



Single window system a milestone step **2**

PM Rabuka urges democracy and unity in Ba **3**

Resilience is in our DNA **4**

No mining in Namosi yet – public urged to get correct information **7**

Media council members announced **13**

First ever Fiji Sovereign Blue Bond



Coalition Government Members, Deputy Prime Ministers- Manoa Kamikamica, Biman Prasad and Viliame Gavoka with Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Lynda Tabuya and UNDP Representative Munkhtuya Altangerel and guests after the successful launch of the Fiji Sovereign Blue Bond. **Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN**

United Nations Development Programme Representative Munkhtuya Altangerel presenting her opening remarks at the Fiji Sovereign Blue Bond Launch at the Reserve Bank of Fiji. **Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN**

By JAMIL SULEMAN

THE first ever Fiji Sovereign Blue Bond valued at around \$20 million will help harmonise economic development with sustainable ocean stewardship. This was highlighted by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, while speaking at the Reserve Bank of Fiji, where he highlighted that was done in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). DPM Prasad said the groundwork for this initiative began with the development and launch of the Fiji Sustainable Bond Framework in 2022 at the United

Nations Climate Change conference (COP 27). He said the Sovereign Blue Bond issuance will enable the Government to implement climate and environmental conservation projects without compromising its socio-economic obligations and provides an opportunity to mobilise private capital toward projects that would otherwise remain unfunded. “We encourage financial institutions, banks, and private investors to participate in this historic Sovereign Blue Bond issuance. We also call upon development and donor partners to support Fiji’s climate financing efforts, exploring innovative instruments such as debt-for-nature bonds and nature performance bonds.” UNDP representative, Munkhtuya Alt-

angerel, speaking at announcement, said, “It is an honour to work with the governments of Fiji and the United Kingdom to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss through innovative country-led financing solutions”. Ms Munkhtuya said Fiji’s vision to venture into new and innovative sources of climate finance sets a precedence for developing countries to take a leading role in unlocking finance for development beyond rudimentary mechanism of national budget allocations. “Thematic bonds can play a significant role in addressing current financing gaps, especially in developing countries, ensuring that proceeds contribute to long-lasting, sustainable development impact.”

“The Blue Economy plays an important role in providing food, jobs, and livelihoods for millions of people around the world – particularly here in the Pacific – and it is estimated that our oceans could generate up to US\$3 trillion in economic activity each year by 2030.” Ms Munkhtuya said 18 exciting projects have been selected for financing through the Fiji Sovereign Blue Bond, valued around FJ\$20 million that have the potential to enhance the economic resilience of Fiji’s economy, reducing the impact of rising input commodity prices, help create enhanced levels of self-reliance through food security and create safe dignified employment opportunities for marginalised communities.

Resilience is in our DNA

Fiji will soon enter the dreaded cyclone season and already predictions are that at least three systems will affect the country. The National Disaster Management Office director, Vasiti Soko, spoke to Department of Information's Prashila Devi on the precautions and preparation people of Fiji must undertake in the lead up to the season.

DINFO: The National Disaster Week was recently commemorated, could you please comment briefly on the intent and the purpose and what was the response from the public?

Director NDMO: National Disaster Awareness Week is an annual event that the NDMO normally conducts, as legislated under the Natural Disaster Management Act. Basically, we go out to the public with our disaster practitioners in country and provide key disaster preparedness messages.

We hand out calendars, we hand key DRR (disaster risk reduction) messages, preparedness technique to members of the public but this year because of the increasing number of earthquakes and also with regards to the development that's happening in country, we thought it was timely for us to also conduct a national simulation exercise on tsunami and earthquake.

We were fortunate that the Australian Government provided the experts from Australia, the Australian Disaster Response Team 1 and 2 and their role was to come in to train our first responders on urban search and rescue.

The National Disaster Awareness Week had the traditional DRR exhibition and then in addition to that, we had the national simulation exercise on earthquake and tsunami.

In terms of response and the number of people that participated, 500 people actually registered online, apart from those that actually that just turned up at the event.

That's great because that's what the agenda behind NDAW is all about, advocacy on disaster preparedness and also bringing together first responders to build relationships, to build partnership before the event where they have to come together and respond as a team.

It is actually the first time for Fiji Government to actually host the national event and invite five NDMOs from across the region and 14 Red Cross.

Not only do we have the presence of Australia and New Zealand that are here to support the response but also, we brought our Pacific Island countries along with us on this journey.

And this is something that as a government that advocates about leaving no one behind, we made sure that we walk the talk. We knew this was a first for Fiji but we knew that the benefits of having this done for Fiji will also benefit other neighbouring countries.

They were able to see how Fiji operates but most importantly, the learnings that they take from that and while we were fully engaged in our national tsunami exercise, we also set up a monitoring and evaluation team, which was led by a lecturer at the University of Melbourne.

The idea behind it is to not only do the exercise that will benefit us so that we can better prepare but also contextualising what the universities that are now teaching DRR lessons on how we do it in the Pacific.

Disaster Awareness Week this year we had an M&E team that was headed by a professor in a university that could also contextualise that learning to the Pacific and most importantly in Fiji. Now that University of the South Pacific is offering DRR courses, this will enable the USP to actually contextualise some of the learnings that they have on

how to respond as a Pacific Island nation.



The Satellite Box that was procured by the Ministry of Communications will improve communications during times of disaster. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

DINFO: The tsunami and earthquake simulation drill, are there plans to take it to other parts of the country and have a similar exercise?

Director NDMO: The tsunami drill is an event that we also hold on November 5, which is the World Tsunami Day, this is where we work very closely with Mineral Resources Department where we do community evacuations as part of the drill and the awareness campaign.

So yes, we are doing it already on the ground with communities that are usually affected by cyclones or tsunamis but also just this time around, it was different because we held it at the national level and then we had seven different spots evacuated at the same time.

DINFO: During the National Disaster Week, there were some communication devices that are new to Fiji, could you explain about this?

Director NDMO: They are called setbox, six satellite boxes that was procured under the Ministry of Communication. These are key equipment that we use as part of a disaster response. Mainly in the aftermath of any disaster we have issues with communication and this setbox enables us to access the internet using satellite and most importantly they are powered by solar, which allows us to access internet without having to connect to a grid. This is what also offered as part of the awareness week in which civil servants learnt how to use this setbox.

DINFO: Are there other any other technological advancements that the DISMAC office is adopting to respond better to disasters?

Director NDMO: We have digitalised our initial damage assessment forms. This is to expedite survey on the ground under the National Disaster Management Plan. The initial damage assessments are to be undertaken within 48 hours of response and the practice in the past was a manual form. Our field team will have to go and inspect, come back and then update that information as a sitrep. This time around we've converted that into a digital form which we can access it in real time. So as soon as the information is submitted, we can access the information and review the information of areas that are in dire need of assistance.

In addition to our initial damage assessment, we also have digitalised our detailed damage assessment forms, again for the very reason of expediting response to communities that are affected, and that's available on the dashboard that the National Disaster Management Council can read real time.

We have circulated online links to all disaster practitioners, both government and CSOs, NGOs and faith-based organisations and private sector to update them on the state of readiness. The information that are available online will be displayed on a dashboard that will inform government on our level of preparedness as we move closer to the cycling season.

DINFO: On the preparedness side, normally we see it's the rural areas, when the disaster hits that are the least prepared. What is the DISMAC office doing to level the playing field in terms of preparing them for disasters.

Director NDMO: To that question, I will have to compartmentalise it because there's different support that is being given to communities. One, again under the banner of disaster preparedness, we train communities on how to better respond and how to prepare themselves during disaster through the community-based disaster risk training manual.

In 2020, we standardised this training manual right across Fiji to allow CSOs and NGOs who do these trainings on our behalf, go down to the community and work with them to develop their emergency plan, develop their evacuation route, to also develop their emergency committees. And we've received stories that after those that have been trained, they better respond in the event of a disaster.

The other aspect in which DISMAC does so well in is in our sub-national level teams.



National Disaster Management Office Director, Vasiti Soko, speaking to the 50 personnel from various organisations and institutions responsible for disaster response operations and the National Emergency Response Team (NERT) during a week-long training on Humanitarian Assistance Response Training (HART) in Suva. **Photo: SUPPLIED**



More than 50 first responders, emergency personnel, and senior government officials participated in a three-day training on Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) which was held in the lead-up to the 2023 National Disaster Awareness Week (NDAW). **Photo: SUPPLIED**

NDMO has 39 emergency operation centres spread right across Fiji and so through the district offices, communities will have an EOC that they report to and then through this district emergency operation centre, they report to the divisional operation centre which scales up to the National Emergency Operation Centre. Thirty-nine (39) EOCs spread right across to allow information to be submitted to us much faster.

We are also working with other key government agencies on strengthening community resilience, one of which the Ministry of Rural champions is the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funded project on disaster resilience where mainstreaming DRR, investing into small infrastructures that could, in the long run, benefits the communities like building footpaths so students can reach school safely and back, strengthening their water tank so that it doesn't get blown away by strong winds.

DINFO: Over the years, in your position as Director DISMAC, have you seen changes in the way people respond to disasters with all the awareness and advocacy?

Director NDMO: Behavioural change, I would say, yes. This would be reflected in the number of casualties, the number of mortalities that we receive after a big cyclone. TC Winston, which was a category, we had 44 deaths. TC Yasa was a similar category but we did not have that many of people dying, that shows that people are actually taking warnings seriously.

Still time and again we see people dying because of flooding and this is something that we're still trying to work through partners to ensure that communities do to take warnings seriously, but also, most importantly, act on those warnings.

It's a challenge that not only Fiji faces, it's faced globally. But the advocacy will continue to be spread through our CSOs and our partners and of course, other government agencies as well on how to better prepare themselves for any disaster.

DINFO: We can learn better from the international community as they have experiences and lessons learnt. After attending some of the international gathering, what are some of the lessons that made an impression on you?

Director NDMO: I'll start off by saying that I'm a member of the United Nation Disaster Coordinating Team (UNDOC). These are selected officials right across the world that respond to disaster upon the call from UN. From my training in Kenya, I came back and initiated the first of its kind Fiji National Emergency Response Team.

This is one of the actions that I really wanted to do because I knew it was very important that Fiji has its own team that are able not only to deploy nationally but regionally as well. Additionally, internationally the National Fire Authority carry a lot of value in terms of search and rescue.

So being a member of the international advisory of urban search and rescue and being an advocate, or contextualising some of these learnings we were able to through the support of the Australian Government, bring the Australian Disaster Assessment Team 1 and 2 to train our National Fire Authority in urban search and rescue. Part of that training happened as part of the Disaster Awareness Week build-up and also their simulation exercise in which they demonstrated the learnings from that training.

Again, the Hawaii, Mawi fire that killed a lot of people, no one expected that to happen but it happened. And from that learning we now have a Hawaii team through USAID and the US Army who are currently running a training for first responders in Holiday Inn.

Bringing those lessons learnt in country and sharing it with our first responders is very important because it builds on our capability but also addresses some of the gaps that we've never seen as a gap because another country has gone through it.

DINFO: The exposure our first responders and disaster officers get when they are deployed to assist other Pacific Island countries, how beneficial are these for equipping them better?

Director NDMO: Responding to a disaster is an arena on its own. Disaster practitioners, disaster managers- it's a fairly specialised field and when we deploy our first responders abroad, they have to understand the meaning of some of the terminology like OSOC, like what is WASH, what the shelter cluster does, what the logistic cluster does, all these different things itself are critical elements to responding to a disaster.

So, our first responders are now equipped to better understand the positions that they play when it comes to this global deployment but also most importantly, the context in which people globally respond to.

We've been blessed to have responded to Tonga from the recent volcano.

It was a very unique deployment because we were deploying within the confinement of COVID, so group of officials went across in a boat, delivered it on the wharf and then returned without having contact with local counterparts.

And then we also have the Vanuatu deployment from the recent cyclone last year. We were fortunate to also deploy to New Zealand. For us the big element here is not just going to support them with manpower and resources, but also learning from their lessons learnt, learning from what went well, what didn't go well and then bringing it back to Fiji.

I did mention the Mawi example, we were not able to deploy but now the people that were deployed to Mawi response are now in Fiji to talk about the lessons learnt. These are things that we are upskilling our first responders and one of the things- gone are the traditional thinking of disasters, when it happens, our cyclone season, this cyclone that just hit Vanuatu happened outside the cyclone season.

Climate change is exacerbating the impacts on the ground, the disasters are happening more frequently than ever before because of climate change.

We need to upskill our first responders all the time- upskilling them with training,



Senior representatives from the relevant agencies responsible for disaster management participated in a tabletop exercise ahead of the 2023 National Disaster Awareness Week (NDAW) which was held at Albert Park in Suva from 17 - 18 October 2023. **Photo: SUPPLIED**



Naval officers from Fiji met with their counterparts from other countries during a week-long training on Humanitarian Assistance Response Training (HART) in Suva which coincided with the National Disaster Awareness Week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

technology, exposure and this is something that we will continue to do hence the formation of the Fiji National Emergency Response Team. Training this group of individuals who Government can deploy anywhere should the need to provide that level of response to other countries.

DINFO: The NGOs and other bodies that NDMO works with Government do provide information and raise awareness but are there villages or communities who reach out to NDMO to help out in raising awareness?

Director NDMO: At the national level, the National Disaster Management Council to which the NDMO reports its activities to, there are two organisations that are part of the council that are not part of Government.

That's the Red Cross and Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) on the understanding that all CSOs and NGOs will come under the FCOSS banner.

In the event where members or organisations are not part of FCOSS we have the Fiji cluster system, which has the different cell to which they can report to, to provide that level of support.

For example, if faith-based organisation is working on WASH or shelter to kids, then they can report directly to the permanent secretary responsible for shelter in this case PS Rural.

If its water related or WASH related, food and nutrition related, then they report directly to the permanent for Health and then provide for their needs. At the community level if they request directly for trainings, this will come through the turaga ni koro, the turaga ni koro through the divisional commissioners who then make that submission to us and then we mobilise the CSOs and our NGOs to actually support this request that are coming in through the divisional of commissioners.

DINFO: As we approach the disaster, are there any important facts to keep in mind, especially in areas where we have found people of Fiji lacking when it comes to attending to disasters?

Director NDMO: As I've mentioned earlier, the importance of adhering to warnings, this is something that we will continue to advocate but also most importantly, the information has to be from a government reliable source. Sometimes there's a lot of panic on the ground or on social media because someone else had issued that this is going to happen.

My plea to the general public is- please ensure that you receive the information from a reliable source, from a government source in this case.

Since we're moving into a cyclone season, please refer to Fiji Meteorological Services for all your information that you need to help guide your level of preparedness. Also, when warning is issued, please adhere to the warnings.



First responders, emergency personnel and senior government officials during the three-day training on Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) which was held in the lead-up to the 2023 National Disaster Awareness Week (NDAW). **Photo: SUPPLIED**

You know when a person dies, we can't bring them back so the importance of just adhering to the warning so that you can protect yourself and your family. Lastly, advocacy around better preparing your homes, those extra nails, those extra guttering, those extra strappings will allow your home to withstand certain degree of wind speed.

This is all part of disaster preparedness and cleaning up your home, cleaning up on your yard, making sure that there is no stagnant water because after a cyclone passes, we have a lot cases of LTDD (leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue and diarrhoea) that rises rapidly.

Making sure that you know your home is safe as well after the disaster has passed. Adhere to warnings and prepare better for your family and yourself.

DINFO: We see a lot of disasters happening around water bodies, we hear of people trying to cross flooded rivers and creeks, we see children on social media playing in bloated waterways. Any advice?

Director NDMO: Pleading with the general public not to play on flooded walkways or flooded road. One is the danger behind what they cannot see. Obviously, if a child jumps in you don't know what's below the water, if there's hard debris or a sharp object which can hurt the child. So please don't ever underestimate the power of water. Stay away from flooded rivers and flooded walkways.

Make sure that your family, your children are looked after but also just keeping an eye on them, it's very important.

Sometimes we tend to wander around we don't realise where our kids have gone to because its rainy season and our kids love to play outside. But so much has happened, in development as well, with flooded walkway and river we really don't know what's beneath that water.

The danger is always there so pleading with general public to refrain from crossing flooded river, refrain from swimming in flooded river as well as walkways and most importantly, just keep an eye on your children.



Students attended the National Disaster Awareness Week at Albert Park last week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

DINFO: Many times, we have cyclones that affects a few countries in the Pacific, so in terms of response are we networking?

Director NDMO: Absolutely this is part of disaster preparedness. At this time, you build networks and you build relationships because when you are responding there's no time for that.

Thankfully SPC (The Pacific Community) likes to bring together the NDMO directors at least once or twice a year, where we meet and discuss issues that are cross border, in the sense that if it affects Tonga, it will affect us or similarly if it affects Vanuatu, it will affect Fiji.

For our National Emergency Response Team training in July, we had the Vanuatu NDMO director as part of that, so it was also bringing them as part of the journey but also building partnership and relationship that after an event they could look within the Pacific region alone to get that level of support without going outside.

DINFO: We are a country with limited means terms of resources. How well resourced are we to tackle disasters and what are the areas we can still improve on?

Director NDMO: Yes, we still need a lot of resources in country but for a country that has faced a lot of disasters, a country that has a cyclone season marked in its calendar, we are resilient people. Our communities are resilient. A lot of rural areas that have been impacted by disasters they are very resilient.

They know the kind of food they should be growing at a particular time. They know where to go when there's a need to evacuate.

Growing up as a child here in Fiji, we know about cyclones, we've been taught in school about these things. We know how to better prepare ourselves. Resilience is in our DNA.

All these impacts of climate change and our development partners coming in, it's to complement what's already there and this is something I will always advocate and stand for- that people of Fiji are very resilient in the space of disaster.

No mining in Namosi yet— public urged to get correct information

By LOTE RABOILA

The idiom “straight from the horse’s mouth” is one that comes from the British horse racing circles which pointed out that the ideal source for racing tips would be the horse rather than the spectators.

The same can be said for developments in Fiji such as the Namosi Joint Venture (NJV) operations in Namosi and the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources has urged the public not to speculate and get the correct information from the proverbial horse, which in this case is the Ministry.

In a statement released by the Ministry earlier in August this year, Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources Filimoni Vosarogo reassured that there was no mining underway in Namosi and that the Namosi Joint Venture company has been only carrying out mineral exploratory works since 2009.

“Terrestrial mining has never been undertaken in Namosi. The NJV team has been engaged only in exploration works in Namosi since 2008, aimed at assessing the potential for future mining activities. It is essential to note that no exploration work, including ground investigations, has been conducted in the Namosi region since 2018,” Minister Vosarogo said.

NJV has been focusing on research and development since 2018 with particular emphasis on sustainable mineral development models for Namosi that also includes technical evaluation and monitoring.

The Ministry reassures that it has never granted any mining lease or permit for the Namosi region therefore comments by individuals referring to mining operations in Namosi were incorrect and misleading.

Known as the Waisoi prospect, there has been appreciation for mineral prospecting in the area since the 1930s although detailed exploration commenced in 1968 targeting the two main prospects – Waisoi East and West.

Prior to NJV, various companies such as Viti Copper, Placer Pacific, WMC, AMAX/ CRA and Nittetsu held exploration rights over the area before it was taken over by the Namosi Joint Venture (NJV) in 2008.

NJV is a joint venture amongst Newcrest Mining Ltd, an Australian company that is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and two Japanese companies which are Materials Investments (Fiji) and Nittetsu Mining Co. Ltd.

Recently, there has been strong opposition from some landowners, non-government organisations and even religious organisations who have speculated on the environmental impact pertaining to mineral exploration in Namosi and this includes an influential religious figure allegedly claiming that some women in Namosi have attributed the diminishing supply of fish, prawns and eels to the exploration exercise.

In addition, it is claimed that the exploration has caused serious damages to the social relations in the village with divisions, ill feeling betrayal and hate amongst the people.

“These claims are deeply concerning as they are speculation bordering on conjecture. Diminishing fish, prawns and eels is not synonymous only with Namosi but is being experienced all over Fiji due to factors such as overfishing because of our growing population, use of commercial or synthetic fertilisers on farms near streams affecting aquatic life, logging activities which increases sedimentation and climate change to name a few,” Minister Vosarogo said.

“There is no concrete evidence provided to date that suggests that there is a direct link between works undertaken by NJV and perceived environmental impacts. The Ministry awaits the provision of factual scientific data linking the claims made by such commentators to the exploration works undertaken by NJV,” he added.

NJV has been proactive throughout by including the landowners during the



Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Filimoni Vosarogo with senior staff during a meeting with the Namosi Joint Venture. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

planning phase of all ground investigations, ensuring that all parties are fully aware of the operations that has been undertaken.

The landowners are also present on site during all groundworks until exploration teams demobilise from the site.

An agreement between the company and the landowners states that the company has only 14 days post drilling works to ensure that the site is rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the landowners.

Further to that, the company has invited the landowners in the decision-making process when it comes to deciding what trees and plants they wish to be re-planted on the site.

Following the completion of rehabilitation of disturbed sites due to exploration and after the payment of disturbance compensation, joint site inspections consisting of landowners, Mineral Resources Department and NJV representatives were undertaken.

Once all parties were satisfied with and in agreement of completion of rehabilitation work, they signed off on relevant exploration rehabilitation completion document.

All ground investigations came to an end in 2018 and no further exploration has been undertaken since then.

In addition, all boreholes drilled by NJV were also inspected during the joint rehabilitation inspection and there were no complains or issues raised regarding hot water coming out of uncapped boreholes.

“The Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources has always been transparent through the process and have always encouraged and ensured that NJV and other mineral explorers in Fiji do the same pertaining to exploration work and reporting mechanisms,” Minister Vosarogo clarified.

“Therefore, I continue to urge that if individuals want to know anything regarding mineral exploration in Namosi

or any parts of Fiji, please approach the Ministry. Getting secondary information from individuals or the social media is unreliable and only creates animosity, trepidation, and mistrust. However, the truth is always liberating.”

On the other hand, the claims of divisions within the community because of the project were not true and scapegoating as the distribution and utilisation of compensation pay-outs to the landowning units was beyond the control of the Ministry and NJV.

Since 2008, NJV has utilised over \$4.8million in community assistance and development as part of the company’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with the lion’s share of this directed towards scholarships.

This was done when the project was still at exploration stage and there was no return to NJV despite significant investment made on mineral exploration including research and development.

Minister Vosarogo reaffirms that the Government will always act in the best interests of both the landowning units and investors such as NJV to bring about harmony in development.

“Come and talk to us for any issue pertaining to the role that we play in any development. We have offices in Suva, Nadi, Lautoka, Rakiraki and Labasa as we are committed to bringing our services closer to you so that we will guide and advice you in any project that is within the state lands and mineral resources sector,” he added.

The Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources remains committed to overseeing responsible mineral resource development while ensuring the welfare of the people and the protection of the environment.

(Source: Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources)



The construction of the Namosi village footbridge was financed by the Namosi Joint Venture. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

DPM Prasad chief guest at the 2023 Jai Narayan College Academic awards

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, Biman Prasad was chief guest at the 2023 Jai Narayan College Academic Achievements Celebrations this week.

In delivering his keynote address, DPM Prasad extended his warmest congratulations to the hard-working Year 12 and 13 students of Jai Narayan College for their exceptional dedication towards their academic journey.

Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN



“In order to achieve the best in life, it all begins now, in school.”



The President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere highlighted this while addressing Year 3 students from Draiba Primary School at the State House recently

“You will overcome any challenges if you listen to your parents and teachers.”

“By working hard you will be able to pay your parents back for everything they have done to take care of you, and it all begins in school.”

Photos: FELIX LESINAIVALU



Toge villagers raise concern with PM

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka paid a special visit to the villagers of Toge in Ba recently to address their concerns about a low-lying bridge connecting two villages and farming settlements to the main road. He inspected a frequently used washed-out crossing for school children in Toge Village.

Representing the villagers, Vilame Raqona expressed their worries about the low-lying bridge, which was initially a valuable asset but had turned into a hazard during heavy rainfall. He highlighted the changing climate patterns, leading to torrential downpours and prolonged dry spells. Mr Raqona emphasised the challenges faced by the community, including the impassable creek beside the village that prevents school children from safely crossing during even minor rainfalls.

Photos: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA



Four new judicial officers sworn in at State House



Four new judicial officers were sworn in at the State House today, further strengthening Fiji's judiciary. The newly appointed appointees were ceremoniously sworn in by President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere in the presence of Acting Chief Justice Salesi Temo, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga, Solicitor-General Ropate Green, and Chief Registrar Tomasi Bainivalu.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Logging supervisors reminded of their duty



Minister for Fisheries and Forestry Kalaveti Ravu reminds certified loggers of their duty.
Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

“As a forest harvesting supervisor, you will play a very critical role in ensuring that best logging practices are observed at all times.”

These were the words of the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Kalaveti Ravu to 24 recently certified Logging supervisors after completing the Forest Harvesting Supervisors Module Three at the Macuata House, in Labasa recently.

Minister Ravu reminded them that while developments were necessary in responding to people’s needs and aspirations, effective planning and implementation were vital to maintain the proper balancing of economic, social and environmental considerations.

“Harvesting timber over and above the forests’ sustainable level of harvest is resulting in their degradation and reduction of biological diversity such that the quality

and range of ecosystem services and products provided are negatively impacted,” he said.

“You will play a very critical role in ensuring that best logging practices are observed at all times in line with the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice and Forest Legislations.

“There is also the need to put in place adequate measures to ensure that any forest harvesting is within the forest’s sustainable cut level, and in full compliance with existing codes of practice and other environmental requirements.”

Minister Ravu added that this would only be possible through partnership with the Government and stakeholders in an integrated manner which was the most effective strategy towards making real and positive changes on the ground for the people.

He urged them to share knowledge gained with their co-workers and to grab the opportunity for further training and education in forestry.

Women empowerment vital to boost the sugar industry



Minister for Sugar and Multi-Ethnic Affairs Charan Jeath Singh while closing the training at Seaqaqa Primary for female farmers recently. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

THE involvement of women in the sugar industry is vital and if we want a robust sugar production then we need to empower women farmers.

These were the words of Faranise Taciqinivula, a sugar cane farmer from Seaqaqa who was a part of a two-day training for female farmers on best management practices.

The training aimed at equipping women with how to best manage their farm for maximum production, was the first of its kind in the country introduced by the Sugar Research Institute of Fiji.

Ms Taciqinivula, who owns a 10-acre cane farm and has been in the sugar industry for the past two years, said lessons learnt were invaluable.

“I have learnt quite a lot on best farming practices from this training - from cultivation, planting methods, farm maintenance and I am grateful for the opportunity,” the mother of five

said.

“My husband operates his own farm and I have my own and I think that if we are to increase production then programmes as such should be offered to women growers as well.”

Similar sentiments were expressed by Indra Devi who has been in the sugar industry for the past 14 years.

“It was very informative as in the past, all we were equipped with was the traditional way of farming, but now we are introduced to best management practices which will definitely boost production for us,” Ms Devi said.

“Prior to this, we would plant anyhow because we were not aware of the best way to ensure a good yield – this knowledge will be put to good use.”

In closing the two-day training, the Minister for Sugar and Multi-Ethnic Affairs, Charan Jeath Singh, said it was imperative that the sugar industry was given a boost because it was one of the key crops that has contributed greatly to the economy especially in the North.

Pine overplant finally harvested



Minister for Fisheries and Forestry Kalaveti Ravu with the women of Vunikawakawa Village in Macuata. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

“FOR decades we have been crying for the harvest of pine overplanted on our mataqali land and we are grateful to the Government for working tirelessly on our behalf to make this possible.”

These were the sentiments of 73-year-old Avorosa Bolatabanivau, the head of mataqali Vunimavule in Bua Lomanikoro.

The mataqali Vunimavule have used the returns of the harvest to purchase much-needed resources.

Since the inception of the pine industry, overplanted pine has never been reverted to landowners leaving it untouched, despite strong appeals by landowning units.

It was through dialogue and careful consideration between the Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries, iTaukei Land Trust Board (iTLTB), Fiji Pine Limited and other relevant stakeholders, pine trees that are on the mataqali land can now be harvested.

“This was not an easy feat, as we would raise it during our district and provincial meetings

and visiting relevant offices for this purpose over the years,” an emotional Mr Bolatanivau said.

“To be able to witness that the overplant has been reverted to us is a monumental achievement because the overplant pine occupied 396 acres of our land.”

“In this short span of time we have been able to purchase a tractor, a fibreglass boat and a 10-tonne truck for the benefit of the mataqali, and this is something that we have always hoped for.”

The landowning unit head for mataqali Vuniberei in Vunikawakawa, Macuata shared similar sentiments saying that this has opened development opportunities for their community.

“Overplant pine occupied 175 hectares of our mataqali, which is currently being logged by a contractor – Vanua Levu Palette Limited- and we are grateful to God and to the Government for a timely intervention,” Mr Namoce said.

“Since our community is vulnerable to flooding with no proper space for individuals to gather during times of crisis, first on our development priority list would be an evacuation centre.”



Cabinet decisions on sugar, GCC and overseas employment

The Peoples' Coalition Cabinet held its 18th meeting this year. The decisions made at the meeting of Cabinet include the following

Top-Up for Final Sugarcane Payment for the 2022 Season Crop

Cabinet approved the provision of \$8.2 million to top-up the final cane payment for the 2022 season crop.

Cabinet approved the release of \$8.2 million to top-up the payment by \$5 per tonne which will increase the final payment to \$6.12 per tonne, and further increase the total cane payment for the 2022 crop-season to a historic record of \$91.38 per tonne.

Under the Master Award, sugarcane farmers are paid in five instalments. The first payment known as delivery payment is made during harvesting, the second payment is usually made in January after cane crushing stops, the third payment is made in March, the fourth payment in May, and the final payment also referred to as

“wash-up” payment, is made in October.

The final payment for the 2022 season-crop will be paid to cane farmers before 31 October 2023.

Re-establishment of the Great Council of Chiefs

Cabinet approved the following legislative changes required to reinstate the Great Council of Chiefs (GCC):

(i) amendment to the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944 to provide for the re-establishment of the GCC; and

(ii) amendment of section 15 of the iTaukei Trust Fund Act 1944 to enable the funding of the GCC under the iTaukei Trust Fund.

The draft amendment Bills will be presented at the next Cabinet meeting for review before they are tabled in Parliament.

Agreement between the Ministry of **Employment, Productivity and Industrails Relations and the Volunteer Service Aboard - New Zealand**Cabinet approved the execution of an Agreement



Cane farmers loading harvested sugarcane on a tractor. Photo: SUPPLIED

with Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) New Zealand (NZ).

Operating since 1962, VSA is the volunteer development programme, funded by the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) as part of the Aotearoa NZ Aid Programme.

VSA operates under five broad thematic areas as follows.

- Business and Economic Growth;
- Health and Wellbeing;
- Education;

- Environment and Climate Change; and
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Security.

The cooperation agreement will allow the Fijian Government to engage VSA volunteers to provide technical assistance to community projects as well as larger scale initiatives of Government Ministries.

The National Employment Centre (NEC) will oversee the VSA programme under the Agreement.

Media council members announced



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, with Fiji Media Council members and heads of media organisations. Photo: SUPPLIED

By JAMIL SULEMAN

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica announced a major development in the nation's media landscape recently.

DPM Kamikamica said in April this year, the Media Industry Development Authority Act was repealed in Parliament, thereby fulfilling the Coalition Government's commitment in reinstating media freedom for a more dynamic, accountable, and independent media industry in Fiji.

“There has been a lot of work progressing to establish the Fiji Media Council, and I am pleased to announce that the composition of this important body has been finalised.”

“The Fiji Media Council comprises a diverse group of individuals who are committed to upholding the highest journalistic standards, defending media independence and freedom and proactively addressing public concerns.”

DPM Kamikamica said the main goal of the Fiji Media Council was to promote self-regulation and uphold high standards in the media industry and act as a platform for people in the media world to talk, work together, and resolve any issues that come up.

DPM Kamikamica also congratulated, Agatha Ferei, who was as unanimously elected as chair of the Fiji Media Council, and members of the council.

“I like to pay tribute to the former members of the Media Council whose shoes will be very hard to fill and those of us that are here will try our best to do that,” Ms Ferei said.

“It hasn't been any easy journey to be in this industry and there have been dark moments, I also like to pay tribute to all journalists that have died, and suffered during the process of trying to keep up the work of reporting and bringing information to the members of the public,” she added.

She also said the council will examine existing policies that may require revisions or amendments.

“The other thing is for us to move as fast as possible to bring in a complaint committee that can run and that's one area we will probably look in first,” Ms Ferei said

She explained that any media-related complaints will be routed to the council, which will then take action to address the problem.

The Fiji Media Council consists of seven public members and seven media companies.

Arshad Daud, Inoke Bainimarama, Laisa Bale, Marc McElrath, Naina Ragigia, and Shirleen Sahai are also members of the council.

Fiji Media Council members

Agatha Ferei is currently the Managing Director of the 'IPA Fuagri, a professional education service provider and has an English Language/Literature and History/Politics background; a strong advocate for edu-communication and capacity development of citizens and in particular women, youths and children. She has served as the Executive Director of Caritas Fiji (2019 –2022) and the Media Watch Group (2010 – 2017). Currently she serves as Board Member of the World Association for Catholic Communication, (SIGNIS) and the Censor of Films in Fiji.

Inoke Bainimarama is a communications, media, marketing and sponsorship professional having worked in Fiji, the Pacific and globally as part of the United Nations system. He is currently the Oceania National Olympic Committees executive director. Notably he was the public relations officer for the 2003 South Pacific Games. Mr Bainimarama was trained at the Christchurch School of Broadcasting in New Zealand in Journalism and Television Production and spent 15 years at Fiji Television as a Producer/Director as well as a Programme Presenter and News and Current Affairs Anchor. He has also participated and delivered regional media programmes and events for the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA).

Laisa Bale has done a plethora of independent consultancy for United Nations agencies including UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on gender, disaster risk reduction, conflict prevention and recovery. Notably her work on gender saw her in the role of UNIFEM (UN Fund for Women) Pacific Regional Office: Pacific Coordinator – CEDAW as well gender consultant for the Tuvalu Government. Ms Bale has a LLB (Hons) from the University of Sussex, Brighton, England and a Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Boston, USA. Ms Bale has also done independent consultancy for Fiji Media Watch Evaluation and the Citizen Constitutional Forum.

Naina Ragigia comes from a public relations and communications background. She worked the Fiji Police Force in various capacities including as the media liaison officer and protocol officer. Ms Ragigia has done her Bachelor of Arts in English Language and iTaukei Culture from the University of Fiji from where she also completed her postgraduate certificates in Peacekeeping Studies and International Relations and Diplomacy.

Arshad Daud is an entrepreneur who runs specialised representation and distribution businesses in Fiji and is currently the managing director of Midlink Marketing Ltd and of Proctor and Gamble Fiji Ltd T/A Ideal Logistics. He has a Bachelor of Arts (Economics and Finance) from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Mr Daud was on the board of Leadership Fiji and also has an IRB Level 1 & 2 Coaching Certificates.

Shirleen Sahai has been in the banking sector for the past 24 years and has BA in Sociology and Psychology from the University of the South Pacific where she also completed her Masters of Arts in Sociology. She is currently a teaching consultant at USP's School of Law and Social Sciences. Ms Sahai's late father, Joel Sahai, was a member of the last Media Council that was disbanded in 2009.

Marc McElrath owns and operates McDonald's in Fiji and has been involved in a number of community and business boards in Fiji including being a board member of the Denarau Residential Estates Ltd. He has been actively supportive of Special School's sports in Fiji for almost 20 years and supports a number of community sports teams. Mr McElrath is the chairman of the Ronald McDonalds House of Charities Fiji.

Compiled by PRASHILA DEVI

Agriculture Show helps us to build our business

By PRASHILA DEVI

HAVING platforms such as the 2023 Agriculture Show provides us the opportunity to not only sell our plants but also to build network which benefits us in the long run.

This has been the experience of Sera Tuva, 49, from Naitutu, Namalata, Tailevu who has been a regular at the annual Agriculture Show and Women's Expo that have helped her to sell plants that she grows herself.

Mrs Tuva participated at this year's Ministry of Agriculture organised Agriculture Show and on display for sale were her aloe vera, cactus, indoor Plants, ixora and miniature plants.

"This is a hobby for me, a passion as it's something I like doing but it has also helped with the bread and butter of my family. I was able to assist my family and didn't have to rely on my husband," the mother of four said.

Mrs Tuva shared that she was also able to help her children through their tertiary education.

"Before, when my two daughters were studying at USP (University of the South Pacific) I would sell flowers and help them with whatever they needed for their school. Now my daughter works at TLTB (iTaukei Lands Trust Board)," the proud

parent explained.

On her plants, Mrs Tuva said, "I grow these plants, we have a club in my village with 10 other women and the club is called El Shaddai, which means God is always with you".

The Ministry of Agriculture, she said, has helped in terms of the equipment and materials for the greenhouse that all the members have in their own backyard.

"We have individual greenhouse that we set-up with the help of the Ministry. With the plants, we got those on own and within our club we do this and that to just multiply the numbers, I have more than 100 plants."

Mrs Tuva said they get big orders from landscapers and hotels.

"Sometimes, when the landscapers need plants, they call us and ask for 100 plants at once. Even the big hotels, they make the order and we get together to prepare for them."

She also emphasised on the need to re-invest in the business and be consistent.

The three-day Agriculture Show held at the Vodafone Arena last week was a hive of activity as farmers, plant enthusiasts, students and members of the public were not only able to learn about the agricultural sector but also score great bargains on fertilisers, tools and other farm equipment.



Sera Tuva at the 2023 Agriculture Show. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

Consistent screening vital: cancer survivor

By AZARIA FAREEN

CANCER affects you emotionally, physically and psychologically and if family care is not there then you miss out on crucial support in having a positive mindset.

This was relayed by a breast cancer survivor, Miriama Rosova, who stresses that regular screening and presenting yourself early to the hospital was key in treating the illness.

"I was presented with some symptoms in 2017 where I felt fatigued, had heaviness on my left shoulder, pain on my shoulder blades, body chills, breast heaviness and unusual discharge from the breast and frequent infection," Ms Rasova highlighted.

"I was not aware of the severity and thought it was due to stress and age catching up as I was a primary school teacher and had just finished my 27th year in the education system," she added.

"It was 2019 when I was in Niue for work when I got sicker. I did not present myself to any clinic but went to my village in 2020 and 2021 for herbal treatment and medication from a traditional healer."

"When it didn't bring me any relief, I returned to Suva in late 2021 and my situation worsened early last year when I had my COVID-19 vaccination," she added.

Ms Rosova said that the lump under her armpit was the size of a peanut with no pain in 2019 but after the vaccination the tumour grew big and metastasized across her breast and turned into a boil.

"I came to the hospital in October last year and when I had the biopsy and other



Cancer Survivor Miriama Rosova with CEO Fiji Cancer Society Belinda Chan. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

tests done, it was confirmed that I have cancer," the emotional 54-year-old said.

"I had four aggressive chemo-therapy treatment which was 21-days apart from early December to early March and at the end of March, I had my surgery and now I am on medication and presenting myself to the urology department every three months for my review."

"Since I was in stage 3, the doctors could not remove all of the tumour as it was stuck to my bone and I was informed that I will have a high risk of reoccurrence if I am not careful," Ms Rosova added.

"I changed my diet and ensure that I eat more vegetables, green and fruit smoothies, have my quiet time to be positive and I also

keep moving and do simple exercises," she further added.

Ms Rosova commends that the support of her two sisters who are in the medical field and her two sons helps a lot. Her elder son is working overseas and supporting her financially so she can focus on her health.

Fiji Cancer Society chief executive officer, Belinda Chan, notes that cancer was the third most common cause of death in the country.

"Fijians are impacted by all cancers, not just breast, cervical and prostate cancers," Mrs Chan said.

"The most common cancers leading to death in Fiji are ovary, bowel, prostate, lung, leukaemia, liver, cancer of unknown

primary, cervix, uterine and breast – some caused by our genes but majority are linked to poor lifestyle choices"

"This year we have registered 385 cancer patients in addition to the 470 registered the previous year, with a similar number each year previous to that," she added.

Mrs Chan says that every individual's diagnosis is unique to them but what was universal was the understanding of the limited treatment options available in Fiji if diagnosed late.

She stressed that everyone in Fiji can play a major role in reducing or preventing their risk of developing cancer and other Non-Communicable Diseases by adopting some simple lifestyle behaviours.



ASSEMBLIES of God Primary School's junior students (Year 1-2) in Kinoya received an educational tour of the Office of the President at the State House this week. The students met with the Head of State, the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere who told them about the duties carried out by his office. President Katonivere encouraged the students to be attentive in school and to explore the different dynamics of education. **Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE**

Support for students in 2024

By JAMIL SULEMAN

NO child eligible for assistance will be left out. This was the assurance from the Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodro, at the announcement of the “Back to School Support” for the 2024 school year at the Ministry of Economy. “The Ministry of Education will ensure that every child is eligible for this Government assistance will receive the \$200, as per mode of payment that is convenient to the families in their application forms.” In his address, Minister Radrodro said the Coalition Government allocated \$44.7 million to help approximately 220,475 students that were enrolled in the 2023 academic year. He also urged all parents and guardians to work closely with the heads of school where their children will be enrolled in 2024. “The heads of school and the District Education Officers have been requested and reminded of the critical role they play

in the facilitation and verification of this initiative and application forms that they have submitted to their respective schools.” Minister Radrodro said heads of schools are encouraged to send in school newsletters to parents and guardians detailing important information of the back-to-school initiative. He also encouraged parents and guardians to fill in forms accurately, as there had been a lot of enquires by parents and guardians in the mode of payment in the past. Minister Radrodro also highlighted that phone numbers and addresses need to be clarified by heads of schools and also parents going forward. “Schools will receive a circular by next week, outlining the specific roles of the heads of school in this back-to-school initiative.” “We encourage parents to complete the forms accurately and submit it to their child’s school as soon as possible to facilitate the timely and accurate processing of these forms.”

The Minister reassured parents and guardians that District Officers and Divisional Officers have been asked to closely monitor and ensure timely submissions by the respective Heads of schools in their divisions with families

earning less than \$50,000. Meanwhile, Minister Radrodro extended his well wishes to all children sitting for their external and finals at the end of this year.



From left- Ministry of Finance permanent secretary, Shiri Gounder, with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, and Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodro. **Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN**

Noda Viti

Siga Tabu Noveba 5, 2023. 8 Drauniveva; 13 ni Tabana; 14 ni lavelave ni ivola | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijianGovt Fijian Government



- Sikova na Koronivuli e Vaturu o Minisita 2
- Tuvata ko viti kei Isireli 3
- Bose Na PM Kei Matanitu Mai Guangzhou Jaina 5
- Siko voli ena Mua iRa ko PM Rabuka. 6
- Kacivaki na gagadre me vakavinakataki na veiqaravi 7

Imatai ena Pasivika na Blue Bond nei Viti



Minisita ni Ilavo, Professor Biman Prasad keira na lewe Minisita, vakalesilesi ecake ena vakamatanitu keira na UNDP.

Mai tavoca na matanitu o Viti ena nodra cakacaka vata kei na UNDP se matabose ni veimatanitu cokovata e vuravura edua na Blue Bond nei Viti ka imatai ena Pasivika.

Qoka e salamuria tiko na gagadre bibi vumai ena veivakatorocaketaki ni bula vakailavo kei na lewa matau ni noda wasawasa.

Mai kacivaka na sasaga vou oqo na Minisita ni Ilavo ka Vukevuke ni Paraiminisita, Professor Biman Prasad ena dua na soqo ena Baqe ni Ilavo Maroroi kei Viti na Reserve Bank.

Na yavu ni vakasama oqo, me vaka na veiqaravi ni veika vakailavo, a tekivu ena kena vakatorocaketaki

kei na tavoci ni Fiji Sustainable Bond Framework ena 2022 ena koniferedi ni veisau ni draki ni veimatanitu cokovata (COP 27).

“Ena itekivu ni 2023, eratou a tekivuna na Matanitu o Viti kei na UNDP e dua na iwalewale taucoko ni kena kilai na cakacaka vakaliuci ni matanitu.

Na cakacaka oqo a vakayacori kina na vakadidike kaukauwa, oka kina na vakadidike ni tekinolajivakailavo, vakadidike ni rawa-ka, kei na dikevi ni veika rerevaki.

Na icavacava ni sasaga oqo a vakavuna na kena digitaki na cakacaka kaukauwa, ka sa vakacurumi oqo ki na tuvatuva ni ilavo ni matanitu ko Viti

2023-2024 kei na kena vakatorocaketaki e dua na prospectus taucoko ni Bond, ka salavata kei na dua na ivakarau ni vakadikeva kei na Vakadidike kaukauwa.”

Vakaraitaka ko Professor Prasad na bibi ni kena vakavinavinakataka na cakacaka vakaitamera ni vakasama kei na vakasama vakadikevi ka sa lako yani ki na kena cakacakataki na imatai ni Blue Bond nei Viti.

“Vei ira na namaki mera mai vakatubuilavo kei na kenadau ni veika vakailavo, e kilikili me kilai ni Blue Bond nei Viti e rawati mai vei Sustainalytics, e dua na soqosoqo ka kena dau e na vuravura raraba.”

ME TOMANI NA VAKAILAVOTAKI NI SASAGA BALETA NA VALUTI NI VEISAU NI DRAKI

VAKARAITAKA na Vukevuke ni Paraiminisita, Professor Biman Prasad vei Viti ni dodonu me vakalevutaki na ilavo se na kena vakailavotaki ni sasaga baleta na drake veisau, ena gauna oqo ni vakarau vavaca yani kina na COP28 na veimatanitu ena vuravura.

Sa tiko kina na tuvatuva kei na veidinadinati baleta na lewa matau ni veivakatorocaketaki.

Sega ni rawa ni vakanuinui vakadua

ko Viti ena nona tuvatuva vakailavo me vukea na sasaga oqo

O koya gona, keimami sa dau tutaka na kena vakailavotaki vakalevu cake, oka kina na kena wali na veika e vakayali ka vakacacani, vakakina na veivuke maina veitabana vakaitaukei, kei na veitokoni vumai na veitabana se veisoqosoqo se matanitu.”

Kuria ko Minisita Professor Prasad ni Blue Bond nie Viti ena vukea na

matanitu ena kena vakayacora na sasaga me baleta na inaki ni vukei na draki veisau ka sega ni guileca kina na tabana ni veika vakailavo se vakatubuilavo ka vukea na kena vukei vakailavo na sasaga ni veivakatorocaketaki.

Ena kena itinitini, a vakavinavinakataka o Hon. Prasad na nona vakavinavinaka ki na Matanitu o Peritania kei na UNDP ena nodra tokona na kena tokoni na draki kei na ituvatuva kara-

karawa ni bula ni Viti me vaka ni a dua vei ira na matanitu taumada o Viti me yaga mai na iLavo

Marautaka ko Professor Prasad na veitokoni kei ne vei vuke ni Matabose cokovata ni matanitu e vuravura kei na Matanitu mai Peritania ena nodrau tokoni Viti

Cakacaka gumatua ena veiqaravi nodra matua esa mana vei dua na noda

Daucakacaka ni Veiqaravi ni Warrigal Aged Care services se vanua nodra qaravi kina na matua, Evia Lewataka mai na koro ko Tau ena tikina Wai mai Nadroga e vakadinadinataka ni ivakaraitaki vinaka a vakavuna na nona qaqa ena ruku ni Pacific Australia Labour Mobility.

A curu ena ituvatuva ogo o Ms Evia ena 2019 ka vakau me laki cakacaka ki na Intercontinental Hayman Island Re-

sort mai Queensland.

Ena vuku ni imatai ni ua ni mate levu COVID19 ena 2020, a tokitaki o Salauka ki Warrigal Care, e dua na tabana ni veiqaravi ni aged Care e Gueanbeyan, New South Wales.

“Ena gauna ni mate levu, e vuqa na tamata cakacaka ena tabana ni veikauaitaki era a vakacegui ka’u vakavinavinakataka vakalevu na madigi me ‘u vakatabui tale ena ruku ni cakacaka ni veiqaravi qase .



Minisita Agni Deo, kei Evia Lewataka na lewenivanua ka vakacakacakataki tiko mai Australia, ka ratou taba tu kei Mata ni Matanitu ko Viti, Ajay Amrit; kei na Vunivola Tudei ni Tabacakacaka ni Veicakacakataki, Maritino Nemani.

Sikova na Koronivuli e Vaturu o Minisita

Eratou a sikova na Minisiter me baleta na vuli Hon. Aseri Radrodro na Koronivuli ni Tikina o Vaturu ena noa (26.10.23) me lesia na cakacaka ni wai ni wai ni koronivuli.

Na qara sa lesi vou ogo sa dua na cakacaka ni kena vakadeitaki ni sa vakarautaki tu na wai me baleta na koronivuli ena veigauna kece me vakadeitaki kina ni sega ni tarai na veivakavulici kei na vuli.

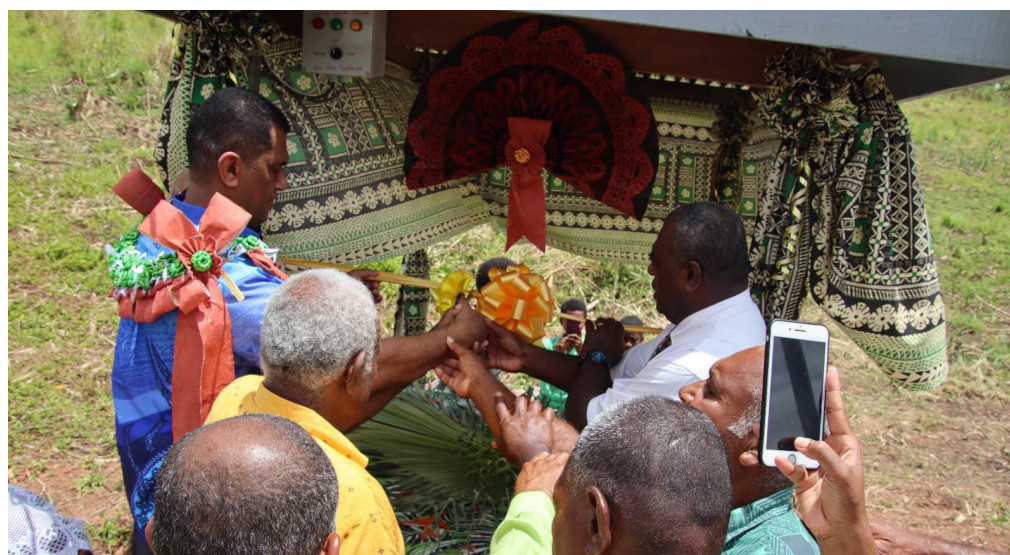
Sa dua talega na madigi vei iratou na veiqaravi o Radrodro me ratou

sotavi ira na qasenivuli kei ira na gonevuli ni isoqosoqo ni vuli ka sa sivia e 100 na yabaki na nodrau qarava na rua na koro o Nagado kei Natawa kei na veitikotiko voleka.

“Au gadreva me’u vakadinadinataka na yalodina kei na yalodina ni lewai ni koronivuli. Era sa liu tiko ena kena vakarautaki na veitokoni kei na kena vakadeitaki na kena vakatorocaketaki na iyaya ni cakacaka e koronivuli,” e kaya o Radrodro.



Minisita ni Vuli, Aseri Radrodro ena nodra sikova na koronivuli e Vaturu ena laki dolavi ni wai ni gunu.



Vakaitavi ko Minisita Tubuna ena vuli VAKARAUTAKI baleta na Green Climate Fund

Sa gadreva na Matanitu o Viti me raica e dua na tiki ni Green Climate Fund (GCF) USD1.69 billion ena kena vakatorocaketaki e dua na vakatutu taucoko me wali kina na veisau ni draki ena loma ni Great Sea Reef (GSR).

Na Viti GCF Coral Reef Resilience Initiative (CRRI), ka liutaka na Matanitu o Viti mai na Tabana ni Veisau ni Draki me kena inaki na kena vakayagataki me ra droini ka solia e dua na USD35 million ni cakacaka ka na yaga vakadodonu sara vakalevu cake mai na 60 na pasede ni kai Viti.

Na kena vakayagataki ena tokoni mai na World Wide Fund for Nature (THE) ena Pasifika (OF-Pasifika) ena veitokoni mai na Fiji Development Bank (FDB) Baqe ni Veivakatorocaketaki.

E dua vei ira na kena isau era tiko kina na gonedau lalai ka vakaitamera, dauteitei baravi kei na loma ni vanua, kei na itikotiko era malumalumu mai na ualuvu baravi, vakataotaki wai ni masima, kei na so tale na ka e rawa ni vakamalumalumutaki

ena veivanua bulabula ni baravi.

Era vosa tiko ena vuli vakarautaki me tauyavutaki kina na ituvatuva taucoko ni cakacaka (PPF), na iVukevuke ni Minisita ena Valenivolavola ni Liuliu ni Matanitu, Assistant Minister Sakiusa Tubuna, e vakamatatataka na bibi ni veitokani ena kena tauyavutaki na iwali tudei kei na tarai cake ni yalodei me baleta na veisau ni draki.

“Na nomu veivosaki vakasama ena rua na siga ogo e sega ni vakatititaki ni sa tuvanaki na vakatutu me tuva e dua na ituvatuva kaukauwa,” e kaya o Honourable Tubuna.

“Na ituvatuva ogo ena yaco me wavu, ka semati kina na yalayala e vuravura raraba me baleta na vakamatautaki ni draki kei na kena vakamalumalumutaki na vakailavotaki ni kena tokoni na veivakatorocaketaki ni matanitu kei na veivanua ena inaki taumada ni kena wali vakavinaka na bolebole bibi e semati ki na draki kei na maroroi ni wasawasa.”



Vukevuke ni Minisita, Sakiusa Tubuna.

SOTAVI IRA NA LIULIU VAKAITIKOTIKO ENA MUA IRA KO PM

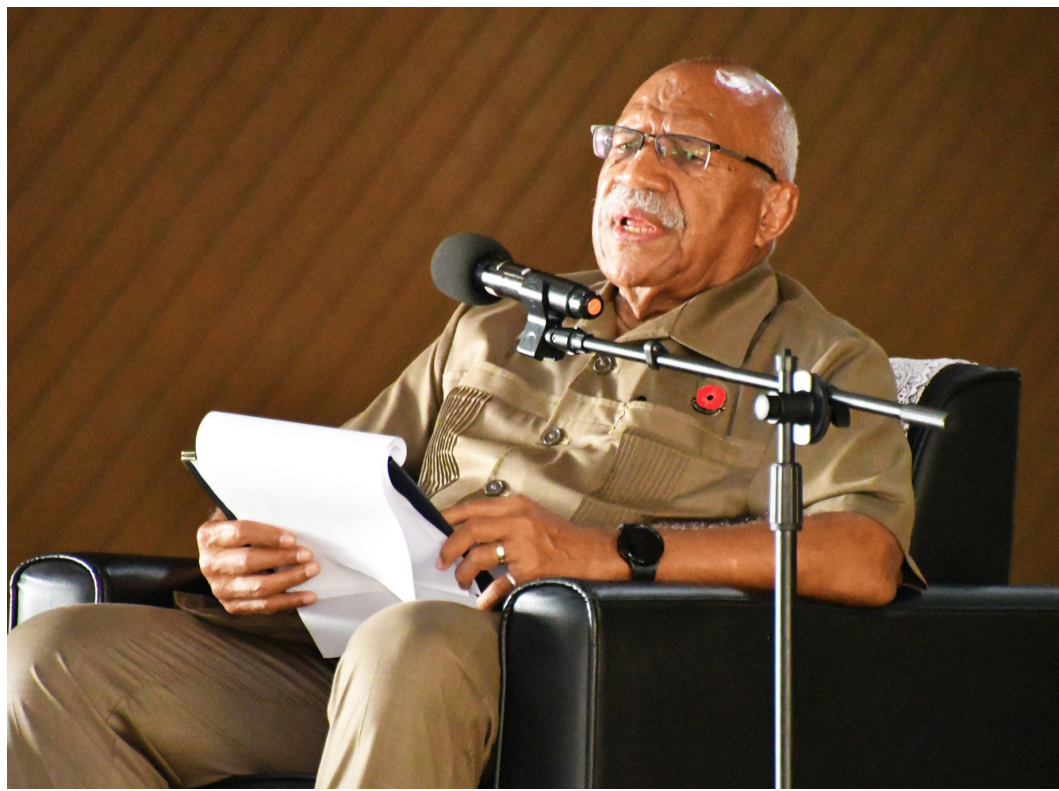
“Au sega ni lako mai nikua me’u dokai ira walega na kawa i Girmitiyas, ka ra a toki mai Viti ki na mua ni ika 18 ni senitiuri.

Au tiko eke vaka liuliu ni Matanitu me baleta na nodra tiko vinaka na kai Viti – oka kina na nodra kawa na imatai ni tamata era a lako mai ki na noda matasawa, kei ira mai na vuqa na ilawalawa lailai era a muri ira mai.” A wasea oqo na liuliu ni Matanitu Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka ni ratou sota tiko kei ira na lewe ni itikotiko mai na veimataqali vanua ena Girmit Center Hall mai Lautoka ena yakavi nikua.

Ena nona sikovi na tabana ni veiqravi ni matanitu ena Mua ira, a vaka-matatataka kina ko PM Rabuka ni soqoni ena yakavi oqo e inaki me vaka-bulabulataki na veivosaki kei na cakacaka vata ni matanitu kei na itikotiko raraba.

Ena gauna ni bose, a veivosakitaka kina ko PM Rabuka na veika bibi ni itikotiko, vakarorogo ki na leqa, ka tuvanaka na sasaga ni matanitu me wali kina.

A vakamatatataka na bibi ni kena vakaitavi na itikotiko raraba ena veiv-akatorocaketaki ni matanitu ka vakamatatataka tale na yalayala ni matanitu me cakacaka vata me vinaka cake kina na lewenivanua kecega.



Paraiminisita Rabuka.

Ugeti ira na lewenivanua na Minisita ni Marama Gone kei na Veitaqomaki raraba ena valuti ni dravudravua vakabibi na tarovi ni ivalavala kaukauwa vei ira na gone kei na marama

NA Minisita ni Marama, Gonelalai kei na Veitaqomaki Raraba Hon. Lynda Tabuya, ea laveta cake e dua na tikina bibi me baleta na ivalavala kaukauwa vei ira na marama kei na gone ena nona tavoca na Siga ni Vakawabokotaki ni Dra-vudravua ena koronivuli ni Tikina o Nailuva ena loma kei Ra nikua (25.10.23).

Me vaka e kaya na iTalatala o Tabuya, e va mai na lima na gone kei na rua mai na tolu na marama era sotava eso na ivakarau ni veivakacacani kei na ivalavala kaukauwa ena nodra bula mai Viti, ka sa dua na ka e gadrevi me ra vakarorogo kina ena ivakatagedegede kece sara ni bula vak-abibi na matavuvale kei na koro.

E kaya o koya ni dodonu me lomaleqa o Viti baleta ni rawa vakacava me tiko vei ira na lewenivanua gugumatua ena mataqali iwili-wili vakaoqo ni veivakacacani kei na ivalavala kaukauwa.

E kaya o Minister Tabuya ni iwali oqo e vakatau talega ena veika keirau vakavulica tiko vei ira na luvei keirau vakaitubutubu ka dauveitaqomaki.

E boleira na lewenikoro ena yasana o Ra kei Viti me ra raica vakabibi na nodra tovolea me ra kakua walega ni vakawabokotaki ira na dra-vudravua ia me sotava talega na veika ni veiv-akacacani kei na ivalavala kaukauwa kei ira na marama kei na gone.



TUVATA KO VITI KEI ISIRELI

E vakadeitaka o Viti na kena duavata kei Isireli kei na yalodina ki na veisaututaki e vuravura raraba ena loma ni veisaqasaqa e rau lako curuma tiko o Isireli kei Hamas.

Na ivakarau nei Viti a vakaraitaki ena nona digidigi wale tikoga oqo me tokona na veisau ka biuta mai o Canada kei na kena wali walega na Matabose kei Vuravura e vakauqeta e dua na veisau ni veivala ena kedrau maliwa o Isireli kei Hamas.

Me salavata kei na veimatanitu tale eso, a tokona o Viti e dua na veisau ka biuta mai ko Canada ki na kena iwali.

Na amendment e kena inaki me vakamacalataka na veika dina ka vakadodonutaki na veika e yaco, vakatakila ka vakacalai Hamas ena kena tekivutaki na leqa, tauri ira na tawase, ka vakayagataki ira kei ira na lewenivanua me isasabai vakatamata me tekivu mai na ika 7 ni Okotova 2023 ni terrorist attack.

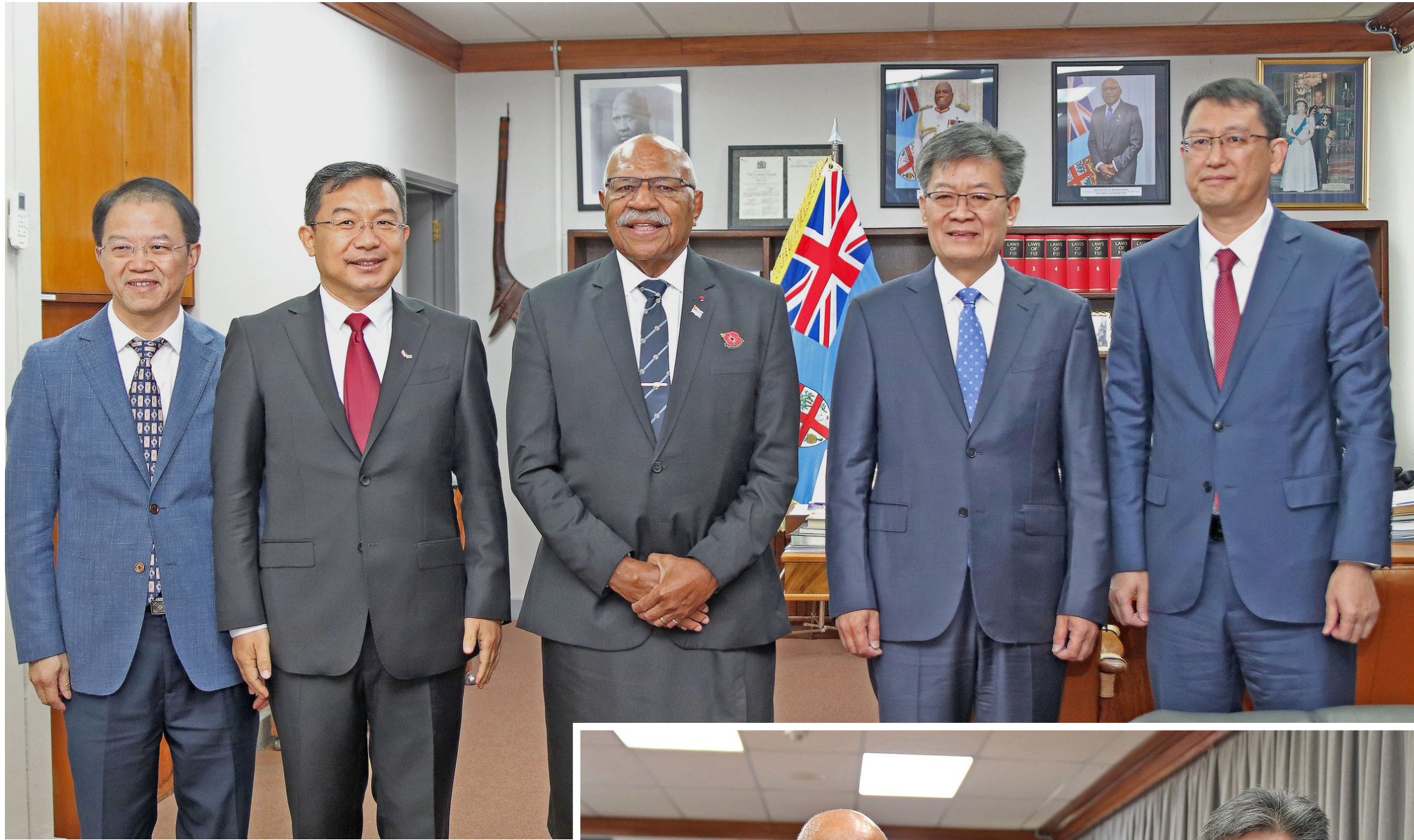
Na veika dina oqo era sa ka bibi me kilai kina na dina ni ituvaki ka na tukuna na veikalawa e tarava ena kena vakasaqarai e dua na iwali vakaibalebale. E sega ni tukuna na iotioti ni vakatulewa ni Matabose kei Vuravura na veika dina oqo, mani digitaki Viti kina.

Na inaki nei Viti me digitaki na veisau oya me tokona na saqati cakacaka rerevaki kece sara, vakaraitaka na veitokoni vei ira na tawavakabauta kei ira na lewenivanua tawacala. Ia a vakadrukai na veisau.



Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Veitaqomaki Raraba Lynda Tabuya keira na ivakalesilesi vakamanaitu ena soqo ni IDEP se vakananumi ni siga ni kena tarovi na dravudravua e Vuravura ka vakayacori ena Nailuva district school, Ra. Ko Minisita kei ira na lalai muri vuli kei ira na qasenivuli

BOSE NA PM KEI MATANITU MAI GUANGZHOU JAINA



A sikova na Liuliu ni Matanitu Hon Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka e dua na mata mai Guangzhou, ka liutaka na lewe ni Komiti Tudei ni Communist Party e Jaina (CPC) ena yasana ko Guangdong, Mr Guo Yonghang, ka Sekeriteri ni Komiti ni Matanitu o CPC e Guangzhou, Na soqoni oqo e vakanamata ki na veivanua ni veitokoni ena kedrau maliwa o Viti kei Jaina kei ira na mata ni kena vakadewatani na nodra yalayala me vaqacacotaki cake na veisau ni veivoli, veitokoni ena buturara ni veiqaravi ni bula kei na veiqaravi vakavuniwai, infrastructure, teitei kei na goneda, vakadidike kei na tekinolaji, itovo vakavanua kei na saravanua. Era sa veisureti talega ki na Matanitu ni Veiqaravi o Vukea me ra sikova na People's Republic of China kei na yasana o Guangdong kei na siti o Guangzhou.

A vakavinavinakataka na matanitu liu o Vukea na mata mai na korolevu o Guangzhou ena nodra taleitaka me ra sikovi Viti ka vakadinadinataka na nodra yalayala ena nodra tomana tikoga na nodra veimaliwai kei Viti ena veivanua ni veitokoni.



Bikeni ni nuinui na Pacific Partnership se iVeitokani Pasivika

E dua na bikeni ni nuinui na veidinadinati sa bucini ena ruku ni iVeitokani Pasivika.

Oqori na rai ka vakuria o Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni koro ni cakacaka kei na Leqa Tubu Koso, Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka me baleta na Pacific Partnership ni dua na bikeni ni inuinui. Tomana okoya ni kaya ni oqo e vakatakarakataka na kena kaukauwa ka vakatakarakataka na yavunibula ni

yalololoma, duavata, kei na kila ka ni sega ni dua na matanitu e rawa ni vorata na bolebole oqo ena tu duadua.

“Na noda veitokani vata kei Amerika mai na Mataivalu e Wai ni Amerika, na Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, kei USAID epitomize na neitou yalayala ki na veivuke ni veivuke raraba kei na leqa tubukoso.”

“Mai na veituberi, cakacaka vata, kei na

veiwasei ni ivurevure, eda sega walega ni vakavinakataka cake na noda rawa ni sotava na leqa tubukoso ia eda vaqacacotaki talega na noda rawa ni vakarautaka na veiqaravi bibi me vaka na bula kei na vuli.”

Me tinia o Minisita Ditoka a vakavinavinakataka sara ga na Mataivalu e Wai kei Amerika kei ira kece na itokani ena nodra veitokoni kei na cakacaka vata.

“Meda sa duavata, ka cakacaka vata, me

vakadeitaki kina ni Pacific Partnership 2023 sa yaco me dua na qaqqa sega ni vakatitigataki rawa. Vinaka vakalevu ka me da tekivuna na ilakolako vakasakiti oqo ni kaukauwa kei na inuinui. Me vukea na noda sasaga me kauta mai na sautu, bulabula, kei na marau vei ira na tamata e Viti kei na Pasifika.”



ERA laki solia o Minsita ni Vuli, Aseri Radrodoro eso na iyaya ni veiqaravi ni vuli vei ira na veiliutaki kei na qasenivuli nei Ratu Asaeli Rokovucago Memorial School ena koro o sote.

Ena ituvaki ni kena vakayagataki na ivakarau ni vuli ni itabatamata gone, a solia kina na Fiji Hardwood Corporation Ltd na iyaya ka okati kina na:

- Ciwa (9) desi ni koronivuli ni vuli kei na idabedabe ni ECE
- 15 na desi kei na idabedabe ni Yabaki 1 kei na Yabaki 2
- 73 na desi kei na idabedabe ni Yabaki 3 ki na Yabaki 8
- Rua (2) desi ni valenivolavola kei na idabedabe



VAKAVINAVINAKATAKA KO VITI NA VEITOKANI ENA PASIFIKA



“N a iVeitokani ni Pasifika sa ivakadinadina ni ivau tudei ni veitokani kei na veitokoni ka vakaduavatataka na noda veimatanitu.” Oqo a vakamatatataka na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro ni Cakacaka kei na Leqa Tubu Koso, Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka ena kena dolavi na Pacific Partnership 2023 nikua ena otela ni Pasifika. (31.10.23). Ena nona vosa taumada, a kaya kina o Hon. Ditoka ni veitokani ena vuku ni

nona cakacaka vata kei na Mataivalu e Wai kei Amerika, e tu me ivakaraitaki rarama ni veika e rawa ni ra rawata na veimatanitu ni ra duavata ena nodra sotava na bolebole wasei, cakacakataka na vakacegu, kaukauwa, kei na sautu ena yasana o ya. “Ni da sa volekata yani na gauna ni cagilaba, sa dua na ivakananumi ni kena gauna donu na itavi bibi ni veitokoni ena kena wali na duidui ni bolebole e sotava tiko vei keda ena Pasifika.”



Vakacautaki Aspen Ko Paraiminisita Rabuka Ena Veisau Ni Veiqaravi Vakavuniwai E Viti



Ena nona veisiko ki na Valenibula ni ASPEN Lautoka nikua, a wasea kina o Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka ka liuliu ni matanitu e dua na italoana bibi mai na nona gauna makawa ka vakaraitaka na nona vakavinavinakataki ira na vakaillesilesi ni veiqaravi vakavuniwai yalodina.

Na nona veisiko e tiki ni dua na veivakasarasarataki ena tolu na siga ki na Wasewase na Muaira, ka tekivu nikua ka mai cava ena Vukelulu.

Ena nona vosa, a vakamatatataka kina ko PM Rabuka na bibi ni duavata kei na kaukauwa, ka vakadeitaka,

“Na noda duavata ena tuberi keda ena gauna dredre ogo, ka vakaraitaka na noda rawa ka vakaitamera.”

A tomana o koya me vakacautaka na nodra solibula na vuniwai, nasi, kei ira kece na vakaillesilesi ni veiqaravi vakavuniwai, ka vakamatatataka na itavi bibi ni kena dikevi vakatotolo kei na veivuke ena veiqaravi vakavuniwai.

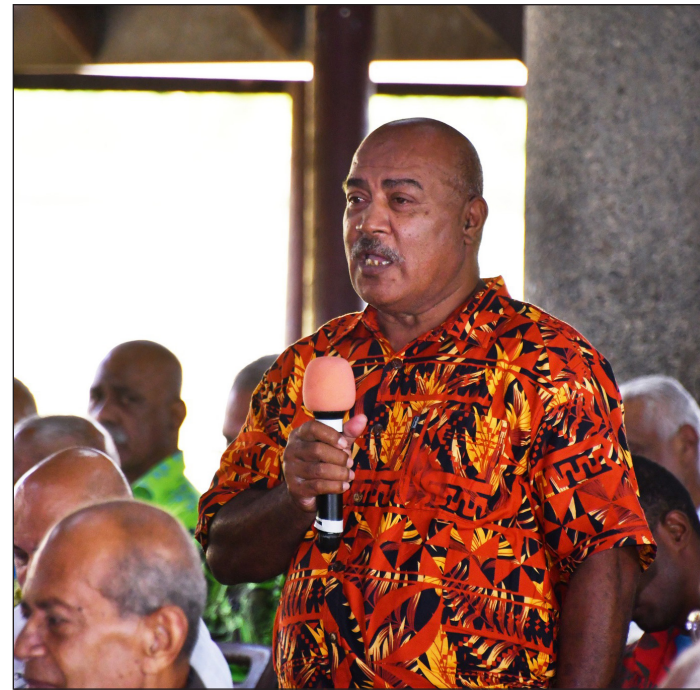
E dau vakauqeta vagumatua na itikitiko liu me vakaliuca na itovo bulabula ka tokona na veiqaravi taucoko ni veiqaravi, ka vakabibitaka na nodra cakacaka vata na kenadau, daunitukutuku, kei na itikitiko raraba.



Siko voli ena Mua iRa ko PM Rabuka.



Lewe levu na lewenivanua era laki sotavi Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka ena nodra veisiko voli ena Mua iRa ni noda vanua. Era laki sotavi ira na cakacaka vakamatanitu kei na veitabana main a Mua iRa ka vakakina na Matabose ni Suka, ka laki sotavi ira na lewenivanua kei na turaga ni vanua mai keya. Ka laki sikova talega eso na itikitiko.



Kacivaki Na Gagadre Me Vakavinakataki Na Veiqaravi Ena Kena Sotavi Na Veika E Namaki Raraba Na Lewenivanua



Asotavi ira na dauveiqaravi vakamatanitu ena tabana ena Mua i ra, o iliuliu ni Matanitu e Viti, Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka.

Era ka vakamatatataka na kena gadrevi me vakalevutaki na kena vakavinakataki ka vakavinakataki cake na veiqaravi me sotava na veika era namaka na lewenivanua ena kena mana.

E kila o PM Rabuka na itavi bibi era vakaitavi kina na dauveiqaravi vaka-

matanitu ena kena cakacakataki na matanitu kei na nodra qaravi na tamata e Viti.

E vakacaucautaka na nodra yalodina kei na cakacaka vakaukauwa ka vakacaucautaka tiko na bolebole ka sa vakataotaka na kena soli vakavinaka na veiqaravi.

Era a vakamatatataka na bibi ni kena gugumatua ena loma ni tabana raraba, a vakabibitaka na kena gadrevi na

iwalewale vakavinakataki, vakalailaitaki na matanitu, kei na vakatulewa toto-lo cake.

Ni vakavinakataki vinaka na cakacaka, sa nakita na matanitu me vakadeitaka ni sa vakau sara vakatotolo na veiqaravi ka sega ni gadrevi kina na kena lokuyara.

A tokaruataka tale o PM Rabuka ni nona matanitu ena vukea na nona yalayala na matanitu me vakatorocaketa-

ki na ivakarau ni veiqaravi e soli vei ira na lewenivanua.

Oqo e oka kina na kena raici vakavina-ka cake na veiqaravi vakavuniwai, vuli, infrastructure, kei na veiqaravi raraba yaga.

E vakamatatataka ni inaki ni matanitu me tauyavutaka e dua na draki me sotavi kina na nodra gagadre kei na nana-maki na lewenivanua ena ivakatagede cecere duadua ni veiqaravi.



Noda Viti

Siga Tabu Noveba 5, 2023 8 Drauniveva; 13 ni Tabana; 14 ni lavelave ni ivola

| www.fiji.gov.fj | [@FijiGovt](https://www.facebook.com/FijiGovt) | [Fiji Government](https://www.facebook.com/FijiGovernment)



Minisita Kamikamica kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni exploring outsourcing Fiji-EXO.

VAKALEVUTAKI NI MADIGI NI OUTSOURCING NEI VITI.

ERA tavoca na Vukevuke ni Paraiminisita, Minisita ni Veivoli, Bisinisi kei na Vakau-itukutuku, Manoa Kamicamica edua na sasaga vou baleta na kena vakalevutakia na katuba ni volivolitaki e Viti.

Vakatokai tiko na sasaga oqori me Exploring Outsourcing in Fiji- EXO ka namaki me vakayacori e Viti ena yabaki tumai ena vula ko Jiune 19-22 ni siga.

Ena nona vosa, e kaya kina o DPM Kamikamica ni soqo oqo ena dua na ka veivakararamataki ka veisautaki ni sa curuma yani na vuravura ni outsourcing o Viti.

“Sa dua na madigi me da vakadinadinataka taumada na madigi kei na veisisivi na kena yaga e solia o Viti me dua na vanua ni outsourcing.”

“Keimami sega ni maroroya e dua na sasaga ena kena vakarautaki e dua na ilakolako ka sega walega ni tukuna ka veivakauqeti ia e vakarautaka talega na madigi ni veisemati vei ira na iliuliu ni cakacaka kei na kenadau.”

Vakuria ko DPM Kamikamica ni bolebole e vuravura raraba e sega ni bau kilai rawa ia sa vakadinadinataka na matanitu na kena kaukauwa kei na kena vakamatautaki.

Tukuna ko Minisita ni sega walega ni yaco mai e dua na tamata cakacaka maqosa ia e dua ga na itikotiko ni tamata yadua era sa vakatabui me ra tauyavutaka na veitokani vakaibalebale ka ulabaleta na iyalayala ni vanua.

“Na soqo ni “EXO Viti” e sega walega ni baleta na kena vakuwai na isema ni bisinisi, e baleta na kena vakabulabulataki e dua na draki e tautauvata kina na tubu vakailavo kei na toso ni bula raraba kei na noda cakacaka maqosa sa ivakadinadina ki na noda yalayala ki na veisau kei na noda sasaga ena veivakatorocaketaki vakailavo.”





पिछले साल के आखरी
कैन पईमन्ट का
टोप अप किया गया 2

फीजी के राष्ट्रपति का
दिवाली शुभ संदेश 3

प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के लिए
हमेशा तैयार रहें 6

प्राकृतिक विपत्ति पर
सुरक्षा सलाह 7

2023/2024 समुद्री आँधी
के मौसम पर औपचारिक
घोषणा 7

2024 स्कूली सहायता की घोषणा



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद और शिक्षा मंत्री माननीय असेरी रेंडोडो अगले साल वाली स्कूली सहायता की घोषणा करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

अगले साल स्कूल वापस जाने की तैयारी के तहत कोलिशन सरकार ने दो सौ डोलर लागत सहायता की घोषणा की है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि स्कूल वापस जाने के लिए कक्षा शुरू होने से पहले बच्चों के पास उचित युनिफॉर्म, स्कूल बैग, जूते, लंच बॉक्स, स्टेशनरी तथा अन्य ज़रूरतें हों। घोषणा करते हुए उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद ने कहा कि इस साल और अगले साल वाले राष्ट्रीय बजट में पैतालिस शण्थत्त मिलियन डोलर अलग किया गया है जिससे दो लाख बीस हजार से भी ज़्यादा छात्रों की सहायता की जाएगी।

‘हम पहले के मिलान में पहले से अर्जी स्वीकार कर रहे हैं ताकि माता-पिताओं, अध्याकों तथा स्कूलों को अर्जी पूरी करने और भेजने के लिए और समय मिल सके।’ ‘योग्य माता-पिताओं और बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों को हर एक बच्चे के लिए दो सौ डोलर सहायता मिलेगी ताकि उनके बच्चे अगले साल स्कूल जाने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार हों।’ जैसा कि इस साल पूर्व सहायता दी गई थी यह सहायता भी एली चाएल्डहूड के बच्चों से लेकर, प्राथमरी तथा सेकन्ड्री स्कूल के साल तेरह के विद्यार्थियों को दी जाएगी। उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि जिन परिवारों की सालाना आमदनी पचास हजार डोलर से कम है को ही यह सहायता मि-

लेगी। इस प्रक्रिया को आसान बनाते हुए मंत्री प्रसाद ने अर्जी बच्चों के स्कूलों पर उपलब्ध होगा या माता-पिता शिक्षा मंत्रालय या फायनेन्स मंत्रालय के वेबसाइट से अर्जी डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। फायनेन्स मंत्री ने कहा कि ‘बैक टू स्कूल’ सपोर्ट के लिए अर्जी सोमवार छः नवम्बर को खुलेगी और अर्जी लगाने की आखरी तारीख शुक्रवार बाईस दिसम्बर 2023 है। ‘फायनेन्स मंत्रालय बुद्धवार दस जनवरी से पईमन्ट करना शुरू करेगा ताकि माता-पिताओं को अपने बच्चों को अगले साल स्कूल के लिए तैयार करने में दो हफ्ते से ज़्यादा समय मिले जबकि स्कूल उनतीस श्ठशत्त जनवरी को खुलेंगे।’ जैसा कि पिछली बार ‘बैक टू स्कूल सपोर्ट’

के लिए पैमन्ट्स किए गए थे, सभी पैसे वोडाफोन एम-पैसा या डिजिसेल माएकेश के द्वारा दिया जाएगा। बाहरी द्वीपों में जहाँ मोबाईल का कवरज नहीं है, वहाँ के परिवारों को अपनी नज़दीकी पोस्ट फीजी दफ्तर का पता या अईजेन्सी का पता देना होगा ताकि उन्हें टी एम ओ के ज़रिए सहायता पहुँचाई जा सके। उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने दोहराया कि यह पहल फीजी में सभी बच्चों के लिए समान शिक्षा अवसर प्रदान करने की सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है और सभी परिवारों को फीजी के उज्ज्वल भविष्य के निर्माण के लिए आने वाली पीढ़ियों की शिक्षा का समर्थन करने के लिए इस कार्यक्रम से फायदा उठाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया।

2022 के आखरी कर्ईन पर्ईमन्ट का टोप-अप

रोनल देव

मंतीमण्डल ने स्वीकृति दी है कि पिछले साल के गन्ने के फसल के लिए किसानों को मिलने वाले आखरी कर्ईन पर्ईमन्ट को टोप-अप करने के लिए य.ट मिलियन डोलर की व्यवस्था की जाए। मंतीमण्डल ने मंजूरी दी है कि य.ट मिलियन डोलर अलग किया जाए जिससे आखरी पर्ईमन्ट को पाँच डोलर प्रति टन से टोप-अप किया जाये जो बढ़कर छः बारह सेन्ट्स प्रति टन हो जाएगा। ये पिछले साल के मौसम के फसल के कुल कर्ईन पर्ईमन्ट को ण्णघ.डय प्रति टन के ऐतिहासिक रिकॉर्ड तक बढ़ाएगा। मास्टर अवोर्ड के नीचे किसानों को पाँच किशतों में पर्ईमन्ट किया जाता है। पहले पर्ईमन्ट को डिलिवरी पर्ईमन्ट कहा जाता है जो गन्ने की कटाई के दौरान दिया जाता है, दूसरा पर्ईमन्ट जनवरी में गन्ने की पेराई बन्द होने के बाद, तीसरा पर्ईमन्ट मार्च में, चौथा पर्ईमन्ट मई महीने तथा आखरी पर्ईमन्ट, जिसे वशअप पर्ईमन्ट कहा जाता है, वो अक्टूबर महीने में दिया जाता है। पिछले साल के मौसम की फसल के लिए किसानों को आखरी पर्ईमन्ट इक्तीस अक्टूबर से पहले करने का फैसला किया गया था।



गन्ना पेराई के मौसम में गन्ना काटने वाले मजदूर, लोरी में गन्ना लादते हुए

चित्र :शुगा कैन ग्रीव्स फंड

प्रधान मंत्री का रारावाई चीनी मिल का दौरा



प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका, रारावाई चीनी मिल का दौरा करते हुए कर्मचारियों के साथ चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने हाल में बा स्थित रारावाई चीनी मिल का दौरा करते हुए जोर दिया कि कोलिशन सरकार, चीनी व्यवसाय को समर्थन देने और बढ़ावा के लिए लगातार सहायता देगी। उन्होंने कहा कि चीनी व्यवसाय देश की अर्थव्यवस्था की आधारशीला है। प्रधान मंत्री ने व्यवसाय द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों पर गौर किया और कुछ उपायों पर भी प्रकाश डाला ताकि व्यवसाय आगे बढ़ता रहे। 'कई पीढ़ियों से हमारा चीनी व्यवसाय केवल आमदनी का ज़रिया नहीं रहा है; बल्कि यह लचीलेन और दृढ़ता का प्रतीक है,' प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा। फीजी में चीनी व्यवसाय सालाना दो सौ मिलियन डोलर से ज्यादा विदेशी आमदनी लेकर आता है जो काफी भारी योगदान है। यह देश के आर्थिक स्तंभों में से एक के रूप में इसके महत्व को रेखांकित करता है। लेकिन चीनी व्यवसाय भी कई चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है, जैसे कि विश्व बाज़ार में चीनी के दाम में उतार-चढ़ाव होना, ज़मीन संबंधी विवाद, मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव, किसानों की बढ़ती उम्र, मजदूरों की कमी तथा संसाधन पुराना होना। इन मुश्किलों के बावजूद, आपकी कोयालिशन सरकार, व्यवसाय को सहायता प्रदान करना जारी रखेगी,' प्रधान मंत्री ने घोषणा की। 'चीनी व्यवसाय के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता केवल शब्दों से परे नहीं है। हम सब्सिडी, प्रोत्साहन और बुनियादी ढाँचे में पुँजी लगाने सहित कई उपायों के माध्यम से महत्वपूर्ण सहायता प्रदान करना जारी रखेंगे। हमारा लक्ष्य है फीजी के आर्थिक परिदृश्य में व्यवसाय की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका को सुरक्षित रखना है। उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि सरकार का लक्ष्य सिर्फ व्यवसाय को संरक्षित करना नहीं बल्कि इसे बढ़ाना है।

नेशनल अग्रीकल्चर शौ में किसानों को सम्मान मिला



शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमिला कुमार, नान्दी में ज़ियोथेरपी चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

इस बात से इंकार नहीं किया जा सकता कि देश में कई किसानों को उनकी मेहनत के लिए उनके हक़ का पैसा नहीं मिल रहा है। हालमें सूबा स्थित वोडाफोन अरेना में नेशनल अग्रीकल्चर शौ के समापन समारोह में उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद ने प्रकाश डाला कि किसानों की कड़ी मेहनत बहुमूल्य है, इसलिए उनके हितों और भलाई के बारे में सरकार की रणनीतिक और नीतिगत चर्चाओं में हमेशा सबसे आगे रखना चाहिए। हमारी सरकार यह ध्यान में रख रही है कि बुनियादी सेवाओं को ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों और बाहरी द्वीपों तक बढ़ाया जाए ताकि शहरी और ग्रामीण इलाकों के बीच असमानता काफी कम हो सके। उप प्रधान मंत्री ने आगे कहा कि कोविड महामारी के बावजूद कृषि क्षेत्र ने लगातार अच्छा प्रदर्शन जारी

रखा और इसका असर अर्थ-व्यवस्था के सभी क्षेत्रों पर पड़ा है। इस नेशनल अग्रीकल्चर शौ के आयोजन ने टिकाऊ कृषि को बढ़ावा देने, आर्थिक अवसरों को बढ़ाने, सांस्कृतिक विरासत को संरक्षित करने और खाद्य सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। मंत्री प्रसाद ने इस दौरान अटूट हौसला तथा कड़ी मेहनत के लिए पुरस्कार हासिल करने वालों को बधाई दी। किसानों को विशेष पुरस्कारों से सम्मानित किया गया जैसे कि फार्मस ऑफ द ईया तथा लाइफ स्टोक अवोर्ड शामिल है। 'उनकी उपलब्धियाँ यह याद दिला रही है कि कड़ी मेहनत, दृढ़ संपल्प और मिट्टी के प्रति गहरे प्रेम के माध्यम से क्या हासिल किया जा सकता है। आइए हम उनकी सफलता से प्रेरित होकर अधिक उँचाईयों के लिए प्रयास करें, सहयोग करें, यह ध्यान में रखें कि हमारा कृषि



महामहीम रातू विलियामे माईवालीली कातोनिवेरे CF, MSD फीजी के राष्ट्रपति का 2023 दिवाली संदेश

सूवा

मैं यह संदेश देते हुए सम्मानित महसूस कर रहा हूँ जबकि हमारा प्रिय राष्ट्र, दुनिया के एक बिलियन से भी ज़्यादा हिन्दुओं के साथ दिवाली मनाने के लिए शामिल हुआ है।

दीपावली या दिवाली को दीपों का त्योहार कहा जाता है जिसे दीप जलाकर, पटाखे फोड़कर और आतिशबाज़ी करके मनाया जाता है। यह वास्तव में सभी हिन्दुओं के लिए जीवन में नई शुरुआत और नई यात्रा का प्रतीक है। यह आशा का प्रतीक है कि अंततः सब कुछ बेहतर हो जाएगा, और सभी कठिनाइयाँ दूर हो जाएंगी।

पवित्र रामायण में कहा गया है कि दिवाली एक धार्मिक उत्सव है जो भगवान राम के चौदह वर्ष के वनवास से लौटने की याद दिलाता है। अपनी पत्नी को रावण की कैद से मुक्त कराने के बाद राक्षस-राजा रावण पर उनकी विजय उनके महान संकल्प का प्रतीक है, जो भारी चुनौतियों के बाद उज्ज्वल भविष्य के लिए साहस और विश्वास से मजबूत हुई है। यह संकल्प वह है जिसे हिन्दू और सिख धर्म और उनके मानने वाले अन्य लोगों के बीच मनाते हैं – अंधकार पर प्रकाश, बुराई पर अच्छाई और मृत्यु पर जीवन का उत्सव है।

दिवाली कई दशकों से हर साल मनाई जाती रही है और इस प्रकार यह हमारी सांस्कृतिक विरासत और विविधता का एक स्थाई हिस्सा बन गई है। फीजी में हम हमेशा दिवाली मनाने के लिए तत्पर रहते हैं क्योंकि यह उत्सुकता बचपन की धारणा से उपजी है। दिवाली भारतीय मूल के हमारे साथी नागरिकों के साथ मिलकर पटाखे जलाने, स्वादिष्ट मिठाईयों का मज़ा लेने और विभिन्न प्रकार के पकवान का आनन्द

लेने का समय है। तेल से जलने वाली बत्तियाँ, मोमबत्तियों सहित रोशनी, जो घरों और आँगन को सुशोभित करती है। दिवाली वास्तव में हमेशा एक रोमांचक समय होता है।

मैं हमेशा यह याद दिलाना जारी रखूंगा कि हम एक राष्ट्र के रूप में अनिश्चित समय में रह रहे हैं क्योंकि हम एक बदलते हुए वैश्विक समाज का हिस्सा हैं। देशों के बीच युद्ध जो प्रशान्त और दुनिया में अंतरराष्ट्रीय शान्ति और सुरक्षा तथा जटिल विषयों के लिए सीधा खतरा पैदा करती है, हमारे संकल्प को हमेशा चुनौती दी जाती है।

इस साल सितम्बर में हमारे प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र की महासभा में शान्ति क्षेत्र की शुरुआत पर अपने भाषण में कहा था कि विश्व व्यवस्था में हमारे ब्लू पै-सिफिक का योगदान अब पहले से कहीं अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है। शान्ति का प्रशान्त क्षेत्र राष्ट्रों को सामान्य हित के क्षेत्रों में सहयोग करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग का पोषण और वृद्धि करता है।

वर्तमान और भविष्य में हमारा लक्ष्य है एक दूसरे का ख्याल रखना, एक दूसरे की सीमाओं की सराहना और सम्मान करना। ऐसा करते हुए हमें अपने पर्यावरण और अपने आस-पास की सुरक्षा का भी ध्यान रखना चाहिए। जलवायु कार्रवाई और जलवायु निर्भरता के लिए प्रतिबद्ध होना। जलवायु परिवर्तन वास्तविक है और हमारे प्राकृतिक संसाधनों और टिकाऊ प्रबंधन प्रथाओं की सुरक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हमारे सामूहिक प्रयास की ज़रूरत है। हम समाज में अपने बच्चों, कमज़ोर लोगों और वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के कल्याण

का ध्यान रखते हुए दिवाली जैसे अपने धार्मिक त्योहारों को सुरक्षित और लचीले माहौल में मनाएंगे।

फीजी और उनके नागरिकों के पास धार्मिक त्योहार मनाने का कारण है। हमने अपनी बहुसंस्कृतिवाद और अपनी अलग-अलग

संस्कृतियों और धर्मों को अपनाना और उनका सम्मान करना जारी रखा है। हालाँकि हम अपने राष्ट्रीय जीवन में बड़े और सकारात्मक परिवर्तनों से गुजर रहे हैं, हम यह स्वीकार कर रहे हैं कि हम एक राष्ट्र के भीतर एक व्यक्ति हैं जो एक समान भविष्य के लिए मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं। हम अपने लोगों के बीच मौजूद किसी भी अंतर को खत्म करने के लिए हर संभव प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

फीजी क्षेत्राद को बढ़ावा देना जारी रखेगा क्योंकि हम अपने पड़ोसियों के साथ मिलकर क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक चुनौतियों का सामना करते हैं। अब हम वैश्विक समाज के सदस्य के रूप में दुनिया से अधिक जुड़े हुए हैं, और हम अपनी और अपने प्रशांत द्वीप देशों तथा पड़ोसियों की स्थिति को नई उँचाइयों पर ले जाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। हम अपने उन मतभेदों को स्वीकार करना जारी रखेंगे जो हमें अद्वितीय बनाते हैं और एक शान्तिपूर्ण और समृद्ध भविष्य की आशा करते हैं।

हम जबकि दिवाली मना रहे हैं, तो ऐसे में मैं चाहता हूँ कि हम सभी एक राष्ट्र के रूप में अपनी यात्रा पर विचार करें। मैं इस यात्रा में सभी को प्रोत्साहित करूँगा कि वे अपनी धार्मिक मान्यताओं और आध्यात्मिक मूल्यों तथा सिद्धांतों पर बन रहे हमारे नैतिक साहस को बढ़ाने के लिए, जो एक राष्ट्र के रूप में

शान्ति, सभ्दाव और एकता बनाए रखने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

मैं सभी को हमेशा अपने परिवारों को मजबूत करने और उनकी देखभाल करने की याद दिलाऊंगा क्योंकि यही किसी भी राष्ट्र के लिए एकमात्र मजबूत नींव है। मैं महिलाओं, बच्चों और कम-ज़ोर लोगों के खिलाफ हिंसा को खत्म करने में सहायता करने, और समाज में उनकी वास्तविक क्षमता को पूरा करने के लिए उन्हें सहायता करने पर ज़ोर दे रहा हूँ।

मैं माता-पिताओं से माँग करता हूँ कि वे हमारे बच्चों और युवाओं की सुरक्षा के प्रति सतर्क रहें क्योंकि वे पटाखों और रोशनी के साथ जश्न मनाते हैं। अपने घरों और आस-पास के वातावरण को दुर्घटनाओं और दुर्भाग्य से सुरक्षित रखें।

मैं सड़क का इस्तेमाल करने वालों से भी माँग करता हूँ कि वे सड़कों पर अधिक सतर्क रहें क्योंकि हम हर दिन सड़क दुर्घटनाएँ घटते देख रहे हैं। हम जबकि दिवाली मनाने या इस सार्वजनिक छुट्टी पर परिवार और दोस्तों से मिलने जाएंगे तो आइए हम सभी ज़िम्मेदारी के साथ सड़क का उपयोग करें।

मेरा दृढ़ विश्वास है कि एक प्रगतिशील, समृद्ध और शान्तिपूर्ण राष्ट्र की हमारी खोज केवल दिल, दिमाग, और आत्मा की प्रबुद्धता से ही पूरी होगी। यह दिवाली सभी नागरिकों के जीवन में और हमारे प्यारे राष्ट्र में समृद्धि और सौभाग्य लेकर आए।

विनाका वकालेवू और यन्यवाद!

ग्रामीण स्कूल को नए मेज़ और कुर्सियाँ प्रदान की गई



शिक्षा मंत्री माननीय असेरी रंझो ने हाल में सोते कोरे स्थित रातू आयाएली रोकोवुदान्गो मेमोरियल स्कूल के मेनेन्ट और अध्यापकों को नए मेज़ और कुर्सियाँ प्रदान की। युवा पीढ़ी की शिक्षा प्रणाली में पूँजी लगाने के उद्देश्य से फीजी हाइवुड कौपोरेशन लिमिटेड ने यह मेज़ और कुर्सियाँ दान की जिनमें शामिल है एली चाएलडहूड एडुकेशन के लिए नौ मेज़ और कुर्सियाँ, साल एक और दो के लिए पंद्रह मेज़ और कुर्सियाँ, साल तीन से आठ के लिए तिहत्तर श्रृंखला मेज़ और कुर्सियाँ जबकि ऑफिस के लिए दो मेज़ और कुर्सियाँ।

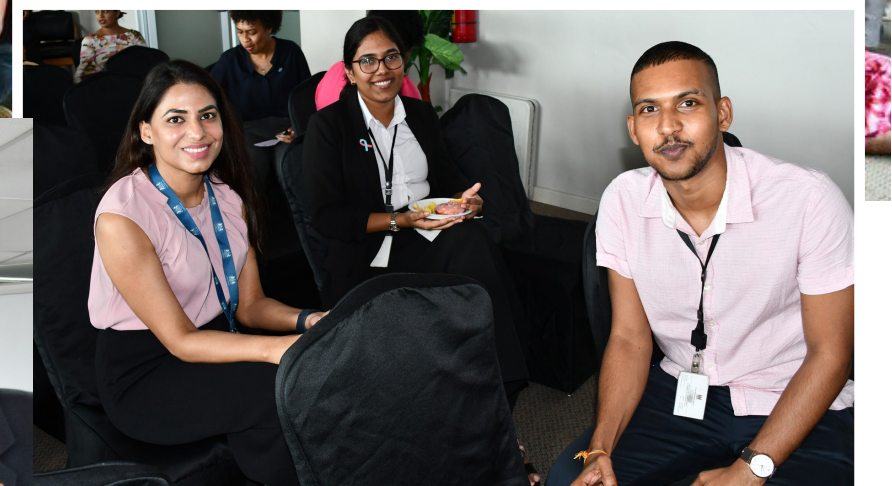
2023/2024 राष्ट्रीय अग्रीकल्चर शौ



घर के आंगन में बगीचा लगाने का मतलब सिर्फ सब्जियाँ उगाना नहीं है; यह ताज़ा और निरंतर भोजन के सप्लाय के स्रोत के बारे में है। सूबा स्थित वोडाफोन अरिना में इस साल के अग्रीकल्चर शौ का उद्घाटन करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने देशवासियों को प्रोत्साहित किया कि जीवन का वह तरीका जिसे हमारे लोग कभी अपनाते थे वह था हमारे घर आंगन के बगीचे में सब्जियाँ और जड़ वाली फसलों का पोषण करना। यह हमारी संस्कृति और विरासत में एक गहरी प्रथा है। यह भोजन की सुरक्षा को बढ़ावा देने, हमारे परिवारों के लिए उचित पोषण का ध्यान देने तथा विदेश से मँगाए जा रहे भोजन समान पर हमारी निर्भरता को कम करने के बारे में है।



अर्टीनी जेनरल के दफ्तर में केन्सर पर जागरूकता



अर्टीनी जेनरल के दफ्तर के कर्मचारियों ने स्तन केन्सर पर जागरूकता लाने वाले महीने को मनाने के लिए सुबह के चाय-नाश्ता का प्रबन्ध किया था। इस अवसर पर अर्टीनी जेनरल तथा न्याय मंत्री माननीय सिरैमी तुरांगा ने कहा कि देशवासियों को सतर्क रहकर स्वस्थ जीवन जीना चाहिए। इससे न केवल गैर-संक्रामक बीमारियों बल्कि केन्सर से भी बचा जा सकता है। उन्होंने माँग की है कि सभी को यह जानना चाहिए कि वे खतरों में हैं या नहीं। फीजी की स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली, शुरूआती पहचान के दृष्टिकोण पर ध्यान केंद्रित करती है, जहाँ खुद स्तन परीक्षण कैसे करें, इसकी जानकारी हमारी स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं पर उपलब्ध है। अर्टीनी जेनरल ने कहा कि जल्द पता लगाने और उपचार से स्तन केन्सर के इलाज के परिणाम में बड़ा अंतर आ सकता है जिससे यह न केवल उपचार योग्य हो जाता है, बल्कि इलाज योग्य भी हो जाता है।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका, ब्रिजबन में फीजीवासियों से मिलें

प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने ब्रिजबन में बसे फीजीवासियों को आशवासन दिया है कि कोलिशन सरकार उनके द्वारा सामना किए जा रहे विषयों को सुलझाने के लिए वृत्तव्य काम करेगी। हाल में ऑस्ट्रेलिया का दौरा करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने फीजीयन समाज से मुलाकात की। इस दौरान वहाँ फीजी-पैसिफिक ऑस्ट्रेलिया लईवा मोबिलिटी श्पुल्लन्त स्कीम के नीचे ऑस्ट्रेलिया में काम कर रहे फीजी के कुछ नागरिकों ने सीधे प्रधान मंत्री से उनके द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं पर प्रकाश डाला। प्रधान मंत्री ने उन्हें आशवासन दिया कि फीजी ने कंबरा में अपने दूतावास के मार्फत कुछ अफसरों को नियुक्त किया है जो ऑस्ट्रेलिया भर में काम कर रहे फीजीवासियों की मदद करेंगे। उन्होंने फीजी तथा ऑस्ट्रेलियन सरकार के प्रति उनके योगदान के लिए कर्मचारियों की प्रशंसा की।





प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के लिए हमेशा तैयार रहें

अपना घर आँगन सुरक्षित रखें

प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के दौरान:

- * देखें कि आपका घर और संपत्ति गिरे हुए पेड़ों से सुरक्षित हो
- * या बिजली के गिरे तार से दूर रहे जो आपके परिवार को नुकसान पहुँचा सकते हैं
- * ध्यान में रखें कि आपके पालतू जानवर सुरक्षित है
- * समाचार सुनते रहे और जगह खाली करने के लिए तैयार रहे

खबर रखें

प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के दौरान

- * बैटरी वाले रेडियो का उपयोग करें ताकि प्राकृतिक विपत्ति पर जानकारी और सार्वजनिक सेवाओं की घोषणाएं मिलती रहें
- * अपने फोर्न का इस्तेमाल ठीक तरह से करें ताकि बैटरी बच सके
- * हमेशा खबर रखें कि आपके परिवार कहाँ हैं
- * मौसम और स्थिति पर जानकारी के लिए www.met.gov.fj या एन डी एम ओ के फेसबुक पेज पर जाए

भोजन सुरक्षित रखें

- * लेप्टोस्पाइरोसिस, टाइफाइड, डेंगी और डायरिया के प्रसार को रोकें
- * भोजन और पीने का पानी ढाँक कर रखें या बंद बर्तन में रखें
- * पीने का पानी उबाल लें और अच्छी तरह से रखें
- * बासी भोजन ना खाएँ और इसे तुरंत फेंक दें
- * ध्यान में रखें कि आपका परिवार पौष्टिक भोजन करें
- * स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं को अपने बच्चों को स्तनपान कराते रहना चाहिए
- * सभी कच्ची सब्जियों को खाने से पहले धो लें

अच्छी स्वच्छता का अभ्यास करें

प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के दौरान:

- * भोजन छूने से पहले, शौचालय जाने के बाद या सफाई का काम खत्म करने के बाद याद से हाथ धोएं
- * सभी कचरे को ठीक तरह से समेटें
- * ध्यान रखें कि आपके बच्चे हर समय अच्छी स्वच्छता का अभ्यास करें

दूसरों को दिलासा दें

- * विपत्तियाँ लोगों को मानसिक और भावनात्मक रूप से प्रभावित कर सकती हैं
- * आपके लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण समय है जब आप अपने आसपास के लोगों को दिलासा देने में मदद कर सकते हैं
- * खास कर के बच्चे, विकलांग और बुजुर्गों के लिए
- * ध्यान रखें कि उन्हें प्यार और देखभाल मिले और वे सुरक्षित महसूस करें

- * स्थिति से निपटने में उनकी मदद करने के लिए एक सुरक्षित स्थान बनाएं
- * हमेशा अपने परिवार के साथ संपर्क बनाए रखें जो आपके साथ नहीं रहते

भावनात्मक सहारा

विपत्ति के बाद लोग शायद उलझन में दुखी या निराश हो सकते हैं

- * बच्चों, विकलांग लोग, महिलाएं तथा बुजुर्ग लोग अकेला या डरे हुए महसूस कर सकते हैं
- * कई लोगों ने शायद अपनी संपत्ति या जीवन भर की जमा पूँजी खो दी हो
- * अब सही समय है पीड़ित लोगों के लिए समय निकालने के लिए। उनकी जरूरतों का ध्यान रखें। ध्यान में रखें कि उन लोगों को चिकित्सा की सहायता मिले जिन्हें इसकी जरूरत है

संकेत और लक्षण

किसी भी प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के बाद बीमारियाँ जैसे कि लेप्टोस्पाइरोसिस, टाइफाइड, डायरिया तथा डेन्गी की महामारी होना आम बात है।

- * याद रखें कि आप बीमारियों को फैलने से रोकने के लिए हमेशा अपने हाथों को साबुन पानी से धोते रहे।
- * अगर आप या जिन्हें आप जानते हो, बीमार है और उन्हें यह लक्षण दिखाई देते हैं जैसे:

तेज़ बुखार
गम्भीर रूप से डायरिया
उलटियाँ आना
शरीर में दर्द
लाल दाने दिखें

तो जल्द से जल्द नज़दीकी अस्पताल जाए

साफ सफाई और मरम्मत

किसी प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के बाद यह ज़रूरी है कि आस-पास के वातावरण को साफ रखा जाए।

- * कुड़ा-कचरा को सावधानी से हटाएँ।
- * पानी के स्रोत को सुरक्षित करें अगर उसे नुकसान पहुँचा हो।
- * बिजली के तारों से दूर रहे और गिरे हुए तारों की शिकायत के लिए ई एफ एल को 913 पर कोल करें।
- * मच्छर पैदा होने वाले सभी स्थानों को नष्ट करें
- * अपने और अपने परिवार की सुरक्षा के लिए घर के कुछ भाग पर मरम्मत कर लें या एक अस्थाई घर बनाएँ
- * उन लोगों तक पहुँचें जिन्हें शायद ज्यादा सहायता की जरूरत है जैसे कि अगर कोई बीमार हो, बच्चे, बुजुर्ग, महिलाएं तथा विकलांग लोग।

अच्छी स्वच्छता अभ्यास

किसी प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के बाद याद रखें कि कोई भी बीमारियों से पीड़ित हो सकता है।
* लेकिन आप, फैल रही बीमारियों से अपने आप, अपने बच्चों और चाहने वालों की सुरक्षा रख सकते हैं

यह सब केवल भोजन तैयार करने से पहले या पाखाना इस्तेमाल करने या साफ सफाई के बाद साबुन और पानी से हाथ धोने से शुरू होता है।
* पीने वाले पानी को उबालकर अच्छी तरह सम्भालकर रखें

आपतकालिन किट

प्रकृतिक विपत्ति के दौरान:

देखें कि आपकी आपतकालीन किट अच्छी तरह से तैयार है

किट में यह होना ज़रूरी है:

फेस्ट अर्इड किट
जरूरी दवाईयाँ
पूरे परिवार के लिए मास्क
हाथ धोने के लिए साबुन या हेन्ड सेनिटाइज़र
जरूरी दास्तावेज़, मोमबत्ती और वेक्सीनेशन कार्ड
बोतल या उबला हुआ पीने का पानी
टिन वाला भोजन
बैटरी वाला रेडियो
टोर्च
बैटरी

अगर आप प्रकृतिक विपत्ति के दौरान जगह खाली कर रहे हैं तो जितनी जल्द हो सके चले जाए

अपना इमेजेन्सी किट और जरूरी सामान साथ लेकर जाए पहले से बीमार परिवार के सदस्यों को अपनी विपत्ति यो जना में शामिल रखें

समुद्री तटों पर घूमने वालों को सलाह दी गई है कि वे अपने नाव और बहने वाले चीजों को समेट कर रखें जो नुकसान पहुँचा सकते हैं

सुनिश्चित रखें कि आपके पालतू जानवर सुरक्षित हैं, उन्हें दिन के समय कोई उँची जगह ले जाए

घर पर तैयार रहे

प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के दौरान:

पर्याप्त भोजन और पीने का पानी भर लें।

पानी को उबालकर रखें।

टोर्च और मोमबत्ति तैयार रखें

फोर्न और पावा बेन्क चार्ज कर लें

घर पर बुजुर्गों, विकलांग और अपने पड़ोसियों का ध्यान रखें। बच्चों को घर के अन्दर रखें।

देखें कि आपके पास पर्याप्त दवाईयाँ हो

मौसम और स्थिति पर जानकारी के लिए www.met.gov.fj या एन डी एम ओ के फेसबुक पेज पर जाए

अपने फोर्न का इस्तेमाल ठीक तरह से करें ताकि बैटरी बच सके

यह जरूरी नंबर ध्यान में रखें:

पूलिस/एम्बुलेन्स के लिए 917,

आग के लिए 910,

ई-एफ-एल के लिए 913,

वोटा अथोरिटी ऑफ फीजी के लिए 5777,

मिट्टी भसकने और जमीन पर फिसलन के लिए 917 या 910 पर कोल करें

नवम्बर 2023 से अप्रैल 2024 के बीच फीजी में समुद्री आँधी के मौसम पर औपचारिक घोषणा

रोनल देव

समुद्री आँधी के इस मौसम में दो से तीन समुद्री आँधियाँ फीजी के करीब से होकर गुज़र सकती है जिनमें से एक या दो समुद्री आँधियाँ बहुत ही ताकतवर रूप धारण कर सकती है जो कटेग्री तीन से पाँच तक पहुँच सकती है।

इस मौसम में फीजी के किसी भी हिस्से पर समुद्री आँधियों पर प्रकोप पड़ सकता है।

समुद्री आँधियों का असर ज़्यादा करके जनवरी और मार्च महीने के बीच पड़ता है लेकिन इस मौसम में यह आँधियाँ कभी भी रूप धारण कर सकती है। इस मौसम के बाहर भी समुद्री आँधियों का असर पड़ सकता है। कुछ-कुछ समुद्री आँधियाँ अक्टूबर, मई, सितम्बर तथा जून महीने

में भी आई थी।

यह ज़रूरी नहीं है कि लोगों के जीवन तथा जान का खतरा तबही होगा जब गम्भीर समुद्री आँधियों का असर सीधे रूप से पड़ेगा। अनिश्चित मौसम, जो समुद्री आँधियों में नहीं बदलते की वजह से भी विनाशकारी हवाएँ चलती है, गम्भीर वर्षा होती है, बाढ़ का पानी चड़ता है तथा ज़मीन भसकती है।

समुद्री आँधी के मौसम के दौरान सभी को हमेशा सतर्क रहने के साथ-साथ तैयार रहना चाहिए और जो सलाह या चेतावनी दी जाए उन्हें गम्भीरता से लेना चाहिए।

मौसमी ट्रफ़्टर ने अनुमान लगाया है कि इस मौसम में दो से तीन समुद्री आँधियाँ, फीजी जलप्रांगण से होकर गुज़र सकती है जिनमें से एक या दो विनाशकारी रूप

धारण कर सकती है जिसकी ताकत कटेग्री तीन या उससे ज़्यादा हो सकती है। इस साल और अगले साल का अनुमान बीते हुए समुद्री आँधियों के मौसम को देखते हुए लगाया गया है। यह साल है घशयट-यड, घशयभ-यय, घशयघ-शट, घशयभ-शय, टज़ज़श-घज़ और टज़घथ-घथ. समुद्री आँधी के इन मौसमों पर गौर किया गया कि इन सालों में कम से कम एक समुद्री आँधी आई थी जिसकी ताकत कटेग्री पाँच तक पहुँची थी।

इनमें सबसे प्रसिद्ध समुद्री आँधी, विंस्टन थी जो दो हज़ार सोलह में आई थी। लोगों को समुद्री आँधी के लिए हमेशा सतर्क और तैयार रहना चाहिए। अनुमान है कि हमारे दक्षिण प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र में इस साल और अगले साल के बीच आठ से चौदह समुद्री आँधियों का प्रकोप पड़ सकता है,

जिनमें से पाँच से सात समुद्री आँधियाँ विनाशकारी रूप धारण कर सकती है जो कि कटेगरी तीन से पाँच तक पहुँच सकती है। हमारे क्षेत्र में हमेशा लगभग सात समुद्री आँधियों का असर पड़ता है जिनमें से तीन बहुत ही गम्भीर समुद्री आँधियाँ होती है।

सम्पत्तियों के नुकसान या जान का जोखिम केवल तब नहीं होता है जब समुद्री आँधियों का सीधा असर पड़ता है, बल्कि बीते सालों में यह देखा गया है कि अनिश्चित मौसम की वजह से भी गम्भीर वर्षा और भयंकर बाढ़ आई थी। इसी लिए समुद्री आँधी के इस मौसम में फीजी के समाज और व्यापारियों को हमेशा सतर्क रहना चाहिए और मौसम पर सभी सलाह और चेतावनियों को गम्भीरता से लेना चाहिए।

अपने घर आँगन का ध्यान रखें

- ध्यान में रखें कि गिरे हुए पेड़ और बिजली के तारों से आपका घर और संपत्ति सुरक्षित हो तथा आपको या आपके चाहने वाले सही सलामत हो
- देख लें कि आपके पालतू जानवर या पशु सुरक्षित हो
- जानकारी के लिए समाचार सुने तथा ज़रूरत पड़ने पर घर से निकलकर किसी सुरक्षित स्थान पर चले जाए

सूचित रहें संपर्क में रहें

- मौसम पर जानकारी सुनने के लिए बैटरी वाले रेडियो का उपयोग करें
- अपने मोबाईल फोन का इस्तेमाल सोच समझकर करें, बैटरी बचाए
- अपने परिवार के सदस्यों की जानकारी रखें कि वे कहाँ है

भोजन सुरक्षित रखें

- भोजन और पीने का पानी हमेशा किसी साफ कंटेनर में बन्द करके रखें
- पीने वाला पानी उबालकर रखें
- खराब भोजन खाने से बचे
- इस बात का ध्यान रखें कि आपका परिवार हमेशा पौष्टिक भोजन ही करें
- स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं को अपने शिशुओं को स्तनपान कराना जारी रखना चाहिए

अच्छी स्वच्छता अपनाएँ

बीमारी के संपर्क में आने और फैलाने से बचे

- भोजन छूने से पहले, कुड़ा फैंकने और पाखाना जाने के बाद अपने हाथों को अच्छी तरह साबुन पानी से धोए
- ध्यान में रखें कि आपके बच्चे भी साफ-सफाई का ख्याल रखें

विपत्ति के दौरान

- अपने आस-पास के लोगों को दिलासा दें, खास करके बच्चों को सुरक्षित, प्यार और देखभाल का एहसास कराने का प्रयास करें
 - बच्चों को घर के अन्दर ही रखें
 - उन्हें स्थिति से निपटने में मदद करने के लिए गेम खेलने, कहानियाँ सुनाने, चित्र बनाने और पढ़ने के लिए एक सुरक्षित स्थान बनाएं



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद के साथ लेन्ड्स मंत्री और स्थानापन हाउजिंग मंत्री माननीय फिलिमोनी वोसारोन्गो हाउजिंग वाली नई योजना की घोषणा करत हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

खरीदने की क्षमता वाले घरों के निर्माण जल्द होंगे

रोनल देव

फ़ीजी सरकार ने खरीदने की क्षमता रखने वाले घरों की पब्लिक प्रायवट पाटरशिप की पहली योजना के लिए टेन्डर भेजने की माँग की है।

टेन्डर की माँग करना एक प्रक्रिया की शुरुआत का संकेत देता है कि जहाँ तीन हजार से अधिक खरीदने योग्य घरों के निर्माण के विकास के लिए योग्य पुँजीपति, डिवेलोपस तथा कंसोर्टियम की पहचान हो रही है।

हाल में एक समाचार सम्मेलन के दौरान उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद तथा लेन्ड्स मंत्री और स्थानापन हाउजिंग मंत्री माननीय फिलिमोनी वोसारोन्गो ने आम किया कि यह योजना सन् दो हजार बत्तीस तक सभी समाजों के लिए खरीदने योग्य घर प्रदान करने की कोलिशन सरकार के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप है, और इसका उद्देश्य उन परिवारों का समर्थन करना है जो ज़मीन और घरों की बढ़ती कीमतों के कारण घर खोजने के लिए संघर्ष करते हैं। पाँच जगहों

की पहचान हुई है जिनमें रईवाँगा, नेपानी, दवुईलेवू तथा तावाकुम्बू शामिल है। इन पाँच इलाकों तक पहुँचने के लिए रास्ते का निर्माण हो चुका है।

फिलहाल, हाउजिंग मंत्रालय अनऔपचारिक बस्तियों को टिकाउ समाजों में बदलने के उद्देश्य से अपनी बारह साल की विकास योजना की घोषणा करते हुए गर्व महसूस हो रहा है। यह पहल इन बस्तियों में रहने वाले हजारों नागरिकों की जीवन स्थितियों में सुधार लाने और सुविधाओं तथा सेवाओं तक समान पहुँच सुनिश्चित करने के लिए

सरकार की अटूट प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाती है। तीन अनऔपचारिक सेटलमन्ट्स पर काम हो गए है जिनमें नौसोरी स्थित वाई दामूदामू, दूवू सिंगातोका तथा नान्दी में लेंडूसासा। सकोदा नसीनू, तवेला नान्दी तथा फिल्ड ज़ा और तोरे लौतोका में काम शुरू हो चुका है। जिन सेटलमन्ट्स पर काम शुरू होना बाकी है में, दाउम्बाती, नन्दोनूमाई, लोवू सी साईड, सासाविरा, देलाईसवेनी, वुनिका, वाकानिसिला, नम्बारे तथा वालेवागूवावा शामिल है। तैतीस और सेटलमन्ट्स पर काम शुरू होना बाकी है।