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CALL FOR RESPECTFUL DEBATE



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka delivers his speech in response to the address by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere in Parliament this week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**



By PRASHILA DEVI

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka believes that respectful discourse will have an impact on inter-ethnic relations of the different communities in Fiji. In echoing the sentiments expressed by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere during the opening of the 2024 Parliamentary Session last week, PM Rabuka highlighted the point of setting aside differences and striving for the common good of the people. The Head of Government, speaking in Parliament on Monday this week, ex-

plained the work the Coalition Government was doing to align it to the issues raised by President Katonivere in his address. Amongst this was the empowerment of Fijians through financial literacy that led to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, being asked to study the developments in India where even a street-side vendor has an electronic funds transfer at point of sale (EFTPOS) machine.

"We can emulate what Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi has done in India by providing access to comprehensive financial literacy supported with the enabling environment and necessary financial resources, we all can make informed decisions about saving, invest-

ing, and managing our finances effectively," Prime Minister Rabuka said. On the move towards encouraging bipartisanship on matters of national importance, he said, "We must all recognise that climate change is a cross-cutting issue and is an existential threat to our very survival and identity". "This is the very reason I strongly support a bipartisan approach in addressing all issues relating to climate change because it requires 'all hands-on deck'," PM Rabuka said. To ensure inclusivity, he said as part of the commitment to good governance and empowerment of local communities, the Government will work towards the review of the Banaban Settlement Act, put into action plans to hold elections for the Rabi Island Council and complete the naturalisation for Rabi and Kioa islanders. "At the same time, we will urgently ad-

dress the socio-economic needs of the Melanesian Vasu-i-Taukei community," PM Rabuka added. On the work of the civil service, he said the Ministry of Civil Service through the Public Service Commission has amended the civil service open merit-based recruitment and selection guidelines by regularising acting appointments of officers acting on the position for more than six months. "Amendments have also been implemented to relevant civil service guidelines that will allow Ministries to increase the salaries of its deserving officers based on their performance." In Parliament this week, Cabinet Ministers and Assistant Ministers will be deliberating on the President's address which highlighted issues pertinent to their portfolios.

President Katonivere opens 2024 Parliamentary Session



The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, inspects the 100-member guard of honour accorded in the lead-up to the opening of the 2024 Parliamentary Session. **Photo: DINFO**

PM Rabuka thanks Fijians in Perth for being good ambassadors



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka met with 200 Fijians during a diaspora gathering in Perth, Australia last week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By PRASHILA DEVI

THE President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, in opening the 2024 Parliamentary Session, set out the tone for debate in first sitting this week.

The Head of State, while addressing Parliament in the presence of the members of the judiciary, laid out the pertinent issues the Government will focus on this year through proposed legislations, ranging from education, healthcare, climate change and infrastructure.

President Katonivere told urged Members of Parliament that as elected representatives they must “listen to the voices of our people, not only those who elected you, but to all our citizens young and old, men and women”.

“In doing so we will continue to respect the integrity and dignity of our Parliament. We must acknowledge and recognise our differences; however, we must be united with one common goal to ensure that we live in a progressive

and prosperous nation.”

He touched upon the consultation process currently underway on the 3-Year, 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP).

“Nationwide consultations are currently underway, and I am encouraged by the participation from our different communities. It is anticipated that the Plan will be finalised by June this year, before the budget announcement,” President Katonivere said.

Preceding his address in Parliament, the President inspected the 100-member guard of honour, accompanied by the Commander of the RFMF, Major-General Ro Jone Kalouniwai.

In keeping with tradition, members of the judiciary led by acting Chief Justice, Justice Salesi Temo joined the 55-elected MPs inside the “new look” and recently refurbished parliamentary chambers.

Diplomats and leaders in public and the private sector filled up the public gallery.

New guardian Class Patrol Boat to assist in protecting Fiji’s waters

AUSTRALIA-FIJI’S maritime security capabilities have been further strengthened with the official handover of the RFNS Puamau to Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, at the HMAS Stirling Naval Base in Perth this week.

As Fiji received the second Guardian-Class Patrol Boat in a ceremony that marked an important step towards defence cooperation with Australia, PM Rabuka said that this was a testament to the strong bilateral relations shared by the two nations.

PM Rabuka highlighted the critical timing of RFNS Puamau’s arrival, emphasising its role in enhancing Fiji’s maritime capabilities.

“The vessel has come at a critical time and is a most welcomed addition to our effort in improving Fiji’s ability to protect its waters against the increasing threats in our region particularly from illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing and transnational organised crime,” he said.

Drawing attention to recent drug raids conducted by Fiji Police, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of the Pacific Maritime Security Program in addressing challenges unique to the region.

The program, supported by Australia, stands as a model for interoperability and joint initiatives to combat crimes that transcend borders.

“This is testament to Australia’s commitment to Fiji, the region and to our shared security challenges and aspirations,” PM Rabuka said.

“The program also illustrates Australia’s continued support and contribution to our efforts in securing and maintaining our Pacific region as a Zone of Peace.”

Acknowledging the Pacific’s evolving geostrategic landscape, PM Rabuka called for unity and commitment to peace in the region.

He stated that the “Ocean of Peace” concept was a collective endeavour that extends beyond individual nations, requiring collaboration among Fiji, Australia, and the Pacific Islands Forum family.

PM Rabuka also expressed gratitude to Australia for its continuous support.

Australia’s Minister for Defence Industry and International Development and the Pacific, Pat Conroy, said Australia was proud to be Fiji’s security partner of choice.

“THANK you for embodying the spirit of “Vuvale” and for being good Fijians here in Australia.

This was the message conveyed by the Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, to about 200 Fijians during a diaspora gathering in Perth last week.

Expressing the nation’s gratitude, PM Rabuka commended the Fijian community for maintaining positive relations with their host country, adding that through the “Vuvale Partnership”, Fiji’s bilateral relations with Australia have continued to advance to new heights.

“Thank you for being good Fijians abroad and for assisting your families and Fiji’s economy through your individual remittance contributions,” PM Rabuka said.

“Our recovery efforts are progressing well, things are getting better at home, and we thank you for contributing positively towards the economy.”

The Prime Minister, at the same time, urged the Fijian community to be law-abiding citizens and residents of their host country.

“Observe and respect the law of the land,

respect the traditional owners of the land you are living on because that is what we expect when visitors visit our land,” he said.

Following traditional formalities, Prime Minister Rabuka shared insights into Fiji’s current political and economic landscape, updating them on ongoing economic development initiatives and social progress.

PM Rabuka encouraged the Fijian community to actively contribute to the growth and prosperity of both nations by advancing collaboration in various fields, such as trade, education, and cultural exchange, to name just a few.

In this regard, he reiterated that Fiji was open for business and encouraged the diaspora members to explore investment opportunities back home.

The Prime Minister also took the opportunity to respond to issues and concerns raised by members of the Fijian community during the “talanoa session”, assuring them that the Coalition Government is committed to serving the people of Fiji and developing the nation further.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

“The delivery of the second Guardian-class Patrol Boat today is a tangible demonstration of our Vuvale Partnership,” Minister Conroy added.

“By enhancing Fiji’s maritime security capabilities, we become more effective at tackling our shared regional challenges together.”

Under the command of Lieutenant Commander, Sairusi Colati, the naval

vessel is expected to arrive in Fiji next month.

The vessel is named after late Able Seaman Timo Puamau, a Nayau, Lau native, who died on board a naval vessel that torpedoed in Solomon Island waters at the peak of World War II in the Pacific.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka and Australia’s Minister for Defence Industry and International Development and the Pacific, Pat Conroy, with respective Naval officials at the official handover of the RFNS Puamau at the HMAS Stirling Naval Base in Perth last week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Govt committed to advancing progress of women and girls

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fiji Government has affirmed its unwavering commitment to advance the progress of women and girls in every facet of its development. In stating this on the occasion of the



The Women's Expo held at the Vodafone Arena last week was organised by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection to mark International Women's Day. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

International Women's Day, Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, noted that the "collective vision for a secure, peaceful, prosperous and stable Fiji can only be achieved if we empower women and girls".

"Government initiatives will consider the unique needs, knowledge and potential of women and girls," PM Rabuka highlighted.

"This commitment sits solidly in Sustainable Development Goal 5 - to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls," and is critical to our policies on education, finance, legal reform, and other initiatives contributing to the empowerment of women and girls."

"In 1995, I led the Fiji Delegation to the Fourth World Conference for Women in Beijing, China, where we signed and committed to targets of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and we also signed the women's rights treaty - Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women."

PM Rabuka reflected that it followed the preparation of the first National Plan for Action for Women (1998-2008) to guide actions in the empowerment of women holistically with participation from all stakeholders.

He acknowledged and supported this year's theme, "Invest in Women: Accelerate, Progress", which resonates deeply with the values and aspirations of the Coalition Government.

"We are committed to put into place the necessary

initiatives to enhance women's progress in our nation and recognise the important role played by our women and girls to achieve the goal of a cohesive and progressive society," PM Rabuka said.

To support efforts against violence against women and girls, the Cabinet approved the National Shelter Guideline late last year, which was vital because shelters play a crucial role in crisis intervention, supporting women and children when they are at risk of harm.

In highlighting the rights and empowerment of women across Fiji, Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya, stressed that investing in women was a strategic necessity for achieving sustainable development goals and prosperity for all.

"Fiji has come a long way in changing the lives of women through international and regional treaty commitments, gender mainstreaming policies and programs, legislative frameworks and increased access to justice and education amongst others," she said.

"The Fiji Government believes that gender mainstreaming across all sectors is crucial and steadfast through the 2014 National Gender Policy, calling on agencies across government to address the gender gaps and promote women's empowerment through the strengthening of their institutions."

Addressing mental stress for women vital



Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran, with the participants at the Lautoka Westpac International Women's Day Family Walk at Shirley Park last week. Photo: SUPPLIED

By JESHU LAL

ASSISTANT Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran, is advocating for strong support systems for women facing mental stress.

In addressing participants at the Lautoka Westpac International Women's Day Family Walk at Shirley Park last week, Asst. Minister Kiran said there was a lack of conversation on significant issues such as post-partum depression, dealing with menopause, and emotional stress brought about by online harassment.

"Our women keep talking about how they are constantly faced with pressure from work, home, social media and from society. How do we support them? We have been very poor in talking about women's mental health issues in our homes and in workplaces," she said.

Asst. Minister Kiran highlighted that achieving gender equality and women's well-being in all aspects of life was more crucial than ever "if we want to create a prosperous

economy and a healthy Fiji".

She stated that it was commendable that Government and Non-Government Organisations were investing a lot on economic empowerment and capacity building programs for women, however, the absence of mental well-being programs to support our women is an area that needs to be addressed.

"I call on our leaders to talk about these issues, I invite women in this space to encourage conversations on these topics to effectively address issues that are seen to be barriers or impediments for women's growth."

"When we are talking about investing in women, let's include support for their emotional and mental wellbeing into the conversation to give true meaning to women's empowerment in our collective efforts to accelerate progress, build better families, better communities and a better future for our nation," Asst. Minister Kiran challenged.

Women must be glorified and appreciated



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism & Civil Aviation Viliame Gavoka and Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya, celebrate International Women's Day with women vendors at the Women's Expo in Vodafone Arena. Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

“WHEN we invest in women, we invest in families, communities and nations.” This was the message by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism & Civil Aviation Viliame Gavoka while celebrating International Women's Day at the Women's Expo in Vodafone Arena on March 8, 2024.

"Life begins with a woman; she is the tree of life. She must be glorified. She must be watered and she must be appreciated."

DPM Gavoka added that everyone needs to review and renew their present responsibilities in making the world and Fiji a better place for all women.

"Today is a day to reflect on what we have done and what we have to do for the betterment of our women and girls."

"As we celebrate International Women's Day, we are reminded of the importance of investing in women to accelerate progress," DPM Gavoka said.

He said that as a society and a country, there was still a lot to do in empowering women and achieving gender equality.

"I stand before you with a sense of responsibility and commitment in advocating for the rights and empowerment of women nationwide."

"The Fiji Government is currently strengthening institutions and civil society by promoting the full and equal participation of men and women in the nation's development process."

Litia Naitanui, who hails from Rewa and has her stall set up in the Women's Expo, thanked the Deputy Prime Minister for promoting women's economic empowerment.

"On behalf of all the women here, I would like to thank the government of the day for promoting gender equality and doing their best in ending violence against women and girls."

Ms Naitanui added that she was grateful for the many of the Fiji Government's programs that help women saying, "when we empower our women, we empower ourselves."



Collective effort needed to empower women: Sashi Kiran

By AZARIA FAREEN

“IF all women could take up mentorship for other women, then we will be able to overcome the many struggles faced by females and progress in life.”

This was the message by the Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran, for this year's International Women's Day commemorated on March 8.

“When we talk about women empowerment, it is very important for our women, girls and females in general to envision what they want out of their life,” Asst. Minister Kiran said.

“And with that, they should then identify what are the gaps that they are faced with and how can they bridge that gap by investing in themselves through the support of training and visualising success.”

“Look after your health in the process and work towards making your dreams come true,” she urged.

Asst. Minister Kiran stated that 50 per cent of the nation's population was made up of women and it was crucial for them to walk together in solidarity.

“We see that it's usually women who are judging other women harshly and as it is, life is pretty challenging and full of difficulties for most women,” she highlighted.

“Considering the stories that we are told in the communities, women have to go a long way to garner the same respect as men, however, all women who are in leadership roles have a responsibility to create such an environment for our girls that they receive honour, love and respect.”

“About 60 per cent of women in the country face some sort of atrocity and five out of six children go through the same thing,” she added.

Asst. Minister Kiran labels this as the worst form of crime and stressed that “we have to work together with the society to tackle this problem”.



Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran with Minister for Lands Filimone Vosarogo **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN.**

Dr Neha inspires young womens to achieve their dreams

By JESHU LAL

FOR many years, the field of medical sciences had been a male dominated career path but over the years women have broken barriers to pursue their dream and Dr Neha Raj was no different.

Dr Raj, 25, is the first in her family to become a doctor, a feat she achieved after becoming a recipient of the Government-funded National Toppers Scheme.

She graduated with her MBBS degree and deans honours last year in December from the Fiji National University.

Dr Raj said that chasing her dream of becoming a doctor was not easy but her parents' support made it all possible.

“I had indeed always dreamt of becoming a doctor since I was a little girl. When I was in primary school, I had then made up my mind that I wanted that tag of being called a doctor. My parents have always been supportive of my dreams and academic goals, for which I am forever thankful to them,” she said.

“I have seen my parents do everything from scratch, through a lot of hard work and dedication. They have taught me to chase my dreams no matter how difficult life gets and whether people are there to support you or not. They always tell me that any dedicated child can become what they aspire to be.”

Challenges come along with daily experiences and one of the major hurdles that Dr Raj faced was when her dad suffered a kidney failure just a week before her second year final examinations.

She said that watching her father

go through a medical dilemma further inspired her to strive for excellence as a doctor.

“I had to juggle between looking after my father and revising for my finals but I am so grateful that he was there for me for my graduation quite healthy post kidney transplant. It was quite a difficult period for me and my family for two years while he was on dialysis. He was admitted at the hospital frequently and that would bring the whole house upside down as we are a nuclear family,” Dr Raj added.

“One important quality that doctors should possess is empathy. We, as doctors want to treat our patients the same way we want our parents to be treated. It is very important to understand the emotions and challenges patients face.”

Dr Raj said that there should be no gender disparity in becoming a doctor or choosing the medical field as a career path. She advised all aspiring doctors to follow their dreams.

“I would advise the young generation to work hard and strive for your dreams. Becoming

a doctor is a mammoth task; the long hours of studying, clinical rotations, late hours of work take a lot of dedication and patience. However, the appreciation patients express upon being seen makes it all worth it.”

When quizzed about her daily affirmation, Dr Raj said: “Each morning I wake up, I tell myself that I am enough, I can, I must and I will, and today, I finally have the ‘Dr’ tag.”



PS urges women to persist

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE global statistics for women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) show just 15 per cent of engineering graduates, 19 per cent of technology and mathematics and 38 per cent of Computer Studies are females.

This was highlighted by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection permanent secretary, Eseta Nadakuitavuki, during the Pacific Women in Power panel discussion at the University of the South Pacific held recently.

“It is widely acknowledged that STEM careers are male dominated,” Ms Nadakuitavuki said.

“It is a misconception that women are inferior to men in STEM abilities - it is a fact that both women and men have the same abilities in STEM.”

“It is also a misconception that women are naturally more interested in caregiving occupations such as nursing or teaching while men are naturally more interested in STEM fields than women,” she added.

Ms Nadakuitavuki highlights that in an era when women are increasingly showing their prominence in medicine, law, and entrepreneurship, there are so few women scientists, engineers and leaders in STEM fields including the energy sector.

“The time to change is now and this year in particular is dedicated to call on change, especially with the 2024 International Women's Day theme being, “Invest in Women; Accelerate Progress,” she said.

University of the South Pacific vice chancellor, Professor Pal Ahluwalia, shared that plans are in place to direct a portion of the Vice Chancellor's strategic fund to support women in academia who are interested to move to the next level of leadership and to increase the number of women taking on leadership roles.

“To the women leaders – Persist! There are barriers everywhere,” she said.

“We can provide the support you need here, to enable you to break down bamboo ceilings,” encouraged Prof. Ahluwalia.

World Bank acting country manager, Bonnie Sirois, shared with the forum that the World Bank Pacific Women in Power Program was not merely an initiative, but a movement that seeks to amplify the role and voices of women in engineering, science and leadership roles within the energy sector.

“It has the ultimate objective of assisting the energy sector and education institutions dismantle barriers and create pathways for women to thrive in careers in the energy sector,” she added



Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection permanent secretary, Eseta Nadakuitavuki. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Govt grant helped me: market vendor

By AZARIA FAREEN

“WHEN the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it was the worst time for all market vendors as selling produce was the only way to earn money and it was difficult with all the restrictions put in place.”

This was highlighted by 59-year-old, Kepueli Jikotani, who originally hails from Moce Island in the Lau Groups and happens to be one of the longest serving vendor at the Suva Municipal Market.

“I have been buying and selling root crops such as dalo and cassava for the past 35-years,” he relayed.

“The pandemic created issues for everyone and it was particularly a very bad time for me as it left me bankrupt.”

“I have six children and three grandchildren who live with me and I look after all of them as I am the sole income earner in the family,” he added.

Mr Jikotani notes that business has been quite slow after the pandemic and when he heard about the Government providing grants to business owners, he took up on the opportunity to apply.

“I received \$7,000 when my application was approved which helped me to buy the root crop stock,” he said.

“I then bought 20 bags of cassava, 100 bundles of dalo and coconuts as all our customers were in the lockdown area so I decided to have the supplies on hand.”

“I used to travel to Lomaivuna and Sawani



59-year-old, Kepueli Jikotani, shares his journey as a market vendor at his stall, inside gate 4 at the Suva Municipal Market. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

to buy the root crops from the farmers with new increased prices due to demand and I also had to pay the transport fare which was not cheap,” Mr Jikotani added.

He adds that the prices of root crops are going up and it is hard to make much profit like he used to when he started selling at the market.

“I want to thank the Government for

assisting me to continue running my business and at the same time supporting me to look after my family,” Mr Jikotani acknowledged.

“I have been living in Cunningham for the past 20 years and I plan to extend the house for my grandchildren, provided that I am able to save enough money from the business.”

“Applying for a loan is a good thing as it ensures that you want to grow your business and yourself in the process, therefore, I would urge those who are starting a business to take advantage of this opportunity and apply for the Government grant,” Mr Jikotani advised.

Take advantage of Govt loan to grow your business

By AZARIA FAREEN

“FULLY support the Fiji Government for assisting Fijians to continue or start with their business.”

This was relayed by a 63-year-old, Kata Bogiono, who was the recipient of the COVID-19 Concessional Loan Package for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and runs a handicraft business at the Suva Handicraft Centre.

Originally from Udu point in Vanua Levu, Mr Bogiono, moved to Suva in 1994 and after leaving his job at Goodman Fielder due to health issues, he got into the handicraft business in 2008.

“I love fishing as I was raised near the sea and choosing to get into the business of handicraft was a tough start as no one taught me how to do this,” he explained.

“I believe that this is the gift that God has given me as I envisioned it and I started doing it. I do carving and have my own carving tools while my wife also does weaving and engraving at the shop.”

“I have had this business for the past 16 years and the best thing I did was invest for my children for their education and future,” Mr Bogiono added.

He highlighted that the challenge experienced by him in the business was competition from bigger players in the market who were not in the same business when he started.

“They started here about five-years-ago to buy handicrafts wholesale from us every three months – we are the distributors to them,” he relayed.

“All these big companies like Jacks, Tappoos and Motibhai started from here but they don’t buy from us anymore except for Tappoos but they do it every eight months now,” he said.

“Our business here is supported by locals as they are the ones who usually buy from us. Tourists do not buy from us as they are advised not to buy handicrafts as the law for quarantine is

very strict.”

“I applied for the Government loan because business was very tough due to all the competition that we were facing from other companies that we were even struggling to pay rent,” Mr Bogiono added.

He said that he made two attempts to sell this business and go back to the village to do farming but was advised by some senior and mature people against it and he realised they were right as he is his own boss.

Mr Bogiono received \$2,000 in loan which was a big advantage for his business as he was able to buy more stock from it and stabilise the business.

“Some of the items sold in my shop is maqimaqi (strings made from coconut husk), Kuta, tapa, tanoa, frames, mats, bags, souvenirs and personalised engraving,” he said.

“Those who wish to get into business should not be scared of taking a loan because when you have a dream of doing something then go for it and achieve it. We are a living example of someone who took out a loan and is still running a business.”

“In this business you have to be very patient as sometimes we don’t make any money for three days because nearly everyone sells the same thing and the only difference is the prices so we keep it low to be able to sell our products,” Mr Bogiono added.

He believes that it is important to have the support of one’s life partner and family as his wife motivates him to keep working hard and never give up.

“I enjoy what I do and as long as my legs are taking me places, I can still run and play rugby,” he said.

“For the budding entrepreneurs, I would advise them to work with passion, have a good heart and be content with whatever income you generate in a day.”

“My wife and I are thinking of starting a fish business where we will sell targeted bundled fish because sometimes in our handicraft business, we get \$3 in a day but on a good day I can get \$500,” he added.



Recipient of the COVID-19 Concessional Loan Package for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, 63-year-old, Kata Bogiono, poses with a frame at his handicraft business at the Suva Handicraft Centre. Photo: SUPPLIED



Fijian Drua womens team present iTatau

The Rooster Chicken Fijiian Drua women's team, officials and management presented their itatau to the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere at the State House today, ahead of the 2024 Super Women's competition. In accepting their itatau, the Head of State commended the team for their achievements in the previous season and for advancing the sport of rugby.

Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



Lokia villagers celebrate improvement in accessibility

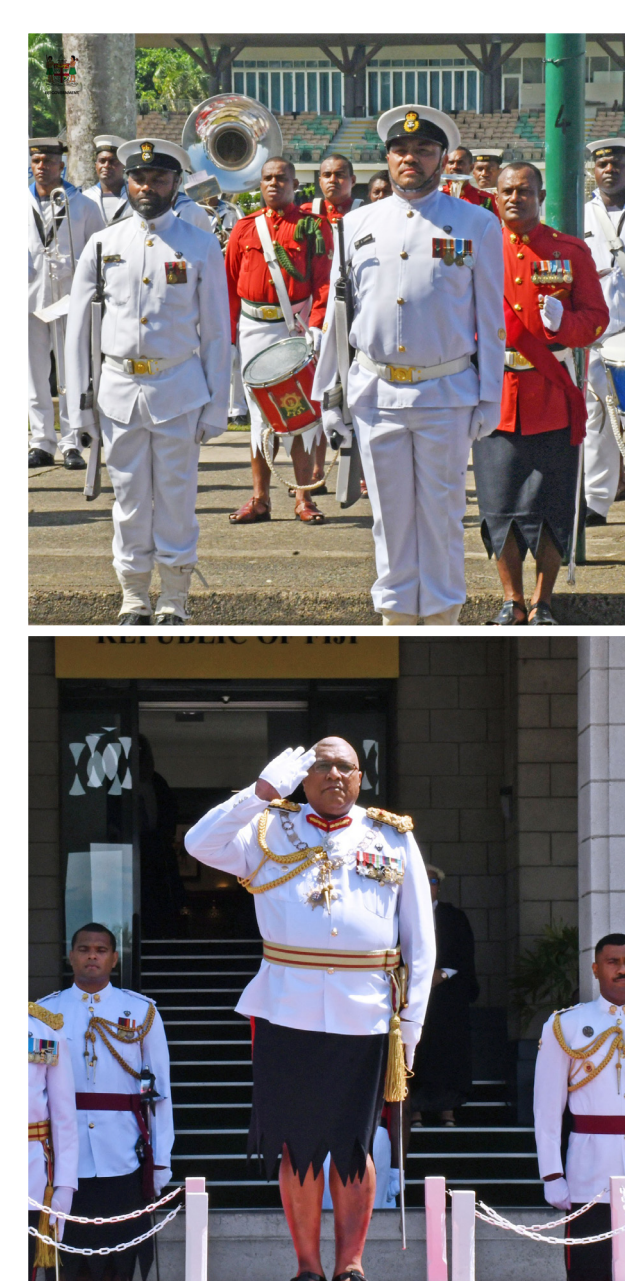
Children of Lokia Village in Rewa can now safely travel to and from their homes without having to face the dangers of a dilapidated crossing.

This is after the commissioning of their new and improved foot-crossing funded under the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management's Community Access Roads, Footpaths, and Footbridges Programme

Photo: SUPPLIED



Head of State officiates at the opening of 2024 session of Fiji's Parliament



The President of Fiji, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere last week opened the 2024 session of Fiji's Parliament. A 100-strong guard of honour of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces greeted the President on his arrival at Parliament House. As the Head of State and Commander in Chief, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere took the salute before he inspected the guard of honour, accompanied by the Commander of the RFMF, Major-General Ro Jone Kalouniwa

Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



Vaturua youth club overjoyed as ministry donates rotavator



The Vaturua Youth Club was filled with joy and excitement last night as they received a generous donation of a rotavator from the Minister of Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru.

This visit marked the first time a Minister had visited their village, making it a truly special occasion for the youths of Vaturua in Tailvu recently

Photo: SUPPLIED





\$0.5 million project provides relief from water woes

By PRASHILA DEVI and KATARINA NAQARASE

“NO longer will you have to endure the hardships of fetching water from distant sources, instead you can now enjoy the convenience and dignity of accessing clear water right at their doorstep.”

Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, Ro Filipe Tuisawau, while commissioning the Tubairata and Mavua village rural water project in Nadroga that cost approximately \$592,000, highlighted the impact of this amenity to the lives of 146 households that it will service.

“The significance of this project cannot be overstated. It not only provides a sustainable solution to the water challenges faced by the villagers but also safeguard the health and well-being of its residents,” Minister Tuisawau said.

These sentiments were echoed by the Mata

ni Tikina Mavua, Ifereimi Turukawa, who highlighted the challenges the communities faced over the years, even to the extent of using river water for their daily needs.

“We have waited so long for this assistance that’s why we are so grateful to the Government for clean drinking water for both villages,” Mr Turukawa said.

The water project entailed the construction of new dams, new reservoirs and pipe fittings.

Minister Tuisawau commended the Water Authority of Fiji and community members who played a role in making the project a reality.

“From the workers at Water Authority of Fiji who worked tirelessly to the community members who supported and cooperated throughout the process, your dedication and commitment have not gone unnoticed,” he said.

Minister Tuisawau urged the community to support the Village Water Committee that will be responsible for the management



Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, Ro Filipe Tuisawau, commissions the Tubairata and Mavua village rural water project in Nadroga. Photo: KATARINA NAQARASE

of the rural water system as it has been He further encouraged the community to appointed to ensure that issues of water use water wisely “as every of water counts”. disruptions are attended to.

PM envisions Pacific as an ocean of peace

By AZARIA FAREEN

IN November 2023, the Great Council of Chiefs (GCC) was reinstated by law, 17-years after its suspension and 10-years after it was disestablished.

Recently, the members of the GCC converged to chart the path forward as bearers of Fiji’s collective history and architects of a shared future.

Speaking at the first GCC meeting, Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, noted that “while the body is intrinsically linked to the governance and well-being of the iTaukei, it carries a profound obligation to embrace and advocate for every member of our diverse society”.

“The GCC will now be guided by the outcome of the review in 2023, which includes oversight of eight thematic areas covering iTaukei well-being including climate change and

ocean,” he said.

“This aligns seamlessly with my vision of the Pacific as an Ocean of Peace, underlining the GCC’s crucial role in realising a future where environmental stewardship and sustainable development are central to regional-harmony and prosperity.”

“Government will facilitate the GCC’s transition to a fully independent institution honouring the wishes of the iTaukei – ensuring its autonomy in serving the true interests of our community,” he added.

PM Rabuka states that this also complies with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

“This year, the Government will review the other indigenous institutions: the Fijian administration, the Native Lands Commission and the Native Land Trust Board,” he said.

“Members of the GCC will hold

different views on the issues they discuss, but they know that however sharp and heartfelt their disputes, however keen their ambitions, they have an obligation to work collaboratively about how best to serve the iTaukei and national interests.”

“And so, the GCC’s restoration is not a step back into the past but a leap forward, recognising the indispensable role of the GCC in not only safeguarding the interests and well-being of the iTaukei but in its broader mandate to foster inclusivity and harmony among all ethnic groups that call Fiji home,” he highlighted.

The Head of Government said that the re-establishment of the GCC heralds a new era of governance, one that recalls its illustrious past achievements while embracing the challenges and opportunities of the present and future.

“If we can unite around the concept of proclaiming an Ocean of Peace, we would be custodians of a powerful symbol of co-existence and friendship,” PM Rabuka said.

“The peace I envisage cannot be just a name and an image. Fiji and the other countries bound together through their membership of the Pacific Islands Forum, would be called upon to live by values reflecting peace as one of the highest virtues.”

“This would require our leaders, including you the traditional Chiefs of Fiji, to work with the people to ensure peace is central to national life, and that our cherished “Pacific Way” of patient dialogue and consensus would remain a fundamental part of our societies,” he added.

Ratu Seruvakula elected as chair for GCC

By JAMIL SULEMAN

THE Great Council Chiefs (GCC) will set out to foster unity and inclusivity by integrating the concerns of all the communities in Fiji.

The newly appointed GCC chairman, Ratu Viliame Seruvakula, in an interview right after his election that has happened after over 16 years, emphasised the importance of inclusive leadership.

“It is very important for us in leadership to ensure that we look after all Fiji citizens and guarantee that there is no segregation,” Ratu Viliame said while echoing the sentiments of the Head of Government.

Dispelling concerns about exclusivity within the GCC, he reassured, “there shouldn’t be any worry because the GCC has laws and procedures that look after all and not only the iTaukei”.

On his new position with the GCC, the former soldier admitted to mixed emotions but affirmed his commitment to the task at hand.

“I have a bit of mixed emotions but it’s too late now, I got to get on with the job. I wasn’t expecting to be elected but I am grateful for the support and faith put in by those in the meeting today for believing that I can take on that role.”

Ratu Viliame might not have harboured aspirations for the job but is ready to deliver on his new chapter of leadership within the GCC.

In its first ever official meeting of the Great Council of Chiefs this year 2024, Ratu Viliame Seruvakula was elected as the new chairman at Pacific Harbour.

Close to 50 GCC members attended the meeting together with their respective Rokos.



Maori King Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII Photo: SUPPLIED

\$3.4m Karavi Weighbridge Project to demonstrate compliance and safety



Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, Ro Filipe Tuisawau opening the new Karavi Weighbridge Station recently.
Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

By DIPESH KUMAR

THE newly commissioned Karavi weighbridge will play a crucial role in preserving infrastructure for future generations and preventing road accidents.

This was shared by the Land Transport Authority (LTA) board chair, Inosi Kurudrani, who highlighted that the establishment of this critical infrastructure will not only benefit the transportation sector but communities around the area as well.

“The Weighbridge station presents a major advancement in our efforts to ensure road safety and protect our infrastructure. Overloaded vehicles pose a serious risk to road safety and cause extensive damage to our roads and bridges.”

“By giving us the means of efficiency, efficiently enforcing weight regulations, the Karavi Weighbridge will benefit LTA’s operations in several ways.”

“It will announce our ability to monitor and regulate the weight of vehicles allowing us to enforce compliance with greater efficiency.”

“These, in turn, strengthen our role as a regulator and ensure that all operators adhere to the state’s same standard, promoting fair competition and a level playing field for business.”

“As an organisation, the LTA

is committed to aligning our operations with the goals and targets set by the Government.”

“We recognise the importance of projects like the Karavi weighbridge in achieving these goals and we will continue to work tirelessly to contribute to the development of our nation’s infrastructure and economy.”

Emphasising the need for investment in sustainable infrastructures, the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, Ro Filipe Tuisawau shared that the Coalition Government will continue to look towards investing in future sustainable projects.

He shared that the Coalition Government needs to listen to the people on their needs and improve infrastructure in various sectors.

“For this Government, we would like to put in place the infrastructure plans and sustainable projects, whether it’s funded by our income as a nation or in terms of external internal financing, which will sustain us into the future.”

The Minister reiterated that infrastructures such as these need to be efficiently planned and the ministry was also looking for funding from various development partners especially in climate financing to ensure the resilience of infrastructure.

A-G Turaga calls for collaboration against drugs

By MEREANI GONEDUA

TRADITIONAL leaders, inter-faith organisation leaders and community leaders have been urged to work hand in hand with the Coalition Government to fight against drugs.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga, made this call while officiating at the opening of a new Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission office in Lautoka this week.

“I would like to use this opportunity to once again appeal to our traditional leaders, our community leaders and our inter-faith-based organisations to join the Government efforts in its war against drugs. We have to save our children from this problem.”

“We cannot ignore the fact that we are living in a highly competitive world, today, with extraordinary technological progress, globalisation, which have contributed to growing social injustices and economic inequalities amongst our people, particularly, putting our island nation at high risk.

“Just recently, we have unveiled one of the biggest drug seizures ever, which is becoming widespread and affecting many families and sadly, our children.”

“While Government is focused on ensuring that our children, the women, the elderly and the diverse vulnerable groups which includes persons with disabilities, have access to basic social protection and are safe in their homes, schools



Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga, opens the new Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission office in Lautoka last week. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

and at workplace, I call on our key stakeholders – the community leaders to assist us in identifying the most vulnerable who may be experiencing human rights violations in their homes, schools or any other place – to report those violations to the right agency so help can be afforded to the victims and the perpetrators brought to justice.”

The A-G emphasised that drugs and substance abuse lead to the violation of a child’s rights.

“The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) stands alone among the core UN human rights treaties in setting out a human right to protection from drugs.”

Meanwhile, Article 33 of the CRC stipulates that, “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances”.

PM Rabuka calls for peace advancement

By MEREANI GONEDUA

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has emphasised that more financing and investment are needed in order to advance peace rather than war.

Speaking at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Pacific High-Level conference in Nadi recently, PM Rabuka highlighted that while Fiji seeks prosperity, it must go hand-in-hand with peace.

With the theme of the conference as ‘Peace for a new way of living’, Fiji’s Head of Government stated that it was not possible to attain national progress and fulfilment amid the depredations of war, and the simmering possibility of it.

“What all of us now require - and I mean all of us - is a deluge of peace, a torrent of it, as an antidote to war.

“The people of the world can make this happen.”

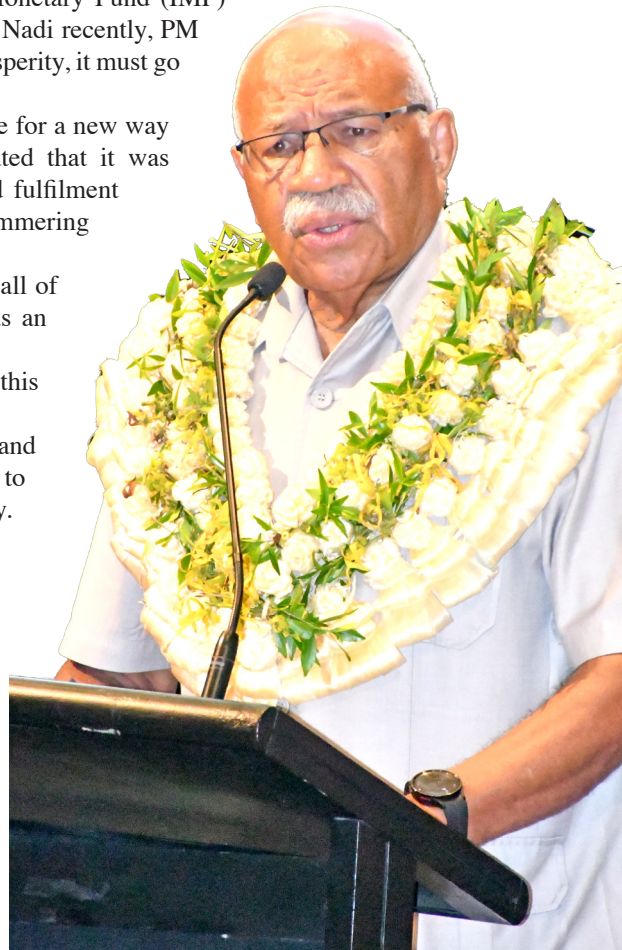
“The very word peace is filled with power and meaning that inspires and lifts. Peace leads to communities of compassion, care and charity. It nurtures prosperity - the theme of this conference.”

He called on world leaders to unite around the concept of proclaiming the Blue Pacific as the Ocean of Peace as they would be custodians of a powerful symbol of co-existence and friendship.

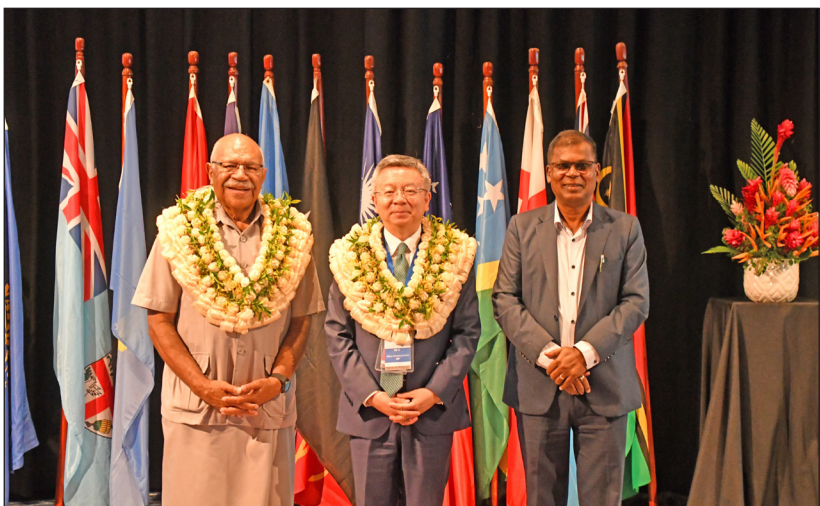
“The peace we seek cannot just be a name and an image. Each of our countries would be called upon to live by values reflecting peace as one of the highest virtues.

“This would require our leaders to work with the people to ensure that peace is central to national life.”

PM Rabuka also commended the IMF for assisting nations that experience severe financial difficulties with funding to return to stability and progress.



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, spoke at the International Monetary Fund’s Pacific High-Level Conference in Nadi. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR



The Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, with International Monetary Fund’s deputy managing director, Bo Li, who was in the country recently for the Pacific High-Level conference in Nadi. Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA

Women empowerment enables community to thrive



Two women of the Yasawa Women's Club working jointly to produce mats for income generation. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

“IMPROVING a women’s self-worth and providing a space for them to develop skills and grow, is vital in raising standards of living in rural and maritime areas.”

These were the words of Vinaina Voivoi, the President of the Yasawa Women’s Club in Tawake, Cakaudrove which is made up of about 30 women.

With weaving, fishing, sale of pandanus leaves and brooms as a main source of income, the women of this particular club operate on the iTaukei concept of “solesolevaki” (cooperative), which capitalises on helping each other and working together.

“We have taken our queue from the Government’s promotion of women empowerment, to provide an equal platform for women in the country, which we believe is key in unlocking the potential of women in our local communities,” Ms Voivoi said.

“To some, women empowerment might mean loud cheering and participating in marches, for us in the villages it means coming together to share knowledge and assist each other in developing their skills to earn an income.”

“That is why we encourage the involvement of women of all ages, because the knowledge from the old is passed on to the young, and there is a healthy exchange of ideas for when we have our activities and meetings each week.”

She said they have noticed an improvement in the living of standards and the participation of women in community building when their group is functioning which provides a platform for women empowerment.

“When we as women listen to each other, help each other, our family and the community reaps the benefit as we are able to contribute better towards community growth,” Ms Voivoi said.

Naqera Settlement in Vatuova celebrates accessibility to quality drinking water



Members of the Naqera Community in particular children, celebrate accesibility to clean and quality drinking water. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

AS 70-year-old Nai Nayalo turns on the tap, allowing the fresh cool water to seep through her fingers, a bright smile breaks out followed by a sigh of relief.

Ms Nayalo joined members of her clan at their village green to celebrate the commissioning of their water project, ending decades of water woes.

Nau Nai, as she is affectionately known, is the traditional head and the oldest member of the community and expressed the joy of witnessing one of the major challenges they encountered on a daily basis being overcome.

For years, the community had been accessing drinking water from a source that regularly ran dry thereby affecting the availability of this basic necessity, forcing them to take a 10-minute walk to the nearby creek to wash and bathe.

“As for our drinking water, there is source further up-hill that we have to carry our buckets to and that is strenuous, today we can access water from the comfort of our homes,” Ms Nayalo said.

The water project was made possible through the community’s decision to engage in a reforestation project with the Government through the Ministry of Forestry, where the returns were invested into fund this project.

“I would like to thank the Government for providing avenues as such to help alleviate problems that have plagued our community for years,” she added.

Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Kalaveti Ravu while officiating at the event recently, lauded the villagers for agreeing to engage in a project as such.

Villagers build Irish Crossing for better access to education for students

By JOSAIA RALAGO

IN a bid to ensure students have better access to education, villagers and Youth of Yasawa in Tawake, Cakaudrove constructed a 22-foot Irish-crossing from locally available resources.

The village, one of the most far-flung maritime communities located close to the Udu Point in Vanua Levu, has decided to align itself with the Government’s vision to provide better opportunities for students.

The 20 students in the village had to walk for 25 minutes each morning to get to Vatuva Primary School, which they share with students from the neighbouring village of Nagasauva as it was located on the mid-point between the two communities.

“Prioritising education for our children is not just the work of the parents and Government, but a community effort to ensure they have better opportunities,” Yasawa Village headman, Joseva Vatudei,



Students of Vatuva Primary School from Yasawa Village in Tawake, Cakaudrove crossing the Irish-crossing built by the youth and villagers earlier this year. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

said.

“Our geographical location has been a hindrance to development, and as a community we work together, with accessible education for our children as a one of our key goals,” Mr Vatudei said.

“This is because we believe and have witnessed that education transforms lives and communities, and it opens door of opportunities for our children.”

On this front, the headman said they were always looking for ways in which they could make learning more accessible, and do as much as they could to provide a more

conducive environment for education.

“We noticed that the students would cross four to five crossing before reaching school with the old path, and having to cross using a route in-land, they would often get wet and sometimes slipped on their way to school,” Mr Vatudei said.

“On an afternoon, I noticed that two of them were crossing an estuary after school, and after close investigation we noticed it was a better path for them to cross, and all we needed was a crossing.”

“We did not waste any time, even with no machineries to carry the logs and construct

the crossing, it was a challenge we were all too willing to carry out,” he said.

“We have seen how Government continues to invest in education through the budget allocation, free education, free transport and the \$200 back to school grant for each student is a testament to their dedication towards this worthy cause.

“As parents, community leaders and members, we must align ourselves to this and persevere on. We must not always depend on Government but to be self-reliant because the Government can only do so much for everyone.”

New tracks for athletics

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

“THE newly refurbished tracks are a testament to your Coalition Government’s commitment to investing in sports infrastructure and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle for all our citizens.”

This was highlighted by Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka while re-opening of the HFC Bank Stadium newly refurbished tracks recently.

“Your Coalition Government has worked tirelessly through the Ministry of Youth and Sports in collaboration with the Fiji Sports Council, and Sphynx Solution to bring you the best.”

“This has resulted in the renovation of our National HFC Bank Stadium tracks to be of international standards, symbolising our dedication to promoting health, wellness and active lifestyles within our nation.”

PM Rabuka added that Fiji must continue to support their athletes as they strive for greatness on the world stage and let them harness the power of sport to inspire and unite the nation, now and for generations to come.

“I am confident that the newly refurbished tracks at the National HFC Bank Stadium will serve as a platform for our athletes to excel and achieve their full potential.”

“Let us all come together to celebrate this momentous occasion and continue to support our sporting community in their pursuit of excellence.”

Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru, added the re-opening of the stadium tracks marks a significant milestone for the Government’s commitment to promoting youth and sports development while fostering a culture of sports excellence in our communities.

“It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all those involved in this project, and I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together.

“We are excited to showcase the improvements made to the stadium tracks. We are grateful for the support and dedication of everyone involved in making this project a success.”



Fiji’s Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka and Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru, take a group photo with a few athletes and members from the Fiji Sports Council on the newly opened HFC Stadium tracks. **Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU**

Ministry enhances cyber development priorities

By AZARIA FAREEN

“THE Government is taking concrete steps to enhance Fiji’s national cybersecurity capacity in response to current evolving threats.”

In a video message to Fiji’s second National Cybersecurity Maturity Assessment held recently, Deputy Prime Minister for Trade, Cooperative, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, noted that the Government was actively collaborating with multilateral organisations and technology giants in global and regional forums.

“We have taken steps to accede to the Budapest Convention and reformed the legal framework on cybercrime and electronic evidence through our Cybercrime Act of 2021,” DPM Kamikamica said.

“This also includes forging stronger partnerships with Governments like Australia through the Cybersecurity Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding, but we can still do more,” he highlighted.

“To further strengthen our cybersecurity capacity, we are employing a global and comprehensive framework for nation states - the Cybersecurity Capacity Maturity Model for Nations (CMM).”

“The CMM will help Fiji identify our strengths and weaknesses in cybersecurity and develop tailored strategies to improve our overall resilience to cyber threats – whilst at the same time offer a systematic way for us to measure progress and benchmark against international best practices,” he highlighted.

“This is being done in partnership with the UK Government with assistance from experts from the Oceania Cyber Security Centre in preparation for the forthcoming national cybersecurity strategy.”

“The cyber maturity review provides a holistic assessment of each country’s national capacity to manage complex cyber risks and identifies areas for improvement,” he added.

DPM Kamikamica states that Fiji’s cyber journey is marked by bold initiatives and unwavering commitment, echoing across regional collaborations like the 2018 Boe Declaration, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and the recent 2023 Lagatoi Declaration, and in global forums like the UN Open Ended Working Group and the UN Ad Hoc Committee on Cybercrime.

“As we embark on our cyber maturity review, I must extend my deepest gratitude to the UK Government and Oceania Cyber Security Centre (OCSC) for their invaluable support,” he acknowledged.

“We have worked closely with the OCSC team to ensure that the process and outputs of the review align with our national priorities and interests, and also creating these synergies will be instrumental in enhancing efficiency and ensuring our collective success.”

“A new review will assist the ministry to evaluate this progress and inform the Government’s future cyber development priorities,” he added.

CMM is a globally recognised cyber maturity model developed by the Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre at the University of Oxford and has been deployed more than 130 times in 90 nations around the world.

Fiji undertook its first Cyber Security Capacity Maturity Model review in 2015 as one of the world’s first countries to use the model.

Director General of Digital Government Transformation, Ms Tupou’tuah Baravilala, has commended the progress made in the digital space by the Fiji Government through various protective measures and the implementation of the Cybercrim Act.

“We are ensuring that all individuals have accommodations, and I am eagerly anticipating the results of this report, and subsequently, we will begin the gradual implementation of this findings in Fiji,” she said.



Director General of Digital Government Transformation, Tupou’tuah Baravilala, speaking at the second National Cybersecurity Maturity Assessment forum. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Waste crisis demands immediate action: DPM Gavoka

By JESHU LAL

FIIJ is already grappling as a Small Island Developing State with the environmental crisis, with pollution, and climate change and unsustainable waste management only further exacerbates this.

In sharing these sentiments, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism, Civil Aviation and Education, Viliame Gavoka, highlighted that the Fiji Government has prioritised waste management and more specifically, the Ministry of Tourism has embarked on an endeavour to establish the National Sustainable Tourism Framework

DPM Gavoka made these points at the Pacific Recycling Foundation’s Stakeholder Workshop at Civic Centre in Suva held recently.

“Waste management is not merely a logistical challenge; it is a fundamental responsibility that intersects with our environment, economy, and social fabric. Our actions, if left unchecked, directly impact Fiji’s delicate ecosystem, our pristine beaches, the health of our communities and the bounty of our land.”

“By integrating waste management practices into sustainable tourism, we can create a harmonious balance between environmental conservation and economic prosperity.”

DPM Gavoka further added that the Ministry of Education’s commitment to waste management education ensures that future generations are equipped to address environmental challenges effectively.

“The Recycling on the Go (ROG) Ambassadors program was successfully piloted in the Central Division at Jai Narayan College in 2022. The ROG Ambassadors Program in schools is aimed at inculcating best practices of recycling aimed at impacting the mindset and behaviour change of students,” DPM Gavoka highlighted.

He said that it should also be noted that a significant number of recyclables from these three schools will no longer end up at the landfill or dumpsites but instead be taken for recycling.

DPM Gavoka added that the waste crisis demands immediate attention and it knows no boundaries, affecting urban centres and remote villages alike.

“We must collaborate across sectors—government, industry, civil society—to tackle this crisis head-on. Waste management is multifaceted. It requires partnerships that transcend organisational boundaries. Governments, private sector entities, NGOs, and community organisations, and the wider public must collaborate.”

“Our theme ‘Walk the Talk’ and ‘Connecting the Dots’ emphasises action. Let us align our words with deeds. As we connect the dots—education, policy, technology, and community engagement—we weave a coherent strategy for effective waste management.”

Navigating the future – the crucial role of Fiji’s survey division in nation building

By LOTE RABOILA

IN the heart of Fiji’s Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources lies a powerhouse dedicated to shaping the nation’s landscape—both literally and metaphorically.

The survey division, a vital component of the Ministry, is at the forefront of land development, demarcation, and ensuring security of tenure.

As the nation strides towards a future of equitable growth and development, the work of the survey division emerges as a linchpin in this collective journey.

The responsibilities of the survey division encompass a wide array of land survey works, responding to requests from various stakeholders, clients, and government agencies.

Under the leadership of the surveyor general, the division regulates and checks all land surveys conducted by registered surveyors, aligning with the Surveyors Act 1969 and Surveyors Regulations 2021.

The Ministry’s permanent secretary, Dr Rajjeli Taga said, “one of the paramount roles of the survey division is the cadastral surveys that demarcate, subdivide, and develop State Lands, contributing significantly to the needs for securing lease lot for agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial purpose”.

“The meticulous work of land surveyors, both past and present, plays a pivotal role in confirming rights of ownership across different land tenure systems.”

“The establishment and maintenance of Geodetic Survey Networks and standard ground control marks throughout Fiji stand as a testament to the division’s commitment to integrating and standardising all land surveys in the country,” Dr Taga added.

These control marks form the basis for various development works, from different arrays of surveys to engineering surveys, ensuring compatibility in mapping and charting efforts.

On the other hand, within the framework of the National Geodetic Network Infrastructure project, the survey division not only enhances the geodetic network but also plays a pivotal role in addressing national priorities.

This encompasses bolstering planning and development initiatives, instilling investor confidence in emerging sectors, and facilitating decision-making processes vital for the holistic considerations of social, economic, and environmental factors.

“Knowing where you are, and where things are around you, is key to effective decision-making. The ability to align and integrate information, fast and accurate method of observing positioning data is key to social, economic and environmental decision-making,” Dr Taga said.



Surveyors taking a break. Photo: SUPPLIED

“Combining spatial data is heavily dependent on having a reference frame aligned to international standard for coordinates on which datasets can be aligned for instance, roads, critical infrastructure, hospitals, high tide heights and water inundation paths.”

In this regard, Dr Taga said that Fiji needs to apply spatial data to numerous challenges including mitigating the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, ensuring public safety, identifying and managing groundwater, providing safe navigation of shipping across our Exclusive Economical Zones (EEZ), determination of exclusive economic zones and much more.

It is challenging or difficult to combine datasets relating to town planning, property boundaries, flood mapping data, groundwater accessibility data, population locations and so on because they use different coordinate reference frames in which different definitions of where the origin of the map is. As a result the data cannot be aligned or compared to each other.

For example, the location of a hospital may have a different latitude, longitude and height depending on who collected the data and what they use as a coordinate reference frame.

In addition, diverse types of survey work, ranging from detail and topographical survey for sub-divisions determining earth’s surface characteristics, showcase the versatility of the survey division’s expertise.

Cadastral surveys, redefinition surveys, compilation, amalgamation survey and geodetic surveys round out the comprehensive array of services provided by the Division.

The survey division’s involvement in various projects further emphasises its commitment to nation building.

The ongoing upgrade of the Geodetic Datum, costing a substantial amount and nearing completion, exemplifies Fiji’s embrace of technological advancements.

Projects such as the survey of Mahogany plantations, i-Taukei Land leased to the State, and the development of State Land contribute to the overall growth and well-being of Fiji.

Despite these commendable efforts, the survey division faces challenges, particularly in the shortage of registered surveyors.

The Government, alongside the Fiji Institute of Surveyors and the Surveyors Registration

Board, is actively involved in addressing this issue.

The declining trend in registered surveyors over the years underscores the urgency of sustaining and promoting the surveying profession in Fiji.

A noteworthy initiative is the ongoing review of the surveyors regulations, in



A surveyor at work with a Theodolite. Photo: SUPPLIED

collaboration with the Office of the Solicitor General and the surveying fraternity.

This review aims to align regulations with technological advancements and evolving skill sets, ensuring the profession remains robust and relevant.

Ministry’s surveyor-general, Asakaia Tabua, said, “the strength and backbone of any land development lie in the integrity of the land surveyor’s information. The survey division’s dedication, coupled with ongoing initiatives, paints a promising picture for Fiji’s future—one where land development, survey and security of tenure are foundations for a better and more prosperous nation”.

As Fiji strides towards embracing technological advancements and addressing challenges, such as the shortage of registered surveyors, ongoing initiatives like the review of Surveyors Act showcase a proactive approach to sustaining and promoting the surveying profession.

The survey division’s dedication and the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders paint a promising picture for Fiji’s future—a future where land development are the bedrock for a better and more prosperous nation.

(Source: Lote Raboila is the senior public relations officer for the Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources)



Surveyors at a Trig Station. Photo: SUPPLIED

ATS plays an important role in the economy: DPM Prasad

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

“THE Air Terminal Services Limited (ATS) Fiji must work well together with Fiji Airways and Aviation Fiji Limited to ensure they get the best out of each other.”

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, while meeting with ATS Board chair, Ms Shradha Sharma and ATS CEO, Alan Suchin, urged them to work with their partners for the benefit of Fiji and especially the tourism sector.

“ATS plays a very important role in the economy and a crucial part in the overall tourism eco-system with airport ground handling operations including cargo handling, passenger services, engineering and airline cabin and catering services,” he said

“I take this opportunity to thank you and the entire board and the management of ATS for the work you have been doing with post pandemic

economic recovery.”

DPM Prasad added Fiji has its record visitor arrivals last year and almost every business in the tourism sector made a record profit.

“We rebounded strongly by 20 per cent in 2022 and 8.2 per cent in 2023 and the Fijian economy returned to pre-pandemic levels last year, much faster than we had expected.”

“The outlook looks promising with the economy expected to return to a trend growth of around 3per cent,”he added

The DPM said “while we celebrate this moment of success, we must also recognise the challenges that lie ahead”.

“Having “service with excellence” as ATS vision, let me reinforce the importance of maintaining high standards of excellence in your service delivery and I encourage ATS to continue embracing innovation and adapting to evolving industry needs.”

“I have absolute confidence in the continued success of ATS and its pivotal role in shaping the future of aviation industry in Fiji,” he added



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Biman Prasad, with ATS Board chair, Ms Shradha Sharma and ATS CEO, Alan Suchin.
Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU

PCC partners with WWF and Ministry of Environment



General Secretary for the Methodist Church, Reverend Simone Tugi (Left) and Acting Director for Environment, Senimili Baleicakau (Right) Photo: SUPPLIED

By JAMIL SULEMAN

PACIFIC Council of Churches (PCC) Partners with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Ministry of Environment for Wildlife Conservation Week

The PCC has taken the lead to advocate for environmental stewardship with the launch of a week-long prayer week dedicated to wildlife and reflection.

The event, which commenced on March 3 and culminates with an Interfaith Service on March 10, aims to draw attention to the pressing need for wildlife conservation in Fiji.

Both the church and WWF believe that a call from the Prime Minister on commitments towards protecting wildlife in Fiji would be impactful and help in pushing out messages at the local level to stimulate a national conversation on the declining state of wildlife and the urgent need for action.

Methodist Church of Fiji general secretary, Reverend Simone Tugi, said, “this partnership with the Ministry of Environment aligns well with the annual Season of Creation events, emphasising the responsibility bestowed upon us by God to preserve our environment and wildlife”.

On the relationship between religion and wildlife conservation, Reverend Tugi elaborated, “the Bible teaches us that humans are stewards of the earth, entrusted by God to care for and preserve all living creatures. This responsibility extends to ensuring the well-being of our environment, as it is a reflection of our reverence for God’s creations”.

He further highlighted, “we have invited representatives from all religions to participate in prayers and share their perspectives on wildlife conservation, as this is a national issue, and we welcome collaboration from all faiths”.

Reverend Tugi, underscored that shared responsibility of humanity in environmental preservation and stated, “as humans, we bear a heavy responsibility for preserving the environment. It is imperative that we reflect on our actions and strive to be better stewards of God’s creation, by caring for our environment, we ensure a sustainable future for all,” he added.

Fiji’s commitment in improving early warning systems a priority: PS Talemaibua



Fiji National Disaster Management Office director, Vasiti Soko makes a contribution during the Technical Working Group workshop on the Early Warning for All (EW4A) Initiative in Suva. Photo: SUPPLIED

By JESHU LAL

FJI’S commitment to inclusivity and accessibility in the development of early warning systems is paramount.

Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management’s permanent secretary, Isoa Talemaibua, reiterated this during the Technical Working Group workshop on the Early Warning for All (EW4A) Initiative in Suva recently.

“We are reminded that the most sophisticated technologies are only as effective as their ability to reach and be understood by those in harm’s way. This means designing systems that

are not only technically robust but also culturally sensitive and accessible to all members of our community, including the most vulnerable,” Mr Talemaibua highlighted.

“The success stories from around the globe, where communities have been actively involved in the design and implementation of early warning systems, serve as a blueprint for our efforts.”

He explained that by integrating traditional knowledge with scientific innovation, not only enhances the efficacy of these systems but also foster a sense of ownership and trust within communities.

Mr Talemaibua said the rapid advancements in technology offered unprecedented opportunities to improve the

timeliness and accuracy of early warning systems.

He said Fiji’s strategic position in the Pacific, coupled with its commitment to technological innovation and regional cooperation, positions it as a leader in the implementation of the EW4A initiative.

In highlighting the ambitions under the EW4A initiative, Mr Talemaibua said, it necessitated strong legal and policy frameworks and international cooperation.

He added that it was only through collective action and shared knowledge that the challenges posed by climate change and natural disasters can be faced.

“Our efforts in Fiji will contribute to, and benefit from, the global exchange of best practices, technological innovations, and strategic partnerships. As we move forward, our focus remains on building resilient communities through education, training, and capacity building. We recognise the importance of empowering individuals with the knowledge and tools to respond to early warnings, transforming awareness into action.”

The Technical Working Group workshop on EW4All validated the project concept with key stakeholders in Fiji, and identified opportunities to address gaps, needs, and priorities for Multi-Hazard Early Warning System in Fiji, to name a few.

C27-J Aircraft to enhance Fiji's air surveillance



The Royal Australian Air Force with Government officials during a recent demo-operation of a search and rescue mission. **Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU**

BY FELIX LESINAIVALU and JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

THE Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) C-27J Spartan aircraft will be a familiar sight in airports in Fiji and Papua New Guinea this year. This is the result of the Defence Pacific Air Program (DPAP) – that the Australian Government offers the two Pacific Island Countries. For Fiji, DPAP fits in well under its Vu-vale (family) Partnership with Australia. It will also see the RAAF plane operating in Fiji for a two-week period at eight weeks interval. Six deployment is planned for 2024. The C-27J arrived in Fiji on February 18 and was received by the Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration, Pio

Tikoduadua. The Minister highlighted that Fiji and Australia are working together to boost Pacific resilience to traditional and non-traditional security threats. He added the arrival of the RAAF aircraft adds a new dimension of the Vu-vale Partnership of the two countries. “Australia’s deployment of a Royal Australian Airforce C-27J provides a valuable building block to tackle these threats, and to build a safer nation and Pacific region,” the Minister said. Australian Defence Adviser, Colonel Henry Stimson, said DPAP will help deepens the partnership with Fiji through training, enhanced inter-operability and the conduct of mutually beneficial tasks. “The offer of the C-27J to the Ministry

for Home Affairs and Immigration on a regular rotational basis is an important opportunity for Fiji to consider how they might develop a sovereign aviation capability,” said Col. Stimson. During the RAAF first surveillance flight in Fiji, the aircraft was involved in a demo-operation of a search and rescue alongside the Republic of Fiji Navy Ship (RFNS) “Savenaca” near Vetaua Island off Taveuni, and delivered a humanitarian mission of medical supplies to Rotuma. Suva’s Colonial War Memorial Hospital Senior Surgical Registrar, Dr Semiti Vakabua, who flew on the mission to Rotuma said the trip enabled doctors to examine the surgical capabilities of the new Rotuma Hospital. “One of the main reasons I was sent for

this mission is to see the setup of the hospital and the operating theatre.” “Once we come back from this mission, we will be able to draw up a plan for the people of Rotuma as we plan to do more community engagements,” said Dr Vakabua. He also thanked the RAAF for the opportunity to participate in the humanitarian mission. While in Fiji, the RAAF C-27J plane operated out of Nausori International Airport, conducting joint operations with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) in static aircraft displays, familiarisation flights with the Fiji government and community engagement events. The next rotation of the C-27J plane will be in mid-April.

Noda Viti

Vukelulu, Maji 13, 2024 | 8 Drauniveva; 3 ni Tabana; 15 ni lavelave ni ivola

Nodra Vosa Na Turaga Na Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere



Story on page 3

Au kauta mai na Kere veivosoti mai vua na Noda Turaga na Peresitedi kei Viti, ka sega ni rawa ni tiko vata kei kemuni, na nona itokani iliuliu ena mataka



Story on page 6

Vakacaucautaka na turaga paraimiisita na soli ka ni fijian holdings kina bula vakailavo ni matanitu o viti.



Era a laki veisiko na liuliu ni matanitu o Hon Sitiveni Rabuka kina valenivolavola ni Fijians Holdings ka ra ciqu-ma kina na veiqaqaravi vakavanua. Ni mai cava na veiqaravi e vakavinavakataka o Mr Rabuka na veika e rartou sa mai rawata na kabani kei veikai esa mai qaravi rawa. E vakavinavakataka ira talega .na lewe ni timi taucoko

Era marau nai liuliu ni matanitu ena vuku ni kena mai vakdinadinataki na cavu I kalawa levu e ratou mai cakava na Fijian Holdings kina matanitu.

E na gauna mai tauyavu kina na kabani n Fijian Holdings ena 40 na yabaki sa oti , esa tomana tiko ga na kabani na nona rawa ka kina dua tale nai vakatagedegede , ka vakavinavakataka ira sara kina vakalevu ena cakacaka vakaukauwa kei na sasaga.

E vakaraitaka talega o Hon Rabuka na bibi ni kena vakarautaki nai tuvatuva e veiganiti kei na tubu ni veivakatorocaketaki.

E vakavinavakataka vakalevu na Matatimi ni Fijian Holdings Limited ko Mr Rabuka ka sa nuidei tu nina tomani tiko ga na sasaga ni toso ni noda matanitu

E vakaraitaka talega o Mr Sakiusa Raivocena Jiameni ni Matabose ni Fijian Holdings Limited ni nodra veisko saka mai na matanitu esa vakadeitaka na yalo ni veitokoni kina kabaniu ka vaka kina na matanitu o Viti.

Na veisiko oqo e vakamatatataka na bibi ni nodra cakacakavata kei ira na lewenivanua kei na veitabana vakaitaukei me baketa na veivakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu



Me kena ikuri, esa kila tiko na matanitu na gagdfre etiko me baleta na nodra tokitaki e 44 na itikotiko e bolei ira tiko na draki veisau.

Esa qaravi tiko na cakacaka ni kena vakarautaki edua na ivola dusidusi me na tokona na lawatu ni tokitoki ni vei tikitiko ka ra bolei ena draki veisau.

E sa na ka ni vuki ki vei keda na veika eda sa sotava oti ka sa na yavu tale ga ni ivola dusidusi.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, e dei tiko na Matanitu ena kena tutaki na cakacaka savasava kei na ivakarau ni veiliutaki vinaka ena vei kabani vakamataniitu kei na Matabose ni Veiqaravi Vakamataniitu.

Na kena tauyavutaki tale na Matabose ka digova na kedra isau na vakaitutu cecere e yaco kina tuvakai koya ka savasava na kena talevi na kedra isau na vakaitutu cecere.

Ena tomana tikoga na matanitu na kena vakavinakataki cake na cakacaka vata kei na gugumatua ena Veiqaravi Vakamataniitu.

Au marautaka me'u tukuna ni na lesu mai na Siga ni Veiqaravi Vakamataniitu ena yabaki oqo ena iva 28 ni June me marautaki kina na nodra cau na vakaile-silesi vakamataniitu.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, me baleta na noda tabana ni saravanua, e veivakayaloqaqatiki me da raica ni ra sa sivia na iwiliwili ni vulagi era tadu mai ni bera na COVID.

Ni qai cava na yababki qo 2024, e namaki me rakidavaki e Dua na Milioni na vulagi ka me kena isevu talega ena noda vanua.

Na saravanua e dua na ivurevure ni lavo levu ena noda vanua.

Ni levu na vulagi saravanua ena lai vakavure cakacaka kina vei tabana ni veiqaravi tale eso.

Ena vakotora na matanitu e dua na itu-vatuva ni veiqaravi yabaki 10 ka sema ki na National Sustainable Tourism Framework, ka na tauyavutaki Viti ena makete ni veilakoyaki kei na saravanua e vura-vura raraba.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, na vuli edua na tuvatuva bibi e qarava na matanitu ka na vakaliuci tiko.

Ena taurivaki na macala ni Bose ka baleta na Vuli ka vakatokai me Denarau Declaration.

Oqo e oka kina na railesuvi kei na vakavoui ni Lawa ni Vuli kei na lawa, lawa veiwekani kei lawa-tu kei na tuvatuva sa tiko rawa.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, sa mai vakadeitaka talega na matanitu mena raica na kena vakalevutaki na gaunisala ni veivoli ena noda vanua o Viti ka vakabibi na kena vakarabailevutaki na nodra vakau I yaya kei na kena Itaukei.

Ena tomana tikoga na matanitu na kena tokoni na vei Bisinisi Lalai se na (Micro Small, Medium Enterprises and Cooperative) ena kena vakamuri eso nai tuvatuva, me rawa ni yaco vinaka ena kena makete ka vaka kina na kena veika Vakailavo.

Na ka bibi taudua sai koya na kena raica na matanitu na kena tomani tiko ga na vakavinakataki ni noda vurevure ni yaubula mena rawa ni ra vakaitavi talega na kena I taukei.

Sa vakadeitaka talega na matanitu me veisautaka na veika vakalivaliva kei na kena sagai me biu vou tale eso na tabana me vaka na National Digital Strategy kei na National Cybersecurity Strategy.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, esa vakadeitaka talega na Matanitu ena kena biu mai na tabana e qarava vakatabakidua nai Tuvatuva ni Nodra Rawa Ka vakailavo na Marama se na (National Action Plan for Womens Economic Empowerment).

Ena vakayagataki talega enai tuvatuva

vakailavo ena yabaki oqo na kena wasei vakatautauvata nai lavo vei ira na lewenivanua se na (Gender Responsive Budget).

Na Lawa e Vauci ira na gone se na (Child Justice Bill) ka vaka kina lawa na nodra taqomaki na gone (Childcare Protection Bill) e dua naka ena vakabibitaki saraga ena loma ni yabaki oqo.

Ena tomana tikoga na matanitu na kena tovolei na kena vakavinakataki cake na porokaramu ni veitaqomaki kei na veimaliwai ena kena lako curumi na veiveisau ni draki kei na leqa tubukoso ka mena muri talega nai tuvatuva raraba ni veitaqomaki.

Me vaka esa mai kacivaki ena loma ni yabaki sa oti, e ratou na mai vakaraitaka talega eso na veiveisau ni lawa e vauca na kena taqomaki na vanua oratou na (National Defence Review).

Na kena mai ciqomi tale na rivote ni kena kune tale e 4 na tani na Waigaganiveivakamatenitaki se na (Methamphetamine) e sa gadrevi na kena railesuvi na lawa e vauca na Waigaga ni Veivakamatenitaki se na (Illicit Drugs Control Act).

Eratou sana cakacaka vata Tabacakacaka Ni Ovisa kei ira na Veitabana ena laurai na kena sagai mena tarovi na kena vakau mai ena noda vanua na Waigaga Ni Veivakamatenitaki

Era sana veitomani tale tiko ga na veimatalotu, vanua ka vaka kina na veitikoitko ena kena tovolei mena muduki ka vakawabokotaki na kena vakayagataki na Waigaga ena noda Vanua.

Na kena na mai railesuvi tiko na lawa me baleta na Veitaqomaki, Na Veitokiyaki ka vaka kina na Lawa ni Veitaqomaki (Defence, Immigration and National Security).

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, ena tabana ni bula ena noda vanua, sa raica sara tiko ga na matanitu na kena sagai me laurai na dredre e lako curumi ena kena veitauvi na mate sureti (Non-Communicable Disease) ka solia e dua nai colacola levu vei keda na lewenivanua ka vaka kina na bula vakailavo.

Na Tabana ni Bula ena biuta eso nai tuvatuva ka vaka kina porokaramu ena kena laurai na veiqaravi ena tabana ni :

- Child and Adolescent Health,
- Immunization and Early Childhood Development,
- Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV and AIDS
- Maternal Reproductive Health and
- Cancer Prevention

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, sa mai tauyavutaki tale na Matabose Levu Vakaturaga ena ruku ni lawa virikotori ni Itaukei Affairs Act.

Na kena mai vakacavari na bose ena macawa sa oti sada mai raica kina na kena sa mai digitaki lewe na lewe matabose, koa e liutaka na bose ka vaka kina e lewe rua na nona I vukevuke.

Eratou sana qai mai dikeva oqo na Matabose na rivote ni Timi ni Railesuvi ni GCC, ka vakatututaka eso na vakatutu me vakadeitaki kina na tu vakataki koya kei na ituvaluva vou ni Matabose. E bibi duadua, me vakadeitaki na kena kau ni vakapolitiki taki.

Au via mai vakaraitaka ni oti na kena mai vakayacori na veitalanoa me baleta lawa ni Kila ka Vakavanua kei na Ivakaraitaki ni Tovo Vakavanua (Traditional Knowledge and Expression of Culture) ka sa navuci me sana mai veitalanoa taki ena loma ni palimedi ena yabaki oqo.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, na matanitu ena railesuva na a Lawa ni Vanua (State Land Act) kei na lawa veisemati me vakavinakataka na iwalewale ka vakavinakataka cake na ilavo e kumuni.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, na wai e dua na ka e gadrevi sara vakalevu t ka bibi ki na

noda bula ni veivakatorocaketaki kei na bula vakailavo.

Na meda wai ni gunu ka vaka kina na tabana ni veiqaravi tale eso esa dua nai tuvatuva balavu e gadreva tiko na matanitu Na Water Sector 2050 e tuvanaki kina na iwalewale e gadrevi me vakayagataki ka vaka kina na veivakatorocaketaki ena tabana ni wai kei na wai lala.

Sa vakadeitaka na Matanitu me vakadeitaka ni sa rawa vei ira kece na noda lewenivanua me ra vakayagataka na wai ni gunu savasava.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, sa vakadeitaka na matanitu me tara tale na cakacaka ni taravale ena kena tara e dua na vale vou mai Lautoka ka na rawa ni qarava ruarua na waqa ni vanua kei na veivanua tani.

Oqo ena rawati mai na Veitokani Raraba kei na Vakaitaukei kei na veitokoni mai vei ira na itokani ni veivakatorocaketaki. Na kena mai railesuvi ni Maritime Transport Act 2013 e kena inaki mena salavata kei na ivakatagedegede mai na veimatanitu tale ka mena vakarautaki ka maroroi na gaunisala ni veilakoyaki ena noda veiyanyanu.

Na ivoladusidusi vou ni kena vakayagataki kaukauwa buli (National Energy Policy 2023-2030) ena vakadeitaka na matanitu nina raica na kena vakavinakataki na vanua ni vakavure kaukauwa.

Na inaki oya sai koya na kena tovolei me rawati na livaliva raraba ena 2026, vakailaitaka na kena vakayagataki na kasi gaga (Greenhouse gas) ena 30 na pasede, mena qai yacova na 2030 sa na tovolei mena veisau kece na vakavure kaukauwa e tu wavaloti keda.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, na tabana ni Teitei ena tomana tiko ga nai tuvatuva me baleta na rawaka vakailavo ka vaka kina na kena vakau na kakana kina veivanua tani.

Sa vakadeitaka na matanitu me vakarautaka vei ira na lewenivanua yadua na kakana e veirauti, taqomaki ka bulabula, ka mena vakabulabulataka na tabana ni teitei.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, kei ira na mata ni matanitu cecere ka semati kina vakatorocaketaki ni noda teitei kei na ivurevure tale eso, na vakatorocaketaki ema taudaku. I koro lelevu e sa dua na ka bibi ena raica na matanitu

Ena vakayagataka talega na matanitu e dua na taba ni veiqaravi rabailevu ni bula vakailavo na kena tokoni na tubu vaakilavo ka vaka kina na kena tarai cake nai nai vakarau ni bula ena taudaku ni koro lelevu ena noda vanua.

Ena raica na matanitu e levu sara na porokaramu me na vakaliuci tale kina na bula vakailavo ni veikoro ka vakauqeti ena kena rawati oqo e oka kina na:

- Self Help Programmes
- Community Access Roads
- Footpaths and Footbridges
- High Risk water and sanitation projects
- Rural Housing Assistance Programmed ka vaka kina na
- Rural Outer Island Development Programmed e oka talega kina na kena vakavinakataki na waqa ni veivakaleleci.

E dua na Lawa vou esa mai biu taumada (National Disaster Risk Management Bill) ka sa mai sosomitaka na lawa makawa oya na (Natural Disaster Management Act) ka sa vakadonui talega ena kebinateme sana veitalanoa taki ena palimedi ena yabaki oqo.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, au gadreva meu vakaraitakani ka ra lewena na mata mai na veitabana duidui ni veiqaravi ka vaka kina na matanitu era sa duavata ena kena tovolei me wali na leqa era sotava tiko na tamata cakacaka.

Oqo ena dua na itavi bibi ena kena yadravi na leqa baleti ira na tamata cakacaka, vanua ni cakacaka ka vaka kina na kedra I sau na tamata cakacaka.

Sa railesuvi talega na Lawa e vakatabakidua vei ira na Tamata Cakacaka (Employment Relations Act).

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, e levu sara na bolebole e ratou sotava tiko na Minisitiri ni Qoliqoli ka vuna levu taudua ena veika e kauta mai na veiveisau ni draki.

Ena raica talega na matanitu na kena biu eso na porokaramu mena rawa ni tokona na kena vakayagataki na noda I qoliqopli me rawa ni sotava na gagadre ni keni maroroi na noda I yaubula ka vaka kina na noda I qoliqoli.

Na Lawa tu me baleta nai qoliqoli (Fisheries Act 1941) esa navuci talega me sana railesuvi tale ena yabaki oqo.

Ena noda tabana e qarava na noda veikau, sa vakabibitaki talega na veiveisau ni draki e oka talega kina na kena taqomaki na noda veikau. Na matanitu esa tomana na cakacaka ni kena teivaki e 30 na milioni na vunika ena loma ni 15 na yabaki ka vakatekivutaki mai ena 2019.

Na kena mai railesuvi na iqaqi ni kau oqo na Mahogany esa vakadonua na Matanitu, ena vakatabakidua ena keni maroroi ka vakavinakataki na veivoli e vanuatani ka vakavinakataki talega oira nai taukei ni Mahogany.

Ena cakacaka vata na matanitu kei ira na veitabana tale eso ena vuku ni veituvatuva eso me vaka na :

- tarai cake na bula ni veivakavaletaki
- vakavinakataki na bula vakailavo
- vakauqetaina na kena tara nai tikotiko me veiganiti kei na draki veisau.

Ena tomana tikoga na matanitu na kena vakalawa taki na veitikitoko sega ni vakamataniitu taki mena rawa yadravi tiko oira na lewe ni tikotiko

Na kena vakabulabulataki tale makete ni volitaki voli kana vakavuna na kena tubu na rawaka vakailavo ka an solia talega eso na sala ena kina vakavinakataki.

Sa vakadeitaka na matanitu me vakaukauwataki ira na dau saumi vakacavacava me ra na diigtaka mai e dua na nodra mata mena rawa ni matataki ira kina siti ka vaka kina na taoni.

Na railesuvi ni Lawa ni Matabose ni Tau ni kei na Siti (Local Government Act) kei na (Election Act) esa toso sara tiko ena gauna nikua ena vuku ni kina digitaki na mata ni veitaoni ena noda vanua.

Turaga na Sivika, Kemuni na neimami Mata kina Bose Lawa kei kemuni na Mata ni Veimatanitu, na kina mai tekiviutaki na dabe ena palimedi ena yabaki oqo sa dodonu meda vakasamataka sara vakavinaka na vei gagadre era gadreva tu na lewenivanua meda mai bulagoci kina

Au sa veibolei vei keda yadudua na lewe ni palimedi ena noda vanua meda duavata ena veicakacaka satu mena qaravi, raici na veileqa era sotava tiko na lewenivanua, ka me ra na liu tiko na tamata ka biu laivi na bula vakapolitiki.

Meda kakua ni raica na bolebole me vaka e dua na ulunivanua meda duavata ka walia ena veivosaki keina veivakatorocaketaki, kei na rai me tarai cake na duavata ni veimaliwai ena noda vanua.

Kivei ira kece na noda lewenivanua, se vanua cava ga o ni sarava tiko kina na vosa oqo, au bolei kemuni mo ni tauradei na yavu kei na vakatulewa era vakayacora na nomuni mata digitaki.

Au vakauqeti ira kece na noda lewenivanua me ra tomana tikoga na nodra vakaitavi ena veivosaki, veivakatorocaketaki, veidokai ka vakasaqara na kila ka ka raraba ena noda veitikitoko.

Sa vakanuinui tu nina dua na yabaki vuavuai vinaka na yabaki oqo, 2024, ka sa noqu I tavi meu mai vakaraitaka ni sa dolavi na palimedi ena yabaki saka oqo.

Me Vakalougatataki Keda Kece na Kalou ka Me Vakalougatataki na Noda Vanua Lomani o Viti.

Vinaka Vakalevu !



DOLAVI NI WAINIGUNU E NAKORO KO TUBAIRATA KEI MAVUA



Vola ko: Katarina Naqarase

E ra mai vulagi dokai nikua (06/03/24) ena kena laki dolavi na waini gunu sava-sava ena koro e rua o Tubairata kei Mavua na Minisita ka qarava na Tabana ni Cakacaka Raraba, Tabana ni draki ka vaka kina na Veilakoyaki o Hon Ro Filipe Tuisawau .

E vakavinavinakataka o Hon Tuisawau ni veivakatorocaketaki oqo e dua nai nui-nui kei na toso ka vakaraitaka na nodra yalodei ena kena sagai me vakavinakat-

aki ka vakasavasavataki talega na wai ni gunu me baleti ira na lewenivanua. E na vi ca na yabaki sa oti e rua na koro oqo ko Tubairata kei Mavua e rau sotava sara tiko ga na leqa ni wai ni gunu.

E ra ciqoma talega ni vakaso ni wai makawa esa sega ni veiraurau vata na nodra gagadre na lewenivanua, sa tubu caka nai wiliwili sa sega ni cakacaka vakavinaka talega na I vaka so ni wai. E na leqa oqori era sa vakasalataki kina na lewenivanua mera sana tawa medra wai

ni gunu mai ena uciwai levu na Sigatoka River , ka rivarivabitaki nina vakavuna e so na mate. E na siga nikua era sa mai vakadinadinataka na lewe ni koro e rua na kena sa mai dabe e rua na taqe lelevu , dua tale nai vakaso ni wai vou ka rawa ni vakagunuvi kina e 146 na vuvale.

Nai sau vakailavo ni veivakatorocaketaki oqo e rauta ni \$592,000 ka duanaka e sasaga sara kina na matanitu me sotavi kina na nodra gagadre na lewenivanua. Na bibi ni veivakatorocaketaki oqo ena sega ni vakalevutaki , e vakarautaki ga ka rawa ni walia na leqa ni wai era sotava tiko na lewenivanua ka vaka kina na nodra tiko bulabula na veitikotiko.

Esa mai cava na dredre ni nomuni dau kau wai mai ena vanua yawa , ia ena gauna oqo sa rawarawa sara nisa rawa ni ra gunuva sarga na wai savasava ena mata ni nodra katuba.

E vakaraitaka talega na Turaga na Minisita na nodra vakavinavinaka cecekia vei ira na vakaitavi ena kena vakavotukana-taki na sasaga oqo. Vei ratou na tabana ni wai ka ratou qarava sara nai tavi ena vuniyalodrartou mera vakacegui kina na

lewenivanua.

E vakavinavinakataki ratou talega na Taviraki Civil Contructions ena nodratou veivuke ena cakacaka oqo.

Era mai vosa talega na Mata Ni Tikina o Mavua ena vuku ni veivakatorocaketaki ni koro e rua o Ifereimi Turukawa ni vakavinavinakataka na Matanitu ena vuku ni kena sa mai dola na wai, era waraka voli mai ena dua na gauna balavu, ea dodonu me tekivutaki na 2022 ka ra marau voli na lewenikoro ena kena sa mai cava ena yabaki oqo.

Levu talega na dredre era sotava me vaka na ualuvu koya e vakataotaka talega na nodra cakacaka. Vuqa na gauna era dau vakayagataka na bulumakau (qasita) ena kena usani mai na wai ena uciwai na Sigatoka me yaco ena nodra vale.

Sa vakavinavinakataka vakalevu ki na Matanitu ena vuku ni nodra bau nanumi ka wali na leqa era sotava vakauasivi ena nodra sa mai gunuva na wai savasava ena nodra matanikatuba.

VEIVAKARARAMTAKI ME BALETA NA VEIVAKATOROCAKETAKI ENA MATANITU O VITI.



Vola ko: Katarina Naqarase

Esa tomani tiko ga na veivakararamat-aki Na Minisitiri ni Veika Vakailavo , Tuvanaki ni Tuvatuva , Veivakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu. (27th February, 2024)

WASEWASE E LOMA

E na gauna ni veivosaki ena Wase-wase e Loma, era vakamatatataka na lewenivanua ena Deepwater Farming ni leqa levu duadua e tara na vanua oqo e dravudravua na wai ni ka vakavuna na waluvu vakawasoma ka tara na nodra iteitei.

Era sa kerea oti na lewenivanua na Matanitu ena kena vakavinakataka na gaunisala qereqere ena koro ka vaka talega eso na veivuke eratou gadreva mai vei ratou na Tabana Ni Teitei me baleta na kena vukei yani vei ira eso na sore ni kau, maniwa, ka vaka kina na kena vakau na nodra I voli ena makete. Na lewenivanua era vakaitikotiko e Korovou kei Ucuivanua e tu talega na nodra vakatutu ena vuku ni veivakatorocaketaki . Oqo e oka kina na nodra veiqaravi na Liga ni Lawa, na kena vakavinakataki nai yaya ni cakacaka, na waqa ka vaka na kena vakavinakataki na vale ni wawa basi.

Dua talega naka era gadreva sai koya na kena vakavinakataki na wai ni gunu na kena caka na bai ni ua mena tarova na sisi ni qele , vakavinakataki ni tikotiko ni nasi kei na valeni wai ka vaka kina nai yaya ni vuli ena veikoronivuli. E ra gadreva talega na kena vakavinakataki na taban ni teitei ni oya sarga e dua nai vurevure levu ni lavo vei ira. E dua talega naka e ratou gadreva vakalevu na lewe ni koro o Nayavu na leqa ni veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula ka rartou gadreva talega e dua na vanua mena dau maroro'i kina na yagodra era sa mate(morgue). E ra gadreva talega vakalevu na lewe ni koro sai koya na gaunisala ni tauri lavo me vaka na M Paisa kei na ATM, kena I kuri ni veika era gadreva sai koya na vakavinakataki ni gaunisal me na rawa nira taqomaki kina na gonevuli, vaka-



levutaki nai yaya ni veiqaravi ena tabana ni teitei, vakalesui lesu mai na koronivuli ni vuli tara me vaka ni levu na gonevuli era gole sara tiko mai Suva ki Rakiraki ena vuku ni vuli tara.

MUA IRA

E na Mua Ira ni noda vanua e dua na ka era gadreva sara tiko vakalevu na dau volivolitaki mai Ba kei Tavua sai koya na kauwai me baleta na leqa ni gaunisala, leqa talega ni salsala ni wai , na waluvu ka vaka kina na kena gadrevi na taba ni lawa me ratou wavoki voli mai ena makete. Oira na lewe ni koro e Vatua e sa kerere kina matanitu ke rawa ni so na veivuke me baleti ira na marama kei ira na gone. E na vakaraitaka talega na

kena toso cake tiko ga na Ualuvu ka vaka kina na sisi ni qele ka ra sa gadreva saka kina e dua na nodra I drodro (Evacuation Center).

Dua na leqa lebvu e ratou kauta cake mai na lewe ni koro e Natanuku sai koya na kena sega ni taucoko na veiqaravi eso mai vei ira na tabana ni matanitu eso,ka ratou gadreva sak kina na kena vakavinakataki na medra wai I gunu, vakaduri na cina ena yasa ni gauinisala(streetlight) ka vaka kina na kena vakalevu taki na veivakararamat-aki vei ira na gone era sa biu vuli mai. **VUALIKU.** Levu sara na vakatutu e kau cake nikua ena vuku ni veivakararamataki , oqone oka kina kena laveti cake na veivakatorocaketaki kei nai walewale ni veili-

kutaki ena matanitu. E na gauna nikua e levu na veika e ratou sa vakaraitaka mai na lewenikoro e Vunivutu ena vuku ni veivakatorocaketakli kei na kena vakavinakataki na waini gunu, gaunisala ka se sega ga ni dua tale na kena veivakadeitaki take mai ena matanitu.

Na kena in karua sai koya na kena vakavinakataki na valenibula, me vaka na valeniwai e Vunivutu e sega sara tuga ni vaak iyaya ni valenibula ka vaka talega kina ni 1 voliga na Nasi e veiqaravi rара-ba tiko enai tikoitiuko oya. Nai otioti ni veika e ratou gadreva sai koya ma kena vakavinakataki na gaunaisala ni veitarata , ka sana qai laki tomani yani ena Bose Ni Tikina.

SOLI VAKAILOLOMA NA ROTAVATOR ENA VATURUA YOUTH CLUB.

Vola ko: Katarina Naqarase

E ra marau na lewe ni soqosoqo ni Tabagone ena Vaturua Youth Club e Vaturua Nakelo, Tai-levu ena nodra mai ciqoma vakailoloma e dua na nodrav rotavator mai vua na Minisita ni Tabagone kei na Qito o Hon Jese Saukuru .

Ena nodra mai veisiko voli na turaga na Minisita ,era kena I sevu talega mera gole ena koro o Vaturua , ka dua na yalo marau levu vei ira nai tabagone ka vaka kina na leweni koro. E vakaraitaka o Mr Saukuru e ka dokai vua me mai liutaka na taba ni veiqaravi ni tabagone kei na qito, ka dua na ka e vakabibitaka sai koya nodra cavu I kalawa nai tabagone ena noda vanua.

E vakaraitaka talega o Minisita na bibi ni nodra I tavi nai tabagone enai tiko-tiko ka laurai ni oira e tiko na nodra yabaki ni bula mai na 15-35 e rauta ni 32% ena noda vanua. E vakadreti ira na lewe ni soqosoqo ni tabagone e Vaturua ni dodonu mera kaukuwa ena kena sagai na veivakatorocaketaki e na lomanikoro. E vakabibitaka na Minista na bibi ni kena laveti na bula ni veiqaravi ena nodra I tikoitko ka sa vakasala taki mera

na vakayagataka vakavinaka na veiporokaramu kei nai tuvatuva kece sara e ratiou vakarautaka na Minisitiri ni Qito kei na Tabagone. Esa vakasalataki ira talega nai tabagone mera tekivu taka na nodra bisinisi ka na qai veivuke na kena tabana ena Minisitiri .

Era vosa talega nai Liuliu ni Tabagone e Vaturua o Emosi Rokoyawa , ka vakavinavainaka taka na turaga na Minisita ka vaka kina na Minisitiri ena vuku ni kena tokoni tiko mai na veiqaravi me baleti ira nai tabagone ka vakausivi na kena soli vakailoloma na Rotavator.

E ra sana tu vakarau na lewe ni tabagone ena Vaturua Youth Club ena kena vakayagataki vakavinaka na Rotavator ka sa vakanuiniu tu nina levu sara na veivakatorocaketaki ena nodra I tikotiko ka vaka kina na veivuke sara vakalevu na Minisitiri ni Tabagone kei na Qito.



NODRA VOSA NA LIULIU NI MATANITU, PARAIMINISITA SITIVENI RABUKA ENA DOLAVI NI BOSE LEVU VAKATURAGA DEUBA LAGOON RESORT LOTULEVU FEVURUELI 29,2024

Au kauta mai na Kere veivosoti mai vua na Noda Turaga na Peresitedi kei Viti, ka sega ni rawa ni tiko vata kei kemuni, na nona itokani iliuliu ena mataka nikua. A vakasalataki koya na nona Vuniwai Yadua me vakacegu me rua tale na siga. Na vanua i Kubuna, Gone Turaga Bale na Vunivalu na Tui Kaba Na vanua i Burebasaga, Gone Marama Bale na Roko Tui Dreketi na Turaga na Vunivalu Na vanua i Lalagavesi, Gone Turaga Bale na Tui Cakau, na Ai Sokula Veikemuni na Minisita ni matanitu/Vukevuke ni minisita Veikemuni na mata ni veimatanitu e vuravura Kemuni na Leweni nui Bose Levu Vakaturaga Turaga na Marama Lewenivanua e Viti. Au kauta talega mai na nodra kere veivosoti eso na noqu itokani vakacakacaka ni Kabinetu ka ra tu gole tu vakacakacaka ena veimatanitu tani se yawa ena noda vanua ena itavi ni Kabinetu. Era vakauta yani na veikidavaki kei na gagadre vinaka duadua me na yaga vei iko na nomu veivosaki ena rua na siga ni dabe ka yaga vei iko kei ira kece na kai Viti.

Ni sa bula vina'a.

Ena vukuda taucoko au vakavinavinaka kina vua na iTalataia Turagavou, na Peresitedi ka Qase Levu ni Lotu Wesele e Viti me baleta na Masu kei na itukutuku ni Lotu vakasinaiti ena Yalo Tabu ka soli mai vei keitou ena mataka nikua. Vina'a va'alevu, Turaga na Qase Levu ni Lotu Wesele e Viti ei Rotuma. Keitou vakavinavinataka talega na vanua o Korolevu e na soqo ni veikidavaki vakavanua a vakayacori kina Matabose Levu ni Turaga ena mataka nikua. Eda vakadinadinataka talega ni o ira talega, me vaka na Vanua o Korolevu, na itaukei taumada ni vanua eda kumuni vata nikua, ka da vakadinata na nodra qase e liu, nodra iliuliu kei na iliuliu nikua, kei ira era na lako mai ena veisiga ni mataka ena nodra itutu. Oqo na siga sa bulia na Kalou. Meda sa reki ka marau kina. (Same 118:24). Au lako mai me'u vakarokorokotaki kemuni, na iliuliu vakavanua e Viti ka ni sa taura na nomuni itutu ena Matabose Cecere ni iLiuliu (Bose Levu Vaka Turaga) ka sa tauyavutaki tale. Au na vosa tiko vei kemuni ena veika e bibi sara vei Viti. A biuta vakatikitiki na BLV na Matanitu e liu. Sa tucake tale oqo me tomani tale na kena itavi dokai ena gauna oqo ena veika ni vanua oqo. A biuta vakatikitiki na BLV na Matanitu e liu. Sa cadra tale oqo me tomana tale na itavi dokai ka lalawa tu ni veigauna ena vanua oqo. Na nomuni mana e sega ni vu mai na ena dua na matanitu tu galala. Sa tu vei kemuni na lewa kei na veivakayararataki ka ni taukena nai ivakarau ni veiliutaki ni sucu vata kaya mai ka sa vakamawe ena ivola tukutuku kei Viti. Ena nomuni itutu vaka Turaga, na kila ka kei na veika era vakadeuca sobu mai oira na nomuni matua, e ka bibi sara ni vakatakilai keda na itaukei, na noda itovo vakavanua, kei na kena cakacakataki na vanua. Au lako mai vei kemuni me vaka e dua na iTaukei ni vanua ka tu tale ga na noqu itavi ena noqu vanua. E noqu itavi me'u qaravi ira na noqu Turaga ni Vanua kei ira era liutaka. Ni'u mata digitaki kina Bose Lawa au sega ni veiqaravi walega ena vukudra na iTaukei. Au sa dauveiqaravi kei vei ira kece na mata tamata era sa vakaitikotiko e Viti. Au na wili gusu taka yani qo na tukutuku raraba ni noda vanua. E tekivu vei ira na itaukei kei Viti ka ra tadu mai ena noda yanuyanu na tubudra ena rauta na 3,000 na yabaki sa oti. Ena 1879 a tadu mai ena noda matasawa na iverse ni Giritimiyas mai Idia, kei ira kece na nodra ilawalawa duidui, kara mai tauyavu vou tale. Era sa iverse tale ga ni ilakolako e tokitaki ira mai na

Matanitu vaka Koloni ka qali ki Peretania ka rawa qo ena dua na Lawa-Tu ka kenai inaki me toro-ya cake na rawaka vakailavo me tokoni kina na veivakatorocaketaki raraba. Era sa tu oqo eso na lewe i Viti ka ra vakawa veicurumaki tu mai na gauna ni Koloni; kei ira na kai Iurope, Jaina, Rotuma, o ira na Kilivaji, kai Kirisia; oira mai Samoa, Toga Matanisiga, Tuvalu kei Wallis kei Futuna; ka vakakina na i-Kiribati kei ira na lewenivanua mai na veiyasana tale eso mai na vanuavaka Micronesia kei na veivanua tale eso. E ka dokai vei au me'u liutaka e dua na matanitu ka sa dei ena kena tarai cake ka vaqacacotaki na dua-vata kei na noda dau bole taka na noda matanitu ena veikawa tamata eda sa bula vata voli. Au raici kemuni, na noda Turaga, ni tiko edua na itavi bibi ena itosotoso qo Oqo na ikarua ni yabaki ni nona sota na BLV, ka imatai ni oti na kena vakalesui mai vakalawa. Eda sa dei qo na BLV. Ena yabaki sa oti mai Bau, a vakananuma vei keda na Turaga Bale na Peresitedi na veiveisau e tara mai na BLV. A cavuta tale ga na vosa kilai levu ka tauca na Gone Turaga sa bale o Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna ena soqo ni vasobu duru ena koronivuli na Vuliniturga ena 1950.... [Au cavuta] "... na soqo vakasakiti nikua ena kilai ena veitaba gauna ni sa dua tale ga na noda cavu ikalawa na kawa iTaukei" [icavacava ni vosacavuti]. Ena Noveba ni 2023, a sa dabe tale na BLV ka sa vaka lawa, 17 na yabaki ni oti na kena rube kei na 10 na yabaki ni oti na kena vakacegui. Ena rauta na 30 na yabaki sa oti, a rogoca kina na BLV e dua na vosa ka vakasakiti ena tukutuku ni veigauna ni noda vanua. Na Daunipolitiki sa bale o Jai Ram Reddy, ea iLiuliu ni tiko ni To ni Veisaqa ena gauna ya, ka sa imatai tale ga ni vulagi me vosa ena Bose Levu Vakaturaga. E ra vakayacora ni ra dua e sasaga taka ka tutaka na nodra duvata na daunipolitiki me vakaduavata taki na noda matanitu ka me muria e dua na sala me taucoko kina na bula vakamatanitu. Era mai tiko ena BLV ena noqu veisureti. Ni keirau itokani ena Bose Lawa ka keirau Liuliu Vaka Politiki, ka keirau cakacaka vata tiko ena vukui keda kece kei na noda tiko vinaka. Au se nanuma tiko ga na itukutuku kaukauwa ka guiguilecavi dredre ka ra cauraka ena siga oya. Au na vakalekalekataka e rua. E uqeta na Bose Levu Vakaturaga o Mr Reddy me yavu ni duavata ena noda matanitu. Ka ra kaya kina ni o ira era vakarorogo vua era Turaga, sega walega vei ikeda na itaukei kei Viti, ia vei ira kece na kawa tamata era sa mai bula voli kina. Au na sega ni yacova matua ni rai nei Mr Reddy, ia au rawa ni voqataka ga na ka era cauraka. Me vakataki koya, au vakabauta ni tiko e dua na nomu icavacava ka sa sivia na ivakarau. Esa dodonu kina mo ni Turaga kece ni kawa tamata e bula voli e Viti. E sa matata tiko ni tiko edua na navunavu ni BLV me vakusakusa taki na toso ni kawa Taukei. Au dua-vata kina kei kemuni. Ia au kerei kemuni talega mo ni wakia vata na nomuni vuku, kila-ka kei na nomuni sau me na yaga kece vei keda na lewe ni vanua qo. Ke rawa mo ni tokona na Matanitu ena kena buli eso na lawa-tu me vakalailaitaki kina na bula dravudravua, ka vakavuna me levu cake na madigi kei na sautu ena noda itikotiko raraba, o sa na ivakaraitaki ni veiliutaki ki na dua na Viti vou. Ena yalomalumalumu taucoko au sa vakamasuti kemuni mo ni duvata ena itosotoso qo me da na kakavaki yani ki na dua na Viti ka me idusidusi ni toso e liu ki vuravura. E na noda sota qo, e sega wale ga ni da maurataka na kena sa dabe tale na BLV, ia me da bucina vata edua na itosotoso ka mena kauti keda yani ki liu ka me umana tale ga na keda ivola tukutuku ni veigauna kei na -- architects of a shared future. Au tu e matamuni, ka vakasinaiti ena yalo ni rokovi kei na itavi bibi. Nikua sa ivakatakilakila ni dua na gauna vakairogorogo ena ilakolako ni noda matanitu—e dua na ilakolako ka sa raica na kena iwasese ni veivakatovolei kei na qaqa, cegu, kei

na toso ki liu. Na GCC e dua na duru ni veiliutaki, veivakasalataki, kei na veivakaduavata taki. E ivakadinadina bula ni noda ivakarau tudei, kei na noda gagadre cokovata me baleta na noda veisiga ni mataka. E dodonu meda vakananumi tale ena sala eda muria mai ka sa da mai yacova tu kina na siga edaidai. E sega ni mate ka bulu na veika sa oti. Na BLV e sega mada ga ni dua na ivakananumi ni veigauna sa oti ni sa tubu tikoga. E sega ni gadrevi me'u cavuqaqataka eke na kena itukutuku makawa. Ia e dodonu meda vakananumi keda ni o ira era sega ni vuli mai na itukutuku makawa era na sega ni vuli mai na vei cala sa oti. Na ka vakasakiti nikua sai koya na sala a vakamalalumutaka kina na BLV na veika eso e veivakalailati tiko; kei na kena walia rawa na leqa e sotava ena gauna eda nanuma kina ni dredre. Nikua, e cila edua na rarama vou ena italanoa ni noda matanitu, eda sa tiko ena veisemati ni itukutuku makawa kei na inuinui, ka ra gadreva kina na lewei Viti yadua na duavata ka yavutaki ena veika eda kakavaki kina. Era na dau tu ga oira na dau vakatitiqa era dau vakataroga na noda vakatulewa ka boleka na sala eda digitaka, ia ena veiba oqo eda bulia kina na yalodei kaukauwa kei na raivotu matata cake me baleta na noda veisiga ni mataka. Kei na veisiga ni mataka eda sa raica tiko oqo. Me'u tekivu mada e na ka e nanamaki kina na Matanitu me baleta na BLV. E matata na itukutuku ni lawatu ni Matanitu ena GCC: e dina ni semati vakayavutaki na yago ki na veiliutaki kei na tiko vinaka ni iTaukei, e tiko kina e dua na itavi cecere me ciqomi ka tokona na lewe ni noda veimataqali. Na vakacegu e dodonu me kena vatu ni tutu. Ena dusimaki na GCC ena gauna oqo ena macala ni railesuvi ena 2023. Oqo e oka kina na raici ni walu na vanua e vakamacalataki kina na tiko vinaka ni iTaukei oka kina na veisau ni draki kei na wasawasa. Oqo e salavata vakavinaka sara kei na noqu rai me baleta na Pasifika me Wasawasa ni Sautu, ka vakamatatataka na itavi bibi ni GCC ena kena rawati e dua na veisiga ni mataka ka sa usutu kina na veiqaravi ni veika veika bula kei na veivakatorocaketaki tudei ena duavata kei na sautu ni iwasese. Ena Moniti au a vosa ena dua na bosa kaukauwa ni iLavo Vakailavo ni Veimatanitu e Nadi. Na lewe ni bosa levu duadua e baleta na veika vakailavo, veika vakailavo kei na veivakatorocaketaki. Ia, ena noqu vosa, au sega ni kila na veika oqori. Au vakamacalataka ena so na raivotu matailalai e tiko vei au me baleta na noda wasawasa oqo me baleti Viti kei na 15 tale na veimatanitu era tauyavutaka na Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). Au qai vakamacalataka vakalekaleka na sala me keirau yaco kina ki na vanua vou oqo. Kemuni na iliuliu ni Viti, au na vosa vei kemuni ena gauna oqo me baleta na raivotu o ya kei na kena ibalebale vei keda kece eke kei na veivanua e wai. Ka rairai sivia beka. E dau vakavuna na noqu vakasama na iyaloyalo kei na dina ni dua na vuravura e mavoa ka vakarerei ena ivalu. E sega ni dua na ivakatakilakila ni kena itinitini na veisaqasaqa levu e Rusia kei Ukraine. E kaukauwa vakaniukilia o Rusia ena sokovanua gasauro. E inaki beka me vakayagataki? Na Tokalau e Loma, vakabibi o Gaza, e dau vakarerei, na ivalavala kaukaua, kei na vakadave dra. Na veivala e rawa ni ra vakatubura e rabailevu na iteitei ni ivalu. E voleka mai eke ena iyaloyalo ni ivalu e vale ni ra sa tao tu e Jerusalemi e 200 na pilgrims mai Viti ni oti na nodra kabai na Isireli mai Hamas. Keirau cakacaka vakaukaua me keirau bula vinaka tale ga e vale. Niu dikeva oti, rauta ni 30 na veivakacacani vakaiyaragi era tauvi ira na veimatanitu tale eso, e levu vei ira e Aferika. E kaukauwa tiko ga na nodrau veiqati na rua na matanitu kaukaua, o Amerika kei Jaina. Ena mua ni yabaki sa oti era sa ivakatakilakila ni na rawa ni yaco e dua na veivakacacani. E dodonu meda wawa ka raica. Sa yaco na veisaqasaqa rerevaki ena kedrau maliwa na waqa ni Jaina kei na kai Filipaini ena Wasawa-

sa na Ceva kei Jaina. Eda na sega ni rawa ni levea na taro kevaka ena kauti Keda mai ki na dua na sotavi Jaina na ka oqo?

Na veilecayaki e Taiwan e tomani tikoga ena kena rawa ni yaco e dua na mata vakaiyaragi, se ca sara. Era na rairai vaka tu tale na meca levu o ira na dauveivakasausau, Jaina kei Amerika.

E tukuna raraba e dua na vakaile-silesi liu ni Matabose kei Vuravura ni levu duadua na veisaqasaqa voravora vakarerevaki e vuravura raraba me tekivu mai na iotioti ni ivalu e vuravura raraba. E sivia ni rua na bilioni na tamata era vakaitikotiko ena vanua e vakaleqai kina na ivalavala kaukaua vakaiyaragi.

A mai cava na iKarua ni iValu Levu ena 78 na yabaki sa oti. E sega ni matau. E kacabote na ivalu vakadavedra ena vakanomodi ni neitou Pasifika ena mate vakaitamera ni bula. Na levu ni veivakacacani e yaco vei ira na veimatanitu voleka ka sa vakarerei sara ga o Viti.

O ira na iliuliu ni Viti, e vakadinadinataki ni sa vakavuna na ituvaki ni veimatanitu ena gauna oqo e dua na gauna rerevaki ena itukutuku makawa.

Ena vica na vula sa oti, ni sa toso tiko yani o vuravura ki na veisaqasaqa kei na leqa levu, au sa tekivu vakayagataka vakalevu na gauna me'u vakasamataka kina na ka oqo kei na noda Wasa Pasivika, na kena Lewenivanua, kei na vanua eda tu kina ena gauna ni leqa oqo. Ni sa tubu tiko ga na veileti ena kedra maliwa na veimatanitu, au vakataroga se keirau sa gole tale tiko yani ki na qara vatu.

Au vakadeitaka ni a vakaukauwataki cake na noqu nanuma kei na lomaqu ena veika au sotava ni'u dau vakadrukai ena veivanua vakacacani. Me vaka ni'u iliuliu ni imatai ni mataivalu ni Mataivalu e Viti Ni'u Veiqaravi tiko ena Matabose kei Vuravura e Lepa-noni, au a vakayalia e va na sotia yaloqaqa ka yalodina. Au nanuma na nodra mate me vaka ena noa.

A sega ni dede au a kunekunetaka na vakasama ni kena tauyavutaki e dua na ivakatakarakara ni vakacegu me baleta na neitou iwasewase vakaitamera ni wasawasa, ka vakatokai talega me Blue Pacific. Na ivakatakarakara au raica ena vakamacalataka talega na dina ni sautu. Au nanuma talega ni vosa na Pasifika vakaikoya e kena ibalebale na vakacegu.

Vei au e gadreva na noda vuravura me waluvu na vakacegu, e dua na wai. Oqo na iwali ni ivalu. E rawa ni yaco oqo na tamata e vuravura.

Na vosa vakacegu e vakasinaiti ena kaukauwa kei na kena ibalebale, ka vakauqeti ka laveti cake. Na vakacegu e vakavuna na itikotiko ni yalololoma, veikauwaitaki kei na loloma cecere. E vakabulabulataka na bula sautu.

Eke ena neitou yanuyanu ena Pasifika e tiko kina e dua na Wasawasa ni Vakacegu ka waraka tiko me sucu. E vakatokai ena gauna oqo me o Oceania.

E kovuta e rauta ni 32 na milioni ni kilomita vakarivirivi ena Ceva ni Pasifika. Oqori e lailai sobu ga mai na vanua cokovata e Rusia, Jaina kei Amerika.

O ira na tubuda taumada era dauvakadewa levu duadua vei ira kece era dauvakadewa. Era raica na vanua vakaitamera oqo ni wasawasa ka sa usutu tikoga ni neitou bula. Oqo na noda ivotavota kei na inuinui. E ta-

wasei keda ia eda na vakaduavatataki keda vaka taciq kei na ganequ ena lomaserena levu sara. E noda ena itukutuku makawa, veivakatarogi kei na iWasewase Vakailavo Vakatabakidua.

Kevaka eda rawa ni duavata ena vakasama ni kena kacivaki e dua na Wasawasa ni Sautu, eda na dauveiqaravi ni dua na ivakatakilakila kaukauwa ni bula vata kei na veitokani. Ena rairai vakararawataki na vuravura ena ivalu kaukauwa kei na veivakarerei ni levu cake na veimecaki vakaiyaragi, ia na noda Wasa papitaiso vou kei ira na lewena era na sautu. Vakacegu vei keda kece; me baleta na ituvaki ni bula; e vanua, e wasawasa kei lomalagi. Keitou na vakauta na itukutuku oya ena veivanua kecega. E vuqa tu na sala me caka kina oqo.

Na vakacegu au sa gadreva tu me sega ni rawa ni dua walega na yaca kei na dua na ivakatakarakara. O Viti kei na veimatanitu tale eso era vesu vata mai na nodra lewena na Yanuyanu ena Pasifika Foramu, era na kacivi me ra bulataka na yavunibula e vakaraitaka na vakacegu me dua vei ira na ivalavala dodonu cecere duadua.

Oqo ena gadrevi kina vei ira na noda iliuliu, oka kina o kemuni na iLiuliu tudei ni Viti, mo ni cakacaka vata kei ira na tamata me vakadeitaki kina ni sa usutu ni bula vakamatanitu na vakacegu. Na noda "Sala ni Pasifika" vakamareqeti ni nodra veivosaki na tauvimate kei na duavata ena tiki bibi ni noda isoqosoqo.

E tiko tale e dua na ka. Au sega ni namaka na Wasawasa ni Sautu me isau walega ni veivakarerei nikua. Ena dokai ira talega na noda qase e liu, o ira na turaga kei na marama yaloqaqa era a lako curuma na ua tawacava ki na veiyasana yawa kei na itekitekivu bulabula. Eda vakacaucautaki ira.

E sega ni rawa ni cicivaka vakataki koya o Viti na cakacaka ni Wasawasa ni Sautu. E gadrevi kina na veitokoni ni PIF. Au a vakaraitaka na tadra ni vakacegu oqo vei ira na iliuliu ni PIF ena nodra soqoni vakayabaki mai Rarotonga mai Cook Islands.

Ni ra sa vakauqeti na iliuliu ena vakasama ka ra ciqoma vakadonui, era sa lokuyarataka na nodra vakatulewa. Ena qai vakasamataki vakavinaka cake na lewe ni bose ni nodra bose ka tarava ena Matanitu o Tonga ena Okosita.

Au nuidei vakamalua ni o ira na Peresitedi kei na Matanitu Taumada ni yasana era na ciqoma na vakatutu oqo. Kevaka e toso vinaka na veika kece, na noda matanitu e 16, vata kei ira na lewe ni PIF ni Ni'u Siladi kei Ositerelia, ena digitaka e dua na siga ena itukutuku makawa me kacivaki kina na noda Wasawasa ni Sautu ki vuravura.

Au namaka me da cakava oqo ena nodra iserau na vulagi sureti mai na vuqa na veimatanitu, oka kina na veimatanitu lelevu era vakatoka me itokani ni PIF, kei Amerika kei Jaina ena kedra maliwa.

Na vakacegu e sega ni kena ibalebale ni na vakasuka na ituvaki ni PIF na veitaqomaki kei na ituvatuva vakalawa. E dodonu me dau tu ga na matanitu vakaitavi oqo me taqomaka na nodra veiliutaki cecere, na nodra lewenivanua kei na ivurevure vakatamata.

Au raica e dua na yasana me sega kina na mataivalu, ena kena ibalebale vakavinaka na kena ibalebale. Au vakabauta vakaukauwa ni basika mai na Wasawasa ni Sautu ena vaqa-

qacotaka tale na veimaliwai ni PIF. Ena tiko e dua na ivau vou vei ira na lewenivanua era semati vakadodonu ki na noda taukena vata na wasawasa vou.

Mai na ka oqo ena yaco mai kina e dua na veimokomoko voleka ena veiyasana taucoko ni ivakavuvuli ni sautu ena veisiga kei na bula vakamatanitu.

Au vakabauta ni dua na itukutuku e vuravura raraba me baleta na noda vanua, mai na Wasa ni Sautu, ena kauta mai e vuqa na yaga kei na kena isau. Oqo ena vakavuna na kena vakalailaitaki sobu na vakararavi ki na veivuke mai na veivanua tani kei na tubu cake ni veivakatorocaketaki, saravanua, vakayagataki ilavo, kei na veivakaduiduitaki vakabisinisi.

Na Tadra oqo me baleta na Wasa ni Sautu e dodonu me nomu Tadra, baleta ni dodonu me Tekivutaka o Viti na toso ni vakacegu ka liutaki mai vei kemuni na noda iLiuliu.

Na matanitu ena vakarautaka na veisau ni GCC ki na dua na isoqosoqo tu vakataki koya ka rokova na gagadre ni iTaukei – me vakadeitaki kina na kena kilai ena kena qaravi na veika dina ni noda itikotiko raraba.

Oqo e salavata talega kei na iVakaro ni Matabose kei Vuravura me baleta na Nodra Dodonu na Tamata iTikotiko. Na imatai ni nomu iVola ni iTukutuku kei na Veivosaki nikua ena tiko ena iVola cecere oqo ka ra taura na Matabose kei Vuravura ena 1990 vakacaca, ni oti na kena yavavala o Viti ena 1987.

Ena yabaki oqo, ena railesuva na Matanitu na veisoqosoqo tale eso ni itaukei: na Veiliutaki e Viti, na Native Lands Commission kei na Native Land Trust Board.

O ira na lewe ni GCC era na duidui na nodra rai me baleta na veika era veivosakitaka. Ena veisaqasaqa na gagadre. De dua e tiko na nodra duidui bibi me baleta na sala vinaka duadua me ra veiqaravi kina. Ia era kila ni veitalia na kena bibi ka dina na nodra veileti, se vakacava sara na ka era gadreva, e tiko na nodra itavi mera cakacaka vata ena sala vinaka duadua me ra qarava kina na iTaukei kei na veika era taleitaka na matanitu. Na vakalesui mai ni GCC e sega ni dua na ikalawa lesu ki na veigauna sa oti ia e dua na rika ki liu, ka kila na itavi bibi ni GCC ena kena sega walega ni taqomaki na veika e taleitaki kei na tiko vinaka ni iTaukei ia ena kena ilesilesi levu duadua me vakabulabulataki na yalodei kei na duavata ena kedra maliwa na veimataqali ka vakatokai me itikotiko.

Vakasamataka mada e dua na Viti ka dau sotavi ira kina na noda italatala qase kei na nodra kaukaua na noda itabagone ena GCC, ka vakarautaka e dua na veisiga ni mataka ka dau kaukauwa, okati kina, ka sautu.

E dua na Viti e dau vaka na vatu ni veiliutaki, vakacegu, ka vakavinakataka na lala sa basika mai ena loma ni 16 na yabaki sa oti, ka cokoti keda ena noda duidui, ka liutaki keda ki na takete raraba.

Na kena tauyavutaki tale na GCC e dau kacivaka e dua na itabagauna vou ni veiliutaki, e dua ka nanuma lesu na kena rawa-ka e liu ena kena ciqomi na bolebole kei na madigi ni gauna oqo kei na veisiga ni mataka. Ena kena ivotavota vutuniyau me noda yavu, sa na vakarau tu kina na GCC me vakaitavi vakalevu cake sara ena noda ivunau vakamatanitu kei na

veivakaduavatataki, ka vakayacora na ivakavuvuli ni veiliutaki vinaka, roko-vi na itovo vakavanua kecega, kei na sasaga ni tiko vinaka vakailawalawa.

Ena tolusagavulu na yabaki sa oti, au a doka ni a soli vei au e dua na galala me'u bau lewena na BLV. Au vakavinavinaka vei ira na noda iliuliu ena veigauna sa oti kei na gauna oqo ena vuku ni nodra solia vei au na ituvaki vakaoqori. Ni'u sa raica na ivakarau ni kena qaravi na BLV, au sa tu vakatoto-lo ena vuku ni dina kei na honor sake ka balavu na noqu vakararawataki ka sega vakadua ni oca, ena gauna kece au raica rawa kina na kena yawa.

Ena rua na yabaki sa oti, au yalataka me'u na vakalesuya tale na BLV. Sa caka oti oqo.

Au vakila ni vaka me'u sa yaco yani ki na dela ni ulunivanua. Ia me vakataki Mosese, au sa raica na vanua yalataki ia au na sega ni takosova yani. Na itabatomata ni iLiuliu oqo sa dodonu me kauti keda ki kea.

Nikua eda nanuma lesu na yavu eda tara kina na BLV. Eda nanumi ira na noda iliuliu era a vala ena yaloqaqa me ra taqomaka na kena itutu. Ena dau tu ga na bolebole me da sotava, ia na noda yalodina, ka vakauqeti ena nodra yaloqaqa, ena tuberi keda ki liu.

O koya gona, e rawarawa na noqu veikacivi me'u cakava ia e ka bibi: me da soqoni vata yani, na tamata mai Viti, ena Matabose Levu ni iLiuliu. Meda tokona na kena kaulotu sa vakabulabulataki, vakaitavi ena kena sasaga, ka cau ki na kena qaqa.

Eda na rawa ni vakadeitaka vata ni BLV e sega wale ga ni tu me ivakatakarakara ni noda gauna sa oti ia me ivakatakarakara ni noda veisiga ni mataka—e dua na veisiga ni mataka e vakatakilakilataki ena duavata, veidokai, kei na veiwasei ni sautu.

Me vaka ni'u nomuni Liu ni Veiqaravi, au yalataka na noqu veitokoni sega ni yavalati rawa ki na BLV kei ira kece na kai Viti, ni keimami sa tekivuna vata na ilakolako oqo. Meda sa qai vakavouya na noda yalayala vakai keda, ki na noda matanitu, kei na ivakarau e matataka na BLV.

Me'u kerei kemuni ena yalomalum-alumu, me vakadeitaki ni sa tiko na kaukauwa ena noqu iTukutuku ki Vuravura me baleta na kena vakacaucautaki na Pasifika me Vaka ni Wasawasa ni Sautu, tekivu mai na Pacific Islands Forum E Nukualofa ena Okosita SA OTI, e vakabauta ka ciqomi ka rokovi, ni'u taura na itukutuku ena veitokoni kei na veitokoni ni noqu iliuliu cecere ni Viti ka a vakadinadinataka na Tui Veisiko kei ira na Matanitu Vakaturaga mai Aotearoa, kei na Pasifika.

Sa noqu dokai vakalevu ena mataka nikua me'u dolava na soqoni ni BLV e rua na siga.

Me vakalougatataka na Kalou na BLV Me vakalougatataki keda kece na Kalou

Vakalougatataki Ira na Tamata ena Pasifika na Kalou

Me vakalougatataki Viti na Kalou.

Vinaka saka vakalevu.

Noda Viti

Vukelulu, Maji 13, 2024; 8 Drauniveva; 3 ni Tabana; 15 ni lavelave ni ivola | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijiGovt Fiji Government

Dolavi vou na boselawa ni yabaki 2024



ERA dolava vou na boselawa ni yabaki 2024 na Turaga Peresitedi, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere. Era vakarokoro taki koya ena voleni vakamataivalu e rauta ni 100 na sotia ka liutaka main a Komanda ni Mataivalu, Major-General Ro Jone Kalouniwai. Era qai salavata kei koya na Sivika Dokai ni Boselawa ko Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu ena loma ni vale ni bose kei na Liuliu ni Yasana ni Matanitu, Minisita ni Veiqaravi ni Veivakatorocake Lelevu Ro Filipe Tuisawau. Era lewena talega na soqo ni veiqaravi oqo na Tui ni Turaga ni Lewa, Salesi Temo kei ira na lewe 55 na lewe ni matabose ni boselawa ena loma ni

vale ni bose vou ka sa qai oti na kena ripea taki. Era tomana talega na soqo oqo na Veimata ni Veimatanitu, liuliu bisinisi kei ira tabana ni cakacaka. Vakaraitaka veira na leweni bose ena boselawa ko Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame mera vakarogoca matua na domodra na lewenivanua ka mera ciqoma na veiqaravi vaka Demokarisi kei nab ula vinaka me vaka e volai ena Yavu ni Vakavulewa. Meda ciqoma noda duidui ia meda duavata ena noda sasaga vata me dua na vanua torocake ka sautu na noda vanua lomani. Vakatoka qo ne na nodra mala ni vosa na Turaga itaukei Bolatagane.



Lagiti na lewenivanua kaiViti mai Perth

ERA lagiti na liulu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka na nodra bula na nodra lewenivanua era sa vakaitikotiko tudei mai Perth, Australia ena nodra veisiko voli mai keya ena macawa sa oti. Rauta ni 200 na lewenivanua kai Viti era sa vakaitikotiko ka cakacaka mai Perth era soqo vata yani ena vanua era sikova yani na liulu ni matanitu ni noda vanua ko Viti. Vakaraitaka na vakavinavinaka ni matanitu o Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka, ka vakacautaki ira kina na lewenivanua e Viti ena vanua o Perth ena kena maroroi na veimaliwai vinaka ena nodra vanua e vakaitikotiko kina, ka vakuria ni sa toso tikoga na veimaliwai vinaka ni Vuvale partnership kei na matanitu o Ositerelia

ka vakabauti ni sa laveti tale ena dua na itagede e cake. Vakavinavinakataka ko PM Rabuka na sasaga era vakayacora na lewenivanua oqo ena kena vakau mai na ilavo ena noda vanua ka sa vukea talega na bula vakailavo. Tomana ka kaya ni sa toso vinaka tiko na neimami sasaga ni vakalesui main a bula sautu ena noda vanua, ka keimami vakavinavinakataka na nomuni cau vinaka ki na bula vakailavo. A vakayaloqagataki ira na lewenivanua e Viti o PM Rabuka me ra cau vagumatua ki na tubu kei na sautu ni matanitu ruarua ena nodra toso yani ki liu ena veimataqali cakacaka vata, me vaka na veisau, vuli, kei na veisau vakavanua.



फ़ीजी दर्पण

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राष्ट्रपति ने संसद सदस्यों से फीजी के सभी नागरिकों की बातें सुनने की माँग की है न कि सिर्फ उनके मतदाताओं की



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 3 पर

प्रधानमंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा कि जीसीसी को वापस लाने में हम एक कदम पीछे नहीं बल्कि आगे की ओर छलाँग लगाए हैं



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर

जीसीसी न केवल ईतउकेई समाज, बल्कि सभी फीजीवासियों के हित और कल्याण के लिए काम करेगी



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 7 पर

पैट्रोल जहाज़ मिला



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने पर्थ ओस्ट्रेलिया में फीजी के भुतपूर्व नागरिकों से मुलाकात करते हुए,

प्रधान मंत्री औपचारिक रूप से ओस्ट्रेलिया की सरकार से एक पैट्रोल नौसैनिक जहाज़ स्वीकार करते हुए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

पर्थ ओस्ट्रेलिया में फीजी के निवासियों को फीजी के अच्छे प्रतिनिधि बनने के लिए प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने धन्यवाद दिया है।

इसी बुद्धवार को ओस्ट्रेलिया में फीजी का नाम रोशन रखने के लिए प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने लगभग दो सौ फीजीवासियों से मुलाकात करते हुए उन्हें धन्यवाद दिया। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने अपने मेजबान देश के साथ 'बूवाले साझेदारी' के तहत सकारात्मक संबंध बनाए रखने के लिए फीजी नागरिकों का आभार व्यक्त किया जिससे ओस्ट्रेलिया के साथ फीजी के द्वीपक्षीय संबंध नई उँचाईयों पर पहुँचा है। 'विदेश में अच्छे नागरिक बनने, अपने रिमिटन्स के द्वारा फीजी में अपने परिवार तथा यहाँ की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में योगदान देने के लिए धन्यवाद,' प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा।

हमारे सुधार के प्रयास अच्छी तरह से आगे बढ़ रहे हैं, यहाँ चीज़ें बेहतर हो रही हैं और अर्थ-व्यवस्था में सकारात्मक योगदान देने के लिए हम आपको धन्यवाद देते हैं। प्रधान मंत्री ने फीजियन समाज से माँग की है कि वे अपने देश

में कानून का पालन करने वाले नागरिक और निवासी बने। 'देश के कानून का आदर करने के अलावा, जिस ज़मीन पर आप रहते हैं उनके पारम्परिक मालिकों का भी आदर करें क्योंकि हम फीजी घूमने आने वाले टूरिस्टों से भी यही उम्मीद करते हैं,' उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला। पारंपरिक औपचारिकताओं के बाद, प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने फीजी की वर्तमान राजनितिक और आर्थिक स्थिति पर प्रकाश डाला तथा उन्हें देश की आर्थिक विकास पहल और सामाजिक प्रगति पर नई जानकारी दी। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने ज़ोर दिया कि फीजी व्यापार के लिए खुला है तथा पर्थ में बसे फीजी के भुतपूर्व नागरिकों को प्रोत्साहित किया है कि वे फीजी में पूँजी लगाने के अवसरों का पता लगाए। फिलहाल, प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने इसी गुरुवार को औपचारिक रूप से पर्थ ओस्ट्रेलिया में गठबंधन सरकार की ओर से ओस्ट्रेलिया के सुरक्षा बल से एक पेट्रोल नौ-सैनिक जहाज़ आर.एफ.एन.एस पूआमाउ (RFNS Pua-mau) को स्वीकार करते हुए ओस्ट्रेलिया की सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया। यह महत्वपूर्ण समारोह उस प्रतिबद्धता और आपसी सहयोग को उजागर करती है जो विशेष रूप से फीजी और ओस्ट्रेलिया के बीच सुरक्षा और रक्षा सहयोग के क्षेत्र में बूवाले पार्टनरशिप का मुख्य आधार है। यह नौसैनिक जहाज़ फीजी को उसके समुद्री खतरों से निपटने,

गैर-कानूनी तरीके से मछली पकड़ने और नशीले पदार्थों की तस्करी सहित अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठित अपराध जैसे मुद्दों से निपटने के प्रयासों में काफी मदद करेगा। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने ज़ोर दिया है कि यह नौसैनिक जहाज़ सही समय पर आया है जबकि हालही में पुलिस ने नशीले पदार्थों की खोज में कई छापे मारे जहाँ कई चुनौतियों का सामना भी किया गया है। यह कार्यक्रम हमारे प्रशान्त क्षेत्र को शान्ति क्षेत्र के रूप में सुरक्षित बनाए रखने में हमारे प्रयासों में ओस्ट्रेलिया के लगातार समर्थन और योगदान को भी दर्शाता है। ओस्ट्रेलिया के रक्षा मंत्री तथा प्रशान्त में अंतराष्ट्रीय विकास मंत्री माननीय पेट कोरोय का कहना है कि ओस्ट्रेलिया को फीजी क पसंदीदा सुरक्षा भागीदार होने पर गर्व है।

"फीजी की समुद्री सुरक्षा क्षमताओं को बढ़ापकर, हम अपनी क्षेत्रीय चुनौतियों से साथ मिलकर निपटेंगे," फीजी के नौसैनिक लेयुटेनन्ट कोमान्डर सईरूसी दोलाती की अगुवाई में यह नौसैनिक जहाज़ अगले महीने फीजी पहुँचेगी। इस नौसैनिक जहाज़ का नाम नयाउ लाउ के एक सक्षम नाविक स्वर्गीय तिमो पुआनाउ के नाम पर रखा गया है जिनकी मौत दूसरे विश्व महा युद्ध के दौरान हुई जब उनका नौसैनिक जहाज़ सोलोमन द्वीप के जलप्रांगण में एक टारपेडो से टकरा गया था।

महामहीम रातू विलियामे माईवालीली कातोनिवेरे

CF, MSD

फीजी के राष्ट्रपति

संसद के 2024 सत्र के उद्घाटन पर संबोधन



माननीय संसदीय स्पीकर;

- स्थानापन्न चीफ जस्टिस तथा न्यायपालिका के सदस्य;
- माननीय प्रधान मंत्री;
- माननीय उप प्रधान मंत्रियों;
- माननीय मंत्रीमण्डल के सदस्यों तथा सहायक मंत्रियों;
- माननीय विपक्षी नेता;
- माननीय संसद सदस्यों;
- महामहिम, उच्चायुक्त, राजदूत और राजनायिक;
- आदरनीय महानुभाव ;
- देवियों और सज्जनों

मियाउ सा बूला रे तथा सभी को गुड मोनिंग

माननीय संसदीय स्पीकर, संसद सदस्य और आदरणीय महानुभाव, कृपया मुझे यह अनुमति दें कि मैं टेली-विजन, लाइव स्ट्रीमिंग और वालेसी प्लेटफॉर्म या रेडियो के माध्यम से आज सुबह हमारे साथ जुड़ने वाले हमारे देशवासियों और मित्रों का आभार व्यक्त करने और उनका अभिनंदन कर सकूँ। हमारी संसद के राजकीय उद्घाटन में आपकी गहरी रूचि का मैं आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ।

इस नए संसदीय सत्र के उद्घाटन के लिए आज यहाँ उपस्थित होना मेरे लिए सौभाग्य की बात है।

जब मैं इस सम्मानित संसद के माननीय सदस्यों को देखता हूँ, तो मुझे विनम्रतापूर्वक हमारे लोगों की विविध आवाज़ों और आकांक्षाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व करने की आपार ज़िम्मेदारी याद आती है। प्रजातांत्रिक रूप से चुने गए प्रतिनिधियों के रूप में, मैं आपसे माँग करता हूँ कि आप हमारे लोगों की आवाज़ सुनें, न केवल उन लोगों की, जिन्होंने आपको चुना है, बल्कि हमारे सभी नागरिकों, युवा और वृद्ध पुरुषों और महिलाओं की भी माँग सुनें।

मैं आप सभी से आग्रह करता हूँ कि आप हमारे संविधान में निहित प्रजातंत्र और मानवता के सिद्धांतों को ईमानदारी से अपनाएँ। ऐसा करने से हम अपनी संसद की अखंडता और गरिमा का सम्मान करना जारी रखेंगे।

हमें अपने मतभेदों को स्वीकार करना और पहचानना चाहिए; हालाँकि, हमें यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक सामान्य लक्ष्य के साथ एकजुट होना चाहिए कि हम एक प्रगतिशील और समृद्ध राष्ट्र में रहें।

माननीय स्पीकर, संसद सदस्य और विशिष्ट गणमान्य सदस्यगण, संसद के इस कार्यकाल के लिए संविधान की धारा 81(4) के तहत सरकार के प्रस्तावित विधायी एजेंडे, नीतियों और कार्यक्रमों की घोषणा करना मेरा कर्तव्य है।

मेरा कर्तव्य है।

सबसे पहले, मैं विनम्रतापूर्वक आपकी कृपा चाहता हूँ और मुझे कुछ टिप्पणियाँ करने की अनुमति दें, जो मेरा मानना है कि हमारे लोगों और समग्र रूप से हमारे राष्ट्र की निरंतर प्रगति और समृद्धि के लिए प्रासंगिक हैं। मैंने गन्ने की कटाई के मौसम के दौरान मधुआता में भारतीय मूल के फीजीवासी किसान परिवारों के साथ अपनी जवानी के कई खुशहाल साल बिताए हैं। मधुआता में हमारे एकीकृत समुदाय ने मुझे जीवन में कई महत्वपूर्ण सबक सिखाए जिनमें कड़ी मेहनत, अपने बड़ों तथा दूसरे जातीय समुदाय के प्रति सम्मान और पारिवारिक एकता शामिल है।

फीजी में दो प्रमुख जातिय समाज हमेशा से मिल-जुल कर रहते आए हैं। हालाँकि, यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि कुछ बेईमान राजनेता अपनी राजनीतिक स्वार्थ के लिए हमारे समुदायों के बीच अविश्वास भड़काना जारी रखें हुए हैं।

इससे हमारे समाज में सांप्रदायिक मतभेदों की धारणा पैदा हुई है। माननीय संसद सदस्यों, मैं आप सभी से विनम्रतापूर्वक अनुरोध करता हूँ कि आप हमारे देश में मेल-मिलाप को बढ़ावा देने के साथ-साथ भिन्नता को भी अपनाएं।

मैं संसद सदस्यों को सम्मानजनक बहस के महत्व की याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि इसका हमारे विभिन्न समुदायों के अंतर-जातीय संबंधों पर असर पड़ता है। नेता होने के नाते, हमें अपने लोगों की सामान्य भलाई के लिए अपने मतभेदों को दूर रखना आवश्यक है। हमें अपने छोटे-छोटे मतभेदों के बजाय अपनी एक तरह की नियति और समानता पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि हम सभी इन बुनियादी सिद्धांतों का पालन कर सकते हैं, मेरे लिए यही सच्चा नेतृत्व है। माननीय स्पीकर, संसद सदस्यों और विशिष्ट गणमान्य सदस्यगण, मेरा हमेशा से विश्वास रहा है कि आर्थिक साक्षरता हमारे लोगों को आर्थिक सुरक्षा और आत्मनिर्भरता के साथ सशक्त बनाएगी।

आर्थिक जिम्मेदारी की संस्कृति को प्रोत्साहित करने से राष्ट्रीय समृद्धि और सुरक्षित भविष्य पर सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

सक्षम वातावरण और आवश्यक आर्थिक संसाधनों के साथ व्यापक आर्थिक साक्षरता प्रदान करके, हम सभी बचत, पूँजी लगाने और अपने पैसों को प्रभावी ढंग से प्रबंधित करने के बारे में अच्छे निर्णय ले सकते हैं। उदाहरण के तौर पर मैं देखना चाहता हूँ कि चोने जो कि डालो के एक किसान हैं और राम जो ठेले पर मिठाईयाँ बेचता है, यह सीखे कि कैसे कैसे कमाएँ और बचाएँ।

साथ ही, बचत की संस्कृति को प्रोत्साहित करें जिससे उनके परिवारों की सुरक्षा के लिए एक स्थायी पूँजी की लम्बी योजना विकसित की जा सके। मैं अपने समाज के नागरिकों को एक-दूसरे की विशेषज्ञता को सीखने और इसे बाँटते देखना चाहता हूँ, ताकि हम सभी एक साथ समृद्ध हो सकें।

माननीय स्पीकर, संसद सदस्यों और विशिष्ट गणमान्य सदस्यगण, अब मैं इस अवसर का उपयोग गठबंधन सरकार के प्रगतिशील एजेंडे और विधायी कार्यक्रम पर विस्तार से कहना चाहूँगा।

इस साल गठबंधन सरकार के लिए एक प्रमुख प्राथमिकता है एक नई राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना तैयार करना जो हमारी सामूहिक दृष्टि और प्रमुख पहलुओं तथा कार्यक्रमों के स्थापित करेगी एक राष्ट्र को छोटे समय में और मध्यम अवधि में लगातार विकास करने की अनुमति देगी।

हमारे सभी नागरिकों की भलाई में सुधार लाने के लिए सरकार के विकास एजेंडे का मुख्य आधार समावेशी विकास है। वर्तमान में देशभर में परामर्श चल रहे हैं, और मैं विभिन्न समुदायों को प्रोत्साहित कर रहा हूँ कि वे इनमें भाग लें।

अनुमान है कि इस साल बजट की घोषणा से पहले जून महीने तक योजना को अंतिम रूप दे दिया जाएगा। माननीय स्पीकर, संसद सदस्यों और विशिष्ट गणमान्य सदस्यगण, नवीनतम उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के आधार पर हमारी स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था निश्चित रूप से महामारी से पहले वाले स्तर पर वापस आ जाएगी।

इस प्रकार 2024 में 3.8 प्रतिशत और 2025 के लिए 3.0 प्रतिशत वृद्धि का अनुमान है।

आज हमारा कर्ज लगभग 9.9 बिलियन डॉलर है, जो सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP) के 75.6 प्रतिशत के बराबर है, और ये हमारे जैसे छोटे कमजोर देश के लिए टिकाउ नहीं है।

राजकोषीय और कर्ज स्थिरता पर सरकार के जोर के बावजूद, नए वैश्विक जोखिम और जलवायु परिवर्तन से जुड़ी मौजूदा चुनौतियाँ, मध्यम अवधि के लिए महत्वपूर्ण संभावित जोखिम पेश करती है।

सरकार प्रमुख प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्रों, विशेषकर संसाधन-आधारित क्षेत्रों को पर्याप्त संसाधन उपलब्ध करके, राजकोषीय बफर्स के पुनर्निर्माण और विकास को बढ़ावा देने के बीच संतुलन बनाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। इसका मतलब है मजबूत और लचीले बुनियादी ढाँचे में पूँजी लगाना और वंचित और कम आमदनी वाले परिवारों के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा को बढ़ाना।

प्रमुख संरचनात्मक सुधार में तेजी लाना, सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण बढ़ाना, बरबादी कम करना, और

अल्पावधि में विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्र की पहलुओं को क्रियान्वित करना प्राथमिकता होगी।

सार्वजनिक आर्थिक प्रबंधन को मजबूत करने के लिए, पारदर्शिता, जवाबदेही और राजकोषीय अनुशासन को बढ़ाने के लिए आर्थिक प्रबंधन अधिनियम और संबंधित कानूनों, विनियमों, निर्देशों की समीक्षा की जा रही है। माननीय स्पीकर, संसद सदस्यों और विशिष्ट गणमान्य सदस्यगण, हमारी विदेश नीति के संबंध में, सरकार तीन प्रमुख स्तंभों के तहत फीजी के हितों को आगे बढ़ाना जारी रखेगी जिसमें संप्रभुता, सुरक्षा और समृद्धि शामिल है।

मजबूत बहुपक्षीय और द्वीपक्षीय संबंधों के साथ, हमने अपने विकास भागीदारों का विश्वास जीता है, सहयोग में सुधार किया है और सभी के मित्र और किसी के दुश्मन न होने की हमारी विदेश नीति के आदर्श वाक्य को मजबूत किया है। सरकार ने पहली बार अपनी विदेश नीति पर एक सफेद कागज़ात तैयार किया है। यह कागज़ात फीजी को दुनिया के सामने पेश करेगा; हमारी पहचान, हमारे मूल्यों और कूटनीति के प्रति दृष्टिकोण के बारे में विस्तार से बताएगा।

वर्तमान वैश्विक भू-राजनीतिक तनाव, यूक्रेन और मध्य पूर्व में युद्ध और दुनिया भर में तीस से ज़्यादा अन्य सशस्त्र टकरावों ने सप्लाई चैन में बाधा की वजह से दुनिया भर के व्यापारिक माहौल में अधिक अनिश्चितता और भय पैदा कर दिया है।

हम इतिहास के एक खतरनाक क्षण में हैं। इसलिए यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि हमें शान्तिपूर्ण समाधानों को बढ़ावा देना जारी रखना चाहिए।

शान्ति करूँगा, देखभाल और दान के समुदायों का निर्माण करती है और समृद्धि एवं विकास की ओर ले जाती है।

इसने सरकार को हमारे ब्लू पेसीफिक-सह-अस्तित्व और मित्रता के शक्तिशाली प्रतीक के संरक्षक के लिए 'शान्ति के महासागर' की अवधारणा को बढ़ावा देने का अवसर दिया है। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री क्षेत्र और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में शान्ति के महासागर की अवधारणा का समर्थन करना जारी रखेंगे। शान्ति के महासागर की अवधारणा को प्रशान्त द्वीप के सदस्य देशों को एकजुटता, समृद्धि, सुरक्षा और प्रभाव के अगले स्तर पर ले जाने में मदद करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है, जबकि प्रत्येक राज्य के पूर्ण संप्रभुत्व अधिकारों को बढ़ाया नहीं जा रहा है। यह अनुमान लगाया गया है कि शान्ति के महासागर की अवधारणा, जिसे एक बार सभी प्रशान्त-द्वीप सदस्य देशों द्वारा स्वीकार कर लिया गया और अपनाया गया, प्रभावी रूप से सदस्य देशों



“आएं और सरकार की मिलाप और शांति बनाने की प्रक्रिया का हिस्सा बनें”: सहायक मंत्री किरण



फाल्गुन का महीना बहुत ही खास महीना होता क्योंकि हम इस महीने में बहुत ही धूम-धाम से होली का पर्व मनाते हैं। यह देख कर बहुत खुशी हो रही है कि हमारे पूर्वजों कि संस्कृति आज भी जीवित है, जैसे संगठनों द्वारा भजन कीर्तन सरोवर को आज भी जीवित रखा गया है। यह देखना बहुत ही उत्साहजनक है जबकि बच्चे और युवक भी भाग ले रहे हैं तथा हमें उम्मीद है होली का संदेश आने वाली पीढ़ियों तक जारी रहेंगी। गांधी भवन प्राइमरी स्कूल पर आयोजित पश्चिमी फाग सम्मेलन में संचालन करते हुए, विमन, चिल्ड्रेन और सोशल प्रोटेक्शन की सहायक मंत्री माननीय सशो किरण के कहा। सहायक मंत्री किरण ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि पौराणिक कथाओं में, होलिका को वरदान मिला था कि उसे आग से कभी नुकसान नहीं होगा, हालांकि जब उसने भक्त प्रह्लाद को नुकसान पहुंचाने की कोशिश की तो वह खुद आग में जलकर भस्म हो गई। भगवान ने हर एक इंसान में अच्छाई दी है तथा अगर हम उसे किसी का बुरा करने का विचार नकरें, तो हम अपने अहंकार की आग से जलने का भी जोखिम उठाते हैं। होली के शुभ अवसर को महत्व देने के लिए होलिका में आग लगाई जाती है तथा बुराई पर

अच्छाई की जीत का एक प्रतीक है, जबकि उत्सव के दूसरे भाग में लोगों को रंग और पानी के साथ खेलते हुए देखा जाता है। यह रस्में हमें बुराई पर अच्छाई की जीत का सबक याद दिलाता है। बचपन से हमें यह बताया जाता है कि होलिका को जलाते समय हमें गुस्सा भुला देना चाहिए, जिस किसी के साथ हमारा झगड़ा हो उसे माफ कर देना चाहिए और एक-दूसरे को रंग में रंग देना चाहिए। कई सारी मतभेदों के कारण हमारे समाज में एकजुता नहीं रही हैं मगर इस साल की होली एक ऐसा मौड़ लाएगी जब हम एक दूसरे को माफ कर के और रिश्तों में सुधार कर आगे बढ़ेंगे। सहायक मंत्री किरण ने कहा। सहायक मंत्री ने इस बात पर भी प्रकाश डाला कि अगर हमने ऐसा न किया तब हमारा दुख, दर्द और गुस्सा हमारे आने वाली पीढ़ी तक पहुंच जाएगा, हमें उन्हें अमन और शांति का उपहार देना हैंन की दुश्मनी का। मुझे आशा है कि सरकार द्वारा मिलाप और शांति की इस प्रक्रिया में आप सब भाग लेंगे। इस उत्सव के दौरान हम केवल सुख और शांति की कामना कर सकते हैं। आइए हम सब एक साथ मिल कर शांति और एकजुतता कि कामना करें और एक दूसरे के मिल जुल कर रहे।

यसावा के मछुआरे ने नई नाव की योजना से की व्यापार बढ़ाने की कोशिश



यसावा के नंदुला जिले में बसे बुआकी कोरो के रहने वाले एक मछुआरे को उम्मीद है कि उनका फाइबरग्लास नाव ग्रामीण और समुद्री विकास तथा डिज़ास्टर मैनेजमेंट के सीफेरींग सहायता (एस ई ए) द्वारा की जाएगी जिस से वे अपने व्यापार को आगे बढ़ाने के साथ अपने परिवार का भी सहायता कर सकें। चालीस वर्षीय के श्री सेतेवानो बोगिलेका को ग्रामीण और समुद्री विकास के सहायक मंत्री द्वारा लौतोका में नाव की प्राप्ति हुई। सात बच्चों के पिता अपने परिवार का गुज़ारा करने के लिए हर हफ्ते लौतोका घाट पर ताज़ी मछली बेचते हैं। “पहले मेरे पास एक पुरानी नाव हुआ करती थी। जब मैं मछली पकड़ने जाता था तो मैं केवल कम पानी में पकड़ता था क्योंकि पुराने नाव को गहरे पानी में ले कर जाना जोखिम का काम था। बोगिलेका ने कहा। “ मुझे बहुत ही लम्बे समय तक, अपने पुराने नाव को इस्तेमाल करने में चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ा, मगर आज मैं सरकार को मेरी मदद करने के लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। इससे मेरे व्यापार में बढ़न्ती होगी तथा इसके द्वारा मैं अपने परिवार की सहायता भी कर सकूंगा साथ ही साथ इसमें भी सुधार होगा और हमें दूसरे द्वीप आने -जाने में भी आसानी होगी। मछली के इस व्यापार की सहायता से ही वे अपने सातों व्यापार चलाने के अलावा बच्चों को स्कूल भेज पाए हैं। बोगिलेका ने कहा । नाव सौंपते समय माननीय वोदिया ने अपने छोटे व्यवसाय को बढ़ाने की कोशिश में श्री बोगिलेका के प्रयासों की सराहना की। हमें विश्वास है कि यह नई नाव न केवल आपके परिवार के प्रति समर्थन को बढ़ाने में मदद करेगा बल्कि बुआकी के ग्रामीणों की भी सहायता करेगा। सरकार इस तरह की पहल को सरहाना देती है क्योंकि यह गरीबी को कम तथा देश में विकास लाने की सरकार कि एक प्रतिद्वुता है,” माननीय वोदिया ने कहा।



सार्वजनिक सूचना

4 से 22 मार्च तक पासपोर्ट सेवाएं अस्थायी रूप से रोक दी गई है। फीजी इमिग्रेशन विभाग आम जनता को सूचित कर रहा है कि विभाग अपनी सेवाएं 40 रोबर्टसन रोड स्थित लाला रामदीन बिल्डिंग से प्रदान करने की तैयारी कर रहा है। सूवा स्थित दफ्तर से विभाग को खिस्काने की वजह से चार मार्च से बाईस मार्च के बीच सेवाएं अस्थायी रूप से प्रदान नहीं की जाएंगी ताकि नई इमारत में पासपोर्ट सिस्टम स्थापित करने के लिए समय मिल सके। अधिक जानकारी के लिए संपर्क करें पासपोर्ट सेक्शन को 9906792 पर या ई मेल करें : immpassport@govnet.gov.fj लिखित में जानकारी के लिए इस पते पर सवाल भेजें: गृह मंत्रालय और इमिग्रेशन के पेमनन्ट स्कंटेरी, 26 ग्लेडसन रोड, दूसरी मंजिल, नई विंग, गवमन्ट बिल्डिंग्स सूवा पोस्ट ऑफिस बॉक्स 2349, गवमन्ट बिल्डिंग्स, सूवा, फीजी वेबपेज: www.defence.gov.fj

बाउ डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल को लाईब्रेरी की किताबों से सहायता की गई



बाउ डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल कोलाईब्रेरी की किताबों से सहायता की गई बाउ डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल, ओस्ट्रेलिया की सरकार के बहुत ही आभारी हैं जिनकी सहायता से स्कूल के पुस्तकालय को नई-नई किताबें प्रदान की गई है। कक्षा आठ की छात्रा आदी तितिलिया नाओदोबाउ ने ओस्ट्रेलिया द्वारा फीजी के शिक्षा क्षेत्र का समर्थन करने के लिए धन्यवाद देते हुए कहा कि स्कूल के पास अच्छी-अच्छी किताबें थी लेकिन जो किताबें प्रदान की गई है उनकी तुलना नहीं की जा सकती है।

उन्होंने आभार व्यक्त किया कि ग्रामीण इलाक़े में रहने के बावजूद उनकी स्कूल की ज़रूरतों के बारे में ख्याल किया गया है जिसके लिए वो अनेकों धन्यवाद देना चाहते हैं। उधर, स्कूल की लाईब्रेरी सेवा योजना के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, ओस्ट्रेलियन हाई कमिशन की हयुमन डेवेलोपमन्ट की स्थानापन काउन्सला फ्लूया कलकट ने कहा कि ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार फीजी के स्कूली बच्चों को उच्च कोटि की लाईब्रेरी सेवा प्रदान करने में खुशी महसूस कर रही है जिससे सिखाने और सीखने में काफी मदद मिलेगी। इस पहल के माध्यम से,

ओस्ट्रेलिया का लक्ष्य है युवा पीढ़ी में पढ़ने के प्रति रूची पैदा करना, मनोरंजन के साथ-साथ ज्ञान प्राप्त करने और जीवन भर सकारात्मक आदतों को बढ़ावा देने के साधन के रूप में,” सुश्री कैलकट ने कहा। जवाब में उप प्रधान मंत्री और शिक्षा, टूरिज़म तथा सीविल एंविषन मंत्री माननीय विलियाम गवोका ने फीजी के शिक्षा क्षेत्र को आगे बढ़ाने में उनके अटूट समर्थन के लिए ओस्ट्रेलिया के हाई कमिशन तथा ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार का आभार व्यक्त किया। इससे स्कूल के एक सौ चौबीस बच्चों को फायदा होगा।



माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका, CF OBE OStJ MSD प्रधान मंत्री, विदेश मंत्री, जलवायु परिवर्तन, सरकारी सेवा, सूचना विभाग तथा पब्लिक एन्टरप्राइस मंत्री

उच्च सामन्तों की सभा के उद्घाटन पर माननीय प्रधान मंत्री का भाषण बुद्धवार, 28 फरवरी 2024 लगून रिज़ोर्ट, पेसिफिक हार्बर, फीजी

माननीय मंत्री तथा सहायक मंत्री
महानुभाव- राजदुत और उच्चायुक्त
जीसीसी के सदस्य
देवियों और सज्जनों
फीजी देश के नागरिक

मैं अपने मंत्रीमंडल के सदस्यों की ओर से क्षमा माँगता हूँ, जो विदेश में या स्थानीय रूप से दूर हैं। उन्होंने अपनी शुभकामनाएँ दो दिनों की बैठक के लिए भेजी है जिस में आपका विचार-विमर्श होगा, आपके के लिए फायदेमंद और सभी फीजीवासियों के लिए फायदेमंद होगा। साथ ही साथ मैं वनुआ ओ कोरोलेवु को भी सुबह की पारंपरिक स्वागत समारोह देने के लिए भी आभार मानता हूँ। हम इस बात को स्वीकार करते हैं कि वनुआ ओ कोरोलेवू भी उस ज़मीन के मालिक है, जिस पर हम आज इकट्ठा हुए हैं। हम अपने महान पूर्वजों और उनके प्रमुखों को स्वीकार करते हैं न केवल आज के नेता बल्कि वो जो भविष्य में उनके स्थान पर रहेंगे। यह वह दिन है जिसे प्रभु ने बनाया है। आइए हम आन्नद लें और इसमें खुश रहें (118.24) मैं पारंपरिक नेताओं, आपके प्रति अपना सम्मान व्यक्त करने के लिए यहाँ आया हूँ जिन्होंने पुनः अपने पद को स्वीकार कर लिया है तथा मैं आप से फीजी के महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर भी बातें करूँगा। पिछली सरकार ने जीसीसी को किनारे कर दिया था मगर यह अपनी समय-सम्मानित को शुरू करने के लिए फिर से उठ खड़ा हुआ है ताकि वे ज़मीन के मामलों को सुलझा सकें। आपका माना लोकतंत्र से प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है, आपके पास अधिकार और प्रभाव प्राचीन प्रणालियों विरासत में मिला है जिस का फीजी के इतिहास पर गहरा प्रभाव पड़ा है। अपनी मुख्य पदवी, बोध, और वंश के साथ आप देशज पहचान और संस्कृति के लिए और वनुआ के कामकाज के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं। मैं आपके सामने अपने ही वर्ग से एक फीजीवासी के रूप में आया हूँ। मैं अपने प्रमुखों और उन लोगों की सेवा करने के लिए कर्तव्यबद्ध हूँ। एक चुने हुए नेता के रूप में मैं केवल ई-तौकेई के लिए कार्य नहीं करता हूँ बल्कि मैं उन सभी समुदायों का सेवक जो फीजी को अपना घर कहते हैं। अब मैं आपको हमारी विविधता का परिचय बतलाने जा रहा हूँ। इसकी शुरुआत उन स्वदेशी फीजीवासियों के पूर्वजों से होती है जिन्होंने लगभग तीन हजार साल पहले द्वीपों की खोज की। भारत से सबसे पहले गिरमिटिया नया जीवन शुरू करने के लिए फीजी आए थे। वे कोलोनियल ब्रिटिश काल की नीति में फीजी में लाए जाने वाले पहले लोग थे जिन्हें नई कोलोनियल की अर्थव्यवस्थाओं का

विकास करना था। उस समय वे नई दुनिया में स्थापित हो रहे थे। वहाँ वे उपनिवेश से पहले ही मिश्रित विरासत के हैं, दुनिया और यूरोपीयन, चाएना, रोटुमन, बनावनस, मेलानेशियन; सामोअन, तोंगन, तुवालू, वालिस और फुतुना वंश के साथ ही ई-किरीबाती और माईक्रोनेशिया के अन्य हिस्सों और अन्य जगहों से थे। ऐसी सरकार का नेता बनना मेरे लिए सम्मान की बात है, इस में एकता और देश भक्ति को बनाना और मज़बूत करना है। मैं आपको, हमारे प्रमुखों को, इसमें एक विशेष भूमिका निभाते हुए देखता हूँ। यह जी.सी.सी बैठक की लगातार दुसरा वर्ष है जब, और कानूनी रूप से बहाल होने के बाद पहली बैठक है तथा अब जी.सी.सी मज़बूत स्थिति में हैं। पिछले साल बाउ में महामहीम ने हमें जी.सी.सी विकास की याद दिलायी साथ ही साथ उन्होंने हाल के प्रसिद्ध शब्दों को कोट किया। सन् 1950 में क्वीन विक्टोरिया स्कूल के भूमि पूजन समारोह में रातू सर लाला सुकूना ने कहा था “ आज का दिन प्रभावशाली समारोह निश्चित रूप से एक रूप में पहचाना जाएगा फीजियन के आगे बढ़ने की यह एक निशानी है। स्थगित होने के सात साल बाद तथा विस्थापन होने के दस साल बाद, नवंबर 2023 में जी.सी.सी को कानून द्वारा बहाल किया। लगभग तीस साल पहले जी.सी.सी द्वारा फीजी के इतिहास में सबसे प्रसिद्ध भाषणों में से एक है। स्वर्गीय श्री जय राम रेड्डी, तत्कालीन विपक्ष के नेता थे काउन्सिल को संबोधित करने वाले भारतीय मूल के वो पहले फीजीयन थे। उनका मुख्य उद्देश्य था कि वे प्रमुख व्यक्ति को एक साथ मिलाए और इसे हासिल करने के लिए सही रास्ते अपनाए। वे मेरे निमंत्रण पर जी.सी.सी में उपस्थित थे। संसदीय सहयोगी, राजनीतिक नेता, श्री रेड्डी और मैं सब की भलाई के लिए साथ में काम कर रहे थे। मुझे आज भी वह यादगार पल याद है जब उन्होंने ने एक अवसर पर अपना बयान दिया था। मैं उनमें से दो का सारांश देने जा रहा हूँ। श्री रेड्डी ने जी.सी.सी से एकता की नींव बनने का आग्रह किया था और उसने निवेदन किया था कि जो लोग उसकी बातें सुन रहे हैं वे केवल मूल फीजीवासियों के ही नहीं बल्कि सभी लोगों के लिए हैं। मैं श्री रेड्डी की बराबरी कभी नहीं कर सकता हूँ मगर उसने जो कहा मैं उसे सिर्फ दोहरा सकता हूँ। उनकी तरह मैं भी यही मानता हूँ कि आपकी भी एक नियति है जो आगे

परंपरा तक जाती है। आप सभी मुख्य हैं तथा मैं यह बात भली-भाँति समझता हूँ कि आप के पास एक विशेष एजेंडर है, ई-तौकेई के प्रगति में तेज़ी लाने का एजेंडर। मैं इस बात से सहमत हूँ लेकिन मैं आपसे अपनी संयुक्त बुद्धि का उपयोग करने के लिए भी कहता हूँ। सरकार अपनी नितियों के साथ गरीबी को कम करने और नई सम्भावनाओं के अवसर पर काम करने की योजनाओं पर भी चर्चा करेंगी। पूरी विनम्रता के साथ मैं आपसे इस मिशन में शामिल होने का आग्रह करता हूँ। फीजी को एक बार फिर दुनिया के लिए आशा की एक प्रतीक बनाना है। आज हम ना केवल जी.सी.सी की वापसी का जश्न मनाने के लिए आए हैं बल्कि भविष्य के रास्ते को तय करने के लिए भी आए हैं। आज मैं आप के साथ सम्मान और भावना के साथ खड़ा हूँ, आज एक ऐतिहासिक मोड़ है जबकि हमारी राष्ट्र की यात्रा में परिक्षणों, विजय, विरामों और प्रगति भी हिस्सा रही है। जी.सी.सी मार्गदर्शन और एकता का प्रतीक है। यह हमारी परंपराओं और हमारी अच्छे भविष्य का प्रतीक है। हमें यह याद दिलाने की ज़रूरत नहीं है कि हम इस मुकाम पर कैसे पहुँचे हैं, अतीत मरा या दफनाया नहीं गया है और न जी.सी.सी इस अतीत का हिस्सा है। यह ज़रूरी नहीं है कि मैं इतिहास दोहराऊ मगर हमें याद दिलाने की ज़रूरत है कि जो लोग इतिहास से नहीं सीखते हैं वे अपनी गलतियाँ ज़रूर दोहराते हैं। आज के बारे में अहम बात यह है कि जी.सी.सी ने कैसे जीत हासिल की है तथा यह बिना किसी रास्ते के निकलने में सक्षम था। आज हम अपने राष्ट्र में एक नए अध्याय की रोशनी देख रहे हैं, हम इतिहास और आशा के चौराहे पर हैं जहाँ प्रत्येक फीजीवासी शक्ति पर आधारित एकता की चाह रखते हैं। हमेशा हमारे निर्णयों पर सवाल उठाते हैं और हमारे द्वारा चुने गए रास्तों को चुनौती दें। अब हम भविष्य की ओर देखते हैं। सबसे पहले मैं जी.सी.सी के प्रति सरकार की अपेक्षा से शुरुआत करता हूँ, जी.सी.सी पर सरकार की नीति बहुत सरल है: जब कि यह सीधे रूप से शासन और ई-तौकेई की भलाई के बारे में है तथा यह एक गहरा दायित्व और सामाजिक लोगों की समर्थन के लिए है। शांति हमेशा बनी रहनी चाहिए। जी.सी.सी का मार्ग अब 2023 में की गई समीक्षा के परिणाम से होगा। ई-तौकेई की भलाई के लिए इसमें आठ थमेटिक क्षेत्रों का निरीक्षण शामिल है जिस में जलवायु परिवर्तन और महासागर शामिल हैं। यह प्रशांत

महासागर से मेल खाता है क्योंकि जैसे महासागर शांत है वैसे ही हमारे जी.सी.सी की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका को भी रेखांकित करता है, जी.सी.सी वातावरण प्रबंधक और क्षेत्रीय विकास को अहमियत देगा। हाल ही नान्दी मैं मैंने एक बैठक के दौरान इंटरनेशनल मोनेट्री फंड के बारे में बातें की, इस बैठक का मुख्य एजेंडर फायनेन्स, अर्थव्यवस्था और विकास की समस्याओं के बारे में था। अपनी टिप्पणियों में, मैं उन मुद्दों से कही आगे निकल गया और मैंने इस महासागर के हिस्से तथा फीजी और इसमें शामिल 15 अन्य देशों के लिए अपने दृष्टिकोण का कुछ विस्तार से वर्णन किया है और फिर मैंने बताया कि हम इस नई चीज़ तक कैसे पहुँच सकते हैं। फीजी के सामन्तों, मैं अब आप से उस दृष्टिकोण के बारे में बताने जा रहा हूँ जो न केवल मेरे लिए बल्कि समुद्री क्षेत्र के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण है। मेरे विचार वॉल्ड वोर के भयानक चित्रों और वास्तविकता से प्रेरित हैं। यूक्रेन और रूस के बीच भयानक युद्ध जारी है तथा खत्म होने का कोई संकेत नहीं नज़र आ रहा है। रूस के पास एक न्यूक्लीयर मिसाइल है मगर क्या वे इसका उपयोग करेंगे। मिडल ईस्ट खास कर के गाज़ा आतंक में फँसा हुआ है तथा यह बहुत भयानक रूप ले सकती है। हमारे फीजीवासियों के उपर मुसीबत आ गई थी जब जेरुसलम में तीर्थयात्री फंस गए थे। हमने भारी दबाव में कड़ी मेहनत की और उन्हें सुरक्षित घर लाए। आखरी बार जो जानकारी हमें मिली, लगभग तीस सशस्त्र लड़ाईयों ने देशों को परेशान किया, जिनमें ज्यादातर अफ्रीका में थे। दो सबसे शक्तिशाली देश अमेरिका और चीन के बीच विरोध बना हुआ है। पिछले साल ऐसे संकेत मिल रहे थे कि मेलमिलाप होगा। हमें यह देखने के लिए इंतज़ार करना पड़ेगा। चीन के दक्षिणी महासागर में चीनी और फिलिपीनो जहाज़ों के बीच खतरनाक टकराव हो रहे हैं। हम इस सवाल से बच नहीं सकते है कि क्या इससे अमेरिका चीन के साथ मुठभेड़ कर सकता है? ताईवान को लेकर तनाव बना हुआ है जिससे युद्ध छिड़ सकता है या उससे भी गम्भीर स्थिति सामने आ सकती है। फिर से अमेरिका और चीन आमने-सामने हो सकते है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र के एक उच्च अधिकारी ने सार्वजनिक रूप से घोषणा की कि पिछले विश्व महा युद्ध के बाद से हमारे ग्रह पर सबसे अधिक हिंसक संघर्ष हुए हैं। दो बिलियन से ज्यादा लोग सशस्त्र हिंसा से असुर पड़े क्षेत्रों में रहते थे। दूसरा विश्व

महा युद्ध अट्टहत्तर (78) साल पहले खत्म हुआ। ऐसा लगता था कि प्रलय आ गया था। हमारे प्रशान्तीय क्षेत्र की शान्ति में खूनी लड़ाईयाँ भड़क उठी और बड़े पैमाने पर जानमाल का नुकसान हुआ। पड़ोसी देश भी इससे बच नहीं पाए बल्कि फीजी सीधे खतरे में था। देश के सामन्तों, यह बिल्कुल स्पष्ट है कि वर्तमान के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हालात ने इतिहास में एक खतरनाक क्षण पैदा कर दिया है।

कुछ महीने पहले, जैसे-जैसे दुनिया संघर्ष और तबाही की ओर बढ़ रही थी, मैंने इस बारे में और हमारे प्रशान्त महासागर, इसके द्वीपवासियों और संकट के इस समय में हम कहाँ खड़े हैं, इसके बारे में सोचने में बहुत समय बिताना शुरू कर दिया। जैसे-जैसे राष्ट्रों के बीच संघर्ष बढ़ता जा रहा था, मुझे आश्चर्य हो रहा था कि क्या हम एक बार फिर गहरी खाई की ओर जा रहे हैं। मुझे यकीन है कि संघर्षग्रस्त स्थानों में शान्तिदूत के रूप में मेरे अनुभवों के माध्यम से मेरी भावनाएँ और तीव्र होगी थी। लेबनान में संयुक्त राष्ट्र में कार्यरत पहली बटालियन फीजी इन्फैंट्री रेजिमेंट के कमांडिंग ऑफिसर के रूप में, मैं ने चार बहादुर और वफादार सैनिकों को खो दिया। मुझे उनकी मौतें कल की तरह याद हैं। इससे पहले कि मैं हमारे महासागर के विशाल क्षेत्र जिसे ब्लू पैसिफिक भी कहा जाता है, के लिए शांति की एक छवि बनाने के विचार की कल्पना की, इससे पहले कि यह अधिक समय न हो। जो छवि मैंने देखी वह शान्ति की वास्तविकता को भी संबोधित करेगी। मुझे यह भी याद आया कि प्रशान्त शब्द का अर्थ ही शान्तिपूर्ण है। मेरे लिए हमारे ग्रह को शान्ति की बाढ़, एक प्रचंड धारा की ज़रूरत है। यह युद्ध का प्रतिकार होगा। दुनिया के लोग ऐसा कर सकते हैं। शान्ति शब्द ही शक्ति और अर्थ से भरा है जो प्रेरणा देता है। शान्ति करूणा, देखभाल और दान के समुदायों का निर्माण करती है। यह समृद्धि का पोषण करता है। यहीं हमारे प्रशान्तीय द्वीप क्षेत्र में शान्तिका एक महासागर जन्म लेने की प्रतीक्षा कर रहा है। वर्तमान में इसका नाम ओशिनिया है। इसमें दक्षिण प्रशान्त का लगभग बत्तीस मिलियन वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र शामिल है। यह रूस, चीन और अमेरिका से थोड़ा ही छोटा है। हमारे मूल पूर्वजों में से कुछ महानतम नाविक थे। उन्होंने समुद्र के इस विशाल क्षेत्र की खोज की जो हमारे जीवन का केंद्र बना हुआ है। यह हमारी विरासत और आशा है। यह हमें अलग करता है लेकिन हमें अपने विशाल आंचल में भाईयों और बहनों की तरह एक साथ रखता है। यह इतिहास, निपटान और विशिष्ट आर्थिक क्षेत्रों के माध्यम से हमारा है। यदी हम शान्ति के महासागर की घोषणा करने की अवधारणा के इर्द-गिर्द एकजुट हो सकें, तो हम सह-अस्तित्व और मित्रता के एक शक्तिशाली प्रतीक के संरक्षक होंगे। जबकि पृथ्वी भयंकर युद्धों और अधिक सशस्त्र शत्रुता के खतरों से पीड़ित हो सकती है, हमारा महासागर और उसके लोग शान्ति के प्रतीक होंगे। सबके लिए शान्ति;पर्यावरण

के लिए; ज़मीन पर, समुद्र और आकाश में। हम वह संदेश हम जगह भेजेंगे। इसे करने के कई तरीके हैं। मैं जिस शान्ति की कल्पना करता हूँ वह सिर्फ एक नाम और एक छवि नहीं हो सकती। फीजी और प्रशान्त द्वीप समूह फोरम की सदस्यता के माध्यम से एक साथ बंधे अन्य देशों को शान्ति को सर्वोच्च गुणों में से एक रूप में प्रतिबिंबित करने वाले मूल्यों के साथ जीने के लिए बुलाया जाएगा। इसके लिए फीजी के पारंपरिक प्रमुखों सहित हमारे नेताओं को लोगों के साथ काम करने की ज़रूरत होगी ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि शान्ति राष्ट्रीय जीवन का केंद्र है। धैर्यपूर्वक संवाद और आम सहमति का हमारा प्रिय 'प्रशान्त मार्ग' हमारे समाजों का एक बुनियादी हिस्सा बना रहेगा। कुछ और भी है। मैं शान्ति के महासागर की परिकल्पना न केवल आज के खतरों की प्रतिक्रिया के रूप में करता हूँ। यह हमारे पुर्वजों, उन बहादुर पुरुषों और महिलाओं का भी सम्मान करेगा जिन्होंने अनंत लहरों के माध्यम से दूर क्षितिज और नई शुरुआत की ओर यात्रा की। हम उनकी प्रशंसा करते हैं। फीजी अकेले शान्ति महासागर परियोजना को आगे नहीं बढ़ा सकता है। इसके लिए पीआईएफ के समर्थन की ज़रूरत है। मैंने कुक आइलैंड्स के रातोतोन्गा में पीआईएफ नेताओं की वार्षिक बैठक में शान्ति का यह सपना पेश किया। हालां कि नेता इस विचार से प्रभावित हुए और आधिकारिक तौर पर इसका स्वागत किया, लेकिन अंतिम फैसला लेना टाल दिया। अगस्त में तोन्गा में उनकी अगली बैठक के एजेंडे पर अधिक व्यापक विचार किया जाएगा। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि क्षेत्र के राष्ट्रपति और प्रधान मंत्री अंततः इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार करेंगे। यदि सब कुछ ठीक रहा, तो पीआईएफ सदस्यों न्यू जीलैंड और ओस्ट्रेलिया के साथ हमारे सोलह देश दुनिया के सामने हमारे शान्ति महासागर की घोषणा करने के लिए इतिहास में एक दिन चुनेंगे। मेरा अनुमान है कि हम कई देशों के आमंत्रित मेहमानों की उपस्थिति में ऐसा करेंगे, जिनमें पीआईएफ भागीदार के रूप में वर्गीकृत प्रमुख देश भी शामिल हैं जिनमें अमेरिका और चीन भी शामिल हैं। शान्ति का मतलब यह नहीं है कि पीआईएफ राज्य सामान्य सुरक्षा और कानूनी व्यवस्था छोड़ देंगे। जिम्मेदार सरकारों को अपनी संप्रभुता, अपने नागरिकों और प्राकृतिक संसाधनों की रक्षा के लिए इन्हें हमेशा रखना चाहिए। हम एक ऐसे क्षेत्र को सैन्यीकरण से मुक्त देख रहे हैं, जिसका अर्थ सावधानीपूर्वक परिभाषित किया गया है। मेरा दृढ़ विश्वास है कि पीआईएफ रिश्ते के और मजबूत होंगे। नए महासागर के हमारे संयुक्त स्वामित्व से सीधे जुड़े द्वीपवासियों के बीच एक नया बंधन होगा। इससे पूरे क्षेत्र में दैनिक और राष्ट्रीय जीवन में शान्ति के सिद्धांतों को एक समान, घनिष्ठ रूप से अपनाया जा सकेगा। यह मेरा विश्वास है कि शान्ति के महासागर के माध्यम से हमारे क्षेत्र के लिए एक वैश्विक प्रोफाइल, कई लाभ और पुरस्कार उत्पन्न करेगी।

इससे विदेशी सहायता पर निर्भरता कम होगी और विकास, टूरिज़म, पूँजी तथा वाणिज्यिक विविधिकरण में वृद्धि होगी। शान्ति के सागर के लिए यह सपना आपका सपना होना चाहिए, क्योंकि फीजी को आप, हमारे सामन्तों के नेतृत्व में शान्ति के लिए आंदोलन शुरू करना होगा। सरकार ई-तउकेई की इच्छाओं का सम्मान करते हुए जीसीसी को एक पूर्ण स्वतंत्र संस्थान में बदलने में मदद करेगी- हमारे समुदाय के वास्तविक हितों की सेवा में इसकी स्वायत्तता सुनिश्चित करेगी। यह आदिवासी लोगों के अधिकारों पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र घोषणा का भी पालन करता है। सूचना और चर्चा के लिए आपका पहला पेपर 1990 के दशक में संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा अपनाए गए इस महान दस्तावेज़ पर हुआ जो कि 1987 में फीजी की अपनी उधल-पुथल के बाद आया था।

इस साल सरकार अन्य आदिवासी संस्थाओं की समीक्षा करेगी जैसे कि: फीजियन एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन, नेटिव लेन्ड्स कमिशन तथा नेटिव लेन्ड ट्रस्ट बोर्ड। जीसीसी के सदस्य जिन विषयों पर चर्चा करेंगे, उनका विचार अलग-अलग हो सकता है। महत्वाकांक्षाओं में टकराव रहेगा। और सर्वोत्तम सेवा कैसे की जाए इस बारे में उनमें गम्भीर असहमति हो सकती है। लेकिन वे जानते हैं कि उनके विवाद कितने भी तीखे और हार्दिक क्यों न हों, उनकी महत्वाकांक्षाएं कितनी भी गहरी क्यों न हों, उनका दायित्व है कि वे ई-तउकेई और राष्ट्रीय हितों की सर्वोत्तम सेवा कैसे करें, इसपर मिलकर काम करें और इसलिए जीसीसी को वापस लाने में एक कदम पीछे नहीं बल्कि आगे की छलांग है, जो न केवल ई-तउकेई के हितों और कल्याण की रक्षा करने में बल्कि फीजी को अपना घर कहने वाले अन्य सभी जातीय समूहों के बीच मेल-मिलाप लाने की जिम्मेदारी भी निभाएंगे।

जीसीसी की पुनः स्थापना से शासन के एक नए युग की शुरुआत हुई है, जो वर्तमान और भविष्य की चुनौतियों तथा अवसरों को स्वीकार करते हुए अपनी शानदार अतीत की उपलब्धियों को याद करता है। हमारी नींव के रूप में अपनी समृद्ध विरासत के साथ, जीसीसी हमारे राष्ट्रीय विमर्श और विवेक में और भी बड़ी भूमिका निभाने के लिए तैयार है, जिसमें अच्छा शासन, सभी संस्कृतियों के लिए सम्मान और सामूहिक कल्याण के सिद्धांतों को शामिल किया गया है। एक ऐसे फीजी की कल्पना करें जहाँ हमारे बुजुर्गों का ज्ञान और हमारे युवाओं की जीवन शक्ति जीसीसी में एकत्रित होकर एक ऐसे भविष्य का निर्माण करती है जो मजबूत होने के साथ समृद्ध हो। एक फीजी जहाँ जीसीसी शासन, शान्ति की आधारशीला के रूप में कार्य करता है, पिछले सोलह सालों के अंतराल को पाटता है, हमें एकजुट करता है और हमें सामान्य लक्ष्यों की ओर ले जाता है। तीस साल पहले, मुझे जीसीसी की आजीवन सदस्यता का दर्जा दिए जाने पर सम्मानित महसूस हुआ था। मैं अतीत और वर्तमान के हमारे प्रमुखों को मुझे ऐसा दर्जा देने में उनकी बुद्धिमत्ता

के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ। यह देखने के बाद कि जीसीसी के साथ कैसा व्यवहार किया गया, मैं सच्चाई और सम्मान की खातिर दृढ़ता से खड़ा रहा और लम्बे समय तक कष्ट सहता रहा लेकिन मैं थका नहीं।

दो साल पहले मैंने जीसीसी को वापस लाने का वायदा किया था। यह अब हो चुका है।

मुझे ऐसा लग रहा है जैसे मैं पहाड़ की चोटी पर पहुँच गया हूँ। और मूसा की तरह, मैंने प्रतिज्ञा की ज़मीन देखी है, लेकिन मैं इसे पार नहीं करूंगा। सामन्तों की इस पीढ़ी को अब हमें वहाँ ले जाना चाहिए।

आज हम उस नींव को याद करते हैं जिस पर हमने जीसीसी का निर्माण किया था। हम अपने सामन्तों को याद करते हैं जिन्होंने इसकी स्थिति की रक्षा के लिए बहादुरी से लड़ाई लड़ी। हमेशा चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ेगा, लेकिन उनके साहस से प्रेरित हमारा संकल्प हमें आगे बढ़ने में मार्गदर्शित करेगा।

इसलिए, मेरी कार्यवाही की माँग सरल लेकिन गहन है: आइए हम, फीजी के लोग, सामन्तों की महान परिषद के आसपास एकजुट हों। आइए हम इसके पुनर्जीवित मिशन का समर्थन करें, इसके प्रयासों में शामिल हों और इसकी सफलता में योगदान दें। साथ मिलकर हम इस बात को ठोस बना सकते हैं कि जीसीसी न केवल हमारे अतीत के प्रतीक के रूप में बल्कि हमारे भविष्य के लिए एक प्रकाशस्तंभ के रूप में खड़ा हो – एक ऐसा भविष्य जो एकता, सम्मान और समृद्धि से चिह्नित हो।

आपके प्रधान मंत्री के रूप में, मैं जीसीसी और सभी फीजीवासियों को अपना अटूट समर्थन देने की प्रतिज्ञा करता हूँ, क्योंकि हम एक साथ इस यात्रा पर आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। आइए हम एक दूसरे के प्रति और उन आदेशों के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को नया करें जिनका जीसीसी प्रतिनिधित्व करता है। क्या मैं आपसे विनम्रतापूर्वक अनुरोध कर सकता हूँ कि यह ध्यान में रखने के लिए एक प्रशांत को शान्ति के महासागर के रूप में मान्यता देने के लिए विश्व को दिए गए मेरे संदेश में शक्ति है, जिसकी शुरुआत अगस्त में नुकुआलोफा में प्रशान्त द्वीप समूह मंच से हुई थी, उस पर विश्वास किया जाए और उसे स्वीकार किया जाए और उसका सम्मान किया जाए। फीजी के मेरे अपने महान सामन्तों के समर्थन से संदेश लें, जिसमें एओटेरोआ और पैसिफिका के अतिथि राजा और शाही सम्मानित लोग शामिल थे।

दो दिवसीय जीसीसी बैठक का उद्घाटन करना मेरे लिए अत्यंत सम्मान की बात है।

ईश्वर की कृपा जीसीसी पर बनी रहे ईश्वर की कृपा हम सबपर बनी रहे ईश्वर अपना आशीर्वाद प्रशान्त के लोगों को दे तथा उनकी कृपा फीजी पर भी बनी रहें बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद।

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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लौतोका स्थित तानोआ होटल में चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव सम्मेलन में मुख्य मेहमान हाउजिंग तथा लौकल गर्वमन्ट मंत्री माननीय मादिउ नालूमिसा के साथ टाउन और सिटी काउन्सल्स के एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर और चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव अफ़्सर चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

फ़ीजी विकास के पथ पर

रोनल देव

फ़ीजी अपने विकास के बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बिंदु पर है। ज्यादा लोग शहरों में रहते हैं, इसलिए हमें बेहतर सेवाओं और इमारतों की ज़रूरत है।

यह कहना है हाउजिंग तथा लोकल गर्वमन्ट मंत्री माननीय मादिउ नालूमिसा का जो लौतोका स्थित तानोआ होटल में चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव सम्मेलन में मुख्य मेहमान थे। उन्होंने कहा कि सी.ई.ओ होने के नाते

उन्हें इन समस्याओं को सुलझाना ज़रूरी है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि लोगों को जो चाहिए वह उन्हें मिले।

मंत्री के अनुसार फ़ीजी के नागरिकों की बढ़ती ज़रूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए सेवाओं और सुविधाओं की मांग बढ़ती जा रही है। उन्होंने जोर दिया कि चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव अफ़्सर ध्यान में रखते हैं कि आम जनता को उचित सेवाएं मिलती रहें तथा इन चुनौतियों से सीधा निपटने के लिए वे प्रमुख भूमिका भी निभाते हैं।

‘सीईओ का सम्मेलन विचारों का आदान-प्रदान, सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं को बाँटने और हमारी आकांक्षाओं को साकार करने की दिशा में एक सामूहिक पाठ्यक्रम तैयार करने के लिए एक मंच के रूप में कार्य करता है,’ मंत्री नालूमिसा ने कहा। आर्थिक गतिविधियों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए परिषदों के लिए अपने शहरों और कस्बों में पूँजी लगाना अनिवार्य है।” बुनियादी ढाँचे में पूँजी को प्राथमिकता देकर, हम न केवल आर्थिक विकास के

लिए आधार तैयार करते हैं बल्कि संपर्क में भी सुधार करते हैं और हमारे निवासियों के लिए जीवन की गुणवत्ता में सुधार करते हैं। मंत्री नालूमिसा ने काउन्सल के एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर से कहा कि वे एक उदाहरण बनकर, अपनी टीमों को उचित सेवा प्रदान करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करें ताकि फ़ीजी की बेहतरी के लिए अच्छी सेवाएं मिले।