Fiji Focus

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Fiji reaffirms regional solidarity

World Bank Group President, Ajay Banga receives the kamunaga (qaloqalovi) presented by the Fiji Government during the traditional welcome ceremony accorded to him as Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka looks on. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

PRIME Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, has reaffirmed Fiji's support for regional solidarity in the midst of the recent high-level meeting with the World Bank with Pacific Island countries.

Fiji's Head of Government noted the World Bank's renewed commitment to the Pacific in strengthening cooperation on critical areas such as health, infrastructure and job creation in Fiji's development priorities and that of the Pacific region's overall resilience and prosperity.

This comes as the World Bank Group President, Ajay Banga, held a Pacific Region at a High-level Meeting during his historic visit to Fiji.

The first of such dialogue convened at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Headquarters in Suva, underscored the partnership between the Forum member countries and the World Bank, the Washington-based institution and the world's biggest and oldest multilateral development bank.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Rabuka acknowledged the World Bank for its contribution to infrastructural improvements and relationship with Fiji's development journey to date.

Further, he noted the World Bank's renewed commitment to the Pacific in strengthening cooperation on critical areas such as health, infrastructure and job creation in Fiji's development priorities and that of the Pacific region's overall resilience and prosperity.

He welcomed the potential for initiatives and sustainable solutions aimed at promoting economic development, climate resilience, connectivity, sustainable tourism, investment, upscale resources and support for vital sectors such as healthcare, education, energy, agriculture, fisheries and infrastructure.

PM Rabuka expressed optimism that partnership with the World Bank will materialise into tangible outcomes for the Pacific's development.

In his remarks, Mr Banga thanked the leadership and vision demonstrated by the Pacific leaders and reasserted the World Banks dedication to support the Pacific region's priorities on economic development and climate resilience.

Mr Banga's official visit to Fiji, Tuvalu and Australia from 4th to 10th September 2024, marks the first of such visit to be undertaken in the last 50 years.

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PM welcomes public response to TRC consultations

PRIME Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, has welcomed the public response to the public consultations that have begun on the framework of the Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission (FTRC).

PM Rabuka stated that the attendance of former politicians, community and religious leaders, NGO representatives and private individuals at the public consultations held last week in Labasa, Nausori, Lautoka and Suva confirms the need for open and frank discussions about the political upheavals of the past.

"I thank everyone who made the effort to attend these public forums and I have noted the frank and genuine discussions that ensured," said Prime Minister Rabuka.

"I also thank Sashi Kiran and her supporting Assistant Ministers of Sakiusa Tubuna, Lenora Qereqeretabua, Jovesa Vocea and Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu for progressing this very vital work."

Regarding questions raised in news reports about the implications of the immunity provisions of the 2013 Constitution on the work of FTRC, Prime Minister Rabuka stated that such implications do not necessarily affect or deter the consultation process.

"The process of truth and reconciliation must run its course in seeking unity and reconciliation in Fiji. This is something that the country must, and should do. The outcome of the current consultation process will shape the FTRC.

"When the matter of immunity is raised in these consultations and its implications on the immunity clause of the 2013 Constitution are evident, this will then be brought into the Constitutional Review process."

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Fiji needs to have this conversation for reconciliation: DPM Kamikamica

From left-right; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Cooperatives, Small, Medium Entreprises, Trade and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran and Senior Expert from the New York City-based International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Ruben Carranza at the high-level workshop held in Suva today.

THE country needs to have this conversation for reconciliation says the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Cooperatives, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and Communications Manoa Kamikamica.

DPM Kamikamica emphasised this as he spoke at the High-Level Workshop organised by the steering committee on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"As a country we need to have this conversation and as we all agree we need to understand our past and talk about our past in order to build our future and I certainly want to leave this world knowing that I have handed a better country to those who are following us."

DPM Kamikamica quoted from the late South African freedom fighter later President Nelson Madiba Mandela when he said, "true reconciliation does not consist in merely forgetting the past but in facing up to it and coming to terms with it.

"This is exactly why your government; the Peoples Coalition Government is seeking closure on the traumatic and painful past."

DPM Kamikamica said the country needs to trust the process.

"I have been hearing a lot of issues on trust and I guess there is a certain term they used in rugby 'trust the process' and I think at the end of the day we just need to trust the process.

"We have our reservations, and some are asking 'where's the military,' and I am telling everybody, 'let's trust the process.'"

DPM Kamikamica said in doing this he was listening very intensely to the panelists and also to the list of speakers especially to the former Minister Krishna Dutt and thanked him for his honesty in sharing his experiences.

"Some of us won't really truly understand or capture the challenges and the pain that you went through, but through your articulation, I'm sure we will be able to hear more once the commissions begin its work."

"This is how we bring healing to the country."

"There are also issues that go back to our colonial past that we will need to deal with. Will we need another TRC, but we have made a start and please note this government is very serious in making this genuine effort to bring the country together."

"On the question about the recommendations and implementations [of the TRC), this is what the government of the day, the Peoples Coalition will have to consider in the hope that we move forward much more united than what we have been over the last several decades."

(Source: Ministry of Trade and Cooperatives, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and Communications)

Fiji Truth and Reconciliation consultation in Nausori

Senior Expert from the New York City-based International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Mr. Ruben Carranza, shared his experiences and case studies from various Truth Commissions worldwide.

By NANISE NEIMILA

Consultations on establishing the legal framework of Fiji's Truth and Reconciliation Commission continued in Nausori today, with a focus on promoting healing, reconciliation, forgiveness, and trust to foster social cohesion and unity across the nation.

Assistant Minister for Women, Children, and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran and chair of the Government's steering committee on Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission, emphasised that the commission's efforts aim to provide healing, closure, and answers from the past, with the hope that future generations will not repeat the same mistakes.

Senior Expert from the New York City-based International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Ruben Carranza, shared his experiences and case studies from various Truth Commissions worldwide. He highlighted that while seeking individual accountability through prosecution in domestic or international criminal courts is a right, it has its limitations.

Mr Carranza highlighted that the ongoing consultations would build trust in a future Truth Commission and offer a vital platform for Fijians with grievances to come forward and be heard.

He added facilitating truth-seeking was one of the most significant achievements a future commission can pursue.

During the discussions, Waisea Tuisese, commended the commission for undertaking consultations around the country adding this was the appropriate time to facilitate truth-seeking, healing and closure.

Additionally, Fiji Law Reform Director Raijeli Tuivaga presented the draft legal framework for establishing and governing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

The framework outlines that the commission will consist of five members, with the chair appointed by the President of the Republic of Fiji.

It also grants the commissioners the authority to carry out their duties, ask questions, and verify details.

Consultations are set to continue in Lautoka tomorrow and Suva in the coming days.

TRC establishment to help people move on

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) consultations that have been under way have seen robust engagement with legal fraternities and political parties, with participation from Fijians at the national level.

Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran, and the steering committee chair stressed that a lot of countries have established TRC which deals with a lot of issues.

"We know that in the last 40 years, we have carried a lot of hurt through so many political upheavals, and coups where different people faced different painful effects of it," Asst. Minister Kiran highlighted.

"We have not really talked about this much but the TRC provides an opportunity for those who have suffered during any coups to publicly or privately share what they have gone through and who were responsible for it."

"This way they can ask for accountability because there are so many cases that if they are taken to court then it will drag on for years," she added.

Asst. Minister Kiran relayed that the 2013 Constitution has a provision for immunity in the aspect that whatever has happened since the 2000 coup will not have any legal case or repercussions.

"Whatever the people have gone through in that time is very hurtful and upsetting as it brings back a lot of bad memories," she said.

"If we are able to mend the wound and sorrow that people are carrying with them, then we can take Fiji in a new direction," she added.

"It is very important to know why it happened because it is only when we get to know then we are able to accept the mistake and move on from what haunts us."

"This is why last year, Parliament passed a motion to establish the TRC in which the Cabinet formed a steering committee with five appointed members," the steering committee chair added.

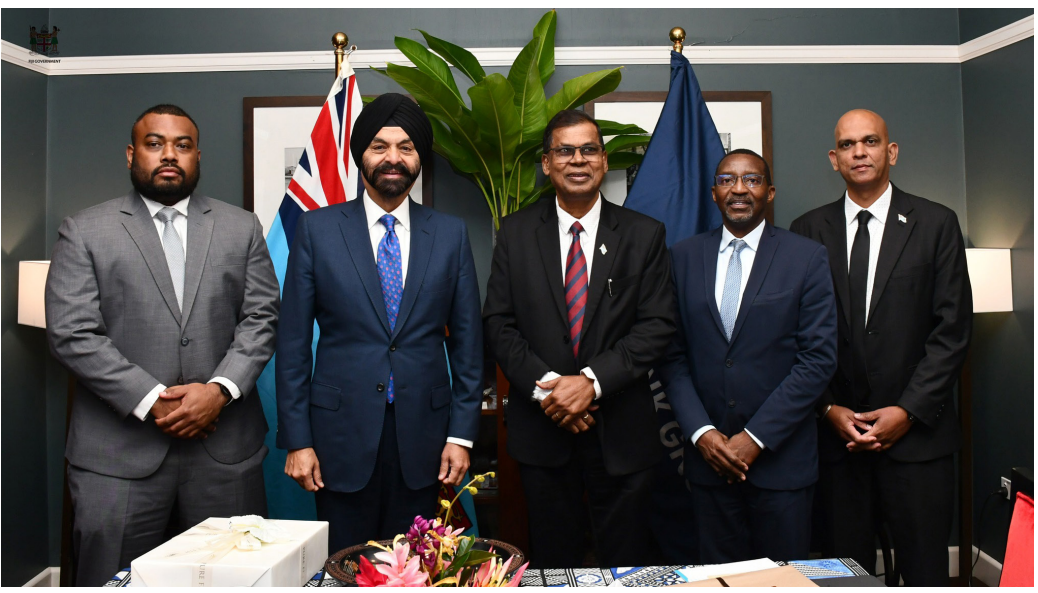
With this consultation, the committee intended to create awareness by educating the public and garnering support in the process which will assist in drafting a Bill to formally establish the TRC.

Other committee members of TRC include Assistant Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Sakiusa Tubuna, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Lenora Qereqeretabua, Assistant Minister for iTaukei Affairs Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu and Assistant Minister for Rural and Maritime Development Jovesa Vocea

A Bill to establish the TRC will be deliberated by Cabinet later this year before it is tabled in Parliament and once endorsed, it is projected to carry out its work in 2026.

Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran, and steering committee chair during one of the consutations **Photo: SUPPLIED**

DPM Prasad holds bilateral meeting with World Bank President



From left-right; Adviser to the Executive Director at the World Bank Group, Nemia Dawai, President of the World Bank Group, Ajay Banga, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Prof. Biman Prasad and Acting Permanent Secretary for Finance, Atin Chand.**Photo: SUPPLIED**

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Biman Prasad, held a bilateral meeting with President of the World Bank Group, Ajay Banga, in Suva this week.

DPM Prasad congratulated President Banga on his recent appointment and the strong performance of the World Bank Group in FY24.

He emphasised Fiji's support for a robust and ambitious IDA21 replenishment and expressed eagerness to continue collaborating with the World Bank to strengthen Fiji's role as a regional hub, improve health sector programs, and expand access to climate financing.

President Banga noted his interest in learning from Fiji's development challenges and exploring how the World Bank can best leverage financing, partnerships, and knowledge to support Fiji and the broader region.

DPM Prasad was accompanied by the acting permanent secretary, Atin Chand, and Nemia Dawai, Adviser to the Executive Director at the World Bank Group.

(Source: Ministry of Finance)

Fiji reaffirms regional solidarity

(Second from left) Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, with his fellow leaders around the Pacific Region at a High-level Meeting with the World Bank Group President, Ajay Banga. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Continued from page 1

The discussion was an opportunity for the Pacific leaders to establish direct collaboration with the World Bank and establish understanding of the Bank's approaches and strategies.

The leaders also discussed their own priorities for economic prosperity, climate resilience and sustainable development, with the ultimate aim of improving the livelihood and quality of life of the Pacific people.

Attention was directed at the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) future financing in the Pacific; and robust Twenty First (21st) Replenishment of the Resources of the International Development Association (IDA21) to meet the growing needs in the Pacific.

These are among the key initiatives to be pursued via the Pacific-World Bank renewed efforts.

The discussion was premised on key regional initiatives of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and its Implementation; and the draft Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development (PRED).

The meeting concluded on a positive-note, with a collective commitment to work on the Outcome Statement and a joint action plan on the key Pacific priorities in implementing the targets of the 2050 Strategy and the draft Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development (PRED).

The High-level meeting was attended by Hon. Hu'akavameiliku Siaosi Sovaleni, Prime Minister of Tonga and Forum Chair; Baron Waqa, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Wesley Simina, President of the Federated State of Micronesia; Sitiveni Rabuka, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji; Hon. Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of Marshall Islands; Seremaiah Nawalu, Deputy Prime Minister of Vanuatu; and David Adeang, President of the Republic of Nauru.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

President Katonivere stresses collective effort and values

President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere being accorded a traditional welcome ceremony upon his arrival at Tamavua Village for the Naitasiri Provincial Council meeting. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA.**

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

"WE should encourage our youth to avoid living a life of dependency and to actively support their growth in education, culture, spirituality, and mentality through learning, training, and building strong relationships."

This was the message relayed by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, to representatives from the 16 districts of Naitasiri gathered at Tamavua Village this week for their annual provincial council meeting.

As he opened the meeting, President Katonivere emphasised the importance of collaboration and collective effort, values deeply rooted in the iTaukei culture while also highlighting social issues that affect the youth of Fiji.

The Head of State said "a menacing threat lives amongst us now – drugs calling on the province to take action".

"The influx of drugs in our society is deeply troubling as it undermines our family bonds, our communities, and our faith. I believe the only way we can overcome this challenge is to rebuild our family connections and provide support. Our children are particularly vulnerable, and I appeal to you to stand with us in this battle and to bring attention to the issues surrounding the illegal use and abuse of drugs in our country."

President Katonivere added that the use of drugs among our youth brings shame, sorrow, and pain, and impedes the progress of our children and families.

"We are confronted with a serious challenge and we must remain vigilant and take action. The government is urging cultural and religious groups, as well as our cities and towns, to come together to safeguard lives from illicit drugs. This is crucial, but we must also work together to fight against the use, transportation, and distribution of harmful drugs."

"As a province, it is our responsibility to impart the values and behaviors of our ancestors to the next generations through our actions and words. Let us proudly re-establish these traditions."

"In light of observed differences within our societies between the church and Government, it is imperative to emphasize the preservation and protection of the foundations of the iTaukei people, namely the Vanua, the Church, and the Government," President Katonivere said.

The Head of State said that in the iTaukei culture, cooperation to achieve goals is a way of life.

"It is customary for a community to unite and collaborate to achieve significant goals, and I believe you have been working together to address the resolutions of your provincial council meeting in 2023."

"It is very important for us to reflect on our roles and responsibilities towards the Vanua, the Church, our tikina, villages, and family units to ensure our well-being," President Katonivere said.

The Head of State extended words of appreciation for the council members, government officials, youth, and women representatives, recognising their collaborative efforts in driving development progress within the province of Naitasiri.

Govt develop sandalwood industry to reap in millions

IT is anticipated that the country will reap in an estimated $10 million in the next five years through the harvest of 106,000kg of sandalwood.

Minister responsible for the Forestry and Fisheries sectors, Alitia Bainivalu made these comments in Parliament this week.

"Over 132 hectares (ha) of sandalwood woodlots have been planted with over 58,000 sandalwood trees.

In addition a total area of 31.4 ha was planted with sandalwood using the agroforestry system integrated with other timber and fruit trees.

"Sandalwood can now been seen growing in almost any village/community and any inhabited island in Fiji.

"In the next five (5) years we have forecasted to harvest around 106,000kg of sandalwood with an estimated export value of $10.0 million."

Minister Bainivalu said the Fiji Government has continued to support the development of sandalwood under a capital project, investing $1million FJD over a decade now in the revitalization of sandalwood development nationally, with a focus on enhancing policy and regulatory requirements to support the sustainable management of sandalwood and to promote more re-planting towards the establishment of a long-term sustainable high value industry for the country.

The buyers of Fiji's sandalwood included Dubai, Hong Kong, China, Australia and Taiwan. Current evidence suggests that market outlook and prices of sandalwood of high quality will remain very strong for at least the next 5 years.

The Ministry of Forestry realizing the high demand for Sandalwood especially in the Asian market began investing significant amount of resources in research to work out ways of improving natural stand management, and to introduce sandalwood in agroforestry systems as well as in plantations.

Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Alitia Bainivalu speaks during the Parliament sitting this week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Interest in planting and expanding the sandalwood resource has been increasing over the last ten years or so given the crop's high value and its good long-term prospects in terms of both price and demand in the international market.

In the last financial year 2023-2024, $0.1 million FJD was invested in the Sandalwood Development Project.

The fund was mainly used for the sandalwood grower's consultation in the three divisions (Central, Western and Northern), with the main objective of establishing a Sandalwood Growers Association that will protect the interest of the farmers.

Sandalwood inventory was also carried out and also established sandalwood demonstration plots using the agroforestry approach.

(Source: Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry)

Ministry determined to deliver on management and development of coastal resources

MUCH work is needed in the coastal area to ensure the management and development of coastal fisheries resources to meet the daily needs of Fijians, says the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Alitia Bainivalu.

"Still, the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry is determined to deliver what is expected.

"The Ministry will ensure the proper fundamentals are set to support these projects, ensuring their longevity and effectiveness in relieving pressure on our depleted fish stocks."

Minister Bainivalu reported in Parliament that the coastal development project will undertake fish collection trips in the maritime islands because accessing the primary market in urban areas is difficult.

"Fish collection trips will be conducted in Lau, Kadavu, Lomaiviti, and the Northern Division and Western Division islands to connect the fishers to the primary market.

"The Ministry will continue to undertake more awareness and focus training in communities and engage in exhibitions to educate and increase awareness of the importance of marine and fisheries resources.

Regarding illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in coastal areas, the Minister said the Ministry will continue to increase monitoring, compliance, and surveillance in our coastal areas and ensure that users comply with all fisheries laws and regulations.

"This fiscal year, the Ministry will continue to support the coastal fisheries and scale up existing projects and activities to improve outcomes and effectiveness. The coastal development fisheries project has five (5) main work programs that include the following:

1. Pathway to market initiative that provides essential support for licensed fishers to access better markets, including the improvement of processes along the value chains
2. Exploring the pelagic and deep-water snapper fisheries will relieve fishing pressure on coral reef areas and maximize economic returns for licensed fishers and fishing cooperatives.
3. Scaling up the locally managed marine areas through species management, ranching, and the grow-out of cultured high-value coastal species such as sandfish.
4. Minimize illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing in Fiji's coastal waters through monitoring, compliance, and surveillance.
5. Training and awareness are needed to improve the coastal fisheries' resource value chain and the management of coastal fisheries resources.

(Source: Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry)

Govt program beneficial to farmers

Minister for Agriculture and Waterways, Vatimi Rayalu speaks in Parliament during the September sitting this week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By AZARIA FAREEN

LAST year, the total value of Fiji's National Domestic Export was estimated to be $1.3 billion in which kava and dalo continue to lead in the top five agricultural export commodities.

In highlighting this, Minister for Agriculture and Waterways, Vatimi Rayalu, noted that the main export destinations for kava and dalo include Australia, New Zealand, the USA, and other Pacific Island Countries.

"The total share of all agriculture commodities to the national trade including forest products such as sugar and fisheries products was 69.4 per cent amounting to F$934.2 million - an increase of 0.7 per cent compared to 2022," Minister Rayalu highlighted.

"The total share for Only Crop & Livestock Commodities (fresh, chilled and value-added products) was 25.5 per cent amounting to F$343.4 million - an increase of 9.2 per cent as compared to 2022."

"For fresh and chilled crop and livestock produce, the total share was 10.7 per cent amounting to $144.7 million with an increase of 17.3 per cent as compared to 2022," he added.

Minister Rayalu said that the export value for dalo last year was $39.8 million, where 5,608.2 metric tonnes of dalo was produce were exported which was an increase of 19.2 per cent compared to the previous year, while the export value for kava was $38.1 million in which 501 metric tonnes of kava produce were exported – an increase of 0. Per cent compared to the previous year.

"In the 2023-2024 financial year, under the Dalo Farming Program, 674 individual farmers and 3 farmer cluster groups were assisted through the provision of planting materials, agro-inputs, infrastructure development, land clearing, land preparation, technical advisory services and training," he said.

"In the same year, under the Yaqona Farming Program, 257 individual farmers and five farming clusters groups were assisted through the provision of planting materials, pounding machines, construction of farmhouses, drying facilities, and nurseries."

"$450,000 was also allocated in the same financial year for the Dalo Farming Program to ensure that Fiji's dalo industry remains successful," he added.

In the 2023-2024 financial year, $500,000 was allocated for the Yaqona Farming Program to ensure the further development of Fiji's Kava industry.

"With this, we project social benefits for farmers including infrastructural development - house improvements (renovations), footpath, improvements on water systems, and purchase of a vehicle," the agriculture minister lauded.

Furthermore, the projected Return of Investment for this programme indicates that for every dollar invested by the government, there is an anticipated return of $25, thereby demonstrating the programme's viability.

Fiji committed to fulfilling its obligations under IEPA

By AZARIA FAREEN

SINCE signing the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA) in 2009, Fiji has benefited mostly in the sugar sector, where the European Union (EU) member countries collectively accounted for a maximum of 90 per cent of the total sugar exports.

This was highlighted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, during the Parliament sitting this week.

DPM Kamikamica noted that despite the challenges, "the EU market has been a consistent and reliable destination for our exports, contributing significantly to our foreign exchange earnings and providing employment opportunities for our people".

"The IEPA has opened opportunities for Fijian businesses to export goods such as tuna, ginger, mineral water, garments and kava, with exports to the EU reaching a peak of $132.4 million in 2022."

"Implementing our market access commitments under the IEPA is crucial, which means that Fiji needs to open its market to goods from the EU under the terms of the IEPA."

"This involves removing tariffs (taxes on imports) on certain products, making it easier for goods from the EU to enter Fiji's market," the Minister added.

DPM Kamikamica said that to ensure that the tariffs committed for elimination under the IEPA are effectively removed, Fiji will take several important steps which includes establishing a dedicated team to oversee the implementation of these tariff changes, ensuring they are applied correctly and efficiently.

"To support this, we will develop clear and straightforward guidelines that will help both customs officials and businesses understand and follow the new rules," he said.

"Additionally, we will review and, if necessary, update process documents to ensure it aligns with the agreement. We recognise the importance of awareness, which is why we will conduct training sessions and workshops for customs officers, trade officials, and other key stakeholders."

"These sessions will equip everyone involved with the knowledge and skills needed to implement the tariff removals effectively, and to keep businesses and the public informed, we will provide clear and accessible information through our Ministry's website and direct engagement with business groups," DPM Kamikamica added.

He said that as we move forward, we will continuously monitor the process to ensure the tariff eliminations are having the desired positive impact on our economy which will allow us to address any challenges that may arise promptly.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad on their way to the Parliamentary chambers. **Photo:SUPPLIED**

"We will maintain ongoing communication with the EU to resolve any issues that might come up during the implementation, ensuring that this transition is as smooth and beneficial as possible for Fiji," he said.

"Through these steps, we are committed to fulfilling our obligations under the IEPA while supporting the growth and development of our economy."

"This partnership remains vital for Fiji's economic growth and development and aligns with our broader trade and development objectives, particularly in terms of diversifying our export base and reducing our reliance on a limited number of trading partners," DPM Kamikamica added.

PIDF to transition into Integrated Development Centre: PM Rabuka

By PRASHILA DEVI

PACIFIC Island Development Forum (PIDF) is under review and is transitioning towards becoming an integrated entity that focuses on project delivery across sectors and geographical boundaries.

This was the update by Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka, to Parliament this week in response to a question on the status and functions of the PIDF, which was established in 2013 and comprises of 12 member PSIDs states, civil society organisation and private sector.

The PIDF was also admitted as an official Observer to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 2016.

"Regionalism is an important development strategy in the Pacific and the soon-to-be Integrated Development Centre (IDC), for a want of a term, will progress strategies that ensure the interests of relevant sectors including the Pacific family, are upheld."

"Whatever name it will be eventually given is immaterial. The purpose and goals that it will pursue for Fiji and its neighbours is more important," the Head of Government said.

PM Rabuka said the PIDF was undergoing a review with the support of partners to repurpose and re-orientate to a "fit for purpose" organisation that will draw on lessons learned while furthering national and regional interests.

He explained that the intent was leaning towards a fully projectized business model to take it forward with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs having had dialogue with current donors who are pleased to continue supporting existing projects and moving into new ones.

Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka making a contribution to the discussions in Parliament during the sitting this week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

"They are satisfied with the current interim arrangement where the entity is, for the time being, managed from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the Permanent Secretary as its Interim Secretary General, while ensuring independence of operations with sound oversight on a two-tier accountability and oversight process," PM Rabuka said.

He said they expect the IDC to elevate support for local sectors and PSIDS' agenda in partnership with Governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), and the private sector.

Elaborating further, PM Rabuka said the IDC will be supported as a research and project-oriented organisation with a mandate that will complement regional and sub-regional organisations and actively support the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent.

"The new IDC will reflect an organisation that is agile to enhance the delivery of our national and regional interests under the SDGs, 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and Fiji's foreign policy pillars of Sovereignty, Security and Prosperity."

PM Rabuka said the PIDF was operating in a crowded space and not immune to challenges such as mandate issue, leadership, finance, governance structure and capacity of the secretariat.

He added that the PIDF had benefitted Fiji and the regional Pacific SIDs countries on a number of fronts, with key accomplishments as follows:

a. The Suva Declaration which was used as a reference point for PSIDS lobbying at COP21 and contributed to the successful outcomes at the Paris Negotiations.

b. The Nadi Bay Declaration which voiced the Pacific's deep concern for the "lack of comprehension, ambition, or commitment by developed nations" towards the consequences of the climate crisis on vulnerable Pacific nations.

c. The Solarisation of the official residences and landmark sites for the Pacific Heads of States supported by UNDP, the UN Office of South-South Cooperation and the Republic of India.

d. Research and Innovation Ecosystems to Address the Impact of Climate Change in the Pacific (RERIPA) with the overall objective to strengthen the research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem of small Pacific countries.

Domestic wife commends business training

By AZARIA FAREEN

TWENTY (20) aspiring Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) business owners were provided the opportunity to partake in a three-day Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) Training recently.

Organised by the Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, this training was also taken up by a 53-year-old domestic wife, Satwanti Chand.

"This was a perfect opportunity for me to learn the proper ways of running a business and I learned a lot," Mrs Chand commended.

"This three-day training provided us with a chance to learn how to do business and keep records and I also learned how to do budgeting through a financial plan."

"I hope that whatever amount I get as a grant from the Government will be put to good use," she added.

Mrs Chand originally hails from Taveuni where she studied up to Form Four (Year 10) and currently resides in Kinoya where she assists her daughter in her business.

"My daughter has a small business where she sells chutney and achaar (pickles) and I help her out with the preparations and whatever she needs," she said.

"It has been two years since she started this business and it is working well but the income fluctuates as all businesses don't make a fixed amount."

"Some of the challenges we face is that sometimes we don't find the ingredients to complete the process of pickle making and when it rains, we are not able to dry the fruit we have prepared to be pickled," she added.

Mrs Chand said that they are also facing the brunt of cost of living as the prices of some ingredients have been raised such as pure mustard oil and a variety of spices which they use in the making of the pickles.

"I have three children and one of my daughters told me about this training program and grant. She said that it's a good opportunity for me to learn and do my own business which will be beneficial for me," she relayed.

"I will continue to assist my daughter in her pickle business but personally I want to do something big for myself such as taking orders for catering and making sweets and Indian snacks on order."

"After this training, I will work harder and do something better where I can earn money for my living," she added.

Mrs Chand has also urged women who are staying home to try and attend this business training and then start a business of their own so that they keep earning and save for their future.

Satwanti Chand with the principal business advisory officer, Phina Liao during the handing over of certificates. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

Take advantage of this opportunity: tailor urges

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications has provided 40 training sessions in the 2023/2024 financial year through the three-day Start and Improve Your Business Training.

This has equipped the aspiring small and medium enterprise business owners with the tools and knowledge to make informed decisions in their business.

After attending one such three-day training, 52-year-old, Neel Kamal, said that she was now armed with proper guidelines of doing business.

"I used to live in Ba and have studied up to Form Four (Year 10) level but I now live in Muanikoso and I have a tailoring business where I sew shirts, dresses, sulu and jaba among other things," Ms Kamal said.

"I used to work for a garment factory as a tailor and gained substantial experience in the field which motivated me to do this on my own from home, hence, I have been running this business for the past 10-years."

"I have a signboard placed in front of my house advertising that a tailor is available and those who have had their clothes sewn by me also tell others about the services provided by me which gets me more customers," she added.

Ms Kamal said a staff of the ministry informed her about the Government's grant initiative and encouraged her to apply so that if she does get the grant, she can buy a sewing machine.

"As part of this training programme we were taught the proper etiquettes in talking to customers, how to do business and manage finances," she commended.

"I would like to thank the Government for thinking of the poor people and assisting them through this training which can help them start or support their existing small business."

"I would like to encourage others to take up this initiative which is free of cost and if you are staying home then have a garden and plant vegetables or have a canteen which will be a source of income for you and your family," Ms Kamal advised.

She said that she was comfortable with sewing from home and wants to continue with this arrangement due to the high cost of living and notes that getting a shop would be costly.

"Just in case I get a shop somewhere and I am not able to pay the rent then it would affect my income as currently I am able to make profit and save money by operating from home," she noted.

"There are only two people in my family currently so this arrangement is very convenient for me."

"People should take advantage of this opportunity provided by the Government, in particular those staying home, as they can learn how to do business and also get a certificate which can help them in future," Ms Kamal urged.

Neel Kamal is all smiles as Ministry of Trade, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, principal business advisory officer, Phina Liao hands over her certificate. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

Fiji Embassy in Jakarta supports training programs for Fiji students

THE Fiji Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia congratulated Aisea Rainima, a correctional psychologist, who hails from Navolau No. 1 in Ra for graduating with a Master of Science Degree in Social Psychology from the Universitas Indonesia in Jakarta.

During his two years of study at the Faculty of Psychology on the Depok Campus, Mr Rainima developed his research skills and deepened his understanding of social psychology.

His untiring efforts culminated in his graduation.

Fiji's Ambassador to Indonesia, Amena Yauvoli at the Fiji Embassy in Jakarta joined the University community, families, friends and the thousands of students in celebrating their academic achievements at Universitas Indonesia's graduation ceremony on Sunday, 25 August 2024.

With his newly acquired skills in social psychology and his improved research capabilities, Mr Rainima returns to Fiji and will continue to contribute to enhancing the services provided by the Fiji Corrections Service and in national development.

His focus will be on the development of more effective rehabilitation programs and on using research-based approaches to measure the outcomes of such programs for incarcerated individuals.

In congratulating Mr Rainima on his academic achievement, Ambassador Yauvoli highlighted that international student mobility in higher education and capacity building is among the work priorities of the Fiji Embassy in Jakarta.

This initiative helps further people to people links and better cross-cultural understanding that builds understanding and trust among countries, and the mission will always stand ready to support Fijians students.

This year, Fiji and Indonesia mark 50 years of strong and enduring bilateral relations which has been on an upward trajectory supported by a dedicated bipartisan commitment to reinforcing bilateral cooperation at all levels.

Ambassador Yauvoli and the Fiji Embassy team in Jakarta celebrated Mr Rainima's academic milestone and farewelled him at Fiji House last week and wished him well in his career at the Fiji Corrections Service.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Correctional psychologist, Aisea Rainima, with Fiji's Ambassador to Indonesia, Amena Yauvoli. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Handicraft seller seeks Government intervention

By AZARIA FAREEN

A RECIPIENT of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Concessional Loan Package has commended the Fiji Government for assisting him during his time of need.

Shivnesh Chand, 38, operates his business from stall 3 at the Suva Handicraft Centre.

"This handicraft business used to belong to my father and then I took over from him as he was very sick and couldn't manage it," Mr Chand relayed.

"I used to do carpentry work previously and have been running this business for close to eight to 10 years," he said.

"I heard about the concessional loan grant from social media and the newspaper so I decided to apply and I was grateful to have received the grant money of $5,000."

"This was during COVID-19 time and it was a hard time for me so I mostly bought stock and spent the money on household needs as I am the only breadwinner in the family," he added.

Mr Chand sells authentic artifacts such as Fijian kava bowls, tanoa, Fijian dish, hand-made war clubs, different local made jewelleries, frames and other souvenirs.

"Tanoa, kava bowls and frames are my fastest selling items as not only the tourists but the locals buy them too," he said.

"Going through challenges is part and parcel of any business but some of the handicraft business owners face major challenges in the form of competition from Jacks of Fiji and Tappoos."

"Cruise ships come here with about 3000 passengers but only half or less than that amount come here," he said in disappointment.

Mr Chand's main customers are the tourists but he said that he and other vendors struggle with having no customers most times due to having small shops, no promotional pamphlets to distribute in comparison to Jacks of Fiji and Tappoos as they have free shuttle buses to take the tourists to their shops.

"We do have some loyal customers in non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Government who support us but we get very few tourists visiting our shops," he noted.

"After the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been very difficult to run our business and most of the handicraft stalls have closed down."

"Only few of the shops are operating as it is hard to manage and save money but we have to make ends meet," he added.

Mr Chand notes that new entrepreneurs will find a lot of difficulty in running a similar business because they have to find carvers, know the type of item to sell and who their target buyers are -it will be a lot of challenge.

"The price for the handicrafts have gone up (from the suppliers) over the years so we have to pay more to the carvers and sell it at a different price now and as most of the items are coming in from the islands, so transportation is a cost factor too," he explained.

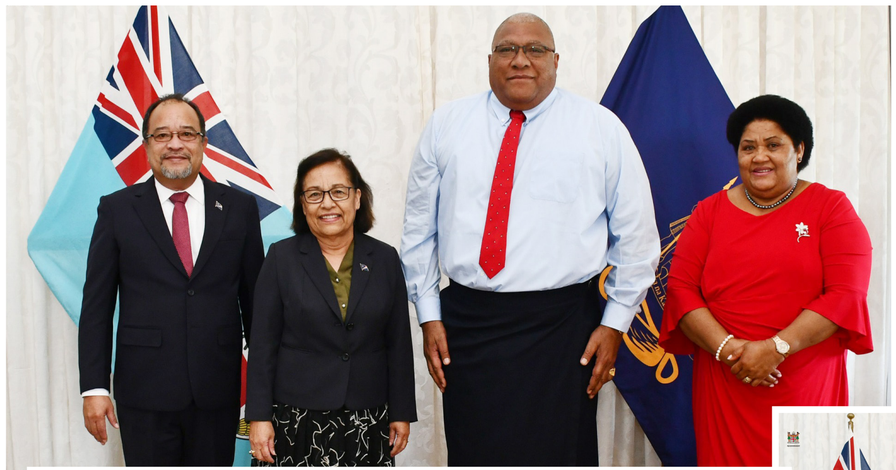
"This grant initiative by the Government is a big help for us as we make very little income here as we are struggling to sell our stock and going into poverty especially when the cost of living is rising globally."

"We are depending on the tourists coming in the cruise ships to buy from us but unfortunately the big companies take them to their shops."

"This is the biggest challenge faced by most vendors here and I would like to request the Government for its intervention so we can also make a decent income to keep our shops open and support our family," he implored.

Shivnesh Chand, 38, with a smaller version of the tanoa that he sells from his shop at stall 3 at the Suva Handicraft Centre. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

President Katonivere receives a courtesy call from the Marshall Islands President



Fiji's President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere received a courtesy call from President of Marshall Islands, Dr Hilda Heine at the State House. President Katonivere extended a warm welcome to President Heine and her delegation, expressing his gratitude for their visit to Fiji. He acknowledged the long-standing bilateral relations between Fiji and the Marshall Islands, emphasising the importance of continuing this strong partnership for the mutual benefit of both nations.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA

Uniting tradition and progress, 68th Suva Hibiscus Festival

The iconic Suva's 68th Miss Hibiscus Festiva was officially opened by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, last week at the Suva Foreshore.
Last held in 2018, the return of the Hibiscus Festival aims to showcase Suva as a premier destination, highlighting its local tourism attractions, vibrant retailers, diverse businesses, and rich culinary offerings.
President Katonivere praised the organising committee for their tireless efforts behind the scenes to make this year's Hibiscus Festival something extraordinary.

Photos: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Minister Tabuya attends meeting for co-chairs for 2025 Early Childhood Development Forum

Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya, attended a meeting for the co-chairs of the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development (PRC4ECD), facilitated by UNICEF. The objective of the meeting was to provide updates to the ministerial co-chairs on developments since the 2023 Early Childhood Development (ECD) Forum, and to discuss recent regional and country-level ECD events.

Photos: SUPPLIED

PM Rabuka officiates at the Fiji Sports Awards 2023

The People's Coalition Government remains committed to supporting sports development at all levels in Fiji. It will continue to invest in our athletes, improve our sports infrastructure and promote inclusivity in sports. These were the sentiments shared by the Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, while officiating as chief guest at the recently Fiji Sports Awards 2023 at the Vodafone Arena.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Youth Group takes initiative in farming, receives Government's support

By DIPESH KUMAR

THE youth of Naboumahimahi Farmers' Cooperative in Lawai Village, Nadroga have thanked the Coalition Government for supporting their initiative and investing into a brand-new tractor.

Under the Farm Mechanisation Program of the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways the youth of Lawai Village have received a brand-new Solis tractor.

Under the assistance, the Naboumahimahi Farmers' Cooperative will pay one-third of the total amount of the tractor while the ministry will pay the remainder of the costs.

Naboumahimahi Farmers' Cooperative advisor, Aminiasi Kunagado expressed his gratitude to the ministry and the Coalition Government on behalf of the youths, adding that "it was an achievement like no other".

"Naboumahimahi Farmers' Cooperative started in 2020 as a Tokatoka Youth cluster and later registered in 2022 as a cooperative with a total of 20 members," Mr Kunagado explained.

"We have a vision on how to tackle unemployment and to do that, our youths have been strongly encouraged to toil their land and plant extensively."

"We have been planning and working towards our goals and now that we have been handed our tractor, we can now work towards further enhancing our farm productivity and create employment within the village."

"Our elders have given us land to lease which we hope to utilise with livestock and a portion of it to grow a fruit orchard. We have been using the 'solesolevaki' approach where we dedicate a day every week to work on the farm as a group," Mr Kunagado added.

"Our long-term plan includes supplying our agricultural produce to the local markets as well as the hotels in the Western Division."

The Naboumahimahi Farmers' Cooperative have also received 50 trays of eggplant seedlings which will be planted straight after land preparation works are carried out under the smart agriculture partnership program.

Youth member, Parmend Singh, a farmer and a seedling supplier in Nabitu, was one of the recipients of the initiative and shared that he wants to encourage more youths in Lawai to work hard.

A brand-new Solis tractor given to Naboumahimahi Farmers' Cooperative by the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

"Life is full of challenges and up to each of us to utilise the land for farming. There are so many youths in our towns and cities that are wasting their time doing nothing. I thank the youths in Lawai for their dedication and commitment in utilising their land for farming and hope that they will continue to thrive in the future," he shared.

"By supporting agricultural initiatives, such as the donation of seedlings and the provision of farming equipment, communities can enhance their food security and strengthen their economic resilience."

The new tractor will allow the youth of Lawai Village to have the tools to prepare their land, while the seedlings will provide a valuable addition to their farming efforts.

Public support for the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

By DIPESH KUMAR

The people of Fiji have come out in numbers to support the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as they believe it is a way to deliver justice to those who have suffered under the political turmoil of Fiji.

In the recent consultations held in Lautoka earlier this month, members of the community have raised their voices in support of the coalition governments initiative to establish the commission which will address past grievances and promote national healing.

Rusieli Mua who shared her trauma with the steering committee highlighted that her family needs closure on the injustice that they have suffered and the commission is a place where it can be delivered.

Ms Mua shared that her brother-in-law, former military officer and former head of the disbanded Fiji Intelligence Services Metuisela Mua, was taken away and beaten up in 2007.

"Was it necessary for them to be taken away and isolated on Nukulau Island? Who ordered this and why was violence necessary for all of these men? They could have been taken nicely and put away."

"We need answers and who will answer this question?" she asked.

Sharing the similar sentiments, Titilia Tamana, highlighted that with such a commission people will be able to speak freely who were too scared to come out in the open.

"I would like to thank the Government for setting this up. I believe this will help each and every one of the victims especially during the 2006 coup."

"I know there's been a lot of victims and I was one of them. I'm happy that they have come up with this idea and it will give a closure to all of us," Ms Tamana shared.

Members of the public came in numbers to air their grieviances during the consultation on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Lautoka **Photo:DIPESH KUMAR**

Steering Committee member and International Centre for Transitional Justice senior expert, Ruben Carranza, acknowledged the community members for sharing the information out loud and thanked them for their bravery.

"Thank you for saying aloud in an official setting means that the Government is ready to hear."

"We acknowledge the strength and bravery to come forward and speak up."

Steering Committee Chair and Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran also shared that once the commission is established it will be independent and it will not report to the government.

She shared that this will give an opportunity to the public to share more openly.

President encourages Scouts to reach out to assist the vulnerable

By DIPESH KUMAR

THE President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, has encouraged all scouts in Fiji to join in the efforts to ensure that gender equality was being upheld in all programs.

The Head of State also told the scouts to reach out to vulnerable people including older generation.

Speaking to over 2200 scouts, leaders and volunteers at the opening of the National Scout Jamboree 2024 at Lawaqa Park recently, President Katonivere reminded them that scout Jamborees are organised to strengthen friendship and provide an opportunity to showcase their scouting skills of cooking, cleaning, knotting, hiking and many others.

He acknowledged the efforts of scout leaders who are mostly teachers for their continuous leadership and mentoring.

"This is a big sacrifice but as scouts, it is a service we promised to work towards so that our youths grow to become good citizens in future. I also acknowledge our sisters in the Girl Guide movement."

"We need to continue our efforts to bring about positive scouting values into the lives of the boys and girls who need help. Besides contributing to solve social problems in our locality like drugs, glue sniffing and crime, we shall be doing our traditional 'Good Turn' by sharing the benefits we derive from Scouting," President Katonivere said.

He further highlighted that the Government recognises the importance of these roles and has allocated $98,000 in its current budget to support the various scout initiatives that will contribute to nation building including this Jamboree.

"We equally acknowledge the Ministry of Youth and Sports that has also supported this event with a $10,000 grant."

Seaqaqa Scout District with President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, at the 2024 National Scouts Jamboree. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

Truth and Reconciliation Commission consultation continues

MORE than 50 participants from all walks of life attended the consultation on establishment of Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) legal framework in Labasa recently.

To address past grievances and promote national healing, Cabinet established a steering Committee to help develop a legal framework for the establishment of the Fiji Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The steering Committee has been in consultation with various stakeholders to discuss provisions of the draft legal framework. Leaders from civil society, faith groups, political parties and media organizations attended the consultations and provided suggestions and inputs in the draft framework.

A senior expert at the New York City-based International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Ruben Carranza, shared experiences and case studies from various Truth Commissions around the world.

This also included small Island States like Solomon Islands, Seychelles and Mauritius for context during the TRC consultations in Labasa.

Mr Carranza also emphasised there were no one model that could be advocated over another as each country context is different and Fiji will have to evolve its own modality in the way it wants to address past grievances.

This presentation was followed by discussion with those present, including farmers, advisory councillors, village headmen, NGO representatives, professionals, former military officers who all contributed their thoughts and suggestions hopeful that the Commission will create a space for listening, healing and accountability.

Participants at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Consultations in Labasa. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

This consultation in Labasa also brought about discussion on encouraging the Fiji Police Force and Fiji Prisons to own up to atrocities committed in their facilities to help those impacted heal.

Concerns were also raised on the basis of the absence of an ombudsman, where many vulnerable voices have not been able to get resolution for human rights violations.

Consultations will continue this week in Nausori, Lautoka and Suva.

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

Stakeholders discuss Vanua Levu Mahogany

Divisional Commissioner Northern, Uraia Rainima, being garlanded with Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited, chairman, Iowane Naiveli. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

By AZARIA FAREEN

SIX trustees of forest based mahogany plantations in Vanua Levu recently met with key stakeholders from the Ministry of Forestry, Fiji Mahogany Trust, Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited (FHCL), iTLTB and the Ministry of Forestry at the Vanua Levu Mahogany Landowner's consultation.

The consultation provided an opportunity to the land owners to discuss any queries in person and ensure a better collaboration with a mutually beneficial process.

In opening the consultation, Divisional Commissioner Northern, Uraia Rainima, said that "this marks an important milestone in our ongoing efforts to empower our landowners and promote sustainable development in our communities".

"This initiative is akin to a long-awaited miracle. Landowners in Vanua Levu have patiently waited for decades for the moment when these mahogany trees would be harvested to fulfil the purpose for which they offered their resources to lease land for mahogany planting."

"It is crucial to recognize the links between the Government's National Development Plan (NDP) and our shared goal of eradicating poverty and fostering economic growth," he added.

Commissioner Rainima stressed that one of the key strategies to support the NDP was through the partnership program with the Ministry of Forestry, which aims to empower landowners by providing them with the tools and resources they need to build resilient homes and improve their livelihoods.

"As part of this program, portable sawmills are given to landowners to assist them in constructing cyclone-resilient homes for their families," he relayed.

"For instance, Korotasere in Vaturova has been provided with the portable sawmill to build 25 houses that is based on the standard plan from the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development," he added.

"We are committed to supporting landowners by issuing free licenses to harvest native or pine timber for building purposes which promotes sustainable forestry practices and also aligns with our Disaster Risk Management plan, aiming to enhance disaster resilience and response capabilities in our communities."

"The total mahogany plantation area for Vanua Levu is 16,713 hectares equating to around 2.5 million cubic metres of mahogany sawn logs," Commissioner Rainima revealed.

If these logs were to be harvested and sold at the current average log price of $298 per cubic metre, it would fetch around $745 million and if processed into sawn timber then it would double the log value.

"This signifies that Vanua Levu mahogany need to be sold at the niche markets internationally to attract better value of our current mahogany timber value," he said

Speaking at the forum, Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited, chairman, Iowane Naiveli, informed the land owners that they are blessed to have been provided with "Gods given money" by being the owners of the lands.

He stressed on maintaining good planning and good governance while continuing with increased revenue generation through this partnership.

The six trustees represented Forest Based Mahogany plantations in Navonu; Saqani; Seaqaqa; Dreketi; Korotari; and Wainunu in Vanua Levu.

First Lady talks awareness and leadership amid social challenges during Fiji Girl Guides centennial

First Lady Madam Vilomena Katonivere (pictured in the middle) with representatives from the Girls Guides Association officiate at the cake cutting to commemorate its 100years of existence.

> **"We hear of alarming statistics and activities, such as the social media platform Telegram, being used by students to offer sex and lollies laced with drugs."**

By NANISE NEIMILA

"I urge all of you to be more aware of your surroundings, the decisions you make, and the company you keep. We do not wish to lose any of you to these social ills, as we value your lives—each a gift to us from God."

This was the message delivered by First Lady Vilomena Katonivere while officiating at the Fiji National Girl Guides Centennial Camp 2024 held in Labasa recently.

With the theme, "100 Years of Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: Honouring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future," Madam Vilomena emphasised that addressing these issues requires a combined effort. She encouraged guide leaders, teachers, parents, and guardians to remain vigilant and provide a 'safe space' for open discussions, raising awareness, and combating these societal challenges.

"We must be proactive and collaborate with stakeholders, many of whom are here today, to ensure our girls, children, and youth make the right choices, remain aware of these dangers, and do not fall prey to such activities."

"It is within these safe spaces that we teach girls to say no, and as a group, we raise our voices to stop violence against children."

As patron of the Fiji Girl Guides, Madam Vilomena paid tribute to the leaders who have worked tirelessly over the years, bridging the gap between those who have recently passed and the current leaders, ensuring that guiding has persisted through the years.

Sese Matarugu, Divisional Northern Officer of the Girl Guides Association, highlighted that the three-day centennial camp would host a total of 789 participants from the southern, western, central, and northern divisions, as well as from Yasawa and Moala in Lau.

"We have organised activities for the girls with the aim of upskilling them in their everyday lives, and we hope these activities will be beneficial to them," Ms Matarugu said.

Bilateral ties advance between Fiji-Korean

THE Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lenora Qereqeretabua held a bilateral meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, Chung Byung-won, during his official visit to Fiji.

The meeting was an opportunity to review the current areas of cooperation and explore prospects for future collaboration.

Asst. Minister Qereqeretabua welcomed Mr Chung back to Fiji, as he had previously served as a diplomat at the Korean Embassy in Suva, and also acknowledged the significant contributions made by the Korean Government through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in implementing socio-economic development programmes in Fiji over the years.

She noted with enthusiasm Korea's commitment to further enhance support based on Fiji's development priorities notably in health care, renewable energy, fisheries and maritime, climate resilience and initiatives aimed at improving livelihood of communities in Fiji.

Further, Asst. Minister Qereqeretabua said Fiji looks forward to Korea's support in the establishment of the Centre for Cooperation on Fisheries and Oceans, pertaining to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2023 between Fiji and Korea.

The centre was set to further enhance the collaborations between the two countries in the fisheries sector.

Additionally, Asst. Minister Qereqeretabua spoke on the importance of the Ocean of Peace Concept led by the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka.

She thanked Korea for the elevated collaboration with Fiji in recognition of our status as the hub of the region and support for the broader Pacific region and collective vision on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

In turn, Mr Chung said that Fiji as the status hub of the region was an important development partner, and that Korea was committed to strengthening relations in areas such as trade and investment, tourism, defence and security, climate change, health, renewable energy, amongst others.

On the same note, he extended an invitation to Prime Minister Rabuka for an official visit to Korea and that he looks forward to welcoming him for the next Korea-Pacific Islands Summit anticipated to be convened next year.

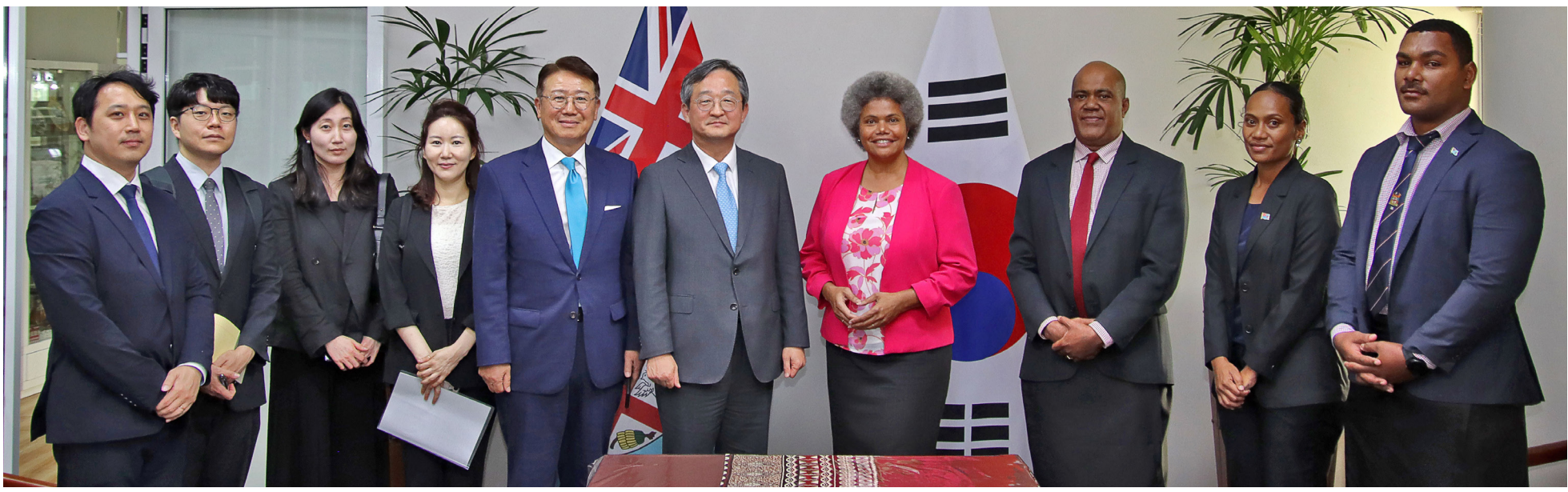
Mr Chung conveyed his appreciation and support for the Ocean of Peace Concept and stated that Korea looks forward to collaborate with Fiji on the shared values of peace, stability, democracy and prosperity.

He mentioned Korea's intent to increase the Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Fiji and the broader Pacific region and support initiatives through the Republic of Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy in building sustainable and resilient societies in the Pacific and beyond.

Mr Chung was pleased to visit the Fiji National Rehabilitation Centre (FNRC) in Tamavua, a project that eventuated through a significant contribution of the Korean Government towards Fiji's health sector through a grant of $22.2 million.

He has requested for Fiji to consider reopening its Embassy in Korea as the relations continues to grow to new levels.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lenora Qereqeretabua held a bilateral meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, Chung Byung-won, the Korean delegation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, held at Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Suva. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

PM Rabuka holds talks with US Deputy Secretary of State Dr Kurt Campbell

Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka and the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Dr. Kurt Campbell (front) while signing the Air Transport Agreement. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

FIJI and the United States of America (U.S.A.) committed to strengthen relations to promote economic growth, defence and security, tourism, trade and investment, climate resilience and people to people links.

This was conveyed at a bilateral convened between Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka and the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Dr Kurt Campbell.

The meeting held on the side-lines of the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PIFLM53) was an opportunity for Fiji and the U.S. to look at prospects to deepen engagement on issues of importance for both multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Rabuka thanked the U.S. for ongoing support rendered to Fiji and the broader Pacific region through initiatives aimed at advancing socio-economic development, climate resilience and regional peace and security.

Fiji's Head of Government welcomed the U.S. commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations with Fiji by realigning cooperation in support of Fiji's development priorities.

He acknowledged U.S. for its commitment to establish the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) regional office in Suva and the expansion of Peace Corps operations in Fiji and the broader Pacific.

PM Rabuka also noted with appreciation the new Fiji and U.S. Air Transport Agreement (ATA) that now opens up new routes for Fiji Airways.

The ATA was signed by PM Rabuka and Dr Campbell following Cabinet approval on August 27, 2024 and marks a new milestone in the history of Fiji's aviation industry and will boost Fiji's tourism industry, trade and economy.

Fiji Airways flights from Nadi to Dallas, Texas commence December 10th 2024.

Additionally, PM Rabuka expressed appreciation to the Fijian diaspora in the U.S. for their valuable contribution to Fiji's development through remittances and investment.

He stated that enhancing diaspora engagement is an important area of cooperation Fiji looks to further advance through its recently re-opened Embassy in Washington D.C.

The Air Transport Agreement advances the two countries' bilateral aviation cooperation and will bring the civil aviation transportation relationship between the United States and Fiji to the highest modern standard.

The Agreement will expand our strong economic and commercial partnership, promote people-to-people ties, and create new opportunities for customers, airlines, and travel companies.

Under this Agreement, Fiji Airways plans to launch non-stop flights between Dallas and Fiji, beginning this December.

Air carriers will be able to provide more affordable, convenient and efficient air services to travellers and shippers, promoting tourism and commerce.

The Agreement also commits both governments to high standards of aviation safety and security.

The Agreement includes unrestricted capacity and frequency of services for both passenger and all-cargo carriers, open route rights, an open charter regime, self-handling provisions and open code-sharing opportunities.

The Agreement entered into force upon signature.

Dr Campbell reaffirmed U.S. commitment to strengthen cooperation with Fiji and thanked PM Rabuka for his strong leadership and commitment to the Ocean of Peace Concept.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

PM Rabuka visits Fiji diaspora in Tonga

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka with the Fiji diaspora in Tonga. **Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU**

THE Fijian Diaspora in Tonga welcomed Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka before the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting commenced.

Fiji Community President in Tonga, Jokini Sivo, said it was an honour for the community in Tonga to welcome the Fiji Prime Minister and said it was one for the history books.

"This is the first time since I have become President of this community that we have welcomed Prime Minister Rabuka to Tonga."

"I am thankful to the Prime Minister for thinking of us in Tonga and I hope he will enjoy his stay here as he attends the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting."

In thanking the Fijian Community for the warm and friendly welcome, PM Rabuka said the event made him feel at home.

He also highlighted that the main reason he was in the Kingdom of Tonga was to attend the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum meeting, "These meetings are usually subjected to scrutiny, very few comment on what we achieved, only because the results of the visit are not immediately seen".

"The decisions that are made, the talks that we have with various leaders take time to materialise."

"So, all these meetings are important because they affect the nations of the region and the people of the region."

PM Rabuka added that he would promote the concept of the Pacific being seen as an ocean of peace, or region of peace during the PIFS meeting.

He also held a talanoa session with the diaspora and added that he would raise issues faced by the community during the PIFS meeting.

With the theme, "Transformative Resilient Pasifiki: Build Better Now": The meeting took place from the 26th to the 30th of August.

Pacific Policing Initiative endorsed at PIFLM

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese making an announcement on the Pacific Policing Initiative at the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Nukualofa, Tonga. **Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU**

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

"OUR region faces ongoing challenges from transnational crime and it is our responsibility to develop the Pacific Policing Initiative."

This was highlighted by Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, at the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Nukualofa, Tonga held last month.

Forum Leaders approved the Pacific Policing Initiative in Plenary during the PIFLM.

"Bringing this initiative to the region will be a godsend," PM Rabuka said.

"Fiji continues to benefit from cooperation with Australia and the Pacific."

The Pacific Policing Initiative will see establishment of regional centers of excellence in Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Fiji and will boost the capability of Pacific nations to meet law and order, internal security requirements, and support each other in times of need.

The initiative includes the establishment of up to four police training "centers of excellence" and a multi-country police force on standby for deployment to any event or crisis in the Pacific, and a policing development and coordination hub in Australia.

Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, said that the Pacific leaders are working together to shape the future and want to see - improved capability, cooperation and interoperability among Pacific police forces benefits all Pacific countries and the security of our communities.

"This is a Pacific-led, Australia-backed initiative, harnessing our collective strengths. We are stronger together."

"Tonga, like many other countries, are facing a number of transnational security challenges, including seeing an increase in drug trafficking within the Pacific in recent years," said Tonga's Prime Minister Hu'akavameiliku.

"Tonga, like many Forum members therefore think that it's really important to have a Pacific-led, Pacific-owned initiative that reinforces the existing

Our unity is our dignity and strength: PM Rabuka

Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, making his national statement delivered at the Forum Leaders Plenary Session in Tonga. **Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU**

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

"WITH our individual relative isolation and smallness, these challenges are insurmountable. Our hope is in the collective."

Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, shared these sentiments in his national statement delivered at the Forum Leaders Plenary Session in Tonga.

"We are facing existential security threats whether it be the climate crisis, epidemics, terrorism, transnational organised crime or challenges such as labour mobility, economic fragility, and retreat of democracy while managing competing geo-political interests."

PM Rabuka added that the Pacific was a very different place now compared to 20 years ago.

"Today security, is not just understood in military terms, but is also in terms of human security, economic, health, land, housing, law and order, rising sea level and the climate crisis."

PM Rabuka said even in the most perfect of families, members have different perspectives and wants.

"The reason we argue is because we care so much for one another that we will not let anything slip through."

"Nothing must come in between us; not even rising sea levels."

PM Rabuka reminded other Pacific Leaders that a combined Pacific voice rings loud and echoes afar. "Our unity is our dignity and strength," he said.

Fiji's Head of Government added that the Pacific leaders carry the weight of these experiences with a profound sense of duty.

"We're here to offer a steady hand and a guiding voice, drawn from years of shaping and re-shaping by "the One in whom we live and move and have our being"."

Fiji and China reaffirm commitment to strengthen bilateral relations

Fiji's Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, met with the President of the Peoples Republic of China, Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing recently.

PM Rabuka highlighted that Fiji and China's strong relationship was built on mutual trust and respect for one another's aspirations and recognising each nation's sovereignty.

He expressed his admiration for China's achievements and growing influence under the leadership of President Xi, highlighting the strong relationship between the two countries, built over the last 49 years.

The two leaders discussed the need for the two nations to leverage their strengths to deepen their ongoing partnership in infrastructure development, agriculture, fisheries, education, sports, tourism, poverty reduction and other areas within the framework of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, in order to promote shared development.

As PM Rabuka concluded his official visit to China, he took the opportunity to thank President Xi and the Government of the Peoples Republic of China for the warm hospitality accorded to him and his delegation, adding he is very impressed with how China has transformed in the last 30 years through the President's strategic, visionary and inspirational leadership.

On behalf of a grateful nation, he acknowledged China's unwavering commitment in supporting Fiji at its most difficult times.

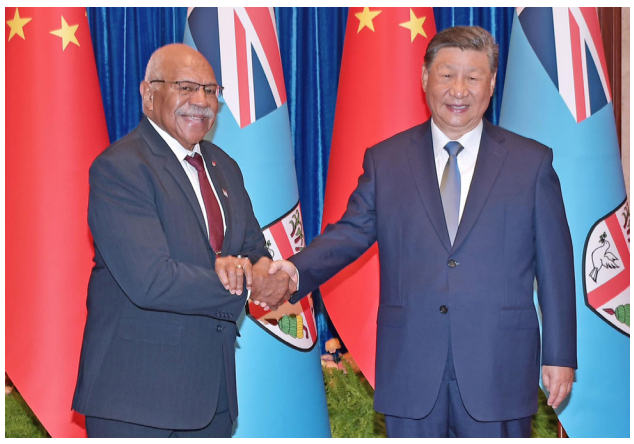
Furthermore, PM Rabuka reaffirmed Fiji's commitment in embracing the One China Principle which has been the cornerstone of our diplomatic relations, one that has transitioned to a comprehensive strategic partnership underpinned by mutual respect and common development.

PM Rabuka expounded on Fiji's commitment to regionalism through the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent which will leverage our strengths in areas of common challenges such as climate change, preservation of our oceans and conflict resolution.

On multilateral priorities, the Prime Minister recognised China's support for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the Global Development Initiative (GDI), which includes the construction and upgrade of the 82km Vanua Levu Road Upgrading Project.

PM Rabuka also invited President Xi to visit Fiji, an invitation which he accepted.

President Xi said that China attaches great importance to China-Fiji relations and was willing to continue to provide assistance to the best of its ability for Fiji's economic and social development.



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka and the President of the Peoples Republic of China, Xi Jinping. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

During the meeting, he also briefed PM Rabuka, who earlier visited Yunnan, Fujian and Zhejiang provinces reviewing China's successes in poverty alleviation.

In this regard, the President mentioned that the completion of the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects for more than 1.4 billion people is a historic achievement the Chinese people have made under the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Vuvale Partnership focuses on elevating Fiji's Public Service

Public Service Commission chairman, Luke Rokovada, Head of the Australian Public Service Commission Dr Gordon de Brouwer and PS Civil Service, Parmesh Chand. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

THE Public Service Commission (PSC) recently hosted the head of the Australian Public Service Commission, Dr Gordon de Brouwer, at the soon-to-be renovated Fiji Learning Institute for Public Service at Nasese in Suva recently.

PSC chair, Luke Rokovada said Dr De Brouwer's visit to the institute was significant and solidifies the Vuvale Partnership. Dr De Brouwer joined the PSC chairman and other permanent secretaries in planting trees at the Institute marking the two countries' commitment to foster and grow the Fiji Public Service.

"The Australian Government has been a close friend of Fiji and had helped us get this Institute off the ground. We have received confirmation of support from various training providers, including the Australian Public Services Academy," Mr Rokovada stated.

The PSC later hosted a leadership seminar with permanent secretaries, heads of public sector organisations, senior government officials and head of government agencies providing an opportunity for leaders across the public service to learn from seasoned and highly experienced Top Executives and Government Officials from the region like Dr De Brouwer.

Dr De Brouwer spoke in length on important changes and reforms in the Australian Public Service to improve efficiencies in service delivery.

Participants at the Leadership at the Leadership Seminar appreciated and attained great value in exchanging ideas, insights and perspectives with the Australian Public Service.

Mr Rokovada called for exemplary leadership and challenged leaders present to cultivate a culture that leverages the capability of others to achieve organisational objectives during the seminar.

"Be a great leader, be innovative and be productive, be who you wish to see in those you lead. Because who you are is who you attract. We need to pay attention to our staffs' passion and make it our priority to know and value their skills and strength. Once we've established this, I am confident that we will help create a highly innovative and productive Fijian public sector," Mr Rokovada adds.

"Become an innovative leader, if you want to build an innovative Ministry. Become a productive leader, if you want a productive department. This puts you in a position to begin building a community of like-minded people who can help the Public Service achieve all the goals and vision of the Government."

(Source: Public Service Commission)

Minister Tabuya discusses gender program with the Pacific Community

Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya with the team from The Pacific Community (SPC) and Department of Women officials. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

A DELEGATION from the Pacific Community met with the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya to discuss the progress of the Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) program.

The meeting held recently underscored the collaborative efforts between the Coalition Government and The Pacific Community to ensure that gender equality remains a priority in national development agendas.

The Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) program is a comprehensive government initiative aimed at creating an enabling environment that integrates the needs, interests, concerns, contributions, and perspectives of all women and girls in Fiji into national policies, strategies, programs, and budgets.

The meeting was an important platform to provide an update to SPC who are a key development partner on the design of Phase 2 of the ICD program, while also highlighting the significant accomplishments achieved during Phase 1.

Discussions also focused on strategies to enhance the effectiveness of the ICD program and ensure its sustainability moving forward.

The ICD program now progresses into its second phase and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection remains committed to fostering partnerships that will drive meaningful change and empower women and girls across Fiji.

The SPC team included Mereseini Rakuita, the Principal Strategic Lead for Pacific Women and Girls, Miles Young - Director of the Human Rights and Social Development Division, and Team Leader- Inclusive and Equitable societies, Arieta Matalomani.

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

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Fiji Focus

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President hails Moce Secondary as an inspiration to other island schools

President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere and First Lady Madam Vilomena with Moce Secondary School cricket team, teachers and parents during their visit to the State House.
Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

"YOU have showcased what a little island can achieve and it is something that will be an inspiration to your fellow students back on the island and other aspiring cricket players."

These were the words of commendation by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, to the visitors to the State House this week, namely Moce Secondary School cricket team that travelled more than 170 nautical miles to Suva to participate in the Fiji Secondary School National Men's U19 Cricket Tournament.

And after securing the championship last week, the team paid a visit to President Katonivere who told them, "You have just proved that last week when you outplayed your opponents and made your school and the Vanua Delaimakotu proud".

Delighted to receive the team from Delaimakotu, President Katonivere challenged the champion, Moce Secondary School Cricket team to secure a contract with an overseas cricket franchise.

President Katonivere told the students, teachers, and parents that their achievement was worth commending and encouraged the young players to strive for bigger things.

The Head of State said that students coming from rural and maritime backgrounds come to Suva with their minds set on achieving their goals.

President Katonivere emphasised that cricket is experiencing a revival on the mainland and encouraged the students to promote the sport on their home islands.

He further explained that since cricket was a lucrative game worldwide, it was their responsibility to pursue their dreams and strive to become the best in their endeavours.

"You have a lot to offer to the sport of cricket and as my 'Tovata,' your kinsmen have proven this over the years when they grasped the game from the European settlers who introduced it to Fiji," said President Katonivere.

"Strive to become good batsmen, good fielders, and wicketkeepers."

"I look forward to seeing one of you secure a contract with a cricket club overseas, and I hope that when I retire, I will get to hear the news back home in Macuata."

The Head of State also presented a 'kamunga' to the team as their 'ivakatale' and thanked them for their visit to the State House.

Eight members of the Moce Secondary School Cricket team were selected for the national team to compete in an upcoming tournament in Japan.

The Moce delegation also presented a 'Masi' (Tapa) as Moce Island was renowned for during their visit.

Team elder, Solomone Roqito, presents Moce Secondary School cricket team's sevusevu.
Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Noda Viti

Sigatabu, 8 ni Seviteba, 2024 | 8 Drauniveva, 13 Tabana 15 ni Lavelave ni Ivola

VUKEI E 164K ENAI VAKASO NI WAI E LOKIA

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 3

ME VAKARUSAI NA WAIGAGA

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 6

ME CAVUISAUSAU O VITI ENA VULI

Nai Liuliu ni Noda Matanitu Hon Sitiveni Rabuka, vakalesilesi e Jaina ka vaka kina oira na gone Itaukei era sa laki qaravi vuli tu ena matanitu levu o Jaina.

Era veitataunaki voli na Turaga Paraiminisita ni noda vanua o Hon Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka ena nodra laki sikovi ira voli na gone Itaukei erasa laki vakaitikotiko ena vuku ni vuli kina Matanitu levu o Jaina.Era laki veitalanoa talega kei ira na noda era sa laki tu ena vuku ni cakacaka,

Era kidavaki vakavanua mai vei ira na gone Itaukei ni bera nira veiwaseitaka e vica na ulutaga. Na usutu ni nodra veitalanoa sai koya na bibi ni vuli ena kena biu mai na vanua o Viti ka ra mai matanataka tiko na bibi ni tovo kei nai vakarau vakavanua eda kilai tani kina.

"Ni mai matanataka vakavinaka na noda vanua, ni kua ni leqataki keimami na tiko mai delaniyavu keimami sa bula ka sa toso tale tiko ga na veivakatoroicaketaki , dou vakanamata tiko ga ena kena sagai na vuli ka mena mai cava sara kina dua na delana cecere".

Era vakaraitaka talega na dredre e dau mai sotavi ena kena biu mai na vuvale me mai qaravi na vuli , ka sa nodra I tatau ga me tataunaki tiko na nodra dui bula ki vua nai taukei ni bula. E ra sana dau vakanuinui vinaka tu nai tubutubu nina mai rawati sara vakavinaka na vuli.

E mai tinia na nona vosa nai liuliu ni matanitu kina matanitu o Jaina ena vuku ni veiwekani ka vakakina na nodra tokoni tiko na luvei Viti ena Buturara ni Vuli kei na veimatanikatuba e tadola e matadra ena kena sagai na tiko vinaka mai muri.

TOKONI VINAKA NA YATU SOLOMONI

Na Paraiminisita mai na Yatu Solomoni Hon Jeremiah Manele kei nai Liuliu ni Noda Matanitu o Hon Sitiveni Rabuka ena boseboseka ni mata mai na veimatanitu ka vakayacori mai na yanuyanu o Tonga.

Ena vuku tiko ga ni nodra biu vanua nai liuliu ni noda Matanitu o Hon Sitiveni ena kena tomani tiko ga na nodra bosebose ka nai liuliu ni veimatanitu ena Wasa Pasivika ka vakayacori e Tonga Erau laki veitalanoa nai liuliu ni matanitu kei na Paraiminista ni matanitu ena Yatu Solomoni o Hon Jeremiah Manele.

Na usutu levu ni nodrau veitalanoa sai koya na kena sagai mena tarai cake na bula ni lewenivanua vakauasivi ena kena sotavi tiko eso na dredre me vaka na veiveisau ni draki. E usutu talega ni nodrau veitalanoa sai koya na kena sagai mena muri e dua nai tuvatuva ena nodra vakatoroicaketaki na lewenivanua ka vaka kina na veigaunisala e laurai nina vakavurea e levu na veika vinaka vei rau na matanitu e rua.

"Esa tu vakarau mena liutaki na bose ni Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) ka na vakayacori tiko ena noda vanua e Viti ena Noveba ni mua ni yabaki oqo". A tekivu curu o Viti me laki veitomani kina MSG ena 1996 en ruku ni veiliutaki nei Hon Sitiveni Rabuka.

E lewe tale ga ni veitalanoa ena kena vakamatatataki na nodra cau levu na Mataivalu ni noda vanua kina Yatu Solomoni me tekivu mai ena 2022 ena kena muri nai tuvatuva vou.E vakaraitaka talega o Hon Manele ni matanitu na Yatu Solomoni esa tu vakarau ena kena tauyavutaki na Chancery ena noda vanua ka vakavinavinaka kina Matanitu ena vuku ni kena tokoni tiko na veituvatuva.

E kuria o Hon Manele na nona vakacaucautaka na Paraiminisita ni noda vanua ena vuku ni nodra tokona na "Ocean of Peace" ena nodra dela ni veiliutaki ena kena tarai cake na bula ni lewenvanua ka vaka kina vuravura.

SOLESOLEVAKI USUTU NI TOSO KI LIU

Na Turaga Na Tui Macuata Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere kei na Turaga na Qara Ni Valu Ratu Inoke Takiveikata ena Dola Ni Bose Ni Yasana o Naitasiri ka vakayacori ena koro ko Tamavua.

"Na noda bula na Kawa I taukei e bula vakaivakarau ka sa dui tu na noda I tavi e da digitaki ka lumuti kina ka sa gadrevi vakalevu kina na veirogorogoci".

Oqori na nodra mala ni vosa na Turaga na Peresitedi ni noda vanua o Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere ena nodra lakli dolava na Bose Ni Yasana o Naitasiri ka vakayacori ena koro vakaturaga o Tamavua.

E vica nai ulutaga bibi e vosa kina o Ratu Wiliame na kenai matai sai koya na Na imatai ni ulutaga raraba o ya na solesolevaki kei na veirogorogoci. Oqo e dua na noda tiki ni bula na kawa I Taukei kau nanuma me na vaqaqacotaka o ya na solesolevaki. Na noda solevaka na qaravi ni noda itikotiko, na vei itavi lelevu ka vakavureya na bula, me vaka na solevaki ni noda iteitei, kena maroroi na noda I yaubula kei na noda solevaka na bula raraba me vukei keda e na noda sasaga ni vakatubu I yau koya me rawa ni vakarautaka tu na veika me baleta na siga ni veimataka kei Naitasiri kei na noda bula ni veisiga.

"Na noda bula na Kawa I taukei e bula vakaivakarau ka sa dui tu na noda I tavi e da digitaki ka lumuti kina ka sa gadrevi vakalevu kina na veirogorogoci. Au vakabauta ni na yaga meda tuva na noda ituvatuva me bula kina na noda kawa mai muri. Na bula sautu ni noda vanua ena vakatautaki ena noda veirogoci ka cakacakavata vakalewenivanua".

E kuria o Ratu Wiliame nisa yaga me sana vakaduri nai soqosoqoni Tabagone kei na Bisinisi Cokovata ka mera na taukena t ka cicivaki vakataki ira.

Na gugumatua, duavata ka vakabibi na noda veivakabauti sa yavu ni bula sautu ka vakavureya na bula torocake kei na tiko vinaka ena loma ni vuvale, na vanua, loma ni lotu, se ena loma ni noda bula vakaveiwekani. Me da na tauyavutaka na noda cakacaka e na yalodina, solesolevaki kei na veirogoci.

GADREVI NA DUAVATA

Esa vakadeitaka nai liuliu ni Matanitu ni noda vanua o Hon Sitiveni Rabuka ena vuku ni vakatataro me baleta na kena sa tekivu na veitalanoa me baleta na na veika me baleta na Matabose ni Veivakaduavatataki kei na Veisureti ena noda vanua.

E kaya o Hon Rabuka ni nodra mai veitokoni na daunipolitiki, liuliu ni veitikotiko, mata mai na lotu ka vaka kina na veisoqosoqo sega ni qali vakamatanitu. E vakatekivu vakayacori na veitalanoa oqo mai Labasa, Nausori, Lautoka kei Suva ka gadrevi kina na veitalanoa me baleta na politiki ena veigauna sa sivi.

"Au vakavinavinaka vei ira kece era a sasagataka me ra tiko ena veitalanoa raraba oqo kau sa raica rawa na veivosaki dina kei na veivakadeitaki,"

"Au vakavinavinaka talega vei Hon Sashi Kiran kei na nona iVukevuke Hon Sakiusa Tubuna, Hon Lenora Qereqeretabua, Hon Jovesa Vocea kei Hon Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu ena nodrau toso tiko ki liu na cakacaka bibi oqo."

E ra laki vakaitavi nai vukevuke ni Minisita ena valenivolavola ni Paraiminisita o Hon Sakiusa Tubuna ena veitalanoa kei ira na lewenivanua me baleta na Matabose ni Veivakaduavatataki kei na Veisureti ka rogoci kina e levu sara na nanuma ni lewenivanua me baleta nai ulutaga.

Na usutu levu ni veiqaravi oqo sai koya na sasaga tiko na matanitu ena kena vakadavori e dua na lawa mena rawa ni vakaduavata taki keda na lewenivanua. Ka gole wavoki kina na kena komiti me vaka na Vukevuke ni Marama Hon Sashi Kiran , Hon Joveca Vocea ka vaka kina o Hon Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu.

Na kena mai tekivu veiqaravi na Matanitu Cokovata e ratou sa navuca kina na kena sagai na yalo ni duavata, veilomani,cakacakavata ka sa gadrevi kina na lawa mena walia na leqa eda sotava tu ena siga nikua.

"E sa dodonu meda na ciqoma me baleta na vei leqa makawa. E dodonu meda ciqoma nisa tovolei me wali na leqa oqo, eda na gadreva meda na vuli mai ena veika esa oti ka rogoci na nodra tagi na lewenivanua na vuna levu ga ni neimami mai tiko. Keimami vinakata me keimami rogoci kemuni ena nomuni gagadre ka vaka kina na nomuni ena rawa ni cina ramase kina noda I lakolako ni duavata".

Era osota yani na lewenivanua na veivanua e vakayacori kina na veitalanoa me baleta na lawa ni Matabose ni Veivakaduavatataki kei na Veisureti ka gadreva tiko na Matanitu Cokovata.

Esa veitataunaki ka veisureti talega o Hon Tubuna ki vei ira na lewenivanua ena vuku ni kena sagai mena vakavotukana na tuvatuva oqo ka rawa ni kena buli na lawa ena vakavurea mai na duavata. E a laki vakasokumuni mai nai tukutuku ka na qai mai vakarautaki ena loma ni vica na vula ka na qai laurai na veigaunisala mena vakaduavata kina na lewenivanua ka meda na qai toso yani liu.

VUKEI E 164K ENAI VAKASO NI WAI E LOKIA

Esa rawa ni ra vakila na lewe 164k na lewenivanua enai tikotiko e Lokia, Dibulu, kei Burebasaga na vakadrodoi vinaka ni wai ena vuku ni kena sa tekivutaki na cakacaka enai vakaso ni wai e Lokia. E ra laki vulagi dokai en soqo ni vakasobu duru na Minisita ni Veilakoyaki, ka vaka kina na Tabana ni draki I Hon Ro Filipe Tuisawau ena soqo ni vakasobu duru enai vakaso ni wai vou e Lokia.

Esa dodonu meda sana dau vakayagataka na wai savasava ia na siga nikua e sa dua na siga marautaki ena vuku ni nodra sana mai vakila na lewe 164,000 na Itaukei ka ra na vakila talega e ,Lokia, Dibulu kei Burebasaga.Na cakacaka oqo e sanaa vakatabakidua me ratou qarava na Flame Tree Developments Fiji Ltd, ena ruku ni porokaramu ni Lokia Pipelaying Works.

"Na $17.3m esa rui bibi ena Rewa River Water Coverage Extension Program e dua na tuvatuva e ratou biuta na Matanitu Cokovata me vakadeitaka kina nisa na rawa nira vakayagtaaka na wai savasava oira na Itaukei".

"Ena kena sa mai vakayacori oqo na vakasobu duru esa sega walega nida tara na kena vale eda sana solia talega na wai savasava ena veigauna sa tu e mnatada vei ira na lewenivanua.Na Porokaramu oqo e tiki ni Rewa River Water Coverage Program ka tekivutaka mai ena Tabana ni Wai(WAF). E salavata kei na raivotu me baleta na gagadre yadudua ni lewenivanua ka mera na vuavuai vinaka".

E kuria o Hon Tuisawau esa namaki saraga na vakadrodoi ni wai savasava enai tikotiko e Naselai, Burebasaga Loop, Wainibokasi Hospital, rewa Delta, ka vaka kina na China Development Village, Sauniwaqa Subdivision kei na gaunisala e Lokia. E namaki tiko nina vakacavari tiko na cakacaka oqo ena Okotova ni 2025.

E dusia tiko oqori o Hon Ro Filipe Tuisawau nai tuvatuva me baleta na kena tara nai vakaso ni wai savasava e Lokia ka rawa ni vakayagataka na lewe 146k na lewenivanua.

DIKEVI VAKAMATAU NA TARA VALE

Na Vukevuke ni Paraiminisita ka Minisita ni Lavo, Navunavuci ,Veivakatoroicaketaki kei na Tabanana ni Wiliwili o Hon Professor Biman Prasad kei ira na lewenivanua enai tikotiko e Nadawa.

Esa tuvatuva ka sara tiko vakaukauwa na Matanitu Cokovata ena kena sagai mena vakadikevi na leqa esa tara tiko na veivakavaletaki ena noda vanua(Informal Settlement). E vakaraitaka nai tuku2 qori nai Vukevuke ni Paraiminisita ka Minisita ni Lavo, Navunavuci ,Veivakatoroicaketaki kei na Tabanana ni Wiliwili o Hon Professor Biman Prasad.

"Me vaka ni tuvatuva ni matanitu(NDP) ka sana vakarau mai tavoci tiko , e sana tekivu talega kina nai tuvatuva mena wali na leqa levu esa sotavi tiko ena gauna nikua"

"Au na sega ni yalataka nikua ni leqa oqo ena wali ga ena siga ni mataka , ka dodonu meda kila vinaka ni veiqaravi oqo ea veidinadinati tu ena loma ni 25 na yabaki sa oti.

E vakaraitaka talega o Hon Biman Parasad na veisala mena wali kina leqa oqo e oka talega kina oira na lewenivanua era taura tu eso nai tutu, vakavinakataki ni sasala ni wai ka vaka kina na wai kei na veivakalivalivataki./

Era a tiko ena bose oqo na mata mai na Matabose ni Veika Vakailavo, Veiqaravi ni Veivakavaletaki, Nasinu Land Purchase & Housing Co-operative Ltd kei ira na mata mai na veitikotiko ka vaka kina oira na lewenivanua ena nodra laki cau se ra rogoci nai tuvatuva esa biuta koto na matanitu ena leqa me baleta me baleta na tara vale.

Esa vakanuinui tu o Hon Prasad nina tu tale na gauna ni nodra veitalanoa kei ira na lewenivanua ena kena sagai mena wali na leqa.

CAGI VOU KEI YASAYASA MOALA

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

"Na Nomuni Matasawa Mei Kasakasa Ni Veika Vinaka".

Oqori na nodra mala ni vosa na Minisita ni Tabagone kei na Qito o Hon Jese Saukuru era nodra laki vulagi dokai na ena soqo ni Yasayasa Moala Youth Festival ka vakayacori ena lomanikoro vakaturaga oYaroi ena loma ni Yanuyanu o Matuku. Na veivakararamataki oqo e oka kina na Tikina o Moala, Matuku ka vaka kina o Totoya.

Era veitomani tale tiko ga na veitabana vakamatanitu ena nodra laki bulagoci na lewe ni Yasana o Lau ena vuku ni veika esa yaco tu ena noda vanua mai na tabana ni Tabagone ka vaka kina na veivakatoroicaketaki ena loma ni noda matanitu. Oqo na vei tabana me vaka na Tabana ni Qito kei na Tabagone, na Fiji National University, Tabana ni Vakatubuilavo(Unit Trust of Fiji), Tabana ni Veivakacakacakataki(National Employment Center), Navuso Agriculture School, National Sports Commission, Tabana Ni Lawa, Tabana ni Veivakadodonutaki ka vaka kina na Valenivolavola ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu kei na Leqa Tubukoso.

E nai sevu ni nodra vosa era vakaraitaka kina nai tuvatuva levu ni Minisitiri ena vuku ni kena vakayacori na veika edau dreti ira nai Tabagone kina dua na vanua vinaka oqo ena kena vakatoroicaketaki na buturara ni qito rakavi ena noda vanua , ka dua na sala e laurai nira malele sara vakalevu kina nai Tabagone. Na kena i karua sai koya na kena vakarautaki na koronivuli niu vuli vakatagi me vaka era sa ciciva sara tiko vakalevu nai Tabagone ena gauna nikua ena vuku walega ni nodrea vakaraitaka na duidui taledi e tu vei ira.

E vica nai ulutaga bibi era vosa tiko kina o Hon Saukuru sai koya na veika e laurai nisa vakavuna sara tiko e lecvu na leqa ena noda vanua ka ra oka sara tiko kina vakalevu oira nai Tabagone. E dua na leqa levu sai oya na kena vakayagataki na waigaga ni veivakamatenitaki, mai na kena tamusuki , vakayagataki ka vaka kina na kena volitaki. Nai naki levu ni soqo oqo sai koya na kena vakanamata nai Tabagone kina kena tarai cake na nodra dui bula ena vuku ni taledi esa dui tu vei ira.

"Sa raica tiko na Matanitu na leqa oqo nisa tarai ira sara tiko ga vakalevu nai Tabagone oka talega kina oira na na dau wavoki voli ena sauka ni koroturaga na kena sa tete sara tiko vakatotolo na mate oqo na HIV AIDS, na nodra vakasagai na maramakei na kena sa tubu totolo sara na bukete dole".

Esa veivakadeitaki talega o Hon Saukuru nisa tovolei mena veisemati vata nai Tabagone ena loma ni 4 na tikina mena vakaduri kina na Yasayasa Moala Rugby Union kamena laveta cake tale nai vakarau ni nodra qito mena rawa nina vakaraitaki na duidui taledi e tu vei ira.Era vakabibi talega na nodra vakavulici talega ena kena cicivaki na bisinisi se na kena vakaduri na Cooperative

ME VAKARUSAI NA WAIGAGA

"E dua na leqa esa tara tiko na noda veikorokoro ena siga nikua sai koya na kena sa tubu tiko na kena sa laurai tiko na Mariwana ka vaka kina na Methamphetamine".

Oqori na nodra mala ni vosa nai Vukevuke ni Minisita ena Valenivolavola ni Pariminisita o Hon Sakiusa Tubuna ena nodra laki vakaitavi ena kena laki sogo na sotasota ni qito ni Nabobuco District Rugby 7's ka vakayacori ena loma ni yasana o Naitasiri.

E vakabibitaka o Hon Tubuna na kena vakayagataki na waigaga ena noda veikorokoro ka dua na sala e laurai nina vakarusa na noda veikorokoro ka vaka kina na kena sagai me cavu I kalawa kina dua na vanua ka vakabibi ena drakidrakita ni bula era na sotava na marama kei ira na gone.

""Esa dodonu meda duavata ena kena sagai mena valuti nai valu levu oqo, na matanitu ena sega ni rawa ni valuta taudua ia sa dodonu meda na tu vata ka taqomaka na tete tale ka na vakavuna na veileiti ena noda delanivanua".

Era vakaraitaka ni kena mai vakayacori na sotasota siga rua oqo esa dua na cavu I kalawa levu kina nodra vakararamataki nai Tabagone ena kena gaunisala ena nodra vakaitavi taki ira ena veika vinaka mena rawa ni vakaduri kina na Multipurpose Court ena koronivuli.

"Au via vakaraitaka na noqu vakavinavinaka ki vei ira na na dauqito era mai vakaitavi ena siga rua ni sotasota oqo ka vaka kina oratou na komiti ena kena tuvani nai tuvatuva oqo, ka vakarawarawataka na cakacaka".

O Hon Sakiusa Tubuna ka ra laki vulagi dokai ena qito n I Tabagone e Naboubuco ena loma ni Yasana o Naitasiri.

E mai tinia ena nodra vosa ka vakavinavinakataka talega na vanua o Nabobuco ena vuku ni kena tokoni tiko na veika me baleti ira nai sausau vou ni vanua ka vakauasivi na kena sagai mena mudui na kena vakatetei yani na waigaga.

VUETI NA KAWA ITAUKEI

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

"Sa ka bibi na noda bula vaka ivakarau, veilomani, veirokovi kei na noda lewa sara vamatau na noda bula ena vei siga".

Oqori e vica na nodra mala ni vosa na Minisita ni Tabacakacaka ni Itaukei, Tovo kei na Iyau Vakamareqeti o Hon Ifereimi Vasu ena nodra veisiko voli ena Tikina o Serua ka qaravi ena Yanuyanu o Serua ena Vukelulu na ika 28 ni Okosita 2024.

Sa tekivu me siro yani ena vei Tikina ena kena gadrevi me vueti cake na noda bula na kawa iTaukei ena kena vakadewataki kei na veivakararamataki na veivuke eso esa qarava tiko Matavuvale Levu ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei kei na Veitabana vaka Matanitu.

Era veitataunaki na Turaga Talai na bibi ni nodra tuberi na isolisoli ka vabibitaka na vuli me rewa ni toroi cake kina na nodra liutaki vinaka na lewenivanua ka vakauasivi na bula sautu ni Kawa iTaukei. Era tomana ni sa sasaga tiko na Tabacakacaka iTaukei ena noda vukei ka toso yani ena vuravura ni bisinisi me rawa ni vakaiyau taki keda ka da rawa ni qarava kina noda Vuvale, Lotu, Koro, Tikina kei na Vanua.Me sa tucake kina na kawa itaukei me vakayagataki na noda iyau bula kei na kena lakovi na vuravura ni bisinisi.

Sa qarava tiko na Vuvale levu ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei na kena solevaka yani na noda veisiga ni mataka kei na Kena dolavi na vei katuba e so me rawa da vukei kina vaka ilavo kei na veivakatorocaketaki.Edua na kena vakaraitaki kena tauyavu taki na iTaukei Wealth Fund kei na Land Development Fund ka ratou qarava na Matabose ni Qele Maroroi. Na veivuke ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei ena kena vakatorocaketaki na noda veikoro Village Improvement Scheme. Na kena tauyavutaki erua na facilities ena Merchant Finance ka vakatabakidua ena Vanua kei ira Marama kei na kena vaqarai na makete kei na vakarautaki na vei katuba ni veivuke eso.

Era veitomani voli na Vunilewa ni Matabose ni Qele Maroroi, Vunilewa ni Matabose ni Lavo kei ira na ivakalesilesi ena veitabana ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei. Namaki ni na tiko Turaga Minisita ena Tikina o Nuku kei Batiwai ena siga ni kua

ena nodra bulagoci tiko yani kina mai na Vuvale Levu ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei.

TAMUSUKI NA RAISI

Na cavu I sausau ni Dautei Raisi ena Tacilevu Rice Cluster ena koro ko Matacaucau ena loma ni yasana o Tailevu.

Eratou mai cavu I sausau na lewe ni Tacilevu Rice Cluster e Matacaucau ena loma ni tikina o Namalata ena kena mai tamusuki enai sevu ni gauna e 30 na taga raisi mai na lomanni 1 na eka nai teitei. E vakaraitaka nai tukutuku oqo na kena I liuliu o Setoki Lewanavanua ena nodra marautaka na veika esa mai rawati.

"E levu sara na vanua lala e tu vei keimami mani yaco na veitalanoa kei ratou na Tabana ni Teitei ena kena sagai mena vakayagataki na 1 na eka na qele ni mataqali esa tu. Keimami a dau teitei kakana dina tuga ena loma ni 10 na yabaki sa oti, ia oqo sa qai matai ni gauna me keimami tovolea kina na kena teivaki na raisi".

E kuria o Lewanavanua nira sa marau vakalevu ena vuku ni kena sa rawati na 30 na taga ni raisi ka sa tu talega nai tuvatuva ena kena sagai mena tosoi tale na vanua e na rawa ni teivaki vakalevu kina na raisi.

E vakaraitaka e dua nai vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Teitei e Korovou Tailevu o Pema Baleiwai ni Tabana ni Teitei esa veivuke sara tiko vakalevu ena kena sagai mera na vukei na dauteitei ena noda vanua. Na usutu levu sai koya na kena sa cavu I kalawa na matanitu cokovata ena kena sana vakadrodoi yani na veivuke men rawa ni sotava na nodra gagadre.

E ra mai ciqoma na veivuke oqo ena ruku ni Flatland Program on Land Preparation , ka ratou na qai vakaraitaka nai voli kina Fiji Rice Limited ka maroroi eso me rawa ni vakayagataka oira na lewe ni vuvale.Era sa vakanuinui tu nina vuavuai vinaka na nodra sasaga ena vuku ni kena tevaki ka tamusuki vakalevu na raisi ena Wasewase e Loma.

VUKEI O YALOBI

Era laki vulagi dokai na Vukevuke ni Minisita ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Tuadaku ni Koro Lelevu kei na Leqa Tubukoso o Hon Jovesa Vocea ena kena laki dolavi nai drodro(Evacuation Center) ena koro ko Yalobi ena loma ni Tikina o Waya ena Yatu Yasawa Balabalavu.

E mai vakailavotaka na veivuke oqo na Valenivolavola ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu ka veitokoni kina na (UNDP) Governances for Resilient Development(Gov4Res) ka tiko na kena I sau vakailavo ena $60,000.Oqo e dua na sasaga ena vukei ira sara vakalevu na lewe ni koro e Yalobi me vaka na vanua mena vukei ira na vakaleqai tu na tiki ni yagodra (disabilities) na valenikuro, valae ni vakacegu ka vaka kina na Solar Lighting. E na vakatabakidua ena nodra vukei na marama, gone kei ira nai taba qase.

Era vakananuma lesu tale vica na lewe ni koro e Yalobi ena kena mai ravuravu na cava vakadomobula o Bebe ena 1972 ni ra cabeta na kena ulunivanua ena loma ni 3 na yaua mera laki tiko ena dua na qaravatu, ena vuku ni sega ni vakarautaki tu e dua nai drodro ena gauna oya mera na vakaruru kina na lewenikoro.

"Nai drodro e Yalobi esa dua na veivuke levu ki vei kira na lewenivanua e ena lomanikoro. E veikadeitaki ni veivaktoroicaketaki vakaoqo esa ka bibi sara kina ena nodra sa tu vakarau ena kena yacon mai na revurevu ni draki veisau ena noda veimataka. Au marautaka ni vanua ni vakacegu na vale oqo ka na veivuke sara talega vakalevu ena veitikotiko ka na vakauqeti irana lewenivanua, marama ka vaka kina oira na lalai.

"Esa tu vakarau na UNDP mena cakacaka vata kei na Tabana ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu kei na Leqa Tubukoso ena nodra vukei ka vakakatoroicaketaki na noda veitikotiko , ka keitou vakavinavinaka ena yalo ni veivakabauti".

Era veitokoni talega na support from Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Korea International Cooperation Agency, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

Nai rairai ni drodro(Evacuation Center)ena loma ni koro o Yalobi ena yanuyanu o Waya ka mai veivuke kina na Minisitiri ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu kei na Leqa Tubukoso.

GADREVI NA MAROROI KA

"Nai matai ni kalawa mo raica sai koya na cakacaka bibi ni nomu bisinisi ka vaka kina nai walewale ni nom maroroi ka kei na tubu ni nomu bisinisi".

Oqori na nona mala ni vosa o Kinisimere Bainivesi na marama ni Galoa ena loma ni Yasana o Bua ka dua vei ira na marama dau volitaki senikau ena makete levu e Suva.E mai tomani ira talega na 20 na marama ka ra mai vakacavara na vuli siga 3 ka vakatokai tiko me Start and Improve Your Business Training (SIYB) e veivuke kina na Tabana ni Bisinisi ena noda vanua(MSME).

"Na vuli siga 3 oqo au vulica sara kina e levu naka, na kena I matai sai koya na kena vidavidai nai lavo ni bisinisi kei na noda I lavo vakaitaukei, na kena I karau sai koya na vakarau ni niomu qaravi ira na nomu daunivolivoli se na nodra gagadre baleta nio ira saraga na vuna levu ni kena cici tiko na bisinisi. Na kena I ka tolu sai koya na kena sa vakayaloqaqataki au meu sana cicivaki vaka ga na nomu bisinisi ka sega niu vakararavi tale kina dua na vanua".

E vica na dredre e vakamacakataka o Bainivesi ena kena cicivaki na bisinisi sai koya na veiveisau ni draki me vaka ni gauna oqo e sotava sara tiko ga na leqa ni senikau me vaka na Jale ka dau vakataotaka kina na kena vakarautaki a order e dau biu mai vei ira na lewenivanua.

"Vei keda na marama kua ni beca naka iko kila ni nomu taledi, na ligamu ga qori iko rawa ni rawata kina na nomu bula sena nomu I lavo , na kila lailai iko cakava tovolea mo cakava mai na yalomu taucoko , solia kina nomu dina mena vinaka kina na toso ni nomu bisinisi".

Era vakaraitaka talega nai tukutuku oqo ko Lagia Makereta e cavutu mai na koro ko Tacilevu ena yasana o Lomaiviti e dua talega na marama ka tiki tale tiko ga ni vuli siga 3. E nona bisinisi na kena volitaki na voivoi, Waiwai, honey, sasa, ibe, sovu kei na so tale.E levu sara talega naka era vulica ena kena sagai mena vakavinakataki na nona bisinisi.

E rau sa vakasalataki ira na marama ena nodra vakayagataka na vuli se na veivuke e dau solia na Tabana ni Cooperative. Na usutu levu talega sai koya na vakayagataki ni gauna ka vakauasivi na bula ni maroroi ka.

Nai rairai ni drodro(Evacuation Center)ena loma ni koro o Yalobi ena yanuyanu o Waya ka mai veivuke kina na Minisitiri ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu kei na Leqa Tubukoso.

VUKEI TIKO GA NA VODOVODO NI GONEVULI

Ena tomana tikoga na matanitu na veivuke ni vodovodo ni basi vei ira na gonevuli, dina ga nisa na tubu cake na nodra ivodovodo ni basi na gone ena matai (01) ni siga ni vula ko Seviteba 2024

Qo na kena saumi taucoko na ivodovodo ena card Karakarawa (blue), ka veimama na ivodovodo ena card Dromodromo (yellow).

Ena cola taucoko na matanitu na tubu ni vodovodo ni gonevuli e tiko vei ira na card Karakarawa (blue) kei na Dromodromo (yellow).

- Era na sauma tikoga na gonevuli na ivodovodo lavaki ni 'tap' nodra card dromodromo kei na "subsidised card" karakarawa ena vei kelekele ni basi eso era vodo mai kina.

- E dei tiko ga na vakatatabu me baleta na 'subsidised card' Karakarawa sega ni veisau:

- Sega ni vakayagataki na card Karakarawa ena gauna ni sereki kei na mua ni macawa.

- Rawa ni vakayagataki ga na "subsidised card" Karakarawa ena loma ni gauna: 6:30 am – 9:00 am kei na 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm.

- E 15 na miniti na gauna ni vakatatabu ni oti na matai ni 'tap' me na qai rawa na tap tale vei ira na vakayagataka tiko na card Karakarawa.

KE TIKO NA LOMATAROTARO MO NI QAI VEITARATA MAI ENA KATO I MELI LIVALIVA SE IMELI: ta.helpdesk@govnet.gov.fj, se NA talevoni: 3220429.

Noda Viti

Sigatabu, 8 ni Seviteba 2024, 8 Drauniveva, 13 ni Tabana, 15 ni Lavelave ni Ivola | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijiGovt Fiji Government

KAU LESU MAI NI OTI E 5 NA YABAKI

Na Turaga na Peresitedi o Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere kei ira na 9 na goneyalewa era na veisisivitaka tiko nai sala ni Adi Senitoa.

Esa mai dolavi tale na soqo e dau kilai levu ena noda vanua ka dau vakatokai tu na "Mother of All Festival" se na Adi Senitoa ni oti e 6 na yabaki ena kena mai cegu tu. Era laki vulagi dokai ena kena dolavi na Peresitedi ni noda vanua nai Taukei Bolatagne o Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere. Nai naki levu ni kena kau lesu mai na soqo levu oqo sai na kena vakaraitaki ni vanua vinaka o Suva ena saravanua, bisinisi, kei na vuqa sara naka.

"Au via vakavinviakataki iratou na komiti ni soqo oqo ena nodratou biuta vata na kena I tuvatuva ka vaka kina na cakacaka vakaukauwa ena kena biu vata na soqo oqo ka dau marautaki vakalevu vei ira na lewenivanua, na usutu levu ni soqo oqo sai koya na kena laurai na noda I tovo ka vaka kina na noda iyau.

E vakaraitaka talega na nodfra marau vei ira na lewe 9 na goneyalewa etra sa digitaki mai kina nidra veitabana ni veiqaravi mera mai vakaitavi ena soqo oqo. "Oni sa na mai vakaraitaka na nomuni kilaka ka sa gauna bibi ena kena matanataki na duidui taledi e tu vei kemuni, en aloma ni 7 na siga sa tu e matada na buturara esa nomuni ka taura matua me vaka ni tekivu mai ena 1956".E vakabibi taka talega o Ratu Wiliame na bibi ni nodra vosa na 9 na goneyalewa ena duidui ulutaga era na matanataka tiko.

"Na Adi Senitoa esa cici sara tiko mai ena dua na gauna balavu main na gauna e tekivu kina ena 1956, ka da vakavinavinaka kina raivotu nei Mr Junior Chamber kai sevu ni turaga me tuvalaka na kena vakayacori na soqo oqo, au via vakavinavinavinakataka talega ki vua nai matai ni goneyalewa emai taura na kena i cocovi o Ms Liebling Marlow ka mai biuta talega e dua nai yaloyalo mera na vakamuria na vo ni goneyalewa".

"Vakayatagataka na 8 na siga qo me vakarabailevutaka na nomu kila ka mena rawa ni tadola na veimatanikatuba ena nomu veisiga ni mataka".

फीजी दर्पण

Sunday September 8, 2024 | 8 pages | Issue 13 Vol 15 | www.fiji.gov.fj | @FijiGovt | Fiji Government

फीजी सत्य और सुलाह कमिशन के सार्वजनिक परामर्श पर प्रधानमंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका का बयान

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 3 पर

वोल्ड बैंक के एक उच्च अधिकारी श्री अजय बंगा के एतिहासिक फीजी यात्रा पर उनका पारंपरिक स्वागत किया गया

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर

फीजी दर्पण की प्रश्न सूची, आपकी राय कि यह अखबार आपके लिए कितनी उपयोगी है, पसन्द और नापसन्द

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 7 पर

वोल्ड बैंक के प्रधान का फीजी दौरा

प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका, प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र के अन्य नेताओं तथा वोल्ड बैन्क के प्रधान श्री अजय बंगा के साथ एक उच्चस्तरीय सभा में भाग लेते हुए चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री तथा विदेश मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका तथा प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र के अन्य नेताओं ने वोल्ड बैंक के प्रधान श्री अजय बंगा के साथ एक उच्चस्तीय सभा में हिस्सा लिया।

सूवा स्थित पेसिफिक आएलेन्ड्स फोरम सक्रेटेरियट के मुख्यालय पर हुई बातचीत में फोरम के सदस्य देशों और वोल्ड बैंक के बीच साझेदारी को रेखांकित किया, जो वाशिंगटन अमेरिका स्थित संस्था और दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा और पुराना बहुपक्षीय विकास बैंक है।

चार से दस सितम्बर तक था श्री बंगा का फीजी, तुवालू तथा औस्ट्रेलिया का दौरा, पिछले पचास सालों में की जाने वाली इस तरह की पहली यात्रा है। यह सभा प्रशान्त क्षेत्र के नेताओं के लिए वोल्ड बैंक के साथ सीधा सहयोग स्थापित करने और बैंक के दृष्टिकोण और रणनीतियों की समझ स्थापित करने का एक अवसर था। फिर उन्होंने प्रशान्त लोगों की आजीविका और जीवन की गुणवत्ता में सुधार लाने के अंतिम उद्देश्य के साथ आर्थिक समृद्धि, जलवायु परिवर्तन के लिए मज़बूत बने रहने और सतत विकास के लिए अपनी प्राथमिकताओं पर चर्चा की।

प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र में वोल्ड बैंक के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास संघ (आईडीए) के भविष्य के आर्थिक पोषण पर ध्यान दिया गया; और प्रशान्त क्षेत्र में बढ़ती ज़रूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विकास संघ (आईडी21) के संसाधनों की मजबूत पुन:पूर्ति करना शामिल है। ये प्रशान्त-वोल्ड बैंक के नए प्रयासों के माध्यम से की जाने वाली प्रमुख पहलों में से एक है।

यह चर्चा ब्लू पैसिफिंक महाद्वीप के लिए दो हज़ार पचास की रणनीति और उसके कार्यान्वयन की प्रमुख क्षेत्रीय पहलों पर आधारित थी: और आर्थिक विकास के लिए प्रशान्त रोडमैप का ड्राफ्ट। अपने बयान में प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने बुनियादी ढाँचे में सुधार और फीजी की अबतक की विकास यात्रा के साथ संबंधों में योगदान के लिए वोल्ड बैंक की सराहना की।

इसके अलावा उन्होंने फीजी की विकास प्राथमिकताओं और प्रशान्त क्षेत्र को मजबूत बनाने और समद्धि में स्वास्थ्य, बुनियादी ढाँचे और रोजगार पैदा करने जैसे महत्-वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों पर सहयोग को मजबूत करने में विश्व बैंक की प्रशान्त क्षेत्र के प्रति नए प्रतिबद्धता का उल्लेख किया।

उन्होंने आर्थिक विकास, जलवायु परिवर्तन का सामना करने के लिए मजबूती करने, संपर्क साधन बढ़ाने, टिकाउ टूरिज़म, पूँजी लगाने, उन्नत संसाधनों और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल, शिक्षा, उर्जा, कृषि, मछली पालन और बुनियादी ढाँचे जैसे महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों के लिए समर्थन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उद्देश्य से पहल और टिकाउ समाधान की क्षमता का स्वागत किया।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने क्षेत्रिए एकजुटता के लिए फीजी के सर्मथन की पुष्टि की, और आशा व्यक्त की है कि वोल्ड बैंक के साथ साझेदारी प्रशान्त क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए ठोस परिणाम देगी। वोल्ड बैंक के प्रधान श्री बंगा ने प्रशान्त क्षेत्र के नेताओं द्वारा प्रदर्शित अगुवाई और दूरदर्शिता को धन्यवाद दिया और आर्थिक विकास और जलवायु परिवर्तन के लिए मजबूत रहने पर प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र की प्राथमिकताओं का समर्थ न करने के लिए विश्व बैंक के समर्पण पर जोर दिया। 2050 की रणनीति के लक्ष्यों और आर्थिक विकास के लिए प्रशांत रोडमैप के मसौदे को लागू करने में प्रमुख प्रशान्त प्राथमिकताओं पर परिणाम वक्तव्य और एक संयुक्त कार्य योजना पर काम करने की सामूहिक प्रतिबद्धता के साथ, बैठक एक सकरात्मक टिप्पणी पर संपन्न हुई।

परंपरा और प्रगति को एकजुट करना: अड़सठवा सूवा हाएबिस्कस फेस्ट्टीवल

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवेरे अपनी पत्नी फिलोमेना कातोनिवेरे, हाएबिस्कस फेस्ट्टीवल की प्रतियोगियों के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

सूवा के प्रसिद्ध अड़सठवें (68th) हाएबिस्कस फेस्ट्टीवल का औपचारिक उद्घाट्न राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवेरे ने सूवा फौशौ पर किया।

ये फेस्टीवल आखरी बार 2018 में हुआ था, तथा हाएबिस्कस फेस्टिवल की वापसी का उद्धेश्य सुवा को एक प्रमुख स्थान के रूप में प्रदर्शित करना है, इसके स्थानीय टूरिज़्म आकर्षण तथा अन्य व्यवसायों को उजागर करना भी है।

अपने भाषण में राष्ट्रपति कातोनिवेरे ने इस साल के हाएबिस्कस फेस्टिवल को आसाधारण तथा सफल बनाने में कड़ी मेहनत करने के लिए आयोजन कमिटी के प्रयासों की सराहना की है। उन्होंने कमिटी के सदस्यों से कहा कि उनके समर्पण ने इस बात को ध्यान में रखा है कि इस फेस्टीवल के सभी तत्व एक साथ मिलकर एक ऐसा आयोजन बनाएं जिसपर हर किसी को गर्व हो।

हाएबिस्कस फेस्टिवल जैसे आयोजन से एकता बढ़ती है, जो लोगों को जीवन का जश्न मनाने के लिए एक साथ लाते हैं, और बहु-सांस्कृतिक और बहु-जातीय एकता की एक ठोस भावना पैदा करते है।'हाएबिस्कस फेस्टीवल 1956 में अपनी मामूली शुरूआत के बाद से एक लम्बा सफर तय कर चुका है, इसके लिए जूनियर चेम्बर ओफ कोमर्स के सदस्यों की दूरदर्शि ता को धन्यवाद है, जिन्होंने सबसे पहले इसका आयोजन किया था मैं विषेश रूप से पहली मिस हाएबिस्कस मिस लिंबलिंग मालो की सराहना करना चाहता हूँ जिन्होंने भविष्य की सभी रानियों के लिए एक स्तर निर्धारित किया था। तबसे हर साल, उस स्तर को उन अद्भुत महिलाओं द्वारा बढ़ाया गया है जिन्होंने ताज पहना है।

2024 मिस हाएबिस्कस की ताजपोशी शनिवार सात सितम्बर को हुई।

फीजी को औस्ट्रेलिया तथा प्रशान्त के साथ सहयोग से लगातार फायदें हो रहे है

प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका अपनी पत्नी के साथ तोन्गा के दौरे पर फीजी के नागरिकों से मुलाकात करते हुए चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री का दफ्तर

रोनल देव

तोन्गा में हालही हुए प्रशान्तीय द्वीपों के नेताओं के सम्मेलन के दौरान "प्रशान्त निति पहल" पर एक संयुक्त सार्वजनिक घोषणा में बोलते हुए प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने ऐसा कहा।

सम्मेलन के नेताओं ने इस पहल को अपनी मँजूरी दी।

'इस पहल को क्षेत्र में लाना एक ईश्वरीय उपहार होगा," प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा।

हमारा क्षेत्र अंतराष्ट्रीय अपराध से चल रही चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है और प्रशान्तीय नितियों के पहल को विकसित करना हमारी जिम्मेदारी है।

प्रशान्तीय निति पहल से पलाउ, पापुआ न्यू गिनी, तोन्गा और फीजी में उत्कृष्टता के क्षेत्रीय केंद्रों की स्थापना होगी और कानून व्यवस्था, आंतरिक सुरक्षा ज़रूरतों को पूरा करने और ज़रूरत के समय एक-दूसरे का समर्थन करने के लिए प्रशान्त देशों की क्षमता को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

इस पहल में चार पुलिस प्रशिक्षण 'उत्कृष्टता केंद्र" की स्थापना और प्रशान्त क्षेत्र में किसी भी घटना या संकट के लिए तैनाती के लिए तैयारी पर एक बहु-देशीय पुलिस बल और ओस्ट्रेलिया में एक पुलिस विकास और समन्वय केन्द्र शामिल है।

औस्ट्रेलिया के प्रधान मंत्री एन्थनी एलबनीस का कहना है कि प्रशान्तीय नेता उस भविष्य को आकार देने के लिए मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं जो हम देखना चाहते है जैसे कि प्रशान्त पुलिस बलों के बीच क्षमता, सहयोग और अंतरसंचालनीयता में सुधार से सभी प्रशान्त देशों और हमारे समुदायों की सुरक्षा को लाभ होता है।

यह प्रशान्त महासागर के नेतृत्व वाली, औस्ट्रेलिया समर्थित पहल है, जो हमारी सामूहिक शक्तियों का उपयोग करती है। एक साथ हम शक्तिशाली है।

फीजी सत्य और सुलह कमिशन के सार्वजनिक परामर्श पर प्रधान मंत्री का बयान

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री माननीय ने आम जनता की प्रतिक्रिया का स्वागत किया है जिन्होंने फीजी सत्य और सुलह कमिशन के सार्व जनिक परामर्श में अपना विचार दिया था।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि लम्बासा, नौसोरी, लौतोका और सूवा में आयोजित हुए इस परामर्श में भूतपूर्व राजनितिज्ञों, सामाजिक और धार्मिक नेताओं, गैर-सरकारी संस्थाओं के प्रतिनिधियों तथा आम लोगों ने हिस्सा लिया जो यह दिखाता है कि बीते सालों में हुए राजनितिक उथल-पुथल के बारे में खुली और स्पष्ट बात-चीत की ज़रूरत है।

"मैं सभी लोगों को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ जिन्होंने इन सावंजनिक मंचों पर आने का प्रयास किया और मैंने स्पष्ट और वास्ताविक बातचीत पर गौर किया है," प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

इस अतयंत महत्वपूर्ण कार्य को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए मैं, सहायक महिला मंत्री माननीय सशि किरण, तथा उनकी मदद करने वाले अन्य सहायक मंत्री माननीय सकियूसा तुम्बूना, माननीय लेनोरा गेरेगेरेतम्बूआ, माननीय चोवेसा वोदेया तथा माननीय रातू इसिकेली तुईवाईलेवू को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। जहाँ तक समाचार माध्यमों में उठाए गए सवाल कि 2013 संविधान में क्षमादान के प्रावधानों पर कमिशन के काम का क्या असर पड़ेगा पर प्रधान मंत्री रम-बूका ने कहा कि ये प्रभाव आवश्यक रूप से परामर्श प्रक्रिया पर असर या किसी तरह बाधा नहीं पहुँचाते है।

'फीजी में एकता और मेलमिलाप की तलाश में सत्य और मेलमिलाप की प्रक्रिया को अपना काम करना चाहिए। यह कुछ ऐसा ही है जो देश को करना ही चाहिए और करना भी चाहिए। वर्तमान परामर्श से जो नतिजा निकलेगा से फीजी सत्य और सुलह कमिशन की स्थापना होगी।"

'जब इन परामर्शों में क्षमादान के विषय उठाए जाऐंगे जिससे साबित होंगे कि इसका असर टज्ञघड संविधान में क्षमादान के प्रावधानों पर पड़ रहा है तो फिर इसके बाद इसे संवैधानिक समीक्षा प्रक्रिया में लाया जाएगा।"

समाप्त

नए किसानों के लिए सहायता

शिलता सिंह

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

"मैंने देखा है कि सरकार गन्नें के किसानों को मदद पहुचाने के लिए कई प्रकार से सहायता दे रहे है, इसलिए मैं ने गन्ना बोने का कैसला किया था। इस क्षेत्र में ज़्यादा पैसा है जो शायद बाहर काम करने से नही मिलेगा," चंद ने कहा। चंद ने अभी हाल ही में उन्नीस एकड़ ज़मीन खरीदी है तथा दो वर्षों से अपना उत्पादन बढ़ाया है और भविष्य में दो सौ टन फसल उगाने का लक्ष्य रखा है।

"यह जो ग्रान्ट मुझे मिला है, यह मेरे कर्ज़ के दर को कम करने में मेरी मदद करेगा। यह मेरे परिवार को पैसे बचाने में मदद भी करेगा।"

चंद ने अपना आभार व्यक्त किया।

सरकारी सहायता ना केवल शामल बल्कि उनके जैसे कई किसानों के जीवन में एक एहम भुमिका निभाता है।

यह सहायता ना केवल आर्थिक सहायता है बल्कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रो में आर्थिक स्थिरता को भी विकासित करेगा।

बहु-जातिय मामले और चीनी क्षेत्र के मंत्री माननीय चरण जीत सिंह ने इस बात पर ज़ोर दिया कि सरकार गन्ने के किसानों को सहायता प्रदान करती रहेगी तथा उनकी मेहनत के लिए उनको पुरस्कार भी दिया जाएगा।

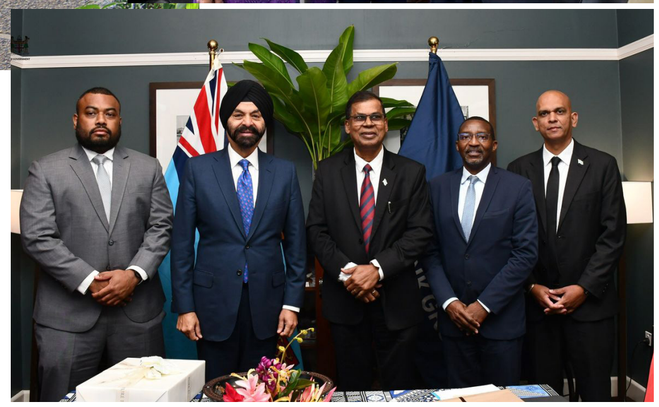
उन्होंने चीनी क्षेत्र के प्रति मंत्रालय की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाया है, जो 2024/2025 राष्ट्रीय बजट में साफ किया गया है।

यह हमें किसानों को और भी मदद पहुँचाने में सहायता प्रदान करेगा तथा क्षेत्र को और भी विकासित करेगा।

मंत्रीमण्डल ने अगले साल की सार्वजनिक छुट्टियों की तारीख को मंजूरी दी

* नए साल का दिवस – बुद्धवार पहली जनवरी
* गुड फायडय – शुक्रवार अट्ठारह अप्रैल
* ईस्टर सटडै – शनिवार उन्नीस अप्रैल
* ईस्टर मंडय – सोमवार इक्कीस अप्रैल
* गिरमिट दिवस – सोमवार बारह मई
* रातू सर लाला सुकुना दिवस – शुक्रवार तीस मई
* पैगंबर मोहम्मद का जन्म दिवस – सोमवार आठ सितम्बर
* फीजी दिवस – शुक्रवार दस अक्टूबर
* दिवाली - मंगलवार इक्कीस अक्टूबर
* क्रिसमस दिवस – गुरूवार पचीस दिसम्बर तथा
* बोक्सिंग दिवस – शुक्रवार छब्बीस दिसम्बर

वोल्ड बैंक के प्रधान श्री अजय बंगा का फीजी दौरा



श्री राजा महा मरियामन मंदिर के सौ वर्ष का स्मरणोत्सव

उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने श्री राजा महा मरियामन मंदिर को उनके सौ वर्ष के स्मरणोत्सव की सराहना की

टी आए एस आए संगम का गठन किसी एक धर्म को लेकर नहीं था बल्कि शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के साथ-साथ फीजी में बसे दक्षिण भारत के लोगों की संस्कति, भाषा और परमपरा को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए किया गया था।

मुख्य मेहमान के रूप में मंत्री प्रसाद ने मंदिर के सौ वर्ष के स्मरणोत्सव पर कहा कि यह उपलब्धि सराहनीय है। मंत्री ने स्थापना के इतिहास के बारे में भी बातें की और ऐसे प्रतिष्ठित संगठन के निमार्ण में उनके जबरजस्त प्रयास के लिए इसके संस्थापक, अतीत तथा वर्तमान सदस्यों को भी धन्यवाद दिया।

वोल्ड बैंक के प्रधान का पारंपरिक ढंग से स्वागत किया गया

प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका, वोल्ड बैंक के प्रधान श्री अजय बंगा के साथ चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर

शीलता सिंह

पिछले पचास वर्षों में विश्व बैंक के किसी उच्च अधिकारी द्वारा फीजी की पहली एतिहासिक यात्रा के दौरान फीजी सरकार ने विश्व बैंक के अध्यक्ष श्री अजय बंगा का परांपरीक रूप से स्वागत किया।

समारोह में सरकारी प्रतिनिधिमंडल के सदस्य, प्रधान मंत्री तथा विदेश मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बुका भी शामिल थे। श्री बंगा ने फीजी सरकार को उनका स्वागत करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया और फीजी सरकार के इस सर्मथन की सरहाना की। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि यह दौरा मौका देता है, विश्व बैंक और फीजी के बीच संबंधों को और भी मज़बूत बनाने के लिए है तथा यह संबंध विशेष रूप से आर्थिक विकास, जलवायु परिवर्तन और टिकाउ विकास को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए। फीजी में रहते हुए, श्री बंगा विश्व बैंक और प्रशांत क्षेत्र के बीच मज़बूत सहयोग की संभावनाओं को तलाशने के लिए प्रशांत द्वीप समूह फोरम सेकिटेरियट में सरकारी अधिकारियों और प्रशांत नेताओं से भी मुलाकात की। प्रधान मंत्री भी इस मिलाप में शामिल हुए।

यह यात्रा फीजी और व्यापक प्रशांत क्षेत्र में मज़बूत साझेदारी को बढ़ावा देने और टिकाउ विकास का समर्थन करने के लिए विश्व बैंक के चल रहे समर्पण को रेखांकित करती है। विश्व बैंक 1971 से 53 वर्षों से फीजी में काम कर रहा है और सुवा में विश्व बैंक क्षेत्रीय काम करता है। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में, विश्व बैंक ने फीजी में यातायात, स्वास्थय, जलवायु परिवर्तन और डिजिटल संबंध पर योजनाओं सहित विभिन्न पहलों का समर्थन किया है।

श्री अजय बंगा विश्व बैंक समूह के चौदहवे अध्यक्ष है और बैंक को चलाने वाले पहले भारतीय अमेरिकन है।

नए रातू सुकुना पार्क का उद्घाटन

सूवा और आस-पास के निवासी, फिर से चमकाए गए रातू सुकुना पार्क का मज़ा ले सकेंगे चित्र: प्रदान किया

शीलता सिंह

आज जो हम रातु सुकुना पार्क देख रहे है, वह अपने मूल स्वरूप में एक परिवर्तन है जो हमारे देश के प्रति प्रगति और विकास को प्रतिबद्ध करता है। उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा ट्रेड, कोरेटिव्स, छोटे तथा माध्यम व्यापार के मंत्री माननीय मनोआ कमिकमिदा ने इस नए रातु सुकुना पार्क का उद्घाटन करते हुए ऐसा कहा।

यह पार्क एक हरे-भरे स्थान से कहीं अधिक है। यह हमारे हलचल भरे शहर के भीतर एक द्वीप जैसा है जो शांति और एक नई शरूआत प्रदान करता है तथा यह एक एसी जगह है जहाँ हर कोई कुछ पल सांस ली जा सकती है। रातु सुकुना पार्क एक अलग योजना है बल्कि विति लेवु मास्टर प्लान का एक हिस्सा है, एक बार मंत्रीमण्डल की मंजुरी मिलने के बाद हुम सुवा शहर में और भी विकास की उम्मीद कर सकते है। उप प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

हमारे शहर आर्थिक विकास में सुधार लाने के लिए एक माध्यम है। यह गठबंधन सरकार की एक प्रतिबद्धता है जिसमें विकास स्वीकृति प्रक्रिया को डिजिटलाईज़ करना भी शामिल है। "गठबंधन सरकार शहरी विकास के लिए गहराई से काम कर रही है और रातु सुकुना पार्क इस प्रतिबद्धता का उदाहरण है। लौकल गवमन्ट मंत्रालय के माध्यम से हम कई योजनाओं को बढ़ावा दे रहे है। "

यह हमारी ज़िम्मेदारी है कि हम इस पार्क को बनाए रखे और यह सुनिश्चित करे कि हमारे आने वाली पीढ़ी तक यह संदेश पहुँचे।

"आईए हम साथ मिल कर इस शहर, इस देश और इस वातावरण को ग्लोबल सीटी इनडेक्स में सबसे बहतर बनाए। एक साथ मिल कर हम सभी के लिए एक अच्छा और टिकाउ घर बनाया जा सकता है।" उप प्रधान मंत्री ने अंत में कहा।

सत्य और सुलाह कमिटी

शीलता सिंह

फीजी के सत्य और सुलह समिति के कानूनी ढ़ाचे की स्थापना पर परामर्श नौसोरी तथा अन्य जगहों पर हो रहा है जिसमें देश भर में सामाजिक एकजुटता और एकता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उपचार, सुलह, क्षमा और विश्वास को बढ़ावा देने पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है।

सहायक महिला मंत्री माननीय शशी किरण फीजी में सत्य और सुलह समिति पर सरकार की संचालन समिति की अध्यक्ष है और मंत्री किरण ने इस बात पर ज़ोर दिया कि समिति के प्रयासों का उद्देश्य अतीत से जवाब माँगना और यह सुनिशिचत करना कि भविष्य में एसा ना हो।

उच्च शहर स्थित अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सेन्टर फोर ट्राज़िशनल न्याय, श्री रूबेन कैरन्ज़ा ने दुनिया भर के विभिन्न सत्य समिति को मदद पहुँचाई है। परार्मश के दौरान उन्होंने कहा कि चल रहे परार्मश भविष्य के सत्य समिति में विश्वास पैदा करेंगे। परार्मश पर और भी बातें करते हुए फीजी कानून सुधार के डायरेक्टर राईचेली तुईवांगा ने सत्य और सुलह समिति का सर्मथन किया।

इस समिति में पांच सदस्य होंगे, अध्यक्ष फीजी के राष्ट्रपति द्वारा नियुक्त किया जाएगा। यह समिति पुरे तरीके से निष्पक्ष हो कर अपना फैसला लेगा।

व्यापारों के लिए सहायता

शीलता सिंह

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फाईनेन्स मंत्री मानीय बिमान प्रसाद ने इस बात पर ज़ोर दिया कि छोटे तथा मध्यम व्यापार का समर्थन करना महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि वे देश की आर्थिक वृद्धि और विकास में बहुत योगदान देते है। वालेलेवु में रिलायबल इंजीनियरिंग पीटीई लिमिटेड की नई सुविधा का उद्घाटन करते हुए, उप प्रधान मंत्री ने कुमार परिवार की मेहनत और लगन की सराहना की।

रिलायबल इंजीनियरिंग पीटीई लिमिटेड एक एसा व्यपार है जो निर्मल और हल्के स्टील तथा शीट मेटल का काम करती है। उप प्रधान मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसान ने कहा कि छोटे व्यवसायों का योगदान बहुत बड़ा है, क्योंकि कई बार हम सोचते है कि केवल बड़े व्यवसाय ही रोज़गारी के अवसर पैदा करते है। व्यापार के फाउन्डर अरविन कुमार और रेनु रन्जीता चंद ने इस व्यापार को पिछले साल शुरू किया था। रिलायबल इंजीनियरिंग पीटीई लिमिटेड में अभी सात मज़दूर काम कर रहें है तथा महीने के अंत तक और भी लोगों को काम पर लिया जाएगा।

डायरेक्टर अरविन कुमार ने कहा कि उन्हों ने इस व्यपार में लगभग आधा मिलियन डोलर की पुजी लगाई है।

फीजी दर्पण

ग्राहक संतुष्टि सर्वेक्षण

नाम:

नगर/शहर/प्राँत:

कौन सी नौकरी करते है श्ज़रूरी नहीं हैत्त:

मोबाईल/ईमैल का पता श्ज़रूरी नहीं हैत्त:

कृपया अपने जवाब पर घेरा बनाए

घ. यह अखबार आप कब-कब पढ़ते है?
अ. अक्सर
ब. कभी-कभी
च. कभी-कभार

ट. आपको इस अखबार की कोपी कैसे मिली?
अ. पोस्ट ओफिस से
ब. किसी दोस्त या रिशतेदार ने दिया
च. फीजी टाईम्स अखबार से

ड. क्या आपको यह अखबार जानकारी से भरा और उपयोगी लगा?
अ. जी हाँ
ब. जी नहीं
च. पता नहीं

ण. अखबार में उपयोग की गई भाषा आपको कैसे लगी:
अ. समझना आसान है
ब. समझना कठिन है
च. बेहतर हो सकता है

थ. सरकारी जानकारी हासिल करने के लिए आप अन्य किन मंचों का उपयोग करते है श्फीजी सरकार का वेबसाईट, फेसबुक, यूट्यूब, ट्वीटरत्त?
अ. फीजी सरकार का वेबसाईट
ब. फीजी सरकार का फेसबुक
च. फीजी सरकार का यूट्यूब
द. फीजी सरकार का ६
इ. अन्य सौशल मिडिया चेनल?
_____

ध. कृपया घेरा बनाए कि फीजी दर्पण में आप क्या पढ़ना पसन्द करते है? आप जितने चाहे घेरा बना सकते है।
अ. राष्ट्रपति, प्रधान मंत्री तथा उनके मंत्रीमण्डल के मंत्रियों के काम के बारे में कहानियाँ
ब. राष्ट्रपति, प्रधान मंत्री तथा उनके मंत्रीमण्डल के मंत्रियों के भाषण
च. राष्ट्रपति, प्रधान मंत्री तथा उनके मंत्रीमण्डल के मंत्रियों की तज़वीरें
द. फीजी भर में सरकारी योजनाएं तथा समारोह की कहानियाँ तथा तज़वीरें
इ. यहाँ बताए कि इस अखबार के बारे में आपको क्या कुछ और पसन्द है: _____

भ. कृपया नीचे लिखकर बताए कि आप फीजी दर्पण में क्या कुछ और जानकारी पढ़ना चाहते है?
अ. सरकारी मंत्रालयों/विभाग तथा सरकारी कर्मचारियों की रूपरेखा
ब. संपादक के नाम पत्र का कोलम
च. सरकारी कार्यक्रम और योजनाएं
द. नेशनल आकाईव्स ओफ फीजी द्वारा इतिहास के पन्ने को मुड़कर देखना
इ. पाठकों के लिए खेल
फ. यूवा पाठकों के लिए कोलम
ग. यह भी बताए कि आप और क्या पढ़ना चाहते है:
_____
_____
_____

य. अखबार को बेहतर बनाने के लिए कुछ और आप जोड़ना चाहते है?

अपने पसंदीदा अखबार के बारे में प्रतिक्रिया देने के लिए समय निकालने के लिए धन्यवाद

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फीजी दर्पण

Sunday September 8, 2024 | 8 pages | Issue 13 Vol 15 | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijianGovt Fijian Government

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

हमसे बात करने से डरे नहीं: उप प्रधान मंत्री

रोनल देव

हम चाहते है कि लोग जुड़े रहें, सरकार, अधिकारियों और मंत्रालयों से बात करने से न डरें, उप प्रधान मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद ने ज़ोर दिया।

'और मुझे लगता है कि हमने लोगों से वह डर निकाल दिया है। लोग अब अधिक स्वतंत्र है।

" मंत्री प्रसाद तथा फायनेन्स मंत्रालय की उनकी टीम, फीजी पुलिस फोर्स, तथा अन्य संबंधित मंत्रालयों के साझेदारों ने हाल में विरिया, मुआनीवेनी, इलाहबाद, उरदालिया तथा वातोआ के किसानों से मुलाकात की।

निवासियों तथा किसानों ने सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया कि उन्होंने लोगों को सहारा देना जारी रखा है जहाँ स्कूल वापस जाने वाले पहल से लोगों की सहायता की जा रही है।

उन्होंने कुछ चिन्ताएं जताई है जैसे कि पीने क साफ पानी न मिलना, ग्रामीण रास्ते/नाले, सड़कों की बुरी हालत, खेतों में चोरियाँ, आवारा जानवर, कृषि सेवाएं, चिकित्सा सेवाएं और सुविधाएं, नशीले पदार्थ तथा अन्य विषय जिसका असर सभा में उपस्थित लोगों पर पड़ रहा है।

मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि कृषि मंत्रालय को एक बड़ा बजट दिया गया है ताकि वो न केवल गन्ने के किसानों की मदद करें बल्कि अन्य किसानों को भी सहायता पहुँचाएं।

'अभी घास-फूस नाशक और कीटनाश दवाएं जो उपलब्ध है पर भी छूट दी जा रही है।

प्रोफेसर प्रसाद ने निवासियों तथा किसानों को गठबंधन सरकार की ओर से आशवासन दिया है कि उन्हें सहारा ज़रूर मिलेगा तथा उनकी चिन्ताओं पर जल्द से जल्द गौर किया जाएगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि फीजी नशीली दवाओं के गलत उपयोग वाली समस्याओं का सामना कर रहा है तथा कई अन्य लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया जा रहा है।

'हमें अपने स्कूलों, अपने बच्चों, गाँव तथा सेटलमन्ट्स की सुरक्षा करने की ज़रूरत है।"

प्रोफेसर प्रसाद ने कहा कि पुलिस फोर्स को और मजबूत बनाने पर कार्य किया जा रहा है। उनके अनुसार गठबंधन सरकार स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को सुधारने के लिए काफी काम कर रही है।

'देश भर के हेल्थ सेन्टस की हालत काफी बिगड़ गई थी। हमने सभी स्वास्थ्य सेवा केन्द्रों पर काम समाप्त नहीं किया है तथा एक के बाद एक करके उनपर कार्य किया जाएगा।"

गठबंधन सरकार नियमित आधार पर सभाएं करती रहेगी और फैसला लेने में समाज के सभी स्तरों को शामिल करेगी।