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Land returned, hearts restored: Vitogo landowners reclaim NG 187



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with a young member of the community after landowners received back Native Grant 187 in Vitogo, Lautoka. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

By AZARIA FAREEN

TEARS, smiles and quiet prayers marked a powerful moment in Vitogo, Lautoka, recently as landowners received back Native Grant 187—land that had been out of their hands for generations, and which can now once again benefit their people.

For many, it was not just the return of land, but the restoration of dignity, identity and hope.

Speaking at the historic handover, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka ac-

knowledged the deep emotional weight of the occasion.

“This is not just the handover of a title,” he said. “It is the return of vanua to its people.”

Originally acquired in 1924 for the Lautoka Water Supply Catchment, Native Grant 187 spans more than 3,100 acres.

Over time, parts of the land were no longer required for public use. In 1999, the Cabinet approved its reversion, excluding key public areas such as the Tavakubu Cemetery and essential infrastructure. That decision, long awaited,

has now been fulfilled.

“For the iTaukei, land is life,” PM Rabuka said. “It carries our names, our stories, and our obligations to those who came before us and those who will come after us.”

He acknowledged the long journey endured by the five landowning Mataqali—Tunuloa, Matarisiga, Vidilo, Nadakuvatu and Noi Batiri—many of whom waited decades to see this day.

“Some who started this process are no longer with us today, and we honour them as their perseverance made the moment possible.”

The Head of Government stressed that the reversion reflects the Coalition Government’s commitment to fairness, respect and partnership, and aligns with Fiji’s National Development Plan. By returning the land, the government is unlocking opportunities for inclusive economic growth and indigenous empowerment.

“Our vision is clear,” he told landowners. “We want you to move beyond being passive recipients of lease income—to become developers, entrepreneurs, employers and investors.”

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Fiji hosts Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting on advancing rule of law

FIJI will host the Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting from 9 to 12 February 2026 at the Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort in Nadi.

A total of 150 delegates, including attorneys general, justice ministers and solicitors general, are expected to attend the meeting from the 56 Commonwealth countries.

During the meeting, delegates will discuss how strong legal safeguards protect everyday life, from people’s ability to participate in democracy and earn a fair living, to their right to live in safe and healthy communities. Ministers are also expected to agree on practical measures to advance the rule of law, including improving access to justice and strengthening legal institutions that support stable societies, fair economies and environmental protection.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Hon Shirley Botchwey, said the rule of law remained essential to peace, stability and development but was under serious pressure in many parts of the world.

She added: “Where the rule of law is weakened or unevenly applied, the impact is felt most sharply by ordinary people. For the Commonwealth, the rule of law is a cornerstone of our Charter and our work. It demands practical, thoughtful commitment and cooperation, not rhetoric.”

Secretary-General Botchwey continued:

“In Fiji, our Ministers will come together to strengthen the rule of law as the foundation of a resilient future, where every person has a voice in democracy, every worker is treated with dignity, and every vulnerable community is protected from a changing climate. That is what our people count on us to do.

“By working together, we can uphold the rule of law as an essential protection for the people of the Commonwealth.”

She thanked the Fijian Government for hosting the meeting.

The meeting will be chaired by the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General of Fiji, Hon Siromi Turaga, with the theme ‘Anchoring Justice in a Changing Tide: Strengthening the Rule of Law for a Resilient Future’.

Turaga said Fiji hoped to explore how the Commonwealth Vuvale (family) could strengthen the rule of law by ensuring justice systems remained flexible, inclusive and responsive.

“Together, we will also consider the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change, digital transformation and regional cooperation, so that our legal systems remain resilient for generations to come,” he said.

The meeting will also include five side events held on the margins, bringing together youth



Acting Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga.

leaders, people with lived experience of the justice system and disability advocates to ensure their perspectives inform ministerial discussions.

The outcomes of the meeting are expected to help shape the agenda for the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), to be held in Antigua and Barbuda later this year.

(Source: Commonwealth Secretariat/ Government of Fiji)

Cabinet Decisions

Amendments to the First Home Ownership Initiative Policy

Cabinet endorsed amendments to the First Home Ownership Initiative Policy.

A caveat provision has been introduced, effective from 1 August 2025, requiring a 10-year caveat on the sale of property to be placed on all properties acquired through the grant. Cabinet also approved the establishment of the First Home Grant Assistance Category 1 Tier 1 Programme and Policy to support low-income families evicted from the Veidogo, Nabua Muslim League, and Kilikali informal settlements who qualify for a Housing Authority loan. This programme is expected to be extended to eligible families from other settlements in the future.

The programme will be jointly administered by the Ministry of Housing and the Housing Authority.

Fiji’s National Cybersecurity and Resilience Strategy 2026–2031

Cabinet endorsed the National Cybersecurity and Resilience Strategy 2026–2031 (NCRS) and its accompanying Action Plan.

The NCRS is structured around the following five Strategic Priorities:

- (i) Secure, safe, and cyber-aware Fijians and businesses, focusing on empowering communities to protect themselves online;
- (ii) Strong cyber incident and cybercrime response capabilities, focusing on strengthening Fiji’s sovereign capacity to identify, protect, detect, respond to, and recover from nationally significant cyber incidents and the impacts of cybercrime;
- (iii) Protected government, critical infrastructure, and critical information infrastructure, data, and assets, focusing on building confidence that the digital infrastructure and networks underpinning economic resilience and national security are cyber-secure and resilient;
- (iv) A skilled, talented, and diverse cybersecurity workforce, focusing on addressing workforce and skills shortages by creating a sustainable talent pipeline of cybersecurity professionals; and
- (v) Cybersecurity leadership and global advocacy, focusing on addressing cyber risks collectively with regional and international partners, recognising that cybersecurity and cybercrime are shared challenges with implications for international peace and security.

The Action Plan outlines a clear and structured approach to implementing the NCRS.

The NCRS implementation process will be driven by continuous stakeholder engagement, structured reporting, monitoring and evaluation, and collaborative decision-making to ensure it remains responsive, adaptable, agile, and results-focused.

Fiji’s First Peer-To-Peer lending platform

The Ministry of Commerce and Business Development, together with the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) and the Asian Development Bank’s Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI), has issued a Request for Proposals (RfP) for the design and development of Fiji’s first peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platform for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The RfP is made possible through the Access to Business Funding Act 2025, new legislation passed last year to enable three new avenues for MSMEs to access finance. It invites qualified fintech companies, software developers, credit providers, and other relevant players, including consortia, to submit proposals for the design of a secure, scalable, and user-friendly P2P lending platform.

The P2P lending platform, common in other countries yet new in Fiji, is a pioneering

step towards building an alternative finance ecosystem to address critical financing gaps for MSMEs.

The P2P lending can reduce the barriers, time, and costs associated with traditional lending for MSMEs by connecting businesses directly with lenders via a secure digital platform.

Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development, Esrom Immanuel said “The Government now calls for all eligible and interested firms, fintech innovators, financial institutions and consortia to obtain the RFP document and submit their proposals. We seek partners who share our vision of a resilient, inclusive and innovative financial ecosystem that delivers tangible benefits for MSMEs and strengthens Fiji’s economy.”

The successful respondent will establish and operate this platform as an independent, fully

commercial financial intermediary licensed by the RBF under the Access to Business Funding Act 2025.

“We are inviting interested market participants who are capable of establishing Fiji’s first licensed peer-to-peer lending platform to respond,” said Ariff Ali, Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji.

“This is an opportunity to help shape Fiji’s finance sector and expand financing options for MSMEs.”

“Across the Pacific, many small businesses struggle to access finance, limiting innovation and growth,” said Jeremy Cleaver, PSDI’s Financing Growth Specialist.

“Peer-to-peer lending can help bridge this gap by connecting businesses with a wider pool of investors,

To de-risk the establishment of the platform and ensure the successful applicant has resources to build a sustainable business, a startup support package will be made available through the Fiji Innovation Hub.

This will include financial support, technical assistance, and participation in the Fiji Innovation Hub’s Accelerator Program.

The deadline for proposal submissions is 13 March 2026 at 5pm Fiji time.

Full RfP documentation, including scope of work, eligibility criteria, and submission requirements, is available from the Ministry website <https://www.mcttt.gov.fj/division/msme-fiji/>

PSDI is an Asian Development Bank technical assistance program undertaken in partnership with the governments of Australia and New Zealand.

(Source: Ministry of Commerce and Business Development)

Photo: SUPPLIED



Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development, Esrom Immanuel, officiated at the event where the Government together with the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) and the Asian Development Bank’s Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI), issued a Request for Proposals (RfP) for the design and development of Fiji’s first peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platform for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Land returned, hearts restored: Vitogo landowners reclaim NG 187

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As Native Grant 187 returns to its rightful custodians, the message was clear: the land now carries not only history, but responsibility—and the promise of a stronger future for generations to come.

The landowners were encouraged to use their returned land productively, creating opportunities in agriculture, tourism, business and other ventures and with support from government agencies, the land is expected to generate jobs, strengthen local communities and secure a more prosperous future for generations to come.

Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Filimoni Vosarogo, in commending the Coalition Government’s initiative, said that it took this long because surveys had to be done so the mataqali’s who initially gave the land are able to get back the same demarcated land.

“In future conveyancing, the timeframe is going to be shorter because we now have better equipment for the survey,” he emphasised.

“The key to this is to ensure that lessees are happy, and can continue under a different administration, which the State is quite happy to facilitate, because with Native Grants, the State keeps the money, and if those lands are going to be administered by TLTB, then they collect the leases and the landowners get the money.”

“We feel that, in terms of equity, it’s time that these parcels of land that were obtained for public purposes should be rightfully returned once the public purpose no longer exists,” Minister Vosarogo added.

Our duty is to leave behind abundance behind for the next generation: Minister Tabuya



Minister for Information, Environment and Climate Change, Lynda Tabuya, marked World Wetlands Day 2026 on February 2 with the community in Nabukelevu Village, Serua. **Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR**

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

As Fiji marked World Wetlands Day 2026, Minister for Information, Environment and Climate Change, Lynda Tabuya, stressed that the greatest threat to wetlands today is not climate change, but human action.

Speaking at the World Wetlands Day celebration in Nabukelevu Village, Serua, this week Minister Tabuya emphasised that in a time of climate change, wetlands remain among our strongest natural defenders, describing them as “lifelines”.

Celebrated under the theme, “Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural

Heritage” this year, World Wetlands Day is commemorated annually on February 2 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands for people and nature.

“Mangroves reduce storm surges. Wetlands absorb flood waters. They protect villages during cyclones and heavy rain. Wetlands are also powerful carbon sinks,” Minister Tabuya stated.

“Without knowing the science, our ancestors were already protecting one of the world’s greatest climate solutions.”

“For too long, wetlands have been misunderstood. Our ancestors knew better. What science proves today, traditional knowledge has always known. Wetlands are lifelines.”

Minister Tabuya emphasised that the protection of wetlands will not

be won by policies, workshops or government action alone, but through villages, yavusa meetings, and the daily choices of resource owners.

“When wetlands are healthy, communities are resilient. When wetlands are protected, Fiji is protected.

“Our duty is simple, and heavy: To leave abundance behind for the next generation.”

The celebration was held in Nabukelevu Village, Serua, which was deliberately chosen nearly two decades ago because it lies within the Navua River system, where wetlands, rivers, and floodplains perform vital ecological functions recognised globally.

PM honours pioneering women of WRACS 1/88 for transformative to Fiji

By NANISE NEIMILA

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has paid tribute to the pioneering women of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces’ Women’s Royal Army Corps Service (WRACS) 1/88, acknowledging their historic role in reshaping Fiji’s military and advancing gender inclusion in national service.

Speaking at the commemoration of the

38th anniversary of WRACS 1/88 held at the RFMF chapel in Nabua, Prime Minister Rabuka reflected on February 5, 1988, when forty-two women marched into recruit training for the first time—an event he described as both historic for the RFMF and transformative for Fiji.

“That moment signified the recognition that patriotism, discipline, and sacrifice are not defined by gender, but by the strength of one’s character and devotion to service,”

the Prime Minister said.

From the original cohort, twenty women advanced through Officer Cadet Training, with seven commissioned as officers, setting a standard for generations of women who would later serve in uniform.

Members of WRACS 1/88 went on to serve across a wide range of roles, including administration, medicine, engineering, communications, logistics and infantry, holding senior positions such as Company Sergeant Major, Regimental Sergeant Major, Operations Officers and Adjutants.

The Prime Minister who was the RFMF Commander that opened the Force to women soldiers highlighted the group’s significant contribution to Fiji’s international standing through peacekeeping missions in East Timor, Lebanon, Sinai, Iraq and the Golan Heights, noting that they carried Fiji’s flag with distinction while contributing to global peace and security.

“Beyond their operational roles, WRACS 1/88 also served at the strategic level, shaping doctrine, operations and institutional culture within the RFMF,” he said.

“Their leadership ensured that women’s perspectives were embedded in decision-making at the highest levels.”

He noted that their pioneering journey paved the way for historic milestones within the RFMF, including the commissioning of the first female Colonel, the appointment of the first female Chief of Staff, and the service of the first female Military Police Advisor to the United Nations.

“These achievements are not only personal triumphs, but institutional landmarks that demonstrate women’s leadership is integral

to the strength and professionalism of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces,” the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister also aligned the commemoration with the Coalition Government’s National Development Plan, which places inclusiveness at the centre of Fiji’s progress, and with the ongoing work of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection to advance gender equality and empowerment.

Reflecting personally as the former Commander of the RFMF, Prime Minister Rabuka recalled the courage required to open military ranks to women in 1988 and expressed pride in how WRACS 1/88 exceeded expectations.

“You did not simply join the ranks—you excelled. You became leaders, advisors and role models, proving that inclusion strengthens institutions and that courage at the beginning of a journey can transform generations to come.”

Under the anniversary theme “Down Memory Lane”, the Prime Minister said the occasion was not only a time to reflect on service and sacrifice, but to honour a lasting legacy of empowerment and national pride.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Fiji, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka extended heartfelt congratulations to WRACS 1/88, acknowledging those who have passed on, those who continue to serve beyond retirement, and all who contributed to the collective legacy of resilience, dignity and service.

“Your legacy is written not only in the annals of the RFMF, but in the lives of the women who now serve proudly in uniform,” he said.



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, with the pioneering women of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces’ Women’s Royal Army Corps Service (WRACS) 1/88, during the 38th anniversary church service at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks in Nabua. **Photo: NANISE NEIMILA**

Labasa parent praises school assistance

AQELA Tuirewatuvuki, a mother of five from Labasa, says the Government's Back-to-School Assistance has provided significant relief to parents and guardians.

Mrs Tuirewatuvuki said that in previous years, meeting back-to-school expenses was challenging, often placing financial strain on families.

This year, the assistance has enabled her to focus on her vegetable sales at the Labasa Market.

"I thank the Government for providing this assistance. I have five children, and I was able to meet all my children's back-to-school needs without needing extra cash," she said.

"Now I am able to earn more profit from selling my vegetables, which will increase my savings."

Mrs Tuirewatuvuki added that it was reassuring to know the Government has allocated funding specifically to support parents and guardians with back-to-school expenses.



A relief indeed: Ms Kumar on Govt's Back-To-School Assistance

KOROVUTO resident Priya Kumar has expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the Government for the \$200 Back-to-School Assistance, describing it as a timely relief for families, especially those with low incomes.

Speaking while purchasing stationery and other school essentials for her children in Nadi in late January, Ms Kumar said the assistance has made a significant difference for her family as they prepare for the new school year. She explained that the beginning of the year was often financially challenging for many households, with school-related expenses coming soon after the festive season. Ms Kumar said the \$200 Back-to-School Assistance helps ease this pressure and ensures children are properly equipped when classes resume.

"This assistance is heavily felt by families with low income, after the festive season, it becomes hard for parents to buy school items, but this support from the Ministry of Education really helps us," she said.

Ms Kumar added that the initiative not only supports parents but also motivates students to study harder, knowing that their educational needs are being supported. She thanked the Government for prioritising education and ensuring stu-

dents do not face unnecessary hardship at the start of the academic year.

The \$200 Back to School assistance reflects the Government's continued commitment to education and its understanding the challenges faced by ordinary families.

The initiative continues to benefit thousands of families nationwide, helping parents meet essential education-related costs and enabling students to begin the school year with confidence.



\$200 Back-to-School Boost Turns Suva Holiday into Shopping Opportunity

A holiday trip to Suva turned into a great opportunity for back-to-school shopping with the arrival of the \$200 Back-to-School assistance payout.

Mother of four Makereta Dredregasa travelled from Beqa to celebrate New Year's with her family, and the payout of the \$200 back-to-school assistance led her to the bustling Suva city to do the school shopping.

"The \$200 assistance is very helpful," she said.

"Now, it's easy for us to use that \$200 to buy school stationeries and other things needed for my three children who will be going back to school."

The 35-year-old acknowledged the Government for the \$200 assistance provided.

The \$200 Back-to-School Support is one of the key initiatives introduced by the Coalition Government to assist families with children enrolled in Early Childhood Education (ECE), Primary, and Secondary schools.



\$200 Back to School Assistance eases burden for father of five

THE \$200 back-to-school assistance has eased the pressure of school expenses for Lepani Nalegalevu, a father of five who supports his family as the sole breadwinner.

The 49-year-old said the assistance has helped him purchase essential items such as shoes, uniforms, bags, and other school supplies.

"It really helps," he said.

He explained that shoes and uniforms are the most expensive items, while books are generally more affordable.

"Before when there was no such assistance, it was really hard for us to cater, I mean, I have five kids, so it's very hard for us."

"Before we had to budget our income in order to cater for the needs of our children. Some of the stuff we couldn't buy, we had to keep it for when the school starts, but now, it really helps."

Mr Nalegalevu expressed his appreciation to the government, saying the grant reflects care for parents and children and supports a better future through education.

"I really thank the government for the effort and for remembering us. I mean, the parents, and remembering our children, for their schools, for their future too."



Minister calls for stronger school leadership

THE Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodro, has reaffirmed the Ministry’s focus on strong leadership, accountability, and improved learning outcomes in 2026.

Minister Radrodro made this assertion while opening the Central and Eastern Division Heads of Schools Workshop at Suva Grammar School

He described the workshop as a leadership reset, urging Heads of Schools to reflect on lessons from 2025, realign priorities, and lead decisively in the year ahead.

He acknowledged the resilience and commitment demonstrated by schools and teachers despite ongoing challenges.

Minister Radrodro highlighted the improvement in Fiji Year 13 examination results from 89 percent to 95 percent, attributing the progress to stronger instructional leadership, targeted student support, improved teaching practices, and evidence-based interventions.

He stressed the importance of data-driven decision-making, particularly through the effective use of the Fiji Education Management Information System (FEMIS), to track student progress, identify learning gaps, and strengthen monitoring and reporting.

Minister Radrodro also reminded school leaders and teachers that no child should be rejected, stressing that schools have a responsibility to support every student in line with Government’s commitment to inclusive and equitable education.

The Minister confirmed the endorsement of reviewed and newly approved Ministry policies, stressing that implementation is manda-



Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodro, after the opening the Central and Eastern Division Heads of Schools Workshop at Suva Grammar School. Photo: SUPPLIED

tory and must translate into improved classroom practice.

He was firm that no school has the authority to change uniforms or introduce exclusive supply arrangements without Ministry approval, noting that a new School Uniform Policy is currently being developed.

Minister Radrodro, together with the Permanent Secretary for Education, Navin Raj, were also invited to a Talanoa Session with Heads of Schools.

The session provided an open platform for dialogue on leadership priorities, policy implementation, operational challenges, and practical strategies to strengthen school performance and student outcomes.

Minister Radrodro challenged Heads of Schools to lead with accountability and strengthen instructional leadership, emphasising that strong school leadership is critical to student success.

(Source: Ministry of Education)

Education breakthrough in Yasawa: Education Minister opens secondary school

HEAVY rain and challenging weather in the Yasawa Islands last week did not deter the Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodro, from visiting Yasawa South, Waya Lailai to officially open Yasawa South Secondary School at the Namara Village School compound.

During his last visit in mid-2025, Minister Radrodro commissioned a newly constructed ablution block and heard community stakeholders’ long-standing request for a dedicated secondary school to serve the growing student population.

The School Management Committee (SMC) renovated existing hostel facilities to temporarily accommodate classrooms, welcoming its first Year 9 students under seven teachers.

Minister Radrodro encouraged families to spread the word that secondary education is now available in Yasawa, saving travel costs and keeping students close to their community.

Addressing the students, he reminded them that location was no barrier to success.

He cited Waidina Secondary School and Vunisea Secondary School, which both achieved 100 per cent Year 12 pass rates last year, as examples of excellence in rural schools.

“Yasawa South Secondary School is an investment in the future of our children, our community, and our nation,” Minister Radrodro said.

(Source: Ministry of Education)

The school currently has six students enrolled, with more than 10 that were expected to join by the end of last week.

The school will serve children from the feeder villages of Namara, Naboro, Yamata, Yalobi, Natawa, Nalauwaki, and Vuwa, as well as from Namara Village School, Rt Naivalu Memorial School, and Viwa Island School.



Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodro, visited Yasawa South, Waya Lailai to officially open Yasawa South Secondary School at the Namara Village School compound. Photo: SUPPLIED

Accurate data is the key payments: Minister Radrodro

FOLLOWING reports of parent frustration regarding the \$200 Back-to-School assistance, the Minister for Education Aseri Radrodro has issued a firm stance on the operational realities of the payout process.

While the Ministry empathises with families, the Minister clarified that the speed of delivery was directly tied to the accuracy of the information lodged by parents at the school level.

“The Government has the funds ready and the will to support our students, but we cannot bypass the security of the process,” Minister Radrodro stated.

“When a parent submits an application with an incorrect phone number, an unregistered SIM, no Fiji Education Management Information System (FEMIS) ID or Birth Registration Number (BRN) number or multiple names under one contact, the system flags it for fraud prevention.

We have seen thousands of such errors. To be clear, if the information provided by the parent is incorrect, the payment cannot be made.”

“Our staff have made over 3,000 outgoing calls to chase parents for the right information. We are doing our part; we need parents to ensure they have done theirs ac-

curately.

The Ministry, in releasing data as of January 29, 2026, to highlight the massive administrative “cleanup”, highlighted:

- Massive Verification:** Of the 9,800 data issues identified, the Ministry has successfully verified and cleared 5,507 applications, which are being sent to the Ministry of Finance for payment.

The following data verifications has been achieved by the Ministry.

- Multiple Names Per Phone Number Issues - 3,811 resolved by MoE Team
- Private Schools Issues - 352 resolved by MoE Team
- Wrong Number Issues - 91 resolved and sent to Finance
- Missed Out Payments by Ministry of Finance- 237 identified and sent back to Finance for release of payment

- Data Cleanup:** MoE teams have manually resolved 1,142 cases of incomplete or incorrect information on applications and 1,016 manual entries that were submitted to HQ. Payments are only handled by the Ministry of Finance and payments are only done once their

verification processes are completed.

- The Unreachables:** A significant portion of the remaining delays was due to parents not answering their phones or having diverted numbers when the Helpdesk calls to verify their data.

The Ministry confirms that Batch 2 (1,000 plus applications) was paid out by January 28, 2026 by Ministry of Finance. For the remaining applicants, the Ministry will continue to work through the “problem list” this week, with manual entries being the focus of next week.

“We are committed to every

child,” the Minister concluded. “But the process starts at the school gate with a pen and a form. Accurate lodging is the only way to ensure timely payment. We ask for cooperation and accuracy, rather than misplaced frustration.”

(Source: Ministry of Education)



The Ministry of Education held a national dedication service for the 2026 academic year which was attended by the Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodro. Photo: SUPPLIED



Heart of Lau tapped as tourism destination

By VILIAME TIKOTANI

A lifetime shaped by tourism

For Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, tourism has never been just a sector of the economy — it has been a lifelong calling. Long before he became Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, DPM Gavoka was a hotel manager and a tourism marketing professional, working on the front lines of an industry that would later define Fiji’s global identity. Decades spent welcoming visitors, shaping destination narratives and building partnerships have given him a rare, ground-level understanding of what makes tourism succeed — and what happens when communities are left out of that success. It is that experience which now shapes his vision for the Lau Group.

Beyond the Western Division

Standing among some of Fiji’s most remote yet breathtaking islands, DPM Gavoka speaks not in abstractions, but with the conviction of someone who has seen tourism transform regions — and believes it can do so again, this time more evenly. While tourism contributes more than 40 per cent — and in some estimates close to 50 per cent — of Fiji’s gross domestic product (GDP), much of that value has traditionally been generated in the Western Division. The Government’s aim, he assured, was to ensure that tourism growth reaches all 14 provinces. The Lau Group, DPM Gavoka believes, represents one of Fiji’s greatest untapped tourism frontiers.



Islands of distinction

From Moala’s sweeping landscapes and seasonal manta ray migrations to Fulaga’s dramatic limestone formations and sheltered lagoons, to Lakeba’s historic role as the administrative heart of Lau — and onward to the fertile lands of Cicia and the striking beauty of Vanua Balavu — each island tells a story unlike any other. “These are not mass-tourism destinations,” DPM Gavoka explains. “They are places for people who want something different — something authentic.”

Distance, access and the aviation solution

Beauty alone, however, does not build a tourism industry. The greatest challenge facing Lau, according to the DPM Gavoka, is distance — and the solution lies in aviation. Drawing on his background in tourism operations, he notes that one flight a week cannot sustain visitor growth, investor confidence or local enterprise development. Airports across the Lau Group must be upgraded to all-weather facilities, capable at a minimum of handling Twin Otter aircraft, and in some locations, ATR72 aircraft. Regular, reliable air services will be the foundation upon which tourism growth is built. “Once you get the numbers right,” he says, “investment follows”.

A long-term vision, not overnight development

Tourism development in Lau will not happen overnight — nor should it. DPM Gavoka envisions a gradual, carefully managed process that could span up to a decade, allowing communities, infrastructure and services to grow in step with demand. This approach, shaped by decades of industry experience, prioritises sustainability, cultural integrity and local ownership. Lau’s future, he says, lies in niche tourism — attracting experienced travellers seeking meaningful, immersive experiences rather than large-scale resort developments.

Listening to communities, building partnerships

The Lau visit was as much about listening as it was about planning. Along the journey, DPM Gavoka engaged with traditional leaders, community members and development partners, including representatives from the United Nations and the World Bank. Their involvement underscores the Government’s intent to ground future policies in lived experience and international best practice. Tourism, he believes, must be built with communities — not imposed upon them.

Tourism as a Tool to Reverse Migration

Beyond economic growth, tourism has the power to address one of Fiji’s most pressing social challenges — rural-to-urban migration. DPM Gavoka points to Yasawa as a compelling example, where strong tourism activity has slowed migration to urban centres such as Lautoka. The same outcome, he believes, is possible for Lau. “If young people can see opportunities here — in tourism, transport, agriculture and services — they will stay,” he says. “That strengthens families, villages and the Vanua.”



A Master Plan for Lau’s unique identity

A comprehensive master plan for the Lau Group is now envisioned, one that highlights what makes each island distinct — from Fulaga’s legendary rock formations and waterways to Vanua Balavu’s dramatic coastal landscapes. Even proposals such as designating Vanua Balavu as an international entry point are being considered, to better manage arrivals, create income opportunities and strengthen border security. Lau’s diversity, DPM Gavoka notes, is its greatest strength.

A personal journey, a national vision

For a man who has spent most of his life in tourism, the Lau visit was deeply personal. Minister Gavoka understands that tourism’s true success is measured not only in visitor numbers, but in livelihoods created, cultures preserved and futures secured. Lau, with its natural beauty, cultural richness and resilient communities, represents the next chapter in Fiji’s tourism story. “Lau is unique,” he said. “And that uniqueness is its greatest asset.”

With the right planning, partnerships and connectivity, Lau can emerge not as a copy of Fiji’s established tourism regions — but as a destination entirely its own, contributing to a more inclusive and balanced national tourism landscape.

Mentor remembered: DPM Gavoka’s emotional visit to PM Qarase’s resting place

By VILIAME TIKOTANI

For Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, the journey to Mavana village on Vanua Balavu was far more than an official visit—it was a deeply personal moment of remembrance and gratitude. “I’m truly honoured to be hosting lunch in the home of the former Prime Minister of Fiji, the Honourable Laisenia Qarase. It is a lovely home here in Mavana, in Vanua Balavu,” DPM Gavoka said. He spoke warmly of meeting the late leader’s wife, Leba Qarase, describing the visit as both meaningful and moving. “It’s truly wonderful meeting her and visiting a village that I’ve seen many times on television and in images, but it’s wonderful to be here,” he said. Standing quietly at the tomb of former Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase, DPM Gavoka reflected on the profound influence his mentor had on his life and career. “It was a very emotional



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, visits the tomb of former Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase in Mavana village, Vanua Balavu. **Photo: VILIAME TIKOTANI**

moment for me. A leader who unfortunately was not given the time to complete the work that he had started for Fiji—an all-inclusive person and my mentor,” he said. The visit brought together DPM Gavoka, members of the Qarase family, United Nations representatives to the Pacific and senior government officials in a moment of

quiet fellowship, honouring the legacy of a statesman remembered not only for his leadership, but for the lives he touched across the nation. For DPM Gavoka, the visit was a powerful reminder that leadership is shaped by guidance, trust and example. “It was quite moving, and we just hope that we have the strength as the leaders

of today and of tomorrow to continue with this legacy,” he said. As he departed Mavana, the Deputy Prime Minister carried with him not only memories of a respected leader, but a renewed sense of purpose to uphold the values of service, unity and commitment that defined the life and legacy of his mentor.

Moala sets its sights on game fishing as tourism opportunity

By VILIAME TIKOTANI

SURROUNDED by deep blue waters and rich marine life, the island of Moala could soon become a new destination for game-fishing enthusiasts from around the world. Much like the Camakau Canoe Regatta has placed Fulaga on the tourism map, Moala’s waters hold the potential to attract visitors seeking a unique, experience-based adventure. This vision is one the Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister for Tourism, Viliame Gavoka, is keen to turn into reality. During his visit to five islands in Lau Province in mid-January, DPM Gavoka delivered a clear and consistent message: Lau’s tourism future will be different — and proudly its own. “We want to bring visitors from around the world to Lau through our own style of tourism,” he said. “Tourism in Fiji has long been centred in the western part of Viti Levu — places like Denarau,

the Yasawas and the Coral Coast. Lau will be a different cluster, offering something new.” As part of the visit, DPM Gavoka and United Nations Resident Coordinator, Dirk Wagener, travelled to Moala, Fulaga, Lakeba, Cicia and Vanua Balavu to assess tourism potential and infrastructure needs. A key focus was the condition of airstrips, which are critical for improving access and supporting future tourism growth. “That is why we are here — to look at airstrips and the upgrades needed to make these islands more accessible,” DPM Gavoka said. The visits form part of early

discussions towards a master tourism plan for the Lau Group, including the Bay of Islands near Fulaga. Considering Fulaga currently has no airstrip, alternative options are being looked at, including improved sea access for cruise liners and super yachts. Mata ni Tikina for Moala, Daku Niulevu, welcomed the Government’s visit and inclusion of Moala in the wider tourism vision. “Our people are thankful that Moala is being considered,” he said. “This gives us hope that our island’s resources and skills can support new opportunities for our young people.” For Moala, game fishing could become more than a pastime — it could be the hook that draws the world to Lau.



Pristine waters surrounding Moala Island will be a new destination for game fishing to put Lau on the tourism map. **Photo: MARAVU NAIVALU**

“It Will Be an Interesting Thing for Us”: Cicia looks to tourism as a new chapter



Mata ni Tikina o Cicia, Vakanawanawa Naikavanisau Bakaniceva. **Photo: MARAVU NAIVALU**

By VILIAME TIKOTANI

FOR generations, the people of Cicia Island have been known for one thing above all else — their commitment to organic living and sustainability. Tourism, until now, has existed only at the edges of island life. But that may soon change. “This will be an interesting thing for us,” said Mata ni Tikina o Cicia, Vakanawanawa Naikavanisau Bakaniceva, as he reflected on the possibilities of tourism following a visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism, Viliame Gavoka. “We haven’t actually done tourism in the full sense of the word,” Bakaniceva said. “But we have had visitors before. Cruise liners sometimes anchor offshore, and some tourists have stepped onto our beautiful sandy beaches.” For Cicia, the idea of tourism represents both excitement and careful consideration. “It is a totally new opportunity for us,” Bakaniceva explained. “We will need awareness and human-capacity building to properly set up tourism. But it is exciting — especially now that the Minister for Tourism is here and Government is serious about developing this industry in Lau.” Addressing the Tui Cicia and village chiefs gathered at Tarukua Village, Deputy Prime Minister Gavoka said Government is ready to move beyond discussions and turn potential into reality. “I want to hear tourists say they spent their holidays in Cicia, in Lakeba, in Moala,” he said. “Not only in the west.” Minister Gavoka highlighted that tourism currently contributes about 40 percent of Fiji’s Gross Domestic Product and generates millions of dollars for the national economy. He said Lau has the potential to become a tourism region in its own right, similar to established destinations such as the Coral Coast and Denarau. “That is why we are here — to look at the airstrip and to hear from you about the resources and sites that could be developed,” he said. Bakaniceva later briefed the ministerial delegation on Cicia’s natural and cultural assets, including lakes, caves, ancient village sites in Natokalau and Mabula, sandy beaches in Tarukua, and a swimming cave in Naceva. For the people of Cicia, tourism is no longer a distant idea — it is the beginning of a new story.

Compost bins handed over to promote environmental responsibility



Nabukelevu Village in Serua received an eco-friendly boost last week as the Minister for Information, Environment and Climate Change Hon. Lynda Tabuya handed over 20 compost bins to promote responsible waste management. Of the 20 compost bins, two were presented to Burenitua Village School to inspire students to tackle littering and embrace civic responsibility. Speaking during the handover, Minister Tabuya reminded students of the importance of showing civic pride and respect for their environment.

Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR



Joint Ministerial visit highlights Fijian Drua's growth and future plans



The joint Ministerial Western Division site visit concluded on a positive note with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka together with the Minister for Finance, Esrom Immanuel visiting the Fijian Drua headquarters to meet the club's newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Mr Jeff Miller.

The visit provided an opportunity for Ministers to receive updates on the organisation's progress, financial sustainability and the impact of Government support.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Farm access road to improve market access for remote Ra villagers



Members of the Uluniwai Farming Cluster from the remote villages of Raviravi, Vuniyamunu and Naivutu can now access markets more easily following the commissioning of the Namasaga Farm Access Road. Previously, farmers walked nearly two hours or transported yaqona on horseback to reach the nearest access point, severely limiting productivity and income despite having a valuable crop.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Minister Tabuya visits Mai TV



Minister for Information, Environment and Climate Change, Lynda Tabuya visited Mai TV, underscoring the role of local broadcasters in delivering timely and accurate information to the public. During the visit, the Minister toured the station's various departments to gain a better understanding of how the broadcaster produces content and keeps the public informed.

Photos: WANSHIKA KUMAR

Govt support helps Ba woman rise above disability

By MELI NAISELE

WHAT began as a life-altering tragedy has become a powerful story of resilience, purpose and hope for 36-year-old Salanieta Mua of Togalevu, Ba.

Ms Mua’s life changed dramatically after she sustained a spinal cord injury in a road accident where she had to spend eight months in recovery followed by ten months of intensive rehabilitation.

Now navigating daily life from a wheelchair, she faced immense challenges, but her determination to rebuild her life never wavered.

Refusing to be defined by her physical limitations, Ms Mua started a small home-based business selling tamarind chutney. Her entrepreneurial spirit soon expanded into baking, with a clear vision to grow her business and secure a stable income.

That dream took a significant step forward recently when the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran, visited her home and officially handed over a new electrical oven under the Ministry’s assistance programme.

“I never dreamed that one day a Minister would come into my home and officially hand over something that would help my business,” she said.

“This support will change my life and help me financially,” Ms Mua added.

Ms Mua said she had applied for a Government grant through the Ministry and was grateful to be selected as a successful recipient.



Salanieta Mua and her family along with the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran at Togalevu, Ba after handing over the new electrical oven. Photo: MELI NAISELE

“Even though I am a person with disability, I try my best to maneuver around obstacles and challenges. I am truly thankful to the Government and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection for supporting vulnerable and underprivileged people like me.”

She has encouraged others to remain hopeful, proactive and make use of available assistance.

The support provided to Ms Mua reflects the Government’s continued commitment to empowering persons with disabilities, promoting inclusive economic participation and ensuring no one is left behind.

Through targeted grants, equipment support and livelihood programmes, the Ministry continues to build up resilience, restore dignity and create opportunities for vulnerable individuals and families across the country.

Ms Mua’s journey stands as a testament to courage and the impact of timely Government intervention, showing that with the right support, every citizen can rise above adversity.

Govt boat assistance brings new hope to Vuaki Village

By MELI NAISELE

VUAKI Village headman, 55-year-old Etuate Saukuru has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Government following the handover of a fibre boat and engine under the Seafaring Entrepreneurial Assistance (SEA) Programme.

The Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Mosese Bulitavu, handed over the assistance to the recipients in Lautoka last week.



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Mosese Bulitavu, hands over the fibre boat and engine under the Seafaring Entrepreneurial Assistance (SEA) Programme to a recipient in Lautoka last week. Photo: MELI NAISELE

The SEA programme falls under the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development.

Mr Saukuru, who was among five recipients who benefited from the programme, highlighted the long-standing transportation challenges faced by maritime communities, particularly in emergency situations requiring urgent medical attention.

“For many years, transportation has been a major challenge for us living on the maritime islands, when medical emergencies occurred, it was always difficult to seek help quickly. From today onwards, that challenge will no longer be the same,” he said.

Mr Saukuru, who hails from Vuaki Village in Nacula, Yasawa, said the fibre boat and engine will not only improve mobility and safety for villagers, but also create new economic opportunities.

“This is like a door opening for our vil-

lage, the boat will help us financially through fishing and other income-generating activities that we can now explore. It will truly benefit the whole community,” he said.

Minister Bulitavu said the initiative reflects the Government’s strong commitment to inclusive development and strengthening rural and maritime communities.

“This handover is a clear demonstration of Government’s commitment to empowering our rural and maritime people, building resilience from the ground up, and ensuring that no Fijian is left behind, regardless of where they live,” he said.

The SEA Programme continues to play a vital role in supporting livelihoods, improving access to essential services, and enhancing economic resilience in Fiji’s maritime and rural communities.

Convention strengthens tourism stakeholders amid global growth



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, with senior members of the government statutory bodies, and members of the tourism industry at the Third Fiji Tourism Convention event held in Sofitel, Denarau in Nadi. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Third Fiji Tourism Convention will help industry stakeholders align policies, strengthen partnerships and build resilience as global tourism continues to expand.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, highlighted this as he opened the convention recently, describing it as a strategic platform that allows industry players, communities and Government to directly engage on challenges and opportunities shaping Fiji’s tourism sector.

DPM Gavoka acknowledged the people behind the industry, say-

ing tourism was built by “the men and women who open their doors every morning, from hoteliers and tour operators to farmers, drivers and artisans”.

“Fiji recorded a new visitor milestone in 2025, welcoming 986,367 visitors, while cruise arrivals reached 57,420 passengers in the first three quarters, reinforcing tourism’s contribution to economic growth and livelihoods,” he said.

“Fiji must remain part of the global tourism momentum, with international arrivals growing by four per cent worldwide in 2025. Tourism globally remains a powerhouse, and we need to be a part of this global growth.”

“I also acknowledge delays in

some reforms and the need to ensure smaller operators and communities feel the benefits of tourism development,” he added.

“This Convention is not a ceremonial gathering. It is a platform for alignment, bringing together policy direction, industry realities, and community priorities,” DPM Gavoka stressed, adding that difficult but necessary conversations were essential to build a resilient and inclusive tourism sector.

Highlighting the theme Tourism Beyond Boundaries, he pointed to opportunities in emerging regions such as the Lau Group and initiatives like the Na Vualiku Tourism Development Program.

He said the government’s role

was to enable sustainable growth, noting that “communities must sit at the centre of tourism development,” and urged participants to turn discussions into action that broadens the benefits of tourism across Fiji.

Tourism Fiji chief executive officer, Dr Pareesh Pant, emphasised the shift in tourism strategy from volume to value, focusing on clarity of purpose, market focus, and data-driven decisions.

“Fiji’s tourism sector, seen as an economic pillar, supports diverse communities and must plan strategically,” he said.

“We are making a deliberate and conscious recalibration. Tourism Fiji’s core role is clear. It is to market and to promote Fiji, be-

cause when marketing is focused and credible, it enables everything else – investment, confidence and sustainable growth.”

The importance of authenticity, community involvement and digital integration was also stressed.

Dr Pant highlighted the challenge of retaining local talents and aligning marketing with lived realities with the goal to sustainably grow the tourism sector, ensuring that it benefits both the visitors and locals.

“The next era of tourism will depend on stewardship, readiness and shared value, ensuring that people and places are genuinely aligned,” he added.

Solar freezers boost savings and livelihoods for women in Delaivadra village

By JACKSON TUVICI

WOMEN in Delaivadra Village on Druadua Island in Macuata are expecting to save up to \$50 per week following the provision of solar freezers, allowing them to store frozen food locally and reduce the need for regular travel to Labasa.

The freezers were provided to the Sigavou Women's Cooperative and will enable families to access meat, frozen goods and cold drinks within the village, easing household expenses and improving food security.

Women's group leader, Paulini Dulena, described the Government assistance as life-changing for women and families in the village.

"This support will really help us a lot, especially as we will no longer have to travel all the way to Labasa just to buy frozen food for our families," Ms Dulena said.

"Having these solar freezers here in the village means we can save money every week, spend more time with our families, and focus on improving our livelihoods. It will boost economic activity for our women's group and uplift the living standards of our whole village."

Ms Dulena added that the cooperative

plans to expand its activities by purchasing fish directly from local fishermen, storing them safely, and selling them later at nearby markets.

"This project gives us hope. We are now looking forward to buying fish from our own fishermen, supporting them, and selling our products with confidence. It opens new opportunities for us as women to grow and contribute more to our community."

The solar freezer project was officially handed over by the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Mosese Bulitavu.

He said the initiative would ensure essential frozen items are readily available at the village women's cooperative store, easing the financial burden on families on the island.

"This initiative directly improves household savings, food security, and income opportunities for women," Minister Bulitavu said.

"What was once spent on weekly travel costs can now be redirected towards education, health, and other family needs."



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Mosese Bulitavu, after handing over solar freezer to Sigavou Women's Cooperative. **Photo: JACKSON TUVICI**

The project was funded under the Ministry's Self-Help Programme (SHP) at a cost of more than \$26,000.

The solar freezers will also enable women in Delaivadra Village to expand their small businesses by storing fish and seafood harvested during the week and selling them later at better prices, reducing spoilage and strengthening local income generation.

Minister Bulitavu commended the Sigavou Women's Group for their leadership and unity in bringing the project to fruition and urged them to maintain and manage the facility responsibly to ensure long-term

benefits.

"This investment is not just about infrastructure. It is about empowering women, strengthening resilience, and improving the overall quality of life for families in Delaivadra," he said.

Meanwhile, the women's group has received additional support through the provision of eskay freezers from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Pacific and the Department of Cooperative, further boosting its business operations.

Labasa boosts inclusive disaster readiness with Australia Support



Assistant Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, Jovesa Vocea, with the participants from Wasavulu Village, Labasa. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By PRIYANKA LAL

MORE than 40 community members from five villages in Labasa are now better equipped to prepare for and respond to natural disasters after completing a five-day training led by the National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) and supported by the Australian Government. The recent Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) training brought together participants from Nasekula, Nacula, Naqai, Wasavulu and Namara villages to strengthen disaster preparedness and response at the community level.

Guided by the theme 'leaving no one behind', the program emphasised inclusive preparedness that involves all members of the community, regardless of age, gender or ability.

Moving beyond theory, the training focused on hands-on, practical application. Participants field-tested the Early Warning System recently installed in a flood prone area of Labasa by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management.

This included practicing response procedures and communication protocols to ensure the warning system functions effectively during emergencies. Participants also trialled

the Disability-Inclusive CBDRM Toolkit developed by the Fiji Disabled People's Federation (FDPF).

FDPF Disaster Risk Reduction Program Coordinator, Jay Nasilasila, said the toolkit challenges traditional perceptions.

"The toolkit shifts mindsets and provides practical solutions. This includes inclusive mapping, participatory risk assessments, accessible communication materials and simulation drills to help ensure evacuation routes and response plans work for everyone."

Assistant Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Jovesa Vocea, reminded participants that disaster preparedness

begins in the community.

"Persons with disabilities, women and youth are not passive recipients of aid; they are active contributors, leaders and decision makers in disaster preparedness and response."

He urged participants to apply their newly acquired skills to local disaster planning, ensuring equitable representation across the community.

The training was organised in collaboration with the Government of Fiji, FDPF, Plan International Fiji, Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF), CAN DO Fiji and the Australian Government.

Australia's support, delivered through the Fiji Australia Vuvala Partnership, forms part of a broader commitment to strengthening Fiji's disaster preparedness and response capabilities. Working in partnership with the Government of Fiji and local civil society organisations, Australia is supporting inclusive approaches to resilience that reduce disaster risk and protect the most vulnerable.

(Note: Ms Priyanka Lal is the Communications Coordinator for the Fiji Program Support Platform)

Materials boost yaqona farming in Saivou Village



The community from Saivou village in Macuata Province with the construction materials provided by the Ministry of Agriculture for the sun dryer that will help in the drying process of yaqona. **Photo: JACKSON TUVICI**

By JACKSON TUVICI

VILLAGERS of Saivou in the Macuata Province have been given a boost in their yaqona farming business following the assistance that has improved the drying process of yaqona for sale in local markets.

Most villagers rely on yaqona farming as a key source of income but have faced ongoing challenges in properly drying yaqona plants before selling them.

Village Secretary, Salome Direca, said the recent increase in yaqona prices has encouraged villagers to work harder to expand their business.

"Now the price for yaqona has gone up, so we are working at a pace to try and save up so that we can grow our business," Mrs Direca said.

The village recently received the construction materials from the Ministry of Agriculture to construct a sun dryer, making the drying process easier and more efficient.

Mrs Direca said the assistance, valued at about \$2,531.72, has greatly benefited the village.

"This assistance would have cost us around \$2,531.72, which was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture. Now that we have received this assistance, we are very grateful to the Government for providing materials for our sun dryer," she said.

Breaking Barriers: The legacy of WRACS 1/88

By NANISE NEIMILA

WHEN 18-year-old school leaver Kini Tuisolia submitted her application to join the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) in 1988, she had no way of knowing she was stepping into history.

Fresh out of high school and driven by a desire to serve her country, she sent in her application by mail—uncertain of what lay ahead.

Two weeks later, she received the call that would change her life.

Looking back, Kini recalls her entry into military life as stepping into uncharted territory.

The discipline was immediate and uncompromising—from learning how to iron uniforms and tie shoelaces to regulation standard to cutting her hair and adapting to strict routines.

“I remember preparing my clothes on a Sunday,” she recalls.

“That afternoon, we were to march in at Nasinu. As I was packing, my mum asked where I was going, and I told her I had enlisted for army recruitment.”

For Kini, joining the military became more than a career—it became a foundation for life.

“Joining the army instilled confidence in me. It equipped me mentally, spiritually, and physically. It’s a profession where your daily routine is governed by authority—from head to toe.”

In 1988, history quietly unfolded at the RFMF when women were, for the first time, welcomed into its recruitment drive.

On 5 February that year, 42 courageous women marched into camp to begin recruit training—an act that would forever change the course of the RFMF and challenge long-held norms within a traditionally male-dominated institution.

From that pioneering cohort, 20 women advanced through Officer Cadet Training, and seven were commissioned as officers. Each carried the responsibility of breaking barriers, proving capability, and setting standards for generations of women who would later serve in uniform.

Over the years, the women of WRACS 1/88 proved their value across every aspect



Kini Tuisolia (second from right) with her comrades during the 38th anniversary of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces' Women's Royal Army Corps Service (WRACS) 1/88 held at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks last week. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

of military service. They served in administration, medicine, engineering, communications, logistics, and infantry roles.

They commanded sentries, held senior appointments such as company sergeant major and regimental sergeant major, and took on both operational and administrative leadership responsibilities.

Beyond Fiji’s shores, they represented the nation with distinction in peacekeeping missions in East Timor, Lebanon, Sinai, Iraq, and the Golan Heights, strengthening the international reputation of the RFMF and reinforcing Fiji’s commitment to global peace and security.

For Kini, one of the defining highlights of her career came during her overseas service with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Sinai, where she was selected as Regimental Sergeant—a role rarely held by women.

“That position is not usually given to men; I always say nothing is impossible.”

After more than three decades of dedicat-

ed service, Kini Tuisolia retired from the RFMF in 2023 at the rank of Warrant Officer Class Two, leaving behind a legacy of professionalism, resilience, and leadership. As the RFMF marks the 38th anniversary of WRACS 1/88, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka reflected on the significance of the decision taken in 1988 to open the ranks of the military to women—a decision he said required courage and conviction.

“The inclusion of women in the RFMF in 1988 was a defining moment for our nation. It affirmed that patriotism, discipline, and sacrifice are not defined by gender, but by character, commitment, and devotion to service.”

Reflecting on his time as Commander of the RFMF, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka said the decision was not taken lightly.

“It required faith in the belief that service to country is defined by commitment, not by gender,” he said.

He said the true measure of that decision is found in the legacy created by WRACS

1/88.

“They did not simply join the ranks—they excelled. They rose through the chain of command, served in peacekeeping missions abroad, and carried responsibilities at both operational and strategic levels.”

That legacy includes historic milestones for the RFMF, including the commissioning of its first female Colonel, the appointment of its first female Chief of Staff, and the service of its first female Military Police Advisor to the United Nations—now recognised as institutional landmarks.

“Leadership is measured not only by decisions taken but by the legacy those decisions create,” the Prime Minister said. “WRACS 1/88 is that legacy.”

Today, the women of WRACS 1/88 are recognised not only as veterans but also as pioneers—whose courage at the beginning of their journey transformed the RFMF and paved the way for generations of women in uniform.

Ministry supports community effort to help street dwellers in Nadi

THE Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran, recently handed over catering items to support YADRA Enterprises, an organisation set up to support street youths.

The handover was also attended by three former street dwellers who are now working as wheelbarrow boys in Nadi and help Selita Saula in looking after the new wave of vulnerable young people, highlighting the positive outcomes of community-led rehabilitation and support.

Ms Saula’s initiative focuses on helping young people transition away from street life through care, skills training, and pathways into employment.

Her group has since registered as YADRA Enterprise, enabling them to seek funding and provide

more structured and sustainable support.

One of the key initiatives under YADRA is a roadside food business which helps cover basic expenses while teaching discipline, responsibility, and basic business skills.

Also present at the handover was a young woman — one of many success stories supported by the Saula family — who came by after finishing her work shift to share her journey.

She had lived on the streets for five years due to peer pressure before being taken in at the age of 16.

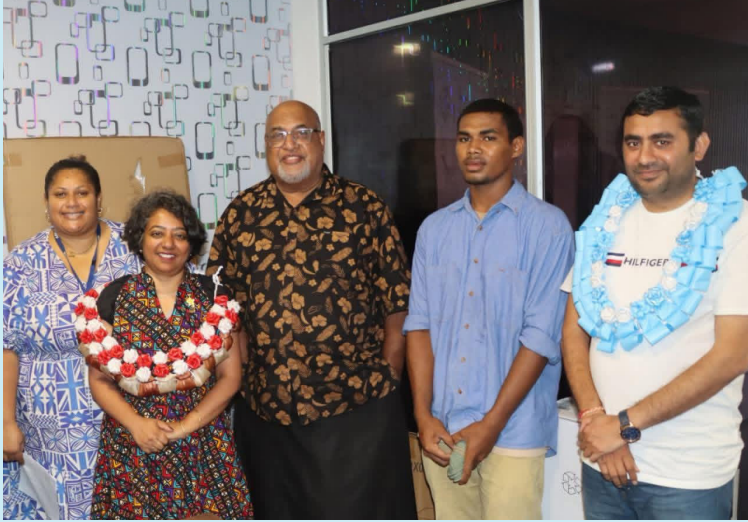
It was through support from Ms. Saula and training provided by the Ministry of Youth and Sports that she was able to secure employment in Nadi and has now maintained her job for six months.

She encouraged other young people living on the streets to return home, saying that drugs and street life do not offer a positive future. Ms Saula said her work was driven by her strong sense of responsibility to the Vanua and her commitment to keeping Nadi safe, particularly for young people.

She continues to work closely with the Nadi Town Council and Police to provide pathways away from substance abuse and street life.

Minister Kiran commended Ms Saula’s dedication and community leadership, noting that such grassroots initiatives play a vital role in complementing government efforts to protect vulnerable young people and promote safer communities.

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to working with com-



Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran, after the handing over of catering items to support YADRA Enterprises, an organisation set up to support street youths. Photo: SUPPLIED

munity partners who are making a meaningful positive difference in the lives of Fiji’s children and youth.

(Source: Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection)

Decisions from the Cabinet Meeting held on February 3, 2026

MOU with the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare

Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH) for grant funding amounting to KRW 10 billion (approximately USD 16.1 million) to support sub-divisional level implementation of the National Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Strategy and the National Digital Health Strategy (the Project).

The overall goal of the Project is to strengthen the local healthcare system and improve the management of NCDs, with a particular focus on diabetes, thereby contributing to healthier lives and reduced NCD-related complications in Fiji.

The support is specifically targeted at sub-divisional level implementation and focuses on four key areas:

- capacity building for community workers (NCD education);
- strengthening community health systems;
- establishing a referral and teleconsultation system; and
- introducing smart/digital health solutions for patient management.

The Project is expected to run until 31 December 2030.

Exchange of Notes and Grant Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of Fiji

Cabinet endorsed the Exchange of Notes and Grant Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of Fiji concerning a grant of ¥313,000,000 (approximately FJ\$4.42 million) for the Economic and Social Development Programme.

The grant is designated for the procurement of essential medical equipment and related technical services to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in diagnostic and patient care delivery nationwide. The programme will focus on procuring modern, high-standard equipment necessary to enhance secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities.

Civil Aviation Master Plan and Implementation Plan for Fiji 2026–2031

Cabinet endorsed the Civil Aviation Master Plan and Implementation Plan for Fiji 2026–2031.

The objectives of the Civil Aviation Master Plan 2026–2031 are as follows:

- (i) strengthen aviation safety and security oversight;
- (ii) improve aviation infrastructure and navigation systems;
- (iii) promote environmental sustainability and climate resilience;
- (iv) enhance capacity building and skills development for the aviation workforce;
- (v) foster innovation and digital transformation;
- (vi) expand domestic and international connectivity and services; and
- (vii) strengthen institutional effectiveness.

The Civil Aviation Master Plan was prepared with support from the Australian Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as part of the Vuvale Partnership. GEF-8 Programme to Support Fiji in the Preparation of the Fifth National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Cabinet approved the implementation of the GEF-8 Programme to support Fiji in the preparation of the Fifth National Report (5NR) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, with a total allocation of USD30,000 (approximately FJ\$66,009), through engagement with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

UNEP is the GEF-accredited and approved Implementing Agency (IA) for the execution of the GEF-8 Programme.

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is a legally binding international agreement that governs the safe handling, transfer, and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account risks to human health.

Fiji ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2003.



MINISTRY OF POLICING & COMMUNICATIONS
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION
PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNTER
NARCOTICS BILL

The Ministry of Policing & Communications will be undertaking comprehensive nationwide consultations to develop a counter narcotics law to establish and empower the Counter Narcotics Bureau.

We cordially invite any interested person or institution wishing to provide their views and insights on this proposal and the powers of the Counter Narcotics Bureau.

In this regard, written submissions can be submitted to the email address cnbill@policing.gov.fj The closure of online submissions is **Monday 23rd February 2026 at 11.59pm.**

The consultation team will be holding in-person public consultation meetings throughout Fiji from the **9th to the 23rd of February 2026.**

Any person or institution interested in providing their contribution is cordially invited to attend any of the venues in the following areas and on the following dates.

SLR	DATE	TIME	VENUE
1.	Monday 9th February 2026	9.00am to 12.00pm	Suva Civic Centre - Lower Hall
2.		2.00pm to 4.30pm	Lami Parish Hall
3.		5.00pm to 6.00pm	Nasinu Police Bure
4.	Tuesday 10th February 2026	9.00am to 12.00pm	Saint Vincent DePaul Parish Hall, Nausori Town
5.		2.00pm to 4.30pm	Korovou Police Bure
6.	Wednesday 11 th February 2026	10.30am to 12.00pm	Keyasi Government Station, Navosa
7.		5.00pm to 8.00pm	Nawaka village, Nadi
8.	Thursday 12th February 2026	9.00am to 12.00pm	Lautoka Civic Centre
9.		2.30pm to 5.00pm	Ba Civic Centre
10.	Friday 13th February 2026	9.00am to 11.30am	Tavualevu village, Tavua
11.		2.30pm to 4.30pm	Rakiraki Council Hall
12.	Monday 16th February 2026	9.00am to 1.00pm	Naulumatua House, Nabouwalu
13.	Tuesday 17th February 2026	9.00am to 12.00pm	Labasa Civic Centre
14.		2.00pm to 4.30pm	Naduri village, Macuata
15.	Wednesday 18th February 2026	9.00am to 12.00pm	Epic Hotel Savusavu
16.		1.30pm to 4.30pm	Naweni village, Cakaudrove
17.	Thursday 19th February 2026	9.00am to 1.00pm	Somosomo village, Taveuni
18.	Monday 23rd February 2026	9.00am to 1.00pm	Vunisea village, Kadavu

Please see below for materials which may be useful to consider when developing your written or in-person submissions:

- (a) Constitution of the Republic of Fiji 2013 <https://laws.gov.fj/Home/information/constitutionoftherepublicoffiji>
- (b) Criminal Procedure Act 2009 <https://laws.gov.fj/Acts/DisplayAct/2622>
- (c) Illicit Drugs Control Act 2004 <https://www.laws.gov.fj/Acts/DisplayAct/554>
- (d) UN Code for Law Enforcement Officials <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/codeofconduct.pdf>
- (e) International Drug Control Conventions <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/v13/874/08/pdf/v1387408.pdf>
- (f) Fiji Police Force Annual Reports <https://www.police.gov.fj/resources>
- (g) Fiji Customs Act 1986 <https://www.laws.gov.fj/Acts/DisplayAct/2893>
- (h) Fiji Counter Narcotics Strategy 2023-2028 *Final-Draft-Counter-Narcotics-Strategy-2023-to-2028-Tuesday-250624.pdf*
- (i) Fiji Police Act 1965 <https://www.laws.gov.fj/Acts/DisplayAct/987>

HON. JOANE NAI'ALARUA
MINISTER FOR POLICING & COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cabinet has recently approved a set of Land Transport regulatory amendments that introduce updated fees and penalties aimed at improving road safety and compliance. These changes include new penalties for failure to stop and weigh, revised fines for illegal parking, and increased speeding fines under amendments to the Land Transport (Fees and Penalties) Regulations 2000.

Effective from 23rd January 2026 the following fees and penalties will come into effect:

OFFENCE		NEW PENALTY		
Failure to stop and weigh		OFFENCE	BEFORE	AFTER
(a) first offence	\$300	Illegal Parking or Stopping	\$20	\$100
(b) second offence	\$600			
(c) subsequent offence	\$900			

OFFENCE		FIXED PENALTY	
Speeding	Before	After	
Exceeding speed limit by less than 15km/h	\$25	\$50	
Exceeding speed limit between 15km/h and 29km/h	\$40	\$75	
Exceeding speed limit by 30km/h or more	\$60	\$100	

For more information or clarification, contact the Land Transport Authority on email help@lta.com.fj.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DENGUE FEVER

What it is?

Dengue fever is caused by the dengue virus. Humans become infected with the dengue virus when mosquitoes (black-and-white striped mosquito) bite someone with dengue (blood meal) and then transmits the virus when it bites another healthy person. Dengue fever affects millions of people around the world and most people usually recover from dengue fever after a few days, with some experiencing tiredness for a few weeks after. However, in some cases, dengue fever can be serious and lead to severe bleeding, coma and death.

How is it Spread?

Only infected mosquitoes transmit dengue fever. The mosquito contracts the virus when it bites an infected person. The mosquito is then infective for the rest of its life and can spread the virus every time it bites someone. The mosquito that spreads dengue fever likes to live in urban areas and especially in and around houses and in containers or other receptacles that can hold water such as bottles, empty cans, tyres, drums, uncovered water drums, flower vases, and others. Severe dengue fever can be deadly. But most people will recover from dengue fever after an illness of 2-7 days. Although you may continue to feel tired for weeks afterwards.

Severe Dengue Fever

Dengue Fever causes flu-like symptoms that generally last for 2-7 days. Dengue fever usually occurs after an incubation period of 4-10 days after the bite of the infected mosquito.

High Fever (40°C) is usually accompanied by at least two of the following symptoms:

- Nausea, vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Headache
- Eye pain
- Muscle or joint pains
- Headaches
- Pain behind eyes
- A rash

Other symptoms may include;

- Swollen glands
- Diarrhoea
- Generally feeling unwell (malaise)

How is it treated?

Seek medical attention immediately if you think you may have contracted dengue fever. Early diagnosis and management of symptoms is critical to reduce the risk of complications and avoid further spread of the virus.

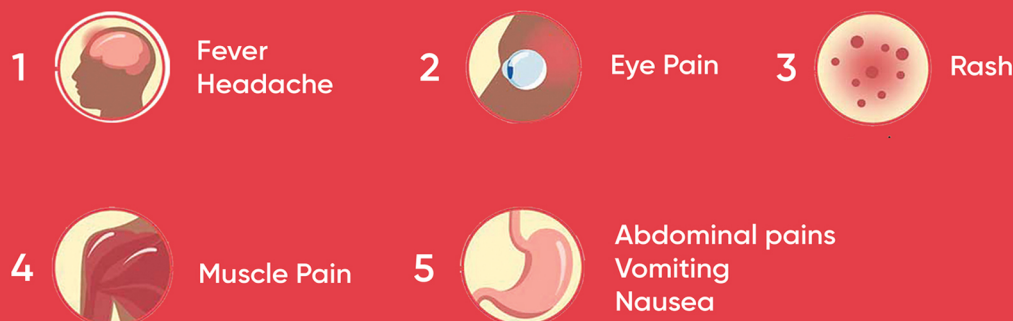
Patients should get plenty of rest and drink plenty of fluids. Take oral rehydration salts if they are available. Paracetamol such as Panadol can be taken to bring down fever and reduce joint pains.

DO NOT take aspirin or ibuprofen or any other pain medicine without checking with a doctor. These treatments can increase the risk of bleeding because they work to thin the blood.

When the warning signs of severe dengue as listed above are present, it is imperative to consult a doctor and seek hospitalisation to manage the disease.

With proper medical care and early recognition, case-fatality rates are very low. However, the overall experience can remain very discomforting and unpleasant for patients.

(Source: Ministry of Health)



Severe Dengue Fever

When developing into severe dengue, the critical phase takes place around 3-7 days after the first sign of illness. A decreasing temperature does NOT mean the person is necessarily recovering. Special attention needs to be given to these warning signs as it could lead to severe dengue:

- Abdominal pain
- Persistent vomiting
- Vomiting blood
- Rapid breathing
- Fatigue/ restlessness
- Signs of bleeding such as bleeding gums, vomiting blood, black tarry stools (blood in stool), vaginal bleeding, and bruising of the skin.

Failure to seek medical treatment in time if severe dengue signs are present may lead to severe bleeding, severe organ impairment, coma and even death.

How do I reduce my risk of getting dengue fever?

The best way to avoid dengue is to avoid mosquito bites. This means to:

- Wear insect repellent when outdoors
- Use mosquito nets when sleeping
- Install mosquito/insect screens on your windows and doors

You should also take the time to destroy mosquito breeding habitats in and around your homes, villages and neighbourhoods by following these steps;

- Clear leaves and other rubbish from roof gutters and from around the house
- Remove old tyres, empty cans, bottles, drums, coconut shells and husks, by covering or burying them to prevent the collection of stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed.
- Remove potential indoor breeding habitats including vases, water tray under fridge, empty bottles and cans, and others.
- Cover water stored in drums and containers securely.
- Cut and clear overgrown grass and shrubs around the compound.



Get rid of all old tyres and used coconut shells



Empty tins, bottles, damaged buckets or drums



Cover stored water drums securely

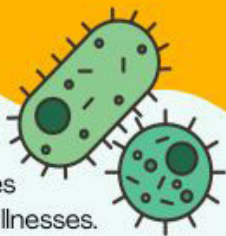


DECEMBER 2025

LEPTOSPIROSIS

WHAT IS IT?

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects both humans and animals, sometimes showing no symptoms or resembling other illnesses.



Without treatment, it can cause serious complications such as kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, breathing problems, and even death.



HOW DO PEOPLE GET SICK?

People usually get sick from coming into contact with water, mud or soil that is contaminated with pee of an infected animals (like a cattle, pigs, rats, horses, dogs or mongoose).

People get the bacteria through cuts or scrapes on the skin, or from eating contaminated food or water.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Stomach pain
- Headaches
- Diarrhoea
- Muscle aches & pains
- Tiredness
- Nausea
- Fever or chills
- Vomiting



HOW IS IT TREATED?

People who get leptospirosis need special medicine from the doctor in order to get better.

People who don't get treatment can get more serious sickness including kidney failure, yellowing of the skin, unusual bleeding or breathing problems.

HOW TO PREVENT IT?

- Avoid flood water.
- Avoid wading or swimming in water that could contain animal pee.
- Wear protective shoes and clothing when working with animals, water, soil and mud.
- Cover cuts & scrapes with water proof dressings.
- Wash and dry your hands often.
- Clean up rubbish to keep rats and mice away.

IF YOU FEEL UNWELL, VISIT YOUR NEAREST HEALTH FACILITY IMMEDIATELY.

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN DURING EXTREME WEATHER

Parents, Guardians & Childcare Providers:
Please Reinforce These 5 Key Practices



1 MAINTAIN STRICT HYGIENE

Ensure frequent handwashing with soap and water for children and caregivers.
Key Times: Before eating & after using the toilet.



2 PRACTICE RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Teach children to cough/sneeze into a tissue or bent elbow.
Dispose of tissues immediately and wash hands.



3 STAY HOME IF UNWELL

Keep children with fever, cough, cold, or diarrhea at home. Prevents the spread of illness in school, kindergarten, or daycare.



4 ENSURE UP-TO-DATE VACCINATIONS

Check that your child's immunizations are current. Follow the National Immunization Schedule. A critical layer of defense.



5 SEEK TIMELY MEDICAL ADVICE

Consult a healthcare professional early if you child is ill. Avoid self-medication.



OUR COLLECTIVE VIGILANCE

Adhering to these simple, effective measures is the best way to protect our young one.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM LEPTOSPIROSIS



HOW TO PREVENT



No swimming or wading in water that might be contaminated with animal urine (especially after a heavy rainfall or flood).



Eliminate contact with potentially infected animals including your own pets.



Protective clothing or footwear should be worn by those exposed to contaminated water or soil.



Appropriate personal protective equipment to be worn by those who work in farms & abattoirs.



Properly cover food at all times to protect it from rodents (rats and mice).



Ensure your homes are free of rodents.



Children to avoid playing in muddy water or puddles.



Keep livestock away from your compound.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS



1 Fever
Headache



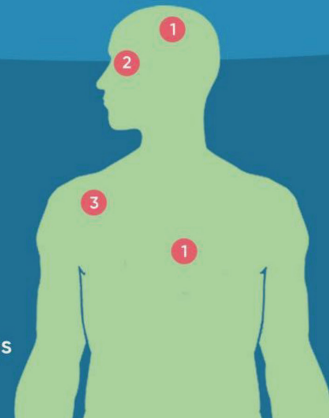
2 Redness
of the eyes



3 Muscle Pain



4 Abdominal pains
Vomiting
Nausea



Fiji

FOCUS



The President, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, officiated at the groundbreaking of Vuda Peace Park at the historic Lomolomo Gunsite in Lautoka which was a step in the preservation of Fiji's military heritage and national history. The event attracted families of former servicemen and communities from the nearby area. **Photos: NANISE NEIMILA**

Groundbreaking ceremony for Vuda Peace Park

By NANISE NEIMILA

A HISTORIC milestone was marked during the groundbreaking of Vuda Peace Park at the historic Lomolomo Gunsite in Lautoka. The President, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, officiated at the milestone event which was a step in the preservation of Fiji's military heritage and national history. The ceremony was attended by Na Momo na Tui Vuda, Ratu Eparama Tavaiaqia, along with traditional leaders, cabinet ministers, veterans, project stakeholders, and invited guests. During the ceremony, President

Lalabalavu acknowledged the historical and national significance of the Lomolomo Gunsite, noting that the development of the Vuda Peace Park reflects Fiji's commitment to honouring the sacrifices of those who served and preserving sites of national heritage for future generations. He said the initiative was a meaningful way to remember the past while fostering peace, unity, and learning. The Lomolomo Gunsite holds deep historical significance, having been established during the Second World War as part of Fiji's coastal defense network. The site played a strategic role in safeguarding Fiji and the wider Pacific

region during a critical period in global history, reflecting Fiji's contribution to Allied defense efforts and the bravery of those who served during wartime. The 12-acre Vuda Peace Park is envisioned as a comprehensive heritage and remembrance precinct. Planned developments include a state-of-the-art military museum, residential homes for veterans, a veterans' hospital, an indoor sports centre, a World War II chapel, and monuments honouring national heroes, including the late Sukanaivalu. The development will also feature a Duke of Edinburgh military museum, a regional cultural and convention center, and a hotel to support tourism and economic activity in the Western

Division. Project Consultant and Director, Epeli Naivalu, highlighted that the site will serve not only as a place of remembrance for those who served but also as a living heritage space aimed at educating future generations and strengthening public appreciation of Fiji's military history and contributions to regional and global peace. The Vuda Peace Park is expected to become a key national landmark, promoting remembrance, learning, and community engagement, while contributing to heritage preservation and socio-economic development in the Western Division.

Noda VITI

**FIJI GOVERNMENT
RADIO PROGRAM**

Voqa Ni Davui

93.0FM
Suva, Navua, Nadi, Deuba
Lautoka, Savusavu, Korovou
Yasawa Taveuni

92.8FM
Frequency
Sigatoka,
Coral Coast, Ba

93.2FM
Tavua, Vatukoula

93.4FM
Rakiraki

**Monday
Tuesday**

8.30PM

Wednesday | Thursday

8.00PM

Sunday

9.05AM



Suka lesu na Qele ki na vanua o Sukanacagi



Na iliuliu ni noda matanitu Hon Sitiveni Rabuka ka vaka kina na lewe ni mataqali ena vanua o Sukanacagi ena soqo ni kena suka lesu na qele ka vakayacori ma na Mua Ira ni noda vanua.
Taba: Azaria Fareen

Talanoa:Katarina Naqarase

Esa dua na ka na nodra marau na vanua o Sukanacagi vei ira na Momo na Tui Vitogo kei na vanua o Vidilo vei ira na Momo na itaukei Vidilo, ni sa vakasukai lesu tale vei ira na nodra tiki ni qele me vaka a qaravi na kena soqo mai Vitogo, Lautoka ka ra mai vulagi dokai kina na iliuliu ni noda matanitu Hon Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka.

Na uma qele ka sa suka lesu ki na mataqali o Tunuloa kei na mataqali Matari-siga ena koro o Vitogo, mataqali Nadakuvatu e Saru ka vaka kina na mataqali o Vidilo kei na mataqali Noi-batiri ena koro o

Namoli.

A voli ena 637 na paodi, ka okati tu me qele ni matanitu, ia na uma qele oqo, esa qai laurai ni sa sega ni qai vakayagataka tale na matanitu. Sa laki vakavuna na nona vakadonuya na boseyaco ena 1999 me sa na okati na uma qele oqo me qele maroroi se reverse.

Ia, edua na kena iwase ni qele oya, me sa vakayagataki raraba tiko me vaka na ibulubulu mai Tavakubu, edua na kena wase me vakayagataka na tabana ni wai ka vaka kina na kena e osa okati tiko me veikau.

A dua na kena ivola kerekere ki na matabose ni Qele Maroroi, ena 1992, me kerea na matabose ki na tabana ni qele ni matanitu, na kena

vakasukai lesu na qele vei ira na kena itaukei dina

Ena yabaki sa oti esa mani dikevi lesu tale kina na vakatulewa ni boseyaco ena yabaki oya 19 .ia, sa mani vakadonui tale me na suka lesu na uma qele oya vei ira na iTaukei ni qele.

“E vakavinavinakataka na Matanitu na nodra raiyawa na Turaga , ka vaka kina na Turaga ni Mataqali , Turaga ni Yavusa mera vakatara na Matanitu me vakayagataka na nodratou vanua me yaco tiko kina na bula raraba”.

Ni sa vakalesui tale na NG 187 vei ira na taukei dina ni qele, eda sa dolava na qele me rawa ni vakayagataki vinaka, vakaukauwataka na nodra lewa na itaukei ni vanua, ka rawa

kina Vanua o Vitogo ena vuku ni kena qaravi na veivakatorocaketaki kei Viti.

“Vuqa vei ira na vakaitavi ena kena soli na qele oqo era sa yali yani ka na dau I vakananumi tu na veika vivinaka dau vakayacora ena vuku ni veivakatoroicaketaki ka ra nanumi kina vakalevu na lewenivanua

Na siga nikua e sega walega me baleta na veika esa sivi e vakatabakidua ena noda veimataka, na nomuni matanitu esa tu vakarau mena cakacaka vakaveivolekati kei kemuni ena vuku ni veivakararamataki ena kena vakayagataki na qele mena rawa kina e levu na veika vinaka.’



Marautaka ko DPM Gavoka nona veisiko e Mavana



Na iVukevuke ni Pariminsita ka Minisita ni Vuka kei na Saravanua Hon Viliame Gavoka ena nodra laki biuta na ivutu senikau ena vanua e laki maroroi kina yagidra na Paraiminisita Vakacegu Laisenia Qarase. **Taba: Supplied**

Talanoa:Viliame Tikotani

Na veisiko ki na koro o Mavana mai Vanua Balavu e sega ni dua walega na itikotiko ena dua na parokaramu vakadonui ni matanitu. Oqo e dua na ilakolako e ivakananumi, ka vakaibalebale dina. Vakaraitaka na iVukevuke ni Paraiminisita ka Minisita ni Saravanua kei na Vuka, Hon. Viliame Gavoka ena nodra laki sikova na vanua ka laki maroroi kina na yagodra na Paraiminisita vakacegu Turaga na Tui Kobuca Laisenia Qarase, ka mai vakagalalataki ena gauna ni nona veiqaravi ena vuku ni vuaviri ni yabaki 2006. E koto ena baravi vakanomodi oqo e Vanua Balavu, na koro o Mavana e dua na koro era kila ga e vuqa ena kena sara-vi ena itaba kei na retioyaloyalalo.

Ia vei DPM Gavoka, na nona butuka yani na kena qele, e titobu cake sara na kena ibalebale — eke a mai vakarokorokotaka kina na cakacaka levu sa mai qarava rawa na Paraiminisita e liu sa bale o Laisenia Qarase, e dua na iliuliu e sega walega ni okata me dua na iliuliu ni matanitu, ia, e dua na daunivakasala. “Au doka dina me’u mai butuka na nona itikotiko na Paraiminisita e liu kei Viti,” e kaya o DPM Gavoka, ka vakaraitaka na yalomalumalumu kei na veirokovi. “E dua na vale totoka eke e Mavana, mai Vanua Balavu. Au doka dina me’u mai tiko eke ka sota kei na nona Radini vuvale E vakamacalataka DPM Gavoka, na gauna oya e veivakauqeti ka nanuma lesu na veika sa rawata rawa o Mr Qarase ena nona bula kei na ilakolako ni veiqaravi raraba.

Veika e Vakadonui ena Bose Yaco

1. Na ituvatuva ni kena vakayagataki vakamatau na noda wasawasa me vakavure ilavo
Sa vakadonuya na Boseyaco na ituvatuva ni 10 na yabaki ni kena vakayagataki vakamatau na noda wasawasa me ivurevure ni ilavo kei na bula.
Na ituvatuva levu oqo me raica na kena vakayagataki na wasawasa me qoliqoli, vakayagataki ena cakacaka ni saravanua, vanua ni susu ika kei na sasalu tale eso, vakavure kaukauwa vakalivaliva, gaunisala ni veitosoyaki, kei na kena maroroi na veika bula ena loma ni wasawasa, ka muri kina edua ga na kena ituvatuva matau.
Na ituvatuva talega oqo ena vakayacori me veisotavi kei na cakacaka e sa qaravi tiko ena Pasivika ka vaka kina e vuravura.
Ena qai digitaki edua na kena Matabose me raica ni vakamuri na ituvatuva levu qo.

2. Na veisautaki ni tiki ni lawa ni Schedule 1 ni Higher Salaries Commission Act
Sa vakadonya na Boseyaco na kena veisautaki na Schedule 1 ni lawa ni Higher Salaries Commission Act 2023, (HSC Act) me sa okati kina e vica tale na kabani ni matanitu me vaka na:

- Assets Fiji Pte Limited
- Fiji Investment Corporation Limited
- Fiji Roads Authority
- Investment Fiji
- Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji
- Oceania Shipbuilding and Engineering Pte Limited
- Public Rental Board
- Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission

Ena kena sa okati na veikabani ni matanitu oqo ki na Schedule 1 ni lawa ni Higher Salaries Commission Act, esa na qarauna na matanitu me na vakayacori vakadodonu ka tau na lewa matau ena saumi ni kedra isau na ivakalesilesi cake ni veitabana oqo.
Qo na kena sasagataki tikoga mera saumi ena dua na uma ilavo ka okati vaka compensation, ka vaka kina na nodra saumi ena isau dodonu ka me kakua ni sivia, ka me tutaki talega kina na caka dodonu.



3. Laveti na Vakatabu ni Qoli kei na Volitaki Dri se Sucuwalu
Sa vakadonuya na Boseyaco, na kena laveti na vakatabu ni kena qoli ka volitaki na Dri se Sucuwalu.
Qo ena koto vata kei na kena ituvatuva me na vakamuri me kua kina ni na qolivi vakasivia.
E vica na tikina e dodonu me na nanumi tiko:
-Oya na kena qolivi na kena mataqali ga e dodonu me na qolivi, ka na soli tikoga e va na vula me tekivu mai na imatai ni Veverueri ni 2026 ki na ika 30 ni Me ni 2026.
-Soli tale e rua na vula, me laki yacova na ika 30 ni Jiulai ni 2026, me qaravi kina na kena cakacakataki ka volitaki mai vei ira era vakalaiseni ni volitaki dri se sucuwalu. Sa na nona itavi tiko na Tabana ni Qoliqoli me na yadra-va na kena qolivi ka volitaki ena kena sasagataki tikoga me vakamuri na kena gaunisala taucoko sara vakalawa. Ena qarauni talega kina na laveti cake ni bula, kei na kena maroroi na sasalu oqo me baleti ira na kawa ni mataka.
4. Na Veivuke ni Vakacaca ni Kadi Vuka
Sa lewa na Boseyaco me sa veisautaki na veivuke vakailavo edau soli ki na vale e vakacaca kina na Kadi Vuka.
O koya e kerekere me lailai sobu mai na \$30,000 na kedratou isau vakavuvale ena dua na yabaki.
Sa na soli vua e \$2,000 ka sega ni \$5,000 me vaka e soli tiko ena gauna oqo.
Vei koya e kerekere ka tiko na kedratou isau vakavuvale ena \$30,000 esa na soli vua e \$1,000 ka sega ni \$2,000 me vaka e soli tiko ena gauna oqo.
Na veisau vou oqo, esa na solia na galala me rawa ni levu era kerea na veivuke oqo.
Na ituvatuva ni veivuke oqo, esa na vakarawarawataka vei ira na itaukei ni vale ka ganiti ira mera vukeyi ena kena vakavinakataki na nodra itikotiko me vaka ni a vakacacani ena Kadi Vuka.

5 Sa vakatulewa na Boseyaco me sa laveti edua na iwase ni lisi ni veikau maroroi mai Coloisuva me rawa ni soli na galala ki na Tabana ni Wai me qarava na nona cakacaka.
E cakacakataka tiko na Tabana ni Wai na kena vakavinakataki na vakadrodroi ni wai e Sawani ki Coloisuva, me rawa ni laki vinaka cake sara na drodro ni wai ena Yasayasa vaka Sawani kei Tacirua.
E tiki ni cakacaka levu oqo, oya na nona vakayagataka tale edua na iwase ni veikau maroroi, ka toka tikiva ga na taqe ni wai mai Coloisuva, na Tabana ni Wai, me tosoya kina na nona cakacaka.,
6. Sa lewa na Boseyaco me sa na vakadavora na matanitu, na nona ituvatuva yabaki lima ena vakatutu e vakarautaki me baleta na kena tarovi na veimataqali veivakasaurarataki e vakayacori vei ira na Marama.
E vakarautaka na vakadidike ni CEDAW na vakatutu eso ka dodonu me na cakacakataki koya kina o Viti.
E vica tiko na tikina e vakabibitaki ka basika na kena vakatutu, oya na kena vakalevutakina veivakararamat-aki ena noda itikotiko me baleta na nodra dodonu na marama, na vaqacacotaki ni lawa me rawa ni musuki kina vakadua na veivakasaurarataki, kei na kena vakarawarawataka vei ira na marama na tau ni lewadodonu, ka vagalalataki na veika eso edau vakatatao ni nodra toso se na sasaga na marama.
Na lima na yabaki ni tuvatuva qo, ena davo ena dua na kena ikotokoto me tara taucoko na veiyasa ni bula, ka me tutaka na cakacaka vata ni veitabana eso, ka koto vata kei na kena itavi kei na kena gagadre.
Sa na qai nona itavi edua na Komiti me na wanonova matua na kena vakamuri na ituvatuva oqo, ka na tikoga na gauna me na dau dikevi lesu tale kina, ka me vakarawarawataka cakacakataki ni ripote se vakatutu ke gadrevi mai na Matanitu.



Yaco na Veivuke e Nausori

Talanoa: Katarina Naqarase.

“Na veivuke oqo e dua naka au ra-ica kina ni veivuke sara vakalevu vei keimami na tiko ena loma ni vanua e Nausori Highlands”.

Na veika e vakaraitaka o Inise Mila na marama yabaki 60 mai na Yasana o Ra ena vuku ni nona mai ciqoma na veivuke ni lesu ki vuli ka vakaraitaka na matanitu me baleti ira na gonevuli ena yabaki oqo. Na marama oqo e dua ka dau volivolitaki voli ena taoni e Nadi . E qarava tiko e 3 na makubuna, ka marau vakalevu ena kena ni bau mamada vakalailai na icolacola ni volivoli ni lesu ki vuli.

E kuria na marama oqo ni vanua levu sara na gonevuli e Nausori Highland era susugi ligaiduataki voliga ka ra vakavinavinaka ena veivuke oqo ni matanitu ena vuku ni nodra lesu ki vuli.

“Nira sa raica ka vakadinadinataka na gonevuli na veivuke ena solia vei ira na yalo bolebole ena kena sagai me rawati na vuli ena veta sara icake ka sagai talega me rawati na tatadra”.

Na veivuke oqo edua na ituvatuva e biuta vata na Matanitu ena nodra vukei ka tokoni na veivuvale ena kena sagai mena rawati na vuli ni cava na yabaki.



Sa vakanamata o moala ki na Madigi ni saravanua



Talanoa: Viliame Tikotani

Vakavolivoliti ena wai karakarawa titobu kei na veika bula ni waitui, na yanuyan o Moala sa na rawa ni yaco me dua na vanua vou vei ira na dau qito siwa mai na veiyasai vuravura.

Me vaka ga na Veitau Camakau Canoe Regatta sa biuti Fulaga ena mape ni saravanua, na wai kei Moala e rawa ni dreta mai na vulagi era vakasaqara e dua na ilakolako duatani ka yavutaki ena veika e sotavi.

Na sasaga oqo e vinakata na iVukevuke ni Paraiminisita ka Minisita ni Saravanua, Hon. Viliame Gavoka, me

vakavotukana.

Ena nona veisiko ki na lima na yanuanu ena yasana o Lau, a vakaraitaka kina o DPM Gavoka e dua na itukutuku matata ka tudei: Na veisiga ni mataka na saravanua nei Lau ena duatani .

“Keimami vinakata me keimami kauti ira mai na vulagi mai na veiyasai vuravura ki Lau ena neimami ivakarau ni saravanua,” e kaya.

“Na saravanua e Viti e sa vakanamata tu mai vakabalavu ena ra kei Viti Levu — na veivanua me vakataki Denarau, na Yatu Yasawa kei na Baravi kei Nadroga, O Lau ena dua duatani, ka solia e dua na ka vou.”



MINISTRY OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES

TAQOMAKI IKO MAI NA TAI FOTE





Me vakabutari vakavinaka na wainigunu kece ka sega ni vakawainimatetaki ka kilai talega ni duka.



Savata vinaka na ligamu ena sovu kei na wai me rauta ni 20 na sekodi ni bera ni o vakarautaka na kakana se o kana se na kena oti mai na nomu vakayagataka na vale ni vakacegu



Kakua ni kania na lewe ni manumanu e sega ni vakabutari vakavinaka



Kania na kemu ni se katakata vinaka tu se ena gauna sa qai buta mai kina



Savata vakavinaka ena wai na vuata kei na kakana draudrau ni sa bera ni vakarautaki me laukana



Me dau vakatakatari vinaka tale na kakana ni se bera ni vakayagataki

NA I VAKATAKILAKILA



Katakata



Buno kata, damu se tutubu ni yago



Coka se dredre ni vakalailai



Malumalumu



Mosi ni kete



Veilecayaki ni yago



Mosi ni ulu

Digitaki o Vitusagavulu me Mata ki Isireli



Esa mai vosa bubului vua na Peresitedi ni noda vanua o Mr Jesoni Vitusagavulu mesa taura na mata ni noda vanua ki na Matanitu o Isireli. Ea taura voli mai o Vitusagavulu na mata ni matanitu levu o Amerika, Canada ka vaka kina o Mexico.

Ena nona veiqaravi voli ena

Matanitu o Amerika dolava kina na veitalanoa ni kena vakasaqarai eso na veivuke ena ni veivakacakacakataki ena Matanitu o Canada. Era taura talega nai tutu vakavunilewa ni Fiji Trade and Investment Bureau mai na 1996-ki na 2003.



Mesa cavuti o Lau ena Saravanua

Vakaraitaka o Kelepi Gucake na Mata ni Tikina ko Lakeba, ni sa tu vakarau na vanua ko Lakeba me cakacaka vata kei na matanitu ena sasaga ni kena laveti cake na cakacaka ni saravanua ena noda Viti. Kuria ko Gucake ni ra sa tuvatuva ka tale tikoga kina na vanua me vaka ni saravanua edua na vurevure ni ilavo ka rawa kina ni laveti kina na bula ni vei qaravi ena veisiga, saumi kina na isau ni bula ka ra dau gagadre kina na lewenivanua e dela niyavu.

Marautaka ka vakavinavinakata ko Gucake na ilakolako ni matanitu me vaka ni ogo esa qai imatai ni Minisita ni Saravanua kei na Vuka me veisiko voli ena Yatu Lau ka laki butuka sara na lima na tikina ko Moala, Fulaga, Lakeba, Cicia kei Vanua Balavu.

Vakaraitaka na iVukevuke ni Paraiminisita ka Minisita ni Saravanua kei na Vuka, Hon Viliame Gavoka, ka liutaka tiko na ilakolako ogo, ni ra taleitaka vakalevu na veika esa mai raica rawa ka sa vakadinadinataka me baleti Lau ena vica na tikina se yanuyanu esa mai sikova oya.

Kuria ko DPM Gavoka, ni dua na siga era sa na sikova vakalevu mai na saravanua mai vanuatani, na vanua totoka o Lau, me vaka ni bulabula, ka rairai totoka na kena waitui kei na kena i yaubula.

Ratou tiki talega ni lakolako ogo, na United Nations Resident Coordinator, na International Organization for Migration, kei ira na mata ni veitabana ni matanitu kei na iSoqosoqo ena taudaku ni matanitu se NGO, ka ni veisiko ogo e vakatakilakilataka na gagadre levu e tu me baleti Lau ena vuravura ni saravanua.

Vei Kelepi Gucake na Mata ni Tikina, na soqo ogo e vakaibalebale vakalevu.

“Ogo e sega ni veisiko walega,” e kaya o koya. “Ogo na itekitekivu ni dua na veisiga ni mataka eda sa tuvanaka tu vakamaqosa.”





Me Da Tu Vata, Kawa Itaukei Ena Noda Dela Ni Vanua

Vurevure ni Tukutuku: Tabana Ni Qele Maroroi

Oqo na imatai ni nodra veisiko na Vunilewa ni Matabose ni Qele Maroroi ni iTaukei ena yabaki vou oqo 2026 ka tomani tiko ga kina na ilakolako ni nodra vakararamataki tiko na noda itaukei ni qele ena veitikina.

E a digitaki na tikina o Vutia, Rewa me talevi kina na koro o Muanaicake, Muanaira kei Laucala.

E kaya o Mr Solomone Nata ni veivakararamataki oqo e tiki tiko ni ituvatuva vou ka sagai me ra sikovi ka talevi tale kina o ira na noda itaukei ni qele; me laki vakatakilai tale mada vei ira na inaki ni kena tauyavu na Matabose, na itosotoso vou e sa tuvatuva-ka tiko kina na Matabose vei keda na iTaukei kei na kena tovolei sara ga me semati tale na veiwekani ni Matabose kei ira na kena itaukei dina (na itaukei ni qele taucoko e Viti).

“Sa tekivu me keitou lakova yani kei iratou na neitou ivakaillesilesi na veikoro veitikina kei na veiyasana e Viti ena kena sagai mo ni vakararamataki na noda ena veika eso eda rawa ni da cakava me baleta na gagadre ni kena valuti na bula dravudravua ni kawa itaukei.

Era maqusa na Masi ni Vanua kei na Marama ni Vanua ena nodra tiko wawa kei na kena ciqomi na ilakolako oqo; vakauasivi ena kena laki qaravi na veitalanoa kei na veivakararamataki ena vuku ni vica na sasaga me vaka oqo:

- Vakalesui na nodra ivotavota na noda Turaga ena itutu ni veiliutaki vakavanua eso (Liuliu ni Tokatoka, Liuliu ni Mataqali, Liuliu ni Yavusa kei na Turaga ni Qali)
- Sa soli na galala vei ira na luveda e tiko na nodra ilavo ni lisi me ra kerea mai e 40% ni nodra ilavo me tosoi kina na nodra vuli (dina ga kevaka era se bera ni yacova na yabaki 18).
- Taukei Wealth Fund: na kena vakarautaki e dua na uma ilavo me tu vakarau me ra

volia na itaukei ni qele eso na qele lisi sa mai cava tiko na kena lisitaki ena loma ni veitauni.

- Taukei Development Fund Facility (Baqe ni Taukei): na veivuke e rawa ni da kerea kina e dua na uma ilavo me tekivu kina na bisinisi ni tamata yadua, se itokata, mataqali, yavusa, tikina se yasana.
- TLTB Education Scholarship: soli na galala vei ira kece e volai na yacadra enai Vola ni Kawa Bula (VKB) me ra kerea me vukei ena nodra icurucuru ni vuli ena veivuli eso esa digitaki tiko.

E kaya o Mr Nata ni oqo na noda matanisiga vou na kawa iTaukei ka ra sa veivakadonui kina na noda Bose Levu Vakaturaga (BLV) me da tu vata ka me da tu vakaukauwa na kawa iTaukei ena noda dela ni vanua. Na noda Matabose na itaukei ni qele ena vukei keda kina; vakabibi ena veika eda dau leqa tu kina me vaka na kena vakailavotaki na noda sasaga.

E tolu ga na yavu e kau kina na sasaga ni veisau oqo kina na Bose Levu Vakaturaga ka ra sa veivakadonui mai kina oya na:

1. Veinanumi (Me da veinanumi va-kawa iTaukei)
2. Veilomani (Me da veilomani va-kawa iTaukei)
3. Veivueti (Me da vueti na Kawa iTaukei – mai na bula dravudravua)

Sa kena ibalebale me da sa veinanumi va kawa tamata vata, me da veilomani me rawa ni vueti na noda kawa tamata ni kua, kei na veisiga tawa kilai sa tu e matada ena vukudra na luveda kei na makubuda.

“Ni sa gole yani na veivakararamataki, me da sa tucake me da lako yani e valenivolavola me da taro, ka me lako vata tiko ena tatadra; ena vanua eso eda via yacova. Na Matabose ni Qele Maroroi e nomuni, ka sa tu vakarau tale ga me vukei kemuni ena cava ga o ni gagadre kina me baleta na vakayagataki qele se na cicivaki bisinisi,” e



Veivuke ni Lesu Ki Vuli



Talanoa: Katarina Naqarase

Ena vuku ni tuvatuva se veiqaravi ni lesu ki vuli vei ira na gone e dodoliga kina na matanitu ena vuku ni kena soli na \$200 na veivuke vei ira na gone. Vuqa sara na lewenivanua, Tubutubu, Dauniveisusu era vakavinavinakataka na kena mai ciqomi na veivuke oqo ena veivuvale. E vakaraitaka o Makereta Dredregasa mai na Yanuyanu o Beqa ena kena biu mai na delaniyavu ena kena mai marautaki na tawase ni yabaki ena koroturaga, e marautaka ni ciqoma na \$200 se bera ni mua lesu nai golegole lesu kina Yanuyanu o Beqa. “Na \$200 au mai ciqoma esa dua

na veivuke levu vei au, vakabibi ena kena voli tale na veika lalai me baleta na nodratoulesu ki vuli na luvequ e lewe 3, au vakavinavinaka ki na matanitu ena gauna nikua”. E vakaraitaka talega o Mere Makitalina nisa dua na veivakalougatataki ena kena soli mai na veivuke vakaoqo ni vukea sara vakalevu na nona vuvale ena vuku ni lesu ki vuli vei ratou na 4 na nona isolisoli. “Vuqa na gauna e dau sotavi na dredre ena kena sega ni ciqomi na veivuke vaka oqo e liu , kau vakavinavinaka ki na matanitu ena vuku ni kena soli tu mai na veivuke ni \$200 ni lesu ki vuli”.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES

TAQOMAKI IKO MAI NA MINIMANU



MO TAQOMAKI VAKACAVA



Kakua na sisili se qalova na uciwai ka rawa ni vakadukari mai na suasua ni manumanu (vakauasivi ni oti edua na bisa ni lagi se ualuvu)



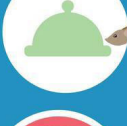
Kakua ni veitaratara kei ira na manumanu ka ra siqemi ni ra tauvimate tiko. Wili kina na manumanu susu e vale



Me dau daramaki na l vava se sulu e ganita na cacakaka e tautuba



Me dau daramaki na i sulu vakarautaki ni cacakaka e na vanua era susu ka ra vakamatei kina na manumanu



Me dau ubi vakavinaka na kakana ka me kakua ni lakova rawa na kalavo



Samaki vakawasoma na loma ni vale me ra kua ni susu rawa kina na kalavo



Me ra kakua ni ra qitora na soso, se wai vuvu na gone



Me ra maroroi vakayawa na manumanu mai nai tikotiko se vale

NA I VAKATAKILAKILA NI MATE



1 Mosi ni ulu/ Tubu na katakata



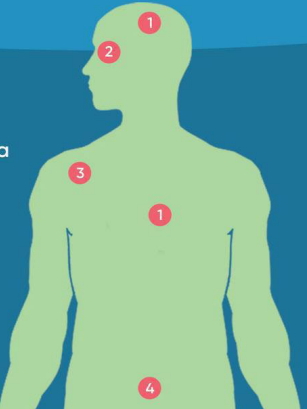
2 Momosi ni yaloka ni mata



3 Momosi ni masela ni yago



4 Mosi ni kete Lualuea Lomalomaca



AGRICULTURE & WATERWAYS			
FOR THE PEOPLE OF FIJI			
FOR THE PEOPLE'S Health & Wealth			
Tabana Ni Teitei , Salasala Ni Wai kei na Suka			
NA KENA RAILESUVI NA LAW ME BALETA NA YAQONA ENA NODA VANUA”(KAVA BILL)			
PROVINCE	DATE/ DAY	TIME	VENUE
TUESDAY 3RD - FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY - CENTRAL DIVISION			
Tailevu	Tuesday, 3rd February, 2026	9am - 3pm	Korovou Office
Naitasiri	Wednesday 4th February, 2026	9am-12pm	Naqali Hall
	Wednesday 4th February, 2026	2-5pm	Naivucini Village Hall
Serua/ Namosi	Thursday 5th February, 2026	9am-4pm	Namosi Provincial Office
Rewa/ Lower Naitasiri	Friday, 6th February, 2026	9am – 4pm	Southern Cross Hotel
MONDAY 9TH - FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY - WESTERN DIVISION			
Nadroga/Navosa	Monday, 9th February, 2026	9am-4pm	Keiyasi, Navosa
Ba	Tuesday, 10th February, 2026	10am-3pm	Bukuya village
	Wednesday, 10th February, 2026	2-5pm	Lautoka Giritmit center
	Thursday, 12th February, 2026	10am-4pm	Navai Village Hall
Ra	Friday, 13th February, 2026	9am-12pm	Rakiraki Market
	Friday, 13th February, 2026	2-5pm	Dadamu Hall - Nanukuloa Village
MONDAY, 16TH - THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY, 2026 - NORTHERN DIVISION			
Bua	Monday, 16th February, 2026	2-5pm	Kubulau Village Hall
	Tuesday, 17th February, 2026	9am-12pm	Saolo village Hall
	Tuesday, 17th February, 2026	2-5pm	Dama Agri Office
Cakaudrove	Wednesday, 18th February, 2026	9am-12pm	Yaroi Hall
	Wednesday, 18th February, 2026	2-5pm	Korotasere Village Hall
	Thursday, 19th February, 2026	9am-12pm	Tukavesi Village Hall

Sigatabu, 8 ni Veverueri, 2026

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Veivakatoroicaketaki e “Narocake kei Naivilaca

“Kevaka me sega ni yacovi ira na tu ena taudaku ni koro lelevu na veivakatoroicaketaki e kena I balebale se bera ni taucoko na veiqaravi ni Matanitu.” Na nodra mala ni vosa na Minisita ni Veivakatoroicaketaki Taudaku ni Veikorolelevu, Veiyatuyanuyu kei na Leqa Tubukoso Hon Sakiasi Ditoka ena nodra laki dolava na gaunisala simede

ka semati rau na koro e rua o Narocake kei Naivilaca. E vakavinakataka na veisau kei na veila-koyaki ni salatu kei na dei ena kedrau maliwa na koro e rua qo.E vukei ira na gonevuli, dauteitei, qase, kei ira na tamata e vakaleqai tu na tikini yagodra. Na cakacaka oqo e tiki ni Porokaramu ni Community Access Roads, Footpath and Foot Bridges Pro-



LAVETI NI VAKATATABU NI SUCUWALU

LAVETI TIKO VAKAWAWA NA VAKATATABU NI KENA QOLIVI NA DAIRO

1 FEPERUERI – 31 JIULAI, 2026

E gadreva me vakaraitaka rara-ba na Minisitiri ni Qoliqoli ni sa laveti tiko ena gauna oqo, na vakatatabu ni kena qolivi ka volitaki na dairo, ia, sa koto vata kei na ituvatuva me na muri.

KENA GAUNA

- Gauna: 1 Veverueri – 31 Me, 2026
- Vakasavasavataki kei na kena Volitaki: 1 Jiune – 31 Jiulai 2026
- Sa na vakatabui tale na qoli ena 1 Jiune 2026
- Sa na vakatabui na volivolitaki ena 1 Okosita 2026

KENA MATAQALI E VAKATABUI

- Oqo na kena mataqali e vakatabui me qolivi, voli se volitaki:
- Sucuwalu
 - Loaloa
 - Dairokula
 - Dri
 - Sucudrau

Vanua me qolivi kina

- Me qolivi ga ena vanua sa vakadonuya vakalawa na Tabana ni Qoliqoli.
 - Na vanua, siga kei na gauna ena qai tabaki vakamatanitu.
 - Era na veilewaitaki o ira na qoliva, volitaka ka vakasavasavataka na dairo ena taudaku ni vanua, kei na gauna, me vaka sa vakadonui tu vakalawa.
- GADREVI NI LAISENI

Ke qolivi, volitaki, vakau, voli se vakasavasavataki na dairo e dodonu me bula tiko na kena laiseni me vaka e koto ena lawa levu ni Qoliqoli ni 1941.

WALEWALE NI QOLI

Nunu Soqoni se kumuni Tabu ni vakayagataki na misini eso ni nunu

Lawa ni vanua e cake kina na dairo

- Sa tikoga na vanua e vakadonuya na Tabana ni Qoliqoli me cabe kina na dairo.

VOLI, VAKASAVASAVATAKI KEI NA MAKETETAKI

- O ira na vakalaiseni ni volivolitaki e rawa nira voli dairo ga vei ira na kena itini ena vanua sa vakadonui tu vakalawa.
- E tabu ni volivoli vakadodonu na kabani, vei ira na dauqoli.
- Na vakasavasavataki kei na volitaki ni dairo ena vakadonui ga mai na 1 ni Jiune ki na 31 ni Jiulai 2026.
- Na kena mataqali ga e vakadonui vakalawa me qolivi kei na kena ivakarau ena rawa ni vakasavasavataki ka volitaki.
- Me na vakasavasavataki ena vanua ga esa vakadonui vakalawa me vakayacori kina.

TOTOGI

Ena togotitaki na lewenivanua se kabani e sega ni vakamuria na ituvatuva oqo.

Ke tiko na vakatataro, moni qai veitaratara ki na Minisitiri ni Qoliqoli

gramme. “Au kerea meu na vakaraitaka ni dodonu mena tiko na nodatou “i-tuvatuva” vakaitikotiko se vakoro ka vakatokai ena vosa vakapertatania na (community development plan)”. Me tuvani kina vakamatau na nodatou tuvatuva ni veiqaravi ni veivakatoroicaketaki ena loma ni yabaki sa tu e matada, me da vakaio vata kina vakoro , ka bibi tiko na noda duavata me rawa ni rawati vakavinaka na kena qaravi me yadravi na “komiti ni veivakatoroica-

ketaki; komiti ni wai; komiti ni Vuli, ka vaka kina na komiti ni leqa tubukoso”. E vakaraitaka o Seremai Waletu Ni Koro e Narocake nira vakila sara vakelevu na veisau ena vuku ni kena sa mai vakayagataki na gaunisala simede, vuqa na gauna era sa dau suasua ena vuku ni dredre ni tatakoso ena koro o Naivilaca. “Na veivuke ni matanitu ena siga nikua e sa dua naka marautaki vakabibi ena nodra dau gole ki koronivuli na gone ka vaka kina na nodra vakaitavi taki ira na marama ena itavui ena veisiga.



TAQOMAKI IKO MAI NA MATETAKA NA DEQI



Lumuta na wainimate e vakasava laivi na namu



Vakayagataka na taunamu se kuvui ni namu ena gauna ni moce



Tiko vakadua e loma ni vale kevaka ko tiko volekata na vanua e veitauvi tiko kina na deqi



Vakalawalawataka na katubaleka kei na katuba levu

VAKARUSA NA VANUA NI SUSU NAMU



Me dau biu vakamatau na taya ni lori makawa kei na qa ni bilo



Sova laivi na wai ke ra tawa tu ena kava ni ika lala, tavaya, vakete se dramu



Me dau ubi vakavinaka na dramu ka dau maroro kina na wai



Koti vakalekaleka na co ka samaki vakawasoma na yasa ni namu i tikotiko



Buluta na yavu ni itutu ni senikau ena qele

NA I VAKATAKILAKILA NI DEQI



1 Matetaka Mosi ni ulu



2 Mosi ni Mata



3 Damu se tutubu ni yogo



4 Mosi ni masela



5 Mosi ni kete Luailua/Lomaloma ca





Tabana Ni Teitei , Salasala Ni Wai kei na Suka

PROVINCE	DATE/ DAY	TIME	VENUE
Cakaudrove	Friday, 20th February, 2026	9am-12pm	Somosomo Hall
Macuata	Monday, 23rd February, 2026	9am-12pm	Labasa Market
Macuata	Monday, 23rd February, 2026	2-5pm	Doguru Village Hall
Macuata	Tuesday, 24th February, 2026	9am-4pm	Vunaqalutu Village
Macuata	Wednesday, 25th February, 2026	9am-4pm	Lomaloma Village Hall
THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY, 2026 - EASTERN DIVISION			
Lomaiviti	Monday, 2nd March, 2026	9am-1pm	Lomaiviti Provincial Hall, Nasova
Kadavu	Wednesday, 4th March, 2026	9am-12pm	Tavuki Hall, Tavuki
Kadavu	Wednesday, 4th March, 2026	3-6pm	Daviqele Community Hall
Kadavu	Thursday, 5th March, 2026	9am-12pm	Namara Hall, Namara
Kadavu	Thursday, 5th March, 2026	3-6pm	Nakasaleka Community Hall, Vacalea

Sigatabu, 8 ni Veverueri, 2026

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Noda VITI



**FIJI GOVERNMENT
RADIO PROGRAM**

Voqa Ni Davui

93.0FM
Suva, Navua, Nadi, Deuba
Lautoka, Savusavu, Korovou
Yasawa Taveuni

92.8FM
Frequency
Sigatoka,
Coral Coast, Ba

93.2FM
Tavua, Vatukoula

93.4FM
Rakiraki

Monday
Tuesday

8.30PM

Wednesday | Thursday

8.00PM

Sunday

9.05AM



Kena iseivu e Nakasaleka



Na Minisita ni Teitei Vakadrodroi ni Wai kei na Tabana ni Suka Hon Tomasi Tunabuna , na Manidia ni Brittish American Tobacco Mr James Goldring ena kena laki dolavi na vale ni Bucibucini e Kavala ena Yanuyanu o Kadavu.**Taba:Katarina Naqarase**

Talanoa: Katarina Naqarase

E dua na tiki ni siga dredre vei ira na lewe ni 12 na koro ena loma ni tikina o Nakasaleka ena kena sa mai dola ka vakamatanitutaki na valenibucibucini se na(BAT Fijis Remote Greenhouse) ka veitokoni kina na Brittish American Tobacco ka vaka kina na Tabana ni Teitei kei na Susu Manumanu. Na Vale ni Bucibucini ka mai dolavi oqo e Nakasaleka sa kena I ka lima ena noda vanua me vakataki Nadarivatu, Tutu Taveuni, Moala Lau ka vaka kina e Bia I Cake Savusavu.

Era vulagi dokai ena kena dolavi na Minisita ni Teitei kei na Suka Hon Tomasi Tunabuna. Era vakaraitaka ni BAT e se tauyavu mai ena 1955 ka dua na usutu levu ni nodratou ituvatuva sai koya na nodra vukei na dauteitei. “Ena vanua o Kavala oqo e dua na sala e rawa ni vakalailaitaka na kena dau vakau mai e Vitilevu, ka sana vurevure levu sara ni lavo vei ira na lewenivanua, ka sana rawa ni laveta talega edua na ivakatagedegede ena kena rawa talega na vanua ni volitaki kakana dina o Kadavu e Vitilevu kei na veitaoni ena noda vanua”. E kaya o Mr James Goldring na manid-

ia ni British American Tobacco, ni nodratou cakacaka na dau tokoni ira na teitei mai na kena itekitekivu me yacova na kena itinitini ena veiyabaki, oka kina na nodra vakavulici kei na nodra vakatoroicaketaki na kila ni teitei ena ivakarau vinaka duadua ni teitei. Na Porokaramu ni Grow Plus, ka teki-vutaki ena yabaki 2022, e sa vakarautaka e rauta ni 2.6 na milioni na itei se sore ni kau vei ira na dauteitei “Keitou sa marau ena cakacaka vata kei na Tabana ni Teitei (kei ira na lewenivanua e Kadavu me vakarabailevutaka na neitou Porokaramu ni Grow Plus ki na veiyanyanu.”

Sa yalataka talega na Matanitu e siv-ia na \$115 na milioni enaTuvatuva Vakailavo ni Matanitu ni 2025–2026 me baleta na teitei, oya na ilavo levu duadua sa vakacurumi ena veiyabaki sa oti. Na ilavo oqo ena vakaukauwataka na veiqaravi ni vakavulici ni teitei vei ira na dauteitei, na vakayagataki ni misini ni teitei, na kena vakatoroica-ketaki na manumanu, na vakatuburi ni sokau se itei , me vakadeitaka ni sa tokoni vinaka na dauteitei e Viti, wili kina o ira mai na veiyanyanu wili kina o Kadavu.

फ़ीजी दर्पण





फ़ीजी सरकार का रेडियो कार्यक्रम

नवराष्ट्र

फ़ीकुवन्सी

105.0FM **104.8FM** **105.4FM**

सूवा, नान्दी, लौतोका, तावुआ, लम्बासा

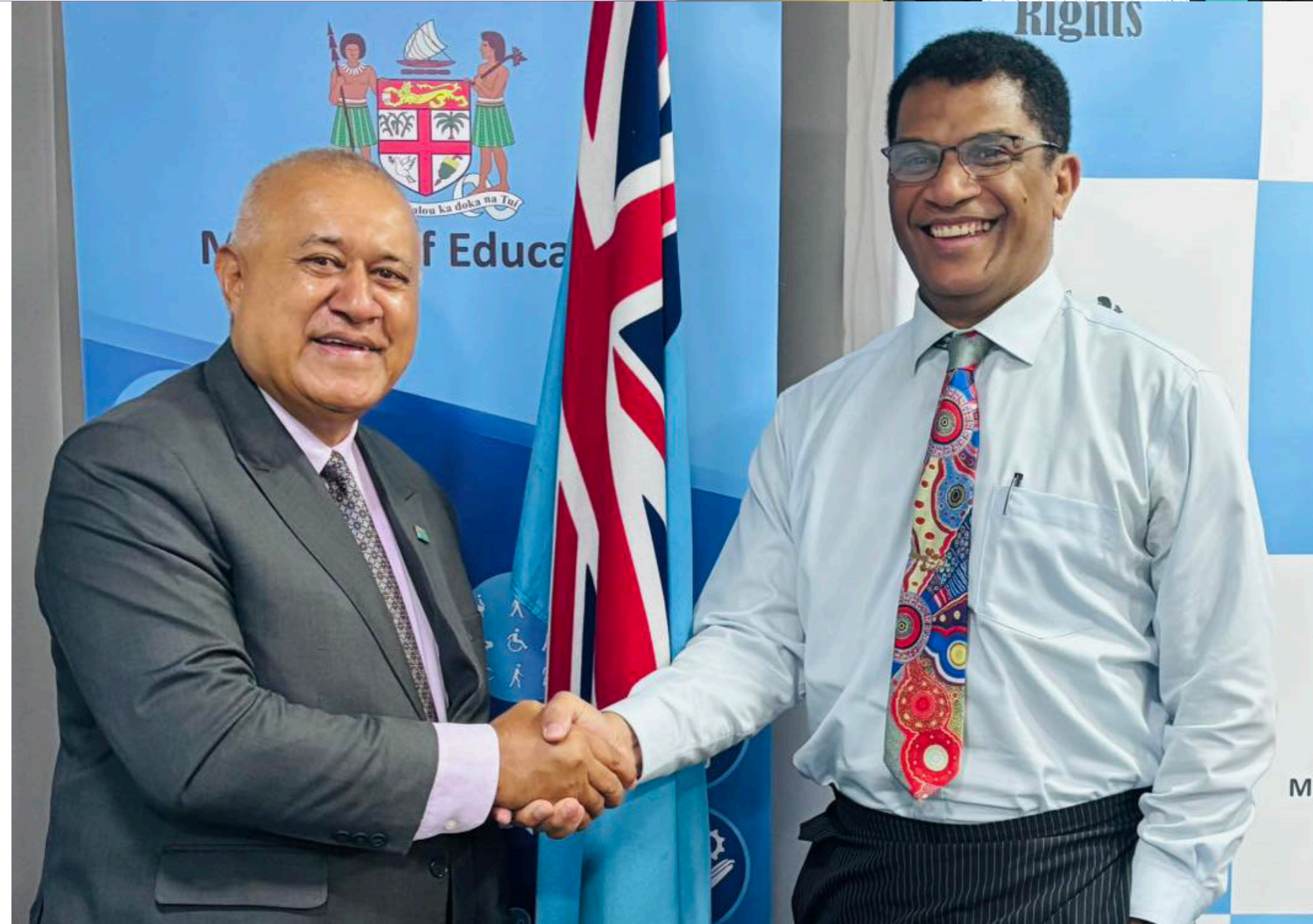
सिंगातोका, वा

राकीराकी

6.30PM

मंगलवार गुरुवार शुक्रवार रविवार





पोलिसिंग तथा कोमुनिकैशन्स मंत्री माननीय इयोवाने नईवालुरुआ, शिक्षा मंत्री माननीय असेरी रँडोड्रो से मुलाकात करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

स्कूल आधारित जागरूकता प्रयासों को मजबूत किया गया

रोनल देव

पोलिसिंग तथा कोमुनिकैशन्स मंत्री माननीय इयोवाने नईवालुरुआ ने शिक्षा मंत्री माननीय असेरी रँडोड्रो से मुलाकात करके छात्रों में नशीली पदार्थों के सेवन को लेकर बढ़ती चिंताओं से जवाब में स्कूल-आधारित जागरूकता अभियान को मजबूत करने का प्रयास किया। यह बातचित शुरूआती, लक्षित और सतत

हस्तक्षेप की ज़रूरत थी, जिसमें उन खतरों के क्षेत्र वाले स्कूलों की पहचान शामिल था जिन्हें वकालत और रोकथाम कार्यक्रमों से लाभ होगा। दोनों मंत्रियों ने इस बात पर सहमति व्यक्त की कि युवाओं के सामने उभरते जोखिमों से निपटने के लिए स्कूली स्तर पर सक्रिय भागीदारी बहुत ही ज़रूरी है। प्रस्तावित उपायों में स्कूलों में जागरूकता कार्यक्रमों में फ़ीजी पुलिस फ़ोर्स की अधिक भागीदारी, रेडियो के माध्यम से दैनिक सामाजिक पुलिसिंग संदेशों का प्रसार, सं देशों के लिए बिलबोर्ड का उपयोग और

नशीले पदार्थों के उपयोग के खतरों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए कार्य कर्मों को फिर से शुरू करना। दोनों मंत्रियों ने उभरती सामाजिक चिंताओं पर भी ध्यान दिया, जिनमें छात्रों द्वारा नशीली दवाओं की विक्री में भागीदारी, साथ ही खेल प्रदर्शन में सुधार और मनोरंजन के लिए नशीली दवाओं का उपयोग शामिल है। स्कूल प्रिन्सीपलों को इन विषयों का समाधान में अगुवाई भूमिका निभाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया गया और सरकारी स्कूलों से माँग की गई है कि वे उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करें। चर्चा किए गए अतिरिक्त

प्रस्तावों में नशीले पदार्थों से संबंधित विषयों को बेहतर ढंग से संबोधित करने के लिए स्कूल पाठ्यक्रम की समीक्षा करना, स्कूलों में परामर्श कार्यक्रम शुरू करना और मौजूदा जागरूकता प्रयासों की प्रभावशाली का आकलन करने के लिए निगरानी तंत्र को मजबूत करना शामिल था। दोनों मंत्रियों ने छात्रों को सकारात्मक भविष्य की ओर मार्गदर्शन करने और देश भर में युवाओं के कल्याण की रक्षा करने के लिए समन्वित, समग्र सरकारी दृष्टिकोण के महत्व को दोहराया।

कमज़ोर बच्चों के लिए बनेगा बाल कल्याण केन्द्र



कमज़ोर बच्चों के लिए बाल कल्याण केन्द्र बनाने पर समझौता चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

फ़ीजी के चारों विभागों में सड़कों पर रहने वाले बच्चों के महत्वपूर्ण सहायता सेवाएं प्रदान करने के इरादे से एक बाल कल्याण केंद्र का निर्माण करने के लिए महिला, बाल तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षा मंत्रालय ने हेबिटाट फोर हियुमैनिटी के साथ हालही में एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किया है। यह साझेदारी बाल संरक्षण प्रणालियों को मजबूत करने और कमजोर बच्चों की भलाई में सुधार करने की एक समान प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाती है, जो बाल देखभाल और संरक्षण एक्ट 2024 और बाल न्याय एक्ट 2024 के तहत मंत्रालय के अधिकार पत्र के अनुरूप है। बच्चों के लिए प्रस्तावित केन्द्र, ज़रूरतमंद बच्चों के लिए एक सुरक्षित, सहायक और एक उचित वातावरण प्रदान करेगा, जो सामाजिक सेवाओं तक पहुंच तथा एक प्रमुख मंच के रूप में कार्य करेगा। महिला, बाल तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षा मंत्री शशि किरण ने कहा कि यह सहयोग फ़ीजी के बाल संरक्षण ढाँचे को मजबूत करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है।

मंत्री किरण ने कहा कि मंत्रालय प्रमुख हितधारकों, विकास भागीदारों और नागरिक समाज संगठनों के साथ मिलकर यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए काम करता रहेगा कि फ़ीजी में प्रत्येक बच्चा सुरक्षित, संरक्षित और समर्थित होकर बड़ा हो। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि यह पहल बच्चों को उपेक्षा, शोषण और दुर्व्यवहार से बचाने की राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताओं के अनुरूप है, साथही सड़कों पर रहने और काम करने वाले बच्चों के मूल कारणों का भी समाधान करती है। हेबिटाट फोर हियुमैनिटी फ़ीजी की अंतरिम राष्ट्रीय डायरेक्टर संगीता कुमार ने कहा कि संगठन को कमजोर बच्चों के कल्याण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार के साथ साझेदारी करने पर गर्व है। यह सहयोग सरकारी नेतृत्व और समुदाय-आधारिक विशेषज्ञता को एक साथ लाता है ताकि टिकाऊ बुनियादी ढाँचा तैयार किया जा सके जो बच्चों के विकास, सुरक्षा और गरिमा का समर्थन करे, साथ ही फ़ीजी भर में सामुदायिक मजबूती और विकास को बढ़ावा दे। तकनीकी और कार्यान्वयन व्यवस्था पूरी

एल टी ए ने बनाई नई भुगतान योजना

रोनल देव

लेन्ड ट्रान्सपोर्ट अथोरिटी ने पिछले महीने की तेईस तारीख से जुर्माना भरने की नई योजना बनाई है ताकि कई से जो उपभोगता, एल.टी.ए का जुर्माना भरना बाकी है, वे जुर्माना चुका सके। एल टी ए के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव ऑफिसर इरिमइया रोकोसावा का कहना है कि इस पहल के तहत गाड़ी चालकों को एक एक व्यवस्था के द्वारा जुर्माना भरने की सुविधा मिलती है, जिससे नियम का पालन करने का एक मार्ग मिलने के साथ-साथ जुर्माना भरने में कठिनाई का सामना कर रहे ग्राहकों पर आर्थिक दबाव कम होता है। उन्होंने दिलचस्पी रखने वाले आम जनता को प्रोत्साहित किया है कि वे इसपर और

जानकारी के लिए नज़दीकी एल टी ए का दफ़्तर या ईमेल प॰अेमइनतपलअनठलतअ.चोम.फज पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। एल टी ए ने पाया है कि 2017 और 2022 के बीच खास करके जो नोटिस जारी किए गए थे, इस दौरान कई लोगों ने ट्रेफिक जुर्माना नहीं चुकाया है,” सी इ ओ ने कहा। जो जुर्माना भरे नहीं गए है के कारण प्रशासनिक कार्यों में देरी और वसूली न हो पाने वाले जुर्माना बढ़ गए है, नियमों का पालन सुनिश्चित करने की क्षमता सीमित हो गई है। भुगतान योजना नीति पात्र ग्राहक को पूर्ण भुगतान के तत्काल दबाव के बिना अपने खातों को एक नियमित करने का अवसर प्रदान करके इस चैनैति का समाधान करती है।

सार्वजनिक सूचना



नई फीस/जुर्माना

तेईस जनवरी
26/1/26 से असर
में आ गया है



तेज़ गाड़ी चलाने,
गैरकानूनी ढंग से गाड़ी
पार्क करने,
गाड़ी न रोकना तथा
गाड़ी तौलाने से मना
करना

सड़क सुरक्षा को बढ़ावा देने तथा ध्यान में रखने कि लोग जुर्माना भरे इसीलिए मंत्रीमण्डल ने हालमें स्वीकृति दी है कि लेन्ड ट्रान्सपोर्ट अथोरिटी के कानून में बदलाव लाया जाए और नए फीस तथा जुर्माना लागू किया जाए। लेन्ड ट्रान्सपोर्ट अथोरिटी के फीस और जुर्माना नियम 2000 में संशोधन से इन बदलावों में, गाड़ी न रोकने तथा गाड़ी तौलाने से मना करने के लिए नए जुर्माना, गैरकानूनी पार्किंग के लिए नए जुर्माना, तेज़ गाड़ी चलाने का जुर्माना बढ़ाना शामिल है।

ये फीस और जुर्माना तेईस (23rd) जनवरी 2026 से असर में आ चुके हैं:

अपराध		नया जुर्माना		
गाड़ी न रोकना और तौलाने से मना करना		अपराध	पहले	बाद में
पहली बार अपराध करने वालों	\$300	गैरकानूनी पार्किंग या गाड़ी रोकने से मना करना	\$20	\$100
दूसरी बार अपराध करने वालों	\$600			
अपराध	\$900			

अपराध		निश्चित जुर्माना	
तेज़ गाड़ी चलाने वाले	पहले	बाद में	
स्पीड लिमिट से पंद्रह किलोमीटर प्रति घण्टे के अन्दर गाड़ी चलाने के लिए	\$25	\$50	
स्पीड लिमिट से पंद्रह किलोमीटर से ज्यादा और उनतीस (29) प्रति घण्टे से कम के लिए	\$40	\$75	
स्पीड से तीस किलोमीटर प्रति घण्टा से ज्यादा तेज़ से गाड़ी चलाने के लिए	\$60	\$100	

और जानकारी तथा स्पष्टीकरण के लिए लेन्ड ट्रान्सपोर्ट अथोरिटी से ईमेल help@lta.com.fj पर संपर्क करें

\$200 बैक-टू-स्कूल सहायता एक बड़ी मदद



फायनैन्स मंत्री माननीय एस्मैम इमैनुएल संसद में बोलते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शिलता सिंह

चार बच्चों की पैतीस 35 वर्षीय माँ, मेरे माकितालिना ने बच्चों की पढ़ाई के लिए सरकार द्वारा दी जा रही \$200 बैक-टू-स्कूल सहायता को एक बड़ी सहायता मानती है। उन्होंने सरकार का धन्यवाद किया और कहा कि इस सहायता से नए साल में स्कूल की तैयारी करना अब आसान

को गया है। “पहले जब ऐसी कोई मदद नहीं थी, तब बहुत मुश्किल होती थी। अब \$200 मिलने से मैं अपने बच्चों के लिए स्कूल का सामान खरीद पाती हूँ,” उन्होंने ने कहा। 2025-2026 के राष्ट्रीय बजट में इस \$200 बैक-टू-स्कूल सहायता को जारी रखना परिवारों की मदद करने और बच्चों की शिक्षा को समर्थन देने के लिए सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को दिखाता है।

राष्ट्रपति ने वुन्दा पीस पार्क के भूमिपूजन समारोह में भाग लिया

शीलता सिंह

फीजी के राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू नाईगामा लालाम्बालावु ने लौतोका के ऐतिहासिक लोमोलोमो में वुन्दा पीस पार्क के भूमिपूजन समारोह का उद्घाटन किया। यह फीजी की मिलिद्री विरासत और राष्ट्रीय इतिहास को सुरक्षित रखने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम माना जा रहा है। इस समारोह में ना मोमो ना तुई वुन्दा, रातू एपारामा कितियोने तवाइकिया के साथ-साथ पारंपरिक नेता, मंत्रीमणल के सदस्य, पूर्व सैनिक, योजना से जुड़े अधिकारी और अन्य आमंत्रित मेहमान मौजूद थे। समारोह के दौरान राष्ट्रपति लालाम्बालावु ने गनसाइट के ऐतिहासिक और राष्ट्रीय महत्व को स्वीकार करते हुए कहा कि वुन्दा पीस पार्क का विकास उन लोगों के बलिदान को सम्मान देने और इस तरह की ऐतिहासिक जगहों को आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए बचाने के वायदे को दिखाता है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह पहल शांति, एकता और सीखने को बढ़ावा देते हुए अतीत को याद करने का एक अच्छा तरीका है। लोमोलोमो गनसाइट का इतिहास दूसरे विश्व युद्ध से जुड़ा है। इसे उस समय फीजी के तटीय रक्षा नेटवर्क के हिस्से

के रूप में बनाया गया था। यह स्थान फीनी और पूरे प्रशांत क्षेत्र की सुरक्षा में रणनीतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण रहा और मित्र राष्ट्रों की रक्षा में फीजी के योगदान तथा युद्ध के दौरान सेवा देने वाले वीर जवानों की बहादुरी को दर्शाता है। बारह एकड़ के वुन्दा पीस पार्क को एक बड़ी विरासत और यादों की जगह के तौर पर देखा जा रहा है। विकास योजना में एक स्टेट-ऑफ-दी-आर्ट मिलिद्री म्यूजियम, भुतपुर्व सैनिकों के लिए घर, अस्पताल, एक इनडोर खेल कुद केंद्र दुसरे विश्व युद्ध का चैपल, और स्वर्गीय सुकुनाइवालु सहित राष्ट्रीय जवानों के सम्मान में स्मारक बनाने की योजना भी शामिल है। इसके अलावा, योजना में ड्यूक ऑफ एडिबर्ग सैन्य संग्रहालय, एक क्षेत्रीय सांस्कृतिक और सम्मेलन केंद्र तथा एक होटल भी बनाया जाएगा, जिससे पश्चिमी विभाग में टूरिज्म और आर्थिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा मिलेगा। वुन्दा पीस पार्क को एक प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय स्थल बनने की उम्मीद है, जो स्मरण, शिक्षा और सामाजिक भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देगा, साथ ही पश्चिमी विभाग में विरासत संरक्षण और सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास में योगदान देगा।



लौतोका में बनने वाला वुन्दा पीस पार्क

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

कृषि, चीनी और पशुपालन क्षेत्र में फीजी और भारत का सहयोग मजबूत हुआ



कृषि और चीनी मंत्री माननीय तोमासी तुनाबुना कृषि भवन में भारत के कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

कृषि और चीनी मंत्री माननीय तोमासी तुनाबुना ने हाल ही में नई दिल्ली के कृषि भवन में भारत के कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान से मुलाकात की। इस बैठक का उद्देश्य था कृषि, चीनी, पशुपालन और ग्रामीण विकास के क्षेत्रों में द्विपक्षीय सहयोग को और मजबूत करना। माननीय तुनाबुना ने फीजी की सरकार और लोगों की तरफ से दिल से बधाई दी, जिसमें फीजी के प्रधान मंत्री की शुभकामनाएं भी शामिल थी। उन्होंने भारत के साथ अपनी पुरानी दोस्ती की सराहना की, जो साझा इतिहास, लोगों के बीच मजबूत रिश्तों और बढ़ते विकास सहयोग पर आधारित है। बैठक के दौरान माननीय तुनाबुना ने फीजी के कृषि क्षेत्र को आधुनिक, जलवायु और तकनीक-आधारित बनाने की दिशा में हो रहे बदलावों की जानकारी दी। उन्होंने फीजी की प्राथमिकताओं पर प्रकाश डाला, जिनमें स्मार्ट और डिजिटल कृषि, ड्रोन तकनीक, स्मार्ट सिंचाई, पशुधन और डेयरी विकास, चीनी क्षेत्र में

विकास और किसानों के अर्थव्यवस्था से जुड़े उपाय शामिल हैं। माननीय तुनाबुना ने कहा, “आधुनिक कृषि टेक्नोलॉजी, इंटीग्रेटेड वैल्यू चेन और किसान पर आधारित नवाचार में भारत का अनुभव फीजी के विकास लक्ष्यों के लिए बेहद जरूरी है। फीजी ने डिजिटल फार्म और पशुधन रजिस्ट्रेशन, वैल्यू-एडेड प्रोसेसिंग, शुगर बायो-इंडस्ट्री, फूड वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट और जानवरों के चारे के लिए अग्रिकल्चर बाय-प्रोडक्ट्स के इस्तेमाल जैसे क्षेत्र में साझेदारी की रुचि जताई। दोनों मंत्रियों ने, तकनीकी सहयोग और संयुक्त खोजबीन पर भी चर्चा की। दोनों मंत्री फीजी-भारत कृषि, चीनी, पशुधन और बायो-इंडस्ट्रीज़ गुप बनाने पर सहमत हुए। इस बैठक में फीजी-भारत साझेदारी को और मजबूत करने तथा किसानों, ग्रामीण समुदायों और खाने की सुरक्षा के लिए टिकाउ लाभ सुनिश्चित करने की प्रतिबद्धता को अटल किया। माननीय तुनाबुना ने इस जून में मौजूदा समझौते (MOU) को और पांच साल के लिए बढ़ाने पर भारतीय पक्ष की तरफ से स्वागत किया।

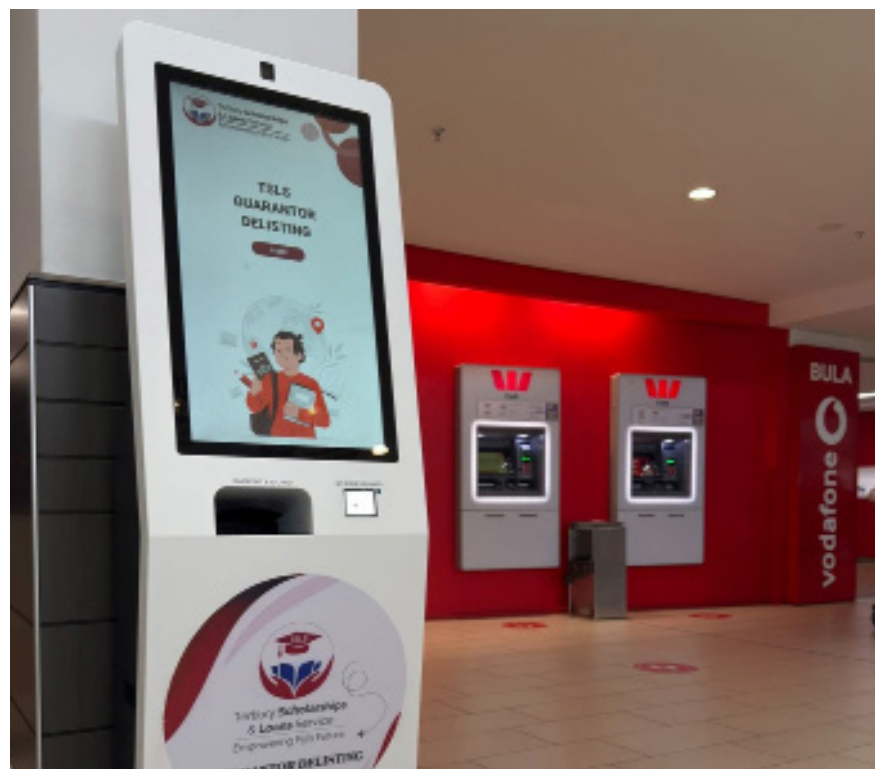
नांदी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर स्कोलाशिप स्व-सेवा गरन्टोर बूथ

शीलता सिंह

टर्शियरी स्कोलाशिप और लोन्स सर्विस (टीएसएलएस) ने विदेश से लौट रहे बंधित छात्रों की सहायता के लिए नांदी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के अंतरराष्ट्रीय आगमन प्लैटफॉर्म में दो स्व-सेवा गरन्टोर बूथ शुरू किया है। गरन्टोर बूथ का उद्देश्य :
- छात्रों को फीजी पहुँचते ही गरन्टोर के नाम को तुरंत हटाने में मदद करेगी।
- तेज़, स्व-सेवा प्रक्रिया उपलब्ध कराना (दो मिनट से भी कम समय लगता है)
- टीएसएलएस दफ्तर नहीं जाना पड़ेगा।
- इमिग्रेशन रूकावट सूची से गरन्टोर को

समय पर हटा दिया जाएगा।

- गरन्टोर की यात्रा योजनाओं में बाधा उत्पन्न नहीं होगी।
यह बूथ उन छात्रों के लिए है जिन्हें टेम्पररी ट्रेवल रिलीज़ मिली है।
अर्जी बूथ पर सुरक्षित रूप से जमा किए जाते हैं और टीएसएलएस द्वारा जांच की जाती है, और स्वीकृत इमिग्रेशन विभाग को भेजी जाती है।
नाम हटाने पर छात्र और गरन्टोर दोनों को ई मेल के माध्यम से पुष्टि प्राप्त होगी।
टीएसएलएस के वेबसाइट और सोशल मीडिया पर पूरी प्रक्रिया और विडियो उपलब्ध हैं।



जापान के लिए फीजी के नए राजदूत की नियुक्ति हुई

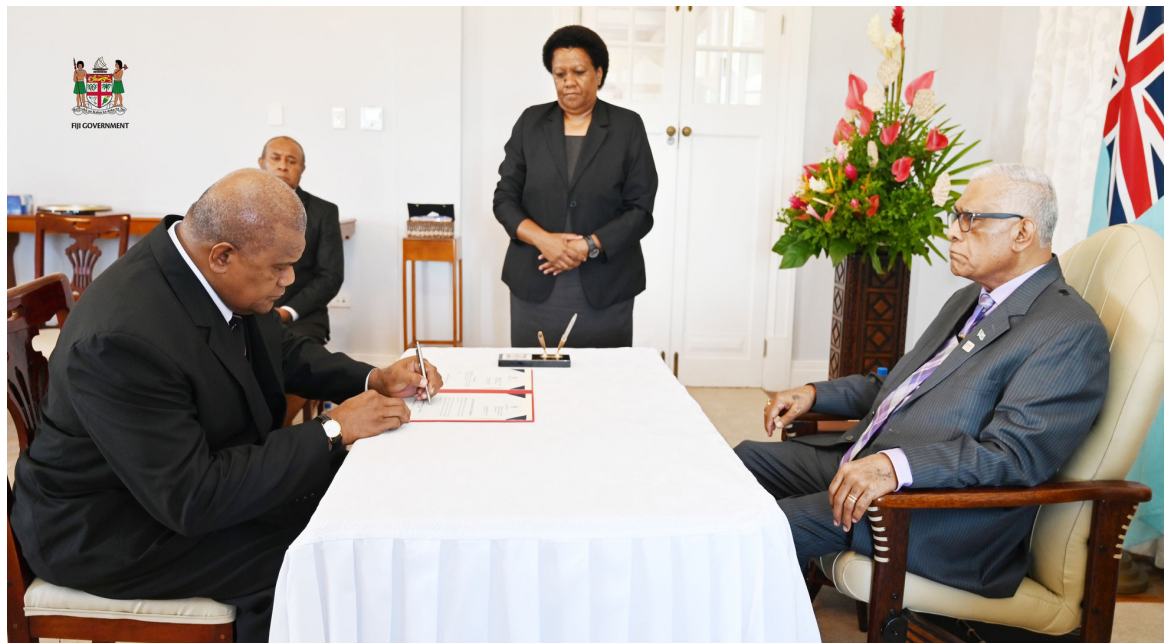


फीजी के राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू नडगामा लालाबलावू ने सरकारी भवन पर जापान के लिए फीजी के नए राजदूत महामहीम कमिनिगेली नडगामा को शपथ दिलाई। राजदूत नडगामा ने संविधान के तहत राष्ट्रपति के समक्ष अपने पद निर्वहन की शपथ तथा निष्ठा की शपथ लिया। इस नियुक्ति से पहले श्री नडगामा, सरकारी आकड़ा विभाग की अगुवाई कर रहे थे। उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री दफ्तर में सिनिया पोलिसी एडवाइज़र, नेशनल प्लेनिंग मंत्रालय में सिनिया प्लेनिंग ऑफिसर की हैसियत से काम किया। अगस्त से दिसम्बर टर्ज़ट के बीच उन्होंने युनाएटड नईशन्स पोपुलैज़ेशन फन्ड में किया। इस भूमिका में, उन्होंने राष्ट्रीय, मंडल और प्रांतीय स्तरों पर प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में उच्च स्तरीय संवाद, आकड़ा विश्लेषण और सोलोमन आएलेन्ड्स के हित के लिए भी काम किया। उन्होंने मलिनला फिलिपिन्स में एशियन डिवेलोपमन्ट बैंक के एक्ज़ेक्टिव बोर्ड में एक सलाहकार के रूप में भी काम किया। राजदूत नडगामा के पास युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ दी साउथ पैसिफिक से एकोनोमिक्स में बैचला ऑफ आर्ट्स की डिग्री, युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ फीजी से अंतराष्ट्रीय संबंध पर पोस्टग्रेडुएट सर्टिफिकेट के अलावा युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ दी साउथ पैसिफिक से बिज़नेस एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन में मास्टर्स डिग्री हासिल की।

जापानी सरकार से मिली नई ड्रेजिंग मशीन



जापनी सरकार से मिली नई ड्रेजा मशीन से फीजी के बाढ़ नियंत्रण कार्यक्रमों की क्षमता में वृद्धि हुई है। अभी हाल में यह मशीन, कृषि मंत्रालय के नउसोरी स्थित लुबुलुवु स्टेशन पर सौंपी गई। जापानी दुतावास के काउन्सलर तथा डेप्टी हेड ऑफ मिशन श्री इसामी तकाडा ने यह मशीन प्रदान करते हुए कहा कि यह ड्रेजा मशीन जापान के ग्रांट इन अर्ड फॉर एकोनोमिक सोशल डिवेलोपमन्ट के नीचे दी गई है। यह प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से हटकर लम्बे समय तक एक मजबूत बदलाव को दर्शाता है। उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि छः साल पहले जापान ने आठ सौ अड्डालिस मिलियन जापानी येन लागत प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों को कम करने वाले उपकरण जैसे कि सुनामी के लिए पहले चेतावनी देने, बर्फ बनाने का प्लांट (लौतोका में सौंप दिया गया है) एक ड्रेजा, तथा जल्द चेतावनी देने वाले उपकरण बहुत जल्द नेशनल डिज़ास्टा मेनेजमन्ट ऑफिस को सौंपे जाएंगे।



हरियाली भरे भविष्य के लिए कंपोस्टिंग ज़रूरी है



सेरूआ के नम्बुकलेवू कोरो को पर्यावरण अनुकूल बढ़ावा मिला जब सूचना तथा जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री लंडा तम्बुया ने कोरो में जिम्मेदारी से कूड़ा डालने को बढ़ावा देने के लिए बीस कम्पोस्ट बिन सौंपा। इन बीस में से दो बिन, बुरेनिनू विलज स्कूल को दिया गया है ताकि छात्रों को कूड़ा-कचरा न फैलाने की समस्या से निपटने और नागरिक जिम्मेदारी को अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित किया जाए। मंत्री तम्बुया ने छात्रों को नागरिक गौरव और वातावरण के प्रति सम्मान के महत्व की याद दिलाई। मंत्री ने छात्रों को प्रोत्साहित किया कि वे वातावरण को साफ रखने की जिम्मेदारी ले, कड़ा सही जगह डालें तथा अपने बड़े-बुजुर्गों को भी ऐसा करने के लिए कहें। “जब आप नदी, नालों तथा समुद्र से भोजन लाने या तैरने जा रहे हो तो अपना कूड़ा साथ लिए जाए,” मंत्री ने सलाह दी। मंत्री ने बच्चों को सलाह दी कि अगर वे अपने बड़े-बुजुर्गों को कूड़ा इधर-उधर फैकते पाए तो उन्हें रोके। मंत्री तम्बुया ने वातावरण पर कीटनाशक दवा के बुरा असर पर प्रकाश डाला, छात्रों से कड़ी मेहनत करने तथा बच्चों से माँग की कि वे कभी भी अपने जड़ को न भूले। कोम्पोस्ट बिन के अलावा मंत्रालय ने स्कूल को कुछ स्कूली सामान भी प्रदान किया।



सरकारी ग्रांट से ग्रामीण मुर्गीपालन में प्रगति हुई



वोलीवोली राकीराकी स्थित रानी पौल्दी फार्म को सरकार से मिला तीस हजार डोलर का ग्रांट के बाद, भारी प्रगति हुई है। यह सहायता ग्रामीण और बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास मंत्रालय के विकास कार्यक्रम के नीचे दी गई है। यह फार्म जिसकी मालकिन रंजनी देवी और उनके पति है की शुरुआत टर्ज़ट में कुछ मुर्गियों तथा रास्ते के पास अण्डों की विक्री से हुई थी। सालों तक पैसे बचाने, व्यापार में पूँजी लगाने तथा कड़ी मेहनत से इस छोटा से ग्रामीण व्यापार को प्रगति करने में मदद मिली। अभी हाल ही में इस विकसित फार्म का औपचारिक उद्घाटन ग्रामीण और बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास मंत्री मोसेसे बुलीतावू ने किया। सरकारी सहायता से इस फार्म में मुर्गियों के दो शेड है, स्टोरज का एक कमरा, दो हजार तीन सौ मुर्गियाँ है, जो वोलीवोली आएलेन्ड रिज़र्व, राकीराकी मार्केट और पास की दुकानों तक अण्डे सप्लाई करते है। श्रीमति देवी ने कहा कि इस सहायता से उत्पादन और आमदनी में भारी सुधार हुआ है जिससे अन्य ग्रामीण परिवारों को गरीबी दूर करने के लिए प्रोत्साहन मिला है।





MINISTRY OF HEALTH
& MEDICAL SERVICES



अपने आप को डेंगु बुखार से बचाएं



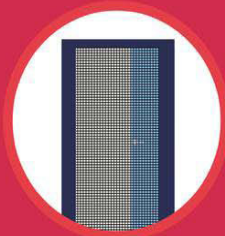
घर से बाहर होने पर कीड़ों से बचने की दवा लगाएं



सोते वक्त मच्छर-दानी या मच्छर वाले कोईल का उपयोग करें



घर के अन्दर रहें



अपने घर की खिड़कियों और दरवाज़े पर मच्छरों का स्क्रीन लगाएं

मच्छरों के पैदा होने वाले स्थानों को नष्ट करें



पुराने टायर और नारियल की खोपड़ी फेंक दें



टिन, बोतल, टुटी बाल्टी और ड्रम खाली कर दें



पानी वाले ड्रम को सुरक्षित ढाँक दें



हमेशा अपने आँगन का घास काटें और इसे साफ रखें



गमले के बर्तन को मिट्टी से ढाँक दें

चिन्ह और लक्षण



1. बुखार सर दर्द



2. आँखों में दर्द



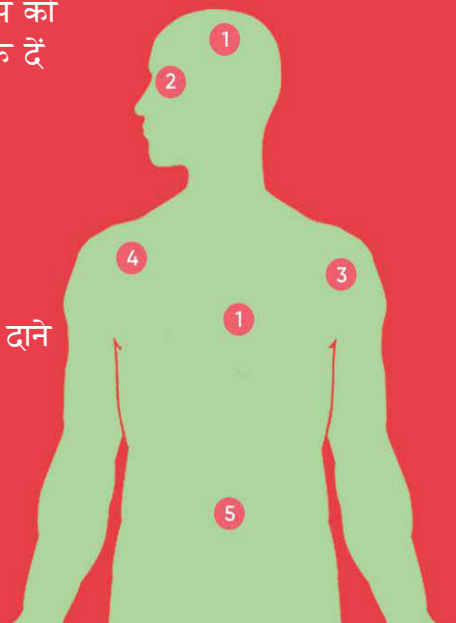
3. लाल दाने



4. माँस पेशियों में दर्द



5. पेट में दर्द, उल्टी होना



फीजी में डेंगू बुखार और मच्छरों से होने वाली बीमारियों से लड़ने के लिए

पब्लिक हेल्थ अधिकारियों ने डेंगू बुखार और मच्छरों से होने वाली दूसरी बीमारियों से लड़ने के लिए वित्तिलुवू में ज़्यादा खतरे वाले इलाकों में मक्खी और मच्छरों के ट्रैप लगाना शुरू कर दिया है।

सावस्थ मंत्रालय और GX फाउंडेशन ने यह पहल की है, जो वित्तिलुवू से शुरू होगा और आखिर में पूरे देश में फैलेगा। इसके साथ-साथ, नौसोरी एयर टर्मिनल, नांदी मार्केट और नांदी अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पर भी ट्रैप लगाने का काम शुरू हुआ। हम ज़्यादा खतरे वाली जगहों पर भी यह काम जल्द से जल्द शुरू कर देंगे।

सुवा के कोलोनिअल वोर मेमोरियल अस्पताल में भी इन ट्रैपस को लगाने की योजना पर बातें चल रही हैं।

इस योजना की सहमियत को समझते हुए, होंग-कोंग की एक नोन-प्रोफिट संस्था GX फाउंडेशन ने फीजी के स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर फीजी में एक बड़ा वेक्टर-बोर्न बीमारी को काबू में लाने के लिए योजना शुरू की है, जिसमें सुवा इलाका भी शामिल है।

“नेशनल डेंगू बुखार और वेक्टर-बोर्न बीमारी कोन्ट्रोल प्रोग्राम फीजी 2025-2027” के नाम से मशहूर इस पहल का मकसद मच्छरों से होने वाली बीमारियों को रोककर, लोगों को जागरूक करना और जल्दी पता लगाकर लोगों की रक्षा करना है।

इस कार्यक्रम के हिस्से के तौर पर, GX फाउंडेशन मच्छर कोन्ट्रोल के लिए लगभग \$2 मिलियन का सामान और सप्लाय दी गई है।

मच्छर मारने वाले 450 लैम्प, 2000 रेपिड डेंगू टेस्ट किट, 500 बेड नेट और 20,000 स्टिकी फलाई ट्रैप जैसे समानों को सोच-समझकर सुवा और नांदी में ज़्यादा खतरों वाली जगहों, जैसे सीडब्लूएम, नौसोरी और नांदी एयरपोर्ट और बड़े मार्केट में लगाया गया है। इस योजना के चलते सावस्थ मंत्रालय लोगो कि सुरक्षा को मज़बूत करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं।

नया पुल बना गांव वालों के लिए उम्मीद

शीलता सिंह

तारूकुआ गांव के लोगों के लिए, स्कूल तक पैदल जाना कभी आस्था, समय और मौसम पर निर्भर करता था। सालों तक, गांव वाले पास के स्कूल तक पहुंचने के लिए लोहे से बने एक नाजुक पुल को पार करते थे। हर भार बारिश में यह पुल और कमज़ोर हो जाता था, और आखिरकार बह गया, जिससे गांव का एक ज़रूरी रास्ता टूट गया और बच्चों, बुजुर्गों और उनके परिवारों की रोज़ की चिंता बढ़ गई। अब यह चिंता राहत और गर्व में बदल गई है।

2025 में तारूकुआ गांव को एक नया पक्का पुल और फुटपाथ मिला, जिसने लोगों की रोज़मर्रा की ज़िंदगी आसान बना दी और ज़रूरी सेवाओं से उनका जुड़ाव मज़बूत किया। “यह पुल हमारे गांव के लिए एक आशीर्वाद है, जिन्होंने ग्रामीण और समुद्री विकास मंत्रालय और पूर्वी विभाग के माध्यम से यह तोहफा दिया।”

यह योजना सिर्फ निर्माण तक सीमित नहीं थी, यह

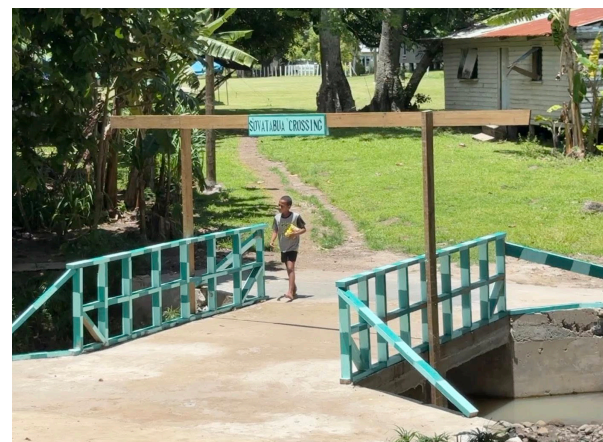
साझेदारी का उदाहरण भी थी।

सरकार ने पुल का सामान खरीदने में मदद की, जिसे नाव से द्वारा लाउ द्वीप स्थित गांव तक पहुंचाया गया। इसके बाद तारूकुआ गांव के पुरुषों ने सामान को अंदर तक पहुंचाया और मिलकर खुद ही पुल को बनाया। “इसे हमारे ही लोगों ने बनाया है,” वहाँ के रहने वाले बाकानिदेवा ने कहा। “हर किसी ने अपने तरीके से योगदान दिया।”

लाउ प्रांत की सहायक जिला अधिकारी पेनिना वाईन्यू ने बताया कि गांव ने अपनी बैठक में औपचारिक अनुरोध भेजा था, जिसके बाद उसे सहायता के लिए चुना गया था। यह मदद “गांव, समुदाय पुल और फुट कोर्सिंग्स 1/3-2/3 कार्यक्रम कत तहत मदद दी गई, जिसमें सरकार ने \$25,000 दिए और गांव ने लेबर का काम खुद किया। सुधार सिर्फ पुल पर नहीं हुआ, तारूकुआ गांव को नौ सोलर फुटपाथ लाइटिंग किट भी मिली, जो अब मुख्य रास्तों और गांव के हरे-भरे इलाके को रोशन कर रही हैं, जिससे परिवारों और बच्चों के लिए शामें ज़्यादा सुरक्षित

हो गई हैं।

तारूकुआ के लिए यह पुल सिर्फ सीमेंट और लोहे का ढाँचा नहीं है, यह मिलकर किए गए प्रयास, सुरक्षित सफर और आने वाली पीढ़ी के बेहतर भविष्य का प्रतीक है।



तारूकुआ गांव में बना हुआ नया पुल।

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

निराशा से आशा तक के सफर में सरकार की सहायता



महिला मंत्री माननीय शशि किरण भाविश्वनल सिंह और उनके परिवार के साथ

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

भाविश्वनल सिंह के लिए जीवन हमेशा संघर्षों से भरा रहा है। मांसपेशीय डिस्ट्रोफी जैसी बीमारी के साथ जीता है, यह एक ऐसी बीमारी है जो मसल्स की ताकत और चलने-फिरने पर असर पड़ता है, इस बीमारी से जूझ रहे यालालेबु, बा

के इस नौजवान ने ऐसी मुश्किलों का सामना किया है। लेकिन इस वर्ष उसकी कहानी ने आशा और आत्मनिर्भरता की एक दिशा ली। भाविश्वनल ने बा स्कूल में पढ़ाई की, लेकिन पारिवारिक सहयोग की कमी के कारण वह अपनी शिक्षा जारी नहीं कर पाया। उसकी परेशानियाँ तब और बढ़

गई जब मात्र आठ वर्ष की आयु में किसमस ईव पर उसकी माँ का निधन हो गया। बाद में उसके पिता भी उसे छोड़कर चले गए, जिसके बाद भाविश्वनल को उसके चाचा और चाची ने अपने पास रख लिया, जिनके साथ वह आज भी रहता है। अच्छी देखभाल के बावजूद, उसकी यात्रा कभी आसान नहीं रही, जिसे उसकी विकलांगता और पारिवारिक उपेक्षा के अनुभवों ने और कठिन बना दिया।

कम उम्र से ही भाविश्वनल की ग्राफिक डिज़ाइनिंग में गहरी रुचि रही है। उसकी चिकित्सीय स्थिति रोजगार और आजीविका विकास में लगातार बाधा बनी रही। फिर भी हार न मानते हुए उसने अपने जुनून को आगे बढ़ाया और यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ ओक्सफोर्ड से ग्राफिक डिज़ाइनिंग में अडिफिकेट प्राप्त करने वाले घज़भ ग्रेजुएट में से एक बने, जो उनके हालात को देखते हुए एक बड़ी कामयाबी थी। यह एक बहुत ही भावुक भरा माहौल था जबकि भाविश्वनल को एक ब्रदर MFC-L9570CDW कलर लेज़र प्रिंटर तथा चार कार्टन A4 पेपर प्रदान किया गया

है, जिससे वह अपने घर से ही व्यवसाय शुरू कर सकेगा। यह प्रिंटर महिला, बाल एवं सामाजिक सुरक्षा मंत्री, माननीय शशि किरण द्वारा मंत्रालय की सोशल वेलफेयर सहायता के माध्यम दी गई है।

इस पल को “जीवन बदल देने वाला” बताते हुए भाविश्वनल ने कहा कि इस सहायता से उन्हें आत्मविश्वास और एक नई उम्मीद मिली है। प्रिंटर की मदद से वह ऑनलाइन डिज़ाइन टूल्स का इस्तेमाल करके घर से ही कार्ड बना सके।

“मैंने कभी सोचा भी नहीं था कि कोई मंत्री मेरे घर आकर व्यक्तिगत रूप से मुझे ऐसा कुछ देंगे जो मेरी जिंदगी बदल दे,” भाविश्वनल ने कहा। उन्होंने महिला मंत्री और मंत्रालय का आभार व्यक्त किया और विशेष आवश्यकताओं वाले लोगों के लिए सरकार के निरंतर सहयोग को सराहा।

यह कार्यक्रम विकांग लोगो के प्रति सरकार की मज़बूत प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है, ताकि कोई भी पीछे न छूटे। भाविश्वनलकी कहानी सिर्फ संघर्ष की नहीं, बल्कि ताकत, सम्मान और उम्मीद की भी है। यह याद दिलाता है कि सही समर्थन से सबसे मुश्किल सफर भी आसान लगे।

सरकार ने गन्ने के किसानों को दी नई उम्मीद

शीलता सिंह

पूर्व चीनी मंत्री, माननीय चरण जीत सिंह ने पश्चिमी विभाग के आठ किसानों को नए किसान सहायता और लीज़ प्रीमियम नवीनीकरण ग्रांट सौंपा, जिससे पूरे फीजी में चीनी क्षेत्र को एक नई दिशा मिली। यह गठबंधन सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता का भी एक प्रतीक है।

अपने भाषण में, माननीय सिंह ने अपने तीन साल के कार्यकाल में हासिल की गई प्रमुख उपलब्धियों पर प्रकाश डाला, जिनमें फीजी के इतिहास में अब तक की तीन सबसे अधिक गन्ने के पैमन्ट, इस क्षेत्र के भागीदारों का भरोसा फिर से जगाना और गन्ने की क्षेत्र में तरक्की भी शामिल है।

गठबंधन सरकार के तहत, गन्ना किसानों को निर्मलखित उपलब्धि प्राप्त की है:

- 2022 की फसल के लिए \$91.39 प्रति टन,
- 2023 की फसल के लिए \$105.08 प्रति टन, और
- 2024 की फसल के लिए \$101.13 प्रति टन।

माननीय सिंह ने कहा, “यह परिणाम संयोग से नहीं हुआ है, यह बेहतर तालमेल, मज़बूत सरकारी समर्थन और सबसे बढ़कर समारे किसानों की हिम्मत और कड़ी मेहनत का परिणाम है।”

उन्होंने बताया कि सरकार ने चीनी क्षेत्र की दिशा को एक नया मोड़ दिया है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप पूरे क्षेत्र में एकता और मज़बूती स्थापित हुई है।

माननीय सिंह ने सरकार के उत्पादन लक्ष्य की दिशा में हुई प्रगति पर भी प्रकाश डाला, जिसके तहत हर साल 200,000 टन गन्ना उत्पादन बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। उन्होंने कहा, “महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि सरकार ने शुरू से ही स्पष्ट कर दिया था कि हम चीनी क्षेत्र को बंद करने के विचार में नहीं हैं बल्कि उसे और मज़बूत बनाने के बारे में सोच रहे हैं।

यह ग्रांट नए किसान और लीज़ प्रीमियम सहायता कार्यक्रम का हिस्सा है। देश भर में इस कार्यक्रम के तहत 587 किसानों को सहायता प्रदान की गई है, जिसमें सरकार का कुल \$2.7 मिलियन डॉलर का योगदान है। पश्चिमी विभाग में, आठ किसानों को कुल णणड,णभश का ग्रांट मिला है, जबकि लाबासा में कुल सौला किसानों को \$78,473 डॉलर का ग्रांट दिया गया है।

माननीय सिंह ने कहा, “यह ग्रांट केवल आर्थिक सहायता नहीं है। यह विश्वास, निरंतरता और हमारे गन्ना क्षेत्र के भविष्य में किया गया पुंजी है जो नए किसानों को इस क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करने में मदद करता है। माननीय सिंह मल्टी एथनिक अफेयर्स,

कल्चर, हेरिटेज और पब्लिक एंटरप्राइज़ मंत्री के तौर पर अब अपनी नई भूमिका संभाल रहे हैं, और फीजी के लोगों की सेवा जारी रखेंगे।



फ़ीजी दृष्टि



फ़ीजी सरकार का रेडियो कार्यक्रम

नवराष्ट्र

फ़ीकुवन्सी

6.30PM

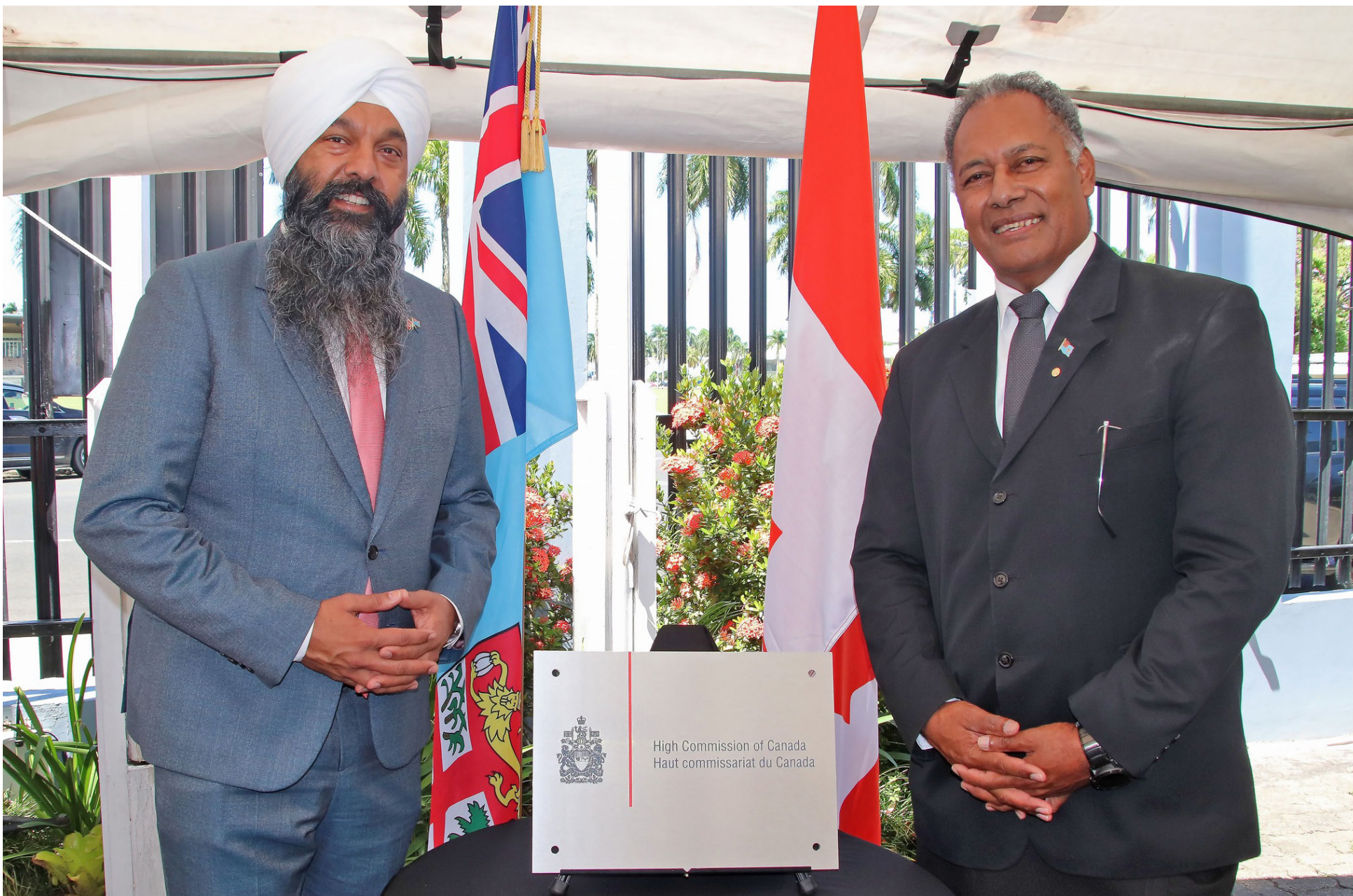
मंगलवार गुरुवार शुक्रवार रविवार

105.0FM
सूवा, नान्दो, लाताका, तावुआ, लम्बासा

104.8FM
सिंगातोका, वा

105.4FM
राकीराकी





अंतरराष्ट्रीय विकास सचिव, माननीय रणदीप सराय और फ़ीजी के विदेश मामलों और बाहरी व्यापार मंत्री, माननीय सकियासी दितोका केनेडा हाई कमीशन के उद्घाटन समारोह पर चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

फ़ीजी में खुला केनेडा दूतावास

शीलता सिंह

सुवा में केनेडा हाई कमीशन का आधिकारिक उद्घाटन से दोनों देशों के अलावा पूरे प्रशांत क्षेत्र के बीच द्विपक्षीय संबंधों और सहयोग को मज़बूत करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि हासिल की गई है।

37 ग्लैडस्टोन रोड, सूवा स्थित केनेडीयन हाई कमीशन का उद्घाटन हाल ही में अंतरराष्ट्रीय विकास सचिव, माननीय रणदीप सराय और फ़ीजी के विदेश मामलों और बाहरी व्यापार मंत्री, माननीय सकियासी दितोका ने किया।

माननीय दितोका ने कहा कि यह पहल हमारे राष्ट्रीय संबंधों को और मज़बूत करेगा तथा व्यापार, जलवायु

परिवर्तन पर कदम उठाने में, शिक्षा क्षेत्र में विकास और लोगों के बीच संपर्क जैसे क्षेत्रों में सहयोग के नए अवसर पैदा करेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि ये सभी क्षेत्र फ़ीजी और पूरे प्रशांत परिवार के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

माननीय सराय ने बताया कि वर्ष 2024 में दोनों देशों के बीच दो-तरफ़ा व्यापार 53 मिलियन डॉलर तक पहुंचा, जो पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में लगभग दोगुना है।

उन्होंने कहा कि केनेडा उत्तर अमेरिका के बाहर के देशों के साथ अपने व्यापार को दोगुना करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

माननीय सराय ने कहा कि नांदी से वेनकूवा के लिए फ़ीजी एयवेज़ की उड़ान शुरू होने के बाद फ़ीजी से केनेडा आने-जाने वालों की संख्या दस हज़ार से बढ़कर बीस हज़ार

से अधिक हो गई है। केनेडा फ़ीजी के साथ व्यापार और टूरिज़्म क्षेत्र को और मज़बूत करने की उम्मीद कर रहा है। खास बात यह है कि केनेडा में फ़ीजी में जन्मे पचीस हज़ार 25,000 नागरिक रहते हैं और एक लाख पचीस हज़ार 125,000 से ज़्यादा ऐसे लोग हैं जिनके पूर्वज फ़ीजी के हैं। फ़ीजी में केनेडीयन हाई कमीशन की स्थापना दोनों देशों की इस प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है कि वे राष्ट्रीय विकास, व्यापार और टूरिज़्म क्षेत्र को आगे बढ़ाए तथा प्रशांत क्षेत्र और उससे आगे शांति और समृद्धि में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देगी।

दोनों देशों की इस साझेदारी से न केवल फ़ीजी देश को बल्कि पूरे प्रशांत क्षेत्र को लाभ होने की योजनाओं पर आगे और भी चर्चा होगी।