

RFMF stands to fulfill their constitutional role to combat drug crisis



Story on page 3

TSLs helps students achieve dream careers



Story on page 7

Cultivating awareness around coffee production in Fiji



Story on page 13

New homes for 36 families “a life changing event”



A step for their brighter future, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with children from Lagilagi Housing in Suva. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By PRASHILA DEVI

THE Fiji Government’s drive to increase home ownership received a huge boost this week with the provision of 36 new homes costing \$2.2 million through the opening of Strata Units of the Lagilagi Housing Project. Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka called it “a life changing event” when he handed over the Public Rental Board (PRB) Lagilagi Flats Occupancy Offer Letters to 36 families from the Jittu Estate who will occupy the new strata units.

“The families will now enjoy security of tenure and in turn

improvement of their quality of life. The long-awaited journey of having a decent and affordable home is now a reality!” the Head of Government said.

He added that the onus was now on the 36 families to move forward, transcending social, economic and cultural boundaries and elevate their lives and contribute to a more resilient and equitable society.

PM Rabuka said that “housing markets worldwide are currently facing significant challenges. The surge in housing prices, driven by factors such as urbanisation, population growth, and geopolitical tensions, has created widespread uncertainty”.

He added that despite global

challenges, the Coalition Government remains steadfast in addressing housing shortages, particularly for low-income families, through projects like Lagilagi.

“This commitment is reflected in Government’s budgetary allocation for the 2024-2025 financial year. A total of \$32 million is earmarked for various housing initiatives, including social housing and projects aimed at providing accessible housing and mitigating the impacts of climate change,” the Head of Government highlighted.

For Shayal Prasad, whose husband has spent 23 years of his life at Jittu Estate squatter settlement, said they had almost giv-

en up hope of a proper house as their current dwelling was barely habitable.

“We tried to manage but that house we were living in had drainage issues and water blockage but after a while we were losing hope of ever being able to have a house in the new settlement,” Mrs Prasad explained.

“So, we moved out and started renting but as luck was on our side, one month after, we received a call from PRB.

“It is indeed a blessing and I am very much happy that the current Government is thinking about us,” the jubilant new resident of Lagilagi Housing said.

PM Rabuka said the Government was focused not only on

completing the Lagilagi Housing Project, but also on expanding affordable housing options for low-to middle income families across Fiji.

He added that the Minister for Housing, Maciu Nalumisa recently handed 13 offer letters to tenants of PRB flats to 12 tenants in Kalabu Jale Estate and one in Makoi Housing.

“Other offer letters were also provided to tenants from Nadera, Kalabu, Makoi, and other locations, further cementing our commitment to ensuring that all Fijians have access to safe and secure homes,” PM Rabuka said.

Addressing spike in HIV cases needs holistic support

By AZARIA FAREEN

IN light of the alarming spike in HIV cases in the country, the Ministry of Health has emphasised that it needs all hands-on deck.

“The Ministry of Health cannot do this alone - communities, civil society, faith-based organisations, private sector partners, and international allies must join us in raising awareness, reducing stigma, and ensuring everyone affected by HIV receives the care and support they need,” the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Doctor Atonio Lalabalavu highlighted.

Fiji has the second fastest growing HIV epidemic in the Asia and the Pacific region with reported cases having increased to nine-fold over the last five years.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in reporting the current status of HIV cases in Fiji, noted that prioritisation of HIV by the Government is critical for the entire Pacific and it is ready to offer coordinated and ongoing assistance to guarantee the

effectiveness of these strategies and safeguard the most at-risk populations.

The Regional Director of UNAIDS Asia Pacific and Eastern Europe Central Asia, Eamonn Murphy said that UNAIDS will continue to support the generation of strategic information, technical planning, program innovation and resource mobilization as Fiji implements short and longer-term plans to prevent new infections and ensure people living with HIV benefit from life-saving services.

The HIV Surge Strategy outlines approaches for Fiji to meet the targets set by the Global AIDS Strategy: ensuring that 95 per cent of individuals living with HIV know their status, 95 per cent of those diagnosed receive antiretroviral therapy, and 95 per cent of those under treatment achieve viral suppression.

Individuals who maintain viral suppression through consistent treatment and monitoring can lead normal, healthy lives, and a person with an undetectable viral load cannot transmit the virus through sexual activity. This principle is referred to as Undetectable equals Untransmittable (U=U).



Minister for Health and Services, Dr Atonio Lalabalavu at the the launch of the HIV Outbreak Response Plan and HIV Surge Strategy 2024-2027. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Collaborative approach needed to combat HIV: Health Ministry

By AZARIA FAREEN

THOSE who inject drugs and share used needles are 29 times more likely to contract the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

This was relayed by the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Atonio Lalabalavu, during the launch of the HIV Outbreak Response Plan and HIV Surge Strategy 2024-2027 recently.

Minister Lalabalavu revealed that Injecting Drug Use (IDU) was the primary mode of transmission for 223 out of 1093 new HIV cases reported between January and September last year.

“The HIV Outbreak Response Plan is a focused 90-day effort to fast-track immediate, high-impact interventions to contain the outbreak, while the HIV Surge Strategy 2024-2027, approved by the Cabinet in September last year, serves as our long-term roadmap for strengthening health systems to respond effectively to HIV,” Minister Lalabalavu said.

“Following 1093 new HIV cases recorded between January and September last year, Fiji met the definition for an outbreak of HIV nationally.”

“The 52 percent of the 1093 new cases reported are linked to care, among which

223 cases are mainly caused by IDU, 202 transmitted by sexual transmission, while an additional 129 cases are currently under evaluation to determine their primary transmission routes,” he added.

The ministry had revealed last year that ‘blue-toothing’ was one of the new means of sharing injectable drugs amongst users, involving an injecting IDU plunging a syringe of diluted methamphetamine into a bloodstream, drawing first blood and sharing the syringe with a second person, who can then pass it on to a third.

The Ministry has introduced targeted interventions to reduce new cases among injecting drug users, including harm reduction programs and greater accessibility to prevention services.

Minister Lalabalavu said the 90-Day Plan was designed to fast-track immediate, high-impact interventions in the battle against HIV, which was believed to be spurred by the current illicit drug epidemic in the country.

“This dual approach reflects immediate containment through the Outbreak Response Plan and long-term system strengthening through the Surge Strategy,” he said.

“It is essential to address the current crisis and build resilience against future challenges.”

RFMF stands to fulfill their constitutional role to combat drug crisis



Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs, Pio Tikoduadua during a press conference this week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fiji Government has taken a holistic approach to tackling the drug crisis, focusing not only on enforcement but also on prevention, education, and rehabilitation.

This was stressed by the Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs, Pio Tikoduadua, during an urgent press conference, following calls by the public for the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) to intervene directly in the fight against drugs.

“We are working to address the root causes that push individuals towards drugs, while also strengthening community resilience to prevent the proliferation of these harmful substances,” Minister Tikoduadua relayed.

“The drug crisis we are facing is complex and multi-faceted and it is important to recognise that this issue is not merely a law enforcement challenge but primarily a social issue with deep roots in our communities.”

“The rise in drug trafficking, production, and use is symptomatic of underlying societal problems, including poverty, unemployment, lack of education, family breakdowns, and inadequate access to health and rehabilitation services and simply increasing arrests or deploying armed forces will not solve these systemic issues,” he added.

Minister Tikoduadua highlighted that while this serious national issue reflects the frustration and urgency felt by many, he is providing reassurance that the RFMF stands ready to fulfil its constitutional duty.

“However, it must be emphasised that the military’s involvement in this matter will be in a supportive role, not as a primary actor, and only when all civilian-led mechanisms have been exhausted,” he said.

“The Police Force remains the lead agency in this fight and in the past year, we have boosted funding for law enforcement, offered specialized training for drug enforcement officers, and enhanced border security to curb the influx of illegal substances,” he added.

Minister Tikoduadua stated that these initiatives are already showing positive outcomes, however additional efforts are necessary and RFMF’s expertise, discipline, and resources could be mobilised in logistical support, intelligence sharing, or in national emergencies where additional manpower is required.

“Since taking office, this government has prioritised the fight against drugs through a combination of enforcement, prevention, and rehabilitation strategies including strengthening law enforcement, nationwide education campaigns, rehabilitation and support with community empowerment,” he said.

“The drug crisis is not a problem the government or the Police Force can solve alone – it is a challenge that requires the active involvement of every Fijian.”

“Let us work together—government, law enforcement, communities, and families—to build a safer, healthier, and more secure Fiji for all,” Minister Tikoduadua encouraged.

Widow thanks Government for \$200 cash assistance

By JAMIL SULEMAN

NADERA resident Sonia Prasad, 46, has expressed her gratitude to the government for the \$200 cash assistance program, which has been instrumental in supporting her child’s education.

Mrs Prasad, a mother of three, explained that this assistance has been a lifesaver for her family.

She said two of her children are married while her youngest will be attending year 12 this year at Rishikul High School.

“It has helped me significantly because I’m a widow and I have nowhere else to get my income and as a sickly person who stays at home, I have limited income,” Mrs Prasad said.

“The support has been invaluable for providing my child with books and other necessities.”

Mrs Prasad, who has received the assistance for the third consecutive year, emphasised the significance of the program, stressing that it has helped her provide for her child’s needs, especially after the passing of her husband in 2020.

She noted that the costliest items when purchasing for her child are the school bag and uniform, particularly the Rishikul school uniform.

“The Rishikul school uniform is particularly expensive, as are the shoes,” Mrs Prasad said.

“But with the assistance, I’ve been able to get everything my child needs for school.”

Mrs Prasad also offered advice to parents who have received the assistance but may not have used it wisely, urging them to prioritise their children’s needs and avoid misusing the funds on non-essential items.



Sonia Prasad, mother of four, doing back to school shopping has called on parents to use Government assistance wisely.
Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN

“They should prioritise their children’s needs, such as purchasing all necessary stationery and supplies,” she said.

“Misusing government assistance on non-essential items is detrimental, as it ultimately harms the children who will miss out on crucial school resources.”

In her recommendations for future assistance, Mrs Prasad suggested that the government monitor how the funds are spent to ensure they directly benefit the children.

She proposed tracking the use of funds at shops or bookstores to prevent misuse.

“I believe that if the government is providing financial support for students, they should monitor how those funds are spent,” Mrs Prasad elaborated.

“It’s important to track where parents are using the assistance, whether at shops or bookstores, to ensure it directly benefits the children.”

As the government continues to provide financial support for students, Mrs Prasad’s call for monitoring of funds serves as a reminder of the importance of responsible allocation of resources to ensure they reach those who need them the most.

Single mom grateful for Government’s Back To School Grant

By AZARIA FAREEN

ASINGLE mother of four has commended and called for the continuation of the Fiji Government’s assistance of the Back-to-School Support program.

Kelerayani Loco, 42-years-old, is a single parent raising four children. The youngest being Taniela who is in Year 7 at Naqali District School, in Naitasiri, Ana and Tarusila are twins and are attending Lomaivuna High School in Year 11, while the eldest of the sibling will be undertaking Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) at an institution this year.

Residing in Waivou in Rewa, Ms Loco said that she always does her children’s school shopping in Suva as it is convenient since she is able to find everything at one location.

“It has been difficult for me to meet all the needs of my children as I am a single mother and I don’t work,” Ms Loco said.

“The Fiji Government provides a lot of assistance to the people of Fiji and it has helped me and my kids to take advantage of its Back-

to-School Support program for this year.”

“With the Government’s timely initiative, I was able to receive \$200 each per child for my three children, which made my challenging time bearable,” she added.

“I want to say thank you to the Government for providing me with the monetary support to buy school items for my children,” Ms Loco acknowledged.

Ms Loco said that she had previously been the recipient of this program and has found the application process to be easy.

“This program should continue because it really helps the people living in the village, in particular, the single parents who are not able to make ends meet,” she urged.

The Back-to-School Support for the 2025 school year which was launched last year was achievable in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance.

The program was open to students enrolled in government-funded public schools and private schools, and aims to assist families earning a combined income of \$50,000.



L-R Taniela, Ana, Tarusila and Karolina doing their back to school shopping.
Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Back-To-School grant initiates healthy competition



Manager Shalendar Nand and his staff during the back to school sale at Meenoos Suva. Photo: PRASHANT SINGH

By AZARIA FAREEN

APPROXIMATELY \$41 million has been disbursed to 203,492 students as Back to School Support for the 2025 School year by the Ministry of Finance.

There were 200,176 students paid in the first batch on January 10, 2025 and 3,316

students were paid in the second batch on 20th January.

Manager textiles at Meenoos in Suva, Shalendra Nand, has commended this initiative of the Coalition Government and noted that this provides a great opportunity for businesses to attract customers.

“The Back to School Support grant has been very beneficial for parents as our sales are booming and it goes without saying that parents are using the grant money to do their children’s school shopping,” Mr Nand said.

“Since the grant was disbursed, we have had parents turn up at the store in crowds to buy a range of items such as school

uniforms, water bottles, lunch boxes, books and stationaries amongst other items.”

“In order to be part of a competition you have to provide good prices to your customers and currently we have better pricing than other shops in the country,” he added.

Mr Nand said that the main attraction of their shop is that it has the cheapest school books with their A4 200 pages books being sold for \$1.39 each.

“We have advertised this price on all our social media pages and have received a lot of positive feedback on it,” he said.

“We have 11 more outlets outside Suva and it has been only two years since we have been in operation here so we had to come up with ideas and competitive prices to get customers to shop with us.”

“We sell uniforms with monograms of 10 to 15 schools which is cheaper than other shops, however, it will take us about two years or more to cater uniforms of all the schools in Fiji,” Mr Nand relayed.

He noted that there has been a healthy competition in the market relating to back to school sales so far.

Students in classroom after two years of studying in tents

A remote island community has worked collaboratively with stakeholders and the Ministry of Education to ensure students who had been studying in tents for over two years now have roof over their heads, albeit temporarily.

Students of Yadua Village School off the coast of Bua province in the Northern Division now have a temporary classroom as they await the construction of new classrooms after the school was damaged in a cyclone.

The project, which was highlighted to the Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodro during his recent visit to the North, by the Divisional Education Officer will accommodate Years 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

The project was spearheaded by the school trustees, school management committee, villagers and the old scholars.

The funding for materials were as follows:

- Timber-supplied by the local landowners.
- Iron Roofing-given by Australian Aid (AusAid)
- 15 bags of nails were donated by Red Cross
- Chainsaw fuel and oil-funded by the old scholars
- Chainsaw blades, files and fuel for transportation of timber-funded by the teachers,
- Louvre blades and frames-funded by the Queen Victoria School old scholars (2001)

The classrooms were done to allow the students to be housed in proper classrooms rather than the tents which were both costly to be transported to and from Labasa.

This assistance comes as students await Government assistance which had been delayed due to lease issues.

(Source: Ministry of Education)



A parent sharing food with her children on the newly built porch of Yadua Village School. **Photo: SUPPLIED**



You are stepping closer towards to your dreams

By PRASHILA DEVI

AS students begin the 2025 school year this week, Minister for Education Aseri Radrodro reminded them that they are the heart of the education system.

“Each day as you take a step into the classroom, you take a step closer to realising and working towards your dreams,” Minister Radrodro said in his message for students starting the 2025 school year.

For parents and guardians who are invaluable partners in the success of children’s education, he added that the Ministry hopes the \$200 provided by Government assisted them in purchasing essential items for upcoming school year.

“I wish to assure all stakeholders that the Coalition Government will continue to provide free education grant, transport assistance and other forms of support as has been practised.”

Meanwhile, Minister Radrodro has also highlighted the Government’s intent to reinstate school chaplains.

“There are 11 chaplains and two deaconesses in the 13 Government schools and we will also provide funding for free education grant allocation to complement schools existing stipend for religious educators in the non-Government schools to assist with the spiritual, moral and psychological support and guidance to our students,” he explained.

In line with this decision, the induction program for 12 school chaplains and deaconesses appointed to serve in all government schools was held recently.

The program introduced the chaplains to the Ministry’s vision, policies, and their critical responsibilities in fostering students’ spiritual, emotional, and moral development.

Facilitated by various Ministry units, the sessions covered:

- Legal Requirements and Registration Processes
- Civil Service Code of Conduct and Performance Assessments
- National Curriculum Framework and Lesson Planning
- Child Protection and Behaviour Management Policies
- Basic Counselling and Psychosocial Support

Speaking at the program, Minister Radrodro highlighted chaplains were crucial in instilling discipline, moral values, and resilience among students, especially in addressing challenges such as substance abuse, mental health issues, and behavioural concerns.

Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodro at the Induction Program for School Chaplains held recently.
Photo: SUPPLIED

Discipline a vital aspect of education

WITH the new academic year beginning this week, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka is urging both parents and children to improve their discipline in managing their time more effectively.

Emphasising the need for collective action in children’s education, PM Rabuka said discipline, particularly in time management, was important.

“The most important thing that perhaps is lacking is discipline—our discipline, our own parenting discipline, and the children’s discipline, particularly discipline in the use of time.”

“A lot of the results that are coming out indicate that we are not disciplining ourselves and our children in the use of time for education.”

“I hope the parents will take advantage of the assistance they are receiving from the Government and also play their role in this collective responsibility in education for our children.”

Term One of the 2025 academic year begins tomorrow, with hundreds of students returning to school after a seven-week holiday.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Year 13 students to be assisted with \$200 back to school support this week

EIGHT thousand (8000) Year 13 students beginning their final year of secondary education tomorrow will be assisted with the \$200 Back to School support this week.

This was highlighted by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad.

Labelling the support as well-timed, DPM Prasad said more than \$100 million over three years had been paid so far through the initiative.

“Many parents have used these funds in a very productive way.”

“The feedback that we are getting from villages, from settlements, from everywhere, is how timely it is, how important it is, and how quickly it adds to the support that parents have right at the beginning of the school year, where children are going to school with properly equipped uniforms, sandals, bags, and lunch boxes.”

He emphasised that the initiative was part of the Coalition Government’s overall strategy to lift the burden of low-income families.

The Coalition Government has assisted more than 200,000 students through the Back to School Support this year.

(Source: Ministry of Finance)



Stay informed about consumer rights: Consumer Council



Consumer Council of Fiji chief executive officer, Seema Shandil in her office. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

By MAHEMA KHAN

AS FAMILIES in Fiji get ready for the new school year, the Consumer Council of Fiji is warning shoppers to be careful of misleading prices, fake products, and scams that often appear during the back-to-school rush.

Consumer Council chief executive officer, Seema Shandil, highlighted on the challenges parents and guardians are facing while shopping for school stationeries.

Mrs Shandil highlighted the surge in complaints regarding misleading advertisement, counterfeit school supplies and inflated prices.

“We’ve seen numerous instances where advertisements show one price, but consumers are charged more at the checkout and parents are also falling victim to low-quality products,” she said.

“Consumers must be careful of unethical sales tactics such as “conditional selling and remain assertive, and if you feel pressured, speak up, and don’t remain silent, because

businesses will take advantage of you.”

“We continue to monitor the market through regular surveillance, addressing unethical business practices and when violations are found, the Council works directly with traders to resolve the issue, issuing warnings when necessary,” Mrs Shandil addressed.

She also acknowledged that businesses face challenges, especially with price hikes due to some factors like inflation and supply chain disruptions.

Mrs Shandil added, “Businesses need to be transparent with consumers about price hikes”.

“Consumers shouldn’t be surprised by sudden price increases, and it’s essential

for businesses to communicate these changes clearly.”

“Our goal is to build trust between businesses and consumers. Without consumers, there is no business. Ethical practices are vital for long-term success.”

“The growing popularity of online shopping, especially among children and young adults is also concerning. While online shopping offers convenience, it also comes with risks like fake online stores and cyberattacks,” she warned.

“If you face any issues while shopping, call us at 155. Together, we can create a safer, more ethical shopping environment for all,” encouraged Mrs Shandil.



Consumer Council of Fiji chief executive officer, Seema Shandil with staff. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Concerns over proposed Repeal of ‘No-Repeat Policy’

By JAMIL SULEMAN

SCHOOL heads have raised concerns over the impact of repealing Fiji’s no-repeat policy.

This viewpoint was conveyed during the consultations by the Ministry of Education with stakeholders on the “no-repeat” policy earlier this month at the Suva Grammar High School, where the President of the Fiji Head Teachers Association, Johnson Rura, raised concerns about the potential impacts of repealing Fiji’s no-repeat policy, emphasising that attendance should be a critical factor in determining a student’s progression to the next learning stage.

Mr Rura urged the Ministry of Education to consider the social and emotional consequences of this policy change indicating that a high rate of absenteeism can lead to students repeating grades, which can ultimately result in

overcrowding in classrooms.

“The ongoing challenges of the current student-teacher ratio, would remain unchanged, increasing existing social issues.”

“Increased class sizes can lead to behavioural problems, including bullying. This will not only amplify the workload for teachers but also hinder their ability to deliver effective lessons,” he stated.

Mr Rura also highlighted that emotional well-being was also a concern, stressing that repeat students can face the possibility of low self-esteem and demoralisation.

“It is essential to recognise the emotional toll this policy could take on our children,” he added.

To address these challenges, Mr Rura proposed several solutions, including a requirement of at least 75 per cent attendance for students to be eligible for advancement.

He also called for a review of the student-teacher ratio and suggested assigning at least one remedial teacher to each school to support classroom educators.

Mr Rura further recommended the establishment of standardised monitoring

criteria for all grades, from Year 1 to Year 12, indicating that the Ministry should supply schools with the necessary tools to assess both academic progress and emotional impacts on students.

Additionally, he asserted the need for revising assessment criteria to include non-academic subjects, advocating for the implementation of standardised assessments across schools to ensure equity and eliminate favouritism.



Stakeholders at the “no-repeat” policy consultation by the Ministry of Education earlier this month at the Suva Grammar High School. Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN

Minister presents challenges faced due to automatic progression

By PRASHILA DEVI

THE Ministry of Education’s objective of repealing automatic progression from the education system is to ensure that students achieve the learning outcomes and competencies of a particular level before advancing to the next academic level.

The Minister, Aseri Radrodro, in saying this during the National Consultation on Repealing of Automatic Progression in schools recently, highlighted the many

challenges brought about by automatic progression.

“Underprepared students who have not mastered the foundational knowledge and skills of their current grade are promoted to the next grade. This results in learning gaps which accumulate over time, thus the

low examination performance of students,” Minister Radrodro said.

He explained that the students who are not adequately prepared for these exams struggle to perform which impact the national standards.

“Automatic Progression has created a culture of complacency amongst students, teachers and parents. Students may not feel the need to put in the required effort to achieve academic excellence, as their promotion to the next grade is guaranteed regardless of their academic performance.”

Elaborating further, Minister Radrodro said the statistics

for external examination results have plummeted and fluctuate to below 70 per cent and 80 per cent over the past five years.

“Teachers face the challenge of addressing significant learning gaps in students who are automatically promoted despite lacking the necessary skills.”

He told the stakeholders at the consultation, “Your voices are critical, as this initiative is not just an administrative exercise but it is a transformative process that will shape the future of education and development in Fiji”.

“Through these consultations, we aim to develop a system that enhances the quality and standards of progression of our students. By benchmarking against international best practices and integrating feedback from stakeholders, we can create a system that is both world-class and tailored to our unique context.”

Minister Radrodro said by providing relevant skills, relevant knowledge, and appropriate assessment tools the students will be bound to progress as this will not only enhance employability but will also nurture a culture of entrepreneurship and self-independence.

TSLS helps students achieve dream careers

TERTIARY education is key to having a learned and skilled workforce but for many in Fiji it is a distant dream due to the cost attached. In Fiji, the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLS) has played an instrumental role in helping the young minds of the nation realise their dreams. The Ministry of Information caught up with TSLS chief executive officer, Dr Hasmukh Lal to elaborate on the plans and programmes of TSLS.

Ministry of Information (MINFO): Could you please give us briefly the scholarship available for students and what are some of the changes that have come about after the waiver of loans by the Coalition Government?

Dr Hasmukh Lal: The Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLS) offers the following:

- 12 schemes of scholarships
- 1 study loan scheme
- 3 schemes of study grants (Micro Qualification/Competency Based Training Scheme, Graduate Business Start Up Scheme & Apprenticeship Scheme)

These programmes are designed to support Fiji citizens in pursuing tertiary and skills education.

Changes Following the Loan Waiver by the Coalition Government:

In July 2023, the Fiji Parliament approved the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment) Act 2023, which introduced significant changes relating to forgiving of the Tertiary Education Loans Scheme (TELS) debt:

- Conversion of Loans to Bonds: All outstanding TELS debts, excluding those under the In-Service Scheme, were converted into bond agreements as of July 31, 2023.

This means that instead of repaying their loans financially, graduates are now required to serve the country through paid employment in either the public or private sector. A total of \$650 million TELS debt was converted into Bond and this benefited 53,725 students.

- Overseas residents to pay: All graduates who were residing overseas prior to 1st August 2023 and had outstanding TELS Debt, were required to continue with repayment and repay in full. Bond Service were only available to those working in Fiji

and providing service to the country.

Also, a number of policy changes were announced in the 2024-2025 Budget by the Coalition

Government. The changes reflected in the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget

Amendment) Act 2024 include:

- Transfer role of bond monitoring & travel clearance: The bond monitoring and travel release role has been shifted from FRCS to TSLS.

- Up to 50 per cent penalty on non-served bond: Reinstatement of penalty for not serving the required bond period. The penalty is minimum of 10 per cent and the maximum of 50 per cent. The penalty has been reintroduced to discourage graduates from making payment arrangements on bond repayment. Instead, they are encouraged to provide the required service to the country.

- Obtaining of student employment records: Graduates who have studied on Government Scholarships are required to submit their employment records to TSLS once they are employed. This will be important for future scholarship planning and investment and for bond monitoring purposes.

- Addition of New Programmes for funding: Adding new programmes for funding will ensure that TSLS effectively carry out resource and employability checks with the institution and potential employers.

- Reporting on “At Risk” or academically poor performing sponsored students: “At Risk” students are those that fail assignments and assessments from the beginning of the semester. Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs) are encouraged and required to provide reports on At Risk students on a regular basis.

- Providing False scholarship information to students: TEIs are prohibited from disclosing or sharing false scholarship information to students.

- Increase of bond service requirement: For students on overseas scholarships from 1.5 times the duration of study to 2.5 times the duration of study.

- No more repayment arrangement for graduates to work and repay from overseas: Those graduates who do not wish to complete the required bond service are required to repay the remaining balance

with penalty. They can make arrangements with their overseas employer to clear full payment and graduates can repay to their overseas employer.

- Bond Service Period: The required service period is calculated by multiplying the years of study by 1.5 for local sponsored students and 2.5 for overseas sponsored students.

- Overseas Residents: Graduates residing overseas are still required to repay their loans. If they fail to do so, the pending debts will be recovered from their approved guarantors.

MINFO: What are the main focus areas when handing out scholarships?

Dr Lal: TSLS offers scholarships that are in national priority areas as follows:

- Engineering Services
- Medical & Health Services
- Agricultural, Forestry & Fisheries
- Information Technology Services
- Business & Commerce
- Arts
- Social Work
- Science & Innovation
- Land/Town Planning
- Education
- Hotel & Tourism

Earlier, the Fiji Government initiated an assignment (Human Capital Development Plan) and The Tertiary Scholarship & Loans Service (TSLS), mandated by Act to administer scholarships and study loans, was tasked to coordinate this review work.

- Some of the findings from this assignment are as follows:

- Focus on TVET and Skilled Trades: Prioritise investment in Fiji Qualification Framework (FQF) levels 3–6 programmes (trade and technician-level skills) to address workforce shortages and reduce overemphasis on degree programmes.

- Revitalisation of the TVET Sector: Rebuild the TVET system with industry collaboration and establish industry-led programmes to ensure relevant, practical, and recognised training.

- Scholarship and Funding Realignment: Reallocate TSLS funding to focus on TVET programmes and short-term micro-credentialing initiatives tied to local industry needs.

- Programme relevance and modernisation:

Align education programmes with the Fiji economy’s specific needs, emphasising practical skills in engineering, healthcare, and education over general degree programs.

- Enhanced Selection Criteria for Scholarships:

Improve scholarship selection criteria to ensure fairness and higher completion rates, incorporating merit-based and equity-based approaches.

MINFO: Is TSLS reaching out to the employers and other stakeholders to help address the issue of skills shortage?

Dr Lal: Yes, the TSLS is actively collaborating with employers and other stakeholders to address the nation’s skills shortage.

Recognising the critical need for a skilled workforce, TSLS has implemented several initiatives such as:

Employer Connect Framework: Launched in June 2023, this framework facilitates partnerships between TSLS-sponsored students and employers. It allows students to work part-time for up to 20 hours per week, providing them with valuable work experience and helping employers mitigate labor shortages. Students must seek approval from TSLS and adhere to specific guidelines to ensure their academic performance remains unaffected.

Collaboration with Professional Bodies: TSLS has established partnerships with industry associations to align academic programmes with industry needs.

For example, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Fiji Institute of Chartered Accountants (FICA) focuses on developing the accounting profession. This collaboration includes industry mentoring for TSLS-sponsored accounting students and aligning scholarship allocations with the evolving demands of the profession.

Human Capital Development Plan: TSLS has developed a comprehensive plan to address skill shortages in Fiji’s labour market. The plan emphasises the need for partnerships between educational institutions and industries to ensure that programmes are relevant and meet the demands of the Fiji economy. It also highlights the importance of work-integrated learning and industry placements to enhance the quality of education and better prepare students for the workforce.

MINFO: Please explain the assistance for students with special needs?

Dr Lal: Since the inception of TSLS in 2014, there has been allocation of scholarships each year for students with special needs. TSLS works very closely with the national Council for Persons with Disability towards creating awareness for the students and also with respect to applications and assessments. For this academic year, a total of 20 awards have been allocated for students with special needs.



(From L-R) Ministry of iTaukei Affairs deputy secretary, Jone Vakamocea, TSLS CEO, Dr Hasmukh Lal, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs permanent secretary, Pita Tagicakirewa, TSLS deputy board chair, Dr. Penuel Immanuel with the chair of Great Council of Chiefs, Ratu Viliame Seruvakula, recently met to discuss possible collaboration on information sharing and working out solutions to create pathways and more access for tertiary studies, including for rural and maritime students.

Photo: SUPPLIED



New Cabinet Ministers and Assistant Ministers sworn-in



Three new Cabinet Ministers and four Assistant Ministers were sworn into office at the State House earlier this month.

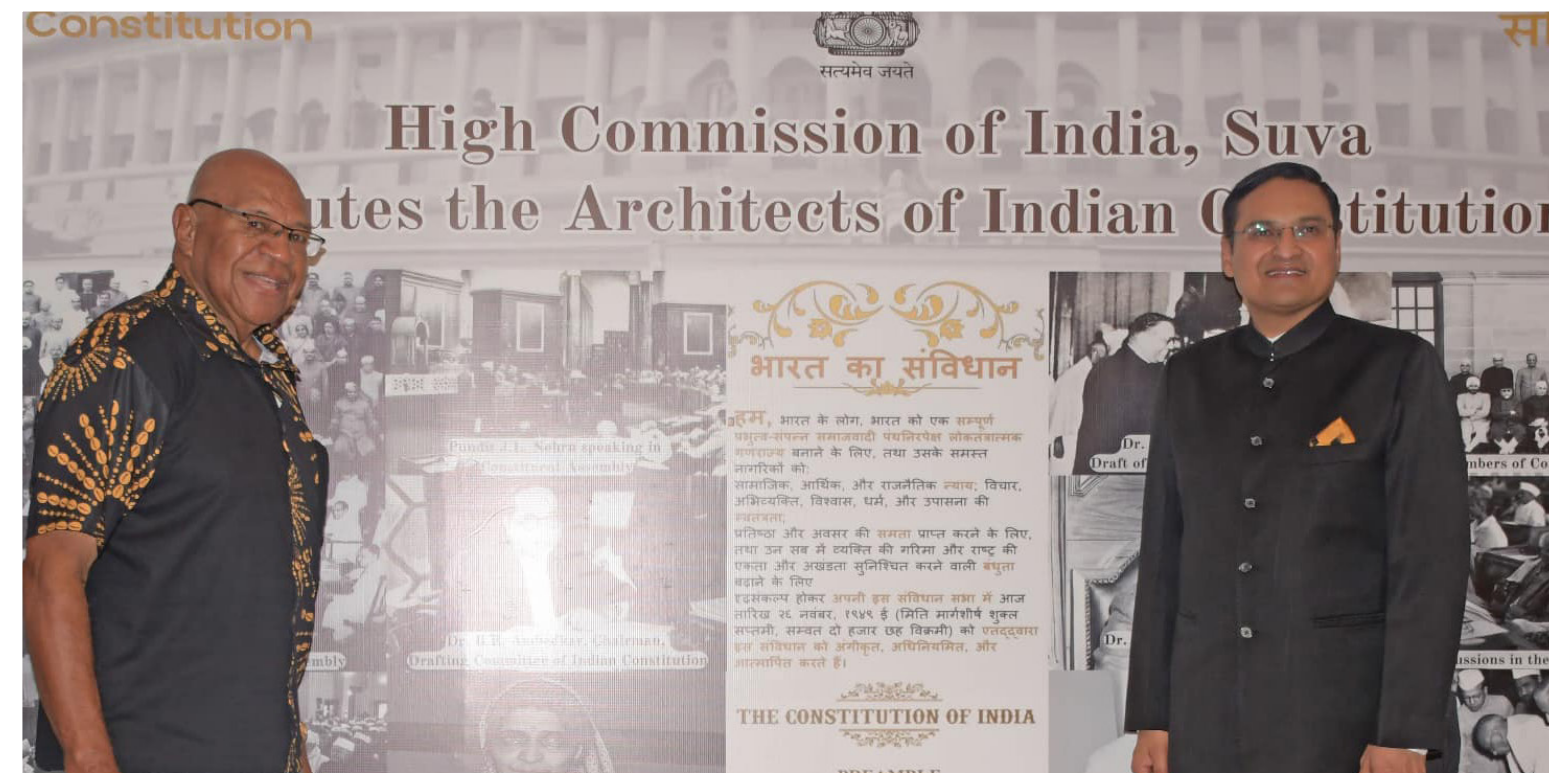
The Members of Parliament took their oaths of office before His Excellency the President, Turaga Bale Tui Cakau, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu and have assumed office following the swearing in ceremony.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by the families of the new ministers and assistant ministers, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, Deputy Prime Ministers and other Cabinet Ministers.

Photos: AZARIA FAREEN and NANISE NEIMILA



PM Rabuka attends 76th Republic Day of India



Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka attended the 76th Republic Day of India at Suva's Grand Pacific Hotel recently. The event celebrated India's cultural ethnic diversity, among other important achievements.

In raising a toast to celebrate the auspicious occasion on behalf of the Government and the people of Fiji, Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Chief of Protocol, Ms Kiti Temo highlighted that Fiji and India share a longstanding relationship which is founded on mutual understanding, respect for each other's sovereignty, common development and shared prosperity.



DPM Prasad opens Nausori Plaza, celebrates Chinese New Year

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, Biman Prasad, recently opened a \$30 million Nausori Plaza - a modern commercial complex marking a significant milestone in Nausori's pursuit of economic development and urban revitalisation. This coincided with the Chinese New Year celebrations, where DPM Prasad acknowledged the profound contributions of the Chinese community in Fiji.

DPM Prasad highlighted their role in advancing businesses, agriculture, and new industries, underscoring their enduring legacy in shaping Fiji's society.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Concerted efforts to address drainage works and maintenance of structures

THE maintenance of drainage structures is fairly important hence the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways has started works in various drainage schemes across the Western Division. Flood gates and flap gates maintenance is carried out effectively to prevent flooding during heavy rains. These flood gates and flap gates play a critical role in controlling the flow of water and protecting surrounding areas from potential damage.

By keeping them in good condition, the Ministry is helping to mitigate the risks associated with natural disasters and ensure the safety of local communities. Regular inspections and repairs are key to maintaining the efficiency of these systems and ensuring they operate as intended when needed most.

Continuing his visit in the Western Division, Minister for Agriculture and Waterways, Vatimi Rayalu saw firsthand the various works that have been implemented so far by the Western Division Drainage Board and the Waterways Division.

Progress has been steady with works addressing critical desilting of drains

in the scheme drains as well as the maintenance of outfall structures.

To date the completed drainage schemes are:

- Maro, Sigatoka- total length desilted: 2564 linear metres which will directly benefit 50 households and 25 farmers.
- Lomawai, Sigatoka- total length desilted: 16,207.5 linear metres directly benefiting 30 farmers.
- Navatu, Ba- total length desilted: 7,615.4 linear metres directly benefitting 24 farmers
- Raviravi, Ba- total length desilted: 2,784.1 linear metres benefitting 10 farmers.

Ongoing desilting works at drainage schemes:

- Nabuna Scheme
- Drasa Scheme
- Solovi Scheme

There are ongoing maintenance works to damaged flood and flap gates in Lovu, Drasa, Sarava, Maqalevu, Lomolomo and Penang schemes.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways)



Minister for Agriculture and Waterways, Vatimi Rayalu, on an on-site visit to see firsthand the various projects that have been implemented so far by the Western Division Drainage Board and Waterways Division. Photo: SUPPLIED

Health Minister visits health facilities in the Western Division



Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Atonio Lalabalavu, during his visit to health facilities in the Western Division. Photo SUPPLIED

THE Minister for Health and Medical Services, Atonio Lalabalavu recently visited health care facilities in the rural Western Division to assess the conditions of health facilities in the interiors and to look for solutions to the challenges faced by local healthcare staff in delivering essential services.

The areas visited by Minister Lalabalavu and his team were the Bukuya, Nanoko, Nagatagata, Nadrau, and Nadarivatu health care centres.

“The purpose of the visit is to see firsthand the state of the infrastructure, talk with the staff who work in those health facilities, and assess both the inside and outside of the facilities. Our role is to ensure that the infrastructure is in good shape and conducive to a working environment,” he

explained.

Minister Lalabalavu noted that discussions with healthcare workers indicated that transportation emerged as a significant concern and acknowledged the vital need for improved transportation for staff operating in remote areas.

“Travelling through the terrain is challenging, and they requested some form of vehicle, especially one that is suitable for this terrain.”

“I support this request, and it is the responsibility of the ministry to see how best we can provide our staff working in these difficult environments with the necessary support, particularly in terms of transportation.”

The Health Minister added that another pressing issue highlighted was the need for adequate and clean water supply

and issues with human resources and urged communities to take ownership of their health centres as it is for the community.

“I emphasised to them the importance of a sense of ownership and responsibility. They have a responsibility to look after the facility. If they are willing to help in terms of cleaning the compound or maintaining the facility, that would be beneficial.”

Concluding his visit, the Minister stressed that the Government would do its best to

improve infrastructure, ensure that medicines and consumables are available on time, and provide remuneration.

“We aim for the facilities you work in to be usable and livable, with good running water, electricity, and essential communications and connectivity.”

(Source: Ministry of Health and Medical Services)



Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services, Penioni Ravunawa, with a nurse during the visit to medical facilities in the Western Division. Photo SUPPLIED

Letter of Agreement with FAO on plant genetic resource for food and agriculture project

CABINET has endorsed a Letter of Agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to fund a Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) project that is expected to benefit 100 farmers in Malolo and Yasawa, Fiji.

The project sites are 20 villages from Malolo District in the Nadroga Province and Viwa District, Waya District, Naviti District, Nacula District and Yasawa District in the Ba Province.

Limited access to diverse plant materials, resources, knowledge, research and value adding support on some indigenous and introduced plant genetic materials are common challenges identified by the targeted 100 farmers from the respective 20 communities in Yasawa and Malolo Group.

This has resulted in farmers continuing to propagate few crops which are commodity and economic driven, resulting in genetic erosion of local varieties, loss of plant/insect biodiversity and species interaction, loss of traditional ecological knowledge and ecosystem functions, increased food and nutrition insecurities as well as reduced productivity and resilience to various external and internal shocks.

The main outcome of the project is livelihoods improved for these small-scale farmers through the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

(Source: Cabinet Office)

1



Cultivating awareness around coffee production in Fiji

By NANISE NEIMILA

IN the lush valleys and rugged hills of Fiji, coffee grows in abundance—often wild and untapped. However, as with many untapped resources, the richness of this natural resource is yet to be fully realised for its value by many communities, both as a source of income and as a cornerstone of sustainable agriculture. According to Maikeli Dennis, a coffee producer and managing director of the South Pacific Coffee Company, the challenge lies not in the lack of raw material but in the lack of awareness and organisation around coffee harvesting.

“There’s a lot of coffee, but not enough people picking it, we need to educate communities on setting harvest schedules and understanding the long-term value of coffee farming.” One of the key steps in maximising Fiji’s coffee potential is proper harvesting practices. “Coffee plants here are cultivated to be about two-and-a-half meters tall, and with proper care, they can produce coffee for 30 to 40 years. By organising set harvesting times over the next eight to 10 weeks, farmers can ensure that only ripe coffee cherries are picked, leading to better-quality beans.” “To further support farmers, efforts

are being made to promote sustainable farming practices and educate communities on the economic benefits of coffee cultivation. These crops have the potential to provide multi-generational income, unlike short-term crops that require frequent replanting and harvesting.” Mr Dennis shared that the journey of South Pacific Coffee Company has been bolstered by invaluable government support. In 2021, the company received \$55,000 through the National Export Strategy (NES) program, which allowed them to purchase machines to process beans from remote communities. This funding was a game-changer, enabling the company to invest in equipment and logistics needed to bring wild coffee to market. “We are incredibly grateful for the assistance provided by the government. It’s not just about the financial support—it’s about the trust they’ve placed in us to make this industry thrive. With their help, we’ve been able to connect with more farmers, reduce the import bill and contribute to Fiji’s economy”, Mr Dennis said. The company also hopes to strengthen collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture to further research and promote best practices in coffee cultivation. “There’s so much potential here, the support we’ve received has inspired us

to aim higher and ensure this industry becomes a sustainable livelihood for many communities.” The journey of coffee beans from wild trees to supermarket shelves is meticulous. After harvest, beans are processed at pulping stations, dried, hulled, and sorted before roasting. The company ensures that only the best beans make it into cafes and cold brews. Mr Dennis adds that by partnering with communities in Ra, Sigatoka, Navosa, and Draiba, the company supports local farmers in improving husbandry practices. “These partnerships are not only about business but also about building sustainable relationships”. In addition to growing the coffee industry, the company is committed to community development. “Collaborations with Fiji Cancer provide medical check-ups to remote villages, ensuring that the coffee-growing regions benefit from social programs.” Both Mr Dennis and his father believe in the vast potential of Fiji’s coffee industry. “If you have wild coffee, we can buy it, look after your plants—they have the potential to sustain generations.” Coffee is not just a beverage—it’s an opportunity for communities to thrive in.



Maikeli Dennis, a coffee producer and managing director of the South Pacific Coffee Company. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



Maikeli Dennis, a coffee producer and managing director of the South Pacific Coffee Company, explains the process of extracting coffee from the beans. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

A journey of hope and dedication: Dr Fifita’s path to becoming a doctor

By NANISE NEIMILA

FOR Doctor Fifita Niulevu, the journey from her small island home of Naroi, Moala, to becoming a doctor was filled with challenges, sacrifices, and blessings. Now a proud medical officer serving her community, Dr Niulevu’s story is one of resilience and determination. “When I was growing up in Moala, I always dreamt of becoming a doctor. But back then, I didn’t know how I could make it happen,” she recalls. After completing her primary and secondary education in Naroi, she moved to Suva to finish Year 13 at Jai Narayan College, where she learnt about the scholarships offered by the Government, which supports students pursuing higher education. “I had already applied for TELS (Tertiary Education Loan Scheme), but my mum encouraged me to apply for

TOPPERS. I didn’t think I’d get it, as the applications had already closed, but I decided to give it a try,” she says. “Out of so many applicants, I was chosen. That moment changed my life. I knew my parents couldn’t afford the fees, and this scholarship felt like a blessing from God.” Dr Niulevu began her medical studies at the University of Fiji, but her journey was far from easy. During her six years of study, she became a mother of two and faced heartbreaking loss when her sister passed away in her third year. “Losing my sister was one of the hardest times for me. I almost gave up. But I kept reminding myself why I started this journey—for my family and my community.” Her father, a police officer, also made significant sacrifices to support her journey. “My dad transferred to Suva to help me; he gave up so much so I could follow my dream. I’ll always be grateful to him and my mum for their prayers and encouragement.” Dr Niulevu credits the government scholarship for easing her financial burdens. It covered her tuition fees, as well as allowances for rent and food. “If it wasn’t for the scholarship, I don’t think I could have made it. It gave me the opportunity to focus on my studies and keep going, even when things got tough.” Now working as a medical officer in Naroi, Dr Niulevu feels privileged to serve in her island community. “I never imagined I’d have the chance to work as a doctor on the island where I grew up. I’m here to give back to the people who raised me.” Her journey has taught her the value of hard work, faith and perseverance.



Dr Fifita Niulevu during a community outreach at Cakova village, Moala, Lau. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

“I’ve always believed in giving your best in everything you do. Work hard, trust in God, and never give up, no matter how tough things get,” she says.
“Opportunities like the TOPPERS scholarship can truly change your life. If you get the chance, take it. Put in the effort, and you’ll be amazed at what you can achieve.”

A dairy dream realised

Ali the milkman

FROM the window sills of a classroom at Koroqqa Primary School in Baulevu, Naitasiri, a young schoolboy, Tasweed Ali, nurtured a dream of becoming a successful dairy farmer.

As his peers leaned towards white and blue-collar jobs, young Tasweed’s passion for farming never wavered.

Growing up, he fondly recalls watching his father, Sahid Ali, tending to the cows in the dairy farm just beyond the classroom.

“Our farm was right there, and I would see my father milking cows and taking them to graze. Those moments shaped my desire to help him,” Mr Ali said with a smile.

As an only child, his daily routine involved grazing the cows’ morning and evening and balancing chores with schoolwork.

The family later moved to a 42-acre piece of land to establish their own dairy farm with support from extended family, starting with just 20 milking cows.

Despite his father’s hopes for him to attend university, Mr Ali’s heart was set on farming.

“Seeing my father work tirelessly softened my heart to support him,” he shared.

After his father’s passing in 2021, Mr Ali stepped up to manage the farm with the assistance of his mother, Nazreen

Begum, and his wife, Zynah Nisha.

“I had to quickly learn the ins and outs of the business—everything from paperwork to feed purchasing. That’s when I truly became a farmer,” he reflected.

Under Mr Ali’s care, the farm’s stock grew from 20 to 60 cows, with daily milking sessions at 4:30am and 3pm.

This dedicated routine yields an average of 230 litres of milk per day which is supplied to Fiji Dairy Limited.

“It’s a family effort; my wife and a labourer help make milking manageable,” he said.

Despite the challenges of dairy farming, including dog attacks and changing weather patterns, Mr Ali remains optimistic.

“We lost 10 cows during the 2010 floods, and we’ve had recent issues with wild dogs attacking calves,” he explained.

“But we’re working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways to address these problems.”

Mr Ali has also benefited from the Dairy Extension Program, which provided crucial improvements to pastures and dairy shed management.

“With their help, I’ve planted better grass and improved our feeding techniques. It has made a significant difference,”



Tasweed cleaning the cows udder before milking. Photo: SUPPLIED

he noted.

His message to aspiring farmers is clear.

“Farming is hard work, but it brings fulfilment. Don’t be ashamed of wanting to be a farmer; find joy in your unique talents.”

“Always prioritise hygiene and animal welfare,” Mr Ali advised, echoing the care he has for his cows. “Treat them like family.”

Through perseverance and a deep-rooted passion for dairy farming, this hardworking farmer from Naitasiri, embodies the spirit of resilience and dedication, transforming childhood dreams into a thriving reality.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways)

From tourism

to goat

farming in

Balata, Tavua

IN the lush landscapes of Balata, Tavua, the story of Zabeen Khan unfolds—a story of resilience, passion, and remarkable transformation.

Ms Khan, a professional from the tourism industry who turned into a rookie farmer, embarked on her journey into goat farming three years ago.

Today, she stands proud, having successfully expanded her stock from 10 goats to an impressive 120.

“Every day I see the benefits of farming and my progress is wholesome because I have my family supporting me every day on the farm,” Ms Khan says.

The transition into goat farming wasn’t easy, especially for a woman. At her age, she initially doubted if this was the right move for her. However, once she got into it, it felt magical.

Her love for animals and her natural ability to bond with them made the transition smoother. Ms Khan’s journey into farming began at the end of the COVID-19 pandemic when job opportunities in the tourism industry dwindled.

With a wealth of experience in tourism and a new life in Tavua, she faced limited work opportunities. After numerous discussions with her husband, they decided to start with their 10 goats and see where it would lead.

As the number of goats grew from 10 to 20, then to 40 and 60, they realised the potential of their farm.

They applied for a grant and were fortunate to receive a semi-commercial goat rearing shed package, under the 2023/2024 Commercial Agriculture Development Program (CADP) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways.

“This shed has brought numerous advantages, reducing the number of sick goats to zero and providing shelter during the rainy season, it is even hurricane-proof, ensuring the safety of our goats,” she said.

Ms Khan’s farm thrives on innovation and futuristic thinking. They implemented a unique brush system allowing the goats to scratch their bodies and keep them clean.

They also ensured a continuous water supply in the shed, giving the goats access to water 24/7 and a CCTV camera installed. Additionally, they introduced a supplementary feeding system, mixing mill mix and copra with water to provide the goats with essential nutrients not found in grass. Natural-based medications are also used to manage worms and other health issues.

Her story is a testament to the power of perseverance, innovation, and the willingness to embrace change and her advice to young farmers is simple yet profound.

“Take a day at a time and



Zabeen Khan at the farm in Balata, Tavua. (inset) Mrs Khan with her husband. Photo: SUPPLIED

see what works out for you. There is no embarrassment in today’s farming age. It is good money and respectable, and you are your own boss.”

Throughout their journey, Ms Khan and her family have received invaluable support from the Animal Health and Production staff in Rakiraki who are always there when needed.

This sense of cooperation has been instrumental in their success.

Ms Khan hopes that her story will eventually grab the attention of community groups or individual members who are having second thoughts about goat farming.

“If goat farming is something that you hope to venture into, please do so but if you feel you have a calling elsewhere like crops and other livestock, try it out as well. You must unleash the potential that you have and just keep moving ahead. There will be setbacks, but continue to forge on!”

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways)



Kiribati President's visit underscores need for united voice for the Pacific



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with the President of Kiribati, Taneti Maamau on his right and senior officials of the Fiji and Kiribati Government following a bilateral meeting. Photo: SUPPLIED

By PRASHILA DEVI and WANSHIKA KUMAR

Fiji and Kiribati have agreed to present a unified voice in the face of “pressing global challenges such as climate change and evolving geopolitics”. This as the President of Kiribati, Taneti Maamau, made a state visit to Fiji and held a number of meetings where the “deep historical and cultural ties, strong people-to-people links, mutual respect and a shared understanding of our regional priorities and development aspirations” was at the heart of discussions.

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, who held a bilateral meeting with President Maamau, elaborated on the Ocean of Peace declaration which will be considered at the upcoming Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in September in Solomon Islands this year. The unique initiative will be the Pacific’s contribution towards global peace and security.

Also discussed was the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Development Cooperation was at the top of the agenda.

The leaders agreed to renew the MOU which is currently under consultation, and it will reinforce the strong foundation for the years ahead, through strategic partnership that advances the social and economic priorities that are at the heart of the renewed cooperation.

President Maamau extended his heartfelt appreciation to Prime Minister Rabuka and the Fiji Government senior officials for the productive discussions on building a stronger foundation for future cooperation that will benefit both nations, and the broader Pacific family. Meanwhile, President Maamau, after being accorded the traditional welcome ceremony at the start of his three-day visit to Fiji, highlighted that the Pacific Islands, despite the diverse and distinct ways of life, are bound together like a family through their rich and vibrant cultures.

“As I watched, I said how blessed we are, especially in the Pacific, so far away from the complexities of the modern world where most of the technologies and the changes are happening,” he said. “But we are so proud, and I am very proud that the Fijian culture is still intact in terms of these external influences. He said the traditional welcome ceremony was a testament of rich Pacific culture which was evident in the love and the kindness of the Fijian people. “Well, today’s ceremony is a testament of the Pacific spirit of unity and solidarity,

which is particularly the distinctiveness of the Fijian culture, which I greatly appreciate and admire.” President Maamau’s four-day visit to Fiji strengthens Fiji-Kiribati relations and further deepens the foundation for future cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two nations and the broader Pacific family.

He was hosted to a State banquet by Fiji’s President, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu. The state visit concluded on January 30, 2025.



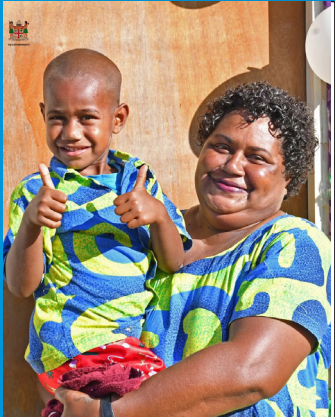
The President of Kiribati, Taneti Maamau being garlanded with Fiji’s Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka during the traditional welcoming ceremony at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva this week. Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN

Noda Viti

Vakaraubuka, 31 ni Janueri, 2025 | 8 Drauniveva, 1 Tabana 16 ni Lavelave ni Ivola

DUA NAI NUINUI LEVU VEI KEITOU VAKAVEITINANI

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 3



NA BIBI NI SOLESOLEVAKI

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 6



iVAKASO NI WAI VOU E NABOUWALU



Nai liuliu ni Matanitu o Hon Sitiveni Rabuka kei ira nai vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Wai ena Vualiku ni oti na kena mai dola nai vakaso ni wai e Nabouwalu. TABA:Fiji Government

Ena Vualiku ni noda vanua e laurai ni sega ni levu na veivakatoroicaketaki e vakayacori kina ka sa cavu I kalawa na Matanitu Cokovata ena gaunisala ni kena yadravi na veiqaravi ena Vualiku ka usutu levu tiko ga ni nodra qaravi ka vakacegui na lewenivanua.

Lako curumi e vica na yabaki ena vuku ni kena vakaleqai na vakadrodroi ni wai ia era sana rawa ni vakila na lewe 3000 na lewenivanua e Nabouwalu kei na veivanua volekata sana rawa ni ra vakayagataka na wainigunu savasava ni oti nodra mai dolava nai liuliu ni Matanitu o Hon .Sitiveni Rabuka nai vakaso ni wai vou e Nabouwalu.

Na veivakatorocaketaki oqo e tekivuna mai na matanitu sa oti ni bera ni mai vakacavara na Matanitu Cokovata ena kena sagai me ra vakayagataka na lewenivanua kei na veitikotiko na wainigunu savasava.

“Nai Tuvavtuvia ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ni Matanitu ni 2025-2029 kei na Raivotu ni 2050, na kja e sa tuvanaka na Matanitu Cokovata ena kena

yadravi ni kawa Itaukei kece e dodonu mera vakayagataka na wainigunu savasava, vakabibib nai tikotiko oqo e Nabouwalu”.

“Na Matanitu e sega walega ni raici ira na tiko ena veitaoni kei na veikoro lelevu, ia e vakarabailevutaka na nona veiqaravi ena kena vakatoroicaketaki na lewenivanua kece sara, me vaka ni nona i tavi na matanitu me raica na nodra tiko vinaka na kawa Itaukei”

Na tuvatuva ni veiqaravi oqo e rauta ni \$5.4 na milioni na kena I sau vakailavo ka se tekivutaka mai na Matanitu sa oti, ni bera ni mai vakacavara na Matanitu Cokovata , e rauta ni 2 2-million-litre Packaged Water Treatment Plant, a 1-megalitre reservoir (264,172 gallons),vakavinakataki na paipo ni wai, kena tabana vakalivaliva ka vaka kina idini ka sa laurai nisa veiqaravi sara tiko ga ena gauna oqo.

E vakavinavnakataka o Hon Rabuka na veiqaravi cecekie esa ,mai vakayacora rawa na matanitu sa sivi, ena kena tekivutaki na cakacaka oqo ka na tokona sra vakalevu ka vukea takega na valenibula e Nabouwlu, Tabana ni

Bokobuka, tikotiko ni matanitu ka vaka kina na Vale ni Volavola ni Yasana o Bua.

“Na sasaga oqo ena vakayacora e dua nai tavi bibi ena kena tokoni na veivakatoroicaketaki na taoni e Nabouwalu ena veigauna sa tu e matada”.

Na kena mai vakacavari na sasaga oqo, e veivuke kina na Tabana ni Wai

ena noda vanua, Caledonienne des Eaux(New Caledonia),SUEZ(France) Zion Civil Works Limited(Fiji)ka vaka kina na Clyde Equipment Fiji Limited. Na veikabai oqo er ligaduataki na veiqaravi ena kena sagai na winigunu savsava ka vakalailai taka na kena toso cake nai wiliwili ni saravanua.

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU:FIJI GOVERNMENT



Nai vaka so ni wai vou e Nabouwalu ka tiko na kena I sau vakailavo ena \$5.4 na milioni. TABA:Fiji Government

VEIQARAVI NI TABANA NI VULI



Na nodra tuberi cake na gone e sega ni nodra I tavi walega na qasenivuli sa nodra I tavi talega na tubutubu kei na dauniveisusu. Me vakae dau tukuni e taura e dua nai tikotiko taucoko se koro me susuga cake dua na gone. E dodonu me ka bibi duadua ena veivuvale ni kawa Itaukei , ena gauna oqo ena kena cuqeni na vuli vei ira na luveda. Levu na gauna era sa dau vakaogai ira nai tubutubu ena veika tale eso ka sai karua tok nika na vuli. Na Matanitu Cokovata esa cavu I kalawa ena kena tokoni tiko ga na vuli mena levu na vivinaka e basika ena noda dui delanivanua.

VOTAI E 40.4 NA MILIONI KINA VEIVUKE NI LESU KI VULI

Esa cavu I kalawa na Tabacakacaka ni Vul i ka vaka kina na Tabana ni Lavo ni matanitu ena kena sa vagolei vei ira na gonevuli ka duavata kina na Matanitu Cokovata na veivuke ka vakatokai na “Back to School Sup-

port”. Me yacova mai na gauna oqo esa sauma rawa na Minisitiri ni Lavo e \$41 na milioni ki vei ira na 203,492 na gonevuli ena yabaki vou vakavuli oqo. Oka kina na 200,176 na gonevuli esa mai ciqoma nai matai ni wasewase enai ka 10 ni Januери kei na 3,316 na gonevuli enai ka 20 ni Januери.

Na veivuke ni lesu ki vuli e dua na yavu dei ni veiqaravi ni Matanitu Cokovata ena kena tuvani mera na vukei nai tubutubu kei ira na dau ni veisusu ena vuku ni kena voli nai sulu ni vuli, ka vaka kina yaya lalai kece sara ni vuli. Ena 2023 e rauta ni 223,475 na gonevuli era vukei ka tiko ena \$44.7m, 2024 e \$42.5m ka tiko taucoko na kena I sau vakailavo ena \$130m.

Sa vakanuini tu na Minisiti ni Lavo ka vaka kina na Tabacakacaka ni Vul i nina vayagataki sara vavavinaka ena kena i vakavakayagataki vinaka nai lavo ena vuku ni nodra vukei na noda I solisoli ena lesu ki vuli ena 2025.

VAKARAWARATAKI NA VEIQARAVI NI TABANA NI VULI ENA VUALIKU



Nai Liuliu ni Noda Matanitu Hon Sitiveni Rabuka kei na Minisita ni Vul i Hon Aseri Radrodoro ena kena dolavi na valenivolavola ni FHEC e Labasa. **TABA:Fiji Government**

Na Veiqaravi ni Tabana ni Vul i esa vakarawarawataki ena Vualiku ni Noda Vanua ena kena sa mai dolavi na valenivolavola ni Fiji High Education Commission e Labasa. Era laki vulagi dokai kina nai liuliu ni Noda Matanitu Hon Sitiveni Rabuka ka dua na tikina bibi era vakaraitaka tiko sai koya na kena sa dua nai kalawa e liu ena kena raici mera qaravi na kawa Itaukei se mani vakacava na dredre ni vanua era vakaitikotiko kina mena tautauvata nai vakarau ni veiqaravi vei ira.

“E sega walega ni vakarautaki ira na tamata yadua ena kila ka , ena vakai-yaragitaki ira talega na lewenivanua ena kena lako curumi na veiveisau ena noda vuravura”.

“Ena taudaku ni yalayali ni noda vanua , na vuli ena veisautaka na vuravura ena gauna nikua, e Viti kei na yanuyanu ena Pasivika , na vakaitorocaketaki ni vuli torocake ena kauta mai na tubu kei na

torocake ni noda kila ka”.

E rauta ni 45 na soqosoqo ni Vul i Toro-cake ka vola yaca ena ruku ni FHEC ka ciwa na kena valenivolavola e Vanualevu dua e Savusavu , dua e Taveuni ka vitu ena yasayasa Vaka Labasa.Esa veivakauqeti nai liuliu ni Matanitu ena kena vakaqaqacotaki na veitokoni kei na veitabana eso ena ka na tubu kina na veivakatoroicaketaki. E vakadeitaki ira na lewenivanua ena Vualiku ni tuvatuva ni Matanitu me na usutu ni veika kece na vuli ni dua na vatv dei ni tiko sautu ena nod vanua.

“Au sa vakauqeti ira na veiyasana , tikina, veikorokoro, mata I tikotiko, veivuvale kei keda yadudua meda taura vakabibi na vuli ka mena tautauvata na noda rai”.

“Meda tomana tiko na cakacakavata, veitokoni , me tarai cake e dua na matanitu mena vakarautaki ka qaravi vakatautauvata na tamata kece sara mena dua na Viti vinaka.

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU:FIJI GOVERNMENT

VOSA BUBULUI E 7 NA LEWE NI BOSE LAWAWA

E ratou sa mai vosa bubului vua na Peresitedi ni noda vanua e lewe 7 na Minisita ka vaka kina nai Vukevuke ni Minisita. E 3 na Minisita vou oka ,ina o

- Hon Iowane Naivalurua-Minisita for Policing
 - Hon Viliame Naupoto-Minisita ni Curuvanua
 - Hon Mosese Dreca Bulitavu-Minisita ni Veikabula kei na Veisau ni Draki
- Nai vukevuke ni Minisita oka kina o
- Hon Naisa Tuinaceva-Vukevuke ni Minisita ni Veiqaravi Raraba, Veilakoyaki kei na Tabana Ni Draki.
 - Hon Aliko Bia-Vukevuke ni Minisita ni Tabana ni Tukutuku ni Matanitu
 - Hon Ratu Josia Bulavakarua Niudamu -Vukevuke ni Minisita ni Lawa
 - Hon Penioni Ravunawa- Vukevuke ni Minisita ni Tabana ni Bula.

E vakaraitaka nai liuliu ni noda matanitu o Hon Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka ni veika esa mai yaco esa dua na veivakalougatataki ena vuku ni nodratou sa mai digitaki nai lawalawa oqo esa gadrevi ga kina na Duavata kei na cakacaka vata.E vakavinavinakataki rau takega nai tokani na Social Democratic



Na Peresitedi Ni Noda Vanua Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, First Lady Emily Lalabalavu, Na Paraiminisita ni Noda Vanua Hon Sitiveni Rabuka, DPM ka Minsita ni lavo Hon Biman Prasad, Hon Viliame Gavoka Minisita ni Saravanua kei na Vuka , Hon Aseri Radrodoro Minisita ni Vul i, Hon Siromi Turaga Minisita ni Lawa kei ratou na lewe Vitu na Minisita kei na Vukevuke ni Minisita ka ratou mai vosa bubului.

Liberal Party ka vaka kina na National Federation Party ena na vuku ni kena sa ciqomi na lewe vou ni bose lawa ena kena tutaki na dina ni matanitu.

E kuria o Hon Rabuka ni sa tu na veivakabauti ki vua na Minisita ni Veit-aqomaki o Hon Naupoto ena kena

sagai mena laveti cake tale na veiqaravi ni Tabana ni Curuvanua. E sa na raica talega ena kena na yadravi vakavinakanai yala ni noda vanua mena rawa ni dikevi na lewenivanua era butuka mai na noda matavura.

“Au rawa ni vakaraitaka ni dina ni

duidui soqosoqo keimmai dui lewena ena veidigidigi ni 2022 sa rawa ni keimami toso vata mai ena kena gadrevi na tubu kei na toso ki liu ni noda matanitu lomani o Viti”.

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU:FIJI GOVERNMENT

DUA NAI NUINUI LEVU VEI KEITOU VAKAVEITINANI

“Esa dua na gauna dredre dina vei keitou vakaveitinani ena vuku ni nona sa mai takali na turaga na watiqu ia kau vakavinavinaka ni dodo tu na liga ni veivuke mai na matanitu.”

O qori na nona I tukutku o Ulamila Buto mai na koro ko Delakado ena loma ni Yasana o Tailevu. Na turaga na watidra e dua talega e vukei ena porokaramu e ratou vakarautaka na Tabana ni Veivatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro lelevu ka vakatokai tiko na Rural Housing Scheme. Ni bera ni mai vakacacari na kena tara vakaoti na nodratou vale esa mai kacivi na nona bula na Turaga na watina ena loma ni yabaki 2024. E na gauna oqo e sa cicivaka tiko o Ulamila na nodratou sitoa lailai ka vaka kina na kena susugi na manumanu mena rawa ni qarava vakavinaka kina na nona matavuvale vakabibi ena kena sa mai ligaidua taki na veisusu. E sa nuiqawaqa taka voli o Mrs Vosa na veika mena vakarautaka ena vuku ni lesu ki vuli vei ratou na luvena e 6.

“Au vakavinavinaka kina Matanitu Cokovata ena vuku ni veivuke ni lesu ki vuli na \$200 Back to School Support ka bau mamada vakalailai nai colacola me baleta na nodratou vakarautaki na luvequ ki koronivuli kau qarava tale na veibisinisi tale eso”.

E kuria o Mrs Vosa ni nodra susugi na luveda mera rawata na veika ena vakatau ena veika eda vakarautaka ka vakavulica vei ira e lomanivale, ka sa cavu i kalawa na ulumatua ni nodrau vuvale ena vuli torocake ena vuli qasenivuli ena vuku ni veikila ka sa vulica mai.

“E na noqu qaravi ratou voli mai na luvequ e 6, veika lalai ka lelevu e rawati ena loma ni vuvale, na veivuke e ciqomi mai na matanitu esai vakaraitaki vinaka ni Matanitu Cokovata e kawaitaka na veivuvale kau sa mai vakila ena vuku ni kena mai ciqomi na veivuke ni lesu ki vuli”.

E sa vakanuinui vinaka o Ulamila ena vuku ni kena sa varau tekivu taki tale na vuli ena loma ni yabaki oqo meda yadrava na noda I tavi nai tubutubu ena nodra qaravi ka tuberi na gonevuli. Na veivuke oqo e sega walega ni vukei ira na gonevuli e solia talega vei keda na veivuvale e du na sala ena kena tatadrataki na noda veimataka.

E vakaraitaka talega o Karalaini Liku



Ulamila Buto kei Adriu Vosa Junior mai na koro ko Delakado, Dawasamu, Tailevu ka dua talega vei ira na mai ciqoma na veivuke ni lesu ki vuli. **TABA:Fiji Government**

mai na koro ko Bukuya ena tikina o Magodro ena loma ni Yasana o Ba ena kena yacovi ira yani na veivuke ni lesu ki vuli. Dina nira tu ena colo ni vanua na veiqaravi ni Tabana ni Matanitu ena 200 Back to School Support e rawa kina vua me vakarautaka vinaka kina nai yaya ni vuli

nodrau na 2 na nona I solisoli ka sa mai leqa na kena I ka tolu.

“Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu kina matanitu ena vuku ni kena yacovi keitou mai na veivuke ni lesu ki vuli dina ni keimami tu ena colo ni vanua sega ni lekaleka na liga ni matanitu me rau vukei talega na luvequ e 2”.

KE SEGA NA SIKOLASIVI AU SEGA NI RAWATA



Dr Fifita Niulevu kei rau na nona i tokani ena vanua ni veiqaravi e Cakova, Moala, Lau. **TABA:Fiji Government**

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU:FIJI GOVERNMENT

Dr Fifita Niulevu cavutu mai na koro ko Naroi ena yanuyanu ko Moala e dua vei ira na udolu vakacaca na gonevuli e soli vei ira na sikolaisivi ni Matanitu ka vakatokai na National Toppers. Ena kena qaravi voli nai tavi mai na nona yanuyanu, sotavi na dredre sega ni guce o Niulevu na kena vakavotukanataki na nona tatadra.

“Gauna au tubu cake mai kina mai na yanuyanu o Moala, au tatadra taka tu meu na vuniwai ena dua na gauna, kau sega ni kila ni mai yaco me vaka kina”. Mai vakacavari na tagede ni primary kei na secondary e Naroi, sa dewa mai ena koroturaga me mai vakacavari na Fomu Vitu e Jai Narayan College, ka rogovaki voli talega kina na na sikola-

sivi e vakarautaka na matanitu, ka tokona na nodra vukei na gonevuli ena kena tosoi na kila ka vakavuli.

“Au sa vola kerekere tu ena TELS(Tertiary Education Loan Scheme), ka vakasalataki au na marama na tinaqu meu tovolea na National Toppers, au sega ni namaka niu na digitaki me vaka nisa sogo talega na vola kerekere ka gu tiko ga na yaloqu meu tovolea”.

“Mai na vuqa era vola kerekere au marau niu digitaki, ka veisautaka na noqu vakasama, dina ni rau sega niu rawata na noqu I tubutubu na noqu I curucuru ni vuli, ia ni kena yaco mai na sikolasivi oqo e veivakalougatataki ni turaga kina neitou bula”.

E mai tekivu taka na nona vuli ena University of Fiji e vakila ni sega ni rawarawa ena vuku ni kena sa biu mai na vuvale. E na loma ni ono na yabaki

ni vuli mai sucu kina e rua na nona solisoli ka mai kacikaci ni cagi talega na tacina ia sega ni vakayalolailaitaki koya ena kena sagai na me rawati na vuli. Yacova na gauna sa biu vanua mai kina na Turaga na tamana mesa mai tomani na veiqaravi ena koroturaga e Suva ena vuku ni kena qaravi ka taqomaki na lawa ni noda vanua.

“Sa gole mai Suva na turaga tamaqu me mai vukei au voli ena noqu qarava na noqu vuli, kau vakavinavinaka ena nodrau qaqa ni masu voli orau na noqu I tubutubu kei na vosa ni veivakayaloqagataki ki vei au”.

“Ke vaka me sega na sikolasivi, au nanuma niu na sega ni rawata, ka solia vei au e dua na gaunisala meu toso

tiko ga, dina niu sa mai veiqaravi voli ena noqu yanuyanu au marautaka niu mai qaravi ira na lewenivanua ena noqu yanuyanu na vanua ga au susu cake mai kina”.

E vakavinavinakataka o Vuniwai Niulevu na matanitu ena vuku ni kena nanumi tu na soli ni sikolasivi, ka vakamamada taka na kena saumi nai curucuru, kakana ka vaka kina na kena saumi na rede. Na veika e talaucaka esa dua nai dusidusi vinaka ena noda dau vakabauti keda nida na rawata na veika eda gadreva.

“Au vakabauta ni gauna eda solia na noda vinaka ena veika eda cakava, eda na raica na kena vinaka, da qarava vakavinaka na kalou, ena noda i lakolako”.



Dr Fifita Niulevu ena dua na veisiko ni Tabana ni Bula e Cakova, Moala, Lau. **TABA:Fiji Government**



SIKOVI NA VUALIKU NI NODA VANUA



Nai Liuliu ni Noda Matanitu Hon Sitiveni Rabuka kei na manta. Ni matanitu o Jaina His Excellency Robert Lee ena nodra laki raica na veivakatoroicaketaki ni gaunisala ena Vualiku ni Noda Vanua. **TABA:Fiji Government**

Ena laki veitomani nai liuliu ni noda matanitu na Turaga Paraminisita o Hon Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka ki vua na mata ni matanitu o Viti kina matanitu o Jaina His Excellency Robert Lee, ena kena sikovi voli na vualiku ni noda vanua. Na usutu levu ni veisiko ogo sai koya na kena gadrevi me vakatoroicaketaki na gaunisala mai na vualiku ena ruku ni porokaramu ni Vanualevu Road Upgrade Project. E dua na sasaga e veitokoni kina na matanitu o Jaina ka vaktokai na China International Development Cooperation ka tiki tiko ni Belt kei na Road Initiative.

“O Vanualevu e dua na vanua esa dua na yavu dei ni veivakatoroicaketaki, ka vakadeitaki kina na sasaga ni toso ena veiyasana e na noda vanua, na vakavinkataki ni gaunisala ogo ena kauta mai na bula sautu kei na toso ki liu. E gooe na madigi ena kena vakatoroicaketaki na nodra bula na vakaitikotiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu ka vaisautaka na nodra rai ena kena veise-mati na rawaka vei ira na lewenivanua”. E veivakadeitaki nai liuliu ni noda matanitu ni matanitu esa sasaga sara tiko ena kena laveti cake na bula ni Itaukei ena noda vanua. Na “Targeted Poverty Alle-

vation” ka vaka kina na “One Village at a Time” esa gadrevi kina na duavata kei na kena vakayagataki vinaka na gauna mena vakakawabokotaka na bula dravudravua ena vanua o Viti.

- Natewa West Coast Road-Nacavanadi-Korotasere (32 na kilomita)
- 15 na kilomita mai Nabouwalu Bua ki Nasolo
- 35 na kilomita mai Nabalebale ki Dogoru -Wailevu West Coast Road

E ra veitomani talega na Manidia ni Tabana ni Gaunisala mai na Vualiku o Dela-

na Rabalaka ka ra vakaraitaka tiko eso na veituvatuva e ratou sa gadreva tiko ena vuku ni kena vakatoicaketaki na gaunisala ena Vualiku. E dina nisa toso sara tiko na sasaga ena Vualiku esa vakavinavinakataki kina na sasaga ni matanitu ka vaka kina na dodoliga mai na matanitu levu o Jaina. E ra vosa tale tiko ga o Mr Lee kara vakaraitaka na nodra vakavinavinak ena vuku ni cakacaka ena kena vakagaqacotaki na veiqaravi ni tabana ni gaunisala ka gadrevi kina na tubu ni veibisinisi ena Vualiku.

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU:FIJI GOVERNMENT

SIKOVI NA VANUA NI VEIQARAVI



Na Minisita ni Bula kei na Veiqaravi Vakavuniwai Hon Antonio Lalabalavu, Nai Vukevuke ni Minisita ni Tabana ni Bula Hon Penioni Ravunawa, na nasi ka veiqaravi ena valeniwai e Nanoko o Temalesi Baleirewa ena kei na nona matavuvale enai tikotiko ni veiqaravi e Nanoko. **TABA:Fiji Government**

Vola ko: Katarina Naqarase

Esaga ni tiko dei na Minsita Ni Bula kei na Veiqaravi Vakavuniwai ena kena sikovi ka talevi nai vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula ena veiqaravi ena colo ni noda vanua. E ra veitomani tale tiko ga na Ivukevuke ni Minisita ni Bula o Hon Penioni Ravunawa, e rau sikova ma valeniwai e Bukuya, Na Vakaraubuka, 31 ni Janueri 2025

noko, Nagatagata, Nadrau kei nai tikotiko e Nadarivatu. E vica na tikina bibi era gadreva na dauni-veiqaravi ena vuku ni kena vakatoroicaketaki na vanua ni veiqaravi sai koya na kena gadrevi tale eso nai yaya ni veiqaravi me vaka na kena gadrevi na tolli mew vukea na nodra vakaleleci na lewenivanau ena valenibula e Nadi. E vakaraitaka na nasi ka veiqaravi tiko e Bukuya o Adi

Merewai Adiana Saubaca mai na koro o Narata e Nadroga nisa oti qo e vitu na vula na nona mai veiqaravi e valenibula. “Na dredre levu e sotavi tiko ena vanua ni veiqaravi qo sai koya na gaunisala ni veila-koyaki ena vuku ni veiyawaki ni vanua, me qai yacova na gauna ni vuli sa na qai dau vinaka na veivakaleleci ka rawa nira vodo mai kina na veiqaravi mai na valenibula levu”. E kuria o Merewai nisa vakavinavinaka vakalevu ki veirau na veitacini Minisita ena kena cabeti mai na veidelana me mai vakadinadinataka na veikera era gadreva nai vakalesilesi. Me vaka ena valenibula e Bukuya 1 naka e gadrevi sai koya na kena tosoi na pharmacy, na emergency trolley kei na veiyaya lalai tale so. E sa tu talega na veikera ratou gadreva na veivalenibula eso me vaka na kena vakau yani na wainimate, nodra kau mai na tauvimate bibi ka vaka kina na nodra vakayagataki na dauniveiqaravi na wai ni gunu savasava. E dua talega na veikera ratou gadreva sai koya na kena vakavinakataki madaga na valeniwai me vaka na valeniwai e Nanoko.

E vakaraitaka na nasi ka veiqaravi tiko e Nagatagata Nursing Station o Deepshika Kumar ni leqa levu ga e dau sotava sai koya na veiyawaki ni gaunisala me yaco sara ki Tavua ka ra dau sotava talega na lewenivanua ka sa qai via rawarawa ira sa duavata na lewenikoro e Savatu ena kena voli e dua na lori mena vukei ira ena nodra kau mai e Nagatagata. E vakavinavinakataka o Kumar na nodra cakacaka vata na Nasi ni Koro kei Turaga Ni Koro ena nodra veiqaravi. E vakaraitaka na Minsita ni Bula o Hon Antonio Lalabalavu ni naki levu ni veisiko qo sai koya mena vakadinadinataka na vanua ni veiqaravi kei na veikera sotava tiko nai vakalesilesi. Sa tu talega nai tuvatuva ena kena sa vakarawarawataki na veiqaravi ena kena kau yani na wainimate kei na vakavinakataki na vale ni veiqaravi. “Au via vakabibitaka na noda I tavi kei na kena taladrodoro na veiqaravi, na kena raici na yaya ni veiqaravi, e sa tu vakarau na Tabana ni Bula ena kena vukei na kena vakarautaki na veikera era gadreva nai vakalesilesi ena veivaleniwai.

NUIDEI ENA VEIVUKE



Na Minisita ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu Hon Sakiasi Ditoka, Vukevuke ni Minisita Hon Joseva Vocea, Turaga Talai ena Wasewase e Loma Joseva Navuku, Na Vunivola Tudei Iosa Talemaibau kei ira na lewe ni koro e Natadradave ena vuku ni veitalanoa me Rural Housing Scheme. **TABA:Fiji Government**

Vola ko: Katarina Naqarase

“Au namaka mena bula tu na turaga na watiq mena raica na vua ni nona cakacaka ena vuku ni kena vakarau-taki na veivuke me baleta na neitou vale” E na nona vosa o Ulamila Buto ka lako vata na drodro vakayauyau ni wainimate na ena kena sa mai dolavi na nodratou vale mai vua na Minisita nni Veivakatoroicaketaki Hon Ditoka. “E luluvu na yaloqu niu raici ratou na luvu ena mataka nikua e kauta lesu noqu vakananu ena matai ni siga keirau sa buci na kina mena tara na neitou vale me vaka ni 6 tiko na neirau solisoli”. Ena 2007, o Mr Vosa e dua talega vei ira na vakacegui mai Vatukoula, ka sa vakavuna me ratou sa suka lesu mai e delani-yavu e Delakado ena tikina o Dawasamu

ena loma ni yasana o Tailevu, e dina ni mai sotavi sara na dredre enai vakarau ni kena rawati nai lavo, sega ni guce orau na veiwatini ena kena sagai nai lavo mai na Tabana ni Lavo Maroroi(FNPF) ka rau solia kina na dua nai ka tolu. E gole talega ki Niusiladi ena vuku ni konitaraki vakacacaka kina dua na kabani ni musu vaini. “E nai lavo e rawata ena cakacaka e Niusiladi esa rawa kina vei au meu tauyavutaka e dua na bisinisi ka vaka kina na neitou bisinisi ni susu manuanu, ni bera nira mai vakacegu ena yabaki sa oti, au vakavinavinaka nisa mai rawata nai lavo mena tara kina na neitou vale na veitinan”. Na Minisitiri ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu esa biuta tu na veivuke ena nodra vukei na lewenivanua ena sasga ni kena tara na nodra vale. Na porokaramu ni Veivuke ni Rural Hous-

ing e nai ka 2 ni wasewase (Scheme2) ena dodonu mena solia na matanitu e 2/3 na sau vakailavo nio kena tara na vale. Era mai vosa talega na kena Minisita o Hon Sakeasi Ditoka ena kena sa tuvani nai tuvatuva ni nodra vukei ka vakatoroicaketaki na lewenivanua ena taudaku ni koro lelevu. E na ruku ni porokaramu ni Vatukoula Housing Project vitu na vuvale era mai vukei kina oka kina na koro ko Natadradave, Nabualau, kei Delakado. “1. **Iliavi Nawaqa** Sau Vakailavo: \$30,768.30 Vakaitikotiko: Delakado, Dawasamu Tailevu. 2. **Pauliasi Qio** Sau Vakailavo: \$30,768.30 Vakaitikotiko: Nabualau, Dawasamu Tailevu 3. **Rusitae Delai**

Sau Vakailavo: \$30,768.24 Vakaitikotiko: Natadradave, Dawasamu Tailevu 4. **Seveti Ravesi** Sau Vakailavo: Seveti Ravesi Sau Vailavo: \$23,708.24 5. **Tomu Onowalu** Sau Vakailavo: 22,391.78 Vakaitikotiko: Natadradave, Dawasamu, Tailevu. 6. **Apenisa Balawa** Sau Vakailavo: \$19,195.00 Vakaitikotiko: Nabualau, Dawasamu, Tailevu Na sau vakailavo kece ni veivuke ogo na Rural Housing Scheme e \$188,368.22 ka sa vakanuinui vinaka tu o Hon Ditoka nina vakayagataki sara vakavinaka na veivuke esa rarava tiko na matanitu ena nodra vukei na lewenivanua.

CAGI DONU KEI NABOUBUCO



Malakai Waqa nai liuliu ni Tabagone mai na tikina o Naboubuco ena kena laki soli na veivuke mai na Matanitu. **TABA:Fiji Government**

Vola ko: Katarina Naqarase

“Tolu na yabaki noqu liutaka nai soqosoqo ni Tabagone e Naqelewai kei na tikina io Naboubuco sega saraga ni bau yacovi keitou mai na veivuke”. O Malakai Waqa na cauravou mai na koro ko Naqelewai ena tikina o Naboubuco ena

loma ni yasana ko Naitasiri. E tara tiko nai tutu vakaliuliu ni Tabagone ena koro ko Naqelewai ka vaka kina ena tikina o Naboubuco. “Au vakavinavinaka ena yabaki ogo 2025 ni kawai na matanitu ena vuku ni nodra sikovi ka vukei na vanua o Naboubuco kei ira na kena mataivalu ni vanua me vaka sa gauna dredre sa sotavi keda tu qai bau dua me veivuke ka kauta mai na yaya ni teitei

koa keimami gadreva sara tuga”. E kuria o Malakai Waqa ni veisoqosoqo kece sara ni Tabagone ena loma ni tikina e bula vinaka sara tuga ka tu talega na nodra dui tuvatuva era dau qarva(Project) me vaka na kena caka na gaunisala simede, ena kena ciqomi nai yaya ni teitei era kila deivaki nina vurevure lesu tale ni lavo ena loma ni tikotiko. Ena koro vakaturaga o Nasoqo sa toso sara tiko na veiqaravi ni Tabagone ena kena sa tara sara e dua na sitoa. Era vakaraitaka tale tiko ga na kena gadrevi na gaunisala ni veitaratara mai na Tabana ni Tabagone, Vale ni Volavola ni Yasana me yacovi mata ni Tikina sara mai. “Dau vinakata na Matanitu me keimami dau tekivu rawa, kau kila nina kawai sara ena vuku ni tuvatuva sa tu me vaka na gaunisala simede, na kena durinna veibisinisi lalai, me vaka nisa yadua tiko na sitoa, au kila ni na tomani tiko ga na veivuke ena yabaki ogo”. Esa vakabibitaka talega o Waqa ena nodra vakararamataki nai Tabagone ena loma ni Tikina me baleta na kena vakayagataki na wiagaga ni veivakamatenitaki, kila nisa

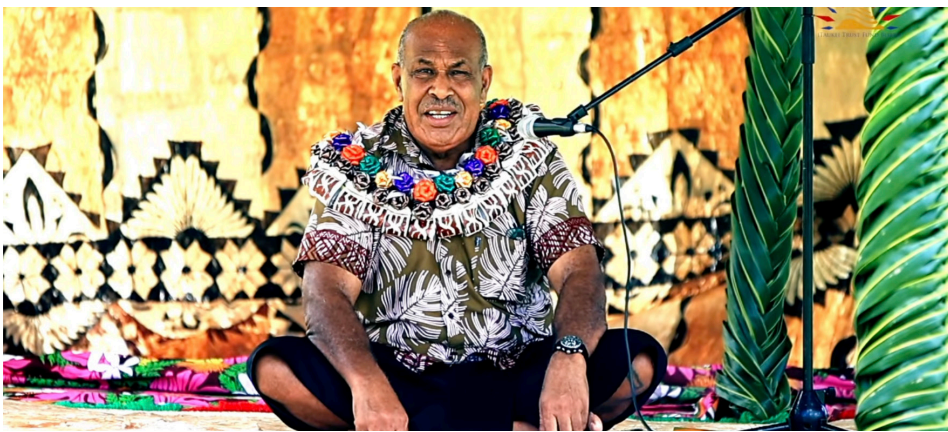
levu era sa mai oka ena meca levu ogo ia sa vakanuinui tu o koya nina sega ni vakacacana na nodra gagadre nai tabagone ena 6 na koro ena tikina o Naboubuco. “Na waigaga se na poua vulavula e sega ni yaga mo kauta mai e nakoro se na vanua vakaturaga o Naboubuco baleta ona sega ni rawa nina mai bula kina”. E sa veivakauqeti o Waqa vei ira nai soqosoqo ni Tabagone ena Yasana o Naitasiri mera na vakayagataki na veivukea esa vakarautaka tu na Tabana ni Tabagone kei na matanitu me vaka ratou sa mai vakadinadinataka ena kena sobu yani nai yaya ni teitei. Era laki solia nai yaya ni teitei vei ira na tikina o Naboubuco oka kina na koro ko Naqelewai, Nasiriti, Rewasau, Roma kei na koro ko Nasoqo na Minisita ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu o Hon Sakiasi Ditoka. E vakabibitaka o Hon Ditoka na kena vakaduri na komiti ni veisoqosoqo ka sa tu vakarau na Matanitu Cokovata ena nodra vukei na lewenivanua ena colo ni noda vanua

NA BIBI NI SOLESOLEVAKI

“Na solesolevaki e sa dua na tikina bibi e sa cakacakavata kina na Tabacakacaka Itaukei ena kena sagai meda vukeyi”.

Nai tukutuku era vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Itaukei, Tovo kei na Iyau Vakamareqeti o Hon Ifereimi Vasu ena nodra laki dolava nai tikotiko e Korovou e Macuata mesa dua na vanua ni vakacegu(Homestay).
E vakaraitaka o Hon Vasu na matanitu esa vakabibitaka na matanitu na solesolevaki na vuna levu ga ena kena laurai ni 5% na bisinisi ni Itaukei ena noda vanua. E dina ni noda na Iyaubula ka levu naka eda taukena ia se 5 tiko ga na % na bisinisi eda cicivaka tiko.

“Au vakavinavinaka kina Tabacakacaka Itaukei kei na veitabana vakamataniu ena kena sagai mena vakaduri na bisinisi meda qarava me rawa ni vukea na noda bula ena veisiga”.
E vakadreta na Minisita na bibi ni kena vakaduri na veibisinisi ni Itaukei mena rawa ni vakalailaitaka na nodra gole tiko vakayauyau na noda gone Itaukei ki vanua tani ena kena vakasaqarai na bula torocake.E kuria nisa saga ara tiko na Tabacakacaka Itaukei kei na Matanitu ena kena sagai mera tiko ga vakdua na lewenivanua ena noda vanua. Mai vakaduri eso na bisinisi lalai ka sa rawa ni toso tiko kina na bula ena veisiga , tokoni na vuvala ka vaka kina na toso ni Tokatoka o Nawaivuvu. Na usutu levu ni kena vakadaberi na i cili ni saravanua oqo e Korovou sai koya na kena dau namkai oira na saravanua era via laki sarasara ka vakadinadinataka na totoka ni vanua ka vodo doka talega na Ua kei Cakaulevu.
E kuria o Hon Vasu nisa tu talega nai



Na Minisita ni Tabacakacaka Itaukei, Tovo kei na Iyau Vakamareqeti Hon Ifereimi Vasu era vosa tiko ena bibi ni Solesolevaki enai tikotiko e Korovou Macuata.

tuvatuva ena kena vakatoroicaketaki na Tabana ni Saravanua ena noda vanua, ka sa tiko talega na cakau o Bainivualiku ka davo tiko ena loma ni yasana o Macuata kai ka 3 ni cakaulevu ena noda vuravura. Na veika esa vakayacori tiko ka sa vakanamata tiko kinai tuvatuva levu ni matanitu.
E vakavinavinakataka o Hon Vasu ena nodra sa vakacegui talega na lewenivanua ena kena sa duri talega na vale ni madrai ka sa vukeyi ira sara vakalevu na 7 na koro ena loma ni yasana,

me vaka nira dau gole sara i Seaqaqa kei Labasa ena vuku ni veivoli.
“E dua saka na kerekere e na rua saka na vurevure ni bisinisi e kau mai qo, dou sara vakavinak mena kauta tiko ga mai na veilomani vei kemudou na lewen ni tokatoka, ke mania vakacava na draki dou nanuma tiko ga na nomudou veilomani vakaveiwekani.

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU:Tabacakacaka Itaukei

CAVU ISAUSAU O BULAVAKARUA ENA TEITEI



Na ivakalesilesi mai Fiji Kava kei ira na dau tei yaqona e na loma ni koro o Qalinasavu e na Tikina o Nadrau

Vola ko:: Semani Nabitu; Tabana ni Teitei kei na Salasala ni Wai)

“Ena noqu mai ciquoma na I cocovi oqo e vukeyi au tale meu tuvatuva ka yani ka vakaukauwataki au tale e na vuku ni cakacaka ni vakayagataki qele.”
Oqo na veika e vakaraitaka o Kositatino Bulavakarua ni oti na nona mai ciquoma na I cocovi ni Youth Farmer of the Year e na National Agriculture Show ni yabaki oqo 2024 ka vakayacori mai na I ka 15 ki na 18 ni siga ni vula o Okotova.
E sa yabaki 24 ko Kositatino Bulavakarua ka cavu tu mai na koro o Qeleni mai na yanuyan bulabula ko Taveuni. Vakaraitaka ni a tekivu vakagayataka na qele e na nona biu vuli mai e na yabaki 2016, ni bera ni laki tomana yani na nona vuli yabaki tolu e na koro ni vuli ni veivakarautaki e Tutu Training Center.
Tomana ka kaya ni tauyavutaki ni teitei e sega ni ka rawarawa, mai na dela ni sega kei na bula ni sasaga sa rawa kina me vakavotukana na tatadra e na loma ni rua na yabaki. E a tekivu e na nona teivaka na 2 na eka na qele ni bera ni vakaraibalevutaka kina 9 na eka na qele me yacova mai e dai.
“Au teitei voli, sa tekivu meu tauri I lavo ka kila na kamikamica ni vakayagataki qele ka sa vesuki au na vinaka ni vakayagataki qele ka vakadeitaki au meu tomana yani na noqui tavi”.
E vakavinavinakataka na matanitu e na kena dau soli tu e so nai vakasala

kei na I tei me tomani tiko ga kina na cicivaki ni bisinisi.
“Na vakayagataki qele e yaga meda na tuvana vakamatau, na noda I tuvatuva, sega ni dua na ka e bera ena bula ni tu vakanakoro, io au vakadeitaki au ni vakagataki qele e rawa ni kauti au ena dua na vanua vinaka”
E kaya ni vei ka e rawati mai na cakacaka ni vakayagataki qele e sa rawa kina me tara kina dua na nona vale vakataki koya , ka vukea vakalevu na bula ni matavuvale e na veisiga ka sotava tale ga na ogaoga kei na vei ka e dau lavaki mai na lotu kei na vanua.
E na 10 na yabaki sa oti e sega ni lomalomarua taka na nona digidigi ni dau teitei e vakadeitaka e yalona ni oqo na nona taledi kei na nona tatadra me vakayagataka na qele.
E kaya ni solesolevaki e dodonu me noda tiki ni bula e na cakacaka ni vakayagataki qele, ni oqo na gaunisala e na kauta mai na veika lelevu ka rawa ni vakavotukanataki kina na noda tatadra.
E veivakauqeti tiko ko Kositationo Bulavakarua vei ira na I tabagone me ra vakayagataka vakamatua na nodra qele e na kena teivaki na kakana. Na vakayagataki qele e na kauta mai na bula vinaka kei na bula veisau e na noda bula yadua ka vaka talega kina na taucoko ni noda I tikotiko.
“Vakayagataki qele e dua na isolisoli vakalou e na kauta mai sautu kei na tiko vinaka”.

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU:Tabacakacaka Itaukei

VAKADEITAKI NI TAUKEI NI QELE KEI NA KOVUTI NI QELE ENA YASANA KO LOMAIVITI



ITAUKEI LAND TRUST BOARD

Vurevure Ni Tukutuku: Tabana Ni Qele Maroroi

Sa vakatulewataka na Matabose ni Qele Maroroi na kena vakadeitaki nai taukei ni rua na tikini qele ena koro ko Tovulailai, Nairai kei na kena kovuti e dua na tikini qele mai Draiba, Ovalau ena yasana o Lomaiviti.
Sa soli na veivakadeitaki me baleta na qele ko Nasinu, Lot 53 ka 89 na eka na kena levu, kei na qele ko Nukulekaleka, Lot 51 ka 39 na eka na kena levu, ena Tikina ko Nairai me sa taukena na Mataqali Bete ena koro ko Tovulailai mai Nairai.
Esa solia talega na Matabose ni Qele Maroroi na veivakadeitaki ni Kovuti ni qele ko Draiba, Lot 26, ka 59 na eka na kena levu, me sa kovuti vei ira na lewe ni koro ko Draiba me vaka sa tawani

tiko mai vei ira na lewe ni koro ena gauna oqo.E varaitaka na iLiuliu ni Matabose ni Qele Maroroi ka Minisita ni Veika Vakaitaukei Hon. Ifereimi Vasu ni oqo edua nai tavi bibi ni Matabose ‘oya na kena vakadeitaki nai taukei ni qele kei na kena kovuti na qele me vaka e virikotori ena tabana 15 kei na tabana 19 ni iTaukei Land Trust Act ni 1940.
“Sa vakasavui na itukutuku ni veivakadeitaki oqo ki vua na Turaga ni Mataqali ni Mataqali Bete mai Tovulailai kei na Turaga ni Koro mai Draiba kei nai tukutuku matalalai me baleta na mape ni qele, kei nai lavelave ni rejisita mei vakadinadina ni cakacaka sa mai qaravi oti ena vuku ni veivakadeitaki oqo”.

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU:Tabacakacaka Itaukei

SEGA LI NI GAUNA RAWARAWA

“Keirau vakavinavinaka vakalevu kina Matanitu ena vuku ni porokaramu ni Disability Allowances Scheme ka rawa ni vukei keirau kina vakavei-

watini.

Na nodrau i vakamacala na veiwatini mai na koro ko Cokova ena yanuyanu o Moala o Lemeki Bogidrau kei Atelaite Bulou ka rau vakavinavinakataka na veivuke levu esa vakayacora na matanitu kina nodra bula me vaka ni rau vakaleqai tiko e dua na tiki ni yagodrau.

E luluvu o Mr Bogidrau ni vakasamataka lesu na drakidrakita ni bula erau lako curuma mai me vakatekivu na gauna e sa tauvimate kina na nona radini vale ka vakatokai na bipolar disorder, ena gauna talega koya esa sotava kina o Lemeki na malumalumu ka sa vakadredretaka talega na nona cakacaka ka sa vakaleqa na nodrau bula ni veiqaravi ena veisiga.

“Esa dua na gauna dredre vei keirau vakaveiwatini ni keirau dau gole sara kina koroturaga e Suva ena vuku ni veiqaravi vakavuniwai ena gauna talega e ciqoma kina na noqu radini vale na veiqaravi mai na valenibula ni malumalumu ni vakasama(St Giles

Hospital), keirau mai vakaitikotiko kina dua na veiwekani e Nausori ka tekivu meu sa volivolitaki ka rawa niu rawata e \$2,000 ka sana rawa ni saumi lesu kina na neirau vodovodo lesu kina koro”.

E ratou veisiko voli yani nai vakalesilesi ni Minisitiri ni Marama, Gone kei na valuti ni Bula Dravudravua , ka sa tekivu me volayaca o Lemeki ena porokaramu ni Disability Allowances Scheme. E vakaraitaka na nona yalodei kei na vakacegu ni oti na kena sa mai vakaraitaki ni sana tekivu na sausaumi ena Janueri ni 2025.

“Na veivuke esa dodoliga mai kina na matanitu esa na veivuke sara vakalevu kina neirau bula vakaveiwatini ka na laveta cake kina na nona bula na noqu radini vale kana vakamamada taka e so na dredre keirau lako curuma”.

Ena yabaki vakailavo ni 2024-2025 e vota na matanitu e \$9.5m ka toso cake na. nodra I lavo ni veivula



O Lemeki Bogidrau kei na marama watina o Atelaite Bulou mai na koro ko Cokova e Moala ka rau ciqoma talega na veivuke ena ruku ni Disabilities Allowances Scheme.

mai na a \$104 kina \$129.Na kena vakailavotaki na sasaga oqo esa vakarabailevutaka na veiqaravi ni matanitu ena kena tokoni na noda veitikotiko kei na vanua o Viti.

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU:FIJI GOVERNMENT

VUKEI O BURENIVALU



Minisita ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelelvu, Veiyatuyanuyanu kei na Leqa Tubukoso o Hon Sakiasi Ditoka kei ira na lewenikoro e Nadoi ena kena mai soli nai loloma ni matanitu ki vei ira.

E dua na tiki ni siga guiguilecavi dredre vei ira na lewe ni koro vakaturaga e Nadoi ena loma ni Yasana o Rewa ena vuku ni nodra mai ciqoma na waqa(Fiber) ena ruku ni porokaramu ni SEA(Seafarers Entrepreneurial Assistance) e dua na porokaramu e ratou biuta vata na matanitu ka vaka kina na Minisitiri ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Tuadaku ni Koro Lelevu.

Na Porokaramu oqo e dua vei ratou na porokaramu vou ka vakadonua na matanitu mesa toki na kena veiqaravi kina Minisitiri ni Veivakatoroicaketaki. E vakaraitaka na Turaga ni Koro e Nadoi o Taniela Kepa ena gauna mai tekivu veiqaravi kina e raica ni dua nai wase ni lavo levu e dau vagolei ena kena dau saumi nai yaya mai na Nasali Landing me yaco sara ki nakoro.

“Keimami sa veitalanoa taka mesa dua na tausoli mena kumuni kina nai sau ni waqa ka keimami rawata kina e \$6,396.70 ni bera ni mai solia na matanitu e \$14,936.35”.

Esa dua naka na nodra marau ena vuku ni kena sa vakacegui ena nodra gagadre kana rawa ni ra vakayagataka

na lewenikoro, so era na via gole ena kena rawati na kani bula ena veisiga, ia na usutu levu taudua ni kena sagai na waqa sai koya mena veivuke ena veivakatoroicaketaki ena loma ni koro. E kuria nisa tu talega nai tuvatuva ni koro se na IVDP(Integrated Village Development Plan.)ka salamuria tiko nai tuvatuva ena loma ni 3 na yabaki.

“Au vakabauta ni kena gole mai na waqa oqo ena veivuke sara vei keimami na lewe ni koro e Nadoi vakabibi talega ena kena gadrevi na gaunisala mena vakarawarawataka na nodra veitosoyaki na gonevuli”.

E vakaraitaka talega o Elenoa Vakarewa na nona vakavinavinaka kina matanitu ena vuku

ni kena sa yaco mai na waqa ka ra waraka tu mai ena dua na gauna balavu sara. Me vaka ni ra tu enai tikotiko oya era sa dau cakacaka ga ena ua me rawa ni vakarawarawataka na nodra cakacaka kei na veitosoyaki.

“Au kila ni ratou sa marau na makubuqu ena veika esa yaco mai nikua ka na vukei keimami sara vakalevu, me vaka e liu keimami dau saumi waqa ka sa toka saraga e cake na kena i sau , kau marau vakalevu ni sa rawa e dua na neimami waqa ni koro”.

Esa tu tale eso nai tuvatuva e ratou sa biuta tiko na komiti ni koro e Nadoi ena vuku ni veivakatoroicaketaki me vaka nai tatakoso ka davo tiko e lomanikoro ka gadrevi mena vakavinakataka. Nai tatakoso e vakayagataka tiko e vitu na koro oka kina o Vunuku, Tavuya,

Narocivo, Muana I cake, Muana I Ra, Waisalulu ka vaka kina na koro ko Nukui. E dua talega naka era gadreva sai koya na kena tara na bai ni ua me vaka nisa kakana sara tiko mai na wai ena yasa ni koro.

E sa mai veitataunaki tiko na Minisita ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu, Veiyatuyanuyanu kei na Leqa Tubukoso o Hon Sakiasi Ditoka ena vuku ni kena maroroi na veika esa vakarautaka mai na matanitu ka vakabibitaka talega na kena duri na veikomiti lalai ena lomanikoro mena raica ka tuvana na veivakatoroicaketaki ena lomanikoro o Nadoi

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU:FIJI GOVERNMENT

NAI TUKUTUKU KI VEI KEDA NA LEWENI VANUA SAUMI REDE VAKAYABAKI QELE NI MATANITU - GAUNA YALATAKI: 31 NI JANUERI 2025

Na sausaumi tarava ni rede vakayabaki ena cava tiko ena l ka 31 ni Janueri, 2025.

Keimami sa veivakananumi tiko kina veikemuni kece sara na lisi tiko ena qele ni matanitu na nomuni itavi vakalawa me vaka e vakarautaki ena nomuni tuvatuva lavaki ni lisi (lease conditions) me baleta tiko na nomuni sausaumi ena vei ya ono na vula.

“Ena rua na sausaumi e veimama ni yabaki sega ni bera mai na iotioti ni veisiga ni Janueri kei na Jiulai ena veiyabaki yadua”.

Sa koto oqo e ra na vanua e voleka vei kemuni o ni na rawa ni gole kina mo ni lai sausaumi kina;

Vale ni Volavola	Yaua ni Sausaumi.	Naba ni Talevoni
1 Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Itaukei Trust Fund Board Complex	8:30am – 1:00pm	3239731/3239732/3239728
2 Divisional Lands Office – Central Eastern, Suva (Level 3 Credit Unit Towers, Gladstone Road)	8:30am – 3:00pm	8921961/8921979
3 Divisional Lands Office – Lautoka, (Tavewa Avenue)	8:30am – 3:00pm	6661800/6629218/6629219
❖ Nadi Office - Level 1, Nadi Town Council Building Queens Road, Nadi.	8:30am – 3:00pm	6723001/6723003
❖ Rakiraki Office -Vailaka Building Waimari Road, Rakiraki	8:30am – 3:00pm	6693100
4 Divisional Lands Office, Labasa Level 2 Macuata House	8:30am – 1:00pm	8811422/8811613

Kevaka e se saumi toka vaka-vo na nomuni sausaumi (pending balances) me yacova nai ka 31 ni Tiseba. 2025, esa na vakataqai tale kina na tubu e tini-ka-rua na pasede. (12% interest)

Na gauna o ni na gole yani kina mo ni lai sausaumi kerea mo ni na vola toka vakamatau na nomuni Land File Reference number se na nomuni naba ni akaude (Account Number) me vakarawarawa taka na neimami veiqaravi kivei kemuni.

ii.) Internet Banking

Bank Name	Fiji Government Consolidated Fund Account
Bank	BSP
Account No	719354
Bank Address	Suva, Fiji
Swift Code	BOSPFJFJ – Overseas Payments Only

iii.) Dua ga na vale ni volavola ni tauri meli (Post Office)
iv.) Kevaka esa veisau na nomuni kato ni meli, naba ni talevoni se ko ni via taro vakasala tale e so, o ni rawa ni qai veitaratara ena naba sa vakarautaki toka oqo; 3239822/3239824 se na mona ni veivosaki ena livaliva(email) : kivei.pcabenalevu@lands.gov.fj se marika.qalo@lands.gov.fj.

Me Noda Vata Na Marau Ni Yabaki Vou.

Mr. Paula N.B Cirikiyasawa
Permanent Secretary for Lands and Mineral Resources

Noda Viti

Vakaraubuka, 31 ni Janueri, 2025, 8 Drauniveva, 1 ni Tabana, 16 ni Lavelave ni Ivola | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijiGovt Fiji Government

VAKALESUI NAI TALATALA KINA VEIKORONIVULI



Na Minisita ni Vuli Hon Aseri Radrodro kei ira na lewe 13 nai Talatala kei na Dikonesi era sana veiqaravi kina veikoronivuli ena noda vanua.TABA: TABACAKAKA NI VULI

E sa cavu I kalawa na Matanitu Cokovata ena kena kau lesu mai na lawa ni nodra biu lesu kina veikoronivuli ni lotu nai Talatala ka vaka kina oira na Dikonesi. Oqo e dua na sala eda raica ena nodra tuberi vakayalo na noda I solisoli. Oqo e dua nai tuvatuva eda raica ni rawa ni walia eso na leqa era sotava tiko na gone ena noda veikoronivuli. E vosa tiko na Minisita ni Vuli o Hon Aseri Radrodro ena bibi ni nodra I tavi nai talatala sai koya na nodra tokoni na gonevuli, ena nodra vakasama, veimali-

wai ka vaka kina na nodra bula vakayalo.Me vaka ni gauna oqo sa tubu sara tiko vakatotolo na nodra okati na gonevuli ena veika eso me vaka na waigaga ni veivakamatenitaki , leqa ni vakasama kei na vei tovo kaukauwa eso. E ratou sa mai digitaki nikua e 13 nai talatala ka vaka kina na Dikonesi mera sana veiqaravi kina noda vei koronivuli ena noda vanua. E da sa raica nisa vakabibitaki na nodra tuberi vakayalo na noda i solisoli ka rawa ni vukeyi ira ena kena rawati na nodra veigagadre se tadtadra.

- Veika Vakalawa kei na Walewale ni Vola Yaca
 - I vakarau ni Veiqaravi ni Cakaca ka Vakamatanitu kie na Vakadidike ni Cakacaka
 - Tuvatuva Veika e Vulici kai na Le soni
 - Lawa me baleti ira na Gone kei na I Tovo
 - Veivakasalataki taumada kei na Veitokoni.
- Mai vakacavari ena kena sa soli na sitivikiti ka sai vakadinadina nira sa vakadeitaki ena nodra I tavio era sa

kacivi kina .Era sa mai vosa bubului talega e matadra na Minisita , ka dusi-maka na gaunisaka mera na muria ena nodra tokoni na luvei Viti ena gauna nikua. Era sana tekivu taka na nodra veiqaravi na Talatala kei na Dikonesi kara na so-lia e dua na yavu vinaka ena kena to-koni na veikoronivuli ni matanitu ena veiyasai Viti kece sara.

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU: TABACAKAKA NI VULI



फ़ीजी दर्पण

Friday January 31, 2025 | 8 pages | Issue 1 Vol 16 | www.fiji.gov.fj | @ FijiGovt |

Fiji Government

कन्दावू के जोसेफा तंगीदा को सरकार ने बैकरी खोलने के लिए सहायता प्रदान की।



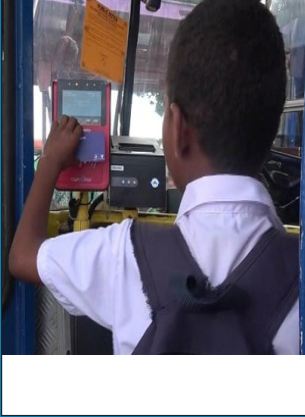
पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 3 पर

उप प्रधानमंत्री ने टीएसएलएस याता और बोण्ड क्लियरेंस पोर्टल और एआई चैटबोट सेवा की



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर

स्कूली बच्चों अब अपने डिस्ट्रिक्ट से ई-ट्रान्सपोर्ट कार्ड को 2025 के पहले सत्र के लिए रिडीम कर सकते हैं।



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 7 पर

उत्तरी विभाग के लोगों के लिए हायर ऐजुकेशन सेवाओं तक पहुंचना आसान हुआ



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने लम्बासा में हायर ऐजुकेशन सर्विस का उद्घाटन किया चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

बच्चों को अब मुश्किलों का सामना नहीं करना पड़ेगा जब कि लम्बासा में हायर ऐजुकेशन सर्विस का उद्घाटन कर दिया गया है। इस हेचर्डसीएफ दफ्तर की स्थापना एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है जो यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि सभी फीजीवासियों को, चाहे उनकी स्थिति कुछ भी हो, वे ज्ञान की सेवाओं को प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने

इस कार्यक्रम का संचालन किया और इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला उच्च शिक्षा प्रगति, सशक्तिकरण की ओर यह पहला कदम है। “यह न केवल लोगों को आगे बढ़ने के लिए ज्ञान और कौशल प्रदान करता है, बल्कि पूरे राष्ट्र को तेज़ी से बदलती दुनिया की चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिए तैयार करता है।” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा। शिक्षा की परिवर्तन शक्ति ने न केवल विश्व को बल्कि पूरे प्रशांत के लिए उच्च शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देती है। फीजी हायर ऐजुकेशन के अंतर्गत लगभग पैंतालीस (45) हायर

ऐजुकेशन कमिशन शामिल है, जिनमें से नौ वनूआ लेवू में स्थित है: एक सावूसावू में, एक ताव्यूनी में, और सात लम्बासा क्षेत्र में। साथ ही, प्रधानमंत्री माननीय रम्बूका ने बहारी देशों के साथ साझेदारी को मज़बूत करने तथा विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। उत्तरी विभाग के लोगों को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने हमारे राष्ट्र के शिक्षा विकास और समृद्धि को प्राथमिकता देने की सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता पर प्रकाश डाला। मैं हर प्रांत, तिकीना, हर गांव, हर समुदाय, हर परिवार और व्यक्ति से आग्रह करता

हूँ कि वे शिक्षा को समान महत्व के साथ अपनाएं। उन्होंने अंत में कहा, “आइए हम एक साथ मिलकर काम करना जारी रखें, ताकि एक ऐसा राष्ट्र बनाया जा सके जहां प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को समान अवसर मिले और वह हमारे प्रिय देश की बेहतरी में योगदान दे सकें।” इस दौरान शिक्षा मंत्री माननीय असेरी रडोड्रो, ई-तौकेई और कल्चर मंत्री माननीय इफेरेमी वासु, सहायक सूचना मंत्री माननीय अलिकी बिया, मटुआता के पारंपरिक नेता और अधिकारी भी उपस्थित थे।

प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने गठबंधन सरकार में नए मंत्रियों को शामिल करने का कारण बताया



राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू नईगामा लालम्बलावू ने राष्ट्रपति भवन में नए मंत्रियों का स्वागत किया चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

दो साल पहले, “एक मत की शक्ति” से पीपल्स कोलिशन (गठबंधन) सरकार की स्थापना हुई थी। अब, गठबंधन सरकार में गुप नाइन (G9) को शामिल करने के साथ, संसद में हमारी संख्या बढ़कर 38 हो गई है। अभी, आपकी सरकार के पास संसद में 55 में से लगभग 70% मत हैं। इससे सोलाह के समूह को “वफादार विपक्ष” के रूप में तीस प्रतिशत

या सोलाह मत मिलते हैं। संसदीय विपक्ष के पूर्व नेता के रूप में, मैं नीतियों से वाकिफ हूँ। हालाँकि, संसद में सरकार के पास अभी जो 38 मत हैं, वे संविधान में 75% से अभी भी कम हैं।

वास्तव में संविधान में संशोधन के लिए आवश्यक तीन-चौथाई या 75% मत को पूरा करने के लिए 42 मत की आवश्यकता है। इस योजना के लिए अतिरिक्त चार और मतों की आवश्यकता होगी।

संसद ने कैबिनेट और सहायक मंत्रियों के लिए शपथ समारोह का आयोजन किया

शीलता सिंह

तीन नए कैबिनेट मंत्रियों और तीन सहायक मंत्रियों ने राज्य सभा में पद की शपथ ली। संसद के तीन सदस्य जिन्होंने महामहिम राष्ट्रपति, तुरंगा बाले तुई दकाउ, रातू नईगामा लालम्बलावू के समक्ष कैबिनेट मंत्री के रूप में पद की शपथ ली, वे हैं:

- पुलिसिंग मंत्री के रूप में माननीय इओवाने नाई वालुरूआ
- एमीग्रेशन मंत्री के रूप में माननीय विलियामे नौपो-तो, और वातावरण तथा जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री के रूप में माननीय मोसेसे द्रेदाला बुलितावु।

शपथ लेने वाले सहायक मंत्री हैं:

- पब्लिक वर्क्स, मौसम विज्ञान सेवा के सहायक मंत्री के रूप में माननीय नाइसा तताउ तुईनादेवा,
 - सूचना के सहायक मंत्री के रूप में माननीय अलिकी बिंया, और
 - न्याय के सहायक मंत्री के रूप में माननीय रातू जोसईया बुलावाकारूआ नुइदामू।
- शपथ समारोह में नए मंत्रियों के परिवार, प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका, उप प्रधान मंत्री और अन्य कैबिनेट मंत्री उपस्थित थे। नए नियुक्त कैबिनेट मंत्री और सहायक मंत्री जल्द अपना कार्यभार ग्रहण करेंगे।

रूसियाते के लिए एक नई उम्मीद

शीलता सिंह

“मैंने ग्रामीण हाउसिंग सहायता के बारे में जानकारी लेने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री के दफ्तर से संपर्क किया, और उन्होंने मुझे एक तिहाई, दो तिहाई पोलिसी के बारे में सलाह दी। मैंने एक तिहाई पैसे के लिए अपनी एफएनपीएफ का उपयोग किया, जबकि सरकार ने बाकी खर्च खुद किया। मुझे पता था कि यह त्याग करना बेहतर भविष्य की ओर एक कदम था।” यह भावनाएं रूसियाते देलाई की थीं, जो उन सात लोगों में शामिल थे जिन्हें नए घरों की चाबिया सौंपी गई।

यह घर ग्रामीण और समुद्री विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा संचालित ग्रामीण हाउसिंग योजना के माध्यम से किया गया था, जो वातुकौला गोल्ड माइन के बंद होने से असर पड़े परिवारों की सहायता करती है। अब, ये परिवार ताईलेवु के देलाकादो, नम्बुआलाउ और नाताइवे को अपना घर कहते हैं।

2006 में, रूसियाते के लिए सब कुछ बदल

गया जब वातुकौला गोल्ड माइन में जहां वे काम करते थे, वह बंद हो गया, जिससे और कई अन्य लोग बिना काम के रह गए। दुःखों का सामना करने हुए, उसने अपने गाँव लौटने का निर्णय लिया, इस बात को लेकर कि ना जाने भावष्य में क्या होगा। ‘जब हमें बताया गया कि “अगले महीने” सहायता मिलेगी, लेकिन ऐसा कुछ नहीं हुआ। इंतज़ार करना मुश्किल था, लेकिन मैंने उम्मीद नहीं छोड़ी। आखिरकार, जब गठबंधन सरकार ने हस्तक्षेप किया, तो मेरी मनोकामना पूरी हो गई।

ग्रामीण तथा समुद्री विकास मंत्री माननीय सकियासी दितोका ने कार्यक्रम के महत्व के बारे में बात की और इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि इसका उद्देश्य सिर्फ लोगों को घर देना नहीं है, बल्कि परिवारों को वह स्थिरता प्रदान करना है जिसकी उन्हें आवश्यकता है। हम यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहते हैं कि रूसियाते जैसे लोगों के पास ऐसे घर हों जो प्रकृति की हर चुनौती का सामना कर सकें।



ग्रामीण और समुद्री विकास के मंत्री माननीय सकियासी दितोका ने घर का उद्घाटन किया चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

बा के विजय प्रसाद ने कृषि मंत्रालय का आभार माना



बा के विजय प्रसाद को मिली सरकार से सहायता चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

महिमा खान

कृषि सहायक मंत्री और जलमार्ग मंत्री, माननीय तोमासी तुनावुना, बा के वातुसूई में श्री विजय प्रसाद के बकरीयों के फार्म पर गए और बकरी पालन कराने वाले किसानों से मूल्य वृद्धि वाले उत्पादनों में निवेश करने की बात की, ताकि आय बढ़ सके। अपनी यात्रा के दौरान उन्होंने कृषि क्षेत्र में नवीतम बदलाव की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया। उन्होंने श्री प्रसाद को उनकी कड़ी मेहनत और गन्ने की खेती के बाद बकरी पालन में कदम रखने के लिए बधाई दी। इसके अलावा, वह अपनी आय बढ़ाने के लिए सब्जी की खेती भी कर रहे हैं, जिसे सराहा जाना चाहिए। अनुभवी गन्ने की किसान, जो अब अपने क्षेत्र में प्रसिद्ध बकरीयों के किसान हैं, ने माननीय तुनावुना के दौर के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया और इसे अपने और अपने भाई के लिए एक बड़ी प्रोत्साहन बताया। उन्होंने कहा कि वे साल में अपनी बकरीयों के फार्म को बढ़ाने के साथ-साथ अन्य कृषि अवसरों की ओर भी ध्यान देंगे। श्री प्रसाद ने यह भी कहा कि वे कृषि उत्पादनों को अधिक मूल्य दर्जा पर ध्यान केंद्रित करेंगे ताकि उनकी आय बढ़ सके।

49 साल की उम्र में भी श्री प्रसाद पूरी तरह से सक्रिय हैं। मंत्रालय ने उन्हें 24,000

रुपये की कीमत का बकरीयों के शेड के लिए सामग्री दी, और उनके पास अब 150 बकरीयाँ हैं। बकरी पालन के साथ-साथ सब्जियाँ उगाने का फैसला सफल रहा है, जिससे उनकी आयें बढ़ी और कृषि गति-वधियाँ भी बढ़ी हैं। जैसे-जैसे वे आगे बढ़ रहे हैं, श्री प्रसाद अपने खेत के साथ-साथ पूरे कृषि समुदाय के लिए एक बेहतर भविष्य की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं।

श्री प्रसाद ने पारम्परिक गन्ना खेती से बकरी पालन और सब्जी उगाने की ओर रुख किया, जिससे उन्हें नई उत्साह मिला है। सरकार की मदद और नवीनीकरण के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता के साथ, उन्हें उम्मीद है कि उनकी खेती में और फसल होगी। वह ज़मीन मालिकों और युवाओं से आग्रह करते हैं कि वे खाली पड़ी ज़मीन का उपयोग खेती के लिए करें। उनका मानना है कि अगर ज्यादा ज़मीन को फसल उगाने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाए तो इससे कृषि उत्पादन बढ़ेगा, खाद्य सुरक्षा सुधरेगी और किसानों को रोजगार में अधिक मौके मिलेंगे।

खाली पड़ी ज़मीन को उत्पादक खेती में बदलकर किसान स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था में योगदान दे सकते हैं और आयात सामान पर निर्भरता को कम कर सकते हैं। यह बदलाव गरीबी को कम करने, सतत विकास को अच्छा और फायदेमंद करियर के रूप में अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित कर सकता है।

जोसेफा के लिए एक नई उम्मीद



महिमा खान

कोविड-19 के दौरान, श्री जोसेफा तैगिदा ने अपने सपने को सच करने का फैसला किया और 2020 में “रियावा बेकरी” के नाम से एक बेकरी खोली। शुरुआत में उन्होंने एक साधारण ओवन का इस्तेमाल किया, लेकिन जल्द ही उनके ग्राहकों की संख्या बढ़ने लगी। अब उनके पास गैस से चलने वाले दो बड़े ओवन हैं और एक दो मिक्सर भी है, जो उन्हें “इंटीग्रेटेड हियूमन रिसोर्स ज डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम ” से मिला था।

अब उनकी बेकरी हर महीने 3,000 से 5,000 डॉलर की आमदनी कमा रही है और उन्होंने दो कर्मचारियों को भी काम पर रखा है। इसके अलावा, उन्होंने “वनिसिया मार्केट” में एक मिनी मार्ट खोला है। उनके व्यापार अब आसपास के सरकारी दफतरों और अन्य दूधों तक फैलाने की योजना बना रहे हैं, क्योंकि मांग बहुत बढ़ गई है। जोसेफा तैगिदा का यह प्रयास दिखाता है कि कठिनाइयों के बावजूद अगर मेहनत और सपने को सही दिशा मिले, तो सफलता ज़रूर मिलती है।

ग्रामीण योजना ताईलेवू गाँववासियों के लिए आशा लेकर आई है



महिमा खान

“मैं केवल यही चाहती थी कि मेरे पति अपनी कड़ी मेहनत का फल और हमारे परिवार के लिए एक बेहतर घर प्रदान करने के हमारे सपने को साकार देखने के लिए जीवित हों।”

उलामिला बुटो वोसा, दिवंगत अदिउ वोसा की पत्नी, अपने नए घर की चाबी प्राप्त करने के बाद अपना आभार व्यक्त किया। वह सात लोगों में से एक थी जिन्हें ग्रामीण आवास योजना के तहत घर मिले। यह योजना उन परिवारों की मदद करता है जो वातुकौला से विस्थापित होकर अब डेलाकाडो गांव, ताईलेवू में रह रहे हैं। छह बच्चों की माँ, जो बहुत भावुक थीं, अपने दिवंगत पति को याद करती हुई खुशी के आंसू नहीं रोक पाईं। सुबह जब मैंने अपने बच्चों को देखा, तो बहुत सारी भावनाएँ जाग उठीं। मुझे वह दिन याद आया जब हम आए थे तब हम अपने बच्चों के लिए एक अच्छा

घर बनाने की योजना बनाते थे। 2007 में, उनके पति को वातुकौला में नौकरी से निकाल दिया गया था, जिसके बाद परिवार को अपना गाँव लौटना पड़ा। हालाँकि यह बदलाव मुश्किल था, लेकिन वे किसी तरह जीवित रहे। उन्होंने फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड (एफएन-पीएफ) से पैसे जुटाकर आवास योजना में अपनी एक-तिहाई हिस्सेदारी दी। अपने पति के नौकरी से निकाले जाने के बाद, उन्होंने परिवार का पालन-पोषण करने के लिए खेती शुरू की। 2023 में, उन्हें न्यूज़ीलैंड में एक पाइन कंपनी में काम करने का मौका मिला।

सुश्री वोसा ने बताया कि उनके पति ने एक महीने में जो पैसे कमाए, वह उन्हें भेजे और उन्होंने उन पैसे से एक कैटीन व्यवसाय शुरू किया और मवेशी खरीदे। पिछले साल, जब वह उनसे मिलने आए थे, तो यह दिल तोड़ देने वाला था, वह अब हकीकत बन गया है। वह अपने प्यार और मेहनती पति को धन्यवाद करती हैं, जिन्होंने यह सब संभव बनाया।

श्रीमान और श्रीमती वोसा ग्रामीण आवास योजना के आभारी हैं, जो ग्रामीण और समुद्र तटीय विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा

चलाया जाता है। यह कार्यक्रम ग्रामीण और समुद्र तटीय क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले लोगों की आवास जरूरतों को पूरा करता है। विशेष रूप से उन लोगों को प्राथमिकता देता है जो गाँवों, ग्रामीण बस्तियों और गैर शहरी इलाकों में अस्थायी रूप से रहते हैं। स्कीम 2 के तहत, आवेदक परियोजना की लागत का एक-तिहाई हिस्सा नकद में देते हैं, और मंत्रालय शेष दो-तिहाई राशि का भुगतान करता है। इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल हैं:

- स्वीकृत 24 x 16 योजनाओं के तहत नए घरों का निर्माण
- मौजूदा संरचनाओं का विस्तार, जैसे रसोई और शौचालय।
- घरों को केंटगरी 4 और 5 के उच्चकोरि बंधीय तूफानों से बचने के लिए मजबूती से तैयार करना।
- अधूरे घरों का निर्माण करना।

ग्रामीण और समुद्र तटीय विकास सक्रियासी दिटोका ने मंत्रालय की इस प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित किया कि यह योजना कमजोर समुदायों के लिए सुरक्षित, मजबूत और किफायती आवास प्रदान करने के लिए काम कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा, “यह पहल आपदा जोखिमों को कम करती है, और लोगों को बुनियादी सेवा करती है, और लोगों को बुनियादी सेवाओं तक पहुंचने में मदद करती है।” वातुकौला आवास परियोजना के तहत, ताईलेवू के नताददावे, नबुआलाउ और डेलकाडो गाँवों में सात परिवारों को उनके नए घरों की चाबियाँ और नवीनीकरण किए गए

स्कूल वापसी सहायता

शलेन जो मीनूस सूवा के मेनेजर हैं, अपनी दुकान की तेजी से वृद्धि पर गर्व महसूस कर रहे हैं, जो “बैक टू स्कूल” ग्रांट से हुई है, जिससे छात्रों को स्टेशनरी में निवेश के कारण विक्री में वृद्धि हुई है। उनके पास 19 कर्मचारियों की टीम है और वे बेहद सस्ते दामों पर सामान प्रदान करते हैं।



जैसे ही कुछ ही दिनों में स्कूल फिर से खुलने वाले हैं, स्कूल की खरीदारी के लिए भीड़ लगी है। 50 से अधिक वर्षों से व्यवसाय में अनुभवी विनय कुमार इस बात पर विचार करते हैं कि कैसे उनकी दुकान ने कई पीढ़ियों को आते और जाते देखा है, 1980 के दशक से जब ग्राहक अपने लिए युनिफॉम खरीदते थे, वे अपने बच्चों के लिए यूनिफॉम खरीद रहे हैं। वह अपने व्यवसाय की लंबी उम्र का श्रेय सेवा, कीमत और गुणवत्ता पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने को देते हैं। इस वर्ष, बढ़ती प्रतिस्पर्धा के साथ, विनय अधिक प्रतिस्पर्धी को कीमतों की पेशकश करने में कामयाब रहे, जिससे ग्राहकों को लाभ हुआ है।



इस स्कूल वापसी सहायता के तहत कई माता पितृओं ने लाभ उठाया है। नावुआ कि रहने वाली रूक्सार खान ने सरकार के प्रति अपना आभार व्यक्त किया। “मैं अपनी बच्ची को अकेले ही पालती हूँ, सरकार कि इस सहायता से मुझे बहुत मदद मिली है। इस सहायता के चलते मैंने अपनी बेटी के लिए स्कूल बैग, जुते और कुछ किताबें ली है। मैं बस लोगो से इतना ही कहना चाहूंगी कि जब सरकार मदद करती है तो हमें इस सहायता को लेना चाहिए।”

माननीय बीमान प्रसाद ने हिंदी कवि सम्मेलन 2025 में हिस्सा लिया



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री, माननीय प्रोफेसर बीमान प्रसाद ने हिंदी कवि सम्मेलन 2025 में हिस्सा लिया, जहाँ उन्होंने हिंदी दिवस मनाया। इस मौके पर प्रमुख कवियों को सम्मानित किया गया और हिंदी भाषा के वैश्विक महत्व को बताया गया। मननीय प्रसाद ने भारतीय उच्चायोग की सरहाना की, जो हमारी भाषा और संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने में काम कर रहा है। “फीजी और भारत के बीच का रिश्ता ऐतिहासिक है, और यह हमारी भाषा से जुड़ा हुआ है। इसी कारण से हम अब संसद में हिंदी को आधिकारिक रूप से शामिल कर चुके हैं,” माननीय प्रसाद ने कहा।

प्रोफेसर बीमान प्रसाद ने भारत और फीजी के संयुक्त प्रयास के बारे में भी बताया, जिसके तहत आने वाले वर्षों में एक 100 बिस्तरो वाला सुपर स्पेशलिटी अस्पताल खोला जाएगा।



उप प्रधान मंत्री बीआ-ई-दाके तथा महिलाओं के लिए ग्रीनहाउस कोआपरेटिव कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन किया



करेगी। यह भोजन सुरक्षा को मजबूत करता है और समाज के लोगों के लिए आमदनी के अवसर प्रदान करेगी।

2022 में शुरू किए गए बीएटी फीजी के गो कार्यक्रम ने 2023 में पांच मिलियन से ज़्यादा सब्जियों के पौधे को दिया था और 2024 तक हर साल एक मिलियन पौधे प्रतिवर्ष देने का लक्ष्य रखा है, जो ताव्यूवी, मोआला और नांगिंगी जैसे इलाकों तक पहुँचाया गया। उप प्रधान मंत्री ने गामीण आजीविका के लिए बीएटी फीजी की प्रतिबद्धता की सराहना की। 2020 में स्थापित बीया-ई-दाके महिला सहकारी संस्था मजबूती का उदाहरण है। खेती तथा जलीय कृषि को यहां और बाहर के देशों में भी बेचने लिए सरकार के साथ मिल कर काम रही है।

ग्रीनहाउस के शुभारम्भ के साथ ही, सहकारी समिति ने अपनी पांच सालों की योजना (2024-2029) और नए लोगों को स्थापित किया, जो उनके भविष्य का प्रतीक है। उप प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि आज हम सहयोग और सोलेसोलेवाकी की स्तायी भावना का जश्न मना रहे हैं तथा फीजी में आर्थिक विकास को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए आपके समर्पण के लिए बीएटी फीजी और बीया ई दाके महिला सहकारी को धन्यवाद करती है।

उप प्रधान माननीय कमिकमिदा ने बिया-ई-दाके का उद्घाटन किया चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

दाके महिला सहकारी समिति के साथ साझेदारी में फीजी के चौथे गो ग्रीहाउस का संचालन किया। यह कार्यक्रम फीजी के कृषि विकास, महिला सशक्तिकरण और

समाज के लोगों के लिए एक बहुत बड़ी योजना है। \$42,000 डोलर की लागत का ग्रीनहाउस, सिंचाई करने वाली चिज़े तथा 50,000 सब्जी के बीज को प्रतिवर्ष प्रदान

उप प्रधानमंत्री ने टीएसएलएस यात्रा और बोण्ड क्लीयरेंस पोर्टल और एआई चैटबोट सेवा की शुरुआत की

महिमा खान

उप प्रधान मंत्री और फायनेन्स मंत्री, माननीय प्रोफेसर बीमान प्रसाद ने टीएसएलएस यात्रा और बोण्ड क्लीयरेंस पोर्टल, साथ ही 24 घंटे चलने वाली एआई-समर्थित चैटबोट सेवा की शुरुआत की। अपने भाषण में, प्रोफेसर प्रसाद ने शिक्षा, शासन और नीति निर्माण में एआई को महत्वपूर्ण को बताया। प्रोफेसर प्रसाद ने कहा कि एआई शिक्षा, राजनीति और शासन पर भारी असर डालेगा। यह व्यक्तिगत शिक्षा, प्रशासनिक कार्यों को संचालित करने और शिक्षा व कौशल विकास तक पहुंच बढ़ाने में मदद करेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि टीएसएलएस यात्रा और बोण्ड क्लीयरेंस पोर्टल, साथ ही चैटबोट सेवा, संस्था के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण तकनीकी कदम है। यह पोर्टल दक्षता और उत्पादकता बढ़ाने की उम्मीद है, जिससे हर साल हजारों छात्रों को फायदा होगा। 2024 में, संसद ने निर्णय लिया कि यात्रा और बोण्ड क्लीयरेंस की जिम्मेदारी टीएसएलएस को सौंप दी जाएगी। इसे प्रभावी

तरीके से प्रबंधित करने के लिए मजबूत सिस्टम की आवश्यकता है, ताकि काम आसानी से हो सके और उपयोगकर्ताओं को अच्छा अनुभव मिल सके। 24 घंटे काम करने वाला एआई चैटबोट भी एक महत्वपूर्ण उपकरण के रूप में सामने आया। यह सही जानकारी तुरंत प्रदान करता है, अभिभावकों, स्कूलों और अन्य लोगों को बेहतर निर्णय लेने में मदद मिलती है, बिना लंबा इंतजार किए या दूर जाने की जरूरत है। सरकार टीएसएलएस के साथ मिलकर उच्च शिक्षा में बदलाव को लागू कर रही है, जो हितधारकों की बढ़ती जरूरतों को पूरा करे। हर साल \$151 मिलियन छात्रवृत्तियों और प्रशिक्षण योजनाओं के लिए आवंटित किए जा रहे हैं। कोलिशन सरकार एक मजबूत कार्यबल बनाने पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रही है, जो भविष्य की चुनौतियों का सामना कर सके। नई योजनाएं जैसे एंग्लॉयर-बइसद-स्वकीलस क्वलिफिकेशन स्कीम शुरू की गई हैं, जो वेटेरीनरी साइन्स और विशेष इंजीनियरिंग क्षेत्रों में प्रशिक्षण के अवसर



उप प्रधान मंत्री माननीय बीमान प्रसाद ने टीएसएलएस पोर्टल का उद्घाटन किया देंगी। ट्रेवल और बोण्ड क्लीयरेंस पोर्टल अब करीब 70,000 छात्रों को मदद करेगा। अनुमतियाँ अब ऑनलाइन दी जाएंगी और इमीग्रेशन तथा बोर्डर कोन्ट्रोल को पोर्ट

ल से क्लीयरेंस चेक करने का अधिकार होगा। मंत्री ने कहा, यह बदलाव पारदर्शिता, दक्षता और जिम्मेदारी बढ़ाएगा, जिससे सेवा में सुधार होगा।

प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने नौ सदस्यों के नियुक्ति के संविधान पर चर्चा किया



शीलता सिंह

सरकार में तीन नए मंत्रियों और तीन नए सहायक मंत्रियों को शामिल किया है, जो सरकार के लिए एक शुभ और प्रगतिशील अवसर है। 2022 के पिछले चुनावों में हमने अलग अलग मंचों पर भाग लिया, इसके बावजूद हम राष्ट्र के हित में एक साथ आए, इस देश को आगे बढ़ने के लिए।

कुछ मीडिया ने संविधान के बारे में पूछा है- स्पष्ट करने

के लिए, मंत्रियों और सहायक मंत्रियों की नियुक्ति करना प्रधान मंत्री का फर्ज है। गुप नाइन (G9) पहले एक राजनीतिक दल के सदस्य थे, जिसको अब रद्द कर दिया गया है, इसलिए वे राजनीतिक दल नियम के तहत संसद के सदस्य बन गए हैं।

संसद के सदस्यों के रूप में, वे स्तुत एजेंट हैं। जबकि संविधान नाव-कूटने या पार्टी-कूटने की अनुमति नहीं देता है, स्वतंत्र होने के नाते, वे मूल रूप से यह चुनने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं कि सरकार या विपक्ष में से किसमें

शामिल होना है।

मुझे यह कहते हुए खुशी हो रही कि वे गुप नाइन में शामिल हैं, और कुछ सप्ताह की बातचीत के बाद, अब वे गठबंधन सरकार में शामिल हो गए हैं। मुझे इस बात की भी खुशी है कि मेरे गठबंधन सहयोगियों, नेशनल फेडरेशन पार्टी और सोशल डेमोक्रेटिक लिबरल पार्टी ने सरकार को मजबूत करने के लिए नए मंत्रियों को शामिल करने का स्वागत किया है।

उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने पश्चिमी में बाढ़ से असर पड़े इलाकों का दौरा किया



उप प्रधान मंत्री माननीय बीमान प्रसाद ने पश्चिमी भाग का दौरा किया

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनन्स मंत्री माननीय बीमान प्रसाद ने हाल ही में आई बाढ़ से असर पड़े इलाकों और खराब मौसम से प्रभावित लोगों को सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए फीजी के पश्चिमी इलाकों में सिंगातोका से राकीराकी तक का दौरा किया।

स्थानीय सरकारी अधिकारियों के साथ माननीय प्रसाद ने असर पड़े इलाकों का दौरा किया। निवासियों, समुदाय के नेताओं और आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया टीमों के साथ बैठक की। उन्होंने समुदायों को तत्काल राहत और निरंतर सहायता के लिए सरकार

की प्रतिबद्धता का आश्वासन दिया। “ हम यहां सुनने, समर्थन करने और तेज़ी से सुधार सुनिश्चित करने के लिए हैं” माननीय प्रसाद ने कहा। “ सरकार आवश्यक सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए स्थानीय नेताओं और संगठनों के साथ साझेदारी पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रही है।” प्रोफेसर प्रसाद ने असर पड़े समुदायों को मदद करने के लिए सभी राहत कार्यकर्ताओं के प्रयासों की प्रशंसा की। उन्होंने इस कठिन समय के दौरान नेशनल डिज्वास्टर मैनेजमेंट ऑफिस (एनडीएमओ) को लोगो कि मदद करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

ई-ट्रान्सपोर्ट कार्ड रीडिम करे

महिमा खान

सभी छात्रों को सूचित किया जाता है कि वे अब अपनी ई-ट्रान्सपोर्ट कार्ड को 2025 के पहले सत्र के लिए रिडीम कर सकते हैं।

शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने यह जानकारी दी है कि सभी छात्रों के ई-ट्रान्सपोर्ट कार्ड में धनराशि जोड़ दी गई है।

छात्र 20 जनवरी 2025, सोमवार से अपने कार्ड्स को निम्नलिखित स्थानों पर रिडीम कर सकते हैं।

- ☐ वोडाफोन आउलेट
- ☐ बसें
- ☐ डीस्ट्रिक्ट दफतर (पते नीचे दिए गए हैं)

स्कूल की तैयारी के लिए, छात्रों से अनुरोध किया जाता है कि वे सत्र शुरू होने से पहले अपने कार्ड को रिडीम करा लें।

यदि छात्रों को अपने ई-ट्रान्सपोर्ट कार्ड के संबंध में कोई समस्या हो तो वे दिए गए नम्बर पर सम्पर्क करें:

3220429 और 3220570 या ta.helpdesk@govnet.gov.fj पर ईमेल करें।

शिक्षा मंत्रालय रिडीम स्थान

- ☐ सूवा दफतर
- ☐ हार्वर फ्रंट बिल्डिंग, सूवा
- ☐ सिंगातोका दफतर
- ☐ केअसूना दफतर
- ☐ नौसोरी दफतर
- ☐ रिवा हाउस, नौसोरी
- ☐ लौतोका दफतर
- ☐ रोकोरोकोइवूदा हाउस, लौतोका
- ☐ बा दफतर
- ☐ कोरोनुम्बू हाउस, बा शहर
- ☐ रा दफतर
- ☐ कालावाती बिल्डिंग, राकीराकी शहर
- ☐ लम्बासा दफतर
- ☐ रोकोमाते हाउस, लम्बासा शहर
- ☐ सावूसावू दफतर
- ☐ गुलाबदास बिल्डिंग, सावूसावू शहर
- ☐ ताव्यूनी दफतर
- ☐ बूदालेवू सेकेड्री स्कूल



उप प्रधान मंत्री माननीय बीमान प्रसाद हाल में स्कूल वापसी सहायता पर बातें कीं। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

स्कूल वापसी सहायता पर नवीनतम जानकारी

शीलता सिंह

फायनेन्स मंत्रालय ने अब तक पूरे देश में 2025 स्कूल वर्ष के लिए स्कूल वापसी सहायता के रूप में 203,492 छात्रों को लगभग 41 मिलियन डॉलर का पेमेंट किया है। इसमें दस जनवरी को बैच एक में पेमेंट किए गए 200,176 छात्र और 20 जनवरी को 3,316 छात्रों को दूसरे बैच का पेमेंट शामिल है।

जो बच्चे 8,313 आवेदन वर्तमान में उन छात्रों से संबंधित हैं जो अपनी कक्षा 12 परीक्षा परिणामों का इंतजार कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि वे अभी तक कक्षा 13 में नामांकित नहीं हुए हैं।

ये भुगतान तब प्रक्रिया में लाए जाएंगे जब परिणाम उपलब्ध होंगे और छात्र 2025 के स्कूल वर्ष के लिए कक्षा में आधिकारिक रूप से नामांकित हो जाएंगे, जो जनवरी के अंत तक होगा। माता-पिता और अभिभावक अपने एम-पैसा या एप्लिकेशन खातों और पोस्ट फीजी आउटलेट के माध्यम से प्रति बच्चे \$200 की सहायता प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। स्कूली वस्तुओं की खरीद के लिए डिजिटल वॉलेट के माध्यम से धन निकाली जा सकती है या उपयोग की जा सकती है। समुद्री क्षेत्रों में रहने वालों के लिए, प्रमाण के रूप में छात्रों के आईडी प्रस्तुत करने पर, धनराशि

निकटतम पोस्ट फीजी एजेंसी में संग्रह के लिए उपलब्ध है।

स्कूल वापसी सहायता कोलिशन सरकार की एक प्रमुख पहल है, जिसका उद्देश्य माता-पिता और अभिभावकों को स्कूल के बेग, जूते, लंच बॉक्स, स्टेशनरी और अन्य जरूरी सामान खरीदने में मदद करता है, ताकि बच्चे 27 जनवरी 2025 को स्कूल जा सकें।

जिन माता-पिताओं को अभी तक अपने बच्चों की स्कूल वापसी सहायता नहीं मिली है और जो बारहवी कक्षा के बैच का हिस्सा नहीं हैं, उनके लिए फायनेन्स मंत्रालय यह सलाह देना चाहता है कि वे

उनके ऐप्लीकेशन में कुछ समस्याएँ देखी हैं, जिनमें गलत मोबाइल नंबर, गलत जन्म तारीख और अन्य गलत जानकारी शामिल है। इसमें लगभग 900 ऐप्लीकेशन शामिल हैं।

मंत्रालय इन गलतियों को सुधारने के लिए शिक्षा मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर काम कर रही है, जहाँ तक संभव हो। इसके अलावा, हमने पाया है कि कुछ स्कूलों ने समय पर ऐप्लीकेशन जमा नहीं किया है। माता-पिताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे अपने अप्लीकेशन की स्थिति के बारे में स्कूल के प्रमुख से सम्पर्क करें।