the municipality was boosted with the donation of a new vehicle from the Indian High Commission last week.

NTC special administrator, Moses Kama received the vehicle from the Indian High Commissioner to Fiji, Mr Vishvas Sapkal at the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment in Suva.

Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar acknowledged the Indian Government's continued support to Fiji in various areas.

"We have been talking with the high commission in regards to the donation of a van for Nasinu Town Council to be assigned to the environment division. We have an issue of environmental problem in Nasinu," Minister Kumar said.

An environment ranger would also be appointed soon to take care of the vehicle and assist in waste management.

"Nasinu produces about 16,000 tonnes of waste annually costing the council \$1.4m for waste disposal. We are thankful to the Indian Government for rendering support in our efforts towards environmental protection," Mr Kama said.

NTC served close to 12,000 rateable properties with 2000 households located in the informal settlements.

High Commissioner Sapkal said the donation was part of their contribution in the fight against climate change with Fiji carrying the baton as COP23 President.

The new Mahindra Scorpio twin-cab was valued at \$54,767.

Leases secure settlers' future

JOSAIA RALAGO

A new era has dawned for residents of two informal settlements in Vunivau, Labasa after they have been promised 99 year leases by the Government.

And while this was work in progress, residents who were interviewed during a recent consultation have praised the Government for this initiative.

One of these residents was Durga Prasad, 59, who has been a resident of Vunivau B all his life.

"This is good as the property will be ours and we will have the land title. Our children will greatly benefit from this as well," Mr Prasad said.

"I never dreamt that this day would come because I have been here ever since I was a child and nothing like this ever came up until now."

Tara Wati of Vunivau A, echoed similar sentiments saying that this will attract a lot of development into their area.

"Apart from that, we have been told that we will not pay the land rent till the leases are finalised. I have had to pay \$500 every year for the rent and it is expensive," Ms Wati said.

Ms Wati who resides with her husband and daughter said they rely mostly on her husband's elderly care monthly allocation of \$100 for survival.

"He sells plastic bottles on most days to supplement our income. With the little that we earn, we have to pay the bills, buy our food and then you have the land rent, but what Government has done will remove a huge financial burden from us," she said.

The Minister for Local Government,

Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Parveen Kumar was at the consultation announcing this new development.

He said that this was being carried out after a request was made to him by the residents during one of his visit to the area.

"In that meeting I assured the people of Vunivau that we will liaise with the Mataqali through TLTB and we will ask for their partnership so that we can develop this area and issue all of you a 99 year lease," Mr Bala said.

He said that the Government has paid the premium to the landowners and residents would not have to pay land rent to the iTaukei Land Trust Board until their 99 year leases are finalised.

There are 415 homes at Vunivau A and 358 at Vunivau B.



Sandalwood 'shows promise'

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE sandalwood industry has the capacity to rake in ten times more earnings than pine or mahogany, says Conservator of Forests Sanjana Lal.

Speaking during a sandalwood consultation in Labasa last week, Ms Lal said that the expansion of the sandalwood industry could mean a lot for the country because of its high economic demands.

"Because of its current high economic value and the market demand, sandalwood has the potential to make a significant contribution to every hardworking individuals, rural communities and even groups who actively participate or are involved in its development," she said.

"The Ministry of Forests is currently putting much effort in promoting, supporting and assisting planting programs of sandalwood while regulating the harvesting of remaining stock in its natural habitat and ensuring both in-situ (in the original place) and ex-situ conservation (off site conservation)."

Ms Lal added that there was no doubt that sandalwood would make a huge impact in the lives of rural communities if it is grown like pine and mahogany.

"However, first we must ensure that we have an abundance of sandalwood of all ages to ensure sustainable trade just like we have pine and mahogany," she said.

"We should expand sandalwood to such an extent that we can market it as Fiji grown and branded."

Employment centre clientele up to 56K

NANISE NEIMILA

SINCE its inception in 2010 the National Employment Centre (NEC) has over the years registered 56,000 unemployed clients who have been looking for work.

Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Jone Usamate said NEC was established under the NEC Decree of 2009 to target the unemployed.

"One of the major challenges for the unit from the number of recipients is that only 7000 have reported back to the unit that they are currently employed," Minister Usamate said.

"We are updating the database of NEC to be able to identify whether all those that registered with the centre have found employment or still seeking employment."

Minister Usamate adds through the establishment of NEC, Fiji was also aligning itself to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7 that states taking immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking.

The SDG highlights security, prohibition and elimination of the all forms of child labour.

"The Centre has its legislation which is known as the National Employment Centre Act- this act states that any person can register within the centre and this is why the Government is encouraging young Fijians to complete their high school education," Minister Usamate said.

When registering with the centre the client needs to bring in birth certificate, passport size photo, joint Fiji National Provident Fund card and an updated

Curriculum Vitae (CV).

"This information will be stored in the centre's database and the client will be given registration card.

"In the event an employer contacts the centre we will have the necessary contact details of the client."

"In most cases when clients do not submit examinations transcripts it delays the process of getting employment or in other cases the client changes contact details and officers at the centre are not able to track them."

Minister Usamate also highlighted that since 2015 NEC has a total of 1,273 workers under the Seasonal Workers Programme with 490 employed in Australia and 783 in New Zealand.

He said the centre had engaged 10 employers in Australia and 23 employers in New Zealand with more expected to join the program.



Minister for Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau says one of Fiji's biggest challenges is to reduce the import bill by promoting locally-grown prawns and other viable cultured fish to achieve import substitution. Minister Koroilavesau was with stakeholders during the Fiji Conference on the Cultivation of Penaeid Prawns at the Galoa Aquaculture Station in Serua. Photo: PRIYANKA LAL

Prawn potential praised

PRIYANKA LAL

THE growing aquaculture sector in Fiji has the potential to develop into a key area in the fisheries sector if thoroughly it is explored and effectively capitalised upon.

Minister for Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau made the comment at the opening of the inaugural Fiji Conference on the Cultivation of Penaeid Prawns at the Galoa Aquaculture Station in Serua last week.

Fiji imports close to 700 tonnes of shrimp annually at an estimated value of \$24

million. Minister Koroilavesau said one of Fiji's biggest challenges was to reduce the import bill by promoting locally grown prawns and other viable cultured fish to achieve import substitution.

"While aquaculture is a key sector for food security, it also contributes to improving livelihoods and boosting fishery exports and reducing imports," he said.

"Aquaculture also enables resource conservation as it relieves pressure on overexploited inshore capture fisheries resources and can assist

in helping overfished areas recover."

The minister said while they welcomed potential foreign investors to help prawn or shrimp farming grow, locals were also encouraged to join the viable industry.

"While improving production through better culturing technique, the Ministry of Fisheries hopes to increase local production which would in turn result in an increase in feed demand.

"Most of Fiji's aquaculture feed is imported but through new and improved initiatives

the ministry is looking to produce quality feed that is more species-focused and is affordable to farmers," Minister Koroilavesau said.

There were about 15 prawn and shrimps farmers in the country, who specialise in *Litopenaus Vannamei* – commonly known as Whiteleg Shrimp.

Principal fisheries officer, Shalendra Singh said commercial prawn farming activities saw significant success in recent years.

Highlighting major challenges in the sector, Mr Singh said

one of the key obstacles was the supply of quality seeds or the babies of the prawns.

"While we have made some progress to address the seed issue with the establishment of hatcheries such as here at Galoa, quality feed supply remains a challenge.

"Other challenges include capacity or a lack of grow out activities, threat of diseases, climate change and rising cost of operations," he said.

Locally produced prawns are mainly sold to hotels and restaurants at an average cost of \$30 - \$35 a kilogram.

FijiFocus



“Great meeting and listening to President Macron on French commitment and action on climate change and the Pacific in Noumea.” @JoneUsamate

Photo: SUPPLIED

TALANOA

‘the way to go’

THE Pacific style of negotiations, now famously known as Talanoa dialogue, is now being effectively used as tool during climate negotiations, the 23rd session of Conference of Parties (COP23). The Fijian presidency’s COP23 chief negotiator Ambassador Luke Daunivalu has once again reiterated the pur-

pose of the ‘Talanoa’ dialogue at the Talanoa Dialogue Plenary in Bonn, Germany last week. Mr Daunivalu highlighted the dialogue is now half way through its preparatory phase with the objective of building a strong foundation for the political phase. He said that Fiji and Poland have been in close cooperation since the be-

ginning of the year and are jointly providing direction to the process. Fiji’s High-Level Climate Champion, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services Inia Seruiratu also shared Fiji’s story on “where we are” currently in terms of facing the effects of climate

change. “This is not the way that we and our children, and our children’s children should be living our lives. To be living in constant anticipation for the worst under this ever present danger. A danger that will keep increasing as global temperature continue to rise.” -news@govnet.gov.fj

फ़ीजी फ़ोकस



प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेन्गो बर्डनिमरामा ने कोरोतारी, लम्बासा के निवासियों से कहा कि वे चिन्ता न करें क्योंकि उनके पुल पर मरम्मत का काम जल्द शुरू होगा। फ़ीजी रोड्स अथॉरिटी से श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने इस पुल पर जल्द गौर करने की माँग की क्योंकि स्कूली बच्चों को इस्तेमाल करके स्कूल जाना है। प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डनिमरामा ने कोरोतारी में उस पुल का निरक्षण किया जो अभी बन्द है क्योंकि पिछले महीने समुद्री आँधी केनी के दौरान पुल को कुछ क्षति पहुँची थी।

कोरोतारी में नए पुल की योजना

रोनल देव

कोरोतारी लम्बासा में एक नया पुल बनाने की योजना है।

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गो बर्डनिमरामा ने बुद्धवार को कोरोतारी में उस पुल का निरक्षण किया जो अभी बन्द है क्योंकि पिछले महीने समुद्री आँधी केनी के दौरान पुल को कुछ क्षति पहुँची थी।

इस दौरान फ़ीजी रोड्स अथॉरिटी जोनाथन मूआ ने प्रधानमंत्री को बताया कि वहाँ के निवासियों की यातायात वाली समस्या को देखते हुए, अथॉरिटी ने गाड़ियों तथा लोगों के लिए नया पुल बनाने की योजना बनाई

है ताकि यह समस्या खत्म हो जाए। यह सुनकर वहाँ के निवासी काफी खुश हुए तथा सरकार को उनकी समस्याओं पर गौर करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कोरोतारी के निवासियों से कहा कि वे चिन्ता न करें क्योंकि उनके पुल पर मरम्मत का काम जल्द शुरू होगा। श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने फ़ीजी रोड्स अथॉरिटी से कहा कि वे इस पुल पर जल्द गौर करें क्योंकि इसके इस्तेमाल से स्कूली बच्चों को स्कूल जाना है। एफ.आर.आई का एक दल जल्द से जल्द लम्बासा पहुँचकर इस पुल पर काम शुरू करेगा। कोरोतारी के एडवाएज़री काउन्सलर सतीश चन्द ने कहा

कि कोरोतारी का यह पुल बन्द होने के बाद वहाँ के एक हजार दो सौ लोगों को शहर जाने और लौटने में बहुत कठिनाईयों का सामना करना पड़ता है। चन्द ने प्रधानमंत्री को धन्यवाद दिया कि उन्होंने उनके बारे में सोचा, वहाँ गए तथा उनकी चिन्ताओं को सुना।

फिलहाल, प्रधानमंत्री ने उत्तरी विभाग के दौरे पर उन ज़मीन मालिकों को बोनस पैमन्ट्स भी दिया जिनकी ज़मीन पर पाई न के पेड़ बोए गए हैं। वासिडूआ कोरो में बुआ और मदुवाता के कई ज़मीन मालिक अपना बोनस लेने के लिए इकट्ठा हुए। प्रधानमंत्री ने 259 चेक्स ज़मीन मालिकों

को दिया जो लगभग 2.8 मिलियन डोलर लागत का था। ज़मीन मालिकों ने चेक लेते हुए खुशी व्यक्त की जबकि पहले वाली सरकार की तरफ से उन्हें कभी इतने पैसे नहीं मिलते थे।

उधर, प्रधानमंत्री ने लौतोका के ड्रासा मिल कोम्प्लेक्स में पाईन के ज़मीन मालिकों को सात मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा का लीस बोनस दिया। श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने चेक देते हुए कहा कि फ़ीजी पाईन के इतिहास में

यह साल अभी तक बहुत ही रोमाचक और सफल रहा है।



खेलूकद मंत्री, लाईसेनिया तुईतम्बुउ के साथ वोटावैस मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी और सहायक स्वास्थ्य मंत्री एलेक्स ओ कोना बाद से पीढ़त लोगों को राशन बाँटते हुए।

150K लोगों पर हुआ समुद्री आँधियों का असर

रोनल देव

समुद्री आँधी जोसी और समुद्री आँधी केनी से फीजी में लगभग 150,000 लोगों पर असर पड़ा है।

प्रधान मंत्री, वॉरेंगे बड़निमरामा ने इस बात की पुष्टि की है जबकि आकलन टीम द्वारा असर पड़े लोगों को उनके पैरों पर वापस खड़ा करने के लिए काम किया जा रहा है।

केयर फोर फीजी (CARE for Fiji) सहायता की घोषणा करते हुए, प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि किसानों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जाएगा ताकि वे जल्द से जल्द पुनः अपने पैरों

पर खड़े हो सकें।

“मेरी सरकार सिर्फ गन्ने के किसानों की मदद करने के लिए समर्पित नहीं है। असर पड़े इलाकों में हमारे बाकि किसानों को भी सहायता की ज़रूरत है, उदाहरण के तौर पर, हम सब जानते हैं कि कम से कम, शाक-सब्जी के ज़्यादातर किसानों ने लगभग अपना 90 प्रतिशत फसल खो दिया है। तो चाहे आप यंगोना, फल, शाक-सब्जी, जड़ वाले फसल या थोड़ा थोड़ा ये सभी फसल उगाते हैं जो हर दिन हमारे फीजीवासियों का पेट भरता है, मेरी सरकार वहाँ मदद करने के लिए होगी,” प्रधान मंत्री बड़निमरामा ने कहा।

उन्होंने कहा कि मंत्रालय सभी असर पड़े किसानों की संपत्ति पर मलबे साफ करने, क्षतिग्रस्त घेरा (fence) की मरम्मत करने तथा घासनाशक दवाईयाँ और फर्टिलाइज़र प्राप्त करने में सहायता प्रदान करेगी।

पशु पालन व्यवसाय में लगे किसानों के लिए, सरकार पशुओं के लिए मुफ्त में भोजन दे रही है और क्षतिग्रस्त घेरों की मरम्मत कर रही है ताकि खेतों के नुकसान की भरपाई हो सके और गंभीर मौसम की वजह से खोय हुए पशुओं के मूल्य की क्षतिपूर्ति करने के साथ-साथ मलबे को साफ करेगी।

फीजीवासियों के लिए बराबर मौके

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेंगे बड़निमरामा का कहना है कि सरकार पिछले सालों से जो बदलाव कर रही है ने हर एक फीजीवासी के लिए बराबर के अवसर बनाए है। हाल में युनाइटेड किंगडम में एक समारोह के दौरान वहाँ के फीजीयन समाज से बातें करते हुए श्री बड़निमरामा ने देश की प्रगति पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने भूतपूर्व फीजीवासियों को खुद आकर यह बदलाव देखने के लिए आमंत्रित किया जो शायद ज़रूरी नहीं कि प्राकृतिक बदलाव हो लेकिन सबसे बड़ी चीज़ उनके ध्यान में आएगा कि देश में लोगों का मानसिक परिवर्तित कैसे हुआ है।

श्री बड़निमरामा ने कहा कि सभी फीजीवासी देश को बेहतर और मज़बूत बनाने के लिए एक ही सफर पर निकल पड़े है जो हमारे बच्चों और आने वाली पीढ़ी के योग्य हो।

“वो बीते हुए साल अब गुज़र चुके है जहाँ हमने बहस किए थे कि कौन राष्ट्रीय हित का सबसे ज़्यादा हकदार है। लेकिन अब जैसे-जैसे साल गुज़र रहा है, इस हित को और बढ़ाया जा रहा है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि सभी को और ज़्यादा फायदे हो। और एकता तथा राष्ट्र पर ज़्यादा ध्यान जो हम दे रहे है ने हमारी सम्भावनाओं को बदल दिया है।

अद्यापकों की नियुक्ति पर शिक्षा मंत्रालय की छानबीन जारी

रोनल देव

शिक्षा, हेरिटाज और आर्ट्स मंत्रालय ने घोषणा की है कि अद्यापकों की नियुक्ति को लेकर इस साल की शुरुआत में जो छानबीन शुरू हुई थी वो पूरी हो गई है।

अटोनी जेनरल और शिक्षा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयुम का कहना है कि इस छानबीन से विलम्ब के कारणों का पता चला जिसपर गौर किया जा रहा है। इस छानबीन के चलते एक ओफिसर के कोन्टेक्ट को रद्द किया गया और इसमें शामिल अन्य ट्स अफसरों को चेतावनी वाली चिट्ठियाँ दी गई।

“काफी लम्बे समय से मंत्रालय में प्रणाली वाली समस्याएँ है जिन्हें बेहतर, पारदर्शी नितियों और संबंधित

कर्मचारियों को साफ दिशा दिखाकर सुलझाएँ जा रहे है। यह भी बहुत दुख की बात है कि गलत और झूठी जानकारीयाँ फैलाई जा रही थी,” सैयद-खैयुम ने कहा।

“हम इस बात का ध्यान रखेंगे कि मंत्रालय अपने अद्यापकों को सेवा प्रदान करे ताकि वे केवल फीजी के बच्चों को पढ़ाने पर ध्यान दे। हम इस लक्ष्य को लेकर हमेशा चौकस रहेंगे, और किसी एक दावे की छानबीन करेंगे जो अद्यापकों के काम करने के वातावरण और भलाई पर असर डालेंगे, और देश भर में फीजीयन अद्यापकों द्वारा सामना किए जा रहे विषयों को सुलझाने के लिए गम्भीरता से सुधार लाने वाले कार्यक्रम का भार उठाएँगे,” उन्होंने कहा।





स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय का स्प्रेय अभियान

रोनल देव

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय का वातावरण युनिट ने उन इलाकों में कीटाणूनाकशक स्प्रेय अभियान शुरू कर रहा है जहाँ-जहाँ बाढ़ चड़ी थी ताकि डायरिया, लेप्टोस्पायरोसीसी, टाइफोईड तथा डेन्गू जैसी बीमारियों को फैलने से रोका जाए।

यह कीटाणूनाकशक पदार्थ, पाएनोल है जो सभी कामों के लिए सुरक्षित कीटाणूनाकशक पदार्थ है जिसे कीटाणूओं का नाश करने और जल्द से फैलने वाली बीमारियों को रोकने में काफी असरकारक पाया गया है।

दुनिया भर में संबंधित अधिकारी कीटाणूओं का मुकाबला करने और संकामक बीमारियों को रोकने के लिए इस पदार्थ का इस्तेमाल करते हैं।

हेल्थ इन्सपेक्टर, पश्चिमी और उत्तरी विभाग में घरों, स्कूलों तथा राहत केन्द्रों का दौरा करके कीटाणूनाकशक स्प्रेय कर रहे हैं, खास करके उन इलाकों में जहाँ बाढ़ का भारी असर पड़ा है। मंत्रालय मुनिसिपल काउन्सल के साथ मिलकर शहरी और ग्रामीन इलाकों में स्प्रेय अभियान रचने और जागरूकता लाने पर काम कर रहा है।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय की पब्लिक हेल्थ टीमों जो अलग-अलग जिलाओं में हैं, अन्य एजेंसीयों के साथ मिलकर उन इलाकों में लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर गौर कर रही हैं जहाँ बाढ़ चड़ी थी। हेल्थ टीमों, इमेजेन्सी औरपेरशन्स सेन्टर टीम के साथ मिलकर बाढ़ से असर पड़े समाज में “वश और हाएजीन किट्स” बाँट रही हैं। मेडिकल स्क्रीनिंग और मेडिकल केयर के द्वारा उन लोगों को भी सहायता दी जा रही है जिन्होंने राहत केन्द्रों में शरण ली थी।

फिलहाल, मंत्रालय परिवारों भोजन करने और बनाने से पहले, पाखाना जाने के बाद और किसी मैले फर्श को छूने के बाद हाथ धोने वाली आदत बरकरार रखने की सलाह दे रहा है। लोगों को यह भी सलाह दी रही है कि वे पीने वाला पानी उबाले तथा भोजन तैयार करने और खाते वक्त अपने स्वास्थ्य की रक्षा करें। परिवारों को यह भी सलाह दी जा रही है कि वे सरल निवारक उपायों को अपनाए ताकि वे अपने और अपने परिवार वालों को डायरिया (जो बच्चों के लिए खतरा हो सकते हैं) और टाइफोईड जैसी आम बीमारियों से बचा सकें।

मंत्रालय सभी से माँग कर रहा है कि वे बाढ़ वाले या मैला पानी में नहाने या तैरने से बचे ताकि उन्हें लेप्टोस्पायरोसीसी जैसी बीमारियाँ न हों। अगर आप बुखार, सर दर्द, उलटियाँ या मल में खून देखे तो तुरन्त अपनी नज़दीकी हेल्थ सेन्टर या अस्पताल जाकर डाक्टर की सलाह लें।

सरकारी कर्मचारियों के लिए औवाटाएम पै

रोनल देव

सरकार द्वारा जबकि सरकारी सेवा में लगातार सुधार हो रहा है तो इसके चलते अटोनी जेनरल और सरकारी सेवा मंत्री, अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयुम खुशी के साथ यह घोषणा कर रहे हैं कि सभी सरकारी कर्मचारी जो बेन्ड एफ पर हैं इस साल अटूट तरह अप्रैल से औवाटाएम पै के हकदार हैं। अद्यापकों को छोड़कर बाकी अन्य सरकारी कर्मचारी जो बेन्ड एफ पर हैं को भविष्य में औवाटाएम काम करने के लिए पैसे मिलेंगे। ज़रूरी स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदान करने वाले कर्मचारी जो बेन्ड एफ पर हैं को भी उनके नए कोन्ट्रैक्ट की शुरुआत से औवाटाएम बेक पै दिया जाएगा।

“औवाटाएम पै अन्य सरकारी कर्मचारियों तक फैलाना, सरकार द्वारा सरकारी सेवा में लगातार सुधार लाने का हिस्सा है, तथा यह एक और तरीका है जिससे साहसी तौर पर सोच समझकर बदलाव हो रहे हैं, जिससे हमने सरकारी सेवा को और भी आकर्षक बनाया है, जहाँ लोगों की नियुक्ति योग्यता के आधार पर होती है जो विशेष योग्यता वाले अफ्सरों को सरकारी सेवा में रोकने के लिए प्रायवट सेक्टर के साथ होड़वाजी भी करती है,” अटोनी जेनरल ने कहा।

“हम खास तौर से उन तमाम ज़रूरी स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदान करने वालों को धन्यवाद दे रहे हैं, जिन्होंने इस घोषणा के बारे में जाने बिना ज़्यादा घण्टों तक काम

किया; और जो बेक पै आपको दिया जा रहा है वो आपकी कड़ी मेहनत और लगन को मान्यता देने के लिए है” उन्होंने कहा। पहले औवाटाएम सिर्फ बेन्ड एफ वाले नेर्स तथा अद्यापकों को छोड़कर अन्य सरकारी कर्मचारी जो पै बी और बेन्ड एफ पर थे।

यह नई और ज़्यादा सम्मिलित निति है जो कि सरकारी कर्मचारियों के काम करने की शर्ती पर सिविल

सेर्विस रिफोर्म मेनेजमन्ट युनिट की व्यापक समीक्षा का हिस्सा है जो की कार्य-स्थल यानि काम करने वाली जगह को न्यायसंगत बनाती है जहाँ ज़्यादा घण्टें काम करने और नौकरी पर ठीक से मुआवज़ा दिया जाए।



एम्पलोएमन्ट, प्रोडेक्टिविटी और इंडस्ट्रीयल रिलैशन्स मंत्री, चोने उसामाते ने नौकरी पर सुरक्षित और स्वस्थ रहने वाले दिवस के दौरान भाषण देते हुए। उन्होंने कहा कि नई जगह नौकरी करने के कारण युवकों के पास अनुभव नहीं रहता तथा वे शारीरिक और मानसिक तौर से तैयार भी नहीं होते।

युवकों को नौकरी पर चोट लगने की ज़्यादा सम्भावना

रोनल देव

आकड़े दिखाते हैं कि नौकरी पर ज़्यादा उम्र के लोगों के मुकाबले, अटूटारह 18 से चौबीस 24 साल के बीच के युवकों को गम्भीर दुर्घटनाओं में शामिल रहने की अधिक सम्भावना है।

अभी हालही एम्पलोएमन्ट, प्रोडेक्टिविटी और इंडस्ट्रीयल रिलैशन्स मंत्री, चोने उसामाते

ने नौकरी पर सुरक्षित और स्वस्थ रहने वाले दिवस के दौरान भाषण देते वक्त इसका खुलासा किया और कहा कि काम करने की बुरी हालत के कारण युवकों को शायद इसके खतरे का पता नहीं चलता। उन्होंने कहा कि नई जगह नौकरी करने के कारण युवकों के पास अनुभव नहीं रहता तथा वे शारीरिक और मानसिक तौर से

तैयार भी नहीं होते।

अन्य बातें जो युवकों को खतरे में डालते हैं में पर्याप्त हुनर और ट्रेनिंग की कमी, अपने अधिकार और नौकरी के बारे में जानकारी न होना, आवाज़ उठाने के लिए हिम्मत न होना, मज़दूर मालिक द्वारा अपने युवा कर्मचारियों की सुरक्षा ज़रूरतों पर ध्यान न देना शामिल है।

उन्होंने कहा कि नौकरी पर

चोट-चपेट लगना मंत्रालय के लिए चिन्ता की बात है जहाँ पिछले साल मंत्रालय के पास 1443 मामले रिपोर्ट की गई थी।

मंत्री ने कहा कि पिछले तीन सालों में नौकरी पर मौत होने वाली संख्या में थोड़ी गिरावट देखी गई है जहाँ पिछले साल सात लोगों की मौत काम पर हुई जबकि 2015 में इसकी संख्या नौ थी।



पी एम कोरोतारी के दौर पर

इसी हफ्ते प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गे बईनिमरामा कोरोतारी, लम्बासा के दौर पर गए थे जहाँ उन्होंने वहाँ के निवासियों से माँग की कि वे चिन्ता न करें क्योंकि उनका पुल जो अभी बन्द है पर मरम्मत का काम जल्द शुरू होगा। निवासियों को फीजी रोड्स अथॉरिटी ने यह भी आश्वासन दिया कि वहाँ एक नया पुल भी बनाने की योजना है जो गाड़ियों और लोगों के लिए भी होगा। वाद-तूफान में पुल को कुछ क्षति पहुँची थी।



प्रधानमंत्री ने श्री सत्या संजीविनी मेडिकल सेन्टर का किया उद्घाटन

प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेन्गे बईनिमरामा ने हाल में इस मेडिकल सेन्टर का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया और कहा कि यह सेन्टर स्वास्थ्य और मेडिकल सेवा बिलकुल मुफ्त में प्रदान करेगा। "इस सेन्टर के दरवाजे सभी फीजीवासियों के लिए खुले हैं, खास करके ग्रामीण इलाकों के लोगों को पेशेवर चिकित्सा सेवा जैसे कि सलाह, इलाज और कुछ दवाईयाँ भी यहाँ बिलकुल मुफ्त में मिल सकती हैं। प्रधानमंत्री बईनिमरामा ने साईं प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन को धन्यवाद दिया और इस बात का ध्यान रखने के लिए सराहना की कि फीजीवासियों को उच्च चिकित्सा सेवा प्रदान की जाए जो कि सरकार का भी प्रयास है।



अटोनी जेनरल ने नन्द्रोन्गा नेटबोल सीज़न का किया उद्घाटन

अटोनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री अईयाज़ सैयद खयूम ने हाल में नन्द्रोन्गा मेन्स और मिक्स नेटबोल नोक-आउट टुर्नामेंट का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया जो लवाँगा पार्क सिंगातोका में खेला गया। इस दौरान उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि फीजी में खेलकूद की भूमिका क्या है। उन्होंने कहा कि खेलकूद से प्राँत और जिला के लोगों के बीच एकता बढ़ती है। अटोनी-जेनरल ने कहा कि खेलकूद गैर-संक्रामक बीमारियों से लड़ने के खिलाफ बहुत ज़रूरी भूमिका निभाता है। उन्होंने अयोजकों को इस तरह का टुर्नामेंट आयोजित करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।



कोरोईलावेसाउ ने किया फीजी झींगा सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन

फिशरिज़ मंत्री ने हाल ही में पहला फीजी झींगा सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन किया है जो गालोआ अकुवाकल्या स्टेशन, सेरूआ पर हुआ था। उन्होंने कहा कि इस क्षेत्र के देश में विकसित होने का अच्छा अवसर है। फीजी हर साल सात सौ टन झींगा आयात करता है जो लगभग टण मिलियन डॉलर लागत है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस दिशा में आयात कम करना एक चुनौती है। चित्र में नीचे गालोआ फिशरिज़ स्टेशन पोन्ड में हेचरी टेक्नीशन्स झील से झींगा निकालते हुए।





मेरी सरकार वास्तव में सक्रीय-प्रधानमंत्री

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेन्गे बर्डनिमरामा का कहना है कि उनकी सरकार की सोच अन्य सरकारों से अलग है।

ताईलेवू प्राँतिफ काउन्सल सभा का औपचारिक उद्घाटन करते हुए श्री

बर्डनिमरामा ने कहा कि उनकी सरकार सिर्फ सोचने-विचारने के अलावा वास्तव में सक्रिय है। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार ने ई-तउकई लोगों की ज़रूरतों को ध्यान में रखकर उनके लिए साधन उपलब्ध किया है ताकि वे आर्थिक तौर पर अधिक शक्तिशाली बने।

“ई-तउकई ज़मीन को विकसित करने के लिए सरकार ने दस मिलियन डॉलर और दिया है। यह पैसे, सब-डिविज़न्स में रास्ते बनाने, बिजली तथा पानी की सेवा उपलब्ध कराने में खर्च होंगे ताकि ज़मीन-मालिक को

आर्थिक फायदे हो। मेरी सरकार सही ढंग से बचत करने, तथा समाज में होशियारी से पुँजी लगाने पर ध्यान देती है,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार दो साल पहले ताईलेवू में समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन से भारी नुकसान हुआ था लेकिन अब वहाँ नए रास्ते और अन्य संसाधनों के अलावा ज़रूरी सरकारी सेवाओं की व्यवस्था भी हो गई है। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि सरकार ने भविष्य के विकास के लिए एक नींव रखी है जो आने वाले सालों के लिए उनकी अभिलाषाओं को पूरी करेगी। हमने विशेषाधिकार वाली पुरानी प्रणालियों को हटा दिया है जिससे कई सालों से ई-तउकई समाज गरीब थे हालांकि उनके पास मल्यवान संपत्ति थी। वो दिन अब बीत चुके है जहाँ पहले की सरकार, ज़मीन को राजनितिक साधन बनाती थी और ई-तउकई लोगों को ज़मीन मालिक होते हुए आर्थिक और वित्तीय

रूप से लाभ उठाने में मदद करने के लिए कुछ नहीं करती थी।

हमें अपनी सफलताओं पर गर्व है जहाँ हमने नितियाँ जैसे सुशासन, ईमानदारी, जवाबदेही तथा पारदर्शिता का इस्तेमाल किया। हम चाहते हैं कि आम लोग देखें कि असलियत में समझे कि हम क्या काम करते हैं, और क्यों करते हैं और जितना हो सके हमारे काम में हाथ बँटाए। यह मंत्र राष्ट्रीय स्तर के लिए है तथा वहीं स्तर और उम्मीदें, प्राँतीय और जिलाओं के लिए भी लागू है। उन्होंने प्राँतिफ नेताओं से कहा कि वे अपने पास नई-नई जानकारीयों रखें तथा उन फीजीवासियों तक ज़रूरी संदेशा पहुँचाए जिनके आप प्रतिनिधी हैं। आपको हमेशा सच बोलना चाहिए और झूठ को स्वीकार नहीं करना चाहिए।

कूड़ा-कर्कट एक समस्या-वोटावैज़ मंत्री

रोनल देव

वोटावैज़ मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्रा रेड्डी ने चिन्ता जताई है कि घरेलू कचरा और अन्य कूड़ा-कर्कट, जो फ़्लड गेट्स पर जमा होते हैं से इस संसाधन को नुकसान पहुँचता है।

उत्तरी विभाग के दौर पर डाक्टर रेड्डी ने लम्बासा में कुछ फ़्लडगेट्स को भी देखा जिसपर मरम्मत का काम हो रहा था तथा उन्होंने आम जनता से माँग की कि वे ज़िम्मेदारी से काम लें।

उन्होंने कहा कि कचरा और अन्य कूड़ा-कर्कट से ही फ़्लडगेट्स को क्षति पहुँचती है जिसपर मरम्मत की ज़रूरत होती है तथा एक फ़्लडगेट को बनाने में छः से सात हजार डॉलर तक खर्च होता है।

“आगे चलकर हम कुछ उपाय विकसित करेंगे जिनमें लोगों को कानून के तहत दंडित करना शामिल है ताकि नदी-नालों में कचरा डालने वाले रवईये को बदला जा सके। इस तरह का रवैया पश्चिमी विभाग में भी देखा गया है,” डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा। उन्होंने सोआसोआ लम्बासा में फ़्लड गेट का भी दौरा किया जहाँ भारी कचरा जमा हुआ था। हम लोगों की लापरवाही और गैर-ज़िम्मेदार व्यवहार के लिए हर साल या हर तीन महीने पर ये काम नहीं कर सकते। हम बाढ़ वाली समस्या पर कभी काबू नहीं पा सकेंगे अगर लोग नदी-नालों में कचरा डालना जारी रखा। इस वजह से अन्य इलाकों में भी बाढ़ का पानी चढ़ जाता है,” डाक्टर रेड्डी ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार कुछ लोग मछली मारने के लिए फ़्लडगेट्स को लकड़ी लगाकर खुला छोड़ देते हैं

जिससे उँचा ज्वार के समय समुद्र का पानी पास के खेतों में चला जाता है। उधर, वाईलेवू के गन्ने के किसान श्री कृष्णा ने कहा कि मंत्रालय के अभियान से अगले साल उनकी फसल काफी अच्छी रहेगी। मेरे पास 25 पचीस एकड़ ज़मीन है तथा हर साल चार एकड़ में समुद्र का पानी चला जाता था। मुझे खुशी है कि वोटावैस मंत्रालय ने यह काम किया है, श्री कृष्णा ने कहा।



अभी हाल में मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी कुछ योजनाओं को जाँचने के लिए उत्तरी विभाग के दौर पर थे जहाँ उन्होंने कुछ निवासियों की प्रतिक्रिया भी ली। गेलेवाँगा, सोआ-सोआ और बुनिका लम्बासा के निवासियों ने किए गए काम की गवाही दी और खुशी व्यक्त की कि मंत्रालय ने जो काम किया है उसके बाद बारिश के मौसम में उनके घरों और खेतों में बाढ़ का पानी नहीं चड़ेगा।

वोटावैज़ मंत्रालय की तारीफ की गई

रोनल देव

लम्बासा के नीचले इलाके जहाँ अक्सर बाढ़ चढ़ जाती है के निवासियों ने वोटावैज़

मंत्रालय के काम की तारीफ की है जहाँ काफी सुधार देखने को मिला है।

गेलेवाँगा, सोआ-सोआ और बुनिका लम्बासा के निवासियों ने किए गए काम की गवाही दी और खुशी व्यक्त की कि मं

त्रालय ने जो काम किया है उसके बाद बारिश के मौसम में उनके घरों और खेतों में बाढ़ का पानी नहीं चड़ेगा। अभी हाल में मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी कुछ योजनाओं को जाँचने के लिए उत्तरी विभाग के दौर पर थे जहाँ उन्होंने कुछ निवासियों की प्रतिक्रिया भी ली। गेलेवाँगा लम्बासा की 68 अड़सठ साल की ज्ञान वति बहुत खुश हुई कि उनके घर

के आस-पास नाले साफ किए गए जिससे उनके घर में बाढ़ का पानी नहीं जाएगा। पहले के मिलान में बारिश के वक्त उनके आँगन में पानी नहीं रूकता है। सोआसोआ लम्बासा की निरमला वति ने भी यही बात दोहराई और कहा कि उनके घर के पास नाला और चौड़ा करने से उनके घर-आँगन और बाढ़ से सुरक्षित हो गए हैं। साएबिरिया लम्बासा के सुरेन

चन्द्र ने कहा कि उन्हें खुशी है कि सरकार उनकी समस्याओं पर गौर कर रही है जिसका सामना वे पिछले कई सालों से कर रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि बाढ़ की वजह से उनके इलाके पर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ा था लेकिन मंत्रालय ने उनके इलाके में बहुत काम किया है। मंत्री रेड्डी दो दिनों तक लम्बासा में थे।



छोटे व्यापार के लिए बाँटे गए ग्रांट

सिंगातोका नदी का पुर्नवास

रोनल देव

लौतोका में पाँच सौ से ज़्यादा लोगों को अपने व्यापार के लिए सरकार ने एक हज़ार डॉलर का ग्रांट दिया है।

सरकार छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारियों को अपना व्यापार शुरू करने या वर्तमान व्यापार को बढ़ाने में मदद कर रही है। इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड और टुरिज़म मंत्री फईयाज़ सिदिक कोया ने 539 लोगों को यह ग्रांट दिया।

इसके अलावा 69 लोगों को समुद्री आँधी से पहुँची क्षति पर राहत देने के लिए ग्रांट वाली सहायता दी गई है, ताकि वे अपने व्यापार में सुधार ला सकें जिनके व्यापार को कुछ या भारी नुकसान हुआ है।

सरकार का मुख्य लक्ष्य है कि इस सहायता से लोगों का व्यापार और पुँजी बढ़े तथा नौकरियाँ पैदा हों।

मंत्री कोया ने सहायता हासिल करने वालों को सलाह दी कि वे कैसे अलग-अलग

तरीके से अपने व्यापार को बढ़ाने के लिए इस ग्रांट का इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं।

यह कार्यक्रम जो सरकार ने 2015 में शुरू किया था वर्तमान में बहुत सफल है जिससे हज़ारों लोगों की ज़िन्दगी में सुधार देखा गया है।

इस कार्यक्रम के लिए 2017/2018 राष्ट्रीय बजट में 6.4 मिलियन डॉलर निकाला गया था।

रोनल देव

सिंगातोका शहर के पास सिंगातोका नदी में शुरू हुई एक मुख्य योजना ने शहर और नदी के किनारे मिट्टी भसकने वाली समस्या कम कर दी है।

लौकल गवमन्ट, हाउज़िंग तथा वातावरण मंत्री परवीन कुमार ने हाल में एक मिलियन डॉलर लागत एक योजना की नींव डाली जिससे शहर में बाढ़ चढ़ने वाली समस्या बहुत कम होगी।

“सरकार ने पहचाना है कि यह वातावरण के लिए बहुत बड़ा खतरा बन सकता है। सिंगातोका नदी के किनारे में मिट्टी भसकना, शहर के लिए बहुत बड़ा खतरा पैदा कर सकता है तथा इसी वजह से पिछले कई सालों से वहाँ बाढ़ चढ़ती है,” मंत्री ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार पिछले कुछ सालों से फीजी जिस तरह के गम्भीर मौसम का सामना कर रहा है, देश के कई इलाकों में बाढ़ चढ़ने वाली समस्या बढ़ सकती है।

“सिंगातोका नदी के किनारे वाली योजना ज़मीन पर कार्यवाई का हिस्सा है जो ऐसी घटनाएँ रोक सकती है। इस योजना से लगभग दो सौ मीटर तक नदी के किनारे की सुरक्षा करने के अलावा उन्हें सुधारा जाएगा।

यह योजना पुराने पुल से शुरू होकर नदी की उपरी ओर टपूस इमारत के पास वाले नालों तक जाएगी।

इस योजना के लिए सरकार ने 890,000 डॉलर बजट से पूरी सहायता दी है।



फीजी पाईन लिमिटेड के ज़मीन मालिकों की खुशियों का ठिकाना न रहा जब उन्हें प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डनिमरामा ने लौतोका के झ़ासा मिल कोम्पलेक्स में सात मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा का लीस बोनस दिया। श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने चालिस मतंगाली या तोकातोका को चेक देते हुए कहा कि फीजी पाईन के इतिहास में यह साल रोमाचक है

ज़मीन मालिकों को मिला सात मिलियन डॉलर का बोनस

रोनल देव

फीजी पाईन लिमिटेड के ज़मीन मालिकों की खुशियों का ठिकाना न रहा जब उन्हें प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डनिमरामा ने लौतोका के झ़ासा मिल कोम्पलेक्स में सात मिलियन डॉलर से ज़्यादा का लीस बोनस दिया।

श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने चालिस मतंगाली या तोकातोका को चेक देते हुए कहा कि फीजी पाईन के इतिहास में यह साल अभी तक बहुत ही रोमाचक और सफल रहा है।

“इस बार सात मिलियन डॉलर पैमन्ट की घोषणा करते हुए मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि 2013 में पहला पईमन्ट 350,000 डॉलर का था। सात सालों में मेरी असली

नेतागिरी और मेरी सरकार के लक्ष्य ने इस व्यवसाय को मोड़ दिया है जिससे फीजी पाईन अब काफी उँचाई पर पहुँच गया है,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

वित्तिलेवू भर के तीन हज़ार के करीब ज़मीन-मालिक जो पाईन की बोवाई वाले इलाके से आते हैं ने इस समारोह में हिस्सा लिया था। प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने फीजी पाईन गुप जिसकी अगुवाई एक्ज़ेक्यूटिव चेयरमैन फाईज़ खान कर रहे हैं, बोर्ड ऑफ़ डायरेक्टर्स तथा गुप के कर्मचारियों को उत्पादन में सुधार लाने के निरंतर प्रयास के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। प्रधानमंत्री ने यह भी देखा कि गुप ने वेस्टपेक बैंक से लिए गए कर्ज़ का आखरी 4.4 मिलियन डॉलर का पैमन्ट किया।



सरकारी
कर्मचारियों के
लिए औवाटाएम

3



वोटावैज
मंत्रालय की
तारीफ की गई

6



MONDAY MAY 7, 2018 | ISSUE 8 - VOL 9

फीजी फोकस



प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेन्गे बर्डनिमरामा ने हाल में इस श्री सत्या संजीवनी मेडिकल सेन्टर का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया और कहा कि यह सेन्टर स्वास्थ्य और मेडिकल सेवा बिलकुल मुफ्त में प्रदान करेगा। प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने साई प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन को धन्यवाद दिया और इस बात का ध्यान रखने के लिए सराहना की कि फीजीवासियों को उच्च चिकित्सा सेवा प्रदान की जाए जो कि सरकार का भी प्रयास है।

प्रधानमंत्री ने खोला श्री सत्य संजीवनी मेडिकल सेन्टर

रोनल देव

देश की गरीब जनता जो अपना इलाज कराने विदेश नहीं जा सकते के लिए अच्छी खबर है कि वे नसेसे सूवा स्थित श्री सत्या संजीवनी मेडिकल सेन्टर में अपना इलाज मुफ्त में करा सकते हैं।

प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेन्गे बर्डनिमरामा ने हाल में इस मेडिकल सेन्टर का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया और कहा कि यह सेन्टर स्वास्थ्य और मेडिकल सेवा बिलकुल मुफ्त में प्रदान करेगा।

“इस सेन्टर के दरवाजे सभी फीजीवासियों के लिए खुले हैं, खास करके ग्रामीन इलाकों के लोगों को

पेशेवर चिकित्सा सेवा जैसे कि सलाह, इलाज और कुछ दवाईयाँ भी बिलकुल मुफ्त में मिल सकती हैं। अगस्त 2016 में अपने गिफ्ट ऑफ लाईव कार्यक्रम के द्वारा फाउन्डेशन ने फीजी में तईस 23 बच्चों की नाजुक सेजरीज़ करवाई तथा तीन अन्य लोगों को अन्य इलाज के विदेश भेजा। आप ने पिछले महीने फीजी में अंतराष्ट्रीय डाक्टरों को बुलाया जिन्होंने दिल की बीमारी से पीड़ित और भी छोटे बच्चों की सेजरी बिलकुल मुफ्त में की,” प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा।

प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने साई प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन को धन्यवाद दिया और इस बात का ध्यान रखने के लिए सराहना

की कि फीजीवासियों को उच्च चिकित्सा सेवा प्रदान की जाए जो कि सरकार का भी प्रयास है।

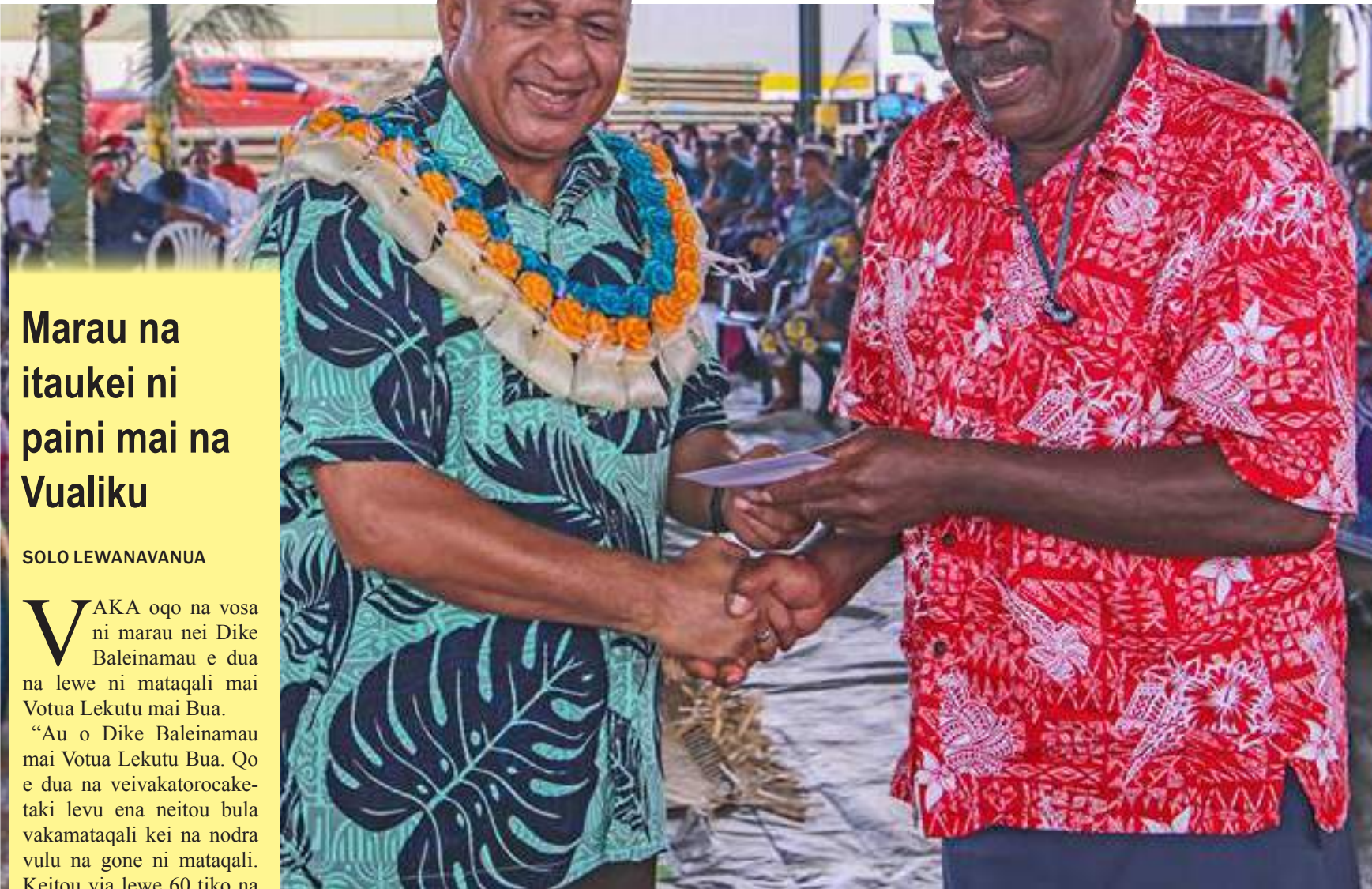
“यह संस्था फीजी सरकार की एक बहुमूल्य संहयोगी है, जिन्होंने ग्रामीन इलाकों में मुफ्त मेडिकल और डेन्टल कैंम्पस रखा, नेशनल ब्लेड सेविस में सहायता दी, अनाथ बच्चों की देखभाल की, गम्भीर मौसम से असर पड़े लोगों को राहत सहायता दी और यहाँ तक फीजी के डाक्टरों को विदेश में ट्रेनिंग हासिल करने के लिए छात्रवृति यानि स्कोलाशिप भी दिया जो दिखाता है कि हमारे लोगों के लिए आपकी देखभाल कोई सीमा नहीं जानता,” प्रधानमंत्री ने

कहा।

फिलहाल, तैतीस 33 साल की एक माँ कविता करिशमा ने फाउन्डेशन को धन्यवाद दिया जिनके छः साल के बेटे का इलाज हालही इसी फाउन्डेशन की मदद से विदेशी डाक्टरों ने किया।

उन्होंने कहा कि पाँच साल पहले उन्हें अपने बेटे की दिल की बीमारी का पता चला और तबसे वो सी.डबल्यू. एम. अस्पताल में क्लीनिक पर जा रही हैं। उनके अनुसार अगर फाउन्डेशन का संहयोग नहीं होता तो उनके बेटे का इलाज नहीं हो पाता क्योंकि उनके पास विदेश में इलाज कराने के लिए पैसे नहीं हैं।

Noda Viti



Marau na itaukei ni paini mai na Vualiku

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKA oqo na vosa ni marau nei Dike Baleinamau e dua na lewe ni mataqali mai Votua Lekutu mai Bua.

“Au o Dike Baleinamau mai Votua Lekutu Bua. Qo e dua na veivakatorocake-taki levu ena neitou bula vakamataqali kei na nodra vulu na gone ni mataqali. Keitou via lewe 60 tiko na lewe ni mataqali eso era tiko i Suva eso era tiko ena koro. Lewe levu ga ra tiko mai Suva. Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu kina Matanitu e na veika era sa mai vota vei keimami ena siga ni kua. Keimami vakavinavinaka kina vakalevu ena veika sa mai yaco ena siga ni kua,” tukuna ko Baleinamau.

Ko Peni Bolatini mai Naitobu ena yasana ko Bua sa qai mai taura e dua na bonisi levu ni qele e teivaki kina na paini.

“O au mada au vakavinavinaka vakalevu niu sa yabaki 73 au se qai mai sota kaya e dua na kena iwasewase e matata vinaka. Keimami sa kila talega kina na kena vinaka na soli qele kina Fiji Pine,” tukuna ko Bolatini.

“Au vakavinavinakataka vakalevu kina Matanitu veiliutaki tiko ena gauna oqo na kena tuvalaki vakamatau na veika me baleta na neimami veikau kei na veika e wasei mai na kena ilavo.

“Ia keimami sa vakanu-inui tu ni na sega ni koya ga oqo era na qai kuria tiko na luvei keimami.”

Kune votu e matana na turaga itaukei ni qele oqo na marau levu ni sa ciqoma na nona bonisi ni ilavo ni lisi mai vei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena soqo ka cavu isausau kina na kabani na Fiji Pine e Drasa, Lautoka. **ITaba: ISAAC LAL**

Me kua na lesu ki muri

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ESA na sega ni rawa meda kauta lesu ki muri na bisinisi ka sa dodonu meda tosoya tikoga, tomana ka tokona na cakacaka vinaka sa vakayacori tiko kina.

Eva toka oya na nodra vakamacala na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama vei ira na 2800 na itaukei ni qele e na Mua-i-Ra ka ra tauri bonisi ni lisi mai na Matanitu ka rauta ni \$7 na milioni taucoko na kena levu.

Mai na Vualiku era wasea talega e \$2.8 na milioni na 259 na mataqali itaukei ni qele.

“Sa sega ni rawa medatou kauta lesu tale imuri na bisinisi oqo kina na vanua sa tu taumada kina. Oqo na vanua ka voleka sara ni lusi kina na bisinisi oqo, sega tu na ituvatuva

matata me vakamuri, sega na sasaumi, kei na sega nai sasabai mera taqomaki kina na itaukei ni qele,” kaya ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama.

“E dodonu mo ni tarogi kemuni ena vica na vakatataro, se vakacava mada na tagede se tuvaki ni noda bula ena gauna mai voleka ni lusi kina na bisinisi oqo?”

“E vakacava beka na bula ni nomuni vuvale?”

“E rawati vinaka na vuli mai vei ira na luveda ena gauna ni saumi curucuru? E daumaka na nodra bula ni vuli na gone ena vuli torocake?”

“Oqo e vica na vakatataro me dau tiko vei keda vakabibi ena vei siga ni mataka ni sa roro tiko mai na gauna ni vei digidigi. Eda sa sega ni tiko oqo ena yabaki 1990’s eda sa tiko oqo ena 2018. Esa toso vinaka

sara tiko na bisinisi oqo ka sa kakavaki ga ena veika vinaka ka me tarai cake kina na kena bula vakabisinisi ka sega ena veika me luluqa kina.”

“Me da kakua ni vakatara me ra kauti keda tale imuri, me lusi kina na noda vua ni cakacaka vata kei na cavu isausau esa tu kina noda vanua ni kua ka me rawati kina na bula sautu kei na Viti vinaka.

“Na vua ni noda cakacaka eda sa cavu isausau tiko kina oqo kei na noda toso ki liu sai koya naka era dau gadreva na dau ni politiki.

“Sa saumi ni bonisi oqo e vakaraitaki ni nomuni gugumatua kei na yalodina ni cakacaka vata me rawati na bula vinaka ka vakauasivi mo ni marautaka vata kei ira na lewe ni nomuni vuvale.”



iSosomi ni mataka

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA itabagone era sega ni leqa ka gadrevi me wali- kevaka kina sa dodonu meda tirovi keda tale mada ena Iloilo”

Oqori na ka e tukuna na Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito ko Laisenia Tuitubou ena nona vosa tiko vei ira na 1000 na itabagone ena nodra bose mai Lautoka na Dare Fest

“Equip” Youth Conference ka vakarautaka na Lautoka Full Gospel Tabernacle e Lautoka.

Vakauqeti ira na itabagone ko Minisita Tuitubou mera cakacaka kina dua ga na inaki ena sala dodonu,

“Na itabagone esega ni dua walega na iwasewase ni tama-ta, e dua na itaba ni bula; eda lako curuma kece na tamata, ka tiko kina e levu na digidigi me rawati kina na bula vinaka

kei na veisau vinaka,” kaya ko Minisita Tuitubou.

“Na itabagone era isosomi ena noda itikitiko, ni mataka era na veisosomitaki ka dodonu kina mera karoni ka kauwaitaki.”

A kerei ira talega na itabagone ko Minisita Tuitubou mera vakayagataka na porokaramu ni tiko bulabula me toroi sobu kina na veitauvi ni mate ka vu mai na ivakarau ni

nodra bula se NCD.

Vakavinavinaka na iliuliu ni matabose ni Dare Fest Committee ko Eroni Uludole ki vei Minisita Tuitubou ena nona veitokoni ena soqo macawa dua ni itabagone oya.

“Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu vua na Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito ena nona veitokon ve keimami na nona ivakasala e yaga sara vakalevu vei keimami.”

Talei ni rogo na domo ni itabagone

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA tekivu rogo tiko na domodra na itabagone kara sa laurai tiko ena vei ulutaga e vakabibitaki vei ira.-talei na ivakatak-ilakila oya nina vukea na kena wali vakatotolo na bolebole era sotava”

Oqori na veika e vakaraitaka na Minisita ni iTabagone ke na Qito ko Laisenia Tuitubou ena nona dolava tiko na bose levu ni itabagone ena iwasewase e loma kei na Tokalau ka vakayacori tiko ena koronivuli na Lelean Memorial School.

Na bose ni itabagone oqo e vakarautaka na Minisitiri ni itabagone kei na Qito me rawa kina vei ira na itabagone ena rua na iwasewase oya me rau cau ena vei ulutaga e bolel ira tiko na itabagone ni kua.

“E vuravura ni kua sa levu na ulutaga bibi e bolel ira tiko na itabagone me vaka na wai ni veivakamatenitaki, na basulawa, na bukete dole, na draki veisau kei na vuqa tale,” kaya ko Minisita Tuitubou.

“Ena kena itosotoso ni kua keina veitokoni ni mona livaliva, sa dodonu meda rai vakayalo matua, meda vakayagataka vakayalomatua na mona livaliva.”

Kaya ko Minisita Tuitubou ni taleitaka na nodra vakaraitaka nodra kauwai na itabagone ena kena vakavinakataki na veiqaravi ni nodra minisitiri.

“Oya na vuna au tukuna kina ena gauna ni veitalanoa kei ira na itabagone-niu gadreva meu rogoca na domodra kei na nodra vakasama kei na veika era kauwai kina meu rawa ni veivuke kina,” kaya ko Minisita Tuitubou.

“Na itabagone e Viti e tiko na bolebole era sotava tiko, ia ena neimami itutu vaka iliuliu sa gadrevi me keimami vakasagara na kena iwali.”



Sa vakamacalataki tiko oqri vei Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na iyaya ni veiqaravi ni Sai Prema Foundation Medical Centre e Nasese, Suva.
iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Valenibula ni uto e Suva

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

LA’KI dolava ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama edua na valenibula ni veiqaravi ena uto ka ratou vakailavotaka na soqosoqo ni Sai Prema Foundation vakatokai na Sri Sathya Sanjeevani Medical Centre e Nasese, Suva.

Na valenibula ena solia na veiqaravi sega ni saumi ena tiko bulabula kei na veiqaravi vakavuniwai me baleti ira na

lewe ni vanua raraba ena noda vanua.

Lagita ko PM Bainimarama na veivuke kei na veiqaravi ratou vakayacora tiko na Sai Prema Foundation ena noda vanua me baleta na tiko bulabula kei na veiqaravi vakavuniwai ni ratou sa tokona sara tikoga na cakacaka ni Matanitu me baleta na tiko bulabula kei na veiqaravi ena valenibula vakavuniwai.

“Sa dolavi kina ni kua na katuba me baleta na veiqaravi oqo vei ira na lewenivanua ena noda vanua mera bau vakila ka marautaka na veiqaravi mai vei ira na kena dau ena tabana oqo, ena vakasala, ena veisele kei na soli ni vuanikau sega ni sega ni saumi se soli wale,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na nomudou porokaramu ni Solia na

Bula ena 2016 era vukei kina e levu na gone ratou 23 kece na gone ni noda vanua mera laki vakayagataka na veiqaravi vakavuniwai kei na veisele ena vanua tani.”

“Dou kauti ira talega mai kina na vuniwai kena dau ena veisele me baleta na veiqaravi ni veisele ni uto ka ratou qaravi kina na lewe 27 na gone ena noda vanua.”

Vakarairata ko PM Bainimarama ni ratou soqosoqo veivuke vinaka kina Matanitu oratou na Sai Prema Foundation ena nodratou vakarautaka me soli wale eso na veiqaravi saulevu ka dredre ena noda vanua ka sa vukei tiko na nodra bula na gone.

Na isevu ni green bond nei Viti

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ENA isevu ni gauna sa rawati kina na isevu ni Green Bond nei Viti. Sa na rawa mai kina na ilavo me vukea na sotavi kina na ibolebole vumai ena revurevu ni draki veisau.

A tekivutaka mai Lodon e Peritania na kena veiqaravi ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena Stock Echange levu duadua ni vuravura.

“Au doka talega na noqu sa tekivutaka mai Lodon na Green Bond nei Viti- na isevu

ni green bond ena dua na matanitu se qai vakatorocaketaki tiko – qaravi na itavi oqo ena Stock Exchange mai Lodon, e dua na makete ni ilavo kilai levu e vuravura,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na bond oqo ena vukea na noda kumuni ilavo baleta na sotavi ni ni veika e kauta mai na draki oka kina na veivakatorocaketaki vei kedatou e Tailevu.”

“Meu cavuta eso na kena ivakaraitaki me vaka beka na bainiua ka tautauvata na kena esa tara oti tu mai Kumi, na

tokitaki ni koro eso, kei na vakavinakataki ni wai ena gauna ni waluvu.

“Eda sa rawata mai kina noda vanua na veika yaga eso ka vua ni noda liutaka tiko na ka e baleta na draki veisau. Na nomuni itutu vaka lewe ni Matabose oqo, ena nomuni itutu vakailiuliu o ni kila na mataqali veiliutaki e qaqa-coya vinaka ka qaravi ena yalodina.”

“E segani baleta walega na veika ena yaco ni mataka, ena nanumi talega kina na veika ena yaco ena veiyabaki sa tu

mai liu se tini na yabaki mai oqo. Meda qarava kina ena dina na veika e dodonu me vakayacori me koto kina na raiyawa ni nodra vakarautaki na noda lewe ni vanua ena veika ena qai yaco mai.”

“Nida lako yani ki vuravura ena vuku ni draki veisau, e sega ni baleta nida sotava na leqa, e baleta ga nida nodra jabeni na malumalumu, baleta nida vanua guta na rawaka, eda tu vakarau meda tubu, eda tu vakarau meda rawaka ena gauna eda sotava kina na veisau ni draki.”



Voleka ni 8000 na rawa cakacaka ena NEC

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Sa voleka ni 8000 na levu ni tamata cakacaka era vola yaca ena tabana ni veivakacakacakataki se employment centre ena loma ni vula rua sa oti.

Vakaraitaka na itukutuku ogo na Minisita ni Veivakacakacakataki Jone Usamate.

“Sa yacova yani ogo na kedra iwili-

wili ena 7751 era mai tukuna lesu tale vei keitou ni ra sa rawa cakacaka,” kaya ko Minisita Usamate.

“Eso tale era sa rawa cakacaka era sega ni veitaratara lesu mai keitou na sega ni kila na kedra iwiliwili. Ia na kedra iwiliwili vei ira na veitaratra lesu tale mai nira sa rawa cakacaka sa yacova tiko na 7,751.”

“Na lawa ni NEC e tukuni tiko kina ni rawa ni rejisita ena NEC edua esa

yabaki 15 lako cake. Au kila na Matanitu e vakabibitaka tiko ni gone kece mera laki vuli mai na yabaki 15 kina 18. Ia e tiko eso sra biuta beka na koronivuli sega tu ni vuli se cakacaka ko ira ogo e vakatarai vei ira mera rejisita ena NEC.

Tomana ko Minisita Usamate ni “na iyalayala ni sega ni cakacaka era rawa ni mai rejisita vei keitou e sega ni yalani mai na 15 ka lako cake. Eso

mada era sa yabaki 70 se rawa ga ni ra mai rejisita vei keitou ena NEC.”

“E tiko sara ga na National Employment Act na lawa e tukuna ni dodonu mera mai rejisita kece na sega tu ni cakacaka. Me rawa ni matata kina Matanitu na iwiliwili era vaqara cakacaka tiko. Me rawa ni laurai na veigaunisala eso erawa nira vukei kina mera kunea kina na cakacaka me rawa kina nodra bula”.

Savasava kei na dina: PM

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Sa vakaraitaka vei ira na lewe ni Matabose ni Yasana ko Tailevu na turaga na Paraiminisita ko Voreqe Bainimarama ni nona Matanitu ena tomana tikoga na veiqaravi savasava ka dina.

“Au vakadeitaki keda ena mataka edaidai ni noqu matanitu ena tomana saka tikoga na veiqaravi e savasava ka dina,”kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Ni rogoca saka tiko ni sa ciwa qo na yabaki na kena tubu saka tikoga na noda bula vakailavo.”

“Sa tubu na nodra vakacacakataki na lewenivanua me vakatautauvatataki kei na ruasagavulu na yabaki sa oti,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Sa tubu talega na nodra gagadre na dau ni bisinisi mera mai vakatubu bisinisi e Viti kara kauta mai na ivurevure ni ilavo ena noda vanua.”

“Sa vakadrodroi saka na wai kei na livaliva kina veivanua era vakuwai tu mai vakabalavu,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Sa vakarauataki talega na



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena bese ni yasana ko Tailevu. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

veivuke ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula kei na Tabacakacaka ni Vuli.”

“Sa levu talega na veivakatorocaketaki sa vakayacori tiko ena veiyasai Viti, qoka na kena ta na gaunisala, tara na wavu kei na ikelekele ni waqa,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na Matanitu sa sega talega ni veivakaduiduiditaki ena kena sagai na tubu vakailavo, e sega ni saumi na icurucuru ni vuli ena Primary kei na Secondary sa vakarautaki na sikolasivi vei ira na lewe ni vanua taucoko, ia, ka ra vakaluci na cakacaka vakaukauwa.”



E taba toka oqori na noda mata ena Matabose kei Vuravura baleta na draki veisau ko Luke Daunivalu ena nodra bese e Bonn, Germany. iTaba: ERONI VALILI

Vakadreti na cakacaka ni draki veisau

ERONI VALILI

NA timi ni Viti ena veiliutaki ni draki veisau esa cuqena tiko na cakacaka ni kena vakatetei tiko na porokaramu ni veidinadinati mai Parisi ka sa kacivi ira tiko na vei pati ni veidinadinati ogo mera tokona vakavoleka maina sasaga nei Viti.

Na tui ni veitalanoa ena veidinadinati ogo ko Luke Daunivalu e tukuna ena dua

na bese mai Bonn Germany kei ira na dauivolatukutuku ni sega ni vinakataka ko Viti me vakalusia tale edua na gauna ni veiqaravi me baleta na nona bolebole kei na yalayala ena veidinadinati ni draki veisau baleta ni vinakati me vakacavari vina-ka ena COP24.

“Namaka ko Viti mena vakalevutaka na kaukauwa se igu ni nona veiqaravi ena cakacaka ogo ka ogo saraga na neitou tovo ni veiqaravi ena rua na macawa mai ogo ena veitalanoa”.

Vakaraitaka ko Daunivalu ni Talanoa dialogue e dua na yavu bibi ena sasaga nei Viti me rawati kina na vakalailaitaki ni kaburaki ni

kasi ena noda vuravura.

“ Na veitalanoa edua na noda itovo ni veitaratara ena pasivika me dau vukea na noda vakayacora eso na vakatulewa matau, ka kunei kina na veirogoci kei na veivakaduavatataki ka sa dua na ka na nodra ciqoma tiko vakavinaka na lewei vuravura.”

Ena vakayacori ena Sigatabu edua na talanoa ka namaki mera yaco yani kina vakalewe levu na vei pati namaka kina ko Viti mera na bese vinaka.

Dua na veivauqeti oya nodra sa vakalawataka e levu na matanitu na Kyoto Protocol ena nodra veiqaravi vaka veimatanitu.

Sereki na ivau ni dravudravua ni iTaukei: PM

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Sa vakaraitaka vei ira na lewe ni Bose ni Yasana ko Tailevu ko Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ni nona Matanitu sa sereka na ivau ni dravudravua ni iTaukei.

“Keitou sa sereka na ivau ni dravudravua ni iTaukei. Sa oti na veiyabaki e dau vakayagataki kina na qele me yaragi vakapolitiki,”tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Sa soli kina itaukei na iveivuke mera rawa ilavo kina vakalevu. Ena yabaki ogo ena milioni tale na ilavo ena soli kina vakatorocaketaki ni qele ni itaukei.

“Sa dola e Tailevu e levu na veivakatorocaketaki ni gaunisala kei na livaliva ka sa tokoni na sasaga ni noda yasana.

Tomana ko PM ni “sa levu cake sara na tara ni sala ni veilakoyaki, na wavu, na ikawakawa, na ikelekele ni waqa kara tara ena koro vakavalagi

kei na taudaku ni korovakavalagi e Viti”.

Sa levu cake na lewei Viti era vuli ena univesiti kei na vuli tara ni kua.

“Keitou sa raica vakatautauvata na lewe ni vanua ena kena solli yani na vuli wale ena primary kei na secondary, vakarawarawataki na sikolasivi kei na nodra vukei na sega ni rawa ni sauma nodra icurucuru ena univesiti ena nodra sa rawa ni vakayagataka na porokaramu ni TELS.

“Keitou sa vakauqeti ira na noda

lewenivanua mera dau bulibulika. Sa rogoci kece na domada ni kua veitalia na mata tamata cava, se mata lotu cava se ituvaki ni bula cava, yalewa se tagane, eda sa raici vakatautauvata.”

“Era sa kila na lewei Viti na yaga ni kena tubu tiko ni noda bula vakailavo. Era sa vakaitutu lelevu na iTaukei ena isevu ni gauna. Sa taqomaki na nodra qele kei na dodonu na iTaukei ka taqomaki vinaka tu ena noda Yavu ni Vakavulewa. Na lawa levu duadua ni noda vanua.



Siga ni vakananumi ni ANZAC

E veitokoni mi sira na geta ikeke ki noda mataivalu ko Peselesidi Jioji Konrote ena soqo ni vakananumi ni vaka kei Australia kei Niulandi se ANZAC Day ka dau nanumi kina na nodra vakaitavi na kai matanitu eruva oqo ena ivalu levu kei na cakacaka ni veisaututaki ena veiyasai vuvurava.

Era tiko talega ena soqo oqo o iratou na mata ni Matanitu ena noda vanua kei sira ena nodra ivakalesilesi ni vale ni volavola, wili kina oira eso na sotia mai na nodra vanua ka ra lesi mai kina na nodrau vale ni volavola.

Na soqo oqo e tekivu ena dua na lotu ena mataka se Dawn service ena nodra bulubulu na sotia ni noda vanua. Dau vakananumi na siga oqo e vuvurava raraba.

ITABA: ERONI VALILI



Bose ni yasana ko Tailevu

Vakadreti rira na turaga ni vanua kei na liuliu ni vei tikina, koro, kei na yasana ko Paraminisita Voreqe Bainimarama me ra qaruna na nodra vakarau ni vakayagataki ilavo mera mandiataka vinaka ka me ra teivaki talega ena cakacaka ni veiqaravi ni veitorocaketaki ena nodra veikoro.

Yaco tiko na ivakasala oqo ena bose ni yasana ko Tallevu ka vakayacori e Nauluvatu, Nakelo.

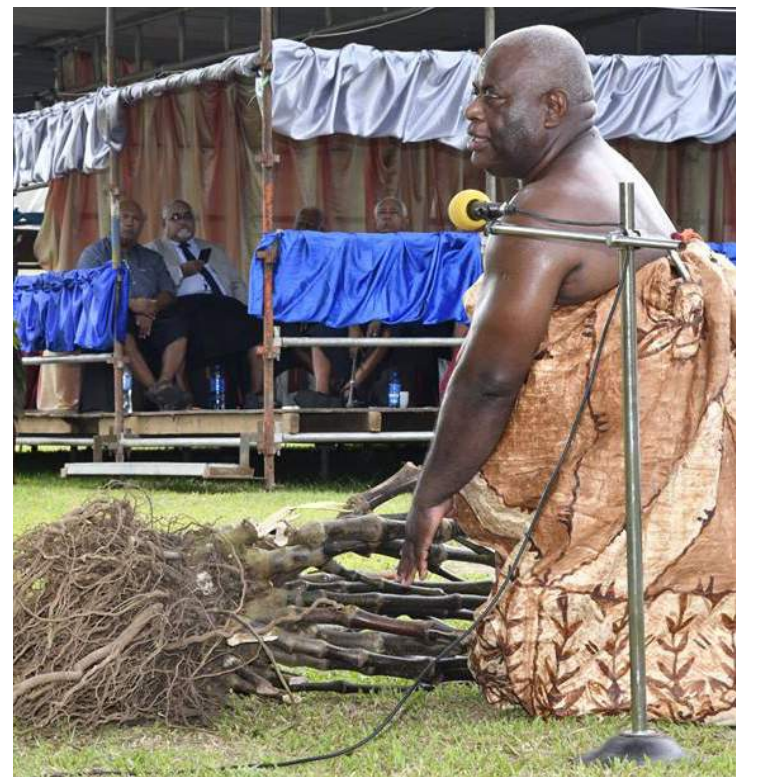
“Ea sa tauyavutaki tale mai ni tui na TC Winston ena rura na yabaki sa oti, Dolava na Matanitu na gaunisala

vou kei na cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki vou me vakatetaki kina na veiqaravi ni Matanitu," kaya ko PM.

"Sa vakadabera kina na Matanitu edua na yavu ni veiqaravi ena veigauna sa bera mai ka me na tokoni kina na yasana ko Tailevu.

Tokona ko PM ni uqeti ira na lewe ni vanua vakabibi oira na liuliu ni vanua mera cakacaka vakavoleka kei ira na lewe ni vanua vakabibi ena qaravi ni tiko bulabula, na iyau kei na laveti ni kaukauwa ni rawa ka vakailavo.

ITABA: NANISE NEIMILA



Tokoni na soli loloma me baleta na waluvu

Veisoliyaka na Minisitini Veivoli kei na Bisinisi kei na Saravanua ko Faiyaz Koya na veivuke ni bisinisi vei e 539 na lewe ni vanua me ra tau ya \$1000 e Lautoka. Ogo esa ivakadinadina bula tiko ni yalo dina ni Matanitu me vukei ira na lewe ni vanua ena noda vanua mera laveta kina na nodra bula ena veisiga. Eso vei ira ogo era sa qai vakaduri bisinisi vakadua ia ko era vakayagataka na ilavo ogo mera vakarabailevutaka kina na nodra bisinisi. E rauta ni lewe 69 na lewe ni vanua era cigoma talega na veivuke ni Matanitu me baleta na cagilaba me ra tara vou kina na nodra bisinisi ni oti na cava.

iTaba: AZARIA FAREAN





E cake ko ira na nodra vakaukauwa yago na gone ka veitokoni kina na Outrigger on the Beach Resort e Sigatoka. iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN



Eeratou e taba tiko oqo na Vunilawa ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei irau na luvena ena nodra soqo na gone ka vakarautaka na Outrigger on the Beach Resort. iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN

Taubale ni sasaga ni koronivuli

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

E liutaka ko Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum edua na taubale ni vakaukauwa yago me baleti ira na gone ena oteloa na Outrigger on the Beach Resort e Sigatoka.

Oqo edua na sasaga vakalewe ni vanua ka veitokoni kina na otela me vukei ira na lewe ni vanua ena yasana erua o Nadroga/Navosa ena qaravi ni vuli.

Na ilavo ena soqoni ena veivuke oqo ena vakagolei e dua na uma sede me

voli kina edua na nodra lori me nodra na gonevuli e Sigatoka Special School kei na tara ni nodra bure na qasenivuli ena Conua Districi School.

Vakavinavinakataka ko Vunilawa na yalo ni cakacaka vata kei na veitauri liga kei ira na lewe ni vanua ka ra vakaraitaka na manidia ni otela vakabibi nodra tokona tiko na veiqaravi ni Matanitu ena kena cuqeni na vuli.

“Na vuli edua na ka talei kina na Matanitu. Ni kila ni sa vakagolea tiko kina na matanitu na levu ni veivuke kei na

iyau ka sa ra vuli wale kina na gone. Sa tara yani na veivuke oqo na vuli torocake keina veivuke ena vodovodo ni basi. Io oira na koronivuli ena special schools era gadreva na veivuke vinaka,” kaya ko Vunilawa.

“Keitou sa vakalawa e na United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Sa vakalawataki ena noda vanua na lawa oqo ka sa tiko kina na itavi levu ni Matanitu kei ira na veitabana ena nodra veiqaravi vei ira na lewe ni vanua.



Sa vakamacala tiko oqo vua na Minisita ni Wai ko Dr Mahendra Reddy e dua na vakaillesilesi ni tabana ni wai ena Vualiku. iTaba: JOSAI RALAGO



Dikeva tiko oqori ko Minisita ni Wai ko Dr Mahendra Reddy e dua na uciwai volekati Labasa ena nona vesiko kina Vualiku. iTaba: JOSAI RALAGO

Vakacaucautaki na vakatitobutaki ni uciwai

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ERA sa vakacaucautaka na veimatavuvale e dau luvuci wasoma e liu ena gauna ni waluvu mai Labasa na kena vakatitobutaki na vei uciwai.

Na keli vakatitibu ni vei uciwai e qarava tiko na Minisitiri ni Wai ni Matanitu kasa mana sara tiko na nodra cakacaka.

Era vakila na tikina oqori

na vakaitikotiko e Qelewaqa, Soasoa kei Vunika e sega ni luvuci na nodra veivale kei na nodra iteitei ena draki suasua eda sa lako sivita.

A sikova na Vualiku na Minisita ni Wai ko Dr Mahendra Reddy me dikeva na veivanua e vakatitobutaki tiko na kena vei uciwai.

Kidavaki ira na timi ni vakatatara e Qelewaqa ko Gyan Wati yabaki 68 ka kaya

ni taleitaka na kena vakavinakataka na sala ni wai e yasa ni nona vale.

E kaya o Wati ni galala mai na waluvu na nona vale ena vuku nai vakatitobutaki ni uciwai.

Marau talega ko Nirmala Wati mai Soasoa ka kaya ni kena keli vakavinaka na uciwai voleka ena nona itikotiko e sega ni luvuci kina na nona yasana ni vale.

“E liu ni taubi na uca e dau luvu mai na neitou itikotiko, keitou sa vakavinavinaka kina vakalevu kina minisitiri ni wai ni sa sotava na bolebole oya,” tukuna ko Wati.

O Surend Chand mai Siberia mai Labasa ekaya vakaoqo ne; “e talei ni levu na leqa keimami dau sotava ena sivia na tini na yabaki sa sivi esa walia rawa na Matanitu”.

Kaya o Chand ni vanua ya e dau levu kina na waluvu e liu ia sa mai veisau ni sa vakavinakataka na ikeli wai.

Vakaraitaka ko minisita Reddy ni loma ni tolu na vula ena rua na dabe ni palimedi sa levu sara na kena kacivaki tiko kina vei ira na lewenivanua na vakatitobutaki ni uciwai ka ra sa vakauqeti sara kina vakalevu ka veisau talega na nodra rai.

Vakadeitaki ena Yavu ni Vakavulewa na nomu dodonu

NANISE NEIMILA

NA nomu dodonu e taqomaki tu ena noda Yavu ni Vakavulewa ka kuria na tauyavutaki ni Matabose ni Dodonu ni Tamata kei na Saqati ni Veivakadui-duitaki.

Oqori na veika e vakabibitaka na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravuadravua ko Mereseini Vuniwaqa ena nodra vukei na veibisinisi ka vakabibitaki kina na taqomaki ni dodonu ni marama, me vaka e toqai ena Matabose kei Vuravura se UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

“Na dinati ni itavi nei Viti ena tikina oqo e vakabibitaka na Matanitu ka kena ivakadinadina na taurivaki ni 2014 ni UN Convention against Torture, kei na UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,” kaya ko minisita Vuniwaqa.

“Na ka e tautauvata kina na dodonu e vuravura oya ni vauci keda vata veitalia na noda duidui. Ia na nodra vakalolomataki na marama e kilai ni liu ena levu ni nodra dau vakalolomataki na marama e Viti me vaka e tabaki ena Fiji 2016 Human Rights Report.”

“Na tikina oqo a vakabibitaka talega na Special Rapporteur on Human Rights ena nona a veisiko mai ki Viti vakabibi na nodra taqomaki na marama ena veivakalolomataki mai vale kei na vanua ni cakacaka,” kaya ko Minisita Vuniwaqa.



Ko Minisita ni iTabgone kei na Qito Laisenia Tuitubou kei ira na dau cici ni Ratu Kadavlevu School kei na nodra icovi ni qaqa ena nodra itagede na Senior Boys ena rara e Laucala. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA



E maliwai ratou na goneyalewa dau qito vinaka duadua na Vunilawa ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena qito levu gonevuli ena ANZ Stadium e Laucala. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Na veitokoni vakailavo ena qito

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VEITALANOA na noda niusiveva na Noda Viti kei na Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito ko Laisenia Tuitubou ena vuku ni veitokoni e dau solia na Matanitu kina Qito era dau vakaitavi kina na noda dau qito. Mo wilika sara mada yani.

TARO: Sa toso cake na itutu nei Viti ena qito na Commenwealth kina ika 23 ni vakatauvtani kina ika 30 ni itutu ena yabaki sa oti. Mai na 71 na veimataniitu era vakaitavi tiko kina.

Minisita Tuitubou: Sa dina e 71 kece na veimataniitu era vakaitavi ena Commonwealth Games ena yabaki oqo se qai imatai ni qito levu duadua baleta ni raui cokovata na Paralympic Games kei na Commonwealth Games. Ko Viti a vakaitavi ena 12 na qito. Au kila nida na dua vata ena vakavinavinaka nida rawata e dua na koula dua na silva, rua na varasa.

Taro: Na cava e matalia kina na vakaitavi nei Viti ena yabaki oqo ena Commonwealth Games.

Minisita Tuitubou: E matalia ni se qai imatai ni gauna me winitaka kina edua na gone

yalewa e dua na koula ko Eileen Cikamatana. Ko iratou talega na noda dau cici eratou dui tekia talega na nodratou dui isausau. E dina ni ratou sega ni vaka metali ia ratou sa tekia tale kina nodratou dui sausau. E rua na varasa e rawata ko Apolonia Vaivai kei na noda dau veivacu ko Winston Hill. Ko iratou na noda timi lewe yavitu e ratou rawata e dua na siliva.

TARO: Na cava e matalia kina na nodra lai qito kina na noda timi kina Commonwealth Games?

Minisita Tuitubou: Ko ira na timi ni Niusiladi, Ositerelia, Sauca Aferika era sega tale ni lai vakaitavi ena Hong Kong. Era cegu vinaka tu era lai wawa sara tu ga ma na Gold Coast. Na ka ga e bibi kina ko Viti ni rokovi na qito mai Hong Kong macawa talega a tarava a vakaitavi kina ena Gold Coast. Ko Viti e kalougata ni yacova na fainala. Ni ratou winitaka ga mai na Hong Kong ratou mai qito tale oya ka ratou winitaka kina na siliva.

TARO: Na veivuke cava e solia na Matanitu ena mataqali qito vakaoqo me vaka na Commonwealth?

Minisita Tuitubou: Na veivuke e solia tu na Minisitiri

ena vuku ni Matanitu ena nodra vakarautaki na dau qito. Au kaya tiko ni Commonwealth era se tekivu vakarautaki mai ena qito ni Pasifika ena mini-South Pacific Game mai Vanuatu. E na qito kece oqo e solia kece tiko na Matanitu e dua na iwase ni ilavo. Keirau veitalanoa tiko kei na Peresitedi ni FASA-NOC ko Joe Rodan e kaya nira kalougata na dau qito ni gauna oqo ni soli nodra ilavo na Matanitu, e liu era vaqara ilavo sara ga na dau qito. Era kalougata sara na dau qito ni kua ni tokoni ira sara ga na Matanitu. Vakauasivi talega ni dau lewa na Bose Yaco ni ilavo e dau soli nira dau rawata mai na metali. Me vaka a soli vei ratou na noda timi lewe yavitu ka ratou rawata mai na metali mai Rio de Janeiro.

TARO: E veivakauqeti na nodra rawa metali na dau qito era gole main a taudaku ni koro lelevu me vakataki koya na gone yalewa e rawa koula ka dau lave ka bibi mai Levuka e Ovalau cava nomuni rai kina?

Minisita Tuitubou: Sa kune votu na vinaka kei na mana ni kena kau kina taudaku ni veikoro leleviu na qito. Me vaka na Gymnasium koya lai biu mai baba oya. Sa namaki

mena dua talega e mai tara ena iwasewase eloma, iwasewase na Vualiku kei na wasewase na Muaira. Na kani iwasewase na Tokalau koya sa toka oya mai Baba e Levuka.

TARO: E dau vica tu na iwasewase ni ilavo e dau solia na Matanitu kina veiwasewase ni qito ni noda vanua?

Minisita Tuitubou: Na veiyabaki taucoko era dau bose na veisoqosoqo ni qito e Viti eratou liutaka na bose oya na Fiji Sports Commission ena 2012 ena vuku ni minisitiri a mai cakacaka tiko e rukuna na Fiji Sports Commission. Era na biuta mai na veisoqosoqo ni qito na nodra qito lelevu kece kei na Action Plan se ituvatuva era gadreva mera vakayacora ena yabaki oya kei na isau vakailavo me rawati kina na ituvatuva oya. Na yabaki oqo sac aka oti ena vula sa oti ka na qai macala ena yabaki vakailavo ni vula ka tu mai. Na kena vakaraitaki oqo a vukei na qito ni Ceva ni Pasifika mai PNG e \$1.4m, na mini-South Pacific Games e sivia na \$800,000, na qito ni Commonwealth e veitokoni talega kina na Matanitu ena sivia na \$1.4 na milioni. Na Olympic Games mai Rio e veitokoni kina na Matanitu ena sivia na \$2m.

TARO: Sa roro voleka tiko mai na valataki ni Bilo ni Vuravura sena World Cup mai San Fransisco e Amerika e vaka evei na veitokoni kina ni Matanitu?

Minisita Tuitubou: Io ena caka talega e dua na kena pepa ena gauna ga esa vakarau kina na isoqosoqo ni qito rakavi se Fiji Rugby Union, eratou na biuta mai e viva na ilavo e gadrevi, ena qai biu mai kina National Sports Commission, na matabose oya sana qai biuta mai kina Minisitiri ni iTabgone kei na Qito mena qai kerea caka kina Bose Yaco.

TARO: Sa vaka beka evei na kena tara tiko eso na rara ni qito lelevu vakavale ni sarasara ena taudaku ni koro lelevu?

Minisita Tuitubou: Na kena e tara tiko mai Vunisea mai Kadavu esa oti na iwase 1 ni veiqravi, na iwasewase 2 kei na 3 na kena tara na vale ni sarasara kei na dua na multipurpose court. Eratou sa rawata na tender oya na Minisitiri ni Cakacaka. E dua tale na rara e tara tiko mai Sawaieke mai Gau me rawa ni lauri kina na taledi ni qito e tu mai na veiyanuyanu e Lomaiviti. Sa nanumi talega me tara e dua na rara mai Vunidawa ka nanumi mera na dikeva tau-mada na idinia ni Jaina.

Noda Viti

‘Qarauni ira na dau ni politiki’

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kerei keda raraba na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena qarauni ni ka eda rogoca mai vei ira na dau ni politiki me vaka nida sa nanamaki saka tiko kina veidigidigi ka tiko saka e matada ena yabaki oqo.

Rogo na vosa oqo ena Bose ni Yasana ko Tailevu ena vula sa oti.

“Ena levu saka na ulutaga makawa ena kau saka mai, e ulutaga lasutaki. Meda qaqarauni saka tiko kina,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Dua saka na veitalanoa ni na kalirakitani noda qele na iTaukei. Na veitalanoa saka e veilasutaki.

“Na luluqa ni bula vakailavo ni noda vanua, na veitalanoa saka ni veilasutaki.”

Tomana ko PM Bainimarama ni “sega saka ni dua na itukutuku oqo me yaco vakakina” baleta ni itukutuku lasu makawa vakaoqo ena vure tale mai vei ira eso na veimata vovou e tautauvata kece tikoga.

“Meda qaqarauni saka tiko kina,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Meda vakaisulutaki keda tiko kina na Matabose oqo ena veitalanoa me kau laivi na veilasutaki meda veitalanoa vakadodonu vakasavasava.

“Ena tomani saka tikoga na veiliutaki a kauta mai na sautu ni noda bula vakailavo ka dolava saka na vei mata ni katuba ka vueta na noda tiko vinaka ena nodatou Yasana ko Tailevu ka vaka kina na vo ni veiyasana vakaturaga e Viti.”



Ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena nona sa kacivaka na cavu isausau ni kabani ni Paini ni noda vanua ka soli kina na bonisi levu ni qele lisitaki e vitu na milioni na dola vei ira na itaukei ni qele. iTaba: ISAAC LAL

Mana

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA mana na veivuke ni Matanitu kina Fiji Pine Limited Group ni vakilai na veiveisau vinaka sa yaco ena bisinisi ni paini ena loma ni vitu na yabaki sa sivi.

“Ni sa vovoleka sara tu ga ni baqeravu na kabani ni paini qai vakayacori na veiveisau vinaka me rawati kina na tubu vakaitamera e cavu isausau kina na kabani ni paini ena yabaki oqo.”

Oqori e dua na mala ni vosa ni vakavinavinaka nei Josaia Driso, yabaki 63, e dua na lewe ni koro e Nailaga, Ba, ka dua vei ira na lewe ni 40 na mataqali era vota na \$7milioni na bonisi ni teivaki ni paini ena nodra qele.

“Ena dua na gauna keimami a lomalomaruataka tu na itaukei ni qele me keimami lisitaka na neimai qele kina na Fiji Pine se kua baleta na gauna oya a

sega tu ni dua na kena yaga vei keimami, ia ena vica na yabaki sa sivi sa torocake sara na kena yaga vei keimami,” kaya ko Driso.

“Na cavu ikalawa vinaka ni kabani sa vakilai e dai na kena yaga vei keimami na itaukei ni qele lisitaki. Keimami sa qai taura na itaukei na qele na ka e dononu me keimami saumi kina keimami sa marautaka ni vakayagataki vinaka na neimami qele.”

“Keimami sa marautaka na Matanitu ka’u vakavinavinaka kina vua na Paraiminisita ena nona vakadabera e dua na matabose vou ni kabani ka sa kune tu e dai na vua ni nodratou veiliutaki vinaka.

Ko Driso esa dabe voliga ena wheelchair ka kaya ni sa yaga sara vakalevu na nodra bonisi ni tubu.

“Keimami sa vakavinakataka kina neimami veivale ena koro ka sa rawa ni keimami sauma nodra isau ni vuli toro-

cake na luvei keimami. Sa rawa talega ni keimami vakavure bisinisi ka maroroi na kena vo me baleti ira na neimami kawa ni mataka,” kaya ko Driso.

Vosa ni veitokoni ni iliuliu ni matabose ni Fiji Pine ko Faiz Khan ni veisau vou e vakayacora na kabani e baleta saraga na veitokoni ni Matanitu.

“Vei ira na itaukei ni qele ni kua – e sega tale ni dua na ivoli ni teitei se veikau e Viti ni kua me solia na tubu levu duadua me vaka e soli vei ira na itaukei ni qele era lisitaka nodra qele kina Fiji Pine,” kaya ko Khan.

“Au nuitaka ni oni na vakayagataka vakavinaka na tubu oqo na itaukei ni qele. Keitou a soli ivakasala talega ena sala oni rawa ni vakatubuilavotaka kina nanomuni ilavo ni lewa vakavuku ka vakayagataka vakavuku na nomuni ilavo.”