

PM opens capacity expansion project



Story on page 3

No more tents, new classrooms for students of Nukubolu Primary School



Story on page 11

Rayawa Bakery a hit in Tavuki, Kadavu



Story on page 13

New town a beacon of growth for Navosa



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, officiated at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Keiyasi Town development. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**



neys to Sigatoka to access government services and sell their farm produce.

“With the development of Keiyasi Town, these struggles will soon be a thing of the past. The development aligns with the Ministry of Local Government’s urban planning and management program, ensuring proper planning and development precede the establishment of growth centres.”

Keiyasi Town was part of the Coalition Government’s

vision for four designated urban growth centres in Fiji.

PM Rabuka emphasised the importance of these centres in diversifying trade and business networks, contributing to overall economic growth and an increase in the country’s Gross Domestic Product.

[continued on page 3](#)



By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

IN a historic moment that will forever change the landscape of Navosa, Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, led the ground-breaking ceremony for the Keiyasi Town development.

The event not only marked the beginning of an important project but also demonstrated the collaborative spirit of Keiyasi chiefs, the people of Tikina o Namataku, and the landowning unit of Namoilevu.

Keiyasi, the latest addition to Fiji’s urban landscape, is poised to usher in a tidal wave of opportunities and services to this once-remote part of the province.

The development of the town not only signifies progress but also promises to enhance the quality of life for the residents and is expected to become a hub of economic activity, providing the community with new-found prospects, improved infrastructure and a range of essential services.

During the event, PM Rabuka expressed his gratitude to the community for their generosity in leasing over nine hectares of land for the town’s development and highlighted that the benevolent act would lay the foundation for a prosperous future for the people of Navosa.

For years, residents faced the challenge of long jour-

New town a beacon of growth for Navosa

continued from page 1

“Keiyasi Town has the potential to create employment opportunities, improve living standards, and stimulate economic activity and as a predominantly agricultural community, the proximity of the new town will significantly reduce transportation costs for farmers, bringing the market closer to their doorstep,” the Head of Government said.

“This ground-breaking ceremony marks the beginning of Phase 1 of the project, which will entail civil works before advancing to the construction of civic buildings, public amenities and commercial and industrial sites.”

“With an estimated cost of \$11 million, fully funded by the People’s Coalition Government, local companies with indigenous expertise, such as Construction Equipment Hire Limited and West-Eng Consulting Ltd, are spearheading the development,” added the Prime Minister.

PM Rabuka expressed hope that Keiyasi Town would live up to its name, becoming a true growth centre that fosters unity and love for generations to come.

The town’s development serves as a beacon of progress, promising a brighter and more connected future for the chiefs and people of Navosa.

Welcoming the development was Laite Ravouvou, a 60-year-old resident of Keiyasi Village, who expressed her delight while highlighting the difficulties they had endured over the years.

“I am originally from Wauosi village and married here in Keiyasi and we face the same hardship over the years,” she said.

“Sigatoka serves as our nearest town and acts as the primary economic hub for the highlands of Navosa. It functions as the central marketplace for our agricultural products, and given the occasional poor condition of the road, ensuring the safe transportation of our produce poses a significant challenge for us.”

Ms Ravouvou further said the development of Keiyasi will also empower them to do more as market opportunities will be right at their doorstep.

She also mentioned that the progress of Keiyasi will empower them to expand their endeavours, as market opportunities will be conveniently accessible at their doorstep.

Keiyasi Village Headman, Viliame Naliva, enthusiastically emphasised that the town’s development catalyses numerous positive outcomes.

He highlighted that it not only represents progress but also opens up a plethora of opportunities for the young generation in Navosa.

Mr Naliva believes that this transformative growth will not only enhance the overall well-being of the community but also empower its youth, fostering a brighter and more promising future for the entire region.

Alarming rates of NCDs in the workforce



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with Cabinet Ministers and officials during the launch National Policy on Healthy Catering and Sale of Food and Beverages. **Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE**

By ILISAPECI TUIVALE

FIJI is currently dealing with the “triple trouble” of overweight, obesity and underweight, including micronutrient deficiencies.

This was revealed at the launch of the National Policy on Healthy Catering and Sale of Food and Beverages for all Government Ministries and Institutions at the Civic Centre in Suva recently.

The Ministry of Health highlighted details of health trends after screening 3,456 individuals in the civil service and private institutions, and findings highlighted that the prevalence and progression of health risks in the service underscores the need to adopt this policy.

Officiating at the event,

Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, stated that the national policy will promote optimal nutrition and foster healthy eating habits for all civil servants and the community.

“The policy will ensure that meals, snacks and beverages available to everyone at all Government facilities offer healthier choices. When the whole of Government is providing healthier food to visitors, clients and civil servants, there will be an increased demand for local fruits, healthy greens, vegetables and roots crops,” PM Rabuka said.

“The increased demand for fresh products means good news for farmers, fishermen and market vendors and (hopefully) a concomitant reduction in our national

import bill in terms of unhealthy processed food.”

The Prime Minister also stated that consumption of alcohol and cigarettes must be reduced or completely ceased as they increase the risks for NCDs.

Various policies implemented by the Government to reduce the use of these harmful substances include taxation.

The Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Atonio Lalabalavu, stated that the overweight and obesity trends in Fiji are particularly worrying, affecting both children and adults and was directly contributing to increasing rates of NCDs in Fiji.

“It takes a humble workforce in the civil service to acknowledge that we have a problem and that our solution

must begin with us. The Coalition Government takes these problems very seriously and is also serious about addressing and preventing it,” Minister Lalabalavu said.

Present at the event were the Minister for Rural & Maritime Development, Sakiasi Ditoka, Minister for Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa, Minister for Employment, Agni Deo Singh, the Minister for Women, Children & Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya and respective Permanent Secretaries.

The civil servants are encouraged to take an hour off from official duties on Wednesdays for physical exercise known as part of Wellness Wednesday.

PM opens capacity expansion project

By AZARIA FAREEN

FIJI Water continues to grow in leaps and bounds as we mark yet another milestone of their new \$140 million capacity expansion project.

This was highlighted by Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, who noted that the Fiji Water Foundation has impacted thousands of lives not just here in Ra but across Fiji.

“Over the last 10 years, the Fiji Water Foundation has spent more than \$17 million on a wide range of projects nation-wide,” he said.

“From providing school backpacks for children, new wells for drinking water, community grants to local organisations, and major donations that helped fund new toilets at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital Maternity and Children’s Ward, their business success is closely linked with their community outreach.”

“The foundation has also supported a number of efforts aimed at strengthening local infrastructure across Naiyalayala,” he added.

PM Rabuka relayed that the company in collaboration with the village water committees, has supported the ongoing maintenance of clean water sources to the villages of Naseyani, Nananu, Rabulu, Togovere and Drauniivi.

“Community grants have also enhanced the secondary school library, rebuilt the bus shelter after Cyclone Yasa, and funded one-on-one tutoring

for the children of Fiji Water employees,” he said.

“With more initiatives underway, our communities are sure to flourish even more while this major investment is the largest since the company launched this iconic brand in 1996 and will increase capacity by as much as 47 per cent over the next few years.”

“I am also very happy to hear that these new lines will achieve a 10 per cent increase in energy efficiency efforts and result in 10 per cent less cardboard in its packaging, demonstrating Fiji Water’s long-term environmental sustainability goals.”

“They’ve even started transitioning nearly 40 per cent of their water bottles to recycled plastic,” he added.

This all underscores the critical importance of why responsible corporate citizens such as Fiji Water, in partnership

with Government, have a shared responsibility to fortify Government’s stance and strengthen global commitments to combat climate change.

“Today, I am proud to say that the earth’s finest water is now sourced from one of the most advanced water factories in the world and that the “capacity expansion project” will surely increase our export and further improve our foreign exchange earnings,” PM Rabuka highlighted.

“The Coalition Government is committed to support and facilitate both foreign and local investors alike through providing the enabling environment and make Fiji a friendly and stable country for investment.”

“I strongly believe that through this type of investment, we will be able to generate employment opportunities for our people and will further improve their standard of living,” he added.



Proud of their product...staff of Fiji Water during the new \$140 million capacity expansion project launch. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

National Development Plan consultation in Nakawakawa, Wainunu, Bua

“We would like to have access to quality drinking water, and a water system that is able to cater for everyone in the village.”

This was a plea from Ana Lolorua of Nakawakawa Village in Wainunu, Bua while making her submission to a team from the Ministry of Finance, National Development and Strategic Planning, during the new National Development Plan consultation held at their village hall this week.

Some of the other key areas highlighted by the villagers

included the importance of having well-maintained roads and infrastructure, upgrading of their solar electricity system, the need for a better market for their crops to ensure fair prices, and the construction of farm roads to improve access to their fields, and facilitate the transportation of

their produce.

Deputy Prime Minister and the line Minister, Biman Prasad said the outcome of this consultation process being held across the country, would help build a 3 year, 5 year and 20 year National Development Plan.

He said one of the key areas the Coalition Government decided to capitalise on was to consult and work with the people, so the administration could understand the priority areas for development.



Fiji's 3-Year, 5-Year And 20-Year NDP - adopting some best practices

THE Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics is currently formulating the new 3-year, 5-year and 20-year National Development Plan.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development & Statistics, Biman Prasad said the NDP would need to be realistic and all initiatives stated in it will be backed by the required financial resources.

It should not over-promise or raise expectations higher than it can deliver.

Essentially, it is crucial to set expectations at the right level. While setting timelines and targets are critical, it must be based on the financial resources that are available and implementation capacity.

Head of Strategic Office at the Ministry, Kamal Gounder, said that a national development plan has to be centred around the people and must be inclusive.

He said that it should respond to the needs and issues faced by the people as well as reflect their aspirations.

A winning plan must be one that will touch their lives in some form or manner.

It must bring tangible results where people from all walks of life – people on the street, in rural areas, urban folk, businesses, youth, women, children, elderly and vulnerable groups feel a sense of enrichment and improvement.

The plan must be able to demonstrate how these different segments of society benefit from the plan.

Therefore, an in-depth understanding of people's concerns, what matters most to them and their aspirations is absolutely important in formulating

the plan.

In this context, the current nationwide consultative process being undertaken by the Coalition Government was absolutely important.

Mr Gounder added that a Plan must set out its development priorities. There are many things that need to be fixed, but the plan must be crystal clear in what it wants to achieve based on each timeline.

Setting the development priorities will provide the basis for efficient resource allocation.

Yogeesvaran Kumaraguru, a consultant funded through a technical assistance from World Bank, has been assisting the Strategic Planning Office in the formulation of the new plan.

Mr Kumaraguru said that an effective, transparent and accountable monitoring & evaluation (M&E) mechanism was critical to monitor progress, take corrective steps and ensure that the plan was implemented and achieves the desired outcomes.

He added that there should be a transparent and regular public reporting process within the M&E framework to keep the people regularly informed of the progress.

The plan must be backed by an effective and well-planned communication strategy to bring the plan to the people.

It should be a living plan which allows for flexibility to make adjustments due to new and unexpected developments and events.

Mr Kumaraguru said that the annual budget must be premised on the plan as the budget cannot go one way and the plan another.

(Source: Ministry of Finance)

Priorities of Fijians crucial for NDP: DPM Prasad

By JESHU LAL

IT IS critical to have a National Development Plan to understand the priorities of Fijians and to ensure that the voices of people are heard.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, said getting the views of the public will help develop a good plan for the next three to 20 years.

“We started by very closely looking at what was the state of our country, we looked at our debt situation, we looked at our economy, our infrastructure, we also looked at what was happening in the health sector, and education and what was happening to the people's quality of life. We wanted to know where they needed help.”

DPM Prasad said highlighting the areas that need help will develop a constructive plan.

“We identified where the priority was. So we began by supporting our students immediately. We allocated \$50million and provided \$200 to all students whose parents' income was less than \$50,000,” he explained.

“When we made that analysis, we realized we needed a new plan, so we decided that we would have a Three-Year, Five-Year and 20 Year Development Plan so that we can safely say that we want to do this in the three-year plan, we want to do that in the next two to three years so that people understand that we have a plan,” DPM Prasad added.

He said suggestions are being sought from ordinary Fijians outside the Ministries and Government institutions to determine key areas.

“We realise that there is a lot of wisdom and knowledge that resides in people outside the Government, and a lot of suggestions that people will give in different sectors of roads, water, health, infrastructure, we will then know what are the priorities and what people want so we can dissect the whole plan into a timeline that we can deliver.”

Naigulevu grateful for assistance

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

ALISI Naigulevu has applauded the Government for assisting families, especially women, in running their own businesses by enhancing their entrepreneurial skills and injecting much needed capital.

This is after, 12 women recently graduated from recently a three-day training under the Trade Enhancement Programme (TEP) of the Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications.

One of these trainees was Mrs Naigulevu, 46, who hails from Nadogo, Cakaudrove, as she operates a small business of home condiments such as tamarind chutney, jam, sweet chili sauce, tartar sauce and mayonnaise with her husband and their daughter.

“This business that my husband and I started began in 2019 at home, we began this business from the idea that everyone wanted their food to be delicious and these add-ons made them tastier. And so, we started making our own different sauces that we had taught ourselves to make,” she said.

“It started with just making tamarind chutney, I made many attempts to perfect it and sometimes would ask other people for advice or tips on how to improve my product.”

Mrs Naigulevu added that after a discussion with her husband on how much the chutney was loved by the family and other people, they decided to start selling it and turn it into a business.

“Before the COVID-19 pandemic, I had a job and this was a side hustle to help earn a little more money for my family. When the pandemic hit, I was let go from my work and was solely focusing on this small business of ours. And we only had this business as a source of income for the family to help live each day that went by.”

“And since I had a lot of time on my hands, this helped



The newly-graduated women entrepreneurs are all smiles as they pose with their certificates with the ministry's acting Director and Registrar of Co-operatives, Iosefo Koroidimuri. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

me open my mind to how much more we could grow this business and do things I have never done before. I then started to budget and set aside money for the business, what ingredients we needed to buy and how much we could sell it for in order to have a reasonable profit.”

Mrs Naigulevu added that they had to be disciplined with money and follow certain guidelines in order to make the business into a successful one.

“This made me realise that a business is run different from a family. It needs its own budget and needs to grow on its own.”

“People are always saying that when there’s an i-Taukei

business, it will eventually stop running, we are here to prove them wrong and in order to do that we need to have the belief and passion for the business.”

The Ministry through the TEP also provides businesses the opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 grant to give these small businesses a leg-up.

The programme is aimed at creating employment, formalising businesses, inspire entrepreneurship for those most vulnerable in our communities and to enhance services for our fellow Fijians.

Govt training provides leg up to women entrepreneurs

By AZARIA FAREEN

AWORKSHOP held recently by the Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises has provided business skills for women entrepreneurs who successfully completed the Improve Your Business Training.

These women were also assisted with a \$1,000 grant under the Ministry’s Trade Enhancement Program to improve and expand their business.

Grant recipient, Sereanaa Jedidiah, in commending the three-day training said that “this will help us in our business and I am so grateful to be a part of this”.

“I studied up to Form five level and I always had the passion for flowers, to volunteer and serve people which pushed me to work for the hotel sector and now I am happily running a small business for almost five years now,” Ms Jedidiah said.

“Being a florist and doing screen printing, I thought I knew everything about the business but I have learnt so much here which is an eye opener for me and that I still

have more time to improve my business.”

“I learned how to do record keeping where I can budget as well and also manage to save more for my business,” she said.

Ms Jedidiah relayed receiving an order from a customer and incorporated her learning from the training by spending only \$30 to complete the order and earned \$100.

“I have to commend my trainer for teaching us so well and I thank God as this was very enlightening for me, and I also thank the Government for the \$1,000 grant to improve my small business,” she beamed.

“I have a heart that likes to love and care for other people and I thought that I only have to please the customers but now I know that I also have to save the proper way,” Ms Jedidiah said.

“I didn’t know anything about cash flow and this three-day training taught me so well that now I can manage to do cashflow for my business as well as record keeping.”

“Even though I am 44-years-old, I know I can still learn more. I operate my business from home and online as well under Jedidiah Enterprises and the flowers are priced from as low as \$25 to \$180,” she



Government grant recipient, 44-year-old, Sereanaa Jedidiah receives her certificate from the acting Director and Registrar of Co-operatives, Iosefo Koroidimuri following the conclusion of the training. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

added.

Last year, Mrs Jedidiah went to New Zealand and took some of her screen-printing samples which most of her friends liked so she is planning to upskill herself and go again this year.

“I will use the grant money to upgrade my screen-printing business and buy more stock,” she said.

“Sometimes, we limit ourselves when we stay home but we should find our abilities to work on our skills and keep going, therefore, I would like to encourage women to start with something small and grow it.”

“My husband is a priest but I don’t stop myself by just being the wife of a priest because I know that I have a gift of this skill

which motivates me to work better towards it and enjoy it,” she added.

Her future plan is to have a shop where she can sell flowers from, do screen printings and sell earrings too as she plans to keep upgrading and improving herself.

“If I have my own place with a spacious land then I can also grow my own flowers so I can save money on buying the flowers from others and use that spare money on other things that I need for the business,” she explained.

The mother of one said that her husband and daughter are great motivators and supports her in her business.

A journey of resilience and hope

By NANISE NEIMILA

IN 2019, Leena Prasad's life took an unexpected turn when she was diagnosed with cervical cancer. At 39, Mrs Prasad found herself facing a difficult battle while simultaneously caring for her sick mother, who had suffered from a stroke. However, amidst the challenges, she found solace in the unwavering support of her loving husband, who stood by her side through thick and thin. Before her illness, Mrs Prasad and her husband ran a successful business selling sweets. However, as she underwent surgeries and treatments, they could not continue with the business and looked for alternative ways to help support their family. "Life is beautiful so even being diagnosed with cancer did not deter me from searching for the right resources to get treatment. I couldn't let fear consume me. I had my family to think about, and I refused to let cancer define me." During Mrs Prasad's journey, she shared how the diagnosis felt like the end of the world but her resilience, optimism, and character shone throughout even in times of adversity. "There were days when the pain was unbearable but I found strength in knowing that every day is a gift," Mrs Prasad said. While her health prevented her from returning to their business, she turned to sewing as a means of supporting her family financially. "Adapting to a new way of life wasn't easy, but I'm grateful for the opportunity to explore new passions and talents," she



Leena Prasad with her husband and daughter. **Photo: NANISE NEIMILA**

shared. Despite the challenges Mrs Prasad has faced, she continues to find beauty in life and reminds us all that even in the darkest moments, there is always hope and the possibility of a brighter tomorrow. Mrs Prasad is now cancer free and has urged all women young and old to always get medical treatment if they feel they are not well. "God blessed us with doctors and nurses who helped in the treatment and as an individual I have learnt that we have a responsibility and take ownership of our own health. If you're sick or not well, seek medical help." Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications,

Manoa Kamikamica, launched the care gap initiative earlier this month which also was in line with the World Cancer Awareness month where he highlighted that there was hope for those diagnosed with any form of cancer. "Early detection is so important, because being diagnosed at later stages limits treatment options and often the outcomes are less favourable – a crossroad no family has to brave considering the financial burden that comes with cancer care, forcing families to make impossible choices between healthcare and other basic necessities" "However, amidst this darkness, there is hope. Hope hinged on advocacy, innovation, and collective action. Everyone

present here has the power to close the care gap, and ensure that every individual facing cancer receives the care and support they deserve – I see it like team work, where the strength of the team is in each member." DPM Kamikamica urged for the prioritisation of survivorship care – which the Fiji Cancer Society team have done so well over the years, recognising that the journey does not end with treatment. "Survivors often face long-term physical, emotional, and financial challenges that require ongoing support and resources. It means investing in survivorship programs that address the holistic needs of survivors, from managing side effects to navigating the complexities of survivorship."

Empowering women through entrepreneurship– Akanisi's inspirational journey

By NANISE NEIMILA

IN the beautiful heart of Ucunivanua, within Fiji's scenic Tailevu region, resides a woman whose entrepreneurial spirit knows no bounds. The journey of Akanisi Adimaiwai, a retired hotel worker and former employee of Fiji Coconut Industry, represents resilience, innovation, and the power of self-belief. "In my opinion, skincare is more than just a beauty treatment; it's a reflection of our connection to nature," Ms Adimaiwai said. With nothing but her savings and a steadfast determination to succeed, she embarked on a journey to craft something truly unique using the abundant resources of her homeland. Drawing inspiration from Fiji's tropical abundance and hot climate, Ms Adimaiwai's product line boasts a tantalising array of offerings, each infused with locally sourced ingredients such as dilo, charcoal, coconut virgin oil, turmeric and bamboo. "Our land provides us with everything we need to thrive, and it's our responsibility to honour that gift," she expressed as her hands deftly crafted her signature body scrubs and balms. However, Ms Adimaiwai's journey does not end there, recognising the untapped potential of her creations, she sets her sights on expansion, seeking support from the Government to elevate her business to new heights. "With their assistance, I aim to introduce

barcoding and labelling to my products, paving the way for broader accessibility and recognition for business KokonutBiz Fiji." Indeed, Ms Adimaiwai's entrepreneurial spirit extends far beyond the confines of her workshop. With an unwavering commitment to uplifting her fellow women, she imparts invaluable advice to those who dare to dream. "To my sisters at home, I say this: never underestimate the power of your ideas," she asserts, her words ringing with conviction. "The internet is a treasure trove of opportunities, and with the guidance of Government-led workshops, the possibilities are endless." As Ms Adimaiwai forges ahead on her journey, her vision serves as a beacon of hope for aspiring entrepreneurs everywhere. It was through her dedication, ingenuity and unwavering belief in the potential of her homeland, she was able to transform coconut shells and bamboo into skincare marvels and also pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future for women in Fiji and beyond. "The only limits we face are the ones we impose upon ourselves, let us break free and soar to new heights together." Recently micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) were assisted by the government under the Trade Enhancement Programme (TEP), including Ms Adimaiwai. This initiative, which has been digitised, supports businesses in the micro category



From left-right: Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications Manoa Kamikamica, Akanisi Adimaiwai and Permanent Secretary for Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications Shaheen Ali during the handover of the Trade Enhancement Programme (TEP) earlier this month. **Photo: NANISE NEIMILA**

that need capital injection to grow their businesses. Since inception in 2022, the TEP portal has received 4,170 applications online out of which 71 per cent were women applicants. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small, Medium, and Business Enterprises, Manoa Kamikamica, highlighted the Government's commitment to MSMEs, citing an investment of over \$100 million. DPM Kamikamica acknowledged existing achievements while expressing the ongoing commitment to enhance the MSME landscape. Government initiatives include integrating

MSME networks and ecosystems, streamlining business processes, improving regulations, enhancing access to information, reducing financing gaps and fortifying business development services. Looking ahead, the Government aims to formulate a comprehensive national MSME Strategic Plan, focusing on strengthening various aspects of the sector. In a show of continued support, the Government allocates nearly \$280,000 in grants to a group of entrepreneurs, reinforcing its commitment to nurturing innovative concepts and transforming them into sustainable businesses.

Govt assistance helps farmer to fulfil his passion

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE sheer determination and resilience to achieving one's passion motivated 32-year-old, Niklesh Ravin, of Waidalice in Tailevu to fulfil his dream of building his own farm.

"When I stepped into the dairy industry, I did not have any particular sense of direction in what to do and how to progress," he highlighted.

"I was also not part of any group with any farmer and was advised to join the cluster in order to share knowledge, skills and to receive help," he added.

"I joined the farmers cluster group and later a team from the Ministry of Agriculture came to inspect the farm and continued to give me advice on what to do."

"This is how I found out about the assistance provided by the Government to farmers and I also applied for it and was grateful to get help worth \$12,000 which help build a proper shed included fencing materials," he added.

In 2022, Mr Ravin received assistance from the Government in the form of a concrete dairy shed, improving the surrounding area as well.

"My shed was situated very far, was small, made informally and the surrounding area used to get swampy so we used to put sand on the ground to counter that," he said.

"This is a 32-acre Crown (State) land which belongs to my family with the lease being renewed to 99-year term but I was the one who started this dairy business with five cows and now I have a total of 22."

"I learned a lot from my uncle who also had a dairy farm and he helped me with one cow which turned into five and I also



Niklesh Ravin points at the new shed constructed with government assistance. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

bought some more later as well," Mr Ravin said.

He relayed that his mom used to look after the farm and but then she got seriously ill which affected looking after the herd.

"I used to have a day job and I left my job to look after the farm as it used to be very difficult to do both at the same time, and now, I have a taxi business and I manage my farm too," Mr Ravin said.

"My farmers' cluster members helped me

a lot in terms of farming and in guiding me to what is profitable but it was always my hobby and passion to have my own dairy farm."

"It would have been hard to progress without the Government's intervention and I am thankful for the assistance provided to me which has eased my workload," he commended.

Mr Ravin advised the youths that farming does not only bring in income but "you are

your own boss".

"I am selling milk to the Fiji Dairy Limited for \$1.03 per litre and I am able to supply 50 litres of milk in a day," he said.

"Ideally, we would like it if the price was raised a bit as we do have expenses at the farm but we are grateful that the Government provides us with feed as a subsidy," he added.

Use loan money wisely: grant recipient

By AZARIA FAREEN

AS you enter shop 68 at the Suva Handicraft Centre, your line of vision will naturally be taken up by the variety of crafts that are hanging from the ceiling and on the shelf.

The owner of Krishn's Handicraft, Krishn Chand, said that the success of his business

was possible with the Government's COVID-19 Concessional Loan Packages for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

"Some of the handicraft sellers including myself, we heard that the Government was giving out loans which was also advertised in the newspaper and then we decided to apply," he relayed.

"I was really happy that my application

was approved and since I had gained experience in the area of handicraft, I had a plan in my mind."

"I thought ahead and was able to get a vehicle for the business and bought more stocks (handicraft items) so that I can progress further," Mr Chand added.

The 32-year-old said that he has been in the handicraft business for the past 15 years and gained experience in the field while working for someone and then decided to open his own shop in 2017.

"In 2021, I received \$7,000 in concessional loan from the Government which I injected into my business and it is still growing," he said.

"I usually buy the war clubs, tanoa and other handicrafts from the outer islands like Kabara and my customers are mostly locals but we also get tourists at the shop."

"Some days the sales is really good and some days it is not but we don't really have any choice in this and all we can do is to continue to market the products," he added.

The closure of borders during the height of COVID-19 hit tourism related businesses hard but many, such

as Mr Chand, persevered and remained committed.

So much so that the young entrepreneur explains that he has paid some of the loan amount and will continue to do so.

"I have received another loan through the Fiji Development Bank which has also assisted me in developing my business," he highlighted.

"The ordinary Fijians and in particular those that are starting a business should take advantage of the Fiji Government's initiative and apply for the grant," he said.

"Those who are getting grants from the Government should only use the money where it is needed to grow their business because it is of no use if you abuse the money on food and drinks."

"The lowest price of any item at the shop is \$5 and the most expensive item is the tanoa selling for as much as \$1800 a piece," he added.

Mr Chand also has a Facebook page where he gets orders from the customers while also doing wholesale to Tappoos.

"I wish to continue investing in my business and keep improving and succeeding in it," he noted.



Owner of Krishn's Handicraft situated at the Suva Handicraft Centre, Krishn Chand, shows the variety of handicraft for sale at the shop. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Silktails presents i-Tatau at State House

Go with God and the blessings of this nation.

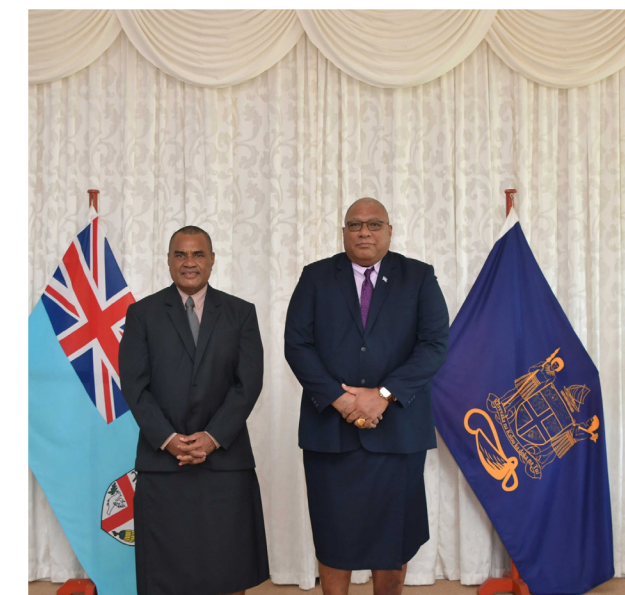
This was the crux of the message by President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere when he accepted the Kaviti Silktails' i-Tatau at State House recently

The Kaiviti Silktails Rugby League Football Club, a team of Under 21 rugby league players, aspire to represent their village, province, and country by playing the game they love - and playing it well.

Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA



Commissioning ceremony of Fiji's Ambassador designate to USA



The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere officiated at the Commissioning ceremony of Fiji's Ambassador Designate to United States of America, Ilisoni Vuidreketi at the State House.

Mr Vuidreketi has over 20 years' of senior management experience at national (Fiji) and regional (Pacific Islands) levels in the areas of Trade, Tourism, Finance, Investment and small and medium enterprise development.

Photo: Felix Lesinaivalu



Rewa Youth receive farming & sports equipment

The Waivou Youth and Sports Club received a boost to their farming capabilities as they were handed a brand new Rotovator.

In addition to the Rotovator, they were also presented with sports equipment, which was made possible through the Ministry's Sports Grant program.

The Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru, while officiating at the handover event in Waivou Village, Rewa recently, highlighted that the Government invests in such programmes to help set the right pathway for youth to a brighter future.

Photo: SUPPLIED



PM Rabuka attends Australia Day



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, attended a special event to mark Australia Day and National Tim Tam Day at the residence of the Australian High Commissioner, Ewen McDonald this week.

He was joined by Cabinet Ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and other special guests.

Australian High Commissioner McDonald expressed gratitude to the Peoples' Coalition Government for its continued partnership and shared aspirations under the Vuvale Partnership.

Photo: SUPPLIED



New hope for Lautoka women market vendors



Market vendor, Tamarica Waibebenisala, commends the opening of the Namoli Green Light Market in Lautoka. PHOTO: DIPESH KUMAR

By DIPESH KUMAR

AROUND 25 women market vendors in Lautoka will no longer be at a risk of being exposed to severe weather conditions and operating amidst busy traffic after the opening of the newly established Namoli Green Night Market.

The opening of the market marks a significant milestone in the journey of resilience and determination for women vendors who have long endured difficult odds to sell their products.

As shared by Tamarica Waibebenisala, a food parcel seller, that over the years they have braved and adverse conditions, selling their goods along pavements and outside shops, facing challenges ranging from exposure to the elements to safety risks in high-traffic areas.

“Every day before 1pm all my food packs are sold. My customers are mostly government workers.”

Ms Waibebenisala shared that she sells fish in coconut milk with other sea food in food packs and the new market will be a safe place for her to operate from.

“This new market looks attractive and of standard. I know for sure that I will gain more sales here with more customers. This business has been our bread and butter for years for my family.”

“It has met our daily needs as well as supports the education of my children who are now all married and some live in overseas.”

Ms Waibebenisala also thanked the Lautoka City Council for giving the opportunity to utilise her skills in market.

Sharing the same sentiments was another market vendor, Mereseini Tuibau who shared how she started her business in 2013 and now has a permanent place to operate from.

“It has been more than 10 years of running this business. Prior to the establishment of this market, we were selling our products at the walkways, which was unlawful, from then on, the president of our association made an effort to ensure that we got a proper place to sell our products.”

“We are very happy with this new market because it’s clean, it’s big and convenient for us and our customers.”

The Namoli Green Food Market is a project under the Lautoka City Council and the revenue generated through the stall fees will go towards achieving the return on investment for this venture.

The market also serves as a hub for local commerce, offering 64 stalls, seven cart spaces, three washing stations and seating facilities.



Minister For Housing & Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa, with women market vendors at the newly-opened Namoli Green Light Market in Lautoka. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

Renewed hope for sugar farmers as Ministry announces initiative

By DIPESH KUMAR

SUGAR cane farmers across the Western Division have praised the new initiative by the Coalition Government to remove deductions in the final cane payment ensuring that the farmers have sufficient funds to celebrate Diwali.

The promised initiative announced by the Ministry of Sugar was welcomed with much delight by farmers who have awaited such support.



Kitione Nasau of Naviago Village, Vitogo in Lautoka applauds the Fiji Government's initiative in the removal of deductions in the final cane payment. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

Daven Prasad of Sabeto Nadi shared that farmers can now rejoice Diwali without the added strain of financial deductions, allowing them to fully partake in the festivities with their families and communities.

Expressing his gratitude, he said the Ministry of Sugar has recognised their needs and taken a proactive step to address them.

“We are deeply grateful to the Minister for this announcement. This will significantly improve the financial burden on us, especially during the festive season. We can now celebrate Diwali with peace of mind and joy in our hearts.”

Among the initiatives announced, the Ministry has also revealed plans to explore additional avenues for assistance by deferring deductions for fertilisers in a progressive manner.

Kitione Nasau of Naviago Village, Vitogo, Lautoka shared that this initiative, which aims to ease financial pressures on farmers, has been met with interest and optimism within the farming community.

He shared that the prospect of deferred deductions for fertilisers had injected a renewed

sense of hope and farmers can reinject the money to increase the cane production as deductions will be done in the following year.

“The Government of the day is doing good work in assisting us in the sugar industry.”

“We know we are heading toward a positive direction & for that, we thank the Government for its vision and work currently being put in action,” Mr Nasau said.

“Not only are our concerns taken into consideration, we also receive valuable advice on how we can improve our production, especially for sugarcane.”

“This is something that we were never used to because as we all know, statistics and figures to deal with money are hardly discussed to us farmers.”

These initiatives and incentives are part of the Ministry of Sugar’s \$50 million budget for this year to increase cane production which has decreased from 4.2 million tons to 1.6 million tons.



Stakeholders and members of the public have commended the move by the Fiji Government to ease the financial strains of sugarcane farmers. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

New airport for Yasawa

By MEREANI GONEDUA

CONSTRUCTION work has been underway to build an airport on Yasawa Island.

Speaking at a recent Business Forum in Nadi, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, highlighted that apart from building an airport there are a good number of investments that has been earmarked for the Yasawas.

Minister Gavoka stated that the airport would be a good investment as it would be able to transport tourists from the island to Denarau as well as to the Coral Coast.

“We believe an airport that can accommodate an ATR would be a very good investment for the Yasawas and work is underway to make this happen.”

The Minister also highlighted that there’s no such thing as a right time to start an investment but that confidence in the economy was needed.

Elaborating further, he said there was a need to start investing so the future generation can reap the benefit.

Minister Gavoka also spoke on plans for Denarau island and stated that the Tourism Ministry was looking at long term plans to further develop the marina.

No more tents, new classrooms for students of Nukubolu Primary School



Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, Ewen McDonald, (left) with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, at the commissioning of the new classrooms. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

“OUR prayers for a brighter future for the people of Nukubolu has now been realised in the form of quality learning facilities for our children.”

These were the words of Nukubolu Primary School manager, Manasa Matailevu, who was moved to tears upon witnessing the commissioning of the Nukubolu Primary Schools new state-of-the-art school structure.

The new learning facilities puts an end to the struggles of teaching and learning under tents for the past three years.

Located in the interior of Vanua Levu, Mr Matailevu said because of their geographical location, accessibility and development was a challenge.

He added that because of the community understands and treasures the value of education, and the role it plays in transforming communities.

“Our school was completely destroyed in 2021, so we moved the students to the evacuation centre, and later with the help of the Government, we were given tents so our children have been learning in the tents from then till this this year,” Mr Matailevu said.

“The support from the community has been great, from the teachers, parents, the youth and the valuable advice from the elders.”

School head teacher, Gade Yabaki, said this did not dishearten teachers and students from striving towards academic excellence, turning a

hope school into one that has attained a 100 per cent pass rate for the past seven years.

“These new facilities has given us a great new challenge, whereby we as a school need to strive high in all areas of teaching and learning for the better future of the children of Nukubolu,” Mr Yabaki said.

He added that they were grateful to the Australian and the Fiji Government for the assistance rendered in ensuring quality education for their students.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, National Development, Strategic Planning and Development, Biman Prasad, while commissioning the new structure expressed Fiji’s deep appreciation to Australia in all the assistance provided over the years, which has funded rehabilitation works for nine schools in the North including Nukubolu.

DPM Prasad further assured parents and students of Government’s commitment through education as a cornerstone of change and development, therefore receiving the highest allocation in the 2023-2024 National Budget.

Australia’s High Commissioner to Fiji, Ewen McDonald, said the school represented more than just bricks and water but solidifies the elevated Vuvale Partnership between Fiji and Australia, and in empowering communities through inclusive and equitable education opportunities for all.

The new facilities include five classrooms, an ablution block, an administration room and a sick bay.

Economic empowerment of women vital for better lives



Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Kalaveti Ravu with the womens of Driti. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

“THE economic contribution of women is vital in communal and national development, and this must be utilised so we can raise the standard of living in villages.”

These were the sentiments of 56-year-old Timaima Ana, an executive member of the Seatura Women’s Club in the village of Driti, located in the interior of Dama, in Bua.

The club has been operating a fish pond for more than a decade, utilising the skills of the women in the village to generate income and make life easier for the 30 families in the community.

Due to its geographical location, the tilapia pond has provided fish supply to the villagers who used to travel for many kilometres to buy fish, and this has generated income for the club.

“It was through the project, the club has purchased a truck for the village, done maintenance of the church, contributed to functions and other tasks that we’ve been asked to assist the Vanua with,” Ms Ana said.

“We were assisted with solar, and

fencing materials by the Ministry, and we are truly grateful for the assistance rendered by the Government to ensure that we can elevate our local communities.”

Meanwhile, she has called on women in rural areas especially in villages to not allow the labels of society to dampen their spirit and discourage from reaching their maximum potential and fulfilling their purpose in nation building.

“We all have resources and talents that we must use for income generation, so we could help build our communities.”

The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Kalaveti Ravu, while touring the project facility commended the women for the initiative, stating the importance of utilising available resources to generate income.

Minister Ravu highlighted on the Memorandum of Understanding that was recently signed between his ministry and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, allowing them to work together in ensuring that resource-based sectors would be the backbone in helping raise the standard of living in the communities.

Tears of joy as students get proper classrooms



Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, Ewen McDonald, (left) with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, while escorting Dreketi Primary School students from the tents to their new classrooms Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

ALVINA Segasegaca could not hold back her tears at the sight of her children and other students of Dreketi Primary School in Macuata being escorted from tents to their new classrooms last week.

Classsss have been conducted their classes in tents since Tropical Cyclone Yasa ravaged through their community, destroying their classrooms.

The 44-year-old said, “I have three children that attend this school, and the commissioning today brings me joy and relief knowing that my children are in a quality learning environment when in school”.

Dreketi Primary School’s head teacher, Shalendra Vijay, said the commissioning of the new classrooms would go down in history as a life-changing moment and one that celebrates the dreams and aspirations of students.

Despite experiencing difficulties while learning in tents, Mr Vijay said that the students did not let it deter them from pursuing their studies, as reflected in their academic achievements.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, National Development, Strategic Planning and Statistics, Biman Prasad, while officiating at the event highlighted the substantial assistance rendered by the Australian Government through the Vuvale Partnership, which funded the construction of the classrooms.

DPM Prasad said Fiji has benefitted from this bilateral relationship, providing much-needed aid during some of the major challenges that hit the country like COVID-19, and the rehabilitation programs implemented in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Winston and Yasa.

Australian’s High Commissioner to Fiji, Ewen McDonald, said education was the cornerstone of development, education enables us to transform lives, empower community and creates a world of possibilities.

“We know that investing in you is the best investment we can make to the future of Fiji,” Mr McDonald said.

The six classrooms and two abolition blocks were constructed at a cost of \$2.9million.

Fiji attends 11th session of APFSD



Assistant Minister for Finance Esrom Immanuel with the Fiji delegation during the 11th session of the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) held at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand this week. Photo: SUPPLIED

ASSISTANT Minister for Finance, Esrom Immanuel, led Fiji's delegation to the 11th session of the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) taking place at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand this week.

This regional forum supports the least developed, landlocked and small island states in the Asia-Pacific region towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their targets set out by the 2030 Agenda by identifying regional trends, sharing best practices and lessons learned.

The Forum brought together United Nations system bodies, member States, international organisations, civil society, and other stakeholders whose input informs the 2024 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, which reviews sustainable development progress at the global level.

The 11th APFSD convenes under the theme of "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific".

The forum assesses progress on the SDGs under review: Goal 1 (No poverty); Goal 2 (Zero hunger); Goal 13 (Climate action); Goal 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals). The Forum also supports the presentation of voluntary national reviews (VNRs) at the 2024 HLPF.

Fiji presented its second VNR last year and

shared some lessons learnt from the experience to the Forum. This year a number of Pacific islands are expected to present their VNRs.

Asst Minister Immanuel participated in plenary sessions, side events and touched on a number of initiatives that the Fiji Government's was actively pursuing in the pursuit of the SDGs, which many states, including Fiji, are making slow progress against in the face of multiple global crisis.

He also highlighted that Fiji champions the notion of a Pacific Zone of Peace in line with the regional leaders' vision for the Pacific.

Asst Minister Immanuel also met with UN Under-Secretary General Guy Ryder and UN Under-Secretary General of UNESCAP Ibu Armida Alisjahbana, on the margins of the Forum in support of multilateralism to reaffirm the closeness of Fiji - UN relationship and our commitment to the international order based on the rule of law.

The UN-USGs touched on the Summit of the Future scheduled for September and the zero draft of the Pact for the Future currently under negotiation, the action-oriented pact is to be agreed at the Summit which insists on solidarity for present and future generations.

The Forum ends Friday and Assistant Minister Immanuel is being supported by Dr Neelesh Gounder, Chief Policy Advisor in the Ministry of Finance and Counsellor, Solo Momoivalu, of the Fiji Mission in Jakarta.

(Source: Ministry of Finance)

PM Rabuka receives courtesy call from the Non-Resident Ambassador of Austria



Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka, meets the new non-resident Ambassador of Austria to Fiji, Ambassador Elisabeth Kögler in his office. Photo: SUPPLIED

PRIME Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka received a courtesy call from the new non-resident Ambassador of Austria to Fiji, Ambassador Elisabeth Kögler recently.

The meeting outlined prospects to strengthen the diplomatic relations and partnership between Fiji and Austria.

It was highlighted that the two nations share multilateral commitments at the United Nations (UN) on common areas of interest such as peace, security and climate change.

Vienna, Austria, is host to UN Organisations and International Organisations including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Bank amongst others.

PM Rabuka congratulated and conveyed best wishes to the new Ambassador and also reaffirmed Fiji's commitment to further enhance the development cooperation for mutual benefit of both the nations.

On the same note, Prime Minister acknowledged the ongoing cooperation and support Austria has provided to Fiji through the European Union (EU) and welcomed Austria's commitment to our cooperation in alignment with our priority areas such as climate change, economic development, human rights, democracy and governance, empowering women and girls.

Austria reasserted its commitment to deepen cooperation with the Pacific region in line with vision led by Fiji on the Pacific as the Zone of Peace.

In response, Ambassador Kögler expressed her appreciation to PM Rabuka for the opportunity to discuss Austria's plans to strengthen cooperation with Fiji.

She said Austria recognises Fiji's leadership and hub status in the region and looks forward to collaborate closely in building climate adaptation and resilience, infrastructure and renewable energy projects, economy, trade and investment, are among the key initiatives to upgrade cooperation.

Ambassador Kögler said Austria produces its energy from the hydroelectric power stations with decades of experience in such initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable and resilient development.

Furthermore, she commended Fiji's unwavering commitment and strong leadership in promoting human rights and democracy, peace and unity at both regional and global arenas.

Based in Canberra Australia, the Ambassador serves 12 Pacific Island Countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Royal Australian Airforce C-27 to assist Fijians



By JESHU LAL

THE arrival of the Royal Australian Airforce C-27 will address the growing threats of extreme weather and floods, and the worrying trends in illicit narcotics.

This as Fiji and Australia have collaborated to deliver a Defense Pacific Air Program under the Vuvale Partnership.

The Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration, Pio Tikoduadua said Fiji and Australia are working together to build Pacific resilience to traditional and non-traditional security threats.

"Already this year we are reminded of the growing threats of extreme weather and floods and the worrying trends of illicit narcotics."

Minister Tikoduadua highlighted that the aircraft will give Government the reach to provide services to "the remote parts of Fiji where the aircraft can land and take items and equipment to the people".

"Australia's deployment of a Royal Australian Airforce C-27 provides a valuable building block to tackle these threats- and to build a safer nation and a safer Pacific region," Minister Tikoduadua said.

He said that the Australian Air

Force team will be deployed to Fiji on an ongoing basis for two out of every eight weeks.

"As this is the first rotation to Fiji, we must first work on effective national coordination. We live in an age where we cannot work as individuals, and no single agency has all the answers. Our people depend on us in Government to work with national purpose- this is the Pacific way."

Minister Tikoduadua has called on the various Ministries to coordinate well with the Australian team and the Joint Air Tasking Unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration, Pio Tikoduadua with Australia's High Commissioner to Fiji, Ewen McDonald during the arrival of the Royal Australian Airforce C-27 at Nausori Airport. Photo: JESHU LAL

A new foot crossing sparks gratitude and hope

By JAMIL SULEMAN

VILLAGERS of Vatukarasa, nestled in the heart of Tailevu, are jubilant over the completion of their long-awaited foot crossing, made possible through Government support.

Meleki Ravutuni, a 30-year-old resident of Vatukarasa village, shared his thoughts on the unveiling of the foot crossing by the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Sakiasi Ditoka.

“The entire village is overjoyed with the opening of the foot crossing today.”

“In the past, without a foot crossing, crossing the river during high water levels was nearly impossible- we had to rely on the large rocks to navigate.”

“We are immensely thankful to the Government for undertaking this significant project, especially for the safety of our schoolchildren who use this route daily.”

Standing proudly on the newly constructed foot crossing, Mr Ravutuni reflected on the

years of wait leading up to this moment.

“We’ve waited patiently for years for this foot crossing to be built, knowing it would greatly improve our lives. Before its construction, accidents were common occurrences in this river.”

Heavy rain poured down on the newly built foot crossing, with the river flowing strongly beneath, Mr Ravutuni expressed the relief and gratitude of having little to worry about now when crossing this river.

“I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Government for their big assistance to Vatukarasa and Coloi villages. For far too long, our people have risked their safety crossing these treacherous waters on foot.”

For Vatukarasa Village, the foot crossing symbolises more than just a structure—it represents a lifeline, fostering connectivity and optimism for the future.

As the community gathered to commemorate this significant milestone, Mr Ravutuni could not help but smile, knowing that their collective aspirations have finally come to fruition.

Rayawa Bakery a hit in Tavuki, Kadavu



Joseva Tagica inside his bakery in Natumua Village, Tavuki, Kadavu. Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

By ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE Rayawa Bakery has been a thriving success in the village of Natumua, Tavuki in Kadavu since its establishment in 2021.

It was one of the businesses visited by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives and Small and Medium Enterprises, Manoa Kamikamica, during his recent trip to Kadavu.

It all started with the idea of running a business that no other person in the district of Tavuki was willing to venture into.

Joseva Tagica, 53, shared that what challenged him the most was that he did not have any baking experience, the necessary appliances to use and the fact that for the iTaukei, when one builds a small business, others follow the same track and that was something he wanted to avoid.

“I was scrolling through Facebook one day and saw a video of baking using drums. I knew that no one else in Tavuki had an oven to bake bread so I decided to go for it. As news of my business spread, I could not meet the demands from customers by just using one drum so I had to order another one,” he said.

He learnt breadmaking from an Assemblies of God pastor who was in their village.

At some point he wanted to give up in learning because the first few breads he baked were shaped like horse saddle when

they came out of the oven but the pastor kept encouraging him to keep practicing.

Even after using two drums to bake and employing a few villagers to supply him with firewood, Mr Tagica’s orders were surpassing the output of production, so he bought an electric oven and a gas oven.

“At first, I was kneading the bread dough with my hands which was tiring. During one of the recent Government visits to Tavuki, the Provincial Administrator Kadavu, Joji Waqata informed me of Government initiatives that could assist small businesses like mine. From there I asked him if I could be assisted with a dough mixer, to which he said that all I needed to provide was my one-third deposit and the Government will pay the rest.”

Mr Tagica was assisted by the Government with a dough mixer and through his earnings he was able to buy another gas oven.

He supplies bread to five villages, including Yawe and Richmond High School and also operates a shop at the Vunisea Market and a canteen at home.

DPM Kamikamica encouraged Mr Tagica to keep growing his business and further advised that he could approach the Ministry at any time should he need any assistance.

Mr Tagica thanked the Fiji Government for its continued support to SMEs.

He added that running a small business in the rural and maritime area was not for the weak but if one was consistent, dedicated and honest then their small business can break barriers.



Village members of Vatukarasa pose for a photo on their newly built foot crossing with Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, Disaster Management Sakiasi Ditoka. Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN

Peceli Marua grateful for Government support

By JAMIL SULEMAN

“PROJECTS like a footpath, clean drinking water and improved sanitation facilities is a major development for us.”

These were the sentiments of Peceli Marua, from Wainilotulevu, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Government for its dedication to fostering progress in their community.

This progress came through the commissioning earlier this month by the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management Office, Sakiasi Ditoka, together with local officials and community leaders, of development projects in the remote villages of Wainilotulevu and Nasoqo, nestled in the rugged terrain of Namosi.

These initiatives ranged from essential footpaths and crossings to safe drinking water from taps and upgraded sanitary infrastructure.

The commissioning was witnessed by the villagers who warmly welcomed the long-

awaited developments as huge steps toward improving their livelihoods.

“I am really thankful to this Government for helping us develop,” Mr Marua said.

Reflecting on the challenges faced prior to the implementation of these projects, he highlighted the journey villagers had to undertake for basic necessities.

“Before the construction of the road, our daily trips to Navua for essential supplies were challenging,” he recalled.

“We had to travel through the forest and cross rivers, often relying on horses, which would take hours. Now with the infrastructure development, access has become much more convenient.”

The villagers’ struggles and hardship over the years were evident in the stories passed down by the elders of the village, highlighting the difficulties they endured in accessing basic amenities.

Mr Marua emphasised the importance of maintaining and expanding upon the existing infrastructure projects.

“While we are happy about these achievements, we want to further develop our village,” he remarked.

“Renovating our celebration tent (vale ni



Villagers from Nasoqo and Wainilotulevu rejoicing in the completion of their latest community projects, captured in a delightful cake-cutting ceremony featuring Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, Sakiasi Ditoka. Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN

soqo) and the installation of solar panels are among the priorities outlined in our development plan.”

Mr Marua explained that agriculture was the main source of income for the villagers which mainly sustained the community.

“Farming, particularly the cultivation of yaqona and dalo, serves as our primary source of income,” he said.

“We rely on these crops, which are sold in

town, to sustain our livelihoods.”

Mr Marua further expressed gratitude to the Government for its unwavering support and commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by remote communities like Wainilotulevu and Nasoqo.

“We are grateful to the Government for recognising our needs and allocating resources to uplift our villages,” he remarked.

Farmer sees potential in dairy industry

By AZARIA FAREEN

IT WAS through Government's assistance that I am able to continue doing small subsistence dairy farming with 30 cows which is slowly growing.

This was the lived experience relayed by the 42-year-old grant recipient, Shawn Scott, residing in Delainavanua, Natovi in Tailevu.

"This is my fifth year in the dairy industry but it started back during my dad's time who used to do beef farming," Mr Scott said.

"My elder brother then took over the farm and started dairy farming with just four cattle without any assistance from anyone and it grew from there."

"I used to be an electrician and my brother was an engineer on a ship but he left his job as he got really sick and my mum's health was also not good so I had to take over the responsibilities of the farm," he added.

"We started this business in 2010 but I started helping him five years ago and out of the 168-acres of freehold land, we have about 88-acres grazing land," he further added.

Mr Scott said that he received the Government's assistance for the first time after Tropical Cyclone Winston where he was able to make a shed and get the paddocks fenced which was a helpful boost to the farm.

"I received a thousand pine posts, 19 coils of barbed wire and 12 coils of goat wire and with these materials, we were able to do our boundary lines properly which stopped the cattle from going outside," he stated.

"About \$15,000 was contributed by the Government in 2016 to build our dairy shed. We got rid of the old wooden pine posts and used metals and concrete which is much stronger and better now."

"At the moment, I am able to milk up to 80-litres and 15-litres goes to the calves, and the rest are taken to the chilling centre in Waidalice, so by the end of the week I am able to get over \$600 which is a big help for us," Mr Scott explained.

He added that with that income he can continue to do other things such as bring in diggers to do proper drainage and continue expanding the shed to his expectation.

"We had a milking machine rigged up but the consumption of power and the manpower needed for the machine was



Recipient of Government assistance, Shawn Scott, 42, points to the new dairy shed at his farm in Delainavanua, Natovi in Tailevu. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

more than our cattle so we had to bring up our stock to 50-60 heads so that the machine is viable for use," Mr Scott said.

"At the moment we are doing it manually for 30 cattle and there are only three of us working on the farm so once we finish our shed then we will start to replace our stock too."

"We get \$1.03 per liter and the Government subsidy adds on to that which then increases the amount to \$1.20 per liter and I get cattle feed as a subsidy as well," he added.

Mr Scott said that when he started with dairy farming, he used to spend about \$26 to buy a bag of dairy mesh but now it is only \$6 as the Government pays most of the amount.

"This is a big help from the Government side to the dairy industry where small farmers can survive and I am grateful to be a part of this assistance," he said.

"When you feed the cattles molasses with the dairy mesh, it boosts them into giving more milk and my best jersey cow gives 10 litres of milk every morning."

"In the next five years I want to have 150 herds of cattle to be milked in the dairy shed and I would really love to see that along with having few

houses (built) for the workers too," he added.

Mr Scott said that if more people showed interest and effort in dairy farming then there was a possibility of reducing the dairy import bill as dairy was a commodity which was not affected by anything, even COVID.

Besides, he said "you get a weekly stable income to not only support your family but to do more".

"Tailevu area is mostly wet and we can't cope with the water coming into the farm so I am slowly trying to get that out with the help of the Ministry of Waterways," Mr Scott said while highlighting

the challenges of operating a dairy farm.

"There is salt water also coming in and flooding the lower part of the land so we have planted mangroves to counter that and I have requested for a chilling centre to be opened in this area so that more farmers can get into dairy farming."

"As an individual, you have to love whatever job you do and give it your full time and commitment in order to see success and anyone joining the dairy sector will not regret it as it will always provide a steady income and you are your own boss," he added.



Pilot Project for outsourcing of passport and visa services



CABINET approved the outsourcing of the Fiji Immigration Department's administrative services.

The outsourcing process will commence with two pilot projects which will include the establishment of four passport and visa application centres in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney, as well as passport and visa application centres in Suva, Lautoka and Labasa.

There will be no direct cost to Government in the outsourcing of these services.

Customers will be charged a processing fee for services offered which will not be dissimilar to the fees currently charged by Fiji Missions for undertaking these services for the Department.

It is anticipated that customer experiences for passport and visa application will be greatly improved through the outsourcing of administrative services.

The Department of Immigration will be liaising with the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Solicitor – General to finalise the successful vendor. Any required legislative amendments will be brought back to Cabinet for approval prior to the commencement of the pilot project.



Access to clean water for Tavarau Settlement

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE commissioning of the Tavarau Community ecological purification system water project worth \$45,906 is set to benefit and provide clean and safe water to 300 individuals in Tavarau Settlement in Ba.

Speaking at the event, Minister for Rural & Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Sakiasi Ditoka, noted that access to clean and safe water was a basic human right, and it was essential for the health and well-being of all individuals.

“The installation of the ecological purification system is a testament to the Government’s commitment to fulfilling its constitutional mandate to provide clean and safe water in adequate amounts to all Fijians at all times,” Minister Ditoka said.

“This project is not just about providing water, but also about protecting the environment,” he added.

“The ecological purification system utilises natural processes to clean the water, minimising the use of chemicals and reducing the ecological impact.”

“This aligns perfectly with Fiji’s commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection,” Minister Ditoka added.

In thanking the stakeholders, he said that the benefits of having access to clean water far outweighs any inconveniences that may have been encountered during the installation process.

Minister Ditoka commended the community members for their patience and cooperation and also highlighted the importance of water conservation.

“Water is a precious resource, and it is our collective responsibility to use it wisely and sustainably,” he encouraged.

“Let us all work together to ensure that future generations have access to clean and safe water, through regular maintenance of this water system.”



Minister for Rural & Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Sakiasi Ditoka commissions the Tavarau Community ecological purification system water project worth \$45,906. Photo: KATARINA NAQARASE

DPM Prasad holds discussions with ADB Board of Directors



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, with the Board of Directors of the Asian Development Bank this week and officials of the Ministry of Finance. Photo: SUPPLIED

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, held in discussions with the Board of Directors of the Asian Development Bank this week.

Recognising the invaluable support extended by the ADB, DPM Prasad underscored the institution’s pivotal role as a strategic development partner, emphasising Fiji’s longstanding collaboration with the ADB.

Expressing gratitude to the ADB Board of Directors, he commended their decision to reclassify Fiji as a Group B country under the graduation policy, effective from January 1, 2022.

Highlighting Fiji’s economic trajectory, DPM Prasad emphasised the imperative of economic diversification for achieving broad-based and sustainable growth, with a particular emphasis on the development of the agriculture sector and revitalisation of the sugar industry.

Furthermore, he underscored the critical need for climate-resilient infrastructure, with a specific focus on enhancing Fiji’s medical services, alongside the government’s unwavering commitment to fiscal discipline and domestic resource mobilisation.

In the context of fostering regional cooperation and integration, DPM Prasad reiterated Fiji’s steadfast commitment to regional solidarity in addressing emerging challenges, including geostrategic competition, climate change, and economic vulnerabilities.

Discussions also centered on advancing strategic future plans to propel the nation forward, with a keen emphasis on nurturing the private sector as the primary driver of Fiji’s economic growth.

The ADB Board of Directors present at the meeting included:

- Executive Director Rachel Thompson
- Associate Executive Director Llewellyn Roberts
- Executive Director Weihua Liu
- Executive Director Bertrand Furno
- Associate Executive Director Nim Dorji
- Executive Director Shigeo Shimizu

(Source: Ministry of Finance)

Launch of smallholder Coffee Project for Navosa



Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Sakiusa Tubuna, planting coffee plant after officiating at the opening of the Coffee Smallholder Project workshop in Draiba Village this week. Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

A US\$25,000 (FJ\$56,117) donation from the Indonesian Government, in partnership with the Fiji Government and local coffee producer Bula Coffee, has reignited interest in coffee cultivation in Navosa’s highlands.

Once a profitable cash crop in numerous highland communities, coffee gradually receded from prominence following the introduction of alternative cash crops, leaving many plants to thrive in the wild and multiply.

However, local coffee received a lifeline when Luke Fryett recognised its potential during visits to rural villages, observing the abundance of wild coffee. This led to the establishment of his business, Bula Coffee.

With the intervention of the Office of the Prime Minister and the backing of the Indonesian Government, coffee is poised for a resurgence, marked by the launch of the project in Draiba Village, Navosa.

Officiating at the opening of the Coffee Smallholder Project workshop in Draiba Village this week, the Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Sakiusa Tubuna, highlighted the initiative as a collaborative effort that was poised to revolutionise agriculture, empower rural communities, and provide a sustainable alternative to illegal activities.

Expressing gratitude to the Indonesian Government for their generous contribution of US\$25,000 (FJ\$56,117), Asst. Minister Tubuna emphasised the Fiji Government’s commitment to a sustainable future, focusing on innovative solutions to rejuvenate production levels, particularly in the agriculture sector.

“I congratulate the organisers of this training workshop and the executives of Bula Coffee Fiji for their foresight and substantial investment,” he said.

“Your confidence that this endeavour will play a pivotal role in significantly boosting production in villages and communities is commendable.”

“The Smallholder Coffee Project, initially proposed by the Office of the Prime Minister, aims to equip approximately 10,000 residents from 41 villages in the Sigatoka region with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful coffee planting and processing,” he said.

Asst. Minister Tubuna also emphasised the project’s importance in offering legal alternatives to farmers, especially in regions where the cultivation of illegal substances has been widespread stating that the Smallholder Coffee Project aims to redirect efforts toward cultivating viable and legal crops for the market.

“The multifaceted benefits of the project include the possibility of planting shade trees like Breadfruit and Mangoes in the coffee plantations to provide shelter and additional yield.”

The Assistant Minister further urged participants to embrace the opportunity for upskilling and empowerment, encouraging them to disseminate the knowledge acquired during the training in their respective villages.

Indonesian Ambassador, Dupito D. Simamora and Bula Coffee founder Luke Fryett were also present at the launch.

The training workshop was conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways and Bula Coffee.

Students urged to be resilient leaders



Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Sakiusa Tubuna, with the newly badged head girl, Esther Kuva, and head boy, Pita Vosavakadua, after officiating at the Prefect Investiture ceremony at Nakasi High School. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

NEWLY badged prefects and heads at Nakasi High School were urged to embody resilience and independence in their roles. This advice came from the Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Sakiusa Tubuna, who officiated at the Prefects Investiture ceremony at the school this week, where he also lauded the school for its outstanding academic achievements, with a stellar performance of above 90 per cent in both Year 12 and Year 13 external examinations in 2023. Speaking to the newly appointed school

leaders for 2024, Asst. Minister Tubuna emphasised the significance of their roles, highlighting that their selection was based on the recognition of their in-built potential by their teachers. “Today marks a pivotal moment in your journey as student leaders. You have been entrusted with a great responsibility, and it is essential to cultivate independence and resilience in your leadership approach,” he said. “Know that you are not here by chance, you were not chosen just for the sake of it; your teachers have seen something in you and that is why they know that you have the God given potential to flourish

in this field of leadership,” he said. “I urge you all to learn to be independent and resilient leaders; Fiji needs a new breed of self-directed individuals who are not reliant on outside factors to motivate them and push them to do what should be done. “For far too long Fijians have been spoon-fed and spoilt with the culture of handouts; I ask you to take things to the next level and move away from that kind of mentality.” “You need to focus on your ability to be productive individuals and how you can take ownership of your role as student leaders,” Asst. Minister Tubuna added.

Newly badged head girl, Esther Kuva, and head boy, Pita Vosavakadua, attributed their achievements to family support and dedication. Ms Kuva, who hails from Serua, credited her success to her faith in God and the unwavering support of her siblings and late mother. Mr Vosavakadua, a proud son of Lau, expressed gratitude to his hardworking parents and aspires to reciprocate their efforts through his future endeavors.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Noda Viti

Siga Tabu, Feverueli 25, 2024 | 8 Drauniveva; 2 ni Tabana; 15 ni lavelave ni ivola

E totogitaki na itaukei ni cakacaka rogo ena \$5000 na kena itotogi ena 'OHS' KAUKAUWA

Story on page 3



Era ciqoma na itabagone na iyaya ni teitei kei na qito

Story on page 6



SEGA na VEIVAKASAUARATAKI ena iotioti ni sausaumi, VEIVAKATOROCAKETAKI VOU

Story on page 7



Sobu na duru ni tauni vou e Keiyasi



S oqo ni kena vakadewataki na cakacaka ni tauni vou o Keiyasi. Na tauni vou ni oti na kena vakacavari ena yaga vei ira e sivia na 10, 000 na kai Viti ena yasana o Nadroga, Navosa kei na veidelana e Ba. Na veitauni vou vakaoqo me vakataki Keiyasi era na dolava na nodra cakacaka na tamata e Navosa, ka na qai vakavuna na kena vakatorocaketaki na nodra

ivakatagedegede ni bula. “Na veivakatorocaketaki oqo e tukuni kina na nodra raivotu kei na lomasoli na iliuliu kei na tamata mai Keiyasi, tikina o Namataku, kei na tabanilotu kaburaki ni vanua nei Namoilevu, ka ra sa solia na veitokoni ena cakacaka oqo ena nodra vakatulewa me ra solia e sivia e 9 na eka ni nodra vanua me ra lisitaki me vanua ni Tauni vou o Keiyasi.”

E sega ni rawa ni tiko vei Turaga ni Ni Koro mai na koro o Keiyasi, o Viliame Naliva na nona yalo ni vosa me baleta na dredre era sotava o ira era vakaitikotiko mai Highlands ena nodra lako ena veiauwa ena mataka me ra tovolea me ra yaco ki na tauni voleka duadua. “Oqo e dua na gauna balavu ni lako mai ka keimami vakavinavinakataka na Matanitu ni siga o ya ena vuku ni caka-

caka vou oqo.” “Era dau lako na lewe ni koro ena vica vata na auwa kei na nodra kakana draudrau kei na iteitei ka tovolea tiko me ra yaco ki na tauni voleka duadua me rawa ni ra volitaka kina na nodra iyaya.” “Ni sa dolavi na tauni vou ena dua na gauna lekaleka sa na sega ni tiko vei keda na leqa oqo ka da sa tadra tiko mai ena dua na gauna balavu.”



E vakabibitaki na veika vakailavo ni saravanua ena Icocovi ni ANZ Viti uasivi ena ni saravanua

Era qai vakayacori tikoga mai na Sheraton Hotel mai Denarau na soqo ni ANZ Fiji Excellence ena iCovi ni Saravanua ka dua na yakavi veivakurabuitaki ni marau kei na vakavinavinaka. Era vulagi dokai kina na Minisitani Saravanua kei na Vuli, Viliame Gavoka a vosa kina me baleta na nodrau veimaliwai na saravanua

kei na bula vakailavo mai na dua na vanua vakasakiti kei na veika dokai. Ena nona vosa, a kaya o DPM Gavoka ni dua na tabana kaukauwa ni kena vakayagataki na \$1.3 billion, ka vakaraitaka e dua na ivakarau ni veivakacegui me baleta na tabana ni saravanua kaukauwa nei Viti. A vakabibitaka na bibi ni cakacaka

e tomani tiko, ka vakabibitaka na kena sa voleka ni tavoci na parokaramu ni Veivakatorocaketaki ni Veilakoyaki ni Vanua Levu. Na sasaga ni kena veisautaki na vanua oqo, ka tokona na Baqe ni Vuravura, e dokadokataka e dua na \$US 200 na milioni vakatabakidua e vakatabakiduataki me baleta na yasana ena vualiku.



Na kebineti ni matanitu cokovata ni tamata a vakayacori ena ikatolu ni soqoni ni 2024 ena Vukelulu 14 ni Feperueri 2024.



Na vakatulewa e vakayacora na Kabineti e oka kina na veika oqo; Vuli Me Rawa ni Caka kina na Vakadidike ni Teitei kei na Veivakatorocaketaki ni Viti (ArdiF) E vakadonuya na kebineti ni Minisitiri ni Teitei kei na Sala ni Wai e vakayacora e dua na vakadidike ni kena rawati na kena tauyavutaki na iTukutuku ni Vakadidike kei na Veivakatorocaketaki ni Viti. Na vakatorocaketaki ni dua na tabana ni teitei gugumatua ena dua ga na vanua e yavutaki ena dua na parokaramu vinaka ka kaukauwa ni Vakatorocaketaki kei na Veivakatorocaketakika vakadeitaka na kena taqomaki na kakana kei na kakana vei ira na lewenivanua. Ena veigauna makawa, na vakadidike ni iteitei kei na vakadidike ni manumanu a tekivuna na Minisitiri me vakatorocaketaki kina na tekinolaji me vukei ira na dauteitei era sega ni rawata na ivurevure ni vakadidike me vakavinakataki cake kina na nodra rawa ka.

Ivakasala ni waluvu kei na cagilaba



Na Valenivolavola ni Lewai ni Leqa Tubukoso (NDMO) e vakauqeti ira na lewenivanua era vakaitikotiko ena veivanua e ra ka ra davo tikiva na waluvu kei na uciwai na Wainibuka kei na uciwai na Wainimala me ra vakayagataka na qaqarauni cecere ka taura na ivakarau ni qaqarauni e gadrevi me vaka e dua na iVakasala ni Waluvu sa vakayagataki tiko ena gauna oqo me baleta na veivanua oqo. Me vaka e kaya na Fiji Meteorological Service, na ivakatagedegede ni wai ena siteseni ni Nayavu ena bati ni uciwai na Wainibuka e tu ena 7.26 na mita, ka 0.76 na mita mai na ivakatagedegede ni yadra ka sa tubu tiko ga. E vakasalataki ira na lewenivanua na NDMO me ra vakadeitaka ni sa tu vei ira na iyaya bibi me vaka na kakana e sega ni rawa ni rusa, wai, wainimate, kei na kato ni veivuke taumada ka vakarauteki tu ena gauna e vakayawaki se leqa tubukoso. Dodoliga yani vei ira na wekadra qase, o ira na vakaleqai tu vakayago, marama bukete, kei na matavuvale era tiko na gonelalai me vakadeitaki kina ni gadrevi vei ira na veitokoni kei na veivuke. Mo tiko e loma ka levea na veilakoyaki sega ni gadrevi, vakabibi ena veivanua dau waluvu.

Raica matua tiko na ivakatagedegede ni wai, uciwai, kei na uciwai voleka. Vakarau mo toki ki na dua na vanua cecere kevaka e gadrevi vakakina. Kevaka e gadrevi me toso, TOSO NI SA RARAMA NA SIGA! Veitaratara kei na Mataivalu ni Ovisa ni Viti se na National Fire Authority (NFA) kevaka o gadreva na veivuke mo toki ki na dua na vanua cecere cake. Na itukutuku me baleta na valenivolavola ni Veivakasulumi sa digitaki e rawa ni laurai ena mataveilawa ni NDMO ena: www.ndmo.gov.fj. Tomana tiko ga na nomu muria na daunivakasala era solia na vakaitutu e gadrevi. Vakavoui tiko ena sala ni itukutuku ni vanua kei na vakavoui ni draki vakadonui mai na NDMO, na Veiqaravi ni Soqo ni Viti, kei na vatavata ni matanitu e Viti me baleta na itukutuku kei na daunivakasala vou. E vakamasuti ira tale ga na lewenivanua na NDMO mera taura vakabibi na ivakasala era solia na vakaisilesi. Ni da itikotiko raraba, sa dodonu meda yadra tiko ka taura na ivakarau gugumatua me vakadeitaki kina na nodra taqomaki kei na tiko vinaka na tamata yadua, vakabibi o ira era malumalumu tu.

Marautaki na siga kei Ositerelia

A tiko ena dua na soqo talei ni vakananumi ni sig ani vanua ko Ositerelia, o Paraiminisita Sitivevi Rabuka me vakatakilakilataka na Siga ni Ositerelia kei na National Tim Tam Day ena itikotiko ni Komisina Levu ni matanitu o Ositerelia Ewen McDonald. Era tomani koya na italatala ni kebineti, lewe ni mataivalu ni matanitu kei ira na vulagi tale eso. Na Komisina Levu nei Ositerelia

ki Viti, a vakaraitaka na Nona Excellency Ewen McDonald na nona vakavinavinaka ki na Matanitu Coalition ni Tamata ena kena tomani tiko na nona veitokani kei na sasaga ena ruku ni veitokani ni Wawa. A vakavoqataka na yalo ni matanitu o Vukeya, ka kaya “e sega ni baleta na ka e rawa ni cakava o Ositerelia vei Viti se na ka e rawa ni cakava o Viti ki Ositerelia, e baleta na veika eda rawa ni rawata vata.”

Ena veitokani vou, a vakabibitaka kina o Komisina Levu McDonald ni na tomana tikoga na veimatanitu ruarua na cakacaka vata me vaqacotaka cake na noda veimaliwai bilateral. E vakatakilakilataki ena yakavi oqo e dua na itovo vakavanua, e vakatakarakarataki kina na kakana kei na gunu kamica ni Ositerelia ka vakaraitaka na vutuniyau kei na duidui ni Vanua e Sobu.



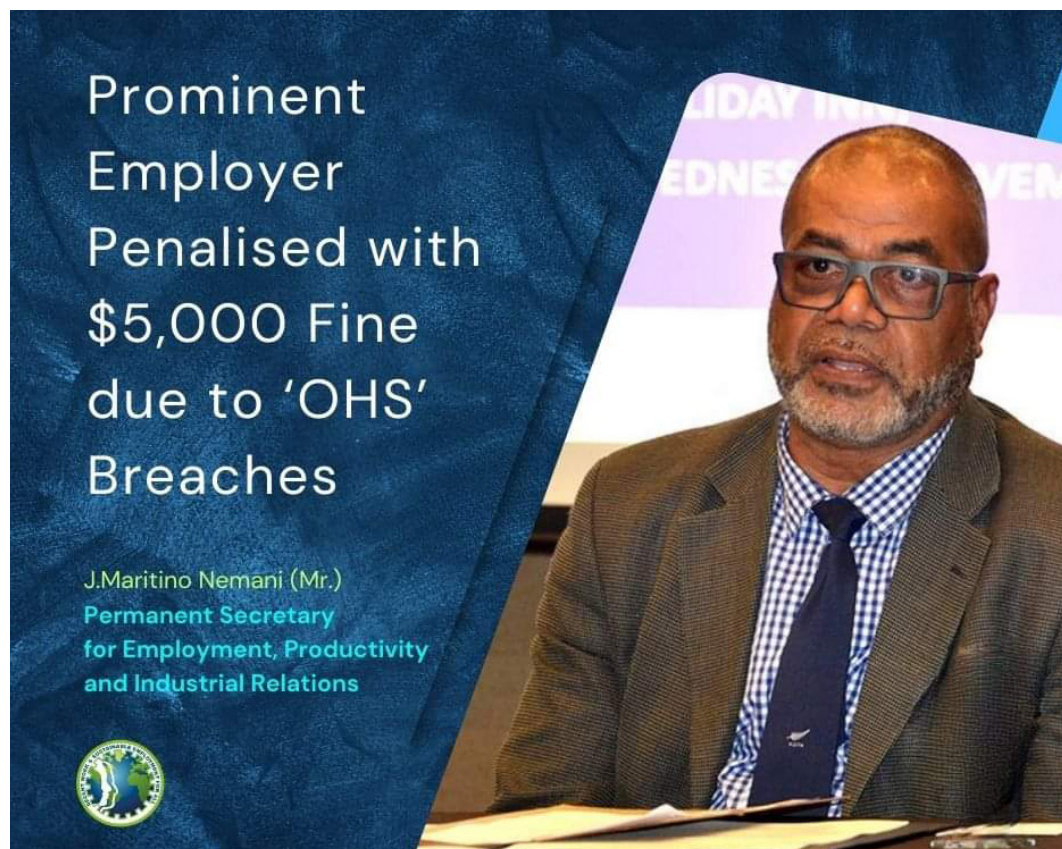
E totogitaki na itaukei ni cakacaka rogo ena \$5000 na kena itotogi ena 'OHS' KAUKAUWA

Na Veiqaravi ni Bulabula kei na Veitaqomaki ni Matanitu (NOHSS) ena Matabose ni Cakacaka, Na Veika Bulabula kei na Veimaliwai ni iYaubula e sa vakacala kina e dua na itaukei ni cakacaka kilai levu ena dua na \$5,000 na kena itotogi ena

vuku ni kena lavotaki na bula vakacakacaka kei na veitaqomaki (OHS). A vakamatatataka o Mr. Maritino Nemani na Vunivola Tudei ni Cakacaka, me iLiliu ni Bula kei na iVakatawa ni Veitaqomaki ni veika oqo ena ruku ni Lawa ni Bula kei na Veitaqomaki ena Cakacaka (HASAWA) 1996 kei na ivakarau ni bulabula kei na veitaqomaki ena Cakacaka (iVakarau Raraba ni Cakacaka) 2003 e vu mai na kena kau sega ni ganiti ira na tamata cakacaka, vanua ni cakacaka sega ni taleitaki; kei na dravudravua kei na lailai ni iyauqaqa e vakarautaki.

A vakatakila oqo na neitou OHS Inspectorates ni oti na nona vakayacora na veivaqai ni OHS vua na itaukei ni cakacaka.

“Oqo e oka kina na yali se lailai ni iyauqaqa ni savasava ni liga, iyaya ni veivuke taumada, rumu ni veisau duidui, iyaya ni veisau katakata, wai savasava, vanua ni kana conged kei na iyaya ni veitaqomaki dodonu me vaka na icegucegu kei na icegucegu ni mata.”



VEIVAKASALATAKI RARABA ENA ITUVATUVA VOU NI VEIVAKATOROCAKETAKI NI MATANITU NEI VITI

Na Minisitiri ni Veika Vakailavo, Tuvanaki Ni iTuvatuva, Vakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu kei na iWiliwili ena tomani tiko ena veivakasalataki raraba ni matanitu raraba ena 3 na yabaki vou, 5 na yabaki kei na 20 na yabaki ni iTuvatuva ni Veivakatorocaketaki Ni Matanitu ena Feperueri 2024 ena Tabana ni Ra kei na Vualiku.

Era sa veilakoyaki voli ena gauna oqo na timi mai na Veiqaravi ena vanua taucoko me tekivu mai na ika 14 ni Feperueri 2024 me ra kumuna

vata na nodra nanuma kei na nodra nanuma na tamata me baleta na inaki ni veivakatorocaketaki, iwalewale kei na parokaramu ka tuvanaki ena ilavelave ka vakasaqara talega na nodra rai kei na vakasama na kai Viti me baleta na veika me vakaliuci ena 3 na yabaki ka tarava, 5 na yabaki kei na 20 na yabaki mai oqo.

E tinikatolu taucoko na bose (13) na bose ni veivakasalataki a vakayacori nikua (Central Division – 4 na bose, Western Division – 5 na bose, kei na Northern Division – 4 na bose).

Ena Tabana e Loma, a kaya kina o Mr. Kamal Krishnan Gounder, na iLiliu ni Valenivolavola ni Tuvatuva ni iTuvatuva ni Veika Vakailavo, Tuvanaki ni iTuvatuva, Veivakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu kei na iWiliwili, ni a raica na timi na sasaga kei na bolebole bibi ni veivakatorocaketaki. Ena Wasewase ena Mua ni Ra ena gauna ni soqoni ena Yavuna Village, e kaya o Mr. Gounder, era a vakatubura kina na lewenivanua na veika me baleta na kena rawati na gunu savasava ka taqomaki, veivakadeitaki ena veikoro lelevu, veisemati/veisemati kei na curuma na gaunisala dodonu.

Ena gauna ni soqoni ena Koro o Nawaka kei na Koro o Momi, era dau vakadrodroi vakavinaka sara na tamata. Era kerea talega na lewenivanua ena koro o Momi na veivuke ni matanitu kei na veika oqo me ra okati ena iTuvatuva: vakasama me baleta na nodra vakaukauwataki na marama ena bula vakailavo, vakavinakataki cake ni wavu ni koro o Momi, tokitaki ni koro, kei na kena vakavinakataki cake na bai ni wasawasa.



ICAKACAKA ni NODRA VAKADEITAKA na ISENIVALU E VITI

Ena dua na ikalawa bibi ki na kena vakavinakataki cake na veitaqomaki kei na veitokoni vei ira era dro tani mai na veivakacacani kei na veisaqasaqa, sa vaqaqacotaka kina na Tabacakacaka ni tawa vanua vakailoa ni Viti (FID) ena veitokani vata kei na Komisina Levu ni Veimatanitu Cokovata me baleti ira na isenivalu (OFR) na kena ituvatuva ni isenivalu oka kina na kena ivakarau ni vakadeitaki ni isenivalu.

Ni sa tubu cake tiko na bolebole e vuravura raraba ka vakasavi ira tani na tamata yadua kei na matauvuale mai na nodra itikotiko, e kila o Viti na bibi ni kena tutaka na yavunibula ni veivuke raraba kei na kena vakarautaki na ivakaruru vei ira era gadreva tu na veitaqomaki ni veimatanitu. Na vakatorocaketaki ni suitu ni ivakaruru e vakadeitaka tale na yalayala nei Viti ki na ivakavuvuli ni dodonu ni tamata e vuravura raraba kei na nodra taqomaki na isenivalu.

Me vaka e yalataka o FID me tosoya na nona ituvatuva ni veitaqomaki ni isenivalu, ena kacivi kina na veitokoni kei na veitokoni ni itikotiko raraba, mataisoqosoqo ni veivuke raraba, kei ira na vakaitutu veiganiti me vakadeitaki kina na qaqa kei na mana ni iwalewale ni asylum.

Kevaka o gadreva eso tale na itukutuku, yalovinakaka veitaratara kei Ms Amelia Komaisavai ena imeli: amelia.komaisavai@immi.gov.fj ena (+679) 9905188 se Ms Rasieli Vukekawaqa ena imeli: rra-bukawaqa@immi.gov.fj ena (+679) 9905066.

Ituvatuva ni veivakatorocaketaki raraba ni matanitu e nakawakawa, Wainunu, Bua

“Keitou vinakata me tiko vei keitou na wai ni gunu vinaka, kei na dua na ivakarau ni wai e rawa ni qaravi ira kece na lewe ni koro.”

Oqo e dua na kerekere mai vei Ana Lolorua ena Koro o Nakawakawa mai Wainunu, Bua ena nona vakamalumalumutaki koya ki na dua na timi mai na Minisitiri ni Veika Vakailavo, Veivakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu kei na Tuvatuva Ni iTuvatuva, ena gauna ni veivakasalataki vou ni iTuvatuva ni Veivakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu ka a vakayacori ena nodratou olo ni koro nikua (19.02.24)

Eso tale na vanua bibi era vakamatatataka na lewenikoro e oka kina na bibi ni kena maroroi vinaka na gaunisala kei na infrastructure, vakavinakataki ni nodra ivakarau ni livaliva ni solar, na kena gadrevi e dua na makete vinaka cake me baleta na nodra iteitei me vakadeitaki kina na isau dodonu, kei na kena tara na gaunisala ni iteitei me vakavinakataki cake kina na nodra iteitei, ka vakarautaka na kena vakayagataki na nodra vuata.

E kaya o ivukevuke ni Matanitu ni Veiqaravi kei na laini, o Hon. Biman Prasad ni sa vakayacori tiko na iwalewale ni veivakatarogi oqo ena vanua taucoko, ena veivuke ena kena tarai cake e dua na yabaki 3, 5 na yabaki kei na 20 na yabaki ni iTuvatuva ni Veivakatorocaketaki Vaka-Matanitu.





Na Iyaya Ni Tvet E Dua Na Veivakatorocaketaki Ni Nadave Catd



Na iTikitiko Raraba ni Pasifika e GeoScience, Energy, and Maritime Division (GEM) a vakarautaka na Valenivolavola ni Tekinolaji kei na Veivakatorocaketaki Dodonu (CATD) e Nadave ena iyaya bibi ni TVET me tokona na cakacaka NI PACRES ena 20.02.24.

Na cau, a ciqoma o Mr. Pita Tagicakirewa, na Vunivol Tudei ni iTaukei Affairs kei na Jeameni ni Matabose ni Kovana ni Nadave, oka kina e 14 na tabanilotu ni UPS, piano livaliva, 14 na mice kei na laiseni me baleta na parokaramu ni Microsoft.

Na iyaya oqo ena vakayacora e dua na itavi bibi ena nodra vuli na vuli o ira na vuli tiko era sa vakacurumi ena Resilience Qualification Classes.

Ena gauna ni veisoliyaki, a vakaraitaka kina o Dairekita GEM o Ms. Rhonda Robinson na vakavinavinaka vei CATD ena vukudra na itikitiko ni Pasifika ena nona vakaitavi vagumatua ena cakacaka ni PACRES.

A vakamatatataka na cau nei CATD, oka kina na nodra vakaitavi ena dua na veivakasarasarataki ni veivakatorocaketaki ni vuli ena PNG, na kena vakamalatataki e dua na cakacaka ni tara waqa tudei, kei na kena vakatorocaketaki e dua na lewenivuli ni TVET ena veitokani kei na APTC.

A raica talega na kena vakacavari wale tikoga oqo e dua na parokaramu ni Training of Trainers mai vei iratou e lima na dauveivakatavulici CATD, ka ra nakita me ra solia na Resilience Qualification Level2.

CIQOMA VAKAILOLOMA NA YAYA NI VAKASAQA NA NASIGATOKA WOMENS CLUB.

Er a mai ciqoma vakailoloma na soqosoqo vakamarama ni koro o Nasigatoka na nodra I yaya ni kana ka vaka mina nai yaya ni vakasaqa mai vua na Minsita ni Marama, Gone kei na Valuti ni Dravudavua O Hon Lynda Tabuya ena siga Vakaraubuka nainka 16 ni Veverueri , 2024.

Ra mai vosa tiko na marama Minisita ena bibi ni kena soli nai oloma e sega walega nira vakayagataka ena veisoqo e caka e nakoro ka rawa talega ni vurevure ni lavo vakabibi ena kena vakayacori eso na veivakatorocaketaki ena loma ni koro ka na veivuke talega vakalevu ena loma ni vuvale.E na nodra mala ni vosa na lewe ni soqosoqo ka vunivola talega o Ulamila Qaraniqio era mai wasea tiko ni yaya ni vakasaqa oqo ena vagataki sara vakavinaka mena vakatubu I lavo vei irana lewe na lewe ni koro vakauasvii ena veivakatorocaketaki mera rawa nib rawa ka kina na soqosoqo vakamarama kei ira na lewe ni koro.



DPM Prasad nodratou ilesilesi na qasenivuli vou ena Koronivuli ni Tikina e Maramarua e Dreketi, Macuata.



“Na yalodina kei na gagadre era veiqaravi kina na qasenivuli ena veivanua vakakoro, ka sega na iyauqaqa vata ga ka tokoni ira na nodra itokani ena veivanua ni siti, e vakacaucautaki.”

Oqo na nodratou vosa na ivukevuke ni Matanitu ni Veiqaravi, kei na Veiqaravi ni Veika Vakailavo, Vakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu, Vakatorocaketaki ni iTu-

vaki ni iTuvaki kei na iWiliwili Vakadonui Vakaitaukei ni Biman Prasad ni lesia tiko e va na iwasewase vou ena Koronivuli ni Tikina o Maramarua e Macuata.

E kaya o DPM Prasad ni sa tu vei ira na qasenivuli bibi na ivakatedegedege ni bula kei na iyauqaqa vinaka, ni ra sa moici ira tiko na gonevuli, ka ra sa veisiga ni mataka mai Viti.

A vakamatatataka ni yabaki ni vakacegu ni dauveiqaravi vakamatanitu, ka okati kina na qasenivuli, sa vagolei ki na 60 baleta ni matanitu Coalition e vakabauta ni bibi na nodra okati ruarua na qasenivuli gone kei ira na kila ka ena kaukauwa ni cakacaka.

E kaya na iliuliu ni qasenivuli, o Semi Goletoka ni ra vakavinavinakataka na Matanitu o Ositerelia, kei na Matanitu o Viti me baleta na veiyasana oqo ni na laveta cake na ivakarau ni bula me baleti ira na nodra qasenivuli.

CIQOMA NAI YAYA NI VEIVUKE ENAI TEITEI KEI NA QITO NAI SOQOSOQO NI TABAGONE E REWA

E ra a mai ciqoma vakailoloma na lewe ni soqosoqo ni tabagone na Waivou Sports club eso nai yaya ni cakacaka enai teitei ka vaka kina na misini ni ni vakamataillalai taki qele (Rotovator) ka vaka kina eso nai yaya ni qito ka vakailavo taka na Ministry Sports Grant Program enai ka 6 ni siga ni Veverueri ena lomanikoro o Waivou.

Era a mai vulagi dokai kina na Minisita ka qarava nai Tabagone kei na Qito ko Hon Jese Saukuru. Ea mai vakabibi taka tiko na turaga na Minisita na vuku ni sasaga ni matanitu oya na kena tovolei mena vakayacori eso nai tuvutava oqo mena rawa ni vukei ira nai tabagone ena kena rawati na nodra tatadra. Sa vakananumi ira talega nai tabagone e Waivou o Minisita mera solia na nodra vinaka mena rawa ni sautu na nodra vania kei ira na kena kawa.

Ea mai vakabibi taka talega o Hon Saukuru ni veika vakasauraraki me baleti ira na marama kei na gone e sega ni ratou duavata kina na Matanitu Cokovata.E cauraki oqo ena vuku ni kena mai veiwa-sei ena mona livaliva na kena i yaloyalo na goneyalewa ka vakasaurarataki mai vua na turaga tamana. Sa veivakadreti na turaga na Mininisita nisa dodonu mena muduki nai vakarau oqoi

Sa ra vakanuiniui tu na turaga Minista nina vuavuai na nodra sasaga nai tabagone e Waivou ka vakauasivi na kena maroroi na nodra vanua kei ira na kena I solisoli.

Oti na vuli ena valelaca



Na vuli ena kena vakayacori na valelaca ni veisau ni tolu na yabaki sa oti sa mai cava vei ira na gonevuli ni Koronivuli ni Lalai o Dreketi e Macuata, ni oti na nodra lesi na nodra rumu ni kalasi ni cakacaka ni liga nikua (20.02.24).

Oqo e dua na gauna ni vakasama vei ira na itubutubu ena nodra raica na nodra kau tani na luvedra mai na valelaca ki na nodra valenivolavola vou ni vuli.

E kaya na iliuliu ni qasenivuli liu ni Koronivuli ni Lalai o Dreketi Shalendra Vijay ni nodra lesi na kalasi vou ena yaco me dua na siga me marautaki kina na nodra tatadra kei na gagadre na gonevuli.

E dina ga ni sotava na dredre ni vuli tiko ena valelaca, e kava o Viiaiv ni ra sega ni vakatara na gonevuli me tarovi ira mai na nodra sasagataka na nodra vuli, me vaka e laurai ena nodra rawa-ka vakavuli.

Na ivukevuke ni Matanitu ni Veiqaravi kei na Veiqaravi ni Veika Vakailavo, Veivakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu, iTuvatuva Ni iTuvatuva Kei na iWiliwili Me baleti Ira na Biman Prasad ena nona veiqaravi tiko ena soqo oqo a vakamatatataka na veivuke levu a vakayacora na Matanitu o Ositerelia mai na Veitokani ni Vakabulabulataki, ka vakailavotaka na kena tarai cake na rumu ni kalasi.

E kaya o DPM Prasad ni sa yaga vei Viti na veimaliwai bilateral oqo, ka vakarautaka na veivuke e gadrevi vakalevu ena so na bolebole lelevu ka a yaco ki na vanua me vaka na COVID-19, kei na parokaramu ni veivakatorocaketaki e vakayagataki ena yadra ni cava cava Winston kei Yasa.

E kaya na Komisina Levu nei Ositerelia ki Viti na Nona Excellency Ewen McDonald ni vuli sa vatu ni vakatorocaketaki, kaukauwa ki na vuli e rawa kina vei keda me da veisautaka na noda bula, vakaukauwataki ira na itikitiko raraba ka bulia e dua na vuvavura e rawa ni yaco.



Moce Ravuama Latilevu Senior



ERA laki soli nodra otioti ni vakamoce ko Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka vua nona itokani ko Ravuama Latilevu.

“Ena mataka nikua, ni’u gole tiko me’u laki veiqaravi ena soqoni ni kena vakayacori na Keiyasi Town Development na kena vakamai e Vatumali, Navosa, au a gole yani ki Keiyasi Village me’u sikova na matavuvale nei Ravuama Lati levu, e dua na itutu dina ni rakavi ni Viti,” kaya ko PM Rabuka.

“Dina ga ni a biuti keirau ena ciwa na yabaki sa oti, au vakila ni dodonu me’u sikovi ratou na nona matavuvale me’u vakarokorokotaka ni bera ni’u tomana na noqu ilakolako.

“E sega ni dua walega na itokani ni timi o Ravuama, e itokani lomani. Keirau a tiko ruarua ena timi ni rakavi 15s, ka tekivu ena 1970.

Ena loma ni lima na yabaki ni nona dauqito ni matanitu, a matataki Viti ena 34 na mataqali ilavo duidui.

Na noqu Dreu, ena nona kila vakasakiti, a qito vaka-irogorogo, e dua na itavi a vakayacora ena kena revurevu levu.

Ena taudaku ni qito rakavi, a gugumatua sara o Ravuama ena nona itavi vakavanua ki na vanua, ka vakakina ki na lotu.

O na dau nanumi tu ga, Dreu



Era ciqoma na itabagone na iyaya ni teitei kei na qito



A ciqoma na Waivou Youth and Sports Club e dua na veivuke ki na nodra rawaka ni teitei ena nodra soli vua e dua na Rotovator vou.

Me ikuri ni Rotovator, era a vakarautaki talega ena iyaya ni qito, ka a rawa ena parokaramu ni Minisitiri ni Qito.

Na Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito Hon, Jese Saukuru, ni vei qaravi tiko ena soqo ni soli ka ena Waivou Village, Rewa ena Vakaraubuka (16.02.24), e vakamatatataka ni Matanitu e vakaitavi ena parokaramu vakaoqo me vukea na kena tuvanaki na sala dodonu me baleti ira na itabagone ki na dua na veisiga ni mataka ramase cake.

A vakayaloqacataki ira na itabagone ena koro mera cau vagumatua ki na nodra vakavinakataka cake na nodra itikotiko ka vakaukauwataki ira na nodra icaba. E vakabibitaka o Mr Saukuru ni nodra vakacacani na marama, goneyalewa kei na gone e sega ni vakadonuya na matanitu Coalition. Oqo e yaco ni oti na itukutuku ni vidio viral ni goneyalewa yabaki 11 ka a vakacacani vakayago mai vei tamana. E vakabibitaka ni sega ni vakadonui na ivalavala voravora vakare-revaki vaka oqo.

Veivakatorocaketaki Vou Me Vakamacalataki Kina Na Gone Kei Na Nodra Bula Dravudravua E Viti



E dua na iwalewale vou me kilai ka wali kina na nodra gagadre na gone a vakat-akilai vei ira na daunituvakawa mai Viti ena dua na vuli tauyavutaki ena Moniti (19.02.24).

Liutaka na vakadidike taumada na Unicef Pasivika kei na Minisitiri ni Marama, Gone kei na taqomaki ni bula raraba baleta na nodra bula na gone kei na nodra dravudravua vakakina na kena iwiliwili talega.

Na vakadidike oqo se N-MODA e dua na iwalewale veiveisau ka na kauta mai e dua na rai vou ki na lawatu me kilai kina na dravudravua ni gone e Viti me baleta na itovo vakavanua kei na veimaliwai ni matanitu.

Ena vakarautaka na ivakadinadina me tukuni kina na lawatu kei na parokaramu ni matanitu oka kina na vei qaravi ni veimaliwai bibi e tarai ira na gone kei na nodra matavuvale, vakabibi o ira era malumalumu vakalevu duadua.

“Na kilai ni dravudravua ni gone kei na dravudravua ni gone e sa ka bibi sara me sotava na nodra gagadre na gone, oqo ena vukea na kena tarai cake na parokaramu kei na lawatu veiganiti,” e kaya na vei qaravi me baleti ira na gonelalai kei na veitaqomaki raraba, Hon. Lynda Tabuya.

Ciqomi na matani matanitu o Austria



yaga ruarua na veimatani-tu.

Kuria ko PM ena nodra vakavinakataka na veitokoni sa vakarautaka tiko o Austria vei Viti mai na veimatani duavata ni Iurope (EU) ka kidavaki Austria ki na noda veitoko-

Era mai ciqoma na mata ni matanitu o Austria e Viti na Paraiminisita ni noda vanua, Sitiveni Rabuka ko H.E Elisabeth Köegler ena nona valenivolavola e liu

E tuvanaki ena soqoni oqo na veika me vaqacacotaki kina na veimaliwai vaka-matanitu kei na veitokani ena kedrau maliwa o Viti kei Austria.

E vakamatatataka ni rua na matanitu oqo e rau wasea na veivakadeitaki vakalawa ena Matabose kei Vuravura (Matabose kei Vuravura) ena veivanua kilai levu me vaka na vakacegu, tataqomaki kei na veisau ni draki.

Vienna, Austria, e dau vakaitikotiko ni vei soqosoqo lelevu ena Matanitu Cokovata kei Vuravura se UN Organisations kei na International Organisations oka kina na International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) kei na World Bank.

Era a vakacaucautaki koya na PM Sitiveni Rabuka ena nodra lesilesi vaka Mata vou ki Viti ka vakadeitaka tale ga na yalayala nei Viti me vakavinakataka cake na veitokoni ni veivakatorocaketaki me baleta na nodra

ni me salavata kei na noda veivanua vakaliuci me vaka na veisau ni draki, vakatorocaketaki ni bula vakailavo, dodonu ni tamata, demokarasi kei na veiliutaki, vakaukauwataki ira na marama kei na goneyalewa.

A vakadeitaka tale o Austria na nona yalayala me vakatitobutaka na veitokoni kei na vanua ni Pasifika me salavata kei na raivotu ka liutaka o Viti ena Pasifika me iWasewase ni Sautu. Me kena isau, a vakaraitaka na Mata Köegler na nona vakavinavinaka vua na PM me baleta na madigi me veivosakitaki kina na ituvatuva nei Austria me vaqacacotaki kina na veitokoni kei Viti.

E kaya o koya ni kila o Austria na ituvaki ni veiliutaki kei na hub nei Viti ena vanua o ya ka vakanamata me cakacaka vata vakavoleka ena kena tarai cake na draki kei na kaukauwa, infrastructure kei na cakacaka vakavou ni igu, bula vakailavo, veisau kei na vakayagataki ilavo, era sa maliwai ira na sasaga bibi me vakavinakataka cake kina na veitokoni.

Na kebineti ni matanitu cokovata a vakayacori ena ikatolu ni soqoni ni 2024 ena Vukelulu 14 ni Feperueri 2024.



Na vakatulewa e vakayacora na Kabineti e oka kina na veika oqo; Lawatu ni Matabose ni Vulagi me baleta na Veivale ni Vei qaravi ni Yasana

E vakadonuya na Matabose ni Lawatu ni Vulagi ni Matanitu qaravi ni iTikotiko ni Vei qaravi ni Matanitu e Labasa, Lautoka kei Suva, ka vakatokai me Golden Age Homes.

Na Nodra Vei qaravi na Marama, Gone kei na Veitaqomaki Raraba (Vei qaravi Raraba) a taura na itavi ni kena qaravi na tolu na vale ni vei qaravi ni yasana mai na Matabose ni Bulabula kei na Vei qaravi Vakavuniwai ena 2016.

Na Lawatu ni Matabose ni Vulagi me baleta na Veivale ni Vei qaravi ni Vei qaravi ni Yasana ena rawa kina vei Vei qaravi me lesia e dua na Matabose ni Vulagi ki na iTikotiko yadua ka yavutaki ena yaga kei na kena bibi, me tomani tiko na bisinisi ni kena qaravi ka maroroi na ilavo ni iyaya ni vei qaravi sa tu rawa ka ra vakatulewataka na Matabose vakawawa.

Veivakauqeti O Akanisi Adimaiwai Vei Ira Na Marama Me Baleta Na Bisinisi.

E na delanivanua saka o Ucunivanua ena loma ni yasana o Tailevu e cadra cake mai kina e dua na marama ka kena dau sara ena caka bisinisi o Akanisi Adimaiwai. . E dua e veiqaravi talega mai ena veiotela ka vaka kina ena Fiji Coconut Industry ka kila deivaki tu e yalona nina rawata na nona I tatadra.

E na nona vakanananu o Adimaiwai ni kena maroroi na kuli ni yagoda e raica ni titobu kina na kena maroroi na veika e tu wavoliti keda. Me vaka ni dau lako curumi tu na veiveisau ni draki e Viti esa vinakata kina o Adimaiwai me sana vakarautaka o koya na dilo, turmeric, bamboo ka vaka kina na Waiwai ni Nu Boi Vinaka(Virgin Oil) me rawa ni rawa I lavo kina.E sega walega ni cakava oya e vakarautaka talega na bitu kme rawa n I so tale kinan na nona bisinisi.

Ea volavola talega o Adimaiwai ka kerea na veivuke mai na matanitu ena vuku ni kena cici na bisinisi ka me na laveta tale ena dua na tagede vou . Duanaka e vakabibi taka o Adimaiwai sai koya na kena sa tu na noda qele ka vakakina na veivunikau sana qai noda I tavi ga na noda vakayagtak vata na

kena maroroi. Esa veivakadreti ira talega na vo ni marama mera kua ni vakaweleweletaka na nodra tatadra nisa vurevure ni lavo sara vei ira.

E ratou a veivuke talega mai na matanitu ena sasaga ni bisinisinoqo ena ruku ni Trade Enhancement Programme. Na tabana oqo e tokona vakatabakidua na veibisinisi lalai mne rawa ni tubu ka kadre vinaka na nodra bisinisi. rElewe levu sara era a vola kerekere yani ena yabaki 2022 ka ratou ciqoma rawa kina 4,170 na vola kerekere ka 71% era noda marama.

Era vosa talega nai Vukevke ni Paraiminisitaka ka Minisita talega e qarava na veibisinisi o Hon Manoa Kamikamica ka vakamacalataka nai tavi. I matanitu ena veibisinisi ka rauta ni sivia na \$100nna milioni ka sa gadreva talega na kena vakanulabulataki tale mai na kena tokoni na veibisinisi ena noda vanua. Edsu solia na mataniotu e rauta ni \$280,000 me vagaolkei vei ira na wasewse ni bisinisi.Sa vakanuinui tu o DPM Kamikamica nina vuauvuai vinaka na nodra sasaga na daunibisinisi vakabibi oira na marama.



Na kebineti ni Coalition ni tamata a vakayacori ena ikatolu ni soqoni ni 2024 ena Vukelulu 14 ni Feperueri 2024.



Na vakatulewa e vakayacora na Kabineti e oka kina na veika oqo

iTaukei ni veika (Matabose Cecere ni iLiuliu) iVakarau ni Veiqaravi 2024

E vakadonui na kebineti na iTaukei Affairs (Great Council of Chiefs) Regulations 2024.

Sa nakiti na lawa me vakadeitaki kina ni sa rawata rawa na Bose Levu Vakaturaga na kena inaki ni oti na kena tauyavutaki tale mai na Parliament ena kena vakayagataki na iTaukei Affairs Amendment Act Naba 25 ni 2023, ena ika 28 ni Noveba 2023.

Na lawa oqo e vakamatatataka na itavi ni Matabose ka vakarautaka na nodra lesi na lewenilotu era na digitaki mai Bose Vanua ena Yasana yadua.

O ira na vakacurumi me Turaga iTaukei se o Tu iTaukei se Liuliu ni Yavusa ka ra sa vakacurumi

ka volai tu ena Ivola ni Volayaca ni iTaukei ka qarava na iTaukei Lands Commission.

Ena vakacuruma na yasana yadua e 3 na lewe ki na Matabose, ka ikuri ni 3 na lewe mai Rotuma era digitaki na Matabose ni Yanuyanua o Rotuma.

Na Lawa e vakayaloqagataki Bose Vanua me vakacurumi ira na marama me lewe ni GCC. Me vaka ga a yaco ena 1999-2007, ena lesia na Bose Levu Vakaturaga e dua na Jeameni mai vei ira na lewena. Ena taura tu na itutu o koya na jeameni me 3 na yabaki ka sa rawa me digitaki tale.

Na lawa e vakarautaka ni o sekeriteri Tudei ni iTaukei ni veika ena sekeriteri ni Matabose.

Sa vakarautaki tu me sota na Matabose ena ika 28 kei na 29 ni Feperueri 2024.

Sega Na Veivakasaurarataki Ena Iotioti Ni Sausaumi, Veivakatorocaketaki Vou



Sa kacivaka o Charan Jeath Singh na Minisita veiqaravi ena tabana ni veika baleta na suka Hon. Charan Jeath Singh ni na sega ni dua na veisisivi ena iotioti ni nodra saumi na dauteitei me vakadeitaka ni sa rauta na ilavo.

Ni vosa tiko ena dua na veivosaki raraba ena Sugarcane Farmers Council Hall e Lautoka nikua, a wasea na Minisita ena rawata e dua na drau na pasede ni ilavo ka sa vakatulewa vata mai na matabose.

A wasea ni oqo e lako vata mai kei na raivotu ni veiqaravi me vakayaloqagataki ira e levu cake na dauteitei me ra curuma yani na iteitei sugarcane me rawa ni vakalevutaki kina na nodra iteitei.

Ena kedra maliwa na veivakaturi oqo, e vakamatatataka tale ga o Minister Singh ni kena vukei na dauteitei, sa vakadikeva tiko na matabose e so tale na ka me baleta na kena lokuyarataki na veisele vei ira na dauvakasaurarataki ena sala torocake.

E wasea ni FSC kei na South Pacific Fertilizers e dua na itavi bibi ena kena vakayacori na ka oqo.

“Eda sa lako tiko ki na kabani ni dausoko kei na FSC. Eda tovolea tiko me da tosoya na veiba ena yabaki mai oqo me baleti ira na dauteitei era sa volia na ivakasobu ni manumanu ena yabaki oqo ka ra sa vakamatei ira.

A tavoci talega e dua na parokaramu vou ni veivakadonui ni matanitu ka ra na rawa ni taura kina na dinau mai na iLavo ni Dauteitei ni Sugar Cane ena imatai ni gauna ka ono na pasede ni oti oya.

E wasea na veiqaravi oqo me vakayaloqagataki ira na dauteitei vou me ra curuma na iteitei dovu ka na vakalevutaka cake na kena sa malumalumu mai na kena buli na itabe.

“Sa lutu na lutu ni dovu mai na 4.2 na milioni na tani ki na 1.6 million na taoni. Ia kevaka me da na tara lesu tale na cakacaka, sa dodonu me da vakalevutaka na kena vakarautaki.”

E wasea o iTalatala Singh ni sasaga kei na veivakauqeti oqo era sa tiki ni 50 na milioni na dola na ilavo me baleta na yabaki oqo me vakalevutaki kina na kena vakarautaki.

Noda Viti

Siga Tabu, Feverueli 25, 2024; 8 Drauniveva; 1 ni Tabana; 15 ni lavelave ni ivola | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijiGovt Fiji Government

VAKARAITAKA NA ITATAU NA TIMI NI KAIVITI SILKTAILS



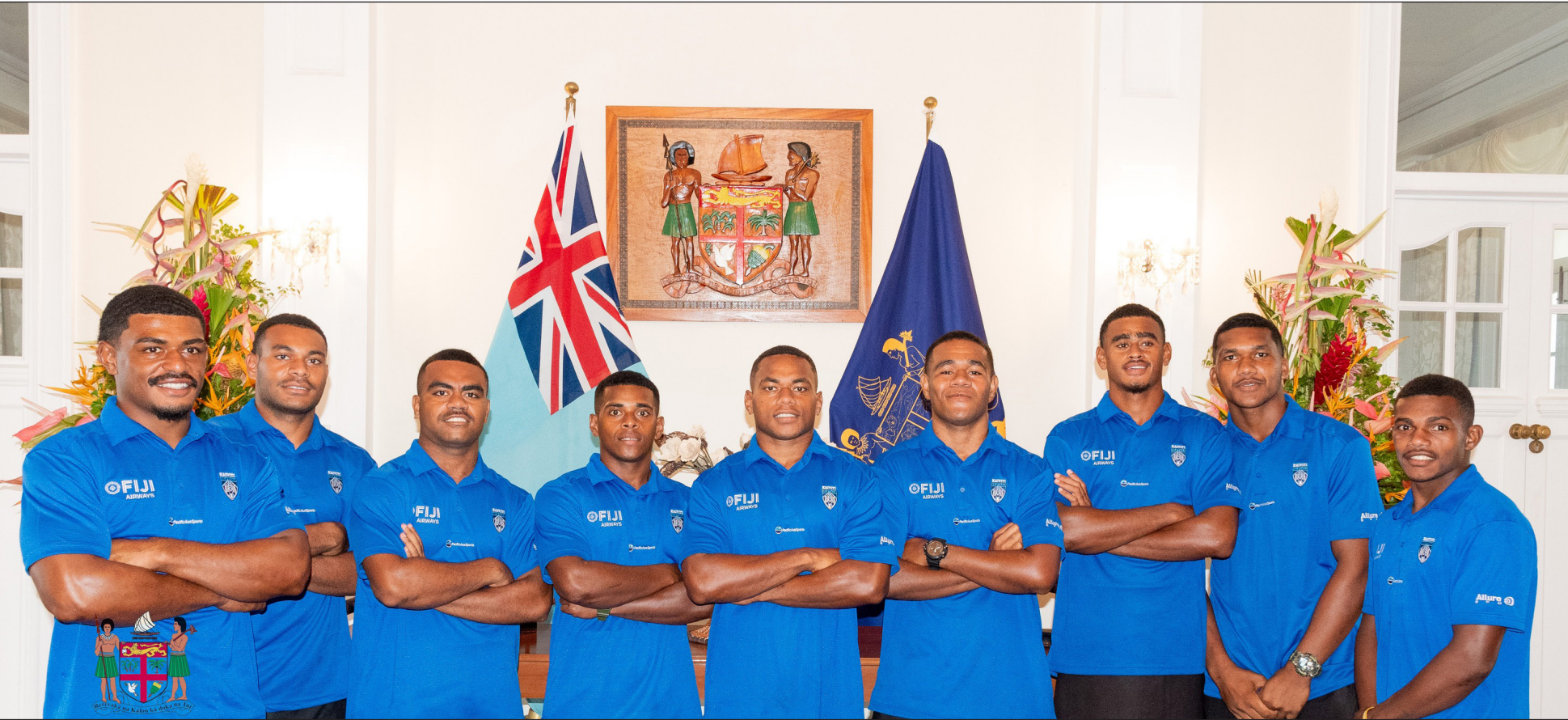
Lako vata kei na Kalou kei na veivakalougatataki ni matanitu oqo. Oqo na itukutuku mai vei nona Turaga, o Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere ena nona ciqoma na iTatau ni timi ni Kaviti Silktails’. Na Timi ni Kaiviti Silktails ena qito rakavi 13’s ka sa dua na kalavo ni qito era wilikina na yabaki 21. Ena nona itukutuku ki na timi, a vakamacalataka kina o Peresitedi Katonivere ni kena vakaraitaki na iTautau e dua na ivakarau titobu ka yavutaki vakatitobu ena itovo vakavanua ni iTaukei. E dau kena ivakarau vei ira na sotia e liu mera vakaraitaka na iTautau ni bera nira biubiu ina ivalu. “Ni’u sotia ena buca ni rakavi, sa dokai na nomu ivakamacala ena mataka nikua,” e kaya na Nona Turaga, “E dau kauta mai vei au na marau ka vakavuna me’u dokadoka ni’u raici ira na itabagone ena matanitu oqo me ra matataka.

“O sa vakayacora tiko vakavinaka sara na Ron Massey Cup mai na gauna o a tekivu kina ena 2020, ka o sa vakavuna me ra dokadoka na tamata ni matanitu oqo.” “Lako yani kina me vaka na tamata qaqqa ka cakava na nomu vinaka duadua. Lako vata kei na veivakalougatataki ni Kalou kei na Matanitu kei na 14 na veiyasana ka tauyavutaka na matanitu totoka oqo.” “Yadua, oi kemuni yadua e dodonu mo ni vakamareqeta na nomuni okati ena timi oqo. E sega ni dua e solia vei iko e dua na Tabua mo vakasaqara kina na nomu veiqaravi, ia na nomu taledi soli va-Kalou e rawa kina mo tiko ena Kaiviti Silktails e ruku ni 21 na timi.” A vakananuma tale na Nona Turaga vei ira na dauqito na veitemaki ni vuravura kei na sala e rawa ni ra vagolei ira tani kina mai na kena rawati na nodra takete. “Qarauna na nomu ivalavala ena buturara ka lako tani. Ni ko qito tiko, nanumi rau na nomu itubutubu, tacimu, vakailesilesi ni timi, kei ira na



nomu sa tokoni ira era namaki iko mo vakayacora ena nomu vinaka taucoko.” A vakauqeti ira na timi o Peresitedi Katonivere me ra yaloqaga ka vakatulewa dodonu, ka vakabibitaka ni na vakatau kina na nodra veisiga ni

mataka. Na Kaiviti Silktails ena qito ena imatai ni nodra veisotari kei na West Tiger ena Vakarauwai, ika 9 ni Maji, ena Lidcombe Oval e Sydney.



फ़ीजी दर्पण

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बूथा स्थित नम्बउवालू शहर पर विकास का काम हो रहा है तथा उम्मीद है कि नया शहर तत्कालित ज़रूरतों को पूरा करेगा



वनीला की खेती चुनौतीपूर्ण है लेकिन रा का एक किसान खुशहाल है क्यों कि इस खेती में उनके द्वारा किए गए प्रयास सफल रहे



फीजी हार्डवुड कौपेरेशन ने सरकार को आठ लाख डोलर लागत का एक चेक प्रदान किया जो उनके मुनाफे का हिस्सा है



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 3 पर

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 7 पर

ताव्यूनी में उत्पादनों को ताज़ा रखने वाली व्यवस्था का उद्घाटन हुआ



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका हाल में नालेले ताय्यूनी स्थित रोड किंग फार्म फ़ेश प्रोडयूस सुविधा का उद्घाटन करते हुए कम्पनी के मालिक अतिश प्रसाद के साथ

चित्र: चोसईया रलॉगो

रेनल देव

ताव्यूनी भर के किसान, हाल में नालेले ताय्यूनी स्थित रोड किंग फार्म फ़ेश प्रोडयूस सुविधा पर इक्ठठा हुए जहाँ प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने इस सुविधा का उद्घाटन किया।

रोड किंग पी.टी.ई लिमिटेड के मालिक तथा संचालक अट्ठाईस वर्षीय अतिश प्रसाद कर रहे हैं जो आपलेन्ड के एकमात्र निर्यातकर्ता है तथा जो सुविधा वो चला रहे हैं वो द्वीप पर किसानों के लिए उम्मीद की किरण की तरह है जो उन्हें आधुनिक सुविधा प्रदान करने के साथ-साथ उनके उत्पादनों के लिए अच्छा दाम प्रदान करता है। अपने लोगों की मदद करने का सपना पूरा करने के लिए प्रसाद पिछले दो सालों से किसानों से डालो खरीदने का दाम एक डोलर पचास सेन्ट्स से बढ़ाकर चार डोलर प्रति किलो (\$1.50 से \$4.00 per kg) कर दिया है। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि इस सुविधा से न केवल ताय्यूनी बल्कि पूरे फीजी के लोगों को लाभ होगा।

“कम्पनी के प्रयास से ताय्यूनी के कई उत्पादन दुनिया भर में लोगों के खाने के मेज़ तक पहुँचने पर ताज़ा ही रहेंगे।”

‘इसका कोई कारण नहीं दिखता है कि क्यों भोजन के मामले में फीजी आत्मनिर्भर नहीं हो सकता जबकि हम दुनिया का पेट भरने में लगे हैं।’

प्रधान मंत्री ने प्रसाद की सराहना की है कि उन्होंने एक ऐसा मंच प्रदान करने में नए विचार को कार्यरूप दिया जो न केवल स्थानीय उपज को सीधे दुनिया में बेचता है, बल्कि एक ऐसा मंच है जो ताय्यूनी और देश के कृषि व्यवसाय को फिर से आकार देने की बहुत सम्भावनाएं रखता है।

इस नई सुविधा में कोल्ड स्टोरेज रूम, आराम करने का घर, किसानों को ओगेनिक खाद सप्लाई करने के लिए एक बायोगैस प्रणाली की सुविधा भी है।

नौ साल पहले प्रसाद मुश्किल से सौ डोलर में गुज़ारा करते थे लेकिन अब वो ताय्यूनी में एक सफल व्यापारी है, जो एक कामयाब व्यापार के मालिक है जिनके लिए साठ से ज़्यादा स्थानीय लोग काम करते हैं।

इस नई सुविधा से ध्यान में रखा जाएगा कि डालो की सप्लाई ताज़ा रहे तथा किसानों की आमदनी में भी वृद्धि हो।

इस सुविधा की स्थापना करने में सहायता देने के लिए मैं पैसिफिक होटीकल्चरल एंड अग्रीकल्चरल मार्केट एक्सेस प्लस प्रोग्राम का आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ जिन्हें ओस्ट्रेलिया और न्यू ज़िलेन्ड सरकार भी समर्थन दे रही हैं। ताय्यूनी के किसानों, कर्मचारियों तथा निवासियों के लिए फीजी सरकार अधिक समृद्ध और टिकाऊ भविष्य की दिशा में आपके प्रयासों का समर्थन करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। रोड किंग पी.टी.ई लिमिटेड के मालिक तथा संचालक अट्ठाईस वर्षीय अतिश प्रसाद ने अपने परिवार, फीजी सरकार, ओस्ट्रेलिया तथा न्यू ज़िलेन्ड, साझेदारों, किसानों तथा शुभचिंतकों की ओर से समर्थन पर आभार व्यक्त किया है।

“कई असफलताओं के चुनौतियों के बावजूद, यह योजना उस स्थान के लिए मेरा सपना था जहाँ मेरी पैदाईश हुई तथा ताय्यूनी के किसानों की मदद करने के लिए मैंने यह व्यापार करने का चुनाव किया।”

नई लीस के लिए सरकारी सहायता

रोनल देव

पीपल्स कोआलीशन सरकार के मंत्रीमण्डल ने दो सौ अट्ठारह (218) किसानों का लीस पैमन्ट चुकाने के लिए एक मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा (\$1,220,893.36) निकालने को मंजूरी दी है जो बचा हुआ है या भरे नहीं गए हैं।

इससे अब इन किसानों को पचास सालों तक की लम्बी लीस मिलेगी जिससे वे लगातार खेती करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित भी होंगे। यह सहायता चीनी तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों की खेती की स्थिरता को बढ़ावा देगी। यह किसानों को खेती जारी रखने के लिए भी प्रोत्साहित करेगा और इसके अलावा किसान ग्रामीण इलाकों को छोड़कर शहर में बसने नहीं जाएंगे।

तकनीकी प्रगति और नवीन कृषि तरीकों को प्रोत्साहित करने से गन्नों की खेती की क्षमता में वृद्धि होगी।

गन्ना तथा अन्य कृषि उत्पादनों की ज़मीन वाली लीस, लीस नया करने तथा लेन्ड प्रिमियम वाले विषयों से निपटने के लिए एक टास्क फोर्स की स्थापना पिछले साल सितम्बर में की गई थी। टास्कफोर्स द्वारा



मंत्रीमण्डल के फैसले से किसान अपनी प्रतिक्रिया दर्शाते हुए

चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

विचार-विमर्श करने से पता चला कि कृषि ज़मीन की दो हजार एक सौ अस्सी (2,180) लीसों की अवधि पिछले साल और 2030 के बीच खत्म होगी जिनमें दो सौ अट्ठारह किसानों की ज़मीन का

किराया शामिल है जो भरे नहीं गए हैं। मंत्रीमण्डल ने फायनेन्स मंत्रालय को यह भी आदेश दिया है कि वो टी एल टी बी के एक हजार सात सौ अस्सी लीसों को नया करने पर ध्यान दें जिनकी अवधि 2023

तथा दो हजार तीस के बीच खत्म हो रही है, और 2024-2025 राष्ट्रीय बजट में ज़रूरी लीस प्रिमियम पहल का प्रस्ताव रखें।

उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने वोल्ड बैंक के अधिकारियों से मुलाकात की



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद तथा सहायक मंत्री इस्सोम इमेनुएल, वोल्ड बैंक ग्रुप एक्ज़ेक्टिव डायरेक्टर्स के प्रतिनिधिमण्डल के साथ सभा करने के दौरान

चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद ने वोल्ड बैंक ग्रुप एक्ज़ेक्टिव डायरेक्टर्स के प्रतिनिधिमण्डल से मुलाकात की।

इस बैठक का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य था फीजी सरकार के अधिकारियों, विकास भागीदारों और निजी क्षेत्र सहित प्रमुख हितधारकों के साथ सहयोग को बढ़ावा देना और जोड़ना। सभा के दौरान उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने महत्वपूर्ण विकास चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए फीजी सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता पर जोर देते हुए कई महत्वपूर्ण विषयों को संबोधित किया। उन्होंने सतत विकास और समावेशी

विकास के लिए सरकार की रणनीतिक दृष्टि को रेखांकित करते हुए, नई राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना पर नई जानकारीयों प्रदान की।

इसके अलावा उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने वोल्ड बैंक की चल रही योजनाओं की प्रगति पर एक व्यापक जानकारी भी प्रदान की। इन योजनाओं में परिवहन संसाधन पुँजी वाली योजना, सामाजिक सुरक्षा कोविड-19 आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया और सिस्टम विकास जैसे प्रमुख क्षेत्र शामिल हैं। चर्चा में राष्ट्रीय के समग्र सामाजिक आर्थिक विकास में योगदान देने वाली इन योजनाओं के सफलता पूर्वक लागू करने को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार के समर्पण पर प्रकाश डाला गया।

इन पहलुओं पर बातें करते हुए, उप प्रधान मंत्री ने जोर दिया कि हमारी राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना फीजी के लिए लचीला और टिकाऊ भविष्य बनाने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता का प्रमाण है।

‘वोल्ड बैंक की चल रही योजनाएं हमारे विकास लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने, तात्कालिक चुनौतियों का समाधान करने और हमारे समाज पर स्थायी सकारात्मक प्रभाव पैदा करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है।’ जवाब में, एमआएजीए की डायरेक्टर तथा वोल्ड बैंक की अल्टानैटिव एक्ज़ेक्टिव डायरेक्टर सुश्री नथाली फेंकेन ने फीजी सरकार की व्यापक प्रस्तुति के लिए सराहना व्यक्त की।

उन्होंने योजनाओं के प्रति समर्पण के लिए

सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया और फीजी में सतत विकास को बढ़ावा देने में वोल्ड बैंक समूह से निरंतर समर्थन का आश्वासन दिया। फीजी सरकार द्वारा दिखाई गई प्रतिबद्धता सराहनीय है।

‘हम, वोल्ड बैंक समूह में, फीजी के विकास उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए उसके साथ काम करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं, और हम हमारे बीच मौजूद सहयोगात्मक भावना की सराहना करते हैं,’ सुश्री फेंकेन ने कहा। इस बैठक ने फीजियन अधिकारियों और वोल्ड बैंक समूह के एक्ज़ेक्टिव डायरेक्टर्स के बीच खुली बातचीत के लिए एक मंच प्रदान किया जिससे फीजियन सरकार की ज़रूरतों, प्राथमिकताओं और पहलुओं की गहरी समझ को बढ़ावा मिला।

मोडल नम्बउवाल् शहर का विकास



हाउसिंग तथा लोकल गर्वमेन्ट मंत्री माननीय मादितु निलुमिसा, ग्रामीण और समुद्री विकास मंत्री सकियासी दितोका, लेन्ड्स मंत्री, माननीय फिलिमोनी वोसारोंगो, ई-तौकेई मामलों के मंत्री इफेरेमी वासू, और कृषि और जलमार्ग सहायक मंत्री माननीय तोमासी तुनाबुना नम्बउवाल् में नया शहर बनाने वाली एक मोडल योजना के उद्घाटन के दौरान अन्य अधिकारियों के साथ चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

यात्री बस टर्मिनल के नींव रखने वाला समारोह बुआ नम्बउवाल् में नए शहर के विकास का पहला चरण है। इस समारोह में औपचारिक भाषण देते हुए हाउसिंग और लोकल गर्वमेन्ट मंत्री, माननीय मदिथू निलुमिसा ने कहा कि नम्बउवाल् उन पहले शहरों में से एक होगा जहां नगर योजनाकार यह सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि सभी शहरी नियोजन सिद्धांत लागू होंगे। मंत्री निलुमिसा ने कहा कि “यह प्रतिबद्धता एक मोडल शहर बनाने की हमारी एक समर्पण दर्शाती है,

जहाँ हर पहलु को इसके निवासियों और वहाँ घूमने जाने वालों के लिए जीवन की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने के लिए सावधानिपूर्वक बनाया गया है। जबकि हम सब जलवायु परिवर्तन के गंभीर असर का सामना कर रहे हैं, हम बुआ की प्राकृतिक सुंदरता और जैव विविधता के प्रति सचेत भी हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारा नया शहर न केवल तात्कालिक जरूरतों को पूरा करेगा, बल्कि बदलते मौसम का सामना भी करेगा। मंत्री निलुमिसा ने बताया कि शहर में हरे-भरे स्थानों को कार्बन सिंक के रूप में दिखाया

जाएगा, नवीकरणीय उर्जा पर भरोसा किया जाएगा, जो पर्यावरण के अनुकूल शहरी नियोजन के लिए एक सतह स्थापित करेगा। इस कार्यक्रम में ग्रामीण और समुद्री विकास के मंत्री सकियासी दितोका, लेन्ड्स तथा मिनरल रिसोर्स मंत्री, माननीय फिलिमोनी वोसारोंगो, ई-तौकेई मामलों के मंत्री इफेरेमी वासू, और कृषि तथा जलमार्ग सहायक मंत्री माननीय तोमासी तुनाबुना भी उपस्थित थे।

पशुओं की बिक्री वाले दाम में बदलाव

रोनल देव

मंत्रीमण्डल ने गाय के दाम में वृद्धि तथा जनन विज्ञान में सुधार करने के कृषि मंत्रालय के प्रस्ताव को स्वीकृति दे दी है। आनुवंशिकी में सुधार करने और फीजी में उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले गोमांस और डयरी नस्लों को विकसित करने के प्रयास में कृषि मंत्रालय ने 2017 से उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले गोमांस के पालन और विकास के लिए एक कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत की है। ‘सेनेपोल’, ‘वागयू’ तथा ‘ड्राउटमास्टर’ नस्ल के गोमांस तथा ‘ब्राउन स्वीस’ नस्ल के डयरी गाय, फीजी सरकार के मेजर टेंडर्स बोर्ड द्वारा स्वीकृति दी गई कम्पनी, ओस्ट्रेलियन रिप्रोडक्टिव टेक्नोलॉजी कम्पनी के द्वारा ओस्ट्रेलिया से मंगाए गए हैं। इस योजना को एम्ब्रियो ट्रांसफर टेक्नोलॉजी के माध्यम से सुविधाजनक बनाई गई है। 2018 से पिछले साल के बीच कृषि मंत्रालय के स्टेशन पर आयात किए गए भ्रणों को चार चरणों में स्थानीय सेरोगेट माताओं में

दाखिल किया जाता है। गर्मी के तनाव, वृद्धि और विकास, मांस की गुणवत्ता, बाजार की जरूरत को देखते हुए, गाय की चार नस्ल (सेनेपोल, ब्राउन स्वीस, वागयू तथा ड्राउटमास्टर) का चुनाव किया गया है। पिछले कई सालों से पशुओं के दाम पर विचार नहीं किया गया था। अभी का दाम बाजार के साथ मेल नहीं खाता न ही यह वर्तमान बाजार के लिए वास्तविक और टिकाऊ है। इसके अलावा वर्तमान का दाम उत्पादन खर्च से भी बहुत कम है। कृषि मंत्रालय द्वारा किसानों को बेची गई गायों की एक बड़ी संख्या का उपयोग गायों की कम संख्या के कारण किया गया है या खेतों में बच्छड़ों को पैदा करने की अनुमति दिए बिना गायों को समय से पहले मारा जा रहा है। ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि नई नस्लें कम कीमत पर बेची गईं। चूंकि उन्हें कम महत्व दिया गया था, वे अपने प्राथमिक उद्देश्य को पूरा करने में सफल नहीं रहे, जो कि खेतों में गायों की संख्या में सुधार करना था। सरकार, कृषि मंत्रालय के मार्फत, गोमांस क्षेत्र को कई तरह से सहायता पहुंचा रही है।

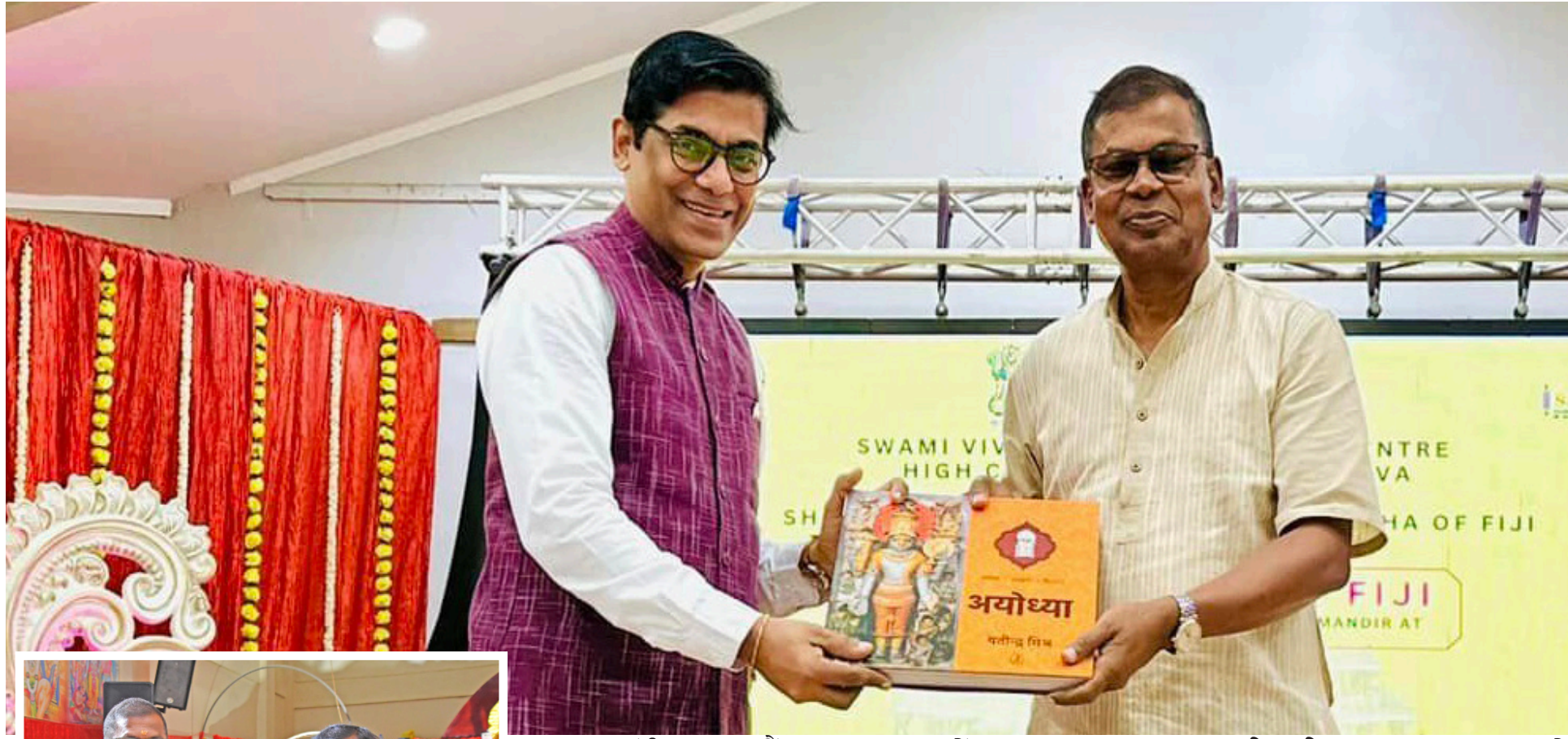
एफ.एन.पी.एफ पेंशन योजना

शीलता सिंह

2023-2024 के राष्ट्रीय बजट में, गठबंधन सरकार ने घोषणा की थी कि एफ एन पी एफ पेंशनस जिनकी पेंशन 2011 में पिछले शासन द्वारा घटाया गया था, वे पिछले साल अगस्त से प्रभावी सरकार की सोशल पेंशन स्कीम के तहत सहायता हासिल कर सकते हैं। औसतम एक हजार पाँच सौ एफ.एन.पी.एफ पेंशनस प्रभावित हुए हैं, और उनकी सामाजिक पेंशन योजना के माध्यम से भुगतान की सुविधा महिला, बच्चों और समाजिक सुरक्षा मंत्रालय ने की। अगस्त 2023 से, मंत्रालय ने एक हजार पाँच सौ प्रभावित एफ एन पी एफ पेंशनस में से लगभग दो सौ लोगों की अर्जियों पर गौर करना शुरू कर दिया था। पिछले साल दिसंबर तक सरकार ने इस प्रक्रिया की समीक्षा की और निर्णय लिया कि एफ.एन.पी.एफ ही इन पेंशनस को सही तरह से सेवा प्रदान कर सकता है क्योंकि उनकी सारी जानकारी फंड

के पास है। इस पुनः विचार की वजह से जैसा वादा किया गया था, विमन, चिल्ड्रन एन्ड सोशल प्रोटेक्शन मंत्रालय असर पड़े पेंशनस को सलाह देना चाहता है कि सरकार ने दिसंबर 2023 में फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड को अगस्त 2023 से प्रभावी बढ़े हुए अलावन्स का भुगतान कर दिया है। अब से फंड ही असर पड़े पेंशनस के खाते में अलावन्स का भुगतान होगा। इसलिए, ये एफ.एन.पी.एफ पेंशनस फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड के साथ बने रहेंगे और उन्हें अब अपना पेंशन हासिल करने के लिए विमन, चिल्ड्रन एन्ड सोशल प्रोटेक्शन मंत्रालय के पास जाने की जरूरत नहीं है। किसी भी सवाल तथा और जानकारी के लिए, आप अपने नज़दीकी सोशल वेलफेयर विभाग या फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड को सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।

श्री राम लला उत्सव धूमधाम से मनाया गया



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फाइनेंस मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद ने हालही वा में वाईलाई कुटि मंदिर में आयोजित राम लला उत्सव में भाग लिया। यह उत्सव एक विशेष महत्व रखता है क्योंकि यह वाईस जनवरी 2024 को भारत के अयोध्या में श्री राम मंदिर के उद्घाटन के साथ जुड़ा था। अपने

भाषण में, उप प्रधान मंत्री ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि फीजी, भारतीय समुदाय से अभी भी गहरी सांस्कृतिक भावना रखता है। साथ ही साथ, उप प्रधान मंत्री ने नकासी में भांस इवेंट हायर सेंटर में भी राम लला उत्सव में भाग लिया। नकासी में अपने भाषण में मंत्री ने इस बात पर जोर

दिया कि यह उत्सव उद्घाटन के साथ मेल खाता है, जिसका दुनिया भर के कई लोग इंतज़ार कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि फीजी भारतीय समुदाय इस उत्सव का उपयोग युवा पीढ़ी को शुद्ध भारतीय भाषा बोलना सीखने के अवसर के रूप में कर सकता है जिसे देश में धीरे-धीरे भुला दिया जा रहा है।



प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने यूरोप में फीजीवासियों से मुलाकात की



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने हाल ही यूरोप में बसे फीजी नागरिकों से मुलाकात की। ये लोग प्रधान मंत्री से मिलने के लिए पेरिस, नेदरलैंड्स तथा जनिवा तक से पहुँचे थे। प्रधान मंत्री ने इन नागरिकों को पीपल्स कोआलिशन सरकार की विकास योजना तथा प्रगति पर नवीनतम जानकारीयों प्रदान की। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने फीजी के नागरिकों की ओर से उन नागरिकों का आभार व्यक्त किया जिनकी ओर से लगातार उदार सहायता मिल रही है जो उनकी मातृभूमि की समृद्धि और विकास में योगदान देता है। उन्होंने दूर से फीजी के विकास का समर्थन करने में उनकी बहुमूल्य भूमिका के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा कि विदेश में बसने के बावजूद कड़ी मेहनत, सफलता और समृद्धि से यह सम्भव हुआ है। प्रधान मंत्री ने इन नागरिकों से अपने परिवार वालों से जुड़े रहने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया तथा परिवार और दोस्तों के साथ मजबूत संबंध बनाए रखने के महत्व पर जोर दिया। प्रधान मंत्री ने इन नागरिकों को फीजी में पूँजी लगाने के लिए भी प्रोत्साहित किया तथा जोर दिया कि पिछले साल पीपल्स कोआलिशन सरकार ने इमिग्रेशन कानून में बदलाव किया है जिससे अब फीजी के भूतपूर्व नागरिकों के बच्चे और वंशज अब बिना पेमिट के फीजी में प्रवेश करने और निवास करने के हकदार हैं।

चीनी समाज के योगदान की प्रशंसा

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे ने नौसोरी प्लाज़ा में आयोजित चीन के नए साल के समारोह में भाग लिया। राष्ट्रपति के अलावा ई तउकेई मंत्री माननीय इफैरमी वासू, उच्च सरकारी कर्मचारियों के साथ चीनी समाज के लोग भी शामिल हुए थे। फरवरी दस तारीख से उत्सव शुरू

हो गए थे। राष्ट्रपति ने चीनी नए वर्ष के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि इससे परिवारों तथा समाजों के बीच घनिष्ठ संबंधों को बढ़ावा मिलता है। राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि यह आयोजन एक ऐसा अवसर है जो फीजी और चीन के बीच स्थायी संबंधों को दर्शाते हुए चीनी

समुदाय की उपलब्धियों और योगदान को पहचान दिया जाता है। इस उत्सव में माता ड्रान्स ग्रुप के बच्चों तथा चीनी कल्चरल सेंटर के बच्चों ने अपने-अपने प्रदर्शन भी पेश किए। राष्ट्रपति ने 2024 इया ओफ दी लूग स्टैम्प का भी विमोचन किया जो पोस्ट फीजी की सभी शाखाओं बेचे जा रहे हैं।



नागरिक सेवा श्रेष्ठता के लिए सरकार ने सिविल सेवा दिवस रखने का फैसला किया

शीलता सिंह

सरकार ने औपचारिक तौर पर प्रत्येक जून के अंतिम शुक्रवार को सरकारी सेवा दिवस रखने का फैसला किया है तथा इस साल अट्ठाईस जून को इसका उद्घाटन समारोह होगा। यह पहल संयुक्त राष्ट्र लोक सेवा दिवस के लक्ष्यों और उद्देश्यों के साथ निकटता से मेल खाती है, जिसे हर साल जून में भी मनाया जाता है। सरकारी सेवा के प्रमुख के रूप में प्रधान मंत्री मननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने इस दिन को महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा, “सरकारी सेवा दिवस एक राष्ट्र के निर्माण में मदद करने के लिए सरकारी कर्मचारियों के अटूट

समर्पण और कड़ी मेहनत को पहचानने का एक अवसर है। यह फीजी में हमारे लोगों की बेहतर सेवा देने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता को नवीनीकृत करने का एक क्षण है। यह बेहतरी के लिए बदलाव लाने के पीपल्स गठबंधन सरकार के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप है। इस दिन कोई छुट्टी नहीं रहेगी तथा काम करने का सामान्य दिन होगा। हालाँकि, उपलब्धियों का जश्न मनाने और इक्कीसवीं सदी में आधुनिक सरकारी सेवा के विकास के बारे में बातचीत को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए कार्यक्रमों की आयोजना की जाएगी। व्यापक और प्रभावशाली उत्सव सुनिश्चित करने के लिए, प्रत्येक मंत्रालय विभाग और एजेंसी को मौजूदा

फंडिंग और संसाधनों का उपयोग करके सहमत गतिविधियों और कार्यक्रमों को आयोजित करने का काम सौंपा गया है। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि जिम्मेदार आर्थिक प्रबंधन के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित करते हुए कोई अतिरिक्त फंडिंग नहीं की जाएगी। सरकारी सेवा मंत्रालय की अध्यक्षता में एक अंतर-मंत्रालय और विभागीय समिति, एक सामंजस्यपूर्ण और सहयोगात्मक प्रयास सुनिश्चित करते हुए, दिन भर की गतिविधियों के संगठन और समन्वय की निगरानी करेगी। इस दिन के स्मरणोत्सव में प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कार, सम्मेलन, सेमिनार, कार्यशाला,

सांस्कृतिक और खेल आयोजनों सहित कई गतिविधियाँ शामिल रहेंगी। इस समारोह का महत्व है कि सरकारी सेवकों को नए जोश और समर्पण के साथ सहयोगात्मक रूप से काम करने, राष्ट्रीय एकता को बढ़ावा देने और सुशासन तथा लोक कल्याण के सिद्धांतों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए प्रेरित करना है। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका कहते हैं कि सरकारी सेवा दिवस, सरकारी सेवकों के अमूल्य योगदान के लिए सरकार की सराहना के प्रमाण के रूप में खड़ा है और सामूहिक रूप से एक प्रगतिशाली और सेवा-उन्मुख भविष्य की कल्पना करने के लिए एक मंच के रूप में कार्य करता है।

वनीला, किसान के लिए दृढ़ता ही कुँजी



रिपोर्ट : ऋतेष्णी सिंह, कृषि मंत्रालय

रा प्रांत के तोकाईमालो जिले के वूनिशिया गाँव के बासठ (62) वर्षीय मनासा वाका दृढ़ता के सच्चे प्रतीक हैं। सूवा में 2023 नेशनल एग्रीकल्चर शो में वनीला फार्मर ऑफ द ईयर का पुरस्कार जीतने के बाद, वाका ने कहा कि उन्होंने अपने वनीला फार्म को बढ़ाने में अपने प्रयासों को तीन गुणा बढ़ा दिया है। इस पुरस्कार से उनका मनोबल और बढ़ गया है और वे इस त्योहारी सीजन के दौरान भी अपने वेशकीमती पौधों की लगातार जाँच करने के लिए फार्म पर हैं। “मेरे पास 6.4 हेक्टेयर ज़मीन है जिसे मैंने खेती के लिए बाँट दिया है। मेरे पास कोको फार्म है और मैं मधुमक्खी पालन में भी लगा हुआ हूँ, वाका ने कहा। “वनीला की खेती मेरे परिवार के लिए कोई नई बात नहीं है क्योंकि मैं अपने पिता के वनीला फार्म पर काम करते हुए बड़ा हुआ हूँ।” वाका ने प्रकाश डाला। “जो कोई भी वनीला की खेती जानता है, वह कह सकता है कि यह काफी चुनौतीपूर्ण है। एक बार जब पौधों में फूल आ जाए तो उन्हें हाथ से परागित करना चाहिए। वनीला फली के इलाज की प्रक्रिया को पूरा होने

उसका पालन करता था।

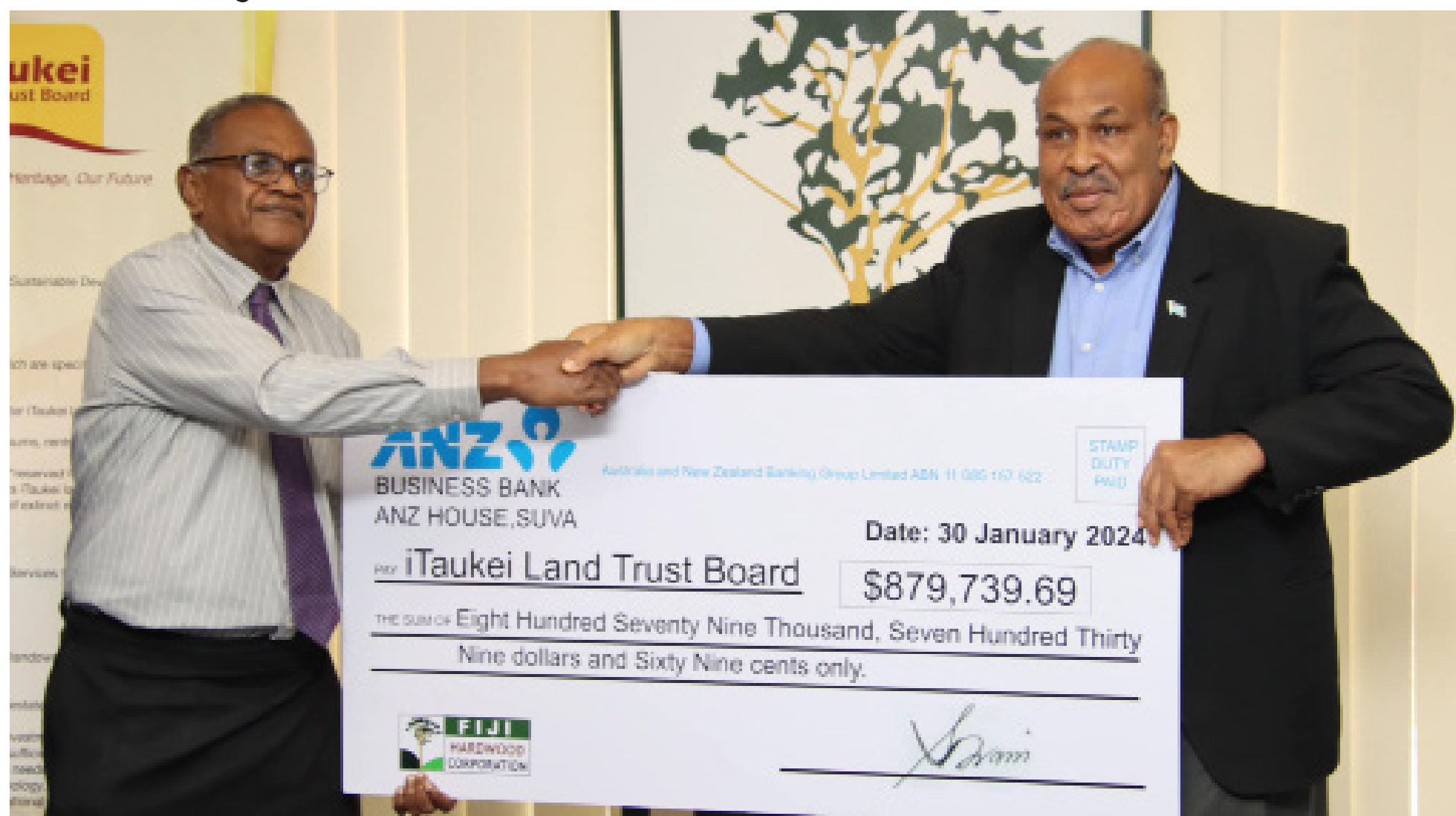
उन्होंने अपने पिता की सलाह का बारीकी से पालन किया और हाई स्कूल की पढ़ाई पूरी करने के बाद, वाका सीधे गाँव वापस चले गए और डालो, यंगोना तथा कसेरा की खेती में जुट गए। “वेनिला की खेती में वापस जाने का विचार मेरे मन में 1993 में नैसरेलांगी में कृषि मंत्रालय द्वारा एक प्रशिक्षण में भाग लेने के बाद आया।” मैं वेनिला की खेती फिर से शुरू करने के लिए आश्वस्त था क्योंकि यह मेरे के लिए कोई नई बात नहीं थी जबकि मैं अपने दिवंगत पिता के माध्यम से वनीला की खेती के गुण और व्यापार को जानता और समझता था। “उस प्रशिक्षण के बाद मैंने एक क्षण बरबाद नहीं किया और पंद्रह वेनिला बेलों के साथ शुरूआत की।” उन्हें इसकी समझ आ गई और उन्होंने अन्य तीस बेलें लगाकर अपने खेत का विस्तार किया और तीन साल बाद आखिरकार उन्होंने कटाई की और अपनी वेनिला को तत्कालीन स्पाइसेस ऑफ फीजी लिमिटेड को चालिस डोलर प्रति किलोग्राम में बेच दिया। इसकी कीमत धीरे-धीरे एक सौ पचास डोलर प्रति किलोग्राम तक पहुँच

में कुछ और महीने लगते हैं,” उन्होंने समझाया। वाका ने कहा कि बड़े होने के दौरान उन्होंने अपने दिवंगत पिता को वनीला फार्म पर काम करते हुए देखता था और वह जो कुछ भी उन्हें सिखाते थे, वह

गई। वाका को पता था कि वह अपने वनीला फार्म पर बहुत समय बिता रहा था और उसने जो पैसा कमाया वह पर्याप्त नहीं था। इसलिए वह आगे बढ़ता रहा क्योंकि वह जानता था कि उनके सभी बलिदान व्यर्थ नहीं जाएंगे। उनकी दृढ़ता अब भारी लाभ दे रही है क्योंकि वे वर्तमान में न्यूजीलैंड के एक खरीददार को पाँच सौ डोलर प्रति किलोग्राम के हिसाब से वनीला बेच रहे हैं। “शुरुआत में मैं जापान में एक खरीददार को और फिर फीजी लिमिटेड के स्पाइसेस को चालिस डोलर प्रति किलोग्राम से शुरू करके बेच रहा था। उन्होंने मुस्कुराते हुए कहा कि वो एक खुशहाल किसान हैं क्योंकि वनीला की खेती में किए गए सभी प्रयास सफल रहें हैं,” कड़ी मेहनत से वनीला की खेती से जो कमाई होती है से उससे अपने बच्चों को स्कूल भेजने, गाँव में अपना घर बनाने तथा सुसज्जित करने में मदद की है, और 2016 में समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन द्वारा क्षतिग्रस्त होने के बाद अपने घर का निर्माण फिर से किया। तीन साल के बाद वनीला के पौधे फलियाँ पैदा करना शुरू कर देते हैं, इसलिए वे उन्हें चरणों में लगा रहे हैं ताकि यह सुनिश्चित हो सके कि साल भर में अधिकांश समय वनीला की कटाई होती रहे, वे वर्तमान में प्रतिदिन आठ सौ वनीला फूलों का परागण करते हैं। “वनीला को बहुत धैर्य की ज़रूरत है, यह आसान लग सकता है लेकिन यह एक बहुत ही नाजुक प्रक्रिया है तथा प्रभावी परागण करने के लिए ध्यान देना वास्तव में ज़रूरी है। सभी फूल हाथ से तोड़ने होते हैं और केवल एक दिन के लिए खुले रहते हैं इसलिए आपको इसके खिलने के समय परागण करने के लिए सावधान

रहना होगा,” उन्होंने कहा। “पहले तीन वर्षों में कड़ी मेहनत की ज़रूरत है और जब पौधे में फूल आते हैं और फलियाँ आती हैं जिन्हें पकने में नौ महीने लगते हैं और ठीक होने में कुछ और महीने लगते हैं, तब आप अपना सारा ध्यान इस पर देते हैं और यह आपको गुणवत्ता वाली वनीला और राजस्व देगा,” उन्होंने कहा। किसी भी अन्य किसान की तरह, उनकी भविष्य की योजनाओं में एक गाड़ी खरीदना और अपनी सबसे छोटी बेटी को एक छात्र के रूप में उच्च शिक्षा देना शामिल है। वाका की ज़मीन पर कोको के कुल चार सौ छः पेड़ हैं और आठ डबल सूपर हनी मधुमक्खी बक्से भी हैं। उन्होंने पिछले महीने कुल पैतीस लीटर शहद तैयार किया, जिसे उन्होंने अपने दो प्रमुख बाज़ारों तक भेजा। कृषि तथा जलमार्ग मंत्रालय के 2019/2020 वनीला खेती कार्यक्रम के तहत, उन्हें अपने खेत में सहायता के लिए वनीला सुखाने वाले शेड और वनीला इलाज उपकरण से सहायता मिली है। वाका, कृषि मंत्रालय द्वारा उन्हें प्रदान की गई सहायता के लिए बेहद आभारी हैं और कहते हैं कि वह अपने वनीला फार्म को बढ़ाना जारी रखेंगे। “मेरा परिवार खेत में मेरी मदद कर रहा है और उम्मीद है कि एक दिन वे हमारे खेत को बड़े और बेहतर रूप में विस्तारित करने में सक्षम होंगे। उन्हें उम्मीद है कि उनके प्रांत के ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा किसानों में वनीला की खेती करने का साहस और दृढ़ संकल्प होगा। “हाँ मैं जानता हूँ कि यह आसान नहीं है, लेकिन मुझे देखो, मैं बुढ़ापे के बावजूद अभी भी जी रहा हूँ। कृषि के संबंध में आप जो भी योजना बनाना चाहते हैं, उसके बारे में कृपया कृषि अधिकारियों से बातें करें और हमेशा उनकी सलाह पर ध्यान दें।

फीजी हार्डवुड कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड को प्रदर्शन के लिए मान्यता मिली।



ई-तउकेई मंत्री मननीय इफेरेमी वासु, फीजी हार्डवुड कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एफ.एच.सी.एल) के अध्यक्ष, श्री इओवेन नैवेली से चेक स्वीकार करते हुए

चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

ज़मीन मालिकों के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण विकास में, ई-तउकेई मामलो, संस्कृति, विरासत और कला मंत्री माननीय इफेरेमी वासु ने फीजी हार्डवुड कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एफ.एच.सी.एल) के अध्यक्ष, श्री इओवाने नैवेली से \$879,730.69 का चेक स्वीकार किया। यह पेमेंट 2024 के लिए किराये की पहली छमाही और 2023 के 75,223 हेक्टर वृक्षारोपण संपत्ति से स्टंपेज शुल्क के लिए था, जिसमें 41,325 हेक्टर में महोगनी शामिल हैं। चेक स्वीकार करते समय,

मंत्री ने एफ.एच.सी.एल को उनके प्रेरक प्रदर्शन के लिए धन्यवाद दिया है और कंपनी को ज़मीन मालिकों के साथ और अधिक जुड़ने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। संसाधन मालिकों के लिए आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण और बढ़ी हुई वन्यस्थिति पर जोर देने के साथ, मंत्री ने एफ.एच.सी.एल से ज़मीन मालिकों की बेहतरी के लिए नवीन साझेदारियों तक पहुँचने और तलाशने का आग्रह किया। मंत्री वासु ने कहा, “आज का हैंडओवर समारोह ज़मीन मालिकों की यूनिट को सशक्त बनाने की दिशा में हम जो दृष्टिकोण अपना रहे हैं उसका समर्थन करता है।” उन्हें विश्वास है कि यह ई-तउकेई के

लिए गठबंधन सरकार की रणनीतिक दिशा के तहत जारी होगा, और वह ई-तउकेई की आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार की दिशा में काम करना जारी रखेंगे। लीस रेंटल अगले छ महीनों के लिए पहले से भरे गए हैं और पाँच वर्षों में पहली बार एफ.एच.सी.एल ने ज़मीन मालिकों के लिए स्टंपेज भुगतान शुल्क को अपडेट किया है। महोगनी क्षेत्र में सुधार के लिए गठबंधन सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए सरल व्यावहारिक कदम पहले से ही महत्वपूर्ण परिणाम दे रहे हैं। महोगनी क्षेत्र की आगामी समीक्षा इसे और बढ़ाएगी,” मंत्री वासु ने कहा।

चीनी व्यवसाय के प्रति सरकार की अटूट प्रतिबद्धता



रोनल देव

सरकार रणनीतिक पहलुओं के माध्यम से चीनी व्यवसाय के प्रति अपनी अटूट प्रतिबद्धता और समर्थन की पुष्टि करती है। मल्टी एथनिक अफेयर्स तथा चीनी व्यवसाय के मंत्री माननीय चरण जीथ सिंह ने हाल में लौतोका और सिंगातोका के किसानों से मुलाकात करते हुए ऐसा कहा। मंत्री सिंह ने अपने मंत्रालय तथा फीजी शुगर कोर्पोरेशन के उच्च अधिकारियों के साथ किसानों से मुलाकात की और उनके द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं पर गौर किया। सभा के दौरान मंत्री ने चीनी व्यवसाय को बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार के व्यापक प्रोत्साहन पर उन्हें आश्वासित किया। मंत्री सिंह ने गन्ने के किसानों के लिए विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों पर प्रकाश डाला जो सरकार ने व्यवस्थित की है और शुगर मंत्रालय के द्वारा संचालित है। उन्होंने व्यवसाय को आधुनिक बनाने की योजना पर प्रकाश डाला जहाँ नई-नई तकनीक की शुरुआत करना शामिल है जैसे कि गन्ने के खेतों में ड्रोन की मदद से मसाला छोड़ना। विकास और स्थिरता को बढ़ावा देने पर ध्यान देने के साथ, सरकार किसानों, हितधारकों और फीजी के आर्थिक परिदृश्य की आजीविका में अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका को पहचानते हुए, चीनी व्यवसाय को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए समर्पित है,” मंत्री सिंह ने कहा। मंत्री चरण जीथ सिंह ने नालियों वाली कुछ योजनाओं का भी दौरा किया जिन्हें हाल में मंत्रालय ने पूरा किया है जो कि कोआलिशन सरकार की एक नई योजना है जिसकी शुरुआत पिछले साल हुई है।

चीनी और मल्टी एथनिक अफेयर्स मंत्री माननीय चरण जित सिंह पश्चिमी विभाग का दौरा करते हुए शिक्षा चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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व्यवसाय और कोमुनिकईशन्स मंत्री माननीय मानोआ कमिकमिदा, मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव शहीन अली, येस प्रोग्राम के नीचे एक सफल व्यापारी श्री मुनेश प्रसाद की सहायता प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सरकारी सहायता, आर्थिक विकास की इंजिन है

रोनल देव

व्यवसाय और कोमुनिकईशन्स मंत्री माननीय मानोआ कमिकमिदा ने छोटे और मध्यम व्यापारियों के प्रति सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता पर प्रकाश डाला है। हाल ही सूचा में कुछ व्यापारियों को सहायता प्रदान करते हुए मंत्री कमिकमिदा ने स्वीकार किया कि एम.एस.एम.ई क्षेत्र, देश के आर्थिक विकास की इंजिन है। हमें इस क्षेत्र की ताकत का अंदाज़ा है तथा हम इसमें सुधार लाते रहेंगे। 'आज हमें खुशी है कि हमने कुछ व्यापारियों को लगभग दो लाख अस्सी हजार डोलर लागत सहायता पहुँचाई है, जो इन व्यवसायों में ज़रूरी बदलाव के लिए सरकार के समर्थन को बढ़ाते हैं। इस दौरान योग्य व्यापारियों को यंग

एन्टाप्रेनुआशिप प्रोग्राम, नेशनल एक्सपोट स्ट्रेटजी प्रोग्राम, अग्नीविज़नस तथा उत्पादन करने वाले व्यापारों की श्रेणी के नीचे सहायता पहुँचाई गई है।

यंग एन्टाप्रेनुआशिप स्कीम प्रोग्राम के तहत: * श्री रासालातो यानुयानुरूआ की कम्पनी एसवाए एन्टरप्राइस को एक अनूठी तकनीक का उपयोग करके फीजी में गिटार के हिस्सों और बिलेट निर्माण में क्रांति लाने के लिए सहायता दी गई

* श्री विनूदा सेनिवरतने को एक विशेष प्रशिक्षण सुविधा की स्थापना करने के लिए मदद पहुँचाई गई है

* श्री मुनेश प्रसाद की कम्पनी कोकोसिप को सहायता दी गई है जो उच्च कोटि के नारियल पैक करते हैं तथा उनके

व्यवसाय, ग्रामीण विकास तथा स्थानीय कृषि में योगदान देते हैं उधर नेशनल एक्सपोट स्ट्रेटजी प्रोग्राम के नीचे:

* श्री नवेन्द्रा नायडू को सहायता दी गई है जो तोन्गा तक अंडे सप्लाए करने वाले हैं, अंडे ग्रेड करने वाली मशीन खरीदना चाहते हैं तथा माल रखने वाले एक उचित गोदाम की सुविधा बनाना चाहते हैं

* गितो स्पोर्ट्सवेयर के मालिक श्री असायेली लेमाकी को सफलता से प्रशान्त के तीन देशों तक अपना सामान निर्यात करने तथा लक्ष्य निर्धारित करने की शक्ति का प्रदर्शन करने के लिए सहायता दी गई।

ट्रैड एनहान्समन्ट प्रोग्राम के नीचे सहायता पाने वालों में शामिल है:

* एलिज़बर्थ सावाकी रोसेता

* सउरारा दोला सेनिली गोलेसोंबू * जसोदा * कालेसी वालेउला * आकानीसी आँदिमईवा

माननीय कमिकमिदा ने छोटे व्यापारियों को प्रोत्साहित किया है कि वे सहायता से लाभ उठाने वाले व्यापारियों का उदाहरण देखें कि उन्होंने व्यापार चलाने में कितनी सफलता हासिल की है तथा इन मौकों से फायदा उठाएं।

एम एस एम ई के प्रति सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता उसके आर्थिक समर्थन, नवाचार तथा आर्थिक विचास को बढ़ावा देने में स्पष्ट है। सरकार द्वारा लगाई गई यह पूँजी एक संपन्न और एम.एस.एम.ई क्षेत्र के दृष्टिकोण को मजबूत करता है जो देश की समृद्धि में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देता है।