

FijiFocus



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DRIVE UP NORTH
OVERWHELMING

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PROUD TO
GIVE BACK

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EDUCATION IS TOP PRIORITY



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with children of Tavea Village in Bua during his tour of the Northern Division post Tropical Cyclone Yasa. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

PM tells of bid to leave no Fijian behind

NANISE NEIMILA, AZARIA FAREEN

STORMS are becoming stronger, and their costs are high - but we will never

let them steal your education or wreck your great potential.

With as many as 85 schools in the Northern Division having sustained structural damage and the

2021 academic year approaching, this was message of reassurance made by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama as words of encouragement to all Fijian students.

“Our Republic of Fiji Military Force Engineers, committed members of our private sector, along with our friends around the world are hard at work restor-

ing your school buildings. Some schools are already open - all oth-

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe
Bainimarama.

On behalf of the Fijian people, I would like to thank the Australian Government and personnel onboard the HMAS Adelaide for the commitment and sacrifice, leaving their families behind during Christmas and New Year to assist with rebuilding efforts post TC Yasa."

Voreqe Bainimarama
Prime Minister

NUMBERS

239 Fijian police officers, including **4** from Tuvalu, became the third batch of **2019** to complete the Basic Recruits Course last week.

TWEET OF THE WEEK

By putting the #ClimateEmergency at the core of their administration, @JoeBiden and @KamalaHarris have more than just a chance to bring America back into #ParisAgreement. They can save the planet as we know it. From the frontlines in Fiji, that commitment can't come soon enough.

CONTACT

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
 @FijianGovt
 Fijian Government
visit us at www.fiji.gov.fj

Will to succeed spurs teacher on

AZARIA FAREEN

OUR greatest weakness lies in giving up and the most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

This has rung true for 43-year-old Rajbindra Singh who recently graduated with a Diploma in Counselling Certificate with 34 other graduates after finishing a rigorous two year programme under the Australian Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) with the Ministry of Education.

Mr Singh hails from Korotari in Labasa and after taking up odd jobs, he undertook a programme at Arya Samaj College and the Australian Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) to become a cultural teacher.

"I taught cultural studies for five years and I have been teaching class 4 students at Arya Samaj Primary School since 2010 till date," he said.

"I had the opportunity to study Hindi Counselling at The Fiji College of Advanced Education and was awarded with a Diploma in Education Hindi Counselling. I continued studying and now I have a Degree, Post-Grad Certificate and I am currently finishing

my Master's in Education as I receive my Diploma in Counselling today."

"I have a hearing problem but it has not deterred me to pursue my goals and I am grateful that it has also not affected my teaching as well," Mr Singh added.

He said he loves teaching and has a very jovial relationship with his students and teachers alike and that he has never stepped back from things which would contribute towards him being a good teacher.

"I am so happy that I was given the award of a pioneer and pushed myself to study to the best of my ability and proved it that disability does not affect studying because if someone puts their mind into their desired goal then they can achieve it," Mr Singh stressed.



Rajbindra Singh (with garland) and his family members with Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar (far left) and Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to Fiji, Anna Dorney (second from right) during the Australian Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) graduation.
Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

"I am overjoyed that all my hard work, patience and dedication has paid off and I would like to thank God foremost for blessing me to grow in my career and the Fijian Government for providing me with opportunity to study further."

The line Minister, Rosy Akbar congratulated the students for their perseverance and said "today's graduation of teacher counsellors marks a renewed commitment to a long-held vision of the Ministry to meet and support the social, spiritual, emotional and behavioural well-being of students".

"We have always recognized that the child's social, emotional and personal development is paramount and can have tremendous impacts on their academic success and their future careers," she said.

"I am confident that the counselling training provided by the Australian Pacific Training Coalition will equip our new graduates with the necessary knowledge and skill set to identify the signs and symptoms of a traumatized child and to initiate a variety of intervention and prevention methods to deal with these unpleasant experiences of the child."

Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to Fiji, Anna Dorney, in addressing the graduates said "you join the esteemed 15,000-strong network of APTC Alumni from 14 Pacific countries that hold internationally recognized Australian qualifications through training provided by APTC".

Minister tells of need for festival laws

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE reason behind the enactment of the Festival Regulations is due to the public outcry on the accountability and transparency of the festivals organised around the country."

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar highlighted this during the Festival Regulations Framework Workshop at the Suva Civic Conference Centre recently.

"It is the first time that we will have a national Festival Regulations for the benefit of the committees, municipal councils and the community as a whole," Minister Kumar said.

"The reason behind the enactment of the Festival Regulations is due to the public outcry on the accountability and transparency of the festivals organised around the country."

The festival committee members, municipal councils and special administrators are amongst the participants to discuss the need for Festival Regulations and the fundamental provisions in the regulations before it is finalised.

Minister Kumar added that the Festival Regulations Framework will serve as a key part of the governance arrangements for the conduct

of the Town and Cities festivals across Fiji.

"There have been numerous complaints about organising of festivals, which ranges from: lack of accountability of the funds raised during the festival and the lack of transparency in the utilisation of the funds raised during the festival."

The regulations will act as a minimum guideline to ensure transparency and accountability in the management of festivals and to ensure that proceeds generated from these festivals are used properly.

"Over the years we all have been to the Festival Ground as a day of outing for the family," Minister Kumar added.

"Festivals are popular annual events that express local pride, play a vital role in national cultural development and promote towns and cities."

"Festivals are one of the most effective ways of bringing people together to display their culture and talent."

Minister Kumar said festivals are also of economic value to the towns and cities where these events are hosted and it provides an opportunity to fundraise for projects, and an occasion for local and regional businesses to sell their goods and services.

There have been numerous complaints about organising of festivals, which ranges from: lack of accountability of the funds raised during the festival and the lack of transparency in the utilisation of the funds raised during the festival.

Premila Kumar
Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development

Education is top priority

FROM PAGE 1

ers will be as soon as it is safe.”

“The twin crises of COVID-19 and climate change have been catastrophic for our people. We cannot say exactly when things will improve. But unlike so many girls and boys around the world whose schools are closed due to the pandemic, our children are in their classes.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fijian students are becoming better and more educated citizens, and that lets us know we are on the right path; that our future will be in good hands.

“Every school we re-open is a victory for our country. Every student who is able to attend classes is a blessing.” And every hour they study, learn, and expand their minds is an investment in Fiji’s success as a country.”

“As our students begin their school terms, at no cost to their families, with free textbooks and subsidised transportation to school -- we can rest assured, no matter how difficult our situation may be today, things will get better, the future will be brighter, and it will be shaped by the most talented and gifted generation of Fijians our nation has ever known.”

PM Bainimarama stressed to Fijian students not to take their education for granted. “Your hard work today will reap lifelong benefit, for yourselves and for your country,” he said.

“Respect your teachers, as well as the materials and classroom equipment you have been provided. Most of all, show respect and care towards your fellow students. This is a tough time for many families in Fiji, but it costs nothing to be compassionate -- so please, be kind at all times.”

Meanwhile, Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar has extended her gratitude and appreciation to the Australian Government in rebuilding the schools in the Northern Division.

Minister Akbar noted this as she received a building completion certificate for Galoa Primary School recently and highlighted the school as being one of the most devastated school in the division.

“The lessons learnt from TC Winston guided us in our rehabilitation efforts. Of course, I understand many families are still reeling with the aftermath and damage caused by TC Yasa but there is a lot of help on the ground to assist these families get back on their feet.”

“We have also been assisted with school supplies, furniture and building materials for other schools where we did some quick fixes -- even though we call it quick fixes, the repair to the damaged buildings are semi to permanent structures and we are really proud that we have been able to achieve that in the last few weeks.”

“Of course work is still ongoing and I still aim to get the students out of those learning spaces within the next six weeks and I look forward to working within our Vuvale partnership as Australia has always stood by us and has been a friend to Fiji in our times of challenges and Fiji aims to support you in future through our bilateral cooperation,” she added.

Australia’s Counsellor for Development Cooperation, Joanna Houghton said that “ensuring students can return to school as soon as possible after a disaster is essential to not only their education and health but to the long term development of the country.

“Galoa Primary School was rebuilt in a very short timeframe to ensure that children could return to school at the commencement of the school year and it would not have been possible without close collaboration of Fiji’s National Disaster Management Office, the Ministry of Education and the Australian Defence Force,” Ms Houghton said.

“The COVID-19 pandemic presented a significant challenge to these efforts and Australia is proud to have formed a bubble with the RFMF to ensure the building works complied with Fiji’s very strict and necessary COVID laws.”

Govt eyes safe, effective Covid vaccine

AS COVID-19 vaccinations globally pave the way to a post-pandemic economic recovery, the Fijian Government is pursuing several avenues to secure safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines to ensure Fijians can be safely immunised against the coronavirus within a fair and equitable timeframe.

At a meeting with the diplomatic community at Suvavou House, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz

Sayed-Khaiyum, stressed the need for timely access to safe COVID-19 vaccinations for Fiji and the Pacific.

“Tens of millions of doses of viable COVID-19 vaccinations have already been administered in developed nations ahead of what is shaping up to be this century’s most critical economic recovery. As Fiji navigates the next steps of this global crisis, we are focused intensely on Fijians’ health, safety, and livelihoods,” said the A-G.

“This pandemic will not end anywhere until immunity is achieved everywhere, and we look forward to working closely with all of our development partners over the coming months to procure effective COVID-19 vaccines, manage supply chain issues, and coordinate vaccinations across our geographically-disparate country.”

-news@govnet.gov.fj

Look at emerging markets, retailers told

PRASHILA DEVI

IN their first meeting for 2021, retailers in the capital city have been urged to move out of their comfort zone in terms of their line of business and look at the new emerging markets in the post COVID-19 era.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, speaking to members of the Suva Retailers Association at their first Networking Event for 2021, urged these businesses to be “positive but not unrealistic” as the country heads towards a future with the hope of opening its borders soon.

He said it was encouraging to see companies like Asha Bhai setting up a large cold storage facility, which can store up to minus 20 degree Celsius so it will help with a lot of supply chain issues in that area.

There are various other investors, the A-G said, that are coming forward and wanting to invest in new ventures or expand existing businesses.

He said there were many family businesses dealing with one particular type of commodity or area of retail for the 20-30 years and urged them look at the changing dynamics that has propelled



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with members of the Suva Retailers Association during their first Networking Event for 2021.

sectors such as agriculture into the forefront.

The A-G gave an update on the COVID-19 vaccines, of the Government’s intent to provide a World Health Organisation approved vaccine to Fijians soon.

“As you know that COVID-19 of course has had a debilitating effect on the global economy. And as was talked about last year, there will be some form of stabilization, if you like, with a vaccine coming into the market and at the moment that is the latest talk,” he told the retailers in Suva last night.

The A-G said there are various vaccines that are in the market that require different conditions but highlighted how the Government had already taken

proactive steps to safeguard Fijians including through a COVID-19 response budget and then a full scale budget that was aimed at creating a more conducive environment for Fijians.

“There are a number of incentives, particularly targeting local investors for them to be able to actually invest, in providing the right incentives, right environment for them to be able to invest, whether it’s in land subdivision, whether it’s building warehouses and decreasing the cost of business by, for example, getting rid of business licenses, getting rid of stamp duties and various other incentives that we have put in place to create that level of confidence in particular with local investors,” he said.

Focus on lives, minister urges health staff

RUPENI WAQAVONO

MINISTER for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifere-imi Waqanabete has urged his staff to remain focused on the role of the Ministry and that is to protect lives.

Speaking at the opening of the Medical Services Pacific clinic in Lautoka, Minister Waqanabete said that the Ministry has had a few massive public health campaigns in the last few years and it has taken its toll on the staff.

“At the end of 2018 to 2019, we had a massive public health campaign which

was Men C, so we had to vaccinate 219,000 of our children in a period of 5 months and unfortunately, we lost five lives.”

“In 2019 we had measles, we had a massive public health campaign where we vaccinated about 500,000 of our people within six weeks and as you all know 33 children got measles and none of them died,” he said.

Minister Waqanabete added that last year they had another public health campaign which was COVID-19.

“This year there is another massive public health campaign, as you are aware this is the year of vaccinations.

We have been tired and exhausted but the purpose and the focus must be very clear.”

“Our role is to protect lives and staff must work hand in hand, they must do their groundwork, they must go out to their community, they must reprofile that community. We must register everyone that needs to be vaccinated and we must encourage them that the fight is not yet completed.”

Minister Waqanabete also visited health officials in Rakiraki, Tavua and Ba and thanked them for the work that they have been doing since Cyclone Winston.



‘Determination, drive



Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar with children at the Northern Division. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Everyone knows that 2020 has been a very challenging year and a large Ministry like ours felt the full brunt of it. Things came to a halt when schools were suddenly forced to close down but then we had to strategize to ensure that students are continuously supported with learning opportunities.

Rosy Akbar
Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts

THE Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts will continue in its effort to provide equitable and quality education to all Fijian students since the starting of Term 1 of the 2021 School Year.

This was the reassurance provided by the line Minister Rosy Akbar, who has been at the forefront of visitation, rehabilitation and rebuilding phase of schools which has been affected and severely damaged by Tropical Cyclone Yasa in the Northern Division.

The ministry in collaboration with donor partners have assisted more than 6000 students in the TC Yasa affected areas with school supplies, which will continue and also provide psychosocial support to students affected by TC Yasa and COVID-19 across Fiji.

A total of 5,794 young Fijians have begun their formal learning journey with enrolling at an Early Childhood Education Centre and 7,159 students having completed 13 years of formal learning will exit the education system at the end of the final term this year.

There is a total of 195,883 students enrolled in the education system with 13,099 teachers in the academic field from all over Fiji.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION'S, AZARIA FAREEN, caught up with the Minister after her second visit to the Northern Division to find out her plans and the progress her Ministry has made.

DEPTFO: You visited the Northern Division following the aftermath of TC Yasa and recently. Can you recount what you witnessed on the ground?

Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Rosy Akbar: The devastation TC Yasa caused not only affected our schools, but deeply impacted the lives of many families in the Northern Division. It was an emotional experience, many lost their lifetime savings, some were gathering items blown

away by the strong winds and many were trying to come to terms with the damages sustained by TC Yasa. Essential services such as water and electricity were unavailable in the Northern Division during that time which made things even more difficult for the affected families and communities.

DEPTFO: What was some of the challenges faced by those you met?

Minister Akbar: I saw a lot of resilience in the people of the North. Despite the devastation, they were working towards rebuilding. The determination and drive was overwhelming.

DEPTFO: Was there any special requests received from those affected by TC Yasa?

Minister Akbar: Most of the families I visited needed financial assistance to rebuild their homes. They also needed immediate food supplies and fresh water to get things going and find their footings in terms of stabilizing their life.

DEPTFO: What was some of the key issues noted and taken into consideration by the ministry?

Minister Akbar: Generally people were stunned by this severe TC Yasa as this was their first time to experience a cyclone of this nature. The expressions on their faces of adults and children was evident enough to conclude that this experience will impact their future. Considering this, Ministry will provide counselling sessions to students through teachers and trained counselors so that children assisted to re-focus towards their education.

DEPTFO: What were some of the places you visited in your recent tour to the Northern Division last week?

Minister Akbar: I visited around 30 schools which sustained considerable amount of damages and these were schools in Bua, Nadogo, Labasa and nearby islands. I had discussions with School Heads, Management and community members on the way forward and was pleased to note the enthusiasm shown by them in rehabilitating their schools.

DEPTFO: What were some of the progress that you noticed on the ground?

Minister Akbar: The most evident progress which I noted was that School Heads, Management and the community got together and cleared all the debris from the school compound and moved on to the quick fixes. Tightening of loosen roofing irons, gutters and fixing of minor damages were immediately attended to and this provided good opportunity to assess and focus on major damages.

DEPTFO: To what percentage of the rehabilitation work has been completed?

Minister Akbar: Rehabilitation works have just started on Cobo Primary School and Qawa Primary School. The rest of the damaged schools have been temporarily fixed by RFMF Engineers and some by school management. Some donor agencies [Like Vodaphone, TFL, LICI etc.] have also shown interest in adopting some schools as part of the TC Yasa rehabilitation program and talks are still ongoing. Meantime the RFMF Engineers have been working very hard to complete all the quick fixes by Mid- February pending no further adverse weather conditions.

DEPTFO: Anything you would like to add?

Minister Akbar: I am actually pleased

with the prompt and positive responses by School Heads, Managements and Community towards the rehabilitation process. The consolidated effort of other education stakeholders resulted in things being improved at a must faster rate than expected. From individuals to organizations, everyone lent hands to assist each other to overcome the aftermath of TC Yasa.

DEPTFO: Can you sum up 2020 for your ministry and could you comment on the morale of the teaching fraternity with the challenges it has faced during the pandemic?

Minister Akbar: Everyone knows that 2020 has been a very challenging year and a large Ministry like ours felt the full brunt of it. Things came to a halt when schools were suddenly forced to close down but then we had to strategize to ensure that students are continuously supported with learning opportunities. We had to think outside the box and come up with appropriate ways to provide learning platform for children. And in doing so, it taught us many good lessons and taught us to do things differently in times of crises like this. I must thank teachers and School Heads for their collaborated efforts during such trying times.

DEPTFO: The Ministry has emphasized the importance of counselling to address some of the psycho-social issues that might be the result of the disasters and pandemics on the mindset of students. How much weight will you place on having students mentally as well as academically prepared in the 2021 school year?

Minister Akbar: There will be huge emphasis put on the psycho-social issues from the Ministry's perspective to ensure that students are well supported as they ven-

up North overwhelming'



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during his visit to Cobo Sanatan Dharam Kalika Memorial School with the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Rosy Akbar and representatives from UNICEF Fiji to see first-hand rehabilitation works carried out by members of the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) at the Northern Division post Tropical Cyclone Yasa. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

ture into 2021 learning process. Recently, 35 teachers have graduated with Diploma in Counseling and these teachers will be utilized to provide the much needed support. We do not wish to see that impact of pandemic and disaster is becoming a hindering factor in children’s learning path.

DEPTFO: The ministry received a decrease of \$17.1 million in grant compared to the previous financial year. How did this budget cut affect the ministry?

Minister Akbar: This decrease did not have any major impact but only required us to re-strategize our operation and re-prioritize our task at hand. Since the schools were closed for 3 months, there were no major expenses incurred in terms of grant usage at school level, thus, school operations commenced well post-COVID. Other Ministerial activities were also accomplished as per plan.

DEPTFO: What were some of the projects taken up by your ministry last year?

- Minister Akbar: We have the following ongoing projects (construction phase)
- Nine schools under TC Winston, Ongoing.
 - Three UAE adopted schools which includes, Ratu Simone Secondary School, Sigatoka Methodist school and Muaira Methodist High School in the Lautoka Education District
 - One Indonesian adopted project Queen Victoria School [QVS]
 - Bau College, partial handover completed, awaiting full handover.
 - UNICEF WASH Projects: [18 schools] in completion stage
 - Japanese Embassy Funded Projects : 15 Schools in completion stage
 - Water Tanks : 182 tanks to be supplied
 - Boat & Engine : 6 Boat and 14 Engines to be supplied

- Pending Projects for 2020-21 [Administrative Phase]**
- Saqani High School , construction of dining hall awaiting GTB approval
 - Vuci Methodist Primary School burnt classroom, awaiting GTB approval
 - Ratu Kadavulevu School. burnt dormitory MOIT to assess the structure
 - Schools affected by TC Keni, TC Gita ... lead consultant confirmed, detailed damage assessment will be carried out by Lead Consultant
 - Schools affected by TC Harold. List will be reconfirmed as same of the same schools were again damaged by previ-

- ous TC Keni and TC Gita
- Kadavu Project [Japanese Embassy Funded] : 3 secondary schools , Richmond Methodist High School, Vunisea Secondary School and Kadavu Provincial School
 - Construction of Evacuation centre for Nailega Primary School [Norway Funded Project]
 - Construction of Ablution Block and refurbishment of Existing Ablution Block for Natabua Primary School
 - Site clearance works for Nasau Secondary School
 - Refurbishment works for the Institutional offices [Senikau House, Waisomo House and Mualevu House]
 - Building Grant Projects : 11 Primary schools and 7 secondary schools [under RIE]

DEPTFO: What percentage of it has been completed so far?

Minister Akbar: There are levels of completion and these are:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| • TC Winston | : 95 per cent schools has been completed. |
| • UAE Projects | : 80 per cent construction work completed |
| • QVS Project | : 40 per cent construction work completed |
| • Japanese Embassy | : 30 per cent Construction work completed |

DEPTFO: Has there been any challenge faced in this criteria? What are they?

Minister Akbar: The major challenge faced is the continuous disruptions to construction timelines due to unfavorable weather conditions and natural disasters.

DEPTFO: What are some of the new programs or initiatives the ministry is looking to implement in the next financial year, if any?

Minister Akbar: The Ministry is piloting Mathematics for Life Skills and Applied Mathematics 2021 as per the following plans

- Western Division.**
1. Swami Vivekananda College
 2. Sabeto College
 3. Maharishi College
 4. Ratu Navula College
 5. Nadi Sangam College
 6. Pt. Vishnu Deo Memorial

Central Division

1. Naitasiri Secondary
2. Jai Narayan College
3. Ratu Sukuna Memorial School
4. Suva Sangam
5. Rishikul College
6. DAV College

Northern Division

1. All Saints
2. Labasa Sangam
3. Batinikama Secondary
4. Naleba Secondary
5. Bulileka College
6. Labasa Muslim College

- ☐ Workshops completed in the three divisions.
- ☐ 18 schools in the three divisions are being piloted in Year 11 this year
- ☐ Applied Mathematics is the current syllabus being used by the students
- ☐ Introduction of Mathematics for Life skills will be rolled out in 2022.
- ☐ 2022 full implementation for Year 12

DEPTFO: What is the main purpose for this?

Minister Akbar: The purpose is to make things realistic in terms of those who want to make Mathematics as career pathway in comparison with those wishing to learn Mathematics for their daily life. This is done to provide opportunities to students to make choices as per their career pathway.

DEPTFO: It may be too early, but what are you expecting in the next National Budget?

Minister Akbar: Ministry will make its submission as per its Strategic Plan and Costed Operational Plan with expectation to receive as per our projects and activities. However, we have the capacity and ability to work with whatever is provided as there are means and ways to get things done.

DEPTFO: Any advice to parents and students facing the financial crunch?

Minister Akbar: We have had overwhelming support from NGOs, faith based organizations, corporate organizations and individuals. Parents are urged to send their children to schools so that our teachers can identify the need and attend to it immediately so that there are no hindering factors towards a child’s education.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), during rehabilitation works on Galoa Island in Vanua Levu. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

PM praises ADF commitment, sacrifice

NANISE NEIMILA

DURING tour of the Northern Division earlier this month Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama visited Galoa Island to see first-hand the rehabilitation works undertaken at Galoa Primary School.

Close to 85 schools in TC Yasa affected areas had sustained some level of damage according to assessments made by the Education Ministry.

Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked the Australian Defence Force (ADF), and the Australian Government for the rehabilitation work carried out at Galoa Island Primary School.

Speaking at the school, PM Bainimarama thanked the ADF personnel for the wonderful work they are doing for Fiji.

Upon visiting Galoa Island, the Head of Government met with ADF personnel, Captain Stewart Watters during a traditional welcoming ceremony where PM Bainimarama commended the Australian Government and ADF for the assistance and rehabilitation efforts provided post Tropical Cyclone Yasa.

“On behalf of the Fijian people, I would like to thank the Australian Government and personnel onboard the HMAS Adelaide for their commitment and sacrifice, leaving their families behind during Christmas and New Year to assist with rebuilding efforts post TC Yasa.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama also had the opportunity to meet with ADF personnel on Galoa Island.

Galoa Primary School head teacher Rishi Ram thanked the ADF and Australian Gov-

ernment for their assistance towards the completion of the new school block that was damaged during TC Yasa.

“I feel very proud for the ADF personnel for the work that they have done and all this time our own classrooms was not in good condition. We had requested for donor assistance and after TC Yasa destroyed the classrooms, ADF managed to deliver within two-weeks.”

The ADF personnel with assistance from the members of the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) managed to complete repairs on three classrooms within two weeks.

The new classrooms will cater for Year Three, Four, Seven and Eight including school office.

Khan picked as UN Human Rights Council president

THE Human Rights Council today elected Nazhat Shameem Khan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations Office at Geneva, to serve as its President for 2021.

Ambassador Khan was elected through a secret ballot process through which all 47 members of the Geneva-based human rights body cast their vote to appoint its president for 2021 – the Council’s 15th annual cycle.

The Fijian diplomat, whose presidency takes immediate effect, joins the Ambassadors of the Bahamas, Sudan and Netherlands, who were elected vice-presidents of the Council in December, to serve on the Council Bureau for the current year.

The election of the fourth vice-president, from the Eastern European Group, will take place following negotiations within the Group.

Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama welcomed Ambassador Khan’s election as a victory for the basic rights of all climate-vulnerable people.

“The Fijian Government’s fundamental assurance of equality for all Fijians placed human rights at the heart of our national development, leading to rapid progress at instituting rights-based protections and our historic position as the first Pacific Island Country on the Human Rights Council. Fiji’s leadership of the Council comes at a critical time for humanity, as the climate emergency threatens human rights on a global and generational scale, and Ambassador Khan is well-suited to help steer our international community towards a future of justice, decency and dignity for all peoples,” said Prime Minister Bainimarama.

The other two candidates for the position of President of the Human Rights Council, coming from the Asia-Pacific Group of States, were Yusuf Abdulkarim Bucheeri, Permanent Representative of Bahrain, and Ulugbek Lapasov, Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan.

Ambassador Khan received the highest number of votes, securing 29 votes; Ambassador Bucheeri with 14 votes; and Ambassador Lapasov with 4 votes. The Fijian Government has welcomed the appointment of Ambassador Khan and wished her a successful presidency. -news@govnet.gov.fj



Nazhat Shameem Khan.

Katonitabua commissioned as Fiji envoy to UAE

THE President of the Republic of Fiji, Major-General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote recently commissioned Fiji’s Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Naipote Katonitabua.

The ceremony at the State House in Suva was attended by the Permanent Secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister, Immigration and Sugar Industry and Acting Permanent Secretary Foreign Affairs, Mr Yogesh Jitendra Karan.

In affirming his commitment to the new diplomatic role, Ambassador Katonitabua thanked the Fijian Government for having confidence and faith in him to represent Fiji through the diplomatic appointment as the Head of Fiji’s Mission in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

He stated that Fiji’s Mission in UAE under his



President of the Republic of Fiji, Major-General (Ret’d) Jioji Konrote and First lady Sarote Konrote with the newly-commissioned Fiji’s Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Naipote Katonitabua and his family at State House in Suva. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

leadership will aspire to take Fiji and UAE bilateral cooperation to greater heights, through maximising opportunities for enhanced engagements and advancing interests in mutual areas of cooperation between the two nations.

Ambassador Katonitabua said given the current global and regional challenges, the Fiji Mission will strategically realign plans and resources to acquire best means of maximising returns on investment for Fiji and the Pacific Region.

As part of the preparation for his new diplomatic role, Ambassador Katonitabua has held a series of meetings with senior officials from

the Government and Non-Government agencies to seek stronger partnership and support that will be coordinated through Fiji’s Mission in UAE.

Ambassador Katonitabua has served with distinction both as a seasoned Fijian diplomat and as a career civil servant during his 25 years in service.

He had served in the Ministries of Economy, Foreign Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister, iTaukei Affairs before being the Director for the Center for Appropriate Development and Technology in Nadave in the past 22 months. -news@govnet.gov.fj



Attorney-General and Minister responsible for climate change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with Fijian students at a climate action debate organised by the Ministry of Economy's Climate Change and International Cooperation Division and ClimateScience Fiji recently. Photo: RONAL DEO

A-G exhorts youth on climate advocacy

RONAL DEO

THE Attorney-General and Minister responsible for climate change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, joined Fijian students at a climate action debate organised recently. The topics of discussions ranged

from the 'Viability of Waste to Energy Solutions' to the 'Benefits of Taxing Hybrid Cars', and ended with a conversation on the importance of strengthening youth climate leadership. The attendees – who were mainly from Fiji's universities and secondary schools – were divided

into groups of three with six teams that discussed two overall topics. Each topic was debated for 30 minutes each with added audience participation.

The debate, which was organised by the Ministry of Economy's Climate Change and International Cooperation Division and ClimateScience Fiji, was officiated by the A-G.

He applauded youths in attendance for taking initiative to discuss the urgent challenge of climate change and urged them to be active climate ambassadors.

The Minister highlighted the importance of the upcoming Climate Change Bill and the need for young people to offer their inputs to the ground-breaking national policy and the future of Fiji's future climate agenda.

"Climate change is an urgent challenge with serious short-term consequences. But the science is clear about the long-term nature of this threat; this will be a struggle that endures for generations. Young Fijians have the lived ex-

periences and the ingenuity to be among the most informed and innovative climate advocates in the world."

"That requires they understand the nature of this crisis, the solutions, and how their government is leading the world through our climate action agenda – it also demands they take greater ownership over Fiji's climate leadership. After all, it is their future, and their children's future that we're fighting to secure," said the A-G.

The A-G also spoke during the debate on recent climate initiatives of the Fijian Government, including the creation of a national carbon market and climate insurance solutions, as well as climate stewardship amongst Government and non-government stakeholders, and the importance of strengthening coordination among climate-focussed youth.

The next debate session is planned for February 2021 and will be jointly organized by the Ministry of Economy and ClimateScience Fiji.



INFORMATION FOR MANUFACTURERS, SELLERS, SUPPLIERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF POLYSTYRENE (STYROFOAM)

Starting from 1 January 2021, the import/export of polystyrene (commonly referred to as Styrofoam) containers, cups, plates, and trays will be banned and further to this, the manufacture, sale, supply and distribution of all polystyrene containers, cups, plates, and trays will cease from 1 August 2021.

1. Why has Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Ban been introduced?

Polystyrene (Styrofoam) has multiple detrimental effects on the environment as well as on human health. The chemical composition of polystyrene products begin to break-down under the stress of heat and over time. This releases toxic chemicals into the environment or may get assimilated into the body if being used for food or beverages. Banning polystyrene is also beneficial to the environment as the creation of expanded polystyrene is often made with hydrofluorocarbons, which are compounds that deplete the ozone allowing harmful ultra-violet rays to come through.

2. When does the polystyrene ban come into effect?

- 1 January, 2021 – Import/export of polystyrene containers, cups, plates, and trays
- 1 August 2021 – Manufacture, sale, supply and distribution of polystyrene containers, cups, plates, and trays

3. What types of Polystyrene (Styrofoam) products are banned?

- Containers;
- Cups;
- Trays; and
- Plates

4. What types of polystyrene (Styrofoam) products are allowed?

- This ban does not apply to:
- a) polystyrene material used solely for cushioning packed products such as electrical appliances;
 - b) polystyrene products used as building materials, provided they are neatly kept and properly disposed;
 - c) polystyrene materials used as cooler boxes; and
 - d) polystyrene sponges and foam mattresses

5. What are the penalties for non-compliance with the polystyrene ban?

- A person who manufactures a banned polystyrene product commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500,000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 7 years or both. A person who –
- a) Sells, supplies or distributes banned polystyrene products to another person; or
 - b) Makes available banned polystyrene products to a customer for packaging, commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$150,000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or both.

Compliance officials will regularly monitor businesses and take appropriate action including charging the offending businesses/individuals.

6. What has the Fijian Government done to assist this transition?

To support local manufacturers of polystyrene alternatives, duty on the importation of bi-degradable material for core components is decreased to zero percent to encourage transition from polystyrene products. The onus is on businesses to take advantage of these incentives and seize the market opportunity in sustainable packaging. The Fijian Government has further announced a seven months grace period on the usage of polystyrene containers, cups, plates, and trays in order to provide an additional transition to the industry as well as consumers taking into account the impacts of COVID-19.

For more information contact the Ministry of Economy on Mobile (+679) 8986312 or on e-mail: cleanocean@economy.gov.fj

-MINISTRY OF ECONOMY



Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy with participants during the GSP training at Tanoa Waterfront, Lautoka. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

RUPENI WAQAVONO

MINISTER for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy opened the Good Servicing Practice (GSP) training for the fisheries sector in Lautoka recently.

The Good Servicing Practice Training for Fisheries sector is an initiative the Government has taken in collaboration with United Nations Environment through the Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phaseout management plan project.

While addressing the participants in Lautoka, Minister Reddy said that technical trainings such as this has been realised as an important tool for sound environmental management amongst the industrial sectors in Fiji.

"Good servicing practice training for Fish-

eries Refrigeration simply converts the ideology of environment protection into practical reality, which when implemented will help preserve and safeguard the ozone layer and the natural environment."

"The fisheries industry consumes the largest amount of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) which is one of the commonly used ozone-depleting substance in Refrigeration and Air-conditioning systems in Fiji," he said.

The HCFC Phaseout management project aims to promote the smart use of ozone depleting substances, particularly HCFC's and promote the use of ozone friendly gases with low or zero Global warming potentials.

Minister Reddy said that the Ministry of Environment is the focal point in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and is undertaking a structured approach to phase

out HCFCs.

"Fiji is committed to phasing out HCFC by 2030 which will only mean that awareness trainings, technical trainings and coordination and monitoring of HCFCs in various consuming applications such as the Fisheries Refrigeration sector is prioritized to ensure compliance to the Montreal Protocol and we as a country meeting the targets set out in the protocol."

"In keeping with the objectives of the training, this training will be an interactive forum in terms of learning and information exchange, not only between the resource personnel and the participants but between participants as well."

A similar training was also conducted in Suva for the fisheries sector in the Central Division.



Government rolls out gender mainstreaming initiative

Fiji will roll out the Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) in nine agencies with the inclusion of one key disciplined force, the Fiji Police Force. In launching the ICD, which is aligned to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereiseini Vuniwaqa explained the rationale behind this important initiative.

"The Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development's overall goal is to create an enabling environment to ensure integration of all women and girls' needs, interests, concerns, contributions and perspectives into policies, strategies, programs and budgets across government agencies," Minister Vuniwaqa said. She said the ICD was a "whole of

Government" initiative with an emphasis on strengthening technical knowledge, skill, competence and resources on Transformative Gender Analysis and Mainstreaming and Gender Responsive Budgeting and Planning (GRBP). The ICD will be led by the Ministry for Women, in close partnership with the Ministry for Economy. They have received support from the Government of New Zealand and the Government of Canada. The ministry will receive technical support from the Fiji Women's Rights Movement and work closely with civil society organisations.

In attendance at the launch of the ICD held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva were members of the diplomatic corps, heads of non-governmental organisations.

Photos: AZARIA FAREEN



Ministry boosts youth farms in Lautoka

A total of 113 youth in Lautoka received assistance to help boost their farming activities. This was made possible after the Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar Bala, handed over farming assistance to six youth clubs at Vakabuli Village in Lautoka recently.

"This assistance is made up of forks, spades, water tank, water pump, irrigation hose, barbed wires, vegetable seedlings and many more," Minister Bala said. The farming assistance, otherwise known as the Youth Farm Initiative Programme, was initially designed as the ministry's response plan in the wake of the global pandemic last year.

"It is a way to raise production to enhance food security," he said. "We will rise to the challenge because we see an opportunity for all young Fijians and the country from this crisis." Recipients of the handover were Drasa Lomolomo Multiracial Youth Club, Nayaqali Youth Club, Teidamu Youth Club, Vunadoi Youth Club, Wainamo Youth Club and Yalovina Youth Sports & Social Club. In recent months, the ministry has strengthened its efforts in engaging more youth in farming and handing out similar farming assistance to youth across the country.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Minister Akbar acknowledges Australian govt assistance

Minister for Education, Rosy Akbar has acknowledged the assistance of the Australian Government through its education support facilities for donating 7000 school backpacks to children whose families were affected by Covid-19 in the Western Division. While receiving the donation at Andrews Primary School in Nadi, Minister Akbar thanked the Australian Government for the timely assistance and for partnering the ministry in ensuring that children in the Western Division were able to return to school for

the new school year. "As the ADF team leaves our shores, I want to say thank you to our Australian vuva. This assistance shows true partnership and friendship that is shared between the Australian Government and the Fijian Government," she said. "We will continue to enjoy our bilateral partnership in years to come and Australia has always been a friend of Fiji, having stood with us during our tough times and challenges." Minister Akbar added that the backpacks would be distributed to schools in

Nadi, Nadroga, Lautoka, Ba, Ra, Yasawa and other areas in the Western Division and the Lau Group. "These are not the only backpacks that the Australians are giving us, 1500 backpacks are already on their way to the Lau Group. This will benefit students who were badly affected by the cyclone." The backpacks contain school stationeries and exercise books and will be distributed by Ministry of Education officials.

Photos: RUPENI WAQAVONO

Airports Fiji gives \$50K to PM's relief fund

RUPENI WAQAVONO

FIJI Airports made a contribution of \$50,000 towards the Prime Minister's National Disaster Relief Fund and Rehabilitation: TC Yasa Fund.

While receiving the donation on behalf of the Fijian Government, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum thanked Fiji Airports for their initiative and also departing passengers who contribute to Charity Fund Box located in the departure lounge at Nadi Airport.

"We would like to thank you very much for this, thank you for taking this initiative in particular with your passengers."

"I'm sure you can publicise with your passengers that the fund they



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum receives the \$50,000 cheque from the Fiji Airports chairman, Geoffrey Shaw. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

have contributed have been put to good use," he said.

Fiji Airports chairman, Geoffrey Shaw said that the international departing passengers will appreciate and feel a great sense of pride knowing that monies accumulated in the Charity Fund are being applied towards relief and rehabilitation for those affected by TC Yasa.

"As a responsible organisation and due to the majority of our

airports being located on outer islands, we feel that we have a civic and moral duty to contribute towards the relief assistance programs."

Mr Shaw said this contribution is channelled from the Fiji Airports Charity Account.

"Fiji Airports has over the years, collected donations contributed by our departing passenger, who utilise our Charity Fun Box."

Infrastructure projects 'vital' to economic recovery

RUPENI WAQAVONO

"MUNICIPAL Council infrastructure projects have a vital role to play in Fiji's economic recovery."

These were the sentiments shared by the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development Premila Kumar during the Nadi Chamber of Commerce New Year Social event in Nadi recently.

Minister Kumar stressed that the pandemic presents many challenges for the municipalities - challenges very similar to what other businesses are experiencing.

"The biggest building blocks for our cities and towns are not concrete, but the people. COVID-19 pandemic has re-emphasised that our main resource, as societies and as businesses, is our people."

"Our teams of special administrators, across Fiji, have developed 35 projects, which are now at different stages of development. Municipal Council projects whether it be parks, town beautification, an E-hub, a decentralised transport hub, car parking stations, recycling facilities, markets or market infrastructure, must be equitably distributed across the country," she said.

Minister Kumar added that the Ministry will have a modern framework that guides Scheme Plans, Building, Subdivision, Rezoning and Forward Planning giving greater certainty to current and future investment.

"These reforms will create a simpler planning system and improve the capacity, capability and performance of the Department of Town and Country Planning to accelerate development."

The Ministry of Local Government has also endorsed a transformative approach to digitisation with plans to build an e-services platform linking and harmonising the work of Fiji's 13 Municipal Councils.

"Our Digitisation Strategy will deliver a MY COUNCIL APP and a complete range of e-services that will transform how our ratepayers interact with their Councils. This work is a game changer. The benefits are wide ranging from online construction approvals, online payment of rates, permits, fines and the easier payment of bus and taxi base fees."

Minister Kumar also encouraged municipalities to hold onto the hope that 2021 will see our economy recover.

"It will be a slow process but we will get there. Fiji is known for its resilience and commitment to excellence. We can and



Minister for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete (left) during the official opening of the new Medical Services Pacific 'wrap around' post rape clinic in Lautoka. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

Minister opens clinic for rape victims

RUPENI WAQAVONO

MINISTER for Health and Medical Services Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete opened the new Medical Services Pacific 'wrap around' post rape clinic in Lautoka.

The MSP Post Rape clinic is a one-stop-shop which provide victims of sexual abuse with medical services, forensics, provide psychosocial support counselling and legal support.

Minister Waqainabete said as a Government and Ministry of Health and Medical Services it was their collective aspiration to continue to make gains during times of crisis and he

thanked civil society organisations like Medical Services Pacific for rising up during times of crisis.

"In the midst of these crisis I congratulate Medical Service Pacific that though there is a crisis, they continue to make gains. And the gains we are witnessing today is the opening of this magnificent centre here in Lautoka."

"As you look at what's happening with COVID-19 right around the world today, you can see that the strength of the health system is not dependent on the number of instigators or intensive care units, it is dependent on the ability of the

health system to be resilient in the midst of a crisis and that is called resilient dividends," he said.

MSP country director, Ashna Shaleen stated that this is a very momentous occasion for the organisation as this is their third wrap around clinic achieving national coverage.

"It's a very exciting day for MSP, this is our third wrap around and post rape care clinic including SRHR (sexual reproductive health and rights nurse program), we are quite excited because we have reached nationally, we have a branch in Suva, Labasa but this clinic is covered in the three major divi-

sions."

"The Western One Stop Shop Clinic will follow the best practices established by MSP in the past 10 years. It will have a safe and private setting providing highly specialised care and treatment for survivors of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGVB) for both children and adults, she said.

MSP have already assisted over 1200 clients with specialised services under this model and is able to rapidly response to sexual gender based violence and child abuse cases in partnership with the Fiji Police Force and the Department of Social Welfare.

Telco's \$300K aid for schools

FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Fijian Government has received a pledge of \$300,000 in cash assistance from Vodafone Fiji to help rebuild schools in the Northern Division that were damaged by Tropical Cyclone Yasa.

While receiving the donation, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum thanked Vodafone for the assistance.

"We are working with the Asset Management Unit through the Ministry of Education and the Construction Implementation Unit (CIU), and the funding from Vodafone Fiji will immediately go towards the repairs to the schools."

The A-G emphasised that the main aim of the Fijian Government was to get the schools up and running.



Many parents are concerned for the education of their children and whether schools will be ready in time.

Pradeep Lal
Vodafone Regional Chief
Executive Officer

"This \$300,000 will be used for all the schools in the R1 and R2 category, as schools are damaged they are rated in respect as to the type and amount of damage that have occurred to the buildings in the schools."

The A-G added that the R1 and R2 category would have damage amounting to around \$10,000 to \$20,000.

A total of 104 schools and public buildings were damaged in the Northern Division during TC Yasa, with 99 being schools and 5 being public buildings.

Vodafone Regional Chief Executive Officer, Pradeep Lal said the damage to school infrastructure was of immediate concern as thousands had to return to school on January 19, 2021.

"Many parents are concerned for the education of their children and whether schools will be ready in time."

Mr Lal added that Vodafone Fiji recognises the importance of children being in school to continue their intellectual and personal development.

Students grateful for school repairs

NANISE NEIMILA

WHILE most students around the country are busy getting ready for school, Vivianne Tumanu, 9, and Viliame Ratudradra, 9, of Lomanikoro village in Bua, Vanua Levu were part of group that assisted with the cleaning up of Bua District School.

The school was damaged by the recent severe Tropical Cyclone Yasa that affected the Northern Division.

"I am delighted to be assisting with the clean-up of our school and we are here with my relatives to assist the school management with the clean-up"

"I am looking forward to returning to school and I would like to thank the Fijian Government for their assistance in ensuring that our classes are not affected despite our school being damaged by TC Yasa."

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during a recent tour to the Northern Division to see first-hand the progress of rehabilitation works visited Bua District Primary School.

Bua District Primary School head teacher Nitya Narayan briefly provided an update on the progress of the school rehabilitation



Vivianne Tumanu (left), and Viliame Ratudradra stand on one of the classroom that was badly damaged by TC Yasa at Bua District School, Vanua Levu. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

works. The Head of Government reassured the school management that Government with other stakeholders are working together to assist with the construction of schools that have been damaged in the Northern Division.

During his visit to the Islands of Kia, Galoa, Tavea and Yaqaga, he reminded parents not to stress

too much about their children's school uniform as affected students can attend school in normal (non-uniform) attire.

The Fijian Prime Minister visited some of the cyclone-affected school to see the progress of rehabilitation works as children returned to school for the 2021 academic year.

Meanwhile, schools that have had its structure severely damaged will have classes in temporary tents provided by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Close to 85 schools in TC Yasa affected areas have sustained some level of damage according to assessments by the Education Ministry.

Dass: Pest, disease management a priority

LIMITING the risk of an outbreak of pests and diseases on major agricultural commodities post Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasa is a major priority for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Four personnel from the Ministry's Plant Protection Unit of the Research Division are currently in the affected areas of Vanua Levu, conducting a survey of the three provinces of Cakaudrove, Bua and Macuata as part of its initial assessment of pest and disease outbreak.

Chances of an outbreak or the new interception of pests, and diseases that occur following a natural disaster such as STC Yasa remain high and can have adverse effects on agricultural commodities.

The Plant Protection Section is assigned to provide support and advisory services on management of insect pest, plant diseases and weeds and invasive plants to people of Fiji and conduct research of potential export commodities that are hosts to fruit flies.

"It also provides support services in registration and monitoring of pesticides imported into Fiji," said the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture Ritesh Dass.

Mr Dass said; "The findings from this survey will reveal the current status of the pest occurrence in the affected areas which will be vital for early pest management strategies to pre-



Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture's Plant Protection Unit, Research Division, conduct a survey as part of its initial assessment of pest and disease outbreak in the three provinces of Cakaudrove, Bua and Macuata. Photo: SUPPLIED

vent further spread or establishment of pests in new areas".

The experts from the Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science sections have carried out pest assessment survey in the Nabouwalu area and Cakaudrove province last week covering the farms and nurseries with

main commodities such as coconut, dalo, cassava, kumala, yaqona, assorted vegetables and fruits.

The team will continue to cover Macuata and the remainder of Bua province.

-news@govnet.gov.fj



Believe in yourself: Waqavakatoga

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“ALWAYS believe in yourself and do not let the limitation of others limit your vision.”

This was the advice from Ms Suliana Waqavakatoga after serving 32 years, 11 months and seven days as a civil servant to the future generation was to always believe in themselves if they want to overcome anything they find challenging.

Ms Waqavakatoga retired holding the position of Senior Application Support Ana-



Retiree Suliana Waqavakatoga receives a farewell gift from acting permanent secretary for Ministry of Communications Tupou'tuah Baravilala during a farewell party at Department of Information Technology and Computing Services.

Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

lyst at the Department of Information Technology and Computing Services, or ITCS who are responsible for providing technology services and policy planning for cus-

tomers and Government departments and employees.

She hails from Nadoria in Dreketi, Rewa and said that one of her highlights during her work as a civil servant was her first job which was to design a programme for the Inland Revenue Cheque which was the beginning of many great things to come in her life.

“Another highlight in my life was the successful move of servers from ITC computer center at Victoria Parade up to ITC Data Center at Berkley Crescent where we as Team Leaders, we believed and had confidence in ourselves so that we can do the move without getting a consultant.”

Ms Waqavakatoga highlighted that it was not an easy job to move the server, which was a challenge she and her team overcame. “I have worked with five Managers and I

learnt so many things due to the changes in technology where we have to keep ITC up to the IT standards in the market by upgrading machines.”

“One of the upgrades that I learnt a lot from was the successful upgrade of the Government Payroll System from COBOL to MicroFocus COBOL, this was to convert all programs to run on Windows.”

Ms Waqavakatoga acknowledged her former Leader at ITC, Joe Ravuvu as her mentor that had always encouraged her to believe in herself.

She started as Junior Programmer before being promoted to Assistant Programmer, then promoted to Systems Analyst, then promoted to Senior Systems Analyst before retiring holding the position of Senior Application Support Analyst in 2020.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), Republic of the Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) and HMAS Adelaide crew on Galoa Island in Vanua Levu. INSET: Lieutenant Commander Roneel Chandra also assisted with rehabilitation works on Galoa Island post Tropical Cyclone Yasa. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Chandra happy with TC Yasa rehab work

NANISE NEIMILA

TRAVELLING back home amidst rehabilitation efforts to assist his fellow country men and women was an honour for Lieutenant Commander Roneel Chandra whom was part of the HMAS Adelaide.

The HMAS travelled from Australia to assist with rehabilitation works on Galoa Island post Tropical Cyclone Yasa.

Lieutenant Commander Chandra was born in Suva and moved to Australia with his family when he was young and now serves as a senior health officer.

“This is proud moment for me personally because through the services the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and HMAS Adelaide crew we are able to build a more resilient classroom building for the children of Galoa Island in Bua, Vanua Levu.”

“We are assisting the locals with construction of the schools, donated new desk and chairs and assisted with infrastructure and the restoration of proper piped water.”

“It’s different travelling back home amidst this pandemic because I remember around this time, I’m either snorkeling in the Mamanucas or relaxing in a resort. But it’s great to back home and it has been an honour to serve the people of Galoa including those that have been affected by TC Yasa.”

Lt. Commander Chandra joined the Australian Army Reserve in 2000 as an Infantryman while completing his Bachelor of Nursing.

After serving in the reserves and pursuing a full-time nursing career, Lt. Commander Chandra was transferred to the Regular Army in 2003 before combining his skills and commissioning as Lieutenant in Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps in 2005.

He was transferred to Royal Australian Navy in 2018 to branch out in his career and serve in the area of Maritime Health.

Lt. Commander Chandra’s operational service has seen him deploy to East Timor in 2004 for Operation Citadel, Afghanistan in 2008 with Special Operations Task Group VII and Tactical Assault Group East in 2009 and Iraq in 2016 with Task Group Taji III.

Lieutenant has also deployed on Operation APEC Assist in 2018, Indian Pacific Endeavour in 2019, Operation Bushfire Assist in 2019 – 2020 and Operation COVID-19 Assist in 2020. Operation Fiji Assist is his first humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation in the South West Pacific.

Another fellow crew member of HMAS Adelaide, Captain Stuart Watters said it was a great honour to assist students of Galoa Primary School to get back to school on time despite losing their classroom to TC Yasa.

“We left our kids and families back in Australia during Christmas and New Years to provide assistance for those that have been affected by TC Yasa but seeing those smiling faces today brings home the purpose of the mission.”

“We feel honoured to be part of the Vuvala partnership, we had to distribute rations to the various islands and villages education supplies and building supplies and the assistance from the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) has been exceptional.”

Captain Watters thanked the National Disaster Management Office for the coordination of resources and assistance towards the completion of this project.

Over 600 ADF personnel were deployed on the HMAS Adelaide to assist in the immediate repair of schools, water production and support Fiji’s recovery efforts.

Miller proud to give back

FELIX LESINAIVALU

SEAMEN Douglas Miller, 27, was nostalgic when he returned to Fiji on board the HMAS Adelaide to help in the Northern Division with rehabilitation works after the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Yasa.

Seaman Miller joined the Royal Australian Navy in 2018 as a Maritime Logistics Support Operations Sailor and Operation Fiji Assist is his first humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation as a sailor.

Mr Miller said it was an honour to come back to Fiji and help out in whatever way he could.

“This is the first time I’ve been to Fiji after enlisting in the Navy, and so far it has been a great experience,” he said.

When sharing on why he joined the Australian Navy, Douglas said, “I just wanted to make my family proud and also having to do something better with my life and my family and give them the best opportunities I can”.

Seaman Miller said he missed his wife and daughter and cannot wait to see them again back in Australia.

Mr Miller was born in Suva, Fiji and studied here until Year 10 studies and finished his education at boarding school in Brisbane.

He then won a swimming scholarship to the University of Iowa Central in Iowa, in the United States of America.

Seaman Miller was transferred to Golden West College, California where he completed his studies, returned to Fiji and then back to Australia.

HMAS Adelaide arrived in Suva on January 8, 2021 to help with the delivery of relief supplies from Suva to the North.

The crew of HMAS Adelaide helped deliver essential supplies to the Northern Division and clear debris while working in partnership with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).

There was a joint task group of around 620 personnel from the Australian Army, Navy and Airforce aboard the HMAS Adelaide when it arrived in Suva.

After having spent 21 days in Fiji which included their rebuilding efforts on Galoa Island, the HMAS Adelaide returned home on January 20, 2021.



Seamen Douglas Miller.





Resilience drives Serea farmer

WHEN Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016 devastated 4000 yaqona plants that were three to four years old, Saimoni Nabitunimavu, a Serea, Naitasiri farmer, although disappointed, remained optimistic.

Not only did the cyclone damage one of his family's sources of daily livelihood, the father of four also suffered damage to his two-bedroom corrugated iron home.

Things changed for the better when his application for financial assistance towards his proposed income generating project (IGP) with the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management's Self-Help Programme went through.

The 60-year-old farmer now owns a piggery farm in addition to his root crops, vegetables, fruits and bee farming ventures which extends on a 50-acre land.

Since the construction of the piggery shed more than two years

ago, Mr Nabitunimavu has managed to grow his piggery from a few piglets to more than 40 pigs at a point in time.

He earned more than \$5,000 from the sale of pigs to commercial abattoir alone apart from regular sales to neighbouring communities.

From the money he earned through his piggery farm, Mr Nabitunimavu was able to rebuild his home and also provide for his family.

"I had filled the form and also attended a training before my application came out successful," he told a Monitoring and Evaluation team from the Ministry and team members from the United Nations Development Programme's Governance for Resilience project team that visited his farm recently.

"I started my piggery farm and saw there was a market there that could help improve the living standard of my family. I have sold more than 20 pigs to the abattoir



Saimoni Nabitunimavu at his piggery farm in Serea Village, Naitasiri. Photo: SUPPLIED

and I had also ventured into the barter system where I was able to barter pigs in exchange for yaqona plants, which is now more than 1 years old."

"This piggery farm has helped us a lot personally and financially. This has helped my family a lot and also some nearby community members who had come to ask me for employment to earn money to support their families."

"I thank the Government for this assistance. My family and I help out in looking after our piggery farm. This farm has relieved some burdens off our shoulders financially in some way."

A highlight of the visit to Mr Nabitunimavu's piggery project was his display of resilience despite

being impacted severely by TC Winston.

Key to this was his ability to identify and mitigate risks that he felt could impact his piggery project as well as the potential risks of his piggery project to the community.

To protect his piggery shed from these potential risks such as landslides, Mr Nabitunimavu planted trees on the slope situated above his piggery farm.

To ensure that the stench from the farm did not affect nearby communities, he chose a good location and also ensured that water flowed well to clean the shed every day.

To safeguard his new yaqona farm, Mr Nabitunimavu planted



This piggery farm has helped us a lot personally and financially. This has helped my family a lot and also some nearby community members who had come to ask me for employment to earn money to support their families.

Saimoni Nabitunimavu
Naitasiri farmer

beneath trees to protect it from severe weather and strong winds that could potentially destroy it, if it was exposed.

To further develop his business, the Naitasiri farmer intends to start producing biogas from his piggery farm and also construct a road that would ensure safer access to his farm as well to increase his piggery yield.

The Ministry through the support of the UNDP Governance for Resilience Project is learning from examples of resilience displayed by Mr Nabitunimavu to strengthen its processes to better integrate risk and protect the sustainability and impact of its Self-Help Programme.

- MINISTRY OF RURAL AND MARITIME DEVELOPMENT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Florist Ms Praveena Rae stands inside her nursery which was constructed through financial assistance from the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management in 2015. Photo: SUPPLIED



Suliana Vitiatani at Ms Rae's nursery in Koronivia, Nausori. Photo: SUPPLIED

Rae helps women in flower business

PRAVEENA Rae has never looked back after being assisted by the Government for her income generating project (IGP) in 2015.

The mother-of-three is a full-time florist – a passion she developed some 17 years ago.

In 2015, Ms Rae applied for financial assistance for an IGP under the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management's Self-Help Programme.

She became the successful recipient of a \$4,700 project that saw the extension of her nursery.

This enabled her small florist business to expand, shaping it to be what it is today.

"The money given to me by the Ministry helped me to extend my nursery so it can cater for more plants," said the avid florist.

"It helped me to also do my quarantine nursery. So when a shipment comes, the flowers are kept at one section of the quarantine nursery where it stays for three months under biosecurity supervision before it is transplanted to other nurseries outside. Since I received the assistance from Government, my business has gone up. We can now cater for more plants which we could then multiply here at the nursery."

Despite growing her own flowers at home, Ms Rae also supports other florists especially rural women involved in the floriculture business.

"I always buy from them. They will germinate small plants from the seedlings and then I'll buy it from them in bulk."

In addition to this, Ms Rae also conducts free training

related to floriculture for Fijian women and students.

Through her business, she was also able to provide employment for some local women including Suliana Vitiatani, a widow and mother-of-three.

Ms Rae's nursery is made up of more than 200 species of different flowers.

She earns at least \$40,000 annually from her business and her customers include local and regional organisations, Government departments and ministries and other florists.

The 55-year-old grandmother has also encouraged other women, especially those in rural Fiji to make use of the opportunities available within Government and make use of their talents to help make ends meet for their families especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms Rae looks forward to further expanding her business and to start exporting in the near future.

Meanwhile, the Ministry through the support of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Governance for Resilience (Gov4Res) Project has been visiting rural communities to evaluate projects implemented by the Ministry to help strengthen its processes to better integrate risk and protect the sustainability and impact of its programmes.

The team had visited Ms Rae's floriculture garden last week.

- MINISTRY OF RURAL AND MARITIME DEVELOPMENT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Tamanitoakula empowered by nature

MELA KATONIVUALIKU

BEING the eldest in the family, Viliame Tamanitoakula had big shoes to fill after his father passed away three years ago.

The Nadogo villager in the district of Saqani in Cakaudrove had his mother and three younger brothers and a sister looking up to him for advice and support and carrying on his father's legacy in tending to their 'yaqona' plantation.

"After my father died, my mother decided that we move away from the village to our piece of land known as Navoa which is located on the outskirts of the village," Mr Tamanitoakula said.

"My brothers and I are certified chain-saw operators so we cleared the piece of land ourselves and built a thatched 'bure' to live in."

A former logging planner, Mr Tamanitoakula said it was hard starting from scratch and with their yaqona to be harvested in the next four to five years, he had to find other alternative source of income.

"I heard and read about the 30 Million Trees In 15 Years (30MT15Y) initiative along with the Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project through the media so I decided to make further enquiries."

In August 2019, Mr Tamanitoakula travelled 76 kilometers to the Ministry of Forestry office in Labasa to enquire about Fiji's tree planting revolution and other projects that he could venture into as a source of economic empowerment.

"Staff at the Ministry shared with me success stories of seedling vendors across Fiji that have earned a decent amount of money selling seedlings to the Ministry which they use for the 30MT15Y initiative," Mr Tamanitoakula said.

It was after this visit, Mr Tamanitoakula took a bold step in establishing his nursery and started potting seedlings consisting of sandalwood, fruit trees and mostly native trees.

"I was encouraged to raise native tree species as this is in demand and most of the vendors here in Vanua Levu do not have them."

Raising seedlings along with his yaqona plantation, Mr Tamanitoakula said he was also encouraged to venture into agro-forestry practices.

"I really appreciate the holistic support and assistance rendered by the Ministry and

the outcome of that is in just seven months I have

MAIN PICTURE: Minister for Forestry Osea Naiqamu at the Tamanitoakula's farm on Navoa Settlement, Saqani, Cakaudrove.

RIGHT: Viliame Tamanitoakula and his brothers present a yaqona ceremony during Minister Naiqamu's visit to Navoa Settlement.

BOTTOM PICTURE: The Minister with members of the Tamanitoakula family at Saqani, Cakaudrove.

Photos: SUPPLIED



I have managed to build a house for myself and three more houses for my three younger brothers."

Mr Tamanitoakula received his first payment of \$11,000 in March last year and another payment of \$9,000 in November last year which enabled him to proceed with their home construction.

These payments were for seedlings purchased by the Secretariat of Pacific Communities (SPC) through the R2R Project carried out within the Labasa and Tunulua catchment areas.

Mr Tamanitoakula said he never dreamt he would be able to achieve so much in such a short span of time.

He added that the icing on the cake was the fact that the Minister for Forestry Osea Naiqamu visited his family on 16 December, 2020 to see first-hand the outcome of various Government initiatives and projects undertaken by his Ministry.

"Our new home here at Navoa is very difficult to reach considering we have yet to make proper footpaths and crossings but the fact that Minister Naiqamu made it here with his team speaks volumes of Government's commitment to the people," Mr Tamanitoakula said.

Minister Naiqamu said he was happy to

finally see the outcome of Government's initiatives and that Fijians are being economically empowered.

"As the Minister for Forestry, I preach about various initiatives that we carry out in Parliament and in various consultation forums. It is so good to see people like Mr Tamanitoakula and what he has achieved through these initiatives," Minister Naiqamu said.

He further encouraged Mr Tamanitoakula to continue raising native tree species like the 'dakua makadre' and 'dakua salusalu' as they are becoming extinct.

Minister Naiqamu said the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora—remains one of the world's most powerful legally binding tools for biodiversity conservation through the regulation of trade in wild fauna and flora.

He said thousands of species are traded internationally and used by people in their daily lives for food, housing, health care, ecotourism, cosmetics or fashion, among other uses.

CITES regulates international trade in over 35,000 species of plants and animals, including their products and derivatives, ensuring their survival in the wild with benefits for the livelihoods of local people

I really appreciate the holistic support and assistance rendered by the Ministry and the outcome of that is, in just seven months I have managed to build a house for myself and three more houses for my three younger brothers.

Viliame Tamanitoakula
Farmer

and the global environment.

As for the former logging planner, Mr Tamanitoakula's mindset has changed and that is something very hard to do.

"I previously used to see the economic gains from cutting down trees, but my perspective has now changed to seeing the economic gains derived from standing trees," Mr Tamanitoakula said.

"I used to encourage villagers to cut down trees for a living but now- just like I have been practicing - I will go out and preach about sustainable forest management."

Mr Tamanitoakula's advice to resource owners during these trying times is not to underestimate the power of nature as, like him, it can support people economically, physically and socially, and further support a stable environment.



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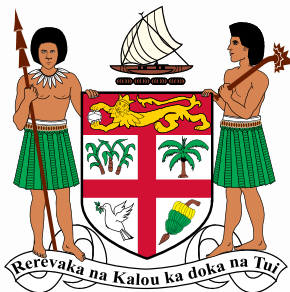
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PRESIDENT'S ADVICE



President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote with members of the Fiji Rugby League Kaiviti Silktail Rugby League Football Club at State House in Suva yesterday. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

Be good envoys, Kaiviti Silktails team told

FELIX LESINAIVALU

“REMAIN focussed on the mission, listen attentively to your coaches, play as a Team and look after one another”.

The President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote shared these sentiments during the Fiji Rugby League Kaiviti Silktail Rugby League Football Club's *itatau* presentation at the State House yesterday.

“I would like to acknowledge and thank the officials, the coaches and players for their dedication and hard work in preparing our players and more importantly ensuring that the team remains focussed and committed in their training when they play

in the weeks and months ahead,” President Konrote said.

“Be good ambassadors, on and off the field and always display good sportsmanship by accepting victory with humility and defeat graciously.”

President Konrote added that being selected to represent Fiji in any international sporting competition has always been very challenging deed because they will be expected to perform to the best of their abilities.

Fiji National Rugby League acting chief executive Don Natabe said he was delighted because this has been in the making for a very long time.

“We are happy that the boys will get that

level of exposure,” Mr Natabe said.

“It's a pity that it's only months away from the Rugby League World Cup but none the less, I know that during this short period the players will have to make up for time loss.”

Mr Natabe urged the team to gear up so they can come to par with their peers to also compete for a spot in the Fiji Bati squad for the Rugby League World Cup.

The team is expected to leave in March for Australia to compete in the New South Wales Rugby League Ron Massey Cup and are expected to return in August or September.

They will be in Queensland for two weeks where they will undergo quarantine before

Be good ambassadors, on and off the field and always display good sportsmanship by accepting victory with humility and defeat graciously.

Jioji Konrote
Fijian President

अंतराष्ट्रीय समाज मदद
करने आगे आए

2

ब्रिटिश सरकार ने
नेर्सरी किट्स दी

3

नज़हत शमीम मानवाधिकार
काउन्सिल की प्रधान बनी

6

शिक्षा मंत्री ने औस्ट्रेलियन
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4-5

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमारासा ने हालमें उत्तरी विभाग का दौरा किया और वहाँ राहत और सुधारकार्य से काफी संतुष्ट हुए चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

प्रधानमंत्री ने उत्तरी विभाग में पुनर्वास कार्य की प्रशंसा की

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमारासा ने वनुआ लेवू का अपना दौरा जारी करके प्रगति देखी कि समुद्री आँधी यासा के बाद फीजी के सैनिक, सरकारी अधिकारी तथा अन्य ज़रूरी अईजेन्सियाँ किस तरह काम कर रही है।

प्रधानमंत्री ने क्षतिग्रस्त इलाकों का दौरा किया तथा उन्हें कोरोकान्दी प्रायमरी स्कूल, रातु लुके मेमोरियल

स्कूल तथा लेकुतु डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल पर चल रहे सुधारकार्य की जानकारी दी गई।

कोरोकान्दी प्रायमरी स्कूल के मुख्य अद्यापक संजय कुमार ने श्री बईनिमारासा को स्कूल पर सैनिकों के काम पर जानकारी दी।

“पचास साल पहले स्कूल की स्थापना हुई थी और यह पहली बार है जब देश का कोई प्रधान मंत्री स्कूल का दौरा करने गया था। मुश्किल के

इस समय में हमारी मदद करने के लिए मैं सरकार को धन्यवाद दे रहा हूँ। मैं सेना के इंजिनियर्स तथा अन्य ज़रूरी अईजेन्सियों को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ जिन्होंने स्कूलों के मरम्मत में मदद की तथा स्कूलों में नए उपकरण से सहायता पहुँचा रहे हैं। प्रधानमंत्री बईनिमारासा ने भी सैनिकों के काम की प्रशंसा की जिन्होंने ध्यान में रखा कि समुद्री आँधी यासा से क्षति पहुँचे स्कूलों पर सुधारकार्य

जारी रहे।

हम अपने सैनिकों को धन्यवाद देना चाहते हैं जो अन्य संस्थाओं के साथ मिलकर वनुआ लेवू में असर पड़े स्कूलों को फिर से बना रहे हैं तथा समाज के उन लोगों को भी धन्यवाद देना चाहते हैं जिन्होंने इस कार्य में हाथ बँटाया है।

मुश्किल के इस समय में छात्रों तथा अध्यापकों की मदद करने के लिए असर पड़े स्कूलों को युनिसेफ पे-

सिफिक ने अस्थायी टेंट दिया है।

इसके अलावा प्रधानमंत्री बईनिमारासा ने नकोरोवातू हेल्थ सेन्टा स्थित विमन फेन्डली स्पेसस, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय, विमन्स मंत्रालय को भी धन्यवाद दिया जिन्हें औस्ट्रेलिया के विदेश मंत्रालय तथा यू एन एफ पी ए पेसिफिक द्वारा समर्थन मिला है। महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य तथा भलाई का ध्यान रखते हुए उन्हें अन्य तरह से भी सहायता दी गई है।



विपत्ति की स्थिति की अवधी बढ़ाई गई

रोनल देव

उत्तरी विभाग में प्राकृतिक विपत्ति की स्थिति (स्टेट ऑफ नईचरल डिज़ास्टा) की घोषणा को एक महीने के लिए और बढ़ा दी गई है।

सलाह लेने के बाद मंत्रीमण्डल ने इसकी अवधी बढ़ाने की स्वीकृति दी।

सरकार ने पिछले साल सोलह दिसम्बर को प्राकृतिक विपत्ति की स्थिति की घोषणा की थी जिसके एक दिन बाद समुद्री आँधी

यासा ने वनुआ लेवू में तबाही मचाई।

नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट ऑफिस डायरेक्टर वसिती सोको ने कहा कि अवधी बढ़ाना यह संकेत देता है कि समुद्री आँधी ने वनुआ लेवू के तीन प्रांतों में किस तरह की तबाही मचाई।

फिलहाल, फीजी अमेरिकन नेशनल असोसिएशन ने प्रधानमंत्री के साएक्लोन रिलीफ एंड रिहेबिलिटेशन फंड में इक्कीस हज़ार (21,000) डोलर जमा किया है। पिछले दो सप्ताह में असोसिएशन

ने लगभग नब्बे हज़ार डोलर तक की सहायता पहुँचाई है। वेनक्वा केनेडा स्थित फीजी डिज़ास्टा रिलीफ सोसाएटी ने इसी फंड में सत्ताईस (27) हज़ार डोलर से ज़्यादा जमा किया। सेन फान्सीस्को अमरिका स्थित फीजी होनररी कोसूल ने फंड को बत्तीस (32) हज़ार डोलर का दान किया। चीनी सरकार ने प्रधानमंत्री के साएक्लोन रिलीफ एंड रिहेबिलिटेशन फंड में चार लाख बीस हज़ार (\$420,000) डोलर जमा किया।



चीनी राजदूत कूवाईन बो, प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमारामा को चेक प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

भारत ने राहत सहायता दी

रोनल देव

भारत सरकार ने समुद्री आँधी यासा के बाद फीजीवासियों की मदद करने के लिए छः टन राहत सामान भेजा है।

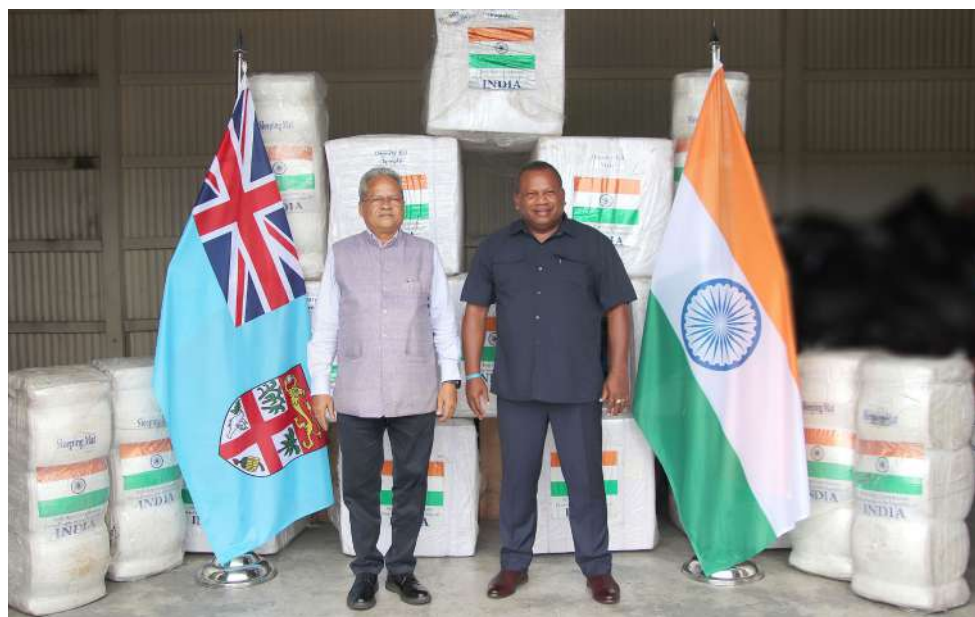
फीजी में स्थानापन भारतीय राजदूत सुकन्ता चरण साहू ने हालही रक्षा तथा डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट मंत्री इनिया सेरूईरातु को यह सामान प्रदान किया। मंत्री सेरूईरातु ने फीजियन सरकार की ओर से इस सहायता के लिए भारत सरकार का आभार व्यक्त किया और उन्हें धन्यवाद दिया।

मंत्री ने आशवासन दिया है कि यह राहत सामान उत्तरी और पुर्वी विभाग में असर पड़े परिवारों तक ज़रूर पहुँचाया जाएगा।

राहतकार्य पर जानकारी देते हुए मंत्री सेरूईरातु ने कहा कि अभी ज़रूरी सेवाएँ सामान्य करने तथा समाज में लोगों का जीवन सुधारने के लिए सहायता पहुँचाने पर गौर किया जा रहा है।

फीजी को सहयोग देने के लिए मंत्री सेरूईरातु ने यह स्वीकार किया कि सभी विकास सहयोगियों और दानी एजेंसियों के साथ मिलकर बेहतर ढंग से वापस निर्माण करने के लिए एकजुट रूप से काम करना महत्वपूर्ण है।

स्थानापन राजदूत साहू ने कहा कि यह मानवीय



फीजी में स्थानापन भारतीय राजदूत रक्षा मंत्री को राहत सामान देते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सहायता और संकट के समय राहत सहायता भारत की प्रतिबद्धता पर प्रकाश डालती है।

“कोरोनावायरस महामारी के कारण जो चुनौतियाँ हमारे बीच हैं के बावजूद, कम समय में भारत के नेशनल डिज़ास्टा रेस्पॉन्स फोर्स ने यह राहत सामान इकट्ठा किया जिसे एर्या इंडिया और फीजी एर्यावैस की मदद से सिडनी औरस्ट्रेलिया के मार्फित फीजी लाया गया। भारत हमेशा मुश्किल की घड़ी और प्राकृतिक विपत्ति से हुए नुकसान के बाद फीजी के साथ खड़ा रहा है तथा भारत

असर पड़े सामाजों में लोगों का जीवन सुधारने और मज़बूत ढाँचों का निर्माण करने के लिए फीजी के प्रयासों का पूरा समर्थन करने के लिए तैयार है,” श्री साहू ने कहा।

भारत द्वारा फीजी का लगातार समर्थन करने की पुष्टी करते हुए श्री साहू ने कहा कि भारत आगे और भी सहायता देने के लिए तैयार है जबकि नुकसान पर जाँच के बाद और स्पष्ट हो रहा है कि असर पड़े किन-किन सामाजों को मदद की ज़रूरत है।

चीन ने चार लाख डोलर से ज़्यादा दान किया

रोनल देव

चीन की सरकार ने समुद्री आँधी यासा के लिए प्रधानमंत्री के नेशनल डिज़ास्टा रिलीफ एंड रिहेबिलिटेशन फंड के लिए चार लाख बीस हज़ार डोलर दान किया है।

चीनी राजदूत श्री कूवाईन बो ने हालमें प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमारामा को चेक प्रदान किया। समय पर सहायता देने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री बर्डिनमारामा ने चीन के लोग तथा वहाँ की सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया।

चीन और फीजी के बीच लम्बे समय के कूटनैतिज्ञ संबंध पर प्रकाश डालते हुए प्रधानमंत्री ने समुद्री आँधी यासा से असर पड़े परिवारों और समाजों का जीवन सुधारने में योगदान देने के लिए चीन की प्रशंसा की। राजदूत बो ने चीनी सरकार और वहाँ के लोगों की ओर से आँधी से असर पड़े समाजों के प्रति सहानुभूति प्रकट की। उन्होंने चीनी सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को दोहराया है कि वो फीजी को बेहतर और मज़बूत घर तथा अन्य इमारतें वापस बनाने में सहायता ज़रूर देगी।

चीन के राजदूत ने कहा कि एक अच्छे दोस्त और महत्वपूर्ण साझेदार होने की वजह से चीन हमेशा फीजी के लोगों के साथ खड़ा रहेगा। यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि समुद्री आँधी यासा के कारण भारी तबाही हुई।

“मैंने प्रधानमंत्री के रिलीफ फंड में पहले दौर की सहायता के रूप में चार लाख बीस हज़ार डोलर दान किया है जो सरकार को राहत पहुँचाने में मदद करेगा। मैं फीजियन सरकार की भी प्रशंसा करना चाहता हूँ

जिन्होंने उत्तरी विभाग में तेज़, मज़बूत और व्यवस्थित बचावकार्य कराया। उन्होंने प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमारामा की मज़बूत नेतागिरी और फीजियन सरकार की प्रशंसा की।

“फीजियन सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया प्रभावशाली है। नुकसान आँकने के आधार पर अगले चरण में चीन और भी सहायता देने के लिए तैयार है। जब-जब फीजी को मदद की ज़रूरत होगी चीन हमेशा मदद के लिए खड़ा रहेगा,” राजदूत बो ने कहा।

पहले चरण की सहायता में चीन के रेड क्रॉस सोसाएटी ने फीजी रेड क्रॉस सोसाएटी को दो लाख दस हज़ार डोलर का दान दिया है जो समुद्री आँधी यासा से हुई तबाही के खिलाफ कदम उठाने में मदद मिलेगी। असर पड़े इलाकों में लोगों की मदद करने के लिए फीजी में चीनी व्यापारों ने भी मिलकर फीजी रेड क्रॉस सोसाएटी को बीस हज़ार डोलर दान किया।

देश में पाकिस्तानी समुदाय ने भी मदद की

रोनल देव

फीजी में पाकिस्तानी समुदाय ने समुद्री आँधी यासा से असर पड़े लोगों को सहायता के रूप में

फीजियन सरकार को पाँच हज़ार डोलर नकद तथा पाँच सौ किलोग्राम से ज़्यादा कपड़े दान किया है।

यहाँ उनके एक प्रतिनिधी साउद ए मिनम ने कहा कि उन्हें खुशी है कि वे फीजियन सरकार की मदद कर रहे हैं खास करके सरकार की राहत प्रयास में सहयोग देने के लिए।

एक समुदाय के नज़रिए से हमारे पास कोई असोसिएशन नहीं है, हम कोई रजिस्टर्ड अथोरिटी भी नहीं हैं बल्कि हम एक दल का हिस्सा हैं तथा इस तरह की गतिविधियों के लिए हम इस दल के द्वारा बातचित करते हैं,” मिनम ने कहा।

दान स्वीकार करते हुए रूरल एंड मेरिटाम डिवेलोपमन्ट तथा



देश में पाकिस्तानी समुदाय के प्रतिनिधी डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव को चेक देते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

डिज़ास्टा मैनेजमन्ट मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव डेविड कोलितंगाने ने कहा कि सरकार इस सहायता के बहुत अभारी है।

“आपको मैं आशवासन देता हूँ कि यह पैसे हम असर पड़े समाजों के लिए भोजन, पानी तथा अन्य ज़रूरी सामान खरीदने में खर्च करेंगे। औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार ने उत्तरी विभाग

में स्कूलों के लिए कुछ समग्री भेजी है तथा हमारी प्राथमिकता है इन समग्रियों का उपयोग करके क्षति पहुँचे स्कूलों को फिर से बनाना,” स्थाई सचिव ने कहा।

“इस सहायता से ज़रूर हमारे प्रयासों को बढ़ावा मिला है जिससे ध्यान में रखा जाएगा सबसे ज़्यादा असर पड़े समाजों की मदद की

जाए। प्रधानमंत्री, मंत्री और उत्तरी विभाग के फीजीवासियों की ओर से हम आपको बताना चाहते हैं कि इस सहायता के लिए हम कितने अभारी हैं,” श्री कोलितंगाने ने कहा। प्राप्त धन प्रधान मंत्री के ट्रस्ट फंड में जाएगा जिसे असर पड़े फीजीवासियों के लिए भोजन-राशन खरीदने में खर्च किया जाएगा।

गालोआ आएलेन्ड स्कूल तैयार

रोनल देव

समुद्री आँधी यासा में क्षति पहुँचे गालोआ आएलेन्ड प्राथमरी स्कूल की इमारत फिर से बना दी गई है तथा औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार ने इसे वापस शिक्षा मंत्री रौज़ी अक्वर को सौंप दिया है।

मंत्री अक्वर ने उत्तरी विभाग में स्कूलों को दोबारा बनाने के लिए औस्ट्रेलिया के डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ फॉरन अफेयर्स एंड ट्रेड को धन्यवाद दिया तथा प्रकाश डाला कि गालोआ प्राथमरी स्कूल उन स्कूलों में शामिल है जिनको सबसे ज़्यादा क्षति पहुँची थी।

“मुझे औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार को धन्यवाद देते हुए गर्व महसूस हो रहा है जिन्होंने कम समय में यह सहायता पहुँचाई है,” मंत्री अक्वर ने कहा।

“एक महीने से ज़्यादा हो गया है जब समुद्री आँधी यासा ने फीजी के उत्तरी विभाग पर असर डाला तथा मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि हमने कम समय में बहुत कुछ हासिल किया है। समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन के बाद जो हमने सीख हासिल की थी ने इस स्थिति का सामना करने में हमारी मदद की है तथा हमारे स्कूल एक लाख छियान्चे हज़ार (196,000) विद्यार्थियों के लिए तैयार हुए,”

बेशक, मैं समझती हूँ कि कई परिवार अभी भी आँधी से हुई हानि के कारण मुश्किल में है लेकिन इन लोगों को दोबारा अपने पैरों पर खड़ा करने के लिए कई लोग हर तरह की मदद कर रहे हैं।



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी, फीजी में ब्रिटिश राजदूत महामहीम जॉर्ज एडगा तथा नेर्सरी किट हासिल करने वालों के साथ

चित्र: कृषि मंत्रालय

रोज़गार के लिए नेर्सरी किट्स

रोनल देव

ब्रिटिश सरकार ने हालही में फीजियन सरकार को चौवन (54) नेर्सरी किट्स दान किया है जिससे उन लोगों की मदद होगी जिनपर कोविड-19 की वजह से आर्थिक रूप से असर पड़ा है और जो

अपना जीवन चलाने के लिए कृषि क्षेत्र की ओर बढ़े हैं।

सिंगातोका और नान्दी में यह सामान प्रदान करते हुए फीजी में ब्रिटिश हाई कमिशनर महामहीम जॉर्ज एडगा ने कहा कि ब्रिटिश हाई कमिशन और कृषि मंत्रालय के बीच करीबी सहयोग से यह नतिजा सामने आया है।

“पिछले साल अक्टूबर में यू कै की सरकार ने अपने अंतराष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम के तहत कृषि मंत्रालय को तिरपन (53) हज़ार डोलर से ज़्यादा लागत सहायता पहुँचाई थी ताकि सरकार की फसल नेर्सरी को और मजबूत किया जाए।

महामहीम एडगा ने कहा कि यह कोविड-19 महामारी के नकरात्मक सामाजिक आर्थिक प्रभावों का सामना करने वालों को सहारा देने के लिए एक व्यापक प्रयास का हिस्सा था।

सरकार की ओर से नेर्सरी किट्स स्वीकार करते हुए कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने ब्रिटिश सरकार द्वारा नेर्सरी शुरू करने के लिए प्रदान की गई व्यापक सहायता के लिए राजदूत को धन्यवाद दिया।

जो लोग अपनी नौकरियाँ खो चुके हैं के लिए यह आमदनी कमाने का ज़रिया है। न केवल वे अपने लिए आमदनी कमाएंगे बल्कि वे कृषि क्षेत्र में दूसरी सबसे ज़रूरी भूमिका में योगदान देंगे जो कि कृषि क्षेत्र को व्यावसायिक रूप से आगे बढ़ाना है।

मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि नेर्सरी के मालिक यह उत्पादन अपनी निगरानी में रखेंगे जिसे अन्य किसान खरीदेंगे जिससे कृषि क्षेत्र व्यवसायिक रूप से आगे बढ़ेगा।

फिलहाल, बरारा फ्लेट्स वेली रोड सिंगातोका की चौतीस (34) साल की श्रीमति बीना विकाशनी लाल यह नेर्सरी किट स्वीकार करती हुई बेहद खुश हुई। “मैं पहली बार खेती कर रही हूँ। मेरे लिए बहुत ही मुश्किल काम है, क्योंकि कभी-कभी बहुत बारिश होती है और कभी-कभी बहुत गर्मी रहती है इसलिए मैं खेत में काम नहीं कर पाती थी। पहले मैं छाया में बैठकर काम करती थी,” श्रीमति लाल ने कहा।

वो पहले सिंगातोका में एक गिफ्ट की दुकान में काम करती थी और उनका परिवार डी वी डी की दुकान चला रहा था लेकिन कोविड-19 की वजह से उनकी नौकरी और व्यापार पर असर पड़ा। उनके काम करने के घण्टें कम हुए और फिर बाद में नौकरी छूट गई। उनके पति और बेटा, उनके लिए नेर्सरी बनाने में मदद करेंगे। श्रीमति लाल अपनी नेर्सरी में पौधे और फूल उगाएंगी।

“मैं इस सहायता के लिए बहुत अभारी हूँ क्योंकि मेरे पास तीन बच्चे हैं जो स्कूल जाते हैं तथा यह नेर्सरी मेरी काफी मदद करेगी।”

उन्होंने ब्रिटिश हाई कमिशनर को मुश्किल के इस समय सहायता पहुँचाने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

शिक्षा मंत्रालय को क्षतिग्रस्त स्कूलों के विद्यार्थियों के लिए दान मिला

रोनल देव

उत्तरी विभाग में समुद्री आँधी यासा से असर पड़े छात्रों की मदद करने के लिए शिक्षा मंत्री रौज़ी अक्वर को अहमदिया मुस्लिम विमन्स मूवमन्ट तथा अहमदिया अंजुमन इशात-ई-इस्लाम लाहौर/फीजी सोसाएटी की ओर से दान मिला है।

हालही में इन संस्थाओं ने मिलकर मंत्री अक्वर को सात हज़ार डोलर का चेक दिया।

संस्था की सेक्रेटरी नासरा खान ने कहा कि उनके सदस्यों ने उदारता पूर्वक योगदान दिया है जबकि वे आँधी यासा से असर पड़े छात्रों, माता-पिताओं तथा समाजों की मदद करना चाहते हैं।

चेक स्वीकार करती हुई मंत्री अक्वर ने कहा कि वो सोसाएटी के सहारे की शुक्रगुज़ार है तथा उन्होंने ने सदस्यों का शुक्रिया अदा किया जिन्होंने दिल से हमारे बच्चों में दिलचस्पी दिखाई।

उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार इस उदारता के लिए बहुत आभारी है तथा ये पैसे ज़रूर उन बच्चों की मदद करने में खर्च होंगे जिनपर समुद्री आँधी यासा का बुरा असर पड़ा है।

उन्होंने कहा कि मंत्रालय सभी फीजीवासियों के लिए उच्च शिक्षा प्रदान करने का प्रयास जारी रखेगा।



शिक्षा मंत्री रौज़ी अक्वर गालोआ आएलेन्ड स्कूल को दोबारा बनाने के लिए औस्ट्रेलियन सरकार को धन्यवाद देती हुई

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



प्रधानमंत्री ने उत्तरी विभाग में सुधारकार्य की प्रशंसा की

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गे बड़िनमरामा ने हाल में पुनः वनूआ लेवू का दौरा किया और प्रगति देखी कि समुद्री ओधी यासा के बाद फीजी के सैनिक, सरकारी अधिकारियों तथा अन्य ज़रूरी आई जेन्सियाँ किस तरह काम कर रही है। प्रधानमंत्री ने क्षतिग्रस्त

इलाकों का दौरा किया तथा उन्हें कोरोकान्दी प्राथमरी स्कूल, रानु लुके मेमोरियल स्कूल तथा लेकुतु डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल पर चल रहे सुधारकार्य की जानकारी दी गई।

चित्र: नविसे नईमिल



सूवा व्यापारियों से उभरते बाजारों की तलाश करने की माँग की गई

इस साल की पहली सभा में सूवा के व्यापारियों से माँग की गई है कि वे अपने सुविधा वाले क्षेत्र से बाहर निकलकर कोविड-19 के बाद वाले युग में नए उभरते बाजार पर गौर करें। सूवा रिटेलर्स एसोसिएशन के सदस्यों से बातें करते हुए अटोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने व्यापारियों से माँग की कि वे सकारात्मक सोच रखें क्योंकि हमारा देश एक ऐसे भविष्य की ओर बढ़ रहा है जहाँ जल्द सीमाएँ खुलने की उम्मीद है। चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन



मंती, रैज़ी अक्बर सहायता की अभारी

शिक्षा मंत्री रैज़ी अक्बर ने ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया है जिन्होंने पश्चिमी विभाग में कोविड-19 से असर पड़े विद्यार्थियों के लिए सात हजार स्कूल बैकपैक्स दान किया है। नान्दी स्थित एन्ड्रूस प्राथमरी स्कूल पर दान स्वीकार करती हुई मंती अक्बर ने ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार का आभार व्यक्त किया जिन्होंने सही समय पर सहायता देकर इस बात का ध्यान रखा कि यह बच्चे नए साल में वापस स्कूल जाएँ। यह सहायता ओस्ट्रेलियन और फीजियन सरकार के बीच मंचनी बृचाले साझेदारी और मित्रता को प्रदर्शित करती है। शिक्षा मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों यह बैकपैक्स नान्दी, नन्डोनागा, लोतोंका, वा, रा, यसावा तथा पश्चिमी विभाग के अन्य इलाके और लाउ ट्रोप में बाँटेंगे। इन बैकपैक्स में स्कूली सामग्री तथा लिखने के लिए किताबें हैं। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



राष्ट्रपति ने बच्चों से चौकन्ना रहने की माँग की

राष्ट्रपति महामहोदय चियोजी कोनरोते ने हाल में उन स्कूलों का दौरा किया जिन्हें समुद्री यासा ने नुकसान पहुँचाया था। इस दौरान राष्ट्रपति ने कुछ छात्रों से भी मुलाकात की और उन्हें इस दौरान सुरक्षित और चौकन्ना रहने की सलाह दी। "आप कल के नेता हों, यह ज़रूरी है कि पढ़ने-लिखने के लिए आपको साफ-सुरक्षित और

स्वास्थ्य वातावरण मिले," राष्ट्रपति ने बुआ डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल, गालोआ प्राथमरी स्कूल, लेकुतु सेकन्डरी स्कूल, ईकेती सेन्ट्रल कोलज तथा मारामारूआ प्राथमरी स्कूल का दौरा किया।

चित्र: फिलिक्स लेसोईवाल्





कोविड-19 का एक भी मामला नहीं

रोनल देव

सीमा पर कोविड-19 का अभी कोई मामला नहीं है। बाईस जनवरी को इसपर आखरी बार नवीनतम जानकारी दी गई थी। स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा कि पिछले साल उन्नीस मार्च को फीजी में कोविड-19 का पहला मामला सामने आया था और तबसे लेकर अभी तक देश में 55 पचपन मामलों की पुष्टी हुई।

इनमें से तिरपन 53 लोग बिलकुल ठीक हो गए हैं जबकि दो लोगों की मौत हुई है। पिछले सैतीस 37 मामले अंतराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों से संबंधित थे जो फीजी की सीमा पर आए गए थे। अभी तक लेबराटोरी में पचीस हजार चौदह परीक्षण हो चुके हैं जबकि पिछले दो सप्ताह में अवसतम एक हजार एक सौ बीस परीक्षण हुए हैं। नान्दी में बोडा कोरनटीन सुविधा में ठहराने के दौरान लोगों का परीक्षण किया

गया जाता है और कोरोना वायरस के लिए पोज़िटिव पाए जाने पर उन्हें सुरक्षित रूप से और साफ-सुते तरीके से लौतोका अस्पताल लेजाया जाता है जहाँ उन्हें आएसोलईशन बोर्ड में भर्ती किया जाता है। सरकार ने इस कोरनटीन सुविधा की स्थापना की है जहाँ सैनिक, लोगों पर कड़ी निगरानी रखते हैं। मंत्रालय का कहना है कि सीमा पर सबसे आगे रहने वाले कर्मचारी और

कोरनटीन कर्मचारी जो ऐसे मामले के सीधे संपर्क में आए थे ने संक्रमण की रोकथाम और नियंत्रण नियमों का पालन किया है और ज़रूरत पड़ने पर इन कर्मचारियों पर निगरानी रखने के साथ-साथ उनका परीक्षण किया जाएगा। तीन सौ से ज़्यादा दिन हो गए हैं जब फीजी में पहला मामला सामने आया था और दो सौ अस्सी से ज़्यादा दिन हो गए हैं जब बोडा कोरनटीन से बाहर आखरी बार किसी मामले की

पुष्टी हुई थी। स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय तथा उनकी भागीदार एजेंसियों ने सीमा पर उनकी रणनितियों पर गौर किया है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि कम से कम जोखिम हो। सीमा के अईजन्ड्स, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय तथा सेना, संक्रमण नियंत्रण नियमों को सीमा पर लागू कर रहे हैं। आम जनता को हाथ की सफाई और कोविड-19 से बचने के लिए अन्य सुरक्षित उपायों का अभ्यास जारी रखना चाहिए।

नज़हत शमीम मानवाधिकार काउन्सिल की प्रधान बनी



जेनिवा स्थित संयुक्त राष्ट्र दफ्तर के लिए फीजी की स्थाई प्रतिनिधी महामहीम नज़हत शमीम खान चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

मानवाधिकार काउन्सिल ने जेनिवा स्थित संयुक्त राष्ट्र दफ्तर के लिए फीजी की स्थाई प्रतिनिधी महामहीम नज़हत शमीम खान को इस साल के लिए काउन्सिल का प्रधान चुना है।

राजदूत खान की नियुक्ति गुप्त मत के ज़रिए हुई है तथा मानवाधिकार काउन्सिल के सैतालिस (47) में से उनतीस (39) सदस्यों ने उन्हें अपना मत दिया। राजदूत नज़हत शमीम अब बहामस, सुडान तथा नेदालेन्ड्स के राजदूत के साथ मिलकर इस साल मानवाधिकार काउन्सिल की अगुवाई करेंगी जिन्हें पिछले साल डिसेम्बर में उप प्रधान चुना गया है। प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गे बईनिमारामा ने राजदूत खान की चुनाव में जीत का स्वागत करते हुए कहा कि यह सभी जलवायु कमज़ोर लोगों के बुनियादी अधिकारों के लिए एक जीत है। प्रधानमंत्री बईनिमारामा ने कहा कि राजदूत नज़हत शमीम इस पद के लिए अनुकूल हैं जो सभी लोगों के लिए न्याय, गरिमा के भविष्य के प्रति अंतराष्ट्रीय समुदाय की मदद करेंगी। फीजियन सरकार ने राजदूत नज़हत शमीम को मानवाधिकार काउन्सिल की प्रधान चुने जाने के लिए बधाई दी तथा उन्हें शुभकामनाएं दी।

नए बाज़ारों पर निगरानी रखो

रोनल देव

इस साल की पहली सभा में सूवा के व्यापारियों से माँग की गई है कि वे अपने सुविधा वाले क्षेत्र से बाहर निकलकर कोविड-19 के बाद वाले युग में नए उभरते बाज़ार पर गौर करें। सूवा रिटेलस असोसिएशन के सदस्यों से बातें करते हुए अटोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने व्यापारियों से माँग की कि वे सकरात्मक सोच रखें क्योंकि हमारा देश एक ऐसे भविष्य की ओर बढ़ रहा है जहाँ जल्द सीमाएँ खुलने की उम्मीद है।



अटोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम हालही सूवा रिटेलस असोसिएशन की सभा में सदस्यों को संबोधित करते हुए चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

कुमारी, शुगा कईन गोवस काउन्सिल की नई अध्यक्ष

रोनल देव

शुगा कईन गोवस काउन्सिल के बोर्ड तथा मेनेजमन्ट ने घोषणा की है कि काउन्सिल की नई सभापति रेशमी कुमारी नियुक्त हुई है जो पहली जनवरी से अपना पद सम्भाल रही हैं। प्रधानमंत्री तथा चीनी मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बईनिमारामा ने शुगा इंडस्ट्री एक्ट 1984 के तहत कुमारी की नियुक्ति की है। व्यवसाय की पाँच संस्थाओं में पहली बार किसी महिला की नियुक्ति सभापति की भूमिका के लिए हुई है। अध्यक्ष की भूमिका को लेकर कुमारी के पास अनुभव और रणनीतिक दृष्टि का खज़ाना है जो गन्ने के किसानों के हित के लिए योजना बनाने, रणनीतिक कार्यों, डिज़ाइन की देख-रेख कर सकती है। इस पद के साथ उनको और ज़िम्मेदारियाँ

सौंपी गई है जबकि वो चीनी मंत्रालय की पोलिसी, प्लेनिंग तथा रिसेच की डायरेक्टर हैं, शुगा रिसेच इन्सटीट्यूट ऑफ फीजी, बायोसिक्चुरिटी अथोरिटी ऑफ फीजी तथा फूड्स प्रोसेसिंग फीजी लिमिटेड की बोर्ड मेम्बर भी हैं।

वो तावुआ में गन्ने की किसानी करने वाले परिवार से हैं। काउन्सिल की भूमिका की रक्षा तथा व्यवसाय के विकास और गन्ने के किसानों की दिलचस्पियों का ध्यान रखते हुए व्यवसाय में उनके अनुभव से कुमारी, शुगा कईन गोवस काउन्सिल के नए चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव



शुगा कईन गोवस काउन्सिल की नई सभापति रेशमी कुमारी

ऑफिसर विमल दत्त के साथ मिलकर फीजी शुगा कौपरेशन, साउथ पेसिफिक फेटिलाएज़ा, शुगा कईन गोवस फन्ड, शुगा इंडस्ट्री ट्रायबुनल तथा शुगा रिसेच इन्सटीट्यूट ऑफ फीजी के साथ काम करेंगी।

कुमारी ने जापान की एक युनिवर्सिटी से एको-नोमिक्स में मास्टस तक की पढ़ाई की है। चीनी मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव श्री योगेश करण ने कुमारी की नियुक्ति का स्वागत किया है तथा उन्हें नई अध्यक्ष वाली भूमिका के लिए शुभकामनाएं दी हैं। रेशमी कुमारी, काउन्सिल के भूतपूर्व चेयरमैन संजय कुमार की जगह ले रही हैं। काउन्सिल ने श्री कुमार को तीन सालों तक काउन्सिल को अपना योगदान देने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया है तथा वो चीनी मंत्रालय के डायरेक्टर औपरेशन्स होने के नाते काउन्सिल को ज़रूरी सलाह देते रहेंगे।

ट्रेकेती किसानों को वोटरवैस मंत्रालय ने राहत दी

रोनल देव

ट्रेकेती के करीब तीन सौ किसानों को वोटरवैस मंत्रालय ने राहत पहुँचाई जब उन्होंने अपने एक पुनर्वास कार्यक्रम के तहत वहाँ आपातकालीन नालों की सफाई की और फ्लड गैट पर मरम्मत किया। ट्रेकेती में भारी मात्रा में धान की खेती होती है तथा वहाँ के समुदाय की माँग पर मंत्रालय ने सहायता पहुँचाई ताकि बाज़ार में चावल की सप्लाई जारी रखने के लिए धान का उत्पादन सामान्य किया जाए।

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने कहा कि उत्तरी विभाग में कृषि गतिविधियाँ फिर से स्थापित करने के लिए उनके मंत्रालय ने यह कदम उठाया है।

“हम इस बात का आश्वासन देते हैं कि हम सभी आपातकालीन ड्रेनज का काम करेंगे ताकि खेतों से जल्द से जल्द पानी निकल जाए और किसान जल्द से जल्द कृषि गतिविधियाँ शुरू करें,” मंत्री ने कहा।

मंत्री के अनुसार इन नालों की सफाई बेहद ज़रूरी थी क्योंकि समुद्री आँधी यासा के दौरान खेतों में कीचड़, मिट्टी या मलबे भर गए थे। उन्होंने कहा कि इसके अलावा सभी फ्लड गैट के ढाँचे जिन्हें आँधी के दौरान क्षति पहुँची थी पर मरम्मतकार्य हो रहे हैं ताकि आगे चलकर बाढ़ न चढ़े।

फीजी राईस फार्मस असोसिएशन के प्रधान श्री याद राम ने मंत्रालय द्वारा सही समय पर सहायता पहुँचाने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया जिससे उत्तरी विभाग में खेती करने वाले समुदाय में कुछ हद तक स्थिति सामान्य होगी।

“उत्तरी विभाग के किसानों को शीघ्र सहायता देने के लिए हम सरकार, कृषि और वोटरवैस

मंत्रालय को धन्यवाद देना चाहते हैं, जिन्होंने धान के किसानों के लिए खेत तैयार करने के साथ-साथ नालों की सफाई भी की। इससे किसान जल्द कदम उठाकर वापस खेती करने में सफल होंगे,” राम ने कहा।

दोंगीवाँगा सेटलमन्ट, ट्रेकेती मटुवाता के इक्वत्तर (71) वर्षीय किसान शिव राम ने भी उत्तरी विभाग में विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से किसानों की सहायता के लिए सरकार की समय पर प्रतिक्रिया देने की सराहना की ताकि तुरन्त स्थिति ठीक हो सके।

“मैं पिछले कई सालों से खेती कर रहा हूँ तथा कई नेताओं और सरकार देखी लेकिन पहले किसी भी सरकार ने इस तरह की सहायता और प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दिखाई थी।

मंत्रालय ने मुफ्त में ज़मीन तैयार किया, बीज बाँटा तथा यही सब तो खेती के लिए ज़रूरी है,” राम ने कहा।



रोनल देव

लम्बासा के दस किसानों को हालही में एडवेंटिस्ट एन्ड रिलीफ अईजेन्सी ने पानी वाले टैंक्स दान किए हैं जिससे उनकी पानी वाली समस्याएं दूर हुई हैं।

हर एक किसान को पाँच हजार तीन सौ लीटर का एक टैंक दिया गया है तथा एक टैंक का दाम एक हजार दो सौ डोलर है।

ट्रेकेतीलाईलाई में शाख-भाजी की खेती करने वाले बावन (52)

वर्षिए एक किसान देव रमन, पानी वाला टैंक मिलने से बहुत खुश है। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे उन्हें बहुत सहायता मिलेगी क्योंकि उनके इलाके में पानी वाली समस्या हमेशा रहती है।

“पहले हम पास की नदी से पम्प द्वारा पानी खींचकर लाते थे और उपयोग करते थे। लेकिन टैंक आने से काम आसान हो गया है। अब पानी पम्प करके सीधे बड़ा टैंक में

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी हालही उत्तरी विभाग में पानी वाले टैंक्स हासिल करने वालों के साथ। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

पानी वाले टैंक्स से तकलीफें दूर हुई

भरा जाएगा और वहाँ से फिर घर और खेत के लिए पानी इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा,” रमन ने कहा।

एडवेंटिस्ट एन्ड रिलीफ अईजेन्सी फीजी कंट्री डायरेक्टर इलियापी तुवाई ने कहा कि यह सहायता एक योजना का हिस्सा है जहाँ पानी वाली समस्या का सामना कर रहे समाज की मदद की जाती है। हमारी संस्था आपकी मदद करने के लिए है तथा सरकार के साथ जो हमारी साझेदारी

है के लिए मैं वोटर वैस मंत्री, डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। हम सरकार के साथ मिलकर काम करते रहेंगे ताकि हम ऐसे समाजों की मदद करते रहे,” श्री तुवाई ने कहा।

वोटरवैस मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने इस संस्था और अन्य संस्थाओं को धन्यवाद दिया जो किसानों को अपना जीवन सँवरने में मदद कर रही हैं।

एडवेंटिस्ट एन्ड रिलीफ अईजेन्सी की योजना से ज़रूरी और साफ पानी किसानों को मिलेगा तथा ऐसी दानी संस्थाओं की मदद से यह सहायता मुमकिन हुई है।

“जिन किसानों को टैंक्स मिले हैं वो इसे अपने घरेलू काम में लाने के साथ-साथ खेती में भी उपयोग करेंगे। इससे उनका जीवन सुधरने के साथ-साथ कृषि उत्पादन में भी वृद्धि होगी,” मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा।

बुआ में धान के किसानों को एक ट्रेक्टर मिला

रोनल देव

बुआ में धान के खेती करने वाले एक समुदाय को हाल में कृषि मंत्रालय ने एक ट्रेक्टर दिया है ताकि उनका कृषि उत्पादन बढ़ सके।

वतुबोन्गी में बुआ राईस फार्मस कौपरेटिव को यह ट्रेक्टर प्रदान किया गया है।

ट्रेक्टर स्वीकार करते हुए कौपरेटिव के प्रधान चौवन (54) वर्षीय नरेन्द्र प्रताप ने इस सहायता के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया और कहा कि इससे उन्हें और उनके कौपरेटिव के सदस्यों को प्रेरणा मिलेगी कि वे धान और कसेरा का उत्पादन बढ़ाएँ।

“हमारे कौपरेटिव में तीन इलाके तउसा, नासुवा और वातुबोन्गी से उन्नीस सदस्य हैं। हम ज़्यादा करके धान और कसेरा की खेती करते हैं। कुल मिलाकर हमारे पास तीन सौ अक्कड़ ज़मीन है।

हम मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी को धन्यवाद दे रहे हैं जिन्होंने बुआ राईस फार्मस कौपरेटिव को एक ट्रेक्टर दिया। हम सरकार की ओर से और सहायता की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं ताकि हम और भी धान बो सकें जिससे कम चावल विदेश से खरीदा जाए और देश का पैसा बाहर न जाए। हमारे पास यहाँ बहुत ज़मीन है तथा और मदद मिलने से हम और भी धान उत्पादित कर सकते हैं,” श्री प्रताप ने कहा।



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी वतुबोन्गी बुआ में राईस फार्मस कौपरेटिव के सदस्यों को एक ट्रेक्टर प्रदान करते हुए। चित्र: कृषि मंत्रालय

ट्रेक्टर प्रदान करते हुए कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने किसानों से कहा कि यह कौपरेटिव के लिए एक बहुत बड़ी उपलब्धि है। उनके अनुसार किसानों को यह समझना बेहद ज़रूरी है कि मोर्डन यानि आधुनिक खेती के लिए मशीनों का उपयोग बेहद ज़रूरी है। इससे मंत्रालय का महत्वपूर्ण लक्ष्य हासिल करने में भी

किसानों को मदद मिलेगी।

उन्होंने कहा कि कौपरेटिव की राईस स्कीम बुआ में सबसे बड़ी राईस स्कीमों में से एक है। मंत्री रेड्डी ने बुआ राईस फार्मस कौपरेटिव से माँग की है कि वे ध्यान में रखें कि इस ट्रेक्टर की देखभाल अच्छी तरह हो ताकि यह लम्बे समय तक किसानों को सेवा प्रदान करे।

उत्तरी विभाग में पुनर्वास कार्य की प्रशंसा 2

ब्रिटिश सरकार ने नर्सरी कट्स दी 3

नज़हत शमीम मानवाधिकार काउन्सिल की प्रधान बनी 6

शिक्षा मंत्री ने ऑस्ट्रेलियन सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया 4

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम हालही अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्रालय में जलवायु परिवर्तन पर आयोजित एक बहस पर युनिवर्सिटीज़ और सेकन्ड्री स्कूल विद्यार्थियों के साथ

चित्र: रोनल देव

युवा जलवायु परिवर्तन पर अधिक जानकारी होनी चाहिए – ए-जी

रोनल देव

अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम सप्ताहअंत मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव पर फीजियन छात्रों के बहस में शामिल हुए जिसकी मेज़बानी अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्रालय के क्लाएमट चईन्ज और इंटरनेशनल कौपरेशन डिविज़न तथा क्लाएमट साईन्स फीजी ने किया था।

बहस में कूड़ा-कचरा से उर्जा पैदा करने तथा हाएब्रिड गाड़ियों पर “कर” लगाने के फायदें जैसे विषय शामिल थे। यह बहस युवा जलवायु नेतृत्व को मज़बूत करने के महत्व पर बातचीत से खत्म हुई।

बहस में शामिल छात्र, फीजी की युनिवर्सिटीज़ तथा सेकन्ड्री स्कूलों से आए थे जिन्हें अलग-अलग दलों में बाँटा गया था जो इन दो विषयों पर बहस कर रहे थे। एक विषय पर लगभग तीस मिनट तक बहस हुई तथा इसमें दर्शकों का भी योगदान था।

बहस में औपचारिक रूप से शामिल होते हुए अटेनी जेनरल ने जलवायु परिवर्तन की तत्काल चुनौती पर चर्चा करने लिए युवकों की उपस्थिति की सराहना की और उनसे सक्रिय जलवायु दूत बनने की माँग की।

मंत्री ने आने वाले क्लाएमट चईन्ज बिल के महत्व तथा युवकों द्वारा इसमें अपना योगदान देने की ज़रूरत पर प्रकाश डाला।

“जलवायु परिवर्तन गम्भीर परिणामों के साथ एक ज़रूरी चुनौती है। लेकिन विज्ञान इसके लम्बे प्रभाव और खतरे को लेकर स्पष्ट है जबकि यह आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए एक संघर्ष होगा। युवा फीजिवसियों ने जलवायु परिवर्तन का अनुभव किया होगा तथा वे दुनिया में सबसे अधिक जानकारी रखने वाले हो सकते हैं।

इसके लिए उन्हें इस संकट की प्रकृति, समाधानों की समझना होगा और कैसे उनकी सरकार जलवायु कारवाई वाले विषय के माध्यम से दुनिया की अगुवाई कर रहे हैं, यह भी माँग की जा रही है कि वे इसपर अपना अधिकार जमाएँ। क्योंकि यह उनका और उनके बच्चों का भविष्य है जिसे हम सुरक्षित करने के लिए लड़ रहे हैं,” अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा। बहस के दौरान बोलते हुए अटेनी जेनरल ने फीजियन सरकार की हाल की जलवायु पहल पर बातचीत की। अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्रालय तथा क्लाएमट साईन्स फीजी अगली बहस अगले महीने आयोजित करने पर की योजना बना रहे हैं।



अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम हालही अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्रालय में जलवायु परिवर्तन पर आयोजित एक बहस पर युनिवर्सिटीज़ और सेकन्ड्री स्कूल विद्यार्थियों से कहा कि मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव आने वाली पीढ़ी के लिए एक चुनौती साबित होगी चित्र: रोनल देव

Noda Viti



MARAUTAKI NA VEIWEKANI
VAKAVUVALE

Na siga kei Ositerelia e dua na gauna vinaka ni veimaraudaki vakavuvale nei Viti kei Ositerelia ka ratou laki lewena ko Sivika e Palimedi Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Peresitedi Jioji Konrote, Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama, iVukevuke ni mata e Ositerelia ki Viti Anna Dorney kei na mata e Ositerelia ki Viti John Feakes.
iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

iTuvaki ni COVID-19 e Viti

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA vakaraitaka na Tabacacacaka ni Bula ni ni se sega tale ni dua na kisi vou ni COVID-19 e yaco e Viti me yacova maina ika 22 ni siga ni Januani 2021.

Sa 55 taucoko na kisi ni COVID-19, kara sa bula mai kina e 53, e lewe 2 rau mai mate kina me tekivu sara mai na isevu ni kisi a ripotetaki ena ika 19 ni siga ni vula o Maji 2021.

E 37 na kisi e vu mai vei ira na gole mai vavalagi kara qai mai dikevi rawa ena noda iyalayala ni curuvanua keina vanua ni nodra tiko vakatiki.

Sa oti vinaka e 282 na siga mai na gauna a kunei kina nai otioi ni kisi ena taudaku ni noda iyalayala ni curuvanua ena ika 18 ni siga ni vula ko Evereli.

Sa vakayacori oti e 25,014 na vakadidike ena kena vale, ka vakayacori tiko e veimacawa e 1120 na vakadidike ena loma ni 2 na macawa sa sivi.

Sa vakavinavinaka tiko vei kemuni na lewenivanua e Viti na Minisita ni Bula o Vuniwai Ifereimi Waqainabete ena nomuni vakamuria tiko na ivakasala ni Tabacacacaka ni Bula me tarovi kina na dewa ni matetaka oqo na COVID-19.

Kaya na Minisita ni Bula ni sa tekivu tiko na veicula ena veiyasai vuravura eso. Na icula oqo era icula vovou kece.

“Sa tiko na veimatabose eso me vaka na WHO kei na Matabose koya e lewa na wainimate mai Amerika mera dau solia nodra veivakadonui ni bera ni vakayagataki na icula.”

“Yabaki sa oti edua na veivakararamataki levu e vakayacori kina ka rawa kina nida tarova na kena dewa na COVID-19 ena noda vanua,” kaya o Vuniwai Waqainabete.

“Yabaki oqo ena vakayacori tale kina edua na veivakararamataki levu nib era na veicula oya mera na vakayacora taumada nodra vakadidike na vakaisilesi ni Tabacacacaka ni Bula, se mataqali lewenivanua vakacava mera na qaravi taumada e liu ka mera na rejisitaki kece o ira edoodnu mera na cula me baleta na COVID-19 baleta na ivalu oqo e se bera tiko ni oti.”

E na matailalai ni tukutuku tale eso raica ena website ni Tabacacacaka ni Bula oya na : <http://www.health.gov.fj/covid-19-updates/>

‘RAWA NI UALUVU’

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA uca bisa ka tau tiko ena vica na siga oqo ena rawa ni torocake me dua na Cagilaba ena loma vica na siga mai oqo. Oqo e sala muria tiko edua na ua ni draki ca ka vakavuna voli na katataka ena noda vanua.

Sa siqema tiko na Tabacacacaka ni Draki mai Nadi ni rawa ni yaco edua na cagilaba ena maliwa ni wasawasa e Viti kei Vanuatu.

Sa solia kina nona ivakasala ki Viti raraba na turaga na Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama.

“E namaki mena taubi tiko vakalevu na uca ena noda vanua ena vica na siga sa tu e matada oqo.”

“Ni taura na gauna oqo moni vakaraudaki kemuni kina.”

“Ni yalovinaka ni lako laivi mai na vanua e

waluvu tiko,” kerea o PM Bainimarama.

Era kaya na dauni draki ni sa soli tikoga na ivakaro ni uca bi e Vanua Levu, Taveuni kei na veiyanyanu lailai e Lau kei Lomaiviti.

Sa soli talega yani na ivakaro ni kena nama ki na uca bi ena vo ni veiyasai Viti.

E kunei ni toso vakamalua tiko na ivakatakilakila ni draki suasua salavata tiko mai na o loaloa kei na uca ka na vakilai ena levu sara na veivanua e Viti me yacova yani na Siga Vakaraubuka.

Sa kunei tiko e rua na vakatakilakila ni draki ca me tekivu mai na siga Tusiti sa oti e tiko ena Vuaira kei New Caledonia.

Na ikarua ni ivakatakilakila ni draki ca e kunei ena Ra kei Nadi ka rawa ni vuki me dua na cagilaba ena loma ni 24 ki na 48 na aua.

E ra tukuna na dau ni draki ni rawa ni laki veisau me cagilaba ena kedrau maliwa na wasawasa e Viti kei Vanuatu ena siga Lot-

ulevu.

Namaki na taubi ni uca kei na lutu ni kurukuru vakabibi e Vanua Levu, Taveuni, kei na veiyanyanu lalai e Lau kei Lomaiviti.

Na taubi ni uca e rawa ni laki vakavuna na waluvu ena veibuca keina veivanua e dau yaco wasoma kina na waluvu.

Sa wanonovi matua tiko na ituvaki ni draki ena gauna oqo, ka oni na vakasalataki yani ena veigauna eso mai vei ira na dau ni draki mai Nadi. Ni sa kerei na lewenivanua mo ni vakamuria vinaka tiko na itukutuku ni draki.

Ena itukutuku tale eso rogoca na itukutuku ni draki se qiri yani kina Tabacacacaka ni Draki mai Nadi ena naba 6736006 kei na 9905376 se raica na website ni Tabacacacaka ni Draki oya na www.met.gov.fj.

Rawa talega ni o sikova nodratou ivolamata, Twitter kei na Instagram.



Bola ni Loloma ni TC Yasa

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Erau sa cakacaka vata na tabana ni leqa tubu koso, na tabana ni kasitaba kei na ivakacavacava, kei na Fiji Airways ena kena sa tekivutaki na 'Bola ni Loloma ni TC Yasa' se 'TC Yasa Loloma Package'.

Qoka na kena rawa vei ira na wekada mai valalagi mera vakauta mai ena Fiji Airways na nodra veivuke ni vakacoko ni cag-

ilaba o Yasa kana sega ni saumi kina e 30 na pasede ni kena ivodovodo mai Okaladi, Serene kei Los Angeles.

Na veivuke oqo ena soli tiko me yacova sara yani na ika 15 ni Janueri 2021 ka na vakatau ena ga lala na kena rawa ni vakavodoki mai ena waqavuka.

Na veivuke oqo sa ikuri walega ni veivuke sa solia taumada na tabana ni kasitaba kei na ivakacavacava e Viti oya na kena

sega ni saumi na ivakacavacava ni VAT, *Fiscal Duty* kei *Import Excise*.

Na tabana ni leqa tubukoso e vakavinavinaka vakalevu ki na na tabana ni kasitaba kei na ivakacavacava kei na Fiji Airways ena nodrau dinata na veidinadinati oqo me vakarawarawataki kina na yaco mai ni veivuke mai vei ira na noda era tu mai vanua tani.

E wase tiko vakarua na veivuke oya ni

bola ni loloma. Na imatai me ciqoma na tabana nileqa tubukoso na veivuke ka veivot-ayaka.

Na kena ikarua oya me ciqoma ka veivot-ayaka na iyaya na tabana ni veivukei sa re-jisitataki oti ena tabana ni leqa tubu koso.

Rawa ni o raica na kena itukutuku matailalai ena website www.ndmo.org.fj. Se email kina na ndmofiji.media@gmail.com.



E dau vakayagatakai na waqa ni Matanitu me vaka na Bai ni Takali ka taba toka oqori me sokota yani na veianuyanu kei na waqa ni kabani eso ka saima nodra soko na Matanitu ena ruku ni Franchise.

Qaravi o Beqa, Yanuca, Vatulele ena Franchise

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ME vaqacacotaka na nodra qaravi na lewenivanua ena noda veianuyanu sa na veiqaravi talega ena tabana ni *Franchise* na yanuyanu o Beqa, Vatulele kei Yanuca. Oya me tekivu sara ga ena ika 11 ni vula oqo ko Janueri ena yabaki oqo.

Me yacova mai ni kua era sa qaravi tiko ena *Franchise* e rauta ni 17,000 na lewenivanua mai na veianuyanu ka dau vakavodoki mai kina e

rauta ni 7000 na tani na kako mai na veianuyanu ki Suva vaka kina mai Suva ki na veianuyanu.

E ra qaravi tiko ena *Franchise* e daidai na Ceva kei Lau, na Vualiku kei Lau, Yasayasa Moala, Yasawa, Vualiku kei Vanua Levu, Kadavu, Lomaiviti, kei Rotuma e ciwa na vanua ena 70 na ikelekele ni waqa.

Na kena sa dola oqo na veiqaravi ni *Franchise* ki Beqa, Yanuca kei Vatulele sa na toso cake kina ena 10 tale na vanua me kele kina na waqa ni *Franchise* e Viti. Mai rawa oqo ni oti edua na vakadidike ena mal-

iwa ni 2017 ki na 2019. Na vakadidike oya e raica ni rui yaga me ra taqomaki vinaka mai yanuyanu ena vakau mai ni nodra ivoli vaka kina na kau yani ni ivoli mai Suva ki yanuyanu.

Na veiqaravi ni *Franchise* ki Beqa, Yanuca kei Vatulele, ena dau veiqaravi ena vei vula rua kina 14 na koro ka ra tiko kina e rauta ni 2050 na lewenivanua me vakarawarawataki na veitosoyaki ni pasidia kei na kako.

Na *Franchise* e sauama vakailavo na Matanitu ena ruku ni *Shipping*

Subsidy Scheme. Era sa vakauqeti kina na lewenivanua e Beqa, Yanuca kei Vatulele me ra vakayagataka na veiqaravi vinaka oqo.

Na veikoro era na qaravi e oka kina o Raviravi, Waisomo, Dakuibeqa, Naceva, Dakuni kei Soliyaga e Beqa. Vaka kina na yanuyanu o Yanuca kei na koro o Taunovo, Ekubu, Lomanikaya kei Bouwaqa e Vatulele. Vakadeitaka na tabacakacaka ni veilakoyaki kei na soko ni veiqaravi oqo e dei tikoga ni vukea na nodra bula vakailavo na tu ena noda veianuyanu.

Vakasala ni Taifote ena Vualiku

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA veivakasalataki na Minisita ni Bula o Vuniwai Ifereimi Waqainabete meda vakasaqari vinaka na wainigunu ni bera nida gunuva vakabibi vei kemuni na veivale oni sotava na leqa ni waluvu.

Kaya o Minisita Waqainabete ni gauna oqo esa lewe 15 na kisi ni Taifote e veitauvi tiko ena Vualiku oya ena yasana o Macuata kei Cakaudrove.

Kaya o Minisita Waqainabete ni dua na a gole yani e Suva ka vica tale a sa tauvi ira tiko ni bera na cagilaba o Yasa.

Kuria o Minisita Waqainabete ni sa maka damudamu na veivanua e veitauvi tiko kina na Taifote e Vanua Levu.

Kaya o Minisita Waqainabete ni vakabibitaki na veivanua e ririkotaki vakalevu.

Kaya na turaga na Minisita ni oka ena timi oqo o ira na Dauraubula, na matai, na daunilivaliva, kei ira na vakaillesilesi ka samaki kina na yasa ni vale, vakavinakataki na Lekutu Health Centres, na Dreketi Health Centre, Naduri Helath Centre, Seaqaqa Health Centre, na Valenibula mai Labasa, na Lagi Health Centre, na Dogotuki Health Centre, na Natewa Health Centre, na Visoqa Health Centre kei na Navakaka Health Centre.

E ra vakayacora na ka era vunautaka.

Kaya o Minisita Waqainabete niratou cakacaka vata tiko kei ira na veitikotiko mai na Vualiku,

Sa vakasalataki o Vuniwai Waqainabete veikemuni mai na Vualiku moni tarova na vakasoqoni vat aka moni taura tiko na memuni vuanikau ni bula me tarova na dewa ni Taifote.

Vakamatatataki na veiqaravi ni CIU baleta na cagilaba

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAMACALATAKI vei rau o Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei na mata ni Matabose kei Vuravura e Viti o Sanaka Samarasinha na ituvaki ni taba na ni vakayacori na vacoko se na Construction Implementation Unit (CIU) ena Minisitiri ni iLavo.

A vakamacala kina o Mohammed Sha na iliuliu ni CIU.

Vakamacalataka o Sha vei rau na cecere ni veiqaravi e umani ena tabana oya, vakauasivi ena kena volai na vakadidike ka veiduatakitaki kei na gagadre ni vakacoko me baleta na cagilaba o Yasa vakakina na veicagilaba sa

sivi me vakataki Winston, Keni, Gita, kei Harold e Viti.

"Sa dua naka vinaka na kena vakamatatataki tiki kina Matabose kei Vuravura na vakacoko eda sa vakayacora tiko vakauasivi ena tabana oqo ni CIU baleta ni tabana oqo e yatu e liu ni vakacokotaki ni veikoronivuli kei na veivale ni veiqaravi kina lewenivanua," kaya na Vunilawa.

"Na cakacaka e qaravi e vakaitagede, keitou namaka mena levu tale na lewe ni timi oqo ena macawa mai oqo mera na cakacaka vata kei na CIU nida raica tale elevu na noda itokani ni veivakatorocakataki e sa na oka mai ki na veiqaravi ni Matabose kei Vuravura baleta na vakacoko."



Vakamacalataki tiko oqori na itavi sa qarav tiko na tabana ni Construction Implementation Unit (CIU) ena Minisitiri ni iLavo ena vakacoko ni cagilaba o Yasa.



\$35m na veivuke nei Ositerelia baleta na qaravi ni COVID-19

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA solia mai vei Viti o Ositerelia e \$35M me baleta na qaravi ni COVID-19 ena noda vanua e daidai.

E \$3.9M e baleta na veitokoni raraba ka \$31.4M me baleta na sasauri ni Tabana ni Bula Raraba ka me baleta na yabaki vakailavo ni 2020/2021.

Nona vakavinavakataki Ositerelia tiko na Minisita ni ilavo o Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum e kaya kina ni bibi na veivuke oqo ni na vukei ira na malumalumu kei ira na sotava na leqa e kauta mai na cagilaba o Yasa.

“Na ituvatava vakailavo oqo e baleta na “Fiji Recovery and Resilience Budget Support Program” se na Porokaramu ni Veitokoni Vakailavo me sotavi kina bula dei kei na bula vinaka tale mai ne Viti.

Na Porokaramu oqo e vakayacori me vaka na gagadre ni Baqe ni Vuravura me rawata kina na Matanitu eso na idusidusi e lavaki mai.

Oqo me vaka beka na vakavinakataki ni bula vakailavo kara liutaka na veitabana ni bisinisi, na noda rawa bula vinaka tikoga ena gauna dredre e kauta mai na veisau ni draki.

Vakatalega kina na vaqacacotaki ni noda saumi dinau kei qarauni ni vakayagataki ilavo kina lewenivanua.

“E na itekivu ni Jiune, e dua talega na veitokoni vakailavo vaka oya a sainitaka o Ositerelia vei Viti me baleta na COVID-19 ka \$30.6M na kena levu,” kaya o Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum.

Tukuna na Mata nei Ositerelia Vakatawa e Viti o Anna Dorney ni veitokoni balavu nei Ositerelia e Viti e baleta na laveti ni tagede ni kilaka ni lewenivanua ena Tabana ni Bula, Tabana ni Vuli, laveti ni qaravi bisinisi, kei na veitokoni ni kilaka ni veiqaravi kina lewenivanua, kei na vuqa tale na veitokoni vakamataniiti kei na veitokoni vakaiwase-wase.”

“Na rai vakayalomatua oqo e tokoni kina na Baqe ni Vuravura me sotavi kina na bula dei kei na bula vinaka tale mai nei Viti.

“Keitou veivuke me tokoni kina o ira na maluamalu e Viti baleta ni o Viti e dau vakaliuca nodra vukei na malumalumu ena nona vakatorocaketaki,” kaya o Dorney.



Cagilaba o **Yasa**

Sivia na 125 na tani
na iyaya ni veivuke sa soli



30 na tani
na yaya ni taravale sa soli



Ki na noda Vuvale ni ADF **Vinaka Vakalevu**
Ena nomuni yalodina ena Veiqaravi nivukei nei Viti



Sivia e 30
na koronivuli era sa vukei



1 na Milioni
na lita na wai e veisoliyaki



Sivia e 600
Na vakalesilesi ni ADF era soko mai ki Viti ena HMAS Adelaide



30 na tani
na yaya ni taravale sa soli



#VeiqaraviniVukeineiViti

‘VINAKA VAKALEVU OSITERELIA’

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

MAI Vakaraitaka ko Ositerelia na veikauwaitaki kei na loloma ena loma ni vuvale levu na Pasifika ena nodra vukei Viti ena gauna dredre e curuma ni oti na Cagilaba ko Yasa.

Vakararaitaka na Minisita ni Vakacoko baleta na leqa tubu koso, Inia Seruiratu na nodra vakavinavina ena matanitu levu ko Ositerelia me baleta na veivuke levu ni nodra talai mai na sotia ni mataivalu ko Ositerelia.

Oqo ena veivuke ni vakacoko me baleta na Cagilaba ko Yasa ka vakacaca vakalevu sara ena noda vanua vakauasivi mai na vualiku kei na wasewase ena tokalau ni noda vanua. Era tou mai cakacaka na sotia oqo ena loma ni rua sagavulu na siga ka ratou veivuke ena kena samaki na vanua eso era vakacacani ka vakakina na kena vakavinakataki na koronivuli ena yanuyanu ko Galoa.

Era vakavinavina talega na Minisita ni Vuli Rosy Akbar vua na matanitu ko Ositereli ena kena vaka-

rautaki na iyaya ni vuli na desi kei na nodra beki ni vuli ka vakakina na iyaya ni vuli nodra na gonevuli ena veikoro era vakila na dredre ni bula baleta ni ravuti ira na Cagilaba ko Yasa

Eratou sa vakauta rawa na mataivalu ni Ositerelia ena nodra manua levu na HMA Adelaide na iyaya ni vakacoko me baleta na Cagilaba e rauta ni 14 na tani nai iyaya ni veiqaravi me baleta na veivuke kei na vakacoko kivei ira na lewenivanua mai Nabouwalu kei Vanua Levu.

Rauta ni 125 na tani na iyaya ni veivuke esa vakau ka usani ena veivanua era vakacacani. Rauta ni 30 na tani na iyaya ni taravale

Rauta ni 30 na koronivuli era sa vukei

Rauta ni 150 na tani na iyaya ni vakacoko

Rauta ni 1 na milioni na tani na wai ni gunu savasava esa na vakau ka usani talega ena vievanua era vakacacani.

Ka lewe 600 na sotia ni matanivalu era mai veivuke ena cakacaka oqo ka sa vakavinavina kina na matanitu ko Viti.

Veitokoni na UNICEF vei ira noda gonevuli

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKAMATATATAKA na Minisita ni Vuli na veitokoni sa vakayacora tiko na UNICEF vei ira na noda gonevuli ena veivanua e ravuravu kina na cagilaba o Yasa.

“Keimami vakavinavakataki na veivuke ni UNICEF. Na kena sa dola tale eso na koronivuli ena veivanua e vakacaca kina na cagilaba o Yasa sa dua na cavuikalawa vinaka ni rad au yalodei na gonevuli nira raica na veivika era vukei kina e veisiga.”

“Na nodra lesu tale ki vuli ena

vuka me vakaseavutaka nodra loma taqaya ena vuku ni vakacaca e mai vakayacora na cagilaba o Yasa. Keitou sa cakacaka vata tiko kei UNICEF kei ira na itokani tale eso me vakadeitaka nira sa vakarau nodra veikoronivuli kina imatai ni iwasewase ni vuli ni 2021,” kaya o Rosy Akbar na Minisita ni Vuli.

Na iyaya ni veivuke e vakarautaka na UNICEF kina Tabana ni Vuli e tiki ni sasaga ni Matanitu me vaqacacotaka na vakacoko ni cagilaba o Yasa.

Na veivuke oka kina na rumu ni vuli, na iyaya ni vuli, iyaya ni

qasenivuli, iyaya ni veivakavulici, na nodra kato na gonevuli, kei na iyaya ni tiko bulabula. Na UNICEF ena tomana na veivuke kevaka e gadrevi vakakina. Na UNICEF ena vakarautaka talega na veivakavulici vei ira na qasenivuli ena vakamaravutaki ni nodra vakasama na gonevuli.

“Vakavinavakataki na Tabana ni Vuli ena nodratou veiliutaki, kei ira na itokani ni veivakatorocaketaki oka kina na matanitu o Ositerelia kei na WFP ena totolo ni kena veisoliyaki yani na iyaya ni veivuke mai Brisbane ki Viti,” tukuna o Jit-

jaturunt na Mata ni UNICEF.

“Sa gadrevi meda tomana tiko noda cakacaka vata me rawa nida vukei ira na gone mera lesu tale ki vuli.”

Vuqa sara vei ira na gonevuli era tiko ena veivanua yawa eso e Viti era sotava na vakacaca ni cagilaba o Yasa. E rau sa cakacaka vata kina na UNICEF kei na Tabacakacaka ni Vuli me rau vakadeitaka ni veivuke kece oqo e yaco dina sara vei ira na gonevuli era tiko ena veivanua e vakacacani me rawa nira tekivuna kina nodra vuli ena yabaki vou ni vuli oqo na 2021.

Dodoliga ko Tahiti vei Viti

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA kele mai na waqa na Tahiti Nui ena wavu levu e Suva ena macawa sa oti ka usana tiko mai na cau nei Tahiti baleta na veivuke ni cagailaba o Yasa ena noda vanua.

Na isau vakailavo kece ni yaya ni veivuke ni matanitu o Tahiti e tiko ena \$428,000 ka veivosakitaka na Tabana ni Veikanivanuatani e Viti.

Na iyaya ni veivuke oqo e 64 na tani na iyaya ni vakacoko, iyaya ni tara vale kei na misini ni taravale.

E ra veikidavaki kina waqa na Tahiti Nui na ivakalesilesi Tabana ni Leqatubukoso, Tabana ni Bula, Mataivalu ni Viti, Mataivalu e Wai, Fiji Ports, kei na Biosecurity Authority of Fiji.

Era cakacaka vata na timi oya ena kena vakasoburi na iyaya kei na kena muri vinaka na lawa ni tataqomaki baleta na COVID-19.

Vakavinavakataki na matanitu mai Tahiti ena vukui Viti na Vunivola Tudei vakatawa ni Tabana ni Veikanivanuatani o Esala Nayasi.

Kaya o Nayasi ni veivuke ni matanitu o Tahiti sa ivakaraitaki ni cakacakavata kei na veitokani ni vanua e rua ena veiyabaki sa sivi.

E ra lewe 16 na kaiwaqa ni Tahiti Nui ka liutaki ira mai o Manuel Tera na vunivola ni Peresitedi mai Tahiti o Edouard Fritch.

E na dua na itukutuku nei Peresitedi Fritch ni waqa na Tahiti Nui e kilai me waqa ni yadravi wasawasa ena veivanua ena Pasifika ka sa tu vakarau me dau veivuke kina vuvale vaka Pasifika ena veigauna e gadrevi kina.

E kaya ni matanitu kei ira na lewenivanua mai Tahiti era duavata kei Viti ena sasaga ni kena tarai lesu tale na noda vanua.

E kaya ni Draki Veisau e dua na bolebole levu ni veivanuyanu lalai era se qai vakatorocaketaki ira tiko ena Pasifika.

“Ia meda kua ni yalo lailai kina ka meda kua ni guce kina, meda dei tiko ka vakaqacacotaka na noda duavata ena Pasifika.”

Na waqa ni veivuke ni Tahiti oqo a mai veivuke talega e Viti ena yabaki 2003 mai Vanua Levu.



6000 na gonevuli era vakaiyaya ni vuli

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA yaco nodra bose vata na veitabana era veivuke mai ena nodra iyaya ni vuli na gonevuli ena veikoronivuli a vakacaca kina na cagilaba o Yasa.

E 30 na koronivuli ena Vauliku era vakacacani vakalevu ena cagilaba o Yasa ka vakaleqa nodra vuli e 4000 na gonevuli e Nadogo, Seaqaqa, Ceva kei Bua, Vualiku kei Bua, kei Wailevu.

E na votai ni veivuke ni iyaya ni vuli oqo eratou na cakacaka vata kina na iSoqosoqo ni Qasenivuli iTaukei, na Fiji Muslim League, na Sathya Sai Service Organisation of Fiji, Yaadein Vision, SODELPA, Suva Firklift, TISI Sangam kei na UNICEF.

Kaya o Minisita Akbar ni levu sara era vinakata mera veivuke mai kasa veivakauqeti dina.

O ni sa vakauqeti na itubutubu mai Nadogo, Seaqaqa, Ceva kei



Oqori o Minisita ni Vuli Rosy Akbar kei Vunivola Tudei Jokhan kei ira na dau ni bisinisi.

Bua. Vualiku kei Bua, kei Wailevu mera kua ni vakusakusataka na voli bag ni vuli kei na iyaya ni vuli ena yabaki oqo.

Baleta na veivuke oqo ena yacovi ira yani ena gauna era sa na biuta yani kina nodra ripote ni gagadre

na veikoronivuli. Sa qai kuria ni sivia na 1500 na koronivuli ena veiyanyanu era na vukei ena gauna era sa tekivu vuli tale kina ena yabaki oqo. Oni sa uqeti na kena itubutubu moni vakanamata kina vuli ni nodra gone. Kemuni na via

veivuke yani moni veitaratra keina Tabacakacaka ni Vuli me kua ni vukeinkina vakarua e dua.

Vakamuduo na Tabacakacaka ni Vuli kina veitokoni ni Tabacakacaka ni Veika ni Vanuatani kei na UNICEF.

Au sa vakanuinui vinaka vei ira kece na tamata cakacaka oqo ni na kalougata nodra laki cakacaka ki Ositerelia.

Anna Dorney
iVukevuke ni Mata nei Ositerelia e Viti

182 era sa biuti Viti e na cakacaka ki Ositerelia

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Era lewe 182 era sa biuti Viti ena macawa sa oti mera laki cakacaka ki Ositerelia ena ruku ni Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS).

O ira oya mera laki cakacaka ena tabana ni teitei e New South Wales raraba.

Na PLS e vukea na lailai ni tamata cakacaka ena vanua ni teitei mai Ositerelia, ka solia vei ira na gone ni Viti na katuba ni cakacaka, rawa ilavo ka vakau ilavo lesu kina nodra dui matavuvale mai Viti.

E ra taleitaki ka qoro vaka-levu na tamata cakacaka ni Viti e Ositerelia, o ira na lewe 182 oya e wiliwili levu duadua mai na dau na vanua ena Pasifika mera lako ena dua na gauna.

Sa ivakaraitaki talega ni qaqaco vinaka tiko na veiwekani nei Viti kei Ositerelia.

Kaya na ivukevuke ni Mata nei Ositerelia e Viti o Anna Dorney nira yaga ruraua vei Viti kei Ositerelia na tamata cakacaka oqo.

“Au sa vakanuinui vinaka vei ira kece na tamata cakacaka oqo ni na kalougata nodra laki cakacaka ki Ositerelia,” kaya o Dorney.

O ira na 182 oqo era sa ikuri ni 172 na tamata cakacaka ni Viti era a gole ki Ositerelia ena ika 25 ni Noveba 2020.

Dikeva na revurevu ni cagi e Koro ko Usamate

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

SA bibi sara me dau dikevi ni oti na cagilaba na sala ni veilakoyaki kei na ikawakawa kei na wavu sa dau tara oti na Matanitu ni vakanadaku e dua na cagilaba me vakataki Yasa.

Oya na vuna e laki veisiko kina e na yanuyanu o Koro na Minisita ni Veicakacaka lelevu o Jone Usamate me dikeva na revurevu ni cagilaba o Yasa kina gaunisala, ikawakawa kei na wavu e se qai vakavinakataka oti ga na Matanitu ni oti na cagilaba levu duadua mai yamaraki Koro ena yabaki 2016 oya na cagilaba ko Winisitoni.

E wavokita vinaka na yanuyanu o Koro o Minisita Usamate ena nona vesiko siga dua.

Vakavinavinakataki ira talega na lewei Koro ena nodra vakagalalataka na vunika era bale kosova tu na gaunnisala ni bera ni yaco yani na misini.

E se tomani tikoga ena gauna oqo na vakavinakataki ni gaunisala mai Koro.



Ni rawa ni raica oqori na itaba ni nona veisiko wavoki e Koro o Minisita Jone Usamate ni oti na cagilaba o Yasa.
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Dikevi na wai qiva e vakacacani ena Vualiku

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Era vakadidike tiko mai na Vualiku e lewe 8 na vakaillesi ni Tabacakacaka ni Qele, iYaubula kei na keli Vatutalei ena veivanua e vakacacani kina ena Vualiku ena cagilaba o Yasa na nodra waiqiva.

E dua na iwase ni ilawalawa oqo era vakayacora na vakadididke ka

dua na kena iwase era vakayacora na kena vakavinakataki na wai qiva e vakacacani.

E ra veiqaravi tiko na ilawalawa oqo ena veivanua me vakataki Kubulau, Lekutu kei Dreketi.

Na cagilaba o Yasa e vakacacana na vale ni ipamu ni wai, musuka na paipo ni wai, ka vakacacana na misini e dau vakatulewataka na

kaukauwa ni matanisiga me yavalata na idini.

Ni oti na kedra vakavinakataki, sa qai vakatovolei na kaukauwa ni wai qiva e drodro mai me rawa ni daumaka tale ki na vei itikotiko era vakararavi ena wai qiva oya.

Vakavinavinaka kina Matanitu na Turaga ni Koro mai Kiobo e Kubulau Bua o Timoci Tuiwaini-

nunu.

“Vinaka vakalevu na nodra veisiko mai na kena dau mai Delainabua era mai vakavinakatak na meimami waiqiva kasa drodro vinaka tale na wai edaidai,” kaya o Tuiwainunu.

Na dikevi kei na vakavinakataki ni wai qiva oqo a laki qaravi ena itikotiko ni Matanitu mai Lekutu,

na koro o Nakanacagi, na tikotiko vagalala mai Dreka, na koro o Kiobo, na Koronivuli na Ratu Emeri, na koro o Navatu, Korovou, Waisa, Natokalau, Nasasaivua, Raviravi, Wailailai, keina itikotiko ni matanitu mai Navasua, koronivuli mai Kubulau kei na yanuyanu o Kia kei Mali e Macuata.



Cavuikalawa ko Nairai e na tei kau

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKARAITAKA mai na dau vola itukutuku ni Tabacakacaka ni Veikau o Mela Katonivualiku ni sa cavuikalawa sara na yanuyanu o Nairai mai Lomaiviti ena cakacaka yaga ni tei kau.

Uqeti ira vakalevu na ulutaga ni 'Draki Veisau e ka dina'.

Na veikoro e Nairai era tiko kece baravi oya o Natualoa, Tovulailai, Lawaki, Vutuna kei Waitoga era vakila kece tiko na revurevu i draki veisau.

Ni oti nodratou rogoca nona vosa tiko ena walesi na Minisita ni Veikau me baleta na 30 na Milioni na kau me teivaki ena 15 na yabaki e Viti e ratou sa mani bese vata kina na turaga ni koro ena lima na koro e Nairai ka veitaratara sara ki na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau.

E kaya na Turaga ni Koro e Vutuna o Siti-veni Rogowale era sa duavata saraga ki na cakacaka oya ka ni na yaga vei ira na kawa ni vanua o Kubuna -i-wai ena veisiga ni mataka.

"Keitou kalougata ni ratou vesiko mai ena ikarua ni macawa ni Tiseba ena yabaki sa oti

ka ratou sikova na veikoro kece," e kaya o Rogowale.

"Keitou marau talega ni gole talega mai e dua na gone ni Nairai mai na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau ka mai uqeti keimami ena cakacaka yaga oqo."

"Keimami na sega beka ni vakila na kena yaga edaidai; ia era na qai vakila na neimami kawa ni mataka," kaya o Rogowale.

E kaya okoya ni ra sa dua vata na lima na koro me ra tea e 10,000 na vunika e ya dua na koro.

"Ni cava na yabaki e namaki me keimami sa na tea rawa e 50,000 na vunika ia ke sivia sa neimami bonisi tale," kaya o Rogowale.

Kaya na vakaisilesi ni Tabacakacaka ni Veikau o Etuate Kotoiwasawasa ka cavutu talega mai Waitoga ni levu sara nodra vakatataro na lewei Nairai nira via kila na 30 na milioni na kau me teivaki me vaka a kaburaki tiko ena walesi.

"Na ka era rogoca ena walesi e vakauqeti ira ni se qai isevu ni gauna mera rogoca kina na vakasama ni tei kau oqo," kaya o Kotoiwasawasa.

Na macawa dua mai Nairai tekivu ena ika 7



E ra sa vakaitavi sara ga na marama kei na gone ena cakacaka ni bucini Yasi ena kena valelaca vakarautaki ena yanuyanu o Nairai mai Lomaiviti. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

ni Tiseba 2020 me yacova na ika 11 ni siga era vakasalataki kina ena mataqali kau mera tea vakauasivi me teivaki e baba, e baravi se na buca.

Sa levu na neitou vesiiko e Lomaiviti kei na Minisita ni Veikau ia vei au ni tukuna me keitou veisiko ki Nairai au doka ka taleitaka vakalevu niu digitaki meu mai qaravi ira na kai noqu."

"Me qai rawa kina vei ua meu vakadewataki na itukutuku vinaka ni kena teivaki e 30 na milioni na Veikau ena loma ni 15 na yabaki au sa vakila rawa ena noqu vanua."

Kaya o Koroiwasawasa ni nona gole ki Nairai au laki solia kina 1000 na vu ni yasi a soli mai Sigatoka.

Au kaya vei ira ni itei ni yasi oqo voleka ni 70 na maile na balavu ni vanua e sokotaki mai kina sa dodonu kina mera cavuikalawa ka teivaka yani.

"Au vakasalataki ira talega ni rawa nira tauyavautaka nodra vanua ni bucini kau me

kua ni lai kau vakayawa sara tiko mai na itei."

Kaya na Turaga ni Koro mai Nataulua o Eremasi Uluiviti ni lima na koro e Nairai era sa taketataka mera tara nodra vanua ni bucibucini ena veikoro.

"Me qai yaco mai na vula o Okosita kei na Seviteba ni yabaki vou oqo sa namaki me keimami sa teivaka na itei e kau mai ena neimami vanua ni bucibucini," kaya o Uluiviti.

E kaya okoya ni oqo sa ivurevure ni ilavo vinaka ni waraki tiko na yaqona me qai matua vinaka ni oti e vitu na yabaki.

"Keimami vakabauta ni 30 na milioni na kau e taketataka oqo e Viti sa dua na vakasama uasivi ni Matanitu."

Tukuna na itukutuku ni Matabose kei Vuravura ni yabaki 2015 kina 2020 e vakacacani kina 10 na milioni na veikau.

Dua talega na vuna oya na kena musu na kau ka sega ni vakaisosmitaki tale.

Duavata na Fiji Pine, Tabacakacaka ni Veikau ena veivakavaletaki

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Erau sa duavata na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau kei na Fiji Pine Group mera vukei na itaukei ni qele e teivaki tu kina na Paini e Bua kei Macauta ena nodra vakavaletaki ni oti na vakacaca ni cagilaba o Yasa.

Oya ena kena laki varo na paini era bale ena cagilaba me rawa kina na kauvaro ni veivakavaletaki ena nodra veikoro.

E dua vei ira na liu duadua yani ki na vanua e vakacaca kina na cagilaba o Yasa ena Vualiku o Minisita ni Veikau Osea Naiqamu.

Kaya o Minisita Naiqamu ni rau sa veitalanoa kei na CEO ni Fiji Pine Group.

"Au tukuna vua ni cagilaba oqo e tekivu tikoga na nona vakacaca ena tikina o Macuata kina tikina o Dama."

"Kena ibalebale ni oira ga noda na itaukei ni qele ni Paini e levu vei ira oqo e vakacacani na nodra itikotiko."

"Ni oti na veivosaki oya sa qai vakaraitaka mai vei au o koya na ilavo ni veivakatorocaketaki nodra na itaukei ni qele ena iwasese ni veikau e rua o Bua kei Macuata e 70 na pasede au se maroroya vinaka tikoga oqo."

"Kena ikarua na ilavo talega ni Matabose Vanua e rua o Bua vata kei Macuata ese maroroi vinaka tu



Veivuke tiko oqori o Minisita ni Veikau Osea Naiqamu vei ira nona vakaisilesi ena kena vagalalataki na veikau era bale tu e gaunisala ni oti na cagilaba o Yasa. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

oqo."

"Au kaya yani vua na noqu marau kei na noqu vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni Tabacakacaka n aka ga keitou cakava ena yasana o Kadavu keitou sana mai cakava talega ena Yasana e rua o Bua kei Macuata vakauasivi tiko na vanua e vakacaca kina na cagilaba oqo."

"Keitou na mai tomana tiko kina na veiqravi keitou sa qarava tiko mai ena Yasana o Kadavu kei Lau."

"E vica na misini e tiko e Kadavu kei na Yasana o Lau ena kau mai."

"Oya na ka ya au vakaraitaka tiko vua na neitou CEO au kaya vua me dua na nodaru mata timi me tou mai cakacacaka vata me tou sana lako kina veikorokoro."

"Na isevu ni koro na nodatou koro vakaturaga, ratou sa yaco mai ena mataka ni kua era gole sara mai Lautoka na vakaisilesi ni koula drokadroka sa mai tekivutaki kina na porokaramu oqo."

"Kemuni na masi ni vanua e Bureniu, meu vakamatatataka na ilavo na nomuni ilavo ga."

"Na 70 na pasede na io kei na sega ni kena vakayagataki ni ilavo oya na vakatulewa e nomuni tikoga."

"E na vuku ni Matabose Vanua na vakatulewa e tikoga veiratou na nodatou Matabose Vanua."

"Na nodatou Daireketa kei na nodatou manidia e Nakadrudru keitou sa mai dabe sa mai vakasavui kina na veitalanoa keirau sa vakayacora kei na CEO ni Fiji Pine

Group."

"Sa vakaraitaka vei au o Vunivola ni Matabose Vanua ni ratou sa bese e na noa. Ratou sa duavata me sa vakayagataki na ilavo maroroi mera sa mai vukei kina na itaukei ni qele soli qele kina koula drokadroka oya na ituvatuva levu."

"Io vua na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau ena vuku ni kau era sa bale na kau ni Viti mesa na mai varo vakawainimate me vukei kemuni ena vuku ni vakacoko sa tu oqo e matada."

Sa kerei ira na lewei Bua kei Macuata mera uqeti na vola kawa bula ena nodra vei mataqali mera kila na dredre era sa lako curuma ena vuku ni ituvatuva ni vakacoko mera vakamasuti ira mera tokona

mai ena vuku ni sasaga ni 70 na pasede e maroroya tu na kabani mesa vagolei vakatabakidua ga ena nomuni vakacoko.

"Oti na vakacoko kevaka e se vo tiko nomudou ilavo ni 70 na pasede me qai veivuke ena vuku ni kakana se reseni."

Na itukutuku rogo vinaka talega ni va na waqa ni Jaina sa tu vakarau mera na mai volia ka usana yani ki Jaina na tiktiki ni paini se Pine Chips mai Wairiki Bua.

"Sa na mai volia na noda Pine Chips ena isau levu cake ka sa nui-taka meda na vakauta kece noda paini ki Wairiki me laki qaravi na Pine Chips me volitaki yani ki Jaina," kaya o Minisita Naiqamu.

Noda Viti



E ra taba tu oqori na sotia ni Ositerelia kei Paraiminisita Bainimarama kei ira na gonevuli ni yanuyanu o Galoa ena vale ni vuli era mai tara na sotia ni Ositerelia ni vakanadaku na cagilaba o Yasa ena mua ni yabaki sa oti.
iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Vakasakiti na veiqaravi ni sotia ni Ositerelia



Vakadikeva ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na koronivuli e ratou tara vou na mataivalu ni Ositerelia e Galoa, Bua, Vaniua Levu. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NONA sikova na tara vale ni vuli era a vakayacora tiko na sotia ni Ositerelia ena yanuyanu o Galoa ena Tikina o Leku ena Yasana Vakaturaga o Bua e kaya kina o Paraiminisita Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ni vakasakiti dina nodra veiqaravi.

“Au gadreva meu tauca na noqu vakavinavinaka ki vei ira na sotia ni Ositerelia ena veiqaravi levu era mai cakava.”

“Sa vakamacawa na nodra mai tiko ena tara koronivuli ena noda vanua ena vuku ni cagailaba o Yasa.”

“Ratou lako mai ena gauna dredre na gauna ni siga ni sucu kei na vakatawase,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

Kaya o PM Bainimarama ni doka nodra biuta tu yani nodra vuvavale ena gauna ni Siga ni Sucu kei na Vakatawase.

“Na gauna e dodonu meda tiko kina vata kei na noda matavuvale.”

“Era gole mai mera mai veivukei ena leqa ni vakacaca ni cagilaba o

Yasa ena noda veikoronivuli ena Vualiku.”

“Au sa vakavinavinaka talega vei ratou ni dabe tiko na turaga na kavetani, dabe tiko na Komisina, dabe tiko na turaga na italatala, dabe tiko na Defence Attache, ra dabe tiko na sotia ni Ositerelia kei na vakailsilesi ni kena Matanitu”

“Au sa gusuda raraba tiko ena vosa ni vakavinavinaka ena nodra mai veiqaravi tiko ena noda vanua.”

“Turaga na Kaverani au via vakavinavinaka vakalevu kina Matanitu o Ositerelia kei kemudou na kena sotia ena cakacaka totoka o dou sa mai vakayacora ena kena tarai cake tale na valenivuli ena veiyanuyanu lailai e Vanua Levu a mai vakacacana na cagilaba o Yasa,” kaya o PM Bainimarama.

E ra a biuti Ositerelia mai ena ‘HMAS ADELAIDE’ ni vo edua na siga me Siga ni Sucu kara vodo tiko mai kina 600 na sotia ni Ositerelia.

E ra sa biuti Viti tale ena ika 21 ni Janueri 2021 ni mai cava vinaka na tolu na macawa ni nodra veiqaravi.