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Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka meets with students from Suva Primary after the launch of the Infrastructure Assessment Report for Suva-Nausori schools this week. Photo: SUPPLIED

Education at the heart of NDP

By PRASHILA DEVI

BUILDING resilient schools with adequate space, proper amenities and accessibility will contribute to Government's aspirations as education remains at the heart of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2025–2029 and vision 2050. Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka said with the goal of nurturing innovative, lifelong learners and enriching lives through delivery of quality education for all, a policy/strategy on ensuring quality education in an inclusive, safe, resilient and healthy environment was Government's vision

for quality education. Speaking at the launch of the Infrastructure Assessment Report for Suva-Nausori schools, PM Rabuka said the key activity to deliver such strategy includes improving education services by modernising school facilities to meet increasing demand for quality education services that students and teachers of Fiji deserve. "Our commitment to inclusive and equitable education is reflected in this report, which provides a roadmap for sustainable development of our schools," the Head of Government said. He also mentioned that the trend of focusing on just building new facilities

while old structures fall to disrepair was worrying as previously there had been a practice of budgetary allocation made to the Public Works Department meant for building repairs and maintenance. "There will also be a proposal to re-introduce the practice of budgeting for periodic repairs and maintenance, to be brought back to Cabinet," he said. The report, which provides a comprehensive engineering assessment of 86 schools in the Suva-Nausori area, was done in partnership between the Fiji and Australian Government and will provide a baseline of information critical for making informed decisions about where to

best prioritise future support. Australian High Commissioner, Ewen McDonald, applauded PM Rabuka and his Government for "their commitment to improve health and education infrastructure across the country". "At the core of our renewed and elevated Vuvale Partnership is a commitment to listen and respond to each other's priorities," Mr McDonald said. "And nowhere is this more significant than partnering to achieve the vision to deliver modern, inclusive and high-quality education for Fiji's next generation of leaders."

PM calls for continued cooperation of the US



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka recently met with the U.S. Under Secretary of State Lisa Kenna in Washington, DC. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka recently met with the U.S. Under Secretary of State Lisa Kenna in Washington, noting potential implications of recent U.S. executive orders on Fiji and the Pacific region.

As the first Pacific Island leader to visit the U.S. after the Trump Administration took office, PM Rabuka acknowledged the steps taken by the U.S. to strengthen its engagements in the region and emphasised the need for ongoing dialogue.

PM Rabuka hopes that the 90-day freeze by the Trump Administration will not hamper plans to advance the USAID programs in the region, particularly the Bilateral Framework for Technical and Economic Cooperation Agreement and the establishment of the USAID regional office in Suva.

Fiji and the U.S. have partnered in key areas such as trade and investment, with the most recent being security cooperation.

PM Rabuka highlighted Fiji benefitting from many programs and joint collaborations such as the signing of the Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement between the U.S.

Department of Defence and Fiji's Ministry of Home Affairs.

Other initiatives include the International Military Education and Training, and the 2018 Ship Rider Agreement that enables the protection of our marine resources and the collaboration under the International Narcotics Law Enforcement Affairs.

The Head of State also talked about Fiji's tourism and agriculture sector, expressing the nation's eagerness to continue to explore opportunities and strengthen the Fiji - U.S trade relations further.

PM Rabuka said Fiji looks forward to working with the U.S. in ensuring that its bilateral relations continue to grow from strength to strength.

Despite the difference in size, PM Rabuka asserted that the Fiji - U.S mutual standing for freedom, justice and the rule of law, will mobilise like-minded nations to coalesce and cooperate.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Development projects strengthen Fiji-India bilateral ties

KEY cooperation areas such as economic prosperity, climate mitigation and sustainable development were at the top of the discussion between the Government of Fiji and India.

The talk of advancing this partnership eventuated at a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka and India's Minister of External Affairs, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on the margins of the 61st Munich Security Conference in Germany recently.

Discussions also centred on the update of projects including the construction of the 100 Bed Super Specialty Cardiology Hospital, the Indian High Commission Chancery and Indian Cultural Centre Complex in Suva, which further strengthens the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

PM Rabuka acknowledged India's continued support to Fiji over the years, citing the close relationship and family ties both countries share, which is rooted in historical linkages and strong



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka and India's Minister of External Affairs, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar meet on the margins of the 61st Munich Security Conference in Germany recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

cultural similarities.

The Fijian Head of Government and Dr. Jaishankar engaged in productive discussions on various issues of mutual interest and benefit to Fiji and India.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Stronger security and defense between Fiji and NZ

PRIME Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka and New Zealand's Minister for Defence, Judith Collins engaged in discussions focused on strengthening cooperation between the two nations.

The meeting which was held on the margins of the 61st session of the Munich Security Conference in Germany focused on ongoing and future projects beneficial for both countries.

PM Rabuka and Minister Collins also engaged on the idea of encouraging able-bodied Fijians to travel to New Zealand for employment opportunities, allowing them to work, earn, and send remittances back home to support their families and contribute to Fiji's economy.

Prime Minister Rabuka emphasised the importance of shared development goals and mutual prosperity while reaffirming Fiji's commitment to deepening its partnership with New Zealand.



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka met New Zealand's Minister for Defence, Judith Collins in the margins of the 61st session of the Munich Security Conference in Germany.

Both leaders touched on the crucial sector of the strong defense and security cooperation between the two countries which continues to play a vital role in regional stability.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Fiji reaffirms strong bilateral relations with the US

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka met with U.S. Congressman and Chair of the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus, Mr Ed Case in Washington earlier this month reaffirming Fiji's strong and enduring partnership with the United States of America.

Prime Minister Rabuka acknowledged the longstanding cooperation between Fiji and the U.S and the Pacific region through the Pacific Islands Caucus and highlighted key areas of cooperation including climate change, security, and sustainable economic growth and development.

The Head of the Coalition Government briefed Congressman Case on the recently-launched Foreign Policy White Paper, which outlines the nation's strategic international engagement for the next decade.

Prime Minister Rabuka's vision of the Pacific as an "Ocean of Peace" also extended to the halls of Congress, where he called on the U.S. to support this concept, and to deepen its partnership with the region.

PM Rabuka highlighted nn climate change which remains the single greatest threat to Fiji and the Pacific.

While the PM acknowledged the decision

made by President Trump to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, he hopes that the decision will be reconsidered as the Pacific continues to bear the full brunt of the climate crisis.

PM Rabuka articulated that Fiji respects the sovereign right of the U.S. to enforce its immigration laws, while referring to the deportation of illegal immigrants from the U.S.

Fiji has begun discussions with various ministries and international law enforcement agencies in relation to the deportation process of Fijians from the U.S.

Prime Minister Rabuka stressed the need for more coordinated efforts to ensure that individuals involved in serious crimes do not pose threats upon their return.

He stated that Fiji looks forward to working closely with the U.S. to ensure the continued engagements between the two countries.

Congressman Case thanked Prime Minister Rabuka for the opportunity to meet and discuss areas for further collaboration with Fiji and across the wider Pacific region.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with U.S. Congressman and Chair of the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus, Ed Case in Washington during a meeting. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

High-Level meeting to address street dwellers, drug abuse, and rising HIV Cases



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Sashi Kiran, joined by (from left) Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, Sakiasi Ditoka, Minister for Policing, Ioane Naivalurua, Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga, (from right) Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa, Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Ifereimi Vasu and with their respective permanent secretaries meet to discuss growing social issues. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

KEY Government Ministries will work together to combat the growing issue of the increase in street dwellers, drug use and abuse amongst youths as well as the increasing number of HIV positive cases.

To put this into action, the Minister for Women, Children, and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran, convened a high-level meeting with relevant Ministers to discuss urgent strategies.

Attending the meeting were the Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Ifereimi Vasu; Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga; Minister for Policing, Ioane Naivalurua; Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa; and Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, Sakiasi Ditoka, along with their respective Permanent Secretaries.

The discussions focused on cross-sectoral strategies to enhance rehabilitation and reintegration programs for young street dwellers.

Principal Welfare Officer, Salote Biukoto, provided insights into existing data from profiling exercises conducted in collaboration with the Fiji Police Force, as well as partnerships with organisations such as Inspire Pacific and the Salvation Army.

These efforts have been pivotal in understanding the challenges and formulating targeted interventions.

A key outcome of the meeting was the Ministers' agreement on the need to strengthen and enforce existing laws to deter individuals

from moving to and living on the streets of major towns and cities.

Update was provided on work currently underway on set up of rehabilitation centers to support young street dwellers struggling with drug use.

Minister Kiran shared referral pathways identified for rehabilitation and community integration.

The Ministers committed to strengthening Pathways for income-generating projects, housing solutions, and community reintegration programs to help these individuals reconnect with their village communities and build stable futures.

Minister Kiran emphasised the urgency of a collaborative approach to address the root causes of street dwelling and drug abuse.

"This is a crisis that requires a united front. By working together across ministries and engaging with community partners, we can implement effective initiatives that provide support, rehabilitation, and a pathway for these vulnerable youths to rebuild their lives," said Minister Kiran.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all Ministers to enhance coordination, expand intervention programs, and implement sustainable solutions to safeguard the welfare of Fiji's young people.

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



Deputy Prime Minister and acting Minister for Defence, Biman Prasad, with Fiji Navy Commander, Captain Timoci Natuva and Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Major General Jone Kalouniwei with other officials during the commissioning of the RFNS Timo. **Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR**

RFNS Timo added to Fiji's Navy fleet

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

THE Republic of Fiji Military Forces Naval Division is set to embark on a new era of maritime security with the arrival of RFNS Timo, a state-of-the-art vessel.

Marking the third Guardian-class patrol boat in the Fiji Navy fleet, RFNS Timo will play a pivotal role in safeguarding Fiji's vast waters, preserving its precious natural resources, and upholding regional security.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony this week, Deputy Prime Minister and acting Minister for Defence and Veterans Affairs, Biman Prasad said RFNS Timo would contribute to the protection of vital trade routes, ensure sustainability of marine resources, and defend the nation's interests far beyond our shores.

"Her presence will enhance our readiness, strengthen our partnerships with allies, and promote peace and stability in our region," DPM Prasad

said.

He said the recent surge in drug detections nationwide underscores the vital role of maritime security as the incidents indicated a delivery method that would have only been possible by sea.

"This RFNS Timo guardian patrol boat will greatly improve the capability of the Fiji Navy, which will be complemented by the Maritime Essential Services Centre and the C-27 Spartan Aircraft to ensure that Fiji responds effectively to natural disasters and increases naval and coastal rescue capabilities."

Acknowledging the Australian Government, DPM Prasad stated that the gifting of the RFNS Timo was a testament to the enhanced relationship between the two nations.

He urged the officers and crew of RFNS Timo to serve with honour, duty and loyalty.

"Your work will contribute directly to the defence of our nation, and your efforts will echo through the years, as future generations of sailors look to you as an example of excellence and courage."

Govt convenes Donor Roundtable Meeting ahead of 2024-2025 Budget Prep



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad opened the Donor Roundtable Meeting held at Novotel Convention Center, Lami Bay. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

THE Coalition Government aims to ensure that it is well-prepared to respond to crises with agility that goes beyond ensuring financial stability.

"We are dedicated to promoting economic growth, job creation, and income generation. This is the path to prudent financial, fiscal, and economic management, and one that the Coalition Government is dedicated to pursuing for the benefit of all Fijians."

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, made these remarks while officiating at the Donor Roundtable Meeting convened this morning at the Novotel Convention Centre in Lami Bay.

DPM Prasad said the Coalition Government considers this meeting as timely and critical to convene in view of preparations for the 2024-2025 Budget and to highlight and seek

support for Fiji's national development priorities.

He said sustainable national development requires a collaborative approach, where bilateral and development partners, along with the private sector, work alongside the government.

All development partners were acknowledged for their unwavering commitment towards Fiji's efforts in fostering sustainable economic growth, infrastructure development, and building human resources capacity for the people of Fiji.

DPM Prasad reaffirmed the Coalition Government's commitment to further strengthening partnership guided by the principles of mutual respect and meaningful collaboration to advance our common development priorities.

Fiji's post-pandemic economic recovery has been remarkable, with an estimated 3.8 per cent gross domestic product growth in 2024; and by the end of this year, Fiji's economy will have fully recovered, surpassing 2019 pre-pandemic GDP levels.

Importantly, DPM Prasad stated that the immediate priorities of the Coalition Government are to restore financial discipline, rebuild fiscal buffers, put the public debt situation on a path of sustainability, and reorient economic policies for sustainable economic growth.

(Source: Ministry of Finance)

Education at the heart of Fiji's development plan

Continued from page 1

The areas of concern in these schools identified in the report included:

- Overcrowding: 70 per cent of schools are overcrowded
- WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) facilities are in poor condition in most schools, and additional facilities are required, particularly for girls.
- Many school buildings are reaching the end of design life and are no longer fit for purpose.
- None of the 86 schools have adequate accessible infrastructure
- Over 50 per cent of schools are used as evacuation centres.

Mr McDonald announced that Australia will build new WASH facilities at all schools that have been identified as requiring additional facilities which means 42 schools across Suva and Nausori will receive new toilet blocks.

"In addition, Australia will also work with the Fiji Government to establish and staff a Project Management Unit within the Ministry of Education," he said.

He explained that the unit will accelerate Fiji's ability to deliver education infrastructure using its own funds by bringing technical expertise in procurement and project management.

National Sea Cucumber Census: A collaborative dialogue for sustainable management

By JAMIL SULEMAN

THIS month, the Research and Inshore Fisheries Management Divisions of the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry hosted a crucial dialogue with key partners: NGOs, academia and other stakeholders.

This interactive forum was designed to build a collaborative approach to implementing the National Sea Cucumber Census.

Sea cucumbers are essential to healthy marine ecosystems as it plays a vital role in nutrient cycling and maintaining sediment quality.

Moreover, they are a valuable source of income and food for many coastal communities. Sustainable management practices are therefore crucial for the long-term viability of sea cucumber populations.

The forum brought together expertise from a diverse range of organisations, including Blue Prosperity Fiji, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Conservation International

Fiji, Pacific Blue Foundation, USP, and the Pacific Community (SPC).

The Ministry of Fisheries emphasised the national importance of the census and presented the proposed work plan.

SPC provided a virtual overview of the methodology and the database that will be used. The Ministry is targeting the execution of the census in the coming months.

The dialogue proved to be a highly interactive session, addressing key issues and gathering valuable feedback.

Highlights included open discussions on the capacity, strategies, and resource requirements for the census.

Importantly, the forum incorporated the perspectives of traditional custodians on sustainable resource management practices.

The Ministry is committed to close collaboration with its line agencies and acknowledges the continued support of its partner organisations.

This collaborative spirit is central to achieving sustainable management goals for this vital marine resource.



Stakeholders engage in National Sea Cucumber Census. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fisheries programs to enhance sector's input

By PRASHILA DEVI

THE Ministry of Fisheries, with the core mission of sustaining, managing and protect all marine life and organism to ensure a healthy biodiversity, has progressed four gazetted Marine Protected (MPA) areas and 114 Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA).

Ministry's acting permanent secretary, Sanjana Lal, explained that over the years the Ministry has worked with coastal communities and other non-governmental organisations (NGO) in ensuring that proper conservation measures are undertaken to properly manage their resources.

"Furthermore, the Ministry has come up with seasonal ban on Groupers and Coral Trout during their breeding season to ensure that future population of the two species are not completely wiped out," she said.

Similarly, there are complete bans on harvesting of a few fish species that, according to Ms Lal, are listed under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as endangered species to safeguard them after surveys carried out confirming that their numbers are depleting.

On the assistance programs available, the Ministry has four allocations in its budget which the public can access.

These programs include the Food security Programme, the Commercial Aquaculture Programme, the Seaweed Development Programme and the Pearl Project under Bivalve and Shellfish Programme.

"These four capital programmes are usually accessible at the beginning of every financial year either through letter of request through the Director Fisheries office or through expression of interest process."

Ms Lal explained that there was no limitation to those that can access these programmes and the Ministry does encourage participation from women's and youth groups.

Assistance was also available through collaboration between various NGO partners and the Ministry works closely with coastal communities on various livelihoods assistance programmes.

In terms of legislation, the Ministry was working on reviewing certain acts and laws that governs fisheries like the enactment of the Aquaculture Act to relieve some pressure on coastal fisheries by shifting focus into inland fisheries.

On a broader scale, Ms Lal said there were a few international commitments that the Ministry through the



Republic of Fiji Military Forces Naval Division offers measuring for undersized crabs at the Suva Market. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fiji Government are a party to such as UN Fish Stocks Agreement, UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, UN FAO Port State Agreements, CITES, Convention on BioDiversity, UNSDGs, alignment to UNEP/UNESCO/ UNFCCC.

"The commitments ensures that the Fiji's voice and concern are being heard on these various platforms and forums lobbying for international recognition."

Furthermore, aligning and being party to these conventions also ensures that the SDG 14 goals are being met.

Joint operation leads to confiscation of undersized mudcrabs and protected shells

By JAMIL SULEMAN

EARLIER this month, the Ministry of Fisheries, in collaboration with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces Naval Division, successfully conducted enforcement spot checks in various fish markets in the Central division, addressing the sale of undersized mudcrabs, which is a breach of our Fisheries Act.

The Ministry received complaints regarding the selling of undersized mudcrabs, leading to the operation with the Fiji Navy.

This initiative supports the goal of sustaining and promoting a resourceful ecosystem for future generations.

A total of 95 undersized mudcrabs were confiscated and returned to the sea.

Triton and conch shells, which are also protected under the Fisheries Act, were confiscated as well.

Vendors found selling undersized crabs have



Republic of Fiji Military Forces Naval Division measuring undersized crabs. Photo: SUPPLIED

been cautioned by the Ministry to cease this practice, as the crabs need to grow and reach maturity before they can be harvested.

They were also advised to be mindful of the size limits in which crabs must be 12.5 cm or larger before they can be sold, to avoid future confiscations.

Fiji to participate as an Observer in the Commission on the Conservation of Southern Blue Fin Tuna and the (IATTC)

Fiji will participate as an observer in the following two tuna-Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (t-RFMOs):

- the Convention on the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT); and
- the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

The CCSBT is an intergovernmental organization established in 1993 responsible for the management of Southern Bluefin Tuna and ensure the conservation, management

and optimum utilisation of the species.

The IATTC was established in 1949 and is responsible for the conservation and management of the tuna and tuna like species, associated species and their ecosystems throughout the Eastern Pacific Ocean from Canada in the North to Chile at the South.

Fiji will initially engage as observers, with the potential of becoming members at a later stage.

(Source: Cabinet Office)

Assistance garners positive outcome for Nasavu community



Members of the Saioni Women's Club have welcomed Government assistance which has empowered them to make a difference in their community. Photo: JACKSON TUVICI

By JAMIL SULEMAN and JACKSON TUVICI

PEARL farmers in Nasavu village, Savusavu have put assistance of 23-foot fiberglass boat and engine by Government through the Ministry of Fisheries to good use and are reaping the benefits.

The assistance was handed over by the Ministry of Fisheries with the intent to assist the villagers in pearl farming under the Spat farming initiative.

Having formed the Nasavu Fisherman Co-operative, village headman Peni Koroi, said the timely assistance by the Ministry has had beneficial impact on the entire village in terms of pearl farming.

It was due to this assistance, Mr Koroi explained, that a plan was in the pipeline to construct a supermarket within the village under the cooperative which will provide employment opportunities for villagers of Nasavu.

He added that with the boat and engine, the women

in the village were also able to utilise it for fishing and as a means of transportation for the village.

The turaga-ni-koro thanked the Ministry for their assistance in starting up the Pearl Farming in Nasavu.

Head of the Saioni Women's Club, Ateca Tagiwaqa, shared similar sentiments and expressed her gratitude to the Coalition Government for their timely support.

"The Ministry of Fisheries has also provided us with essential equipment, including diving lights, which have greatly aided our efforts and offered women an additional source of income."

She highlighted that pearl farming has been an important source of income of the village and remarked that in their very first harvest, they earned \$10,000, which was utilised to construct a footpath for the village.

She added that plans are also underway to further develop the village by establishing a bakery for the women.

Nadarivatu Forest Park - central to conservation, environmental and socio-economic aspirations



Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Alitia Bainivalu, with Ministry officials and Nadarivatu community members at the opening of the Nadarivatu Forest Park. Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR

to establish Private Public Community Partnership (PPCP) for the management of such parks with a focus on the landowning communities to be running them.

This, the Minister said, will be an additional source of benefits to the landowning communities in terms of monetary returns that will further enhance their livelihoods.

The opportunities available through the park, says Miliakere Naisola, 61, of Waikubukubu village, will be beneficial for the youths and their family through the employment

"This park will benefit the village as a whole and other communities and the tourist that will guide them when they come for the visit in the new park," Mrs Naisola said.

Acting Conservator of Forest, Apisai Rainimala, said tourism being the main income earner for Fiji and bringing in the concept of conservation and at the same

assisting the communities to enhance their livelihood was one of the mandates of the Government.

"The plan in place is that when the visitors come- not just foreign visitors but our local visitors as well- to observe the significance of conserving our forest because we know forest plays a important role to us so our children now can also learn in the forest- the types of trees that we have in Fiji, the native trees and also very important for us iTaukei, the significance that we have with us and our natural resources," Mr Rainimala added.

Echoing similar sentiments, Minister Bainivalu said the park was not merely a space for passive observation; it is an interactive classroom where communities, schoolchildren, and visitors alike can engage with the intricate web of ecological processes.

"Environmental education, we believe, is the cornerstone of sustainable practices."

By PRASHILA DEVI

FIJI has far more to offer to its visitors than just sun, sand and sea as the highlands feature beautiful panoramic visuals and is home to unique flora and fauna, exotic birds and more.

The move to divert more tourists into the hilly hinterlands of the interior of the two main islands from the coastal areas will not only provide income opportunities into these less developed areas but will also create greater awareness on the animals and plants.

With this focus in mind, the Ministry of Forestry, collaboration with the local communities and partners, embarked on developing forest parks and the pristine Nadarivatu Forest Park.

Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Alitia Bainivalu, while opening the park, described it "as central to the fabric of our collective conservation, environmental and socio-economic aspirations".

"The Nadarivatu Forest Park, given its central location, is expected to become

a catalyst for further development in this area as it starts to attract visitors to this beautiful part of our country," she said as the park straddles three provinces- Ba, Ra and Naitasiri.

Nadarivatu is home to 32 different species of birds such as the unique Golden Dove, Giant Forest Honey Eater and Blackface Strike bill as well the Fijian Swallowtail Butterfly and Fiji Tree Frog.

"In the broader context of Fiji's environmental policies, the Nadarivatu Forest Park emerges as an important development in our nation's strategic approach to conservation, sustainable development, and climate action," Minister Bainivalu explained.

"At its core, this project aligns seamlessly with the priority areas set forth by our National Development Plan—elevating the livelihoods of resource owners, focusing on sustaining Fiji's natural resources to mitigate, and adapt to, the impacts of climate change, and contributing to economic recovery and growth."

Discussions are ongoing on the plan

Reversion of the Forestry Experimental Station in Tavakubu to original land-owning unit

Cabinet agreed that land reserved to the Forestry Department for experimental purposes (NG 187 part of), which is approximately 7 acres located within the Tavakubu cemetery extension, be reverted to Mataqali Nadakuvatu.

NG 187 was part of the land in Fiji bought by the then Colonial Government from the relevant land-owning units, with a total land area of approximately 3177 acres on 28 June, 1924.

In January 1999, Cabinet had approved the reversion of part of the land to the original landowning units on the rationale that the land

concerned was no longer needed for the original purpose it was intended for. The operationalisation of the decision took time due to interference from landowning units, delays in survey works, and poor record keeping.

With the survey now complete and registered, the land reserved for the Forestry Experimental Station Government facility will revert to its original landowners.

All active leases existing within the NG 187 remains with no loss of rights and will be administered by iTLTB.

(Source: Cabinet Office)

GCF approves US\$103m to strengthen early warning system

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved a historic grant of US\$103.2 million (FJ\$237.1m) to enhance multi-hazard early warning systems in seven climate-vulnerable countries.

Fiji will be one seven countries which also includes Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Chad, Ecuador, Ethiopia and Somalia who can tap into this funding.

This five-year initiative, spearheaded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and other partners, was set to benefit populations across these countries by improving risk assessments, enhancing forecasting capabilities, and ensuring that vital early warnings reach even the most remote and vulnerable communities.

The project, which has a total budget of US\$114.6m (FJ\$263.3m)—including US\$11.3m (FJ\$25.96m) in co-financing from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and national governments will significantly bolster resilience against climate-induced disasters.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Mosese Bulitavu, expressed his gratitude to the GCF

and other partners for supporting this ground-breaking global initiative.

“This is not just about forecasting disasters. In Fiji and across the Pacific, it’s about saving lives through timely and relevant information,” he said. “By investing in early warning systems, we are proactively safeguarding the livelihoods of thousands of people in Fiji and the region, who are on the frontlines of climate change.”

The project will be implemented in Fiji by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management (MRMDDM).

The approval of this project comes at a pivotal time for disaster risk reduction in Fiji, as the country has recently passed the National Disaster Risk Management Act 2024.

The Act focuses on preparedness and building lasting resilience, supported by science, technology, and innovation.

As climate risks intensify, the “Advancing Early Warnings for All” project offers a scalable model for other nations looking to improve their disaster preparedness and adaptation strategies.

(Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change)



Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Mosese Bulitavu, has welcomed the Green Climate Fund (GCF) grant that will be available to Fiji and six other climate vulnerable countries. Photo: SUPPLIED.

Ministry of Health cautions on dengue outbreak

By PRASHILA DEVI

THE Ministry of Health and Medical Services has called on the public to take dengue symptoms seriously and seek medical attention at the earliest as more than 1000 cases have been registered in the first two months of 2025.

Medical officer at the Valelevu Health Centre, Doctor Swatika Chandra, has urged anyone presenting symptoms of dengue to seek medical attention at the nearest health centre as complications can be life threatening.

Dr Chandra explained that dengue was spread by mosquitoes and it was normally during the rainy season from November-April that there was a spike in the number of cases.

The rainy weather plays a role in that it allows for breeding of mosquitoes in stagnant water collected due to the downpour.

“We have a surveillance system in place, so yes, we have noted an outbreak in the Western Division. In this surveillance system suspected, probable or confirmed cases are reported there which then goes

to our central team who analyse cases throughout Fiji,” she said.

“The threshold cases of dengue have gone up this year compared to last year, from January till date we have had more 1000 cases and this is mostly in the Western Division so yes we can say there’s an outbreak.”

Describing the symptoms, Dr Chandra highlighted as follows:

- Fever with high temperature
- Body pain/joint pain/pain around or behind the eyes
- Stomach ache
- Severe headache
- Vomiting
- Lethargy

She cautioned that severe dengue could cause complications which were life threatening and the patient can experience internal bleeding therefore it was imperative to see a doctor.

Dr Chandra explained that the doctor can advise whether blood tests was required and determine whether patient needs admission.

“If for more than three days your fever does not come down then you should get to a health centre. It worrying that people

take painkillers to treat themselves, please don’t take that, see a doctor at the earliest.”

Ministry’s senior health inspector, Vineshwaran Rama, said since the mosquito population goes up after heavy rain as the eggs are laid on stagnant water collected in tyres, drums, pot plants and other vessels it was important to act quickly.

“Within a week the mosquito matures into adults so it’s important that right after rainy weather, yards are cleared as even leaves collect water, so that spawning of the mosquitoes are curtailed,” Mr Rama

said.

He added that even grass should be trimmed and any rubbish/debris should be cleared at the earliest so that mosquitoes do not hover.

Dengue mosquitoes, Mr Rama said, were sensitive and once it bites an infected person it will carry the infection to the next person so as soon as the symptoms manifests itself, visit the doctor as soon as possible.

“Finally, I would advise the public to keep themselves safe by using repellent and so on.”



Dengue Clean-Up Campaigns

THE Suva Health Office carried out a successful Anti-Dengue Clean Up campaign at Veiraisi Settlement on last week Saturday.

The team had conducted house to house inspection, issued abatement notices for non compliances to the Public Health Act prior to the campaign.

Community members of Veiraisi came out in numbers and theyt

filled three skip bins right up to the brim.

The health team concluded the campaign by providing refreshments for the participants and they acknowledge Carpenters Shipping for the provision of skip bins and the Fiji Police Force for their continuous support.

Meanwhile, Health Inspectors from the Tavua Medical Sub-Division spent their Valentine’s

evening progressing with their Dengue Clean Up campaign.

The staff continued with their mosquito spraying and also house-to-house awareness.

Mosquitoes tend to fly around at night therefore, the team were ready with their spraying machines.

(Source: Ministry of Health and Medical Services)



President opens 2025 Parliament Session



The President, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu opened the 2025 session of Parliament by outlining this year's development priorities of the Coalition Government recently.

The President, Ratu Naiqama also used his parliamentary address to announce the Government's legislative agenda for 2025, which included the review of the 2013 Constitution.

"Government's legislative agenda is quite ambitious but necessary to drive economic growth, enhance national security and includes the critical review of our Constitutional Framework to reflect the evolving aspirations of our people.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



President and the First lady attend Waitangi Day Celebration

The President Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, and First Lady Madam Emily Lalabalavu attended Waitangi Day celebrations at the New Zealand High Commissioner's residence recently.

Also present at the event were the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, cabinet ministers, senior officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

In accordance with diplomatic practice, the Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposed the official toast at the celebration.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Furniture a boost for Naqara Primary School students



Students of Naqara Primary School in Naqara Village, Ono, Kadavu received much-needed classroom furniture which included desks and chairs recently.

The school, which has a school roll of 50 students, had been experiencing difficulties due to the lack of adequate furniture, which has impacted students' learning.

Handing over the furniture, the Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Sakiusa Tubuna stated that the provision of the classroom furniture would significantly benefit the students of Naqara Primary School in terms of their academic achievements.

Photos: JAMIL SULEMAN



Media plays vital role in bridging gaps

"Radio unites people, exceeds borders, fosters peace, gives a voice to the voiceless, provides a forum for diverse views, and communicates during both crisis and calm."

The Assistant Minister for Information, Aliki Bia, highlighted this while speaking at the conclusion of the Pacific Media Partnership Conference 2025 in Suva recently.

The 13th of February was also marked as World Radio Day-an annual celebration observed globally.

Photos: JAMIL SULEMAN



New bridge ‘bridges’ gap for Naseyani community

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Fiji Government is committed to providing long-term investments towards Fiji’s future generations.

And in marking a milestone, students, teachers and community members of Naseyani village situated in the province of Ra are now benefiting greatly from the opening of a new bridge.

In commending the timely initiative of the Government, school teacher Ashneel Gounder said that previously, the students as well as the teachers had to cross the river to get to the school early in the morning.

“Sometimes it’s really cold in the morning and children have no choice but to walk through the cold water to get to their classes and back home. This has been our daily struggle for the past 10 years since I started teaching here,” Mr Gounder highlighted.

“The village members had put up some walkways in the past but unfortunately when the water levels rise and causes flooding, the walkways would wash away and we would be back to square one.”

“When we were presented with this challenge due to adverse weather conditions, we would miss coming to the school with the children which contributed to low roll in the school,” he added with disappointment.

Mr Gounder expressed his joy for the new bridge at Naseyani as it will now make things so much easier for everyone in the community.

“I felt really bad seeing the children cross flooded waters as they are as young as in Year 1 and they get their uniforms



Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Alitia Bainivalu with community members of Naseyani Village during the commissioning of the new bridge. Photo: KATARINA NAQARASE

wet almost every time,” he explained.

“It’s great that we have a bridge which the teachers and students can make use of and we can finally say that the wait is over not only for the people crossing but also for the vehicles to enter Naseyani safely.”

Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, Ro Filipe Tuisawau, in opening the Naseyani Bridge said the bridge, which cost \$3.2 million to build, will provide the people with seamless access to essential services, including schools and hospitals, enhancing the quality of life for everyone in Naseyani.

“This bridge connects the villages of Nananu and

Narauyaba No.2 to Kings Road, benefiting a community of approximately 200 people, while this road also connects the interior of Rakiraki District and Saivou District in the Ra Province, facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services between these areas,” Minister Tuisawau said.

“We are not only celebrating infrastructure development but also a commitment to the resilience and sustainability of our communities.”

“The bridge is designed to withstand the extreme weather conditions that our country is prone to, providing a safe and reliable crossing for the people of Naseyani,” he added.

Centre empowered to attract global students



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka with the Fiji National University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba and the chief executive officer for the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies at Charles Sturt University, Australia, Professor David Widdowson, following the opening of the Pacific Centre for Border Management and Security Facility at the Fiji National University, Namaka Campus in Nadi. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE opening of the Pacific Centre for Border Management and Security Facility at the Fiji National University (FNU), Namaka Campus in Nadi, brings world-class training and expertise to Fiji.

This initiative was made possible in partnership between the Fiji National University, the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) of Canberra, Australia, and the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO).

It is through this centre that the university is investing in education and training that directly impact national security, economic

development, and regional stability.

In opening the facility, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, highlighted that the facility represents a bold step forward in strengthening border management and security, which are critical to ensuring national stability, facilitating trade, and protecting our borders.

“As a regional hub, this centre will equip Border Management Agencies and Discipline Forces with the specialised knowledge and skills necessary to address the complex and evolving challenges of our modern world,” DPM Gavoka said.

“This centre is a tangible

outcome of partnerships, and it will serve as a platform for fostering collaborative solutions to the common challenges we face in border management, security, and trade facilitation.”

“Education and training are at the heart of this initiative and the centre will equip individuals working in border management, customs, and national security with the expertise and skills needed to combat evolving threats.”

“By providing specialised education and training, we are building a sustainable, well-prepared workforce that will serve as the backbone of our security sector,” DPM Gavoka added.

This initiative also aligns with FNU’s commitment to

delivering world-class education that supports the government’s National Development Plan, fostering economic growth, regional stability, and national security.

The chief executive officer for Centre for Customs and Excise Studies at Charles Sturt University, Australia, Professor David Widdowson, speaking at the event said that effective border management plays a vital role in a country’s security and prosperity.

“The centre is not just for customs but also biosecurity, immigration, maritime enforcement and not just for public sector agencies but private sector as well such as the custom brokers and freight forwarders,” he said.

“It’s about protecting the country from harmful goods, ensuring that those who enter the country do so lawfully, facilitating trade to help boost the economy’s inward investment and above all, protecting the nation’s sovereignty.”

“Also, it is not just for Fiji, but will attract students from the broader area of the Pacific and I have no doubt we have already had some very keen inquiries from the Caribbean,” he added.

The flagship of the Centre is Bachelor of Border Management which is accredited by the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels. WCO has now accredited 24 university programs to date and there are currently two bachelors programs which are delivered in English – one in Australia and now one in Fiji.

Cabinet endorses development of regional centres for Met services

By AZARIA FAREEN

Nadi will be home to a new Regional Training Centre and Regional Instrument Centre for the Improvement

of Meteorological Services and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific project.

This follows cabinet endorsement of the establishment of the Centre at the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) headquarters.

In partnership with the Government of Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency, the \$1.739 billion Japanese Yen (FJD 25 million) project will significantly improve meteorological services and disaster preparedness in Fiji and the Pacific region.

The FMS is crucial for national safety and well-being and provides vital data on weather, climate, and water resources, as well as issue forecasts and warnings that help people stay informed and take necessary precautions, particularly during natural disasters and periods of challenging weather.

The FMS in the 2024-2025 National Budget was allocated \$8.1 million to cater for these services.



CWMH PIP report launch



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, receives the Colonial War Memorial Hospital Priority Infrastructure Planning (PIP) Report from the Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, Ewen McDonald. Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

DEVELOPMENT at Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH) is set to receive a \$14.5 million investment from Australia for infrastructure upgrades. Speaking during the launch of the CWMH Priority Infrastructure Planning (PIP) Report recently, Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, Ewen McDonald, said the funds would target projects identified in the Plan. The CWMH PIP includes a list of infrastructure upgrades required to enhance patient experience and ensure continued delivery of high-quality healthcare.

Mr McDonald said the upgrades identified in the plan allows the current hospital to be operational until a new hospital was realised. “Australia is thrilled to have partnered with Fiji Government to deliver the Priority Infrastructure Plan,” Mr McDonald said. “While the Plan is critical, it is only the first step-it cannot by itself deliver improvements in patient care.” Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, attributed poor maintenance planning and work over the past years as the main reasons for the dilapidated state of public infrastructure such as at CWM Hospital. PM Rabuka said the implementation of the recommended actions and works

in the report would ensure that the existing CWM Hospital continued to serve the people for the next few years while the structural and layout works continue until the new CWM Hospital becomes operational. He urged everyone to continue supporting the Government’s efforts in improving the health services including critical infrastructure such as the CWM Hospital. The PIP was compiled by technical team of experts and infrastructural engineers, after a thorough assessment of the existing infrastructure.

Establishment of a project management unit

In a bid to expand Fiji’s ability to deliver health infrastructure, Australia will work with the Fiji Government to establish and staff a project management unit within the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. “This Project Management unit will accelerate Fiji’s ability to deliver health infrastructure, including at the CWM Hospital, using its own funds by bringing technical expertise in procurement and project management,” Mr McDonald stated. “At the core of our renewed and elevated Vuvale Partnership is a commitment to listen and respond to each other’s priorities.”

High Commissioner of India plans to do more for Fiji

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

THE High Commissioner of India to Fiji, Sunect Mehta has emphasised growing opportunities for collaboration between Fiji and India, highlighting major projects in healthcare, education, and climate resilience. One of the recent key collaborations between the two nations is a new 100-bed super-specialty hospital, aimed at addressing Fiji’s healthcare needs and reducing medical costs. Shedding light on the Fiji- India relation, Mr Mehta described the relationship as deep and historical. “We have people-to-people ties,” he stated. Over the years, India and Fiji have been close partners in terms of development assistance, particularly in the fields of health, education, renewable energy, and capacity building. “You name it (the field), we are partners with Fiji and we want to do more with our friend, partners and stakeholders to see how we can meet the requirements and demands of the growing Fijian economy and society. “So there are great opportunities and I, as High Commissioner, have this task to see how we can collaborate more.” He said they were planning to undertake more projects in Fiji. “In education space as well, we want to do more, we want to build more climate-resilient projects, whether it helps in agriculture like the agriculture drones or providing vehicles.” “We had the two Prime Ministers (Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and Fiji’s Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka) meet at the sidelines of the FIPIC Summit in May 2023 and Prime Minister has given a 12-point plan of doing more projects in the entire Pacific nation so we are committed to doing more.”

Fiji-UK relations enhance



Second Secretary (Political) of the British High Commission (BHC), Isaac Greenwood, Executive Assistant at BHC Ms Samantha Montanari, British High Commissioner to Fiji, Dr. Brian Jones, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Rajjeli Taga, Principal Foreign Service Officer Ms. Alisi Pulini and Principal Research Officer of Fiji MFA, Laiakini Waqanisau. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fiji and the United Kingdom (UK) have reaffirmed strong commitment to enhance bilateral relations and development cooperation in climate change, defence and security, economic prosperity, regional peace and solidarity. This affirmation was noted at a meeting convened between the newly appointed Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr Rajjeli Taga and the British High Commissioner to Fiji, Dr Brian Jones. The discussions highlighted Fiji and the UK’s joint efforts to expand support to Fijians serving in the British Army, with appreciation expressed for the Fijian soldiers for their dedication and service to the British Army. The UK will support Fiji in the professional capacity building programs which includes the coordinated effort with Fiji Ministry of

Foreign Affairs (MFA) in training the Fijian diplomats on policy skills, diplomatic communication and leadership. Dr Taga reasserted Fiji’s continued commitment to further elevate the cooperation levels, through close collaboration between Fiji MFA, the British High Commission and Fiji’s High Commission in the United Kingdom. The UK pledged its support for Fiji’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission and outlined the legal and communications support they would provide. The discussions also highlighted the UK’s support for Fiji’s efforts in combating illegal drug abuse through the Fiji Police Force (FPF) and the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS), in sharing intelligence, training and support to identify, target and stop illegal drugs and those who traffic them internationally and locally.



Head of European Union (EU) delegation to Fiji and the Pacific, Ambassador, Barbara Plinkert and Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr Rajjeli Taga, (closer to the Fiji flag) with the officials from Delegation of the EU to the Pacific and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Photo: SUPPLIED

EU support to expand in climate and economic resilience

THE European Union (EU) looks forward to expand support for Fiji through provision of funding and technical support in areas such as climate change and disaster risk reduction, economic resilience, trade and investment, human rights, democracy and good governance. This was discussed at the meeting by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs permanent secretary Dr Rajjeli Taga, from the Ambassador of the EU to the Pacific, Barbara Plinkert. Dr Taga said that Fiji looks forward for the next Partnership Dialogue with EU, anticipated to be convened later this year. This will be an avenue for Fiji and EU to take stock of the bilateral relations and further elevate engagement at regional and international status. Ambassador Plinkert said EU looks forward to participating in the upcoming Pacific Islands Forum Leaders (PIFLM) meeting this September in Solomon Islands and was planning to hold an EU-

Pacific Business Forum back-to-back with PIFLM. The EU supports Fiji’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) by providing the capacity building support to the TRC and its secretariat. This cooperation reflects Fiji and EU’s shared objectives in pursuit of human rights, democracy, peace and security. Fiji also benefits from the second phase of the regional programme ‘Pacific Partnership to End Violence against Women and Girls – Phase II’ for which the EU allocated EUR 8 million (programme started in January 2024). It is implemented by UN Women in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC). EU further looks forward to supporting the Hydropower development in Viti Levu, Fiji – Vatutokotoko and Qaliwana reservoirs project. Additionally, Fiji will also be beneficiary of the Pacific Trade and Sustainable Development Programme (Pac-TSD), which aims to enhance EU-Pacific economic partnership.

Tax compliance is key to national development: DPM Prasad

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

EVADING taxes is not only an unfair act towards fellow citizens, but also a violation of the trust placed in the system.

This was the comment made by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, while speaking at the Gold Card and Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) membership renewal ceremony in Suva earlier this month.

“While the vast majority of our taxpayers are honest and pay their taxes on time, we unfortunately still see cases of tax

evasion. I understand that Fiji Revenue and Customs Services (FRCS) is strengthening its compliance efforts, and to those who think they can escape the system: you will be caught,” he stated.

In recognising the 77 Gold Card members of FRCS, he said these members contributed 57 percent of the total revenue collected in 2024, totalling to \$1.7 billion.

“I also want to encourage all Fijians to follow your example, paying your taxes is not just a legal requirement, but a means of supporting our national development goals,” he stated.

DPM Prasad said that taxes were crucial

for national development and governance.

“Taxes fund public services—everything from education, healthcare, and social welfare, to infrastructure such as roads, ports, and clean water systems.

“Without taxes, our Government cannot function or provide the vital services that we all rely on. Taxes are at the heart of national development and governance.”

Launched in 2012, the FRCS Gold Card program was introduced to provide priority and privileged services to companies that consistently meet tax compliance requirements.

FRCS further advanced its commitment to business excellence by establishing the Fiji Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Framework in 2018.

DPM Prasad said that seven gold card companies had been accredited as AEOs so far.

“These companies are recognised as ‘trusted traders,’ demonstrating exceptional compliance, sound financial management, strong internal controls, and robust supply chain security.”

Government Guarantee for the Fiji Development Bank

Cabinet endorsed a Government Guarantee for the Fiji Development Bank (Bank) borrowings from 1 March 2025 to 28 February 2026 (guarantee period).

There will also be an increase in the Government guarantee ceiling from \$130 million to \$190 million for the period of March 2025 to February 2026.

The current Government guarantee for FDB’s borrowings for a sum of \$130 million for the 12-month period from 1 March 2024, will end on 28 February 2025.

The guarantee is for borrowings through the issuance of short- and long-term bonds, promissory notes, term deposits and any RBF financing facility and other short-term borrowings.

First redeployment of funds within the 2024-2025 Budget

Cabinet endorsed the first redeployment of funds within the 2024- 2025 Budget to cater for the additional expenditure demands of FJ\$ 28,087,026 (VIP) for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Local Government.

A sum of \$23.0 million will be redeployed to supplement the \$37.0 Transport Assistance allocation under the Ministry of Education. The additional \$23.0 million is to meet Government’s commitment to fully subsidise the increase in bus fares for both blue and yellow cards effective from 1 September 2024.

The Ministry of Local Government will be provided \$4,087,026 to make payments for the completion of works at Govind Park, and \$1.0 million to supplement the \$500,000 already allocated in the 2024-2025 Budget for preparatory works for the Local Government elections.

Funds have been redeployed from allocations that had savings due to the delay in the implementation process for these ongoing projects which had resulted in the slow utilisation of funds by the respective agencies.

(Source: Cabinet Office)



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, at the Gold Card and Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) membership renewal ceremony in Suva recently. Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR

Widow elated to be finally a homeowner

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

“I MISS my husband and I wish he was here.”

These were the sentiments shared by 62-year-old, Seruwaia Vere, who was one of the fortunate 36 recipients of the two-bedroom flat under the Lagilagi Housing Project on January 29, 2025.

Despite the new flat bringing happiness and security, the lingering shadow of sadness surrounded Ms Vere as she felt the absence of her husband.

“My husband passed away four years ago and I miss him because he was supposed to be here too,” she shared.

After residing in Jittu Estate for 11 years, Ms Vere’s family finally got a home of their own.

“I’m so excited and happy that after 10 years, I have got a new house.”

“I am very glad and happy that I got a secured house to live in with my two

daughters and a granddaughter.

“I faced many challenges at my previous house as whenever its raining or hurricane season, I would be scared that my house will be damaged or collapse.

“Now, in my new house I won’t be scared anymore.”

A total of 36 families were handed over occupancy offer letters at the Lagilagi Housing Estate on January 29 by Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka.

The Lagilagi Housing Project was initiated more than a decade ago by the People’s Community Network Charitable Trust, to provide low-cost housing for families currently living in informal settlements, particularly in Jittu Estate.

Citing urgent need to complete the unfinished units, the Government, through Cabinet’s endorsement in January 2024, transferred the project to the Public Rental Board (PRB).



Seruwaia Vere poses with her granddaughter after being named one of the recipients of the two-bedroom flat under the Lagilagi Housing Project on January 29, 2025. Picture: WANSHIKA KUMAR

President announces Government’s legislative agenda



The President, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, (in the middle) with Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka (right) and Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, Filimone Jitoko, during the reception at State House to mark the opening of the 2025 Parliament Session. **Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR**

By NANISE NEIMILA

IN opening the 2025 Parliament Session, the President Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu has set the tone for Government’s legislative agenda for this year including the review of 2013 Constitution. After inspecting the 100 men guard of honour, the Head of State addressed Parliament where he outlined this year’s development priorities of the Coalition Government. “Government’s legislative agenda is quite ambitious but necessary to drive economic growth, enhance national security and includes the critical review

of our Constitutional Framework to reflect the evolving aspirations of our people. “This review will ensure that our supreme law aligns with the principles of inclusivity, fairness, and justice. We invite all citizens to participate in this process, for a constitution must reflect the aspirations of its people.” On the economy, President Ratu Lalabalavu noted that while Fiji has returned to the pre-pandemic level of growth, he expressed the confidence that the economy would do better than the current growth projections of 3.4 per cent in 2025. “We have the capacity to grow at 5

per cent in terms of natural resource endowment, human resource capacity and opportunities in the international trading environment. The National Development Plan will provide a sustainable path for the implementation of policies both in the short and long term. “We must work together to strengthen our governance institutions and decision-making machinery to ensure that we can easily respond to changes, rather than continue with “business as usual. Our policy response must be robust and timely to ensure better sequencing and harmonization of our collective efforts.”

President Ratu Lalabalavu also spoke about Government’s plans to improve and upgrade our public health facilities, review the Education Act and enhance public safety and national security. This will include the review of the Police Act and the Illicit Drugs Control Act. He also raised the issue of online bullying as well as the need for transformational leadership in his address to open the 2025 session of parliament today. President Ratu Lalabalavu also spoke at length about Fiji’s collective vision, “a vision that is centred on progress, prosperity and unity.”

Noda Viti

Vakaraubuka, 28 ni Veverueri, 2025 | 8 Drauniveva, 2 Tabana 16 ni Lavelave ni Ivola

TOSO NA KENA
VAKADIKEVI NA
YALAYALA NI KORO

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 3



TALADRODRO NA WAI
NI GUNU E MALAKE

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 6



Kena i sevu ena Colo North



Minisita ni Qoliqoli kei na Veikau o Hon Alitia Bainivalu, Na Turaga na Tui Naboubuco, Turaga na Tui Nadrau kei ira na taukeni vanua mai na Colo North ena dola ni Nadarivatu Forest Park. TABA: Wanshika Kumar

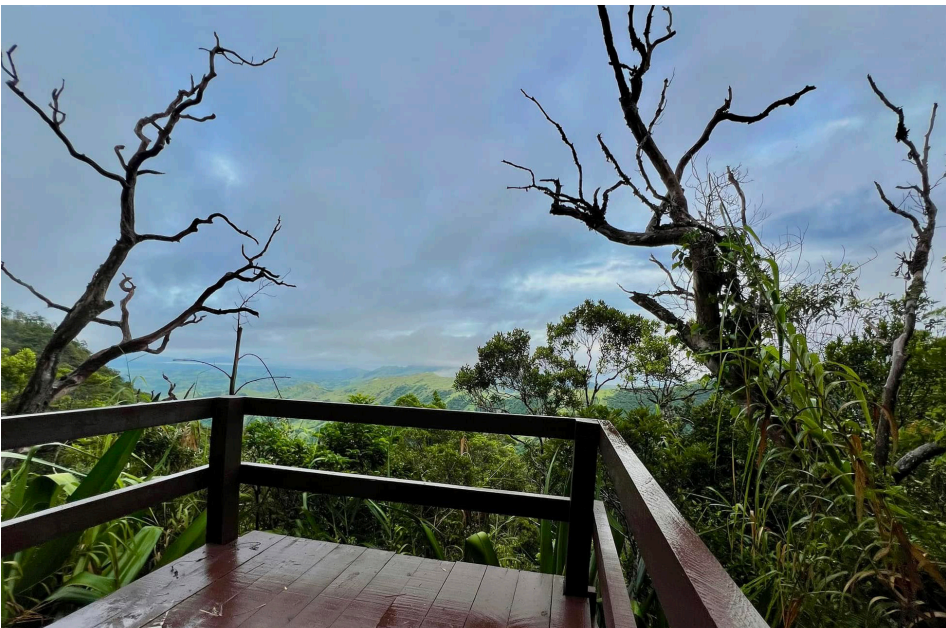
Esa rawa vei ira na lewenivanua mera taleva ka vakadinadinataka na talei kei na totoka ni vanua o Nadarivatu. Mera na cabeta na kena veidelana, sirova na kena veiqakilo, silima na kena veiuciwai, sarava na ka rogoca na domodra na veimanumanu ka vaka kina na na kena rawa ni sikovi vanua ni sarasara e rua o Kauloa kei Lomalagi. Nai tukutuku oqo e vakaraitaika na Deputy Conservator ena Tabacakacaka Ni Veikau o Apisai Rinamalo. Na vanua oqo eso na vanua era dau guilecavi tu rawa ni vakatokai mera buwawa tu ena veivakatoroicaketaki. Esa cavu i kalawa na Tabana ni Veikau ena kena sa sagai mera maroroi na veikau mena rawa nira sikova ka vurevure talega ni lavo vei ira na lewe ni vanua. “Naveivakatoroicaketakini Eco Tourism esa mai dola nikua sai tekitekivu ni dua na veivakatoroicaketaki vou ena vanua qo o Nadarivatu.”

E vakavinavinakataka o Rinamalo na Matanitu Levu ena kena mai soli e dua na uma i lavo levu me mai vukea na nodra gagadre na Itaukeni Qele. Esa tuvutuvaka kina me rau na cakacakavata na Matanitu kei ira na Taukeni Qele ena nodra sagai mera vueti cake ena vuku ni rawaka vakailavo vei keda na itaukei ni iyaubula. “Na noqu rai ena vuku ni saravanua kei ira na Tako kei na Lavo ni oqo e rawa ni vurevure ni lavo, ena rawa nina maroroi talega kina na neimami tovo kei nai vakarau ni bula ena nodra gole tiko mai na saravanua mera mai vakadinadinataka”. E vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Qoliqoli kei na Veikau o Hon Alitia Bainivalu ni kena mai dolavi na Nadarivatu Forest Park esai vakaraitaki ni cakacakavata kei na yalodina mena rawa ni maroroi kina na noda iyaubula .Me vaka ni sa kena I karua ena noda vanua esa semata saraga e tolu na yasana lelevu ena noda vanua oka kina o Ba, Ra ka vaka kina na

Yasana o Naitasiri. “Na cakacaka oqo e salavata kei na tuvatuva levu ni Matanitu(National Development Plan)ena kena tarai cake na nodra bula na Itaukei, ira na taukeni Iyaubula ka vakanamata ena

kena tokoni mena vorata na revurevu ni draki veisau ia ena tokona na noda bula vakailavo.

Talanoa: Fiji Government.



Na vanua ni sarasara e Nadarivatu ka rawa ni vurevure sara talega ni lavo kei na cakacaka.. TABA: Tabana Ni Veikau kei na Qoliqoli

Me lesu tale mada na Matanitu ena kena i tuvatuva ni veiqaravi iliu

Era kalougata na noda era vakaitikotiko ena vanua levu o Santa Rosa ena matanitu o Amerika nira bau laki veitalanoa kei nai liuliu ni noda matanitu o Hon Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka enai tavi bibi ni matanitu ka vaka kina nai tuvatuva e gadreva me vakayacora na Matanitu Cokovata ena loma ni rua na yabaki oqo.

“Levu na gaunisala vovou, vale vovou, iyau vovou ni matanitu eda tara sa sega ni vakavinakataki tiko mai oira na sa tu main vakabalavu”.

E vakabibitaka o Hon Rabuka na bibi ni veitauriliga ena kena tokoni na veivakatoroicaketaki ni matanitu mena vinaka kina oira na noda ka vaka kina oira na muri mai. E kuria nisa vakabibitaki sara tiko na vuli ka da raica ni lewe levu era sa rawata na nodra vuli, sa ra rawa cakacaka talega kina. E vakavinavinakataki ira talega na noda era vakaitikotiko e Santa Rosa na nodra dodoliga ena kena vukei na noda vanua ena veivakatoroicaketaki.

E levu sara na vanua e sikova na noda Paraiminisita ena kena vakadeitaki tiko na veitokani ni

matanitu e rua. Erau laki sota ka veitalanoa talega kei na US Congressman kei ba Chair ni Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus Mr Ed Cse ena siti levu o Washington ka dua na ulutaga e rau vakabibi taka sai koya na veidinadinati ni matanitu e rua.

E tuvatuva tale tiko ga na Matanitu o Viti ena vuku ni veitokoni vakailavo ni matanitu o Amerika, erau laki veitalanoa o Hon Rabuka kei na U.S Acting Under Secretary State o Ms Diane Farell ena Tabana Vakailavo ni Matanitu. E tiki talega ni veitalanoa na vakavinavina me baleta na Google kei na Starlink ena tabana vakalivaliva e Viti (ITC).

E tiko talega ni veitalanoa na Fiji- US Air Transport Agreement ka da raica kina na kena sa mai tavoca na Fiji Airways na nona vuka ki Dallas ena Tiseba ni 2024. Oqo es dua na cavu I kalawa ena kena toso mai vakayauiyau na saravanua kina noda vanua ena gaunisala ni veivoli mena tosoi kina na veivakatoroicaketaki.

Talanoa: Fiji Government



O Hon Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka na U.S Acting Under Secretary State o Ms Diane Farell ena nodra siko na noda Paraiminiista kina matanitu o Amerika. **TABA: Fiji Government.**

Laiseni ni musukau ena mataqali o Mataono

Na Mataqali o Mataono e dua na mataqali mai na koro ko Draiba, tikina o Namataku ena loma ni Yasana o Nadroga Navosa. E dua nai tuvatuva levu e ratou vakarautaka sai koya na kena golevi ratou yani nai tuvatuva ni veivakatoroicaketaki ni Tabana ni Veikau ena noda vanua.

E a mai soli kina ena Mataqali o Mataono na laiseni ni musu kau ena loma ni vitu na yabaki. Na kau oqo na Vaivai e dua na kau e sautu sara ena vanua vanua vakaturaga o Draiba. E ra veitokoni yani na Dayals Sawmillers Pte Ltd ena kena musu na kau mena vakatoroicaketaki kina na bula ni lewe ni vanua. Era vakamacala tiko e dua na lewe ni mataqali o Mataono o Aminiasi Buroro na usutu levu ni nodratou sasaga.

“Na bisinisi ni musu kau keitou vakacivativatiko e gadrevi tiko ga na kena vakacokotaki na neimami dui matavuvale ka vu mai ena vakasama ni musu na kau”.

E na kena mai soli na laiseni ni musu kau e dau soli tiko me dua ga na yabaki mena qai dau vakavou taki tiko ena veiyabaki. Me vaka nai tuvatuva e tiko ni

dodonu mena vukei eso na vuvale ena kena tara na nodra dui vale. E laurai nisa mai tara e 3 na vale ka vaka kina e dua na porokaramu e ratou cakava sai koya na kena tara na vale mera gade mai kina na gonevuli mai na matanitu o Niusiladi, Ositerelia kei na matanitu levu o Merika ka vakatokai tiko me (backpackers).

“Nai lavo e dau rawati mai ena musu kau esa rawa kina vei keitou me voli e dua na katavila ka vaka kina e vica na manumanu mena rawa ni vukei tiko kina na sasaga oqo”.

E na vuku ni kena biu mai na Backpackers esa rawa ni toso kina na saravanua ena nodra dau sikova mai na noda vanua. E na tuvatuva ni mataqali e ratou biuta kina e \$110 dua na gonevuli oqo e dua na sala ena kena sagai mena vukea na nodra vakatoroicaketaki na lewe ni mataqali o Mataono. E vakadeitaka o Mataono na vakavinavina kina Matanitu ka vaka kina na Tabana ni Musu Kau ena vuku ni nodra vukeintu na lewenivanua ena colo ni vanua o Navosa.

Talanoa: Katarina Naqarase



Na vanua ka ratou sa biuta vata na lewe ni mataqali o Mataono me nodra vanua ni vakacagiciagi na gonevuli mai na veiyasai Vuravura ka vakatokai na Backpackers. **TABA: Tabana Ni Veikau kei na Qoliqoli**

Toso na kena vakadikevi na Yalayala ni Koro.

Esa vakadonua na Bose Yaco ena kena toso na kena soveya taki na veiyalayala ni koro me tolu tale na yabaki. Na Vakadidike e dua na tuvatuva levu ni Itaukei Land Management Unit (LMU) ena ruku ni Veitarogivanua, Wai kei na Qoliqoli ka kena i naki me tauyavutaki na kena vakaivola taki, tuvani, vakalawa taki ka vakatoroicaketaki ka tauyavutaki talega na Geospatial Unit ena kena maroroi vakalivaliva nai tukutuku ni qele vaka Itaukei. Ena yabaki 2023, 662 mai na 1152 na koro esa soveuya taki oti ka sa vakacurumi talega ena GIS System ka 490 na koro ese bera ni soveya taki.

Na Usutu ni Vakadidike ni Yalayala ni Koro sai koya mena :

- Vakarawarawataka na veiqa-ravi ni matanitu, me vaka na veivaka-valetaki, vuli, ka vaka kina na porokaramu ni Tabacakacaka Ni Bula
- Me veisotavi ka vakarautaki

na koro mai na veileqa tubukoso

- Vakavinakataki na Railesuvi na Siteseni ni Veikau e Tavakubu kina Taukeni Qele Dina.

Sa vakadonua na Bose Yaco ni Qele e soli vei ratou na Tabana ni Veikau (NG 187) ka rauta ni 7 na eka e tiko ena yasa ni bulubulu e Tavakubu mesa suka lesu kina Mataqali o Nadakuvatu.

Na uma qele oqo (NG 187) e tiki ni qele ena noda vanua ka volia na matanitu va Koloni (Colonial Government) ka rauta ni 3177 eka ena 28 ni Jiune 1924.

Ena Janueri ni 1999, sa vakadonuya kina na Bose Yaco na kena suka lesu eso na uma qele kina kena i taukei dina ka laurai nisa sega ganiti ena kena i naki dina. E taura e dua na gauna balavu na kena vakayacori me vaka ni levu na veitalanoa mai vei ira na itaukei, ka vakabera kina na cakacaka ka vaka kina na kena i volatukutuku.

Sa mai vakacavari na kena soveya taki



Na Minisita ni Tabacakacaka Itaukei, Tovo kei na Iyau Vakamareqeti Hon Ifereimi Vasu era vosa tiko ena bibi ni Solesolevaki enai tikotiko e Korovou Macuata.

na qele, sa maorori tu kina Tabana ni Veikau (Forestry Experimental) ka na lesu tale vei ira na taukeni qele. Na Lisi

kece ena NG 187 e sana qarava na Tabacakacaka ni Qele Maroroi.

Vakalesui na qele ena Vanua o Vitogo



Esa vakadonua na Bose Yaco ena kena sa vakalesui tale na 3,177 na eka na qele kina lima na mataqali ena vanua vakaturaga o Vitogo. E soli na veivakadonui oqo ena kena sa mai vakacavari na kena soveya taki. Na wasewase ni qele e vakatokai me NG 187 e vakarautaki me dabe kina na taqe ni wai e Saru/Tavakubu ena vevakatoroicaketaki e Lautoka ena gauna e liu. Mai na 1982 sa mani toki kina Vaturu Dam mei vakaso ni wai ena Siti o Lautoka. Ena yabaki 1999 na matanitu na SVT sa vakadonuya na kena suka lesu tale na qele ka mani bera na kena vakayacori ni dodonu me vakayacori e dua na soveya me rawa ni matata kina na kena qaravi. Ia sa mai vakacavara na Matanitu Cokovata na veika kece sara ka sa suka lesu tale kina kena itaukei dina.

E lima na mataqali esa mai suka lesu na nodratou qele oka kina na mataqali o

- Tunuloa
- Matarisiga (Vitogo)
- Vidilo
- Nadakuvatu
- Noi Batiri (Namoli)

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU: TABANA NI QELE KEI NA IYAUBULA

Inaki ni itaukei development facility me kauta mai na veisau



ITAUKEI LAND TRUST BOARD

Sa balavu na noda dau tuvatuva tikoga na iTaukei ena vakasama vakabisinisi ke dredre me vakaduri cake.

Qo na vuni kena tauyavutaki na iTaukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF) me vukica na noda tatadra kei na tuvatuva ni veivakatoroicaketaki me vakavotukana.

Oqori na veika e varaitaka na Vunilewa ni Matabose ni Qele Maroroi (TLTB) Solomone Nata vei ira na lewenikoro ko Drekeniwai, Navatu mai Cakaudrove.

Mai qaravi edua na veivakararamataki ena vanua ko Naqorovakarua ni oti na kena qaravi na Bose vaka manidia ni TLTB e Drekeniwai.

Varaitaka o Nata ni naki bibi duadua ni kena tauyavu na TDFF me vakarawarawataka vana i taukei era volai ena Vola ni Kawa Bula mera rawa ni taura vaka dinau e dua nai lavo me vukea na nodra

bisinisi ka dau vakadredretaki mai vei ira na vei baqe tale eso ena vukuni ni kena dau gadrevi mera dau sauma edua nai vakadei ni dinau (loan deposit).

“Tauyavu na TDFF me vukei keda sara-ga na iTaukei me rawa ni vueti keda ena kena vakayatagaki na noda qele kei nai yaubula nai taukei me vurevure ni noda vakatoroicaketaki ka valuti kina na bula dravudravua.”

Ni oti e 84 na yabaki ni kena dau soli na qele me lisitaki, kumuni nai sauni lisi ka wasei tale yani vei ira nai taukei ni qele, sa vakarabailevutaka na nona vei qaravi na TLTB me rawa ni sotava na nodra gagadre nai taukei ena buturara ni bisinisi.

VUREVURE NI TUKUTUKU: TABANA NI QELE MAROROI

TABA: TABANA NI QELE MAROROI

36 na yabaki ni wawa e Saliadrau



TABA: Fiji Government

Era malaude na leweni koro o Saliadrau ena loma ni yasana o Namosi ena vuku ni kena sa vakavotukana na nodra gagadre ena kena sa mai vakayacori na vakasobu duru ni wavu vou. Enai ka 18 ni Janueri, 2023 esa ciqoma kina na matanitu nai tukutuku ni sa vakailavotaka na matanitu o Japani na tara ni wavu ena loma ni koro. Esa dua na gauna balavu ena kena sagai tiko mai ka sa mai vakadinadinataki ena siga nikua. Ena 17 ni Janueri 2025, sa qai mai digitaki tale e dua na kabani vou na Silverstone PTE Limited koya sa ratou cacakaka tiko kina qo me mai vakavotukanataki na gagadre ni tara wavu ena lomanikoro.

E mai dua na nona I vakamacala o Ro Ela Kaloumairana marama ni Saliadrau ka vasu ena koro ko Navunikabi ena loma ni yasana o Namosi. O Kaloumaira e ciwa taucoko na luvena ka 3 na makubuna “Au meu kaya tiko vei kemudou na luevequ au ta toka na va na vanua ni vakasobu duru baleta o ira na noqu I lala vakabibi mada o Tamai tou kea se dua na usutu ni wavu qoi, 2022 sa mai biubiu o tamai tou kau sa mai tu taudua tu qoi me yacove tu

mai na gauna nikua”

E kuria o Kaloumaira ni qai gauna ni tau ni uca era sa dau vakaloloma, ni levu na wai era na sagai ira mera yaco ki tai. Era dau vakayagataka na Tube, sa dua na gauna balavu ena kena vosoti tu mai na dredre ia ena kena sa mai vakayacori na vakasobu duru esa dua na marau levu vei keimami.

E vakaraitaka na Turaga ni Koro e Saliadrau o Kusitino Vuata mai na gauna era bula donumaka mai na qase e dua na bula dredre sara ena vuku ni kena takosovi tiko na uciwai mai vei ira na gonevuli, marama, kei ira na turaga ena nodra dfau lako I taoni era sotava tu na rarawa, mosi, turu tu na kena wainimata ena nodra takosova tu na uciwai ena vuku ni dredre era sotava vakabibi enas gauna ni draki ca.

“Keitou donumaka talega na veikacivi ni Kalou ena lomanikoro, keitou sotava na dredre mani viri na kena bilibili me davo kina na yago ni mate me rawa ni keitou vakauti koya ki tai”.

Era vakaraitaka na leweni koro na nodra marau ena vuku ni kena sa cavu I kalawa

na matanitu ena kena sa dodo na liga ni veivuke mesa tekivutaki na wavu vou.

“Dua na marau levu e yacovi au, ka tarai au talega na luluvu ni vaka nise qai ka tolu ni yabaki ni noqu turaga ni koro ka sai matai talega ni veivakatorocaketaki me yaco mai e lomanikoro”.

E vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni Veikorolelevu, Veiyatu Yanuyanu kei na Leqa Tubukoso o Hon Sakiasi Ditoka nisa tu enai tuvatuva levu ni matanitu na kena raici vakatautauvata na nodra qaravi na lewenivanua.

“Vakavinavinakataki na veitokoni ni lewe ni vanua, na kena tokoni na cacakaka ni veivakatorocaketaki oqo, oka takega kina na kena tokoni na liga ni cacakaka(contractors) e ratou sa veiqaravi tiko ena kena sagai me vakavotukanataki na sasaga se project oqo”.

Era bau mai vakadinadinataki na Gone Turaga na mata ni matanitu ko Japani ki Viti ko Rokuichiro Michii kei na Turaga na Minisita ni veivakatorocake taki ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu ko Sakiasi Ditoka na dredre era sotava tiko mai na lewe

ni vanua ko Saliadrau.

Era vakaraitaka na nodra marau kei na nodra vakavinavinaka na Gone Turaga na Vunivalu na Tui Namosi ki na matanitu e rua ena nodra nanumi tiko na kawa bula ni vanua ko Nabukebuke.

Vakaraitaka na Mata ni matanitu ko Japani ki Viti ko Rokuichiro Michii ni sa tu vakarau na vanua ko Japani me na vukei keda na lewe i Viti ena kena sagai me sotavi na dredre.

Na veivuke e vakagolei mai na Matanitu o Japani e rauta ni \$214,013.66 ena ruku ni porokaramu ka vakatokai na “Japans Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects”.A cau talega na matanitu e rauta ni \$370,000 ka kena I tekivu ni cacakaka sa mai vakayacori oti tiko na ta vou ni gaunisala (107m) mai na main road kina yasa ni uciwai. “

Talanoa: Katarina Naqarase



Tavoci nai tuvatuva vou ni tabacakacacaka iTaukei



Na kena laki tavoci na ituvatuva vou(Strategic Development Plan) ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei kei na Matabose ni Veikavakaitaukei kina nodra Momo Levu na Tui Sabeto e Nadi. **TABA: Tabacakacaka iTaukei**

Era a tavoca na ituvatuva vou(Strategic Development Plan) ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei kei na Matabose ni Veikavakaitaukei na Momo Levu na Tui Sabeto Ratu Viliame Mataitoga ena nodra itikitiko e Erenavula.

Oqo ni mai oti na nodra a kerei vakavanua mai vua na iTalai ka Minisita ni Veikavakaitaukei, Tovo kei na iYau Mareqeti Hon Ifereimi Vasu ena vanua o Betoraurau. Ena nodra vosa na Minisita Vasu e kaya ni mai na ituvatuva levu oqo sa qai mai dabe na Tabacacaka iTaukei me segata me dreta mai ka tuvana na vei tuvatuva eso, me rawa ni vakadeitaka kina na veituberi, veivakavulici kei na tarai cake ni kawa iTaukei.

E tomana ka kaya ni da sa lako curuma tiko e dua na gauna bolebole ka sa gadrevi kina na yalomatua, vuku kei na raivotu ena kena tuvanaki vakamatau, vakamaqosa na ka e baleti keda ena vesiga bolebole sa tu e matedewa na HIV/AIDS, leqa ni rawa-ka vakavuli ni iTaukei, rawa ka ni noda bula raraba, kei na levu ni noda iyau-bula ia e tikoga na bula dravudravua.

E tomana ka kaya ni ituvatuva oqo ena tataqomaki talega kina veika vovou ka na basika mai ena lima na yabaki mai oqo.

Vurevure ni Tukutuku: Tabacakacaka iTaukei

“Au sa kerea kina na veimasulaki ni nodatou vanua ena tikina bibi oqo”.

Vurevure ni Tukutuku: Tabacakacaka iTaukei

VAKADURIA MAI NA GCC

1. TAUYAVU NA KENA LAWA
2. SA VAKARAUTAKA ,VAKA IYARAGITAKI
3. TOMANI NA VAKAVINAKATAKI NI VALE NI BOSE
4. VAKARAUTAKI OTI NA YAVUTU NI KENA CICI.
5. CIQOMA NA SOLI NI YASANA
6. VAKARAUTAKI NA I VOTAVOTA NI
 - TURAGA NI YAVUSA
 - MATA NI TIKINA
 - TURAGA NI KOROR
7. ME VUKEA NA VAKAQACOTAKI NI BULA VAKAVANUA
8. VAKATAWANI NA ITUTU NI VEILIUTAKI VAKAVANUA
9. VULI NI SAUSAUVOU
10. SAUVAKI VANUA
11. VEIVAKARARAMATAKI VEIVAKATIKORI NI VEI TUTU VAKAVANUA
12. DIKEVI OTI NA TABACAKACAKA ITAUKEI
13. DIKEVI OTI NA VEITAROGI VANUA KEI NA IQOLIQOLI
14. SA NA DIKEVI NA TABANA NI QELE MAROROI
15. OQO ME SEMA MAI ENA ITUVATUVA NI GCC
16. TUVANAKI NA VILLAGE BY LAWS ME VUKEA NA VAKAKAUWATAKI NI NODA BULA VAKORO SA DIKEVI TIKO VAKALAWA

Taladrodro na wai ni gunu e Malake

Na wai e dua na ka bibi ena noda bula na tamata. Me vaka nida vakayagataka ena veitavi kece sara eda qarava ena veisiga esa dodonu meda raica mena savasava vakavinaka ka maroroi vakavinaka .Ena vakadidike e ratou vakayacori e laurai ni 60% na wai e gadreva na yagoda ena veisiga. Esa cavu i kalawa kina na Tabana ni Wai ena noda vanua ena kena tovolei mera na qaravi kece vakatautauvata na lewenivanua. E da vakadinadinataka ena kena sa lai dolavi na paipo ni wai ni gunu savasava ena yanuyanu o Malake ena loma ni Yasana o Ra.

E vakaraitaka na Turaga ni Koro e Malake o Luke Salagi na vakavinavinaka levu kina Matanitu ka vaka kina na Tabana ni wai ena vuku ni veivakatoroicaketaki es qaravi rawa ena loma ni koro. Era vakila na vakacegu nira kila sana tekivu gunuva tale na wai savasava vakauasivi na nodra qaravi na marama kei na gonevuli.

“Keimami sa mai sotava e dua na vakacegu levu me vaka iliu keimami dau vakayagataka tu ga na toevu , so



Na Minisita ni Veiqaravi, Veilakoyaki kei na Draki o Hon Ro Filipe Tuisawau kei na Turaga na Tui Navitilevu Ratu Emori Bolobolo kei ira na marama ka ra marautaka na kena sa dola tale na wai ni gunu. **TABA: Katarina Naqarase**

na gauna era qai dau gole yani mera lai taki sa maca na toevu, ia ena gauna oqo keimami vakavinavinakataka na veiqaravi ni matanitu kei na Tabana ni Wai e Viti ni rawa ni mai sotavi na leqa ni maca ni wai e Malake”.

E vakaraitaka na Minsita ni Veiqaravi, Veilakoyaki kei na Draki o Hon Ro Filipe Tuisawau ni sasaga oqo e tekivu mai ena 2015 ka mai davo kina nai ma-

tai ni Submarine ka da raica ni kauta mai e dua na vakacegu vei ira na lewe ni yanuyau me vaka nira dau gunu tuga ena toevu mai na gauna I mada ka vaka kina na wai mai na tau ni uca.

“Na sasaga oqo e sega walega ni baleta nai yaya ni cakacaka e vakamatatataki talega kina na yavudei ni kena gadrevi me vanua tudei o Viti ka mena sega ni dua e guileca ena vuku ni porokaramu

ni veivakatoroicaketaki”.

Na porokaramu ni Malake Submarine e tiko na kena isau vakailavo ena \$1.1 na milioni ka rawa nira vakayagataka na lewe 645 na lewenikoro.Ni oqo e tiko ena loma ni tuvatuva levu ni matanitu enan kena sagai me qaravi vinaka na lewenivanua e Viti.

Talanoa: Katarina Naqarase

Wali na leqa ena takosovi ni uciwai

E marau na vanua o Vatukaloko ena nodra I tikotiko na Turaga na Tui Vatu ena vuku ni kena sa mai dolavi nai kawakawa vou e Naseyani. Nai kawakawa oqo e rauta ni \$3.21 na milioni na kena i sau vakailavo. Nai kawakawa e semata na koro e Nananu ka vaka kina na koro ko Narauyaba ka rawa nira vakayagataka e 200 na lewenivanua. E veisemati talega ena colo ni vanua o Rakiraki, kei na tikina o Saivou ena loma ni Yasana o Ra.

“Keirau marau vakalevu ena vuku ni kena sa mai dolavi nikua na wavu oqo, kila ni ra sana sega ni sotava na dredre na gonevuli ena koro ko Naseyani, mai liu vuqa na gauna era sa sega ni dau yaco yani ki koronivuli.”

Na nodrau I vakamacala na veiwatini qasenivuli e Naseyani Primary School o Ashneel Goundar kei Madhu Goundar ka sa oti qo e 10 na yabaki na nodra veiqaravi voli vakaqasenivuli e na vanua vakaturaga o Vatukaloko.

Keimami vakavinavinaka vakalevu

ena vuku ni kena sa cavu I kalawa na matanitu cokovata ena nodra nanumi mai na gonevuli e Naseyani ka vaka kina na lewenivanua ena nodra gole ena kena lakin volitaki na nodra I voli me baleta na bula ni vuvale. E na kena dau raici na nodra takoso na gone ena veisiga e tuburi keda na loloma ena vuku ni kena sotavi na tau ni uca me vaka nira lalai sara ka so talega era se tiko ena Sova ni Vuli.

E vakaraitaka o Penaia Serida na Turaga Ni Koro e Naseyani ni ratou se vakadavo kawakawa ga ena gauna e liu na Fiji Pine ena vuku ni kena sagai me vakau na paini ka sa mani vakacacana tale na wai. Era vakavinavinaka na lewenivanua ena vuku ni kena nanumi me vakadavori take dua nai kawakawa vou.

“Keimamai marau taki nia vakalevu na yavusa e rua o Mali kei Nakorosago na kena vakarawarawataki na veiqaravi ena vuku ni kawakawa mai dolavi ena siga vinaka nikua, dina ni dua esa mai



Ashneel Goundar kei Madhu Goundar ka rau veiqaravi tiko vakaqasenivuli e Naseyani ka serelaka tiko na dredre erau sotava ka vaka kina oira na qasenivuli ena loma ni 10 na yabaki. **TABA: Katarina Naqarase**

kacivi na nona bula enai kawakawa oqo ia au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena veika esa mai saravi nikua.”

E vakaraitaka na Minisita ni Veiqaravi, Veilakoyaki kei na Draki o Hon Ro Filipe Tuisawau ni kena mai dolavi

nai kawakawa esa veirauti vinaka kei na veidraki veisau e sotavi ena noda vanua, ka laurai talega ena nodra taqomaki na lewe ni vanua o Vatukaloko.

Talanoa: Katarina Naqarase

“Tudei na luvequ ena Toso ni bisinisi”



Na vuvale nei Pita Sesenabaravi kei na Minisita ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu Veiyatuyanuyanu kei na Leqa Tubukoso o Hon Sakeasi Ditoka ena vuku ni kena soli na waqa ka veivuke kina na Matanitu. **TABA: Jamil Suleman**

“Dina nisa mai yali na tina ni vuvale ia keitou yalo vakacegu ni vaqo na kena I rairai ni solia na Matanitu e dua na veivuke vaka e taucoko mai na bula ni qaravi tavi nodra vakatoroicaketaki na gone lomani matavuvale”.

Na nona mala ni vosa o Pita Sesenibaravi mai na koro ko Nadranu, ena tikina o Namena ena loma ni Yasana o Tailavu ka dua vei ira na lewenivanua era vukeyi ena porokaramu ni Matanitu mai na Minisitiri ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu Veiyatuyanuyanu kei na Leqa Tubukoso ena ruku ni porokaramu ni SEA (Sea Entrepreneurial Assistance Programme). Na porokaramu oqo ena veivuke sara vakaevu vei ira na vakaitikotiko ena Taudaku ni koro lelevu.

Na nona veiqaravi voli ena loma ni bai ni koronivuli mai Matavatou ena loma ni 22 na yabaki e sega ni guce o Sesenibaravi ena nona tokoni ratou voli na nona I solisoli ena kena vakayagataki na waqa me rawati mai kina eso nai voli me rawa kina na bula ni vuvale e ratou sega ni namaka ia e ratou duavata ena kena tomani tiko ga nai tavi esa mai qaravi tiko.

“Ni oti ga e 4 na siga sa cabe mai na Turaga Talai ena Wasewase e Loma, ka

taroga seu se vinakata tiko na waqa, au sega ni suka I muri niu kila ni vurevure ni bula ena loma ni matavuvale vakauasivi ena qaravi vuli”.

“Au vakadinadinataka ni dua na vurevure vinaka mai wai sara qaravi vuli sa ra yacova na gone na vuli torocake sara cavu I sausau na gone ena loma ni matavuvale, ra qaravi tiko e Vulinituraga vakauasivi ena neitou dau rawaka mai wai”.

Na kena mai rawati na dua nai ka tolu e rawati saraga mai ena 2 na waqa e ratou sa dau vakayagataka tiko. Eda na raica kina na bibi ni kena gadrevi na yalo ni maroroi ka mena rawa ni mai vurevure tudei ni bula. Ena kena sa mai soli tale na waqa oqo esa dua na cavu I kalawa levu ena kena sa tomani tiko ga na tokoni ni matavuvale yadudua. Dua talega na tikina bibi e ratou raica sai koya na nodra sagai mera kua ni coriti na gone ena waigaga sa tu ena gauna nikua.

“Au via taura na gauna oqo meu vakavinavinakataka na matanitu me vaoqo na kena I rairai, au veivakauqeti talega vei ira na noda ni tadola tu na katuba ni veivuke ena noda veiyasana, ka me tu talega vei keda na yalo ni dau sasaga.

Talanoa : Katarina Naqarase

Mera yadrava nai tubutubu na Nodra i tavi



Na vuvale nei Pita Sesenabaravi kei na Minisita ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro Lelevu Veiyatuyanuyanu kei na Leqa Tubukoso o Hon Sakeasi Ditoka ena vuku ni kena soli na waqa ka veivuke kina na Matanitu. **TABA: Jamil Suleman**

Era laki vakaitavi nai vukevuke ni Minisita ena Valenivolavola ni Paraiminisita o Hon Sakiusa Tubuna ena soqo ni nodra vakacoba pini mera veiliutaki (Prefect Induction) na gonevuli ena koronivuli na Basden College e Newtown. E vica na ulutaga e ra vosa tiko kina sai koya na bibi ni nodra kila nai tubutubu na nodra I tavi ena nodra vakarautaki na gone ki koronivuli.

Na Matanitu e dau vakabibitaka na Vuli ena veiyabaki kece sara ka laurai ni votai e dua nai wase ni lavo levu kina Tabacakacaka ni Vuli, oqo ena nodra vukeyi ena lesu ki vuli. E laurai ni se luluqa tiko ga na nodra tokoni na gone ena nodra qaravi tavi vakavuli.

“Au via vakauqeti keda tiko nai tubutubu ena vuku nika eda sa raica tuqo, levu na bolebole eda sotava, sa levu na bukete dole, na HIV, waigaga ni veivakamatenitaki sa curuma na noda vanua ka vaka kina na noda veikoro-

koro, kau na via kerei keda kina nai tubutubu na kena vakabibitaki na bula vakamatavuvale”.

E kuria o Hon Tubuna nisa dodonu me kila nai tubutubu na vanua era dau gole nai solisoli, levu na leqa esa yaco mai e vu saraga mai ena kena sa kasere na bula vakavuvale, so na gauna e sa dau beitaki tale eso ena vuku ni leqa ia esa dodonu mera kila deivaki na nodra dui tavi. Mera yadravi ena nodra cakaca e koronivuli, vuqa na gauna esa dau nodra I tavi kecega na qasenivuli ia saka bibi mera kila nai tubutubu ni dodonu mera vakaukauwataka na vuli. Sa vakanuinui vinaka tu o Hon Tubuna nira na cavu isausau na gonevuli e Basden College ena veika vivinaka. Mera sa kua ni moce nai tubutubu ena veika esa yaco wavoki tiko ena gauna nikua, ka sa dodonu me vakabibitaki talega na lotu ena veimatavuvale yadududa.

Noda Viti

Vakaraubuka, 28 ni Veverueri, 2025, 8 Drauniveva, 2 ni Tabana, 16 ni Lavelave ni Ivola | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijiGovt Fiji Government

Dolavi na Bose Lawa ni 2025



Na Peresitedi ni Noda Vanua Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu ena kena mai dolavi na Bose Lawa ena 2025. **TABA: Fiji Parliament**

“E sega ni vaka kina vei kemudou, ia ke dua vei kemudou e vinakata me laveti cake, me vulica me nomudou dauveiqaravi, ke dua vei kemudou e vinkata me liutaki kemudou, ia me me vaka madae dua na bobula vei kemudou, me vaka na luve ni tamata nona lako mai e sega ni mai qaravi , ia e dauniveiqaravi , ka mai solia na nona bula mw kedra I volia e lewe vuqa”.
Esa mai dolava na Peresitedi ni Noda Vanua na Turaga na Tui Cakau His Excellency Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu na

Bose Lawa ni 2025. Era tekivu ena voleni vakaivalu ni bera nira mai tauca na nodra vosa ena loma ni Bose Lawa. Na veiliutaki e dodonu meda biuta livi na duidui ka da solia na noda vinaka kina nodra bula na noda lewenivanua. “Vaka nanumi keda ena dua nai vosa-vosa , kevaka iko via vakatotolo , lako taudua, kevaka o via gole vakayawa dodonu meda lako vata”. E ra vakabibitaka ena kena laveti cake na veiqravi ni Tabana ni Teitei ka vaka kina na kena vakabibitaki na cicivaki ni bisinisi ena noda vanua(MSME). E vakabibitaki talega na kena vakavinakataki na noda gaunisala, nai kelekele ni waqa, tabana ni livaliva ka vaka kina na tubu

vakailavo ena noda vanua.
E na raica na matanitu kei na Minisitiri ni Qele kei na Iyabula na kena biu mai na National Groundwater Resources Development Management Policy, esa na raici lesuvi talega na kena saumi ni qele me ena veivanua me vaka taki

- Domain(Taukeni Qele e Su-vavou)\
- Mataqali Ketenatukani kei Vido ena koro ko Namoli
- Mataqali Nadala, Naivitini kei Nabuilevu e na koro ko Nadala.

“Au via vakaraitaka talega na na kena sa walia na matanitu na 33 na yabaki ni nodra sotava na dredre na cakacaka ena Vatukoula ka ra se vakacegui tu mai ena

1991”.
Na kena mai tavoci e tolu na yavu lelevu ka vakatokai na National Fisheries Policy 2024-2028, Aquaculture Development 2024-2028 kei na Aquaculture Act 2024 ena kena sagai me maroro na noda sasalu ni waitui. E vakaraitaka talega na kena vakatoroicaketaki na veitaoni
“Da veitauriliga taka vata ka da toso me rawa ni dua na vanua kalougata ka sautu na noda vanua, kau sa vakanui-nui vinaka tu ni dua na yabaki vinaka ni veiqravi ena Bose Lawa ena yabaki oqo”.

Talanoa: Katarina Naqarase

फ़ीजी दर्पण

Friday February 28, 2025 | 8 pages | Issue 2 Vol 16 | www.fiji.gov.fj | @ FijiGovt |

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प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने सुरक्षा सम्मेलन में प्रशांत क्षेत्र की सुरक्षा चुनौतियों को प्रमुखता दी।



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 3 पर

नया नसेयानी पुल-एक बुनियादी ढांचे से कहीं अधिक है।



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर

एक सौ छियालिसवीं गिरमिट दिवस इस साल लम्बासा में आयोजित किया



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 7 पर

फ़ीजी और भारत ने विकास योजनाओं पर चर्चा की



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने भारत के विदेश मंत्री माननीय डाक्टर सुब्रहमंयम जयशंकर से मुलाकात की

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

फ़ीजी और भारत आर्थिक समृद्धि, जलवायु और देश के विकास जैसे प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाना जारी रखेंगे। जर्मनी में 61 म्यूनिख सुरक्षा सम्मेलन के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका और भारत के विदेश मंत्री माननीय डाक्टर सुब्रहमंयम जयशंकर के बीच द्विपक्षीय बैठक के दौरान इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला गया। बैठक के दौरान सौ विस्तरों वाले सुपर स्पेशियलिटी काडियोलोजी अस्पताल, सुवा

में भारतीय उच्चायोग चांसरी और भारतीय संस्कृतिक केंद्र के निर्माण सहित योजनाओं पर चर्चा हुई थी। यह योजनाएं फ़ीजी और भारत के बीच मज़बूत द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को दर्शाती हैं। प्रधान मंत्री ने पिछले कई वर्षों से फ़ीजी को भारत के निरंतर समर्थन तथा दोनों देशों के बीच का संबंध है जो मज़बूत संस्कृतिक समानताओं पर आधारित है की सराहना की। दोनों पक्षों ने फ़ीजी और भारत के आपसी हित और लाभ के विभिन्न मामलों पर भी बातें की। इसके साथ, फ़ीजी में भारत के उच्चायुक्त

महामहिम श्री सुनीत मेहता ने दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग के बढ़ते अवसरों पर जोर दिया है, तथा स्वास्थ्य सेवा, शिक्षा और जलवायु में प्रमुख योजनाओं पर प्रकाश डाला। फ़ीजी-भारत संबंधों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए श्री मेहता ने इस संबंध को गहरा और ऐतिहासिक बताया है। उन्होंने कहा, “हमारे लोगों के बीच आपसी संबंध हैं।” पिछले कई वर्षों से भारत और फ़ीजी विकास सहायता, विशेष कर स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा जैसे क्षेत्रों में साझेदार रहे हैं। “चाहे आप किसी भी क्षेत्र का नाम ले, हम

फ़ीजी के मंत्रियों और साझेदारों के साथ और अधिक काम करना चाहते हैं, ताकि हम देख सकें कि हम फ़ीजी की बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था और समाज की आवश्यकताओं और मांगों को कैसे पूरा कर सकते हैं। “इसलिए बहुत अच्छा अवसर है और उच्चायुक्त के रूप में, मेरे पास यह कार्य है कि मैं देखूं कि हम और अधिक सहयोग कैसे कर सकते हैं।” “ शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में भी तथा जलवायु के मामले पर योजनाएं बनाने में हम और काम करना चाहते हैं।”

राष्ट्रपति ने संसदीय बैठक का उद्घाटन किया

रोनल देव

फीजी के राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू नईगामा लालाम्बालावू का कहना है संसद केवल बहस करने का भवन नहीं है, बल्कि आशा, प्रगति तथा लोकतांत्रिक भावना का प्रतीक है जो हम सभी को एक व्यक्ति, एक राष्ट्र तथा एक भाग्य के रूप में बांधता है। इसी सोमवार चौबीस फरवरी को साल की पहली संसदीय बैठक का उद्घाटन करते हुए राष्ट्रपति ने गठबंधन सरकार की इस साल की मुख्य विकास योजनाओं की रूपरेखा पर प्रकाश डाला। इस संसदीय भाषण में राष्ट्रपति ने घोषणा की कि सरकार इस साल किन-किन कानूनों या विधान पर पुनः विचार करना चाहती है जिनमें देश का 2013 संविधान भी शामिल है। “सरकार द्वारा विधान में संशोधन लाने वाली योजना काफी महत्वकांक्षी है लेकिन आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देने, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को बढ़ाने के लिए ज़रूरी है और इसमें हमारे लोगों की उभरती आकांक्षाओं को प्रतिबिंबित करने के लिए हमारे संवैधानिक ढांचे की महत्वपूर्ण समीक्षा शामिल है। यह समीक्षा इस बात को ध्यान में रखेगी कि हमारा सर्वोच्च कानून, सभी को बराबर हक दें, किसी का पक्ष न ले और न्याय के सिद्धांतों के अनुरूप हो। हम सभी नागरिकों को इस प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने के लिए आमंत्रित करते हैं। देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर राष्ट्रपति ने प्रकाश डाला कि फीजी की प्रगति कोविड से पहले वाले स्तर तक पहुंच गई है तथा इस साल अनुमान है कि वो और बेहतर प्रगति यानि 3.4 प्रतिशत तक जा सकता है। हमारे पास प्राकृतिक संसाधन बंदोबस्ती,

मानव संसाधन क्षमता और अंतराष्ट्रीय व्यापार वातावरण में अवसरों के मामले में पाँच प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ने की क्षमता है। राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना नीतियों को लागू करने के लिए एक स्थायी मार्ग प्रदान करेगी। हमें अपने शासन संस्थानों और निर्णय लेने वाली मशीनरी को मजबूत करने के लिए मिलकर काम करना चाहिए ताकि यह तय हो सके कि हम हमेशा की तरह व्यवसाय जारी रखने के बजाय परिवर्तनों का आसानी से जवाब दे सकें।” हमारे सामूहिक प्रयासों की बेहतर अनुकूलन और सामंजस्य सुनिश्चित करने के लिए हमारी नीति प्रतिक्रिया मजबूत और समय पर होनी चाहिए। राष्ट्रपति ने सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं

को सुधारने, एडुकेशन एक्ट में संशोधन लाने तथा आम जनता की रक्षा और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा बढ़ाने की सरकार की योजनाओं पर भी प्रकाश डाला। इनमें शामिल है पुलिस एक्ट तथा इलिसिट ड्रग्स कोन्ट्रोल एक्ट में संशोधन लाना। राष्ट्रपति ने इस साल संसदीय बैठक की शुरुआत वाले अपने भाषण में ओनलाइन बदमाशी तथा एक दूसरे को सताने के साथ-साथ परिवर्तनकारी नेतागिरी की ज़रूरत का विषय भी उठाया। उन्होंने फीजी के अधिकांश लोगों की दूरदर्शिता पर प्रकाश डाला, एक ऐसा नज़रिया जो प्रगति, खुशहाली और एकता पर केन्द्रित हो। राष्ट्रपति ने एक कवि, कलाकार और फिलोसफर खलिल जिवरान की कहीं हुई बातें दोहराई कि विकास केवल उसपर प्रकाश

डालने से नहीं होता बल्कि उसकी ओर काम करने से होता है। सरकार विकलांग व्यक्तियों सहित सभी नागरिकों के लिए मतदान के अधिकार को सुविधाजनक बनाने और संधि दायित्वों के बिना अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए चुनावों के लिए कानूनी ढाँचे की समीक्षा को प्राथमिकता दे रही है। “कानून, न्याय, शासन और मानवाधिकार क्षेत्र साझेदारी ढाँचा सभी फीजी नागरिकों को प्रदान किए जाने के लिए एक व्यापक दृष्टिकोण की पहचान करेगा और विकसित करेगा। राष्ट्रपति ने यह भी कहा कि न्याय मंत्रालय बेन्करप्सी एक्ट तथा जन्म और मृत्यु तथा विवाह वाले एक्ट की भी समीक्षा करेगा।



राष्ट्रपति महामहिम रातू नईगामा लालाम्बालावू ने संसद का उद्घाटन किया

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

हरविन्दर को डेयरी फार्म में मिली भारी सफलता

शीलता सिंह

हरविन्दर सिंह तीसरी पीढ़ी के किसान हैं जो ताईलेवु में जै सिंह एंड संस फार्म का गर्व से संचालन करते हैं। यह एक ऐसा नाम है जो गहरा पारिवारिक महत्व रखता है। साठ 60 साल पहले उनके दादाजी द्वारा स्थापित इस फार्म की शुरुआत डेयरी फार्मिंग से हुई थी, जिसके साथ छोटे पैमाने पर कसेरा और डालो की खेती भी की जाती थी। पिछले कुछ सालों में हरविन्दर के परिवार की देखरेख में यह फार्म खूब फल-फूल रहा है। अपने पिता की जगह लेने के बाद, हरविन्दर ने परिवार की विरासत को जुनून और साहस के साथ आगे बढ़ाते हुए इसकी कमान संभाली। खेत को बेहतर बनाने के लिए हरविन्दर की प्रतिबद्धता अटूट है। खेत से अक्सर दूर रहने के बावजूद, वह लगातार कई तरीकों, विशेषकर बछड़े पालन जैसे क्षेत्रों में जानकारी हासिल करते रहें हैं। जै सिंह एंड संस फार्म में कई पशुओं को पाला गया है, जिसमें आठ सौ बीस गायें शामिल हैं, जिनमें से दूध देने वाली दो सौ दस गायें हैं, लगभग एक सौ सत्तर बछिया और सूखी गायें हैं, बैल और बछड़े हैं। इसके अलावा, फार्म में एक सौ बीस भेड़ और एक सौ तीस बकरियाँ हैं, जो इसे एक विविध और जीवित कृषि केंद्र बनाती है। खेती में भी कई चुनौतियाँ हैं। हरविन्दर को चोरी, टीबी की उच्च लागत और दूध की कम कीमतों जैसी समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है, लेकिन इन बाधाओं के बावजूद

वह अटल रहे। स्थानीय नस्लों के साथ कीवी कोस, जर्सी, आयरशायर और फाइसन कोस गाय प्रतिदिन लगभग एक हजार छः सौ 1600 लीटर दूध देती है। उन्होंने थनों और स्तनदाह जैसी चुनौतियों की पहचान की है और उनका समाधान किया है, जिससे यह सुनिश्चित हुआ है कि उनकी गायों को आवश्यक दवा और देखभाल मिले। हरविन्दर के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण पल 2019 में था जब कृषि मंत्रालय की सहायता से उनके लिए बछड़ा का एक शेड का निर्माण था। “अब तक फार्म में लगभग एक सौ बछड़ों का सफलतापूर्वक पालन-पोषण किया जा चुका है, जिसका, श्रेय नए शेड में स्थापित पोषण वातावरण और पालन प्रणाली को जाता है।” हरविन्दर का मानना है कि एक अच्छा बछड़ा शेड बनाने और उन्हें उचित रूप से खिलाने से बछड़ों के लिए पोषण का वातावरण बनाने, बीमारी के जोखिम को कम करने और उच्च विकास दर को प्रोत्साहित करने में मदद मिलती है। इस फार्म को क्षेत्र में एकमात्र डेयरी फार्म के रूप में भी जाना जाता है, जिसमें दूध कूलर टैंक है, जो डेयरी फार्मिंग में उच्च मानकों और नविन्तम को बनाए रखने के प्रति इसकी प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित करता है। हरविन्दर की यात्रा उनके समर्पण, मेहनत और सुधार के लिए निरंतर प्रयास का प्रमाण है। उनके प्रयासों से यह सुनिश्चित होता है कि जै सिंह एंड संस फार्म, अपने दादा की विरासत का सम्मान करते हुए भविष्य की पीढ़ियों



ताईलेवु के हरविन्दर सिंह अपने डेयरी फार्म में हैं। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

के लिए मार्ग तय करें। आधुनिक कृषि की चुनौतियों से निपटते हुए, हरविन्दर का लक्ष्य स्पष्ट है: एक टिकाऊ और समृद्ध कृषि वातावरण बनाना, जो आनेवाले वर्षों में उनके परिवार और समुदाय को सहायता प्रदान करता रहेगा। मंत्रालय फीजी में डेयरी व्यापार को बेहतर बनाने और बढ़ाने पर काम कर रहा है और उम्मीद करता है कि अधिक किसान डेयरी फार्मिंग शुरू करेंगे। जो लोग अधिक जानकारी, सहायता और सलाह प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं, उन्हें अपने नज़दीकी कृषि स्टेशन पर जाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।

वैइंगेले
हवाई अड्डे
से मिली
व्यपारीयों को
राहत

लम्बासा चेम्बर ऑफ कोमर्स और व्यवसाय के अध्यक्ष श्री विनेश दयाल ने वैडिंग्ले हवाई अड्डे के सुधार योजना का समर्थन करते हुए, इस योजना के प्रति सरकार का आभार माना है। इस योजना के चलते कई व्यापारियों को अपना काम करने में आसानी होगी।

“एक होटल मालिक होने के नाते, मुझे कुछ चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता था। रात के समय हवाई जहाज़ के ना आने के कारण से कई बार हमने अपने ग्राहकों को जल्द जाते देखा है, जिसके कारण हमारे व्यापार को नुकसान सहना पड़ता है। इस योजना के चलते, ना केवल व्यापार में सुधार होगा बल्कि टूरिज़्म क्षेत्र में भी बढ़न्ती होने की सम्भावना है। टूरिज़्म में विकास होने से कई क्षेत्र में रोजगारी के अवसर भी बढ़ेंगे।



प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने
वैश्विक मंच पर प्रशांत क्षेत्र की
सुरक्षा चुनौतियों को उजागर करने

की उम्मीद की। हालमें जर्मनी में वार्षिक म्यूनख सुरक्षा सम्मेलन में भाग लेते हुए प्रधानमंत्री रम्बूका ने उच्च-स्तरीय सम्मेलन में आमंत्रित एकमात्र के नेता होते

हुए, अपना उद्देश्य प्रशांत देशों की चुनौतियों आवाज़ उठाई जैसे कि क्षेत्रीय और समुद्री सुरक्षा, जलवायु परिवर्तन को सुरक्षा खतरे के रूप में देखना और “औशन

ओफ पीस” (शांति का महासागर) कॉसेप्ट, जो प्रशांत को शांति और स्थिरता का खासकर बढ़ते तनावों के बीच।

इक्सठवें म्यूनिख सुरक्षा सम्मेलन, जो दुनिया का प्रमुख अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा नीति मंच है में चार सौ पचास से अधिक प्रतिभागियों ने हिस्सा लिया। इस सम्मेलन में वैश्विक शासन चुनौतियाँ, वैश्विक शासन, लोकतांत्रिक सहनशीलता, और जलवायु सुरक्षा जैसे महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर बातें हुई। प्रधान मंत्री का मानना है कि यह सम्मेलन प्रशांत जल, महत्वपूर्ण व्यापार मार्गों और समुद्री संप्रभुता की सुरक्षा के लिए साझेदारी की अपील करने का एक अवसर था। इसके अलावा, वे इस वैश्विक मंच का उपयोग फीजी की वैश्विक सुरक्षा और भू-राजनीति में भूमिका, और वैश्विक शांति और रक्षा में फीजी के योगदान के लिए करेंगे।

प्रधान मंत्री ने सम्मेलन के दौरान विश्व नेताओं, उद्योग जगत के प्रमुखों और भागीदारों और सुरक्षा चुनौतियों को हल करने के लिए सामूहिक कार्रवाई के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता को भी महत्वपूर्ण रूप से रेखांकित किया था।

वैइंगेले हवाई
अड्डा में सुधार
से भारी आर्थिक
लाभ होने की
उम्मीद है



लम्बासा निवासी अब आर्थिक गतिविधि में बड़ी वृद्धि देख सकेंगे जब कि वैइंगेले हवाई अड्डे पर विकास योजना का काम शुरू हो गया है। उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद ने हवाई अड्डे के सुधारकार्य का नीव डाला। नई योजना में नया टर्मिनल, पुराने आदि लाईसा टर्मिनल की जगह लेगा, एक आधुनिक, एक मंजिल की सुविधा होगी, जो लगभग 1000 वर्ग मीटर में होगा। यह योजना अट्ठारह महीनों के अन्दर पूरी होने की उम्मीद है। माननीय प्रसाद ने लम्बासा में तेजी से हो रहे आर्थिक विकास पर प्रकाश डाला, जिसमें एक्स्ट्रा सुपरमार्केट,

दामोदर नैथ, रमादा होटेल, विनोद पटेल,
आर.बी पटेल और कारपेंटर्स शामिल है।

उन्होंने बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास के लिए सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता पर भी ज़ोर दिया, जिसमें चीन के साथ साझेदारी में एक प्रमुख सड़क योजना और फूड प्रोसेसर्स लिमिटेड के माध्यम से प्रस्तावित सौलर फार्म शामिल है।

“उत्तरी अर्थव्यवस्था में हलचल मची हुई है, तथा व्यापार में भारी वृद्धि हुई है।”
“यह नया टर्मिनल केवल एक निर्माण योजना नहीं है; यह प्रत्येक नागरिक के लाभ के लिए फीजी के बुनियादी ढांचे और संपर्क को बढ़ाने के लिए हमारी प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है।”

माननीय प्रसाद ने कहा, “इक्यावन से

पुराने टर्मिनल ने उत्तरी विभाग के लोगों की ईमानदारी से सेवा की है।

हालांकि, तकनीकी प्रगति और यात्रियों की बढ़ती मांग के साथ, बदलाव करने के लिए बहुत देर हो चुकी है।”

उन्होंने फीजी एयरपोर्ट्स लिमिटेड को अंतरराष्ट्रीय और घरेलू दोनों हवाई अड्डों के प्रबंधन में अपनी भूमिका के लिए धन्यवाद दिया, जिससे फीजी के लोगों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हवाई संपर्क सुनिश्चित हुआ। योजना में उनके योगदान के लिए ज़मीन मालिकों, ठेकेदारों और निजी क्षेत्र के भागीदारों सहित प्रमुख हितधारकों को भी धन्यवाद दिया गया।

उन्होंने कहा,” यह नया टर्मिनल आर्थिक अवसरों को बढ़ाएगा, घरेलू पहुँच में सुधार

करेगा और टूरिज़म यातायात को बढ़ाएगा, जो उत्तरी विभाग के विकास और समृद्धि में योगदान देगा।”

माननीय प्रसाद ने आधुनिक, अच्छी तरह से जुड़े फीजी के लिए गठबंधन सरकार के दृष्टिकोण की पुष्टि की, और इस बात पर जोर दिया कि नया टर्मिनल उस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। नए वैइंगेले हवाई अड्डे के टर्मिनल से आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देने और फीजी के बाकि हिस्सों और उससे आगे के उत्तरी विभाग के संपर्क को मजबूत करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाने की उम्मीद करता है। इस योजना के चलते, केवल व्यापार और टूरिज़म में सुधार होगा।

नन्दारीवातू फोरस्ट पार्क को एक नए रूप में खोला गया



नन्दारीवातू फोरस्ट पार्क 14 फरवरी, 2025 को आधिकारिक रूप से खोला गया, जो मेहमानों को इस क्षेत्र में घूमने तथा इस क्षेत्र की सुंदरता का अनुभव करने का अवसर प्रदान करती है। यह नई स्थायी दूरीज़म को बढ़ावा देती है, जिसमें घुड़सवारी, गाँव का दौरा, पक्षी देखना, साइकिलिंग और कैम्पिंग जैसी विभिन्न गतिविधियाँ शामिल हैं। पार्क तीन जिलों को जोड़ता है: वा, रा और नाइतासिरी

मुख्य आकर्षण:

- उपलब्ध गतिविधियाँ: घुड़सवारी, गाँव दौरा, पक्षी देखना, साइकिलिंग और कैम्पिंग
- दूरीज़म और विकास: इसका उद्देश्य है स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को बढ़ावा देना और मेहमानों को आकर्षित करना, खासकर इसके केंद्रीय स्थान के कारण।
- यह पार्क फिजी के राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना के साथ मेल खाता है, जो जीवनयापन को बढ़ाने, प्रकृतिक संसाधनों की रक्षा करने और जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों को कम करने पर केंद्रित है।



देश में रेडियो अभी भी अपनी जगह पर अटल है



हर साल तेरह फरवरी को विश्व रेडियो दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है। इसी उत्सव के पहले दिन भाग लेते हुए उप प्रधान मंत्री और फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बीमान प्रसाद ने कहा कि सच्ची सोच से दी गई हर जानकारी एक लोकतंत्र तथा आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है। विश्व रेडियो दिवस के तीसरे दिन पर बाते करते हुए सूचना मंत्रालय के सहायक मंत्री माननीय अलिकी बिया ने कहा कि रेडियो लोगों को एकजुट करता है, सीमाओं को पार करता है, शान्ति को बढ़ावा देता है, और लोगों के लिए एक आवाज़ बनता है। उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि इस क्षेत्र में कई चुनौतियाँ हैं, लेकिन वे लोगो तक अपना संदेश पहुँचाते रहता है।



मालाके सबमरीन क्रॉसिंग योजना



पब्लिक वॉक्स, ट्रांसपोर्ट तथा मेट्रोलोजी सेवीयस मंत्री माननीय रो फिलिप तुइसावाउ ने मालाके सबमरीन क्रॉसिंग अपग्रेड योजना का उद्घाटन किया चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

महीमा खान

मालाके सबमरीन क्रॉसिंग अपग्रेड प्रोजेक्ट, जो एक महत्वपूर्ण पूंजी है, गठबंधन सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित करता है कि हर फीजीवासी, चाहे वह मुख्य द्वीपों में रहते हो या बाहरी द्वीपों में उन्हें साफ तक पहुँच मिलना बेहद ज़रूरी है। पब्लिक वॉक्स, ट्रांसपोर्ट तथा मेट्रोलोजी सेवीयस मंत्री माननीय रो फिलिपे तुइसावाउ ने हालमें राकीराकी के मलाके द्वीप पर 645 निवासियों के लिए \$1.1 मिलियन डोलर के इस योजना का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया। मंत्री तुइसावाउ ने कहा इस परियोजना में एक किलोमीटर लम्बा पाइपलाइन स्थापित किया गया है, जिसे समुद्र के

नीचे की धाराओं और दबाव, पर्यावरणीय परिस्थितियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए और लम्बे समय के लिए परिचालन क्षमता के लिए सावधानीपूर्वक डिज़ाइन किया गया है। “यह उपलब्धि सिर्फ बुनियादी ढांचे के बारे में नहीं है; यह हमारे लिए एक लचीला (फ्लेक्सिबल), सहित और स्थायी फीजी का प्रतीक है- एक ऐसा फीजी, जहाँ कोई भी समुदाय हमारे विकास के सफर में पीछे नहीं छूटेगा,” उन्होंने कहा। इसके अलावा, यह परियोजना राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना (एनडीपी) में योगदान देती है जो बेहतर बुनियादी ढांचे के माध्यम से ग्रामीण और समुद्री आजीविका का समर्थन देती है।



नया नसेयानी पुल-एक बुनियादी ढांचे से कहीं अधिक है



राकीराकी के नसेयानी गाँव में बना एक नया पुल चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

राकीराकी के नसेयानी गाँव में नया पुल सिर्फ सड़क पार करने का ढाँचा नहीं है; बल्कि यह नसेयानी के लोगों के विकास और समृद्धि की यात्रा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। यह योजना तीन मिलियन डोलर लागत की है, जहाँ फीजी सरकार ने आर्थिक सहायता दी है। इस पुल का औपचारिक उद्घाटन पब्लिक वॉक्स और ट्रांसपोर्ट मंत्री माननीय रो फिलिपे तुइसावाउ ने किया गया तथा उत्सव में फॉरेस्ट्री और फिशिरिस मंत्री माननीय अलीतिया बैनिवालु भी शामिल थी। इस पुल के पूरा होने के साथ, किसानों को अब राकीराकी और सुवा बाज़ारों में उपज लेजाकर बेचने में आसानी होगी।

“यह पुल आपके रोज़ाना जीवन में आसानी और

आवश्यक सेवाओं तक पहुँच में चुनौतियों को दूर करेगा,” मंत्री तुइसावाउ ने कहा। नसेयानी पुल नानानू और नारीयाबा नंबर दो के कोरो को किंग्स रोड से जोड़ता है, जिससे लगभग दो सौ लोगों के समाज को लाभ हो रहा है। यह राकीराकी जिले के इलाकों और रा के सैवौ जिले को भी जोड़ता है।

हमारे देश के मौसम का मुकाबला करने के लिए बनाया गया यह पुल नसेयानी के लोगों के लिए सुरक्षित भी है।

नसेयानी पुल सभी फीजीवासियों के जीवन को बेहतर बनाने के लिए सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता का परिणाम है, तथा सरकार सभी समुदायों के लिए अधिक से अधिक सेवाओं तक पहुँचाने के लिए मदद करना जारी रखेगी।



मंत्री दितोका ने मछली पकड़ने वाली नाव सौंपी

महीमा खान

ग्रामीण तथा समुद्री विकास मंत्री माननीय सकियासी दीतोका ने हालमें ताइलेवू में मंत्रालय की नए समुद्री प्रोग्राम के तहत मछली पकड़ने वाली एक नाव पीटा सेसेनिबारावी प्रदान की है। “यह प्रोग्राम परिवहन की जरूरतों को पूरा करने और मछली पकड़ने से आमदनी बढ़ाने में मदद करने के लिए है। “समुद्री कार्यक्रम सरकार द्वारा

स्वीकृत तीन नई पहलों में से एक है, जिसका उद्देश्य ग्रामीण समुदायों की जीवनशैली को सुधारना है। “सरकार ने इस खर्च का तिहाई भाग यानी ग्यारह हजार सात सौ डोलर दिया, जबकी लगभग पाँच हजार आठ सौ डोलर योगदान समुदाय के लोगों ने दिया” मंत्री दीतोका ने कहा कि इस विकासात्मक परियोजना की कुल खर्च सत्ताह हजार छः सौ डोलर था। मंत्री ने समुदाय के प्रतिनिधियों का आभार व्यक्त किया और भविष्य

की सरकारी पहलों के लिए उनके समर्थन की सराहना की। “आपका योगदान महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि हम उन विकास कार्यों को बढ़ावा देने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं जो जीवन स्तर बेहतर बनाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं,” उन्होंने नाव का उद्घाटन करते हुए कहा। “यह सहायता समय पर मिलेगी, जिससे हमारे परिवारों के लिए उज्ज्वल, सुरक्षित और आर्थिक रूप से मजबूत भविष्य सुनिश्चित होगा,” उन्होंने कहा।



ग्रामीण तथा समुद्री विकास के मंत्री माननीय सकियासी दीतोका ने पीटा सेसेनिबारावी को मछली पकड़ने की नाव दी चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

नंगारा प्राथमिक विद्यालय के छात्रों के लिए फर्नीचर एक प्रोत्साहन है।



प्रधान मंत्री के दफ्तर के सहायक मंत्री माननीय साकियुसा तुम्बुना ने कन्दावु के नागरा प्राथमिक स्कूल के छात्रों को जरूरी कक्षा फर्नीचर प्रदान किया। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

महिमा खान

नंगारा गाँव, ओनो, कदावु के नागरा प्राथमिक स्कूल के छात्रों को इसी महीने जरूरी कक्षा फर्नीचर मिला, जिसमें डेस्क और कुर्सियाँ शामिल थी। स्कूल में पचास (50) छात्र हैं, और पहले फर्नीचर की कमी के कारण छात्रों की पढ़ाई में बाधाएं आ रही थी।

फर्नीचर सौंपते समय, प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के सहायक मंत्री, माननीय साकियुसा तुम्बुना ने कहा कि कक्षा फर्नीचर छात्रों की शिक्षा सफलता में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगा। माननीय साकियुसा तुम्बुना को स्कूल की सुविधाओं का दौरा करने और कोविड-19 के साथ सीधी बातचित करने का अवसर भी मिला।

इस साल का गिरमिट दिवस लम्बासा में होगा



लम्बासा में आयोजित होने वाले तीन दिवसीय गिरमिट दिवस की घोषणा के दौरान उपस्थित लम्बासा निवासी। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

एक सौ छियालिसवीं 146th गिरमिट दिवस इस साल लम्बासा में आयोजित किया जाएगा। मल्टी एथनिक तथा चीनी व्यवसाय के मंत्री माननीय चरण जित सिंह ने पुष्टि की कि इस साल का गिरमिट दिवस दस से लेकर बारह तारीख मई को सुबैरल पार्क लम्बासा में होगा तथा एक अन्य समारोह ग्यारह मई को सावूसावू में भी आयोजित करने की योजना बनाई गई है।

मंत्रालय इसकी तैयारी शुरू कर चुका है जैसे कि:

- गिरमिट कहानियों का दस्तावेज़ तैयार करना
 - ऐतिहासिक रिकॉर्ड्स को डिजिटाइज़ करना और गिरमिट डेटाबेस बनाना
 - एक गिरमिट मिउज़ियम की स्थापना करना
 - गिरमिट से संबंधित कलाकृतियों और संसाधनों के लिए एक संग्रह अभियान का आयोजन करना।
- एक गिरमिट वॉकिंग कमिटी की स्थापना की गई है जिनमें उत्तरी विभाग के दोनों पब्लिक

और प्रायवट सेक्टर के साझेदार शामिल हैं जो देखेंगे कि तीन दिवसीय गिरमिट दिवस का आयोजन में कोई कमी न हो," मंत्री सिंह ने कहा।

फिलहाल, चीनी मंत्री माननीय चरण जित सिंह ने इसी हफ्ते गन्ने के किसानों के लिए दो प्रमुख आर्थिक सहायता पैकज की घोषणा की है।

गन्ने की किसानों की कड़ी मेहनत को देखते हुए सरकार अब उन किसानों को पाँच डोलर प्रति टन देगी जिनके गन्नों की पैदाईश 2023 के मिलान में पिछले साल ज़्यादा था। फार्मस इनिशियटिव कार्यक्रम के नीचे तीन हज़ार दो सौ आठ किसानों को एक लाख उन्नीस हज़ार तीन सौ चालिस टन गन्ने के लिए पाँच लाख छियान्वे हज़ार सात सौ एक डोलर दिया जाएगा। इसके अलावा मेनुएल हावेटिंग कार्यक्रम के नीचे सात हज़ार सात सौ छियासी किसानों को तीन डोलर प्रति टन के हिसाब से दो मिलियन एक लाख इक्वत्तर हज़ार छः सौ तैतीस डोलर दिया जाएगा ताकि उनका आर्थिक बोझ कुछ कम हो सके।

बोकसिंग रिंग से लेकर खेती तक

महिमा खान

रेमा शाह, जिन्हें बोबी शाह के नाम से जाना जाता है, 59 साल के हैं और बुआ के ड्रोका सेटलमेंट, उत्तरी विभाग में रहते हैं। उन्हें बचपन से ही खेती-बारी का शौक था। स्कूल खत्म करने के बाद, उन्होंने पूरी तरह से खेती-बारी में अपने आपको समर्पित कर दिया। इससे पहले, उन्होंने अट्ठारह साल की उम्र में मुक्केबाज़ी की शुरुआत की और 46 प्रोफेशनल मुकाबले लड़े। वह फीजी के बैटमवेट चैंपियन भी रह चुके हैं। बोबी अपने खेती और मुक्केबाज़ी के करियर को अपने माता-पिता द्वारा सिखाई गई मेहनत और अनुशासन के साथ संतुलित करते हैं।

बोबी की कड़ी मेहनत पर विश्वास, उनकी खेती-बारी में भी दिखता है। वह बताते हैं कि उन्होंने अपने फसल और पशु की देखभाल करने में कई घंटे बिताए, साथ ही मुक्केबाज़ी की ट्रेनिंग भी की।

उन्होंने जल्द ही समझ लिया कि मुक्केबाज़ी उनका जीवनभर का करियर नहीं होगा, इसलिए उन्होंने अपनी खेती को सफल बनाने का संकल्प लिया। उनकी हाल कि उपलब्धि में एक शानदार तरबूज की फसल है, जिसमें उन्होंने पाँच टन से अधिक तरबूज उगाया था और उन्हें लौतोका के एक खरीददार को 3 डोलर प्रति किलो पर बेचा। वो अपने तरबूजों को लगातार इस बाजार में सप्लाई करते हैं और हर साल अपनी फसल में सुधार पर गर्व महसूस करते हैं। इसके अलावा उनकी खेती में बत्ख, मुर्ग, गाय, बकरियाँ और भेड़ें भी शामिल हैं जो उनकी खेती के प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाती हैं।

शाह की खेती की यात्रा का एक सबसे फायदेमंद पहलू यह भी है कि वह अपने परिवार के लिए खाने की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित कर सकते हैं। वह अपने भोजन को खुद उगाने के महत्व पर जोर देते हैं, जिससे वह अपने परिवार को दिन में तीन बार

भरपेट भोजन दे पाते हैं।

अपनी कड़ी मेहनत और प्रतिबद्धता से, बोबी शाह न केवल फसलें बोते हैं, बल्कि अपने परिवार के लिए एक स्थिर और सुरक्षित जीवनशैली भी बनाए रखते हैं। वह चाहते हैं कि देश के युवा अपनी खाली ज़मीन को खेती में बदलें। बोबी का कहना है, "मैं फीजी के युवाओं से कहता हूँ, कृपया अपनी ज़िंदगी में कुछ उपयोगी करें। अगर आपके पास सही रोजगार नहीं है, तो खेती आजमाएं और आने वाले सालों में आप इसका फल पाएंगे। याद रखें कि हमेशा धैर्य रखें, क्योंकि अच्छे परिणाम उन लोगों को मिलते हैं जो मेहनत करते हैं और जीवन में लगातार प्रयास करते हैं"। कृषि और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय युवाओं को प्रोत्साहित कर रहा है कि वे खेती को व्यवसाय के रूप में अपनाने के लिए अपनी नजदीकी कृषि स्टेशन से अधिक जानकारी और सलाह प्राप्त करें।



बुआ के रहने वाले 59 साल के किसान रेमा शाह। चित्र: प्रदान किया गया



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फाईनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद हाल में शुगाकैइन गोवज़ फंड लोयलटी योजना का उद्घाटन किया चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

गन्ने के किसानों के लिए लोयलटी प्रोग्राम

महिमा खान

शुगाकैइन गोवस फंड लोयलटी प्रोग्राम गन्ने की किसानों के लिए गुणवत्ता और सस्ती स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को प्राप्त करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। यह साझेदारी शुगाकैइन गोवस फंड और सूवा स्थित ओशनिया अस्पताल के बीच हुई है। उप प्रधान मंत्री और फाइनंस मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद ने इसका उद्घाटन किया।

इस साझेदारी के माध्यम से, शुगाकैइन गोवस फंड के लोयलटी कार्डधारक

निम्नलिखित लाभ प्राप्त कर सकते हैं:

- चिकित्सा प्रक्रियाओं और उपचारों पर 10% की छूट
- परामर्श फीस में \$10 की छूट, जो सामान्य फीस \$17.50 से कम है
- डायलिसिस फीस पर \$180 की छूट- जो सरकार द्वारा दी गई सब्सिडी दर के बराबर है, जिससे हर सत्र में \$50 तक की बचत होती है।

“यह लोयल्टी कार्ड हमारे उत्पादकों को विशेष दरों का लाभ प्राप्त करने के लिए एक मंच प्रदान करता है और सभी भागीदारों को मैं धन्यवाद देता हूँ। यह

सहयोग अच्छे स्वास्थ्य और लोगों की भलाई का भी समर्थन करता है।

“शुगा कैइन गोवस फंड 10,260 से अधिक उत्पादक गन्ने की किसानों को सेवा प्रदान करता है, जो एक महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक प्रभाव और खरिददारी क्षमता रखते हैं। इसे देखते हुए, फंड ने अपने महेनती किसानों को पुरस्कृत करने के लिए एक लोयलटी प्रोग्राम शुरू किया है, जिसमें आवश्यक सेवा प्रदाताओं के साथ साझेदारी की गई है ताकि किसानों को अच्छे लाभ मिल सकें”

“पिछले साल दिसम्बर में उद्घाटन होने के बाद से प्रोग्राम में पहले ही 640 से अधिक किसान जुड़ चुके हैं- यह एक बहुत बड़ी सफलता है। आज ओशनिया अस्पताल इस पहल में साझेदार के रूप में जुड़ता है, और पाँच और प्रतिष्ठित

कंपनियाँ जल्द ही इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने वाली हैं,” माननीय प्रसाद ने कहा। देश के गन्ने के किसानों के समर्थन में, गठबंधन सरकार ने गन्ने की भुगतान के रूप में \$105.08 प्रति टन का भुगतान किया, जो फीजी के गन्ने व्यवसाय में अब तक किया गया सबसे ज्यादा भुगतान है।