

Fiji aims to further enhance its port capabilities



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Environmental security is the key to sustainable future



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Fiji a major component of IPEF: DPM Kamikamica



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Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, and his wife Mrs Suluweti during the visit to the Yunnan Province as part of the 10 day visit to the People's Republic of China. Photo: SUPPLIED

PM Rabuka commends China's progress

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has applauded China for its poverty alleviation strategies, highlighting that Fiji has much to learn from the People's Republic of China's success in improving the lives of millions of people. PM Rabuka began his 10-day visit to the Asian nation with a tour of Ping'anpo and Nanyou villages in Malipo County, Yunnan Province where he observed firsthand transformative and innovative solutions being implemented to improve local livelihoods. He said Fiji stands to benefit from China's technological innovation and sustainable practices to improve livelihoods, ensure food security, productivity, and economic diversification. By adopting these practices, Fiji could accelerate its own efforts to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable rural development. "Fiji is also committed to reducing poverty, and China's approach to rural development and poverty eradication in Malipo County in Yunnan Province

serves as an inspiring model," PM Rabuka said. "These strategies were introduced in Malipo county in 1992 when I started my first term as Prime Minister of Fiji. Now that I am back in office, it's indeed an eye opener, in the sense that we thought we were doing our poverty alleviation as well as regional, rural and outer island development programs. But when you look at the scale of improvements in Malipo in the same period, it's really amazing. "We have a lot to learn, and I have been making a lot of notes since I arrived on how we might be able to turn what people think are "little things" in the villages into "big things" in the provinces and the nation." In this regard, Prime Minister Rabuka congratulated President Xi Jinping for his vision in improving the livelihoods of fellow citizens in poverty-stricken areas. "I also congratulate Chinese leaders of the past for their concerted efforts and vision to alleviate poverty and raise the standard of living for those people in

disadvantaged areas including where minority ethnic groups live," he concluded. The Prime Minister and his delegation were later hosted to a dinner by the Vice Governor of Yunnan Province, Mr Wang Hao at Wenshan City. Mr Wang expressed the province of Yunnan's appreciation to the Prime Minister, adding that they look forward to future collaboration in areas of mutual interest. In Nanyou Village, the villagers are actively involved in the development of rural tourism, aquaculture, entertainment and leisure agriculture and traditional embroidery products among other income-generating activities for improved livelihoods. The Prime Minister's visit to Malipo County marks the first ever visit by a Pacific leader to the county.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

PM Rabuka urges students to pursue quality education



Students of the Fiji National University College of Nursing presenting mats to the Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, during the traditional ceremony of welcome last week.
Photo: SUPPLIED

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has encouraged students at the Fiji National University to arm themselves with quality education to navigate societal changes and achieve success in life.

During his visit to the FNU Nasinu Campus last week, PM Rabuka emphasised the importance of education in shaping the future of the younger generation.

“You are in an institution of learning, you are being taught by people who have gone through this process. Change is natural. There is always a path to recovery; do not give up, keep going and graduate,” PM Rabuka told the students.

“Keep going, you can do it, the sky is not the limit for you but heaven is.”

The PM was honoured with a full traditional ceremony of welcome by the university staff followed by a presentation led by the Vice Chancellor Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba.

In conveying the university’s appreciation, Professor Baba reaffirmed the FNU’s commitment to advancing higher education in Fiji.

“We promise that FNU will move with you and carve a future in the Fijian Government’s vision. At FNU, we will focus on the Fiji Government’s National Development Plan,” Prof. Baba conveyed to the Prime Minister.

“FNU understands the horizon the government is taking, and it will take the same horizon.”

DPM Kamikamica outlines economic progress at Rotary Club gathering



Members of the Rotary Club engage in conversation with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica
Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN

By JAMIL SULEMAN

“AT a multilateral level, Fiji is not a passive player. We are leading the charge on disciplining harmful subsidies that are depleting our oceans (US\$20 billion or approximately FJ\$45.3b worth).”

In highlighting the advancements in Fiji’s economic landscape, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, emphasised the Government’s commitment to enhancing trade relations and expanding market access through bilateral and multilateral agreements.

DPM Kamikamica highlighted that these transformational initiatives are pivotal to the economic and social development of Fiji.

He made these remarks while speaking to members of the Rotary Club of Suva at the Grand Pacific Hotel recently during the Club’s Talanoa Session.

DPM Kamikamica underlined Fiji’s unprecedented participation in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), which collectively influences 40 per cent of global gross domestic product.

In discussing agricultural diversification, he

noted recent investments from companies like Fiji Water and Aitken Spence in commercial agriculture.

“With the Kava Industry poised to become a billion-dollar sector, we must pursue the Kava Bill to establish quality standards and boost exports,” DPM Kamikamica asserted.

He noted that the Government has invested nearly \$120 million in supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which represent approximately 82 per cent of registered businesses in Fiji.

“Our MSME development initiatives have empowered entrepreneurs and spurred innovation.”

DPM Kamikamica also announced the launch of the “businessNOW Fiji” initiative, which would streamline business processes by integrating services from 16 agencies into one platform.

“This initiative will present investors with a digital streamlined platform for starting businesses and obtaining construction permits,” he explained.

DPM Kamikamica applauded the continued support of stakeholders like the Rotary Club of Suva and the collective efforts of businesses and communities in helping the country overcome challenges and seizing new opportunities.

Extension of PALM and RSE Client Registration Temporary Suspension

The National Employment Centre of the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations wishes to advise members of the public of the extension of the temporary suspension of client registrations under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme and the New Zealand Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Work Scheme till 31st December 2024.

The temporary suspension of registration will be for another five months, continuing from 1st August 2024.

This decision was made following the National Employment Centre (NEC) Board’s deliberations based on a thorough review and recommendation due to the significant influx of clients already registered for both PALM and RSE schemes. This called for an ongoing temporary halt of new registrations to ensure that all current applicants are processed and managed.

Similarly, the Ministry is continuing with its data cleansing exercise to verify and update the

records of the current thousands of registered applicants. This process is crucial to maintain accurate and up-to-date information for all registered workers.

Furthermore, the Ministry’s ongoing effort continues to update worker details who have already been mobilized under the PALM and RSE schemes. This includes ensuring that all records reflect the status and location of these workers.

The Ministry remains committed to supporting Fijian workers and ensuring that the PALM and RSE schemes operate smoothly and effectively, and we sincerely appreciate the understanding and cooperation of all stakeholders and members of the public during this period.

For more information, please contact the Ministry of Employment, Productivity, and Industrial Relations via phone at 3303 500.

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



Ministry of Employment,
Productivity & Industrial Relations

EXTENSION OF PALM AND RSE CLIENT REGISTRATION TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

Fiji aims to further enhance its port capabilities



The Fiji delegation led by Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, were briefed on the automated container handling at the Xiamen Port. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

IN line with the vision to make Fiji the hub of the Pacific by enhancing Fiji’s ports efficiency and capacity, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka visited the Xiamen International Shipping Science Innovation Centre and Silk Road Maritime Management Centre in Xiamen, Fujian Province this week.

The facilities oversee the Xiamen port which is one of China’s key coastal ports and rated in the top 20 best and most efficient ports in the world, serving as a crucial hub in the national transportation system, a major digitalised container port, a cruise home port and an important port for exchange across the Taiwan Strait.

Upon arriving at the facilities, PM Rabuka and his delegation received a detailed overview of the daily operations at Xiamen Port.

In receiving the Fiji delegation, Xia Changwer, the Director General of Xiamen Port Authority, said that the port comprised several terminals, including container terminals, bulk cargo terminals, and specialized facilities for oil and gas.

The port’s infrastructure showcases Xiamen’s technological advancement with modern container handling equipment and efficient customs procedures, enabling quick turnaround times.

The port of Xiamen Port plays a key role in China’s Belt and Road Initiative which was connected to major international shipping routes and free trade zones, which promotes foreign investment and businesses.

Mr Changwer shared that Xiamen was open to expanding its cooperation with Fiji, particularly in the cruise liner industry and other areas of mutual interest.

PM Rabuka was impressed with the state-of-the-art port, expressing Fiji’s interest to learning from Xiamen to further boost the nation’s maritime trade and regional and international logistics.

The Fiji Government continues to invest in infrastructure to enhance port services, including container handling and storage, customs processing, and support for the maritime sectors.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

PM Rabuka discusses future collaboration with Governor of Yunnan Province



Fiji delegation led by Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, during the meeting with the Governor of the Yunnan Province, Wang Yubo. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

PRIME Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, met with the Governor of the Yunnan Province, Wang Yubo in Wenshan, the Provincial seat of Government.

PM Rabuka and Governor Yubo explored opportunities for cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Fiji’s Head of Government, currently on an official visit to China, conveyed his gratitude to the People’s Government of Yunnan Province for the warm hospitality accorded to him and the Fiji delegation upon their arrival early this week.

In reflecting on the province’s progress over the years, the PM Rabuka remarked that Yunnan Province has set a benchmark for resilience and hard work in its efforts to grow the economy and raise the standard of living for local communities.

He highlighted that Fiji could learn a lot from Yunnan in terms of innovative agricultural practices, sustainable development, infrastructure development and tourism development, amongst other important aspects.

As one of China’s fastest-developing provinces with rich natural resources and the largest diversity of plant life in the country, PM Rabuka stated that Yunnan has much to offer Fiji through development cooperation.

For this, he expressed interest in cooperation in the education sector and other areas of common interest.

The PM further highlighted the importance of advancing discussions on people to people links, socioeconomic opportunities and political ties, among others.

Inspired by the five valued principles espoused by the Government of the Peoples Republic of China, PM Rabuka expressed his agreement with the five valued principles;

- (i) the need for mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity,
- (ii) mutual non-aggression,
- (iii) non- interference in each other’s internal affairs,
- (iv) equality and mutual benefit, and
- (v) peaceful coexistence.

In response, Governor Wang Yubo thanked the Prime Minister for the opportunity to meet, at the same time, reaffirming their support towards Fiji’s development endeavors.

Governor Yubo informed PM Rabuka that Yunnan stands ready to enhance cooperation in trade and investment, people to people exchanges, poverty alleviation programs, and anti-narcotics strategy and higher education.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

PM Rabuka visits renowned EV battery producer in Fujian Province

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka this week visited the Contemporary Amperex Technology (CATL) Ltd in Ningde City, Fujian Province.

CATL is a global leader in the development and production of lithium-ion batteries, particularly for electric vehicles (EVs) and energy storage systems.

Established in 2011, CATL Ltd is well known for its new innovative technologies, committed to providing premier solutions and services for new energy applications worldwide.

One of every three electric vehicles is powered by a battery produced in a CATL factory.

PM Rabuka and the Fiji delegation were given a tour of the company headquarters followed by a briefing on its operations.

The company is one of the largest lithium battery manufacturers in the world and supplies batteries to major automakers such as Tesla, BMW, Volkswagen, and many others.

PM Rabuka was informed that the company’s role in the global transition toward electric powered vehicles and vessels has made it a key player in the clean energy industry.



A staff makes a presentation to Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, at Contemporary Amperex Technology (CATL) Ltd in Ningde City, Fujian Province. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

In witnessing the company’s operations and its commitment to clean energy and sustainable development, the Prime Minister praised the company for its commitment to sustainability and innovation, pushing forward the agenda of achieving carbon neutrality in its core operations by 2025 and across their battery value chain by 2035.

Fiji is committed to its existing Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets and achieving net zero by 2050 and 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

President calls for urgent action on kidney disease

By DIPESH KUMAR

CHRONIC kidney disease ranks as the fourth leading cause of death in Fiji.

This was highlighted by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, as he has called upon the citizens of Fiji to make better lifestyle choices in order to reduce kidney diseases after witnessing a troubling increase in the prevalence of chronic kidney diseases.

Speaking at the 2024 Nephrology Society of Fiji Symposium, President Katonivere highlighted that kidney disease was a silent epidemic that impacts millions around the globe leading to tremendous human suffering and an overwhelming economic strain on families and healthcare systems alike.

“These remarkable organs are not just vital filters, they are our body’s unsung heroes, tirelessly working behind the scenes.”

“The sobering truth is that despite having that extra kidney, we continue to struggle due to poor lifestyle choices, rampant diabetes, and hypertension, among other factors. Here in Fiji, we are witnessing a troubling increase in the prevalence of chronic kidney disease, reflecting a global crisis that calls for urgent action.”

Acknowledging the health professionals for their dedication, President Katonivere stressed that the Nephrology Symposium held for the first time in Fiji will help identify and eradicate kidney diseases both in Fiji and the Pacific.

“Your presence here is a powerful reminder of our shared commitment to tackling the pressing challenges of kidney health in our nation and around the world.”

“It is also encouraging to note that the ISN SYL Workshop is being held for the first time in the Pacific region, specifically in Fiji, with attending physicians, paediatricians, and

nurses from Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands.”

President Katonivere said it was imperative to fortify national health programs and guidelines to ensure comprehensive and inclusive kidney health coverage.

“In Fiji, the incidence rate of end-stage kidney disease stands at 753 per million people, with a staggering 65.4 percent of these cases linked to diabetes. The financial and emotional burden on patients and their families is enormous as they navigate the complexities of managing this chronic illness.”

“In addressing chronic kidney disease, we must embrace primary prevention, early detection, and comprehensive management. Screening initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and accessible healthcare services are indispensable in combating this growing health crisis.”

He shared that the introduction of hemodialysis in Fiji in 2008 has been a transformative milestone, sparking hope for those grappling with advanced kidney disease.

Financial constraints, limited resources and inadequate infrastructure, however, have been a drawback while kidney transplantation remains the ultimate goal, offering patients the chance for both improved quality of life and long-term health.

Senior Medical Officer at the Ministry of Health and the President of Nephrology Society of Fiji, Dr Yogeshni Chandra highlighted that the theme “Navigating Kidney Health in the Pacific”, challenges and reflects their commitment to addressing the unique and pressing issues that they face in the region.

Dr Chandra highlighted that society will continue to explore innovative solutions to these pressing issues that will lead to a



The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere with participants at the 2024 Nephrology Society of Fiji Symposium held recently. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

healthy future.

“The Pacific is a region of remarkable diversity and hearing but it also represents significant healthcare challenges, particularly in the field of Nephrology.”

“The burden of chronic kidney disease is steadily increasing, raising immense strain on our healthcare systems, affecting the quality of complex individuals and families.

“One in 10 patients in Fiji has chronic kidney disease, and it is the fourth leading cause of death in Fiji. Every year, more than 700 people get diagnosed with end-stage kidney disease in Fiji.”

Dr Chandra said they were working together and exploring innovative ways that can

transform kidney care in the Pacific region.

She stressed that one of the drawbacks to achieving this goal was the limited access to specialised care and resources.

“Many of our islands lack the infrastructure and medical personnel needed to provide comprehensive methodology services. As a result, early detection and intervention often fall short, leading to high rates of progression to end-stage disease.”

She emphasised that these health professionals and kidney specialists will work together with the local government to build a society where kidney health is a priority to all.

Vuvale partnership to enhance healthcare with \$14.7m investment



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, with Australian Foreign Minister, Penny Wong, during the announcement at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital recently. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

THE Government of Australia has selected Johnstaff International Development to deliver the Colonial War Memorial (CWM) Hospital’s master plan in partnership with GHD, Silver Thomas Hanley, and International SOS Australia.

Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Penny Wong, said the health sector in Fiji, much like in Australia, was filled with hardworking, highly skilled health professionals and took the opportunity to thank them for their daily contributions to Fiji’s communities.

“In Australia, we believe that healthcare is a birthright for every citizen, regardless

of their background, and the people of Fiji share this belief. When Fiji asked for our support to improve its healthcare through a master plan for this hospital, we listened, and we acted.”

“Today, we are delivering on what we have heard. We are standing in the original hospital built over 100 years ago, and I am pleased to join the Prime Minister in announcing that, following a competitive procurement process, Johnstaff International Development has been selected to deliver the CWM Hospital master plan in partnership with GHD, Silver Thomas Hanley, and International SOS Australia,” Senator Wong said.

Senator Wong added that after walking through the CWM Hospital “it is clear we cannot wait for the completion of this process to see improvements in health services”.

“We, therefore, have also committed to an urgent and detailed engineering assessment of the existing hospital buildings to ensure they can continue to serve the people of Fiji while the master plan is being developed and implemented.”

“Australia is proud to support this work and is honoured by the depth of our

partnership with Fiji. We aim to continue working with you to develop better services, and more inclusive opportunities, and promote peace and prosperity for our families, our people, and our region.”

“Our Vuvale partnership is built on a foundation of trust and respect and is a partnership of equals.”

Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, in reciprocating Senator Wong’s address extended Fiji’s heartfelt gratitude to the Australian Government for generously funding the redevelopment of the CWM Hospital.

“The hospital’s name honours the brave men from Fiji who joined the global forces to combat threats to peace during the war. As visitors enter the hospital, they are greeted by the engraved names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, prominently displayed on the wall facing the main entrance,” PM Rabuka said.

“We are deeply appreciative of your support and presence here today.”

“This partnership highlights the significant progress we are making together and will be shared worldwide to highlight the importance of our collaboration.”

The world has much to learn from Fiji: President Murmu of India

THE President of the Republic of India, Droupadi Murmu, in her historic address before Fiji's Parliament in Suva declared that the world has so much to learn from Fiji.

President Murmu remarked on the nation's "gentle Fijian way of life, the deep-rooted respect for traditions and customs, an open and multicultural environment, makes Fiji so special in an increasingly conflict-ridden world".

Borrowing the Tourism Fiji's marketing slogan, she added "no wonder, Fiji is the place where the rest of the world comes to find its happiness".

"Fiji today is recognised around the world for its growing contribution to our common efforts, focused on two major global challenges – climate change and addressing human conflicts."

"Whether it is shaping the global dialogue on climate change or voicing the concerns of the ocean-states, Fiji has been contributing immensely to the global good. India greatly values and applauds the increasingly prominent role played by Fiji around the world."

President Murmu commended Fiji's "major contributions to global

peacekeeping efforts", adding "we salute Fiji's contribution to making the world a better place to live".

In the sporting arena, while referring to India's winning the T-20 World Championship in cricket, the visiting President of India did say that her country "has a lot to learn from Fiji in rugby".

"We are very happy that one of your legendary players, Waisale Serevi is India's new national rugby coach. I do look forward to the day when our two teams will play each other!"

President Murmu also congratulated Fiji's silver medal win in 7s rugby at the Paris Olympics and acknowledged Fiji's assistance in her nation's Aditya L1 (Space) Mission last year.

She further noted that for the past 18 months alone, 15 ministerial level visits have taken place between India and Fiji, and this warm relationship was seen in Fiji's hosting of the 12th World Hindi Conference last year and high-level participation of the Indian Government in Fiji's national Girit Day celebrations.

Climate action and renewable energy also featured in President Murmu's address.

She spoke of the "One Earth, One



The President of the Republic of India, Droupadi Murmu, with the Speaker of the Fiji's Parliament, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka Government Ministers, Assistant Ministers and Members of Opposition following her address before Fiji's Parliament in Suva. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Family, One Future" theme of India's G-20 Presidency and the realisation of 40 per cent of installed electric capacity through "non-fossil fuel sources."

"As a powerful voice of the Global South, India will keep pushing the developed countries for both climate finance and

climate technology. We will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Fiji and other ocean states for climate justice," she added.

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Indian President conferred Fiji's highest civilian award



President of India, Droupadi Murmu with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad during the Indian diaspora event at Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva. **Photo: PRASHANT SINGH**

By RONAL DEO

THE President of India, Droupadi Murmu has extended her appreciation to the Fiji Government for conferring her the Companion of the Order of Fiji award.

Fiji's President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, conferred his counterpart with the highest civilian award of Fiji, during her three-day State visit to Fiji last week.

President Murmu described this honour as a symbol of the deep relationship between India and Fiji.

She made the comments while meeting the Indian diaspora and friends of India at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.

"I'm really happy to see that you have not forgotten your culture, language and your tradition even though your ancestors landed in Fiji 145-years ago."

President Murmu further added that it was a matter of pride to see positive

changes brought in by the Indian diaspora around the world.

The Indian President said that due to giving high importance to education and knowledge, Indians have consistently excelled in education and has inspired others to do the same.

"The most important thing is that it has played a role as a living bridge in the process of strengthening the friendship between our two countries."

"While the arrival of Indians has left its mark in almost every country, in Fiji, your spirit of determination, your struggle and sacrifice and then the wisdom of your success has been shown by breaking through many difficulties. Today we remember all of you and your ancestors and honour their memory."

"Keeping in mind the interests of our Indian diaspora, the Government of India has launched the 'Overseas Citizen of India' initiative to deepen ties with the Indians and address their needs. Our solution for young people from diaspora families is the 'Know India Program' to connect them with their Indian roots. I am happy that Fiji's youth have benefited from this program in large numbers."

President Murmu also extended the invitation to the diaspora to visit India and participate in the 2025 Indian Diaspora Conference.

She said as India celebrates its 78th Independence Day, it has come a long way since independence.

"As the largest and most vibrant democracy, today India has become a symbol of democracy in the world."

"We have consolidated our position as the fastest growing major economy in the world and very soon we will become the third largest economy in the world," President Murmu said.

Fiji-India cooperation to establish cardiology hospital and Indian High Commission Chancery



Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka and the President of the Republic of India, Droupadi Murmu during handing over of documents for the establishment of the 100 Bed Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital and Indian High Commission Chancery in Suva. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

A BILATERAL meeting between the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka and the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, signified a landmark achievement in the advancement of diplomatic relations and cooperation between Fiji and India.

The leaders engaged in productive discussions on various issues of mutual interest and benefit to both Fiji and India during the State visit by the Indian Head of State.

Following their meeting, President Murmu and Prime Minister Rabuka presided over a ceremony for handing over of documents for allocation of project sites for the following projects as follows:

-100 Bed Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital in Suva.

-Indian High Commission Chancery and Indian Cultural Centre Complex in Suva.

The implementation of these two projects represents a new chapter in the bilateral relations between Fiji and India.

PM Rabuka acknowledged the Government of India's timely support for these projects and reaffirmed Fiji's

commitment to further advance cooperation with the Government of India in important areas of development, including health, education and agriculture, amongst others.

He thanked President Murmu for her first State visit to Fiji to further strengthen the longstanding relations and friendly ties between the two nations.

The construction of the 100 Bed Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital project will be a significant advancement of Fiji's healthcare services through the provision of specialised medical and cardiology services that will be accessed by ordinary Fijians in particular and the Pacific region as a whole.

The second initiative was expected to bolster diplomatic ties and facilitate greater collaboration between the two nations on various regional and global issues.

The successful outcome of the bilateral meeting reflects the shared vision of both the leaders to build a resilient, stronger and more prosperous future for their countries.

The first Indian State visit by President Murmu to Fiji from 5-7 August, 2024 was a momentous occasion in the history of Fiji-India relations.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Work hard to make money: vendor

By AZARIA FAREEN

The Fiji Government's Concessional Loan Packages have assisted owners of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises with a combined loan amount of \$15.2 million.

This initiative also gave 59-year-old, Ana Kubunavanua, a chance to be a recipient of the grant scheme.

Originally from the island of Lakeba in Lau, Ms Kubunavanua has been living at Lauia in Lami since she got married and relays that she studied only up to Form Five (Year 11).

She runs her handicraft business which she operates out of stall 26 at the Suva Handicraft Centre.

"This is my bread and butter and what helps me survive with my children. I have five children and four of them are married making me a grandmother of 10," Ms Kubunavanua highlighted.

"I will be 60-years-old this year and I have been running this business for more than 15-years. I used to help my aunty who was in her 70's and the original owner and I took this business over from her when she passed away."

"Following that, I paid the stall fees and other necessary rates and slowly started to

grow the business," she added.

Ms Kubunavanua buys and sells salusalu (traditional garland), tapa, mats, magimagi's (coconut husk) and baskets while she also gets orders from Jacks of Fiji and Tappoos.

"My daughter helped me with filling out the application form as it was all done online and I don't have that knowledge but the process was easy and I was able to get the grant money early," she noted.

"My business was very slow so I applied for the grant before COVID-19 pandemic. I bought the necessary stock when I received the grant money and then COVID-19 hit the country and everything including my stall was under lockdown."

"I received \$5,000 then and business has been good so far, and since I am ageing, I feel it is better for me to just buy and sell," she added.

Ms Kubunavanua operates six days a week and makes items on special order as well such as baskets, jewellery box, tissue box, fans and purses, however, her most popular item has been the salusalu and the tissue gift box.

"I used to stay at home and worked at an upholstery factory and shoe factory before thinking of running this business and since I am a fast learner, I managed to learn the ropes of the trade quickly," she said.



59-year-old vendor, Ana Kubunavanua, shows some of her popular items sold at her stall at the Suva Handicraft Centre. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

"I love being creative and I am passionate about the work that I do with my hands such as sewing and I mostly use the sewing machine to stitch the voivoi."

"This takes a long time to do and usually people want the prices to go down but we have to think of the cost of labour and the prices of the raw materials in order to make the product, which is expensive," she explained.

Ms Kubunavanua mostly makes around \$200 profit per week which was sufficient

for her to buy for her bus fare and buy food.

"I used to travel by bus before but because of my disability I have to take a taxi. I cannot walk properly but I do not see it as a barrier," she said.

"I would like to urge those staying home, particularly females, to do business from home and instead of sitting idle try to learn craft work from other women who are part of women's club as that's how you make money."

Govt supports marine conservation initiative undertaken by Naidiri Village



Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF 24) participants take a closer look at the marine conservation and environmental sustainability efforts by the community members of Naidiri Village in Serua. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

By DIPESH KUMAR

THE Coalition Government has commended the community of Naidiri Village in Serua for their exemplary efforts in marine conservation and environmental sustainability.

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change permanent secretary, Dr Sivendra Michael, has encouraged maritime communities across the nation to adopt similar initiatives to protect and preserve their marine reserves.

Naidiri Village has successfully transformed its marine reserve into a marine biodiversity park, setting a precedent for other coastal communities.

This achievement was the result of a dedicated 20-year effort by the village, which began after noticing a significant decline in fish stocks in their area.

Dr Michael emphasised the importance of such grassroots initiatives, stating, "The community of Naidiri has set a remarkable example by taking proactive steps to address the declining levels of fish stock in their area".

"Their initiative to establish a marine biodiversity park is a testament to their commitment to environmental sustainability."

Dr Michael highlighted that the Government of Fiji has supported Naidiri Village in this initiative by providing the necessary facilities and equipment.

He added that the village received \$20,000 worth of equipment for coral planting, snorkelling, PPE for mangrove planting and support towards infrastructure.

The biodiversity park project, which started in 2022, has not only contributed to the conservation of marine biodiversity but also created a new source of income for the

villagers.

"This initiative is a case in point for how local communities can take charge of their environmental future. The biodiversity park in Naidiri has become a model for others to follow, and it has also provided valuable lessons for participants in the International Program on Environmental Security and Food Security (IPESF)," Dr Michael added.

Naidiri Village Yaubula committee leader, Manoa Dawai, highlighted that the project was of great significance to the village as it conserves their marine reserves from which they can drive income.

"Initially the project started in 2009 when me and my friends noticed a change in the sizes of fish that we used to catch. We decided that we would close an area of fishing to save the resources. The ladies in the village were not agreeing to it however when we got the approval from the Turaga ni Koro we closed it off."

"Later we decided that we would have one area closed off permanently where we will plant coral. The other area, we only open it for fishing when there is a big ceremony in the village."

"Now we have a very successful marine protected area with a magnificent coral reef and an abundance of marine biodiversity. It is open to tourists as well to come and do coral planting."

"We want to replenish fish stock in our qoliqoli, an important food source, as fish levels have recently depleted due to over-fishing and malpractice."

"Coral reefs are the most biodiverse marine environments that are rapidly being destroyed by climate change. We hope to preserve our reefs for our future generations."

Mr Dawai shared they are also educating the children and youth to conserve marine resources for a secure future.

He aims to inspire young minds to reconnect with nature.



Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF 24) participants visit Naidiri Village in Serua. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

Bus fare subsidy for students

CABINET agreed that Government fully subsidise increased bus fares effective from 1 September 2024 for all students with blue and yellow bus cards.

The Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) has completed the review of the existing bus fares and adopted a new fare calculation methodology in consultation with the Fiji Bus Operators Association.

Under the new methodology, FCCC has recommended that student fares be the same as adult fares. Currently, the regulated student fare is 50 per cent of the adult fare at every stage.

Government will continue to fully subsidise students with blue cards under the transport assistance scheme, and in addition, subsidise the 50 per cent increase in fares for the rest of the students who use yellow cards.

Minimum wage increase effective from 1st August, 2024

THE Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Agni Deo Singh wishes to remind employers and workers that the National Minimum Wage and the 10 sectoral wages have increased by 50c effective from 1st August 2024.

He highlighted that it will further increase by another 50c from 1st April 2025 for both the formal and informal sectors.

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

He added that the Ministry's Labour Standards and Compliance Team will continue to conduct inspections on the implementation of the first tranche wage increase to all workplaces in Fiji to ensure that all workers are remunerated with the right wage rate.

"Employers are required to display the written notice of the increased wage rates in their workplaces informing the workers of the increase. These notices can be obtained from the Ministry of Employment website (www.employment.gov.fj).

Failure by employers to display these Regulations warrants a \$100 penalty by Enforcement Officers of the Ministry.

In an occurrence where an employer fails to comply with the fixed penalty notice, on conviction is liable to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years or both, and for a corporate body a fine not exceeding \$50,000.

Minister Singh called on all employers and workers to contact the Ministry's Compliance team on mobile 9906406, 9906131, 9906888, 9904170 or email: customer care@employment.gov.fj for any clarification on the new minimum wage rates.

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

Transport Assistance Scheme (TAS) Reforms

Making it easier to get where you need to go!



From 1 August 2024, the new Transport Assistance Scheme (TAS) will replace the Busfare Assistance Scheme (BAS), making it easier for you to pay for the transport you need.

What does this mean for you?



If you currently receive:

- Disability Assistance Scheme (DAS)
- Social Pension Scheme (SPS) (and you are 70 years and over)

You will start to receive **\$25 cash top-ups** from 1 August 2024 with your regular payment.



If you:

- Have a disability but do not qualify for the Disability Assistance Scheme (DAS)
- Are aged 65-69 years of age and a recipient of the Busfare Assistance Scheme (BAS)
- Are aged 60-64 years old and a recipient of the Busfare Assistance Scheme (BAS)

You can continue to use your **e-transport card**, which will be topped up on the 1st of each month (not on a rolling basis) based on how much you use.



If you are aged 60-64 and not currently receiving the Busfare Assistance Scheme (BAS), you will become eligible for the Transport Assistance Scheme (TAS) when you turn 65 years old, if you are eligible for the Social Pension Scheme (SPS).



If you are receiving superannuation (such as FNPF or ex-servicemen aftercare funds), you are not eligible for the Social Pension Scheme (SPS) or the Transport Assistance Scheme (TAS). There are no changes if you **currently** use the Busfare Assistance Scheme (BAS) and receive superannuation.

For more information



Contact your nearest Social Welfare Office



www.mwcsp.gov.fj



TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE SCHEME (TAS) REFORM

MAKING IT EASIER TO GET WHERE YOU NEED TO GO

From 1 August 2024, the new Transport Assistance Scheme (TAS) will replace the Busfare Assistance Scheme (BAS).

More Information:



www.mwcsp.gov.fj



Contact your nearest Social Welfare Office

What's changing?

Eligible beneficiaries will now receive a cash top-up of \$25 per month with their regular payment, without having to set up an e-transport card.

This means you can use cash to pay for transport that meets your needs.

We're also making it easier to access assistance. If you receive the Disability Assistance Scheme (DAS) or the Social Pension Scheme (SPS), you will automatically receive the Transport Assistance Scheme (TAS) without a separate application.



Head of State opens Maritime Lifestyle Warehouse in Denarau



A Nadi-based company, committed to conducting operations with utmost integrity and fostering strong stakeholder relationships, has boldly unveiled a new business line at the Denarau Marina in Nadi.

Aqua Insula, a business established 13 years ago by Toralf Dittmann, opened the doors to its latest venture, the Maritime Lifestyle Warehouse, adding a notch of quality and excellence to its business portfolio this evening. President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere opened the warehouse, which is 100 percent solar powered and has contributed to the business's accumulated investment of \$60 million.

Photos: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA



Minister Saukuru handovers grants to youth groups in Tawake, Cakaudrove

"It is imperative to recognise that youths remain an essential demographic group in harnessing the transformative power of technologies to address global challenges."

This was the message echoed by the Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru, while addressing youths in the District of Tawake, at Tawake Village in Cakaudrove recently.

Photos: JOSAIA RALAGO



Swami Vivekananda College Platinum Jubilee celebration



In the 2024-2025 National Budget passed by Parliament last month, we have set aside \$40 million for back-to-school support for the 2025 school year.

This was relayed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, during the Swami Vivekananda College Platinum Jubilee celebration this week.

The Coalition Government remains steadfast in its commitment to education, as reflected in the substantial budget allocation of \$627.6 million for the Ministry of Education this year," he added.

Photos: SUPPLIED



DPM Kamikamica visits cooperatives

Members of the Nakita Farmers Cooperative in Togobula Village, and Deepak Cooperative in Maro Village, Sigatoka are set to benefit from the handover of two tractors from the Fiji Government.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperative, MSMEs & Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, said that the Government provided the highest support to MSMEs of close to \$120 million in various sectoral ministries.

"A budget of \$4 million was allocated which also includes the newly introduced Programme for Co-operative Business in this financial year."

Photos: FELIX LESINAIVALU



Fiji Airways' new route to Dallas set to boost economic growth

By DIPESH KUMAR

Fiji Airways newly announced first-ever nonstop flights from Nadi to one of the busiest travel hubs in the world, Fort Worth Airport in Dallas, Texas will be an advantage to the Fijian economy as it will promote growth and prosperity.

Speaking at the launch of the flight which will commence on December 10, 2024, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad shared that by connecting Fiji with one of the busiest travel hubs in the world, Fiji was opening its doors to a vast new market of travellers from North America.

He emphasised that this will have far-reaching benefits for Fiji's tourism sector, the economy and the people.

"Tourism is a cornerstone of Fiji's economy and increasing our connectivity with the United States will provide a substantial boost. In 2023, tourism contributed to 40 per cent of Fiji's economic growth and made up over 36 per cent of employment in Fiji."

"Fiji Airways plays a pivotal role in the success of our tourism industry, transporting 70 per cent of all visitors to our tropical islands. From June 2023 to June 2024, there was a significant rise in visitor numbers,

indicating a growing demand for travel to Fiji. In 2023, the total number of arrivals nearly reached one million, surpassing pre-pandemic levels at 104 per cent."

"The new Nadi to Dallas route strengthens Fiji's position as a premier destination in the South Pacific."

"The benefits of this new route extend beyond tourism. It will also facilitate trade and business connections between Fiji and the United States. Enhanced connectivity will make it easier for Fijian businesses to access new markets, export their products, and establish partnerships with American companies. This will contribute to the diversification and resilience of our economy."

DPM Prasad also thanked the United States government for their support and collaboration on the 'open skies' Air Service Agreement.

Launching the new route, Fiji Airways chief executive officer, Andre Viljoen said the new 13-hour nonstop service will operate three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays on their Airbus A350-900 XWB.

Mr Viljoen said introducing a new route was exciting and a massive milestone for Fiji Airways.

He stated that the flights are expected to



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, at the announcement of Fiji Airways first-ever nonstop flights from Nadi to Fort Worth Airport in Dallas, Texas. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

bring in more than 1000 passengers a week into Fiji alone.

"This new route significantly enhances our connectivity with the United States and beyond and gives our customers easier access to over 250 destinations. Some of these include destinations like New York, Miami, London, Paris, Madrid, Dublin and so many more."

"In my recent meeting with the Dallas Fort Worth airport executives, they expressed great enthusiasm about welcoming Fiji

Airways as their newest airline, they emphasised that this addition brings a prestigious and award-winning airline to their roster, offering travellers a direct connection to the amazing, exotic and highly sought-after destination of Fiji."

"The Nadi to Dallas route will now be the best and quickest way to fly between Fiji and the US east coast, but also to the UK and Europe. So, this will be great for us to bring more European travellers in and for Fijians to travel to Europe."

Environmental security is the key to sustainable future



Key speakers during the Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF 24) being garlanded during the opening, from left- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change permanent secretary, Dr Sivendra Michael, Ministry of Home Affairs permanent secretary Mason Smith and United States of America's Ambassador to Fiji, Marie Damour. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

By DIPESH KUMAR

IN co-hosting the Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF 24), Fiji and the United States have demonstrated their shared commitment to addressing sustainable development challenges.

This was shared by the permanent secretary for Home Affairs and Immigration, Mason Smith while speaking at the IPESF24.

Mr Smith highlighted that to achieve a sustainable, safe and secure future for all, there needs to be a link between environment and security.

"Without a sustainable environment, there cannot be a sustainable future."

He stressed that there are unfortunately many challenges to the desire for sustainable development and the partnership between the two countries will ease some of these challenges.

"Our shared commitment to the broad

understanding of security articulated in the Boe Declaration (2018) demonstrates our shared commitment to collaborative and evidence-based solutions to shared environment security challenges," Mr Smith said.

"The growing and cascading effects of climate change will continue to impact Pacific national and regional security, in complex and sometimes unpredictable ways."

The United States Ambassador to Fiji, Marie Damour, also highlighted that environmental security was an issue that not only affects the region but the entire global community.

She emphasised that the Indo-Pacific region was not only a vital economic hub but also a region of immense environmental significance, boasting some of the world's most diverse ecosystems and species.

"However, the region also faces some critical challenges. Pacific Island leaders repeatedly state that climate change is their

number one security threat and rising sea levels demonstrate the credibility of that threat."

"Environmental security is a priority for the United States and, in recent years, we have witnessed the devastating consequences of environmental degradation first-hand across the Indo-Pacific region."

Ambassador Damour stressed that the United States remains committed to advancing environmental sustainability and resilience in the Indo-Pacific region.

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change permanent secretary, Dr Sivendra Michael emphasised that the shared commitment highlighted that the IPSEF was a welcome opportunity to facilitate collaboration between Indo-Pacific countries.

"Protecting our natural resources, vital ecosystem services, and traditional livelihoods from the triple threat of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss

is an imperative that shapes the Pacific's worldview and our shared vision for a safe and prosperous Blue Pacific continent," Dr Michael stated.

"Due to our tightly woven relationship with our environment here in the Pacific, sustainability has always been critical to our societies but to manage the increasing transboundary threats we face much more needs to be done to secure our future."

He emphasised that the forum has been a platform for identifying new course correction initiatives to institute robust sustainable development practices.

The annual IPESF has become the cornerstone of the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) Environmental Security Program focused on engaging with regional militaries and civilian agencies to address priority threats to the environment as well as risks to essential services.



Participants at the Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF 24). Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

TSLS plays a critical role

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

THE Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (TSLS) plays a critical role by ensuring that the targets on increasing access to tertiary education for the youth are met through innovative scholarships and study grant policies.

While speaking on the TSLS and the new initiatives for 2025 in Parliament, Minister for Education, the Aseri Radrodro, added that he Coalition Government was making serious strides towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on quality education.

"I must also thank the TSLS Board, the CEO and Management for coming up with recommendations for new initiatives and value adding to existing schemes in the 2024-2025 Budget, which are based on the premise and rationale to allow greater access for human capital development to commensurately mitigate loss of labour through migration and have demand-driven skills sets."

As announced and passed in the 2024-2025 National Budget, \$150.5 million has been allocated to sponsor 10,830 new, and to continue to fund 9,940 sponsored students.

"TSLS came up with a recommendation to introduce two new overseas schemes for cost sharing overseas PhD and Masters Scholarship and merit-based Postgraduate Diploma specialisation in in-service overseas scholarship."

"I thank the TSLS for brokering partnerships with four Australian Universities, who will bear tuition fee, whilst Government will take care of stipend and miscellaneous."

Minister Radrodro added that funding students for overseas scholarships was costly to the taxpayers, as it averages \$350,000 to \$400,000 for a degree programme.

TSLS also came up with a new initiative on Graduate Business Startup Scheme.

"This was timely, as the Coalition Government wants our graduates to also be job creators. In the 2024-2025 Budget,



Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodro, provides an update on TSLB and new initiatives in the programme for 2025. Photo: SUPPLIED

30 TSLS sponsored graduates are provided with the opportunity to undergo training and start up a business through training and mentoring by the Fiji Commerce and

Employers Federation (FCEF), and this initiative will allow graduates to be job creators," he said.

Ombudsperson to maintain transparency, accountability in financial services sector

By PRASHILA DEVI

THE establishment of the Financial Services Ombudsperson demonstrates the Government's commitment and political will to enhance consumer protection and foster trust in the financial services sector.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, in response to a question in Parliament during the August sitting, said the Office of the Financial Services Ombudsperson will play a crucial role in maintaining transparency and accountability in Fiji's financial services sector.

"In the establishment of the Financial Services Ombudsperson function, the existing complaints management function undertaken by the Reserve Bank of Fiji will be maintained, but elevated to ensuring the specific function is conducted by an appointed Financial Services Ombudsperson," DPM Prasad explained.

Furthermore, he said the office will function as an impartial platform, dedicated to resolving disputes between consumers and financial services providers and regulated by RBF with its primary responsibilities including the investigation complaints, facilitating discussions and ensuring fair resolution.

"Its role is crucial in providing consumers with the reliable mechanism to address their grievances which ultimately helps to build trust and confidence in the financial services sector."

The office will operate within the existing RBF legislation through the Complaints Management Framework and

The idea for such an institution stems from the Banking Services Commission Report of 2000 which recommended the establishment of the Office of the Banking Ombudsman.

DPM Prasad also told Parliament that



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, and National Development, Biman Prasad, making his way into the Parliament Chamber. Photo: SUPPLIED

Wati Seeto, who has been with RBF since 2010 and held senior positions at the Capital Markets Development Authority prior to that, has been appointed as the first Financial Services Ombudsperson.

"At the moment, the position, within the framework of the RBF, will try and resolve the complaints that consumers have with respect to any financial services institution," DPM Prasad said.

This, he said, could be relooked at since the original recommendation that was made in 2000 as part of the banking inquiry, suggested a completely separate office for the Banking Ombudsman.

"Over the years, the RBF assumed, and there were changes made for it, to have a special Complaints Management Framework, which has been working. But this Office itself is going to strengthen and provide a lot more teeth for an office within the RBF, and a dedicated person."

The office will be funded by the RBF.

Fiji a major component of IPEF: DPM Kamikamica

AZARIA FAREEN

THE 14 partners that make up 40 percent of the global gross domestic product have been actively working together to get the Implementation of the Supply Chain Agreement under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) for Prosperity moving forward.

This was relayed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, in the August sitting of Parliament.

"The agreement officially entered into force on the February 24, 2024 and July 30th marked a significant milestone with the implementation of the agreement where we started putting in place the necessary committees that are part and parcel of the agreement," he said.

"This will hopefully allow the 14 countries to start working together in terms of supply requirements across the countries and if there should be another crisis in the global supply chain, then the 14 countries including Fiji can work closely together."

"There are three bodies that were required to be set up as part of the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement which includes Supply Chain Council, Crisis Response Network and Labour Rights Advisory Board (LRAB)," he added.

In trying to be an active participant in IPEF, Fiji serves on the Supply Chain Council through representation from the ministry's permanent secretary, Shaheen Ali.

In the Crisis Response Network, the principal trade economist, Deepika Singh, serves as a member of the Crisis Network body while the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations, permanent secretary, Jone Nemani, will serve as vice chair on the LRAB.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperative, MSMEs & Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, presents Fiji's representation on the Supply Chain Agreement under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity in Parliament. Photo: SUPPLIED

Mr Nemani has been joined by the Fiji Trade Union Congress, national secretary, Felix Anthony, and Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation chief executive, Jonetani Tonawai supporting the chair from the United States of America.

"This role underscores our commitment to strengthening labour relations and labour rights, while ensuring fair working conditions for all workers across the Indo-Pacific region; and Fiji's election as the vice chair of the LRAB is a recognition of the important role Fiji plays in the region, and our capability was clearly demonstrated during the ongoing IPEF negotiations," DPM Kamikamica lauded.

"Fiji will play a pivotal role in advancing labour rights and workforce development across IPEF supply chains and we have further plans of advancing it which includes first in-person meeting in Washington DC in September 2024, on the margins of the Supply Chain Summit."

Fiji ginger ready to tap into Australian market

By AZARIA FAREEN

The Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways is considering to amend the relevant legislations which prevents exporting fresh produce such as ginger to Australia.

The line Minister, Vatimi Rayalu, highlighted this stressing that the ministry cannot afford to wait for an opening in the Australian market, while harvested ginger continues to go to waste.

“Currently, there are two main exporters of processed ginger in Fiji - Kaiming Agro Processing and Fresh Pack Trading, while other exporters send small quantities,” Minister Rayalu said.

“This includes produce processing done by Shahi Foods, Vinaka Farm and Ranadi Plantation which specialises in organic ginger,” he added.

“During the over production and supply of ginger last year, the ministry through its capital intervention increased the capacity of our local ginger export to absorb an extra 100 tonnes of matured ginger.”

“In addition to their annual quota of 400 tonnes, the immature ginger quota remains at 1,500 tonnes per year and all ginger

supplied to the market is processed,” he added.

Kaiming Agro Processing supplied 300 tonnes of matured processed ginger to the United States of America and Canada, while 250 tonnes processed crystal, paste and juice was exported to Australia in the last season.

Minister Rayalu said that the requirements remain the same and all farmers supplying to registered exporters have a quota, however, meeting the quality criteria remains a challenge.

“Climatic conditions, management practices and awareness of quality standards is currently being worked on in scaling up to order by the ministry and the stakeholders in order to meet the market demands and to supply the export markets,” he said.

“Exporters continue to experience resistance in accessing fresh ginger exports to Australia due to claim of a nematode risk of Fiji ginger, however, Fiji continues to facilitate the Australia markets while the Navua-based Vinaka Farm and organic ginger provider for local and overseas export has managed to supply eight tonnes of fresh organic matured ginger to Australia in the last fiscal year.”

“The Ministry is working in partnership with such players and the Ministry of Trade to try and increase the volume of organic ginger production in Fiji, increasing Fiji’s competitive edge in the global market and also as a way out of the difficulty in accessing the Australian market,” he added.

The Minister revealed that further discussions with the Biosecurity of Fiji and other stakeholders are in progress to send a 5-tonne shipment via air freight to compete with the Italian ginger currently in the New Zealand market.

“The Ministry will continue to work with the Fiji Crop and Livestock Council in upskilling our farmers on record keeping, quality standards and registration to meet the standards for fresh supply to New Zealand,” he said.

“Fiji can further raise its standards through Good Agricultural Practices and Organic Certification by 2026 to obtain premium prices,” he added.

“While Fiji ginger is highly regarded in the international market, it has been difficult to access the fresh ginger market in Australia. We understand that they also have the interest of their own ginger



Minister for Agriculture and Waterways, Vatimi Rayalu, provides an update in Parliament on exploring new pathways to integrate Fiji ginger into new markets. Photo: SUPPLIED

farmers to protect, so our way forward is to support agro processors in Fiji, to increase their capacity to value-add ginger and purchase more ginger from farmers.”

“The Ministry will continue to discuss with Australia and the stakeholders to increase its market share for Fiji processed ginger and it will also explore new pathways to send Fiji ginger into new markets both local and abroad,” Minister Rayalu added.

Pine projects vital for the survival of maritime communities



Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Alitia Bainivalu, shares details on the Maritime Pine Project in the last Parliament sitting. Photo: SUPPLIED

By DIPESH KUMAR

The Maritime Pine Project carried out by the Ministry of Forestry, in collaboration with the Fiji Pine Limited, Fiji Pine Trust and the landowners has been vital for the survival of the maritime island communities.

This was stressed by the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Alitia Bainivalu, during her ministerial statement in the Parliament during the August sitting.

Minister Bainivalu shared that the Government introduced the project to ensure the sustainable use and management of maritime pine resources through investments in machines, skills training, and inventory of pine resources.

“The project was introduced to support maritime communities in using their mature pine plantation resources to construct their houses or needed renovations.”

Minister Bainivalu said the Government had to take measures to provide support to the maritime island communities since logging contractors from the mainland found it unprofitable to barge logs and timber to the mainland.

She said the Ministry had to step in to support these maritime communities by subsidising part of the

operations through the purchase of portable sawmill machines.

“The main objective is to support the maritime islands’ pine schemes to be equipped with appropriate harvesting machines and tools with the capacity to economically harvest, process, and market their matured pine trees.”

Minister Bainivalu highlighted that the overall socio-economic impact of this project was to improve the livelihoods of maritime villages which has already been implemented in communities such as Cicia and Gau.

“There are various measurable outcomes from these maritime projects, support, and beneficiaries including the communities, private sector, and the nation as a whole. For our maritime communities, there are financial benefits, for example, in Muani, the payment of \$60 per tonne of logs to landowners resulting so far in a total pay-out of \$0.8 million.”

“Secondly, there are employment opportunities for communities, the project will create numerous job opportunities in logging, transportation, and port operations, leading to increased employment in the local communities.”

“Thirdly, infrastructure development, the construction and upgrading of port facilities guided by the Fiji Roads Authority will improve local infrastructure, providing long-term benefits to the communities.”

“The private sector will also benefit firstly through economic activity. The release of \$647,000 to Tropik Wood Industries Limited will stimulate economic activity within the private sector through barge subsidy.”

“Business opportunities, logistics, and transportation sectors will benefit from the movement of six barge loads, each carrying 2,000 tonnes of logs, creating new business opportunities and partnerships.”

“By adhering to sustainable logging practices, the private sector can demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship, corporate responsibility, enhancing its reputation and ensuring long-term viability,” she added.

The Minister emphasised that the project will also result in economic growth for the nation, contribute to sustainable development, and enhance agricultural practices in the country.

iTaukei land development grant to boost economy: Minister Vasu



Minister for Taukei Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts, Ifereimi Vasu with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperative, MSMEs & Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, in the Parliament foyer. Photo: SUPPLIED

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

“THE iTaukei Land Development grant is a programme, which was aimed to developed the people and grow the economy.”

This was highlighted by the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts, Ifereimi Vasu, when asked in Parliament on the utilisation of the \$4 million allocation for the iTaukei Land Development in the 2023-2024 Budget.

“The project was in two phases. The first one is on the documentation which is scoping and engineering documentation. The second phase is on the construction, which deals with land clearing, levelling, subdividing the lots and put in essential services - electricity, water and roads.”

Minster Vasu added that when they took over the project last year, three projects were still in phase one, that is, on the scoping and engineering documentation and seven projects out of the 10 that was approved in 2015, so three is in phase one and seven are in phase two.

“The one that has been completed is Nasoqela in Tailevu, Vuda in Lautoka and Yadua in Nadroga.”

“The one on hold is the Vuda II project in Lautoka, which was done by General Machinery Hire, and the ongoing one is Wairabetia in Vuda done by B.W. Holdings which has been completed.”

Minister Vasu said the project in Tubalevu in Tavua was also a contract by B.W. Holdings which was about 85 percent completed.

“The advice that was given to us by the consultants, that the money that was given to us is just enough to complete the three construction works which is the subdivision for Saweni, Wairabetia and Tubalevu.”

“As of 31st July, our utilisation was \$1.6 million, or 39 percent of the budget.”

“The delay was caused by the adverse weather, the slow in the approval process, and the shortage of the construction materials. Also, adding onto it is the hand-over time that was given to us. These projects were with two Ministries - the Office of the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Finance.”

Minister Saukuru praises team for Olympics achievements



Fiji Men's 7s team captain, Jerry Tuiwai and coach Osea Kolinisau with fans taking photos upon their return to Fiji after winning the Silver Medal at the Paris Olympics 2024. Below: Young fans greet their heroes. Photo: SUPPLIED

MINISTER of Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru, welcomed back the Fiji 7s team and Fijiana 7s team at the Nadi International Airport after their successful participation in the Paris Olympics. Both teams were later hosted at Tanoa International Hotel for a traditional welcoming ceremony. Minister Saukuru expressed his pride and joy in congratulating the Fiji 7s team for securing a silver medal in the prestigious tournament. He commended the team for their hard work, dedication, and resilience, which showcased the true spirit of Fijian rugby to the world. To the Fijiana 7s team,

Minister Saukuru commended them for giving their best effort on the field, despite the outcome not being what was hoped for. He praised their inspiring performance and expressed his pride in their representation of the nation with passion and pride. Minister Saukuru extended his gratitude to the coaches and management of both teams for their unwavering support and guidance throughout the tournament. He also gave a special mention to Osea Kolinisau and his family for their continuous support and dedication to the team. As silver medal holders, Minister Saukuru announced that the Fiji 7s team will

receive \$20,000 as promised by the Coalition Government. He assured the team that they will receive their money after the rest of Team Fiji, who are currently in Paris, return. A National Celebration will be organized for all of Team Fiji, where the promised money will be distributed – \$50,000 for gold medalists, \$20,000 for silver, and \$10,000 for bronze. Minister Saukuru congratulated both teams for making the nation proud and expressed his anticipation for more great achievements from them in the future.

(Source: Ministry of Youth and Sports)



Noda Viti

Sigatabu, 18 ni Okosita 2024

| 8 Drauniveva, 12 Tabana 15 ni Lavelave ni Ivola

CAVU I SAUSAU NA FIJI AIRWAYS

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 3



KURI TIKO GA NA NODRA VUKEI NA DAUTEITEI

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 6



VOTAI E\$14.7M KINA MATANITU O VITI



Na Australian Commissioner His Excellency Ewan Macdonald kei na Minister ni Foreign Affairs Senator Penny Wong ena Valenibula e CWM.

“Na Vuvale Partnership ena tarai cake e dua na yavu ni veivakabauti kei na veidokai ka dua na veisemati e laurai kina na Duavata”

By Katarina Naqarase

O qori na nodra mala ni vosa na Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator Penny Wong ena kena mai kacivaki nai tuvatuva ni kena vakavinakataki na valenibula levu na CWM ka se tara tu mai ena drau na yabaki sa oti “Ena siga nikua e keitou sa cakava na ka keiotu rogoca da sa mai butuka tu na valenibula mai na drau vakacaca na yabaki sa oti , kau marau meu mai tomana na Paraiminisita ni matanitu o Viti ena kena kacivaki na veituvatuva .Na John Staff International Development, esa digitaki mena raica

na tuvatuva ni kena vakavinakataki ka veitokoni kina na GHD, Silver Thomas Hanley , kei na International SOS Australia”. E kuria o Mr Wong nisa tu vakarau na matanitu ena kena tokoni na cakacaka ogo ka na vakatitobu taka sara nai sema ni matanitu e rua , e sai naki levu tiko ga na cakacakavata ena tovolei mena vakavinakataki na veiqaravi kece sara, ka vakalevutaki na madigi ena kena tokoni na duavata, tiko sautu ena noda veivuvale, na kawa tamata ka vaka kina na noda vuravura. “Na Matanitu o Ositerelia keimami vakabauta ni veiqaravi Tabana Ni Bula e dua naka bibi ki vei ira na lewenivanua , se mani vakacava nai tuvaki ni nodra bula, au kila ni lewenivanua e Viti era

na vakabauta. Nisa gadrevi saka yani na veivuke ena kena vakavinakataki na veiqaravi ni Tabana Ni Bula ena dua na kena I tuvatuva levu , keitou sana vakarorogo ka cakacakacataka”. Era veitomani tale tiko talega na Paraiminisita ni noda vanua o Hon Sitiveni Rabuka era vakaraitaka tiko na nodra vakavinavinakataki ena vuku ni veivuke levu esa mai vakayacori kina noda matanitu. Na valenibula esa vakatokayacataki tu vei ira na lewe ni mataivalu era sa vala oti enai valu. “Na veitokani ogo ena vakamatatataka na toso eda sa cakava vata tiko ka da na duavata ka da na veiwaseitaka vata kina veiyasai vuravura na bibi ni noda veisemati”.

Tavoci Rawa Na MARAMA Kei Na VANUA Finance



Na Minisita ni Itaukei, Tovo kei na Iyau Vakamareqeti o Hon Ifereimi Vasu kei ira nai mata ni Veibisinisi ni Itaukei ena vuli ni Itaukei Resource Forum.

Era laki sogota na vuli siga rua ni Itaukei Resources Owners Forum na Minisita ni iTaukei, Tovo kei na Iyau Vakamareqeti o Hon Ifereimi Vasu. Era vakaraitaka nisa mai cava kina dua na delana cecere na Itaukei Resources Owners Forum e nai ka 2 ni yabaki ena kena a mai tavoci e rua tale na tabana vou ena loma ni bage na Itaukei na Merchant Finance kei na kena sa mai sainitaki e dua na veidinadinati kei na Fiji Development Bank.

“Au vakavinavinka vakalevu ena vuku ni kena sa mai cava sa na siga rua ka kena I sevu ena yabaki oqo, e dua nai naki levu mena tovolei me laurai na vanua sa toka kina na noda Iyabula vakabibi ena veiqaravi cava e gadrevi mena vukei keda ena noda ciciva yani na vuravura ni bisinisi”.

Era kuria nisa laurai votu na cavu I kalawa levu ena yabaki oqo enqa usutu ni ulutaga me vaka na

1. Access to Funding- na kena dolavi na katuba eso

mena rawa ni vukei kina vakailavo

2. Access to Market- na kena dolavi ka sasagataki na veimakete eso mena rawa ni dola kina na gaunisala ni veivoli.

3. Access to Capacity Building Opportunities – vakarautaki na veikatuba ni veivuke eso me vukei ka vakatorocaketaki kina na kila ka vakabisinisi.

Era marautaka ka ra vakaraitaka talega na Minisita ena veika sa qaravi rawa ka laveti cake mai ena sota na yabaki sa oti:

1. Na kena sa mai tauyavutaka na Tabacakacaka Ni Qele Maroroi na Itaukei Wealth Fund kei na Land Development Fund.

2. Dolavi eso na veikatuba kei na kena sa tomani tiko na veitalanoa ena kena dolavi eso na makete lelevu.

3. Na kena sa mai tavoci talega na MARAMA FINANCE: dolavi na katuba vei ira na marama mera vukei vakailavo ena nodra curuma yani na vuravura

ni bisinisi kei na VANUA FINANCE e dolavi raraba vei keda ena kena sasagataki na veika me baleti keda na kawa iTaukei.

Era veitataunaki talega na Minisita ni sa tiko talega na nodra itavi ka ni vakaiyalayala ga na nona veiqaravi na matanitu sa ikoya; na bibi ni noda vosota, na bula vaka ivakarau, vakavanua taka na noda vaka cici bisinisi, me kua sara ni totolo na noda via marautaka na ilavo ka teivaki tale kina na bisinisi, raica na vei katuba eso e ganiti kemuni mo i tukia yani, semati na veitalanoa kina vei Tabanaa eso.

Sa tu vakarau na Matanitu, Tabacakacaka iTaukei kei na Matavuvale Vakaitaukei ena kena cicivaki, tuberi ka vukei na nodra ciciva yani na vuravura ni bisinisi me rawa ni vakadeitaka na nodra vosa na Turaga na iLiuliu ni Matanitu “Na Bisinisi ni iTaukei e duri me Dei”.

RIRIKOTAKI NA MATE SURETI

“Na mate sureti (NCD) e laurai nisa dua na leqa levu era sa sotava sara tiko e levu na lewenivanua ka laurai ni 80% na mate ena noda vuna ka 40% na mate dole”.

Oqori nai tukutuku e vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Bula o Hon Antonio Lalabalavu kina Bose Lawa ena vuku ni kena laurai sa tubu totolo sara tiko nai wiliwili ni lewenivanua era leqa ka vuna tiko ga na veika eda kania ka gunuva ka sega ni salavata kei nai vakarau ni noda bula.

- E na gauna mai tabaki kina na Republic of Fiji Statistic Report 2026-kina 2021 e laurai ni mate oqo na Tubu Ni Dra, Mate Ni Uto, Mate Ni Suka, ka vaka kina na Cancer na veimate e sa vakavuna sara tiko ga na tubu totolo nai wiliwili ni mate dole e Viti. Vei ira na yabaki 35-kina 50 e levu sara vei ira na turaga kei na marama ka vu mai ena mate dole.

Na Mate sureti e laurai ni sa dua nai colacola levu kina na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ka vaka kina na noda I tikotiko.

• Na vakadidike e laurai ni 95% e laurai ni vu mai ena noda vakatulewa, sai koya na kena vakayagataki na tavako, na lailai ni vakaukauwa yago, ka vaka kina na kena vakayagataki vakasivia na wainiveivakamatenitaki.

MACALA NI VAKADIDIKE

E dua na tabana ni vakadidike mai ena kena sagai tiko mena laurai nai wiliwili e vakadeitaki ena veimate eso. E na noda vanua nai matai ni vakadididike ea vakayacori ena 2022 ka kena I karua ena 2011. E na 2011 e levu nai wiliwili e tiko ena yabaki ni bula 25-64 ka 2586 na wiliwili taucoko.

- 30% na lewenivanua era vakatavako ena veisiga
- 15.7% nai taba qase era vakayagataka na wainiveivakamatenitaki ena 30 na siga sa oti.
- 15% era sega ni veisotari vata na lawa ni vakaukauwa mai na WHO.
- 85% nai tabaqase era lailai na nodra vakayagataka na kakana bulabula.
- 32% na levulevu ka 70 %n na levulevu sivia
- 31% na Tubu Ni Dra

Esa veitomani tale tiko ga na Australian Department of Foreign Affairs kei na Secretariat of the Pacific Community ena kena vakacavari nai ka 3 ni wasewase ni vakadidike ena noda vanua. E salavata tiko ga kei na tuvatuva ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula (National Health Strategic Plan) ka vaka kina na Annual Operational Plan.

Ni mai vakacarai nai yabaki vakailavo sa oti esa vakacavari na vakadidike ena Wasewase na Tokalau ka vakayacori e Kadavu, Ovalau Rotuma ka vaka kina na yanuyanu o Lakeba. E na yabaki vakailavo vou oqo esa vagolei e \$480,000 ena wasewase na Vualiku, Mua Ira, ka vaka kina na Tokalau ena kena vakacavari na vakadidike.

Esa veivakadreti tiko o Hon Lalabalavu vei keda na



Na Minisita ni Bula o Hon Antonio Lalabalavu ena kena vakamatatataki ena Bose Lawa na kena tubu sara tiko vakatotolo na Mate Sureti ena noda vanua.

Itaukei ena noda vakarawarawataka meda na bau okati ena Survey oqo mena rawa ni vakalailaitaka nai wiliwili ni mate sureti ena noda vanua. E vakavinavinakataki ira talega na veitabana era duavata ka ra dodoliga mai ena sasaga oqo.

GADREVI NA DUAVATA ENA KENA VALUTI NA WAIGAGA

“**S**a dodonu meda na cakacaka vata ena kena vakarusai laivi na waigaga ni veivakamatenitaki ena noda vanua”.

Na nodra I tukutuku nai liuliu ni noda matanitu o Hon Sitiveni Rabuka ena nodra laki sogota na soqo ena kena marautaki na Nadi Bula Festival ka vakayacori ena rara ni qito na Prince Charles mai Nadi.

“Ni da raica na leqa ni vakayagataki wainimate gaga sa ka bibi sara meda kila na taqomaki kina na bula kei na tiko vinaka, sega walega vei ira na luveda e oka talega kina na noda Matanitu o Viti”.

E vakaraitaka o Hon Rabuka ni oqo e dua na leqa era sa vauci tiko kina oira na gone lalai ka vaka kina oira nai Tabagone, ena veitabana kece sara ni vuli e dua na ulutaga bibi sai koya na kena vakacakulei ka wasei

vei ira na ca ni kena vakayagataki na waigaga. E kuria o Hon Rabuka nisa dodonu meda cakacavata vaka mataitikitiko, yasana ka vaka kina na vanua o Viti ena tarovi ka vakarusai vakadua nai valu oqo, mena rawa ni vinaka ka sautu na vanua o Viti ena veisiga ni mataka.

“Na Waigaga ena vakacacana na noda bula, na noda veimataka, noda cakacaka, noda matavuvale ka vakauasivi na noda bula yadudua, kua ni da tovolea mena bibi tiko vei keda na noda bula”.

E vakanuinui vinaka taki ira na goneyalewa ena vuku ni nodra vakaitavi taki ira ena soqo ni Nadi Bula Festival, nai lavo kece rawati ena soqo macawa dua e na vagolei vakatabakidua kina veiqaravi ni Tabana Ni Bula, Vulivuli, na veiqaravi raraba ka vaka kina na veitavi tale so.



Na goneyalewa ka mai taura na ulu ni covi ni Bula Festival o Fatima Ali ka mata taka mai na kabani na Guard Force Fiji.



CAVU I SAUSAU NA FIJI AIRWAYS



Na Managing Director kei na CEO ni Fiji Airways Andre Viljoen ena vuku ni kena kacivaki na veiqaravi vou ni Fiji Airways mai Viti ki Dallas.

“**N**a kena mai tavoci na veivukayaki e Nadi ki Dallas esa dua na cavu isausau kana rawa ni yaga vakalevu e na vica na sala e Viti. E dua nai yaloyalo ni noda matanitu kana rawa ni dua na cavu I kalawa ena gaunisala ni sautu ka vakabibi na noda

I vakarau ni veimaliwai kina veiyasai vuravura.”

Oqori nai tukutuku era vakaraitaka nai Vukevuke ni Paraiminisita, Minisita Ni Veika Vakailavo, Tuvatuva, Veivakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu kei na iWiliwili o Hon Biman Prasad ena kena laki dolavi na veivukayaki mai Nadi ki Dallas Fort Worth , Texas USA, ka sana tekivu taki ena mua ni yabaki oqo.

“Na veiqaravi oqo esa dua na veiqaravi rawarawa , esa solia e dua na tubu levu kina bula sautu e Viti. Ena kena veisemati na vanua o Viti kina dua na vanua ni veitosoyaki ena noda vuravura , eda sa dolava e dua na matanikatuba kina veimakete ni veivukayaki ena Vualiku kei Merika(North America). E na yaga sara vakalevu kina Tabana ni Saravanua, na noda bula vakailavo ka vaka kina oira na lewenivanua”.

E kuria o Hon Prasad ni Tabana ni Saravanu esa dua na yavudei ni bula vakailavo ena noda vanua ka tubu talega kina na veisemati kei na matanitu

o Amerika.

“E na 2023 na tabana ni saravanua ecau kina 40%-kina noda veika vakailavo, ka 36% ena veivakacakacakataki ena noda vanua. Na kabani na Fiji Airways e sa na vakayacora e dua nai tavi bibi ena kena cavu I sausau na Tabana ni Saravanua, na nodra vakaleleci na 70% na saravanua kina noda yanuyanu”.

E kuria o DPM Brasad ni mai na vula o Jiune 2023-kina Jiune 2024 , e laurai ni dua na tubu levu ni saravanua , ka levu talega na veitosoyaki ena noda vanua. Mai na Jiune ni 2023 na levu ni saravanua e yaco mai ena noda vanua e voleka ni yacova yani na 1 na milioni.

E vakavinavinakataka talega o DPM Prasad na matanitu o Merika ena veitokoni kei na cakacavata ena kena tadolavi na veidinadinati ni “Open Skies”kei na kena vakabibitaki na gaunislava vou ni vuka ka na vakarautaka na gaunisala ni vakaduri bisinisi kei an veisemati ni matanitu o Viti kei Merika.

Nodra Vosa ki na Palimedi ena Matanitu e Viti na Marama Peresitedi ni Matanitu o Idia, Her Excellency Shrimati Droupadi Murmu ena 6 Okosita, 2024



Na Honourable President of India, Her Excellency, Shreemati Droupadi Murmu ena nodra mai kidavaki vakavanua ena Grand Pacific Hotel e Suva.

Turaga Speaker, Honourable Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu
Turaga Prime Minister, Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka
Turaga Liuliu To ni Veisaga, Honourable Inia Seruiratu
Turaga kei na marama Minisita, Kemuni na Lewe ni Palimedi, Kemuni na mata veiwekani, Namaskar, Ni sa bula!

Sa ka dokai dina vei au meu mai maliwai kemuni na mata digitaki ni vanua o Viti ena valenisoro ni democracy oqo.

Au kauta vata tiko mai na nodra vakanuini vinaka na lewe 1.4 na bilioni na tacimuni kei na ganemuni mai na matanitu liutaki vaka democracy levu duadua ena noda vuravura, o Idia.

Vinaka vakalevu Turaga Speaker na veisureti meu mai maliwai kemuni edaidai. Sa ivakadei ni qaqaco vinaka tiko na veiwekani ni vanua e rua.

Au via vakaraitaka talega na noqu vakavinavinaka vua na Turaga Peresitedi o Ratu Wiliame Katonivere ena nodra veisureti ena ilakolako vakaveisiko ena matai ni gauna ki na nomuni vanua oqo e Viti.

Ratou veitomani tale tikoga mai ena ilakolako oqo na Minister Veivuke o Shri George Kurian kei na rua na lewe ni palimedi na Lok Sabha o Shri Saumitra Khan kei Shri Jugal Kishore.

Au via vakaraitaka talega na noqu vakavinavinakataka ena yalo ni bula vaka democracy oni vakaraitaka tiko e Viti. Sa nomuni itavi bibi yadua na nodra qaravi na lewe ni nomuni vanua totoka oqo.

Dina ni duidui sara na levu ni vanua e rua, ia e levu sara na ka e tauri keda vata tiko ena bula vaka democracy.

Sa oti qo e rauta ni 10 na yabaki na nona vosa ena loma ni vale dokai oqo na Prime Minister kei Idia o Shri Narendra Modi, ka ra vakabibitaka kina na veika vakamareqeti e kedrau isema tiko na matanitu e rua.

Wili kina na bula vaka democracy, ni dina beka eda duidui matatamata, ia e sega na veivakaduiduitaki, e dokai ka rokovi na nodra dodonu kei na galala na tamata yadua.

E sega vakadua ni veisau na veika eda dau mareqeta oqo, ka na noda kabasi tiko ena veiyabaki sa tu qo e matada.

Ka ni marau vei au ni dau veitokoni vinaka na matanitu o Idia ena nomuni bula vakademocracy, ka laurai ena tolu na veidigidigi sa oti. O Idia e tokani vinaka kei Viti ena tokoni kei na cuqeni ni bula vaka democracy vei ira na lewenivanua, ka na tu vakarau me dau veitokoni ena veigauna kece sara.

Kemuni na lewe ni Palimedi.

Se suasua tiko na yavaqu, ia au sa raica rawa ni levu dina na ka ni vuli e rawa ni vakatavulica o Viti ki na noda vuravura. Na malumu ni bula vaka Viti, nomuni doka ka rokova nomuni tovo vakavanua, na rarama kei na totoka ni bula vakamata tamata, qo na veika e duatani sara kina o Viti ena vuravura e vutucoqa ena veileti kei na veicati. Sa rauta bagi na kena dau tukuni ni o Viti na vanua e mai kune marau kina o vuravura.

Edaidai, sa kilai tani o Viti ena rua na leqa lelevu e tara tiko na noda vuravura – na draki veisau kei na bula ni veisaututaki.

Levu dina na ka e sa rawata o Viti ena kena veitalanoataki ena noda vuravura na draki veisau, vaka kina na veika me baleti ira na veiyatu yanuyanu. E doka ka rokova o Idia na itavi levu e colata tiko o Viti.

Dua talega na itavi levu oni qarava ena cakacaka ni veivakasaututaki ena noda vuravura. Sa ka levu na vakavinavinaka ena sasaga nei Viti me vinaka sara na vuravura eda bula kina.

Ena buturara ni qito, dina beka ni mai jaben ni vuravura o Idia ena T-20 World Champions, ia e levu dina na ka e rawa ni vulica o Idia vei Viti ena qito rakavi. Keimami marautaka dina ni sa mai dauniveivakatavulici vou ni rakavi e Idia na nomuni dauqito roglevu o Waisale Serevi. Au sa vakanamata ki na siga me rau na sota kina ena rakavi na vanua e rua. Au via vakaraitaka talega na noqu vakanuini vinaka vei iratou na lewe ni timi ni rakavi le ya7 ni Viti ena nodratou rawata na metali siliva ena Olympics e Parisi. Sivia ni 100 na yabaki sa oti, a mai semati na matanitu e rua ena nodra mai cakacaka e Viti na noda mai Idia. Era lako curuma na bula dredre ka rerevaki, ia keimami yalo vakacegu

nira sa mai ciqomi ena vanua oqo o ira na Girmitaya kei ira na nodra kawa. Sa ra mai lewe ni vanua oqo, ka ra vakaitavi vakalevu ka ra cakacaka vakaukauwa ena kena taravaki cake na nodra vanua vou.

Sa ka levu na noqu vakavinavinaka ki na Matanitu o Viti ena kena nanumi na nodra itavi levu na kawa ni Qirimiti ena nodra olodei ni Girmit. Me tekivu mai na na 1970, rau dau cakacaka vata na matanitu e rua ena kena vaqacacotaki na nodrau veiwekani. Au marau niu mai raica ni kovuta kece sara ga na veitaba ni matanitu e Viti na cakacaka vata oqo, mai na bisinisi ni tei dovu me yacova yani na digovi ni maliwa lala.

E gole talega na vakavinavinaka ki na matanitu e Viti ena veitokoni levu ki na Aditya – L1 Mission ena yabaki sa oti ena porokaramu ni dikevi ni maliwa lala ni matanitu o Idia. Vinaka vakalevu nomuni vakadonuya me mai tiko vakalekaleka e Suva na Tracking and Command Centre ena cakacaka vakairogorogo oqo.

Sa qai qaqaco vinaka ga noda cakacaka vata ena tabana ni teitei, veituberi, draki veisau, vurevure ni livaliva, veika ni computer, vuli, bula raraba, buli yaya, vakadidike, vurevure savasava ni livaliva kei na bisinisi lalai.

Sega ni vakaleqa noda veiwekani voleka na veiyawaki ni noda vanua. Ni gauna ni leqa, dau liu noda veivukei vakataki keda. Au marau kina ni a veivuke na matanitu o Idia ena cakacaka ni veicula ena mate na COVID-19 ena kena vakarautaki na wainimate ena yabaki 2021.

Sa 75 qo na yabaki na dede ni bula ni veimataki kei Viti, ka ni marau kna niu mai raica na kena sa qai kaukauwa cake ga na noda cakacaka vata kei na kena vakabibitaki na cakacaka ni veivakatorocaketaki kei na kena vakaliuci na nodra bula na lewenivanua.

E tukuni vei au ni sa 15 taucoko na nodra veisikovi na Minisita ni matanitu e rua ena loma ni 18 na vula sa oti. Qai mai maucokona sara na veiwekani ni matanitu e rua ena nodrau sota na Prime Minister ena vula ko Me ni yabaki 2023 donuya na ikatolu ni Bose ni matanitu o Idia kei na Pasifika.

Sa tu kina na vakanuini ni na veivuke vakalevu ena nodra qaravi na lewenivanua e Viti vaka kina ena Pasifika na ituvatava vovou sa mai kacivaki oti tiko, oka kina na valenibula vou me na tara na matanitu o Idia e Suva.

Mai vakadeitaka talega na veiwekani ni matanitu e rua na kena mai vakayacori e Nadi ena yabaki sa oti na bose ni vosa vakaIdia ena vuravua, ka vaka kina na kena mai marautaki tiko na olodei ni Girmit Day.

Kemuni na lewe ni Palimedi.

Sa matata tiko vei keda na levu ni bolebole e tu qo e matada. Kena ilutua tiko na noda valuta na draki veisau kei na cere ni waitui. E bolela sara ga qo e levu na veiyatu yanuyanu ena noda vuravura.

E dua dina na vanua vakataimera o Idia, ia e sega ni vulagi kina leqa e tara tiko na noda vuravura, vakabibi ena draki veisau.

Oya na vuna e raica tiko kina vakabibi na nona itavi. Ni taura na itutu vaka peresitedi ni soqosoqo na G-20 o Idia ena yabaki sa oti, keitou a vakabibitaka ga e rua na ka: na veivakatorocaketaki lewai vakamata kei na draki veisau. Ai ulutaga ni neitou veiqaravi vaka peresitedi ni G-20 na “Dua na Vuravura, Dua na Vuvale, Dua na Veisiga ni mataka.”

Dua dina na sasaga levu sa mai rawata o Idia ena kena vakalailaitaki na kasi gaga dau vakavuna na draki veisau, ka rauta ni 40 na pasede na vurevure ni livaliva e vakayagataka e sega ni vu mai na misini e cicivaki ena waiwai. Ena loma ni yabaki 2017 ki na 2023, e tiko na kaukauwa ni livaliva e Idia ena 100 na Giga Watts, ia e 80 na pasede ni kaukauwa oqo e sega ni vure tiko mai na idini cicivaki ena waiwai.

Me kena ikuri ni sasaga oqo, e liu sara tiko ga o Idia ena sasaga ni kena valuti na draki veisau ena noda vuravura. Keitou vakavinavinakataka vakalevu na veitokoni ni matanitu o Viti ena sasaga oqo, oka kina na mata isoqosoqo na Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), kei na Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS). Sa tu na vakanuini ni na mai curu talega o Viti me lewena na isoqosoqo na Global Biofuel Alliance.

Ni dua na matanitu levu ena ceva ni noda vuravura, ena sega ni suka I muri o Idia ena nodra uqeti na matanitu vutuniyau mera tomana tiko ga na veivuke vakailavo kei na sasaga vovou me baleta na draki veisau. Keitou na tu raviti Viti kei ira na veiyatu yanuyanu ena nomuni maroro ena draki veisau.

Kemuni na lewe ni Palimedi.

Ni lai rogo levu tiko na domoi Idia ena noda vuravura, e tu vakarau me na tokoni Viti ena veika e gadreva me buli cake kina e dua na matanitu kaukauwa, matanitu dei ka sautu. Meda veitauri liga mada ga ena cakacaka vata me rawa ni tasova mai kina na yaga ni duavata ena vukudra na lewenivanua ena nodaru vanua lomani.

Vinaka vakalevu.



Na Honourable President of India, Her Excellency, Shreemati Droupadi Murmu ka mai ciqoma tiko nai vutu senikau mai vei Adi Laisa Ualoka Tuinakauvadra ena rara ni waqavuka mai Nausori.

KURI TIKO GA NA NODRA VUKEI NA DAUTEITEI

E dua na porokaramu e ratou biuta na Tabana ni Teitei kei na Sasala ni Wai ena vuku ni nodra vukei na Dauteitei ena noda vanua vakabibi na nodra vukei ena misini . Na porokaramu oqo e vakatokai tiko na “Farm Mechanization Programmed. Era laki solia na Minsita ni Teitei kei na Salasala ni Wai o Hon Vatimi Rayalu e dua na Digger ka rauta ni \$120,000 na kena I sau vakailavo ki vei Netani Kuli enai tikotiko e Batiri ena loma ni Yasana o Naitasiri.

“Na kena sa mai soli nikua na Digger e vakailavotaka na porokaramu ni Mechanization Programme esa vakauqeti keda ni vuvale na Kuila esa vakaitavitaki ratou saraga vakalevu ena teitei ena loma ni 50 na yabaki sa sivi.”

“E ratou sauma e dua nai katolu mai nai sau taucoko ni misini sa solia e 2 nai ka tolu na Tabana ni teitei.E sa vuqa sara na vanua e Viti esa keitou sa laki solia talega ki na mataqali veivuke vakaoqo vei ira na Dauteitei ena vuku tiko ga ni kena gadrevi na tubu ni tabana ni teitei ena noda vanua”.

E vakaraitaka o Netani Kuli Junior na nodrau vakavinavinaka kina Matanitu ena vuku ni veivuke esa mai vakavotukanataki ena gauna nikua ka vaka kina na veika era raici mena rawa ni tosoi kina na nodratou rawa ka.

“Keirau se vakalewe fomu(apply) ena veivuke oqo ena vica na yabaki sa oti, ia oqo sai ka 7 ni neirau vola kerekere , ka keirau marau nisa rawa ni keirau solia na dua nai ka tolu, keirau sega vakadua ni soqo ena neirau sasaga, so na katuba e tasogo ia keirau tudei ni veuivakarautai na kalou kina neirau sasaga.”

“Au vakavinavinaka taka talega na Minisita kei na nona I vakalesilesi ena vuku ni neirau vukei ena veigaunisala me keirau muria mena rawati kina na sasaga. E sa dua naka bibi kina loma ni vuvale ni mai vakadinadinataka talega o Netani Kuli Senior”.

E kuria o Mr Kuli ni ratou biu vanua mai na Yatu Lau ena 1969 ka mai tawani na 15 na eka na qele, e ratou teivaka na Dalo kei na Ginger ka ratou sa tuvana tiko



O Netani Kuila Senior na Minista ni Teitei Hon Vatimi Rayalu kei Netani Kuila Junior ka dabe toka ena loma ni nodra Digger vou.

ena gauna oqo na kena sa na tovolei talega na susu toa ena kena sagai me tara e 3 na bai ni toa. Na 15 na eka na qele enai tikotiko e Batiki esa dua na vanua vinaka vei ratou.E ratoub rawata e 25,000 na luve ni toa ena dua nai wasewase.

“E na gauna sa ra veitosoyaki kina na vuvale e gu tiko ga na yalo keitou me tomani tiko ga na teitei, keirau ciqoma vakaveiwatini na cakacavaka vei Goodman Fielder ka tara kina e 5n na bai ni toa ena dua na tiki ni qele e Bau Road, e na loma ni 5 na macawa e ratou rawata kina e 75,000 na luve ni toa ka solia tale e dua na yalo mena tomani tiko ga na cakacaka ena kena qaravi vinaka tiko ga.

E vakaraitaka talega na Senior Agriculture Officer

1 NA VOLAU NI BUCIBUCINI VOU E MOALA



Mai nai mawi Nai Vukevuke ni Minisita ni Teitei o Hon Tomasi Tunabuna, Na Turaga nai Talatala ni Wasewase o Moala Rev Saimoni Vunilagi, na General Manager ni Brittish American Tobacco o Sam Dormor kei na dua na Turaga Ni Vanua Vakaturaga o Moala.

E ra tadu yani kina matavura ena Yanuyanu Vakaturaga o Moala nai Vukevuke ni Minisita ni Tabana ni Teitei kei na Salasala ni Wai o Hon Tomasi Tunabuna, na General Manager ni Brittish American Tobacco o Sam Dormor kei ira nai vakalesilesi vakamatanitu kei ira na veitabana ni tukutuku eso ena kena laki vakadinadinakataki na kena laki soli na vale ni bucibucini (Greenhouse) ena yanuyanu o Moala ena Yatu Lau.

“Au via vakavinavinakataki kemudou na komiti ni Brittish American Tobacco ena kena sa mai vakavotukana taki na sasaga ena siga nikua, nikua e dua na siga e vakarautaki vei kemuni na lewenivanua dauteitei meda na rawa ni vakadinadinataka kina na kena na dola na vale ni bucibucini”,

E vakaraitaka talega o Hon Tubuna ni oqo sai ka tolu ni vanua me dolavi ka soli talega kina na valenibucibucini ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu.E vakatekivu mai Nadarivatu, Taveuni ka kena I ka tolu ena Yanuyanu o Moala.

E levu sara na veika era vakaraitaka

na lewe ni Yanuyanu ena vuku ni veivuke levu era sa dodoliga yani kina na yanuyanu. E ratou kalougata nira bau nanumi tu ena veivuke ena nodra vukei na Dauteitei. E vakaraitaka na Mata ni Tikina o Moala o Dakunimataka Niulevu.

“Au via vakavinavinaka ki vei ratou na Tabana ni Brittish American Tobaco ena nodratou nanuma na vanua o Moala ena kena mai vakadaberi na Nursery”.

E kuria o Niulevu nisa tu na gagadre ena kena sagai mena tara e dua na makete ni yaqona mena vakatabakidua ga vei ira na Dauteitei e Moala.E tu tale eso na veika era gadreva sai koya na kena

E laki dua talega na nona I vakamacala nai vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Teitei ka vei qaravi tiko e na 3 na yanuyanu o Moala, Matuku vata kei Totoya o Kitione Kapirieli. E vakaraitaka ni sa na veivuke sara vakalevu vei ira na Dauteitei me vaka ni levu vei ira esa qarava ga vakatabakidua na yaqona, ia nisa kau yani vei ira na valenibucibucini ka vaka kina na itei esa veisautaka nai vakarau ni nodra rai ena kena

SOTAVI NA DREDRE ENA LOMA NI 3 NA YABAKI



Na Manidia ni Koronivuli na Lekutu Secondary School o Ovin Baleinamau ena kena dolavi ka vakamatanitu taki na valenivuli ka mai vakacacani ena cava o Yasa ena 2020.

A u kila niu dua na Manidia kalougata niu mai donuya na veivakatoroicaketaki ena loma ni koronivuli , ena secondary ka vaka kina na Primary ka oso sara kina na vanua ena siga nikua.

Oqori na nodra mala ni vosa na Manidia ni Koronivuli na Lekutu Secondary School o Ovin Baleinamau ena kena laki dolavi na valenivuli vou ka vaka kina na nodra vanua ni moce na gonevuli ka vakailavo taka na mantanitu o Ositerelia jka rauta ni \$11.3 na milioni. Na Lekutu Secondary School e dua na koronivuli e vakacacani ena cava o Yasa ena 2020.

E vakaraitaka talega na o Mr Baleinamua ni rauta toka na 3 na yabaki na nodratou waraka toka na kena vakacavari na porokaramu oqo. Mai na gauna e vakacacani kina na nodra bure na gonevuli era sa laki Tawana na bure ena Labasa College na gonevuli vakauasivi oira na gone mai yanuyanu , ka vaka kina oira mai Navakasiga ka vakavinavinakataka kiina na Tabacakacaka Ni Vuli ena nodra nanumi tu na luvei Lekutu ena kena tutaki na Vuli.

E na gauna mai vakanadaku kina na cava O Yasa e mai tara toka e 10 na vale laca ena loma ni bai ni koronivuli ena vuku walega ni kena gadrevi mena tomani tiko na cuqeni ni vuli.E vosoti na dredre, ena vuku walega ni nodra nanumi nai

solisoli E mai tara e ni mai tara e dua na kena I wase ka vakalailaitaka na dredre ni bera ni mai vakacavari vakadua mai na matanitu o Ositerelia.

“Au kila nira sa marautaka tiko na gonevuli, I tubutubu kei ira na Dauniveisusu nisa tara oti tiko na nodra bure , ka sa tiko tale nai tavi ena nodra vakaramataki mera na rawa ni kila na kena vakayagataki na bure vou nisa tu kina na davodavo vou dodonu mera na dau kila oira na gone ka tu nai tavi ni veivakararamataki”.

“Noqu vakavinavinaka raraba, na Paraiminisita ni noda vanua, na High Commissioner ni Matanitu o Ositerelia au via vakavinavinakataka nai lavo levu e bau wiliki kina na Tikina o Lekutu ena kena tara talega na vale ni qasenivuli , na bure ni tagane , yalewa, na vale ni kana levu ka keitou sega saraga ni solia kina e dua nai lavo, ka dau sikovi tiko ga na matai ena vuku ni nodra tara vale,kau vakavinavinaka taka tiko ga na veika lelevu caka ena neitou koronivuli”.

E sana wewe tu ni gusudra na gonevuli ena vuku ni kena vakadinadinataka na kena sa mai dolavi ka sa vakamatanitutaki na nodra koronovuli ka sa solia e dua na yalo ni kena cuqeni na vuli ka cavuisausau ena loma ni yasana ka vaka kina na vanua o Viti.

VUKEI OIRA NA DAUTEITEI ENA COLO KEI NAVOSA



Oira na Marama mai na Loma ni Tikina o Navatusila ena kena vakaraitaki nai tei ni rokete ka veitokoni kina na Matanitu kei na Rural Women's Economic Development.

Ena vuku ni sasga ena nodra vukei na Dauteitei ena Taudaku ni VeikoroLelevu esa tavoca kina na veivuke mai na Fiji Agricultural Partnership Project ka vaka kina na Joint Programme Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Womens Economic Development ena koro vakaturaga o Nabutautau ena colo kei Navosa.

Era laki vulagi dokai ena kena tavoci na sasaga oqo nai vukevuke ni Minisita ena valenivolavola ni Paraiminisita o Hon Sakiusa Tubuna. Na usutu levu ni sasaga oqo sai koya na kena sagai mena vukei ira e 3,000 na dauteitei ena sala ni tubu ni nodra rawaka vakailavo ena colo ni noda vanua.

“E na dua na gauna balavu era sa tekivu guilecavi tiko mai kina na noda ena colo ni noda vanua, ia ena gauna oqo esa dodo yani na liga ni veivuke ena veivanuyanu kei na colo ni noda vanua, na Tabana ni Teitei esa solia vakailavo e \$200,000 ena vakatoroicaketaki kina na nodra tokoni na nodra bula ena colo ni noda vanua”.

Na veivuke oqo e oka kina na kena vakarautaki na qele, vakarautaki na sorenikau, na I tei ni kakana draudrau ,vakarautaki na tei e veiganiti kei na draki veisau, na veisemati kina makete , ka vaka kina na vakavakarau kina

Leqa Tubukoso.Na JPRWEE e takete taka na veikorokoro kei nai tikotiko e na Tikina o Magodro ena yasana o Ba, kei na Tikina o Namataku, Nasikawa, Noikoro ka vaka kina na Tikina o Navatusila ena yasana o Nadroga/ Navosa. E rauta ni 2000 na marama ena 30 nai tikotiko mai na 5 na Tikina ena rawa nira vukei ena porokaramu oqo.

E vakavinavinaka taka talega o Hon Tubuna na nodra dodoliga na veisoqosoqo me vaka na New Valley Processors Fiji Ltd, na SEEP Foundation , Pharma Plus, na Tabana ni Teitei ,Na Tabacakacaka iTaukei, na Tabana ni Veivakakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu, na Minisitiri ni Marama, Gone kei na Taqomaki ni Bula Raraba.

E vakaraitaka na Executive Director ni Partners in Community Development o Tevita Taonirokomaidama nisa dua naka na noda marau ena vuku ni kena sa sagai dede tiko mai na kemna sagai, en vuku ni nodra sa dau vakasuka tiko na dauvolivoli ena vuku ni yawa ni vanua, na veiveisau ni draki. E ra vakavinavinaka nisa bau sotavi na nodra gagadre.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

BOOTH ALLOCATION FOR THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE SHOW 2024

E sa vakaraitaka na Tabana ni Teitei kei na Salasala ni Wai nai tukutuku me baleta na veisureti ki vei ira na Dauteitei, na veikabani , na veisoqosoqo ka vaka kina na Lewenivanua kina soqo levu ni vakaraitaki vuanigele ena noda vanua(National Agriculture Show 2024). Na soqo levu oqo e sana vakayacori tiko ena vula o Okotova.

Tiki Ni Siga: 15- 18 ni Okotova

Vanua:Valelevu Ground, Nasinu

Sau ni Valelaca: \$600 ena loma ni 4 na siga.

Kevaka oni gadreva mena dua na nomuni vale laca ena soqo siga 4 sana rawa moni na sausaumi ena Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways ena Westpac Banking Corporation ena naba ni Akaude 42055600.

Ena rawa moni na qai veitaratara vei Mr Abdul Mufeez ena 2000222 se email :abdul.mufeez@waterways.gov.fj se vei Mr Yogesh Raj ena 9747920 se email :yogesh.raj@moa.gov.fj.

E sana sogo tiko na vola kerekere enai ka 31 ni Okosita, 2024.

Noda Viti

Sigatabu, 18 ni Okosita 2024, 8 Drauniveva, 12 ni Tabana, 15 ni Lavelave ni Ivola | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijiGovt Fiji Government

LOLOMA SEDE NA MATANITU KINA MATA TIMI NI VITI



Na Mata Timi Lewe Yavitu ni Noda Vanua, Na Jiameni ni FRU Mr Peter Maizey, Turaga na Tui Nadi Ratu Vuniani Naivuniuci, Minisita ni Tabagone kei na Qito Hon Jese Saukuru ena soqo ni nodra kidavaki ena Tanoa International Hotel e Nadi.

“Na Mata timi ni Viti ena ciqoma tiko na \$20000 dua na lewe ni timi ka sa dua vata kina na Matanitu Cokovata, ka na qai mai soli nai loloma ni ra suka lesu kece mai na Team Fiji mai Parisi’”.

By Katarina Naqarase

E ra laki kidavaki na toa ni vala ni noda mata timi lewe yavitu ni noda vanua ena Tanoa International Hotel e Nadi ena kena sa vakacavari mai na sotasota ni Olympics ka vakayacori mai Parisi. Era osota yani na lewenivanua, vuvale kei ira na dauniveitokoni ena kena laki marautaki na kena rawati mai na metali siliva ni cava na sotasota. E bau laki maliwai ira talega na Minisita ni Tabagone kei na Qito o Hon Jese Saukuru, na Jiameni ni Fiji Rugby

Union Mr Peter Mazey, Na Turaga na Tui Nadi Ratu Vuniyani Navuniuci, Fiji Rugby CEO Mr Rovereto Nayacalevu kei ira nai vakalesilesi ena kena marautaki na kena rawati mai na metali siliva. “Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena vuki ni nomudou cola I vua ena vuku ni sasaga ni kena rawati na qaqa, dina ni sega ni rawati na metali koula, au vakavinavinakataka nai vakarau ni nomudou vakaitavi ena lomanirara ena kena mata taki na noda vanua kina noda vuravura”. E vakavinavinakataka ira talega na

dauniveivakatavulici , na manidia ena timi ruarua ena vuku ni nodra tokoni tiko na cauravou kei na goneyalewa . E kuria ni vakavinavinaka talega kina nona vuvale na dauniveivakatavulici o Mr Osea Kolinisau ena vuku ni yalo ni veitokoni ena kena tuberi tiko na noda timi ni vanua. E sa vakanuinui tu o Hon Saukuru ena vuku ni kena na tomani tiko ga na tutaki ni qito rakavi ena noda vanua ka mena cecebuya tiko ga na drotini ni noda vanua ena veiyasai vuravura.

फ़ीजी दर्पण

Sunday August 18, 2024 | 8 pages | Issue 12 Vol 15 | www.fiji.gov.fj | @ FijiGovt |

Fiji Government

“फ़ीजी भारत को एक प्रमुख विकास भागीदार के रूप में मानता है, जिन्हें हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के बारे में ज्ञान है”



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 3 पर

चीनी क्षेत्र और नए किसानों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए चीनी मंत्रालय ने “नए किसान और लीस नया करने का कार्यक्रम शुरू



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर

स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के लिए ऑस्ट्रेलियन सरकार ने फ़ीजी को चौदह मिलियन डोलर की पूंजी लगाई



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 7 पर

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका का चीन का दौरा



प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका चीन के दस दिनों के दौरे पर यूनान प्रांत के गवर्नर महामहोम वेंग युबों से मुलाकात करते हुए चित: प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका चीन के दस दिनों के दौरे पर हैं जहाँ उन्होंने यूनान प्रांत स्थित मालिपो काउन्टी में पिंगआन्यो तथा नेन्याउ गाँव का दौरा किया। उन्होंने वहाँ देखा कि किस तरह से स्थानीय लोगों का जीवन सुधारने के लिए परिवर्तनकारी और अभिनव समाधान लागू किए जा रहे हैं। ये दोनों गाँव, चीन और विएतनाम की सीमा के नज़दीक हैं जो यूनान प्रांत के दक्षिण-पूर्वी में स्थित हैं तथा

वहाँ के निवासी चीनी सरकार के लक्षित गरीबी दूर करने तथा ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रम से लाभ उठा रहे हैं। चीन का विदेश मंत्रालय इन दोनों गाँव में गरीबी दूर करने वाले कार्यक्रम की अगुवाई कर रहा है। विशेष सरकारी मंत्रालयों को काउन्टी सौपने के राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग के फैसले का फल मलीपो काउन्टी में गरीबी हटाने के रूप में सामने आया है।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका को पिछले बत्तिस सालों में दोनों गाँवों के गरीबी

की पूर्व स्थिति से लेकर वर्तमान विकास प्रगति तक के बदलाव के बारे में जानकारी दी गई, जिसमें दिखाया गया कि कैसे कृषि, जलीय कृषि और पारम्परिक खाद्य पदार्थ, बुनाई और शिल्प सहित विशिष्ट उत्पादों ने आजीविका तथा दोनों समाजों के सदस्यों के जीवन स्तर में काफी सुधार किया है। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा कि वह चीन की गरीबी दूर करने वाली रणनीतियों से प्रभावित हैं, उन्होंने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि फ़ीजी

को लाखों लोगों के जीवन को बेहतर बनाने में चीन की सफलता से बहुत कुछ सीखना है। प्रधान मंत्री के अनुसार आजीविका में सुधार, खाद्य सुरक्षा, उत्पादकता और आर्थिक विविधीकरण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए फ़ीजी को चीन के तकनीकी नवाचार और टिकाऊ प्रथाओं से लाभ होगा। इन प्रथाओं को अपनाकर, फ़ीजी गरीबी कम करने और ग्रामीण विकास को बढ़ावा देने के अपने प्रयासों में तेजी ला सकता है।



भारत की राष्ट्रपति महामहीम द्रौपदी मुर्मू की फीजी की राजकीय यात्रा पर फीजी संसद को संबोधन

छ अगस्त 2024

- माननीय स्पीकर मोहुदय रातू नईगामा लालाम्बलावू
- माननीय प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका,
- माननीय विपक्षी नेता इनिया सेरूईरातू,
- माननीय मंत्रियों, संसद सदस्यों, प्रिय मित्रों,

नमस्कार!
नी सा बूला!

लोकतंत्र के इस मंदिर में आप सभी, फीजी के चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों से मिलना मेरे लिए बहुत ही सम्मान की बात है। मैं आपके लिए दुनिया के सबसे बड़े लोकतंत्र, भारत के 1.4 बिलियन भाईयों और बहनों की शुभकामनाएं लेकर आई हूँ। यह अवसर प्रदान करने के लिए मैं संसदीय स्पीकर को धन्यवाद देना चाहती हूँ। यह हमारे दोनों देशों के बीच घनिष्ठ संबंधों का प्रतिबिंब है।

इस अवसर पर मैं महामहीम राष्ट्रपति कातोनिवेरे को भी धन्यवाद देना चाहती हूँ जिनके निमंत्रण पर मैं फीजी की अपनी पहली यात्रा पर आई हूँ। मेरे साथ हमारे राज्य मंत्री श्री जोज कुरियन, साथ ही हमारी लोकसभा के दो संसद सदस्य, श्री सौमित्र खान और श्री जुगल किशोर भी हैं।

मैं फीजी में मजबूत लोकतांत्रिक के लिए अपनी गहरी सराहना व्यक्त करना चाहती हूँ। इस खूबसूरत देश के लोगों की सेवा करना आप में से हर एक की बहुत गम्भीर ज़िम्मेदारी है। हमारे आकार में भारी अंतर होने के बावजूद, हमारे दोनों देशों में बहुत कुछ समान है, जिसमें हमारे जीवंत लोकतंत्र भी शामिल हैं। लगभग दस साल पहले, इसी संसद भवन में भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने भारत और फीजी को एकजुट करने वाले कुछ बुनियादी मूल्यों को रेखांकित किया था। इनमें शामिल हैं, हमारा लोकतंत्र हमारे समाजों की विविधता, हमारा विश्वास की सभी मनुष्य समान हैं, और प्रत्येक व्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता, गरिमा और अधिकारों के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता। ये सामान मूल्य शाश्वत हैं और आगे भी हमारा मार्गदर्शन करते रहेंगे।

लगभग दस साल पहले इसी संसद भवन में भारत के प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने भारत और फीजी को एकजुट करने वाले कुछ बुनियादी मूल्यों को रेखांकित किया था। इनमें शामिल हैं, हमारा प्रजातंत्र, हमारे समाजों की विविधता, हमारा विश्वास कि सभी मनुष्य एक समान हैं, और हर एक व्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता, गरिमा और अधिकारों के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता। ये समान मूल्य शाश्वत हैं और आगे भी हमारा मार्गदर्शन करते रहेंगे। मुझे यह जानकर खुशी हुई कि पिछले तीन संसदीय चुनावों में प्रजातंत्र की यात्रा में भारत आपके साथ नज़दीक से जुड़ा हुआ है। ज़मीनी स्तर पर प्रजातंत्र को

बढ़ावा देने के समृद्ध अनुभव वाले एक करीबी दोस्त और भागीदार के रूप में, भारत हर समय भागीदार बनने के लिए तैयार है।

माननीय संसद सदस्यों, यहाँ अपने थोड़े समय में, मैं देख सकती हूँ कि दुनिया के बाकी देशों को फीजी से बहुत कुछ सीखना है। फीजी का सहज जीवन शैली, परम्पराओं और रीति-रिवाजों के प्रति गहरा सम्मान, एक खुला और बहुसांस्कृतिक वातावरण, फीजी को तेजी से संघर्षग्रस्त दुनिया में इतना विशेष बनाता है। इसमें कोई आश्चर्य नहीं है कि फीजी वह जगह है जहाँ बाकी दुनिया अपनी खुशियाँ ढूँढने आती है। फीजी को आज दुनिया भर में दो प्रमुख वैश्विक चुनौतियों - जलवायु परिवर्तन और मानव संघर्षों को संबोधित करने पर केंद्रित हमारे समान प्रयासों में बढ़ते योगदान के लिए पहचाना जाता है।

चाहे वह जलवायु परिवर्तन पर वैश्विक वार्ता को आकार देना हो या महासागर-राज्यों की चिंताओं को व्यक्त करना हो, फीजी वैश्विक भलाई में जबरजस्त योगदान दे रहा है। भारत दुनिया भर में फीजी की बढ़ती प्रमुख भूमिका को बहुत महत्व देता है और उसकी सराहना करता है। आपने दुनिया भर के कुछ सबसे खतरनाक संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में वैश्विक शान्ति स्थापना प्रयासों में भी बड़ा योगदान दिया है। हम दुनिया को रहने के लिए एक बेहतर जगह बनाने में फीजी के योगदान को सलाम करते हैं।

खेल के मैदान में हमें हाल ही में क्रीकट के टी-20 विश्व विजेता का ताज पहनाया गया है, लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि रग्बी के खेल में भारत को फीजी से बहुत कुछ सीखना है। हमें खुशी है कि आपके एक प्रसिद्ध रग्बी खिलाड़ी वर्डिसाले सेरेवी, भारत के नए राष्ट्रीय रग्बी कौच है। मैं उस दिन का बेसबरी से इंतज़ार कर रही हूँ जब हमारी टीम एक दूसरे मुकाबला करेंगी।

इस अवसर पर मैं फीजी मेन्स रग्बी टीम को हार्दिक बधाई देना चाहती हूँ जिन्होंने पेरिस ओलिंपिक्स में अच्छा खेल दिखाकर सिलवा मेडल हासिल किया।

माननीय संसद सदस्यगण, एक सौ पैंतालीस साल से भी अधिक समय पहले, नियति ने हमारे दोनों देशों को एक साथ जोड़ा, जब “गिरमिटिया” मजदूर, पहली बार भारत से फीजी द्वीप के तट पर पहुँचे थे।

यद्यपि उनका यहाँ आरंभिक जीवन खतरे और कठिनाई से भरा रहा, यह जानकर खुशी होती है, कि कैसे “गिरिमिटिया” और उनके वंशजों को इस देश ने अपनाया है। बदले में, उन्होंने अपनी कड़ी मेहनत और परिश्रम से अपनी नई मातृभूमि के निर्माण के प्रयासों के लिए

गिरमिट वंशजों के अपार योगदानबको प्रकाश में लाने के लिए, धन्यवाद देती हूँ। 1970 के बाद के दशकों में हमारे दोनों देशों ने मिलकर एक आधुनिक और बहु-मुखी साझेदारी तैयार करना प्रयास किया है। मुझे यह जानकर प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि आज हमारी सहभागिता, राष्ट्र निर्माण के सभी प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में है, चाहे वो गन्ने में हो या अंतरिक्ष हो।

अंतरिक्ष की बात करें तो मैं खास करके फीजियन सरकार को धन्यवाद देना चाहती हूँ जिन्होंने हमारे आदित्य एल वन मिशन को सहायता पहुँचाई जिससे पिछले साल पहली

अंतरिक्ष-आधारित सौ वेधशाला स्थापित किया गया। इस ऐतिहासिक मिशन के लिए सूवा में एक टेम्पररी टेलिमेन्ट्री ट्रेकिंग और कोमान्ड सेन्टर की मेजबानी के भी हम बहुत आभारी हैं।

कृषि, क्षमता निर्माण, जलवायु परिवर्तन, स्वच्छ उर्जा, डिजिटल साझेदारी, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, विनिर्माण, अनुसंधान, नवी-करणीय उर्जा और छोटे व्यापार क्षेत्र में हमारा सहयोग लगातार मजबूत हो रहा है।

हमारे बीच दूरी के बावजूद, हमारे बीच हमेशा एक करीबी रिश्ता रहा है। इसमें कोई आश्चर्य की बात नहीं है कि ज़रूरत के समय हम सबसे पहले प्रतिक्रिया देने वालों में से रहे हैं। मुझे यह जानकार खुशी हुई कि वैक्सीन मैत्री पहल के तहत 2021 में भारत द्वारा प्रदान किए गए कोविड-19 सुई ने फीजी के सफल राष्ट्रीय टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

भारत जैसा कि फीजी में हम फीजी में भारत की राजनयिक उपस्थिति के पहचहत्तरवे वर्ष पूरे होने का जश्न मना रहे हैं, मुझे हमारी उच्च स्तरीय व्यवस्तताओं, विकास योजनाओं और हमारी जन-केंद्रित गतिविधियों में मजबूत वृद्धि देखकर खुशी हो रही है। मुझे बताया गया है कि पिछले अट्ठारह महीनों में ही पंद्रह मंत्री स्तरीय दौर हुए हैं। ऐसा दोनों तरफ से हुआ है। पिछले साल मई में एक शिखर सम्मेलन के दौरान हमारे दोनों प्रधान मंत्रियों की ऐतिहासिक मुलाकात ने हमारे द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को नई उर्जा और दिशा दी है।

मुझे भरोसा है कि नई योजनाओं की घोषणाएं जैसे कि सूवा में सुपर काडियोलिजी अस्पताल की स्थापना से केवल फीजी में नहीं बल्कि प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र के लोगों की ज़रूरतों को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी।

पिछले साल नान्दी में बारहवें विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन की मेजबानी साथ करने से जो भारी सफलता मिली तथा गिरमिट दिवस राष्ट्रीय समारोह में उच्च स्तरीय

भागीदारी ने हमारे दोनों देशों के बीच मजबूत बंधन को और घनिष्ठ करने में मदद की है।

माननीय संसद सदस्यों, हम अपने सामने मौजूद कई गम्भीर चुनौतियों के प्रति भी सचेत हैं। सबसे महत्वपूर्ण है जलवायु परिवर्तन और समुद्र के स्तर में वृद्धि के खिलाफ लड़ाई, जो कई महासागरीय राज्यों के लिए खतरा है। एक बड़े विकासशील देश के रूप में, जो अक्सर प्रकृति की अनिश्चितताओं का सामना करता है, भारत जलवायु परिवर्तन के गहरे प्रभाव को भी अच्छी तरह से जानता है।

इसीलिए, हम दुनिया के एक जिम्मेदार सदस्य के रूप में अपना सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। पिछले साल हमारी जी-20 अध्यक्षता के तहत, हमने सतत विकास और जलवायु परिवर्तन के दो विषयों को उच्च प्राथमिकता दी थी। हमने “एक पृथ्वी, एक परिवार, एक भविष्य” को अपने जी-20 प्रेसीडेंसी का विषय बनाया।

भारत ने अपनी उत्सर्जन तीव्रता को काफी कम कर लिया है, और गैर-फोसिल ईंधन स्रोतों के माध्यम से चालिस प्रतिशत स्थापित बिजली क्षमता भी हासिल कर ली है। तज़ाब से तज़ाब के बीच, भारत ने लगभग सौ गिगावाट स्थापित बिजली क्षमता जोड़ी है, जिसमें से लगभग अस्सी प्रतिशत गैर-फोसिल ईंधन-आधारित संसाधनों से है।

इन घरेलू कदमों के अलावा, भारत ने जलवायु कार्रवाई के लिए कई अंतराष्ट्रीय मंचों पर भी नेतृत्व किया है। हम अंतराष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन आपदा प्रतिरोधी बुनियादी ढाँचे के लिए गठबंधन, और लचीले द्वीप राज्यों के लिए बुनियादी ढाँचे सहित इनमें से कई पहलों के उत्साहपूर्ण समर्थन के लिए फीजी की इमानदारी से सराहना करते हैं। हमें उम्मीद है कि फीजी जल्द ही औपचारिक रूप से वैश्विक जैव ईंधन गठबंधन में भी शामिल हो जाएगा।

ग्लोबल साउथ की एक शक्तिशाली आवाज़ के रूप में, भारत जलवायु वित्त और जलवायु तकनीकी दोनों के लिए विकसित देशों पर दबाव डालता रहेगा। हम जलवायु न्याय के लिए फीजी और अन्य महासागरीय राज्यों के साथ कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर खड़े रहेंगे। माननीय संसद सदस्यों, जैसे-जैसे भारत वैश्विक मंच पर मजबूती से उभर रहा है, हम एक मजबूत, लचीला और अधिक समृद्ध राष्ट्र बनाने के लिए आपकी प्राथमिकताओं के अनुसार फीजी के साथ साझेदारी करने के लिए तैयार हैं। आइए हम अपने दोनों प्यारे देशों के लोगों के पारस्परिक लाभ के लिए अपनी साझेदारी की पूरी क्षमता का उपयोग करने के लिए एक साथ आएँ।

धन्यवाद। विकाना-वाकालेवू।

गिरमिट के वंशजो को एक बार फिर सम्मानित किया गया



दूरिज़म व्यवसाय से जुड़े साझेदार रिकोर्ड तोड़ मुनाफा कमा रहे है

चित्र: दूरिज़म फीजी

शिलता सिंह

“फीजी भारत को एक प्रमुख विकास भागीदारी के रूप में मानता है, जिन्हें हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के बारे में ज्ञान है।”
“हम आपसी हित के क्षेत्रों में हमारे राष्ट्र निर्माण में भारत सरकार के योगदान के लिए गहरा आभारव्यक्त करते हैं।” यह बातें फीजी के राष्ट्रपति, महामहिम रातू विलियामे कोतोनिवरे द्वारा राष्ट्रपति भवन में भारत की राष्ट्रपति महामहिम श्रीमती द्रौपदी मुर्मू के लिए

स्वागत समारोह की मेज़बानी करते हुए कहा।

स्वागत समारोह में प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बुका, उनकी पत्नी श्रीमती सुलुएती रम्बुका, कैबिनेट मंत्री और आमंत्रित सदस्य उपस्थित थे। राष्ट्रपति कोतोनिवरे ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि भारत और फीजी के बीच आपसी इतिहास, विरासत और ऐतिहासिक संबंधों पर आधारित स्थायी मित्रता है।

“दोनों देशों के द्विपक्षीय संबंध मज़बूत है, जो फीजी में भारतीय उच्चयोग की पचहत्तर श्रमिक वर्षों की राजनयिक

उपस्थिति से और भी मज़बूत हुए है।” राष्ट्रपति कोतोनिवरे ने भी स्वागत समारोह में उपस्थित गिरमिटिया के वंशज को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की। “हम एक राष्ट्र के रूप में फीजी के विकास में स्वीकार करते हैं।

जवाब में, राष्ट्रपति मुर्मू ने साझा किया कि फीजी दक्षिण प्रशांत में एक विशेष भागीदारी है और कहा कि आज शाम यहां होने वाली सभा भारत और फीजी के बीच लम्बे समय से चले आ रही है और यह मधुर संबंधों का जश्न है। हमारे आगमन के बाद से मुझे और मेरे प्रतिनिधिमंडल का जिसका तरह स्वागत

किया गया है वह वास्तव में अद्भुत है। उसी समय, राष्ट्रपति कोतोनिवरे ने गिरमिट के वंशजों को पचासवीं वर्षगांठ का पदक यानि मेडल प्रदान किया, जिन्हें फीजी के विकास और मानवता के प्रति उनके योगदान के लिए मान्यता दी गई थी।

गंगम्मा - 108 वर्ष - नौसोरी हाईलैंड रोड सोलोवी नांदी
सोवर्था - 93 वर्ष नवौउ बा
गोविंदम्मा - 86 वर्ष सारू लौतोका
मनोरमा - 84 वर्ष-वितोंगो - लौतोका
हड़ताल सिंह-83 वर्ष-वितोंगो लौतोका
कुमारन - 83 वर्ष नातम्बुआ, लौतोका

नए किसानों के लिए सहायता

शिलता सिंह

चीनी क्षेत्र और नए किसानों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, चीनी मंत्रालय ने “नए किसान और लीज़ रिनूअल कार्यक्रम” के तहत देश भर के किसानों को सहायता प्रदान किया। बुनिका लम्बासा में रहने वाले उन्तीस वर्ष के शामिल चंद को

इस कार्यक्रम के चलते चीनी मंत्रालय कि ओर से ग्रांट की सहायता प्राप्त हुई है। श्रीमान चंद एक नए किसान है जो पिछले तीन सालों से गन्नें कि खेती कर रहे है तथा उन्होंने सरकार के प्रति अपना आभार व्यक्त किया।
“मैंने देखा है कि सरकार गन्नें के किसानों को मदद पहुंचाने के लिए कई प्रकार के सहायता दे रहे है, इसलिए मैं ने गन्ना बोने का कैसला किया था। इस क्षेत्र में ज़्यादा पैसा है जो शायद बाहर काम करने से नहीं मिलेगा।” चंद ने कहा। श्री चंद ने अभी हाल ही में उन्तीस एकड़ ज़मीन खरीदी है तथा दो

वर्षों से अपना उत्पादन बढ़ाया है और भविष्य में 200 टन फसल उगाने का लक्ष्य रखा है।
“यह जो ग्रांट मुझे मिला है, यह मेरे कर्ज़ के दर को कम करने में मेरी मदद करेगा। यह मेरे परिवार को पैसे बचाने में मदद भी करेगा।”
चंद ने अपना आभार व्यक्त किया। सरकारी सहायता ना केवल शामिल बल्कि उसके जैसे कई किसानों के जीवन में एक एहम भूमिका निभाता है। यह सहायता ना केवल वित्तीय सहायता है बल्कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में आर्थिक स्थिरता को भी विकसित करेगा।

बहु-जातिय मामले और चीनी क्षेत्र के मंत्री माननीय चरण जीत सिंह ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि सरकार गन्ने के किसानों को सहायता प्रदान करती रहेगी तथा उनके मेहनत के लिए उनको पुरस्कार भी दिया जाएगा। उन्होंने चीनी क्षेत्र के प्रति मंत्रालय कि प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाया है, जो 2024/2025 राष्ट्रीय बजट में साफ किया गया है। यह हमें किसानों को और भी मदद पहुंचाने में सहायता प्रदान करेगा तथा क्षेत्र को और भी विकसित करेगा।

भारत की राष्ट्रपति महामहिम द्रौपदी मुर्मू का फीजी दौरा



भारत की राष्ट्रपति महामहिम द्रौपदी मुर्मू तीन दिवस के लिए फीजी के दौर पर आई थी।
सूवा स्थित ग्रेन्ड पेसिफिक होटल में उनका पारम्परिक स्वागत किया गया, राष्ट्रपति मुर्मू ने वहीं पर प्रवासी भारतीयों से मुलाकात की।
लगे हाथ उन्होंने उन सुरक्षा बलों को श्रद्धांजली अर्पित की जिन्होंने सेवा प्रदान करते वक्त अपनी जान गवाई। प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका और राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे से मुलाकात करने के बाद वो नान्दी स्थित श्री सिवा सुवामन्या स्वामी मंदिर में पूजा करने के बाद देश से खाना हुई।



जरूरी सूचना

शीला सिंह

2024-2025 राष्ट्रीय बजट के तहत की गई कुछ बदलावों को महिला मंत्रालय, विभिन्न मिडिया के माध्यम के द्वारा आपको सुचित करने कोशिश कर रहे है। आगस्त की पहली तारीक से बस सहायता का नाम बदल कर ट्रांसपोर्ट सहायता स्कीम हो गया है। इस बदलाव के चलते, इस सहायता के चलते, लोगों को उनकी सुविधा के हिसाब से सहायता प्राप्त होगी, यानि कि आपको अपना यातायात चुनने की पुरी आजादी होगी। यह ग्रामिण इलाको में रहने वालों के लिए लाभदायक होगा।

महिला, बच्चे और सामाजिक सुरक्षा मंत्रालय अब सामाजिक पेंशन योजना और विकलांगता अलावन्स योजना के योग्य लोगों को महीने

के पच्चीस डोलर टॉपअप दिया जाएगा।

जिन लोगों के पास बैंगनी रंग का कार्ड है, वो उसका इस्तीमाल करके अपने बैलेंस का उपयोग कर सकते है। वो लोग जो बस कि सेवाएं प्राप्त करते रहेना चाहते है, से आगरा है कि वे अपने व्यक्तिगत ई-ट्रांसपोर्ट कार्ड शलाल कार्डत्त को रजिस्टर करें। शून्य बैलेंस होने पर, मंत्रालय द्वारा दिया गया बैंगनी कार्ड बंद कर दिया जाएगा।

और जानकारी के लिए आप मंत्रालय और जानकारी के लिए आप मंत्रालय को नीचे दिए गए नंबर पर संपर्क कर सकते है:

दक्षिणी विभाग, सूवा - 9907741
सेंट्रल विभाग, नौसोरी - 9980322
पश्चिमी विभाग, बा - 9904182
उत्तरी विभाग, लम्बासा - 9906187

राष्ट्रपति ने युवा महिलाओं को



राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवेरे लम्बासा संगम कोलज की रग्बी टीम के साथ

शीलता सिंह

लम्बासा संगम कोलेज की अंडर 16 लड़कियों की रग्बी टीम ने फीजी सेकेंडरी स्कूल रालुवे प्रतियोगिता में कल अपने मैच से पहले फीजी के राष्ट्रपति रातू विलियामे कोतोनिवेरे को अपना इसेवुसेवु प्रस्तुत किया। टीम द्वारा दिखाया गया यह भावना एक सम्मान की बात थी और राष्ट्रपति कोतोनिवेरे ने राष्ट्रीय भवन में टीम का स्वागत किया। युवा महिलाओं से बात करते हुए, उन्होंने उन्हें अपने शिक्षा कार्यों को खेल के साथ संतुलित करने के महत्व को याद दिलाया, जिनमें वे भाग लेती हैं।

“केवल खेल ही एक पेशा नहीं है, आपको अपनी शिक्षा के जिम्मेदारियों के साथ अपनी खेल-कुद कि गतिविधियों को संतुलित करने की आवश्यकता होगी। यह कभी ना सोचें कि आप देश के ग्रामीण हिस्से से हैं और आप अपने लक्ष्य हासिल नहीं कर पाएंगे।”
“मैं आप युवा महिलाओं से आग्रह करूंगा कि आप स्पष्ट लक्ष्य रखें और अपने भविष्य के लिए एक लक्ष्य निर्धारित करें, और हमेशा सफला पाने का प्रयास करें। यह भी ध्यान रखें कि सफलता के लिए हमेशा अपने माता-पिता कि बात सुने और अपने आप पर विश्वास रखें।

बिजली सब्सिडी, मुफ्त पानी, मुफ्त शिक्षा और यातायात की सहायता

शीलता सिंह

राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा करते हुए उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फाईनेंस मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद ने इस बात की घोषणा की कि उन लोगों के लिए सामाजिक सहायता में इस बार 50% बिजली की सब्सिडी, मुफ्त पानी की सेवाएं, मुफ्त शिक्षा तथा यातायात की सहायता भी शामिल है जिनकी आमदनी तीस हजार डोलर से कम हैं। कुल मिला कर दस मिलियन डोलर बिजली सब्सिडी पर निर्धारित की गई है जो लगभग 55,000 घरों को सहायता

प्रदान करेगा साथ ही साथ मुफ्त पानी वाली सेवाओं से लगभग चालीस हजार परिवारों को सहायता मिलेगी जिसका मुख्य चार मिलियन डोलर है। 2024-2025 राष्ट्रीय बजट में इस बार एली चार्डल्डहुड शिक्षा, प्राथमरी तथा सेकन्डरी स्कूल के बच्चों को मुफ्त शिक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए लगभग 66 मिलियन डोलर अलग किया गया है। साथ ही साथ लगभग नब्बे हजार बच्चों को यातायात की सहायता प्रदान की जाएगी जिसके लिए लगभग 37 मिलियन डोलर निकाला गया है।

किसानों की मदद

शीलता सिंह

चीनी क्षेत्र और नए किसानों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, चीनी मंत्रालय ने “नए किसान और लीज़ रिनुअल कार्यक्रम” के तहत देश भर के किसानों को सहायता प्रदान किया। वुनिका लम्बासा में रहने वाले उनतीस वर्ष के शामिल चंद को इस कार्यक्रम के चलते चीनी मंत्रालय कि ओर से ग्रांट की सहायता प्राप्त हुई है। श्रीमान चंद एक नए किसान है जो पिछले तीन सालो से गन्नें कि खेती कर रहे है तथा उन्होंने ने सरकार के प्रति अपना आभार व्यक्त किया।

“मैंने देखा है कि सरकार गन्नें के किसानों को मदद पहुंचाने के लिए कई प्रकार के सहायता दे रहे है, इसलिए मैंने गन्ना बोने का कैसला किया था। इस क्षेत्र में ज्यादा पैसा है जो शायद बाहर काम करने से नहीं मिलेगा।” चंद ने कहा। श्रीमान चंद ने अभी हाल ही में उन्नीस एकड़ ज़मीन खरीदी है तथा दो वर्षों से अपना उत्पादन बढ़ाया है और भविष्य में 200 टन फसल उगाने का लक्ष्य रखा है। “यह जो ग्रांट मुझे मिला है, यह मेरे कर्ज के दर को कम करने में मेरी मदद करेगा।



भारत की राष्ट्रपति महामहिम द्रौपदी मुर्मू प्रवासी भारतीयों से मुलाकात का भाषण

राम राम
नी सा बूला

दक्षिण प्रशान्त के सबसे खूबसूरत शहर सूवा में भारतीय प्रवासियों से मुलाकात करते हुए मुझे बेहद खुशी हो रही है। आपके पुर्वजों की मातृ भूमि भारत तथा वहाँ के घ.ण बिलियन भाईयों और बहनों की ओर से मैं आपको शुभकामनाएं दे रही हूँ। मैं इस खूबसूरत देश के लोगों के प्यार और स्वागत की गर्मजोशी और स्नेह से बहुत प्रभावित हूँ। हालांकि फीजी का यह मेरा पहला दौरा है लेकिन आपकी उपस्थिति से महसूस हो रहा है कि मैं अपने घर पर हूँ। मैं राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे तथा फीजी की सरकार को धन्यवाद देना चाहती हूँ जिन्होंने मुझे प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र में आकर भाईयों और बहनों से मिलने का अवसर दिया। मेरी राष्ट्रपति और प्रधान मंत्री दोनों के साथ सकारात्मक बातचीत हुई। कोम्पेनियन ओफ ओडर फीजी सम्मान जो कि फीजी का सबसे उँचा नागरिक सम्मान है, से मुझे सम्मानित करने के लिए मैं फीजी सरकार की दिल से सराहना करती हूँ। यह सम्मान भारत और फीजी के बीच गहरे रिश्ते का प्रतीक है। मुझे बहुत खुशी होती है जब मैं विदेश जाती हूँ और भारतीय समुदाय तथा प्रवासी भारतीयों से मिलती हूँ। फीजी एक ऐसा देश है जिसके साथ भारत का एक सौ पैतालिस साल पुराना विशेष और स्थायी बंधन है, यही कारण है कि आप सभी से मिलना एक सुखद अनुभव

रहा है। दुनिया भर में प्रवासी भारतीयों द्वारा लाए गए सकारात्मक बदलावों की देखना गर्व की बात है। मुझे यह देखकर बेहद खुशी हो रही है कि आप अपनी संस्कृति, भाषा तथा अपनी परम्परा नहीं भूले हालांकि आपके पुर्वज एक सौ पैतालिस साल पहले फीजी आए थे। आप अपनी मेहनत, अनुशासन और मूल्यों से जीवन के हर पहलू में सफल रहे हैं। जिन देशों में आप बसे है वहाँ कि अर्थ व्यवस्था के निर्माण और विस्तार में आपने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्र में हमारे प्रवासी अपने साथ एक समृद्ध और विविध सांस्कृतिक लेकर आए हैं जिसने उन समाजों को और अधिक समृद्ध किया है। शिक्षा और ग्यान की उच्च महत्व देने के कारण प्रवासी भारतीयों ने लगातार शिक्षा में उत्कृष्टता हासिल की है और दूसरों को भी ऐसा करने के लिए प्रेरित किया है। सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि अपने दोनो देशों के बीच मित्रता को मज़बूत करने कि प्रक्रिया मे एक जीवन पुल के रूप में भूमिका निभाई है। जहाँ भारत के प्रवासियों ने लगभग हर देश में अपनी छाप छोड़ी है, वही फीजी में आपकी अनेक कठिनाईयों के बीच पीढ़ियों द्वारा दिखाया गया संकल्प, उनका संघर्ष और उनका बलिदान और फिर उनकी सफलता के अद्भुत विरास्त है। हम आज आप सभी को आपके पुर्वजों को याद करते हैं और उनकी स्मृति को हम नामन करते है।

आपनी सांस्कृतिक पहचान को बरकारार रखते हुए, फीजी में भरतीय समुदाय ने अपनी नई मातृभूमि को अपनाया है और इस माहान देश के निर्माण में अपना योगदान दिया है जो कि पेसिफिक क्षेत्र में आशा कि एक किरण है। मुझे यह जान कर खुशी हो रही है कि श्री सनातन धर्म प्रतिनिधि सभा, अर्थ प्रतिनिधि सभा, टीआएसआए, फीजी मुसलिम लीग जैसी विभिन्न संगथनों ने इस सुन्दर देश को आकार देने में बहुत मज़बूत भूमिका निभाई है। सभी सांस्कृतिक, सभी परंपरा, सभी धर्म के लोग यहा आए है इसलिए मैं आपको बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद देती हूँ। हाल ही में आयोजित गिरमिट दिवस समारोह के दौरान आधुनिक फीजी के निर्माण मे गिरमिटियों और उनके वंशजों द्वारा किए गए योगदान को मान्यता देने के लिए मैं फीजी सरकार को भी धन्यवाद देती हूँ। मुझे बताया गया है कि फीजी सरकार ने गिरमिट दिवस को राष्ट्रीय छुट्टी के रूप में घोषित की है और हिन्दी को सरकारी भाषा के रूप में घोषित किए है इसलिए सरकार को मैं बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद देना चाहती हूँ। इस सम्बंध में गिरमिट दिवस को राष्ट्रीय छुट्टी घोषित करने तथा संसद में हिन्दी को अधिक भाषा बानाने का वर्तमान फीजी सरकार का विशेष कदम है। कुछ ही दिनों में भारत अपना भयतह स्वतंत्रता दिवस मनायगा। आज़ादी के समय से अमृत काल तक हमारा प्रिय देश बहुत आगे बढ़ चुका है। सबसे बड़े और सबसे जिवन्थ लोकतंत्र के रूप में आज भारत

दुनिया में लोकतंत्र का प्रतिक बन गया है। हमने दुनिया मे सबसे तेज़ी से बढ़ती अर्थ व्यवस्था के रूप में अपनी स्थिति मज़बूत करलि है। बहुत जल्दी हम दुनिया कि तीसी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बन जाएगी। आज पुरी दुनिया भारत को साइंस और टेक्नोलॉजी और विशेष रूप से पिपल से ट्रिक टेक्नोलॉजी का अयोजन करने में सबसे आगे मानती है। मैं अपने आगरिकों के जीवन को बहतर बानाने के लिए प्रयास करते हुए, हमने जो भी और जहा भी आवश्यकता हुई मानवता कि भलाई के लिए अपने कंपिसिट और विशेषज्ञता का उपयोग किया है। कोविड 19 महामारी के दौरान देखा गया कि अपने अग्रनि द्वा क्षेत्र का उपयोग करते हुए भारत ने फीजी के अलावा दुनिया भर के एक सो से अधिक देशों में घघज़ मिलियन के अधिक कोविड वेकसीन पहुंचाने के लिए मात्र नामक एक पहल शुरू किया है। हम दुनिया हर में अपने भरतीय प्रवासी समुदाय कि इस यात्रा में महत्वपूर्ण भागीदार और स्टेबल राष्ट्र के रूप में देखते है। एक ऐसा भारत जो मानव प्रयास के हर एक क्षेत्र में किसी से पिछे नही होगा। एक ऐसा भारत जो पुरी दुनिया के लिए विकास का इंजिन बानेगा। एक ऐसा भारत जो दुनिया का सच्चा मित्र बाना रहेगा। हमारे प्रवासी भारतीयों के हितों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, भारत सरकार ने भारतीय प्रवासियों के साथ सम्बन्धों को और गहरा करने और उनकी ज़रूरतों को पुरा करने के लिए बहार देशों में पहलु शुरू किया है।

स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के लिए 14.7 मिलियन डोलर की पूंजी



रोनल देव

ऑस्ट्रेलिया की सरकार ने सूवा के सी.डबल्यू.एम अस्पताल का मास्टा प्लान प्रदान करने के लिए जोनस्टाफ इंटरनेशनल डिवेलोपमन्ट को चुना है। फैसले की घोषणा करते हुए, ऑस्ट्रेलिया की विदेश मंत्री सेनेटे पेनी वोन्ग ने कहा कि फीजी में स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र, ऑस्ट्रेलिया की तरह, मेहनती, उच्च कुशल स्वास्थ्य स्वास्थ्य पेशेवरों से भरा हुआ है, और इस अवसर पर उन्होंने ने फीजी के समाज में उनके दैनिक योगदान के लिए उन्हें धन्यवाद

दिया। 'ऑस्ट्रेलिया में, हम मानते है कि स्वास्थ्य सेवा, हर एक नागरिक के लिए जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार है, चाहे वो कोई भी हो, और फीजी के लो भी इस विश्वास को मानते है। जब फीजी ने हमसे एक मास्टर प्लान के द्वारा उनकी स्वास्थ्य सेवा में सुधार की माँग की तो हमने बात सुनी और उसपर अमल किया। हमने जो सुना था आज उसपर अमल कर रहे है। हम उस अस्पताल में खड़े है जिसका निर्माण हुए एक सौ साल से ज़्यादा हो गया है और मुझे यह घोषणा करते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि एक बहुत ही प्रतियोगी, खरीद प्रक्रिया का पालन करते हुए, जोनस्टाफ इंटरनेशनल डिवेलोपमन्ट को चुना है, जिनके साथ जी.हर्डीच.डी, सिलवा थोमस हेनली, तथा इंटरनेशनल एस.ओ.एस. ऑस्ट्रेलिया श्रद्धा, सिलवडर त्थोमस ट्रानलडि, थुरीनतइरनअतौनअल सैस उस्तरअलअत मिलकर साझेदारी में काम करेंगे।' सेनेटर वोन्ग ने कहा। सेनेटर वोन्ग के अनुसार सी.डबल्यू.एम

अस्पताल में घूमने के बाद यह स्पष्ट है कि हम स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में सुधार देखने के लिए इस प्रक्रिया के पूरा होने तक इंतज़ार नहीं कर सकते। इसलिए, हमने वर्तमान की अस्पताल इमारतों के तत्काल और विस्तृत इंजीनियरिंग मल्यंकन के लिए भी वादा किया है ताकि यह निश्चित किया जा सके कि मास्टर प्लान विकसित और लागू होने के दौरान वे फीजी के लोगों की सेवा करना जारी रख सकें। ऑस्ट्रेलिया इस कार्य का समर्थन करने में गर्व महसूस करता है और फीजी के साथ हमारी साझेदारी की गहराई से सम्मानित महसूस करता है। हमारा लक्ष्य बेहतर सेवाएं, अधिक समावेशी अवसर विकसित करने और हमारे लोगों और हमारे क्षेत्र के लिए शान्ति और समृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने के लिए आपके साथ काम करना जारी रखना है। हमारी बूवाले साझेदारी, विश्वास और सम्मान की नींव पर बनी है और यह बराबरी की साझेदारी है।

फ़ीजी दर्पण

Sunday August 18, 2024 | 8 pages | Issue 12 Vol 15 | www.fiji.gov.fj | [@FijianGovt](https://twitter.com/FijianGovt) | [Fijian Government](https://www.facebook.com/FijianGovernment)



उप प्रधान मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद हाल में स्वामी विवेकानन्द कोलज के छात्रों तथा अधिकारियों के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शिक्षा की अहम भूमिका

रोनल देव

गठबंधन सरकार शिक्षा के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता पर कायम है। इसका प्रतिबिंब राष्ट्रीय बजट में दिखाई दे रहा है जहाँ इस साल शिक्षा मंत्रालय के लिए सबसे ज़्यादा \$627.6 मिलियन डोलर निकाला गया है। उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद ने ये आश्वासन, नान्दी स्थित स्वामी विवेकानन्द कोलज के प्लैटिनम जुबली समारोह के दौरान दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि गठबंधन सरकार पहचानती है कि हमारे राष्ट्र के भविष्य को आकार देने में शिक्षा की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है।

“शैक्षिक विकास के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता के हिस्से के रूप में, हमने देश भर में शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता और पहुँच में सुधार के लिए महत्वपूर्ण पुँजी लगाई है।” “जैसे ही हम सरकार में आए हमने बच्चों को वापस स्कूल जाने में मदद करने के लिए दो सौ डोलर प्रदान किया। इससे सरकार ने दो लाख तईस हजार से ज़्यादा बच्चों की सहायता के लिए 44.7 मिलियन डोलर निकाला। इस साल भी हमने बच्चों को वापस स्कूल भेजने में मदद की जहाँ दो लाख बारह हजार से ज़्यादा बच्चों की मदद करने के लिए लगभग 42.5 मिलियन डोलर अलग किया गया था। “पिछले महीने संसद में जो राष्ट्रीय बजट

पास हुआ में सरकार ने अगले साल बच्चों को वापस स्कूल जाने में मदद करने के लिए चालिस मिलियन डोलर अलग किया है।” उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने उन मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांतों को स्वीकार किया जिन्होंने कोलज की यात्रा को आकार दिया है और कहा कि आध्यात्मिकता और चरित्र निर्माण की दृष्टि संस्थान के मिशन के केंद्र में रही है। उन्होंने कोलज को एक और उपलब्धि हासिल करने के लिए बधाई दी और उनकी सभी योजनाओं, विशेषकर शिक्षा के विकास में सफलता की कामना की। स्वामी विवेकानन्द कोलज फीजी में सीखने और पाठ्यक्रम विकास का एक प्रतीक बन गया है। स्कूल के पास

सत्ताईस क्लासरूम है और एक हजार उनतालिस विद्यार्थी है। “मैं जानता हूँ कि आपकी पाठ्यक्रम गतिविधियों ने भाषण प्रतियोगिताओं, वाद-विवाद में उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन करने वाले छात्रों के साथ देश की पहचान अर्जित की है और ये उपलब्धियाँ स्कूल के विकास का आत्मसात करती है। यह छात्रों को सशक्त बनाने, उन्हें अवसर प्रदान करने और उनकी प्रतिभा की खोज करने और कक्षा से परे खुद को अभिव्यक्त करने के बारे में है।