

FijiFocus

Govt's help for unemployed Fijians brings big benefits



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum provides an update on the \$360 Unemployment Benefit Scheme which continues to assist ordinary Fijians. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fijian Government remains resolute in its commitment to put Fijians first and has continued with the monetary assistance through their unemployment benefit scheme since the COVID-19 outbreak in the country.

So far, Government has disbursed around \$104.2 million to 289,489 Fijians through the \$360 unemployment benefit scheme which accounts for around 84 per cent (345,289) of the total applications received and an additional \$3.4 million was paid to 9,794 individuals including payments to 7,938 individuals who had provided incorrect Tax Identification Numbers (TIN).

With this initiative, Fijians have been able to feed their families, pay bills, meet other

financial obligations and even start up their own small business.

Providing an update on the scheme, the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said the Ministry of Economy was able to obtain the correct TINs of individuals from the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) using their Birth Registration Numbers.

“For those that claimed using more than one SIM in the previous rounds, funds have been recovered from them, hence, they have received a payment of less than \$360 which includes 2412 individuals who double-dipped in the previous rounds,” he said.

“The applications were vetted independently with a specific set of criteria by the Ministry of Economy in consultations with key agencies – Ministry of Communications,

Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji National Provident Fund, Fiji Revenue and Customs Service and the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board.”

“Those who did not receive the \$360 unemployment benefit scheme included people that were employed, social welfare recipients, FNPF pension recipients, and students on TELS and Toppers who were receiving allowances,” he clarified.

“Around 16.8 per cent of those who received the \$360 assistance were from Nasinu, which is about 48,688 people, 15.7 per cent were from Nadi, which is about 45,506 people, Lautoka was 14.5 per cent with about 42,000 people and Suva was 11.3 per cent which is about 32,832 people,” he added.

Around 11.3 per cent or 32,805 people ap-

plied from Nausori, 8.4 per cent which was 24,444 people were from Ba, 5.8 per cent which is 16,749 people were from Sigatoka, 4.1 per cent or 11,743 people were from Rakiraki, Navua and Tavua had about 3.1 per cent or 8,985 people applying and 16,749 people were from other parts of Viti Levu which constitutes to about 5.8 per cent.

A toll-free line has also been set-up and people are encouraged to call 158 or send a text message to 2499999 for any queries they may have on the unemployment benefit scheme.

The A-G is also encouraging all eligible Fijians to be fully vaccinated and have correct information (TIN and BRN) in the next round of applications as the Government will not make any exceptions in the next round.



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe Bainimarama.

It is our policy to empower communities to use their land in the most beneficial ways possible. That means we have to recognise changes in the modern economy and the new opportunities they bring.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Prime Minister

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama @FijiPM

Welcoming leaders to our first-ever SIDS Solutions Forum! From the Pacific, to the Caribbean, to the Indian Ocean, island people speak a common language of shared experience. Together, we're forging sustainable and scalable solutions that bring the @ConnectSDGs within reach.

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Forum hears benefits of digital technology

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Communications Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum virtually participated in the SIDS Solutions Forum 2021 with the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Heads of Government, Ministers and development partners.

This first SIDS Solutions Forum explores how the Fijian Government can take digital solutions for agri-food systems from the grassroots to its globally-connected network of nations and reset the course towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is a SIDS solutions forum and solutions are plural for a reason. We should embrace the unique characteristics within our member states and only by acknowledging our idiosyncrasies can we identify the best opportunities for synergy and reveal the lessons that cut across our experiences," he said.

The A-G added that despite all the devastation caused by COVID-19, it has significantly accelerated the development and adoption of digital technology.

"Data usage has spiked by 300 per cent in Fiji since the start of the pandemic with 95 per cent of Fijians having access to mobile internet connectivity."

"Despite this, many SIDS citizens have not fully tapped into the opportunities of the digital economy. We must harness the digital revolution in very intentional ways to improve the resilience and productivity of different economic sectors, including agriculture," he added.

The A-G said e-agriculture offers a variety of solutions, from simple to sophisticated, to make farms more productive and sustainable.

"Currently, Fiji is developing a comprehensive e-agriculture strategy that will guide our integration of digital services within the agriculture sector and build a foundation of a sustainable food system that allows us to leap

forward towards the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," he said.

"Digitalisation makes agriculture more scalable and also helps to identify and overcome scaling limitations in deploying climate smart agriculture practices. It can make farms more environmentally friendly through improved practices to trap greenhouse gasses within crops and soils, the creation of biogas from agricultural waste, and more targeted use of fertilisers and pesticides."

"Next to the ocean, we can make farms into some of the most effective carbon sinks, in support of Goal 13, climate action," he added.

This Forum is aimed at illuminating the potential of digitalisation and innovation to catalyse and accelerate the achievement of agriculture, food, nutrition, environment and the national Sustainable Development Goals ('SDG') outcomes through "Enhanced Partnerships", under the frame SDG 17-Partnership on health.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, during a virtual meeting in with the small islands developing states (SIDS) heads of government, ministers and development partners in the SIDS Solutions Forum 2021. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Digital innovation 'a powerful driver'

NANISE NEIMILA

"DIGITAL innovation can be a powerful driver of sustainable development and Fiji's experience has shown how the digital revolution can have an outsized benefit for Small Island Developing States."

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, while delivering his virtual statement on the SIDS Solution Forum High Level Leaders Segment hosted by the Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Suva this

week.

Prime Minister Bainimarama stated that Fiji has evolved over the years in terms of its demography, economic and social development, institutions and governance.

"Our economy has almost doubled in the last 10 years, with real per capita incomes rising every year. Trade flows have increased, and investment levels are also growing. Technological advancements have been made on many fronts, and the country is digitally connected."

"We have no doubt that our economy will recapture its robust momentum once this pandemic is behind us. Many factors are in our favour. We are a young nation, with around 62 per cent of our population below the age of 34."

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted the improvements

of Fiji's infrastructure and institutions, the engagement of our youth, the advancement of digital connectivity to our many islands and rural communities, our strong international standing, and our geographical and environmental advantages for trade and transportation.

"There is no discounting the brutal economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has set back years of sustainable development progress. But we are resetting the course to 2030 by readjusting Fiji's 5 Year & 20 Year National Development Plans — both of which we formulated well before the pandemic — to strategically guide our recovery."

PM Bainimarama also added that Fiji's agriculture sector is focused on improving food and nutrition security by ensuring increased local production, raising farm efficiency and productivity,

and developing more effective distribution systems.

"New technology, mechanisation and better production practices are being adopted rapidly in the sector to ensure that we have better systems to distribute agricultural information, effective market linkages and improved arrangement for effective public-sector support."

"Fiji will continue to work on improving digital connectivity in the agricultural sector, as in the country as a whole, through universal access to high-speed internet networks and broadband, until all areas of Fiji are digitally connected."

The scheme will provide grant to cater for the monthly subscription fees for eligible MSMEs registered on Viti Kart between the period of 1 August 2021 and 31 July 2023, for a period of two years.

Council meets ahead of cyclone season

THE National Disaster Management Council (NDMC) held its first meeting for the year recently with preparatory works beginning for the upcoming cyclone season.

Chaired by the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu, the meeting was held virtually in line with COVID-19 restrictions and protocols in place.

In addressing the meeting, Minister Seruiratu reminded the Council members that the focus now should be on preparation for the upcoming cyclone season.

"I know that preparatory work is not something that we will focus on when we come close to the cyclone season but something that we will need to pay attention to right throughout. This is because while we may be focused only on natural disasters that do not stop the fact that we may have other forms of disasters and, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic that we're currently battling," Minister Seruiratu said.

Minister Seruiratu said the pandemic has shown Government the need to relook at our national crisis framework in terms of preparedness for the future.

"As Minister responsible for national security, that is something that we are working on in the Ministry."

During the meeting, Minister Seruiratu also assured the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) that the Ministry, through the NDMO would look and work on improvements in various aspects of our humanitarian work.

The Council was also informed about some preparatory works currently conducted by the NDMO ahead of the new cyclone season. This includes the formulation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to provide some guidance to personnel involved in future disaster operations.

The Council also discussed the contents of the TC Yasa and TC Ana reports which were tabled during today's meeting.

The Council members also paid tribute and acknowledged the work done by former Permanent Secretary MRM-DDM, the late Ratu Meleti Bainimarama, who during his tenure as PS, led the massive disaster operations for Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016 as the National Disaster Controller.

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Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama (third from left) while receiving 2.7 million KN-95 Masks with a value of \$1.1million in shipment from members of the Fijian community in Australia . Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Fijian diaspora gifts PPEs to health workers

NANISE NEIMILA

“PROVIDING our healthcare professionals with the best available personal protective equipment has been a top priority for the Government since the coronavirus hit the world's radar in 2019.”

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while receiving 2.7 million KN-95 Masks with a value of \$1.1million in shipment from members of the Fijian community in Australia yesterday.

“We recently announced stronger protocols for PPE among healthcare workers, both in hospital settings and in the field. And through our latest National Budget, we are expanding the ranks of our medical teams by funding the hiring of hundreds of new healthcare professionals,” PM Bainimarama said.

“Along with the enforcement of mask-wearing, physical distancing and bans on social

gatherings, we are racing to administer life-saving vaccines to our people as quickly as they have arrived to our shores. We are well ahead of schedule to meet our goal to vaccinate 80 per cent of adults in Fiji by the end of October. Nearly 46 per cent of adults in Fiji are fully vaccinated and over 95 per cent have received their first dose.”

In extending the Fijian Governments' gratitude and appreciation, Prime Minister Bainimarama acknowledged Reach 4 Your Future Foundation in Australia for their great contribution and said that the masks will offer medical-grade protection and is a testament to the solidarity that binds our global Fijian family.

“For nearly two years, humanity has contended with a pandemic that has reached every corner of the world. Australia, Fiji and New Zealand are all in conflict against the Delta variant of the virus.”

“Our cooperation is critical to protecting our

people from this virus everywhere that it has reared its ugly head; no one person, no one family, no one community, and no one country can go it alone. We are all reaching for the same future, a future that is safer and healthier, a future where all of us can be together once again. And we must embrace that future together.”

Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to Fiji, Paul Wilson said the donation strongly demonstrates the value of the Vuvale partnership between Fiji and Australia.

Reach 4 Your Future Foundation Program Ambassador, Samu Kerevi said he was honoured to be part of the foundation and being able to assist Fijians particularly front-liners that are working tirelessly during this pandemic.

Meanwhile, a large batch of the masks has been distributed to front liners and contact tracers who are working tirelessly to protect Fijians from the COVID-19 pandemic.

PM meets PIFS secretary-general

THE Pacific Islands Forum Chair and the Fijian Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama met the new Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Henry Puna.

During the exchange, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama acknowledged Secretary-General Mr Puna for his exemplary leadership and assistance rendered by the Secretariat during the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting.

Reflecting on the successful outcomes of the PIF leaders' meeting, Prime Minister Bainimarama affirmed the commitment of the Forum family to work in unity for the advancement of regional pri-



Pacific Islands Forum Chair and the Fijian Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama with the new Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Henry Puna. Photo: SUPPLIED

On regional priorities, Prime Minister Bainimarama spoke on the need for ensuring accessibility to COVID-19 vaccines for the region and ultimately enabling the resumption of regional travel and revival of economies and livelihood of pacific families.

He extended his appreciation to Secretary-General Puna for his swift action in supporting member countries through the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway for COVID-19 (PHP-C) and for coordinat-

ing the approach of the region to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said through continued utilisation of these existing regional mechanisms and innovative solutions, the region will aspire to achieve sustainable and resilient recovery.

The Forum Chair also reaffirmed his commitment to building regional solidarity and restoring trust and confidence among the Forum family.

Prime Minister Bainimarama

said he understands the sensitive issues faced by the Pacific Vuvale and he is fully committed to working towards resolving the issues through the Political Dialogue Mechanism.

In response, Secretary-General Puna reaffirmed his unwavering support to Prime Minister Bainimarama and the Forum family to collectively advance the Forum Pacific's vision for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

Mr Puna is the 10th Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum. Before taking up the regional role on May 24th, 2021, Secretary-General Puna was the Prime Minister of Cook Islands, from November 2010 until October 2020.

Continued advocacy on public health measures including social distancing, restriction of movement, hand-washing, appropriate masking. -news@govnet.gov.fj



\$13.2m allocation 'will help achieve results'

NANISE NEIMILA

WITH budgetary allocation of \$13.2million in the 2021-2022 financial year the Ministry of Forestry is

focusing on achieving optimum results that will assist the forestry industry and increase its important role in the economy.

This was highlighted by Prime Minister and Minister for Forestry Voreqe Bainimarama while delivering his ministerial statement in Parliament in the August sitting.

Prime Minister Bainimarama stated that increasing revenue for landowners, creating new and sustained jobs based through legal and administrative framework that is efficient and transparent will be one of the key areas of focus.

"In just the first two weeks of the new financial year, the forestry sector has generated \$14 million in export earnings. The bulk of these earnings were from pine chips exported by the Fiji Pine Group of Companies. Other products included sawn timber from Mahogany, Raintree and native species exported by various companies in the sector."

"The Ministry's role has been to improve the way it facilitates private-sector activity—like approving export licenses within 24 hours—while also monitoring the companies' operations to ensure that our natural resources are being sustainably managed for the long term, with minimal impact on our environment."

"These improvements in facilitation are in line with Government's belief that the private sector is the engine of economic growth and that Government agencies need to continue to improve the facilitation processes, including removing red tape and reducing bureaucracy. I am most glad that this is already happening with the Ministry of Forestry, as is evidenced with how the forestry sector is responding positively."

In addition to improving facilitation processes, the Ministry of Forestry is strengthening its working relationship with all stakeholders in the Forestry sector.

"While there are a number of small, medium and large sized businesses involved in the harvesting, processing and value adding, I would like to highlight recent developments involving in the Fiji Pine Group."

"The group recorded an operational profit of \$35.6 million in the 2020 financial year, compared to \$24.9 million in 2019. Despite the fact that 2020 was a very challenging year due to COVID-19, the Group realigned its strategies and delivered a record profit that was \$10.7 million higher than in 2019."

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the Group continued to pay dividends to the pine landowners. Prior to 2013, landowners never received a single cent in dividend payouts which started with a modest payout of \$350,000.

Since then and up until last year the group has paid out \$24.6 million in dividends.

Prime Minister and Minister for Forestry Voreqe Bainimarama addresses Parliament during its recent sitting. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

Fiji Pine secures wood chip export market

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Fiji Pine Group has secured markets for the export of wood chips for next year thereby giving the kind of certainty that it needs to plan and operate efficiently.

Prime Minister and Minister for Forestry Voreqe Bainimarama, while updating Parliament in the August sitting, said the secured market for the wood chips gives the group the kind of certainty that it needs to plan and operate efficiently.

"What this means is that the group will continue to support the landowners, workers, and the many contractors who rely on the industry. It also means that the industry will continue to generate economic activity and export earnings."

"Pine restocking and sustainable forestry practices are the key focus areas of the pine group. The group targets to plant 2,000 hectares of pine every year, which equates to around two million trees a year. Recently, the pine group set up a brand-new nursery at Drasa in Lautoka with a capacity of one million seedlings. This has come with an investment of \$350,000."

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the pine group continues to look at ways to diversify its business. In accordance with this vision, the group has embarked on setting a brand-new sawmill at Drasa to process other species of logs, like Raintree, Mahogany, and other native species.

"This will involve a total investment of \$15 million, and the group expects to commence operations from the second quarter of next year."

"With this investment, the capacity to process and value-add resources domestically will increase substantially. This, too, will create economic activity and also generate increased export income."

Govt eyes mahogany industry's potential

NANISE NEIMILA

THE Government intends to capitalise on the reputation and full potential of the mahogany industry as Fiji is considered to have one of the largest planted forest in the world.

The Mahogany Industry Development Act in 2010 was introduced to bring about a transparent, efficient and results-oriented arrangement for the mahogany industry.

The mahogany industry has its governance structures which is critical to ensure transparency and ensure maximum returns for all stakeholders.

Prime Minister and Minister for

Forests Voreqe Bainimarama said the mahogany sector prior to the Act was rife with corruption, under valuing of the mahogany assets and with only a selected few reaping the benefits.

"In fact despite having this large valuable asset, the Fiji Hardwood Corporation did not make a single profit until after 2007. It had a burgeoning debt stock and unscrupulous business people and some landowners were creaming money on the side to the detriment of majority of the landowners and upright businesses. There was hardly any value adding. There was no licensing regime."

"The Act has led to the reorgani-

sation of the mahogany sector, with efficiencies being gained in FHCL, massive reduction in its debt stock and the setting up of the Mahogany Industry Council of which I am the chair of. Government's philosophy in managing natural resources like mahogany is to achieve a win-win, no-zero-sum outcome."

Prime Minister Bainimarama adds the Mahogany Act also promotes the branding of Fijian Mahogany in the international markets and this is where efforts to certify the mahogany forests will play a key role.

Forest certification is currently in progress.

"Forest certification has been

delayed because of international travel which has restricted visits by certifiers from abroad. But we are not just waiting for the borders to open, FHCL is liaising with the Fiji Pine Group, which is already sharing its forest certification experiences," Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

"While we are working towards forest certification for mahogany, we are also supporting the industry to grow. In 2020, total mahogany log production was more than 21,000 cubic metres. Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited is working with its partners to double the harvesting and exports this year."

With COVID-19 affecting all

sectors, Investment Fiji reports that Fijian Mahogany products were among the few of Fiji's top export commodities to continue to find welcoming markets, especially in the United States of America in recent months.

Meanwhile, mahogany's main commodity right now is sawn timber.

Value-adding is also being done which includes production of interior and exterior flooring and decking, furniture, panel products and guitar components.

Further potential in other mahogany value-added products like cable drums and artefacts, which are more capital- and labour intensive.



Pacific partnership our greatest strength

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya in support of the ratification of the 2005 Agreement Establishing the Pacific Island Forum, perceives it will strengthen Fiji's approach to regionalism and solidarity.

Speaking in Parliament during the August sitting, Minister Koya highlighted that "Fiji's leadership in the Forum will ensure that the regional institution looks at collective responses and solidarity that will enable economic recovery".

"The Pacific's greatest strength is our partnership, our shared vision and goal - and we need to leverage this and use it as a platform to strengthen our hub status and as a basis to integrate into the global trade arena," he said.

"We are the Forum Leaders Chair and the Chair of the Trade Ministers forum. We actively participate in the Forum trade and other related forums that will lead to strengthening of regional integration for the benefit of its people and play a pivotal role in bringing the region together as a strong trade and economic bloc."

"Our participation in the Forum is not passive. We are helping shape the regional agenda - weather issues related to climate change, socio-economic issues or trade related issues," he added.

Minister Koya states the Forum was established as a regional organisation to amplify the collective voice of Small Island Developing States in the Pacific, specifically on matters of utmost regional importance at the international forum.

"Let us not forget the great achievements made through the cooperation of the Forum Island Countries in the past in relation to nuclear testing, fisheries resources, security, climate change, environmental protection and trade, with much more unrealised potential for the Forum to realise," he emphasised.

"Regional groupings such as the Forum are becoming more important now due to increase in Globalisation and every effort is being made to stimulate intra-regional and global trade to raise living standards, provide employment and enable consumers to enjoy a greater variety of goods."

"Trade Agreements such as the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA), the Cotonou and the successors of the Cotonou Agreement, Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA), are all produced with a shared vision by the Pacific," he added.

He adds that multilateral trade agreements such as the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement are also negotiated collectively as a region so that voices of the Pacific are heard by large developed countries.

Pacific partnership 'our greatest strength'

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fijian Government has continued to make unwavering improvements in the digital space to ensure that ordinary Fijians are on par with digital innovations and policies are in place to benefit everyone.

This was highlighted by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum who noted that the "prior to 2007, the telecommunications had only three companies having exclusive licenses over a long-term period being monopolies in their line of business".

"This meant that no other telecommunications company could enter the Fijian market and there was no competition. With pricing seemingly to be fixed, this ultimately stifled innovation which meant less choice and exorbitant costs for Fijians and the Fijian Government had to change that and which we did," he said.

"We did a comprehensive reform of the telecommunications sector through the World Bank and introduced the Telecommunications Act 2008 and executed the Radisson Accord after three days of negotiations in 2008."

"Before the deregulation, a peak period cost on a mobile phone was 99 cents for a minute but today, the maximum you pay is 20 cents a

minute," he added.

The Radisson Accord is a Deed of Settlement with Vodafone Fiji Ltd, FINTEL and the Telecommunications Fiji Limited to remove exclusivity in exchange for open licenses in the provision of telecommunications services, which deregulated the telecommunications sector and allowed for new telecommunications companies to enter the market, such as Digicel Fiji Ltd.

The A-G highlighted that a fair and transparent process of allocating spectrum through a tender bidding process was introduced which allows an open, fair and a competitive playing field for all the operators who obtained spectrum.

"The spectrum is limited real estate and is the means through which wireless signals from our mobile phones travel over," he said.

"Following the implementation of the Suva-Savusavu cable system, the Fijian Competition & Consumer Commission (FCCC) had issued an interim authorization on 7th June, 2019, for FINTEL cable landing station charges and Information and Communications Technology Data Levy Fee where the telecommunications sector were paying \$4,000 per gigabyte, vep per month based on lit capacity for all the facilities interconnect service."

"On 16th September, 2019, FCCC issued a final authorisation for prices for national interconnection and access to international submarine cables using Fijian cable landing stations whereby the facilities interconnect service was replaced with a cross-connection service," he added.

"Under this authorisation, the telecommunications operators paid \$640 per service per month which was comparatively much lower to what the telecommunications sector operators paid previously," he further added.

The A-G relayed that this led to a massive reduction in data prices and the savings achieved could be directed to increasing innovation and providing competitive pricing and services to the customers.

"This is evident in the data plans advertised by the various operators which have plummeted from approximately FJ\$2 or US\$0.94 to approximately FJ\$1 or US\$0.47 for 10 GB data - the lowest in the region," he said.

The culmination of these reforms have resulted in 95 percent (817,425) of all Fijians, who now have access to mobile internet connectivity across 3G, 4G and 4G Plus networks, which is significantly higher than the 70 percent of mobile internet coverage data reported in other Pacific island nations.



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu (third from right) with frontliners heading for Kadavu. Photo: SUPPLIED

Team sent to Kadavu as COVID cases soar

MINISTER for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu farewelled a Government-led team that departed for Kadavu this week as part of the Government's response to COVID-19 on the island.

The 56-member team is made up of doctors and nurses from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, soldiers from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces

(RFMF) and other Government Ministries, including the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management.

This team led by Chief Surgeon, Dr Josese Turagava was deployed on the island for a one-month period to help contain the spread of the virus.

In addressing the team before their departure earlier on, Minister Seruiratu reminded the Government personnel about the

critical task ahead of them.

"Let's all be prepared for worst case scenarios," he said.

"The good thing is, crises are temporary, and it's not going to be there permanently. It will be over and it will be over soon."

Minister Seruiratu also reminded the Government personnel about the importance of having empathy towards the affected population on the island.

"We need to feel for the people during these very difficult times.

I hope that you'll be there to relieve them from the predicament that they are in. Our approach will be very, very critical."

"Again in a crisis, some of them may be in a state of shock or traumatised, so the approach we take will be very critical. We need to be professional."

The team is currently on deployment onboard the Government vessel, MV Veivueti.

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Forum series eyes nuclear-free Blue Pacific

THE Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) convened a Blue Pacific Talanoa series on Friday 27th August, 2021.

The Talanoa focused on the theme, “Pacific History, Global Futures: Securing a Nuclear-Free Blue Pacific,” and it was officially opened by the Pacific Islands Forum Chair, Fijian Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama and the Secretary General of PIF, Henry Puna.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Blue Pacific Continent has endured some of the most powerful nuclear tests ever conducted in world history, with more than 300 nuclear tests at atmospheric, surface and underground levels.

“The impacts have been nothing short of devastating; from the local, regional and global fallout, to the residual contamination and radioactivity in our ocean and lagoons. From the permanent relocation of resident populations in the Marshall Islands, to the serious and lasting impacts on the health, environment and human rights of our affected communities.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama further stated that Forum Leaders have been steadfast in calling for action on longstanding nuclear testing legacy issues in our Blue Pacific and advocating for effective remedial action to mitigate against the threat to the health, security and prospects of our Blue Pacific, as a consequence of the nuclear testing programs. He paid tribute to the foresight and visionary leadership of the Pacific fore bearers in their vision of a nuclear free Pacific, establishing a South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Rarotonga Treaty.

“Though a product of its time, the Treaty of Rarotonga is one of our very first and most significant achievements as a Forum family; a legally binding instrument with a regional and global reach that continues to serve and inspire our region, and protect our people and our prospects to this day, and no doubt, into the future,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

Further elaborating that to this day, the threat of nuclear proliferation remains a reality and the region must remain vigilant and must never be complacent. Knowing and experiencing the damage to our environment, health and well-being as a result of nuclear testing, the Forum Chair urged the remaining States to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also called on every peace-loving member of the global community of nations yet to sign the Treaty to consider doing so, thus contributing meaningfully to ending the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and bolstering world peace.

“As a united Forum family, we honour the victims and survivors of nuclear tests, and we celebrate our proud Blue Pacific success and activism against nuclear tests and nuclear threats.”

“As we envision the safe and peaceful world we want to leave for our children, a nuclear-free Blue Pacific must remain our legacy, and the total elimination of nuclear weapons must be the highest disarmament priority in the world.”

The International Day against Nuclear Tests was declared by the UN General Assembly in 2009, following a resolution initiated by Kazakhstan to mark the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site on 29th August 1991.

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Your land is secure, PM tells landowners

NANISE NEIMILA

THE iTaukei landowning units have been given reassurance by the Government that all benefits of land ownership belongs to them.

Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs Voreqe Bainimarama, while addressing Parliament during the August sitting, said that this had not been the case in the past and the Government “will not sit idly-by while the elite line up their own pockets, thanks to assets that belong to all commoners.”

“The wealth that these communally-owned assets produce must be equally shared, and we must look for ways not just to share what we have today, but also for and with the future generations. We must

therefore increase the value of these assets,” Prime Minister Bainimarama said.

“It is our policy to empower communities to use their land in the most beneficial ways possible.

“That means we have to recognise changes in the modern economy and the new opportunities they bring. It means we must streamline the approval process and remove impediments for landowners and lessees alike.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Government recognises that a number of iTaukei still live in a village setting.

“We also have to recognise that a number of the villages are now in urban or peri-urban settings.

“The demographics are different, sources of income and levels of income, the level

of literacy and access to education and isolation from amenities and services differ from village to village or region to region.”

“How we deal with these communities will not be addressed by one-size-fits-all. Times have changed since the colonial times and indeed structures created then need to be assessed for its practicality and more importantly the ability for these structures to serve the ordinary villagers and the iTaukei at large.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said iTaukei people are wiser now and the Government wants them to be empowered rather than merely protected.

“The iTaukei people are not children in need of their protection, they want to be empowered.”

Village, district frontliners praised for hard work

NANISE NEIMILA

VILLAGE headman district representatives and community nurses were praised for their commitment and hard work for their continuous assistance and guidance to villages and for providing their reporting framework for the iTaukei Administration.

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while delivering his statement in Parliament in the August sitting.

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted a few key initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs this includes survey of village boundaries and gazetted before being uploaded to the GIS platform.

“My Government has moved from a development-centred approach to something more comprehensive. It is a people-centred approach that relies not on improved subsistence, but on improved opportunity.”

“We need to move from a subsistence economy to the opportunities that a modern market economy presents to all Fijians. My Government is reaching down to all levels in the society, including within the iTaukei communities.”

“This includes elderly and disability allowances, greater empowerment for our women and young people, and free education and transport assistance for our school children, and land-development opportunities for our landowners through the iTaukei land development initiative.”

As highlighted by the Head of Government, through the National Development Plan, villages now have to access clean water through the Rural Water Scheme, access to energy through the Rural Electrification Scheme, access to communications and improvements in sanitation through our development partners.

“The Turaga ni Koro allowances were



Prime Minister and Minister for Forestry Voreqe Bainimarama addresses Parliament during its sitting last week. Photo: PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

\$50 a month under the previous administration. We increased them to \$75 in 2015 and \$100 a month in 2018. And I thank the hardworking Turaga ni Koro for their efforts, especially during this pandemic.”

“In the provision of basic medical services, and the monitoring and promotion of healthy lifestyles in the local communities, the Community Health Workers, or Nasi ni Koro, play a pivotal role.”

Together with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the position was recognised as part of the village council reporting structure in 2017 and these vital members of the community who were paid about \$50 a month are now paid a reasonable allowance of \$200 a month to help

them carry out their duties.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Bainimarama further highlighted that the iTaukei Affairs Board has re-strategised to overcome the challenges left behind by the previous administration.

“It must make up the huge backlog in the Audit of the Board and the Provincial Council Accounts, which remains an obstacle to the progress we hope to make. But we hope that it will be completed by 2022.”

The Ministry continues to advise these communities on viable investment opportunities, along with their associated risks, to aid the owners in making sound and informed decisions.



The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the virtual launching of Fiji's first Climate and Disaster Risk Parametric Micro-insurance product recently. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Insurance product caters for climate, disaster risks

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum formally launched Fiji's first Climate and Disaster Risk Parametric Micro-insurance product recently.

With this product, low-income sugarcane, rice, cash crops and coconut farmers, fishermen and market vendors will be insured for up to \$1,000 per year, against cyclones and floods at a cost of just \$100 per year.

The product will initially cover 500 eligible beneficiaries and will be scaled up to reach 1,000 people before the end of 2021.

"Fijians on the front line of climate-driven disasters understand the importance of resilience. In the aftermath of severe weather events, they need rapid access to financial assistance to repair their homes or deal with the countless other costs brought by flooding or cyclones," the A-G highlighted.

"To grant our economy greater buoyancy to respond to severe weather events, we - together with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) - have deepened our financial toolkit with a new, market-led Climate and Disaster Risk Parametric Micro-insurance product that is affordable for families and attractive to insurance providers."

"For low premiums, beneficiaries can receive rapid insurance payouts to repair their homes or deal with other disaster-related expenses from the storms we know that are headed our way," he added.

Plans are also in place to later expand the product to cover other livelihood sectors, particularly micro, small and medium enterprises.

The product has been jointly developed by the UNCDF, the Fijian Government and two local insurers - FijiCare and Sun Insurance. This initiative was supported by the Governments of New Zealand, Australia, India and Luxembourg.

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President part of big regional meeting

THE President, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote participated in the 7th Session of the Pacific Regional Heads of Agriculture and Forestry meeting recently.

In his address, President Konrote spoke on the importance of the agriculture and forestry sector in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the fight against non-communicable diseases and building climate change resilience.

"As custodians of planet earth, it is our duty to be conscientious of the needs of our environment. Therefore, conversations about what we grow and eat and the how or the methodology that we use, are among the most fundamental to human wellbeing," President Konrote said.

Delegates from respective Pa-



President, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote (Top; second from left) during the 7th Session of the Pacific Regional Heads of Agriculture and Forestry meeting. Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

cific island nations were also reminded of the great responsibility of working together to strengthen and highlight the importance of the Pacific's rich and unique biodiversity.

President Konrote highlighted that the Pacific cannot be complacent when dealing with matters of the environment and any resource-based sector such as agriculture and forestry.

"As respective Heads of the Agriculture and Forestry Services for your nations, there is

a great responsibility at hand that dictates collaborative action focused on comprehensive pathways that shall save Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT), human, plant and animal health without compromising our unique contributions to global social and economic development. Most of our island nations are quite small and so, more fragile and vulnerable to all the climate change associated catastrophes."

"Now is the opportunity to put forward tangible regional poli-

cies that engage in exchanges that consider resilient and nutritious food availability. We now have the opportunity to build a Pacific community that can respond to the climate reality by sustainably managing our natural resources, ecosystems and markets," President Konrote stated.

Delegates were also encouraged by President Konrote to use the meeting as a platform to develop and refine national and regional Agriculture and Forestry Plans.

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MoU to help build nature-based seawalls



Minister for Waterways, Agriculture and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy with staff during the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the British High Commissioner to Fiji George Edgar (third from right). Photo: SUPPLIED

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Waterways and the British High Commission of Fiji to enhance Fiji's climate resilience.

This will allow for the provision of Nature Base seawalls (NBS) for Namatakula Village in Sigatoka.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Minister for Waterways, Agriculture and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy commended the initiatives of the British High Commission of Fiji and their efforts in protecting and building resilience amongst the coastal communities in Fiji.

The MOU between the Ministry of Waterways and the British High Commission of Fiji and a grant of FJ\$38,139 will be used to establish a Nature-Based Solutions Seawall (NBS) for the Namatakula Village, which will benefit over 300 villagers as well as a primary school that is affected by the coastal inundation.

As part of this project, approximately 450

metres of a hybrid sea wall will be built by the Ministry of Waterways with bouldering work, land reclamation, rows of mangroves, as the first line of defence and vetiver grass, as a last line of defence, to protect the village coastline.

Minister Reddy reiterated that the MoU will support the Fijian Government's effort towards achieving the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and National Development Plan objectives for building resilience amongst the coastal communities through climate adaptation measures, which are most affected by climate change.

"Like other coastal communities in Fiji, Namatakula village faces coastal erosion, along with increased impact from extreme weather events, including seawater intrusion and flooding, which becomes a threat to the communities," he said.

Minister Reddy further alluded to the importance of Nature-Based Seawalls while dealing with the problem that arises from climate change.

"At the Ministry of Waterways and Environment, we have adopted the theory to do 'More with less' amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and moving from traditional concrete masonry to nature-based boulder type seawalls for coastal protection," he said.

The completion of the Namatakula Village Seawall project will not only address the coastal erosion for the village but will also restore the marine biodiversity across the coastline providing a home for marine species, replenishing their coastal stocks, and boosting food security in the future.

The British High Commissioner to Fiji, George Edgar praised the Ministry of Waterways for taking up the lead role in completing the project that would benefit over 300 Fijians by protecting their homes and replenishing their natural resources.

"I am delighted to support this innovative project. I hope that it will provide valuable services to the villagers of Namatakula, and show the effectiveness of nature-based solutions," he said.



Avoid using crowded buses or minibuses

It is better to wait for the next one.



World Health Organization
Representative Office
for the South Pacific



for every child

#StoptheSpreadofCOVID19



Avoid using public transport if you are feeling sick or suspect that you have COVID-19.

Stay home and call 158, a health team will reach you.



World Health Organization
Representative Office
for the South Pacific



for every child

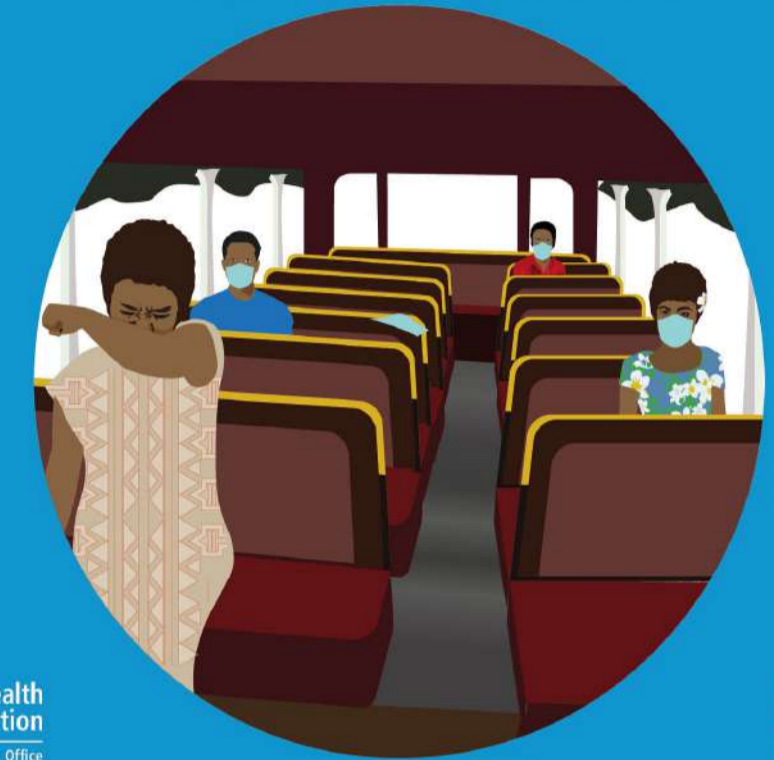
#StoptheSpreadofCOVID19



Be considerate of other passengers

Always cover your cough or sneeze – cough or sneeze into your bent elbow

Keep your distance – try to sit at least 2 metres away from other passengers



World Health Organization
Representative Office
for the South Pacific



for every child

#StoptheSpreadofCOVID19



Do not sit in a crowded taxi

Do not share a ride with more than 3 passengers in a taxi.



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#StoptheSpreadofCOVID19



Let the air in

Keep the windows open to maintain a constant flow of circulating fresh air.



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#StoptheSpreadofCOVID19



Remember to always wear your mask correctly whilst in public

Your mask should cover your nose and mouth



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#StoptheSpreadofCOVID19



RUPENI WAQAVONO

THE Fijian Government unemployment assistance of \$360 could not have come at a better time for Laisa Naleba, a small-business owner struggling to maintain her printing business.

Mrs Naleba, who runs a home-based printing business called Rainbow Art in Nadi, said that she would certainly be able to carry her business through to next year with the assistance of the Fijian Government.

"I am so grateful and thankful right now. This government assistance really came at a very good time. Our business suffered a lot during this pandemic and this will certainly boost my production for the next few months."

"When I received my \$360 last week, I bought fabric, fabric ink and other materials that are needed for my business."

"I only work on orders that come in from customers so this assistance has given me a safe cushion for the next few months in

terms of materials," Mrs Naleba added.

She also urged youth and other small business owners who received their \$360 to use it wisely and invest in their business.

"If you're a small business owner, invest that assistance into your business. If you have a skill, utilise it. The Government will only provide half of the assistance, so we must make the most of that help."

Mrs Naleba specialises in printing indoor curtains, pillowcases, bed sheets, table covers and cushion covers.

Meanwhile, similar sentiments were echoed by Manasa Tulawa who owns a small bakery business.

"With this assistance, I would be able to buy the supplies I need for my bakery including some more baking equipment."

"This assistance has really helped us a lot especially small business owners like myself. I am grateful and I acknowledge the Government for providing the assistance to us especially during these trying times."

Pictured are some of the products Laisa Naleba produces at her home. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO



Laisa Naleba, runs a home-based printing business called Rainbow Art. Photo: RUPENI WAQAVONO

Promote COVID jab, youth urged

MEREANI GONEDUA

YOUTHS around the country have been urged to promote vaccination targets in order to achieve a new normal without the need for lockdowns.

Officiating at this year's International Youth Day celebrations held in Ba recently, Minister for Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar highlighted that achieving vaccination targets would allow more engagement of youths in meaningful dialogues through our talanoa mode.

"The theme of this year's International Youth Day is, 'Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health', with the aim of highlighting that the success of such a global effort will not be achieved without the meaningful participation of young people."

"It also highlights the global vision and part of Fiji's 5-year and 20-year National Development Plans (NDP) to improve food and nutrition security. Fiji's vision aligns itself with Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture."

"This year's International Youth Day is an opportunity to continue dialogues on how Governments, young people and youth-led and youth-focused organisations, as well as other stakeholders, are transforming food systems and assess and provide input in order to cultivate an enabling environment towards the achievement of our NDP goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

"My Ministry – that of Youth and Sports has changed the focus of our activities in our programs as a proactive set of measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the ministry has responded to the increasing number of youths returning to their villages and settlements as the job market in the urban areas have contracted. Most young people have turned to farming in order to make ends meet."

"This is a sustainable means of improving our food security. As the world continues to battle immediate challenges such as COVID, long term challenges like climate change means that we have to act now and address how we best feed our nation, and entrench food security in our economic planning."

Minister Kumar highlighted the Ministry has reached out to youth clubs by providing farming materials for them to become productive contributors to national food security.

"It has also meant that more of our youth, instead of being aimless without any prospects in our urban areas, are returning to the land."

Mums grateful for Moderna vaccine

RUPENI WAQAVONO

EXPECTANT mothers in Nadi have expressed their gratitude to the Fijian Government for providing the Moderna vaccines for them.

Sereana Niuvusa of Nawaka, in Nadi, said she believes the Moderna vaccine offers better protection for her and her baby. The mother of four was among expectant mothers at Nadi Special School who came to receive their jabs recently.

"I have waited for the Moderna vaccine. I believe this vaccine will protect me and my baby and I'm thankful that I have received my first jab today before my due date."

"I didn't feel any side effects. It went smoothly, the staff here are very supportive and I want to thank all the health personnel at the Nadi Special School for looking after us."

Ms Niuvusa has also urged other expectant mothers to come forward and get their jab to protect themselves against the COVID-19 virus.



Expectant mothers patiently wait to receive their Moderna vaccines. Photos: MEREANI GONEDUA

"I urge all expectant mothers, please come forward and get vaccinated. COVID has already claimed the lives of two mothers and this (further deaths) can be prevented. Please get vaccinated."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Premila Devi who stated that the vaccine would protect both her and her baby from the virus.

"I feel perfectly fine after my jab and I hope that other expectant mothers will do the right thing

and get vaccinated so they can also protect themselves and their baby."

Naomi Lako, 36, from Namotomoto stated that she decided to get vaccinated because she knew there would be more risks for her if she didn't.

"This is my first baby and I would do anything to protect myself and my baby from getting any sickness especially COVID-19."



"I am calling on all new mothers out there to think about their safety including their babies. Come get your jabs, I have and now I know that my baby and I will be safe."



Minister sounds caution on fire safety

FELIX LESINAIVALU

Minister for Local Government Premila Kumar has encouraged Fijians to take precautionary measures when it comes to fire safety especially during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Kumar highlighted this during a joint virtual press conference by the Ministry of Local Government and the National Fire Authority (NFA) on fire incidents around the country recently.

"We have noticed that fire incidents are increasing and the number is high for the month of August, where we recorded 15 fire incidents which affected 54 people, in other words, 54 people are homeless because of these 15 fire incidents," she said.

Minister Kumar said because of



A building on fire at Raiwai, Suva early last month. Photo: SUPPLIED

fire incidents, Fijians essentially get robbed of their years of hard work and there is no dollar value to that.

"I urge all Fijians to continuously be vigilant and observe fire safety measures in your home and work places so that every Fijian is Fire-

safe," Minister Kumar said.

"I urge all our fellow Fijians to take every precautionary measure to keep your homes fire-safe every day and especially during this COVID-19 pandemic."

NFA chief executive officer Pua-mau Sowane urged Fijians to treat

fire safety as a priority in their daily lives.

"We have noticed a recent increase of fires during the recent dry season and we want members of the public to be aware of the period that we are now approaching," he said.

"It is illegal to burn rubbish at the back of your homes, and you could be taken into task for that, and that is the last thing we want to do."

Mr Sowane also encouraged Fijians to engage licensed electricians to do the electric works in their homes.

"You must be very careful, in and around your homes and you must always be fire safety cautious all the time."

According to statistics by NFA, within a span of eight months, a total of 75 structural fire incidents were recorded, compared to 81 for the same period last year and 84 in the year 2019.

The total cost of damage due to these fires is estimated at \$6.7 million, which is alarming for a period of eight months only. Attending to these fire incidents during this period has costed NFA over \$310,000.

Municipality heads hold talks with minister

THE first Chief Executive Officers Forum of Municipal Councils for this financial year was held recently with the former Minister for Local Government, Premila Kumar.

In the last financial year, the councils experienced two major Tropical Cyclones that caused serious damage to their properties.

These challenges are now compounded by the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. These events have adversely affected Councils' revenue stream.

"Last week, when I met the Special Administrations, I spoke about the importance of financial independence and sustainability. While most councils have shown the capacity to collect revenue, I urge all councils to understand the significance of adopting strategies that will improve the financial position of the councils," Minister Kumar said.

The councils have been reminded to improve service delivery and enhance strategies to deliver the best possible service to its ratepayers.

Minister Kumar, urged the Councils to maintain transparency to their ratepayers and development partners.

"With good governance comes the integrity and reliability of financial reporting which are cornerstones of transparency and accountability," she added.

The CEOs have been reminded to take a more holistic planning approach to avoid scenarios where capital projects face delays or cost over runs. She reminded CEOs to strictly follow proper processes and procedures in all aspects of the Councils' business - whether it is staff recruitment, call for tender and awards or dealing with compliance issues.

The Ministry of Local Government will continue to facilitate regular CEO Forums for networking opportunity and also enable learning from best practices of other Councils.

Minister Kumar also thanked the CEOs and former SAs for implementing a number of strategies to make Towns and Cities safe during the second wave of the pandemic.

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Caregivers, staff praised for looking after elderly



Staff of Golden Age Home in Samabula. Photo: SUPPLIED

THE Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar has thanked carers and medical officers for their efforts to ensure the safety of the older persons under our care at the Golden Aged Home in Samabula.

"We know, globally, aged care facilities were often the worse affected during the pandemic with high mortality rates. In Fiji, 24 residents and 8 staff became infected with COVID-19 and have since had a full recovery. Fiji has quietly achieved a significant outcome (being the full recovery of older residents and staff) and we now have 28 residents in the Suva GAH who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19."

Since the beginning of the second wave of the COVID19 pandemic in Fiji, several individuals, families, communities and institutions have

been affected by the virus. For the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, the biggest concern had been the residential homes for the elderly and children and the Ministry had quickly instituted the COVID-19 Protocol for Aged Care Facilities when the COVID-19 virus entered Fiji and put in place new Standing Operating Procedures for all State Homes, which included ensuring the residents and staff were scheduled for vaccination as soon as possible.

In order to ensure the safety of the residents and clients, any staff of the Ministry who has not agreed to be vaccinated has been removed from duties, as per the civil service guidelines.

Minister Akbar also thanked the brave elders that have taken on the call of duty to be vaccinated.

In her message to Fijians, Minister Akbar said, "your decisiveness will protect you, your families and the community, towards the facilitation of free movement in public spaces.

We also encourage those senior citizens still contemplating vaccination, to step forward and be counted in the battle to overcome the deadly COVID-19 virus. Senior Citizens are also strongly encouraged to actively participate in the validation exercises that are now being rolled out in communities to highlight areas of prioritised needs for Older Persons".

Minister Akbar urged family members to take care of and educate their parents and the elderly about the pandemic and to get them vaccinated.

news@govnet.gov.fj



Minister ensures major effort to support students

THE Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar has assured students and parents that the Ministry will make every possible effort to ensure that students are not unduly disadvantaged because of the prolonged school closure.

There is a lot of speculation on the National Examinations for Year 13 students that is causing unnecessary stress and anxiety to many students and parents.

Minister Kumar says; “We are currently working with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to identify possible options relating to Year 13”.

The Ministry is encouraging children aged 18 years and above to get fully vaccinated. Additionally, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services is planning to conduct COVID-19 vaccination for the children aged 12-17 years old.

The Ministry of Health is expected to introduce the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children between 12-17 years-old.

An official announcement will be made as soon as a rollout plan is confirmed.

Students are reminded to continue learning from home using the Weekly Home Study

Packages prepared and disseminated by their teachers while schools remain indefinitely closed nationwide.

It is important that they continue to learn from home for their own safety and well-being as the number of active COVID-19 cases remains high.

Children are vulnerable to coronavirus infections and transmissions. It is important that we protect them and for now they are safest at home.

“Many countries across the globe are working towards vaccinating children from age 12.

“Several countries have been experimenting with opening schools prematurely, only to close them again because of large transmissions.

“We do not want to be faced with a similar situation here in Fiji.

“Learning remotely can be difficult for some students. I request parents to provide their support, guidance and assistance as much as possible. It does not matter if you do not have subject expertise, you can still assist your children through continuous encouragement and support.

“One of the most important things that all par-

ents can do to help their children is help them manage their time. The discipline that comes with good time management and supervision leads to effective learning. So, I urge parents to help their children and create a study routine for them,” said Minister Kumar

Parents should continue to collect printed materials from the nearest schools in absence of reliable internet services. Teachers will continue to provide printed learning materials.

“This week I have also encouraged the principals to fully engage with their students in providing the necessary learning support and advisory to their students and try and dispel any misinformation circulating in the social media,” Minister Kumar said.

Minister Kumar said, “I thank our teachers who are going the extra mile to ensure their students receive printed learning resources. The relentless support from our Community Leaders is an excellent example of the Fijian solidarity and I thank them for their support”.

The Ministry will continue to work with the MOHMS and relevant stakeholders to monitor the daily COVID-19 situation in Fiji and review the safest possible option relating to school re-opening. -MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

EU gives \$12m to help rural livelihoods

THE European Union reaffirms its commitment to help the Government of Fiji fight its second wave of

COVID-19 by providing a further EUR 5 million (FJ\$12.3 million) to support sustainable rural livelihoods.

The funds are targeted on the implementation of the agriculture sector strategy of the Fijian Government.

At the time when the fiscal environment is extremely constrained, they take the form of a financial grant, directly transferred to the Fijian Government.

They are accompanied by the provision of technical assistance.

The Head of Delegation of the European Union to the Pacific, Sujiro Seam highlighted that “the budget support of FJ\$12.3 million demonstrates the European Union commitment to stand with the Government of Fiji as it battles its second wave of COVID-19. It provides a welcome financial relief in a difficult fiscal environment. It is aligned with the national strategy to enhance rural livelihood, to generate income and employment opportunities, support diversification and competitiveness, contribute to food and nutrition security and improve services and infrastructure. Consistent with the European Green Deal, it promotes climate smart and environmentally friendly agriculture”.

The Attorney-General and the Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum welcomed the timely budget support from the European Union.

“Our budget for this financial year has funded sweeping socioeconomic protections for the Fijian people amidst the ongoing global pandemic— including targeted support to the agricultural sector to strengthen Fiji’s food and nutrition security. With the Fijian government’s support, our farmers are increasingly

meeting more domestic demand for produce and building the Fijian brand of quality in overseas markets, creating sustainable livelihoods and sources of income in this growing sector. We look forward to putting the EU’s direct budget support to work through our effective and efficient support systems.” news@govnet.gov.fj

Fijian envoy mobilises help for COVID response

THE Fiji High Commission in India (FHCI) in partnership with its networks in New Delhi has coordinated assistance to support Fiji’s national response to COVID-19.

The Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) consignment which was recently mobilised by the Fiji High Commission, consisted of 5000 N95 face masks, 5000 three-ply surgical masks, 50 boxes of surgical gloves and face shields to assist the Ministry of Health and Medical Services’ response to contain the pandemic.

Fiji’s High Commissioner to India, Kamlesh Prakash extended his appreciation to Dr Madhu Handa from Moolchand Hospital for the timely collaboration, which enabled this mobilisation of Personal Protective Equipment to Fiji.

He added that this initiative complements the efforts of Fiji’s front-line workers in providing health care service to the nation.

Dr Handa, who originally hails from Fiji, said she is grateful for the opportunity to reach out and give back to Fiji at this time of great need.

In a similar initiative, the Fiji High Commission in India collaborated with Medivisor Health in India and mobilised a donation of 5,000 face masks to Fiji.

Mr Prakash also expressed his appreciation to the Director of Medivisor Health, Kumar Sushant and Manager of International Department at Artemis Hospital, Abhishek Kumar for their timely support and generosity in providing accommodation to Fijian patients and their



Fiji’s High Commissioner to India, Kamlesh Prakash (left) with Dr Madhu Handa from Moolchand Hospital after receiving Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) consignment consisting of 5000 N95 face masks, 5000 three-ply surgical masks, 50 boxes of surgical gloves and face shields to assist the Ministry of Health and Medical Services’ response to contain the pandemic. Photo: SUPPLIED

families upon completion of their medical treatment in India.

Medivisor Health provided three weeks of free accommodation while Artemis Hospital gave a week’s free accommodation to the Fijian nationals, and thereafter at discounted rates.

He said the mission provides such additional support to Fijian nationals in India, together with consular

services which is an important component of their role.

Additionally, Mr Prakash also thanked Capajet for delivering the consignment of PPEs to Fiji without any freight charges.

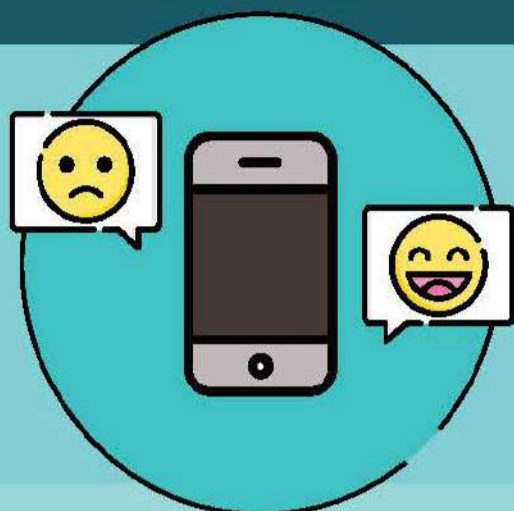
He reaffirmed the mission’s commitment to pursue opportunities to further support Fiji’s response to contain the pandemic, ultimately advancing economic recovery and

building back better.

He said there are potential areas of collaboration currently pursued with the Government of India, based on Fiji’s national priorities which have been communicated to the Indian counterparts.

Mr Prakash added that Fiji and India are good friends with greater opportunities for more engagements in the future. -news@govnet.gov.fj

Coping with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak



It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or angry during a crisis.

Talking to people you trust can help. Contact your friends and family.

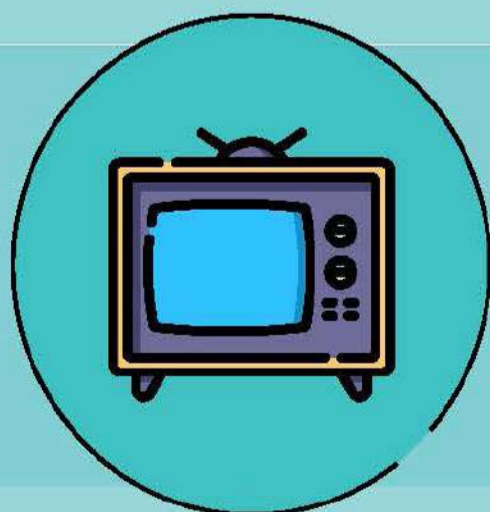
If you must stay at home, maintain a healthy lifestyle - including proper diet, sleep, exercise and social contacts with loved ones at home and by email and phone with other family and friends.



Don't use smoking, alcohol or other drugs to deal with your emotions.

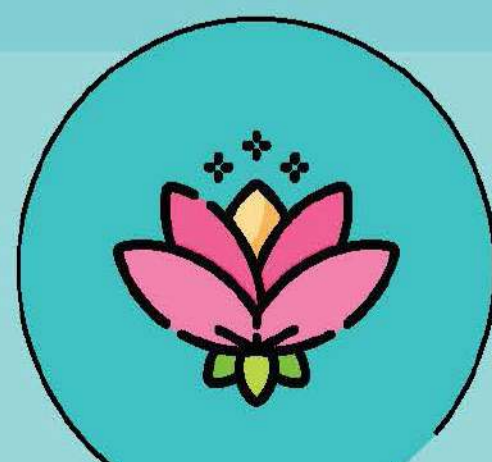
If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor. Have a plan, where to go to and how to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

Get the facts. Gather information that will help you accurately determine your risk so that you can take reasonable precautions. Find a credible source you can trust such as WHO website or, a local or state public health agency.



Limit worry and agitation by lessening the time you and your family spend watching or listening to media coverage that you perceive as upsetting.

Draw on skills you have used in the past that have helped you to manage previous life's adversities and use those skills to help you manage your emotions during the challenging time of this outbreak.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COVID-19

GUIDANCE ON HOMEMADE CLOTH MASK

1



Cut two pieces of cotton fabric (length of 25 cm and height of 15 cm each)

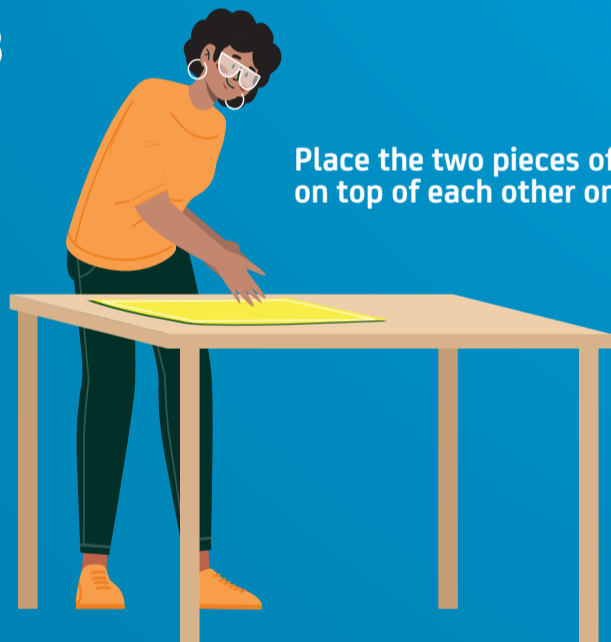
Fabrics made of thick cotton or cotton blend, like a tea towel. (If you can see the sunlight through the mask, it is too thin.)

2



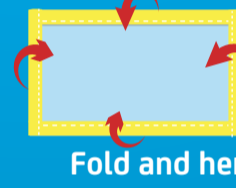
Hem or stitch the edges of the two fabrics by cutting away any excess or loose fabric.

3



Place the two pieces of fabric on top of each other on a table.

4



Fold and hem

Fold and hem

Fold and hem

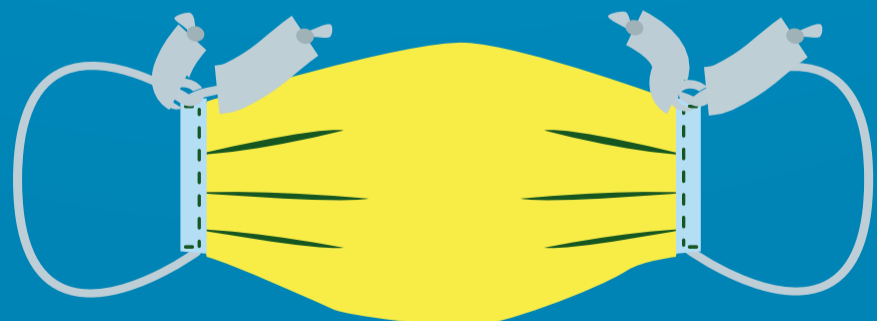
Fold the outer piece of fabric (the one touching the table) over slightly on top of the other piece. Sew the folded over piece onto the top piece. Perform this for both the top and bottom parts of the mask.

5



Place the four cotton threads or two elastic pieces on either side of the mask. Fold over the outer and inner pieces together on top of the threads or elastic. Sew these two sides pieces to securely hold the threads or elastic pieces in place.

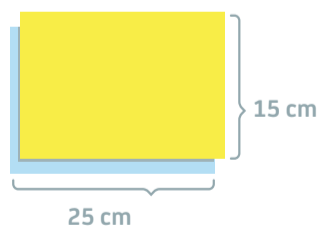
6



Tie the unsewn ends of the threads or elastic into a secure knot. Make sure the knot is tight.

You will need:

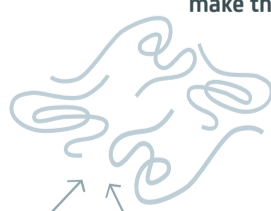
cotton fabrics



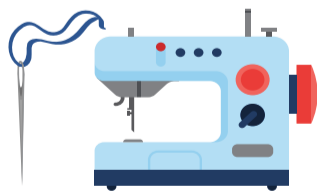
Two cotton fabrics
25 cm length and
15 cm wide



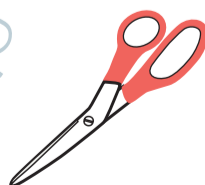
Two pieces
of elastic
15 cm length



Four cotton threads
20 cm length each



Needle or
sewing machine.
You may have a seamstress
make the mask, if possible.



Scissors



World Health
Organization
Representative Office
for the South Pacific

unicef
for every child



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FijiFocus

National sweepstakes for fully-vaccinated Fijians



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services (FPBS) after the official handover of 2.7 million KN-95 Masks with a value of \$1.1million in shipment from members of the Fijian community in Australia yesterday. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

\$300K LOTTERY

PRASHILA DEVI

MORE than 558,000 Fijians have come forward to receive at least one dose of the two COVID-19 vaccines and Fiji is now on pace to fully vaccinate over 95 per cent of eligible adults in Fiji.

In announcing the Win Together Sweepstakes, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said that reaching these figures positions Fiji as one of the world's most-vaccinated nations.

"But we are not competing against the world --- this is not the Olympics. Our only opponent is the virus. And to beat it, I want us to vaccinate as many Fijians as we possibly can."

The Government, as a token of appreciation

to Fijians for coming forward and playing their part in helping the country combat the COVID-19 pandemic, has set aside \$300,000 with the first winner for the lottery to be announced on September 7, 2021 to coincide with the 8th anniversary of the Constitution Day.

"To kick-start the Win Together Sweepstakes, the first draw will be for \$8,000 on the seventh of September to coincide with the 8th anniversary of our Constitution," Prime Minister Bainimarama announced.

"The overwhelming scientific evidence backing the safety and efficacy of vaccines gives everyone good reason to be vaccinated. I believe that every Fijian who has taken the time to follow the science by registering, showing up, and getting both jabs deserves a

shot at a reward. That is the spirit behind our new "Win Together Sweepstakes", a national vaccine lottery that enters fully-vaccinated Fijians into regular draws to win cash prizes."

The applications for the first draw closed on Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the second draw will be on 10 October -- Fiji Day -- with \$51,000 in prize money in recognition of Fiji's 51st anniversary of independence.

"We'll announce more draw dates and prizes in the month of October."

Applicants for the competition must provide their birth registration number or citizenship number, their first and last name, their date of birth, Tax Identification Number, and the date and site of their second vaccination, which is stated on the vaccine card.

Applicants will also need to consent to be part of the sweepstakes lottery and for their vaccine records to be verified.

Once the information is ready, applicants can dial *166# to enter the Win Together Sweepstakes. They can find the details of the registration process on the Fijian Government Facebook page and website, and radio announcements.

Prime Minister Bainimarama has reassured those who could not participate in the first round as there will be more chances to register for future draws in the coming weeks once they are fully vaccinated.

"As I've said before, the ultimate prize in this vaccine lottery isn't cash -- it is the lives that we'll save and the sense of normalcy that can be restored for all of us."

फीजी दर्पण

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@FijianGovt f Fijian Government



प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बर्डिनमारामा भारत के नए राजदूत महामहीम पालानिस्वामी सुबरा मेनयन कार्थीजेयन से मुलाकात करते हुए। चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

प्रधानमंत्री की नए भारतीय राजदूत से मुलाकात

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेन्गे बर्डिनमारामा ने हाल में नए भारतीय राजदूत महामहीम पालानिस्वामी सुबरा मेनयन कार्थीजेयन से मुलाकात की। प्रधान मंत्री ने राजदूत को उनकी नई कुटनैतिज्ञ नियुक्ति पर बधाई दी फीजी तथा भारत के कुटनैतिज्ञ संबंध को और मज़बूत करने के फीजियन सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाया। प्रधान मंत्री ने दोनों देशों द्वारा पिछले साल पचस सालों के कुटनैतिज्ञ संबंध का जश्न मनाने का आभार व्यक्त किया। उन्होंने कहा कि वह

अभारी हैं कि हमारे राजनयिक संबंध एक-दूसरे की संप्रभुता, सामान्य विकास और साझा समृद्धि के प्रति सम्मान की विशेषता रखते हैं। फीजी के राष्ट्रीय विकास और क्षेत्र में समर्थन के लिए भारत सरकार के योगदान के लिए फीजी सरकार की सराहना करते हुए, प्रधान मंत्री बर्डिनमारामा ने कहा कि भविष्य में भारत के साथ फीजी के सहयोग में विकास की काफी सम्भावनाएं हैं। प्रधान मंत्री बर्डिनमारामा ने भारत के प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी तथा उनकी सरकार को एक बार फिर धन्यवाद दिया जिन्होंने भारत में बनी

कोविड-शिल्ड एस्ट्राज़ेनेका सुई के एक लाख (100,000) डोस प्रदान किया था जिस से फीजी के सुई लगाने वाले अभियान में भारी सहयोग मिला था। उन्होंने कहा कि फीजी अपने विकास भागीदारों के बहुत अभारी हैं जिन्होंने इस महामारी के दौरान वायरस को और फैलने के रोकने के प्रयास में कोविड-19 से बचने की सुई प्रदान करके भारी सहायता दी है। प्रधान मंत्री बर्डिनमारामा ने फीजियन सरकार की ओर से राजदूत महामहीम कार्थीजेयन को शुभकामनाएं दी जबकि वो अपने नए पद को सम्भाल रहे

हैं और भारत के साथ फीजी के जुड़ाव और सहयोग को और बढ़ाने के लिए अपना विश्वास भी व्यक्त किया। जवाब में राजदूत कार्थीजेयन ने आपसी हितों के मुद्दों को आगे बढ़ाने पर फीजी और इस क्षेत्र के साथ मिलकर काम करने के लिए भारत की प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि की। इस नियुक्ति से पहले राजदूत कार्थीजेयन ने कैनब्रा और ऑस्ट्रेलिया में भारत के डेपुटी हाई कमिशनर का पद सम्भाला था। श्री कार्थीजेयन सन् दो हजार चार में भारतीय विदेश सेवा में अपना कार्य शुरू किया था।



आग वाली घटनाओं पर चिन्ता जताई गई



आग बुझाने वाले अधिकारी एक घर में लगी आग बुझाने की कोशिश करते हुए. चित्र:प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

लोकल गवमन्ट मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार ने हालही आग लगने वाली कई घटनाओं पर गहरी चिन्ता जताई है। पिछले महीने, नेशनल फायर अथोरिटी ने आग लगने वाली पंदाह घटनाएं रिकोड की है जिससे चौवन (54) लोग बेघर हो गए हैं। इसके अलावा पिछले एक सप्ताह में एन एफ अई ने घरों में आग लगने वाली दस मामलों में आग बुझाने का काम किया जो कि दर्शाता है कि एक दिन में दो घटनाएं घटी थी। पिछले सालों में देखा गया है कि फीजी में जैसे-जैसे सुखे और तेज हवा चलने का मौसम शुरू होता है, आग लगने वाली घटनाएं भी धीरे-धीरे बढ़ती हैं। नेशनल फायर अथोरिटी ने जून महीने में आग लगने वाली आठ घटनाओं को रिकोड किया, जुलाई महीने में चार जबकि अगस्त महीने में मामले बढ़कर पंदाह हो गए जबकि सुखे और तेज हवा वाला

मौसम जारी है। एन एफ अई के आकड़े दिखाते हैं कि इस साल के आठ महीनों में घरों और संपत्तियों में आगलगने वाली पचहत्तर श्भथत मामले सामने आए थे जबकि इस दौरान पिछले साल इक्यासी (81) और 2019 में चौरा सी(84) मामले सामने आए थे। अनुमान है कि आग वाली इन घटनाओं से छः दशमलौ सात मिलियन डॉलर तक की हानि हुई है जो कि चौकाने वाली बात है क्योंकि यह सिर्फ आठ महीने में घटी है। इन घटनाओं में आग बुझाने का कार्य करने में एन एफ अई को तीन लाख दस हजार डॉलर (\$310,000) का खर्च बैठा है। “यह आकड़े चिन्ताजनक है और हर दिन आग लगने वाली नई घटना सामने आती है जिससे और भी फीजीवासी इसके चपेट में आ रहे हैं तथा बेघर हो रहे हैं। यह घटनाएं बचाई जा सकती है तथा फीजीवासियों को लापरवाही की गम्भीरता को समझने और आग से सुरक्षा

को गम्भीरता से लेने की ज़रूरत है,” मंत्री कुमार ने कहा। “इस महामारी के कारण पहले से ही सभी मुश्किल के दौर से गुज़र रहे हैं। इसलिए कई लोग जिनमें हमारे चाहने वाले भी शामिल हैं, पर असर पड़ा है जिन्होंने अपना सब कुछ खो दिया है। फीजीवासी अपने सालों की मेहनत गवा देते हैं जिस की कोई कीमत नहीं है,” मंत्री ने कहा। लोकल गवमन्ट मंत्री ने कहा कि कोविड-19 के चलते अधिकतर फीजीवासी अभी घर पर हैं तथा आग की सुरक्षापर सतर्क रहना आसान होना चाहिए। “हमें आग से सुरक्षा एक प्राथमिकता बनानी चाहिए और घर से निकलते या व्यापार बन्द करने से पहले सुरक्षा नियमों का पालन करना चाहिए। एन एफ अई ने पिछले महीने कई घरों में लगी आग बुझाने की कोशिश की जहाँ आग लगने के समय कोई नहीं था। कई बार देखा गया है कि आग वा

ली कई घटनाएं बिजली संबंधी रही है,” मंत्री कुमार ने कहा। एन एफ अई के सामने कुछ घटनाएं अई हैं जहाँ लोग एक्स टेंशन कोड के ज़रिए एक घर से दूसरे तक बिजली सप्लाई करते हैं, जिससे शोटसेकर्ट होने की वजह से आग लगने वाली घटनाएं घटती हैं। कुछ मामलों में घरेलू झगड़े के कारण आग जान-बूझकर लगाई गई थी। सुखे और तेज हवा चलने वाले मौसम के दौरान मंत्री ने जंगलों, कूड़ा-कर्कट तथा गन्नों में आग लगने वाली घटनाओं पर भी चिन्ता व्यक्त की। नगरपालिका की सीमा के अन्दर खुले तौर से कूड़ा-कर्कट जलाना एक अपराध है। अपने घर के प्रांगण में आग लगाना भी गैर-कानूनी है क्योंकि आप न केवल अपने घर बल्कि पड़ोसियों के घरों को खतरे में डाल रहे हैं,” मंत्री ने कहा। इस साल पहली अगस्त से अभी तक जंगलों, घास, गन्ने तथा कूड़ा-कर्कट जलाने वाली तीन सौ उन्नीस

(319) मामले सामने आए हैं। इनमें से दो सौ इक्तीस (231) मामले पश्चिमी विभाग के, इक्सट (61) उत्तरी विभाग के हैं जबकि सत्ताईस (27) मामले केन्द्रीय और पूर्वी विभाग के हैं। एन एफ अई को इन घटनाओं में आग बुझाने में एक लाख बाईस हजार डॉलर तक का खर्च बैठा। मंत्री ने कहा कि जबकि जंगलों में आग लगाने से जान-माल की हानि का खतरा तो रहता ही है, इससे एन एफ अई के संसाधनों पर बेवजह दबाव पड़ता है। पिछले सप्ताह अंत आग वाली इन घटनाओं से बिजली के तारों को नुकसान पहुँचा जिससे पश्चिमी विभाग के कुछ हिस्सों में बिजली की सप्लाई में बाधाएं पहुँची। आग लगने पर कृपया जल्द से जल्द 910 पर कॉल करें ताकि आग बुझाने वाले अधिकारियों को घटनास्थल पर पहुँचने के लिए सब से तेज अवसर मिले।

प्रधान मंत्री ने जन्माष्टमी की बधाई दी

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिम रामा का कहना है कि आज के बलिदान श्रद्धा के कई अद्भुत उत्सवों का मार्ग साफ करने में मदद करेंगे जिन्हें हम गर्व से साथ मिलकर मनाते हैं।



प्रधान मंत्री वोरेंगे बईनिमरामा अपना संदेश देते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

इस सप्ताह पूर्व देश भर के हिन्दुओं को श्री कृष्णजन्माष्टमी की शुभकामनाएं देते हुए श्री बईनिमरामा ने ऐसा कहा। उन्होंने सभी से माँग की थी कि वे कोविड सुरक्षा नियमों का पालन करते हुए अपने घरों में यह उत्सव मनाएं। उनका कहना है कि भगवान श्री कृष्ण का अवतार दुनिया में उथल-पुथल और अराजकता के समय हुआ था और उस प्रतिकूलता से उभरकर भगवान कृष्ण, प्रमुख हिन्दु देवताओं में से एक बने और अपने भक्तजनों के लिए अनन्त आशा और ज्ञान का फव्वारा थे। बईनिमरामा का कहना है कि दुनिया में जिस अफरा-तफरी का हम सामना कर रहे हैं ने कई कीमती जानें ली हैं तथा कई लोगों को उलझन में भाल दिया है कि उनका भविष्य कैसा होगा लेकिन फीजी में विभिन्न धर्मों को मानने वाले जानते हैं कि कोविड-19 हमें नष्ट नहीं कर सकता।



सरकार को कोविड-घात से लड़ने के लिए विदेश से दान में मिले उपकरण चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को निउ जीलेन्ड सेनिटाएज़ा मिले

रोनल देव

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डाक्टर इफिरैमी वेंगाईनवेते को एनेजी फीजी लिमिटेड के चीफ एक्ज़ेकटिव ऑफिसर हसमुख पटेल से चार हजार आठ सौ बोतल में हेन्ड सेनिटाएज़ा मिले हैं। इस सहायता का आभार व्यक्त करते हुए मंत्री ने कहा कि ई एफ एल हमेशा से स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के काम में सहयोग देता आया है तथा ये मदद उनकी साझेदारी का हिस्सा है।

ई एफ एल के साथ लम्बे समय से इस साझेदारी और इस सहायता के हम बहुत आभारी हैं। ये सेनिटाएज़ा हमारी टीमों के लिए बहुत ही लाभदायक होंगे क्योंकि उनकी साफ-सफाई के लिए सेनिटाएज़ा बहुत ही अहम हिस्सा है तथा उनके संचालन को भी सुखद बनाएगा।

“हमारे देश की आबादी के चौराबे (94) प्रतिशत लोगों को कोविड-19 से बचने वाली सुई का पहला डोस और चालिस

प्रतिशत से ज़्यादा को दूसरा डोस लग गया है तथा हम उस लक्ष्य तक पहुँचने के बहुत करीब हैं जो प्रधानमंत्री ने हमारे लिए तय किया है। इससे हम अपने लोगों को और अच्छी तरह से सहयोग प्रदान कर सकेंगे।

ये सेनिटाएज़ा निउ जीलेन्ड के एक फीजियन व्यापारी द्वारा दिए गए दान का हिस्सा है जो ई एफ एल, विलियम्स एन्ड गोसलिंग तथा फीजी एर्या वैस की मदद से फीजी लाए गए हैं।

मंत्री मंडल में अदला-बदली की घोषणा

सोनम सामी

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरिंगे बर्डिनमारामा ने राष्ट्रीय बजट के तहत सरकारी सेवाओं की पहुँच में सुधार और जन केंद्रिय नीतियों के अपने सूट को वितरित करने और सरकार की प्रति बढ़ता को मजबूत करने के लिय मंत्री मंडल में अदला-बदली की घोषणा की है। माननीय रोजी अखबर एक बार फिर विम, चिल्लन और पोवटी अलीविणन मं

त्री का पोर्टफोलियो संभाल रही

है जो उन्होंने दो हजार चौदह से दो हजार सोलह के बीच संभाला था। माननीय प्रेमिला कुमार अब एडुकेयन, हेरिट ज और आर्ट्स मंत्री का पोर्टफोलियो संभाल रही है। साथ में वह लोकल गवर्नमेंट की मंत्री भी रहेंगी। डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ टाउन और कन्ट्री प्लेनिंग पहले लोकल गवर्नमेंट के निचे आता था जो अब कोमर्स, ट्रेड, टुरिज़्म और

ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्रालय के निचे आएगा।

माननीय प्रधान मंत्री अपने पोर्टफोलियो के नीचे फोरस्ट्री मंत्रालय को जोड़ रहे हैं। अटेनी जेनरल माननीय अईयाज़ सैयद खैयुम अपनी अन्य पोर्टफोलियो के साथ हाउज़िंग और कोम्यूनिटी डिवेलोपमेंट मंत्रालय भी संभालेंगे। यह अदला-बदली मंगलवार चौबीस अगस्त से असर में आया है।



ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्री फईयाज़ कोया एक सभा के बाद बातें करते हुए चित: प्रदान किया गया

लेन्ड ट्रान्सपोर्ट कोविड-19 रेसपोन्स 2021 रेगुलेशन्स को बढ़ाया गया

सोनम सामी

कोमर्स, ट्रेड, टुरिज़्म और ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्री फईयाज़ कोया आम जनता को बतलाना चाहते हैं कि लेन्ड ट्रान्सपोर्ट कोविड-19 रेसपोन्स अमेन्डमेंट नम्बर (2) रेगुलेशन दो हजार इक्कीस के तहत सरकार ने पेमिट, लायसन्स, सेटिफिकेट और रेजिस्ट्रेशन की एक्सपायरी डेट को बढ़ा दिया है। पहले किसी भी तरह का पेमिट, लायसन्स, सेटिफिकेट और रेजिस्ट्रेशन जो एक्सपायर होता था या उन्नीस अप्रैल दो हजार इक्कीस को रीनिउ होना था को उन्नीस अगस्त दो हजार इक्कीस तक समय दिया गया था लेकिन अब उस समय को आगे बढ़ा कर उन्नीस अक्टूबर तक समय दिया गया है। मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि जिन लोगों का पेमिट, लायसन्स, सेटिफिकेट और रेजिस्ट्रेशन उन्नीस अप्रैल दो हजार इक्कीस से एक्सपायर है को उन्नीस अक्टूबर दो हजार इक्कीस तक समय दिया गया है। यह बढ़ाया हुआ समय पेमिट, लायसन्स, सेटिफिकेट और रेजिस्ट्रेशन पर लागू नहीं है जिसे एल टी आई द्वारा रद्द करने के लिय संसाधित किया जा रहा है। मंत्री कोया ने एल टी आई के ग्रहकों से माँग की है कि वे पेमिट, लायसन्स, सेटिफिकेट और रेजिस्ट्रेशन के लिय उन्नीस अक्टूबर दो हजार इक्कीस तक का इन्तेज़ार न करें और अपने नज़्दिकी एल टी आई के ऑफिस में रीनिवल की व्यवस्था करें ताकि लंबी कतारें और भीड़-भाड़ से बचा जा सके। मंत्रालय सभी स्वास्थ्य और स्वच्छता प्रोटोकॉल के पालन की आवश्यकता पर जोर दे रहा है जिसमें केयरफ़ीजी मोबाइल एप इन्स्टॉल करना और अपना ब्लूटूथ को ओन रखना शामिल है।



फीजी पोर्ट्स कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड की वेबुएयल सभा में विभिन्न जगहों से अधिकारी शामिल हुए . चित: प्रदान किया गया

दो हजार बीस में चुनौतियों के बावजूद फीजी पोर्ट्स ने मुनाफा किया

सोनम सामी

इक्कीस दिसंबर दो हजार बीस के अंत में टेक्स के बाद \$22.67 मिलीयन का मुनाफा करने के बाद फीजी पोर्ट्स कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड ने अपने हिस्सेधारकों को \$13.63 मिलीयन का डिविडेंट दिया। फीजी पोर्ट्स कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड के चेयर तथा कोमर्स, ट्रेड, टुरिज़्म और ट्रान्सपोर्ट मंत्रालय के पर्मानेंट सेक्रेटरी शहिन अली ने कहा कि दो हजार बीस न सिर्फ फीजी के लिय, बल्कि पूरे विश्व के लिय एक चुनौतीपूर्ण साल रहा है जब कि कोविड-19 ने पूरी दुनिया को जकड़ा हुआ है। एक कंपनी के रूप में फीजी पोर्ट्स कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड को अपने दैनिक कार्यों को प्रभावी ढंग से चलाने के लिए कोविड-19 को नियंत्रित

करने में कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ा। अली ने कहा कि वैश्विक आर्थिक मंदी के बावजूद कंपनी का मुनाफा करना उत्साहजनक है। डिविडेंट को इस तरह हिस्सेधारकों को बाँटे गए फीजीयन सरकार (अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्रालय) को \$5.59 मिलीयन फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड को \$5.31 मिलीयन और एटकन स्पेन्स को \$2.72 मिलीयन चेयरमैन ने बताया कि एक सौ पचपन फीजी पोर्ट्स कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड और फीजी शिप्स और हेवी इन्डस्ट्रीस लिमिटेड के कर्मचारियों को दो हजार बीस में उनके प्रदर्शन के लिय \$217,893 बोनस के तौर पर दिए गए। हर एक कर्मचारी ने फीजी पोर्ट्स कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड द्वारा निर्धारित लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है जिसकी वजह से

यह बोनस उन्हें मिला है। यह बोनस दो हजार उन्नीस के मिलान में सात प्रतिशत ज़्यादा है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह भी उत्साहजनक था कि फीजी पोर्ट्स कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड एन्ड फीजी शिप्स और हेवी इन्डस्ट्रीस लिमिटेड के सभी कर्मचारियों ने कोविड-19 सुई का पहला डोज़ लगवा लिया है। फीजी पोर्ट्स कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड की वित्तीय स्थिति इक्कीस दिसंबर दो हजार बीस को समाप्त वर्ष के लिय मजबूत बनी हुई है। बेहतर नकद प्रबंधन और सरल कर्ज़ वसूली नीतियों के कारण कुल संपत्ति में दो प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। विशेष रूप से पोर्ट के बुनियादी ढाँचे को बढ़ाने के लिय पूँजी परियोजनाओं में निवेश जारी रखा गया है। पूँजीगत परियोजनाओं में लगभग \$13.6 3 मिलीयन का निवेश किया गया है।

लोगों से सुई लगाने की माँग

रोनल टैव

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरिंगे बर्डिनमारामा ने फीजीवासियों से माँग की है कि वे उन लोगों को कोविड-19 से बचने के लिए सुई लगाने को प्रोत्साहित करें जिन्होंने अभी तक सुई नहीं लगवाई है। अभी तक फीजी में पाँच लाख पचास हजार से ज़्यादा योग्य बड़े लोगों ने पहला डोज़ और चालिस प्रतिशत से

कुछ ज़्यादा लोगों ने दोनों डोसस लगवा लिए हैं। यह हमारे लक्ष्य को हासिल करने के सही रास्ते पर है कि इसी साल अक्टूबर महीने के अंत तक फीजी में अस्सी प्रतिशत बड़े लोगों को पूरी तरह से सुई लग जाएगी। फीजी में जैसे-जैसे और भी लोग पूरी तरह वेकसीनईट होंगे, यह इस गम्भीर बीमारी और कोविड-19 के खिलाफ सुरक्षा को और मजबूत करेगा, तथा जीवन में उन चीज़ों को वापस दिलाएगा जो अभी गायब है। देश में चालिस प्रतिशत लोगों को सुई

के दोनों डोसस लगने पर केफ्यू शाम छः बजे से बढ़ाकर रात सात बजे से शुरू होकर सुबह चार बजे खत्म हो रहा है जबकि पचास प्रतिशत लोगों को सुई के दोनों डोसस लगने पर केफ्यू रात आठ बजे शुरू होगा। लक्ष्य के साठ प्रतिशत जनआबादी के पूरी तरह सुई लगने के बाद सरकार को यह मौका मिलेगा कि वो केफ्यू को रात नौ बजे शुरू करें तथा वित्त लेवू में रोकथाम वाली सीमाएं खोले। इस लक्ष्य के सत्तर प्रतिशत पहुँचने पर केफ्यू रात दस बजे शुरू होगा और लक्ष्य के अस्सी प्रतिशत लोगों को पूरी

तरह सुई लगने पर केफ्यू रात ग्यारह बजे शुरू होगा। प्रधानमंत्री ने जोर दिया है कि केफ्यू के घण्टें कम करने से लोगों को फी पास नहीं मिलता है कि वे किसी भी स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा नियमों का उल्लंघन करें। अगर ज़्यादा लोग कोविड-सुरक्षा नियमों को तोड़ेंगे तो हमें इन्हें फिर से लागू करने पर विचार करना पड़ेगा। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि अगर आप किसी को जानते हैं जो आपके पड़ोस में है या आपके करीबी रिश्तेदार है जिन्होंने अभी तक सुई नहीं लगवाई है तो आप कृपया उनसे जाकर बातें करें और उन्हें समझाए कि

क्यों सुई लगाना ज़रूरी है। उन्हें बताए कि अगर उन्होंने सुई नहीं लगवाई तो उनको तो इस वायरस से खतरा होगा ही लेकिन आपके परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों को भी जान का खतरा हो सकता है। सुई लगाने से आपको अस्पताल में भर्ती होने और आपकी जान बचाई जा सकती है अगर आप कोविड-19 की चपेट में आए। सुई लगाने के अलावा आपको कोविड सुरक्षा नियमों का पालन करना भी ज़रूरी है, जैसे कि घर से निकलते वक्त मास्क पहनना और हाथ धोते रहना।



कोविड-19 से अपना और अपने परिवार को सुरक्षा प्रदान कीजिए

इसके चिन्ह क्या हैं?



बुखार लगना

खासी

सास लेने में दिक्कत

*वर्तमान जानकारी से पता चलता है कि वायरस से बुखार लगने जैसा महसूस होता है और गम्भीर बीमारी होने जैसा भी। डब्लू हर्ल्ड और का अनुमान है कि इस बीमारी के चिन्ह, वायरस पकड़ने के एक से चौदह दिनों के बीच उभर सकते हैं।

कैसे ज्यादा बीमार होने का खतरा है?



बुजुर्ग लोग



जो लोग पहले से बीमार हैं, जिन्हें हाथ क्लड प्रेशा, दिल की बीमारी या मधुमेह है

क्या मुझे कोविड-19 के बारे में चिन्ता करनी चाहिए?

अगर आप उस इलाके में हैं जहाँ कोविड-19 फैला हुआ है, तो आपको इसे गम्भीरता से लेने की ज़रूरत है। यह अच्छा होगा कि आप इसके बारे में जानकारी हासिल करें ताकि आप इसके खतरों के बारे में जानें और फलस्वरूप सावधानी बरतें। आप अपने डाक्टर, सरकारी अस्पताल, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय और अपने मज़दूर मालिक से कोविड-19 पर जानकारी हासिल कर सकेंगे और यह भी जान सकेंगे कि क्या यह बीमारी आपके इलाके में है या नहीं। यह ज़रूरी है कि आप अपने इलाके में स्थिति के बारे में जानें और अपने आपको इस बीमारी से बचाने के लिए कदम उठाएं।

पोस्टर को तालिका - चार भागों में इंगित करें



कोविड-19 क्या है?

कोविड-19 एक संक्रामक बीमारी है जो हाल ही सामने आया कोरोना वायरस में पाया गया है। ऐसा लगता है कि कोविड-19 नाक मुँह से निकले पानी से ज्यादा फैलता है जैसे जब कोई बीमार व्यक्ति खास्ता या छींकता है या जब कोई बीमार व्यक्ति के सम्पर्क में आता है।



*कृपया डब्लू हर्ल्ड और से नवीनतम जानकारी हासिल करें, स्थिति बदल सकती है जबकि स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी जानकारी का विश्लेषण करते रहते हैं।

डब्लू हर्ल्ड और कोविड-19

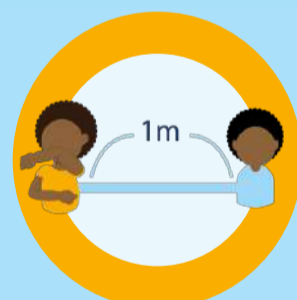
अपने आपको बचाने के लिए मैं क्या कर सकता हूँ?



समय समय से और अच्छी तरह से अपने हाथ साबुन पानी से धोएं या सेनिटाइज़र काम में लाएं जिसमें एल्कोहल हो।



आँख, नाक और मुँह धूने से बचें



जो व्यक्ति छींक या खास रहा है, उससे कम से कम एक मीटर की दूरी रखें



खासते या छींकते वक्त अपने मुँह और नाक टिशू या अपनी कोहनी से ढाँकें



कोविड-19 के बारे में विकास पर नवीनतम जानकारी रखें

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अगर आप किसी ऐसे देश से लौटे हैं जहाँ कोविड-19 बीमारी फैली हुई है, और आपको खासी सदी हो रही है, तो आपको नीचे दिए जा रहे किसी एक नम्बर पर तत्काल कॉल करना चाहिए।

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दूसरों को सुरक्षित रखिए, खासते या छींकते वक्त मुँह नाक कोहनी से ढाँकिए

मुँह नाक से निकले मैल मत फैलाईए



रोकिए, मत फैलाईए

अगर आप बीमार हैं, किटाणु फैलाने से रोकने का सब से अच्छा तरीका है, अपने आपको अलग कर लीजिए।

घर पर आराम कीजिए, ज्यादा पानी पीजिए, स्वस्थ भोजन कीजिए और सार्वजनिक यातायात में मत बैठिए। भीड़-भाड़ से दूर रहें तथा काम पर या स्कूल मत जाएं।



पिछले चौदह दिनों में विदेश में थे और बुखार लग रहा है, खासी आ रही है तथा सास लेने में दिक्कत हो रही है?

जल्द से जल्द हमारी किसी एक स्वास्थ्य टीम से नीचे दिए गए नम्बर पर सम्पर्क कीजिए

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रोकिए, फैलाईए मत

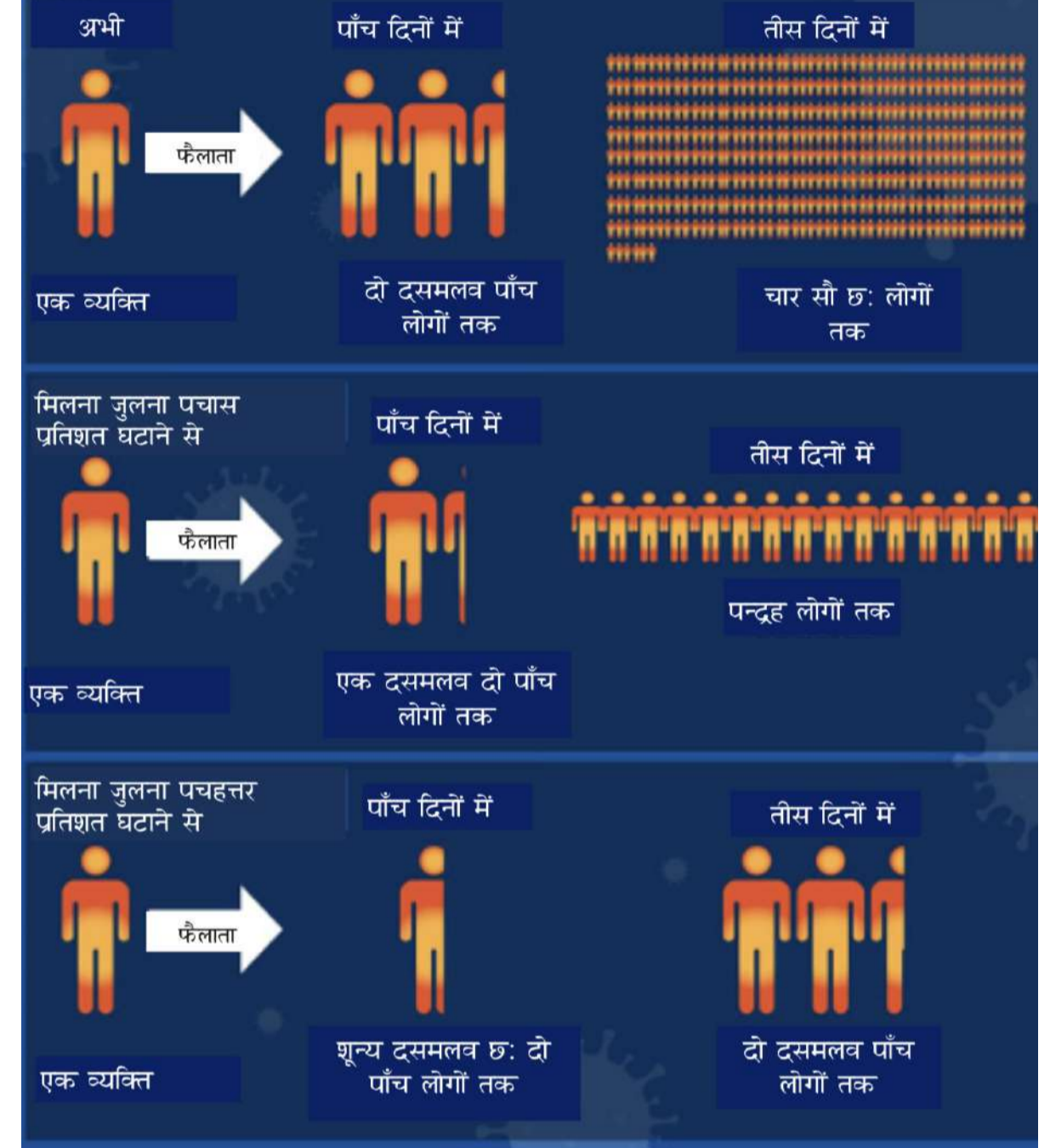


बीमारी आप की सफर करने की योजनाएं चौपट न कर दे, हर वक्त सुरक्षित सफर कीजिए:

- समय समय से साबुन पानी से हाथ धोएं या सेनिटाइज़र काम में लाएं
- जिन लोगों को खासी सदी है, उनसे दूर रहें
- अपनी आँखें, नाक या मुँह मत छूईए
- अगर बीमार महसूस कर रहे हैं, तो डाक्टर के पास जाईए



दूर रहने के पीछे आँकड़े



अपने आपको और अन्य लोगों को सुरक्षा प्रदान कीजिए

“बुला ”

इस कठिन समय में कोविड-19 फैलने से रोकने में मदद कीजिए

हाथ मिलाने, गले लगाने और चुम्बन करने से बचें

दूर से ही हाथ हिलाकर या सर झुकाकर नमस्कार कीजिए

“नमस्कार ”





सभी फीजिवासियों को लाभ पहुंचाने के



महोगनी के ज़मीन मालिक पहले के मिलान में इस व्यवसाय से भारी फायदा उठा रहे हैं तथा उनको भारी आमदनी हो रही है



समाचार माध्यम के लिए बयान अट्ठारह अगस्त
VOREQE BAINIMARAMA

भाग एक संक्षेप रूप में संसद में अगस्त वाली बैठक के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री और फोरेस्ट्री मंत्री द्वारा फोरेस्ट्री क्षेत्र पर दिया गया बयान।

प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के प्रबंधन में सिर्फ जीत ही हासिल करना चाहती है साथ में चाहती है कि सभी को आर्थिक रूप से लाभ हो। यह हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था के लिए एक जीत होगी जिनमें ज़मीन मालिक, लाएसेन्सीस, कोन्ट्रैक्ट्स, मूल्य बढ़ाने वाले तथा वातावरण के लिए जीत होगी।

फोरेस्ट्री मंत्रालय, जिसे 2021-2021 आर्थिक साल में तेरह दशमलौ दो मिलियन (\$13.2 million) का बजट दिया गया है, सर्वोत्तम परिणाम हासिल करने पर गौर कर रहा है, जो हमारे फोरेस्ट्री व्यवसाय को और सहायता प्रदान करेगा ताकि वे हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था में अपनी ज़रूरी भूमिका को निभा सकें, व्यापार बढ़ाने के अवसर पैदा हो, ज़मीन मालिकों को और आमदनी हो, कुशल और पारदर्शी कानूनी और प्रशासनिक ढाँचे के आधार पर नई तथा स्थिर नौकरियाँ पैदा हो।

नए आर्थिक साल में सिर्फ पहले दो हफ्ते में ही, फोरेस्ट्री क्षेत्र ने निर्यात की कमाई के रूप में चौदह मिलियन डोलर कमाया है। इनमें से ज़्यादातर कमाई फीजी पाईन गुप द्वारा पाईन चिप्स निर्यात करके कमाई है। अन्य उत्पादनों में शामिल है, क्षेत्र में विभिन्न कम्पनियों द्वारा महोगनी, रईन ट्री और अन्य देशी प्रजाति की लकड़ियों को काटकर निर्यात करना। मंत्रालय की भूमिका है प्रायवट सेक्टर की गतिविधियों में सुधार लाना - जैसे कि एक्सपोर्ट लाइसेन्स को चौबीस घण्टों के अन्दर स्वीकृति देना - इसके अलावा कम्पनियों के संचालन पर निगरानी रखना कि हमारे प्राकृतिक संसाधनों का उपयोग इस तरह से हो कि वो लम्बे समय तक हमारा साथ दे और इससे वातावरण पर कम से कम असर पड़े।

यह सुधार सरकार के उस विश्वास के आधार पर किया जा रहा है कि प्रायवट सेक्टर, आर्थिक बढ़न्ती की इंजिन है और सरकारी अर्इजेन्सीयों को लगातार सुविधा की प्रक्रिया में सुधार लाते रहना चाहिए जिनमें शामिल है, व्यापार के लिए बाधाओं को हटाना तथा सरकार की व्यवस्थाओं में सुधार लाना। मुझे खुशी है कि यह फोरेस्ट्री मंत्रालय में पहले से ही हो रहे हैं तथा इसका सीधा सुबुत है कि कैसे फोरेस्ट्री क्षेत्र सकारात्मक रूप से प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त कर रहा है।

फीजी पाईन गुप सुविधा की प्रक्रिया में सुधार लाने के अलावा, फोरेस्ट्री मंत्रालय, फोरेस्ट्री क्षेत्र में सभी साझेदारों के साथ काम करने वाले संबंध बढ़ा रहा है। पेड़ों को काटने, लकड़ियाँ निकालने और इसका मूल्य बढ़ाने में

कई छोटे, मध्यम और बड़ी कम्पनियाँ शामिल हैं। मैं फीजी पाईन गुप में हालही हुए विकास पर प्रकाश डालना चाहता हूँ। 2020 वाले आर्थिक साल में गुप ने पैतीस दशमलौ छः मिलियन डोलर (\$35.6 million) का मुनाफा कमाया था जबकि 2019 में यह मुनाफा चौबीस दशमलौ नौ मिलियन डोलर (\$24.9million) था। यह बात सच है कि कोविड-19 की वजह से पिछले साल चुनौतियों से भरी थी, लेकिन गुप ने अपनी रणनितियों में कुछ बदलाव किया तथा 2019 के मिलान में दस दशमलौ सात (10.7) मिलियन डोलर ज़्यादा का मुनाफा कमाया। सबसे ज़रूरी बात यह है कि पाईन गुप कर्ज से आज़ाद हो चुका है। इस साल फरवरी में गुप ने दो दशमलौ दो मिलियन डोलर का आखरी पईमन्ट सरकार को किया जिससे गुप के खाते में अब कोई कर्ज नहीं है। सन् दो हजार आठ में गुप का कर्ज तिरसठ धड़ मिलियन डोलर था। और चौदह साल से कम समय में उन्होंने कोमेशल अनुशासन, भ्रष्टाचार को दूर करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने, पारदर्शिता तथा लोगों और तकनीक में पुँजी लगाने पर ध्यान देने की वजह से कर्ज भरने में कामयाब रहे। इसके अलावा, कोविड-19 की चुनौतियों के बावजूद, गुप लगातार पाईन के ज़मीन मालिकों को डिविडन्ड भरता रहा। सन् दो हजार तेरह (2013) से पहले, ज़मीन मालिकों को डिविडन्ड के रूप में कुछ भी पैसा नहीं मिलता था।

सन् दो हजार तेरह में गुप ने तीन लाख पचास हजार डोलर (\$350,000) के मामूली पईमन्ट से शुरुआत की। तबसे लेकर अभी तक गुप ने डिविडन्ड के रूप में

चौबीस दशमलौ छः मिलियन (\$24.6million) डोलर भर दिया है। इस साल ज़मीन मालिकों को छः मिलियन डोलर और दिया जाएगा जिससे उनको तीस दशमलौ छः मिलियन डोलर (\$30.6 million) भर दिए जाएंगे - आर्थिक मंटी के बावजूद यह छः मिलियन डोलर ज़मीन मालिकों को दिया जाएगा। इस साल के डिविडन्ड्स तीन हिस्सों में भरे जाएंगे। दो मिलियन डोलर का पहला पईमन्ट इस साल एप्रैल में हुआ, दूसरा इस सप्ताह उन्नीस अगस्त को जबकि दो मिलियन डोलर का आखरी पईमन्ट इस साल नवम्बर में किया जाएगा। इसीलिए सन् दो हजार तेरह से इस साल के बीच कुल डिविडन्ड का पईमन्ट तीस दशमलौ छः मिलियन डोलर (\$30.6 million) रहेगा तथा एक-एक पैसा सीधे पाईन के ज़मीन मालिकों के हाथ में गया है। सरकार ने एक भी पैसा नहीं लिया है। डिविडन्ड के अलावा ज़मीन मालिकों को ज़मीन की लीस का पईमन्ट और बारह प्रतिशत स्टम्पज रईट मिलता है। ज़मीन मालिकों को जितना पैसा अभी मिल रहा है वो पहले कभी नहीं दिया गया था जबकि फीजी ने साठ 60 साल पहले पाईन बोना शुरू किया था। इसके साथ ही गुप ने अगले साल वुड चिप्स के लिए बाज़ार को सुरक्षित कर लिया है। इससे गुप कुछ हद तक निश्चित हो गया है कि उन्हें कुशल तरीके से योजना बनाने और संचालन करने की ज़रूरत है। इसका मतलब यह है कि गुप लगातार ज़मीनमालिकों, कर्मचारियों तथा उन कई कोन्ट्रैक्ट्स को सहारा देना जारी रखेगा जो व्यवसाय पर निर्भर हैं। इसका मतलब यह भी है कि व्यवसाय लगातार आर्थिक गतिविधि तथा

निर्यात से आमदनी कमाना जारी रखेगा। पाईन गुप खास रूप से ध्यान दे रहा है कि पाईन फिर से बोए जाए और पेड़ों को सोच समझ कर काटा जाए। गुप का लक्ष्य है हर साल दो हजार हेक्टेयस में पाईन बोना जो कि एक साल में करीब दो मिलियन पेड़ के बराबर है। हालही पाईन गुप ने झासा लौतोका में एक नेसरी की स्थापना की है जहाँ बीज से उत्पन्न किए हुए एक मिलियन पौधे रखे जा सकते हैं। तीन लाख पचास हजार डोलर की पुँजी लगाने से यह सम्भव हुआ है।

पाईन गुप लगातार नए-नए तरीके से अपना व्यापार बढ़ाने पर गौर कर रहा है। इस दृष्टि के चलते, गुप, झासा में एक नया सौ मिल बिठाना चाहता है ताकि अन्य लकड़ियाँ जैसे रईनट्री, महोगनी तथा अन्य देशी प्रजाति की लकड़ियाँ वहाँ काटी-छाँटी जाएगी। इसमें कुल पंदाह मिलियन डोलर की पुँजी लगाई जाएगी तथा गुप उम्मीद कर रहा है कि अगले साल के मध्य से संचालन शुरू हो जाएगा। यह पुँजी लगाने से स्थानीय तौर से उनका काम और आसान हो जाएगा। इससे भी आर्थिक गतिविधियाँ बढ़ने के साथ-साथ निर्यात की आमदनी में भी वृद्धि होगी। व्यापार के नए-नए तरीके पर गौर करने के अलावा फीजी पाईन, स्वतंत्र रूप से फीजी में सबसे ज़्यादा बिजली भी उत्पादित करता है। अपने बायोमेस पावा प्लान्ट के मार्फित गुप ने सन् दो हजार अट्ठारह (2018) तक अभी तक राष्ट्रीय ग्रिड को 93.71 गिगा वट बिजली उत्पादित करके प्रदान किया है। उनके पास राष्ट्रीय ग्रिड को और भी बिजली का योगदान देने की क्षमता है तथा पाईन गुप, एनेजी फीजी लिमिटेड का

लिए समग्र और टिकाऊ जंगल निति



महोनी लकड़ी से बने उत्पादन की भी माँग विदेशों में काफी ज़्यादा हो गई है तथा इससे स्थानीय व्यवसाय को भारी फायदा होने की सम्भावना है

साथ लगातार विकल्पों पर बातचीत करेगा। जहाँ तक सामाजिक ज़िम्मेदारी निभाने की बात है तो पाईन ग्रुप ने वन्यता लेवू में समुद्री आँधी यासा से हुई तबाही के बाद सुधारक कार्य के लिए एक दशमलौ तीन मिलियन डोलर लागत योगदान दिया जिनमें पाईन के ज़मीन मालिकों के घरों के मरम्मत के सामान शामिल है। फोरेस्ट्री मंत्रालय तथा ग्रामीन और बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास मंत्रालय साथ मिलकर नुकसान पहुँचे घरों पर मरम्मत करने या उन्हें फिर से बनाने में मददकर रहे हैं और अभी तक सत्तर से ज़्यादा घर पूरे हो गए हैं। पाईन ग्रुप अपने ज़मीन मालिकों को और अच्छी सेवा प्रदान करना चाहता है। ज़मीन मालिकों के साथ खुले तौर से लगातार वार्ताएँ करने की वजह से व्यवसाय और पाईन के ज़मीन मालिकों के बीच संबंध इस तरह से मजबूत हो गया है जैसा पहले कभी नहीं था। ग्रुप पारदर्शी और खुले तौर से जानकारीयाँ बाँट रही है जबकि पहले ऐसा नहीं होता था। इस नए रिश्ते के तहत, पाईन ग्रुप, ज़मीन मालिकों की संस्थाएँ जैसे कि फीजी पाईन ट्रस्ट, जंगल संबंधी कम्पनियाँ और जंगल संबंधी ट्रस्ट के ढाँचे में बदलाव शुरू कर दिया है ताकि वो और पारदर्शी होने के साथ-साथ उनका हिसाब-किताब भी ठीक हो। ऐसा वे फोरेस्ट्री मंत्रालय की सहायता से कर रहा है।

महोगनी व्यवसाय 2021 फीजी के महोगनी वृक्षारोपण दुनिया के सबसे बड़े बोए गए वनों में से एक माना जाता है। सरकार यह देखना चाहती है कि हम इस प्रतिष्ठा का पूरा लाभ उठाएँ और फीजी की महोगनी की पूरी क्षमता का एहसास करें। महोगनी इंडस्ट्री डिवेलोपमन्ट एक्ट 2025 शुरू किया गया है ताकि यह महोगनी व्यवसाय के लिए पारदर्शी,

कुशल और परिणाममुखी व्यवस्था करें। महोगनी क्षेत्र के पास संचालन का अपना ढाँचा है जो बहुत ही नाजुक है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि यह पारदर्शी होने के साथ-साथ सभी साझेदारों को ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा फायदा हो। इस बहुमूल्य संपत्ति होने के बावजूद, फीजी हाडवूड कौपेरेशन ने 2007 से पहले कुछ भी मुनाफा नहीं कमाया था। उनके पास कुछ ऐसे भंडार थे जिससे कर्ज बढ़ता जा रहा था तथा कुछ भी मूल्य जोड़ा नहीं जा रहा था। लाईसन्स वाली कोई व्यवस्था नहीं थी। महोगनी क्षेत्र के एक्ट को बदलने की ज़रूरत हुई, जबकि फीजी हाडवूड कौपेरेशन में कुशलता हासिल की गई, कर्ज वाले भंडार को घटाया गया और महोगनी इंडस्ट्री काउन्सिल की स्थापना की गई जिसका मैं चेयर यानि सभापति हूँ। सरकार की नज़र में प्राकृतिक संसाधन जैसे महोगनी का संचालन केवल जीत हासिल करने के लिए है। यह जीत हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था के लिए है जिनमें ज़मीन मालिक, लाईसन्स कोन्ट्रैक्ट्स, वेल्यू एड्स तथा वातावरण के लिए भी एक जीत है। पाईन व्यवसाय में पहले ही ये देखा जा रहा है। महोगनी एक्ट, फीजी की महोगनी के ब्रेन्ड को अंतराष्ट्रीय बाज़ार में बढ़ावा देता है, और यही पर महोगनी जंगल को प्रमाणित करने का प्रयास करने की मुख्य भूमिका निभाएगा। जंगल को वर्तमान में प्रमाणित किया जा रहा है। जंगल को प्रमाणित करने के काम में विलम्ब हुआ है क्योंकि अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रतिबन्ध लगे हैं और प्रमाणित करने वाले विदेश से आ नहीं सकते हैं। लेकिन हम न केवल सीमाएँ खुलने का इंतज़ार कर रहे हैं, फीजी हाडवूड कौपेरेशन, फीजी पाईन ग्रुप के साथ वार्ताएँ कर रहा है जबकि वे पहले ही जंग

ल को प्रमाणित करने वाले अनुभव को उनके साथ बाँट रहे हैं। प्रमाणित होने की वजह से फीजी पाईन को जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, निउज़ीलैण्ड, चीन तथा अन्य बाज़ार तक पहुँचने में सक्षम बनाया है। और हम जबकि महोगनी के जंगल को प्रमाणित करने की ओर काम कर रहे हैं, तो ऐसे में हम व्यवसाय को बढ़ने में भी सहायता दे रहे हैं। पिछले साल महोगनी लोग का उत्पादन इक्कीस हज़ार क्यूबिक मीटर से ज़्यादा था। फीजी हाडवूड कौपेरेशन अपनी भागीदारों के साथ मिलकर काम कर रही है ताकि इस साल महोगनी की कटाई और इसके निर्यात को दुगुनी की जाए। बाकी अन्य क्षेत्रों पर जबकि कोविड-19 महामारी का बुरा असर पड़ा है तो ऐसे में इन्वेस्टमन्ट फीजी ने रिपोर्ट दी है कि फीजी की महोगनी से बने उत्पादन, फीजी से सबसे ज़्यादा निर्यात होने वाले उत्पादनों में है और हालही के महिने में यह लगातार अमेरिका जैसे बाज़ारों को ढूँढना जारी किए हुए है। महोगनी की मुख्य माल है कटी हुई लकड़ी। लकड़ी से और भी चीज़ें बनाई जा रही हैं। इनमें शामिल हैं, बाहर और अन्दर की फ्लोरिंग और डेकिंग, फेनिचर, पेनल के उत्पादन और गिटार बनाने की लकड़ी। महोगनी से और भी सामान बनने की क्षमता है जिनमें शामिल है, अन्दर और बाहर के फेनिचर की लकड़ी, दरवाज़ा, कर्डबल ड्रम और कलकृति जिसमें आर्थिक रूप से और फायदे हैं तथा लोगों के लिए रोज़गार भी होगा। सरकार लगातार फीजी में वेल्यू एडिंग अवसरों को बढ़ावा दे रही है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि हमारी महोगनी से और भी ज़्यादा लाभ होने के साथ-साथ और भी फीजिवसियों के लिए नौकरी पैदा हो। सरकार द्वारा टेक्स और ड्यूटी में छूट इस इरादे से दी गई है ताकि व्यवसाय उत्पादन बनाने के लिए और



कोविड-19 महामारी के बावजूद महोगनी का व्यवसाय फलफूल रहा है चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



महोगनी से ज़मीन मालिकों को अभी जो फायदा हो रहा है वो पहले कभी नहीं हुआ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

मशीनें खरीद सकें जिससे निर्यात को प्रोत्साहित किया जाए। फीजी हाडवूड कौपेरेशन, अपने साझेदारों के साथ मिलकर काम केवल इसलिए नहीं कर रहा है ताकि महोगनी से और उत्पादन तैयार किया जाए बल्कि

क ज़रूरी तौर से सालाना रूप से एक हज़ार दो सौ पचास हेक्टेस में महोगनी के पेड़ फिर से बोना ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि कटाई का संचालन फीजी के कटाई स्तर पर हो।

आग लगने वाली घटना
ओंपर चिन्ता जताई गई

2

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को निउ
ज़िलेन्ड सेनिटाएज़ा मिले

2

मन्त्री मंडल में अदला-
बदली की घोषणा

3

सभी फीजीवासियों को लाभ पहुँचाने
के लिए समग्र और टिकाऊ जंगल निति

6-7

फीजी दर्पण

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अटेनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद-खईयूम छोटे विकासशील देशों के समाधान वाली सभा के दौरान अपनी प्रतिक्रिया दर्शाते हुए चित्र: अज़ारिया फरीन

95 प्रतिशत लोग डिजिटल रूप से जुड़े हैं

रोनल देव

अटेनी जेनरल तथा अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री, अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम का कहना है कि सरकार लोगों को डिजिटल गिड से जोड़ने की अपनी प्रतिबद्धता पर अड़ी हुई है ताकि इस बात का ध्यान रखा जा सके कि आम फीजीवासी डिजिटल नयापन के साथ-साथ चले और रणनितियों से उन्हें फायदा हो।

इस सप्ताह वेचुएल तौर से छोटे विकासशील देशों के समाधान वाली सभा (SIDS) के दूसरे दिन में हिस्सा लेते हुए सईयद-खईयूम ने ऐसा

कहा।

पेनल सेशन के दौरान अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा कि कुछ नई पहल की शुरुआत की गई है जिनमें सरकारी सेवाओं को डिजिटल तौर से प्रदान करना शामिल है जहाँ बाज़ार तक पहुँच और व्यापार करना आसान बनाने के लिए डिजिटल वलट की शुरुआत की गई है।

“पचान्वे (95%) प्रतिशत फीजीवासी अभी तक डिजिटल तौर से जुड़ गए हैं जबकि बाकी पाँच प्रतिशत आबादी को सेटलाईट संपर्क के माध्यम से जोड़ने का लक्ष्य बनाया गया है,” सईयद-खईयूम ने कहा।

डिजिटल नयापन और संपर्क से संबंधित कुछ चुनौतियाँ हैं, जैसे कि जलवायु परिवर्तन, प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से खतरा, भीतरी इलाके होने की वजह से खर्च में वृद्धि तथा लॉजिस्टिक खर्च शामिल है लेकिन स्थानीय तौर पर सिद्ध नवाचार जिन्हें बढ़ाने की जरूरत है। उन्होंने कहा कि विशेष रूप से कोविड के बाद वाली दुनिया में सस्ती और सुलभ वित्तपोषण की जरूरत है।

छोटे और विकासशील देशों से यह उम्मीद नहीं है कि विकास के लिए अन्य देशों के हाथ होड़वाजी करें क्योंकि विकास साझेदारों से

आर्थिक सहायता लेने में कई विषय सामने आते हैं। अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा कि सिड्स (SIDS) लगातार अन्य देशों की अर्थ-व्यवस्थाओं के स्तर तक पहुँचने की कोशिशें नहीं कर सकते जहाँ तक मजबूत अर्थ-व्यवस्थाओं का निर्माण और बुनियादी ढाँचे और सेवा के वितरण को बढ़ाने का सवाल है। यह अधिक डिजिटल नयापन और परिवर्तनों को शुरू करने के अवसरों को भी बढ़ाएगा। दो दिनों की सभा जिसकी

सह-मेहजबानी फीजीयन सरकार ने भी की थी इस सप्ताह पूर्व खत्म हुई।

Noda Viti

TU VAKARAU NA KABANI NI VEIQARAVI VEI IRA NA SARAVANUA

NA liulu vakacacaka ni Pacific Destinations edua na kabani edau oka ga veiqaravi saravakalevu ena tabana ni saravanua era sa boletaka nira sa tuvakarau mera veiqaravi tale ena gauna esa na dolavi kina na iyalayala ni vanua ka yaco na veivuka yani ni waqavuka. Taba toka oqori o James Sowane ena nodra sa boletaka na 100% nodra sa cula oti na ivakalesilesi ni kabani ka ra sa vakanamata kina na gauna marautaki ni dolavi tale na veilakoyaki, veivukayaki kei na saravanua.

Me vaka ni 100,000 na lewenivanua ena noda vanua era vakararavi taka nodra rawaka vakailavo ena saravanua.



Nanamaki Levu

TEKIVU CIQOMA KO VITI NA WAQAVUKA VEIVUKAYAKI ENA VULA O NOVEBA

VILIAME TIKOTANI

Ena tekivu ciqoma ko Viti na waqavuka veivuka yaki ena veivanua ena vula rua mai oqo. Oqori na vosa nodra na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ka tukuna ni rawa ni totolo ka sega ni bera sara me Tiseba. Vakaraitaka tiko na tikina oqo na liulu ni matanitu ena nodra vosa tiko ena raitio ena porokaramu na Nai Lalakai ni

oqo na taimi vou ka sa namaki ena Matanitu o Viti.

Vakaraitaka kina ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni oqo sa na rawa ni dolavi kina na border se iyalayala ni vanua me rawa kina veilakoyaki. Oqo e tiki tikoga ni veiqaravi ni matanitu ka sa laurai tiko kina na veika sa yaco tiko ena noda vanua ka vakakina ena vuravura ka sa namaka kina na matanitu ni na rawa ni vakayacori ke vaka eda muria

kece tikoga na veiqaravi vinaka na vakayacori tiko oqo.

Vakaraitaka ko Paraiminisita Bainimarama ni na kabani levu ni waqavuka mai Ositerelia na Qantas esa kacivaka ni sa vakarau tekivuna na nodra veivuka yaki ena Tiseba ka sa wiliki Viti tiko ena nodra tuvatuva ka sa solia talega vei Viti na veivakayaloqataki ni rawa ni dolava na nona iyalayala vakavanua se border ena imatai ni Noveba ni

yabaki oqo. Oqo na imatai ni gauna me dua kina na veisau ni kena teki-vutaki talega na veivuka yani main a gauna e sogokina na veilakoyaki ena vula ko Maji 2020.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Saravanua, Faiyaz Koya ni sa toso na tikini siga oqo ka sa vakaraitaki vinaka baleta na veicula sa vakayacori tiko ena noda vanua.

Na kena dolavi talega na yalayala ni vanua se border ena vukei

ira vakalevu na lewenivanua era veiqaravi ena tabana ni saravanua ka tiko na kedra iwiliwili ena 100,000 vakacaca, oqori ena saravanua kei na tabana ni waqavuka. Tokona na Liulu Vakacacaka ni Saravanua ena noda vanua Brent Hill na itukutuku vinaka oqo me vaka nira veitokoni mai vei Viti na kabani lelevu ni waqavuka e vuravura baleta na veicula sa vakayacori tiko ena noda vanua.



Navuci me vakavinakataki na qaravi ni veikau

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

E wasei ki na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau e \$13.2 na milio- ni e na ituvatuva vakailavo ni matanitu 2021-2022 ka sa tiko kina na navunavu ni Tabacaka- caka me na vakavinataka na kena veiqaravi.

Vakaraitaka na iliuliu ni Ma- tanitu ka Minisita ni Veikau o Voreqe Bainimarama ni dua na ka e sa navuci tiko sai koya na kena vakalevu taki na nodra rawa ka na itaukei ni qele, vakavure cakaca- ka, kei na kena raici me savasava ka qaravi vakavinaka na veika me baleta na kau e na noda vanua.

“E na matai ni rua na macawa ni yabaki vakailavo 2021-2022 e rawata mai kina noda vanua na wasewase ni Veikau e \$14 na mil-

ioni ka vu mai oqori e na veika e vakau ki vanua tani.”

“Sa tiko kina na ituvatuva ni Ta- bacakacaka me na vaqacacotaka na isema ki na vei tabana e so me vaka na kena qaravi sara vakato- tolo na laiseni ni vakau i voli ki vanuatani se export license kei na kena raici me kua ni vakasausa- taki na kena musuki na kau ka me qarauni tale ga na veika e tu wa- voliti keda.”

“Ne vei tuvatuva qo e sala vata kei na veiqaravi ni matanitu kei na veivakabauti ki na isema vakavei- wekani vakabisinisi e taudaku ni matanitu ka me na raici me na kua ni tatao na nodra toso vakabibi na kena gadrevi tiko me vakavinaka- taki na rawaka mai na wasewase oqo.”



Vakaraitaka na iliuliu ni Matanitu ka Minisita ni Veikau o Voreqe Bainimarama ni dua na ka e sa navuci tiko sai koya na kena vakalevu taki na nodra rawa ka na itaukei ni qele, vakavure cakacaka, kei na kena raici me savasava ka qaravi vakavinaka na veika me baleta na kau e na noda vanua.

Vakacaucauataki na veiqaravi e na vei koro

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

E vakacaucautaka na itavi levu e ra qarava tiko na vei Turaga ni Koro, Mata ni Tikina kei na Nasi ni Koro na noda Paraiminisita o Voreqe Bainimara- ma e na nodra dauveisemati tiko mai vaitu- kutuku ki na Tabacakacaka iTaukei.

Vakaraitaka o Bainimarama ni dua na itavi levu e qaravi tiko sai koya na kena soveya taki na iyala ni koro vaka Viti ka vakaitavi tiko kina na Tabacakacaka iTaukei. Semati e na cakacaka qori na kena vakaivolataki kei na kena biu e na mape livaliva na veika kece

sara e qaravi rawa mai.

“Na noqu matanitu e sa toso ki na nodra segati me ra bula vaka bisinisi na itaukei ni qele ka me laurai me ra na taura na vei tu- vatuva me na vinaka ki vei ira.”

“E dodonu me ra toso vata kei na gauna ka me sa kua na bula tu ga vakavanua.”

“Na neitou tuvatuva me baleta na kawa itaukei o ya me ra na qaravi kece na lewe ni vanua vaka bibi ko ira na taba qase ka sa koto kina na vei porokaramu e so ni matan- itu me vaka na ilavo ni malumalumu, vodo- vodo ni basi vei ira na gonevuli kei na ilavo ni veivakatorocaketaki vei ira na itaukei ni

qele.”

“E dua na tiki ni veiqaravi qori na kena vakalevu taki na nodra i votavota vakailavo na Turaga ni Koro ka sa tiko e na \$100 dua na vula e na gauna qo,” e kaya ko Bainima- rama.

“Sa ra vakaitavi tale ga vakelvu na vei Nasi ni Koro e na kena dau raici na tiko bulabula kei na nodra qaravi na lewe ni vei koro.”

E na nodrau cakacaka vata na Tabacaka- caka ni Bula kei na Tabacakacaka iTaukei e sa toso cake kina na nodra ivotavota ilavo mai na \$50 ki na \$200 dua na vula ka me na vukei ira e na nodra veiqaravi.

Vaqacacotaki na qaravi ni mahogany

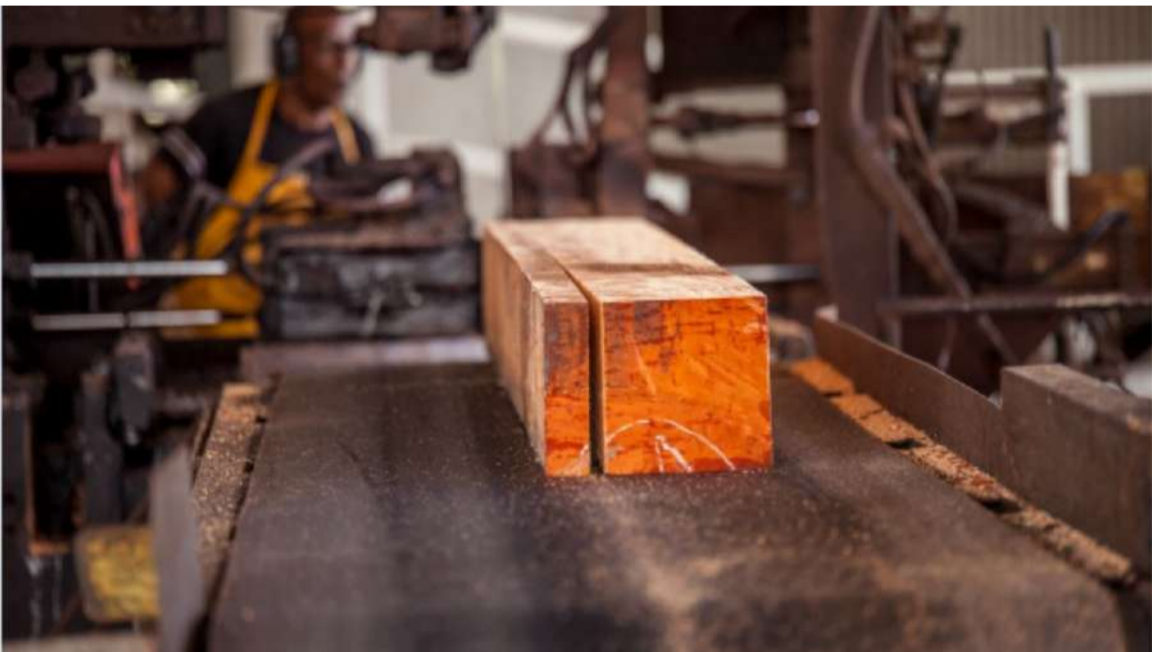
JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

E sa tiko na ituvatuva ni Ma- tanitu me na vaqacacotaka na irogorogo kei na kei na rawaka ni kau na mahogany me vaka ni tiko e na noda vanua e dua na veikau ni mahogany levu duadua e vuravura.

Vakaduri kina na Mahogany In- dustry Development Act 2010 me na kauta mai na veisau ni veiqar- avi me kena iusutu na dina, do- donu kei na savasava ka me vaka- votukana e na rawaka mai na kau qo na mahogany.

Vakaraitaka na iliuliu ni Matani- tu o Voreqe Bainimarama ni vuqa sara na qito duka e vakayacori tu i liu ka mai sega tu kina ni vakilai na kena vinaka na veika e rawa mai e na kau na mahogany.

“E dina ni ka levu na mahogany e bula e na noda vanua ia e sega vakadua ni laurai e dua na tubu



E sa tiko na ituvatuva ni Matanitu me na vaqacacotaka na irogorogo kei na kei na rawaka ni kau na mahogany me vaka ni tiko e na noda vanua e dua na veikau ni mahogany levu duadua e vuravura.

vei ratou na Fiji Hardwood Cor- poration (FHCL) ni bera na ya- baki 2007. E levu ga na dinau ka sa ra bau lai rawa ilavo e so na itaukei ni qele e na kena voli- taki tu vailoa na kau qo ka mai vakaleqa tu kina na nodra rawaka e vuqa sara na itaukei ni qele e tei tu kina na mahogany,” e kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“Na Mahogany Industry Devel-

opment Act 2010 e kauta mai na veisau ka mai vakavotukana e na kena sa vakalailaitaki na dinau ni FHCL kei na kena tauyevu na Mahogany Industry Council ka sa kena Jeameni tiko o au. Na i naki- naki ni matanitu me da na rawaka sara vaka levu e na veika e tu wa- voliti keda ka dua vei ira sai koya na kau qo na mahogany.”

E tomana na Paraiminisita ka

kaya ni Mahogany Act e maketa taka na noda mahogany ka kilai tu e vuravura me ‘Fiji Mahoga- ny’ ka sa dua tiko na tiki levu ni cakacaka qo na kena vakaivola taki ki na tagede ni vuravura na noda mahogany.

“E sa vakayacori sara tiko ga e na gauna qo na cakacaka qori,” e kaya na Paraiminisita.

Tadola na makete vou ni civicivi paini

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

E sa tadola mai e dua na ma- kete vou ni kau na paini ki na noda vanua ka sa nam- aki ni sa na tekivu vakau kina na civicivi ni paini e na yabaki vou (2022).

E vakaraitaka na Liuliu ni Ma- tanitu o Voreqe Bainimarama ni makete vou qo e e vakadeitaka kina kabani e dua na itosoto vou ka sa vakayacori na navunavuci e na kena sotavi na gagadre ni ma- kete.

“Kena ibalebale qo ni na toso tiko ga na nodra cakacaka vata na Matabose ni Paini kei ira na itaukei ni qele, na mata cakacaka, na kabani e ra konitaraki ka ra dau vakanuini tu e na kau na paini.” “E dua na vanua e vakanamata tiko kina na kabani ni paini sai koya na kena teivaki na teitei vou ni paini ka sa navuci tiko me na tei e 2000 na ekatea e na vei yabaki, ka rauta ni 2 na milioni na vunika- u e na dua na yabaki.

E sa duri tale ga e dua na vanua ni bucibucini e Drasa, Lautoka ka rawa ni bucini kina e 1 na milioni na i tei ni paini. E tiko na kena i sau vakailavo e na \$350,000.00.” Tomana o PM Bainimarama ka kaya ni toso tiko ga na kena se- gati na vei sala vovou ni vakavure bisinisi e na Matabose ni Paini ka dua sai koya na kena vakaduri e dua na ivaro ni kau vou me qarava na vei kau tale e so me vaka na mahogany, na kau taukei e noda vanua, na vaivai kei na vei kau tale e so.

“E tiko na kena isau vakailavo e na \$15 na milioni ka sa namaki me na tekivu veiqaravi e na karau ni wasewase ni yabaki vakailavo mai qo.”



E dua na vanua e vakanamata tiko kina na kabani ni paini sai koya na kena teivaki na teitei vou ni paini ka sa navuci tiko me na tei e 2000 na ekatea e na vei yabaki, ka rauta ni 2 na milioni na vunika- u e na dua na yabaki.

E sa duri tale ga e dua na vanua ni bucibucini e Drasa, Lautoka ka rawa ni bucini kina e 1 na milioni na i tei ni paini. E tiko na kena i sau vakailavo e na \$350,000.00.

Voreqe Bainimarama
Paraiminisita ka Minisita ni Veikau



Veivakadeitaki ko PM vei ira nai itaukei ni qele

VILIAME TIKOTANI

E vakadeitaki ira na itaukei qele na iliuli ni Matanitu o Voreqe Bainimarama ni se dei tiko ga na nodra na rawa ka tiko mai e na nodra qele.

E vosa tiko o Paraiminisita Bainimarama e Palimedi ka kaya ni na sega ni tu wale tu me ra-ica na nodra vakalolomataki na itaukei ni qele. “E dodonu me na wase tiko vaka tautauvata na

veika e rawati mai e na qele ka sa dodonu me vakasaqarai na sala e so me na rawa ni na yaga tale ga vei ira na kawa kei Viti ni mataka,” e kaya na Paraiminisita.

“E tuvanaka na noqu matanitu na vei lalawa e so me na vaqacacotaka na kena vakayagataki vakamatau na nodra qele na kawa itaukei.

E kena i balebale ya ni na vakayacori na vei-sau me na sala vata kei na toso ni vuravura da bula tiko kina qo ka sa dua na kena i vakaraitaki

na kena vakavinakataki na veiavaravi me na so-tava na gagadre sa tiko.”

E dodonu tale ga me na laurai na vei vanua e so e ra tiko kina na vei koro e so ka ni na duidui tale ga na nodra gagadre se na iwalewale ni vei-waravi veiavaravi e na vakayacori.”

E tomana na Paraiminisita ka kaya ni sa ra vuli na kawa itaukei ka tadola na nodra rai sa ka sai tavi ni matanitu me vaqacacotaki na nodra sasaga.

Sasaga e na kena taqomaki o ira na gonevuli

VILIAME TIKOTANI

E SA veivakadeitaki na Minisita ni Vuli Premila Kumar vei ira na gonevuli ni sasaga ni tabana ni vuli mera na taqomaki na gonevuli ena gauna balavu era tiko kina e vale ni sogo tiko na koroni-vuli.

Levu tiko na italoa las-utaki baleta na nodra veit-aurogi ni gonevuli Yabaki ni Vuli ena Fomu Vitu se kalasi 13 ka sa vakavuna tiko na nuiqawaqawa vei ira na gonevuli kei na tubutubu,

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Kumar ni oqo e talanoa sega ni dina. “Sa sasaga tiko na tabana ni vuli me laurai na gaunisala vinaka me ganita me baleta na nodra vuli na Year 13 (Form 7).”

Esa vakasalataki ira na gonevuli yabaki 18 mera sa laki taura na nodra cula ni tataqomaki ena COVID-19 ka sa raica tiko na tabana ni vuli na nodra cula talega na yabaki 12-17. Oya ena Pfizer ka me sa vakarau ka-civaki talega.

Era sa vakasalataki tikoga na gonevuli mera gumatua tikoga ena nodra qarava na nodra leseni vakarautaki mai vei ira na qasenivuli me vaka ni sogo tiko na koroni-vuli.

“Oira na lalai kei na gonevuli era dau totolo nira tauvimate ka sa qarauna na tabana ni vuli mera vuli tikoga e vale me baleta na nodra taqomaki maina na COVID-19. Era na taqomaki nira vuli tikoga e vale ena gauna oqo. E levu na matanitu ena veiyasai vuravura era sa vakatara mera cula na gonevuli ena tekivu ena yabaki 12. Levu na matanitu era sa tovolea mera dolava na nodra koronivuli ka lakovata ni sa levu talega na kisi ni tauvimate. O Viti ena sega ni muria na gaunisala oqo.”

Esa uqeti tiko oira na itubutubu mera tokona nodra vuli na luvedra me baleta na tikina levu oqo ni sega ni vinakati mera tauvimate kevaka era gole ikoronivuli ka mera tiko ga e vale.”

“E ka bibi talega nodra lewai ira vinaka na nodra gauna ni vuli oira na gonevuli kau sa uqeti ira kina na itubutubu mera vukei ira na luvedra veitalia kevaka era sega ni kila vinaka na leseni ia mera tokoni ira na luvedra,” kaya ko Minisita Kumar.



Era vakasavasavata tiko oqori na ivakalesilesi ni bula na lori lelevu kei na iyaya era vakavodoki koto ena waqalelevu e ra lesu mai ena veiyanyanu

Vakatabui na veilakoyaki ena veiyanyanu

VILIAME TIKOTANI

E se vakatabui tikoga na veilakoyani ena veiyanyanu ena noda vanua ka vumai ena kena sasagataki tiko me taqomaki na bula ni lewenivanua yadua ka me kua ni vakadewai kina na mate na COVID-19. Sa vosa tiko kina vakabibi na tabana ni bula ena kena sa tarovi tiko na vodo ena waqa ka dau soko ena veiyanyanu.

Vakaraitaka na tabana oqori na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabana ni Bula ko Dr James Fong.

E vakarerevaki saraga kevaka edua e veilakoyaki ena veiyanyanu ka

qai laurai ni laki vakadewa na matetaka na COVID-19 ena veivanua e lakova, ka na rawa ni vakadredretaka saraga na veiavaravi ni tabana ni bula ena noda vanua.

Vakaraitaka ko Vuniwai Dr Fong ni sa kacivaki kina na veitokoni ni tabana ni veiavaravi ena veikoro kei na itikitiko mera taura vakabibi na itukutuku oqo me vaka ni vakarerevaki saraga na veilakoyaki vakailoa.

Kevaka edua e kila ni vakayacori tiko na veilakoyaki vakailoa mera qirita na valenivolavola ena 917 se ena 9905296 ena command center. Sa kerei kina na veitokoni ni lewenivanua.

Veivuke o Niusiladi e Kadavu



E vakavodoki koto oqori e so na iyaya ni bula me vakayagataki e na veiavaravi e Kadavu. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

E RA sa vakauta na matanitu ko Niusiladi eso na iyaya ni bula me baleta na veiavaravi ni tabana ni bula ena yanuyanu ko Kadavu.

Vakautakina na matanitu ko Niusiladi ena vakavuka se helicopter mera usa kina na tauvimate ka vakakina na iyaya ni tabana ni bula ka wilikina na wainimate me baleta na FEMAT kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni tabana ni bula era veiavaravi tiko ena yanuyanu. Era mani vakauta mai kina e rua na lewenivanua era tauvi COVID-19 me ra mai laurai ena valenibula e Suva.

Sa vakavinavinaka kina na tabana ni bula ena matanitu o Viti ena veivuke oqo.



Era maqusa na i vakalesilesi ni matanitu o Niusiladi ena kena vakavodoki na iyaya ni veiavaravi ena COVID-19 e Kadavu. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Duavata na Pasivika me ra vukei na dauteitei

VILIAME TIKOTANI

E RA vakaitavi na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni ilavo ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena dua na bosa nodra na matanitu lalai ena monalivaliva oya na SIDS Solutions Forum 2021.

Era lewena talega na bosa oqori oira na liuli ni veimatani lalai kei ira na soqosoqo dauveivuke ena veiyasai pasivika wilikina na vuravura.

Era veitalanoatala na bosa oqori oya na gaunisala erawa ni

vukei ni na dauteitei mera sema yani ena monalivaliva ka merawa ni vukei kina na qaravi ni teivaki ni kakana me vukea na lewenivanua ena pasivika ka vakauasivi ni veitauvi tiko na COVID-19.

Vakaraitaka ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum ni bosa oqori e boleira na veimatani lalai baleta na gauna era bula donumaka ka merawa ni ra veitalanoataka na gaunisala e ganita ka salavata na veikila eso era taukena mera raica kina na gaunisala vinaka mera taura.

Kuria okoya ni mate ni COV-

ID-19 era vakalevutaka saraga na kena vakayagataki na monalivaliva me sala ni veitalanoa, veiavaravi, cakacaka.

Esa tubu ena 300 na pasede na vakayagataki ni data ena gauna e tekivu kina na mate oqo ka 95% na lewenivanua e Viti era sa vakayagataka tiko na monalivaliva.

Kuria ko Minisita Sayed-Khaiyum ni dina walega ni sotavi tiko na dredre vei ira eso na matanitu lalai ena SIDS sa dodonu mera vukei merawa nira vakayagataka mera bulia cake kina nodra bula

vakailavo ka taqomaki ira talega ena veitabana ni veiavaravi vakailavo ka wilikina na teitei.

Oqo ena E-Agriculture ka rawa ni vukei kina na dauteitei mera laveta cake nodra itagede ni veiavaravi kei na rawaka vakailavo.

O Viti ekuria na Vunilawa esa bulia tiko edua na tuvatuva ni veiavaravi ena teitei se agriculture me waki vaka kei na monalivaliva me vukea na kena qaravi na teivaki ni kakana ka merawa ni sotavi kina na sasaga ni 2030 Sustainable Development ena teitei se agriculture.



Qaravi ko Kadavu ena COVID-19

ERA sa lesi kina yanuyanu ko Kadavu e 56 na ivakalesilesi ni veiqaravi vakamatani mai na veitabana ni bula, mataivalu, nasi kei na vuniwai.

E liutaka na lakolako oqori na Vuniwai ko Josese Turagava ena sasaga ni kena taqomaki na lewenivanua mai Kadavu mai na mate dewa na COVID-19 ka

namaki mera veiqaravi ena loma ni dua vakacaca na vula.
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Vakavakarau ki na leqa tubu koso

SA tekivu me vakavakarautaki na iyaya ni veiqaravi me baleta na leqa tubukoso ena yabaki ni Cagilaba 2021-2022.

Na tabana ni Leqa Tubu koso esa tekivu me yamanaki ena nodra vakarautaki na iyaya ni veiqaravu ka vakakina ena kena tuvakataki vakamatau ni bera na vula o Noveba. Eratou sa tekivu vakatovele talega na nodratou waqa ni veiusa ena waitui ka vukei ratou kina na Mataivalu ni noda vanua. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Ciqomi e 100 na davodavo lobi

Era ciqoma na tabana ni leqa tubu koso e 100 na idavodavo lobi me baleta na veiqaravi ni COVID-19. Solia wale na idavodavo oqo na ADRA Fiji edua na isoqosoqo vakalotu era dau veivukei ena veiqaravi ni bula raraba ka vakauasivi ena veigauna ni leqa tubu koso ena nodra qarauni na bula ni tamata yadua. Ena vakayagataki na idavodavo lobi oqori ena nodra vanua ni tiko vakagalalataki na lewenivanua baleta na COVID-19
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI



Ciqomi e \$5000 na kakana me baleta na COVID-19

E ciqoma na Minisita ni Leqa Tubu Koso Inia Seruiratu e dua na veivuke ni kakana soli walega mai na soqosoqo ni Pacific Center for Peacebuilding mai Nausori. E tiko na kena isau vakailavo ena \$5,000 ka sa vakavinavinataki saraga na loloma kei na veitokoni. Vakabibi ena gauna dredre eda curuma tiko baleta na COVID-19 iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Tomani na veivakararamaraki ena COVID-19

E tomani tikoga na veiqaravi ni veivakararamaraki baleta na COVID-19 ena noda veiyasai Viti ka sa vukei tikoga kina na veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula ena nodra cula na lewenivanua. Na tabana ni leqa tubu koso esa vukea saratikoga na veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula ena nodra salavata voli ena cakacaka ni veivakararamaraki ka

vakakina ena veicula vei ira na lewenivanua ena noda era se vakatitiqa voliga baleta na mate taka na COVID-19. Sa vakavinatiki kina na veiqaravi kei jna veitokoni ni lewenivanua ena sasaga oqo.
iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI





Vakayagataki matau ni veikau me



ITUKUTUKU KABURAKI -
PARAIMINISITA
VOREQE BAINIMARAMA



Na loga ni mahogany e Viti e dua vei ira na veiloga kau levu e vuravura. Na matanitu ena via raica me vakabetena na irogorogo qo ka meda liaca na veika e rawa ni kauta mai na mahogany e Viti. **ITaba: VAKARAUTAKI**

NA tatadra ni Matanitu e yavutaka na vakayagataki ni iyaubula me kua ni vakabi ga ena dua na yasana na kena vinaka. O koya me yaga ena bula vakailavo baleti ira na itaukei ni qele, na veikabani vakalaiseni, kabani e konitarakitaki, na vakatuburi ni isau me volitaki kina na ivoli kei na veikabula.

Na malanivosana na turaga Paraiminisita ka Minisita ni Veikau ena dabe ni Palimedi ena vula o Okosita.

Na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau, e nona iokaoka e \$13,200,000 ena ituvatuva vakailavo ni 2021-2022. Na ilavo qo e vakatabakidua ena kena rawati na itagede uasivi taudua me vukea na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau me qarava na itavi bibi ena bula vakailavo ni noda matanitu. Ena rawa tale ga ni vakavu bisinisi, vakatubura na nodra ilavo na itaukei ni qele, vakavurea eso na cakacaka ka yavutaki vakalawa kei na ituvatuva e mana ka savasava.

Ena imatai ga ni rua na macawa ena itekivu ni yabaki vakailavo vou qo, na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau sa rawata e \$14,000,000 mai na vakau ivoli i vanuatani. E dua na kena iwase levu qo e rawati mai na icivicivi ni paini (pine chips) ka vakauta i vanuatani na Fiji Pine Group of Companies. Eso tale na ivoli e okati kina na kau varo (sawn timber) ni Mahogany, vaivai ni valagi (raintree) kei na veimataqali kau dina sa volitaka i vanuatani na veikabani ena Tabana qo.

Sa dau itavi ni Tabacakacaka na kena vakatorocaketaki na nodra veiqaravi na veisoqosoqo vakabisinisi – me vaka na vakadonui ni laiseni ni vakau ivoli i vanuatani ena loma ga ni 24 na aua – vaka kina na yadravi ni nodra veiqaravi na veikabani me rawa ni maroroi vinaka me kua ni vakasabusabutaki na noda iyaubula.

Na veika vinaka sa qaravi qo e salavata kei na vakabauta ni matanitu ni itakele ni bula vakailavo na veisoqosoqo vakabisinisi. Sa dodonu me na tomana tiko na veitabana vakamatani na kena vakavinakataki na ituvatuva ni veiqaravi. Qo e okati kina na vakatolotaki ni kerekere me vakarawarawataki na cakacaka. Au marautaka vakalevu ni sa yaco sara tiko ga qo ena Tabacakacaka ni Veikau. E rawa ni vakadinadinataki ena veiqaravi vinaka ni Tabana.

FIJI PINE GROUP

Me ikuri ni vakavinakataki ni veituvatuva, na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau sa vaqacacotaka na veiwekani vakacakacaka kei ira kece na veitabana veisemati ena Tabacakacaka ni Veikau. Au na via cauraka eso na veivakatorocaketaki e vakaitavi kina na Fiji Pine Group, dina mada ga nira tiko eso na bisinisi lalai kei na veibisinisi lelevu era vakaitavi ena ta kau, kena mai buli na ivoli kei na kena tosoicake na isau. Ena yabaki vakailavo ni 2020, e rawata na Fiji Pine Group e \$35,600,000 na tubu, qo e vakatautauvatataki kei na \$24,900,000 a rawati ena 2019. Dina mada ga ni sotavi na veidredre eso ena 2020 ena vuku ni matetaka na COVID-19, eratou tuvana vakamatau tale na nodratou ituvatuva na kabani ka rawati kina na \$10,700,000 na tubu. Qo e sivita na tubu e rawati ena 2019.

Na Fiji Pine Group sa sauma kece na nona dinau. Qo ni oti na saumi ni \$2,200,000 ina matanitu ena Veverueri ni yabaki qo ka sauma kece kina na vo ni nodratou dinau. Meu vakamatatataka, ena 2008 e \$63,000,000 na dinau ni kabani. Ena loma ga ni 14 na yabaki, eratou sa sauma kece na nodratou dinau ena vuku ni bula vakaivakarau ni veivoli, na vakagalalataki ni cakacaka butobuto ka vaqacacotaka na cakacaka vakasavasava, na voli ni veimisini kei na nodra vakacakacakataki na lewenivanua.

Dina mada ga ni sotavi na veidredre ena vuku ni COVID-19, na kabani se sauma rawa ga na ivakayaga vei ira na itaukei ni qele. Ni bera na 2013, era sega ni bau taura e dua na ivakayaga na itaukei ni qele. Ena 2013, eratou sa sauma rawa e \$350,000. Me qai yacova mai na yabaki sa oti, sa sauma oti na kabani e \$24,600,000 me ivakayaga.

Ena yabaki qo, ena saumi tale vei ira na itaukei ni qele e \$6,000,000, na isoqoni kece ni vakayaga sa na \$30,600,000 – na \$6,000,000 qo ena saumi, dina mada ga ni via leqa tiko na bula vakailavo. Na ivakayaga ni yabaki qo ena wasei vakatolu. Na imatai ni wasewase ni \$2,000,000 sa saumi oti ena Evereli. Na ikarua ni wasewase ni \$2,000,000 ena saumi na macawa qo, ena Lotulevu, na ika 19

ni Okosita. Na iotioti ni wasewase ni \$2,000,000 ena qai saumi ena Noveba.

Kena ibalebale, mai na yabaki 2013 me yacova na yabaki qo sa \$30,600,000 taucoko na levu ni vakayaga e saumi vei ira na itaukei ni qele ni tei paini. E sega ni taura na matanitu e dua na ka. Era taura na ivakayaga kei na 12 na pasede na ilavo ni lisi na itaukei ni qele. Na veika era taura na itaukei ni qele qo e sega ni ra se bau taura me tekivu mai na gauna e tekivu kina na tei paini ena 60 na yabaki sa oti.

Na kena ikuri, na kabani sa raica rawa e dua na vanua me volitaki kina na icivicivi ni kau (woodchips) ena yabaki vou. Qo sa inuini ni kabani me rawa kina ni tuvatuva ka me cicivaki vinaka kina. E kena ibalebale qo, na kabani ena tomana tiko ga na nodra tokoni na itaukei ni qele, tamata cakacaka kei ira na konitaraki kina. E kena ibalebale tale ga, ni kabani ena tomana tiko ga na nona rawa ilavo ena vakau ivoli e vanuatani.

Ena vakabibitaka vakalevu na Pine Group na teivaki tale ni paini kei na ivakarau ni kena maroroi na veikau. E nanamaki tiko na kabani me tea e 2000 na eka ni paini ena veiyabaki, e tautauvata ni via rua na milioni na vunika ena dua na yabaki. Se qai tauyavutaka tiko ga qo na Pine Group na vale ni itei (nursery) e Drasa mai Lautoka ka rawa ni tei kina e 1 na milioni na itei. Na kena isau e rauta ni \$350,000.

Ena vakarabailevutaka tale na Fiji Pine Group na nona bisinisi. Ena tatadra qo, sa tauyavutaka na kabani e dua na iqaqi vou ni kau e Drasa me qaqi kina na veimataqali kau tale eso me vaka na vaivai ni valagi (raintree), Mahogany kei na kau dina tale eso. Qo ena via \$15,000,000 taucoko na ilevu ni lavo me vakayagataki kina. E namaki tiko me sa tekivu cakacaka ena veimama ni yabaki mai qo. Ena cakacaka qo, sa na toso cake kina na veiqaravi ena kena qaqi na kau kei na veika tale e gadrevi me kuria na isau me volitaki kina na ivoli. Qo tale ga ena vakavurea na veivoli ka vakalevutaka tale ga na ilavo ena rawati mai na kena volitaki na ivoli e vanuatani.

Mai na rai ni vakarabailevutaki ni bisinisi, na kabani na Pine Group

e dua vei ira na kabani levu ni qaqi livaliva ena noda vanua. Me tekivu mai na 2018, na nodratou iqaqi ni livaliva sa rawata e 93.71 na giga watt hours ni livaliva ena noda vanua. Ena rawa ni tosocake na iwiliwili qo ka na tomani tiko na cakacakavata kei na Energy Fiji Limited ena bucini na kena veisala eso.

Ena vuku ni veiqaravi raraba ni kabani, \$1,300,000 sa veivakacokotaki mai Vanualevu ena vuku ni cagilaba o Yasa. Qo e okati kina na iyayanivale me nodra na taukei ni qele ni paini. Na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau kei na Tabacakacaka ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu erau veivuke ena vakavinakataki ni vale era vakacacani. E rauta ni sivia e 70 na vale sa qaravi rawa.

Ena sasaga tiko ga na Pine Group me qaravi ira vakavinaka na taukei ni qele. Sa kaukaua sara tiko na nodrau veiwekani na kabani kei ira na itaukei ni qele. E rawati qo mai na veitalanoa vakawasoma. Na kabani e dolava vakamatata na kedratou itukutuku, qo a sega ni dau vakayacori tu mai liu. Ena vuku ni bucini ni veiwekani vou, na kabani sa tekivu moica tale na veisoqosoqo ni taukei ni qele mevaka na Fiji Pine Trust, Forest Base Companies kei na Forest Base Trusts. Qo me rawa ni savasava ka matata na veiqaravi. E qaravi tiko qo ena nodratou veivuke na Tabacakacaka ni Veikau.

KABANI NI MAHOGANY

Na loga ni mahogany e Viti e dua vei ira na veiloga kau levu e vuravura. Na matanitu ena via raica me vakabetena na irogorogo qo ka meda liaca na veika e rawa ni kauta mai na mahogany e Viti. E taurivaki na Lawatu ni Vakatorocaketaki ni Kabani ni mahogany ni 2010 me rawa ni savasava, taucoko ka vuavuai na kabani ni mahogany. Sa tiko na ituvatuva ni kena cicivaki na tabana ni mahogany. Sa rui bibi kina na ituvatuva ni veiliutaki me savasava tiko na kena cicivaki ka me levu na ka e rawati mai kina.

Dina ga ni ratou taukena tu e dua na iwase ni iyau levu, na Fiji Hardwood Corporation, e sega ni dua na tubu a rawati me yacova na yabaki 2007. E binia tu na dinau ka sega sara ga ni bau dua na kena cakacakataki me tubu na kena

isau. A sega ni dua na ituvatuva ni kena soli na laiseni. Na Lawatu sa qai vakavuna na veisau ena tabana ni mahogany ka vakila na kena vinaka na FHCL. E lutu na levu ni dinau kei na kena tauyavutaki na Matabose ni Kabani ni Mahogany (Mahogany Industry Council), kau kena iliuli tiko. Na matanitu e yavutaki koya ena kena vakayagataki na iyaubula me kua ni vakabi na kena vinaka ena dua na yasana. Me yaga ena bula vakailavo, vei ira tale ga na itaukei ni qele, ira na veikabani vakalaiseni, kabani e konitarakitaki, veika me vakatubura na isau me volitaki kina na ivoli kei na veikabula. Sa vakadinadinataki qo ena Pine industry.

Na Lawatu ni Mahogany e kacivaka tale ga na ivoli ni Fijian Mahogany ena veivanua me maketetaki kina i vuravura. Qo e dua na vanua ena bibi kina na sasaga ni kena vakadonui na veiMahogany ena noda vanua. E berabera tiko na veivakadonui qo baleta ni vakatabui tiko na veilakoyaki i vanuatani ka tarova tiko na nodra gole mai o ira me ra mai veivakadonui. Ia, e sega ni keitou waraka sara me dola na iyalanivanua, na FHCL sa veitalanoa tiko kei na Fiji Pine Group ka ratou sa wasea tiko na veika me baleta na kena vakadonui na veikau. Na vakadonui ni veikau sa rawa kina ina Fiji Pine me volitaka na nona ivoli i Japani, Ositerelia, Niusiladi, Jaina kei na veimakete tale eso e vuravura.

Ni sagai tiko na veivakadonui ni veikau, keitou sa tokona tale tiko ga me tubu na tabana ni Mahogany. Ena yabaki 2020, e ta e sivia e 21,000 na kiupiti na mahogany. Sa cakacaka vata tiko na Fiji Hardwood Corporation kei na veibisinisi veiwekani me vakaruataki na levu ni kena ta na mahogany kei na kena volitaki e vanuatani na ivoli ena yabaki qo. Dina ni vakaleqai e levu na veitabana ena revurevu ni COVID-19, na ripote ni Investment Fiji e vakaraitaka ni nodratou ivoli na Fijian Mahogany e vica vei ira na ivoli e volitaki e vanuatani ka ra volitaki ena veimakete vakabibi e Amerika ena vica na vula sa oti.

Na ivoli levu ga ni Mahogany ena gauna qo na kauvaro. E sivraki vakamaqosa me vakalevutaka



yaga vei ira kece na lewenivanua

na kena isau. Qo e okati kina na kena varo na kau me vakayagataki ena floor e loma kei na tuba, iyyanivale, panel products kei na gacagaca ni qita. Ena rawa ni vakarabailevutaki tale ga na ivoli ni mahogany e siviraki vakamaqosa mevaka na gacagaca ni yayanivale e loma kei na tuba, gacagaca ni katuba, cable drums kei na cakacakaniliga e ceuti. E dau vakayagataki kina e levu na ilavo – ka gadreva tale ga e levu na tamata cakacaka. Na matanitu ena tomana na tutaki ni veisala eso me vakavinakataka kina na ivoli ena noda vanua me rawati mai e levu na ilavo mai na voli mahogany ka vakavure cakacaka vei ira na lewenivanua. E koto na veivuke ni matanitu ena vuku ni vakacavacava kei na saumi ni veika e vakau mai vanuatani me rawa ni veivakauqeti me voli mai vanuatani na misini me levu kina na ivoli e vakau i vanuatani. Qo e okati kina na musuki ni vakacavacava ni veika e volitaki e vanuatani mevaka e kacivaki ena ituvatuva vakailavo ni 2021 – 2022.

Na Fiji Hardwood Corporation sa cakacaka vata tiko kei na veikabani me kua ga ni tosoi cake na isau ni mahogany, me teivaki tale ga e 1,250 na eka ena veiyabaki. Ena saga tale ga o Viti me muria na itagede virikotori ni ta kau me vakadeitaka na bula ni iyaubula ka na taqomaki ni veikabula.

Na sasaga ni kena teivaki e 15 na milioni na vunika (30 MT15Y) e nakiti me sotava na draki veisau, maroroi vinaka ni iyaubula kei na kena veiwekani e vutucoqa kaya, me vukea ena tubu ni noda bula vakailavo ena volitaki ni kaboni (carbon trade) kei na kena ivakavakayagataki raraba. E taucoko na rai ni sasaga qo.

Na nodra itukutuku na iLiuliu ni Matanitu ka iLiuliu se Minisita ni Veikau ena Tabana ni Veikau mevaka era vakaraitaka ena dabe ni Bose Lawa ni vula o Okositia.

VOLITAKI NI KABONI

Na Matanitu e sega ga ni laveta na tokoni ni veikabani ena taudaku ni Matanitu, sa vakacagau me sasagataki o Viti me oka ena volitaki/bisinisi ni kaboni. Na ituvatuva ni veiqaravi na REDD+ Readiness Project ni Tabacakacaka ni Veikau e veivuke ena ituvatuva qo, qo e rawa kina vei Viti e dua na Matanitu lailai se qai vakatoroicaketaki koya e vuravura me oka ena bisinisi/volitaki ni kaboni. Qo ni oti na sainitaki ni veidinadinati me baleta na Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) na Matanitu kei na Baqe ni Vuravura ena Janueri ni yabaki qo.

E vakarautaki e 2 na milioni na dola me vakayagataki ena yabaki vakailavo me vakatabakidua ina vakavakarau. E tuvai me vakatoroicaketaka ka vaqacacotaka na iwalewale kei na veiqaravi eso ena kena vakalailaitaki na kasi cevuraki. E oka eke na veituvatuva kei na veivakadeitaki sa toka e ra;



O ira na lewe ni koro o Naqalotu e na Tikina o Yawe e Kadavu kei na kau (paina) varo me baleta nodra vale vovou. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

1). E \$480,000 me vaqacacotaka na lewai vakamatau ni veikau ena ituvatuva eso ni veivakatoroicaketaki me tara cake na itagede ni vakayagataki qele ena 20 na tikina e taketetaki me qaravi. E 10 na tikina sa qaravi oti ka kena isau e \$220,000. Na vakatoroicaketaki ni vo ni 10 na ituvatuva ena qaravi ena yabaki vakailavo qo. E okati ena sasaga qo na vakatoroicaketaki ni monalivaliva (Safeguard Information System) me rawa ni tuva vakamatau, dikeva ka ripotetaka ena ivakarau e salavata kei na ituvatuva. Qo me maroroya na itagede e vinakati ena iTuvatuva ni Vakalailaitaki ni Kasi Cevuraki (Emission Reduction Program).

2). E \$1.1 na milioni me baleta na vakavinakataka kei na vakadeitaki ni sova ni itukutuku ni veikau, oka tale ga kina na tomani ni sokumuni tukutuku ni veikaubula (National Forest Inventory (NFI)) kei na dikevi ni lololo ni kaboni – na cakacaka qo a rube ena vuku ni vakatatabu ni COVID-19 kei na waraki ni ituvatuva ni yabaki vou vakailavo qo me qaravi ka tomani tale e Vanua Levu, kevaka e donu na veika kece.

E okati ena cakacaka qo na laveti ni itagede ni veiqaravi ni Tabacacacaka ena ituvatuva ni National Forest Monitoring System ka vukea na nodratou gumatua ena kena yadravi, ripotetaki ka vakadeitaki na vakasavuirogo ena vuku ni itavi ni Emission Reduction Program.

3). E \$420,000 me vakatabakidua ena veivakararamataki ni Emission Reduction Program ena noda vanua. Ena vuku ni vakatatabu ni COVID-19, sa na vagolei na ilavo qo ena vakau itukutuku ena monalivaliva vei ira na lewenivanua.

E tiki tiko ni vakavakarau na veivakararamataki. Ena vuku ni tataqomaki mai na COVID-19, ena qaravi tiko na veivakararamataki ena monalivaliva, na veivavata ena veilawa wili kina na veilawa ni Tabacacacaka. Na Tabacacacaka ena sikovi ira ena vanua e vakatarai kina na veito-soyaki.

Ena veiyalayalati ni Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement, e namaki me vakayavutaka o Viti

e 37,282 na eketea ni veikau me icerumi ni 2.5 na milioni na tani na kaboni dokosaiti kei na kasirara. Ena dolea lesu na World Bank na macala ni kaboni ena isau e \$12.5 na milioni na ilavo ni Mereke – qo e rauta ni \$26 na milioni na ilavo ni Viti. Ena vakatautaki ena veika e rawati. Me na ripote vakatolu na Matanitu ina World Bank, na iotioti ni ripote ena Tiseba ni 2024.

Na Lawa Vakaturi ni Draki Veisau kei na Veikau

Mai na 1993 sa toso na iyalayala ni noda waitui ena ono na milimita ena veiyabaki. Na vuki toso ni yalayala ni waitui kei na kena sa suguti na vanua mai na waluvu lelevu ena veibaravi, sa vakavuna na vakacacani kei na vakalalai ni vanua.

Sa sasaga na matanitu me yavutaka dei na sotavi kei na igu ni cokonaki ni draki veisau ena ituvatuva raraba eso. Wili kina na ituvatuva ni veivakacokotaki ena ituvatuva ni Matanitu kei na veitabana.

Sa yabaki rua na nodra veivakararamataki na lewenivanua ka na vakarogotaki ena macawa qo na macala ni Lawa vakaturi me pasitaki me Lawatu ena Palimedi ni bera na COP e Glasgow.

Sa na cakacakataka na Tabacacacaka na Lawa Vakaturi ni Veikau me sa na okati tale ga me Lawatu ni Draki Veisau.

30 NA MILIONI NA KAU ENA LOMA NI 15 NA YABAKI.

Na ituvatuva ni kena tei e 30 na milioni na kau ena loma ni 15 na yabaki (30MT15Y) e dua na vavata

ni kena vunautaki na draki veisau, ni kau e vakadinadinataki vakasainisi ni dua vei ira na iwali vinaka duadua ni maroroi kaboni.

A tekivutaki na tatadra vou ni tei kau e Viti ena Janueri ni 2019, ka laurai ni sivi e 31 na vula, sa teivaki e 7.6 na vunika kei na dogo ena veiyasai Viti. Na iwiliwili levu qo e rawati sara ga ena nodra uqe na lewenivanua. Keitou a qarai vakacava? E sega ni Matanitu duadua ga e kauaitaka tiko na sasaga qo. O ira na lewenivanua ena veitikitiko e taudaku ni koronikakacaka kei na veiyanyanu, o ira na vaqele ena veitikitiko kei na tauni se vakacava ga

na kena levu, era tokona vata tiko na sasaga qo. Oni sa sureti tiko na lewenivanua meda duavata ena sasaga qo, meda veivuketaka na sasagataki nei Viti me cibitaka ni sautu ena vuravura qo.

Sa kauai tiko vakalevu na leweiviti ena veika e tu wavoliti ira kei na veika bula. E sega wale ga ni kauai tiko na leweiviti ena revurevu ni draki veisau, era sa cakacakataka tiko na kena iwali. Era sa kila tale ga ni tei kau – na kau donu, na vanua e tei kina na gauna me tei kina – e bibi ena kena vunautaki tiko na draki veisau.

Na ituvatuva ni tei kau e tiki tale ga ni kena vakalesui na ituvaki ni bula vakailavo ni noda vanua ni oti na vakacaca ni leqa tubu koso lelevu kei na COVID 19. Na veika me rawati mai na ituvatuva ni 30 na milioni na kau me tei ena 15 na yabaki e baleta tiko na draki veisau, taraicake na veiqaravi me baleta na veika bula kei na kena veimataqali ka me veivuke ena noda bula vakailavo mai na volitaki kaboni kei na kena ivakarau tale eso.

Sa tiko ena Tabacacacaka na matailalai ni veivanua e tei kina kau, qo ena vakayagataka na tekonozi me vaka na GPS, drones, kei na ArcGIS. Rau cakacaka vakavoleka kei na Tabacacacaka ni Vakau iTukutuku ena kena taraicake kei na vakamuri tiko na ituvatuva ni tei kau. Sa tiko tale ga e dua na vatavata era rawa ni sema kina na lewenivanua, www.forestry.gov.fj. Ena gauna qo sa tiko kina e 6.4 na milioni na kau. Sa vakadeitaka na iwiliwili qo na Tabacacacaka. Na vo ni 1.2 na milioni na kau e tukutuku ga a kumuni ka sa vakadeitaki, ena qai vakacurumi tiko na iwiliwili vovou.

Au gadreva meu vakavinavinakataka ira na lewenivanua kei na veitabana era sa tei kau tiko. Qo me vaka na soqosoqo ni tabagone, marama, veimatavakabauta kei na veisoqosoqo, kei na veikabani ena loma kei na taudaku ni tabana ni veikau. E yaco dina tiko na draki veisau, ka vakarerevaki ena gauna qo. Me vakabibitaka na vunauci ni draki veisau ena noda vanua kei veiyasai vuravura. E dua ga na vuravura levu, e gadrevi meda

duavata ena kena taqomaki!

Sa tikici e \$1.9 na milioni me tomani kina na ituvatuva ni tei kau ena noda vanua.

Volai ni Veikau ena Noda Vanua

E rau yaga ena veika bula na kau kei na veikau ni tarova na draki veisau ka vakalailaitaka na vakacaca ni leqa tubukoso me vaka na lauqa, waluvu. E bibi kina me talevi na ituvaki ni veika bula. Na levu ni ilavo e vakayagataka ena kena vakaivolataki na veikau ena noda vanua (NFI) e via \$2.7 na milioni. Ena yabaki vou vakailavo e tikici e \$1.05 na milioni me vakaivolataki na veikau e Vanua Levu.

Na NFI ni 2021 a tekivutaki ena mua ni Feperueri e Viti Levu, qai Epereli sa dikevi e 117 mai na iwiliwili e taketetaki oya e 1,200. Na ituvatuva ena gauna oya me sa toso i Vanualevu na veiqaravi. A qai tao ni a tubu na iwiliwili ni kisi ni COVID-19, a vakatabui kina na veisokoyaki.

Sa tiko na ituvatuva ni kena lai qaravi na NFI e Vanua Levu, e namaki me na tekivu ena Okotova. Ni sa qaravi oti o Vanualevu, ena qai dewa ina veiyanyanu, sa qai yacovi kina na 51 na pasede ni vanua taketetaki. Ena vakaituvatuva na dikevi ni NFI e Viti Levu ka vakatautaki ena ituvaki ni COVID-19. Ena via tekivu ena wasewase e Yasayasavakara ni bera ni laurai wasewase e Loma kei na Tokalau.

VEIQARAVI MAYAU ME YAGA VEI IRA NA LEWEIVITI

Keitou marautaka na tosocake ni itagede ni veiqaravi ena Tabana ni Veikau ena vica na yabaki sa oti, na kena vakavinakataka tiko ga na veipolisi, na kena biu vakalawa, cakacaka vakasavasava kei na dolavi ni veiqaravi, itagede uasivi ni veivoli, kei na nodratou cakacaka vata kei na veitabana veise-mati, wili kina o ira na itaukei ni qele, veibisinisi ena noda vanua kei veimatanitu tani, kei ira na dau veitokoni. Ena rawa ni taracake na noda bula vakailavo ka me yaga vei ira na leweiviti taucoko.

Ke tiko eso na vakatataro, nin veitaratara ena: Talevoni: 8960865 | 9904893 se iMeli: forestrycomms@gmail.com

Noda Viti



DODOLIGA NA DAUNIBISINI ENA SOLI KAKANA

E vica na kabani ka vakakina na sitoa ni volitaki kakana era loma soli mera wasea na kakana ena veiyasai Viti ka mera vukei kina na lewenivanua era sotakaya tiko oqo na dredre ni bula ena veisiga. Oqo edua na veiqaravi levu me vaka nida kila ni tarai Viti raraba tiko ena gauna nikua na dredre ni bula ka kauta mai na mate na COVID-19. Esa vakavinavaka tiko kina na matanitu kivei ira na veisoqosoqo ena taudaku ni matanitu ka vakakina oira na daunibisinisi kei na kabani, wilikina na sitoa ena nodra veitokoni tiko mai ena veiqaravi ni matanitu. Eda kila ni sa solia talega na matanitu na i matai i ilavo ni \$360 me baleta na nodra vukei vakatabakidua oira na lewenivanua era sa cegu ena cakacaka ka sega na nodra vurevure ni rawaka vakailavo. Sa nuitaki ni sa na veivuke levu saratikoga ena noda voli na kakana kei na veika e ganita nodra bula ena veisiga..

iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

PM: Toso ki liu, cakacaka vata

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

“E levu na veika e bolel keda ia e da na rawata. E da na sotava e na yalo qaqa ka da na vorata yadudua. E da na bula mai na mate e veitauvi tiko qo.”

Qori na nodra mala ni vosa na turaga ililui ni Matanitu o Voreqe Bainimarama e a nona sogota tiko na bosa ni matanitu lalai e na Pasifika ka vakarautaka na Matabose ni Kakana e Vuravura se FAO.

Vakaraitaka kina na turaga Paraiminisita ni bosa oia e sa katuba ki na cakacaka vata ni vei matanitu vaka Pasifika e na kena

wasei na kila kei na i walewale e so ni vei vakatoroicaketaki ka na rawa ni da toso kina ki liu e na gauna bolebole e da lako curuma tiko qo me vaka na ituvatuva sa tiko me yacova yani na yabaki 2030.

“E da na tara cake e dua na i tuvatuva ni kena biu vaka monalivaliva na kila ni kakana. E da na vakaukauwa taka na noda sotava na bolebole e kauta mai na draki veisau ka da na qumia matua na veivakatoroicaketaki matau ka kauta mai vei keda na bula vinaka vaka kawa tamata, na cakacaka kei na vutuniyau. E na sega ni dua e guilecavi e na toso qo.”

Tomana na Paraiminisita ka kaya ni sa vakanamata tiko yani ki na nodra veitokoni na vei soqososo veiwekani ka ra lewena tiko na Matabose.

“Au via vakavinavinakataka na matanitu e rua o Jaina kei Ailadi kei na Liuliu ni noda Matabose e na nodratou sema rawa mai e na bosa nikua.”

E wasea tale o Paraiminisita Bainimarama ki na matabose ni yanuyanu o Ovalau e dua vei ira na matai ni vanua e vuravura ka vakavure livaliva mai na kaukauwa ni matanisiga.

“E rawa qo e na kena vayagataki na qele

teivaki me dabe tale ga kina na i vurevure ni kaukauwa mai na matanisiga me vakalivaliva taki kina e rauta ni veimama na yanuyanu o Ovalau. Qo na mataqali toso e da na rawata na matanitu lalai e na Pasifika.”

“Au vakaraua taka tale na noqu bolel kemuni na vei matanitu lelevu mo ni vakayacora na nomuni yalayala mo ni vakarautaka e \$100 na Bilioni na i lavo ni Ameria me vukea na vei matanitu e na Pasifika e na nodra vakatorocake taki ira. Ni na yaco ya o ni na qai raica kina na veika e rawa ni ra vakayacora na matanitu lalai oqo.”

VOQA NI DAVUI

Radio Fiji One
Moniti - Tusiti
8.30pm [15 na miniti]

Radio Fiji One
Vukelulu - Lotulevu
8pm [30 na miniti]

Radio Fiji One
Siga Tabu
9.05am [30 na miniti]