

FijiFocus



One ocean expedition crew meets President Katonivere

“WE may not have the economic power or the military might and we may not have the resources, but we have the ‘blue Pacific’ (Ocean) and its resources – this is what I call the last frontier.”

The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, addressing a delegation made up of students from around the world and the Pacific, who are part of the One Ocean Expedition crew, staff of the University

of Bergen, the Norway Embassy in Canberra, and The University of the South Pacific, said that protecting the ocean’s resources and reefs is paramount for food security for the future generation.

The group presented their ‘isevusevu’ and ‘itatau’ to President Katonivere at the State House recently.

“For you to come to visit and learn (about the ocean) and take back what you have

learned to your countries, I know we’ll have a safe planet in the years to come,” President Katonivere said.

According to Professor Edvard Hviding of the University of Bergen, the sailing ship, One Ocean Expedition is chartered by the University of Bergen for four months, from the Port of Valparaiso in Chile and across several countries, to Pacific island states – Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, and Palau.

“We are running a course on board the ship, called SDG200 that relates to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, in particular, ‘Ocean Climate and Society’. We are looking at this, particularly from the Pacific’s perspective,” he said.

Story and photo: Ilisapeci Tuivale

Marine ecosystems decline unacceptable: PLCs

FIJIANS and Pacific Islanders are not prepared to accept the decline of marine ecosystems as inevitable.

We are not prepared to watch our reefs die, our fish stocks leave, and our communities be lost to the rising seas.

These were the bold remarks delivered by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama at the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy Leaders Lunch along the margins of the second UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal this week.

“We are prepared to act with the faith that we can change the tide. We are prepared to restore the balance that has allowed life above and below water in our islands thrive for millennia,” he added.

“We all know that our ocean is terribly un-

der-valued. Its most important services are discounted by our outdated measures of national economies and in order to implement the commitments we all know are necessary,

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Voreqe
Bainimarama.

"As we build back better, we will need to tap into private sector finances, efficiency, and innovation to support our economic recoveries, and the world's largest economies, such as those in BRICS and beyond, must seriously commit to climate financing."

NUMBERS

International Finance Corporation estimates that the elimination of the business licence requirement alone earned

\$3.56 million

of Direct Compliance Cost Savings (DCCS) for businesses in Fiji."

- Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Frank Bainimarama
@FijiPM

Over an intense two days at more than 20 meetings and high level engagements, Fiji has delivered and demanded the boldest possible commitments to #saveourocean — proud of this team and everyone at home who is protecting ecosystems and building our blue economy.

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Company's effort to innovate, assist applauded

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJICARE has been commended for stepping in to assist the Fijian Government during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the roll-out of the General Practitioners (GP) programme.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while officiating at the FijiCare Insurance Limited's 30th anniversary celebration, highlighted that this "symbiotic relationship" between the public and private sector, which has been ex-gratia, had ensured a digital solution when it came to dealing with the pandemic.

"I must admit that FijiCare's willingness to work with Government, in particular during the COVID period, after we managed to get the source code from Singapore Government for the app itself, the managing director Avi Raju stepped up. They offered to tweak the app and get some people on board to be able to launch that," the A-G said.

He said the app, careFIJI, was a very useful tool at one stage of the pandemic as it helped track people to be able to ensure that the spread was contained or limited at the very least.

Expanding on the role of FijiCare, the Minister said it was the responsibility of the Government to empower its citizens and provide an enabling environment where businesses, new ideas and innovations are given the space to be able to develop, to be able to flourish.

"And this is precisely where FijiCare has partnered extremely well with Government. FijiCare has been in the forefront in launching various insurance products with a bundle insurance. Today we have sugarcane farmers, we have copra farmers, we have dairy farmers, we have rice farmers, who have access to bundle insurance for \$1 a week," the A-G said.

"They're able to access insurance that they never could ever dream of accessing."

He said the cover gives these citizens or their families' access to payouts, in case of death of the insurer, or in case of a house fire and the payouts have been phenomenal.

Furthermore, the A-G said "we also want them to be on the cutting edge of business ideas, of innovation, of introduction of technol-



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while officiating at the FijiCare Insurance Limited's 30th anniversary celebration

ogy" and welcome the new app the company has launched.

"It's the only insurance company that actually offers the digital accessibility, that digital solution."

He said FijiCare had also been working with Government since the launch of the GP services and hoped that this would continue into the next year.

Lifting of ban to harvest and trade Beche-De-Mer

THE Government had instituted the ban to kill, take, land, sell, or offer or expose for sale, deal in, transport, receive or possess holothurian (beche-de-mer) or sea cucumbers (Ban) to preserve the people's long-term food security and socio-economic wellbeing.

As the economy continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, a new sustainable management regime has been initiated by the Government to allow local communities to benefit from the holothurian (beche-de-mer) or sea cucumber stocks.

As part of these efforts to duly stimulate local economic activity, materialise fisheries sector economic recovery, national economic growth and support livelihoods, the Director of Fisheries, pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 4 of Schedule 2A to the Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations 2014 (Regulations), hereby gives notice of the lifting of the Ban from 1 July 2022 to 31 October 2022, subject to the following:

1. Harvesting period – The harvesting of holothurian (beche-de-mer) or sea cucumbers

is permitted only from 1 July 2022 to 31 August 2022. All harvesting of holothurian (beche-de-mer) or sea cucumbers will cease after 31 August 2022.

2. Licence – Any person who wishes to kill, take, land, sell, or offer or expose for sale, deal in, transport, receive or possess holothurian (beche-de-mer) or sea cucumbers must obtain a licence to take fish in Fiji fisheries waters (Licence) issued by a licensing officer under the Fisheries Act 1941 (Act). Any application to obtain a Licence must go through the process of obtaining a Licence under the Act.

3. Permitted methods of harvesting or collection – FREE DIVE and GLEANING is permitted. The use of underwater breathing apparatus and hooker diving system is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Any Licence issued for the purpose of harvesting and collection of holothurian (beche-de-mer) or sea cucumbers will be issued exclusively to an iTaukei person who has applied and is registered by the iTaukei Fisheries Commission in the Register of iTaukei Customary Fishing Rights as part

of Government's ongoing measures to encourage the active and meaningful participation of resource or qoliqoli owners in our sustainable management approach.

4. Landing – All holothurian (beche-de-mer) or sea cucumbers harvested or collected must be landed at a landing site as determined by the Ministry of Fisheries.

5. Processing and export period – The processing and export period is permitted only from 1 July 2022 to 31 October 2022. All exports of holothurian (beche-de-mer) or sea cucumbers will cease after 31 October 2022.

6. Regulation 25A of the Fisheries Regulations 1965 applies to holothurian (beche-de-mer) of the species Metriatyla scabra (Holothurian scabra) (dairo) (sandfish).

The lifting of the ban does not apply to "black teat fish" and "white teatfish" species of sea cucumber.

(Source: Ministry of Fisheries)

PM Bainimarama meets with his Portuguese counterpart

FIJI has reiterated its desire to further strengthen bilateral relations in addition to the already strong relations we currently enjoy with the European Union (EU).

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, in a bilateral meeting with his Portuguese counterpart Antonio Costa, said the two countries have more opportunities for possible cooperation in sectors such as tourism, sports and education.

The two leaders met along the margins of the second United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fiji has much to offer as a premier outsourcing services (OS) destination, and we are looking to grow into a hub for outsourcing services.

Fiji and Portugal's recent cooperation through the EU, to the COVAX facility has

enabled many Fijians to have access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

Commenting on the important agenda of the Ocean Conference, Prime Minister Bainimarama said that Fiji was seeking meaningful outcomes in five priority areas which include addressing the role of the ocean in climate mitigation and adaptation, promoting the transition to sustainable shipping and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and ending harmful subsidies, creating synergies and partnerships on national, regional and cross-sectoral levels, including with the private sector and promoting innovative financing opportunities to reinforce actions for a sustainable development of the ocean.

He added that Fiji looks forward for Portugal's support for international efforts in relation to concluding work on the High Seas



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama met with his Portuguese counterpart Antonio Costa last week.
Photo- Supplied

Treaty negotiations at the UN and the work on eliminating harmful fisheries subsidies as recently agreed by the World Trade Organiza-

Calls for more collective actions for sustainable economies



PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has reiterated the need for more collective actions to develop resilient and sustainable economies through the full participation and acceptance of all countries and people.

The Prime Minister said at the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development along the margins of the 14th Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Summit that “we need to hear ideas, and those ideas need to be analysed, discussed and debated”.

The Head of the Fijian Government joined 17 other world leaders in the virtual summit which was chaired by the President of China, Xi Jinping.

With the theme, “Foster a Global Development Partnership for the New Era to Jointly Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the world leaders exchanged views on issues such as accelerating the implementation of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the South-South Cooperation, terrorism, climate change, nuclear disarmament, and the promotion of international and regional peace and security, social and economic development, among other important issues.

While delivering his statement, Prime Minister Bainimarama said that the Pacific was facing intense and more frequent climate-induced natural disasters and as nations emerge from the devastating economic wreckage of the

pandemic, “we are doing all we can with our limited resources to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts”.

“BRICS can form the basis of an important partnership for ensuring that no nation is left to face disease and the ravages of climate change alone and it has great potential as a force to make up ground on the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development,” he added.

“We learned long ago through South-South Cooperation that the established powers were not the only source of valuable support, nor necessarily always the most decisive. BRICS can be an important means of bringing the entire world’s intellectual, financial, and technical resources to bear on the drive to achieve global sustainable development.”

On the home front, Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fiji was enacting far-reaching policies out of the belief that a better relationship with nature will mean a better future for all.

“As we build back better, we will need to tap into private sector finances, efficiency, and innovation to support our economic recoveries, and the world’s largest economies, such as those in



Leaders met virtually for the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development along the margins of the 14th Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Summit **Photo: Supplied**

BRICS and beyond, must seriously commit to climate financing. The BRICS partnership can help us get there.”

President Jinping highlighted that small islands developing states indeed face development challenges, adding that China was prepared to work with Fiji and the international community to intensify practical cooperation for small developing states.

He said that we need to jointly build international consensus on promoting development.

President Jinping remarked it was important that to put development front on the international agenda, deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and build political consensus to ensure everyone values development and all countries pursue cooperation together.

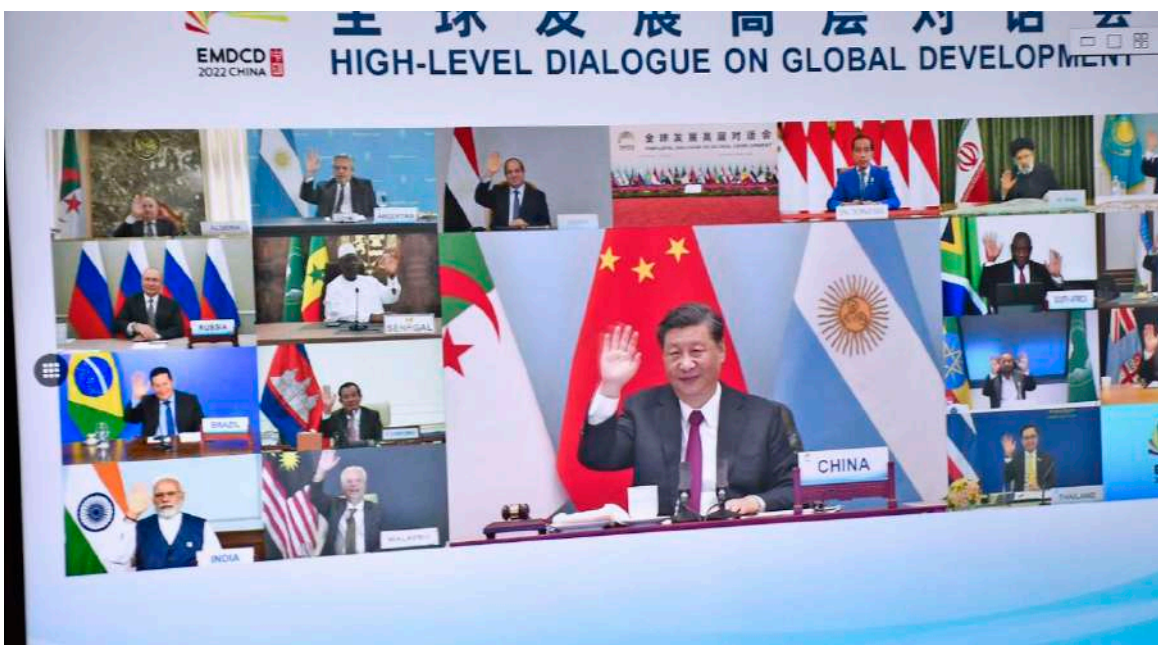
Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in his contribution, highlighted India’s development partnership with Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and also from the Pacific to Caribbean.

He highlighted that India is focus on a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based maritime space, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations from the Indian ocean region to the Pacific Ocean.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, also shared similar sentiments and commented that Egypt appreciates the BRICS’ keenness to adopt a common vision on political and economic issues of concern to developing countries, particularly in terms of development cooperation and the support of development financing.

On climate change, he said that Egypt, in its capacity as the next president for COP27, will make every effort to achieve consensus among all parties interested in international climate action.

(Source: Office of Prime Minister)



Marine ecosystems decline unacceptable: PICs

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we have to scale up ocean-based finance.” U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry said it was important for all nations to discipline and align themselves to the language of protecting our ocean with greater ambition.

“It’s almost seven months now after COP26 and the promises made still haven’t been fulfilled. Now, we have to be very vocal and clear. We have to cut emissions and we cannot afford another year without action. We are fighting for our future and have to ensure we deliver on our promises.”

UN Ocean Conference co-chair and President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta shared similar sentiments and commented that saving the ocean was not our children’s responsibility

but ours.

“It’s time for us to move ahead and implement the commitments made on ocean. We need to implement our actions now.”

The members of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel) lead nations of highly diverse oceanic, economic and political perspectives.

Driven by a commitment to partnership, shared knowledge and science-informed policy, the Ocean Panel aims to advance the values underpinning a sustainable ocean economy—effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity.

Members of the Ocean Panel include Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, Palau, Portugal, Norway and the United States of America.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Fiji prepares to welcome Forum Leaders for 51st Pacific Islands Forum

Leaders from across the Pacific region will be gathering next month for the 51st Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and related meetings from 11-14 July 2022 in Suva, Fiji.

Chaired by the Prime Minister of Fiji, Voreqe Bainimarama, the meeting will be an opportunity to strengthen relationships and reset goals and priorities for regionalism and collective action as a Forum Family.

“The 51st Pacific Islands Forum is an opportunity for us to gather and celebrate 50-years of Pacific regionalism through the Pacific Islands Forum, and to reflect on and honour what it means to work together

towards shared aspirations and objectives,” said the Forum Chair.

The Forum Meetings in Suva will culminate in the launch of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent which has been developed over three years and consulted widely across the region.

The Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Ratu Sukuna Rd, as well as other key landmarks will host a range of meetings and events from July 11- 14, including public-facing festivities and talanoa events, dialogue with civil society and private sector leaders.

news@govnet.gov.fj



\$3.56m estimated in Direct Compliance Saving for Fijian businesses

THE Fijian Government, through its business reform agenda, has implemented measures to create a conducive business environment.

One such bold step included the elimination of business licence requirements in 2020. Engineered towards progression, these measures have brought about cost-saving, streamlined processes and modernisation of archaic procedures.

In tangent, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) estimates that the elimination of the business licence requirement alone earned \$3.56 million of Direct Compliance Cost Savings (DCCS) for businesses in Fiji.

The DCCS methodology measures benefits of reforms that focus on the reduction of fees, costs and procedures that lead to Labour (time) and/or monetary savings.

The estimated savings identified by IFC takes a conservative approach, given they are based on administrative data on business licence and processing fees only and 80 percent of municipal council data.

At a stock take meeting held on 23 June 2022, the Permanent Secretary of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Shaheen Ali, highlighted that increasing business efficiency was a key focus area for the Fijian Government.

This means, identifying and streamlining processes that lead to increased investment and savings for businesses by reducing costs.

“What these numbers translate to is opportunities. Opportunities to look ahead at reforms that in time will accrue greater benefit for the private sector, opportunities for cost savings and reinvestment as well as opportu-

nities to make approval processes more accessible,” Mr Ali said.

The IFC highlighted that the positive impact of such bold steps create a greater appetite to strengthen Fiji’s reform agenda.

This includes components of legislative reforms with stronger focus on digitalisation. Moving forward, the Ministry will continue working with the IFC, taking a risk-based approach, to identify existing and new sectors that can lead to quick wins.

With the discontinuation of the World Bank’s Doing Business Report, the Ministry and the IFC will re-purpose Fiji’s Doing Business Taskforce with renewed focus on broader sectoral reforms.

(Source: Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport)

2nd phase minimum wage now effective

THE implementation of the second tranche of the National Minimum Wage (NMW) and the Wages Regulations (WR) will commenced from July 1, 2022.

The new rate for the NMW will be \$3.34 per hour while the minimum rates for the 10 sectors has been provided in the gazette notice.

The Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations has reminded all employers and workers of this minimum wage rate increase with the first tranche coming into effect on April 1, 2022 following the revised 2021-2022 national budget announcement on 24 March, 2022.

The Ministry has urged all employers covered under the NMW (Amendment) Regulations 2022 and the 10 sectoral industries (Building and Civil and Electrical Engineering Trades, Hotel and Catering Trades, Manufacturing Industry, Mining and Quarrying, Printing Trades, Sawmilling and Logging Industry, Security Services, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Garment Industry, Road Transport) covered under the Wages (Amendment) Regulations 2022 to make the necessary changes to their wages records.

The Employment Ministry’s Labour Standards and Compliance Team will continue to conduct inspections of the implementation of second tranche wage increase to all workplaces in Fiji to ensure that all workers are remunerated with the right wage rate.

For any clarification, all employers and workers are requested to contact the Ministry’s Compliance team on mobile 9906406, 9906131, 9906888, 9904170 or email: customer-care@employment.gov.fj

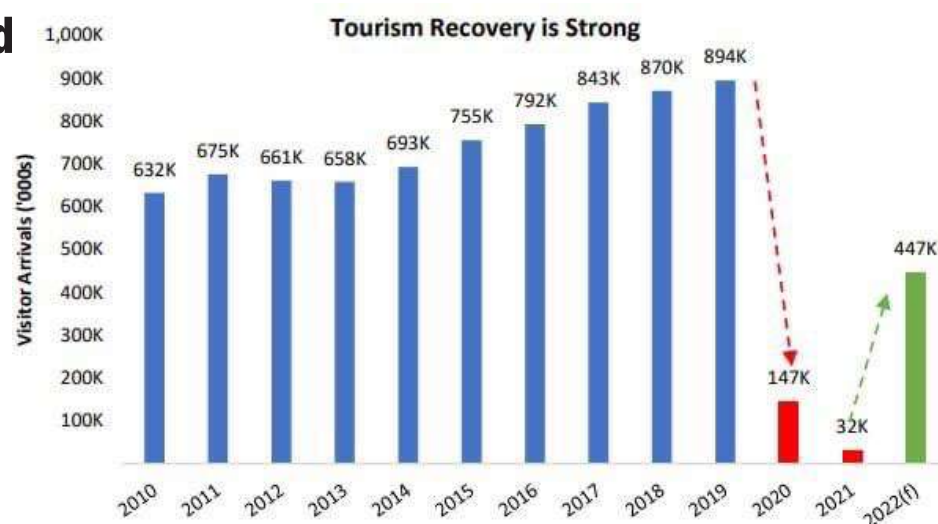
(Source: The Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations)

Fiji is open for business, and we are moving forward

Since we re-opened our border from 1 December 2021 till May 2022, visitor arrivals are around 45 percent of pre-pandemic levels.

Australian visitors were 90 percent of pre-COVID arrivals, while New Zealand arrivals were around two-thirds of pre-COVID. An average of 1,200 tourists arrive on our shores daily.

And the numbers continue to rise - thanks to the thousands of hardworking Fijians who are making this a reality!



Minister Koya officiates at Annual Day of Seafarers

“OUR seafarers sail the seas every day, helping the Fijian economy. They facilitate global trade and keep our islands and Fijians connected.”

Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, speaking the Annual Day of the Seafarers, with the theme “Your Voyage- then and now, Share your Journey” commemorated at the Bainimarama Seafarers Centre in Walu Bay recently, said, “Today, we give all seafarers the respect and acknowledgement they deserve”.

“We, the Pacific, are over 7,500 islands and 22 island nations – spanning some 30 million square kilometres across the Pacific Ocean. Fiji’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) spans 1.3 million square kilometres across the Pacific Ocean. This makes us the natural hub of the Pacific. So you can see how maritime shipping is crucial and the role seafarers’ play,” he said.

Minister Koya added that without the noble profession of a seafarer, there would be no maritime shipping.

“They’re ambassadors of our oceans – our greatest asset.”

Minister Koya also stated that the Fijian Government in collaboration with International Maritime Organisation and key maritime stakeholders, continues to support seafarers by recognising

them as vital personnel.

“So, as we consider the future of this annual day; we pay close attention to new challenges and opportunities in the broader context of our climate goals. You

as seafarers will no doubt meet these issues head-on and open the door for a bluer sector.”

news@govnet.gov.fj



Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, at the Annual Day of the Seafarers. Photo: Supplied



5000 scholarships for TVET

Whether you are fresh out of high school, employed, or have lost your employment due to COVID-19, your Government is committed to providing you with the opportunity to empower yourself with education.

The Fijian Government through TSLS, is offering 5000 scholarships for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) at the Fiji National University (FNU).

TVET educates and equips Fijians to develop the skills, experience, and competencies demanded by employers, in

a fast-changing global economy.

All applicants for this scheme must satisfy all of the following application eligibility criteria:

- Must be a Fijian Citizen;
- Must be an ordinarily resident in Fiji for at least three years before the loan commencement date;
- Must have successfully completed Fiji Year 12 (Fiji School Leaving Certificate Examination) locally and scored a minimum of 200/400 or completed Level 1 and II from TCF.

- Combined family income to be less than \$100,000; and
- Must have an offer letter from Fiji National University for certificate Level III, Certificate Level IV and Diploma Level 5 programmes offered by TVET Pasifika.

For more information visit a TSLS office near you or email on mytsls@tsls.com.fj

news@govnet.gov.fj



Budget consultations- have your say

The Ministry of Economy will be holding face-to-face budget consultations in the lead-up to the 2022-2023 National Budget for Fijians to share their ideas and join an interactive discussion.

The dates and venues for the face-to-face consultations are:

Monday, 4 July 2022

Public Consultation Nausori:
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

St Vincent DePaul Parish Hall
(behind Nausori Market)

Monday, 4 July 2022

Public Consultation Nasinu /
Nakasi: 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Nakasi Sanatan Hall (near Bha-
wani Dayal Arya College, Nakasi
Road)

We look forward to your participation and contribution towards the 2022-2023 National Budget.

Borrowing wisely: A-G

PRASHILA DEVI

FIJI has secured concessional loans to stimulate the economy and invest in infrastructure and sectors that will be beneficial for the people.

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, while speaking at the pre-budget 2022/2023 session at the 50th year of Fiji Institute of Accountants at the Sofitel Resort recently, said the Government has also given some creative fiscal incentives to help businesses affected by the pandemic to stay afloat.

“The Government is paying for the first two years the interest rates for those people who got access to this concessional financing. The financial institutions borrow from the Reserve Bank of Fiji at 0.25 per cent and lend at no more than 3.99 per cent.”

“So this has of course pumped money into the economy, a lot of money but has also kept a lot of businesses actually afloat and we get very positive feedback from

this,” the A-G said.

He added that the bulk of the lending was done by Fiji Development Bank but that there was an opportunity for the mainstream commercial banks to do a lot more in this space.

On debt to gross domestic product (GDP), the A-G said there were a number of countries, including Fiji’s close trading partners and some tourism-based economies, that have a much higher ratio.

“When we talk about debt, you have to look at two fundamental issues. Why are you borrowing- number one and number two- what is the actual cost of the money that you’re borrowing,” he explained.

“If you’re going to borrow money to connect people to electricity, to tar seal roads to allow more easy market access, and connect people to water and electricity which will mean increase in productivity. That’s good use of borrowing money.”

The A-G said during the pandemic, there were people who did not have access to funds and there was a need to kickstart the



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, speaks at the pre-budget 2022_2023 session at the 50th year of Fiji Institute of Accountants at the Sofitel Resort recently.

economy.

“You’re also doing two things. One is you are targeting those people who need assistance, and secondly, pumping money into the economy. That’s a good use of money.”

On the second issue of the actual cost of the borrowings, he said Fiji has been borrowing at very concessional rate.

“We’ve been offered finance from the World Bank at zero per cent interest rate, 0.75 per cent service fee, which works out to be about 53-55 per cent of a grant element. In other words, you only pay back

45 per cent of what you borrowed.”

“The Japanese have lent to us at a 40-year term, 10-year grace period at 0.01 per cent. So the grant element is about 60 per cent. In other words, you pay back only 40 per cent of what you actually borrowed.”

The A-G said these were two key factors that must be considered when people talk about debt burden but to also keep in mind that the GDP has grown in size in Fiji, which means that the proverbial pie has grown bigger.

Consultations on the 2022/2023 budget continues this week.



PM Bainimarama calls on world leaders to seriously consider nuclear disarmament



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with the Fijian Government delegation at the Nuclear Disarmament meeting. Photo: Supplied

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama called upon nations around the world to seriously “speak the language of a nuclear-free world”.

The Head of the Fijian Government urged these nations to join the wave of support towards creating a policy framework that considers the existential threat of the use of nuclear weapons which has devastating impacts on the environment.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said that world leaders must also consider the long-term consequences of the displacement of communities from their traditional lands due to ever-encroaching nuclear waste.

Whilst delivering his official remarks at the High Level Segment of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) First State Parties Meeting in Vienna last week, the Prime Minister said that it was not idealism that convenes but rather, the level-headed common sense that calls on us to prohibit and rid the world of nuclear weapons. This was the first meeting of the TPNW since its entry into force on January 22, 2021. Among other important things, the Treaty describes a comprehensive ban on participation in all activities involving nuclear weapons and this includes a commitment not to develop, test, produce, acquire, stockpile, or use nuclear weapons.

In his capacity as Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIFs), Prime Minister Bainimarama shared that the impact of the nuclear testing in the 1950s, still affects the Pacific vuvale to this present day.

“The Pacific alone endured more than 300 nuclear tests on land, air, sea and below the seabed that unleashed the equivalent of

more than 14,000 of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima. The people of French Polynesia and the Marshall Islands still suffer birth defects, cancers, and other deadly, generational consequences of that devastation,” Prime Minister Bainimarama further added.

“The terrible legacy of those tests wasn’t only the waste that was created, it was the weapons that were perfected. Thousands of missiles and trillions of dollars later, every person on earth is hostage to arsenals that threaten our existence.”

As we progressively commit to the campaign of a nuclear-free world, Fiji was proud to join over 86 States to adopt and support the implementation of the Treaty.

Fiji, under the leadership of Prime Minister Bainimarama, was one of the first countries that signed and ratified the TPNW.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also highlighted at the high-level segment that those nations wanting to visit our region should “leave their nuclear weapons behind”.

The Prime Minister reiterated that the injustice of the nuclear tests inflicted on the Pacific intensifies with every dollar spent on missiles instead of seawalls, resilient crops, relocations, and renewables

“It’s time we do away with these trillion-dollar relics and get serious about securing our future.”

United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, in a video message, called the Treaty “an important step towards the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world and a strong demonstration of support for multilateral approaches to nuclear disarmament.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

PM Bainimarama meets with New Zealand’s Minister for Disarmament

FIJI looks forward to working closely with New Zealand at all levels towards eliminating nuclear weapons, including joint advocacy efforts with our partners.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, during a bilateral meeting held on June 23, 2022, with New Zealand’s Minister for Disarmament Affairs Phil Twyford, said that nuclear disarmament was an issue very close to the region.

The Prime Minister met with Minister Twyford along the margins of the High Level Segment of the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in Vienna, Austria.

New Zealand was one of the original 50 States parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

At the regional level, the Prime Minister also thanked New Zealand for its commitment as a party to the Treaty of Rarotonga.

With over 50 years of historical ties, New Zealand has been a valuable development and strategic partner to Fiji and a member of the Pacific family.

For this, Prime Minister Bainimarama said he was “inspired by the resilience and support of our bilateral partner as we work together to respond to the many challenges before us”.

“Our relationship, he further added has been strengthened through expanding links between our people and institutions, and our common interests in the region and beyond,” he said.

Fiji and New Zealand have expanded the scope and level of partnership and engaged in new areas of cooperation, including in trade and investment, labour mobility, defence, climate change and resilience build-

ing and humanitarian relief and disaster responsiveness as articulated in the Duavata Partnership.

On the COVID-19 issue, Prime Minister Bainimarama thanked Aotearoa New Zealand for supporting Fiji in its response and recovery efforts including, direct budget support, access to vaccines and the deployment of medical personnel and essential equipment.

He also updated the Minister that Fiji’s vaccination campaign was progressing well with 95 per cent of the population vaccinated with ongoing efforts for the administration of booster shots.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also highlighted that Fiji was focused on fostering private sector-led growth to create investment and business opportunities, making more jobs available for Fijians within the tourism, trade and investment and agriculture sectors. He discussed the upcoming Pacific Islands Leaders Forum and said that the focus has been on rebuilding trust and confidence in the Forum family, as the geo-political challenges within the region was being navigated, the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing climate crisis, which was an existential threat. Prime Minister Bainimarama said he looks forward to meeting his New Zealand counterpart, Jacinda Ardern at the Forum Leaders Meeting for more active discussions aimed at strengthening regional solidarity.

Minister Twyford commended Fiji for its commitment to climate action, and for pushing regional solidarity and partnerships.

He also discussed the opportunities on trade and investment, and the labour mobility scheme.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama discusses conference matters with the Fijian delegation on the margins of the High Level of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna, Austria. Photo: Supplied

Fiji looks forward to strengthen bilateral relations with Austria and the EU

FIJI looks forward to further strengthen bilateral relations at all levels, especially with Austria and the European Union and to advance the priorities of Small Islands States in relevant multilateral fora.

This was conveyed by the Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama during a bilateral meeting with the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria, Alexander Schallenberg, along the margins of the High Level Segment of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) First State Parties Meeting in Vienna, June 21, 2022.

At the meeting, Prime Minister Bainimarama remarked that even though Fiji’s diplomatic

relations with Austria was young, he was confident of the shared commitment to building and enhancing our relations going forward.

This, he added will be realised through our cooperation in strategic areas such as climate change, peace and security, human rights, and multilateral co-operation.

Fiji fully appreciates all the support that Austria and the EU provide to the country in a number of areas, including climate change and oceans, direct budget support, trade and agriculture. While delving into the importance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) First State Parties Meeting, the Prime Minister said Fiji attests great importance to the Treaty in its pursuance of

peace and the recognition of the importance of preserving our environment for future generations.

He informed Mr Schallenberg that the devastation caused by nuclear weapons in the recent past to the people and the pristine ocean environment was beyond measure as the Pacific was the testing ground for nuclear weapons and the forefathers unfortunately, without their will and knowledge, participated in the tests at Malden and Kiritimati Islands in 1952.

For this, Prime Minister Bainimarama said that the States Parties Meeting was timely in view of the current geo-political environment and that “we must work together to pursue peace and one of which is to promote universalisation”.

The Prime Minister also took the opportunity to convey our appreciation for Austria’s leadership at the multilateral fora as our countries have worked together in New York and Geneva, as members of the Human Rights Council in 2020 and in 2021 when Fiji became President of the Council.

Prime Minister Bainimarama also shared Fiji’s economic recovery plans post COVID-19, adding that Fiji was building back better through investing in climate-resilient and sustainable infrastructure and disaster readiness, with a renewed focus on environmentally- sustainable development and conservation.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama with the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria, Alexander Schallenberg along the margins of High Level Segment of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons First State Parties meetings in Vienna, Austria. Photo: Supplied



PM meets with Australian Minister for Environment and Water



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and his delegation meets with the Australian Minister for Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek along the margins of the 2nd UN Ocean High Level Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama met with the Australian Minister for Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek along the margins of the second UN Ocean High-Level Conference in Lisbon, Portugal last week.

The Prime Minister congratulated Minister Plibersek on her appointment to the new ministerial role and pledged the Fijian Government's commitment to working closely with the Australian Government in advancing shared aspirations such as climate actions, oceans and sustainable socioeconomic development.

He said through the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership, the levels of engagements have continued to strengthen over the years and the recent visit by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Penny Wong has reaffirmed the exemplary partnership and strong bonds of friendship between the two nations.

The Prime Minister outlined the key priorities for Fiji at the UN Ocean Conference, which is to address the role of the ocean in climate mitigation and adaptation; promote the transition to sustainable shipping; combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and ending harmful subsidies; create synergies and partnerships cross-sectoral levels, including with the private sector; and promote innovative financing opportunities to reinforce actions for a sustainable development of the ocean.

He said Fiji looks forward to Australia's support in advancing the common goals on oceans and Sustainable Development Goal 14 and progressively achieve oceans-climate pathway in the lead up to COP-27 and beyond.

In his capacity as the Pacific Island Forum chair, Prime Minister Bainimarama also provided an update on the PIF Leaders Meeting scheduled for next month in

Suva.

He said Fiji looks forward to hosting the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and fellow Pacific Leaders at the meeting which will pave way forward to strengthen regional solidarity and discuss pertinent issues facing the region in the spirit of the Pacific Way through dialogue and Talanoa.

In response, Minister Plibersek commended Prime Minister Bainimarama for his unwavering commitment and strong leadership on global issues of climate and oceans.

She said Australia stands in solidarity with Fiji and the region and the Vuvale Partnership attests to our shared commitment to building a stronger Pacific family by collectively addressing common challenges like climate change and impacts of the pandemic.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

More commitments and ambitions needed for ocean and marine life



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama delivers his statement at the Oceans Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama has called upon the international community to raise their level of ambition and commitments for the recovery of ocean health.

Whilst delivering his address as the Pacific Islands Forum Chair at the opening of the High-Level Plenary session on the occasion of the second Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal last-week, Prime Minister Bainimarama said nations around the world must also invest in sustainable ocean economies.

He said at the high-level segment that the ocean's warming has made us witnesses to a staggering decline in marine life.

"Fisheries are our region's most precious resource; we supply more than half of the world's tuna alone and our nations will be following COP-15 closely to ensure that all life, including that below water, is protected in this critical year for biodiversity. We also hope to see an ambitious, legally-binding Treaty of the High Seas next month."

"To stem the tidal wave of unregulated pollution crashing at our shores, we too look forward to the upcoming negotiations for a global treaty of plastics."

United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, said that we have taken the ocean for granted, and today we face what "I would call an "ocean emergency".

Mr Guterres said preventing and reducing marine pollution of all kinds, both from land and sea-based sources are crucial.

He also urged stakeholders to invest in sustainable ocean economies for food, renewable energy and livelihoods.

Co-hosted by Portugal and Kenya, the Ocean Conference sought to propel much needed science-based innovative solutions aimed at starting a new chapter of global ocean action.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Bainimarama said that Fiji totally condemned any threat of ocean dumps of nuclear waste as this would be both catastrophic and horribly traumatic for the Pacific people who still suffer from the nuclear testing inflicted on our region.

"We also reaffirm our PIF Leaders call for a dedicated ocean work programme in the UNFCCC built on the Glasgow decision and urge a dedicated agenda at COP-27 for Parties to review the summary report of the Bonn dialogue. We need a healthy climate and ocean like we need food to eat and air to breathe."

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that the Pacific leaders will be resolute in keeping 1.5 alive in Egypt, as should anyone who cares about life below water or above it.

While highlighting Fiji's important initiatives towards protecting our ocean, the Prime Minister said Fiji has already banned deep seabed mining and by 2030, 100 percent of its waters will be sustainably managed, with 30 per cent designated as marine protected areas.

"We've already banned single-use plastic bags and by 2030, we will ban virtually all single-use plastics and recycle all PET bottles. Ocean literacy will be a mandatory component of our education system; and we'll slash carbon emissions in our shipping sector by 40 per cent."

Fiji, by 2030, will produce more than 160,000 metric tonnes of sustainably farmed and harvested ocean product, supporting over 53,000 new jobs on our way to supply half of all blue foods from sustainable fisheries by 2035 and by 2050, Fiji will be a net-zero society.

The Head of the Fijian Government further added that the ocean is the planet's healthiest set of lungs yet the least funded of all SDGs.

"We cannot leave Lisbon without scaling up ocean finance. No matter how ambitious or how big and blue Fiji's commitment may be, our single effort isn't enough. That is why I am here: To call on our partners for their support and on the world to follow our lead."

Fiji supports moratorium on deep sea mining



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama delivers his statement at the Oceans Conference. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Fiji reinforced its support for a moratorium on deep sea mining, joining other states at the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal with the aim of protecting our ocean.

At the launch of the Alliance of Countries for a Deep Sea Mining Moratorium, Prime Minister Bainimarama said Fiji has already announced a moratorium in 2019 and has been a regional advocate on this issue, understanding the several layers of socio-economic and geo-physical impacts these activities have on our ocean floor.

Fiji, at the same time, called upon fellow forum island states to support a 10-year moratorium on seabed mining from 2020 to 2030, which would allow for a decade of proper scientific research of the economic zones and territorial waters.

Prime Minister Bainimarama added that "we can lead a moratorium initiative in the United Nations General Assembly in 2022 and 2023 to ensure we gain a truly global resolution to this disastrous activity in this ocean decade".

"We call for partnerships and increased investment in ocean science, particularly in the deep sea and the nexus of the ocean with climate change, including its importance for carbon sequestration and carbon cycling, with an aim of capacity building for marine science and increasing knowledge on deep-sea processes with respect to climate change, fisheries and ocean health," he stressed.

At the event, Palau also showed its support towards the ban on deep sea mining, being one of the small island nations on the front line of the potential impacts of deep sea mining.

The side-event was co-hosted by the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Employers meet A-G to discuss economy

THE Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, attended the networking dinner hosted by the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation last week.

The dinner was attended by over 200 members of the FCEF and key stakeholders in the private sector.

The A-G discussed the economy and also highlighted recent reforms introduced by the Fijian Government to ensure macroeconomic stability.



Photos: Nanise Neimila



Supporting young people is a shared responsibility

THE Naqilovatu Youth Club are the new grant recipients under the Youth Farm Initiative programme.

The Minister for Youth and Sports Parveen Kumar, while officiating at the handover ceremony held at Cirisobu settlement in Ba last week, said these young people needed to be commended as they have chosen a new and time-honoured way to earn an income in farming.

He said the Ministry was helping young Fijians make something for themselves for the very best outcome we can ever aspire to achieve.

"These young people will put land to use and be able to earn income through the sale of the crops they grow," Minister Kumar said.

"The income they produce will be of great help to their families."

Photos: SUPPLIED



Consultation for older persons with disabilities

The Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, officiated at Fiji's First Consultation Workshop for Older Persons with Disabilities at the Pearl Resort in Navua.

Speaking to the participants, Minister Akbar said that the Fijian Government was committed and works in collaboration with all partners, so it can holistically and contextually address the real needs of our people that are ageing with disabilities in Fiji.

"It is an unfortunate fact that in the Pacific, there is very little to no attention targeted to older persons with disabilities. Their issues are not reflected at all on either, older persons or disability programming yet the number of older persons with disabilities are escalating due to impairment caused by NCDs and other health issues".

Photos: Supplied



"THE NEED TO ACT IS NOW!" – PRESIDENT KATONIVERE

The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, officiated at the launch of the Healthy Setting Programme at Holiday Inn, Suva, last week.

The Healthy Setting Programme was an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the World Bank. In his address, the Head of State stated that the time to act against non-communicable diseases for Fiji was now.

He called on workplaces, schools, and communities to adopt healthier workplace approaches to decrease mortality rates and ensure a productive and healthy working population, contributing to an economically sound nation.

Photos: Ilisapeci Tuivale



Youth group seeks alternate income



Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar with youth from Navunivesi on Malake island after handing over Government assistance recently. **Photo: Dipesh Kumar.**

DIPESH KUMAR

YOUTH President of the Navunivesi Youth Group based in Malake Island, Ra has called on youth around the country to register under the new Youth Farm Initiative having been a recipient of the initiative.

Pita Denawanawana, 33, said this initiative has given them an alternative method during difficult times as it will help them in their daily income.

Mr Denawanawana stated that it has been a difficult time for them as the villagers mostly rely on fishing for income and daily consumption.

"I told the members we should use our land for farming because

we can't go fishing every day especially during wet seasons."

"We are really humbled and we thank the Government for the assistance given today. The money we earn from farming will also allow us to buy a boat because the fare to go to the mainland is also very high."

The initiative provided the youth group with ploughs, harrows, spray tanks and other farming equipment worth \$2000.

Handing over the grant, Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar, said this will not only promote sustainable agriculture within the Fijian economy but also help the youth to contribute towards their community.

"I take great pride that the youth

is contributing greatly to Fiji's sustainability efforts. Let's work together for the betterment of all. Do not stick to one level but move forward. Let's work hard."

"The challenge of creating jobs and opportunities for the large global youth population entering the labour market is one of the major challenges our world faces. Investing in young people's employment will ensure better prospects for your own lives and for Fiji's development."

Minister Kumar added that the initiative will have a long-term positive effect on this agriculture sector and to Fiji's economy.

The Navunivesi Youth Group has a total of 25 members out of which seven are females.

Youth farm initiative will help light our village, Botitu



Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar hands over assistance to the Naqilovatu Youth Club in Cirisobu settlement in Ba. **Photo: Dipesh Kumar.**

DIPESH KUMAR

MEMBERS of the Naqilovatu Youth Club in Ba will now have something to look forward to after they received grant assistance from the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Kitione Botitu, 21, of Cirisobu Village in Ba highlighted that the members of the youth club have many plans on improving their village life after they received the grant from the Ministry.

"The farm tools given will help us in farming and encourage the youth's bond. It will also help us with our daily income and assist us with the plans we have for our village."

"The youth of this community will make great use of these equipment's and we will sell our harvest in the market to earn some income as we have struggled for a while now."

Mr Botitu also stated that they plan to venture into poultry farming, piggery and cattle farming.

The initiative provides grants to youth clubs that includes equipment and tools to cultivate land and grow crops.

The youth group has 16 registered members and they want to fulfil the basic necessities of the 15 households in their small village.

Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar, while speaking at the handover, said that they are preparing the youth by supporting their initiative.

"The Youth Farm Initiative isn't just to benefit these young people. It benefits their villages and it benefits their country."

"It is a great cooperative venture because the mataqali set aside land for the young people and the Government provides grants for equipment, tools, seedlings, water tanks, fencing materials and other necessities."

"Through the Youth Farm Initiative, we were providing those who are out of work or on reduced hours with a steady flow of assistance due to the pandemic because these Fijians deserve a chance to work again and that is why we have this programme."

Fiji-NZ business council commended for hardwork



The President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere with Fiji New Zealand Business Council's newly-appointed president Renu Chand during the joint conference. **Photo Mereani Gonedua**

MEREANI GONEDUA

THE Fiji-New Zealand and New Zealand-Fiji Business Councils have been commended for their continuous co-operation and hard work.

Officiating at the Fiji-New Zealand and New Zealand-Fiji Business Councils 2022 joint conference in Nadi recently, the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere highlighted that the joint council was an important staging ground for cooperation between business and government leaders from Fiji and New Zealand.

"The Fiji New Zealand Business Council, true to its purpose to promote friendship, goodwill and understanding between the business communities of Fiji and New Zealand, continues to actively facilitate business relationships as well as people-to-people interactions to stimulate domestic and export trade. There is security in forging these relationships within our region."

He also stated that the recent re-establishment of a New Zealand Trade Commissioner to the Pacific was a pivotal moment for the business council and having this position filled now was both timely as Fiji continues its economic recovery.

"The recent re-establishment of a New Zealand Trade Commissioner to the Pacific is a pivotal moment for the business council. This role had been vacant for quite some time and having this position filled now is both timely as Fiji continues its economic recovery. The New Zealand Trade Commissioner to the Pacific works closely with New Zealand businesses with pre-existing connections with Fiji as well as with those hoping to establish a relationship with Fiji."

"The appointment of a new New Zealand Trade Commissioner to the Pacific demonstrates New Zealand's commitment to the 'Dua-vata' Partnership between Fiji and New Zealand.

"This also opens new frontiers of cooperation for our two countries in terms of trade and development. This relationship has led to the promotion of a business mentoring programme for FNZBC Members – in collaboration with the Learn Fast Centre, based in New Zealand."

President Katonivere also stated that recovery was off to a great start as the 2022 data shows that New Zealand was Fiji's third largest trading partner for goods trade, both as a source of imports and as Fiji's third largest export market.



The President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere with Fiji New Zealand Business Council executives and staff during the joint conference. **Photo: Mereani Gonedua**

Water woes addressed in Coboï

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE commissioning of the Coboï Water project in Bua has been hailed as the dawn of a new era by individuals in the community.

One of the first settlers in the area, 58-year-old Mereseini Dikula said the day would go down on the history books as they had always been plagued with water issues.

“Wells were the longest running water source that we depended on for our livelihood, which was supplemented by occasional rain harvesting,” Ms Dikula said.

“It was only recently when we were assisted with underground water source and even then we were given only four hours to fill up in a day, and there were days where we would go without water for four days in a week.”

She said the commissioning of their new water project has brought so much joy for members of the community.

“I can speak for women in this community - who have gone through great lengths to fetch water from wells over the years, and managing household water rations to sustain family members - that we are truly grateful for this

assistance,” Ms Dikula said.

“Water is a necessity and seeing this issue being addressed by the Fijian Government has truly lifted our spirits and is a sign of encouragement for us to continue carrying out our duties in child rearing, keeping our homes, agriculture, in maintaining hygiene for our community etc.”

The women of Cawalevu settlement in Bua shared similar sentiments following the commissioning of their underground water source.

Nazrin Nisha, 49, said wells and rain-water harvesting could not sustain them during dry season and were grateful for the new underground water source provided to them.

“Having to walk in the hot sun to a well to get water for my family would now be a thing of the past,” Ms Nisha said.

The Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Land and Mineral Resources, Jone Usamate, while commissioning these projects, highlighted that every Fijian has a right to clean and safe drinking water as stipulated in the 2013 Constitution, and the Government was addressing this.



Minister for Infrastructure Jone Usamate commissions the new water supply at Coboï, Bua to assist the community with the supply of safe drinking water.

Rice farming clusters receive rice mills

JOSAIA RALAGO

TWO rice farming clusters in Macuata recently received a portable rice mill each in Government's bid to incentivise rice farming.

This has boosted the spirits of the two rice farming communities who used to travel considerable distances to process the rice paddies.

Boubale Rice Farming Cluster secretary, Devi Nand, said they were elated to have received the machinery which would cut costs for the farmers.

“We are very pleased with the Government's assistance for alleviating one of the major issues we used to face as farmers by providing us with this much needed incentive,” Mr Nand said.

“During harvesting, our farmers would travel by bus with their rice yield to the nearest mill which is six kilometres away, and if there are a lot of rice sacks then they would have to hire a vehicle.

“Apart from the cost of transportation,

we would have to pay \$2 per tin at the rice mill.

“Now that we have our own rice mill, we don't have to hire vehicles and we will pay only \$0.70 per tin.”

The 55-year-old farmer, who has been in the rice industry for 40 years, said this assistance was much needed not only for the current farmers but to keep the young generation keen in cultivating rice.

“In my opinion, rice is the best crop to cultivate in our community and we need to keep the young generation interested in this industry,” Mr Nand said.

The Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy, while handing over the rice mills, urged the farmers to increase their rice yield.

“We are importing close to \$44 million worth of rice every year when this money can stay here in our country,” Minister Reddy said.

“There is no reason why we are losing that amount of money when we have got good climatic conditions, good soil where our farmers can grow their own rice.”



Minister for Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy with rice farmers of Boubale Macuata after the handover of their new portable rice mill. Photo: Josaia Ralago

Relocation for Cogeia village

JOSAIA RALAGO

THE experiences Tropical Cyclone Yasa more than a year ago are still vivid in the minds of Cogeia villagers.

The flood accompanied the cyclone ravaged through their village, uprooting 18 households in its path, and left only 12 homes standing.

Timaima Balawa, 64, said they still lived in constant fear and would panic whenever there was a heavy rain.

“The memories of that day are still fresh on the minds of the villagers and every time there is a heavy downpour, we get so scared,” the mother of five said.

“It is not easy because most of us had lost our homes and the possibility of flood sweeping through our village again is not far-fetched, it can happen anytime.

“This is why we are grateful and welcome the proposal by Government for relocation, and now that the new site has been commissioned, we are looking forward to the shift to our new location because we want safety to be paramount, not only for us but for our future generation.”

Ms Balawa temporarily resides in her brother-in-law's house on the hill, which was one of the very few houses that was untouched by the flood waters.

The Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources, Jone Usamate, while commissioning the Cogeia relocation site, said the Government worked to ensure that lives and livelihoods were restored to total normalcy.

“We gather here to witness your Government's continuous commitment to leaving no one behind, and that the devastating impact of Climate Change is a reality and your area is not an exception,” Minister Usamate said.

“It is not often easy to carry out a relocation exercise. The balance of climate risks to that of maintaining cultural heritage is a huge challenge in itself,” Minister Usamate said.

“I sincerely thank the vanua of Cogeia for your hindsight into supporting this proposal, into agreeing to leave behind a traditional haven which your forefathers called home, to create a new home that is safe for your children and those of the future.”



Women of Cogeia village are all smiles following the commissioning of their new relocation site by Minister for Infrastructure, Jone Usamate. Photo: Josaia Ralago



Ratu Inoke commissioned as new High Commissioner to New Zealand

FIJI'S new High Commissioner to New Zealand, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, was commissioned by the Head of State, the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, at State House last week.

President Katonivere congratulated Ratu Inoke on his new diplomatic assignment and wished him all the best for the new role.

In turn, the new High Commissioner said it was an honour for him to represent Fiji in New Zealand and further develop the relationship between the two countries at all levels.

He further thanked Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama for the opportunity to serve in New Zealand, a country that has long-standing

historical links with Fiji.

"I would like to negotiate on increasing the number of Fijians currently allowed to participate in the Registered Seasonal Employer Scheme (RSE), there are now over 400 labourers from Fiji that are involved in this scheme in a season. We are keen to explore new sectors of employment within RSE given the demand for skilled labour from Fiji," Ratu Inoke said.

He said the longstanding relations and bonds of friendship that were further elevated with the signing of the Duavata Partnership formally signed in March this year, by Prime Minister Bainimarama and New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nanaia Mahuta;

provided an exciting framework for growth and development in the next few years.

He pledged his commitment to strengthen all levels of engagement and advance both national interests and that of the Blue Pacific.

"I look forward to building on the momentum created by the recent signing of the Duavata Partnership, to further advance collaboration between Fiji and New Zealand in the key areas: Partnership, Democracy and Values, Economic Resilience, Security, Social Well-being, and Climate Change and Disaster Resilience."

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Fiji's new High Commissioner to New Zealand, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, after being commissioned by the Head of State, the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, at State House recently. Photo: Ilisapeci Tuivale

Island nations urge Commonwealth leaders to bolster ocean climate action

SMALL island nations are calling for strengthened global support for the ocean and climate change action, just days before Commonwealth leaders convene in Kigali, Rwanda, to decide on the group's priorities for the next two years.

In sessions held last week, heads of government discussed issues such as shared climate ambitions, financing climate, ocean action, and rebuilding sustainable green and blue economies in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, among other key items on the agenda.

During a breakfast meeting co-hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Fijian Government along the margins of the summit, Fiji's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Jitoko Tikolevu addressed an audience of mainly envoys from fellow island nations.

"The ocean and climate are inextricably interconnected and the health of our oceans dictates the livelihoods of millions of people around the world, from the Pacific to the Atlantic. The

challenges facing our oceans and their resources are diverse and complex, yet our answer is simple, we need action," Mr Tikolevu said.

He added that the ocean's function as a 'carbon sink' and a source for nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation, warrants more acknowledgement in climate negotiations, which focus mainly on reducing carbon emissions.

A roundtable discussion was also held with representatives from the Pacific, Caribbean, and Indian Ocean about actions being taken to address ocean and climate change issues and how the Commonwealth can support them.

Head of Oceans and Natural Resources at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Dr Nicholas Hardman-Mountford, said, "The harsh reality of climate change is that it affects all sectors of society, and all realms of the planet, including the ocean. The climate crisis is also an ocean crisis. Action Groups under the Commonwealth's flagship ocean programme, the Blue Charter,

are responding to climate change under their respective themes."

The Commonwealth Blue Charter is a historic commitment by 54 countries to work together to find solutions for global ocean challenges.

Since its endorsement at the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in April 2018, at least 16 countries have stepped forward to champion ten thematic Action Groups, comprising like-minded members willing to share knowledge and align strategies to tackle issues such as marine plastic pollution, unsustainable coastal fisheries and disappearing coral reefs.

The Action Group on Ocean and Climate Change is championed by Fiji

Last week's discussion at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was a lead up to the United Nations Oceans Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal this week.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Fiji's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Jitoko Tikolevu addresses a breakfast meeting co-hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Fijian Government. Photo: Supplied

Fiji and Timor Leste aims to strengthen bilateral relations

PRIME Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently met with the Foreign Affairs Minister for Timor Leste, Adaljiza Magno, in Vienna, Austria where he expressed Fiji's keenness to explore areas of bilateral engagement.

This engagement would be particularly on regional cooperation in areas such as health, fisheries, gender, climate change and biodiversity conservation.

Prime Minister Bainimarama said at the meeting that the common membership of the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) was a strong start to advance towards a Tourism Industry that prioritises sustainability and local communities whilst ensuring business competitiveness.

While speaking about the issue of nuclear disarmament, Prime Minister Bainimarama congratulated the Government of Timor Leste for being the latest country to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and also promoting universal adherence to the Treaty.

On the prospect of sustainable development, the Prime Minister informed Minister Magno that Fiji was building back better from the pandemic,

through investing in climate-resilient and sustainable infrastructure and disaster readiness, with a renewed focus on environmentally sustainable development and conservation.

As Small Island Developing States, Fiji and Timor Leste share similar experiences and challenges, however, the Prime Minister said that he confident that by working together, we can achieve equitable and fair outcomes and ensure that we are not left behind in the development race.

Minister Magno, in her response, conveyed her appreciation to the Prime Minister for the opportunity to meet and discuss issues of mutual interests and bilateral cooperation.

The Minister said Timor Leste welcomes the idea of more collaborations especially, in the area of defence and security, training opportunities and people to people exchanges, among other important issues.

She said Timor Leste looks forward to Fiji's bilateral support and cooperation on issues of mutual interests in the future.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama recently met with the Foreign Affairs Minister for Timor Leste, Adaljiza Magno, in Vienna, Austria. Photo: Supplied



Mobile soil testing caravan launched



Mobile testing machine launched by the Ministry of Agriculture. **Photo: Supplied**

A MOBILE soil testing caravan was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture to bring soil testing facilities closer to the farmers' doorstep.

The mobile soil testing caravan will be able to deliver services such as soil sampling, testing of pH, EC, Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium, and also provides an instant analytical report which can then be issued to farmers advising them of their soil health status while also providing recommendations on the dosages of fertilizers needed and the necessary soil amendments required to correct soil fertility.

While launching the mobile laboratory in Bilalevu, Sigatoka on Thursday last week, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, said this was made to decentralise the soil testing exercise and make it readily accessible to all farmers nationwide.

"In this agricultural equation, technology is key. Without technology, without investment in technology, we will not be able to push the production frontier, there is a limit to the extent to which we can push productivity increases via basic simple changes in the farm," Minister Reddy said.

"Beyond that limit, we need to introduce new technologies to enhance our efforts in addressing the fundamental binding constraints in the agri-

culture sector, and one of the fundamental binding constraints in agriculture is soil quality and soil fertility.

"We are here to launch a very important innovation of technology that is brought right to the farmers' field, no longer will you need to travel to Sigatoka taking your soil samples with you, no longer will you need to submit your soil sample and then receive feedback that your soil sample has been lost, no longer will you have to talk to the testers, the analysts and discuss remotely the results of your soil testing," he said.

"The soil testing will be done on your farm immediately with samples taken immediately and results given back to the farmers there and then. We now have the pleasure to launch a mobile soil testing vehicle which will be accessible to farmers any time they want," Minister Reddy said.

He has also reiterated to commercial and semi-commercial farmers to take advantage of the mobile testing laboratory to ensure that they planted the suitable crops on the piece of land they were farming on to maximise their production levels and yields.

"It gives you the opportunity to plan how you are going to adjust the fertility of your soil because you now know what the fertility composition of your soil is, what the nutrient composition of your soil is and that is critical for you to know in order to grow or adjust according to the results.

"Without having quality soil, you can't grow crops with that particular yield, your productivity will be affected, your production will be affected and the quality of your produce will be affected," Minister Reddy said.

Farmers can contact the Fiji Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory based at the Ministry of Agriculture's Koronivia Research Station on 3477044 or dial the toll-free number 1523 to schedule an appointment and make arrangements for soil testing to be conducted on their farm.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Environment)

New Zealand Govt donates first batch of Paediatric Pfizer vaccines



Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, receives the first batch of Paediatric Pfizer vaccines from New Zealand's High Commissioner to Fiji, Charlotte Darlow. **Photo: Supplied**

THE Government of New Zealand has donated the first batch of paediatric Pfizer vaccines to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services this week. Speaking at the handover, New Zealand's High Commissioner to Fiji, Charlotte Darlow said the doses would enable Fiji to provide a layer of protection for its young population against COVID-19.

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr

Ifereimi Waqainabete, lauded the Government of New Zealand for their timely assistance.

He said that a critical factor to Fiji's success has been the support provided by development partners, such as New Zealand.

Minister Waqainabete added that the New Zealand Government has stood by Fiji during the pandemic and provided much needed support and assistance throughout our COVID-19 response.

First consultation workshop for older persons with disabilities

FIJI'S First Consultation Workshop for Older Persons with Disabilities heard that there were more cases of the older generation with disabilities due to non-communicable diseases and other health issues.

This was conveyed by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar, as she officiated at Fiji's First Consultation Workshop for Older Persons with Disabilities at the Pearl Resort in Navua recently.

Minister Akbar said that the Fijian Government was committed and works in collaboration with all partners, so it can holistically and contextually address the real needs of our people that are ageing with disabilities in Fiji.

"It is an unfortunate fact that in the Pacific, there is very little to no attention targeted to older persons with disabilities. Their issues are not reflected at all on either, older persons or disability programming yet the number of older persons with disabilities are escalating due to impairment caused by NCDs and other health issues".

With the theme of the Consultation, 'Persons with Disabilities Ageing with Dignity', Minister Akbar said the consultation workshop is the first ever activity organised by the Pacific Disability Forum to target older persons with disabilities and the first of its kind to be organised for Fiji and the Pacific.

"The key objectives of this two-day consultation and workshop are to Enhance human rights issues concerning older persons with disabilities in Fiji and identify their capacities, needs, opportunities, and challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance, social protection, and support services; and promote a safe, accessible, and sustainable environment that can embrace the meaningful participation of older persons with disabilities in their own families and communities".

Minister Akbar highlighted that older persons with disabilities are far more marginalised due to the lack of access to services including affordable health services, social protection, and support services.

"Older persons with disabilities are vulnerable to disasters and when proper structures are not put in place they are further marginalised and become victims of violence and abuse. They are often denied their autonomy, and their role in the community is dismissed as irrelevant and burdensome".

In 2012, Government established the National Council of Older Persons Act and in 2018, the Fijian Government also passed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.

Minister Akbar told participants that the Government has provided a total of \$73.9 million for both sectors (\$11.4m for the disability sector; \$56.5m for the ageing sector; and \$6m for bus fares which are shared for both cohorts).

"The Government currently provides \$100 per month for beneficiaries and 46,000 older persons benefit from this scheme. Concerning the social protection for Persons with Disabilities, in 2018 Government established the Disability Assistance Scheme, which entails a monthly allowance of \$90 per month. Currently, a total of 10,069 Persons with Disabilities are assisted under the scheme. Thus, a budget of \$53m for this financial year. In addition, every Older Person aged 60 plus and Persons with Disabilities, qualifies to benefit from the bus fare concession by the Fijian Government and the Fiji Bus Operators Association."

Minister Akbar said currently 48,000 older persons and disabled persons are active clients of this \$25 bus fare monthly top up with an increased budget of \$6m in this financial year.

The Government also provides grants to agencies that are mandated by law to perform the duties aligned to executing the relevant outcomes for the ageing and disability sectors, which include the National Council of Persons with Disabilities, and the Organizations for Persons with Disabilities; and the National Council of Older Persons.

Minister Akbar thanked the Pacific Disability Forum for initiating this pioneer platform to engage sectors on this theme of Persons with Disabilities, Ageing with Dignity.

She also acknowledged the support and commitment of the participants that participated in the consultations who travelled from Macuata, Cakaudrove, Bua, Lomaiviti, Tailevu, Naitasiri, Rewa, Suva, Kadavu, Lau, Serua, Nadroga, and Nadi.

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)



Fiji marks Desertification, Degradation and Drought



Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy with officials from agriculture institutions at the commemoration event for World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. Photo: Supplied

FIJI as a member country of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) joined the rest of the world in commemorating World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17 2022.

While officiating at the event in the Navuso Agricultural Technical Institute, Navuso, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy, highlighted that the Government remained committed to promoting the safe and sustainable use of farming practices to prevent land degradation and desertification.

“With modern technology and competing land uses, agriculture farming is being forced into steep marginal areas in Fiji. We know that the impact of bad agricultural practices on slope land affects the surrounding farming areas including soil health which subsequently leads to a low productivity rate.”

“The way forward for us as agricultural enthusiasts is through the adoption of Sustainable Landscape Approach where we can incorporate practices to manage our soil health, maintain fertility, minimise land degradation and at the same time maximise our productivity,” Minister Reddy said.

“Holistic approaches are needed to reverse these trends because as a small island state, the effects of climate change will only be aggravated if we fail to implement land-based climate change mitigation activities that can support conservation goals effectively and the measures we take matter if we’re to secure our food and nutrition,” said Minister Reddy.

The Ministry in collaboration with rel-

evant stakeholders continues to raise community awareness among all land users on the importance of protecting, preserving and managing our land resources for better ecosystem services that support, provide and protect our livelihoods with its pristine environment and biodiversity.

This commitment has been articulated in Strategic Priority 3 of the Ministry of Agriculture Costed Operation plan 2021-2022 specifically indicating the need to improve the adoption of sustainable resource management and climate-smart agriculture.

This was also a vehicle to address Strategic Priority 1 – on Food and Nutrition Security, Strategic Priority 2 – Increase farmer’s household income consequently, expanding production level to commercial agriculture in a more sustainable and responsible manner.

“Action can be taken at all levels, from citizens, businesses, governments, non-government organisations, private partners and academia, everyone can come on board and lend a helping hand to rise up from drought together,” Minister Reddy said.

The Desertification and Drought Day was a catalyst for action to be continued throughout the year.

The Ministry for Agriculture has called upon all to act together to educate all land users on good agriculture practices to sustain soil for secured quality food and a resilient Fiji and practices to adopt to decrease the impact of drought..

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Environment)

Akbar acknowledges the people of Nasilai

THE Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar met the women’s group and the people of Nasilai Village in Tailevu.

While meeting with the Nasilai Community, Minister Akbar thanked the chief of Vadrai, village elders and all the generations for the care and love shown by their ancestors towards the indentured labourers.

She said, “I have read and witnessed the monument at Nausori that was built in memory of people who died on board the Indian immigrant ship Syria when it was shipwrecked on Nasilai reef in 1884”.

“It was one of the worst maritime disasters in Fiji history – 59 people died in the tragedy. I am glad to say that the descendants of the indentured labourers have finally become Fijians and it took 97 years after the last arrival of the indentured labourers for the citizens of these islands – no matter what their background – to finally gain a common identity, equal citizenry and a common name.”

“As a proud descendant of the indentured labourers, I wish to take this time to thank all the Nasilai Generations the love, caring and contributions done by their ancestors to our indentured labourers which is close to our hearts,” Minister Akbar said.

“The Nasilai ancestors and our indentured Labourers ancestor’s blood, sweat and tears; their struggles and sacrifices; their pain and sufferings; and their triumphs and resilience are ingrained in our history and we must honor that always because they were indeed a massive part of building the Fiji we know,” she mentioned.

“History is important because it can help us understand the present. History can help us get a better grasp of issues we face now and it can reinforce our appreciation of who we are as a people, as a family and as a nation,” Minister Akbar said.

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar meeting villagers at Nasilai, Tailevu where she thanked the many generations in Nasilai who showed love and care towards the indentured. Photo: Supplied

Focus on civic and moral education

SHEENAL CHARAN

THE Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts is focusing on civic and moral education to instill good values in students.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Education, Premila Kumar during a recent visit to schools in Beqa Island.

Minister Kumar reiterated that introducing civic and moral education in schools was not a replacement for religious studies.

“Religious studies will continue in school but we have just introduced civic and moral education from year 1 to year 3,” she said.

“We are doing that because we want our children to be a respected member of our community.

“They should be able to know how to respect elders, they should be able to

respect the environment in which we live and also the various values that are needed for good relationship amongst one another.”

Minister Kumar acknowledged the village elders, teachers and parents for doing a sterling job in raising children and ensuring they become good citizens.

“The Fiji Police Force who has escorted me today, whether we had some serious cases of drug abuse or other issues on the island of Beqa and I was told that they have not come across any such issues,” she said.

“And that reflects how the parents are guiding the children, how the teachers are teaching the values and how the village elders are being respected in the village.

“And that’s why the children are also out of trouble, and they are behaving well in school.”



Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr Mahendra Reddy took part in tree planting activity during the commemoration event for World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. Photo: Supplied

Earthquakes- Be prepared!

EIGHTY-ONE (81) per cent of the world's largest earthquakes occur at the edge of the Pacific, which is known as the "Pacific Ring of Fire" because it is renowned for earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis. These hazards are caused by the movement of the Earth's tectonic plates, especially when one plate is dragged under another at what is known as a convergent margin.

What is an Earthquake?
As plates collide and grind over or past each other, stress builds up locally within the rock until the rock breaks along lines of weakness (faults). An earthquake is the vibration of the earth due to the energy released as the rock breaks. Additionally some earthquakes can be caused by volcanic activity or underground collapse. Both shallow (0-70 km deep) and deep (down to 700 km) earthquakes are associated with oceanic subduction zones such as the Tonga trench connecting New Zealand, Tonga and Samoa and the New Hebrides trench, which connects Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Regionally, these countries and Fiji are at greatest risk from earthquakes.

Ground shaking is caused by energy waves known as seismic waves hitting the surface of the earth. They cause the ground to shake up and down, back and forth and from side to side. This causes damage to buildings, roads, dams and reservoirs, buried pipelines, infrastructure, and overhead cables, leading to dangers from collapsing buildings, falling debris, uneven ground, landslides, flooding and fires. Ground shaking occurs at different intensities according to distance from

and magnitude of the earthquake. The larger and shallower the earthquake and the closer to the centre of it you are, the more intense the ground shaking.

What you can do before, during and after an earthquake

PREPARE FOR AN EARTHQUAKE
Always keep an emergency kit in your home. Include water, food, necessary medicines, a reliable torch with fresh batteries and spares, portable radio, first aid kit, emergency phone numbers.

DURING AN EARTHQUAKE
If you are inside:



- Drop, cover and hold.
- Stay inside — do not attempt to run outside. However, be prepared for aftershocks and evacuate if necessary. Listen to your radio for information and advice.
- Take cover under strong support like an internal door frame, table, desk or bed. Stay away from windows, overhead fittings, shelves containing heavy objects etc.
- If in a high-rise building, stay away from windows and outer walls. Never use the elevator.
- If in a crowded public place, try not to panic. Do not at

tempt to barge at the door.

- If you are outdoors:**
- Keep well clear of buildings, power lines, trees etc. and stay in the open. Do not attempt to seek shelter in a building.
 - If you are in a vehicle, pull off the road to a clear area and stop the car.
 - Beware of fallen power lines, damaged roads and bridges.

- AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE**
- Check people for injuries and apply first aid. Call the ambulance and do not move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger.
 - Do not use the telephone unless it is absolutely necessary.
 - Do not use your vehicle unless there is an emergency.
 - Do not enter damaged buildings.
 - Turn off cooking stoves. Do not light matches until you have checked for gas or fuel leaks.
 - Turn utility off at source if you have water leaks or damaged electrical wires or sewerage lines.
 - Check food and water supplies.
 - Stay calm and lend a hand to others if possible.

Earthquakes are sudden, striking with little or no warning. Be prepared in case it happens!

(Source: Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management)

Digital switchover roadshow campaign hubs

Our roadshow crew continue to visit areas where we do not have outlets to ensure that all Fijians can connect to Walesi.

To make it easier for our Walesi viewers to reach us, our teams are deployed at the following locations:

- MaxVal-u Carpark,
- Tavua Town Yalalevu Kings Investment,
- Ba Town Wairuku Shopping Centre,
- Rakiraki

This roadshow will continue until Wednesday 6th July, 2022 (10am-6pm).

Wider Western Viti Levu switches over from analogue to digital TV Broadcast from 3 July 2022

From Sunday, 3 July 2022, TV broadcasters in Western Viti Levu have ceased their analogue television transmission services and switched over to Walesi's digital platform..

To continue viewing television after July 3, 2022, Western Viti Levu residents need to get a Walesi Set Top Box and the recommended UHF antenna.

Households earning less than \$30,000 annually are eligible to receive a free Walesi set top box. Applications can be made through the Walesi website or any Walesi customer care outlets located in Suva, Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, and Rakiraki.

The affected Western Viti Levu areas are from Deuba to Natadola and Matawalu, Lautoka to Natovi, Tailevu.

Fijians living in these areas are encouraged to get their Walesi Set Top Box and UHF Antenna to avoid disruptions to their television services.

Walesi Chief Executive Officer, Sanjay Maharaj, said that while the Walesi teams have carried out extensive door-to-door customer visitations in these areas over the last two months, the company has deployed additional roadshow teams since Saturday, 25 June, in specifically targeted areas to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible.

We encourage customers to contact us for any clarification or assistance. Our goal is to ensure all Fijians have access to the world of digital television.

We also encourage schools and community halls to apply for our community outreach package.

For further information, viewers can contact Walesi on our toll-free line 1525, send a message on the Walesi Fiji Facebook page, email info@walesi.com.fj, visit our website at www.walesi.com.fj, or visit your nearest Walesi customer care centre.

(Source: Walesi)

Western Viti Levu Residents Digital Switchover Is Here!

Walesi is providing Free Set-Top Boxes to every household that has a combined annual income of \$30,000 and below. Grab this opportunity now so your television viewing experience is not interrupted.



MEET THE WALESI TEAM

SATURDAY 25TH JUNE - WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY

 MaxVal-u Carpark Tavua Town	TAVUA
 Yalalevu Kings Investment	BA
 Wairuku Shopping Centre	RAKIRAKI

TIME: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

REQUIREMENTS:

-  EFL BILL
-  PAYSIP
-  VALID ID

Follow us on:     info@walesi.com.fj  Toll Free Line:1525 



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, held face-to-face budget consultations at Tawake village and the surrounding districts in Udu, Vanua Levu last week.

The A-G discussed global and domestic challenges, the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, and the Russian war. He also discussed economic opportunities and how global challenges and climate change risks can be mitigated. A question and answer session was held, and budget submissions were also received during the consultations.

Photo: Nanise Neimila

Need a balancing approach: A-G

PRASHILA DEVI

WE need to take a balancing approach when we are formulating the budget, says the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

In laying out the rationale behind Government priorities while formulating the national budget over the last few years while presenting the Pre-budget 2022/2023 session at the 50th year of Fiji Institute of Accountants at the Sofitel Resort recently, the A-G explained that the pandemic and natural disasters had to be factored in.

He said these were events that the Government could not have foreseen but when faced with it, it had to take the necessary steps to

address it.

“We lost about \$4.6 billion in GDP (gross domestic product) over the last two years. We lost about \$4 billion in foreign exchange,” the A-G said.

He said despite losing out on the foreign exchange, Fiji’s reserves were still at “very healthy levels” as the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) benchmark deems that at least three months’ worth foreign exchange be available for trade.

“We have at this point in time, about eight months’ worth of foreign reserves. We are sitting again just below \$3 billion of foreign reserves. So, these are some of the strategic decisions that were made.”

The A-G explained the financial decisions Government took after it had to close the bor-

ders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We paid out \$430 million in unemployment benefits in Fiji, about a little over \$200 million for those in the formal sector. Those people in fact who had lost jobs, but were Fiji National Provident Fund account holders so we could direct those funds to them.”

“If their funds ran out in the general account, we actually paid \$225 a fortnight. And then of course we have those people in informal sector. The last surveys done by the Reserve Bank of Fiji it showed that about 130,000 Fijians actually are in the informal sector.”

For the informal sector, the A-G said many of these workers are women who would have fallen into abject poverty had assistance such as the initial assistance \$90, then the two rounds of \$50 given to individuals and the

two rounds of \$360 given to families not been made available to them.

He said there was a ripple effect of the assistance as the goods and services it was used to acquire by the beneficiaries would have seen more people being able to stay employed.

The A-G also highlighted the use of e-wallet during the roll-out of the pay-out as the recipients did not have to queue up at any of the Government offices to access the funds, it was sent across electronically on their mobile phones which was also used to make the applications for assistance.

The budget consultations over the last two weeks have seen the participation of students, private sector and Fijians residing in rural areas

Noda Viti

GADREVI NA VEITOKONI ENA TAQOMAKI NI YAUBULA



Paraiminisita Bainimarama ena bese ni waitui mai Portugal

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

SA kacivaka raraba na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ni sa gadrevi tikoga vakalevu na veitokoni ena valu baleta na taqomaki ni yau bula ena waitui. Dusimaki ira na liuliu ni vei matanitu ena veiyasai vuravura mera uqeta mai na sasaga oqo me rawa ni sautu tikoga kina na yau bula ena waitui. Ena nodrai itutu vaka liuliu ni veimatanitu cokovata na Pasivika, kaya ko PM Bainimarama ni dodonu mera sovaraka nodra iyau vakailavo na veimatanitu ena kena taqomaki na waitui kei na sasalu ena bula kina. Vakaraitaka ko koya ni ka e sa yacova tiko nikua na waitui ena veiyasai vuravura ena kena sa katakata cake tikoga mai sa I vakaraitaki ni sa lutu sobu tiko na bula ni yau bula kei na sasalu ni waitui. Vakaraitaka okoya edua na sabolo me vaka ni wasawasa ena Pasivika e vakania e rauta na veimama na lewei

vuravura ena ika na tuna. Sa qarauna tiko kina na veimatanitu ena Pasivika na kena taqomaki vakabibi nay au bula kei na sasalu ni waitui ka nuitaki me dodonu na rai ni veimatanitu kece ka mera sa vakalawataka na kena taqomaki na waitui. Kurian a liuliu ni matanitu cokovata ena vuravura UN Antonio Guterres ni sa balavu na kena vakasabusabutaki ka vakawaleni tuga nay au bula kei na sasalu ena loma ni waitui ka sa bibi me vakaukauwataki na kena taqomaki ena gauna oqo, vakakina na kena dau benuci na waitui kei na uciwai ka drodro kina na waitui. Era vakauqeti na liuliu ni veimatanitu mera sovaraka nodra iyau vakailavo ena kena sasaga taki na veivakatorocaketaki lewa matau me taqomaka nay au bula ka vukea na susugi ni keda kakana na lewei vuravura tabusaka yani ena waitui. Na boseka oqori era vakadikeva talega kina na liuliu kei vuravura na veimataqali veivuke ena rawati mai vakadidike ni sainisi.

VAKACALA KO VITI NA BENUCI NI WAITUI

ERA vakacala na liuliu ni noda matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na kena benuci na waitui ena benu ni niukilia baleta ni rawa ni vakacacana vakadua nay au bula ena loma ni waitui ka vakagaga kece na kakana era dau bula kina na tamata era bula mai na waitui. Kuria ko PM Bainimarama nira kila deivaki tu nikua na veimatanitu ena Pasivika na revurevu ni veika ea mai

yacovi ira ena kena mai lutu na gasau ni niukilia ena yanuyanu ko Kirisimasi donua na gauna ni valu levu kei vuravura. Vakadeitaki ira na liuliu ni matanitu ko PM Bainimarama ena nodra iyalayala me ra tokona veidinadinati main a COP27 ka merawa ni vakabulabula taki kina na waitui, draki me vaka ni da gadreva meda kana ka meda ceguva na cagi bulabula.



Tavo edua na vaka vurevure ni wai vou



Oira na vuvale na dautei kei na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki, Jone Usumate ena dola ni wai ni gunu savasava.

Ilisapeci Tuivale

Vakamatanitu taka na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki Levu ni matanitu, Jone Usumate edua na ivurevure ni wai ni gunu savasava ena itikitiko ko Cawalevu mai Bua. Vakatokai na bore hole projec e tiko na kena isau vakalevu ni veiqaravi oqo ena \$80,000 ka qaravi kina e 30 na lewenivanua ena loma ni tikotiko

oya me baleta na wainigunu savasava. Laveta cake ko Minisita Usumate na veiqaravi nu matanitu me baleta na wainigunu savasava me vaka ni sa vakalawataki me nodra dodonu na lewenivanua ena veiyasai Viti, veitalia saraga na veivanua era tiko kina. Kuria ko Minisita vei ira na lewenivanua ekeya mera vakayagataka talega na wai ni uca me baleta nodra bula ena veisiga.

Laveti na veiqaravi ni bisinisi lalai



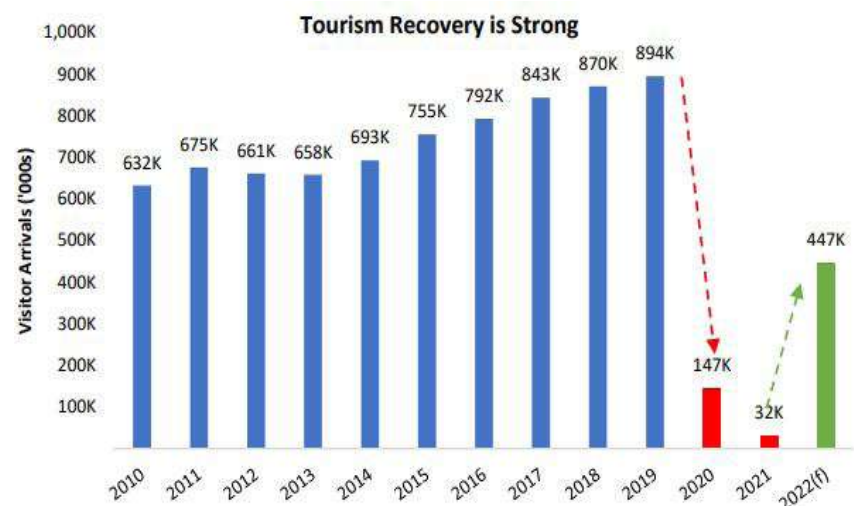
Minisita Koya kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni tabana ni vakaduri bisinisi.

Na nodra itavi na bisinisi lalai ena qaravi na bula ena veisiga edua ka bibi me da kila na lewenivanua ena nodra vanua ko Viti. Na bisinisi lalai ena veivuke talega ena kena rawati na bula ni veivakatorocaketaki lewa matau ena nodra vanua. Era marautaka tiko na kena ivakalesilesi ni tabana vakamatanitu na kena siga me veivakararamataki talega

ena bula ni lewenivanua ena noda vanua. Ni laurai na tabana vakailavo ni matanitu edua na vurevure ni rawaka vakailavo era tekivuna mai na daunibisini lalai ka levu tale na veika vinaka era vakasucuma mai me vaka na kena buli na cakacaka mera vakaicakacaka taki kina na sega tu ni cakacaka ka vakalevutaki kina na rawaka vakailavo ni noda vanua.



Tadola na maketi ni bisinisi ena noda vanua



SA cavuikalawa tale na matanitu ena kena sa tadola talega na makete ni kadavaki bisinisi ena noda vanua ni oti vinaka e 2 na yabaki na sogosogo mai na mate dewa na COVID-19. Me yacova mai na vula o Me 2022 ni oti na kena mai dola na iyalayala ni vanua ni veila-koyaki o Viti esa ciqoma rawa e 45 na pasede na lewenivanua saravanua. Na iwiliwili ni 90 na pasede ni saravanua

oqori era gole mai Niusiladi me vaka na gauna sabera kina na COVID-19 mai Ositerelia ka vakakina mai Niusiladi e rua na ikatolu na iwiliwili ni saravanua me vaka ni sa bera na mate dewa. 1200 na levu ni saravanua kece era sa visiko tiko ena noda vanua ena veisiga ka sa tubu tikoga na iwiliwili. Sa vakavinaka kina vei ira na lewenivanua era vukea tiko na cakacaka ni saravanua ena noda vanua.

Lagiti na dauteitei



Minisita Reddy ena dua na soqo kei ira na dauteitei.

ERA lagiti ira na dauteitei ena Kavanagasau na Minisita ni Teitei, Dr Mahendra Reddy. Edua na dauteitei ko Sanjay Kumar era dautei ka sa vaka me bisinisi talega. Ia ena macawa sa oti era lakio dolava edua nodra vurevure ni wai vou na Minisita ka lagiti koya ena sasaga ni veivakatorocaketaki ena teitei sa qaravi rawa tiko. Kuria ko Minisita Reddy ni oqo n aka e gadreva

tu ko Viti ka vakakina ko vuravura mera qaravi ira vakaira na dauteitei ka me qai veivuke ga yani na matanitu ena yasana erawa se tiko kina na gagadre. Vakabidi ena vurevure ni wai baleta ni oqo edua na imatai ni ka ena gadreva edua na tamata se bisinisi teitei vakaoqo. Kevaka esa tubu na bisinisi ni teitei ena qai vakalesui kina qele vakakina ena nodra bula na lewenivanua na uro ni bisinisi oqori.



Namaki me taqomani e 8% na waitui ena noda vanua ena 2 na yabaki



KO Paraiminisita Bainimarama ena boseka ni waitui.

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

ENA loma ni yabaki rua mai oqo esa namaka na matanitu ko Viti me vakalawataki kina e 8% na waitui ena noda Viti. Oqori na kena sasagataki tiko me marine protected area ko Lau ena yasana ni Lau seascape program. Oqori na nodra vosa na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama ena boseka ni Oceans Conference ka tukuna kina vei vuravura na sasaga nei Viti ena Ceva ni Pasivika. Kuria kina ko PM Bainimarama ni sa sega ni gauna me qa

wawa kina na kena taqomaki na noda iyau bula ena loma ni waitui baleti ira na kawa kei Viti ni mataka. Oqo e wilikina na veivakatorocaketaki lelevu kei na cakacaka era kauta mai ena noda vanua. Na imatai ni cavuikalawa kei Viti ena rai ni kena taqomaki rawa e 30% na waitui ena noda vanua nib era na yabaki na 2030 oya na kena vakalawataki na 8% ni waitui ena yasana ko Lau ena rukuni ni sasaga ni Lau Seascape. Ni yacova na 2030 na matanitu e Viti esa na qarava na kena ovisa ka taqomaki na waitui ena noda

vanua ka namaki kina me vakalailaitaki na kaburaki ni kasi ena 40%, vakalevu taki na veivakararamataki baleta na waitui, vakalailaitaki na vakayagataki ni palasitika, ka vakayagataki tale me yaga na tavaya palasitika. Namaki me qai yabaki 2030 sa rawa ni buli ena noda vanua e 160k na metric tani ka kakanaka kei na sasalu nu waitui. Ka vukei rawa kina e 53000 na cakacaka era buli e qaravi kina na buli ni kakana main a waitui me yacova na 2035 ka 100,000 na cakacaka ni yacova na yabaki 2050.

Vakalagilagi na veiqaravi ena Vale ni Veivakadodonutaki



Ko ira na itabagone era susugi tiko ena vale ni veivakadodonutaki ena nodra tauri vola vuli tara kei na cakacaka

FELIX LESIKINAIVALU

NA cakacaka ni nodra qaravi na itabagone luvei Viti era laki susugi ka tuberi ena vale ni veivakadodonutaki edua ka dodonu me dau lagiti ka tokoni baleta ni dau vakilai ena bula raraba ni tamata ena gauna era lesu mai kina ki tautuba.

Vakaraitaka toka oqori na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na nodra rai ena gauna era a laki vulagi dokai kina ena soqo ni tauri sitivikiti na gone era qaravi tiko ena Vale ni Veivakadodonutaki mai Nasinu.

Era vakavinakataka na tabana ni veivakadodonutaki ena nodra kauwaitaki na luvei Viti era laki vakarurugi tiko

na nodra bula ena vanua oqori baleta ni soli tale vei ira edua na iyaragi se dua na icegu bula mera rawa ni rawata kina nodra bula.

Na vuli lalai era dau vakarautaki vei ira na itabagone oqori esa dau nodra ikaukau lesu ki vale ena gauna era suka kina mai na vale ni veivakadodonutaki.

Na vuli oqori esa solia tale edua na cegu bula ni rawaka veira ena nodra laki vakasaqara cakacaka mera vukeiira kina kei na nodra vuvale.

Era lewe 8 kece na gone era curuma na vuli ni vultara ena vale ni veivakadodonutaki mai Nasinu.



Tarai cake tikoga na vuli ni kawa kei Viti ni mataka



Oira na gonevuli e Nadrau ena mata ni nodra vale ni vuli vou.

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Vei ira na lewenivanua era bula ena taudaku ni vei koro lelevu, ena cola ni vanua kei na yanuyanu, ni tukuni edua na ka baleta na koronivuli, okoya edua na vanua ni veivakaduavata taki. Na koronivuli e seda ni koro, e vanua ni drodro ni cagi laba se leqa tubu koso ka vanua mera dau vakadu-

avata taki kina na lewenivanua raraba. Oqori na vuna levu keitou vukea kina na kena taravou na Nadrau Primary school kina dua na koronivuli e rawa ni vakayagataki ena gauna ni leqa tubu koso. Na kena isau vakailavo e tiko ka vakayagataka kina na matanitu e \$4,362,488. Na yaga ni nodra bula na luvei Viti ni mataka era na mai vakayagataka na koronivuli oqo ena sivica cake sara na wiliwili ni ilavo oqori.

VAKACALA KO VITI NA BENUCI NI WAITUI



PM Bainimarama kei ira na liuliu ni veimatanitu ena vuravura ena boseka ni waitui

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

ERA vakacala na liuliu ni noda matanitu Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama na kena benuci na waitui ena benu ni niukilia baleta ni rawa ni vakacacana vakadua nay au bula ena loma ni waitui ka vakagaga kece na kakana era dau bula kina na tamata era bula mai na waitui. Kuria ko PM Bainimarama nira kila deivaki tu nikua na

veimatanitu ena Pasivika na revurevu ni veika ea mai yacovi ira ena kena mai lutu na gasau ni niukilia ena yanuyanu ko Kirisimasi donua na gauna ni valu levu kei vuravura. Vakadeitaki ira na liuliu ni matanitu ko PM Bainimarama ena nodra iyalayala me ra tokona veidinadinati main a COP27 ka merawa ni vakabulabula taki kina na waitui, draki me vaka ni da gadreva meda kana ka meda ceguva na cagi bulabula.



SOLIYA na Minisita ni Teitei Dr Mahendra Reddy na nodra iyaya ni teitei na itabagone e Nabavatu mai Dreketi me vukea na nodra rawaka vakailavo. Na teitei edua na nodra

ivurevure ni ilavo na itabagone ka sa vakadreta na matanitu na nodra dau vukei me rawa ni ra vukea nodra bula ena veisiga. Vakavinaka taka na Minisita na nodra gumatua na

itabagone mera tea na qele ka mera rawa vukea kina na veivakatorocake levu sa qarava tiko na matanitu ena kena vakatuburi na ilavo ena noda vanua. Lagita na liuliu ni tabagone

e Nabavatu, Wame Niutamata na sasaga kei na veivuke ni matanitu ena nodra bula na itabagone e keka vakauasivi ena teitei.

Boseka ni Waitui



ERA laki sotavi ira na ivakalesilesi ni soqosoqo mai na Pasivika ka vakakina oira na matanitu era matataka yani na Pasivika ena boseka ni Waitui ka vakayacori mai Lisbon, Portugal. Na soqo ni veisotaraki oqo era vakarautaka na Baqe kei Esia kei na valenivolavola liu ni Komisina ni Waitui ena Pasivika. Era lewena talega na Peresitedi mai Palau, Surangel Whipps Jr, Paraiminisita mai

Tonga Siaosi Sovaleni, kei ira na vulagi dokai mai na veiyasai vuravura ka ra sema yani ena Pasivika. Era veitalanoa kina na Paraiminisita Voreqe Bainimarama kei ira na liuliu ni matanitu ena ulutaga bibi ni waitui. Nodra laki boseka na Paraiminisita esa matataka tiko kina na Pasivika kei ira na vanua kei na matanitu era lewena voli.



Vuli ena waitui, draki kei na bula ni tamata



Iisapeci Tuivale

ERA laki vakasobura na nodra itatau edua na imatalawalawa ni gone vuli era vulica tiko na draki, waitui kei na bula ni tamata mai na Univesiti ni Ceva ni Pasivika ka vakakina na Univesiti mai Bergen. Vakaraitaka kina ko Peresitedi Ratu

Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere ni ka bibi meda taqomaka noda i yau bula ena loma ni waitui me vaka na cakau nira vukea na susugi kei na vakani ni ika me baleti ira na kawa ni mataka. Kuria ko koya ni keda sega beka ni da na kaukauwa se tiko vei keda na iyaragi ni valu vaka mataivalu ia e tiko vei keda na Pasivika na waitui

kei na iyau ena loma ni waitui. Oqo na otioi se icavacava ni veika bula. Sa solia kina okoya nodra vakanu-inui ni ran a vulica vinaka na waitui ka mera na kauta lesu ena nodra vanua na italanoa baleta na Pasivika kei na kena waitui, yau bula ena loma ni waitui.

Na nodra waqa na Once Ocean

Expedition era tekivu soko mai ena vanua Chile ena Port of Valparaiso ka mera na soko wasa kina na Pasivika, Viti, Tonga, Samoa kei Palau. Vakaraitaka nodra liuliu vakavuli ko Professor ni ran a dikeva na pasivika ena rai ni veika baleta na pasivika.



DOLA VAKAMATANITU NA KORONIVULI E NASALIA

Edolava vakamataniitu na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki kei na Tabana ni Draki o Jone Usumate na koronivuli ni koro o Nasalia ka vakatokai me yacana na Nakaidrau Primary School.

Tauyavu e na yabaki 2015 na koronivuli ka vakailavotaka na kena tara na matanitu levu ko Javani.

E na nodra vosa e kaya o Minisita Usumate ni tara ni korovuli vou e vua main a nodra cakacakavata na matanitu o Javani kei na nomuni matanitu. E sauma kina na matanitu e \$47,000.00 me samaki na vanau e dabe kina na koronivuli vou ka volia tale ga e dua na boto kei na waqa me vukea na nodra veitosoyaki na gonevuli.

Tiko e na \$215,000.00 na sau ni korovuli vou ka ra sa vakayagataka tiko na gone e na gaunaqo.

Varautaka na Minisita ni doidoliga tale ga yaniu na Soqosoqo Covata e vyravura na UNICEF ka ratou solia kina na iuma ilavo e \$80,000.00 me tara kina e dua na vale ni vakacegu me nodra na gone.

“Na matanitu e tokona vakalevu na nomuni vuli na gone ka dua na kena ivakaraitaki na kena mai tavoci tale ga nikua na veivakalivalivataki e na nomudou koro vakaturga,” e kaya ko Minisita Usumate.

“Na livaliva e na vukea vakalevu na nomuni vuli na gone ka na rawakina na vuli lesoni e na cina rarama e na bogi kei na kena vakayagataka na iyaya vaka livaliva e so me vuke na nomuni bula.”

“Ni gumatua sara e na vuli ni sa sala duadua ga kin a dua na Viti Vinaka ni mataka.”



Era taba na gonevuli ena koronivuli na Nakaidrau Primary school kei na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki Jone Usumate.

Dola nodra olo e Nalovo

DOLAVA na Minisita ni Veika Vakailavo, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum na nodra olo vou ni koronivuli ena Nalovo Sangam primary school. Era vakavinakataka na sasaga ni koronivuli ena kena vakarautaki na vanua mera laki vuli kina na nodra gone vuli. Lagiti talega kina na soqosoqo ni TISI Sangam ena nodra raiyawa kei na veiliutaki matua ka maqosa.



ERA taba na Minisita ni Veika Vakailavo Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum ena koronivuli ko Nalovo Sangam kei ira na gonevuli ena dola ni nodra olo vou.

VUKEI E 13 NA MARAMA E NASILAI

Era ciqoma e na reki e 13 na marama ni koro no Nasilai e na tikina o Nakelo e Tailevu na nodra iyaya ni vakasaqa kei na iyaya ni kana e na siga Vakaraubuka na ika17 ni Jiune.

Dodoliga yani kina na nodra valenivolavola ni noda iLiuliu ni Matanitu ka lai solia ki vei ira na marama na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudravua o Rosy Akbar.

Na soqosoqo ni marama e na koro o Nasilai e yacana na Bula-maiwai Womens Club ka ratou lewena tiko ga e 13 na marama.

Liutaka tiko na soqosoqo o Adi Lusi Boteiova na marama ni Levuka, Ovalau ka vakaraitaka o koya ni yacana ni soqosoqo e vakaibalebale ki na nodra dau bula voli ga mai na veika e rawa mai wai na marama.

E vakacautaki ratou na lewe ni soqosoqo na Minisita o Rosy Akbar ka kaya ni dina ni ratou lewe lailai toka ga i'a e veibolei ki vei ira na vo ni marama e na lewe ni koro na nodratou sasaga me ratou na vakacici bisinisi.

“O keda na marama e na vuqa na gauna eda dau raici tug a nit u ga na keda yaga e na loma ni vale kei na valenikuro. Au vakacala na tikina baleta ni o keda sara ga na bula ni matavuvale,” e kaya ko Minisita Akbar.

“Ni da duri me da sasaga taka e dua na ka me vaka na bisinisi e sa I vakaraitaki ni da duavata tiko kei na sasaga ni matanitu me da bula tautauvata e na noda vanua lomani qo.”



Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Qito, Rosy Akbar ena koro ko Nasilai, Nakelo Tailevu keiira na gone ni oti na soqo nodra vukei na marama.



Soli vola ko Minisita vei ira na tabagone



Era taba toka na itabagone ni oti nodra tauri vola mai vua na Minisita ni Tabagone Parveen Kumar

FELIX LESINAIVALU

Na nodra tuberi ka susugi cake na itabagone mera tamata nuitaki ka rawa ni veiliutaki edua na ulutaga bibi nikua me vaka era vakila na gonevuli tabagone mai na vualiku ena nodra ciqoma nodra ivola ni vuli mai vua na Minisita ni Tabagone Parveen Kumar.

Na Duke of Edinburgh In-

ternational Awards era tauri volakina na tabagone main a vualiku ka tukuna o Minisita ni dua n aka vinaka vei ira baleta nodra tuberi ka susugi ena veiliutaki ka mera vakarautaki vinaka ni sa voleka mai nodra gauna.

Kuria ko Minisita ni dononu mera vuli tara ena taudaku ni vale ni vuli ni oqo edua na vuli edau yaga vakalevu ena bula yadua ni gone vuli.



E ra turaga yalodina na tui magodro sa bale; Toganivalu



Era liutaka e dua na ilakolako ni matanitu ki na na lotu kei na vakasukaqele ki vua na Gone Turaga Bale na Tui Magodro o Ratu Simione Navutuvute na Minisita ni Bula kei na Veiqaravi Vakavuniwai o Vuniwai Ifereimi Waqainabete e na siga Vukelulu na ika22 ni siga ni vula ko Jiune.

E ra itokani voleka sara ni noda iLiuliu ni Matanitu na turaga sa bale ka bau dua na turaga e tutaka na veivakatorocaketaki e na loma ni nodra tikina.

Tauca na vosa e na vuku ni matanitu na Vunilewa Veivuke e na Matabose ni Veika Vakaitaukei o Josefa Toganivalua ka ra kaya ni dua na turaga yalo dina e na veiqaravi na turaga sa bale.

“Na turaga qo e keimami kila vinaka na ivakalesilesi e na noda dau kauwai vakalevu e na neimami dau mai

qaravi ka vakabibi vei ratou na veiqaravi tiko e na nomudou koronivuli kei na valeniwai,” e kaya ko Toganivalu.

“E dau raica me ra kua ni vakayavalati e na nodra mai veiqaravi voli ka sa dau idivi tu na nona turaga yalo mamarau ka dau veikauwaitaki.”

Tomana o Toganivalu ka kaya ni sa vakadeitaka tiko na noda Liuliu ni Matanitu ni na dola tug a na katuba ni v eiqaravi kei na Vanua o Naraiyasi e na veigauna kece sara.

E ra lewena tale ga na ilakolako ni matanitu na Minisita Veivuke ni Veika Vakaitaukei o Selai Adimaitoga, na Talai Veivuke e na Yasayasa Vaka Ra Mesake Ledua kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni matanitu mai na muaira ni noda vanua.

Noda Viti

Ciqomi noda toa ni vala vua na Peresitedi.

ILISAPECI TUIVALE

ERA luvuci na Turaga Peresitedi ni noda vanua Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere ena yalo ni veidokai ka veivakaturaga taki era nodra sikovi koya yani na timi ni Viti era a laki vakaitavi ena Mini South Pacific Games ka vakayacori mai Saipan ena Northern Marianas. E tarai koya vakalevu na yalo ni veirokovi kei na doka era vakaraitaka na timi ni Viti mera lesu yani vu aka mera vakaraitaka nodra qaqa kei na veika era sa rawaka mai kina ena qito ena vukui Viti.

Marautaka vakalevu ko Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame na nodra lesu yani ka laki sevusevu vua ka sai vakaraitaka vinaka ni yalo deivaki ena Matanitu kei na kena veiliutaki. Kuria ko Peresitedi ni nodra digitaka mera matataka na nodra vanua eka bibi saraga mai na nodra rawata mai edua na metali baleta ni sa ivakaraitaki ni tamata erawa ni vakanuinui kina na matanitu kei na vanua ko Viti me vakarewataka na nodra drotini. Vakavinaka taki ira na manidia ni timi kei ira kece saraga na lewena na timi ni Viti.



Na Turaga Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere ke ira na lewena timi ni Viti era laki sevusevu yani ena nodra itikotiko ni Matanitu.

TETE NA VEIQARAVI NI WALES

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Ni sa na rairai kila tiko na veiveisau sa yaco tiko e na buturara ni yaloyalo yavala e na noda vanua ka sa vakaitavi tiko kina na kabani na WALES e na kena laveti cake na itagede ni veiqaravi me baleta na yaloyalo yavala se television. Sa biu na kena vatavata makawa ka kilai

me ANALOGUE system ka sa ladevi e dua na kena ka vou ka kilai me DIGITAL platform. E na vauna vaka Suva, Nausori, Lami kei Korovou se na wasewase e loma e sa vakayacori oti na veisau qo ka sa na vakatekivutaki na veisau e na muaira ni noda vanua e na ika3 ni siga ni vula mai qo.

Vakaraitka na ivakalesilesi mai na kabani na WALES o Aporosa Drauniivi ni veisau qo e tiki tiko ni tuvatuva ni matanitu e na kena vakatetei na biau livaliva ni yaloyalo yavala ki na veivanua e ra se sega ni ciqoma rawa. ‘Ni gauna e da san a ladeva yani kina na vatavata ni digital television e san a robota na noda Viti na veiqaravi ni

yaloyalo yavala ka na rawa kina me da sa na dabe toka ga e na loma ni noda vale ka da saravi ira na nodra cauravou dau qito,” e kaya ko Drauniivi. “Sa na oti kina na laveti ni TV kei na ‘generator’ kin a vei delana me rawa ni toboki na biau livaliva ni yaloyalo yavala.”

VOQA NI DAVUI

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

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

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

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फ़ीजी दर्पण

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प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्डिनमारामा हालमें लिस्वन पोचुगल में आयोजित महासागरों के सम्मेलन में ऑस्ट्रेलिया की वातावरण मंत्री तान्या प्लैवेसेक से मुलाकात करते हुए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

अर्थ-व्यवस्था में 11.3% वृद्धि की उम्मीद

रिपोट: शेनल देव

हमारे देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में धीरे-धीरे सुधार हो रहा है जबकि कोविड की वजह से पिछले दो सालों से देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था की हालत काफी नाजुक हो गई थी। अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्री तथा अटेनी-जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने अगले महीने वाले 2022/2023 राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा की तैयारी के लिए लोगों से सलाह मशवराह शुरू कर दिया है जहाँ उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में 11.3% की वृद्धि होने की आशा की जा रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि ये वृद्धि अगले दो सालों तक जारी रहने की सम्भावना है। “अस्थिरता की अवधि में ये ज़रूरी है कि सही फैसले किए जाएं। पिछले साल पहली दिसम्बर से जबसे हमने देश की सीमा खोली तबसे लेकर अभी तक पैतालिस (45%)

प्रतिशत टुरिस्ट वापस आए हैं जब कोविड से पहले आने वाले टुरिस्टों की संख्या का मिलान किया जाए। ऑस्ट्रेलिया से नब्बे प्रतिशत टुरिस्ट लौटे हैं जबकि न्यू जीलेन्ड से साठ प्रतिशत से ज़्यादा। जून और जुलाई महीने की बुकिंग और भी अच्छी दिख रही है,” अटेनी-जेनरल ने कहा। उनके अनुसार पिछले दो सालों में कोविड की वजह से फ़ीजी ने विदेशी मुद्रा के तौर पर चार बिलियन डॉलर गवा दिया, सरकार की आमदनी आधी हो गई जबकि इस दौरान एक लाख (100,000) से भी ज़्यादा फ़ीजीवासियों ने अपनी नौकरियाँ खो दी। “संकट के इस समय सरकार की प्राथमिकता थी लोगों के घरों में भोजन पहुँचाना और उन्हें ज़रूरी स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदान करना। हमने हर सम्भव प्रयास किया ताकि देश में कोई भूखा न रहे। लोगों की जीविका

को सहारा देने के लिए सरकार ने पाँच सौ मिलियन डॉलर लगाया है। पिछले दो सालों में बेरोज़गार लोगों की सहायता करने के लिए चार सौ तीस मिलियन डॉलर खर्च किया जबकि अन्य सहायता मिलाकर पाँच सौ मिलियन डॉलर लागत सहायता प्रदान की गई है। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार कुछ विरोधी लोग, सरकार द्वारा लिए गए कर्ज की निन्दा कर रहे हैं लेकिन इन लोगों ने अपनी ओर कोई समाधान का सुझाव नहीं दिया कि अगर वे सरकार में होते तो क्या करते। हमारे सही फैसले की वजह से आज होटल में काम करने वालों की नौकरी वापस आ गई है। हम कोविड के असर से उभर चुके हैं तथा अब देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को और सुधारने का समय है। लेकिन रूस और यूक्रेन के बीच चल रही लड़ाई की वजह से फ़ीजी जैसे विकासशील देशों में सामानों और

सेवाओं का खर्च काफी बढ़ गया है। विदेश से खरीदे गए सामान जैसे कि फ़्रिज, गैस तथा खाद्य-मसाला वगैरह का दाम काफी उपर चला गया है। उन लोगों की बातों का विश्वास न करें जो मत हासिल करने के लिए कहेंगे कि वे इन सामानों का दाम कम कर सकते हैं, क्योंकि यह बिल्कुल भी सम्भव नहीं है। फ़्रिज वगैरह सामान जो बाहर से आते हैं के दाम पर हमारा कोई काबू नहीं है,” अटेनी जेनरल ने कहा। उन्होंने कहा कि अगर फ़ीजी ने कोविड के खिलाफ कुछ सक्त नितियाँ जैसे कि “नो जेब नो जोब” यानि बिना सुई लगाए नौकरी नहीं रहेगी, लागू नहीं की होती तो इतनी बड़ी संख्या में लोगों ने सुई नहीं लगवाई होती। राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा इसी महीने की पंद्रह तारीख को होगी।



फीजी औस्ट्रीया और ई यू के साथ संबंध बढ़ाने की उम्मीद कर रहा है



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फीजी औस्ट्रीया और युरोपियन युनियन के साथ द्वीपक्षीय संबंध बढ़ाने और बहुपक्षीय मंचों में छोटे द्वीपीय राज्यों की प्राथमिकताओं को आगे बढ़ाने की उम्मीद कर रहा है। अभी हाल ही में पहली राज्य पार्टियों की बैठक में प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्ड निमारामा और औस्ट्रीया गणतंत्र के यूरोपीय और अंतराष्ट्रीय मामलों के मंत्री महामहिम एलेक्जेंड्रा शलनबेर्ग के बीच द्वीपक्षीय सभा हुई जहाँ परमाणु हथियारों की रोक पर संधि हुई। सभा में प्रधान मंत्री ने प्रकाश डाला कि हालांकि औस्ट्रीया के साथ फीजी का कूटनैतिज्ञ संबंध जुड़ते बहुत समय नहीं हुआ है, लेकिन उन्हें भरोसा है कि दोनों तरफ से इस संबंध को बनाने और आगे बढ़ाने की एक समान प्रतिबद्धता है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव, शान्ति और सुरक्षा, मानवाधिकार और बहुपक्षीय सहयोग जैसे रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों में हमारे सहयोग के माध्यम से महसूस किया जाएगा। फीजी, औस्ट्रीया और युरोपियन युनियन द्वारा सभी समर्थन की सराहना करता है जिनमें मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव, महासागर, वजट को सीधा सहयोग, व्यापार और कृषि क्षेत्र शामिल है। पहली राज्य पार्टियों के दौरान परमाणु हथियारों की रोक पर संधि के

महत्व पर प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि फीजी शान्ति की हमारी खोज में संधि को बहुत महत्व देता है और भविष्य की पीढ़ियों के लिए हमारे पर्यावरण को संरक्षित करने के महत्व की पहचान करता है। प्रधान मंत्री ने महामहिम शलनबेर्ग को बताया कि पिछले सालों में परमाणु हथियारों से हमारे लोगों और हमारे प्राचीन महासागर को हुई तबाही का हिसाब नहीं लगाया जा सकता क्योंकि प्रशांत परमाणु हथियारों के लिए परीक्षण का मैदान था, और दुर्भाग्य से, हमारे पूर्वजों ने, उनकी इच्छा और ज्ञान के बिना माल्डेन और किरिमाटी द्वीप समूह में हुए परीक्षणों में भाग लिया। इसके लिए प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि वर्तमान भू-राजनैतिक वातावरण को देखते हुए राज्यों की पार्टियों की बैठक समय पर की जाती है और हमें शान्ति को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए मिलकर काम करना चाहिए और जिनमें से एक सार्वभौमिकता को बढ़ावा देना है। इस अवसर पर प्रधान मंत्री ने बहुपक्षीय मंचों पर औस्ट्रीया की अगुवाई के लिए अपनी प्रशंसा व्यक्त करने का अवसर भी लिया क्योंकि हमारे देशों ने 2020 और 2021 में मानवाधिकार परिषद के सदस्यों के रूप में निउ योर्क और जिनेवा में एक साथ काम किया है, जब फीजी परिषद का अध्यक्ष बना था।

प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्ड निमारामा हाल ही में विना में पहली राज्य पार्टियों की बैठक में औस्ट्रीया गणतंत्र के यूरोपीय और अंतराष्ट्रीय मामलों के मंत्री महामहिम एलेक्जेंड्रा शलनबेर्ग के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



एक स्कूल को हाल में वालेसी सेट टॉप बॉक्स प्रदान किया गया

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

पश्चिम वितिलेवू में एनालोग सेवा बन्द

रोनल देव

टेलिविज़न का प्रसारण करने वालों ने कल तीन जुलाई से पश्चिम वितिलेवू में अपना एनालोग टेलिविज़न ट्रान्समिशन सेवा बन्द करके वालेसी डिजिटल मंच से सेवा प्रदान करना शुरू कर चुके हैं।

टेलिविज़न देखने के लिए पश्चिम वितिलेवू के निवासियों को अब एक वालेसी सेट टॉप बॉक्स के अलावा सिफारिश किया हुआ यू हर्डिच एफ एंटेना लेना होगा। जिन परिवारों की सालाना आमदनी तीस हजार डोलर से कम है उन्हें वालेसी सेट टॉप बॉक्स मुफ्त में मिल सकता है। इसके लिए अर्जी लगाने के लिए लोग वालेसी के वेबसाइट या वालेसी के किसी भी दफ्तर जा सकते हैं, जो सूवा, सिंगातोका, नान्दी, लौतोका, वा और राकीराकी में स्थित है।

पश्चिम वितिलेवू में जिन इलाकों पर असर पड़ेगा में देउम्बा से लेकर नातान्दोला और मातावालू तक तथा लौतोका से नतोवी ताई लेवू के बीच इलाके शामिल हैं। इन इलाकों में रहने वाले फीजीवासियों से मांग की गई है कि टेलिविज़न सेवाओं में बाधाओं से बचने

के लिए वे अपना वालेसी सेट टॉप बॉक्स और यू हर्डिच एफ एंटेना हासिल कर लें।

वालेसी के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्यूटिव ऑफिसर, संजय महाराज का कहना है कि पिछले दो महीने से जबकि वालेसी की टीम ने घर-घर जाकर ग्राहकों से मुलाकात की है, कम्पनी ने कुछ इलाकों में रोड शो टीम भी भेजा ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि जो बदलाव हुआ है उसमें कोई बाधा न हो। हम ग्राहकों को प्रोत्साहित कर रहे हैं कि वे स्पष्टीकरण के लिए कम्पनी को संपर्क करें। हमारा लक्ष्य है कि फीजीवासी, डिजिटल टेलिविज़न की दुनिया का मज़ा लें। हम स्कूलों तथा कोमुनिटी होल्स को भी प्रोत्साहित कर रहे हैं कि वे हमारे कोमुनिटी आउटरीच पैकज के लिए अर्जी लगाएं।

और जानकारी के लिए दर्शक वालेसी को टोल फ्री लाईन 0800 222 222 पर कॉल कर सकते हैं, वालेसी फीजी फर्डिसवुक पर्डिज पर संदेश भेज सकते हैं, info@walesi.com.fj पर ईमेल कर सकते हैं, वेबसाइट www.walesi.com.fj पर जा सकते हैं या अपनी नज़दीकी वालेसी कस्टमा केयर सेंटर जा सकते हैं।



राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातु विलियामे कातोनिवरे, निउ जीलेन्ड के लिए फीजी के नए राजदूत रातु इनोके कुम्बुआबोला को शुभकामनाएं देते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

निउ जीलेन्ड के लिए फीजी के नए राज दूत को शुभकामनाएं दी गई

रोनल देव

राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातु विलियामे कातोनिवरे ने हाल ही सरकारी भवन में निउ जीलेन्ड के लिए फीजी के नए राजदूत रातु इनोके कुम्बुआबोला को शुभकामनाएं दीं। राष्ट्रपति कातोनिवरे ने राजदूत कुम्बुआबोला को उनकी नई कूटनैतिज्ञ नियुक्ति पर बधाई देते हुए उनके नई भूमिका के लिए उन्हें शुभकामनाएं दीं। राजदूत कुम्बुआबोला ने कहा कि निउ जीलेन्ड में फीजी का प्रतिनिधित्व करना उनके लिए सौभाग्य की बात होगी तथा वो हर स्तर पर दोनों देशों के बीच संबंधों को सुधारने की पूरी कोशिश करेंगे। उन्होंने प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्ड निमारामा का आभार व्यक्त किया जिन्होंने उन्हें निउ जीलेन्ड में सेवा प्रदान करने का मौका दिया है जो एक ऐसा देश है जिनका फीजी के साथ लम्बे समय से ऐतिहासिक संबंध रहा है।

“मैं उन फीजीवासियों की संख्या बढ़ाने पर बातचित करना चाहता हूँ जिन्हें रेजिस्टर्ड सीज़नल एम्प्लोया स्कीम के नीचे निउ जीलेन्ड में काम करने का मौका दिया जा रहा है। एक मौसम में इस स्कीम के नीचे अभी फीजी से चार सौ से ज़्यादा लोगों को

काम करने का अवसर मिल रहा है। इस स्कीम के तहत हम नौकरी के अन्य क्षेत्रों पर गौर करना चाहते हैं जबकि फीजी के पेशेवर मज़दूरों की मांग बहुत ज़्यादा है,” कुम्बुआबोला ने कहा।

उनके अनुसार दोनों देशों के बीच पुराने संबंध और दोस्ती के बंधन इस साल मार्च में और मज़बूत हुए जब प्रधान मंत्री वॉरेनो बर्ड निमारामा और निउ जीलेन्ड के विदेश मंत्री नानईया महुता ने दुआवाता साझेदारी पर हस्ताक्षर किया जिससे अगले कुछ सालों में वृद्धि और विकास के लिए एक रोमांचक ढाँचा प्रदान किया गया है।

उन्होंने मेल-मिलाप के सभी स्तरों को मज़बूत करने और दोनों राष्ट्रीय हितों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता का वादा किया।

“मैं दुआवाता साझेदारी पर हस्ताक्षर होने के बाद निर्माण की गति को बढ़ाने के लिए तत्पर हूँ ताकि फीजी और निउ जीलेन्ड के बीच सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए प्रमुख क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान दिया जाए जैसे कि: साझेदारी, प्रजातंत्र और मूल्य, आर्थिक तौर से मज़बूत हो, सुरक्षा, सामाजिक भलाई, जलवायु परिवर्तन तथा प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के लिए तैयार होना।”

लौतोका के गौल्डन ऐज होम के बूजुर्गों को नई बस प्रदान की गई

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विमन, चिलरण और पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने लौतोका के गौल्डन ऐज होम में बूजुर्ग नागरिकों के लिए विशेष बस सौंपने वाले समारोह में चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

गौल्डन ऐज होम में रहने वाले बूजुर्ग अब आसानी से बहार निकल कर वातावरण, लोगो से मेलझोल का मजा लेने के साथ वृद्ध लोगों को प्रेरित और बढ़ावा भी दे सकेंगे। अभी हाल ही विमन, चिलरण और पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्री रोजी अकबर ने लौतोका के गौल्डन ऐज होम में बूजुर्ग नागरिकों के लिए विशेष बस सौंपते हुए अपनी भावनाएं व्यक्त की। उन्होंने मेहमानों को बताया कि यह बस जापान की सरकार ने दिया है जो लगभग दो लाख अस्सी हजार (\$279,000) डोलर लागत की है जिसे विमन, चिलरण और पोवर्टी अलिविएशन मंत्रालय की ग्रासरूट ह्यूमन सिक्यूरिटी प्रोजेक्ट के चलते सहायता के रूप में दी गई है। “होम में निवासियों की देखभाल की संवेदनशील को पूरा करने के लिए पूनः तैयार किया गया है। पिछले साल जुलाई में इस विशेष बस के निर्माण के लिए मंत्रालय ने पी अइ लाल टैडिंग लिमिटेड के साथ रीच बस समझौता तैयार किया था। हम समाज में पहुंच, समानता और अधिकारों को बढ़ावा देने वाले उत्पाद के लिए

प्रायोजन और निर्माण के साझेदारी के फल के लिए अपने पारंपरिक भागीदारों के आभारी हैं” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार उन वृद्ध व्यक्तियों के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है जो फीजी के दो हजार तेरह के संविधान के तहत संरक्षित हैं और उन्होंने सामाजिक-आर्थिक अधिकारों की एक विस्तृत श्रृंखला प्रदान की है। “इन अधिकारों में, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल, निवास और स्वच्छता, परिवहन, खाद्य सुरक्षा, सुरक्षित पानी और सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाएं शामिल हैं। हमें एक राष्ट्र के रूप में आगे बढ़ना है और जुड़े रहने, सुरक्षा और स्वस्थ बुढ़ापा के लिए सहयोग की भावना को अपनाना है ताकि हमारे बूजुर्ग नागरिकों के लिए हम एक अच्छा वातावरण बना सकें,” मंत्री अकबर ने कहा। फीजियन सरकार की ओर से मंत्री अकबर ने जापान की सरकार को फीजी में वृद्ध व्यक्तियों के लिए सेवाओं में मूल्य जोड़ने के लिए उनके साझेदारी, समझ और परिश्रम के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। बस को व्हीलचेयर के इस्तेमाल के लिए भी डिजाइन किया गया है।

सामाबूला में सरकार ने खेल-कुद की नई सुविधा की व्यवस्था की



खेलकुद मंत्री परवीन बाला, राम लखन पार्क में खेलकुद की नई सुविधा का नीव रखते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

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युथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन बाला ने अभी हाल ही सामाबूला के राम लखन पार्क में खेल-कुद सुविधा के निर्माण का उद्घाटन किया। यह नई सुविधा जो चौबीस मीटर से पंद्रह मीटर का है छयालीस हजार आठ सौ दस डोलर लागत की है जिसे कोर बिल्डर्ज एन्ड फनिचर लिमिटेड बना रहे हैं। मंत्री परवीन बाला ने इस सुविधा के निर्माण के लिए खाली जगह प्रदान करने के लिए सूवा सिटी काउंसिल की सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि इस नई खेल सुविधा से सामाबूला समाज पर बहुत

सकारात्मक असर पड़ेगा क्योंकि वह समाज के लिए स्वास्थ्य और भलाई को बढ़ावा देगा और समाज में कुछ प्रतिभाओं की पहचान करने में सक्षम करेगा जो भविष्य में खेलों में फीजी का प्रतिनिधित्व करेंगे। मंत्री बाला ने कहा कि यह सुविधा खेल आयोजनों की मेजबानी में युवाओं और समुदाय के लिए आमदनी कमाने के अवसर प्रदान करेगा। इस विशेष अवसर पर सुविधा के शुरूवाती निर्माण चरण में युथ एन्ड स्पोर्ट्स मंत्री परवीन बाला के अलावा सूवा सिटी काउंसिल, अर्थव्यवस्था मंत्रालय, समाज के बड़े बुजुर्ग और युवा प्रतिनिधि शामिल हुए।

नसालिया में नया स्कूल और बिजली की व्यवस्था हुई



नंगोनेनिदोलो नाईतासिरी में अभी हाल ही एक नए स्कूल का उद्घाटन किया गया चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

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नाइतासिरी का भितरी इलाका नंगोनेनिदोलो में अभी हाल ही इन्फ्रस्ट्रक्चर मंत्री चोने उसामाते ने प्राथमरी स्कूल का उद्घाटन किया। नसालिया गाँव में नाकाईझा प्राथमरी स्कूल दो हजार पंद्रह में शिशुओं के स्कूल के रूप में स्थापित किया गया था और अब वहाँ एक नया कोन्क्रीट स्कूल ब्लॉक बना दिया गया है जिसके लिए जापानी सरकार ने आर्थिक सहायता दी थी। मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा कि यह नया स्कूल साझेदारी का नतीजा है जिसने फीजी सरकार को स्कूल ब्लॉक और नए शिक्षक क्वार्टर के लिए नए साइट तैयार करने और छात्रों के लिए एक नाव और इंजन का इंतजाम किया गया है ताकि आस पास गाँव के बच्चे वाईनिमाला नदी पार कर के स्कूल जा सके जिसके लिए फिजियन सरकार ने सैंतालीस हजार डोलर (\$47,000) दिया है और जापान की सरकार ने लगभग (\$215,000) डोलर नया स्कूल के निर्माण में पूँजी लगाई है। ‘आपके स्कूल के लिए सहायता यहाँ ठहरी नहीं है जबकि इस साल यूनिसेफ ने स्कूल के इस नई योजना में नहाने और धुलाई के लिए ब्लॉक बनाया जा रहा है जो अस्सी हजार डोलर (\$80,000) का है,” मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा। स्कूल के उद्घाटन के साथ साथ नसालिया गाँव में बिजली की व्यवस्था भी की गई जो दस हजार डोलर लागत का है। ‘जबकि आपको पता है कि सरकार बच्चों की शिक्षा को लेकर कितना प्रतिबद्ध है और

नासालिया में इस नए स्कूल के उद्घाटन से बच्चों का भविष्य और उज्जवल होगा साथ ही बिजली की व्यवस्था से गाँव में सकारात्मक बदलाओं होगा,” मंत्री उसामाते ने कहा। “सरकार दो हजार तीस तक फीजी के लोगों को बिजली की व्यवस्था करने के अपने लक्ष्य की दिशा में काम कर रही है और राष्ट्रीय ग्रिड से जुड़ाव ने हमें उस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के एक कदम और करीब ला दिया है” उन्होंने कहा कि स्कूल में बिजली आने से अड़तीस बच्चों को रात में बिजली की रोशनी, नए व्यवसायों की स्थापना, बिजली के उपकरणों के इस्तेमाल और फोन में डेटा का कनेक्शन उपलब्ध करके बाहरी दुनिया से जुड़ने के लिए बेहतर बना दिया है। नंगोनेनिदोलो गाँव के लिए सरकार ने नए \$6.9 मिलियन डोलर लागत के रास्ते का निर्माण किया है जो नवाईसोमो से नकोरोसुले तक जाता है और अभी नंबोबुदो में नुकूलाउ से रा और नवाईसोमो से नकीदा का रास्ता निर्माणचरण में है। नकोरोसुले से नवाईबलालु में बिजली की व्यवस्था भी हो गई है जहाँ सरकार ने \$338,000 डोलर लगाया है और नवाईसोमो से नजदीक गाँव में बिजली की व्यवस्था करने की योजना बना रहे हैं। मंत्री उसामाते ने नसालिया गाँव के लोगों को आश्वासन दिया कि नागोनेनिदोलो में विकास फीजी सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता रही है ताकि कोई भी हमारे देश की प्रगति में पीछे नहीं रहे। मंत्री उसामाते ने रोटरी पसिफिक बोटा फो लाइफ के कार्यों की भी सराहना की जिसने पानी साफ करने वाला सिस्टम तैयार किया है और स्कूल को पानी प्रदान करने में मदद करता है।



ई एफ एल ने ऐतिहासिक डिविडन्ड पैमन्ट देने की घोषणा की

एनेजी फीजी लिमिटेड ने हाल में पिछले आर्थिक साल के लिए अपने हिस्सेदारों को छियालिस मिलियन डॉलर से ज्यादा (\$46.6 million) डिविडन्ट पैमन्ट की घोषणा की है। अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने फीजियन सरकार की ओर से ई एफ एल से तईस मिलियन डॉलर से ज्यादा (\$23,772,531.62) डिविडन्ट पैमन्ट स्वीकार किया, सेवन्स पेसिफिक लिमिटेड को बीस मिलियन डॉलर दिया गया जबकि धरेलु ग्राहक जो साथ मिलकर पाँच प्रतिशत हिस्से के मालिक हैं को दो मिलियन डॉलर से ज्यादा (\$2.33) का डिविडन्ट कमाया। के इतिहास में यह सबसे बड़ा डिविडन्ट पैमन्ट था

चित्र: ननिसे नईमला



सामाबुला में नया खेलकूद संसाधन

फीजियन सरकार सामाबुला सूबा के युवकों के लिए एक नया वॉलीबॉल कोर्ट बना रही है। खेलकूद मंत्री परवीन कुमार ने राम लखन पार्क में नए वॉलीबॉल कोर्ट का नींव रखा। इस योजना में छियालिस हजार डॉलर से कुछ ज्यादा (\$46,810.05) का खर्च होगा जिसका निर्माणकार्य कोर बिल्डिंग एंड फनिचर लिमिटेड कर रहा है। उनके स्वास्थ्य को प्रोत्साहित करने के साथ-साथ समाज में युवकों के हुनर को पहचाना जाएगा जिससे वे भविष्य में खेलकूद में फीजी का प्रतिनिधित्व करेंगे।

लौतोका चीनी मिल में गन्ने की पेराई शुरू हुई



नम्बुआ दकाउन्ड्रोवे के धान के किसानों को एक ट्रैक्टर मिला

कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने हाल ही में नम्बुआ कोरोआलाउ दकाउन्ड्रोवे के धान के किसानों को एक ट्रैक्टर प्रदान किया है। डाक्टर रेड्डी ने प्रकाश डाला कि फीजियन सरकार इस बात का ध्यान रख रही है कि कोई भी फीजीवासी पीछे न रह जाए फिर चाहे वे देश के किसी भी कोने में रहते हों। उन्होंने नम्बुआ के किसानों की दूर की सोच की प्रशंसा की जिन्होंने ट्रैक्टर खरीदने के लिए सात हजार डॉलर लगाया। इसके लिए किसानों ने ट्रैक्टर का एक तिहाई खर्च सहा जबकि सरकार ने बाकी पैसा लगाए हैं। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



अटोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सईयद खईयूम ने हाल में लौतोका चीनी मिल में इस साल वाली गन्ने की पेराई का उद्घाटन किया। "लगभग सौ सालों तक सिर्फ गन्ना से ही फीजी को सबसे आमदनी प्राप्त होती थी जिससे आज भी कई हजार लोगों की जिन्दगी चलती थी। इसलिए यह ज़रूरी है कि हर

साल गन्ने की पेराई की शुरुआत के महत्व को आज भी समझा जाए। सरकार लगातार चीनी व्यवसाय को सहायता प्रदान करती रहेगी अगर इस बात का आश्वासन दिया जाएगा कि गन्ने की पैदाईश बढ़ने के साथ-साथ चीनी बनाने की माता में भी वृद्धि होगी। चित्र: ननिसे नईमला





शहर से बाहर और ग्रामीण इलाको में मेडिकल क्लीनिक स्थापित करने की कीमत पर सहायता दी गई

सोनम सामी

जान बचाने वाली डाक्टरों की सेवा फीजीवासियों के और करीब लेजाने के लिय प्रायवट जेनरल प्रेकटिशनर्स को बड़ी आबादी वाले शहर से बाहर और ग्रामीण इलाको में मेडिकल क्लीनिक स्थापित करने के लिय सरकार ने अपने संशोधित 2021-2022 राष्ट्र बजट में 200,000 डोलर प्रदान किया था जो सिर्फ नवाइदोबा, मलोलो, नाइदोवी, डासा, साबितो, सेंगागा, डेकेती,

नासारावांगा, कोरोलेवू और पसिफिक हार्बर तक सीमित नहीं है।

समाज में नई क्लीनिक सेवाओं के लिय तेज और आसान पहुंच प्रदान करेगा और “मुफ्त जी पी स्कीम” के नीचे उपलब्ध रहेगा जिसे पिछले साल शुरू किया गया है।

इस स्कीम के चलते सरकार बड़ी आबादी वाले शहर से बाहर और ग्रामीण इलाको में मेडिकल क्लीनिक स्थापित करने और संचालित करने के लिय जी पी को सब्सिडी देगी। फीजिनिवासियों को उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदान करने

के लिय निजी क्षेत्र को शामिल करना साथ ही चुने गए स्थानिक अधिकार के साथ क्लीनिकल सेवाओं को लेकर सरकार की लंबे समय से प्रतिबद्धता रही है।

इस पहल के निचे, जी पीस को लगभग दस हजार डोलर की सहायता दी जा सकती है (इलाके के आधार पर) ताकि वे अपने शुरूआती समय के लिय स्वास्थ्य उपकरण, आंतरिक फिट-आउट का किराया, ओफिस का कोम्प्यूटर, प्रिन्टा और नए क्लीनिक के लिय अन्य जरूरी समान खरीद सकते हैं। सहायता के लिय अर्जी लगाने का फॉर्म

ऑनलाइन इन वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध रहेगा।

1. www.fil.gov.fj

2. www.economy.gov.fj

सभी जरूरी दस्तावेज और दिशानिर्देश प्रदान किए जाना चाहिए।

और जानकारी के लिय कमल गाउन्डर को 9906974 पर कोल करे और kamal.gounder@economv.gov.fj पर इमेल करे या लौरी सिंह को 9981776 पर कोल करे और laurie.singh@economy.gov.fj पर इमेल करे।

भूकंप से पहले, इसके दौरान और बाद में आप क्या कर सकते हैं



भूकम्प की वजह से आए दिन विश्व भर में संसाधनों तथा इमारतों को भारी नुकसान हो रहे हैं

चित्र: गुगल

रोनल देव/सोनम सामी

दुनिया के सबसे बड़े भूकंप के झटके पसिफिक के किनारे पर महसूस किए जाते हैं, जिसे “पसिफिक रिंग ओफ फायर” के नाम से जाना जाता है क्योंकि यहाँ भूकंप, ज्वालामुखी फटना और सुनामी आते रहते हैं। धरती के टेक्टोनीक प्लेट्स हिलने की वजह से यह खतरा बना रहता है, छास कर के जब एक प्लेट दुसरे के निचे घसीटा जाता है जिसे एक कोन्वर्जन्ट मार्जिन कहा जाता है।

भूकंप क्या है?

प्लेट्स जब एक दुसरे से टकराते हैं, एक दुसरे के उपर या पास जाते हैं, तो चट्टान के अंदर तनाव तब तक बनता है जब तक कि चट्टान कमजोर जगह पर टूट नहीं जाता। भूकंप धरती का कापना है जो चट्टान के टूटने पर निकलने वाली उर्जा के कारण होता है। इसके अलावा कुछ भूकंप, ज्वालामुखी की गतिविधि या धरती के अंदर मिट्टी भसकने से आते हैं। दोनो कम घहराई लगभग सत्तर (70km) निचे या बहुत घहराई में सात सौ (700km) तक में, जो भूकंप आते हैं वह महासागर के सबडक्शन ज़ोन से जुड़े होते हैं जैसे कि टोंगा का टेन्च निउजिलेन्ड से जुड़ा है, टोंगा और सामोआ तथा हेबराइड्स टेन्च से जुड़ा है जो वनुवातु, सोलोमन आइलेन्ड और पापुआ न्यू गिनी को जोड़ता है। क्षेत्रिए तौर से इन देशों और फीजी को भूकंप से सबसे ज्यादा खतरा है।

जमीन का हिलना उर्जा तरंगों के कारण होते हैं जो भूकंपिए तरंगें, धरती की सतह से टकराने के रूप में जाना जाता है। इस कारन से जमीन उपर से निचे, आगे पिछे या अगल-बगल से हिलते हैं। इससे इमारतों, सड़को, डेम्स, रजर्वी, धरती के निचे पाइप लाइंस, बड़े-बड़े ढांचा, उपर लगे लैबल्स को नुकसान होता है, जिससे इमारतों को गिरने, मलबा के गिरने, जमीन एक सामान न रहने, मिट्टी भसकने, के बाद या आग लग सकती है। भूकंप की दूरी और मेगनिट्यूट याने अकार के कारण अलग अलग गति से झटके लगते हैं। भूकंप जितना बड़ा या कम घहराई पर होगा तथा आपके जितने नज़दीक होगा, जमीन उतनी जोर से हिलेगी।

भूकंप की तैयारी करें - अपने घर में हमेशा एक इमर्जन्सी किट रखे। उसमे पानी, भोजन, जरूरी दावाईया, नए और सपैयर बैटरी कड़ साथ टोर्च, पोर्टेबल रेडियो, फर्सट एड

किट और इमर्जन्सी फोन नंबर रखे।

भूकंप के दौरान - अगर आप अंदर हैं:

ज़मीन पर लेट जाए, खुद को ढाँक ले और किसी चिज़ को पकड़ ले, अंदर ही रहे- बाहर भागने की कोशिश न करे। लेकिन और झटकों के लिय तैयार रहे और अगर जरूरी हो तो वहाँ से निकले। सलाह और जानकारी के लिय रेडियों सुने। किसी मजबूत चिज़ जैसे दरवाजा, टेबल, डेस्क या खाट से खुद को ढाँके। खिड़की, सर के उपर रखे भारी सामान और शेल्क्स से दूर रहे। अगर उँची इमारतों में है तो खिड़की और बहरी दिवारों सड़ दूर रहे। लिफ्ट का इस्तेमाल न करे। अगर भीड़ वाली जगह पर है तो घबराए नहीं। दरवाज़े से जबरजस्ती निकलने की कोशिश ना करे।

अगर आप बाहर हैं:

इमारते, बिजली के तार और पेड़ो सड़ दूर रहे और खुले स्थान पर रहे। किसी इमारत में शरण लेने की कोशिश ना करे। अगर आप गाड़ी में हैं तो गाड़ी सड़क के किनारे खाली जगह खड़ी कर दे। बिजली के टूटे तार, नुकसान पहुँची सड़के और पुल से सावधान रहे।

भूकंप के बाद:

देखे कि जिन लोगों को चोट लगी है उन्हें पहले सहायता प्रदान करे। एम्बुलन्स को बुलाए और गम्भीर रूप से घायल लोगों को ना हिलाए जब तक की वे खतरे में ना हो। टेलिफोन का इस्तेमाल ना करे जबतक एकदम जरूरी ना हो। अपनी गाड़ी का इस्तेमाल ना करे जबतक जरूरी ना हो। नुकसान पहुँची इमारतों में ना जाए। भोजन पकाने वाले चुल्हे को बुझा दे। जब तक आप गैस या फ्यूल लीक की जाँच ना कर ले माचीस ना जलाए। अगर पानी लीक हो रहा है, या बिजली के तार या सिवरेज लाइन्स को नुकसान हुआ है तो मुख्य स्तोत बंद कर दे। देख ले कि भोजन और पानी उपलब्ध हो। शांत रहे और अगर हो सके तो दुसरो की मदद करे। भूकंप अचानक से बहुत कम या बिना किसी चेतावनी के आते हैं। ऐसा होने पर तैयार रहे।



दूरदर्शीता के लिए किसानों के कौपरेटिव्स की सराहना की गई



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी किसानों को एक ट्रैक्टर प्रदान करते हुए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

किसानों के दो दिलों की दूरदर्शीता सराहना की गई है जिन्होंने मशीनों के द्वारा कृषि के एक युग की शुरुआत करते हुए कृषि के माध्यम से अपने ग्रामीण समाजों की जीविका को सुरक्षित किया है। कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने दकाउन्ड्रोवे स्थित नम्बुआ कोरो में नम्बुआ राईस फार्मस कौपरेटिव तथा दावासामू ताई लेवू स्थित दावासामू वेजेटबल कौपरेटिव की सराहना की है जिन्होंने कृषि मंत्रालय के एक तिहाई दो तिहाई कार्यक्रम के तहत अपने कौपरेटिव के लिए एक ट्रैक्टर खरीदने के लिए सात हजार डोलर की पुँजी लगाई है। हालही में दोनों कौपरेटिव्स को ट्रैक्टर प्रदान करते हुए, मंत्री रेड्डी ने दोनों कौपरेटिव के सदस्यों की दूरदर्शीता तारीफ की है क्योंकि इससे उनकी आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए कृषि में सफल होने के लिए मंच तैयार किया है। “इस इलाके में व्यवसायिक कृषि की

बढ़न्ती के नए युग की शुरुआत हुई है, और अगर यहाँ के बड़े-बुर्जुगों की दूरदर्शीता नहीं होती तो यह ट्रैक्टर भी यहाँ नहीं पहुँचते। इन लोगों ने अपने समाज के लिए बलिदान दिया है जिससे वे अपनी आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए इस जगह को बेहतर तरीके से छोड़ना चाहते हैं,” मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा। “आप अपने बच्चों, नाती-पोतों से अपने लिए तारीफ सुनने के लिए शायद नहीं रहेंगे जो कहेंगे कि 2022 में हमारे पुर्वजों ने कुछ कठिन फैसले किए थे जिस वजह से इस स्तर की व्यवसायिक खेती-बाड़ी होने लगी है जिससे कोरोवासियों की ज़िन्दगी सुधरी है। इस अनोखे निर्णाय के लिए मैं आपकी सराहना करता हूँ,” मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा। मंत्री के अनुसार एक ग्रामीण समाज के लिए कम समय में अपने कृषि उत्पादन में सुधार के लिए ट्रैक्टर और अन्य उपकरण का एक तिहाई खर्च का पैसा बटोरना उनकी प्रतिबद्धता का संकेत था।

किसानों से उच्च मूल्य वाली फसलें बोन की माँग की गई



कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी किसानों के एक कौपरेटिव को कृषि सामान प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

सिंगातोका के चार गाँव के किसानों से माँग की गई है कि वे निर्यात बाज़ार के लिए आकर्षक तथा उच्च मूल्य वाली फसलें बोए। पिछले साल जबकि गन्ना को छोड़कर अन्य फसलों के निर्यात से देश में एक सौ इक्कीस (\$121.3 मिलियन से ज़्यादा की आमदनी हुई थी तो ऐसे में किसानों के लिए योग्य फसलों की पहचान करना महत्वपूर्ण था जो उनकी स्थानीय परिस्थितियों के लिए उपयुक्त थी। कृषि मंत्री डाक्टर महेन्द्र रेड्डी ने हाल ही में नावामाँगी, नरोरो, नँडाला तथा नराता के किसानों को एक नैसी बनाने तथा बोन का सामान प्रदान करने के साथ-साथ चारों कोरो को सुहर की नई प्रजाति देते हुए ऐसी माँग की। मंत्री रेड्डी ने ज़ोर दिया है कि देश के सबसे प्रसिद्ध कृषि उत्पादन जैसे कि यंगोना, डालो, हल्दी, अदरक जो प्रशान्त में ही कुछ देशों को निर्यात किए जा रहे हैं, इसलिए अगला कदम उठाने की ज़िम्मेदारी उनपर थी।

“कृषि के कारण ही मुख्य रूप से ही इस देश की वृद्धि तथा विकास हुआ है” मंत्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि खेती के लिए ज़मीन का उपयोग तथा मज़दूरों के द्वारा कृषि व्यवसाय ने देश की बढ़न्ती तथा विकास में भारी योगदान दिया है जबकि सरकार की ओर से पहुँचाई गई तकनीकी सहायता से यह सम्भव हुआ है। कुछ साल पहले रूई, कोपरा तथा चीनी देश में सबसे ज़्यादा पैसा लाते थे लेकिन अब डालो, कसेरा, यंगोना, अदरक तथा हल्दी से ज़्यादा आमदनी आ रही है। पुराने ज़माने में देश में रूई बहुत प्रसिद्ध थी लेकिन फिर कोपरा और बाद में चलकर चीनी के निर्यात से देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को सबसे ज़्यादा योगदान होता था। अब चीनी से होने वाली आमदनी गिर गई है तथा नए उत्पादन सामने आ रहे हैं और कृषि का क्षेत्र इसी तरह से चलता है,” कृषि मंत्री ने समझाया। किसानों को भी उत्पादन निर्यात करने से फायदा हो सकता है अगर वे यंगोना तथा हल्दी बोना शुरू कर दें।

हाउज़िंग मंत्रालय पी सी एन का डिपोज़िट वापस कर रहा है

रोनल देव

हाउज़िंग तथा सामाजिक विकास मंत्रालय ने अभी तक उनासी 79 योग्य फीजिवसियों को उनका पैसा लौटाया है जिन्होंने जित्तू एस्टेट सूवा में लाँगोलांगी हाउज़िंग युनिट के लिए डिपोज़िट भरा था और उसे वापस करने की अर्जी लगाई थी। अभी तक इस स्कीम के नीचे छः लाख (600,000) डोलर से ज़्यादा का पर्ईमन्ट हो चुका है। जैसा कि इस साल पर्व संशोधित 2021/2022 राष्ट्रीय बजट में घोषणा की गई थी यह पर्ईमन्ट सरकार की पहल के द्वारा हो रहे हैं, जहाँ सरकार ने इस रिफ़न्ड स्कीम के नीचे 2.27 मिलियन डोलर अलग करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। मंत्रालय इस स्कीम का संचालन कर रहा है तथा उन्हें छःसौ इक्तीस 631 अर्जियाँ मिली थी। इनमें से तीन सौ चालिस (340) लोगों की अर्जियों पर गौर करके उन्हें इसी महीने के अंत तक पर्ईमन्ट करने को प्राथमिकता दी जा रही

है जिन्होंने अपने सभी ज़रूरी कागज़ात दर्ज किए थे जिनमें पी सी एन के साथ हाउज़िंग समझौता भी शामिल है। अर्जियों पर गौर करने और स्वीकृति की प्रक्रिया में हो रही चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, मंत्रालय के पेमनन्ट सकेटरी सं जीवा परेरा ने कहा कि मंत्रालय वर्तमान में अर्जी लगाने वाले उन लोगों को प्राथमिकता दे रहा है जिन्होंने पी सी एन को हस्ताक्षर किए हुए हाउज़िंग समझौता के अलावा अन्य ज़रूरतें पूरी की हैं। उन्होंने समझाया कि जिन लोगों ने कानूनी रसीद की कोपी दर्ज की है लेकिन उनके पास हाउज़िंग समझौता नहीं है, उनपर अगले दौर में ध्यान दिया जाएगा। फीजियन सरकार ने पी सी एन को 99 साल की लीस वाली ज़मीन पर 153 घर, एक कोमुनिटी होल तथा एक किंडागार्ड न बनाने के लिए बारह मिलियन डोलर प्रदान किया था। यह बेहद परेशान करने वाली बात थी जब हमें पता चला कि पी सी एन ने फीजिवसियों से झूठे वादे किए और उन्हें



पैसे जमा करने के लिए लुभाया कि इस कार्यक्रम के नीचे दस हजार युनिट्स बनाए जाएंगे। इसके साथ-साथ मंत्रालय, डायरेक्टा लेन्ड्स के साथ मिलकर लाँगोलांगी हाउज़िंग योजना के लिए पी सी एन को दी गई लीस

हासिल करने की कोशिश कर रहा है ताकि जैसे उम्मीद की गई थी उस तरह योजना पूरी हो सके तथा योग्य परिवारों को कानूनी टाइटल दिया जाए।

फीजी, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और
ई यू संबंध मजबूत 2

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अटोनी-जेनरल अईयाज़ सैयद-खईयूम ने 2022/2023 राष्ट्रीय बजट पर लोगों से सलाह लेना शुरू किया है जहाँ उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि कोविड महामारी के बाद देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में वृद्धि होने की उम्मीद है, तथा बाहर से मंगाए जा रहे सामान जैसे कि फियूल वगैरह के दामों पर सरकार का कोई काबू नहीं है

चित्र: ननिसे नईमिला

उत्तरी विभाग में और बेरोज़गार लोगों की सहायता होगी

रिपोट: शेनल देव

वनुआ लेवू में बेरोज़गार लोगों को सफलतापूर्वक सौ डोलर \$100 की सहायता प्रदान करने के बाद अटोनी जेनरल अईयाज़ सैयद-खईयूम ने घोषणा की है कि यह सौ डोलर की बेरोज़गार वाली सहायता अब तावेयुनी, गामेया तथा राम्बी द्वीप के असर पड़े फीजीवासियों को दी जाएगी।

योग्य श्रेणी

अर्जी लगाने की अवधि उनतीस 29th जून की सुबह नौ बजे खुलेगी जो पहली जुलाई की शाम पाँच बजे बन्द होगी। तावेयुनी, गामेया तथा राम्बी में अट्ठारह साल से उपर के योग्य लोग *161# पर डायल करके अर्जी लगा सकते हैं जहाँ उन्हें यह सारी ज़रूरी जानकारियाँ देनी होंगी:

1. पूरा नाम

2. बर्थ रजिस्ट्रेशन नम्बर या सिटिज़नशिप नम्बर
3. जन्म की तारीख
4. टेक्स आइडेंटिफिकेशन नम्बर (TIN);
5. एफ एन पी एफ नम्बर
6. वोटा आ ए डी नम्बर
7. घर का पता
8. यह बताना होगा कि क्या अर्जी लगाने वाले को कोविड-19 की दोनों सुई लगी है (हाँ या नहीं)
9. अगर हाँ है तो बताए कि सुई कहाँ लगी
10. फीजियन सरकार को अनुमति दें कि अर्जी लगाने वाले के सुई लगने वाले कार्ड तथा सिम कार्ड के रजिस्ट्रेशन के विवरण पर गौर करें (हाँ या नहीं)
11. एक घोषणापत्र इसकी पुष्टि करने के लिए दें कि दी गई सारी जानकारियाँ सही हैं जिन लोगों की नौकरी पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ा तथा जिन्हें सरकार से अन्य तरह की सहायता मिलती है वे इस सहायता के हकदार नहीं हैं।

इनमें शामिल है:

1. सभी सरकारी कर्मचारी;
 2. प्रायवट सेक्टर और अन्य संस्थाओं में काम करने वाले जिनकी आमदनी पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ा था तथा पिछले एक महीने से जिनके एफ एन पी एफ में समान्य तौर से पैसे जमा हो रहे हैं;
 3. सभी लोग जो एफ एन पी एफ की पेंशन स्कीम के नीचे हैं;
 4. सभी छात्र जो टेशरी एडुकेशन लोन स्कीम तथा टोपस स्कोलाशिप पर हैं और उन्हें समान्य अलावन्स मिल रहा है;
 5. सौशल वेल्फेयर की सहायता पाने वाले;
 6. अट्ठारह साल से कम उम्र के लोग।
- यह ज़रूरी है कि अर्जी लगाने वाले लोग *161# डायल करने से पहले सभी ज़रूरी जानकारियाँ इकट्ठा कर लें। अधूरी अर्जियाँ तथा जिन अर्जियों पर गलत जानकारी होगी पर गौर नहीं किया जाएगा। एक व्यक्ति सिर्फ एक ही सिम कार्ड से एक ही

बार अर्जी लगा सकता है तथा सिम कार्ड उनके नाम पर रजिस्टर होना चाहिए। अर्जी लगाने वाले योग्य लोगों को कम से कम दो सुई लगी होनी चाहिए। सरकार की बेरोज़गार वाली सहायता से एक से ज्यादा बार फायदा उठाने की कोशिश करने वालों को भारी जुर्माना भरना पड़ सकता है। अर्जी लगाते समय सही और पूरी जानकारी देने वाले सफल लोगों को इस साल सात जुलाई से से पैमन्ट किया जाएगा। अर्थ-व्यवस्था मंत्रालय, वोडाफोन फीजी, डिजिटल, कोमुनिकेशन्स मंत्रालय, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय, विमन, चिलरन और पोवैटी अलेविएशन मंत्रालय, फीजी रेवन्यू एन्ड कस्टम्स सेविस, फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड तथा टेशरी स्कोलाशिप और लौन्स बोर्ड के साथ मिलकर अर्जियों पर गौर करके उन्हें परखेंगे। योग्य लोगों को आसानी से पैसे मिल जाए इसलिए सफल लोगों के एम-पैसा या माएकेश के अकाउन्ट में पैसे डाले जाएंगे।