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PM Rabuka commends communities for heeding to warnings



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka met with evacuees billeted at the St Andrews Primary School during his tour to flood affected areas in the Western Division last week. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

By AZARIA FAREEN and DIPESH KUMAR

PRIME Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, has commended communities affected by the recent floods in the Western Division for working well with the Government by heeding the advisories. The Head of Government made this observation while visiting flood affected areas and the evacuees at St Andrews Primary School where he distributed food rations. Government officials had also distributed food rations in Barara, Naisoso, Nasau, and Navakai in Nadi. PM Rabuka was accompanied by the Divisional Commissioner Western, Apolosi Lewaqai, during the distribu-

tion of the food rations to those who have been in the evacuation centre as they prepared to move back home for Palm Sunday. Speaking to those affected at the evacuation centre, PM Rabuka said “this has been a great honour and duty to be performing for the Government of Fiji but the government can do only so much”. “There are a lot people can do for themselves, and they have been doing that by giving up their home to accommodate those that have been affected worse than them to make them comfortable and sharing food they brought from home to the evacuation centres until the Government started assisting after 48-hours.” “I hope you will enjoy whatever little

the Government has been able to bring to you. You are not the only one affected by the bad weather condition, there have been others who have received assistance from the Government and all we try to do is make everybody’s life a little easier,” he added. “Very soon we will get back to normal activity but the Commissioner Western has earmarked ration distribution to areas where members of the community should appreciate and utilise it,” he added. PM Rabuka also visited the impacted sites where infrastructures and bridges were damaged making the road inaccessible to the public. He was also provided with an update by the Fiji Road Authority engineers at the

site on repair works for the new bailey bridge. Meanwhile, the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management Office, Sakiasi Ditoka also visited flooded affected areas in the Western Division. Minister Ditoka held a talanoa session with those affected at the Naevuevu evacuation centre in Sigatoka where he addressed issues on poor drainage. He assured them that the Coalition Government will do its best to address issues raised by them. Minister Ditoka visited flood affected areas in Ba, Nadi and Sigatoka where food rations were also handed to evacuees.

PM Rabuka receives courtesy call from LDS Church Elder

PRIME Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka received a courtesy call from Elder Ronald Rasband of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in his office recently.

Elder Rasband's visit re-emphasised the Church's dedication to nurturing understanding and forging enduring relationships worldwide.

During the meeting, PM Rabuka expressed Fiji's gratitude, both from its people and the Government, for the ongoing humanitarian aid provided by the Church to those affected by natural disasters, fires and those living in poverty.

He commended the visit by Elder Rasband, highlighting the important role that religious institutions and the government play in building a stronger, more peaceful, and prosperous society.

In response, Elder Rasband expressed his appreciation to the Prime Minister for the

opportunity to meet and discuss areas for further collaboration.

The humanitarian arm of the Church has supported UNICEF in addressing obesity, malnutrition and Non-Communicable Diseases, and also partnered with the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital in Suva to help save children with heart defects across the Pacific.

It has also worked with Rural WASH – Rotary Pacific Water, providing infrastructure to three villages and three primary schools in remote Namosi and Cakaudrove Provinces.

With the establishment of the LDS Temple in Suva in 2000, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints now has 23,400 members across 52 congregations in Fiji.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka received a courtesy call from Elder Ronald Rasband of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in his office recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

Holi is an occasion to reflect, celebrate with all



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, celebrates Holi with Ministry staff. Photo: SUPPLIED

By PRASHILA DEVI

HOLI is a time when we forget the difficulties of the past, we celebrate with one another, we look forward to the future with confidence and with the view to improve the quality of life.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, in capturing the essence of the festival of colours, said the occasion brings a message of triumph of good over evil and was a time "we reflect on ourselves".

DPM Prasad also paid homage to the indentured labourer ancestors of the Fiji Indian community who ensured that their language, culture and festivals were kept alive and passed on to the next generation.

"Holi is one such festivals that we now celebrate together, regardless of our religion, culture, language and tradition," he added.

Expressing similar sentiments, Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, said the Holi festival was a reminder of the "beautiful cultures that make up our beloved Fiji".

"Holi, also known as the festival of colors, transcends borders and unites people in a joyous celebration of love, friendship, and the triumph of good over evil," DPM Gavoka said.

Ministry of Education permanent secretary, Selina Kuruleca said, "Holi is not just about splashing colors; it is also about spreading love and goodwill. It is a time to reach out to friends and family, to mend broken relationships, and to reaffirm the bonds of affection that unite us. In a world often plagued by division and discord, Holi serves as a gentle reminder of the power of love to overcome all obstacles".

The Ministry held a small celebration where the occasion was marked with the playing of colours.

National Development Plan public consultations in Vatoa, Lau



Students listen keenly to the discussions on the National Development Plan during the public consultation on Vatoa Island in the Lau Group. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

THE Government has been requested to avail savings and investment services to maritime islands in the Eastern Division.

This was raised by the villagers of Vatoa in the Lau Group during the first ever National Development Plan public consultation to be held at their village on last week.

Vatoa Village Development Committee executive, Lemeki Biau, said while they appreciate the services by the Postal Agency that allows them to send and receive cash, there was a need for more banking options which would include banking and investment.

"While the shortage of cash reserve at the Post Office is a concern because it is limited to \$2000 a month, we also feel that investment and savings should be made available to us, where we could save some of our earnings because if not, we will always be a step behind," Mr Biau said.

"We would like to request if the Government could look into this with the relevant authorities."

Mr Biau added that most times they were in the dark about policies and opportunities provided by the Government to assist their community and its members, because of the lack of awareness.

He therefore requested that there be visits by officials from respective Ministries to their villages that they could access these assistance and grants, without being left in the dark.

Vatoa is one of the outlying islands in the Fiji archipelago that lies close to the Kingdom of Tonga.

The National Development Plan consultation plan team, together with the Ministry of Health outreach Team also visited at Ogea and Fulaga Islands last week.

Tailor thankful to do business with Govt grant

By AZARIA FAREEN

“SEWING has always been something that my heart was into and I started learning this skill at quite a young age and continued building on it.”

Maca Likutabua, 68, has made a living through her favorite hobby- sewing and has been selling at the Flea Market for the past 10 years.

“As a small business owner, I used to do sewing, make salusalu and do baking while selling these items from home,” Mrs Likutabua highlighted.

“I initially started with one stall but by the help of the Government grant, I was able to get two stalls – one for my handicrafts and another for my tailoring,” she explained.

“I was able to get another Government assistance and managed to get two of my workers to work at the handicraft stall while I worked on my tailoring.”

“It helped me to look after my children and grandchildren, however, the biggest challenge I faced was during the COVID-19 pandemic as I had to close shop and I started tailoring from home,” she added.

Mrs Likutabua was grateful to get some small orders online from her customers where she was able to make some money operating from home.

“The sale was down when we re-opened for business after the pandemic and I had to let go of one of my stalls and staff as I couldn’t afford to pay the rent and

income,” she said.

“However, I managed to help one of my workers to get a stall here so she can start with her business instead of working for someone as she is the only breadwinner with children in the family.”

She said that all her children are married and she lives with her husband, daughter and her five grandchildren.

“I was very passionate about sewing from childhood and growing up I learned more from school and started sewing my siblings’ school uniforms as well,” Mrs Likutabua recalls.

“As for my handicraft business, my main product is the salusalu, sisi masi, vau (masi) and the fresh sisi na lakeba (garland from Lakeba), which are the special ones. I get the supplies and do my own.”

Mrs Likutabua said that when she received the grant money, she bought her supplies from the island and paid those who made the mats, masi and other products.

“We have to be very serious when you get into business because most of the time when we get the money which should specifically be used in the business is being used somewhere else,” she said.

“Those entrepreneurs getting government grants should use their money wisely because out of thousands of people who applied, they are lucky to be selected for it.”

“Therefore, I would like to thank the Government for selecting me and giving me this opportunity to not only support but grow my business,” she acknowledged.



68-year-old, Maca Likutabua, shows off a dress made by masi which is ready for pickup for a customer from her stall. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN.**

Stall owner acknowledges second chance at business



Mrs Birisita Rokobuli of Lagikali's Variety shows some of the items sold at her stall at the Suva Flea Market. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

THE Fiji Government's COVID-19 Concessional Loan Packages for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has given me a second chance in doing business.

This was highlighted by grant recipient, Birisita Rokobuli, of Lagikali's Variety who said that her stall at the Suva Flea Market was burnt during a fire that destroyed the Value City Complex in 2020.

It was estimated that about half a million dollars' worth of handicrafts and clothing items were destroyed in the blaze.

“Following this, I applied for the Government grant and received \$7,000 which assisted me in building up my business again by buying handicraft stocks,” Mrs Rokobuli explained.

“Now based at the South Mall of the Flea Market, I sell handicrafts, mats, masi, garlands, baskets and different kinds of fans from stall 73.”

“I started my business in 2017 and I usually buy the stocks for my stall from a supplier and then sell it,” she added.

The 40-year-old who resides in Tamavua said that business was a little slow so she waits for the seller to come to her when she requires the items.

“I don't really have a fixed customer

base and usually get walk-in customers who need things for weddings, birthdays, funerals or any other special occasions,” she said.

“I would like to thank the Government for assisting me in rebuilding my business through the COVID-19 Concessional Loan Packages which gave me the opportunity to continue earning an income when I thought situations were dire for me.”

“I have three children and my husband has been very supportive since my stall burnt down,” she highlighted.

Mrs Rokobuli said that she was an ancillary staff for St Marcellin Primary School and she used to see people selling handicrafts at the ROC Market in Suva which gave her the idea to have her own stall.

“I soon started my own business and also started selling at the ROC Market, which is held every third Sunday of a month,” she said.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for vendors to make money as it is a very good market and we get to sell most of our items then.”

“Flea markets are filled with small businesses and most of the stall owners sell handicrafts, therefore, there is a lot of competition here,” she added.

Empowering women through rugby

By NANISE NEIMILA

TWIN sisters Mere Kilawekana and Alesi Kilawekana are committed to changing young women's perceptions in Fiji through rugby, a male-dominated sport.

In 2020, they joined the University of the South Pacific (USP) Raiders Rugby League team, which was a testimony to all women that anything was possible through belief in God and by pursuing your goals.

Mere Kilawekana mentioned how women are breaking barriers in a male-dominated sport and claiming a name for themselves when traditionally women don't even speak up without being asked to speak.

Their journey in donning the national jersey for the Bulikula Rugby League team last year began in 2020 while attending USP.

Originally from Cautata, Bau, Tailevu and having maternal links to Namalata Bau Tailevu, the sisters shared their journey of sacrifice in ensuring that they both balanced their studies and rugby careers.

“We both joined the USP rugby league team in 2020, when COVID-19 hit we were locked down at the university. We never gave up but continued our training program.”

“The lockdown was time for self-reflection and it strengthened our spiritual life with God. At times there was not enough food but we never gave up. We are thankful to families who lived in Suva that would drop off food rations.”

“Balancing our studies with rugby was a challenge in itself so we took a break from our studies due to our financial situation and focused on rugby. My sister- Alesi is in her third year studying Bachelor's in Tourism and Hospitality Management and Administration,” Mere said.

“It's through rugby that we have been both empowered so they can step into the men's job and know from within that anyone can achieve it,” she said.

Mere, also in her third year, studies Environment Science and is currently working with Fiji Livestock Council but plans to complete her studies.

The twins both represented Fiji at the Pacific



From left-right; Alesi Kilawekana and Mere Kilawekana at the State House after the team presented their iTatau to President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere last week before departing for Australia for the Pacific Championship competition. **Photo: NANISE NEIMILA**

test match with the Papua New Guinea Orchids last year.

Alesi then represented Fiji at the South Pacific Games in Solomon Islands while Mere unfortunately could not join her sister.

“When we both play together, we are stronger, it's the strong bond we both have but when one of us is not playing the other one is weak. But I'm glad I share the same passion with my sister.”

“Coming this far was not an easy journey for both of us, at times when there was not enough money we would walk just to make it in time for training but it took a lot of sacrifices.”

“My dad is a retired civil servant and mum is a full-time housewife, this was also a drive to be independent and look after ourselves.”

Mere and Alesi shared that to succeed in life, it starts with yourself and then comes hard work.

“My message to my sisters who are thinking of developing a career in Rugby is you can do it if you put your mind and heart into anything is possible.”

The sisters both represented the Fiji Bulikula Rugby League women's team at the recent Pacific Championship competition held in Australia last week.

Breaking through the pervasive shadow of patriarchy

By PRASHILA DEVI

CENTRAL to the vast array of challenges women leaders encounter in the realm of gender inequality lies the pervasive shadow of patriarchy and gender-discriminatory social norms. Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection permanent secretary, Eseta Nadakuitavuki, while speaking at the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) side event at 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York recently, said “these forces significantly hinder women’s leadership and infringe upon our rights and autonomy”.

“In our leadership, we’ve found the strength to say “No,” to raise our voices, to demand justice, to forge movement and sisterhood and to carve pathways through seemingly insurmountable barriers,” Ms Nadakuitavuki said at the event organised by the German Government and the IDLO.

“This resilience and determination do not merely define us –women in all diversity; they propel us toward a future where gender

equality and gender responsive justice system is not an aspiration but a reality.” Speaking to the gathering of women leaders, Ms Nadakuitavuki said everyone in the room had encountered and navigated through this entangled web of patriarchal norms at different points in their lives, no matter “where we are in the world or the context, we find ourselves in”.

She highlighted that in Fiji and across the globe, women and girls navigate the waters of customary and informal justice systems, seeking resolutions to the challenges that touch the most intimate aspects of their lives.

The IDLO has launched a brief on Women’s Participation and Leadership in Customary and Informal Justice Systems titled “Leading the Way: Women’s Empowerment and Leadership in Customary and Informal Justice Systems” which Ms Nadakuitavuki said offers a roadmap to meet the challenge.

“Our session is not just a discussion; it is a collective aspiration to identify and advocate for strategies that amplify women’s empowerment and leadership and



Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection permanent secretary, Eseta Nadakuitavuki, makes a point while speaking at the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) side event at 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

outlining actionable steps toward a more gender-transformative engagement with customary and informal justice systems,” she said.

These systems, Ms Nadakuitavuki said, that are embedded in the communities could often offer a promise of justice that was accessible, swift, and resonant with the cultural values, yet, this promise remains unfulfilled for many women and girls, who encounter barriers that are not just procedural but profoundly discriminatory.

“The report calls for the critical roles that women in all diversity play as leaders and providers of justice in these systems and to unequivocally affirm women’s human rights to be recognised and amplified.”

“We are further urged to challenge and eliminate discriminatory laws, to stand firm on women’s rights protection, combating gender-based violence and gender discrimination, and to ensure an enabling environment for women’s participation in justice system and decision making,” she emphasised.

Small business is not “a side hustle”



Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications' acting director and registrar of Co-operatives, Iosefa Koroidimuri hands over certificate of completion to Geeta Anjali. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

By PRASHILA DEVI

SMALL and Medium Enterprises are not “just side hustle or sideline business” but are the engine for economic growth in many of the first world countries.

This was the message to more than 10 women entrepreneurs who underwent a three-day training under the Trade Enhancement Program of the Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications by the Ministry’s acting director and registrar of Co-operatives, Iosefa Koroidimuri.

In closing of training and certificate presentation for TEP recipients, Mr Koroidimuri told the participants that in most first world economies, the contribution of MSME’s was 80-90 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

“In Fiji, the contribution of MSME’s is only 18 per cent of GDP so what we are trying to do for whole of Government is to try to increase that.”

He said the contribution of MSME’s as engines of growth were two pronged; firstly, it assists in poverty alleviation; and it creates employment.

“When you go out there and start your own barbeque or grog or tailoring business, when that grows you are more likely to employ a relative so I want to encourage you to go out to your communities and don’t look back,” Mr

Koroidimuri said.

One of the trainees was 56-year-old, Geeta Anjali, a tailor who originally hails from Labasa but currently resides in Khalsa Road.

The mother of four feels that the training was a great eye opener for her and the other participants especially as it taught them how to treat the work they are doing as a “business”.

“We were told that rather than just using up all the money we earn from tailoring or whatever business we have, we must first take out the cost or expenditure and even give ourselves an income,” Mrs Anjali said.

“This training is really good for us ladies doing small business as they tell us to do record keeping and even advise us how to cut down on wastage, like if we have leftover materials-how to use that to make doormats or even clothes for the babies.”

Delving a little into her life, she told how during the move from Labasa to Suva made it necessary for her to supplement the income that her husband earned.

“I have always like to do tailoring and when someone brings a blouse or lehenga or even school uniform, I used to sew that and earn an income for my family. I have also worked in a garment factory.”

Mrs Anjali believes that it was instrumental for women entrepreneurs to gain knowledge on how to run a business and apply the learnings into their income generating ventures, only then will their business grow.

Women Entrepreneur Finance (WE-Fi) Code launched in Fiji



Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection permanent secretary, Eseta Nadakuitavuki, with other stakeholders after the launch of the Women Entrepreneur Finance (WE-Fi) Code initiative. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

F IJI has been chosen as one of the three countries in the Asia Pacific region to pilot the Asian Development Bank (ADB) supported Women Entrepreneur Finance (WE-Fi) Code.

Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection (MWCSP) permanent secretary, Eseta Nadakuitavuki was present at the launch of initiative, which marks a milestone effort to empower women entrepreneurs in Fiji targeted at improving access to financing opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

The WE-Fi initiative aims to unlock financing for women-led/owned businesses in developing countries and seeks to address the unique challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in accessing financial resources and support their economic empowerment.

Ms Nadakuitavuki emphasised the importance of fostering an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs to thrive and contribute to Fiji’s economic growth.

She highlighted the Government’s commitment to supporting women-owned businesses and creating opportunities for their advancement through the formulation of the Women Economic Empowerment National

Action Plan (WEE NAP).

“The launch of the Women Entrepreneur Finance Code represents a significant step towards addressing the barriers that women entrepreneurs face in accessing finance,” she said.

“By providing them with the necessary resources and support, we can unlock their potential to drive innovation, create jobs, and contribute to sustainable development whilst ensuring their business ventures are also sustainable and successful.”

The WE-Fi Code sets out to guide financial institutions and stakeholders in providing tailored financial products and services to women entrepreneurs.

With the implementation of WE-Fi Code, Fiji aims to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for women entrepreneurs, enabling them to realise their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the country’s economic prosperity.

The key stakeholders for the WE-Fi Code in Fiji are the Reserve Bank of Fiji, Fiji Development Bank, Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives and Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications and MWCSP.

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



Fiji Bulikula rugby league team present their iTatau to the Head of State

The Fiji Bulikula rugby league women's team presented their "iTatau" to the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere at the State House today ahead of their Pacific Championship competition.

In accepting their "itatau", the head of state commended the team and its management for their achievements in the previous session and for advancing the sport of rugby for women in Fiji and the Pacific.

Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



Minister officiates at closing of 48th Fiji Bitter Marist Sevens

The Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru, officiated at the closing of the 48th Fiji Bitter Marist Sevens held at the HFC stadium yesterday. In his speech, the Minister expressed gratitude to all involved in making the tournament a success.

"Aspecial acknowledgment to Mr. Lawrence Tikaram and his hardworking team of volunteers - your tireless efforts have made this more than a tournament; it's a celebration of our shared dreams and aspirations," Minister Saukuru said

Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



Dialogue workshop to create awareness of the use of solar energy in the Pacific



"THE Pacific region faces unique energy challenges, including geographic isolation and vulnerability to climate change impacts hence, the reason solar energy has the potential to significantly aid in our transition towards sustainable energy, aligning with the net-zero targets set by the majority of Pacific countries for 2050. Additionally, it can assist us in mitigating the impacts of climate change."

This was highlighted by the Assistant Minister for the Office of the Prime Minister Sakiusa Tubuna while officiating at the opening of the three-day workshop on Dialogue Workshop on Promoting Solar Energy in Pacific Nations held at Novotel recently.

Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

2024 WIN Convention a success



Two days of women networking, collaborating ideas and participating in the WEBC 2024 Women Invigorating the Nation (WIN) Convention recently .

The First Lady, Madam Filomena Katonivere closed off what was deemed a successful WIN Convention and congratulated the women for sharing their experiences, strategies, and expertise in the business fields.

Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE



More awareness needed on human rights: A-G

By MEREANI GONEDUA

THERE is a need for more awareness on human rights values in Fiji.

This statement was made by Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga, at the opening of the new Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission office in Lautoka recently.

“In Fiji, there is still a need to create more awareness on human rights values, particularly in the remote, rural and maritime areas. Our traditional and religious leaders are vital in the dissemination and instilling human rights values in people, particularly, our children and the youths.

“Human Rights education can begin in the homes, in our own communities, in villages, schools, workplace and of course, through robust debates in the Parliament and through public discourse in the media.

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

The A-G reiterated that the Coalition Government remains committed to embracing human rights values of unity, equality, human dignity and respect for each other in this multi-religious and multicultural country.

He emphasised on collaboration from key stakeholders, including civil society organisations, NGOs, youth groups, religious bodies, women’s organisations and community leaders in building, promoting and sustaining the human rights culture in Fiji.

The A-G also called on Fijians to strengthen their linkages between their communities, the Government and national human rights institutions to address stigma and any form of discrimination.

Govt Self-Help Project continues to thrive for Loqi settlers

By DIPESH KUMAR

YEARS of grappling with water issues and trekking long distances in order to find clean water sources will now come to an end for more than 90 Fijians.

This was after a \$30,000 borehole water project was recently commissioned at the Loqi settlement in Nadi.

Longtime resident of Loqi Settlement, Adivika Cagimaira, shared that their hope for access to safe water was now fulfilled and that residents can build a better life for their children.

“This means everything to us. We have dreamt of this day for so long, and now its finally here. With clean water, we can build a better life for our children, one where they don’t have to worry about going thirsty or falling sick. Its a dream come true.”

“Before we used to walk to the creek to wash our clothes, the creek is really far away and the road to the creek is also not

good so we had to use the horse to carry heavy loads.”

Ms Cagimaira shared the difficulties they faced at the settlement, stating that during dry season it was harder to find water as creeks dried up in their area.

“My husband and I used to go to town, find bottles and containers, fill it with water and bring it back for drinking.”

The 46-year-old shared that with access to clean water, residents can now focus on improving their quality of life without the constant worry of waterborne illnesses or the burden of long journeys to fetch water.

Sharing similar sentiments, 57-year-old Tevita Mociu, thanked the Government for their support and shared that they have been waiting for a long time for this project.

“I would like to thank the Government for the big help for this project which will supply us with water since water is very important for our livelihood.”



Adivika Cagimaira on the left Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

“We live in the interior and have had to resort to other ways to survive without water.”

The lack of proper water supply has hindered the community’s farming efforts.

“We survive on root crops and our main source of income is sugarcane farming.”

Mr Mociu shared that there are 16 households right now with water, however, there are other houses and settlements in the area in need of proper water supply.

He stressed that the impact

of this development will help generations to come.

The project comes under the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development self-help program (SHP) as it will boost their agricultural productivity and will enhance their livelihood in many ways.

The SHP project under the Government empowers rural and maritime Fijian dwellers and communities through the provision of income-generating opportunities, as well as the construction of basic amenities.

Lady farmer calls on women to utilise land

By MEREANI GONEDUA

SIXTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD Lalita Devi has called on women around the country to utilise the land around them as it will assist them financially.

The lady farmer from Bila, Sigatoka scooped the Women Vegetable Farmer of the Year Award and the Women Farmer for Nadroga/Navosa Province at the first ever National Women in Agriculture Awards Night which was held in Nadi.

With over 40-years of farming experience, Ms Devi highlighted that women can do anything as long as they put their minds into it.

“Anything is possible through hard work and I will continue to strive for excellence and increase my vegetable farming activities on my five-acre land. I urge everyone out there to utilise your land well.”

Meanwhile, Minister for Agriculture and Waterways, Vatimi Rayalu, while officiating at the awards night,



Lalita Devi at her farm in Sigatoka. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR



Ms Devi harvesting her eggplants from her farm. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

acknowledged the contribution of women in the agriculture sector as they represent 14 percent of Fiji farmers.

“As of today, 12,084 women farmers are registered in the National Farmers Database. This is an increase from the 11,971 recorded in 2020. According to the 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census Report, women farmers contributed \$57.9 million to the total agricultural production value.

Minister Rayalu emphasised that the Coalition Government will continue to work to ensure that women have the opportunities and support they need to participate, lead, and succeed in this amazing sector.

“I would like to commend the efforts of all women in Fiji’s agriculture sector; the women farmers, women exporters, women food processors and not forgetting the trailblazing women officers in the Ministry

who are involved in crop extension services, livestock extension, research services, planning, and administration services across the four geographical divisions of Fiji.

“You all have continuously overcome barriers and positioned yourself as key drivers of alleviating poverty by improving food security and livelihoods in the sector and national economy.

“Women in agriculture have existed in the shadows for many years, supporting agriculture without being recognised. We pay tribute to your countless contributions as grandmothers, mothers, daughters, and the important role you play in shaping and strengthening our families, communities, agricultural sector, exports and food businesses.”

“We reaffirm our commitment to equal opportunities for women in agriculture and support your vision and leadership.”

Pensioners happy with the increase



Senior citizens in the Lau Group have commended the Government for the increment in their pension as of the beginning of this financial year. **Photo JOSIA RALAGO**

By JOSIA RALAGO

“WE are grateful to the Government for increasing our monthly pensions, for it has helped us to live independently without being in a state of poverty.”

This was the testimony from 78-year-old Maata Katia of Qalikarua Village in Matuku who lives alone with her elderly husband on the island.

In the 2023-2024 National Budget, the Government has announced the increment in the pensioners’ scheme by 15 per cent, whereby senior citizens who are 70 years and above now receive \$125 monthly.

This has benefitted senior citizens across the country, including Mrs Katia and her husband, as their children have left the island for greener pastures.

“We have always encouraged our children to get an education so that they can raise their own families, and we are proud of what they have made of themselves,” the mother of two said.

“When they had left, we were left to our own devices and for so many years we were able to meet our needs from farming, fishing and other small activities to earn a living.

“As we continue to age, we realise that we cannot do what we used to so we cannot provide for ourselves.”

Mrs Katia said that this was where the pension has come into good use and through the increment in pension, it was enough to cater for their needs for the duration of the month.

“The increment was much needed because of the high cost of living, and for this we are grateful to the Coalition Government for also prioritising the welfare of senior citizens,” a teary Mrs Maata said.

Govt praised for being inclusive

By JOSIA RALAGO

QALIKARUA Villagers on Matuku, in Yasayasa Moala have praised the Coalition Government for ensuring that their communities are not left behind in development.

They have also welcomed the inclusive manner in which the National Development Plan (NDP) public consultations were conducted with the NDP team visiting the Lau Group this month.

Village Headman, Lincon Saint John said this was a first time for such a consultation where they are able to have a say in a key document that would help shape the course of development in the country.

“We are grateful to the Government that despite our geographical location, we have a team visiting our communities so our voices could be heard which tells us that the Government is there for us and we are cared for as people of this country,” Mr. St John said.

“We recently had our solar lights installed by the Government, alleviating lighting issues in our daily lives, where our children get to study under quality lighting, and now women could weave late into the evening.”

Tovu Village headman on Totoya Island, Mosese Mailoma shared similar sentiments saying that the inclusion of their communities in the NDP public consultation where they can hear issues directly from community members, was commendable.

Some of the issues raised included improvement of franchise shipping service and fares, climate change concerns and communication towers to improve communication.

Meanwhile Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, had earlier said that the outcome of this consultation process being held across the country, would help build a 3-Year, 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan.

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

“When we made all that analysis, we then realised that we needed a new plan, so we decided we will have 3-Year, 5-Year and 20-Year plan,” DPM Prasad said.



Qalikarua Village headman Lincon St John, has praised the Government for the services it has rendered to their village. **Photo JOSIA RALAGO**

Outreach team ensures access to basic health services

By JOSIA RALAGO

ALUMITA Lomoci of Keteira village, Moala in Lau was moved to tears as she received a pair of reading glasses from the Ministry of Health outreach team who visited their village earlier this month.

The 53-year-old said she would sometimes experience short-sightedness and difficulty in reading her Bible during her prayer time every morning.

This was a part of Government’s bid to ensure that no Fijian was left behind in accessing basic health services, whereby the Ministry of Health has deployed close to 40 medical officials to the Lakeba Medical Sub-Division.

The outreach programme included dental, reproductive health, physiotherapy, eye and ear clinics, pharmaceutical services, peer education, general health and a team conducting maintenance on the health facilities.

The mother of five said that the visit by the health officials assured them that they were not forgotten, considering their geographical location and the difficulty in



Sub Divisional Medical Officer Lakeba Dr Luke Ravula while examining a child during their outreach program in the Lau group. **Photo JOSIA RALAGO**

transportation.

“This visit is truly a blessing, and we had anticipated their arrival knowing that some of the services they were bringing were not available on the island,” Ms Lomoci said.

She said the health services on the island were quite limited, and most times they had to travel to Viti Levu to get the medical attention they needed.

“Cost of travelling and staying in Suva is a key barrier, as one-way costs more than \$100 and living in Suva even for a week is not cheap,” Ms Lomoci said.

“Apart from this, for most women, our priority is our families especially our children, and unless it is an emergency, most of us choose to stay.

“I can say that I am the most thankful,

these glasses have truly given me a new lease of life, assisting my vision and ensuring normalcy in my day to day living.

“We would like to thank the Coalition Government for reaching out to our communities and bringing these services right at our doorsteps, understanding the barriers that we face.”

Informal settlement construction phase on par: Minister Naulumisa

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Coalition Government is optimistic that the domestic economic growth will certainly return to the pre-pandemic level. This was highlighted by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa, while contributing to the motion on the address by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, during the opening the 2024 Session of Parliament. “The projected growth rate of 3.8 per cent for 2024 and 3.0 per cent for 2025 is a testament of good financial management and effective policies by the Coalition Government,” he highlighted.

“Housing is fundamentally a human right enshrined in our 2013 Constitution and plays a crucial role in the development of our country as it not only provides shelter but also contributes to economic growth.”

“Over the years, there has been a growing focus on sustainable and affordable housing to address the increasing demands for housing in urban and rural areas,” he added.

He relayed that the new National Development Plan (NDP) earmarked to be finalised in June will set out the collective efforts, initiatives and programmes for a more sustainable and resilient built environment.

“In line with the formulation of the new NDP, the review of the National Housing Policy will now be aligned to Government priorities to ensure consistency and a more streamlined coordination amongst Government, private sector, and non-government organisations,” he said.

“The Ministry will continue to facilitate and support the implementation of the Public Private Partnership project with International Finance Cooperation for developing five sites that will provide around 3000 housing units in Raiwaqa, Nepani, Wainibuku, Davuilevu and Tavakubu.”

“Land development projects carried out by Housing Authority provide housing options for low- and middle-income earning families,” he added.

Minister Naulumisa states that in December 2023, Covata Subdivision in Labasa was completed providing 103 residential lots.

An online portal was also established to provide an efficient and transparent platform for the public to lodge their applications to purchase a lot and build their own dream homes.

“The Mokosoi subdivision project in Deuba nears completion and is expected to provide a total of 34 lots with allocation of green areas which the public can use for sports or leisure activities,” he said.

“The Ministry will continue in assisting first time homeowners through the First Home Ownership Initiative for those with household income of below \$50,000 as well as those between \$50,001 to \$100,000 and may access government grants to buy or build their first home.”

“In this financial year the Ministry approved a total of 113 applications under the First Home Ownership Initiative with a total payout of more than \$1.9 million,” he added.

He underlined that a review of the income



Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa addressing the municipal council chief executive officer at the opening of the CEO's Forum held at the Tanoa Hotel in Lautoka recently. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

brackets will be conducted to ensure the most deserving low-income households will have access to financial support to meet their housing needs including the most vulnerable in society.

“The Ministry’s Informal Settlement Upgrade Programme will continue with upgrades of informal settlements providing settlers with access to basic utilities such as water, sanitation, electricity, drainage, and road and 99-year lease titles providing long term security tenure,” he highlighted.

“Three informal settlements have had their upgrades completed following vigorous challenges with a total of 451 households undergoing lot allocation process to receive

99-year lease titles in Ledrusasa, Nadi with 76 households, Cuvu in Sigatoka with 105 households and Waidamudamu in Nausori with 270 households.”

“Four informal settlements are in construction phase at Sakoca in Nasinu, Tavela in Nadi, Field 4 and Tore in Lautoka with a total of 378 households,” Minister Nalumisa added.

By the end of this financial year, the Ministry will have an additional four informal settlements ready for construction phase in Vunika in Labasa, Wakanisila in Nasinu, Valewaquyaya in Ba and Delaisaweni in Lautoka with a total of 350 households.

DPM Kamikamica outlines Ministry's plans

AZARIA FAREEN

THE Government is committed to several actions with an assurance that the people of Fiji would be involved and their Government would listen to their views.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa

Kamikamica, while contributing to the motion on the address by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, during the opening the 2024 Session of Parliament earlier this month.

“There has been the Fiscal Committee review, the Economic Summit and Education Summit - this approach of listening to the people works well and will continue,” he said.

“We ratified on a bi partisan basis, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Pillar 2 Supply Chain, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka invited the leader of Opposition to COP28 and member of the Parliament Faiyaz Koya attended as well.”

“We intend to bring two further Pillars - Pillar 3: Clean Economy and Pillar 4: Fair Economy to Parliament for ratification on a bi-partisan basis,” he shared.

“I am also happy to note that the National Taskforce on Pornography was approved in Cabinet and will be approached on a bi partisan basis as well,” DPM Kamikamica added.

He noted that in opening the Parliament, President Katonivere talked about Rebuilding Fiji – from infrastructure, the truth and reconciliation commission, speeding up the green transition, updating and reviewing legislation amongst others.

“In the pursuit of progress and prosperity let us be guided by the principles of justice, equality, and compassion, and continue to rebuild Fiji where every individual has the opportunity to prosper and progress,” DPM Kamikamica stressed.

“At present, the debt to GDP is around 75.6 percent and remains unsustainable and the ministry will do its utmost to continue to target higher GDP growth rates (at least 5% per annum) in working together with all agencies of Government and the Private sector and Civil society.”

“Our Ministry believes this can be achieved by pushing for an investor friendly environment, driving opportunities for new Investment and trade growth and pushing for digitization of the Fijian economy,” he added.

DPM Kamikamica said that the ministry will continue to strive for an investor friendly environment especially ease of doing business collaborating with the private sector and drive closer, stronger and broader trade and investment ties with all partners.

“We will continue to drive for genuine economic diversification, focus on regional hubbing agenda and continue to focus on harnessing ICT in Fiji,” he said.

“With the change in investment Fiji’s mandate from being a regulator to facilitator of domestic and foreign investment, we are making good progress in terms of driving investment in Fiji,” he noted.

“The current investment pipeline stands at FJ\$3 billion and growing - there is a mood to invest in the country from renewable energy, commercial agriculture, tourism and expansion of existing operations such as Fiji Water recently.”

“We have created an Investment Facilitation Committee which is an interagency committee which looks at investment bottlenecks and tries to fix them and a taskforce to aid with the set-up of Commercial Agriculture,” he added.

DPM Kamikamica stated that a pilot phase of Automation of Business processes relating to starting business and the building permit approvals is underway which aims to automate 25 processes across 16 agencies.

He adds that the development of the Medicinal Cannabis Industry as well as a broader Nutraceutical economy including a potential billion-dollar Kava Industry was a key focus for the Fiji Government.



In his parliamentary address recently, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, SMEs, and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to advancing ICT in Fiji for economic and social progress. Photo: SUPPLIED

Govt remains committed to preparedness despite vulnerability

By PRASHILA DEVI

Fiji is ranked as the 12th most hazardous country in the world by the World Risk Index on the basis of high exposure to natural hazards and relatively low coping capacity. And the inhabitants of small island development states like Fiji are 15 times more likely to die from climate change disasters.

This stark reality was brought to the fore by Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management Office, Sakiasi Ditoka, while contributing to the motion on the address by the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere while opening the 2024 Session of Parliament.

Against this backdrop, Minister Ditoka explained the urgent need for the new Disaster Bill that will be brought to Parliament later this year.

“The Government maintains its unwavering commitment to enact robust

policies that effectively address the compounding challenges arising from climate change and disasters, particularly impacting our vulnerable communities,” Minister Ditoka said.

Research indicates that cyclones and floods could result in average annual losses equivalent to 5.8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

“The International Monetary Fund (IMF) underscores Fiji’s significant exposure, estimating a 70 per cent likelihood of experiencing impactful disasters related to natural hazards annually,” the Minister said.

Added to that, Minister Ditoka said with 70 per cent of Fiji’s population residing within five kilometres of the coastline, the vulnerability to climate and disaster risks was undeniable.

The Bill, he explained, was an important milestone for all Fijians, incorporating valuable lessons from past disasters to ensure a legal framework that was adaptive and responsive to the evolving nature of

such crises while being aligned to international best practices and standards for disaster risk reduction.

Also, in light of the high level of exposure, Minister Ditoka said, the Government remains committed to advancing its social protection programs and one such initiative was the establishment of Fiji’s Anticipatory Action Framework, the first of its kind in the Pacific.

“Developed in collaboration with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and other UN Partners, this framework allocates US\$2.3 million (FJ\$5.2m) of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for preparedness activities.”



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management Office, Sakiasi Ditoka, visiting flood affected areas in the Western Division last week. Photo: DIPESH KUMAR

He said the framework adopts a ‘no regret’ position in releasing funds to affected members of the population once various triggers are met, aiming to provide timely assistance to forecasted areas prior to disaster impact.

Ministry looks at ways to engage marginalised youth



Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru, on his way to the first sitting of Parliament. Photo: SUPPLIED

By PRASHILA DEVI

THE Ministry of Youth and Sports is seriously considering the establishment of Rehabilitation Centres around the country to address the current and future impacts of the high usage of drugs in our communities.

At the same time, the line Minister, Jese Saukuru, while contributing to the motion on the address by the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere while opening the 2024 Session of Parliament, has reminded parents to “value their families – the cornerstone of human society” as the Government continues to provide immediate support and opportunities to marginalised youth.

“The recent visitation of street kids related to drugs and other illegal activities revealed the stories of young people mostly from broken families and the neglected. The Ministry is trying its utmost in addressing the needs of the vulnerable youth in our society,” he assured.

Minister Saukuru highlighted recent studies that have revealed that lack of economic opportunities have led to extreme poverty within communities, leading young people to loiter around urban centers, live on the streets and

engage in illegal activities.

To offset this, he explained that the Ministry was looking to revive National Youth Services Scheme, which was founded in 1993, to help address the unemployment rate.

“The re-establishment of the National Youth Service Scheme will not only help the current youth challenges for the government but will also hold significant implications in aligning with our commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations.”

Minister Saukuru also mentioned the reinstatement of the National Youth Council of Fiji after a lapse of eight years and the launch of the Fiji National Youth Policy and Online Registration Dashboard.

The reinstated council serves as a vital platform for amplifying youth voices and channelling their concerns to the Ministry.

“Its purpose is to represent the diverse perspectives and interests of young Fijians, facilitating dialogue, advocacy, and policy formulation that directly address their needs. By providing a structured avenue for youth engagement, the council fosters inclusivity, empowerment, and active citizenship among the younger generation,” he explained.

NDP will capture our collective vision for the future: Minister Lalabalavu



Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Atonio Lalabalavu in Parliament earlier this month. Photo: SUPPLIED

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

“THE new National Development Plan will capture our collective vision and aspirations for the future, and set key initiatives and strategies that will allow the nation to grow sustainably in the many years ahead of us.”

This was highlighted by the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Atonio Lalabalavu while speaking on the motion on the address by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, during the opening the 2024 Session of Parliament.

“As alluded to by His Excellency the President, the key fundamental of the Government’s development agenda is inclusive development to improve the well-being of all our citizens.”

Minister Lalabalavu added the NDP was anticipated to be finalised by June this year, before the budget announcement.

“His Excellency the President highlighted the commitment of the Ministry of Health and

Medical Services to address the significant challenges posed by the increasing burden of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases in our population.”

“Non-communicable diseases (NCD) continue to be the main disease burden for our people contributing to 80 per cent of all deaths in the country and 40 per cent of premature death.”

Minister Lalabalavu said the healthy habits to reduce NCDs in Fiji do not start inside the hospitals and nursing stations, they start and are nurtured in homes, schools, villages, work places, offices, and also in the deliberations of Parliament.

“The Ministry of Health and Medical Services is finalising its Wellness and NCD Strategy with the help of our partners, which will guide our effort in addressing NCD in Fiji.”

Minister Lalabalavu said the NCD crisis we have will require all our collective effort and determination to control and stop.

Let's create an environment of acceptance in our communities: President Katonivere



Naboro play a major role in the up-skilling of prisoners in areas such as carpentry and joinery, farming, piggery, poultry, bakery, and tailoring.”

He said a funding allocation for the Poverty Alleviation Project also aims to reduce recidivism as the funds was used for the establishment of small business enterprises for discharged inmates.

President Katonivere reminded the leaders present that a prison was more than just the physical enclosure – concrete walls, razor wire, and monitored screens, all of which support punitive justice.

“The other prison is the community, where released reformed inmates may encounter rejection and stigmatisation. The key to the second prison lies with the community.”

“The full rehabilitation and reintegration of released reformed inmates require a holistic approach involving the vanua, family and the lotu.”

President Katonivere urged the traditional leaders, village headman, and women representatives, and the key message to the I-Taukei community was clear – cohesiveness.

“With the alarming increase in social ills within our urban and rural centres, it is critical to re-evaluate our support mechanisms, resuscitate the spirit of working together, and strengthen our traditional values, family bonds, and spirituality.”

“Let us not forget that an incarcerated offender carries a set of identities – his own or her own, the church, family, mataqali, and the vanua. Therefore, let us bind to constructively reassess our messages and guidance structures within all of these interconnected units.”

The President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere with the Divisional Commissioner Northern, Uraia Rainima and Fiji Corrections Services Assistant Commissioner Operations, Apolosa Veve, during the Yellow Ribbon Symposium in Labasa last week. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

by NANISE NEIMILA

THERE has been a marked decline in the rate of recidivism since 2009 when it was close to eight per cent to less than two per cent.

This was highlighted by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, while launching the Macuata Provincial Yellow Ribbon Symposium in Labasa last week.

“The recidivism rate over the past 12 years has fluctuated from a high of 7.9 per cent in 2009 to 1.5 percent in 2017-2018. In 2018-2019, it was 2.5 per cent, while in 2019-2020, it was 1.70 percent. It reduced again to 1.06 percent in 2020-2021 and increased to 1.74 percent in

the last financial year, ending 31st July 2023.”

President Katonivere highlighted that the Yellow Ribbon Project had evolved to include initiatives such as the CARE Network. The CARE Network has engaged the services of provincial councils and religious organisations to assist in the reintegration of reformed inmates back into society.

“The Yellow Ribbon Solesolevaki (cooperative) Programme is a community-based initiative targeting rural-based prisoners. This farming-based programme begins whilst the prisoner is incarcerated. It involves the engagement of the vanua, community, church, family, and corrections personnel to utilise available mataqali

land to support rehabilitated inmates.”

“The Yellow Ribbon Sow A Seed Programme is a volunteer mentorship initiative that has benefited selected first offenders, male and female. To date, 25 volunteers have been successfully engaged under the Sow A Seed Programme.”

President Katonivere further adds these volunteers assume the parental responsibilities for many of these offenders, who come from broken families.

“The programme is designed to eventually reconnect these offenders with their families, and secure education or employment opportunities upon their release.”

“The six enterprise units operating in

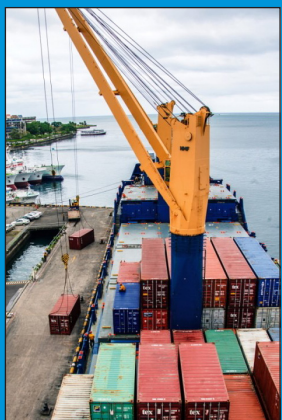


Noda Viti

Vukelulu, Maji 27, 2024 | 8 Drauniveva, 4 Tabana 15 ni Lavelave ni Ivola

**Vukei Viti ko
Ositerelia
ena wavu**

Story on page 3



**Vulagi dokai nai Liuliu
ni Matanitu ena
Koronivuli mai Navuso.**

Story on page 6



\$10M mai na KOICA



ERA marautaka ka vakavinakataka na liuliu ni matanitu, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka na nodra yalayala na matanitu ko Korea ena kena soqosoqo ni dau veivuke ena veivakatorocaketa-ki, KOICA se Korea International Co-operation Agency me solia vei Viti e \$10Milioni.

Rogo na veivosaki oqo ena nodra siko

main a mat ani matanitu ko Korea ena nodra valenivolavola na Paraiminisita ka vakadinadinataki kina na yaga ni veiqaravi oqo ena bula ni veiqaravi vakamatanitu

Dua veira na sasaga ni veiwekani oqo na kena vuka vakadodonu ki Korea na waqavuka nei Viti.

PM a marautaka o Vukeka na yalodina

nei Korea me vaqacotaka vakalevu cake na veitokoni kei na veitokoni me baleti Viti.

A vakavinavinakataka o Mataivalu Kim na PM Vukeka ena vuku ni nodra-tou veivosaki vuavuai vinaka ena vica na ka bibi oka kina na veika e rawa ni yaco me baleta na kena vakayacori tale na vuka vakadodonu ena kedrau mali-

wa o Viti kei Korea.

Na veivakasalataki voleka kei ira na vakaitutu ni waqavuka kei na waqavuka ena tomani tikoga me baleta na tomani tale ni vuka vakadodonu ena kedrau maliwa o Viti kei Korea, me baleta na bibi ni tabana ni saravanua ena bula ni Viti kei na kena gadrevi me tokona na veisau ni tamata mai vei ira na tamata.



VEISIKO E NA LUVU NI VANUA ENA MUAIRA

Minisita ni Leqa Tubukoso Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka era sikova na waluvu ena ta-bana ni Ra. A vakayacora na vei qaravi e dua na soqoni ni veitala-noa kei ira era a vakaleqai ena dua na idrodro ni leqa tubu koso e Naevuevu e Sigatoka ka walia kina na leqa

ni kena sega na drodro tiko na wai. E vakadeitaka vei ira ni na cakava na matanitu Cokovata na kena vinaka duadua me wali kina na leqa tubukoso. A sikova o Ditoka na waluvu na vanua e tauvi Ba, Nadi kei Sigatoka.



Kau yaga na Niu



“Ni o tea e dua na vuni niu, o na sega ni tea walega e dua na vunikau; o sa kaburaka tiko na sore-nikau me baleta na bula sautu kei na kaukauwa me baleta na itabatamata mai muri.” Na vuni niu e dau vakatokai me “Vunikau ni Bula,” ena vuku ni kena yaga vakalevu e okati kina na kakana, na kena kana, na kerekere ni rairai vinaka, kei na kena buli na iyaya ni matavuvale. Na kau kecega e tu ena vunikau oqo, mai na wakana ki na drauna kei na vuana, e rawa ni kania na tamata se manumanu, se saumaki ina iyaya yaga. Vakaraitaka na tikina oqo na Minisita ni Teitei, Vatimi Rayalu ena nodra laki vulagi dokai ena siga ni vakanumi kina na VuniNiu se tei niu.

“Na kena sa tubu cake tikoga na bibi ni veikau ena kena sotava na bolebole ni gauna oqo, ka vakadeitaka ni veiliutaki tudei e sa ka bibi sara me vakadeitaki kina na kena tomani tiko na cakacaka yaga oqo



Oqori na mala ni vosa nodra na ivukevuke ni Minisita ena Valenivolavola ni vei qaravi ni Liuliu ni Matanitu, Sakiusa Tubuna. “Na veisau sa idola ni kena wali ni bolebole e sotava tiko na noda veikau nikua,” e kaya o Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna. Kuria ko Minista Tubuna ni itavi bibi na veikau ena kena tokona na bula e vuravura ka kaciva na sasaga vakatasuasua me taqo-maki ira ka maroroi ira na veikau. Oqori era vosa tiko ena siga me baleta na Siga ni Veikau e Vura-vura, ka kena ulutaga kina na “Veikau kei na Veisau - iWali Vou ni Dua na Vuravura Vinaka Cake.”



Lawa ni veiqaravi ena cakacaka

NA matanitu ko Viti esa la-
veta cake na veiqaravi ni kena
vakalawataki na veika baleta
na cakacaka ena noda vanua.
Era a laki bose kina ena Inter-
national Labour Organisation
and Minisita ni Cakacaka ena
noda vanua, Agni Deo Singh.
Era lewena talega na boseka
oqo na soqosoqo ni tamata
cakacaka kei na Unioni.
Sa vakadonui kina me na
vakamuri vakavinaka kece na
lawa ni cakacaka.



iTutu nei Viti ena Mataveilewai ni Lewa Dodonu e Vuravura Raraba



A vakamacalataka na liuliu ni matanitu o
Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka na nanuma cala
me baleta na vakamalumalumutaki ni Viti ki
na Mataveilewai ni Lewa Dodonu e Vuravura
Raraba me baleta na veivanua tawani ena Ra ni
Baqe kei Gaza Strip ena macawa oqo ena pali-
medi.

A tokaruataka na ivakarau nei Viti me baleta
na veiliutaki cecere, sega ni voravora, sega ni
veivakataotaki, kei na veisaqasaqa vakacegu me
vaka e vakamacalataki ena UN Charter's Chap-
ter VI. A vakamatatataka o Vukeka na yalodina
nei Viti ena kena tutaka na nodra yalodina na
yavu ni vakalawa.

Veivakatorocaketaki ni Sautu ena iVakavuvuli ni “Wasawasa ni Sautu”

Ena palimedi ena macawa oqo, a vakadonuya kina na liuliu ni Matanitu o Para-
iminisita Sitiveni Rabuka na vakasama ni dua na “Wasawasa ni Sautu,” ka vaka-
dinadinataka na veivakarerei ki na ituvatuva ni veimatanitu e yavutaki ena lawa.
A vakamatatataka na kena gadrevi me tokona na vakacegu, ka salavata kei na
ivakavuvuli ni Un Charter kei na “New Agenda for Peace” nei Sekeriteri Raraba
ni Matabose kei Vuravura.

Ena kena iwasese, e veitokoni na vakasama oqo kei na Boe Declaration ena
veitaqomaki ni iwasese kei na iwalewale ni 2050 me baleta na vanua ni Pa-
sifika Karakarawa.

A vakamatatataka o Vukeka na inaki ni vakatutu me vakalesuya mai na itu-
vatuva ni veiraurau ka sureti ira na itokani me ra vakaitavi ena ivakatagedegede
vakacegu ni Pasifika me “Wasawasa ni Sautu.”



iLesilesi ni Matanitu kei na Matanitu Vakalou

A vakadeitaka tale na liuliu ni matanitu o Paraiminisi-
ta Sitiveni Rabuka na yalayala ni matanitu me lesi ira na
vakaillesi ka yavutaki ena kena yaga ena veiyasai tabana
eso, oka kina na veiqaravi ni veimatanitu tani, matabose ni
matanitu, kei na kabani e taukena na matanitu ena macawa
oqo ena palimedi.

E vakadeitaka ni a caka vakamatau na ilesilesi me vaka
idusidusi vakadonui. Me baleta na CEOS ni kabani raraba,
e vakamatatataka o Vukeka ni vakatulewa oqo era sa tiko
ena loma ni veivakasavasavataki ni matabose yadua, ka
vakabibitaka na sega ni vakataotaki mai na matanitu.



VATUKOULA/TAVUA

Na tau bisa ni lagi ena loma ni vica na siga ena ma-
cawa sa oti esa vakavuna me luvu eso na vanua bu-
cabuca ena noda vanua. Oqo e wilikina ko Tavua
kei Vatukoula. Sa soli vakasala tiko kina na tabana
ni leqa tubu koso me ra qaqarauni na lewenivanua
vakabibi oira era da via takosova na gaunisala luvu
se kawakawa sa dromu ena levu ni wai.



VULI RARABA NI VULI

Ni oti na bose ni Kabineti ka vakayacori ena ika 19
ni Maji, 2024, sa vakadonuya na kabineti na kena
tauyavutaki na Fiji Public Sector Learning Institute
(FPSLI). Oqo ena vakayacori ena veitalanoa kei na
univesiti ni vanua ena kena vakadeitaki na ivakarau
vinaka duadua ni cakacaka.

Ena vakanamata na Inisitude ki na kena vakau na
parokaramu ni vuli vinaka sara ka vakanamata ki
na gagadre ni Veiqaravi Vakamatanitu e Viti kei na
tamata cakacaka ni tabana raraba.

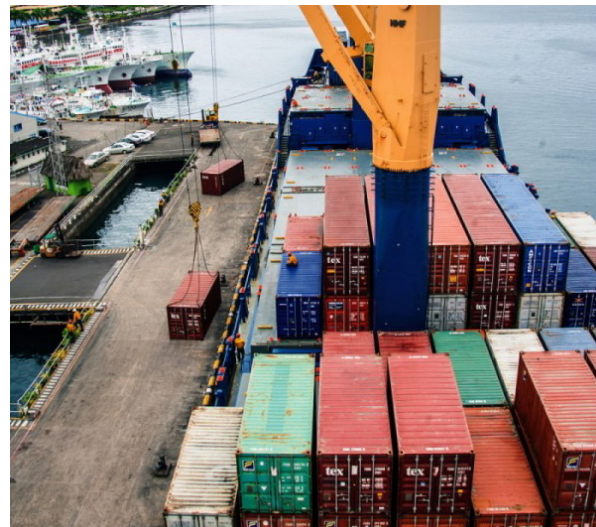
Na Inisitude ena dua na mataisoqosoqo ni vuli ka
duidui mai na Civil Service ka na qai tara cake e dua
na irogorogo ni vuli vinaka ka ciqomi me ‘dauveiqar-
ravi ni digidigi’ mai na Civil Service kei na itikotiko
ni bisinisi.



Vukei Viti ko Osit- erelia ena wavu

Sa vakadonuia na matabose ecake ni Matanitu se
Kabineti me duana veidinadinati kei Ositerelia ena
kena sagai me vakavinakataki na veiqaravi ena noda
wavu lelevu ena noda vanua.

Sa sasaga oqo ena vukea talega na kena ta na waqa
kei na cakacaka ni ripea taki waqa ena noda wavu
lelevu e Viti





TOMANI TIKO GA NA VEIVAKATOROICAKETAKI NI BISINISI E VITI.



Vola ko: Katarina Naqarase

Ea tokona vakalevu na veika era mai cauraka tiko na Peresitedi ni Noda Vanua ena kena dolavi na dabe ni Bose Lawa ena yabaki, 2024 na Paraiminisita Veivuke ka Minisita talega ni Veivoli, Veibisinisi Lalai ka vaka kina na Veitaratara o Hon Manoa Kamikamica.

E mai vakayacori nai matai ni veitalanoa me baleta na Veika Vakabisinisi ka ratou cicivaka na (Business Assistance in Fiji). E solia na lawa tu mena rawa ni so tale madigi mena rawa I rogoci tale mai na veibisinisi kei ira na tauria nai votavota ena veika me vakayacori na:

- Vakavinakataki ni Bula Vakailavo
- Vakavinakataki ni kena Vakalawataki ni Noda Iyaubula
- Vakavinakataki ni Tabana ni Tukutuku
- Vakavinakataki na kena tokoni na Veibisinisi

E na loma ni yabaki sa oti 2024 e vakayacora kina na Minisitiri e 232 na veivakaramataki , era volayaca e 77 nai soqosoqo ka vakarautaki na vuli vei ira na lewe 833 na iTaukei ka rauta ni 85% na pasede ena kena toso cake nai wiliwili ni volayaca ena kena ena veiyabaki sa sivi.

- E vica talega na vanua e ratou sa raica na Minisitiri ka ratou sa vakabauta nina rawa ni biliga na kena vakarautaki tale na veika vinaka me baleta na noda Yaubula me vana n I veiganiti kei na tubu ni lavo ena noda vanua:
- Sasagataki na kena vakarautaki mena tomani na vakarawarawataki ni Bisinisi
 - Veivolekati ka vakarabailevutaki ni veivoli na kena vakailavotaki kei ira na kenai taukei.
 - Tomani tiko ga Dina ena Veika Vakailavo
 - Vakanamata kina matabose ni veiwasewase
 - Na Vakayagtaki ni ICT e Viti.

Esa tomana tale tiko ga na Minisitiri mena vakavinakataki na vakatubu bisinisi, e okati talega kina na Reserve Bank of Fiji ka vaka kina na Asian Development Bank ka sa na veitomani talega mai na Capital Bill ena loma ni yabaki oqo. Esa cakacaka vata talega kina iratou na UNESCAP ena kena vakatorocaketaki nai tuvatuva ni MSME kana levu kina na tubu ena noda vanua.



TOMANI TIKO GA NA VEIVAKATOROICAKETAKI ME BALETI IRA NAI TABAGONE



Vola ko Katarina Naqarase

Era mai vosa tiko ena Bose Lawa na Minisita ni Qito kei na Tabagone o Hon Jese Saukuru enai ka 12 ni Maji ka vica sara nai ulutaga bibi era mai vosa kina ena vuku ni veivakatorocaketaki ena noda vanua me baleti ira nai Tabagone kei na Qito.

1.NA BIBI NI VUVALE.

E mai vakaraitaka tiko o Hon Sukuru eso na veika esa mai cavu I kalawa kina na Minisitiri , oqo e oka kina na kena vakaukaukawataki na lawa e baleti ira na gone ena noda veitaoni ka soli vei ira eso nai tuvatuva kei na porokaramu , ka kila deivaki na Minisitiri ni tu tale esoi na veika ena rawa ni wali kina na leqa oqo ena noda vanua.

E tomana o Hon Sukuru ni vakadidike ena vuku ni nodra mai sikovi na gone ena noda veitaoni(street kids) e lewe levu era okati ira tu ena kena vakaya-gataki na waigaganiveivakamatenitaki, ka vaka kina eso era lako curuma mai na kavoro ni vuvala ka so era biligi tani mai ena nodra veivuvale.

Sa sasaga sara tiko vakalevu na Minisitiri ena vuku ni kena vunautaki na sasaga yaga vei ira nai Tabagone.Na Matanitu Cokovata ena tomana tiko ga na kena tokoni kei na sala me baleti ira nai tabagone, ka sa vakamasuti ira nai Tubutubu ena bibi ni nodra dui vuvala. Na Minisitiri esa biuta vata nai tuvatuva ena kena vakaduri na (Rehabilitation Center) ena noda vanua ena bibi ni kena vakatetei na leqa ni veika ena kauta mai na waigaganiveivakamatenitaki ena noda dui tikotiko.

Esa vakavinavinakataki ira talega era solia na nodra gauna ena vuku ni kena kena veitalanoataki nai ulutaga se na leqa e baleti ira na gone ena noda veitaoni, na waigaga , na mate dewa ni veiyacovi ,ka vaka kina na veivakalolomataki me baleti ira na Marama kei na Gone.

2. NA GAUNA NI CAKACAKA KEI

NA VEIQARAVI NI TABAGONE

E sa mai vakaraitaka talega na Minisita ena kena mai biuvata e 4 na vanua ni vuli ena veiwasewase ena noda vanua, ka ratou raica ni sa duanaka vakaitamera mai veira ena vuku ni kena kau vakavoleka yani vei ira na veitabana ni vuli.

Na tabana ni vuli oqo na (Youth Career) e vakarautaka sara e levu na vuli, kei na veitalanoa ena vuku ni veivakacakacataki vei ira na okati ira mera tiki ni vuli. Esa navuci talega me sana vakadaberi lesu mai na (National Youth Services Scheme)ka tauyavutaki ena 1993 ka raica na kena wali na sega ni cakacaka (unemployment rate) ena noda vanua.

E mai biu talega e dua na vakadidike me baleta na kena laurai na lailai ni rawaka vakailavo ka vakavuna sara tiko vakalevu na bula dravudravua ena loma ni tikotiko, vuna levu talega ni nodra mai tu voli ena sauka ni taoni ka vuna mera okati ira ena veicakacaka butobuto eso. Na vuna levu ni biu mai na National Youth Services ena sega walega ni vukei ira nai tabagone ena rawa ni veitomani talega mai oratou na Sustainable Development Goals ka vakarautaka na Matabose Levu Kei Vuravura.

3. TAQOMAKI KA BIBI NI VANUA NI VULI.

E 5 na Tabana Ni Vul i ena noda vanua ka solia sara e levu na sala ni rawa cakacaka ka vaka kina na vuli. E levu na tabana me vaka na tabana ni teitei, tara vale,vakatagi ena rawa ni solia ka sotava na nodra gagadre nai Tabagone.

E na veituvatuva tale eso e laurai ni 190 nai tabagone era mai ciqoma na nodra I vola ena Training Centers ka 60% na pasede e ra sa rawa cakacaka sara, ka so era sa ladeva yan I na vuli torocake.Esa yabaki oqo 2024 e 281 era sa mai vola kerekere rawa ka sana rawa mera na vakaotia nan nodra vuli ena yabaki oqo.

E na mua ni yabaki sa ori e mai cioqma vakailoloma kina na Minisitiri na

yaya ni vakatagi mai na Mata ni Matanitu o Jaini na ki Viti (Embassy to China)ka ra mai vakayagataka sara na vuli ena Valelevu(Valelevu Youth Training Center) ka na mai vukei ira sara vakalevu ena kena buturara ni veivakamarautaki.

4. MATABOSE NI TABAGONE E VITI. Na kena kau lesu mai na matabose ni Tabagone ni oti e 8 na yabakika mai tavoci takega kina na Fiji National Youth Policy and Onlione Registration Dashboard esa dua na cavu I kalawa levu ena Minisitiri . Na

tabana oqo ena tokoni ira ka levu sara na veivakatorocaketaki ena kena veitabana.

5 NA VEIVEISAU NI DRAKI.

E sa tuvana talega na Minisitiri mena cakacakavata kei ratou na tabana ni leqa tubukoso ena vuku ni kena wali eso na leqa me baleta na veiveisau ni draki. E oka kina na Vul i, Vurevure ni veika ka vaka kina na veiyaya ni cakacaka. E na soli talega na Certificate 1 ena Resilience on Climate Change Adaption and Disaster Risk Deduction ka tiki tale tiko ni tuvatuva ka ratou vakarautaka Tabana Ni Vul i Ni Tabagone ena drodrova kece na 4 na vanua ni vuli ena noda vanua.

6. VAKATOROICAKETAKI NA QITO

Ena kena tomani tiko ga na veitokoni vei ira nai Tabagone esa vakabibi taki na Qito ena noda vanua , ka na kauta mai na tiko bulabula, duavata vakauasivi na tiko vinaka.Na qito ena rawa ni vakaduavata taki ira na veimata tamata me mani duidui na nodra tuberi ka sugi mai ia na qito ena rawa ni solia vei ra na duavata kei na cakacakavata. Na qito ea solia kina e 72% kina tuvatuva vakailavo ni Minisitiri ka vaka kina na veivuke tale eso mai na Matanitu ka vakarurugi ena Fiji Sports Council. Me yacova mai na gauna oqo e ratou sa vakayagataka sara vakavinaka e 70% mai na \$14.1 na milioni nai lavo e vago lei ena qito. E mai laurai ni ni levu sara na cavuisausau ena yabaki oqo me vaka na nodratou mai vakacacakakai ratou na Mata Timi ni 15 ena noda vanua(Fiji Water Flying Fijians)ena sotasota ni vuravura me vaka na kena mai vakadrukai na matatimi ni Ositerelia. Na nodratou mai yacova nai ka 6 ni tutu na matatimi ni Viti ena 2023 Pacific Games ka vakayacori e Honiara; Na nodratou mai qaqa na Matatimi ni marama na Fiji Womens Deaf Rugby 7's

mai Ositerelia. Enakenamaivakayacori na porokaramu ni Qito ena veitikotiko(Community Sports Competition) ka cakacakavata kina na Minisitiri ena yabaki sa oti ka vakailavotaka na Matanitu. Na kena vakayacori na Amature kei na Professional Boxing ka vakaraitaka ni sa toso sara tiko na veivakatorocaketaki ni qito ena noda vanua. Na kena na gole talega na Mata Timi ni Lewe Yavitu ena vuku ni kena taqomaki na koula ena Olympics . Levu sara na veituvatuva esa biuta vata na Minisitiri oya na kena mai dola na Aquatic Center ka vaka kina na National Hockey Turf ena Janueri ena yabaki oqo ka laurai ni levu sara na veika vivinaka ena kauta mai ka vakailavotaka mna matanitu o Jaini. Na kena mai vakacavari na kena vakavinakataki na vanua ni qiot e Laucala (HFC Stadium). E dua nai tuvatuva ni matanitu ena vuku ni kena tovolei vakailavotaki vnk ni tabana ni qito ena noda vanua. Nai sau vakailavo kece ni cakacaka oqori e rauta ni 1.9 na milioni. Na kena mai vakayacori na qito ena siti ni suka ka ratou vakaraitaka na Melbourne Storm ni sana tekivutaki na kena veitalanoa nio Viti nai ka 4 ni matanitu me vakaitavi ena qito levu ena noda vuravura.

Na kena mai rawata na Minisitiri na na kena pasitaki na Fiji National Anti-Doping Policy ka vaka kina na National Sports Recreations kei na Physical Activity mena rawa nin laveta cake na veivakatorocaketaki ni qito vei ira na lewenivanua.E na sasga oqo ena rawa ni solia na gaunisala vei Viti mena dua na vanua ni qito vinaka ena Wasa Pasivika.

E dua talega na sasaga ena vuku ni kena mai tauyavutaki tale na Anti -doping e Viti e gole raraba vei ira na veimataqito kece ena vuku ni kena gadrevi na cakacaka vakadodonu ena kena vakacautaki, vakatoroicaketaki kei na kena vakacokotaki vakavinaka na veika mena tarovi na leqa e dau yaco me baleta na qito. E solia kina na Matanitu e rauta ni \$386,700 ena tuvatuva vakailavo ena yabaki oqo.

Era sa gole yani vakayauyau na lewe ni vanua kei ira na tamata ki vanuatani ena vuku ni ca Sa vakaraitaka talega na Minisita ni sa tu vakarau mena vakalevutaka na veivakatorocaketaki me baleti ira nai tabagone. E ratou sa cakacaka vakaukauwa ena kena vakarawarawataki na veika me baleta na qito , vakaibitaki na vakaukauwa yago ka ra tokoni na dauqito gone ena nodra sasaga tiko mera yacova e dua na vanua vinaka. Sa veivakamasuti o Hon Saukuru vei keda kece sara na lewenivanua meda veitauriligataka na kena tokoni nai sau-sauvou ni vanua o Viti vakabibi ena Buturara ni Qito ena noda vuravura.

VULAGI DOKAI NAI LIULIU NI MATANITU ENA KORONIVULI MAI NAVUSO

Vola ko: Katarina Naqarase

Era laki vulagi dokai nai liuliu ni matanitu o Paraiminisita Sittiveni Rabuka ena soqo ni tauri vola vei ira na gone era mai vakarautaki ena koronivuli ni vuli tara e Navuso Agriculture School ena mua ni macawa sa oti nai ka 16 ni Maji, 2024.

E ra osota yani nai vakalesilesi vakamatanitu, qasenivul, tubutubu, dauniveisusu kei ira nai tokani ena kena laki vadinadinataki na nodra sa mai cavu I sausau na lewe 15 na gone era mai tauri vola ena (National Certificate in Dairy Level 2).

E vakavinavinakatakli ira na gonevuli o Hon Rabuka ena vuku ni kena sa mai vakacavari na tolu na vula ni vuli Dairy Training Production.

E laurai bibi ni susu bulumakau ena noda vanua vakabibi ena bula vakailavo ka vakavinavinakataka ena vuku ni kena vorati na dredre me vaka na lailai ni veika vakalivaliva, tauvimate , ka vaka kina na lailai nai sau era taura tiko na dau loba sucu, ia e sega ni tu vakasuka na kena tabana ena kena tosoi tiko ga na sasaga.

Me vaka sa tubu cake sara tiko nai wiliwili ni lewenivanua na kena gadrevi na sucu ka vaka kina na veika e rawati mai kina esa tubu cake tale tiko ga. E dua na bolebole ena gauna oqo na kena tovolei me na tubu na tabana ni sucu ka.

E na tomana tiko ga na matanitu na kena tokoni na tabana oqo , ena vuku ni kena gadreva na matanitu na nodra vakarautaki ira na dau susu manumanu me rawa ni rawati na veika vivinaka vakabibi na vakailavo taki lesu na nodra yalava ni teitei.

E na kena veisemati na Matanitu kei na Fiji Agriculture Youth Policy , e vakaraitaka na Paraiminisita vei ira na tauri vola mera vakaukauwataka na nodra vakaitavi ena vuli, ka vaka kina na vuli tara, vakaitavi taki ira ena vakatulewa matau.

Vei ira na tauri vola e sega walega nio rawata taudua e laurai votu na cakacakavata kei na yalo ni sasaga ena koronivuli kei kemuni na gonevuli.E dodonu mena ciqomi na veisau ka vakasamataka ka yalo ni cakacaka vata. E vakavinavakataki ira talega na dauniveituberi kei ira na veivuke ena kena sagai me maukokona nai tavi ena sa mai vakavotukanataki na ena siga ni tauri vola.

Na soqo nio tauri vola esa cava ena dua na vanua

cecere sara .E sa vakasalataki ira talega mera na tosoya na nodra kila ka ena vanua ni cakacaka me vaka na vanua ni teitei ka na vakarabailevutaka na nodra rai.

Sa vakanuinui vinaka tu na Paraiminisita ni Noda vanua o Hon Sitiveni Rabuka ena vuku ni sasga eda mai vakavotukanataki vei ra na gonevuli vakarau-taki e Navuso.



NA BIBI NI NODA VOSA KEI NA VEIVAKATOROCAKETAKI NI KAWA ITAUKEI.

Vola ko Katarina Naqarase

E vica na yavu lelevu e ra mai vosa kina nai Vukevuke ni Minisita ni Veika VakaItaukei Tovo kei Nai Yau Vakamareqeti o Hon Isikeli Tuiwailevu ena bose lawa e nai ka 14 ni Maji, 2024.

Nai matai ni ulutaga era vosa kina sai koya na bibi ni Noda Vosa Ni Vanua, ena kena mai vakaycori na siga ni Vosa Ni Vanua e Vuravura enai ka 21 ni Veverueri, 2024 ka qarava na Tabacakacaka Itaukei kei na Veitabana era vakarurugi kina. Na kena marautaki na siga oqo e vakabibitaki kina noda vosa, noda vosanivanua, vosa vakaRotuma kei na vuqa tale.

E mai qaravi talega eso nai walewale me maroroya ka vakadewataki kina na vuku vakavanua kei nai tovo ena sala me dei kina me vaka na kena tutaki na duavata kei ira na veimatatamata e Viti, tokoni na vuli me taraicake kina nna veivakatorocaketaki raiyawa ka vaka kina na sala ni kena susugi na veidokai vei ira ma lewenivanua kei na veikabula.

Esa vakarautaka talega na Tabacakacaka Itaukei, Tovo kei nai Yau Vakamareqeti e dua na Ituvatuva Levu ni Matanitu ni Duqe ni Vosanivanua e Vuravura 2022-2032. Sa vakadeitaka na Matabose Levu kei Vuravura na kena inaki “mera laurai vakatautauvata na veivanua sa luluqa tiko kina na vosanivanua ka ra cakacavata na Veitabana Veiwekani ena kena marorori,

taqomaki ka vakabulabulataki.

Nai Tuvatuva ni Duqe ni Vosanivanua e Vuravura e yavutaki ena tolu nai ulutaga:

- Bulataka na noda Vosanivanua
- Tarovi na yali ni noda Vosanivanua kei
- Vakadewataki na noda Vosanivanua, e taurivaki ena vakasama e koto enai vola na “three-legged stool” me baleta na goneturaga talai sa bale Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna

Ena vakavotui na ituvatuva kevaka era ma veitokoni mai kina vakalewelevu na lewenivanua.

E dua talega na cavu isausau levu ena kena sa mai vakadonui na National Culture Policy e Viti. E bibi duaudua na domodra na lewenivanua, nina rawa ni vakataucokotaka na noda toso kei na tiko sautu ena noda vanua.

Na tikina kece oqori era sa kovuti tu ena National Culture Policy ka sa cakacakataka tiko na Tabacakacaka Itaukei na veika mena qaravi ea veigauna sa tu e matada. Esa tokona talega na Tabacakacaka Itaukei nai walewale sa taurivaka tiko na Tabana ni Ilavo ni noda Matanitu ena vuku ni vakarautaki ni iTuvatuva ni. Veivakatorocaketaki (National Development Plan).

Esa vakarautaka na Matanitu Cokovata na koronivuli makawa ni Grammar Boys ka vakatokai na St Stephens Building mesa nodra vale na Radau ni vakavovotu kei na

veicakacaka ni liga na imatai ni National Arts Center. Na vanua oqo era na kilai tani kina na Radau ka maroroi vata na kedra I tukutuku, ka sa tomani vata tiko na kena cakacaka me veiganiti kei na ituvaki ni veika me rawa ni vakayagataki vinaka vei ira na lewenivanua.

E liutaka talega na Minisita ni Veika Vakaitaukei, iTovo kei na iYau Vakamareqeri, ka sa vakarautaki tale tiko ga na ripote nei vei ratou na komiti ena vuku ni Levuka World Heritage mena vakalesui na kena I tuvaki makwa koya e kilai tani kina. E sa vakarau mai cava talem na cakacakataka ni Levuka Community Centre ka veitokoni ni matanitu cokovata ena kena vakatoroicaketaki na veivanua maroroi ena koro ko Levuka. Oka talega kina na Valeniyau Maroroi.

Nai tuvatuva ni Tudei ni Saravanua (National Sustainable Tourism Framework) ena vakaceguya na tubu ni nodra karamaca na dau siko vanua. Esa uqeti na Tabacakacaka Itaukei, iTovo kei na iYau Vakamareqeti ena cakacaka oqo, ka sa vakarau me vakadeitaki na iTuvatuva ni Saravanua e Viti. Nai tuvatuva levu ni Saravanua sai koya mena vakaqacacotaki na iYaubula ni vanua, me vakavotukanataki na talei kei na vakasakiti ni saravanua e Viti.

E sa vakarautaki tale tiko ga ena loma ni Tabacakacaka oira mera na matataki Viti kina Solevu ni Vakaraitaki iTovo I Hawai

ena ka 3 kina 16 ni Jiune ena yabaki oqo. Na Solevu oqo e vakatakila na duavata kei na noda vakaitavi e Hawaii, wili kina oira ena Yatu Pasifika, era kauta vata tu e dua nai tukutuku bibi me laveta na bula ena veitikotiko vakacacani ena kama levu e Maui.

Sa sevutaka oti na Minisita ni noda vanua ena siga ni Itaukei e Vuravura ena 2023 na kena Sova ni Itukutuku koya maroroya nai tukutuku ni Vuku Vakavanua kei na Itovo kumuni mai na tini vakacaca na yabaki sa oti mai na 1,173 na koro ena loma ni 14 na yasana. Nai tuvatuva oqo e kauta mai na nuinui ni rawa ni sa vakabulai ni vuku vakavanua me vaka nisa dredre na kena vakadewataki, ia ena tauyavutaki mai kina e dua na kena Vunilewa.

Sa vakadonui talega e rua na Lawasau, na Lawasau ni iDivi ni vanua ena 1972 kei na lawasau ni Vakabulabulataki ni Vuku iTaukei 2003. E na Tiseba, sana solia na Ripote ni noda vanua, na Komiti e qarava na Veimatani ena Matabose Levu (UNESCO) me baleta na ituvatuva. Ni Vuku Itaukei ena loma ni ono na yabaki.

Sa oti na gauna ni cakacaka duadua, meda veitauriligataka na nodra taraicake na leweiviti vakabibi na itaukei ni vanua. E levu na tabana ni veiqaravi e tua ena veitabana veitacini e qarava na itovo kei na tatadra vovou me tadolava nodra tubu na itaba gone ena gauna oqo kei na veigauna sa bera mai



Noda Viti

Vukelulu, Maji 27, 2024 8 Drauniveva, 4 Tabana 15 ni Lavelave ni Ivola | [www.fiji.gov.fj](#) [@FijiGovt](#) [Fiji Government](#)

TUBU CAKE NAI WILIWILI NI MATE CA NI VEIYACOVICHIV -AIDS)



Vola ko: Katarina Naqarase

E dua nai valu esa valuta tiko na noda vanua oqo ena kena sa tubu cake sara tiko vakatotolo nai wiliwili ni mate ca ni veiyacovi(HIV-AIDS) ka laurai ni sa kauta laivi talega kina e levu sara na bula.

E na nodra mai vosa tiko ena Palimedi na Minisita ni Bula o Hon Dr. Ratu Antonio Lalabalavu ena siga Moniti na ika11 ni Maji, 2024 e ra vakaraitaka ni tubu cake sara tiko vakalevu oya na kena mai ciqomi e rauta ni 415

na kisi ni HIV AIDS e mai tauri ena vula o Janueri kina Tiseba , 2023 ni vakatauvatani nai wiliwili e 245 ena yabaki 2022.

E kawai vakalevu na Tabacakacaka Ni Bula ena vukuni tubu totolo sara na kena iwiliwili.

Mai nai wiliwili e mai tauri ena yabaki sa oti e lewe 404 na na kisi vei ira na qase ka 11 vei ira na gone lalai . E tolu vei ira na gone qori e vakadeitaki ni vu ena ena dewa ni veiyacovi ka 8 na kisi e dewa mai vei ira na tina ki vua na gone. Nai wiliwili vei ira na qase e laurai ni 298 era turaga , 122 na marama ka 4

nai wiliwili vei ira na vakasalewalewa. E laurai ni wiliwili oqori ni 31 e tiko na nodra yabaki ni bula mai na 15 kina 19 . Na tubu cake ni wiliwili oqori e vu mai na nodratou vakadidike na Tabana Ni Bula ka vakayagtaki kina na Point of Care Testing.

E sa vakadeitaka talega na Minisitiri ni sa 82 nai wiliwili esa mai kau laivi na nodra bula, ena vakadidike e ratou vakayacora na Global Age Monitoring Report laurai talega ni noda matanitu e dua vei rau na 2 na Matanitu enai wasewase ni vuravura vaka Esia kei na Pasivika ni tubu totolo sara tiko na kena

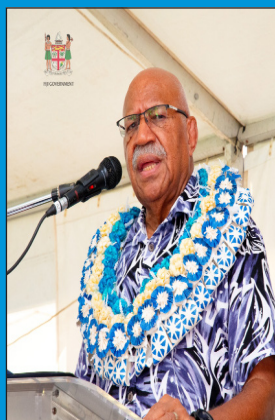
veidewavi na mate ca ni veiyacovi. E ra vakaraitaka tale ga na Minisita na kena veisemati na waigaganiveivakamatenitaki ka vaka kina na tubu cake ni kisi ni HIV AIDS . Sa vakamasuti ira na Itaukei o Hon Lalabalavu ni veiyacovi sega nai tatarovi kei na vakayagataki ni waigaga erau vuna levu tiko na tubu cake ni wiliwili ni kisi ni mate ca ni veiyacovi. Meda sa tarova nai valavala oqo ni na rawa ni tarovi iko ena kena veitauvi na mate.

प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के लिए हमेशा तैयार रहें; अपनों का ध्यान रखें; सुरक्षित रहें, भोजन सुरक्षित रखें, अच्छी स्वच्छता अपनाएं



मैं बीता हुआ कल बदल नहीं सकता, लेकिन भविष्य को बदलने के प्रयासों में योगदान दे सकता हूँ - प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर



सरकारी कर्मचारियों के कोन्ट्रैक्ट की व्यवस्था हटाने तथा अवकाश लेने की उम्र बढ़ाने से उनका आत्मविश्वास काफी बढ़ गया है

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 7 पर



कोरिया द्वारा फीजी को औपचारिक विकास सहायता



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका, रिपब्लिक ऑफ कोरिया के लिए नए नियुक्त राजदूत हेयुन्ग किम को धन्यवाद देते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

रिपब्लिक ऑफ कोरिया ने अधिकारिक विकास सहायता में दस मिलियन अमेरिकी डोलर से अधिक की सहायता देने का वादा करके इस साल फीजी को और अधिक सहायता देने की अपनी प्रतिबद्धता प्रदर्शित की है।

इस महत्वपूर्ण योगदान का उद्देश्य जलवायु परिवर्तन, उर्जा, स्वास्थ्य और चिकित्सा सेवाओं, समुद्री और मछली पालन, प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से निपटना और क्षेत्रीय विकास में फीजी की राष्ट्रीय विकास प्राथकताओं का समर्थन करना है।

हालही में प्रधान मंत्री तथा विदेश

मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने फीजी के लिए नए नियुक्त कोरिया के राजदूत महामहीम जिन हेयुन्ग किम से एक शिष्टाचार भेंट के दौरान प्रकाश डाला। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने राजदूत किम को उनकी राजनयिक नियुक्ति पर बधाई दी और कोरिया के साथ विकास सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए फीजी की प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि की। इसके अलावा प्रधान मंत्री ने विशेष रूप से सामाजिक आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देने वाली कोरिया अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग एजेंसी पहल के माध्यम से फीजी को कोरिया द्वारा प्रदान किए गए समर्थन के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने फीजी के लिए

सहयोग और समर्थन को और मजबूत करने की कोरिया की प्रतिबद्धता का स्वागत किया है। जवाब में राजदूत किम ने प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका को धन्यवाद दिया जहाँ फीजी और कोरिया के बीच सीधी उड़ान दोबारा शुरू करने की सम्भावनाओं सहित कई महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर सफल बातचीत हुई। फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में टूरिजम क्षेत्र के महत्व और लोगों से लोगों के आदान-प्रदान को बढ़ावा देने की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए, फीजी और कोरिया के बीच सीधी उड़ानों को फिर से शुरू करने के संबंध में विमान अधिकारियों और एयरलाइंस के साथ करीबी परामर्श जारी रहेगा। राजदूत ने प्रशांत क्षेत्र

के लिए “शान्ति के महासागर” पर प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका के दृष्टिकोण को स्वीकार किया और उल्लेख किया कि इसकी काफी सम्भावनाएं कि जहाज निर्माण में सबसे आगे वाले देशों में शामिल कोरिया, फीजी के साथ सहयोग करेगा। जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाड़ लड़ाई में कोरिया भी फीजी के खड़ा रहेगा इसलिए ताव्यूनी तथा ओवालाउ को सोलर पावर प्लान्ट्स प्रदान किए हैं। इसके अलावा कोरिया, नईतासीरी तथा मदुवाता प्रांत के लिए बाढ़ चढ़ने की चेतावनी वाले सिस्टम स्थापित होने का विमोचन करेगा। पिछले तीस सालों में, कोरिया फीजी का एक दृढ़ विकास भागीदार रहा है।

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर महिला मंत्री का संदेश

रोनल देव

महिलाओं में पूँजी लगाएं और प्रगति में तेजी लाएं !
यहाँ और विदेश में सभी फीजीवासियों को नमस्ते

आज आठ तारीख मार्च, हमारे कलेन्डर पर अहम दिनों में से एक है।

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस 2024 का मुख्य विषय है, 'महिलाओं में पूँजी लगाएँ और प्रगति में तेजी लाएँ।' आज मैं सभी फीजीवासियों को आमंत्रित कर रहा हूँ कि वे हमारे देश की महिलाओं की भूमिका तथा भारी योगदान का जश्न मनाएँ, उन चुनौतियों को याद रखें ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि हमारे देश की महिलाएँ और बच्चियाँ सुरक्षित हों,

उनका आदर किया जाए, उनकी क्षमता पूरी हो और इस प्रकार प्रगति में तेजी लाने के लिए महिलाओं में पूँजी लगाने के महत्व को महसूस करें। मंत्री होने के नाते, मैं पूरे फीजी में महिलाओं के अधिकारों और सशक्तिकरण की वकालत करने के लिए जिम्मेदारी और प्रतिबद्धता की गहरी भावना महसूस करती हूँ। महिलाओं में पूँजी लगाना न केवल एक नैतिक अनिवार्यता है; बल्कि यह सभी के लिए विकास और समृद्धि प्राप्त करने के लिए एक रणनीतिक आवश्यकता है। जब हम महिलाओं में पूँजी लगाते हैं तो हम परिवारों, समाजों और राष्ट्रों में पूँजी लगाते हैं। हम अपनी आधी आबादी की पूरी क्षमता का उपयोग करते हैं, आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देते हैं, सामाजिक एकता को बढ़ावा देते हैं और

मानवाधिकारों को आगे बढ़ाते हैं। जैसा कि कहा जा रहा है, फीजी ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय और क्षेत्रीय नितियों और कार्यक्रमों, विधायी ढाँचे, न्याय और शिक्षा तक पहुँच में वृद्धि के माध्यम से महिलाओं के जीवन बदलने में एक लम्बा सफर तय किया है। फिर भी हमने जो प्रगति की है उसके बावजूद, महिलाओं और लड़कियों को बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है जो समाज में उनकी पूर्ण भागीदारी और योगदान में बाधा डालती है। भेदभाव, हिंसा, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल तक पहुँच, निर्णय लेने में भागीदारी की कमी, और सीमित आर्थिक अवसर जारी हैं, जो पूरी पीढ़ियों को उनकी क्षमता तक पहुँचने से रोक रहे हैं। फीजी ने 2014 की नेशनल जेन्डर पोलिसी के माध्यम से अपनी लै

गिक मुख्यधारा की प्रतिबद्धताओं की शुरुआत की जिसमें सरकार भर की ऐजेंसियों से लैंगिक अंतर को संबोधित करने और अपने संस्थानों को मजबूत करने के माध्यम से महिला सशक्तिकरण को बढ़ावा देने का ऐलान किया गया। नीतियाँ बनाने से इसे लागू करने का सफर फीजी सरकार की लिंग उत्तरदायी योजना और बजट प्रतिबद्धताओं के माध्यम से एक वास्तविकता है। सार्वजनिक आर्थिक प्रबंधन सुधार योजना के तहत सरकारी सुधारों के हिस्से के रूप में फीजी सरकार ने फीजी में लिंग उत्तरदायी योजना और बजटिंग को लागू करने के लिए सक्रिय कदम उठाए हैं, जिसे मंत्रीमण्डल द्वारा स्वीकृति दी गई है।

प्रेमिला देवी की सफल भारत यात्रा

शीलता सिंह

भारत सरकार के इंडिया टेक्निकल और इकनोमिक कोऑपरेशन (आई टेक) प्रोग्राम में फीजी के चौदह किसानों ने भाग लिया। इन चौदह किसानों में नवियांगो, लौतोका की प्रमिला देवी भी शामिल थी। देवी ने यह मौका देने के लिए सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया है। ग्यारह सालों से खेती करती आ रही देवी ने अपने पति के गुजरने के बाद खुद ही सारा घर सम्भाला है तथा चुनौतियों का डटकर सामना किया है। शुगर केन गोवर्स कौंसिल द्वारा इन किसानों को चुना गया था, जहाँ चौदह में से सात कौन्सिल के बोर्ड के सदस्य थे। “इस प्रोग्राम के द्वारा मैंने बहुत सी नई चीजें सीखी हैं, गन्ना बोने के नए तरीके, फर्टिलाइज़र का उपयोग कैसे करना है तथा बीज बोने के तरीकों को भी सीखा। इस बार यह उम्मीद की जा सकती है कि गन्ने के उत्पादन में बढ़न्ती होगी,” देवी ने कहा। सरकार किसानों की मदद करने की हर सम्भव कोशिश कर रही है तथा भारत की इस सफल यात्रा के माध्यम से हम न केवल गन्ने के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करेंगे बल्कि शुगर क्षेत्र को भी विकसित करेंगे।

किसानों ने सीख हासिल की



शुगर मंत्री माननीय चरण जीथ सिंह, भारत के राजदूत पी एस कार्थीजेयन, शुगर मंत्रालय के स्याई सचिव श्री योगेश करण, मंत्रालय में पोलिसी रिसर्च डिविज़न की डायरेक्टर रेशमी कुमारी के अलावा अन्य अधिकारी चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

फीजी के चौदह किसानों को भारत जाने का अवसर मिला। इन चौदह किसानों को भारत के इंडिया टेक्निकल और इकनोमिक कोऑपरेशन (आईटेक) कार्यक्रम में भाग लेने का अवसर

मिला। दो हफ्ते की योजनाओं के द्वारा हम ट्रैनिंग में हमारे किसानों ने भारत के सबसे बड़े शुगर मंत्रालय में जा कर शिक्षा हासिल की है। बहुजातीय मामले और शुगर क्षेत्र मंत्री माननीय चरण जीथ सिंह ने जोर दिया कि किसानों की इस नई सीख और अपने देश को

उज्जवल कर सकते हैं तथा शुगर के उत्पादन में भी विकास ला सकते हैं। इस यात्रा से न केवल किसानों को मदद मिली है बल्कि भारत और फीजी के सम्बन्ध और भी मज़बूत हुआ है।





प्राकृतिक विपत्ति के लिए तैयार रहें

अपने घर आँगन का ध्यान रखें

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

सूचित रहें संपर्क में रहें

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

भोजन सुरक्षित रखें

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

अच्छी स्वच्छता अपनाएं

बीमारी के संपर्क में आने और फैलाने से बचे

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

विपत्ति के दौरान

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

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने केन्द्रीय विभाग में बाढ़ से असर पड़े इलाकों का दौरा किया



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने हाल में केन्द्रीय विभाग में गम्भीर बारिश के कारण चढ़ी बाढ़ से असर पड़े कुछ इलाकों का दौरा किया और नुकसान को देखा। पिछले कुछ दिनों से देश भर के अधिकांश इलाकों में गम्भीर बारिश हो रही है। उच्च सरकारी अधिकारियों के साथ प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने वाईदामूदामू, दिलकुशा तथा नौसोरी कोरो का दौरा किया और देखा कि किस तरह से क्षति पहुँची है। इस दौरान प्रधान मंत्री ने उन निवासियों से बातचीत की जिनपर बारिश और बाढ़ का असर पड़ा तथा उनकी चिन्ताएं सुनी। उन्होंने स्थानीय अधिकारियों तथा राहत कार्य में जुटी टीमों से बातें की तथा राहत संचालन पर गौर किया ताकि ज़रूरी इलाकों को प्राथमिकता दी जाए। प्रधान मंत्री ने बाढ़ के प्रभावों को कम करने और असर पड़े क्षेत्रों में सामान्य स्थिति लाने के लिए सामूहिक कार्यों के महत्व पर ज़ोर दिया। इसके अलावा प्रधान मंत्री ने राहत प्रयासों में शामिल स्वयंसेवकों, उत्तरदाताओं तथा संगठनों के प्रति अपना आभार व्यक्त किया। कमिशन सेन्ट्रल चोसेफो नवूकू ने प्रधान मंत्री को जानकारी दी कि प्रारंभिक क्षति आँकी गई है तथा उन इलाकों की पहचान हुई है जहाँ जल्द से जल्द सुधारकार्य की ज़रूरत है। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने पीड़ित लोगों को आश्वासन दिया है कि कोआलिशन सरकार उनके साथ खड़ी है तथा ज़रूरी सहायता देने के लिए तैयार है।

धार्मिक संस्थाओं के साथ विकास योजना पर परामर्श



ऐसे कई क्षेत्र हैं जहाँ धार्मिक संगठनों का इतना बड़ा प्रभाव है और किसी भी सरकार के लिए हमारे जैसे बहु-जातीय और बहु-धार्मिक देश में हमारे धार्मिक संगठनों के प्रभाव को नज़रअंदाज़ करना मूर्खता होगी। धार्मिक संस्थाओं के प्रतिनिधियों से तीन साल, पाँच साल और बीस साल की राष्ट्रीय विकास योजनाओं पर परामर्श करते हुए उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद ने सूवा स्थित रंगी लालाम्बलावू हाउस पर प्रकाश डाला कि सामाजिक एकता, शान्ति और निर्माण के बिना कोई भी राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना परिणाम नहीं देगी।



राष्ट्रीय नारियल दिवस पर नारियल के महत्व पर गौर किया गया



सभी फिजीवासियों को नारियल की विरासत की ज़िम्मेदारी स्वीकार करने की माँग की गई है। कृषि तथा वोटरवैस मंत्री वतिमो रयालू ने नारियल दिवस के मौके पर कहा कि उचित रूप से उपयोग किए जाने पर नारियल ताड़ की

प्रजातियों में सबसे ज़्यादा आर्थिक मूल्य रखता है। इस पेड़ का हर एक पहलू, इसकी जड़ों से लेकर इसकी पत्तियों और फलों तक, मनुष्यों या जानवरों द्वारा उपभोग करने या मूल्यवान वस्तुओं में बदलने की क्षमता रखता है। मंत्री

ने नारियल के भविष्य में पूँजी लगाने की माँग की है। उनके अनुसार नारियल के व्यवसाय को और उँचाईयों तक लेजाया जा सकता है। मंत्री ने लोगों, वातावरण और सामूहिक भविष्य में 1.4 मिलियन डॉलर की पूँजी की घोषणा भी की।



माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका, CF, OBE (Mil), OStJ, MSD, Legion D'Honneur (FR), Order of Tahiti Nui, jssc, psc, MSc (Defence Studies)

महामहीम राष्ट्रपति को 2024 संसद के पहले सत्र में सबसे दयालु भाषण के लिए धन्यवाद देते हुए प्रधान मंत्री का संबोधन

सूवा, फीजी

सोमवार 11 मार्च 2024

माननीय संसदीय स्पीकर महोदय;
माननीय उप प्रधान मंत्रियों;
माननीय मंत्रीमण्डल के सदस्य;
माननीय विपक्षी नेता;
माननीय सहायक मंत्रियों;
माननीय संसद सदस्यों;

सभी को नमस्ते। माननीय स्पीकर महोदय, संसद सदस्यों कृपया मुझे यह अवसर प्रदान करें कि मैं सभी फीजीवासियों तथा ट्रस्टि के रूप में फीजी धूमने आने वालों और वालेसी मंच के मार्फत टेलिविज़न के द्वारा मेरा संबोधन को सुन रहे हैं, लाईव स्ट्रीमिंग देख रहे हैं या रेडियो सुन रहे हैं को 'नी सा बूला कहूँ। मुझे उम्मीद है कि आप चाहे जहाँ भी हो, आपको साफ सुनाई और दिखाई दे रहा है तथा हमारे राष्ट्र के मामलों और आपकी संसद की कार्यवाही में आपकी गहरी रूची के लिए आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। प्रधान मंत्री के रूप में यह मेरे लिए विशेष सम्मान की बात है कि संसद में इस समय बहस चल रही है और वह प्रस्ताव पेश करना है और वह है पिछले सोमवार चार तरीख मार्च को महामहीम राष्ट्रपति द्वारा उनके सबसे दयालु संबोधन के लिए उन्हें धन्यवाद देना। मैं माननीय स्पीकर, सकेटरी जनरल, पी.डबल्यू.डी के कर्मचारियों तथा सुपरवाइज़र को भी धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ जिन्होंने दिन-रात कड़ी मेहनत की और इस बात को ध्यान में रखा कि जब हम संसद के औपचारिक उद्घाटन के लिए पहुँचे तो ज़रूरी सुधारकार्य पूरा हो चुका था तथा आई टी के संसाधन उपयोग के लिए तैयार थे। मैं रातू मेली टेरनालॉगी तथा अपनी डूवा रबी टीम को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ जिन्होंने पिछले शनिवार को चैरिचल पार्क पर कन्ट्राब्री क्यूसेडस टीम को हराया। मेरा सौभाग्य था कि मैंने यहाँ तीनों खेल देखा जिनमें डूवा की जीत हुई। पहले दो खेलों में जीत मुश्किल से हुई थी लेकिन पिछले शनिवार को डूवा ने दस पोईन्ट्स से जीत हासिल की। मैं कौचिंग स्टाफ तथा मेनेजमन्ट और इस जीत में जिनका भी हाथ था और भारी संख्या में खेल देखने आए लोगों को भी बधाई देता हूँ। हौसला बुलन्द करने वाले इस समारोह का आयोजन करने के लिए मैं लौतोका सिटी काउन्सिल के एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर तथा फीजी स्पोर्ट्स काउन्सिल को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ।

माननीय संसदीय स्पीकर महोदय हममें से कुछ लोगों ने अपने-अपने चर्चस में फादर्स डे मनाया, हमने हावेस्ट सन्डे यानि फसल रविवार भी मनाया। मैं संसद में तथा देश भर के सभी पिताओं तथा जिन लोगों ने साल के पहले फसल की कटाई की, को भी बधाई देना चाहता हूँ। अनेकों बधाईयाँ। चर्च में फादर्स डे की प्रार्थना के दौरान हमने उन पिताओं को याद किया जो पिछले फादर्स डे में थे लेकिन अब हमारे बीच नहीं है।

चर्च में एक वक्ता ने पिताओं को याद दिलाया कि आज की कई सामाजिक बुराईयाँ, जैसे

नशीली दवाओं और शराब का दुरुपयोग, महिलाओं और लड़कियों के खिलाफ हिंसा, स्कूलों में अनुशासन की कमी, आदि सभी पिताओं द्वारा प्रेमपूर्ण व्यवहार करने में सफल न होने लेकिन परिवारों और समाजों में दृढ़ नेतृत्व के कारण उत्पन्न हुई हैं।

अपने संबोधन में महामहीम राष्ट्रपति महोदय ने हमें प्रोत्साहित किया था कि प्रजातंत्रिक ढंग से चुने गए प्रतिनिधियों के रूप में हमें अपने लोगों की बातें सुननी चाहिए, न केवल उन लोगों की जिन्होंने हमें चुना है बल्कि सभी नागरिकों की फिर चाहे वे युवा हो, पुरुष या महिलाएं।

उन्होंने हम सभी से हमारे संविधान में लोकतंत्र और मानवता के सिद्धांतों को निष्ठापूर्वक अपनाने की माँग की है। ऐसा करके हम अपनी संसद की अखंडता और गरिमा का सम्मान करते हैं और सभी फीजीवासियों का सम्मान करते हैं। महामहिम ने हमसे यह भी आग्रह किया कि जब हम अपने मतभेदों को स्वीकार करते हैं और पहचानते हैं; हमें यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक साझा संकल्प के साथ एकजुट होना चाहिए कि हम एक शांतिपूर्ण, प्रगतिशील और समृद्ध राष्ट्र में रहें।

माननीय स्पीकर महोदय और माननीय संसद सदस्यों, महामहिम ने अपने उन दिनों को याद किया जब वह एक लड़के के रूप में अपने गाँव और वहाँ के वातावरण और लोगों के बीच बड़े हुए।

मुझे यकीन है कि हम सभी उनकी कहानी से जुड़ सकते हैं। उन्होंने कई सालों का खुशहाल बचपन, गन्ने कटाई के मौसम में किसानों परिवारों के साथ मधुआता में बिताया। मधुआता में उनके बहु-जातीय तथा

बहु-संस्कृतिक समाज ने उन्हें ज़िन्दगी की कई महत्वपूर्ण सबक सिखाई है जैसे कि कड़ी मेहनत करना, बड़ों का आदर, परिवार में एकता तथा समाज में अन्य जाति के लोगों का सम्मान करना। देश में दो मुख्य जाति समुदाय ज्यादातर एक दूसरे के साथ मिलजुलकर रह रहे हैं। महामहिम ने कहा कि दुर्भाग्य से सच्चाई यह है कि कुछ बेईमान नेता अपने राजनीतिक स्वार्थ के लिए हमारे समुदायों के बीच अविश्वास को भड़काना जारी रखे हुए हैं। इससे हमारे समाज में सांप्रदायिक मतभेदों की धारणा पैदा हुई। महामहिम ने माननीय संसद सदस्यों से हमारे देश में सद्भाव को बढ़ावा देने की माँग की है।

जब मैं छोटा था तब मैं दकाउन्ड्रोवे स्थित ड्रेकेनिवाई कोरो नवातू में ड्रेकेनीवाई डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्कूल में पढ़ाई करता था। वहीं मेरे पिताजी पढ़ाते थे तथा हमारा घर सरकारी कर्मचारियों के ठहरने का घर था। जब वे कोरो से होकर जाते थे या वहाँ काम के सिलसिले में जाते थे, वहाँ डाक लेकर घोड़े पर सवार दो लोग नतेवा बय के पूरब में माताकुनेया तथा नतेवा के समुद्री इलाकों का दौरा करते थे। एक का नाम था मामाज तथा दूसरे का लक्ष्मईया। वे अपने साथ हाँडी-बर्तन, चम्मच-छूरी वगैरह लाते थे क्योंकि जैसा मेरी माँ हमें बताती थी कि वे

हमारे बर्तन में बने भोजन नहीं कर सकते थे क्योंकि यह उनके धर्मों के विरुद्ध था। लेकिन मैं और मेरी बहनें उनके द्वारा बनाए गए भोजन बड़े चाव से खाते थे और कभी-कभी वे पूरे परिवार के लिए खाना बनाते थे।

वे हम गाँव के छोटे बच्चों के लिए बहुत दयालु, ईमानदार और हँसमुख थे, हममें से कई लोग उन्हें कुकू मामाज या कुकू लछमैया भी कहते थे – और उन्हें यह बहुत पसन्द था! हम परिवार थे।

कई सालों के बाद जब मैं सेना में एसओ 1 औपरेशन्स और ट्रेनिंग था, तब एक दिन आरएफएमएफ के स्वीचबोर्ड के टेलिफोन औपरेटर ने मेरे एक्सटेंशन पर एक कोल भेजा और कहा कि ताव्यूनी का एक अंग्रेज़ व्यक्ति आपसे बातें करना चाहता है। उनका एक रिश्तेदार अगले महीने सेना में भर्ती होना चाहता है। मैंने उस अंग्रेज़ का नाम पूछा तो औपरेटर ने जवाब दिया कि श्री ग्लेनवील। मैंने कहा कि बात करवाए; 'वो 1 एफआरआई के अवकाश प्राप्त अफ़सर है जिन्होंने मलेयन अभियान में युद्ध किया था।'

श्री ग्लेनवील के रिश्तेदार को सेना में भर्ती किया गया जो कि बाद में चलकर बेहतरीन सैनिकों में से एक निकला जिन्होंने अट्ठारह साल से ज़्यादा समय तक सेवा प्रदान की जिस दौरान उन्होंने मध्यपूर्व का दौरा करते हुए कुछ शान्ति सेवाएं भी प्रदान की।

जब 1999 में एसवीटी-जीवीपी की कोलिशन की हार आम चुनाव में हुई, तब मैं उन सामन्तों तथा मतदाताओं को सम्मान देने गया था जिन्होंने मुझे मत दिया था। शुरूआत सोमोसोमो तावेयूनी से हुई जहाँ श्री ग्लेनवील 'ना तुरांगा बाले ना आई सोकुला, ना तुई दकाउ' थे, तथा इस संसद के स्वर्गीय स्पीकर को 'ना तुरांगा बाले ना आई सोकुला, ना तुई दकाउ' ने पाँलिए काउन्सिल के होल में यंगोना का एक समारोह आयोजित करने को कहा था। वहाँ मेरी मुलाकात अवकाश प्राप्त एनसीओ से हुई जो स्वर्गीय रातू ग्लेनवील लालम्बलावू, तुरांगा बाले ना तुई दकाउ सा बाले की सिफारिश से 1981 में सेना में भर्ती हुए थे। उन्होंने मुझसे 1981 में कहा था कि मेरे भाई यह लड़का नंगारा का है जो हमसे से एक है। हम चाहते हैं कि यह लड़का सेना में भर्ती हो ताकि वो अपने पारिवारिक व्यापार में अपने पिता का साथ दे सके।

माननीय स्पीकर महोदय, मैं किसी भी संसद सदस्य को दोषी नहीं मानता जिन्होंने मेरी तरफ नज़र घुमाई होगी जब महामहीम राष्ट्रपति ने अपने संबोधन में प्रकाश डाला था कि 'कुछ बेईमान राजनीतिज्ञ लगातार अपने निजि फायदे के लिए हमारे समुदायों के बीच अविश्वास पैदा कर रहे हैं।'

माननीय स्पीकर महोदय, मैं जबकि अपना बीता हुआ कल बदल नहीं सकता, मैं इस देश के भविष्य को बदलने के प्रयासों में योगदान दे सकता हूँ और मैं ज़रूर करूँगा।

महामहीम ने हम संसद सदस्यों को याद

दिलाया और सम्मानजनक बहस के महत्व पर ज़ोर दिया क्योंकि इसका हमारे विभिन्न समुदायों के अंतरजातीय संबंधों पर असर पड़ता है।

उन्होंने हमसे अपने मतभेदों को दूर करने और अपने लोगों की सामान्य भलाई के लिए प्रयास करने की माँग की। उन्होंने हमसे अपने छोटे-छोटे मतभेदों के बजाय अपनी नियति और समानता पर ध्यान देने को कहा। उनका मानना है कि हम सभी इन सच्चाईयों की आकांक्षा कर सकते हैं, जो प्रदर्शित करते हैं कि सच्चा नेतृत्व क्या है।

माननीय स्पीकर महोदय, संसद सदस्यों महामहीम ने अपना विश्वास ज़ाहिर किया कि पैसों का उपयोग कैसे करें और कैसे इन्हें बचाने वाला हुनर होने से हमारे लोग आत्मनिर्भर होने के साथ-साथ उन्हें सशक्त बनाएगी। यह आर्थिक जिम्मेदारी की संस्कृति को प्रोत्साहित करेगी जो राष्ट्रीय समृद्धि पर सकारात्मक प्रभाव डाल सकती हैं और ध्यान में रख सकती हैं कि सभी का सुरक्षित भविष्य हो।

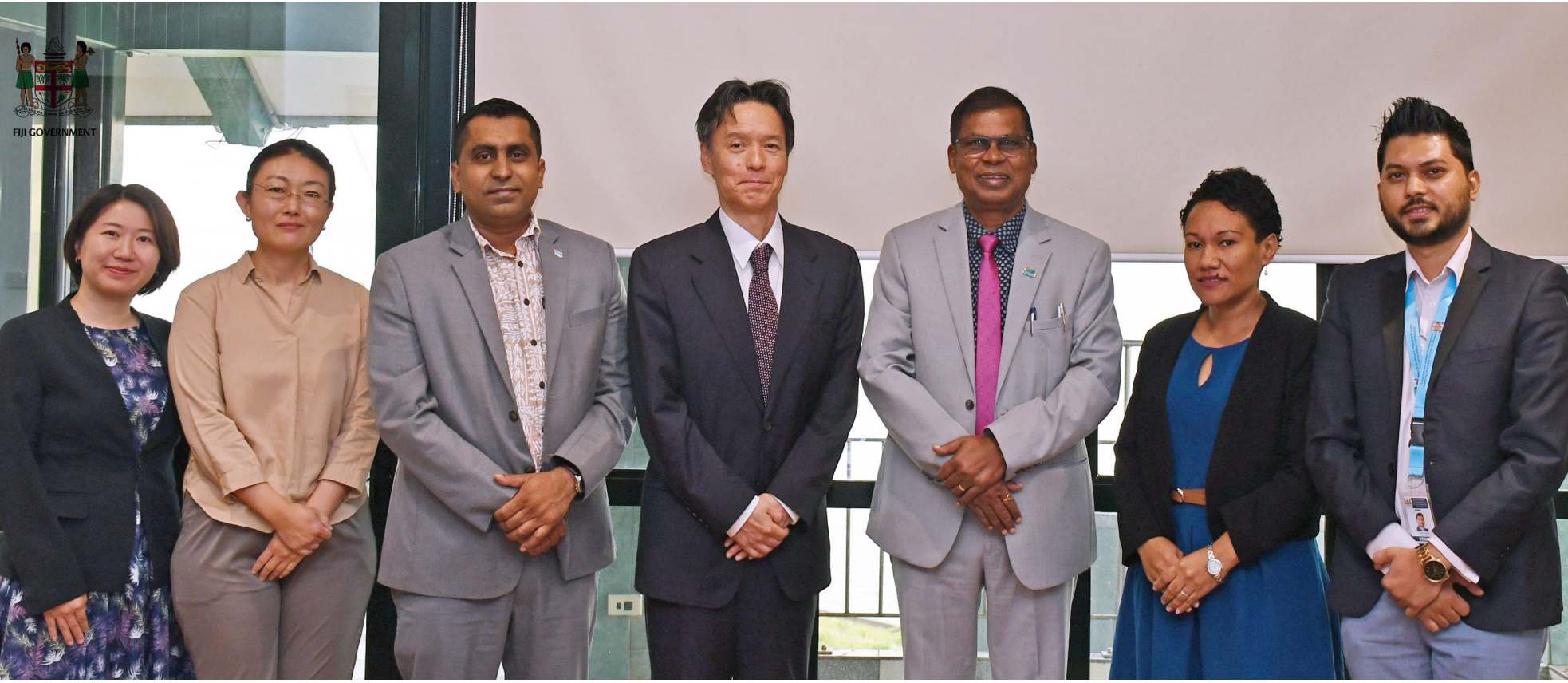
उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय प्रोफेसर बिमान प्रसाद द्वारा हाल ही में भारत के औपचारिक दौर पर जाने से पहले, मैंने उनसे माँग की थी कि वो उस विकास पर अध्ययन करें जहाँ भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने इस बात को ध्यान में रखा है कि भारत के सभी 1.4 बिलियन नागरिकों के पास अपना बैंक अकाउन्ट हो, सभी मार्केट और रास्ते के पास बिक्रेताओं के पास बिक्री के समय एक क्रेडिट कार्ड का टर्मिनल या एफटोस हो जो कि उनकी फायनेंशल लिटरसी तथा नेशनल सईविंग्स एंकरजमन्ट प्रोग्राम का हिस्सा है।

मुझे माननीय प्रसाद से भारत में ऐसा करने के लिए कहने की प्रेरणा मिली। मैंने देखा कि एक युवा कंडी एक गोल्फ खिलाड़ी का बेग ट्रौली पर खींच रहा था।' मैंने उनसे पूछा कि जो फीस उन्हें दिया जाएगा, उसे पैसे में से कितना उनके घर जाएगा। कंडी ने जवाब दिया कि शायद कुछ भी नहीं। मैंने उनसे कहा कि चालिस डॉलर सप्ताह से उनके परिवार जो वाईलेया या ननुकू की अनऔपचारिक बस्ती में रहते हैं पर सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

प्रधान मंत्री मोदी जी ने जो भारत में किया हम उसकी बराबरी कर सकते हैं, जहाँ हम उचित वातावरण और ज़रूरी आर्थिक संसाधनों के साथ व्यापक आर्थिक साक्षरता तक पहुँच प्रदान करके, हम सभी बचत, पूँजी लगाने और अपने पैसों को प्रभावी ढंग से बचाने के बारे में उचित फैसले ले सकते हैं।

हालाकि महामहीम राष्ट्रपति देखना चाहते हैं कि डालो के एक किसान चोने और अपने ठेले पर मिठाईयाँ बेचने वाले राम, सीखे कि कैसे किस तरह कमाएँ और कैसे बचाएँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि देश भर के गोल्फ क्लब के युवा कंडी, सभी मार्केट, रास्ते के पास सामान बेचने वाले भी यही कदम उठाए, पैसे बचाने के संस्कृति को अपनाने के लिए दूसरों को आकर्षित करें जो लम्बे समय के लिए पूँजी लगाकर उनके

ईश्वर की कृपा फीजी पर बनी रहें।



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद, जापान के राजदूत महामहीम श्री शेकुईचिरो मिची, फायनेन्स मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव श्री गाउन्डर के साथ अन्य उच्च अधिकारी चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

फ़ीजी की प्राथमिकताओं के लिए जापान ने मजबूत समर्थन की पुष्टि की

रोनल देव

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद ने हाल ही में जापान के राजदूत महामहीम श्री शेकुईचिरो मिची से मुलाकात की और उन्हें बताया कि फीजी और जापान के बीच मजबूत और ऐतिहासिक संबंध है।

सभा में व्यापार, टूरिज़्म, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, सुरक्षा, प्राकृतिक विपत्ति से निपटना, ग्रामीण विकास और बुनियादी ढाँचे के क्षेत्रों में सहयोग बढ़ाने के संभावित अवसरों पर भी चर्चा की गई। उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने फीजी की राष्ट्रीय विकास प्राथमिकताओं और साझेदारी के

दायरे के निरंतर समर्थन के लिए जापान की सराहना की, जो पिछले कुछ सालों में जलवायु परिवर्तन, प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों से निपटना और कोविड-19 प्रतिक्रिया प्रयासों सहित महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों तक बढ़ाया गया था। राजदूत शेकुईचिरो ने प्रकाश डाला कि फीजी एक महत्वपूर्ण विकास भागीदार है और जापान “स्वतंत्र और खुले इंडो-पेसिफिक” के लिए आपसी सहयोग के साथ फीजी के साथ द्वीपक्षीय संबंधों को बहुत महत्व देता है।

फिलहाल, सूवा स्थित कोलोनियल वोर मेमोरियल अस्पताल के लिए एक व्यापक बुनियादी ढाँचा मास्टर प्लान देने के फीजी के प्रयासों का

बढ़ावा देने के लिए हालमें फीजी की सरकार और ओस्ट्रेलियन सरकार के बीच दस मिलियन ओस्ट्रेलियन डोलर (करीब चौदह मिलियन फीजियन डोलर) लागत सहायता समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर हुआ है।

“पिछले कुछ सालों में, हमने सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल, शिक्षा, जलवायु परिवर्तन, व्यापार और आर्थिक सहयोग के क्षेत्रों में ओस्ट्रेलिया के साथ अपने द्वीपक्षीय संबंधों को मजबूत किया है,” उप प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा।

मंत्री प्रसाद ने आम किया कि फीजी ने प्रशान्त के लिए ओस्ट्रेलियन इन्फस्ट्रक्चर फायनेंसिंग फेसिलिटी से पचास मिलियन अमेरिकी डोलर

करीब एक सौ सत्राह मिलियन फीजी डोलर सुरक्षित किया है जो योजनाएं जैसे कि नई सड़क, रास्ते फिर से सील करना, नए पुल बनाना, मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव से निपटना, बाढ़ में कमी लाने के लिए है। सी.डबल्यू.एम अस्पताल के पुनःविकास योजना को एक संरचित तरीके से वितरित किया जाएगा जो यह ध्यान में रखेगा कि एशियन डिवेलोपमन्ट बैंक और वोल्ड बैंक जैसे बहुपक्षीय भागीदार मास्टर प्लान में सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए बाढ़ में शामिल हो सकें।