

Fiji Focus

\$5.7M CONTRIBUTED TO THE ECONOMY THROUGH MSBG **11**



FIJI TARGETS ALL SECTORS TO ACHIEVE NDCS **6**



FREE BUS FARE ROLLED OUT FOR PENSIONERS **3**



FROM LEFT: Reverend Isireli Kacimawai, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Permanent Secretary for iTaukei Affairs Naipote Katonitabua during the launch of the common vision and planning document for the iTaukei Affairs institutions at Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva. Photo: ERONI VALILI

ONE VISION

THREE ITAUKEI INSTITUTIONS WITH COMMON PURPOSE

PRASHILA DEVI

SHIFTING the focus from the *vanua* to the iTaukei family- the foundation of the society, the three institutions

looking after the welfare of the iTaukei will now work with a singular vision.

Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Voreqe Bainimarama explained that these efforts

will bring “more iTaukei people into the fold of our national development and our economic prosperity”.

The common vision is “A Transformed iTaukei Family for a Bet-

ter Fiji”.

The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the iTaukei Affairs Board and the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development (CATD), Prime Minister Bainimarama

said, will come under one banner, in pursuit of a common vision and under an emblem that represents their history, values and

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



.. Government is working very diligently to ensure that many of the Government services will also be made available through internet.

Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum Attorney-General and Minister for Communications

NUMBERS

2539 businesses in Taveuni are supported under the Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) since 2015

TWEET OF THE WEEK



UN Spokesperson (@UN_Spokesperson) Secretary-General @antonioгутеррес met with the Prime Minister of Fiji, H.E. Josala Voreqe Bainimarama. The Secretary-General commended the country's strong advocacy and leadership on issues related to #climatechange and the oceans

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Govt praises faith-based communities

NATASHA BEGUM

FAITH-BASED organisations and community committees have made a huge contribution to the education sector in Fiji.

Attorney-General and Minister for Education Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum made the statement while delivering his opening remarks during the Christian Mission Fellowship (CMF) Fundraising dinner at the Holiday Inn in Suva recently.

"The Government recognises the contributions made by faith-based organisations and community committees to the education sector in Fiji," the A-G said.

"If all faith-based organisations and community committees were to stop running their schools then we would have very few Government schools left."

"It is only through the work of the respective faith-based organisations that we have a network of education facilities throughout Fiji."

The A-G adds that faith-based schools

around Fiji had the ability and freedom to impart teachings of faith alongside the school curriculum.

"The Fijian Constitution under Section 21 guarantees everyone the right to be able to practice whichever religion, denomination that they wish to practice," he said.

"It also gives the faith groups, under the particular section, the ability to set up schools through their respective religious organisations and have a specialist focus on teaching the teachings of the particular faith."



Attorney-General and the Minister for Communications Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the free WiFi hotspot launch at Shirley Park, Lautoka. Photo: ISAAC LAL

A-G launches high-speed WiFi

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

ATTORNEY-GENERAL and Minister for Communications, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum launched the first of three high-speed WiFi hotspots marking yet another milestone in the Fijian Government's provision of free internet for the public around the country.

With Government's digital television service provider Walesi, Fijians with smart phones will be able to access internet on the Digital Fiji platform and enjoy 60 minutes of complimentary online access.

"What we are trying to do throughout Fiji is provide pub-

lic places where any Fijian can come at any time of the day-24/7- and access high speed internet at much broader bandwidth for downloading and uploading of information," the A-G, speaking in Shirley Park, Lautoka said.

"We want everybody to be connected irrespective of how rich or poor you are, no matter where you come from. At the same time, the Government is working very diligently to ensure that many of the Government services will also be made available through internet."

The ongoing digital transformation aims to streamline the processes of several agencies such as the Office of Births,

Deaths and Marriages to considerably enhance the delivery and engagement of Fijian Government services.

Walesi has successfully provided high quality content directly from Fiji's broadcasters directly to homes.

Since its rollout, there are close to 100,000 active set top boxes, with over 100,000 downloads of the Walesi mobile application, providing the comfort and convenience of watching television channels on smart phones.

WiFi hotspots have also been launched in Suva, Savusavu, Sigatoka, Nadi and at Fiji National University campuses.

Awards ceremony told of need for skills

NATASHA BEGUM

WE need to instil and engender the idea of professionalism and transparency and getting the right skills set in our society, says Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

The A-G shared this sentiment during the South Pacific Stock Exchange's (SPSE) Annual Awards 2018 recently adding that Fiji was still lacking significant skills within the economy.

"We have the FNPF, the SPSE and a number of listed companies but we do not have one single Fijian actuarial practicing in our country," he said.

"As a country of our size and surrounded by the ocean, we have to become a lot more clever, a lot more innovative and a lot more smarter in the way we have sustained economic growth. It is very critical for us to actually grasp that concept."

The A-G highlighted that although Fiji's economy was much smaller compared to that of Australia and New Zealand which had a higher population base, we must strive to do better.

"We cannot function like other countries where there is a large population around it because they have deep wealth that's been built into it and because they have the experience of having sustained economic growth.

"We do not actually have that but we can become like that and the only way to become like that is to be able to implement, to instil, and engender the idea of professionalism, transparency, and of appointing people on merit."

The A-G said in order for Fiji to sustain the economic growth it has had in the past nine years, it needs to continue building on by doing better.

"We will lose the momentum if we are not continuing to be smarter, if we do not have the right people in the right places and we will lose that momentum if we do not have the professionals that we require in our economy," he said.

Actuarial science is the discipline that applies mathematical and statistical methods to assess risk in insurance, finance and other industries and professions



Three iTaukei institutions merged

FROM PAGE 1

principles.

“In this case, these three historic institutions have been streamlined to work as one team to strengthen our focus on supporting Fijian family values and on mainstreaming more iTaukei people into our rapidly modernising economy.”

“And we’re reaffirming our commitment to the steadfast protection of our culture, our traditions, and the way of life we’ve known for generations of recorded history and long before, while also making sure that every iTaukei feels the tremendous benefits of our economic growth, equally — with no family and no community left behind.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama was speaking at the launch of the common vision and planning documents for the iTaukei Affairs institutions in Suva on Friday.

Ministry permanent secretary Naipote Katonitabua said focusing on the family will see greater and better infiltration of the values and programmes of the iTaukei institutions leading to respect for the vanua and ultimately a better Fiji.

“It will help us focus on empowering youths because unfortunately, there is a gap that we need to fill,” Mr Katonitabua said.

“There are communities that say they have no record of their own cultures and tradition and have been adopting the traditions of the nearby communities so by working together we can assist in these types of cases, especially where youth are concerned.”

Mr Katonitabua has urged to such communities to write to the Ministry because they have records that they can share with them.

The planning documents launched were the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs Annual Operational Plan 2018-2019, the Ministry’s Strategic Development Plan 2018-2022, iTaukei Affairs Board’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 as well as the board’s Operation Plan 2018-2019.

Nation celebrates milestone as one

NATASHA BEGUM

FIJI’S 48th Independence Day celebrations with the theme ‘Progressing Together Leaving No Fijian Behind’ will be held, for the first time, in Labasa.

The main celebration centre will be based at Subrail Park on October 10, 2018 and the day program begins with a march by school children, members of the private and public sector and members of the community.

This will be followed with a stunning spectacle of military parade and closing with a military tattoo in the evening with flashing lights, harmonious coordination and display of the

military and police marching bands together with school children from selected schools and twanging electric guitars by the QEB Serenaders.

The President, Major-General (ret’d) Jioji Konrote and Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama will also be part of the Fiji Day celebrations.

Ministry of Defence and National Security permanent secretary, Osea Cawaru, speaking during the media launch, said “central to the theme is the enduring and resounding aspect of our collective aspirations as Fijians, clearly outlined in the National Development Plan that is, Transforming Fiji towards a more progres-

sive, vibrant and exclusive society”.

A road-show has also been organized for Northerners to familiarise with the difference government services available to them.

Celebrations will also be held throughout the four divisions; Navua in the Central, Lautoka in the Western, Levuka in the Easter for Fijians to enjoy a fun-filled day of events.

“As we celebrate our progress since independence in 1970 and in remembering the arduous journey that has brought us this far 48 years on, we will once again witness our islands turning a distinct shade of blue and white from the fluttering flags and Bula wears,” Mr Cawaru said.



Attorney-General and Minister for Communications Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with awardees at the South Pacific Stock Exchange (SPSE) Annual Awards 2018 in Suva. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM

A-G calls on private sector

NATASHA BEGUM

THE private sector has been urged to invest in the future of our country to strengthen and retain its economic growth.

This was the call made by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the South Pacific Stock Exchange (SPSE) Annual Awards 2018.

“It means not only that Government should invest but the private sector must also invest in the future of their companies and developing the personnel and this is one area [I would say with respect] that the private sector is actually lacking,” the A-G said.

“You need to build that cadre of people that will take the private sector forward.”

The A-G said that SPSE opened enormous opportunities to trade for Fijians and Fijian companies.

“There are a number of companies in Fiji at the moment, in particular family owned companies that have been around for three to four generations, they are ripe to be listed and I urge them to consider that,” he said.

“It also means you bring a

particular level of professionalism into your company. You do not necessarily lost control per se but you are able to get that level of equity and level of investment into your company to take not just your company but also the economy further.”

He added the Government was working diligently in developing the capital market and also in providing an enabling environment for the private sector and the economy.

Free bus fare rolled out for pensioners

AS ANNOUNCED in the 2018-2019 National Budget, the Government has stepped in to fund the Free Bus Fare initiative for Fijians living with disabilities.

And it has expanded the initiative to cover free bus rides for all pensioners in Fiji.

Following a review of a comprehensive analysis conducted by Vodafone on riding trends, the Government will top-up, starting from October 1, 2018, the eTransport cards of all recipients with \$40 monthly allowances to cover bus travel.

This monthly allowance will put \$40 in free monthly fares into the pockets of over 51,000 pensioners for the first time, in addition to continuing to provide free fares for over 4,000 Fijians living with disabilities.

Any unused funds will expire and not roll over at the end of each month.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said, “Previously, Government and bus operators had negotiated an agreement which allowed bus operators to keep the VAT component of bus fares and in turn not increase bus fares, while allowing Fijians with disabilities to ride for free and pensioners to ride at half price”.

“However, that’s a service bus operators are no longer are willing to offer the Fijian people, so we’re stepping in. Government believes it is incumbent upon us to afford a special level of care of those living with disabilities and our pensioners — some of the most vulnerable Fijians in our society,” he said.

“Apart from letting bus operators to continue to keep the VAT component of bus fares, we’re taking on the full cost of the initiative — and we’re making it even more generous by allowing all pensioners in Fiji to also ride buses free of charge,” he said

Only the initiatives beneficiaries — pensioners and those living with disabilities — should use these preloaded eTransport cards.

LTA will be conducting random spot checks for misuse of the system; those falsely bearing another Fijian’s eTransport cards, which are clearly marked, will be penalised.

The Government will also be carrying out a review of the Free Bus Fare initiative to cater for any recipients with special travel requirements. -news@govnet.gov.fj



Taskforce reviews national scheme

A NATIONAL taskforce has been appointed and charged with the review to reform the national apprenticeship scheme.

The taskforce will then prepare a policy paper for the Government based on this options paper.

This would be the first ever review of the national apprenticeship scheme since its establishment in 1963 and will draw from experiences in New Zealand, Australia, England

and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

Fiji Higher Education Commission director, Linda Aumua said the taskforce is developing a scheme to suit the Fijian context and meet current and future industry needs.

“Changes in the industry and education system had prompted the need to review the scheme and make it fit for purpose,” Ms Aumua explained.

She further said that the proposed reform

comes as a timely intervention into the state of apprenticeships in Fiji which have declined to around 120 apprentices graduating per year against an expectation of 300 or more.

The national taskforce would deliberate more on their recommendations and policy options based on initial findings from the review report before making the final submission to the Employment Minister.

-FIJI HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Mediation service hailed for effectiveness

PRASHILA DEVI

MEDIATION services has received 10,531 employment grievances in the last decade, settled 8,492, equivalent to 80.64 per cent with recoveries of \$6.1 million paid out to the aggrieved parties.

Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Jone Usamate has hailed mediation as a “very successful and very good” mechanism in resolving disputes.

“It (mediation services) is basically a trained person sitting in front of two people who have a conflict, talking to them and understanding the issues and getting them to agree to a solution, not imposing a solution,” Minister Usamate said.

“Mediation has been useful in resolving disputes and grievances and it is something we will continue to strengthen.”

He said mediation is the national primary conflict resolution institution to solve employment disputes and grievances and had settled about 80 per cent of grievances and 50 per cent of disputes referred to it annually.

“From Jan 2008 to June 2018 the Unit has received 313 employment disputes, settled 161 which is equivalent to 51.44 per cent with recoveries of \$1.9 million,” Minister Usamate said.

He said a lot of awareness has been raised through talkback shows and brochures.

Meanwhile, Minister Usamate has encouraged the public to go to the Ministry’s website or visit the Helpdesks in Nadi and Suva if they need any further information.



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Jone Usamate with Nadi employers after the consultations at the Nadi Civic Centre. Photo: LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA

Ministry uses consultations to clarify issues

LITIA VULAI DAUSIGA

CHANGES to labour laws and its impact on the employers were brought to the fore during the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations consultations.

Business stakeholders in the Western division were given an update on the changes to the Employment Relations laws, Fiji’s new National Employment Policy, the new Accident Compensation Commission Fiji and other

issues affecting workers.

Many used the opportunity to raise concerns with the line Minister Jone Usamate and his team.

“We require that any organisation with over 20 workers have a labour management and corporation committee so they can discuss grievances and try to resolve them and both committees need to have membership that is elected by both employers and employees,” Minister Usamate urged.

He reminded business owners that workplaces with over 20 members needed to have an Oc-

cupational Health & Safety Committee.

Minister Usamate also clarified that workers taking leave for workplace injuries should not be carrying out tasks that they are deemed medically incapable of doing.

The matter was raised at his ministry’s public consultations with Sigatoka’s business community early this month and specifically on an employee who had been seen carrying out heavyweight tasks despite medical restrictions and being on paid medical leave.

Minister Usamate and his team noted that complainants needed to formally inform the ministry, upon which confirmations from all witnesses and the worker in question would be ascertained; as wages for workers found to be working while on medical leave would be ceased.

Stakeholders were briefed on new provisions to the National Budget 2018/2019, such as extended maternity leave and the new paternity leave, family care leave and social welfare insurance.

Love of a mother ‘a woman’s greatest trait’

JOSAIA RALAGO

A MOTHER’S love for her children is one of a woman’s greatest traits and is often shown through the sacrifices she makes.

This rings true for many including 37-year-old Milika Vunibola of Vusaratu village in Natewa, Cakaudrove, when she left the comfort of home to work in a foreign land.

Mrs Vunibola was recruited under the seasonal worker scheme and was deployed to work in a farm in Australia last year, all in the hope of a building a better home for their children.

“When I got there, I did not know what to expect but the ultimate goal was to work hard, save and bring back my earnings to help raise our living standard,” the Kocoma, Qamea, native said.

“There are five of us in the family and our

home needed a little extension - this being one of the reasons I went overseas to work.”

The mother of three said she felt she needed to offer the best to her children which included a better home.

“My husband and I started off in a tent, then we built a small house but now we are extending and carrying out renovations work with our home with plans to have a three bedroom house,” Mrs Vunibola said.

“Life is easy and sacrifices must be made to ensure that our families are provided for.”

Mrs Vunibola, who is now funding the upgrade of their wooden home from the money she earned, said she was grateful to the Government for the opportunity.

“I would like to thank the Government for putting forth such a programme to help us rural Fijians especially mothers to provide better for our families,” she said.



Milika Vunibola outside her home that is currently under renovation and extension at Vusaratu village in Natewa, Cakaudrove. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

Have Your Say

Do you think the rural areas have benefitted from the Ministry of Employment's Seasonal Employer Scheme in Australia and New Zealand?

Nanise Divana, 55, Wailevu Village

Of course it has. Some of them have renovated their homes, bought appliances and so on. It has helped them greatly.



Reema Singh, 25, Korovesi, Savusavu

Yes. It has helped them build their homes and support their families.



Savenaca Viriviri, 37, Dratabu, Nadi

It mostly benefits the individuals who go on the seasonal scheme which hopefully create opportunities for others in their communities. This is particularly for those who take on agricultural projects.



Sovea Diane, 24, Nadi

Yes it actually benefits the rural community in a sense where they are employed and able to move away from poverty. It also improves their personal skills like gaining better knowledge about the world and their English proficiency.



Atish Kumar, 38, Nakasi

Yes, I think it has been very beneficial because we know that in rural areas, besides agriculture there are not that many employment opportunities. So this is a great help to the rural dwellers.



Karunesh Mudhliar, 42, Nadi

Yes, it is a very good programme and I have seen a few of my friends who have been part of this programme return and build their homes and improve their standard of living.

The Government is doing a very good job and I hope that this continues so that Fijians in rural areas are able to contribute positively towards their families.



Ministry's core duty is to enforce the labour legislations and when workers raise issues, it measures our performance of enforcement.

Jone Usamate
 Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations

Ministry stands by fair treatment principle

PRASHILA DEVI

THE Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations believes that the workforce in Fiji must be treated fairly to enable them to be productive.

In response to comments by employers that the Employment Ministry was biased against them and favoured the workers, the line Minister, Jone Usamate, said the current labour law, the Employment Relations Act (ERA) was inclusive.

"We are only seen to be biased when employers fail to follow proper procedures for unfairly dismissal of an employee or not pay-

ing workers entitlements," Minister Usamate said.

The Ministry recently held 44 road-shows around the country and the Minister highlighted that this was the opportune time for employers to turn up in numbers to raise their concerns but only a few did.

Minister Usamate assured that the Ministry will be working to address the issues that were raised by the employers but brought up the need for them to under the labour laws better.

Some of the issues raised by employers were employees "absconding their employment", low productivity in workplaces while employees highlighted the non compliance of

minimum of standards and entitlements and delay in service deliveries such as settlement of cases. Minister Usamate said the "Ministry enforces the law and looks after both interest of employers and employees as stipulated under the law" and emphasised the need for both parties to deal with each other in good faith.

On the quality of graduates, he said there were a number of Government initiatives for employers to take on new graduates.

Emphasising that the workers were the backbone of the economy, Minister Usamate said, "Employers must open their doors and embrace government initiatives and also take ownership of up skilling new graduates".



Seasonal workers from Ovalau during their stay at New Zealand. Photo: SUPPLIED

Roadshows draw out issues of concern

PRASHILA DEVI

THE 44 roadshows organised by the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations around the country have been deemed successful as many important issues were brought up.

The road-shows also presented employers and employees alike the opportunity to learn of the changes in labour laws, the services the Ministry provides and the programmes available to workers in Fiji.

The line Minister, Jone Usamate said there were many issues raised and overall the Ministry was happy with the level of engagement.

"We have witnessed the excitement of the general public during this public consultation program and we believe that more of this needs to be done regularly on a specific time space that we will set later on," Minister Usamate said.

These consultations, he said,



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Jone Usamate with women of Vuma Village. Photo: SUPPLIED

gave them the chance to listen directly from workers on the issues they faced with their employers which the Ministry will address as it now analyses the concerns raised.

"Ministry's core duty is to enforce the labour legislations and when workers raise issues, it measures our performance of enforcement," Minister Usamate said.

The Ministry used this platform to raise awareness on key areas like the change in leave entitlements- maternity, paternity and

family care leave- and the \$1,000 parenthood assistance to mother for every child born.

Discussions also touched on the minimum terms and conditions of employment, the Wages Regulation 2017 on the 10 sectors, seasonal workers programme, national minimum wages and awareness on child labour as well as the different units within the Ministry and what they do including change in 2019 on Workers Compensation

On the seasonal work programme, Minister Usamate said

while it was doing well, the Ministry will keep on doing the strength, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis but there were many success stories from this programme.

"The story of achievement by the Ovalau team was inspirational and brings good repute to our country and the future of this program."

"I continue to say to them that you can open and also close the doors of Seasonal Work Employers depending on performance," Minister Usamate said.



‘Right to peace for all humanity’



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama lays a wreath in remembrance of the fallen peacekeepers at the North Lawn Memorial site at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI marks 40 years of services by Fijian women and men serving in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

This was highlighted by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while addressing world leaders at the High Level meeting on Action for Peacekeeping in New York.

“For 40 years, Fijians have made our contribution to defending the defenceless, fighting for the right of people everywhere to live in peace, security and stability.”

“For 40 years, Fijian peacekeepers have served honourably, with courage, discipline and tenacity when tested in the line of duty.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fijians have sacrificed, leaving behind families and loved

ones who anxiously await their return, as they serve a cause larger than themselves, with some making the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of global peace.

“Our contribution to UN Peacekeeping has been the pride of every Fijian – because while we may be a small country, we’ve shown ourselves to be more than willing to do our part to protect the innocent, shield the vulnerable and uphold the basic human rights of all people.”

“In Fiji, we are blessed to enjoy a measure of peace, security and prosperity that many millions of our fellow global citizens cannot. That is why so many Fijians have been willing to enter the ranks of UN peacekeepers; because we believe the right to peace should be enjoyed by all of humanity.

“In Fiji, almost everyone knows someone who has served in the

ranks of peacekeeping forces. It could be someone in their family, someone in their community, or someone who attended their school,” he said.

The Head of Government added that when it comes to peacekeeping, the call of duty is felt very widely in the country and the pride and appreciation for Fijian peacekeepers is very much a part of how every Fijian sees our nation in the world.

“When peacekeepers return from their service, they return to Fiji with training and skills that have helped build the Fiji we know today.”

“They step into the Fijian workforce, as breadwinners for their families, they enter into our schools and institutions of higher

learning, and they rise to assume positions of great leadership in our country.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama also reminded world leaders of the Fiji’s efforts in upgrading troops capabilities that help keep them safe and maintain their effectiveness.

He added that Fiji looked forward to working with partners around the world to support well-trained and well-equipped Fijian peacekeeping contingents where their protection and their service were needed most.

“A modern fighting force must also be inclusive; it must be a force that is representative of society. And we applaud every effort to increase the participation of women in UN Peacekeeping Operations.”

“In Fiji, we are steadily increasing our enlistment of women in our armed forces, including as peacekeepers, and in the police, and through all aspects of Fijian life and society.”

He paid tribute to all those nations who stand side-by-side with Fiji in conflict zones around the world.

“We have had your back, as you have had ours, these past 40 years; for that you have our gratitude, and you will continue to have our commitment.”

“I salute all of those who have served over the entire history of peacekeeping operations, and again give Fiji’s full and unwavering support to the global cause of peace and prosperity for all people.”

Fiji celebrates ‘starting point for democracy, freedom’

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI will soon hold national elections for the second time as a nation celebrating with a purpose as a truly free elections are the “very starting point for democracy and freedom”.

This was the message by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during his national address at the United Nations General Assembly in New York recently.

“I am proud of what we have accomplished in our Fijian democracy. Where we once had only the shell of democracy, we have now pierced that shell, and we have brought the Fijian people into a genuinely inclusive society in which minority rights are respected and all citizens are equal not just in name, but in fact.”

“That is the great promise of the 2013 Fijian Constitution, which has been the beacon for our progress through its vast array of po-

litical and socio-economic protections for every Fijian.”

PM Bainimarama highlighted that in Fiji today no distinctions were made based on ethnicity, social status or religion and laws that guarantee equality were enforced.

“We have reinforced our democracy by passing laws to empower girls and women and protect them from violence.”

“We have reformed our education system so that it provides real opportunity for all Fijians, regardless of income and regardless of whether they live in the capital or

the most remote islands and regardless of gender.”

“We have also reformed our welfare programmes to provide not just a stronger safety net but also to create greater opportunity for the most vulnerable in our society.”

“So while we provide free medicines and subsidised electricity, we also award grants to micro businesses as a way of lifting people out of poverty and rewarding and encouraging self-reliance and entrepreneurship.”

PM Bainimarama also highlight-

ed a few initiatives of the Fijian Government including government programmes for the disadvantaged based on a fundamental principle that the socio-economic rights of all Fijians must be protected.

“Other achievements include the right to a quality education, the right to receive treatment and medication when they are ill, the right to decent housing, the right to clean water and electricity, and the right to transportation that is affordable and accessible,” he said.

Fiji has strengthened independent institutions—the judiciary and independent commissions that protect consumers, fight corruption, provide legal assistance, advocate and promote human rights and carry out many of the activities of government that must be free of political considerations.

“There is no doubt that the Fijian people have a strong and abiding love for freedom. We want to live free, and we see freedom, democracy and—perhaps most important of all—tolerance as powerful forces for peace in the world”



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama addresses the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

PM urges leaders to strengthen contributions

NANISE NEIMILA

NATIONAL leaders have been urged to search within for ways and means to strengthen Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) upward for 2020.

This was call made by the 23rd session of Conference of Parties (COP23) president and Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama while speaking at the United Nations Secretary –General’s Climate Change event held in New York last week.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Talanoa Dialogue at COP24 is an important milestone on this path and Fiji fully expects that it will provide the catalyst needed to help us get there.

“This is the year of the Talanoa Dialogue, which is based on the concept of talanoa, an open, honest and respectful process of dialogue used in communities in Fiji and other Pacific nations.”

“The idea of talanoa is to move the world beyond debates and zero-sum negotiations in order to bring the best ideas to the surface and share them – all in an effort to give political leaders the inspiration, the tools and the partnerships they need to prepare more ambitious emission reduction targets by 2020.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted that one of the greatest examples of the power of talanoa was the Global Climate Action Summit, convened by colleague and Special Envoy to States and Regions, Californian Governor Jerry Brown.

“Investors, cities, states, civil society groups and others showed us the groundswell of climate action that is taking place around the world. They showed us how some of the brightest minds have turned their attention to developing the technology and solutions to help us face this crisis.”

“Most importantly, they showed us a number of ways that countries can harness all this progress and put it to use to strengthen climate ambition at the national level.”

“Many people continue to underestimate the challenge ahead of us but let us not also underestimate our collective ability to solve the problem.”

“Exponential technological change is already happening, which can be a game changer.”

“We have the ability to change our energy systems, to draw down carbon into our forests, mangroves and soils and to make more efficient use of our resources. But it’s up to us to make sure we don’t fall short of our potential.”

Fiji targets all sectors to achieve NDCs

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI will be engaging all sectors of the economy to prepare a long-term decarbonisation strategy for net-zero emissions by 2050 as part of the new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

This was the commitment by the 23rd session of Conference of Parties (COP23) president and Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama at the One Planet summit in New York recently.

This means that Fiji’s NDC will no longer cover just the energy sector but potentially other critical sectors such as land transport, maritime transport, domestic aviation, waste, agriculture and forestry.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said as part of this comprehensive, whole-of-economy approach, Fiji has identified the potential evolution of these sectors in business-as-usual, high-ambition, and very-high-ambition scenarios.

“This has included identifying feasible low-carbon development options that have the potential to reduce carbon emissions, enhance carbon sinks and build resilience. We will announce the full details of this strategy at COP24.”

“With this announcement Fiji joins the Marshall Islands to become the first two countries to signal our unreserved intention to raise the ambition of our NDCs by 2020.”

While there is certainly pride attached in being amongst the first, Prime Minister Bainimarama highlighted this new commitment will require a lot of support and he is calling world leaders to take heed of this approach.



Prime Minister and COP23 President Frank Bainimarama with the President of Marshall Islands Hilda Heine at the 42nd annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of G77 and China in New York. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

“Only when many others, including much larger emitters, join us in committing to strengthened targets will we tip the scales back in the planet’s favour and put the world back on track to achieving the temperature goals set by the Paris Agreement.”

“Many countries are already working in this direction, and I encourage them in their efforts. I look forward to hearing what they have to share in the coming months, including at some

of the important milestones coming up, such as the Virtual Summit of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and Talanoa Dialogue at COP24 this year, and the UN Secretary-General’s Summit next year.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama has made a plea to world leaders that it’s time to make a decision and decide what kind of future we want.

The current commitments that Fiji has made under the Paris Agreement were done so to put the country in the race but it has been deemed as running far too slowly to have any chance of winning.

Greater ambition needed in climate action dialogue

NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI is calling for greater ambition in climate action plans from all countries through the Talanoa Dialogue.

This was call made by 23rd session of Conference of Parties (COP23) president and Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama while addressing leaders at the 42nd annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of G77 and China in New York.

“We’ve held hundreds of Talanoa Dialogues already with great success, including in Bonn, Suva and San Francisco. And I’m proud to stand here today following our announcement that Fiji and the Republic of the Marshall Islands have become the first two countries in the world to signal our unreserved intention to raise the ambition of our Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement by 2020.”

“But it isn’t enough to tackle emissions alone, we need to redirect resources to build resilience across climate vulnerable economies, we must develop financing that helps vulnerable countries build resilience and introduces insurance mechanisms to protect



Prime Minister and COP23 President Frank Bainimarama while addressing leaders in New York. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

people’s homes and businesses against climate-related disasters.”

Prime Minister Bainimarama said greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced on a global scale and whether a small island state or a large industrial power, “we must all do more than our fair share if we are to avert climate catastrophe for our planet”.

“I speak for every Fijian, every Pacific Islander, and for the billions of climate-vulnerable people the world over when I say: we are not doing enough, we can and we must do more.”

He said Fiji appreciated the strong support of the nations represented at the meeting for the process of implementing the Paris

is Agreement and that this support must continue.

“I look forward to working with all of the G77 plus China to urgently raise the ambition of our commitments under the Paris Agreement, for the sake of our economies, and for every person on the planet.”



PM Bainimarama at the China National Celebration

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama was the guest of honour at the 69th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China held at Suva Civic Centre last week. Chinese Ambassador to Fiji, Qian Bo, said in his address that 43 years of Fiji-China ties had strengthened and led to the stage where relations were now really strong.

"China is Fiji's largest source of investment, fourth-largest trading partner and fourth-largest source of tourists," he said. In a significant move towards cementing people-to-people ties between the two countries, the iconic Suva Civic Centre was also recently redeveloped by the Guangdong Province of China. Ministry of Foreign Affairs acting chief of protocol Jonetani Tagivetaua made a statement on behalf of the Fijian Government and reaffirmed Fiji's commitment to the One-China-Policy.

Photos: ERONI VALILI



Vuniwaqa marks International Day of Older Persons

Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation Mereiseini Vuniwaqa officiated at the celebrations to mark International Day of Older Persons at the Golden Age Home in Lautoka. With Fiji's older population increasing by 3000 people annually, she highlighted the important responsibility of society to

ensure that senior citizens received the best care at their most vulnerable stage in life. Celebrations began with a march and included an Open Day exhibition by the Fijian Elections Office and Fiji Red Cross Society. Minister Vuniwaqa toured the Golden

Age Home and also shared words of encouragement with bedridden residents. Guests included elderly members of the community from the Lovu HART Home in Lautoka.

Photos: ISAAC LAL





Grower signs up to FSC joint venture

LITIA VULDAUSIGA

ACCCESS to broader markets, increased capacity and better resources are just some of the drawcards of joint venture (JV) farming with the Fiji Sugar Corporation.

Among the savvy cultivators who have recently signed onto a JV with the country's largest sugar producers is Iokimi Lutua, a seasoned farmer who has toiled the land for almost 30 years.

The Nakama native maintained cane farms in Labasa while forging a career in public service and other sectors, and has recently returned to till the land he grew up on.

"I grew up in a farm and farming is my life," Mr Lutua said.

"Work may take me here and there but the land is where I truly belong."

Mr Lutua signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the FSC for a five-year joint venture last week.

It was while reading an article on the advan-

tages of sugar cane farming that led him to inquire with the FSC on the options of a JV for his farm.

"With sugar, the Fijian Government is really supporting the industry right now and there are great incentives like subsidies on weedicides and fertilizer and things that bolster farming," Mr Lutua added.

Part of the attraction has of course been favourable market conditions with cane being purchased at \$85 per tonne by the FSC.

Mr Lutua had previously supplied to the cassava market but the challenges of market buyers had forced him to cut his losses in 2011.

Seven years later, favourable market prices have seen him return to farming, albeit for the sugar industry.

"Having come from cassava farming, where the market was challenging, with sugar the market is already there so as a farmer you just focus on planting and increasing yield."

With 65 acres signed on for his joint venture with the FSC, Mr Lutua is targeting 1800

tonnes of sugar cane to be produced on his farm. The FSC is overseeing all preparatory work on the farm such as clearing land, cultivation and the planting of the cane, with tractors already deployed there.

The father of three is optimistic about rainfall in October so planting can resume after the land is cleared.

FSC explained that they also assist growers with sourcing funds from commercial institutions with FSC securing markets once farms are established.

"This is encouraging and progressive step as we try to engage and in some instance re-engage people with sugar cane farming," enthused Graham Clark, chief executive office of the FSC.

"Anyone interested in our Joint Venture schemes should contact the FSC for a discussion and see what opportunities there are."

The FSC's Joint Venture schemes include a Straight Lease Option, 70/30 Option and the 100 per cent Option.

Kumar sets climate champion challenge

ISAAC LAL

MINISTER Local Government and Community Development Parveen Kumar has challenged the people of Ba to become climate change champions by advocating and leading the nation in efforts to become litter-free.

Minister Kumar made the comments while closing the week-long Ba Riverside Carnival at the market grounds in Ba last weekend.

"I have reiterated this many times but we need to ensure that as residents of Ba and as citizens of this country, we need to take charge of our lives and the environment we live in. There is an enormous amount of rubbish that we dispose of without thinking, this needs to stop and we all need some civic pride in us," he said.

"We have become so complacent and dependent on others to do the work for us that we do not think twice when it comes to tossing rubbish."

Minister Kumar did not mince his words when he highlighted that the Ba Province needed to step up in the fight against littering.

"It is my humble plea that we take ownership and responsibility of our surroundings, our communities and our nation when it comes to keeping it beautiful," Minister Kumar said.

"I want Ba town to be the first town to be declared litter-free and I know that this is possible and I urge all of you to ensure that we dispose of our rubbish thoughtfully."

Minister Kumar added that the ministry is working closely with other stakeholders in efforts to implement and enforce the no-litter campaign in efforts to reduce littering.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa and Fiji Women's Crisis Centre co-ordinator Shamima Ali at the Gender, Violence against Women and Human Rights Training.
 Photo: ISAAC LAL



Gender equality 'priority for Govt'

ISAAC LAL

GENDER equality is a major priority for the Government and is imbedded in national and international commitments and legislations, says Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaqa.

Minister Vuniwaqa made the comments recently during a training workshop in Nadi adding that the visible advocacy and commitment to gender equality has also

been partly due to a strong and vibrant women's movement in Fiji who have been at the forefront of a lot of these gains apart from the Government's commitment.

"Despite this progress, however, we continue to be confronted by disturbing information about the position of women in Fiji. Rates of violence against women and girls in Fiji are among the very highest in the world. Rape and sexual abuse remain amongst the highest of serious crimes against women," she highlighted.

"Sexual harassment in the workplace and the glass ceiling are still a thing in our workplaces.

"Also, cultural and traditional attitudes towards women's roles in development limit their participation in formal employment and in taking up positions of leadership."

Minister Vuniwaqa said the situation needed to be changed and it was critical for all stakeholders to play an integral role in ensuring that there is a greater level of awareness for greater understand-

ing of the issue.

"If development is to be sustainable and is to have a viable future, it must take account of the principle of gender equity and equality between men and women. Fijian women and girls make up nearly 50 per cent of our population," she said.

"They contribute significantly to our progress, be it at the home front, within the communities, or at both the national and international levels. They certainly deserve our nation's collective sup-

port."

This, she said, remains the undervalued and the ambition of achieving the sustainable development goals cannot be achieved without putting women in the centre of efforts of development for the Fijian society.

"Their talent, vision, leadership and entrepreneurial spirit unleashed are essential to reaching a sustainable, peaceful and prosperous future for all of humanity."



Ministry aids island's small businesses

NATASHA BEGUM

A TOTAL of 2539 businesses in Taveuni have been supported under the Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) since 2015.

Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism Faiyaz Koya highlighted this during the MSB grant disbursement to the 1,312 recipients at the Wairiki Primary School ground recently where he also stated that the Government had invested \$2.5 million into the economy of Taveuni.

To our Taveuni recipients, you have proven that you have the ability and the know-how to undertake business and positively contribute to the Fijian economy

Faiyaz Koya
Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism

“So to our Taveuni recipients, you have proven that you have the ability and the know-how to undertake business and positively contribute to the Fijian economy,” Minister Koya said.

“And with the assistance we are providing, your businesses will flourish and thrive. But don't stop there.

“We know from the experience in other countries that micro, small and medium enterprises are powerful forces for lifting people out of poverty making them more self-sufficient and giving them a sense of purpose and fulfilment.”

Minister Koya reiterated that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) were essential for job creation, income generation, rural development, poverty alleviation and empowerment of youth and women.

“We are putting our confidence and trust in you, to use this assistance appropriately because all of you have been thoroughly and carefully assessed by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and the Fiji Development Bank, to ensure that only those who genuinely need this assistance are supported,” he said.

To date, through the MSBG programme, 28,004 micro and small entrepreneurs have been assisted, impacting the lives of 140,020 Fijians, with the Fijian Government's investment of \$26.4 million.



Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Land and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya with Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) recipients at Ratu Ganilau Park in Savusavu. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

Recipients pump \$5.7m into economy

JOSIA RALAGO

MICRO and Small Business Grant (MSBG) recipients in Savusavu between 2015 and 2017 have contributed \$5.7million to the Fijian economy.

This was announced by the Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Land and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya during the recent grant distribution in the Northern Town last week, saying this was revealed after an assessment was carried out by the Ministry.

“The assessment confirmed that 479 businesses were operating successfully, which means 62.4 per cent of businesses assessed in Savusavu are operating successfully, out of which 311 businesses were agriculture based,

whilst 121 were in retailing sector,” Minister Koya said.

“These MSBG recipients contributed \$5.7 million towards the Fijian economy and created approximately 200 jobs in Savusavu.”

He added the number of recipients have also increased from last year.

“Last year we disbursed grants to 1,766 recipients here in Savusavu and today, a total of 2,051 people will be receiving this assistance. This brings the total number of entrepreneurs assisted in Savusavu thus far to 4,283 and supporting the livelihood of 21,415 people,” Minister Koya said.

“The assessment also revealed that 24 micro businesses have graduated to small businesses, while 3 micro businesses graduated to me-

dium enterprises. In addition, 24 businesses have accessed additional financial assistance from financial institutions.”

He said this was a clear indication that the grant was having an impact on the livelihoods of people.

“This is exactly what the Fijian Government wanted to achieve – strong and resilient grass root communities,” Minister Koya said.

“The performance of your fellow Savusavu residents has set the challenge for the recipients here today. To make use of this opportunity, to contribute to the growth of the economy and join the successful small entrepreneurs who form the backbone of our country.”

Young farmer hails Govt's MSB grant

JOSIA RALAGO

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Atunaisa Maitoga of Karoko Village in Cakaudrove will soon have a proper farm house after becoming a recipient of the Micro and Small Business Grant last week.

Leaving school at Year 11 four years ago, Mr Maitoga decided to turn to the activity he loved the most – farming.

“The love for farming came naturally to me as most of us in the village rely on the land for survival. My father was a farmer, my brothers are farmers and I too love to farm, so when I left school, I decided to start my own yaqona and dalo farm,” he explained.

And while he has been toiling the land ever since he left the education system in 2014, a major hindrance was the lack of a farm house.

“My farm is far inland and it usually takes me three hours

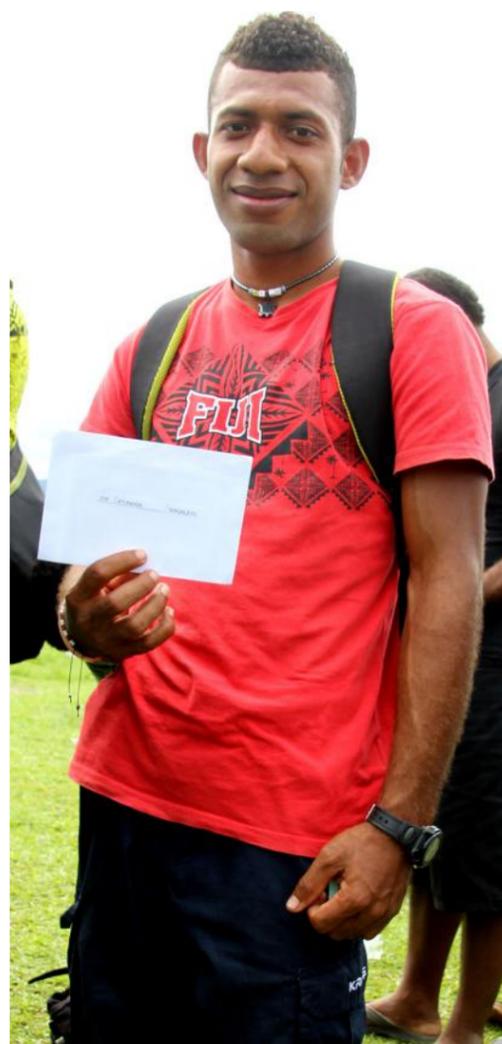
to walk from the village to my farm,” Mr Maitoga said.

“Because of the distance, I would have to sleepover at times, so I would build temporary sheds to provide shelter during the night.”

However, all this will be a thing of the past for this optimistic young farmer, who said the construction of a farm house would mean more production, as he would be spending more time in the farm.

“I am very grateful to the Government for this grant. We are young farmers and we have our own struggles, but to have opportunities as such, gives us more chance to focus on our farms and increase production,” Mr Maitoga said.

He was one of the 2051 people that received the grant from the Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Land and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya in Savusavu recently.



Atunaisa Maitoga of Karoko, Cakaudrove with his cheque. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

I am very grateful to the Government for this grant. We are young farmers and we have our own struggles, but to have opportunities as such, gives us more chance to focus on our farms and increase production

Atunaisa Maitoga
Farmer



Upgrades boost health centre's services

ANSHOO CHANDRA

CURRENT developments at the Nausori Health Centre will broaden health care services and increase accessibility to services to efficiently address the non-communicable-diseases (NCDs).

One of the key developments that will be unveiled in the coming weeks will be the opening of the new diabetes hub foot care clinic that will enable the Nausori Health Centre team to intensify their reach-out to the diabetic patients.

This new clinic is being developed by the health centre through its ongoing partnership with Diabetes Fiji.

Rewa subdivisional medical officer Dr Sravaniya Dasi said the new clinic will significantly increase their reachout to diabetic patients who need proper screening and early treatment to avoid complications that causes amputations.

“Outreach is our main focus area because we want to take health care services and make it accessible and affordable.

The public health team reaches out to over 3000 people through its outreach awareness programs on the prevention of NCDs in the rural and remote communities

“An average of 200 patients are seen per three months and through the new hub, we will strive to reachout to those who may be shying away from seeking treatment and cause early treatment care is the way to avoid amputations and save lives,” Dr Dasi elaborated.

Nausori Health Centre staff nurse, Mrs Suliana Tora, who has been coordinating the Footcare Program for the last six years, said the establishment hub is recognition of their commitment to save lives.

“Over the years, we have saved many feet,



Staff nurse, Suliana Tora inside the diabetes footcare hubcentre at Nausori Health Centre. **INSET:** Rewa Subdivisional Medical Officer Dr Sravaniya Dasi, (right), with a colleague inside the trauma room. **Photos: SUPPLIED**

by treating the wounds and lesions. Now with more space given within this new hub, we will be able to improve our service in terms of diabetic feet assessment, treating lesion or wounds completely before it comes infected and diabetes sepsis that leads to amputations. We hope to save many more feet through this program,” Mrs Tora said.

The establishment of a trauma room at the Nausori Health Centre which is equipped and staffed to provide care for patients suffering from major traumatic injuries and illnesses as it

is equipped with cardiac equipment and appropriate medications to handle any traumatic illnesses and cases should the need arises.

Dr Dasi said the team strives to think innovatively to enhance their services and they have also embraced a compassionate and caring approach to patient care.

Currently the Nausori Health Centre has 13 doctors covering a population of 90,000 and on average attends to 300 patients daily while on a busy day it sees around 500 patients a day.

Pathologist emphasises on traditional diet

DIPESH KUMAR

“I AM not only making people aware of cancer but I am also emphasising on how we can prevent cancers,” says Dr Raghwa Sharma.

Dr Sharma, an Australian pathologist, explained that one of the reasons for the increasing number of cases in cancer is because of the change in people’s lifestyle.

“We are too fast in copying things like westernisation of fast food, oiled food, high content of red meat and processed food which are really detrimental to health from non-communicable-diseases especially cancer.”

“Lot of these things are heavily promoted by media and the western world and we get carried away thinking that it’s a correct thing.”

“Only 10 per cent cancers at most are genetic or comes with genes for whatever reason but 90 per cent is actually your environment, habits, exposure, what you are doing to your body,” Dr Sharma said.

“My advice for people is to make sure go back to having more vegetables and fruits in your diet. Mainly more organic food that you use to eat like fresh fish from the sea,” he said.

He also highlighted that alcohol consumption increases the risk of breast cancer in women and advised them to reduce alcohol intake as treatments have become costly.

“Alcohol is not good especially for breast cancer. It alters your hormone level and female cancers are hormone related.”

Dr Sharma said that people should not totally depend on the health system as it will not solve all their issues.

“We’ve gone through the scourge of diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke and other things. Now we have entered the cancer stage and these are directly related to change in diet, lack of exercise, smoking and poor management of stress.”

“So all these things need to be incorporated in the daily living so that you can actually do something for yourself rather than just totally depending on the health system because it’s never going to solve the issues which are just much more complex than just having doctors to cut or treat,” he said.

Dry spell worries livestock, crop farmer

DIPESH KUMAR

FARMERS of Naroro, Sigatoka, have been suffering the impact of dry weather conditions in the Western Division.

Jitendra Kumar, a resident of Naroro, said it has become really difficult to tend to crops because of the dry weather spell.

“It hasn’t rained for two or three months and because of this we haven’t been able to plant vegetables.”

“When there is a drought season it becomes really dry and when its rainy season then it starts to rain a lot, I get around three to four months to grow my vegetables,” Mr Kumar said.

He is also involved in livestock farming and said he follows his father’s footsteps in farming.

Mr Kumar got into vegetable farming and began raising goats which slowly saw the farming fam-



Jitendra Kumar at his farm at Naroro Settlement outside Sigatoka. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

ily move out of sugarcane farming. “I have around 200 goats, 50 sheep and some cattle.”

“I’m following the footsteps of my father,” he said.

He also commended the initiatives by the Government towards farmers as he shared his achievements.

“They provided me with fence wires and after that I got help from the Government almost every year in goat farming. In the first year I got around 22 bundles of fence

wires and 6 bundles of barb wires.” “I am very happy that the Government is doing all this and if the future generation work hard like this in farming than our country will definitely move forward.”

“When we used to do sugarcane farming we did it so just to make our father proud and in 1992 we won the best farmer award in sugarcane.”

The Kumar family applied their winning farming skills which

earned them accolades in sugarcane cultivation to vegetable farming when they moved towards this commodity in 2010.

Mr Kumar plans to increase the number of sheep on his farm with the help of the Government in the coming years.

“I would also like to tell the people to use the land and raise some goats and sheep so that we can reduce the amount of imported meats in our country,” he said.



Vuniwaqa praises historic workshop

ISAACLAL

THE efforts of non-government women's group in working hand in hand with Government to advance the fight against women and children have been hailed.

This recognition comes from the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Mereseini Vuniwaqa as she praised the work of both the ministry and other women's rights movement organisations in highlighting and advocating in the fight to root out violence from Fijian homes and the community.

Minister Vuniwaqa highlighted this while opening the first ever Gender, Violence against Women and Human Rights Training for the senior managers of the ministry which was being facilitated by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre.

"Violence against women and children and gender violence is a major issue for the ministry and the Government continues to explore this area to ensure that we can stem out these plague from our societies," she said.

"It is not only a crime but it is also morally wrong to see violence in our homes, on the streets and as Fijians this is something we need to talk about a lot to ensure that our children, our sisters, wives and mothers are safe in an environment that we create for them."

Course facilitator and FWCC coordinator Shamima Ali said it was encouraging to note the efforts made by the Government and other organisations in raising awareness and in giving more voice and recognition that violence is not part of any community in the country.

"There may be times when the Government and women's groups may differ in opinions but when it comes to violence and taking action against perpetrators of violence against women and children, the Government has been in the forefront," Ms Ali said.

The week-long workshop will see senior managers of the ministry from around the country equip themselves with the various tools and resources available to them when dealing with cases on gender, violence and human rights.

Govt grants for senior citizens' homes

PRIYANKA LAL

TEN agencies have been assisted under the National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) grant totalling to \$367,473 since 2014.

This was highlighted by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation permanent secretary Dr Josefa Koroivueta while signing the grant agreements between the Ministry and six senior citizens homes in Samabula, Suva.

Dr Koroivueta said the funding assistance had generally assisted in addressing the promotion of the inclusion, protection, health and provision of enabling environments for older persons.

"NCOP has been consistently resourced a

budget of \$404,000 for this financial year. Aligned to complementing service delivery by existing non-government organisations and charitable trusts for older persons, the NCOP provides grants based on applications for support funding to specific agencies," he said.

He acknowledged the work done by homes for the care of older persons as it was not only an issue for the Government to look into but for the country as a whole.

"We need to prepare our communities for the care and support of the older person. We need to be prepared in terms of the provision of mobility aids and also ensuring that the infrastructure is accessible; not only in the aged-care homes but also the amenities around the country," Dr Koroivueta said.

He also indicated that the Government would

soon announce the free bus fare provision for older persons or those aged 60 plus.

Senior Citizens Ba Community Centre secretary Arun Sharma, in thanking the ministry for the grant of \$46,000, said the funding would go a long way in the smooth running of the organisation.

"The grant has been increasing for the past few years and we are grateful for the much needed help. We celebrate major national and religious events at the home for the senior citizens so we will use the grant for that as well," Mr Sharma said.

He said they were currently renting a property but were looking for a suitable land to build a new senior citizens home which would be in operational 24/7.



Mikaele Dreweta of Cavaga Village in Solevu with his grandson outside their home. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

Parent urged to ensure kids stay in school

JOSIA RALAGO

"I ONLY wish that this golden opportunity in education present to students today were made available during our time."

This was the comment from a parent during the recent Solevu District Meeting in Bua where parents were reminded of the need for them to step up on their roles in ensuring their children were in school.

Sixty-six-year-old Mikaele Dreweta of Cavaga village said the education opportunity presented by the Government was one which ensured that all Fijians must have access to education.

"This is the prime time for parents to put their children to school because it has been made free. It is imperative that our children are educated," Mr Dreweta said.

"Education enlightens people, broadens their knowledge and teaches them about the world. Such an opportunity should not be wasted but be taken advantage of so our children could better serve our country, our villages and our communities when the time comes."

Mr Dreweta said he could see children loitering in villages or cutting cane in the fields when they should be in school.

"This is where our role as parents come in, ensuring our children are in school when they are supposed to be," he emphasised.

"They could always return to the village after they have completed high school or tertiary level. We have experienced that when these well educated children come back to the village, they help us elders in making informed decisions and in further developing our village.

"We could only wish that this education opportunity was offered during our time in school. We struggled and our parents had to go the extra mile to put us to school."

He said parents were key players in this regard and should play their part accordingly.



Women of Qarasarau Village at the opening of their Resource Centre in Serua. Photo: SOLO LEWANAVANUA



Minister for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou and elders of Qarasarau Village in Serua during the opening of their Resource Centre. Photo: SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Resource centre keeps youths productive

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

THE recently opened Qarasarau Resource Centre in Serua will serve multiple purposes for the community but most significantly it will keep youth engaged in productive activities.

Minister for Youth and Sports, Laisenia Tuitubou, while opening of the new resource centre for Qarasarau village in Nuku District, Serua recently, said the centre will also be useful for the Ministry to implement youth programmes.

The resource centre, an initiative by Qarasarau villagers who toiled hard to raise funds amounting to \$20,000, was built to deter their children from wandering about in search of internet shops.

Minister Tuitubou said the resource centre will benefit members of the community especially their students.

“This resource centre will benefit the members of your community. Children from kindergarten to tertiary level education will further benefit in this Resource Centre,” Minister Tuitubou said.

“This facility is in line with the ministry focus which is to lead them to success to fulfil their aspirations.”

“Being the ministry overseeing the youth sector in Fiji we have seen many youths not being able to complete their education or being left rejected,” Minister Tuitubou said.

“They fill isolated and start creating negative attitudes and are faced with challenges, some are involved in substance abuse or other anti-social activities.”

“The ministry, however, is determined to propel all youths to achieve better things in life and will continue to give them alternative avenues to help them to be successful in life,” Minister Tuitubou said.

“The resource centre is one of the means through which the ministry can provide support to youths in our communities.”

“The ministry provides support in empowering training and we have five training centres that they can attend to further their training on non-formal education.”

“To the youth of this community you can achieve your ambition in your lifetime from



Minister for Youth and Sports Laisenia Tuitubou (with garland) at the Qarasarau Village Resource Centre. Photo: SOLO LEWANAVANUA

now.”

The resource centre will benefit 30 students of the village who are currently in primary and secondary level in doing their research and school projects.

Staff from the Library Services of Fiji were also present at the opening to assist the resource centre.

Minister Tuitubou said, “So today we see that most of the time we use and we don’t prepare them. That’s why we have the Resource Centre here today to assist the youths in their endeavour”.

“You will need to take ownership of the Resources Centre that we have here.”

“I would like to tell you today that we have three rural millionaires. Just recently we have one in Gau, these are registered youth club.”

“If they can do it the youths of Qarasarau village can also achieve that here. Youths from these villages in urban areas are returning to their villages because what they are looking for in urban areas can be achieved in their own villages.”

“They were able to achieve this because they made use of the three pillars- the Government, vanua and the church.”

“The iTaukei way of life is based on unity or working together. If one of these pillars is missing they won’t achieve their aim,” Minister Tuitubou said.

“This new resource centre will need the support of the vanua, the church and the Government. This is a happy occasion because the centre will benefit your children’s future.”

Qarasau villager Lino Koroibuta explained the hard work they did which has come to fruition.

“We started building this resource centre in 2010 we kept fundraising slowly. We use to collect our village soli every Fiji Day of which each person gives \$100 each and we managed to collect more than \$20,000,” Mr Koroibuta said.

“We have 30 students in primary schools 10 in secondary and 15 in tertiary level.”

He said the resource centre was built because the village elders saw the need for students in secondary and tertiary level to have a centre where they can do their research and school projects.

“So they don’t have to go to look for internet shops in town but remain in the village.” “We have two computers in the centre to-

day but we are planning to ask the Minister to assist us with more computers for the centre,” Mr Koroibuta said.

“We are glad that the Library Service of Fiji is supporting us with the library books they are going to supply to this centre.”

“I thank God for giving us the wisdom to build our resource centre so that our youths will have brighter futures. I have five children who will directly benefit from this resource centre,” Lino said.

Karalaini Iokimi, 40, a mother from Qarasarau is happy with the new resource centre because it will benefit her children’s future.

“I am so happy with this project because I know the benefit of having a resource centre as it will help our children in reading in English and for those in secondary schools and tertiary level will help them doing their research,” Mrs Iokimi said.

Provincial Administrator for Serua, Inoke Tagicakibau, encouraged villagers of Qarasarau to make use of the resource centre.

“I urge you parents and the vanua to give all your support in encouraging your children to make good use of this resource centre,” he said.



NFA works to cut fire response times

ISAAC LAL

NATIONAL Fire Authority officers are working on strategies to ensure they reduce response time to the location of distress from 10 minutes to five minutes.

NFA board member Manasa Lesuma made this comment in light of the various measures put in place for the rescue services during emergencies.

Speaking in Nadi recently during the handing over of a new vehicle to the fastest growing town in the Pacific, Mr Lesuma highlighted the need for continuous improvements to the processes of the services provided by NFA.



The Government continues to provide all the necessary improvements to NFA to allow NFA to build capacity and the provision of better emergency management services to the communities, ensure preparedness, compliance and resilience of businesses, properties and investments against fire.

Manasa Lesuma
NFA board member

“The Government continues to provide all the necessary improvements to NFA to allow NFA to build capacity and the provision of better emergency management services to the communities, ensure preparedness, compliance and resilience of businesses, properties and investments against fire,” he said.

“Of greater challenge is the reduction of NFA’s response time from 10 to five minute and strategies are being put in place to achieve this.”

To address this, the Government has constructed new fire stations in locations that never had fire and emergency services.

“Places such as Korovou, Korolevu, Savusavu, Taveuni, Tavua and other towns is allowing NFA to reduce response times. Two more new fire stations will be opened in the coming weeks in Rakiraki and Nabouwalu which will allow for greater coverage and a safer Fiji,” Mr Lesuma said.

NFA provides services in fire rescue, road accident rescue, hazardous material rescue, flood and swift water rescue, urban search and rescue, assistance during natural disasters and the provision of Ambulance Services.



Minister for Industry, Trade Tourism Lands and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya after the opening of Northland Farmers Cooperatives retail store in the midst of sleepy Korovou town. Photo: VILIAME TIKOTANI

Northland farmers open retail shop

VILIAME TIKOTANI

THE angst of travelling to Suva to purchase farming implements will be a thing of the past for farmers in Tailvu after the opening of Northland Farmers Cooperatives retail store in the midst of sleepy Korovou town.

NFC secretary Joseva Madraitabua said that with the new retail shop farmers just have to walk to town to get what they need.

Minister for Industry, Trade Tourism Lands and Mineral Resources Faiyaz Koya, who opened the new shop, said ; “This is a great day for Korovou town, as the opening of the outlet, will enable farmers in the Province of Tailvu and nearby areas to purchase farming tools and equipment, seeds, cattle feeds and other farming products right here in Korovou, instead of travelling to Nausori or Suva”.

Minister Koya said the store was an example of a co-operative investment backed by the hard work and support of its members.

“Such cooperation and collaboration are truly encouraging and I urge you members of the Northland Farmers Co-operative to continue the good work,” he said.

“Over the last seven decades, co-operatives have evolved significantly with 1,809 co-operatives registered in Fiji. The emphasis now is on more resource-based rather than consumer. For the past five years, on average 20 new resource-based co-operatives are registered each year.”

The Government, he said, recognises the important role micro, small and medium enterprises play in making an economy resilient to external shocks, special attention has been given to the co-operative model, especially in terms of the crucial contribution co-operatives make to the Fijian economy.

Minister Koya explained that the Ministry through the Department of Co-operative Business formulates and implements policies and strategies to facilitate promotion, registration and monitoring of co-operative businesses in Fiji.

It was also responsible for training and upskilling of co-operative society members, as well as, providing advisory services.

“This is in line with the Fijian five-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP), which sets the foundation for an inclusive Fiji, where all Fijians are given equal opportunity to earn a better livelihood. With the goal of promoting equal opportunities and access to basic services and building resilient communities, we will continue working towards strengthening Co-operatives’ institutional capacities,” Minister Koya said.

\$634K project brings health services under one roof

NATASHA BEGUM

VILLAGERS of Nasau on Koro Island will now access health services under one roof after the opening of the new Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Clinic at the Koro Health Centre recently.

In opening the \$634,000 development project, Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar said the new extension was “uniquely designed as it remarkably consolidates MCH services under one roof”.

“It incorporates the Child Health Clinic, the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) Program along with an emergency delivery room and this is a great boost to the health services here on Koro Island.”

The Koro Health Centre inclusive of the new MCH clinic will be manned by one doctor and three nurses.

“The new MCH clinic will also empower our health staff to rigorously reach out to as many communities through public awareness raising and community outreach programs on Safe Motherhood and health development,” Minister Akbar said.



Minister for Health and Medical Services Rosy Akbar and Australian High Commissioner John Feakes at the opening of the new Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Clinic at the Koro Health Centre. Photo: NATASHA BEGUM

“The new MCH Clinic will house a delivery suit that will cater for emergency deliveries, an initiative which greatly complements the Health Ministry’s ongoing program, relative to Safe Motherhood.

“It ensures that those mothers who need an emergency delivery will be able to access this critical health service near to them and at a time when they need.”

The new facility, funded by the Australian Government as part of post Tropical Cyclone Winston aid support, will serve 14 villages in Nasau district and has a geographical population of over 5000 people.

Fiji Focus



President, Major-General (ret'd) Jioji Konrote hands over the writ of 2018 General Elections to the Fiji Electoral Commission chairperson, Suresh Chandra, on October 1, 2018. Photo: ERONI VALILI

**IT'S
NOV
14**

WRIT SETS 2018 POLL DATE

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJI will go to the polls on November 14, 2018.

The President, Major-General (ret'd) Jioji Konrote, with the powers vested on him under Section 59 (1) of the Fijian Constitution and Section 21 of the Electoral Act 2014, issued the writ of 2018 General Elections to the Fiji Electoral Commission chairperson, Suresh Chandra, on October 1, 2018.

President Konrote, speaking before a gathering that included Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, the Chief Justice Anthony Gates and the other sitting Members of Parliament, informed the chair of the following:

- all names of candidates of political parties contesting the elections must be with Fiji Elections Of-

ice by October 15, 2018

- Pre-polling and postal voting to be conducted prior to November 14, 2018

- Fiji Electoral Commission must endorse the names of MPs and return the writ to the President before November 28, 2018

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Bainimarama said come November 14, "Every Fijian's voice will matter equally, regardless of where they live or their social status, regardless of their family name and their ability, and regardless of their religion, province, ethnicity or gender".

He said in the coming weeks, there will be debates between the politicians but called on Fijians to reject politics of division.

"It is important that we all listen to what everyone has to say -- but when we do, we must always lend a careful ear to the promises and

positions of each party and, above all, we must always listen for the truth, and actively demand it," the Head of Government said.

"Every Fijian should reject those politics of division, lies and animosity, by shunning any who attempt to pit Fijian against Fijian on the basis of religion, ethnicity, gender, province, socio-economic status, or background," he said.

Prime Minister Bainimarama has also called for responsible behaviour and public utterances in the mainstream and social media platforms.

"When used responsibly, social media can be a powerful tool for good; it can create a more informed democracy and facilitate fruitful and meaningful discussions online. But when used irresponsibly, it can be an equally powerful tool for evil."

Noda Viti



Sa sainitaka tiko oqori na turaga na Peresitedi e Viti ko Jioji Konrote na ivakaro ni veidigidigi se Writ of Election ka dabe toka ena imawi na ililiu ni Matabose ni Veidigidigi ko Suresh Chandra.
iTaba: ERONI VALILI

Soli na ivakaro ni veidigidigi

NANISE NEIMILA

SA solia na nona ivakaro vakalawa na turaga na Peresitedi ko Jioji Konusi Konrote vua na ililiu ni Matabose ni Veidigidigi ko Suresh Chandra mera ciqomi kece na yaca ni vei mata vakaturi kece ena ika 15 ni siga ni Okova.

Oqori e tiki ni nona ivakaro vakalawa me sa vakayacori na veidigidigi se Writ of Election.

A solia na ivakaro oya na turaga na Peresitedi ena imatai ni siga ni Okotova Suva ni oti na nona ciqoma na nona ivakasala na Paraiminisita ko Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ena ika 30 ni Seviteba 2018 "Au sa vakaroti iko edaidai mo sa ciqoma na yacadra na mata vakaturi kece ena vale ni volavola ni veidigidigi e Viti ena 12 na kaloko ni ika 15 ni siga ni Okotova 2018," kaya ko Peresitedi Konrote.

Vakasalataka ko Peresitedi Konrote ni na vakayacori taumada na na nodra soli digidigi na lewenivanua era tu vakayawa kei ira e sega ni rawa nira yaco kina vanua ni veidigidigi ena vuku ni ituvaki ni yagodra ni bera ni vakayacori na veidigidigi levu

ena ika 14 ni siga ni vula ko Noveba.

"Au sa vakaroti iko mo sa vakarautaka oti mai na yacadra kece era sa vakadonui mera tu ena veidigidigi ena ka vakaleya lesu mai na ivakaro se Writ ni veidigidigi ena ika 28 ni siga ni Noveba," vakarota ko Peresitedi Konrote.

"Koya gona edaidai ena kaukauwa vakalawa e soli vei au ka virikorotori ena Wase 59 (1) ena Yavu ni Vakavulewa ni noda vanua ko Viti kei na wase 21 ni Lawa ni Veidigidigi ni 2014 kei na nona ivakasala na Paraiminisita, Au sa vakaroti iko kina e daidai mo vakayacora na veidigidigi me vakayacori me vaka e virikotori ena lawa, mera lewe 51 na meba mera dabe ka vakatulewa ena Palimedi."

Sa nanamaki ko Viti ena kena vakayacori na veidigidigi levu ni nona vanua ena ika 14 ni siga ni Noveba 2018.

Sa vakakoto oqo na veitaravi me yacova yani na gauna ni veidigidigi;

Tekivu na gauna ni veivakaturi ena ika 2 ni Okotova. Sogo na veivakaturi ena 12 na kaloko ena ika

15 ni Okotova.

Me qai 12 nakaloko ena sigalevu ni ika 16 ni Okotova sana sogo kina na kena vakasukai e dua na veivakaturi.

Ena 4 na kaloko ena yakavi vata oya esa na sogo kina na kudruvaki ni dua na veivakaturi.

Na ika 19 ni siga ni Okotova na siga ni kena tarai naba se ball dra.

Na ika 24 ni Okotova sana soga kina na veidigidigi ena posi ena 5 na kaloko ena yakavi.

Tekivu na veidigidigi taumada ena se pre-poll ena ika 5 ni siga ni Noveba laki ca vena ika 10 ni siga.

Sa na tekivu vakatabui na veivakauqeti ni digididi ena veitaban ni tukutuku sena media blackout on campaigning ena 7.30am ena mataka ni ika 12 ni siga ni Noveba.

E Naika 14 ni siga ni Noveba ena vakayacori kina na Veidigidigi levu ni noda vanua lomani ko Viti ena 7.30am ka laki cava ena 6.00pm.

Ena kena bogi sana takevu rogoci na macala na ni digidigi.



Rokovi na bale mate ena tiko veisaututaki

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Sa laki vakatora e dua na senikau ni vakarokoroko na noda Paraiminisita ko Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama ena North Lawn Memorial ena vale ni volavola liu ni Matabose kei Vuravura mai New York e Amerika ena nodra nanumi na bale mate ena cakacaka yaga ni veisaututaki.

Tauca kina na nona vosa ena soqo bibi ni vakananumi oya ko PM Bainimarama ena vukudra na sotia ni Viti era sa laki kacikaci ni cagi ena vanua ni veisaututaki ena tokalau e loma kei vuravura.

Qoka ko ira era sa laki solia na nodra bula ena loma ni 40 na yabaki ni noda vakaitavi tiko ena cakacaka ni veisaututaki e vuravura.

A soli kina e 1 na miniti ni vakanomodi mera vakananumi kina na sotia ni Viti era sa laki bale mate ena buca ni veisaututaki.

“Au doka vakalevu meu vakaitavi ena soqo bibi ni vakananumi oqo ena ika 40 ni yabaki ni vakaitavi nei Viti ena veisaututaki ena ruku ni Matabose kei Vuravura,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Au kauta vata tiko kei au ni kua e vasagavulu na yabaki ni vakanuinui vinaka, kei na soli bula vakaitamera ni lewei Viti.”

“E na loma ni 40 na yabaki, era sa



Vakaraitaka na nona vakarokoroko ko PM Bainimarama ena vukudra na sotia ni Viti era bale mate ena buca ni veisa+ututaki. Na soqo ni vakananumi oqo a vakayacori ena yasan vale ni bose ni Matabose kei Vuravura e New York. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

taqomaki ira na malumalumu, ka vakadeitaka na yalodra na vakalolomataki, ena buca rerevaki ni veiraravui e vuravura,” tukuna ko PM Bainimarama.

“Sa tomani tikoga ni kua na irogoro-goro ni turaga kei na marama ni Viti ena nodra vakaitavi tiko e voleka ni 900 na turaga kei na marama era veiqaravi tiko ni kua ena veisaututaki ena veiya-

sai vuravura. Era sa vakuria na cakacaka ni veisaututaki sa qaravi tiko ena loma ni 40 na yabaki.

Na soqo ni vakananumi koya era a tiko kina na noda mata kina Matabose kei Vuravura, noda vakalesilesi ena vale ni volavola ni noda mata e New York kei ira na turaga ni ivalu mai Osi-terelia, Niusiladi kei Ireland.



Ko Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama ena nona vosa tiko ena boseka ni draki veisau ka vakayacori mai na Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura e Niu Yoka. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Me ra ivakaraitaki na veiliutaki: PM

NANISE NEIMILA

Edodonu ka kilikili mera dau liutaka na vakasaqara na gaunisala vou na liuliu ni noda veivanua se matanitu. Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena noda vosa tiko ena boseka ni draki veisau ka vakayacori mai na Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura e Niu Yoka ka liutaka na Vunivola levu ni Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura ko António Guterres.

“Oqo edua na itavi levu esa vakaliuci vei keda,” kaya ko PM Bainimarama.

“O keda na liuliu ni veimatanitu edau namaki vei keda meda liutaka na kena vakasaqarai edua na gaunisala vou se dua na iwali ni leqa edau sotavi ena noda kaukauwa ni rawaka kei na iyau ka meda vakaqacotaka kina na noda iyalayala vakamataniitu me da vakalailaitaka na kasi gaga ceburaki e vuravura me yacova na yabaki 2020.”

Kuria ko PM Bainimarama ni Talanoa dialogue ena COP24 edua na ulutaga namaki ena sasaga oqo ka nuitaka okoya ni bose mai Niu Yoka ena Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura edua na bose ka na laveta na itagede ni sasaga se veiqaravi oqo.

“Ia meda kua ni nanuma ni noqu matanitu esa sagai kemuni tiko na veimatanitu eso e vuravura mo ni vakayacora na ka keimami sega ni rawata vakaikeimami.”

“Keimami sa vakaitavi tiko ena vakalailaitaki ni katakata ena noda vuravura ka keimami vinaka me keimami vakayacora vakaikina ka sega walega ni vosataka ia me keimamui liutaka.”

Sa yalataki Viti ena One Planet Summit ko PM Bainimarama ni sa bolebole tale me vakalutuma sobu tale na itagede ni sasaga vakamataniitu ena kena vakalailaitaki na kasi ka kaburaki e vuravura.

“E levu era vakawalega tiko na sasaga oqo kau ririko taka tiko ia meda kua ni guilecava na kaukauwa ni noda tuvata ka veitokoni taka na sasaga oqo ka me rawa ni kunei kina edua na kena iwali.”

“Esa na qai vakatautaki saraga veikeda ena noda sasaga meda vakayacora.”



Ko Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama kei na nona i vakalesilesi ena boseka ni draki veisau ka vakayacori mai na Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura e Niu Yoka. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Namaki na isausau vou

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

KACIVAKA ko Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni dodonu me kacivaka ko Viti ena 2019 na nona bolebole vou se tagede me vakalutuma kina na kaburaki ni kasi gaga ena noda vanua.

Yaco na veitalanoa oqo edua na sota lekaleka kei

ira na daunivola tukutuku ena gauna era lewena tikio kina na boseka ni Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura mai Niu Yoka, Amerika.

Tukuna ko PM Bainimarama ni ko Viti edua na matanitu lailai sara na itagede ni kabauraki kasi gaga ia ena vinakata me vakaraitaka e vuravura ni sega walega ni liutaka na sasaga oqo ia e vakayacora talega.

“Eda veisotaraki tiko oqo kei ira na veitabana ni rawaka vakailavo me vakarautaki edua na tuvatuva ni raiyawa vou medatou yacova yani na

saiva na itagede ni kaburaki kasi gaga ena 2050, oq ena lewena talega na bolebole yadua ni veimatanitu era lewena mai na iyalayala oqo,” kaya ko PM.

“O Viti ena wilika talega na veitabana ni rawaka vakailavo me vaka na veila-koyaki vanua mamaca se na veisokoyaki ena waitui, na waqavuka vuka ena lomai Viti, na tabana ni vakasavasavataki benu, na teitei kei na veikau.

Kuria okoya ni kaya ni sa ratou dikeva tiko na kena dau na tuvatuva ni veiqaravi

oqo me rawa ni vakayacori na veisau ena yasana malumu ia ka rawati vinaka kina na sasaga.

“Sa lauirai tiko eso na veiqaravi erawa ni lailai na kena kaburaki kasigaga ka keitou na qai kacivaka na kena gacagaca vakamatailalai ena COP24,” kaya ko PM.

“Keitou sa tomani matanitu na yatu Masela me rua na imatai ni matanitu keitou sa bolebole vata na kena vakalutumi sobu tale na itagede ni kaburaki kasigaga ena 2020.”



Me liu taumada na vei koro: Raibevu

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

VAKARAITAKA na turaga na Rokotui-kadavu ko Kitione Raibevu ni sa veisau na rai ni Bose ni Yasana ko Kadavu ni dodonu mera vakatorocaketaki ira mada e liu na veikoro ni bera ni qai lavaka na yasana na nodra cau kina vakatubuilavo ni yasana.

Na vakatubuilavo ka navuci taumada me qarava na Yasana e rawarawa me kau sobu mai me mai qarava na koro.

“Sa vakaliuca na Bose ni Yasana ko Kadavu oya me yavutaki vinaka mada na veikoro e 75 ena kena vakatorocaketaki.”

“Me cakava ga na nona vakatubuilavo na koro na dividend ga ni koro sana qai sauma tuga na nodra soli ni yasana,” tukuna ko Raibevu.

“Ena rawarawa ni moica toka na bosa vanua

kei na bosa vakoro, ka ni na dua toka na bolebole levu ni cava na yabaki 5 ka mani sega ni rawati na ilavo levu ka saga na yasana me rawata ena soli ni yasana kei na soli ni veivakatorocaketaki.”

“Na dua na bolebole levu ni na sasaga tiko na vale ni volavola kei na matabose ena ken alai kumuni tale na soli ni yasana kevaka e sega ni yacovi na takete ni yabaki lima esa na dua toka na bolebole levu,” tukuna ko Raibevu.

“Sa lewa na bosa vanua ena yabaki sa oti vakakina ena yabaki oqo ni matata vinaka tu na vanua e liu tiko kina na vakatubu ilavo vei Kontiki sa tu kina na lima na yabaki.”

“Ni na cava lima na yabaki ena suka lesu tale mai ilavo ni vakatubuilavo se dividend ni atata vinaka tu na kena ivola se na itukutuku ni track record ni vale ni volavola. Ni na oti e lima na

yabaki ni na lesu mai ena mai suka tale kina vakatubuilavo ni veikorokoro,” tukuna ko Raibevu.

“Dua na vanua keitou sa saga tiko e Kadavu oya na kena tara vinaka mada na veikoro na veitikina ena 75 na koro.”

“Ni sa vinaka na koro sana qai rawa ni cabeti me vinaka na tikina e 9 sana qai rawa ni vinaka kina na Yasana vakaturaga ko Kadavu,” tukuna ko Raibevu.

Tukuna na Roko Tui Kadavu ni iwiliwili nil ewe ni vanua ko Kadavu ka dodonu mera solia nodra soli ni yasana era sivia na 10,000.

“Qoka ko ira na turaga yabaki 21 kina 60 me dau solia nona soli ni yasana me vaka e koto ena lawatu ni Matabose ni Veikavakaitaukei se na iTaukei Affairs Act,” tukuna ko Raibevu.



Ko Epeli Drasa na turaga ni Sawani, Nadi in Bua.
iTaba: JOSIA RALAGO

Marau ko Epeli

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA koro ko Sawani e Bua, Vanua Levu e koto ena bati ni baravi ka dua na isolisoli levu ni Kalou e tu e matadra e veisiga sai koya na ika ni waitui.

Ia ko Epeli Drasa Qalomei e dua na turaga yabaki 67 ni Sawani ena tikina ko Nadi e Bua a taura talega na nona ilavo ni veivuke ni bisinisi lalai ka laki solia yani na minisita ni veivoli ko Faiyaz Koya.

E walu na luvena ka ratou lewe 4 eratou tiko vata e na koro ka levu na gauna eratou dau lai siwa me baleta walega na kana ena veisiga.

“Noqu sa rogoca na veivuke ni Matanitu oqo se small business grant sa guta sara ga na lomaqu meu kerea meu rawa ni tauyavutaka kina noqu bisinisi ni volitaki ika.

“Ia niu sa mia taura e ligu ni kua na ilavo levu oqo e \$1000 sa dua na ka na levu ni noqu marau baleta na ka oqo au dau diva lo tu meu bisinisi-taka qai leqa ni sega na ilavo meu tauyavu kina,” a tukuna ko Epeli.

“Ni kua au rawa ni kaya ni sa rogoci na noqu masu baleta ni sana rawa ni voli kina na noqu iyaya ni qoli kina na vaka na lawa kei na iyaya tale eso ena gadrevi ena bisinisi ni volitaki ika ni siwa.”

Na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Vakakau i tukutuku ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum e na nona tavoca tiko na Free WiFi hotspot e Lautoka.
iTaba: ISAAC LAL



Ko Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama ena nona vosa tiko ena bosa ni draki veisau ka vakayacori mai na Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura e Niu Yoka.
iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Marautaki na democracy nei Viti: PM

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Eda na vakarau mai marautaka na lewe ni vanua kei Viti na noda democracy ena ikarua ni noda veidigidigi vakamatanitu. Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na PM Bainimarama ena nodra tiko voli mai USA ena bosa ni Matabose cokovata kei vuravura.

“Au tukuna ni da na marautaka na kena inaki ni veidigidigi ni tu vakaikoya kei na galala,” kaya ko PM ena nodra vosa tiko ena 73 ni bosa ni matabose cokovata kei vuravura ka vakayacori mai Niu Yoka.

Kuria ko PM Bainimarama ni marautaka na nodra sa cabeta na tutu ni democracy na vanua ko viti kei na matanitu.

“Oqo eda sa vakila kece vakautatauvata na lewenivanua na cava na ibalebale ni democracy oya meda wili vaka tautauvata.”

“Me vaka e toqai ena yavu ni vakavulewa ka dua na duru ni noda tosovata e dua na vanua, matanitu kei na tabatamata.”

PM Bainimarama e vakaqacotaka na lawa kei na democracy ena nodra bulia eso na lawa vou ka rokovi kina na mara kei na goneyalewa mai na vakarau kaukauwa.

Oqo e wili kina na vakavoutaki ni veiqaravi ena vuli kau laivi kina na veivakaduiduitaki ni lewenivanua.



Tavo na vakayagataki wale ni WiFi hotspot e Lautoka

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

LAKI tavoca na Vunilawa ZAIyaz Sayed Kaiyum na Walesi mai Lautoka me rawa ni ra toboka talega na sikinala na lewenivanua mai kea.

Wilikina oqo na free wifi hotspot ena Shirley Park ka ra lakova yani vakayauyau na lewe ni vanua ena yasayasa vakara mera laki sema kina kina mona livaliva ni veitarata kei na vakaitukutuku.

Tukuna na Vunilawa ni oqo e

tiko tikoga ni tuvatuva ni matanitu me vakarawarawataka na bula ni veitarata ena noda vanuas ka vakakina vei ira na gonevuli kei na daunibisinisi.



Lisi me nodra

Laki veisoliyaka na lisi ni qele nodra lewe ni vanua mai Labasa na Minisita ni Veivoli, Bisinisi kei na saravanua ko Faiyaz Koya. Rauta ni lewe 20 na lewe ni vanua mai Labasa ka wili kina na lisi ni teitei lisi ni veivakaveletaki ka vakadeitaki ira na lewe ni vanua. ITaba: JOSIA RALAGO



Dola na vale ni wili vola ni Jaina

Edua na tabana ni wili vola vaka jaina sa dolava na tabana ni vuli ena valeniwivolva ni matanitu mai Draiba.

Dolava na Vunivola tudei ko Alison Burchell na tabana oqo ka tukuna ni ra marautaka na cavu ikalwa oqo me vaka ni ratou tokona

talega na matanitu ko Jaina ena solli ni voli ka vakauqeti na lewe ni vanua mera vakayagataka. ITaba: ERONI VALILI



Veivakadeitaki ko Vunilawa e Government Printery

Veivosaki ko Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Taba Cakacaka ni Matanitu ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei ira na tamata cakacaka ivakalesilesi e Government Printery ka vakadeitaki ira ena nodra cakacaka kei na veiqaravi veitokoni ni matanitu. Era na sega talega ni vakaceguli ena cakacaka ena gauna sa na taukena kina na Fijian Holdings Limited. ITaba: NATASHA BEGUM





Vosoti na batabata vei ratou na cauravou ni Ovalau nira vakarau biuta nodra icili mera gole yani ki cakacaka. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

Vukei na bisinisi ni vavavi nei Alanieta



Alanieta Disovanatabua e Driti, Bua. Photo: JOSAI RALAGO

Vakavinavinaka e 18 na cauravou ni Ovalau

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Era sa sega ni kinoca rawa na nodra vakavinavinaka na lewe 18 na cauravou ni Ovalau era sa lesu mai ena laki cakacaka ena iteitei e South Island e Niusiladi ena kabani levu ni caka waini na Vine Power.

Vakaraitaka na nodra vakavinavinaka levu na nodra iliuliu ko Sitiveni Waqawai yabaki 42. Qoka ena gauna a veisiko yani kina ki Ovalau na Minisita ni Veivakacakacataki ko Jone Usamate.

“Au gusui keitou tiko na lewe 18 na gone ni Ovalau ena vakavinavinaka ena kena soli tiko na kalougata oqo vei keitou me yaga ena vuvale,” tukuna ko Waqawai.

“Keitou laki soli maka vakasivia sara na gone ni Ovalau. Keitou laki tara na yalodra na veiqaravi ena vanua oya, keitou laki vakatagici ira talega ena gauna ni veitalatala. Kaitou laki qarava vinaka talega na itavi ena loma ni kabani oqo na Vine Power.”

“Keitou laki cakacaka tiko vata kei ira na gone ni Vanuatu sara lewe 10 vakacaca tiko sara gole tiko ena veiyabaki, o ira na gone ni Samoa, gone ni Solomoni, ira na gone ni Kiribati, o ira na lakova tiko main a cakacaka oqo ena loma ni veiyabaki,” tukuna ko Waqawai.

“Keitou laki qarava vinaka sara na itavi. E levu na ka keitou laki vulica ena neitou laki cakacaka ena kabani levu oqo na Vine Power.”

“Keitou sega walega ni laki qarava na apolo, keitou laki qarava na kena vakarautaki na waini koya e tiko oqori ena noda veisitoa lelevu e Suva,” tukuna ko Waqawai.

“Keitou laki qarava na na cakacaka ni kena vakarautaki na cakacaka ni waini.”

“Matai ni vula e dredre sara toka, karua ni vula keimami sa laki veicurumaki sara kei ira, ka rua ni vula sa toso cake sara mai neitou kila, katolu ni vula sa qai matata vei keitou na veika me keitou lai qarava na gone Viti,” tukuna ko Waqawai.

Me vaka ni se qai matai tikoga ni yabaki ni keitou lai vulica me vaka ni levu na taba ni cakacaka ni kena vakarautaki na waini.

Tukuna ko Waqawai ni vukei ratou sara vakalevu na nodratou kila na vosa vakavalagi.

“Keitou yaco yani keitou marau vakalevu ni cavuti vei keitou na vosa oqo:

“We are so fortunate to be mixing around with English speakers from Fiji.”



Gauna ni vakacagicagi lekaleka nib era ni tekivu tale na cakacaka. iTaba: VAKARAUTAKI

E levu na kena veimataqali cakacaka keitou gole matai ni vula ka rua ni vula.

Dua na ka na neitou marautaka ni mai vakaraitaki toka vei keitou mai veira na i taukei ni kabani ni rawarawa saran a neitou veimaliwai vata kei keitou na gone ni Viti ni keitou kila vinaka tiko na vosa vakavalagi.

Ko ira na vo ni vanua ena Pasifika nira gole mai cakacaka dau mai vakavakadewa tikoga e dua ena vosa vakavalagi.

“E vukei keitou vakalevu ena vuku ni neitou veitalanoa vakavalagi.”

“Koya gona keitou vakavinavinaka tiko kina ena yakavi ni kua na lewe 18 ni rawa ni keitou lai cakacaka.”

“Ena kena soli tu na veivakabauti ni rawa ni keitou laki interview keitou vakavinavinaka ni veivakabauti ni soli meu liutaka na ilakolako,” tukuna ko Waqawai.

Vakarau ni keitou biubiu mai cavuti vei keitou na vosa oqo:

“We are the best behaved group for 2018.”

Vakarau ni keimami curu e loma ni waqavuka e tiko iloma e 500 na idabedabe se qai keimami raica vou.

Dua na cauravou a toka iliu vei au raica ni sa luluvu au tarogi koya vakacava vakaukauwa tiko kua ni drodro na wainimata. Qai cavuta

mai vei au okoya na vosa oqo ka vaka e tarai au tale kay a okoya:

“Taciq au vakarau qiriti Na mada. Au tug a mai veigasau au mai vakarau vodo tu vata kei ira na tamata vakailavo ena mataqali waqavuka vakaitamera vakaoqo.”

Na veiqaravi e caka vei keitou e cecere sara. Loma ni vula vitu vaka ga keitou vakaicili tiko ena dua na otela.

“Ni dua e tauvimate e dau qiritaki sara mai vua na nona lewe ni vale e Viti me kila naka sa qaravi tiko kina.”

Vakacautaki iratou na cauravou lewe 18 ni Ovalau ko minisita Usamate kaya vakaoqo ne; “Qoka na mataqali irogoro vinaka ena rawa ni dolava vakalevu na akatuba ni cakacaka I valagi vei ira na noda gone ni Viti.”

“Ni kila tiko nida veisisvi tiko kei ira na veivanua ena Pasifika ena iwiliwili ni tamata cakacaka meda vakauta mera lai cakacaka ki Niusiladi kei Ositerelia.”

“Keitou na saga tiko mena dau iko sara e cake na ivakatagedegede ni nodra cakacaka ivalagi na noda lewe ni vanua.”

“Gauna oqo sa via via 1485 na keda iwiliwili era sa laki cakacaka ki vavalagi, se vo tu e 3000 vakacaca ena neitou loma ni tobu.”

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

NA taledi ni vavavi era kena mesamesa kina e levu na noda marama. Ia na taledi oya e rawa nira cicivaka vaka bisinisi. Dau bolebole levu vei keda na ilavo ni tauyavu.

Ia, oqori e dua na vuna esa vakavinavinaka kina vakalevu kina Matanitu ko Alanieta Disovanatabua e dua na marama yabaki 38 mai Driti mai Bua ena nona sa tura na veivuke \$1,000 ni bisinisi lalai small business grant ka laki soli yani vei ira mai Bua e Nabouwalu.

“Au lako tiko mai ni kua meu mai taura tiko na noqu ilavo ni grant. Au vakavinavinakata kina vakalevu na Matanitu vinaka oqo niu rawa ni mai taura kina e dua na ilavo levu meu mai vakayagataka me cicivaki vinaka kina na noqu bisinisi.”

“Na bisinisi au cicivaka tiko oya me na voli e dua na noqu sitovu vavavi baleta niu dau taleitaka meu dau vavavi.”

“Na noqu ivakasala ga vei ira na noqu itokani era tu e loma ni koro ni dau yaco mai na veivuke ni Matanitu me vaka na kena oqo mera dau sasagataki ira mai era saga mera taura. Me vakataki au niu sa mai taura oqo na noqu ilavo.”

Ko Alanieta e rua na luvena ka nuitaka ni ilavo ena rawata ena nona bisinisi ni vavi icoi ni ti ena dua na ivurevure vinaka ni ialvo ni matavuvale.

“Na bisinisi vavavi icoi ni ti e sega ni leqa na kena makete baleta ni rawa ni voli ena mataka sigalevu yakavi se mani bogi saran a gauna era via gunuti kina,” tukuna ko Alanieta.

“Au vakavinavinaka ni ialvo ni veivuke oqo sa mai vukea noqu tauyavutaka e dua na bisinisi au na vakayagataka vinaka kina na noqu taledi ni vavavi.”



Veivuke na vei vanua tani ena veidigidigi

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Erato mai sainitaka e tolu na matanitu ko India, Australia kei Indonesia nodratou veivuke vakamatani ki vei Viti me baleta na kena yadravi na gacagaca ni veidigidigi ena noda vanua ka namaka tiko na vanua o Viti.

Edua na vola ni veidinatani e kaya ko Vunilawa Sayed Khaiyum ni na vukea na matanitu e tolu oqo meratou vukea ka yadra van a cakacaka ni Fiji Electrons office ena 2018 veidigidigi.

“Ka dokai veiokeda nira-tou mai veivuke na matanitu e tolu oqo ena cakacaka taki ni veidigidigi 2018,” kaya ko Vunilawa.

“Sa vakanuini tiko kina na noda vanua ena nodratou veivuke na matanotu e tolu oqo ena qaravi ni veidigidigi.

Sovaraki na ilavo ni bisinisi kina Vualiku

NANISE NEIMILA

NA veivuke ni Bisinisi Lalai (Micro and Small Business Grant) ni Matanitu vei ira mai Savusavu esa cau kina bula vakailavo e Viti ena \$5.7m.

Ni da raica na kena mana kina noda Viti raraba era sa vukei oti kina e 28,004 na itukei ni bisinisi lalai.

Kena ibalebale nira sa laki vakila talega na kena vinaka e 140,020 na lewei Viti, ka vakatubuilavotaka kina na Matanitu e Viti ena \$26.4m.

Oqori na veika e vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Veivoli ko Faiyaz Koya ena nona laki solia na nodra ilavo na itaukei ni bisinisi lalai ena Vualiku.

Mai Taveuni era lewe 2,539 na bisinisi lalai era a vukei kina me tekivu sara mai na 2015 ka vukei ira tale e lewe 1,312 na Matanitu ka vakatubuilavotaki kina kina noda vanua e \$2.5m.

“E dikivi rawa ni 479 na bisinisi e toso vinaka tiko, kena ibalebale ni 62.4 na pasede ni bisinisi mai Savusavu e toso vinaka tiko. “Ena iwiliwili oya e 311 na bisinisi e bisinisi ni teitei, ka 121 na sitoa lalai.”

“Na bisinisi kece oqo era sac au tiko kina bula vakailavo ni noda vanua ena \$5.7m kara kune kina e 200 na cakacaka e Savusavu.”

Sa tubu talega na iwiliwili ni lewenivanua mai na yabaki sa oti.



Ciqoma e dua na veibuni na nodra i votavota ni \$1000 mai vua na Minisita ni Veivoli Ko Faiyaz Koya e Savusavu. iTaba: JOSIA RALAGO

“Yabaki sa oti a soli kina 1,1766 na veivuke e Savusavu ni kua era lewe 2 051 era na vukei kina. Na levu taucoko ni veivuke sa vukei kina ko Savusavu sa yacova na 4283 kara vukei kina nodra bula e lewe 21,415 na lewe ni vanua,” tukuna ko Minisita Koya.

“Sa dikevi talega ni 24 na bisinisi lalai esa levu cake na kena itagede, ka 3 na bisinisi sa lave cake sara kina itagede ni medium enterprises. Rauta 24 na bisinisi era sa rawata mai nodra dinau mai na veitabana vakailavo tale eso ena noda vanua.”



Ko Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravdrava ko Mereseini Vuniwaqa kei ira na marama ni Yavusania e Nadi.

Tavo na hydro panel

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Laki tavoca nodra hydro-panel mai Yavusania Nadi na Minisita ni Marama, Mereseini Vuniwaqa. Oqo ena vukea na nodra rawata na waini gunu na lewe ni vanua ena tegu e maliwa lala.

Sa qai maroroi na wai oqo me yaga ena bula kei na tiko bulabula ni lewenivanua era vakayagataka.

Na gacagaca oqo ena vukea talega na kena vakailaitaki na benuni ni vanua ka salavata kei na tuvatuva ni matanitu ena kena vakalailaitaki na duka se kasi gaga ena noda vuravura. Esega ni vakayagataka na livaliva buli mai ena waiwai se wai me yavalati kina na gacagaca oqo.

Vakavinaka na Minisita Vuniwaqa kivua na kabana na Solved (Fiji) Private Ltd director John Magnifico me vaka nira-tou sa tavoca oti edua ena Koropita in Lautoka.

Sota na itaukei ni qele kei na Vunilawa

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

Edua na gauna vinaka vei ira na itaukei ni qele e Monasavu nodra laki sotava na Vunilawa Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena nodra valenivolavola ena vula sa oti.

Oira na itaukei ni qele oqo era vakamura voli mai na tukutuku ni qele ka sa dua na gauna vinaka ni rawa vei ira mera veitalanoa vakadodonu ena teveli ni veiliutaki vua na Vunilawa.

Era 12 kece na lewe ni mataqali era gone main a lakolako ni veitalanoa oqo ka ra mai kerea na veivuke ni matanitu kei na vakatulewa baleta na nodra qele.

Vakamacalataki vakadodonu vei ira mera duavata mada eliu ena nodra ile. Kevaka esa duavata mai ena rawarawa sara vua na matanitu me dikeva na nodra kerekere ka rawa talega ni vakatulewa kina.



Na Vunilawa ko Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum kei ira na itaukei ni qele e Monasavu ni oti na nodra bese e Suvavou House e Suva. iTaba: AZARIA FAREEN

Noda Viti



Yalataki vukei ni valuti ni mate sureti

SA vakadeitaka na liuliu ni matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ki vua na iliuliu ni matabose cokovata kei vuravura ena ika 73 ni nodra bose e USA Niu Yoka na veivuke nei Viti me valuta na mate sureti ena noda vanua ka vakakina ena veivuke cokovata ena veiyasai vuravura.

Sa yalataka ko Viti ena kena vakasaqarai e dua na iwali me baleta na nodra tiko bulabula na lewe ni vanua ena noda vanua me ra marautaka ka tiko vinaka kina na lewe ni vanua.

Kuria ko PM ni matanitu esa vota edua na iwase levu ni ilavo kina tabana ni bula baleta na tiko bulabula vakakina na nodra vakavulici na vuniwai kei na nasi ena veiqaravi ni vale ni bula.

“Esa vakagalalataka na ivakacavacava ena vakau ni kakana vuata kei na draudrau ka sa vagolei na ivakacavacava ena kakana ka nanumi ni vakavuna na mate sureti.”

Sa cavuikalawa tiko na matanitu ena so na mataqali sasaga me vukea na sasaga oqo ka vakauqeti kina na lewe ni vanua mera dau tiko bulabula.

Ko Paraiminista Voreqe Bainimarama keiVunivola Levu ni Matabose kei Vuravura ko Antonio Guterres ena boseka ni draki veisau ka vakayacorai mai na Matabose Cokovata kei Vuravura e Niu Yoka. iTaba: NANISE NEIMILA

Mana na bisinisi

RAWA ILAVO LEVU NA DAU QOLI NI KADAVU

SOLO LEWANAVANUA

ESA mana sara vakalevu na bisinisi ni isoqosoqo ni dau qoli e Kadavu (Kadavu Fishermen Association) ena nodra volitaka tiko na ika sau levu na yellow fin kina 4 na kabani ni voli ika ena noda vanua.

Era vakayagataka tiko na dau qoli mai Kadavu e 8 na Fish Agregated Devices (FAD) ka sa yacana tiko na bilibili ka veitoni kina na Tabana ni Qoliqoli ka vukea tiko nodra manoa mai kina na Tuna.

E dua na ituvatuva ni veitokoni ni Tabana ni Qoli ena maliwa ni vula ko Okosita 2018 kina Jiulai ni 2019 na nodra vukei na dau qoli e Viti ena FAD kei na waqa vata keina idini ka tiko ena \$772,380 na ilavo ena vakarautaka kina na Matanitu.

Era sa cau tiko kina ena bula vakailavo ni noda vanua kei na bula vakailavo ni nodra dui mata-vuvuale.

Vakaraitaka na iliuliu ni isoqosoqo ni dau qoli e Kadavu ko Timoci Raibiriki nira lewe 351 na lewe ni isoqosoqo.

Ena yabaki sa oti a rawata kina na isoqosoqo e \$101,605 ena kena volitaki e 16 na tani na yellow fin tuna.”

“Na volitaki ni 23 na tani na veika tale eso a qoqota kina na isoqosoqo ni dau qoli e Kadavu e \$115,000 ena yabaki sa oti,” kaya ko Raibiriki.

“Na isoqosoqo e volitaka tiko nona yellow fin tuna ena \$7 dua na kilo.”

“Na dauqoli yadua era dau sauma e \$6.40 me isau ni vakavoutaki ni nodra laiseni ena veiyabaki ka \$30 e dua musu me gole kina isoqosoqo ni dau qoli e na veimacawa,” kaya ko Raibiriki.

Ni toso tiko nodra volitaki ika sa toso vinaka tale tikoga na nodra vale ni kana mai vunisea.

Vakaraitaka na turaga na Roko

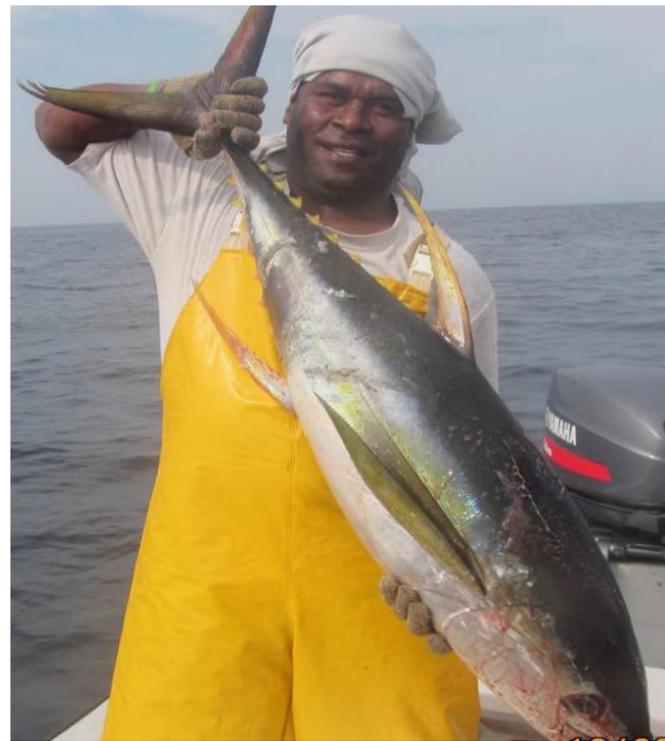
Tui Kadavu Kitione Raibevu nira vakavinavinaka vakalevu na lewe ni isoqosoqo kina veivuke levu sa cau mai kina na Manitu kina nodra bisinisi.

“Vakavinavinaka vakalevu kina Tabana ni Qoliqoli ena nona solia mai na nodra misini ni musu ika (fish-slicer), vakakina na nodra waqa kei na kena idini me vakarawarawataka na veitaratara vei ira na lewe ni soqosoqo,” kaya ko Raibevu.

Au vakavinavinaka talega ena kena dau mai qaravi tiko levu na vuli me vukei ira tiko na lewe ni isoqosoqo ni dau qoli.

“Macawa sa oti era a mai vulica kina na dau qoli ni yasana ko Ra na iwalewale ni qoli tuna era sa kena-dau tiko kina na dauqoli ni yasana ko Kadavu.”

Tukuna na Minisita ni Qoli ko Semi Koroilavesau ni qoka na mataqali qoli era sa vakauqeti tiko kina na dau qoli e Viti ni kua.



Katoa vakalevu na nodra siwa tuna na dau qoli e Kadavu ena kena vakayagataka na FAD (bilibili) ka veitokoni tiko kina na tabacakakaka ni qoli ena noda vanua.

VOQA NI DAVUI

Moniti - Tusiti 8.30pm (15 na miniti) <i>Radio Fiji One</i>	Vakarauwai 9pm (30 na miniti) <i>Radio Fiji One</i>
Vukelulu - Lotulevu 8pm (15 na miniti) <i>Radio Fiji One</i>	Sigatabu 8.45pm (30 na miniti) <i>Radio Fiji One</i>

फ़ीजी फ़ोकस

मत देने के लिए
अंतिम क्षण में कई
लोग हुए रेजिस्टर

1



प्रधानमंत्री ने
की समझदारी
दिखाने की माँग

7



आमचुनाव के लिए रिट दिया गया।

रोनल देव

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम मेजा जेनरल चियोची कोनरोते ने इस साल वाले आमचुनाव के लिए चुनाव की रिट पेश की है।

चुनावी कमिशन के चेयरमैन सुरेश चन्दा को रिट पेश करते हुए राष्ट्रपति कोनरोते ने प्रकाश डाला कि देश के संविधान के नीचे आम चुनाव के द्वारा संसद सदस्यों को चुनना ज़रूरी हो गया है।

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि देश के संविधान की धारा उनसठ (59) और उपधारा एक तथा चुनावी कमिशन की धारा इक्कीस (21) के नीचे अपनी ताकत और प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेन्गे बर्डनिमरामा की सलाह पर वो चुनावी कमिशन को कानून के नीचे एक आम चुनाव बुलाने का आदेश देते हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि सोमवार पहली अक्टूबर की शाम छः बजे आमचुनाव के लिए मतदाताओं का रेजिस्ट्रेशन बन्द हुआ है तथा चुनाव दफ्तर को पंद्रह अक्टूबर के दिन में बारह बजे तक उम्मीदवारों का नामांकन मिल जाना चाहिए। आम चुनाव से पहले मतदान यानि प्री-पोल तथा डाक द्वारा मत भेजने की कार्यवाही होगी।

सन् दो हजार तेरह (2013) वाले राष्ट्रीय संविधान के नीचे यह दूसरा आमचुनाव रहेगा। आम चुनाव वाले दिन चौदह नवम्बर को मतदाता सुबह साढ़े सात बजे से लेकर शाम छः बजे के बीच मत दे सकेंगे। चुनावी कमिशन के चेयरमैन, सुरेश चन्दा ने कहा कि उम्मीदवारों का नामांकन मंगलवार दो अक्टूबर की सुबह आठ बजे खुलेगा जो इसी महीने की पंद्रह को बन्द होगा। चन्दा के अनुसार इसी महीने की सोलह तारीख के दिन में बारह बजे तक नामांकन वापस किया जा सकता है जबकि नामांकन के खिलाफ आपत्ति दर्शाने और अपील करने की कार्यवाही इसी महीने की सोलह तारीख की शाम चार बजे बन्द होगी।

चन्दा के अनुसार राष्ट्रीय उम्मीदवार नम्बा बोल ड्रौ इसी महीने की उन्नीस (19) तारीख या उससे पहले होगा जैसे फ़ीजी का चुनाव दफ्तर तय करेगा। रिट पेश होने के बाद डाक द्वारा मत भेजा जा सकता है जो इसी महीने की चौबीस तारीख की शाम पाँच बजे बन्द होगा। चेयरमैन ने प्रकाश डाला कि पाँच तारीख नवम्बर को देश के निर्धारिक स्थानों पर मतदान से पहले मत देने वाली कार्यवाही यानि प्री-पोलिंग शुरू होगी जो दस नवम्बर को खत्म होगी। चुनाव अभियान को लेकर समाचार माध्यमों पर प्रतिबन्ध बारह नवम्बर की सुबह साढ़े सात बजे के बाद से लागू होगा।



आम चुनाव बुलाने के लिए रिट पेश करने के बाद राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चियोची कोनरोते चुनावी कमिशन के चेयरमैन सुरेश चन्दा को आदेश दिया कि वो चौदह नवम्बर को आम चुनाव के बाद अगले महीने के अंत से पहले चुने हुए संसद सदस्यों के नामों के साथ यह रिट उन्हें वापस करें।



होलिडय इन सूवा में आम चुनाव बुलाने के लिए रिट पेश करने वाले समारोह में प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डेनिमरामा के साथ चीफ जस्टिस एन्थनी गर्ड्स, भुतपूर्व संसदीय स्पीकर चिको लूवेनी, श्रीमति सरोते कोनरोते के साथ अन्य आमंत्रित मेहमान और कूटनैतिज्ञ।

आठ राजनितिक पार्टियाँ चुनाव लड़ेंगी

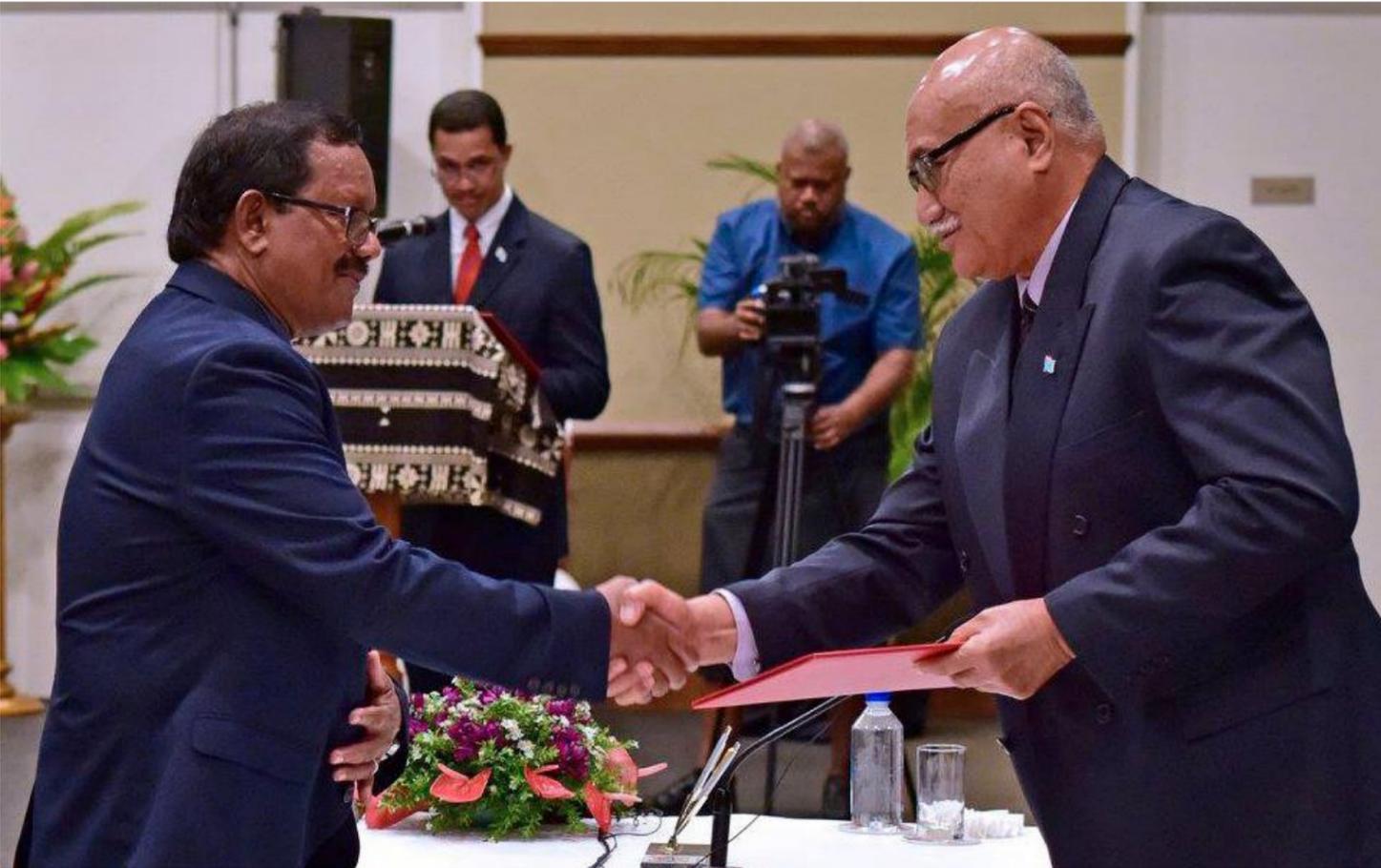
रोनल देव

इस साल आठ राजनितिक पार्टियाँ आम चुनाव लड़ने के लिए रजिस्टर हुई हैं। इनमें फीजी फेस्ट, सोडेलपा, नेशनल फेडरेशन पार्टी, पिपल्स डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी, फीजी लर्ड्स पार्टी, युनिटी फीजी पार्टी, हौप तथा फीडम

एलईन्स पार्टी शामिल है। नवम्बर बारह तारीख से चुनाव के दिन तक समाचार माध्यम चुनाव अभियान संबंधी कोई भी समाचार प्रसारित या प्रकाशित नहीं कर सकते तथा राजनितिक पार्टियाँ इस दौरान चुनाव अभियान भी नहीं रच सकती। नवम्बर चौदाह तारीख को चुनाव वाले दिन

मतदाता सुबह साढ़े सात बजे से लेकर शाम छः बजे तक निर्धारित मतदान केन्द्र में जाकर अपना मत डाल सकते हैं तथा उसके बाद फीजीय चुनाव दफ्तर धीरे-धीरे चुनाव परिणाम आम करना शुरू करेगा। सन् दो हजार चौदह में पिछले आम चुनाव

में चौसासी (84) प्रतिशत मतदाताओं ने मत दिया था तथा चुनावी कमिशन को भरोसा है कि अगली सरकार को चुनने के लिए इस बार भी भारी संख्या में मतदाता मत देने के लिए जाएंगे।



आम चुनाव बुलाने के लिए राष्ट्रपति महामहीम चियोची कोरोते, चुनावी कमिशन के चेयरमैन को होलिडय इन सूवा में रिट पेश करते हुए।

राजनितिक पार्टी उम्मीदवार को मनोनित करना शुरू

रोनल देव

राजनितिक पार्टियों द्वारा उम्मीदवारों को मनोनित करने की कार्यवाही शुरू हो गई है।

सुपरवाएज़ा ओफ इलेक्शन्समोहम्मद सनीम का कहना है कि उम्मीदवारों को मनोनित करने की कार्यवाही दो सप्ताह तक चलेगी जो पंद्रह अक्टूबर के दिन में बारह बजे खत्म होगी। सनीम के अनुसार जैसे ही उनको किसी व्यक्ति का नाम मनोनित किया जाएगा उस व्यक्ति को अपने सार्वजनिक पद से इस्तेफा देना होगा।

इसी महीने की सोलह तारीख के दिन में बारह बजे तक मनोनित उम्मीदवारों का नाम वापस लिया जा सकता है जबकि उसी दिन शाम चार बजे तक इसपर आपत्ति जताने या अपील की जा सकती है।

सनीम ने कहा कि अब उनकी प्राथमिकता है मानव संसाधन कर्मचारी तथा अन्य तरह का आयोजन करना।

उन्होंने जोर दिया है कि सभी राजनितिक पार्टियों को कानून का पालन करना होगा और किसी को अगर उस अवधि के दौरान चुनाव अभियान करते पाया गया जब ऐसा करने पर प्रतिबन्ध लगा रहेगा तो फाएकेक उनपर कड़ी कार्यवाही करेगा।

नवम्बर महीने के अंत तक नई सरकार

रोनल देव

राष्ट्रपति मेजा जेनरल चियोची कोनरोते ने जबकि इस साल आम चुनाव बुलाने के लिए चुनावी रिट पेश की है तो ऐसे में राष्ट्रपति ने आदेश दिया है कि आम चुनाव के बाद नवम्बर महीने के अंत तक एक नई सरकार बन जानी चाहिए। चुनावी कमिशन के चेयरमैन सुरेश चन्द्रा के लिए रिट पढ़ते हुए राष्ट्रपति ने सन् दो हजार तेरह

(2013) संविधान के नीचे समय सीमा का पालन करने का आदेश दिया। उन्होंने कमिशन के चेयरमैन को आदेश दिया कि वो इस साल चौदह नवम्बर को आम चुनाव बुलाए, आम चुनाव वाले दिन से पहले बाहरी द्वीपों, ग्रामीन इलाकों तथा डाक द्वारा लोगों द्वारा दिए गए मत हासिल करें। उन्होंने आदेश दिया कि कमिशन को अट्ठाईस नवम्बर या उससे पहले संसद के चुने

हुए सदस्यों का नाम रिट उन्हें लौटा देना चाहिए। फिलहाल, एक दिन का आम चुनाव चौदह नवम्बर को रहेगा तो ऐसे में देश भर में मतदान केन्द्र सुबह साढ़े सात बजे से लेकर शाम छः बजे तक खुले रहेंगे। शाम छः बजे के बाद मतदान केन्द्रों से धीरे-धीरे परिणाम सामने आने की आशा है जबकि आम चुनाव के दो दिन बाद शायद पुष्टी हो जाए कि किस पार्टी की जीत हुई है जो अगली सरकार बनाएगी।



संगीगा के दो हजार दो सौ अट्ठासी (2,288) लोगों को इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड और टुरिज़म मंत्री ने हाल ही में छोटा और सुक्ष्म व्यापार शुरू करने या अपना व्यापार बढ़ाने के लिए एक-एक हजार डोलर का ग्रांट दिया।

तावेयुनी निवासियों को मिला व्यापारिक ग्रांट

लम्बासा निवासियों को मिला लीस टाएटल

रोनल देव

इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड, टुरिज़म, लेन्ड तथा मिनरल रिसोर्स मंत्री फर्डियाज़ कोया ने हाल ही में लम्बासा के बीस लोगों को ज़मीन का लीस टाएटल प्रदान किया।

इन लीस में उन लोगों के लिए कृषि और धरेलू लीस शामिल है जो अभी बस्तियों में रहते हैं। मंत्री कोया ने कहा कि यह सही कागज़ात इन लोगों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करेगी तथा उन्हें कोई ज़मीन से निकाल नहीं पाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इन कागज़ातों के बलपर लोग कर्ज़ ले सकेंगे तथा अच्छा घर बना सकेंगे।

फिलहाल, वालेबसोन्गा लम्बासा के बोवन (52) वर्षीय भ्रम देव ने सरकार को लीस प्रदान करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। उन्हें खुशी कि उन्हें बुलिलेका लम्बासा में घर बनाने के लिए एक ज़मीन निनयान्वे (99) सालों की लीस पर दी गई है जहाँ विजली और पानी की व्यवस्था भी है।

उन्होंने कहा कि वो अभी लम्बासा शहर में नौकरी करते हैं जबकि उनकी पत्नी घर पर रही है। उनकी दो बेटियाँ भी हैं जो पढ़ाई कर रही हैं। उनके अनुसार वे पिछले पैतालिस (45) सालों से वालेबसोन्गा में रहते आए हैं तथा वहाँ पर विजली और पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं जबकि वोटा अथोरिटी ओफ फीजी के अधिकारी हर सप्ताह आकर पानी बाँटते हैं।

उधर, मंत्री कोया ने लीस हासिल करने वालों को अच्छे भविष्य के लिए बधाई और शुभकामनाएँ दीं।

रोनल देव

तावेयुनी के एक हजार तीन सौ बारह (1312) लोगों को हाल ही में सरकार का छोटा और सुक्ष्म व्यापारियों का ग्रांट दिया गया।

ग्रांट देते हुए इंडस्ट्री ट्रेड मंत्री फर्डियाज़ कोया ने कहा कि फीजीयन सरकार ने तावेयुनी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में लगभग दो दशमलौ पाँच मिलियन डोलर की पुँजी लगाई है।

जनाब कोया ने कहा कि सरकार, लोगों को नया व्यापार शुरू करने या वर्तमान के व्यापार को और बढ़ाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित और सहायता देती रहेगी। उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि सरकार ने इस ग्रांट के द्वारा तावेयुनी में सन् दो हजार पंद्रह 2015 से अभी तक दो हजार पाँच सौ उनतालिस (2,539) व्यापारों की मदद की है।

मंत्री कोया ने ज़ोर दिया है कि छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापार लोगों को गरीबी से निकालने के लिए एक बहुत बड़ी ताकत है। उनके अनुसार व्यापार में सफल होने वाले न केवल अपने अपने और अपने परिवार का पालन-पोषण कर सकेंगे बल्कि अन्य लोगों के लिए भी नौकरियाँ पैदा करने के साथ-साथ देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में भी योगदान दे सकेंगे।

इस कार्यक्रम के द्वारा अट्ठाईस हजार चार (28,004) छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारों की सहायता की गई है जिससे एक लाख चालिस हजार बीस (140,020) फीजीवासियों की ज़िन्दगी सुधारी गई है जबकि फीजीयन सरकार ने इस कार्यक्रम में छब्बीस दशमलौ चार (26.4) मिलियन डोलर की पुँजी लगाई है।



इंडस्ट्री और ट्रेड मंत्री फर्डियाज़ सिदिक कोया हाल ही में संगीगा के एक निवासी को ग्रांट प्रदान करते हुए।

छोटे व्यापारियों के हौसले की हुई सराहना

रोनल देव

सरकार ने देश के छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारियों को एक व्यापार शुरू करने की हिम्मत रखने के लिए प्रशंसा की है।

हाल ही सावूसावू में वहाँ के निवासियों को एक-एक हजार डोलर का ग्रांट देते हुए इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड, टुरिज़म, लेन्ड तथा मिनरल रिसोर्स मंत्री, फर्डियाज़ कोया ने अपने व्यापार को और बढ़ाने

की दृष्टि रखने के लिए फीजीवासियों की सराहना की। सावूसावू में दो हजार इक्यावन लोगों को ग्रांट दिया गया है।

उन्होंने व्यापार शुरू करने या उसे बढ़ाने का जोखिम उठाने के लिए सभी को धन्यवाद दिया तथा इस व्यापारिक क्षेत्र से फीजी में बने या उधे सामानों का उत्पादन को रहा है। मंत्री कोया ने ज़ोर दिया है कि यह ग्रांट कोई खैरात नहीं बल्कि व्यापार

में सहायता देने के इरादे से दिया गया है।

उन्होंने समझाया कि इस ग्रांट के ज़रिए लोग अपना व्यापार शुरू करने या उसे बढ़ाने के लिए सामान खरीद सकते हैं।

“जैसे-जैसे आपका व्यापार बढ़ेगा, आपकी आमदनी बढ़ेगी और आप देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में योगदान भी देंगे। पिछले साल अक्टूबर में मंत्रालय ने सात सौ अड़सठ (768)

छोटे और सुक्ष्म व्यापारियों का मल्यां कन किया और निगरानी रखी जिन्हें सन् दो हजार पंद्रह (2015) से दो हजार सत्ताह (2017) के बीच इस कार्यक्रम के नीचे सहायता की गई थी। इस मूल्यांकन से पता चला कि चार सौ उन्नासी (479) व्यापारी सफलता पूर्वक संचालित हो रहे थे जिनमें से तीन सौ ग्यारह (311) कृषि संबंधी व्यापार थे जबकि एक सौ इक्कीस (121) छोटे दुकान वगैरह

थे,” मंत्री ने कहा।

मंत्री के अनुसार ग्रांट हासिल करने वालों ने फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में पाँच दशमलौ सात (5.7) मिलियन डोलर का योगदान दिया है तथा सावूसावू में दो सौ नौकरियाँ भी उपलब्ध की हैं। कम आमदनी कमाने वाले मरीज़ कम से कम पचहत्तर 75 डोलर प्रति सेशन में डायलीसीस उपचार करवा सकेंगे।



मान्नीय ए जी का नान्दी मार्केट दौरा

मान्नीय अटोनी-जेनरल ने हाल ही में नान्दी मुनिसिपल मार्केट का दौरा किया। इस दौरान उन्होंने मार्केट विक्रेताओं और खरीददारों से मुलाकात की। यह मार्केट विक्रेताओं के लिए अटोनी-जेनरल से मिलने और उनसे सीधे बातें करने का अच्छा मौका था। कई लोगों ने उनके साथ तस्वीरें भी खिंचवाईं। जनाब सैयद खैयुम ने देश के प्रति योनिदान देने के लिए उन्हें धन्यवाद दिया तथा उनसे कुछ सामान भी खरीदा। वच्चें, महिलाएँ तथा पुरुष जनाब सैयद खैयुम को देखकर बेहद खुश हुए तथा मार्केट में उनका स्वागत किया।



मुफ्त वाएफाए का हुआ स्वागत



मान्नीय अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज़ सैयद-खैयुम ने हाल ही में कोरोईवोलू पार्क नान्दी शहर में मुफ्त वाए फाए हॉट स्पॉट का विमोचन किया। हजारों की संख्या में लोग इस मौके पर वहाँ उपस्थित हुए जहाँ लोगों कई इनाम जीतकर घर गए। इनमें नए फीन्स यहाँ तक कि टेलिविज़न सेट भी शामिल थे। कई लोगों ने वहाँ वालैसी पेंकज के लिए अजी दी तथा वालैसी मोबाईल एप भी डाउनलोड किया ताकि वे अपने मोबाईल पर ही टेलिविज़न कार्यक्रमों का मज़ा ले सकें। इसके अलावा जनाब सैयद खैयुम ने लौतेका के शेली पार्क पर भी मुफ्त वाए फाए का विमोचन किया। इस सुविधा से लोग हर दिन एक घण्टे के लिए मुफ्त में इंटरनेट की सेवा से लाभ उठा सकेंगे। जनाब सैयद खैयुम ने कहा कि यह लौन्च सरकार द्वारा इंटरनेट की सेवा और सुधार लाने के प्रयास का हिस्सा

मंत्री बाला बा रीवा साईड कनिवल में हुए शरीख

लौकल गवमन्ट, सामाजिक विकास तथा संसाधन मंत्री परकीन कुमार बाला ने हाल ही में बा रीवासाईड कनिवल के समापन समारोह में हिस्सा लिया। पश्चिमी विभाग के कोने-कोने से हजारों लोग इस कनिवल में हिस्सा लेने के लिए वहाँ उपस्थित हुए थे। मंत्री बाला ने प्रकाश डाला कि यह बेहद जरूरी है कि सभी फीजीवासियों को अपने शहर, समाज और देश के नागरिक होने पर गर्व हो। इस कनिवल के दौरान अपने घर के कचरे तथा कूड़ा-कर्कट इधर-उधर फैकने के खिलाफ जागरूकता लाई गई थी।



गाँधीजी का एक सौ पचासवा जन्मदिन समारोह

राष्ट्रपति, महामहोम अवकाश प्राण मेजा जेनरल चियोची कोनरोते, इसी सप्ताह पूर्व महात्मा गाँधीजी का एक सौ पचासवी जन्मदिन समारोह में मुख्य मेहमान थे। इस समारोह को गाँधी जयन्ती भी कहा जाता है। राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि श्री महात्मा गाँधी एक महान उदात्त महात्मा गाँधी एक महान उदाहरण है जिसका पालन सभी को करना चाहिए। उन्होंने भारतीय सरकार को फीजी के साथ लगातार साझेदारी के लिए भी धन्यवाद दिया। एक सौ पचासवी गाँधी जयन्ती के मौके पर राष्ट्रपति ने गाँधी जी के पोस्ट स्टैम्प का भी विमोचन किया। गाँधी जी को भारत का राष्ट्र पिता कहा जाता था। उन्होंने अहिंसा के बलपर भारत को उन्नीस सौ सैतालिस 1947 में ब्रिटिश राज्य से आज़ादी दिलवाई थी।





सोमवार पहली अक्टूबर को हजारों की संख्या में लोग देश के विभिन्न इलाकों में

मोटर-गाड़ी खरीदने संबंधी सलाह

कोन्स्यूमर काउन्सिल ऑफ फीजी उपभोक्ताओं से मांग कर रही है कि वे मोटर-गाड़ी खरीदने के लिए केवल उन्हीं विक्रेताओं के पास जाएं जिनके पास लाइसेंस है। जब अनैतिक और बेईमान व्यापारी उपभोक्ताओं से यह कह कर पैस लेते हैं कि उनके पास व्यापार करने का लाइसेंस है तो यह सवाल जरूर उठेगा कि वे अपने पैसे वापस कैसे प्राप्त करें। फीजी में मोटर-गाड़ियों के 92 अधिकृत या ओथोराइज़्ड डीलर्स हैं जो लेण्ड ट्रांसपोर्ट अथोरिटी (एलटीए) के साथ रेजिस्टर्ड हैं। कुछ व्यापारी तीनों विभागों में संचालित हैं। जो उपभोक्ता गाड़ी खरीदना चाहते हैं, उनसे काउन्सिल टोस रूप से मांग कर रही है कि वे एल टी ए को सम्पर्क करे और अधिकृत डीलरों की सूची प्राप्त करें। जिन कम्पनियों के पास वैध या वेलिड लाइसेंस है केवल वे ही गाड़ियों को एलटी ए के साथ रेजिस्टर करवा सकते हैं। यह भी जरूरी है कि व्यापारी उपभोक्ताओं को पुरानी या सेकंड हैंड कारों के बारे में पूरी जानकारी प्रदान करे। इन में शामिल हैं:

- कार कितनी नई या पुरानी है
- कार का विवरण (पूर्व मालिक, कार के इस्तेमाल की जानकारी)
- कार कैसे प्राप्त की गई
- कार में किसी प्रकार की मौजूदा खर्चा मर्याद
- वास्तविक मीलों की संख्या या माइलज (निर्यात प्रमाण पत्र)
- उपयोग की उपयुक्तता
- सुरक्षा विशेषताएं
- गाड़ी के डिज़ाइन और खूबियों का विस्तृत विवरण
- स्पेयर पार्ट्स की उपलब्धता
- बिक्री के नियम और शर्तें
- कर या कानूनी फीस और शुल्क सहित सभी खर्चों की पूर्ण उपभोक्ता करेंगे। व्यापारियों को हमेशा निर्यात प्रमाण पत्र की कोपी उपभोक्ताओं को प्रदान करनी चाहिए। निर्यात प्रमाण पत्र में आवश्यक जानकारी दी जाती है जैसे कि कार किस साल में बनी थी, किस प्रकार की कार है और मीलों की संख्या। अगर व्यापारी प्रमाण पत्र नहीं देता है तो उपभोक्ताओं को इस की मांग करनी चाहिए। इसके साथ ही, व्यापारियों को एक कोन्ट्रैक्ट जारी करना चाहिए जिसमें बिक्री से संबंधित सभी विषयों और शर्तों के बारे में स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा हो तथा जिस से दोनों पक्ष सहमत हो। अगर उपभोक्ता ने डिपोज़िट भरा है तो उन्हें रसीद मिलनी चाहिए। उपभोक्ता को कार सौंपने से पहले वारंटी सहित सभी जरूरतमंद कागज़ात उनके लिए उपलब्ध करना चाहिए। यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि उपभोक्ता जानें और समझे कि मोटर-गाड़ी खरीदते समय किन चीजों की जरूरत होती है। अगर उन्हें लगे कि कोई व्यापारी गलत या गैरकानूनी तरीके से व्यापारिक लेन देन में शामिल है तो उन्हें काउन्सिल को सम्पर्क करना चाहिए। उपभोक्ता काउन्सिल के टोल फ्री हेल्पलाइन इन 155 पर कॉल कर के या ई-मेल complaints@consumersfiji.org द्वारा शिकायत दर्ज कर सकते हैं।

अंतिम क्षण में रेजिस्ट्रा होने के लिए हजारों लोग कतार में

रोनल देव

चुनावी रिट पेश होने के बाद लगभग दस हजार लोग देश के विभिन्न इलाकों में मतदान के लिए या मतदाता की जानकारी बदलने के लिए कतारों में खड़े थे। सुपरवाइज़र ऑफ इलेक्शन्स मोहम्मद सनीम का कहना है कि कल यानि सोमवार को देश भर में चुनाव संचालन वाले इलाके खुले थे। उन्होंने कहा कि कई लोग मतदाता की जानकारी बदलने के लिए गए थे। पिछले महीने की सत्रह तारीख तक छः लाख

चौतिस हजार एक सौ बीस (634, 120) मतदाता मत देने के लिए रेजिस्ट्रा हुए थे। सनीम ने कहा कि इस साल वे मतदान केंद्रों की संख्या बढ़ाकर दो हजार एक सौ सड़सठ (2,167) करना चाहते हैं जबकि सन् दो हजार चौदह वाले आम चुनाव में मतदान करने के लिए दो हजार अट्ठाईस (2,028) केंद्र थे। फिलहाल, राष्ट्रपति मेजा जेनरल चियोची कोन-रोते ने चुनावी कमिशन को आदेश दिया है कि आम चुनाव के बाद नवम्बर महीने के अंत तक एक नई सरकार बन जानी चाहिए।

राष्ट्रपति ने सन् दो हजार तेरह (2013) संविधान के नीचे समय सीमा का पालन करने का आदेश दिया। उन्होंने कमिशन के चेयरमैन को आदेश दिया कि वो इस साल चौदह नवम्बर को आम चुनाव बुलाए। मतदान सुबह साढ़े सात बजे से शाम छः बजे तक होगा। उन्होंने आदेश दिया कि कमिशन को अट्ठाईस नवम्बर या उससे पहले संसद के चुने हुए सदस्यों का नाम रिट उन्हें लौटा देना चाहिए।

किसानी में बहुत फायदा-फज़ल खान

रोनल देव

सोवी सिंगातोका के एक प्रसिद्ध किसान फज़ल महमूद खान मानते हैं कि खेती-बाड़ी में बहुत फायदा है अगर मेहनत और लगन से काम किया गया।

बावन (52) साल के खान अपने भाईयों में अकेले हैं जो अपने बेटे के साथ खेती करते हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि उनके दादा परदादा खेती करते आए हैं तथा उन्होंने उनके कदम पर चलने का चुनाव किया जिसपर उन्हें कोई पक्षतावा नहीं है। उनके अनुसार साल में उन्हें साठ से सत्तर हजार डोलर की आमदनी हो जाती है।

उनके पास बारह एकड़ ज़मीन है जिसपर वो खेती करते हैं जबकि बाकी नौ सौ एकड़ में वो पशु पालन करते हैं तथा उनके पास करीब सत्तर भेड़, एक सौ बकरियाँ, एक सौ पचास गाय-बैल हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इसमें खर्च भी बहुत ज़्यादा है जैसे कि उन्हें खेत में डालने के लिए मसाला और न्य सामान खरीदना पड़ता है लेकिन फिर भी कुछ मुनाफा हो जाता है।

खेती के अलावा वो अपने परिवार के लिए भी समय निकाल लेते हैं तथा उन्होंने खेती के ज़रिए



सोवी सिंगातोका के एक प्रसिद्ध किसान जनाब फज़ल महमूद खान के अमरूद काफी मशहूर है तथा वो अपने खेत की देखभाल बहुत ही अच्छी तरह से करते हैं।

ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यू ज़िलेन्ड के अलावा बंगलादेश और भारत की भी यात्रा भी है। उन्होंने कहा कि स्कूल में उन्हें तो कोई प्रमाण पत्र यानि सर्टिफिकेट नहीं मिला लेकिन अच्छा काम करने के लिए उनकी पहचान की गई।

चार साल पहले उन्हें साल का बेहतरीन किसान का पुरस्कार

के अलावा पपीता का बेहतरीन किसान का पुरस्कार भी दिया गया। खान को उम्मीद है कि उनकी कड़ी मेहनत के चलते आगे चलकर भी उन्हें और भी पुरस्कार दिए जाएंगे। उनकी अमरूद की खेती बहुत ही प्रसिद्ध है तथा कई लोग उनकी अमरूद खरीदने जाते हैं। न्यू वॉल्ड सुपरमार्केट

और एक्सट्रा सुपरमार्केट उनसे अमरूद के अलावा अनरस, मिर्च, बैंगन, टमाटर, मकाई तथा अन्य शाखबाजी खरीदने के लिए जाते हैं। खान के पास दो मज़दूर हैं जो खेतों में उनकी मदद करते हैं।

उनके पास दो बेटे तथा एक बेटी है तथा वो अपनी माँ, भाई और भाभी के साथ रहते हैं। उनकी पत्नी अभी विदेश में है। उन्होंने कहा कि वो सरकार की मदद के बहुत अभारी हैं जो उन्हें मसाला खरीदने, इरिगेशन सिस्टम तथा बीज़ वगैरह हासिल करने में मदद करती है। भविष्य में वो झींगा पालन तथा मधुमखी पालन भी करने की योजना बना रहे हैं। वो ज़मीन मालिकों के बहुत शुक्रगुज़ार हैं जिन्होंने उन्हें खेती करने के लिए ज़मीन दी है। उन्होंने युवा किसानों को प्रोत्साहित किया है कि अगर उन्हें नौकरी नहीं मिल रही है तो वे खेती में आए क्योंकि इस क्षेत्र में आप खुद अपने मालिक होंगे। खेती आसान नहीं है तथा बाढ़ तूफान में नुकसान भी होता है लेकिन निराश होने के बजाय खेतों और फसलों को फिर आबाद करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए। निराश होकर बैठने से कुछ हासिल नहीं होगा।



न्यू यॉक अमरिका में संयुक्त राष्ट्र जेनरल असेम्बली का तिहत्तरवा (73rd) सम्मेलन के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा, न्यू जिलेन्ड की प्रधानमंत्री जैसिन्डा आडन के साथ।

समझदारी दिखाने की माँग

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सभी सदस्यों से छोटे विकसित देशों की चुनौतियाँ समझने की माँग की।

प्रधानमंत्री ने हाल ही में न्यू यॉक अमरिका में संयुक्त राष्ट्र के तिहत्तरवा जेनरल असेम्बली के प्रधान मारिया फेनान्डा एसपीनोसा के साथ मुलाकात के दौरान ऐसा कहा। श्री बईनिमरामा ने एसपीनोसा को फिर से आश्वासन दिया कि फीजी बहुपक्षीय के समर्थन में डटा हुआ है। उन्होंने कहा कि छोटे देशों और विकासशील देशों द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियाँ जैसे कि जलवायु परिवर्तन,

महासागर प्रबंधन, विश्व शान्ति तथा सुरक्षा के लिए सभी देशों को साथ मिलकर काम करना चाहिए।



प्रधानमंत्री वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने हालही में न्यू यॉक अमरिका में संयुक्त राष्ट्र जेनरल असेम्बली का तिहत्तरवा (73rd) सम्मेलन में हिस्सा लिया और अनेक देशों के नेताओं के साथ बातचित की। इस दौरान उन्होंने भाषण भी दिया और फीजी और प्रशान्त की स्थिति पर बारीकी से प्रकाश डाला।

एफ एस सी ने चीन तक चीनी का निर्यात जारी किया

रोनल देव

फीजी की चीनी की माँग जबकि बढ़ती जा रही है तो ऐसे में फीजी शुगा कौपरेशन ने इस साल दुसरी बार लौतोका से जहाज़ द्वारा चीन तक चीनी भेजी है।

एफ एस सी आशावादी है कि अई शिया में उनके ग्राहकों की संख्या बढ़ेगी।

एफ एस सी के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव ऑफिसर ग्रेहम क्लार्क ने कहा कि इन बाजारों में बहुत से दिलचस्प मौके हैं।

कई सालों बाद चीन के बाज़ार के लिए एफ एस सी ने चीनी भेजा है जो कि कुल चौतीस हजार (34,000) टन्स चीनी थी जिनमें से बीस हजार टन चीनी लम्बासा के मलाउ बंदरगाह से लादी गई थी।

“चीन की फीजी की चीनी चाहता है लेकिन यह उच्च कोटी और उसकी कीमत भी अच्छी होनी चाहिए

इसलिए उन्हें विश्व बाज़ार में चीनी के दाम पर गौर करना ज़रूरी है और अगर दाम ठीक रहा तो वे अई शिया के बाज़ार तक और भी चीनी भेजने के लिए बातचित कर सकते हैं,” श्री क्लार्क ने कहा।

कई दशक पहले फीजी ने आखरी बार चीन तक चीनी भेजी थी इसलिए इस बाज़ार में दोबारा जाना बहुत ही अच्छा कदम रहा है तथा हम विश्वास करते हैं कि फीजी की चीनी के लिए बाज़ार और बढ़ेगा।

फीजी शुगा कौपरेशन, चीन और जापान की आबादी और उनके खाद्य संसाधन के विस्तार पर विचार करते हुए दोनों बाजारों के बारे में विशेष रूप से आशावादी है।

एफ एस सी ने पहले युनाएटड किंगडम और युरोपियन बाज़ार तक रोडिना नामक जहाज़ द्वारा पैतीस हजार (35,000) टन चीनी भेजी। इनमें युरोप के लिए फेयर ट्रेड प्रमाणित बीस हजार टन चीनी और बाकी पंद्रह हजार टन चीनी युनाएटड किंगडम के लिए।

इस साल सितम्बर और अगले साल मार्च के बीच चीनी के पाँच शिपमन्ट्स होने की योजना बनाई गई है।

फीजी विभाजन वाले दर्दनाक दिनों में कभी नहीं लौटेगा: प्रधानमंत्री

रोनल देव

प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेनो बईनिमरामा ने जोर दिया है कि फीजी अब उन कठिन दिनों की ओर नहीं लौटेगा जहाँ फीजीवासी कई सालों तक सहन किया जब राजनितिक संस्कृति के चलते जातीय विभाजन, घृणा तथा हमारे समुदायों के बीच दिक्कत को बढ़ावा दिया गया था।

न्यू यॉक अमरिका में नेलसन मंडेला सम्मेलन के मौके पर श्री बईनिमरामा ने कहा कि दक्षिण अफ्रीका के भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति स्वर्गीय नेलसन मंडेला की सहनशीलता, सुलह, समानता और दयालुता की विरासत, फीजी के लिए प्रेरणा

का रूप है। यह विश्व के अन्य लोगों के लिए भी एक प्रेरणा है, जो शान्ति, सहनशीलता और समझ की दुनिया में रहना चाहते हैं।

“अपने जीवन और विरासत के माध्यम से श्री मंडेला हम सभी के लिए एक प्रेरणा हैं जो सभी लोगों के मानवाधिकारों का सम्मान करने और उनकी रक्षा करने का प्रयास करता है। यह विरासत का अर्थ दुनिया में हर व्यक्ति के लिए एक बड़ा सौदा होना चाहिए। लेकिन यह हमारे देश और लोगों के लिए विशेष अर्थ रखता है जो मैं नेतृत्व करता हूँ,” श्री बईनिमरामा ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार दक्षिण अफ्रीका की तरह फीजी के लोगों ने भी काफी सालों तक सहन किया।

अभी पिछले कुछ सालों से हमने उस विरासत को छोड़ना शुरू किया है और उस दुखद इतिहास से खुद को अलग कर दिया है।

“हमने उन सिद्धांतों के सरल और असहनीय पालन के माध्यम से ऐसा किया है जहाँ लोगों को समान अवसर, समान नागरिकता, पारस्परिक समझ और समावेशी, व्यापक पहुँच समृद्धि के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता मिली है।

ये मौलिक सिद्धांत हमारे संविधान के केंद्र में हैं। प्रधानमंत्री बईनिमरामा ने कहा कि स्वर्गीय मंडेला जानते थे कि हमें कभी-कभी कुछ बलिदान देना पड़ता था ताकि लम्बे समय से चली आ रही समस्याएँ सुलझाई जा सकें। उन्होंने

ने कहा कि फीजीवासी भी शान्ति और जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ लड़ाई करने के लिए बलिदान दे रहे हैं।

यह एक ऐसी सच्चाई है जिसे हम फीजीवासी पहचान करते हैं इसलिए पिछले चालिस सालों से हजारों की

संख्या में बहादुर सिपाही दुनिया भर में शान्ति स्थापित करने के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र के शान्ति सैनिक के रूप में शान्ति सेवा प्रदान कर रहे हैं। हमें इस विरासत पर गर्व है। प्रधानमंत्री संयुक्त राष्ट्र जेनरल असेम्बली का तिहत्तरवा (73rd) सम्मेलन में हिस्सा लेने के लिए न्यू यॉक अमरिका में थे।

फ़ीजी फ़ोकस

मत देने के लिए
अंतिम क्षण में कई
लोग हुए रेजिस्टर

6



समझदारी
दिखाने की
माँग

7



प्रधानमंत्री, वॉरेनो बर्डनिमरामा हाल ही में संयुक्त राष्ट्र जेनरल असेम्बली का तिहत्तरवा (73rd) सम्मेलन के दौरान राष्ट्रीय बयान निकालते हुए। प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा ने विश्व के कई अन्य नेताओं के साथ द्वीपक्षीय सभाएँ की।

यू एन जी ए के प्रधान ने की प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा की तारीफ

रोनल देव

छोटे देश बड़े काम कर सकते हैं। संयुक्त राष्ट्र जेनरल असेम्बली की प्रधान मारिया फेनान्डा एस्पिनोसा गासेस ने न्यू यॉक अमरिका में प्रधानमंत्री फेन्क बर्डनिमरामा से सभा में मुलाकात करने के बाद उनकी तारीफ करते हुए ऐसा कहा।

कोप 23 में फीजी की सफलता को देखते हुए मारिया गासेस ने प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा को संयुक्त राष्ट्र के साथ मिलकर अगले साल वाले जलवायु शिखर सम्मेलन की तैयारी करने

के लिए आमंत्रित किया जो अगले साल सत्रह सितम्बर को शुरू होगा।

श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने मारिया गासेस के साथ कई विषयों पर बातें की जिनमें शामिल है फीजी और यू.एन.जी.ए के बीच और भी ज्यादा निकट सहयोग होना ताकि संयुक्त राष्ट्र फीजी के सामाज, परिवार और आम नागरिकों के लिए और भी योग्य साबित हो।

प्रधानमंत्री ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र जेनरल असेम्बली के तिहत्तरवे (73rd) सम्मेलन में अपनी प्राथमिकताओं पर प्रकाश डाला और मारिया गासेस को सम्मेलन की नेतागिती करने के लिए

अपना पूरा समर्थन व्यक्त किया।

प्रधान गासेस ने प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा को सैन्य और शान्ति सेवा संचालन में लिंग समानता पर प्रयास करने के लिए भी सराहना की। श्री बर्डनिमरामा ने फीजी और प्रशान्त में संयुक्त राष्ट्र की उपस्थिति और बढ़ाने की ज़रूरत पर अपना विचार दिया। प्रधानमंत्री ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा तकनीकी प्रगति, युवकों को अवसरों से जोड़ना, युवा व्यापारियों को नेटवर्किंग और लाभकारी दक्षिण-दक्षिण सहयोग के लिए नए अवसर तलाशने वाली ज़रूरतों पर भी जोर दिया। फिलहाल, न्यू यॉक में प्रधानमंत्री बर्डनिमरामा

ने विश्व के कई अन्य नेताओं के साथ द्वीपक्षीय सभाएँ की जिनमें अन्य देशों के प्रधानमंत्री, राष्ट्रपति शामिल हैं तथा अनेक सम्मेलन में फीजी द्वारा सामना किए जा रहे विषयों पर बयान भी निकाला।

प्रधानमंत्री शुक्रवार अट्ठाईस सितम्बर को संयुक्त राष्ट्र के शिखर सम्मेलन में फीजी का राष्ट्रीय बयान निकाला।

संयुक्त राष्ट्र जेनरल असेम्बली का तिहत्तरवा (73rd) सम्मेलन मंगलवार पचीस सितम्बर से शुरू होकर शुक्रवार पाँच अक्टूबर को खत्म हुआ।