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Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka met Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta where the two leaders reaffirmed the strong and enduring partnership between the two nations. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fiji and Indonesia's enduring partnership

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has reaffirmed Fiji's strong and enduring partnership with Indonesia during a bilateral meeting with President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta.

PM Rabuka met the Indonesian President at Merdeka Palace last week, where he acknowledged the longstanding diplomatic relations between the two countries, which were formally established in 1974.

This strong bilateral relationship has seen the expansion of the two nations' partnership over the past five decades, including the establishment of the Fiji-Indonesia Friendship Association (FIFA) in 2014.

He noted that such initiatives have significantly enhanced cultural understanding, people-to-people exchange, and diplomatic cooperation.

On development cooperation, PM Rabuka stated that Fiji continues to benefit from Indonesia's support.

For this, he expressed his gratitude for Indonesia's continued development assistance, particularly the \$FJD12 million grant for the landmark Agriculture Demonstration Farm and Regional Training Centre in Dobuilevu, Ra Province.

The PM added that this ongoing collaboration between the two governments was a testament to the shared commitment to address food security, income generation,

women and community empowerment, providing a sustainable and secure future for the people in Ra Province.

The project was presently undergoing a competitive tender process, with construction expected to commence soon.

In the spirit of further deepening ties, PM Rabuka also requested the reinstatement of Fiji's Visa on Arrival status into Indonesia, highlighting that such a gesture would ease travel burdens for Fijian citizens and enhance bilateral exchange.

He also acknowledged Indonesia's Aid Scholarship (TIAS) Program, which has enabled Fijian civil servants and private sector professionals to pursue specialised training in agriculture and healthcare.

On the international front, the Prime Minister commended Indonesia's leadership through the G20's Global Blended Finance Alliance (GBFA), stressing its potential to unlock critical financing for climate action and sustainable development projects in vulnerable nations like Fiji.

The leaders also discussed shared regional priorities, particularly through the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

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Fiji Law Reform Commission – Electoral Review Public Consultations



Member of the public turned up to make their voices heard during the public consultation by the Electoral Review Committee in the Northern Division. Photo: JACKSON TUVICI

By JACKSON TUVICI

THE Fiji Law Reform Commission are currently holding public consultations around the country to review its electoral laws. The Electoral Review Committee has been touring the Northern Division holding public consultations around various centers in the north. Chairman and former Chief Justice, Daniel Fatiaki said that the response from the people so far have been overwhelming despite less turnout. “We have been receiving common answers in Viti Levu like there should be more women representatives in Parliament and so on but in Labasa it was interesting that we only had

one member at Civic Center who we had a thorough discussion with and also suggested about “gerrymandering” (to manipulate the boundaries of (an electoral constituency) so as to favour one party or class).” “We have never heard about gerrymandering in other consultations except Labasa so that was quite interesting for us,” Mr Fatiaki said. Naduri Village Youth leader in Macuata, Rakuama Raqi was of the view that the public consultations were transparent and enlightening especially for the younger generations who are not really aware of the electoral system and how it works. The Electoral Review Committee will wrap up public consultations for the Northern Division in Taveuni before moving to the Western Division.

\$62.7M trade surplus with U.S. in 2024

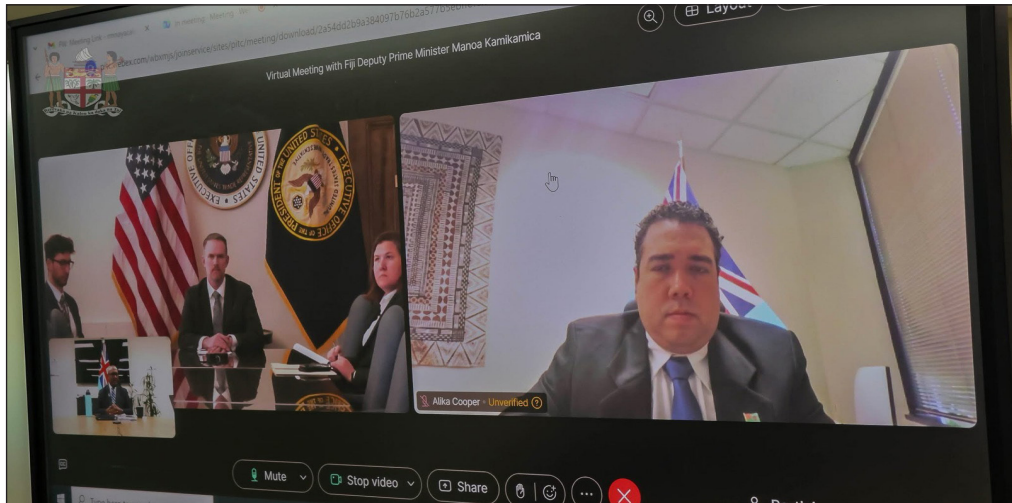


Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, MSMEs and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, held a productive virtual meeting recently with United States Trade Representative (USTR), Ambassador Jamieson Greer. Photo: SUPPLIED

Fiji-US to advance economic ties through high-level trade dialogue

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, MSMEs and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, held a productive virtual meeting recently with United States Trade Representative (USTR), Ambassador Jamieson Greer, to discuss strengthening of bilateral trade relations. The discussions reaffirmed the long-standing partnership between Fiji and the United States, underpinned by shared values and mutual respect. Both parties acknowledged the importance of building on this strong foundation to expand trade and investment opportunities in both economies. DPM Kamikamica reiterated Fiji’s commitment to being a responsible and constructive partner in the global trading system. He also outlined Fiji’s current tariff regime. Ambassador Greer highlighted the U.S. Government’s interest in promoting reciprocal trade and expressed appreciation for Fiji’s openness to engage in constructive dialogue.

He acknowledged the size differential between the two economies but emphasised the potential for mutually beneficial trade outcomes, particularly through greater market access and collaboration on standards and regulations. Both sides agreed to task senior officials to continue technical discussions to explore mechanisms to improve two-way trade, including access in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. DPM Kamikamica welcomed the opportunity for continued engagement and expressed Fiji’s willingness to accelerate the process through face-to-face meetings, if required. This dialogue marks another important step in strengthening the Fiji–U.S. trade relationship and reflects the shared commitment to deeper economic cooperation. (Source: Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications)



United States Trade Representative (USTR), Ambassador Jamieson Greer attended a virtual meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, MSMEs and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica. Photo: SUPPLIED

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

THE total value of Fiji’s exports to the United States stood at \$439.08 million, while imports from the US amounted to \$425.03 million last year. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operative, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, while speaking in Parliament this week, said this resulted in a trade surplus of \$62.7 million for Fiji. DPM Kamikamica said the US had been Fiji’s number one export destination, accounting for approximately 20 percent of all goods exported. “Some of Fiji’s major exports to the U.S. include bottled water, kava, fresh turmeric, cane sugar, seafood, fish, high-quality mahogany, and smaller quantities of various agricultural products such as taro, ginger, and a variety of value-added fast-moving consumer goods. These products are highly regarded in the U.S. market, and their presence reflects the diverse nature

of products that Fiji offers,” he stated. “What is particularly important to emphasise, is the complementary nature of these exports. Fiji’s products do not compete with U.S. goods; rather, they complement them. This means that rather than facing direct competition, Fijian goods are filling niches in the U.S. market, offering American consumers a broader range of high-quality options.” “These products are highly regarded in the US market, and their presence reflects the diverse nature of products that Fiji offers. “In fact, around 70 per cent of our key exporters derive 60 per cent of their revenue from the US market alone.” “These statistics emphasise just how critical the US market is to the success of the Fijian exporters, and by extension, the livelihoods of thousands of Fijian families.” Fiji, DPM Kamikamica added, was not just an exporter to the US but also a growing active importer of American goods, with significant potential to deepen this trade relationship further.”

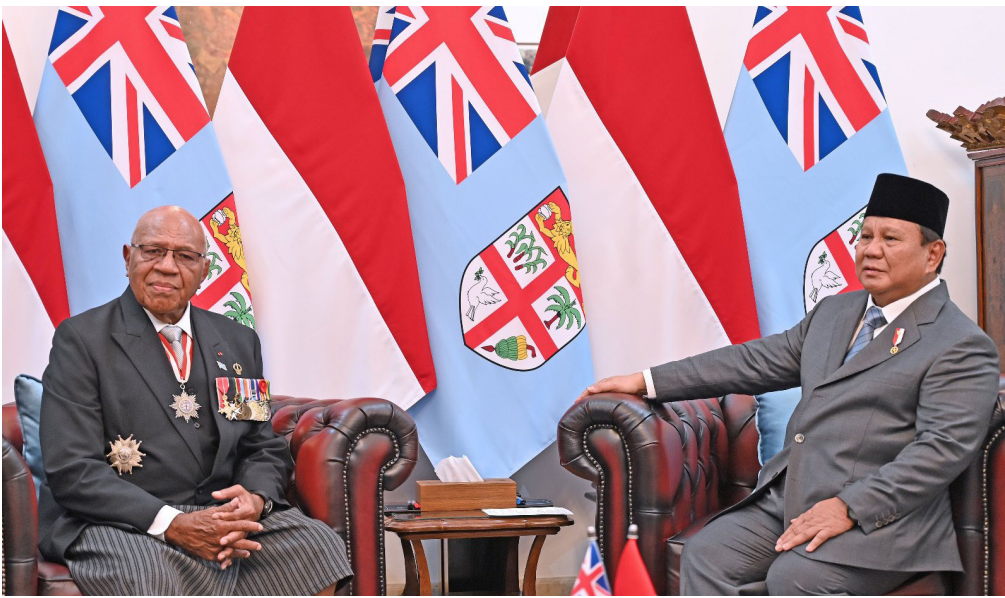
Establishment of the Embassy of Philippines in Suva

CABINET endorsed a request from the Republic of Philippines to establish an Embassy in Suva. Fiji and Philippines established diplomatic relations on 18 December 1973. Currently, the Embassy of the Republic of Philippines in Wellington is accredited to Fiji while the Republic of Fiji Embassy in Jakarta is accredited to the Philippines. Bilateral cooperation has also been extended through

the assistance of the Honorary Consulate Offices respectively in Fiji and the Philippines. The establishment of an Embassy in Suva will enhance the growing level of engagement between Fiji and the Philippines particularly in critical areas such as labour mobility, agriculture, security (drug trafficking), climate change, maritime and ocean affairs. (Source: Cabinet)



Fiji and Indonesia's enduring partnership



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka met Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta where the two leaders reaffirmed the strong and enduring partnership between the two nations. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

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The PM shared the importance of regional unity and highlighted his vision for the Pacific as an “Ocean of Peace”—a concept adopted by PIF Leaders in 2024 and expected to be further advanced at the upcoming PIF Leaders Meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

He reiterated Fiji’s appreciation for Indonesia’s support in multilateral forums that creates a more accountable, inclusive, just and equitable international system that was suitable for addressing the challenges of the 21st century, that reflects the voices of small island developing states.

PM Rabuka extended an invitation to President Subianto to visit Fiji, as part of ongoing efforts to further enhance our bilateral relations.

President Subianto expressed his gratitude to PM Rabuka for the opportunity to meet, stating that

Fiji was an important partner and “good friend” of Indonesia.

He affirmed that the two countries share similarities as archipelagic countries as well as similar interests and challenges.

The President remarked that both Indonesia and Fiji uphold the principles of mutual respect between nations, including the principles of sovereignty, independence, and equal rights.

President Subianto reiterated Indonesia’s ongoing support for Fiji’s development initiatives in areas of mutual interest particularly, in agriculture, climate adaptation and action, security and regional cooperation.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka and Fiji’s permanent secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr Raijeli Taga met with former British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Blair. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

PM Rabuka meets Sir Tony Blair, explores opportunity for collab

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka met with former British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Blair to explore opportunities for collaboration with Fiji’s public service through the strategic use of modern technology.

Mr Blair is the Executive Chairman of the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI) and upon meeting the former UK Prime Minister in Singapore, PM Rabuka expressed Fiji’s interest in working with TBI to advance technological transformation in the areas of public service delivery, e-health, and digital infrastructure.

PM Rabuka conveyed his gratitude to Sir Tony, highlighting the need for public service to embrace technology.

He shared that Fiji’s public service has progressively adopted the use of technology to enhance its service deliveries, and would welcome opportunities for further collaboration.

In his response, Sir Tony stated that TBI was keen to support Fiji in modernising its civil service and also its healthcare system through digital health solutions.

The two leaders also discussed potential areas to explore for collaboration particularly in energy, tourism, and investment to accelerate national development.

The TBI is a not-profit, non-partisan organisation that helps governments and leaders turn bold ideas into reality by advising on strategy, policy and delivery, to unlock the power of technology.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Fiji-Singapore reaffirms strong bilateral ties

FIIJIS Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, and Singapore’s Prime Minister, Lawrence Wong, reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

The meeting which was convened at the Parliament House of Singapore, provided an opportunity for both leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue on shared priorities, explore new avenues for collaboration, and reinforce the longstanding friendship between the two nations.

PM Rabuka expressed his gratitude to the Government and the people of Singapore for the warm hospitality accorded to him and his delegation upon their arrival, highlighting that Singapore has been a reliable development partner and a genuine friend to Fiji over the years since the establishment of our diplomatic relations in 1971.

Discussions also focused on prospects for more cooperation, especially in capacity building, governance, trade, and economic cooperation.

PM Rabuka shared Fiji’s plans to establish a diplomatic school under the Fiji Learning Institute for Public Service (FLIPS), with potential collaboration from the Singapore Diplomatic Academy in developing

customised curriculums focused on international relations and diplomatic tradecraft.

Whilst delving into the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), the head of the Coalition Government stated that Fiji’s involvement in the IPEF is a strategic move to expand its economic horizons, strengthen trade relationships, and build resilience in the face of global challenges like climate change and supply chain disruptions.

For this, he expressed confidence that Singapore and Fiji will solidify their relationships and engage in crucial economic and trade matters in the Asia-Pacific region.

With Singapore being included as a dialogue partner to the Pacific Islands Forum, PM Rabuka shared his vision for an Ocean of Peace in the Pacific, a concept that underscores the importance of shared responsibility for peace and security in the region and will be the Pacific’s contribution to global peace and security.

PM Rabuka acknowledged Fiji and Singapore’s strong multilateral cooperation, including support for Singapore’s international candidatures, and affirmed Fiji’s commitment to a reformed, inclusive, and accountable multilateral system.

In response, PM Wong stated that Fiji and Singapore share a common

belief in the importance of international law, multilateralism and free trade, with diverse and multicultural societies.

He reaffirmed Singapore’s commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation with Fiji in areas like trade, investment and connectivity and infrastructure development.

Singapore has also agreed to expand its collaboration with Fiji in climate resilience and human capital development.

Through the two nations’ capacity building initiatives, PM Wong revealed that more than 1500 Fiji officials have participated in the Singapore Cooperation Program and other customised courses.

He said that Singapore will continue to offer capacity building programs in areas such as digital transformation, good governance, and other relevant sectors.

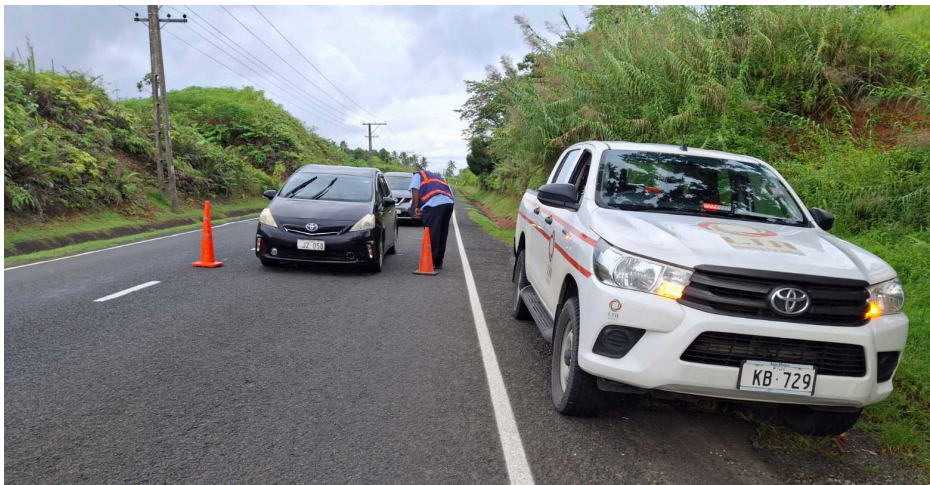
PM Wong noted that the strong bilateral relationship between Singapore and Fiji has laid a solid foundation for Singapore’s wider engagement with the Pacific Islands Forum and the broader region.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, met with Singapore’s Prime Minister, Lawrence Wong, where they reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation between the two nations **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Govt committed to improving road safety



Land Transport Authority (LTA) officers carrying out spot checks. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By AZARIA FAREEN

SEVERAL policy directives aimed at strengthening land transport management and improving road safety were approved by Cabinet in June 2024.

This policy direction intends to address the prevalent causes of major motor vehicle accidents which despite a slight decline in 2024 with 54 fatalities when compared to 78 deaths in 2023 continues to be a concern.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, Ro Filipe Tuisawau, while presenting the Draft Land Transport (Amendment) Bill 2025 in Parliament earlier on where he noted that “while this reduction is encouraging, we must remain vigilant as data reveals that approximately 20 percent of these fatalities in 2024 were linked to speeding or careless driving by Provisional License holders”.

“This figure only represents fatalities,

and the actual number of road accidents involving Provisional License holders is significantly higher,” Minister Tuisawau noted with concern.

“Further compounding this issue, the number of Traffic Infringement Notices (TINs) issued to Provisional License holders have raised serious concerns.”

“Between January 2021 and December 31, 2024, a total of 68,643 TINs were issued to this group and these figures underline the urgent need to address driver behaviour, particularly among new drivers, and take decisive action to improve road safety,” he added.

In response to these challenges, several regulations were endorsed such as reintroduction of temporary road permits, introduction of a penalty for failure-to-stop-and-weigh policy, introduction of a payment plan policy, introduction of Provisional License Stage 1 (P1) and Provisional License Stage 2 (P2), increase in penalties, and temporary suspension of the transfer of permits through sales and purchases.

Minister Tuisawau highlighted that one

of the key amendments in the Draft Bill pertains to Section 57(2) of the Land Transport Act, which currently states that: “A person who has passed a driving test or examination shall be issued with a provisional license for a period of 2 years before a full driver’s license is issued”.

“In light of road safety concerns, the Cabinet has endorsed the development of a two-stage provisional licensing system aiming to foster safer driving behaviours by gradually increasing the privileges of new drivers while ensuring that they develop the necessary skills and awareness for safe road use,” he said.

“To facilitate the implementation of this new system, the proposed amendment seeks to replace the word “shall” with “may” in Section 57(2) of the Land Transport Act,” he noted.

“This modification will provide the legal flexibility required to introduce and enforce the P1 and P2 licensing stages. It will also ensure that the system is properly aligned with legislative requirements, thereby promoting a culture of safe driving.”

Relief at last: Suva Bus Stand



Fiji Roads Authority (FRA), in collaboration with the Suva City Council, is currently undertaking much-needed pavement works at the Suva Bus Stand. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

FOR years, the road leading to Suva city’s bus stand was a daily struggle—full of potholes, and tough on both commuters and their health.

The bumpy rides made travel frustrating and led to the deterioration of the buses. A change for the better is now in the pipeline with the Government having stepped in to fix the road, making it smooth and dust-free.

The Fiji Roads Authority (FRA), in collaboration with the Suva City Council, is currently undertaking much-needed pavement works at the Suva Bus Stand.

This essential project aims to significantly improve the functionality and accessibility of the bustling transportation hub, benefiting both bus services and the thousands of commuters who rely on it daily. Travelers and bus companies welcomed the much-needed upgrade.

Central Transport Company Limited bus checker at the Suva Bus Stand, Shalesh Prasad, said the improvements would benefit buses by minimising damage caused.

“It will benefit the bus companies a lot as our buses will not be damaged a lot,

and it is also important that after the work is completed, there are clear road markings and a person of authority to assist pedestrians in crossing the road,” Mr Prasad said.

Working as a bus checker since 1991, Mr Prasad emphasised that the upgrade was long overdue.

“It’s a game-changer,” said bean seller Karnam Apana.

Mr Apana added that the upgrade would not only smoothen out the once-jarring rides but also reduce health complications.

“Before, the road condition was very bad and I move around from one bus to another selling beans, so it was very hard for me to cross over big potholes. My leg would start hurting.

“Once these upgrades are completed, it will be very helpful for all of us.”

Daily commuter Seru Rokotuiloma expressed his gratitude to the government.

“It’s very good, and it will benefit all of us,” Mr Rokotuiloma said.

Minister for Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa visited the Suva Bus Station on February 13 to witness first-hand the work being carried out by the Fiji Roads Authority in collaboration with the Suva City Council.

Minister highlights electrification projects

By PRASHILA DEVI

ENERGY is at the heart of development— as conduit for investments, innovations, and new industries that “drive employments, inclusive growth and shared prosperity in our livable economy”.

The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, Ro Filipe Tuisawau relayed this while providing an update on the Strengthening Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development in Fiji” – Energy Sector Update 2024/25 Financial Year. “The Ministry through the Department of Energy has tried its best to implement the programmes planned in the 2024/2025 budget provision with a total of \$9.57 million. Out of which \$5.79m is for capital projects and \$3.41m is for operation,” Minister Tuisawau said.

Highlighting some of the major electrification projects, he laid out the key priorities which includes the following:

- Supply and Installation of Solar Home Systems project- With a budget allocation of \$3 million, the project will benefit 900 households across provinces including Bua with 93 households, Macuata with 91 households, Cakaudrove with 109 households, Ra with 69 households, Ba with 162 households, Kadavu with 167 households, Lomaiviti with 48 households, Nadroga with 9 households, and Lau with 152 households.

- EFL Grid Extension Program- On the Rural Electrification Grid Extension Program whereby the Department works closely with Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) to extend the grid network to rural communities and settlements. This year a total of seven grid extension projects were completed, benefitting 27 households at a value of \$300,000. In addition, a total of 50 Grid Extension projects were completed in 2024 costing \$12.7million and benefitting

a total of 1,232 households. Furthermore, 73 projects are currently under construction and are expected to be completed by the end of 2026. These will provide grid electricity to an additional 1,636 households, with a total investment of \$15.9 million.

- House Wiring and Connection- On House Wiring and Connection, a total of \$2 million was allocated to connect 1,655 houses to the EFL Grid. To date, 1,150 homes have been successfully connected, significantly improving household access to electricity. These houses/ new customers are from the three major islands of Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and Taveuni. Some of the major projects are energised are as follows; Naselesele village, Matei settlement, Tavuki village (Taveuni), Nakilikoso in Labasa, Navuniyamunu &



The Electrical Division of the Public Works Department is conducting repair and maintenance work on the grid in Vunisea, Kadavu Island . **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Review of Informal Settlement Act



Public Rental Board Flats in Raiwaqa (seen here) and other similar housing projects have helped address the housing issue faced by citizens in the urban areas. **Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN**

By JAMIL SULEMAN

THE importance of housing as a critical element not only for individual well-being but also for the overall social and economic development of Fiji. This was highlighted by Ministry of Housing permanent secretary, Manasa Lesuma, at the official launch of the 2025-2030 National Housing Policy, alongside the formal review of the Development of Informal Settlement Act 2022 at the Civic Centre recently. “Housing is more than just a shelter. It embodies dignity, security, and opportunity; it is the foundation of safe communities and productive livelihoods,” Mr Lesuma said. He noted that the National Housing Policy, seeks to ensure that every citizen has access to affordable and secure housing that caters to their diverse needs. “This policy is not merely a document; it represents a collective roadmap for the future,” Mr Lesuma emphasised, noting that it was crafted through extensive consultations that reflect the values and voices of the Fijian population. The policy aligns with Fiji’s commitments to international frameworks, including the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. In conjunction with the launch of the housing policy,

Mr Lesuma announced the initiation of a critical review process for the Development of Informal Settlement Act. He acknowledged the importance of informal settlements, which provide shelter for countless Fijians who have historically been marginalized within formal legal and service frameworks. “The 2022 Act marked a significant advancement, it recognises the realities faced by informal communities and aimed to create a structured pathway towards genuine security and dignified living conditions.” The review is poised to address existing legal gaps that impact the rights and responsibilities of residents, tackle ambiguities in relocation procedures, and enhance regulatory oversight in construction planning and service provision. “Our approach will be guided by a human rights-based framework that emphasises participation, protection, and affordability,” Mr Lesuma elaborated. He strongly encouraged community involvement in the review process. In the forthcoming months, the Ministry will engage local residents, landowners, women’s groups, and youth leaders through public consultations and technical roundtables to gather insights and experiences regarding the standard of safe and secure housing envisioned for Fiji.

Govt launches National Housing Policy 2025-2030 to address housing challenges

By JAMIL SULEMAN

THE Government has officially launched its National Housing Policy 2025-2030, aimed at tackling the pressing challenges faced by the housing sector in the country. During the launch event held at the Suva Civic Centre recently, Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa, emphasised the government’s commitment to ensuring adequate housing for all Fijians. “We reaffirm our commitment to providing one of life’s most fundamental needs: adequate shelter and security for individuals and families across Fiji,” Minister Nalumisa stated. “This policy aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 11, which calls for inclusive, safe, and affordable housing.” The minister highlighted the constitutional responsibility as outlined in Section 35 of the 2013 Fijian Constitution, which emphasises the Government’s commitment to uphold and promote the rights of all citizens, regardless of their background. “The Government must take reasonable measures to progressively realise the right to accessible and adequate housing for all Fijians, within the limits of available resources,” he noted. The National Housing Policy will focus on key areas to enhance the quality and accessibility of housing. Key initiatives include:

- Regulating the Housing Market: Strengthening legislative frameworks to ensure the availability of quality housing and rental accommodations.
- Enhancing Affordability: Developing long-term social housing programs and targeted support mechanisms for low-income households.
- Capacity Development: Increasing the supply of skilled construction workers through training and scholarships and improving housing data systems for better sector intelligence.

Minister Nalumisa also called for a collaborative approach to the implementation of the policy. “The successful execution of this policy requires a whole-of-sector approach; we must work together across ministries, agencies, organisations, and communities,” he urged. The launch marks a significant milestone for the Government in its ongoing attempts to provide inclusive housing solutions, reflecting a robust commitment to addressing the diverse needs of the population. By prioritising accessibility and affordability in housing policies, the government aims to create a more equitable environment where individuals and families, regardless of their socioeconomic status, can secure safe and adequate living conditions.

Fiji to modernise Bankruptcy Act in bid to enhance investment

By JAMIL SULEMAN

FIJI is set to modernise the Bankruptcy Act of 1944 to bolster its investment climate and promote entrepreneurship. The proposed reforms aim to provide Fijians with viable alternatives to bankruptcy, encourage entrepreneurial ventures, and maximise economic efficiency. The Ministry of Justice conducted the final round of consultations with industry stakeholders from April 7 to 11, 2025, to gather input on the legislative review. This reform initiative comes at a critical time, as many small businesses and consumers in Fiji and around the globe are grappling with financial challenges exacerbated by rising interest rates and ongoing economic and climate-related issues. “The Ministry of Justice is privileged to collaborate with experts from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on this important review, which seeks to encourage entrepreneurship while aligning insolvency laws with international best practices,” said Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga. Revamping the seven-decade-old Act is particularly important for Fiji, which is home to a significant number of small unincorporated businesses. Establishing effective creditor and debtor



Ministry of Justice has been carrying out consultation on the Bankruptcy Act of 1944. Staff with Ministry permanent secretary Selina Kuruleca. **Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN**

rights, coupled with a robust insolvency framework, is vital for ensuring stability within the financial system. Supporting this initiative, the IFC and the Insolvency and Debt Resolution team from the World Bank will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice as part of a wider effort to promote inclusive and sustainable growth throughout the country. “This reform is essential for preserving viable businesses while ensuring

unsuccessful ones can exit the market efficiently,” stated Stefano Mocchi, World Bank Group Country Manager for Fiji. “A strong insolvency regime promotes responsible lending and strengthens financial system stability.” The World Bank Group’s efforts include an initial diagnostic assessment that draws on international best practices to create solutions specifically tailored to Fiji’s unique situation.

This will align with the World Bank Principles for Effective Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Regimes, which offer new guidelines for handling the insolvency of micro and small businesses. Moreover, the IFC’s work in Fiji is supported by the Government of Australia under the Vuvale Partnership, which is designed to enhance the competitiveness of the private sector and stimulate inclusive, climate-smart private investment.

PM highlights Fiji efforts on eliminating discrimination

By PRASHILA DEVI

development, eliminating violence against women, increasing women's participation in political leadership and national decision-making, and promoting their inclusion in non-traditional sectors."

Fiji has also introduced the Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) Initiative.

“This initiative aims to build the capacity of government agencies to integrate the needs, interests, and contributions of women and girls into their policies, strategies, plans and resourcing. Complementing this effort is the Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting (GRPB) initiative, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance.”

PM Rabuka said the forthcoming Fiji Women's Economic Empowerment National Action Plan (WEE NAP) will serve as a roadmap for advancing tangible outcomes for Fijian women and girls.

“The vision of WEE NAP is for women and girls to achieve full and equitable economic empowerment, with greater participation, leadership, agency, and access to resources, supported by inclusive policies and a safe, enabling environment.”

PM Rabuka said the Government was committed to strengthening the implementation of the Institutional Capacity Development and Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting initiatives.

In launching the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against all Women and Girls (NAP-PVAWG) in 2023, and for the first time, the Government introduced a Gender-based Violence (GBV) budget line in the national budget.

Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, opened the Pacific Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women Technical Cooperation Session held in Suva in April. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

THE Chairman of the Public Service Commission (PSC), Luke Rokovada, has strongly condemned the tragic death of Sainimere Tuinasakea, a dedicated civil servant from the Department of Immigration.

“No one should ever have to endure such violence. Sainimere Tuinasakea’s death is a stark reminder of the work that still needs to be done to ensure the safety and dignity of all women in Fiji,” Mr Rokovada stated.

He emphasised the Public Service Commission's unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of its employees and is committed to introducing and implementing gender-based prevention policies and will immediately initiate a mandatory training programme for all public servants to enhance awareness, prevention and support mechanisms within the workforce.

The Public Service extends its condolences to Mrs Tuinasakea's family, friends and colleagues during this extremely difficult time.

Any public servants experiencing domestic violence are strongly encouraged to reach out for help via the toll-free line 1560.

The Public Service Commission has called on all citizens to stand together in addressing this growing issue and to support initiatives aimed at preventing domestic violence and protecting our women and girls.

(Source: Public Service Commission)



Public Service Commission Chairman Luke Rokovada, seen here officiating at the two-day National Health for Human Resources Strategic Workforce Planning Workshop Program, has called for zero tolerance on gender based violence.

Gospel Kindergarten students visit State House



The President, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, welcomed kindergarten students of Gospel Primary School to State House recently.

Accompanied by their parents, guardians and teachers, this marked the students' first visit to the State House.

As part of their visit, the students presented a special item of appreciation to the President, which included singing songs and showcasing their talents.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



Laselase delegation pays courtesy visit to President

A delegation from Laselase village Nadroga, Sigatoka made a courtesy visit to the President, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, at State House.

The visit reflects the historical and customary ties between the people of Laselase and Na Gone Turaga Bale na Tui Cakau, a relationship founded on shared ties and history.

Photos: NANISE NEIMILA



ANZAC Day Memorial Service



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism, Viliame Gavoka attended the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Military Cemetery in Suva.

He was joined by the Minister for Policing, Ioane Naivalurua, members of the disciplined forces, the diplomatic corps and distinguished guests.

Signifying 110 years since the Gallipoli landings in 1915, ANZAC Day is commemorated annually to honour the lives of those Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women who lost their lives fighting for freedom in the battle of Gallipoli against the Ottoman Empire during World War I.

Photos: WANSHIKA KUMAR



Two families celebrate new homes in Muana Village

Tears turned to smiles in Muana Village, Rewa as two families stepped into a home of their own provided by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management.

Funded under the Ministry's rural housing assistance (RHA) program, the two houses turned long held dreams to reality for 25-year-old Jeremaia Bose and 60-year-old Timoci Mokoti.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Govt responds to residents' call for road repairs

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

THE government has reaffirmed its commitment to improving infrastructure after residents from Sasavira and Wainibuku in the Central Division raised serious concerns about deteriorating road conditions during



Sasavira Farm Road president Arishma Lata voices the concerns of her community members during the first public consultation for the 2025-2026 National Budget. Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR

the first public consultation for the 2025-2026 National Budget.

For years, communities in these areas have struggled with poor road access especially during rainy seasons.

Sasavira Farm Road president Arishma Lata shared how families were forced to collect funds and carry out basic repairs themselves.

“For over 15 years, the residents of Sasavira have been facing serious hardships due to the poor state of our farm road. Despite the budget for this road having been allocated twice with the previous government, not a single repair has been done by the previous government since we acquired the land here and began building the houses,” Ms Lata stated.

“We are not asking for luxury, just for the basic infrastructure that every citizen deserves.”

DPM Prasad emphathised with the community and acknowledged the frustration of residents.

“I don’t want to promise you a timeline, but I can promise you that tomorrow I will talk to FRA and housing and we will take your number and we’ll try and get these people to



Justine Maravu of Wainunu Settlement, Wainibuku expresses concerns about a neglected road in her area. Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR

see you and see the area and see what can be done immediately,” he said, also pledging immediate attention to a dangerously eroded section of the road,” DPM Prasad stated.

Justine Maravu of Wainunu Settlement, Wainibuku echoed similar concerns about a neglected road near her home, which becomes impassable during heavy rain.

“As a mother, having my child walk through that road when it’s raining, but I’m at work, I’m worried about him going back because he has to cross the bridge there that is flooded,” Ms Maravu shared.

In response, DPM Prasad acknowledged her for raising the issue stating ‘there are a lot of areas in Suva- Nausori area right up to Navua, a lot of roads are being fixed by FRA now, we are not making a demarcation anymore about FRA and non-FRA roads and that’s going to allow us to fix those roads as quickly as possible”.

Members of the public got the opportunity to express their concerns and contribute towards the 2025-2026 National Budget through the public consultations organised around the country during the month.

Budget will be consistent: DPM Prasad

By PRASHILA DEVI

THE budget policy direction the Coalition Government has taken in the last two years will be continued and further enhanced in the coming financial period.

This was the assurance by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, in the lead-up to the 2025-2026 National Budget which is expected to be delivered next month.

“In the last two years, there were many initiatives where funding was provided through the budget such as assistance to students in the form of grant at the beginning of the school year, scholarships for tertiary education without burdening students with debt, assistance to farmers- whether rice, sugar, dalo, cassava- all were given relief in the form of subsidy for manure and other chemicals,” DPM Prasad elaborated.

“We were left with deteriorating infrastructure- poor road conditions, drainage, electricity and water issues all needed to be dealt with. We have done quite a lot of work on this over the last two years but more is needed which may take more than just the next two years.”

On the health sector, DPM Prasad acknowledged issues that are prevalent such as availability of medicine and health infrastructure.

“I have been talking to the Indian Government on accessing good affordable medicines from India and then we have the Indian Government committing to the 100-bed super speciality hospital in Nasinu while the Australian Government will assist in improving the Colonial War Memorial Hospital.”

The other major focus, DPM Prasad added, was the development of Vanua Levu with the signing of the tourism development project with the World Bank.

“This is a 10-year development project but already we are seeing a growth in business and commerce in the North.”

DPM Prasad also maintained that the removal of debt burden from students through education loans ensures that Fiji’s youth do not get saddled with debt upon graduation when they could be helping their families.

Budget consultation 2025-2026



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad speaks to members of the public during the budget consultation in Nasinu. Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

IN a pledge to uplift the nation’s most vulnerable, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Biman Prasad has signaled that the upcoming budget will focus on helping vulnerable groups and improving their quality of life.

With approximately 51 informal settlements in Nasinu, chair of the Nasinu District Council for Older Persons Randhir Prasad said residents in the area were facing difficulties in accessing the government services.

“Nasinu has approximately 51 informal settlements and I’ve been visiting them and I’ve seen the residents in that area, in the informal settlement have been facing difficulties, they don’t have access roads, access footpaths and they have been finding difficulties

to meet the government services,” DPM Prasad expressed.

Addressing the concerns raised at the first public consultation for the 2025-2026 National Budget in Nasinu on April 10, 2025, DPM Prasad said they would further look at ways of improving the quality of life of people of these vulnerable groups in the upcoming budget.

“In terms of direct support, we increased all the social welfare allowances in the last budget, the first budget- disability allowance, family allowance, child protection allowance, allowance for persons with disability we allocated \$17.7 million in the 2024-2025 budget and the other allocations,” he stated.

“Child protection was \$17.5m, allowance for persons with disability, \$17.7 million, transport assistance, that’s another scheme that’s been beefed up, family assistance, so all the social welfare allowance was

increased in the 2023-2024 budget and maintained in the 2024-2025 budget.”

“The number of people needing aged care, the Minister was telling me that there is a lot of neglect also happening, there are cases of children who have migrated, left the parents on their own, who need assistance, who need support, so we are discussing how we can address some of these problems and building of aged care homes where they can get better protection, better support, apart from the allocations that we have in the budget,” DPM Prasad said.

“Since we came in, we recognised, we looked at the data, we looked at the vulnerabilities of some of these groups and we have provided additional funding for that and in the next budget, there would be further announcement.”

PM learns about Singapore's port facility

PRIME Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, visited the Singapore Maritime and Port Authority Operations Control Centre as part of the government's ongoing commitment to strengthening Fiji's maritime safety, security, and infrastructure development.

During the visit, PM Rabuka and his delegation observed firsthand the daily operations of the centre, at the same time, learned about the role it plays in managing vessel traffic, coordinating maritime communications, and ensuring safe and efficient port operations across the country.

Authority chief executive officer, Teo Eng Dih, briefed the PM, highlighting that the organisation aims to develop Singapore as a premier global hub port and international

maritime centre, and to advance and safeguard its strategic maritime interests.

The CEO and PM Rabuka also talked about the challenges faced by the sector and explored possible collaboration opportunities that can be pursued through investment in infrastructure and technology.

PM Rabuka said that Fiji was progressing in its vision to becoming the hub of the Pacific through investments in infrastructure to enhance port services, including container handling and storage, customs processing, to mention just a few.

He thanked the CEO for the opportunity to visit the facility, adding that Fiji can learn more from Singapore in terms of port infrastructure development, in ensuring the smooth movement of goods and services



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, visited the Singapore Maritime and Port Authority Operations Control Centre during his visit to the country in April. Photo: SUPPLIED

that are vital to its economy and the livelihoods of the people.

Fiji is planning to build a super port facility in Suva, a significant infrastructure development that could bolster our status and strategic role as a hub in the Pacific region.

He added that the development of a world-class port facility back home is anticipated to generate a lot of economic activities and

transform economies not only in Fiji but in the entire Pacific region.

The Prime Minister's site visit underscores the Government's focus on modernising critical infrastructure to support economic growth and improve service delivery across the nation's maritime regions.

(Source: Office of Prime Minister)

Fiji represented at the BBNJ First Preparatory Commission Meeting in New York



Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Filipo Tarakinikini with the Fiji delegation that participated in the first preparatory commission for the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement. Photo: SUPPLIED

F IJ I actively participated in the first preparatory commission for the entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

The Fiji delegation subsequently attended the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Agreement.

The meeting held in New York from April 14-18, 2025 was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Solicitor General, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and Conservation International.

Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (PRUN) in New York, Ambassador Filipo Tarakinikini, met the Fiji delegation and reaffirmed the Mission's support to the work undertaken on BBNJ.

The meeting was beneficial to Fiji as contributions to the formulation of the Rules of Procedure (RoP's) of the COP and of the different subsidiary bodies will guide the work of the institutions while ensuring transparency and accountability in the sustainable use and management of the marine genetic resources beyond the

national jurisdiction.

Fiji will benefit from this Agreement through strengthened multilateralism as it builds upon its important role in leading the Ocean Conference, Conference of the Parties on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, leading on the Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations in the World Trade Organization and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

An ambitious target has been set to reach the threshold set out in the Agreement of 60 countries ratifying the Agreement by the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France in June 2025 to enable the entry into force of the Agreement.

The status of the Agreement stands at 113 countries having signed including Fiji whilst 21 countries are parties to the Agreement.

The two-week meeting in New York focused on the operationalisation of the Agreement through establishment of the Governance framework including the Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the subsidiary bodies, financial arrangements and discussions on the modalities for the Clearing House Mechanism.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Fiji reaffirms commitment to women empowerment and gender equality



Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lenora Qereqeretabua represented Fiji at the 58th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD58) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) held in New York in April 2025. Photo: SUPPLIED

ASSISTANT Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lenora Qereqeretabua represented Fiji at the 58th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD58) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) being held in New York from 7-11 April 2025.

In delivering Fiji's national statement at the high-level session, Asst. Minister Qereqeretabua reaffirmed Fiji Government's commitment to ensuring women empowerment, elimination of any form of discrimination against women, gender equality, respect for the rights of all women and girls.

She highlighted the collective actions taken by Fiji to promote health and wellbeing of Fiji's population.

Further, she outlined the various programs and policies implemented by Fiji to promote the health and wellbeing of women and girls, and in building healthy population through collaborating closely with development partners in particular UNFPA Pacific Office and the Government of Australia.

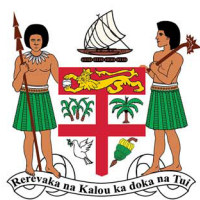
Asst. Minister Qereqeretabua asserted that Fiji remains committed to its obligations under multilateralism to enhance the lives of all Fijians, particularly in advancing the health rights of the women through the provision of maternal health services and programs to better lives.

Fiji was among the few Pacific Island nations to participate at this high-level engagement.

The Assistant Minister also participated in a key event themed, "A healthier future for mothers: Small Island Developing States' (SIDS) commitment to building resilient health systems for better outcomes in Maternal Health".

The event was co-hosted by the Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in partnership with the Asia Pacific Regional Office of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Fiji's participation underscores strong commitment to improving the lives of all Fijians, particularly our women through the provision of quality maternal health services.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
& MEDICAL SERVICES



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DENGUE FEVER

What it is?

Dengue fever is caused by the dengue virus. Humans become infected with the dengue virus when mosquitoes (black-and-white striped mosquito) bite someone with dengue (blood meal) and then transmits the virus when it bites another healthy person.

Dengue fever affects millions of people around the world and most people usually recover from dengue fever after a few days, with some experiencing tiredness for a few weeks after. However, in some cases, dengue fever can be serious and lead to severe bleeding, coma and death.

How is it Spread?

Only infected mosquitoes transmit dengue fever. The mosquito contracts the virus when it bites an infected person. The mosquito is then infective for the rest of its life and can spread the virus every time it bites someone. The mosquito that spreads dengue fever likes to live in urban areas and especially in and around houses and in containers or other receptacles that can hold water such as bottles, empty cans, tyres, drums, uncovered water drums, flower vases, and others. Severe dengue fever can be deadly. But most people will recover from dengue fever after an illness of 2-7 days. Although you may continue to feel tired for weeks afterwards.



Severe Dengue Fever

Dengue Fever causes flu-like symptoms that generally last for 2-7 days. Dengue fever usually occurs after an incubation period of 4-10 days after the bite of the infected mosquito.

High Fever (40°C) is usually accompanied by at least two of the following symptoms:

- Nausea, vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Headache
- Eye pain
- Muscle or joint pains
- Headaches
- Pain behind eyes
- A rash

Other symptoms may include;

- Swollen glands
- Diarrhoea
- Generally feeling unwell (malaise)

Severe Dengue Fever

When developing into severe dengue, the critical phase takes place around 3-7 days after the first sign of illness. A decreasing temperature does NOT mean the person is necessarily recovering. Special attention needs to be given to these warning signs as it could lead to severe dengue:

- Abdominal pain
- Persistent vomiting
- Vomiting blood
- Rapid breathing
- Fatigue/ restlessness
- Signs of bleeding such as bleeding gums, vomiting blood, black tarry stools (blood in stool), vaginal bleeding, and bruising of the skin.

Failure to seek medical treatment in time if severe dengue signs are present may lead to severe bleeding, severe organ impairment, coma and even death.

How do I reduce my risk of getting dengue fever?

The best way to avoid dengue is to avoid mosquito bites. This means to:

- Wear insect repellent when outdoors
- Use mosquito nets when sleeping
- Install mosquito/insect screens on your windows and doors

You should also take the time to destroy mosquito breeding habitats in and around your homes, villages and neighbourhoods by following these steps;

- Clear leaves and other rubbish from roof gutters and from around the house
- Remove old tyres, empty cans, bottles, drums, coconut shells and husks, by covering or burying them to prevent the collection of stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed.
- Remove potential indoor breeding habitats including vases, water tray under fridge, empty bottles and cans, and others.
- Cover water stored in drums and containers securely.
- Cut and clear overgrown grass and shrubs around the compound.

How is it treated?

Seek medical attention immediately if you think you may have contracted dengue fever. Early diagnosis and management of symptoms is critical to reduce the risk of complications and avoid further spread of the virus.

Patients should get plenty of rest and drink plenty of fluids. Take oral rehydration salts if they are available. Paracetamol such as Panadol can be taken to bring down fever and reduce joint pains.

DO NOT take aspirin or ibuprofen or any other pain medicine without checking with a doctor. These treatments can increase the risk of bleeding because they work to thin the blood.

When the warning signs of severe dengue as listed above are present, it is imperative to consult a doctor and seek hospitalisation to manage the disease.

With proper medical care and early recognition, case-fatality rates are very low. However, the overall experience can remain very discomforting and unpleasant for patients.



Get rid of all old
tyres and used
coconut shells



Empty tins, bottles,
damaged buckets
or drums



Cover stored
water drums
securely

(Source: Ministry of Health)

6-month-old gets gift of life



45-year-old Ilisapeci Tilolo is all smiles following the successful heart surgery of her 6-month old daughter **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN**

By AZARIA FAREEN

FOR the past few months, 45-year-old Ilisapeci Tilolo, lived with worry and fear that gnawed at her heart with every breath her youngest daughter took.

That fear had finally lifted with the success of the little one's heart surgery - a daunting procedure for a tiny six-month-old.

This was made possible through a project "Gift of Life" by Sai Prema Foundation which has continued to conduct successful life-saving heart surgeries of children in Fiji and the Pacific, saving families the burden of the medical cost.

Mrs Tilolo, who resides in Toga in Nausori, relayed that she had gone to a clinic at the Nausori Health Centre and found out that her baby's body was yellow so she was transferred to the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva where the doctors did an echocardiogram test on her and found out that she had a hole in her heart.

"The doctors then added her to the list of patients going through the treatment which included an operation," she said.

"It is not easy to see your child fall sick and also cry because they are not able to communicate what they are feeling as she's still very small - only 6-months-old," the emotional mother said.

"And when we made the decision to continue with the treatment, we kept thanking God that he will lead us in completing the journey."

"There was a lot of fear and unshed tears and it was a time where we needed a lot of encouragement because we thought we could

not fight it alone, and we are very happy that our baby was able to make it through," she added.

Mrs Tilolo said that she is blessed and "can't explain it in words but this action is so powerful that starting from the assistance from the management to the care from the staff and the success of the operation - we did not have to pay anything".

"Words cannot express what the heart feels and we are very grateful and happy," she said.

"A big thank you to everyone, especially the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital for giving us the gift of life. I learnt a lot of things by coming here as well, which is to have a good heart and keep doing good to others as only then the blessing will be returned."

"I used to reflect that all my other children are strong and healthy as I have nurtured them with love and care, and seen them grow up in all stages of their life but when I used to see my baby ill, I used to hang my head down and feel sick from inside but with the successful outcome of the treatment, I can now get back to normal life," Mrs Tilolo added.

She stressed on the importance of family support as during her time of uncertainty, her family came together, stayed strong and prayed that everything will be alright.

"Sometimes fear is controlling but just listen to your heart because the mind can deceive us but if we fight this battle together with love then we can make progress," Mrs Tilolo advised.

First Elderly Recreational Day



Minister for Housing and Local Government Maciu Nalumisa greets the senior citizens during the first Elderly Recreational Day celebration at Ratu Sukuna Park in Suva. **Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR**

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

ELDERLY are the foundation of our families, our communities and our nation.

This was the sentiment shared by the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran while speaking at the first Elderly Recreational Day in Suva, organised to honour, celebrate and engage with elders.

"Your sacrifices, wisdom and lifelong contributions have shaped the Fiji we live in today," Minister Kiran stated.

"The Ministry recognises that aging should not mean isolation or lack of opportunity. Instead, it should be a time for respect, dignity and continued engagement in society."

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection continues to uplift the lives of senior citizens through a range of its supportive initiatives. From financial aid to transportation subsidies and aged care support, these programs aim to ensure that elderly Fijians enjoy a dignified and fulfilling life.

Shedding light on these programs Minister Kiran said the Ministry remained committed to enhancing the lives of senior citizens.

She said one such initiative was the Social Pension Scheme, which provides financial assistance to elderly Fijians who do not have access to any form of superannuation or retirement fund.

Meanwhile, the Bus Fare Subsidy Program ensures that senior citizens have access to affordable transportation to stay connected with family, friends, and essential services.

Recognising the importance of safe living conditions, the Ministry also provides support for Aged Care Homes, where they work with residential care facilities to ensure that elderly live in safe, well-managed environments with dignity and proper care.

In addition, the Ministry also actively promotes social engagement through Community Outreach Programs, with the aim to keep elders active, engaged and socially connected.

Sibling accepts graduation honour for late brother at FNU



Epineri Boleilovoni with Diploma in Quantity Surveying (Level 6) which he received on behalf of his brother, late Rymell Boleilovoni. **Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR**

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

GRIEF overpowered the sparkles of the graduation gown as an elder brother stepped onto the Fiji National University (FNU) graduation stage—his hands receiving a certificate, his heart holding a memory.

Elder brother Epineri Boleilovoni travelled all the way from Levuka to accept the honour for his younger brother, whose dreams ended too soon, yet whose journey was celebrated with loud claps and silent tears.

Late Joseph Rymell Boleilovoni was awarded the Diploma in Quantity

Surveying (Level 6).

"I only wish to be here with him, not to be here alone with friends," Mr Boleilovoni expressed with teary eyes.

"If he was here, it would have been a more joyful day than today."

He described his brother as a caring and loving person who enjoyed challenges in life.

"Receiving a certificate today is also like an achievement that I accomplished through him, we have been challenging and competing with each other.

"I wished to see him wearing this gown and also this shirt, it was like a dream of mine which now will never be fulfilled."

Ministry convenes first PS level MACC talanoa for 2025

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently convened a talanoa session with the permanent secretaries and senior government officials of the Maritime Affairs Coordinating Committee (MACC). Ministry’s permanent secretary, Dr Rajjeli Taga emphasised the importance of MACC in protecting Fiji’s maritime interests as mandated under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Dr Taga explained that dialogue among the ministries will help shape Fiji’s national and regional oceans and maritime priorities, ensuring policy coherence and driving sustainable maritime development. Further, she highlighted the critical role of the MACC in ensuring the cross-sectorial alignment and driving oceans policy coherence at the highest levels,

stating that the oceans and maritime space holds tremendous potential for sustainable development varying from blue economy initiatives to promoting low-carbon shipping and coastal resilience and that fulfilment of these goals would require strategic collaboration, urgency and shared commitment to maritime mandates. Dr Taga stated that with complex maritime challenges and climate change sea- level rise, it was important to secure Fiji’s maritime boundaries. The discussions also highlighted that the delimitation of our maritime boundaries was not only a legal obligation but a sovereign duty to safeguard Fiji’s marine resources, ensuring food security and enhancing environmental resilience for the current and future generations. The MACC since its establishment in



Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr Rajjeli Taga with the permanent secretaries and members of the Maritime Affairs Coordinating Committee (MACC). **Photo: SUPPLIED**

1995, is mandated to define Fiji’s maritime zones, mapping extended continental shelf areas, developing nautical charts ensuring the enforcement of Fiji’s Marine Spaces Act of 1977 through its technical members, the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources and the Fiji Hydrography Office under the Republic of Fiji Navy. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the secretariat of the MACC with wider membership of the MACC encompasses

the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, Ministry of Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, Ministry of i-Taukei Affairs and the Solicitor General’s office.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Fiji gears up for key evaluation on anti-money laundering standards



Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga, with Ministry of Justice staff after the meeting with the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering. **Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN**

By JAMIL SULEMAN

F IJI is bracing itself for a significant evaluation in 2026, aimed at assessing its compliance with international standards for combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and other financial crimes. This crucial evaluation will be conducted by the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), featuring a team of international experts who will scrutinise Fiji’s efforts in these areas. Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga, recently met with a delegation from the APG secretariat, led by co-chair, Mitsutoshi Kajikawa, to discuss the forthcoming evaluation. “Compliance with the international anti-money laundering standards is crucial because it ensures that we have strong laws and institutions to fight complex financial crimes and to safeguard our financial sector, businesses, and people,” Minister Turaga highlighted during the meeting. The Minister emphasised the Fiji Government’s commitment to preparing thoroughly for the APG’s assessment.

“This evaluation provides an opportunity for the Government to assess and strengthen its laws and institutional framework on combating serious crimes in Fiji,” he added. In addition to discussions focused on Fiji’s strategic legal and institutional capacity enhancements, the APG delegation engaged with other key figures, including the Minister for Policing, the Attorney-General, the Commissioner of Police, the Acting Director of Public Prosecution, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji, the Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit, and the Acting Deputy Commissioner of the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC). The Ministry of Justice, through its Permanent Secretary, is overseeing preparations for the 2026 evaluation. To facilitate this, the National Anti-Money Laundering Council, chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Justice, has established a Working Group consisting of officials from various governmental agencies. This group will coordinate efforts to ensure a unified approach to the evaluation process.

REACH program provides relief to single mother



Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Sashi Kiran provides moral support to the REACH team. **Photo: WANSHIKA KUMAR**

By WANSHIKA KUMAR

A SINGLE mother of three in Lami found new hope through the REACH program, which helped her learn about government support and apply for a fishing licence that would allow her to earn money and provide for her family. Led by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection, an estimated 870 households benefited from the three-day REACH- Rights, Empowerment and Cohesion for Rural and Urban Fijians- program, at the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall from April 9 to April 11. The 51-year-old Bela Dakuninata was full of smiles after she visited the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) booth where she discovered the application process for a fishing licence and other assistance that the government provides to assist fishers. “I like these services, it’s very good because I did not know about all these assistance and processes,” she expressed. “After getting the licence and the boat, I can fish and generate income for my three children. “I always go fishing to collect fish for our meals but now I can sell and earn as I am not working.” Representing Naivikinikini Village, 53-year-old Paulo Tawake described the residents as fortunate, having government and non-government agencies providing essential services few steps away from their homes. “We on this outskirts of Suva, especially in Lami, the informal settlement, we are so fortunate that the Government has brought in all these services with other stakeholders for us, rather than going to Suva or searching for other things within three days, and that’s a positive move with the reach out that they have made,” Mr Tawake said.

He said the REACH program was much-needed especially for the elderly population of the area. “It will benefit them because from hiring a cab, from taking a bus, and the difficult situation where we live, we have to come down from the hill right to the main road, and then from here to Suva, it’s quite long for them so this REACH program will benefit them as just only in the short distance, they will be able to be served with the essential services.” Speaking at the launch, line Minister Sashi Kiran, said for the financial year 2024/2025, the REACH programme was targeting informal settlements as they were often left behind and neglected in terms of knowing and accessing various services and programmes targeted towards alleviating poverty. “As your Government of the day, we value the importance of a knowledge-based society, and the REACH programme plays a vital role by making access to information easier – this is achieved by providing communities with access to services and knowledge on different types of Government and non-government services available to them. This is also an opportunity for us to listen to our communities and the challenges faced in accessing these services,” Minister Kiran stated. She said the vision for the REACH Program was to create a more inclusive, equitable society where every Fijian had access to vital services, regardless of where they lived. The program brought government and non-government services from infrastructure development to healthcare improvements, education to job opportunities, financial literacy and many more right to their doorstep—making help easier to reach than ever before.

Fiji FOCUS



The President, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu with the award recipients- Sri Madhusudan Sai, Sumeet Tappoo and Krupali Tappoo after the investiture ceremony at the State House.
Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

President honours children's heart hospital founders

By NANISE NEIMILA

THE President and Chancellor of the Fiji College of Honour, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, conferred with the Insignia of the Honorary Companion of the Order of Fiji to Sri Madhusudan Sai.

As a global humanitarian, Mr Madhusudan, founded the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital in Suva and the award was an eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in Service to Fiji the humanity at large.

One World One Family Global Humanitarian Mission which he also

founded helped establish the state of the art fully free Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital in Fiji.

The hospital has carried out over 360 lifesaving surgeries and over 28000 paediatric echocardiograms have been performed at the Hospital at no cost to the patients or their families.

Also honoured at the ceremony with the conferment of the Insignia of the Honorary Companion of the Order of Fiji in the general division for eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Fiji and humanity at large was Sumeet Tappoo, chairman of the Sai Prema Foundation and the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's

Hospital.

Dr. Krupali Rathod Tappoo, Director of the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital was also honoured with the conferment of the Insignia of the Honorary Companion of the Order of Fiji in the general division for eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Fiji and humanity at large.

President Lalabalavu commended the extraordinary humanitarian work carried out through the hospital and the Sai Prema Foundation.

"The fact that these critical heart surgeries and screenings are provided at no cost is a reflection of an extraordinary

degree of compassion and service to humanity," the Head of State said.

He also praised the outreach conducted by the Sai Prema Foundation, noting that children from orphanages, residents of aged-care homes, and individuals from rural and maritime communities have benefitted from its medical camps nationwide.

Furthermore, President Ratu Naiqama highlighted that the Fiji Government recognises this as one of the most successful public-private partnerships.

"It stands as proof of our shared belief that quality healthcare is not a privilege, but a fundamental right for all citizens."

Nodra VITI

VAKARAITAKI NA ITUVATUVA NI BULA
VAKAILAVO KEI NA SARAVANUA E VITI
ENA FHTA TALANOA 2

VEIVUKE VEI IRA NA
LEWENIVANUA E MALAKE NA
CAKACAKA NI WAI 6

RAILESUVI NI INFORMAL
SETTLEMENT ACT 7

MARAUTAKA NODRA VALE VOU E RUA NA MATAVUVALE ENA KORO O MUANA



Ko Minisita Ditoka ena koro o Muana Toga Rewa ena nona laki dolava erua na vale nodra na lewenivanua ekeya. Taba tale toka ga ike orau na itaukei ni vale vou me vaka na veivuke ni Matanitu

Avuki na wainimata me matadredredre mai na koro ko Muana, Rewa ena noa (24:04:25) ena nodrau curu yani e rua na matavuvale ki na nodrau vale ka vakarautaka na Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management se Minisitiri ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni Koro ni Cakacaka kei na Yanuyanu kei na Vakacoko ena Leqa Tubukoso Vakailavotaki ena ruku ni parokaramu ni Rural Housing Assistance (RHA) ni Minisitiri, a vuki na vale e rua oqo me vakavotukanataki na tatadra makawa vei rau o Jeremaia Bose yabaki 25 kei

Timoci Mokoti yabaki 60. E kaya na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni koro ni cakacaka kei na yanuyanu kei na Vakacoko ena leqa-tubukoso o Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka ni sa ka taleitaki me da raica na nodra yaga na tamata, vakabibi na itabagone mai na parokaramu vakaoqo ka vakavakarau ki na veisiga ni mataka. “Vei au, oqo e dua na gauna taleitaki ni da raica ni sa vuavuai vinaka na noda cakacaka ka da vakavinavinaka vakalevu vei ira kece era vakaitavi kina,” e kaya o Minisita Ditoka. “Kevaka era tiko na tamata ena vale

vinaka, era moce vinaka ka ra vakila na taqomaki ena nodra dui vale, ena vinaka cake kina na tagane se yalewa cakacaka. E ivakaraitaki vinaka ki na nodra veisiga ni mataka na tamata cakacaka, ni kevaka e tiko na nodra vale me ra tiko kina, me taqomaki na nodra veisiga ni mataka na luvedra me rawa ni ra susugi ira cake kina na gone vinaka, gonelalai, ka vinaka ka ra na veisiga ni mataka ni noda vanua. “Au vakabauta ni oqori na vanua e tekivu mai kina na veika kece, na itikotiko oqori na ka keimami vakarautaka tiko ka keimami nuitaka ni na vakarautaka tikoga vei ira na vo ni lewe ni itikotiko

vakakoro era gadreva me ra kerekere.” Me baleta na kena vakacavari vinaka, erau a sauma ruarua na cau e dua na ikatolu ni cau ka a \$9,551.95 yadua ka rauta ni \$19,103.90 kei na rua na ikatolu e veivuke mai na matanitu ka rauta ni \$43,537.88 nai sau taucoko ni dua na vale. E vakauqeti ira na lewenivanua o Minisita Ditoka mera kerekere ka vakayagataka na parokaramu oqo. “E dola tu vei ira kece na itikotiko, e sega walega ni baleta na Itaukei me vaka era nanuma eso na tamata, e dola tu vei ira kece na itikotiko, se o cei ga e kerekere.”

Noda VITI

Vakananumi na Siga ni ANZAC Day



Oira na sotia ni noda mataivalu era yadra na ivakananumi ni nodra mate na ivalu na sotia ena bulubulu ni sotia ena siga ni Vakananumi ni ANZAC Day.

A tiko ena mataka ni Vakaraubuka (25:04:2025) na Paraiminisita Vakatawa o Hon. Viliame Gavoka ena ANZAC Day Dawn Service ena Military Cemetery e Suva.

A tomani kaya na Minisita ni Ovisa, Hon. Ioane Naivalurua, o ira na lewe ni mataivalu, oira na mata ni veimatanitu ki na noda vanua, kei ira na vulagi dokai.

Vakatakilakilatata na 110 na yabaki mai na gauna a yaco kina o Gallipoli ena 1915, na ANZAC Day e dau vakananumi e veiyabaki me vakarokorokotaki kina na nodra bula na sotia ni Ositerelia kei Ni'u Siladi era a vakayalia na nodra bula ena ivalu mai Gallipoli kei na Ottoman Empire ena iMatai ni iValu Levu.

E sivia na 11,000 na sotia ni Ni'u Siladi kei Ositerelia era vakayalia na nodra bula ena walu na vula ni sasaga mai Gallipoli, me ikuri ni sivia na 100,000

na sotia mai na veivanua tale eso.

E kaya na Minisita ni Ovisa Hon. Ioane Naivalurua ni oqo na siga me marautaki kina na nodra cakacaka na tamata qaga ena veigauna sa oti.

"Au nanuma ni mataka nikua e sega walega ni dua na soqo vakalou, ia e dua na siga ni marau, e dua na siga ni marau. Eda marautaka na nodra cakacaka na noda tamata qaga ena veigauna sa oti, o ira era a solia na nodra bula, ka sa rawa kina vei keda me da marautaka na noda vakacegu nikua," e kaya o Hon. Naivalurua.

"Vei keimami ena yasai vuravura oqo, e dua talega na neimami itavi levu, ka vakatakilakilatataki nikua na marautaki vata kei ira na neimami itokani kei ira na itokani kaukauwa mai na Pasifika, Ni'u Siladi kei Ositerelia, kei na vuqa tale na matanitu, ka keimami doka ni keimami mai tiki ni soqo nikua.

E kaya o Hon. Naivalurua ni oqo e dua na soqo bibi ka vakadewataka e dua na

italanoa cecere.

"Vei au vakataki au, me vaka e dua ka dau dara na isulu ena veiyabaki sa oti, oqo e dua na gauna au sega ni vinakata me'u calata ena veiyabaki. Oqo e dua na gauna bibi; e tukuna e dua na italanoa, sega walega ni dua na italanoa ia e dua na italanoa cecere, ka cecere."

E kaya na Komisina Levu ni Ni'u Siladi ki Viti na Nona Excellency Charlotte Darlow ni sega ni malumalumu mai na nodra solibula o ira era a vala ena ruku ni kuila ni matanitu ena veisaqasaqa kei na veigauna sa oti oqo.

"Sa sivia oqo e dua na senijiuri mai na iMatai ni iValu Levu ka 80 na yabaki mai na icavacava ni iKarua ni iValu Levu, na solibula era cakava o ira era a vala ena ruku ni kuila ni noda vanua ena veisaqasaqa oqori kei na veigauna sa oti oqo e sega ni malumalumu mai ni sa toso na veiyabaki, ka sai keda eda soqoni vata eke eda sa colata na itavi me vakadeitaka ni ra kakua ni guilecavi, "e

kaya o kaya.

"Ena 111 na yabaki sa sivi, sa tudei tu ga na yalo ni ANZAC, ka dina ga ni sa vakavuna e dua na yalo ni duavata kei na solibula na isema duatani ni rua na matanitu ka rau wasea vata na siga ni vakananumi, eda nanumi ira talega na veimatanitu eda sa sotava vata na ivalu."

E kaya o kaya ni o Ositerelia, Ni'u Siladi kei Viti era sa duavata tikoga ena gauna ni leqa vakavanua kei na leqa ni matanitu.

"Ena noqu gauna mai Viti, ka oqo na ikava ni noqu Siga ni ANZAC eke, au sa raica na veitokoni oqo ni sa mai cokovata vakalevu cake ka dau kauwaitaka na noda dui gagadre."

Me tiki ni soqoni ni ivakananumi, a vakadavori na Paraiminisita Vakatawa kei ira na turaga tale eso na isala me ra vakarokorokotaki kina na tamata qaga era sa bale yani, tarava na iotioti ni duru kei na dua na miniti ni vakanomodi.



Ko DPM Manoa Kamikamica ena boseka ni otela.

VAKARAITAKI NA ITUVATUVA NI BULA VAKAILAVO KEI NA SARAVANUA E VITI ENA FHTA TALANOA

Na iVukevuke ni Paraiminisita ka Minisita ni Veivoli, Cooperatives, Vakaduri Bisinisi Lalai, and Vakautukutuku, Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, a vakaraitaka e dua na raivotu veivakauqeti me baleta na veisiga ni mataka ni bula vakailavo kei Viti ena bosa ni katalau ni Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association (FHTA), ka veiqaravi kina vaka-Guest Speaker.

Na soqo oqo e kauti ira vata mai na vakaitavi bibi mai na tabana ni saravanua me ra veivosakitaka na veisau ni ituvaki ni bula vakailavo kei na tubu vakatulewa ena tabana ni saravanua.

Ena nona vosa, a vakamatatataka kina o DPM Kamikamica na veidinadinati ni Matanitu Cokovata me tarai cake e dua na “bula vakailavo vakanamata ki na veisiga ni mataka” ka yavalati mai na veika vou vakalivaliva, teitei tu-dei, kaukauwa vakavou, kei na nodra vakaukauwataki na itaukei.

E vakamatatataka na DPM na sasaga lelevu oka kina na vakatubu ilavo ena keveli fiber optic ni wai, iyauqaqa ni itukutuku, kei na valenivolavola taqomaki me tokona na tubu ni bisinisi ni Business Process Outsourcing (BPO).

“Na veisau oqo e sega ni baleta na kena biu tu e dua—e baleta na nodra laveti vata na tamata kecega. Eda sa vakarautaki Viti tiko ki na gagadre ni dua na vuravura veisau vakatotolo,” e kaya.

E vakadeitaka talega o DPM Kamikamica na veitokoni ki na saravanua me duru ni bula vakailavo e Viti, ka raica na kena itavi ena ituvatuva raraba ni veivakatorocaketaki ni matanitu. E vakadinadinatataka na bolebole ni makete e vuravura raraba ia e vakabibitaka na kaukauwa kei na veisisivi nei Viti ena kena soli na veika e sotavi duatani ka dina.

Na CEO ni Tourism Fiji o Brent Hill e vakavoqataka na vakasama oqo, ka wasea e dua na rai nuidei me baleta na kabani dina ga ni malumu na iwiliwili ni vulagi ena itekivu ni yabaki.

“Keitou a sauma vakatotolo ena kena vakalevutaki na promotions e vuravura raraba. Mai Ositerelia walega, e ono na sasaga lelevu e cicivaki vata tiko—e dua e vakavurea e sivia na 10,000 na bogi ni rumu me baleta e dua ga na otela,” e tukuna o Mr. Hill.

Erau vakabibitaka ruarua na vosa na yield management kei na strategic investment ni sa ka bibi sara me toso ki liu.

E tuvanaka o DPM Kamikamica na veisau me vakalevutaka na veivakabauti ni investor ena kena vakavinakataki na rejisita ni bisinisi, veivakadonui ena initaneti, kei na vakatorocaketaki ni Special Economic Zones (SEZs) me baleta na saravanua, kaukauwa savasava, kei na tabana ni tekinolaji.

E kuria o Mr. Hill ena yasana kadua, ni sa raica tiko o Viti na tubu kaukauwa ena iwasewase ni saravanua Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME), ka levu cake na dauveiqaravi ena noda vanua era vakarautaka na taubale, basikeli, kakana, kei na sarasara vakavanua.

“Eda sa namaka talega e dua na 300+ rumu totoka otela kei na sivia na 2,200 na rumu sa vakatorocaketaki tiko ena 16 na veivakatorocaketaki,” e kaya o kaya.

Ni a kidavaki Viti e voleka ni dua na milioni na vuka yaco mai kei na sivia na 80,000 na pasidia ni waqavuka ena yabaki sa oti, erau duavata kina o DPM Kamikamica kei Mr. Hill ni sa ka bibi sara na vakatubu ilavo ni iyauqaqa me tomani kina na toso ka maroroya tiko na itutu nei Viti me dua na vanua kilai levu e vuravura.

A mai cava na katalau ena dua na kaci duavata me baleta na cakacaka vakadeitaki kei na cakacaka vata ena kedra maliwa na matanitu kei na tabana vakaitaukei.

“E sega walega ni vakamatautaki Viti ki na veisau—eda sa veivuke tiko ena kena moici na veisiga ni mataka ni noda yasana,” e kaya o DPM Kamikamica.

Duavata ko Viti ena sasaga ni draki veisau



Ko Minisita Tuisawau ena boseka kei na minisita mai na veimatanitu ena pasivika.

Sa taura tiko o Viti na nona itutu ena liu ni veiliutaki ni draki e vuravura raraba, me vaka ni matataka na matanitu o Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, Minister for Transport and Public Works, ena veivosaki cecere ni draki e vuravura mai Lodoni.

Ena nona vosa ena dua na koniferedi ni dautukutuku ka cicivaka na 6PAC+ alliance e liutaka na Pasifika ena International Maritime Organization (IMO), a vakaraitaka kina na Minisita o Ro Filipe e dua na itukutuku matata ka kaukauwa: me cakaca o vuravura ena gauna oqo me vakadonui kina na waqa ki na Veidinadinati ni Parisi, ka sega ni tiko mai Lodoni o Viti me vakacegui kina e lailai.

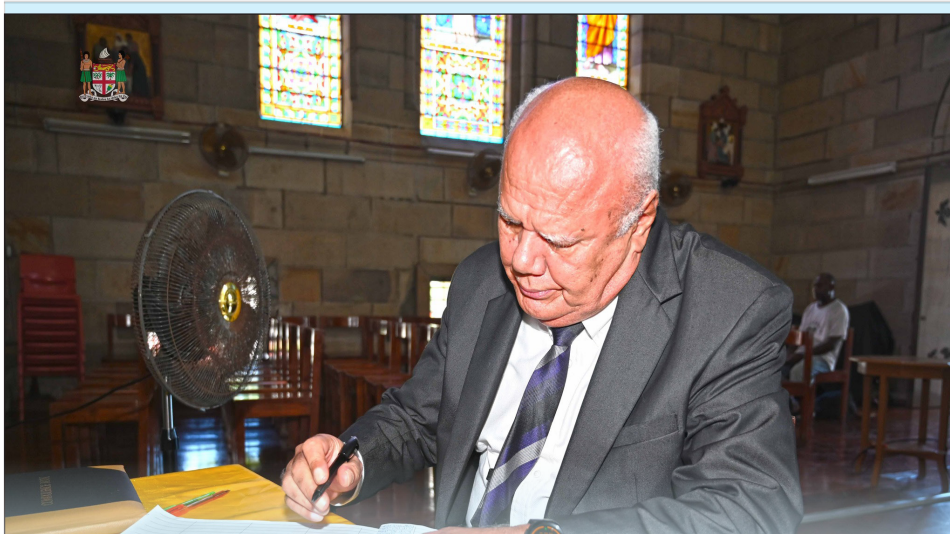
“Keimami sa lakova sara vakayawa me keimami lako mai ki na bosa oqo ka nuitaka ni keimami na rawata e dua na macala,” e kaya o kaya. “Keimami tiko eke me vakadeitaka ni waqa e cakava na nodra itavi dodonu ena kena wali na leqa ni draki ka ra sega ni biu tu mai na veimatanitu malumalumu duadua ena veisau oqo.”

A duavata na Minisita o Ro Filipe kei ira na nona itokani ena Pasifika — oka kina na minisita mai na Republic of the Marshall Islands, na Yatu Solomon, Tuvalu, kei Vanuatu — ena

kena biligi e dua na veidinadinati cecere ka salavata kei na veika vakasaenisi me vakatulewataki kina na kaburaki ni kasa mai na waqa ni veiyasai vuravura. Na soqoni bibi oqo a vakayacori ena gauna ni IMO’s 83rd Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 83), ka sa tiko kina na lawa veivauci me vakawabokotaki kina na fossil fuels mai na waqa. Na veidinadinati qaqa sa na imatai ni kena mataqali ena ruku ni dua na isoqosoqo ni UN — kei na kaukauwa me veisautaka na tabana ni waqa e vuravura raraba ka vakarautaka na ilavo bibi ni draki vei ira na veimatanitu malumalumu me vakataki Viti.

E vakamacalataka na Sekeriteri Raraba ni IMO o Arsenio Dominguez na veivosaki sa roro tiko mai me “dua na gauna bibi ena noda sasaga cokovata me valuti kina na veisau ni draki.” Ia vei Viti kei ira na wekana ena Pasifika, e levu cake mai na kena oqori — e baleta na taqomaki ni nodra tamata, nodra veisiga ni mataka, kei na nodra dodonu ni bula tiko.

Ni tucake tu na Minisita o Tuisawau kei ira na iliuliu ni Pasifika e Lodoni, e tomana tikoga o Viti na nona vakamatatataka: na gagadre ni draki e dodonu me tokoni ena cakacaka dina — ka sa kena gauna oqo me caka kina na ka oqori.



Na Paraiminisita Vakatawa o Hon. Viliame Gavoka ena nona sikova na Sacred Heart Cathedral e Suva me sainitaka na iVola ni Lolosi me baleta na Matua Tabu o Pope Francis.

A veiqaravi o Pope Francis me ika 266 ni Popi ni Lotu Katolika Roma mai na Maji 2013 ki na Epereli 2025. Ena vakayacori na nona veibulu ena St. Peter’s Square ena Vatican City ena Vakarauwai oqo.

SOTA O PARAIMINISITA RABUKA KEI NA MINISITA QASE NI SINGAPORE ME VAQAQACOTAKA NA CAKACAKA VATA

A sota na Paraiminisita o Sitiveni Rabuka kei na Minisita na Matua Singapore, o Hon Goh Chok Tong.

A veivosakitaka na veisau ni ituvaki ni vuravura kei na bibi ni kena vaqaqacotaki na veitokoni ena kedra maliwa na Small Island States kei na veivanua torocake.

Na bose, a vakayacori ena Istana Palace mai Singapore, e vakamatatataka na nodrau veidinadinati vata o Viti kei Sin-

gapore ki na veivakatorocaketaki tudei, veisautaki, kei na veitokani ena mata ni bolebole e vuravura raraba.

Na iotioti ni gauna erau a sota kina o Paraiminisita o Rabuka kei na Minisita Qase Emeritus ena 1998, ena gauna a Paraiminisita tiko kina o Mr. Goh kei Singapore.

Ena nodrau bose, a vakaraitaka na PM na toso nei Singapore kei na nona ivakaraitaki ni veisau kei na veivakavou,



KO PM Rabuka kei ira na Mata kei Viti Ambassador Amena Yauvoli kei Vunivola Tudei ena Minisitiri ni Veika ni Vanua Tani, Dr Raijieli Taga

ka raica ni tomana tikoga o Viti na lesoni yaga mai na veika e sotavi ena bula vakailavo mai Esia.

Erau vakadeitaka tale na iliuliu ruarua na nodrau veidinadinati me vakatitobu-

taka na veiwekani vakarua ka vakatorocaketaki na duavata vakaiwasewase ena veitikina bibi me vaka na cakacaka ni draki, veivakatorocaketaki vakalivaliva, kei na tubu ni bula vakailavo.

Vakadikeva na madigi ni cakacaka vata ena veisautaki ni veiqaravi raraba ena tekinolaji



Ko PM Rabuka kei Sir Tony Blair na Paraiminisita vakacegu ni Peritania.

Aveivosaki vakaibalebale ni kua na Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka kei Sir Anthony Blair, na Jeameni Liu ni Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI), me vakadikeva na veimadigi ni cakacaka vata kei na veiqaravi raraba e Viti ena kena vakayagataki na tekinolaji vovou.

A sota na PM Rabuka kei na Paraiminisita e liu ni UK mai Singapore ka vakaraitaka na nona taleitaka o Viti me cakacaka vata kei TBI me vakatorocaketaki na veisau ni tekinolaji ena tabana ni veiqaravi raraba, e-health, kei na iyauqaqa vakalivaliva.

E vakaraitaka na nona vakavinavinaka na Paraiminisita Rabuka vei Sir Tony, ka vakamatatataka na kena gadrevi na veiqaravi raraba me ciqoma na tekinolaji.

E wasea ni sa vakayagataka tiko na tabana ni veiqaravi raraba e Viti na vakayagataki ni tekinolaji me vakatoro-

caketaki kina na kena soli na veiqaravi, ka na marautaka na madigi ni cakacaka vata tale eso.

Ena nona isaunitaro, e kaya kina o Sir Tony ni sa gadreva tiko na TBI me tokoni Viti ena kena vakavou na nona veiqaravi vakamatani kei na ivakarau ni veiqaravi ni bula ena iwali ni bula vakalivaliva.

Erau a veivosakitaka talega na iliuliu e rua na veitikina e rawa ni vakadikeva na cakacaka vata vakabibi ena kaukauwa, saravanua, kei na vakatubu ilavo me vakatotolotaki kina na veivakatorocaketaki ni matanitu.

Na TBI e dua na isoqosoqo sega ni vakatubuilavo ka sega ni vakaitavi ka vukei ira na matanitu kei ira na iliuliu me ra vukica na vakasama doudou me ka dina ena nodra veivakasalataki ena ituvatuva, lawatu kei na kena vakayagataki, me dolavi kina na kaukauwa ni tekinolaji.

Veisiko o PM Rabuka ki na Singapore maritime and port authority



Ko PM Rabuka ena visiko mai Sigapore.

Ena gauna ni veisiko oqo, a dikeva sara ga o PM Rabuka kei ira na nona ilawalawa na cakacaka ni valenivolavola ena veisiga, ena gauna vata oqori, era vulica kina na itavi e vakayacora ena kena vakatulewataki na veitosoyaki ni waqa, vakacokotaki ni veitaratara e wai, kei na vakadeitaki ni veitaqomaki kei na cakacaka vinaka ni toba ena loma ni vanua. E vakamatatataka na PM na vakailsilesi liu ni Authority o Mr Teo Eng Dih, ka vakamatatataka ni inaki ni isoqosoqo me vakatorocaketaki Singapore me dua na ikelekele ni waqa ni vuravura raraba kei na itikotiko ni waitui ni veiyasai vuravura.

Erau a veivosakitaka talega na CEO kei na PM Rabuka na bolebole e sotava tiko na tabana ka vakadikeva na veimadigi ni cakacaka vata e rawa ni vakasaqarai ena vakatubu ilavo ena iyauqaqa kei na tekinolaji.

E kaya o PM Rabuka ni sa toso tiko o Viti ena nona raivotu me yaco me hub ni Pasifika ena vakatubu ilavo ena iyauqaqa me vakatorocaketaki kina na veiqaravi ni wavu, oka kina na qaravi kei na maroroi ni koniteina, cakacakat-

aki ni kasita, me tukuni ga e vica.

E vakavinavinakataka na CEO ena madigi me sikova na itikotiko oqo, ka kuria ni rawa ni vulica o Viti e levu tale na ka mai Singapore me baleta na vakatorocaketaki ni iyauqaqa ni wavu, ena kena vakadeitaki na veitosoyaki vinaka ni iyaya kei na veiqaravi ka bibi sara ki na noda bula vakailavo kei na nodra bula na noda tamata.

Sa tuvanaka tiko o Viti me tara e dua na super port facility e Suva, e dua na veivakatorocaketaki bibi ka rawa ni vaqaqacotaka na noda itutu kei na noda itavi vakatulewa me vaka e dua na hub ena yasayasa ni Pasifika.

E kuria ni kena vakatorocaketaki e dua na vanua ni toba e vuravura ena vanua e namaki me vakavurea e levu na itaviqaravi vakailavo ka veisautaka na bula vakailavo sega walega e Viti ia ena yasayasa taucoko ni Pasifika.

Na veisiko ni Paraiminisita e vakamatatataka na vakanamata ni matanitu ena kena vakavou na iyauqaqa bibi me tokona na tubu ni bula vakailavo ka vakatorocaketaka na veiqaravi ena veiyasana e waitui ni matanitu.



Ciqoma o tuakana na icocovi ni vuli vukui tacina ena FNU

Mai vei WANSHIKA KUMAR

Evakamalumalumutaka na rarawa na serau ni ivinivo ni qer-
etueti ni sa butuka yani nikua
e dua na tuakana ki na butu-
rara ni qeretueti e Fiji National Univer-
sity (FNU)—a ciqoma na ligana e dua
na sitivikiti, ka taura tu na yalona e dua
na ivakananumi.
A gole sara mai Levuka na tuakana o
Epineri Boleilovoni me ciqoma na vei-
dokai me baleti tacina gone, ka sa rui
totolo na nona tadra, ia a marautaki na
nona ilakolako ena vakasausau levu kei
na wainimata malumu.

A soli vei Joseph Rymell Boleilovoni
na Diploma in Quantity Surveying
(Level 6).
“Au gadreva ga me’u tiko vata kei koya,
sega ni tiko duadua eke kei ira na ito-
kani,” e kaya o Mr Boleilovoni ena wai
ni matana.
“Kevaka me a tiko eke, ena dua na siga
marautaki cake mai na siga nikua.”
E vakamacalataki tacina me dua na
tamata dau veikauwaitaki ka daulolo-
ma ka dau taleitaka na bolebole ni bula.
“Ni’u ciqoma e dua na sitivikiti nikua e
vaka talega e dua na rawa-ka au rawata
mai vua, keirau sa bolel kei veisisivi tiko.
“Au diva me’u raici koya ni daramaka



Epineri Boleilovoni (left)na tuakai Joseph Rymell Boleilovoni ena siga ni FNU graduation

tiko na ivinivo oqo kei na sote oqo, e vakavotukanataki ena gauna oqo.”
vaka e dua na noqu tadra ka na sega ni

Vakavakarau o Viti ki na Vakadidike Bibi ena iVakatagedegede ni Anti-Money Laundering

Sa vakarautaki koya tiko o Viti ki na dua na vakadidike
bibi ena 2026, ka kena inaki me dikevi na nona muria
na ivakatagedegede ni veiyasai vuravura me baleta na
valuti ni money laundering, vakailavotaki ni cacakaka
vakailoa, kei na cala vakailavo tale eso.
Na vakadidike bibi oqo ena vakayacora na Asia Pacific Group
on Money Laundering (APG), ka ra na vakadikeva kina e dua
na timi ni kenadau ni veiyasai vuravura ka ra na vakadikeva na
sasaga nei Viti ena veitikina oqo.
Ena itekivu ni vula oqo, a sota kina na Minisita ni Lewa Dokai
Siromi Turaga kei na dua na mata mai na sekeriteri ni APG, ka
liutaka o Co-Chair Mr. Mitsutoshi Kajikawa, me veivosakitaki
na vakadidike e tarava.
“Na vakamuri ni ivakatagedegede ni veiyasai vuravura me bale-
ta ni vakadeitaka ni sa tiko vei keda na lawa kei na veitabana
kaukauwa me valuta na cala vakailavo dredre ka taqomaki na
noda tabana ni veika vakailavo, bisinisi, kei ira na tamata,” e kaya
o Hon. Turaga ena bose.
E vakamatatataka na Minisita na yalayala ni Matanitu o Viti me
vakavakarau vakavinaka ki na vakadidike ni APG.
“Na vakadidike oqo e vakarautaka e dua na madigi ki na Matani-
tu me dikeva ka vaqacacotaka na nona lawa kei na ituvatuva ni
veitabana me baleta na valiuti ni cala bibi e Viti,” e kuria.
Me ikuri ni veivosaki e vakatabakidua ki na vakatorocaketaki ni
veika vakalawa kei na veituberi e Viti, era a veitaratara na mata
ni APG kei ira tale eso na tamata bibi, oka kina na Minisita ni
Ovisa, na Attorney-General, na Commissioner of Police, na
Acting Director of Public Prosecution, na Kovana ni Reserve
Bank of Fiji, na Dairekita ni Financial Intelligence Unit, kei na
Acting Deputy Commissioner ni Fiji Independent Commission
Against Corruption (FICAC).
Na Minisitiri ni Lewa, mai vua na kena Sekeriteri Tudei, e raica
tiko na vakavakarau me baleta na vakadidike ni 2026.
Me vakarawarawataka oqo, na National Anti-Money Launder-
ing Council, ka liutaka na Permanent Secretary for Justice, sa
tauyavutaka e dua na Working Group ka ra lewena na vakaiile-
silesi mai na veitabana ni matanitu.
Na ilawalawa oqo ena vakacokotaki na sasaga me vakadeitaka e
dua na sala duavata ki na iwalewale ni vakadidike.

Vakavoui taki na Bankruptcy act ka tiki ni kerekere me vakatorocaketaki na draki ni vakatubu ilavo kei na vakatorocaketaki ni bisinisi

Sa vakarau tu o Viti me vakavouya na
Bankruptcy Act of 1944 me vaqacaco-
taka na draki ni vakatubu ilavo ka vaka-
torocaketaka na bisinisi.
Na veisau vakaturi oqo e kena inaki me va-
karautaki vei ira na kai Viti na veigacagala
vinaka me baleta na bankruptcy, vakayalo-
qaqataki na bisinisi, ka vakalevutaka na bula
vakailavo.
Sa vakayacora tiko ena gauna oqo na Minisitiri
ni Lewa na iotioti ni wavoki ni veivakaturogi
kei ira na daunicakacaka mai na 7 ki na ika 11
ni Epereli, 2025, me vakasokomuni kina na
vakasama me baleta na raillesuvi vakalawa.
Na sasaga ni veisau oqo e yaco mai ena dua na
gauna bibi, ni vuqa na bisinisi lalai kei ira na
dauvolivoli e Viti kei na veiyasai vuravura era
sotava tiko na bolebole vakailavo ka vakalev-
utaki ena tubu ni tubu ni tubu ni tubu kei na
leqa ni bula vakailavo kei na draki.
“E ka dokai na Minisitiri ni Lewa me cacakaka
vata kei ira na kenadau mai na International
Finance Corporation (IFC) ena raillesuva bibi
oqo, ka saga me vakayaloqaqataki na entrepre-
neurship ena gauna vata e vakatautauvatataki
kina na lawa ni insolvency kei na ivakarau vi-
naka duadua ni veiyasai vuravura,” e kaya na
Minisita ni Lewa Hon. Siromi Turaga.
Na kena vakavou ni Lawa sa vitusagavulu na
yabaki sa oti e bibi sara vei Viti, ka tiko kina
e dua na iwiliwili levu ni bisinisi lalai sega ni
tauyavutaki. Na kena tauyavutaki na dodonu
mana ni dausoli dinau kei ira na dinau, vata kei
na dua na ituvatuva kaukauwa ni insolvency, sa
ka bibi sara me vakadeitaki kina na tudei ena
loma ni ivakarau vakailavo.
Tokona na sasaga oqo, na IFC kei na timi ni
Insolvency and Debt Resolution mai na World

Bank ena vakarautaka na veivuke vakamisini
ki na Minisitiri ni Lewa me tiki ni dua na sasa-
ga rabailevu me vakatorocaketaki kina na tubu
okati ka tudei ena matanitu taucoko.
“Na veisau oqo e yaga sara ena kena maroroi na
bisinisi bulabula ka vakadeitaka ni ra na biuta
vakavinaka na makete o ira era sega ni rawa-
ka,” e kaya o Stefano Mocci, na World Bank
Group Country Manager for Fiji. “A strong in-
solvency regime promotes responsible lending
and strengthens financial system stability.”
Na sasaga ni World Bank Group e oka kina e
dua na vakadidike taumada ni diagnostic ka
vakayagataki ena iwalewale vinaka duadua
ni veiyasai vuravura me buli kina na iwali e
veiganiti kei na ituvaki duatani kei Viti. Oqo
ena salavata kei na World Bank Principles for
Effective Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Re-
gimes, ka solia na idusidusi vou me baleta na
kena qaravi na insolvency ni bisinisi lalai kei
na bisinisi lalai.
Me kena ikuri, na cacakaka ni IFC e Viti e to-
koni mai na Matanitu o Ositerelia ena ruku ni
Vuvale Partnership, ka kena inaki me vakato-
rocaketaka na veisisivi ni tabana vakaitaukei
ka vakauqeta na vakatubu ilavo vakaitaukei.
Na vakavoui ni Viti’s Bankruptcy Act 1944
e namaki me vakavuna e dua na draki ni bi-
sinisi vinaka cake, vakatorocaketaka na tudei
ni veika vakailavo, ka vakatautauvatataki na
ivakarau ni matanitu ki na ivakatagedegede ni
vuravura raraba.
Ena veitokoni levu mai vei ira na itokani ni
veiyasai vuravura kei na nodra vakaitavi na
lewenivanua, sa vakarau tu na veisau oqo me
vakauqeta na tubu tudei ka vaqacacotaka na
bula vakailavo e Viti.



E sauma na matanitu na nodra kerekere na lewenivanua me vakavinakataki na gaunisala

Mai vei WANSHIKA KUMAR

Sa vakadeitaka tale na matanitu
na nona yalayala me vakavi-
nakataki na iyauqaqa ni oti na
nodra kauwaitaka vakalevu na
lewenivanua mai Sasavira kei Wainibuku
na torosobu ni ituvaki ni gaunisala ena
imatai ni veivakaturogi raraba me baleta
na 2025-2026 National Budget.
Ena vica vata na yabaki, era sotava tiko
na veitokotiko ena veivanua oqo na dre-
dre ni gaunisala vakabibi ena gauna ni
uca. E wasea o Arishma Lata na peres-
itedi ni Sasavira Farm Road na nodra
vakasaurarataki na veimatauvuale me ra
kumuna na ilavo ka cakava ga vakataki
ira na ripea.
“Sa sivia e 15 na yabaki, era sotava tiko

na lewenivanua e Sasavira na dredre levu
ena vuku ni ca ni noda gaunisala ni teitei.
Dina ga ni sa wasai vakarua na ilavo me
baleta na gaunisala oqo ki na matanitu e
liu, e se bera ni dua na vakavinakataki e
cakava na matanitu e liu me tekivu mai
na gauna keimami a taura kina na qele
eke ka tekivu tara na vale,” e kaya o Ms
Lata.
“Keimami sega ni kerea tiko na iyauqa-
qa, turaga, me baleta ga na iyauqaqa tau-
mada e ganiti ira na lewenivanua yadua.”
A sauma mai o Hon. Prasad ena veicio-
mi kei na veikauwaitaki, ka vakadinadi-
nataka na nodra rarawa na lewenivanua.
“Au sega ni vinakata me’u yalataka vei
kemuni e dua na gauna, ia au rawa ni
yalataka vei kemuni ni mataka au na
vosa ki na FRA kei na veivakavaletaki

ka keimami na taura na nomuni naba
ka keimami na tovolea me ra raici ke-
muni na tamata oqo ka raica na vanua ka
raica na cava e rawa ni caka vakatotolo,”
e kaya o koya, ka yalataka talega me ra
raica vakatotolo e dua na tiki ni gaunisala
la sa vakacacani vakarerevaki, “ E kaya o
DPM Prasad.
E vakavoqataka talega o Justine Maravu
mai na Wainunu Settlement, Wainibuku
na kauwai vata ga oqo me baleta e dua na
gaunisala vakawaleni volekata nona vale,
ka sega ni lakova rawa ena gauna ni tau
ni uca.
“Me vaka e dua na tina, me dau taubale
na luvuqen ena gaunisala oya ni tau na
uca, ia au cacakaka tiko, au lomaleqataka
ni na lesu tale baleta ni dodonu me ta-
koso, e tiko e dua na wavu e kea e luvuci,”

e wasea o Ms Maravu.

Ena nona sauma, a vakavinavinakataki
koya na DPM ena nona vakatubura na
leqa oqo ka kaya ‘e levu sara na vanua
ena yasayasa o Suva- Nausori me yaco
sara ki Navua, e levu na gaunisala era sa
vakavinakataki tiko na FRA ena gauna
oqo, keimami sa sega tale ni cakava e dua
na demarcation me baleta na gaunisala
FRA kei na gaunisala sega ni FRA ka na
rawa kina me keimami vakavinakataki na
gaunisala oqori ena kena totolo duad-
ua.”
A soli vei ira na lewenivanua na madigi
me ra vakaraitaka na nodra kauwai ka
cau ki na 2025-2026 National Budget
mai na veivakaturogi raraba e vakayacori
ena loma ni vanua ena loma ni vula.

Vakadeitaka na matanitu me vakatorocaketaka na tataqomaki e gaunisala

Mai vei AZARIA FAREEN

A vakadonuya na Kebineti e
vica na idusidusi ni lawatu
ena June 2024 ka kena inaki
me vaqacacotaki na qaravi ni
veilakoyaki e vanua kei na vakatoroca-
ketaki ni tataqomaki e gaunisala.
Oqo e tarava na matanitu e volaitukutu-
kutaka na vakacalaka lelevu ni motoka
ena 2024, e 54 taucoko na leqa e gaunisala,
ka lutu sobu mai na 78 na leqa e volai
ena 2023.
Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki Le-
levu ni matanitu, Dikevi ni Draki, kei
na Veilakoyaki, Ro Filipe Tuisawau, ena
nona vakaraitaka na Draft Land Trans-
port (Amendment) Bill 2025 ena Parlia-
ment e kaya ni “dina ga ni sa veivakayalo-
qaqataki na vakalailaitaki oqo, e dodonu
meda qaqarauni tiko ni vakaraitaka na
itukutuku ni rauta ni 20 na pasede ni
leqa oqo ena 2024 e semati ki na draiva
vakatotolo se vakawelewele mai vei ira na
Provisional License.”

“Na iwiliwili oqo e vakaraitaka ga na
mate, kei na iwiliwili dina ni vakacalaka
e gaunisala era tiko kina na Provisional
License e levu cake,” e kaya ena lomaleqa.
“Kurina leqa oqo, na iwiliwili ni Traf-
fic Infringement Notices (TINs) e soli vei
ira na Provisional License e vakavuna na
lomaleqa levu.”
“Ena maliwa ni Janueri 2021 kei na
31 ni Tiseba 2024, e 68,643 taucoko na
TIN a soli ki na ilawalawa oqo ka vaka-
matatataka na iwiliwili oqo na kena ga-
drevi vakatotolo me vakavinakataki na
ivakarau ni draiva, vakabibi vei ira na
draiva vou, ka taura na cacakaka bibi me
vakatorocaketaki kina na tataqomaki e
gaunisala,” e kuria.
Me isau ni bolebole oqo, e vica na lawa
era a vakadonui me vaka na kena vaka-
curumi tale na veivakadonui ni gaunisala
vakawawa, vakacurumi ni dua na itotogi
me baleta na lawatu ni sega ni tu vakawa-
wa kei na kena vakabibitaki, vakacurumi
ni lawatu ni ituvatuva ni sausaumi, vaka-
curumi ni Provisional License Stage 1

(P1) kei na Provisional License Stage
2 (P2), vakalevutaki ni itotogi, kei na
vakadaroya vakawawa na kena tokitaki
na veivakadonui ena volitaki kei na vo-
livoli.
E vakamatatataka o Minisita Tuisawau ni
dua vei ira na veisau bibi ena Draft Bill e
baleta na Wase 57(2) ni Land Transport
Act, ka tukuna tiko ena gauna oqo ni: “A
person who has passed a driving test or
examination shall be issued with a provi-
sional license for a period of 2 years be-
fore a full driver’s license is issued.”
“Ena rarama ni leqa ni tataqomaki e
gaunisala, sa tokona na Cabinet na kena
vakatorocaketaki e dua na ivakarau ni
laiseni vakawawa e rua na iwasewase ka
kena inaki me vakatorocaketaki na iva-
karau ni draiva taqomaki ena kena vaka-
levutaki vakamalua na galala ni draiva
vou ka vakadeitaka ni ra vakatorocaket-
aka na kila kei na kila e gadrevi me baleta
na vakayagataki taqomaki ni gaunisala,”
e kaya.
“Me vakarawarawataka na kena vakaya-

gataki na ivakarau vou oqo, na vakaturi
ni veisau e saga me sosomitaka na vosa
“shall” ena “may” ena Wase 57(2) ni Land
Transport Act,” e kaya.
“Na veisau oqo ena vakarautaka na ga-
lala vakalawa e gadrevi me vakacurumi
ka vakaukauwataki kina na P1 kei na P2
na ituvatuva ni laiseni. Ena vakadeitaka
talega ni sa salavata vakavinaka na iva-
karau kei na veika e gadrevi vakalawa, ka
na vakatorocaketaka kina e dua na iva-
karau ni draiva taqomaki.”
“Na veisau e vakaturi ena Bill oqo e va-
karaitaka na veidinadinati sega ni yavala-
ti rawa ni Matanitu me vakatorocaketaki
na tataqomaki e gaunisala, vakalailaitaki
na mate ena gaunisala, kei na vakatoro-
caketaki ni ivakarau ni draiva vakavuku
e Viti,” e kuria.
E vakabibitaka o Minisita Tuisawau ni
Bill oqo e dua na ikalawa yaga ena kena
wali na leqa ni vakacalaka e gaunisala
ka ra vakaitavi kina na draiva vou ka
vakadeitaka ni taqomaki vinaka na noda
gaunisala vei ira kece na kai Viti.



Ko Minisita Tuisawai keira na lewenivanua e Malake

Veivuke vei ira na lewenivanua e Malake na cakacaka ni wai

Mai vei AZARIA FAREEN

NA Malake Submarine Crossing Upgrade Project e dua na vakatubu ilavo levu mai na yalayala ni Matanitu Cokovata me vakadeitaka ni o ira kece na kai Viti, ena vanua levu se ena veitikotiko e wai, e dodonu ka sega ni vakatautauvatani na nodra rawa ni curu ki na wai.

E kaya na iLiuliu ni Koro o Malake, o Luke Salagi ni liu era dau vakararavi tu ga na lewe ni koro ki na wai ni uca ni levu na vuvale era sotava na leqa ni wai ka vu mai na sega ni nuitaki ni wai.

“Na kena vakayacori na cakacaka oqo e sega walega ni kauta mai na vakacegu ia e kauta talega mai na marau kei na dua na siga ni marautaki vei ira na lewenivanua e Malake Island,” e kaya.

“Oqo ena mai cava kina e dua na leqa ni gauna sa oti me vaka ni sa rawarawa sara na nodra curuma na wai na tamata mai na loma ni nodra vale.”

“Au vinakata me’u vakavinavinakataka na Matanitu ena nona rogoca ka cakacakataka na nodra leqa na lewenivanua e Malake kei na Water Authority of Viti ena nodra cakava e dua na cakacaka vinaka ka kena gauna donu,” e kuria o Mr Salagi.

E kuria ni veisau ni draki e vakavuna tiko e dua na bolebole levu ena yanuyanu, o koya gona, sa kerea tiko kina na veivuke mai na Matanitu me vakavinakataka na bai ni waitui o Malake.

Ena kena tavoci na Malake Island Submarine Crossing Upgrade Project, e kaya kina na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki

ena taudaku ni koro lelevu kei na Vakacoko ni Leqa-tubukoso, o Ro Filipe Tuisawau, ni “oqo e matataka na raivotu ni Matanitu me baleta e dua na Viti e veivakaukawataki, okati kina, ka tudei—e dua ka sega ni dua na itikotiko e biu tu mai ena noda ilakolako ni veivakatorocaketaki”.

E vakamatatataka ni imatai ni takosovi ni wai ni wai a vakaduri ena 2015, ka kauta mai na vakacegu vei ira na lewenivanua e Malake Island, ka ra dau vakararavi ga ki na wai ni qele kei na wai ni uca.

“Ia, ni toso na veiyabaki, sa torosobu sara na paipo ni wai e tiko rawa, ka vakaleqa na taqomaki ni wai ni yanuyanu kei na kena kilai na kena vakatotolotaki na ituvaki, na Water Authority of Fiji, ena ruku ni veidusimaki ni Matanitu Cokovata oqo, a tekivuna na vakatorocaketaki oqo—e dua na vakatubu ilavo ni rai ki liu ka salavata kei na Water-term Sector Strategy 2050 ni Viti,” e kaya na Minisita o Tuisawau

“Na cakacaka oqo e \$1.1 na milioni e vakacuruma e dua na paipo vou 3 na kilomita na kena balavu, ka tuvanaki vakamatau me vorata na kui kei na kaukauwa e wai, ituvaki dredre ni veika e wavoliti koya, kei na gagadre ni cakacaka ena gauna balavu.”

“Na cakacaka oqo a rawa ni outsourced ki na Dive Centre (Fiji) Ltd, ka vakadeitaka na kena taqomaki ka mana na kena vakaduri na paipo, ka vakatorocaketaka na kaukauwa ni iyauqaqa ni wai vei ira na 645 na lewenivanua e Malake,” e kuria.

Parokaramu ni REACH

Mai vei WANSHIKA KUMAR

E KUNEA na inuinui vou ena parokaramu ni REACH edua na tina sega ni vakawati ka tolu na luvena, ka vukei koya me vulica na veitokoni ni matanitu ka kerea e dua na laiseni ni qoli me rawa ilavo kina ka qarava na nona matavuvale.

E liutaka na Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection, e rauta ni 870 na vuvale era rawata na parokaramu siga tolu na REACH, ena Immaculate Conception Parish Hall mai na 9 ki na 11 ni Epereli.

E matadredredre o Bela Dakuninata yabaki 51 ni oti na nona sikova na booth ni Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji ka raica kina na iwalewale ni kerekere ni laiseni ni qoli kei na veivuke tale eso e vakarautaka na Matanitu me vukei ira na dauqoli.

“Au taleitaka na veiqaravi oqo, e vinaka sara baleta ni’u sega ni kila na veivuke kei na iwalewale kece oqo,” e kaya o koya.

“Ni sa taura oti na laiseni kei na waqa, au sa rawa ni qoli ka rawata na ilavo vei iratou na luvequ e tolu.

“Au dau laki qoli me’u kumuni ika me keitou kakana ia oqo au sa rawa ni volitaka ka rawata na ilavo ni’u sa sega ni cakacaka.”

E vakamacalataki ira na lewenivanua o Paulo Tawake yabaki 53 ni ra kalougata na lewenivanua, ni ra vakarautaka na veitabana ni matanitu kei ira na sega ni matanitu na veiqaravi bibi ena vica ga na ikalawa mai na nodra itikotiko.

“Oi keimami ena taudaku ni vanua oqo kei Suva, vakabibi mai Lami, na itikotiko sega ni vakarautaki, keimami kalougata ni sa kauta mai na matanitu na veiqaravi kece oqo kei ira tale eso era vakaitavi ena vukuda, ka sega ni gole ki Suva se vakasaqara eso tale na ka ena loma ni tolu na siga, ka sa dua na toso vinaka oqori ena nodra dodoliga yani, “E kaya o Mr Tawake.

E kaya ni gadrevi vakalevu na parokaramu ni REACH vakabibi vei ira na qase ena vanua o ya.

“Ena yaga vei ira baleta ni ra sauma e dua na tekisi, mai na vodo basi, kei na dredre ni vanua keimami tiko kina, keimami na lako sobu mai na delana ki na gaunisala levu, oti mai eke ki Suva, sa balavu sara vei ira ka na yaga vei ira na parokaramu ni REACH oqo me vaka ga ni lekalekaga, era na rawa ni qaravi ena veiqaravi bibi.”

Ena gauna vata oqo, ena nona vosa ena tavoci oqo, e kaya kina na Minisita ni Marama, Gone kei na Veitaqomaki Raraba o Sashi Kiran me baleta na yabaki vakailavo 2024/2025, na parokaramu ni REACH e takete tiko vei ira na itikotiko sega ni vakatautauvatani me vaka ni ra dau biu tu ka vakawaleni ena kena kilai kei na kena rawati na veimataqali veiqaravi kei na parokaramu me vakalailaitaki kina na dravudravua.

“Me vaka ni nomuni Matanitu ena gauna oqo, keimami vakamareqeta na bibi ni dua na itikotiko e yavutaki ena kila-ka, kei na parokaramu ni REACH e dua na itavi bibi ena kena vakarawarawataki na kena rawati na itukutuku – oqo e rawati ena kena vakarautaki vei ira na lewenivanua na veiqaravi kei na kila ena veimataqali veiqaravi ni Matanitu kei na Segi ni Matanitu e vakarautaki tu vei ira. Oqo talega e dua na madigi me da vakarorogo kina vei ira na noda itikotiko kei na bolebole e sotavi ena kena rawati na veiqaravi oqo,” e kaya o Hon. Kiran.

E kaya o koya ni raivotu ni Parokaramu ni REACH oya me tauyavutaki e dua na itikotiko raraba ka tautauvata ka rawa kina vei ira kece na kai Viti me ra rawata na veiqaravi bibi, veitalia na vanua era vakaitikotiko kina.

Na parokaramu oqo e kauta mai na veiqaravi ni matanitu kei na sega ni matanitu mai na veivakatorocaketaki ni iyauqaqa ki na vakatorocaketaki ni veiqaravi vakavunibula, vuli ki na madigi ni cakacaka, kila na veika vakailavo kei na vuqa tale ki na nodra katuba—ka vakarawarawataka na veivuke mai na kena e liu.

Vakacegu ena kena itinitini: Suva Bus Stand

Mai vei WANSHIKA KUMAR

ENA vica vata na yabaki, na gaunisala ki na ikelekele ni basi ena siti o Suva e dau dredre tu e veisiga—sinai ena qara, ka dredre vei ira na vodo kei na nodra bulabula. Na vodo dredre oqo e vakavuna na veilakoyaki ka vakacacani kina na basi.

Oqo, sa veisau na veika eso. Sa vakavinakataka na Matanitu na gaunisala, me vakalogalogavinakataka ka sega ni kuvu na soso.

Na Fiji Roads Authority (FRA), ena cakacaka vata kei na Matabose ni Siti o Suva, sa cakava tiko ena gauna oqo na cakacaka ni gaunisala e gadrevi vakalevu ena Suva Bus Stand.

Na cakacaka bibi oqo e kena inaki me vakavinakataka cake sara na cakacaka kei na kena rawa ni yaco na vanua ni veilakoyaki osooso, ka yaga ruarua vei ira na veiqaravi ni basi kei ira na udolu vakaudolu na dau vodo tiko era vakararavi kina e veisiga. Era marautaka na dauveilakoyaki kei na kabani ni basi na veivakatorocaketaki e gadrevi vakalevu.

E kaya o Shalesh Prasad, na dauvakadidike ni basi ni Central Transport Company Limited ena Suva Bus Stand, ni na yaga vei ira na basi na veivakatorocaketaki oqo ena kena vakalailaitaki na vakacaca.

“Ena yaga sara vakalevu vei ira na kabani ni basi ni na sega ni vakacacani vakalevu na noda basi, ka sa ka bibi

talega ni sa oti na cakacaka, me matata na ivakatakilakila ni gaunisala kei na dua na tamata vakadonui me vukei ira na taubale ena nodra takosova na gaunisala,” e kaya o Mr Prasad.

Ni cakacaka tiko vakadajuke basi vakatekivu mai na 1991, e vakamatatataka o Mr Prasad ni sa dede sara na kena vakavinakataka.

“E dua na veisau ni qito,” e kaya na dauvolitaki pini o Karnam Apana.

E kuria o Mr Apana ni vakatorocaketaki oqo ena sega walega ni vakavinakataka na vodo e liu ia ena vakalailaitaka talega na leqa ni bula.

“E liu, e ca sara na ituvaki ni gaunisala kau dau veitosoyaki mai na dua na basi ki na dua tale me’u volitaki pi, ka sa dredre sara vei au me’u takosova na qara

lelevu. Sa tekivu me mosi na yavaqu.

“Ni sa vakacavari na veivakatorocaketaki oqo, sa na veivuke sara vakalevu vei keda kece.”

E vakaraitaka na nona vakavinavinaka ki na matanitu o Seru Rokotuiloma ena veisiga.

“E vinaka sara, ka na yaga vei keda kece,” e kaya o Mr Rokotuiloma.

A sikova na siteseni ni basi e Suva ena ika 13 ni Feperueri na Minisita ni Matanitu o Maciu Nalumisa me vakadinadinataka na cakacaka e vakayacora tiko na Fiji Roads Authority ena cakacaka vata kei na Matabose ni Korolevu o Suva.

Railesuvi ni Informal Settlement Act

E vakamatatataka na Sekeriteri Tudei ni Veivakavaletaki, o Mr. Manasa Lesuma, na bibi ni veivakavaletaki me dua na tiki bibi sega walega ki na tiko vinaka ni tamata yadua ia ki na veivakatoro-caketaki raraba ni bula veimaliwai kei na bula vakailavo e Viti ena kena tavoci vakadonui na 2025-2030 National Housing Policy, vata kei na kena dikevi na Development of Informal Settlement Act 2022 ena Civic Centre ena itekivu ni vula oqo.

“Na veivakavaletaki e sega walega ni ivakaruru. E vakaraitaka na dokai, veitaqomaki, kei na madigi; sai koya na yavu ni veitikotiko taqomaki kei na bula vuavuai vinaka,” e kaya o Mr Lesuma ena nona vosa.

E raica o koya ni National Housing Policy, e segata me vakadeitaka ni ra rawata na lewenivanua yadua na vale sau rawarawa ka taqomaki ka sotava na nodra gagadre duidui.

“Na lawatu oqo e sega walega ni dua na ivola; e matataka e dua na ituvatuva covekovata me baleta na veisiga ni mataka,” e vakamatatataka o Lesuma, ka raica ni

a caka mai na veivakatarogi rabailevu ka vakaraitaka na yavunibula kei na domodra na lewenivanua e Viti.

Na lawatu oqo e salavata kei na yalayala nei Viti ki na ituvatuva ni veiya-sai vuravura, oka kina na New Urban Agenda kei na Sustainable Development Goals.

Me salavata kei na kena tavoci na lawatu ni veivakavaletaki, a kacivaka na Sekeriteri Tudei ni veivakavaletaki na tekivutaki ni dua na iwalewale ni dikevi bibi me baleta na Development of Informal Settlement Act.

E vakadinadinataka na bibi ni itikotiko sega ni vakarautaki, ka vakarautaka na ivakaruru vei ira e sega ni wili rawa na lewenivanua e Viti ka ra sa vakatikitiki-taki tu ena loma ni lawa kei na veiqaravi.

“Na 2022 Act e ivakatakilakilataka ni dua na toso levu, E kila na veika dina era sotava tiko na veitikotiko sega ni vakatautauvatani ka kena inaki me tauyavutaka e dua na sala tuvanaki ki na veitaqomaki dina kei na ituvaki ni bula dokai.”

Na railesuvi

Era marautaka na lewe ni koro o Naiserelagi na ivakarau ni wai



Dua na lewe ni koro e Naiserelagi e marautaka na dola ni wai.

Mai vei AZARIA FAREEN

NA Matanitu Cokovata e dei tikoga ena nona veidinadinati me vakatautauvatataki na kena rawati na ivurevure bibi, vakabibi vei ira na veikoro kei na veitikotiko e waitui.

Oqo e sa vuavuai vinaka sara vei ira na lewenivanua e Naiserelagi Village kei na Ra Provincial Compound ena kena vakarautaki na wai savasava me vakayagataki e vale kei na itikotiko.

Ena nona vakacaucautaka na sasaga oqo, e kaya kina na lewenivanua yabaki 57 o Verenaisi Waqalala ni oqo ena vakamamadataka na veiyabaki ni leqa ni wai.

“A mai leqa na watiqo ena yabaki sa oti ka ra tiko vata kei au e vale na luvequ kei na makubuqu,” e tukuna mai.

“Au sa vakaitikotiko mai Naiserelagi Village ena 36 na yabaki sa oti ka keimami sotava kece na dredre ni wai me tekivu mai na gauna oya,” e kaya.

“Ena so na gauna keimami na sega ni rawata na wai me rua se tolu na siga ka so na gauna e dau qiriti keimami mai

na Turaga ni Koro ka dolava na paipo ena koro me keimami vakatawana kina na wai ni levu vei keimami e tiko na valenisili ka gadrevi kina na wai.”

“Keimami dau vakatawana na bola-ni-wai kei na vokete ena wai me vakadeitaka ni rawa ni dede me vaka ni so na gauna e dau taura e dua na macawa me qai tudei na kaukauwa ni wai me rawa ni keimami kauta mai na wai ki na neimami veivale,” e kuria.

E kaya o Mrs Waqalala ni dau vakatawana ga na vokete wai me gunu ka vakasaqa ia me sava isulu, ena waraka me vinaka mai na wai ka qai savata na isulu ena vei3 ki na 4 na siga.

“Keitou marautaka vakalevu ni sa tiko na taqe ni wai vou kei na ivakarau vou ni wai ka sa rawa kina vei keitou me keitou vakayagataka vakamatau na neitou valenisili ka sisili vinaka ka sega ni vakayagataki na vokete wai me baleta na neitou gagadre,” e kaya.

“Sa katakata sara ga ena dua na gauna lekaleka sa oti ka sa mai vakayagataki tiko oqo na wai vou vinaka keitou sa vakayagataka tiko na sisili vakavica ena dua na siga,” e kuria.

Tavoca na Matanitu na National Housing Policy 2025-2030 me Walia na Bolebole ni Veivakavaletaki



Na veivalevale ena Public Rental Board

Sa tavoca vakadonui na Matanitu na National Housing Policy 2025-2030, ka kena inaki me walia na bolebole bibi e sotava tiko na tabana ni veivakavaletaki ena vanua.

Ena soqo ni tavoci ka vakayacori ena Suva Civic Centre ena itekivu ni vula oqo, a vakamatatataka kina na Minisita ni Veivakavaletaki kei na Matanitu Vakaitaukei, Hon. Maciu Nalumisa, na yalayala ni matanitu me vakadeitaka na veivakavaletaki e veirauti vei ira kece na kai Viti.

“Keitou vakadeitaka tale na neitou yalayala me vakarautaki e dua vei ira na gagadre bibi duadua ni bula: na ivakaruru kei na veitaqomaki me baleti ira na tamata yadua kei na matavuvale e Viti,” e kaya o Hon. Nalumisa.

“Na lawatu oqo e salavata kei na 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, vakabibi na Sustainable Development Goal 11, ka gadrevi kina na veivakavaletaki e okati kina, taqomaki, ka sau rawarawa.”

E vakamatatataka na minisita na itavi vakalawa me vaka e virikotori tu ena Wase 35 ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa ni 2013 e Viti, ka vakamatatataka na yalayala ni matanitu me taqomaka ka tokona na nodra dodonu na lewenivanua, veitalia na nodra vanua.

“E dodonu me taura na matanitu na veika veiganiti me kilai kina na dodonu ni veivakavaletaki e veiganiti kei na veiganiti vei ira kece na kai Viti, ena loma ni iyalayala ni ivurevure e tiko,” e kaya.

Na National Housing Policy ena vakanamata ki na veitikina bibi me vakatorocaketaki kina na ituvaki kei na kena rawati na veivakavaletaki. Na sasaga bibi e oka kina:

- Regulating the Housing Market: Vaqaqacotaki ni ituvatuva vakalawa me vakadeitaka na kena vakarautaki na vale vinaka kei na vale redetaki.

- Vakatorocaketaki ni Affordability: Vakatorocaketaki ni parokaramu ni veivakavaletaki vakabalavu kei na iwalewale ni veitokoni vakatabakidua vei ira na vuvale e lailai na isau.

- Capacity Development: Vakalevutaka

na iwiliwili ni tamata cakacaka ena tara vale ena vuli kei na sikolasivi kei na vakatorocaketaki ni ivakarau ni itukutuku ni veivakavaletaki me vinaka cake kina na tabana ni cakacaka.

E kaciva talega na Minisita o Nalumisa me dua na ivakarau duavata ena kena vakayacori na lawatu oqo.

“Na kena vakayacori vakavinaka na lawatu oqo e gadrevi kina e dua na iwalewale ni iwasewase taucoko; E dodonu me da cakacaka vata ena veiminisita, tabana ni cakacaka, isoqosoqo, kei na itikotiko,” e uqeti koya.

Na tavoci oqo e vakatakilakilataka e dua na gauna bibi ki na matanitu ena nona sasaga tikoga me vakarautaka na iwali ni veivakavaletaki okati kina, ka vakaraitaka na veidinadinati kaukauwa me sotavi na veimataqali gagadre ni lewenivanua.

Ena kena vakaliuci na kena rawati kei na kena saumi na lawatu ni veivakavaletaki, sa namaka na matanitu me tauyavutaka e dua na draki vakatautauvata me rawa kina vei ira na tamata yadua kei na matavuvale, veitalia na nodra ituvaki ni bula vakailavo, me ra rawata na ituvaki ni bula e taqomaki ka veiganiti.

“Me kakua walega ni yavu ni cakacaka na National Housing Policy oqo ia me ivakatakilakila talega ni noda sasaga vakamatanitu me vakadeitaka ni sega ni dua e biu tu mai ena kena vakadeitaki e dua na vanua taqomaki ka dodonu me vakatokai kina na itikotiko,” e tinia o Nalumisa.

Ena nona vakavinavinaka vei ira kece era vakaitavi ena nodra cau ki na kena tuvanaki na lawatu, e vakamatatataka na nodra itavi bibi ena ilakolako wasei oqo ki na dua na Viti e okati ka vakatautauvatani cake.

Ni toso tiko ki liu na matanitu, sa dei tikoga na matanitu me vakatorocaketaka na veitokani kei na veitokoni ena tabana ni veivakavaletaki, ka saga me tarai cake e dua na ivakarau ni veivakavaletaki e kaukauwa cake ka kaukauwa cake vei ira kece na kai Viti.

फ़ीजी के सामान
अमेरिकी बाज़ार
में अपना स्थान
बना रहे हैं - मंत्री
कमिकमिदा

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 3 पर



देश में डेन्गी बुखार
के बढ़ते मामले पर
स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने
चेतावनी जारी की

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर



उत्तरी विभाग के
किसान धान की
खेती पुनः जीवित
करने पर काम कर
रहे हैं

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 7 पर



प्रधान मंत्री ने भारत पर हमले की कड़ी निन्दा की



प्रधान मंत्री तथा विदेश मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका हालमें नए भारतीय राजदूत महामहीम श्री सुनीत मेहता से मुलाकात करते हुए चित्र: प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर

रोनल देव/ महीमा खान

प्रधानमंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने बाईस अप्रैल 2025 को जम्मू और कश्मीर में हुए दर्दनाक आतंकी हमले के बाद भारत के प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी को भेजे गए संदेश में गहरी संवेधना व्यक्त की है। प्रधानमंत्री रम्बूका ने भयानक हमले की कड़ी निन्दा की है जिसमें टूरिस्टों और निर्दोष लोगों को निशाना बनाया गया। उन्होंने अपने संदेश में परिवार के प्रति संवेदना जताई है, जिन्होंने इस हमले में अपने चाहने वालों को खो दिया और घायलों को जल्द से जल्द पूरी तरह ठीक

होने की कामना की है। प्रधानमंत्री रम्बूका ने यह भी कहा की कठिनाई के इस समय फ़ीजी भारत के साथ खड़ा है। उधर, फ़ीजी और भारत के बीच संबंध को और गहरा करने के लिए श्री रम्बूका ने हालमें फ़ीजी के लिए नए भारतीय राजदूत महामहीम श्री सुनीत मेहता से सूवा स्थित अपने दफ्तर में मुलाकात की। इस मुलाकात ने दोनों पक्षों को सम्भावित भविष्य के सहयोग पर चर्चा करने का अवसर प्रदान किया, जिसका उद्देश्य है फ़ीजी और भारत के बीच द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को मजबूत बनाना। इसमें स्वास्थ्य सेवा, नई उर्जा, इनफोमईशन टेक्नोलोजी,

कौशल विकास, कृषि और सांस्कृतिक तथा लोगों के बीच आदान-प्रदान के क्षेत्रों में दोनों देशों के बीच चल रहे सहयोग पर भी प्रकाश डाला गया। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने हाई कमिशन मेहता को बधाई दी और फ़ीजी में उनकी नई राजनयिक भूमिका के लिए शुभकामनाएं दी। उन्होंने दोनों देशों के बीच पचपन वर्षों के राजनयिक संबंधों को स्वीकार किया और सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए फ़ीजी सरकार की प्रतिज्ञा की पुष्टि की। सभा के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने फ़ीजी में सौ खाट वाला एक सुपर स्पेशलिटी अस्पताल बनाने में सहयोग देने के लिए भारतीय सरकार को

धन्यवाद दिया जो कि प्रशान्त क्षेत्र में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पहलो और सबसे बड़ी विकास योजनाओं में से एक है। भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री माननीय श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी ने दो साल पहले भारत-प्रशान्त सहयोग सम्मेलन के दौरान इस महत्वपूर्ण योजना की घोषणा की थी जो तेज़ी से प्रगति कर रहा है और फ़ीजी तथा व्यापक प्रशांत क्षेत्र की स्वास्थ्य देखभाल चुनौतियों का समाधान करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगी। अपने संबोधन में राजदूत मेहता ने कहा कि भारत-फ़ीजी संबंधों में अपार सम्भावनाएं हैं, और वे स्थापित और उभरते दोनों क्षेत्रों में सहयोग का विस्तार करने के लिए तत्पर हैं।

लम्बासा में गिरमिट दिवस

रोनल देव

एक सौ छियालीसवां (146th) गिरमिट दिवस उत्सव की तैयारी ज़ोरो पर है।

गठबंधन सरकार के नीचे यह तीसरा गिरमिट दिवस समारोह है जिसके लिए सार्वजनिक छुट्टी दी गई है तथा इस साल यह समारोह दस से बारह मई तक सुबैरैल पार्क लम्बासा में मनाया जाएगा।

हमारे देश के इतिहास के लिए गिरमिट दिवस बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है जब हम याद करते हैं कि ब्रिटिश राज के नीचे पहले गिरमिटिया मजदूर चौदह मई 1879 को भारत से फीजी लाए गए थे। 1879 से 1916 के बीच लगभग साठ हजार पाँच सौ तिरपन (60,553) भारतीयों को गिरमिट प्रथा के नीचे फीजी लाया गया था। नेशनल आर्काइव्स ओफ फीजी के रिकॉर्ड्स दिखाते हैं कि इन लोगों में पुरुष, महिलाएं और बच्चे शामिल थे।

प्रथम भारतीय मजदूर लियोनिदास नामक जहाज़ में आकर लेवूका बंदरगाह पर उतरे थे, जो हमारे इतिहास का एक अध्याय कठिनाई और संघर्ष से जुड़ा है।

उन्नीस सौ बीस में गिरमिट प्रथा को खत्म कर दिया गया था। बीसवीं शताब्दी की शुरुआत में भारतीय व्यापारी तथा अन्य लोगों का आगमन भी फीजी में शुरू हुआ। गिरमिटिया प्रणाली पीढ़ियों द्वारा सहे गए

दर्दनाक अतीत की एक अंधेरी याद के रूप में खड़ी है। फिर भी विपरीत परिस्थितियों के बीच से कई बाधाओं के खिलाफ मानवीय भावना की जीत का एक प्रमाण सामने आया।

नेशनल अकाव्स के अति सतर्क कार्य की मदद से आज गिरमिटियों के वंशजों के पास उनकी पारिवारिक विरासत के बारे में अमूल्य कागज़ात तथा जानकारी तक पहुँच है। गिरमिटिया मजदूरों की दुर्दशा के बारे में बड़े पैमाने पर लेख लिखे गए हैं तथा चर्चा हुई है। इन मजदूरों को ब्रिटिश के गिरमिटिया मजदूर समझौता के नीचे फीजी लाया गया था जिसे गिरमिट के नाम से जाना जाने लगा। आज इतिहासकार, इस प्रणाली को गुलामी और मानव तस्करी के रूप में देखते हैं। प्रोफेसर बिज़ लाल ने अपनी किताब इमली के पेड़ में गिरमिटियों के जीवन मुश्किलें तथा अनुभव की झलक पेश की।

हमें गिरमिटियों की परंपराओं का सम्मान करना चाहिए तथा उनके द्वारा छोड़ी गई सीख को अपनाना चाहिए।

उनकी यात्रा में कई मुसिवतें आईं लेकिन एकता में बँधकर उन्होंने इसे पार किया जो हमें सीख देता है कि देश में एक साथ खड़े रहने का महत्व क्या है। दुनिया भर में जहाँ हर तरह के विभाजन हैं, गिरमिटियों के उदाहरण हमारे लिए आशा की



किरण है। हम जबकि गिरमिट दिवस मनाने की तैयारी कर रहे हैं जिसका इस साल का मुख्य विषय है अतीत को संरक्षित करते हुए भविष्य की कल्पना करना तो ऐसे में हमें भूलना नहीं चाहिए कि उन्होंने आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए सुखद रास्ता बनाने के लिए कड़ी मेहनत और अतुलनीय बलिदान सहन किया। गिरमिटिया मजदूरों के वंशजों ने हमारे समाज के हर एक पहलू

में योगदान देते हुए, हमारे राष्ट्र के ताने-बाने में अपनी उपस्थिति दर्ज कराई है। व्यापार से लेकर संस्कृति तक, उनका प्रभाव निविवाद है जो हमारे जीवन को अनगिनत तरीकों से समृद्ध कर रहा है। इस साल का गिरमिट दिवस तीन दिनों के लिए दस से बारह मई तक लम्बासा के सुबैरैल पार्क में होगा।

रा में नए सुपरमार्केट से आर्थिक गतिविधियों में वृद्धि

रोनल देव

राकीराकी शहर में व्यापारिक गतिविधियों में प्रमुख बढ़ावा मिला जब वहाँ जी एस राज सुपरमार्केट का औपचारिक उद्घाटन हुआ। इस नए सुपरमार्केट के मालिक भुतपुर्व राजनितिज्ञ तथा व्यवसाय प्रमुख श्री जोज शिव राज हैं तथा दो मिलियन डोलर लागत इस सुपरमार्केट से आस-पास के इलाके के लगभग चालिस लोगों को नौकरियाँ मिलेंगी। प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका इस समारोह में मुख्य मेहमान थे जिन्होंने कहा कि इस तरह का व्यापारिक वातावरण प्रांत के आर्थिक और सामाजिक विकास के लिए एक प्रमुख मील का पत्थर है।

अपने भाषण में प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने श्री जोज शिव राज की अटूट दृष्टि और समर्पण को ध्यान में रखते हुए, घण्टा में एकमात्र व्यापारी के रूप में विनम्र शुरुआत से लेकर एक सम्मानित राष्ट्रीय नेता और बहु-जातीय मामलों के भुतपुर्व मंत्री तक श्री राज की उत्कृष्ट यात्रा को ध्यान में रखते हुए।

“इस सुपरमार्केट का खुलना हमारे स्थानीय समाज के लिए भी आश्वस्त करने वाली बात है,” प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा। निवासियों को खराब मौसम के



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका, जी एस राज सुपरमार्केट के औपचारिक उद्घाटन के दौरान, उसके मालिक जोज शिव राज के साथ चित: प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर

दौरान ज़रूरी सेवाएँ हासिल करने के लिए दूर-दूर तक सफर नहीं करना पड़ेगा क्योंकि इसे और अधिक सुविधाजनक बना दिया गया है। सरकार ने लम्बे समय से समग्र विकास और प्रगति को आगे बढ़ाने में स्थानीय समाज और साझेदारों के साथ भागीदारी के महत्व

को पहचाना है। जैसा कि कहावत है “कोई भी व्यक्ति अकेले सबकुछ नहीं कर सकता तथा उन्हें किसी अन्य की मदद की ज़रूरत होती है” यह हमारे बीच एक दूसरे के साथ परस्पर जुड़ाव और निर्भरता को दर्शाता है। क्षेत्र में दूसरे सुपरमार्केट की योजना का भी स्वागत किया गया, जो रा में पनप

रही व्यापारिक वातावरण की भावना का प्रमाण है। अंत में प्रधान मंत्री ने इस पवित्र सप्ताह के दौरान विनम्रता, निस्वार्थता और त्याग के मूल्यों पर चिंतन को प्रोत्साहित किया, साथही फीजी की प्रगति में उनके योगदान के लिए श्री जोज शिव राज और उनकी टीम के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया।

रातू दकम्बाउ हाउस फिर से चमकाया गया



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका रातू दकम्बाउ हाउस के उद्घाटन के दौरान आमंत्रित मेहमानों के साथ चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

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नउसोरी स्थित रातू दकम्बाउ हाउस को फिर से चमकाया गया है तथा इसका औपचारिक उद्घाटन हालमें प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने किया।

ताईलेवू प्रांत के इतिहास में यह एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर साबित हुआ। इस इमारत का नाम फीजी के सबसे महान और सबसे प्रभावशाली सामन्तों में से एक, स्वर्गीय रातू सेरू दकम्बाउ के नाम पर रखा गया है तथा इसपर 3.8 मिलियन डॉलर लागत मरम्मतकार्य किया गया है। इस विकास योजना की अगुवाई यसाना वाकातुरांगा ओ ताईलेवू तथा ताई लेवू होल्डिंग्स पी टी ई लिमिटेड ने की।

चालीस साल पहले ताईलेवू के सोंगोसोंगो वाकामरामा तथा यसाना ने रातू दकोम्बाउ हाउस के निर्माण की अगुवाई की थी जो घशयथ में अपनी स्थापना के बाद से सामाजिक विकास का प्रतीक बना।

अपने भाषण में प्रधानमंत्री रम्बूका ने ताईलेवू के लोगों के लाभ के लिए व्यापारिक संपत्ति में पूँजी लगाने के लिए प्रांत की महिलाओं के दृढ़ संकल्प और दूरदर्शिता को स्वीकार किया।

रातू दकम्बाउ हाउस के सुधारकार्य के साथ प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि अब किरायदारों को एक सक्षम वातावरण में ठहराया जाएगा, जिससे ताईलेवू और पड़ोसी प्रांतों के लोगों को अधिक कुशल और प्रभावी सेवाएं मिलेंगी।

प्रधान मंत्री ने ताईलेवू के लोगों को व्यवसाय और आर्थिक विकास में अधिक भागीदारी करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया।

रातू दकम्बाउ हाउस में प्रमुख सरकारी सेवाएं जिनमें, कृषि मंत्रालय, जन्म, मृत्यु तथा विवाह के रेजिस्ट्रेशन का दफ्तर, युवा और खेलकूद मंत्रालय और ताईलेवू तथा नईतासिरी प्रांतिए दफ्तर भी होगा।

समुदाय की एकता, श्रद्धा और संघर्ष की सच्ची मिसाल है

महिमा खान

फीजी की बहु-सांस्कृतिक धरती पर एक ऐसी संस्था है, जो वर्षों से न सिर्फ धार्मिक आस्था को जीवित रखे हुए है, बल्कि सामाजिक समरसता का भी प्रतीक बन गई है। हरिपुर रामायण मंडली लकेना हिल नंबर 1 में स्थित है और 1960 से निरंतर रूप से सक्रिय है। हरिपुर मंडली की शुरुआत 1960 में हुई और आज तक यह पुरी निष्ठा से धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियों का संचालन कर रही है। मंडली के ट्रस्टी योगेश कुमार हैं, जिन्होंने मात्र युवावस्था में ही इस जिम्मेदारी को संभाला था। सेवा करते हुए उन्हें लगभग छब्बीस साल हो चुके हैं। “हमारी मंडली में करीब अट्ठारह सदस्य हैं, जो नियमित रूप से मंडली के कार्यों में भाग लेते हैं,” कुमार ने बताया। इस मंडली के पास एक छोटा सा मंदिर और हाल है, जो न केवल पूजा-पाठ के लिए प्रयोग होता है, बल्कि चौताल, कीर्तन और अन्य आयोजनों जैसे शादी-विवाह का भी केंद्र है।

2016 में एक दुखद घटना ने पुरे समुदाय को हिलाकर रख दिया जब मंदिर में आग लग गई। लेकिन जहाँ आस्था होती है, वहाँ रास्ता खुद बनता है। योगेश जी बताते हैं, “ हम लोगों ने बूँद-बूँद जोड़कर अपने मंदिर को फिर से बनाने का प्रयास किया।”

हाल ही में हरीपुर रामायण मण्डली को फिजी सरकार द्वारा मरम्मत करने के ग्रांट के तहत लगभग \$9,800 फिजियन डॉलर की सहायता मिली। यह राशि मंदिर और होल को नया रूप देने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देगी।

“हमने अर्जी लगाई थी और ईश्वर की कृपा से ग्रांट मंजूर हुआ। इससे मंदिर के विकास में बहुत सहायता मिलेगी,” योगेश ने कहा। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि सरकार का यह कदम बहुत ही उच्च-कोटी का है और अगर इसी तरह सहयोग मिलता रहा तो फीजी में और भी संस्थाओं को लाभ होगा।

कुमार ने कहा कि पुनर्निर्माण के लिए फंड बटोरना करना आसान नहीं था। लोगों से सहयोग लेना कठिन था, लेकिन मंडली ने हार नहीं मानी। “हर साल बाहर से जैसे नान्दी, लौतोका से मंडलियाँ आती है जो देखकर कहती हैं कि हर बार यहाँ कुछ बेहतर हुआ है। यह हमारे लिए गर्व की बात है।”

“हम सरकार और मल्टी-एथनिक अफेयर्स मंत्रालय के आभारी हैं। इससे हमें बहुत सहयोग मिला है, और उम्मीद है कि आगे भी ऐसे ही मदद मिलती रहेगी, जिससे धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक संस्थाएँ फलते-फूलते रहे,” योगेश कुमार ने अपने शब्दों में कहा।

फीजी के सामान अमेरिकी बाज़ार में अपना स्थान बना रहे हैं

रोनल देव

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा व्यवसाय मंत्री माननीय मानोआ कमिकमिदा ने हालही संसद में आम किया कि पिछले साल अमेरिका तक 439.08 मिलियन डॉलर लागत सामान भेजे गए थे जबकि अमेरिका से 425.03 मिलियन डॉलर लागत सामान मँगाया गया था। अमेरिका फीजी का नम्बर एक निर्यात वाली जगह रही है, जो निर्यात किए गए सभी सामानों का लगभग बीस प्रतिशत हिस्सा है।

“फीजी के कुछ सामान जो अमेरिका भेजे जाते हैं में, बोटल वाला पानी, यंगोना, ताज़ा हल्दी, चीनी, समुद्री जीव-जन्तु, मछली, उच्चस्तर की महोगनी, कृषि

सामान जैसे कि जड़ वाले भोजन और अदरक तथा तेज़ी से बिकने वाले सामान।

“इन उत्पादनों को अमेरिकी बाज़ार में बहुत सम्मान दिया जाता है और उनकी उपस्थिति फीजी द्वारा पेश किए जाने वाले उत्पादनों की विविधता दर्शाती है,” मंत्री कमिकमिदा ने कहा। इस बात पर प्रकाश डालना ज़रूरी है कि फीजी से इन निर्यातों के सामान अमेरिकी सामानों से होड़वाज़ी नहीं करते बल्कि वे उनके पूरक हैं।

इसका मतलब यह है कि सीधे होड़वाज़ी का सामना करने के बजाय फीजी के सामान अमेरिकी बाज़ार में एक जगह बना रहे हैं, जो अमेरिकी उपभोगताओं को उच्च विकल्प प्रदान कर रहे



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा व्यवसाय मंत्री माननीय मानोआ कमिकमिदा संसद सदस्यों को संबोधित करते हुए चित्र: संसद भवन

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका, इंडोनेशिया के राष्ट्रपति से मिले



प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने जकारता इंडोनेशिया में वहाँ के राष्ट्रपति महामहीम प्राबोवो सुबियान्तो से द्विपक्षीय बैठक के दौरान इंडोनेशिया के साथ फीजी की मजबूत और स्थायी साझेदारी की पुष्टि की। चौबीस अप्रैल, टज़टथ को दोनों नेताओं ने मुलाकात की जहाँ उन्होंने लम्बे समय से चले आ रहे राजनितिक संबंधों की सराहना की जो औपचारिक रूप से 1974 में स्थापित हुए थे। इस मजबूत द्विपक्षीय संबंध ने पिछले पाँच दशकों में दोनों देशों की साझेदारी का विस्तार देखा है, जिसमें टज़घण में फीजी-इंडोनेशिया फेन्डशिप असोसिएशन की स्थापना भी शामिल है। विकास सहयोग पर प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा कि फीजी को इंडोनेशिया के समर्थन से लाभ मिलते रहेंगे। इसके लिए उन्होंने इंडोनेशिया की लगातार विकास सहायता, विशेष रूप से ऐतिहासिक कृषि प्रदर्शन फार्म के लिए बारह मिलियन डॉलर के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया।

सर टोनी ब्लेया से प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका की मुलाकात

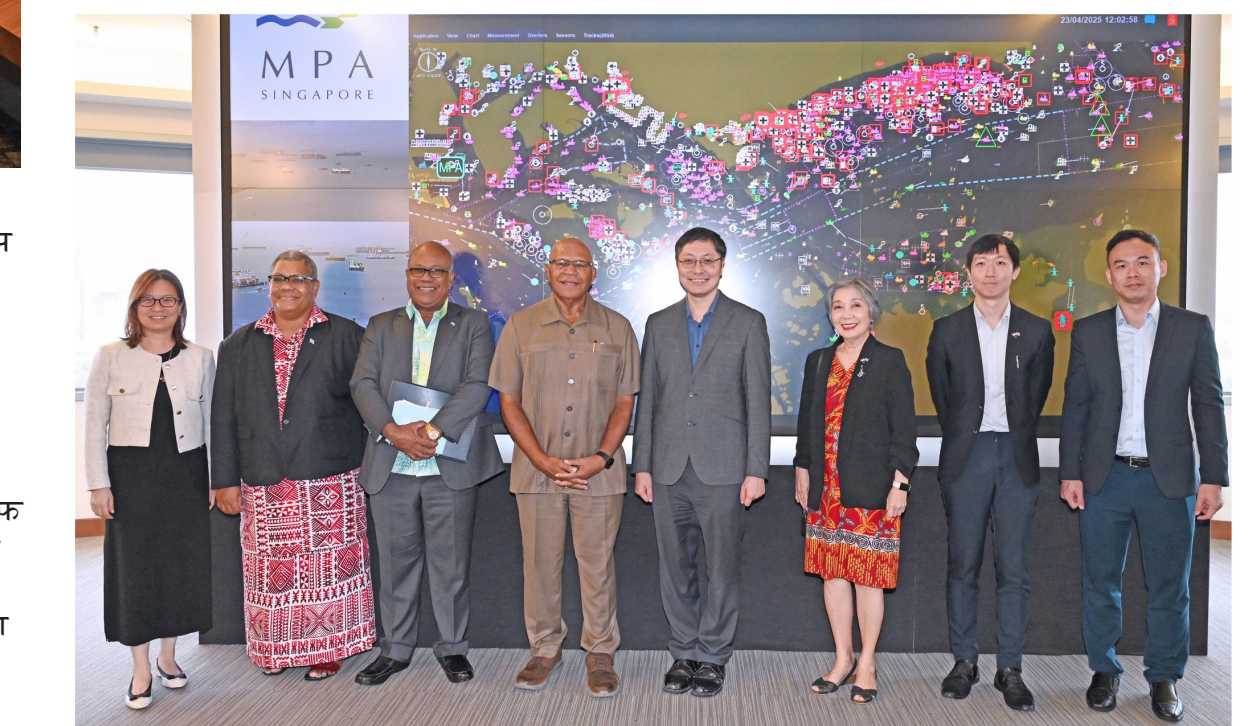


प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने टोनी ब्लेया इंस्टीट्यूट फोर ग्लोबल चर्च के चेयरमैन सर एन्थनी ब्लेयर से मुलाकात की, ताकि आधुनिक तकनीकी के रणनीतिक उपयोग के माध्यम से फीजी की सार्वजनिक सेवा के साथ सहयोग के अवसरों का पता लगाया जा सके। सिंगापुर में युनाइटेड किंगडम के भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री से मुलाकात करते हुए सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण, ई-स्वास्थ्य और डिजिटल बुनियादी ढाँचे के क्षेत्रों में तकनीकी परिवर्तन को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए टी बी आई के साथ काम करने में फीजी की रूची व्यक्त की। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने सर टोनी के प्रति अपना आभार व्यक्त किया तथा सार्वजनिक सेवा में तकनीक को अपनाने की ज़रूरत पर प्रकाश डाला।

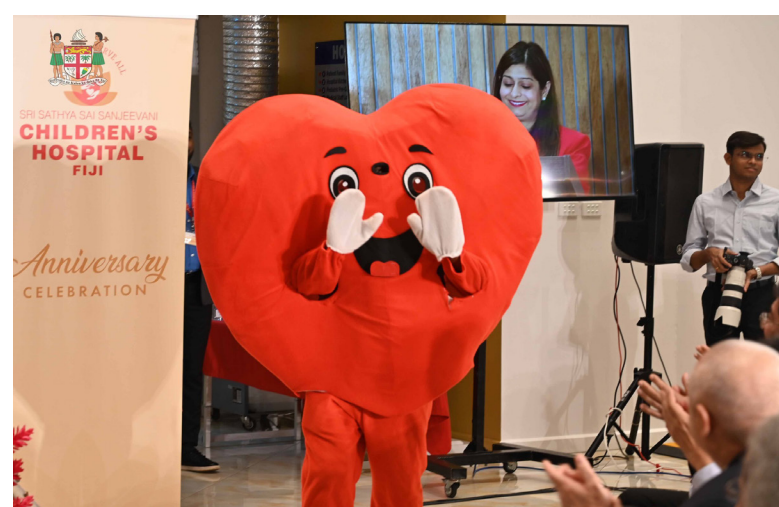
प्रधान मंत्री ने सिंगापुर समुद्री सुरक्षा पर सीख हासिल की



प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने सिंगापुर मेरिटार्म तथा पोर्ट अथोरिटी औपरेशन्स कोन्ट्रोल सेन्टर का दौरा किया जो कि फीजी की समुद्री सुरक्षा संरक्षा और बुनियादी ढाँचे के विकास को मजबूत करने के लिए सरकार के लगातार प्रतिबद्धता के हिस्से के रूप था। इस दौर पर प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका तथा उनके प्रतिनिधिमण्डल ने सेन्टर का संचालन कैसे होता है और साथ-साथ जहाज यातायात के प्रबंधन समुद्री संचार तथा देश भर में सुरक्षित और कुशल बंदरगाह संचालन सुनिश्चित करने में इसकी भूमिका के बारे में सीखा। अथोरिटी के चीफ एक्ज़ेक्टिव ऑफिसर टैओ इंग दीह ने प्रधान मंत्री को जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि संगठन का लक्ष्य सिंगापुर को एक प्रमुख वैश्विक हब बंदरगाह और अंतराष्ट्रीय समुद्री केंद्र के रूप में विकसित करना तथा इसके सामरिक समुद्री हितों को आगे बढ़ाना और उनकी रक्षा करना।



दिल की सेजरी वाले एकाडेमी की स्थापना की योजना



गठबंधन सरकार अगले साल तक फीजी की पहली दिल की सेजरी करने वाले एकाडेमी स्थापित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है, जिससे स्थानीय विशेषज्ञों की एक स्थायी पाइपलाइन तैयार होगी। श्री सत्य साईं संजी-विनी बच्चों के अस्पताल की तीसरी वर्षगांठ के समारोह के दौरान उप प्रधानमंत्री विलियामे नावोका ने कहा कि सेजरी के बाद बच्चों को नया जीवन मिला जिससे अब वे अन्य बच्चों की तरह खेलकूद सकते हैं तथा माता-पिताओं को चिन्ता में रात-रात भर जगना नहीं पड़ेगा। साईं प्रेमा फाउन्डेशन ने मुफ्त में तीन सौ पैसठ श्रद्धयंत दिलों की सेजरी करने के बाद, फीजी के स्वास्थ्य पेशेवरों की क्षमता निर्माण के लिए मुफ्त में स्वास्थ्य देखभाल छात्रवृत्ति प्रदान करने की योजना बनाई।





स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय और मेडिकल सेविसर्स

तारीख: ग्यारह अप्रैल, 2025

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने केन्द्रीय विभाग में डेन्गी बुखार के प्रकोप की घोषणा की

देश में डेन्गी बुखार के बढ़ते मामलों पर स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने जो चेतावनी तथा सलाह दी है के बाद मंत्रालय आम जनता को सुचित करना चाहता है कि केन्द्रीय विभाग में भी अब डेन्गी बुखार का प्रकोप हो गया है।

नवम्बर से अप्रैल महीने के बीच गम्भीर बारिश तथा बाढ़ चढ़ने की वजह से डेन्गी बुखार के मामलों में भारी वृद्धि होने की सम्भावना रहती है।

केन्द्रीय विभाग में इस साल पहली जनवरी से तईस मार्च के बीच डेन्गी बुखार के एक हजार नब्बे श्घज़शज़त्त मामले की पुष्टि हुई, तथा मार्च महीने में बुखार के मामले में जो वृद्धि देखी गई वो पिछले साल इसी अवधी के मिलान में अनुमान से ज़्यादा है।

पिछले तीन सप्ताह में नावुआ सबडिविज़न, सूवा सबडिविज़न तथा रेवा सबडिविज़न में डेन्गी बुखार के मामले में भारी वृद्धि देखी गई जबकि डेन्गी बुखार के मामले में वृद्धि की वजह से ताईलेवू सबडिविज़न के लोगों को कोरोवउ अस्पताल तथा नईतासिरी सबडिविज़न के निवासियों को वुनिदावा अस्पताल में भर्ती किया गया। सूवा के कोलोनियल वो मेमोरियल अस्पताल में भी भारी संख्या में डेन्गी बुखार से पीड़ित लोगों को भर्ती किया जा रहा है जो पिछले साल के मिलान में अनुमान से बहुत ज़्यादा है।

फिलहाल, पश्चिमी विभाग में डेन्गी के मामले में गिरावट होने की रिपोर्टें मिल रही है, तथा डिविज़नल टीमें विभाग में निगरानी रखे हुई है तथा किसी भी स्थिति पर समर्थन प्रदान कर रही है।

मंत्रालय डेन्गी प्रकोप के जवाब में एक योजना लागू कर रहा है तथा विभागों और राष्ट्रीय स्तर तक स्थिति पर नज़र रखे हुए है। मंत्रालय देश भर के स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों में मरीजों को ज़रूरी दवाईयाँ जैसे कि आए वी फ्लूवीड तथा एनलजेसिक्स प्रदान करने तथा ज़रूरी कदम उठा रहा है।

मंत्रालय के डिविज़नल तथा सबडिविज़नल प्रकोप के जवाब में काम करने वाली टीम जिन्हें ट्रेनिंग मिली है तथा उनके हुनर को बढ़ाया गया है ताकि वे ऐसी बीमारियों

के प्रकोप की छानबीन करने के अलावा प्रकोप का जवाब दे सके, वे वेक्टर नियंत्रण, वातावरण की सफाई और सार्वजनिक जागरूकता और शिक्षा प्रदान कर रहे हैं।

आम जनता से माँग की जा रही है कि वे डेन्गी बुखार के बारे में और जानकारी हासिल करें, बीमार होने से बचने के लिए ज़रूरी सावधानी बरतें, तथा लक्षण दिखने पर जल्द से जल्द अपनी नज़दीकी स्वास्थ्य सुविधा केन्द्र जाएं।

डेन्गी बुखार क्या है?

डेन्गी बुखार, डेन्गी वायरस से होता है। लोगों को डेन्गी वायरस तबही होता है जब काले और सफेद रंग के मच्छर डेन्गी बुखार से पीड़ित व्यक्ति को काटने के बाद किसी स्वस्थ व्यक्ति को काटता है। डेन्गी बुखार, दुनिया भर में कई मिलियन लोगों को पीड़ित करता है जहाँ कई लोग कुछ दिनों में ठीक हो जाते हैं जबकि कुछ लोग, कुछ सप्ताह तक थकान महसूस करते हैं। लेकिन कुछ मामलों में डेन्गी बुखार गम्भीर हो सकता है जहाँ लोगों का बहुत ज़्यादा खून बहता है, वे कोमा में जा सकते हैं या उनकी मौत भी हो सकती है।

डेन्गी बुखार कैसे फैलता है?

मच्छर जिसमें डेन्गी वायरस है, वे ही डेन्गी बुखार फैला सकते हैं। डेन्गी बुखार से पीड़ित व्यक्ति को काटने के बाद मच्छरों में डेन्गी वायरस होता है। मच्छर के अन्दर जीवन भर डेन्गी वायरस रहता है तथा हर बार काटने पर मच्छर डेन्गी वायरस लोगों तक फैलाता है। डेन्गी बुखार फैलाने वाला मच्छर शहरी इलाकों में रहना पसन्द करते हैं, खास करके घरों के आस-पास, कों नटेनर तथा अन्य चीज़ें जिसमें पानी रूक सकता है जैसे कि बोतल, खाली केन, टायर, ड्रम, पानी वाले खुले ड्रम, और फूलों का गमला वगैरह।

डेन्गी बुखार जानलेवा हो सकता है। लेकिन कई लोग डेन्गी बुखार से दो से सात दिनों में ठीक हो सकते हैं। हालांकि ठीक होने के बाद कुछ लोगों को कुछ सप्ताह तक थकावट महसूस हो सकती है।

इसके लक्षण क्या हैं?

डेन्गी बुखार के लक्षण सर्दी के लक्षण जैसा है जो आम तौर पर दो से सात दिनों में ठीक हो सकते हैं। डेन्गी बुखार आमतौर पर डेन्गी वायरस वाला मच्छर काटने के चार से दस दिन के अन्दर हो सकता है। चालीस डिग्री का बुखार, इनमें से दो

लक्षणों के साथ हो सकता है:

- जी मिचलाना, तथा उलटियाँ होना
- भूख न लगना
- सर दर्द
- आँखों तथा उनके पीछे दर्द होना
- मासपेशियों तथा जोड़ों में दर्द
- दाने पड़ना

अन्य लक्षणों में शायद:

- गाँठ में सूजन
- डायरिया
- आम तौर पर अस्वास्थ्य महसूस करना

गम्भीर डेन्गी बुखार

बीमारी का पहला लक्षण मिलने पर गम्भीर डेन्गी बुखार में विकसित होने में तीन से सात दिन लग सकते हैं। तापमान कम होने का मतलब यह नहीं है कि व्यक्ति ठीक हो रहा है। चेतावनी के कुछ चिन्ह पर खास ध्यान देने की ज़रूरत है जिससे गम्भीर डेन्गी हो सकता है:

- पेट में दर्द
- लगातार उल्टी होना
- खून की उल्टी करना
- तेज़ी से साँस लेना
- थकान/बिचैनी
- खून बहने के लक्षण जैसे कि मसूड़ों से खून निकलना, खून की उल्टी, काला मल (मल में खून), योनी से खून आना तथा त्वचा पर खरोच आना।

डेन्गी के गम्भीर लक्षण सामने आने पर अगर समय पर डाक्टरी इलाज नहीं करवाया गया तो इससे गम्भीर रूप से खून निकल सकता है, अंगों को गम्भीर क्षति, कोमा तथा मौत भी हो सकती है।

इसका इलाज कैसे करें?

डाक्टर के पास जल्द से जल्द जाए अगर आपको लगे कि आपको डेन्गी बुखार हुआ है। लक्षण सामने आने पर जल्द इलाज होने से उलझन पैदा होने का खतरा कम होने के साथ-साथ वायरस और फैलने से रोका जा सकता है।

मरीजों को ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा आराम करने तथा पानी वगैरह पीने की ज़रूरत है।

अगर उपलब्ध हो तो शरीर में पानी की मात्रा बढ़ाने वाला नमक लें। बुखार तथा जोड़ों में दर्द कम करने के लिए पेरैसिटामोल जैसे कि पेनाडोल लें।

डाक्टरी सलाह के बिना एसप्रिन या इब्रूफिन तथा दर्द कम करने की कोई दवा न ले। इन इलाजों से खून बहने का खतरा बहुत ज़्यादा हो जाता है क्योंकि वे खून को

पतला करते हैं।

जब गम्भीर डेन्गी के चेतावनी वाले लक्षण दिखते हैं तो ये बेहद ज़रूरी हो जाता है कि आप डाक्टरी सलाह ले तथा बीमारी को रोकने के लिए अस्पताल में भर्ती होने का प्रयास करें।

उचित चिकित्सा देखभाल और समय रहते इसकी पहचान होने से मृत्यु का दर बहुत कम होता है। लेकिन कुल मिलाकर यह अनुभव मरीजों के लिए बहुत ही असुविधाजनक और अप्रिय हो सकता है।

आप अपने आपको कैसे डेन्गी बीमारी पकड़ने के खतरे से बचा सकते हैं?

सबसे बहतरीन तरीका है कि मच्छरों के काटने से बचे। इसका मतलब है कि:

- घर से बाहर होने पर मच्छरों से बचने की दवा लगाए
- सोते वक्त मच्छरदानी का उपयोग करे
- अपने घर की खिड़कियों और दरवाज़ों पर मच्छरों तथा अन्य कीड़ों को रोकने का स्क्रीन लगाए

आपको समय निकालकर अपने घर के आस-पास, गाँव तथा पड़ोस में इन कदमों का पालन करते हुए मच्छरों के पैदा होने वाले स्थानों को नष्ट करना चाहिए जैसे कि:

- घर के छत के गटस तथा आस-पास से पत्तियाँ तथा अन्य कूड़ा हटाए
- पुराने टायर, खाली कुंन, बोतल, ड्रम, नारियल की खोपड़ी तथा छिलकों को हटाए, उन्हें मिट्टी के नीचे दबा दें ताकि इनमें पानी न रूके जिससे मच्छर पैदा हो सकते हैं
- घर के अन्दर मच्छर पैदा होने वाली जगह हटा दें जैसे फूलों का गमला, फिज के नीचे पानी का ट्रै, खाली बोतल केन तथा अन्य सामान खाली कर दें।
- पानी भरे हुए ड्रम तथा कोन्टेनर को सुरक्षित रूप से ढाक दें।
- अपने आँगन के आस-पास घास और झाड़ियों को काटें तथा साफ करें।



पहली बार धान की खेती करने वाले किसान की उम्मीदें



कृषि मंत्री वतिमी रयालू, एक युवा किसान मोहम्मद इलियाद खान से मुलाकात करते हुए चित्र: कृषि मंत्रालय

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सिंगातोका के एक छोटे से गाँव में एक युवा किसान मोहम्मद इलियाद खान का जन्म हुआ। उन्होंने अपनी ज़मीन पर सब्जि की खेती की, लेकिन फिर एक दिन कुछ ऐसा हुआ जिसने उनके जीवन को एक नई दिशा दी। मोहम्मद इलियाद खान अब अड़तालीस शण्यत्त साल के हो चुके हैं और आजकल वह सरावा म्बा में रहते हैं। वह अभी रविरवि म्बा में 21.5 एकड़ की ज़मीन

पर धान की खेती कर रहे हैं। यह ज़मीन पहले गन्ने का एक खेत हुआ करता था, लेकिन इलियाद खान ने इसे धान के खेत में बदलने का साहस दिखाया। धान की खेती का यह उनका पहला साल है, और उन्हें उम्मीद है कि इस बार उनकी फसल तीस टन तक होगी। शुरुआत में उन्हें बहुत सी कठिनाईयों का सामना करना पड़ा था क्योंकि सिंगातोका में सब्जियों की खेती करने के बाद धान की खेती एक नया और चुनौतिपूर्ण कदम था।

“धान की खेती का काम बहुत मेहनत और धैर्य माँगता है, लेकिन यह वही काम है जिससे मुझे सच्ची खुशी मिलती है,” इलियाद ने मुस्कुराते हुए कहा। “यहाँ की ज़मीन धान की खेती के लिए बिल्कुल सही है, और मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि अगर सही तरीके से काम किया जाए, तो यहाँ धान की खेती बहुत सफल हो सकती है।” लेकिन जो उन्होंने सोचा नहीं था, वह हुआ। एक दिन, उन्हें कृषि और जल संसाधन मंत्री माननीय वतिमी रयालू से मिलने का मौका मिला। वह अपने खेत पर एक दौर के दौरान मंत्री से मिले और वह अनुभव उनके लिए बहुत प्रेरणादायक था।

“मंत्री से मिलकर मुझे एक नई उम्मीद और हिम्मत मिली। यह तो मुझे कभी नहीं लगा था कि ऐसा मौका मिलेगा, लेकिन अब मुझे लगता है कि मैं अपनी खेती को और भी बेहतर बना सकता हूँ,” उन्होंने कहा। माननीय रयालू ने भी उनकी मेहनत और समर्पण को सराहा। “धान की खेती में बहुत सम्भावनाएं हैं। यदि और किसान भी इस क्षेत्र में कदम रखें, तो उन्हें भी इसके फायदे दिखेंगे।” इस मुलाकात ने इलियाद को और भी

पेरित किया। अब उनका सपना और भी बड़ा हो गया है। वह अगले साल अपने खेत को पचास एकड़ तक बढ़ाने की योजना बना रहे हैं। मंत्री ने खान से कहा कि उनकी मेहनत प्रेरणादायक है। आगे बढ़ते रहिए। सरकार और मंत्रालय आपके साथ है, और हम कदम पर आपका समर्थन करेंगे।” अब इलियाद खान के मन में विश्वास और भी मजबूत हो गया है। वह केवल खुद के लिए नहीं, बल्कि अपने देश के लिए भी काम करना चाहते हैं। उनका सपना है कि अधिक से अधिक किसान, धान की खेती को अपनाएँ, और इस क्षेत्र में नई उन्नति हो। कृषि मंत्रालय की भी यही उम्मीद है कि इलियाद जैसे किसान और भी आगे आएँ, और पश्चिमी विभाग में धान की खेती को नई उँचाईयों तक पहुँचाएँ। सही मार्गदर्शन, समर्थन और संसाधनों के साथ यह क्षेत्र आने वाले समय में खाद्य सुरक्षा और आमदनी के एक महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत के रूप में सामने आ सकता है। मोहम्मद इलियाद खान की यह कहानी न केवल एक किसान की सफलता की कहानी है, बल्कि यह उम्मीदों और मेहनत की मिसाल है।

उत्तरी विभाग के किसान धान की खेती फिर से जीवित करने पर काम कर रहे हैं

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विकरान्त चन्द्रा को एक ऐसे युवा किसान के रूप में देखा जा सकता है जिनके पास बड़ी महत्वाकांक्षाएँ हैं। नलेम्बा, मुआता लम्बासा में अपना जीवन बिताने वाले विकरान्त चन्द्रा ने पाँच साल पहले मिश्रित खेती की दिशा में कदम रखा। शथ पचान्वे एकड़ ज़मीन पर उन्होंने खेती के लिए विविध दृष्टिकोण अपनाया है, जिसमें गन्ना, विभिन्न प्रकार की सब्जियाँ और धान की खेती शामिल है। उनका लक्ष्य एक स्थिर और लाभकारी कृषि व्यवसाय स्थापित करना था, जो न केवल उनके परिवार का समर्थन करेगा बल्कि स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था में भी योगदान देगा। खेती में विकरान्त की यात्रा आसान नहीं थी, लेकिन उनके संघर्ष और कृषि के प्रति जुनून ने उन्हें आगे बढ़ने में मदद की। उन्होंने विभिन्न कृषि तकनीकों के बारे में जानने और सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं पर शोध करने में समय बिताया। विकरान्त ने कहा, “मैं यह साबित करना चाहता हूँ कि युवा लोग कृषि में सफलता प्राप्त कर सकते हैं, और मेरा मानना है कि यदि हम नए विचार और स्थिरता को अपनाएँ तो इस क्षेत्र में अनगिनत अवसर हैं।” विकरान्त के लिए कई दिनों से सपना था कि वह अपने धान के खेतों में सहायता के लिए धान काटने का हावेस्टर खरीदें। और आखिरकार यह सपना भी पूरा हुआ और विकरान्त अपनी पत्नी के साथ खुशी से यह हावेस्टर प्राप्त करने के बाद अपने समाज के अन्य धान के किसानों के लिए

इसका उपयोग करने में सक्षम होंगे। “मेरा लक्ष्य है कि मैं अपनी खेती को और बढ़ाऊँ, दूसरों के रोजगार के लिए अवसर पैदा करूँ और देश के लिए भोजन उपलब्ध करने में मदद करूँ।” “हम कृषि मंत्रालय का आभार व्यक्त करते हैं और फार्म मेकेनाइजेशन प्रोग्राम के तहत हम हावेस्टर की कुल कीमत का एक तिहाई भुगतान करेंगे, जबकि मंत्रालय बाकी का भुगतान करेगा। यह वास्तव में एक खुशी का मौका है,” उन्होंने मुस्कुराते हुए कहा। वह उम्मीद करते हैं कि उपलब्ध संसाधनों के साथ वह अपनी धान की खेती का विस्तार कर सकेंगे और इससे उन्हें अपने लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में मदद मिलेगी, जो कि उनके खेत पर धान की खेती स्थापित करना है। “मुझे उम्मीद है कि मैं सायविरिया और बतनिकामा क्षेत्रों में जो लीस पर ज़मीनें उपलब्ध हैं उन्हें प्राप्त कर सकूँगा। नए हावेस्टर के साथ मैं आस-पास के अन्य किसानों की मदद कर सकूँगा जो इस मशीन को निश्चित रूप से उचित मूल्य पर किराए पर लेना चाहते हैं। हावेस्टर सौंपते हुए कृषि मंत्री माननीय वतिमी रयालू ने कहा कि विकरान्त अन्य युवा किसानों प्रेरित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है ताकि वे कृषि को एक स्थिर करियर विकल्प के रूप में अपनाएँ,” उन्होंने कहा। हमें इस क्षेत्र में और किसानों की ज़रूरत है ताकि धान की खेती को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। “चावल एक मुख्य खाद्य है जो



कृषि मंत्री वतिमी रयालू हाल में धान के एक किसान विकरान्त चन्द्रा को एक हावेस्टर प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: कृषि मंत्रालय

परिवारों को खिलाने और स्थानीय अर्थ-व्यवस्था को समर्थन देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। चावल की बढ़ती माँग साथ यह अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हो गया है कि समाज धान की खेती में पुँजी लगाएँ।” उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि धान की खेती न केवल उन लोगों के लिए लाभकारी है जो इसे अपनाते हैं बल्कि यज्ञ व्यापक समाज के लिए भी फायदेमंद है। यह रोजगार प्रदान करती है, स्थानीय अर्थ-व्यवस्था को बढ़ावा देती है और खाद्य सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करती है। इसके अतिरिक्त खेती की तकनीकों में सुधार और आधुनिक उपकरणों की उपलब्धता के साथ, धान

की खेती अब अधिक प्रभावी और स्थिर हो गई है। “अगर हम किसानों को धान की खेती अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित करते हैं, तो हम आयात किए जाने रहे चावल पर निर्भरता कम कर सकते हैं, खाद्य लागत को घटा सकते हैं और समुदाय को आत्मनिर्भर बना सकते हैं कि धान की खेती एक लाभकारी और प्रभावशाली करियर बन सकती है।” विकरान्त अपने कठिन परिश्रम और नेतृत्व के माध्यम से उम्मीद करते हैं कि वह खेती के बारे में धारणाओं को बदल सकेंगे और यह एक लाभकारी करियर हो सकता है।



उप प्रधान मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद हाल में यू एस पी में बजट पर परामर्श के दौरान विचार सुनते हुए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

आने वाले दो बजट में शिक्षा को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी-उप प्रधान मंत्री

रोनल देव

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद का कहना है कि अगले दो राष्ट्रीय बजट में भविष्य के लिए एक मजबूत, टिकाऊ आधार बनाने पर ध्यान देते हुए शिक्षा को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी।

हालही में युनिवर्सिटी ओफ दी साउथ पेसिफिक में 2025-2026 राष्ट्रीय बजट पर आम जनता से परामर्श के दौरान प्रोफेसर प्रसाद ने कहा कि सरकारी सुधारों का उद्देश्य है लम्बे समय का विकास।

“हम सब कुछ करने में सक्षम नहीं हो सकते हैं, लेकिन हम भविष्य की सरकारों के लिए आधार तैयार करना चाहते हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।

छात्रों ने रोजगार के अवसरों, डिजिटल पहुँच और उच्च शिक्षा के लिए आर्थिक पोषण के विषय उठाए। उप प्रधान मंत्री ने उन्हें आश्वासन दिया कि उनके योगदान से लोगों पर केंद्रित, समावेशी बजट को आकार देने में मदद मिलेगी।

फायनेन्स मंत्री ने कहा कि परामर्श सहभागी शासन के मूल में हैं।” उन्होंने व्यवसायों और समुदायों के अनुभवों के साथ राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताओं को संरेखित करने के महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला। उप प्रधान मंत्री ने प्रकाश डाला कि वैश्विक और स्थानीय आर्थिक रुझानों के बारे में जानकारी बाँटी, जिसमें बढ़ते व्यापार तनाव और टूरिज़्म, प्रेषण और पूँजी में वृद्धि के कारण फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में सुधार का प्रभाव शामिल है। उन्होंने सरकार की राजकोषीय रणनीति का भी उल्लेख किया जो कर्ज में कमी और बेहतर खर्च पर केंद्रित है। प्रायवट सेक्टर, कोमेशल टूल तथा व्यवसायिक संघ के असोसिएशन को राष्ट्रीय संवाद के हिस्से के रूप में प्रतिक्रिया देने और विचारों का योगदान देने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया। उन्होंने परामर्श में भाग लेने वालों से कहा “यह आपका बजट है, हम यहाँ आपका विचार सुनने आए हैं,” आम जनता में सामाजिक नेता, किसान, व्यापारी तथा छात्र शामिल थे।

कुछ लोगों ने असंकामक बीमारियों के बढ़ते दर पर आवाज़ उठाई तथा उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने आम जनता को आश्वासन दिया है कि सरकार, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य बुनियादी ढाँचे को मजबूत करने के लिए सरकार के लगातार काम को जनता को आश्वासन दिया। उन्होंने स्वास्थ्य उपायों के महत्व पर भी ध्यान दिया और स्वास्थ्य जीवनशैली को बढ़ावा देने में समाज की अधिक भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित किया। परामर्श में भाग लेने वालों ने मज़दूरी के लिए वेतन के दर में पाँच डॉलर प्रति घण्टे की वृद्धि के बारे में भी अपना विचार दिया।

लोगों ने रास्तों की बुरी हालत तथा खतरनाक क्रॉसिंग पर चिन्ता जताई जिससे स्कूली बच्चों पर ख़ास करके बुरा असर पड़ा। इसपर फायनेन्स मंत्री ने कहा कि संसाधनों में और पूँजी लगाने की ज़रूरत है ताकि ग्रामीण समाजों को सहायता मिलेगी। इस बातचित में सरकार द्वारा सावधानीपूर्वक विभिन्न सुधारों से

अर्थ-व्यवस्था को स्थिर करने, साथ ही घरेलू आमदनी बढ़ाने और प्रमुख सामाजिक सेवाओं को बनाए रखने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने पर ज़ोर दिया गया। प्रोफेसर प्रसाद ने पिछले सुधारों की सफलता की ओर इशारा किया और इस बात पर जोर दिया कि हालाँकि कुछ कठिन थे, लेकिन वे लम्बे समय की स्थिरता के लिए ज़रूरी थे। उन्होंने कहा, “हमें कठिन निर्णय लेने पड़े, लेकिन अब हम परिणाम देख रहे हैं - मजबूत आमदनी, हम कर्ज, तथा हमारे लोगों के लिए बेहतर सेवाएं। लोगों ने महँगाई, बेरोज़गार युवक तथा छोटे व्यापारों को सहारा जैसे विषयों पर भी बातें की। फायनेन्स मंत्री ने कहा कि सभी बातों का हल तुरन्त निकालना मुश्किल है क्योंकि सरकार सब कुछ एक साथ नहीं कर सकती लेकिन सभी की आवाज़ों पर गम्भीरता से ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

2025-2026 राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा सप्ताईस (27) जून को होने की सम्भावना है।