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We are proud of you: PM tells team ahead of first match

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has sent the well wishes of the nation to the Fiji Water Flying Fijians ahead of their first game against Wales at the Rugby World Cup in France. The Head of Government has acknowledged the efforts of the players, the coaches and the management of the team. “We send you the greetings and the best wishes. You carry the name of our country with you, we are proud of you and we are wishing you the very best.”



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with a student after opening the Navatu Secondary School Bazaar in Cakaudrove recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Govt supports quality education for our children- PM Rabuka

PROVIDING quality and equitable education is among other priorities of the People’s Coalition Government. This was the sentiment expressed by the Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka while officiating at the Navatu Secondary School bazaar recently. Speaking in the Cakaudrove dialect, Prime Minister Rabuka highlighted the

importance of “solesolevaki” (working together) to ensure that all students are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills that will help them succeed in life. He told parents, teachers, former students and well-wishers that supporting the education of the current students of Navatu is crucial because they are future leaders. The Prime Minister also acknowledged

the support of the vanua and community at large for ensuring that the 400 students continue to enjoy attending school even though it lacks resources. With Government’s commitment and support towards the education sector, Prime Minister Rabuka stressed that it was important for students to be well-grounded with morals and values and to study hard in order to become suc-

cessful in life. The two-day bazaar was aimed at raising funds for the construction of two classrooms and teachers quarters. Also at the event, the Prime Minister handed over \$29,000 from his office to assist with land acquisition for the school. (Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Collaborative effort continues in addressing concerns under the PALM Scheme



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Agni Deo Singh, speaks at the Australia-Fiji Business Council Forum in Australia. Photo: SUPPLIED

ADDRESSING the concerns raised by the Fijian workers under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme has been progressing through collaborative effort of the Governments of Fiji and Australia.

During the recent Australia-Fiji Business Council Forum held in Australia, the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Agni Deo Singh met with relevant key stakeholders to discuss issues of interest for Fiji.

These concerns also cut across other workers from the Pacific Island countries who are engaged under the PALM scheme.

“Discussions have progressed in terms of minimum hours of work, pay parity,

deductions, cost of living adjustment, recruitment process, worker referrals as well as on temporary skill shortage visa.”

“The Fiji and Australia senior officials’ group will continue to meet to resolve the matters concerned,” Minister Singh said.

“We will continue to actively engage in bilateral discussions with Australia to ensure fair treatment, decent working conditions and adequate wages for our citizens working under the scheme.”

“These discussions allow us to address any concerns and maintain a system that benefits all participants”.

Minister Singh expressed sincere appreciation to the Australian Minister for Defence Industry and the Minister for International Development and the

Pacific, Pat Conroy for his commitment and support towards maintaining a well-functioning labour export arrangement between Fiji and Australia under the Vuvale Partnership.

Minister Singh also extended his gratitude to the Assistant Secretary for Pacific Labour Policy and Engagement (DFAT), Carli Shillito for her availability to meet with the Ministry team during the Fiji and Australia Senior Officials meeting that was held this week at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva to discuss on the progressive work carried out on concerns raised under the PALM scheme.

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

Implementation of FNPF deductions for PALM workers key to Fiji Government

THE implementation of the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) deduction for Fijian workers under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme is important to the Fiji Government.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Employment, Industrial Relations and Productivity, Agni Deo Singh, while addressing the Australia Fiji Business Council Forum last week in Australia

Minister Agni Deo Singh emphasised that the Fiji Government through the FNPF was also working in collaboration with the approved employers under the scheme.

“As part of this collaboration, FNPF is encouraging employers to enable the deduction of contributions from the earnings of Fijian workers operating offshore in Australia directly to their superannuation fund in Fiji.

“Through this initiative, Fijian workers will have the opportunity to benefit from long term financial security and build their retirement savings through the FNPF.”

Minister Singh added that the team had the opportunity to meet with the



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Agni Deo Singh and Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia, David Kolitagane with members of the Australia-Fiji Business Council Forum in Australia. Photo: SUPPLIED

employers and unions on August 30 and are most willing to assist with deduction in remittance of FNPF.

“We are now calling upon the Government of Australia to assist in facilitating this. Legislations may have to be looked at in order to implement these deductions.”

He added that the current provision requires employers to deduct superannuation and the worker can apply for transfer of the same after departure to their home country of which a 35 per cent tax is applicable.

Minister Singh highlighted further that this matter would be escalated to Government level for further discussion and resolution.

Minister Singh emphasised that both Governments’ commitment was essential in ensuring that our workers are protected, both at home and abroad and continue to actively engage in bilateral discussions to ensure fair treatment, decent working conditions, and adequate wages for our citizens working under the scheme.

Visa-Free travel can address labour shortages: DPM Prasad

VISA-FREE travel for Fijians into New Zealand needs to happen to realise the full benefits of the trade relationship between our two countries, says Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Biman Prasad.

Speaking to over 200 members of the business community at the New Zealand-Fiji Annual Business Conference in Auckland recently, DPM Prasad said visa-free travel was an essential part of dealing with trade imbalances and labour shortage issues.

“New Zealand is Fiji’s 4th largest export market absorbing over FJ\$100 million of exports annually. Fiji stands as New Zealand’s 20th largest trading partner absorbing approximately US\$350m (FJ\$797m) of your exports – I think it is fair to say we are underperforming,” he said.

Describing the need to create a ‘limitless scope’ in the relationship between Fiji and New Zealand, he said Fiji had the ambition to become a top ten partner in trade for New Zealand.

“Building a relationship of limitless scope means that Fijians and New Zealanders should be able to travel and work in each other’s countries without restrictions. A full visa-free regime between our countries will be the start of a new chapter.”

DPM Prasad said the growing Fijian diaspora in New Zealand were also being underutilised in building people to people relationships.

“Nearly a quarter million New Zealanders will visit Fiji each year – that’s over five percent of your whole population. Over 70,000 Fijians live in New Zealand having migrated over the years. In fact, Auckland can boast to be Fiji’s fourth largest city – after Suva, Lautoka and yes, Sydney!”

He urged his co-speaker and New Zealand Minister for Finance, Grant Robertson to work towards full integration of both economies to help achieve this.

“It is my expectation that done right, we will grow the two-way trade between our countries to more than \$1.5 billion - \$2 billion by 2030. In fact, Minister, I want to propose a target of \$2 billion in two way trade between Aotearoa New Zealand and Fiji by 2030.”

He expressed optimism with the resurging Fijian economy that grew 18.6 percent in 2022 and anticipated a further growth of 8 percent this year.

The generous tax incentives in Fiji provided an excellent base for consolidating the agricultural sector, ICT, business support operations (BSO) towards integrating both economies, he argued.

“Fiji’s agricultural sector is ready to absorb New Zealand technology and investments to meet New Zealand’s demands for a whole range of agricultural products. The tax incentives are among the most generous in the world. Whether they are in niche areas or broad areas, Fiji welcomes investments in small scale and large agricultural sectors.”

As agriculture was particularly susceptible to climate change, DPM Prasad argued that investment in renewable energy and research and development was crucial.

“Nothing will make Pacific Islanders happier than to see New Zealand companies working with ours to drive a renewable energy revolution across the country,” he said.

Nakini village assisted with solar-powered water project



Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Ro Filipe Tuisawau at Nakini Village in Naitasiri during a commissioning of a water project. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

THE residents of Nakini Village, situated in the province of Naitasiri, are expressing profound gratitude for the Government's timely intervention after the commissioning of their water project recently.

The village was chosen as the pilot site for a water project that incorporates a solar-powered water pump and an Ecological Purification System (EPS), which will furnish the villagers with a reliable source of potable water.

The initiative aims to tackle water source challenges and introduce solar pump technology to improve water accessibility and reduce environmental impact.

The project comes with a significant government investment of \$171,000 with the main focus on enhancing the availability of clean water in remote communities while harnessing renewable energy solutions.

Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Ro Filipe Tuisawau said this approach was crucial to improving water accessibility, particularly in areas where communities either lack access to water or face issues with outdated infrastructure, such as aging dams and reliance on gravity-based systems.

"Over the coming months, the Water Authority will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the pilot project here in Nakini and, if proven successful, the government intends to replicate this solar-powered water extraction system across Fiji to significantly improve water access for all citizens," Minister Tuisawau emphasised.

The system currently in place combines water

extraction through solar-powered pumps, water purification processes and finally, the distribution of clean water to the taps in the community.

This integrated approach was seen as a promising model for tackling water challenges in remote areas.

In addition to the pilot project, the Government was also working with the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) to explore climate financing opportunities for solar-powered water solutions in similar remote communities.

Many communities, like the one under consideration, require the use of power to extract groundwater when the water source is at a lower level.

Minister Tuisawau also addressed concerns raised by villagers regarding taxi permits for rural communities.

The Minister noted that while the permits are currently under a freeze period, the government is actively reviewing legislation related to permit sales, which has been a contentious issue.

"Stakeholder engagement is underway to find resolutions, and discussions will resume once these issues are adequately addressed," Minister Ditoka clarified.

Meanwhile, village elder Eroni Koroiwaca thanked the Government for the timely assistance.

"We are thankful Minister for the Government intervention and rest assured that this is the beginning of a new era for our village."

Mr Koroiwaca said that the villagers no longer have to use river water for daily needs and they look forward to a brighter future for our village through continued collaboration for future development.

Empowering communities, vision for integrated development



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Sakiasi Ditoka during a tour of the Lomaiviti Province. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

By JOSFA ULUILAKEBA

MINISTER for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Sakiasi Ditoka stressed the vital need for effective collaboration in fully utilising the Integrated Village Development Plan and Disaster Management Plan templates.

After touring the Lomaiviti Province, Minister Ditoka observed, "Comprehensive understanding of these documents is essential to advance community goals and individual well-being".

During the trip, the Minister engaged with local communities in Gau, Nairai, and Batiki, gaining valuable insights into their needs.

Minister Ditoka recognised the pivotal role of these plans in aligning community-driven initiatives with national development policies.

According to the Minister, these plans are indispensable guides for the Ministry and they require concerted efforts at both provincial and tikina levels to synchronise village development plans with overarching goals.

"Rural development is a cornerstone of our collective commitment," Minister Ditoka emphasised.

"We urge communities to engage with these plans and identify priorities to guide their journey towards progress."

He stressed the need for collaboration due to the vast scope of needs and limited governmental resources.

"Effective collaboration is essential to ensure that these templates are understood and utilised to their fullest potential," Minister Ditoka said.

He underscored the importance of comprehending these documents fully to advance community goals and individual well-being while acknowledging the pertinent query concerning its significance.

"The Integrated Village Development Plan and Disaster Management Plan are pivotal guides for our Ministry," Minister Ditoka reiterated.

"They chart the course for aligning community-driven initiatives with the national development policy, and they require concerted efforts at both provincial and tikina levels, synchronising village development plans with overarching goals."

Minister Ditoka expressed gratitude to the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs for distributing templates and urged communities to engage with the Integrated Village Development Plan and Integrated Rural Development Plan, identifying priorities to guide their journey towards progress.

Collaborative approach vital for the advancement of sugar industry



Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry, Charan Jeeth Singh during a meeting with the Lautoka Mill Area committee members. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

THE joint venture of farmers, the stakeholders, and the government in advancing the sugar industry is imperative for the sector.

This was highlighted by the Minister for the Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry, Charan Jeeth Singh, while addressing the Lautoka Mill Area Committee, during the committee meeting at the Ministry of Sugar Board Room on Tuesday this week.

Minister Singh reiterated his call to the members of the Lautoka Mill Area Committee to ensure that issues pertaining to the sugar industry are addressed for its best interest.

"The Government is very much keen to see the sugar industry bounce back with the increase in cane production. To achieve that, one of our key objectives is to bring farmers back to the farm and for that, their problems need to be heard and dealt with," he said.

Minister Singh said the Government was now

putting words into action, such as the formation and re-establishment of the committees and sub-committee that will bring farmers, millers, and the Sugar Industry Tribunal together to meet and address concerning issues.

"This will allow synergies, and reduce the timeframe and delay of addressing issues such as cane carting, cane harvesting, tram line track, labour and other issues faced by the Sugar Cane Farmers.

The Lautoka Mill Area Committee was represented by the chief executive officer and members from Fiji Sugar Corporation, the Sugar Cane Growers Council, and the Director of the Ministry of Sugar Industry.

The objective of the Mill Area Committee is to assist in removing and obtaining the redress of all legitimate grievances within the area and to secure maximum production of cane and sugar.

(Source: Ministry of Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry)

Pacific women convene for 2nd Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting



Minister for Women Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya with a participant and Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran at the 2nd Pacific Islands Forum - Women Leaders Meeting. Photo: SUPPLIED

The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya led the Fijian delegation to the 2nd Pacific Islands Forum - Women Leaders Meeting held at the Pacific Islands Forum in Suva recently.

The 2nd Pacific Islands Forum - Women Leaders Meeting was chaired by Vainetutai Brown of the Cook Islands.

In her opening address and handover to the Cook Islands as immediate past chair, Minister Tabuya thanked the women leaders for their support for Fiji being the first chair and noted that, “coming together for this initiative holds great significance.

“Our collective agreements on gender equality and our shared commitment to accountability are vital to bring to light the vision of an equal, equitable, inclusive and sustainable blue Pacific.”

“I applaud the collaborative efforts that led to the establishment of the ‘Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting’ as an annual stand alone event,”

Minister Tabuya stated.

She also shared the need to conduct to constructive dialogue and conversations with fellow leaders from across the Pacific in areas of mutual benefit.

Minister Tabuya further presented a paper to seek the leaders’ endorsement for the forum to request for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to convene for the first time ever in the Pacific in 2025.

This was unanimously supported by the women leaders.

The outcomes of the 2nd Pacific Island Forum Women Leaders meeting were endorsed and will be presented to the Forum of Pacific Leaders at their meeting in November in the Cook Islands.

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

Simplify rules and procedures, urges Chand



Ministry of Civil Service permanent secretary, Parmesh Chand during a meeting recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

THERE is so much Civil Servants can do to simplify rules and procedures for ordinary people to access Government assistances and services.

These are the comments of the Ministry of Civil Service permanent secretary, Parmesh Chand, as the Government embarks on a series of initiatives to improve flow and accessibility of various services and assistances to ordinary people.

“We have various Sub-Committees of Permanent Secretaries, formed to cut out red tape, eliminate or minimise wastage and assist in improving health and wellness of people. These are all cross-cutting issues requiring a whole-of-government approach.”

“We need to make things easier and simpler, and we need to cut down on wastage. Government has limited resources and we can make our dollar go further if we work smarter and more diligently.”

Mr Chand said each of the Ministries has been requested to simplify procedures and/or remove bottlenecks in at least three (3) areas.

These are simple things such as cutting down on the number of pages or questions to complete in a form, asking only for one form of identification (ID) rather than multiple IDs, and addressing peoples needs in one visit rather than asking them to revisit the Office.

“It also costs time and money to get extensive forms filled and people asked to visit offices for appointments etc. The more we simplify, the better it is both for us as Civil Servants and those who we are tasked to help,” he said.

The permanent secretaries are now meeting collectively on a regular basis to address issues which will bring about much needed changes for higher levels of efficiency and improved service delivery.

(Source: Ministry of Civil Service)

Streamlined SOP in municipal councils



Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa with staff in the Northern Division. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

A PILOT streamlined Standard of Procedures (SOP) for the Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) to ensure ease of doing business, was launched at the Savusavu

Town Council office last week.

A part of this is a new digital tracking system for building applications that are lodged with the municipal councils and can be followed up by the DTCP for timeline adherence.

With this, the department’s operating Manual and Checklist was also launched, which offers applicants a step-

by-step roadmap through the entire application process.

This initiative will be trialled for three months in three municipals councils including Savusavu, Lautoka and Suva.

The Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa, while officiating at the launch, said this marked a pivotal moment in Government’s unwavering commitment to enhancing the ease of doing business in Fiji.

Minister Nalumisa explained that this tool was not merely about streamlining the application process; but would also equip relevant authorities in serving people better.

He said that with this, the Government was taking a monumental stride towards transparency and accountability with the introduction of a simple yet powerful online tool.

“It empowers us to track and monitor applications right from their inception. When you submit an application to the Councils, there will be no secrecy, we will have all the pertinent information on a shared platform,” Minister Nalumisa said.

Quoting a recent report by the World Bank that ranked Fiji 102nd in the world when it comes to ease of doing business, he said this initiative would hopefully improve this.

IYFA sets sports development standard for kids

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Government is empowering women entrepreneurs and Maraia Matatea was fortunate enough to be one of the grant recipients able to start their venture - Inter Youth Football Academy (IYFA).

“I am so thankful to the Government for providing us with a \$30,000 grant under the Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) programme, which I had applied for before COVID-19,” Ms Matatea said.

“This was like a miracle for us as after COVID-19 we had no way to finance us and we were struggling,” she added.

“It took us almost three years to get the grant and set up this first of a kind academy where we are taking girls and boys from the age of four to 16 years old and providing them with an opportunity to learn football at an early stage.”

“We started small and have come so far. We even go to Vanua Levu for tournaments and challenge the primary schools there while two of our female students have

progressed and are already overseas,” she added.

Maraia’s husband and sports development officer for IYFA, Rivaz Ali, has been instrumental in setting up the academy and also coaches the students.

“In 2006, after leaving Fiji Football Association as a development officer, I decided to take my knowledge of soccer and help the kids locally where they can also learn the same,” Mr Ali said.

“Currently we have about 200 plus kids enrolled in our three academies situated in Suva, Navua and Nadi. We have majority enrollment in Suva where students participate from Monday to Friday from 4.30pm to 6.30pm and for Saturday it’s 3pm to 4.30pm.”

“Our registration is open all year-round and the fee is \$310 which helps us meet our expenses while students receive their uniforms with their name and number printed on it. We also have our daily fees which are \$10 per session,” he added.

Mr Ali says that the main focus of the academy was to develop the players and



Coach for IYFA, Rivaz Ali, professional footballer Israel Sesay and YES grant recipient Maraia Matatea with the young players during the holiday development workshop **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

these are the kids which can play in the district level in future and those who do not qualify can play club level.

He adds that those who won’t get to play for the club will at least get an opportunity

growing up and being involved with soccer activities as a child.

“I think all children deserve the right to be part of some kind of sports and IYFA does not discriminate and welcomes everyone,” Mr Ali said.

“Our program is very good and as we run this for six days, there is no holiday for us. We want to cater for the kids and offer them the best platform there is for development and where parents can also join anytime.”

IYFA recently in partnership with FC Fury Development brought in professional footballer Israel Sesay to conduct a Holiday Development Workshop which saw great participation from students.

Apart from being a licensed coach, Mr Sesay currently plays as a forward for the Empire Strykers in California and was excited to share his experiences as a footballer and a coach during this workshop.

“We would also like to thank the Government for helping us with the grant which enables us to get the equipment needed for our program and also thank the sponsors for their contribution,” Mr Ali said.



YES recipient Maraia Matatea with the young players during their holiday development workshop. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

Govt assistance saved my business- loan recipient

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE COVID-19 Concessional Loan Packages for Fijian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has given a leg up to many entrepreneurs to start or expand their business.

As such, recipient Ajesh Narayan took advantage of the opportunity to secure a loan from the Government and managed to stabilise his business - Vans Investment & Electrical Works.

“After COVID-19, I was struggling with my business and it almost collapsed, however, thanks to the timely Government assistance I was able to revive my business,” Mr Narayan said.

“I was in a lot of debt too as I have accounts with a lot of other businesses and with the business not making money, I had to buy items on hire purchase,” he relayed.

“When I received the funds worth \$50,000 from the Government, I was able to put it to good use and turn my company around and improve it.”

“I learned about this grant from social media and liaised with the Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium

Enterprises and received guidance on the application and applied online, received the concessional loan few weeks later,” he added.

Mr Narayan is a licensed electrical contractor and has projects on sites.

Before COVID-19, he used to do construction work and employed almost 30 workers. He stopped doing construction work and his business was closed for three months after COVID-19 where he had to let all his staff go.

“After I received the funds, I started a tyre centre and I have door-to-door sales staff and employ about 10 people. My business has normalised now as well,” he said.

“I am originally from Rakiraki, I came to Suva in 2000 and studied for a Trade Certificate in Electrical Engineering at the Fiji National University and continued with a Diploma level course. I graduated in 2005, worked for the same company for 10-years and then decided to open my own small business.”

“If you are operating your business legally and having difficulties then seek help from the Government to get a concessional loan as the interest rate is as low as one per cent and you will be able to grow your business,”



Director for Vans Investment & Electrical Works, Mr Ajesh Narayan in his office in Makoi, Nasinu. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

Mr Narayan advised.

He received the loan in 2021 and as per the agreement, has been given five years to clear the amount and for the first two years he did not have to pay anything.

“Sometimes we get dejected when things

don’t work out the way we want but we should not give in to defeat. The more effort you put in the more you will progress so stay loyal and honest to yourself,” he recommends to the budding entrepreneurs.

State Land – Managing a scarce resource amidst a changing landscape



Staff of the Ministry of Lands during a tour of an informal settlement.

State Lands Administration

It has been 147 years since the Land Claims Ordinance in 1876 and successive governments have ensured that State land remains administered by government.

State Land cannot be bought and sold but is available only on a leasehold basis. Leasehold land can be developed as much of it is available on a long-term lease basis (often 99 years).

To date there are 20,213 leases administered by the Department of Lands for different uses varying from agriculture, residential, industrial, commercial, tourism, foreshore to other specialised activities. In the 10 years between 2013-2022 State land leases have earned government around \$147.2 million.

he said.

“In addition, another challenge for the Department is getting our lessees to understand the conditions of their leases and law that abides the contractual agreement between the State as landlords and they as our tenants.”

Charting Ahead

Amidst these challenges, the Department of Lands has continued to chart the way forward to remain effective and relevant. It has been aligning its service transformations to the whole of Government Reforms. These have been seen in the;

- Digitising of all file records in the effort to move into a paperless transaction mode;
- Currently finalising its online consents applications and processing for ease of doing business;
- Launching of the Online State Lands Application (OSLA) where the public can apply for leasing of state lands.
- Launching of the “My Lease Info” which gives lessees access to their rental account status.
- Increase in rental payment modes like MPAISA, Cash payments, Bank Online Payments, and payments at Post Offices.
- The Department has opened 3 new sub-regional Offices in Nadi, Rakiraki and Tavua to bring services closer to the public.

“The Ministry is inviting members of the public to visit any of our offices and seek clarification and assistance that they may need on the legal ways of leasing State Land. The Ministry does not condone illegal activities including occupancy, on State Land. The department will engage all stakeholders and members of the Public to fight against such illegal activities,” Mr Vuniamatana advised.

Despite the challenges, the Ministry through the Department of Lands is leaving no stones unturned in ensuring State Land services is top notch.

(Note: Lote Raboila is a senior public relations officer at the Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources)

All State land are administered and controlled by the Director of Lands for and on behalf of the State and operationalised through the three divisional offices.



Permanent secretary for the Ministry of Lands, Dr Rajieli Taga leading a field visit.

History of State Lands

When Fiji was ceded to Britain in 1874, one of the challenges Fiji’s first Governor, Sir Arthur Gordon had to deal with was land.

His administration had to determine the land that were bought by early settlers to be able to account for land available to the i-Taukei population.

A Land Claims Ordinance was established in 1876 to investigate all land claims and endorsed the issue of freehold land titles known as Crown Grants.

The National Archives holds the record of the proceedings of the Lands Claims Commission where records of articles like whiskey, axes and guns were used to buy land.

This exercise took about six years so that by 1882, Sir Gordon, despite much opposition, was ready to grant the remainder of all land in Fiji to indigenous Fijians under the 1882 Native Lands Ordinance, later known as the Native Lands Act of 1905 and currently known as the iTaukei Lands Act of 1905.

Land not claimed to be freehold or i-Taukei owned became vested in the State and were known as Vacant or Schedule ‘B’ lands.

Some lands were also found to have been owned by landowning units which have become extinct and these also became vested in the Crown by ultimis haeres “ultimate heir” and are known as Schedule ‘A’ lands.

Challenges

Mr Vuniamatana says one of the biggest challenges to the work of the Department is the archaic legislation governing State Lands and the need for review given the changing development climate and the emerging global issues such as climate change.

“Our current legislation, the State Lands Act was passed as law in 1945, when issues such as Climate Change and sea level rise were foreign terms. Changing times and technologies require legislations to change as well for statutory functions of government to be administered effectively,”



Lands Administration staff serving a notice at an informal settlement.

By LOTE RABOILA

IN a speech delivered in 1909, former United Kingdom Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill said that “Land monopoly is not the only monopoly which exists, but it is by far the greatest of monopolies; it is a perpetual monopoly, and it is the mother of all other forms of monopoly”.

Sir Winston Churchill highlighted a fundamental realisation that land is scarce and its tenure is of utmost importance to any economy.

For small island economies such as Fiji, truer words have never been spoken! Whilst some have praised Fiji’s land tenure arrangements to be a benchmark for the Pacific, it hasn’t always been smooth sailing and is not without its own teething problems.

Land Ownership in Fiji

In Fiji, there are three major types of land ownership which are freehold, i-Taukei and State land.

The Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources through the Department of Lands administers State Land leases through the provision of its core technical services of land surveying, valuation, geo-spatial assistance and land lease administration.

“We administer one commodity that everyone wants to own and is scarce in supply against a forever increasing population. This high demand creates a lot of pressure on the way we conduct our business,” the acting Director of Lands, Josefa Vuniamatana said.

The Fiji Islands comprises of around 364 islands and atolls of which only about 100 are permanently inhabited. The aggregate land area is 18,333 square kilometres.

The main islands are Viti Levu and Vanua Levu whose areas are 10,429 square kilometres and 5,556 square kilometres respectively accounting for 85 percent of the total landmass and inhabited by 93 percent of the population.

State land makes up around four (4) per cent of all lands in Fiji and this is administered by the Department of Lands.

In addition, all foreshore lands below mean high water mark, the soil under Fiji waters and the beds of navigable rivers and streams are State Lands.

This ownership is defined under Section 30 of the 2013 Constitution and the accompanying State Lands Act and Rivers and Streams Act.

State land cannot be sold outright but is only available on a leasehold basis.

PS Talemaibua opens Anticipatory Action Workshop



Permanent secretary for the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Isoa Talemaibua, speaks during a workshop on Anticipatory Action Pilot Project for Tropical Cyclones in Fiji. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

A TWO-DAY workshop that was held in Suva recently centered on the Anticipatory Action (referred to as AA) Pilot Project for Tropical Cyclones in Fiji.

In opening the workshop, the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management permanent secretary, Isoa Talemaibua expressed that this project emerged as a result of discussions held during the Pacific Anticipatory Action Week in March of this year.

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), have been engaged in close cooperation with Fiji Meteorological Services, various government entities, and UN partners in the development of the Fiji Anticipatory Action Programme, which will be integrated into the Fiji Cluster System.

“This event brought together representatives from 15 governments, including NDMOs and meteorological offices, along with various partners, to advance the concept of Anticipatory Action in the Pacific region.”

“Fiji has been dedicated to strengthening its national meteorological and geohazard services, which have significantly contributed to the reduction of disaster-related fatalities and losses caused by cyclones, floods, and tsunamis.”

“The country has been actively investing in the development of impact-based weather forecasting and ensuring effective communication of weather warnings, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable members of its communities. Fiji is now in the process of establishing a people-centered, Multi-Hazard Early Warning System,” Mr Talemaibua said.

He emphasised Fiji’s commitment to working closely with its partners to deliver life-saving initiatives by leveraging model forecasts and cost savings through pre-agreed financing tied to predefined actions.

“This anticipatory approach reduces the expenses associated with humanitarian responses, preserves the dignity of affected individuals, and facilitates a swifter recovery, thereby safeguarding hard-earned development achievements.”

Mr Talemaibua asserted that the humanitarian system should prioritise an anticipatory approach to the greatest extent possible and be reactive only when necessary.

Consequently, he encouraged collaborative efforts to pilot the Anticipatory Action approach in Fiji.

Meanwhile, anticipatory action involves taking proactive measures before predicted hazards fully unfold to prevent or reduce humanitarian impacts. It is based on pre-agreed activities, triggers, and decision-making rules to ensure the swift release of pre-arranged financing.

By utilising early warning systems and scientific advancements in disaster prediction, anticipatory action maximises the opportunity to intervene and prevent or mitigate imminent humanitarian impacts.

This approach emphasises linking humanitarian action to risk and vulnerability, rather than solely focusing on needs and suffering.

(Source: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management)

BSP Life celebrates one billion dollars investment portfolio



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka launches the Bank of the South Pacific's \$1 billion portfolio. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

B SP Life Insurance now boasts an investment portfolio of one billion dollars; the culmination of the insurance company’s strategic decisions, calculated risks, and commitment to progress.

Speaking at an event to mark the milestone, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka congratulated BSP Life, adding the achievement was a testament to the power of robust public-private sector partnership that help shape the fortune of our nation.

“BSP Life’s \$1 billion investment portfolio is the kind of commitment we want from the private sector for growth and prosperity in our country,” Prime Minister Rabuka said.

The Prime Minister also reaffirmed the People’s Coalition Government’s commitment to nurturing a business environment that “is conducive to investments and economic growth.”

“Your Government will foster an environment where the public and private sector can thrive together, leveraging each other’s strengths for the benefit of our

people,” he said.

“I also strongly encourage collaboration within the private sector and a stronger partnership between our large institutions, including BSP Life, the Fiji National Provident Fund, Fijian Holdings, i-Taukei Trust Fund and Unit Trust of Fiji to build a better Fiji.”

The Prime Minister and his late father were part of the insurance company’s early history when the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society of Australia provided insurance cover for them.

This first colonial insurance company has evolved due to the acquisition of its business to what we now know as BSP Life.

Since 1876, BSP Life has been supporting approximately 100,000 customers with life and health insurance needs.

The insurance arm of the Bank South Pacific celebrated their milestone achievement at Suva’s Grand Pacific Hotel recently.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Assistant Minister attends 7th Global Environment Facility

The Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Sakiusa Tubuna attended the 7th Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister for Environment from August 22-26, 2023.

The Assembly provided an opportunity for the 185 member countries to discuss governance and financing solutions for global environment challenges and to forge new partnerships focussed on addressing the drivers for ecological strains.

The assembly included high level plenary sessions focussing on intergrated responses to global environmental degradation, partnerships for financing, and repsonsible, inclusive and transformative governance.

On the margins of the assembly, the Asst Minister Tubuna held bilateral meetings with the Minister of International Development Canada and the International Fund for Agricultural Development and also the New Zealand Government

to discuss agroecological approaches that will assist our rural farmers in applying fundamental ecological and social principals to agricultural production in Fiji.

“While we want to maximise food production, it cannot be done at the expense of nature. We need to develop models so that our rural farmers are farming with biodiversity; where nature drives agriculture rather than suffering from it,” Asst Minister Tubuna stated.

“We need to develop alternative livelihood opportunities for farmers that are moving out of sugarcane to

other lucrative crops and we need to strategically utilise environment funds such as GEF towards achieving this major outcome of the Coalition Government,” he added.

The Assembly concluded with positive outcomes, including the ratification of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, which is a new source of funding that will focus on protecting endangered species, as well as their ecosystems globally.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Sakiusa Tubuna attended the 7th Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister for Environment from August 22-26, 2023 held in Vancouver, Canada. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Head of state acknowledges visit by the Yasana of Lomaiviti

A delegation from the Yasana of Lomaiviti visited His Excellency, the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere and Madam First Lady, Vilomena Katonivere at the State House recently.

A traditional herald described the occasion as a show of support by the Yasana of Lomaiviti to His Excellency as Head of State, describing the visit as long overdue.

In addition to welcoming the delegation, President Katonivere expressed appreciation for the guidance and teaching he received from his elders that has helped him to become a leader in his capacity as the President of Fiji.

Photos: Nanise Neimila



President Katonivere acknowledges the work undertaken by TLTB

His Excellency, the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere received a delegation from the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) at the State House recently.

The organisation was led by interim chief executive officer Solomon Nata and senior managers.

President Katonivere welcomed the delegation to the state house and acknowledged the work they continue to undertake in administering leases on iTaukei land.

Photos: Nanise Neimila



International childhood cancer month launched



For the first time ever, the Fiji Government through the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection will be allocating \$10,000 worth of assistance through the NGO Grants Programme to WOWS Kids Fiji to help them continue the valuable work they do.

The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Hon. Lynda Tabuya officiated the WOWS Kids Fiji launch of the 'International Childhood Cancer Month' at the Api Tonga Church and gave this reassurance recently. In her opening address, she c

Photos: Ilisapeci Tuivale



"Sports plays important role in stable mental health": First Lady



THE Northern Primary School Netball Tournament kick-started after a lapse of four years.

The First Lady Filomena Katonivere, in opening the games, highlighted that sports like academic education, was equally important in developing a child's life.

"It exposes our children to many important life lessons, it teaches discipline, being focussed, dedication, hard work, commitment, and teamwork," the First Lady Filomena said.

Photos: Supplied



Fiji Airways on a new path to reduce carbon footprint

By DIPESH KUMAR

FIJI Airways, the flagship carrier of Fiji, has proudly welcomed its fourth A350 Airbus named 'Island of Vatulele' to its growing fleet of modern and technologically advanced aircraft.

The Island of Vatulele is the first aircraft in the airline's fleet to use sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) which reduces up to 80 percent carbon footprint.

Making its first flight to the Nadi International Airport last week, the Airbus A350-900 XWB was powered by a blend of conventional jet fuel and SAF.

F i j i
Airways

He said that this marks a major turning point in the aviation industry, showing Fiji Airways' dedication to reducing its carbon footprint and mitigating its impact on the environment.

"This inaugural SAF powered flight demonstrates Fiji Airways commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and ensuring a sustainable future for aviation."

"As the national carrier of a small developing State we are acutely aware of the need for urgent action to combat climate change."

"So, to meaningfully reduce our carbon footprint means we must embrace using a SAF blend going forward."



The new A350 Airbus named "Island of Vatulele" at the Nadi Airport tarmac.



blend and discussions have already begun with suppliers to secure more SAF fuel from 2024 onwards."

However, even though the SAF was environment friendly, Mr Viljoen said it was very limited in supply and costlier.

"The demand for this fuel from global airline industry far exceeds the current supply and as a result the price is eight to 10 times higher than conventional jet fuel."

"So, over time we hope that as more supply becomes abundant the prices will drop."

Fiji Airways' chief legal and sustainability officer, Peter Seares said investing in a modern new fleet was a way to reduce carbon footprint and while another way is to purchase SAF.

"As all other airlines around the world we're very conscious of our carbon footprint. Obviously, most of our emissions

come from burning fuel. So, we try to look for ways to reduce the amount of fuel we burn and offset the rest of our emissions."

"SAF is produced from sustainable resources instead of fossil fuels. It also burns cleaner."

"So, there are less pollutants emitted into the atmosphere, and this is regarded by far as the most crucial component in the airline industry strategy to decarbonise."

Mr Seares said that their partnership with Exxon Mobil has provided them with the sustainable fuel for the rest of the year which will be used on most

of the flights to Singapore.

He said that they are looking forward to the most economical supply of fuel for the year 2024 and beyond.

Mr Viljoen said that by using SAF, Fiji Airways and all airlines can make a significant contribution to the fight against climate change.

"For the remainder of this year on various flights out of Singapore we will use a SAF

managing director and chief executive officer, Andre Viljoen said that SAF has somewhat similar properties to the jet fuel but with a smaller carbon footprint.

"Sustainable aviation fuel is produced from sustainable materials and produced up to 80 per cent less carbon emissions than conventional jet fuel."

Maintaining relationship, a key aspect in the review of Surfing Act

By DIPESH KUMAR

THE Ministry Tourism and Civil Aviation has stressed that maintaining the relationship between the business committee and the landowners was a key aspect in reviewing the Regulation of Surfing Areas Act 2010.

Ministry permanent secretary, Salaseini Daunabuna has stated that upholding close relations between the two was significant given that tourism was a major contributor towards the economy.

"Some of the feedback received is in terms of ensuring that we also protect

tourism because we also know that tourism is the backbone of the economy at the moment that generates bulk of our GDP (gross domestic product)."

"And also, from the ground we have received feedback to ensure that we also maintain current relationships not only in terms of resource owners and government but also in terms of the investors and the operators that are on the ground."

Mrs Daunabuna, while making a statement during the consultation, shared that the review was being done with the belief that the best solutions will be identified and thereby ensure economic development.

This will further minimise conflicts while benefiting the tourism sector and resource owners.

She said the aim was to continue promoting Fiji as a premier surf adventure tourism destination while ensuring protection and rightful compensation to landowners for the use of their natural resources.

Surfing Decree 2010 review team member Professor Spike Boydell, speaking at the Nadi consultations, clarified that given the complication of customary land and water rights in Fiji, the interconnected nature of such interests has caused some confusion and uncertainty.

He said the consultation team has explored all methods possible to identify the best compensation system to compensate the landowners.

"We looked at best practices for compensation around the world. These are complicated issues and they cannot just be sorted by a swipe of a pen."

Prof. Boydell has specified that the Coalition Government has reassured the team in finding a solution that would be fit for this nature.

The review team has highlighted that the legal efficacy of the 2010 legislation in its current form remains the law.

“Who truly owns the iQoliqoli?”



Nukubati Managers Lara Vokai (left) and her husband Leone Vokai a professional diver and resource owner, at the consultation. **Photo: JOSIA RALAGO**

By JOSIA RALAGO

THE question of who truly owns the iqoliqoli (traditional fishing grounds) was raised during the Review of the Regulation of Surfing Areas Act 2010 consultations in the Northern Division earlier this month.

The question was raised by Turaga na Tui Tunulua, Ratu Karalo Maibuca, who explained that they were confused about the ownership and power over their own iQoliqoli.

Ratu Karalo said this was so in instances where they have declared “tabu” or marine protected areas but fishermen who have been issued licenses continued to fish in those areas.

“We cannot do anything about it since the licences give them the right to fish at those areas and if we chase them then we would be breaking the law,” he said.

“So there is confusion about who really owns the iqoliqoli - and if we are to review this act then this needs to be clarified.”

This point was also raised by diver and Mali Island native, Leone Vokai, who feels their rights as resource owners were not clearly defined in the Act.

Responding to their comments, consultant Professor Spike Boyden, who has been

engaged to carry out the consultation for the review, said this was a part of the issue that the Government was trying to address.

Prof. Boyden explained that the term Surfing defined in the Act also included other recreational uses of the sea.

“We need to find a balance where the tourism and resource owners benefit,” he said.

A joint statement from the Ministry of Tourism Civil Aviation and the Attorney General’s office, states that the review was in line with Government recognising a need for a working legal framework that was clear, which can achieve shared goals of economic development, intergenerational wealth and minimise conflicts - particularly for the benefit of the tourism sector and resource owners.

In this review, the Government aims to continue promoting Fiji as a premier surf and adventure tourism destination, whilst ensuring protection and equitable compensation for customary iqoliqoli owners.

Tourism operators, members of the business community, divers, resource owners and relevant authorities made their submissions on the changes they wanted to see in the reviewed Act.

Brighter days for Uluisori youths



(Left to right) Uluisori Youth President Esiromi Sivivatu, Commissioner Northern Uraia Rainima and UNFPA Pacific Director Iori Kato during the handover. **Photo: JOSIA RALAGO**

“WE could not believe that the assistance rendered would be of this magnitude”

By JOSIA RALAGO

These were the sentiments of Uluisori Youth Club president, Esiromi Sivivatu, of Korotubu Village on the coast of Macuata, following the handover of much needed incentives by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with the Fiji Government.

To get to Korotubu Village on the coast of Macuata, one has to drive through a dusty gravel road, off the Labasa-Savusavu Highway for 25 minutes, and given their location, development came by gradually.

Today, the youths have a better hope for the future after receiving brush-cutters, a freezer and even sports equipment while waiting for the initiation of their sports ground project.

“We wrote to the District Officer to assist us with our need for the equipment and they were provided to us on the eve of

World Humanitarian Day, giving it so much meaning for the youths,” Mr Sivivatu said.

“These would not only help nurture young sporting talents but also occupy youths during their free time, preventing them from engaging in criminal activities.”

“This will help transform our lives into building a bright future for our community and our country.”

The community that relies heavily on the sea will now have an alternative source of income through the brush-cutters provided.

“The brush-cutters will be used to generate income for the club and create services to the community and other institutions,” Mr Sivivatu said.

“Our youths who go out fishing will be able to keep their catch safely in the freezer.

“We are optimistic and positive that it would empower our community and with this we would like to thank the UNFPA and the Government for heeding to our call.”

Cagimaiwai Women’s Club move towards cleaner energy

By JOSIA RALAGO

IN a bid to move towards cleaner energy, the women of Kavewa Island in Macuata have started doing their own part in their kitchens with the installation of bio-gas cooking stoves.

Forming the Cagimaiwai Women’s Club, the 30 women are working towards addressing environmental and economic issues of life on the island.

One of which was to reduce the burden of traditional cooking methods which has a bearing on their health as well as the environmental risks associated with it, which culminated in the commissioning of their biogas project recently.

The club’s spokesperson, Talei Silibaravi, said that their women’s club recognises the importance of sustainable energy solutions and the role it plays in improving the quality of life for its villagers.

“This project represents a significant milestone in our community in its journey towards sustainable development and empowerment,” Ms Silibaravi said.

“This initiative only not only contributes

to a cleaner and healthier environment but also fosters economic independence and self-reliance among our members.”

She said their efforts align with national and global drive towards reducing carbon emissions and women empowerment.

In a survey conducted by the Fiji National University on the community, it revealed that 91 percent of the women have health issues relating to cooking every day in open fire.

The survey revealed that women complained of body aches, knee pain and breathing difficulties.

Ms Silibaravi said the women relied heavily on the sea for survival, and upon returning from the sea, they would have to cook again in open fire, which has been an issue for their members.

It was because of this that they applied for funding, and managed to secure the United Nations Development Programme Global Environment Facility funding before the commencement of their project.

“Throughout this project, we have conducted training sessions and workshop



Korotubu Villagers elated with the assistance given by United Nations Population Fund in collaboration with the Government. **Photo: JOSIA RALAGO**

for our members on the proper use and maintenance of the biogas system,” Ms Silibaravi said.

“By utilising biogas for cooking and selling surplus fertiliser, that we are currently working on, would help create economic activities for our women.”

She added that the empowerment of women in rural and maritime communities

was imperative in nation building.

The Pacific Community (SPC) principal Strategic Lead-Pacific Women, Mereseini Rakuita, commissioned the project.

Also present at the project were other civil society organisation, relevant government department representatives and members of the Nadogo District Community.

Argentina and Fiji to enhance cooperation in “Tourism and Sports”



Ministry of Foreign Affairs permanent secretary, Dr Lesikimacuata Korovavala with the non-resident Ambassador of Argentina in Fiji, Maximo Gowland. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

The cooperation between Fiji and Argentina will boost opportunities for increased partnership in areas of economy and trade, sports, tourism, agriculture, and climate change.

This was conveyed to Fiji’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs permanent secretary, Dr Lesikimacuata Korovavala, while receiving a courtesy call from the non-resident Ambassador of Argentina to Fiji, Maximo Gowland.

Dr Korovavala acknowledged Argentina’s commitment to strengthen formal diplomatic relations and cooperation, established since 1975.

He welcomed prospects for expanded cooperation to support Fiji’s socioeconomic development priorities through initiatives in economy, trade and investment, tourism and sports, amongst others.

At the same time, he reaffirmed Fiji’s commitment to work closely with Argentina to see how best the two nations can maximise the return on investments aimed at improving the livelihoods and wellbeing of the local communities.

In response, Ambassador Gowland said as one of the largest economies and world’s leading food exporters, with large-scale agricultural and livestock, Argentina was keen to assist Fiji, primarily through the provision of latest technologies, training and capacity building opportunities.

Dr Korovavala observed that with Argentina’s impressive record in land-use, farming technologies and green economy, partnership in the agriculture sector and farm-related development are areas that the cooperation can focus on.

Taking development to the people was key to improving quality of life for our people.

Ambassador Gowland added that Argentina will also partner in trade and tourism industry particularly to explore adventure tourism prospects in Fiji.

He said there are enormous potential for cooperation in sports diplomacy particularly with Fiji’s success in rugby and Argentina’s championship in the World Cup Soccer, saying that it would be great to have sports training exchange programs between our two nations.

Ambassador Gowland elaborated that Argentina would also deepen cooperation with Fiji in areas of democracy, gender and human rights, particularly with our collaboration at the multilateral arena.

He thanked the People’s Coalition Government and the people of Fiji for their friendship and hospitality, emphasising that there is immense potential for our cooperation to grow by working closely at all levels of development.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

UAE aims to strengthen development cooperation with Fiji

As the host for the world’s largest global climate event Conference of Parties 28 (COP28), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) looks forward to working closely with Fiji in delivering ambitious and decisive solutions on climate action.

This was conveyed to Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka during his meeting with the Director General and Special Representative of the UAE COP28 Presidency, Ambassador Majid Al-Suwaidi.

They discussed cooperation in the build-up to COP 28 and way forward the conference can best deliver the results to support Fiji’s development priorities.

UAE also presented prospects for cooperation in economy, trade and investment, and renewable energy.

Mr Suwaidi said UAE looks forward to welcoming Prime Minister Rabuka at COP28 and thanked him for Fiji’s support in the lead up to COP28.

He said UAE stands ready to support Fiji’s efforts to deliver real change for the people and the communities who are affected by the impacts of climate change.

In this aspect, UAE would like to ensure the provision of climate financing for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and that every climate action was driven to improve the livelihood and wellbeing of communities.

Mr Suwaidi said COP28 was driven towards inclusivity and on ensuring that all stakeholders who want to engage – who should engage – are empowered



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka during his meeting with the Director General and Special Representative of the UAE COP28 Presidency, Ambassador Majid Al-Suwaidi (fourth from left). **Photo: SUPPLIED**

to do so and that “No one, no country, no region, no group will be left behind.”

He said that COP28 has the potential to reshape climate action for years to come, emphasising that it was essential that Pacific islanders are represented in whatever response there was to the Global Stocktake.

The meeting took place at the margins of the Pacific SIDS High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change, held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.

The dialogue was organised in the build-up to COP28, with the aim to share experiences and formulate agreed positions that can catalyse the kind of change that Pacific region needs to see on climate advocacy, globally.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Fijian High School Rugby Players to benefit from Japanese scholarships



First Secretary of Fiji’s Embassy in Japan, Kelera Savu during her visits to schools in the central and western divisions in Fiji. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with Ministry of Education and the Fiji Rugby Union (FRU) are working closely to promote sports diplomacy through provision of rugby scholarships for Fiji students to study in Japan.

This is being facilitated through the Embassy of the Republic of Fiji in Tokyo, Japan.

A team from the Oita Tomei High School and Matsumoto Kokusai High School recently visited Fiji in time for the Fiji Secondary Schools Deans Quarter Finals Rugby Competition.

The objective of their visit is to identify and recruit Fijian students for fully sponsored scholarships for three-year programs in Japan.

The scholarship is worth approximately FJ\$150,000 per student with extended opportunity to study for another four years at any University in Japan.

The Japanese delegation, accompanied by the First Secretary of Fiji’s Embassy in Japan, Kelera Savu, visited schools in the central and western divisions as part of their programme in Fiji.

As an initiative of the Fiji Embassy in Japan

the program is an important platform for Fiji to deepen its outreach in promoting rugby and people-to-people exchanges between our two countries.

While rugby is now a big wage earner for players contracted in Japan, it is also a great opportunity for our young high school rugby players to pursue careers in education and sports.

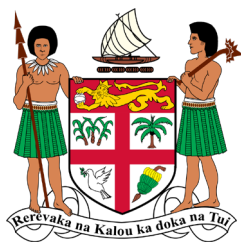
Since 2018, Oita Tomei High School, Japan has been bringing in two students every two years to undertake a three-year high school study scholarship, including rugby and people-to-people exchanges.

Matsumoto Kokusai High School in Nagano also did the same this year, bringing in one student yearly.

In January 2023, Oita Maizuru High School in Oita signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ratu Kadavulevu School on the promotion of people-to-people exchanges, education, sports, and cultural exchanges on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefits for both schools.

Since 2018, Oita Tomei High School, Japan, has brought in a total of six (6) students or two students every two years under this three-years high school study scholarship.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Cabinet Decisions of the Coalition Government

The Peoples' Coalition Cabinet Meeting held its 14th meeting held this year.

The decisions made at the meeting of Cabinet include the following:

Reinstatement of Elections for the Sugar Cane Growers Council



The Fiji Sugar Corporation is assisting farmers with cane harvesters to harvest sugar cane during the cane crushing season. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Cabinet approved the reinstatement of elections for the Sugar Cane Growers Council (Council).

The Council was established under the Sugar Industry Act 1984 with responsibility to protect and promote the interests of registered cane growers.

The Council was dissolved in May 2009 and thereafter, the election of Councillors was discontinued.

Since then, growers are of view that their voices have been diluted and the appointment of Councillors by Government is not democratic. This affected grower prominence and contributions to the industry, hence, the need to reinstate the election of the Council by elections, as provided under the Act.

The Ministry of Sugar Industry (Ministry) will commence with the drafting of the election processes and facilitate appropriate amendments to the Sugar Industry Act 1984 (Cap 206) to effect the changes.

Fiji Rural Electrification Fund Support Project



Sunergise Director, Ajay Raniga and Energy Fiji Limited Director, Hasmukh Patel by the solar grid on Vio Island. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Cabinet has endorsed the Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF) Support Project Initiation Plan with United Nations Development Programme.

The FREF was formally established by Government in 2017 to provide affordable, reliable, and renewable electricity for rural communities.

The FREF is additional to the rural electrification program established in 1993 under a policy approved by Cabinet and funded by a subsidy allocated annually in the National Budget.

The FREF is designed as a 'special purpose vehicle' to enable greater public private partnerships to complement the Government's renewable electrification initiatives

delivered through the Department of Energy.

Since 2018, FREF has successfully electrified 47 households on Vio Island off the coast of Lautoka through the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation using a solar mini-grid system.

The micro-grid system uses a centralised mini solar plant to which all houses and public buildings (school and church) are connected using smart meters.

The smart meters enable FREF to remotely monitor the system, receive real-time usage data, run diagnostics and ensure that energy usage does not exceed feasible usage.

The FREF secretariat services and its Trust Fund management which is currently with the Climate Change Division, will be transferred to the Department of Energy.

The transfer would enable faster facilitation of technical work, build capacity for the Department of Energy staff who will be working with UNDP personnel and help apply risk informed approaches to building rural mini grids.

The FREF Constitution will also be revised to improve coordination with existing rural development and gender empowerment initiatives.

Fiji National Education Summit

The 2023 Fiji National Education Summit will be held from 19 – 22 September, 2023

Cabinet was briefed on the preparatory works undertaken for the hosting of the Summit.

A series of pre-summit consultations took place with the wider community in the four education divisions representing nine education districts.

These consultations led to the identification of issues raised by stakeholders which will be the core focus of the Summit under key thematic areas.

The key thematic areas to be discussed at the Summit are as follows:

- Curriculum & Sustainable Development and Quality Assurance and Assessment systems;
- Teaching Profession and Leadership;
- Early Childhood Education, Inclusive Education, Access, Equitable, Safe & Healthy Schools;
- Financing of Education and Effective Governance;
- Technical, Vocational Education & Training, Non-formal and Lifelong Learning;
- Digital Learning and Transformation, Information Technology and Cyber Safety; and
- Education Policy, Planning, Research and Data.

Cabinet had earlier agreed that the Summit be held in August.

Fiji National Offshore Fishing Crew Policy



Fishermen out at sea fishing in the Fiji waters. Cabinet has approved Fiji National Offshore Fishing Crew Policy which seeks to improve on the safety and working conditions of fishermen on board Fiji licensed and Fiji flagged offshore fishing vessels amongst others. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Cabinet approved the Fiji National Offshore Fishing Crew Policy.

The Policy is aimed at:

- improving the safety and working conditions for fishers on board Fiji licensed and Fiji flagged offshore fishing vessels;
- increasing local employment opportunities in the fishing industry; and
- a strong and well established, regulated and sustainable industry that will contribute to the social and economic development of Fiji.

The policy is aimed at ensuring that fishing and related activities not only conform to

Continued on next page

national labour and crewing legal instruments but also meet international obligations including International Labour Organization Conventions and other relevant Treaties that Fiji is a party to, whilst promoting the sustainable development of the industry that supports safe and fair employment.

The policy does not apply to foreign fishing vessels that are not licensed by Fiji.

The policy will be implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries.

State Lands (Amendment) Bill 2023

Cabinet approved the State Lands (Amendment) Bill 2023 for tabling in Parliament.

The Bill proposes to remove amendments made to the State Lands Act 1945 by the State Lands (Budget Amendment) Act 2021 (Act No. of 21 of 2021) and the State Lands (Amendment) Act 2022.

The Bill proposes to reinstate the authority of the Director of Lands as provided for initially under the State Lands Act 1945.

The amendments made by Act 21 of 2021 reduced the authority of the Director by allowing lessees to go directly to banks and lending institutions without obtaining consent from the Director to use a lease as security for borrowing. In addition, the revenue generated from application fee for consent required by the Director decreased drastically.

The amendments made by Act No. 26 of 2022 also undermined the authority of the Director to decide on State lands and its effective administration.

The Bill has been amended following extensive consultations with stakeholders and will be tabled in Parliament.

Higher Salaries Commission Bill 2023

Cabinet approved the Higher Salaries Commission Bill 2023.

The Bill re-establishes the Higher Salaries Commission.

The Higher Salaries Commission will act as an independent central coordination mechanism for the determination of salaries of top executive positions in government-controlled companies, statutory organisations, and authorities.

Cabinet approved the Bill subject to a few amendments to be undertaken by the Office of the Solicitor General before it is tabled in Parliament.

Drainage (Amendment) Bill 2023

Cabinet approved the Drainage (Amendment) Bill 2023 for tabling in Parliament.

The Bill re-establishes drainage boards under the Drainage Act 1961.

Drainage boards will ensure that drains in the central, western and northern divisions perform to their design capacity to allow for the free flow of water during peak discharge period.

This will allow for better management and maintenance of current drainage systems, minimise flooding and help safeguard people, property and infrastructure.

The re-establishment of Divisional Drainage Boards is anticipated to improve the timeliness and delivery of services including the maintenance and improvement of drainage areas.

The Drainage (Amendment) Bill 2023 will be tabled in Parliament.

Heritage Bill 2023



It was a historic moment for Fiji as the title holder of the Vunivalu of Bau, Turaga Bale na Tui Kaba Ratu Epenisa Cakobau was installed after a long gap. Cabinet approved the Heritage Bill 2023 for tabling in Parliament and this Bill seeks to provide systematic protection to Fiji's natural and cultural heritage. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

Cabinet approved the Heritage Bill 2023 for tabling in Parliament.

The Bill has been developed to give local application in domestic law to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention and to provide systematic protection to Fiji's natural and cultural heritage.

Despite the existence of some laws that protect Fiji's natural and cultural heritage, there is no law that recognises World Heritage pursuant to the UNESCO Convention. Additionally, there are no laws to protect places that have the potential to be nominated to the World Heritage List.

The Bill aims to provide for:

- (i) the recognition and management of places with potential and actual world heritage values,
- (ii) establish the Fiji Heritage Council,
- (iii) establish the Fiji Heritage Register,
- (iv) provide for the management and operating trust funds for places registered under the Fiji Heritage Register and
- (v) provide for other matters necessary for the administration of the new legislation.

The Bill will be tabled in Parliament.

Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023 to reinstate retirement age of 60 years for municipal workers

Cabinet approved the Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2023 for tabling in Parliament.

The Bill proposes to amend section 35 of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to the retirement age of officers and servants of municipal councils.

The Bill proposes to amend the retirement age to 60 years by deleting "55" and substituting it with "60" in section 35 of the Act.

The Bill also proposes to amend section 78 of the Local Government Act 1972 to change the form of interest from compound interest on overdue rates to simple interest and for the rate of interest to be prescribed by regulations.

The proposed amendment to Section 78 of the Act will reflect the change from compound to simple interest and overdue rates shall bear interest of five per cent instead of 11 per cent. This is to match the interest charged on loans by banks in Fiji.

The rationale for reducing interest rate and to make it simple is for better collection of rates.

At present, a number of Councils are reliant on the National Budget for funding of capital projects, Special Administrator Allowances, and Chief Executive Officer's salary.

It is anticipated that improvement in rate collection will improve revenue collection and eventually reduce dependency on the National Budget.

The Bill will be tabled at the next sitting of Parliament.

Aircraft Accident Investigation Report – Robinson 44 Raven II Helicopter DQ-HPT

Cabinet approved the release of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Report involving the Robinson 44 Raven II helicopter with registration mark DQ-HPT which had an accident on 2 August 2019.

DQ-HPT crashed near the Western shoreline of Natewa Bay in Vanua Levu on 2 August 2019 while transporting a sick child and the mother from Naitauba Island to Labasa Hospital for surgery. There were no survivors.

On 4 August, 2019, the Minister responsible for Civil Aviation appointed, Andrew McGregor (Investigator-in-charge), the Director of Prosolve Limited, based in New Zealand. Delays were encountered by the Investigator-in-Charge during the course of the investigation due to the pandemic which contributed to the slow progress of the investigation process.

The report and its key recommendations will be made public by the Minister responsible for Civil Aviation.

National Art Gallery



Cabinet approved the second development phase for the establishment of St. Stephen's building as Fiji's first National Art Gallery. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

Cabinet approved the second development phase for the establishment of St. Stephen's building as Fiji's first National Art Gallery

A National Taskforce for the National Art Gallery will be appointed by the Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts to oversee the establishment of the National Art Gallery.

A hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) has been provided in the Ministry's 2023-2024 approved Budget for this phase of the project.

Grant to ICT Business Programme

Cabinet endorsed the Policy Framework for the Grant to the Information Communication Technology (ICT) Business Programme.

In the 2023/2024 National Budget, \$1.5 million was allocated to implement the programme called Grant to ICT Business. The intention of the grant is to entice larger Multi-National Enterprises (MNEs) to invest in and set up in Fiji.

The Digital Economy and the potential of digital transformation represent a significant avenue for Fiji's economic development and fulfilling Sustainable Development Goals.

The proposed tailor-made programme will focus on quality and quantity of talent

Continued on next page

and developing our young workforce and providing opportunities for employment creation across the board.

A committee will be established to assess and determine whether an outsourcing business qualifies for the incentive. The programme will include MNEs that account for corporate social responsibility (CSR), including environment sustainability.

Applications will be assessed based on significant economic value, expansion of the economic base, diversification, increasing local employment, demonstrating the benefits to the livelihood of the general population and ability to reposition Fiji as the regional hub.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Communications, Manoa Kamikamica speaking at the launch of the United States Agency for International Development's new Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership at the University of the South Pacific recently. Cabinet has approved the policy framework for the grant to the Information Communication Technology (ICT) Business Programme. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Ratification of the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

Cabinet agreed that parliamentary ratification be undertaken for the partial Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS).

AFS is the first WTO agreement that focuses on environmental sustainability and is a significant step towards ensuring the ocean's sustainability, as it will tackle one of the key drivers of overfishing by curtailing trade distorting subsidies.

Subsidies are payments made by nations to commercial fishing operators to keep those businesses profitable.

The partial Agreement prohibits certain fisheries subsidies in 3 situations:

Illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing (Article 3).

Fishing of overfished stocks (Article 4).

Fishing on unregulated high seas (Article 5.1).

Fisheries subsidies, if not disciplined, will contribute to overfishing, including illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries in our waters, thus leading to both environmental and economic harm and irreversible depletion of fish stock for the Pacific.

Fiji to Bid for Hosting of Festival of Pacific Arts

Cabinet agreed that Fiji submit its bid to be the back-up host for the 15th Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC15) in case circumstances do not allow New Caledonia to host the festival in 2028.

Cabinet also agreed that Fiji place its bid to host the FESTPAC16 in 2032.

Fiji's proposal to be the back-up host for FESTPAC15 and bid for FESTPAC16 is a strong signal to the region Fiji is ready to once again take a lead role in the regional cultural sector.

Feasibility Study for Medicinal Cannabis in Fiji



Cabinet agreed that a feasibility study be undertaken for the emerging market in medicinal cannabis in Fiji.

The feasibility study will be overseen by a Taskforce to be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications.

Medicinal Cannabis is defined as the use of cannabis including constituents of cannabis tetrahydrocannabinol

(THC) and other cannabinoids that are mainly used for the treatment, or symptom reduction, of a range of illnesses and conditions that are prescribed by the physician.

At present, there is no specific legislation for the cultivation and production of medicinal cannabis in Fiji.

The findings of the feasibility study and any subsequent proposed amendments to the law and the drafting of a new law in consultation with the Office of the Solicitor – General, will be brought back to Cabinet for decision.

The Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises, and

Communications and Investment Fiji have so far received expression of interest from two foreign ventures for the construction of medicinal cannabis facility for confined extraction and manufacturing of medicinal cannabis.

Update on Review of Fiji's 4th Trade Policy at the World Trade Organisation



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, SMEs and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica with Senior Trade officials and Fiji's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Cabinet was updated on Fiji's 4th Trade Policy Review.

The Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) was introduced in 1989 and then later established as an integral part of the WTO.

It is a mandatory programme running throughout the work of the WTO which provides surveillance on members' trade policies.

Fiji's 4th TPR was a whole of Government approach undertaken with the support of Fiji's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organisations (PRUNOG).

During the TPR, Fiji received widespread support and commendations from WTO members for its high-quality report, which provided comprehensive insights into Fiji's trade and economic policies.

Agreement on Defence Cooperation and Status of Forces between France and Fiji



Joint Commander of the French Armed Forces in the South-West Pacific - Brigadier General Valéry Putz had joined the President of Fiji, Ratu Willame Katonivere for the Ratu Sukuna Day celebrations in May. **Photo: NANISE NEIMILA**

Cabinet approved the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the Government of the French Republic.

Military engagements between Fiji and the French Republic have been in existence since 1987. The relationship was suspended in 2000 fully restored in 2004 resulting in the commencement of training exercises between the two forces.

The Agreement provides a framework for cooperation and assistance through military exchanges and the sharing of expertise between the Republic of Fiji Military Force and the Defence Force of the French Republic.

The proposed areas of cooperation under the SOFA include:

- exchange of expertise and visits;
- provision of advice to the Republic of Fiji Military Forces on training plans, logistical support through operational instructions and technical instructions through the sharing of expertise;
- joint activities in the field of armament and defence technology and research;
- exchanges to enhance and broaden interaction between the two military cultures;
- provision of international humanitarian assistance;
- provision of emergency assistance; and
- other defence related cooperation activity as defined by mutual agreement between the parties.

The finer details of the Agreement in terms of the geographical framework, volume of participation, duration of any exercises and other technical aspect of this cooperation will be determined by the joint procedural document to be signed by both parties.

Labasa firefighters applauded



By JOSAIA RALAGO

FIRE fighters at the National Fire Authority Labasa Station have been applauded for their swift action during a major fire that damaged seven businesses in the heart of Labasa Town. The diligent and swift action by these firefighters last week enabled the fire to be contained. While addressing the team three days

after the fire, the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa said if it was not for their swift actions, more damage would have been incurred. Minister Nalumisa was informed that with only 11 officers on duty that day, the rest of team who were not on duty joined their colleagues to help stop the fire. “Some of the people commenting on social media are not aware of the sacrifices each of you made to ensure the fire was contained,” he said.

“That’s the biggest sacrifice a human being can do, sacrificing his life to save people.” One of the officers who showed dedication was Mohammed Waseem, who was taking his daughter to the dentist but left her with his wife in the car away from the fire. Mr Waseem then rushed to the station to assist his colleagues. While applauding them, Minister Nalumisa reminded the officers of their

calling and that they should give their best whilst carrying out their duties. “You have been called to serve the people of Labasa, and the people of Fiji, and I would like to commend you for the work you carried out that day, and I would like to urge you that in whatever you do, give your best,” he said. There were a total of 27 officers that helped put out the fire on August 29, 2023.



Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa with permanent secretary for Local Government, Seema Sharma, senior officials and firefighters of National Fire Authority at the Labasa Station. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

Noda Viti

Siga Tabu Seviteba 10, 2023.. 8 na Drauniveva. Ka 9 ni Tabana - Ka14 ni ivola| www.fiji.gov.fj @FijiGovt Fiji Government

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Dola na so ni wai e Batiki



Ko Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni Veikoro Lelevu, Sakiasi Ditoka kei ira na lewe ni vanua e Batiki. Era vakacabora toka edua na kovu vakalolo malimali me nodra isevu vua na Minisita.



Era marautaka na lewe ni yanuyanu o Batiki na veivakatorocaketaki ni wai ka dolava vakamatanitu na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni Veikoro Lelevu o Sakiasi Ditoka e na siga Lotulevu na ika31ni siga ni vula ko Okosita.

E na nodra dolava na veivakatorocaketaki oya, e kaya na Minisita ni sa ka bibi sara e na noda bula na wai ka umani tiko e na noda dodonu yadudua na lewe ni vanua qo.

“Esa dua na toso levu qo ka ra mai rawati kina edua na vurevure ni wai savasava me na vakayagataki e na yanuyanu vaturaga.”

“Na kena mai rawati na cakacaka qo e rawati ga e na noda cakacaka vata – oya sai kemuni na lewe ni vanua vakaturaga o Batiki kei na Matanitu.”

E tiko na isau vakailavo ni veivakatorocaketaki ena \$11,855.61. Era vakaitavi tale ga e nakena dola edua na kawakawa vou e na koro o Yavu e Batiki na Minisita ka tiko na kena isau vakailavo e na \$8,000.00.

“Na kawakawa qo ena vukea na nomuni veitosoyaki voli e loma ni koro vakabibi e na gauna ni draki veibolei.”

“Au sa nuitaka kina ni na yaga sara vakalevu na veivakatorocaketaki qo ia me kua ni yala eke ka me toso tiko ga na sasaga ni veivakataorocaketaki.

Vakacavari na veitalanoa Vakaturaga



Era taba na turaga ni vanua ena noda vanua kei na Minisita ni Veika Itaukei, Ifereimi Vasu ena veitalanoa vakaturaga e Suva.

A mai vakacavari toka ena siga Vakarau-buka ena Yatu Lau Conference Centre e Suva na Veitalanoa Vakaturaga. Na bose qo a liutaka na Gone Marama Bale na Roko Tui Dreketi.

Era duavata na lewenibose ena nodra vakavinavinakataka na Matanitu ena kena liutaki vakamatau na vanua. E bibi na tiko vinaka ni dua na vanua ka na yaga mera vayaloqacotaki na lewena mera digidigi donu.

Na veitalanoa qo e vakavinavinakataka talega kina na Matanitu ena kena tutaki na veika e baleti keda. Era duavata ni wali ni bolebole qo ena vakavurea na bula sautu ena noda vanua.

E rua na ulutaga bibi e veitalanoataki,sa ikoya na vakatutu e cadra mai na kena railesuvi na vei qaravi ni Bose Levu Vakaturaga kei na tiko vinaka ni veiyasana. A vakavinavinakataka na nodratou cakacaka na Matailawalawa a railesuva na Bose Levu Vakaturaga ka vakadeitaka na nodra tokona na rai sa cauraki ena

Ripote.

Era vakavinavinakataka talega na Valenivolavola ni Yasana. Qo ena kena vaqacotaki tiko na veitabana e qarava na bisinisi. Era vauqeti mera vuli mai na veika sa qarava tiko na Yatu Lau Company Limited.

Era bulagoci talega na Turaga ena kauwai kei na wali eso ena kena vakayagataki na wasawasa kei na iyau-bula. Era duavata ni dodonu me dau taqomaki na wasawasa ka mera vakayagataka talega na gone era muri mai.



E ratou mai solia nanao(Moniti- 28/08) na mata ilawalawa ni Railesuvi ni vei qaravi ni Boselevu Vakaturaga na nodratou itukutuku vua na Minisita ni Veika Vakaitaukei, iTovo kei na iYau Vakamareqeti.Qo ni kena mai oti na nodratou vakasokumuni tukutuku.

Me qaqaco cake na veitalanoa

E dodonu meda vaqacotaka tale na bose kei na veitalanoa ena loma ni noda vei vuvale ekaya na Minisita ni Veikavakaitaukei, Tovo kei na iYau Mareqeti o Hon Ifereimi Vasu. E kauwai tiko na Tabacakacaka iTaukei ena kena sa levu sara tiko na itabagone iTaukei era sa vakayagataka tiko na wai gaga ni veivakamatenitaki.

Oqo ena gauna ea vosa tiko kina vei ira na lewe ni Bose ni Yasana o Naitasiri e Lutu, e Wainimala, Naitasiri.

“Esa dua na bolebole levu esa bolei keda ena gauna oqo, ena sega ni rawa nida veidusi.

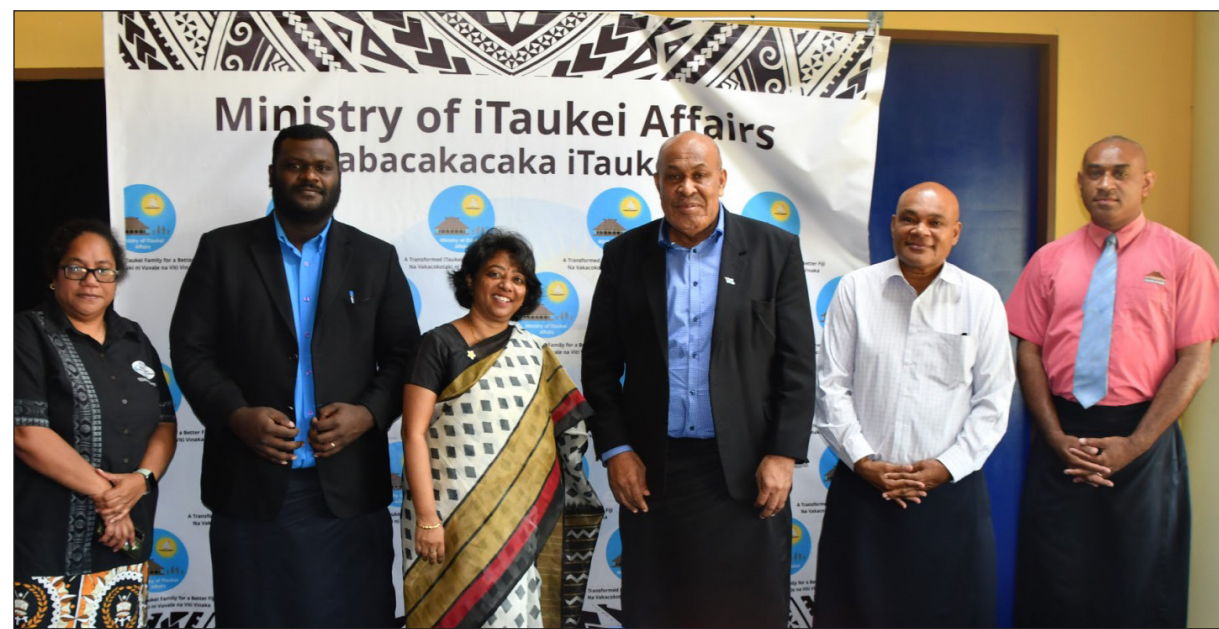
“Au kila na dodonu meda tekivu saraga mai noda matavuvale, se cava eda rawa ni walia kina.

“Na bolebole levu nodra sa vakayagataka tiko noda isolisoli na waigaga ni veivakamatenitaki,” ekaya o Vasu.

E tomana ka kaya ni oqo edua na ivakatatao ni veivakatorocaketaki.

E tomana ka kaya o Vasu ni dodonu meda veitalanoa taka vakavuvale kei ira noda isolisoli me rawa ni ra kautani mai na kena veitemaki.

Sa vakamamasu na Tabacakacaka iTaukei meda raica tale mada na noda gauna ni veivosaki vakavuvale kei na kena vaqacotaki.



Operation Lesu ki Vale

Kauwaitaki tiko vakalevu na tubu vakasauri ni gone ena nodavanua era sa bula tu ena saqata ni gaunisala ena noda vanua.

Mai vakaraitaki vua na Minisita ni Itaukei Ifereimi Vasu na kauwai ni matanitu baleta na tikina oqo. Eratou a vakaitavi ena dua na vakadidike yacana na Lesu ki Vale na tabana ni Marama, Gone kei na Taqomaki ni Lewenivanua, tabana ni Ovisa kei ira na tabana veiwekani voleka.

Vakaraitaka na Vukevuke ni Minisita e ena Tabana ni Marama, Gone kei na Taqomaki ni Lewenivanua, Sashi Kiran, ni sa tiko edua na kauwai levu baleta na tikina oqo.

Era sa vakaloloma na gone era sa biu tu mera bula se vaqara nodra bula ena gaunisala ka levu tiko kina na kawa itaukei.

Sa sega ni rawa ni ra beitaki tikoga na qasenivuli se koiria na tabana ni Ovisa.

Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Veika Vakaitaukei, Ifereimi Vasu ni sa tiko eso na porokaramu ena tabana ni itaukei me vukea na sasaga oqo ka sa tiko na vakanuini ni rawa niratou cakacaka vata me baleta na kena vukei na tikina oqo.



Kevaka e solia na galala ni visa ena vinaka:

DPM Professor Biman Prasad

Kevaka esolia na galala ni visa ni veilakoyaki se visiko na matanitu ko Niusiladi ena vukea na veiqaravi ni veilakoyaki ena vukei ni tamata cakacaka mera veivuke ena veiqaravi mai keya. Oqori na nanuma ni Vukevuke ni Paraiminisita, Professor Biman Prasad ka tukuna ni na rawa ni vukea na noda veivoli kei na bisinisi kivei Niusiladi. Era a laki vosa tiko na Minisita ena boseka ni dau ni bisinisi kei na veivoli ena vanua ko Niusiladi ka vakayacori mai Okaladi ka veitalanoa taki kina e levu sara na ulutaga ni bisinisi kei na veivoli esa bolea tiko an veiqaravi nikua ena tabana ni veivoli bisinisi kei na kena lailai na tamata cakacaka mera qarava na veika oqo.

Musuki nodra ilavo na cakacaka mai vanua tani

EKA bibi mera musuki talega na nodra ilavo na tamata cakacaka mai vanua tani ka me laki maroroi kina na tabana ni ilavo musuki ena noda vanua.

Vakadeitaka na tikina oqori na Minisita ni Veivakacacakataki, Agni Deo Singh ena nodra boseka voli kei ira na daunibisinisi kei Viti kei Ositerelia mai Ositerelia.

Sa sasaga tiko kina na matanitu ena tabana ni iLavo musuki me vakadeitaka na musumusu oqo vei ra na noda lewenivanua era veiqaravi ena cakacaka mai Ositerelia.

Sa uqeti kina na veitabana ni cakacaka mai Ositerelia mera musumusu mai kina na Matanitu ko Viti ena Tabana ni ilavo Musuki ena noda vanua.

Na sasaga oqo ena rawa nira vukei kina na lewenivanua era laki cakacaka ki Ositerelia.



Era boseka tiko na lewenivanua ka veiqaravi kina na tabana ni veimatani eake. E loma ena imawi rau dabe toka ko Paraiminisita Rabuka kei Vukevuke ni Paraiminisita, Professor Prasad. Ena imatau ko Minisita ni Veika Vakaitaukei, Ifereimi Vasu kei Vukevuke ni Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei Taqomaki ni Lewenivanua, Sashi Kiran keira na ivakalesilesi. Era na Minisita ni Veivakacacakataki Agni Deo Singh kei ira na nodra ivakalesilesi ena nodra bose mai Ositerelia kei ira na itaukei ni vale ni cakacaka.



E dui tu na vanua kei na kena i yau eda dau kilai tani kina ka vakamareqeta. Edua na ka e kilai tani kina na Yatu Yasawa balabalavu sa ikoya na ibe ni Yasawa ka ra vakatoka me Lawasa. Ena vica na itaba oqori era laurai kina na ibe oqo na Lawasa ka vakarautaki me nona i dabled-abe ka ivakamamaca na iLiuliu ni Matanitu o Sitiveni Rabuka ena nona a laki dolava na Bose ni Yasana o Ba ena koro o Soso. E kaya o Sereana Tabua na marama ni Soso mai Naviti ni ibe ni Yasawa e duatani ka ra tiko o ira era kila vinaka na kena tali. E kaya ni rawa ni tali me i coco, vakabati ka lako vata talega kei na delana se i davodavo.



Na bese ni yasana vakaturaga ko Naitasiri ka vakayacori ena koro o Lutu Wainimala ka vulagi dokai kina ko Minisita ni veika Vaka Itaukei, Ifereimi Vasu kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni nona tabacakacaka.

Lagiti oira na marama ena Pasivika



ERA lagiti ka vosa vakacaucautaki ira na marama ena veimatanitu ena Pasivika na noda Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Taqomaki ni lewenivanua, Lynda Tabuya ena nodra soqoni vata mai ena boseka mai vakayacori ena noda vanua. Era vakavinakataki ira talega baleta nodra tokoni Viti me vaka ni sa qai matai ni gauna me liutaka kina na boseka oqo ni marama. Na nodra veitokoni sa vakaraitaki ni domodra vata ena ulutaga levu ka bolel ira na marama ena Pasivika ka vakakina ena vuravura oya na vakatauvatani na nodra itutu ni veiqaravi ka vakakina na

nodra colacola ni veiqaravi ena rai se vakasama ni lewa matau ena noda Pasika kei na kena tokoni na Pasivika karakawa ka manidia taki na kena iyau bula. Kuria ko ni veivakatorocaketaki Minisita Tabuya na nodra veitokoni kivei ira na marama veiliutaki mai ena veimatanitu ena Pasivika ka vakaraitaka na bibi ni nodra dau veitalanoa vakalevu ena vuqa na ulutaga ka bibi veira na marama ena nodra bula torocaketaki. Na nodra macala ni boseka na marama ena qai laki laveti ena nodra boseka na liuliu ni veimatanitu ena Pasivika ka na vakayacori mai na Yatu Kuka ena vula ko Noveba



Veisiko ni gonevuli ena koronivuli na Cicia High school



E kidavaka na Tabacakacaka iTaukei, Tabana ni Veitarogi Vanua, Matabose ni Veika Vakaitaukei, Tabana ni Vosa kei na iTovo Vakaviti na veisiko ni gonevuli mai Cicia High School ena mataka ni Tusiti 22.08.2023, mera mai sarava ka butuka na noda valenivolavola liu e Draiba. E ka marautaki nodra yaco mai na gonevuli, nira mai veitalanoa kei ira na vakaillesilesi, ena nodra

vakarautaki ira ina qaravi vuli. Sa vakavinavina nakataki na koronivuli, na itubutubu, ena nodra veitokoni. Kevaka e tiko na gadredre ni veisiko, sa na rawa moni na veitaratara mai ena 3100 909 ext. 1008 / 8991042 ka veitalanoa kei Mr. Joseph Kacilala (imeli joseph.kacilala@itaukeiaffairs.gov.fj). Vinaka Saka Vakalevu



Ilavo ni veivakalivalivataki

Sa tokona na matanitu na veiqaravi vakailavo me vukea na veivakalivalivataki ena taudaku ni tauni ena noda vanua.

Na Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF) e ituvatuva ka veitokoni mai kina United Nations Development Program.

Na matanitu ea tauyavutaka edua na ivota ni ilavo oqo ena 2017 me vukea na vakarautaki ni livaliva sau rawarawa, ka buli mai ena kaukauwa ni siga kei na wai me baleti ira na vakaitikotiko ena veikoro.

Na ilavo oqo e ikuri ni parokaramu ni veiqaravi ni veivakalivalivataki ena veikoro ka tauyavutaki ena 1993 ka vakadonuia ka sauma talega na matanitu.

Na veivuke oqo ena veisemati tikoga kei na cakacaka ni veiqaravi ni matanitu ena veivakatorocaketaki ina koro.

Ena 2018, sa vukei rawa kina 47 na matavuvale ena yanuyanu o Vio mai na baravi kei Lautoka ena ruku ni veiqaravi Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation ena kena vakayagataki na kaukauwa mai na siga.



Qele ni Matanitu (Amendment) Bili 2023

E vakadonuya na kebineti na kena laveti cake ka vakavou tale na lawa ka kovuta na Qele ni Matanitu se State Land (Amendment) Bill 2023 me baleta na kena biu e palimedi.

E vakatura na bili me kauta laivi na veisau a vakayacori ki na State Lands Act 1945 mai na Lawa ni Vanua (Budget Amendment) 2021 (Cakacaka Naba 21 ni 2021) kei na Lawa ni Vanua ni Yasana (Amendment) 2022.

Sa vakatura na bili me vakalesui tale mai na lewa nei Dairekita ni Vanua me vaka sa vakarautaki taumada ena ruku ni Lawa ni Vanua ni Yasana 1945.

Na veisau e vakayacori ena iLawa 21 ni 2021 a vakailaitaka na lewa nei Dairekita ena nodra vakatara na lisi me ra lako vakadodonu ki na baqe kei na iSoqosoqo e solia ka sega ni taura na veivakadonui mai vua na Dairekita me vakayagataka e dua na lisi me taqomaki ni dinau. Me kena ikuri, e lutu vakalevu na ilavo e rawati mai na icurucuru ni kerekere me baleta na veivakadonui e gadreva na Dairekita.

Na veisau e vakayacori ena iLawa naba 26 ni 2022 e vakamalumalumutaka talega na lewa nei Dairekita me vakatulewataka na qele ni yasana kei na kena veiliutaki mana.

Sa veisautaki na bili ni oti na veivakasalataki rabailevu vata kei ira na vakaitutu, ka na vakacurumi ena palimedi.



Soqoni ni Vuli Vakamatanitu e Viti

Sa vakadonuia na matanitu ena matabose ni kebineti me vakayacori edua 2023 Fiji National Education Summit ena 19 – 22 ni Seviteba.

Oqo edua na boseka mera soqoni vata mai kina na kena day ena vuli ka me mai dikevi talega kina na veiqaravi ni tabana ni vuli ena noda vanua. Namaki na vakamacala ni kebineti ena vakavakarau e vakayacori me baleta na kena vakayacori na boseka. Nanumi me semati mai ena boseka na va na wasewase ena noda vanua ka veitalanoa taki kina na ciwa na tikina ni vuli.

Na boseka oqori e laveti cake mai kina eso na ulutaga ka nanumi me na mai veitalanoataki ena boseka oqo, ka wilikina na

- Na leweni ni vuli kei na kena lewa matau ni qaravi vuli
- Na cakacaka ni veivakavulici kei na veiliutaki



- Vuli ni muri vuli se ea sova ni vuli, tataqo maki ena veivanua ni vuli
- Vakailavotaki ni Vuli kei na kena qaravi vaka matau
- Na qaravi matau ni vuli tara
- Na vuli kei veisau ena kauta mai na monaliva
- liva, vakayagataki ni kila ena vakaitukutuku kei na tataqomaki ena vakayagataki ni monalivaliva
- Na voladusidusi ni vuli, na tuvatuva ni vuli, dikevi ni vuli kei na itukutuku baleta na vuli.

Vakadonuya na kebineti na kena vakayacori na vakadidike ena noda vanua

E sa vakadonuya na kebineti, na kena vakayacori ena noda vanua na kena vakadidike ni mariwana me vakayagataki me wainimate.

E tukuna na Prime Minister o Sitiveni Rabuka ni vei qaravi ni vakadidike oqo ena rai-ca tiko vakatabakidua o Manoa Kamikamica, na vukevuke ni Paraiminisita Minister ka Minisita ni veivoli.

Tomana o Rabuka ni gauna oqo ena noda vanua e sega ni tiko e dua na lawa ena kena teivaki na mariwana se buli me wainimate.

E kaya, ni na veitalanoataki tale ena loma ni bose ni kebineti na veitukutuku matailalai ka sa vakasokumuni vata mai ena vakadidike oqo, ena qai laurai ka dikevi na veika me veisautaki kina na lawa kei na kena biuvata e dua.

E ratou vakatututaka na Fiji Council of churches ena vula o Evereli ni yabaki oqo me vakatarai na kena vakayagataki na mariwana me wainimate.

Oqo na veivakadeitaki mai na kena vakayacori na bose ni kena veitalanoataki na vakatutu ni matanitu.



Vakalesui mai ni veidigitaki me baleta na Matabose ni Dau Tei Dovu

E vakadonuya na kebineti na kena vakalesui mai na nodra na digitaki na Matabose ni Dau teitei ni Dovu ena noda vanua.

A tauyavutaki na Matabose ena ruku ni Sugar Industry Act 1984 ka nona itavi me taqomaka ka tokona na nodra taleitaka na dauteitei ni tini sa volai tu.

A vakawabokotaki na Matabose ena Me ni 2009 ka qai oti oya, sa muduki na nodra digitaki na Lewe ni Matabose.

Me tekivu mai na gauna oya, era nanuma na dauteitei ni sa vakamalumalumutaki na domodra, e sega tale ga ni vakapolitiki na nodra lesi na Lewe ni Matabose. Na dauteitei ka cau e tarai tiko oqo ki na cakacaka, sa dodonu kina me vakalesui tale mai na digitaki ni Matabose ena veidigidigi, me vaka sa vakarautaki tu ena ruku ni iLawa.

Ena tekivu na Matabose ni Buli iYaya ni Suka (Vei qaravi) ena kena vakarautaki na iwalewale ni veidigitaki ka vakarautaka na veisau dodonu ki na Sugar Industry Act 1984 (Cap 206) me vakayacori kina na veisau.

Heritage Bill 2023

Sa vakadonuia na matanitu na Heritage Bill 2023 me vakarau kaucake ki na Palimedi.

Sa tauyavutaki na bili me solia na kena vakayagataki na lawa ni noda vanua ki na UNESCO Convention ka me vakarautaka na veitaqomaki vakayago ki na iyau vakatamata kei na itovo vakavanua nei Viti.

Dina ga ni tiko eso na lawa ka taqomaka na iyau vakatamata kei na itovo vakavanua nei Viti, e sega ni dua na lawa e vakacaucautaka na iYau ni Vuravura me vaka na UNESCO Convention. Me kena ikuri, e sega ni dua na lawa me taqomaki kina na veivanua e rawa ni digitaki ki na Lisi ni iYaubula ni Vuravura.

Na inaki ni bili me vakarautaka na:

(i) na vakacaucautaki kei na lewai ni veivanua ka rawa ka dina na yavunilewa ni iyau e vura-vura,

(ii) tauyavutaka na Matabose ni iYau ni Viti,

(iii) tauyavutaka na ivola ni rejisita ni iYau ni Viti,

(iv) vakarautaka na ilavo ni veivakabauti ni veiliutaki kei na cicivaki ni vanua e volai ena ruku ni Fiji Heritage Register kei na

(v) vakarautaka na veika tale eso e gadrevi me baleta na kena qaravi na lawa vou.

Ena vakacurumi na bili ena palimedi.



Voladusidusi baleta na nodra cakacaka ena qoli na lewenivanua

Sa vakadonuia na matanitu ena nodra boseka na kebineti edua na voladusidusi ka vauca ira na lewenivanua era vei qaravi ena cakacaka ni qoli ena waqa ni qoli ena veiwaitui.

Qoka e wilikina na

- Na kena laveti cake na itagede ni vei qaravi veira na gone ni Viti era vei qaravi ena veiwaqa ni qoli ena noda vanua ka vakakina oira na waqa ni qoli era gole mai tau-daku kei Viti.
- vakatorocaketaki ni taqomaki kei na ivakarau ni cakacaka me baleti ira na gonedau ena matabose kei Viti era sa vakalaiseni ka vagolei na waqa ni qoli mai na veivanua tani;
- vakalevutaki na cakacaka ena tabana ni qoli; kei na
- laveti cake na vei qaravi ni tabana ni qoli ena noda vanua me sotakaya ka veidonui kei na kena laveti cake na bula ni rawaka vakailavo kei na vakatubuilavo ni matanitu

E vagolei na Lawatu oqo me vakadeitaki kina ni qoli kei na itavi qaravi veiwekani e sega walega ni salavata kei na cakacaka vakalawa ni matanitu kei na iyaya ni cakacaka ni ilawalawa ia e sotava talega na itavi ni veimatanitu oka kina na ILO Conventions kei na veidinadinati tale eso e veiganiti kei Viti e dua na ilawalawa, ka tokona na kena vakatorocaketaki tudei na cakacaka ka tokona na cakacaka taqomaki ka dodonu.

Na Lawatu oqo e sega ni baleta na waqa ni qoli mai na veivanua tani ka sega ni vakalaiseni mai Viti.

Ena vakayagataki na lawatu oqo mai na Matabose ni iTavi ni Qoli.

Noda Viti

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Era dabe na leweni vanua turaga mai Gau ena nodra siko yani na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, Sakiasi Ditoka. Era veitalanoa kei na dua na ivakalesilesi ni tabana ni veikau ena cakacaka ni musu kau.

Gadrevi na toso vata e na veivakatorocaketaki

Ea vakacavara na nodra siko e na Yatu Lomaviti na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki e na Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu o Hon Sakiasi Ditoka ka ra marautaka na veika era sa mai raica keina veitukutuku e ra ciqoma mai vei ira na lewe ni vanua. Usutu ni nodra veitalevi na Minisita na kena vakatetei na itukutuku ni veivakatorocaketaki ka umani vata kina na ituvatuva ni vula e na veisiga e na noda veikoro ka vakatokai e se vo sa vakaperitania me Integrated Village Development Plan (IVDP). Vakaraitaka na Minisita ni sa toso e so na tiki ni veivakatorocaketaki ia e so, vo e levu tale na ka me na qaravi me na laveti cake kina na itagede ni nodra bula na wekada ena taudaku ni veikorolelevu kei na vei yanuyanu. “Edua na bolebole levu e tiko e na gauna qo sai koya na veitaratara. Ni leqa na sala ni veitaratara se vakau itukutuku e dau bolea vakalevu na cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki,” e tukuna na Minisita.



“Keitou bau mai bole vakalevu tale ga e na gaunisala ka semati Qarani ki na tikina o Vanuaso ni vakaleqai sara tuga na kena ituvaki.” “I’a sa tiko na ituvatuva ni kedra vakavinakataki na veika eso me vaka na gaunisala ka sa nuitaki ni sa na tekivutaki tiko na veiqaravi ni Taba ni Veiqaravi na PWD e na dua na gauna lekaleka mai

qo me na vukea na kena vakatotolotaki na vakavinakataki ni gaunisala, wavu kei na vei vale ni matanitu e na taudaku ni veikoro lelevu.” Tomana na Minisita ka kaya ni sa na dodonu meda na cakacaka vata e na kena qaravi na veivakatorocaketaki ka me ra vakauqaeti tale ga na wekada e na taudaku ni veikoro lelevu kei na

veiyanyanu e na cicivaki bisinisi me na tokona na nodra toso. Era sikova na yanuyanu o Gau, Nairai kei Batiki na Minisita ka ra bau lai dolava tale ga vakamatanitu na veivakatorocaketaki ni wai e na yanuyanu o Batiki ka tiko na kena isau vakailavo e na \$11,000.00.

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका हाल में दकाउन्ड्रोवे स्थित नवातू सेकन्ड्री स्कूल की एक छात्र से मुलाकात करते हुए चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

मंत्रिमण्डल के फैसले

रोनल देव

पीपल्स कोआलिशन मंत्रिमण्डल ने उन्नीस अगस्त को इस साल की अपनी चौदहवीं सभा की जिसमें कुछ ज़रूरी फैसले लिए गए हैं जिनमें शामिल हैं: शुगर केन ग्रीव्स काउन्सल का चुनाव करने की मंजूरी देना। काउन्सल की स्थापना शुगर इंडस्ट्री एक्ट 1984 के नीचे की गई थी जिसकी ज़िम्मेदारी है गन्ने के किसानों की दिलचस्पियों की सुरक्षा करना तथा बढ़ावा देना। 2009 में काउन्सल की मान्यता कम कर दी गई थी जिसके बाद काउन्सलस

के चुनाव को भी रोक दिया गया था। उसके बाद गन्ने के किसानों को लगता है कि उनकी आवाज़ दबा दी गई है तथा सरकार द्वारा लोकतांत्रिक ढंग से काउन्सलर्स की नियुक्तियाँ नहीं होती थी। इससे व्यवसाय में गन्ने की खेती करने वालों की प्रमुखता तथा उनके योगदान पर असर पड़ा, इसलिए काउन्सलर्स का चुनाव होना बेहद ज़रूरी हो गया है जैसा कि एक्ट में व्यवस्था की गई है। शुगर मंत्रालय, चुनाव की प्रक्रिया शुरू करेगा तथा शुगर इंडस्ट्री एक्ट 1984(Cap 206) में बदलाव करने के लिए उचित संशोधनों की सुविधाएं प्रदान करेगा।

इसके अलावा मंत्रिमण्डल ने युनाएटड नेशन्स डिवेलोपमन्ट प्रोग्राम की सहायता वाले फीजी रूरल इलेक्ट्रीफिकेशन फंड सपोर्ट प्रोजेक्ट इनिशिएशन प्लेन की मंजूरी दी है। ग्रामीण समाज के लिए सस्ती और विश्वसनीय बिजली प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार ने 2017 में फंड की स्थापना की थी। 1993 में ग्रामीण बिजली वाले कार्यक्रम में यह फंड जोड़ा गया है जहाँ मंत्रिमण्डल ने एक नीति को स्वीकृति दी थी तथा राष्ट्रीय बजट में सालाना एक सबसिडी अलग की जाती थी। यह फंड एक विशेष प्रयोजन के रूप

में बनाया गया है जहाँ एनेर्जी विभाग के माध्यम से सरकार की पहल को पूरा करने के लिए अधिक से अधिक पब्लिक प्रायवट पार्टनरशिप को सक्षम किया गया है। 2018 के बाद से इस योजना के तहत लौतोका के तट के पास वीयो द्वीप पर सोलर मीनी ग्रिड सिस्टम के द्वारा सैंतालीस घरों में बिजली की सप्लाई दी गई है। --.

[इसपर और जानकारी पृष्ठ दो पर](#)



माएको ग्रिड सिस्टम, एक मिनी सोलर प्लान्ट के द्वारा स्मार्ट मीटस की मदद से घरों, सार्वजनिक इमारतों जैसे स्कूल तथा चर्च तक बिजली सप्लाई करते हैं। स्मार्ट मीटर, सिस्टम पर निगरानी रखता है तथा यह ध्यान में रखता है कि उर्जा का उपयोग बेकार न जाए।

इस साल का फीजी नेशनल एजुकेशन समिट उन्नीस से बाईस सितम्बर तक होगा।

मंत्रीमण्डल को हाल में जानकारी दी गई कि इस सम्मेलन की मेज़बानी करने की तैयारियाँ किस तरह चल रही है। शिक्षा के चार विभागों में देश भर के नौ शिक्षा डिस्ट्रिक्ट के प्रतिनिधियों ने इस सम्मेलन को लेकर छोटी-छोटी सभाएं की थी। इन सभाओं में साझेदारों ने कुछ विषयों की पहचान की जिनपर मुख्य रूप से इस सम्मेलन में ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

इस सम्मेलन में जिन विषयों पर गौर किया जाएगा वो कुछ इस प्रकार है:

- पाठ्यक्रम तथा विकास, आश्वासन तथा मूल्यांकन प्रणाली;
- शिक्षा व्यवसाय और नेतागिरी;
- एली चाइल्डहूड एजुकेशन, समावेशी शिक्षा, पहुँच, न्यायसंगत, सुरक्षित और स्वस्थ स्कूल;
- शिक्षा तथा प्रभावी शासन में पैसे लगाने;
- तकनीकी, व्यावसायिक शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण, अनौपचारिक और आजीवन सीखना;
- डिजिटल शिक्षा, परिवर्तन, सूचना तथा साइबर सुरक्षा; और
- शिक्षा नीति, योजना अनुसंधान तथा आँकड़े

मंत्रीमण्डल पहले राजी हुआ था कि यह सम्मेलन अगस्त महीने में होगा।

- तकनीकी, व्यावसायिक शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण, अनौपचारिक और आजीवन सीखना;
- डिजिटल शिक्षा, परिवर्तन, सूचना तथा साइबर सुरक्षा; और
- शिक्षा नीति, योजना अनुसंधान तथा आँकड़े

मंत्रीमण्डल पहले राजी हुआ था कि यह सम्मेलन अगस्त महीने में होगा।

मंत्रीमण्डल ने फीजी नेशनल ओफ़िशो फिशिंग कै पोलिसी को मँजूरी दी है।

इस नीति का लक्ष्य है;

- फीजी लाइसेंस प्राप्त और फीजी द्वारा मछली पकड़ने वाले विदेशी जहाज़ों पर मछुआरों के लिए सुरक्षा और कामकाजी परिस्थितियों में सुधार करना;
- मछली व्यवसाय में रोज़गार के अवसर

बढ़ाने; और

- एक मजबूत और अच्छी तरह से स्थापित, टिकाऊ व्यवसाय जो फीजी के सामाजिक और आर्थिक विकास में योगदान दे सके। नीति का उद्देश्य यह ध्यान में रखना है कि मछली पकड़ने और संबंधित गतिविधियाँ न केवल राष्ट्रीय मज़दूर तथा जहाज़ पर काम करने वालों के कानूनी उपकरणों के अनुरूप हों बल्कि आए इल ओ सम्मेलनों तथा अन्य संधियों सहित अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दायित्वों को भी पूरा करें जिनमें फीजी एक पक्ष है, साथ ही व्यवसाय के विकास को बढ़ावा दे और जो सुरक्षित तथा निष्पक्ष रोजगार का समर्थन करता हो। यह नीति मछली पकड़ने वाले उन विदेशी जहाज़ों पर लागू नहीं होती है जिन्हें फीजी द्वारा लाइसेन्स नहीं दिया गया है। फिशिरिज़ मंत्रालय इन नीतियों को लागू करेगा।

मंत्रीमण्डल ने स्वीकृति दी है कि सरकारी ज़मीन का संशोधित बिल 2023 संसद में पेश किया जाए।

इस बिल में प्रस्ताव रखा गया है कि स्टेट लेन्ड्स एक्ट 1945 में पिछले साल और 2021 में जो बदलाव हुए हैं को हटा दिया जाए। यह बिल प्रस्ताव रखता है कि डायरेक्टर ओफ लेन्ड्स को वो सभी अधिकार वापस दिया जाए जो पहले स्टेट लेन्ड्स एक्ट 1945 के तहत दिए गए थे।

2012 के एक्ट 21 में जो बदलाव किए गए थे से डायरेक्टर से अधिकार छीन लिए गए थे, जहाँ डायरेक्टर से मँजूरी लिए बिना, सरकारी ज़मीन लीस पर लेने वाले सीधे बैंकों तथा कर्ज़ देने वाली अन्य संस्थाओं के पास जाकर ज़मीन गिरवी रखकर पैसे कर्ज़ लेते थे। इस वजह से डायरेक्टर से मँजूरी लेने वाली फीस में भारी गिरावट देखी गई। पिछले साल एक्ट 26 के तहत जो बदलाव हुए ने भी सरकारी ज़मीन और उसके प्रभावी प्रशासन पर डायरेक्टर के अधिकार को कमजोर कर दिया। साझेदारों से विचार-विमर्श के बाद बिल में संशोधन किया गया है और इसे संसद में पेश किया जाएगा।

मंत्रीमण्डल ने हायर सेलरीस कमिशन बिल 2023 को मँजूरी दी है। इस बिल के तहत हायर सेलरीस कमिशन की स्थापना दोबारा हुई है। हायर सेलरीस बिल सरकारी कम्पनियों, वैधानिक संगठनों में उच्च पद सम्भालने वालों के वेतन निर्धारण के लिए एक स्वतंत्र केंद्रीय तंत्र के रूप में कार्य करेगा। मंत्रीमण्डल ने बिल को मँजूरी दी

है लेकिन इसमें सोलिसिटर जनरल द्वारा कुछ संशोधन करने के बाद इसे संसद में पेश किया जाएगा।

मंत्रीमण्डल ने संसद में पेश करने के लिए ड्रेनज संशोधित बिल 2023 को मँजूरी दी है। यह बिल ड्रेनज एक्ट 1961 के नीचे ड्रेनज बोर्ड्स की स्थापना दोबारा करेगा। ड्रेनज बोर्ड्स इस बात का ध्यान रखेगा कि जब ज़्यादा बारिश हो तो केन्द्रीय, पश्चिमी तथा उत्तरी विभाग में सभी नालियों में पानी का बहाव अच्छी तरह हो। इससे नालियों पर मरम्मत, बाढ़ चढ़ाने वाली समस्याएं कम होगी जिससे लोगों तथा उनकी संपत्तियों और संसाधनों का नुकसान कम होगा।

ड्रेनज संशोधित बिल 2023 को संसद में पेश किया जाएगा।

मंत्रीमण्डल ने हेरिटेज बिल 2023 को संसद में पेश करने की मँजूरी दी है। फीजी की प्राकृतिक और सांस्कृतिक विरासत को व्यवस्थित सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए यह बिल तैयार किया गया है।

हालाकि फीजी में यहाँ की प्राकृतिक और सांस्कृतिक विरासत को व्यवस्थित सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए कानून हैं लेकिन ऐसा कोई कानून नहीं है जो यूनेस्को कन्वेंशन के अनुसार विश्व धरोहर को मान्यता देता हो। इसके अलावा ऐसा कोई कानून नहीं है जो विश्व धरोहर सूची में मनोनीत करने की क्षमता रखने वाले स्थानों की सुरक्षा कर सके। बिल का उद्देश्य है ये प्रदान करना:

- (i) संभावित और वास्तविक विश्व विरासत मूल्यों वाले स्थानों की पहचान और प्रबंधन करना,
- (ii) फीजी हेरिटेज काउन्सिल की स्थापना करना,
- (iii) फीजी हेरिटेज रजिस्टर की स्थापना करना,
- (iv) फीजी हेरिटेज रजिस्टर के नीचे रेजिस्टर किए गए स्थानों के लिए प्रबंधन और संचालन ट्रस्ट फंड प्रदान करना और
- (v) नए कानून के प्रशासन के लिए ज़रूरी अन्य मामलों के लिए प्रावधान करें। बिल संसद में पेश किया जाएगा।

मंत्रीमण्डल ने लोकल गवर्नमेंट संशोधित बिल में बदलाव लाने के लिए इसे संसद में पेश करने की मँजूरी दी है। इस बिल में प्रस्ताव रखा गया है कि लोकल गवर्नमेंट एक्ट 1972 की धारा 35 में बदलाव लाया जाए ताकि म्युनि-

सपल काउन्सल के अफ्सरों तथा कर्मचारियों के अवकाश लेने की उम्र बढ़ाई जाए। बिल में प्रस्ताव रखा गया है कि लोकल गवर्नमेंट एक्ट 1972 की धारा 35 में जहाँ-जहाँ पचपन साल लिखा है, उसे मिटाकर वहाँ साठ 60 साल लिखा जाए। बिल में यह भी प्रस्ताव रखा गया है कि लोकल गवर्नमेंट एक्ट 1972 की धारा 78 में बदलाव किया जाए जहाँ रेट न भरने पर जो ब्याज लागू हो रहा है उसे बदलकर साधारण ब्याज किया जाए जो नियमों द्वारा निर्धारित हो। लोकल गवर्नमेंट एक्ट 1972 की धारा 78 में बदलाव के तहत ब्याज के दर को ग्यारह प्रतिशत से घटाकर पाँच प्रतिशत करने का प्रस्ताव रखा गया है जो फीजी में बैंकों द्वारा कर्ज़ देने पर चार्ज किए ब्याज के बराबर होगा। ब्याज दर को कम करने तथा इसे बेहतर बनाने का मुख्य कारण है कि रेट बटोरने में सुधार लाया जाए।

वर्तमान में कई टाउन काउन्सलर्स, अपनी योजनाएं, स्पेशल एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर के अलावन्स तथा चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव के वेतन के खर्च के लिए राष्ट्रीय बजट पर निर्भर हैं। ऐसी आशा है कि इससे रेट बटोरने में सुधार होने के साथ-साथ सिटी और टाउन काउन्सल राष्ट्रीय बजट पर कम निर्भर होंगे। बिल को संसद की अगली बैठक में पेश किया जाएगा।

मंत्रीमण्डल राजी हुआ है कि फीजी में औषधीय गाँजा के उभरते बाज़ार के लिए एक अध्ययन किया जाए।

एक टास्कफोर्स जिसके सभापति उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा व्यवसाय मंत्री रहेंगे इस अध्ययन पर निगरानी रखेगा।

औषधीय गाँजा को गाँजा के उपयोग के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है जिसमें कई पदार्थ शामिल हैं जो मुख्य रूप से डाक्टरों द्वारा निर्धारित कई बीमारियों और स्थितियों के इलाज, या लक्षण कम करने के लिए उपयोग किए जाते हैं।

वर्तमान में, फीजी में औषधीय गाँजा की खेती और उत्पादन के लिए कोई विशेष कानून नहीं है।

अध्ययन के परिणाम के कानून में कोई भी संशोधन सोलिसिटर जनरल के दफ्तर के परामर्श से होगा जिसके बाद फैसले के लिए उसे मंत्रीमण्डल के समक्ष फिर लाया जाएगा। औषधीय गाँजा के सीमित सुविधा के निर्माण के लिए अब तक दो विदेशी कम्पनियों ने रूची दिखाई है।

चौथे A350 एयरबस का स्वागत हुआ

रोनल देव

फीजी एयरवेज ने गर्व के साथ अपने चौथे A350 एयरबस का स्वागत किया है।

इस विमान का नाम 'आएलेन्ड ओफ वातुलेले' रखा गया है जो कि आधुनिक और तकनीकी रूप से एक उन्नत हवाई जहाज है।

एयरलाइन में आएलेन्ड ओफ वातुलेले पहला विमान है जो टिकाउ विमान का फ्यूल उपयोग करता है जिससे अस्सी प्रतिशत तक कार्बन फुटप्रिन्ट कम होता है। हाल में इस विमान ने नान्दी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे तक अपनी पहली उड़ान भरी जो कि पारंपरिक जेट फ्यूल तथा एस ए एफ

के मिश्रण से संचालित हुआ। फीजी एयरवेज के मेनेजिंग डायरेक्टर तथा चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव अफसर एन्ड्रे विलियन का कहना है कि एस ए एफ जेट फ्यूल की तरह ही है लेकिन उसमें कार्बन फुटप्रिन्ट कम है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह विमान व्यवसाय में एक प्रमुख मोड़ है जो कार्बन फुटप्रिन्ट को कम करने और वातावरण पर इसके प्रभाव को कम करने के लिए फीजी एयरवेज के समर्पण को दर्शाता है।

‘एक छोटे विकासशील देश के राष्ट्रीय वाहक के रूप में हम



फीजी एयरवेज के मेनेजिंग डायरेक्टर तथा चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव अफसर एन्ड्रे विलियन कुछ महिलाओं के साथ नए एयरबस का स्वागत करते हुए चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव से निपटने के लिए तत्काल कार्यवाही की आवश्यकता के बारे में गहराई से जानते हैं। एस ए एफ के उपयोग से फीजी एयरवेज तथा सभी हवाई कम्पनियाँ मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव के खिलाफ लड़ाई में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दे सकती हैं। एस ए एफ से जबकि वातावरण को कम नुकसान होता है तो ऐसे में विलियन ने कहा कि इसकी सप्लाई

बहुत कम है तथा महँगी भी है। एस ए एफ की माँगे दुनिया भर के एयरलाइन व्यवसाय में काफी बढ़ गई है जिसके फलस्वरूप इसका दाम जेट फ्यूल के मिलान में आठ से दस गुना ज़्यादा है। इसलिए हम उम्मीद कर रहे हैं कि इसकी सप्लाई में वृद्धि होगी जिससे इसका दाम नीचे जा सके।



ग्रामीण और बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास मंत्री माननीय सकियासी दितोका बतीकी द्वीप पर पानी वाली एक योजना का विमोचन करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

बतीकी द्वीप पर पानी की व्यवस्था

शीलता सिंह

ग्रामीण और बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास और विपत्ति मैनेजमेंट मंत्री मननीय सकियासी दितोका ने बतीकी द्वीप पर हाल में दो नई योजनाओं का उद्घाटन किया। पहली योजना साफ पानी लोगों तक पहुँचाने और रखने पर लागू होता है जो सभी लोगों का अधिकार है।

दूसरी योजना यावु कोरो में पुल बनाने वाली है, ताकि खराब मौसम में लोगो को नदी पार करते समय तकलीफो का समना ना करना पड़े।

अन्य बातों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि इन दो योजनाओं से न केवल लोगों को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा बल्कि लोगों के जीवन

जीने वाले तरीको को भी आसान बनाएगा। इन दो योजनाओं की सफलता के लिए ना केवल सरकार बल्कि लोगों के सहयोग की बहुत ज़रूरत है।

यह सिर्फ पहला कदम है जो आने वाले विकास में मदद करेगा।

कोरोवासियों से अपनी खुशी ज़ाहिर करते हुए मंत्री ने कहा कि बदलाव आ रहे हैं और नई सरकार द्वारा यह बदलाव लाया गया है। इसी बात पर प्रकाश डालते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि प्रतिबद्धता और सहयोग से फीजी में विकास कि शुरुवात होगी।



हाउसिंग तथा लोकल गवमन्ट मंत्री मादिउ नलुमिसा, लम्बासा के एक व्यापारी पोल जादुराम के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

लम्बासा शहर में नए इलेक्ट्रिक पार्किंग मीटर

शीलता सिंह

लम्बासा शहर के निवासी तथा व्यापारियों को अब चार नए पार्किंग मीटर से लाभ होगा, जिससे अब उन्हें गाड़ियाँ पार्क करने में आसानी होगी। हाउसिंग और लोकल गवमन्ट मंत्री माननीय मदियु नलुमिसा ने इन पार्किंग मीटरों का उद्घाटन करते हुए कहा कि लम्बासा शहर में विकास के अवसर बढ़ रहे हैं।

“आज लम्बासा के लोगो के लिए बहुत ही गर्व की बात है जबकि लम्बासा में चार नए इलेक्ट्रिक मीटर का उद्घाटन हुआ जिस का मुल्य करीबन \$54,448.13 हजार है।” माननीय नलुमिसा ने अभी हाल ही में लम्बासा शहर में लगी आग से नष्ट हुई सात दुकानों पर भी अपनी चिन्ता जताई।

साउदी अरब के टूरिज़्म मंत्री ने फीजी का दौरा किया



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री प्रोफेसर बिमान प्रसाद ने हाल में साउदी अरेबिया के टूरिज़्म मंत्री महामहीम अहमद अखील अल खतीब से मुलाकात की। उनका स्वागत करते हुए मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि

गठबंधन सरकार, प्रजातंत्र, कानून के शासन, समाचार माध्यम की स्वतंत्रता, मानवाधिकार और सामाजिक न्याय के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि फीजी क्षैतिज एकता के भी प्रबल समर्थक है क्योंकि हम क्षेत्र में नई चुनौतियों जैसे कि मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव, प्रमुख बाज़ारों से दूरी, आर्थिक

आधार की हमारी चुनौतियों के समाधान के लिए एकजुट प्रशान्त क्षेत्र की ज़रूरत है। महामहीम अहमद के पास पूंजी और आर्थिक सेवाओं में पचीस सालों का अनुभव है जिसके दौरान उन्होंने कई सरकारी एजेंसियों तथा कम्पनियों की स्थापना की।

मुर्गी पालन योजना से युवकों को लाभ



सरकार युवकों के लिए एक सक्षम वातावरण बनाने, उन्हें सफल होने के लिए ज़रूरी कौशल, ज्ञान और संसाधनों की व्यवस्था करने में दृढ़ता से विश्वास करती है। अभी हाल में जापानी सरकार द्वारा नम-बोरो स्थित वटोको सेटलमन्ट में होली स्पीचवल कारिगईशन यूथ क्लब पैतैस हजार डोलर लागत मुर्गीपान में सहायता देने वाली एक योजना में युवा तथा खेलकूद मंत्रालय के पर्मानेंट सेक्रेटरी रोबेरेतो नयादालेवू ने ऐसा कहा।

मंत्री प्रसाद ने देश में धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता का आशवासन दिया



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री प्रोफेसर बिमान प्रसाद का कहना है कि गठबंधन सरकार हमेशा धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार और व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार को कायम रखेगी। अभी हाल में हवल रोड सूबा स्थित श्री राज महा मरियामन मंदिर पर सत्तानवें 97th वार्षिक आग पर चलने वाली पूजा के दौरान बोलते हुए मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि यह मंदिर गिरमिटिया मजदूरों के जीवन का एक प्रमाण है जो फीजी आए थे और अपने साथ धार्मिक प्रथाएं लेकर आए थे। यहीं एक वजह थी कि क्यों सरकार ने इस साल गिरमिट दिवस के लिए सार्वजनिक छुट्टी की घोषणा की। उन्होंने कहा कि जब भी वो इस मंदिर में जाते हैं, वो हमेशा सेवा करने, ज्ञान प्राप्त करने और मानवता के नियमों का पालन करने की शक्ति पाने के लिए परमात्मा से आशीर्वाद मांगते हैं। तीन हज़ार से ज़्यादा भक्तों ने आग पर चलने वाली पूजा देखी।

बुजुर्गों के बहुमूल्य योगदान की सराहना की गई



सहायक विमन, चिल्ड्रन तथा सौशल प्रोटेक्शन मंत्री माननीय शशि किरण को हाल में फीजी पेंशनस असोसिएशन की सालाना आम सभा में आमंत्रित किया गया। यह सभा फीजी फुटबॉल असोसिएशन के हेडक्वार्टर्स सूबा में हुई थी। अपने भाषण में सहायक मंत्री किरण ने राष्ट्र निर्माण में बुजुर्गों के अमूल्य योगदान की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि यह उचित है कि हम एक राष्ट्र के रूप में इसकी पहचान करें, स्वीकार करें कि वर्षों से उनके ज्ञान और कार्यों ने आज हमारे जीवन पर सकारात्मक प्रभाव डाला है। सहायक

मंत्री ने व्यापारिक समाज, ट्रान्सपोर्ट क्षेत्र, आर्थिक संस्थाओं तथा सेवा प्रदान करने वालों से मांग की कि वे न केवल पेंशनस बल्कि हमारे बुजुर्ग आबादी के लिए सुधार करें। उन्होंने कहा कि सभी सार्वजनिक गाड़ियों में बैठने के लिए सिड़ियों नीचे करने की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। बेन्कों और अस्पतालों की सुविधाओं में बुजुर्गों की सेवा को प्राथमिकता देने के लिए बैठने की जगह होनी चाहिए ताकि उन्हें लम्बी कतारों में इंतज़ार न करना पड़े।



Ministry of
Trade, Co-operatives,
Small and
Medium Enterprises
and
Communications

PRESS RELEASE

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

एन्टरप्राइस के विकास कार्यक्रम पर रूची दिखाने वालों से अर्जियाँ स्वीकार की जा रही हैं

ट्रैड, कोऑपरेटिव्स तथा छोटे और मध्य वर्ग के व्यापार और कोम्युनिकेशन मंत्रालय को 2022/2023 राष्ट्रीय बजट में पिछले साल छोटे, माएको तथा मध्य वर्ग के व्यापारों की सहायता वाले कार्यक्रम ('MSMEs') के लिए 1.4 मिलियन डोलर दिया गया था जिसने इन उद्देश्यों का समर्थन किया:

- युवा व्यावसायियों की भावना को बढ़ाया;
- निर्यात होड़बाजी को बढ़ाया;
- हमारे कौशल आधारित व्यवसायों के नए विचार को बढ़ाया
- पर्यावरण-टूरिज़म और कृषि व्यवसाय के क्षेत्र में समाज के अन्दर रोजगार के अवसर और आर्थिक फुर्ती में वृद्धि की ; और
- उत्तरी विभाग में आर्थिक उन्नति को बढ़ावा दिया।

ये कार्यक्रम पूरे सप्लाई चैन पर सकारात्मक प्रभाव के रास्ते खोलते हैं।

फीजी सरकार कार्यक्रमों के प्रभाव और हमारे एम एस एम ई को समर्थन और पोषण देने की उनकी क्षमता को पहचानती है। परिणामस्वरूप, मंत्रालय भाग्यशाली रहा कि उन्हें 2023/2024 राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा के दौरान बजट बढ़ाकर 2.6 मिलियन डोलर दिया गया। इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए मंत्रालय को नीचे लिखे कार्यक्रमों के लिए रूची दिखाने वालों से अर्जी स्वीकार करने की घोषणा करते हुए खुशी हो रही है: इन कार्यक्रमों में शामिल है:

(1) इंटरग्रेटेड ह्यूमन रिसोर्स डिवेलोपमन्ट प्रोग्राम ('IHRDP')

(2) नेशनल एक्सपोर्ट स्ट्रैटेजी

(3) नोर्डन डिवेलोपमन्ट प्रोग्राम

(4) ट्रैड एंहांसमन्ट प्रोग्राम ('TEP')

फीजी सरकार आर्थिक विकास और नए विचार को बढ़ावा देने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करती है, ये कार्यक्रम फीजी के व्यापार को मजबूत करने के लिए तैयार है।

भविष्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए, मंत्रालय ने नई और संयुक्त फीजी के लक्ष्य के साथ अपनी नीतियों की समीक्षा की है जो नए युग की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को अपनाती है और विकास लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने की दिशा में काम करती है।

इसके अलावा मंत्रालय ने इंटरग्रेटेड ह्यूमन रिसोर्स डिवेलोपमन्ट प्रोग्राम ('IHRDP') का ग्रांट एक लाख \$100,000 से बढ़ाकर एक लाख पचास हजार डोलर \$150,000 कर दिया है और **ट्रैड एंहांसमन्ट प्रोग्राम ('TEP')** का ग्रांट पाँच सौ डोलर से बढ़ाकर एक हजार डोलर कर दिया है। सहायता की सीमा में वृद्धि से मंत्रालय व्यापार-कौशल आधारित सूक्ष्म व्यवसायों की उत्पादकता को बढ़ाने और शहर के दायरे, ग्रामीण और समुद्री क्षेत्रों के विकास को आगे बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से उचित सहायता देने में सक्षम होगा। रोजगार के अवसरों को रणनीतिक रूप से बढ़ावा देकर, कार्यक्रम एक प्रभावशाली प्रथा उत्पन्न करते हैं जो आर्थिक गतिविधियों में वृद्धि, आर्थिक बढ़ावा देने और स्थायी सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देता है।

छोटे, मध्य और सूक्ष्म व्यापारियों के लिए आमदनी कमाने वाले कार्यक्रमों पर पहली बार आयोजित एक कार्यशाला में उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा व्यवसाय और कोऑपरेटिव मंत्री माननीय मानोआ कमिकमिदा ने प्रकाश डाला कि ग्रांट वाले ये कार्यक्रम केवल एक आर्थिक सहायता प्रणाली नहीं हैं, बल्कि यह फीजी की आर्थिक वृद्धि और विकास के मार्ग के एक प्रमुख तत्व को सशक्त बनाने तथा मजबूत करने के एक शक्तिशाली आश्वासन का प्रतीक है। मंत्रालय ने रूची दिखाने वाले सभी लोग जो छोटे, मध्य और सूक्ष्म व्यापार चलाते हैं, जिनमें कोऑपरेटिव्स वाले व्यापार भी शामिल हैं से माँग की गई है कि वे आगे बढ़ें और इस सुनहरे अवसर से लाभ उठाएं। अर्जी लगाने की आखिरी तारीख इस साल **छः अक्टूबर** है।

और जानकारी तथा अर्जी लगाने के लिए हमारे वेबसाइट www.mcttt.gov.fj पर जाएं या एम एस एम ई फीजी हेल्पलाइन 9986 014 पर हमें कोल या वायवर करें।

मंत्री दितोका का न्गाउ द्वीप का दौरा



बाहरी द्वीपों, ग्रामीण विकास तथा प्राकृतिक विपत्ति मंत्री माननीय सकियासी दितोका ने हाल में न्गाउ द्वीप के दौर पर निवासियों से मुलाकात की। चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

ग्रामीण और बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास तथा विपत्ति मैनेजमेंट मंत्री मननीय सकियासी दितोका ने अपने औपचारिक दौर कि शुरूवात न्गाउ द्वीप से की है। उनका मुख्य उद्देश्य था लोगों को ग्रामीण समाज में होने वाले विकास और विपत्ति के लिए तैयार करना।

गारानी कोरो में सेवुसेवु उत्सव के दौरान मननीय दितोका ने विकास का आश्वासन दिया।

विलम्ब के बावजूद, उन का लक्ष विकास अटल है।

वे खुद ही संसाधनों को देखने के लिए न्गाउ द्वीप, नईराई, और बातीकी जैसे इलाकों के दौर पर निकले।

“विकास की शुरूवात ज़मीनी स्तर पर बातचीत से होती है” मंत्री ने कहा। उनका यह भी मानना है कि हर आवाज़ महत्व रखता है और

यह अच्छे भविष्य की ओर एक कदम है, छोटे-छोटे कदमों से ही एक नए सफर की शुरूआत होगी।

प्रतिबद्धता एक आधारशिला है; जिसे हम सब मिल कर एक नया भविष्य दे सकते हैं। माननीय दितोका ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि अच्छी योजना हो तो हम ज़रूर सफल होंगे।

विपत्ति पर बात करते हुए मननीय दितोका ने कहा कि हमें कोरो के विकास, विपत्ति मैनेजमेंट योजनाओं तथा सुरक्षा के उपर गौर करना चाहिए।

इन्हीं बातों पर ज़ोर देते हुए, उन्होंने नई योजनाओं पर बातें की जैसे रूरल व्यवस्था और खेती करने के लिए नई मशीनों का आयोजन।

बी एस पी लाइफ का एक बिलियन निवेश पोर्टफोलियो का उत्सव



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका कुछ युवकों के साथ चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

बी एस पी लाइफ इंश्योरन्स ने अपने एक बिलियन मूल्य की पूंजी पोर्टफोलियो की शुरूवात बहुत सारी योजनाएं बनाने तथा जोखिम उठाने के बाद की जिससे सफलता की उम्मीद की जा रही है।

इस मौके पर भाषण देते हुए प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने बी एस पी लाइफ को बधाई देते हुए कहा कि इस सफलता को पाकर उन्होंने एक नई और मजबूत प्राइवट सेक्टर के द्वारा हमारे फीजी देश को नया भविष्य दिया है।

“बी एस पी लाइफ के एक बिलियन निवेश पोर्टफोलियो एक ऐसी प्रतिबद्धता है जिससे आने वाले समय में हमारे देश में समृद्धि का विकास होगा।” माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने कहा।

माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने यह भी कहा कि पीपल्स कोआलिशन सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता से व्यापारिक वातावरण में पूंजी और अर्थ-व्यवस्था में विकास होगा।

“आपकी सरकार, आपके वातावरण जहाँ जनता और प्राइवट सेक्टर साथ मिल कर

आगे बढ़ सकते हैं, एक दूसरे की ताकत मिलाकर हम अपने देश में विकास ला सकते हैं” माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने कहा।

“ मैं प्राइवट सेक्टर से सख्त सहयोग और मजबूत समर्थन की माँग करता हूँ जो हमारी बड़ी-बड़ी संस्थाएं जैसे कि बी एस पी लाइफ, फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड, फीजियन होल्डिंग्स, ई-तउकेई ट्रस्ट फंड और यूनिट ट्रस्ट ऑफ फीजी ताकि फीजी में विकास हो सके।

माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका और उनके स्वर्गीय पिताजी इंश्योरन्स कंपनी के इतिहास और कोलोनिअल म्युचुअल लाइफ आशुरन्स सोसाइटी ऑफ ओस्ट्रेलिया द्वारा उन्हें इंश्योरन्स प्रदान किया गया था। यह पहली कोलोनिअल कंपनी है जिस की शुरूवात हुई और अपने बढ़ती सफलता के कारण आज यह बी एस पी लाइफ के नाम से जाना जाता है। 1876 से बी एस पी लाइफ अपने लगभग दस लाख से भी ज़्यादा ग्राहकों को जीवन और स्वास्थ्य इंश्योरेंस की सेवा प्रदान करते आ रहा है।

उँचे पद सम्भालने वालों से ज़िम्मेदार बनने की माँग



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा टूरिज़्म और सिविल एविएशन मंत्री माननीय विलियामे गवोका एक समारोह में भाग लेते हुए चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

नेतागिरी और अगुवाई करने की ज़िम्मेदारी जो जनता की सेवा के लिए मिली है उसका हमें हमेशा पालन, ईमानदारी और सही से उपयोग करना चाहिए। यह पद आपको जनता की सेवा करने के लिए मिली है ना कि सिर्फ लोगों को दिखाने के लिए। उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा टूरिज़्म और सिविल एविएशन मंत्री माननीय विलियामे गवोका ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला जब वो 2023 मेलानेशियन सब-रिजनल टोक-तालानोआ स्वागत सामारोह में मुख्य मेहमान के तौर पर बोल रहे थे। यह समारोह होलिडे इन्न सूवा में आयोजित किया गया था। “आज, हम मेलानेशियन सब

रिजनल टो-तालानोआ जो मेलानेशियन नेताओं के लिए आयोजित किया गया है ताकि हमें मौका मिले और हम जीयोपोलीटीक्स और जलवायु की सुरक्षा पर बातें करें और आने वाले सालाना सम्मेलन में अपना विचार दे सकें”। माननीय मंत्री ने कहा।

“ मैं बहुत खुश हूँ कि हम सब मिल कर काम कर रहे हैं और सही कदम अपने प्रशान्तीय देशों की ओर बढ़ाएँ”। माननीय गवोका ने इस बात पर भी प्रकाश डाला कि अभी चल रहे द्वीपक्षीय और बहुपक्षीय बातचीत पर पहल ज़रूरी है ताकि प्रशान्त और उसके क्षेत्र में सुधार आ सके।

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका हाल में दकाउन्ड्रोवे स्थित नवातू सेकन्ड्री स्कूल के विद्यार्थियों से मुलाकात करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शिक्षा सरकार की प्राथमिकता

रोनल देव

हमारे बच्चों के लिए योग्य शिक्षा प्रदान करना हमारी पीपल्स कोआलिशन सरकार की प्राथमिकता है।

अभी हाल में दकाउन्ड्रोवे स्थित नवातू सेकन्ड्री स्कूल बाज़ार के उद्घाटन पर बोलते हुए प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने ऐसा कहा।

उन्होंने साथ मिलकर काम करने के महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि सभी विद्यार्थियों के पास वो शिक्षा तथा हुनर हो जो उन्हें जीवन में सफल बनाने में मदद कर सकें।

उन्होंने स्कूल के विद्यार्थियों के माता-पिताओं, अध्यापकों, भूतपूर्व विद्यार्थियों तथा शुभचिन्तकों को बताया कि नवातू के वर्तमान विद्यार्थियों को सहारा देना बेहद ज़रूरी है क्योंकि वे भविष्य में देश के नेता होंगे। प्रधान मंत्री ने वहाँ के आदिवासियों तथा समाज द्वारा चार सौ विद्यार्थियों को

सहयोग देने के लिए उन्हें धन्यवाद दिया ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि ये विद्यार्थी मज़े से स्कूल जाएं हालांकि वे कई संसाधनों से वंचित हैं। उनके अनुसार सरकार जबकि शिक्षा के क्षेत्र को अपना पूरा समर्थन दे

रही है तो ऐसे में यह ज़रूरी है कि जीवन में सफल होने के लिए यह विद्यार्थी नैतिकता तथा मूल्यों से परिपूर्ण हो और वे मन लगाकर पढ़ाई करें। दो दिनों के बाज़ार से स्कूल के लिए दो

नए क्लास रूम तथा टीचर्स कोटस बनाने की उम्मीद की जा रही है। इस दौरान प्रधान मंत्री ने अपने दफ्तर की ओर से स्कूल को ज़मीन खरीदने करने में सहायता करने के लिए उन्तीस हज़ार (\$29,000) डोलर प्रदान किया।

