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PM Rabuka reaffirms Government's collaborative efforts with the military



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka meets with Commander Major General, Ro Jone Kalouniwai, at the Republic of Fiji Military Forces headquarters in Berkeley Crescent. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka embarked on his inaugural visit to the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) commencing at the Strategic Headquarters at Berkley Crescent. The Head of Government was received by the Commander, Major General Ro Jone Kalouniwai during his visit this week. The significant visit re-emphasised the important relationship between the Coalition Government and Fiji's military. It also fostered discussions on security and defence, national security related-issues, military strategies, and preparedness and responses. PM Rabuka, accompanied by the Home Affairs Minister, Pio Tikoduadua, and Ministry's permanent sec-

retary, Mason Smith, also visited the Stanley Brown Navy Headquarters in Walu Bay. This marked the Prime Minister's first visit to the RFMF since assuming office last December. At the Stanley Brown Navy Headquarters, the Prime Minister was received and briefed by the Navy Commander, Commodore Humphrey Tawake. The Head of the Coalition Government was accorded to a guard of honour at the respective headquarters followed by briefings on development plans and operations of the RFMF. Prime Minister Rabuka ended his official visit at the Land Force Headquarters in Nabua where he was accorded a full traditional ceremony of welcome. In acknowledging the RFMF, PM Rabuka expressed

his sincere gratitude to the military for the ceremonies of welcome accorded to him today, saying he was "happy to be back". "I am happy with the way things are being driven at the moment, and today, I am here to congratulate you and wish you well for the future," he added. PM Rabuka thanked the military personnel for their dedicated service to the nation and the world through peacekeeping duties. He also reminded them of their important role in the society, at the same time, encouraged them to keep up the good work and to continue to serve with diligence. (Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Head of State visits Veilomani Boys Centre

EMBRACING the warmth of the Christmas season, the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, and the First Lady, Vilomena Katonivere, paid a heartfelt visit to the Veilomani Boys Centre in Ba recently. In his message, President Katonivere encouraged the boys to let go of their past and focus on forging a brighter future ahead. He emphasised the significance of hard work in achieving personal goals thereby instilling a sense of confidence in the hearts of the youth. Spreading the joy of the festive season, President Katonivere and his team shared the spirit of Christmas by distributing heartwarming holiday hampers. He took a moment to express gratitude towards the dedicated staff whose collective effort contributes to fostering a supportive and loving atmosphere, providing hope and resilience to those who need it most. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Calls for global climate action by Fiji's chief negotiator



Fiji's chief negotiator, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli after a panel discussion on the 'Comprehensive Risk Vulnerability Assessment methodology' which was hosted by Fiji earlier this month at the Moana Pacific Blue Pavilion at the Conference of Parties (COP) 28 in Dubai. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

AMBASSADOR Amena Yauvoli, Fiji's Chief Negotiator at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai, made an impassioned plea during the Head of Delegations meeting, calling on world leaders to prioritise urgent and impactful actions to combat climate change.

Ambassador Yauvoli stressed the

importance of pragmatism rooted in science and logic, calling for a genuine and credible shift in gear and intent in addressing the climate emergency.

He stated that the effects of climate change are indisputable, with the scientific principles and causes well comprehended.

Ambassador Yauvoli objected to the current text, stating that it does not adequately address the crucial issue of how the global community will tackle the crisis.

"Excellencies, we can't change any science, no amount of influence can, and no dollar amount or techno-fix will alter the fundamentals of cause and effect," he stated.

"Ambition is no longer enough. We need direction, and objectives, not just ideals. We can do better and must do better."

Echoing similar sentiments was United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry who issued a stark warning about the worsening trajectory of climate change.

He pointed out that temperatures will rise to dangerous levels without immediate action, rendering some places unlivable.

However, Special Envoy Kerry expressed hope in the promises on the table, suggesting that fulfilling them could lead to a temperature decrease to 1.7 degrees according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

"That's our course because we're heading to 2.5 degrees right now. But we have promises on the table that could get us, if we fulfilled them, to 1.8 to 1.7 according to IEA. And with what we're doing now in the last week, which is quite remarkable, we can head even below the 1.7."

"Victory or defeat, responsibility or disregarding responsibility, irresponsibility, recklessness. I don't think you could have a clearer choice, folks," stated Special Envoy Kerry.

Minister Nalumisa speaks on scaling solar mini-grids



Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa during an event at COP28 in Dubai. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

THE Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa delivered his special address during a Session on "Scaling Solar Mini-Grids through Sustainable Business Models for Universal Energy Access" at the COP 28 Climate Conference in Dubai, UAE. Access to electricity remains one of the key primary indicators of global progress toward the SDG7 targets. Having access to reliable, sustainable and affordable electricity supply are the key outcomes of any electrification project. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy is a prerequisite for economic and social development. Electrification is important for income development, healthcare, basic education, and personal safety among other things. "In Fiji, our electricity access rate stands at around 96 per cent out of which around 80 per cent of our households are connected to the national grid and the 16 per cent are using intermittent supply. Our target is to electrify the 4 per cent, which are mostly in the last mile and additionally provide sustainable and affordable electricity supply to those with intermittent supply," Minister Nalumisa said. Solar mini-grids can help provide energy access and socio-economic benefits in rural and remote areas. "The Government have put in place programmes and initiatives to expedite our electrification program. This includes, but not limited to the supply of renewable energy technologies and removing the community/household financial contribution, which has been acting as a hindrance to the electrification program," Minister Nalumisa said. Fiji has more than 12,000 Solar Home Systems (300 Watts capacity) in the rural and maritime communities and villages. However, there are still more than 100 communities that are relying on the use of diesel generators. "A total of five communities have been supported by the government and donor partners with the installation of solar-diesel hybrid micro-grid systems. In 2017, a revolving funding facility called the Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF) was launched. The facility attracts funding from donor partners and agencies for our electrification project. The FREF also leverages the participation of the private sector to operate and manage these projects," he added. The event consisted of discussions on the latest developments, challenges and opportunities in scaling solar mini-grids to benefit the key stakeholders like policy makers, industrial associations, research organisations, and the private sector.

(Source: Ministry of Housing and Local Government)

Fiji plays significant role in shaping global climate agenda



Fiji's high-level and bi-partisan negotiation team to COP28 in Dubai included the Leader of Opposition, Inia Seruiratu (second from left), Fiji's chief negotiator, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli and Ministry of Foreign Affairs permanent secretary, Dr Lesi Korovavala. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

FIJI'S Chief Negotiator, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, has emerged as a key player at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28) in Dubai, leading the charge for ambitious climate goals and fostering global cooperation.

In an exclusive interview, Ambassador Yauvoli provided insights into the progress made during the initial days of the COP and outlined Fiji's significant role in shaping the global climate agenda.

"The COP 28 work program has been successfully launched, allowing parties to engage in various meetings and negotiations crucial for reaching successful conclusions on multiple agenda items," he said.

Ambassador Yauvoli commended the commitment of Fiji's Prime Minister,

Sitiveni Rabuka, and the Government towards supporting the COP presidency in achieving the outlined objectives.

"I express gratitude for my appointment by the COP and CMA (Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement) to co-chair the newly formed committee, the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance. This appointment not only recognises Fiji's involvement but also showcases the importance of small and developing states in steering the climate negotiations," he further stated.

"A major focus of my role is to co-chair a contact group, working inclusively and transparently with representatives from the government of Switzerland to identify a process that allows member states to agree on a new goal for climate finance."

This appointment highlights Ambassador

Yauvoli's expertise and experience in climate negotiations.

"The increasing interest in the COP process, with over 90,000 participants attending COP28, stresses the significance of Fiji's role in the new committee, not only for the nation itself but also for small island developing states globally," he said.

"I emphasise the importance of empowering Fiji's young team to actively participate and represent the country in the negotiation process. Building their capacities and instilling confidence in their work is seen as a critical investment for the long term," Ambassador Yauvoli said.

On the ongoing meetings, he said, "Discussions on long-term climate finance, the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, and matters related to the Standing Committee on Finance are underway. We are optimistic about receiving more pledges by the end of the week for funds such as the Loss and Damage Fund and the Green Climate Fund".

Ambassador Yauvoli also acknowledged the collaborative efforts with regional neighbours Australia and New Zealand.

"The unity among Pacific smaller developing states is crucial. Ongoing support in critical areas such as loss and damage, adaptation, just transition, and the global stocktake is paramount."

Fiji keeps the 'heat' on 1.5



Fiji's Chief Negotiator to COP28, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, with United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres.
Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Fiji, like many small island states, has a lot at stake on the climate change negotiations front. It is with this mindset that Fiji's delegates, especially its negotiators go into the annual United Nations organised Conference of the Parties, and COP28 was no different. Fiji's chief negotiator, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli talks to Department of Information's Prashila Devi on the expectations and the realities of these year's climate talks in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Department of Information: Firstly, congratulations on your appointment as the chief negotiator. Could you briefly talk about the road to COP28?

Chief Negotiator, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli: The road to COP28 has not been easy. There's lots of issues of strategic interest for Fiji and the Pacific Small Island States to take to COP. And for the last couple of days, we've been working hard, trying to ensure that our priorities are embedded into the draft agreement. This includes the 1.5 degrees long term temperature goal. The second is the issue of phasing out of fossil fuel. The third is in relation to a global goal for adaptation.

The fourth is the importance of a mitigation work program. The fifth is

in regards to oceans and the importance of oceans to sustainable livelihoods and economic development. And there are other priorities like agriculture and gender.

We have just completed the first 13 days of intense negotiations. We weren't able to complete by the deadline of Tuesday midnight so it has sort of overflowed into Wednesday morning.

So far, it's been a challenging task, but our negotiators have been working hard and some have been already leaving in Dubai to go back home. But I feel that the need to continue to support our work at COP28 is critical for us for our continuous engagements.

DINFO: Fiji had a high level and bipartisan delegation to the COP to date, could you dwell on how important it is to have such a representation at such talks?

Ambassador Yauvoli: The high level is critical to a progress of deliberations COP and the Prime Minister led our delegation to COP28 and we are thankful because his presence alone provides the optics and the support towards enhancing our various climate goals.

Also, the presence of the Speaker and the Leader of Opposition were really instrumental in ensuring that our priorities are well covered at the political level.

Climate change affects all walks of life in a society so its ramifications or adverse impacts, penetrates all sectors of society and in order to effectively tackle the scourge of climate change. It's important that ownership starts from the top and right down to the grassroots people in terms of deliberating on issues of importance for us.

So COP28 has really been a good COP in the sense that we had our Head of Government, our Leader of Opposition and our Speaker to Parliament that were present at the meeting and the also Ministers and Assistant Ministers who came to undertake

their necessary role.

DINFO: If you were to pit this COP against the others, how would Dubai talks stand out?

Ambassador Yauvoli: It's really difficult to try and compare COPs because each COP has its unique characteristics and objectives. So, for this COP in Dubai it's very important for us because issues such as fossil fuels are discussed here and also the fact that the 1.5-degree long term goal is important for us to continue to preserve and also the global stocktake, the GST which is mandated under the Paris Agreement and this is up for five-year review of implementation and that's why it is unique.

We really cannot compare it with other COPs. So other COPs have their own priorities like COP23 that was chaired by Fiji in 2017 and other COPs that took place after that

DINFO: Could you unpack some of the major discussions or decision that happened here? How would this impact ordinary Fijians and the PICs?

Ambassador Yauvoli: In terms of the long-term temperature goal, in Paris the parties agreed on reducing long term temperature goal below two degrees or below 1.5 degrees.

This is important for us because the higher the temperature goal, the difficulty for every living being on earth to sustain life because as we see it, it has continuously affected our agriculture, our fisheries and other sectors of society, which makes it challenging for us to sustain life. This will be worsened if we are not careful.

The situation can be aggravated into the future should we allow temperature goals to overshoot beyond 1.5 degrees. The other issue is the phasing out of fossil fuels, as we all know there are a number of gases that contribute to the pollution of our atmosphere that we need to reduce by mid-century.

On the other issues like loss and damage as we know most of our communities are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate induced tropical cycles. We've seen in Fiji relocation of six villages and about 43 have

been earmarked to be relocated.

These activities or relocations can be undertaken through the support by the loss and damage fund.

At the moment we can look at other financing mechanism like adaptation fund to assist us in these relocations. The impact to society or to our communities are huge and if we don't do anything now to address them, it can be serious matter in the future.

Our oceans have been adversely affected by climate change. Corals are dying, fishes are dying because of the oceans have been heated up above normal temperatures, so these are concerns that that we also have.

The other issue of promotion of our blue economy in Fiji and looking at areas we can promote like blue towns like Savusavu and others.

So, the connections to find great partnerships is always important in this endeavour. There are other areas that are closely attached or important for us in our climate aspirations.

DINFO: There are some quarters that are not happy with the pace and commitments made at these talks. Is there any area that Fiji is disappointed with and how does it plan to address it?

Ambassador Yauvoli: The disappointment arises strongly from the fact that those who are responsible for polluting our atmosphere are denying, the climate deniers because we know, as we live in island states, we can see the adverse impacts of climate change through our own naked eyes.

The delay in the phasing out of fossil fuels to assist through a transitional mode is frustrating for us. But these are real issues that we need to address and we will continue to work through negotiation mode to enable us to achieve our objective.

The important thing is to ensure that long term temperature goal does not overshoot, meaning it does not go beyond 1.5 degrees. There's already been projections by scientists that it may overshoot, but what does it mean for us?

It means lots of difficulties in the future. Lots of challenges that we will face. It will affect our food security situation, it will affect our daily living for every ordinary people, particularly those who are living in rural communities, who have not understood what climate change really is.

DINFO: Do you have any other comments or observation?

Ambassador Yauvoli: Climate change will continue to adversely affect us. Measures have to be put in place and parties like Fiji really needs to step up our preparations for the future.

Stepping up means having a very strong national policy position like Fiji, we now have a Climate Change Act that needs to be enacted.

And not only that, in order for us to access financial assistance, we have to work hard by ensuring that the financial mechanisms are deployed to the respective areas that needs to be attended to and that has been adversely affected due to climate change.

So, all in all from Dubai, we really appreciate the support from home, from our government, in our continuous engagements,



Members of TeamFiji linking arms in a sign of solidarity to 'hold the line' and keep global average temperature rise below 1.5 degrees

Assisting the vulnerable is fulfilling: volunteer awardee

By AZARIA FAREEN

EVER since I have started serving the vulnerable, this is something I want to continue doing so I can keep making a positive difference in a person's life.

This was highlighted by 48-year-old, Jone Saravaki, who resides in Bulileka, Labasa and was recently awarded for his volunteering services for the Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS).

Mr Saravaki received the divisional volunteer of the year (North division) award during the FRCS 50th Anniversary and International Volunteer Day celebrations held at the State House recently.

The award is the most prestigious recognition and is intended to honour an exceptional individual who has made a significant impact through their volunteer service.

"I joined the FRCS as a volunteer in 2020 to assist with the TC Yasa assessment and response which included delivering of basic necessities to affected families in the Northern division," Mr Saravaki highlighted.

"I was appointed as a health officer in the Labasa branch in 2022 and I am also a Community Based Surveillance (CBS) officer where we monitor community-based health workers and do awareness in villages with other volunteers."

CBS allows volunteers from the communities to report on health situations such as Leptospirosis, Typhoid, Dengue and Diarrhoea (LTDD) outbreak so that FRCS can ensure that the right help is provided.

The FRCS has highlighted that Fiji is the only country in the Pacific that runs CBS



Mr Jone Saravaki received the divisional volunteer of the year award (Northern Division) from President Ratu Williams at the State House recently.. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

and is one of only five National Societies across 192-member countries that have successfully implemented this program.

Mr Saravaki, who is also a treasurer at the FRCS Labasa Branch, said that it was very fulfilling to be able to assist the people in need.

"I like to give back to the community

because it makes me very happy and it is very rewarding," he said.

"During Tropical Cyclone Yasa assessment and response, we delivered non-food items to the affected and it put a smile on their faces. It was heartening to see that even in the time of disaster we can bring joy to someone just by assisting and giving them moral support."

"This volunteer role is a feeling of satisfaction which cannot be compared to anything as it feels like I have achieved something major in life," he added.

Mr Saravaki noted that "this is the first time for the volunteers to be acknowledged and I feel proud of myself for being recognised for all that I have been doing and to receive an award for it".

Women led farm a success

By AZARIA FAREEN

SUGARCANE farming is also a form of business and if you put your interest into it then you won't have to work for anyone.

This was the advice from an overseer living in Sabeto, Nadi, Saleslani Devi, who is also known as a "sardar".

"I was raised in a family of farmers and also married into a family which does farming for a living," she relayed.

"My dad was poor but very hardworking and he is currently residing in Lautoka where he had a farm where I used to help him with farming - that is how my interest in farming grew."

"I have done some work and business but my main priority is my farm where my workers do sugarcane farming," she said.

The 56-year-old conveyed that there was no one in her area to be a "sardar" so she took on the role to provide relief to the sugarcane farmers and to also get assistance from them.

"Farming is something which you can view as a business and this way I can also assist people and also grow my business," Mrs Devi said.

"We have 12-acre land shared between two brothers and our share of six acres has a mountainous piece of land as well as the flat land where we have about 200 tonnes

of sugarcane in the farm and I also do vegetable farming which provides me with profit."

"I received a \$1000 grant from the Government and leased an idle piece of land from my neighbour to do cattle farming too," she added.

Mrs Devi said that she had about 15 cows but sold some of them due to dry weather and being busy with the farm did not give her enough time to look after them.

"This grant was supposed to empower the farmers to grow their business and it assisted me to support my children's education until university level," she highlighted.

"Currently there are six members left in the gang from the 15 we had previously due to mechanisation and during the harvesting season, there is a shortage of labourers to work in the farm while the rainfalls are a challenge too."

"We have received fertilisers and medicines from the Government and I have also requested a culvert for the road and gravel for Kings access road," Mrs Devi added.

She believes that there is a lot of awareness needed for the farmers in order to turn the fate of sugarcane farming around and states that if the farmers put their interest and heart into it then it can happen.

"I am very happy and feel blessed that the Government supported me with the



Overseer of a sugarcane farm living in Sabeto, Nadi, Mrs Saleslani Devi, pictured insert while the farmers take a break between harvesting at the farm.

timely monetary assistance and would like to encourage the new farmers to continue working hard and treat it like a business because the harder you work, the more fruits you will get," Mrs Devi said.

"I have interest in farming a variety of things and I have planted cabbage, eggplant, and chillies in my farm while I have a dairy shop where the sugarcane

farmers and people in the area buy items at a cheap price."

"No one can stop us from expanding our business but our growing age and ailments is a barrier, however, I was thinking of utilising my backyard to do hydroponic farming," she added.

A volunteer’s journey of compassion and dedication

By JAMIL SULEMAN

DEDICATED volunteer, Aporosa Torotagi was awarded the 2023 Volunteer Award for his outstanding contributions in the Western Division during the International Volunteer Day Celebration recently.

Mr Torotagi, 38, who hails from Namotomoto in Nadi, shared insights into his inspirational journey and unwavering commitment to volunteerism.

His entry into the world of volunteering was influenced by a diverse range of experiences, from being a member of the Ba Provincial Council to serving as a Sunday School Teacher and actively participating in various community clubs.

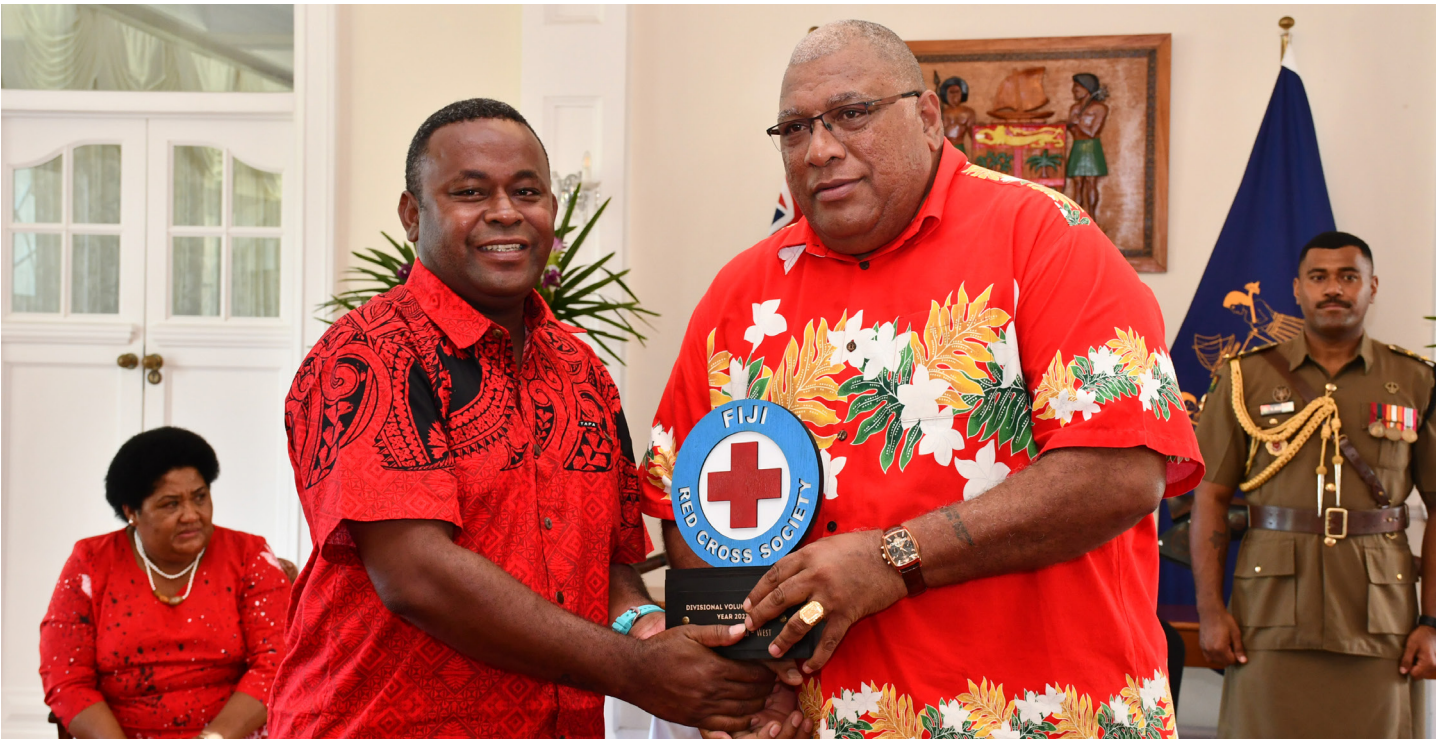
Mr Torotagi is transition to Red Cross was a decision to extend his impact beyond his community to the broader Nadi Subdivision.

“When the opportunity was given for me to register for Red Cross, I thought of it not only regarding my community but Nadi Sub Division as a whole, so I thought I could make a difference in the lives of a lot of people,” he explained, reflecting on his motivation to join Red Cross.

Mr Torotagi’s responsibilities as a volunteer included responding to tropical cyclones such as Josie, Yasa, Harold and Cody, along with active involvement in the COVID-19 vaccination registration program.

His motivation to volunteer goes beyond to just delivering aid as he finds his accomplishments fulfilled in the smiles of those he helps during challenging times.

“Seeing the faces and the smiles of people’s faces when you offer non-food



Western Division – the winner is Aporosa Torotagi, President of the Nadi Branch. Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN

items at Red Cross, that’s the biggest payment I can get. The biggest high I can get,” Mr Torotagi said.

One memorable experience that reinforced his passion occurred during the response to TC Harold in the Lau Group.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr Torotagi and his team provided essential non-food items to a community that had been without supplies for months.

The resilience and spirit of hospitality displayed by the people of Lau left an incredible impact on him.

“There’s a quote I always tell my fellow volunteers, in the midst of difficulties and cyclones, you are the hands of God,” he shared, highlighting the positive outlook that fuels his dedication.

Receiving the award was a surprise for Mr Torotagi, who had not anticipated recognition for his efforts.

“I never thought the divisional office in the western division or even the national office would recognise me,” he admitted.

Addressing potential volunteers, he emphasised that it takes a unique individual to embrace volunteerism.

“Volunteering is not a responsibility; it’s a way of life. It takes a different kind of human being to be a volunteer,” Mr Torotagi said.

Looking ahead, he remains dedicated to his volunteer work and envisions addressing issues such as drug abuse, non-communicable diseases and HIV in the Nadi Sub Division.

His aspirations extend beyond personal commitment as he recognises the important relationship with Red Cross, which has provided him valuable training and opportunities for personal and professional growth.

“It’s not only about me giving my time or commitment to the Red Cross society. Without Red Cross, I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to travel,” Mr Torotagi acknowledged.

Unyielding passion for volunteerism

By JAMIL SULEMAN

IN the heart of volunteerism, a beacon of inspiration shines bright in the form of Panapasa Tilley, the recipient of the prestigious 2023 Volunteer Award.

This recognition was bestowed upon him earlier this month during the celebration of International Volunteer Day.

For Mr Tilley, 36, who hails from the beautiful village of Nabukadogo in Seqaqa, Macuata, the journey into volunteerism has been marked by unwavering dedication and a passion to serve his community.

His inspiration for volunteering began from a deep-seated desire to make a positive impact on people’s lives.

“The passion that I have, one thing I always aim for is to help people in communities in whatever ways I can do for them,” Mr Tilley expressed.

His responsibilities and tasks during volunteer experiences were broad and meaningful, including carrying out activities in communities, raising awareness, responding during disasters and motivating youths and other community members.

For Mr Tilley, volunteerism was not merely a duty; it’s a God-given talent and a way to spread positivity and hope.

“Volunteerism is not about monetary

gains but something that comes from your inner self,” he emphasised, highlighting the immense value of selfless service.

Despite facing challenges, Mr Tilley remains steadfast in his commitment to making a difference.

One defining moment that ignited his passion occurred during his volunteer work in response to Tropical Cyclone Winston.

Despite falling critically ill and ending up in the Intensive Care Unit, his resilience prevailed.

“I kept on doing the voluntary work from then till now and it motivated me even though I’ve gone through so many challenges,” he shared, underscoring the strength from his dedication.

Receiving the Best Volunteer Award left Mr Tilley emotional and surprised.

“I felt emotional, I didn’t expect that I was going to get that volunteer of the year,” he admitted

Mr Tilley faced challenges, including people talking behind his back, but his unyielding spirit and the support from within and above propelled him forward.

“There used to be people talking behind my back, but it didn’t lose my hope to do volunteerism, and I am very thankful God gave me that heart to continue doing the work.”

On his advice for those considering



Volunteer Award of 2023- Pasapasa Tilley of Lautoka Branch Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN

volunteer work, Mr Tilley shared it was important to have the mindset to looking after one’s family.

“Volunteerism is just like looking after your family, doing things within your family from your own will and effort, the same doing it for others who are not part of the family.”

Looking ahead, Mr Tilley remains passionate about-facing challenges head-

on and encourages others to do the same.

“No matter what you face or what’s around you, you shouldn’t lose hope and have the courage to do more of what you are passionate about.”

Mr Tilley’s story is a testament to the transformative power of selfless service and the profound impact it can have on individuals and communities alike.

True education encompasses more than just academia : Minister Agni Deo Singh

During the Vunimono High School Annual Awards and Year 13 Graduation this week, the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Agni Deo Singh, emphasised that true education encompasses more than just academia. Minister Singh stressed the significance of promoting a culture of respect and dignity in all aspects of life.

He noted that possessing a Ph.D. does not necessarily equate to being wise if one lacks values. Values, which are instilled through upbringing, are the most important aspect of education.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED



President opens the 12th Fiji Mission Pathfinders Camporee at Naravuka in Seaqaga



“I urge you to enjoy yourselves, learn from each other and hopefully return home with lifelong skills and a spiritual growth to make a difference by becoming responsible, caring, and productive citizens of our beloved nation in the future.”

This was the message from the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere while officiating at the opening of the 12th Fiji Mission Pathfinder Camporee at Naravuka in Seaqaga, Macuata recently

PHOTO: JOSIA RALAGO

Inspiring journey of a school head boy who overcame personal tragedy to lead pass-out parade with pride

The personal tragedy of losing his father last month did not deter Vinen Shankar Narayan's spirits from standing tall in the scorching sun, leading 344 students at the pass-out parade at Lomaivuna Secondary School in Naitasiri.

The much-anticipated event of his life as a school head boy and parade commander for the first-ever school pass-out parade was a bitter-sweet moment for Vinen and his mother Anjani Lata, who cleared her dairy farm schedule to witness his son showcase his leadership skills on the school grounds.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED



National camp for Girl Guides resumes after 4 years



The Fiji Girl Guides Association National Camp officially kicked off recently

at Queen Victoria School, after a four-year lapse. The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of the First Lady, Madam Vilomena Katonivere.

In her opening address, Madam Katonivere expressed her humility in being part of this significant event as the Patron of the Girl Guides Association.

PHOTO: JAMIL SULEMAN



D-G Cybersecurity addresses rising threat of AI-powered scams in Fiji



Director General of Cybersecurity and Communications, Tupou Baravilala, delivers her speech at the 25th Attorney General's Conference. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

By DIPESH KUMAR

THE Director General of Cybersecurity and Communications, Tupou Baravilala has expressed growing concerns over the increasing incidence of Artificial Intelligence powered scams targeting individuals and businesses across the nation.

Speaking at the 25th Attorney General's Conference in Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort Denarau Nadi, Ms Baravilala highlighted the sophisticated nature of these scams, emphasising the role of AI technology in their execution.

"Scammers are now using Artificial Intelligence to further mask themselves and abroad, we see AI being used to mimic the voices of loved ones in distress or make the scam more convincing. Therefore, we need to be vigilant," she stated.

Ms Baravilala outlined several types of AI-powered scams that have been observed in Fiji recently, including phishing attacks, deep fake scams and social engineering tactics.

She explained that cybercriminals are leveraging AI algorithms to create highly convincing and personalised messages, making it difficult for individuals to discern between genuine and malicious communication.

"One such risk that Fiji is battling with – like other countries– are these online scams such as Gifting Pyramid Schemes, eBay Shop, Bitcoin crypto currency and impersonations to obtain financial advantage."

"Online scams are not just targeting certain segments of the communities or the most vulnerable. These scammers/cybercriminals are on the same platforms that we are all on and are attacking everyone. And that is why we need to be advocates for cyber hygiene practices in our communities. We cannot rely on enforcement alone. The best defense against scams is an alert, vigilant and discerning people," Ms Baravilala warned.

She stressed the importance of public awareness and education to combat these emerging threats. She urged individuals and businesses to stay vigilant, regularly update their cybersecurity measures, and be cautious when interacting with online content.

"With the global economic conditions, we should anticipate more scams. The key is to spot it and not fall prey to it. This is why we need to ensure that we are obtaining the correct information from trusted sources like the social media handles and websites of the Fiji Government and the Scam Task Force Members."

"Additionally, there is a need to relook at digital literacy and digital education campaigns and ensure that it is tailored to diverse audiences and is culturally sensitive. This is an area of focus," Ms Baravilala emphasised.

In addition to awareness campaigns, she announced that the Cybersecurity and Communications Department has set up the first ever Scam Task Force to coordinate government, law enforcement, and the private sector to combat scams.

Fiji is for everyone: A-G



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with Attorney General Siromi Turaga and members of the legal fraternity at the 25th Attorney General's Conference. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

By MEREANI GONEDUA

‘FIJI must be a country for everyone.’

This was emphasised by the Attorney-General, Siromi Turaga, while closing the 25th Attorney-General's conference in Nadi recently where he highlighted that each and every one was still engaged in the business of building Fiji into the home they want it to be.

The A-G stated that as legal professionals they play a crucial role in nation-building because a country or society cannot fully function without sound laws and legal precepts.

"A country and society cannot function without a foundation of sound rules, laws and legal precepts. These are especially critical for a developing democracy like ours."

He stated that as legal professionals they are in a position to help the Coalition Government move forward to build a stronger nation.

"You are suddenly in a position to help the Government define the quality of our roles. I encourage you to give some thoughts as well to his (Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka) comments about social evolution and consider how this applies in the context of legal evolution."

The A-G Turaga assured that the Coalition Government will always be to the people and to the different sectors of society.

"We may not always like what we hear but that is beside the point. It is our duty to take note of what society thinks and to do our best to meet its expectations."

He also acknowledged everyone present and encouraged them to keep on working towards building a better Fiji.

Lawyers play crucial role in addressing violence

By MEREANI GONEDUA

LAWYERS play a crucial role in today's world grappling with the alarming prevalence of sexual crimes, especially those against women and children.

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, while speaking to more than 400 lawyers during the 25th Attorney-General's conference in Nadi, stressed that in the pursuit of justice, lawyers must actively understand and address the legal challenges and the sensitivities of crimes.

"I want to take a moment to acknowledge the efforts of those of you who have chosen to stand as beacons of protection. As I said, this is not just a clear celebration of the anniversary of the conference, but a recognition of the legal profession throughout the years.

"Recognition of your sacrifices, of your performances and your own efforts to further your capabilities in your profession. This is reflective as our lawyers have embraced a more socially impactful role in advocating for justice reforms."

PM Rabuka highlighted to the legal experts that they must find a way to extend their role beyond the conventional courtroom battles, to virtual



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka delivers his speech at the 25th Attorney General's Conference. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

landscapes where scams lurk.

"Your skills as legal professionals become invaluable tools in the fight against digital deception. This acknowledges the evolution of platforms which lawyers now inhabit."

"Then there is the role of lawyers as guardians of justice, particularly for the most vulnerable in our communities."

He stated that this ability to navigate diverse systems of dispute resolution highlights the crucial aspect of adaptability.

"It also underscores your role in delivering justice through a range of problem-solving approaches. Yet your influence does not end with individuals and disputes. It extends to the environment that you inhabit, or we inhabit."

"You are part of the journey of change, adapting, adopting and practicing new things that will ameliorate, that mitigate and also adapt to the changes that we cannot stop."

New classroom for Dama District School



The Minister for Education Aseri Radrodro with the staff and students of Dama District School in Bua. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

“E DUCATION has come a long way for this country, and we are truly grateful to the Government for continuously prioritising education.”

These were the sentiments of 83-year-old Kelevi Dravu of Naruwai village in Bua after the commissioning of two state of the art classrooms, an abolition block and an administration office for Dama District School in Bua earlier this month.

The former student who attended the school in the early 1950’s could not hide his amazement at the learning facilities now made available for the students of Dama, built at a cost of \$1.4 million.

“The students nowadays are so blessed to be able to access education in a modern way, with free education, assistance and even with transport to drop at them school,” Mr Dravu said.

“During our time, learning was different, we walked for kilometres to get to school – it was

not deemed a priority as it is now especially in our communities.

“We could only reach a certain level before returning to the village but now education has been made more accessible to all Fijians and I would like to thank the Government for the commitment in this area.”

He said, “Education is a key tool to breaking the poverty cycle and barriers for communities”.

The Minister for Education, Aseri Radrodro, while officiating at the commissioning shared similar sentiments, said that education remains a priority for the Coalition Government because the best investment for children was through education.

The project was funded through the bilateral relationship between Australia and the Fiji Government under their facility recovery program, which has benefitted nine schools across Vanua Levu.

These nine schools were one of the worst affected in the wake of Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasa in December, 2020.

People’s opinion should not deter you in pursuing your dream



Adi Unaisi Volaurua while receiving her award from The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Biman Prasad at the Sangam College of Nursing and Health Care Graduation in Labasa. Photo JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

THE weight of people’s opinion is a weight you should not carry when you’re in pursuit of your dreams.

This was the sentiment of Adi Unaisi Volaurua, a Bachelor of Nursing graduate who was awarded an academic excellence award at the Sangam College of Nursing and Health Care graduation ceremony in Labasa recently.

The single mother of one, who had to drop out during her pregnancy said at most times “we are our own limitation, often allowing the baggage of negative talk to weigh us down”.

“Being pregnant is not the end of the road for a young woman – if anything it should push us to be the best version of ourselves and to work hard for our child/children,” Ms Volaurua said.

“This was not the only obstacle I had to encounter, after giving birth to my daughter, I got enrolled in this program with a drive to get a job and be able to provide for my daughter.”

“Being a mother and a student simultaneously is not a journey for the faint-hearted, there are times when I

return from school exhausted but then I also had to play my role as mother to my daughter.”

The Cakaudrove lass said there were days when she would have to walk to school or to the Labasa Hospital – which was about 4.4 kilometres for her clinical classes due to financial constraints.

“I am so blessed with a good support team which is my family - my mother and my siblings for always being there when I needed it,” an emotional Ms Volaurua said.

“I would like to urge all young people, especially young women that if you have a dream, go for it – let’s break barriers to become the best version of ourselves.”

She was one of the 97 students who graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing from the Sangam College of Nursing and Health Care.

While officiating at the event, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad acknowledged the college for providing quality education for future nurses.

A total of 183 students graduated from the earlier this month, 97 of whom graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing.

Sangam College of Nursing grateful to Government for increase in grant



The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Biman Prasad at the Sangam College of Nursing and Health Care Graduation in Labasa. Photo JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

THE Sangam College of Nursing and Healthcare has expressed its deep gratitude to the Coalition Government for the increase in college grant from Government which has allowed them to provide an improved learning environment to its students.

This was shared by the institution’s chairman of the academic board, Amraiya Naidu, while speaking at the College’s 2023 graduation ceremony saying that the grant for the school had decreased ever since 2015.

“In the first coalition Government budget, the 2023-2024 financial year an appropriation of \$614,411 was made to Sangam Nursing College,” Mr Naidu said.

“The management is extremely grateful for the increase funding and wish to convey our sincere appreciation to the Government for a generous financial support.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Finance, Biman Prasad, while officiating at the event, said that one of Government’s

commitment to education and healthcare has been the financial support provided to the school.

“The financial aid has been instrumental in enhancing the college’s capabilities, from improving infrastructure to updating educational materials, and ensuring that our future healthcare professionals receive training that meets both national and international standards,” DPM Prasad said.

“This increase is not just about numbers; it’s a clear indication of our resolve to strengthen the healthcare system in Fiji by investing in its very foundation – the education of healthcare professionals.”

“It reflects our understanding that a robust healthcare system is predicated not just on facilities and equipment, but fundamentally on well-educated, highly trained and compassionate healthcare providers.”

A total of 183 graduated from the institution this year – 97 graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing, 21 from the Post-Graduate Diploma in Midwifery and 65 from the Aged Care program.

Noqu Kalou, Noqu Wacawaca Reforestation Project

By JOSIA RALAGO

LOCATED at approximately 34 kilometres from Labasa Town, in the interior of Cakaudrove sits Nayarabale Village in the district of Vaturova.

The first part of the journey from Labasa Town to Coqeloa is rather smooth, enjoying the view of rolling hills and sugar-cane fields, before encountering the long-winding gravel road from Coqeloa to Nayarabale.

Upon approaching the village, one would notice a newly-commissioned bridge connecting the village to the road, surrounded by mountainous ranges and a river that runs beside it.

It would look like a normal iTaukei village setting to any other person - with the church in the centre, the local district school on the hill, and people moving about – but what is not apparent to most passer-by's is that the village has become a model for other communities.

“Nayarabale Village is on the Government’s radar,” the Assistant Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, Jovesa Vocea, announced while officiating at the World



The men of Nayarabale Village during one of their tree planting exercises. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

hectares of their mataqali land for this purpose, involves everyone in the village, with the three-legged stool concept introduced by Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna - “Lotu, Matanitu kei na Vanua” which translates to the Church, Government and the People.

“The Government should not be the only initiators of development, but the vanua and the church must work collectively with the Government in order to move a community forward.”

Matanitu – the Government

The Regional Manager Forestry North, Maleli Nakasava, said the reforestation program in Nayarabale has the highest survival rate ever since the program started.

“This is the ninth month for the project and it is a model for reforestation in the North,” Mr Nakasava explained.

“The reforestation program began in 2019, but when we conducted our survival assessment, we found it was very low.”

“So, our team sat down and re-strategized, to forge a way forward on how we can improve the survival of the seedlings that we have planted.”

Mr Nakasava added that it was then they had decided to utilise the three-legged stool concept, to see if it would work.

“We had come up with the concept of the three-legged stool, vanua, lotu and the matanitu – and that concept has been a very successful one because the village itself, has its own structure - we come in through that approach from the provincial office and we commit ourselves to the structure that is already there in the village,” Mr Nakasava said.

He said through this concept they have witnessed that the seedling survival was at an all-time high at 84 percent survival rate, as compared to the 22 percent survival in other areas previously.

“We are so happy that the village of Nayarabale have given us an operation room, this is where all the brainstorm, the discussion has been done with the team from the forestry, the vanua and also from the church,” Mr Nakasava said.

“There is a variety of seedlings, we have planted pine, we have commercial tree planting, we have rehabilitation program using native trees and we also plant fruit trees, this is the approach we have been using.”

“Having said that, when we focus solely on native trees, we neglect other areas especially for enrichment planting which is to protect our catchment areas. We have a nursery committee – they ensure that there is available seedling to be planted in the areas that have been leased.”

Nayarabale has planted the highest number of seedlings per community and that is 21,000 seedlings as of October this year.

The people

The Turaga na Tui Wacawaca and the traditional head of Nayarabale Village, Isireli Welukubou, said the people have dedicated one week of every month to the reforestation project.

“This is in our attempt to replenish our forest resources for our future generation,” Mr Welukubou said.

He said the impact of climate change was being felt greatly and as villagers they have decided to work collectively in the project.

“The project is ongoing and it has the full support of the vanua – I believe that as traditional leaders in this day, we must guide our people wisely.”

The women of Nayarabale have made a model climate smart agriculture farm as a part of their contribution towards the project.



(2nd from left) Assistant Minster for Rural and Maritime Jovesa Vocea and the Reverend Toroca Nute at the World Soil Day in Nayarabale, Vaturova earlier this month. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

Soil Day at Nayarabale village on the December 5, 2023.

Present at the event were officials, villagers and most importantly farmers from all over the North who had gathered at Nayarabale to witness the commitment the villagers have made towards sustainability, through tree planting and climate smart agriculture initiatives.

This initiative is dubbed – “Noqu Kalou, Noqu Wacawaca Reforestation Project” – which translates to “My God, My Wacawaca.” (Wacawaca means the traditonal name of the Vanua of Nayarabale)

For a community that has heavily relied on agriculture for survival ever since time immemorial, the villagers had decided to work collectively to replenish their forest resources by planting trees on barren land.

This commitment, which has led to the allocation of 350

role in the village’s monumental project.

The “Noqu Kalou, Noqu Wacawaca Reforestation Project” is being directed by the Rev. Nute.

He believes that the church should not only guide the village spiritually but be actively involved in helping raise the standard of living in the community that they have been assigned to.

“The initiative started from a vision to try and address issues that have been identified in the village – especially to address development needs.

“That is why when the Ministry of Forestry approached the church and the vanua about being involved in this project – it was unanimously agreed that the village be engaged in it.”



Members of the Wacawaca Women's Group while working on their climate smart agriculture farm. Photo: JOSIA RALAGO

Kadavu women plan to showcase more handicrafts



Members of the Kadavu Women's Group are all smiles as they pose with their products during the 6th National Women's Expo at the Vodafone Arena in Suva. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection recently hosted over 360 women artisans from around the country with the aim to strengthen the economic empowerment of rural Fijian women. The expo attracted 56-year-old, Livia Taukanao, who travelled from Kadavu for the 6th National Women's Expo. "I am from Daviqele, Nabukelevu,

Kadavu and I am the leader for that tikina which consists of 11 villages but all of us came here together as the Kadavu Women's Group," Mrs Taukanao said. "We are very grateful to the Ministry which selected us from a mini expo held in Vunisea, Kadavu so that we can have better exposure." "We prepared our products within two to three days to make it for this expo as we had some challenges but we overcame them,"

she added. Majority of the ladies brought mats, oil, honey and handicrafts and most of their mats were sold on the first day of the expo. "The Ministry assisted us in transporting us from our homes to Suva and provided us with accommodation and meals," Mrs Taukanao relayed. "There were about 21 women who travelled from Kadavu and we were really excited to be here to sell our products as it is

so isolated on the island," she added. "I have about \$500 worth of products to sell and I think it is better selling our items here as most of us who brought mats to sell at this expo received between \$1000 to \$2000." "Seeing how good our sales have been so far, I intend to encourage the women in the village to participate and showcase their products as well," Mrs Taukanao added. She said that when she returns home, she wants to weave a lot because she has seen the interest from people here and she wants to be prepared for the next expo. "I would like to thank the Ministry for hosting this expo for us and I look forward to coming back next year with more items," Mrs Taukanao said. In commending the key initiative of the Ministry, Sulueti Rabuka, congratulated the women for their tireless efforts and talent showcased through the unique artefacts, traditional mats, handmade jewellery, mats and tapa on display in the Vodafone Arena. The line Minister, Lynda Tabuya, had highlighted that the "National Women's Expo will be an ongoing programme of the Ministry, as the Government recognises the role women play in the Handicraft and Fashion Industry in Fiji". "The program will continue to provide a platform for women engaged in micro-entrepreneurial ventures, an opportunity to expose their talents and access potential markets to ensure their business ventures are sustainable." "I hope that this 6th National Women's Expo empowered you all economically and I know that the income earned from this event will help you to financially support your families," Minister Tabuya added.

Rabi makes a mark at Women's Expo



Banaban Women Organization Rabi group members showcasing their products at the expo **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE President for the Banaban Women's Organisation in Rabi Island, Nau Takaniko, has called her first visit to the National Women's Expo as nothing less than remarkable. The 61-year-old said the first expo held in Savusavu saw their group's name being selected by the Ministry to sell their items

during this expo. "This is my first time at the National Women's Expo and I was very excited to market and sell my items," she said. "We have groups from Rabi Island and about 30 members are in the group but only four of us came as we had to pay our own fare," Mrs Takaniko added. "We caught a boat from the island to Karoko, from Karoko by bus to Savusavu and from Savusavu we travelled to

Nabouwalu to catch the boat and then we came to Suva," she further added. "It was a very long trip and we brought with us coconut nectar, coconut nectar chilli sauce, normal and variety of flavoured virgin coconut oils, turmeric soap, charcoal soap, noni soap and various types of earrings sent by the ladies in the group," Mrs Takaniko said. "Apart from this, the rest of them concentrate on making mats and crochets

and I have also been teaching the women club members this same skill in the village," she relayed. Mrs Takaniko highlighted that her coconut nectar venture was going really well and it was her main source of income with Marama Niu being her long-time customer. "It has only been half a day but all our coconut nectar has been sold. The 750ml bottle was sold for \$20 and a 500ml bottle coconut nectar chilli sauce was \$15," she said. Mrs Takaniko conveys that the coconut nectar acts as a local home brew which was not sold on the island and it also has medicinal properties which can cure yellow fever. "I am really enjoying the expo and mixing with these other ladies showed me their work has inspired me and has given me more ideas to take back home," she said. "I am looking forward to the next one and I plan to bring a lot of stuff as now I have seen there is a demand for my products," she highlighted. "This is a great platform for entrepreneurs to sell their items and I want to acknowledge and thank the Government for giving us a place to sleep, a bus was hired for us and we also received food allowance." "I want to encourage all the ladies to get creative so that you also can be sponsored by the Government to sell your products here and make money," she added.

Sacrifice pays off for Dr Gounder



Proud parents James and Janifa Gounder with their daughter, Dr Joselyn Gounder. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By JESHU LAL

DEFYING all odds and fulfilling her mother's dream of becoming a doctor has been Dr Joselyn Gounder's greatest achievement

"My family played a huge part in my success. They have always been there for me

and supported me financially, emotionally, mentally and socially. My mother has been my greatest strength who has always been the pillar of strength and she would always give me words of wisdom and advice," Dr Gounder said.

The 25-year-old graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from the Fiji National University, the College of

Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

Dr Gounder said the COVID-19 pandemic posed to be a major challenge during her studies.

"Throughout the six years, I believe one of the major challenges has been the COVID-19 pandemic which was during our third and fourth years. During this time, we had to supervise ourselves and try to

manage our times to finish our assignments before the due date. Sometimes, I was unable to attend family functions and other commitments in order to prioritise our time and studies."

She said the NTS scholarship provided by the Fiji Government fulfilled her mother's dream.

"The National Toppers Scheme has benefitted me as I was able to study for six years under the scholarship provided by the Fiji Government and without this scheme, it may have been impossible to study MBBS as it requires a large sum of money."

Dr Gounder adds that becoming a doctor comes with a lot of responsibility as the patients put their trust in them.

"The most utmost quality of a doctor is patience and the utmost respect for your patients because they come with the idea that doctors will help them recover."

The newly graduated doctor further adds that juggling studies along with other interests was paramount.

"I feel balance is important so while studying, you also continue practicing your interests and outdoor activities such as boat riding, exercising and driving so that you can enjoy your studies while you do what you love."

She has encouraged aspiring doctors to follow their dreams and have their goals set.

"For all aspiring students who want to pursue MBBS, I would say go for it, if you are determined and willing to give out hours to your studies, if you have your goals set in your mind, then just go for it."

Dr Gounder plans on continuing her studies as she plans to do her Post Graduate and Masters in the field of medicine and she hopes that her two-year internship will help her gauge which field she will lean more towards.

YES recipient secures grant for App development



TicketMax founder George Fong with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communication Manoa Kamikamica during the grant agreement handover. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

By AZARIA FAREEN

STAYING connected is crucial for progress with online platforms being the real "game-changers" and as such, George Fong, took advantage of the Young Entrepreneur Scheme (YES).

Mr Fong created an online event ticketing platform - TicketMax.

TicketMax is a mobile application which

is available for users not only in Fiji but anywhere in the world and the YES Panel Committee has approved a grant assistance of \$30,000 for the development of the App which will allow for an efficient and seamless online ticketing services.

With this service, the public can easily access and purchase tickets right from the comfort of their homes and event organisers can efficiently collect and secure money from the ticket sales.

"TicketMax is Fiji's one and only online ticket platform which was registered in September last year and from then on the platform was built from ground up and launched in February this year," Mr Fong said.

"Organisers can sign up and register their event completely for free online and once it's approved, they have an electronic spot, and within minutes you can start selling online worldwide and accept digital payments."

"Since our 10 months in operation we have processed and issued over \$250,000 worth of ticket sales across forty successful events by clients such as VTIS, Paradise Roots, Inside Out, Uprising Music festival and Stir it Up Music Festival," Mr Fong added.

He relays that he has also collaborated with Tourism Fiji, the Namosi Marathon, the fashion industry such as Wearing Fiji and the Makete Fashion Show.

"We are excited to work with the Fringe Festival in their "Mamma Mia Festival" early next year and we have also put in some innovative features on the platform from the feedback we have received," Mr Fong said.

"Our interactive seating chart allows you to turn any seating plan for any venue into an online experience and give buyers the opportunity to visually select and secure their seats without the worry of double

booking."

"We have also introduced promotional quotes so organisers can issue discount quotes to staff and sponsors while promotions can be added such as Black Friday Sale or Christmas Specials," Mr Fong added.

In acknowledging the innovative project, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communication, Manoa Kamikamica, relayed that collectively the ministry has available \$2.6 million in grant funding.

"Fiji is moving towards a digital economy, not just using technology but aiming for progress – and as your Government, we are committed to creating a future that is stronger, fairer and better for everyone," DPM Kamikamica highlighted.

"This effort goes beyond just funding, it canvasses how well our assistance contributes to the well-being and development of our society, and as the Minister responsible for SMEs and Communications, I am confident that the development of online platforms such as TicketMax will help Fiji pave the way for economic prosperity."

"The YES Programme has funded 14 recipients and invested over \$300,000 in the form of grants to young and budding entrepreneurs who have innovative and bankable ideas or projects," he added.

Children bring Christmas cheer to State House



The State House was a sea of red this week as children from the Naisionisoni Sunday School in Nadi brought the spirit of Christmas to the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere and his staff with the melodies of Christmas carols and action choruses.

While speaking to the children, President Katonivere reminded them to take extra precautions of their safety and to be mindful of their surroundings during the festive season.

The children were also encouraged to be well prepared for the new school year.

The Sunday School delegation was accompanied by their teachers and the Attorney General, Siromi Turaga who is also a member of the Naisionisoni Methodist Church.

Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

We do not want a repeat of 2000: TLTB interim CEO

By JOSIA RALAGO

“We do not want a repeat of 2000, under my leadership no farmer would be forcefully removed from their land – we will use the law.”

This was the message from the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) interim chief executive officer, Solomon Nata, while speaking to landowners and farmers during the Land Taskforce consultations in Macuata recently.

“Land ownership is secure, and there is no piece of land belonging to a landowning unit that would be taken by another. For tenants- five years before the lease expires, TLTB should be sending your notice on the lease renewal so you have to be prepared.

“If a lease is not renewed then there are some of the areas that TLTB considers. Firstly, if the tenant is not utilising the land and also there is too much land rent arrears, so we will try to give it to somebody else.”

Secondly, Mr Nata explained, if the land is by the main road and it is needed to be converted for a higher use for commercial, or residential purposes.

“The third one is when the landowners need more land- this is in the law. However, if the lease is not renewed then tenants

can claim for compensation.”

Mr Nata also assured landowners that all landownership was secure under the law and that no land would be taken away from a landowning unit.

“TLTB’s primary role is that we are the custodians of the landowners, we act on their behalf – whatever we do is that we act on the best interest of the landowners, and what we are trying to do is to provide the guarantee that the leases will run till they expire,” he said.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, who also spoke at the consultation, said, “We want to take this country forward and we are trying to resolve a lot of issues that were there whether its education, health, economy or whether it’s our debt – we are resolving that in a very determined way”.

“We cannot do everything tomorrow; it will take time but we are starting on the right footing.”

DPM Prasad added that land was a natural resource and its ownership was very well defined.

“The history of this country is that the leaders have worked together in the past to resolve issues wherever there are issues and at this point in Fiji’s history we have leaders now who can talk and respect each other, to resolve issues.”



iTaukei Land Trust Board interim chief executive officer, Solomon Nata, during the consultation.
Photo: JOSIA RALAGO



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Tauri na ulu ni covi o Vinen Shankar e Lomaivuna



ERA ciqoma na ulu ni icovi ena vuli vakaivalu o Vinen Shankar ena koronivuli na Lomaivuna Secondary School e Naitasiri.

Dua na gauna vinaka vua na gone ni idia oqori baleta ni sega ni bau tadra mena bau mai liu ena vuli vakaivalu dina ga ni nodra head boy ni koronivuli.

Ko Vinen esa qai vakayalia na tamana ka sa mai takali ena rua na macawa ni bera ni vakayacori na nodra voleni ni tuvai tutu vakaivalu se cadet passout.

Ko Tinana, Anjani Lata eya biuta vakatikitiki na siga oqo me baleti luveni me vaka ni sa mai yali o tamadra tou.

Nikua era daramaka edua na vava ka loloma taka vua o tamana me nona iloloma ni siga ni sucu ka sa dua na ka nona luluvu ena nona nanumi tamana ena nona sa mai yali kei na kaukauwa ni cakacaka edau qarava tu me vukei ratou vakavuvale.

Vulagi dokai ko Ivukevuke ni Minisita Sakiusa Tubuna ena Valenivolavola nei Paraiminisita ka solia talega na ulu ni icovi vei Vinen.



Solia o Viti e dua na itukutuku kaukauwa ki na COP28

Na liuliu ni daunivakasala ni matanitu ko Viti ena Bose ni Draki mai Abu Dhabi, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli e solia e dua na itukutuku kaukauwa me vakatoka qo ne, “Tu Na Inima Luvu Na Waqa,”

Na ivakatautauvata oqo e vakaraitaka na kena inaki kevaka mada ga eda sasaga vakatautauvata na tamata kece me vakabulai e dua na waqa vakacacani, e se tiko ga e dua na ka rerevaki ni na sega ni rauta me tarovi kina na leqa.

E tokaruataka o Ambassador Yauvoli na nona vakabauta ni inaki bibi oya me maroro tiko ga na ivakarau ni katakata e vuravura raraba me lailai sobu mai na 1.5 na diqiri celsius ena veiyanuyanu lalai, ka dodonu me dusimaka ka vakamacalataka na veika kece ni pakete a vakadonuya mai Dubai.

“Eda gadreva me da dusimaki ena vakadidike ka vakaiyaragitaki me da bolea na vakadidike vakamatalia,” a kaya ko Ambassador Yauvoli.

Ni tokoni na itutu kilai levu a veivosakitaka na High Ambition Coalition, e dua na ilawalawa matanitu era sa vakatorocaketaki vakalevu, a vakabibitaka na bibi ni kena vakadeitaki e dua na icavacava dodonu.

Ka kilai na ituvaki digitaki ni veivanua lalai ena yanuyanu lalai ka vakabibitaka talega na kena vakatotolotaki na kena vakalailaitaki na kaburaki ni kasi ena maliwa..

Na vuli dina e kovuta e levu cake mai na vuli walega

Atukuna o Minisita ni Veivakacakacataki Agni Deo Singh ena soqo ni soli na iCovi Vakayabaki ni koronivuli ena Vunimono ni vuli dina e kovuta e levu cake mai na vuli walega.

E vakabibitaka o Minisita Singh na bibi na kena vakatorocaketaki e dua na itovo ni veidokai kei na dokai ena veiyasai bula kece sara.

E raica ni sega ni vakatauvatani kei na vuku na noda taukena na Ph.D. ke sega na nona yavunibula. Na yavunibula, ka dau tuberi mai na susugi cake, sa tiki bibi

duadua ni vuli.

E vakauqeti ira na itubutubu kei na ivakatawa o Minisita Singh me ra veiliutaki ena ivakaraitaki ka veiqaravi me ivakaraitaki vinaka vei ira na luvedra.

Ni sa toso tiko vakatotolo na vuravura, na vuli kei na yavunibula, kila ka, kei na kila ka e rawati nikua ena vakavinakataka na noda mataka.

Sa vakadeitaka na Matanitu o Viti me vakarautaki ira na gonevuli ena ivurevure kei na veitokoni e gadrevi me ra qaqqa kina ena veisau totolo ni vuravura nikua.



Minisita Agni Deo kei ira gonevuli ena Vunimono District School ena siga ni isoli icovi ni tuvaitutu

iTuvatuva vou ni veivakatorocaketaki ni matanitu

Na Matabose ni Veika Vakailavo, Tuvanaki Ni iTuvatuva, Vakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu, kei na iWiliwili (Veiqaravi) e marautaka me ripotetaki na toso ni kena tauyavutaki na iTuvatuva vou ni Veivakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu.

Ni oti rawa na kena vakacavari e 30 na bose ni veivakasalataki vata kei na veimataqali Veiqaravi/Tabacakakaka/Tabana ni Matanitu, sa veisau tiko oqo na Veiqaravi ki na iwasewase bibi e tarava.

Na veitaratara taumada oqo sa vakatora e dua na yavu kaukauwa me baleta na kena vakatorocaketaki e dua na ilavelave taumada ni THE.

Veivakatorocaketaki Bibi:

i. Sa cakacaka vata tiko na Veiqaravi vata kei ira na vakaitutu ena gauna ni veivakatarogi me volai kina e dua na itekiteivu ni KENA ivakarau ni THE.

ii. Na ilavelave taumada oqo ena taura e dua na iwalewale totolo, ka vakadeitaka na veivakasalataki vakavinaka ka oka kina ena veitabagauna raraba kei na veika vakaitaukei.

iii. Sa caka tiko na tuvatuva oqo me dua na ivolatukutuku taucoko, vakaitavi, kei na veivakasalataki ka vakaraitaka e dua na ivakarau rabailevu ni rai kei na vakasama ni kenadau.



Oira na matabose ni tuvatuva ni veika ni veivakatorocaketaki.

Vukei keda meda ciqoma na kenisa.

NA veiqaravi e qarava tiko na soqosoqo ni Wows Fiji e vukei keda na lewenivanua taumada meda kila na ibalebale ni mate na kenisa vei ira na luveda na gone lalai e Viti ena nodra bula kei na veika eso era curuma na nodra vuvale taumada.

Vakaraitaka tiko ko Minisita ni Ilavo, Professor Biman Prasad ena nodra laki vulagi dokai ena soqo ni Wows Kids Fiji.

“Wows Gone Viti a vukei au me’u kila ni ilakolako ni kenisa ni gone e sega walega ni dua na ivalu vakayago ia e dua na ivalu ka titobu ni vakasama kei na mosi vakayalo.”

A vakamatatataka oqo na ivukevuke ni Paraiminisita ni Matanitu ka Minisita ni Veika Vakailavo, Prof. Biman Prasad, ena soqo ni Siganisucu me baleti Wows Kids Fiji ena Grand Pacific Hotel ena yakavi nikua.

“Wows Kids Fiji sa ivakaraitaki bibi ni yalodina kei na yalodei ena gauna ni kenisa ni gone, ka vakarautaka na veitokoni bibi vei ira na noda cauravou yaloqaqa kei na nodra matavuvale.”

Professor Prasad era vakuria ni matanitu e doka na veisoqosoqo vakaoqo ka ra wasea na raivotu me baleta e dua na itikotiko bulabula ka yalololoma cake kei na tuvatuva ni matanitu.



Bose ni soqo ni Wows Children Fiji ka vulagi dokai kina no Minisita ni Ilavo, Professor Biman Prasad.

Sikovi ira na Gone lalai ko Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame

ERA ciqomi iloloma ni siga ni sucu totolo na lewe ni vuvale ni Treasure House Children Home ena nodra sikovi ira yani na Turaga na Itaukei Bolatagane Ratu Wiliame Katoninivere na Peresitedi ni noda vanua kei na Radini vanua, Vilomena Katonivere.

Ena nona vakatetea na reki marautaki, eratou veisoliyaka o Peresitedi Katonivere kei na nona timi na iyaya ni Siganisucu ki na veivale.

Ena dua na itukutuku mai vu ni yalo vei ira na gone, a vakabibitaka kina na Iliuliu ni Matanitu na bibi ni kena vakaliuca na Kalou e dina ga ni bolebole ni bula.

“Na tadra sa ikoya na veivakurabuitaki sa roro tiko mai ni veika sa lesi me yaco. Kakua ni vakatara na nomu ituvaki ena gauna oqo me tarovi iko mai na kena rawati na nomu tatadra, “a vakayaloqaqataka.”

E vakadinadinataka o Peresitedi Katonivere na veiliutaki kei na vakaillesilesi ena nodra veiqaravi yalodina kei na loloma era dau wasea tikoga vei ira na gone.

“E sega ni cakacaka rawarawa, ia e laurai na nomu yalololoma kei na loloma. Me vakalougatataki iko vakalevu na Kalou ena nomu veiqaravi.”



Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame kei Radini Vanua Vilomena era sikovi ira na lalai

TOBU VURE NI SAUTU

TAVOCI vou edua na tuvatuva ni nodra bula na lewenivanua kawabula e Yacata. Vakatokai me tobu vure ni sautu ka ra laki vulagi dokai ena kena tavovi ko Minisita ni ILavo, Professor Biman Prasad, ka dua veira na i vukevuke ni Paraiminisita ni noda vanua.

“Na raivotu ni iTuvatuva ni Veivakatorocaketaki Ni Yacata e rawarawa, ia e dua na bula vinaka cake, ka wasei mai vei ira kece.”

A vakamatatataka na tikina oqo, Prof. Biman Prasad, ena gauna ni tavoci ni “Tobu Vure Ni Sautu” - Yacata iTuvatuva ni Veivakatorocaketaki iTuvatuva ena Bowling Club e Suva ena yakavi ni Vakarauwai 09.12.23.

“Na iTuvatuva e gadreva me tauyavutaki kina e dua na draki me rawa ni ra bulabula kina na lewenilotu yadua, ka sega walega ni dua na icavacava ia e dua ga na ilakolako, ka ra na curu vata kina.”

E vakuria o Professor Prasad ni tuvatuva oqo e dusimaki ena ivakavuvuli ka vakamacalataka na yalodina ki na dua na ivakarau ni bula tudei.

“Era yalataka na tamata Yacata me ra veitokoni vakai ira, me ra vakamatautaki ki na veisau, vakaliuci ni vuli kei na vuli, vakabulabulataka na bula vakailavo, susugi cake na tiko vinaka ni veimaliwai ka tokona na tubu vakavanua kei na tubu vakayalo.”

E kaya o koya ni sasaga oqo sa kena inaki me tauyavutaki e dua na itiko-tiko duavata ka veiraurau ka tudei tu ena kena sotava na bolebole nikua kei na veisiga ni mataka.



Minisita ni Ilavo, Professor Biman Prasad keira na komiti ni koro o Yacata.

KEBA NI FIJI GIRLS GUIDE



Oira na marama veiqaravi ena Fiji Girls Guide Camp 2023 kei ra na gonevuli goneyalewa.

ERA sa maqusa na goneyalewa gonevuli ka ra lewena na Fiji Girls Guide mera na laki keba ena koronivuli ena Queen Victoria School.

Oqoka ni oti e va vakacaca na yabaki na kena sega ni dau caka tiko.

Era laki tiko ena nodra keba me laki dolava kina

na porokaramu oqo na Radini vanua mai Bolatagane Vilomena Katonivere, na wati Peres-itedi Ratu Wiliame Katonivere.

Vakaraitaka ko Mrs Katonivere na bibi ni nodra dau vakarautaki vakavinaka na goneyalewa ka wilitiko me vaka na nodra vuli na goneyalewa.



VINAKA NA EXPO CITY DUBAI SUSTAINABLE MODEL



Minisita ni Vale kei na Tauni, Maciu Nalumisa kei na ivakalesilesi ni matanitu ena bose mai Adi Dhahi donuia na COP28.

ENA vinaka vei Viti kei ira na veimatanitu lalai ena Pasivika evuqa na vuli era tomika mai ena Expo City Dubai. Qoka ena Decarbonisation program kei na veimodel ni Net Zero cities se siti era sa yacova mera vakalailaitaka nodra kaburaki ni kasi ena zero na pasede.

Oqori na rai nei Minisita ni Vale kei na Veitauni, Maciu Nalumisa ena nodra tiko voli main a COP28, ka tukuna kina ni levu saran a vuli era tomika mai keya ena yaga ena nodra veiqaravi na tauni kei na veimatanitu ena Pasivika.

Era a surety na Minisita ena dua na veitalanoa baleta na kena vakalailaitaki na kaburaki ni kasi gaga ena 2050 ka tekivu main a 2030 kei na 2040.

Oqori e sala muria na Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories (GPC) kei Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) ka usutu tikoga ni sasaga levu oqo na kena vakalailaitaki na kasi.



Gauna talei mai Abu Dhabi



Edua na gauna talei veira na noda lewenivanua era sa veiqaravi tu vakacakacaka mai vanua vaka Arapea ena United Arab Emirates. Oqo na nodra veisiko yani na Liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka. Levu era veiqaravi tuma i ena

vanua oqo era tiko ena tabana ni bula kei na qasenivuli ka vakakina ena idia. Na vanua oqo e kilai tani ni vanua dravuisiga ia vutuniyani ena waiwai me vaka ni nodra yaubula na itaukei ni vanua.



MAI NA VEIQARAVI ENA LOMA NI VALENICAKAKAKA ENA PALIMEDI KINA NA DAUTEITEI



Au nanuma meu bau biuta vakalekaleka edua na italanoa baleta edua na turaga edau veiqaravi taumada vakamatani tu io nikua esa dua na dauteitei ena nona vanua. Ko Iliesa Raduduva edua na dauteitei ka sa veibolei tikoga veikeda na lewenivanua kawa itaukei, eda vakaqele, eda vakaiu meda sa vakayagataka na noda qele ena teitei. Oqori na nodra italanoa ka tomiki mai ena ivolamata ena noda vanua.

“Au veivakauqeti vei keda na gone I taukei...ke sa sau levu na tiko I taoni...sega na job se sa dredre na bula...daru lesu I nakoro...ke iko job tiko ...sa sau ca na job...volia tiko vakalalai nomu I tei..nomu I sele kei nai sivi daru tuvatuva me daru lesu I nakoro...dredre ga na tekivu...vakabibi vei kedatou na gone ni Rewa, Naitasiri, Tailevu se iko gone ni Viti Levu,” oqori na nodra vosa ni bolebole ena vola mata.

Nikua esa tatamusuki vinaka voli ena kakana era tea ka sa volivolitaki tale tikoga e Viti ka sa vukea talega na kakana ena noda vanua.

“Taura Mada ke iko tea e 500 ga na mata ni uro ni vonu...qarava vakavinaka me dua na vua ni dalo me at least 1kg with the current price iko taura e \$2000.00...ke qai one tonne nomu dalo

you will get \$4000.00 cash....no tax,” kaya ko Iliesa Raduduva.

Tukuna okoya ni mai keya esa na rawa niko tea e 1000 na dalo ena dua na vula, ka sa rawa kina veiko mo rawata e \$4000 ena dua na vula. (From there you extend your farm to plant 1000 dalo top per month..you getting \$4000 per month from dalo alone).

“Veibolei ra gone..ira na Jaina kei na vasu era sa kila na kena vinaka....ra toso oira na NEC na lako itai..kedaru na vakatawa tiko mai...daru vaculaka na qele me daru vaka I lavo kina...SA DRI YANI.” Oqori eso na noda isau ni tei ka sa volivolitaki tiko kina nikua.

“.. Na noqu isau ni kakana ena gauna oqo sa tiko oqo wilikina na kakana draudrau..:

Taga Tavioka - \$120 a bag

Dalo - \$30 to \$50 a bundle ke Lili me export \$4

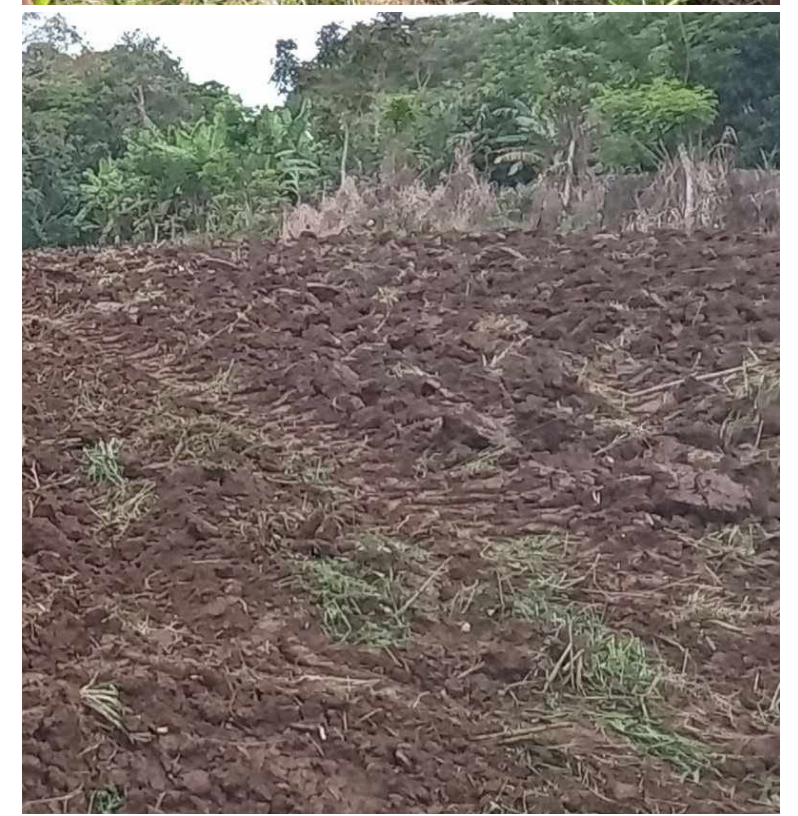
kg na rewā, uro ni vonu, jabenī, dalo nigger, via

Cucumber - \$100 a bag

Baigani \$80 to \$90 bag

Tomatoes \$80 to \$100 box

Edua dina na italanoa esa bau veibolei dina vakabibi ena isau ni kakana sa tuoqo.



Uqeta ko Yauvoli na cakacaka vakatotolo ena Leqa ni Draki ena COP28



Ena nona vosa ena COP28 mai Dubai, era vakaraaitaka ko Ambassador Amena Yauvoli na vakavinavinaka vei Peresidedi Sultan al-Jaber me baleta na vakatutu ni iTeki ni I votavota ni Vuravura Raraba.

Ko Yauvoli e liuliu tiko ni timi ni veitalanoa baleta na draki veisau ena matanitu ko Viti ena gauna ni bose mai keya.

E kuria ni vakaraaitaka na nona kauwaitaka na kena sega ni matata na itukutuku ena gauna oqo ena nona sotava na leqa ni drake.

A mani kaciwa kina na vakalevutaki ni vakatautauvatatiki kei na dua na biubiu mai na sasaga walega ki na inaki.

Ena gauna vata oqori, a vakamatatataka kina o Ambassador Yauvoli na kena gadrevi me vakavinakataki vakalevu na veika bibi e vakavolivolita na veisau ni draki.

Ni salavata kei na Alliance of Small Island States (AO-SIS), a voqataka na kaci vakailawalawa me baleta na cakacaka vakatotolo me vaqacacotaki kina na itukutuku ena gauna oqo.

Ni vakadinadinatiki na bolebole e tiko ena kena kumuni vata na itukutuku, a vakamatatataka kina na Ambassador Yauvoli na bibi ni kena vakaduavatataki na yayalala kei na veika e gadrevi vakasaenisi me taqomaki kina na takete ni vuravura raraba.

Ka vakabibitaka na kena gadrevi e dua na ituvatuvā matata me vakataotaka na wainimate ni ivakatakarakā, ka vakamatatataka na kena vakusakusataki na cakacaka bibi.

Dawn Solar Kadavu



Ko Minisita Ditoka kei ira na ivakalesilesi vakamatanitu e Kadavu kei na itaukei ni kabani ni Dawn Solar Kadavu.

ERA sa vukei sara tikoga na lewenivanua e Kadavu ena nodra vakalivalivataki na vale ena veikoro ena kabani ni solar na Dawn Solar Kadavu dina ga ni sega ni semati ena grid system.

Vakadinadinataka na tikina oqo na matanitu ena veivuke ni vakacoba solar projects ena yasana vakaturaga ko Kadavu.

Ena nodra visiko voli na turaga Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, Sakiasi Ditoka era laki vakamatanitutaka talega kina eso na projects kaqarava na kabana nei Dawn Solar Kadavu.

Oqo edua na veiqaravi esa bau veivuke saraga vakalevu baleta ni sega ni semati tiko ena grid system na veivakalivalivataki raraba ena vanua ko Kadavu. Ena gauna oqo era se vakayagataka tikoga na power rationing ena yanuyanu ka dau dola tiko vakavica na yaua ena dua na siga ena mataka kei na yakavi.

Ia oqo esa veivuke na veivakalivalivataki ena solar baleta ni rawa ni ra bau vakaramataki kina na veivale ena koro ena bogi.

Vosa ni vakayaloqaga vei ira na ivakalesilesi vakamatanitu

ERA bolel ira na ivakalesilesi vakamatanitu na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni koro lelevu, Sakiasi Ditoka ena yasana vakaturaga ko Kadavu mera laveta cake tale nodra veiqaravi. Nodra veisiko voli na turaga Minisita kei ira na ivakalesilesi vakacakacaka mai na koro-turaga ka wilikina na Talai ena Wasewase na Tokalau, Vitale Varo.

Era soli nodra ripote na veitabana ni matanitu era veiqaravi ena vanua ko Kadavu ka solia

talega edua na gauna vua na Minisita me vakadikeva na nodra veiqaravi taumada.

Edua talega na gauna vinaka veira me vaka nira sota tale eso na dredre ni veiqaravi ka kilai tani ga ena yanuyanu vakaturaga. Oqori me vaka na gaunisala, na livaliva, valenibula ka vakakina na sala ni vakauitukutuku se internet network me vaka ni sa rui berabera. Era tukuna ni iko edua n aka edau vakatarova na totolo ni veiqaravi. Era sa ciqoma na turaga Minisita eso na itukutuku ni veiqaravi.



Minisita Ditoka keira na ivakalesilesi vakamatanitu e Kadavu

Veiqaravi ni Gaunisala kei na kawakawa e Kadavu



ERA bau sikova talega na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, Sakiasi Ditoka na veigaunisala kei na wavu leleka era tara vou tiko ena loma ni vanua ko Kadavu. Oqo e wilikina na Tabanasa-Nabale Community Access road. Wili talega kina na gaunisala ka taya tiko na Fiji Roads Authority ena Vunisei Kadavu Koro ka semati Vunisea mai kina koro o Vukavu ka nanumi me tara kina edua na idrodro ni Cagilaba. I mada era dau sala veikau tikoga na lewenivanua ena gauna era lako mai kina mai wai ina loma ni vanua. Ia oqo esa ta vinaka na gaunisala ka san a veivuke sara ga vakalevu.

Marautaki na sasaga vou ni Naqolotu Water Project



ERA marau na leweni koro ena koro o Naqolotu ena kena mai tavoci na medra wai ni gunu savasava. Qoka ena nodra laki vakamatanitutaka na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni koro lelevu, Sakiasi Ditoka. Vakara itaka ko Makereta Senikaboa na nodra liuliu na marama ni sa dua na veiqaravi uasivi na kena mai tavoci na medra wainigunu savasava me vaka ni sa balavu na gauna nodra tagica voli mai. Kuria ko koya ni radau vakila vakalevu na marama na dredre me vaka ni sa oti e 15 na yabaki na nodra sasaga tiko mai. Levu na gauna era dau gunu ma na wai ni lagi ena tau ni uca. Baleta ni levu na gauna na bula ni vuvale era dau cola tuga na marama nodra qaravi na gone na vuvale kei na veika eso tale. Ia esa dua na marau veira nisa mai dola na nodra wai ni guni savasava.

Dolavi na Sola e Daviqele District School

ERA laki dolava edua na sola ni livaliva ka vakasucumi mai na kaukauwa ni siga na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Veikoro lalai, Sakiasi Ditoka ena koronivuli ko Daviqele District school mai Kadavu.

Era marautaka na gonevuli ni koronivuli na veivuke oqo me vaka nira gadreva saraga ena nodra qaravi vuli.

Tukuna na Minisita ni oqo na itavi ni matanitu me vukea na qaravi ni vuli kei na kena rogoci na kaci ni gagadre main a taudaku ni koro lelevu.

Era marautaka vakalevu na Minisita na nodra laki sotavi ira na qasenivuli kei ira na gonevuli ka vakakina oira na veiqaravi ena koronivuli.



Ko Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu, Sakiasi Ditoka ena koro ko Daviqele ena kena koronivuli ka laki dolavi kina na solar project ka vakararamataka nodra veiqaravi ena veisiga.

Vakaukauwataki na idrodro ni cagi laba

ERA vakavinavinaka na lewenikoro ni vanua vakaturaga ko Nabukelevu-iRa ena yasana ko Kadavu na veivuke ni matanitu. Oqo ena kena mai vakavinakataki na nodra idrodro ni cagilaba, vakaukautaki na vakadre ni kappa ni doka ni vale. Ka wili kina na kena vakasola taki vou na nodra idrodro ni cagilaba.

Vakaraitaka ko Ajile Natui na turaga ni koro ni otioti ni gauna era vakila kina edua na cagi laba kaukauwa oya na Cagi laba ko Harold ka yavalata kina na nodra doka ni vale ni drodro ni cagilaba ka mani vakacaca talega.

Vakavinakataka na Matanitu kei na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, Sakiasi Ditoka ena nodra veisiko voli ena yasana ko Kadavu me laki vakamatani-taka kina eso na veiqaravi ni matanitu ena veikoro.

Kuria ko Natui nil ewe 100 vakacaca na vale ena loma ni koro ka dua veira na koro levu toka ena loma n yasana. Kaya ko koya ni dina ga ni dua talega na koro edau kilai ena ite ni kakana kei na yaqona ia na cagilaba esa mai vakaleqaleqa veira baleta ni mai vakabacia na nodra teitei.

Sa nodra ivakasala toka ga veiira na lewenivanua ena loma nikoro oya mera veitauri liga toka ga ena kena qaravi na koro kei na veika e gadreva. Era lewe 547 na wiliwili ni koro.



Ko Turaga ni Koro ena Nabukelevu ira, Ajile Natui ena nodrau veitalanoa kei na tabana ni tukutuku ni matanitu



Marautaki na Muani Solar project vou

ERA marautaka na lewenivanua ena koro o Muani e Kadavu na kena mai vakamatani-tutaki na nodra solar project me vukea na nodra veiqaravi ena veisiga.

Era lewe 350 vakacaca na lewenivanua ena koro oqo ka sa tiko na wiliwili ni vale ena 70 vakacaca. Ka sa dua saraga na veivuke levu dina ni da vakasamatakina na dredre ni tiko vakanakoro kei na kena sega ni semati tiko na koro ena livaliva. Ia oqo edua na veivuke sucu main a veiqaravi ni matanitu ka sa vakayagataki kina na kaukauwa main a mata ni siga me vakasucuma kina na livaliva ena loma ni koro.

Era laki vakamatani-taka na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena veikoro, Sakiasi Ditoka na veiqaravi oqo ka sa veivuke levu saraga ni sana vakararamataka nodra koro e cina ena bogi ka vakakina ena nodra vakayagataka na gonevuli ena vulilesoni ka laveti kina na veiqaravi ena koro.



Era soqo na koro ko Muani e kadavu ena dolavi ni solar project

Noda Viti

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VISIKO NA KORONIVULI E DRAIBA KI VALE LEVU



ERA siko ki Vale Levu na gonevuli ena koronivuli ko Draiba e Suva ka ra laki sotavi Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Katonivere. Oqo edua na siga marautaki veira na gonevuli ena koronivuli baleta ni sa qai matai gauna mera bau cabe kina ki Vale Levu. Ia edua talega na gauna vinaka vakavuli veira baleta ni vuqa saran a talanoa kei Viti ena bula vakamatanitu e toka mai Vale Levu. Era vosa talega na turaga Peresitedi ka sa vakayaloqaqa taki ira na gonevuli ena nodra itavi ni veiqaravi ena vuli.

KO VITI ME DUA NA VANUA ME NODA VATA

VAKARAITAKA ko Vunilawa Siromi Turaga ni na vanua o Viti edua na vanua me noda vata. Vakaraitaka tiko okoya na tikina oqo ena nodra sogota na bose ni Vunilawa vakayabaki ka vakayacori mai Nadi. Kuria ko Turaga ni itavi tabakidua ni tamata yadua meda bulia na vanua ko Viti me noda vata. Vakaraitaka na Vunilawa veira na lewenibose ka ra veiqaravi ena tabana ni lawa ni dua na itavi levu era vakataqari ena tabadra yadua ena buli ni dua na vanua. Ia ena sega ni rawa ni buli vinaka edua

na vanua kevaka esega ni tiko na kena lawa vauci me taqomaka na veiqaravi ka ganita edua na matanitu edua na vanua vaka I Viti. Vakauqeti ira na dauniveiqaravi ena lawa mera veiqaravi vinaka ka vukea na matanitu cokovata me rawa ni kauti Viti yani I liu ka cavuikalawa vinaka talega ka kaukauwa talega. “O kemuni na kena dauniveiqaravi ena lawa oni sa tiko ena dua na vanua ka rawa kina ni oni vukea na buli ni nona matanitu,” “Au uqeta na kena digovi tale vakavinaka na nodra vosa na liuliu ni

matanitu baleta na noda veimaliwai vakalewenivanua raraba kei na vanua eda sa toso vata tikokina vaka edua na matanitu ka raica na vanua e ilovi keda kina na lawa ena rai ni veivakatorocaketaki vakalawa. Na matanitu cokovata ena qarava kece na veitabana ena noda vanua veitaba tamata talega,” kaya ko Vunilawa Turaga. “Eda na sega beka ni taleitaka eso n aka eda rogoca ke wilika ia sa noda itavi vata meda qaravi ira kece na lewenivanua.” E kaya o koya ni ra sa kenadau

vakalawa era sa tu ena dua na itutu me ra vukea na matanitu cokovata ena toso ki liu me tara cake e dua na matanitu kaukauwa cake. “O sa tiko ena dua na itutu mo vukea na matanitu me vakamacalataka na ivakarau ni noda itavi. Au vakayaloqaqataki iko mo vakasamataka talega eso na ka e tukuni me baleta na bula veimaliwai ni bula raraba kei na vakasamataka mada na kena vakayagataki oqo ena ituvatuva ni bula vakalawa.”



राष्ट्रपति ने अनाथ बच्चों/ बुजुर्गों से मुलाकात की **2** | प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने न्यू जीलेन्ड के नए प्रधान मंत्री को संदेश भेजा **3** | स्कूल वापस जाने वाली सहायता के लिए 160,000 से ज़्यादा अर्जियाँ **6** | सिर्फ स्कूली शिक्षा हासिल करना ही काफी नहीं है **6** | प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के लिए तैयार रहें **7**

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने ब्रिटन के भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री से मुलाकात की



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका हाल ही दुबई में कोप 28 सभा के दौरान भाषण देते हुए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने हालमें दुबई में एक सभा के दौरान ब्रिटन के भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री टोनी ब्लेयर के साथ मुलाकात की जो कि महत्वपूर्ण कूटनीतिक जुड़ाव है। सभा का उद्देश्य प्रमुख वैश्विक विषयों पर सहयोग और सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने पर केंद्रित रहा।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका तथा श्री ब्लेयर ने

वैश्विक चुनौतियों, जलवायु परिवर्तन, आर्थिक मजबूती, तथा विकास जैसे विषयों को संबोधित करने में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग के महत्व पर चर्चा की। दोनों नेताओं ने फीजी और टोनी ब्लेयर फाउंडेशन के बीच सहयोग बढ़ाने के रास्ते तलाशे। व्यापार, टेक्नोलॉजी तथा वैश्विक चुनौतियों जैसे क्षेत्रों में संभावित सहयोग पर चर्चा हुई। मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव की तात्कालिकता को देखते हुए, प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका और

श्री ब्लेयर ने जलवायु संबंधी चुनौतियों से निपटने में संयुक्त प्रयासों को मजबूत करने की रणनीतियों पर चर्चा की। नेताओं ने जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों को कम करने के लिए वैश्विक एकजुटता की आवश्यकता को स्वीकार किया। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने क्षेत्रीय प्राथमिकताओं और स्थायी महासागर प्रबंधन के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित करते हुए ब्लू पेरिफिक के लिए फीजी के दृष्टिकोण को साझा किया। नेताओं ने

दृष्टिकोण को साकार करने में योगदान देने के लिए ब्लेयर फाउंडेशन के अवसरों की खोज की।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने भूतपूर्व ब्रिटिश प्रधान मंत्री को उनकी अंतर्दृष्टि के लिए धन्यवाद दिया और साझा वैश्विक उद्देश्यों पर ब्लेयर फाउंडेशन के साथ मिलकर काम करने के लिए फीजी की प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि की।

उत्सव के मौसम में ईश्वर के प्रेम का अनुकरण करने की ज़रूरत – राष्ट्रपति

रोनल देव

लौतोका स्थित सईन्ट तबिथा अनाथालय के बच्चों के चेहरे पर मुस्कान लाने के लिए राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे तथा उनकी पत्नी विलोमेना कातोनिवरे ने बच्चों से मुलाकात की। उत्सव की खुशियाँ फैलाने के लिए राष्ट्रपति कातोनिवरे तथा उनकी टीम ने दिल को छू लेने वाले उपहार के हैम्पस बाँटकर किसमस की भावना को अपनाया। बच्चों से बातें करते हुए, राष्ट्रपति ने किसमस के सही अर्थ, विशेष रूप से प्रेम के महत्व और ईश्वर के प्रेम का अनुकरण करने की ज़रूरत पर जोर दिया जो सभी के लिए हैं। 'मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप सभी इसे जीवन भर अपने साथ रखें'। इस जगह पर बड़ा होना जिसे आप अपना घर कहते हैं, कोई गलती या महज़ संयोग नहीं है; आप यहाँ एक उद्देश्य के लिए हैं, ईश्वर के पास आपके जीवन के लिए एक योजना और उद्देश्य है। 'मजबूत बने रहें और उस भविष्य के लिए एक बेहतर इंसान बनने का सपना संजोएँ जो भगवान ने आपके लिए देखा है। कृतज्ञता व्यक्त करते हुए राष्ट्रपति कातोनिवरे ने बच्चों के पालन-पोषण के प्रति अटूट समर्पण के लिए वहाँ के कर्मचारियों की सराहना की है। उनके प्रयास यह निश्चित करते हैं कि बच्चों को न केवल सर्वोत्तम देखभाल मिले बल्कि, सबसे महत्वपूर्ण, प्यार और वास्तविक चिंता का अनुभव हो।



राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे, लौतोका स्थित सईन्ट तबिथा अनाथालय के बच्चों के साथ चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

राष्ट्रपति ने गोल्डन ऐज होम के निवासियों से मुलाकात की



राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे गोल्डन ऐज होम के निवासियों से मुलाकात करते हुए

रोनल देव

गोल्डन ऐज होम के निवासियों के लिए खुशी का अवसर था जब राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे तथा उनकी पत्नी विलोमेना कातोनिवरे ने उनसे मुलाकात की तथा उन्हें किसमस हैम्पस भेंट किए। दिल छूने वाले अपने संदेश में राष्ट्रपति ने वहाँ के बुजुर्गों को आश्वासन दिया है कि उन्हें कभी नहीं भुलाया गया है तथा वे समाज के अभिन्न अंग हैं। 'मेरी प्रार्थना है कि किसमस आप सभी के लिए आनंद और खुशियाँ लेकर आए। भव्य स्वागत के लिए मैं सभी को धन्यवाद दे रहा हूँ। राष्ट्रपति ने भी निवासियों की भलाई बनाए रखने में उनकी भूमिका को स्वीकार करते हुए, कर्मचारियों के समर्पण और कड़ी मेहनत की सराहना की। गोल्डन ऐज होम की स्थापना 1960s के दशक में हुई थी जो उन बुजुर्ग नागरिकों को आश्रय और देखभाल प्रदान करता है जो बीमार, गरीब और अपने परिवारों द्वारा ठुकराए गए हैं।

फीजी के लिए तेरह बिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा मुल्य की पूँजी का अनुमान



ऐसा अनुमान लगाया गया है कि अगले कुछ सालों में फीजी में घड़श तेरह दशमलौ नौ बिलियन डोलर मूल्य की पूँजी लगाई जाएगी। नान्दी में अभी हाल में प्राइम मिनिस्टर्स इंटरनेशनल बिज़नेस अवोर्ड्स में मुख्य मेहमान प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने व्यापार मालिकों की लगातार कड़ी मेहनत की प्रशंसा करते हुए प्रकाश डाला कि फीजी की आर्थिक विकास की कहानी इस साल भी जारी है। पिछले साल देश के आर्थिक विकास में बीस प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई जो कि मैक्रोइकोनोमिक स्थिति के अट्ठारह प्रतिशत बढ़न्ती के अनुमान को भी पीछे छोड़ दिया। टूरिज़्म व्यवसाय में भारी सुधार की वजह से इस तरह की भारी प्रगति हुई है। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने प्रकाश डाला है कि रिज़ेव बैंक ऑफ फीजी ने इस साल के लिए नविनतम अनुमान जारी किया है कि 8.2 प्रतिशत की आर्थिक बढ़न्ती होने की सम्भावना है। प्रधान मंत्री ने आर्थिक बढ़न्ती में प्रायवट संस्थाओं की भूमिका की प्रशंसा की। फिलहाल, उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा व्यवसाय मंत्री माननीय मानोआ कमिकमिदा ने प्रकाश डाला है कि ये पुरस्कार व्यवसायों को प्रदर्शन और सेवा प्रदान करने, रोज़गार का समर्थन करने और सबसे उपर कर्मचारियों के मनोबल को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक मंच प्रदान करता है। आपकी सरकार का दृढ़ विश्वास है कि हर एक व्यवसाय, चाहे उसका आकार कुछ भी हो, हमारे राष्ट्रीय विकास में योगदान देने और आपके संबंधित व्यवसायों में आगे रहने की क्षमता रखता है।

कुछ भी हासिल किया जा सकता है – राष्ट्रपति

रोनल देव

कुछ भी हासिल किया जा सकता है तथा किसी को भी आपको बहकाने का मौका नहीं देना चाहिए। यह कहना है राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे का जो हाल में नान्दी स्थित सईन्ट मिनास चिल्ड्रन होम का दौरा करने गए थे। उनकी टीम ने उपहार बाँटकर किसमस की खुशियाँ फैलाई क्योंकि यह देने का मौसम है। उन्होंने ने बच्चों से मजबूत रहने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया और जोर दिया कि चुनौतियाँ ही उन्हें मजबूत बनाती हैं। आपकी परिस्थितियाँ आपके सपनों में बाधा नहीं बननी चाहिए, दुनिया सम्भावनाओं से भरी है। मजबूत रहें और हमेशा याद रखें कि हर प्रयास को विश्वास के साथ करें। बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों की लगन शीलता को न भूलते हुए राष्ट्रपति ने उनके प्रयासों के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया।



राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे नान्दी स्थित सईन्ट मिनास चिल्ड्रन होम के बच्चों के साथ चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

ट्रेज़ा हाउस किशचन हौम के बच्चों को किस्मस के भेंट



रोनल देव

ट्रेज़ा हाउस किशचन चिल्ड्रन्स हौम के बच्चों की खुशियों का ठिकाना न रहा जब हालमें राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे तथा उनकी पत्नी विलोमेना कातोनिवरे उनसे मिलने के लिए गए। उत्सव की खुशियाँ बाँटते हुए राष्ट्रपति कातोनिवरे तथा उनकी टीम ने हौम को किस्मस हेम्पर भी बाँटा। बच्चों को संदेश देते हुए राष्ट्रपति ने जोर दिया कि

ज़िन्दगी की चुनौतियों के बावजूद ईश्वर को सबसे पहले याद करना चाहिए। राष्ट्रपति ने बच्चों को आकर्षित किया कि किस्मत में जो लिखा है वो होकर रहेगा और अपनी वर्तमान की स्थिति को हावी न होने दो ताकि आप अपने सपने पूरे न कर सकें। राष्ट्रपति ने ट्रेज़ा हाउस किशचन चिल्ड्रन्स हौम के मेनेजमन्ट और कर्मचारियों को उनकी लगातार लगन, सेवा तथा बच्चों के प्रति प्रेम के लिए सराहना की है। जो काम आप कर रहे हैं, वो आसान नहीं है लेकिन आपके बच्चों के लिए दया तथा प्यार इसका जीता-जागता सबूत है।

वाउस किड्स फीजी एक उदाहरण है



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद, ग्रेन्ड पेसिफिक होटल में वाउस किड्स फीजी द्वारा आयोजित एक समारोह में भाग लेते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद का कहना है कि वाउस किड्स फीजी ने उन्हें यह समझाने में मदद की है कि बच्चों में कैंसर न केवल शारीरिक लड़ाई है बल्कि यह भावुकता और मानसिक युद्ध भी है। हाल में किस्मस के मौके पर वाउस किड्स फीजी के लिए ग्रेन्ड पेसिफिक होटल में आयोजित एक समारोह में मंत्री प्रसाद ने ऐसा कहा। 'वाउस किड्स फीजी बचपन के कैंसर के सामने समर्पण और लचीलेपन का एक जीता-जागता उदाहरण रहा है, जो हमारे युवा योद्धाओं और उनके परिवारों को महत्वपूर्ण सहायता प्रदान कर रहा है। उप प्रधान मंत्री का कहना है कि सरकार को ऐसे संगठनों के साथ जुड़ने पर गर्व है जो एक स्वस्थ और अधिक दयालु समाज के लिए दृष्टिकोण रखते हैं।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने न्यू जिलैंड के प्रधान मंत्री को भेजा बधाई का संदेश



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका, न्यू जिलैंड के नए प्रधान मंत्री को बधाई का संदेश देते हुए

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री तथा विदेश मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने न्यू जिलैंड के नए प्रधान मंत्री माननीय क्रिस्टीफर लुक्सोन को बधाई का संदेश भेजा है। अपनी शुभकामनाएं भेजते हुए प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने प्रधान मंत्री लुक्सोन से दोनों देशों के बीच कूटनैतिज्ञ संबंधों और सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए फीजी के अटूट प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि की। 'प्रशान्त क्षेत्र में न्यू जिलैंड का सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक भागीदार होने के कारण हमें भरोसा है कि हमारा निरंतर सहयोग सभी स्तरों पर संबंधों को मजबूत करेगा।' जलवायु परिवर्तन के खतरे से निपटने और हमारे महासागरों के कल्याण में भी आपसी हित हैं। मैं इस संबंध में न्यू जिलैंड के लगातार समर्थन की आशा करता हूँ।' प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा कि फीजी की सरकार, फीजी और न्यू जिलैंड के बीच द्विपक्षीय संबंधों और सहयोग को मजबूत करने के लिए निरंतर प्रतिबद्धता के प्रदर्शन के रूप में जल्द से जल्द प्रधान मंत्री लुक्सोन की मेजबानी करने के लिए उत्सुक है। माननीय क्रिस्टीफा लुक्सोन, न्यू जिलैंड के बयालीसवें प्रधान मंत्री हैं। वो राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और खुफिया मंत्री होने के साथ-साथ मंत्रालयों की सेवाओं के ज़िम्मेदार मंत्री भी हैं।

पेसिफिक गेम्स की सफलता के बाद टीम फीजी लौटी



युवा मंत्री माननीय चेसे सउकुरु ने सोलमन आलेन्ड्स में साउथ पेसिफिक गेम्स में बेहतरीन खेल दिखाने के बाद लौटे खिलाड़ियों का स्वागत किया। उन्होंने अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंच पर फीजी का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए उनके प्रयास और प्रतिबद्धता को

स्वीकार करते हुए प्रत्येक खिलाड़ी को देश की ओर से हार्दिक बधाई दी। टीम के हाथ इक्कीस गोल्ड मेडल, तीस सिल्वर तथा चार्लिस ब्रॉन्स मेडल लगे। टीम फीजी के आसाधारण प्रदर्शन ने न केवल देश को बहुत गर्व प्रदान किया, बल्कि हमारे खिलाड़ियों की अटूट

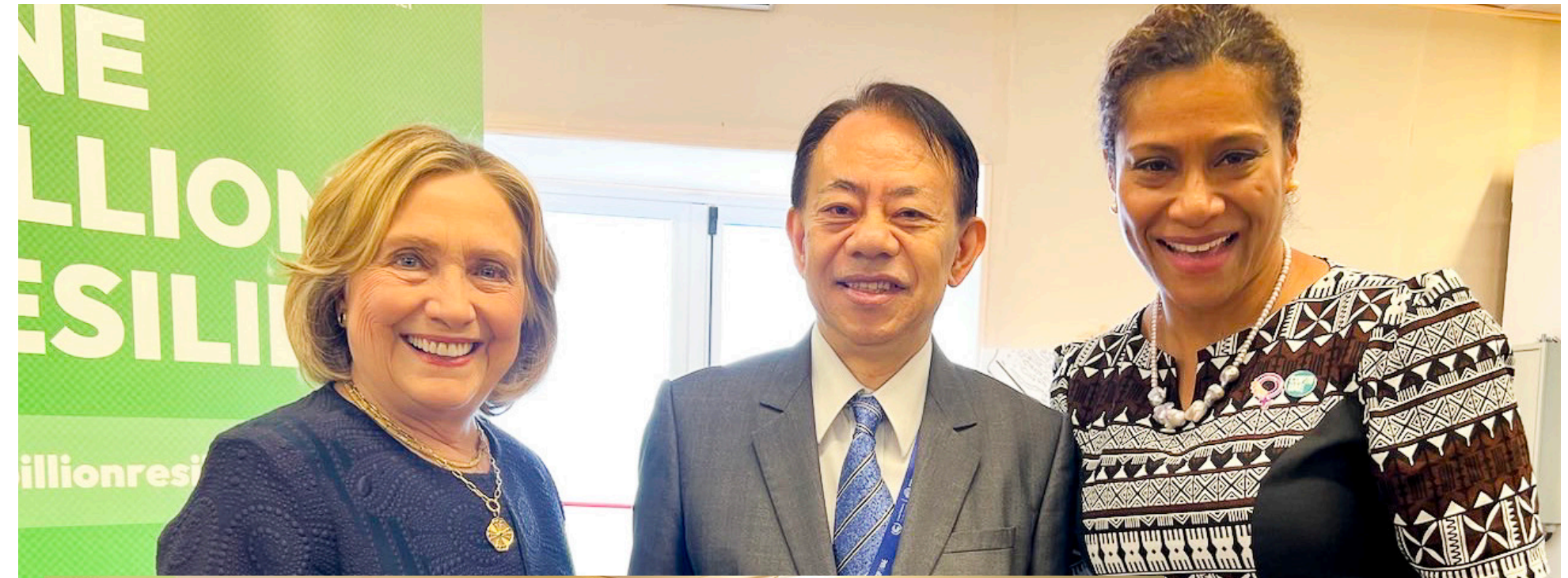
भावना और समर्पण को भी प्रदर्शित किया। मंत्री सउकुरु ने कहा कि पेसिफिक गेम्स 2023 में टीम फीजी की उपलब्धि हमारे खिलाड़ियों की कड़ी मेहनत, अनुशासन और लचीलेपन का प्रमाण है। उनके आसाधारण प्रदर्शन ने देश को गौरव प्रदान किया है।

महिला सशक्तिकरण के लिए पुरस्कार



ग्रेन्ड पेसिफिक होटल में एक यादगार उत्सव हुआ जहाँ उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा व्यवसाय मंत्री माननीय मानोआ कमिकमिदा ने वीमन इन टेक अवोर्ड में भाषण दिया। मंत्री ने इस तरह के उत्सव के महत्व पर जोर दिया जिससे महिलाओं को इस क्षेत्र में काम करने के लिए आकर्षित किया जाता है।

महिला मंत्री तम्बुइया ने हिलरी क्लींटन से मुलाकात की



महिला मंत्री माननीय लंडा तम्बुइया ने हाल में कोप टय वाली सभा में अमेरिका की भूतपूर्व सेक्रेटरी ऑफ स्टेट हिलरी क्लीन्टन, एशियन डिवेलोपमन्ट बैंक की प्रधान मासातसुगु असाकावा तथा मेक्सिको के भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति फिलिपे कलडिन से मुलाकात की। ये मुलाकात गर्मी के तनाव के लिए महिलाओं की अगुवाई वाले समाधान तैयार करने पर थी। मंत्री तम्बुइया ने लिंग समावेशी वित्त में पर्याप्त वृद्धि की ज़रूरत पर बल दिया। मंत्री का कहना है कि राष्ट्रीय कार्य योजना का उद्देश्य है लिंग आधारित हिंसा को रोकना।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका, यू.ए.ई में फीजी नागरिकों से मिले

प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने हाल में युनाइटेड अरब एमिरेट्स में फीजी के नागरिकों से मुलाकात की। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका का पारम्परिक ढंग से स्वागत किया गया। उन्होंने गर्व महसूस किया कि फीजी के नागरिकों की संख्या वहाँ बढ़ रही है जो वहाँ नौकरी करते हैं तथा यू.ए.ई को अपना दूसरा घर मानते हैं। प्रधान मंत्री ने फीजी के भूतपूर्व नागरिकों से माँग की है कि वे उस देश के नागरिकों तथा बुजुर्गों का आदर करें।



दामा डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल के लिए बेहतर सुविधाएं

रोनल देव

बूआ स्थित दामा डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल के संसाधनों में भारी सुधार हुआ जब हालमें वहाँ दो क्लासरूम, कपड़ने धोने, पाखाना के लिए एक ब्लोक तथा एक एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन दफ्तर का उद्घाटन हुआ। ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार ने इस योजना के लिए 1.4 मिलियन डोलर की सहायता दी है। वनुआलेवू भर में नौ स्कूलों को इस तरह की आर्थिक सहायता मिली है। शिक्षा मंत्री माननीय असेरी रैंडोड्रो ने इन सुविधाओं का उद्घाटन करते हुए कहा कि देश में विकास और शिक्षा सहायता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए फीजी सरकार ने ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार की सराहना की। 'बेशक स्कूल के 179 विद्यार्थियों तथा आठ अध्यापकों के लिए किस्मस जल्द आ गया तथा स्कूल की सम्पत्ति के विकास की तरफ यह एक और बड़ा कदम है,' मंत्री रैंडोड्रो ने कहा। 'मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव का असर पूरी दुनिया पर पड़ रहा है और प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों की संख्या तथा ताकत भी बढ़ते जा रहे हैं और फीजी इन खतरों से सुरक्षित नहीं है। 'समुद्री आँधी यासा से भारी क्षति पहुँची थी जहाँ तीन क्लासरूम तथा तीन टीचर्स कोर्ट्स नष्ट हुए थे।' मंत्री रैंडोड्रो ने कहा कि सरकार, शिक्षा को प्राथमिकता दे रही है तथा बच्चों में पूँजी लगाने का यह सबसे बेहतर तरीका है। इस समारोह में ओस्ट्रेलिया की डिप्टी हाई कमिशनर, क्लेयर मेकनमारा के साथ अन्य अधिकारी भी शामिल हुए थे।



शिक्षा मंत्री मननीय असेरी रैंडोड्रो बुआ स्थित दामा डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल की सुविधाओं का उद्घाटन करते हुए

सिर्फ स्कूली शिक्षा हासिल करना ही काफी नहीं है



रोज़गार मंत्री मननीय अग्नि देव सिंह बुनिमोनो हाई स्कूल के एक छात्र को पुरस्कार प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

रोज़गार मंत्री माननीय अग्नि देव सिंह का कहना है कि सच्ची शिक्षा, शिक्षा जगत से कहीं अधिक है। अभी हाल में बुनीमोनो हाई स्कूल के सालाना पुरस्कार तथा साल तेरह के ग्रेजुएशन समारोह में मुख्य मेहमान की हैसियत से भाषण देते हुए माननीय सिंह ने जोर दिया कि जीवन के सभी पहलुओं में सम्मान और गरिमा की संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने का महत्व है। उन्होंने कहा कि कोई चाहे जितनी भी उँचाई तक पढ़ ले, अगर उस व्यक्ति में मूल्यों की कमी है तो यह ज़रूरी नहीं है कि वह बुद्धिमान होने के बराबर है। मूल्य, जो पालन-पोषण के माध्यम से स्थापित किए जाते हैं, शिक्षा का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पहलू हैं। मंत्री सिंह ने माता-पिता और बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों से उदाहरण पेश करने और ऐसा आचरण रखें कि आपके बच्चें आपके नक्शे कदम पर चलें। दुनिया में जैसे-जैसे तेज़ी से विकास हो रहा है, आज जो मूल्य, कौशल और शिक्षा हम अपनाएंगे, वो हमारे कल को आकार देंगे। फीजी सरकार आज की तेज़ी से बदलती दुनिया में सफल होने के लिए छात्रों को ज़रूरी संसाधन और सहायता प्रदान करने की पूरी कोशिश कर रही है। इसके अलावा रोज़गार मंत्री ने माता-पिताओं, बच्चों की देखभाल करने वाले तथा बच्चों से माँग की है कि वे सरकार के मुफ्त शिक्षा वाले पहल और नए साल में स्कूल वापस जाने के लिए कोआलिशन सरकार की दो सौ डोलर सहायता से लाभ उठाएं जो हमारी युवा पीढ़ी के उज्ज्वल भविष्य सुनिश्चित करने के लिए समर्पित है। उन्होंने स्कूल संचालकों और कर्मचारियों के साथ-साथ स्कूल सुविधाओं के विकास और सुधार में योगदान देने वालों की हार्दिक सराहना की है। उन्होंने स्कूल द्वारा नौ सालों के बाद खेलकूद में हिस्सा लेने वाले कदम का भी स्वागत किया। मंत्री सिंह ने सोलह दिनों के सक्रियता पहल पर भी प्रकाश डाला जिसका उद्देश्य था महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ हिंसा को रोकना। उन्होंने जोर दिया कि महिलाओं पर हाथ उठाना स्वीकार्य व्यवहार नहीं है। उन्होंने इस धारणा को दोहराया कि 'असली मर्द महिलाओं को नहीं मारते' और जो लोग कमज़ोर हैं वे ही अपनी ताकत का इस्तेमाल उन लोगों को धमकाने के लिए करेंगे जो कमज़ोर हैं। मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि किसी भी परिवार, समाज या देश में सभ्यता की सीमा इस बात से मापी जाती है कि महिलाओं और लड़कियों का किस हद तक सम्मान किया जाता है और उनके साथ सम्मानजनक व्यवहार किया जाता है।

2024 स्कूली सहायता के लिए 160,000 से ज़्यादा अर्जियाँ मिली

रोनल देव

फायनेन्स मंत्रालय को स्कूल वापस जाने वाली सहायता के लिए एक लाख साठ हज़ार 160,000 से ज़्यादा अर्जियाँ प्राप्त हुई है। मंत्रालय माता-पिताओं को सलाह दे रहा है कि इस सहायता के लिए अर्जी लगाने की आखिरी तारीख शुक्रवार बाईस दिसम्बर है।

अगले साल स्कूल वापस जाने की तैयारी के तहत कोआलिशन सरकार ने दो सौ डोलर लागत सहायता की घोषणा की है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि स्कूल वापस जाने के लिए कक्षा शुरू होने से पहले बच्चों के पास उचित यूनिफॉर्म, स्कूल बैग, जूते, लंच बॉक्स, स्टेशनरी तथा अन्य ज़रूरतें हों।

घोषणा करते हुए उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद ने कहा था कि इस साल और अगले साल वाले राष्ट्रीय बजट में पैतालिस (45) मिलियन डोलर अलग किया गया है जिससे दो लाख बीस हज़ार से भी ज़्यादा छात्रों की सहायता की जाएगी।

'हम पहले के मिलान में पहले से अर्जी स्वीकार कर रहे हैं ताकि माता-पिताओं, अध्यापकों तथा स्कूलों को अर्जी पूरी करने और भेजने के लिए और समय मिल सके'

'योग्य माता-पिताओं और बच्चों की देखभाल करने वालों को हर एक बच्चे के लिए दो सौ डोलर सहायता मिलेगी ताकि उनके बच्चे अगले साल स्कूल जाने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार हों।

जैसा कि इस साल पूर्व सहायता दी गई थी यह सहायता भी एली चाइल्डहूड के बच्चों से लेकर, प्राथमरी तथा सेकन्ड्री स्कूल के साल तेरह के विद्यार्थियों को दी जाएगी।

उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि जिन परिवारों की सालाना आमदनी पचास हज़ार डोलर से कम है को ही यह सहायता मिलेगी।

इस प्रक्रिया को आसान बनाते हुए मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि अर्जी बच्चों के स्कूलों पर उपलब्ध होगा या माता-पिता शिक्षा मंत्रालय या फायनेन्स मंत्रालय के वेबसाइट से अर्जी डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।

'फायनेन्स मंत्रालय बुद्धवार दस जनवरी से पेमेंट करना शुरू करेगा ताकि माता-पिताओं को अपने बच्चों को अगले साल स्कूल के लिए तैयार करने में दो हफ्ते से ज़्यादा समय मिले जबकि स्कूल उनतीस (29) जनवरी को खुलेंगे।'

'जैसा कि पिछली बार 'बैक टू स्कूल सपोर्ट' के लिए पेमेंट्स किए गए थे, सभी पैसे वोडाफोन एम-पैसा या डिज़िसेल माएकेश के द्वारा दिया जाएगा। बाहरी द्वीपों में जहाँ मोबाइल का कवरज नहीं है, वहाँ के परिवारों को अपनी नज़दीकी पोस्ट फीजी दफ्तर का पता या एजेन्सी का पता देना होगा ताकि उन्हें टी एम ओ के ज़रिए सहायता पहुँचाई जा सके।

उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने दोहराया कि यह पहल फीजी में सभी बच्चों के लिए समान शिक्षा का अवसर प्रदान करने की सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है और सभी परिवारों को फीजी के उज्ज्वल भविष्य के निर्माण के लिए आने वाली पीढ़ियों की शिक्षा का समर्थन करने के लिए इस कार्यक्रम से फायदा उठाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया।

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

रोनल देव

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

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

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

में भी आई थी।

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

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

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

धारण कर सकती हैं जिसकी ताकत कैटेगरी तीन या उससे ज़्यादा हो सकती हैं। इस साल और अगले साल का अनुमान बीते हुए समुद्री आँधियों के मौसम को देखते हुए लगाया गया है। यह साल है 1982-83, 1987-88, 1991-92, 1997-98, 2009-10 और 2015-16. समुद्री आँधी के इन मौसमों पर गौर किया गया कि इन सालों में कम से कम एक समुद्री आँधी आई थी जिसकी ताकत कैटेगरी पाँच तक पहुँची थी।

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

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

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

अपने घर आँगन का ध्यान रखें

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

सूचित रहें संपर्क में रहें

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

भोजन सुरक्षित रखें

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

अच्छी स्वच्छता अपनाएं

बीमारी के संपर्क में आने और फैलाने से बचे

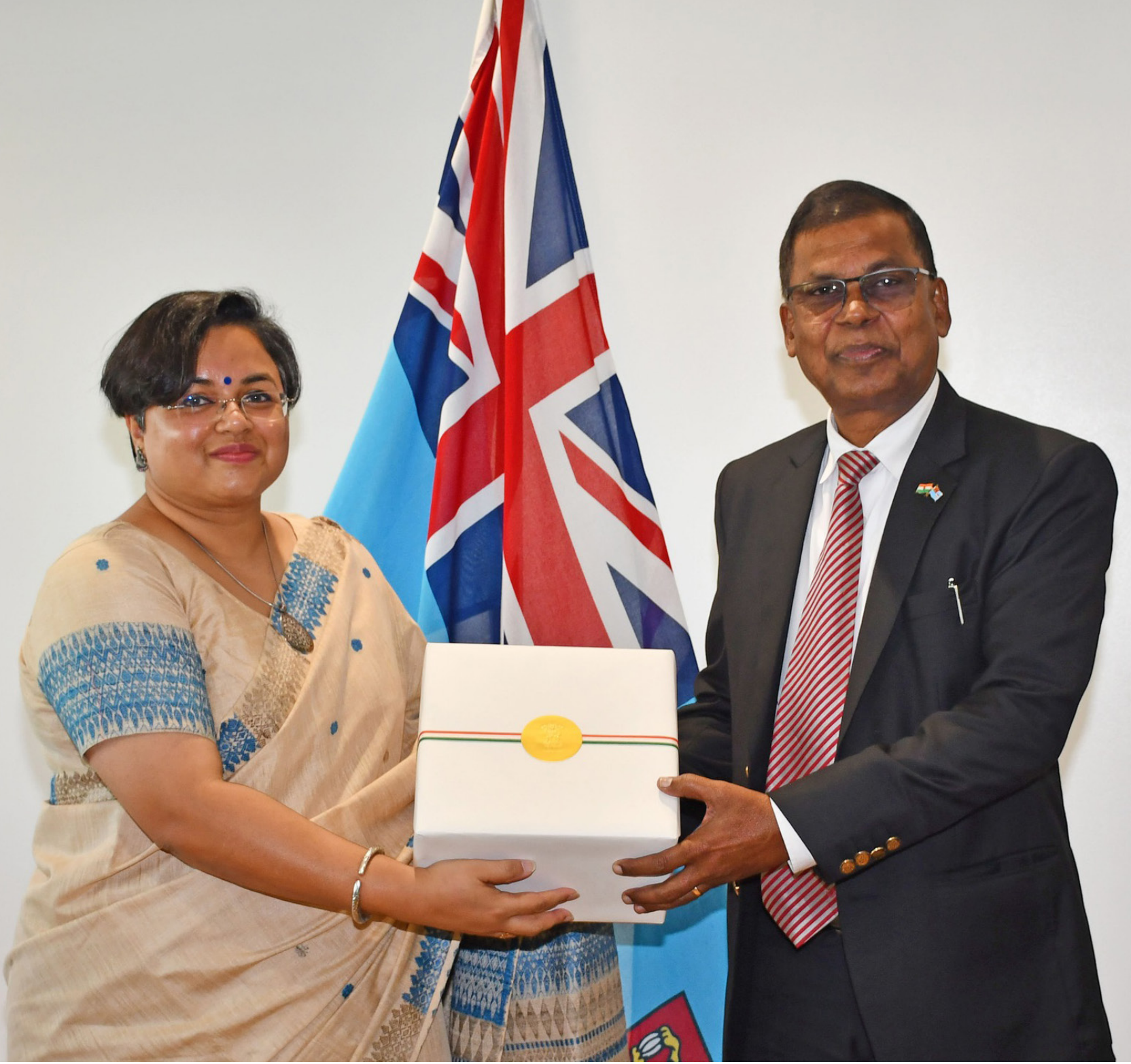
- भोजन छूने से पहले, कूड़ा फेंकने और पाखाना जाने के बाद अपने हाथों को अच्छी तरह साबुन पानी से धोए
- ध्यान में रखें कि आपके बच्चे भी साफ-सफाई का ख्याल रखें

विपत्ति के दौरान

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

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद, ओशिनिया की जोईन्ट सेक्रेटरी पारोमिता त्रिपाठी के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

विशेषज्ञ अस्पताल के निर्माण पर भारत फीजी को सहयोग देगा

रोनल देव

फीजी और भारत अपने कूटनैतिज्ञ संबंधों को और मजबूत करने की दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं खास करके स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में। उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद ने इसी हफ्ते पूर्व भारत के विदेश मंत्रालय के एक प्रतिनिधिमण्डल से मुलाकात की। इसकी अगुवाई ओशिनिया की जोईन्ट सेक्रेटरी पारोमिता त्रिपाठी तथा फीजी में भारतीय

राजदूत श्री पी एस कार्थिजेयन ने की। इस प्रतिनिधिमण्डल में स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञ, आर्थिक और बुनियादी ढाँचा विशेषज्ञ शामिल थे जो फीजी में प्रस्तावित सौ विस्तरों वाला एक सुपर स्पेशलिटी अस्पताल बनाने पर चर्चा करने आए थे जिसे नसीनू में बनाने पर बातें हो रही है। फीजी सरकार के प्रतिनिधियों में फाइनेन्स मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव श्री गाउन्डर, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के स्थानापन्न स्थाई सचिव डाक्टर चेमेसा तुद्रावू, लेन्ड्स तथा मिनरल रिसोर्स मंत्रालय के स्थाई

सचिव डाक्टर रईचेली तांगा तथा इतउकई मामलों के स्थाई सचिव पीटा तांगीदाकिरेवा शामिल थे। ये मंत्रालय इस योजना में भारत सरकार के साथ सहयोग करेंगे। यह अस्पताल न केवल स्थानीय लोगों को सेवा प्रदान करेगा बल्कि प्रशान्तीय द्वीपवासियों के साथ-साथ ओस्ट्रेलिया तथा न्यू जीलेन्ड के मरीजों के लिए एक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र भी होगा। श्रीमती त्रिपाठी ने स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र के विकास, छात्र के अदला-बदली वाले कार्यक्रमों

तथा क्षमता निर्माण के माध्यम से विकास साझेदारी में फीजी के साथ भारत की प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि की। उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने प्रतिनिधिमण्डल को आश्वासन दिया है कि फीजी दोनों देशों के बीच कूटनैतिज्ञ संबंधों को सार्थक और अधिक आकर्षक बनाने के लिए मजबूत करने की दिशा में काम करेगा।