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Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, with Ruci Muari, and her mother Vasiti Ravuso as Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai looks on. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Mother grateful for daughter's free heart surgery

AZARIA FAREEN

IN a short span of two years, the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital has saved 277 lives of children suffering from heart defects in Fiji and the Pacific. Among this number was two-year and eight-months-old, Ruci Muari, who recently had a heart operation and was playful with her teddy on her beaming mother Vasiti Ravuso's lap. In commending the hard work of the doctors, Ms Ravuso thanked the hospi-

tal for assisting her family with the free heart surgery. "I found out my daughter had heart issues when she was two-weeks-old and she got admitted at the Colonial War Memorial Children's Hospital for pneumonia," she highlighted. "Since this was during the COVID-19 pandemic, the doctors decided to do other tests as well so we had an echo scan done and that's when we found out that she had one heart defect at the atrial septum." "As she got bigger, she got more active

and the number increased to two and then we found out this year in her last echo before the surgery that there were three defects," she added. Ms Ravuso said that she feels blessed as her daughter was the first one in this group to get the surgery done this month and that she's recovering very well. "She has gained a lot of weight in the past six days since her surgery and I am very happy to see the progress she has made," she relayed. "I was told that with congenital heart

disease, there could be underlying factors such as issues with her height and deferment of growth in so many ways which I have actually seen with her weight," Ms Ravuso explained. "In the first two years of her life, it was hard to get her weight up to 11-kilograms but after the surgery she went from 10.8 on our discharge to 11.3 today when we went in for our review."

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Mother grateful for daughter's free heart surgery



Ruci Muari with her mother Vasiti Ravuso.
Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

“Waiting for her during her surgery made me feel alone at times and I went to the prayer room and prayed while my family were praying for me at home and the best support I could get was from my family and I am really grateful and thankful for that,” she added. The mother of two who is employed at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital as an X-Ray technician said that the management gave her time off work as they knew what she was going through. “Bringing a child to the hospital is very scary especially when they are young but a small cough could lead to other things so I would urge all parents to bring your children to the hospital, get them fully checked and immunise them if you have to but don’t wait until it’s too late because sometimes waiting can lead to worse things,” Ms Ravuso advised.

Speaking at the hospital’s second anniversary and “Gift of Life” ceremony, Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, noted that within the first year, the hospital has fulfilled its promise to become the hub for paediatric cardiac care for the Pacific region.

“The ceremony honours the parents and children who received the “Gift of Life” via life-saving heart surgery from the hospital and the incredible surgical team for their efforts to save the lives of these precious children,” the Head of Government said.

“While Government aims to provide quality, affordable and efficient health services for all, this can seem like a pipe-dream given our economic challenges but soon we will see a new 100-bed hospital built in Nasinu by the Government of India.”

“I am quietly confident that this will come to fruition soon, to increase access to life-saving cardiac surgery for adults in Fiji,” he added.

PM Rabuka also acknowledged Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai for being the inspiration behind the Hospital and various humanitarian projects and initiatives in Fiji and spearheading a unique global mission across 32 countries.

The Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Paediatric Cardiac Hospitals are the world’s largest chain of children’s heart care hospitals without billing counters.

No changes in personal, corporate or consumption tax rates



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad speaks at the Fiji Institute of Accountants Congress at the Shangri-La Fijian Resort last week.

Photo: SUPPLIED

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad has assured the public that there will be no imminent changes in personal, corporate, or consumption tax rates.

This was the message delivered during DPM Prasad’s keynote address at the Fiji Institute of Accountants Congress at the Shangri-La Fijian Resort last week, providing insights into the government’s fiscal agenda leading up to the

2024/2025 National Budget.

He has, however, disclosed that the Government was contemplating on a distribution tax, potentially set at a modest five percent, targeting dividends and head office remittances.

“We are in discussions with businesses regarding the potential implementation of a distribution tax, aiming to weigh its merits and ensure effectiveness,” DPM Prasad said.

“In addition to tax considerations, the Government is deliberating an increase in departure tax for 2025, with recommendations suggesting a rise from \$140 to \$170 starting April 1st, 2025. This adjustment aims to bolster funding for vital tourism infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, fostering SME participation and creating novel tourism experiences.”

Acknowledging concerns surrounding the three percent import duty on manufacturers, DPM Prasad affirmed, “We are closely examining arguments to revert this duty to zero.”

“Transparency is paramount, and we commit to keeping the public informed on this matter.” The annual meeting was opened by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka also spoke during one of the sessions.

(Source: Ministry of Finance)



PM Rabuka launches UN cohesion program for Fiji

THE newly-launched United Nations Social Cohesion Program for Fiji is expected to promote peacebuilding and reconciliation in the country.

Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, launched the program recently, conveying the Government and the people of Fiji’s gratitude to the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, and the UN Resident Representative to Fiji, Dirk Wagener, for their support in making this initiative a reality.

“The UN Social Cohesion Programme for Fiji will support Government agencies and civil society organisations in promoting social cohesion. Under the program, Fiji government agencies and civil society organizations will work together to address key sources of tension in Fiji and promote dialogue and respect for human rights.”

The PM highlighted that the program aligns with the agenda of the People’s Coalition Government in its efforts to build peace locally and also on the international stage.

“With this funding and close partnership between the Fiji Government and the United Nations, the project aims to strengthen connections, trust, and accountability, and ultimately, peace and reconciliation among the people of Fiji,” he added.

“The project will address key sources and potential triggers of tension in Fiji by promoting dialogue and respect for human rights. It will bring Fiji a step closer to achieving the Peace Pillar, under the

United Nations Pacific Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023 to 2027.

“I urge us all to continue to carry forth the spirit of collaboration and commitment that has characterized our gathering today.”

PM Rabuka, at the same time, reiterated his commitment to establishing a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to address the events of 1987, 2000, and 2006, saying, “It is now time to make peace at home, promoting social cohesion and addressing the pain and injustices of the past for a better future”.

He also reaffirmed his call for the establishment of a “Zone of Peace” in the region, expressing his hopes for a peaceful Pacific.

“Peacebuilding at home and on the global and regional stage is the key agenda for Fiji and priority of the government I lead.”

“Let us remain steadfast in our efforts, knowing that together, we can build a future where conflict gives way to understanding, where division yields to unity, and where hope prevails over despair.”

This program is being implemented with the Government of Fiji and United Nations family – the United Nations Development Programme, UNWOMEN, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as implementing partners for the project.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, with the UN Resident Coordinator, Dirk Wagener.
Photo: SUPPLIED

Former pilot tops commerce class

By AZARIA FAREEN

“WITH hard work and determination, you will be able to overcome even the hardest of challenges life throws at you.”

This was relayed by the recipient of the Best Topper in Accounting from the Fiji National University (FNU), Rajneel Singh following his graduation ceremony recently. Mr Singh first graduated in 2009 as a commercial pilot from the Pacific Flying School and worked in a local airline company before losing his job due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I was home for one year and it dawned on me that I don’t have any source of income. I then enrolled in a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Information Systems course at FNU,” he recounted.

“In thinking of my livelihood, I thought two qualifications would be better for me so that’s why I chose accounting as there is a demand for it,” Mr Singh said.

“I have three children and my wife is also working so I was challenged with looking

after my children since I was unemployed for three years and helped around the house where I could.”

“Since I was a private student, I used up my savings to pay for my fees and my mom also contributed towards it to finish the course,” he added.

Mr Singh relays that in the three years of study, he never took a single break and even in December he used to study through summer classes to complete his course.

“I was really motivated from the start but for me time was a factor as I wanted to finish my degree as soon as I could,” he said.

“One of my major challenges was doing late night studies and my children would want my attention then which used to disturb me but I had to sacrifice that time to progress further in education.”

“I was very ambitious from day one of my studies and whenever I would see my colleagues studying, I would think of myself being in a race,” Mr Singh added.

“My late father was a finance director for Malolo Resort and he was my greatest motivation so I give all the credit of my trophy, gold medal and certificates to him



Best Topper in Accounting award recipient from the Fiji National University (FNU), Rajneel Singh with his family. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

and I am indebted to him,” he stated.

He urges the future generations to keep studying and give it all their time in order to see the results.

“It’s an immense pleasure to receive this award and gold medal in recognition of graduating at the top of my class,” the emotional graduate said.

“If you really want to pursue this degree

course then try to sacrifice your time and do your course in summer classes as it will ease up your workload,” Mr Singh advised.

“Please stay focused and be on the right track as university is not easy because if you can’t cope up with year one studies then you will have a hard time reaching third year,” he further added.

Family support vital: gold medal recipient

By AZARIA FAREEN

BEING awarded with a gold medal after returning to school after over a decade is nothing short of amazing.

This was relayed by an emotional Shameeza Begum who recently graduated from the Fiji National University with a Certificate in Customs (level 4) program.

“I received a gold medal and an award of excellence for being an outstanding student in my course and I am currently undertaking a Diploma in Customs course,” Mrs Begum said.

“I am 35-years-old and married with a three-year-old son. I completed my secondary school education in 2007 and enrolled for tertiary education but did not finish my studies and dropped out of the course.”

“Sometimes in life you get side tracked

and I was doing absolutely nothing productive until last year,” she added.

Mrs Begum said that after giving birth to her son and facing the rising cost of living, she thought of doing something about her life in order to improve her son’s life by building a better future for him – he was her main motivation.

“Since childhood, I was very academically oriented but I don’t know what happened to me after high school as somehow, I lost focus but I always wanted to achieve something in life and this is a good start,” she explained.

“I actually did not know that I was the recipient of an award and gold medal until I received the graduation program booklet and saw my name on it.”

“I was very surprised and told my family that there will be something good in store for them as well,” she added.

Mrs Begum said that she was pleasantly surprised and emotional to have received this award knowing that her hard work has paid off and everyone supporting her made this possible.

“When I attend classes, my son is being looked after by my parents and my husband has been a huge support for me especially financially while my in-laws are very supportive in my endeavors,” she said proudly.

“In my educational journey I faced some challenges regarding



Shameeza Begum graduated from the Fiji National University with a Certificate in Customs (level 4) program. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

my school fees as I am a private student but I am grateful that my husband took responsibility for that,” she added.

“Family support is so important especially for women who have a child because then you know that you can proceed with your education with a positive mindset.”

“My advice for the youth is do not under any circumstances think that tertiary education is not important especially if you have recently finished with secondary education,” Mrs Begum stressed.

“It took me between 16 to 17 years to return to university which is a long time to wait so I would urge all the youngsters to

further their education while they are young and free from commitments, otherwise you will realise like me what you have missed out on,” she further added.

The gold medalist said that when she joined the university again, she realised how much she missed school and studying and it is going so well for her so she won’t stop studying anytime soon.

“I should be completing my Diploma in Customs program this year and hopefully the university will be introducing a degree program which I will definitely undertake and with luck get a job in the customs field,” Mrs Begum said.



Shameeza Begum with her husband and son after graduating from the Fiji National University with a Certificate in Customs (level 4) program. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Civil servant dedicates gold medal to God, family and colleagues

By UNAISI BATINIYAQONA

“I KNOW the gold medal is an individual honour but I think the recognition really reflects the contributions of my family and colleagues, who have all helped put me in a great position to succeed.”

These were the words of Kavita Prasad who received her gold medal award as a recognition as the most outstanding student of April 2024 graduating class in the Master of International Relations & Diplomacy programme at the University of Fiji Saweni Campus, Lautoka held earlier this month.

“I am happy to receive a gold medal for outstanding student in Master of International Relations & Diplomacy as it was a proud moment for me and for the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources.”

“Studying international relations is a great way to gain a deeper understanding of global issues. It’s an intriguing and important subject which has great emphasis on economics, culture, education, and political science which examines the impact they have on the society. I have gained skills on research, administrative, critical analysis, intellectual independence,

cross-cultural awareness, interpersonal and negotiation,” she said.

Originally from Savusavu, Ms Prasad holds the position of senior lands officer and is in charge of the Divisional Lands office in Rakiraki.

She acknowledged Ministry’s permanent secretary, Dr Raijeli Taga for allowing and supporting her throughout her study.

She also acknowledged her lecturer/professor, Jioji Kotobavu, and the Brigadier General (Retired) Dr Aziz Mohammed for their great knowledge and teachings.

“I worked as a civil servant for the last 25 years and joined the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources office in the North in 2010 as clerical officer. From this work experience, the challenges I have encountered along the way had been formidable, but through resilience and teamwork, I have emerged stronger and more determined than ever,” Ms Prasad, who is also pursuing Postgraduate Diploma in Public Law at the UniFiji, shared.

“To the Fiji youths of today and to those who wish to pursue their academic studies in any university, be bold, brave, and courageous as you strive to pursue your dreams.



Kavita Prasad receiving her award from University of Fiji's interim Pro-Vice Chancellor, Bhuwan Datt. Photo: SUPPLIED

“Education opens many doors of opportunity, but we walk through them and continue the journey with the support of others.”

Quoting American politician and inspirational speaker, Les Brown, Ms Prasad said “The harder the battle, the sweeter the victory. Never be afraid to ask questions, reach out, and get support along the way”.

(Note: Unaisi Batiniyaqona is the media liaison officer for the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources)

Farming-a lifeline to ending poverty

NOTHING is going to stop 64-year-old Mariana Vikatoria from providing for her family.

Born and raised in Naivivi village in Qamea, Mrs Vikatoria moved to Labasa for her education and after leaving school, decided to venture into farming on a full-time basis.

“I wasn’t really an over achiever in school so I knew that to make it in the big world, I had to do something and keep myself occupied. That is why I went into farming,” she smiled.

“I married and settled down in Vakativa Village in Wailevu East, Cakaudrove and have been living here for the past 40 years.”

Her family was given Mataqali land to utilise and she has been practicing intercropping to ensure that the land was fully utilised.

“I plant yaqona and root crops such as dalo and cassava. We have some fruit trees like avocado, breadfruit and plantain or vudi on my farm.”

Mrs Vikatoria sells her produce along the Labasa-Savusavu Highway and finds it useful to have her farm situated close to the road as it makes it easier for her to sell her produce.

“There are no transportation costs or extra costs whatsoever and, in a day, if sales go well, I can earn \$90 to \$150,” she said.

With her earnings, Mrs Vikatoria was able to extend the family house and also start a small canteen to help the family in meeting their daily expenses.

“We also managed to buy a brush cutter to help us in cleaning up around the compound.”

Mrs Vikatoria said that life has not been all rosy but knows that her belief in hard work has certainly seen them through some really tough days.

“Now with my old age and being a woman, I feel targeted most times because of the increasing theft in my farm. I am not the only one though as there are other famers in the vicinity who face the same plight. It is sad to



64-year-old Mariana Vikatoria on her farm in Vakativa Village in Wailevu East, Cakaudrove. Photo: SUPPLIED

see that youths in the area are getting into mischief because of their inability to utilise the land and their time wisely,” she added.

With the increase in copra prices, Mrs Vikatoria hopes to also pick up their copra business.

“If you have land, try farming because it will certainly keep you well-nourished and you will not have to worry about where your next meal will come from. You will have a healthy body and mind and of course, the surplus of your harvest can always be sold for a few basic items in the household.”

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways)

Set your compass towards your goal



Surveyor General - Asakaia Tabuabisataki Photo: SUPPLIED

By UNAISI BATINIYAQONA

FROM a humble beginning as a relieving clerk for the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources in 2004, to now serving as surveyor-general, Asakaia Tabuabisataki has come a long way.

During the graduation ceremony in early April, Mr Tabuabisataki achieved a milestone in his academic journey when he graduated at the University of the South Pacific (USP) with a Master’s in Business Administration.

He gladly shared his journey towards this academic achievement.

Sharing his journey towards his academic achievement, he thanked God for his divine guidance during his MBA journey, as well as senior management of the Ministry for their support and words of encouragement to pursue higher education qualifications and his family for their unwavering support.

“I commenced my Masters in Business Administration program in 2020 and through sheer hard work, determination, humility, focus, and faith are some of the factors that carried me through to complete the programme. The programme challenged me to think outside the box, step out of my comfort

zone, be re-silient and be ethical in decision making.”

“As a surveyor by profession, the programme equipped me with advanced knowledge, enhance my problem-solving skills and prepare me to diverse career opportunities.”

“My advice to young people, set your compass towards your goal, work towards it, believe in yourself, always stay grounded, respect others, and believe in yourself. Challenges mould a person’s character to be a better person for tomorrow.”

Ministry’s permanent secretary, Dr Raijeli Taga also extended her congratulations to the six of her officers who graduated from USP recently.

“Congratulations on your academic achievement, Asakaia Tabuabisataki, Mere Tuinaceva, Shemal Prasad, Ashitosh, Menani Natadra and Meeta Lal.”

“I hope that the Ministry will continue to empower and support its staff in attaining higher qualifications. This will not only benefit them personally but their communities and the nation as a whole”.

(Note: Unaisi Batiniyaqona is the media liaison officer for the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources)

Advancements and Strategic initiatives propel Fiji's Kava industry forward

By JESHU LAL

FIJI'S thriving Kava industry is unveiling a host of advancements and strategic initiatives, underscor-ing its pivotal role in preserving cultural heritage and driving economic prosperity.

Recent industry discussions and in-depth analyses have illuminated key insights that signal a promis-ing trajectory for stakeholders and enthusiasts invested in Fiji's Kava industry.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, recently met with the Kava Taskforce, which is led by Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways permanent secretary Dr Andrew Tukana, and stakeholders to discuss the developments in the Kava industry.

The meeting discussed the potential market access and the need for a proper legal framework to es-tablish administration measures for quality control and standards to assist the growth of the Kava In-dustry in Fiji.

The absence of a robust system to protect the geographical indication of Pacific

and Fiji Kava makes it susceptible to exploitation and misrepresentation by others.

Securing a national Geographical Indication and Intellectual Property Protection for Kava not only safeguards the cultural legacy but also fortifies the industry's economic viability against exploitation, emphasising the uniqueness of Pacific and Fiji Kava.

The Kava Bill, which has been proposed since 2016, was discussed at length as it sets to regulate and oversee the industry, safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders and preserving the authenticity and reputation of Fiji's renowned Kava produce.

The bill will undergo an independent review and another round of consultations to ensure that all stakeholders' inputs are registered.

"We need to reassess and do another round of consultations. Certain agriculture industries are ready to scale up, and we have to create the necessary framework to position ourselves in the larger market, such as Kava," DPM Kamikamica said.

Implementing the bill will significantly improve growing and safeguarding the domestic and interna-tional markets and



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, recently met with the Kava Taskforce to discuss the way forward. **Photo- SUPPLIED**

provide a national identity for Fiji Kava.

In steadfast commitment to Fiji's Kava industry's sustainable growth and preservation, the Govern-ment aims to create a conducive environment for Kava enthusiasts and industry players.

Following the meeting, the two ministries will devise strategies to progress the bill pathway towards legislation and address growing concerns such as Kava diseases,

and in particular the Kava dieback, and explore regulatory actions to govern the export of Kava stems beyond Fiji, safeguarding the do-mestic Kava industry.

(Note: Jeshu Lal is the media liaison officer for the Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications)

Protection of our cyber assets is paramount: DPM Kamikamica



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, while officiating at the ITACC Cybersecurity Symposium - Official Opening & Brief Government Focused Workshop in Suva recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By JESHU LAL

“I**N** a time where technology infiltrates every aspect of our lives, the importance of cybersecurity cannot be overstated.”

“Our reliance on digital infrastructure for communication, commerce, healthcare, transportation and countless other services means that the protection of our cyber assets is paramount.”

These were the sentiments of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, while officiating at the ITACC Cybersecurity Symposium - Official Opening & Brief Government Focused Workshop in Suva recently.

DPM Kamikamica said that in the realm of cybersecurity, “we confront the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of cyber threats”.

“As you may be aware, there is a need to fortify our defences against cyber-attacks that have the potential to disrupt our critical infrastructure, compromise sensitive information and erode public trust. However, in our efforts to safeguard our digital assets, we recognise that

cybersecurity cannot exist in isolation; it must be integrated into broader strategic frameworks that shape our digital future,” he added.

DPM Kamikamica also gave an update on the national e-commerce and digital strategy.

“The Government in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), is in the finalisation stages of the National E-Commerce Strategy. This strategy will provide us a roadmap to navigate the complexities of the digital economy, addressing specific challenges and barriers that hinder the adoption and growth of E-commerce in Fiji.”

“The face-to-face multi-stakeholder consultations were carried out last year in September that involved a range of stakeholders such as government, statutory bodies, private sector (especially MSMEs), civil society and academia.”

The strategy aligns with the broader national development priorities of resilience, sustainability and inclu-sivity, ensuring that no one was left behind in the digital transformation efforts.

“Through this approach, we gained comprehensive insights into the digital landscape across both the public and private sectors. We ensured the inclusion of academics, civil society and non-governmental or-ganisations, fostering a holistic understanding of diverse perspectives,” DPM Kamikamica said.

“Our next steps entail working on the drafting of the National Digital Strategy. Building upon the insights gained from the stakeholder consultations, we will develop a comprehensive high-level roadmap that out-lines our vision, objectives, and action plans for enhancing cybersecurity and driving digital transfor-mation.”

(Note: Jeshu Lal is the media liaison officer for the Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium En-terprises and Communications)

Govt committed to provide a safe digital environment



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, at the launch of “Beyond Access: Consumer Perspectives on Digital Finance in Fiji” report in Suva recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By JESHU LAL

THE digital revolution is an undeniable force reshaping every facet of our lives, including the way we transact.

This was highlighted by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, during the launch of “Beyond Access: Consumer Perspectives on Digital Finance in Fiji” report in Suva recently.

DPM Kamikamica pointed out that “as at last year, it was estimated that 3.6 billion people are not connected to the online world”.

“This bridging of the digital divide is good news because it means that more people are being connected and we can safely assume, even with this Report, that more people now have access to such digital oppor-tunities including digital financial services than in the previous years.”

“For Fiji, in partnership with the Telecommunications Authority of Fiji and our ICT sector, the Government is

steadfast in our commitment to expand broadband access throughout Fiji to our underserved and un-connected communities.”

“We are also exploiting the advancements in technology such as the introduction of low earth orbiting sat-ellites like Starlink; the anticipated increase in submarine cable networks with the Tabua and Bulikula ca-bles and the upcoming Regional Internet Exchange Point (IXP) in addition to our Fiji IXP.”

“The World Bank defines Digital Financial Services as “financial products and services, including pay-ments, transfers, savings, credit, insurance, securities, financial planning and account statements that are delivered via digital/ electronic technology such as e-money, payment cards and a regular bank account.”

“As highlighted in the Report, we see how it empowers individuals to conduct financial transactions, access financial products and are able to manage their finances more efficiently and effectively. This in turn pro-motes financial inclusion by reaching underserved market segments, and drives innovation in the financial sector,” he added.

DPM Kamikamica highlighted that at a national level, there are laws such as the Cybercrime Act which combats cybercrimes and promotes international collaboration as most of these cyber-enabled crimes are transboundary in nature.

(Note: Jeshu Lal is the media liaison officer for the Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium En-terprises and Communications)

Naitasiri Warriors School Girls Rugby League Team come out victorious

The Naitasiri Warriors School Girls Rugby League team of Wainimala Secondary School emerged triumphant and scooped the Fiji Secondary Schools Rugby League Vodafone Pherrus Trophy at Prince Charles Park in Nadi recently. As this momentous achievement was celebrated, the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya, in presenting the trophy to the winning team, reaffirmed the Coalition Government's commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls in all facets of society, including sports.

Photo: SUPPLIED



Grammar Fun Day: Celebration of strength and unity



Suva Grammar School held its highly anticipated Family Fun Day recently, bringing families, students, and staff together in a buzzing atmosphere filled with joy and excitement. The event, graced by Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Sakiusa Tubuna, served as a beautiful reminder of the strength and vibrancy of the Grammar community.

Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA



Historic visit of the Seabourne Pursuit to Yasawa-i-Rara



After a hiatus of 16 years, the Seabourne Pursuit's arrival at Yasawa-i-Rara heralded a new era for the island's tourism and economic landscape.

The visit was the fruit of a concerted effort of the people of Yasawa-i-Rara, working towards enhancing the island's economic resilience and competitiveness and was supported by the ITaukei Trust Fund Board, the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation and the Australian Government's Market Development Facility.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Cane farmers in the North receive assistance

A 49-year-old Anita Lata was all smiles after becoming a beneficiary of Government assistance to sugarcane farmers which was handed over by Minister for Sugar and Multi-Ethnic Affairs, Charan Jeath Singh. The assistance, which 88 farmers in Vanua Levu and seven in the Western Division benefited have from, is a program under the New Farmers and Lease Renewal Program which has a budget of \$2million.

PHOTO: JOSAI RALAGO



Liku Women's Club canteen meeting the needs of villagers over the years

By JOSAI RALAGO

“As women, we need to realise that we are catalysts of change in our communities, and we are equipped with the strength and creativity to devise solutions for problems in our homes, communities and ultimately the nation.”

These were the words of Atunaisa Rogovaki, an executive member of the Liku Women's Club and the shopkeeper for the club's canteen in Liku village on the island of Nayau, in the Lau Group, which has been in operation for over 20 years.

“Difficult circumstances pave the way for solutions, and as women in this community, we have taken it upon ourselves to continuously provide a canteen to cater for the needs of the villagers,” Ms Rogovaki said.

She said that since they were children, they have had to travel to the neighbouring

villages to purchase goods and considering their location, it was not an easy feat.

“Our village is one of the trickiest and difficult places to get to because it requires a boat ride from the other side of the island to the landing, before 40 minutes to an hour's walk to get to the village.”

“This walk includes a hike inland, descending on the cliffs, and even walking on the reefs before we're finally home, so you can imagine the difficulties one encounters when they need to purchase food items from other villages.”

“This is where our club was registered as a cooperative over 20 years ago by the women before us and the canteen was established through Government's assistance.”

Ms Rogovaki said the canteen has been in operation ever since, beginning with only a set of goods and building slowly over the years to meet the needs of the people.

“With the presence of the shop, the



Atunaisa Rogovaki at the Liku Women's Club canteen in Nayau, Lau. Photo: JOSAI RALAGO

villagers would not have to travel to the neighbouring villages to get a bar of soap or sugar, but could purchase it right here at the village,” she said.

“We would like to express our gratitude to the Government for the assistance that was rendered to us through this canteen and other developments that we have seen over the years.”

Villagers assisted with water tanks

By JOSAI RALAGO

THE provision of water tanks by the Government has brought a significant relief to the villagers of Vanuavatu in the Lau Group, putting an end to their days of water hunting.

Vanuavatu Women's Club president, Losena Taoi, said that because of the lack of running water or a proper water source on the island, rainwater harvesting has been their main means of meeting this necessity and droughts have always been their biggest fear.

“When droughts occur, whereby we've had to go without water for months,

villagers had to venture out into the forest and anywhere within the island where they could find water,” Mrs Taoi said.

“This search for water often takes them to uninhabited islands and islets nearby, sometimes finding water in small water catchment on the rocks.

“This is when we have droughts which could be there for three to four months, with no rain at all.”

The 66-year-old said this was the situation they had to deal with not long ago and when they were initially assisted with a cement water storage facility, it had helped but the water hunting was still necessary during the dry spell.

In the Government's bid to ensure that water issues were addressed in this community setting, each home on the island were assisted with a water tank for their rain harvesting.

Mrs Taoi said this incentive has been an answer to their prayers and what the community was in dire need of.

“We can now store water for our own consumption, as even compared to the single cement water storage tank that was shared amongst everybody,” she said.

“We would like to thank the Government for the assistance we've received, ensuring that we too could access consistent water supply in our homes.”



Losena Taoi, far right, with the women of Vanuavatu beside one of the water tanks received from the Government. Photo: JOSAI RALAGO

Sense of security following evacuation centre commissioning



Community Health Worker Ledua Takayawa outside the Waiqori Evacuation Centre. Photo: JOSAI RALAGO

By JOSAI RALAGO

THE commissioning of the evacuation centre on Oneata Island has brought a profound sense of security to the Waiqori Villagers, on Oneata Island in the Lau Group.

The villagers were previously reliant on seeking refuge at the village school during times of crisis, the villagers now find reassurance in the centralised location of their new shelter.

Community health worker, Takayawa Ledua, said that while the school was structurally sound, many preferred to stay home because of the distance.

“Natural disasters like cyclones have intensified over the years, and for this we have identified the need for an evacuation which was then commissioned in December last year by the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, Sakiasi

Ditoka,” Ms Takayawa said.

The assistance was a collective effort between the community and the Government, where they paid one third, and the Government foot the rest of the bill.

“We have felt a sense of security and safety, especially when we're out here on the islands and we're far from basic services like a Health Centre in case of an emergency, so maintaining the safety of the people especially during crisis is paramount,” Ms Takayawa said.

“The construction of this evacuation centre ensures just that, as it's built to withstand category five cy-clones and there is ample space to accommodate all the villagers and more, at a given time.”

“It's not just a physical structure but also a symbol of resilience and community care, and for this we are grateful to the Government for assisting our community with this much needed incentive.”

Strategies have been implemented to ensure national curriculum remains relevant

By NANISE NEIMILA

“STRATEGIES have been implemented to ensure that the national curriculum remains relevant, culturally cognizant, technologically savvy and globally competitive.”

“Students who acquire concepts from this outcome-based curriculum apply and reinforce these at home and in different parts of their lives.”

These points were highlighted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, in his capacity as former Minister for Education, in response to a question in Parliament on the strategic measures the Ministry has taken to address the issue of outdated education curriculum.

Minister Gavoka explained that Fiji citizens that have graduated through the education system are quite marketable and in demand abroad.

“Our neighbouring countries continue to provide incentives and attractive packages to lure our citizens which is proof that our

curriculum, for the most part, is up to par with the knowledge and skill sets needed in a global market.”

Minister Gavoka further highlighted that the outcome-based curriculum syllabi and all the archaic prescriptive output-driven ones, however, need to be reviewed to embed very new emerging issues.

He also shared that the restructure of the Curriculum Unit adversely affected the unit as one primary curriculum officer took charge of Elementary Science for Year 1 to Year 4, Basic Science for Year 5 to Year 8, and Healthy Living for Year 1 to Year 8, and for the secondary curriculum specialist, for Year 9 to Year 13.

“Again, one sole officer was expected to look after three subjects, as well for maths for Year 9 and Year 10, Life Math for Year 11 to Year 13, Pure Maths for Year 11 to Year 13 and Physics for Year 11 to Year 13, along with preparation of national examination papers.”

“It was quite a load. It was quite inconsiderate and, in many ways, modern slavery, and had unfortunately taken its toll on the health and well-being of my officers.”

Minister Gavoka further added due to the heavy workload of the Curriculum Unit, the Ministry struggled with recruitment in January 2024 for another 17 additional officers, along with a Director and another Principal Education Officer to allow the curriculum unit to function effectively.

“As I stated earlier of my confidence that my capable, qualified and competent curriculum specialists have already begun the necessary work and the scoping within and across the key learning areas from Early Childhood Education (ECE) to Year 13 based on the correct curriculum perspectives that underpin the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) which are considered crucial to a broad and holistic curriculum framework to identifying curriculum gaps.”

“This includes careers, citizenship, education for sustainable development, literacy, numeracy, special aids, spiritual and values education. These important perspectives are integrated across the curriculum to ensure meaningful and lifelong learning takes place in each student’s life journey.”



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, outside the Parliamentary chambers during the recent sitting of Parliament. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Govt committed to improving water services

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Water Sector 2050 Strategy highlights the Coalition Government’s robust commitment to address water and sanitation issues that continue to affect so many Fijians.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Filipe Tuisawau, who noted the profound significance of the strategy as the roadmap for climate resilient and equitable water and sanitation service provision for all Fijians in Parliament recently.

“In just 16 months, this Government has worked with all segments of the Fijian society with our development partners with the renewed focus to restore the water sector,” he stated.

Minister Tuisawau said that the strategy outlines Fiji’s Water Sector Priority Projects and Programmes over the next three decades, aimed at transforming service delivery, responding to climate vulnerability, renewing the aging water and wastewater infrastructure.

With the support from key development partners such as United Nations Development Programme, World Bank and Asian Development Bank, the Water Authority of Fiji was able to carry out extensive research, rigorous stakeholder consultation and obtain an innovative expert insight.

“It is therefore a direct product of the first ever collective planning exercise that united stakeholders from the public sector, private sector, tourism, NGOs, academia, development partners as well as citizens,” he said.

“It identifies that \$3.5 billion is required over the next three decades to improve the water infrastructure - half of this investment is earmarked for improving asset health, in other words, \$1.75 billion is needed

to renew Fiji’s new water infrastructure assets that now need replacement as they are nearing the end of their life.”

“The strategy identifies critical water assets that now need to be upgraded with robust climate resilient design as our water supply system currently loses around 47 percent of the total clean water produced,” he added.

Nationally, the WAF team responds to over 125 pipe leak breaks for every 100 kilometres of water pipelines

“This calls for significant urgent investments, while the strategy adopts a hub-and-spoke model for extending piped water supply to areas currently not serviced by WAF,” Minister Tuisawau said.

“This model will rely on investing in building water treatment plants in a larger population than just creating water treatment hubs, water catchments and reservoirs and as the population in the adjoining areas grows, pipelines will be extended to connect the hubs.”

“Some of the key identified projects are water treatment hubs in Labasa, Seaqaqa in the North, extension from Savusavu, Nabouwalu water treatment hubs to other population centres in the West, hubs in Matovo, Keiyasi, Nadarivatu and extension of networks from areas around Nadi,” he added.

Minister Tuisawau added that the wastewater and sanitation area also requires or identifies a dire need of \$5 billion in investments including infrastructure and management.



Minister for Infrastructure, Public Works and Transport and Meteorological Services, Ro Filipe Tuisawau while launching the Water Sector Strategy 2050 at the British High Commission earlier this month. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

“Bluetoothing” contributes to rise in HIV cases: Minister Lalabalavu

By AZARIA FAREEN

SINCE 2021, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) positive cases in Fiji has almost doubled and which is projected to continue with the momentum this year again.

In highlighting these statistics in the recent Parliament sitting recently, Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Atonio Lalabalavu, noted this to be only a fraction of reported positive cases.

“Injecting drug users have also been reported to the Ministry, to be using a new method called Bluetoothing as a means to share injectable drugs amongst users,” Minister Lalabalavu said.

“Bluetoothing involves an injecting drug user (IDU) plunging a syringe of diluted methamphetamine into a bloodstream, drawing first blood and sharing the syringe with a second person, who can then pass it on to a third.”

“This high-risk activity poses a number of serious health issues such as transmission of serious infections such as HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, bacterial infections at the injection site as well as passing bacteria into the bloodstream,” he added.

It also includes serious adverse effects from sharing of unmatched blood that include severe anaphylactic reactions and death.

Minister Lalabalavu has warned all intravenous drug users to refrain from this activity as it can lead to some serious health outcomes immediately and in the long term.

He said that the solution to the HIV situation in Fiji requires critical stakeholders collaborating in partnership to comprehensively address the many aspects of the issue.



Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Atonio Lalabalavu, noted this to be only a fraction of reported positive cases in Parliament recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

“The Ministry is finalising the HIV Surge Strategy which will facilitate our collaboration with health partners, across government ministries and our communities to strengthen prevention, increase national HIV testing by three per cent for key population groups,” Minister Lalabalavu explained.

“It will also improve access to diagnosis and treatment, reduce stigma and discrimination relating to HIV and AIDS, and strengthen the governance of our HIV response program.”

“Our HIV clinics across the country are working with stakeholders and community groups to increase awareness and understanding on the dangers relating to injecting drug usage,” he stressed.

He emphasised that understanding the risks associated with the practice was important in curbing the practice amongst new and potential users.

The Ministry will facilitate the decentralisation of service delivery, testing, treatment, and care with oversight provided by the specialist sexual reproductive health clinics in Fiji’s Western, Central/Eastern, and Northern divisions.

This will facilitate collaborations that address universal access and inequity for service delivery with public and private health sectors across the nation.

Supporting and promoting women’s bodily autonomy is vital: Minister Tabuya

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE upcoming Fiji Women’s Economic Empowerment National Action Plan (WEENAP),

represents the Government’s commitment to unlocking the economic potential of Fijian women and girls, ensuring their full participation and leadership in the economy.

This was relayed by the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya, while speaking on WEENAP during the Parliament sitting.

“Global evidence demonstrates that by dismantling social, institutional and structural barriers and challenging gender discriminatory stereotypes and norms, and by fostering women’s leadership across all facets of women’s lives, we can unlock tremendous economic potential,” Minister Tabuya highlighted.

“This includes ensuring women’s access to markets, control over productive resources, opportunities for decent work, bodily autonomy and meaningful

participation in economic decision-making at all levels.”

Minister Tabuya said technical workshop, which saw the participation of 50 women leaders and experts from different walks of life, was to foster a collective dialogue through a thorough examination of the economic growth that Fijian women hold within our society, and the barriers they encounter.

“We identified a significant burden of unpaid work on Fijian women and girls and their over representation in the informal economy, issues of bodily autonomy, with high prevalence of gender-based violence as well as reproductive cancers,” she said.

“It includes limited access to sexual and reproductive health rights, daily impacts of the climate crisis, limited knowledge access and productive use of digital technology and e-commerce, limited access to financial resources, and the presence of gender-blind policies and discriminatory norms.”

“The Fiji Country Gender Assessment confirms that Fijian women are predominantly employed in low paying jobs, within the precarious informal

sector,” Minister Tabuya added.

The statistics states that only 35.2 percent of women are in formal employment and this disparity was underscored by the labour force participation rate of 45.5 percent of all women, compared to 82.6 percent of men, revealing a significant gender gap of 38 percent.

“Nearly two-thirds of Fijian women experience intimate partner violence, with an associated economic cost to our nation of approximately \$400 million annually, that is about seven percent of our GDP,” Minister Tabuya revealed.

“In our academic institutions, despite women representing 65 percent of students, over half of the graduates face disproportionately high unemployment, particularly among young women aged 15 years to 24 years, where 30 percent are neither in education, neither in employment nor in training - that is, three times the rate of young men.”

“The MSME sector contributes towards 18 percent of Fiji’s GDP and about half the businesses are owned by women yet only 19 percent of these enterprises are



Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya, speaks in Parliament during the April sitting. Photo: SUPPLIED

registered under women’s names,” she added.

Minister Tabuya added that the Ministry had developed a robust consultation framework for the WEENAP set to commence in May and will run until the end of July.

4,000-6,000 passports a month: Minister Tikoduadua



Waiting for his turn...Minister for Defence and Immigration, Pio Tikoduadua at the Department of Immigration office to renew his passport. Photo: SUPPLIED

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

FOR a good part of 2023 and 2024, Fiji has faced an unprecedented movement of its people to jobs abroad, some for permanent migration while others for temporary work.

This was highlighted by Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration, Pio Tikoduadua, during discussions in Parliament’s April sitting on current challenges on the issue of passports.

“Australia and New Zealand in particular have opened their borders in a way we have never previously seen in order to obtain the workforce they need. Our people have responded in the thousands to the work opportunities created,” Minister Tikoduadua said.

According to the Minister, the Department has tried to anticipate increased demand for Immigration Department services since last year.

However, he explained that the Department had outgrown its previous office space and undertook a planned move to new office in Suva last month.

“This, of course, disrupted our services to passport applicants, which has compounded the

already challenging situation.”

Minister Tikoduadua added the volume of passport applications has increased sharply since 2021 and are now between 4,000 and 6,000 passports per month.

“The Department is responding to this demand despite the challenges. We face a number of system problems with printing, computer networks and other exceptional circumstances in the face of this unprecedented demand.”

“It is important to note that, despite the difficulties we face, we are delivering passports to most applicants within five to seven working days. Urgent passport applications are processed within two to three working days.”

Minister Tikoduadua added that by any standard around the world, this was quick processing.

“We have identified the problems we are facing and the resources we need. We have had the support of both the Ministry of Finance, which has given us more money for staff and overseas donors who are helping us with process improvements.”

Minister Tikoduadua affirmed that they should see a general improvement in service in the coming months.

Fiji’s e-commerce showcases promising growth – DPM Kamikamica

by NANISE NEIMILA

“Fiji’s e-commerce sector is currently in an emergent stage of maturity, with various sectors showcasing promising growth trajectories.”

“The tourism industry has been at the forefront of e-commerce adoption in Fiji.”

This was highlighted by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, while providing an update during the Parliament sitting this month on the development of Fiji’s National E-Commerce Strategy and its implementation plans, once finalised.

DPM Kamikamica said in today’s rapidly evolving digital economy, e-commerce plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth, fostering innovation and expanding opportunities for businesses, especially MSMEs.

“Developing a National E-Commerce Strategy for Fiji is imperative to harness the potential of e-commerce and to ensure that our businesses can access global markets, reach a broader customer base, and compete effectively in the digital marketplace. It will also encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, driving job creation and economic diversification.”

“The Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) presents another success story for Fiji, contributing significantly to the economy and offering employment opportunities to thousands of Fijians.”

DPM Kamikamica highlighted that in the domestic market, especially sectors such as food delivery, groceries, electronics, tools and furniture are experiencing significant e-commerce activity, driven by consumer demand for convenience and variety.

“Cross-border e-commerce activity is also present, particularly in export of agricultural products like kava, ginger, and turmeric. Fiji has made strides in exporting these products to markets such as the United States, Australia, Canada and the United Arab Emirates, with opportunities for further value addition within Fiji.”

“Furthermore, e-commerce platforms are also facilitating the promotion of wellness, beauty care products and unique Fijian crafts to global markets. “Rise Beyond the Reef” products are available on Amazon, the world’s fastest-growing online shopping site.”

DPM Kamikamica added that “as we navigate through the vast opportunities presented by the digital age, we are also confronted with significant challenges such as access to viable internet payment gateways, access to finance, trust in e-commerce transactions, and lack of consumer and data protection”.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica attends the April sitting of Parliament sitting. Photo: SUPPLIED

Temporary Suspension of PALM registration to address backlog, enhance workers welfare

By JAMIL SULEMAN

THE temporary suspension of PALM (Pacific Australia Labour Mobility) registration will come to an end on July 31, 2024.

This was highlighted in the update on PALM provided by the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Agni Deo Singh, in Parliament during its April sitting.

“The temporary suspension of Client Registration under the PALM Scheme is for seven months, which commenced from 1st January, 2024, and will conclude on 31st July, 2024,” Minister Singh stated.

The Minister further highlighted that the overwhelming influx of registrations, created a backlog in processing applications under the PALM Scheme.

“With the influx of interest in this PALM Programme, the Ministry, through the National Employment Centre (NEC), has been overwhelmed with the number of registrations in all our seven District Offices around the country,” he emphasised.

During the suspension period, efforts were made to streamline and update the manual registration process.

“The updating of the backlog manual registration work is progressing well, recognising the magnitude of this task, we have engaged volunteers to assist in that critical work,” Minister Singh added.

Regarding worker welfare, he said three country liaison officers had been appointed who were now looking after workers’ interests in Australia and emphasised the importance of fair treatment for Fijian workers abroad.



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Agni Deo Singh, on his way to the Parliamentary chambers during the April sitting. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Furthermore, Minister Singh discussed initiatives to improve family welfare, including the pilot project allowing workers’ families to join them during their employment period.

“This initiative begun last year by the Australian Government whereby some workers’ families can join them for the period that they are working out there,” he

elaborated.

Clarifying misconceptions, Minister Singh affirmed, “While the registration has been suspended, the sending of the workers has not been suspended, that is continuing”.

He further assured Parliament of the Ministry’s commitment to efficiently addressing the backlog and enhancing worker welfare under the PALM Scheme.

Minister Nalumisa calls for enhancements in PRB housing



Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa with the staff of Public Rental Board (PRB) during the launch of PRB recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By JAMIL SULEMAN

THE Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa, highlighted the critical role of the Public Rental Board (PRB) in providing affordable housing and outlined strategies to address challenges in the housing sector.

Speaking during the debate on the ‘Review of the PRB 2020 Annual Report’ during the April sitting of Parliament, Minister Nalumisa commended the achievements of PRB and emphasised the importance of enhancing its operations to promote inclusivity and sustainability.

“The review of the Public Rental Board’s 2020 Annual Report commended PRB for its achievements in providing affordable housing and outlined recommendations to enhance its operations, promote inclusivity, and address challenges in the housing sector,” the Minister stated.

Highlighting the significant contribution of PRB since its establishment in 1989, Minister Nalumisa emphasised that, “PRB plays a crucial role in providing affordable, quality, and appropriate housing flats to low-income earning customers”.

He noted that PRB manages a total of

1,673 rental flats across 21 estates in Fiji, catering to the housing needs of various communities.

Minister Nalumisa further expressed concern over the low rate of tenants graduating from rental to home ownership, citing only 42 families achieving this milestone in the last five years.

To address this challenge, he announced the formulation of a Rent-to-Own Scheme aimed at facilitating tenants’ transition from renting to owning their homes, providing an opportunity for those lacking financial means.

Furthermore, Minister Nalumisa underscored the importance of inclusivity in PRB’s estates, particularly for people living with disabilities and emphasised plans to conduct accessibility audits and incorporate disability-friendly features in future development projects to ensure equitable access for all tenants.

Addressing the growing demand for affordable housing, he outlined various development projects undertaken by PRB, including the Lagilagi Low-Cost Housing project and development sites in Navua, Nadi, and Levuka, estimated to provide a total of 157 units.

Big plans for improvement of services to the public

By ILISAPECI TUIVALE

THE Coalition Government places a lot of emphasis on improving the lives of every citizen which entails improving the services members of the public receive from the country’s public offices.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga, speaking in Parliament during the April sitting said, “Our administration is founded on the principles of good governance, accountability, and transparency, which serve as the cornerstone of our democracy”.

“This commitment is reflected in our efforts to uphold the rule of law and ensure justice for our people.”

The Ministry was exploring avenues of digitisation to preserve records and to simplify accessing records and this has been approved by Cabinet.



Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

“In our Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry, we are looking to offer free birth certificates for registrations made within a month of the child’s birth to incentivise early registration,” the A-G explained.

“We are also increasing the accessibility of Justice of Peace (JP) services in our communities. Currently, we have 596 JPs in total, with 278 in the Central/Eastern Division, 250 in the Western Division, and 68 in the North. We expect to increase these numbers, given the number of applications we have received.”

According to A-G Turaga, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs will be working together with the A-G’s office on consultations regarding the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

“Traditional knowledge and cultural expressions are the foundation of intellectual property. Developing countries like Fiji must develop policies to protect their intellectual property rights and preserve their cultural heritage,”

“They can turn it into commercially viable products and services for tangible and intangible wealth. However, the current system of accessing genetic resources and using traditional knowledge and cultural expressions has been repeatedly abused, exploiting the limited resources of indigenous societies. A legislative framework is needed to protect them.”

“The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the Office of the Attorney-General will collaborate on consultations regarding the protection of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. Consultation on the draft Bill with relevant stakeholders is ongoing. It is part of the 2024 Legislative Programme and will be given priority for full realisation,” A-G Turaga shared.

The Bankruptcy Act 1944 will be replaced by the new Personal Insolvency Bill that offers alternatives to bankruptcy, creates clear creditor and debtor rights and affiliates with international best practices.

“The International Financial Cooperation (IFC) is collaborating on this project by providing drafters who are familiar with insolvency systems worldwide. Cabinet approval is expected before holding public consultations in June, with subsequent tabling in Parliament planned before the end of the year,” A-G Turaga said



Government's Wood Utilization Project empowers rural communities

By JAMIL SULEMAN

THE Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Kalaveti Ravu, has outlined the significant strides made by the Wood Utilization Project in empowering rural communities in Fiji.

Minister Ravu, while delivering a ministerial statement in Parliament during the April sitting, emphasised the project's focus on utilising mahogany wood residues to support local cottage industries and boost economic activities in rural areas.

He highlighted the broader societal benefits of engaging youth in forest-based businesses, including reducing urban migration, alleviating poverty, and fostering community development.

"The main objective of the Wood Utilization Project is maximising wood resource utilisation through the use of harvesting and processing residues as an alternative source of raw materials for

wooden products manufacturers," Minister Ravu said.

He highlighted the collaboration with Fiji Hardwood Corporation Ltd and the completion of baseline surveys, extraction, processing and classification of wood residues using specialised machines.

Minister Ravu underscored the Government's commitment to enhancing the livelihoods of rural communities and unemployed youths, stating, "the potential of this initiative to significantly improve the livelihoods of our rural communities and jobless youths has been recognised".

He stressed the importance of increased investments in training, technology and value-adding machines to support the forestry sector's growth.

Minister Ravu further revealed a substantial increase in the budget allocation for the Forest Subsidy Grant, from \$50,000 to \$200,000, aimed at supporting mahogany landowners in purchasing value-adding machines.



Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Kalaveti Ravu speaks during the Parliament sitting this month. Photo: SUPPLIED

He also highlighted successful engagements with cottage industries, including the Gaunavou Cooperative, which received approval to use the Fiji Brand on their products.

Elaborating further, Minister Ravu shared, "Gaunavou Cooperative managed to supply 80 beds and with the support of the Forest Subsidy Grant of \$28,864 managed to generate a total revenue of \$70,200".

He emphasised ongoing efforts to secure funding for workshops and facilitate the transition of cottage industries to operate independently.

Looking ahead, Minister Ravu expressed the ministry's commitment to expanding assistance to more mahogany-based stations and forest-based communities, aiming to boost rural economies and improve livelihoods.

Development Plans in Place for Levuka Town



Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa speaking in Parliament during the April sitting. Photo: SUPPLIED

By DIPESH KUMAR

THE Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa, has highlighted several important development plans for the Levuka Town in order to keep its heritage status intact.

In presenting the Levuka Town Councils Annual Report during the April sitting of Parliament, the Minister Nalumisa shared that the ministry was aware of the lack of development and are working with relevant authorities on a comprehensive development plan.

He highlighted that a 10-year master plan will be put in place for Levuka to preserve its properties and heritage sites and enhance core services such as providing tertiary studies.

He shared that with the re-introduction of the Heritage Bill, heritage sites in Fiji can be protected and improved.

"This Act, once enacted, is envisaged to provide clear guidelines and assistance to homeowners, striking a balance between preservation requirements

and the need for modernisation."

Speaking on the improvement of tertiary studies, Minister Nalumisa explained that it was important to enhance Levuka's educational and skill-development systems.

He shared that the council will work with the Ministry of Local Government, tertiary institutions and resource owners to develop strategies to enhance trade skills in respect to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) while providing higher education facilities to accommodate the students in Levuka and ultimately the whole Lomaiviti Province.

"Levuka Town Council is looking for all the possibility of bringing all stakeholders on board for the provision of TVET in Levuka that can serve the Lomaiviti division."

Minister Nalumisa reiterated that these developments are a crucial need for the cherished heritage site, while maintaining the delicate balance to preserve its heritage and addressing the needs of its residents.

Naleba Youth Centre to get facelift after fire



Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru, provided an update on the fire at the Naleba Youth Centre in Labasa in Parliament recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

By JOSIA RALAGO

THE Naleba Youth Centre in Labasa will be undergoing a major facelift following a recent fire at the Boys dormitory, says the Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru.

In providing an update in Parliament during the April sitting on the news of the fire, Minister Saukuru said, "The Boys dormitory at the Youth Training Centre in Naleba, Labasa was engulfed in flames, leaving nothing but ashes in its wake.

"While we are grateful that no lives were lost in this devastating incident, it pains me to report that the 25 trainees who called this centre home have lost everything they possessed."

Minister Sakuru highlighted the significance of the training centre as it provided a second chance in education particularly for those that have fallen through the mainstream education system.

"A major focus of the training centre is towards creating young replacement farmers who then return to their communities to practice integrated farming for diversified income as well as to contribute towards reducing hunger and poverty by improving food security, creating employment and building resilience to disasters and shocks," he said.

"The training centre provides Certificate Level 4 Training on Organic Agriculture to encourage self-help project, entrepreneurial opportunities and farming amongst young people."

Minister Saukuru said that while investigation into the fire continues, the rehabilitation works needed to begin and it was a priority for the Ministry.

"Our efforts cannot stop at rebuilding the Youth Training Centre, we must also invest in the long-term sustainability of our youth programs, ensuring that they are adequately funded, staffed and equipped to empower young people across our nation."

More than 700 students have graduated from the YTC since its establishment in 2005.

Accountants urged to uphold ethical values



The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere with the Leader of Opposition, Inia Seruiratu (left) and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

By DIPESH KUMAR

“As experts in your respective fields, your commitment to upholding ethical practice, good governance, and engaging smart solutions, will shape the progression of your journey, personally, as an organisational entity, and socio-economically as a nation.”

This was highlighted by the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, at the Fiji Institute of Chartered Accountants (FICA) Annual Congress 2024 held at the Shangri la Resort last week.

President Katonivere shared that the annual congress was an opportunity to review the first 50 years, celebrate successes, and share lessons learned, to further guide the road ahead.

“Your commitment to good governance and robust financial reporting creates an environment of transparency and trust. These are indispensable components for a functioning democracy and thriving economy,” the Head of State shared.

He highlighted that national prosperity goes beyond economic development and financial literacy plays a vital role.

“FICA’s vision actively pursues this through its financial literacy programs. I commend the agencies that continue to implement work in this area across rural and urban communities, at the same time, I encourage the pursuance of financial literacy programs throughout our maritime islands and communities.”

President Katonivere commended the collective efforts of the representatives and shared that the business community has always been the backbone of our economy.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, who also spoke during annual congress has called on members of FICA to strive to explore further potential in tourism in promoting sustainable development, encouraging innovation, and maintaining fiscal integrity and societal responsibility.

DPM Gavoka shared that the platform was an area where FICA participants can forge a prosperous future for Fiji and help sculpt the nation’s economic framework while exploring additional benefits that can be driven from tourism.

“We must also recognise that, as stewards of fiscal responsibility, we have a vital role in supporting and advancing programs that foster long-term growth and prosperity,” he said.

“We need to work on building up activities and help spread the benefits of tourism to the other regions in Fiji.”



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

Noda Viti

Siga Vukelulu Maji 1, 2024

| 8 Drauniveva, 6 Tabana 15 ni Lavelave ni Ivola

VAKADEITAKA O HON NALUMISA NA VAKATATARO ME BALETA NA TABANA NI VEIVAKAVALETAKI

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 3



VEITATAUNAKI VEI IRA NA LEWE NI YASANA O RA O HON TUBUNA MERA YADRAVA TIKO NODRA I TAVI

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 6



VEITOMANI TALEGA NA PARAIMINISITA NI NODA VANUA ENA KENA MARAUTAKI NA SIGA NI ANZAC DAY



Na turaga na Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka kei ira eso na lewe ni sotia luva isulu ena soqo ni vakananumi ni siga ANZAC. Era oira na lewe ni mataivalu ena siga ni vakananumi ni ANZAC kei na vutu senikau.

Era a laki tiko talega na Paraiminisita ni noda vanua o Hon Sitiveni Rabuka ena mataka nikua ena kena laki vakananumi na ANZAC Day ena nodra I bulu-bulu na lewe ni mataivalu e Suva. Era veitomani tale tiko ga na na Minisita ni Tabana ni Veitaqomaki kei na Curuvanua o Hon Pio Tikoduadua ka vaka kina oira na lewe ni mataivalu, kei ira na vulagi sureti.

Na ANZAC e dua na siga guiguilecavi dredre ena vuku ni kena vakananumi na nodra bula na lewe ni mataivalu ena matanitu o Ositereli kei Niusiladi ena vuku ni nodra solia na nodra bula ena vuku ni kena valataki na dodonu ka vaka kina na I valu ena matanitu o Gallipoli kei na Ottom Empire enai matai ni valu levu(World War 1).

Nikua esa mai yacova kina nai ka 109 ni yabaki ni kena vakananumi na gauna a butuka kina o Gallipoli na vanua o

Turkey ena 1915 ka kauta laivi kina na nodra bula e 8709 na lewenivanua e Ositereli ka 2779 ena matanitu o Niusiladi. E vakaraitaka na Mata ni Matanitu o Ositerelia e Viti o Mr Ewen McDonald

“Na siga ni ANZAC oqo e dua na siga e dau vakananuma vei ira na nodra soli bula na turaga kei na marama era lewe ni mataivalu ka vaka talega kina o Able Seaman Puamau kei Able Seaman Savenaca ena vuku ni tavi e ratou qarava ena matanitu o Viti, Ositerellia kei Niusiladi ena kena taqomaki na noda qoliqoli na Wasa Pasivika”.

“ E da vakananuma talega oira na vakaitavi na Matai ka vaka kina nai karua ni valu levu oka talega kina oira na Itaukei ka ra sa mai okati ena Vuvale”. O Able Seaman Nikotimo Puamau mai na Yatu Lau kei Able Seaman Savenaca Naulumatua mai na Yatu Yasawa Bala-

balavu e rua na dausoko ka rau veiqa-ravi ena HMNS Leander e dua na waqa e Niusiladi enai Matai ni Valu Levu ena Yatu Solomon. E rau vodo na turaga oqo ena gauna sa kabai kina na waqa ena 13 ni Jiulai 1943 e rau oka talega vei ira na lewe 26 era mate ka so e ra yali

talega. Era laki biuta talega na nodra I vutu senikau na Turaga na Paraiminisita kei ira na vakaillesilesi ni mataivalu ena vuku ni kena vakananumi oira na lewe ni mataivalu era soli tu na nodra bula ena nodra gauna ni veiqa-ravi.



VAKAYAGATAKI VINAKA NA TALEDI NI OTI NA 2 NA YABAKI ENA VANUA NI VEIVAKADODONUTAKI



Era mai ciqoman na nodra iyaya nin nunu mai na tabana ni Veivakadodonutaki ko Ilaitia Rakobo kei Saimone Tunaqase (taba era)

(Vola ko: Katarina Naqarase)

E mai luluvu o Saimone Tunaqase na turaga ka cavutu mai na koro ko Bulileka ena tikina ko Labasa ena loma ni yasana o Macuata. O Tunaqase dua talega na mai ciqoma na nodra I yaya me vaka na yaya ni teitei, nai yaya ni nunu kei na vica tale. E ka dokai sara vei ira ena kena soli vakailoloma mai vei ratou na Tabana ni Veivakacokotaki ka vakarurugi ena Tabana Ni Veivakadoodonutaki.

E na kena mai vakayacori na soqo ni Macuata Yellow Ribbon Symposium e solia dua na bolebole levu vei ira na suka mai. O Saimone e dua na Dauteitei ka dau teivaka na kakana draudrau, ka vaka kina e dua vei ira na dau susu oni, ka dua talega vei ira na dau soli vuli vei ira na dau susu oni. E vakavinavinkataka o koya ni bau kalougata ni bau mai vukei tu ena kena soli na yaya ni veiqaravi enai teitei.

E mai tekivu curu o Tunaqase ena 2022 ni ka mai vakarautaki voli ena ena loma ni 2 na yabaki ena vanua ni veivakadodonutaki. E marautaka vakalevu ena vuku ni kena mai sotavi ratou na madigi na lewe 8 ena vuku ni veivuke kana vukea sara vakalevu na vuvale ka ra sana vakaitavi taki ira talega mai nai solisoli ka na rawati vakavinaka na tatadra ena lomann I vale. Kuria e na nona ivakamacala ena usutu ni bula ni kawa Itaukei sai koya na Loloma. E dua nai vakaraitaki ni loloma e sa mai matanataki ka ratou vakila na lewe 8 na cauravou ena vuku ni veika esa mai ciqomi. E ra sa vakila na marama, gone ka vaka kina na lewe ni vuvale ni usutu ni yavu dei na loloma. E drodro vakayauyau na wainimatai Saimone ena vuku ni vakamacala era vakaraitaka tiko na Turaga Na Tui Macuata ena vuku ni yalo ni veiciqomi mai na loma dina ni vuvale ki vei ira na suka mai. Era kuria ni vosa dina ia ena vanua dredre e lako curuma mai.

E na gauna e mai daramaka kina nai sulu roka senawanawa esa vakaraitaki ni sa beci toka , me qai

yacova na gauna ni suka lesu yani ena lomanikoro sa sega ni tautauvata na yalo ni rai kei na veikaiwaitaki.

E na vuqa gauna sa dau laurai beci ka so na gauna e rasa dau galu voli ga ka ra sa vakila na veiveisau ni yalo ni veiciqomi. Sa nuitaka o Saimone ni veika era sa mai vulica ena siga ni vuli sana solia vei ira e dua na rai vou ni toso

ka vaka kina na veiciqomi.

E vakaraitaka talega nisa vakayagataka sara vakavinaka na veika e sa ciqoma ka na vakaraitaki vinaka sara vei ira na luvei Macuata. Vuqa na gauna eda sa dau sotava tu na bula dredre ka sa tubu sara tiko ga nai sau ni bula ena noda vanua , ka sa kerekere kina o Tunaqase na curu ena loma ni vale ni veisau ena sega ni walia na leqa .

E sa vakadreti ira na na lewenivanua e Macuata ena vuku ni noda vakayagataka na veika e tu wavoliti keda, esa tadola mai na vei makete lelevu ena kena vakayagataki na veiteitei. Sa vakamamasu talega vei ira nai Tabagone ena vuku ni kena muduki na basu lawa ka me nanumi na vanua, lotu ka vaka kina na vuvale.

E mai dua talega na nona I vakamacala o Ilaitia Rakobo mai na Koro ko Wailevu ena vuku ni cavu ikalawa esa cakava na yasana o Macuata ena vuku ni nona mai ciqoma nai yaya ni veivuke mai na Tabana ni Veivakacokotaki. E veivuke sara vakalevu ena loma ni vuvale, vanua, lotu ka vaka kina na Matanitu.

E kuria ni sa dodonu meda taubeni keda ena loloma ka vakavinavinkataka na matanitu ena vuku ni lomasoli ena vuku ni kena soli na nona iyaya ni nunu ka veivuke sara vakalevu ena loma ni vuvale.

E vakavinavinkataka o Ilaitia ena vuku ni nona suka ka kila deivaki tu ni ratou ciqomi koya na nona vuvale, ka sa dau sotava talega mai ena Vanua ni Veivakadodonutaki. E sa vakamasuti ira nai Tabagone ena vuku ni noda maroroya na nodra bula meda kua ni kuitaki tu ena veicala eso.

Esa vakanuinui vinaka talega vei ira na lewe 8 na sa mai ciqoma nai loloma nina vuavuai vinaka sara na nodra sasaga.



NA PORAKARAMU NI KENA VAKAYAGATAKI NA KAU NI NODA VANUA ENA VAKAUKAUWATAKI IRA NA NODA VEITIKOTIKO



Minisita ni Veikau kei na Qoliqoli, Kalaveti Ravu ena nodra vosa tiko ena matabose e Palimedi.

E na dua nai tukutuku e mai vakaraitaki ena Bose Lawa ena vula oqo o Evereli, na Minisita ni Qoliqoli kei na Veikau o Hon Kalaveti Ravu, e ra vakaraitaka kina na Porokaramu ni kena Vakayagataki na Kau ena vaka talega kina na kena vakayagataki na noda iyaubula mena rawa ni vakaukuwataki ira na Taukei ni yaubula ena noda vanua.

E na nodra vosa era vakaraitaka kina na

kena vakanamata tiko na porokaramu ena kena tovolei mesa yadravi na kena vakayagataki na kau na Mahogany mena rawa ni tokona na tabana ni tara vale ena noda vanua ka na rawa ni tosoya na rawa ka vakailavo ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu.

“Na usutu levu ni Porokaramu ni kena vakayagataki na kau sai koya ,mena vakayagataki vakavinaka na kau mai na kena tamusuki kei na kena cakacakat-aki na veimusu ni kau ka me ivurevure vinaka talega ni rawa ka vei ira na veik- abani ena noda vanua”.

Era vakaraitaka talega na veitalanoa esa mai vakayacori rawa vata kei ratou na kabani ni Fiji Hardwood Corporation Ltd ka vaka kina na kena sa mai cava talega na vakadidike, cakacakataki ka vaka kina na kena laurai na vakatage- degede ni kau ena kena vakayagataki na misini.

E vakaraitaka na Turaga Minisita ena vuku ni sasaga ni Matanitu ena kena sagai mena vakatoroicaketaki na nodra bula nai Tabagone , “na usutu levu ni

sasaga oqo sai koya mena veisautaka na draki ni bula vei ira na tu ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu ka vaka kina oira na tawa cakacaka tu ena noda veikoro.

Era vakabibitaka talega na bibi ni kena tosoi cake na vakayagataki ni lavo ena sala ni vuli, na kena vakayagataki na mona livaliva ka vaka kina na Misini eso ena kena tokoni na tubu vakailavo ni Tabana Ni Veikau.

E kuria on Hon Ravu ena kena sa toso cake nai votavota ni lavo ena Tabana ni Veikau (Forest Subsidy Grant) mai na \$50,000 kina \$200,000 kena tovolei tiko ga mena tokoni oira nai taukei ni Mahog- any ena kena voli eso na misini vei ira.

Era vakaraitaka talega na cavu isausau esa mai yacova na kabani oka talega kina na Gaunavou Cooperative, ka ratou mai ciqoma na veivakadonui na nodratou vakayagataki nai vakatakilakila ena noda vanua se na (Fiji Brand) ena nodratou ivoli.

E wasea talega o Hon Ravu me baleta na cavu I sausau mai vei Gaunavou Co- operative e rawa ni ratou vakarautaka e

80 na Loga mai na veitokoni ni Forestry Subsidy Grant e \$28,864.00 mena rawa ni rawata tale kina e \$70,200.00.

E vakabibi taka talega na kena sagai mena vakadeitaki na kena vakailavotaki e so na vuli ni veivakararamataki mena rawa ni vukea na nodra veiqaravi na vei kabani lalai eso vakaitaukei.

Esa vakanamata tu o Hon Ravu ena vuku ni yalo dina ni veiqaravi ena kena vakalevutaki na veivuke ka mena levu talega nai tikoitko ni kau na Mahogany(Mahogany Based Stations) ena noda itikitiko ena kena tovolei mena tosoi cake na bula vakailavo ka vaka kina na bula ena veisiga ena veitikitiko.

E na nodra mai tinia tiko na nodra vosa, era vakamatatataka kina na yaga ni kena vakarawarawarataki se na nodra vakaita- vi taki ira nai tabagone ena bisinisi ni kau, oka talega kina na kena vakalailaitaki na veitosoyaki mai ena vanua ni cakacaka ,vakalailaitaka na bula dravudravua ka vakabulabulataki na veivakatorocaketaki ena noda veitikitiko.

VAKADEITAKA O HON NALUMISA NA VAKATATARO ME BALETA NA TABANA NI VEIVAKAVALETAKI



Nai tikitiko ni veivakavaletaki e Lagilagi ka tuvatuva ni tabana me vakatorocaketaki.

E na nodra mala ni vosa ena Bose Lawa na Minisita ni Veivakalavaletaki o Hon Maciu Nalumisa era vakara- itaka kina nai tavi bibi me baleta na veiqaravi ni Tabana Ni Veivakavaletaki (se na Public Rental Board – PRB) ena kena vakarautaki na vale sau rawarawaka ka vaka kina nai walewale ni kena tuvanaki mena rawa ni wali kina na bolebole e dau sotavi me baleta na veivakava- valetaki.

Era vosa ena gauna ni veitalanoa ena Bose Lawa me baleta na kena Railesuvi na Rivote Vakayabaki ni Ta- bana Ni Veivakavaletaki ena yabaki 2020 ka ra vaka- caucautaka na cavu isausau esa vakayacora na Tabana Ni Veivakavaletaki ka ra vakamatatataka tale ga kina na bibi ni kena vakavinakataki se laveti cake na veiqaravi ni tabana.

“Na kena railesuvi na Rivote Vakayabaki ni tabana ni Veivakavaletaki (PRB) e cakacaucautaki na nodratou vakarautaka na vale sau rawarawa ka tuvanaki talega na veituvatuva mena vakavinakataki na veiqaravi ka laurai talega na veibolebole ena Tabana ni veivakavaletaki”.

Na kena mai vakamatata taki na cau esa qarava rawa na Tabana ni Veivakavaletaki me tekivu mai na gauna e tauyavutaki kina ena 1989, e vakaraitaka o Minisita Na- lumisa ni Tabana ni Veivakavaletaki e ratou qarava tiko e dua nai tavi bibi ena kena vakarautaki na vale vinaka ka vaka kina na kena biu e dua nai sau e veiganiti kei ira na lewenivanua e lailai na nodra rawa ka vakailavo.

Era vakaraitaka ni Tabana ni Veivakavaletaki esa rawata rawa e 1,673 na taba vale ena 21 nai tikoitiko ena Veiya- sai Viti , me sotavi kina na gagadre ni veitikitiko.

E vakaraitaka o Hon Nalumisa na ena vuku ni kauwai e tiko ena vuku ni lailai ni wiliwili ni lewenivanua era vakaitikitiko ena rede ka ra toso sara yani kina voli vale vakadua, ka rauta ga ni 42 na vuvale era rawata na sa- saga oqo ena loma ni 5 na yabaki sa sivi.

Na gaunisala e na rawa ni wali kina na bolebole sai koya na kena tauyavutaki e dua nai tuvatuva ni Rent- To -Own Scheme ka kena inaki me vakarautaki me sana veisau na veitikitiko mai na rede kina nodra taukena na nodra dui vale yadudua mena rawa ni solia vei ira na

sala vei ira na lailai nodra rawaka vakailavo.

E kuria ena nona vosa o Hon Nalumisa e vakamatata taka talega na bibi ni kena biu mai na vanua ni veivaka- valetaki oqo , vakabibi vei ira na vakaleqai tu na tiki ni yagodra ka vakamatata taka nai tuvatuva me na dikevi nai tuvatuva ena kena vakacurumi eso na veivakatoro- caketaki mena rawa ni ra sotava kece na veivuvale.

Ena nona vakaraitaka tiko na kena sa tubu cake tiko na kena gadrevi na veivakavaletaki , e vamacalataka talega e vica esa nai tuvatuva esa vakarautaka ma Tabana Ni Veivakavaletaki e oka kina na Lagilagi Low-Cost Housing vaka talega kina na porokaramu ni veivakatoroicaketaki e Navua, Nadi, kei Levuka ka rauta ni 157 na taba vale.

Era mai tinia ena nodra vosa e vakaraitaka kina na no- dra vakavinavinaka vei ira na Dauniveiqaravi kei na vakalesilesi ni Tabana Ni Veivakavaletaki ena vuku ni veiqaravi ena kena tokoni na mosoni ni kena mai raici lesu na Rivote ni Tabana Ni Veivakavaletaki.

VEITATAUNAKI VEI IRA NA LEWE NI YASANA O RA O HON TUBUNA MERA YADRAVA TIKO NODRA I TAVI



Na ivukevuke ni Minisita ena Valenivolavola ni Paraiminisita, Sakiusa Tubuna ena dola ni bese ni yasana ko Ra. (Taba era)Oira na matameke ena koro ko Nabalabala ena veiqaravi vakavanua ena dola ni bese ni yasana. Oira na lewe ni bese ni yasana

(Vola ko Katarina Naqarase)

“E DODONU MEDA NA YADRAVA TIKO, E NA SEGA NI RAWA NI QARAVA TAUDUA NA MATANITU”

Oqori na nodra mala ni vosa nai vukevuke ni Minisita ena valenivolavola ni Paraiminisita o Hon Sakiusa Tubuna ena nodra laki vulagi dokai ena kena laki dolavi na bese ni yasana o Ra ka vakayacori mai Dadamu e Nanukuloa mai Ra enai ka 11 ni Evereli , 2024. Era kaya ni dodonu meda na dau yadrava tiko na noda itavi, vei ira na liuliu ni veikoro, kei ira na qase ni koro vaka kina oira na dauveiqaravi ena kena vakabibitaki na vuvale. “Na vuvale e dua na yavudei ena noda

mata I tikoitko , ena kena dau soli vakalevu na gauna vakavuvale ka vaka kina nai vakavuvuli ka na rawa ni valuti kina na kena vakayagataki na waigaga ni veivakamatenitaki kei na veileqa tale eso ena gauna nikua.” E vakavinavinakataka o Hon Tubuna ena vuku ni cakacakavata ena loma ni 19 na Tikina. Ena kena raici lesu na lawa me baleta na Veiveisau ni Draki (Climate Change Act) e na vuku ni lomasoli ena sala mena laurai kina na Voluntary Carbon Trading Markets. E na vuku ni kena raici na kena vakayagataki na noda iyaubula esa dodonu meda na vakasalataki ira na noda lewenivanua ena vuku ni kena vakayagataki na noda qele. E vakabibitaka talega o Hon Tubuna kina vale ni volav-

ola ni yasana na kena dodonu mena vakasalataki yani na matanitu ena vuku ni veivakatoroicaketaki eka vaka kina na kena maroroi na Iyaubula ka mena tadola tiko ga na isema kina matanitu. E kuria talega na vulagi dokai ena vuku ni kena sagai mena valuti ena loma ni yasana na kena teivaki ka vakayagataki talega na waigaga ni veivakamatenitaki. E laurai nisa kune ena levu sara na vanua na waigaga , ka kune tale ena Yatu Yasawa Balabalavu. Esa kune talega ena noda veikoro ka vaka kina na veitikotiko. “E sa dodonu meda na teivaka vakalevu na kakana dina , kakakna draudrau ka ra vakasalataki na lewe ni Yasana ena kena vakayagtaki na qele mena vakailaitaka na veitosoyaki kina noda vei

taoni,” e kaya ko Hon Tubuna.

“E dodonu mena raici talega na nodra vakatulewa kei na nodra vakavulici oira nai Tabagone ena vuku ni vakavinakataki na noda veidelaniyavu.” Era vakaraitaka talega na kena biu mai na porokaramu ni veibisinisi me baleti keda na kawa iTaukei ka veivuke talega kina na Matanitu.Era vakabibi taka talega na kena bibi na vuli ena loma ni yasana. E na nodra mai tinia na nodra vosa era vakaraitaka kina; “Nisa tu na Matanitu ena kena tokoni na veivakatoroicaketaki ena noda veitikotiko mena rawa ni kauti keda kina bula veisau kei na sautu ena Loma Ni Yasana o Ra.”



VAKATOROICAKETAKI NA NODRA KILA KA NA GONEVULI ENA KORONIVULU NI VULI TARA E TUTU

(Vola ko Katarina Naqarase)

Na usutu ni bula ni noda rawa ka sai koya meda vuli. Na vuli e dua na ka eda rawa nida kaya nisa usutu levu ni rawa-ka ena noda veivuvale. Era veisiko voli na Minista ni Veivakacacaketaki, o Hon Agni Deo Singh ena koronivuli ni vuli tara e Tutu Rural Training Center e Taveuni ka tiki tiko ga ni nodra veisiko kina Vulaiku ni Noda Vanua ena kena laki sotavi oira na lewenivanua kai tu-

vatuva tiko ga ni Tabana ni Veiqaravi. Era sikova kina na koronivuli solia sara kina e levu na madigi vei ira nai tabagone ena Yasana o Cakaudrove , Buva ka vaka kina na Yasana o Macuata. Na koronivuli ni oqo e na vakatabakidua vei ira na Dauteitei, Susu Ligaiduataki, era na vakawati kei ira na Goneyalewa lalai. E laura nisa tari ira e lewe 200 na lewenivanua vakabibi ni lewe levu era sa lesuva tale mera laki bulataka na bula ni Dauteitei kei na Susu Manumanu. E

sa soli talega e dua na yalo bolebole vei ira na gine mera na tara ga vakataki ira na nodra dui vale , ra teivaka na kakana draudrau ka sana rawa ni ra dolava na nodra akaude ni vakatubuilavo mena rawa nina vukei ira ka walia talega na nodra leqa. E vakavinavinakataki ira nai vakalesile-si ni Koronivuli ni Vuli Tara e Tutu ena vuku ni rabailevu ni vakasama ka vaka kina na Cau me baleti ira na i Tabagone ena 3 na Yasana. E dua na sala e laurai

nina laveta cake tana nodra bula kina dua tale na tagede vou. E ra vakaraitaka talega ena vuku ni veivakdonui mena vukei e levu sara na veimatauvuale ka vaka kina nai tikoitko kece saras ena Vualiku ni noda vanua ka na rawa ni vakabibitaki kina na wali na leqa ni sega ni cakacaka ka vaka kina na valutina bula dravudravua ena noda vanua.

VUKEI OIRA NA DAU TEITEI E NA KORO KO BURELEVU



Nakatavila era veivuke kina na Matanitu ena Burelevu Cooperative kei Iliesa Drou na kena iliuliu.

Vola ko: Katarina Naqarase.

Na kena mai tavoci na porokaramu ni misini ni teitei mai na Tabacacacaka ni Teitei kei na Salasala ni Wai e dua na gaunisala ni nodra vukei na Dauteitei ena koro ko Burelevu ena nodra bula ena veisiga. E vica na Dauteitei e ra lewena na Burelevu Cooperative e dua nai soqosoqo e tiko saraga ena lomanikoro. Na koro ko Burelevu e wili ena tikina o Nalaba ka rauta ni 2 na yaua kina taoni e Rakiraki.E mai vakaraitaka na nodratou mata o Ilivasi Drou nira sa dau gadreva tu na Dauteitei me ra na rawa ni vakayagataka na misini ena nodra teitei.E na nodra mala ni vosa era vakaraitaka kina “Na lewe ni koro e Burelevu e ra sa dau teitei tu mai ena dua na gauna balavu ka ra dau sotava sarakina e levu na dredre.” E levu sara na ka era sa dau rawata ena vuku ni nodra vanua ni teitei e baleta walega ni sega na misini mena rawa ni vakarawarawataka na kena teivaki e dua na vanua. E na dua na bese e ra cakava esa vakaraitaka kina o Drou ni sa tu nai

vinaka vei ira baleta nisa walia na bula dravudravu ena lomanikoro ka oka talega na Tikina o Nalaba. Ni mai cava na 3 na yabaki ni veiqaravi e ratou mai kumuna rawa na dua nai katolu e \$15,000 ena vula o Julai 2022 ka a rawa ni vukei ira e 150 na Dauteitei e na koro o Burelevu.E na so na gauna era dau tausoli ena koro ena vuku walega ni sasaga ni kena dua na nodra Katavila mai vei ratou na Tabacacacaka ni Teitei. E na gauna qo na Katavila esa cakacataka rawa e 1,000 na aua .E na gauna e tekivu kina e yacova na 250 na yaua ni cakacaka ena loma ni koro ka ratou lavaka e \$30 dua na aua vei ira kece na Dauiteitei. Mai nai lavo kece e rawati esa gole vakatabakidua kina kena saumi na Waiwai ni Katavila ka vaka kina na kena vakatawani na tobu ena Baqe. E na vuku ni veivakasalataki mai vei ratou na Tabacacacaka ni Teitei e ratou sa duavata kina na lewe ni soqosoqo ena Burelevu Cooperative me sana veiqaravi na katavila ena \$37.50 dua na aua. E sa toso talega na nodratou veiqaravi kina veikoro voleka oka kina na koro ko Burenitu, Namata, Nativi, Batiga,Nabalabala, Raviravi ka vaka

kina na koro o Nayaulevu. Esa dua na veisau levu esa laurai ena vuku ni kena kau mai vei ira na Katavila. Mai na kena dau vakayagataki na iteitei lailai oqo esa teitei ena ekatea ena kena teivaka na kakana draudrau ka vaka kina na kakana dina. E a mai vosa talega o Iliaseri Natabadamu ena koro ko Burelevu ka dua talega vei ira na rawaka vakalevu sara ena kena vakayagataki na Katavila ni soqosoqo. “Keimami sa marau vakalevu ena kena sa toso kina dua nai kalawa vou mai na kena dau vakayagataki na manumanu sa keimami toso kina kena vakayagataki na misini ka keimami sa marautaka sara vakalevu ni keimami sa raica talega na veisau levu ena loma ni neimami koro”. O Iliaseri e teivaka tiko na Kumala ka vaka kina na kakana draudrau ka sa vakayagataka vaka tolu kina na Katavila. Esa nuidei tu na soqosoqo ni Burelevu Cooperative ena vuku ni kena tosoi cake tale nai vakarau ni nodra vakayagataki qele.



VEISIKO NA MINISITA NI VEIVAKATOROICAKETAKI ENA TAUDAKU NI VEIKORO LELEVU VEI YATU YANUYANU KEI NA LEQA TUBUKOSO ENA MUANA I CAKE NI YANUYANU O KADAVU



Na Minisita ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena Taudaku ni koro lelevu o Hon Sakiya Ditoka kei Josi Kavekeli na turaga mai Dravuni ka mai ciqoma na waqavou. (Taba era) O Minisita Ditoka ena dolavi n ua ena koro o Vabea.

(Vola ko Katarina Naqarase)

Era veisiko voli na Minisita ni Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku Ni Veikorolelevu na Veianuyanu kei na Leqa Tubukoso o Hon Sakeasi Ditoka ena ceva ni cagi ni noda vanua mai na ka 10-kina ka 13 ni siga ni vula o Evereli.

Era sikova kina na 3 na tikina ena muana I cake ni Yanuyanu o Kadavu oqo e oka kina na tikina o Nakasaleka, Yale ka vaka kina na tikina o Ono. Era veitoman tale tiko ga na Valenivolavola Ni Talai Veivuke, Na Valenivolavola Ni Yasana o Kadavu, Na Tabana Ni Lawa ka vaka kina na veitabana tale eso ni matanitu ena kena tokoni tiko ga na veivakatoroicaketaki ena yanuyanu o Kadavu.

Era gole tale tiko nai vakalesilesi mai na Tikotiko Ni Matanitu e Vunisea, ka vaka kina nai vakalesilesi ni Tabana Ni Vakatabuilavo (Unit Trust of Fiji) ena vuku ni veivakararamataki ena yanuyanu o Kadavu.

Era lai sikova taumada ka ra dolava talega na wainigunu ena Koronivuli na Kavala Bay Primary School. Era vakabibitaka tiko sai koya na kena sagai mena tomani tiko ga na kena raici ka vakabukabulataki na kena vakayagatkai na wainigunu savasava ena noda veitikotiko vakabibi na noda veikoronivuli.

E rauta ni \$45,000.00 na kena isau vakailavo ka ratou cakava na kabani na Divine Mountain Investment Pte Limited. E na nodra mala ni vosa na Turaga Minisita ka ra vakaraitaka kina,

“Na kena kawaitaki saka tiko na bula au vakabauata ni sai koya sara oya na kawai ni matanitu ena gauna oqo e vakabibitaki tiko na kena vakatetei yani na kena vakasavasavataki na wai ni gunu ena noda veikoro ka sa donu na kena madigi ena nodatou koronivuli.”

Era kuria tale tiko ga ni sai tavi ga

ni matanitu na veivakatoroicaketaki. Era mai vosa talega na qasenivuli liu e Kavala Bay Primary School o Savenaca Vunikauvaki ena vuku ni kena mai dolavi na wainigunu ena loma ni bai ni koronivuli. Na kena mai dola era sa vakayagataka saraga vakatabakidua kina wai ni gunu.

E ra vakaraitaka talega ni levu sara na dredre era sotava tiko sai koya na kena dau vakaleqai na gaunisala ena gauna ni tau ni uca, oka talega kina na gauinisala ni veitaratara, ka sa tu talega na nodra vakanuinui ena kena tomani tiko ga na veivakatoroicaketaki.

SOLOTAVUI

Era veitataunaki talega na Turaga Minisita vei ira na lewe ni koro e Solotavui ena vuku ni tuvatuva levu ni matanitu me baleta na veivakatoroicaketaki ena veianuyanu. Na kena mai dolavi na bai ni ua ena vanua vakaturaga o Nakamakama.

Nai sau vakailavo ni kena mai vakacavari na Bai Ni Ua e rauta ni \$11,340 na dola. Era vakaraitaka talega nai tuvatuva ni veivakavaletaki sena (Rural Housing Scheme) ka vaka talega kina na veivuke ni idini kei na waqa.

“Nai tuvatuva saka ni veivakatoroicaketaki e sega saka ni veisau seo koya tiko na kena I tuvatuva makawa ga mai liu sara muri tiko ga me yacova mai qo”. E na laurai mena votai vaka yalomatua nai votavota ni matanitu ka mena qaravi vinaka talega kina nai tavi.

E a mai dua talega na nodra I vakamacala na Turaga Ni Koro e Solotavui o Tui Kawa ena vuku ni veika esa mai vakayacori oya na kena mai dola na bai ni ua.

“Au via cavuta na vakavinavinaka ena siga e daidai ni rawa cavutu mai na Turaga Minisita ena talevi mai na veivakatoroicaketaki ena loma ni

Yavusa o Nakamakama ena kena mai dola na nodratou baini ua ina vanua o Nakamakama.”

E vakaraitaka talega o Tui ena vuku ni veidredre era dau sotava tiko sai koya na kena dau kaukauwa na cagi kei na ua sa tekivu kani yani na qele koa sa bulu oti tu sa tekivu kauta lesu tale yani baleta ni sa rui rivarivab-itaki vei ira na lewenikoro.

E vakavinavinaka kina ena vuku ni veivuke levu esa mai vakayacora na matanitu. E ra kuria tale tiko ga ena kena sa tu tale eso nai tuvatuva esa gadrevi ena loma ni koro. Na kena I matai sai koya na kena gadrevi e dua nai vaka so ni wai vou, na kena vakavinakataki na vale ni vanua ka vaka kina mena dua na nodratou idrodro vou (Evacuation Center). Sa vakavinavinakataka na matanitu ena kena talevi tiko mai na delani soso e Nakamakama ka vakavinavinakataki tiko na yalo ni veivuke.

“Au na via vosa talega vei ira na luvei Nakamakama era tu ena veiyasai Viti, veiyasai vuravura na toso sa caka tiko e delaniyavu ena sega ni rawa nira cakava walega na tiko e dela ni yavu ena vinakati kina na liga kece kevaka eda veitauriligataka nai tavi ena rawa ni mamada sara.”

TILIVA

E tomana na nodra veisiko kina koro o Tiliva na turaga na Minisita ena vuku ga ni tuvatuva levu ni kena sikovi tiko na muana i cake ni yanuyanu o Kadavu

Era laki veitalanoa sara vakalevu na leweni koro ena vuku ni veivakatoroicaketaki ni matanitu. E vakaraitka tiko na Turaga Minisita ni sai tavi ga ni matanitu na veivakatoroicaketaki ena noda vanua.

E kuria ena nodra ivakamacala nisa tiko talega na Rural Housing Scheme ka va tiko na kena iwasewase mai na 1 kina 4. E sa dodonu me ratou sana cakacaka vata na Turaga Ni Koro ka vaka kina na valenivolavola ni yasana kei na talai veivuke ena vuku ni kena vakarawarawataki mai na vakalewe fomu ena veikorokoro.

E vica na veika era vakaraitaka tiko o Turaga Ni Koro o Jale Duikoro ena vuku ni tuvatuva ena gadrevi mena

vakatoroicaketaki kina na koro o Tiliva.

Oqo e oka kina na gaunisala ni veila-koyaki, na rara ni qito e koronivuli. E vakaraitaka talega na nodra nanuma na soqosoqo vakamarama e Tiliva e vosa tiko kina o Karolina Vuniwai sai koya eso na dredre era sotava tiko sai koa na nodra gadreva eso na veivuke mai na tabana ni marama ka vaka kina na kena gadrevi eso na vuli vei ira na marama, oka talega kina na gaunisala ni veitaratara.

E vakaraitaka talega na nodra rawa ka vakailavo oqo e vu mai ena voivoi, sasalu ni waitui kei na cakacaka ni liga tale eso. Me vaka ni sa tubu totolo sara tiko nai wiliwili ni kena veidewavi na mate ni Mi ni Manu (Leptospirosis) esa cakacaka sara tiko vakaukauwa na Tabana Ni Bula ena kena sagai mena muri eso nai walewale ni kena taqomaki na bula ni lewenivanua.

E na vuku ni kena tosoi tiko ga na sasaga e mai ciqoma kina e dua na nona waqa vou (Fiber) o Michael Foa ka cavutu mai na koro o Lagalevu era vakacautaka na Turaga Minisita na kena tauci na vua ni sasaga ena gaunisala ni rawa i lavo mai ena loma ni vuvale.

Era lai taleva talega na kena bucini nai tei ni kakana draudrau (Hydroponics) ka vakatokai tiko na KOICA e laurai ni veivuke sara tiko vakalevu. E mai vakamacala tiko na kena i vakalesilesi o Sehyeon Kim ka rauta tiko ni \$40,00 na kena I sau vakailavo.

VABEA.

Era bau laki sikova talega na koro o Vabea o Hon Ditoka ka laki dolava talega na Bai Ni Ua ena vuku walega ni kena taqomaki na nodra bula na lewe ni koro ka tiko na kena I sau vakailavo ena \$23,571.00 nai sau vakailavo ni veika e vakayagataki. E 20 taucoko na levu ni vuvale era rawa ni taqomaki mai na veivakatoroicaketaki oya.

E ra vakaraitaka talega na leqa era sota kaya tiko sai koya na Wai ni gunu, ka vaka kina na veiqaravi ni bula raraba. E vakaraitaka na I vakalesilesi ni tabana ni wai ka vaka





kina na sasaga ni valenivolavola ni Talai Veivuke sai koya na kena to-
volei mena vakadrodroi vinaka na
wainigunu savasava.

E levu sara nai tuvatuva ni veivakato-
roicaketaki era sa mai bulagoci kina
na lewe ni koro ka gadrevi saka kina
na nodra cakacaka vata vakavoleka
na kena liga ni vei qaravi kei nai sema
ni matanitu.

E vakaraitaka talega na Turaga Ni
Koro o Eferemo Kubunavanua ni sa
tu talega na veidredre era dau sotava
ka vaka kina nai tuvatuva esa tuva-
laki tu. Era kuria talega ni sa dau lau-
rai na yalo ni sega ni veirogorogoci
kei na

Duavata ka vaka kina na duidui ia
sega ni vakayalolailaitaki ira ena
kena sagai mena tomani na tiko vi-
naka vakabibi oira na kawa bula ni
vanua o Vabea. E dua talega na ka e
ra gadrevi tiko sai koya na kena sagai
mena vakavinakataki na solar energy
ena loma ni koro.

NARIKOSO

Era bau laki butuka talega na lo-
manikoro o Narikoso na Turaga na
Minisita ena vuku ni kena laki vaka-
dinadinataki na kena sa soli na kena
I vakaro mera sa toki ena delana na
vica na vale na bati ni baravi. E ra
marau ena kena laurai nira sa muria
nai vakaro ka ra kila deivaki nisa rui
ka bibi na nodra maroroi na qeleni
lalai ena loma ni tikotiko. E vakara-
itaka o koya nisa tomani tikon na
kena raici ka yadravi tiko na veivei-
sau ni draki ena noda vanua.

NABOUWALU

Era laki butuka talega na koro o
Nabouwalu ena vuku tiko ga ni tu-
vatuva ni veisiko ena Muana I cake
Ni Yanuyan o Kadavu o Hon Di-
toka. Era laki raica talega na kena
vakayacori se tara tiko na gaunisala e
lomanikoro (Footpath) ka vaka kina
na kena kakana tiko mai Matavura
na wai ka sa dua na leqa era sotava
tiko na lewenikoro. E vakaraitaka tale
ga na Turaga Minisita na veika me
baleta na Rural Housing Scheme ka
sa dodonu mera na vola yaca na lewe
ni koro kara gadrevi na veivuke.

E ra vakabibi taka talega na Inte-
grated Village Development Plan ka
veisemati kei na veika era vakaraiata
na Roko Veivuke ena Yasana o Ka-
davu ni sa vakayacori tiko na vil-
lage profiling ka ra sa tiko talega nai
tuvatuva mai na Valenivolavola Ni
Veitarogivanua.

E vica talega na gagadre e ratou

kauta cake mai sai koya na kena ga-
drevi me dua nai drodro (Evacuation
Centrer) mera rawa ni vakacegui ira
na lewe ni vanua ena gauna ni Leqa
Tubukoso, oka talega kina na kena
vakacavari na Bai Ni Ua.

BULIYA

Tomani ka tokoni tiko ga na nodra
veisiko na Turaga Minista ka ra bau
laki sikova talega na koro o Buliya
me vaka ni tiki tiko ga ni vei qaravi
ena Yanuyan o Kadavu. E laki veit-
alanoa kei ira na lewe ni koro o Bu-
liya ka ra vakaraitaka mai kina na
gagadre se na veivakatoroicaketaki
ena loma ni koro.

E dua na ka era gadrevi sai koya na
kena vakavinakataki na gaunisala
ni veitaratara me vaka ni dau drake
suasua sa dau dredre sara na kena ta-
ladrodro na gaunisala ni veitaratara.
E vakaraitaka na Turaga Talai Ve-
vuke ena Tokalau nisa cakacka sara
tiko vakaukauwa kei ratou na kabani
na Vodafone ena kena tovolei mena
vakavinakataki ka ratou navuca me
sana taladrodro vinaka na veitarata-
ara ni cava na vula oqo.

E kuria na Turaga Talai nisa tiko
talega nai tuvatuva ena vuku ni kena
vakarabailevu taki na vei qaravi ni
tabana ni wai, teitei ka vaka kina na
tabana ni bula ena koro o Buliya.

E mai vosa tale tiko nai liuliiu ni
soqosoqo vakamarama e Buliya o
Virisila Sauwale ni dua na leqa levu
era sotava tiko sai koya na gaunisala
levu ni kumuni lavo. Nai vurevure
levu ga ni rawa ilavo vei ira sai koya
na Voivoi, na caka Waiwai (virgin oil)
ka vaka kina na sasalu ni waitui.

Ena vuqa na gauna era dau veita-
ratara ga kei ira na wekadra era tu
ena veivanua ni cakacaka ena vuku

ni kena volitaki yani na nodra I voli.
E dina ni cakacaka dredre na kena
rawati mai na veika oqori ia sa taura
ga na vosota kei na cakacakavata ena
kena gadrevi nai lavo.

E vakaraitaka tiko o koya ni ratou
kalougata ena vuku ni kena bau toka
vinaka na gaunisala ni veitaratara,
ka vakatalega kina na waqa ni veiv-
akaleleci me vaka ni sa toso cake tale
tiko ga nai sau ni Waiwai ka ra sa dau
veivuke taka saraga na kena cici na
boto ena nodra vanua ni veitosoyaki.

DRAVUNI.

Era laki butuka talega na koro o
Dravuni na Minisita ni bera ni sere-
dali ka vakacavari talega na veisiko
ena Muana Cake ni Yanuyan o Ka-
davu. Era veitataunaki tiko sai koya
na kena vakabibitaki tiko na tuvatu-
va ni veivakatoroicaketaki ena koro
se itikotiko.

Era vakabibi taka talega na nodra I
tavi na komiti ni veivakatoroicaketa-
ki ena vuku ni kena raiici sei tuvatuva
cava tale ena tarava mai kevaka ena
mani yaco e dua na leqa. Era vakabi-
bi taka tale tiko na nodratou yadrava
na nodratoub I tavi na Komiti ni Ve-
vakatoroicaketaki.

“Na vosa vakaibalebale , na vuku
me baleta na nodra vavavakarau na
qasivi ena gauna ni drake vinaka , e
maroroya tiko o koya na kakana na
gauna sa drake ca kina sat u vinakan
tu nai lololo.” E na vaka toka oya na
noda vakarautaki keda ena vuku n I
kena sotavi na veileqa tubukoso.

Era kauta cake talega na nodra
nanuma na lewe ni koro ena vuku ni
kena gadrevi tale eso na veivakato-
roicaketaki me vaka na kena dua na
valeniwai me vaka I nasi e tiko sara
mai Naqara ka vaka kina na Vuniwai

e Kavala. E ra gadrevi talega na na
kena rawa ni 1 tale na taqe ni wai, ka
vaka kina na sola.

E tiko talega eso na tiko tale ni nodra
i tuvatuva sai koya na kena Maroroi
na Yaubula, na Rural Housing Devel-
opment ka vaka kina na kena tevaki
na Vasua.

Ea mai soli talega e dua na waqa
vou (Fiber) vei Joji Kovelali ka ra va-
karaitaka kina nina vukei koa sara
vakalevu vaka kina na nona vuvale.

E mai vakavinavinakataki ira na
vioca na Koro ea sikovi taumada na
Turaga Minisita ena vuku walega ni
kena ciqomi tiko oira nai vakalesilesi
vaka matanitu ena vuku ni nodra
veitomani tiko kei na Minisitiri ni
Veivakatoroicaketaki ena Taudaku
Ni Veikorolelevu na Veianuyan kei
na Leqa Tubukoso.

E mai dua talega na nodravosa na
Turaga Talai Ena Tokalau o Vitaele
Varo ena vuku ni veivakatorocaket-
aki ena loma ni Yasana o Kadavu. E
sa mai dolavi talega kina na wai ni-
gunu ka vaka kina na bai ni ua ka
vaka kina nai tatakoso. E ratou sa
tuvana tale tiko ga ena I kalawa e ra-
tou na cakava me baleta nai drodro,
ka vaka talega kina na gaunisala ni
veitaratara.

Era veibolei tale tiko ga ena vuku
ni gaunisala ni veilakoyaki , e ratou
sana qai veitalanoa tiko kei na Ta-
bana ni Waqa ni Matanitu ena kena
sagai mena laurai vakavinaka na
vanua dau kele kina na waqa. E ra-
tou sana veitalanoa vata kei ratou na
Tabana ni Guanisala (Fiji Roads Au-
thority) nai tuvatuva esa tiko vei ra-
tou mena tomani kina na gaunisala e
sa tiko rawa.

E vakaraitaka talega ni ratou sa veit-
alanoa oti kei ratou na Vodafone ka
vaka kina na Digicel se gaunisala
cava soti e rawa ni vakavinakataki
kina na gaunisala ni veitaratara. Era
kuria nisa tiko talega nai tuvatuva ni
valenivolavola ena vuku ni kena biu
mai na VT Sat ka veitalanoataki sara
vakalevu mai Dravuni kei Buliya.

E sa veibolei tale tiko ga na Turaga
Talai ena vuku ni kena vakabibitaki
tiko na Integrated Village Develop-
ment Plan ka sa cakacaka vakavoleka
sara kei ratou na Vale ni Volavola ni
Yasana o Kadavu.

E sa gadrevi kina na Duavata ena
vuku ni kena maroroi ka tokoni tiko
ga na veivakatoroicaketaki ena loma
ni Yasana.



Oira na lewenivanua e Dabea kei ra na gone ena kena dolavi vou nodra bai ni ua.

Noda Viti

Siga Vukelulu Maji 1, 2024, 8 Drauniveva, 6 ni Tabana, 15 ni Lavelave ni Ivola www.fiji.gov.fj @FijiGovt Fiji Government

MARAUTAKI NAI KA 60 NI YABAKI NI NODRA BULA NA TURAGA NA PERESITEDI



KO Peresitedi Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere ena soqo ni nodra Yabaki 60 keira na turaga ni valu ecake kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni nodra valenivolavola.



E ra mai cabeta bula e dua tale na yabaki ni nodra bula lagilagi na Turaga na Peresitedi ka Taukei Bolatagane na Turaga Bale na Tui Macuata o Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere nai ka 60 ni yabaki ni nodra bula ena siga Vakarauwai ni ika20 ni siga ni vula qo ko Evereli , 2024.
Era cabeta yani na nodra itikoitko e Naiqasiqasi na lewe ni Mataivalu

ni noda vanua ena vuku ni nodra laki marautaka na siganisucu nodra na Turaga Peresitedi.
E voqa malua na domodra na lewe ni matabani ni Mataivalu ena vuku ni nodra lagata na sere ni siganisucu ka sa i vakaraitaki ni nodra marautaka ka ra duavata ena kena cabeti na yabaki ni bula vou.
E vakaraitaka na Turaga na Peresitedi



na nodra vakavinavinaka kina Lewe ni Noda Mataivalu kei ira kece na Tabana ni lawa ni noda vanua ena vuku ni nodra mai tiki ni soqo ena kena marautaki na soqo lagilagi ni siganisucu.
E vakaraitaka talega o Peresitedi Katonivere ena vuku ni vei qaravi ni Mataivalu ena kena taqomaki tiko na Yavu Ni Vakavulewa ka vaka kina nai tovo e kilai tani kina na noda vanua. E



vakaraitaka taka talega na veiboleble esa tu mai liu ena noda vanua ka sa tu vakarau kina dua tale nai tekitekivu vou.
E kuria na Turaga na Peresitedi ni sa tu vakarau mena cakacaka vata kei ratou na Mataivalu ena vuku ni kena gadrevi mena valuti na veidredre e dau sotavi kavaka kina na kena sagai mena toso tiko ga iliu na noda vanua.

रोज़गार मंत्री ने तुतु रूरल ट्रेनिंग सेन्टर द्वारा युवकों को शिक्षा का अवसर प्रदान करने के लिए सराहना की



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 3 पर

इस साल गिरमिट दिवस लौतोका और लम्बासा में मनाया जाएगा जिसके लिए तैयारियाँ ज़ोरों-शोरों से चल रही है।



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर

टूरिज़्म मंत्री ने नए गैडुएट्स से चुनौतियाँ सामने आने अपनी अटूट भावना से अपना मार्गदर्शन करने की माँग की है



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर

साई संजीविनी बच्चों का अस्पताल दूसरी वर्षगांठ का जश्न



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका हालमें साई संजीविनी अस्पताल की दूसरी वर्षगांठ पर बच्चों, माता-पिताओं और अस्पताल के उच्च अधिकारियों के साथ चितः प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

साई संजीविनी बच्चों का अस्पताल जिसे फीजी में साई प्रेमा फाउंडेशन ने स्थापित किया है ने हालही में अपनी दूसरी वर्षगांठ मनाई जो फीजी और पूरे प्रशान्त क्षेत्र में जन्म से दिल की बीमारी से पीड़ित बच्चों को मुफ्त में जीवन रक्षक दिल की सर्जरी प्रदान करने के अस्पताल के दृष्टिकोण में एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है। जीवन का उपहार शिफ्ट ओफ लाइफ्ट कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत के बाद से, फीजी और पड़ोसी प्रशान्त द्वीप देशों में दो सौ सतहत्तर बच्चों को मुफ्त में जीवन रक्षक दिल की सर्जरी की गई है। प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने अपने औपचारिक भाषण में कहा कि यह अस्पताल वास्तव में हमारे लिए ईश्वर का भेजा हुआ वरदान की तरह है। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि हालांकि सरकार का लक्ष्य है सभी के लिए सबसे योग्य, सस्ती और कुशल स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं प्रदान करना, लेकिन हमारी आर्थिक चुनौतियों को देखते हुए यह एक सपना

जैसा लगता है। पहले साल के अन्दर, अस्पताल ने प्रशान्त क्षेत्र के लिए बाल चिकित्सा हृदय देखभाल का केंद्र बनने का अपना वादा पूरा कर लिया है। यह वास्तव में फीजी के लिए गर्व का क्षण है और मुझे खुशी है कि हम आज जीवन का उपहार समारोह भी आयोजित कर रहे हैं। जीवन का उपहार समारोह में उन बच्चों को सम्मानित किया गया जिन्होंने जीवन बचाने वाली हृदय सर्जरी से लाभ उठाया है। यह समारोह जीवन बचाने के उनके प्रयासों के लिए उनके माता-पिता और अविश्वसनीय सर्जिकल टीम का भी सम्मान करता है। अस्पताल की सफलता सिर्फ एक स्थानीय उपलब्धि नहीं है, बल्कि वैश्विक मानवतावादी और अस्पताल के संस्थापक सद्गुरु श्री मधुसूदन से प्रेरित एक व्यापक दृष्टिकोण का हिस्सा है, जो उत्सव में भी उपस्थित थे। श्री मधुसूदन बत्तीस देशों में एक अनोखे वैश्विक मिशन की अगुवाई करते हैं और दो हजार ग्यारह से उन्होंने दुनिया भर

में शिक्षा, स्वस्थ देखभाल, पोषण और आध्यात्मिकता में उत्कृष्टता संस्थान स्थापित किए हैं। अस्पताल और साई प्रेमा फाउंडेशन के काम की सराहना करते हुए, प्रधान मंत्री ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि उन्होंने ने पचीस हजार से ज्यादा फीजीवासियों को मुफ्त में सेवा प्रदान की है, साथही अस्पताल के अत्याधुनिक विशेषज्ञ चिल्ड्रेन्स हार्ट स्क्रीनिंग केंद्र के माध्यम से सोलह हजार से ज्यादा बच्चों के हृदय की जांच की गई है। सभी सर्जरी तथा उपचार मुफ्त में किए गए हैं। यह बहुत ही गर्व की बात है कि फीजी, प्रशान्त और ओशिनिया क्षेत्र में ऐसा अस्पताल बनाने वाला पहला देश है। यह अस्पताल कई माताओं और परिवारों की प्रार्थनाओं का उत्तर है। ग्रामीण इलाकों में आउटरीच चिकित्सा शिविरों के माध्यम से छः हजार पाँच सौ से ज्यादा ग्रामीण निवासियों, विभिन्न अनाथ आश्रम के बच्चों और वृद्ध देखभाल घरों के मरीजों को भी मुफ्त सेवा प्रदान की गई है। विशेष रूप से कोविड महामारी के

दौरान ज़रूरतमंदों को चार मिलियन से ज़्यादा पैक बनाकर भोजन परोसा गया। महेन्द्र, माया, सुमित और कृपाली टप्पू जैसे अच्छे फीजीवासियों के बिना, हम आज फीजी में सफलतापूर्वक की गई दो सौ सतहत्तर सर्जरी का जश्न मनाने के लिए यहाँ नहीं होते, जिससे न केवल फीजी के बच्चों और परिवारों को लाभ हुआ, बल्कि प्रशान्त क्षेत्र को भी फायदा हुआ है। उसी समय प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने खुलासा किया कि पीपल्स गठबंधन सरकार ने अस्पताल के संचालन खर्च के लिए ग्रांट प्रदान किया है। उन्होंने यह भी प्रकाश डाला कि भारत सरकार की सहायता से नसीनू में एक नया सौ खाट वाला अस्पताल बनाने की योजना है, जिससे फीजी के लोगों के लिए दिल की सर्जरी तथा उपचार तक पहुँच और बढ़ जाएगा। साई संजीविनी चिल्ड्रेन अस्पताल को सर्वश्रेष्ठ अस्पतालों में से एक करार दिया गया है क्योंकि यह अमेरिका, सिंगापुर, ऑस्ट्रेलिया या न्यू जीलैंड में किसी भी अस्पताल के स्तर से मेल खाता है।

नन्दोनूमाई होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड -आशा की एक किरण

रोनल देव

नन्दोनूमाई होल्डिंग्स, सूवावउ हाउस के पीछे एक नई बहु मंजिली इमारत बनाने की योजना बना रहा है। हालही में सूवा स्थित ग्रेन्ड पेसिफिक होटल में सूवावउ कोरो के ग्यारह मतंगालियों ने 1993 में अपनी स्थापना के बाद से नंदोनूमाई होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड की उपलब्धियाँ का जश्न मनाया, जिसकी शुरुआत उनकी पहली संपत्ति राजधानी सूवा के व्यापारिक केंद्र में दस मंजिला सूवावउ हाउस के निर्माण से हुई।

इस समारोह में प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका की जगह पर लेन्ड्स और मिनरल रिसोसस मंत्री माननीय फिलिमोनी वोसारोन्गो मुख्य मेहमान थे क्योंकि अन्य औपचारिक कार्य में व्यस्त होने की वजह से वो इस समारोह में हिस्सा नहीं ले पाए। मंत्री वोसारोन्गो ने कहा कि एक महत्वकांक्षी प्रयास जो अपनी क्षमताओं में कम्पनी के विश्वास और वृद्धि तथा विकास के प्रति उसकी अटूट प्रतिबद्धता के बारे में बहुत कुछ बताता है। उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें एक मॉडल आदिवासी व्यवसाय के रूप में नान्दोनूमाई

होल्डिंग्स की भूमिका पर गर्व महसूस हो रहा है और विभिन्न नीतियों और पहलों के माध्यम से आदिवासी व्यवसायों का समर्थन करने के लिए सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई। “फीजी में जहाँ आर्थिक सफलता को अक्सर गैर-आदिवासी या अन्य दुनिया के मल्टी नेशनल कौपेरेशन के साथ समझा जाता है, नंदोनूमाई होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड आशा की किरण के रूप में खड़ा है, जो यह साबित करता है कि आदिवासी व्यवसाय स्थानीय स्तर पर अन्य समान व्यवसायों के साथ समान स्तर पर फल-फूल सकते हैं और उँचाई

हासिल कर सकते हैं।” आपकी उपलब्धियाँ हमें याद दिलाती हैं कि जब अवसर और समर्थन दिया जाता है तो आदिवासी व्यापार रोज़गार पैदा कर सकते हैं, आजीविका में सुधार कर सकते हैं तथा सूवावउ कोरो के लोगों और पूरे देश की समृद्धि में योगदान दे सकते हैं। प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने 1997 में सूवावउ हाउस का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया था। पिछले साल फरवरी तईस तारीख को होल्डिंग कम्पनी ने पचीसवी वर्षगाँठ समारोह मनाई थी।

मछली व्यवसाय को सहायता मिली

रोनल देव

जापानी सरकार ने लामी फिशरीस स्टेशन को एक दशमलौ पाँच मिलियन डोलर लागत सहायता प्रदान की है। तीन एक्सावेटर, तीन ट्रक तथा स्पेयर पाट्स स्वीकार करते हुए फिशरीस तथा फोरस्ट्री मंत्री माननीय कालावेती रावू ने जापानी सरकार को धन्यवाद देते हुए जोर दिया कि सतत विकास के एक नए युग की शुरुआत हुई है। पिछले पैतालिस साल लम्बी जापान और फीजी की दोस्ती से फीजी के मछली व्यवसाय को जापानी सरकार से लगभग सत्ताह दशमलौ पाँच मिलियन डोलर की सहायता मिली है। मंत्री ने इस सहायता के लिए जापानी राजदूत महामहीम मीची शेकोईशीरो को अनेकों धन्यवाद दिया और कहा कि सतत विकास और गरीबी से निकलने के प्रति सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को मजबूत करता है। “मंत्रालय का हमेशा से यह मानना रहा है कि जल कृषि मछली पालन की स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने और मछली पालन विकास को मजबूत करने की कुँजी है। राजदूत ने पुष्टि की है कि जापानी सरकार, फिशरिस मंत्रालय को अनुसंधान करने वाली एक नई फिशरीस जहाज़ और एक बर्फ मशीन की खरीद के लिए अतिरिक्त दस मिलियन डोलर और सहायता देने की योजना बना रही है जिससे फीजी भर में खाद्य सुरक्षा से संबंधित कार्यक्रमों को मजबूत किया जाएगा।

अकाउन्टन्ट्स से नैतिक मूल्यों को बनाए रखने की माँग की गई



डिजिटल फीजी के प्रतिनिधि शंगरीला रिज़ोट पर आयोजित फीजी इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ अकाउन्टन्ट्स के सालाना सम्मेलन में भाग लेते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे ने देश के सभी अकाउन्टन्ट्स से माँग की है कि अपने संबंधित क्षेत्रों में विशेषज्ञों के रूप में अपने नैतिक मूल्यों को बनाए रखें। शंगरीला रिज़ोट पर फीजी इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ अकाउन्टन्ट्स के सालाना सम्मेलन में राष्ट्रपति ने जोर दिया कि अकाउन्टन्ट्स से कहा कि उन्हें अपने नैतिक अभिप्राय, अच्छे शासन और आकर्ष

क बुद्धिमान समाधानों को बनाए रखने की प्रतिबद्धता, व्यक्तिगत रूप से एक संगठनात्मक इकाई के रूप में एक राष्ट्र के रूप में सामाजिक-आर्थिक रूप से यात्रा की प्रगति को आकार देना चाहिए। राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि सालाना सम्मेलन, पहले पचास सालों की समीक्षा करने, सफलताओं का जश्न मनाने और सीखे गए सबक को अपनाने, आगे की राह का मार्ग दर्शन करने का एक अवसर है। “अच्छे शासन और

मजबूत आर्थिक रिपोर्टिंग के प्रति आपकी प्रतिबद्धता पारदर्शिता और विश्वास का माहौल बनाती है। उन्होंने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि राष्ट्रीय समृद्धि आर्थिक विकास से परे है तथा आर्थिक साक्षरता एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है। राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि एफआएसीए की दूरदर्शीता अपने आर्थिक साक्षरता कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से इसत सक्रिय रूप से आगे बढ़ाता है। उन्होंने उन सभी एजेंसियों की सराहना की

जो ग्रामीण और पहरी समाज में इस क्षेत्र में काम करना जारी रखती है साथही हमारे समुद्री द्वीपों तथा समुदायों में आर्थिक साक्षरता कार्यक्रमों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। राष्ट्रपति कातोनिवरे ने प्रतिनिधियों के सामूहिक प्रयासों की सराहना की और यह बात दोहराई कि व्यापारिक समाज हमेशा से हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था की रीढ़ रहा है।

रोज़गार मंत्री ने वनुआ ओ नाबुकेबुके को इ-सेवुसेवु भेट किया

शीलता सिंह

पिछले सप्ताह लेवुका में रोड शो के दौरान, रोज़गार, उत्पादक और इन्डस्ट्रीयल रिलेशन्स के मंत्री माननीय अग्नि देव सिंह ने वनुआ ओ नाबुकेबुके के तुई ले-वुका के बदले में इ-सेवुसेवु रातु चोपे सिंगारूआरूआ रोकोटुईनादेवा को भेंट किया। कोआलीशन सरकार की ओर से मंत्री सिंह ने लेवूका में उनके लिए किए गए स्वागत के लिए आभार माना और समाज के प्रति अपना योगदान देने के लिए। मंत्री सिंह ने लेवुका टाउन काउंसिल में एक सार्वजनिक परामर्श के दौरान कुछ नय नियामों का पालन करने पर भी जोर दिया।

उन्होंने यह आश्वासन भी दिया कि

मंत्रालय की टीम ध्यान में रखेगी कि इन नियमों का पालन हो। सरकारी कर्मचारियों द्वारा कुछ विषय उठाए गए हैं जैसे कि अलावन्स, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल के संबंधों में और काम करते समय चोट-चपेट लगना। मंत्री सिंह ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि काम करते समय अगर किसी को चोट लगी है तो इसकी सूचना मालिकों को द्वारा घटना के 48 घंटे के भीतर मंत्रालय को दी जानी चाहिए। यदि मालिक रिपोर्ट करने में असफल रहा है, तो कर्मचारी मामले की रिपोर्ट सीधे मंत्रालय को भी कर सकता है। “अलाउंस और स्वास्थ्य के मामलों को ज़िम्मेदार संबंधित मंत्रालयों के समक्ष उठाया जाएगा” मंत्री सिंह ने कहा।



रोज़गार मंत्री माननीय अग्नि देव सिंह एक रोड शो के दौरान आम जनता से मुलाकात करते हुए

फीजी माइन के कर्मचारियों ने गठबंधन सरकार का आभार माना

शीलता सिंह

वतुकउला में स्थित फीजी माइन के सभी कर्मचारियों ने रोज़गार, उत्पादक और व्यवसायिक संबंध मंत्री माननीय अग्नि देव के दौरे के लिए गठबंधन सरकार का आभार माना है। मंत्री सिंह ने 1991 में वतुकौला माइन के कर्मचारियों द्वारा किए गए हड़ताल पर चर्चा की। यूनिन के नेता जोसेफा सांड्रेउ ने सरकार को इस दौरे के लिए धन्यवाद दिया और इस बात का भी आभार माना की वे 1991 के हड़ताल से प्रभावित परिवारों पर भी चर्चा कर रहे हैं।

“फिर से मिलने के इस अवसर के लिए मैं धन्यवाद देता हूँ और इस हड़ताल पर बातें करने के लिए भी हम आप का और आप की टीम, का आभार मानते हैं”। उन्होंने कहा।

मंत्री सिंह ने लोगों को उनकी उपस्थिति देने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया और यात्रा के इरादे के बारे में विस्तार से बताया।

“हम उन भावनाओं, असुविधाओं और कठिनाइयों को पूरी तरह से समझते हैं जो आपने पिछले तैंतीस सालों में सामना किया है और आज हमारा मकसद एक समझ और फैसले पर आना है। यह कई अन्य बैठकों की शुरुआत है और हम सभी के लिए इस मामले को अंत तक सुलझाने का एक रास्ता है”। मंत्री ने कहा।

वतुकउला के लोगों को मंत्री द्वारा यह भी आश्वासन दिया गया कि इस मामले का हल करने के लिए उन्हें और तैंतीस सालों का इंतज़ार नहीं करना पड़ेगा।

श्री सांड्रेउ ने रोज़गार मंत्री को उनके आश्वासन और उनके प्रभावित परिवारों को राहत पहुंचाने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। रोज़गार मंत्रालय के परमानेंट सेक्रेटरी श्री मारिटिनो नेमानी ने मंत्री सिंह की बातों को दोहराया और यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए मंत्रालय की प्रतिबद्धता की भी

तुतु रूरल सेन्टर से बच्चों ने शिक्षा हासिल की



रोज़गार मंत्री माननीय अग्नि देव सिंह हाल में तुतु रूरल ट्रेनिंग सेन्टर का दौरा करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

रोज़गार, उत्पादक और इंडस्ट्रीयल रिलेशन्स मंत्री माननीय अग्नि देव सिंह ने मंत्रालय के उत्तरी विभाग के दौरे पर तुतु रूरल ट्रेनिंग सेन्टर पर आम जनता से बातें की।

माननीय अग्नि देव सिंह और उनकी टीम ने दकाउडोवे और बूआ में युवाओं को शिक्षा के अवसर प्रदान करने के लिए सराहना की। सेन्टर उन लोगों को प्रोत्साहित करता है जो बदलते समय में अपने आप को सम्भाल सकते हैं।

हमारा मुख्य उद्देश्य है कि हम लोगों को शिक्षा दें ताकि वे अपने घर अपनी ज़मीन पर वापस जा सकें।

यह सेन्टर युवा किसान, अकेली माताओं, विवाहित जोड़ों और युवा महिलाओं को शिक्षा प्रदान करता है।

तुतु रूरल ट्रेनिंग सेन्टर ने करीबन दो हजार लोगों के जीवन को सँवारा है और कई लोग वापस अपने गांव लौट गए हैं।

इस ट्रेनिंग के तहत बच्चे घर बनाना, फरनिचर बनाना, खेती करना और पूँजी लगाना भी सीख सकते हैं।

मंत्री ने पूरे मनेजमंट को यह ट्रेनिंग प्रदान करने और उनके जीवन को सुधारने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।

“मैं बहुत खुश हूँ कि उत्तरी विभाग में बेरोज़गारी की समस्या से निपटने के लिए ट्रेनिंग सेन्टर खोला गया है” मंत्री सिंह ने कहा।

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम कातोनिवेरे ने ईद जश्न में हिस्सा लिया



राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवेरे ने हाल ही में मलेशियन हाई कमिशनर के निवास पर आयोजित ईद के जश्न में भाग लिया। अपने बयान में राजदूत महामहीम नौर आजम मोहम्मद एडरूस ने कहा कि यह खुशी का अवसर इस्लाम के मूल मूल्यों का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है जिन्हें सार्वभौमिक रूप से अपनाया जाता है। जैसा कि हम अपने समुदाय को बनाने और दुनिया को एक बेहतर जगह बनाने का प्रयास

करते हैं, हमने कृतज्ञता व्यक्त करने, अपने समुदायों का निर्माण करने के साथ-साथ अपनी क्षमता के अन्दर जरूरतमंद लोगों की देखभाल और करुणा बढ़ाने को अपनी प्राथमिकताओं में शामिल कर लिया है। अन्य अतिथियों के अलावा भुतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति तथा संसदीय स्पीकर रातू इपेली नईलातिकाउ ने भी इस जश्न में हिस्सा लिया।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने एनजेक स्मृति सेवा दिवस में दी श्रद्धांजली



प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने सूबा स्थित सैनिक कब्रस्थान में एनजेक दिवस के मौके पर आयोजित सुबह वाली सेवा में हिस्सा लिया। उनके साथ गृह मंत्री तथा इमिग्रेशन मंत्री माननीय पीयो तिकोदुआदुआ के अलावा देश के सुरक्षा बल, राजनयिक दल तथा विशिष्ट अतिथि शामिल हुए थे। एनजेक दिवस हर वर्ष मनाया जाता है जहाँ पहले विश्व महायुद्ध के दौरान ओटोमन साम्राज्य के खिलाफ गैलीपोली की लड़ाई में आज़ादी के लिए लड़ने वाले वीर ओस्ट्रेलियन तथा न्यू जीलैन्ड सैनिकों और महिलाओं का सम्मान किया जाता है। आज एक सौ नौ साल बीत गए हैं जब घसघस में तुर्की में गैलीपोली ज़मीन पर उतरी थी जहाँ आठ हज़ार सात सौ ओस्ट्रेलियन तथा न्यू जीलैन्ड के दो हज़ार सात सौ उनसी सैनिकों ने अपनी जान गवाई थी। यह पहला मुख्य युद्ध था जो ओस्ट्रेलिया तथा न्यू जीलैन्ड के सैनिकों ने साथ मिलकर लड़ा था। फीजी के लिए ओस्ट्रेलियन राजदूत महामहीम श्री इवेन मेकडोनलड ने कहा कि एनजेक दिवस ओस्ट्रेलिया और न्यू जीलैन्ड में प्रमुख दिवसों में से एक है। इस दौरान हम अईबल सीमेन पूआमाउ तथा अईबल सीमेन सावेनादा को भी सम्मानित कर रहे हैं।



श्री सत्य साई संजीविनी बच्चों का अस्पताल की दूसरी वर्षगांठ पर बधाई



फीजी में श्री सत्य साई संजीवनी चिल्ड्रेन्स हार्ट अस्पताल की दूसरी वर्षगांठ पर साई प्रेमा फाउंडेशन फीजी को बधाई। फीजी औ प्रशान्त क्षेत्र के बच्चों के लिए मुफ्त में हृदय शल्य चिकित्सा प्रदान करने के प्रति आपका अटूट समर्पण किसी प्रेरणा से कम नहीं है। दो सौ सतहत्तर सर्जरी जबकि हो चुकी है और सोलह हज़ार से ज्यादा

हार्ट स्क्रीनिंग हो चुकी है तथा आप अनगिनत परिवारों के लिए आशा और उपचार लेकर आए हैं। लेकिन आपका प्रभाव यहीं नहीं रुकता। संग्रह अभियान के माध्यम से, आपने संभावित रूप से पूरे फीजी में तेरह हज़ार दो सौ अड़तीस अतिरिक्त लोगों की जान बचाई है। समुदाय की सेवा करने और स्वास्थ्य तथा कल्याण को बढ़ावा देने के

प्रति आपके प्रतिबद्धता वास्तव में सराहनीय है। हर एक सेजरी, हर एक स्क्रीनिंग तथा हर एक रक्त दान हमेशा के लिए बदले गए जीवन का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है। आपके निस्वार्थ प्रयास अस्पताल की दीवारों से परे, दिलों को छूने वाले और भविष्य को बदलने वाले हैं।

डी.पी.एम गावोका ने भविष्य के नेताओं को प्रेरित किया: एफ.एन.यू ग्रेजुएट्स से साहस और आशा को अपनाने की आग्रह की

शीलता सिंह

धैर्य रखने, बाधाओं और असफलताओं के बावजूद एक लक्ष्य की ओर काम करते रहना ही क्षमता है। यह एक बहुत ही अच्छा गुण है क्योंकि यह हर एक व्यक्ति को चुनौतियों से उभरने, अपने लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने और अपने निजी जीवन में सुधार लाने में मदद करेगा। उप प्रधान मंत्री और टूरिज़्म, सिविल एविएशन मंत्री माननीय विलियामे गावोका ने कोलेज ऑफ बिज़नेस, होसपीटैलिटी और टूरिज़्म शिक्षा(सी बी हर्ड च टी एस) और कोलेज ऑफ अग्रीकल्चर, फिशरीज़ और फॉरेस्ट्री के बच्चों के ग्रेजुएशन समारोह में भाषण देते हुए ऐसा कहा। “आज आपकी यात्रा में एक नए अध्याय की शुरुआत हुई है। जैसे

आप भविष्य में आगे बढ़ते हैं उस संकल्प और विश्वास को याद रखें जो आपको इस मुकाम पर लाया है। चुनौतियाँ सामने आ सकती हैं लेकिन अपनी अटूट भावना से अपना मार्गदर्शन करें” माननीय गावोका ने कहा। “समारोह में 357 ग्रेजुएट्स थे, सी आई एफ एफ के ग्रेजुएट्स की प्रशंसा करते हुए माननीय गावोका ने फीजी अर्थव्यवस्था, विशेष रूप से देश के एक्सपोर्ट बाज़ार को बढ़ावा देने में उनकी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका पर ज़ोर दिया।” माननीय गावोका ने माता-पिता, जीवनसाथी, भाई-बहन और सदस्यों को उनके लिए आभार व्यक्त किया। “मैं सभी को चुनौती देता हूँ कि वे हमारी फीजी और मानवता की भलाई के लिए आजीवन सीखने, विकास और समाज की सेवा के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि करें,” राष्ट्रपति ने कहा।



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा टूरिज़्म मंत्री माननीय विलियामे गावोका, एक ग्रेजुएट को पुरस्कार प्रदान करते हुए

गिरमिट दिवस की तैयारी ज़ोरो पर



सेनल देव

मल्टी एथनिक अफेयस मंत्रालय इस साल एक सौ पैतालिसवें गिरमिट उत्सव का आयोजन कर रहा है। यह समारोह ग्यारह से लेकर तेरह मई तक गिरमिट सेन्टर लौतोका में होगा तथा लम्बासा के लिए एक समारोह ग्यारह मई को सुबरेल पार्क लम्बासा में भी आयोजित किया गया है। सावधानीपूर्वक योजना और समर्पण के साथ, मंत्रालय का लक्ष्य गिरमिट वंशजों की समृद्ध विरासत और महत्-

वपूर्ण योगदान का सम्मान करता है और वादा करता है कि गिरमिट कार्यक्रम सांस्कृतिक और एकता का एक जीवंत प्रदर्शन होगा। इस साल के गिरमिट दिवस की थीम है एक नई फीजी के निर्माण में गिरमिट वंशजों की यात्रा। यह सामाजिक एकजुटता को बढ़ावा देने और विभिन्न जातीय समुदायों को फीजी और उसके लोगों के विकास और प्रगति में उनके योगदान का एहसास कराने के संदर्भ में गठबंधन सरकार के उद्देश्यों के अनुरूप है। सरकार ने गिरमिट दिवस समारोह के

लिए तेरह मई को सार्वजनिक छुट्टी रखी है। गिरमिट दिवस का मुख्य समारोह गिरमिट मल्टी कल्चरल सेन्टर लौतोका में होगा जहाँ राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातु विलियामे कातोनिवेरे मुख्य मेहमान के रूप में अवसर की शोभा बढ़ाएंगे और इस उत्सव की प्रतिष्ठा बढ़ाएंगे। लौतोका का उत्सव शनिवार ग्यारह मई को शेर्ली पार्क से गिरमिट मल्टी कल्चरल सेन्टर तक एक मार्च से शुरू होगा। तीन दिनों उत्सव में नाटक, नृत्य, गीत, चरित्र परेड, के साथ ढेर सारे सांस्कृतिक प्रदर्शनियाँ होंगी। आम जनता को तीन दिवसीय कार्यक्रम

में विभिन्न प्रकार के भोजन, मनोरंजन तथा फ्ली मार्केट का आनन्द लेने का भी मौका मिलेगा। शनिवार ग्यारह मई को लम्बासा में जो उत्सव होगा, उसमें ग्रामीण तथा बाहरी द्वीपों के विकास मंत्री माननीय चोसेवा वोदेया मुख्य मेहमान रहेंगे। मल्टी एथनिक अफेयस मंत्रालय गिरमिट की समृद्ध विरासत को मनाने तथा फीजी की समृद्ध बहु-सांस्कृतिक विविधता का जश्न मनाने में शामिल होने के लिए सभी को आमंत्रित करता है।



फ़ीजी दर्पण

Wednesday May 1, 2024 | 8 pages | Issue 6 Vol 15 | www.fiji.gov.fj | [@FijianGovt](https://twitter.com/FijianGovt) | [Fijian Government](https://www.facebook.com/FijianGovernment)



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद हालही संसद में देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर अपना भाषण देते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

महंगाई का दर सुधारने की उम्मीद

रोनल देव

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद का कहना है कि पिछले बारह से अट्ठारह महीने में पूँजी की गतिविधि सकरात्मक रही है और हाल के संकेतक गतिविधि में तेज़ी की ओर इशारा करते हैं क्यों कि प्रमुख टूरिज़म संबंधी योजनाएं जोर पकड़ रही हैं, लेकिन सरकार को इस गति को बरकरार रखने की ज़रूरत है। हालही संसद में दिए गए अपने बयान में मंत्री प्रसाद ने कुछ प्रमुख आर्थिक संकेतकों पर जोर दिया जो सरकार को वर्ष के लिए आर्थिक दिशा का विश्लेषण और आकलन करने में मदद करते हैं। उनका कहना है कि हम सभी जानते हैं कि हमारे पास कुशल निर्माण मज़दूरों की कमी है, हालांकि

वे पर्यावरण और योजना में तेज़ी लाने और जहाँ सम्भव हो, उच्च व्यावसायिक लात जैसे अन्य कारकों से निपट रहे हैं। मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि साल दर साल प्रमुख महंगाई का दर इस साल मार्च में चार दशमलौ छः प्रतिशत रही है, जबकि पिछले साल मार्च में यह दो प्रतिशत थी। मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि वेट में वृद्धि अब काफी हद तक समाहित कर लिया गया है, इसलिए उन्हें उम्मीद है कि महंगाई इस साल के अंत तक धीमी होकर औसतन तीन प्रतिशत तक हो जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे भी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि वे अधिक उच्च वेतन वाली रोजगार ध्यान में रखने के लिए अर्थ-व्यवस्था के पुर्निर्माण पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं। उनके अनुसार फीजियन कोम्पेटिशन एन्ड कौजुमा

कमिशन के आँकड़े दिखाते हैं कि कई उत्पादन जिनमें भोजन सामान शामिल है के दाम में गिरावट देखी गई है। उन्होंने ये भी कहा कि कुछ विदेशी पूँजीपति देश में पूँजी लगाने की दिलचस्पी दिखा रहे हैं लेकिन हम सब को कड़ी मेहनत करने की ज़रूरत है ताकि इन योजनाओं को कार्यरूप दिया जाए। मंत्री ने प्रकाश डाला कि शिपिंग मार्गों में बाधाएं और व्यापार नितियों की वजह से व्यापार पर असर पड़ने तथा फेड के खर्च में वृद्धि होने की सम्भावना है लेकिन प्रभाव अभी तक नहीं देखा गया है। उप प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि गज़ा में चल रहे युद्ध के कारण कच्चा तेल का दाम और उपर जाने की सम्भावना है। मंत्री के अनुसार वे लोगों को याद दिला रहे हैं कि सरकार के पास एक नया आर्थिक प्रबंधन दृष्टिकोण है

और इसमें लोगों और व्यवसायों को शामिल किया जा रहा है। मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि पिछले अट्ठारह महीनों में देश की आबादी का लगभग आठ प्रतिशत या सत्तर से अस्सी हजार लोग देश छोड़कर जा चुके हैं जो कमज़ोर उपभोगता खर्च की ओर संकेत कर रहा है। प्रोफेसर प्रसाद का कहना है कि कम उपभोक्ता खर्च आर्थिक गतिविधियों के निचले स्तर को प्रभावित करता है और निश्चित रूप से सरकार की आमदनी और वेट से कम प्राप्तियाँ होती हैं। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि हाल की भारी बारिश और बाढ़ भी मददगार नहीं रही है और इससे खर्च के स्तर पर असर पड़ेगा तथा कुछ पूँजी लगाई गई गतिविधियों में देरी होगी।